

# EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

JUNE 2019

# U.S. AND HOUSTON



## National Employment Trends

**3.7%**

Unemployment Rate

**+164K**

Nonfarm Workers

**\$27.98**

Average Hourly Earnings for All Workers



## Houston Employment Trends

**4.0%**

Unemployment Rate

**-15.9K**

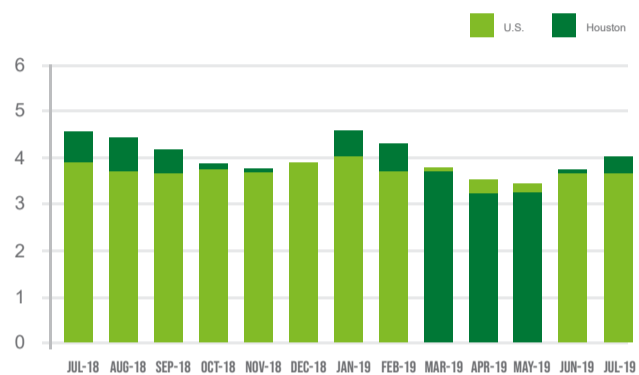
Nonfarm Workers

**3.0%**

Increase in Total Nonfarm Employment From July 2018

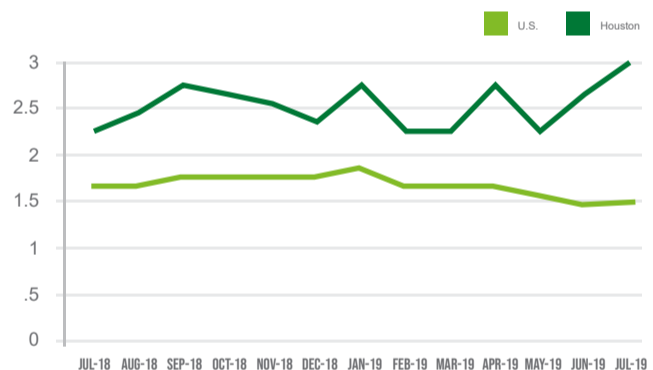
The U.S. and Houston labor markets remained steady in July. Despite a slight increase in the unemployment rate and a 0.5% decrease in total nonfarm employment, the Houston labor market remains highly competitive. Overall, the Texas unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.4%, and employers continue facing recruitment and retention challenges.

## Unemployment Rates



The unemployment rate in Houston was 4.0% in July 2019, up from 3.8% in June, while the U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7%.

## Over-the-Year % Change in Total Nonfarm Employment



Total nonfarm employment in Houston in July 2019 was up by 3% from July 2018, and total nonfarm employment in the U.S. was up by 1.5% from the previous year.

## Workforce Insights

- ▶ For many employers not only in Houston, but in Texas and the U.S. overall, consistently low unemployment rates are signaling an unprecedented tightness in the labor market. A lack of qualified talent is contributing to stalled growth for businesses across industries, specifically those aiming to fill middle-skill, trade positions.
- ▶ Houston and San Antonio depend on mid-skill workers more than any other major metropolitan area in the U.S. Job seekers with the right skills and certifications stand to greatly benefit from the demand for skilled labor in the area. Receiving training for an in-demand job can lead to a 30-50 percent increase in entry-level wages.
- ▶ As younger generations enter the workforce, they come with new expectations beyond wages. Increasingly, everyone is seeking improved work/life balance, including flexible scheduling and non traditional work styles such as remote, project and contract work.

## For additional information, please contact:

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### Sources:

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Labor Market Information, Houston Chronicle