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## N E W S R E L E A S E

### Louisiana marks 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of private sector job growth

BATON ROUGE – December marked the 15<sup>th</sup> month in a row that Louisiana added private sector jobs, with 48,300 added over the year, the Louisiana Workforce Commission reported today. The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December improved to 6.8 percent, returning to the same level as in June 2009.

Louisiana’s unemployment rate tied for 16<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation with Massachusetts and Montana, and the fourth lowest in the Southern region. The Southern region rate for December was 8.4 percent, and the U.S. rate was 8.5 percent. The unemployment rate is based on a sample survey of residences by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The survey of residences shows Louisiana’s civilian labor force - the number of people working or looking for work - for December 2011 was 2,047,053, down 866 from the November revised figure, and down 42,179 people over the year. The number of unemployed fell from 140,617 in November to 140,212 in December.

A separate survey of employers shows the state continued to gain jobs over last year. Employers reported a seasonally adjusted total of 1,938,000 nonfarm jobs in December, a net gain of 47,600 jobs from December 2010. Louisiana added 600 nonfarm jobs over the month from November 2011 to December 2011.

“2011 was marked by very consistent and solid job growth, and all of the growth was in the private sector,” said Curt Eysink, LWC executive director. “Those numbers indicate that employers find Louisiana to be a great place to grow and do business.”

Not seasonally adjusted rates are used to compare unemployment rates among parishes and metro areas. Louisiana’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went down from 6.5 percent in November to 6.4 percent in December.

Unemployment rates in five of the state’s metropolitan statistical areas improved while the rates in the other three remained unchanged in December. Unemployment rates in the MSAs in December were:

- Alexandria, 6.2 percent, down from 6.3 percent in November
- Baton Rouge, 6.5 percent, unchanged
- Houma, 4.3 percent, down from 4.5 percent
- Lafayette, 4.6 percent, down from 4.9 percent
- Lake Charles, 5.9 percent, unchanged
- Monroe, 6.9 percent, unchanged
- New Orleans, 6.4 percent, down from 6.5 percent
- Shreveport, 5.9 percent, down from 6.0 percent

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Not seasonally adjusted data are used to compare areas within the state to each other and to the state as a whole. Not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment in Louisiana remained unchanged from November to December 2011 at 1,946,700, representing a gain of 47,400 workers over December 2010.

Retail trade added the most jobs over the month as businesses prepared for the holiday season with an increase of 3,000 workers. Health care and social assistance had the highest annual gain with an increase of 17,600 jobs.

All of the metro areas had nonfarm employment gains over the year with the New Orleans MSA leading the state with an increase of 6,000, followed by Lafayette with 5,800; Houma, 3,100; Lake Charles, 2,200; Alexandria, 1,400; and Baton Rouge, 1,100 additional workers. The Shreveport and Monroe MSAs had annual gains of 900 and 700 respectively.

Please see Page 3 for the full listing of MSA and parish rates. For more detailed information on December 2011 employment data for Louisiana, visit our website at [www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net) and select Labor Market Information. Then select Monthly Employment Bulletin – Workforce at a Glance or Monthly Employment Statistics Press Release for the latest monthly nonfarm and labor force data.

