



How Six Massive Projects Will Impact Louisiana Positively During Construction

Leaders for a Better Louisiana

September 2025

Multiple megaprojects will create a positive economic impact on Louisiana, especially during their construction

The state of Louisiana has landed six economic development megaprojects that will be under construction over the coming years. This report looks at the size and timeline of those construction projects.

The six announced projects analyzed here are:

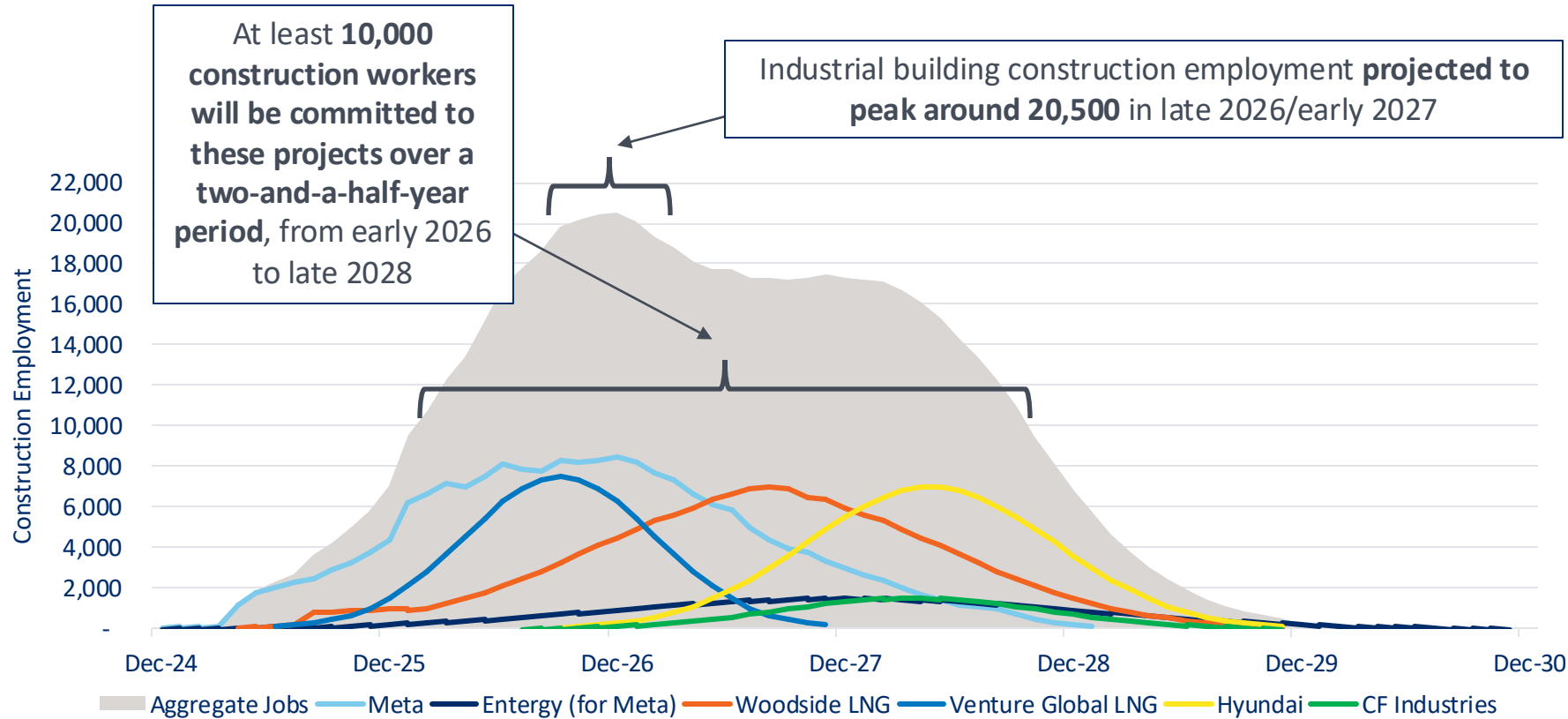
- Meta's AI data center in Richland Parish near Monroe
- Entergy's power center supporting Meta's data center
- Woodside LNG in Calcasieu Parish near Lake Charles
- Venture Global CP2 LNG in Cameron near Lake Charles
- CF Industries in Ascension Parish in the Capital Region
- Hyundai Steel in Ascension Parish in the Capital Region



