

THE ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

HOUSTON



GREATER HOUSTON
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Making Houston Greater.

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U.S. RECOVERY STATUS

In March, when this newsletter first addressed COVID-19 and its impact on the economy, only a handful of cases had been reported. Since that time, infections and deaths have skyrocketed.

U.S. COVID-19 STATISTICS

	----- Confirmed Cases -----	
	March 15	November 1
U.S.	3,774	9.2 million
Texas	77	954,126
Metro Houston	30	224,835
	----- Deaths -----	
	March 15	November 1
U.S.	61	230,703
Texas	1	18,549
Metro Houston	0	3,760

Sources: Johns Hopkins University and *The New York Times*

The much-anticipated second wave has arrived. The world now average 475,000 new cases per day; the U.S., 80,000; Texas, 6,600; and Harris County, 600. [Johns Hopkins University](#) tracks new COVID-19 cases in the 20 most-infected countries. As of November 1, infections were up in 18 of those 20.

The spike is especially sharp in Europe. Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Spain and the United Kingdom have again implemented lockdowns to contain the spread. U.S. officials, however, remain reluctant to impose similar restrictions. They worry about damage to the economy, a revolt from consumers suffering from COVID fatigue, and the impact of a shutdown on the November elections.

Gross Domestic Product

The flood of new cases threatens the nascent recovery. [U.S. gross domestic product](#) (GDP) [grew 7.4 percent](#), or \$1.3 trillion in Q3, adjusted for inflation. The economy benefited from an increase in consumer spending, a restocking of inventories, exports, new investments in building, equipment and inventories, and new home construction.

Despite the impressive growth, GDP remains 3.5 percent (\$670 billion) below its previous peak and 5.0 percent (\$930 billion) below where it would have been if not interrupted by the pandemic. Two-thirds of the economists polled by *The Wall Street Journal* in early October believe GDP [won't return to pre-pandemic levels until Q4/21 or later](#).

That fits the historic pattern. GDP always returns to its pre-recession level sooner than employment. Businesses put idle capacity to work, expect more from their remaining employees, and wait for a significant jump in demand before taking on additional staff. That's been true of the past three recessions and will be true this time as well.

Recession Date	Months to Recover	
	GDP	Jobs
Jul '90 – Mar '91	~20	24
Mar '01 – Nov '01	~8	39
Dec '07 – Jun '09	~38	59

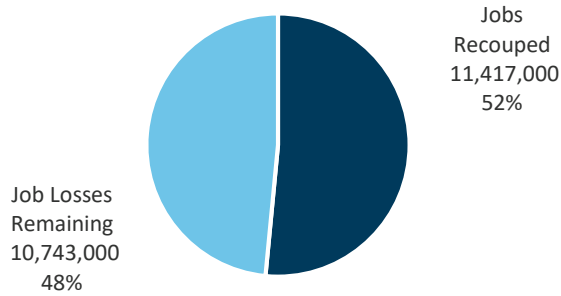
Source: Partnership calculations based on Bureau of Economic Research and Bureau of Labor Statistics data

Job Growth

The nation has created 11.4 million jobs since May, recouping over half March and April's losses. But growth is already slowing. [Employers added only 661,000 workers in September](#), less than half the 1.5 million added in August. The nation remains 10.7 million shy of its February level. The recent spike in COVID cases, the expiration of the federal stimulus packages, and uncertainty over the outcome of the presidential election will further slow job gains.

U.S. Recovery Through September

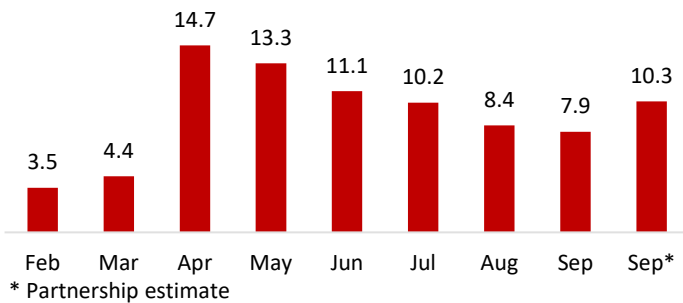
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Unemployment

U.S. unemployment peaked at 14.7 percent in April and has steadily improved, decreasing to 7.9 percent in September. But the headline number belies what's actually happening in the labor market. Since February, 4.4 million Americans have dropped out of the labor force and are no longer counted as unemployed. Factor them back in and the unemployment rate jumps to 10.3 percent.

