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## **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

### **Unemployment Rates Drop in All Metro Areas**

BATON ROUGE – Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the state and all metropolitan statistical areas improved in September for the third month in a row as Louisiana recorded its lowest unadjusted unemployment rate since April 2010, the Louisiana Workforce Commission reported today.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent in September from the August 2011 rate of 7.3 percent. The U.S. rate improved to 8.8 percent from the August rate of 9.1 percent. The unemployment rate is developed from a sample survey of residences by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Unemployment rates for the MSAs in September improved over the month for the third month in a row:

- Alexandria, 6.5 percent, down from 6.9 percent
- Baton Rouge, 7.0 percent, down from 7.6 percent
- Houma, 4.7 percent, down from 4.9 percent
- Lafayette, 5.2 percent, down from 5.6 percent
- Lake Charles, 6.1 percent, down from 6.6 percent
- Monroe, 7.2 percent, down from 7.7 percent
- New Orleans, 6.9 percent, down from 7.3 percent
- Shreveport, 6.3 percent, down from 6.7 percent in August

The household survey estimates of Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force – the number of people working or looking for work – increased by 7,306 over the month to 2,054,638. The not seasonally adjusted estimate shows the number of people employed was up 15,495 in September while the number who were unemployed fell 8,189 to 140,961, the lowest level since April 2010.

The September 2011 nonfarm estimates are the seventh monthly set produced by BLS using a new methodology that reduces state input. The use of the new methodology makes it difficult to compare results to reports produced previously and, according to BLS, may result in an increase in monthly variability especially at the MSA level.

A separate BLS survey of Louisiana employers showed the state had an increase of 18,000 not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the month and an increase of 41,300 over the year, for a total of 1,924,600 in September. Private industry added 5,600 jobs over the month and 43,300 over the year.

At the MSA level, the Baton Rouge MSA added the most nonfarm jobs over the month with an increase of 4,100 jobs and the New Orleans MSA added the most over the year with a gain of 10,900 jobs.

“These numbers indicate that the overall improvement we’ve been experiencing statewide for a year is consistently spread across every MSA,” LWC Executive Director Curt Eysink said.

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For more detailed information on September 2011 employment data for Louisiana, visit the LWC website at [www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net) and select Labor Market Information from the top right-hand menu. Then select LOIS (Louisiana Occupational Information System) and Employment and Wage Data listed under Historical Data Analysis.

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## CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary September 2011			Revised August 2011			Revised September 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>140,502,000</b>	<b>13,520,000</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>140,335,000</b>	<b>14,008,000</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>139,715,000</b>	<b>14,140,000</b>	<b>9.2</b>
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>1,913,677</b>	<b>140,961</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>1,898,182</b>	<b>149,150</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1,934,192</b>	<b>161,046</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>ALEXANDRIA MSA</b>	<b>64,479</b>	<b>4,515</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>64,910</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>64,714</b>	<b>5,067</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Grant	8,069	574	6.6	8,123	682	7.7	8,099	648	7.4
Rapides	56,410	3,941	6.5	56,787	4,135	6.8	56,615	4,419	7.2
<b>BATON ROUGE MSA</b>	<b>345,231</b>	<b>26,132</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>340,059</b>	<b>27,868</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>352,463</b>	<b>29,771</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Ascension	47,260	3,164	6.3	46,552	3,363	6.7	48,250	3,746	7.2
East Baton Rouge	199,400	14,828	6.9	196,412	15,914	7.5	203,577	16,678	7.6
East Feliciana	7,334	651	8.2	7,224	698	8.8	7,488	756	9.2
Iberville	10,971	1,232	10.1	10,807	1,259	10.4	11,201	1,347	10.7
Livingston	53,981	3,693	6.4	53,173	3,984	7.0	55,112	4,389	7.4
Pointe Coupee	8,636	807	8.5	8,507	880	9.4	8,817	877	9.0
St. Helena	3,680	573	13.5	3,625	584	13.9	3,757	592	13.6
West Baton Rouge	9,691	792	7.6	9,546	773	7.5	9,894	965	8.9
West Feliciana	4,278	392	8.4	4,214	414	8.9	4,368	420	8.8
<b>HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA</b>	<b>99,722</b>	<b>4,890</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>99,622</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>99,125</b>	<b>5,624</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Lafourche	47,088	2,285	4.6	47,041	2,430	4.9	46,806	2,536	5.1
Terrebonne	52,634	2,605	4.7	52,581	2,715	4.9	52,319	3,088	5.6
<b>LAFAYETTE MSA</b>	<b>129,951</b>	<b>7,113</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>128,189</b>	<b>7,540</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>129,404</b>	<b>8,379</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Lafayette	107,456	5,603	5.0	105,999	5,957	5.3	107,003	6,600	5.8
St. Martin	22,495	1,510	6.3	22,190	1,583	6.7	22,401	1,779	7.4
<b>LAKE CHARLES MSA</b>	<b>88,653</b>	<b>5,778</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>88,317</b>	<b>6,191</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>87,802</b>	<b>6,931</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Calcasieu	85,739	5,628	6.2	85,414	6,037	6.6	84,916	6,742	7.4
Cameron	2,914	150	4.9	2,903	154	5.0	2,886	189	6.1
<b>MONROE MSA</b>	<b>73,537</b>	<b>5,734</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>73,249</b>	<b>6,092</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>75,625</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Ouachita	64,554	5,026	7.2	64,301	5,342	7.7	66,387	5,747	8.0
Union	8,983	708	7.3	8,948	750	7.7	9,238	824	8.2
<b>NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA</b>	<b>504,632</b>	<b>37,415</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>499,515</b>	<b>39,463</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>504,002</b>	<b>42,321</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Jefferson	199,932	13,643	6.4	197,905	14,289	6.7	199,683	15,293	7.1
New Orleans City/Orleans	135,704	12,702	8.6	134,328	13,526	9.1	135,535	14,763	9.8
Plaquemines	7,535	526	6.5	7,459	565	7.0	7,526	508	6.3
St. Bernard	17,130	1,264	6.9	16,956	1,327	7.3	17,108	1,372	7.4
St. Charles	22,428	1,529	6.4	22,201	1,630	6.8	22,400	1,708	7.1
St. John Baptist	18,890	1,762	8.5	18,699	1,891	9.2	18,867	2,156	10.3
St. Tammany	103,012	5,988	5.5	101,967	6,236	5.8	102,883	6,521	6.0
<b>SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA</b>	<b>175,163</b>	<b>11,728</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>174,492</b>	<b>12,471</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>173,251</b>	<b>13,522</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Bossier	51,953	2,947	5.4	51,754	2,930	5.4	51,386	3,242	5.9
Caddo	112,469	8,002	6.6	112,038	8,456	7.0	111,241	9,321	7.7
De Soto	10,741	779	6.8	10,700	1,085	9.2	10,623	959	8.3

