

# THE ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

## HOUSTON



GREATER HOUSTON  
PARTNERSHIP.

Making Houston Greater.

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### Table of Contents

A Look Back at '21 .....	1
Save the Date .....	7
Employment Data .....	8

Economic data for '21 continues to trickle in. Houston set a record for job growth, recovering all but a handful of the jobs lost in the early stages of the pandemic. Passenger traffic at the region's airports moved closer to normal. Construction activity picked up but remains below pre-pandemic levels. Oil prices and the rig count finished above where they began the year. Exports ticked up. Home sales set a record. Inflation surged to levels not seen in 20 years. Sales tax collections rebounded. Vehicle sales recovered from their pandemic lows. And the tight local labor market has sent unemployment back to pre-pandemic levels. This issue of *Glance* provides a broad post-analysis of how the various sectors of Houston's economy performed in '21.

### EMPLOYMENT

'21 will go down as the best year on record for Houston job growth. The region created 151,800 jobs, a 5.1 percent increase over '20. Prior to '21, the best year was 1981 when the region created 126,900 jobs. Houston has now recouped 316,700 of the 361,400 jobs lost early in the pandemic.

Several sectors added 10,000 or more jobs last year—restaurants and bars (19,500), professional, scientific and technical services (15,900), health care and social assistance (15,700), transportation and warehousing (14,800), administrative and support services (14,400), other services (13,700), and mining and logging, primarily oil and gas, (11,700). The demise of traditional retail has been overexaggerated. The sector added 9,800 jobs last year, the second largest gain of the past 30 years.

Only a handful of subsectors—chemicals, machinery manufacturing, merchant wholesalers, public education, and telecommunications—reported job losses in '21. Those losses were more than offset by gains elsewhere.

The four sectors holding back a full recovery have recently showed improvement. As a group, energy, construction, manufacturing, and wholesale trade added 31,400 jobs, one in every five created in Houston last year. Now that growth has resumed for those four, Houston should return to pre-pandemic employment levels by mid-year.

### HOUSTON EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY AS OF DEC '21

Industry/Sector	Initial Loss	Jobs Re-covered	Left to Recoup	% to Recoup *
Total Jobs Lost	-361,400	316,700	44,700	12.4
Manufacturing	-11,500	-6,700	18,200	158.3
Government	-9,100	-1,700	10,800	118.7
Construction	-24,000	-3,700	27,700	115.4
Real Estate	-6,400	700	5,700	89.1
Wholesale Trade	-8,900	1,100	7,800	87.6
Information	-4,500	1,400	3,100	68.9
Hotels	-11,000	4,200	6,800	61.8
Arts, Recreation	-17,400	10,200	7,200	41.4
Restaurants, Bars	-99,500	90,600	8,900	8.9
Energy	-6,100	5,900	200	3.3
Other Services	-30,200	29,600	600	2.0
Admin Support	-25,500	27,500	Fully Recovered	
Educational Services	-8,000	11,000	Fully Recovered	
Finance, Insurance	-1,400	6,200	Fully Recovered	
Health Care	-37,700	41,200	Fully Recovered	
Prof, Sci, Tech Svcs	-13,800	14,300	Fully Recovered	
Retail Trade	-40,000	52,200	Fully Recovered	
TWU*	-4,300	33,700	Fully Recovered	

\*A value greater than 100% means the sector has lost jobs even after the March - April '20 shutdown.

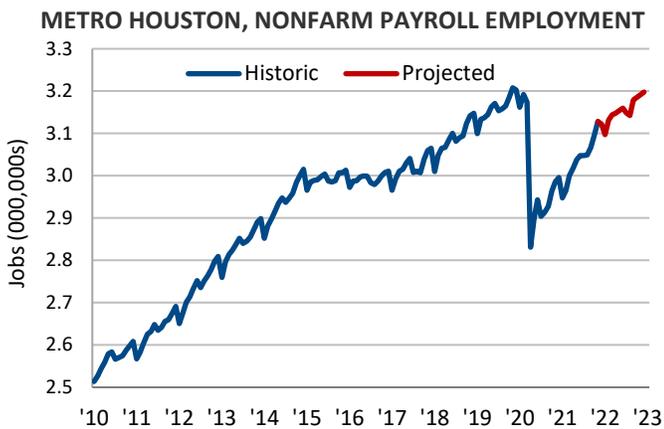
Source: Greater Houston Partnership calculations based on Texas Workforce Commission data.

Readers of *Glance* are reminded that the employment data for '21 are preliminary. A more accurate job count will be available mid-March when the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases its benchmark revisions for the year. The reports that BLS issues monthly are based on a sample of employers, the respondents selected to be representative of their industries. The March revisions will be based on administrative records, specifically a count of

employees covered by unemployment insurance at every firm in the U.S. This method, though cumbersome to collect and analyze, provides a more accurate picture of the year's gains and losses.

