

# Houston Area Employment Situation

March 2025

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

*Houston Adds Jobs in March, But Momentum Remains Subdued*

### Total Nonfarm

#### Over-the-month Change

Houston MSA Total Nonfarm employment stood at 3,459,400 in March, up 5,700 jobs over the month, or 0.2 percent on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis (see Chart 1). A year ago Houston registered an over-the-month increase of 12,500 jobs. Prior to the pandemic, historically in the month of March, Total Nonfarm has on average added 12,600 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially below the long-term average. Note that job growth is typical in March of each year with the only declines in this month occurring in 2009 due to Great Recession and 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

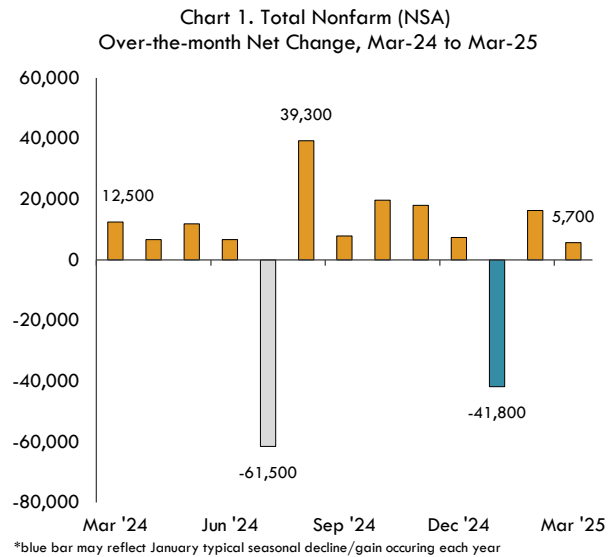
The primary drivers of this March's growth were increases in Leisure and Hospitality; Government; and Other Services. Gains were also recorded in Private Education and Health Services; Construction; and Manufacturing. The net increase in jobs over the month was partially offset by losses in Professional and Business Services; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; and Mining and Logging. (see Chart 2). Houston MSA Total Nonfarm (seasonally adjusted) employment stood at 3,475,200, up 8,700 jobs over the month, or 0.3 percent vs. a historical average of 5,100. All analysis pertains to not-seasonally adjusted data unless otherwise noted. Data source: BLS/TWC. NOTE: The Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties. Analysis of major sectors and their sub-components throughout the remainder of this report references not-seasonally adjusted data. All data provided by BLS/TWC unless otherwise noted.

#### Top-3 Drivers of Over-the-month Job Growth in March

- Leisure and Hospitality: 3,100
- Government: 2,600
- Other Services: 1,900

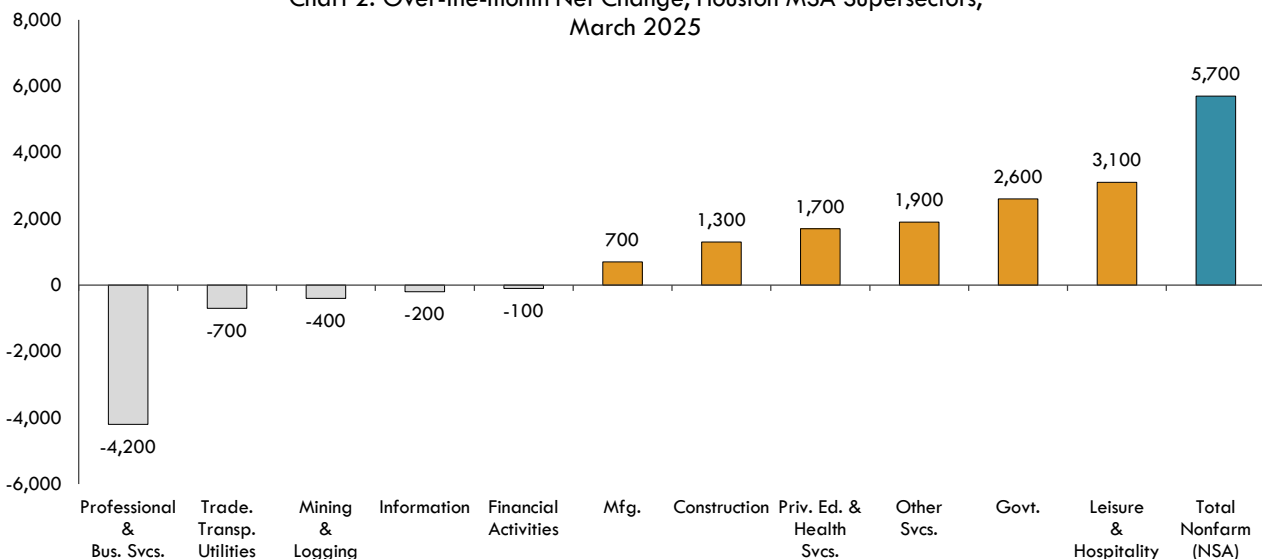
#### Over-the-year Change

Over the year, Total Nonfarm employment was up 36,300 or 1.1 percent on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis and up 48,500 or 1.4 percent on a seasonally-adjusted basis (see NSA Chart 3). To compare, March 2024 saw a year-over-year gain of 64,600 jobs (NSA) from March 2023. Currently 9 out of 11 sectors show growth year over year of which the top-three are Private Education and Health Services (10,600); Government (9,400); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (8,900) (see Chart 4).



Total Nonfarm employment not-seasonally-adjusted now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 3,193,600 jobs by 265,800, or 8.3 percent (275,400 jobs, 8.6 percent above 3,199,800 seasonally adjusted).

Chart 2. Over-the-month Net Change, Houston MSA Supersectors, March 2025



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## Previous Month's Revisions

Total Nonfarm employment was revised upward by 1,100 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 16,300 compared to an original estimate of 15,200 jobs. An upward revision of +1,200 jobs in Private Education and Health Services was the largest contributor followed by Mining and Logging (+400) and Manufacturing (+400). Downward revisions in Construction (-1,000), Financial Activities (-300), and Government (-100) provided a partial offset of the overall upward revision to Total Nonfarm employment (see Chart 5).

### Top-3 Drivers of Over-the-year Job Growth in March

- Private Education and Health Services: 10,600
- Government: 9,400
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: 8,900

Chart 5. Net Revisions for Selected Supersectors and Major Industries, February 2025

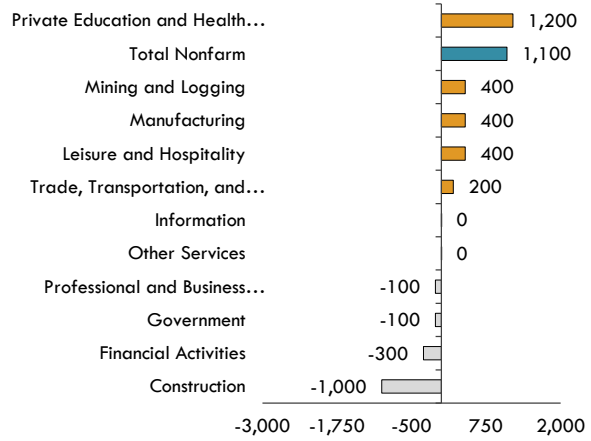


Chart 3. Total Nonfarm (NSA)  
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-10 to Mar-25

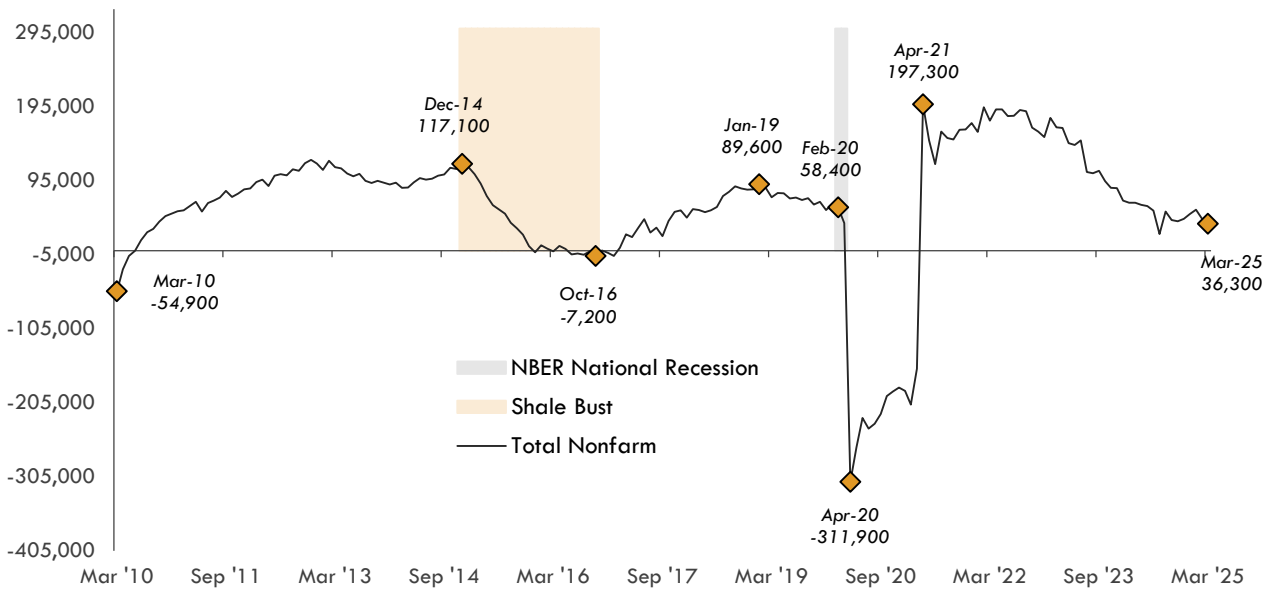
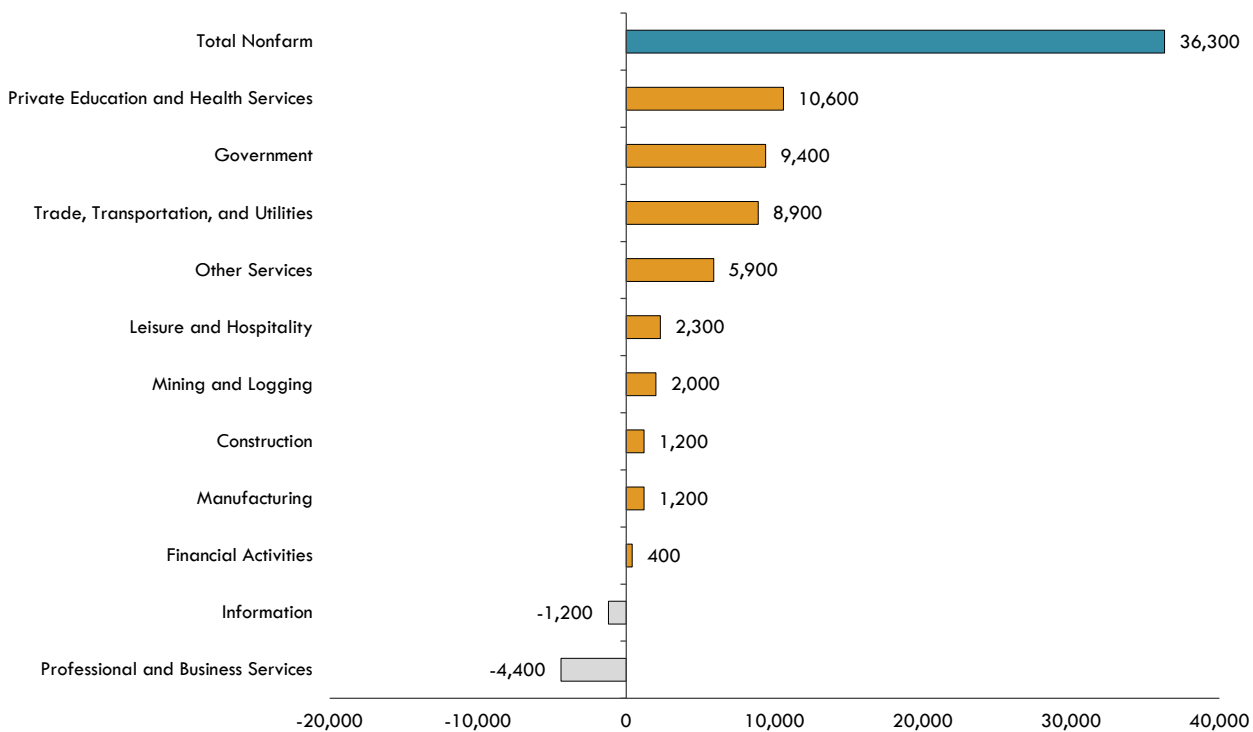


