

# LOUISIANA FACT BOOK FOR THE 2007 ELECTION



HOW DO WE MEASURE UP?  
HOW FAR DO WE HAVE TO GO?

COUNCIL FOR A BETTER LOUISIANA



## **The Council for A Better Louisiana**

Founded in 1962, CABL works to improve the quality of life for Louisiana citizens by raising awareness of critical issues, promoting sound public policy, fostering civic leadership, and championing government accountability.



# Louisiana Fact Book for the 2007 Election

## How Do We Measure Up...How Far Do We Have to Go?

To say that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have had a huge impact on Louisiana is an understatement. The fact that they have changed our state for the foreseeable future - if not forever - is a given. And the need to address the challenges wrought by the storms - and the ones that persisted before - cannot be denied.

The question is are we up to the task? The future of Louisiana hinges on the answer to that question, and the state elections in 2007 will play a critical role in determining the kind of state Louisiana will be.

Without doubt, the recovery of south Louisiana from the 2005 hurricanes remains a priority. The job and population loss that has occurred in the most devastated regions is staggering, and Louisiana needs those areas to rebound economically. This must be a focus of the 2007 elections. But it must not be the only one.

The truth is Louisiana was in dire straits before the hurricanes. We ranked high in poverty and crime, low in economic performance, health and education outcomes. People were leaving the state in droves. One national group labeled us one of the least "livable" states in the nation. That was before the storms.

In recent years, Louisiana has made incremental progress in some areas. Our school accountability system remains the best in the country according to *Education Week* magazine, our education scores have shown improvement, and personal income is up compared to most other states over the last decade. That's good, but not good enough. If Louisiana has any hope of seeing a reversal in our negative economic, population and health care trends, we must do things that will accelerate our progress. We must also recognize that as we inch forward in one category or another other states aren't sitting by stagnantly waiting for us to catch up with them. They're moving, too. Our goal must be not just to improve, but move up the lists.

So, where are we now? To be perfectly honest, not very well positioned. Over the last year, the storms have distracted us from focusing on many of the state's fundamental issues. That was to be expected given the catastrophe. But as we continue to work on recovery in those areas hardest hit by the storms, we must regain our focus on identifying the things Louisiana must do to move off the bottom of all those lists. We must focus our attention on the things that will move the needle. Incremental progress will not get us there. We need to take big steps. Quantum leaps.

## Louisiana Fact Book

This is the third edition of CABL's *Louisiana Fact Book*. Our first edition came out in 2003 which, like this year, is an election year. It's based on the premise that people need good information - data - to make good decisions. Over the course of just 20 pages, it provides hundreds of easy-to-understand data points about our state and our communities. It's geared toward the candidates who seek to lead Louisiana, and the voters who will elect them.

Some of the data is very current and reflects Louisiana in the aftermath of the hurricanes. In other areas post-storm data is not available and the information shows where Louisiana stood before Katrina and Rita. But both types of data are important. While we must use the latest information to fully understand the impact the storms have had on Louisiana, we must not lose track of the data that points out our low standing prior to the catastrophe.

Four years ago we wrote in the introduction to our first fact book that Louisiana was approaching a fork in the road, and we needed to decide if we would choose a path toward progress or fall back into stagnancy. This year, the stakes have never been higher. People in Louisiana are tired. They're tired from many months of recovery. They're tired of the same old politics that fought every reform we were fortunate enough to pass after the storms. And they're tired of being at the bottom of all those lists and having the national spotlight focused on all of the state's embarrassing shortcomings.

This is a year when people will be looking for an action plan that will push Louisiana forward toward a future that matches the potential we've always had. But it all starts with information. You have to know where you are before you can chart the course to where you want to be. This *Louisiana Fact Book* shows us where we stand.

# Economic Progress: What Do We Do?

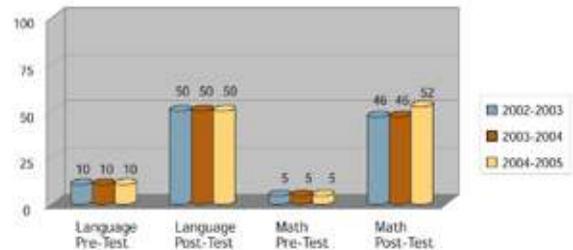
As the year progresses CABL will play a leadership role in helping suggest what Louisiana needs to do to move forward. In recent years we have focused on several key issues and strategies to accelerate our economic progress. During this important election year, CABL believes these issues and strategies should be a part of the public discourse. They are still important and no less pertinent.



## Early Childhood Education

One of the highest correlations to academic failure is poverty. Louisiana has the second highest rate of children in poverty in the nation - 25%. Yet, research clearly shows that these at-risk children, enrolled in appropriate pre-k programs, experience improved language skills, higher cognitive performance, higher reading and math scores, and fewer failures. If our real goal is to improve student performance in the later grades in school, we must enroll all of Louisiana's at-risk children in quality early childhood education programs like the state's LA 4 initiative. It's a systemic solution that works.

National Percentile Rank for LA 4 Students Statewide in Language and Math



National Percentile Rank is determined by the conversion of the mean number of correct responses.

## K-12 Public Education

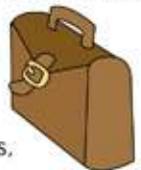


Louisiana's school accountability program has driven real, measurable improvement in student performance in the seven years since its implementation. Significantly more children are performing at the "basic" level on LEAP tests than they were in 1999. The yearly progress has been incremental, but over time it has been steady. But serious issues remain.