The revisions could be substantial. BLS has been off by as many as 50,000 jobs in the past. Reductions of that magnitude are highly unlikely this time, but one shouldn't be surprised if BLS overestimated local job growth. The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, using data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), estimates Houston created 131,400 jobs in '21. That would still set a record for job growth in Houston. And coming after one of the worst downturns in the region's history, it would underscore the overall resiliency of the Houston economy.

A potential drag on Houston's growth in '22 will be its labor force. Employers can't find enough workers to fill all their open positions. CEOs, hiring managers, and business owners lament that they could build, manufacture, and sell more if they could hire more workers. If Houston can expand its workforce through in-migration, residents coming out of retirement, or dropouts re-entering the job market, employment growth could exceed the 75,500 in the [Partnership's forecast for '22](#).



Source: Texas Workforce Commission (historic); Greater Houston Partnership (projected)

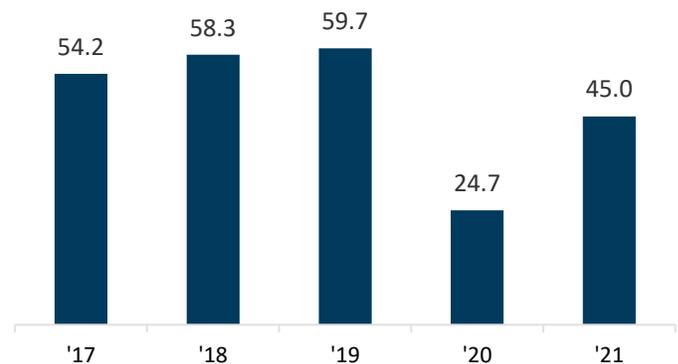
Several external factors could impact growth in '22 as well. Expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates four to six times this year have already created volatility in financial markets. Higher rates may force firms to rethink investment and staffing decisions. Concerns over inflation have already begun to affect consumer confidence. A Russian invasion of Ukraine or a flare-up in Chinese-Taiwanese tensions could disrupt the global growth. And don't rule out the possibility of yet another COVID wave. For now, though, Houston's outlook remains robust.

## AVIATION

The Houston Airport System (HAS) handled 45.0 million passengers in '21, nearly double the 22.3 million handled the year before but still well below the nearly 60 million passengers handled in '19.

Early in the pandemic, HAS traffic fell by over 95 percent. For the three most recent months in '21 for which data is available (October, November and December), traffic was only down 12 percent. Though the Omicron surge has slowed the recovery, passenger growth is expected to resume as soon as the current wave subsides.

HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM TRAFFIC  
Millions of Passengers



Source: Houston Airport System

Several factors have led to growth in traffic—pent-up leisure demand, robust domestic travel, flourishing travel to Mexico, and improving demand in long haul international markets.

HAS earned two major accolades in '21. William P. Hobby was the first airport in North America to earn a five-star rating from Skytrax. The London-based agency has rated airports on the quality of their products and services since 1999. Hobby was one of 16 airports in the world to receive a five-star rating. George Bush Intercontinental received a four-star rating for the fifth consecutive year.

## CHEMICALS

Rail car loadings serve as a proxy for U.S. chemical production, much of which is concentrated on the Texas Gulf Coast. U.S. railroads handled 1.7 million chemical rail cars in '21, up 5.6 percent from '20.

Through the first 11 months of '21, chemical exports via the Houston/Galveston Customs District topped 22.3 million metric tons, a 4.9 percent increase over '20. Shipments

rose despite damage caused to the industry during the February '21 freeze. Exports of plastics, however, fell from 8.3 to 6.0 million metric tons, the decline starting well before the freeze, which only made matters worse.

## CONSTRUCTION

Construction activity was mixed in '21. City building permits slipped but construction in the metro area rose. The city suffered a drop in commercial construction and renovation work. Residential construction plateaued but at an already high level. Overall, construction activity inside the city remains below pre-COVID levels.

CITY OF HOUSTON BUILDING PERMITS, \$ BILLIONS

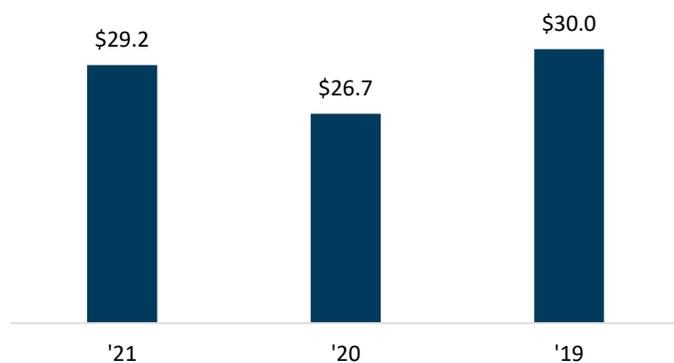
	'21	'20	'19	'18	'17
Residential	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	1.9
Non-Residential	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.3
Alterations/Additions <sup>1</sup>	2.0	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.9
Total	5.9	6.6	7.3	6.1	6.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes residential and commercial work

Source: City of Houston Permitting Center

The metro area also suffered from a drop in commercial work but benefitted from an increase in residential and non-building (i.e., infrastructure) construction. At the metro level, construction is nearing pre-pandemic levels.

