LEADERS FOR A BETTER LOUISIANA

How Twelve Massive Projects Will Impact Louisiana Positively During Construction

November 2026

Key Takeaways

2026 megaprojects update at a glance

42,000

Combined construction workers at the mid-2028 peak, if all 12 projects stay on schedule

$282B

Announced investment across 12 megaprojects, with about 7,550 permanent jobs

49%

Of Louisiana's 85,000 industrial construction workers would be needed at these 12 sites alone at their peak

+22,000

More workers needed by early 2028 than today. The last boom added 30,000 in six years

81%

Of peak demand is in Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Monroe, home to 17% of the workers

19,000

Workers Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Monroe would need to bring in at the peak

1,300

Electricians in Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Monroe combined, likely the tightest trade

14 years

Statewide demand stays above 20,000 workers from 2027 to 2041

12 Megaprojects Across Six Regions

Each is $3B or more and under construction or set to start by 2027

Lafayette

$100B

SpaceX Starbase (Vermilion Parish)

Monroe

$70.1B

Meta Hyperion data center and Entergy power plants for Meta

Lake Charles

$63.5B

Woodside LNG, Venture Global CP2 LNG, and Commonwealth LNG

Baton Rouge

$23.2B

Hyundai Steel, CF Industries, Shintech, and Hut 8 data center

Shreveport-Bossier

$18B

Amazon Web Services data centers

Alexandria

$7.2B

Applied Digital data center

Note: This report covers 12 projects of $3 billion or more that are under construction or set to start by 2027.

12 Projects, $282 Billion in Investment

Construction jobs at peak, permanent jobs and investment by project

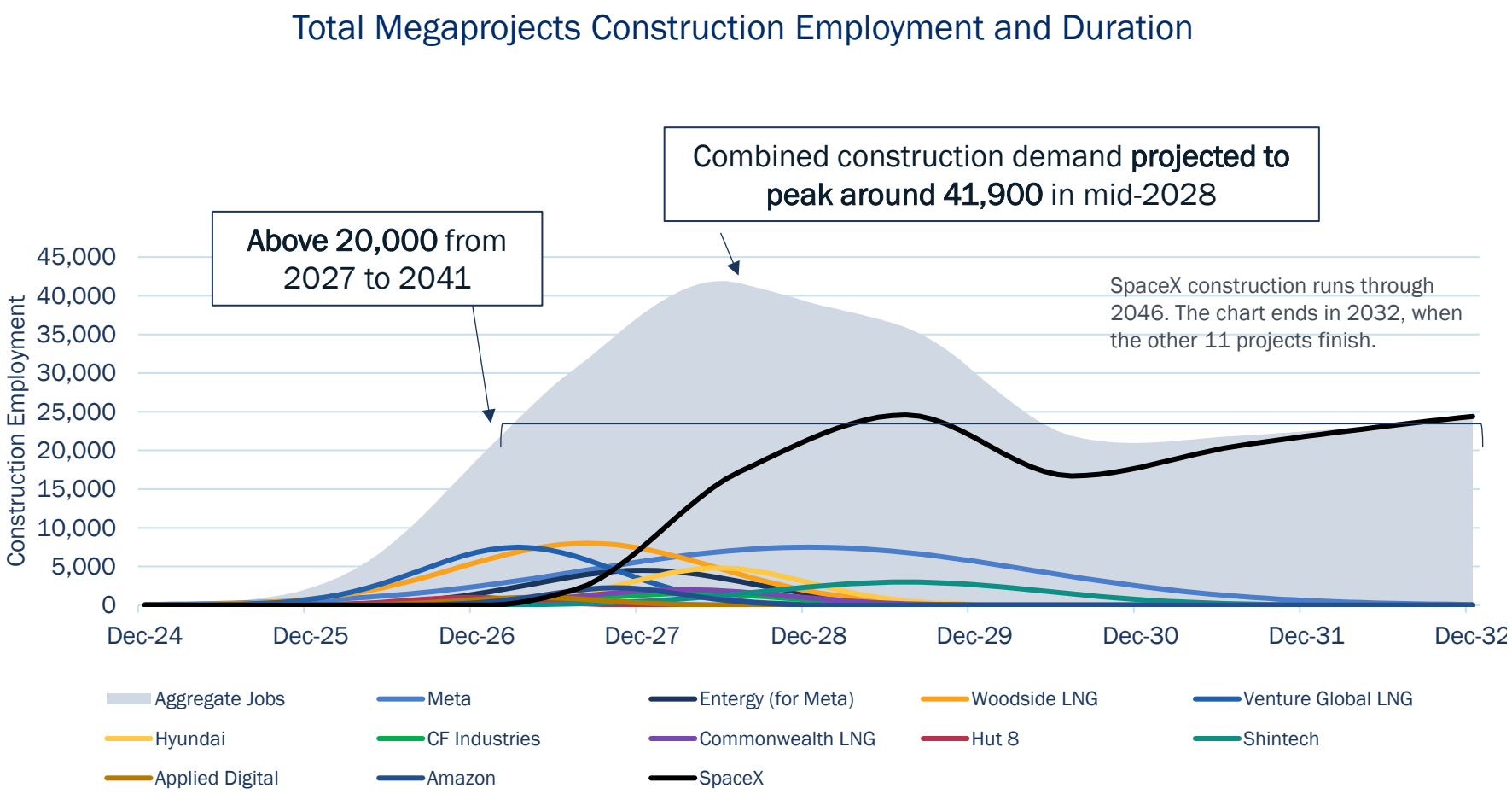
Project	Construction Jobs (Peak)	Permanent Jobs	Investment (CapEx $B)
SpaceX Starbase Louisiana	34,516	3,000	$100B
Woodside Louisiana LNG	8,000	150	$17.5B
Meta Hyperion	7,500	1,000	$50B
Venture Global CP2 LNG (phases 1-2)	7,500	400	$33B
Hyundai Steel (Hyundai-POSCO)	4,800	1,300	$5.8B
Entergy Louisiana generation for Meta (10 plants)	4,500	115	$20.1B
Shintech Plaquemine expansion	3,000	163	$3.4B
Amazon Web Services (STACK campuses)	2,250	750	$18B
Commonwealth LNG (Caturus)	2,000	300	$13B
CF Industries Blue Point One	1,500	103	$4B
Hut 8 River Bend	1,000	75	$10B
Applied Digital Delta Forge 1	1,000	200	$7.2B
TOTAL	n/a	7,556	$282B

