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Date: March 12, 2010
Release: Immediately

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N E W S R E L E A S E

Louisiana Adds Jobs and Unemployment Rate Continues Stable Trend into 2010

BATON ROUGE – Louisiana experienced a 2,800-job increase in seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs from December 2009 to January 2010, according to the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Louisiana’s unemployment rate for January 2010 was 7.4 percent, up slightly from the December 2009 revised rate of 7.3 percent. The preliminary rate for December was 7.5 percent. The state’s unemployment rate has stayed at or near 7.4 percent since July 2009. The January 2010 unemployment rate for the United States was 9.7 percent.

Louisiana’s unemployment rate is tied with Colorado for 14th lowest in the nation and is third lowest in the Southern region. The Southern region rate for January was 9.7 percent. Eight Southern states had unemployment rates more than 10 percent in January. Louisiana was one of 30 states and the District of Columbia with over-the-month unemployment rate increases.

Louisiana’s civilian labor force - the number of people working or looking for work - in January 2010 was 2,074,054, a gain of 6,057 over December 2009. The number of people employed in January increased 3,564 to 1,920,048. The number of unemployed in Louisiana in January 2010 was 154,006, an increase of 2,493 from December 2009. Civilian labor force statistics are estimated from a residential-based sample survey by place of residence.

“This year’s job numbers for January are consistent with the labor pattern seen in previous Januarys,” said LWC Executive Director Curt Eysink. “Louisiana continues to outperform the South. The number of people in the labor force increased; the unemployment rate held steady. That is encouraging.”

Job gains were spread across most industry sectors for the month: education and health services, 274,100, up 3,600 workers since December; professional and business services, 192,700, up 1,300; trade, transportation, and utilities, 365,200, up 900 jobs; construction, 125,700, up 600; mining and logging, 47,500, up 200; and information, 24,500, up 100 jobs. Financial activities stayed unchanged at 88,400 jobs, and decreases were seen in four sectors: leisure and hospitality, 193,700, down 2,700; manufacturing, 135,500, down 800; other services, 67,500, a decrease of 100; and government, 367,800, down 300 jobs. Nonfarm statistics are estimated from an employer-based sample survey by place of work.

Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates are used to compare parishes and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the state. The January 2010 unadjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana was 8.2 percent, up from the revised December 2009 rate of 7.2 percent. Unadjusted employment rates in January typically reflect

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people leaving seasonal jobs, such as those related to Christmas hires in retail sales and shipping, and temporary student jobs. All eight MSAs showed slightly higher unadjusted unemployment rates. Please see Page 3 for the MSA rates.

For more detailed information on January 2010 employment data for Louisiana, visit our Web site at www.LAWORKS.net and select Labor Market Information from the top right-hand 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 January 2010			Revised December 2009			Revised January 2009		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	136,809,000	16,147,000	10.6	137,953,000	14,740,000	9.7	140,436,000	13,009,000	8.5
LOUISIANA	1,885,529	168,305	8.2	1,906,220	147,471	7.2	1,916,057	123,671	6.1
ALEXANDRIA MSA	63,318	5,348	7.8	63,984	4,727	6.9	64,691	4,066	5.9
Grant	7,900	752	8.7	7,983	726	8.3	8,071	613	7.1
Rapides	55,418	4,596	7.7	56,001	4,001	6.7	56,620	3,453	5.7
BATON ROUGE MSA	345,180	29,482	7.9	349,267	25,423	6.8	349,869	21,008	5.7
Ascension	46,653	3,959	7.8	47,206	3,319	6.6	47,287	2,692	5.4
East Baton Rouge	199,779	16,190	7.5	202,145	13,966	6.5	202,493	11,811	5.5
East Feliciana	7,422	685	8.4	7,509	609	7.5	7,522	486	6.1
Iberville	11,167	1,449	11.5	11,299	1,229	9.8	11,319	1,024	8.3
Livingston	53,510	4,517	7.8	54,144	3,926	6.8	54,237	3,051	5.3
Pointe Coupee	8,761	808	8.4	8,865	724	7.6	8,880	568	6.0
St. Helena	3,739	561	13.0	3,783	520	12.1	3,790	450	10.6
West Baton Rouge	9,814	876	8.2	9,931	760	7.1	9,948	609	5.8
West Feliciana	4,334	437	9.2	4,386	371	7.8	4,393	318	6.8
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	94,496	6,324	6.3	95,486	5,385	5.3	98,871	4,049	3.9
Lafourche	44,494	2,864	6.0	44,960	2,445	5.2	46,554	1,862	3.8
Terrebonne	50,002	3,460	6.5	50,526	2,940	5.5	52,317	2,187	4.0
LAFAYETTE MSA	124,525	9,111	6.8	125,410	7,854	5.9	128,878	5,477	4.1
Lafayette	102,669	7,126	6.5	103,398	6,150	5.6	106,258	4,298	3.9
St. Martin	21,856	1,985	8.3	22,012	1,704	7.2	22,620	1,179	5.0
LAKE CHARLES MSA	86,134	7,336	7.8	86,617	6,465	6.9	90,935	4,960	5.2
Calcasieu	83,001	7,114	7.9	83,466	6,257	7.0	87,627	4,771	5.2
Cameron	3,133	222	6.6	3,151	208	6.2	3,308	189	5.4
MONROE MSA	73,272	6,967	8.7	74,319	6,091	7.6	75,401	5,182	6.4
Ouachita	64,208	5,930	8.5	65,125	5,151	7.3	66,073	4,430	6.3
Union	9,064	1,037	10.3	9,194	940	9.3	9,328	752	7.5
NEW ORLEANS-METAIRIE- KENNER MSA	494,499	42,361	7.9	495,864	36,850	6.9	495,417	31,581	6.0
Jefferson	201,625	16,338	7.5	202,181	14,153	6.5	201,999	11,854	5.5
New Orleans City/Orleans	122,245	12,891	9.5	122,583	11,427	8.5	122,472	9,947	7.5
Plaquemines	7,848	650	7.6	7,869	545	6.5	7,862	453	5.4
St. Bernard	16,292	1,405	7.9	16,337	1,212	6.9	16,322	947	5.5
St. Charles	22,961	1,926	7.7	23,024	1,659	6.7	23,003	1,388	5.7
St. John Baptist	19,325	2,314	10.7	19,379	1,991	9.3	19,361	1,602	7.6
St. Tammany	104,203	6,836	6.2	104,491	5,863	5.3	104,397	5,390	4.9
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	167,315	13,936	7.7	167,507	12,763	7.1	169,871	13,885	7.6
Bossier	49,328	3,527	6.7	49,385	3,147	6.0	50,082	3,180	6.0
Caddo	107,679	9,344	8.0	107,803	8,659	7.4	109,324	9,766	8.2
De Soto	10,308	1,065	9.4	10,320	956	8.5	10,465	939	8.2