METRO CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDS, BILLIONS



Note: Dodge changes its reporting methodology '18 so comparisons with prior years are not available.

Source: Dodge Data & Analytics

The outlook for '22:

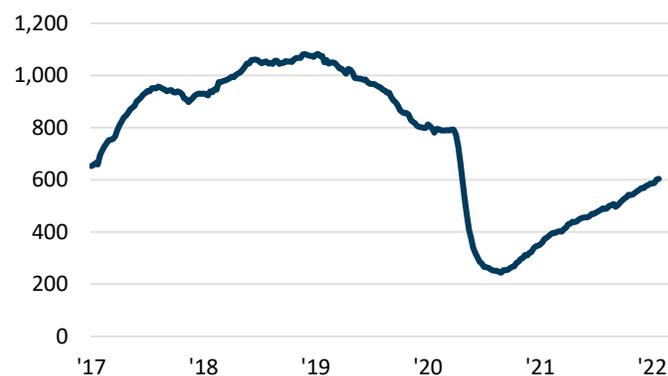
- Colliers reports 16.7 million square feet (msf) of industrial space was under construction in Q4/21, up from 8.2 msf in Q4/20. Activity is likely to pick up given the strong demand for warehouse/distribution space.
- According to JLL, Houston had 2.0 msf of office space under construction in Q4/21, down from 3.1 msf in Q4/20. Office construction will remain weak until the sector's high vacancy rate begins to trend down.

- NAI Partners reports 3.7 msf of retail space under construction in Q4/21, up from 3.2 msf in Q4/20. Strong population and job growth will spur the demand for additional retail space. Another 7.8 msf is proposed through '23.

## ENERGY EXPLORATION

The domestic rig count has yet to recover from the downturn which began in '19 and accelerated during the pandemic. After growing impatient waiting for promised returns, the capital markets cut off the flow of funds to the industry starting in '18, forcing exploration firms to live within their means. The drilling of new wells had to be financed from internal cash flow. That spurred a drop of 281 rigs. A collapse in oil prices, first led by a dispute between Russia and Saudi Arabia, then accelerated by the pandemic, culled another 561 rigs from the fleet. At the lowest point, only 244 rigs were working in the U.S.

U.S. ACTIVE RIG COUNT



Source: Baker Hughes

The recovery has been slow, even with a surge in oil prices. In late January, the U.S. rig count operated at 55.8 percent of its '18 pre-Covid peak. Exploration budgets in '22 will be up 15-20 percent over last year, but a substantial amount of the increase will be eaten up by inflation and higher wages. The drilling industry also faces a shortage of skilled labor, a challenge it deals after every downturn as workers leave the oil patch for more stable employment elsewhere.

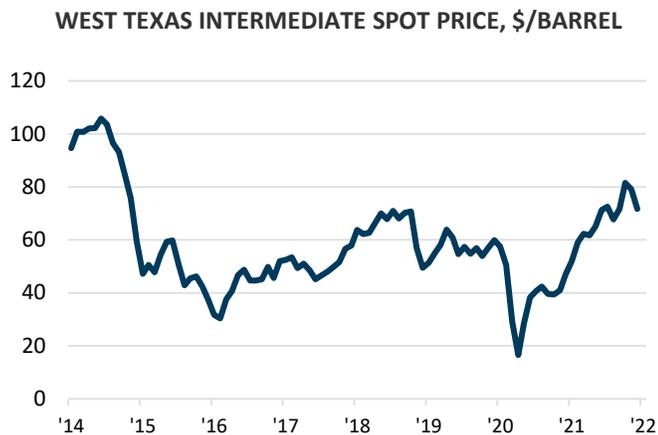
## ENERGY PRICES

Early in the pandemic, prices took a roller coaster dip but since May '20 they've trended up. In late January, West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the U.S. benchmark for light, sweet crude, traded at prices not seen since the fall of '14.

Strong U.S. economic growth, an increase in domestic air travel, a drawdown of U.S. inventories, a slower-than-expected recovery in U.S. crude output, heightened geo-

political tensions, and doubts about OPEC’s ability to increase production have driven the rebound in prices.

Forecasters call for crude to trade as high as \$100 per barrel this year. None of the forecasters call for crude to drop below \$70 per barrel. As a result, the domestic rig count, U.S. production, and Houston energy employment should all benefit.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

## FOREIGN TRADE

Customs district traffic is another sector for which year-end data is not available. In the first 11 months of '21, however, the Houston-Galveston Customs District exceeded that of same period the prior year in tonnage and value for both exports and imports.

