



Gulf Coast Workforce Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNEMPLOYMENT SEES TYPICAL JUNE INCREASE WHILE JOB GROWTH MODERATES;
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS OFFERING CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE FOR UP TO 90 DAYS**

(HOUSTON) The Houston-area unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percent in June mainly driven by typical seasonal job losses related to the end of the school year, according to numbers released this morning by Workforce Solutions. The Houston area saw a modest 6,500 new jobs added last month, mostly in Leisure & Hospitality which hired 13,700 people or nearly four times a typical June. Partially offsetting gains this month were expected seasonal job losses in public education along with declines in Mining and Logging and Construction.

“Since the beginning of the year, we’ve experienced five months of positive job growth in the Houston area although June’s number came in about half of what we expected,” said Parker Harvey, an economist with Workforce Solutions. “Regardless, the region has gained back approximately 55 percent of the jobs lost during the shutdown last year with some sectors like Leisure and Hospitality recovering nearly all jobs lost over March and April 2020. This suggests people are more comfortable dining out, participating in recreation, and traveling.”

On June 26, the State of Texas ended participation in the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Benefits Program. As more people look for a new or better job, Workforce Solutions is offering financial aid for childcare for up to 90 days to help parents look for work. “We believe in families, and we are committed to our local economy,” said Michelle Castrow a manager with the regional workforce development agency. “We hope that these short-term childcare scholarships can help people get back to work.” She pointed out that income guidelines for the program will give families that extra assistance. “For example, a family of four with an income of less than \$4,000 in June will qualify and so will single parents earning less than \$2,800. Eligibility guidelines and the application can be found at www.wrksolutions.com/childcare.

Additional labor market information including the detailed June report can be found at wrksolutions.com/localstats. The Texas Workforce Commission will release employment data for July on August 20, 2021.

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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

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the Texas Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network to maintain the state's largest job-match database - WorkInTexas.com.

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