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**Office of Public Affairs**

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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

## Louisiana adds jobs over the year for eighth month in a row

BATON ROUGE – Data released by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) shows that not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 19,200 from May 2017. This is the eighth consecutive over-the-year increase. From April 2018, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 5,900 jobs to 2,000,500. This is the highest employment level since December 2015.

In May 2018, data show that not seasonally adjusted private-sector employment increased by 22,000 jobs from May 2017. This is also the eighth consecutive month that the not seasonally adjusted private-sector has added jobs over the year. From April 2018, not seasonally adjusted private-sector employment added 6,200 jobs to 1,671,900.

From May 2017, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 31,372 to 2,030,577. Over that same time period, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 7,330 to 100,337.

From May 2017, the not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force increased by 24,042 individuals to 2,130,914. The civilian labor force is composed of the number of individuals who are employed in addition to those looking for work. From April 2018, the not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force decreased by 8,911.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points from last year to 4.7 percent. The not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has seen over-the year declines for 20 straight months. From April 2018, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points. The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increases in the summer months due to layoffs in a variety of positions who are recalled at the end of summer. Also, when compared to previous years' data, the increase in the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is in line with historical trends.

“Louisiana has continued to make positive progress when compared to a year ago,” said Louisiana Workforce Commission Executive Director Ava Dejoie. “We will continue to work closely with employers and monitor the needs of the workforce to better match prospective job-seekers with family-sustaining careers that will provide long-term benefits to themselves, their families and the state of Louisiana.”

All nine metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) declined over the year. Not seasonally adjusted May unemployment rates for the nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 5.1 percent, up from 4.6 percent in April, but down from 5.8 percent from May 2017.
- Baton Rouge: 4.2 percent, up from 3.8 percent in April, but down from 4.4 percent from May 2017.
- Hammond: 5.0 percent, up from 4.7 percent in April, but down from 5.7 percent from May 2017.
- Houma: 4.8 percent, up from 4.4 percent in April, but down from 5.5 percent from May 2017.
- Lafayette: 4.9 percent, up from 4.5 percent in April, but down from 5.7 percent from May 2017.
- Lake Charles: 3.7 percent, up from 3.3 percent in April, but down from 3.9 percent from May 2017.
- Monroe: 5.0 percent, up from 4.6 percent in April, but down from 5.3 percent from May 2017.
- New Orleans: 4.4 percent, up from 4.0 percent in April, but down from 4.7 percent from May 2017.
- Shreveport: 5.2 percent, up from 4.6 percent April, but down from 5.6 percent from May 2017.

### **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 and are useful for comparing trends in parishes and metropolitan statistical areas, and for comparing them to the state.

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](http://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 workers' compensation benefits. The agency also gathers and supplies information on the labor market and occupational sectors in Louisiana.

