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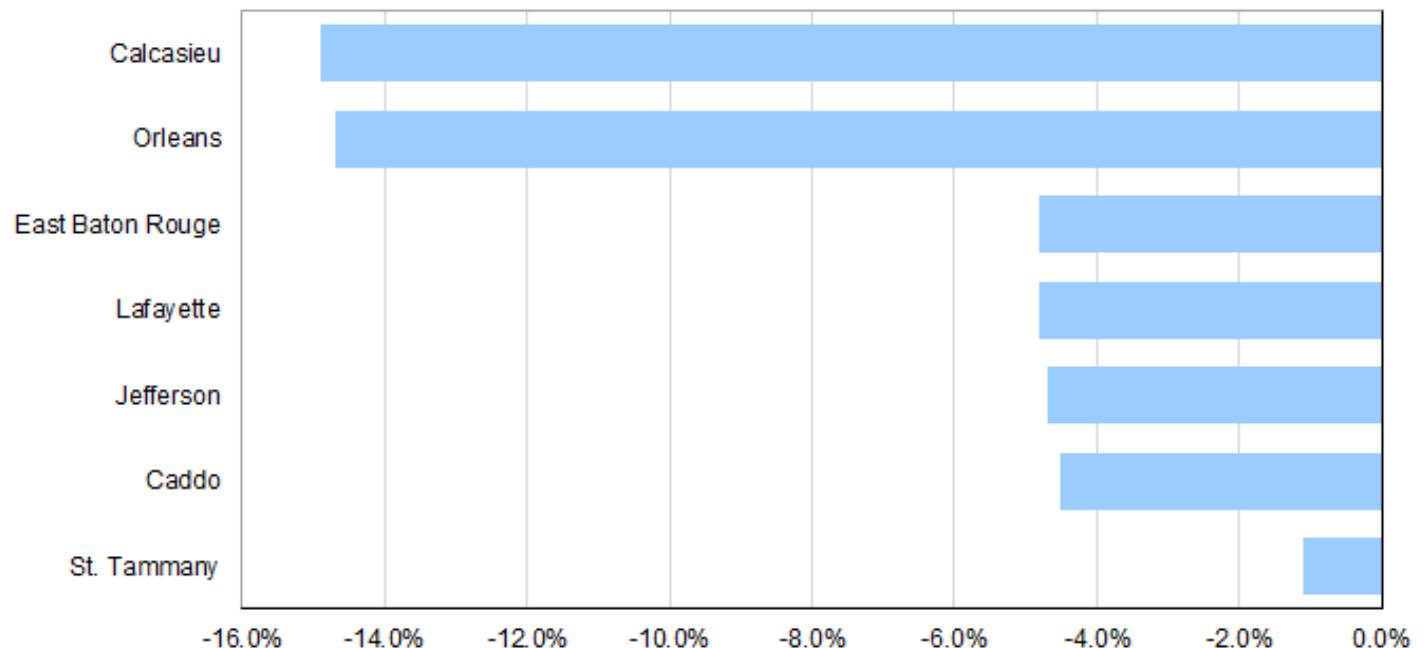
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Parish Employment and Wages in Louisiana – First Quarter 2021

Employment fell in all seven of the largest parishes in Louisiana from March 2020 to March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties and parishes are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that Calcasieu Parish and Orleans Parish had the largest over-the-year decreases in employment at 14.9 percent and 14.7 percent, respectively. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Louisiana, March 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

National employment decreased 4.5 percent over the year, with 324 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting declines. Calcasieu, LA, had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment with a loss of 14.9 percent. Utah, UT, experienced the largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment with a gain of 6.1 percent.