Chart 4. Over-the-year Net Change, Houston MSA Supersectors,  
March 2024 to March 2025



## Supplemental Commentary

Houston's labor market added 5,700 jobs in March on a not-seasonally-adjusted basis—well below the historical March average of 12,600. Seasonally adjusted figures tell a slightly more optimistic story, with 8,700 jobs added, modestly exceeding the typical adjusted gain of 5,100. Even so, this performance reflects continued caution across industries and signals a broader moderation in employment growth in this region. Year-over-year, Houston's nonfarm employment increased by 36,300 jobs, a 1.1% growth rate. This marks a deceleration compared to the 64,600 jobs added between March 2023 and March 2024. However, the seasonally adjusted year-over-year gain of 48,500 suggests we may see significant upward revisions, bringing this year more in line with pre-pandemic norms.

Historically, job growth in March is a near certainty, with only two recorded March declines in the past three decades (during the 2009 Great Recession and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020). While this year's modest gains reinforce the narrative of a cooling job market, they may also reflect data underestimation that could be corrected in upcoming benchmark revisions.

Leisure and Hospitality led over-the-month growth in March, adding 3,100 jobs, supported by gains in Accommodation and Food Services (+2,100) and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (+1,000). Though positive, the sector's growth was moderately below its long-term average of 4,400 for March.

Government (+2,600) also outperformed seasonal expectations, posting its second-largest March gain on record. Most of the growth came from Local Government (+2,700), while Federal Government employment declined slightly.

Other Services (+1,900) recorded one of its best March performances in over three decades, and Private Education and Health Services (+1,700) continued steady growth, driven by hiring in Health Care and Social Assistance. Construction (+1,300) and Manufacturing (+700) also posted modest increases, both slightly above or in line with typical March patterns.

Offsetting these gains were notable losses in key sectors, which weighed down the overall employment picture: Professional and Business Services (-4,200) experienced its worst March decline on record, a stark contrast to the sector's average March gain of 2,700. Losses were concentrated in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (-3,700) and Administrative and Support Services (-400). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-700) posted its third-largest March decline since 1990, driven by a 1,100-job loss in Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities.

Mining and Logging (-400) continued to decline, with losses concentrated in Support Activities for Mining. Smaller losses were recorded in Information (-200) and Financial Activities (-100), consistent with recent patterns of stagnation in these interest rate-sensitive sectors.

Houston's unemployment rate dropped to 4.2%, down from 4.5% in February, aligning with the typical seasonal improvement observed in March. However, the rate remained slightly above the 4.1% recorded a year ago.

The total number of unemployed individuals declined to 163,231, down from 174,561 the previous month. Overall, the March report suggests a stabilizing labor market, though sector-specific weaknesses are still holding back stronger growth. With a likely estimation error in initial job counts, particularly in sectors like Professional and Business services, Houston's job market may ultimately prove more resilient once data revisions are accounted for. Still, as the region continues to adjust to post-pandemic norms, measured gains may be the new reality, at least in the near term.

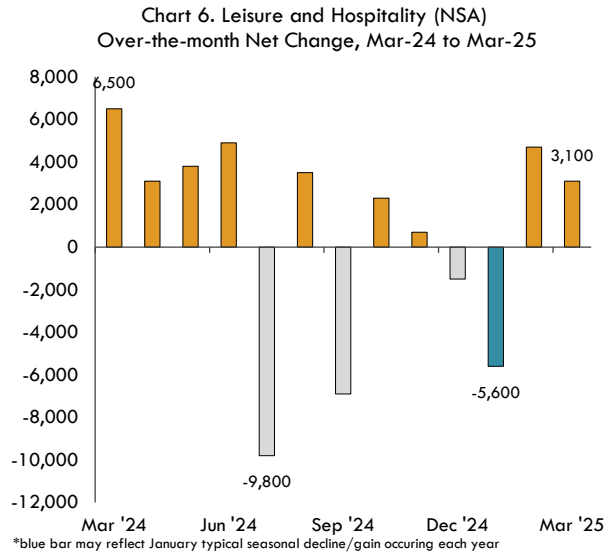
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GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Leisure and Hospitality

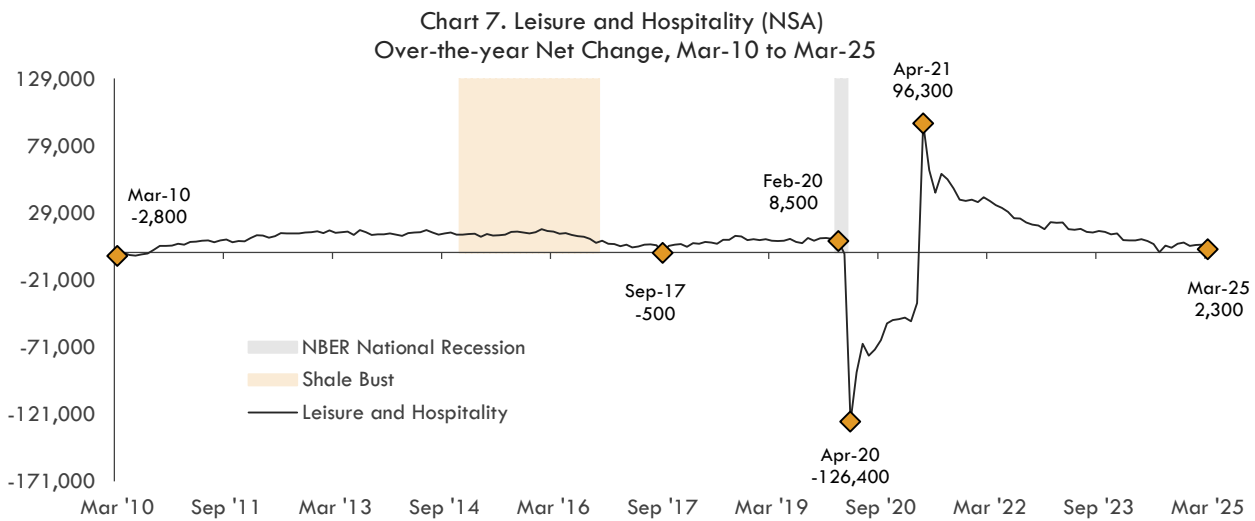
Over-the-month Change

Leisure and Hospitality was the largest gaining sector over the month up 3,100 jobs, or 0.9 percent (see Chart 6). Historically in the month of March, Leisure and Hospitality has added an average of 4,400 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are moderately below the long-term average. Accommodation and Food Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 2,100 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, which added 1,000 jobs from February to March. Leisure and Hospitality employment was revised upward by 400 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 4,700 compared to an original estimate of 4,300 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

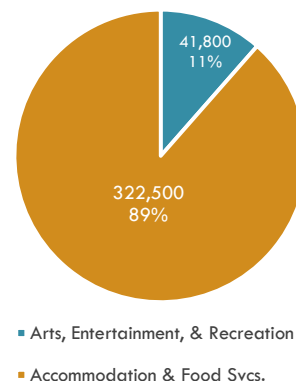
Year over year, Leisure and Hospitality was up 2,300 jobs, or 0.6 percent (see Chart 7). Accommodation and Food Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,300 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, which added 1,000 jobs from March a year ago. Total Leisure and Hospitality employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 334,600 jobs by 29,700, or 8.9 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 10.6 percent over the past year



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments that produce and promote in live performances, events, or exhibits of historical, cultural, or educational interest or related to recreation or hobbies intended for public viewing; and provide customers with lodging and/or meals and beverages for immediate consumption. NOTE: movie theaters are classified under the Information sector rather than Leisure and Hospitality. Of the two main component industries, Accommodation and Food Services accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 89 percent (see Chart 8). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 1 percent higher than the national average.

Chart 8. Employment in Component Industries of Leisure and Hospitality Sector - March 2025

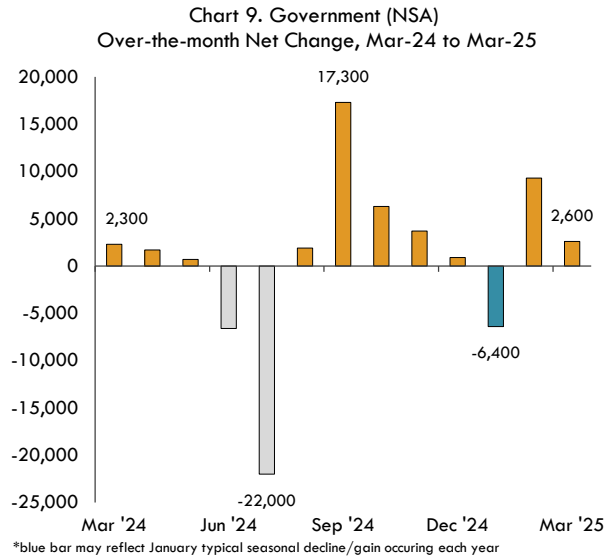


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Government

Over-the-month Change

Government was the second-largest gaining sector over the month up 2,600 jobs, or 0.6 percent (see Chart 9). This was the second-largest gain in the month of March since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of March, Government has added an average of 500 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. Local Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 2,700 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was State Government, which added 100 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Federal Government offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -200 jobs. Government employment was revised downward by -100 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 9,300 compared to an original estimate of 9,400 jobs.

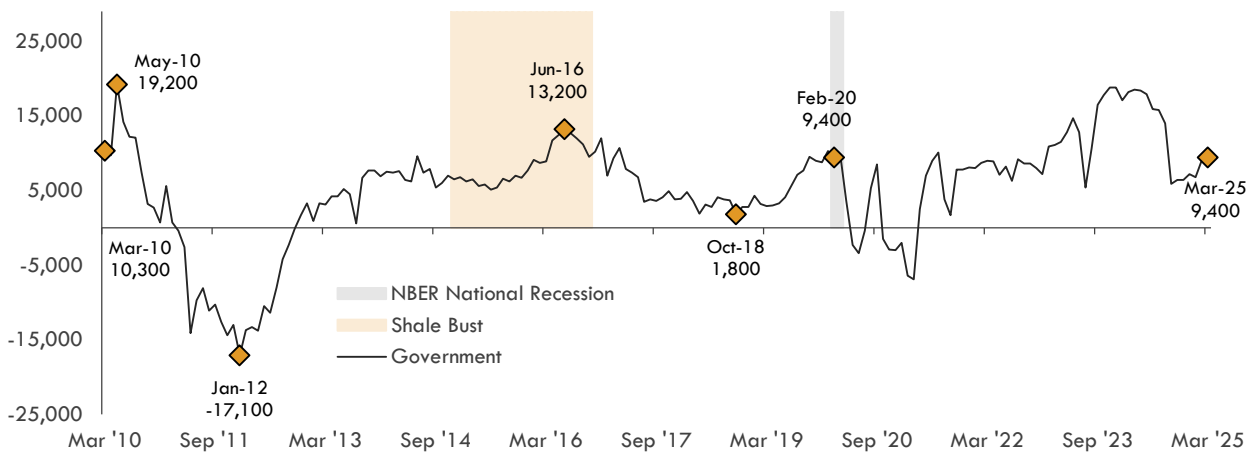


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Government was up 9,400 jobs, or 2.0 percent (see Chart 10). This was the largest over-the-year gain since August 2024's increase of 14,000 jobs. Furthermore, 22.4 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Government. Local Government was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 5,100 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was State Government, which added 3,400 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Federal Government contributed, 900 jobs. Total Government employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020

pre-pandemic level of 429,300 jobs by 43,300, or 10.1 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 13.5 percent to 13.7 percent over the past year.

