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STRONG HOLIDAY-RELATED HIRING BOOSTS HOUSTON-AREA EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER

(HOUSTON) The Houston area added more than 32,000 jobs in October as retail stores, warehouses, and transportation firms staff up for the holiday shopping season, according to data released today by Workforce Solutions. Trade, Transportation & Utilities, the main industry sector covering these employers, contributed roughly a one-third of all new jobs added last month.

Parker Harvey, regional economist at the workforce development agency, noted the sector saw the largest ever one-month gain in October on record, “Typically this sector adds an average of 2,800 jobs in October as stores staff up ahead of the holidays, so this is well above the long-term average.” Harvey also pointed out that the region has reached a seasonally adjusted record high level of employment last month with 3.3 million workers currently employed in the Houston area.

The Professional & Business Services sector added 6,000 jobs in October, matching its pace of hiring in September after an upward revision of 3,100 jobs. Parker Harvey says hiring was broad-based across the professional spectrum rather than in one subsector, such as oil and gas firms.

The regional unemployment rate stands at 4.1 percent, down slightly from September. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August also fell slightly to 4.4 percent. The Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index, which measures the balance of employment ads versus the number of unemployment workers, fell to 5.90 percent in October, the third month in a row it has fallen. “This could be an early sign of a tightening job market in our area, in the sense that it is starting to normalize after reaching a post-pandemic peak,” Harvey said.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed October report, can be found online at: www.wrksolutions.com/localstats. The Texas Workforce Commission will release November employment data on December 16, 2022.

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

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