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**Office of Public Affairs**

Date: March. 27, 2017  
For Immediate Release

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**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

## **February’s monthly job growth shows significant gains throughout Louisiana**

BATON ROUGE – Job creation in Louisiana is showing considerable gains in key areas for the first time in more than a year, according to the most recent released data by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) for February 2017. Seasonally adjusted over-the-month nonfarm jobs rose by 6,700 to 1,982,400 and by 3,000 over the year, according to the latest report. Total private seasonally adjusted over-the-month jobs rose by 7,400 to 1,658,800 and by 5,700 over the year.

“The creation of jobs is vital to our state’s future and I’m proud of the efforts being made by the Louisiana Workforce Commission that are helping to put more Louisianans to work,” said Gov. John Bel Edwards. “These latest figures demonstrate our commitment to developing a skilled workforce and creating a climate that helps businesses statewide to thrive. We will keep moving forward and building on this momentum.”

These numbers represent the first over-the-year gains for seasonally adjusted nonfarm and private employment since August 2015.

The state’s total civilian labor force, which includes the total number of people employed plus those looking for work, rose to a seasonally adjusted amount of 2,106,632, an over-the-month gain of 6,999. The number of people employed in the civilian labor force grew to 1,984,950, seasonally adjusted data from a BLS survey of 750 households show. In February, 121,682 people were looking for work – 11,281 less than a year earlier, and 1,428 fewer than in January.

February also marked the largest over-the-month increase in seasonally adjusted employed individuals since September of 1983, which grew by 8,427.

Seasonally adjusted BLS data for February 2017 shows Louisiana’s unemployment rate was 5.8 percent. Down 0.1 percentage points from January, this rate is down 0.4 percentage points from February 2016.

Not seasonally adjusted over-the-month nonfarm jobs also increased by 15,500 to 1,968,800. Total private not seasonally adjusted over-the-month nonfarm jobs gained 11,500 for a new total of 1,642,800.

The not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force increased by 16,808 to 2,090,947. Not seasonally adjusted employed individuals also saw a gain of 29,437 over-the-month, bringing the February total to 1,977,890. This is the highest over-the-month gain since April of 2010.

“These employment numbers are a testament to Governor Edwards’s administration, and the initiatives they’ve implemented,” said LWC Executive Director Ava Dejoie. “The labor force is growing. This is a great sign for Louisiana residents who are looking to get back to work.”

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Industries that showed the largest gains in seasonal adjusted employment;

- **Professional and business services** gained 5,400 jobs in February and is up 3,100 jobs over the year. This sector includes companies that provide support for oil-related companies.
- **Construction** gained 2,600 jobs over the month and is up 13,500 jobs over the year.
- **Other services** which includes industries engaged in activities such as equipment and machinery repair and services gained 1,900 jobs in February and is up 2,500 jobs over the year.

Among other seasonally adjusted sectors in February:

- **Mining and Logging** which includes industries in the oil & gas sector gained 200 jobs on the month but lost 6,400 over the year. This is the first over-the-month gain since October 2014.
- **Education and health services** rose 700 jobs for the month. The sector is up 6,900 jobs over the year.
- **Trade, transportation and utilities** lost 5,000 jobs for the month. The sector is down 7,200 jobs over the year.
- **Leisure and Hospitality** lost 300 jobs for the month. It is down 2,200 jobs over the year.

Among Louisiana's nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), Alexandria was the only area that did not gain jobs for the month. Remaining seasonally-adjusted data for February showed:

- Alexandria showed no change for the month but is down 100 jobs over the year.
- Baton Rouge gained 2,800 jobs for the month and is up 5,300 jobs over the year.
- Houma gained 500 jobs for the month but is down 4,600 jobs over the year.
- Lafayette gained 1,100 jobs over the month but is down 6,700 jobs over the year.
- Lake Charles gained 100 jobs for the month and is up 5,100 jobs over the year.
- Monroe gained 400 jobs for the month and is up 400 jobs over the year.
- New Orleans gained 500 jobs over the month and is up 1,500 jobs over the year.
- Shreveport gained 300 jobs over the month but is down 2,400 jobs over the year.

The BLS does not report seasonally-adjusted data for Hammond, due to the fact that it is a recent designated MSA, and has not yet had time to acquire seasonally-adjusted data for the area.

- Hammond gained 300 jobs over the month and is up 900 jobs over the year.