U.S. Unemployment Rate



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

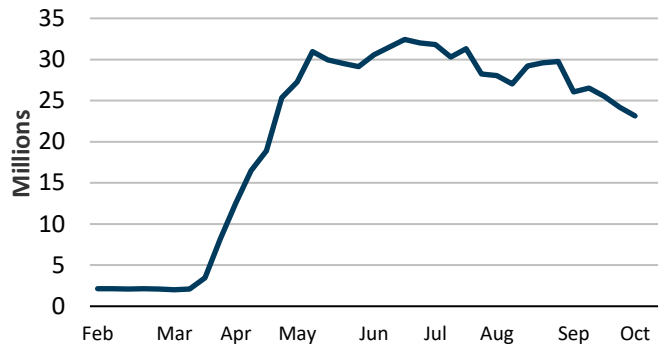
The labor force participation rate among women has fallen as well, with 2.6 million fewer in the workforce today compared to before the pandemic. The burdens of child rearing still fall heavily on mothers, and many women have dropped out to provide full-time childcare, either to supervise their children attending school virtually or because the pandemic has forced thousands of daycare centers to close.

Unemployment claims are trending down, a sign that layoffs have abated. Workers filed 751,000 initial benefits claims in the week ending October 29. That's well below the peak of 6.9 million in early April but above the January-February average of 190,000.

The number of workers collecting unemployment benefits remains extremely high. The [U.S. Employment and Training Administration](#) tracks claims across eight categories: Regular State Benefits, Federal Employee Benefits, Newly Discharged Veterans Benefits, Pandemic Unemployment

Assistance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, Extended Benefits, State Additional Benefits, and STC/Workshare. At the mid-June peak, 32.4 million Americans received some form of benefit. That has improved to [22.6 million in late October](#), but underscores the financial duress which many workers suffer. Prior to the pandemic, weekly claims averaged 2.1 million.

Persons Claiming UI Benefits, All Programs



Source: U.S. Employment & Training Administration

Washington added two new benefits when it passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is available to workers not eligible for traditional state unemployment benefits, typically self-employed and gig workers. More than 10.2 million continue to file claims for these benefits. Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) is available to workers who have exhausted their state benefits eligibility, i.e., they have been unemployed over 26 weeks. Nearly 3.7 million workers filed PEUC claims in mid-October. That claims continue to swell.

Industrial Production

[Industrial production](#) fell 0.6 percent in September, its first decline after four months of gains. An uptick in mining output could not offset declines in manufacturing and utilities. Although production has recovered more than half of its February to April decline, the September reading was still 7.1 percent below its pre-pandemic February level.

Durables Goods Order

[New orders for durable goods](#), products designed to last at least three years, increased for the fifth consecutive month in September. Orders were up 1.9 percent in September compared to August, another sign that manufacturers are rebounding from supply-chain disruptions and shutdowns caused by the pandemic.

Home Sales

[Existing-home sales](#) grew for the fourth consecutive month in September, hitting a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of

6.54 million, up 9.4 percent from August and 21 percent from September a year ago. Seven out of every ten homes sold were on the market for less than a month.

Retail

[Retail continues to recover](#). The U.S. Census Bureau reports September sales were up 1.9 percent from August and 5.4 percent from September of last year. Those numbers reflect a shift in consumer buying patterns. Unable to travel, attend concerts, cheer at sporting events, or dine out, consumers have opted to purchase goods rather than services. Through September of this year, consumers spent 20 percent less on dining than they did over the same period in '19. The data also reflect a significant increase in online purchasing, up 20 percent so far this year.

Consumer Behavior

There's a greater acceptance of mask-wearing among the general public. A recent [National Geographic survey](#) found that most Americans, regardless of their backgrounds and political beliefs, have changed their minds about mask-wearing. Despite noisy no-mask protests, 92 percent of 2,200 Americans polled say they wear a face mask when leaving their home, with 74 percent saying they "always" do. That "always" percentage is up nearly a quarter since July, according to the poll.

