



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON-AREA EMPLOYMENT FALLS IN JANUARY

(HOUSTON, Texas, March 14, 2025) Houston-area employers shed 40,700 jobs in January according to numbers released Friday by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast.

Employment in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector – heavy with temporary retail and logistics workers from the just completed holiday shopping season – dropped 2.2 percent, or 15,900 jobs, a figure in line with the long-term average. The Leisure & Hospitality sector, which also adds staff for the December holidays, shed 5,900 jobs to start the year.

Overall, all but three of the eleven industry sectors tracked reported job losses during January. The Mining and Logging sector added jobs 1,500 jobs last month, while the Other Services sector posted a gain of 500. Private Education and Health Services was flat for the month.

Not-Seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Houston area rose slightly to 4.4 percent, up less than a half percent from December. Seasonally adjusted unemployment for December was unavailable.

The Texas Workforce Commission delays the release of the January employment numbers until March in order to complete annual benchmark revisions. The verdict? Houston added 49,500 jobs in 2024, making it the closest parallel to a “normal” year for Houston’s job growth in the five years since the pandemic. To recap, the region lost nearly 185,000 jobs in 2020 due to the pandemic, but saw a rebound of more than 100,000 jobs gained per year in both 2021 and 2022, but only 84,300 jobs added in 2023 (after further revisions).

Additional labor market information, including the detailed January report with the Benchmark Revision special report, can be found online at www.wrksolutions.com/localstats. The Texas Workforce Commission will release February employment data on March 28, 2025.

ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS: [Workforce Solutions](http://www.WorkInTexas.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 Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network to maintain the state’s largest job-match database – www.WorkInTexas.com.

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