

Houston Area Employment Situation

March 2024

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Mining and Logging Rebounded, Construction Sector Sustained Growth, with Modest Job Increase

Total Nonfarm

Over-the-month Change

Houston MSA Total Nonfarm employment stood at 3,418,700 in March, up 1,100 jobs over the month, or 0.0 percent on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis (see Chart 1). A year ago Houston registered an over-the-month increase of 11,900 jobs. Prior to the pandemic, historically in the month of March, Total Nonfarm has on average added 12,600 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially below the long-term average. Note that job growth is typical in March of each year with the only declines in this month occurring in 2009 due to Great Recession and 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The primary drivers of this March's growth were increases in Government; Construction; and Mining and Logging. Gains were also recorded in Private Education and Health Services, and Leisure and Hospitality. The net increase in jobs over the month was partially offset by losses in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Professional and Business Services; and Manufacturing. (see Chart 2). Houston MSA Total Nonfarm (seasonally adjusted) employment stood at 3,430,300, up 300 jobs over the month, or 0.0 percent vs. a historical average of 5,400. All analysis pertains to not-seasonally adjusted data unless otherwise noted. Data source: BLS/TWC.

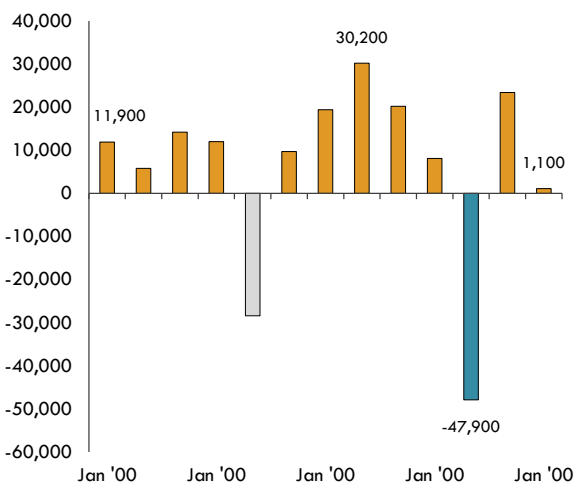
Top-3 Drivers of Over-the-month Job Growth in March

- Government: 2,100
- Construction: 1,600
- Mining and Logging: 1,600

Over-the-year Change

Over the year, Total Nonfarm employment was up 67,800 or 2.0 percent on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis and up 72,700 or 2.2 percent on a seasonally-adjusted basis (see NSA Chart 3). To compare, March 2023 saw a year-over-year gain of 160,600 jobs (NSA) from March 2022. Currently 9 out of 11 sectors show growth year over year of which the top-three are Private Education and Health Services (24,000); Government (19,500); and Professional and Business Services (6,300) (see Chart 4).

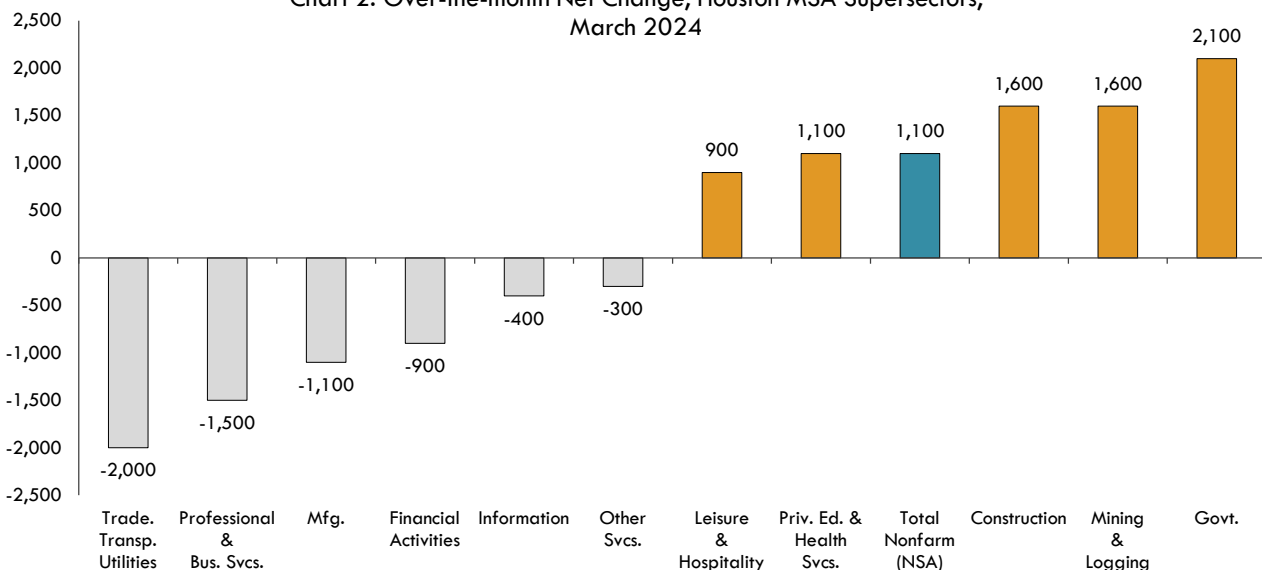
Chart 1. Total Nonfarm (NSA)
Over-the-month Net Change, Mar-23 to Mar-24



*blue bar may reflect January typical seasonal decline/gain occurring each year

Total Nonfarm employment not-seasonally-adjusted now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 3,191,800 jobs by 226,900, or 7.1 percent (233,300 jobs, 7.3 percent above 3,197,000 seasonally adjusted).

Chart 2. Over-the-month Net Change, Houston MSA Supersectors, March 2024



Houston Area Employment Situation

March 2024

Previous Month's Revisions

Total Nonfarm employment was revised downward by -1,200 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 23,400 compared to an original estimate of 24,600 jobs. A downward revision of -1,200 jobs in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was the largest contributor followed by Construction (-400) and Financial Activities (-300). Upward revisions in Other Services (+600), Professional and Business Services (+300), and Leisure and Hospitality (+300) provided a partial offset of the overall downward revision to Total Nonfarm employment (see Chart 5).

Top-3 Drivers of Over-the-year Job Growth in March

- Private Education and Health Services: 24,000
- Government: 19,500
- Professional and Business Services: 6,300

Chart 5. Net Revisions for Selected Supersectors and Major Industries, February 2024

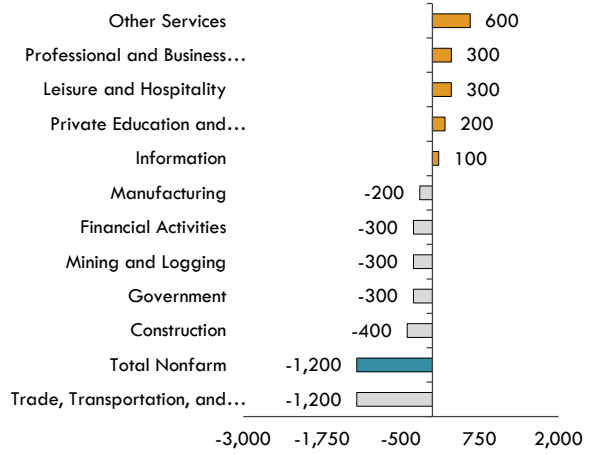


Chart 3. Total Nonfarm (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24

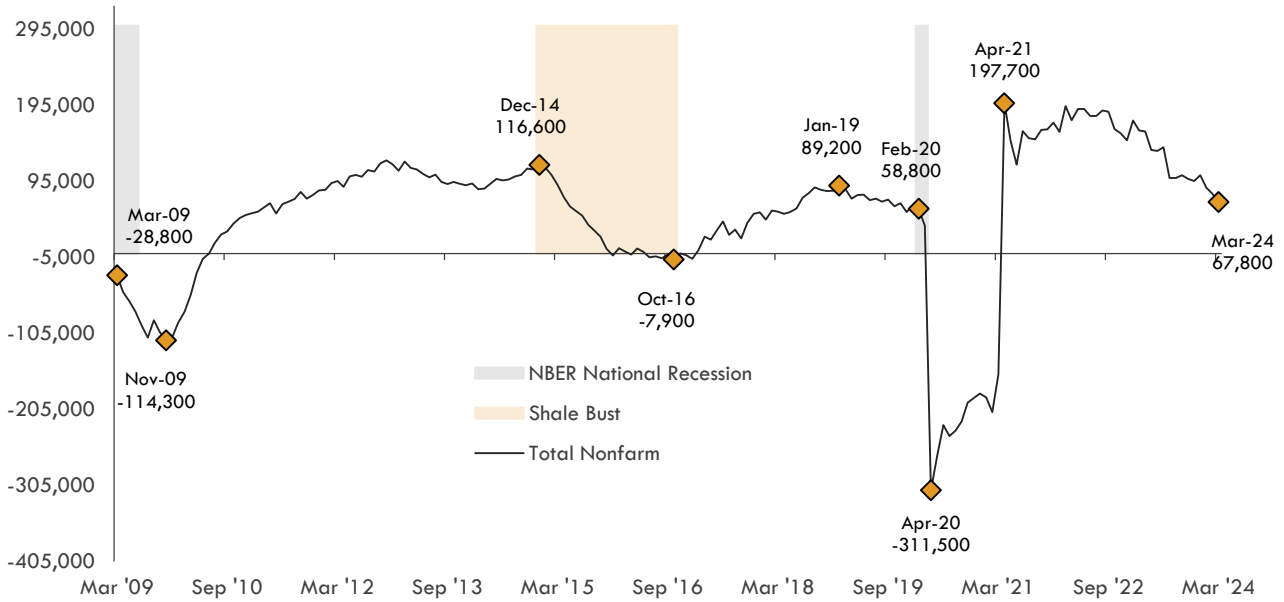
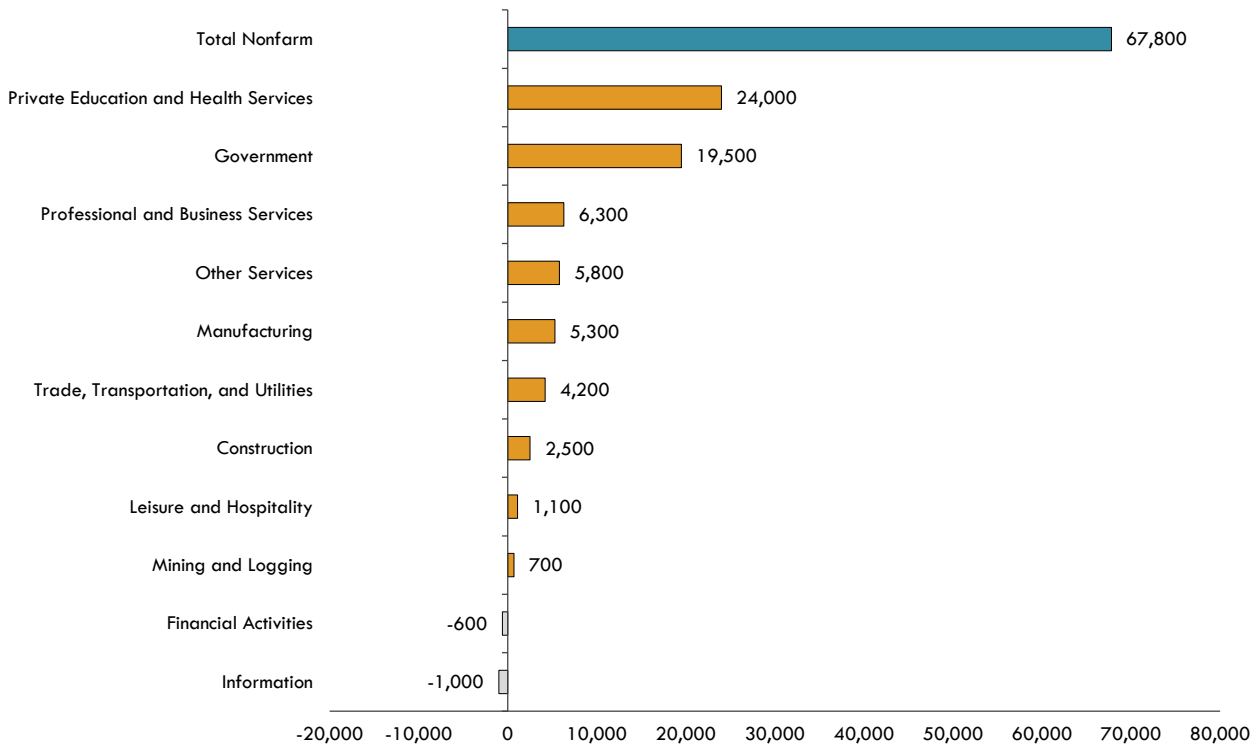


