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N E W S R E L E A S E

Unemployment Rates Improve in State, All Metro Areas for Second Straight Month

BATON ROUGE – Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the state and all metropolitan statistical areas improved in August for the second month in a row as Louisiana recorded its lowest unemployment rate of the year, the Louisiana Workforce Commission reported today.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate improved significantly to 7.3 percent in August from the July 2011 rate of 7.9 percent. The U.S. rate improved to 9.1 percent from July's rate of 9.3 percent. The unemployment rate is developed from a sample survey of residences by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Unemployment rates for the MSAs in August were:

- Alexandria, 6.9 percent, down from 7.7 percent
- Baton Rouge, 7.6 percent, down from 8.2 percent
- Houma, 4.9 percent, down from 5.4 percent
- Lafayette, 5.6 percent, down from 6.1 percent
- Lake Charles, 6.6 percent, down from 6.8 percent
- Monroe, 7.7 percent, down from 8.2 percent
- New Orleans, 7.3 percent, down from 7.8 percent
- Shreveport, 6.7 percent, down from 7.0 percent

The household survey estimates of Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force – the number of people working or looking for work – decreased by 32,399 over the month to 2,047,309. The not seasonally adjusted estimate shows the number of people employed in August was 1,897,998, down 18,197 from July. The number of unemployed in August decreased to its lowest level of 2011 at 149,311, down 14,202 from July.

A separate BLS survey of Louisiana employers showed the state had an increase of 1,600 not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the month, for a total of 1,905,300 in August and an increase of 30,300 jobs from August 2010. The private industry sectors decreased 600 jobs over the month and added 37,100 workers over the year.

At the MSA level, the Lafayette MSA added the most nonfarm jobs over the month with a gain of 1,500 workers and the New Orleans MSA had the largest gain over the year with an increase of 10,500 jobs.

“Our steadily improving unemployment rate and over-the-year job growth, particularly in the private sector, are positive signs for our state,” said LWC Executive Director Curt Eysink.

For more detailed information on August 2011 employment data for Louisiana, visit the LWC website at www.laworks.net and select Labor Market Information from the top right-hand menu. Then select LOIS (Louisiana Occupational Information System) and Employment and Wage Data listed under Historical Data Analysis.

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CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary August 2011			Revised July 2011			Revised August 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	140,335,000	14,008,000	9.1	140,384,000	14,428,000	9.3	139,919,000	14,759,000	9.5
LOUISIANA	1,897,998	149,311	7.3	1,916,195	163,513	7.9	1,929,686	172,143	8.2
ALEXANDRIA MSA	65,004	4,821	6.9	65,328	5,429	7.7	64,623	5,553	7.9
Grant	8,135	680	7.7	8,176	756	8.5	8,087	752	8.5
Rapides	56,869	4,141	6.8	57,152	4,673	7.6	56,536	4,801	7.8
BATON ROUGE MSA	339,007	27,899	7.6	343,991	30,706	8.2	352,312	31,924	8.3
Ascension	46,408	3,367	6.8	47,090	3,711	7.3	48,229	3,981	7.6
East Baton Rouge	195,805	15,928	7.5	198,684	17,552	8.1	203,490	18,069	8.2
East Feliciana	7,202	699	8.8	7,308	748	9.3	7,484	804	9.7
Iberville	10,774	1,263	10.5	10,932	1,410	11.4	11,196	1,407	11.2
Livingston	53,008	3,985	7.0	53,787	4,426	7.6	55,088	4,634	7.8
Pointe Coupee	8,480	886	9.5	8,605	946	9.9	8,813	903	9.3
St. Helena	3,613	584	13.9	3,667	623	14.5	3,755	674	15.2
West Baton Rouge	9,516	771	7.5	9,656	847	8.1	9,890	1,002	9.2
West Feliciana	4,201	417	9.0	4,263	443	9.4	4,366	450	9.3
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	99,179	5,150	4.9	99,206	5,685	5.4	98,826	6,134	5.8
Lafourche	46,831	2,434	4.9	46,844	2,675	5.4	46,665	2,827	5.7
Terrebonne	52,348	2,716	4.9	52,362	3,010	5.4	52,161	3,307	6.0
LAFAYETTE MSA	128,270	7,551	5.6	128,282	8,261	6.1	129,200	9,037	6.5
Lafayette	106,066	5,966	5.3	106,076	6,517	5.8	106,835	7,114	6.2
St. Martin	22,204	1,585	6.7	22,206	1,744	7.3	22,365	1,923	7.9
LAKE CHARLES MSA	88,169	6,192	6.6	89,713	6,558	6.8	88,189	7,372	7.7
Calcasieu	85,271	6,038	6.6	86,764	6,373	6.8	85,291	7,147	7.7
Cameron	2,898	154	5.0	2,949	185	5.9	2,898	225	7.2
MONROE MSA	73,299	6,098	7.7	73,890	6,635	8.2	74,816	7,012	8.6
Ouachita	64,345	5,343	7.7	64,864	5,813	8.2	65,677	6,124	8.5
Union	8,954	755	7.8	9,026	822	8.3	9,139	888	8.9
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	501,106	39,514	7.3	507,433	43,074	7.8	503,921	44,799	8.2
Jefferson	198,535	14,335	6.7	201,042	15,477	7.1	199,651	16,202	7.5
New Orleans City/Orleans	134,756	13,538	9.1	136,458	14,678	9.7	135,513	15,411	10.2
Plaquemines	7,483	566	7.0	7,577	616	7.5	7,525	556	6.9
St. Bernard	17,010	1,325	7.2	17,225	1,491	8.0	17,106	1,392	7.5
St. Charles	22,272	1,634	6.8	22,553	1,835	7.5	22,397	1,859	7.7
St. John Baptist	18,758	1,888	9.1	18,995	2,146	10.2	18,864	2,302	10.9
St. Tammany	102,292	6,229	5.7	103,584	6,831	6.2	102,867	7,078	6.4
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	173,870	12,480	6.7	175,807	13,331	7.0	168,293	14,298	7.8
Bossier	51,570	2,938	5.4	52,144	3,313	6.0	49,916	3,428	6.4
Caddo	111,639	8,472	7.1	112,882	9,135	7.5	108,058	9,840	8.3
De Soto	10,661	1,070	9.1	10,780	883	7.6	10,319	1,029	9.1

