



Gulf Coast Workforce Board  
P.O. Box 22777 • Houston, Texas 77227-2777  
MAIN: 713.627.3200 FAX: 713.993.4578  
www.wrksolutions.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 20, 2023

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Michelle Castrow  
(346) 510-6912  
michelle.castrow@wrksolutions.com

**CYCLICAL SEPTEMBER HIRING KICKS OFF FOURTH QUARTER 2023**

*Teachers and support staff returning to the classroom boosted payrolls last month*

(HOUSTON, TX) The Houston area added 22,000 jobs in September, primarily in the Government sector as students, teachers, support staff, and administrators returned to school for the fall semester. The Education and Health services (+3,700) and Financial Activities (+500) sectors also contributed to overall monthly job growth, but the other eight industry sectors were flat or down slightly for the month.

Construction, which saw a downward revision of 900 jobs in August, was flat while the Leisure and Hospitality sector was the largest drag on employment, shedding 1,400 jobs. “Those were smaller than average losses than we generally see in September, which is welcome after the sector’s rocky summer,” said Parker Harvey, lead economist at Workforce Solutions.

The Government Sector, which includes public schools and universities, was responsible for more than 9 out of every 10 jobs added in September, gained 22,200. This was the largest September gain in this sector since 2013 and the second largest gain since 1990. “Over the past year, the sector has added some 12,000 jobs giving it an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent, a pace we haven’t seen since around 2016.” Harvey said.

The Private Education and Health Services sector, composed of a mix of private schools and educational service providers, gained 3,700 – the largest over-the-month increase on record. Over the year, the sector was up 23,300 jobs, tying its September 2022 record.

“Between the big increase in public sector employment and smaller than averages losses across the other sectors, our local employment picture was pretty positive last month,” Harvey said.

The not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percent to 4.4 percent in September, while the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August rose by one-tenth of a point to 4.5 percent.

The 12th annual **Hiring Red, White and You!** career fair for veterans is just around the corner. Join us November 9, 2023 at Workforce Solutions – Northline (4424 North Freeway, Houston) to meet with 50 local employers eager to fill a variety of open positions. For more information, and to pre-register, visit [www.wrksolutions.com/hrwy](http://www.wrksolutions.com/hrwy).

Additional labor market information, including the detailed September report can be found online at [www.wrksolutions.com/localstats](http://www.wrksolutions.com/localstats). The Texas Workforce Commission will release October employment data on November 17, 2023.

**ABOUT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS:** [Workforce Solutions](http://www.wrksolutions.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

[www.wrksolutions.com](http://www.wrksolutions.com) 1.888.469.JOBS (5627)

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (Please request reasonable accommodations a minimum of two business days in advance.) Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) 1.800.735.2988 (voice) or 711

A proud partner of the [americanjobcenter](http://www.americanjobcenter.com) network



**Gulf Coast Workforce Board**

P.O. Box 22777 • Houston, Texas 77227-2777

**MAIN:** 713.627.3200 **FAX:** 713.993.4578

[www.wrksolutions.com](http://www.wrksolutions.com)

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).

# # #

---

**[www.wrksolutions.com](http://www.wrksolutions.com)** 1.888.469.JOBS (5627)

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (Please request reasonable accommodations a minimum of two business days in advance.) **Relay Texas:** 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) 1.800.735.2988 (voice) or 711

A proud partner of the  **americanjobcenter** network