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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Osmar Padilla
Deputy Secretary
(225) 572-5475

Louisiana Hits New All-Time Employment Record

BATON ROUGE, LA – Louisiana’s total employed for April 2026 was estimated at 2,026,114 individuals, a record high for the state and 28,315 more than April 2025, according to seasonally adjusted data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

All-time highs were also reached in April for total private employment and total nonfarm employment. Total nonfarm employment increased by 4,000 jobs from March 2026 and 10,700 jobs from this time last year.

“Louisiana has more people employed right now than ever before,” said Louisiana Works Secretary Susana Schowen. “Our state is moving in the right direction, with more employers creating jobs, more people moving from dependence to independence, and more families enjoying the promise of a bright and prosperous future. Louisiana Works is building on that momentum by connecting people to the training, support, and career opportunities they need to succeed, while helping employers find the talent they need to grow.”

Louisiana Employed Snapshot (April 2026)

- **Employed:** 2,026,114 (highest in series history)
- **Year-over-year employment change:** +28,315
- **Nonfarm employment:** 2,009,200 (highest in series history)
- **Private employment:** 1,683,100 (highest in series history)
- **Unemployment rate:** 4.4% (no change from March)
- **Unemployed individuals:** 93,830

Sector Growth

New series records were seen in Private Education and Health Services (355,300 jobs) and Professional and Business Services (225,200 jobs). Notable gains in April include:

Month-over-month gains for April:

- Private Education and Health Services: +2,200
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: +800
- Leisure and Hospitality: +800

Year-over-year gains:

- Construction: +8,000
- Private Education and Health Services: +4,000
- Professional & Business Services and Leisure & Hospitality: +1,400

Regional Trends

Across the state, each of Louisiana's 10 Metropolitan Statistical Areas showed either gains from March or remained unchanged. The Baton Rouge MSA set a new all-time employment high with 438,200 jobs, adding 500 jobs from March and 6,800 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.

- April 2026 MSA and Parish data: June 3
- May 2026 Statewide data release: June 23
- May 2026 MSA and Parish data: July 1

Additional Data Notes

Not seasonally adjusted data show total nonfarm employment rose to 2,015,100 jobs, up 11,700 jobs over the month and up 11,500 jobs over the year. The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2026 is 3.8%, a decline of 0.7 percentage points from March 2026 and unchanged from one year ago.

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.

[View All Labor Market Information at a Glance](#)

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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.