**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2022

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 **HOUSTON AREA SEES ROBUST HIRING IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN MARCH**

(HOUSTON) Construction workers are in high demand in the Houston area. The sector grew 1.5 percent adding 3,200 jobs in March, according to a report issued Friday by [Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast](http://www.wrksolutions.com). Typically, in March, the Construction sector grows by about one percent, signaling this was slightly stronger than the long-term average.

Still, it could be a sign of growing consumer confidence, said Michelle Castrow, a senior manager with the regional workforce development agency. “In addition to construction hiring, we saw the Leisure & Hospitality sector add 4,600 new jobs. Both sectors offer good opportunities for soon-to-be graduates entering the labor force as well as those looking for summer jobs.” She also encouraged working-age students and young adults to start looking for work now, “We’re a little more than a month out from Memorial Day and employers are staffing up.”

Overall, the region added just 1,700 jobs in March. Business & Professional Services, which continues to confound analysts with major fluctuations through the first quarter, posted a loss of 9,300 last month. The sector is home to most white-collar professional jobs, including those in the oil industry. The bulk of March losses were in the Administrative & Support and Employment Services subsector, which saw a combined loss of 6,700 jobs after being revised downward in February by 2,800. The subsector is where temporary and temp-to-hire positions are found.

Unemployment in the Houston area fell nearly a full point to a not-seasonally-adjusted 4.4 percent compared to February’s revised 5.2 percent figure.

Additional labor market information including the detailed March report can be found at [www.wrksolutions.com/localstats](http://www.wrksolutions.com/localstats). The Texas Workforce Commission will release April employment data on May 20, 2022.

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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 – [www.WorkInTexas.com](http://www.WorkInTexas.com).