### HOUSTON CUSTOMS DISTRICT TRAFFIC, NOVEMBER YTD

	Exports		Imports	
	Value	Tonnage	Value	Tonnage
	Billions	Millions	Billions	Millions
Nov '21 YTD	\$153.1	248.5	\$82.0	72.1
Nov '20 YTD	\$108.4	240.5	\$58.0	70.0
Dif '21 v '20	44.7	8.0	\$24.0	2.2
% Change	41.2%	3.3%	41.5%	2.9%

Note: The Houston/Galveston Customs District includes the ports of Houston, Corpus Christi, Freeport, Galveston, Port Lavaca, Texas City, and Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Source: WISERTrade

'20 and '21 were opposite images of each other. '20 began well but slumped as the pandemic hit. '21 began poorly but gathered steam as people became vaccinated and the economy opened up. That explains why *tonnage* in '21 was barely up over '20. *Value* rose significantly because crude and refined products prices climbed in '21, raising the value of both imports and exports.

The main commodities that pass through the region were agricultural products, chemicals, crude, electrical equipment, industrial machinery, iron and steel, plastic, refined

products and vehicles. As a group, these accounted for 90 percent of the tonnage and 85 percent of the value of cargos exported from Houston.

## HOME CONSTRUCTION

The housing boom that began in '20 continued into '21. New home construction was at its strongest pace since before the Great Recession. Local builders broke ground on 41,619 homes in '21, second only to Dallas-Ft. Worth (55,038). At the end of December, nearly 20,000 homes were under construction in Houston, nearly double the level of five years ago.

### HOUSTON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

	Annual Closings	Under Construction	Annual Starts	VDL Supply*
Q4/17	26,841	9,968	27,535	20.5
Q4/18	28,126	12,217	30,301	17.4
Q4/19	30,750	11,310	30,613	17.5
Q4/20	34,451	14,915	36,545	14.1
Q4/21	38,441	19,340	41,629	11.2

\* Months until the current inventory of lots will last based on current levels of home construction. Twenty months is a balanced market.

Source: Zonda (formerly MetroStudy)

Several factors are driving demand—strong population growth, millennials entering the housing market, working from home instilling a desire for nicer surroundings, and low interest rates.

Most local builders started '22 with a strong backlog. Q1 will remain busy as buyers rush to close before interest rates rise. The Federal Reserve is reducing its purchases of mortgage-backed securities, which had also kept rates low.

According to John Burns Consulting, interest rates on a 30-year conventional mortgage have already jumped 100 basis points since January '21. That has raised the monthly payment on a \$350,000 home (median price in Houston) by \$190 over the past year. Factor in home appreciation, and the monthly mortgage payment rose 16.0 percent nationwide in '21. The firm anticipates payments rising another 17.0 percent in '22. This will eventually slow the demand for new homes, in turn price appreciation, and eventually construction activity.

## HOME SALES

Houston-area home sales set a record in '21. Prices continued to rise, closing the year well above where they started. And strong demand continues to draw down inventory and push up prices.

Closings totaled 130,990 in '21, up from 115,676 in '20 and well above 91,609 recorded five years ago ('17). The median price for a single-family re-sale rose from \$263,000 in

January to a record \$319,000 in December. As the year ended, the Houston Association of Realtors had 22,496 active listings in its database, the lowest level in 20 years.

### HOUSTON HOUSING MARKET, '21 vs '20

All Property Types			
	Dec '21	Dec '20	% Change
Sales	131,041	115,676	13.3
Volume (\$ Billions)	39.950	31.160	28.2
Active Listings	131,041	115,676	13.3
Single-Family Homes			
Sales	106,229	96,271	10.3
Average Price (\$)	376,075	324,069	16.0
Median Price (\$)	300,000	260,000	15.4

Source: Source: Houston Association of REALTORS®

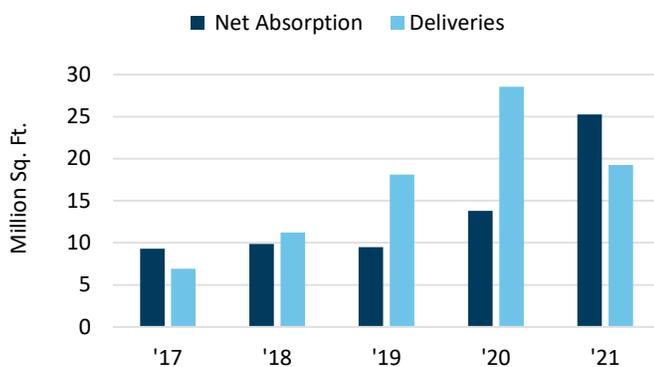
### INDUSTRIAL LEASING

Industrial leasing activity totaled 40.1 million s.f. in '21, nearly 73.0 percent above the average volume of the past five years, according to JLL. Absorption, at 25.3 million s.f., also set a record. As a result, the industrial vacancy rate, which had been climbing since '18, has ratcheted down. The rate slipped to 7.7 percent in Q4/21, a drop from 9.4 percent in Q4/20.