Chart 4. Over-the-year Net Change, Houston MSA Supersectors, March 2023 to March 2024

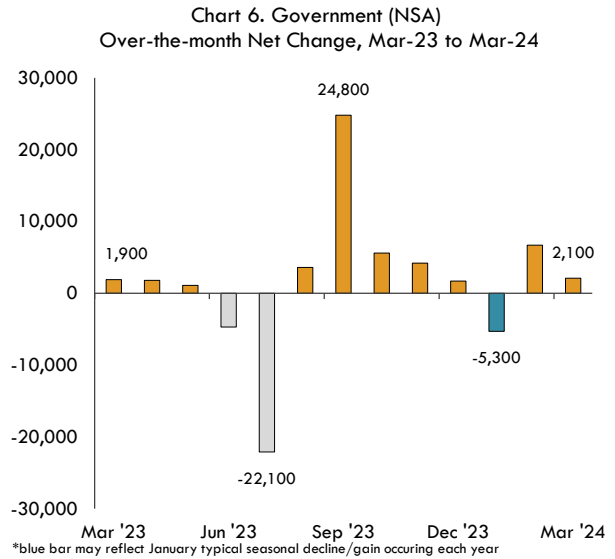


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Government

Over-the-month Change

Government was the largest gaining sector over the month up 2,100 jobs, or 0.5 percent (see Chart 6). This was the largest March gain since 2017 and the second-largest gain historically for the month of March since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of March, Government has added an average of 500 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. Local Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,600 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Federal Government, which added 300 jobs from February to March. Lastly, State Government contributed, 200 jobs. Government employment was revised downward by -300 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 6,700 compared to an original estimate of 7,000 jobs.

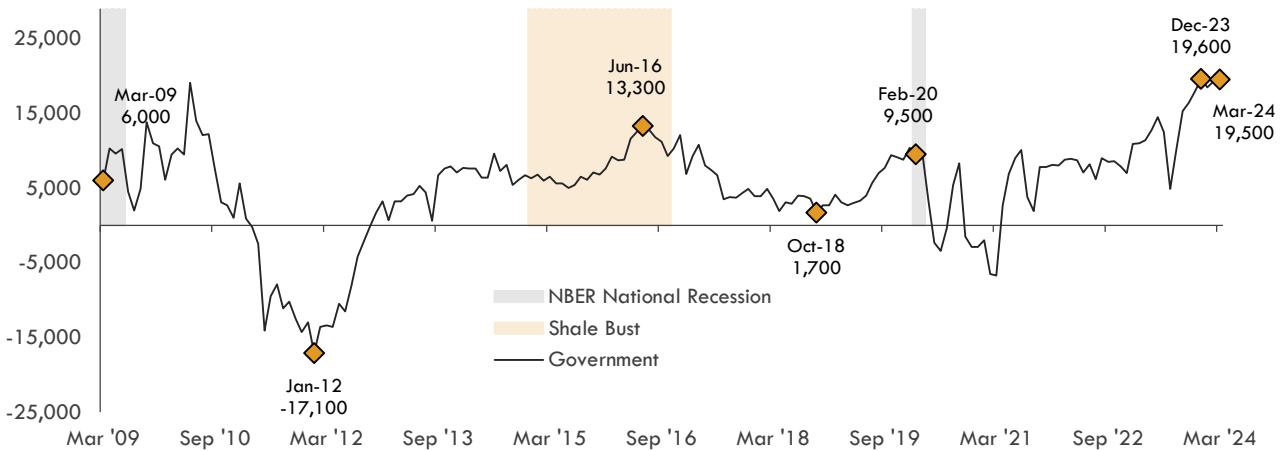


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Government was up 19,500 jobs, or 4.4 percent (see Chart 7). This was the largest-ever over-the-year gain in March and the second-largest gain on record. It also marks 36 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the third-fastest growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 28.1 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Government. Local Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 14,200 jobs over the year. The

second-largest contributor was State Government, which added 3,900 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Federal Government contributed, 1,400 jobs. Total Government employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 428,400 jobs by 34,700, or 8.1 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 13.2 percent to 13.5 percent over the past year.

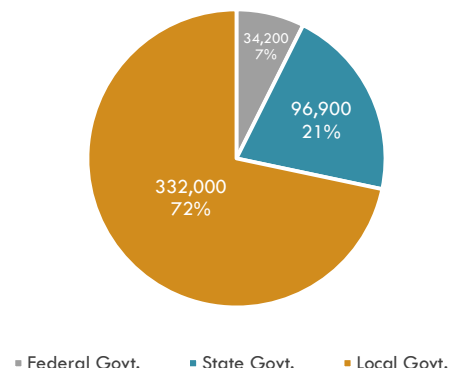
Chart 7. Government (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24



About This Sector

This sector consists of establishments of federal, state, and local government agencies that administer, oversee, and manage public programs and have executive, legislative, or judicial authority over other institutions within a given area that are not performed by private establishments. For MSA data, this includes public education but excludes healthcare. Of the three main component industries, Local Government accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 72 percent (see Chart 8). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Government sector is 10 percent less than the national average.

Chart 8. Employment in Component Industries of Government Sector - March 2024

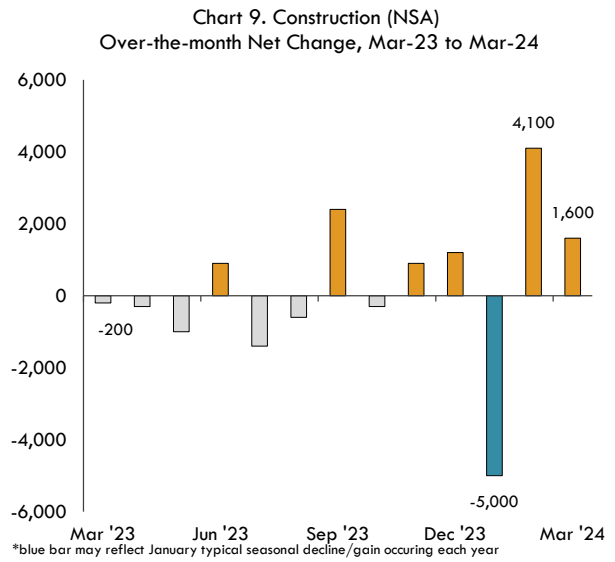


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Construction

Over-the-month Change

Construction was the second-largest gaining sector over the month up 1,600 jobs, or 0.7 percent (see Chart 9). This was the largest March over-the-month gain in since 2021. Historically in the month of March, Construction has added an average of 1,700 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are on par with the long-term average. Specialty Trade Contractors was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,200 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, which added 600 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Construction of Buildings offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -200 jobs. Construction employment was revised downward by -400 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 4,100 compared to an original estimate of 4,500 jobs.

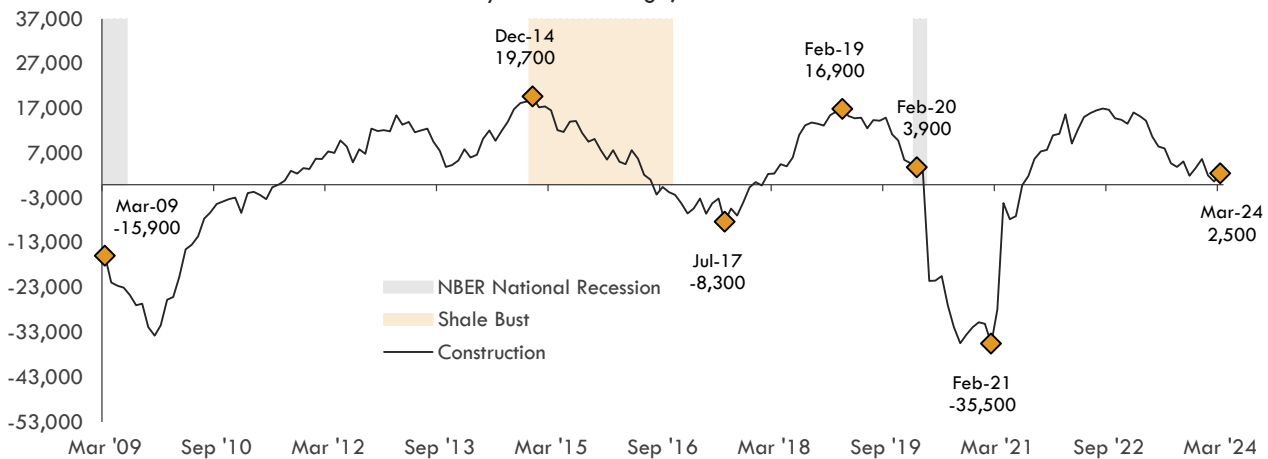


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Construction was up 2,500 jobs, or 1.1 percent (see Chart 10). This was the largest over-the-year gain since December 2023's increase of 5,700 jobs. It also marks 32 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Construction of Buildings was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 3,900 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, which lost -100 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Specialty Trade Contractors offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -1,300 jobs. Total Construction employment (NSA)

remains -2,200 jobs, or -0.9 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 237,400. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 6.9 percent over the past year.

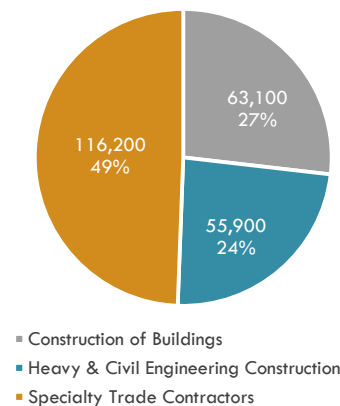
Chart 10. Construction (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in the construction of buildings, infrastructure, site preparation and sub-division, and specialty trades e.g. masonry, painting, and electrical work. Of the three main component industries, Specialty Trade Contractors accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 49 percent (see Chart 11). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Construction sector is 36 percent higher than the national average, due to 2.4 times more jobs in Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction related to turnaround maintenance of petrochemical facilities.

