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N E W S R E L E A S E

Louisiana's December Unemployment Rate Shows Stable Trend

BATON ROUGE – The state's unemployment rate in December was 7.5 percent, returning to levels seen for most of the second half of 2009, the Louisiana Workforce Commission announced today.

Louisiana's unemployment rate is tied for 14th lowest in the nation and third lowest in the Southern region. The Southern region rate for December was 9.6 percent, and the U.S. rate was 10 percent. Louisiana was one of 43 states and the District of Columbia with over-the-month unemployment increases.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in July, September and October, 7.8 percent in August and 6.7 percent in November.

"The trend shows a fairly even picture going back to July 2009, and it shows we've consistently outperformed the nation and the South," said LWC Executive Director Curt Eysink.

The New Orleans metropolitan statistical area (MSA) led the state with an increase of 1,500 nonfarm jobs over the month.

Louisiana's civilian labor force - the number of people working or looking for work - for December 2009 was 2,049,802, down 5,294 from November revised figures. Civilian labor force statistics are estimated from a residential-based sample survey by place of residence.

The state's December nonfarm job total of 1,901,700 reflects an over-the-month decline of 5,900 jobs and a 2.4 percent drop over the year. Nationally, the number of jobs declined 3 percent over the year.

The educational and health services sector continued its growth trend, gaining 500 jobs over the month. Leisure and hospitality was up 500 jobs, and information was up 200 jobs. Those gains were offset by job losses in manufacturing, down 1,100 jobs; and trade, transportation, and utilities – which includes retail trade – which recorded a loss of 2,300 jobs. Retail trade experienced a loss of 200 jobs statewide, its first December decline in the decade. In addition, construction lost 1,600 jobs and three sectors each lost 700 jobs: professional and business services, government, and other services.

Nonfarm jobs are estimated from an employer-based sample survey by place of work.

Please see Page 2 for the full listing of MSA and parish rates. Parish unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

For more detailed information on December 2009 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net and select Labor Market Information from the left-side 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 December 2009			Revised November 2009			Revised December 2008		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	137,953,000	14,740,000	9.7	139,132,000	14,407,000	9.4	143,350,000	10,999,000	7.1
LOUISIANA	1,889,596	146,225	7.2	1,928,542	130,884	6.4	1,970,615	116,172	5.6
ALEXANDRIA MSA	64,359	4,679	6.8	65,875	4,139	5.9	66,954	3,874	5.5
Grant	8,117	730	8.3	8,308	638	7.1	8,444	586	6.5
Rapides	56,242	3,949	6.6	57,567	3,501	5.7	58,510	3,288	5.3
BATON ROUGE MSA	342,321	25,313	6.9	350,907	22,792	6.1	361,667	20,236	5.3
Ascension	45,276	3,296	6.8	46,412	2,890	5.9	47,835	2,494	5.0
East Baton Rouge	200,142	13,921	6.5	205,162	12,700	5.8	211,453	11,541	5.2
East Feliciana	7,386	602	7.5	7,572	548	6.7	7,804	468	5.7
Iberville	11,122	1,237	10.0	11,401	1,109	8.9	11,750	1,000	7.8
Livingston	51,733	3,888	7.0	53,030	3,397	6.0	54,656	2,818	4.9
Pointe Coupee	8,734	719	7.6	8,953	647	6.7	9,228	548	5.6
St. Helena	3,755	530	12.4	3,850	453	10.5	3,968	454	10.3
West Baton Rouge	9,818	759	7.2	10,065	708	6.6	10,373	592	5.4
West Feliciana	4,354	362	7.7	4,463	339	7.1	4,600	322	6.5
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	97,704	5,309	5.2	99,807	4,843	4.6	102,336	4,063	3.8
Lafourche	46,076	2,401	5.0	47,068	2,184	4.4	48,260	1,853	3.7
Terrebonne	51,628	2,908	5.3	52,739	2,659	4.8	54,076	2,210	3.9
LAFAYETTE MSA	126,066	7,762	5.8	128,815	7,139	5.3	130,722	5,330	3.9
Lafayette	103,907	6,067	5.5	106,173	5,593	5.0	107,744	4,200	3.8
St. Martin	22,159	1,695	7.1	22,642	1,546	6.4	22,978	1,130	4.7
LAKE CHARLES MSA	87,687	6,457	6.9	89,763	5,621	5.9	90,826	4,644	4.9
Calcasieu	84,403	6,251	6.9	86,402	5,435	5.9	87,425	4,467	4.9
Cameron	3,284	206	5.9	3,361	186	5.2	3,401	177	4.9
MONROE MSA	73,925	6,105	7.6	75,408	5,601	6.9	77,386	4,953	6.0
Ouachita	64,722	5,151	7.4	66,020	4,574	6.5	67,752	4,235	5.9
Union	9,203	954	9.4	9,388	1,027	9.9	9,634	718	6.9
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	487,302	35,510	6.8	495,681	32,194	6.1	507,955	29,353	5.5
Jefferson	210,980	13,952	6.2	214,608	12,514	5.5	219,922	11,364	4.9
New Orleans City/Orleans	101,017	10,618	9.5	102,754	9,675	8.6	105,298	8,829	7.7
Plaquemines	8,562	535	5.9	8,709	524	5.7	8,925	453	4.8
St. Bernard	9,228	997	9.8	9,387	928	9.0	9,620	701	6.8
St. Charles	24,984	1,659	6.2	25,413	1,496	5.6	26,042	1,356	4.9
St. John Baptist	21,133	2,025	8.7	21,496	1,749	7.5	22,029	1,554	6.6
St. Tammany	111,398	5,724	4.9	113,313	5,307	4.5	116,119	5,097	4.2
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	165,663	12,714	7.1	169,268	11,383	6.3	173,961	11,883	6.4
Bossier	48,405	3,103	6.0	49,458	2,893	5.5	50,830	2,918	5.4
Caddo	107,045	8,661	7.5	109,375	7,621	6.5	112,407	8,169	6.8
De Soto	10,213	950	8.5	10,435	869	7.7	10,724	797	6.9