Source: LED press releases and the LED Louisiana Winning tracker (opportunity louisiana.gov/louisiana-winning, Sept 2026); company releases and regional press where LED gives no figure; Better Louisiana analysis

Venture Global CP2 LNG CapEx comes from 10-K SEC filing. SpaceX: $100B and 3,000 permanent jobs over 10 years from LED's Aug 25, 2026 release; construction jobs are the highest yearly figure (2039) in a 2027-2046 projection, Better Louisiana analysis

Construction Employment Could Reach 42,000 Workers at 12 sites

Peak in mid-2028 if all stay on schedule

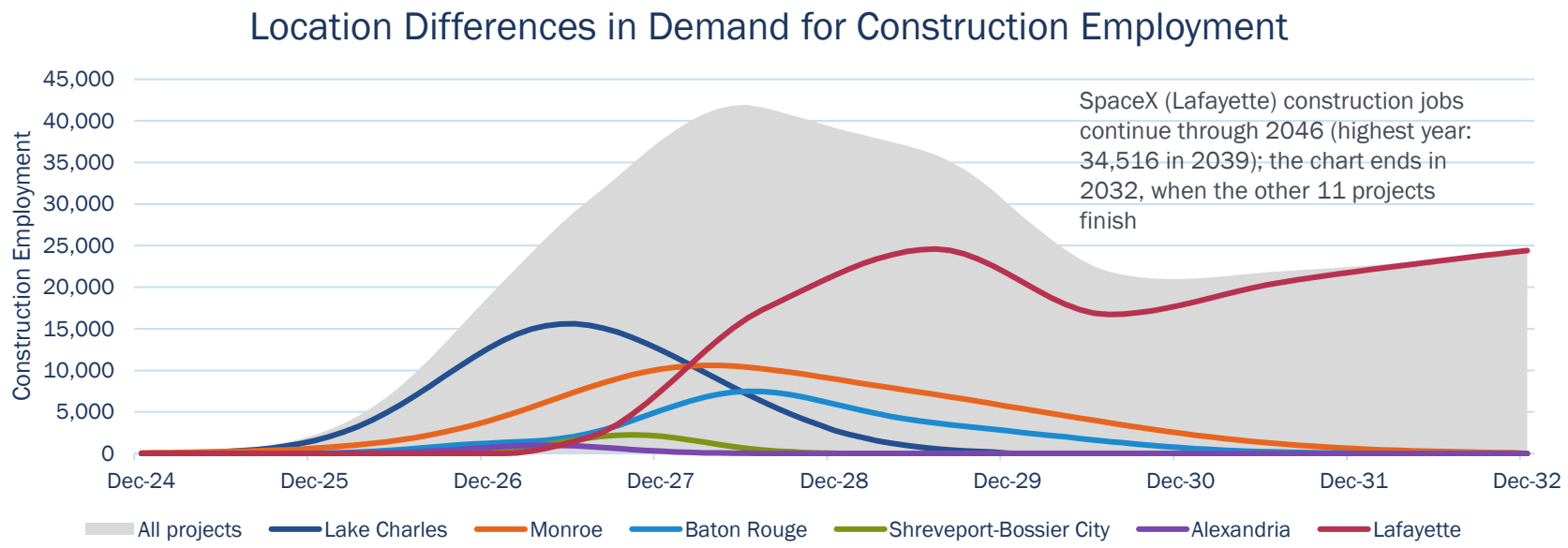


Source: LED; company announcements and filings (see appendix); Lightcast; Better Louisiana analysis. Assumes every project stays on its stated schedule. Method in appendix.