Far too many students continue to drop out of high schools and these schools need a total makeover. Louisiana must maintain its current reforms and build on them, but local districts must play a bigger role in changing what's going on inside their schools. Businesses are crying for a better quality workforce but our high schools are failing to deliver.

## WORKFORCE TRAINING

Louisiana has serious workforce problems. A CABL survey of Louisiana employers in late 2004 showed more than 70% were having a difficult time finding qualified workers and nearly half said the skill needs for entry-level jobs is rising. That was before the storms. As any employer will tell you, the situation is worse today. To address this growing crisis we must continue to expand education opportunities at our community colleges. But we must also do whatever it takes to make our technical colleges and training programs more responsive to the needs of business, de-politicize them and unite them under a true technical college "system."





We must continue to invest in higher education if Louisiana has any hope of being a player in today's knowledge-driven economy. But as we continue to invest, we must do so wisely. LSU is Louisiana's flagship university, but we don't fund it like other states fund their flagships and that makes our state less competitive. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has 11,000 fewer students than LSU, but has nearly \$70 million dollars more in operating revenues. That's the type of gap Louisiana must close with leading flagship institutions in other southeastern states.

Louisiana should also focus on quality rather than quantity throughout higher education. We should target support to our top "knowledge economy" programs, invest in them and raise their quality to levels that will allow them to compete with the best programs in the country. We should also consider funding based on performance. Universities that increase graduation rates, develop excellent programs, and form public-private partnerships that create new jobs are solid investments for Louisiana and position us for the future.

Funding of "Flagship" Public Universities

	State General Purpose 2004-05	Total Public Funds
LSU	\$165 Million	\$297 Million
University North Carolina at Chapel Hill	\$201 Million	\$358 Million
University of Georgia	\$301 Million	\$460 Million
University of Florida	\$357 Million	\$515 Million

### Economic Diversification through Research and Development.



Diversification is about having a strong and balanced foundation for our economy, but we are lagging behind when it comes to industries that will position us for the future. Louisiana ranks 48th in terms of technology jobs, 32nd in per capita university spending for research and development and near the very bottom in federal and privately funded research. We have institutions that can be national and international leaders in areas like biomedical research, applied technology, coastal restoration and marine technology and they have real economic development potential. For example, Louisiana's Pennington Biomedical Research Center ranks in the top 10% of institutions in the amount of grant money received from the National Institutes of Health. It currently employs nearly 600 people and is on track to grow to almost 1,000 high-quality jobs by 2010. It's estimated the research center could triple that employment in the next 10-12 years, but it needs state and local investment in labs and equipment to reach that potential. Louisiana should consider investment in this type of research as a strategic initiative and ensure that our institutions have the resources they need to produce strong economic benefits.

### REFORM LOUISIANA'S TAX STRUCTURE

Louisiana needs a tax structure that makes it competitive with other states. The good news is that it is getting better with the phase out of the sales tax on machinery and equipment and changes to the corporate franchise tax. The bad news is that Louisiana still has by far the highest Homestead Exemption in the country which essentially makes our property tax a business tax. Its top corporate income tax is also high. The problem is simple to understand. Businesses outside of Louisiana who might consider locating here see a tax structure that appears out of sync with other states. If we want to become more competitive in attracting businesses to Louisiana, we need to look at these fundamental issues with our tax structure.

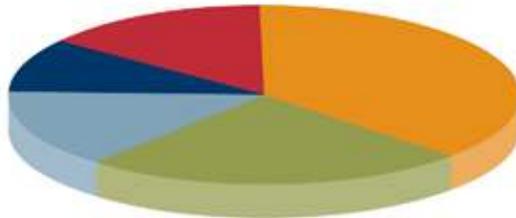


## INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT



International trade is a sign that a state is participating in the global economy. It means that businesses within the state are accessing larger markets with their products. That strengthens the companies themselves, increases employment and bolsters our economy. Unfortunately, Louisiana's involvement in international trade is a mixed bag. We rank high nationally in terms of the dollar value of exports leaving our state. That speaks positively about the role of our ports. What we don't have, though, is a high amount of direct foreign investment in our state and we rank low in terms of the number of companies that export to foreign nations. Louisiana must continue to diversify its economy and seek global markets for our industries.

### 2005 Exports from Louisiana to the World



Product	Percent of \$ Value
Crop Production	37.1% (\$7,126,160,704)
Chemical Manufactures	24.4% (\$4,690,996,960)
Petroleum & Coal Products	14.4% (\$2,763,519,956)
Processed Foods	9.5% (\$1,822,115,846)
All Others	14.7% (\$2,829,013,612)
Total Value	\$19.2 billion

## MARKET Louisiana

Before the storms, Louisiana had serious image problems, even though we have made progress in a number of key areas. Since the storms, the problems have only grown worse. Today, Louisiana must make systemic changes that repair our image and send the message that Louisiana is moving forward. We have begun this in New Orleans with reforms in schools, levee boards, and government reorganization. But we need to do more at the state level - not just to show the rest of the country we are surviving, but that we are intent upon making the fundamental changes that will reposition Louisiana for the future. That's step one. Step two is to deliver the message in a way that business leaders in other states will see and recognize. We need both steps, though. We cannot concoct a message of positive change if we don't have the positive change to show for it.



## STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE



Louisiana is on a collision course with a transportation infrastructure crisis that threatens one of the foundations of our economy. Louisiana has an \$11.7 billion backlog of highway needs that continues to grow. On top of that, it's happening as the value of the state's 16-cent per gallon gasoline tax continues to erode because of inflation and increased construction costs. State transportation officials estimate Louisiana basically needs to double the \$500 million a year we currently spend on transportation to address deteriorating roads and bridges, make road safety improvements and relieve highway congestion in areas experiencing growth in population and economic development. This is a situation our state must address with new approaches to transportation financing.