Chart 11. Employment in Component Industries of Construction Sector - March 2024

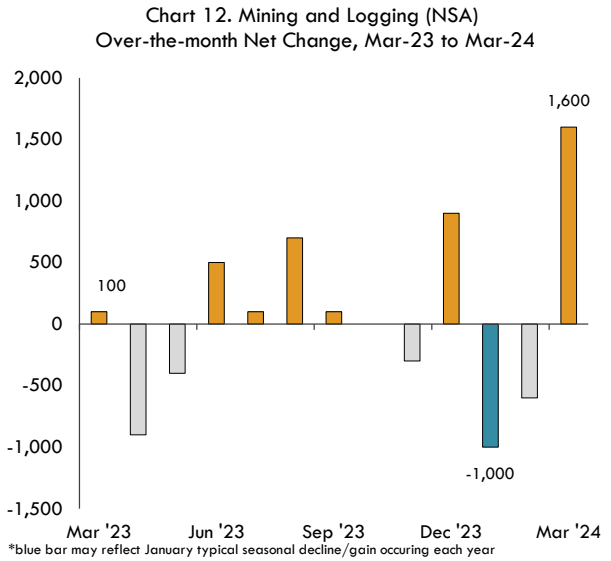


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Mining and Logging

Over-the-month Change

Mining and Logging was the third-largest gaining sector over the month up 1,600 jobs, or 2.3 percent (see Chart 12). This was the largest-ever gain in the month of March since records began in 1990, beating the previous March record of 1,100 jobs in 2012. Historically in the month of March, Mining and Logging has lost an average of -100 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially in contrast to the long-term average decline. Support Activities for Mining was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 800 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Oil and Gas Extraction, which added 800 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Other Mining and Logging Undefined saw no change over the month. Mining and Logging employment was revised downward by -300 jobs for a January to February larger net loss of -600 compared to an original estimate of -300 jobs.

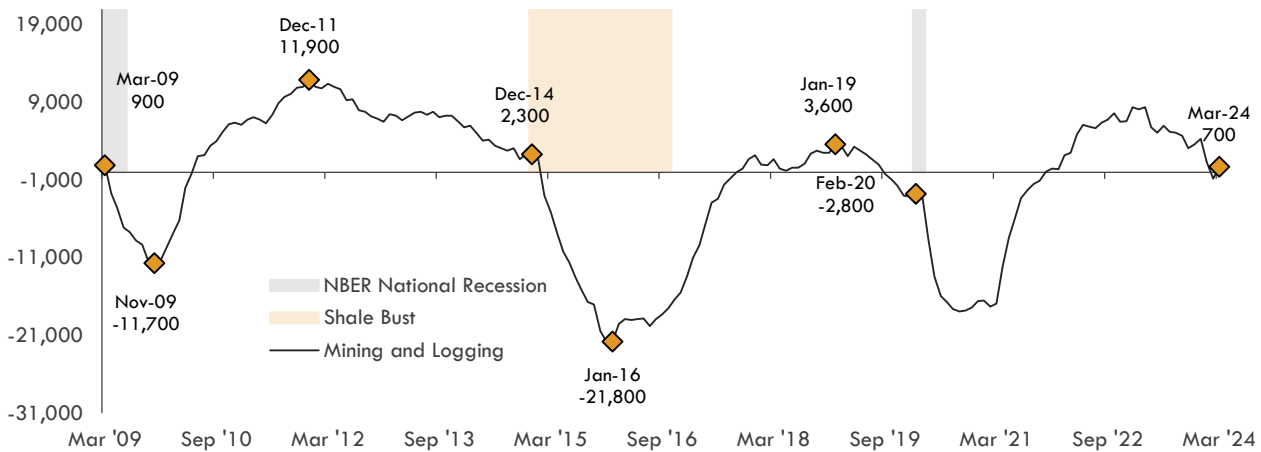


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Mining and Logging was up 700 jobs, or 1.0 percent (see Chart 13). Oil and Gas Extraction was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,400 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Other Mining and Logging Undefined, which added 100 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Support Activities for Mining offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -800 jobs. Total Mining and Logging employment (NSA) remains -6,200 jobs, or -7.9 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 78,400. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm

Employment has remained constant at 2.1 percent over the past year.

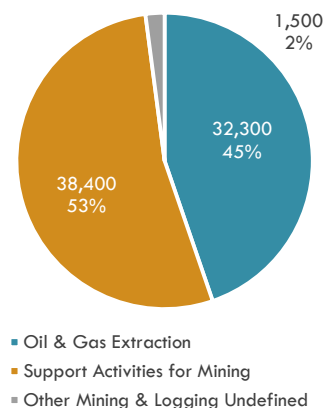
Chart 13. Mining and Logging (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments extracting naturally occurring minerals such as coal and ores; liquid minerals, such as crude petroleum and natural gas; and timber. Of the three main component industries, Support Activities for Mining accounts for a slight majority of the sector's employment at just over 53 percent (see Chart 14). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Mining and Logging sector is 5.2 times the national average, due to the region's role as a global hub for the oil and gas industry.

Chart 14. Employment in Component Industries of Mining and Logging Sector - March 2024



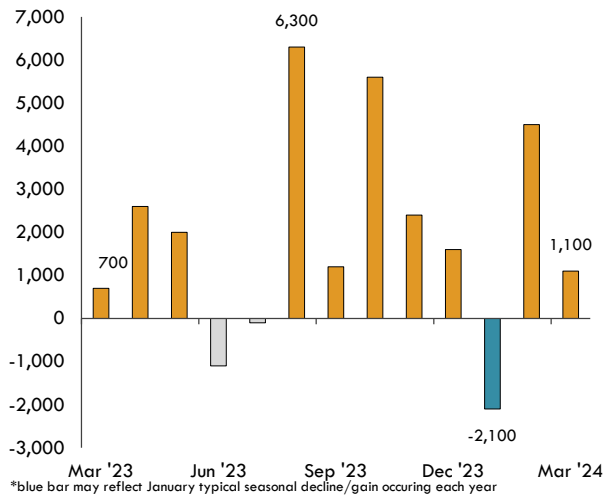
GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Private Education and Health Services

Over-the-month Change

Private Education and Health Services also saw an increase over the month up 1,100 jobs, or 0.2 percent (see Chart 15). This was the largest March over-the-month gain in since 2021. Historically in the month of March, Private Education and Health Services has added an average of 1,200 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are on par with the long-term average. Private Educational Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,100 jobs over the month. One component industry, Health Care and Social Assistance, saw no change from February to March. Private Education and Health Services employment was revised upward by 200 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 4,500 compared to an original estimate of 4,300 jobs.

Chart 15. Private Education and Health Services (NSA)
Over-the-month Net Change, Mar-'23 to Mar-'24

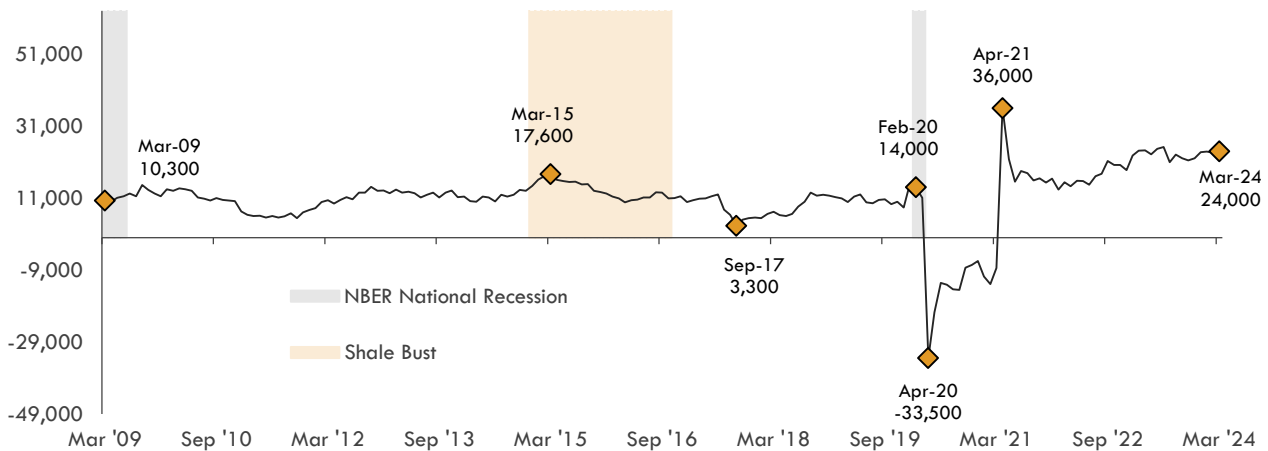


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Private Education and Health Services was up 24,000 jobs, or 5.4 percent (see Chart 16). This was the second-largest over-the-year gain in the month of March since records began in 1990 and the largest gain since June 2023's increase of 25,200 jobs. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the fastest-growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 34.6 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Private Education and Health Services. Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's

increase, up 20,700 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Private Educational Services, which added 3,300 jobs from March a year ago. Total Private Education and Health Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 414,400 jobs by 51,400, or 12.4 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 13.2 percent to 13.6 percent over the past year.

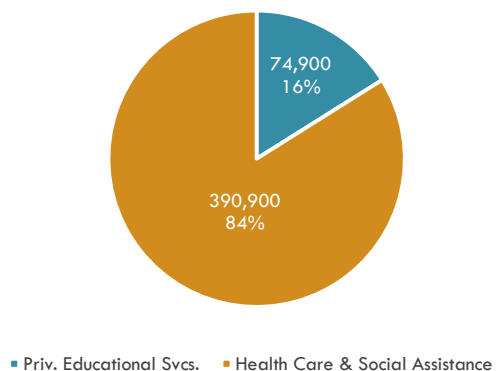
Chart 16. Private Education and Health Services (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-'09 to Mar-'24



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments that provide private education services (i.e. excluding publicly-funded primary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions) and establishments that provide healthcare and social assistance to individuals. Of the two main component industries, Health Care and Social Assistance accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 84 percent (see Chart 17). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 18 percent less than the national average, despite the high physical concentration of healthcare jobs centered around Texas Medical Center.

Chart 17. Employment in Component Industries of
Private Education and Health Services Sector - March
2024

