



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON POSTS MODEST JOB GROWTH IN AUGUST

HOUSTON (September 25, 2026) – Houston employers added 900 jobs in August, well below the 7,400 jobs typically added during the month, as recent data showed less evidence that the stronger hiring seen earlier this summer was extending across the regional economy. On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment increased by 4,100 jobs, close to the historical August average of 4,400.

Much of August's unadjusted gain came from the return of education employment as schools and colleges prepared for the new academic year. Government added 5,700 jobs, including 5,900 in Local Government Educational Services, while Private Educational Services added 3,100. Combined, public and private education employment increased by 9,500 jobs during the month.

"August's numbers point to a more measured pace of hiring than we saw earlier this summer. In the unadjusted data, education gains were largely offset by losses elsewhere, and private employment fell by 4,800 jobs," said Mohammad Ahmadizadeh. "The seasonally adjusted gain suggests modest underlying growth. The question now is whether hiring will broaden beyond the return to school."

Annual employment growth also moderated. Houston added 44,700 jobs over the year, or 1.3 percent, compared with a revised gain of 47,000 in July.

Professional and Business Services remained the largest source of annual job growth, adding 14,700 jobs, followed by Construction with 14,100 and Government with 8,300. Six of the region's 11 major sectors added jobs over the year.

Monthly results were more uneven. Professional and Business Services was unchanged in August, compared with an average gain of 1,800 jobs, while Professional, Scientific and Technical Services lost 1,300. Construction added just 100 jobs, below its historical August average of 1,100. Manufacturing added 700 jobs in August, led by a 1,200-job gain in Durable Goods Manufacturing. The sector remained down 600 jobs over the year.

Houston's unemployment rate declined to 5.0 percent in August from 5.1 percent in July, although it remained slightly above the 4.9 percent recorded a year ago. Approximately 194,300 Houston-area residents were unemployed, about 7,500 fewer than in July but roughly 2,500 more than a year earlier. The region's unemployment rate also remained above the comparable Texas rate of 4.6 percent and national rate of 4.3 percent. Because unemployment typically declines in August as summer labor market patterns unwind, the monthly improvement should be viewed in that context.

Workforce Solutions currently forecasts Houston will add approximately 29,900 jobs from December 2025 to December 2026. Houston continues to add jobs, but August showed that stronger hiring has yet to extend consistently across the region's major industries.

The Workforce Solutions Index remained at 3.44 in August. Although the index has increased from its January low of 3.06, it remains below the 4.0 equilibrium level, indicating that available workers continue to outnumber job opportunities under the index's framework.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed August report, can be found online at <https://www.wrksolutions.com/regional-economic-data/houston-area-employment-situation>.

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The Texas Workforce Commission will release September employment data on October 15th, 2026.

ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS: [Workforce Solutions](#) 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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