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N E W S R E L E A S E

Unemployment rates decrease statewide

BATON ROUGE – Unemployment rates fell over the past 12 months in all nine of Louisiana’s metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in September, according to not-seasonally adjusted data from the Bureau of Labor & Statistics (BLS).

The not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana in September was 5.3 percent. This is down from 5.6 percent in August 2017, and down from 6.4 percent in September 2016.

“We are pleased to see our state making progress across the board in regional unemployment rates. This, coupled with the continued decline in the unemployed, is evidence of the gradual revitalization of our workforce taking place,” said Ava Dejoie, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission. “Any reduction in joblessness is a shift in the right direction, and we hope to carry this momentum into the foreseeable future.”

Nonfarm employment added 7,300 jobs from August 2017. Additionally, 13,400 jobs were added from the same time a year ago. This is the fifth consecutive month that nonfarm employment has posted gains. Private-sector employment added 18,500 jobs from last year. The private-sector has also had five straight over-the-year increases.

The not-seasonally adjusted number of employed individuals grew by 7,643. The number of unemployed individuals decreased by 7,513 to 110,356.

The not-seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, increased to 2,090,429.

Not-seasonally adjusted September unemployment rates, over-the-month nonfarm job changes and over-the-year job gain totals for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 5.8 percent, down from 6.2 percent in August and down from 6.6 percent in September 2016. The MSA lost 100 jobs from August 2017 and 600 jobs from September 2016.
- Baton Rouge: 4.5 percent, down from 5.0 percent in August and down from 5.8 percent in September 2016. The MSA gained 4,900 jobs from August 2017 and 6,200 jobs from September 2016. The Baton Rouge MSA has had nine straight over-the-year increases.
- Hammond: 5.8 percent, down from 6.3 percent in August and down from 7.0 percent in September 2016. The MSA gained 100 jobs from August 2017 and 100 jobs from September 2016. The Hammond MSA has had over-the-year gains for 38 consecutive months.
- Houma: 5.5 percent, down from 5.7 percent in August and down from 7.0 percent in September 2016. The MSA lost 900 jobs from August 2017 and 2,300 jobs from September 2016.
- Lafayette: 5.6 percent, down from 6.0 percent in August and down from 7.4 percent in September 2016. The MSA lost 300 jobs from August 2017 and 1,300 jobs from September 2016.

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- Lake Charles: 4.2 percent, down from 4.3 percent in August and down from 4.9 percent in September 2016. The MSA gained 200 jobs from August 2017 and 4,500 jobs from September 2016. The Lake Charles MSA continues its series high for nonfarm employment, and has had over-the-year increases for 75 consecutive months.
- Monroe: 5.4 percent, down from 5.6 percent in August and down from 6.2 percent in September 2016. The MSA lost 100 jobs from August 2017, but is up 300 jobs from September 2016. The Monroe MSA has had 10 straight over-the-year increases.
- New Orleans: 5.0 percent, down from 5.4 percent in August and down from 5.8 percent in September 2016. The MSA gained 1,200 jobs from August 2017 and 600 jobs from September 2016.
- Shreveport: 5.7 percent, down from 6.1 percent in August and down from 6.7 percent in September 2016. The MSA gained 400 jobs from August 2017, but lost 1,400 jobs from September 2016.

