

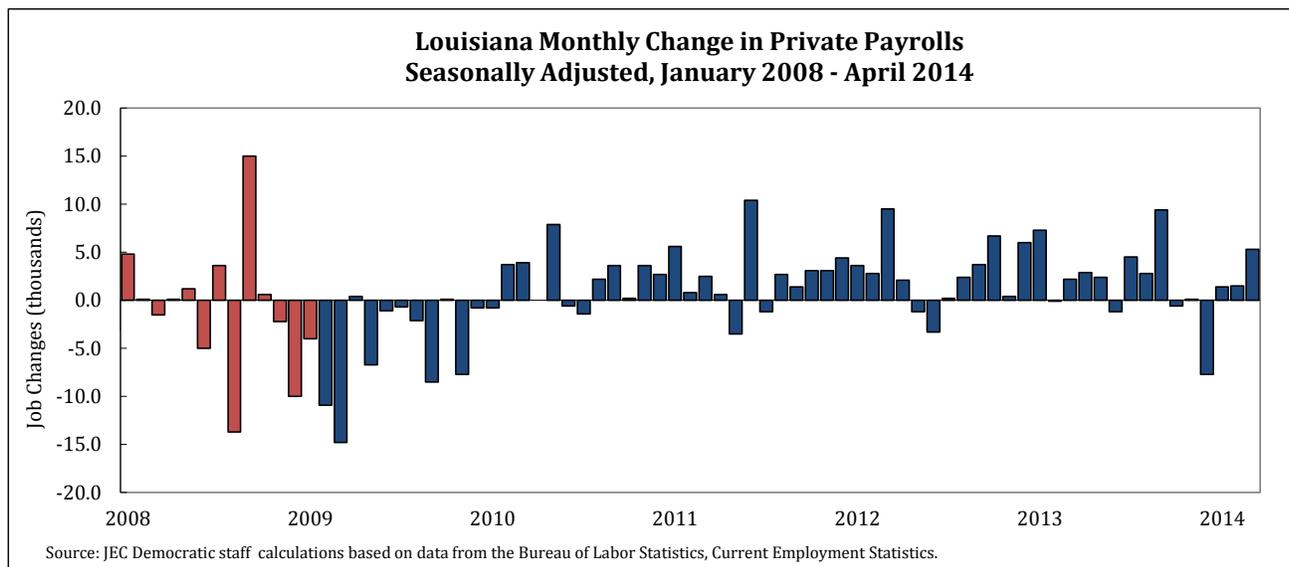


## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: LOUISIANA

*\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through April 2014\*\**

### JOBS

- In April, private-sector employment in Louisiana grew by 5,300 jobs. Over the past year, the Louisiana private sector has added 20,800 jobs. This compares with an increase of 26,400 jobs over the 12 months ending in April 2013.
- Louisiana private-sector employers have added 118,800 jobs (an increase of 7.9 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: leisure and hospitality (25,400 jobs), education and health services (25,300 jobs) and professional and business services (22,000 jobs).
- The Louisiana sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: leisure and hospitality (13.2 percent), professional and business services (11.5 percent) and education and health services (9.4 percent).



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Louisiana was 4.5 percent in April 2014, holding constant from March. The rate is down 1.9 percentage points from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 7.8 percent in November 2010.
- 94,900 Louisiana residents were unemployed during April 2014, down from a recent high of 162,400 in October 2010. There are still 18,700 more people unemployed in Louisiana than when the recession began.
- In Louisiana, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 10,950 during March, up 5.5 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 22.8 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

### EXPORTS

- In Louisiana, exports totaled \$5.4 billion in March and \$64.8 billion over the past year, down 1.7 percent from the 12 months ending in March 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Louisiana exports over the past 12 months are up 61.7 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

### HOUSING

- Home prices in Louisiana increased by 1.3 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2013 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 4.4 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 and are now 0.3 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Louisiana totaled 14,130 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in March 2014, a decrease of 18.6 percent from February.
- Within the South census region, which includes Louisiana, sales of new single-family homes totaled 226,000 units in March 2014, a decrease of 14.4 percent from February. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased by 2.3 percent to 1,680,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from February to March 2014.

