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Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment remains lowest in series history

BATON ROUGE, La. – Preliminary data for January 2023 released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows that Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 3.5 percentage points, tied for the lowest in series history. The rate, while unchanged from December 2022, dropped 0.5 percentage points from the January 2022 rate of 4.0 percentage points. The rate has declined over the year for 23 consecutive months.

The figures in today's release reflect data revisions made in the annual benchmark process. Benchmarking is the BLS's adjustment procedure to prior years' data which impacts every state with the publication of January data. During this procedure, survey data used to prepare monthly reports on nonfarm employment, the labor force, and unemployment rates are replaced by the actual employment data in the quarterly wage and tax reports filed by Louisiana employers. The two data sets that undergo benchmarking are the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) programs.

The LAUS program revises, at a minimum, five years of previous data to incorporate new inputs and population data. This year, LAUS data was revised from 2018-2022. At the state level, LAUS receives new population controls from the Census Bureau and updated CES and Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims inputs. CES data was updated, at a minimum, from April 2021 thru December 2022.

From December 2022, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 5,323 from 2,010,011 to 2,015,334 in January 2023. This is the second highest number of employed for January in series history. From January 2022, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 12,283 people.

From December 2022, the number of unemployed individuals seasonally adjusted by 452 from 73,536 to 73,988 in January 2023. The January 2023 figure is the sixth lowest in series history and the lowest for January. Compared to January 2022, the number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 9,645.

The seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people employed or looking for work, is 2,089,322 for January 2023. This shows an increase of 5,775 individuals from December 2022. The series also increased by 2,638 individuals from the January 2022 figure of 2,086,684.

"Louisiana's unemployment rate remains the lowest in series history with decreases across 23 consecutive months," said Louisiana Workforce Commission Secretary Ava Cates. "LWC continues to assist hundreds of employers with job fairs being held across the state—our [HiRE](#) site currently has over 150,000 job openings listed."

Preliminary data for January 2023 shows that seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 6,800 jobs from 1,936,600 in December 2022 to 1,943,400. Nonfarm employment gained 37,400 jobs from the January 2022 figure of 1,906,000 jobs. The state has added 234,800 jobs from the COVID-19 employment low point of 1,708,600 jobs in April 2020. The series has added jobs over the month in nine of the last 12 months and added jobs over the year for 22 consecutive months.

With the new benchmarked figures, Louisiana's seasonally adjusted private sector employment figure rose by 5,000 jobs from the December 2022 figure of 1,623,400 to 1,628,400. Private sector employment increased by 34,600 jobs from the

January 2022 estimate of 1,593,800. The series has added jobs over the month in nine of the last 10 months and over the year for 22 consecutive months.

State data for the month of February will be released on March 24, 2023. For additional state and MSA data release dates, please click [here](#).

Among Louisiana's MSAs in January 2023, seasonally adjusted data shows:

- **Alexandria** (62,300 jobs) lost 800 jobs from December 2022, but gained 900 jobs from January 2022.
- **Baton Rouge** (417,900 jobs) added 1,300 jobs from December 2022 and gained 11,000 jobs from January 2022.
- **Hammond** (47,400 jobs) showed no change from December 2022 and showed no change from January 2022.
- **Houma** (81,200 jobs) lost 600 jobs from December 2022, but added 1,000 jobs from January 2022.
- **Lafayette** (201,800 jobs) lost 100 jobs from December 2022, but gained 1,400 jobs from January 2022.
- **Lake Charles** (96,100 jobs) added 300 jobs from December 2022, but lost 1,300 jobs from January 2022.
- **Monroe** (77,600 jobs) showed no change from December 2022, but gained 300 jobs from January 2022.
- **New Orleans** (563,200 jobs) added 800 jobs from December 2022 and gained 13,800 jobs from January 2022.
- **Shreveport** (176,800 jobs) lost 100 jobs from December 2022, but gained 2,200 jobs from January 2022.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

Since December 2022, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 25,400 jobs from 1,952,500 to 1,927,100 in January 2023. The average over-the-month change in January from 1990-2023 is a loss of 34,000 jobs. Compared to January 2022, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 37,600 jobs.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted private sector employment figure fell by 23,400 jobs from 1,635,300 in December 2022 to 1,611,900 in January 2023. The average over-the-month change in January from 1991-2023 is a loss of 28,600 jobs. Private sector employment increased from January 2022 by 34,300 jobs.

