THE ECONOMY AT A GLANCE HOUSTON



A publication of the Greater Houston Partnership

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GLIDING TO A SOFT LANDING

The U.S. economy continues its glide path to a soft landing, not the crash-and-burn that so many expected this year.

The nation added 187,000 jobs in August and an average of 236,000 per month this year. That's a more sustainable rate than the monthly average of 399,000 jobs in '22 and 606,000 in '21. August's growth is also more in line with that of '19, when gains averaged 163,000 per month.



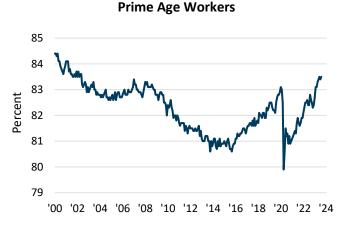
U.S. PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT GAINS (000s)

The unemployment rate rose from 3.5 percent in July to 3.8 in August. This was due to more Americans seeking work, not a surge in layoffs. Last month, 736,000 Americans entered the workforce, the biggest bump since January of this year.

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The labor force participation rate (LFPR) rose from 62.6 percent to 62.8 percent. This is the highest it's been post-pandemic. After a dip in July, the LFPR for prime-aged workers, those between 25 and 54, returned to 82.5 percent. That's the highest it's been since March '02.

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The number of job openings has declined significantly. There were 8.8 million unfilled positions in July, down from a peak of 12.0 million in March '22. "Quits," also known as "voluntary separations," or more colloquially "job hopping," have fallen to the lowest level since February '21. The drop in openings and quits should ease pressure on wages and inflation.



U.S. JOB OPENINGS

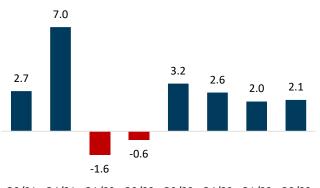
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Bureau of Economic Analysis reported the economy grew 2.1 percent in Q2/23 adjusted for inflation. In the ten years prior to the pandemic, growth averaged 2.3 percent per quarter. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta estimates U.S. GDP is currently growing at a 5.6 percent annual rate, but that's likely to be revised downward as additional economic data becomes available.



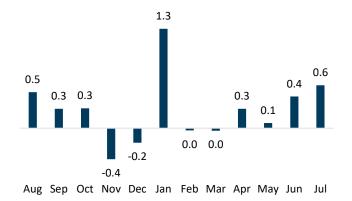
Compounded Annual Rate, Seasonally Adjusted



Q3/21 Q4/21 Q1/22 Q2/22 Q3/22 Q4/22 Q1/23 Q2/23

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

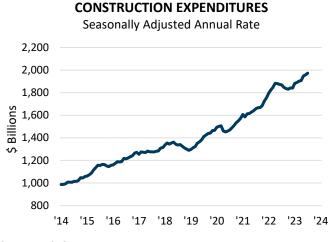
Consumer spending, which accounts for roughly twothirds of all economic activity, rose 0.6 percent in July adjusted for inflation. Households spent more on recreational goods, dining out, hotels, financial services, housing, and utilities. Consumer Spending has risen in 20 of the last 24 months.

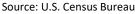


% CHANGE IN CONSUMER SPENDING*

* Seasonally adjusted after accounting for inflation. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

During the first seven months of this year, construction spending totaled \$1.101 trillion, 3.7 percent above the \$1.062 billion for the same period in '22. At an annual rate, construction spending is up 5.5 percent over this time last year.





The U.S. economy is facing a few headwinds. The last week of August, the interest rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage hit 7.18 percent. This has begun to weigh on home purchases. Existing home sales were down 16.6 percent in July '23 compared to July '22.

The Purchasing Manager Index (PMI) for Manufacturing registered 47.6 in July and has tracked below 50 for ten consecutive months. Readings below signify contraction. However, the Services PMI registered 52.7 and continues to signal expansion in that sector of the economy.