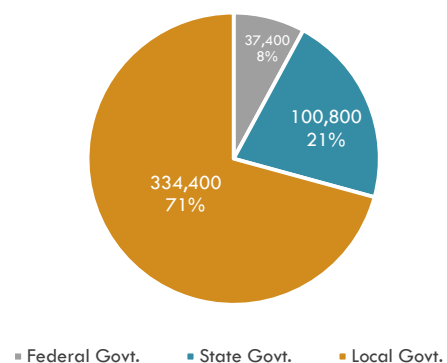
Chart 10. Government (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-10 to Mar-25



About This Sector

This sector consists of establishments of federal, state, and local government agencies that administer, oversee, and manage public programs and have executive, legislative, or judicial authority over other institutions within a given area that are not performed by private establishments. For MSA data, this includes public education but excludes healthcare. Of the three main component industries, Local Government accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 71 percent (see Chart 11). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Government sector is 9 percent less than the national average.

Chart 11. Employment in Component Industries of Government Sector - March 2025

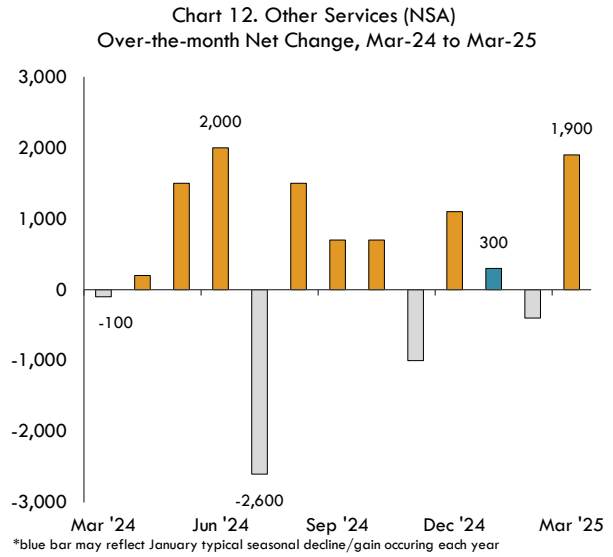


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Other Services

Over-the-month Change

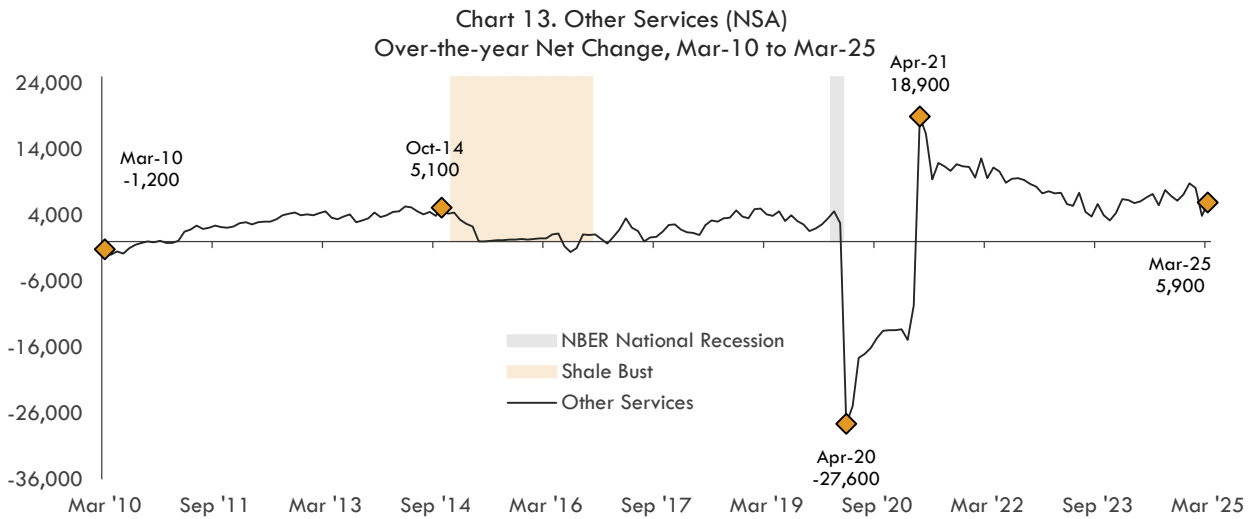
Other Services was the third-largest gaining sector over the month up 1,900 jobs, or 1.4 percent (see Chart 12). This was the second-largest gain in the month of March since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of March, Other Services has seen no change in jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are substantially above the long-term average. NOTE: No subsector is published at the MSA level by the CES survey. See below for additional information. Other Services employment saw no revision from January to February leaving the previous month's original decrease of -400 intact.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Other Services was up 5,900 jobs, or 4.5 percent (see Chart 13). This was the third-largest over-the-year gain in March since records began in 1990. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the fastest-growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 14.1 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Other Services. NOTE: No subsector is published at the MSA level by the CES survey. See below for additional information. Total Other Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020

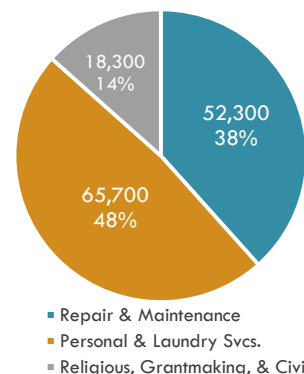
pre-pandemic level of 119,200 jobs by 17,100, or 14.3 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 3.8 percent to 3.9 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in services not classified elsewhere such as equipment and machinery repair, religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and providing dry-cleaning and laundry services, and personal care services. Of the three main component industries, Personal and Laundry Services accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 48 percent as a subsector where self-employment is prevalent (source: Census - Non Employer Statistics and BLS - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages) (see Chart 14). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Other Services sector is 4 percent higher than the national average.

Chart 14. Employment in Component Industries of Other Services Sector - March 2025



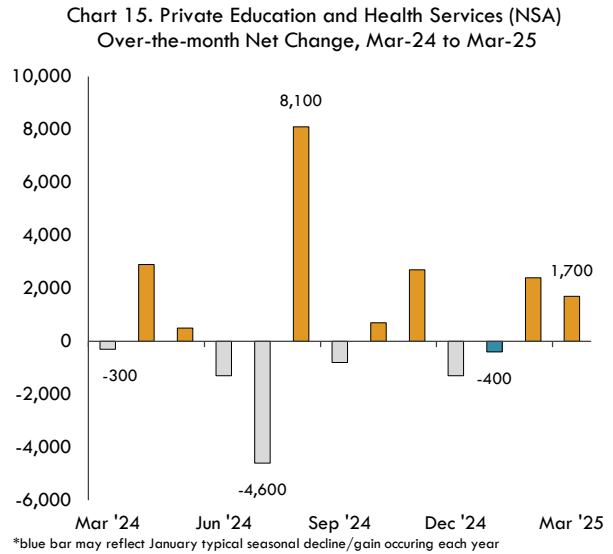
\*estimated proportions based QCEW covered and NES self-employment

GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Private Education and Health Services

Over-the-month Change

Private Education and Health Services was the fourth-largest gaining sector over the month up 1,700 jobs, or 0.4 percent (see Chart 15). Historically in the month of March, Private Education and Health Services has added an average of 1,200 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are moderately above the long-term average. Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 2,200 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Private Educational Services, which lost -500 jobs from February to March. Private Education and Health Services employment was revised upward by 1,200 jobs for a January to February larger net gain of 2,400 compared to an original estimate of 1,200 jobs.

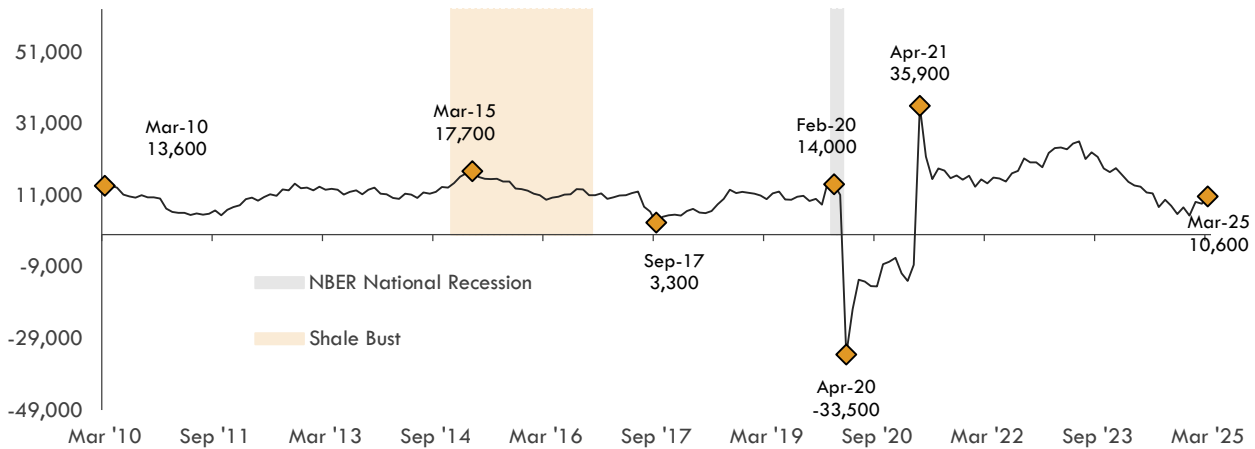


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Private Education and Health Services was up 10,600 jobs, or 2.3 percent (see Chart 16). This was the largest over-the-year gain since June 2024's increase of 11,500 jobs. Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the third-fastest growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 25.3 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Private Education and Health Services. Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 9,500 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Private

Educational Services, which added 1,100 jobs from March a year ago. Total Private Education and Health Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 414,600 jobs by 51,700, or 12.5 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has risen from 13.3 percent to 13.5 percent over the past year.

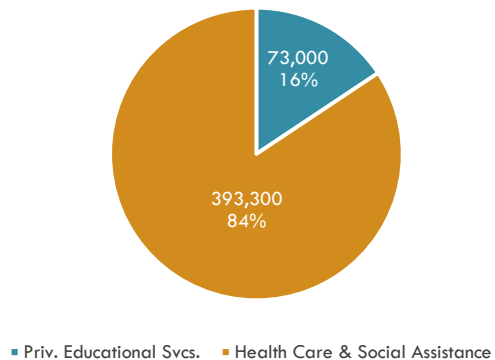
Chart 16. Private Education and Health Services (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-10 to Mar-25



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments that provide private education services (i.e. excluding publicly-funded primary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions) and establishments that provide healthcare and social assistance to individuals. Of the two main component industries, Health Care and Social Assistance accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 84 percent (see Chart 17). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 22 percent less than the national average, despite the high physical concentration of healthcare jobs centered around Texas Medical Center.

