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N E W S R E L E A S E

Over-the-year gains strengthen Louisiana's economy

BATON ROUGE – Data released last Friday by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) shows that not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 22,800 jobs from April 2017. This is the seventh straight over-the-year increase. From March 2018, the number of nonfarm jobs increased by 17,800 to 1,997,100.

Not seasonally adjusted data shows that private sector employment increased by 26,100 jobs from April 2017. Not seasonally adjusted private sector employment has also added jobs over the year for the seventh straight month. From March 2018, the not seasonally adjusted private sector increased by 15,900 jobs to 1,668,200.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, compared to last year, has decreased by 0.7 percentage points from April 2017. From March 2018, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.3 percent.

From April 2017, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 45,184. This over the year increase marks the 11th consecutive time this has occurred. From March 2018, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 4,026 to 2,048,885. Not seasonally adjusted employment has had three straight over-the-month gains. This is the highest level of employed individuals for the month of April, and this is the third highest employment level in series history.

The number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 13,811 from April 2017. From March 2018, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 456 to 92,204.

The not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, increased by 31,373 from April 2017. There have been six straight over-the-year increases. From March 2018, the not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force increased by 3,570 to 2,141,089. This makes four straight over the month gains.

"Louisiana's economy is adding jobs at an unprecedented rate as we continue to see job gains and improvement across a variety of sectors," said Ava Dejoie, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission. "More than 47,000 people are now employed when compared to April of last year. What Governor John Bel Edwards and his administration have accomplished is working, and the people, businesses and communities of our state are reaping the benefits."

All nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) declined over the year. Not seasonally adjusted April unemployment rates for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 4.6 percent, down from 4.7 percent in March and down from 5.6 percent from April 2017.
- Baton Rouge: 3.8 percent, unchanged from 3.8 percent in March, but down from 4.4 percent from April 2017.
- Hammond: 4.7 percent, up from 4.6 percent in March, but down from 5.5 percent from April 2017.

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- Houma: 4.5 percent, up from 4.4 percent in March, but down from 5.6 percent from April 2017.
- Lafayette: 4.5 percent, down from 4.6 percent in March and down from 5.6 percent from April 2017.
- Lake Charles: 3.3 percent, unchanged from 3.3 percent in March, but down from 3.8 percent from April 2017.
- Monroe: 4.6 percent, down from 4.7 percent in March and down from 5.2 percent from April 2017.
- New Orleans: 4.0 percent, unchanged from 4.0 percent in March, but down from 4.6 percent from April 2017.
- Shreveport: 4.6 percent, down from 4.7 percent March and down from 5.4 percent from April 2017.

Seasonally Adjusted vs. Not-Seasonally Adjusted Data

Jobs and employment trends data are often difficult to understand because there are two different ways to look at the data, seasonally or non-seasonally adjusted data.

Seasonal adjustment works to measure and remove the influences of predictable seasonal patterns to reveal how employment and unemployment figures change from month to month. Not seasonally adjusted data retains seasonal employment trends.

Over the course of a year, the labor force size, available jobs and employment rates undergo predictable fluctuations due to seasonal changes in weather, harvests, major holidays, and school schedules. Seasonal adjustment reduces the impact of these changes, making it easier to understand trends. Seasonally adjusted data is best utilized when comparing several months of employment and jobs data, while not seasonally adjusted data is best used to compare over-the-year trends. Seasonally adjusted data are useful for comparisons among states and the nation.

The Louisiana Workforce Commission primarily uses seasonally adjusted data because it provides a more useful and telling picture of Louisiana's jobs and employment situation.

To view all available employment data, visit Louisiana's employment homepage at <http://www.laworks.net> and select Labor Market Information from the top-right menu. Then, select LOIS (Louisiana Occupational Information System) and select Employment and Wage Data listed under Data Trends. To view the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics for the state, visit <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=la>. For BLS nonfarm employment data, click here: <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=sm>.