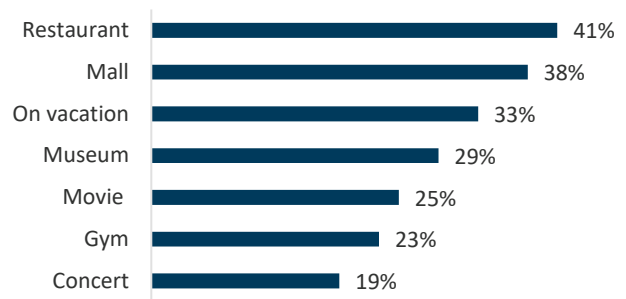
Percent Respondents Saying They Always Wear a Medical or Non-medical Face Mask When Leaving Home

	October	July
Adults	74	60
Male	72	56
Female	77	64
Age 18-34	72	63
Age 35-44	75	53
Age 45-64	74	58
Age 65+	79	66
Democrats	84	65
Republicans	66	46
Independents	71	57

Source: *National Geographic* reader survey

Still, consumers remain uneasy about being exposed to the virus while in public, which is another factor slowing the recovery. A recent survey by pollster [Morning Consult](#) found that less than half the respondents feel comfortable going out to eat or shopping in a mall and even fewer feel comfortable visiting a museum, going to the movies or attending a concert.

% of Adults who feel comfortable going to a:



Source: MorningConsult

A vaccine would speed the recovery, yet a large swath of the population, including those at high risk of contracting the virus, are reluctant, skeptical or opposed to taking it. The most common concern cited is safety due to the quick pace of development. A recent [Pew Research Poll](#) found only half of those surveyed would take the vaccine if it were available, a significant decrease from a few months ago.

% of adults who say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine if it were available today

Options	Survey Month	
	Sep	May
Would definitely get the vaccine	21%	42%
Would probably get the vaccine	30%	30%
Would probably not get the vaccine	25%	16%
Would definitely not get vaccine	24%	11%

Source: Pew Research

That suggests social distancing and mask wearing will remain the norm indefinitely. Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says even with a widely accepted vaccine Americans will [need to wear masks and practice social distancing through '21 and into '22](#). That also suggests it will take several years before the U.S. economy fully recovers.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021

The Partnership's '21 economic outlook event will be held Tuesday, December 8, at noon. This will be a virtual event with attendees accessing the presentations via Zoom.

Patrick Jankowski, the Partnership's Senior Vice President of Research, will share his insights into how COVID-19 has changed Houston's economy and what everyone should expect next year. Robert Dye, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at Comerica Bank, will share his insights into the national economy.

Attendees will also receive “Houston Economic Outlook 2021,” the Partnership’s forecast document. A copy of last year’s forecast can be found at the Partnership’s [website](#).

The event is free to members, but they must register in advance. The fee for nonmembers is \$25. Attendees can register at the events section of the Partnership’s [website](#).

PERRYMAN’S PERSPECTIVE

Houston’s real gross product (RGP) will shrink 4.8 percent this year (December to December) before rebounding 4.2 percent next year. That’s the latest projections by [The Perryman Group](#), the Waco-based think tank that’s been analyzing and forecasting for U.S., Texas, and Texas metros since the early 1980s.

INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, METRO HOUSTON

Sector	\$ Millions	% Δ	\$ Millions	% Δ
Agriculture	-23.8	-6.5	+16.1	+4.9
Mining	-16,717.9	-19.1	+5,390.1	+7.7
Utilities	-151.7	-1.33	+322.2	+2.9
Construction	-1,143.5	-4.8	+877.8	3.9
Manufacturing	-1,950.3	-2.3	+3,871.0	+4.7
Retail/Wholesale	-1,893.4	-2.7	+2,331.3	+3.5
Transport/Warehouse	-181.9	-0.8	+688.9	+3.0
Information	-413.7	-3.9	+413.1	+4.0
F.I.R.E	+1,028.0	+1.7	+1,789.1	+3.0
Other Services	-3,496.5	-2.9	+4,416.6	+3.8
Total	-25,203.0	-4.8	+20,769.5	+4.2

Note: F.I.R.E includes finance, insurance and real estate. Other services includes professional services, management of companies, administrative support, educational services, health care, arts and entertainment, accommodation and food services, and personal and repair services.

Source: The Perryman Group, www.perryman.com

Houston will finish the year with 4.2 percent fewer jobs than it started with, compared to a 5.1 percent loss for the nation and a 4.1 percent loss for the state.

Perryman projects 2.5 percent job growth for Houston in ‘21, a net gain of approximately 77,000 jobs. U.S. job growth is forecast at 2.6 percent, or 3.7 million jobs, and Texas job growth at 2.5 percent, or 315,000 jobs.

