

Houston Area Employment Situation

April 2024

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

March vs. April 2024: Let's Talk about It

Total Nonfarm

Over-the-month Change

Houston MSA Total Nonfarm employment stood at 3,437,400 in April, up 19,100 jobs over the month, or 0.6 percent on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis (see Chart 1). A year ago Houston registered an over-the-month increase of 5,800 jobs. This was the largest April over-the-month gain in since 2022. Prior to the pandemic, historically in the month of April, Total Nonfarm has on average added 7,300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average.

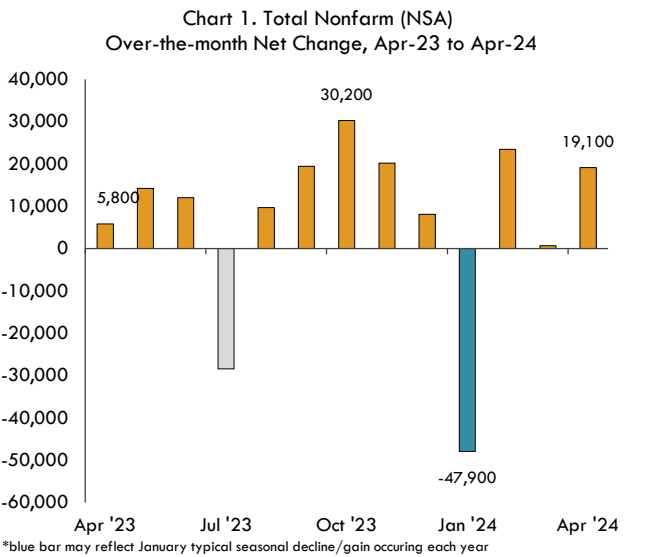
The primary drivers of this April's growth were increases in Leisure and Hospitality; Professional and Business Services; and Construction. Gains were also recorded in Private Education and Health Services; Other Services; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. The net increase in jobs over the month was partially offset by losses in Mining and Logging, and Government (see Chart 2). Houston MSA Total Nonfarm (seasonally adjusted) employment stood at 3,442,900, up 13,400 jobs over the month, or 0.4 percent vs. a historical average of 3,900. All analysis pertains to not-seasonally adjusted data unless otherwise noted. Data source: BLS/TWC. NOTE: The Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties. Analysis of major sectors and their sub-components throughout the remainder of this report references not-seasonally adjusted data. All data provided by BLS/TWC unless otherwise noted.

Top-3 Drivers of Over-the-month Job Growth in April

- Leisure and Hospitality: 6,300
- Professional and Business Services: 3,900
- Construction: 2,300

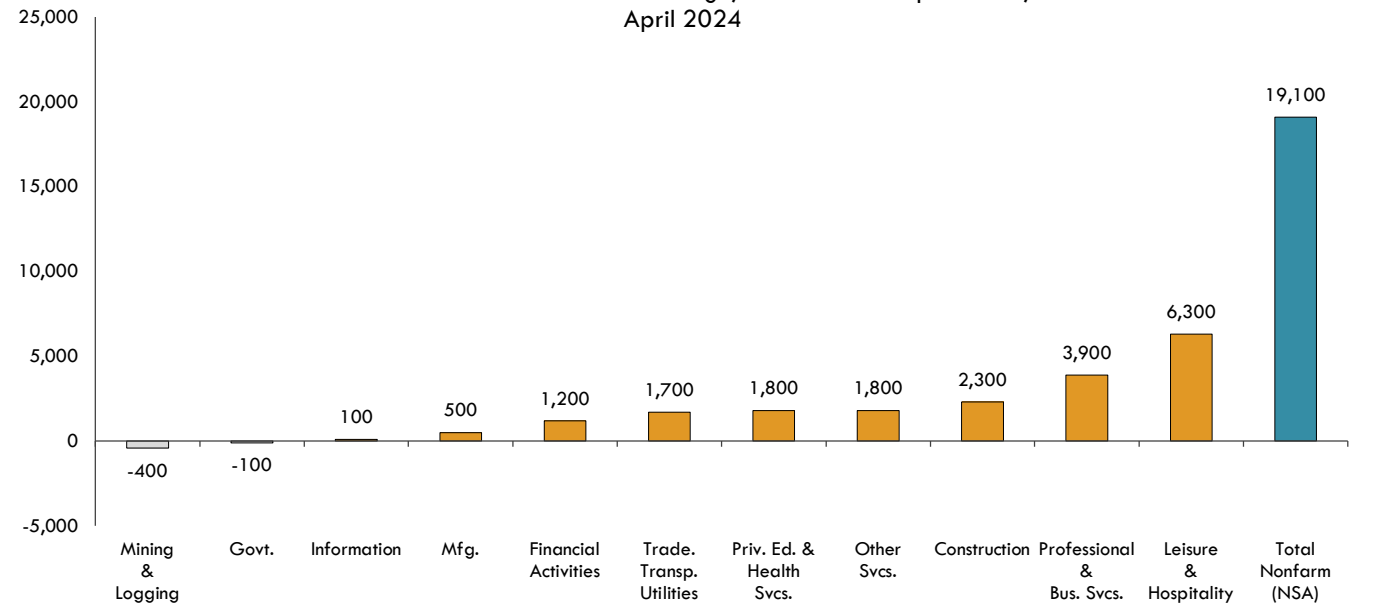
Over-the-year Change

Over the year, Total Nonfarm employment was up 80,700 or 2.4 percent on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis and up 81,900 or 2.4 percent on a seasonally-adjusted basis (see NSA Chart 3). To compare, April 2023 saw a year-over-year gain of 136,200 jobs (NSA) from April 2022. This was the largest over-the-year gain since January 2024's increase of 86,500 jobs. Currently 10 out of 11 sectors show growth year over year of which the top-three are Private Education and Health Services (23,800); Government (17,400); and Professional and



Business Services (9,200) (see Chart 4). Total Nonfarm employment not-seasonally-adjusted now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 3,191,800 jobs by 245,600, or 7.7 percent (245,900 jobs, 7.7 percent above 3,197,000 seasonally adjusted).

Chart 2. Over-the-month Net Change, Houston MSA Supersectors, April 2024



Previous Month's Revisions

Total Nonfarm employment was revised downward by -400 jobs for a February to March smaller net gain of 700 compared to an original estimate of 1,100 jobs. A downward revision of -1,600 jobs in Professional and Business Services was the largest contributor followed by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-800) and Mining and Logging (-600). Upward revisions in Leisure and Hospitality (+1,500), Private Education and Health Services (+600), and Financial Activities (+600) provided a partial offset of the overall downward revision to Total Nonfarm employment (see Chart 5).

- Top-3 Drivers of Over-the-year Job Growth in April
- Private Education and Health Services: 23,800
 - Government: 17,400
 - Professional and Business Services: 9,200

Chart 5. Net Revisions for Selected Supersectors and Major Industries, March 2024

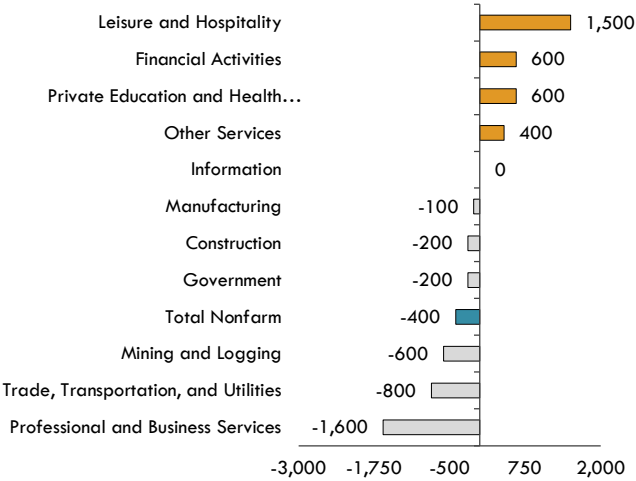


Chart 3. Total Nonfarm (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Apr-09 to Apr-24

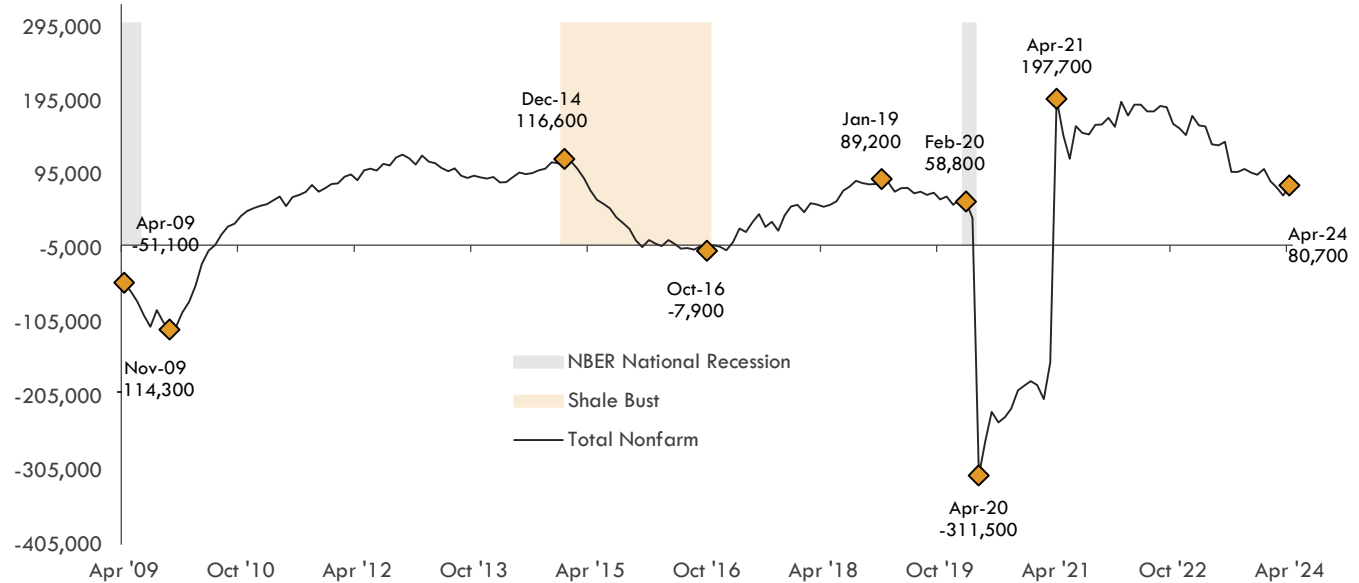
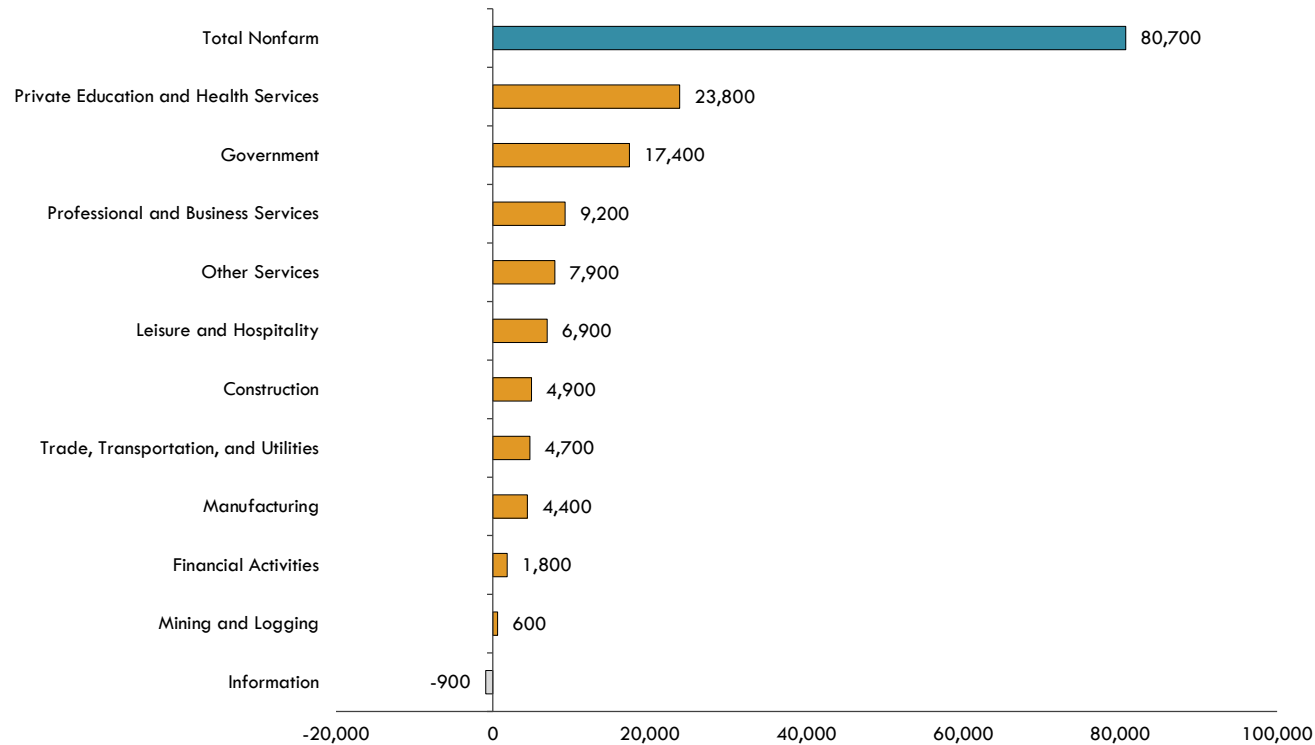