Resources for employers and job seekers

Job-seekers can explore careers, apply for top-rated jobs and connect with local training providers using Louisiana Star Jobs, the LWC's free career tool, at <http://www.laworks.net/Stars/>. Employers looking for workers should visit Louisiana's employment homepage at www.laworks.net. Click on HiRE (Helping Individuals Reach Employment) and create an account allowing access to qualified job seekers.

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 2018			March 2018			April 2017		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	2,048,885	92,204	4.3	2,044,859	92,660	4.3	2,003,701	106,015	5.0
Alexandria, LA MSA	61,903	3,001	4.6	62,008	3,086	4.7	60,808	3,586	5.6
Grant Parish, LA	7,808	418	5.1	7,811	434	5.3	7,674	484	5.9
Rapides Parish, LA	54,095	2,583	4.6	54,197	2,652	4.7	53,134	3,102	5.5
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	411,493	16,234	3.8	410,046	16,255	3.8	399,843	18,189	4.4
Ascension Parish, LA	61,256	2,343	3.7	61,042	2,337	3.7	59,502	2,636	4.2
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	228,816	8,860	3.7	227,979	8,790	3.7	222,235	9,921	4.3
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,938	322	3.9	7,903	329	4.0	7,722	385	4.7
Iberville Parish, LA	13,606	789	5.5	13,596	826	5.7	13,247	851	6.0
Livingston Parish, LA	67,762	2,471	3.5	67,497	2,488	3.6	65,871	2,808	4.1
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,641	479	4.7	9,627	482	4.8	9,418	536	5.4
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,207	243	5.5	4,195	241	5.4	4,095	263	6.0
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	13,029	528	3.9	12,981	551	4.1	12,650	571	4.3
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,238	199	3.7	5,226	211	3.9	5,103	218	4.1
Hammond, LA MSA	53,462	2,623	4.7	53,533	2,603	4.6	51,647	3,018	5.5
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	53,462	2,623	4.7	53,533	2,603	4.6	51,647	3,018	5.5
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	85,211	3,977	4.5	85,389	3,965	4.4	83,604	4,961	5.6
Lafourche Parish, LA	40,203	1,819	4.3	40,244	1,825	4.3	39,420	2,215	5.3
Terrebonne Parish, LA	45,008	2,158	4.6	45,145	2,140	4.5	44,184	2,746	5.9
Lafayette, LA MSA	204,809	9,598	4.5	204,410	9,803	4.6	201,974	12,065	5.6
Acadia Parish, LA	22,988	1,148	4.8	23,024	1,176	4.9	22,738	1,404	5.8
Iberia Parish, LA	27,746	1,573	5.4	27,697	1,619	5.5	27,409	2,253	7.6
Lafayette Parish, LA	109,350	4,632	4.1	109,019	4,711	4.1	107,687	5,545	4.9
St. Martin Parish, LA	21,461	1,061	4.7	21,492	1,077	4.8	21,178	1,381	6.1
Vermilion Parish, LA	23,264	1,184	4.8	23,178	1,220	5.0	22,962	1,482	6.1
Lake Charles, LA MSA	113,171	3,909	3.3	113,134	3,876	3.3	106,901	4,207	3.8
Calcasieu Parish, LA	109,112	3,779	3.3	109,072	3,748	3.3	103,063	4,068	3.8
Cameron Parish, LA	4,059	130	3.1	4,062	128	3.1	3,838	139	3.5
Monroe, LA MSA	77,401	3,744	4.6	77,681	3,802	4.7	75,820	4,186	5.2
Ouachita Parish, LA	68,629	3,288	4.6	68,847	3,354	4.6	67,186	3,677	5.2
Union Parish, LA	8,772	456	4.9	8,834	448	4.8	8,634	509	5.6
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	583,584	24,576	4.0	580,195	24,450	4.0	569,452	27,328	4.6
Jefferson Parish, LA	211,484	8,528	3.9	210,325	8,489	3.9	206,318	9,487	4.4
Orleans Parish, LA	174,872	7,871	4.3	173,780	7,845	4.3	170,604	8,649	4.8
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,886	436	4.2	9,872	428	4.2	9,695	449	4.4
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,943	874	4.4	18,825	860	4.4	18,511	996	5.1
St. Charles Parish, LA	24,718	992	3.9	24,592	962	3.8	24,117	1,098	4.4
St. James Parish, LA	9,132	530	5.5	9,110	526	5.5	8,919	602	6.3
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	19,250	1,008	5.0	19,163	1,019	5.0	18,775	1,191	6.0
St. Tammany Parish, LA	115,299	4,337	3.6	114,528	4,321	3.6	112,513	4,856	4.1
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	180,627	8,744	4.6	180,853	8,829	4.7	177,445	10,156	5.4
Bossier Parish, LA	55,163	2,234	3.9	55,245	2,195	3.8	54,198	2,487	4.4
Caddo Parish, LA	101,213	5,151	4.8	101,303	5,235	4.9	99,405	5,998	5.7
De Soto Parish, LA	10,189	531	5.0	10,218	542	5.0	10,023	645	6.0
Webster Parish, LA	14,062	828	5.6	14,087	857	5.7	13,819	1,026	6.9

Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area	April 2018			March 2018			April 2017		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,729	466	5.1	8,678	451	4.9	8,586	432	4.8
Assumption Parish, LA	8,286	548	6.2	8,325	565	6.4	8,320	677	7.5
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,721	799	5.1	14,766	797	5.1	14,906	935	5.9
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	14,120	700	4.7	13,971	661	4.5	14,143	781	5.2
Bienville Parish, LA	5,383	300	5.3	5,415	292	5.1	5,299	345	6.1
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,692	210	5.4	3,703	211	5.4	3,667	229	5.9
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,151	211	6.3	3,132	210	6.3	3,247	240	6.9
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,583	270	4.6	5,605	273	4.6	5,538	321	5.5
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,511	433	6.2	6,540	441	6.3	6,596	558	7.8
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,805	188	9.4	1,820	193	9.6	1,828	244	11.8
Evangeline Parish, LA	12,010	632	5.0	12,081	639	5.0	11,864	724	5.8
Franklin Parish, LA	6,877	481	6.5	6,879	494	6.7	6,809	545	7.4
Jackson Parish, LA	6,741	265	3.8	6,769	276	3.9	6,713	309	4.4
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	13,162	591	4.3	13,097	585	4.3	13,004	638	4.7
La Salle Parish, LA	5,993	257	4.1	5,945	259	4.2	5,881	295	4.8
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	21,813	982	4.3	21,608	985	4.4	20,929	1,091	5.0
Madison Parish, LA	3,471	285	7.6	3,464	303	8.0	3,525	305	8.0
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,653	782	7.5	9,738	838	7.9	9,521	874	8.4
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,665	833	5.0	15,713	814	4.9	15,797	932	5.6
Red River Parish, LA	3,745	158	4.0	3,771	162	4.1	3,662	199	5.2
Richland Parish, LA	7,838	470	5.7	7,861	499	6.0	7,790	506	6.1
Sabine Parish, LA	8,550	415	4.6	8,570	417	4.6	8,416	466	5.2
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	30,187	1,778	5.6	30,174	1,835	5.7	30,052	2,094	6.5
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,366	1,280	6.5	18,442	1,306	6.6	18,896	1,686	8.2
Tensas Parish, LA	1,339	112	7.7	1,364	103	7.0	1,445	128	8.1
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,222	894	5.5	15,453	869	5.3	15,241	1,072	6.6
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	16,275	844	4.9	16,344	854	5.0	16,104	971	5.7
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,637	332	8.4	3,652	378	9.4	3,627	403	10.0
Winn Parish, LA	4,702	280	5.6	4,728	282	5.6	4,798	319	6.2
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	2,042,495	95,725	4.5	2,038,997	94,761	4.4	1,994,841	114,861	5.4