Parish unemployment rate climbs 1%

The preliminary unemployment rate for Evangeline Parish during November was 8.5 percent compared to 7.6 percent for the revised October figure, according to the Department of Labor Wednesday.

Parishwide, 1,125 workers were unemployed during November, compared to 1,000 jobless listed in October. While the number of employed rose 50 during the month, state labor officials indicate the parish's labor force also increased by 175 to 13,175.

Statewide, the November jobless rate was 7.2 percent, compared to 6.5 percent in October and 10.4 percent for November one year ago.

The average unemployment rate for the last three months (September, October, November) was 7.1 percent, compared to 10.3 for the same period last year.

Some of the increase in total unemployed is among those workers whose normal occupations are heavily influenced by seasonal factors such as weather conditions.

The national unemployment rate for November was 5.2 percent, compared to 5.0 for October and 5.2 for November one year ago.

Louisiana ranked fourth nationally for the month of October with an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent.

West Carroll Parish had the highest unemployment rate with 15 percent and Lincoln the lowest with 3.7 percent.

Unemployment rates for neighboring parishes were as follows: Acadia, 7.6; Allen, 9.1; Avoyelles, 9.6; Rapides, Jefferson Davis, 9.0; Rapides, 7.1; and St. Landry, 10.7.