



1001 North 23rd Street
Post Office Box 94094
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9094

(O) 225-342-3035
(F) 225-342-3743
www.laworks.net

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Ava Dejoie, Secretary

Office of Public Affairs

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Media Contact:
LWC Public Affairs (225) 342-3035

N E W S R E L E A S E

Louisiana jobs increase 12 months in a row

BATON ROUGE – Based on figures released today by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), data indicates that seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs have increased over-the-year for the past 12 months. As is shown, seasonally adjusted Louisiana nonfarm employment has increased by 19,900 jobs from September 2017 to 1,987,400. From August 2018, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment added 100 jobs.

Seasonally adjusted total private sector employment increased by 22,500 jobs from September 2017 to 1,663,900. For the past 12 months, seasonally adjusted private sector employment has added jobs over-the-year. From August 2018, seasonally adjusted private sector employment increased by 300 jobs. Seasonally adjusted private sector employment has added jobs over the month in eight of the past ten months.

“The fact that Louisiana’s job market has added jobs over the year for the past twelve months, in addition to the nearly 20,000 residents who now have jobs compared to this time last year goes to show the confidence Louisiana residents have about re-entering the labor market and the direction the state is headed,” said Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) Secretary Ava Dejoie. “Our work at the LWC is never finished, and our agency will continue to utilize all of its resources to provide opportunities for the residents of Louisiana to re-enter the workforce and provide for themselves and their family.”

Industries that showed the largest gains for seasonally adjusted jobs:

- **Construction** gained 5,000 jobs from September 2017, but remained unchanged from August 2018.
- **Education and Health Services** gained 4,600 jobs from September 2017 and 600 jobs from August 2018.
- **Other Services** gained 2,700 jobs from September 2017, but remained unchanged from August 2018. The Other Services sector is tied for an employment record. Other Services includes industries engaged in activities such as equipment and machinery repair and services.
- **Trade Transportation and Utilities** gained 2,800 jobs from September 2017 and 800 jobs from August 2018.
- **Leisure and Hospitality** gained 400 jobs from September 2017 and 200 jobs from August 2018.
- **Mining and Logging** remained unchanged from September 2017, but gained 200 jobs from August 2018. The Mining and Logging sector has now had over-the-month gains in five of the past nine months.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

Among Louisiana's MSAs, seasonally adjusted data shows:

- Alexandria gained 100 jobs from September 2017, but lost 100 jobs from August 2018.
- Baton Rouge gained 7,200 jobs from September 2017, but lost 100 jobs from August 2018.
- Hammond gained 800 jobs from September 2017, but lost 200 jobs from August 2018.
- Houma gained 200 jobs from September 2017 and 100 jobs from August 2018.
- Lafayette gained 900 jobs from September 2017, but lost 200 jobs from August 2018.
- Lake Charles gained 3,500 jobs from September 2017 and 100 jobs from August 2018. The Lake Charles MSA is at a series high for employment.
- Monroe gained 1,000 jobs from September 2017, but lost 200 jobs from August 2018.
- New Orleans gained 8,500 jobs from September 2017 and 3,300 jobs from August 2018.
- Shreveport gained 200 jobs from September 2017 and 400 jobs from August 2018.

The seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work increased by 9,054 from September 2017 to 2,122,612.

The number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 3,203 from September 2017 to 2,016,139. The number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 333 from August 2018 to 106,473.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged from 5.0 percent from August 2018.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

Not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 16,200 jobs from September 2017 to 1,983,400. This is the 12th straight over the year increase. From August 2018, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs increased by 3,800.

Not seasonally adjusted private sector employment has increased by 18,600 jobs since September 2017 to 1,659,000. This is also the 12th straight over the year increase.

The number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 314 to 105,069 since September 2017. From August 2018, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 12,149.

September metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and parish unemployment rates will be released on October 26, 2018. For additional state and MSA data release dates, please click [here](#).

Seasonally Adjusted vs. Not-Seasonally Adjusted Data

Jobs and employment trends data are often difficult to understand because there are two different ways to look at the data, seasonally or non-seasonally adjusted data.

Seasonal adjustment works to measure and remove the influences of predictable seasonal patterns to reveal how employment and unemployment figures change from month to month. Not seasonally adjusted data retains seasonal employment trends.

Over the course of a year, the labor force size, available jobs and employment rates undergo predictable fluctuations due to seasonal changes in weather, harvests, major holidays, and school schedules. Seasonal adjustment reduces the impact of these changes, making it easier to understand trends. Seasonally adjusted data is best utilized when comparing several months of employment and jobs data, while not seasonally adjusted data is best used to compare over-the-year trends. Seasonally adjusted data are useful for comparisons among states and the nation.

The Louisiana Workforce Commission primarily uses seasonally adjusted data because it provides a more useful and telling picture of Louisiana's jobs and employment situation.

To view all available employment data, visit Louisiana's employment homepage at <http://www.laworks.net> and select Labor Market Information from the top-right menu. Then, select LOIS (Louisiana Occupational Information System) and select Employment and Wage Data listed under Data Trends. To view the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics for the state, visit <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=la>. For BLS nonfarm employment data, click here: <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=sm>.

Resources for employers and job seekers

Job-seekers can explore careers, apply for top-rated jobs and connect with local training providers using Louisiana Star Jobs, the LWC's free career tool, at <http://www.laworks.net/Stars/>. Employers looking for workers should visit Louisiana's employment homepage at www.laworks.net. Click on HiRE (Helping Individuals Reach Employment) and create an account allowing access to qualified job seekers.

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.