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N E W S R E L E A S E

NOTE: The news release below replaces an earlier version that contained incorrect seasonally adjusted nonfarm data.

Employers Continue to Add Nonfarm Jobs

BATON ROUGE – The growth in private sector jobs in Louisiana continued in March as employers added 4,400 nonfarm jobs over the year, according to figures reported today by the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC).

Seasonally adjusted results of a survey of Louisiana employers by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates there were 1,886,400 nonfarm jobs in the state in March, an over-the-year gain of 4,400 jobs from March 2010 but a decrease of 5,900 from February.

The report shows an over-the-year increase of 15,200 private sector jobs while the number of government jobs decreased by 10,800 from last year. Updated industry sectors totals: education and health services, 277,700 jobs, up 8,000 from March 2010; leisure and hospitality services, 199,200 jobs, up 5,600 over the year; information, 28,000, up 3,700; trade, transportation, and utilities, 364,700, up 1,200; mining and logging, 51,800, up 600 jobs; and professional and business services, 190,400, up 400. Over-the-year decreases were reported in construction, 120,100, down 3,200; manufacturing, 137,400, down 700 from March 2010; financial activities, 92,100, down 300; and other services, 65,400, down 100.

The March nonfarm estimates are the first set produced by BLS using a new methodology that greatly reduces state input into the results. The use of the new methodology makes comparisons to previous months less reliable and, according to BLS, may result in an increase in month-to-month variability. However, in this first month using the new methodology, the nonfarm statewide results still follow the growth trend established using the previous methodology.

“The increase in March is the sixth straight month of over-the-year gains in the nonfarm job total,” said Curt Eysink, LWC executive director.

The unadjusted nonfarm statewide job total in March was 1,889,600, a gain of 8,200 over the year and 2,700 over February. The New Orleans metropolitan statistical area (MSA) has gained 3,100 nonfarm jobs since March 2010, with a total of 522,100 jobs. The Houma MSA has 94,100 jobs, an increase of 2,800 over last year; Shreveport has 177,400 jobs, 2,600 more than March 2010. The BLS survey also showed Alexandria with a gain of 1,000 jobs over the year to 64,100; Lafayette, up 500 jobs from March 2010 to 146,100; and Lake Charles, up 300 jobs over the year to 89,900. Baton Rouge’s March job count was 362,200, down 2,500 over the year; and Monroe at 76,200 jobs, down 600 since March 2010.

A separate BLS survey of households shows a decrease in the seasonally adjusted number of people working -- a reduction of 10,219 over the month and 19,035 over the year -- for a total of 1,907,808 in March. The household survey shows the civilian labor force – the number of people employed plus the number who are unemployed but looking for

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work – increased 773 over the year to 2,076,576. The number of unemployed in March was 168,768, up 3,918 from February.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2011 was 8.1 percent, up from the revised February rate of 7.9 percent. Louisiana's unemployment rate was tied with Texas and New Mexico for 23rd lowest in the nation and was tied with Texas for fifth in the South Region. The national rate in March was 8.8 percent, and the rate for the South Region was 9.0 percent.

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment figures are used to compare parishes and MSAs. Among the state's eight MSAs, four held steady with the same unemployment rate as in February, three had slight increases in their unemployment rates, and one – Lake Charles – had a slight decrease. The state's not seasonally adjusted statewide rate for March was 8.0 percent, unchanged from February. The national unadjusted unemployment rate for March was 9.2 percent.