Chart 17. Employment in Component Industries of Private Education and Health Services Sector - March 2025

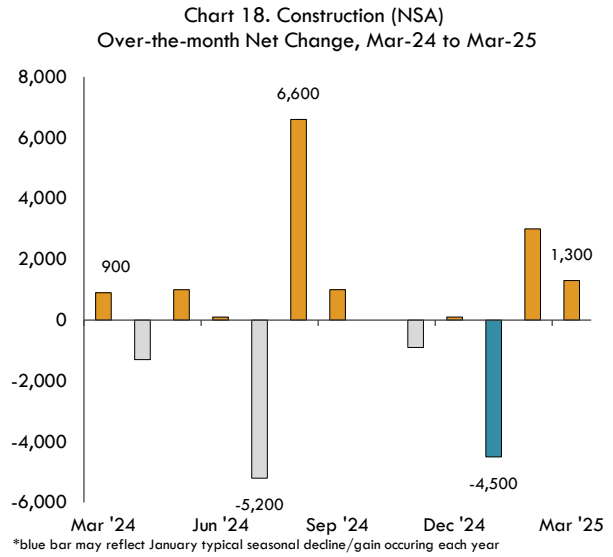


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Construction

Over-the-month Change

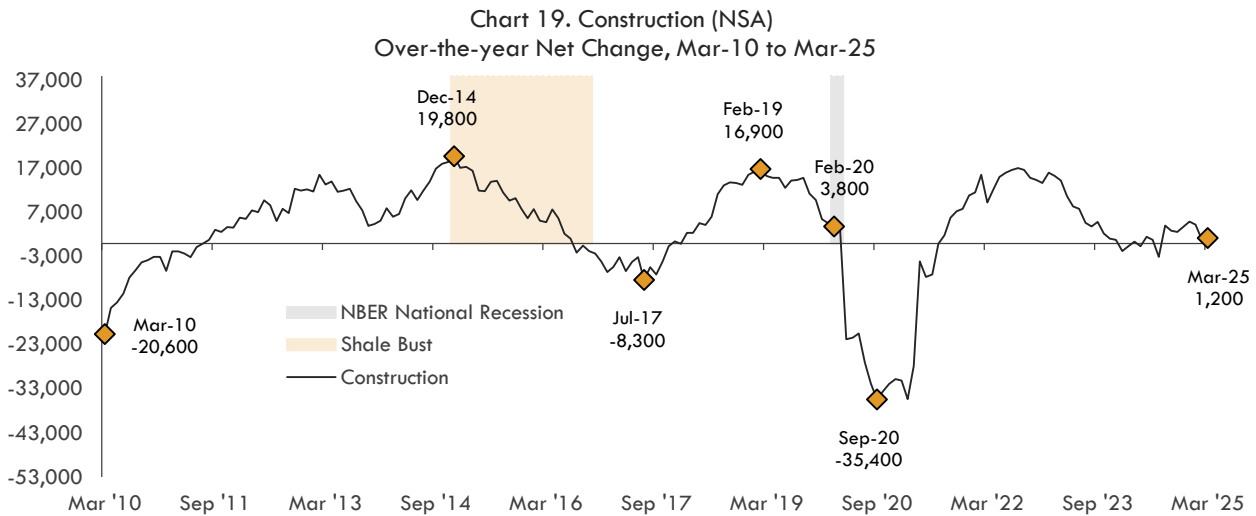
Construction was the fifth-largest gaining sector over the month up 1,300 jobs, or 0.6 percent (see Chart 18). Historically in the month of March, Construction has added an average of 1,700 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are slightly below the long-term average. Specialty Trade Contractors was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 800 jobs over the month. The second-largest contributor was Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, which added 500 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Construction of Buildings saw no change over the month. Construction employment was revised downward by -1,000 jobs for a January to February smaller net gain of 3,000 compared to an original estimate of 4,000 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Construction was up 1,200 jobs, or 0.5 percent (see Chart 19). Specialty Trade Contractors was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,300 jobs over the year. One component industry, Construction of Buildings, saw no change from March a year ago. Lastly, Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction offset a portion of the sector's gains with a loss of -100 jobs. Total Construction employment (NSA) remains -2,900 jobs, or -1.2 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 237,400. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained

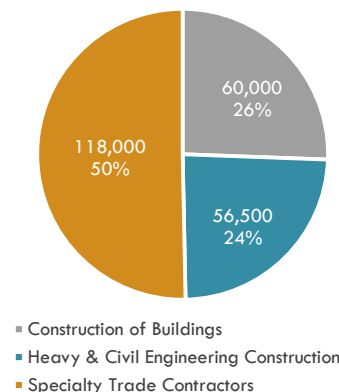
constant at 6.8 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in the construction of buildings, infrastructure, site preparation and sub-division, and specialty trades e.g. masonry, painting, and electrical work. Of the three main component industries, Specialty Trade Contractors accounts for a slight majority of the sector's employment at just over 50 percent (see Chart 20). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Construction sector is 33 percent higher than the national average, due to 2.3 times more jobs in Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction related to turnaround maintenance of petrochemical facilities.

Chart 20. Employment in Component Industries of Construction Sector - March 2025



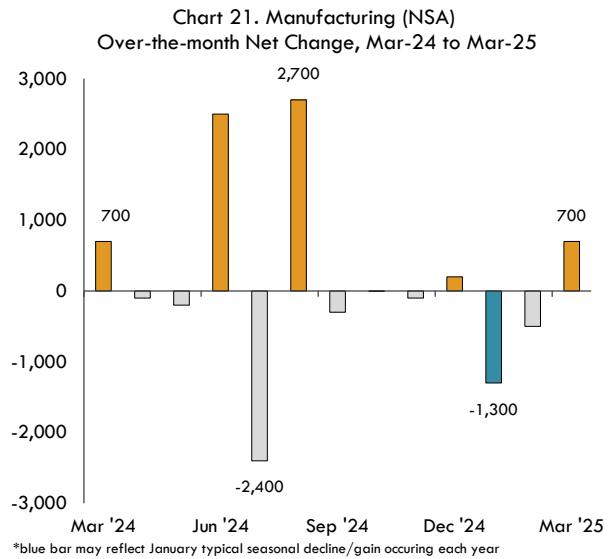


GAINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Manufacturing

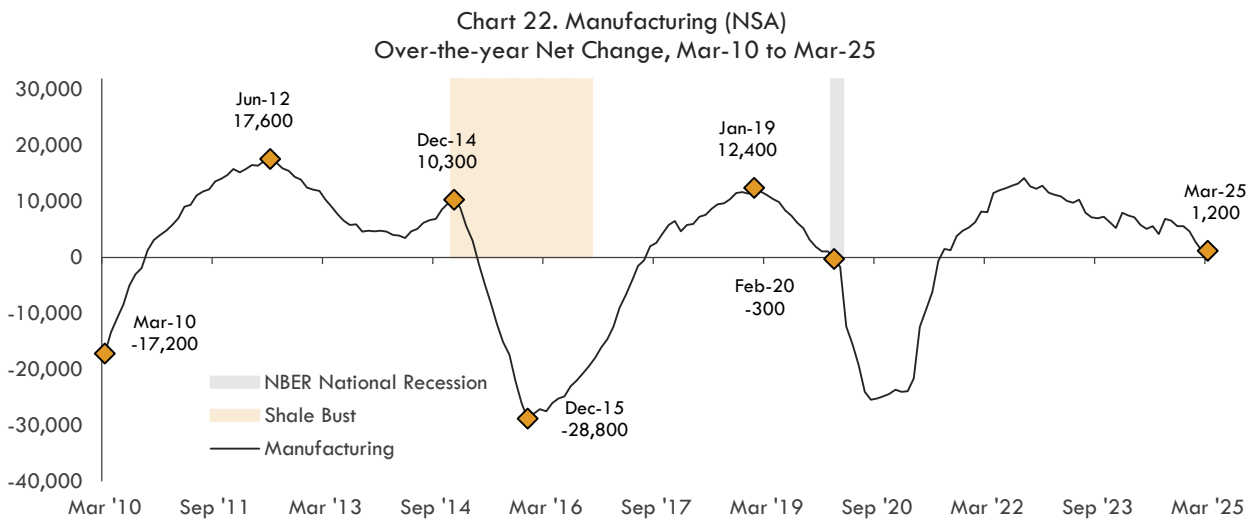
Over-the-month Change

Manufacturing was the sixth-largest gaining sector over the month up 700 jobs, or 0.3 percent (see Chart 21). Historically in the month of March, Manufacturing has added an average of 400 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's gains are slightly above the long-term average. Non-Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 700 jobs over the month. One component industry, Durable Goods, saw no change from February to March. Manufacturing employment was revised upward by 400 jobs for a January to February smaller net loss of -500 compared to an original estimate of -900 jobs.



Over-the-year Change

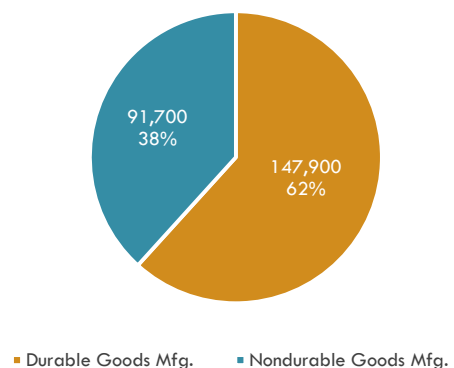
Year over year, Manufacturing was up 1,200 jobs, or 0.5 percent (see Chart 22). Non-Durable Goods was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,700 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Durable Goods, which lost -500 jobs from March a year ago. Total Manufacturing employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 234,700 jobs by 4,900, or 2.1 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 7.0 percent over the past year.



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. Of the two main component industries, Durable Goods accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 62 percent (see Chart 23). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Manufacturing sector is 14 percent less than the national average.

Chart 23. Employment in Component Industries of Manufacturing Sector - March 2025

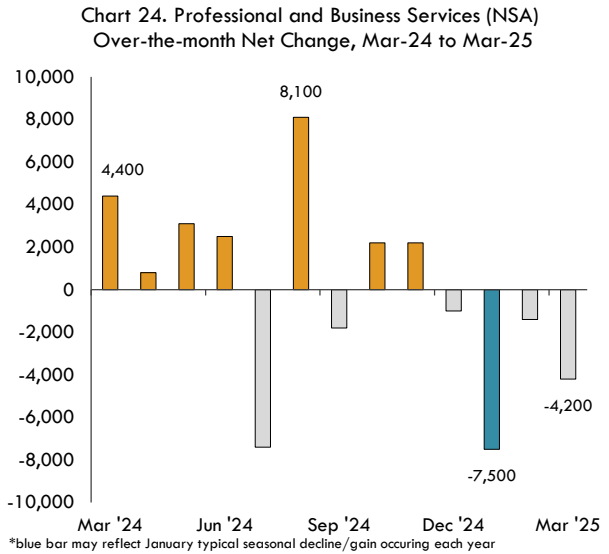


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Professional and Business Services

Over-the-month Change

Professional and Business Services was the largest declining sector over the month down -4,200 jobs, or -0.7 (see Chart 24). This was the largest-ever decline in the month of March since records began in 1990, beating the previous March record of -3,500 jobs lost in 2020. Historically in the month of March, Professional and Business Services has added an average of 2,700 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially in contrast to the long-term average gain. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -3,700 jobs over the month. The second-largest declining contributor was Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, which lost -400 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Management of Companies and Enterprises subtracted, -100 jobs. Professional and Business Services employment was revised downward by -100 jobs for a January to February larger net loss of -1,400 compared to an original estimate of -1,300 jobs.