HOUSTON EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

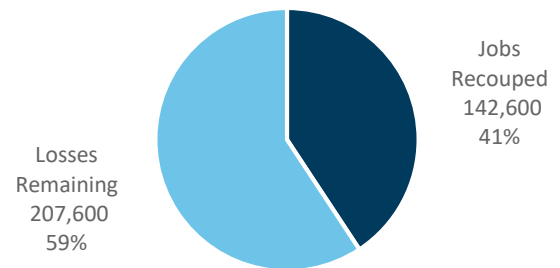
Metro Houston added 24,400 jobs in September, bringing the total recovered since April to 142,600. Houston remains 207,600 jobs short of its pre-pandemic level.

September’s job gains were concentrated in a few sectors, almost all tied to students returning from summer break:

- Local education i.e., school districts, (+19,000 jobs),
- Restaurants and bars (+5,800),
- State education i.e., colleges and universities (+4,800),

- Education services i.e., private schools, test prep, tutoring (+3,200), and
- Fabricated metal product manufacturing (+2,300).

Metro Houston COVID-19 Employment Impact



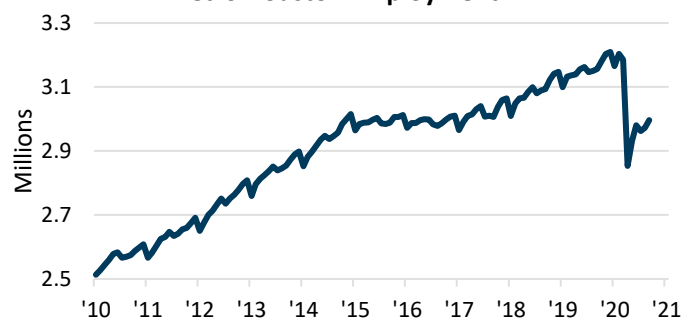
Given the collapse in U.S. drilling activity, the gains in fabricated metals are likely an overestimate that will be corrected in a future data release.

These gains were offset by significant losses elsewhere:

- Other services (-5,400 jobs),
- Health care and social assistance (-3,400),
- Financial activities (-2,400),
- Wholesale trade (-2,200) and
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation (-1,700).

The gains put Houston just shy of 3.0 million jobs. The region had topped 3.2 million jobs back in February. In a normal year, the region adds 25,000 to 50,000 in Q4, which would put a considerable dent in the COVID job losses. But this hasn’t been a normal year and job gains through December are likely to be subdued.

Metro Houston Employment



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Several sectors are well on their way to returning to pre-COVID employment levels. Educational services; Non-durable goods manufacturing; retail; finance; professional, scientific and technical services; and administrative support services have recouped 70 percent or more of the jobs initially lost.

For others, the recovery has been slow to materialize. Construction; transportation and warehousing; arts, entertainment and recreation; hotels and personal services have recouped less than a third of their losses. A few continue to lose jobs. This includes: oil and gas; durable goods manufacturing; wholesale trade; information and real estate.

CHANGE IN METRO HOUSTON EMPLOYMENT (000s)

Sector	Losses		% Recouped
	Mar - Apr	May - Sep	
Total Employment	-350,200	+142,260	40.7%
Finance & Insurance	-400	+500	100.0+
Administrative & Support Svcs	-13,700	+11,800	86.1
Retail Trade	-27,700	+20,900	75.5
Educational Services	-5,800	+4,100	70.7
Professional, Technical Services	-8,800	+6,200	70.5
Restaurants & Bars	-101,800	+67,000	65.8
Health Care, Social Assistance	-41,000	+23,800	58.0
Art, Entertainment, Rec	-18,000	+5,900	32.8
Transportation & Warehousing	-3,800	+1,100	28.9
Other Services	-27,400	+6,700	24.5
Accommodations	-9,100	+1,700	18.7
Construction	-31,300	+2,900	9.3
Real Estate, Rentals & Leasing	-5,000	-900	Still Losing
Wholesale Trade	-17,000	-1,300	Still Losing
Manufacturing	-13,300	-5,700	Still losing
Mining	-8,500	-11,900	Still losing
Government	-10,100	-600	---

Source: Partnership calculations based in Texas Workforce Commission data

INNOVATION UPDATE

At first glance, tech funding in Houston appears remarkably unscathed by the pandemic. Houston-area startups have raised nearly as much venture capital so far this year as they did last year. [VC Investments in the region topped \\$556 million through Q3/20](#), down only 4 percent from the same period in '19, according to a Partnership analysis of PitchBook data.

