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N E W S R E L E A S E

Unemployment rates drop in all Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

BATON ROUGE – Not seasonally adjusted data released by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) shows that all nine Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) showed a decrease from their July 2016 benchmarks and over-the-month unemployment rates.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased 0.3 percentage points from June 2017 to 5.6 percent. Additionally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana declined 1.0 percent from July 2016.

“These numbers are a clear indication that Louisiana’s employment outlook is gradually improving. We hope to continue on this positive trajectory until all eligible jobseekers are paired up with available job opportunities,” said Ava Dejoie, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Not-seasonally adjusted July unemployment rates, over-the-year nonfarm job changes and over-the-month job gain totals for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 6.2 percent, down from 6.8 percent from July 2016 and down from 6.5 percent in June. The MSA lost 700 jobs from July 2016 and 500 from June 2017.
- Baton Rouge: 5.0 percent, down from 5.7 percent from July 2016 and down from 5.2 percent in June. The MSA gained 3,600 jobs from July 2016, but is down 2,700 jobs from June 2017. The Baton Rouge MSA has had seven straight over-the-year increases.
- Hammond: 6.5 percent, down from 7.4 percent from July 2016 and down from 6.8 percent in June. The MSA gained 800 jobs from July 2016, but is down 400 from June 2017. The Hammond MSA has had over-the-year gains for 36 consecutive months.
- Houma: 5.7 percent, down from 7.2 percent from July 2016 and down from 6.0 percent in June. The MSA lost 2,800 jobs from July 2016 and 300 from June 2017.
- Lafayette: 6.0 percent, down from 7.6 percent from July 2016 and down from 6.3 percent in June. The MSA lost 1,700 jobs from July 2016 and 1,200 from June 2017.
- Lake Charles: 4.3 percent, down from 5.1 percent from July 2016 and down from 4.5 percent in June. The MSA gained 5,700 jobs from July 2016 and 300 from June 2017. The Lake Charles MSA continues its series high for nonfarm employment, and has had over-the-year increases for 73 consecutive months.
- Monroe: 5.5 percent, down from 6.6 percent from July 2016 and down from 5.8 percent in June. The MSA gained 1,200 jobs from July 2016, but is down 500 from June 2017. The Monroe MSA has had eight straight over-the-year increases.
- New Orleans: 5.3 percent, down from 6.1 percent from July 2016 and down from 5.5 percent in June. The MSA gained 2,200 jobs from July 2016, but is down 7,200 jobs from June 2017.

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- Shreveport: 6.0 percent, down from 7.0 percent from July 2016 and down from 6.3 percent in June. The MSA lost 1,900 jobs from July 2016 and 1,200 from June 2017.

From July 2016, total not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs increased 19,100 to 1,974,600. This is the third consecutive over-the-year increase for nonfarm jobs. From the June 2017 figure of 1,990,000, total not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs decreased by 15,400.

Total not seasonally adjusted private-sector jobs increased by 21,900 from July 2016 to 1,665,000. This is also the third consecutive over-the-year increase for private-sector jobs. When compared to the June 2017 figure of 1,668,400, total not seasonally adjusted private sector jobs decreased by approximately 3,400.

Not seasonally adjusted data shows that the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 23,813 from July 2016 to 118,702. Not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals also saw a decrease of 6,039 from the June 2017 figure of 124,741. Not seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased approximately 4,347 from June 2017 to 1,993,395.

The not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, decreased by 10,386 from June 2017 to 2,112,097.