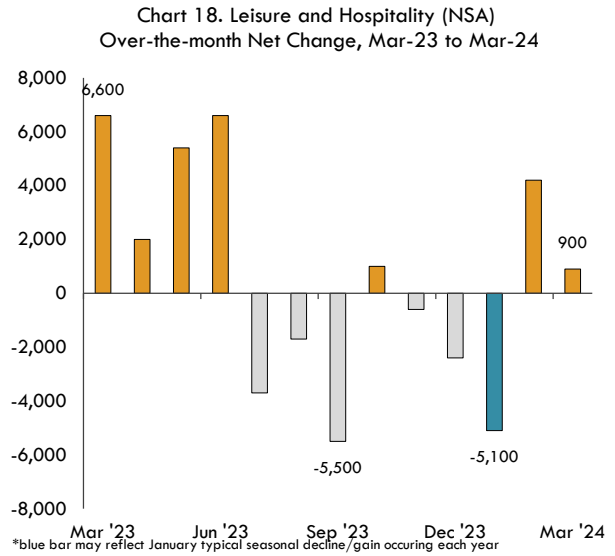


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Leisure and Hospitality

Over-the-month Change

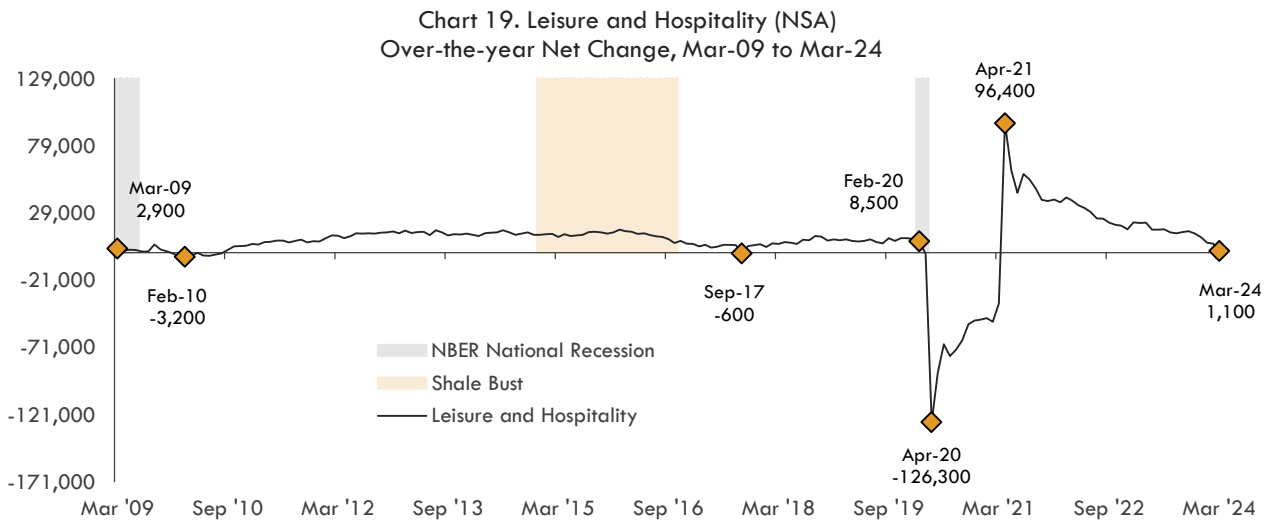
Leisure and Hospitality also saw an increase over the month up 900 jobs, or 0.3 percent (see Chart 18). Historically in the month of March, Leisure and Hospitality has added an average of 4,400 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially below the long-term average. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 800 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Accommodation and Food Services, which added 100 jobs from February to March. Leisure and Hospitality employment was revised upward by 300 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 4,200 compared to an original estimate of 3,900 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Leisure and Hospitality was up 1,100 jobs, or 0.3 percent (see Chart 19). This March also marks 36 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,000 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Accommodation and Food Services, which added 100 jobs from March a year ago. Total Leisure and Hospitality employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 334,500 jobs by 19,600, or 5.9 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm

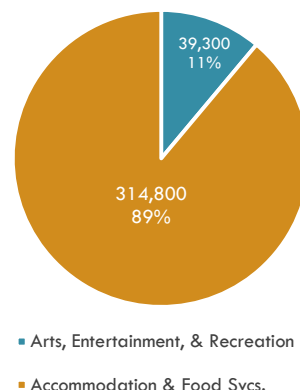
Employment has fallen from 10.5 percent to 10.4 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments that produce and promote in live performances, events, of exhibits of historical, cultural, or educational interest or related to recreation or hobbies intended for public viewing; and provide customers with lodging and/or meals and beverages for immediate consumption. NOTE: movie theaters are classified under the Information sector rather than Leisure and Hospitality. Of the two main component industries, Accommodation and Food Services accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 89 percent (see Chart 20). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 1 percent less than the national average.

Chart 20. Employment in Component Industries of Leisure and Hospitality Sector - March 2024



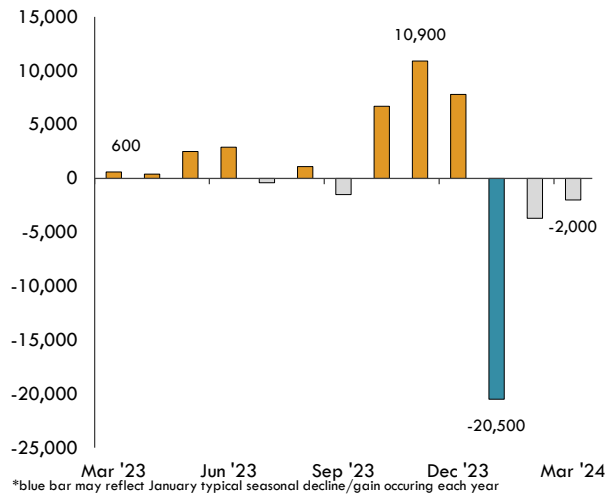
DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Over-the-month Change

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was the largest declining sector over the month down -2,000 jobs, or -0.3 (see Chart 21). This was the largest March decline since 2020 and the third-largest decline historically in the month of March since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of March, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities has added an average of 1,600 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially in contrast to the long-term average gain. Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -2,000 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Retail Trade, which lost -600 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Wholesale Trade offset a portion of the sector's losses with a gain of 600 jobs. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was revised downward by -1,200 jobs for a January to February larger net loss of -3,700 compared to an original estimate of -2,500 jobs.

Chart 21. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (NSA)
Over-the-month Net Change, Mar-23 to Mar-24

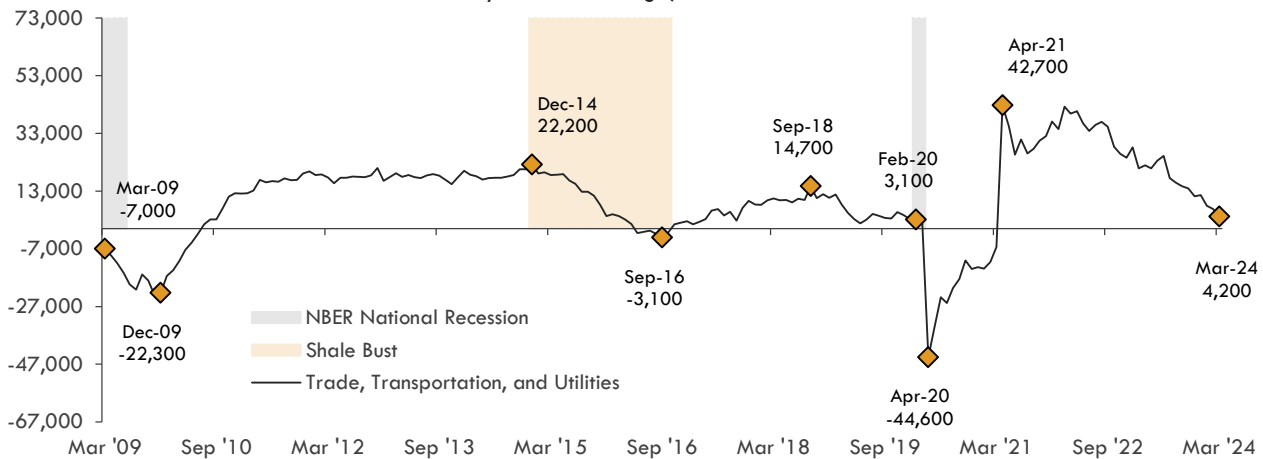


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was up 4,200 jobs, or 0.6 percent (see Chart 22). This March also marks 36 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Wholesale Trade was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 2,800 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities, which added 1,400 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Retail Trade saw no change over the month. Total Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 628,500 jobs by 56,400, or 9.0 percent. At

the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has fallen from 20.3 percent to 20.0 percent over the past year.

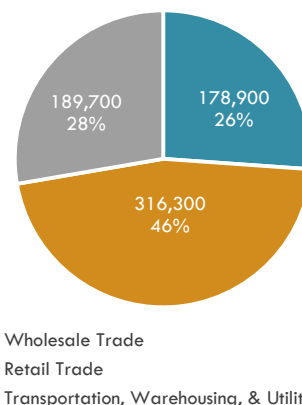
Chart 22. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments wholesaling agriculture, mining, and manufactured goods; retailing goods in small quantities to the public incl. online; transporting passengers and cargo; warehousing and storage; and providing electricity, natural gas, water, and sewage removal. Of the three main component industries, Retail Trade accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 46 percent (see Chart 23).

Chart 23. Employment in Component Industries of Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Sector - March 2024



DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

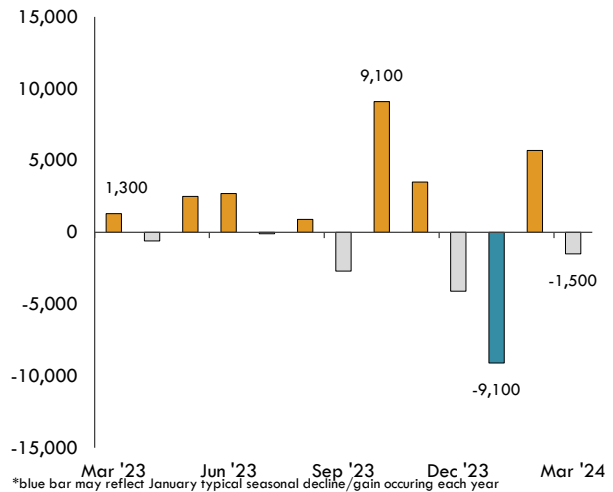
Professional and Business Services

Over-the-month Change

Professional and Business Services was the second-largest declining sector over the month down -1,500 jobs, or -0.3 (see Chart 24). This was the largest March decline since 2020 and the third-largest decline historically in the month of March since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of March, Professional and Business Services has added an average of 2,700 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially in contrast to the long-term average gain. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -2,200 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Management of Companies and Enterprises, which gained 100 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services offset a portion of the sector's losses with a gain of 600 jobs. Professional and Business Services employment was revised upward by 300 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of

5,700 compared to an original estimate of 5,400 jobs.

Chart 24. Professional and Business Services (NSA)
Over-the-month Net Change, Mar-23 to Mar-24

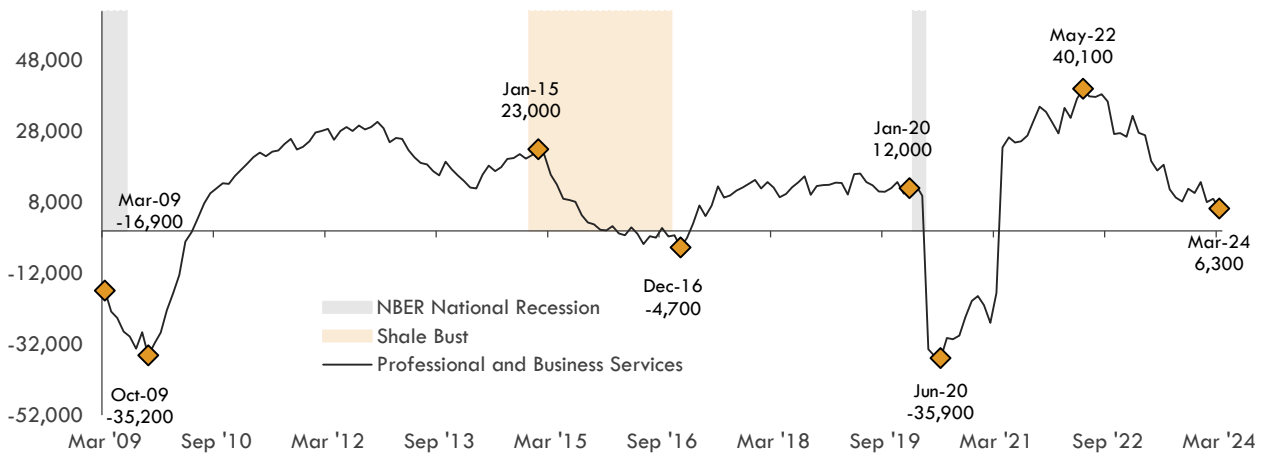


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Professional and Business Services was up 6,300 jobs, or 1.1 percent (see Chart 25). This March also marks 36 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 6,600 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Management of Companies and Enterprises, which added 400 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -700 jobs. Total Professional and Business Services

employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 514,700 jobs by 44,100, or 8.6 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has fallen from 16.5 percent to 16.3 percent over the past year.