The trouble is the deal count. Houston's 84 venture capital deals in the first three quarters of '20 are down from 131 deals during the same period last year, a 36 percent drop. That's a notable decline, even for a recession.

Houston Venture Capital Update	Year-to-Date		% Change
	Q3/20	Q3/19	
Deals	84	131	-35.9
Avg. Deal Size \$, Millions	6.6	4.4	59.8
Volume, \$ Millions	555.7	578.3	-3.9
Angel and Seed	52.2	73.3	-28.9
Early Stage VC	85.1	159.7	-46.7
Later Stage VC	418.4	345.3	21.2

Source: Partnership Analysis of Pitchbook data

Historically, an economic downturn [can be a good time to grow a tech startup](#). The Great Recession, for example, spawned tech giants Uber, Airbnb, Pinterest, Instagram and Venmo, to name a few.

In Houston, the '15 oil downturn produced its own bumper crop of successful tech companies. Seed and Early stage deals spiked 51 percent from the onset of the oil bust in Jan '15 to Jan '17. Digital startups such as [Arundo](#), [GoCo](#), [Liongard](#), [Data Gumbo](#) and [BrainCheck](#) were all seeded during that span and have become fast-growing companies in the tech ecosystem, generating millions in additional investment and employing several hundred workers.

This recession is proving more challenging for early stage companies. COVID has made it harder for lesser known startups to find investors, and uncertainties about the post-COVID future have made venture capitalists more cautious investing in unproven technologies. The result is [fewer deals in larger increments to later stage companies](#); this is the opposite of what happened in Houston during the '15 downturn.

This trend has pushed the average value of Houston VC deals to \$6.6 million, up 50.0 percent from '19. The earliest stage companies are having the hardest time finding initial investment. Seed through Series A investment is down 41.0 percent to 137.3 million, while Later Stage investment is up 21.2 percent to \$418.4 million.

Growth on the Horizon

[Startup Development Organizations \(SDOs\)](#) could help to bridge the gap by introducing Venture Capital firms to local tech founders. These introductions are becoming more important in the virtual workplace. Many venture capitalists exhausted their pipeline of known prospects and are searching for new investments. Houston could be well-suited to seize on that opportunity.

The region has added dozens of incubators/accelerators and SDOs in the last four years. Non-profits such as [Houston Exponential](#) and Rice University's [The Ion](#) could have a measurable impact on deal flow in the months to come. A recent burst of Clean Energy accelerators in the region is also laying a path for growth. Prominent climate tech accelerator [Greentown Labs is poised to open in Midtown in '21](#). If it does for clean tech what TMCx did for Houston's life science sector, expect a wave of new startups to emerge soon.

KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Aviation — The Houston Airport System (HAS) handled 1.7 million passengers in September '20, a 60.8 percent drop from the 4.3 million passengers handled during September last year. Though a drop from last year's passenger volume, September represents more than a fivefold increase from April's 242,000 passengers.



Building Permits — City of Houston building permits totaled \$6.7 billion for the 12 months ending September '20, down 8.1 percent from \$7.2 billion for the same period in '19.



Crude Oil — The closing spot price for West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the U.S. benchmark for light, sweet crude, averaged \$39.78 per barrel during the last week of September '20, down 30.1 percent from \$56.90 for the same period in '19. Estimates show crude oil production in the United States rose to 11.2 million barrels per day (b/d) in September, an increase of 0.4 b/d from the previous month.



Foreign Trade — The Houston-Galveston Customs District handled 227.4 million metric tons of goods and commodities in the first eight months of '20, a 10.7 percent increase over the comparable period in '19. These shipments were valued at \$130.2 billion, down 16.0 percent from '19.



Home Sales — Houston-area realtors sold 9,101 single-family homes in September '20, up 29.0 percent from the same month last year. Year-to-date sales totaled 69,320 single-family homes, up 5.4 percent compared to the first nine months of '19. Sales of all property types for the 12 months ending in September '20 totaled 108,398 homes, up 6.7 percent for the span ending in September '19.



Inflation — The cost of consumer goods and services as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 1.4 percent nationwide from September '19 to September '20. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) increased 1.7 percent since September '19.



Natural Gas — During the first week of October '20, Henry Hub natural gas spot prices averaged \$1.65 per million British thermal units (MMBtu). In September '20, monthly natural gas prices averaged \$1.92 per MMBtu, down 25.0 percent from \$2.56 in September last year.