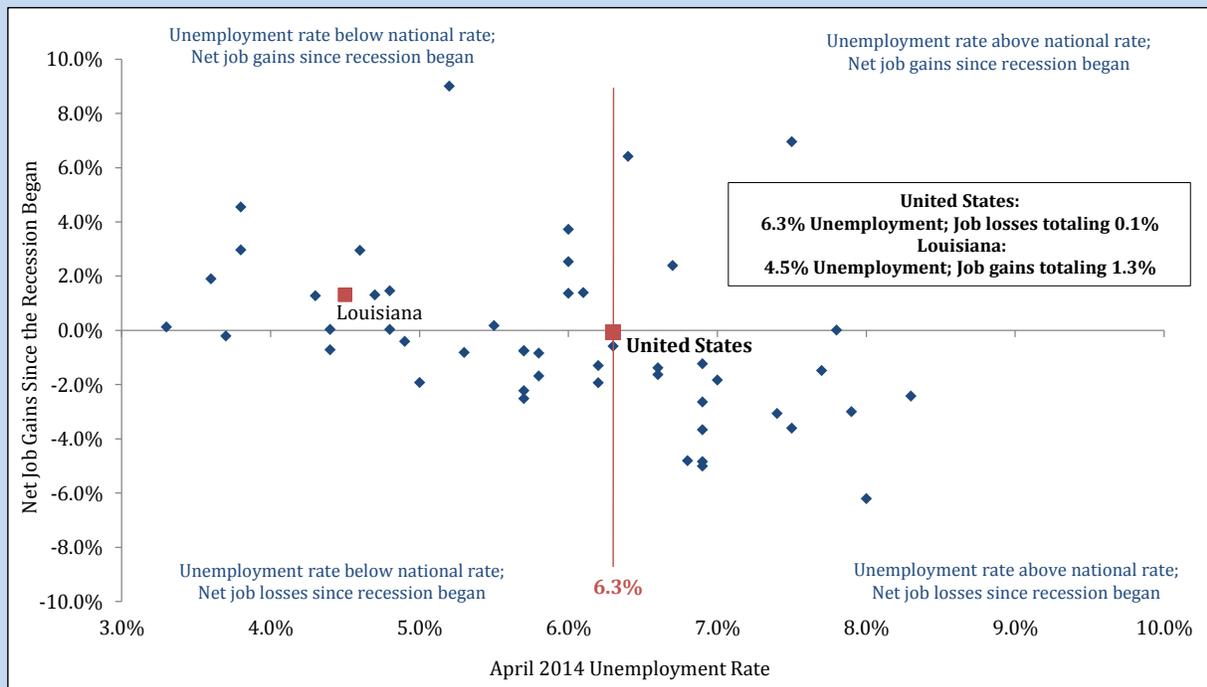
\* For Louisiana-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Louisiana office: [http://www.laworks.net/LaborMarketInfo/LMI\\_MainMenu.asp](http://www.laworks.net/LaborMarketInfo/LMI_MainMenu.asp)

## 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 2.6% and net job gains totaling 27.3% since the start of the recession.

### STATE QUICK FACTS

		Louisiana	United States
<b>Unemployment Rates</b> .....	April 2014	4.5%	6.3%
	April 2013	6.4%	7.5%
	April 2012	6.7%	8.2%
	April 2011	7.3%	9.1%
<b>Percent of Population Who Are Veterans</b> .....	2013	9.4%	9.0%
<b>All Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2013	4.9%	6.6%
<b>Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2013	10.0%	9.0%
<b>Median Household Income</b> .....	2012	\$ 39,085	\$ 51,017
	(2012 \$) 2007	\$ 45,750	\$ 55,627
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2012	21.1%	15.0%
	2007	16.1%	12.5%
<b>No Health Insurance</b> .....	2012	18.3%	15.4%
	2007	18.0%	14.7%