According to Governor Buddy Roemer, the Louisiana unemployment rate for July dropped to 10.2 percent from a revised June rate of 10.7 percent.

Employment over the month was up to 18,700 jobs and there were 6,800 fewer unemployed. The national unemployment rate for July was 5.5 percent, unchanged from the June rate and 6.1 percent in July a year ago.

Louisiana apparently still led the nation in unemployment compared to West Virginia at 9.0 percent in July and Mississippi at 7.9 percent.

Manufacturing employment for the month was up 200 jobs and up 5,700 jobs since July a year ago. Oil and gas extraction was up 100 jobs from June, same as July 1987.

Secretary of Labor Phyllis C. Mouton said that 1,730,900 were employed and 197,300 unemployed in July.

Iberia Parish reported a rate of 12.4 percent unemployment for the month of June.

The highest unemployment rate in Louisiana was reported by West Carroll Parish with 19.8 percent and Lincoln Parish reported the lowest with 5.4 percent.

The state’s unemployment rate is expected to show little change in August. Some segments of manufacturing may increase in employment.