Houston's industrial market is benefitting from an influx of population and new businesses. U-Haul recently announced that Texas led the nation in one-way rentals last year. Over the past three years ('19 – '21), the Partnership has identified nearly 700 companies that have announced plans to relocate or expand operations in Houston.

JLL expects demand to remain well ahead of supply in '22. Vacancies will continue to decline and lease rates increase. Houston's industrial market remains the healthiest of the commercial real estate sectors.

### HOUSTON INDUSTRIAL MARKET OVERVIEW



Source: JLL

### INFLATION

In '21, consumers endured the steepest inflation of the past 40 years. Nationally, prices shot up 7.0 percent from December '20 to December '21. The spread of the Omicron variant continues to disrupt supply chains, creating shortages of inputs for manufacturers and finished goods for merchants. Firms, desperate for workers, are bidding up wages. And consumers, flush with cash from three stimulus packages, have juiced demand for goods and services.

### CHANGE IN PRICES, SELECTED CATEGORIES U.S. AVARGE, DEC '20 – DEC '21

Category	% Change
All items	7.0
Food	6.3
Food at home	6.5
Food away from home	6.0
Energy	29.3
Gasoline (all types)	49.6
Electricity	6.3
Apparel	5.8
New vehicles	11.8
Used cars and trucks	37.3
Shelter	4.1
Physicians' services	4.3
Transportation services	4.2
Vehicle maintenance and repair	4.8
Motor vehicle insurance	4.1
Airline fares	1.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Federal Reserve will start raising interest rates in March to tamp down inflation, but rates of price increases are likely to continue through the end of this year and well into next.

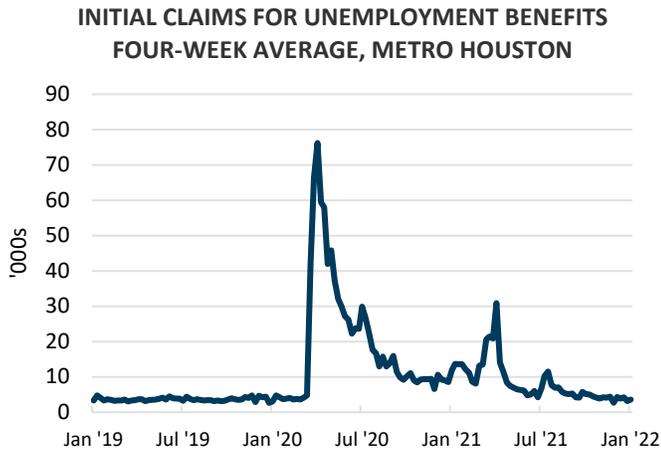
### INITIAL CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Initial claims for unemployment benefits in Houston peaked in July of '20 and have declined since. The fall '21 surge of the Delta variant interrupted that downward trend but only briefly. In December '21, there were 22,000 fewer initial claims for benefits filed than in December '20.

At the national level, initial claims rose in January '22, a result of layoffs associated with the Omicron surge. The increase wasn't significant, though. That's been the case for Houston as well.

Initial claims serve as a proxy for layoffs. That so few claims are being filed suggests layoffs have fallen to a normal level. Layoff activity has fallen so low that the Partnership has halted tracking the metric/indicator.

The decline in initial claims also underscores the tightness of the labor market. Over the four-week period ending January 1, 2022, metro Houston averaged 3,600 claims per week, that's in line with the weekly average (3,640 claims) for all of calendar year '19.



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

**MULTIFAMILY**

Houston set a record for multifamily absorption in '21, leasing more apartments than the market had absorbed in the previous three years combined. Strong demand has driven up rents across all property classes, with average Class A rates up 17.7 percent over the year, Class B rates up 14.1 percent and Class C rates up 6.1 percent. Several factors are driving the rent hikes—population growth, job growth, and would-be homeowners being priced out of the market. Rents are likely to continue rising in '22.

**HOUSTON MULTIFAMILY MARKET FUNDAMENTALS**

	'19	'20	'21	'22 F
New Units	17,095	21,781	17,726	15,000
Absorption	14,542	11,637	37,308	16,000
Total Occupancy (%)	89.3	88.4	91.8	92.0
Rent Growth (%)	2.7	-0.8	16.0	5.0

Source: Apartment Data Services

The strongest submarkets, ranked by rental rate growth were Med Center/Braes Bayou; Katy/Cinco Ranch; Downtown; Heights/Washington Ave; Montrose/Museum District/Midtown; The Woodlands/ Conroe South; Tomball/Spring; and Conroe North/Montgomery. All reported average rent increases of 20 percent or more in '21.

