

The Buzz

March 2015

The Buzz is a monthly newsletter from Workforce Solutions- Employer Service Division and is issued to provide local labor market information that is timely and meaningful to our partners in the Gulf Coast Region.

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Workforce Solutions

For the past few years, this city has been recognized for its thriving job market, strong real estate industry, and the overall quality of life residents enjoy. All the people moving to Houston need places to shop and eat, and they're not the only ones. Despite concerns from the slowing energy markets, companies are still relocating to Houston attracted by our growing population base. It appears construction and retail will be the story of 2015.

Following are highlights on economic and business development across the region.

Welcome To Houston

Your feedback along with any questions you might have can be directed to

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Houston Retail Highlights

About 18 months ago there was almost no retail land activity, and suddenly transactions and pricing took off. Companies move quickly to lease their space as retail space becomes available. The dip in oil prices has killed a few deals, but Houston's industrial market is still plowing along with roughly 5 million square feet of construction in the works.

So what does this mean for Workforce Solutions?

Despite rents over \$200/SF, which is well above our market average, the new luxury mixed-use center in the River Oaks District is 70% leased and attracting brands that have never operated in Houston before. Below is a list of retail employers who will be opening this spring!

- *Jobseekers with related construction experience should be easier to place*
- *Prepare your light industrial workers and get them interview-ready for more successful placements*
- *Jobseekers with retail experience should be encouraged to brush up on their customer service skills*

Hartman XX purchased the Timbercreek Atrium and Copperfield office buildings which total 94k SF along Highways 6, I-10 and FM 529.

AKRIS

**Timbercreek Atrium is 79% leased
Copperfield is 80% leased**

Rockwell Management purchased 9990 Richmond, a 187k SF office building in Westchase, which is now 92% leased



*Are your office administrative support workers looking for a transitional occupation?
Have they considered becoming a leasing agent?*

A Swiss fashion designer who specializes in attire for women execs.

Waterton Associates purchased the Villas at Hermann Park, a 320-unit multifamily community near the Medical Center that will be upgraded with fenced-in backyards for 55 ground level units.

Locate your grounds-keeping and building maintenance jobseeker now!

BONOBOS

[Click here to view more](#)



A menswear company.

BRIONI



An Italian high-end fashion house specializing in men's handmade suits. There are only seven other existing boutiques in the U.S.

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI



Construction Boom

The construction field sports a high number of workers due in large part to the city's population growth and the need for new-home construction. In effect, there is an increasing demand to fill many jobs throughout Houston like...

Bricklayers

Carpenters

Painters

Plumbers

Electricians

Equipment Operators

Common Laborers

Construction Supervisors

General Contractors

Building Inspectors



Some of these trades positions require a college degree in the field, while others require as little as a high-school diploma or equivalent. All of these generally require training through an apprenticeship and range in pay from \$10.00 per hour up to \$35.37 per hour.

Following are construction job opportunities listed in WorkInTexas.

Best known for its luxurious Italian cashmere fashions.

Finish Carpentry Workers and Helpers

Job Posting ID: [6992228](#)

Pay: Between \$10.00 / HR and \$25.00 / HR

Minimum 6 Months of Experience

CANALI



Operators and Common Laborers

Job Posting ID: [8346578](#)

Pay: Depends on Experience

No Experience or Education Required

An Italian third generation family-owned company specializing in men's suits.

Class A CDL Drivers

Job Posting ID: [5026347](#)

Requires Class A - Commercial Drivers License

Minimum 3 Years of Experience

CHOPARD



A luxury watch and jewelry brand who River Oaks boutique will be only its sixth in the U.S.

We Count People Because People Count



The **population growth** continues to have a **positive effect** on our economic cycle, considering the three possible activities undertaken by people: **production, consumption** and **saving**. People work at jobs, pay taxes, and buy goods. They also pay for housing, tolls, and insurance among many other things. People are money, and the money comes from **jobs** created through **increased demand** of all services, in particular - **retail**.

Did you know retailers are increasing their wages for entry level workers?

Following are retail job opportunities listed in WorkInTexas.

DOLCE & GABBANA



The retailer known as one of today's leading international luxury goods groups will open its own boutique in Houston with only 10 other boutiques in the country.

Sales Associates and Key Holders

Job Posting ID: [3292280](#)

Minimum 1 Year of Experience and a HS Diploma

Store Supervisors and Assistant Managers

Job Posting ID: [2813872](#)

Pay: Between \$8.00 / HR and \$12.00 / HR

Minimum 2 Years of Experience and a HS Diploma

Stock Specialist

Job Posting ID: [3287942](#)

Pay: Between \$7.25 / HR and \$10.00 / HR

No Experience or Education Required

References:

<http://www.houston.org/>, <http://www.houstontx.gov>, <http://wrksolutions.com/>, <https://wit.twc.state.tx.us>,
<http://www.chron.com/>, <http://www.forbes.com/>, <http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/>,
<https://www.linkedin.com/job/oil-gas-jobs-houston-tx/>, <https://www.bisnow.com/>, <https://wit.twc.state.tx.us>