On the plus side, Louisiana has made significant long-term investments in our technology infrastructure, through funding of the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative, or LONI. When completed, this will give our universities access to a huge super computing capability which creates the potential to attract additional research dollars and new types of jobs. This is the type of forward-looking investment Louisiana needs.

## ETHICAL AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT



This must be a never ending task for our state and the good news is we have made progress. State leaders have worked aggressively to place a host of accountability measures into the programs that are spending billions of federal recovery dollars in south Louisiana. While this may have burdened some individuals and businesses, it was necessary and the right thing to do. But the state must also place a greater emphasis on funding for performance - targeting state spending in focused ways that are the most strategic for growing our economy and positioning it for the future. We should also continue to raise ethical standards for elected officials. Eliminating the free tickets lawmakers still get from lobbyists and adding a degree of legislative financial disclosure are two examples of reforms the Legislature continues to debate, but refuses to pass. Those are two simple issues candidates for the Legislature might want to make part of their campaigns.

### Moving Forward

For Louisiana, the 2007 state elections will be unlike any in memory. Term limits will create a Legislature that will be filled with many new faces. There will be an unprecedented number of contested seats. And that means real campaigns.

At the same time, those who win will face huge challenges - not only the continued recovery of south Louisiana but the need to make dramatic changes to move our state forward. Candidates will no doubt talk in platitudes, but voters will be expecting substance. So what is it those candidates should be talking about? CABL believes a good place to start is the chart on page 20.

That chart is simply a list of where Louisiana stands in a number of rankings and scores from various national groups. In most, Louisiana is at or near the very bottom. This election should be about this chart. It should be about doing the things that need to be done to move Louisiana off the bottom of these lists in as many areas as possible. If candidates are not talking about how they intend to accelerate Louisiana's economic progress, they're not talking about the right things.

For its part, CABL will be actively involved in the 2007 elections - focusing on critical issues and making specific recommendations of things Louisiana can do to move forward. No one pretends the solutions are simple or the politics are easy. They're not. But if Louisiana wants to be a more livable state, a healthier state, a more protected state than we are right now, people need to take control of the elections and take part. In 2007 the politicians need to listen to what people are saying, feel their frustration and give them a reason for hope.

Louisiana is no longer at the crossroads, we're approaching the cliff. It's not too late to get Louisiana moving. But one has to wonder if one of the greatest national disasters in our country's history isn't enough to create the sense of urgency to remake Louisiana, what is?

# Louisiana Snapshot

Who We Are, Where We Live, Where We're Going

## Population

Population, 2005 est.	4,523,628
Population change, 2000-2005	1.2%
Population, May 2006, est.	4,185,549*

### National Rank

24th  
45th

\*Department of Health & Hospitals

## Where We Live

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Population (2005 est.)	Population Change (2000 - 2005)
New Orleans	 1,319,367	0.2%
Baton Rouge	 733,802	3.9%
Shreveport - Bossier City	 383,233	1.9%
Lafayette	 247,824	3.7%
Houma	 199,670	2.7%
Lake Charles	 194,977	0.7%
Monroe	 171,138	0.6%
Alexandria	 147,965	2.0%

## Post Katrina: Population Impacts

Orleans Parish	 454,863	
	 187,525	
Jefferson Parish	 452,824	
	 435,786	
Plaquemines Parish	 28,995	
	 20,024	
St. Bernard Parish	 65,364	
	 25,016	

■ Prior to Katrina     ■ Post Katrina

*This information is the result of a comprehensive, door-to-door, household survey conducted by the Louisiana Public Health Institute on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Recovery Authority. Work began in June 2006 with technical assistance provided by the COC and the U.S. Census Bureau. For more information, visit [www.popest.org](http://www.popest.org).*

## By the Numbers

White		2005 est. 64.1%
Black		33.1%
Hispanic or Latino Origin		2.8%
Female		51.6%
Male		48.6%
Median Age		35.2 years
High School Graduate		80.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher		20.6%

## We're Leaving, but Who's Coming?

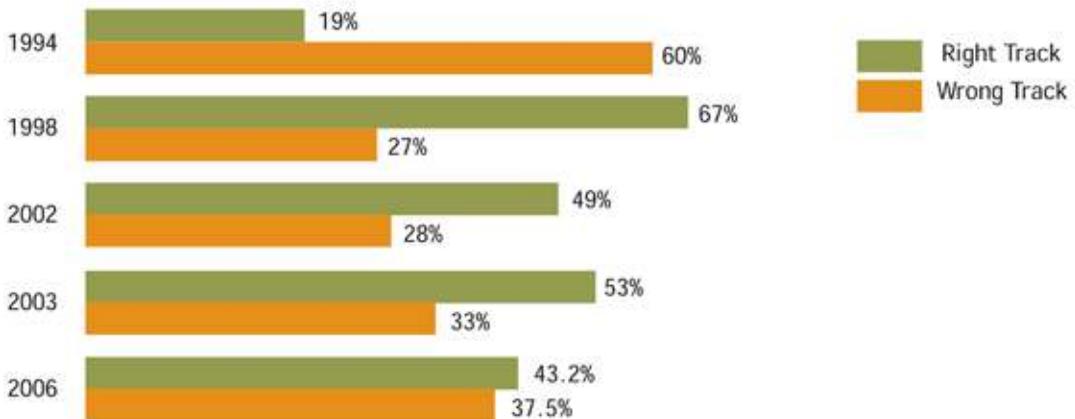
Population born in LA, 2004 est.	81.8%
Net Out Migration 1990 - 2000	139,704
Net Out Migration 2000 - 2005	89,547

✿ During the first half of this decade, Louisiana was one of only two southern states where more people moved out than in. Mississippi lost 10,578.