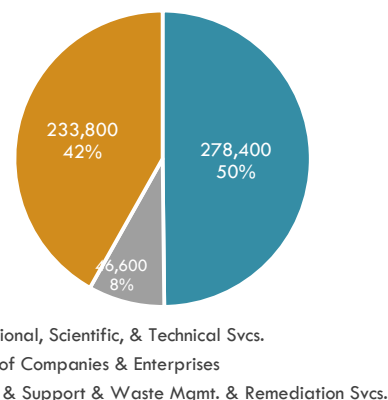
Chart 25. Professional and Business Services (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments specializing in professional, scientific, and technical activities; management of establishments holding equity interests in order to influence management decisions; and office administration, hiring of personnel, security, cleaning, and waste disposal. Of the three main component industries, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 50 percent (see Chart 26). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 13 percent higher than the national average, due to a 17-percent higher concentration in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services serving the oil and gas industry.

Chart 26. Employment in Component Industries of Professional and Business Services Sector - March 2024

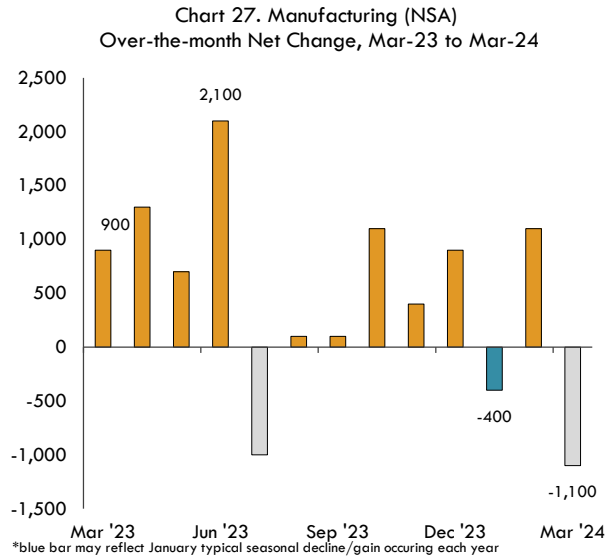


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Manufacturing

Over-the-month Change

Manufacturing was the third-largest declining sector over the month down -1,100 jobs, or -0.5 (see Chart 27). This was the largest March over-the-month decline in since 2016. Historically in the month of March, Manufacturing has added an average of 400 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially in contrast to the long-term average gain. Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -600 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Non-Durable Goods, which lost -500 jobs from February to March. Manufacturing employment was revised downward by -200 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 1,100 compared to an original estimate of 1,300 jobs.

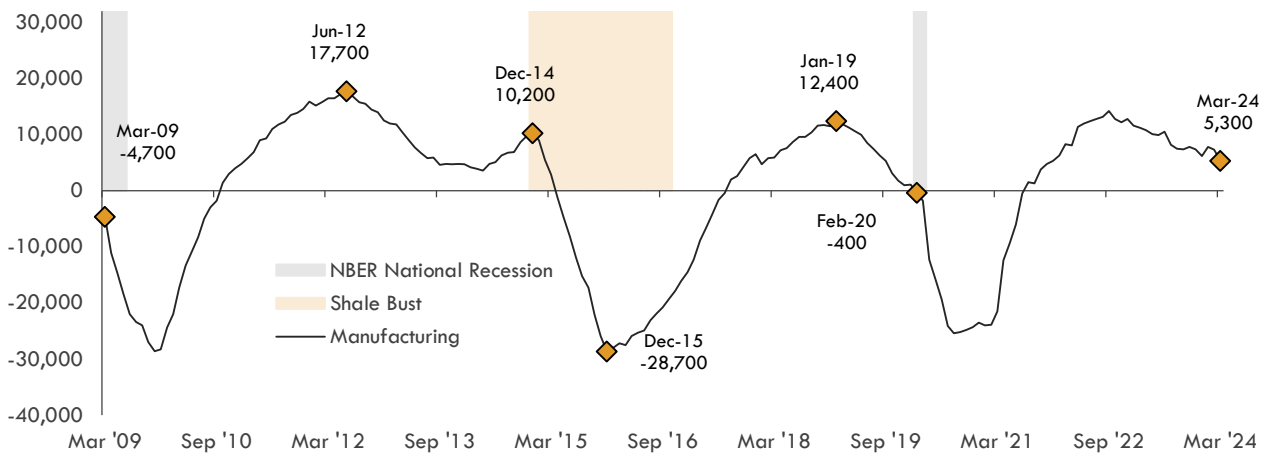


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Manufacturing was up 5,300 jobs, or 2.3 percent (see Chart 28). This March also marks 32 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 5,500 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Non-Durable Goods, which lost -200 jobs from March a year ago. Total Manufacturing employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 234,500 jobs by 1,800, or 0.8 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 6.9

percent over the past year.

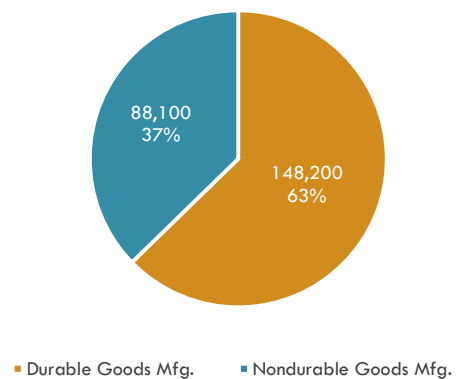
Chart 28. Manufacturing (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. Of the two main component industries, Durable Goods accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 63 percent (see Chart 29). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Manufacturing sector is 16 percent less than the national average.

Chart 29. Employment in Component Industries of Manufacturing Sector - March 2024

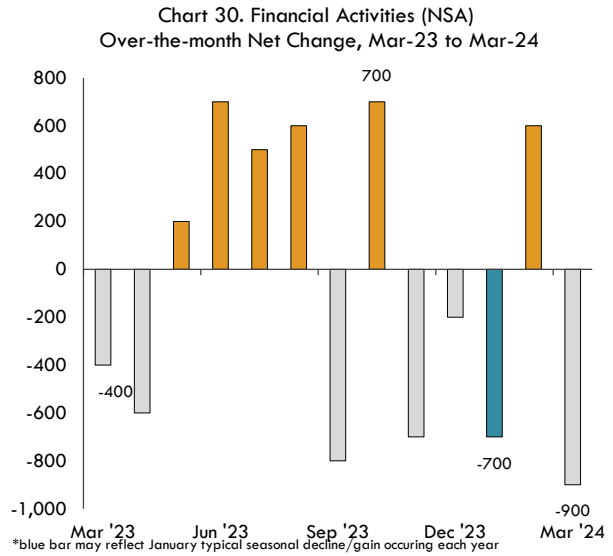


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Activities

Over-the-month Change

Financial Activities also saw a decrease over the month down -900 jobs, or -0.5 (see Chart 30). This March tied with 2020 for the largest-ever decline in the month of March since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of March, Financial Activities has added an average of 300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially in contrast to the long-term average gain. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -700 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Finance and Insurance, which lost -200 jobs from February to March. Financial Activities employment was revised downward by -300 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 600 compared to an original estimate of 900 jobs.

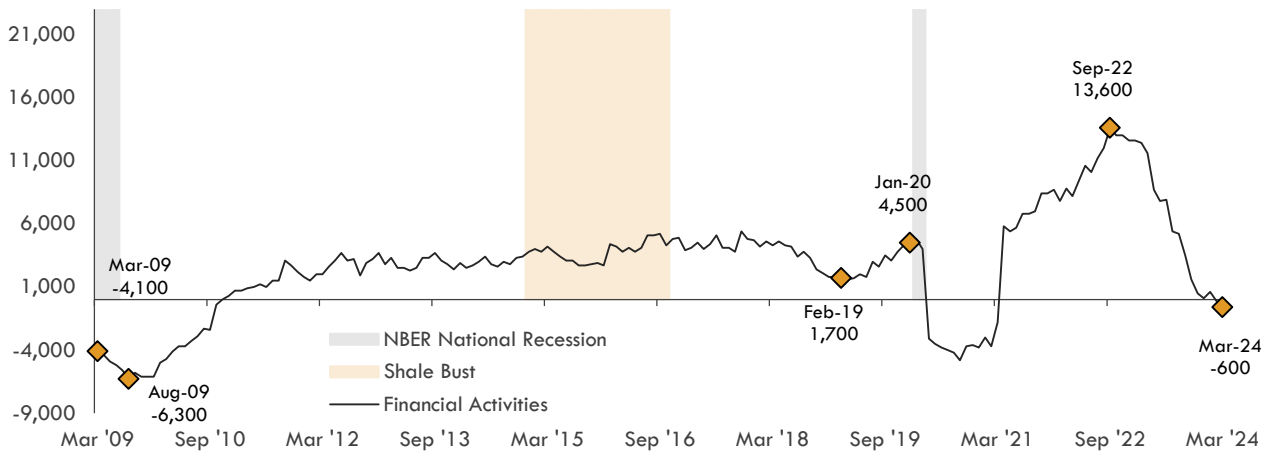


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Financial Activities was down -600 jobs, or -0.3 percent (see Chart 31). This was the largest over-the-year decline since March 2021's decrease of -1,800 jobs. It also marks nine consecutive months of over-the-year losses. Among sectors currently showing contraction, this sector is the second-fastest declining in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 37.5 percent of total (gross) jobs lost across the region over the past year can be attributed to Financial Activities. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -1,000 jobs over the year. One

component industry that provided a partial offset was Finance and Insurance, which gained 400 jobs from March a year ago. Total Financial Activities employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 169,200 jobs by 16,500, or 9.8 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has fallen from 5.6 percent to 5.4 percent over the past year.

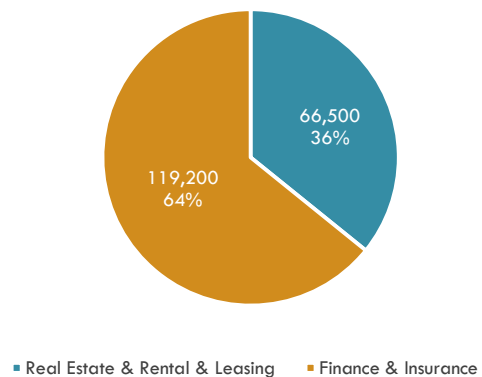
Chart 31. Financial Activities (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-'09 to Mar-'24



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments renting, leasing, or allowing use of assets, and financial transactions such as creation, liquidation, or change in ownership of financial assets, underwriting of insurance, and annuities. Of the two main component industries, Finance and Insurance accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 64 percent (see Chart 32). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Financial Activities sector is 7 percent less than the national average, due to a 18-percent lower concentration in Finance and Insurance offsetting a 24-percent higher concentration in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing.

Chart 32. Employment in Component Industries of Financial Activities Sector - March 2024



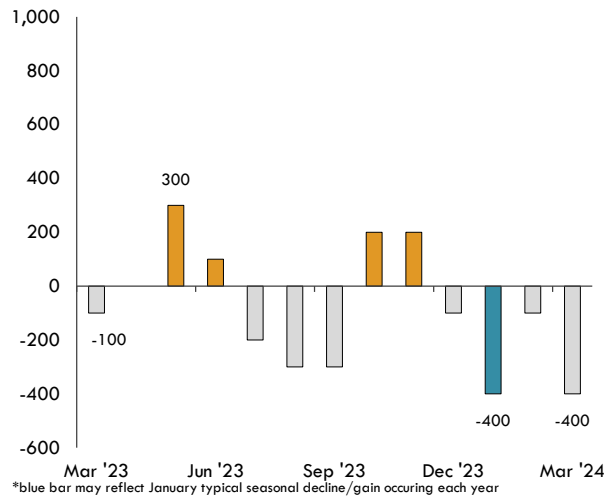
DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Information

Over-the-month Change

Information also saw a decrease over the month down -400 jobs, or -1.2 (see Chart 33). This was the largest March decline since 2020 and the third-largest decline historically in the month of March since records began in 1990. Other Information Undefined was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -300 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Telecommunications, which lost -100 jobs from February to March. Information employment was revised upward by 100 jobs for a January to February smaller net loss of -100 compared to an original estimate of -200 jobs.

