



Gulf Coast Workforce Board  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# SEPTEMBER EMPLOYMENT RISES DESPITE PRIOR LOSSES

**(HOUSTON, Texas, December 11, 2025)** Houston-area employers added a staggering 13,800 jobs in September, an increase of almost double from the previous year. Primary drivers were increases in Government; Private Education and Health Services; and Construction according to figures released this morning by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast.

Employment in August was revised downward by 2,700 jobs, a complete erasure of gains of 100 jobs, as originally estimated. Most of the losses came from Construction, Education and Health Services, and Government jobs. Some industries—like Manufacturing, Hospitality, and Professional Services— were revised upwards, however, not enough to make up for the overall decline.

Economist and principal data analyst at the workforce development agency, Mohammad Ahmadizadeh, reported that Houston’s job market “returned in September after several months of weak growth.” He explained that “although this month’s gain appears healthy,” most of the growth was concentrated in Government and Private Education and Health Services, with only “very modest increases in Construction.” Ahmadizadeh noted that this trend aligns with national patterns in recent months, where job gains have largely come from healthcare and education. He added that Houston “added 25,000 jobs in government in September, and 23,500 of those were in local government educational services,” a seasonal increase tied to the start of the school year.

The Leisure and Hospitality sector saw the biggest drop in employment yet again, down 5,800 jobs as compared to the average decline of an average of 3,800 over the month. The drop this month is more substantial, likely as a result of the considerable decline in the Accommodation and Food Services sector tied to seasonal trends, such as the end of summer. This was followed by the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector, which saw the second-largest declining sector, down 2,800 jobs, larger than the average decline as a result of the drop in retail trade. The Professional and Business Services sector was the third-largest declining sector, down 2,500 jobs, which is substantially larger than the long-term average decline.

Local Government, on the other hand, was the largest gaining sector, up 25,000 jobs. This is the second largest gain in the month of September since record-collecting began in 1990. With an average of 15,100 jobs added in previous years, this month’s gains are above-average.

Not-seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Houston area dropped to 4.8 percent, down from 5.0 percent in August. Seasonally adjusted unemployment for August increased by 0.1 percent, now at 4.3 percent. This is above the statewide rate of 4.1 percent and is the same as the national rate of 4.3 percent.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed September report, can be found online at [www.wrksolutions.com/localstats](http://www.wrksolutions.com/localstats).

**ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – GULF COAST:** [Workforce Solutions - Gulf Coast](http://www.wrksolutions.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

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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](http://www.WorkInTexas.com).

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