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N E W S R E L E A S E

Much of State Sees Job Gains in August

BATON ROUGE – Six of the eight metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of Louisiana recorded employment gains from July to August, with New Orleans leading the way with 700 new nonfarm jobs, according to information released today by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

The Lafayette and Alexandria MSAs each added 500 jobs over the month, and the Houma and Lake Charles MSAs each added 300. Monroe added 100 nonfarm jobs while the Baton Rouge MSA lost 800 jobs and the Shreveport MSA lost 1,300 jobs. MSA data are not seasonally adjusted.

Within industry groups, seasonally adjusted data show specialty trade contractors added 1,000 more workers, food manufacturing added 800, transportation and warehousing grew by 600 and private education services added 2,500.

Louisiana is one of only two states with annual employment gains in the construction industry, with 4,400 jobs added over the year, compared to North Dakota's 800 additional jobs over the year.

Louisiana's 7.8 percent unemployment rate in August ranks the state as the 18th lowest in unemployment rate in the nation, with the state beating the national rate of 9.7 percent as well as the Southern regional rate of 9.2 percent, according to information from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Louisiana unemployment rate increased .4 percentage points from July and the U.S. rate increased .3 percentage points. Over the year, the unemployment rate increased in all 50 states.

“We clearly have employment growth in significant parts of the state and industry sectors,” said Curt Eysink, executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission. “This is offsetting some of the drag on our state from the national recession.”

Based upon seasonally adjusted employment, the number of jobs in the state shrank slightly to 1,921,000, a decrease of 1,300 from July 2009.

Louisiana's civilian labor force - the number of people working or looking for work - for August 2009 was 2,065,276, down slightly from the July revised figure of 2,066,449. The number of employed in August was

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1,904,414, a decrease from 1,913,627 in July. The number of unemployed in Louisiana in August 2009 rose to 160,862 from 152,822 for the previous month. Civilian labor force statistics are estimated from a residential-based sample survey by place of residence.

Industry sectors showing gains or no change for August 2009, according to preliminary seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment figures, are:

- Construction, 140,900 jobs, up 1,300 from July.
- Education and health services, 261,700 jobs, up 2,200.
- Government, 370,300 jobs, up 900.
- Mining and logging (formerly natural resources and mining), 53,100 jobs, up 900.
- Financial activities, 91,600 jobs, unchanged from July.

Industry sectors recording decreases for August 2009:

- Manufacturing, 141,100, down 1,200.
- Other services, 69,300, down 200.
- Trade, transportation, and utilities, 374,100, down 1,400.
- Information, 26,900, down 100.
- Professional and business services, 200,100, down 700.
- Leisure and hospitality, 191,900, down 3,000. Decline in this sector is typical this time of year as amusement and recreational facilities scale back from summer operations.

“The declines in these sectors mirror what is happening across the country as the national recession persists,” said Eysink.

The August seasonally adjusted nonfarm job total represents a decline of 1.5 percent, or 28,500 jobs, compared to August 2008. Nonfarm statistics are estimated from an employer-based sample survey by place of work.

Unadjusted unemployment rates are used to compare parishes and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to the state. The August 2009 unadjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana was 8.1 percent, up from the revised July 2009 rate of 7.8 percent. Lafourche Parish had the lowest unemployment rate of 5.3 percent in August 2009, while West Carroll Parish had the highest rate of 18.1 percent.