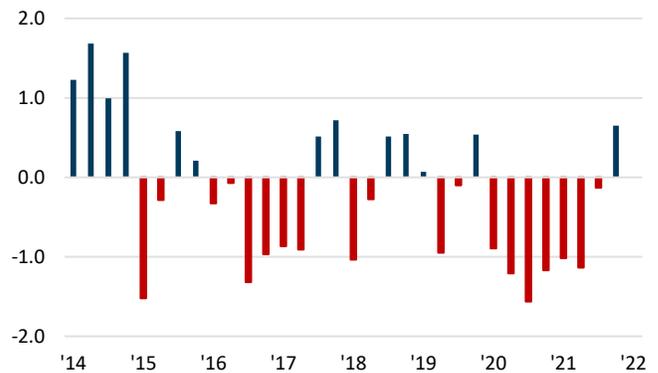
**OFFICE LEASING**

'21 ended on a rare note for the office market. Houston recorded positive absorption in Q4, only the third time in the past 12 quarters the market has done so. Despite that positive quarter, the year ended with 1.6 million sq. ft. of

negative absorption. Overall space availability, which includes current, sublease and future vacancy, climbed to 29.0 percent at year-end.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, employees' strong preference to work from home, the overbuilding which occurred early in the last decade, and the slow recovery of the energy industry continue to plague the market. Without a significant increase in demand, the office vacancy rate will continue to climb in '22. Of the roughly 3.0 million sq. ft. currently under construction, only half is preleased. Among the submarkets facing the greatest challenges: downtown Houston finished the year with an availability rate of 36.5 percent, followed by the Energy Corridor at 37.4 percent and Greenspoint, with 49.3 percent. The tightest of the major submarkets is NASA/Clear Lake, with a 12.2 percent rate.

**OFFICE ABSORPTION, MILLION SQUARE FEET**



Source: NAI Partners

**PURCHASING MANAGERS INDEX**

The Houston Purchasing Managers Index finished the year at 57.8, well above 50.0, the point which signals overall expansion of the region's economy. The PMI began the year at 51.2, suggesting Houston finished '21 with much stronger growth than it began. The PMI has now tracked above 50 for 17 consecutive months.

**HOUSTON PURCHASING MANAGERS INDEX**



Source: Institute for Supply Management-Houston

The Institute for Supply Management, which gathers data from local purchasing managers to calculate the index, also publishes subcomponents of the PMI. Every subcomponent shows '21 ended on a stronger note than it began.

#### HOUSTON PMI, SELECTED COMPONENTS

Index	Dec '20	Dec '21	Change
Houston PMI	51.5	57.8	6.3
Sales/New Orders	55.1	56.6	1.5
Production	54.1	53.7	-0.4
Employment	46.0	57.5	11.5
Purchases	53.7	54.4	0.7
Lead Times	58.6	62.8	4.2
Purchased Inventory	53.8	52.3	-1.5
Finished Inventory	51.4	47.5	-3.9

Note: Finished and purchased inventory are inversely related to the other components; values below 50 signal expansion in the local economy.  
Source: Institute for Supply Management-Houston

ISM Houston also publishes a forecast component of the PMI. Like the overall PMI, any reading above 50 is good and suggests the direction of the Houston economy over the next three months. In December, the forecast component registered 55.7, slightly up from 54.1 in December of '20.

#### RETAIL LEASING

Retail remains one of the tightest real estate markets in Houston. Demand for space outstripped new supply in '21, a phenomenon not seen since '16. Job growth, population growth, income growth and a suburban housing boom are driving retail construction and absorption.

#### RETAIL MARKET OVERVIEW

	Q4/21	Q4/20
Vacancy (%)	5.9	6.5
Under Construction	3,672,124	3,243,912
Asking Rent/\$ Month (NNN)	19.13	18.34
Net Absorption	1,529,636	1,380,045
Leasing Activity	1,982,137	1,983,831
Deliveries	510,030	1,045,073

Source: NAI Partners

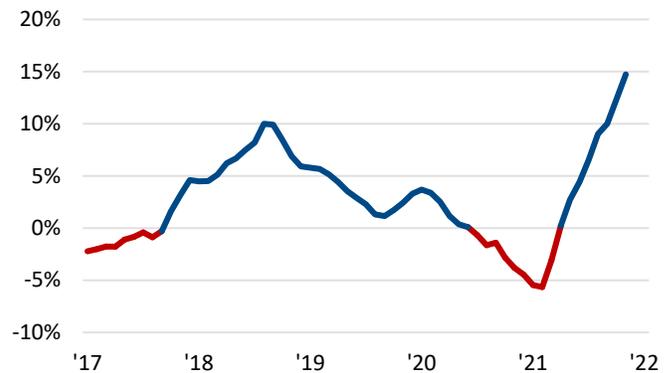
As of late December, roughly 3.7 million square feet was under construction, with another 5.0 million proposed. The demand for retail real estate will likely surpass supply past '22 and well into '23.

#### SALES TAX COLLECTIONS

Over 100 cities and municipalities in the metro Houston area collect the sales and use tax. The Partnership tracks collections for the 12 largest, which represent 85 percent of the region's total. In the first 11 months of '21 (full year data is not yet available), all of those cities reported increased collections compared to the same period in '20.