Combined workforce of the megaprojects could reach 20.5K in late 2026/early 2027

Analysis

Total Megaprojects Construction Employment and Duration



- Louisiana's industrial construction workforce numbers around 86,000
- These 6 projects alone could occupy 24%, nearly one quarter, of the state's current industrial construction workforce in late 2026/early 2027
- The colors on each line represent each specific project's construction period

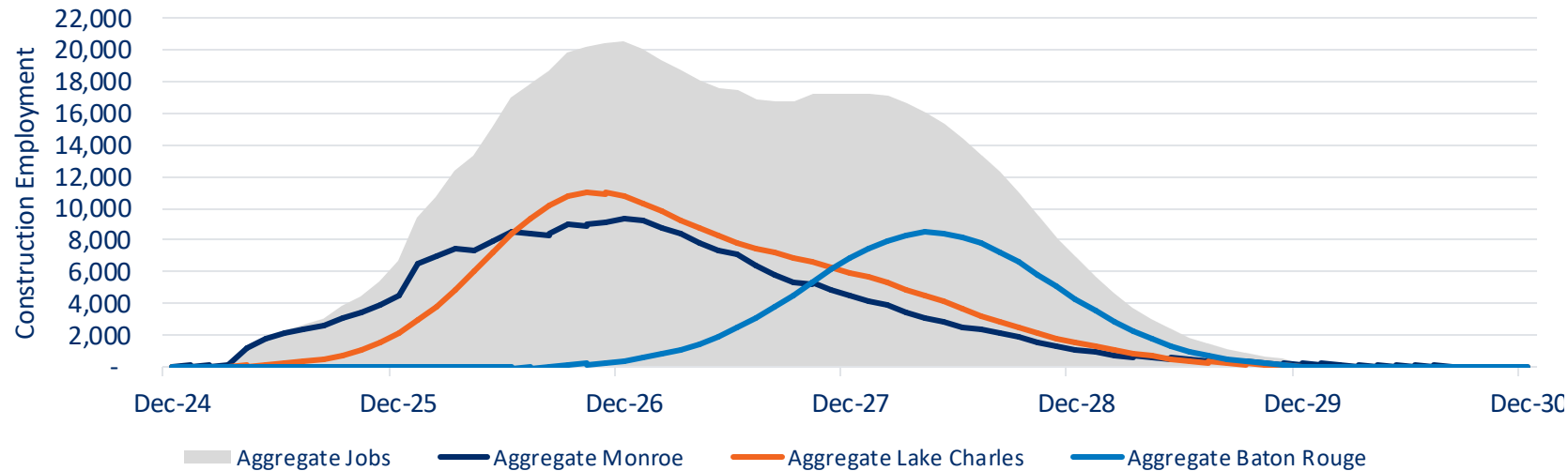
Source: Louisiana Economic Development; Entergy; Shreveport Times; Venture Global; Reuters; GrowNELA; Lightcast; Better Louisiana Analysis

An S-curve model was used to forecast construction labor demand per project over time, given each project's stated peak construction employment and project build-out duration; each project's construction labor demand is represented by a normal distribution; GrowNELA provided construction job counts for Meta Industrial construction workforce includes 10 NAICS codes: 23621, 23711, 23712, 23713, 23811, 23812, 23821, 23822, 23891, 23899



Demand for construction labor will differ across time in different regions

Location Differences in Demand for Construction Employment



Project	Closest Metropolitan Region	Construction Jobs (at peak)	Construction Duration (months)*	Start Date**
Meta AI data center	Monroe	8,500	50	December 2024
Entergy (for Meta)	Monroe	1,500	72	December 2024
Woodside LNG	Lake Charles	6,500	56	April 2025
Venture Global LNG	Lake Charles	7,500	30	June 2025
CF Industries	Baton Rouge	1,500	41	July 2026
Hyundai	Baton Rouge	7,000	39	September 2026

