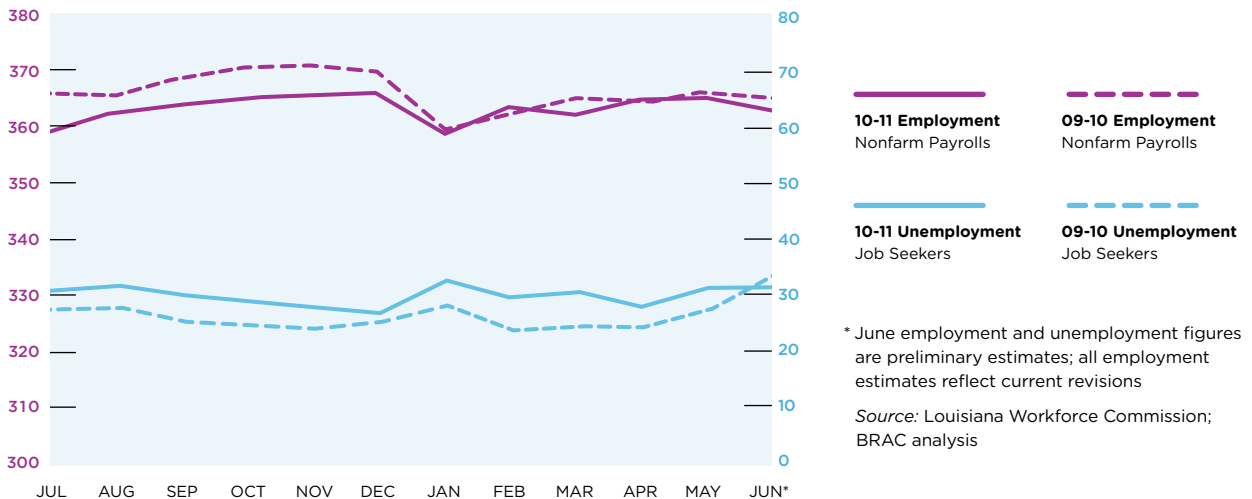


# Update & Outlook

## On the Baton Rouge Area Economy

While the nation and the Capital Region continue to work through the effects of the recession, there have been some positive trends for our area. The unemployment rate, 8.4 percent, remains lower than the national average of 9.2 percent. Initial unemployment claims and the number of weeks claimed is down from the second quarter of 2010. Sales tax collections across the region are up from last year, showing an increase in spending. Additionally, while total home sales are down, home prices saw a minor increase from last year.

**Baton Rouge Area Employment and Unemployment (Thousands)\***



# Economic Vital Signs

**+** Strong

**=** Stable or Mixed

**-** Decline

Indicator	Outlook	Latest Statistics		Trend
<b>Jobs</b>	<b>-</b>	Nonfarm payrolls, Jun 11 (p)*	363,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs down 1,900 over June 10</li> <li>Unemployment in June at 8.4%; below U.S. average of 9.2%</li> </ul>
		Unemployed, Jun 11 (p)*	31,725	
<b>Unemployment Insurance Claims</b>	<b>+</b>	Initial claims per week*	701	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial claims down 12% from Q2 10</li> <li>Weeks claimed down 20% from Q2 10</li> </ul>
		Weeks claimed per week*	7,918	
<b>Residential Building Permits</b>	<b>=</b>	Single-family, Q2 11	706	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total permits have increased by 31% compared to Q2 10</li> <li>Single-family permits have decreased 4% compared to Q2 10</li> </ul>
		Multi-family, Q2 11	369	
<b>Home Sales</b>	<b>-</b>	Average home price**	\$196,522	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sales prices have increased 1% from Q2 10</li> <li>Units sold have decreased 18% from Q2 10</li> </ul>
		Units sold, Q2 11	588	
<b>Regional Spending</b>	<b>+</b>	Sales & use taxes, May 11	\$55.9 MM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sales tax collections as a region have increased 4.5% over May 10</li> </ul>
		Total sales, May 11	\$1.13 B	
<b>Local HQ Stock Performance</b>	<b>-</b>	Price change over Q2 11:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stock prices have decreased somewhat, with the exception of Albemarle Corp. and Crown Crafts Inc.</li> </ul>
		ALB: 14.6%	SHAW: (14.7)%	
		AMED: (23.9)%	HEES: (28.4)%	
		LAMR: (25.9)%	CRWS: 0.2%	
<b>Energy Costs</b>	<b>=</b>	WTI crude oil spot**	\$102.34/barrel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crude oil spots up \$7.86/barrel from Q1; up \$24.36 from Q2 10 levels</li> <li>Gas price up \$0.38/MMBtu from Q1, price is up \$0.01 from Q2 10 levels</li> </ul>
		Henry Hub natural gas**	\$4.36/MMBtu	

Source(s): Louisiana Workforce Commission; U.S. Census Bureau (New Residential Construction); Greater Baton Rouge Association of REALTORS®; local sales tax offices; Yahoo! Finance; LSU Center for Energy Studies; BRAC analysis

\*Preliminary  
\*\*Q2 11 average

## Baton Rouge Area Regional Spending (\$ Millions)\*

