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N E W S R E L E A S E

Louisiana Marks Thirteen Months of Private Sector Job Growth, State Adds 44,700 Private Sector Jobs Over the Year

BATON ROUGE – Seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs in Louisiana increased by 5,700 from September to October 2011, bringing the total number of jobs in the state to 1,933,500, the Louisiana Workforce Commission announced today. A survey of Louisiana employers by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics showed 13 consecutive months of over-the-year gains in nonfarm private sector jobs. The state added 44,700 more private sector jobs over the year and 4,000 over the month. Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment reflected an over-the-year increase of 44,200 total nonfarm jobs.

Not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment for October grew by 15,000 jobs over the month and 44,100 jobs over the year. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates nonfarm employment from a survey of employers. Seasonally adjusted data are used to compare states and to compare states to the nation. Not seasonally adjusted data are used to compare areas within the state to each other and to the state as a whole.

Five of the eight metropolitan statistical areas showed nonfarm job gains over the month with the New Orleans MSA adding 3,500 jobs followed by Lafayette with an increase of 2,300 workers. Over the year, seven of the MSAs added employment, showing an increase of 10,600 nonfarm jobs in the New Orleans MSA, 6,000 in the Lafayette MSA, 2,700 in the Houma MSA, and 1,900 in the Lake Charles MSA for the areas with the most over-the-year gains in October.

“It is great to know our job growth is strong as we head into this holiday season. The most important numbers that we have show we are continuing to add jobs,” said LWC Executive Director Curt Eysink. “This trend hasn’t happened by accident. Employers are recognizing the advantages Louisiana offers.”

A separate BLS survey of households is used to estimate Louisiana’s civilian labor force and unemployment rate. It shows Louisiana’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2011 was 7.0 percent, up from the September 2011 revised rate of 6.9 percent and below the year-ago figure of 7.7 percent. The October rate for Louisiana was tied for 14th lowest in the nation with Utah, and had the third lowest unemployment rate of the states in the Southern region. The Southern region rate for October was 9.0 percent. The unemployment rate for the United States was 9.0 percent.

The state’s civilian labor force – the number of people working or looking for work – for October was 2,042,983, up from the September revised figure of 2,038,387. The number of employed in October was 1,900,600, up from 1,897,283 in September. The number of unemployed in Louisiana in October 2011 increased slightly to 142,383 from 141,104 in September.

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The employer survey showed the industry sectors with annual job gains were: education and health services, 291,300, up 18,100 jobs over the year; manufacturing, 145,300, up 7,700; leisure and hospitality, 201,800, up 5,800; financial activities, 97,000, up 4,600; trade, transportation, and utilities, 369,600, up 3,400; mining and logging, 55,300, up 2,800; construction, 124,400, up 2,100 jobs; professional and business services, 194,500, up 900; and information, 28,600, up 800 since October 2010. Industry sectors with annual job declines were: other services, 65,100, down 1,500; and government, 360,600, down 500.

Louisiana's unadjusted unemployment rate, comparable to MSAs and parishes, in October was 7.1 percent, up from the revised September rate of 6.9 percent but was below the October 2010 rate of 7.5 percent. Unemployment rate for each of the MSAs showed a slight increase of less than a half of a percent from September to October 2011, and each area reflected declines when compared to the October 2010 figures.