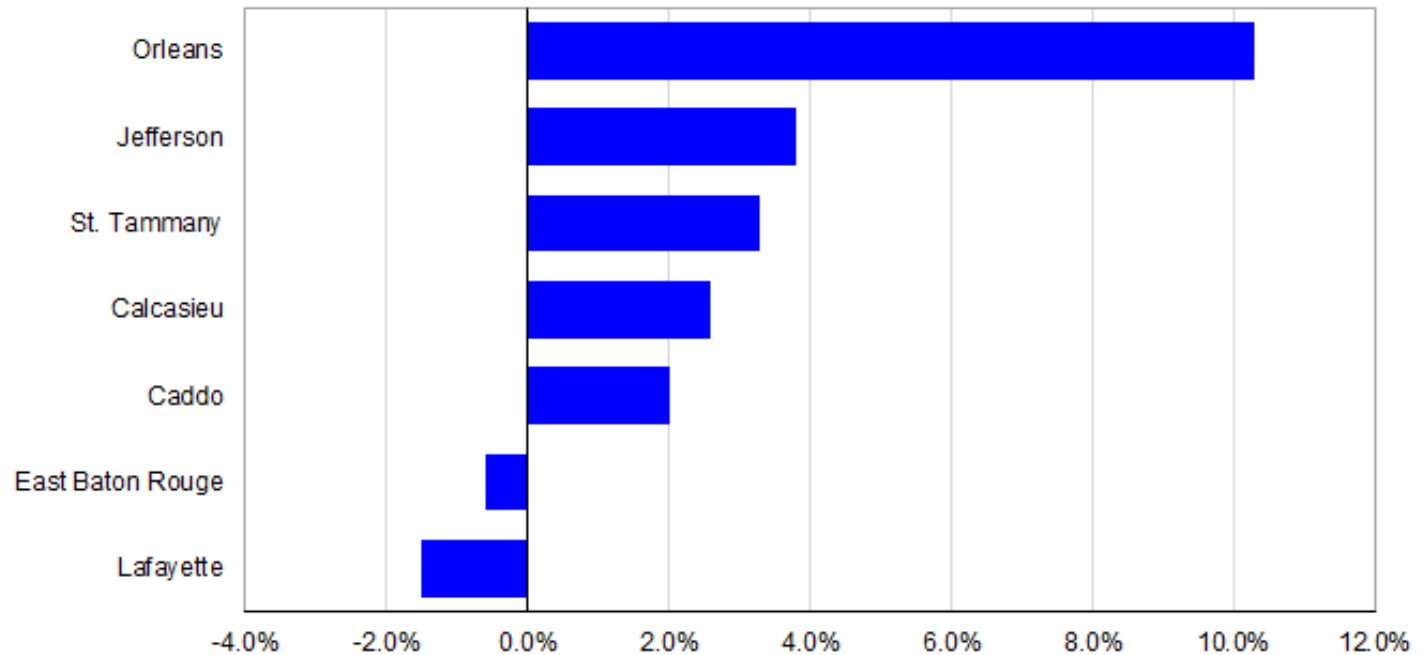
Among the seven largest parishes in Louisiana, employment was highest in East Baton Rouge (249,300) in March 2021. Within East Baton Rouge's private industry, health care and social assistance accounted for the largest employment. Together, the seven largest Louisiana parishes accounted for 55.6 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.3 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 57 parishes in Louisiana with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 52 of the 57 smaller parishes were below the national average in the first quarter of 2021. (See [table 2](#).)

Large parish wage changes

Average weekly wages rose in 5 of the 7 largest Louisiana parishes from the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021. (See [chart 2](#).) Orleans Parish had the largest gain (+10.3 percent). Lafayette Parish and Baton Rouge Parish had over-the-year wage decreases of 1.5 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively. Nationally, average weekly wages increased 5.6 percent over the year.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Louisiana, first quarter 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 312 had over-the-year wage increases. Nationally, across most industries, increases in average weekly wages reflect substantial employment declines combined with wage increases. The lowest paying industry, leisure and hospitality, had the largest employment loss, which resulted in higher average weekly wages for the industry and the nation. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+33.9 percent). Clayton, GA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-14.2 percent).

Large parish average weekly wages

Weekly wages in all seven large parishes in Louisiana were below the national average of \$1,289 in the first quarter of 2021. Orleans Parish (\$1,187, 126th) had average weekly wages that ranked among the top half of counties and parishes nationwide.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 84 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the first quarter of 2021. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,967. Average weekly wages were below the national average in the remaining 259 counties. At \$685 a week, Cameron, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

Average weekly wages in Louisiana's smaller parishes

Among the 57 smaller parishes in Louisiana—those with employment below 75,000—Cameron (\$1,982) reported an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,289. West Carroll Parish (\$607) reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 64 parishes in Louisiana were considered, 12 reported average weekly wages of \$699 or less, 21 registered wages from \$700 to \$799, 10 had wages from \$800 to \$899, 6 had wages from \$900 to \$999, and 15 had wages of \$1,000 or more. (See [chart 3](#).) The higher-paying parishes were concentrated around the metropolitan areas of Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, New Orleans, and Shreveport. The lowest-paid parishes, those with weekly wages under \$700, were concentrated in non-metropolitan areas in the northeastern quadrant of the state.

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. This publication is typically published in September of the following year of the reference period or shortly after the QCEW first quarter full data update. The *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* is available at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS web site at www.bls.gov/cew. However, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the seven largest counties in Louisiana, first quarter 2021

Area	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	--	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Louisiana	141.5	1,787.6	-5.9	--	977	40	1.0	46
Caddo	7.5	103.8	-4.5	155	898	313	2.0	272
Calcasieu.....	5.7	82.9	-14.9	335	1,038	214	2.6	247
East Baton Rouge	17.4	249.3	-4.8	168	1,069	188	-0.6	316
Jefferson.....	14.9	178.7	-4.7	164	1,018	229	3.8	187
Lafayette.....	10.6	124.0	-4.8	168	909	310	-1.5	325
Orleans.....	14.8	167.9	-14.7	333	1,187	126	10.3	13
St. Tammany.....	9.3	88.1	-1.1	23	958	275	3.3	218

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all parishes in Louisiana, first quarter 2021

Area	Employment March 2021	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	140,455,819	\$1,289
Louisiana	1,787,606	977
Acadia	14,392	704
Allen	6,906	772
Ascension	44,200	1,098
Assumption	3,602	869
Avoyelles	9,705	632
Beauregard	8,468	825
Bienville	3,884	783
Bossier	41,517	815
Caddo	103,772	898
Calcasieu	82,915	1,038
Caldwell	2,184	631
Cameron	7,642	1,982
Catahoula	1,989	615
Claiborne	3,025	748
Concordia	5,173	718
De Soto	6,654	1,044
East Baton Rouge	249,270	1,069
East Carroll	1,475	709
East Feliciana	4,635	818
Evangeline	7,742	623
Franklin	4,625	616
Grant	3,136	826
Iberia	23,637	906
Iberville	15,005	1,399
Jackson	3,261	826
Jefferson	178,726	1,018
Jefferson Davis	7,797	727
LaSalle	4,725	722
Lafayette	123,959	909
Lafourche	32,606	1,021
Lincoln	17,990	758
Livingston	28,770	733
Madison	2,988	609
Morehouse	6,222	703
Natchitoches	13,049	714
Orleans	167,891	1,187
Ouachita	66,670	801
Plaquemines	11,268	1,340
Pointe Coupee	4,938	885
Rapides	55,246	829
Red River	2,361	784
Richland	5,942	687
Sabine	5,353	684
St. Bernard	10,064	950
St. Charles	23,058	1,425
St. Helena	1,491	719
St. James	8,044	1,353
St. John the Baptist	13,130	1,143
St. Landry	22,784	731
St. Martin	10,957	795
St. Mary	19,243	971
St. Tammany	88,117	958
Tangipahoa	43,837	734
Tensas	800	644

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all parishes in Louisiana, first quarter 2021 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2021	Average weekly wage(1)
Terrebonne	46,453	940
Union	4,719	631
Vermilion.....	12,371	745
Vernon	12,598	770
Washington.....	10,123	686
Webster	10,816	754
West Baton Rouge	11,747	1,012
West Carroll.....	1,987	607
West Feliciana	5,664	1,285
Winn	4,136	769

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2021

State	Establishments, first quarter 2021 (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
		March 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2020–21	First quarter 2021	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	10,755.4	140,455.8	-4.5	\$1,289	--	5.6	--
Alabama	135.9	1,924.3	-3.0	996	37	2.5	40
Alaska	23.3	295.0	-5.5	1,125	23	-0.6	48
Arizona	176.5	2,894.2	-2.3	1,150	21	4.8	17
Arkansas	95.3	1,194.2	-2.0	957	43	3.7	30
California	1,651.4	16,507.7	-5.9	1,623	4	11.3	1
Colorado	224.7	2,634.7	-3.5	1,335	10	4.1	25
Connecticut	128.3	1,550.5	-5.4	1,575	5	4.7	19
Delaware	35.2	425.6	-4.1	1,264	13	1.6	44
District of Columbia	44.0	708.1	-9.0	2,166	1	8.7	4
Florida	780.8	8,701.9	-3.1	1,104	24	5.1	13
Georgia.....	329.2	4,393.8	-2.6	1,198	17	3.6	33
Hawaii.....	48.0	564.4	-14.1	1,091	26	5.7	9
Idaho	74.2	768.6	1.9	906	50	4.9	15
Illinois	390.0	5,559.6	-5.5	1,387	8	6.7	7
Indiana.....	176.2	2,956.4	-2.5	1,026	34	3.3	37
Iowa	105.1	1,473.6	-3.3	1,004	35	2.6	39
Kansas	90.4	1,335.4	-3.3	986	39	1.9	43
Kentucky.....	130.7	1,835.2	-2.5	965	41	2.3	42
Louisiana	141.5	1,787.6	-5.9	977	40	1.0	46
Maine.....	56.2	585.0	-2.8	1,000	36	4.7	19
Maryland.....	174.3	2,522.1	-5.0	1,386	9	8.5	5
Massachusetts	271.2	3,334.9	-6.6	1,732	3	7.8	6
Michigan	267.5	4,026.6	-5.9	1,155	20	4.8	17
Minnesota	189.7	2,695.4	-5.1	1,290	11	4.6	22
Mississippi	75.3	1,098.4	-2.5	811	51	1.1	45
Missouri	221.8	2,705.5	-3.0	1,055	30	3.7	30
Montana	53.2	465.2	0.1	915	48	5.4	10
Nebraska	73.4	944.7	-2.8	990	38	3.6	33
Nevada	92.8	1,291.5	-8.4	1,080	27	4.7	19
New Hampshire	56.8	631.8	-3.9	1,258	15	5.4	10
New Jersey.....	297.0	3,818.6	-5.5	1,533	7	5.3	12
New Mexico	65.2	774.5	-7.4	958	42	3.8	28
New York	664.6	8,587.8	-8.7	1,869	2	10.4	2
North Carolina	302.7	4,423.2	-1.7	1,137	22	4.1	25
North Dakota	32.3	388.7	-6.1	1,037	32	-0.9	51
Ohio	310.1	5,136.8	-3.9	1,098	25	3.3	37
Oklahoma	114.4	1,549.7	-3.7	939	46	-0.8	50
Oregon	169.4	1,841.9	-5.2	1,172	18	6.4	8
Pennsylvania	369.7	5,531.3	-5.4	1,226	16	4.3	23
Rhode Island	41.2	447.8	-5.6	1,171	19	3.4	35
South Carolina.....	150.1	2,056.2	-2.6	957	43	3.8	28
South Dakota.....	35.6	417.1	-0.9	932	47	3.4	35
Tennessee	180.2	2,968.7	-2.1	1,077	28	5.0	14
Texas	750.1	12,216.7	-3.4	1,261	14	2.4	41
Utah	117.3	1,548.8	1.5	1,065	29	3.7	30
Vermont.....	27.0	283.7	-6.9	1,028	33	4.9	15
Virginia.....	291.3	3,765.8	-3.9	1,285	12	4.2	24
Washington.....	261.2	3,252.0	-5.1	1,540	6	9.1	3
West Virginia	52.3	648.6	-3.8	911	49	0.8	47
Wisconsin	183.1	2,730.0	-3.7	1,047	31	3.9	27
Wyoming	27.8	255.9	-4.6	953	45	-0.6	48
Puerto Rico.....	47.1	856.5	-3.1	562	(3)	2.0	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	3.6	34.7	-14.0	961	(3)	-8.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 3. Average weekly wages by parish in Louisiana, first quarter 2021

