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N E W S R E L E A S E

Unemployment Rates Drop Across State in July

BATON ROUGE – Unemployment rates decreased in all parishes in July as the state’s unadjusted civilian labor force grew by 5,942 to its highest July total ever, the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWS) reported today.

Louisiana’s unadjusted civilian labor force in July was 2,134,181, an increase of 26,606 from a year ago. The civilian labor force is estimated from a sample survey of residences taken around the 12th of each month by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

All eight metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in Louisiana also had decreases in unemployment rates for July:

- Alexandria, 7.2 percent, down from 7.9 percent in June
- Baton Rouge, 7.6 percent, down from 8.3 percent
- Houma, 5.2 percent, down from 6.0 percent
- Lafayette, 6.0 percent, down from 6.6 percent in June
- Lake Charles, 7.1 percent, down from 7.8 percent
- Monroe, 8.0 percent, down from 8.8 percent
- New Orleans, 7.5 percent, down from 8.1 percent
- Shreveport, 7.4 percent, down from 7.8 percent in June

Parish and MSA unemployment data are not seasonally adjusted. Unadjusted rates are used to compare MSAs, parishes and counties to each other and to states and the nation.

An increase in the number of people employed, together with a decrease in unemployed, resulted in the state’s unadjusted unemployment rate decreasing to 7.6 percent from the June rate of 8.3 percent. The total employed rose by 19,433 over the month to 1,971,923, an increase of 28,755 from July 2009. Total unemployed decreased 13,491 from June for an unadjusted total of 162,258, a drop of 2,149 over the year.

“The July employment growth, together with more people in the labor force and fewer people unemployed, especially when looking over the year, are positive signs for our state,” said Curt Eysink, LWC executive director. “These key indicators are moving in the right direction.”

These data are estimated from a BLS survey of households. A separate survey of employers is used to estimate nonfarm jobs. The employer survey shows an increase of 20,100 jobs over the year for a total of

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1,897,200. It also shows a 9,900-job loss over the month, reflecting seasonal declines in school employment in the summer as well as the release of temporary census workers. The July 2009 nonfarm job count was 1,877,100.