The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation indicator, Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) Price Index, rose at a 3.3 percent annual rate in June. Core PCE, which excludes food and energy, rose 4.2 percent, suggesting the Fed may need to continue raising interest rates to bring inflation closer to the bank's 2.0 percent target.

HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL IMPACT

The Houston Ship Channel supported 1.5 million Texas jobs in '22. That's a bump of nearly 190,000 since '18. In addition, the channel created \$439.2 billion in economic value and generated \$10.6 billion in state and local tax revenues.

Those are the results of a recent study conducted by Martin Associates on behalf of the Port of Houston Authority. The study is based on interviews with nearly 1,000 firms that provide services to the cargo and vessels handled at terminals along the channel.

The study identifies four categories of jobs supported by channel actvities:

 Direct jobs created by marine and cargo activity like railroads and trucking companies moving cargo between warehouses and terminals, longshoremen and dockworkers, steamship agents, freight forwarders, and stevedores.

- Indirect jobs supported by the purchase of goods and services dealing with channel businesses. This includes jobs with office supply firms, maintenance and repair firms, and professional service firms.
- Induced jobs created by individuals employed in channel activities as they spend their wages on local goods and services, and
- *Related jobs* tied to the importing and exporting of goods that use the ship channel, *e.g.*, a manufacturer's exports or a retailer's imports.

| BY THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|--|--|
| | Public Terminals | Private Terminals | Total | | |
| | Jobs | | | | |
| Direct | 30,161 | 48,148 | 78,308 | | |
| Induced | 52,705 | 85,456 | 138,161 | | |
| Indirect | 26,494 | 42,294 | 68,787 | | |
| Subtotal | 109,360 | 175,897 | 285,257 | | |
| Related | 870,135 | 385,025 | 1,255,160 | | |
| Total | 979,495 | 560,922 | 1,540,417 | | |
| | Personal Income | (Millions) | | | |
| Total | 81,298 | 40,829 | 122,128 | | |
| | Economic Value | (Millions) | | | |
| Total | 261,953 | 177,264 | 439,218 | | |
| State/Local Taxes (Millions) | | | | | |
| Total | 7,073 | 3,552 | 10,625 | | |

STATEWIDE IMPACTS GENERATED BY THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL

Source: 2022 Economic Impact of Marine Cargo Activity at the Houston Ship Channel, Martin Associates.

NEW NAME FOR HOUSTON

Houston has gone by many nicknames over the years.

- In the 1870s, Houston was the "Magnolia City," named after the forest that once covered much of what's now East End.
- Early in the twentieth century, the bayous that crisscrossed the city—Buffalo, Brays, Sims, White Oak earned Houston the nickname "The Bayou City."
- In the '60s, as the focal point of the nation's astronaut training and manned space flight operations, Houston became "Space City, USA." We still are.
- During the boom of the '70s, Houston was the "Golden Buckle of the Sunbelt."
- After the Houston Rockets' come-from-behind victories in the '94 and '95 National Basketball Association Championships, we became "Clutch City."
- The media anointed Houston the "City with the Big Heart" after we took in more than 150,000 refugees from New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
- And for decades, Houston has been the "Energy Capital of the World."

In July, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) gave Houston a new name. The region is no longer the "Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area." We're now the "Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands Metropolitan Statistical Area."

Every ten years, OMB examines commuting patterns and economic ties in nation's 3,244 counties and county equivalents and 387 metro areas. OMB's recent review returned San Jacinto County to the Houston MSA. It was dropped in '13. The population for San Jacinto stood at 28,348 on July 1, 2022, so it only boosts the metro areas population by about 0.4 percent.

For a city to be included in an MSA's name, it must be the most populous city in the region or have strong commuter ties. OMB doesn't provide explanations for why a specific city is dropped and another added to a metro area's name.

For the record, the ten counties that now comprise the Houston MSA are Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller. With the addition of San Jacinto, the metro area's population is 7,368,466 as of July 1, 2023.

METRO EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

Metro Houston lost 16,100 jobs in July, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The region always sheds workers in the month as schools are closed for the summer and teacher contracts expire. Prior to the pandemic, overall losses for July ranged from 5,400 to 33,100, with 17,800 being the average.