## At the Ballot Box

Percentage of eligible population registered to vote		85%
Female		55%
Male		45%
Democrat		54%
Republican		25%
Other		22%
Voted in '03 Governor's Election		51%
Voted in '04 Presidential Election		66%

## Louisiana's Moving, but Which Direction?



Sources: CABL Voter Surveys (1994 - 2003) LSU Public Research Lab (2006)



## How Much Do We Spend?

Louisiana's total State General Fund budget for FY '07 is \$7.3 billion.

# Our Economy

Where Do We Really Stand?

## What We Earn, 2005

	<u>LA</u>	<u>National Rank</u>	<u>Southern Rank</u>
Per Capita Income, 2005	\$24,820	50th	13th
Average Annual Pay, 2004	\$31,880	38th	8th

## Earnings of Louisiana's Households, 2003

<\$25,000		36.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only six states have a higher percentage than Louisiana of the "working poor" - those who earn less than one-and-a-half times the poverty level.</li> </ul>
\$25,000 - \$49,999		26.5%	
\$50,000 - \$74,999		16.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development, only one state has a wider gap than Louisiana between those at the lowest end of the income ladder and those at the top.</li> </ul>
\$75,000 - \$99,999		9.5%	
\$100,000 +		11.2%	

## Income Distribution Within Louisiana

MSA	Per Capita Income, 2005
Lafayette	\$31,180
Shreveport - Bossier City	\$30,527
Alexandria	\$29,813
Baton Rouge	\$29,702
Monroe	\$27,723
Houma	\$26,900
Lake Charles	\$24,078
New Orleans	\$20,722

## Poverty

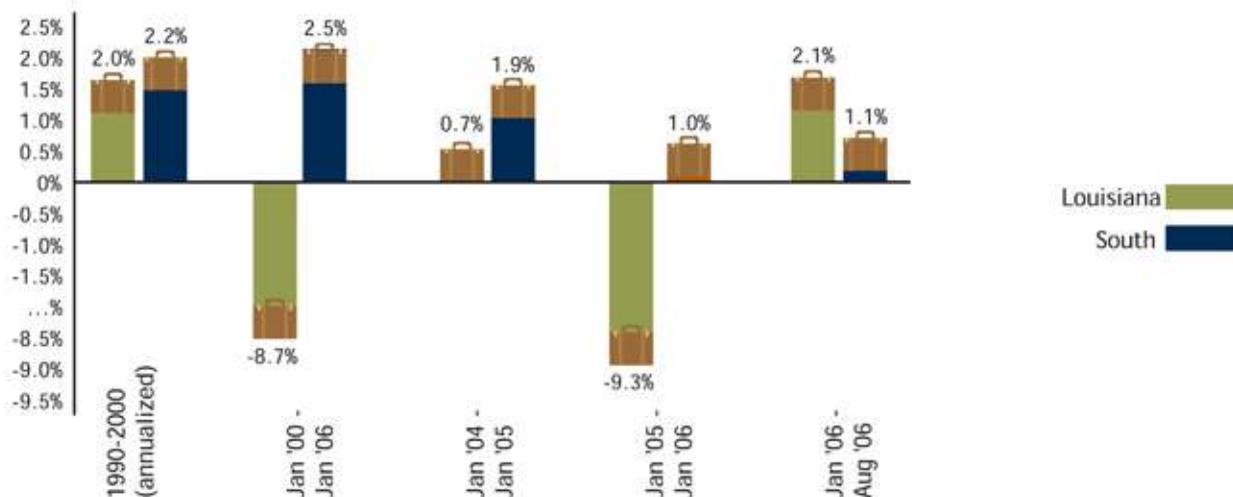
What is poverty? Income of less than \$19,484 a year for a family of four.

	<u>LA, 2005</u>	<u>U.S., 2005</u>
Poverty Rate	18.3%	12.6%
Children in Poverty	24.7%	17.6%

