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NEWS RELEASE

Nonfarm Jobs Show Over-the-Year Gains in January

BATON ROUGE –Louisiana’s seasonally adjusted nonfarm job count added 9,500 jobs in January 2011 compared to January 2010, the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) reported today.

A federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) survey of employers shows a total of 1,887,200 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in January, down 3,200 jobs over the month, but up 9,500 over the year. Private industry sectors gained 18,900 seasonally adjusted jobs over the year, while government shed 9,400 jobs.

A separate BLS survey of residences in January estimates Louisiana’s civilian labor force - the number of people working or looking for work – stayed relatively flat over the month but grew 24,052 over the year to 2,088,377. The household survey shows the number of people employed in January was 1,926,461, a decrease of 2,753 from December, but 8,865 more than January 2010. The number of unemployed in Louisiana in January was 161,916, an increase of 1,898 from December 2010.

Louisiana’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2011 was 7.8 percent. The preliminary rate for December was 8.0 percent, but BLS has revised it down to 7.7 percent. Louisiana’s unemployment rate was tied with Arkansas for both the 19th lowest in the nation and fourth lowest in the South Region. The national rate in January was 9.0 percent, and the rate for the South Region was 9.2 percent. The unemployment rate is based on the BLS survey of residences.

The revision of the December unemployment rate is based on BLS’s annual benchmarking of its surveys to align them with actual employment counts over the year.

“This year’s job numbers for January are in line with the job pattern seen in previous Januarys,” said LWC Executive Director Curt Eysink. “Our continued gain in private sector jobs over last year shows we’re continuing to move in the right direction.”

Not seasonally adjusted rates are used to compare unemployment rates among parishes and metro areas. Unadjusted employment rates in January typically reflect people leaving seasonal jobs, such as those related to Christmas hires in retail sales and shipping, and the end of the fall semester on college and university campuses. In Louisiana, the January 2011 unadjusted unemployment rate was 8.6 percent, up from the revised December 2010 rate of 7.2 percent. All eight metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the state also recorded increases in unemployment rates. The U.S. unadjusted rate also increased, going from 9.1 percent in December to 9.8 percent in January.

Statewide, the unadjusted nonfarm job count for January showed 1,873,500 jobs, down 25,800 from December but up 16,900 over the year. Since January 2010, the state has gained 26,400 private sector jobs, with nine of the 10 private industry sectors showing over-the-year increases.

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The New Orleans MSA had the largest over-the-year job gain among metro areas, with a gain of 6,300 nonfarm jobs from January 2010. Houma gained 3,800 jobs over the year followed by Lafayette with 2,700 more jobs; Shreveport, 2,100 more jobs; and Alexandria, 400 jobs. Monroe, Baton Rouge and Lake Charles recorded over-the-year nonfarm job decreases of 1,100, 800 and 500, respectively.

For more detailed information on January 2011 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.laworks.net and select Labor Market Information. Then select Monthly Employment Bulletin – Workforce At A Glance or Monthly Employment Statistics Press Release for the latest monthly nonfarm and labor force data.

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CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary January 2011			Revised December 2010			Revised January 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	137,599,000	14,937,000	9.8	139,159,000	13,997,000	9.1	136,809,000	16,147,000	10.6
LOUISIANA	1,882,114	177,058	8.6	1,920,856	147,920	7.2	1,876,925	160,166	7.9
ALEXANDRIA MSA	62,633	5,594	8.2	64,388	4,684	6.8	62,489	5,065	7.5
Grant	7,838	792	9.2	8,058	599	6.9	7,820	713	8.4
Rapides	54,795	4,802	8.1	56,330	4,085	6.8	54,669	4,352	7.4
BATON ROUGE MSA	340,731	32,491	8.7	349,576	27,167	7.2	344,166	28,245	7.6
Ascension	46,644	4,095	8.1	47,854	3,278	6.4	47,114	3,779	7.4
East Baton Rouge	196,801	17,959	8.4	201,909	15,161	7.0	198,785	15,577	7.3
East Feliciana	7,238	807	10.0	7,426	708	8.7	7,311	650	8.2
Iberville	10,828	1,575	12.7	11,109	1,310	10.5	10,938	1,369	11.1
Livingston	53,278	4,888	8.4	54,661	4,026	6.9	53,815	4,330	7.4
Pointe Coupee	8,524	1,065	11.1	8,745	895	9.3	8,610	762	8.1
St. Helena	3,632	639	15.0	3,726	558	13.0	3,668	538	12.8
West Baton Rouge	9,564	1,040	9.8	9,813	880	8.2	9,661	829	7.9
West Feliciana	4,223	423	9.1	4,332	352	7.5	4,265	411	8.8
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	97,221	6,569	6.3	98,543	5,176	5.0	94,256	5,990	6.0
Lafourche	45,907	3,087	6.3	46,531	2,332	4.8	44,507	2,717	5.8
Terrebonne	51,314	3,482	6.4	52,012	2,844	5.2	49,749	3,273	6.2
LAFAYETTE MSA	125,265	9,196	6.8	127,972	7,589	5.6	124,149	8,652	6.5
Lafayette	103,581	7,296	6.6	105,819	6,003	5.4	102,658	6,774	6.2
St. Martin	21,684	1,900	8.1	22,153	1,586	6.7	21,491	1,878	8.0
LAKE CHARLES MSA	86,235	7,469	8.0	87,585	6,315	6.7	87,408	6,943	7.4
Calcasieu	83,401	7,251	8.0	84,706	6,153	6.8	84,535	6,746	7.4
Cameron	2,834	218	7.1	2,879	162	5.3	2,873	197	6.4
MONROE MSA	72,916	7,180	9.0	74,297	6,078	7.6	74,460	6,596	8.1
Ouachita	64,009	6,236	8.9	65,221	5,276	7.5	65,364	5,611	7.9
Union	8,907	944	9.6	9,076	802	8.1	9,096	985	9.8
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	494,383	45,466	8.4	503,787	38,127	7.0	492,863	40,619	7.6
Jefferson	195,872	16,810	7.9	199,598	14,075	6.6	195,270	15,528	7.4
New Orleans City/Orleans	132,948	14,766	10.0	135,477	12,654	8.5	132,539	12,640	8.7
Plaquemines	7,382	727	9.0	7,523	591	7.3	7,360	600	7.5
St. Bernard	16,782	1,606	8.7	17,101	1,373	7.4	16,730	1,323	7.3
St. Charles	21,973	1,903	8.0	22,391	1,568	6.5	21,905	1,818	7.7
St. John Baptist	18,506	2,303	11.1	18,859	2,028	9.7	18,450	2,191	10.6
St. Tammany	100,920	7,351	6.8	102,839	5,839	5.4	100,609	6,519	6.1
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	168,737	14,343	7.8	171,976	11,970	6.5	168,019	13,208	7.3
Bossier	50,047	3,590	6.7	51,008	3,008	5.6	49,835	3,363	6.3
Caddo	108,343	9,732	8.2	110,423	8,119	6.8	107,882	8,835	7.6
De Soto	10,347	1,021	9.0	10,545	843	7.4	10,303	1,009	8.9