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	September 2017			August 2017			September 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	1,980,073	110,356	5.3	1,972,430	117,869	5.6	1,984,067	134,882	6.4
Alexandria, LA MSA	60,442	3,713	5.8	60,567	4,036	6.2	61,318	4,302	6.6
Grant Parish, LA	7,605	500	6.2	7,639	590	7.2	7,716	591	7.1
Rapides Parish, LA	52,837	3,213	5.7	52,928	3,446	6.1	53,602	3,711	6.5
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	400,991	19,113	4.5	395,392	20,603	5.0	396,984	24,302	5.8
Ascension Parish, LA	59,025	2,719	4.4	58,152	2,859	4.7	58,423	3,236	5.2
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	224,257	10,432	4.4	220,905	11,363	4.9	221,950	13,217	5.6
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,758	407	5.0	7,675	430	5.3	7,686	488	6.0
Iberville Parish, LA	13,418	881	6.2	13,268	942	6.6	13,305	993	6.9
Livingston Parish, LA	65,203	2,913	4.3	64,376	3,103	4.6	64,564	4,271	6.2
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,427	572	5.7	9,399	618	6.2	9,364	711	7.1
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,135	297	6.7	4,093	333	7.5	4,099	364	8.2
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,635	652	4.9	12,436	698	5.3	12,501	737	5.6
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,133	240	4.5	5,088	257	4.8	5,092	285	5.3
Hammond, LA MSA	50,983	3,160	5.8	50,783	3,435	6.3	51,085	3,848	7.0
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	50,983	3,160	5.8	50,783	3,435	6.3	51,085	3,848	7.0
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	82,199	4,825	5.5	83,120	5,061	5.7	84,536	6,378	7.0
Lafourche Parish, LA	38,625	2,161	5.3	39,032	2,301	5.6	39,701	2,844	6.7
Terrebonne Parish, LA	43,574	2,664	5.8	44,088	2,760	5.9	44,835	3,534	7.3
Lafayette, LA MSA	196,455	11,672	5.6	196,905	12,485	6.0	198,303	15,795	7.4
Acadia Parish, LA	22,085	1,452	6.2	22,240	1,503	6.3	22,342	1,904	7.9
Iberia Parish, LA	26,896	1,979	6.9	27,079	2,190	7.5	27,171	2,896	9.6
Lafayette Parish, LA	104,667	5,511	5.0	104,622	5,870	5.3	105,557	7,264	6.4
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,670	1,360	6.2	20,685	1,443	6.5	20,886	1,829	8.1
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,137	1,370	5.8	22,279	1,479	6.2	22,347	1,902	7.8
Lake Charles, LA MSA	106,789	4,722	4.2	106,132	4,771	4.3	103,179	5,330	4.9
Calcasieu Parish, LA	102,959	4,564	4.2	102,320	4,613	4.3	99,477	5,152	4.9
Cameron Parish, LA	3,830	158	4.0	3,812	158	4.0	3,702	178	4.6
Monroe, LA MSA	75,755	4,304	5.4	75,780	4,507	5.6	75,959	5,008	6.2
Ouachita Parish, LA	67,190	3,788	5.3	67,136	3,973	5.6	67,344	4,395	6.1
Union Parish, LA	8,565	516	5.7	8,644	534	5.8	8,615	613	6.6
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	562,579	29,808	5.0	560,505	32,028	5.4	564,116	34,493	5.8
Jefferson Parish, LA	204,909	10,279	4.8	203,992	10,888	5.1	205,460	11,928	5.5
Orleans Parish, LA	168,485	9,701	5.4	167,842	10,683	6.0	168,914	11,102	6.2
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,569	481	4.8	9,618	516	5.1	9,627	582	5.7
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,170	1,081	5.6	18,172	1,119	5.8	18,231	1,257	6.5
St. Charles Parish, LA	23,923	1,179	4.7	23,815	1,245	5.0	23,991	1,396	5.5
St. James Parish, LA	8,883	640	6.7	8,850	699	7.3	8,918	716	7.4
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,702	1,247	6.3	18,591	1,334	6.7	18,753	1,395	6.9
St. Tammany Parish, LA	109,938	5,200	4.5	109,625	5,544	4.8	110,222	6,117	5.3
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	174,827	10,473	5.7	174,404	11,298	6.1	176,957	12,761	6.7
Bossier Parish, LA	52,807	2,594	4.7	52,687	2,769	5.0	53,457	3,190	5.6
Caddo Parish, LA	98,567	6,216	5.9	98,296	6,749	6.4	99,748	7,442	6.9
De Soto Parish, LA	9,788	657	6.3	9,785	692	6.6	9,917	800	7.5
Webster Parish, LA	13,665	1,006	6.9	13,636	1,088	7.4	13,835	1,329	8.8

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Allen Parish, LA	8,485	490	5.5	8,403	509	5.7	8,393	597	6.6
Assumption Parish, LA	8,244	676	7.6	8,265	698	7.8	8,345	819	8.9
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,802	953	6.0	14,887	1,084	6.8	14,471	1,114	7.1
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	13,765	818	5.6	13,808	834	5.7	13,955	917	6.2
Bienville Parish, LA	5,270	351	6.2	5,290	352	6.2	5,231	444	7.8
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,648	205	5.3	3,649	216	5.6	3,660	301	7.6
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,165	242	7.1	3,242	265	7.6	3,121	306	8.9
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,372	311	5.5	5,399	328	5.7	5,572	418	7.0
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,539	558	7.9	6,554	602	8.4	6,675	611	8.4
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,798	209	10.4	1,813	223	11.0	1,913	243	11.3
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,742	762	6.1	11,639	798	6.4	11,812	978	7.6
Franklin Parish, LA	6,587	537	7.5	6,617	580	8.1	6,569	636	8.8
Jackson Parish, LA	6,506	328	4.8	6,451	350	5.1	6,488	404	5.9
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	12,732	680	5.1	12,857	726	5.3	12,644	868	6.4
La Salle Parish, LA	5,809	288	4.7	5,753	304	5.0	5,800	386	6.2
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	18,955	1,121	5.6	18,602	1,236	6.2	19,095	1,336	6.5
Madison Parish, LA	3,427	298	8.0	3,467	323	8.5	3,469	345	9.0
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,584	810	7.8	9,492	851	8.2	9,707	994	9.3
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	14,858	1,025	6.5	14,574	1,095	7.0	15,116	1,117	6.9
Red River Parish, LA	3,567	223	5.9	3,600	212	5.6	3,589	254	6.6
Richland Parish, LA	7,764	469	5.7	7,858	511	6.1	7,782	564	6.8
Sabine Parish, LA	8,074	496	5.8	8,141	513	5.9	8,336	651	7.2
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,419	2,137	6.8	29,490	2,333	7.3	29,815	2,731	8.4
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,446	1,579	7.9	18,476	1,683	8.3	19,465	2,127	9.9
Tensas Parish, LA	1,422	126	8.1	1,452	140	8.8	1,472	162	9.9
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,079	1,197	7.4	15,124	1,085	6.7	15,124	1,231	7.5
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	15,882	1,018	6.0	15,669	1,085	6.5	15,711	1,219	7.2
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,561	342	8.8	3,656	358	8.9	3,579	485	11.9
Winn Parish, LA	4,556	321	6.6	4,613	348	7.0	4,722	404	7.9
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	1,977,618	105,829	5.1	1,974,878	107,474	5.2	1,979,961	128,828	6.1