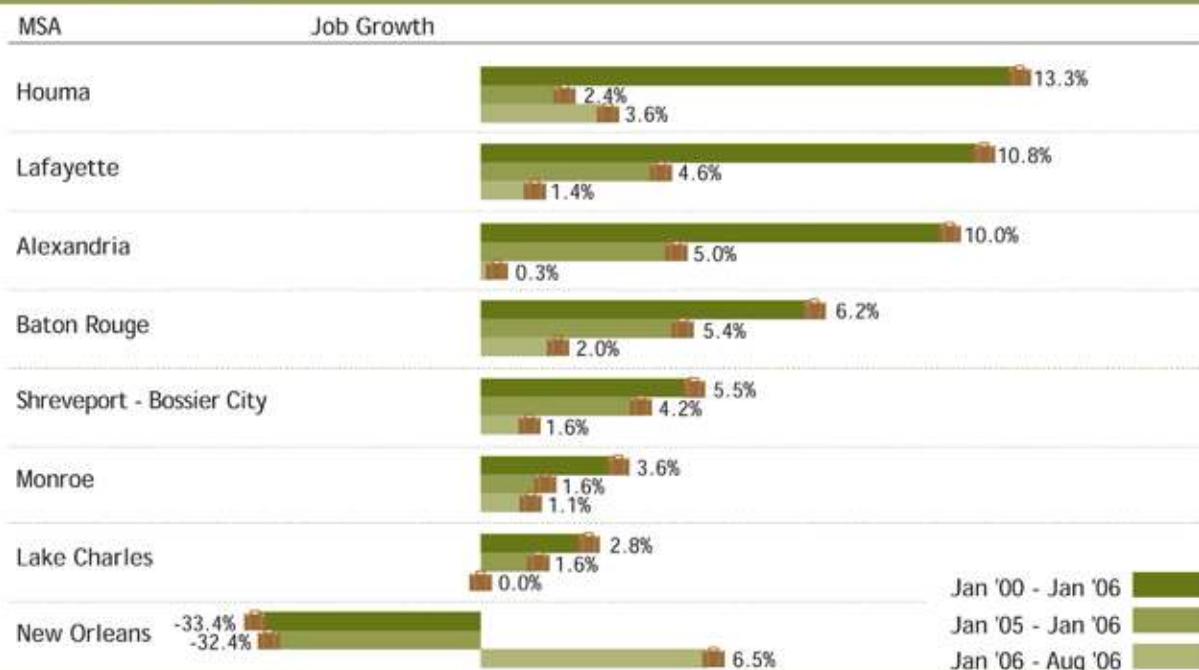
✿ Louisiana ranked second highest in the nation and in the south in both our overall poverty rate and our rate of children in poverty.

✿ Louisiana's homeownership rate of 72.5% is the fifth highest in the south.

## Job Growth: What Are the State's Trends?



## Job Growth Inside Louisiana



## Business Vitality: How Competitive is Louisiana?

Number of:	National Rank
Businesses	25th
People Self-Employed	22nd
New Firms Created	27th
Firms Closed	28th

Rate of:	National Rank
Federal Investment in R & D	42nd
Private Investment in R & D	49th
Patents Issued	45th
University Developed Royalties and Licenses	14th
Technology Jobs	48th

✿ In 2005, Louisiana had a total of 32,134 personal and business bankruptcies.

✿ Louisiana ranks 47th in the nation in percentage of people who get their health insurance through an employer. Besides being a health indicator, this also speaks to the quality of jobs in our state and the vitality of the economy.

## How Busy Are Our Ports?

	National Rank
Total "port calls" to New Orleans	5th
"Dry bulk" port calls to New Orleans	1st
Total tonnage handled at Louisiana ports	2nd

In terms of tonnage handled in 2004, Louisiana has five of the top thirteen ports in the U.S.



✿ The Port of New Orleans is regaining most of the cargo business lost in the wake of Katrina. Overall cargo handled at the port for the first five months of 2006 totaled 12.4 million tons, off 6.5 percent from 13.3 million tons for the first five months of 2005.

## Running the Roads

Percent of state roads in poor condition	24%
Percent of deficient bridges	32%
Projected highway unmet construction needs in 2005	\$11.7 billion
Projected highway unmet construction needs in 2010	\$15.5 billion

✿ It is estimated that it costs Louisiana drivers \$425 extra per year for driving on roads that are deficient and in need of repair and improvement. That is almost twice the national average.



## Did You Know?

 Trucks annually carry 384 millions tons of products valued at \$525 billion into, out of, or through Louisiana.

 The Latin American Trade and Transportation Study conducted by the Southeastern Transportation Alliance projects world cargo through Louisiana ports will nearly double between 2000 and 2020.

## Louisiana on the Information Superhighway?

	2003 Louisiana	National Rank
Households with Computers	52.5%	48th
Households with Internet Access	44.1%	48th



# Pre-K - 12 Education

## Will Our Kids Be Ready For the Future?

### Who Attends Our Public Schools?

	May 2006	
Number of students in public schools	657,586	 At 17.3%, Louisiana has one of the highest rates in the country of school children in non-public schools.
Percent of public school children who are minority	51.4%	
Percent of public school children who are white	48.7%	
Percent of public school children on free/reduced lunch	62.2%	

### Are Our Students Making the Grade?

#### Percent of Students At or Above "Basic" Level on LEAP Test, 2005-2006

4th Grade English Language Arts		64%
4th Grade Math		62%
8th Grade Language Arts		55%
8th Grade Math		53%

#### Percent of Students Passing Grade 10 Graduate Exit Exam, 2005-2006

English Language Arts		87%
Math		82%

ACT Composite Score, 2006  
(U.S. Average 21.1, out of 36) 20.1

 During the 2004-2005 school year 19,100 students in grades 7-12 dropped out of Louisiana public schools. In the last 4 years of record, over 70,600 kids dropped out of schools. That number does not include those working on GEDs or transfers.

### Our Teachers

Average teacher salary '06 - '07	\$42,100	 The Southern average for teacher pay is \$44,219.
Percentage of uncertified teachers	7.5%	
Percentage of new teachers in public schools leaving their position within three years ('03 - '04)	43%	

## School Performance Scores (SPS), 2004 - 05 School Year

(SPS academic ranges from 0 to 200)

Ratings	Number of Schools	Percent of Schools
5-Star ★★★★★ (140 and above)	10	<1
4-Star ★★★★ (120 - 139.9) <i>120 = State Goal in 2014</i>	52	4
3-Star ★★★ (100 - 119.9) <i>100 = State Goal in '09-'10</i>	315	23
2-Star ★★ (80 - 99.9)	456	33
1-Star ★ (60 - 79.9)	352	26
Academically Unacceptable (<60)	170	13

### Are Our Schools Improving?

- ✿ The total number of schools at or above the 2009-10 goal of 100 (meaning, a school on average has students performing at *Basic*) has risen from 153 in the baseline year of 98-99 to 377 schools. Another 456 schools are moving toward the goal, scoring in the 80-99.9 range. But, 522 schools are below 80 and still have a long way to go. Of those, 170 are at very low performing or failing levels.
- ✿ For the state as a whole, the average SPS was at 87.3 in 2004-05. As the chart above shows, there is a significant majority of schools (72%) that fall below 100 at this time - and we are over the half-way point to Louisiana's 2009-10 goal of 100.
- ✿ In 2004-05, 53% of our schools met their annual growth target and an additional 20% had minimal improvement, though didn't reach their annual target. That means 73% of schools had some improvement - a good sign. Schools that showed no growth totaled 18% and an additional 9% showed a decline in academic performance.