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary January 2011			Revised December 2010			Revised January 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	23,855	1,941	7.5	24,233	1,570	6.1	23,649	1,937	7.6
Allen	7,739	1,121	12.7	7,884	832	9.5	7,889	1,093	12.2
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,032	1,386	13.3	9,271	1,109	10.7	9,051	1,135	11.1
Avoyelles	15,002	1,640	9.9	15,298	1,355	8.1	14,776	1,427	8.8
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,426	1,255	8.5	13,519	1,082	7.4	13,131	1,192	8.3
Bienville	5,888	665	10.1	5,987	555	8.5	5,550	618	10.0
Caldwell	4,072	503	11.0	4,134	407	9.0	3,950	518	11.6
Catahoula	3,798	522	12.1	3,838	431	10.1	3,729	467	11.1
Claiborne	6,010	666	10.0	6,119	551	8.3	5,833	626	9.7
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,332	920	12.7	6,544	846	11.4	6,411	938	12.8
East Carroll	2,444	546	18.3	2,481	475	16.1	2,480	438	15.0
Evangeline	11,364	1,326	10.4	11,559	1,052	8.3	11,333	1,204	9.6
Franklin	6,800	1,103	14.0	6,905	922	11.8	6,655	923	12.2
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	29,953	2,836	8.6	30,873	2,371	7.1	29,728	2,922	8.9
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	5,950	559	8.6	6,067	469	7.2	5,887	552	8.6
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,471	1,020	7.0	13,631	833	5.8	13,279	969	6.8
La Salle	6,368	445	6.5	6,437	369	5.4	5,981	453	7.0
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,673	1,913	9.8	18,018	1,582	8.1	17,485	1,578	8.3
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,029	592	12.8	4,125	488	10.6	4,025	510	11.2
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	9,542	1,880	16.5	9,703	1,652	14.5	9,489	1,788	15.9
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	15,448	1,535	9.0	16,037	1,313	7.6	15,027	1,527	9.2
Red River	3,343	362	9.8	3,371	322	8.7	3,179	344	9.8
Richland	8,115	1,161	12.5	8,339	980	10.5	7,760	1,008	11.5
Sabine	8,854	760	7.9	8,938	639	6.7	8,436	746	8.1
St. James	8,256	1,299	13.6	8,410	1,091	11.5	8,234	1,026	11.1
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,610	3,698	9.7	35,119	3,011	7.9	34,626	3,421	9.0
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	20,289	2,515	11.0	20,881	2,094	9.1	20,610	2,241	9.8
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	47,923	5,507	10.3	49,064	4,702	8.7	47,107	4,739	9.1
Tensas	1,611	340	17.4	1,655	305	15.6	1,623	326	16.7
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	21,850	1,971	8.3	22,358	1,555	6.5	21,932	1,982	8.3
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	19,135	1,703	8.2	19,421	1,652	7.8	19,118	1,457	7.1
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	13,865	1,712	11.0	14,059	1,432	9.2	14,046	1,619	10.3
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,214	1,811	9.0	18,499	1,559	7.8	18,004	1,646	8.4
West Carroll	3,506	880	20.1	3,666	697	16.0	3,471	891	20.4
Winn	6,226	659	9.6	6,288	512	7.5	5,630	584	9.4

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.