



1001 North 23rd Street
Post Office Box 94094
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9094

(O) 225-342-3035
(F) 225-342-3743
www.laworks.net

Bobby Jindal, Governor
Curt Eysink, Executive Director

Office of Occupational Information Services

Date: May 25, 2011
Release: Immediately
Updated: May 27, 2011 Revised March 2011 CLF on Pages 3 & 4

Media Should Contact:
Media Relations (225) 342-3035

N E W S R E L E A S E

Unemployment Rate Drops in All Metro Areas in State

BATON ROUGE – Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the state and in all metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) decreased in April, the Louisiana Workforce Commission reported today.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went down from 8.0 percent in March to 7.4 percent in April. The U.S. rate increased from 8.8 percent to 9.0 percent. The unemployment rate is developed based on data gathered from a sample survey of residences by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS.)

Unemployment rates for the MSAs in April:

- Alexandria, 7.0 percent, down from 7.7 percent
- Baton Rouge, 7.6 percent, down from 8.2 percent
- Houma, 5.4 percent, down from 5.8 percent
- Lafayette, 5.8 percent, down from 6.3 percent
- Lake Charles, 6.8 percent, down from 7.2 percent
- Monroe, 7.6 percent, down from 8.5 percent
- New Orleans, 7.2 percent, down from 7.9 percent
- Shreveport, 6.6 percent, down from 7.1 percent

The household survey estimates Louisiana's civilian labor force – the number of people working or looking for work – decreased 5,531 over the month to 2,047,300. The not seasonally adjusted estimate shows the number of people employed in April was 1,896,213, up 7,797 from March. The number of unemployed in April was 151,087, down 13,328 from March.

A separate BLS survey of Louisiana employers showed the state had an increase of 13,100 not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the month, for a total of 1,903,600 in April and an increase of 14,500 jobs from April 2010. Private industry sectors gained 12,600 jobs over the month and 25,300 over the year, while government shed 10,800 jobs compared to last year.

At the MSA level, the New Orleans MSA added the most jobs over the month in nonfarm employment with an increase of 4,500 jobs. The Shreveport MSA led in annual growth with an additional 5,400 workers.

“Indicators continue to show that employers are adding jobs, with growth in many private industry sectors,” said Curt Eysink, LWC executive director. “We continue to be encouraged by what our employer surveys tell us.”

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Please see Page 3 for the MSA rates. For more detailed information on April 2011 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.laworks.net and select Labor Market Information from the top right 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.

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CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary April 2011			Revised March 2011			Revised April 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	139,661,000	13,237,000	8.7	138,962,000	14,060,000	9.2	139,302,000	14,609,000	9.5
LOUISIANA	1,896,213	151,087	7.4	1,888,416	164,415	8.0	1,941,610	136,355	6.6
ALEXANDRIA MSA	64,242	4,837	7.0	63,280	5,264	7.7	65,046	4,298	6.2
Grant	8,040	644	7.4	7,919	715	8.3	8,140	606	6.9
Rapides	56,202	4,193	6.9	55,361	4,549	7.6	56,906	3,692	6.1
BATON ROUGE MSA	343,621	28,202	7.6	343,149	30,598	8.2	353,863	24,318	6.4
Ascension	47,039	3,612	7.1	46,975	3,844	7.6	48,441	3,322	6.4
East Baton Rouge	198,470	15,770	7.4	198,197	17,233	8.0	204,385	13,362	6.1
East Feliciana	7,300	644	8.1	7,290	737	9.2	7,517	587	7.2
Iberville	10,920	1,318	10.8	10,905	1,474	11.9	11,246	1,085	8.8
Livingston	53,730	4,220	7.3	53,656	4,541	7.8	55,331	3,772	6.4
Pointe Coupee	8,596	844	8.9	8,584	863	9.1	8,852	666	7.0
St. Helena	3,663	562	13.3	3,658	592	13.9	3,772	446	10.6
West Baton Rouge	9,646	842	8.0	9,632	938	8.9	9,933	720	6.8
West Feliciana	4,258	391	8.4	4,252	376	8.1	4,385	360	7.6
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	96,834	5,540	5.4	97,102	6,024	5.8	97,915	5,098	4.9
Lafourche	45,724	2,602	5.4	45,851	2,821	5.8	46,235	2,297	4.7
Terrebonne	51,110	2,938	5.4	51,251	3,203	5.9	51,680	2,801	5.1
LAFAYETTE MSA	126,330	7,739	5.8	125,333	8,426	6.3	129,360	7,231	5.3
Lafayette	104,461	6,145	5.6	103,637	6,704	6.1	106,967	5,666	5.0
St. Martin	21,869	1,594	6.8	21,696	1,722	7.4	22,393	1,565	6.5
LAKE CHARLES MSA	87,456	6,331	6.8	87,516	6,795	7.2	89,681	5,969	6.2
Calcasieu	84,582	6,138	6.8	84,640	6,596	7.2	86,734	5,798	6.3
Cameron	2,874	193	6.3	2,876	199	6.5	2,947	171	5.5
MONROE MSA	73,980	6,117	7.6	73,335	6,790	8.5	76,580	5,698	6.9
Ouachita	64,943	5,315	7.6	64,377	5,939	8.4	67,225	4,919	6.8
Union	9,037	802	8.2	8,958	851	8.7	9,355	779	7.7
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	499,707	39,046	7.2	497,147	42,438	7.9	508,717	35,185	6.5
Jefferson	197,981	14,595	6.9	196,967	15,821	7.4	201,551	13,433	6.2
New Orleans City/Orleans	134,380	12,344	8.4	133,691	13,442	9.1	136,803	10,792	7.3
Plaquemines	7,462	638	7.9	7,424	664	8.2	7,596	475	5.9
St. Bernard	16,963	1,391	7.6	16,876	1,475	8.0	17,268	1,136	6.2
St. Charles	22,209	1,630	6.8	22,096	1,788	7.5	22,610	1,599	6.6
St. John Baptist	18,706	1,943	9.4	18,610	2,212	10.6	19,043	1,936	9.2
St. Tammany	102,006	6,505	6.0	101,484	7,036	6.5	103,846	5,815	5.3
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	174,089	12,291	6.6	172,269	13,199	7.1	173,484	11,297	6.1
Bossier	51,635	3,170	5.8	51,095	3,314	6.1	51,455	2,764	5.1
Caddo	111,779	8,299	6.9	110,611	8,977	7.5	111,391	7,702	6.5
De Soto	10,675	822	7.1	10,563	908	7.9	10,638	831	7.2