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	July 2017			June 2017			July 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	1,993,395	118,702	5.6	1,997,742	124,741	5.9	2,009,749	142,515	6.6
Alexandria, LA MSA	61,579	4,067	6.2	61,612	4,296	6.5	62,742	4,610	6.8
Grant Parish, LA	7,784	592	7.1	7,805	634	7.5	7,916	637	7.4
Rapides Parish, LA	53,795	3,475	6.1	53,807	3,662	6.4	54,826	3,973	6.8
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	398,536	20,765	5.0	397,857	21,828	5.2	399,367	24,315	5.7
Ascension Parish, LA	58,566	2,863	4.7	58,428	3,005	4.9	58,708	3,308	5.3
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	222,431	11,502	4.9	221,882	12,064	5.2	222,962	13,474	5.7
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,759	420	5.1	7,765	453	5.5	7,763	526	6.3
Iberville Parish, LA	13,418	941	6.6	13,422	1,028	7.1	13,452	1,086	7.5
Livingston Parish, LA	64,971	3,156	4.6	64,926	3,314	4.9	65,059	3,687	5.4
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,582	611	6.0	9,646	643	6.2	9,572	723	7.0
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,142	335	7.5	4,147	346	7.7	4,146	398	8.8
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,512	697	5.3	12,473	728	5.5	12,545	817	6.1
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,155	240	4.4	5,168	247	4.6	5,160	296	5.4
Hammond, LA MSA	51,114	3,550	6.5	51,189	3,734	6.8	50,879	4,056	7.4
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	51,114	3,550	6.5	51,189	3,734	6.8	50,879	4,056	7.4
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	84,167	5,103	5.7	84,218	5,419	6.0	87,375	6,732	7.2
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,495	2,326	5.6	39,503	2,443	5.8	40,984	3,030	6.9
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,672	2,777	5.9	44,715	2,976	6.2	46,391	3,702	7.4
Lafayette, LA MSA	199,566	12,666	6.0	199,890	13,501	6.3	202,630	16,692	7.6
Acadia Parish, LA	22,657	1,499	6.2	22,770	1,608	6.6	23,005	1,998	8.0
Iberia Parish, LA	27,575	2,238	7.5	27,719	2,433	8.1	27,941	3,021	9.8
Lafayette Parish, LA	105,726	5,935	5.3	105,677	6,263	5.6	107,417	7,717	6.7
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,932	1,463	6.5	20,932	1,561	6.9	21,315	1,958	8.4
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,676	1,531	6.3	22,792	1,636	6.7	22,952	1,998	8.0
Lake Charles, LA MSA	106,653	4,766	4.3	105,504	5,005	4.5	102,781	5,501	5.1
Calcasieu Parish, LA	102,816	4,609	4.3	101,705	4,849	4.6	99,084	5,318	5.1
Cameron Parish, LA	3,837	157	3.9	3,799	156	3.9	3,697	183	4.7
Monroe, LA MSA	76,997	4,492	5.5	77,004	4,767	5.8	76,695	5,394	6.6
Ouachita Parish, LA	68,131	3,955	5.5	68,079	4,208	5.8	67,875	4,744	6.5
Union Parish, LA	8,866	537	5.7	8,925	559	5.9	8,820	650	6.9
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	565,764	31,790	5.3	568,439	32,990	5.5	569,555	36,816	6.1
Jefferson Parish, LA	205,736	10,848	5.0	206,580	11,272	5.2	207,228	12,767	5.8
Orleans Parish, LA	169,388	10,521	5.8	170,178	10,881	6.0	170,487	11,939	6.5
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,802	510	4.9	9,911	523	5.0	9,856	576	5.5
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,419	1,122	5.7	18,560	1,141	5.8	18,506	1,298	6.6
St. Charles Parish, LA	24,019	1,243	4.9	24,117	1,308	5.1	24,199	1,482	5.8
St. James Parish, LA	8,933	729	7.5	8,972	747	7.7	9,012	787	8.0
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,722	1,313	6.6	18,775	1,399	6.9	18,881	1,489	7.3
St. Tammany Parish, LA	110,745	5,504	4.7	111,346	5,719	4.9	111,386	6,478	5.5
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	176,969	11,310	6.0	176,842	11,964	6.3	180,531	13,530	7.0
Bossier Parish, LA	53,469	2,777	4.9	53,434	2,874	5.1	54,549	3,361	5.8
Caddo Parish, LA	99,705	6,760	6.3	99,610	7,154	6.7	101,704	7,870	7.2
De Soto Parish, LA	9,953	684	6.4	9,962	736	6.9	10,154	852	7.7
Webster Parish, LA	13,842	1,089	7.3	13,836	1,200	8.0	14,124	1,447	9.3

Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area	July 2017			June 2017			July 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,205	523	6.0	8,432	544	6.1	8,226	634	7.2
Assumption Parish, LA	8,421	690	7.6	8,479	732	7.9	8,633	864	9.1
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,435	1,106	7.1	14,610	1,171	7.4	14,782	1,260	7.9
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	13,985	855	5.8	14,095	855	5.7	14,220	1,010	6.6
Bienville Parish, LA	5,289	379	6.7	5,319	381	6.7	5,385	467	8.0
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,683	228	5.8	3,730	239	6.0	3,707	331	8.2
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,226	275	7.9	3,324	282	7.8	3,261	356	9.8
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,435	337	5.8	5,439	365	6.3	5,649	443	7.3
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,668	620	8.5	6,768	691	9.3	6,817	682	9.1
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,895	240	11.2	1,918	268	12.3	1,939	271	12.3
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,519	830	6.7	11,784	878	6.9	11,824	1,067	8.3
Franklin Parish, LA	6,706	585	8.0	6,903	634	8.4	6,727	684	9.2
Jackson Parish, LA	6,523	357	5.2	6,682	369	5.2	6,670	447	6.3
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	13,006	724	5.3	12,984	737	5.4	13,047	884	6.3
La Salle Parish, LA	5,760	309	5.1	5,807	327	5.3	5,826	440	7.0
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	18,813	1,266	6.3	19,095	1,380	6.7	19,132	1,542	7.5
Madison Parish, LA	3,601	331	8.4	3,645	373	9.3	3,606	385	9.6
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,650	863	8.2	9,725	921	8.7	9,715	1,112	10.3
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,058	1,089	6.7	15,195	1,181	7.2	15,011	1,275	7.8
Red River Parish, LA	3,679	222	5.7	3,723	227	5.7	3,644	244	6.3
Richland Parish, LA	7,972	538	6.3	8,017	571	6.6	7,985	663	7.7
Sabine Parish, LA	8,681	523	5.7	8,787	546	5.9	8,732	691	7.3
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,975	2,384	7.4	30,086	2,564	7.9	30,549	2,973	8.9
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,691	1,692	8.3	18,739	1,841	8.9	20,157	2,221	9.9
Tensas Parish, LA	1,487	158	9.6	1,556	158	9.2	1,504	190	11.2
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,447	1,225	7.3	15,654	1,139	6.8	16,076	1,443	8.2
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	15,793	1,133	6.7	16,047	1,135	6.6	15,719	1,376	8.0
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,689	350	8.7	3,815	361	8.6	3,703	482	11.5
Winn Parish, LA	4,759	361	7.1	4,829	364	7.0	4,944	430	8.0
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	1,982,259	109,972	5.3	1,993,338	114,864	5.4	1,986,054	130,886	6.2