



1001 North 23rd Street
Post Office Box 94094
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9094

(O) 225-342-3035
(F) 225-342-3743
www.laworks.net

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Ava Cates, Secretary

Office of Public Affairs

May 19, 2023
For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Regine Williams
Public Information Director
(225) 472-5722

Number of employed citizens sets a new record high

BATON ROUGE, LA – Data released today by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that Louisiana's seasonally adjusted employed data has again set a record.

The number of seasonally adjusted employed for April 2023 is 2,036,978, a record high for the series. The number of employed saw a gain of 6,428 individuals from the March revised estimate of 2,030,550. Compared to April 2022, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 16,334.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2023 is 3.6 percent. The rate is tied for the lowest rate for the month of April with the April 2022 figure and is tied for the second-lowest rate in series history. The rate shows no change from the March 2023 figure.

The number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals was estimated to be 75,796, the lowest figure for the month of April in the series. Since March 2023, the number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 168 from 75,964. Compared to March 2022, the number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 244.[]

"LWC's partnerships with employers have enabled us to host job fairs almost daily across the month, helping Louisianans reach employment and keeping those numbers on the rise." said Louisiana Workforce Commission Secretary Ava Cates.

The state's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment for April 2023 is 1,958,900 jobs, an increase of 8,200 jobs from the March 2023 revised estimate of 1,950,700 jobs. Compared to April 2022, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 48,400 jobs. The series has seen 25 consecutive months with an over-the-year gain. This is the highest employment level for the state since March 2020.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted private sector employment for April 2023 is 1,642,300 jobs, an increase of 5,900 jobs from the March 2023 revised estimate of 1,636,400 jobs. Compared to April 2022, seasonally adjusted private sector employment increased by 41,400 jobs. The series has added jobs over the year for 25 consecutive months.

Major industries that showed the largest gains for seasonally adjusted jobs over the month:

- Government gained 2,300 jobs from March 2023.
- Professional and Business Services gained 1,900 jobs from March 2023.
- Construction gained 1,800 jobs from March 2023.

Major industries that showed the largest gains for seasonally adjusted jobs over the year:

- Private Education and Health Services gained 16,100 jobs from April 2022.
- Leisure and Hospitality gained 10,700 jobs from April 2022.
- Government gained 7,000 jobs from April 2022.

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

- Alexandria (63,400 jobs) added 300 jobs from March 2023 and gained 1,500 jobs from April 2022.
- Baton Rouge (422,500 jobs) added 2,100 jobs from March 2023 and gained 14,400 jobs from April 2022.
- Hammond (48,600 jobs) added 200 jobs from March 2023 and gained 1,200 jobs from April 2022.
- Houma (82,200 jobs) added 600 jobs from March 2023 and gained 800 jobs from April 2022.
- Lafayette (203,600 jobs) added 1,500 jobs from March 2023 and gained 2,700 jobs from April 2022.
- Lake Charles (96,500 jobs) added 400 jobs from March 2023 and gained 1,000 jobs from April 2022.
- Monroe (78,100 jobs) added 100 jobs from March 2023 and gained 1,100 jobs from April 2022.
- New Orleans (567,600 jobs) added 1,800 jobs from March 2023 and gained 15,400 jobs from April 2022.
- Shreveport (177,700 jobs) added 500 jobs from March 2023 and gained 2,800 jobs from April 2022.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and parish unemployment rates for April 2023 will be released on May 26, 2023.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

Since March 2023, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals has decreased by 2,318 to 2,043,806 in April 2023. This is the highest number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals for the month of April and the second-highest figure in series history. Compared to April 2022, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 24,865.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2023 is 3.2 percent. This is tied for the lowest rate in series history. The rate shows a drop of 0.1 percentage points from March 2023 and no change from April 2022.

Since March 2023, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals has decreased by 1,819 to 67,677 in April 2023. This is the second-fewest number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals for April and the fifth-lowest number in series history. Compared to April 2022, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals increased by 543.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment for April 2023 is 1,961,700, an increase of 12,800 jobs from the revised March 2023 estimate of 1,948,900 jobs. Compared to April 2022, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 47,000 jobs. This shows over-the-month employment gains in nine of the last ten months and 25 consecutive months with an over-the-year gain.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted total private employment for April 2023 is 1,641,700, an increase of 9,600 jobs from the March 2023 revised estimate of 1,632,100. Compared to April 2022, not seasonally adjusted private sector employment increased by 40,600 jobs. This shows over-the-month employment gains in 12 of the last 16 months and 25 consecutive months with an over-the-year gain.

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. 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.