Source: Better Louisiana Analysis

*Construction duration often not provided; reasonable estimates were made based on stated goals in public announcements

**Start dates are also estimated based on stated goals in public announcements, Better LA analysis

Analysis

- Monroe region may grow by at least 3,000 workers over 2.5-year window, peaking at nearly 10,000 in late 2026/early 2027
- Lake Charles demand will peak at higher levels than Monroe, estimated in late-2026
- Baton Rouge's projects start later, growing to at least 3,000 construction workers for an 18-month period beginning in mid/late-2027

Demand for construction labor will differ across time in different regions

Analysis

- Workforce in Lake Charles and Monroe metro areas may double and triple, respectively from the size of their current industrial construction labor force at peak construction
- Baton Rouge's larger industrial labor pool is large already and will grow further from the labor impacts from its two megaprojects

Metro Region	Peak Construction Jobs (and month)	Current MSA Industrial Construction Jobs	Percentage of current industrial construction workforce committed per metro at labor demand peak
Lake Charles	11,012 (Oct 2026)	5,262	209%
Monroe	9,387 (Dec 2026)	2,545	369%
Baton Rouge	8,474 (Apr 2028)	32,667	26%

Staffing patterns by region in the industrial building construction industry *

Metro Region	Constr. Laborers	Electricians	Plumbers/ Pipefitters/ Steamfitters	Constr. Supervisors	Operating Engineers and Other Equipment Operators	Carpenters	HVAC Mechanics and Installers
Lake Charles	947	506	478	376	137	334	157
Monroe	352	338	165	167	92	56	162
Baton Rouge	4,787	2,676	2,424	2,383	1,343	1,016	719

