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TEPID HIRING MARKS THE END OF SUMMER *Despite positive gains, seven out of eleven industry sectors see job losses*

(HOUSTON, TX) Houston area employers hired 3,300 new workers in August, according to data released Friday by Workforce Solutions, even as the majority of industry sectors saw losses. The broadly-defined Other Services sector, a catch all that includes auto mechanics, dry cleaning establishments, and pet care services, had its best month on record, adding 3,900 jobs.

Parker Harvey, the regional economist at the workforce development agency, said it's unclear what led to the big bump in an sector that typically loses around 800 jobs in August, "I think its entirely possible that some jobs were misclassified and we'll see revisions across several sectors in September."

Leisure and Hospitality saw record gains last month following a rollercoaster summer that led off with big losses (June shed 6,000 jobs). Restaurants, bars, accommodations, and entertainment establishments hired 3,400 people last month and July's hiring was also revised upward by 2,100. "Very atypical for August," Harvey explained. "Normally we see losses during that month as students and teachers prepare to return to the classrooms."

The Professional & Business Services sector was the loss leader in August, shedding 3,300 jobs. The area also saw combined losses of 4,000 jobs across the Construction, Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Manufacturing, Government, Mining and Logging, and Information sectors.

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment inched higher to 4.9 percent in August, up one-tenth of a percentage point from July. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged between June and July at 4.4 percent.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed July report can be found online at www.wrksolutions.com/localstats. The Texas Workforce Commission will release September employment data on October 20, 2023.

ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS: [Workforce Solutions](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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