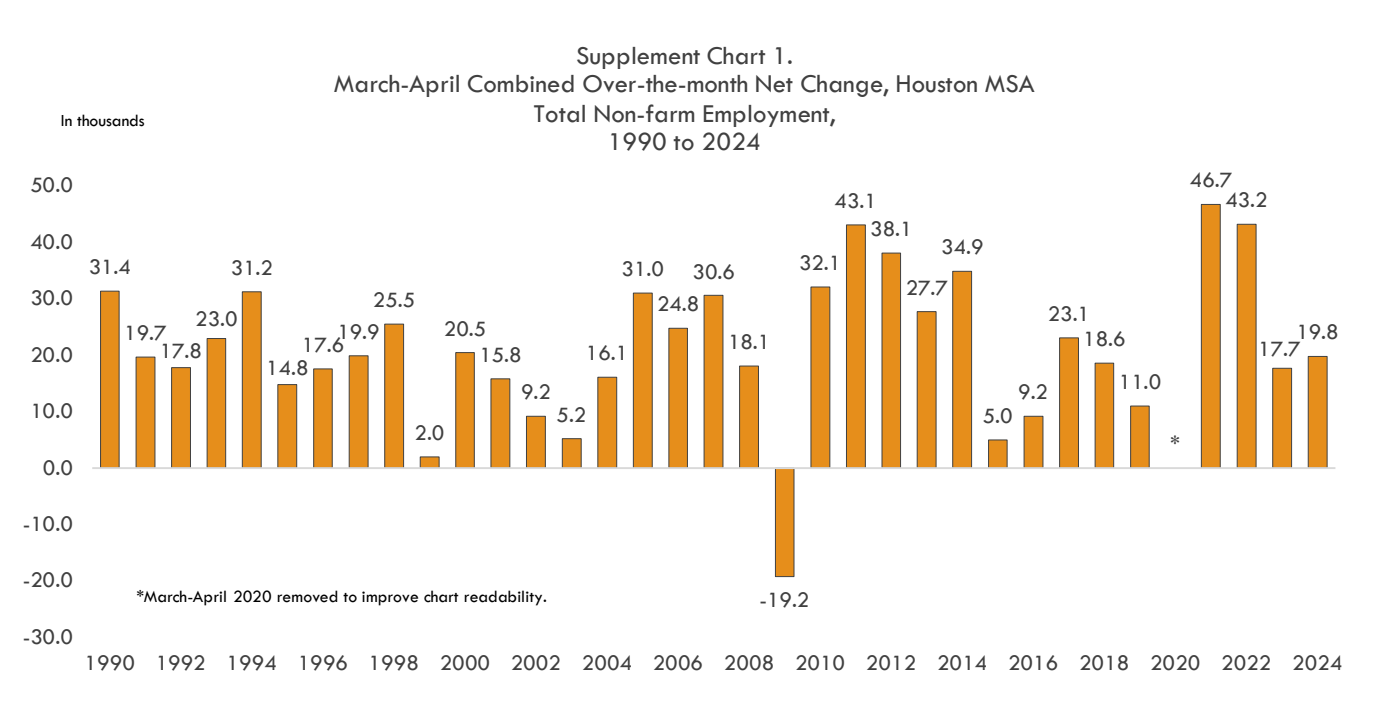
Chart 4. Over-the-year Net Change, Houston MSA Supersectors,
April 2023 to April 2024



Supplemental Commentary

Overall Impressions

After a disastrous March, job growth across the Houston region rebounded sharply in April adding 19,100 jobs over the month not-seasonally-adjusted (13,400 seasonally-adjusted). Unfortunately, the picture for March worsened with the initially reported gain of 1,100 jobs revised down to just 700 for the second-smallest March increase since records began in 1990, not seasonally adjusted. The first-smallest gain occurred in 2016 during the second year of the Shale Bust (+200 jobs) with outright losses only having occurred in 2009 and 2020. In other words, all previous underperforming Marches can be linked to known economic downturns. That leaves the question of whether this March is the first sign of a rapidly deteriorating job market. At this stage the answer is likely “no” in light of April’s above average performance. A typical April should yield around 10,000 jobs based on previous Aprils excluding the aforementioned downturns. Taken together with March’s lackluster gains, it appears that job growth that should have been recorded in March was deferred to April. Hence examining this year’s March and April combined compared to all previous March-to-April periods provides some useful perspective. Taking this approach, we find that the 19,800 jobs added this March-April is in line with historical average of roughly 22,000 over the two-month period. Furthermore 2024’s March to April reflects performance comparable to 2017 and 2018. Ultimately, the exact cause of job growth deferral this year will remain a mystery, assuming it actually occurred, but in all likelihood both March and April will see their respective gains and losses rebalanced once benchmark revisions are released in March 2025. (See Supplemental Chart 1. below.)



As for other April highlights, other major sectors exhibiting the March-to-April dynamic noted above included Leisure and Hospitality (two-month gain of 8,700 vs. an avg of 6,600); Financial Activities (900 vs. 600); Professional and Business Services but to a lesser degree with March’s unusually large loss of -3,100 jobs marginally offset by April’s gain of 3,900; and lastly Retail Trade (1,400 vs. 1,200) although this sector appears to be developing a new seasonal pattern of post-holiday losses continuing into March. As a result it’s unclear if 2024 represents a one-off job growth deferral or a permanent change in the sector’s behavior. Mining and Logging saw the reverse of the topline March-to-April dynamic with a stronger-than-average March followed by losses in April yielding a net gain of 600 jobs compared to a pre-pandemic average loss of -100. Lastly, on a year-over-year basis, Total Nonfarm employment reclaimed the 80,000 threshold in April after briefly dipping into the high 60,000 to low 70,000 range in March. Nonetheless, a return to the historical average pace of growth at around 65,000 jobs seems more likely than not after three consecutive years 100,000-plus gains.

Despite the murkiness in month-to-month job growth noted above, the absolute number of unemployed individuals as of April continues to average around 153,000 where it has been since the beginning of 2023. At the same time, the rate itself continues to hover around 4.2 percent, which is arguably still low. Initial claims for unemployment insurance remain at 3,500 to 4,500 each week while continuing claims remain at 30,000 to 32,000. Both measures remain at their respective levels seen throughout much of the last year. Lastly, the Workforce Solutions Index remains at just under 4.0, which seems to reinforce the prevailing sentiment that the job market favors employers over jobseekers, albeit slightly, while there’s simply less movement overall e.g. quits, hires, etc. compared to a year or two ago. In short, the extremely gradual return to pre-pandemic normal labor market behavior continues as we enter the second quarter of 2024.

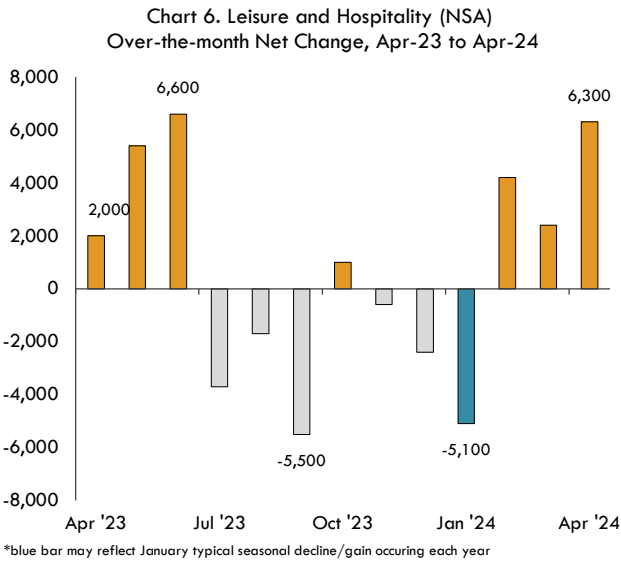
To everyone affected by yesterday’s storms, my thoughts and prayers are with you. One thing that Hurricane Harvey taught us was that Houstonians can rise to the occasion when our neighbors need help the most. I have no doubt we’ll do it again and continue to embody the very definition resilience. Stay safe out there.

GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Leisure and Hospitality

Over-the-month Change

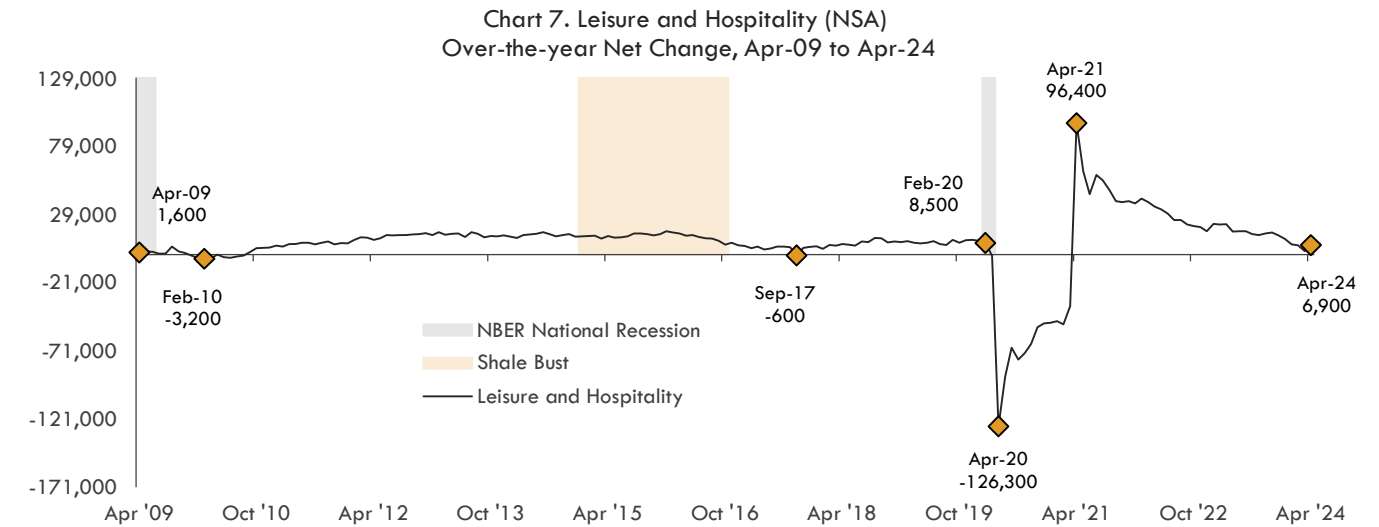
Leisure and Hospitality was the largest gaining sector over the month up 6,300 jobs, or 1.8 percent (see Chart 6). This was the largest April gain since 2022 and the third-largest gain historically for the month of April since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of April, Leisure and Hospitality has added an average of 2,200 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. Accommodation and Food Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 5,400 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, which added 900 jobs from March to April. Leisure and Hospitality employment was revised upward by 1,500 jobs for a February to March larger net gain of 2,400 compared to an original estimate of 900 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Leisure and Hospitality was up 6,900 jobs, or 1.9 percent (see Chart 7). This was the largest over-the-year gain since January 2024's increase of 7,500 jobs. It also marks 37 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Accommodation and Food Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 5,800 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, which added 1,100 jobs from April a year ago. Total Leisure and Hospitality employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 334,500 jobs by 27,400, or 8.2 percent. At

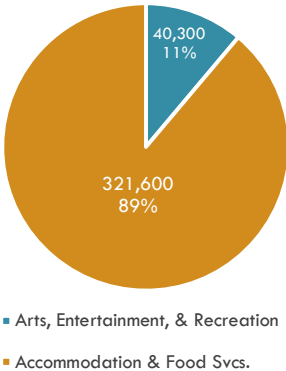
the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 10.6 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments that produce and promote in live performances, events, of exhibits of historical, cultural, or educational interest or related to recreation or hobbies intended for public viewing; and provide customers with lodging and/or meals and beverages for immediate consumption. NOTE: movie theaters are classified under the Information sector rather than Leisure and Hospitality. Of the two main component industries, Accommodation and Food Services accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 89 percent (see Chart 8). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 1 percent less than the national average.