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary August 2011			Revised July 2011			Revised August 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	23,606	1,554	6.2	23,740	1,691	6.6	24,717	1,933	7.3
Allen	7,827	848	9.8	7,880	924	10.5	8,040	963	10.7
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,027	1,071	10.6	9,089	1,182	11.5	9,436	1,169	11.0
Avoyelles	14,820	1,349	8.3	14,887	1,493	9.1	15,591	1,572	9.2
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	12,867	1,063	7.6	12,904	1,213	8.6	13,593	1,258	8.5
Bienville	5,815	567	8.9	5,863	601	9.3	6,045	622	9.3
Caldwell	3,979	370	8.5	4,009	423	9.5	4,196	452	9.7
Catahoula	3,814	398	9.4	3,795	468	11.0	3,960	467	10.5
Claiborne	5,901	577	8.9	5,924	603	9.2	6,199	658	9.6
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,337	708	10.0	6,366	875	12.1	6,571	763	10.4
East Carroll	2,251	419	15.7	2,240	459	17.0	2,573	492	16.1
Evangeline	11,642	1,068	8.4	11,719	1,188	9.2	11,879	1,218	9.3
Franklin	6,615	845	11.3	6,656	931	12.3	7,072	960	12.0
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	30,451	2,285	7.0	30,615	2,510	7.6	31,161	2,757	8.1
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	5,773	470	7.5	5,856	516	8.1	6,088	498	7.6
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,384	859	6.0	13,486	942	6.5	13,957	1,035	6.9
La Salle	6,664	372	5.3	6,700	411	5.8	6,603	449	6.4
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,146	1,723	9.1	17,393	1,904	9.9	18,081	1,929	9.6
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	3,878	478	11.0	3,953	538	12.0	4,171	535	11.4
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	9,213	1,422	13.4	9,298	1,562	14.4	9,861	1,711	14.8
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	14,933	1,434	8.8	15,089	1,532	9.2	16,105	1,563	8.8
Red River	3,427	296	8.0	3,434	313	8.4	3,431	351	9.3
Richland	7,989	868	9.8	8,016	949	10.6	8,403	956	10.2
Sabine	8,950	595	6.2	9,045	681	7.0	9,156	726	7.3
St. James	8,220	1,103	11.8	8,279	1,172	12.4	8,538	1,195	12.3
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,879	2,982	7.9	35,144	3,253	8.5	35,760	3,477	8.9
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	20,198	1,961	8.8	20,314	2,158	9.6	21,138	2,279	9.7
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	47,606	4,701	9.0	47,467	5,102	9.7	49,787	5,347	9.7
Tensas	1,494	231	13.4	1,481	273	15.6	1,735	308	15.1
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	21,945	1,455	6.2	22,061	1,606	6.8	22,778	1,843	7.5
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	18,594	1,409	7.0	18,766	1,856	9.0	19,846	1,822	8.4
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	13,531	1,482	9.9	13,559	1,593	10.5	14,163	1,701	10.7
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,038	1,494	7.6	18,184	1,653	8.3	18,679	1,793	8.8
West Carroll	3,370	616	15.5	3,375	685	16.9	3,784	631	14.3
Winn	5,910	530	8.2	5,957	574	8.8	6,408	579	8.3

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.