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N E W S R E L E A S E

Lafayette & Lake Charles show strong over-the-month gains

BATON ROUGE – Louisiana’s civilian labor force – people employed and unemployed but seeking a job – grew during April. The not-seasonally-adjusted report showed the state’s labor force increased by 5,797 people over the month to 2,117,468.

“Although Louisiana’s not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly, increases in the civilian labor force and monthly job gains in Lafayette and Houma are early positive indicators of continued job growth,” said Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission Executive Director.

All of the state’s nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) saw an increase of nonfarm jobs over the month. Lake Charles nonfarm employment is also at a series high. Not-seasonally-adjusted April over-the-month job gains, over-the-year nonfarm job change totals and unemployment rates for the nine (MSAs) are as follows:

- Alexandria: The MSA gained 200 jobs for the month, but is down 800 over the year. 6.1 percent, up from 5.9 percent in March and up from 5.6 percent from April 2016.
- Baton Rouge: The MSA gained 300 jobs over the month and 900 over the year. 4.8 percent, up from 4.6 percent in March and up from 4.7 percent from April 2016.
- Hammond: The MSA gained 100 jobs over the month and 600 over the year. 6.2 percent, up from 5.9 percent in March, but down from 6.3 percent from April 2016.
- Houma: The MSA gained 400 jobs over the month, but is down 4,400 over the year. 6.2 percent, unchanged from March, but down from 6.3 percent from April 2016.
- Lafayette: The MSA gained 1,900 jobs over the month, but is down 3,100 over the year. 6.3 percent, unchanged from March, but down from 6.9 percent from April 2016.
- Lake Charles: The MSA gained 1,100 jobs over the month and 5,800 over the year. 4.3 percent, up from 4.1 percent in March, but down from 4.5 percent from April 2016.
- Monroe: The MSA gained 200 jobs over the month and 100 over the year. 5.8 percent, up from 5.6 percent in March and up from 5.7 percent from April 2016.
- New Orleans: The MSA gained 1,400 jobs over the month, but is down 1,000 jobs over the year. 5.1 percent, up from 4.9 percent in March, but unchanged from April 2016.
- Shreveport: The MSA gained 100 jobs over the month, but is down 2,600 over the year. 6.0 percent, up from 5.8 percent in March, but unchanged from April 2016.

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About The Louisiana Workforce Commission

The Louisiana Workforce Commission is an agency of state government that administers programs designed to enhance workforce growth and provide family-sustaining jobs for Louisiana residents. The commission monitors employment, administers unemployment compensation and tax funds, provides training resources for employers and employees and oversees worker compensation benefits. The agency also gathers and supplies information on the labor market and occupational sectors in Louisiana.

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Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area	April 2017			March 2017			April 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	1,998,757	118,711	5.6	1,996,901	114,770	5.4	2,005,989	121,287	5.7
Alexandria, LA MSA	61,608	4,019	6.1	61,659	3,875	5.9	62,461	3,706	5.6
Grant Parish, LA	7,780	546	6.6	7,771	523	6.3	7,875	514	6.1
Rapides Parish, LA	53,828	3,473	6.1	53,888	3,352	5.9	54,586	3,192	5.5
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	400,727	20,333	4.8	401,967	19,499	4.6	400,209	19,910	4.7
Ascension Parish, LA	58,928	2,923	4.7	59,134	2,774	4.5	58,865	2,789	4.5
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	223,876	11,131	4.7	224,635	10,728	4.6	223,618	10,853	4.6
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,787	431	5.2	7,795	390	4.8	7,767	443	5.4
Iberville Parish, LA	13,424	959	6.7	13,483	897	6.2	13,421	926	6.5
Livingston Parish, LA	65,278	3,111	4.5	65,419	3,007	4.4	65,157	3,055	4.5
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,528	601	5.9	9,528	560	5.6	9,503	621	6.1
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,149	297	6.7	4,157	293	6.6	4,142	296	6.7
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,600	638	4.8	12,649	618	4.7	12,589	647	4.9
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,157	242	4.5	5,167	232	4.3	5,147	280	5.2
Hammond, LA MSA	51,184	3,358	6.2	51,104	3,231	5.9	50,707	3,387	6.3
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	51,184	3,358	6.2	51,104	3,231	5.9	50,707	3,387	6.3
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	83,698	5,575	6.2	83,471	5,546	6.2	87,530	5,896	6.3
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,331	2,481	5.9	39,199	2,465	5.9	41,106	2,582	5.9
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,367	3,094	6.5	44,272	3,081	6.5	46,424	3,314	6.7
Lafayette, LA MSA	200,333	13,502	6.3	198,773	13,377	6.3	202,799	15,068	6.9
Acadia Parish, LA	22,583	1,570	6.5	22,432	1,555	6.5	22,884	1,754	7.1
Iberia Parish, LA	27,565	2,533	8.4	27,303	2,547	8.5	27,867	2,856	9.3
Lafayette Parish, LA	106,489	6,197	5.5	105,679	6,103	5.5	107,811	6,829	6.0
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,985	1,546	6.9	20,897	1,517	6.8	21,308	1,778	7.7
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,711	1,656	6.8	22,462	1,655	6.9	22,929	1,851	7.5
Lake Charles, LA MSA	105,018	4,695	4.3	104,510	4,522	4.1	100,050	4,758	4.5
Calcasieu Parish, LA	101,249	4,537	4.3	100,759	4,372	4.2	96,457	4,594	4.5
Cameron Parish, LA	3,769	158	4.0	3,751	150	3.8	3,593	164	4.4
Monroe, LA MSA	76,733	4,689	5.8	76,796	4,546	5.6	76,770	4,681	5.7
Ouachita Parish, LA	67,991	4,119	5.7	68,054	3,991	5.5	68,023	4,108	5.7
Union Parish, LA	8,742	570	6.1	8,742	555	6.0	8,747	573	6.1
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	568,540	30,594	5.1	568,326	29,291	4.9	568,867	30,872	5.1
Jefferson Parish, LA	206,832	10,667	4.9	206,893	10,150	4.7	207,043	10,830	5.0
Orleans Parish, LA	170,305	9,653	5.4	170,180	9,154	5.1	170,357	9,768	5.4
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,737	505	4.9	9,734	485	4.7	9,749	517	5.0
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,453	1,117	5.7	18,406	1,075	5.5	18,438	1,119	5.7
St. Charles Parish, LA	24,140	1,229	4.8	24,155	1,211	4.8	24,170	1,252	4.9
St. James Parish, LA	8,950	678	7.0	8,976	658	6.8	8,978	703	7.3
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,830	1,332	6.6	18,866	1,273	6.3	18,869	1,309	6.5
St. Tammany Parish, LA	111,293	5,413	4.6	111,116	5,285	4.5	111,263	5,374	4.6
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	177,293	11,379	6.0	177,709	10,979	5.8	179,773	11,507	6.0
Bossier Parish, LA	53,551	2,759	4.9	53,684	2,692	4.8	54,306	2,851	5.0
Caddo Parish, LA	99,947	6,737	6.3	100,163	6,461	6.1	101,329	6,639	6.1
De Soto Parish, LA	9,938	721	6.8	9,967	712	6.7	10,082	760	7.0
Webster Parish, LA	13,857	1,162	7.7	13,895	1,114	7.4	14,056	1,257	8.2