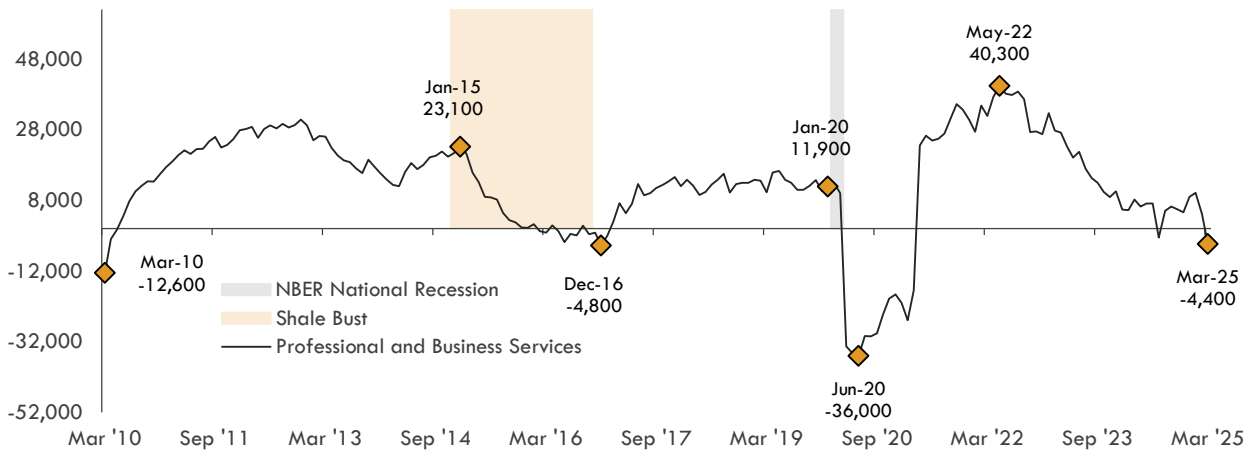


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Professional and Business Services was down -4,400 jobs, or -0.8 percent (see Chart 25). This was the largest over-the-year decline since March 2021's decrease of -17,500 jobs. Among sectors currently showing contraction, this sector is the second-fastest declining in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 78.6 percent of total (gross) jobs lost across the region over the past year can be attributed to Professional and Business Services. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -8,900 jobs over

the year. The second-largest declining contributor was Management of Companies and Enterprises, which lost -300 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services offset a portion of the sector's losses with a gain of 4,800 jobs. Total Professional and Business Services employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 514,800 jobs by 41,800, or 8.1 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has fallen from 16.4 percent to 16.1 percent over the past year.

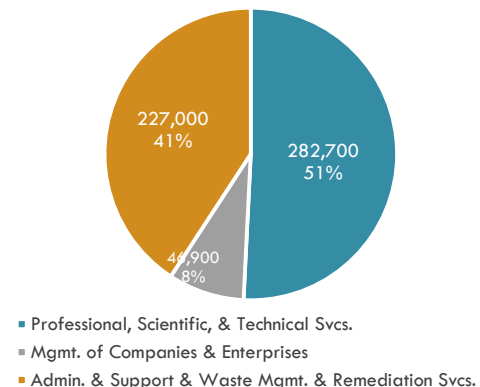
Chart 25. Professional and Business Services (NSA)  
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-10 to Mar-25



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments specializing in professional, scientific, and technical activities; management of establishments holding equity interests in order to influence management decisions; and office administration, hiring of personnel, security, cleaning, and waste disposal. Of the three main component industries, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services accounts for a slight majority of the sector's employment at just over 51 percent (see Chart 26). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall sector is 14 percent higher than the national average, due to a 19-percent higher concentration in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services serving the oil and gas industry.

Chart 26. Employment in Component Industries of Professional and Business Services Sector - March 2025

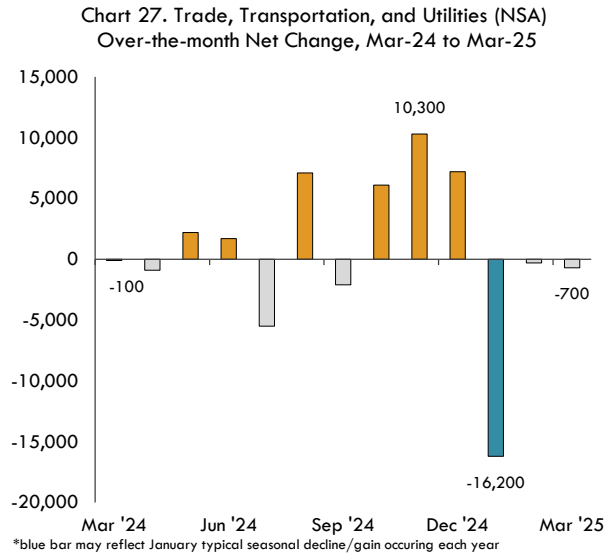


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

Over-the-month Change

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was the second-largest declining sector over the month down -700 jobs, or -0.1 (see Chart 27). This was the third-largest decline in the month of March since records began in 1990. Historically in the month of March, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities has added an average of 1,500 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially in contrast to the long-term average gain. Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -1,100 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Wholesale Trade, which gained 200 jobs from February to March. Lastly, Retail Trade offset a portion of the sector's losses with a gain of 200 jobs. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment was revised upward by 200 jobs for a January to February smaller net loss of -300 compared to an original estimate of -500 jobs.

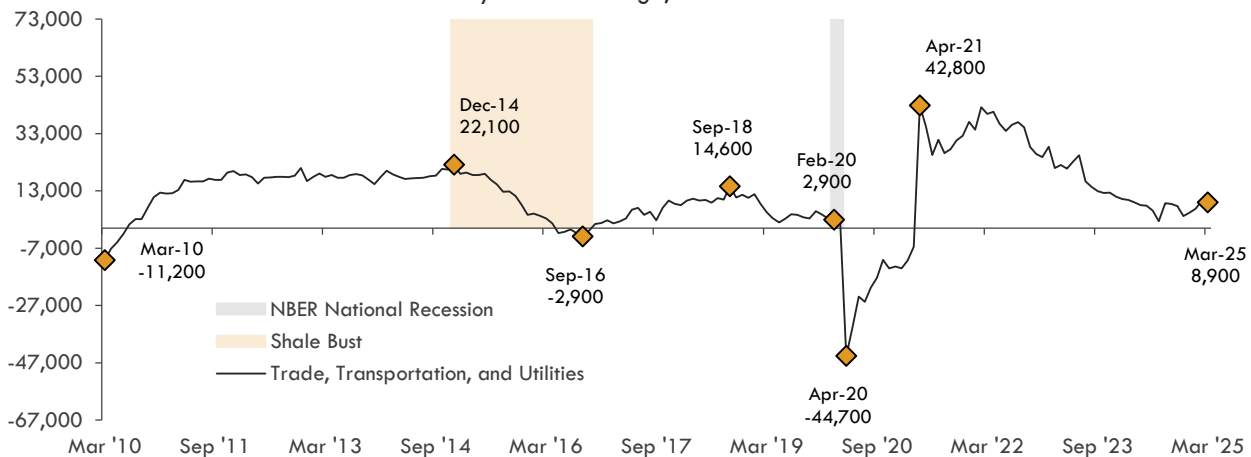


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities was up 8,900 jobs, or 1.3 percent (see Chart 28). Furthermore, 21.2 percent of total (gross) jobs added across the region over the past year can be attributed to Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 4,000 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Wholesale Trade, which added 3,300 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Retail Trade contributed, 1,600 jobs. Total Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020

pre pandemic level of 628,700 jobs by 70,500, or 11.2 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 20.2 percent over the past year.

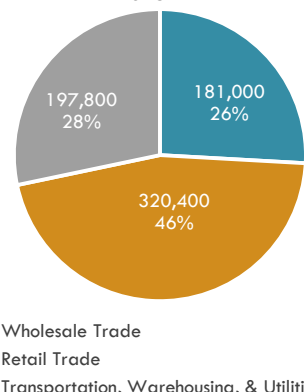
Chart 28. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-10 to Mar-25



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments wholesaling agriculture, mining, and manufactured goods; retailing goods in small quantities to the public incl. online; transporting passengers and cargo; warehousing and storage; and providing electricity, natural gas, water, and sewage removal. Of the three main component industries, Retail Trade accounts for a plurality of the sector's employment at 46 percent (see Chart 29).

Chart 29. Employment in Component Industries of Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Sector - March 2025

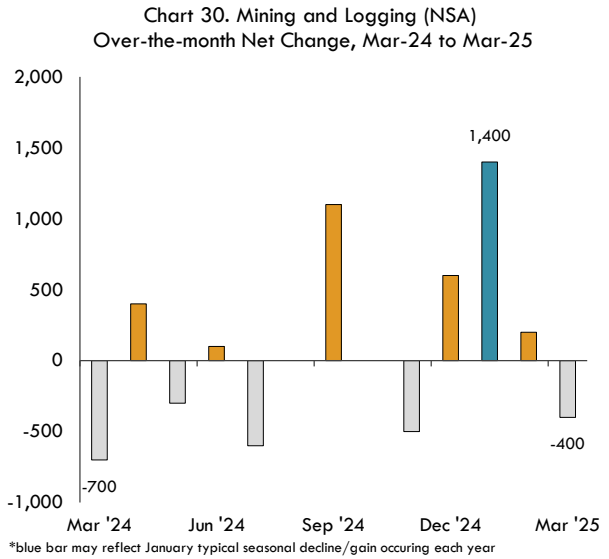


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Mining and Logging

Over-the-month Change

Mining and Logging was the third-largest declining sector over the month down -400 jobs, or -0.5 (see Chart 30). Historically in the month of March, Mining and Logging has lost an average of -100 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are substantially larger than the long-term average decline. Support Activities for Mining was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -400 jobs over the month. One component industry, Oil and Gas Extraction, saw no change from February to March. Lastly, Other Mining and Logging Undefined saw no change over the month. Mining and Logging employment was revised upward by 400 jobs for a January to February complete erasure of losses resulting in a net gain of 200 compared to an original estimate of -200 jobs.

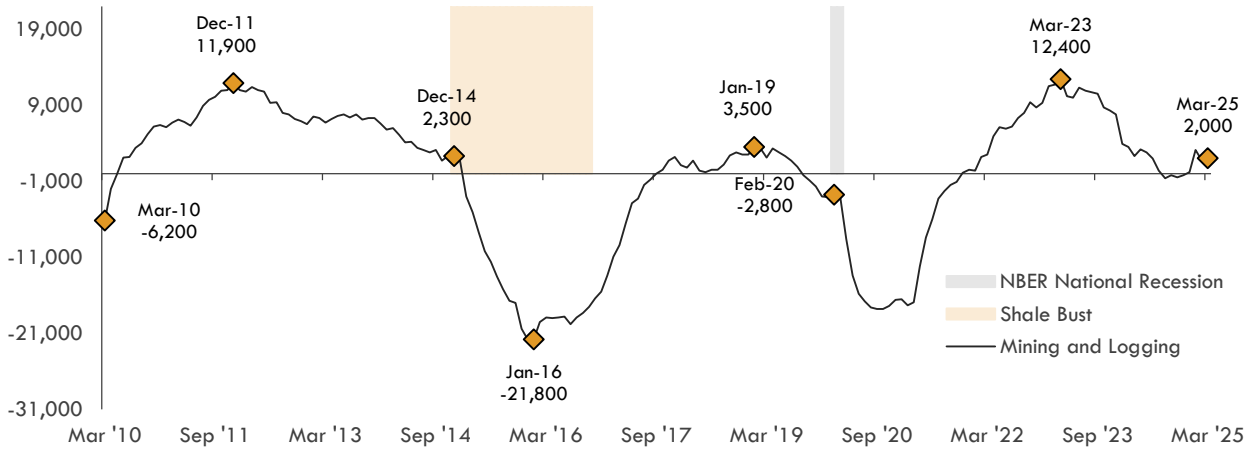


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Mining and Logging was up 2,000 jobs, or 2.6 percent (see Chart 31). Among sectors currently showing growth, this sector is the second-fastest growing in percentage terms across the Houston area. Support Activities for Mining was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 1,000 jobs over the year. The second-largest contributor was Oil and Gas Extraction, which added 900 jobs from March a year ago. Lastly, Other Mining and Logging Undefined contributed, 100 jobs. Total Mining and Logging employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 78,400 jobs by 1,400,

or 1.8 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 2.3 percent over the past year.

