



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Alyse Shelton
Asst. Director of Internal Communications
225-367-5217
Alyse.Shelton@la.gov

Louisiana Posts Strong Employment Growth, Private Sector Employment at Record Levels

BATON ROUGE, LA – Seasonally adjusted data released today by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that Louisiana set new records for both total nonfarm employment and total private employment.

All-time employment highs

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment totaled 2,012,400 jobs in December 2025. This represents an **increase of 6,200 jobs from November** and an **increase of 22,900 jobs over the year**. This December figure is the 57th consecutive month with an over-the-year employment gain. This also shows gains over the month in 14 of the last 18 months.

Private sector employment also reached a record, **1,689,900 jobs**, gaining **6,700 jobs over the month** and **22,400 jobs from one year ago**. The private sector has also experienced **57 straight months** of annual job growth.

Unemployment rate declines

Louisiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was **4.2 percent**, down **0.4 percentage points from December 2024**. The December 2025 rate is 0.1 percentage points lower than the November figure of 4.3 percent.

- **Employed individuals:** 2,000,664 (up 14,509 from one year ago)
- **Unemployed individuals:** 88,396 (down 7,193 from one year ago)

Industries with notable job gains (seasonally adjusted)

Month-over-month

- Professional and Business Services: +1,900
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities +1,800
- Construction: +1,000

Year-over-year

- Private Education and Health Services: +15,400
- Leisure and Hospitality: +7,800
- Professional and Business Services: +6,900

Regional employment trends

Seasonally adjusted data for December shows annual growth in seven of Louisiana's ten metropolitan areas:



- Alexandria: 62,300 jobs (unchanged from November and from one year ago)
- Baton Rouge: 437,400 jobs (2,600 more than November and 6,000 more than one year ago)
- Hammond: 51,100 jobs (no monthly change but 400 less than one year ago)
- Houma: 85,800 jobs (200 less than November and 800 less than one year ago)
- Lafayette: 187,600 jobs (200 more than November and 2,100 more than one year ago)
- Lake Charles: 105,600 jobs (600 more than November and 1,400 more than one year ago)
- Monroe: 92,700 jobs (100 more than November and 1,200 more than one year ago)
- New Orleans: 475,900 jobs (2,300 less than November but 1,600 more than one year ago)
- Shreveport: 169,300 jobs (100 less than November but 700 more than one year ago)
- Slidell: 104,300 jobs (300 more than November and 2,100 more than one year ago)

Upcoming data release

- December MSA and Parish data: February 4

Not seasonally adjusted data

- Total nonfarm employment: **2,021,100**, down 700 over the month but up 21,700 over the year.
- Total private employment: **1,696,100**, up 2,900 over the month and up 22,200 over the year.
- Unemployment rate: **3.9 percent**, down 0.3 percentage points from November and from one year ago.
- Employed individuals: 2,016,622, down 2,543 from November but up 35,548 from last year.
- Unemployed individuals: 88,804, down 5,806 from November and down 2,953 from last year.

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Seasonally Adjusted vs. Not Seasonally Adjusted Data

Employment data can be viewed in two different ways: seasonally adjusted or not seasonally adjusted. Understanding the difference helps explain why certain numbers move from month to month.

Seasonally adjusted data removes predictable seasonal patterns that occur every year, such as holiday hiring, school calendars, and agricultural cycles. By filtering out these recurring effects, seasonally adjusted data provides a clearer picture of month-to-month changes. It is most useful for tracking short-term trends and comparing Louisiana to other states and the nation.

Not seasonally adjusted data reflects the raw numbers without any adjustments for seasonal influences. These data are most helpful for examining year-over-year changes, because comparing the same month across different years already accounts for seasonal patterns.

Louisiana Works primarily relies on seasonally adjusted data to describe the state's current employment conditions. Both types of data are valuable but serve different purposes depending on the trend being analyzed.

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 counts or "Sectoral Employment" for Current Employment Statistics (CES) data.



Data Considerations

All Bureau of Labor Statistics data are preliminary and subject to revision each month, quarter, and year. Updated figures for prior months are available through BLS databases on bls.gov once new data are published.

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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.