Chart 8. Employment in Component Industries of Leisure and Hospitality Sector - April 2024

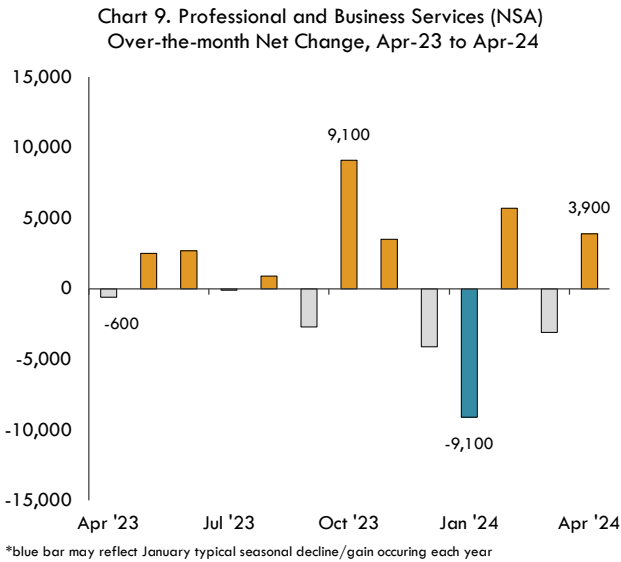


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Professional and Business Services

Over-the-month Change

Professional and Business Services was the second-largest gaining sector over the month up 3,900 jobs, or 0.7 percent (see Chart 9). This was the largest April over-the-month gain in since 2022. Historically in the month of April, Professional and Business Services has added an average of 1,500 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 3,000 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, which added 800 jobs from March to April. Lastly, Management of Companies and Enterprises contributed, 100 jobs. Professional and Business Services employment was revised downward by -1,600 jobs for a February to March larger net loss of -3,100 compared to an original estimate of -1,500 jobs.

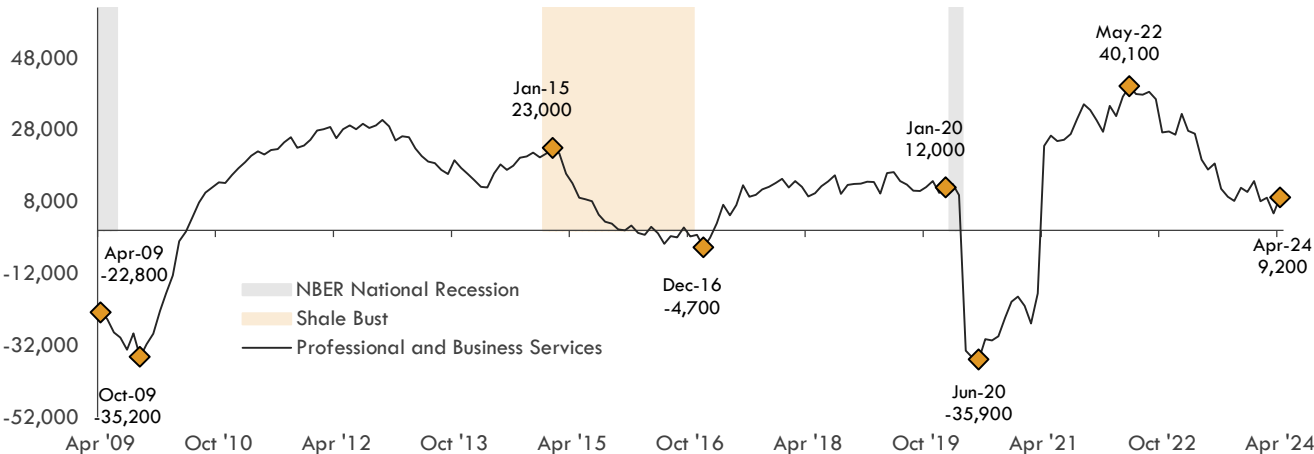


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Professional and Business Services was up 9,200 jobs, or 1.7 percent (see Chart 10). This was the largest over-the-year gain since December 2023's increase of 13,800 jobs. It also marks 37 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 5,700 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, which added 3,300 jobs from April a year ago. Lastly, Management of Companies and Enterprises contributed, 200

jobs. Total Professional and Business Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 514,700 jobs by 46,400, or 9.0 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has fallen from 16.4 percent to 16.3 percent over the past year.

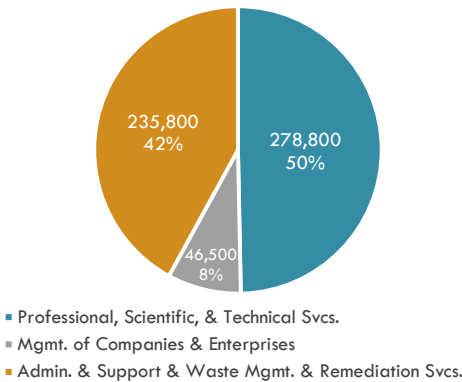
Chart 10. Professional and Business Services (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Apr-09 to Apr-24



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments specializing in professional, scientific, and technical activities; management of establishments holding equity interests in order to influence management decisions; and office administration, hiring of personnel, security, cleaning, and waste disposal. Of the three main component industries, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 50 percent (see Chart 11). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 13 percent higher than the national average, due to a 16-percent higher concentration in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services serving the oil and gas industry.

Chart 11. Employment in Component Industries of
Professional and Business Services Sector - April 2024

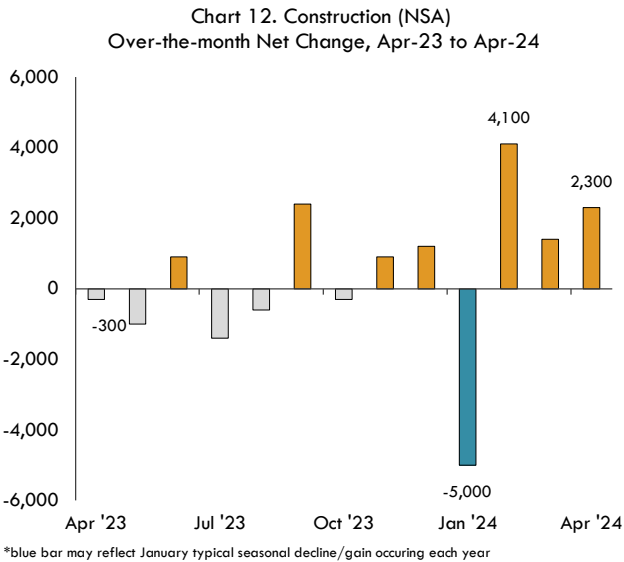


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Construction

Over-the-month Change

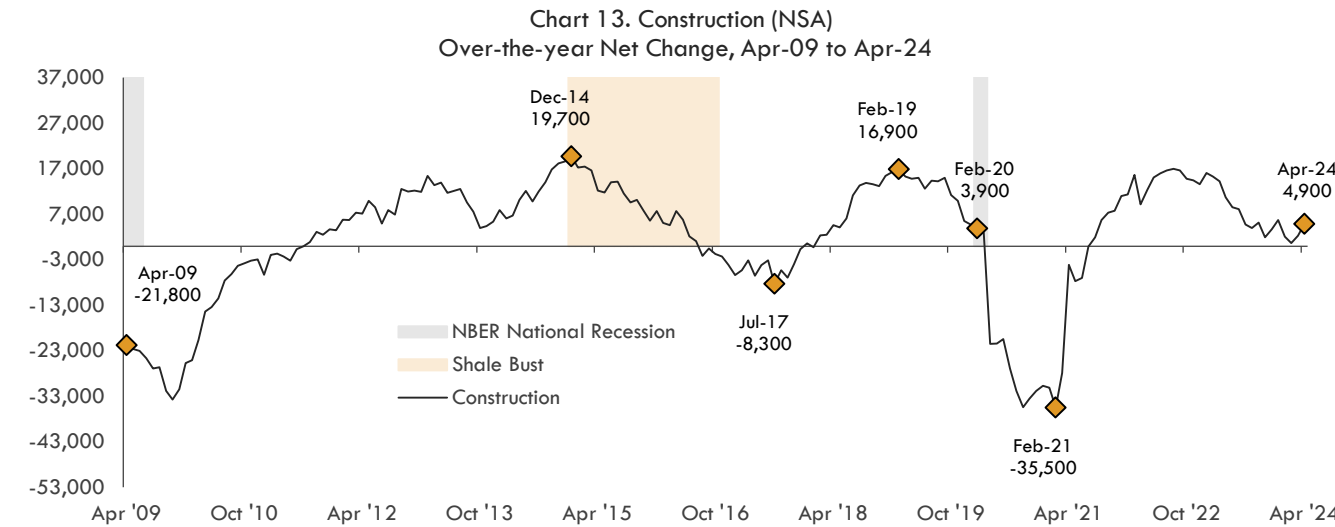
Construction was the third-largest gaining sector over the month up 2,300 jobs, or 1.0 percent (see Chart 12). This was the largest April over-the-month gain in since 2022. Historically in the month of April, Construction has lost an average of -400 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially in contrast to the long-term average decline. Specialty Trade Contractors was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,800 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Construction of Buildings, which added 400 jobs from March to April. Lastly, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction contributed, 100 jobs. Construction employment was revised downward by -200 jobs for a February to March smaller net gain of 1,400 compared to an original estimate of 1,600 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Construction was up 4,900 jobs, or 2.1 percent (see Chart 13). This was the largest over-the-year gain since December 2023's increase of 5,700 jobs. It also marks 33 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Construction of Buildings was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 3,600 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Specialty Trade Contractors, which added 700 jobs from April a year ago. Lastly, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction contributed, 600 jobs. Total Construction employment (NSA) remains -100 jobs, or 0.0 percent below

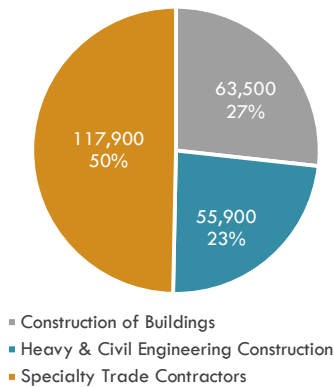
its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 237,400. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 6.9 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in the construction of buildings, infrastructure, site preparation and sub-division, and specialty trades e.g. masonry, painting, and electrical work. Of the three main component industries, Specialty Trade Contractors accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 50 percent (see Chart 14). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Construction sector is 34 percent higher than the national average, due to 2.3 times more jobs in Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction related to turnaround maintenance of petrochemical facilities.

Chart 14. Employment in Component Industries of Construction Sector - April 2024

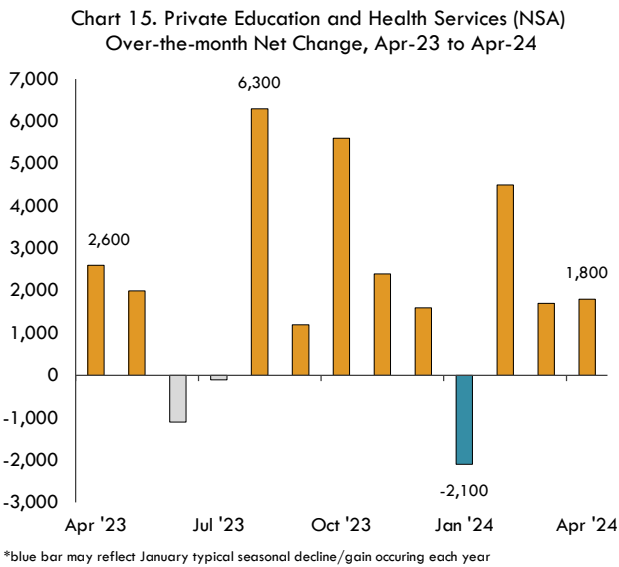


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Private Education and Health Services

Over-the-month Change

Private Education and Health Services also saw an increase over the month up 1,800 jobs, or 0.4 percent (see Chart 15). Historically in the month of April, Private Education and Health Services has added an average of 1,000 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,400 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Private Educational Services, which added 400 jobs from March to April. Private Education and Health Services employment was revised upward by 600 jobs for a February to March larger net gain of 1,700 compared to an original estimate of 1,100 jobs.

