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N E W S R E L E A S E

Unemployment rate down by 1.2 percent from last year

BATON ROUGE – Per revisions from Bureau of Labor & Statistics (BLS) annual benchmarking procedure, Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.6 percent in January. Compared to January 2017, this figure is down 1.2 percent. This is 0.1 percentage points lower from December's revised benchmarked figure of 4.7 percent. The last time the unemployment rate was lower was in May 2008.

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.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 500 to 1,970,600 from January 2017. This is the fourth straight over-the-year gain. Compared to December 2017, this figure is up 300. From January 2017, seasonally adjusted private employment increased by 3,500 jobs to 1,645,400. This is also the fourth straight over-the-year gain. Since December 2017, the number of seasonally adjusted private-sector jobs increased 700.

The pre-benchmark annual average for seasonally adjusted non-farm data for 2017 was 1,979,300. With the benchmark revisions, the number now stands at 1,970,800. The pre-benchmark annual average for seasonally adjusted private sector employment was 1,657,500. With the benchmark revisions, that figure is now 1,643,700.

"Returning job seekers to the workplace remains an upmost priority of our agency," said LWC Executive Director Ava Dejoie. "This latest data underscores the ongoing efforts to reduce unemployment throughout Louisiana, and we will forge ahead with the same steadfast commitment to reinforce our state's labor market."

The seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work increased by 10,252 to 2,120,732 since January 2017. From December 2017, it increased by 5,196.

The number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 35,545 from January 2017. When comparing data from December 2017, the number of employed individuals has increased by 8,262. Compared to January 2017, the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 25,293. From December 2017, the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 3,066.

Industries that showed the largest gains for seasonally adjusted jobs:

- **Education & Health Services** gained 2,200 jobs for the month and is up 4,700 jobs for the year.
- **Manufacturing** gained 700 jobs for the month and is up 500 jobs for the year.
- **Other Services**, which includes industries engaged in activities such as equipment and machinery repair and services, gained 300 jobs for the month and is up 500 jobs for the year.

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• **Leisure & Hospitality** gained 100 jobs for the month and is up 5,900 jobs for the year. Among other seasonally adjusted sectors in January:

• **Mining & Logging**, which includes industries in the oil and gas sector, gained 200 jobs for the month, but is down 400 jobs for the year.

Among Louisiana's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), remaining seasonally adjusted data shows:

- Alexandria lost 100 jobs from December 2017, but is up 100 jobs from January 2017.
- Baton Rouge lost 900 jobs from December 2017 and 1,500 jobs from January 2017.
- Hammond gained 200 jobs from December 2017 and 1,400 jobs from January 2017.
- Houma gained 500 jobs from December 2017, but remained unchanged from January 2017.
- Lafayette gained 200 jobs from December 2017, but lost 1,000 jobs from January 2017.
- Lake Charles lost 200 jobs from December 2017, but gained 4,400 jobs from January 2017. The Lake Charles MSA has had over-the-year increases for 79 consecutive months.
- Monroe remained unchanged from December 2017, but lost 100 jobs from January 2017.
- New Orleans gained 2,100 jobs from December 2017 and 1,100 jobs from January 2017.
- Shreveport lost 300 jobs from December 2017 and 2,700 jobs from January 2017.

Not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment gained 800 jobs to 1,951,100 from January 2017. Over the same time period, not seasonally adjusted private-sector employment increased by 3,100 to 1,627,300

From January 2017, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 62,817 to 2,017,845. Over the same time period, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 34,941 to 93,973.

All nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) declined from January 2017. Not-seasonally adjusted January unemployment rates for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 5.0 percent, up from 4.5 percent in December, but down from 6.8 percent in January 2017.
- Baton Rouge: 3.9 percent, up from 3.5 percent in December, but down from 5.4 percent in January 2017.
- Hammond: 4.9 percent, up from 4.4 percent in December, but down from 6.8 percent in January 2017.
- Houma: 4.6 percent, up from 4.2 percent in December, but down from 7.0 percent in January 2017.
- Lafayette: 4.6 percent, up from 4.2 percent in December, but down from 7.0 percent in January 2017.
- Lake Charles: 3.5 percent, up from 3.2 percent in December, but down from 4.8 percent in January 2017.
- Monroe: 4.7 percent, up from 4.2 percent in December, but down from 6.4 percent in January 2017.
- New Orleans: 4.1 percent, up from 3.7 percent in December, but down from 5.6 percent in January 2017.
- Shreveport: 4.6 percent, up from 4.3 percent in December but down from 6.5 percent in January 2017.

