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N E W S R E L E A S E

2017 over-the-month industry gains move Louisiana in right direction

BATON ROUGE – Seasonally adjusted Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) data for January 2017 released today shows Louisiana's unemployment rate dipped to 5.9% from December's rate of 6.0%. The unemployment rate is down 0.3 percentage points from the January 2016 rate of 6.2%.

The state's seasonally-adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 6,000 jobs over the month. The seasonally-adjusted total nonfarm jobs decreased by 7,500 jobs over the year. Seasonally-adjusted private sector employment was 1,650,700 in January 2017, up by 4,800 jobs over the month. This number is down 5,200 jobs over the year.

In key sectors, some industries showed improvement over the month.

- **Construction** gained 7,600 jobs over the month and 9,900 jobs for the year.
- **Education and health services** gained 1,800 jobs over the month and 7,500 jobs for the year
- **Government** gained 1,200 jobs over the month but lost 2,300 jobs over the year.

January 2017 data shows that the **mining and logging sector**, which includes oil and gas, gained 200 jobs for the month but was down 7,400 jobs for the year. Other sectors showed the following results.

- **Manufacturing** gained 2,000 jobs for the month, but was down 3,900 jobs on the year.
- **Financial activities** remained unchanged for the month, but lost 200 jobs over the year.
- **Professional and business services**, which include companies that provide services and other necessities for oil-related businesses, lost 1,800 jobs for the month, and 1,400 jobs on the year.

The January 2017 seasonally-adjusted civilian labor force (people employed as well as those who are unemployed but looking for a job) in Louisiana showed a loss of 856 over the month and 41,197 individuals over the year. Not seasonally-adjusted civilian labor force are down 10,248 over the month and 37,658 people over the year.

New benchmarked data shows that the average number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm jobs in 2016 was 1,971,500, which was 4,600 fewer than previously estimated. The average not seasonally-adjusted nonfarm jobs in 2016 was 1,971,300.

Benchmarking is the BLS's adjustments to prior years' data. During this procedure, survey data, used to prepare monthly reports on nonfarm employment, the labor force and unemployment rates is replaced by the actual employment data contained in the quarterly wage and tax reports filed by Louisiana employers.

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“These gains show the state is moving in the right direction and I’m confident we will continue on this successful track for 2017,” said LWC Executive Director Ava Dejoie. “There are important initiatives already in place to ensure that everyone who can contribute to making Louisiana a better state has an opportunity to do so. While there were many unexpected challenges that devastated several communities statewide last year, this latest news is a testament to the resiliency and commitment of our agency to being part of the solution in helping individuals get back to work.”

The Louisiana Workforce Commission works tirelessly to help displaced workers regain entry into the workforce through a variety of initiatives.

Registered Apprenticeship will allow the LWC to partner with state high schools and the Ochsner Health System. Aimed at developing Registered Apprenticeship programs in surgical technician and licensed practical nurse fields, the LWC will look to increase the number of all registered apprentices in the state of Louisiana by 100 percent over the next three years.

Not seasonally-adjusted nonfarm data showed Louisiana’s total nonfarm jobs dropped by 27,600 jobs over-the-month and 13,000 jobs over the year. Private sector employment dropped by 22,200 jobs over the month and 10,200 jobs over the year.

Among Louisiana’s metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), seasonally-adjusted data showed:

- Alexandria gained 900 jobs over the month and lost 400 jobs over the year.
- Baton Rouge gained 4,100 jobs over the month and gained 1,300 jobs over the year.
- Houma lost 200 jobs over the month and 6,000 jobs over the year.
- Lafayette gained 900 jobs over the month and lost 9,000 jobs over the year.
- Lake Charles gained 700 jobs over the month and 5,600 jobs over the year.
- Monroe lost 300 jobs over the month and gained 200 jobs over the year.
- New Orleans lost 1,400 jobs over the month and gained 300 jobs over the year.
- Shreveport gained 100 jobs over the month and lost 2,900 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 lost 800 jobs over the month and gained 800 jobs over the year.

