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N E W S R E L E A S E

Louisiana Employment Continues to Outperform the Nation

BATON ROUGE – Louisiana’s employment picture continued to outperform the nation in April despite a drop in nonfarm jobs, the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) announced today.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in Louisiana declined by 8,300 from April 2008 to April 2009, bringing the total number of jobs in the state to 1,931,800. Over the month, the state experienced a 7,000 nonfarm employment drop.

Louisiana’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2009 was 6.2 percent, up from the March 2009 revised rate of 5.8 percent and the year-ago figure of 4.1 percent. The April unemployment rate ranked Louisiana ninth lowest in the nation. The April 2009 unemployment rate for the United States was 8.9 percent, up from the March rate of 8.5 percent.

“We’re more focused on trends than we are on any single month, and Louisiana continues to do better than the nation as a whole, as it has for well over a year,” LWC Executive Director Tim Barfield said. “However, the longer the nation’s economy struggles, the more drag it will have on our economy and labor market and it is clear that we are not immune.”

Louisiana’s civilian labor force – the number of people working or looking for work – for April was 2,074,611, up from the March revised figure of 2,070,503. The number of employed in April was 1,946,270, down slightly from 1,949,824 in March. The number of unemployed in Louisiana in April 2009 rose to 128,341 from 120,679 in March. Civilian labor force statistics are estimated from a sample survey by place of residence.

Preliminary seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment by sector for April 2009 was as follows: construction, 140,100, up from 138,500 employed in March; manufacturing, 147,100, up from 147,000; other services, 70,400, up from 69,100; trade, transportation, and utilities, 378,800, down from 381,200; information, 27,600, down from 27,700; financial activities, 92,300, down from 93,400; professional and business services, 201,700, down from 204,300; education and health services, 258,300, down from 259,200; leisure and hospitality, 197,300, down from 199,800; government, 365,300, down 100 over the month; and mining and logging (formerly natural resources and mining), 52,900, down from 53,200.

Nonfarm statistics are estimated from an employer-based sample survey by place of work. Seasonally adjusted data are used to compare states and to compare states to the nation. Not seasonally adjusted data are used to compare areas within the state to each other and to the state as a whole. Not seasonally adjusted April data also showed a loss of 8,000 jobs over the month and 6,700 jobs over the year. They also show job growth over the month in two of the state’s eight MSAs. The number of nonfarm jobs grew by 600 in Alexandria and 200 in Shreveport, held steady in Lake Charles and declined by 500 in Monroe, 2,400 in New Orleans, 2,100 in Baton Rouge, 300 in Houma and 200 in the Lafayette MSA.

“Some parts of the state continued to do well or hold their own, and the number of nonfarm jobs in both Baton Rouge and Houma are up significantly over the year,” Barfield said. “We need to see how the labor market data plays out over the next two or three months to get a clearer idea of how the situation nationally is affecting us.”

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Louisiana's unadjusted unemployment rate, comparable to MSAs and parishes, in April was 5.7 percent, up slightly from the revised March rate of 5.6 percent. The comparable national unemployment rate decreased to 8.6 percent in April, down from 9 percent in March.

Lafourche Parish had the lowest unemployment rate of 3.5 percent last month while West Carroll Parish had the highest rate at 16.1 percent. Please see page three for the MSA rates.

For more detailed information on April 2009 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net and select Labor Market Information from the left-side menu. Then select Monthly Employment Bulletin – Workforce At A Glance or Monthly Employment Statistics Press Release for the latest monthly nonfarm and labor force data.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary April 2009			Revised March 2009			Revised April 2008		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	140,586,000	13,248,000	8.6	139,833,000	13,895,000	9.0	145,921,000	7,287,000	4.8
LOUISIANA	1,947,391	116,630	5.7	1,937,446	115,900	5.6	1,993,426	66,242	3.2
ALEXANDRIA MSA	66,780	3,762	5.3	65,747	3,934	5.6	68,261	2,149	3.1
Grant	8,422	617	6.8	8,292	606	6.8	8,609	275	3.1
Rapides	58,358	3,145	5.1	57,455	3,328	5.5	59,652	1,874	3.0
BATON ROUGE MSA	354,981	19,566	5.2	354,974	19,573	5.2	362,214	11,708	3.1
Ascension	46,950	2,549	5.1	46,950	2,506	5.1	47,907	1,436	2.9
East Baton Rouge	207,544	10,864	5.0	207,540	10,964	5.0	211,773	6,617	3.0
East Feliciana	7,659	480	5.9	7,659	476	5.9	7,815	277	3.4
Iberville	11,533	996	7.9	11,533	1,020	8.1	11,768	585	4.7
Livingston	53,646	2,943	5.2	53,645	2,847	5.0	54,739	1,711	3.0
Pointe Coupee	9,057	512	5.4	9,057	531	5.5	9,242	325	3.4
St. Helena	3,894	355	8.4	3,894	353	8.3	3,974	243	5.8
West Baton Rouge	10,182	577	5.4	10,181	583	5.4	10,389	339	3.2
West Feliciana	4,515	290	6.0	4,515	292	6.1	4,607	176	3.7
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	101,709	3,786	3.6	101,232	3,756	3.6	102,721	2,385	2.3
Lafourche	47,965	1,724	3.5	47,740	1,730	3.5	48,442	1,088	2.2
Terrebonne	53,744	2,062	3.7	53,492	2,026	3.6	54,279	1,297	2.3
LAFAYETTE MSA	129,027	5,844	4.3	128,496	5,473	4.1	133,075	3,231	2.4
Lafayette	106,347	4,522	4.1	105,910	4,258	3.9	109,684	2,565	2.3
St. Martin	22,680	1,322	5.5	22,586	1,215	5.1	23,391	666	2.8
LAKE CHARLES MSA	89,931	5,120	5.4	89,383	4,945	5.2	94,165	2,943	3.0
Calcasieu	86,563	4,966	5.4	86,036	4,767	5.2	90,639	2,832	3.0
Cameron	3,368	154	4.4	3,347	178	5.0	3,526	111	3.1
MONROE MSA	76,668	5,049	6.2	76,556	4,995	6.1	78,780	2,928	3.6
Ouachita	67,123	4,269	6.0	67,025	4,245	6.0	68,972	2,526	3.5
Union	9,545	780	7.6	9,531	750	7.3	9,808	402	3.9
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	498,435	28,065	5.3	498,156	27,947	5.3	512,760	15,340	2.9
Jefferson	215,801	10,886	4.8	215,680	10,880	4.8	222,003	6,023	2.6
New Orleans City/Orleans	103,325	8,430	7.5	103,267	8,143	7.3	106,294	4,190	3.8
Plaquemines	8,758	433	4.7	8,753	452	4.9	9,009	268	2.9
St. Bernard	9,439	729	7.2	9,434	707	7.0	9,711	365	3.6
St. Charles	25,554	1,259	4.7	25,540	1,290	4.8	26,289	741	2.7
St. John Baptist	21,616	1,501	6.5	21,604	1,528	6.6	22,237	831	3.6
St. Tammany	113,943	4,827	4.1	113,879	4,947	4.2	117,217	2,922	2.4
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	172,549	11,533	6.3	171,343	11,688	6.4	177,201	7,037	3.8
Bossier	50,417	2,696	5.1	50,065	2,790	5.3	51,776	1,635	3.1
Caddo	111,495	7,950	6.7	110,715	8,031	6.8	114,501	4,735	4.0
De Soto	10,637	887	7.7	10,563	867	7.6	10,924	667	5.8

