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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana Hits New All-Time Nonfarm Employment Record

BATON ROUGE, LA – Data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that all-time employment highs were reached in May for both total nonfarm employment and total private employment. Total nonfarm employment increased by 900 jobs from April 2026 and 16,700 jobs from this time last year.

Louisiana's total employed for May 2026 was estimated at 2,024,984 individuals, third highest ever for the month of May and 28,184 more than May 2025.

Louisiana Employed Snapshot (May 2026)

- **Employed:** 2,024,984
- **Year-over-year employment change:** +28,184
- **Nonfarm employment:** 2,010,200 (highest in series history)
- **Private employment:** 1,684,100 (highest in series history)
- **Unemployment rate:** 4.5% (up 0.1 percentage points from April)
- **Unemployed individuals:** 94,507

Sector Growth

A new series record was seen in Private Education and Health Services (356,400 jobs). Notable gains in May include:

Month-over-month gains:

- Private Education and Health Services: +1,600
- Manufacturing: +600
- Mining and Logging: +500

Year-over-year gains:

- Construction: +7,400
- Private Education and Health Services: +4,900
- Manufacturing: +2,900

Regional Trends

Across the state, five of Louisiana's 10 Metropolitan Statistical Areas showed seasonally adjusted over-the-year gains from May of last year, while three saw decreases and two remained unchanged. The Baton Rouge MSA set a new all-time employment high with 438,000 jobs, adding 200 jobs from April and 7,900 jobs from last year.

Looking Ahead

Louisiana Works will continue to publish statewide employment updates monthly. Beginning this spring, metro and parish-level data will be available exclusively through the Louisiana Works website and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

- May 2026 MSA and Parish data: July 1
- June 2026 Statewide data release: July 21
- June 2026 MSA and Parish data: July 29

Additional Data Notes

Not seasonally adjusted data show total nonfarm employment rose to 2,018,600 jobs, up 2,100 jobs over the month and up 15,400 jobs over the year. The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2026 is 4.4%, an increase of 0.6 percentage points from last month and an increase of 0.1 percentage points from May 2025.

Seasonally adjusted data remove typical seasonal fluctuations, such as holiday hiring patterns, and are used to track short-term trends. Not seasonally adjusted data reflect actual totals and are useful for year-over-year comparisons.

All data are preliminary and subject to revision.

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About Louisiana Works

Louisiana Works is the state's comprehensive workforce solution that transforms lives by connecting people to meaningful employment opportunities and empowering businesses with skilled talent. From customers to employers, we bring together solutions for our communities in Louisiana by eliminating barriers and streamlining access to essential workforce services. For more information, visit www.laworks.net.