This year's education-related losses (24,400 jobs) were a bit excessive. The average loss over the past 10 years had been 16,600 jobs. July's education losses were partially offset by a gain of 6,500 private sector jobs:

- Health care continued to expand, benefitting from Houston's steady population growth.
- Construction fared well. The City of Houston reports permit activity is up year to date and Dodge Data reports an uptick in construction contract awards over the past three months.
- Although manufacturing component of the Houston Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) registered 47.0 in July, indicated the sector is struggling, local manufacturers continued to hire.
- Finance and insurance, real estate/equipment leasing, retail, and wholesale trade continue to track the region's overall growth.

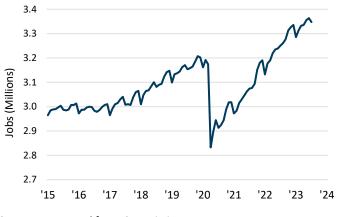
HOUSTON EMPLOYMENT SECTORS With Greatest Gains/Losses, July '23

| Sector | Gains | Sector | Losses | | |
|--|-------|----------------------|---------|--|--|
| Health Care | 4,800 | Local Education | -21,100 | | |
| Construction | 3,100 | Admin Services | -3,200 | | |
| Finance, Insurance | 1,700 | Restaurants and Bars | -1,200 | | |
| Manufacturing | 1,500 | State Education | -700 | | |
| Real Estate | 1,500 | Private Education | -600 | | |
| Retail | 1,200 | Transportation | -400 | | |
| Wholesale | 600 | Other Services | -400 | | |
| Courses Destroyed in coloridations have done Town Michigan | | | | | |

Source: Partnership calculations based on Texas Workforce Commission data

Since Houston's economy reopened in May '20, the region has added 514,900 jobs, recovering 143.3 percent of the 359,300 lost early in the pandemic. July's education losses should be recouped by September. Unless the region is in a recession, overall growth typically accelerates in October and November. If those patterns hold, local employment should top 3.4 million by the end of the year.

METRO HOUSTON PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT





COST OF LIVING UPDATE

Though Houstonians continue to deal with inflation, they can take some comfort in a recent index that shows the cost of living in Houston remains below that of most major metro areas.

The Q2/23 *Cost of Living Index* published by the Council for Community and Economic found that Houston's living costs are 5.8 percent below the nationwide average and 28.8 percent below the average of the nation's most populous metropolitan areas.

The index is based on quarterly price survey of groceries, health care, housing, utilities, transportation, and miscellaneous services in over 270 urban areas.

COST OF LIVING INDEX, MOST POPULOUS US METROS U.S. Metro Average = 100.0

| U.S. Metro Average = 100.0 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|--|--|--|
| Metro | Index | Metro | Index | | | |
| New York | 225.8 | Dallas | 102.5 | | | |
| San Francisco | 169.6 | Detroit | 101.9 | | | |
| Los Angeles | 148.8 | Philadelphia | 101.7 | | | |
| Washington | 147.8 | Phoenix | 100.6 | | | |
| Boston | 144.5 | Atlanta | 97.3 | | | |
| Seattle | 143.8 | Tampa | 95.1 | | | |
| San Diego | 140.0 | Houston | 94.2 | | | |
| Miami | 117.9 | Minneapolis | 93.2 | | | |
| Chicago | 113.4 | St. Louis | 89.1 | | | |
| Denver | 110.2 | | | | | |

Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), Cost of Living Index, '23 Q2 (Data based on a survey of 265 urban areas, published August '23).

TEXAS OUTLOOK

Texas factory activity contracted in August, retail sales were flat, and service sector activity expanded at a slightly faster pace, according to the *Texas Manufacturing Outlook, Texas Retail Outlook,* and *Texas Service Sector Outlook* surveys by Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Perceptions of business conditions in manufacturing worsened in August, with respondents indicating that new orders, capacity utilization, shipments and capital expenditures were down compared to prior months. Firms reported slower employment growth and shorter work weeks as well. Expectations regarding future manufacturing activity were mixed.

BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO TEXAS MANUFACTURING, AUGUST '23

| | % Firms Reporting | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|--|
| Category | Increase | No Change | Decrease | |
| Production | 22.0 | 44.8 | 33.2 | |
| Capacity Utilization | 23.3 | 49.7 | 27.0 | |
| New Orders | 19.8 | 44.6 | 35.6 | |
| Unfilled Orders | 10.8 | 65.2 | 24.0 | |
| Shipments | 19.2 | 45.7 | 35.0 | |
| Wages and Benefits | 36.4 | 62.1 | 1.5 | |
| Employment | 17.8 | 68.7 | 13.5 | |
| Hours Worked | 15.3 | 65.6 | 19.1 | |
| Capital Expenditures | 12.9 | 65.6 | 21.5 | |

General Business Conditions Improved No Change Worsenii

| | mproved | ite enange | in or setting | | |
|---|---------|------------|---------------|--|--|
| Company Outlook | 11.8 | 58.0 | 30.2 | | |
| Business Conditions | 12.0 | 58.8 | 29.2 | | |
| Source: Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey, Federal Reserve | | | | | |
| Bank of Dallas | | | | | |

Retailers reported flat sales, growing inventories, steady hiring but shorter work weeks in August compared to July. Price and wage pressures increased. Expectations for future retail growth improved.

BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO TEXAS RETAIL, AUGUST '23

| | % Firms Reporting | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|--|
| Category | Increase | No Change | Decrease | |
| Sales | 28.1 | 43.2 | 28.7 | |
| Employment | 17.0 | 69.0 | 14.0 | |
| Hours Worked | 3.3 | 83.3 | 13.4 | |
| Selling Prices | 31.5 | 53.5 | 15.0 | |
| Capital Expenditures | 14.2 | 75.3 | 10.5 | |

| General Business Conditions | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
| | Improved | No Change | Worsening | | |
| Company Outlook | 10.2 | 75.1 | 14.7 | | |
| Business Conditions | 12.8 | 70.4 | 16.8 | | |
| Source: Texas Retail Outlook Survey, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas | | | | | |

Executives responding to the services survey reported increased revenues, steady growth in employment, longer workweeks, and continued wage and price pressures. Their expectations regarding future business activity remained somewhat positive.

BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO TEXAS SERVICES SECTOR, AUGUST '23

| | % Firms Reporting | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|--|
| Category | Increase | No Change | Decrease | |
| Revenue | 32.9 | 50.4 | 16.7 | |
| Employment | 20.4 | 68.5 | 11.1 | |
| Hours Worked | 8.1 | 86.2 | 5.7 | |
| Capital Expenditures 17.0 75.2 7.8 | | | | |
| General Business Conditions | | | | |

| | Improved | No Change | Worsening |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Company Outlook | 12.5 | 73.8 | 13.7 |
| Business Conditions | 15.2 | 66.9 | 17.9 |

Source: Texas Service Sector Outlook Survey, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

MIGRATION UPDATE

For the past seven years, more residents have moved out of Harris County than moved in from elsewhere in the U.S. Demographers sometimes refer to this as "negative domestic migration." If not for international migration and a high birth rate, Harris County's population would be shrinking. The last time Harris County saw significant relocations from other parts of the U.S. was at the height of the Fracking Boom, an event unlikely to be repeated.