For more detailed information on October 2011 employment data for Louisiana, visit our website at www.laworks.net and select Labor Market Information from the top right-hand 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 October 2011 | | | Revised September 2011 | | | Revised October 2010 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | Employed | Unemployed | Rate | Employed | Unemployed | Rate | Employed | Unemployed | Rate |
| UNITED STATES | 140,987,000 | 13,102,000 | 8.5 | 140,502,000 | 13,520,000 | 8.8 | 139,749,000 | 13,903,000 | 9.0 |
| LOUISIANA | 1,912,516 | 145,515 | 7.1 | 1,913,720 | 140,780 | 6.9 | 1,942,178 | 157,648 | 7.5 |
| ALEXANDRIA MSA | 63,966 | 4,693 | 6.8 | 64,331 | 4,513 | 6.6 | 65,308 | 4,989 | 7.1 |
| Grant | 8,005 | 566 | 6.6 | 8,051 | 573 | 6.6 | 8,173 | 631 | 7.2 |
| Rapides | 55,961 | 4,127 | 6.9 | 56,280 | 3,940 | 6.5 | 57,135 | 4,358 | 7.1 |
| BATON ROUGE MSA | 344,080 | 26,416 | 7.1 | 344,461 | 26,087 | 7.0 | 353,151 | 28,946 | 7.6 |
| Ascension | 47,102 | 3,141 | 6.3 | 47,154 | 3,151 | 6.3 | 48,344 | 3,525 | 6.8 |
| East Baton Rouge | 198,735 | 15,080 | 7.1 | 198,955 | 14,809 | 6.9 | 203,974 | 16,404 | 7.4 |
| East Feliciana | 7,309 | 668 | 8.4 | 7,318 | 650 | 8.2 | 7,502 | 754 | 9.1 |
| Iberville | 10,935 | 1,252 | 10.3 | 10,947 | 1,230 | 10.1 | 11,223 | 1,349 | 10.7 |
| Livingston | 53,801 | 3,724 | 6.5 | 53,861 | 3,684 | 6.4 | 55,220 | 4,192 | 7.1 |
| Pointe Coupee | 8,607 | 796 | 8.5 | 8,617 | 802 | 8.5 | 8,834 | 836 | 8.6 |
| St. Helena | 3,667 | 534 | 12.7 | 3,672 | 576 | 13.6 | 3,764 | 564 | 13.0 |
| West Baton Rouge | 9,658 | 818 | 7.8 | 9,669 | 793 | 7.6 | 9,913 | 906 | 8.4 |
| West Feliciana | 4,264 | 403 | 8.6 | 4,269 | 393 | 8.4 | 4,376 | 415 | 8.7 |
| HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA | 99,294 | 5,135 | 4.9 | 99,537 | 4,886 | 4.7 | 99,638 | 5,702 | 5.4 |
| Lafourche | 46,886 | 2,376 | 4.8 | 47,000 | 2,285 | 4.6 | 47,048 | 2,570 | 5.2 |
| Terrebonne | 52,408 | 2,759 | 5.0 | 52,537 | 2,601 | 4.7 | 52,590 | 3,132 | 5.6 |
| LAFAYETTE MSA | 130,798 | 7,388 | 5.3 | 129,770 | 7,104 | 5.2 | 129,287 | 8,398 | 6.1 |
| Lafayette | 108,156 | 5,876 | 5.2 | 107,306 | 5,592 | 5.0 | 106,907 | 6,635 | 5.8 |
| St. Martin | 22,642 | 1,512 | 6.3 | 22,464 | 1,512 | 6.3 | 22,380 | 1,763 | 7.3 |
| LAKE CHARLES MSA | 88,320 | 6,070 | 6.4 | 88,437 | 5,780 | 6.1 | 88,560 | 6,632 | 7.0 |
| Calcasieu | 85,417 | 5,912 | 6.5 | 85,530 | 5,630 | 6.2 | 85,649 | 6,443 | 7.0 |
| Cameron | 2,903 | 158 | 5.2 | 2,907 | 150 | 4.9 | 2,911 | 189 | 6.1 |
| MONROE MSA | 73,768 | 5,972 | 7.5 | 73,412 | 5,732 | 7.2 | 75,599 | 6,409 | 7.8 |
| Ouachita | 64,757 | 5,248 | 7.5 | 64,444 | 5,024 | 7.2 | 66,364 | 5,578 | 7.8 |
| Union | 9,011 | 724 | 7.4 | 8,968 | 708 | 7.3 | 9,235 | 831 | 8.3 |
| NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA | 506,227 | 38,816 | 7.1 | 504,385 | 37,372 | 6.9 | 508,107 | 41,553 | 7.6 |
| Jefferson | 200,564 | 14,229 | 6.6 | 199,835 | 13,626 | 6.4 | 201,309 | 15,200 | 7.0 |
| New Orleans City/Orleans | 136,133 | 13,011 | 8.7 | 135,638 | 12,684 | 8.6 | 136,639 | 14,107 | 9.4 |
| Plaquemines | 7,559 | 537 | 6.6 | 7,532 | 525 | 6.5 | 7,587 | 544 | 6.7 |
| St. Bernard | 17,184 | 1,304 | 7.1 | 17,121 | 1,262 | 6.9 | 17,248 | 1,365 | 7.3 |
| St. Charles | 22,499 | 1,643 | 6.8 | 22,417 | 1,524 | 6.4 | 22,583 | 1,631 | 6.7 |
| St. John Baptist | 18,950 | 1,797 | 8.7 | 18,881 | 1,761 | 8.5 | 19,020 | 2,100 | 9.9 |
| St. Tammany | 103,337 | 6,295 | 5.7 | 102,961 | 5,989 | 5.5 | 103,721 | 6,606 | 6.0 |
| SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA | 171,214 | 12,201 | 6.7 | 175,023 | 11,703 | 6.3 | 172,732 | 13,199 | 7.1 |
| Bossier | 50,782 | 3,126 | 5.8 | 51,912 | 2,941 | 5.4 | 51,232 | 3,304 | 6.1 |
| Caddo | 109,933 | 8,283 | 7.0 | 112,379 | 7,984 | 6.6 | 110,908 | 8,956 | 7.5 |
| De Soto | 10,499 | 792 | 7.0 | 10,732 | 777 | 6.8 | 10,592 | 939 | 8.1 |

