



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)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Michelle Castrow  
713.826.6597  
[michelle.castrow@wrksolutions.com](mailto:michelle.castrow@wrksolutions.com)

**EMPLOYMENT RISES SLIGHTLY IN SEPTEMBER**

*Service Industry workers eligible for childcare scholarship from Workforce Solutions*

(HOUSTON) Privately-owned companies in the Houston area hired nearly 5,000 people in September according to numbers released this morning by Workforce Solutions. Cyclical hiring in local government tacked on an additional 22,500 jobs as educators and support staff returned to the classrooms, for a total net gain of 27,300 jobs.

“We always see what appears to be a rather robust month of job growth in September due to the rehiring of public school and university staff furloughed during the summer months; but when we remove this sector, overall hiring was rather weak,” said Workforce Solutions principal economist Parker Harvey, noting that employment in August was revised downward by 3,200 versus the original estimate of 4,800.

Unemployment in the Houston area fell by 0.6% in September to a not-seasonally adjusted average of 5.5%.

Service industry workers, including those employed by restaurants and bars, retailers, and the entertainment and recreation industry, are now eligible for a scholarship that covers a full year of childcare expenses. “We want to give a boost to those businesses struggling to recruit and retain workers,” said Michelle Castrow, a manager at the regional workforce development agency. The childcare scholarship will help workers maximize earnings. To see if you qualify, visit [www.wrksolutions.com/childcare](http://www.wrksolutions.com/childcare).

The tenth annual Workforce Solutions Hiring Red, White & You job fair returns Thursday, November 4 through Sunday, November 7. It’s the second year the event is being held in a virtual-only format. Hiring Red, White & You connects veterans, their families, and other qualified candidates with employers throughout 13-county Gulf Coast region. For more information and to register, visit [www.wrksolutions.com/hrwy](http://www.wrksolutions.com/hrwy).

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

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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 - WorkInTexas.com.

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