RECENT HARRIS COUNTY POPUATION GAINS & LOSSES

| Net Migration | | | |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| Domestic | Inter- national | Increase* | Net Gain |
| 20,568 | 25,597 | 43,676 | 89,841 |
| 22,245 | 34,207 | 46,051 | 102,503 |
| 17,702 | 36,830 | 47,214 | 101,746 |
| -16,690 | 35,123 | 47,931 | 66,364 |
| -45,394 | 33,789 | 44,403 | 32,798 |
| -45,050 | 25,591 | 40,426 | 20,967 |
| -31,102 | 24,967 | 38,327 | 32,192 |
| -26,091 | 19,679 | 35,172 | 28,760 |
| -40,534 | 13,919 | 26,061 | -554 |
| -20,006 | 37,268 | 30,117 | 47,379 |
| | Domestic 20,568 22,245 17,702 -16,690 -45,394 -45,050 -31,102 -26,091 -40,534 | DomesticInternational20,56825,59722,24534,20717,70236,830-16,69035,123-45,39433,789-45,05025,591-31,10224,967-26,09119,679-40,53413,919 | DomesticInter- nationalNatural Increase*20,56825,59743,67622,24534,20746,05117,70236,83047,214-16,69035,12347,931-45,39433,78944,403-45,05025,59140,426-31,10224,96738,327-26,09119,67935,172-40,53413,91926,061 |

Note: The natural increase is calculated by subtracting deaths from births.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

No county in the Houston metro area has suffered similar losses. Fort Bend and Montgomery have enjoyed significant domestic in-migration over the past seven years, adding 112,000 and 114,000 residents, respectively., through in-migration. Harris, however, lost nearly 250,000 through outmigration. Again, if not for international migration and a high number of births, Harris's population would be shrinking.

A common belief is that residents are moving out of Harris to live in one of the surrounding counties. That's partially true. One in three (32.5 percent) who left Harris in '20 remained in the region. A larger share (46.8 percent) left the state entirely. A smaller portion (21.1 percent) moved elsewhere in Texas.

DESTINATION OF RESIDENTS MOVING FROM A METRO HOUSTON COUNTY IN '20

| | | Destination | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| County Moved From | Total Movers | Stayed Local | Stayed in Texas | Out of State | in Houston MSA | |
| Austin | 2,116 | 1,208 | 685 | 233 | 57.1 | |
| Brazoria | 24,422 | 15,138 | 3,997 | 5,287 | 62.0 | |
| Chambers | 4,632 | 3,126 | 869 | 637 | 67.5 | |
| Fort Bend | 64,194 | 40,510 | 6,917 | 16,767 | 63.1 | |
| Galveston | 20,781 | 11,916 | 3,470 | 5,395 | 57.3 | |
| Harris | 160,949 | 52,323 | 34,308 | 74,318 | 32.5 | |
| Liberty | 10,538 | 8,084 | 1,516 | 938 | 76.7 | |
| Montgomery | 55,706 | 30,071 | 9,648 | 15,987 | 54.0 | |
| Waller | 5,388 | 3,984 | 643 | 761 | 73.9 | |
| Total/Avg | 348,726 | 166,360 | 62,053 | 120,323 | 34.5 | |
| Source: Partnership analysis of U.S. Internal Revenue Service data. | | | | | | |

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Most who left the region took up residence in one of the nation's larger metro areas, with New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, and New Orleans being the favorite destinations. Ironically, those same metros supplied a significant number of new residents to the region as well.

How do we know all this? Each year, the Internal Revenue Service releases its *Statistics on Income (SOI)* report. The report tracks year-to-year address changes reported on individual income tax returns filed with the IRS. The records are aggregated for each county in the U.S., the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Partnership analyzed this data, all 180,000 rows, to extract recent migration patterns. Among the conclusions:

People who move to Houston from elsewhere in the U.S. are more likely to settle in a suburban county. Those moving here from abroad are more likely to land in Harris County. Houstonians like to boast that one in four residents are foreign born, those residents tend to live in Harris and Fort Bend Counties.

METRO HOUSTON FOREIGN BORN POPULATION

| | Population as of July 1, 2022 | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--|--|
| County | Total | Foreign Born | % Foreign Born | | |
| Austin | 30,132 | 3,027 | 10.0 | | |
| Chambers | 45,257 | 3,705 | 8.2 | | |
| Brazoria | 379,689 | 52,863 | 13.9 | | |
| Fort Bend | 858,527 | 275,217 | 32.1 | | |
| Galveston | 355,062 | 35,915 | 10.1 | | |
| Harris | 4,728,030 | 1,244,585 | 26.3 | | |
| Liberty | 97,621 | 12,821 | 13.1 | | |
| Montgomery | 648,886 | 95,429 | 14.7 | | |
| Waller | 55,505 | 6,552 | 11.8 | | |
| | | | | | |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Many newcomers to Houston moved from elsewhere in Texas. From '20 to '21, more residents moved here from Dallas-Ft. Worth and Austin than New York or Los Angeles. Likewise, more residents moved here from San Antonio than San Francisco, Washington DC, or Seattle.