**###**

**Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Not Seasonally Adjusted**

Area	May 2018			April 2018			May 2017		
	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate	Employed	Unemp	Rate
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>2,030,577</b>	<b>100,337</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>2,047,979</b>	<b>91,846</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>1,999,205</b>	<b>107,667</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Alexandria, LA MSA</b>	<b>61,234</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>61,885</b>	<b>2,992</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>60,328</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Grant Parish, LA	7,743	456	5.6	7,806	416	5.1	7,631	506	6.2
Rapides Parish, LA	53,491	2,853	5.1	54,079	2,576	4.5	52,697	3,234	5.8
<b>Baton Rouge, LA MSA</b>	<b>404,435</b>	<b>17,733</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>410,710</b>	<b>16,171</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>397,184</b>	<b>18,402</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Ascension Parish, LA	60,157	2,535	4.0	61,140	2,332	3.7	59,054	2,648	4.3
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	224,681	9,749	4.2	228,381	8,824	3.7	220,506	10,078	4.4
East Feliciana Parish, LA	7,825	362	4.4	7,923	320	3.9	7,694	364	4.5
Iberville Parish, LA	13,404	821	5.8	13,579	786	5.5	13,213	857	6.1
Livingston Parish, LA	66,687	2,710	3.9	67,633	2,463	3.5	65,518	2,843	4.2
Pointe Coupee Parish, LA	9,575	497	4.9	9,623	477	4.7	9,473	537	5.4
St. Helena Parish, LA	4,151	271	6.1	4,199	243	5.5	4,085	274	6.3
West Baton Rouge Parish, LA	12,783	581	4.3	13,004	528	3.9	12,541	588	4.5
West Feliciana Parish, LA	5,172	207	3.8	5,228	198	3.6	5,100	213	4.0
<b>Hammond, LA MSA</b>	<b>52,925</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>53,423</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>51,712</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	52,925	2,814	5.0	53,423	2,614	4.7	51,712	3,114	5.7
<b>Houma-Thibodaux, LA MSA</b>	<b>84,925</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>85,171</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>84,018</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Lafourche Parish, LA	40,049	1,959	4.7	40,184	1,814	4.3	39,577	2,175	5.2
Terrebonne Parish, LA	44,876	2,362	5.0	44,987	2,151	4.6	44,441	2,745	5.8
<b>Lafayette, LA MSA</b>	<b>203,854</b>	<b>10,420</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>204,506</b>	<b>9,559</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>201,818</b>	<b>12,144</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Acadia Parish, LA	22,973	1,266	5.2	22,953	1,145	4.8	22,860	1,434	5.9
Iberia Parish, LA	27,737	1,692	5.7	27,706	1,563	5.3	27,528	2,241	7.5
Lafayette Parish, LA	108,574	5,058	4.5	109,188	4,615	4.1	107,249	5,597	5.0
St. Martin Parish, LA	21,318	1,160	5.2	21,428	1,057	4.7	21,140	1,401	6.2
Vermilion Parish, LA	23,252	1,244	5.1	23,231	1,179	4.8	23,041	1,471	6.0
<b>Lake Charles, LA MSA</b>	<b>112,145</b>	<b>4,258</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>113,056</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>107,386</b>	<b>4,383</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Calcasieu Parish, LA	108,118	4,117	3.7	109,001	3,763	3.3	103,523	4,249	3.9
Cameron Parish, LA	4,027	141	3.4	4,055	130	3.1	3,863	134	3.4
<b>Monroe, LA MSA</b>	<b>76,626</b>	<b>4,059</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>77,391</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>75,526</b>	<b>4,267</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Ouachita Parish, LA	67,870	3,573	5.0	68,620	3,276	4.6	66,830	3,750	5.3
Union Parish, LA	8,756	486	5.3	8,771	455	4.9	8,696	517	5.6
<b>New Orleans-Metairie, LA MSA</b>	<b>579,422</b>	<b>26,717</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>583,865</b>	<b>24,474</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>568,274</b>	<b>27,871</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Jefferson Parish, LA	209,806	9,246	4.2	211,587	8,488	3.9	205,728	9,639	4.5
Orleans Parish, LA	173,613	8,569	4.7	174,956	7,841	4.3	170,206	8,895	5.0
Plaquemines Parish, LA	9,893	466	4.5	9,890	435	4.2	9,780	448	4.4
St. Bernard Parish, LA	18,878	949	4.8	18,952	869	4.4	18,549	981	5.0
St. Charles Parish, LA	24,521	1,077	4.2	24,731	988	3.8	24,050	1,131	4.5
St. James Parish, LA	9,061	564	5.9	9,136	528	5.5	8,908	614	6.4
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA	19,067	1,101	5.5	19,260	1,004	5.0	18,694	1,226	6.2
St. Tammany Parish, LA	114,583	4,745	4.0	115,353	4,321	3.6	112,359	4,937	4.2
<b>Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA</b>	<b>178,744</b>	<b>9,707</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>180,880</b>	<b>8,710</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>176,113</b>	<b>10,428</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Bossier Parish, LA	54,593	2,434	4.3	55,240	2,225	3.9	53,803	2,546	4.5
Caddo Parish, LA	100,132	5,748	5.4	101,354	5,131	4.8	98,613	6,168	5.9
De Soto Parish, LA	10,100	618	5.8	10,204	529	4.9	9,976	663	6.2
Webster Parish, LA	13,919	907	6.1	14,082	825	5.5	13,721	1,051	7.1

