



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMPLOYERS ADDED A PALTRY 3,600 JOBS IN MAY

(HOUSTON, Texas, June 20, 2025) — Houston-area employers added just 3,600 jobs across all industries in May, a figure that falls substantially below the long-term trend, according to data released Friday by Workforce Solutions - Gulf Coast.

The leisure and hospitality sector, staffing up ahead of summer, added 7,600 jobs, primarily in restaurants and bars, well above the long-term average of 4,400 for May. The trade, transportation and utilities sector contributed another 3,000 jobs, mostly in the warehousing subsector.

But those gains were not enough to offset continued weakness in the business and professional services sector, which lost 3,200 jobs last month and had its April hiring numbers revised downward by 1,700.

"May's report aligns with our expectation of a labor market slowdown, which will likely continue through the rest of the year," said Parker Harvey, an economist with the workforce development agency. Harvey added that all four sectors that posted losses during the month were "substantially at odds with the long-term average," which typically sees jobs added during the last month of spring.

Government (-3,000), construction (-900) and manufacturing (-800) sectors posted a combined loss of 4,700 jobs, adding to the declines in business and professional services.

The unemployment rate in the Houston area rose three-tenths of a percentage point in May to a not seasonally adjusted 4.2%. Seasonally adjusted unemployment was not reported, but the statewide average held steady at 4.1% between March and April.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed May report, can be found online at www.wrksolutions.com/localstats. The Texas Workforce Commission will release June employment data on July 18, 2025.

ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – GULF COAST: [Workforce Solutions - Gulf Coast](http://www.WorkInTexas.com) is dedicated to keeping the Texas Gulf Coast region a great place to do business, work and live. Our employer-driven, people-focused approach elevates the economic and human potential of the region to attract and retain the best employers, afford everyone the dignity of a job, and remain indispensable to the global economy. As the public workforce system for 13 counties in the Houston-Galveston region, we work in tandem with the Texas Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network to maintain the state's largest job-match database – www.WorkInTexas.com.

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