

News - Details

[Return to News - Archives](#)**Date:** May 22, 2020**Contact:** LWC Public Affairs @ (225) 342-3035

COVID – 19 April 2020 State Data

PLEASE NOTE: The April labor market information below broadly reflects the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please reference the following link from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for more information, [click here](#).

BATON ROUGE – Preliminary data released today by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) shows that Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 14.5 percent for April 2020. Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 7.8 percentage points from March 2020's revised seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.7 percent. For a comparison, the United States seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is at 14.7 percent.

"The occurrence of COVID-19, has been an unprecedented both for Louisiana and the United States at large. However, the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) quickly mobilized and has paid over \$1.9 billion dollars to Louisiana residents to assist in their time of need," said LWC Secretary Ava Dejoie. "The LWC is ready to assist all those who have been displaced, and put people back to work in family-sustaining careers in the days ahead. With tens of thousands of jobs currently available through our online job-seeker network and career one-stop centers all across the state, the LWC should be the first place individuals turn to seek gainful employment."

LWC staff have worked tirelessly to get unemployment benefits (UI) to the residents as quickly as possible. LWC personnel were quickly mobilized to assist all those who submitted a UI claim, with the hiring of additional staff, to adding multiple servers to efficiently increase online capabilities. Louisiana was also one of the first two states in the nation to pay Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): as of Friday, May 22, approximately 494,634 individuals in Louisiana have been provided monetary compensation during this unprecedented event.

As businesses begin reopening their doors, the LWC is hard at work putting people back into employment. For the month of May, the LWC has awarded more than \$5.6 million in Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP) grants which will create more than 410 jobs and train & retain 8,753.

For example, Weyerhaeuser, one of the largest sustainable forest product companies in the world, is taking advantage of an IWTP grant. The grant, once received from the LWC, will help train approximately 454 employees, with a projected average wage increase of 10.02%, and the creation of 46 jobs.

People looking to get back into the workforce should know that the LWC currently has more than 10,000 new jobs available from employers all across the state, with more jobs being posted each day. Individuals looking for a job can head over to <http://www.laworks.net/HALOW> OR to www.LouisianaWorks.net/hire. This will show them the available jobs in their region.

It is also important to note that the initial unemployment insurance claims for the week ending May 16, 2020 dropped to 28 week ending May 9, 2020 total of 40,125.

"The LWC will continue to work with employers to put people back into family-sustaining careers," said Dejoie.



Louisiana's seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those looking for work, decreased by 188,539 from 2,126,568 in March 2020 to 1,938,029 in April 2020.

The number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased by 328,470 from 1,984,927 in March 2020 to 1,656,457 in April 2020. The number of seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals increased by 139,931 from 141,641 in March 2020 to 281,572 in April 2020.

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 239,600 from 1,960,700 in March 2020 to 1,721,100 in April 2020. Louisiana's seasonally adjusted private sector employment decreased by 228,900 from 1,628,300 in March 2020 to 1,399,400 in April 2020.

Among Louisiana's MSAs in April 2020, seasonally adjusted data shows:

- Alexandria lost 5,900 jobs from April 2019 and 5,000 jobs from March 2020.
- Baton Rouge lost 52,900 jobs from April 2019 and 54,100 jobs from March 2020.
- Hammond lost 5,200 jobs from April 2019 and 4,900 jobs from March 2020.
- Houma lost 7,600 jobs from April 2019 and 6,000 jobs from March 2020.
- Lafayette lost 26,800 jobs from April 2019 and 21,800 jobs from March 2020.
- Lake Charles lost 23,400 jobs from April 2019 and 15,600 jobs from March 2020.
- Monroe lost 7,600 jobs April 2019 and 6,900 jobs from March 2020.
- New Orleans lost 98,700 jobs from April 2019 and 85,600 jobs from March 2020.
- Shreveport lost 21,100 jobs from April 2019 and 18,700 jobs from March 2020.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 14.5 percent for April 2020. Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 8.2 percentage points from March 2020's revised not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.3 percent.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people who are employed in addition to those seeking work, decreased by 200,753 from 2,129,078 in March 2020 to 1,928,325 in April 2020.

The number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals decreased by 345,871 from 1,993,963 in March 2020 to 1,648,092 in April 2020. The number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals increased by 145,118 from 135,115 in March 2020 to 280,233 in April 2020.

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 232,000 jobs from 1,959,600 in March 2020 to 1,727,600 in April 2020. Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted private sector employment decreased by 223,400 jobs from 1,624,400 in March 2020 to 1,401,000 in April 2020.

April metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and parish unemployment rates will be released on April 29, 2020. For additional state and MSA data release dates, please [click here](#).

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 works to measure and remove 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 the course of 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 data, while not seasonally adjusted data is best used to compare over-the-year trends. Seasonally adjusted data are used for comparisons among states and the nation.



The Louisiana Workforce Commission primarily uses seasonally adjusted data because it provides a more useful and telling picture of Louisiana's jobs and employment situation.

To view all available employment data, visit Louisiana's employment homepage at <http://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 BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics for the state, visit <http://data.bls.gov/pdq/querytool.jsp?survey=la>. For BLS nonfarm employment data, click here: <http://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 located on bls.gov. The revised numbers are available upon 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 <http://www.laworks.net/Stars/>.

Note: This revision date does not reflect the revision date of the press release shown. Press Release postings are updated as needed and should be considered accurate as shown.

How Can We Help You Today?

We're committed to providing excellent service and clear answers:
Contact us

Louisiana.gov



This website is partially supported by Grant Number 2401LACOSR from the Office of Community Services/CSBG within the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Neither the Administration for Children and Families nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse this website (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration for Children and Families and the Office of Community Services/CSBG.

External links open new windows and are not controlled by Louisiana Works. | Contact us at: (225) 342-3111 | TDD (800) 259-5154.
SITE COMMENTS | Equal Opportunity Employer/Program | Accessibility & Disclaimer Statement
[This page was last updated on March 11, 2026.]

