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PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION SEE ROBUST GROWTH IN NOVEMBER

(HOUSTON, TX) Houston-area employers added 13,300 new jobs in November, well above the pre-pandemic long-term average according to numbers released this morning by Workforce Solutions. Seasonal hiring in the Trade, Transportation and Utilities sector led all sectors for the month, posting a respectable 7,900 jobs in the combined retail (+ 5,600) and logistics (+2,500) subsectors, which was partially offset by a decline of 200 jobs in the wholesale trade subsector.

“Retail and logistics came in a bit light this November, especially compared to the last few years, but I’m not surprised to see pandemic rebound momentum starting to fade some,” explained Parker Harvey, Manager for Regional Economic Analysis at the workforce development agency. Government sector payrolls grew by 4,300, driven primarily by hiring at public schools (+2,400) and universities (+500) as is typical each November despite being more than three months into the academic year.

“The real surprise, though, is the strength of the Professional and Business Services sector, which saw a major revision in October from a loss of 700 to a gain of 900 jobs, and on top of that added more than 2,200 jobs in November giving it a much needed boost as we approach the end of the year.”

The unadjusted Unemployment Rate for November fell below 4.0 percent last month to 3.8 percent, bucking the long term average of higher unemployment for that month. September’s seasonally adjusted rate also ticked lower by one-tenth of a point to 4.4 percent, bringing it closer in line to statewide and national unemployment levels of 4.1 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively.

Additional labor market information, including the detailed November report can be found online at www.wrksolutions.com/localstats. The Texas Workforce Commission will release December employment data on January 19, 2024.

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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