



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOB GAINS BARELY OUTPACE LOSSES IN AUGUST

(HOUSTON, Texas, September 19, 2025) Houston-area employers added a mere 100 jobs in August, with many industry sectors experiencing their largest-ever decline during August while unemployment surged a half point, according to figures released this morning by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast.

Mohammad Ahmadizadeh, an economist and principal data analyst at the workforce development agency, said that the overall trend points to a slowdown in the labor market, “While specific reasons vary by industry, new macroeconomic policies, continued high interest rates, and uncertainty all contributed to weakening economic conditions in the Gulf Coast region.” Thursday, the Federal Reserve Bank announced a quarter-point drop in interest rates, but it came well after the August job survey was conducted.

The leisure and hospitality sector saw the biggest drop in employment, down 2,600 workers, followed closely the professional and business services sector, which shed 2,400 jobs, the largest ever August decline on record in that sector amid layoffs in the energy sector. The manufacturing sector also reported its second largest job loss on record, falling by 2,100, spread evenly between durable and non-durable goods.

Local government jobs were the biggest contributor to employment in August, adding 4,200 jobs, atypical for the final month of summer. However, it was not completely unexpected as many school districts started the new academic year during the first half of the month. The private education and health services sector also added 2,800 new workers, primarily in the healthcare field, while the construction sector contributed an additional 1,900 jobs.

Not-seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Houston area jumped to 5.0 percent, up from 4.5 percent in July. Seasonally adjusted unemployment for July, however, fell 0.1 percent from June to 4.2 percent.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed August report, can be found online at www.wrksolutions.com/localstats. The Texas Workforce Commission will release September employment data on October 17, 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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