Purchasing Managers Index — The PMI, which sunk to 34.6 in April, has inched up in recent months, topping out at 49.5 in June before contracting slightly in July amid an escalation of COVID-19 cases. The September reading of 53.4 is the highest PMI for Houston in 12 months. Readings above 45 correlate with expansion of the overall economy, below 45 a contraction. For Houston's goods producing sectors, however, the PMI needs to top 50 to signal expansion.



Rig Count — Baker Hughes reports 296 drilling rigs were working in the U.S. during the last week of October '20. That's down from 822 rigs the same week in October last year. The rig count has inched up steadily since bottoming at 244 in mid-August. However, it remains well below its recent peak of 1,083 in late December '18.



Sales Tax — Sales and use tax collections for the 12 most populous Houston-area cities totaled \$969.2 million in the 12 months ending August '20, down 1.6 percent from \$985.3 million for the same period in '19. Collections for the month of August totaled \$72.2 million, down 9.0 percent from \$79.3 million in August '19.



Unemployment — The unemployment rate for metro Houston was 9.6 percent in September '20, up from 8.1 percent in August. The Texas rate was 8.3 percent, up from 7.0 percent in August. The U.S. rate was 7.7 percent, up from 8.5 percent in August the previous year. The rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Elizabeth Balderrama, Heath Duran, Annaissa Flores, Patrick Jankowski, Roel Martinez and Josh Pherigo contributed to this issue of Houston, The Economy at a Glance.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

For past issues of **Economy at a Glance**, click [here](#).

If you are not a member of the Greater Houston Partnership and would like to subscribe to **Economy at a Glance**, please click [here](#) and enter your email address. For information about joining the Greater Houston Partnership, call Member Engagement at 713-844-3683.

The Key Economic Indicators table is **updated whenever any data change** — typically, six or so times per month. If you would like to receive these updates by e-mail, usually accompanied by commentary, click [here](#).