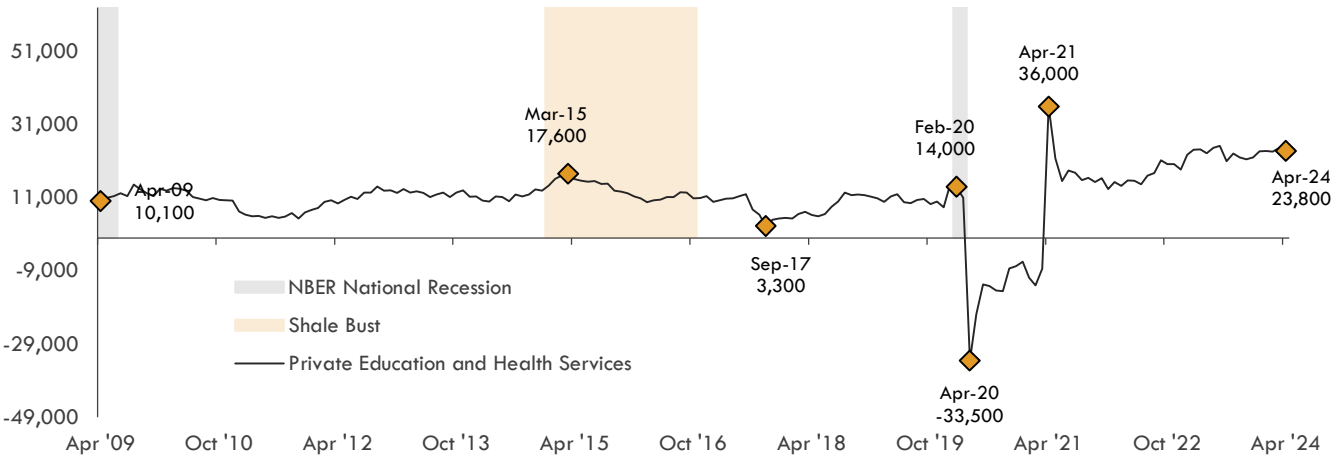


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Private Education and Health Services was up 23,800 jobs, or 5.4 percent (see Chart 16). This was the second-largest over-the-year gain in the month of April since records began in 1990. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the second-fastest growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 29.2 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Private Education and Health Services. Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 20,100 jobs over the year. The second-largest

contributor was Private Educational Services, which added 3,700 jobs from April a year ago. Total Private Education and Health Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 414,400 jobs by 53,800, or 13.0 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 13.2 percent to 13.6 percent over the past year.

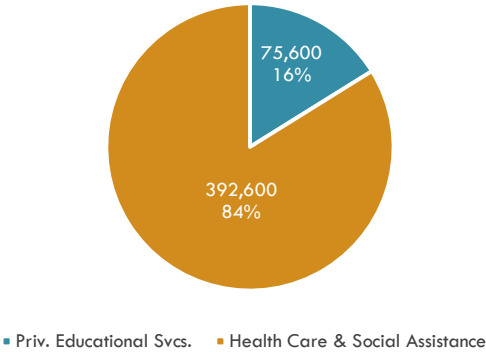
Chart 16. Private Education and Health Services (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Apr-'09 to Apr-'24



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments that provide private education services (i.e. excluding publicly-funded primary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions) and establishments that provide healthcare and social assistance to individuals. Of the two main component industries, Health Care and Social Assistance accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 84 percent (see Chart 17). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 18 percent less than the national average, despite the high physical concentration of healthcare jobs centered around Texas Medical Center.

Chart 17. Employment in Component Industries of
Private Education and Health Services Sector - April
2024

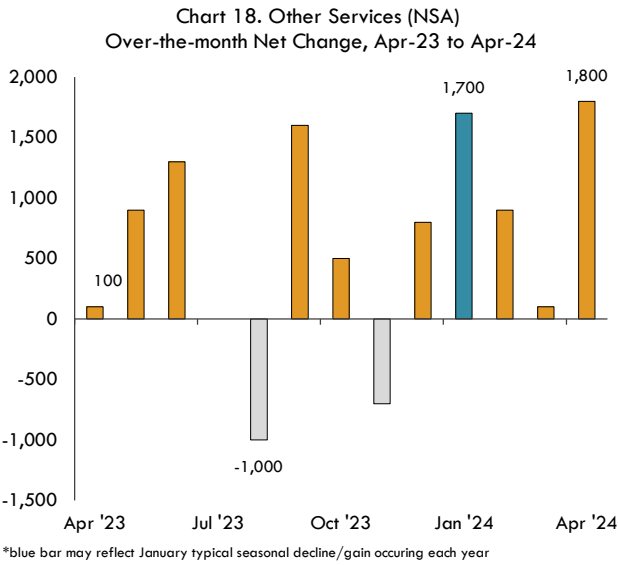


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Other Services

Over-the-month Change

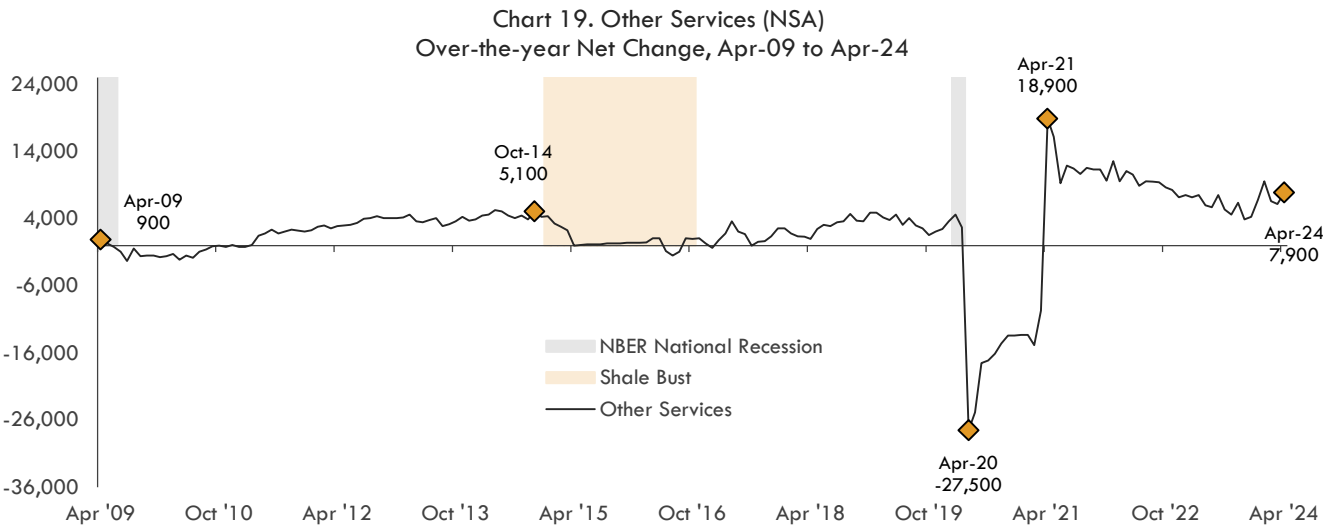
Other Services also saw an increase over the month up 1,800 jobs, or 1.4 percent (see Chart 18). This was the largest April over-the-month gain in since 2018. Historically in the month of April, Other Services has added an average of 1,700 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are on par with the long-term average. NOTE: No subsector is published at the MSA level by the CES survey. See below for additional information. Other Services employment was revised upward by 400 jobs for a February to March complete erasure of losses resulting in a net gain of 100 compared to an original estimate of -300 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Other Services was up 7,900 jobs, or 6.3 percent (see Chart 19). This was the third-largest over-the-year gain in April since records began in 1990 and the largest gain since January 2024's increase of 9,600 jobs. It also marks 37 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the fastest-growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. NOTE: No subsector is published at the MSA level by the CES survey. See below for additional information. Total Other Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of

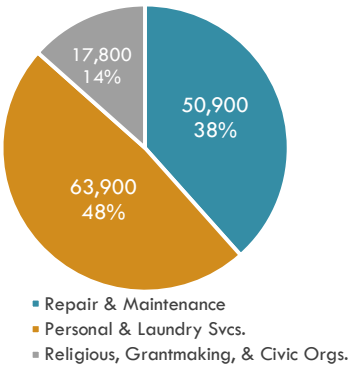
119,100 jobs by 13,500, or 11.3 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 3.7 percent to 3.9 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in services not classified elsewhere such as equipment and machinery repair, religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and providing dry-cleaning and laundry services, and personal care services. Of the three main component industries, Personal and Laundry Services accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 48 percent as a subsector where self-employment is prevalent (source: Census - Non Employer Statistics and BLS - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages) (see Chart 20). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Other Services sector is 3 percent higher than the national average.

Chart 20. Employment in Component Industries of Other Services Sector - April 2024

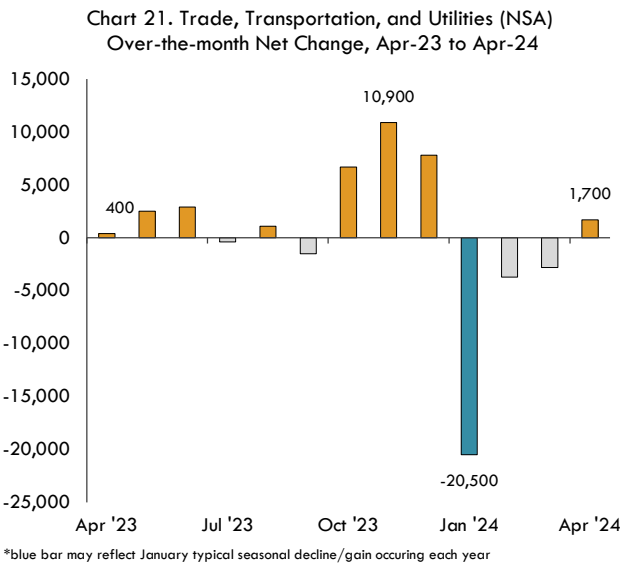


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Over-the-month Change

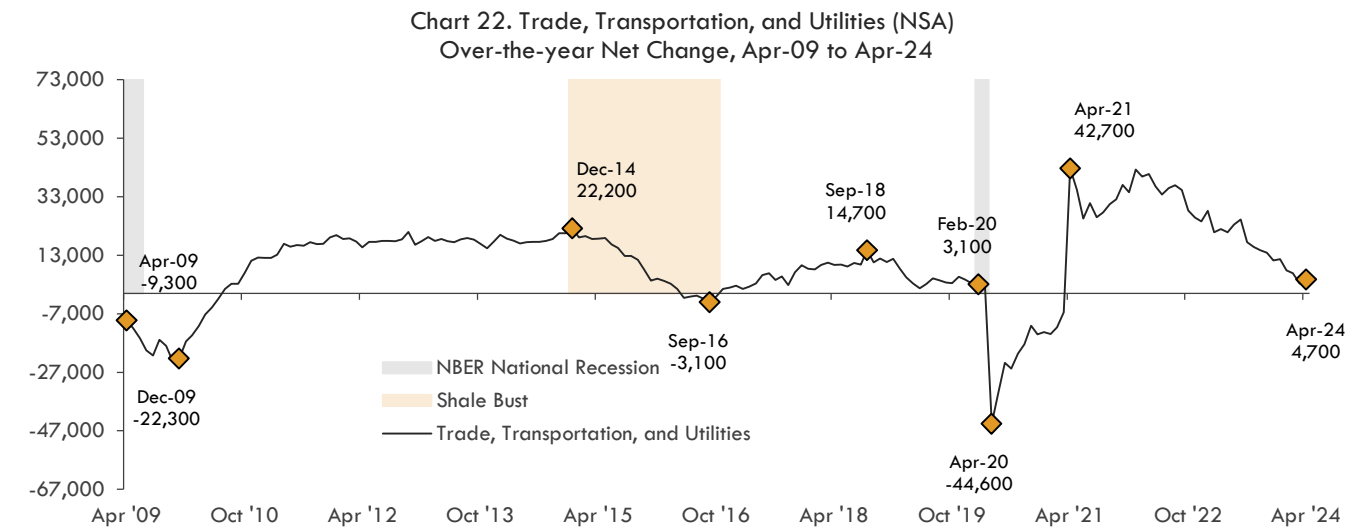
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities also saw an increase over the month up 1,700 jobs, or 0.2 percent (see Chart 21). This was the largest April over-the-month gain in since 2015. Historically in the month of April, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities has added an average of 500 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. Retail Trade was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 2,000 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Wholesale Trade, which added 900 jobs from March to April. Lastly, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -1,200 jobs. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was revised downward by -800 jobs for a February to March larger net loss of -2,800 compared to an original estimate of -2,000 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was up 4,700 jobs, or 0.7 percent (see Chart 22). This April also marks 37 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Wholesale Trade was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 2,500 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Retail Trade, which added 1,700 jobs from April a year ago. Lastly, Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities contributed, 500 jobs. Total Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 628,500 jobs by 57,300, or 9.1 percent. At the same time, the

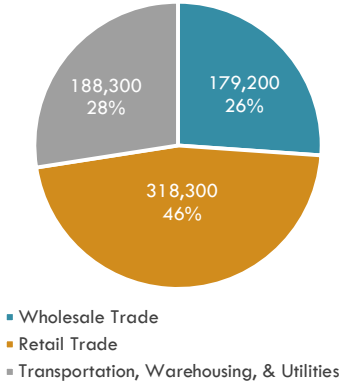
sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has fallen from 20.3 percent to 20.0 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments wholesaling agriculture, mining, and manufactured goods; retailing goods in small quantities to the public incl. online; transporting passengers and cargo; warehousing and storage; and providing electricity, natural gas, water, and sewage removal. Of the three main component industries, Retail Trade accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 46 percent (see Chart 23).