Industries that showed the largest declines for not seasonally adjusted jobs from December 2022:

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 9,900 jobs from December 2022.

Leisure and Hospitality lost 3,800 jobs from December 2022.

Construction lost 3,600 jobs from December 2022.

Industries that showed the largest gains for not seasonally adjusted jobs from January 2022:

Private Education and Health Services gained 12,000 jobs from January 2022.

Leisure and Hospitality gained 10,500 jobs from January 2022.

Financial Activities gained 5,600 jobs from January 2022.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2023 is 3.6 percentage points, an increase of 0.4 percentage points from the December 2022 benchmarked not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.2 percentage points. The rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points from the January 2022 rate of 4.2 percentage points.

Since December 2022, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased by 10,926 from 2,017,365 to 2,006,439 in January 2023. Compared to January 2022, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 29,153.

Since December 2022, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals has increased by 9,133 from 66,596 to 75,729 in January 2023. Compared to January 2022, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 11,379.

Not seasonally adjusted January 2023 unemployment rates for Louisiana's nine MSAs are as follows:

- Alexandria: 3.4 percent, up from 3.0 percent in December 2022, but down from 3.5 percent in January 2022.
- Baton Rouge: 3.2 percent, up from 2.8 percent in December 2022, but down from 3.8 percent in January 2022.
- Hammond: 4.3 percent, up from 3.8 percent in December 2022, but down from 5.0 percent in January 2022.
- Houma: 3.5 percent, up from 3.1 percent in December 2022, but down from 4.5 percent in January 2022.
- Lafayette: 3.4 percent, up from 3.1 percent in December 2022, but down from 3.9 percent in January 2022.
- Lake Charles: 3.5 percent, up from 3.1 percent in December 2022, but down from 4.0 percent in January 2022.
- Monroe: 3.7 percent, up from 3.3 percent in December 2022, but down from 4.1 percent in January 2022.
- New Orleans: 3.7 percent, up from 3.2 percent in December 2022, but down from 4.6 percent in January 2022.
- Shreveport: 3.7 percent, up from 3.3 percent in December 2022, but down from 4.1 percent in January 2022.

MSA data for the month of February will be released on April 4, 2023.

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Seasonally Adjusted vs. Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

Jobs and employment trends data are often difficult to understand because there are two different ways to look at the data, seasonally or non-seasonally adjusted data.

Seasonal adjustment measures and removes the influences of predictable seasonal patterns to reveal how employment and unemployment figures change from month to month. Not seasonally adjusted data retains seasonal employment trends.

Over a year, the labor force size, available jobs, and employment rates undergo predictable fluctuations due to seasonal changes in weather, harvests, major holidays, and school schedules. Seasonal adjustment reduces the impact of these changes, making it easier to understand trends. Seasonally adjusted data is best utilized when comparing several months of employment and job data, while not seasonally adjusted data is best used to compare over-the-year trends. Seasonally adjusted data is helpful for comparisons among states and the nation.

The Louisiana Workforce Commission primarily uses seasonally adjusted data to provide a more valuable and telling picture of Louisiana's jobs and employment situation.

To view all available employment data, visit Louisiana's employment homepage at <https://www.laworks.net> and select Labor Market Information from the top-right menu. Then, select LOIS (Louisiana Occupational Information System) and select Employment and Wage Data listed under Data Trends. To view the state's BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics, visit <https://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=la>. For BLS nonfarm employment data, click here: <https://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=sm>.

Data Considerations

All data published from the Bureau of Labor Statistics is preliminary and is subject to revision on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. Revised numbers for previous months are available from the BLS databases on [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). The revised numbers are available upon the release of new data.

Resources for Employers and Job Seekers

Job-seekers can explore careers, apply for top-rated jobs, and connect with local training providers using Louisiana Star Jobs, the LWC's free career tool, at <https://www.laworks.net/Stars/>. Employers looking for workers should visit Louisiana's employment homepage at <https://www.laworks.net>. Click on HiRE (Helping Individuals Reach Employment) and create an account allowing access to qualified job seekers.

About the Louisiana Workforce Commission

The Louisiana Workforce Commission is an agency of state government that administers programs designed to enhance workforce growth and provide family-sustaining jobs for Louisiana residents. The commission monitors employment, administers unemployment compensation and tax funds, provides training resources for employers and employees, and oversees worker compensation benefits. The agency also gathers and supplies information on Louisiana's labor market and occupational sectors.