Unemployment rates for February in all nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) over-the-month declined. The over-the-year unemployment rates also declined in every MSA except for Alexandria and Houma. The not-seasonally-adjusted February 2017 unemployment rates for the nine (MSAs) are as follows:

- Alexandria: 6.0 percent, down from 6.5 percent in January but up from 5.8 percent in February 2016.
- Baton Rouge: 4.6 percent, down from 5.2 percent in January and down from 4.8 percent in February 2016.
- Hammond: 5.9 percent, down from 6.7 percent in January and down from 6.5 percent in February 2016.
- Houma: 6.2 percent, down from 6.8 percent in January but unchanged from February 2016.
- Lafayette: 6.3 percent, down from 6.9 percent in January and down from 6.8 percent in February 2016.
- Lake Charles: 4.2 percent, down from 4.7 percent in January and down from 4.6 percent in February 2016.
- Monroe: 5.6 percent, down from 6.2 percent in January and down from 6.0 percent in February 2016.
- New Orleans: 4.8 percent, down from 5.4 percent in January and down from 5.2 percent in February 2016.
- Shreveport: 5.8 percent, down from 6.4 percent in January and down from 6.1 percent in February 2016.

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

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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](http://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	Feb-17			Jan-17			Feb-16		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>1,977,890</b>	<b>113,057</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>1,948,453</b>	<b>125,686</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>1,988,088</b>	<b>121,977</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Alexandria, LA MSA</b>	<b>61,112</b>	<b>3,892</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>60,477</b>	<b>4,235</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>61,710</b>	<b>3,824</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Grant Parish, LA	7,702	552	6.7	7,619	615	7.5	7,775	547	6.6
Rapides Parish, LA	53,410	3,340	5.9	52,858	3,620	6.4	53,935	3,277	5.7
<b>Baton Rouge, LA MSA</b>	<b>398,396</b>	<b>19,207</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>390,370</b>	<b>21,618</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>394,917</b>	<b>19,980</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Ascension Parish, LA	58,613	2,715	4.4	57,427	3,005	5.0	58,091	2,744	4.5
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	222,678	10,490	4.5	218,144	11,918	5.2	220,664	10,922	4.7
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,725	386	4.8	7,569	438	5.5	7,660	445	5.5
Iberville Parish, LA	13,346	900	6.3	13,100	976	6.9	13,259	946	6.7
Livingston Parish, LA	64,837	3,004	4.4	63,531	3,369	5.0	64,276	3,119	4.6
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,426	592	5.9	9,259	666	6.7	9,376	575	5.8
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,118	283	6.4	4,038	322	7.4	4,087	320	7.3
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,538	613	4.7	12,283	673	5.2	12,424	639	4.9
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,115	224	4.2	5,019	251	4.8	5,080	270	5.0
<b>Hammond, LA MSA</b>	<b>50,436</b>	<b>3,148</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>49,721</b>	<b>3,565</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>49,810</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	50,436	3,148	5.9	49,721	3,565	6.7	49,810	3,464	6.5
<b>Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA</b>	<b>83,085</b>	<b>5,503</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>82,032</b>	<b>6,015</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>87,955</b>	<b>5,858</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,034	2,426	5.9	38,516	2,713	6.6	41,288	2,550	5.8
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,051	3,077	6.5	43,516	3,302	7.1	46,667	3,308	6.6
<b>Lafayette, LA MSA</b>	<b>197,128</b>	<b>13,254</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>193,315</b>	<b>14,436</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>203,135</b>	<b>14,819</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Acadia Parish, LA	22,208	1,536	6.5	21,830	1,716	7.3	22,946	1,723	7.0
Iberia Parish, LA	27,061	2,543	8.6	26,559	2,692	9.2	27,894	2,841	9.2
Lafayette Parish, LA	104,877	6,030	5.4	102,751	6,603	6.0	107,976	6,669	5.8
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,706	1,500	6.8	20,333	1,637	7.5	21,387	1,732	7.5
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,276	1,645	6.9	21,842	1,788	7.6	22,932	1,854	7.5
<b>Lake Charles, LA MSA</b>	<b>103,571</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>102,282</b>	<b>5,026</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>99,084</b>	<b>4,777</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Calcasieu Parish, LA	99,856	4,359	4.2	98,609	4,866	4.7	95,526	4,618	4.6
Cameron Parish, LA	3,715	155	4.0	3,673	160	4.2	3,558	159	4.3
<b>Monroe, LA MSA</b>	<b>76,107</b>	<b>4,547</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>74,870</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>75,826</b>	<b>4,802</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Ouachita Parish, LA	67,462	3,985	5.6	66,341	4,371	6.2	67,181	4,198	5.9
Union Parish, LA	8,645	562	6.1	8,529	599	6.6	8,645	604	6.5
<b>New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA</b>	<b>562,348</b>	<b>28,605</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>554,575</b>	<b>31,915</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>562,110</b>	<b>31,089</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Jefferson Parish, LA	204,713	9,964	4.6	201,896	11,107	5.2	204,631	10,853	5.0
Orleans Parish, LA	168,419	8,956	5.0	166,049	10,133	5.8	168,301	9,799	5.5
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,608	492	4.9	9,507	551	5.5	9,644	512	5.0
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,206	1,056	5.5	17,960	1,170	6.1	18,208	1,132	5.9
St. Charles Parish, LA	23,897	1,155	4.6	23,573	1,304	5.2	23,893	1,296	5.1
St. James Parish, LA	8,872	647	6.8	8,765	724	7.6	8,886	729	7.6
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,663	1,237	6.2	18,413	1,363	6.9	18,660	1,342	6.7
St. Tammany Parish, LA	109,970	5,098	4.4	108,412	5,563	4.9	109,887	5,426	4.7
<b>Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA</b>	<b>176,093</b>	<b>10,763</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>173,986</b>	<b>11,799</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>179,030</b>	<b>11,595</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Bossier Parish, LA	53,192	2,646	4.7	52,561	2,909	5.2	54,088	2,846	5.0
Caddo Parish, LA	99,267	6,333	6.0	98,059	6,905	6.6	100,897	6,650	6.2
De Soto Parish, LA	9,868	685	6.5	9,761	767	7.3	10,045	807	7.4
Webster Parish, LA	13,766	1,099	7.4	13,605	1,218	8.2	14,000	1,292	8.4

**Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted**

Area	Feb-17			Jan-17			Feb-16		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,330	464	5.3	8,265	557	6.3	8,294	539	6.1
Assumption Parish, LA	8,169	719	8.1	8,050	783	8.9	8,497	751	8.1
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,366	997	6.5	14,205	1,121	7.3	14,460	1,021	6.6
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	14,019	790	5.3	13,890	959	6.5	14,009	854	5.7
Bienville Parish, LA	5,151	363	6.6	5,104	402	7.3	5,218	426	7.5
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,660	252	6.4	3,619	277	7.1	3,612	303	7.7
Catahoula Parish, LA	2,989	260	8.0	2,967	281	8.7	3,051	344	10.1
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,506	335	5.7	5,481	386	6.6	5,598	380	6.4
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,504	593	8.4	6,457	658	9.2	6,598	570	8.0
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,862	272	12.7	1,849	294	13.7	1,913	266	12.2
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,465	774	6.3	11,375	879	7.2	11,710	911	7.2
Franklin Parish, LA	6,447	579	8.2	6,407	692	9.7	6,603	695	9.5
Jackson Parish, LA	6,562	340	4.9	6,521	363	5.3	6,615	386	5.5
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	12,696	701	5.2	12,599	789	5.9	12,639	776	5.8
La Salle Parish, LA	5,660	321	5.4	5,639	348	5.8	5,907	440	6.9
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	19,296	1,148	5.6	19,034	1,295	6.4	19,027	1,257	6.2
Madison Parish, LA	3,399	320	8.6	3,380	348	9.3	3,443	337	8.9
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,483	930	8.9	9,375	1,027	9.9	9,537	1,073	10.1
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	14,785	997	6.3	14,444	1,131	7.3	15,067	1,026	6.4
Red River Parish, LA	3,503	215	5.8	3,492	233	6.3	3,558	223	5.9
Richland Parish, LA	7,647	561	6.8	7,531	640	7.8	7,747	681	8.1
Sabine Parish, LA	8,428	496	5.6	8,376	577	6.4	8,641	631	6.8
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,345	2,297	7.3	28,967	2,499	7.9	30,208	2,499	7.6
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	19,268	1,888	8.9	19,166	1,977	9.4	20,553	2,037	9.0
Tensas Parish, LA	1,419	151	9.6	1,424	160	10.1	1,507	156	9.4
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,591	997	6.0	15,411	1,341	8.0	16,185	1,149	6.6
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	15,726	986	5.9	15,505	1,091	6.6	15,938	1,123	6.6
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,623	524	12.6	3,606	599	14.2	3,555	523	12.8
Winn Parish, LA	4,715	358	7.1	4,691	403	7.9	4,820	390	7.5
<b>Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted</b>	<b>1,984,950</b>	<b>121,682</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1,976,523</b>	<b>123,110</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>2,006,439</b>	<b>132,963</b>	<b>6.2</b>