

## FOURTH QUARTER 1999 COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

The average quarterly employment for Louisiana during fourth quarter 1999 increased by 26,069, or 1.4%. Employment increased by 12,219, or 0.7%, from the same period a year ago. The following table shows the average quarterly employment data for fourth quarter 1999, third quarter 1999, and fourth quarter 1998 and the percent change for the major industry divisions.

	QTR 994	QTR 993	QTR 984	% CHG FROM PREV QTR	% CHG FROM PREV YR
TOTAL	1,867,195	1,841,126	1,854,976	1.4%	0.7%
Agriculture Forestry & Fishing	18,874	19,312	17,836	-2.3%	5.8%
Mining	46,366	45,701	53,322	1.5%	-13.0%
Contract Construction	135,088	134,337	137,342	0.6%	-1.6%
Manufacturing	184,900	187,611	190,094	-1.4%	-2.7%
Transp. and Public Utilities	130,224	129,661	132,090	0.4%	-1.4%
Wholesale Trade	95,922	96,697	97,878	-0.8%	-2.0%
Retail Trade	358,902	349,508	350,429	2.7%	2.4%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	84,645	83,923	85,348	0.9%	-0.8%
Services	709,391	690,252	692,526	2.8%	2.4%
Public Administration	99,612	99,853	98,010	-0.2%	1.6%

The number of reporting units for fourth quarter 1999 decreased by 811 units, or 0.7%, from the previous quarter and increased 2,357 units, or 2.1%, from a year ago. The following table shows the average number of units for fourth quarter 1999, third quarter 1999, and fourth quarter 1998 and the percent change for the major industry divisions.

	QTR 994	QTR 993	QTR 984	% CHG FROM PREV QTR	% CHG FROM PREV YR
TOTAL	116,904	117,715	114,547	-0.7%	2.1%
Agriculture Forestry & Fishing	2,359	2,370	2,266	-0.5%	4.1%
Mining	1,952	1,972	1,948	-1.0%	0.2%
Contract Construction	10,137	10,274	9,938	-1.3%	2.0%
Manufacturing	4,882	4,917	4,734	-0.7%	3.1%
Transp. and Public Utilities	7,281	7,314	7,069	-0.5%	3.0%
Wholesale Trade	9,690	9,781	9,693	-0.9%	0.0%
Retail Trade	23,257	23,469	23,150	-0.9%	0.5%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	11,395	11,318	10,795	0.7%	5.6%
Services	41,206	41,437	40,337	-0.6%	2.2%
Public Administration	3,484	3,599	3,487	-3.2%	-0.1%

Total wages for fourth quarter 1999 increased by 11.5% from third quarter 1999 and increased 1.8% from the same period a year ago. The average weekly wage for fourth quarter 1999 was \$563.67, an increase of 10.0% from the third quarter 1999 figure of \$512.64. Table 1 includes average weekly wage data for all parishes within each industry division by Regional Labor Market Area.