



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON JOB GROWTH BUILDS FOR A SECOND STRAIGHT MONTH

HOUSTON (July 24, 2026) – Houston's labor market entered the second half of 2026 on firmer footing after employers recorded a second consecutive month of stronger-than-average hiring, according to numbers released today by Workforce Solutions - Gulf Coast. Employers added 14,400 jobs in June, exceeding the historical average for the month and extending the improvement first seen in May.

Professional and Business Services led June hiring with 7,800 new jobs, the largest June gain for the sector since records began in 1990, continuing the recovery that has emerged over the past two months. Leisure and Hospitality added 6,600 jobs as Houston hosted FIFA World Cup matches during the month, while Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 3,400 jobs. Construction, Manufacturing and Other Services also posted gains, reflecting a broader hiring pattern across the regional economy.

"June marks the second consecutive month of above-average hiring, not to mention it represents a notable turnaround compared to June a year ago, when Houston lost 4,600 jobs over the month," said Mohammad Ahmadizadeh, Economist for Workforce Solutions - Gulf Coast. "We continue to see job growth across a wider cross-section of industries than we saw earlier this year, suggesting Houston's labor market may be entering a stronger phase. The coming months will determine whether that trend continues."

Over the past year, Houston added 39,700 jobs, the largest annual gain since July 2025. Seven of the region's 11 major industry sectors expanded over the year, led by Construction, Professional and Business Services, and Private Education and Health Services, reflecting broader employment growth across the regional economy.

Houston's unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent in June from 4.6 percent in May. According to the report, the increase largely reflected seasonal labor force growth as graduates and other job seekers entered the market rather than widespread layoffs. The unemployment rate and payroll employment are based on separate surveys and can move in different directions from month to month.

Improved hiring demand was also reflected in the Houston Area Workforce Solutions Index (WSI) which increased for the fifth consecutive month, rising to 3.46 in June. Although the index remains below its equilibrium value of 4.0, recent increases suggest employers are gradually creating more opportunities for jobseekers. Additional labor market information, including the detailed June report, can be found online at

<https://www.wrksolutions.com/regional-economic-data/houston-area-employment-situation>.

The Texas Workforce Commission will release July employment data on August 21, 2026.

ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS: [Workforce Solutions](https://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 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

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Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network to maintain the state's largest job-match database – www.WorkInTexas.com.

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