Chart 23. Employment in Component Industries of Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Sector - April 2024

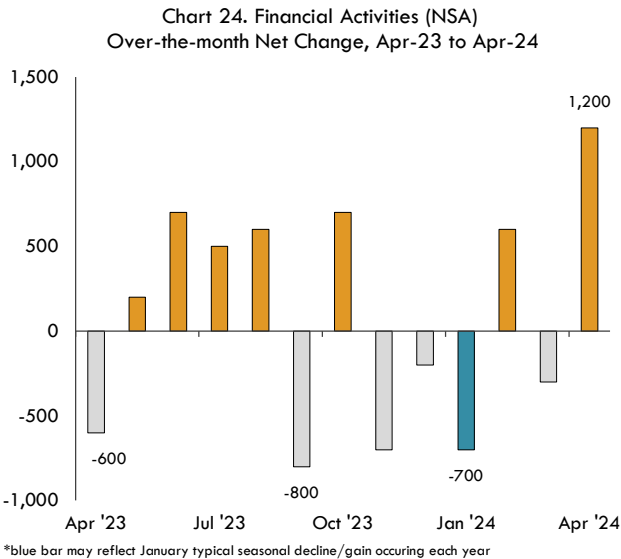


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Activities

Over-the-month Change

Financial Activities also saw an increase over the month up 1,200 jobs, or 0.6 percent (see Chart 24). This was the largest April over-the-month gain in since 2022. Historically in the month of April, Financial Activities has added an average of 300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. Finance and Insurance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,200 jobs over the month. One component industry, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, saw no change from March to April. Financial Activities employment was revised upward by 600 jobs for a February to March smaller net loss of -300 compared to an original estimate of -900 jobs.

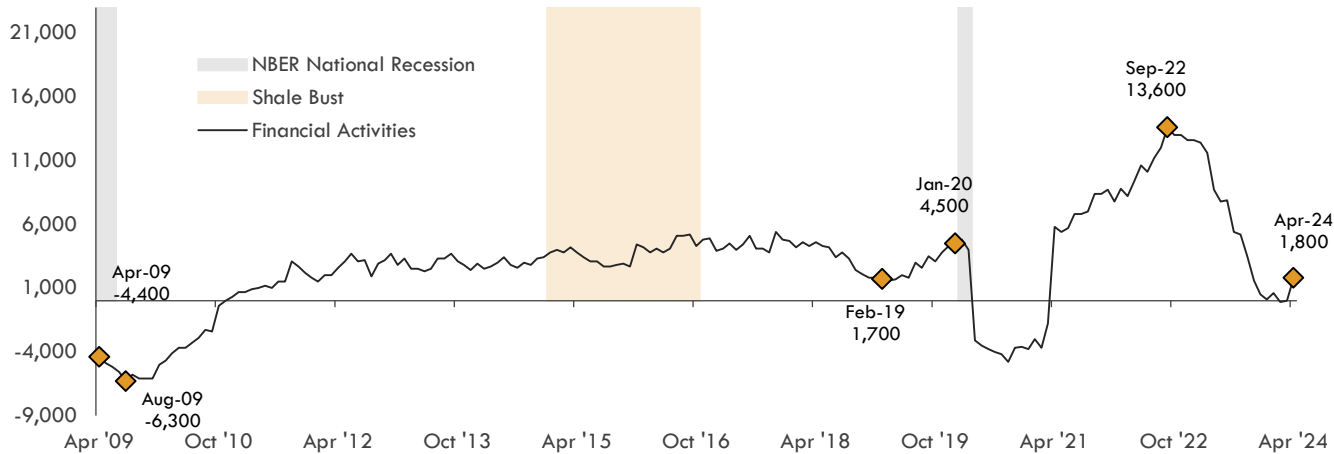


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Financial Activities was up 1,800 jobs, or 1.0 percent (see Chart 25). This was the largest over-the-year gain since September 2023's increase of 3,500 jobs. It also marks nine consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Finance and Insurance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 2,500 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, which lost -700 jobs from April a year ago. Total Financial Activities employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 169,200 jobs by 18,300, or 10.8 percent.

At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 5.5 percent over the past year.

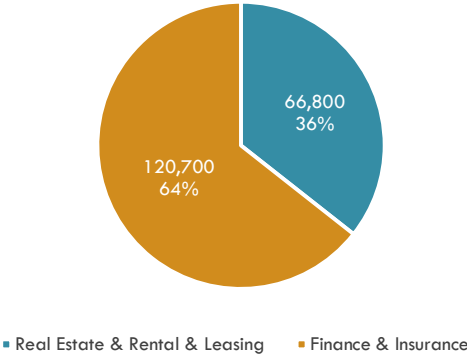
Chart 25. Financial Activities (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Apr-'09 to Apr-'24



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments renting, leasing, or allowing use of assets, and financial transactions such as creation, liquidation, or change in ownership of financial assets, underwriting of insurance, and annuities. Of the two main component industries, Finance and Insurance accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 64 percent (see Chart 26). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Financial Activities sector is 6 percent less than the national average, due to a 17-percent lower concentration in Finance and Insurance offsetting a 24-percent higher concentration in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing.

Chart 26. Employment in Component Industries of
Financial Activities Sector - April 2024

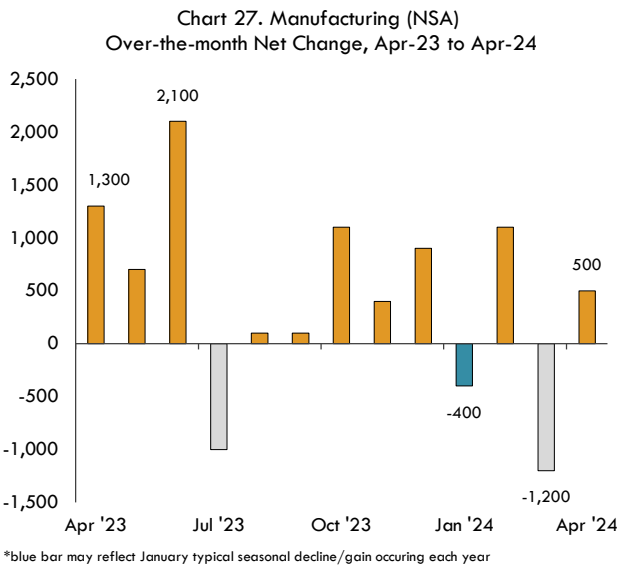


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Manufacturing

Over-the-month Change

Manufacturing also saw an increase over the month up 500 jobs, or 0.2 percent (see Chart 27). Historically in the month of April, Manufacturing has lost an average of -300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially in contrast to the long-term average decline. Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 700 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Non-Durable Goods, which lost -200 jobs from March to April. Manufacturing employment was revised downward by -100 jobs for a February to March larger net loss of -1,200 compared to an original estimate of -1,100 jobs.

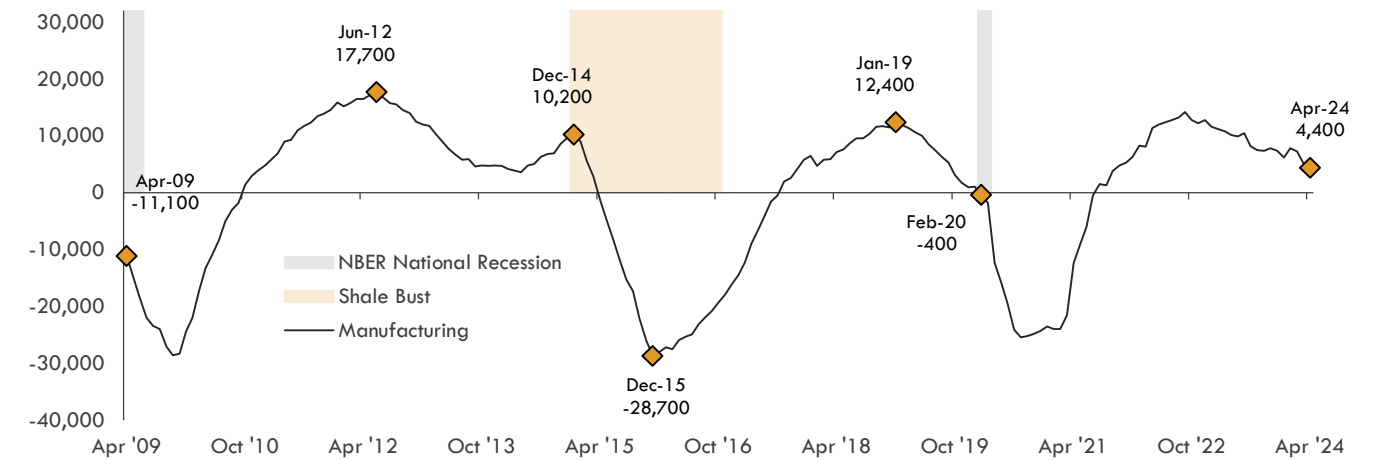


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Manufacturing was up 4,400 jobs, or 1.9 percent (see Chart 28). This April also marks 33 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 4,900 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Non-Durable Goods, which lost -500 jobs from April a year ago. Total Manufacturing employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 234,500 jobs by 2,200, or 0.9 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 6.9

percent over the past year.

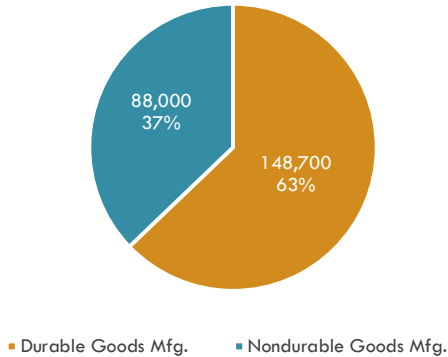
Chart 28. Manufacturing (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Apr-'09 to Apr-'24



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. Of the two main component industries, Durable Goods accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 63 percent (see Chart 29). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Manufacturing sector is 16 percent less than the national average.

Chart 29. Employment in Component Industries of
Manufacturing Sector - April 2024

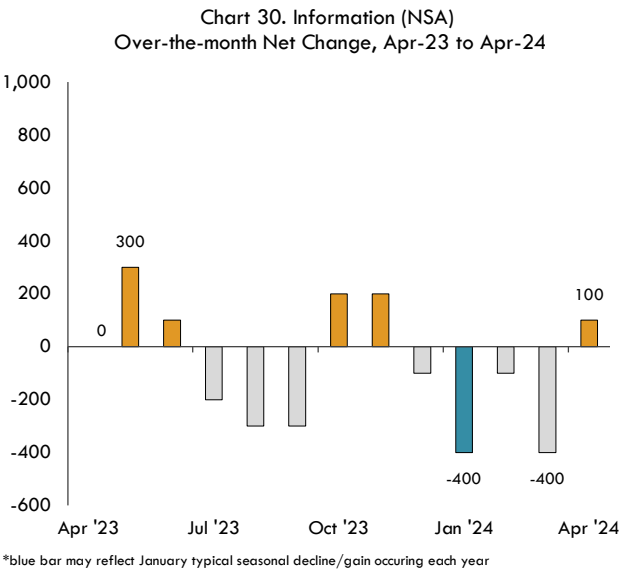


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Information

Over-the-month Change

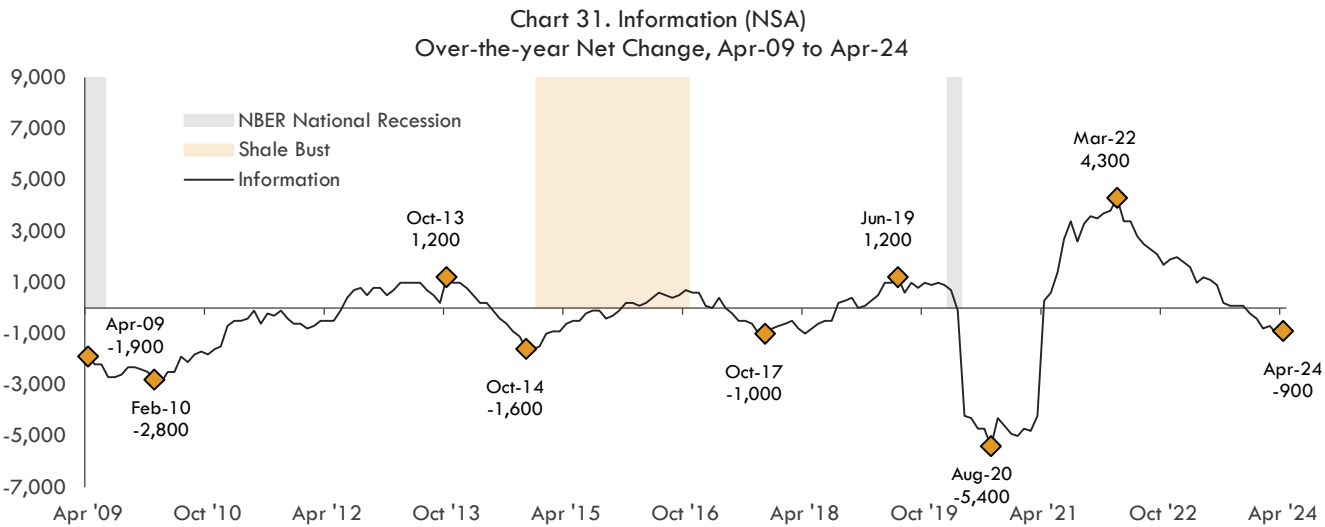
Information also saw an increase over the month up 100 jobs, or 0.3 percent (see Chart 30). This was the largest April over-the-month gain in since 2021. Historically in the month of April, Information has lost an average of -100 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are moderately in contrast to the long-term average decline. Telecommunications was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 100 jobs over the month. One component industry, Other Information Undefined, saw no change from March to April. Information employment saw no revision from February to March leaving the previous month's original decrease of -400 intact.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Information was down -900 jobs, or -2.7 percent (see Chart 31). This April also marks six consecutive months of over-the-year losses. Furthermore, 100.0 percent of total (gross) jobs lost across the region over the past year can be attributed to Information. Other Information Undefined was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -800 jobs over the year. The second-largest declining contributor was Telecommunications, which lost -100 jobs from April a year ago. Total Information employment (NSA) remains -400 jobs, or -1.2 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of