TOP IN-STATE SOURCES FOR NEW HOUSTON RESIDENTS

| Metro | New Residents | Metro | New Residents | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|--|--|
| Dallas-Ft Worth | 11,618 | McAllen | 1,686 | | |
| Austin | 8,264 | Corpus Christi | 1,562 | | |
| San Antonio | 5,440 | Brownsville | 1,130 | | |
| Beaumont | 4,457 | Midland | 967 | | |
| College Station | 2,176 | El Paso | 908 | | |
| Source: Partnershin analysis of LLS. Internal Revenue Service data | | | | | |

Source: Partnership analysis of U.S. Internal Revenue Service data.

Each year, the most populous U.S. metros send the most residents to Houston. Several Louisiana metros send a significant number of residents to Houston each year. That's not surprising considering Louisiana's ties to the energy industry and the state's close proximity to Houston.

TOP OUT-OF-STATE SOURCES FOR NEW METRO HOUSTON RESIDENTS IN '21

| Metro | Dependents | Metro | Dependents |
|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| New York | 6,916 | Phoenix | 1,882 |
| Los Angeles | 6,138 | Baton Rouge | 1,852 |
| Chicago | 3,628 | Lake Charles | 1,676 |
| Miami | 3,540 | Las Vegas | 1,453 |
| New Orleans | 3,106 | St. Louis | 1,429 |
| San Francisco | 2,753 | Boston | 1,228 |
| Washington | 2,717 | Lafayette | 1,223 |
| Seattle | 2,067 | Detroit | 1,212 |
| Denver | 1,940 | San Jose | 998 |
| Atlanta | 1,933 | Orlando | 996 |

Source: Partnership analysis of U.S. Internal Revenue Service data.

As people move into Houston, a significant number leave the region as well. The top ten destinations for residents leaving the region are (in order) New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington DC, Riverside, Seattle, and San Diego. On net, however, more people move into metro Houston than move out every year. The region has added nearly 1.2 million residents since '13.

METRO HOUSTON POPULATION GAINS

| Year | Net Gain | Natural | Net In-Migration | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|----------|--|
| rear | Net Gain | Increase | Domestic | Internat | |
| '13 | 144,503 | 57,307 | 54,770 | 31,711 | |
| '14 | 171,753 | 60,925 | 66,988 | 42,715 | |
| '15 | 171,428 | 62,699 | 62,064 | 46,309 | |
| '16 | 135,512 | 63,884 | 27,136 | 44,442 | |
| '17 | 92,597 | 59,098 | (9,472) | 42,747 | |
| '18 | 76,036 | 54,024 | (10,274) | 32,132 | |
| '19 | 88,452 | 51,220 | 6,028 | 31,152 | |
| '20 | 91,078 | 46,724 | 19,760 | 24,587 | |
| '21 | 75,088 | 33 <i>,</i> 950 | 23,792 | 17,750 | |
| '22 | 124,281 | 39 <i>,</i> 983 | 37,571 | 47,473 | |
| Total | 1,170,728 | 529,814 | 278,363 | 361,018 | |

Note: Rows and columns may not sum due to rounding errors and residual values.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

SAVE THE DATE

The Partnership's next webinar on the U.S. and local economic outlook will be at noon on Tuesday, September

19. For more details, go to the Partnership's website or click here.

KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Clicking on the hyperlinks provides additional details.



Aviation — The Houston Airport System (HAS) handled 58.4 million passengers in the 12 months ending July '23, up 12.3 percent from 52.0 million handled over the comparable period in '22.

