



UPDATE

EMPLOYMENT

The Partnership sends updates for the most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

June 19, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

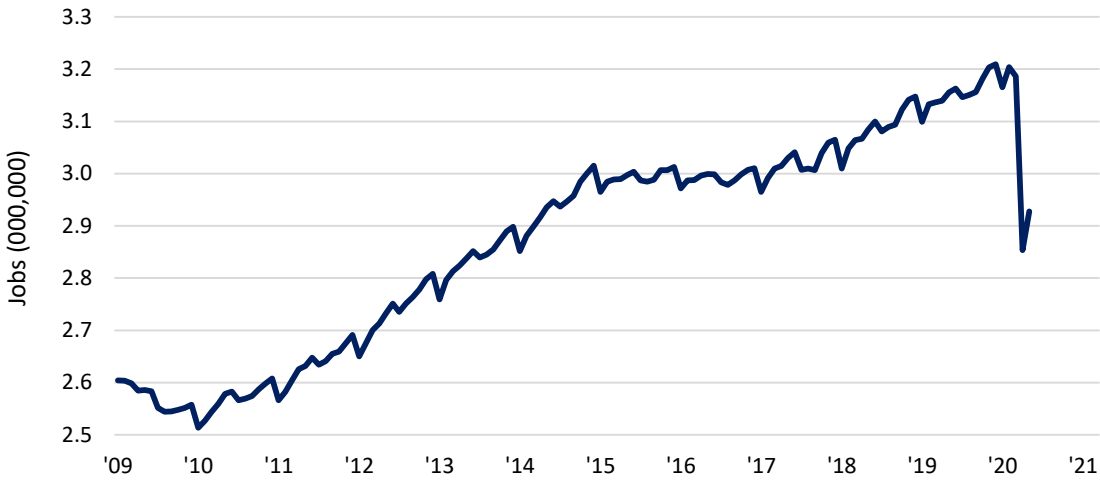
Metro Houston area added 73,800 jobs in May, a record for any month in Houston. The jump came as Governor Greg Abbott issued orders reopening the state’s economy early in the month. Despite the surge, local employment remains 276,400 jobs below its February pre-COVID level. The largest job gains occurred in accommodation and food services, retail and health care. Mining and logging (energy), professional, scientific and technical services, other services, and government continued to lose jobs. Only finance and insurance has returned to its pre-COVID employment level.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON METRO HOUSTON PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT

| EMPLOYMENT SECTOR | Losses March + April | May Gains or Losses | Gap from Pre-COVID Level |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total Nonfarm | -350,200 | 73,800 | -276,400 |
| Mining and Logging | -8,500 | -6,400 | -14,900 |
| Construction | -31,300 | 8,100 | -23,200 |
| Manufacturing | -13,300 | -800 | -14,100 |
| Wholesale Trade | -17,000 | 1,700 | -15,300 |
| Retail Trade | -27,700 | 11,300 | -16,400 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | -3,700 | 1,000 | -2,700 |
| Information | -3,100 | -200 | -3,300 |
| Finance and Insurance | -400 | 500 | 100 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | -5,000 | 1,900 | -3,100 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | -8,800 | -4,400 | -13,200 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | -4,500 | 300 | -4,200 |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management | -13,700 | 5,400 | -8,300 |
| Educational Services | -5,800 | 0 | -5,800 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | -41,000 | 24,500 | -16,500 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | -110,900 | 37,400 | -73,500 |
| Other Services | -27,400 | -800 | -28,200 |
| Government | -10,100 | -8,100 | -18,200 |

Source: Partnership calculations based on Texas Workforce Commission

Metro Houston Nonfarm Employment*



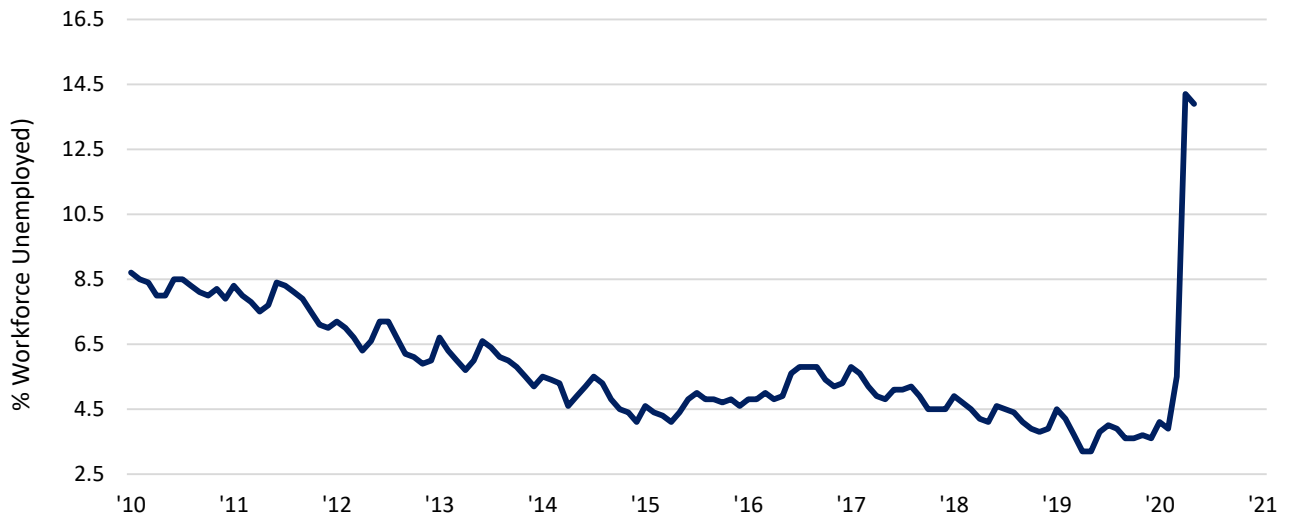
Source: Texas Workforce Commission

* not seasonally adjusted

UNEMPLOYMENT

The region's unemployment rate improved from 14.2 in April to 13.9 in May. It had been as low as 3.9 percent in February. Houston's labor force has shrunk by nearly 170,000 workers since February. If those workers were counted among the unemployed, Houston's rate would approach 20 percent.

Houston Unemployment Rate*



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

* not seasonally adjusted

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research

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