### Our Most Troubled Schools

- ✿ Of the 170 schools that are at failing levels, 54 were in Orleans Parish (pre-Katrina). The remaining number of these schools are scattered among several parishes - especially in urban and rural neighborhoods where poverty is prevalent. East Baton Rouge has 21, Caddo has 18, and Jefferson Parish has 12.
- ✿ All of our failing schools are high-poverty schools, but not all high-poverty schools are failing. Poverty contributes negative factors in schools, but high-quality teaching over time can overcome many of these factors and these children do learn. It is also critical that these children get quality pre-K at early stages in life, as research shows that at-risk kids make significant cognitive and academic gains with quality early education.

# Post-Secondary Education

## Are We Building a Knowledge-based Workforce?

### From Start to Finish

Number of first-time freshmen, Fall 2005	14,940
First-time college freshmen who graduated from public high schools enrolled in remedial courses, Fall 2005	28%
Six-year graduation rate for Louisiana public colleges and universities, 2005	42%
Southeast region graduation rate, 2004	52%

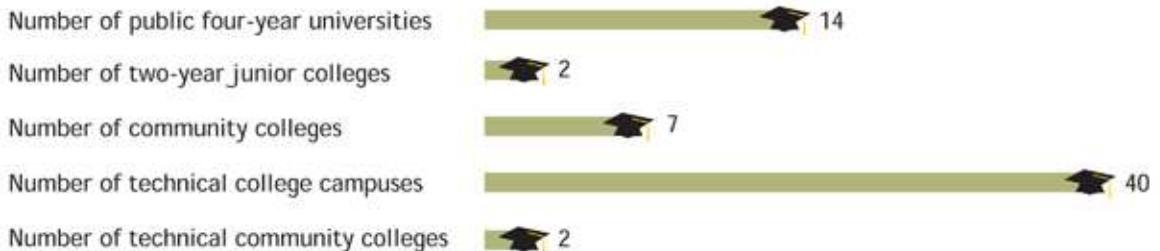
✿ Graduation rates at our universities vary considerably. The highest rates are at LSU Baton Rouge with 64% and Louisiana Tech with 54%. One regional university has a rate of 43%, five regional universities have rates in the 30 - 37% range, and five colleges range between 9 - 29%.

### Four-Year vs. Two-Year: Where Do We Go?

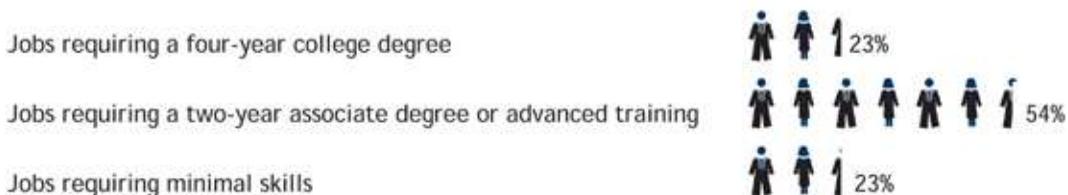
Percent of 2004 Post-Secondary Students in	Louisiana	South
4-year colleges/universities	75%	55%
2-year community colleges/technical	25%	45%

✿ In 2005, an estimated 4.6% of the Louisiana population had a two-year associate degree, compared with 7.4% in the United States.

### Louisiana's Public Institutions of Higher Education



### Diplomas = Jobs: 2012 U.S. Workforce Projection



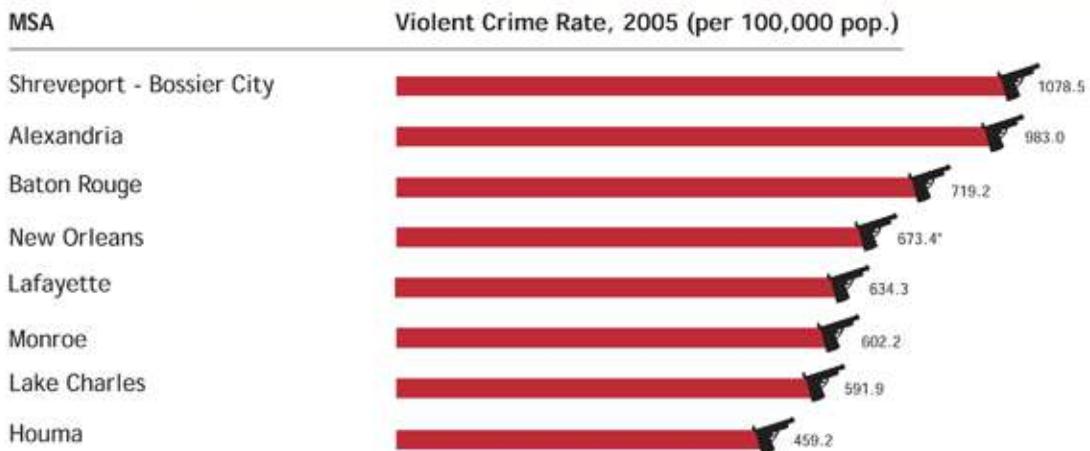
# Public Safety

## The Costs of High Poverty and Low Education

### Crime: The Hard Numbers

	2005 National Rank
Murder rate per 100,000 habitants	1st
Violent crime rate per 100,000 habitants	8th
State prisoner incarceration rate	1st

