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N E W S R E L E A S E

Unemployment rates decline for fourth month in a row in all metro areas

BATON ROUGE – Louisiana’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December decreased to 4.0 percent. From November 2017, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percent. Compared to the same time a year ago, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has decreased by 1.4 percentage points.

Not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 9,800 jobs from December 2016. With a new figure of 1,989,900, this is the eighth straight over-the-year increase.

Not seasonally adjusted private sector employment increased by 14,500 jobs to 1,667,200 when compared to December 2016 figures. This is also the eighth straight over-the-year increase. Monthly data that is not seasonally adjusted does not minimize the changes in any time series which result from normal annual occurrences such as Christmas, summer vacations and weather patterns.

Not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 12,770 from November 2017. When comparing figures from December 2016, not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 61,330 to 2,033,106. This is the highest not-seasonally adjusted employed individuals has been since July 2015.

The number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 4,731 from November 2017 to 84,275. When comparing figures to December 2016, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals has decreased by 28,161.

The not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, increased by 8,039 to 2,117,381. Compared to December 2016, the not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force has increased by 33,169.

“Louisiana is home to thousands of strong-willed individuals who are actively engaged in finding employment,” said Ava Dejoie, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission. “As the unemployment rate declines, we are seeing a growing number of residents returning to the workplace, and that is encouraging.”

The increase in the civilian labor force this month positively affected the labor force participation rate, a measure indicating the share of residents engaged in the labor market. The not seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate increased over the month from 58.5 percent to 58.7 percent.

All nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) declined over-the-month. Unemployment rates declined in all LA metro areas over-the-year for the fourth consecutive month. Not-seasonally adjusted December unemployment rates for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 4.5 percent, down from 4.6 percent in November and down from 5.8 percent in December 2016.
- Baton Rouge: 3.4 percent, down from 3.6 percent in November and down from 4.7 percent in December 2016.

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- Hammond: 4.4 percent, down from 4.6 percent in November and down from 6.0 percent in December 2016.
- Houma: 4.1 percent, down from 4.4 percent in November and down from 6.1 percent in December 2016.
- Lafayette: 4.2 percent, down from 4.5 percent in November and down from 6.2 percent in December 2016.
- Lake Charles: 3.2 percent, down from 3.4 percent in November and down from 4.2 percent in December 2016.
- Monroe: 4.1 percent, down from 4.3 percent in November and down from 5.5 percent in December 2016.
- New Orleans: 3.7 percent, down from 4.0 percent in November and down from 4.8 percent in December 2016.
- Shreveport: 4.3 percent, down from 4.6 percent in November and down from 5.7 percent in December 2016.

To view all available employment data, visit Louisiana's employment homepage at www.laworks.net and select Labor Market Information from the top-right menu.

•To view the rest of the monthly data please reference Workforce At A Glance
http://www.laworks.net/Downloads/Downloads_LMI.asp, then select LMI Bulletin

•To access historical and other LMI data please reference LOIS (Louisiana Occupational Information System)
<https://www.louisianaworks.net/hire/altentry.asp?action=lmiguest>