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|---|-----------------------------|------------|------|---------------------------|------------|------|-------------------------|------------|------|
| | Employed | Unemployed | Rate | Employed | Unemployed | Rate | Employed | Unemployed | Rate |
| NON-MSA PARISHES | | | | | | | | | |
| Acadia (Crowley) ¹ | 23,778 | 1,550 | 6.1 | 23,847 | 1,477 | 5.8 | 24,606 | 1,764 | 6.7 |
| Allen | 7,985 | 824 | 9.4 | 7,880 | 776 | 9.0 | 8,067 | 868 | 9.7 |
| Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹ | 9,188 | 1,023 | 10.0 | 9,172 | 1,005 | 9.9 | 9,422 | 1,073 | 10.2 |
| Avoyelles | 14,844 | 1,265 | 7.9 | 14,834 | 1,245 | 7.7 | 15,650 | 1,384 | 8.1 |
| Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹ | 13,132 | 1,166 | 8.2 | 13,112 | 1,111 | 7.8 | 13,712 | 1,098 | 7.4 |
| Bienville | 5,798 | 537 | 8.5 | 5,807 | 545 | 8.6 | 6,073 | 572 | 8.6 |
| Caldwell | 4,100 | 368 | 8.2 | 4,098 | 347 | 7.8 | 4,212 | 410 | 8.9 |
| Catahoula | 3,780 | 378 | 9.1 | 3,745 | 366 | 8.9 | 3,943 | 431 | 9.9 |
| Claiborne | 6,049 | 559 | 8.5 | 6,087 | 541 | 8.2 | 6,211 | 608 | 8.9 |
| Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹ | 6,235 | 753 | 10.8 | 6,260 | 774 | 11.0 | 6,606 | 713 | 9.7 |
| East Carroll | 2,315 | 387 | 14.3 | 2,244 | 379 | 14.4 | 2,600 | 451 | 14.8 |
| Evangeline | 11,657 | 1,004 | 7.9 | 11,591 | 957 | 7.6 | 11,771 | 1,090 | 8.5 |
| Franklin | 6,484 | 777 | 10.7 | 6,432 | 759 | 10.6 | 7,072 | 834 | 10.5 |
| Iberia (New Iberia) ¹ | 30,753 | 2,277 | 6.9 | 30,492 | 2,157 | 6.6 | 31,209 | 2,549 | 7.6 |
| Jackson (Ruston) ¹ | 5,864 | 534 | 8.3 | 5,875 | 474 | 7.5 | 6,167 | 441 | 6.7 |
| Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹ | 13,240 | 836 | 5.9 | 13,230 | 795 | 5.7 | 13,854 | 929 | 6.3 |
| La Salle | 6,572 | 376 | 5.4 | 6,580 | 352 | 5.1 | 6,551 | 429 | 6.1 |
| Lincoln (Ruston) ¹ | 17,416 | 1,584 | 8.3 | 17,450 | 1,523 | 8.0 | 18,318 | 1,685 | 8.4 |
| Madison (Tallulah) ¹ | 3,863 | 436 | 10.1 | 3,909 | 440 | 10.1 | 4,150 | 472 | 10.2 |
| Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹ | 9,550 | 1,348 | 12.4 | 9,455 | 1,354 | 12.5 | 9,926 | 1,548 | 13.5 |
| Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹ | 15,553 | 1,353 | 8.0 | 15,540 | 1,310 | 7.8 | 16,214 | 1,431 | 8.1 |
| Red River | 3,458 | 285 | 7.6 | 3,446 | 268 | 7.2 | 3,454 | 338 | 8.9 |
| Richland | 8,094 | 819 | 9.2 | 8,095 | 789 | 8.9 | 8,498 | 921 | 9.8 |
| Sabine | 8,829 | 626 | 6.6 | 8,822 | 580 | 6.2 | 9,135 | 692 | 7.0 |
| St. James | 8,190 | 1,023 | 11.1 | 8,238 | 1,023 | 11.0 | 8,554 | 1,088 | 11.3 |
| St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹ | 34,506 | 2,934 | 7.8 | 34,769 | 2,847 | 7.6 | 35,595 | 3,189 | 8.2 |
| St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹ | 20,708 | 1,884 | 8.3 | 20,731 | 1,826 | 8.1 | 21,177 | 2,149 | 9.2 |
| Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹ | 47,960 | 4,404 | 8.4 | 47,840 | 4,385 | 8.4 | 49,573 | 4,803 | 8.8 |
| Tensas | 1,607 | 240 | 13.0 | 1,542 | 218 | 12.4 | 1,767 | 284 | 13.8 |
| Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹ | 22,218 | 1,456 | 6.2 | 22,025 | 1,347 | 5.8 | 22,841 | 1,658 | 6.8 |
| Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹ | 20,065 | 1,815 | 8.3 | 20,196 | 1,735 | 7.9 | 19,759 | 1,558 | 7.3 |
| Washington (Bogalusa) ¹ | 13,523 | 1,451 | 9.7 | 13,422 | 1,403 | 9.5 | 14,148 | 1,557 | 9.9 |
| Webster (Minden) ¹ | 17,959 | 1,486 | 7.6 | 18,200 | 1,463 | 7.4 | 18,733 | 1,663 | 8.2 |
| West Carroll | 3,549 | 562 | 13.7 | 3,468 | 540 | 13.5 | 3,818 | 590 | 13.4 |
| Winn | 6,026 | 500 | 7.7 | 5,933 | 490 | 7.6 | 6,412 | 548 | 7.9 |

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.