

# The Buzz

March 2014

The Buzz is a monthly newsletter from Workforce Solutions-Employer Service Division and is issued to provide local labor market information that is timely and meaningful to our partners in the Gulf Coast region.

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Your feedback along with any questions you might have can be directed to [leonard.torres@wrksolutions.com](mailto:leonard.torres@wrksolutions.com)

**Other Houston Economy Highlights**



## Emerging Markets of the Gulf Coast Region

The industries that offer the best job opportunities to area residents now and over the next ten to fifteen years are also the industries that are likely to contribute the most to the region's economic future. They are the industries that drive the demand for our services and the industries we target to supply with the most qualified talent in our database:

**Health Services**

4 out of 5 leading senior citizen complexes plan to expand in to Houston as a result of the aging population

#### Houston Rodeo

- Reliant Park
- 7,265 Full-Time equivalent jobs
- March 2014

Rebellion Photonics

## **Professional and Technical Services Educational Services Specialty Construction Oil and Natural Gas Extraction and Manufacturing**

Following are highlights describing activity across the region in several of these industries.

### **Manufacturing Stats**

- Manufacturing has grown more than 19% since the end of the 2009 recession
- The Manufacturing sector alone of Houston's GDP is greater than all but 7 other countries in the world
- 82% of manufacturers report jobs going unfilled due to lack of skilled labor
- STEM skills are in the greatest demand: Understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- Houston needs a 90% increase in qualified applicants to fill all the available manufacturing positions
- Regulations regarding EPA and OZONE under consideration could potentially diminish the number of plant workers needed
- Intellectual property protection efforts - could potentially increase number of manufacturing jobs. Principle goal for 2014 is to boost the Nation's manufacturing productivity.

### **North Region**

#### Hughes Landing

- In addition to the oil giant's 385-acre corporate campus under development along Interstate 45 at the Harding Toll Road, the company will lease space in two office buildings to be built in Hughes Landing in The Woodlands. Immediate need is for construction jobs during construction phase of the project

- 288 and Holly Hall area
- Gas cloud imaging
- 12 skilled jobs

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## East Region

### Flexitallic

- Producers of gaskets and joints
- 400,000 square foot manufacturing facility on 27 acres
- Deerwood Glen Business Park between Beltway and Highway 225
- New manufacturing jobs are expected - number to be determined

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### Lyondell Basell

- Channelview
- 24 new jobs

## South/West Region

### Applied Optoelectronics Inc.

- Sugarland based fiber optics manufacturer is planning to invest \$2 Million in expanding its output capacity by expanding its data center production for 2014
- Expansion includes adding second production shift that could add as many as 150 new manufacturing jobs in the area

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1/3 of manufacturing jobs are chemical manufacturing

**For more information on any of these projects or other jobs in demand in your area, contact your Workforce Solutions Business Consultant, names and location listed below:**

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The City of Houston issued 141,168 building permits for single and multi-family homes in a 12 month period

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