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary April 2009			Revised March 2009			Revised April 2008		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	25,424	1,453	5.4	25,095	1,414	5.3	25,941	756	2.8
Allen	8,203	843	9.3	8,151	848	9.4	8,354	377	4.3
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,729	734	7.0	9,610	716	6.9	10,126	398	3.8
Avoyelles	15,343	1,032	6.3	15,123	1,000	6.2	15,685	655	4.0
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	14,337	1,115	7.2	14,128	1,118	7.3	14,026	558	3.8
Bienville	5,810	559	8.8	5,746	540	8.6	5,842	273	4.5
Caldwell	4,431	393	8.1	4,340	374	7.9	4,411	175	3.8
Catahoula	3,936	419	9.6	3,806	393	9.4	4,068	190	4.5
Claiborne	6,095	550	8.3	6,077	515	7.8	6,210	283	4.4
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	7,118	729	9.3	7,021	686	8.9	7,121	374	5.0
East Carroll	2,715	350	11.4	2,664	343	11.4	2,783	226	7.5
Evangeline	11,870	867	6.8	11,758	820	6.5	11,994	448	3.6
Franklin	7,177	779	9.8	6,984	776	10.0	7,435	410	5.2
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	33,030	1,921	5.5	32,704	1,747	5.1	33,400	1,012	2.9
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,393	452	6.6	6,321	430	6.4	6,405	236	3.6
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	14,239	717	4.8	14,095	677	4.6	14,391	404	2.7
La Salle	6,111	419	6.4	5,997	370	5.8	6,181	162	2.6
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	18,576	1,156	5.9	18,368	1,174	6.0	18,612	701	3.6
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,313	421	8.9	4,251	409	8.8	4,333	264	5.7
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	10,752	1,451	11.9	10,575	1,497	12.4	11,031	701	6.0
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	16,055	1,276	7.4	15,885	1,299	7.6	16,408	717	4.2
Red River	3,123	326	9.5	3,085	337	9.8	3,330	159	4.6
Richland	8,227	776	8.6	8,131	756	8.5	8,430	393	4.5
Sabine	9,444	666	6.6	9,273	783	7.8	9,275	329	3.4
St. James	8,420	802	8.7	8,323	745	8.2	8,465	429	4.8
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	35,294	2,387	6.3	34,922	2,284	6.1	36,245	1,394	3.7
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	21,670	1,375	6.0	21,324	1,326	5.9	22,580	762	3.3
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	50,524	3,308	6.1	50,064	3,382	6.3	51,390	1,867	3.5
Tensas	1,948	209	9.7	1,842	233	11.2	2,045	140	6.4
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	22,937	1,387	5.7	22,552	1,293	5.4	23,534	738	3.0
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	20,344	1,159	5.4	20,039	1,495	6.9	19,731	789	3.8
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,737	1,134	7.1	14,643	1,107	7.0	15,288	676	4.2
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,769	1,542	7.6	18,642	1,526	7.6	18,772	909	4.6
West Carroll	3,787	725	16.1	3,692	681	15.6	4,103	339	7.6
Winn	6,429	472	6.8	6,327	494	7.2	6,307	276	4.2

¹In addition to the eight (8) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Louisiana, there are seventeen (17) Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCs): Jackson and Lincoln Parishes combine to constitute the Ruston MC area. Civilian Labor Force can be derived by adding employed and unemployed. For related information or data, please visit:

www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm.