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## **Louisiana Achieves 45 Consecutive Months of Job Growth: Nonfarm Employment Continues to Rise**

**BATON ROUGE, LA** – Data released today by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that Louisiana's seasonally adjusted employment figures continue to improve.

The state's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment for December 2024 is 1,971,400 jobs, an increase of 2,500 jobs from the revised November 2024 figure of 1,968,900 jobs. The series has seen over-the-month employment gains in 18 of the last 26 months. Compared to December 2023, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 20,600 jobs. This shows 45 consecutive months with an over-the-year gain in nonfarm employment.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted total private sector employment for December 2024 is 1,647,200 jobs, an increase of 1,600 jobs from the revised November 2024 figure of 1,645,600 jobs. The series has seen over-the-month employment gains in four of the last five months. Compared to December 2023, seasonally adjusted total private sector employment increased by 13,600 jobs. The series has seen over-the-year employment gains in 43 of the last 45 months.

"Louisiana's continued job growth reflects the dedication of our workforce and the strength of our industries," said Louisiana Workforce Commission Secretary Susana Schowen. "With 45 consecutive months of over-the-year gains in nonfarm employment, we are seeing sustained progress that underscores the hard work of employers and workers across the state. As we focus on expanding opportunities and supporting economic growth, we remain dedicated to ensuring all Louisianans have access to meaningful employment that drives their success and builds a stronger future for our state."

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2024 is 4.4 percent. The rate increased by 0.1 percentage points from the revised November 2024 rate of 4.3 percent, and increased by 0.4 percentage points from the December 2023 rate of 4.0 percent.

The number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals for December 2024 is 1,977,605. The number of seasonally adjusted employed decreased by 3,730 individuals from the revised November 2024 figure of 1,981,335. Compared to December 2023, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased by 17,356.

The number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals for December 2024 is 91,439. The number of seasonally adjusted unemployed increased by 2,567 individuals from the revised November 2024 figure of 88,872. Compared to December 2023, the number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals increased by 8,812.

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

- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities gained 1,500 jobs from November 2024.
- Private Education and Health Services gained 1,200 jobs from November 2024.
- Both the Leisure and Hospitality sector and the Government sector gained 900 jobs from November 2024.

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

- Private Education and Health Services gained 11,800 jobs from December 2023.
- Government gained 7,000 jobs from December 2023.
- Construction gained 3,900 jobs from December 2023.

**Among Louisiana’s MSAs in December 2024, seasonally adjusted data shows:**

- Alexandria (62,400 jobs) showed no change from November 2024, but gained 1,000 jobs from December 2023.
- Baton Rouge (423,200 jobs) added 1,100 jobs from November 2024 and gained 3,500 jobs from December 2023.
- Hammond (50,500 jobs) added 100 jobs from November 2024 and gained 800 jobs from December 2023.
- Houma (87,500) added 500 jobs from November 2024 and gained 1,700 jobs from December 2023.
- Lafayette (206,700 jobs) added 200 jobs from November 2024 and gained 2,100 jobs from December 2023.
- Lake Charles (96,900 jobs) added 200 jobs from November 2024 and gained 1,000 jobs from December 2023.
- Monroe (77,100 jobs) showed no change from November 2024, but lost 400 jobs from December 2023.
- New Orleans (567,000 jobs) lost 1,100 jobs from November 2024, but gained 6,400 jobs from December 2023.
- Shreveport (178,200 jobs) added 300 jobs from November 2024 and gained 1,400 jobs from December 2023.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and parish unemployment rates for the month of December 2024 will be released on February 4, 2025. The press release schedule for 2025 data is located [here](#).

**Not Seasonally Adjusted Data**

Louisiana’s not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment for December 2024 is 1,985,600, a decrease of 500 jobs from the revised November 2024 estimate of 1,986,100 jobs. Compared to December 2023, not seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 21,500 jobs. This shows over-the-year employment gains in 44 of the last 45 months.

Louisiana’s not seasonally adjusted total private employment for December 2024 is 1,656,000, a decrease of 1,000 jobs from the revised November 2024 estimate of 1,657,000 jobs. Compared to December 2023, not seasonally adjusted total private sector employment increased by 14,000 jobs. This shows over-the-year employment gains in 43 of the last 45 months.

Louisiana’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2024 is 4.1 percent. This shows a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from the revised November 2024 rate of 4.3 percent, but an increase of 0.3 percentage points from the December 2023 figure of 3.8 percent.

Since November 2024, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals has decreased by 1,851 to 1,969,750 in December 2024. Compared to December 2023, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased by 14,885.

Since November 2024, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals has decreased by 3,687 to 84,772 in December 2024. Compared to December 2023, the number of unemployed individuals has increased by 6,196.

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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 employed and unemployed. Select "Sectoral Employment" for Current Employment Statistics (CES) program data.

### **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 committed to strengthening Louisiana's workforce and supporting the state's economic growth. By connecting job seekers with employers and providing resources that foster upward mobility, we help build a thriving, skilled workforce. Through our network of American Job Centers, as well as job fairs, training programs, apprenticeships, and other targeted services, LWC equips Louisianans with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed. For more information, visit [www.laworks.net](#).