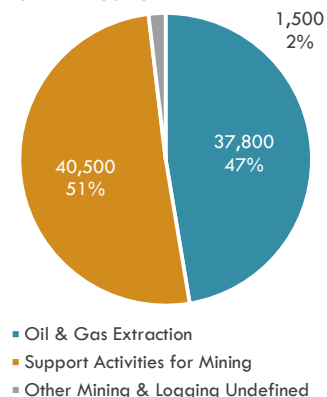
Chart 31. Mining and Logging (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-'10 to Mar-'25



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments extracting naturally occurring minerals such as coal and ores; liquid minerals, such as crude petroleum and natural gas; and timber. Of the three main component industries, Support Activities for Mining accounts for a slight majority of the sector's employment at just over 51 percent (see Chart 32). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Mining and Logging sector is 5.9 times the national average, due to the region's role as a global hub for the oil and gas industry.

Chart 32. Employment in Component Industries of Mining and Logging Sector - March 2025

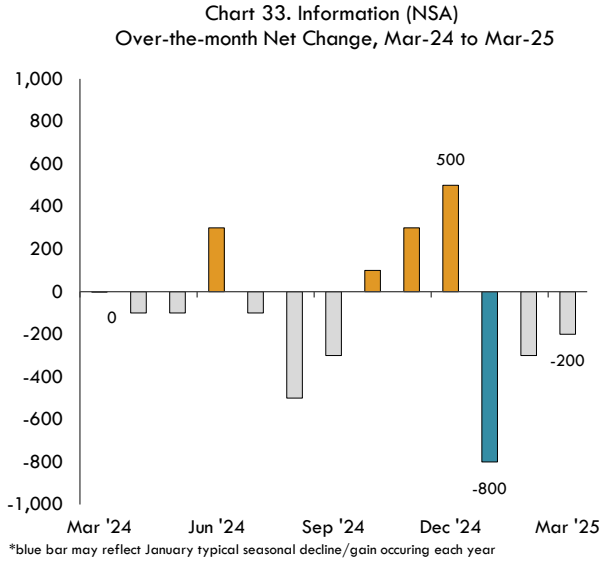


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Information

Over-the-month Change

Information also saw a decrease over the month down -200 jobs, or -0.7 (see Chart 33). Historically in the month of March, Information has seen no change in jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are on par with the long-term average. Other Information Undefined was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -200 jobs over the month. One component industry, Telecommunications, saw no change from February to March. Information employment saw no revision from January to February leaving the previous month's original decrease of -300 intact.

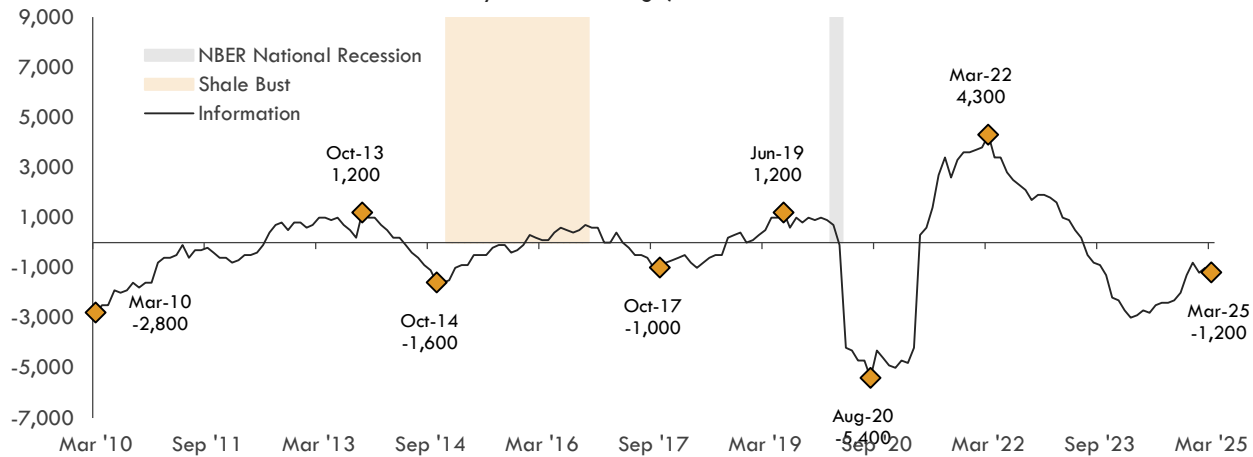


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Information was down -1,200 jobs, or -4.0 percent (see Chart 34). Among sectors currently showing contraction, this sector is the fastest declining in percentage terms across the Houston area. Furthermore, 21.4 percent of total (gross) jobs lost across the region over the past year can be attributed to Information. Telecommunications was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -800 jobs over the year. The second-largest declining contributor was Other Information Undefined, which lost -400 jobs from March a year ago. Total Information employment (NSA) remains -3,600 jobs,

or -11.0 percent below its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 32,700. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 0.9 percent over the past year.

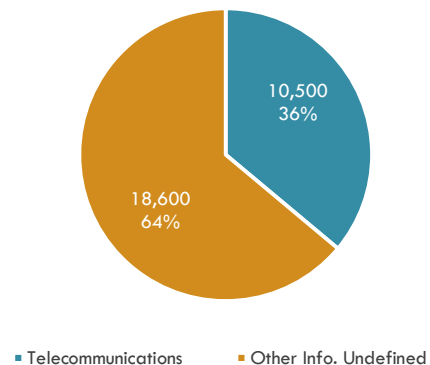
Chart 34. Information (NSA)  
Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-10 to Mar-25



About This Sector

This sector comprises establishments producing and distributing information and cultural products, e.g. traditional and online news publishing; software publishing; the motion picture and sound recording; TV broadcasting; and telecommunications. Of the two main component industries, Other Information Undefined accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 64 percent (see Chart 35). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Information sector is 54 percent less than the national average.

Chart 35. Employment in Component Industries of Information Sector - March 2025

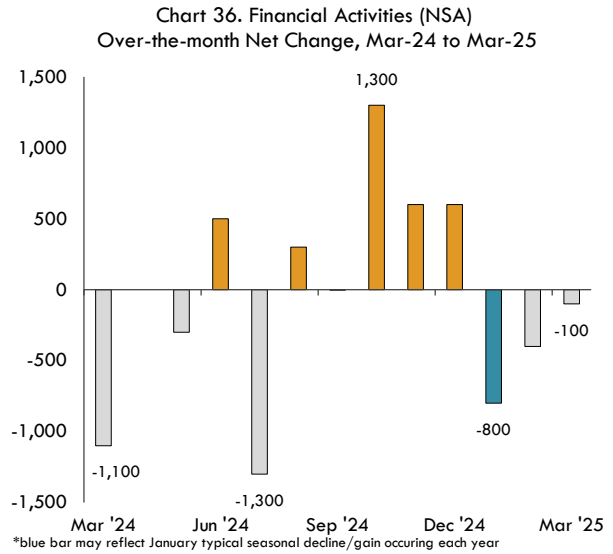


DECLINING INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Activities

Over-the-month Change

Financial Activities also saw a decrease over the month down -100 jobs, or -0.1 (see Chart 36). Historically in the month of March, Financial Activities has added an average of 300 jobs over the month, which indicates that this month's losses are moderately in contrast to the long-term average gain. Finance and Insurance was the largest contributor to the overall sector's decline, down -200 jobs over the month. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, which gained 100 jobs from February to March. Financial Activities employment was revised downward by -300 jobs for a January to February larger net loss of -400 compared to an original estimate of -100 jobs.

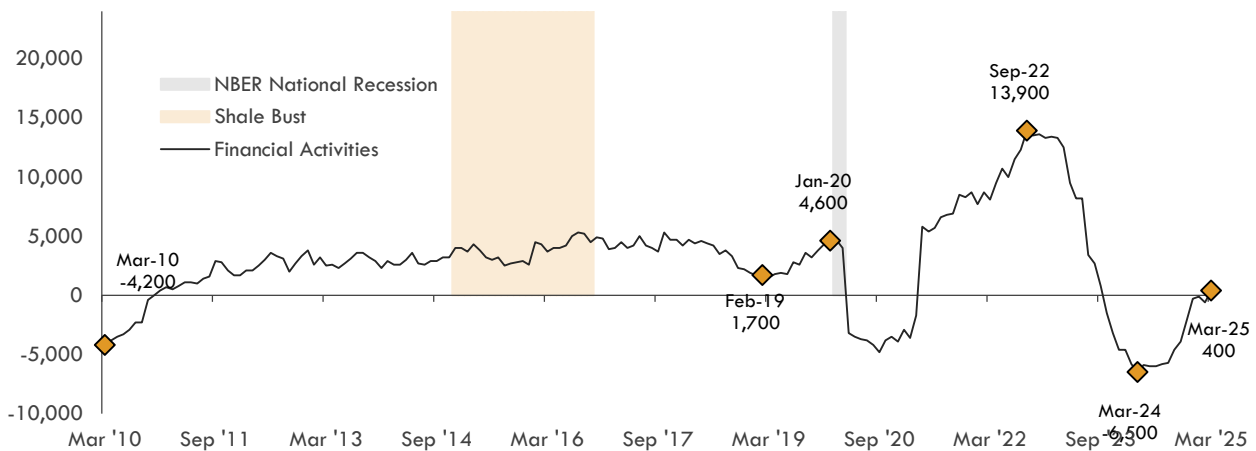


Over-the-year Change

Year over year, Financial Activities was up 400 jobs, or 0.2 percent (see Chart 37). This was the largest over-the-year gain since September 2023's increase of 800 jobs. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing was the largest contributor to the overall sector's increase, up 500 jobs over the year. One component industry that provided a partial offset was Finance and Insurance, which lost -100 jobs from March a year ago. Total Financial Activities employment (NSA) now exceeds its February 2020 pre-pandemic level of 169,200 jobs by 11,900, or 7.0 percent. At the same time, the sector's share of Houston area Total

Nonfarm Employment has remained constant at 5.3 percent over the past year.

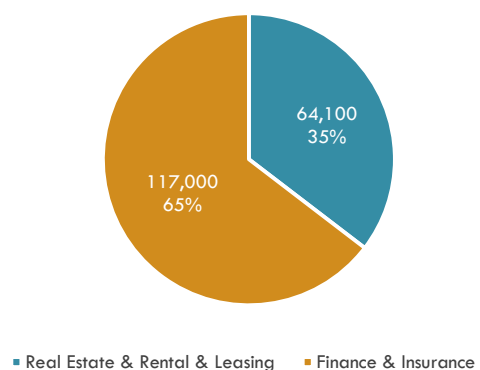
Chart 37. Financial Activities (NSA) Over-the-year Net Change, Mar-10 to Mar-25



About This Sector

This sector is composed of establishments renting, leasing, or allowing use of assets, and financial transactions such as creation, liquidation, or change in ownership of financial assets, underwriting of insurance, and annuities. Of the two main component industries, Finance and Insurance accounts for the majority of the sector's employment at 65 percent (see Chart 38). Across the Houston MSA, the concentration of jobs in the overall Financial Activities sector is 10 percent less than the national average, due to a 20-percent lower concentration in Finance and Insurance offsetting a 19-percent higher concentration in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing.