For more detailed information on July 2010 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net and select Labor Market Information from the top right menu. 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 July 2010			Revised June 2010			Revised July 2009		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	140,134,000	15,137,000	9.7	139,882,000	14,885,000	9.6	141,055,000	15,201,000	9.7
LOUISIANA	1,971,923	162,258	7.6	1,952,490	175,749	8.3	1,943,168	164,407	7.8
ALEXANDRIA MSA	66,909	5,157	7.2	65,836	5,664	7.9	66,325	5,366	7.5
Grant	8,348	741	8.2	8,214	845	9.3	8,275	809	8.9
Rapides	58,561	4,416	7.0	57,622	4,819	7.7	58,050	4,557	7.3
BATON ROUGE MSA	359,836	29,788	7.6	357,673	32,325	8.3	355,010	27,517	7.2
Ascension	48,634	3,905	7.4	48,342	4,300	8.2	47,982	3,366	6.6
East Baton Rouge	208,262	16,556	7.4	207,010	17,838	7.9	205,469	15,337	6.9
East Feliciana	7,737	719	8.5	7,690	770	9.1	7,633	669	8.1
Iberville	11,641	1,322	10.2	11,571	1,439	11.1	11,485	1,436	11.1
Livingston	55,782	4,386	7.3	55,447	4,883	8.1	55,034	4,150	7.0
Pointe Coupee	9,133	892	8.9	9,078	950	9.5	9,011	772	7.9
St. Helena	3,897	632	14.0	3,874	657	14.5	3,845	549	12.5
West Baton Rouge	10,231	985	8.8	10,170	1,028	9.2	10,094	860	7.9
West Feliciana	4,518	390	7.9	4,491	459	9.3	4,458	378	7.8
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	99,730	5,451	5.2	98,722	6,271	6.0	99,168	5,231	5.0
Lafourche	46,958	2,490	5.0	46,484	2,870	5.8	46,694	2,365	4.8
Terrebonne	52,772	2,961	5.3	52,238	3,401	6.1	52,474	2,866	5.2
LAFAYETTE MSA	131,086	8,328	6.0	129,574	9,147	6.6	128,322	8,566	6.3
Lafayette	108,078	6,510	5.7	106,832	7,177	6.3	105,799	6,666	5.9
St. Martin	23,008	1,818	7.3	22,742	1,970	8.0	22,523	1,900	7.8
LAKE CHARLES MSA	91,441	6,947	7.1	90,244	7,590	7.8	88,938	7,066	7.4
Calcasieu	88,115	6,723	7.1	86,961	7,350	7.8	85,703	6,858	7.4
Cameron	3,326	224	6.3	3,283	240	6.8	3,235	208	6.0
MONROE MSA	76,987	6,707	8.0	76,121	7,321	8.8	75,161	7,438	9.0
Ouachita	67,463	5,864	8.0	66,704	6,341	8.7	65,863	5,864	8.2
Union	9,524	843	8.1	9,417	980	9.4	9,298	1,574	14.5
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	513,826	41,841	7.5	508,754	45,050	8.1	501,249	40,521	7.5
Jefferson	209,505	15,312	6.8	207,437	16,697	7.4	204,377	15,077	6.9
New Orleans City/Orleans	127,023	14,136	10.0	125,769	14,465	10.3	123,914	13,383	9.7
Plaquemines	8,155	498	5.8	8,074	587	6.8	7,955	586	6.9
St. Bernard	16,929	1,266	7.0	16,762	1,442	7.9	16,515	1,292	7.3
St. Charles	23,858	1,869	7.3	23,623	2,095	8.1	23,274	1,812	7.2
St. John Baptist	20,080	2,298	10.3	19,882	2,462	11.0	19,589	1,929	9.0
St. Tammany	108,276	6,461	5.6	107,207	7,303	6.4	105,626	6,443	5.7
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	175,678	14,040	7.4	173,922	14,675	7.8	172,482	16,492	8.7
Bossier	51,794	3,163	5.8	51,276	3,459	6.3	50,851	3,802	7.0
Caddo	113,061	9,912	8.1	111,931	10,172	8.3	111,005	11,509	9.4
De Soto	10,823	965	8.2	10,715	1,045	8.9	10,626	1,182	10.0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary July 2010			Revised June 2010			Revised July 2009		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	24,782	1,789	6.7	24,584	1,998	7.5	25,171	1,947	7.2
Allen	8,655	925	9.7	8,491	1,085	11.3	8,034	998	11.0
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,980	1,130	10.2	9,813	1,198	10.9	10,006	915	8.4
Avoyelles	15,728	1,478	8.6	15,491	1,528	9.0	15,392	1,383	8.2
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	14,287	1,112	7.2	14,218	1,194	7.7	13,794	1,321	8.7
Bienville	5,996	593	9.0	5,882	630	9.7	5,870	723	11.0
Caldwell	4,409	462	9.5	4,325	495	10.3	4,335	542	11.1
Catahoula	4,118	465	10.1	4,049	472	10.4	3,935	537	12.0
Claiborne	6,058	626	9.4	5,916	683	10.4	6,227	767	11.0
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,602	873	11.7	6,579	946	12.6	6,549	1,142	14.8
East Carroll	2,699	500	15.6	2,585	514	16.6	2,675	422	13.6
Evangeline	12,210	1,169	8.7	12,002	1,273	9.6	11,905	1,257	9.6
Franklin	7,243	932	11.4	7,142	975	12.0	7,142	983	12.1
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	31,900	2,657	7.7	31,610	2,939	8.5	33,898	2,859	7.8
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,268	488	7.2	6,241	503	7.5	6,273	584	8.5
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	14,305	960	6.3	14,053	1,086	7.2	14,196	1,075	7.0
La Salle	6,355	419	6.2	6,274	457	6.8	6,175	521	7.8
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	18,150	1,755	8.8	18,072	1,952	9.7	18,166	1,704	8.6
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,382	527	10.7	4,340	558	11.4	4,372	498	10.2
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	10,102	1,726	14.6	9,922	1,805	15.4	10,040	2,200	18.0
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	16,432	1,532	8.5	16,280	1,592	8.9	16,384	1,592	8.9
Red River	3,397	341	9.1	3,321	356	9.7	3,208	381	10.6
Richland	8,346	955	10.3	8,215	1,012	11.0	8,118	1,051	11.5
Sabine	9,354	659	6.6	9,148	740	7.5	9,222	887	8.8
St. James	8,677	1,220	12.3	8,553	1,267	12.9	8,702	997	10.3
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	36,421	3,315	8.3	36,268	3,645	9.1	36,044	3,321	8.4
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	21,524	2,207	9.3	21,333	2,381	10.0	22,545	2,073	8.4
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	49,687	5,174	9.4	49,324	5,615	10.2	49,538	4,673	8.6
Tensas	1,846	324	14.9	1,730	336	16.3	1,925	332	14.7
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	23,650	1,738	6.8	23,465	1,962	7.7	23,755	1,885	7.4
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	19,490	1,354	6.5	19,544	1,515	7.2	19,607	1,464	6.9
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,479	1,611	10.0	14,459	1,789	11.0	14,597	1,578	9.8
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,398	1,748	8.7	18,206	1,824	9.1	18,485	2,123	10.3
West Carroll	3,996	662	14.2	3,892	762	16.4	3,792	841	18.2
Winn	6,504	572	8.1	6,316	616	8.9	6,437	635	9.0

¹In 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.