Evangeline Parish’s unemployment rate jumped to 17.4 percent for February. The revised January figure was 16.2 percent.

Preliminary figures from the Louisiana Department of Labor indicate that parish employment is at 12,025, out of a labor force of 14,550. The number of jobless was pegged at 2,525.

The unemployment rate in Louisiana for February was 13.2 percent, up from 12.9 percent in January. The revised February 1985 rate was 11.5. The comparable national rate for February was 7.8 percent, up from 7.3 percent in January.

The unemployment rate for the state is expected to rise during the next month. Mining employment will probably suffer due to lower oil and gas prices. Retail trade will probably continue its downward trend from the holiday season.

Secretary of Labor Dudley J. Patin, Jr. said a total of 1,699,800 were employed in Louisiana during February and 258,900 unemployed.

Unemployment rates for the major labor market areas were as follows: Alexandria, 11.0 percent in February, up from 10.9; Baton Rouge, 12.1, up from 12.0; Houma-Thibodeaux, 14.3, up from 13.3; Lafayette, 10.5, up from 10.1; Lake Charles, 15.4, up from 14.7; Monroe, 11.6, up from 11.4; New Orleans, 11.1, up from 11.0; Shreveport, 13.1, up from 12.8.

A detailed analysis showed that estimated employment in the durable goods portion of manufacturing rose by 200 workers from January’s level. Less business was responsible for the payroll cutbacks in the machinery, except electrical, industry. An increase in business for ship and boatbuilding and repairing firms was responsible for the rise in employment in transportation equipment manufacturing.

Nondurable goods employment for February was estimated at 92,700, a decrease of 1,600 from the January estimate and 2,500 below the year ago figure. A decrease in production of preserved fruits and vegetables was a factor in the drop in employment for the food and kindred products industry. Layoffs in the apparel and other textile products industry resulted in the decrease of February payrolls for this segment of nondurable goods employment. Payrolls for paper and allied products and printing and publishing fell from last month. A labor dispute in the petroleum refining segment of petroleum and coal products also contributed to the decline in nondurable goods employment.