HOUSTON ECONOMIC INDICATORS

A Service of the Greater Houston Partnership

11/2/2020

	Month	MONTHLY DATA			YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL or YTD AVERAGE*		
		Most Recent	Year Earlier	% Change	Most Recent	Year Earlier	% Change
ENERGY							
U.S. Active Rotary Rigs	Oct '20	269	856	-68.6	738 *	978 *	-24.5
Spot Crude Oil Price (\$/bbl, West Texas Intermediate)	Sep '20	39.63	56.95	-30.4	48.91 *	56.99 *	-14.2
Spot Natural Gas (\$/MMBtu, Henry Hub)	Sep '20	1.92	2.56	-25.0	2.27 *	2.62 *	-13.5
UTILITIES AND PRODUCTION							
Houston Purchasing Managers Index	Sep '20	53.4	53.5	-6.8	46.8 *	55.0 *	-19.2
Top 12 Houston Cities' Sales and Use Tax Collections	Aug '20	72,172,004	79,332,561	-9.0	611,339,247	646,576,559	-5.4
Nonresidential Electric Current Sales (Mwh, CNP Service Area)	May '20	5,026,183	5,447,859	-7.7	24,381,649	24,207,598	0.7
CONSTRUCTION							
Total Building Contracts (\$, Houston MSA)	Apr '20	1,597,259,000	1,640,963,000	-2.7	6,676,217,000	6,450,605,000	3.5
Nonresidential	Apr '20	660,591,000	580,974,000	13.7	2,981,752,000	2,580,554,000	15.5
Residential	Apr '20	936,668,000	1,059,989,000	-11.6	3,694,465,000	3,870,051,000	-4.5
Building Permits (\$, City of Houston)	Sep '20 N	744,274,696	720,561,429	3.3	5,145,119,243	5,745,886,197	-10.5
Nonresidential	Sep '20 N	509,889,787	364,736,399	39.8	3,063,942,773	3,561,092,825	-14.0
<i>New Nonresidential</i>	Sep '20 N	322,233,928	110,921,735	190.5	1,362,993,089	1,528,106,140	-10.8
<i>Nonresidential Additions/Alterations/Conversions</i>	Sep '20 N	187,655,859	253,814,664	-26.1	1,700,949,684	2,032,986,685	-16.3
Residential	Sep '20 N	234,384,909	355,825,030	-34.1	2,081,176,470	2,184,793,372	-4.7
<i>New Residential</i>	Sep '20 N	206,402,570	329,457,756	-37.4	1,814,646,406	1,867,655,293	-2.8
<i>Residential Additions/Alterations/Conversions</i>	Sep '20 N	27,982,339	26,367,274	6.1	266,530,064	317,138,079	-16.0
HOME SALES							
Property Sales	Sep '20	9,101	7,050	29.1	69,320	65,761	5.4
Median Sales Price (Single-Family Detached)	Sep '20	265,000	244,679	8.3	255,373 *	243,295 *	5.0
Active Listings	Sep '20	32,047	42,959	-25.4	37,841 *	41,957 *	-9.8
EMPLOYMENT (Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA)							
Nonfarm Payroll Employment	Aug '20	2,967,500	3,150,300	-5.8	3,104,888 *	3,066,863 *	1.2
Goods Producing (Natural Resources/Mining/Const/Mfg)	Aug '20	490,500	556,200	-11.8	515,913 *	551,463 *	-6.4
Service Providing	Aug '20	2,477,000	2,594,100	-4.5	2,588,975 *	2,515,400 *	2.9
Unemployment Rate (%) - Not Seasonally Adjusted							
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA	Aug '20	8.1	3.9		8.6 *	3.8 *	
Texas	Aug '20	7.0	3.6		7.8 *	3.6 *	
U.S.	Aug '20	8.5	3.8		8.7 *	3.8 *	
FOREIGN TRADE (Houston-Galveston Customs District)							
Total Trade (\$000,000)	Aug '20	15,703	19,901	-21.1	130,208	155,682	-16.4
Exports (\$000,000)	Aug '20	10,221	12,377	-17.4	85,137	96,412	-11.7
Imports (\$000,000)	Aug '20	5,482	7,524	-27.1	45,071	59,270	-24.0
TRANSPORTATION							
Port of Houston Authority Shipments (Short Tons)	Feb '20	3,670,961	3,348,160	9.6	7,673,732	7,339,092	4.6
Air Passengers (Houston Airport System)	Sep '20 N	1,698,547	4,337,636	-60.8	18,098,552	44,460,724	-59.3
Domestic Passengers	Sep '20 N	1,516,908	3,532,749	-57.1	15,091,678	35,471,047	-57.5
International Passengers	Sep '20 N	181,639	804,887	-77.4	3,006,874	8,989,677	-66.6
Air Freight (metric tons)	Sep '20 N	37,746	41,139	-8.2	79,657	78,454	-12.1
CONSUMERS							
New Car and Truck Sales (Units, Houston MSA)	Dec '19	23,396	22,354	4.7	292,606	303,417	-3.6
Cars	Dec '19	6,851	6,161	11.2	82,117	87,979	-6.7
Trucks/SUVs	Dec '19	16,545	16,193	2.2	210,489	215,438	-2.3
Total Retail Sales (\$000,000, Houston MSA, NAICS Basis)	Q1/20	28,172.7	28,824.4	-2.3	28,172.7	28,824.4	-2.3
Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ('82-'84=100)							
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria CMSA	Aug '20	229.0	229.4	-0.2	228.6 *	228.5 *	0.0
United States	Sep '20 N	260.3	256.8	1.4	258.3 *	255.2 *	1.2
Hotel Performance (Houston MSA)							
Occupancy (%)	Q3/19	60.9	59.8		64.6 *	63.3 *	
Average Room Rate (\$)	Q3/19	100.40	110.12	-1.7	103.82 *	106.19 *	-2.2
Revenue Per Available Room (\$)	Q3/19	61.19	79.83	2.3	65.80 *	68.92 *	-4.5

N = New Since Previous Issue

R = Revised

SOURCES

Rig Count	Baker Hughes, a GE company
Spot WTI, Spot Natural Gas	U.S. Energy Information Administration
Houston Purchasing Managers Index	Institute for Supply Management - Houston, Inc.
Electricity	CenterPoint Energy
Building Construction Contracts	Dodge Data and Analytics
City of Houston Building Permits	Building Permit Department, City of Houston
MLS Data	Houston Association of Realtors
Employment	Texas Labor Market Information
Foreign Trade	U.S. Census Bureau
Aviation	Houston Airport System
New Car and Truck Sales	TexAuto Facts Report, InfoNation, Inc., Sugar Land TX
Retail Sales	State Comptroller's Office
Consumer Price Index	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Hotels	CBRE Hotels