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Allen Parish, LA	8,680	478	5.2	8,723	464	5.1	8,627	448	4.9
Assumption Parish, LA	8,256	581	6.6	8,279	546	6.2	8,360	657	7.3
Avoyelles Parish, LA	14,663	845	5.4	14,715	796	5.1	14,864	935	5.9
Beauregard (DeRidder, MC)	14,043	761	5.1	14,112	699	4.7	14,142	814	5.4
Bienville Parish, LA	5,388	320	5.6	5,383	299	5.3	5,313	336	5.9
Caldwell Parish, LA	3,668	217	5.6	3,690	209	5.4	3,665	210	5.4
Catahoula Parish, LA	3,221	221	6.4	3,150	210	6.3	3,334	234	6.6
Claiborne Parish, LA	5,553	303	5.2	5,582	268	4.6	5,552	316	5.4
Concordia Parish (Natchez MS-LA, MC)	6,542	476	6.8	6,508	432	6.2	6,715	572	7.8
East Carroll Parish, LA	1,830	190	9.4	1,804	188	9.4	1,876	246	11.6
Evangeline Parish, LA	11,956	675	5.3	12,003	630	5.0	11,909	735	5.8
Franklin Parish, LA	6,951	515	6.9	6,874	479	6.5	6,960	537	7.2
Jackson Parish, LA	6,728	315	4.5	6,739	264	3.8	6,779	318	4.5
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA	13,085	638	4.6	13,153	589	4.3	13,043	654	4.8
La Salle Parish, LA	5,955	268	4.3	5,990	256	4.1	5,803	280	4.6
Lincoln Parish (Ruston, MC)	21,583	1,062	4.7	21,803	978	4.3	20,885	1,088	5.0
Madison Parish, LA	3,497	303	8.0	3,469	284	7.6	3,571	302	7.8
Morehouse (Bastrop, MC)	9,629	845	8.1	9,650	779	7.5	9,569	870	8.3
Natchitoches (Natchitoches, MC)	15,600	899	5.4	15,658	831	5.0	15,873	965	5.7
Red River Parish, LA	3,746	173	4.4	3,745	157	4.0	3,675	189	4.9
Richland Parish, LA	7,856	508	6.1	7,836	468	5.6	7,890	496	5.9
Sabine Parish, LA	8,586	463	5.1	8,546	413	4.6	8,411	474	5.3
St. Landry (Opelousas, MC)	29,991	1,926	6.0	30,164	1,769	5.5	29,901	2,156	6.7
St. Mary (Morgan City, MC)	18,189	1,350	6.9	18,358	1,275	6.5	18,809	1,697	8.3
Tensas Parish, LA	1,394	113	7.5	1,338	111	7.7	1,522	143	8.6
Vernon (Fort Polk South, MC)	15,251	1,020	6.3	15,215	891	5.5	15,392	1,092	6.6
Washington (Bogalusa, MC)	16,023	919	5.4	16,271	842	4.9	15,883	946	5.6
West Carroll Parish, LA	3,675	316	7.9	3,635	331	8.3	3,700	356	8.8
Winn Parish, LA	4,725	298	5.9	4,700	278	5.6	4,820	331	6.4
<b>Louisiana, Seasonally Adjusted</b>	<b>2,041,419</b>	<b>97,556</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>2,042,325</b>	<b>95,658</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1,996,966</b>	<b>112,024</b>	<b>5.3</b>