Eleven of the 12 reported double-digit increases. Granted, some of the increase is due to inflation, but even allowing for that the increases have been significant.

#### SALES TAX COLLECTIONS, 12-MONTH CHANGE 12 MOST POPULOUS HOUSTON-AREA CITIES



Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Not all of the increase is attributed to a jump in consumer spending. Businesses pay taxes on their purchases as well. Research by Robert W. (Bill) Gilmer, Executive Director at the University of Houston Institute for Regional Forecasting, shows that sales tax collections on business purchases are more susceptible to changes in the local business cycle than consumer purchases. The recent surge in collections suggests the local business community is enjoying a strong rebound from the initial impact of the COVID-19 recession.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

As the year ended, Houston's unemployment rate approached pre-pandemic levels. The rate peaked at 14.0 percent in April '20, began '21 at 7.6 percent, and steady job growth throughout the year brought the rate down to 4.8 percent by December. The rate fell even as the civilian labor force grew by over 100,000 workers. The local labor pool is now larger than prior to the pandemic.

Houston's unemployment rate may tick up in January and February as the economy suffers a temporary setback due to the Omicron surge. Initial claims for unemployment insurance ticked up in early January, but as new infections peak and trend downward, workers will be re-hired and the rate should resume its downward glide.

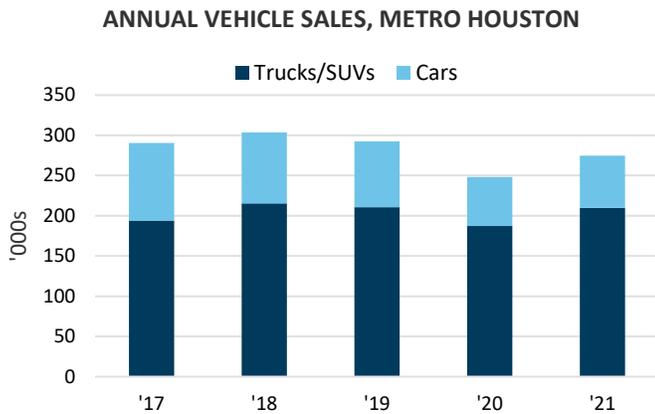
#### METRO HOUSTON LABOR FORCE

	Feb '20	Apr '20	Dec '20	Dec '21
Labor Force	3,486,370	3,278,843	3,409,040	3,482,713
Employed	3,353,444	2,819,611	3,148,520	3,314,497
Unemployed	132,926	459,232	260,520	168,216
Unemp Rate	3.8%	14.0%	7.6%	4.8%

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

## VEHICLE SALES

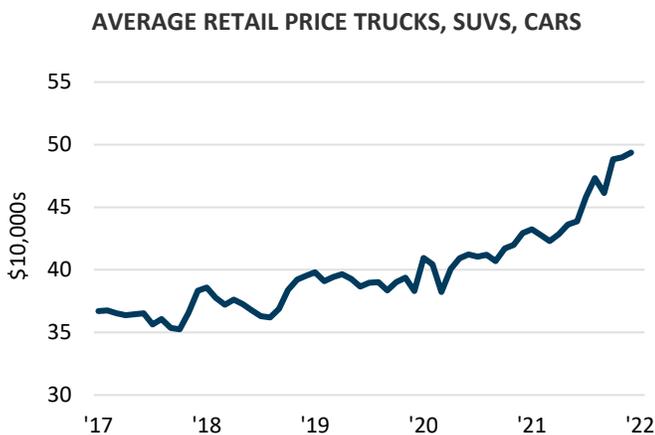
Houston-area auto dealers sold over 274,000 vehicles in '21, slightly above volume forecasted for the year, well above '20 sales levels, but below where sales would have been if not for lack of inventory.



Source: TexAuto Facts published by InfoNation, Inc.

Normally, vehicle sales are a good proxy for local consumer sentiment, falling as the economy softens and Houstonians worry about layoffs and rising as the economy strengthens and job growth resumes. That relationship weakened in '21. Sales would have been much higher if not for a lack of inventory on dealers' lots. According to the National Auto Dealers Association, inventory levels at the end of December totaled 1.1 million units, down 59.1 percent compared with the 2.8 million units in December the previous year.

Lack of inventory drove up prices. InfoNation reports that between January '21 and December '21, the average price of a new vehicle sold in Houston jumped more than \$6,000. Sales of trucks and SUVs, which tend to cost more than cars and sedans, garnered a larger share of the market, which may account for some of the price increases.



Source: TexAuto Facts published by InfoNation, Inc.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Partnership offers a series of webinars and presentations throughout the year on local, U.S. and global economic trends. The purpose of these events is to provide members with the most current information available so they make better informed purchase, hiring, and investment decisions. The Partnership has seven economic outlook events planned so far this year. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

### UPCOMING ECONOMY EVENTS

Date	Event
March 9	Local Economic Update
April 6	U.S. Economic Update
May 20	Global Outlook
August 4	Houston Facts Presentation
September 14	Local Economic Update
October 5	U.S. Economic Update
December 6	2023 Regional Forecast

Information on how to register for the above events will be posted at the [Partnership's website](#) and in this newsletter closer to the scheduled dates. If your firm would like to sponsor one of these events, please reach out to Terry Leibowitz, Events & Programs Director, 713-844-3644 or [t Leibowitz@houston.org](mailto:t Leibowitz@houston.org)

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

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

## HOUSTON MSA NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT (000)

	Dec '21	Nov '21	Dec '20	Change from		% Change from	
				Nov '21	Dec '20	Nov '21	Dec '20
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>3,147.5</b>	<b>3,127.1</b>	<b>2,995.7</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>151.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<i>Total Private</i>	<i>2,729.9</i>	<i>2,710.3</i>	<i>2,575.6</i>	<i>19.6</i>	<i>154.3</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>6.0</i>
<i>Goods Producing</i>	<i>504.2</i>	<i>496.2</i>	<i>475.9</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>5.9</i>
<i>Service Providing</i>	<i>2,643.3</i>	<i>2,630.9</i>	<i>2,519.8</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>123.5</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>4.9</i>
<i>Private Service Providing</i>	<i>2,225.7</i>	<i>2,214.1</i>	<i>2,099.7</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>126.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>6.0</i>
Mining and Logging	78.2	75.9	66.3	2.3	11.9	3.0	17.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	38.1	37.4	34.6	0.7	3.5	1.9	10.1
Support Activities for Mining	37.2	35.9	30.2	1.3	7.0	3.6	23.2
Construction	209.7	206.5	200.9	3.2	8.8	1.5	4.4
Manufacturing	216.3	213.8	208.7	2.5	7.6	1.2	3.6
Durable Goods Manufacturing	134.5	132.9	125.9	1.6	8.6	1.2	6.8
Nondurable Goods Manufacturing	81.8	80.9	82.8	0.9	-1.0	1.1	-1.2
Wholesale Trade	163.0	163.8	158.5	-0.8	4.5	-0.5	2.8
Retail Trade	313.3	308.8	303.5	4.5	9.8	1.5	3.2
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	186.4	182.2	171.6	4.2	14.8	2.3	8.6
Utilities	17.0	17.1	17.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.6	-1.2
Air Transportation	18.4	18.4	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	27.4	27.4	26.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.6
Pipeline Transportation	11.8	11.7	11.6	0.1	0.2	0.9	1.7
Information	29.6	29.2	29.0	0.4	0.6	1.4	2.1
Telecommunications	12.5	12.5	12.8	0.0	-0.3	0.0	-2.3
Finance & Insurance	109.5	107.8	104.5	1.7	5.0	1.6	4.8
Real Estate & Rental and Leasing	58.8	58.1	58.8	0.7	0.0	1.2	0.0
Professional & Business Services	514.1	513.1	483.8	1.0	30.3	0.2	6.3
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	248.0	248.0	232.1	0.0	15.9	0.0	6.9
<i>Legal Services</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>3.2</i>
<i>Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>2.4</i>
<i>Architectural, Engineering &amp; Related Services</i>	<i>67.0</i>	<i>66.8</i>	<i>65.0</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>3.1</i>
<i>Computer Systems Design &amp; Related Services</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>6.5</i>
Admin & Support/Waste Mgt & Remediation	221.4	220.2	206.2	1.2	15.2	0.5	7.4
<i>Administrative &amp; Support Services</i>	<i>207.5</i>	<i>206.6</i>	<i>193.1</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>7.5</i>
<i>Employment Services</i>	<i>80.7</i>	<i>81.2</i>	<i>72.6</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>-0.6</i>	<i>11.2</i>
Educational Services	69.1	69.2	61.9	-0.1	7.2	-0.1	11.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	351.8	352.9	336.1	-1.1	15.7	-0.3	4.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28.3	28.1	25.8	0.2	2.5	0.7	9.7
Accommodation & Food Services	283.3	279.8	261.4	3.5	21.9	1.3	8.4
Other Services	118.5	121.1	104.8	-2.6	13.7	-2.1	13.1
Government	417.6	416.8	420.1	0.8	-2.5	0.2	-0.6
Federal Government	32.5	32.2	31.7	0.3	0.8	0.9	2.5
State Government	92.2	92.1	90.8	0.1	1.4	0.1	1.5
<i>State Government Educational Services</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>52.9</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1.3</i>
Local Government	292.9	292.5	297.6	0.4	-4.7	0.1	-1.6
<i>Local Government Educational Services</i>	<i>198.2</i>	<i>197.9</i>	<i>201.8</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>-3.6</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-1.8</i>

SOURCE: Texas Workforce Commission