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N E W S R E L E A S E

Louisiana adds jobs in nonfarm and private-sector employment since last year

BATON ROUGE – Louisiana’s job market has expanded for the fourth consecutive month with over-the-year gains in nonfarm jobs and private-sector employment. Nonfarm jobs saw the addition of 24,800 over-the-year not-seasonally adjusted gains while private-sector employment added 27,300 jobs. Approximately 1,200 nonfarm jobs were added from July 2017 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS). Private-sector employment lost 600 jobs from July 2017.

From July 2017, the not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.6 percent. This figure is down 0.9 percentage points from August 2016.

“Our state’s job market has undoubtedly made progress in the last twelve months, with the addition of jobs to the local economy and marked declines in regional unemployment rates,” said Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission Executive Director. “While there is always room for improvement, we must acknowledge each incremental step taken towards building a stronger economic future for Louisiana.”

All nine not-seasonally adjusted metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) showed a decrease in their unemployment rates from August 2016. August unemployment rates, over-the-year nonfarm job changes and over-the-month job gain totals for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 6.3 percent, down from 6.8 percent from August 2016, but up from 6.2 percent in July. The MSA lost 700 jobs from August 2016 and 300 from July 2017.
- Baton Rouge: 5.0 percent, down from 5.7 percent from August 2016, but unchanged from July. The MSA gained 8,000 jobs from August 2016 and 1,600 jobs from July 2017. The Baton Rouge MSA has had eight straight over-the-year increases.
- Hammond: 6.3 percent, down from 7.1 percent from August 2016 and down from 6.5 percent in July. The MSA gained 700 jobs from August 2016 and 600 from July 2017. The Hammond MSA has had over-the-year gains for 37 consecutive months.
- Houma: 5.7 percent, down from 7.1 percent from August 2016, but unchanged from July. The MSA lost 1,200 jobs from August 2016 and 300 from July 2017.
- Lafayette: 6.0 percent, down from 7.5 percent from August 2016, but unchanged from July. The MSA lost 200 jobs from August 2016, but is up 500 from July 2017.
- Lake Charles: 4.3 percent, down from 5.1 percent from August 2016, but unchanged from July. The MSA gained 6,300 jobs from August 2016 and 600 from July 2017. The Lake Charles MSA continues its series high for nonfarm employment, and has had over-the-year increases for 74 consecutive months. Additionally, the Lake Charles MSA had the nation’s largest over-the-year percentage increase of employment at 5.8%

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- Monroe: 5.6 percent, down from 6.5 percent from August 2016, but up from 5.5 percent in July. The MSA gained 1,100 jobs from August 2016, but is down 200 from July 2017. The Monroe MSA has had nine straight over-the-year increases.
- New Orleans: 5.4 percent, down from 6.0 percent from August 2016, but up from 5.3 percent in July. The MSA gained 1,600 jobs from August 2016 and 1,200 from July 2017.
- Shreveport: 6.1 percent, down from 6.9 percent from August 2016, but up from 6.0 percent in July. The MSA lost 2,000 jobs from August 2016 and 700 from July 2017.

The number of not-seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased approximately 20,755 from August 2016 to 117,990. This figure is down 602 from July 2017. Not-seasonally adjusted employed individuals saw a 20,013 decline from July 2017 to 1,973,236.

The not-seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, decreased by 20,615 from July 2017 to 2,091,226.