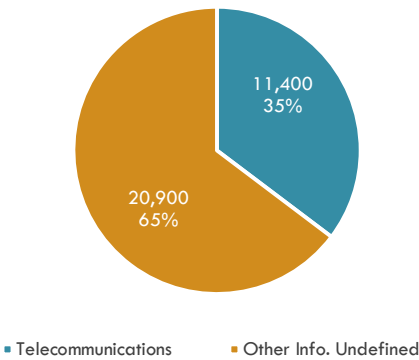
32,700. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 1.0 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments producing and distributing information and cultural products, e.g. traditional and online news publishing; software publishing; the motion picture and sound recording; TV broadcasting; and telecommunications. Of the two main component industries, Other Information Undefined accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 65 percent (see Chart 32). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Information sector is 50 percent less than the national average.

Chart 32. Employment in Component Industries of Information Sector - April 2024

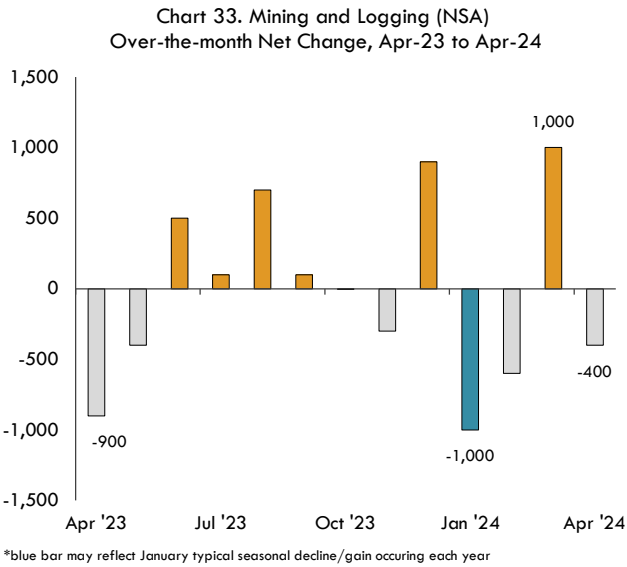


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Mining and Logging

Over-the-month Change

Mining and Logging was the largest declining sector over the month down -400 jobs, or -0.6 (see Chart 33). Oil and Gas Extraction was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -300 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Support Activities for Mining, which lost 100 jobs from March to April. Lastly, Other Mining and Logging Undefined saw no change over the month. Mining and Logging employment was revised downward by -600 jobs for a February to March smaller net gain of 1,000 compared to an original estimate of 1,600 jobs.

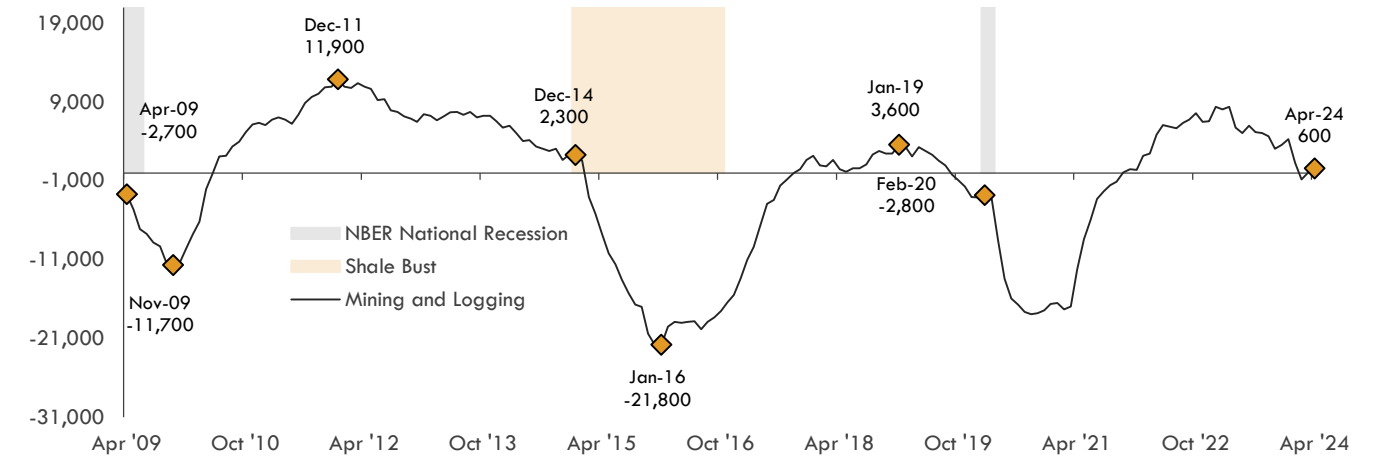


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Mining and Logging was up 600 jobs, or 0.8 percent (see Chart 34). This was the largest over-the-year gain since January 2024's increase of 1,300 jobs. Oil and Gas Extraction was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 800 jobs over the year. One component industry, Other Mining and Logging Undefined, saw no change from April a year ago. Lastly, Support Activities for Mining offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -200 jobs. Total Mining and Logging employment (NSA) remains -7,200 jobs, or -9.2 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 78,400. At the

same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 2.1 percent over the past year.

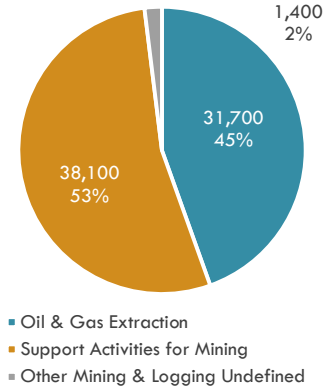
Chart 34. Mining and Logging (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Apr-09 to Apr-24



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments extracting naturally occurring minerals such as coal and ores; liquid minerals, such as crude petroleum and natural gas; and timber. Of the three main component industries, Support Activities for Mining accounts for a slight majority of the sector's employment at just over 54 percent (see Chart 35). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Mining and Logging sector is 5.2 times the national average, due to the region's role as a global hub for the oil and gas industry.

Chart 35. Employment in Component Industries of Mining and Logging Sector - April 2024

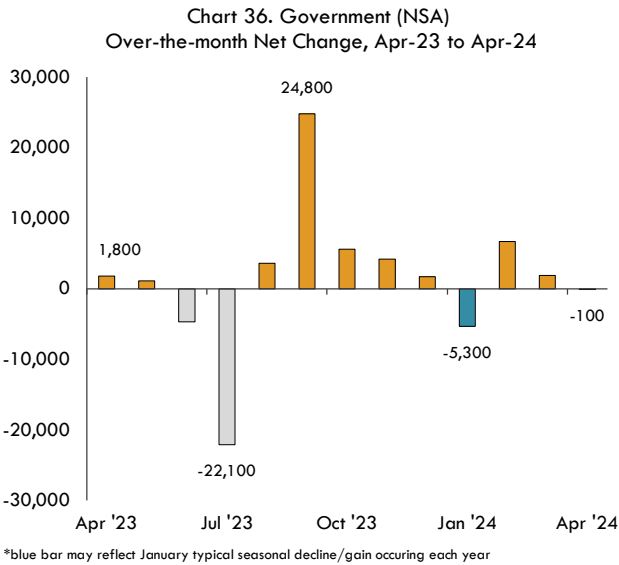


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Government

Over-the-month Change

Government was the second-largest declining sector over the month down -100 jobs, or 0.0 (see Chart 36). This was the largest April over-the-month decline in since 2020. Historically in the month of April, Government has added an average of 800 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are moderately in contrast to the long-term average gain. Local Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -800 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Federal Government, which gained 300 jobs from March to April. Lastly, State Government offset a portion of the sector's losses with a gain of 400 jobs. Government employment was revised downward by -200 jobs for a February to March smaller net gain of 1,900 compared to an original estimate of 2,100 jobs.

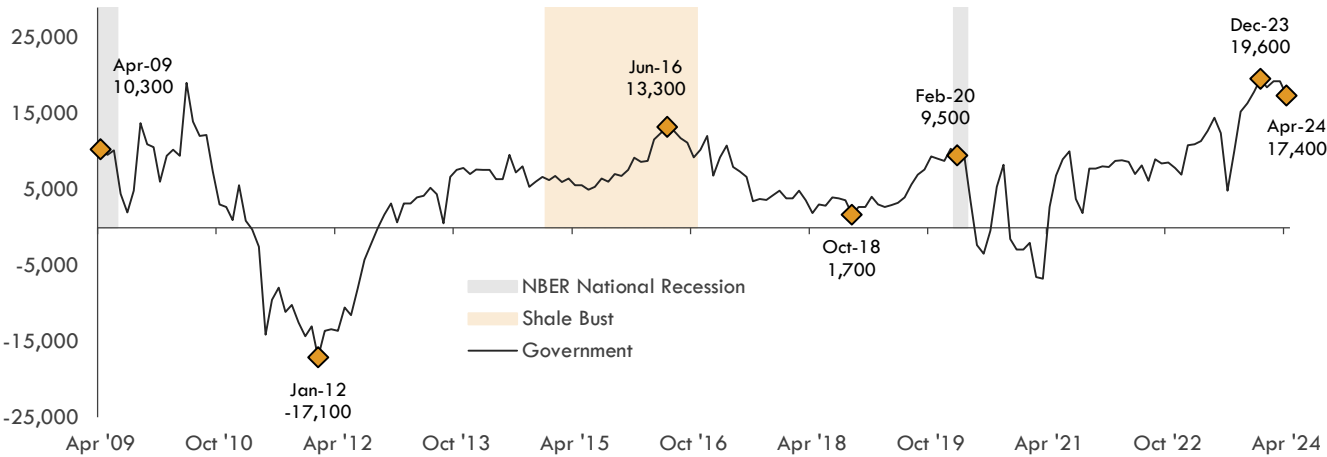


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Government was up 17,400 jobs, or 3.9 percent (see Chart 37). This was the largest April over-the-year increase on record. It also marks 37 consecutive months of over-the-year gains. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the third-fastest growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 21.3 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Government. Local Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 12,500 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was State Government, which added

3,500 jobs from April a year ago. Lastly, Federal Government contributed, 1,400 jobs. Total Government employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 428,400 jobs by 34,400, or 8.0 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 13.3 percent to 13.5 percent over the past year.

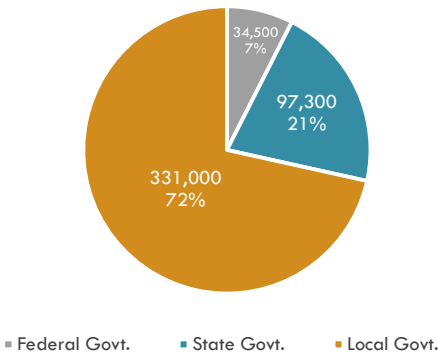
Chart 37. Government (NSA)
Over-the-year Net Change, Apr-'09 to Apr-'24



About This Sector

This sector consists of establishments of federal, state, and local government agencies that administer, oversee, and manage public programs and have executive, legislative, or judicial authority over other institutions within a given area that are not performed by private establishments. For MSA data, this includes public education but excludes healthcare. Of the three main component industries, Local Government accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 72 percent (see Chart 38). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Government sector is 10 percent less than the national average.

Chart 38. Employment in Component Industries of Government Sector - April 2024



Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Not-Seasonally Adjusted

Houston Metro, Texas, and U.S. Unemployment

The Houston MSA (not-seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 3.8 percent in April, down from March's 4.3 percent and unchanged from a year ago. This was above the statewide rate of 3.5 percent and above the national rate of 3.5 percent. An over-the-month decline in April is typical having occurred nearly 85 percent of the time over the past three decades making this month's decrease consistent with historical seasonal trends. 139,352 individuals were unemployed in Houston in April, down from March's 158,237 and up from 135,958 in April 2023 (see Charts 39 and 40).