Chart 33. Information (NSA)
Over-the-month Net Change, Mar-23 to Mar-24

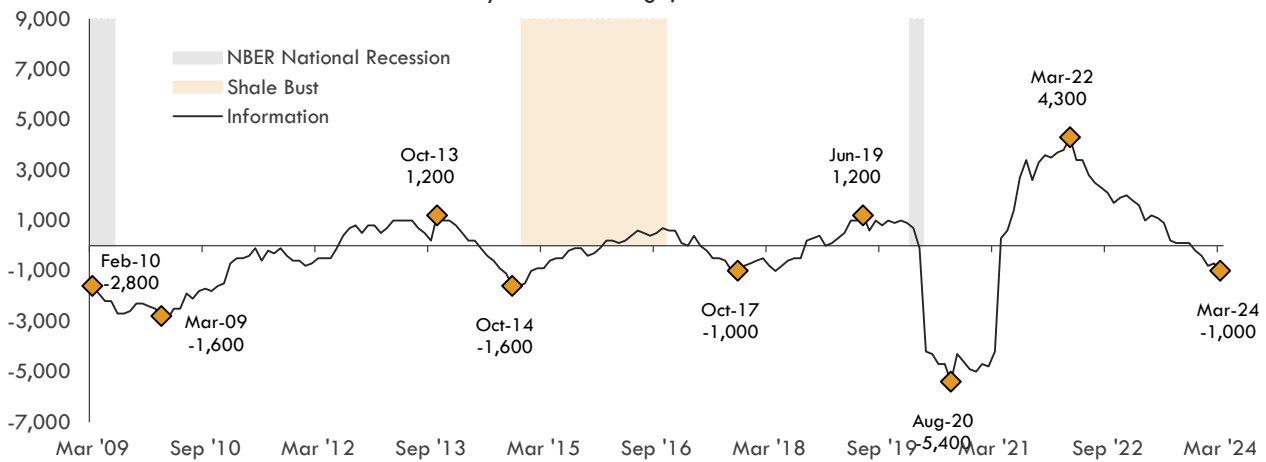


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Information was down -1,000 jobs, or -3.0 percent (see Chart 34). This was the largest over-the-year decline since March 2021's decrease of -4,200 jobs. It also marks five consecutive months of over-the-year losses. Among sectors currently showing contraction, this sector is the fastest declining in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 62.5 percent of total (gross) jobs lost across the region over the past year can be attributed to Information. Other Information Undefined was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -600 jobs over the year. The second-largest

declining contributor was Telecommunications, which lost -400 jobs from March a year ago. Total Information employment (NSA) remains -500 jobs, or -1.5 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 32,700. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 1.0 percent over the past year.

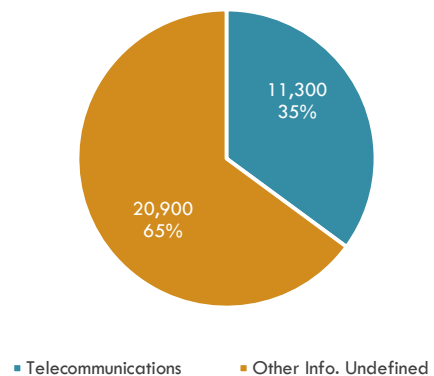
Chart 34. Information (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-09 to Mar-24



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments producing and distributing information and cultural products, e.g. traditional and online news publishing; software publishing; the motion picture and sound recording; TV broadcasting; and telecommunications. Of the two main component industries, Other Information Undefined accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 65 percent (see Chart 35). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Information sector is 51 percent less than the national average.

Chart 35. Employment in Component Industries of Information Sector - March 2024

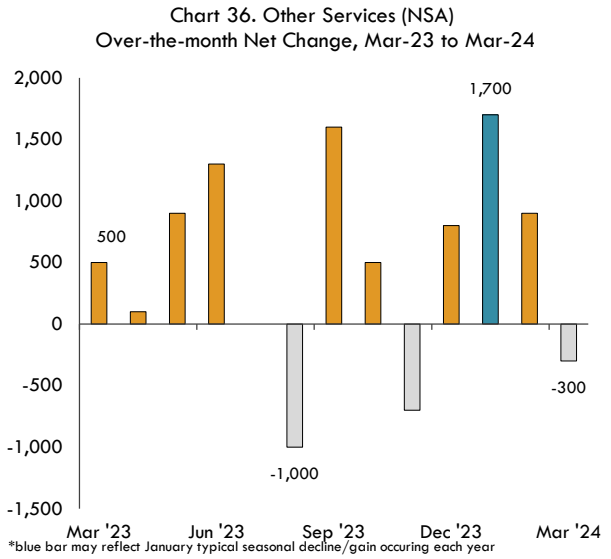


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Other Services

Over-the-month Change

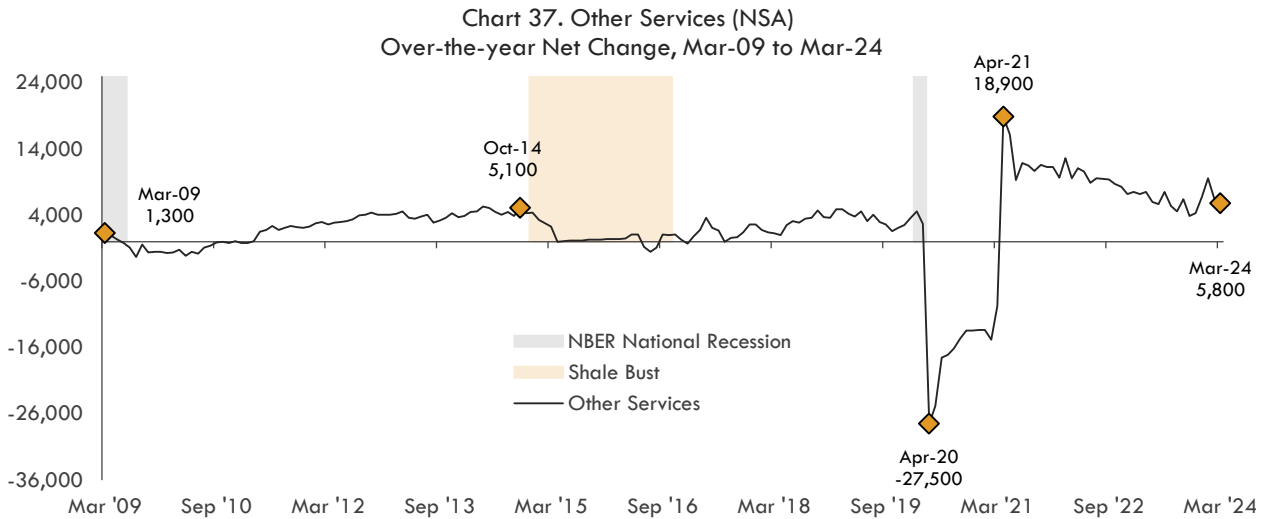
Other Services also saw a decrease over the month down -300 jobs, or -0.2 (see Chart 36). This was the largest March over-the-month decline in since 2020. NOTE: No subsector is published at the MSA level by the CES survey. See below for additional information. Other Services employment was revised upward by 600 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 900 compared to an original estimate of 300 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Other Services was up 5,800 jobs, or 4.7 percent (see Chart 37). It also marks 36 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the second-fastest growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. NOTE: No subsector is published at the MSA level by the CES survey. See below for additional information. Total Other Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 119,100 jobs by 11,300, or 9.5 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 3.7

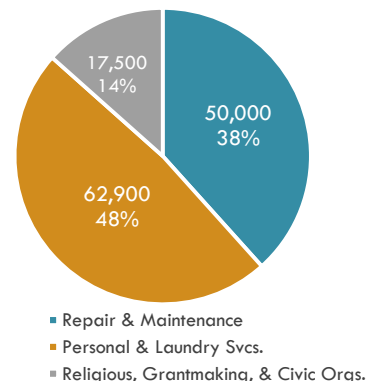
percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in services not classified elsewhere such as equipment and machinery repair, religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and providing dry-cleaning and laundry services, and personal care services. Of the three main component industries, Personal and Laundry Services accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 48 percent as a subsector where self-employment is prevalent (source: Census - Non Employer Statistics and BLS - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages) (see Chart 38). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Other Services sector is 2 percent higher than the national average.

Chart 38. Employment in Component Industries of Other Services Sector - March 2024



*estimated proportions based QCEW covered and NES self-employment

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Not-Seasonally Adjusted

Houston Metro, Texas, and U.S. Unemployment

The Houston MSA (not-seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.3 percent in March, down from February's 4.6 percent and unchanged from a year ago. This was above the statewide rate of 4.1 percent and above the national rate of 3.9 percent. An over-the-month decline in March is typical having occurred roughly 70 percent of the time over the past three decades making this month's decrease consistent with historical seasonal trends. 158,287 individuals were unemployed in Houston in March, down from February's 168,649 and up from 153,942 in March 2023 (see Charts 39 and 40).

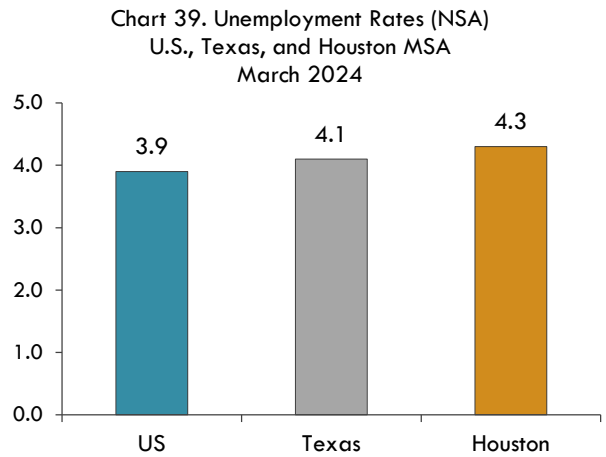
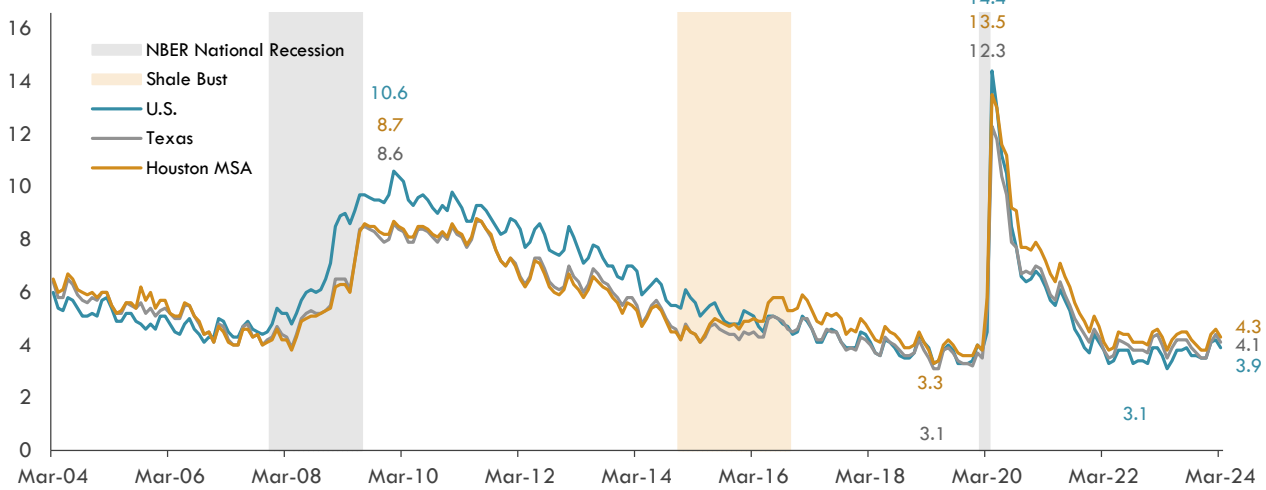


