Evangeline Parish's unemployment rate in January 1986 was 12.0 percent, compared to 14.7 percent in December and 19.1 percent a year ago. Evangeline Parish was listed among 16 parishes across the state which recorded a jobless rate of 20 percent or higher. Assumption Parish recorded the highest unemployment in Louisiana in January with a 32.6 percent level. Other 20 percent-plus parishes include Avyelles, 22.3; Catahoula, 24.1; Concordia, 22.8; East Carroll, 27.6; Franklin, 29.1; Iberville, 23.5; Madison, 21.8; Morehouse, 29.6; Pointe Coupee, 24; Richland, 20.5; St. Landry, 22.4; St. Mary, 28; Vermilion, 23.7; and West Carroll, 29.6. The lowest unemployment rate was recorded in Lincoln Parish with 7.1 percent.

A total of $368,556 in unemployment insurance benefits were paid out to Evangeline’s jobless workers during January. Statewide, a total of $41,639,704 in jobless funds were distributed. Secretary of Labor Gayle F. Truly said that 1,651,900 were employed and 284,100 unemployed in January. She also said that Louisiana oil and gas industry, a key indicator, was down 300 jobs from December, and dropped 19,900 jobs from January 1985. Construction dropped 1,600 jobs from December and is still down 10,500 jobs from January 1986. Transportation and public utilities employment was down 220 jobs, and is still down 7,400 from a year ago. Manufacturing employment dropped 2,100 jobs from December, and is still down 3,700 jobs from January 1986.

The state's unemployment rate may rise slightly during the next month. Predictions indicate manufacturing employment may increase next month, however, trade employment is expected to fall.

Unemployment rates for the major labor market areas were as follows: Alexandria, 11.8 percent in January, up from 10.4; Baton Rouge, 11.9, up from 10.7; Houma-Thibodaux, 20.5, up from 18.7; Lafayette, 16.6, up from 15.3; Lake Charles, 15.2, up from 14.4; Monroe, 12.1, up from 10.5; New Orleans, 11.6, up from 10.9; Shreveport, 13.8, up from 12.8. Steve Jones, public relations manager for Boeing Co. in Lake Charles, said that about 700 of their permanent employees at an aircraft renovation plant have completed Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) training through a contract with the Department of Labor. "They are showing an eight-year aviation experience per employee," said Jones. "Boeing had anticipated a 20-30 percent attrition rate during the training; instead, it has been five percent."

Boeing may cap out at 1,500 permanent employees, plus 805 construction workers, and 95 percent are Louisiana residents. A more detailed report shows that estimated employment in the total durable goods segment of manufacturing was unchanged from last month. Less demand for concrete, gypsum and plaster products accounted for the decrease in stone, clay and glass products payrolls. Transportation equipment was up this month due mostly to increased payrolls in the ship and boat building and repairing industry.

Estimated employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing decreased by 2,100 workers from the December 1986 revised figure of 95,200. The most significant factor in this month's decrease was a seasonal decline in food and kindred products manufacturing. Less demand in most segments of paper and allied products resulted in lower employment for this industry. Chemical and allied products employment dropped by 200 workers in January.