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary April 2011			Revised March 2011			Revised April 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	23,703	1,589	6.3	23,577	1,728	6.8	25,086	1,582	5.9
Allen	7,668	841	9.9	7,697	934	10.8	7,974	890	10.0
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,029	1,155	11.3	9,026	1,280	12.4	9,339	930	9.1
Avoyelles	14,582	1,387	8.7	14,477	1,494	9.4	15,511	1,193	7.1
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,406	1,114	7.7	13,366	1,120	7.7	13,630	980	6.7
Bienville	5,712	577	9.2	5,722	631	9.9	5,862	517	8.1
Caldwell	4,032	436	9.8	4,021	471	10.5	4,130	405	8.9
Catahoula	3,754	423	10.1	3,739	489	11.6	3,937	381	8.8
Claiborne	5,775	571	9.0	5,827	625	9.7	6,052	547	8.3
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,445	818	11.3	6,365	938	12.8	6,671	674	9.2
East Carroll	2,219	432	16.3	2,281	493	17.8	2,512	375	13.0
Evangeline	11,219	1,065	8.7	11,275	1,169	9.4	11,736	951	7.5
Franklin	6,668	885	11.7	6,629	1,016	13.3	7,085	770	9.8
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	30,147	2,407	7.4	30,142	2,604	8.0	30,828	2,409	7.2
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	5,904	495	7.7	5,903	531	8.3	6,088	440	6.7
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,226	858	6.1	13,199	934	6.6	13,949	810	5.5
La Salle	6,511	375	5.4	6,459	407	5.9	6,461	357	5.2
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,535	1,639	8.5	17,534	1,786	9.2	18,080	1,361	7.0
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,025	495	11.0	4,014	541	11.9	4,165	441	9.6
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	9,245	1,526	14.2	9,243	1,764	16.0	9,936	1,427	12.6
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	15,188	1,296	7.9	15,202	1,416	8.5	16,056	1,163	6.8
Red River	3,279	300	8.4	3,274	336	9.3	3,407	273	7.4
Richland	8,107	938	10.4	8,100	1,062	11.6	8,297	812	8.9
Sabine	8,704	641	6.9	8,685	678	7.2	8,802	575	6.1
St. James	8,132	1,111	12.0	8,116	1,271	13.5	8,491	955	10.1
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,918	3,067	8.1	34,777	3,405	8.9	35,906	2,838	7.3
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	20,246	2,135	9.5	20,312	2,371	10.5	20,930	1,965	8.6
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	47,403	4,600	8.8	47,190	5,071	9.7	49,084	4,169	7.8
Tensas	1,484	257	14.8	1,524	315	17.1	1,700	269	13.7
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	21,912	1,594	6.8	21,723	1,769	7.5	22,987	1,610	6.5
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	19,415	1,741	8.2	19,340	1,577	7.5	19,573	1,256	6.0
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	13,178	1,489	10.2	13,300	1,599	10.7	14,460	1,383	8.7
Webster (Minden) ¹	17,990	1,510	7.7	17,965	1,676	8.5	18,598	1,390	7.0
West Carroll	3,335	679	16.9	3,363	810	19.4	3,701	677	15.5
Winn	5,858	538	8.4	5,916	569	8.8	5,939	486	7.6

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.