



July 6, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Darby Smith
Public Information Officer 3
(225) 367-5217

New Data Show Louisiana Leads the Nation in Workforce Participation Growth

BATON ROUGE, LA New workforce data released last week indicate Louisiana is leading the nation in one of the clearest indicators of economic momentum: more people are entering the workforce.

According to the latest labor market data, Louisiana tied for the nation's largest increase in labor force participation over the past year and ranked #1 in the nation for year-over-year construction employment growth.

Over the past year:

- Louisiana's labor force participation rate increased from **57.9% to 58.8%**, tying for the **largest increase in the nation**.
- Nearly **33,000 additional Louisianans** entered the labor force, meaning they are either employed or actively seeking work.
- While Louisiana's labor force participation rate increased by **nearly a full percentage point**, the national labor force participation rate declined by **0.6 percentage points** during the same period. **Only one in five states** experienced any year-over-year increase.
- Louisiana also ranked **#1 in the nation** for year-over-year construction employment growth, with construction employment increasing by approximately **9,300 jobs** (+6.7%) over the past year.

Together, these data show Louisiana is not only creating jobs, but also bringing more people into the workforce at a time when labor force participation is declining across much of the country.

"Louisiana's momentum is real, and these numbers show it," said Governor Jeff Landry. We're creating an environment where businesses are investing, jobs are growing, and more Louisianans are choosing to participate in the workforce. Every person who enters the workforce represents another opportunity to move from dependence to independence, and we're committed to building an economy that rewards work and creates opportunity for every Louisianan."

Labor force participation is widely regarded as one of the strongest indicators of economic health because it measures the share of working-age adults who are either employed or actively looking for work.

Louisiana Works Secretary Susie Schowen said the state's continued progress reflects a coordinated effort to better connect people with education, training, and employment opportunities.

"This is exactly the direction we want Louisiana to be moving," said Louisiana Works Secretary Susana Schowen. "We're seeing more employers create opportunities, more Louisianans stepping into the workforce, and stronger alignment between workforce development, education, and economic development. Our focus now is on keeping that momentum going by continuing to connect more people to good jobs and helping employers find the skilled talent they need."

The strong labor force gains come as Louisiana continues modernizing its workforce system to better connect education, training, workforce programs, and employers, while reducing barriers that prevent people from entering or reentering the workforce.