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	August 2017			July 2017			August 2016		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Louisiana	1,973,236	117,990	5.6	1,993,249	118,592	5.6	1,980,049	138,745	6.5
Alexandria, LA MSA	60,520	4,040	6.3	61,534	4,064	6.2	61,579	4,506	6.8
Grant Parish, LA	7,634	591	7.2	7,779	591	7.1	7,763	637	7.6
Rapides Parish, LA	52,886	3,449	6.1	53,755	3,473	6.1	53,816	3,869	6.7
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	395,854	20,621	5.0	398,047	20,742	5.0	391,713	23,655	5.7
Ascension Parish, LA	58,220	2,861	4.7	58,493	2,859	4.7	57,601	3,202	5.3
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	221,165	11,373	4.9	222,157	11,492	4.9	218,780	13,187	5.7
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,683	429	5.3	7,750	419	5.1	7,605	501	6.2
Iberville Parish, LA	13,284	944	6.6	13,401	939	6.5	13,174	1,062	7.5
Livingston Parish, LA	64,451	3,106	4.6	64,892	3,151	4.6	63,783	3,530	5.2
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,410	618	6.2	9,571	610	6.0	9,345	726	7.2
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,097	334	7.5	4,137	335	7.5	4,060	377	8.5
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,450	699	5.3	12,497	697	5.3	12,315	780	6.0
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,094	257	4.8	5,149	240	4.5	5,050	290	5.4
Hammond, LA MSA	50,878	3,439	6.3	51,097	3,546	6.5	50,844	3,886	7.1
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	50,878	3,439	6.3	51,097	3,546	6.5	50,844	3,886	7.1
Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA	83,244	5,068	5.7	84,888	5,098	5.7	85,318	6,553	7.1
Lafourche Parish, LA	39,090	2,304	5.6	39,833	2,322	5.5	40,034	2,909	6.8
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,154	2,764	5.9	45,055	2,776	5.8	45,284	3,644	7.4
Lafayette, LA MSA	197,018	12,498	6.0	199,333	12,649	6.0	199,201	16,207	7.5
Acadia Parish, LA	22,253	1,505	6.3	22,631	1,497	6.2	22,562	1,911	7.8
Iberia Parish, LA	27,095	2,190	7.5	27,544	2,235	7.5	27,415	2,961	9.7
Lafayette Parish, LA	104,682	5,877	5.3	105,601	5,927	5.3	105,732	7,515	6.6
St. Martin Parish, LA	20,696	1,445	6.5	20,906	1,461	6.5	20,964	1,896	8.3
Vermilion Parish, LA	22,292	1,481	6.2	22,651	1,529	6.3	22,528	1,924	7.9
Lake Charles, LA MSA	106,344	4,780	4.3	106,583	4,761	4.3	101,617	5,479	5.1
Calcasieu Parish, LA	102,525	4,622	4.3	102,749	4,604	4.3	97,965	5,303	5.1
Cameron Parish, LA	3,819	158	4.0	3,834	157	3.9	3,652	176	4.6
Monroe, LA MSA	75,869	4,507	5.6	76,778	4,486	5.5	75,581	5,280	6.5
Ouachita Parish, LA	67,215	3,972	5.6	67,937	3,950	5.5	66,926	4,659	6.5
Union Parish, LA	8,654	535	5.8	8,841	536	5.7	8,655	621	6.7
New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA	561,507	32,063	5.4	565,991	31,772	5.3	564,452	35,930	6.0
Jefferson Parish, LA	204,359	10,902	5.1	205,820	10,839	5.0	205,446	12,340	5.7
Orleans Parish, LA	168,142	10,694	6.0	169,457	10,516	5.8	168,974	11,708	6.5
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,635	517	5.1	9,805	509	4.9	9,726	582	5.6
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,204	1,119	5.8	18,426	1,119	5.7	18,306	1,288	6.6
St. Charles Parish, LA	23,858	1,247	5.0	24,029	1,246	4.9	23,989	1,465	5.8
St. James Parish, LA	8,865	700	7.3	8,937	728	7.5	8,930	757	7.8
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	18,624	1,335	6.7	18,729	1,314	6.6	18,730	1,467	7.3
St. Tammany Parish, LA	109,820	5,549	4.8	110,788	5,501	4.7	110,351	6,323	5.4
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA	174,605	11,308	6.1	177,072	11,300	6.0	178,057	13,288	6.9
Bossier Parish, LA	52,747	2,770	5.0	53,500	2,773	4.9	53,798	3,274	5.7
Caddo Parish, LA	98,409	6,755	6.4	99,763	6,753	6.3	100,327	7,766	7.2
De Soto Parish, LA	9,796	693	6.6	9,959	686	6.4	10,004	841	7.8
Webster Parish, LA	13,653	1,090	7.4	13,850	1,088	7.3	13,928	1,407	9.2

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	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
Allen Parish, LA	8,169	510	5.9	8,200	523	6.0	8,161	620	7.1
Assumption Parish, LA	8,251	699	7.8	8,428	689	7.6	8,325	836	9.1
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,189	1,085	7.1	14,428	1,104	7.1	14,653	1,199	7.6
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	13,898	834	5.7	13,978	855	5.8	14,064	965	6.4
Bienville Parish, LA	5,181	353	6.4	5,289	378	6.7	5,240	448	7.9
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,641	217	5.6	3,680	227	5.8	3,735	320	7.9
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,114	265	7.8	3,225	276	7.9	3,228	323	9.1
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,369	328	5.8	5,434	336	5.8	5,604	432	7.2
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,538	602	8.4	6,666	619	8.5	6,697	663	9.0
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,856	222	10.7	1,894	240	11.2	1,911	245	11.4
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,386	799	6.6	11,513	828	6.7	11,649	1,047	8.2
Franklin Parish, LA	6,494	581	8.2	6,703	585	8.0	6,589	671	9.2
Jackson Parish, LA	6,379	350	5.2	6,517	357	5.2	6,542	423	6.1
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	12,885	727	5.3	12,999	724	5.3	12,892	889	6.5
La Salle Parish, LA	5,659	304	5.1	5,758	309	5.1	5,738	415	6.7
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	18,578	1,238	6.2	18,805	1,265	6.3	18,707	1,482	7.3
Madison Parish, LA	3,494	321	8.4	3,600	332	8.4	3,533	356	9.2
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,505	852	8.2	9,638	862	8.2	9,557	1,056	10.0
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	14,733	1,096	6.9	15,052	1,088	6.7	14,727	1,249	7.8
Red River Parish, LA	3,606	213	5.6	3,679	222	5.7	3,590	254	6.6
Richland Parish, LA	7,831	511	6.1	7,964	538	6.3	7,915	634	7.4
Sabine Parish, LA	8,396	514	5.8	8,678	523	5.7	8,401	664	7.3
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,487	2,336	7.3	29,955	2,381	7.4	30,059	2,879	8.7
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,402	1,686	8.4	18,683	1,691	8.3	19,593	2,202	10.1
Tensas Parish, LA	1,427	140	8.9	1,486	158	9.6	1,493	174	10.4
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,049	1,087	6.7	15,441	1,225	7.4	14,999	1,334	8.2
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	15,618	1,087	6.5	15,791	1,131	6.7	15,529	1,275	7.6
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,629	359	9.0	3,687	350	8.7	3,736	476	11.3
Winn Parish, LA	4,632	349	7.0	4,757	361	7.1	4,815	427	8.1
Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted	1,975,209	107,521	5.2	1,982,200	109,930	5.3	1,982,689	129,851	6.1