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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HIRING REMAINS STEADY AS EMPLOYERS ADD NEARLY 20,000 WORKERS TO THEIR PAYROLLS IN MAY

(HOUSTON) The Houston area unemployment rate fell more than half a point in May as more workers rejoined the labor market and over-the-month job growth saw a return to May 2019 levels. The not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May stands at 6.6 percent, according to data released Friday morning by Workforce Solutions.

Eight out of eleven industry supersectors showed growth last month, with Leisure & Hospitality, Education & Health Services, and Business & Professional Services accounting for 8 in 10 new jobs. “Professional & Business Services are so-called white-collar jobs with good pay and benefits,” explained Parker Harvey, the Workforce Solutions economist. “After initially seeing a boost of hiring in professional and technical jobs during March and April, we’re now seeing companies add administrative and support personnel, either through direct hiring or a staffing agency.” May also saw strong hiring in Leisure & Hospitality, primarily at restaurants and bars. “Seasonal hiring also picked up in the entertainment and recreation subsectors as pools, theme parks, and other summer venues added staff,” Harvey said.

In May, Governor Greg Abbott announced the state would no longer participate in the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Program. Additional benefits paid under the program ends June 26. Workforce Solutions offers free job search advice and assistance to anyone looking for work. “Our staff is eager to help you find new a job,” said Workforce Solutions manager Michelle Castrow. “All you need to do is visit our website, [www.wrksolutions.com/appointment](http://www.wrksolutions.com/appointment), or stop by one of our offices to schedule a meeting with an employment counselor.”

Additional labor market information including the detailed April report can be found at [wrksolutions.com/localstats](http://wrksolutions.com/localstats). The Texas Workforce Commission will release employment data for June on July 16, 2021.

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**ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS:** Workforce Solutions is dedicated to keeping the 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 - WorkInTexas.com.

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