For more detailed information on March 2011 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at <http://www.laworks.net> and select Labor Market Information from the top right menu. 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 March 2011			Revised February 2011			Revised March 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	138,962,000	14,060,000	9.2	138,093,000	14,542,000	9.5	137,983,000	15,678,000	10.2
LOUISIANA	1,888,366	164,598	8.0	1,881,314	162,591	8.0	1,915,794	139,512	6.8
ALEXANDRIA MSA	63,289	5,264	7.7	62,339	5,155	7.6	63,778	4,429	6.5
Grant	7,920	715	8.3	7,802	693	8.2	7,982	645	7.5
Rapides	55,369	4,549	7.6	54,537	4,462	7.6	55,796	3,784	6.4
BATON ROUGE MSA	342,812	30,657	8.2	342,570	29,971	8.0	350,664	24,790	6.6
Ascension	46,929	3,847	7.6	46,895	3,728	7.4	48,003	3,315	6.5
East Baton Rouge	198,003	17,264	8.0	197,863	16,645	7.8	202,538	13,627	6.3
East Feliciana	7,283	736	9.2	7,277	725	9.1	7,449	588	7.3
Iberville	10,895	1,477	11.9	10,887	1,471	11.9	11,144	1,199	9.7
Livingston	53,603	4,554	7.8	53,565	4,547	7.8	54,831	3,853	6.6
Pointe Coupee	8,576	867	9.2	8,570	978	10.2	8,772	651	6.9
St. Helena	3,654	593	14.0	3,651	592	14.0	3,738	474	11.3
West Baton Rouge	9,623	940	8.9	9,616	909	8.6	9,843	723	6.8
West Feliciana	4,248	379	8.2	4,245	374	8.1	4,346	360	7.6
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	97,045	6,024	5.8	97,090	5,963	5.8	96,537	5,109	5.0
Lafourche	45,824	2,823	5.8	45,845	2,818	5.8	45,584	2,335	4.9
Terrebonne	51,221	3,201	5.9	51,245	3,145	5.8	50,953	2,774	5.2
LAFAYETTE MSA	124,755	8,439	6.3	125,896	8,401	6.3	126,909	7,388	5.5
Lafayette	103,159	6,708	6.1	104,103	6,663	6.0	104,940	5,765	5.2
St. Martin	21,596	1,731	7.4	21,793	1,738	7.4	21,969	1,623	6.9
LAKE CHARLES MSA	87,483	6,791	7.2	86,589	6,782	7.3	88,648	5,987	6.3
Calcasieu	84,608	6,591	7.2	83,743	6,584	7.3	85,734	5,800	6.3
Cameron	2,875	200	6.5	2,846	198	6.5	2,914	187	6.0
MONROE MSA	73,964	6,795	8.4	73,384	6,740	8.4	76,123	5,819	7.1
Ouachita	64,929	5,944	8.4	64,420	5,836	8.3	66,824	4,967	6.9
Union	9,035	851	8.6	8,964	904	9.2	9,299	852	8.4
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	496,675	42,493	7.9	494,089	41,811	7.8	501,865	35,618	6.6
Jefferson	196,780	15,878	7.5	195,755	15,717	7.4	198,836	13,757	6.5
New Orleans City/Orleans	133,565	13,431	9.1	132,869	13,101	9.0	134,960	10,926	7.5
Plaquemines	7,417	666	8.2	7,378	670	8.3	7,494	503	6.3
St. Bernard	16,860	1,474	8.0	16,772	1,491	8.2	17,036	1,133	6.2
St. Charles	22,075	1,788	7.5	21,960	1,799	7.6	22,305	1,564	6.6
St. John Baptist	18,592	2,216	10.6	18,495	2,164	10.5	18,787	1,947	9.4
St. Tammany	101,387	7,042	6.5	100,860	6,868	6.4	102,447	5,787	5.3
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	169,878	13,213	7.2	168,626	13,054	7.2	170,975	11,467	6.3
Bossier	50,386	3,315	6.2	50,015	3,262	6.1	50,711	2,824	5.3
Caddo	109,075	8,988	7.6	108,272	8,855	7.6	109,780	7,831	6.7
De Soto	10,417	910	8.0	10,340	936	8.3	10,484	812	7.2

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary March 2011			Revised February 2011			Revised March 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	23,825	1,729	6.8	23,683	1,736	6.8	24,292	1,641	6.3
Allen	7,623	934	10.9	7,616	934	10.9	7,838	996	11.3
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	8,975	1,287	12.5	8,985	1,287	12.5	9,258	974	9.5
Avoyelles	14,986	1,495	9.1	14,886	1,462	8.9	15,101	1,224	7.5
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,257	1,123	7.8	13,235	1,086	7.6	13,521	1,003	6.9
Bienville	5,827	631	9.8	5,828	616	9.6	5,744	546	8.7
Caldwell	4,018	473	10.5	4,008	472	10.5	4,069	462	10.2
Catahoula	3,700	489	11.7	3,711	502	11.9	3,839	426	10.0
Claiborne	5,951	622	9.5	5,935	609	9.3	5,930	543	8.4
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,290	939	13.0	6,281	965	13.3	6,556	740	10.1
East Carroll	2,341	493	17.4	2,347	526	18.3	2,540	413	14.0
Evangeline	11,352	1,169	9.3	11,239	1,183	9.5	11,557	982	7.8
Franklin	6,651	1,018	13.3	6,668	1,042	13.5	6,906	809	10.5
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	29,922	2,608	8.0	29,775	2,603	8.0	30,200	2,553	7.8
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	5,966	536	8.2	5,922	527	8.2	6,015	487	7.5
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,387	936	6.5	13,359	913	6.4	13,504	816	5.7
La Salle	6,301	407	6.1	6,309	401	6.0	6,230	364	5.5
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,721	1,787	9.2	17,587	1,740	9.0	17,867	1,345	7.0
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	3,974	542	12.0	3,957	555	12.3	4,069	450	10.0
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	9,371	1,767	15.9	9,350	1,777	16.0	9,757	1,545	13.7
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	15,651	1,419	8.3	15,546	1,344	8.0	15,829	1,206	7.1
Red River	3,313	335	9.2	3,298	331	9.1	3,312	281	7.8
Richland	8,138	1,066	11.6	8,042	1,101	12.0	8,121	889	9.9
Sabine	8,759	675	7.2	8,723	681	7.2	8,735	588	6.3
St. James	8,247	1,271	13.4	8,209	1,252	13.2	8,477	955	10.1
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,693	3,410	8.9	34,533	3,416	9.0	35,537	2,954	7.7
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	20,285	2,374	10.5	20,187	2,359	10.5	20,949	2,084	9.0
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	48,095	5,075	9.5	47,871	5,043	9.5	48,355	4,234	8.1
Tensas	1,490	314	17.4	1,510	310	17.0	1,703	289	14.5
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	21,636	1,772	7.6	21,688	1,764	7.5	22,344	1,701	7.1
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	19,201	1,576	7.6	19,044	1,486	7.2	19,732	1,216	5.8
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	13,792	1,596	10.4	13,768	1,574	10.3	14,433	1,411	8.9
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,268	1,677	8.4	18,166	1,689	8.5	18,574	1,458	7.3
West Carroll	3,391	810	19.3	3,395	853	20.1	3,630	802	18.1
Winn	6,069	569	8.6	6,072	575	8.7	5,770	516	8.2

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.