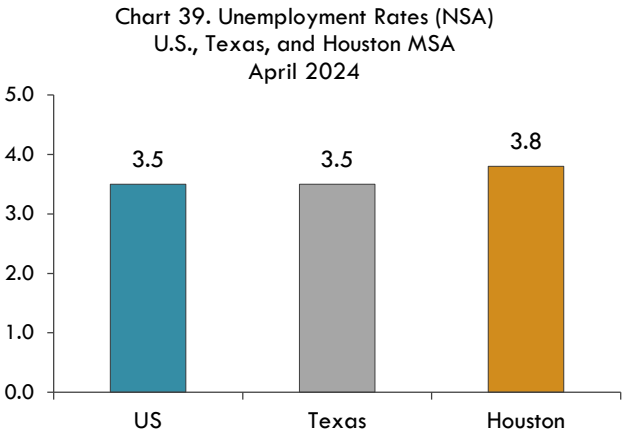
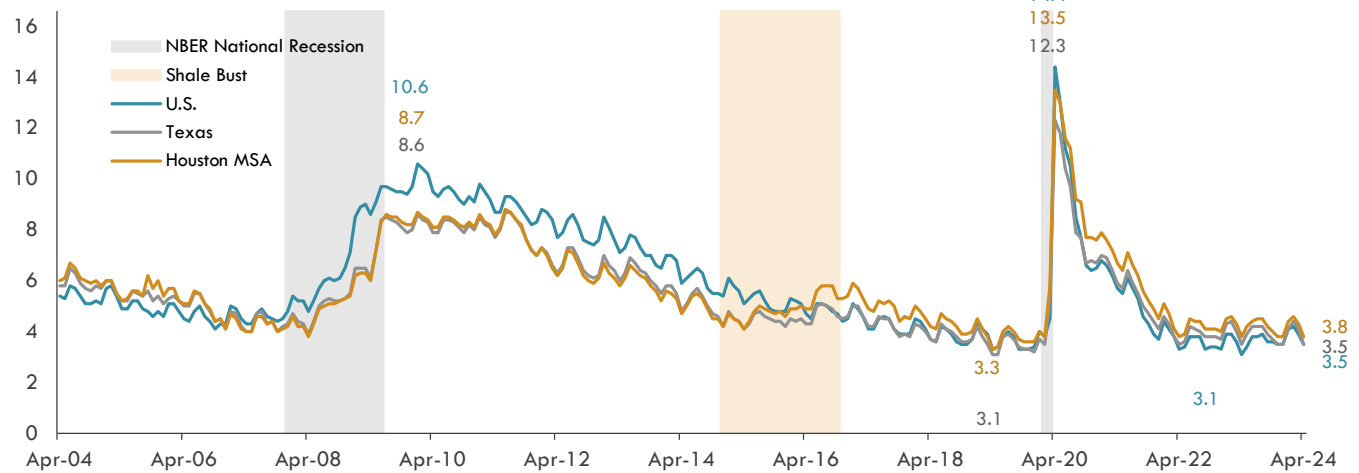


Chart 40. Unemployment Rates U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA (NSA)
April 2004 to April 2024

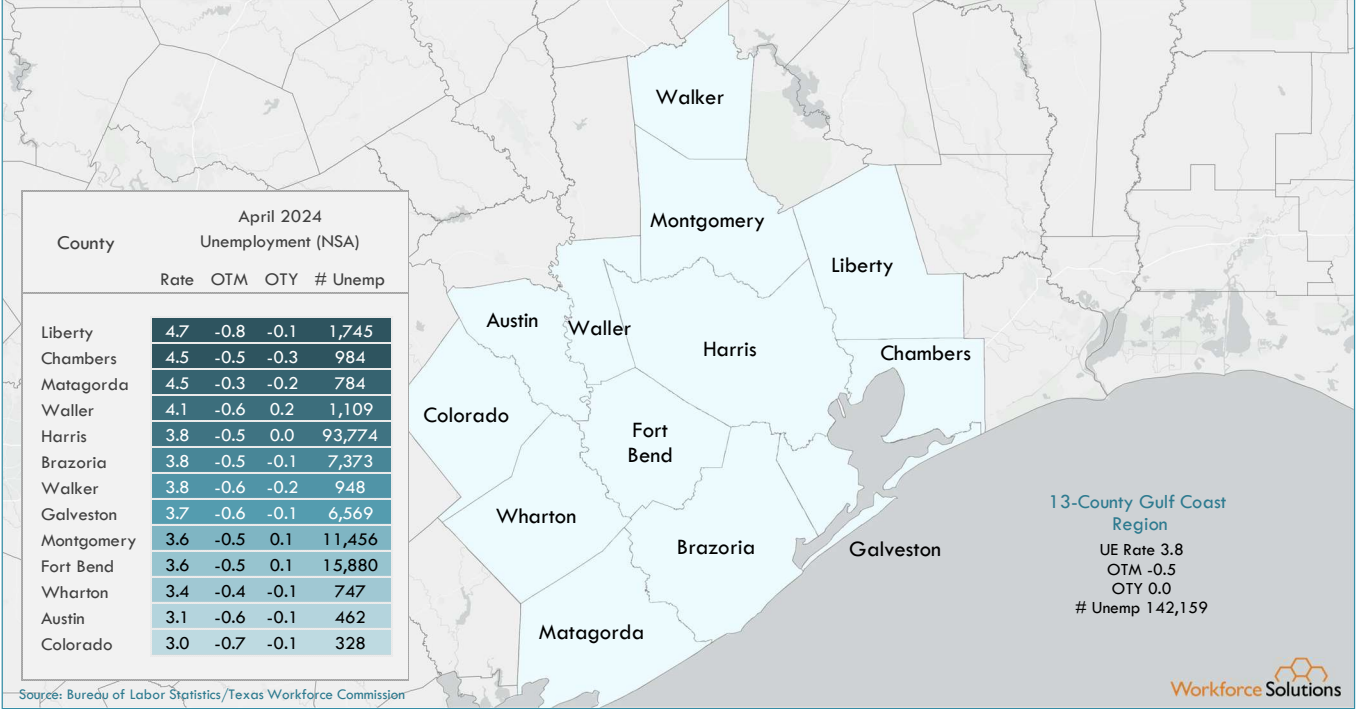


County-level Unemployment

Among the 13 counties that comprise the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area, unemployment rates in April ranged from a high of 4.7 percent in Liberty County to a low of 3.0 percent in Colorado. Over the month, all 13 counties saw their unemployment rates decline in keeping with the region-wide decrease of -0.5 percentage points. Liberty saw the largest percentage-point decrease in unemployment down -0.8 pp. representing -262 fewer unemployed workers compared to the previous month. This was followed by Colorado (-0.7 pp, -66 workers) and Walker (-0.6 pp, -140 workers). Since peaking at

448,855 in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the number of unemployed workers in the Gulf Coast Region has fallen by -306,696 as of this April (see Map 1 legend).

Map 1. 13-County Gulf Coast Region Unemployment Rates April 2024 (NSA)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Texas Workforce Commission

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (continued)

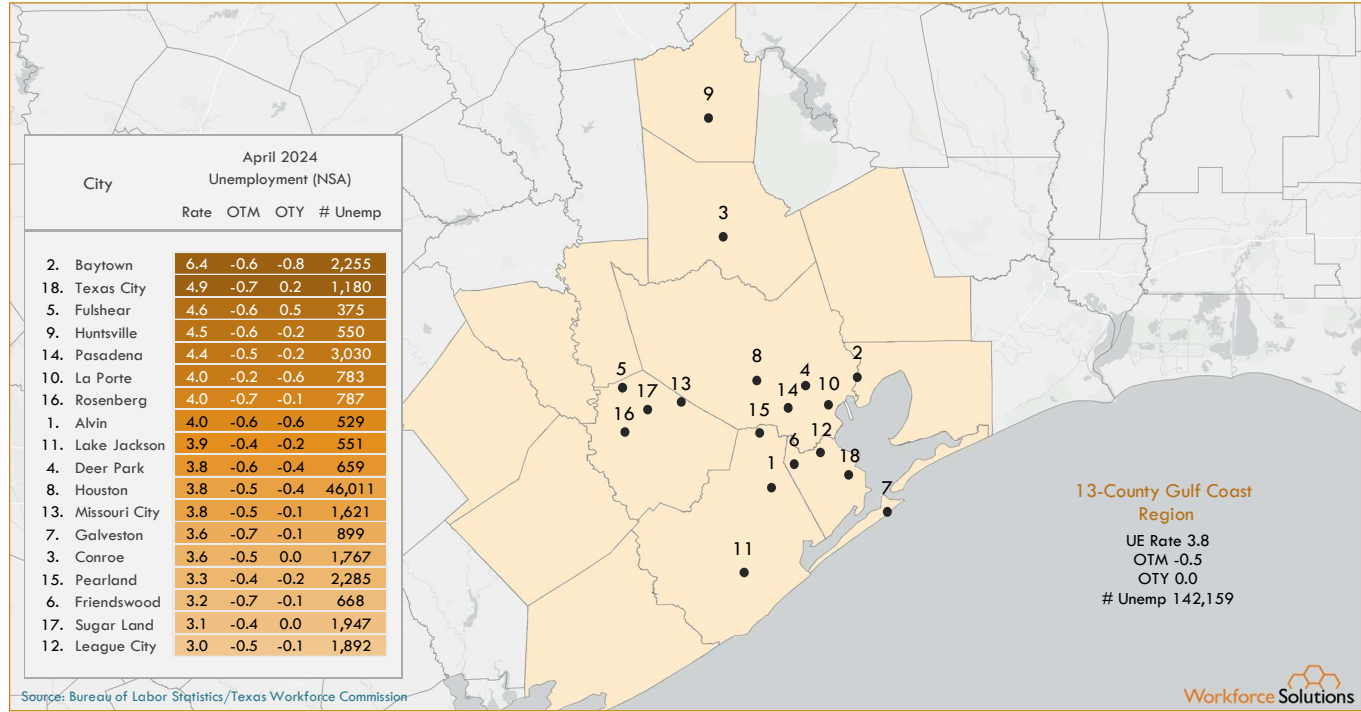
Not-Seasonally Adjusted

Unemployment Rates for Select Municipalities

Among the 18 cities in the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area for which Local Area Unemployment Statistics are available, unemployment rates in April ranged from a high of 6.4 percent in Baytown to a low of 3.0 percent in League City (see Map 2 legend). Over the month, all 18 cities saw their unemployment rates decline in keeping with region-wide decrease of -0.5 percentage points. Friendswood saw the largest percentage-point decrease in unemployment down -0.7 pp. representing

-156 fewer unemployed workers compared to the previous month. This was followed by Texas City (-0.7 pp, -146 workers) and Rosenberg (-0.7 pp, -131 workers). The 18 cities below accounted for 48 percent of the 142,159 unemployed workers across the Gulf Coast Region as of this April (see Map 2 legend).

Map 2. 13-County Gulf Coast Region City Unemployment Rates April 2024 (NSA)



Seasonally Adjusted

Houston Metro, Texas, and U.S. Unemployment

The Houston MSA (seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent in March, up from February's 4.1 percent and down from 4.3 percent a year ago. This was above the statewide rate of 3.9 percent and above the national rate of 3.8 percent. 153,598 individuals were unemployed in Houston in March, up from February's 151,470 and down from 154,831 in March 2023 (see Charts 41 and 42). NOTE: Seasonally-adjusted data for the MSA are available with a one-month delay but are not available for the 13-County Region or 18 cities.

Chart 41. Unemployment Rates (SA)
U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA
March 2024

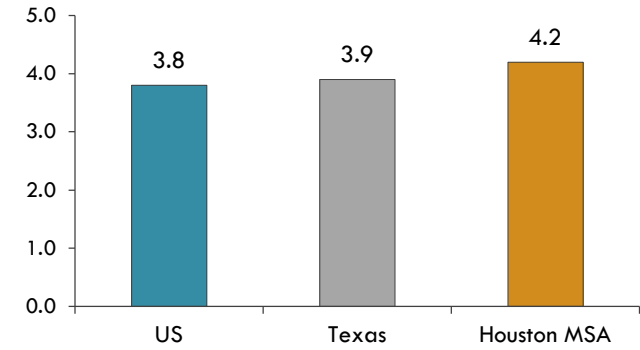
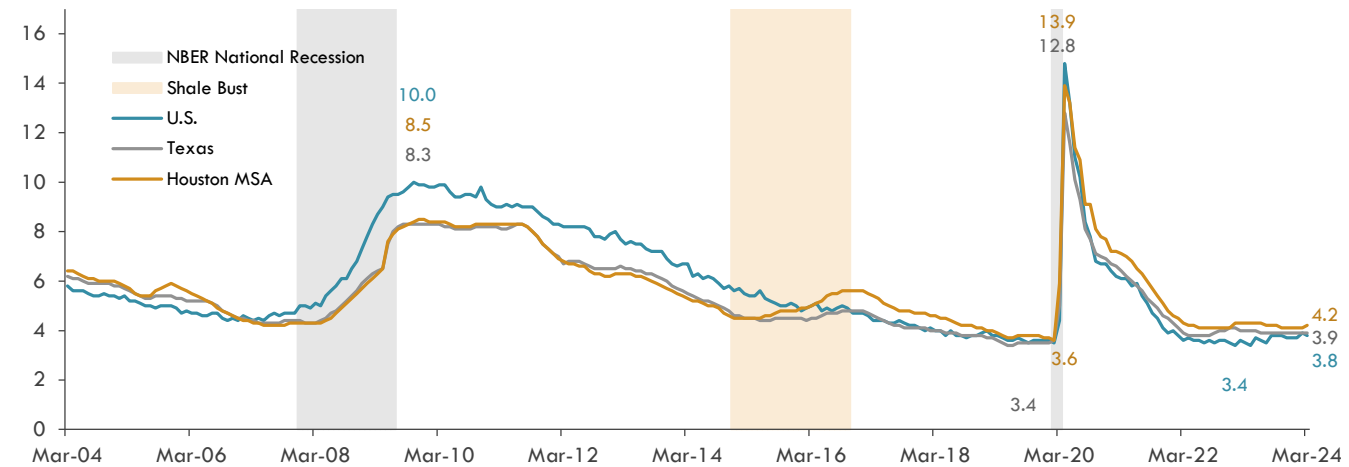


Chart 42. Unemployment Rates U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA (SA)
March 2004 to March 2024



Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index (WSI)

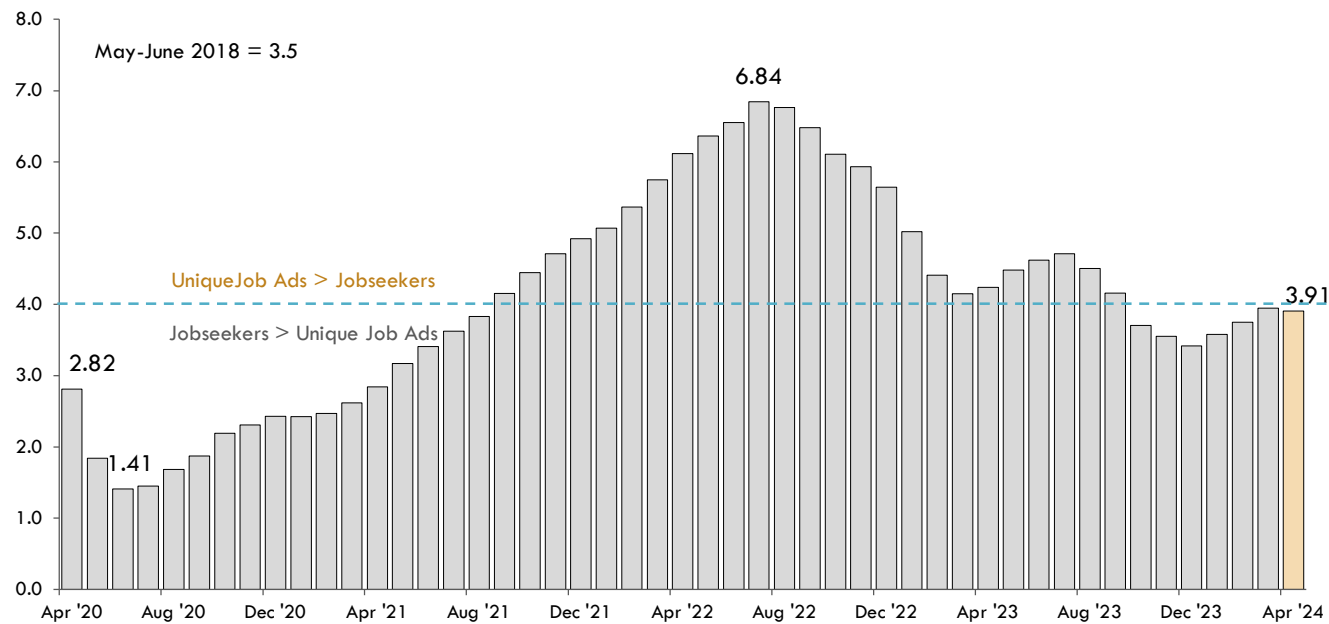


The Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index (WSI)

The WSI is an indicator designed to capture shifts in the local labor market, specifically the balance between available jobs and unemployed workers at a given point in time. Values above 4.0 signal a surplus of jobs while values less than 4.0 signal a surplus of jobseekers. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board monitors the WSI as part of its ongoing review of the region's unemployment insurance work search requirement and reserves the right to adjust the number of weekly job search contacts as labor market conditions warrant. In the event of change to the work search requirement, the Board will notify the Texas Workforce Commission who will in turn notify UI recipients.

WSI Reading
April
2024:
3.91

Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index - Houston MSA 2017 - 2022 (SA)



Source(s): Emsi-Burning Glass and BLS/TWC - LAUS
Note: data subject to revisions.



Workforce Solutions Index April 2024

The Houston MSA WSI for April stood at 3.91, down slightly from March's reading of 3.95. This was the result of slight decreases in the number of active job ads accompanied by slight increases in the number of unemployed individuals. The net effect of these changes was modest drop in the index reflecting an incremental gain in leverage by employers relative to job seekers.

Despite the index rising since December 2023 to approach the index equilibrium of 4.0, a value of 3.91 continues to suggest that a requirement of three work search activities may be appropriate for individuals receiving unemployment insurance given the relative availability of jobs at present.



Houston Area Employment Situation

April 2024

Table 1. Houston MSA Sectors and Major Industry Subcomponents

NAICS Industry	Apr-24	Mar-24	Apr-23	Monthly	Monthly	Yearly	Yearly %
Total Nonfarm	3,437,400	3,418,300	3,356,700	19,100	0.6%	80,700	2.4%
Total Private	2,974,600	2,955,400	2,911,300	19,200	0.6%	63,300	2.2%
Goods Producing	545,200	542,800	535,300	2,400	0.4%	9,900	1.8%
.Mining and Logging	71,200	71,600	70,600	-400	-0.6%	600	0.8%
...Oil and Gas Extraction	31,700	32,000	30,900	-300	-0.9%	800	2.6%
...Support Activities for Mining	38,100	38,200	38,300	-100	-0.3%	-200	-0.5%
.Construction	237,300	235,000	232,400	2,300	1.0%	4,900	2.1%
..Construction of Buildings	63,500	63,100	59,900	400	0.6%	3,600	6.0%
..Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	55,900	55,800	55,300	100	0.2%	600	1.1%
..Specialty Trade Contractors	117,900	116,100	117,200	1,800	1.6%	700	0.6%
.Manufacturing	236,700	236,200	232,300	500	0.2%	4,400	1.9%
..Durable Goods	148,700	148,000	143,800	700	0.5%	4,900	3.4%
...Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	52,300	52,200	50,500	100	0.2%	1,800	3.6%
...Machinery Manufacturing	43,100	42,900	42,100	200	0.5%	1,000	2.4%
....Agriculture, Construction, and Mining Machinery Mfg.	23,000	22,900	22,300	100	0.4%	700	3.1%
...Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	14,500	14,500	14,100	0	0.0%	400	2.8%
..Non-Durable Goods	88,000	88,200	88,500	-200	-0.2%	-500	-0.6%
...Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	8,000	8,000	7,900	0	0.0%	100	1.3%
...Chemical Manufacturing	41,800	42,000	41,800	-200	-0.5%	0	0.0%
Service Providing	2,892,200	2,875,500	2,821,400	16,700	0.6%	70,800	2.5%
.Private Service Providing	2,429,400	2,412,600	2,376,000	16,800	0.7%	53,400	2.2%
..Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	685,800	684,100	681,100	1,700	0.2%	4,700	0.7%
...Wholesale Trade	179,200	178,300	176,700	900	0.5%	2,500	1.4%
....Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	111,900	111,100	110,000	800	0.7%	1,900	1.7%
.....Prof. and Commercial Equip. Supplies Wholesalers	18,600	18,600	18,900	0	0.0%	-300	-1.6%
....Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	55,500	55,400	54,900	100	0.2%	600	1.1%
...Retail Trade	318,300	316,300	316,600	2,000	0.6%	1,700	0.5%
....Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	44,700	44,200	43,800	500	1.1%	900	2.1%
....Bldg. Material and Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	24,100	23,800	24,500	300	1.3%	-400	-1.6%
....Food and Beverage Stores	74,800	74,600	74,200	200	0.3%	600	0.8%
....Health and Personal Care Stores	61,100	61,000	61,000	100	0.2%	100	0.2%
....Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	19,200	19,100	19,100	100	0.5%	100	0.5%
....General Merchandise Stores	41,900	41,900	41,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
.....Department Stores	21,400	21,300	21,300	100	0.5%	100	0.5%
.....Other General Merchandise Stores	25,700	25,700	25,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
...Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	188,300	189,500	187,800	-1,200	-0.6%	500	0.3%
....Utilities	23,100	23,200	21,300	-100	-0.4%	1,800	8.5%
.....Air Transportation	22,600	22,600	22,200	0	0.0%	400	1.8%
.....Truck Transportation	30,000	30,000	30,500	0	0.0%	-500	-1.6%
.....Pipeline Transportation	14,100	14,200	13,400	-100	-0.7%	700	5.2%
..Information	32,300	32,200	33,200	100	0.3%	-900	-2.7%
...Telecommunications	11,400	11,300	11,500	100	0.9%	-100	-0.9%
..Financial Activities	187,500	186,300	185,700	1,200	0.6%	1,800	1.0%
...Finance and Insurance	120,700	119,500	118,200	1,200	1.0%	2,500	2.1%
....Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	48,200	47,800	47,200	400	0.8%	1,000	2.1%
.....Depository Credit Intermediation	31,100	30,900	30,400	200	0.6%	700	2.3%
....Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Fin. Investments	24,700	24,400	24,700	300	1.2%	0	0.0%
....Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	47,800	47,300	46,300	500	1.1%	1,500	3.2%
...Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	66,800	66,800	67,500	0	0.0%	-700	-1.0%
..Professional and Business Services	561,100	557,200	551,900	3,900	0.7%	9,200	1.7%
...Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	278,800	278,000	273,100	800	0.3%	5,700	2.1%
....Legal Services	32,100	32,100	31,000	0	0.0%	1,100	3.5%
....Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll	29,800	29,900	30,700	-100	-0.3%	-900	-2.9%
....Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	75,500	74,800	72,000	700	0.9%	3,500	4.9%
....Computer Systems Design and Related Services	41,100	40,900	42,200	200	0.5%	-1,100	-2.6%
...Management of Companies and Enterprises	46,500	46,400	46,300	100	0.2%	200	0.4%
...Admin. and Support and Waste Mgmt. and Remediation	235,800	232,800	232,500	3,000	1.3%	3,300	1.4%
....Administrative and Support Services	222,700	220,000	219,700	2,700	1.2%	3,000	1.4%
.....Employment Services	79,800	79,300	82,700	500	0.6%	-2,900	-3.5%
.....Services to Buildings and Dwellings	55,600	54,700	54,600	900	1.6%	1,000	1.8%
..Educational and Health Services	468,200	466,400	444,400	1,800	0.4%	23,800	5.4%
...Educational Services	75,600	75,200	71,900	400	0.5%	3,700	5.1%
...Health Care and Social Assistance	392,600	391,200	372,500	1,400	0.4%	20,100	5.4%
....Ambulatory Health Care Services	198,300	197,900	189,200	400	0.2%	9,100	4.8%
....Hospitals	98,800	98,200	91,800	600	0.6%	7,000	7.6%
..Leisure and Hospitality	361,900	355,600	355,000	6,300	1.8%	6,900	1.9%
...Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	40,300	39,400	39,200	900	2.3%	1,100	2.8%
...Accommodation and Food Services	321,600	316,200	315,800	5,400	1.7%	5,800	1.8%
....Accommodation	26,800	26,500	26,300	300	1.1%	500	1.9%
....Food Services and Drinking Places	294,800	289,700	289,500	5,100	1.8%	5,300	1.8%
..Other Services	132,600	130,800	124,700	1,800	1.4%	7,900	6.3%
Government	462,800	462,900	445,400	-100	0.0%	17,400	3.9%
.Federal Government	34,500	34,200	33,100	300	0.9%	1,400	4.2%
.State Government	97,300	96,900	93,800	400	0.4%	3,500	3.7%
..State Government Educational Services	53,300	53,600	52,000	-300	-0.6%	1,300	2.5%
.Local Government	331,000	331,800	318,500	-800	-0.2%	12,500	3.9%
..Local Government Educational Services	230,100	230,600	221,200	-500	-0.2%	8,900	4.0%