### Where Is the Crime?



\*2004 data; no update available

### State Prisoners: By the Numbers

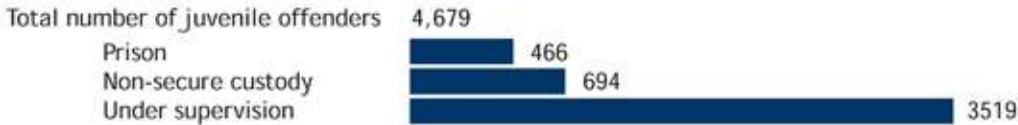
Adult state prison population, 2006	36,523
Percent of state prisoners with sentences over 10 years	41.3%
Percent of state prisoners serving life sentences	11.5%
Percent of state prisoners 50 years and older	11.5%
Number of state prisoners on death row	86

✿ Louisiana spends \$47.13 per day for a total of \$17,421.45 per year for each prisoner in a state institution.

### What Are They in For?



## Crime and Our Kids



- For each youthful offender in a state juvenile institution, the state of Louisiana spends \$378.89 per day for a total of \$136,244.85 per year. When including costs for medical/mental health, the state spends \$474.15 per day on incarcerated juvenile offenders for a total of \$173,064.75 per year.

## Health

### Costly Programs, Disappointing Outcomes

#### Births: By the Numbers

	Louisiana	2004 National Rank
Birth Rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	14.5	15th
Percent of births to unmarried mothers	49.2%	1st
Birth rates for teenage mothers (per 1,000 teenage women)	57.5	6th
Percent of low birthweight births	10.9%	2nd
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	10.0	1st

#### Insurance: Are We Covered?

	LA	2005 National Rank	2005 Southern Rank
Percent of population without health insurance	18.8%	45th	11th
Percent of children without health insurance	9.4%	25th	6th

- Since 1999, 350,000 children have received health coverage under the LaCHIP program, which helps provide health insurance coverage for children in low-income families.

#### Plenty of Beds

Louisiana has the 12th highest rate of hospitals per capita in the country, yet the state's occupancy rate in 2004 was only the 36th highest.

Louisiana has the highest ratio of nursing home beds to elderly patients, but ranks 41st in the country in terms of occupancy.

## Health Report

	National Rank*	
	Rate of Cases	Age-Adjusted Death Rate
Diabetes	5th	1st
HIV / AIDS	6th	3rd
Cancer	22nd	2nd

✿ Louisiana had an overall, age-adjusted death rate in 2003 of 1,004.6 per 100,000 residents. This is the second highest in the nation, meaning our citizens die much more prematurely than those in other states.

\* Data on cases is 2005; Data on deaths is 2003.

## The State of Medicaid

Percent of LA population receiving Medicaid, 2004	15.6%
Percent of U.S. population receiving Medicaid, 2004	13.9%
Percent of births in Louisiana financed by Medicaid, 2002	56.4%
Medicaid enrollees, '02-'03	951,686
Total Medicaid budget, State Fiscal Year '07	\$5.5 billion
Total Medicaid budget from State General Funds, State Fiscal Year '05	\$925 million

## Number of Publicly Funded Health Facilities



## Where We Rank

Two groups that have developed health care rankings for the states place Louisiana near the bottom. Morgan-Quinto Press ranks Louisiana as the 48th "least healthy" state. United Health Foundation ranks us 49th.

# Environment

## Louisiana, Worth Protecting

### Louisiana's Wetlands Are America's Wetlands

Thirty percent of all U.S. coastal marsh is in Louisiana.



Ninety percent of the coastal wetland loss in the lower 48 states occurs in Louisiana.



Louisiana's 3.4 million acres of coastal wetlands are the seventh largest delta region on earth.

Louisiana loses a football field of marshland every 38 minutes. Since 1930, the amount of wetlands lost in Louisiana is greater than the size of Rhode Island.

As a result of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita, Louisiana lost 217 square miles of wetlands in two days.

### Wetlands and Wildlife

Ninety-five percent of marine species in the Gulf of Mexico spend all or part of their lifecycle in Louisiana wetlands.

Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide habitat for over 5 million migratory waterfowl.



This estuary is home to more than 70 rare, threatened, and endangered species and America's largest wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl and songbird.



### Wetlands and Economics

Over 30 percent of the nation's commercial fisheries catch comes from Louisiana coastal areas and is valued at \$343 million. Recreational fishing industry in Louisiana's coastal areas is valued at \$703 million.



Over 25% percent of oil and gas consumed in the U.S. travels through Louisiana wetlands.

Louisiana's Congressional delegation is currently working on two plans to secure portions of our continental shelf royalties to help pay for restoration. The Coast 2050 plan for restoring coastal Louisiana is estimated to cost \$14 billion.



The estimated cost of inaction - more than \$100 billion in infrastructure alone.

### Environmental Quality

Toxic Releases in Millions of Pounds - LA



2004 National Rankings - LA



# The Qualities of Our Life

## Louisiana Lagniappe

Clearly, Louisiana faces many challenges and has many serious issues to address. But the statistical data doesn't reveal the many other attributes about Louisiana, our people and culture that are also important. These qualities are often hard to quantify, but some do have measurable impacts, and they help complete the picture of life in Louisiana.

