

FIRST QUARTER 2000 COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

The average quarterly employment for Louisiana during first quarter 2000 increased by 25,863, or 1.4%, from the same period a year ago. Employment decreased by 11,186, or 0.6%, from the fourth quarter 1999. This decrease can be attributed to normal seasonal declines in agriculture and retail trade. The following table shows the average quarterly employment data for first quarter 2000, fourth quarter 1999, and first quarter 1999 and the percent change for the major industry divisions.

	QTR 001	QTR 994	QTR 991	% CHG FROM PREV QTR	% CHG FROM PREV YR
TOTAL	1,856,009	1,867,195	1,830,146	-0.6%	1.4%
Agriculture Forestry & Fishing	16,206	18,874	15,511	-14.1%	4.5%
Mining	45,522	46,366	48,709	-1.8%	-6.5%
Contract Construction	138,094	135,088	138,103	2.2%	0.0%
Manufacturing	183,187	184,900	187,335	-0.9%	-2.2%
Transp. and Public Utilities	128,654	130,224	128,806	-1.2%	-0.1%
Wholesale Trade	94,843	95,922	96,374	-1.1%	-1.6%
Retail Trade	354,317	358,902	343,573	-1.3%	3.1%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	84,791	84,645	83,110	0.2%	2.0%
Services	704,773	709,391	688,430	-0.7%	2.4%
Public Administration	101,886	99,612	97,630	2.3%	4.4%

The number of reporting units for first quarter 2000 increased by 1,198 units, or 1.0%, from the previous quarter and increased 2,862 units, or 2.5%, from a year ago. The following table shows the average number of units for first quarter 2000, fourth quarter 1999, and first quarter 1999 and the percent change for the major industry divisions.

	QTR 001	QTR 994	QTR 991	% CHG FROM PREV QTR	% CHG FROM PREV YR
TOTAL	118,102	116,904	115,240	1.0%	2.5%
Agriculture Forestry & Fishing	2,377	2,359	2,308	0.8%	3.0%
Mining	2,022	1,952	1,949	3.6%	3.7%
Contract Construction	10,154	10,137	10,101	0.2%	0.5%
Manufacturing	4,990	4,882	4,808	2.2%	3.8%
Transp. and Public Utilities	7,322	7,281	7,098	0.6%	3.2%
Wholesale Trade	9,665	9,690	9,689	-0.3%	-0.2%
Retail Trade	23,466	23,257	23,210	0.9%	1.1%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	11,468	11,395	10,834	0.6%	5.9%
Services	41,761	41,206	40,626	1.3%	2.8%
Public Administration	3,469	3,484	3,503	-0.4%	-1.0%

Total wages for first quarter 2000 decreased by 5.8% from fourth quarter 1999 and increased 7.6% from the same period a year ago. The average weekly wage for first quarter 2000 was \$534.31, a decrease of 5.2% from the fourth quarter 1999 figure of \$563.67. Table 1 includes average weekly wage data for all parishes within each industry division by Regional Labor Market Area. Table 2 now includes the average weekly wage data by major industry division and statewide.