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Area	April 2017			March 2017			April 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,496	482	5.4	8,396	467	5.3	8,407	522	5.8
Assumption Parish, LA	8,328	765	8.4	8,338	715	7.9	8,434	724	7.9
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,577	1,052	6.7	14,495	1,016	6.6	14,704	1,045	6.6
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	14,257	865	5.7	14,075	799	5.4	14,368	844	5.5
Bienville Parish, LA	5,255	395	7.0	5,264	367	6.5	5,280	440	7.7
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,693	252	6.4	3,689	254	6.4	3,737	299	7.4
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,155	269	7.9	3,093	267	7.9	3,147	325	9.4
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,548	362	6.1	5,580	348	5.9	5,567	385	6.5
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,676	630	8.6	6,647	613	8.4	6,666	580	8.0
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,899	275	12.6	1,903	269	12.4	1,889	240	11.3
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,845	808	6.4	11,828	766	6.1	11,881	885	6.9
Franklin Parish, LA	6,626	614	8.5	6,571	596	8.3	6,698	662	9.0
Jackson Parish, LA	6,542	350	5.1	6,514	346	5.0	6,721	384	5.4
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	12,820	714	5.3	12,673	697	5.2	12,775	783	5.8
La Salle Parish, LA	5,769	331	5.4	5,715	319	5.3	5,857	438	7.0
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	19,791	1,227	5.8	19,520	1,219	5.9	19,602	1,243	6.0
Madison Parish, LA	3,491	340	8.9	3,461	340	8.9	3,466	350	9.2
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,700	983	9.2	9,742	929	8.7	9,696	1,006	9.4
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,305	1,043	6.4	15,279	1,022	6.3	15,196	1,042	6.4
Red River Parish, LA	3,624	227	5.9	3,629	222	5.8	3,556	207	5.5
Richland Parish, LA	7,810	563	6.7	7,769	580	6.9	7,841	630	7.4
Sabine Parish, LA	8,474	522	5.8	8,435	515	5.8	8,569	618	6.7
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,951	2,346	7.3	29,806	2,293	7.1	30,414	2,543	7.7
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,994	1,903	9.1	19,073	1,867	8.9	20,291	2,090	9.3
Tensas Parish, LA	1,431	146	9.3	1,420	145	9.3	1,449	161	10.0
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,091	1,201	7.4	15,244	1,053	6.5	16,108	1,054	6.1
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	16,104	1,086	6.3	16,080	1,037	6.1	16,011	1,127	6.6
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,620	455	11.2	3,595	488	12.0	3,639	498	12.0
Winn Parish, LA	4,752	360	7.0	4,750	356	7.0	4,855	381	7.3
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	1,998,453	123,020	5.8	1,993,598	120,199	5.7	1,999,379	133,143	6.2