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary January 2010			Revised December 2009			Revised January 2009		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	24,011	2,059	7.9	24,654	1,804	6.8	24,505	1,317	5.1
Allen	8,244	1,152	12.3	7,774	1,032	11.7	8,034	647	7.5
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,275	1,199	11.4	9,729	1,015	9.4	9,607	751	7.3
Avoyelles	14,942	1,505	9.2	15,092	1,340	8.2	14,782	1,140	7.2
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,493	1,250	8.5	13,684	1,165	7.8	13,211	902	6.4
Bienville	5,585	652	10.5	5,752	574	9.1	5,531	562	9.2
Caldwell	4,171	548	11.6	4,228	482	10.2	4,173	320	7.1
Catahoula	3,662	499	12.0	3,789	446	10.5	3,713	392	9.5
Claiborne	6,070	666	9.9	6,105	620	9.2	6,128	496	7.5
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,427	988	13.3	6,490	863	11.7	6,594	819	11.0
East Carroll	2,421	467	16.2	2,588	418	13.9	2,540	442	14.8
Evangeline	11,506	1,283	10.0	11,513	1,123	8.9	11,462	802	6.5
Franklin	6,657	984	12.9	6,934	885	11.3	6,826	833	10.9
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	31,653	3,095	8.9	33,387	2,766	7.7	32,711	1,639	4.8
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,036	584	8.8	6,183	514	7.7	6,134	457	6.9
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,549	1,035	7.1	13,805	904	6.1	13,789	657	4.5
La Salle	5,753	482	7.7	6,005	418	6.5	5,896	340	5.5
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,478	1,642	8.6	17,905	1,386	7.2	17,764	1,150	6.1
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,348	542	11.1	4,258	459	9.7	4,219	468	10.0
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	9,566	1,904	16.6	9,820	1,701	14.8	10,230	1,350	11.7
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	15,678	1,620	9.4	16,241	1,458	8.2	15,756	1,317	7.7
Red River	3,129	365	10.4	3,108	320	9.3	3,076	374	10.8
Richland	7,857	1,069	12.0	7,959	914	10.3	7,941	786	9.0
Sabine	8,708	791	8.3	8,869	732	7.6	8,658	632	6.8
St. James	8,268	1,093	11.7	8,517	958	10.1	8,435	848	9.1
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,605	3,632	9.5	35,117	3,081	8.1	34,886	2,320	6.2
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	20,797	2,378	10.3	22,095	2,118	8.7	21,823	1,295	5.6
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	48,187	4,986	9.4	49,373	4,336	8.1	48,223	3,761	7.2
Tensas	1,626	346	17.5	1,801	277	13.3	1,731	239	12.1
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	22,418	2,113	8.6	23,182	1,828	7.3	22,871	1,303	5.4
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	19,109	1,499	7.3	19,337	1,509	7.2	18,976	1,111	5.5
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	14,098	1,701	10.8	14,515	1,486	9.3	14,307	1,182	7.6
Webster (Minden) ¹	17,758	1,752	9.0	18,052	1,611	8.2	17,954	1,598	8.2
West Carroll	3,509	939	21.1	3,630	804	18.1	3,710	736	16.6
Winn	6,194	621	9.1	6,275	569	8.3	5,929	477	7.4

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.