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<b>NON-MSA PARISHES</b>									
Acadia (Crowley) <sup>1</sup>	23,629	1,480	5.9	23,589	1,549	6.2	24,607	1,754	6.7
Allen	7,810	778	9.1	7,823	846	9.8	7,938	896	10.1
Assumption (Pierre Part) <sup>1</sup>	9,067	1,008	10.0	9,039	1,068	10.6	9,348	1,144	10.9
Avoyelles	14,952	1,248	7.7	14,810	1,341	8.3	15,669	1,424	8.3
Beauregard (DeRidder) <sup>1</sup>	13,014	1,111	7.9	12,856	1,060	7.6	13,635	1,127	7.6
Bienville	5,850	546	8.5	5,815	566	8.9	6,050	581	8.8
Caldwell	4,017	345	7.9	3,975	371	8.5	4,153	429	9.4
Catahoula	3,813	368	8.8	3,809	397	9.4	3,891	432	10.0
Claiborne	5,966	540	8.3	5,899	578	8.9	6,170	623	9.2
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) <sup>1</sup>	6,270	772	11.0	6,332	708	10.1	6,561	786	10.7
East Carroll	2,260	382	14.5	2,249	418	15.7	2,498	474	15.9
Evangeline	11,624	955	7.6	11,633	1,065	8.4	11,737	1,058	8.3
Franklin	6,625	763	10.3	6,610	845	11.3	6,975	867	11.1
Iberia (New Iberia) <sup>1</sup>	30,565	2,158	6.6	30,428	2,280	7.0	30,958	2,583	7.7
Jackson (Ruston) <sup>1</sup>	5,854	474	7.5	5,769	472	7.6	6,145	440	6.7
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) <sup>1</sup>	13,337	796	5.6	13,381	857	6.0	13,783	936	6.4
La Salle	6,648	352	5.0	6,658	371	5.3	6,539	408	5.9
Lincoln (Ruston) <sup>1</sup>	17,385	1,526	8.1	17,134	1,721	9.1	18,253	1,673	8.4
Madison (Tallulah) <sup>1</sup>	3,943	440	10.0	3,875	477	11.0	4,143	489	10.6
Morehouse (Bastrop) <sup>1</sup>	9,268	1,358	12.8	9,199	1,423	13.4	9,818	1,616	14.1
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) <sup>1</sup>	15,067	1,313	8.0	14,922	1,434	8.8	16,164	1,449	8.2
Red River	3,441	268	7.2	3,428	295	7.9	3,427	347	9.2
Richland	8,065	792	8.9	7,983	868	9.8	8,365	917	9.9
Sabine	8,961	580	6.1	8,946	596	6.2	9,091	666	6.8
St. James	8,306	1,027	11.0	8,217	1,101	11.8	8,518	1,170	12.1
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) <sup>1</sup>	35,072	2,849	7.5	34,856	2,981	7.9	35,792	3,242	8.3
St. Mary (Morgan City) <sup>1</sup>	20,332	1,828	8.2	20,187	1,954	8.8	20,955	2,193	9.5
Tangipahoa (Hammond) <sup>1</sup>	47,747	4,392	8.4	47,569	4,702	9.0	49,615	5,002	9.2
Tensas	1,512	220	12.7	1,493	232	13.4	1,650	289	14.9
Vermilion (Abbeville) <sup>1</sup>	22,042	1,348	5.8	21,928	1,455	6.2	22,613	1,700	7.0
Vernon (Fort Polk South) <sup>1</sup>	18,734	1,736	8.5	18,579	1,411	7.1	19,754	1,661	7.8
Washington (Bogalusa) <sup>1</sup>	13,631	1,404	9.3	13,515	1,484	9.9	14,130	1,601	10.2
Webster (Minden) <sup>1</sup>	18,209	1,467	7.5	18,050	1,489	7.6	18,880	1,726	8.4
West Carroll	3,384	539	13.7	3,366	615	15.4	3,690	593	13.8
Winn	5,909	493	7.7	5,905	531	8.3	6,290	564	8.2

<sup>1</sup>In 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](http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm).