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N E W S R E L E A S E

Nonfarm jobs post strong gains, confidence in the economy builds

BATON ROUGE – According to recent data released from the Bureau of Labor & Statistics (BLS), not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs increased by 12,300 from April. This brings the new total for May to 1,987,100. This figure represents the largest over the month gain for the month of May since 2006. Additionally, 6,300 jobs were added over the year.

When looking at not seasonally adjusted figures for total private employment, 11,100 jobs were added over the month, for a new total of 1,660,500. Approximately 10,000 jobs have been added since May 2016.

The not-seasonally adjusted employment rate for the month of May decreased 0.1 percentage points to 5.5 percent. This figure is down 0.4 percentage points from the May 2016 unemployment rate of 5.9 percent.

The number of not-seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals also decreased by 2,582, to 116,001. This number is down 8,824 as compared to the May 2016 figure of 124,825.

“We are encouraged by the steady employment growth reported across our great state, and the undoubted confidence being restored in the thousands of residents who are getting back to work,” said Ava Dejoie, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission. “These figures signify a thriving future for Louisiana’s economy.”

The not-seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, decreased by 13,142 over the month to 2,103,477.

Eight of the nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) saw a decrease in their unemployment rate over the year. Not-seasonally adjusted May unemployment rates, over-the-month job gains and over-the-year nonfarm job change totals for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 6.2 percent, up from 6.1 percent in April and up from 6.0 percent from May 2016. The MSA lost 100 jobs for the month and 900 over the year.
- Baton Rouge: 4.7 percent, down from 4.8 percent in April and down from 5.0 percent from May 2016. The MSA lost 1,300 jobs over the month, but is up 1,900 over the year.
- Hammond: 6.1 percent, down from 6.2 percent in April and down from 6.4 percent from May 2016. The MSA gained 300 jobs over the month and 600 over the year.
- Houma: 6.0 percent, down from 6.3 percent in April and down from 6.6 percent from May 2016. The MSA gained 200 jobs over the month, but is down 4,200 over the year.
- Lafayette: 6.2 percent down from 6.3 percent in April and down from 7.1 percent from May 2016. The MSA gained 800 jobs over the month, but is down 2,400 over the year.

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- Lake Charles: 4.3 percent, unchanged from April, but down from 4.6 percent from May 2016. The MSA gained 1,500 jobs over the month and 5,400 over the year. The Lake Charles MSA continues its series high for nonfarm employment.
- Monroe: 5.7 percent, down from 5.8 percent in April and down from 6.0 percent from May 2016. The MSA remained unchanged over the month, but is up 400 over the year.
- New Orleans: 5.1 percent, unchanged from April, but down from 5.3 percent from May 2016. The MSA gained 500 jobs over the month, but is down 1,600 over the year.
- Shreveport: 6.0 percent, unchanged from April, but down from 6.1 percent from May 2016. The MSA gained 400 jobs over the month, but is down 3,000 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	May 2017			April 2017			May 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	1,987,476	116,001	5.5	1,998,036	118,583	5.6	2,001,313	124,825	5.9
Alexandria, LA MSA	61,158	4,027	6.2	61,572	4,012	6.1	62,163	3,973	6.0
Grant Parish, LA	7,742	545	6.6	7,776	545	6.5	7,856	592	7.0
Rapides Parish, LA	53,416	3,482	6.1	53,796	3,467	6.1	54,307	3,381	5.9
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	397,376	19,785	4.7	402,196	20,302	4.8	397,683	20,852	5.0
Ascension Parish, LA	58,383	2,825	4.6	59,145	2,917	4.7	58,447	2,918	4.8
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	221,752	10,876	4.7	224,702	11,115	4.7	222,000	11,439	4.9
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,745	390	4.8	7,815	430	5.2	7,741	471	5.7
Iberville Parish, LA	13,366	926	6.5	13,474	958	6.6	13,372	944	6.6
Livingston Parish, LA	64,817	3,030	4.5	65,514	3,106	4.5	64,828	3,168	4.7
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,567	579	5.7	9,561	600	5.9	9,539	635	6.2
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,132	296	6.7	4,164	296	6.6	4,129	317	7.1
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,470	634	4.8	12,646	637	4.8	12,488	685	5.2
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,144	229	4.3	5,175	243	4.5	5,139	275	5.1
Hammond, LA MSA	50,968	3,339	6.1	51,139	3,358	6.2	50,790	3,487	6.4
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	50,968	3,339	6.1	51,139	3,358	6.2	50,790	3,487	6.4
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	83,341	5,323	6.0	83,349	5,567	6.3	87,193	6,112	6.6
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,127	2,347	5.7	39,168	2,477	5.9	40,929	2,695	6.2
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,214	2,976	6.3	44,181	3,090	6.5	46,264	3,417	6.9
Lafayette, LA MSA	199,614	13,082	6.2	199,976	13,486	6.3	202,298	15,420	7.1
Acadia Parish, LA	22,640	1,540	6.4	22,542	1,568	6.5	22,921	1,833	7.4
Iberia Parish, LA	27,608	2,425	8.1	27,517	2,530	8.4	27,919	2,886	9.4
Lafayette Parish, LA	105,752	6,025	5.4	106,299	6,191	5.5	107,275	7,014	6.1
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,888	1,511	6.7	20,947	1,544	6.9	21,212	1,814	7.9
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,726	1,581	6.5	22,671	1,653	6.8	22,971	1,873	7.5
Lake Charles, LA MSA	104,318	4,700	4.3	104,128	4,691	4.3	100,284	4,782	4.6
Calcasieu Parish, LA	100,567	4,556	4.3	100,390	4,533	4.3	96,678	4,624	4.6
Cameron Parish, LA	3,751	144	3.7	3,738	158	4.1	3,606	158	4.2
Monroe, LA MSA	76,317	4,599	5.7	76,795	4,686	5.8	76,202	4,835	6.0
Ouachita Parish, LA	67,527	4,042	5.6	68,047	4,117	5.7	67,447	4,243	5.9
Union Parish, LA	8,790	557	6.0	8,748	569	6.1	8,755	592	6.3
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	564,668	30,037	5.1	568,705	30,562	5.1	568,183	31,563	5.3
Jefferson Parish, LA	205,256	10,435	4.8	206,893	10,657	4.9	206,628	11,019	5.1
Orleans Parish, LA	169,101	9,560	5.4	170,354	9,645	5.4	170,140	10,000	5.6
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,778	485	4.7	9,740	504	4.9	9,815	509	4.9
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,405	1,060	5.4	18,457	1,115	5.7	18,485	1,132	5.8
St. Charles Parish, LA	23,958	1,217	4.8	24,147	1,227	4.8	24,121	1,269	5.0
St. James Parish, LA	8,897	667	7.0	8,953	678	7.0	8,962	721	7.4
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,660	1,318	6.6	18,837	1,329	6.6	18,802	1,319	6.6
St. Tammany Parish, LA	110,613	5,295	4.6	111,324	5,407	4.6	111,230	5,594	4.8
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	175,484	11,250	6.0	176,833	11,372	6.0	179,180	11,727	6.1
Bossier Parish, LA	53,015	2,722	4.9	53,412	2,760	4.9	54,132	2,890	5.1
Caddo Parish, LA	98,882	6,678	6.3	99,688	6,731	6.3	100,967	6,787	6.3
De Soto Parish, LA	9,864	711	6.7	9,912	721	6.8	10,069	769	7.1
Webster Parish, LA	13,723	1,139	7.7	13,821	1,160	7.7	14,012	1,281	8.4

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	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,485	479	5.3	8,474	481	5.4	8,428	534	6.0
Assumption Parish, LA	8,355	710	7.8	8,329	764	8.4	8,434	756	8.2
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,624	1,009	6.5	14,567	1,050	6.7	14,814	1,089	6.8
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	14,254	868	5.7	14,218	865	5.7	14,348	864	5.7
Bienville Parish, LA	5,290	366	6.5	5,248	394	7.0	5,249	449	7.9
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,689	222	5.7	3,692	254	6.4	3,724	297	7.4
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,251	253	7.2	3,152	269	7.9	3,230	335	9.4
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,541	344	5.8	5,542	363	6.1	5,594	393	6.6
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,744	619	8.4	6,671	629	8.6	6,751	581	7.9
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,940	268	12.1	1,898	274	12.6	1,924	239	11.0
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,851	792	6.3	11,834	809	6.4	11,896	891	7.0
Franklin Parish, LA	6,739	581	7.9	6,621	613	8.5	6,775	696	9.3
Jackson Parish, LA	6,571	345	5.0	6,538	349	5.1	6,757	398	5.6
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	12,828	706	5.2	12,776	713	5.3	12,873	803	5.9
La Salle Parish, LA	5,773	302	5.0	5,765	331	5.4	5,882	457	7.2
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	19,643	1,175	5.6	19,776	1,225	5.8	19,488	1,337	6.4
Madison Parish, LA	3,554	323	8.3	3,488	339	8.9	3,540	346	8.9
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,737	945	8.8	9,697	982	9.2	9,719	1,048	9.7
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,306	1,040	6.4	15,293	1,043	6.4	15,238	1,118	6.8
Red River Parish, LA	3,659	206	5.3	3,620	226	5.9	3,593	210	5.5
Richland Parish, LA	7,863	531	6.3	7,808	562	6.7	7,901	623	7.3
Sabine Parish, LA	8,594	512	5.6	8,467	521	5.8	8,646	634	6.8
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,906	2,320	7.2	29,918	2,342	7.3	30,393	2,611	7.9
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,898	1,842	8.9	18,980	1,902	9.1	20,057	2,066	9.3
Tensas Parish, LA	1,510	156	9.4	1,430	146	9.3	1,513	160	9.6
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,180	1,181	7.2	15,079	1,199	7.4	16,062	1,101	6.4
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	15,926	1,021	6.0	16,095	1,088	6.3	15,908	1,162	6.8
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,701	383	9.4	3,617	456	11.2	3,722	471	11.2
Winn Parish, LA	4,821	359	6.9	4,749	360	7.0	4,876	407	7.7
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	1,997,546	121,173	5.7	1,998,157	122,972	5.8	1,994,792	132,706	6.2