Chart 38. Employment in Component Industries of Financial Activities Sector - March 2025



## Local Area Unemployment Statistics

### Not-Seasonally Adjusted

#### Houston Metro, Texas, and U.S. Unemployment

The Houston MSA (not-seasonally-adjusted) unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent in March, down from February's 4.5 percent and up from 4.1 percent a year ago. This was above the statewide rate of 4.0 percent and the same as the national rate. An over-the-month decline in March is typical having occurred roughly 70 percent of the time over the past three decades 163,231 individuals were unemployed in Houston in March, down from February's 174,521 and up from 156,194 in March 2024 (see Charts 39 and 40).

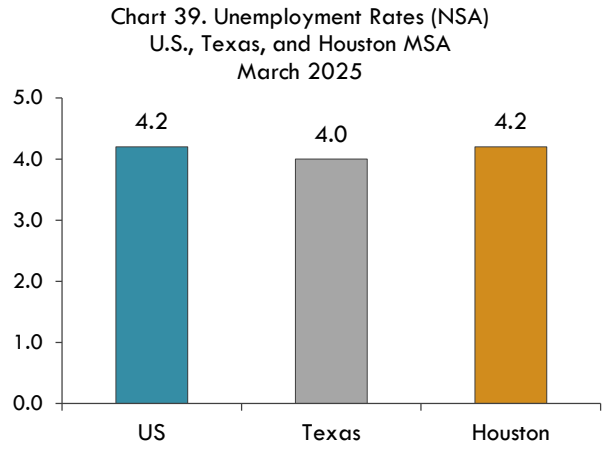
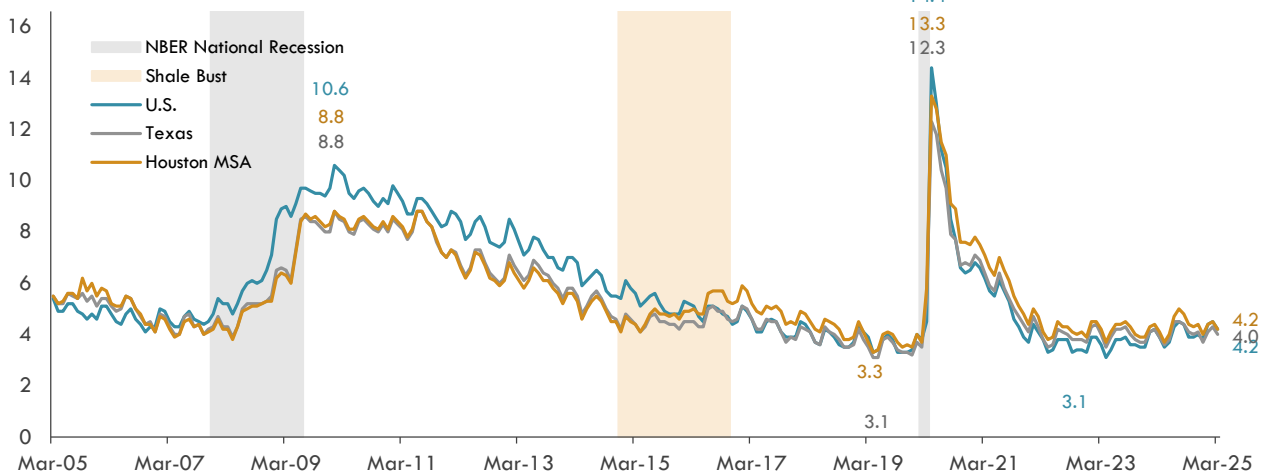


Chart 40. Unemployment Rates U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA (NSA) March 2005 to March 2025

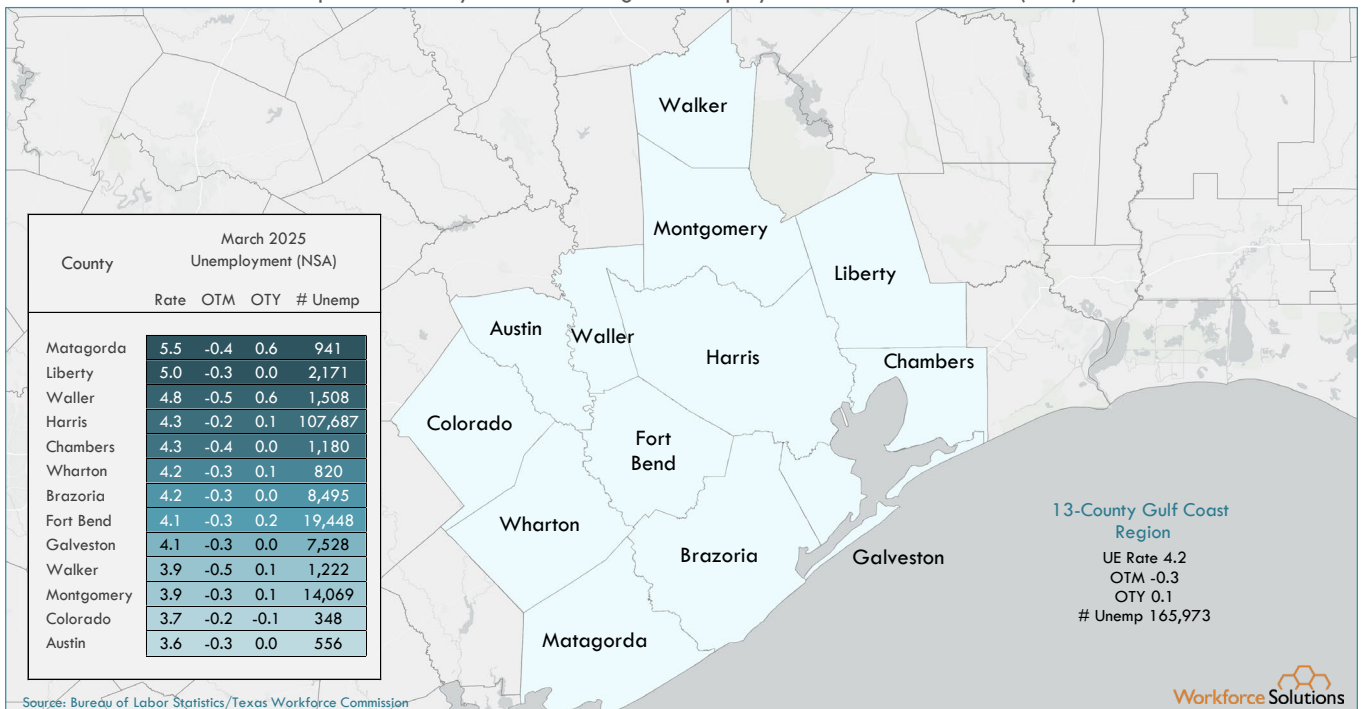


### County-level Unemployment

Among the 13 counties that comprise the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area, unemployment rates in March ranged from a high of 5.5 percent in Matagorda County to a low of 3.6 percent in Austin. Over the month, all 13 counties saw their unemployment rates decline in keeping with the region-wide decrease of -0.3 percentage points. Walker saw the largest percentage-point decrease in unemployment down -0.5 pp. representing -158 fewer unemployed workers compared to the previous month. This was followed by Waller (-0.5 pp, -154 workers) and Chambers (-0.4 pp, -97 workers). Over the year

unemployment rates rose with, Matagorda posting the largest increase, up 0.6 percentage points representing 124 more unemployed workers compared to a year ago followed by Waller (0.6 pp, 216 workers) and Fort Bend (0.2 pp, 1,236 workers). Since peaking at 448,855 in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the number of unemployed workers in the Gulf Coast Region has fallen by -282,882 as of this March (see Map 1 legend).

Map 1. 13-County Gulf Coast Region Unemployment Rates March 2025 (NSA)



## Local Area Unemployment Statistics (continued)

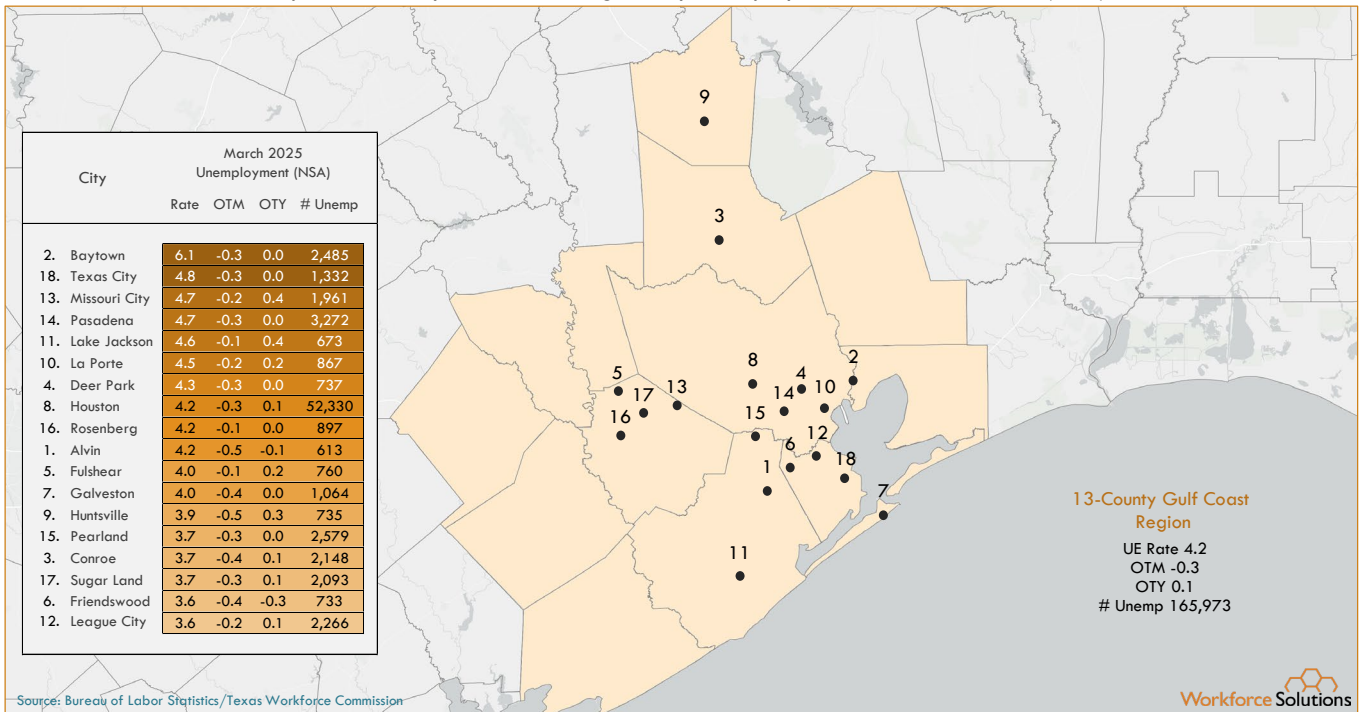
### Not-Seasonally Adjusted

#### Unemployment Rates for Select Municipalities

Among the 18 cities in the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area for which Local Area Unemployment Statistics are available, unemployment rates in March ranged from a high of 6.1 percent in Baytown to a low of 3.6 percent in League City (see Map 2 legend). Over the month, all 18 cities saw their unemployment rates decline in keeping with region-wide decrease of -0.3 percentage points. Huntsville saw the largest percentage-point decrease in unemployment down -0.5 pp. representing -116 fewer unemployed workers compared to the previous month.

This was followed by Alvin (-0.5 pp, -67 workers) and Conroe (-0.4 pp, -195 workers). Over the year unemployment rates rose with, Missouri City posting the largest increase, up 0.4 percentage points representing 193 more unemployed workers compared to a year ago followed by Lake Jackson (0.4 pp, 77 workers) and Huntsville (0.3 pp, 63 workers). The 18 cities below accounted for 47 percent of the 165,973 unemployed workers across the Gulf Coast Region as of this March (see Map 2 legend).