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

The Louisiana Workforce Commission will report monthly, state, parish and MSA employment data for February on March 27, 2017.

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 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.

Add One

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	January 2017			December 2016			January 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	1,948,261	125,703	6.1	1,971,776	112,436	5.4	1,975,488	136,134	6.4
Alexandria, LA MSA	60,416	4,235	6.6	60,971	3,776	5.8	61,460	4,262	6.5
Grant Parish, LA	7,611	615	7.5	7,680	577	7.0	7,744	612	7.3
Rapides Parish, LA	52,805	3,620	6.4	53,291	3,199	5.7	53,716	3,650	6.4
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	389,535	21,619	5.3	392,119	19,204	4.7	389,895	22,547	5.5
Ascension Parish, LA	57,303	3,010	5.0	57,705	2,716	4.5	57,344	3,107	5.1
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	217,676	11,916	5.2	219,264	10,465	4.6	217,816	12,320	5.4
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,553	438	5.5	7,598	393	4.9	7,566	484	6.0
Iberville Parish, LA	13,072	977	7.0	13,105	883	6.3	13,102	1,024	7.2
Livingston Parish, LA	63,396	3,367	5.0	63,798	3,057	4.6	63,469	3,564	5.3
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,241	665	6.7	9,232	570	5.8	9,277	663	6.7
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,030	322	7.4	4,045	304	7.0	4,038	357	8.1
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,256	673	5.2	12,349	607	4.7	12,262	716	5.5
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,008	251	4.8	5,023	209	4.0	5,021	312	5.9
Hammond, LA MSA	49,737	3,562	6.7	50,558	3,216	6.0	49,509	3,939	7.4
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	49,737	3,562	6.7	50,558	3,216	6.0	49,509	3,939	7.4
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	81,898	6,020	6.8	83,446	5,420	6.1	88,396	6,330	6.7
Lafourche Parish, LA	38,453	2,716	6.6	39,229	2,384	5.7	41,483	2,801	6.3
Terrebonne Parish, LA	43,445	3,304	7.1	44,217	3,036	6.4	46,913	3,529	7.0
Lafayette, LA MSA	193,578	14,441	6.9	196,256	13,034	6.2	202,879	15,939	7.3
Acadia Parish, LA	21,859	1,715	7.3	22,035	1,569	6.6	22,946	1,873	7.5
Iberia Parish, LA	26,593	2,690	9.2	26,886	2,453	8.4	27,873	2,924	9.5
Lafayette Parish, LA	102,893	6,607	6.0	104,580	5,871	5.3	107,784	7,306	6.3
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,362	1,638	7.4	20,604	1,499	6.8	21,370	1,828	7.9
Vermilion Parish, LA	21,871	1,791	7.6	22,151	1,642	6.9	22,906	2,008	8.1
Lake Charles, LA MSA	102,237	5,026	4.7	102,711	4,487	4.2	98,004	5,489	5.3
Calcasieu Parish, LA	98,565	4,866	4.7	99,031	4,344	4.2	94,482	5,310	5.3
Cameron Parish, LA	3,672	160	4.2	3,680	143	3.7	3,522	179	4.8
Monroe, LA MSA	74,817	4,970	6.2	75,986	4,421	5.5	74,984	5,331	6.6
Ouachita Parish, LA	66,294	4,371	6.2	67,401	3,888	5.5	66,416	4,681	6.6
Union Parish, LA	8,523	599	6.6	8,585	533	5.8	8,568	650	7.1
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	555,425	31,919	5.4	564,120	28,275	4.8	559,696	35,359	5.9
Jefferson Parish, LA	202,209	11,107	5.2	205,407	9,887	4.6	203,747	12,349	5.7
Orleans Parish, LA	166,304	10,133	5.7	168,985	8,912	5.0	167,560	11,191	6.3
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,520	551	5.5	9,584	484	4.8	9,622	590	5.8
St. Bernard Parish, LA	17,986	1,170	6.1	18,234	1,017	5.3	18,137	1,278	6.6
St. Charles Parish, LA	23,609	1,303	5.2	23,975	1,169	4.6	23,790	1,452	5.8
St. James Parish, LA	8,779	726	7.6	8,891	671	7.0	8,853	787	8.2
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,442	1,363	6.9	18,734	1,248	6.2	18,581	1,462	7.3
St. Tammany Parish, LA	108,576	5,566	4.9	110,310	4,887	4.2	109,406	6,250	5.4
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	173,891	11,801	6.4	176,286	10,684	5.7	177,702	12,949	6.8
Bossier Parish, LA	52,533	2,908	5.2	53,243	2,638	4.7	53,689	3,249	5.7
Caddo Parish, LA	98,005	6,906	6.6	99,404	6,257	5.9	100,137	7,454	6.9
De Soto Parish, LA	9,756	768	7.3	9,863	696	6.6	9,978	859	7.9
Webster Parish, LA	13,597	1,219	8.2	13,776	1,093	7.4	13,898	1,387	9.1

