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Date: May 18, 2018
For Immediate Release

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N E W S R E L E A S E

More Louisiana residents employed than ever before

BATON ROUGE – Louisiana has hit an all-time high in the number of employed individuals. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) began publishing seasonally adjusted civilian labor force for employed in 1976. As of April 2018, Louisiana recorded its all-time record of seasonally adjusted employed at 2,042,495.

From April 2017, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 47,654 to 2,042,495. From March 2018, seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 3,498. The number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 19,136 to 95,725 from April 2017.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, increased by 28,518 from April 2017. This is the highest recorded civilian labor force since March 2016. From March 2018, the civilian labor force increased by 4,462.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment has added 19,900 jobs since April 2017. There have now been over-the-year gains for seven straight months. This is also the largest over-the-year gain since March 2015. From March 2018, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 9,200 jobs, bringing the new total to 1,993,100. There have been over-the-month gains for the past five straight months and in six of the last seven months.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted private sector has gained 22,900 jobs since April 2017. With this figure being the largest over-the-year gain since March 2015, seasonally adjusted private sector employment has also added jobs consecutively for the past seven months. From March 2018, seasonally adjusted private sector employment added 8,600 jobs, bringing the new total to 1,667,400. Seasonally adjusted total private employment has added jobs over the month in six of the last seven months.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.9 percentage points when compared to Louisiana's April 2017 figure. At 4.5 percent, this is the lowest the unemployment rate has been for the month of April since 2008.

"Our state is witnessing positive employment growth across multiple industry sectors, as more job seekers are being matched with available opportunities," said Ava Dejoie, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). "Our objective remains clear and we must continue working to meet the needs of both job seekers and employers in order to fortify the state's workforce population."

Industries that showed the largest gains for seasonally adjusted jobs:

- **Education & Health Services** gained 2,500 jobs for the month and 7,800 jobs for the year. The Education and Health Services employment sector is at a series high for employment.
- **Construction** gained 2,200 jobs for the month and 2,300 jobs for the year. The Construction employment sector is currently at a series high for employment.

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- **Leisure and Hospitality** gained 1,700 jobs for the month and 6,700 jobs for the year. The Leisure and Hospitality sector is at a series high for employment.
- **Professional and Business Services** gained 800 jobs for the month and 6,700 jobs for the year.
- **Manufacturing** gained 800 jobs for the month and 2,500 jobs for the year.

Among other seasonally adjusted sectors in March:

- **Mining & Logging**, which includes industries in the oil and gas sector, gained 400 jobs for the month, but remained unchanged for the year.

The Baton Rouge and Lakes Charles metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were at series highs for employment. Among remaining Louisiana MSAs, seasonally adjusted data shows:

- Alexandria remained unchanged from March 2018, but gained 300 jobs from April 2017.
- Baton Rouge gained 1,400 jobs from March 2018 and 3,900 jobs from April 2017. The Baton Rouge MSA is at a series high for employment.
- Hammond remained unchanged from March 2018, but gained 1,100 jobs from April 2017.
- Houma remained unchanged from March 2018, but gained 500 jobs from April 2017.
- Lafayette gained 500 jobs from March 2018, but lost 1,000 jobs from April 2017.
- Lake Charles gained 200 jobs from March 2018 and 4,500 jobs from April 2017. The Lake Charles MSA is at a series high for employment.
- Monroe lost 300 jobs from March 2018, but is up 300 jobs from April 2017.
- New Orleans gained 2,900 jobs from March 2018 and 3,400 jobs from April 2017.
- Shreveport gained 400 jobs from March 2018, but lost 300 jobs from April 2017.

April metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and parish unemployment rates will be released on May 25, 2018. For additional state and MSA data release dates, please click [here](#).

Seasonally adjusted data are useful for comparisons among states and the nation. Not-seasonally adjusted data are useful for comparing trends in parishes and metropolitan statistical areas, and for comparing them to the state.

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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