While a substantial improvement over last year, passenger traffic remains 0.9 million passengers (1.5 percent) below July of '19.



Construction — The City of Houston issued \$4.803 billion in building permits through the first seven months of '23, down 0.6 percent

from \$4.834 billion over the comparable period in '22. Nonresidential permits totaled \$2.268 billion, down 17.7 percent from \$2.754 billion in '22. Residential permits totaled \$2.534 billion, up 21.9 percent from \$ 2.079 billion in '22.



Energy — The Baker Hughes count of active domestic rotary rigs slipped to 632 in the last full week of August, down from 765 the same

week in '22. The count peaked at 784 the week of November 23, 2022, and has trended down since. August saw the loss of 32 rigs, July 10 rigs, June 37 rigs, and May 44 rigs. The rig count now stands at same place it was in early-February '22.



Home Sales — Houston's housing market typically booms in late spring and early summer as families purchase homes and settle in before

a new school year starts. That hasn't been the case this year, however. May-to-July sales in '23 were their weakest in the past five years.



Inflation — Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 3.2 percent nationwide in the 12

months ending July '23. On a monthly basis, U.S. consumer prices rose 0.2 percent in July after increasing 0.2 percent in June.



Purchasing Managers Index — Economic activity in Houston expanded at a modestly faster pace in July than June. Manufacturing

reported contraction at a minimally slower pace while nonmanufacturing expanded at a faster rate, according to the most recent Houston Purchasing Managers Index. The overall PMI rose 1.4 points to 52.1 in July, up from 50.7 in June. Readings above 50 indicate Houston's economy is expanding.



Sales Tax — Sales and use tax collections in the 12 most populous Houston-area cities¹ totaled \$633.8 million through June of this year, up 6.3 percent from \$596.4 million in the comparable

period in '22. Receipts have begun to moderate in recent months, reflecting slower economic growth and pressures from higher interest rates.

Trade — Trade through the Houston-area seaports-Freeport, Galveston, Houston, and Texas City-was valued at \$129.0 billion through June of this year, a 7.6 percent drop from \$139.7 billion over the comparable period in '22. Exports are down \$11.2 billion (13.8 percent). Imports are up \$0.5 billion (0.9 percent).

Unemployment — Houston's unemployment rate increased from 4.5 percent in June to 4.8 percent, Texas' rate from 4.2 percent to 4.5 percent, and the U.S. rate remained at 3.8 percent. The increase reflects an historic pattern, with unemployment peaking in June-July as students seeking summer work and educators between contracts are counted among the jobless. The rates should drift downward in the fall as they return to campus.

> Vehicle Sales — Houston-area dealers sold 211,953 cars, trucks, and SUVs through the first seven months of '23, a 13.3 percent increase

over the 187,063 sold during the comparable period in '22. Sales have surpassed pre-COVID levels but remain short of the Fracking Boom peak.

Patrick Jankowski, Aaron Brown, Clara Richardson, and Leta Wauson contributed to this issue of Houston: The Economy at a Glance.