Chart 40. Unemployment Rates U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA (NSA) March 2004 to March 2024

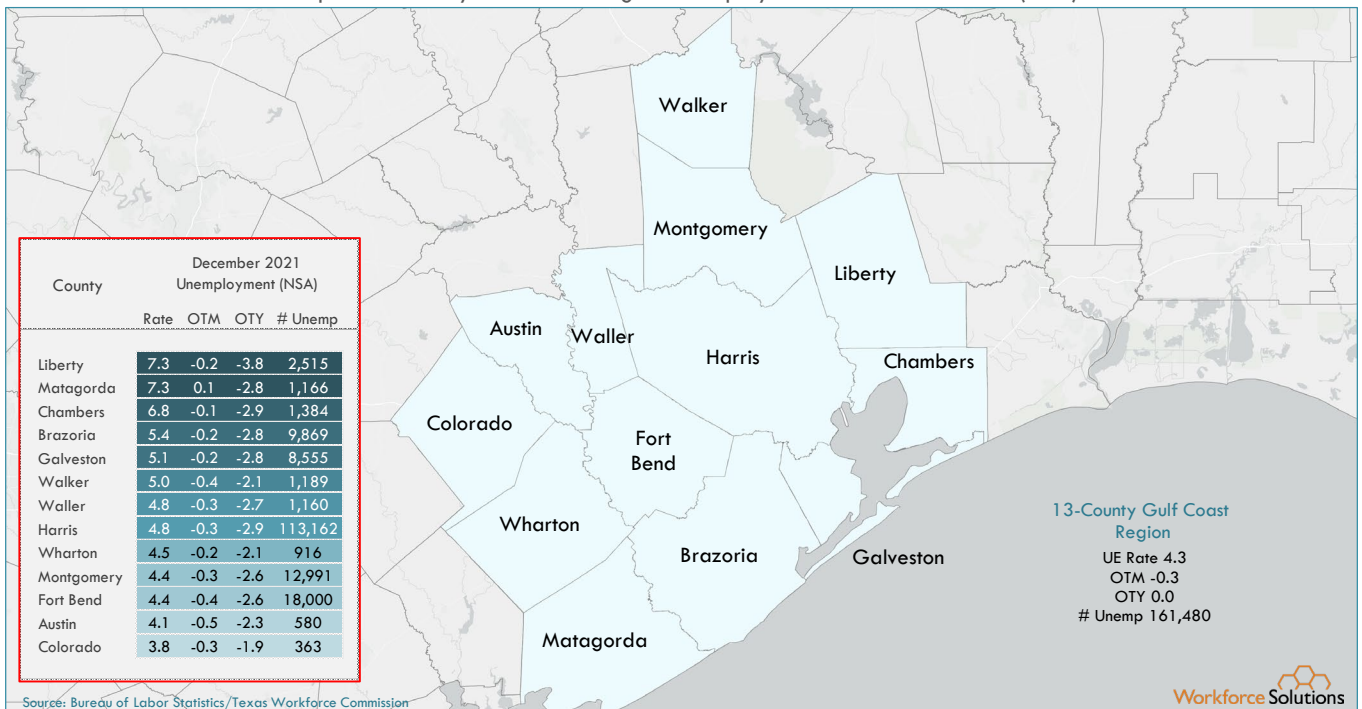


Local Area

Local Area Unemployment Statistics Not-Seasonally Adjusted Houston Metro, Texas, and U.S. Unemployment The Houston MSA (not-seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.3 percent in March, down from February's 4.6 percent and unchanged from a year ago. This was above the statewide rate of 4.1 percent and above the national rate of 3.9 percent. An over-the-month decline in March is typical having occurred roughly 70 percent of the time over the past three decades making this month's decrease consistent with historical seasonal trends. 158,287 individuals were unemployed in Houston in

Local Area Unemployment Statistics Not-Seasonally Adjusted Houston Metro, Texas, and U.S. Unemployment The Houston MSA (not-seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.3 percent in March, down from February's 4.6 percent and unchanged from a year ago. This was above

Map 1. 13-County Gulf Coast Region Unemployment Rates March 2024 (NSA)



Local Area Unemployment Statistics (continued)

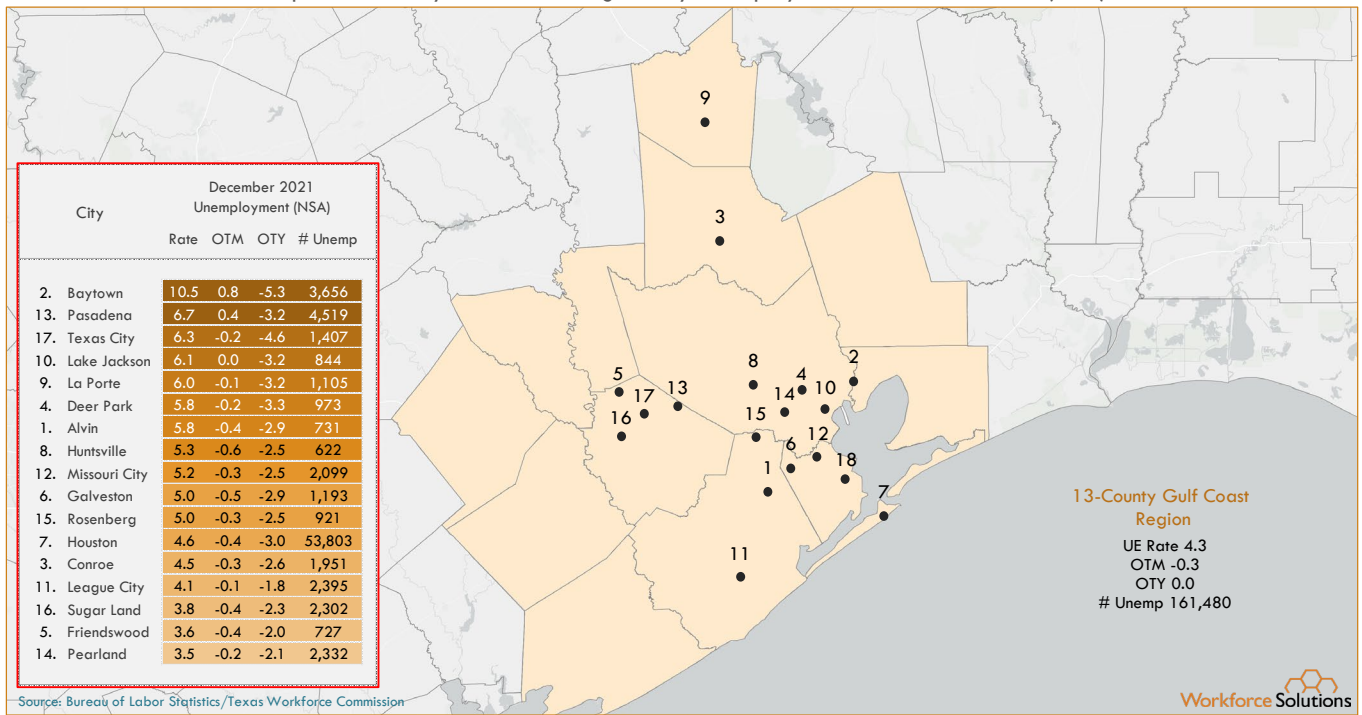
Not-Seasonally Adjusted

Unemployment Rates for Select Municipalities

Among the 18 cities in the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area for which Local Area Unemployment Statistics are available, unemployment rates in March ranged from a high of 7.0 percent in Baytown to a low of 3.5 percent in League City (see Map 2 legend). Over the month, 16 cities saw their unemployment rates decline in keeping with the region-wide decrease of -0.3 percentage points while one increased and one saw no change. Huntsville saw the largest percentage-point decrease in

unemployment down -1.0 pp. representing -137 fewer unemployed workers compared to the previous month. This was followed by Alvin (-0.6 pp, -82 workers) and Lake Jackson (-0.5 pp, -71 workers). The 18 cities below accounted for 48 percent of the 161,480 unemployed workers across the Gulf Coast Region as of this March (see Map 2 legend).

Map 2. 13-County Gulf Coast Region City Unemployment Rates March 2024 (NSA)



Seasonally Adjusted

Houston Metro, Texas, and U.S. Unemployment

The Houston MSA (seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent in February, unchanged from January's 4.2 percent and unchanged from a year ago. This was above the statewide rate of 3.9 percent and above the national rate of 3.9 percent. 153,078 individuals were unemployed in Houston in February, down slightly from January's 152,793 and up from 148,406 in February 2023 (see Charts 41 and 42). NOTE: Seasonally-adjusted data for the MSA are available with a one-month delay but are not available for the 13-County Region or 18 cities.

Chart 41. Unemployment Rates (SA)
 U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA
 February 2024

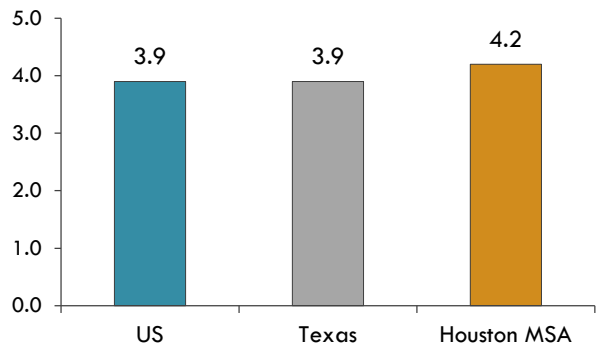
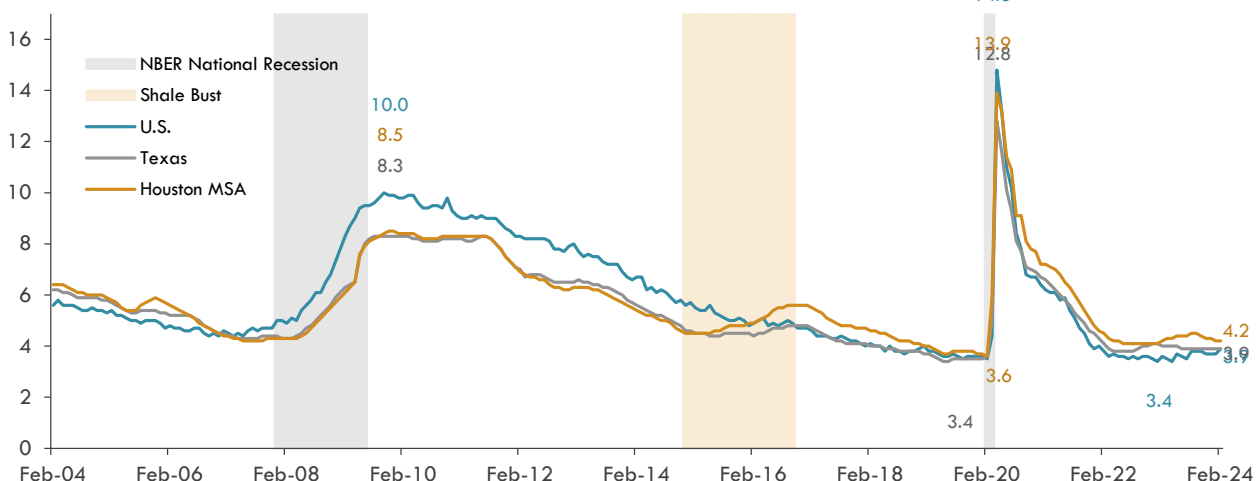


