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HOUSTON LABOR MARKET SHOWS MODEST GAINS IN NOVEMBER

(HOUSTON, Texas, January 13, 2026) Houston-area employers added 9,700 jobs in November, or just slightly over half the previous year's over-the-month increase. Primary drivers were increases in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Government; and Construction according to figures released this morning by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast.

Principal data analyst at the workforce development agency, Mohammad Ahmadizadeh explains further that "[d]espite slower momentum, Houston's labor market remains structurally healthy." While Houston-area employers are seeing overall gains this month within the several sectors, they are still seeing that "most major industries posted month-to-month losses in November, marking a shift from broader-based growth in October."

The Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector saw the largest increase, gaining over 12,400 jobs, or a 1.8 percent increase, which is above the average of previous years. This was likely due to the holiday season, as Retail Trade led the sector, adding over 6,600 jobs. This is followed by the Government sector, which gained 2,500 jobs, a .5 percent increase, which is on par with the long-term average. The third largest gain was within the Construction sector, with 1,200 jobs, or a .5 percent increase. Historically, November has seen an average loss of 1,300 jobs which indicates these gains are in contrast to the to the long-term average decline.

Professional and Business Services was the largest declining sector this month, down 3,000 jobs. This is the largest decline since records began in 1990 and is attributed to the decline within the Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services. The second largest decline occurred within the Leisure and Hospitality sector, at a loss of 1600 jobs, or .4 percent. This is a direct contrast to previous years, which has historically seen a growth of 200 jobs.

Not-seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Houston area stood at 4.5 percent, down from an unofficial estimate of 4.7 percent in October. Official estimates were not published due to the lapse in appropriations affecting data collection by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Seasonally adjusted unemployment for October was also not available for this reason.

The release date for the December Employment Situation has yet to be determined pending an announcement by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed November report, can be found online at www.wrksolutions.com/localstats.

ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – GULF COAST: Workforce Solutions - Gulf Coast 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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