### We Are Generous.

According to the Catalogue for Philanthropy, Louisiana citizens are seventh in the nation in the percentage of their earnings given to charity.



### We Support Nonprofit Organizations.

Louisiana has 11,000 nonprofits employing 130,000 people in every area of the state. More than two-thirds of Louisiana citizens contribute to nonprofits and more than one-third volunteer.

### We Like the Arts.

Louisiana citizens and businesses contribute nearly \$90 million annually to the arts.



### We Have a Literary Tradition.

Twelve writers with ties to Louisiana have won the Pulitzer Prize for literature.

### We Have a Musical Tradition.

A total of 35 artists with ties to Louisiana have won Grammy awards in the categories of jazz, blues, folk, country and gospel.



### We Have a Historical Tradition.

Louisiana has ranked in the top five states nationally for money spent on restoration of historic properties over the past 10 years.

## We Have a Culinary Tradition.

We spend nearly \$5 billion a year at restaurants.



## We Have an Entertainment Tradition

With the passage in 2002 of the Louisiana Motion Picture Incentive Program, film has become a significant component of the state's entertainment industry. Since its passage, over \$900 million in new production has come into the state and the number continues to grow.

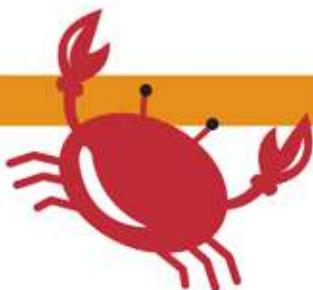
## We Corner the Market on Crawfish.

More than 90% of the crawfish harvested in the U.S. comes from Louisiana.



## And Shrimp.

More than 100 million pounds of shrimp are caught each year in Louisiana's fisheries.



## And Crabs.

More than 40 million pounds come from Louisiana.

## We Pass a Good Time.

Louisiana hosts more than 600 festivals every year.

## And Others Come to Join Us.

About 17 million people a year come to visit Louisiana.



**Source** **Ranking / Grade**

**Health**

2006 State Health Care Rankings	<i>Morgan Quinto Press</i>	48th
2005 <i>America's Health Rankings</i>	<i>United Health Foundation</i>	49th

**Economic**

2006 Best States for Business Rankings	<i>Forbes Magazine</i>	50th
Location for making a movie (outside of California)	<i>P3 Production Update Magazine</i>	1st
2007 State Business Tax Climate Index	<i>The Tax Foundation</i>	30th
Overall national poverty rate and rate of children in poverty	<i>Census Bureau</i>	2nd

2006 Development Report for the States (*Louisiana*) *Corporation for Enterprise Development*

Performance:	F
Business Vitality:	C
Development Capacity:	F

**Education**

Louisiana 2006 Report Card on Higher Education *The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education*

Preparation:	F
Participation:	C-
Affordability:	F
Completion:	C-
Benefits:	D+
Learning:	F

Louisiana's 2005 NAEP Scores (% At or Above Basic) *National Center for Education Statistics*

4th Grade Math:	72
4th Grade Reading:	53
8th Grade Math:	59
8th Grade Reading:	64

School accountability program	<i>Education Week</i>	1st
Number of teachers receiving a benchmark national certification	<i>National Board for Professional Teaching Standards</i>	9th
Louisiana's Pre-K education program (LA4)	<i>Georgetown University</i>	Top-tier state
Louisiana schools on the 2007 list of top 124 schools	<i>U.S. News and World Report</i>	0
LSU E. J. Ourso College of Business	<i>U.S. News and World Report</i>	60th

**Crime**

2006 Crime State Rankings	<i>Morgan Quinto Press</i>	2nd
Murder rate in nation	<i>FBI</i>	1st

**Ethics**

Legislator Personal Financial Disclosure practices	<i>The Center for Public Integrity</i>	F / 44th
Lobbyist Spending Disclosure	<i>The Center for Public Integrity</i>	F / 33rd

**Miscellaneous**

2006 Most Livable State Awards	<i>Morgan Quinto Press</i>	50th
Most Improved State Awards	<i>Morgan Quinto Press</i>	9th

## Resources

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The following is a list of sources CABL utilized in developing this report. A more detailed account of these sources may be found in the *People's Agenda* section of CABL's web site at [www.cabl.org](http://www.cabl.org).

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ACT, Inc.  
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts  
American Cancer Society  
Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge  
Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce  
Catalogue for Philanthropy  
Center for Business & Economic Research, University of Louisiana at Monroe  
Centers for Disease Control  
Corporation for Enterprise Development  
- State Asset Development Report Card  
- Development Report Card for the States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Kaiser Family Foundation  
LA Cultural Development Office Division of Historic Preservation  
LA Department of Education  
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations  
Louisiana Board of Regents  
Louisiana Department of Agriculture  
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Louisiana Secretary of State  
Louisiana State Senate Fiscal Services  
Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Louisiana Youth Services Office of Youth Development  
LSU Public Policy Research Lab  
LSU School of Social Work Office of Social Service Research and Development  
Morgan Quinto Press  
National Restaurant Association  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Pulitzer Prizes  
Recording Academy  
Southeastern Transportation Alliance  
Southern Regional Education Board  
Travel Industry Association of America  
The Road Information Program (TRIP)  
United Health Foundation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Census Bureau  
U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis  
U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration  
U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics  
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration  
U.S. Small Business Administration



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