Source: Lightcast; Better Louisiana Analysis

* Not comprehensive for all industrial construction occupations referenced above

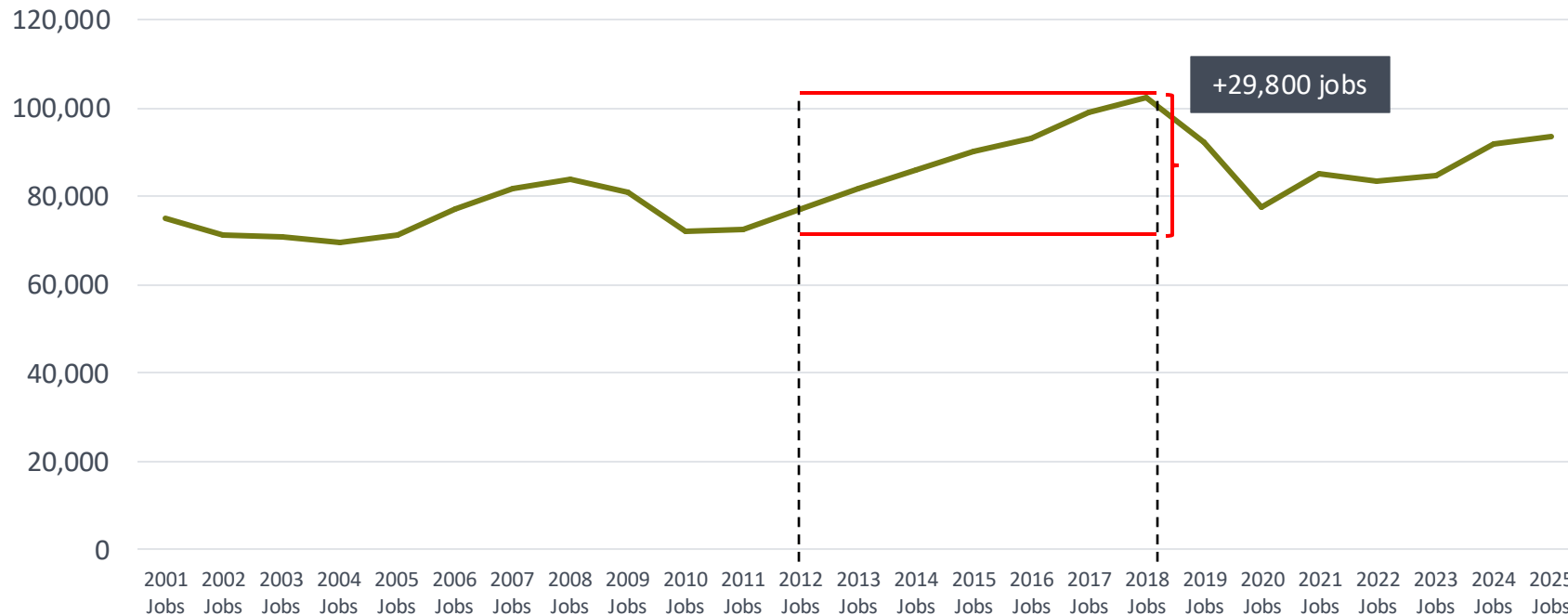


During its last Industrial Construction boom, Louisiana's workforce scaled up by almost 30K workers, and state population grew by 62K

Analysis

- The last major industrial construction cycle in Louisiana started in 2012, growing by almost 30K
- Anecdotal reports describe a highly mobile workforce to fill industrial construction positions across the US and US Gulf Coast
- Louisiana's total population grew by an estimated 62,300 people during that same period from 2012-18

Industrial Construction Employment, Louisiana



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Better Louisiana Analysis

*Includes jobs in NAICS sectors of 23621, 23711, 23712, 23713, 23811, 23812, 23821, 23822, 23829, 23891, and 23899



Multiple megaprojects will create a significant economic impact on Louisiana, especially during their construction

- These six construction projects will start at varying times and may last through 2030
- Just these six projects could account for roughly 24% of the state's industrial construction workforce at their peak in late 2026 or early 2027
- It's less common that megaprojects are occurring simultaneously in north Louisiana and south Louisiana
- The two projects in Monroe will equate to 369% of its existing industrial construction workforce. The two projects in Lake Charles will equate to 209% of its existing industrial construction workforce
- The overlapping construction periods may impact the transfer of industrial construction workforce coming from some areas inside the state, adding additional necessity for statewide planning and coordination



Louisiana has experience ramping its industrial construction workforce during prior growth cycles

- Recent history suggests that workers in this sector will migrate into Louisiana for opportunities. From 2012 to 2018, state population grew by 62,000 people when jobs in industrial construction grew by 30,000 workers, as shown on slide 6.
- Louisiana demonstrates excellence and readiness for growing its construction workforce:
 - LSU's Bachelor's in Construction Management has 2.5 times the number of annual graduates compared to 2014: Up to 260 grads ('24-25) compared to 103 grads ('14)
 - Louisiana and the LA Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) responded exceptionally well in 2013 to the last major growth cycle. The industry-led [Craft Workforce Development Task Force](#) led the effort
 - LCTCS earned the "Heisman" of construction education in 2014 (see image)
 - Southwest Louisiana formed the GO Group to lead local efforts to support industrial construction expansion in 2013



Louisiana Agencies and Regions Already Responding

Louisiana industry, education and economic development leaders are already working on solutions, demonstrating cohesion and focus on the opportunities for new jobs.

- **Skilled Trades Marketing Campaign** – New initiative launching with LED, LCTCS, Board of Regents, and LA Dept of Veterans Affairs to promote opportunities in high-demand trades
- **One Door** – LA Workforce Commission (LWC) is expanding access so more people on the sidelines of the workforce can connect with jobs, with skilled trades as a strong entry point
- **9 x 90 Plan** – LED launched its plan and is coordinating project response and workforce efforts at a new level, following a Whole of Government approach
- **Business Services Redesign** – LWC is strengthening how it addresses employer workforce needs
- **Stronger CTE Focus** – Education leaders updated state accountability measures - led by LA Dept of Education and coordinated through LWC - to elevate career and technical education (CTE) along craft skills pathways





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