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|---|------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------------|--------|
| | | | | Change f | rom | % Change f | from |
| | July 23 | June 23 | July 22 | June 23 | July 22 | June 23 | July 2 |
| Fotal Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 3,347.4 | 3,363.5 | 3,250.6 | -16.1 | 96.8 | -0.5 | 3. |
| Total Private | 2,925.3 | 2,918.4 | 2,834.3 | 6.9 | 91.0 | 0.2 | 3. |
| Goods Producing | 529.0 | 524.4 | 517.0 | 4.6 | 12.0 | 0.9 | 2. |
| Service Providing | 2,818.4 | 2,839.1 | 2,733.6 | -20.7 | 84.8 | -0.7 | 3. |
| Private Service Providing | 2,396.3 | 2,394.0 | 2,317.3 | 2.3 | 79.0 | 0.1 | 3.4 |
| Mining and Logging | 70.3 | 70.3 | 65.6 | 0.0 | 4.7 | 0.0 | 7. |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 29.9 | 29.8 | 29.0 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 3. |
| Support Activities for Mining | 38.7 | 38.6 | 35.2 | 0.1 | 3.5 | 0.3 | 9. |
| Construction | 224.6 | 221.5 | 225.8 | 3.1 | -1.2 | 1.4 | -0. |
| Manufacturing | 234.1 | 232.6 | 225.6 | 1.5 | 8.5 | 0.6 | 3. |
| Durable Goods Manufacturing | 144.2 | 142.8 | 138.2 | 1.4 | 6.0 | 1.0 | 4. |
| Nondurable Goods Manufacturing | 89.9 | 89.8 | 87.4 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 2. |
| Wholesale Trade | 179.9 | 179.3 | 170.4 | 0.6 | 9.5 | 0.3 | 5. |
| Retail Trade | 321.7 | 320.5 | 312.8 | 1.2 | 8.9 | 0.4 | 2. |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities | 194.0 | 194.4 | 183.9 | -0.4 | 10.1 | -0.2 | 5. |
| Utilities | 20.4 | 20.4 | 19.6 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 4. |
| Air Transportation | 20.6 | 20.5 | 20.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 3. |
| Truck Transportation | 31.3 | 31.2 | 30.6 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 2. |
| Pipeline Transportation | 13.1 | 13.0 | 12.5 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 4. |
| Information | 33.3 | 33.1 | 33.3 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0. |
| Telecommunications | 11.8 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0. |
| Finance & Insurance | 116.5 | 114.8 | 114.5 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1. |
| Real Estate & Rental and Leasing | 71.1 | 69.6 | 65.9 | 1.5 | 5.2 | 2.2 | 7. |
| Professional & Business Services | 560.4 | 565.7 | 544.3 | -5.3 | 16.1 | -0.9 | 3. |
| Professional, Scientific & Technical Services | 275.3 | 276.5 | 262.4 | -1.2 | 12.9 | -0.4 | 4. |
| Legal Services | 33.2 | 33.1 | 31.5 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 5.4 |
| Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping | 28.8 | 28.7 | 27.3 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 5.5 |
| Architectural, Engineering & Related Services | 76.7 | 77.3 | 69.6 | -0.6 | 7.1 | -0.8 | 10.2 |
| Computer Systems Design & Related Services | 44.1 | 43.9 | 42.2 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 0.5 | 4.5 |
| Admin & Support/Waste Mgt & Remediation | 238.1 | 241.5 | 236.6 | -3.4 | 1.5 | -1.4 | 0. |
| Administrative & Support Services | 224.3 | 227.5 | 223.8 | -3.2 | 0.5 | -1.4 | 0.2 |
| Employment Services | 84.9 | 85.8 | 88.2 | -0.9 | -3.3 | -1.0 | -3.7 |
| Private Educational Services | 70.1 | 70.7 | 66.4 | -0.6 | 3.7 | -0.8 | 5. |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 381.1 | 376.3 | 357.0 | 4.8 | 24.1 | 1.3 | 6. |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 41.8 | 41.4 | 40.7 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 2. |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 308.3 | 309.7 | 307.6 | -1.4 | 0.7 | -0.5 | 0. |
| Other Services | 118.1 | 118.5 | 120.5 | -0.4 | -2.4 | -0.3 | -2. |
| Government | 422.1 | 445.1 | 416.3 | -23.0 | 5.8 | -5.2 | 1. |
| Federal Government | 33.4 | 33.3 | 32.4 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 3. |
| State Government | 94.5 | 95.0 | 91.9 | -0.5 | 2.6 | -0.5 | 2. |
| State Government Educational Services | 52.9 | 53.6 | 51.5 | -0.7 | 1.4 | -1.3 | 2.2 |
| Local Government | 294.2 | 316.8 | 292.0 | -22.6 | 2.2 | -7.1 | 0. |
| Local Government Educational Services | 197.1 | 218.2 | 195.4 | -21.1 | 1.7 | -9.7 | 0.9 |

SOURCE: Texas Workforce Commission