For more detailed information on August 2009 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net and select Labor Market Information from the top 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 August 2009			Revised July 2009			Revised August 2008		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	140,074,000	14,823,000	9.6	141,055,000	15,201,000	9.7	145,909,000	9,479,000	6.1
LOUISIANA	1,911,466	167,662	8.1	1,940,823	164,335	7.8	1,990,806	109,801	5.2
ALEXANDRIA MSA	65,441	5,487	7.7	66,190	5,353	7.5	68,059	3,720	5.2
Grant	8,253	821	9.0	8,347	817	8.9	8,583	554	6.1
Rapides	57,188	4,666	7.5	57,843	4,536	7.3	59,476	3,166	5.1
BATON ROUGE MSA	346,399	28,790	7.7	352,318	27,588	7.3	360,691	19,724	5.2
Ascension	45,815	3,528	7.1	46,598	3,351	6.7	47,706	2,379	4.7
East Baton Rouge	202,526	16,277	7.4	205,987	15,427	7.0	210,882	11,443	5.1
East Feliciana	7,474	694	8.5	7,602	664	8.0	7,783	486	5.9
Iberville	11,254	1,455	11.4	11,446	1,455	11.3	11,719	910	7.2
Livingston	52,349	4,221	7.5	53,243	4,119	7.2	54,509	2,648	4.6
Pointe Coupee	8,838	775	8.1	8,989	771	7.9	9,203	546	5.6
St. Helena	3,800	574	13.1	3,865	565	12.8	3,957	441	10.0
West Baton Rouge	9,935	852	7.9	10,105	868	7.9	10,345	586	5.4
West Feliciana	4,406	413	8.6	4,481	368	7.6	4,588	287	5.9
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	98,999	5,759	5.5	100,492	5,151	4.9	103,736	3,698	3.4
Lafourche	46,687	2,614	5.3	47,391	2,323	4.7	48,921	1,726	3.4
Terrebonne	52,312	3,145	5.7	53,101	2,828	5.1	54,815	1,972	3.5
LAFAYETTE MSA	127,645	9,111	6.7	129,279	8,531	6.2	132,829	5,244	3.8
Lafayette	105,208	7,137	6.4	106,555	6,625	5.9	109,481	4,153	3.7
St. Martin	22,437	1,974	8.1	22,724	1,906	7.7	23,348	1,091	4.5
LAKE CHARLES MSA	89,338	7,300	7.6	90,651	7,097	7.3	93,011	4,804	4.9
Calcasieu	85,993	7,083	7.6	87,256	6,890	7.3	89,528	4,656	4.9
Cameron	3,345	217	6.1	3,395	207	5.7	3,483	148	4.1
MONROE MSA	74,124	7,491	9.2	75,173	7,547	9.1	77,209	4,751	5.8
Ouachita	64,896	6,077	8.6	65,814	5,922	8.3	67,597	4,174	5.8
Union	9,228	1,414	13.3	9,359	1,625	14.8	9,612	577	5.7
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	489,092	40,966	7.7	495,593	39,467	7.4	512,476	27,095	5.0
Jefferson	211,755	15,629	6.9	214,570	14,957	6.5	221,880	10,269	4.4
New Orleans City/Orleans	101,388	12,834	11.2	102,736	12,701	11.0	106,236	8,372	7.3
Plaquemines	8,593	633	6.9	8,708	581	6.3	9,004	418	4.4
St. Bernard	9,262	1,105	10.7	9,385	1,090	10.4	9,705	592	5.7
St. Charles	25,075	1,900	7.0	25,409	1,817	6.7	26,274	1,230	4.5
St. John Baptist	21,211	2,069	8.9	21,492	1,958	8.3	22,225	1,334	5.7
St. Tammany	111,807	6,796	5.7	113,293	6,363	5.3	117,152	4,879	4.0
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	166,902	15,714	8.6	170,873	16,683	8.9	177,834	11,092	5.9
Bossier	48,767	3,682	7.0	49,927	3,802	7.1	51,961	2,652	4.9
Caddo	107,846	10,911	9.2	110,412	11,691	9.6	114,910	7,595	6.2
De Soto	10,289	1,121	9.8	10,534	1,190	10.2	10,963	846	7.2

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary August 2009			Revised July 2009			Revised August 2008		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	25,384	2,094	7.6	25,761	1,951	7.0	25,877	1,236	4.6
Allen	8,129	985	10.8	8,263	1,009	10.9	8,303	609	6.8
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,718	949	8.9	9,908	928	8.6	10,227	608	5.6
Avoyelles	15,058	1,453	8.8	15,270	1,390	8.3	15,500	1,156	6.9
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,624	1,306	8.7	13,966	1,334	8.7	14,162	873	5.8
Bienville	5,616	707	11.2	5,734	740	11.4	5,953	429	6.7
Caldwell	4,342	569	11.6	4,424	555	11.1	4,498	255	5.4
Catahoula	3,979	532	11.8	4,054	555	12.0	4,024	294	6.8
Claiborne	6,114	780	11.3	6,170	785	11.3	6,358	425	6.3
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,973	978	12.3	6,999	1,142	14.0	7,041	638	8.3
East Carroll	2,718	427	13.6	2,785	443	13.7	2,789	369	11.7
Evangeline	11,796	1,241	9.5	11,966	1,269	9.6	11,918	736	5.8
Franklin	7,166	1,004	12.3	7,377	1,014	12.1	7,185	654	8.3
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	33,681	2,978	8.1	34,105	2,890	7.8	33,106	1,640	4.7
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,180	577	8.5	6,286	588	8.6	6,312	343	5.2
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	14,190	1,039	6.8	14,440	1,083	7.0	14,412	638	4.2
La Salle	6,183	546	8.1	6,284	527	7.7	6,351	287	4.3
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,959	1,823	9.2	18,267	1,719	8.6	18,341	1,250	6.4
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,352	494	10.2	4,437	508	10.3	4,247	433	9.3
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	10,337	2,055	16.6	10,593	2,294	17.8	10,584	1,110	9.5
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	16,027	1,620	9.2	16,299	1,619	9.0	16,592	1,142	6.4
Red River	3,154	370	10.5	3,213	392	10.9	3,356	315	8.6
Richland	8,076	1,055	11.6	8,225	1,086	11.7	8,265	651	7.3
Sabine	9,311	917	9.0	9,551	901	8.6	9,338	510	5.2
St. James	8,486	1,014	10.7	8,588	1,022	10.6	8,341	762	8.4
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	35,338	3,440	8.9	35,901	3,338	8.5	36,347	2,153	5.6
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	22,070	2,193	9.0	22,321	2,105	8.6	23,217	1,207	4.9
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	49,326	4,766	8.8	49,519	4,720	8.7	51,688	3,242	5.9
Tensas	1,909	313	14.1	1,976	353	15.2	2,047	192	8.6
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	23,321	1,991	7.9	23,744	1,893	7.4	23,335	1,094	4.5
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	20,092	1,609	7.4	20,265	1,493	6.9	20,275	1,050	4.9
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,325	1,648	10.3	14,488	1,583	9.9	15,277	1,151	7.0
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,482	2,070	10.1	18,720	2,163	10.4	19,327	1,359	6.6
West Carroll	3,833	845	18.1	3,913	881	18.4	3,951	467	10.6
Winn	6,281	654	9.4	6,441	650	9.2	6,419	397	5.8

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.