Map 2. 13-County Gulf Coast Region City Unemployment Rates March 2025 (NSA)



### Seasonally Adjusted

Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics 'Due to methodological changes and conversion to the 2020-based Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delineations, smoothed seasonally adjusted data for metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions will not be updated in conjunction with the January, February, or March 2025 news releases, and may not become available again until a few months thereafter.

Chart 41. Unemployment Rates (SA)  
 U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA  
 February 2025

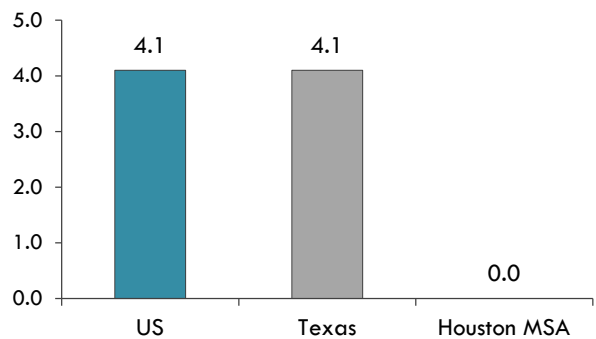
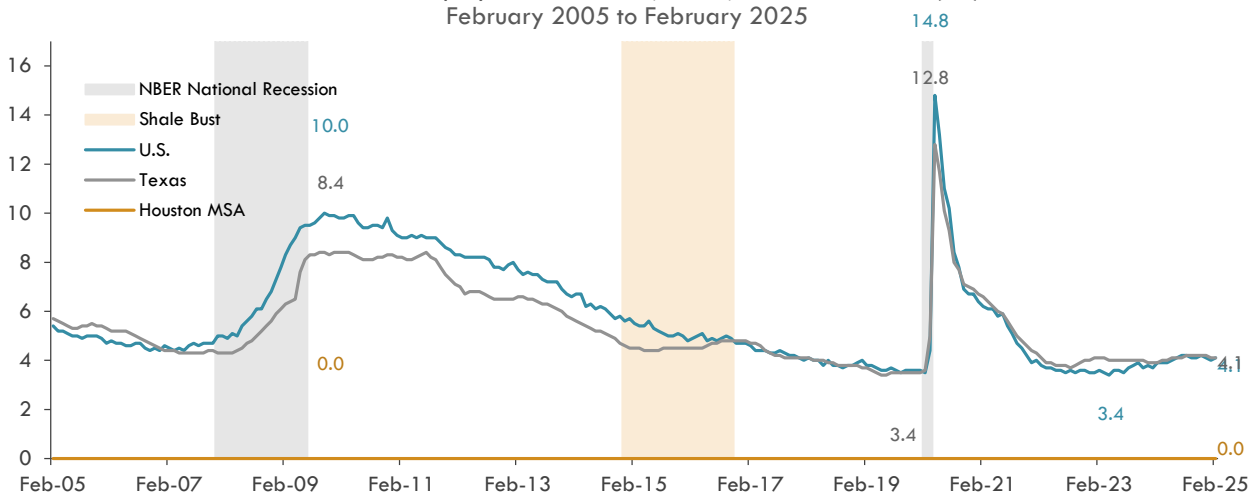


Chart 42. Unemployment Rates U.S., Texas, and Houston MSA (SA)  
 February 2005 to February 2025





### Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index (WSI)



#### The Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions Index (WSI)

The WSI is an indicator designed to capture shifts in the local labor market, specifically the balance between available jobs and unemployed workers at a given point in time. Values above 4.0 signal a surplus of jobs while values less than 4.0 signal a surplus of jobseekers. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board monitors the WSI as part of its ongoing review of the region's unemployment insurance work search requirement and reserves the right to adjust the number of weekly job search contacts as labor market conditions warrant. In the event of change to the work search requirement, the Board will notify the Texas Workforce Commission who will in turn notify UI recipients.

WSI Reading  
March  
2025:  
Not Available

The Workforce Solutions Index will resume publication once seasonally-adjusted unemployment statistics for the Houston metropolitan area become available.

Source(s): Emsi-Burning Glass and BLS/TWC - LAUS  
Note: data subject to revisions.



#### Workforce Solutions Index March 2025

See note above regarding temporary suspension of the Workforce Solutions Index.



# Houston Area Employment Situation

March 2025

Table 1. Houston MSA Sectors and Major Industry Subcomponents

NAICS Industry	Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	Monthly	Monthly	Yearly	Yearly %
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>3,459,400</b>	<b>3,453,700</b>	<b>3,423,100</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>36,300</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Total Private	2,986,800	2,983,700	2,959,900	3,100	0.1%	26,900	0.9%
Goods Producing	553,900	552,300	549,500	1,600	0.3%	4,400	0.8%
<b>.Mining and Logging</b>	<b>79,800</b>	<b>80,200</b>	<b>77,800</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
...Oil and Gas Extraction	37,800	37,800	36,900	0	0.0%	900	2.4%
...Support Activities for Mining	40,500	40,900	39,500	-400	-1.0%	1,000	2.5%
<b>.Construction</b>	<b>234,500</b>	<b>233,200</b>	<b>233,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
..Construction of Buildings	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
..Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	56,500	56,000	56,600	500	0.9%	-100	-0.2%
..Specialty Trade Contractors	118,000	117,200	116,700	800	0.7%	1,300	1.1%
<b>.Manufacturing</b>	<b>239,600</b>	<b>238,900</b>	<b>238,400</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
..Durable Goods	147,900	147,900	148,400	0	0.0%	-500	-0.3%
...Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	54,000	54,000	53,700	0	0.0%	300	0.6%
...Machinery Manufacturing	39,900	39,900	40,300	0	0.0%	-400	-1.0%
....Agriculture, Construction, and Mining Machinery Mfg.	20,100	20,000	20,500	100	0.5%	-400	-2.0%
...Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	14,200	14,200	14,100	0	0.0%	100	0.7%
..Non-Durable Goods	91,700	91,000	90,000	700	0.8%	1,700	1.9%
...Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	8,100	8,100	8,000	0	0.0%	100	1.3%
...Chemical Manufacturing	43,900	43,700	42,900	200	0.5%	1,000	2.3%
Service Providing	2,905,500	2,901,400	2,873,600	4,100	0.1%	31,900	1.1%
.Private Service Providing	2,432,900	2,431,400	2,410,400	1,500	0.1%	22,500	0.9%
<b>..Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>699,200</b>	<b>699,900</b>	<b>690,300</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
...Wholesale Trade	181,000	180,800	177,700	200	0.1%	3,300	1.9%
....Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	112,700	112,400	110,800	300	0.3%	1,900	1.7%
.....Prof. and Commercial Equip. Supplies Wholesalers	18,100	18,100	18,300	0	0.0%	-200	-1.1%
....Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	56,100	56,100	55,300	0	0.0%	800	1.4%
...Retail Trade	320,400	320,200	318,800	200	0.1%	1,600	0.5%
....Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	45,700	45,500	44,600	200	0.4%	1,100	2.5%
....Bldg. Material and Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers	23,900	23,300	24,600	600	2.6%	-700	-2.8%
....Food and Beverage Stores	78,000	78,100	76,900	-100	-0.1%	1,100	1.4%
....Health and Personal Care Stores	62,200	62,300	62,400	-100	-0.2%	-200	-0.3%
....Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	20,300	20,400	20,400	-100	-0.5%	-100	-0.5%
....General Merchandise Stores	41,900	41,900	42,000	0	0.0%	-100	-0.2%
....Department Stores	21,600	21,600	21,800	0	0.0%	-200	-0.9%
.....Other General Merchandise Stores	24,800	25,100	25,000	-300	-1.2%	-200	-0.8%
...Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	197,800	198,900	193,800	-1,100	-0.6%	4,000	2.1%
....Utilities	24,900	24,700	23,900	200	0.8%	1,000	4.2%
.....Air Transportation	21,900	21,700	22,000	200	0.9%	-100	-0.5%
.....Truck Transportation	31,000	31,000	30,400	0	0.0%	600	2.0%
.....Pipeline Transportation	14,400	14,300	13,600	100	0.7%	800	5.9%
<b>..Information</b>	<b>29,100</b>	<b>29,300</b>	<b>30,300</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>
...Telecommunications	10,500	10,500	11,300	0	0.0%	-800	-7.1%
<b>..Financial Activities</b>	<b>181,100</b>	<b>181,200</b>	<b>180,700</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
...Finance and Insurance	117,000	117,200	117,100	-200	-0.2%	-100	-0.1%
....Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	46,200	46,300	46,100	-100	-0.2%	100	0.2%
....Depository Credit Intermediation	30,800	30,900	30,700	-100	-0.3%	100	0.3%
....Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Fin. Investments	21,400	21,500	21,200	-100	-0.5%	200	0.9%
....Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	49,400	49,400	49,800	0	0.0%	-400	-0.8%
...Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	64,100	64,000	63,600	100	0.2%	500	0.8%
<b>..Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>556,600</b>	<b>560,800</b>	<b>561,000</b>	<b>-4,200</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>-4,400</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
...Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	282,700	286,400	277,900	-3,700	-1.3%	4,800	1.7%
....Legal Services	33,400	33,700	32,300	-300	-0.9%	1,100	3.4%
....Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll	28,600	28,900	29,900	-300	-1.0%	-1,300	-4.3%
....Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	78,400	79,300	74,800	-900	-1.1%	3,600	4.8%
....Computer Systems Design and Related Services	42,500	43,000	42,100	-500	-1.2%	400	1.0%
...Management of Companies and Enterprises	46,900	47,000	47,200	-100	-0.2%	-300	-0.6%
...Admin. and Support and Waste Mgmt. and Remediation	227,000	227,400	235,900	-400	-0.2%	-8,900	-3.8%
....Administrative and Support Services	214,300	214,700	223,300	-400	-0.2%	-9,000	-4.0%
....Employment Services	75,400	77,100	82,900	-1,700	-2.2%	-7,500	-9.0%
....Services to Buildings and Dwellings	55,800	55,800	55,000	0	0.0%	800	1.5%
<b>..Educational and Health Services</b>	<b>466,300</b>	<b>464,600</b>	<b>455,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
...Educational Services	73,000	73,500	71,900	-500	-0.7%	1,100	1.5%
...Health Care and Social Assistance	393,300	391,100	383,800	2,200	0.6%	9,500	2.5%
....Ambulatory Health Care Services	197,900	197,300	192,400	600	0.3%	5,500	2.9%
....Hospitals	100,200	99,700	98,200	500	0.5%	2,000	2.0%
<b>..Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>364,300</b>	<b>361,200</b>	<b>362,000</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
...Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	41,800	40,800	40,800	1,000	2.5%	1,000	2.5%
...Accommodation and Food Services	322,500	320,400	321,200	2,100	0.7%	1,300	0.4%
....Accommodation	27,700	27,600	27,000	100	0.4%	700	2.6%
....Food Services and Drinking Places	294,800	292,800	294,200	2,000	0.7%	600	0.2%
<b>..Other Services</b>	<b>136,300</b>	<b>134,400</b>	<b>130,400</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>472,600</b>	<b>470,000</b>	<b>463,200</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
.Federal Government	37,400	37,600	36,500	-200	-0.5%	900	2.5%
.State Government	100,800	100,700	97,400	100	0.1%	3,400	3.5%
...State Government Educational Services	54,600	54,600	53,300	0	0.0%	1,300	2.4%
.Local Government	323,300	329,200	321,800	-5,900	-1.8%	1,500	0.5%
..Local Government Educational Services	220,400	225,200	222,400	-4,800	-2.1%	-2,000	-0.9%