

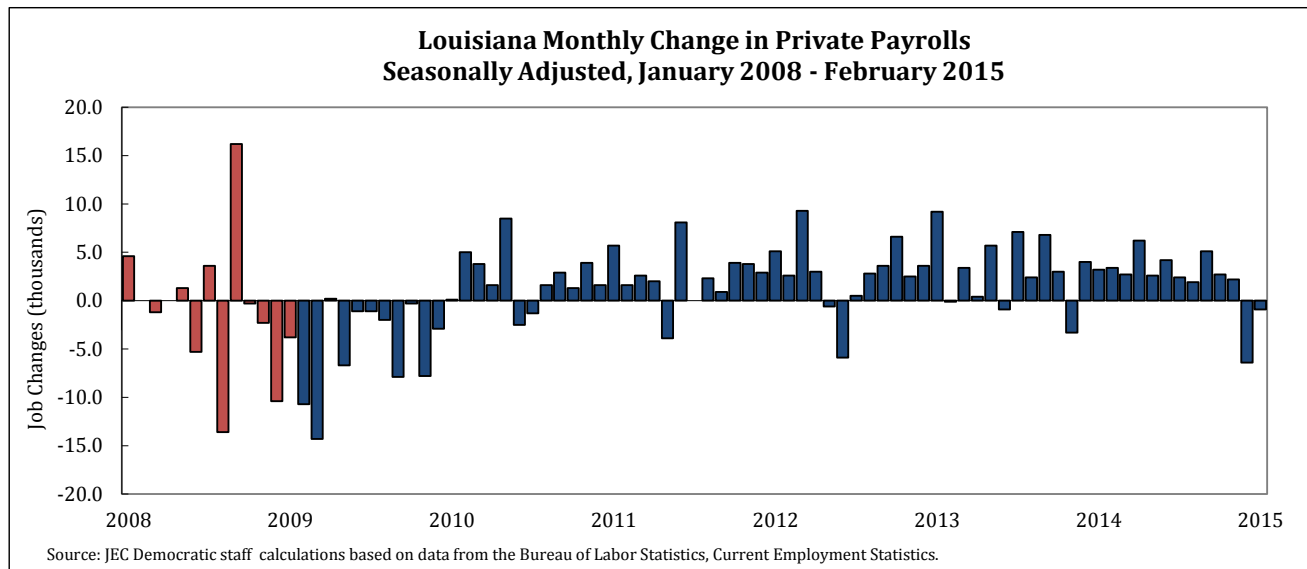


## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: LOUISIANA

*\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through February 2015\*\**

### JOBS

- In February, private-sector employment in Louisiana fell by 900 jobs. Over the past year, the Louisiana private sector has added 26,100 jobs. This compares with an increase of 31,700 jobs over the 12 months ending in February 2014.
- Louisiana private-sector employers have added 156,400 jobs (an increase of 10.4 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Louisiana, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: education and health services (33,500 jobs), leisure and hospitality (32,300 jobs) and trade, transportation and utilities (31,700 jobs).
- The Louisiana sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: leisure and hospitality (16.8 percent), construction (13.6 percent) and education and health services (12.5 percent).



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Louisiana was 6.7 percent in February 2015, down 0.3 percentage point from January. The rate is up 1.3 percentage points from one year earlier but remains below its recent peak of 8.3 percent in December 2010.
- 148,300 Louisiana residents were unemployed during February 2015, down from a recent high of 173,600 in November 2010. There are still 63,800 more people unemployed in Louisiana than when the recession began.
- In Louisiana, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 12,447 during February, up 16.2 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 6.5 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

### EXPORTS

- In Louisiana, exports totaled \$5.0 billion in January and \$61.0 billion over the past year, up 1.1 percent from the 12 months ending in January 2014 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Louisiana exports over the past 12 months are up 40.9 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

### HOUSING

- Home prices in Louisiana increased by 2.9 percent from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 11.7 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 and are now 5.7 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Louisiana totaled 20,280 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, an increase of 41.8 percent from January.
- Within the South census region, which includes Louisiana, sales of new single-family homes totaled 316,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, an increase of 10.1 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes increased by 1.1 percent to 1,860,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from January to February 2015.

\* For Louisiana-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Louisiana office: [http://www.laworks.net/LaborMarketInfo/LMI\\_MainMenu.asp](http://www.laworks.net/LaborMarketInfo/LMI_MainMenu.asp)

## How Does Louisiana Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Louisiana to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Louisiana, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.9% and net job gains totaling 30.2% since the start of the recession.

### STATE QUICK FACTS

		Louisiana	United States
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> .....	February 2015	6.7%	5.5%
	February 2014	5.4%	6.7%
	February 2013	7.0%	7.7%
	February 2012	7.3%	8.3%
<b>Percent of Population Who Are Veterans</b> .....	2014	9.2%	8.9%
<b>All Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	3.1%	5.3%
<b>Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	6.0%	7.2%
<b>Median Household Income (2013 \$)</b> .....	2013	\$ 39,622	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 46,414	\$ 56,436
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2013	19.2%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	16.1%	12.5%
<b>Percentage Without Health Insurance</b> .....	2013	16.6%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			