HOUSTON MSA NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT (000)

	Sep '20	Aug '20	Sep '19	Change from		% Change from	
				Aug '20	Sep '19	Aug '20	Sep '19
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	2,996.3	2,971.9	3,156.3	24.4	-160.0	0.8	-5.1
Total Private	2,580.8	2,585.6	2,741.5	-4.8	-160.7	-0.2	-5.9
Goods Producing	492.1	490.5	555.9	1.6	-63.8	0.3	-11.5
Service Providing	2,504.2	2,481.4	2,600.4	22.8	-96.2	0.9	-3.7
Private Service Providing	2,088.7	2,095.1	2,185.6	-6.4	-96.9	-0.3	-4.4
Mining and Logging	63.3	60.9	79.4	2.4	-16.1	3.9	-20.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	32.9	33.0	37.0	-0.1	-4.1	-0.3	-11.1
Support Activities for Mining	28.5	26.5	40.9	2.0	-12.4	7.5	-30.3
Construction	215.8	215.9	240.2	-0.1	-24.4	0.0	-10.2
Manufacturing	213.0	213.7	236.3	-0.7	-23.3	-0.3	-9.9
Durable Goods Manufacturing	130.8	131.4	150.9	-0.6	-20.1	-0.5	-13.3
Nondurable Goods Manufacturing	82.2	82.3	85.4	-0.1	-3.2	-0.1	-3.7
Wholesale Trade	158.9	161.1	171.7	-2.2	-12.8	-1.4	-7.5
Retail Trade	294.5	295.8	299.4	-1.3	-4.9	-0.4	-1.6
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	154.4	153.3	152.8	1.1	1.6	0.7	1.0
Utilities	17.2	17.2	17.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6
Air Transportation	17.7	18.0	20.2	-0.3	-2.5	-1.7	-12.4
Truck Transportation	28.1	28.1	28.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.4
Pipeline Transportation	11.9	12.0	11.9	-0.1	0.0	-0.8	0.0
Information	29.1	28.9	32.3	0.2	-3.2	0.7	-9.9
Telecommunications	12.4	12.4	13.8	0.0	-1.4	0.0	-10.1
Finance & Insurance	103.8	104.5	104.1	-0.7	-0.3	-0.7	-0.3
Real Estate & Rental and Leasing	57.9	59.6	63.4	-1.7	-5.5	-2.9	-8.7
Professional & Business Services	508.3	508.9	506.2	-0.6	2.1	-0.1	0.4
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	246.7	246.4	240.0	0.3	6.7	0.1	2.8
<i>Legal Services</i>	27.5	26.7	27.0	0.8	0.5	3.0	1.9
<i>Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping</i>	27.8	28.3	26.2	-0.5	1.6	-1.8	6.1
<i>Architectural, Engineering & Related Services</i>	74.7	75.6	73.8	-0.9	0.9	-1.2	1.2
<i>Computer Systems Design & Related Services</i>	33.5	34.4	34.6	-0.9	-1.1	-2.6	-3.2
Admin & Support/Waste Mgt & Remediation	217.9	218.4	219.8	-0.5	-1.9	-0.2	-0.9
<i>Administrative & Support Services</i>	204.5	204.9	208.3	-0.4	-3.8	-0.2	-1.8
<i>Employment Services</i>	66.5	66.6	76.6	-0.1	-10.1	-0.2	-13.2
Educational Services	63.4	60.2	63.8	3.2	-0.4	5.3	-0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	334.5	337.9	342.4	-3.4	-7.9	-1.0	-2.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	24.8	26.5	38.5	-1.7	-13.7	-6.4	-35.6
Accommodation & Food Services	260.5	254.4	295.7	6.1	-35.2	2.4	-11.9
Other Services	98.6	104.0	115.3	-5.4	-16.7	-5.2	-14.5
Government	415.5	386.3	414.8	29.2	0.7	7.6	0.2
Federal Government	36.4	35.3	30.6	1.1	5.8	3.1	19.0
State Government	84.0	79.7	87.1	4.3	-3.1	5.4	-3.6
<i>State Government Educational Services</i>	46.2	41.4	49.9	4.8	-3.7	11.6	-7.4
Local Government	295.1	271.3	297.1	23.8	-2.0	8.8	-0.7
<i>Local Government Educational Services</i>	199.1	180.1	205.0	19.0	-5.9	10.5	-2.9

SOURCE: Texas Workforce Commission