Statewide and MSA data for February will be released on March 27, 2018. For additional state and MSA data release dates, please click [here](#).

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 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. 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	January 2018			December 2017			January 2017		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	2,017,845	93,973	4.4	2,018,455	84,742	4.0	1,955,028	128,914	6.2
Alexandria, LA MSA	61,431	3,213	5.0	61,501	2,924	4.5	59,461	4,336	6.8
Grant Parish, LA	7,741	476	5.8	7,740	443	5.4	7,485	627	7.7
Rapides Parish, LA	53,690	2,737	4.9	53,761	2,481	4.4	51,976	3,709	6.7
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	402,391	16,478	3.9	403,820	14,654	3.5	390,180	22,234	5.4
Ascension Parish, LA	59,908	2,371	3.8	60,147	2,115	3.4	58,086	3,129	5.1
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	223,768	8,867	3.8	224,679	7,862	3.4	216,919	12,207	5.3
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,757	334	4.1	7,772	308	3.8	7,519	450	5.6
Iberville Parish, LA	13,313	841	5.9	13,339	741	5.3	12,952	993	7.1
Livingston Parish, LA	66,244	2,525	3.7	66,436	2,262	3.3	64,217	3,492	5.2
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,424	507	5.1	9,402	442	4.5	9,167	682	6.9
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,113	263	6.0	4,119	245	5.6	3,993	327	7.6
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,741	563	4.2	12,800	494	3.7	12,352	694	5.3
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,123	207	3.9	5,126	185	3.5	4,975	260	5.0
Hammond, LA MSA	53,000	2,716	4.9	52,917	2,449	4.4	50,416	3,672	6.8
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	53,000	2,716	4.9	52,917	2,449	4.4	50,416	3,672	6.8
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	84,273	4,079	4.6	84,297	3,665	4.2	81,827	6,146	7.0
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,746	1,870	4.5	39,772	1,658	4.0	38,550	2,774	6.7
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,527	2,209	4.7	44,525	2,007	4.3	43,277	3,372	7.2
Lafayette, LA MSA	201,824	9,826	4.6	201,966	8,928	4.2	196,138	14,802	7.0
Acadia Parish, LA	22,668	1,212	5.1	22,626	1,094	4.6	22,120	1,759	7.4
Iberia Parish, LA	27,325	1,636	5.6	27,277	1,515	5.3	26,574	2,748	9.4
Lafayette Parish, LA	107,753	4,653	4.1	107,989	4,184	3.7	104,570	6,775	6.1
St. Martin Parish, LA	21,183	1,107	5.0	21,214	1,036	4.7	20,652	1,681	7.5
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,895	1,218	5.1	22,860	1,099	4.6	22,222	1,839	7.6
Lake Charles, LA MSA	110,317	3,996	3.5	110,072	3,613	3.2	102,850	5,179	4.8
Calcasieu Parish, LA	106,360	3,873	3.5	106,128	3,498	3.2	99,156	5,016	4.8
Cameron Parish, LA	3,957	123	3.0	3,944	115	2.8	3,694	163	4.2
Monroe, LA MSA	76,558	3,771	4.7	76,798	3,373	4.2	73,994	5,090	6.4
Ouachita Parish, LA	67,881	3,297	4.6	68,138	2,965	4.2	65,567	4,476	6.4
Union Parish, LA	8,677	474	5.2	8,660	408	4.5	8,427	614	6.8
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	575,003	24,730	4.1	574,240	22,334	3.7	555,931	32,752	5.6
Jefferson Parish, LA	208,427	8,475	3.9	208,235	7,695	3.6	201,562	11,355	5.3
Orleans Parish, LA	172,273	8,016	4.4	172,060	7,201	4.0	166,483	10,433	5.9
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,745	434	4.3	9,685	392	3.9	9,474	562	5.6
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,650	877	4.5	18,588	778	4.0	18,033	1,200	6.2
St. Charles Parish, LA	24,364	977	3.9	24,341	868	3.4	23,570	1,336	5.4
St. James Parish, LA	9,010	555	5.8	8,998	480	5.1	8,742	734	7.7
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,985	1,055	5.3	18,980	999	5.0	18,372	1,403	7.1
St. Tammany Parish, LA	113,549	4,341	3.7	113,353	3,921	3.3	109,695	5,729	5.0
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	178,672	8,711	4.6	178,781	8,096	4.3	175,099	12,084	6.5
Bossier Parish, LA	54,570	2,177	3.8	54,600	2,039	3.6	53,491	3,004	5.3
Caddo Parish, LA	100,108	5,153	4.9	100,187	4,779	4.6	98,066	7,043	6.7
De Soto Parish, LA	10,082	552	5.2	10,077	515	4.9	9,900	784	7.3
Webster Parish, LA	13,912	829	5.6	13,917	763	5.2	13,642	1,253	8.4

Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area	January 2018			December 2017			January 2017		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,687	499	5.4	8,546	439	4.9	8,407	573	6.4
Assumption Parish, LA	8,222	596	6.8	8,278	543	6.2	8,139	805	9.0
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,600	831	5.4	14,475	746	4.9	14,628	1,150	7.3
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	14,023	728	4.9	13,923	630	4.3	13,614	993	6.8
Bienville Parish, LA	5,259	291	5.2	5,233	278	5.0	5,175	408	7.3
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,636	203	5.3	3,632	178	4.7	3,593	287	7.4
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,159	226	6.7	3,131	205	6.1	3,072	290	8.6
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,655	271	4.6	5,610	257	4.4	5,372	389	6.8
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,534	477	6.8	6,489	451	6.5	6,539	670	9.3
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,852	195	9.5	1,827	163	8.2	1,805	297	14.1
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,846	654	5.2	11,797	582	4.7	11,643	903	7.2
Franklin Parish, LA	6,675	512	7.1	6,615	464	6.6	6,529	703	9.7
Jackson Parish, LA	6,652	273	3.9	6,636	243	3.5	6,638	367	5.2
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	13,134	587	4.3	13,002	519	3.8	12,665	806	6.0
La Salle Parish, LA	5,910	254	4.1	5,954	227	3.7	5,733	358	5.9
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	20,714	977	4.5	21,016	868	4.0	20,062	1,320	6.2
Madison Parish, LA	3,508	270	7.1	3,498	243	6.5	3,372	357	9.6
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,621	790	7.6	9,624	681	6.6	9,433	1,049	10.0
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,150	906	5.6	15,799	759	4.6	14,837	1,159	7.2
Red River Parish, LA	3,685	183	4.7	3,624	165	4.4	3,609	235	6.1
Richland Parish, LA	7,846	485	5.8	7,873	442	5.3	7,653	657	7.9
Sabine Parish, LA	8,236	442	5.1	8,165	401	4.7	8,096	593	6.8
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,920	1,861	5.9	29,958	1,701	5.4	29,329	2,563	8.0
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,508	1,275	6.4	18,642	1,182	6.0	18,657	2,012	9.7
Tensas Parish, LA	1,382	106	7.1	1,339	93	6.5	1,395	161	10.3
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,335	1,016	6.2	14,905	871	5.5	15,280	1,375	8.3
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	16,309	837	4.9	16,234	759	4.5	15,720	1,116	6.6
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,593	417	10.4	3,577	346	8.8	3,495	614	14.9
Winn Parish, LA	4,723	290	5.8	4,664	266	5.4	4,641	410	8.1
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	2,024,159	96,573	4.6	2,015,897	99,639	4.7	1,988,614	121,866	5.8