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N E W S R E L E A S E

Employment, labor force improves in March, confidence raises in La. economy

BATON ROUGE – Louisiana’s not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged in March at 5.4 percent as the state’s civilian labor force gained 20,562 over-the-month, according to federal data released today by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Not-seasonally-adjusted data represent a snapshot of employment but are not adjusted for the seasonal factors. In February, the state’s not-seasonally-adjusted rate was 5.4 percent. The March 2016 rate was 6.0 percent.

The March seasonally-adjusted report for Louisiana was released on April 24 and showed an unemployment rate of 5.7 percent.

Louisiana’s civilian labor force – people employed and unemployed but seeking a job – grew during March. The not-seasonally-adjusted report showed the state’s labor force increased by 20,562 people over the month but is down 15,045 over the year.

Unemployment rates declined over the year in all of the state’s nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Not-seasonally-adjusted March unemployment rates and over-the-year nonfarm job change totals for the nine (MSAs) are as follows:

- Alexandria: 5.9 percent, down from 6.0 percent in February and down from 6.1 percent in March 2016. The MSA lost 100 jobs for the month and 600 over the year.
- Baton Rouge: 4.6 percent, unchanged from February but down from 5.0 percent in March 2016. The MSA gained 500 jobs over the month and 2,600 over the year.
- Hammond: 6.0 percent, up from 5.9 percent in February but down from 6.6 percent from March 2016. The MSA added 300 jobs over the month and 1,000 over the year.
- Houma: 6.2 percent, unchanged from February but down from 6.7 percent from March 2016. The MSA lost 600 jobs over the month and down 5,200 over the year.
- Lafayette: 6.3 percent, unchanged from February but down from 7.1 percent from March 2016. The MSA remained unchanged for the month but is down 6,500 over the year.
- Lake Charles: 4.1 percent, down from 4.2 percent in February and down from 4.8 percent in March 2016. The MSA gained 500 jobs over the month and 4,900 over the year.
- Monroe: 5.6 percent, down from 5.7 percent in February and down from 6.1 percent in March 2016. The MSA remained unchanged over the month but gained 100 over the year.

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- New Orleans: 4.9 percent, unchanged from February but down from 5.5 percent in March 2016. The MSA gained 900 jobs over the month and 1,000 jobs over the year.
- Shreveport: 5.8 percent, unchanged from February but down from 6.3 percent in March 2016. The MSA lost 100 jobs over the month and 3,100 over the year.

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	March 2017			February 2017			March 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	1,997,436	114,866	5.4	1,978,263	113,477	5.4	1,999,260	128,087	6.0
Alexandria, LA MSA	61,683	3,876	5.9	61,122	3,908	6.0	62,018	4,020	6.1
Grant Parish, LA	7,774	524	6.3	7,703	553	6.7	7,813	584	7.0
Rapides Parish, LA	53,909	3,352	5.9	53,419	3,355	5.9	54,205	3,436	6.0
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	402,426	19,516	4.6	398,718	19,275	4.6	398,744	20,868	5.0
Ascension Parish, LA	59,202	2,778	4.5	58,660	2,723	4.4	58,661	2,903	4.7
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	224,892	10,738	4.6	222,859	10,530	4.5	222,837	11,386	4.9
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,803	390	4.8	7,731	387	4.8	7,731	461	5.6
Iberville Parish, LA	13,499	895	6.2	13,357	901	6.3	13,379	963	6.7
Livingston Parish, LA	65,493	3,012	4.4	64,890	3,013	4.4	64,889	3,265	4.8
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,539	561	5.6	9,433	595	5.9	9,451	615	6.1
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,161	293	6.6	4,121	284	6.4	4,123	310	7.0
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,664	618	4.7	12,548	615	4.7	12,548	682	5.2
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,173	231	4.3	5,119	227	4.2	5,125	283	5.2
Hammond, LA MSA	51,126	3,236	6.0	50,452	3,162	5.9	50,137	3,539	6.6
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	51,126	3,236	6.0	50,452	3,162	5.9	50,137	3,539	6.6
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	83,307	5,553	6.2	83,100	5,519	6.2	87,587	6,270	6.7
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,122	2,467	5.9	39,041	2,432	5.9	41,122	2,776	6.3
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,185	3,086	6.5	44,059	3,087	6.5	46,465	3,494	7.0
Lafayette, LA MSA	198,892	13,393	6.3	197,126	13,303	6.3	203,977	15,666	7.1
Acadia Parish, LA	22,445	1,558	6.5	22,207	1,541	6.5	23,023	1,816	7.3
Iberia Parish, LA	27,320	2,551	8.5	27,061	2,555	8.6	27,993	2,936	9.5
Lafayette Parish, LA	105,742	6,111	5.5	104,876	6,048	5.5	108,469	7,132	6.2
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,910	1,517	6.8	20,705	1,507	6.8	21,475	1,799	7.7
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,475	1,656	6.9	22,277	1,652	6.9	23,017	1,983	7.9
Lake Charles, LA MSA	104,762	4,523	4.1	103,694	4,529	4.2	100,252	5,040	4.8
Calcasieu Parish, LA	101,002	4,373	4.1	99,974	4,373	4.2	96,652	4,870	4.8
Cameron Parish, LA	3,760	150	3.8	3,720	156	4.0	3,600	170	4.5
Monroe, LA MSA	76,747	4,551	5.6	76,086	4,569	5.7	76,372	4,928	6.1
Ouachita Parish, LA	68,011	3,996	5.5	67,444	4,005	5.6	67,676	4,313	6.0
Union Parish, LA	8,736	555	6.0	8,642	564	6.1	8,696	615	6.6
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	568,100	29,310	4.9	562,699	28,701	4.9	564,902	33,029	5.5
Jefferson Parish, LA	206,809	10,151	4.7	204,840	9,999	4.7	205,665	11,599	5.3
Orleans Parish, LA	170,112	9,159	5.1	168,523	8,981	5.1	169,145	10,411	5.8
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,731	485	4.7	9,615	495	4.9	9,678	562	5.5
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,398	1,077	5.5	18,218	1,059	5.5	18,289	1,206	6.2
St. Charles Parish, LA	24,145	1,211	4.8	23,912	1,159	4.6	24,012	1,349	5.3
St. James Parish, LA	8,973	660	6.9	8,878	647	6.8	8,928	707	7.3
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,859	1,275	6.3	18,675	1,242	6.2	18,757	1,388	6.9
St. Tammany Parish, LA	111,073	5,292	4.5	110,038	5,119	4.4	110,428	5,807	5.0
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	177,657	10,987	5.8	176,130	10,807	5.8	179,612	12,158	6.3
Bossier Parish, LA	53,668	2,693	4.8	53,203	2,657	4.8	54,261	2,992	5.2
Caddo Parish, LA	100,134	6,469	6.1	99,289	6,361	6.0	101,231	6,989	6.5
De Soto Parish, LA	9,964	711	6.7	9,870	689	6.5	10,075	836	7.7
Webster Parish, LA	13,891	1,114	7.4	13,768	1,100	7.4	14,045	1,341	8.7

Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area	March 2017			February 2017			March 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,405	468	5.3	8,345	465	5.3	8,293	558	6.3
Assumption Parish, LA	8,341	716	7.9	8,238	721	8.0	8,535	762	8.2
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,502	1,017	6.6	14,285	1,002	6.6	14,657	1,103	7.0
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	14,090	798	5.4	13,908	792	5.4	14,041	877	5.9
Bienville Parish, LA	5,266	368	6.5	5,198	365	6.6	5,252	453	7.9
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,690	255	6.5	3,638	254	6.5	3,650	316	8.0
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,095	268	8.0	3,048	262	7.9	3,041	347	10.2
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,582	348	5.9	5,543	341	5.8	5,622	410	6.8
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,651	613	8.4	6,546	595	8.3	6,615	606	8.4
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,904	269	12.4	1,882	273	12.7	1,891	248	11.6
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,835	768	6.1	11,638	777	6.3	11,806	952	7.5
Franklin Parish, LA	6,574	597	8.3	6,475	581	8.2	6,638	702	9.6
Jackson Parish, LA	6,516	347	5.1	6,415	341	5.0	6,641	405	5.7
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	12,689	698	5.2	12,645	704	5.3	12,553	808	6.0
La Salle Parish, LA	5,718	319	5.3	5,675	322	5.4	5,907	473	7.4
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	19,531	1,217	5.9	19,282	1,153	5.6	19,209	1,305	6.4
Madison Parish, LA	3,463	340	8.9	3,410	321	8.6	3,457	341	9.0
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,745	929	8.7	9,605	932	8.8	9,579	1,059	10.0
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,287	1,024	6.3	15,062	1,000	6.2	15,187	1,103	6.8
Red River Parish, LA	3,630	223	5.8	3,565	216	5.7	3,598	226	5.9
Richland Parish, LA	7,770	580	6.9	7,660	562	6.8	7,795	670	7.9
Sabine Parish, LA	8,440	516	5.8	8,268	499	5.7	8,675	656	7.0
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,822	2,293	7.1	29,384	2,307	7.3	30,451	2,637	8.0
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	19,083	1,870	8.9	18,881	1,895	9.1	20,416	2,148	9.5
Tensas Parish, LA	1,421	145	9.3	1,393	151	9.8	1,501	162	9.7
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,252	1,053	6.5	15,085	1,000	6.2	16,121	1,160	6.7
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	16,084	1,038	6.1	15,859	989	5.9	16,090	1,190	6.9
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,597	489	12.0	3,525	525	13.0	3,581	506	12.4
Winn Parish, LA	4,753	353	6.9	4,680	361	7.2	4,857	388	7.4
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	1,993,817	120,235	5.7	1,985,105	121,847	5.8	2,003,415	133,242	6.2