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary December 2009			Revised November 2009			Revised December 2008		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	24,318	1,794	6.9	24,745	1,640	6.2	25,508	1,246	4.7
Allen	7,740	1,047	11.9	7,994	829	9.4	8,195	604	6.9
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,708	1,041	9.7	9,918	879	8.1	10,075	709	6.6
Avoyelles	14,997	1,346	8.2	15,294	1,166	7.1	15,346	1,134	6.9
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,578	1,172	7.9	13,818	964	6.5	14,124	839	5.6
Bienville	5,724	585	9.3	5,838	538	8.4	5,887	512	8.0
Caldwell	4,230	498	10.5	4,279	435	9.2	4,444	270	5.7
Catahoula	3,887	459	10.6	3,976	376	8.6	3,854	331	7.9
Claiborne	6,043	628	9.4	6,117	572	8.6	6,229	514	7.6
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,967	853	10.9	7,072	658	8.5	7,027	682	8.8
East Carroll	2,667	442	14.2	2,736	385	12.3	2,685	413	13.3
Evangeline	11,446	1,130	9.0	11,663	976	7.7	11,599	762	6.2
Franklin	7,032	912	11.5	7,181	763	9.6	6,995	750	9.7
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	32,946	2,789	7.8	33,543	2,536	7.0	32,765	1,572	4.6
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,082	513	7.8	6,225	437	6.6	6,303	368	5.5
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,791	898	6.1	14,082	814	5.5	14,104	617	4.2
La Salle	5,945	412	6.5	6,055	399	6.2	6,191	304	4.7
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,672	1,375	7.2	18,088	1,260	6.5	18,316	1,173	6.0
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,291	469	9.9	4,335	401	8.5	4,147	432	9.4
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	9,839	1,769	15.2	10,042	1,523	13.2	10,478	1,338	11.3
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	16,065	1,464	8.4	16,340	1,314	7.4	16,464	1,375	7.7
Red River	3,108	325	9.5	3,186	300	8.6	3,240	368	10.2
Richland	7,973	941	10.6	8,066	804	9.1	8,276	698	7.8
Sabine	8,869	736	7.7	9,027	653	6.7	9,082	578	6.0
St. James	8,413	982	10.5	8,558	862	9.2	8,222	787	8.7
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,679	3,078	8.2	35,408	2,771	7.3	35,704	2,310	6.1
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	21,744	2,150	9.0	22,102	1,917	8.0	22,990	1,254	5.2
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	48,597	4,353	8.2	49,472	3,766	7.1	51,557	3,666	6.6
Tensas	1,922	297	13.4	1,973	248	11.2	1,914	210	9.9
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	23,108	1,834	7.4	23,544	1,634	6.5	22,869	1,221	5.1
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	19,063	1,542	7.5	19,440	1,196	5.8	19,986	1,080	5.1
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,389	1,486	9.4	14,597	1,372	8.6	15,191	1,214	7.4
Webster (Minden) ¹	17,707	1,632	8.4	18,090	1,515	7.7	18,975	1,483	7.2
West Carroll	3,701	843	18.6	3,773	726	16.1	3,750	588	13.6
Winn	6,328	583	8.4	6,442	543	7.8	6,314	432	6.4

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.