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Area	January 2017			December 2016			January 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,261	557	6.3	8,281	520	5.9	8,251	606	6.8
Assumption Parish, LA	8,040	785	8.9	8,170	702	7.9	8,466	825	8.9
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,197	1,122	7.3	14,382	1,033	6.7	14,385	1,181	7.6
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	13,884	958	6.5	13,926	865	5.8	13,970	965	6.5
Bienville Parish, LA	5,102	402	7.3	5,137	377	6.8	5,209	460	8.1
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,618	277	7.1	3,656	256	6.5	3,620	341	8.6
Catahoula Parish, LA	2,966	280	8.6	2,998	261	8.0	3,066	357	10.4
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,479	386	6.6	5,493	354	6.1	5,633	430	7.1
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,454	657	9.2	6,526	559	7.9	6,660	634	8.7
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,848	295	13.8	1,836	254	12.2	1,894	282	13.0
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,373	879	7.2	11,512	794	6.5	11,701	974	7.7
Franklin Parish, LA	6,404	692	9.8	6,442	616	8.7	6,576	738	10.1
Jackson Parish, LA	6,518	363	5.3	6,560	319	4.6	6,563	437	6.2
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	12,593	789	5.9	12,585	708	5.3	12,594	881	6.5
La Salle Parish, LA	5,637	348	5.8	5,778	317	5.2	5,898	462	7.3
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	19,026	1,296	6.4	19,393	1,115	5.4	18,870	1,378	6.8
Madison Parish, LA	3,378	348	9.3	3,382	297	8.1	3,445	366	9.6
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,370	1,027	9.9	9,464	937	9.0	9,393	1,168	11.1
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	14,437	1,129	7.3	14,738	993	6.3	14,651	1,169	7.4
Red River Parish, LA	3,489	234	6.3	3,465	213	5.8	3,571	244	6.4
Richland Parish, LA	7,527	640	7.8	7,677	540	6.6	7,704	736	8.7
Sabine Parish, LA	8,372	578	6.5	8,354	519	5.8	8,553	685	7.4
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	28,971	2,500	7.9	29,460	2,261	7.1	29,974	2,765	8.4
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	19,157	1,976	9.4	19,585	1,864	8.7	20,796	2,048	9.0
Tensas Parish, LA	1,423	160	10.1	1,388	135	8.9	1,518	168	10.0
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,404	1,341	8.0	15,205	1,225	7.5	15,969	1,330	7.7
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	15,506	1,091	6.6	15,623	979	5.9	15,715	1,289	7.6
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,604	598	14.2	3,623	510	12.3	3,574	610	14.6
Winn Parish, LA	4,688	402	7.9	4,679	397	7.8	4,746	455	8.7
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	1,976,442	123,116	5.9	1,974,499	125,915	6.0	2,008,483	132,272	6.2