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	December 2017			November 2017			December 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	2,033,106	84,275	4.0	2,020,336	89,006	4.2	1,971,776	112,436	5.4
Alexandria, LA MSA	62,321	2,915	4.5	61,698	2,970	4.6	60,971	3,777	5.8
Grant Parish, LA	7,851	444	5.4	7,774	416	5.1	7,680	577	7.0
Rapides Parish, LA	54,470	2,471	4.3	53,924	2,554	4.5	53,291	3,200	5.7
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	412,054	14,544	3.4	410,573	15,532	3.6	392,119	19,192	4.7
Ascension Parish, LA	60,647	2,087	3.3	60,435	2,209	3.5	57,705	2,715	4.5
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	230,450	7,830	3.3	229,659	8,479	3.6	219,264	10,462	4.6
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,979	304	3.7	7,950	343	4.1	7,598	391	4.9
Iberville Parish, LA	13,762	739	5.1	13,698	732	5.1	13,105	883	6.3
Livingston Parish, LA	67,030	2,227	3.2	66,784	2,357	3.4	63,798	3,052	4.6
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,683	441	4.4	9,629	460	4.6	9,232	570	5.8
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,248	244	5.4	4,231	247	5.5	4,045	303	7.0
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,983	489	3.6	12,938	516	3.8	12,349	606	4.7
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,272	183	3.4	5,249	189	3.5	5,023	210	4.0
Hammond, LA MSA	52,450	2,423	4.4	52,035	2,488	4.6	50,558	3,216	6.0
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	52,450	2,423	4.4	52,035	2,488	4.6	50,558	3,216	6.0
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	84,722	3,660	4.1	84,107	3,866	4.4	83,446	5,423	6.1
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,839	1,650	4.0	39,565	1,753	4.2	39,229	2,386	5.7
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,883	2,010	4.3	44,542	2,113	4.5	44,217	3,037	6.4
Lafayette, LA MSA	201,793	8,882	4.2	200,847	9,427	4.5	196,256	13,052	6.2
Acadia Parish, LA	22,635	1,086	4.6	22,493	1,166	4.9	22,035	1,572	6.7
Iberia Parish, LA	27,634	1,517	5.2	27,487	1,597	5.5	26,886	2,458	8.4
Lafayette Parish, LA	107,574	4,157	3.7	107,138	4,464	4.0	104,580	5,876	5.3
St. Martin Parish, LA	21,174	1,032	4.6	21,061	1,079	4.9	20,604	1,502	6.8
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,776	1,090	4.6	22,668	1,121	4.7	22,151	1,644	6.9
Lake Charles, LA MSA	109,856	3,577	3.2	109,960	3,824	3.4	102,711	4,484	4.2
Calcasieu Parish, LA	105,921	3,463	3.2	106,023	3,698	3.4	99,031	4,341	4.2
Cameron Parish, LA	3,935	114	2.8	3,937	126	3.1	3,680	143	3.7
Monroe, LA MSA	78,537	3,358	4.1	78,050	3,521	4.3	75,986	4,421	5.5
Ouachita Parish, LA	69,675	2,955	4.1	69,261	3,104	4.3	67,401	3,890	5.5
Union Parish, LA	8,862	403	4.3	8,789	417	4.5	8,585	531	5.8
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	577,999	22,206	3.7	573,592	23,742	4.0	564,120	28,277	4.8
Jefferson Parish, LA	210,455	7,680	3.5	208,848	8,146	3.8	205,407	9,885	4.6
Orleans Parish, LA	173,159	7,149	4.0	171,864	7,701	4.3	168,985	8,917	5.0
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,807	390	3.8	9,711	403	4.0	9,584	486	4.8
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,682	773	4.0	18,533	851	4.4	18,234	1,017	5.3
St. Charles Parish, LA	24,564	864	3.4	24,373	948	3.7	23,975	1,167	4.6
St. James Parish, LA	9,103	482	5.0	9,025	515	5.4	8,891	668	7.0
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	19,191	991	4.9	19,043	987	4.9	18,734	1,250	6.3
St. Tammany Parish, LA	113,038	3,877	3.3	112,195	4,191	3.6	110,310	4,887	4.2
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	179,348	8,068	4.3	177,316	8,582	4.6	176,286	10,680	5.7
Bossier Parish, LA	54,165	2,013	3.6	53,547	2,156	3.9	53,243	2,638	4.7
Caddo Parish, LA	101,140	4,776	4.5	100,008	5,083	4.8	99,404	6,256	5.9
De Soto Parish, LA	10,030	513	4.9	9,909	527	5.0	9,863	694	6.6
Webster Parish, LA	14,013	766	5.2	13,852	816	5.6	13,776	1,092	7.3

Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted

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	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,598	435	4.8	8,610	425	4.7	8,281	518	5.9
Assumption Parish, LA	8,378	542	6.1	8,313	542	6.1	8,170	704	7.9
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,611	743	4.8	14,495	772	5.1	14,382	1,032	6.7
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	13,983	617	4.2	14,116	644	4.4	13,926	867	5.9
Bienville Parish, LA	5,267	279	5.0	5,208	290	5.3	5,137	376	6.8
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,676	178	4.6	3,635	183	4.8	3,656	257	6.6
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,172	205	6.1	3,141	189	5.7	2,998	261	8.0
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,657	258	4.4	5,581	260	4.5	5,493	354	6.1
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,546	453	6.5	6,488	448	6.5	6,526	556	7.9
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,844	163	8.1	1,845	182	9.0	1,836	253	12.1
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,868	581	4.7	11,743	620	5.0	11,512	795	6.5
Franklin Parish, LA	6,674	463	6.5	6,618	452	6.4	6,442	614	8.7
Jackson Parish, LA	6,588	241	3.5	6,520	262	3.9	6,560	320	4.7
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	13,061	517	3.8	13,050	573	4.2	12,585	710	5.3
La Salle Parish, LA	6,000	225	3.6	5,955	244	3.9	5,778	316	5.2
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	19,919	867	4.2	19,758	958	4.6	19,393	1,112	5.4
Madison Parish, LA	3,524	240	6.4	3,473	256	6.9	3,382	297	8.1
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,750	681	6.5	9,648	654	6.3	9,464	935	9.0
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,144	754	4.7	14,900	815	5.2	14,738	991	6.3
Red River Parish, LA	3,647	166	4.4	3,603	176	4.7	3,465	211	5.7
Richland Parish, LA	7,965	437	5.2	7,893	420	5.1	7,677	540	6.6
Sabine Parish, LA	8,238	399	4.6	8,123	421	4.9	8,354	520	5.9
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	30,049	1,688	5.3	29,794	1,720	5.5	29,460	2,262	7.1
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,806	1,185	5.9	18,648	1,242	6.2	19,585	1,872	8.7
Tensas Parish, LA	1,361	94	6.5	1,375	97	6.6	1,388	136	8.9
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,028	868	5.5	15,218	849	5.3	15,205	1,225	7.5
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	16,350	753	4.4	16,195	803	4.7	15,623	975	5.9
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,614	345	8.7	3,571	295	7.6	3,623	508	12.3
Winn Parish, LA	4,708	268	5.4	4,640	265	5.4	4,679	396	7.8
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	2,019,587	97,337	4.6	2,000,391	98,158	4.7	1,974,499	125,915	6.0