Chart 42. Unemployment Rates U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA (SA)
 February 2004 to February 2024



Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index (WSI)

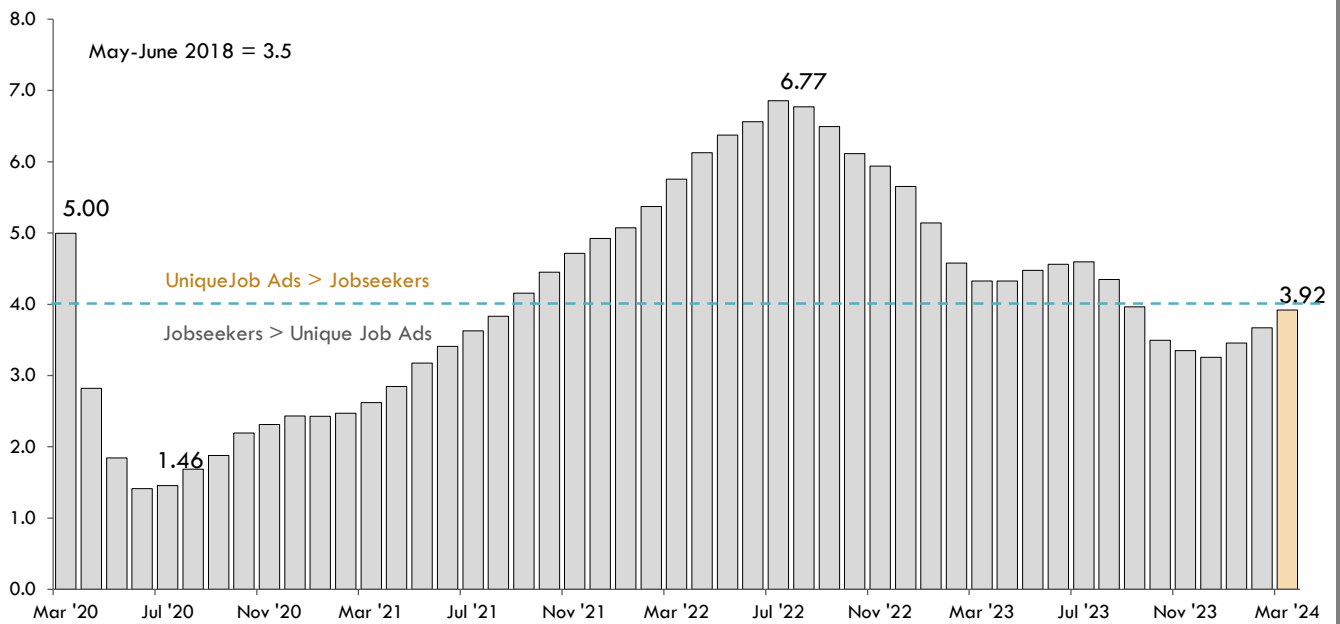


The Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index (WSI)

The WSI is an indicator designed to capture shifts in the local labor market, specifically the balance between available jobs and unemployed workers at a given point in time. Values above 4.0 signal a surplus of jobs while values less than 4.0 signal a surplus of jobseekers. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board monitors the WSI as part of its ongoing review of the region's unemployment insurance work search requirement and reserves the right to adjust the number of weekly job search contacts as labor market conditions warrant. In the event of change to the work search requirement, the Board will notify the Texas Workforce Commission who will in turn notify UI recipients.

WSI Reading
 March
 2024:
3.92

Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index - Houston MSA 2017 - 2022 (SA)



Source(s): Emsi-Burning Glass and BLS/TWC - LAUS
 Note: data subject to revisions.



Workforce Solutions Index March 2024

The Houston MSA WSI for March stood at 3.92, up from February's slightly upward revised reading of 3.67. This was the result of the number of unemployed individuals continuing to average around 150,000 in recent months while the number of job postings declined by 2,693 from February to March.

Despite the index rising in each of the past three months, this March marks the seventh consecutive reading below 4.0, and continues to signal that employers have regained bargaining power relative to job seekers for the first time in roughly two years.

As a result March's reading continues to suggest that a requirement of three work search activities may be appropriate for individuals receiving unemployment insurance given the relative availability of jobs at present.



Houston Area Employment Situation

March 2024

Table 1. Houston MSA Sectors and Major Industry Subcomponents

NAICS Industry	Mar-24	Feb-24	Mar-23	Monthly	Monthly	Yearly	Yearly %
Total Nonfarm	3,418,700	3,417,600	3,350,900	1,100	0.0%	67,800	2.0%
Total Private	2,955,600	2,956,600	2,907,300	-1,000	0.0%	48,300	1.7%
Goods Producing	543,700	541,600	535,200	2,100	0.4%	8,500	1.6%
.Mining and Logging	72,200	70,600	71,500	1,600	2.3%	700	1.0%
...Oil and Gas Extraction	32,300	31,500	30,900	800	2.5%	1,400	4.5%
...Support Activities for Mining	38,400	37,600	39,200	800	2.1%	-800	-2.0%
.Construction	235,200	233,600	232,700	1,600	0.7%	2,500	1.1%
..Construction of Buildings	63,100	63,300	59,200	-200	-0.3%	3,900	6.6%
..Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	55,900	55,300	56,000	600	1.1%	-100	-0.2%
..Specialty Trade Contractors	116,200	115,000	117,500	1,200	1.0%	-1,300	-1.1%
.Manufacturing	236,300	237,400	231,000	-1,100	-0.5%	5,300	2.3%
..Durable Goods	148,200	148,800	142,700	-600	-0.4%	5,500	3.9%
...Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	52,200	52,500	50,200	-300	-0.6%	2,000	4.0%
...Machinery Manufacturing	42,900	43,100	41,600	-200	-0.5%	1,300	3.1%
....Agriculture, Construction, and Mining Machinery Mfg.	22,900	22,900	22,100	0	0.0%	800	3.6%
...Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	14,500	14,500	13,900	0	0.0%	600	4.3%
..Non-Durable Goods	88,100	88,600	88,300	-500	-0.6%	-200	-0.2%
...Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	8,000	8,000	7,900	0	0.0%	100	1.3%
...Chemical Manufacturing	42,000	42,100	41,600	-100	-0.2%	400	1.0%
Service Providing	2,875,000	2,876,000	2,815,700	-1,000	0.0%	59,300	2.1%
.Private Service Providing	2,411,900	2,415,000	2,372,100	-3,100	-0.1%	39,800	1.7%
..Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	684,900	686,900	680,700	-2,000	-0.3%	4,200	0.6%
...Wholesale Trade	178,900	178,300	176,100	600	0.3%	2,800	1.6%
....Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	111,500	111,300	109,900	200	0.2%	1,600	1.5%
....Prof. and Commercial Equip. Supplies Wholesalers	18,600	18,600	18,700	0	0.0%	-100	-0.5%
....Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	55,500	55,200	54,600	300	0.5%	900	1.6%
...Retail Trade	316,300	316,900	316,300	-600	-0.2%	0	0.0%
....Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	44,000	44,200	43,700	-200	-0.5%	300	0.7%
....Bldg. Material and Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	23,700	23,400	24,300	300	1.3%	-600	-2.5%
....Food and Beverage Stores	74,800	75,100	74,300	-300	-0.4%	500	0.7%
....Health and Personal Care Stores	61,000	61,100	60,700	-100	-0.2%	300	0.5%
....Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	19,100	19,200	19,200	-100	-0.5%	-100	-0.5%
....General Merchandise Stores	41,900	41,900	41,500	0	0.0%	400	1.0%
....Department Stores	21,400	21,500	21,300	-100	-0.5%	100	0.5%
....Other General Merchandise Stores	25,700	25,900	25,800	-200	-0.8%	-100	-0.4%
...Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	189,700	191,700	188,300	-2,000	-1.0%	1,400	0.7%
....Utilities	23,200	23,300	21,200	-100	-0.4%	2,000	9.4%
....Air Transportation	22,600	22,600	21,800	0	0.0%	800	3.7%
....Truck Transportation	30,000	30,100	30,400	-100	-0.3%	-400	-1.3%
....Pipeline Transportation	14,200	14,200	13,300	0	0.0%	900	6.8%
..Information	32,200	32,600	33,200	-400	-1.2%	-1,000	-3.0%
...Telecommunications	11,300	11,400	11,700	-100	-0.9%	-400	-3.4%
..Financial Activities	185,700	186,600	186,300	-900	-0.5%	-600	-0.3%
...Finance and Insurance	119,200	119,400	118,800	-200	-0.2%	400	0.3%
....Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	47,800	47,700	47,300	100	0.2%	500	1.1%
....Depository Credit Intermediation	30,900	30,900	30,200	0	0.0%	700	2.3%
....Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Fin. Investments	24,300	24,400	24,700	-100	-0.4%	-400	-1.6%
....Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	47,100	47,300	46,800	-200	-0.4%	300	0.6%
...Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	66,500	67,200	67,500	-700	-1.0%	-1,000	-1.5%
..Professional and Business Services	558,800	560,300	552,500	-1,500	-0.3%	6,300	1.1%
...Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	278,400	280,600	271,800	-2,200	-0.8%	6,600	2.4%
....Legal Services	32,100	32,400	30,900	-300	-0.9%	1,200	3.9%
....Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll	29,900	30,300	31,000	-400	-1.3%	-1,100	-3.5%
....Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	75,000	75,500	71,700	-500	-0.7%	3,300	4.6%
....Computer Systems Design and Related Services	41,000	41,600	41,100	-600	-1.4%	-100	-0.2%
...Management of Companies and Enterprises	46,600	46,500	46,200	100	0.2%	400	0.9%
...Admin. and Support and Waste Mgmt. and Remediation	233,800	233,200	234,500	600	0.3%	-700	-0.3%
....Administrative and Support Services	220,800	220,300	221,800	500	0.2%	-1,000	-0.5%
....Employment Services	79,600	79,600	85,600	0	0.0%	-6,000	-7.0%
....Services to Buildings and Dwellings	55,100	54,400	53,600	700	1.3%	1,500	2.8%
..Educational and Health Services	465,800	464,700	441,800	1,100	0.2%	24,000	5.4%
...Educational Services	74,900	73,800	71,600	1,100	1.5%	3,300	4.6%
...Health Care and Social Assistance	390,900	390,900	370,200	0	0.0%	20,700	5.6%
....Ambulatory Health Care Services	197,400	197,700	188,100	-300	-0.2%	9,300	4.9%
....Hospitals	98,200	97,900	91,700	300	0.3%	6,500	7.1%
..Leisure and Hospitality	354,100	353,200	353,000	900	0.3%	1,100	0.3%
...Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	39,300	38,500	38,300	800	2.1%	1,000	2.6%
...Accommodation and Food Services	314,800	314,700	314,700	100	0.0%	100	0.0%
....Accommodation	26,400	26,200	26,200	200	0.8%	200	0.8%
....Food Services and Drinking Places	288,400	288,500	288,500	-100	0.0%	-100	0.0%
..Other Services	130,400	130,700	124,600	-300	-0.2%	5,800	4.7%
Government	463,100	461,000	443,600	2,100	0.5%	19,500	4.4%
.Federal Government	34,200	33,900	32,800	300	0.9%	1,400	4.3%
.State Government	96,900	96,700	93,000	200	0.2%	3,900	4.2%
...State Government Educational Services	53,600	53,600	51,500	0	0.0%	2,100	4.1%
.Local Government	330,700	324,400	316,200	6,300	1.9%	14,500	4.6%
...Local Government Educational Services	230,500	222,300	220,100	8,200	3.7%	10,400	