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Louisiana's employment growth continues with 35 consecutive over-the-year gains

BATON ROUGE, LA – Data released today by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Louisiana has again added jobs when compared to the February 2023 figures.

The state's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment for February 2024 is 1,956,600 jobs, an increase of 3,100 jobs from the February 2023 figure of 1,953,500 jobs. The series has seen 35 consecutive months with an over-the-year gain in nonfarm employment. Compared to January 2024, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment decreased by 200 jobs.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted private sector employment for February 2024 is 1,640,300 jobs, an increase of 1,700 jobs from the February 2023 figure of 1,638,600 jobs. The series has also added jobs over the year for 35 consecutive months. Compared to January 2024, seasonally adjusted private sector employment increased by 1,600 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2024 is 4.2 percent, tied for the fourth lowest rate in series history for the month of February. The rate increased by 0.1 percentage points from the revised January 2024 rate of 4.1 percent and increased by 0.6 percentage points from the February 2023 rate of 3.6 percent.

"Louisiana's job market continues to grow, adding 1,700 jobs in the seasonally adjusted private sector for the month of February," said the Louisiana Workforce Commission Secretary Susana Schowen. "We are committed to working with our stakeholders to help our employers find candidates and to provide our residents with the necessary resources to get good jobs."

The number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals for February 2024 is 1,991,270. The number of employed decreased by 2,951 individuals from the revised January 2024 figure of 1,994,221. Compared to February 2023, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased by 13,869.

The number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals for February 2024 is estimated to be 88,026. The number of unemployed rose by 2,903 individuals from the revised January 2024 figure of 85,123. Compared to February 2023, the number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals increased by 12,557.

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

- Private Education and Health Services gained 2,000 jobs from January 2024.
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities gained 800 jobs from January 2024.
- Construction gained 700 jobs from January 2024.

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

- Private Education and Health Services gained 6,500 jobs from February 2023.
- Construction gained 2,700 jobs from February 2023.

- Manufacturing gained 1,700 jobs from February 2023.

Among Louisiana's MSAs in February 2024, seasonally adjusted data shows:

- Alexandria (61,300 jobs) lost 200 jobs from January 2024 and lost 200 jobs from February 2023.
- Baton Rouge (420,800 jobs) added 400 jobs from January 2024 and gained 4,300 jobs from February 2023.
- Hammond (49,700 jobs) lost 300 jobs from January 2024, but gained 700 jobs from February 2023.
- Houma (85,600 jobs) lost 100 jobs from January 2024, but gained 1,200 jobs from February 2023.
- Lafayette (205,300 jobs) lost 400 jobs from January 2024, but gained 800 jobs from February 2023.
- Lake Charles (95,900 jobs) lost 100 jobs from January 2024 and lost 900 jobs from February 2023.
- Monroe (77,200 jobs) lost 200 jobs from January 2024 and lost 1,100 jobs from February 2023.
- New Orleans (560,200 jobs) added 1,600 jobs from January 2024, but lost 6,600 jobs from February 2023.
- Shreveport (176,700 jobs) lost 400 jobs from January 2024 and lost 2,200 jobs from February 2023.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and parish unemployment rates for the month of February will be released on April 3, 2024. For additional state and MSA data release dates, please click [here](#).

Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment for February 2024 is 1,951,400, an increase of 10,300 jobs from the revised January 2024 estimate of 1,941,100 jobs. Compared to February 2023, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 2,900 jobs. This shows over-the-year employment gains in 35 consecutive months.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted total private employment for February 2024 is 1,631,800, an increase of 9,300 jobs from the revised January 2024 estimate of 1,622,500 jobs. Compared to February 2023, not seasonally adjusted private sector employment increased by 1,600 jobs. This shows 35 consecutive months with an over-the-year gain.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2024 is 4.4 percent. The rate shows an increase of 0.1 percentage points from the revised January 2024 rate of 4.3 percent and an increase of 0.9 percentage points from February 2023.

Since January 2024, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals has increased by 2,534 to 1,970,539 in February 2024. Compared to February 2023, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased by 23,112.

Since January 2024, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals has increased by 1,475 to 90,772 in February 2024. Compared to February 2023, the number of unemployed individuals has increased by 18,628.

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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 refers to data that have not been adjusted to remove the effects of recurring seasonal influences from economic series such as harvests, major holidays and school schedules.

Seasonally adjusted data is best utilized when comparing several months of employment and job data and for comparisons among states and the nation. The Louisiana Workforce Commission primarily uses seasonally adjusted data to provide a more stable picture of Louisiana's employment situation. Not seasonally adjusted data is best used to compare over-the-year trends.

To view all available employment data, visit [Louisiana's Occupational Information System \(LOIS\)](#). Under "Data and Statistics", select "Labor Force Data" for employment and unemployment. Select "Sectoral Employment" for current employment statistics.

Data Considerations

All data published by 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.

About the Louisiana Workforce Commission

The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) 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. Please visit <https://www.laworks.net> to connect to all of our resources.