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## CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary December 2011			Revised November 2011			Revised December 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>140,681,000</b>	<b>12,692,000</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>141,070,000</b>	<b>12,613,000</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>139,159,000</b>	<b>13,997,000</b>	<b>9.1</b>
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>1,894,163</b>	<b>129,813</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>1,922,508</b>	<b>132,904</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1,920,856</b>	<b>147,920</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>ALEXANDRIA MSA</b>	<b>63,964</b>	<b>4,203</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>64,572</b>	<b>4,316</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>64,388</b>	<b>4,684</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Grant	8,005	590	6.9	8,081	590	6.8	8,058	599	6.9
Rapides	55,959	3,613	6.1	56,491	3,726	6.2	56,330	4,085	6.8
<b>BATON ROUGE MSA</b>	<b>341,939</b>	<b>23,805</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>346,560</b>	<b>24,227</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>349,576</b>	<b>27,167</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Ascension	46,809	2,882	5.8	47,442	2,881	5.7	47,854	3,278	6.4
East Baton Rouge	197,498	13,244	6.3	200,167	13,583	6.4	201,909	15,161	7.0
East Feliciana	7,264	608	7.7	7,362	649	8.1	7,426	708	8.7
Iberville	10,867	1,325	10.9	11,014	1,224	10.0	11,109	1,310	10.5
Livingston	53,467	3,403	6.0	54,189	3,496	6.1	54,661	4,026	6.9
Pointe Coupee	8,554	712	7.7	8,669	742	7.9	8,745	895	9.3
St. Helena	3,645	504	12.1	3,694	511	12.2	3,726	558	13.0
West Baton Rouge	9,598	795	7.6	9,728	789	7.5	9,813	880	8.2
West Feliciana	4,237	332	7.3	4,295	353	7.6	4,332	352	7.5
<b>HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA</b>	<b>99,038</b>	<b>4,407</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>100,160</b>	<b>4,682</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>98,543</b>	<b>5,176</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Lafourche	46,765	2,052	4.2	47,295	2,195	4.4	46,531	2,332	4.8
Terrebonne	52,273	2,355	4.3	52,865	2,487	4.5	52,012	2,844	5.2
<b>LAFAYETTE MSA</b>	<b>129,430</b>	<b>6,298</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>130,739</b>	<b>6,710</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>127,972</b>	<b>7,589</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Lafayette	107,025	5,001	4.5	108,107	5,340	4.7	105,819	6,003	5.4
St. Martin	22,405	1,297	5.5	22,632	1,370	5.7	22,153	1,586	6.7
<b>LAKE CHARLES MSA</b>	<b>87,616</b>	<b>5,457</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>88,933</b>	<b>5,605</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>87,585</b>	<b>6,315</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Calcasieu	84,736	5,292	5.9	86,010	5,440	5.9	84,706	6,153	6.8
Cameron	2,880	165	5.4	2,923	165	5.3	2,879	162	5.3
<b>MONROE MSA</b>	<b>72,980</b>	<b>5,406</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>73,920</b>	<b>5,503</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>74,297</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Ouachita	64,065	4,750	6.9	64,890	4,804	6.9	65,221	5,276	7.5
Union	8,915	656	6.9	9,030	699	7.2	9,076	802	8.1
<b>NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA</b>	<b>497,205</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>507,401</b>	<b>35,177</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>503,787</b>	<b>38,127</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Jefferson	196,990	12,602	6.0	201,029	12,932	6.0	199,598	14,075	6.6
New Orleans City/Orleans	133,707	11,240	7.8	136,449	11,615	7.8	135,477	12,654	8.5
Plaquemines	7,424	494	6.2	7,577	534	6.6	7,523	591	7.3
St. Bernard	16,878	1,170	6.5	17,224	1,164	6.3	17,101	1,373	7.4
St. Charles	22,098	1,405	6.0	22,551	1,477	6.1	22,391	1,568	6.5
St. John Baptist	18,612	1,560	7.7	18,994	1,648	8.0	18,859	2,028	9.7
St. Tammany	101,496	5,529	5.2	103,577	5,806	5.3	102,839	5,839	5.4
<b>SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA</b>	<b>170,629</b>	<b>10,764</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>173,299</b>	<b>11,149</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>171,976</b>	<b>11,970</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Bossier	50,609	2,686	5.0	51,401	2,842	5.2	51,008	3,008	5.6
Caddo	109,558	7,229	6.2	111,272	7,596	6.4	110,423	8,119	6.8
De Soto	10,463	848	7.5	10,626	711	6.3	10,545	843	7.4

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Area	Preliminary December 2011			Revised November 2011			Revised December 2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
<b>NON-MSA PARISHES</b>									
Acadia (Crowley) <sup>1</sup>	23,561	1,328	5.3	23,872	1,408	5.6	24,233	1,570	6.1
Allen	7,868	738	8.6	7,997	769	8.8	7,884	832	9.5
Assumption (Pierre Part) <sup>1</sup>	9,151	955	9.4	9,263	918	9.0	9,271	1,109	10.7
Avoyelles	14,684	1,200	7.6	14,884	1,192	7.4	15,298	1,355	8.1
Beauregard (DeRidder) <sup>1</sup>	13,030	1,028	7.3	13,205	975	6.9	13,519	1,082	7.4
Bienville	5,781	517	8.2	5,850	520	8.2	5,987	555	8.5
Caldwell	4,089	328	7.4	4,111	343	7.7	4,134	407	9.0
Catahoula	3,780	351	8.5	3,812	355	8.5	3,838	431	10.1
Claiborne	6,037	490	7.5	6,066	505	7.7	6,119	551	8.3
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) <sup>1</sup>	6,211	711	10.3	6,259	652	9.4	6,544	846	11.4
East Carroll	2,304	413	15.2	2,324	365	13.6	2,481	475	16.1
Evangeline	11,536	905	7.3	11,652	936	7.4	11,559	1,052	8.3
Franklin	6,500	791	10.8	6,557	739	10.1	6,905	922	11.8
Iberia (New Iberia) <sup>1</sup>	30,484	2,021	6.2	30,801	2,077	6.3	30,873	2,371	7.1
Jackson (Ruston) <sup>1</sup>	5,803	506	8.0	5,895	483	7.6	6,067	469	7.2
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) <sup>1</sup>	13,167	731	5.3	13,343	766	5.4	13,631	833	5.8
La Salle	6,517	305	4.5	6,591	343	4.9	6,437	369	5.4
Lincoln (Ruston) <sup>1</sup>	17,234	1,371	7.4	17,508	1,442	7.6	18,018	1,582	8.1
Madison (Tallulah) <sup>1</sup>	3,867	408	9.5	3,884	415	9.7	4,125	488	10.6
Morehouse (Bastrop) <sup>1</sup>	9,528	1,456	13.3	9,621	1,415	12.8	9,703	1,652	14.5
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) <sup>1</sup>	15,490	1,296	7.7	15,671	1,321	7.8	16,037	1,313	7.6
Red River	3,425	271	7.3	3,471	273	7.3	3,371	322	8.7
Richland	8,047	787	8.9	8,121	785	8.8	8,339	980	10.5
Sabine	8,774	570	6.1	8,870	568	6.0	8,938	639	6.7
St. James	8,102	945	10.4	8,214	945	10.3	8,410	1,091	11.5
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) <sup>1</sup>	34,182	2,628	7.1	34,698	2,692	7.2	35,119	3,011	7.9
St. Mary (Morgan City) <sup>1</sup>	20,533	1,734	7.8	20,776	1,740	7.7	20,881	2,094	9.1
Tangipahoa (Hammond) <sup>1</sup>	47,626	4,015	7.8	48,312	4,028	7.7	49,064	4,702	8.7
Tensas	1,608	226	12.3	1,616	225	12.2	1,655	305	15.6
Vermilion (Abbeville) <sup>1</sup>	21,946	1,359	5.8	22,200	1,377	5.8	22,358	1,555	6.5
Vernon (Fort Polk South) <sup>1</sup>	19,660	1,487	7.0	20,166	1,291	6.0	19,421	1,652	7.8
Washington (Bogalusa) <sup>1</sup>	13,517	1,276	8.6	13,657	1,325	8.8	14,059	1,432	9.2
Webster (Minden) <sup>1</sup>	17,770	1,285	6.7	18,052	1,326	6.8	18,499	1,559	7.8
West Carroll	3,523	580	14.1	3,546	542	13.3	3,666	697	16.0
Winn	6,027	457	7.0	6,062	481	7.4	6,288	512	7.5

<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).