Analysis

- At the peak, these projects would need about half of Louisiana's current 85,000 industrial construction workers
- Demand more than doubles in just over a year, from about 17,000 now to 42,000 by mid-2028
- Four projects make up 78% of the peak: SpaceX (39%), Meta, Hyundai, and Woodside
- Based on SpaceX's estimates, demand stays above 20,000 workers through early 2041

Three Regions Carry Most of the Demand



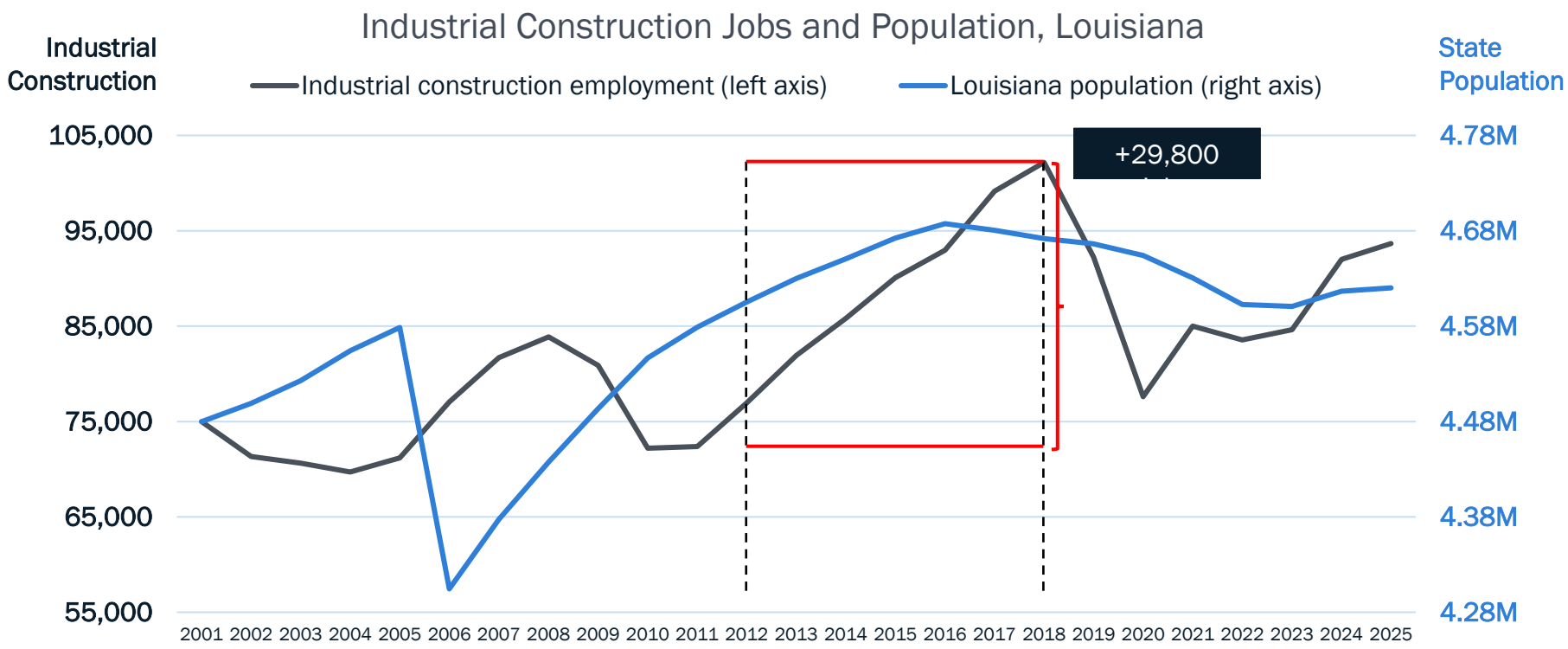
Closest Metro	Workers Needed at Peak	Peak Timing	Local Industrial Construction Workers (2025)	Peak as % of Local Workers
Lake Charles	15,600	Mid-2027	5,397	289%
Monroe	10,600	Early 2028	2,886	367%
Baton Rouge	7,500	Mid-2028	28,137	27%
Shreveport-Bossier	2,300	Late 2027	5,929	38%
Alexandria	1,000	Spring 2027	2,043	49%
Lafayette	34,500	Mid-2039	6,570	525%

Source: Lightcast (2025, QCEW employees, pulled Sept 2026); Better Louisiana analysis. Ratio compares peak construction jobs to the region's 2025 industrial construction employment; values above 100% imply imported labor, not depletion of the local workforce.

Analysis

- Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Monroe have 17% of the state's industrial construction workers but 81% of the 2028 peak
- Even if every local industrial construction worker joined these projects, those three regions would still be nearly 19,000 workers short at the 2028 peak
- Workers may come from Baton Rouge and New Orleans, the state's largest pools, or from out of state
- Lake Charles has done this before: in 2017, more than 16,000 workers on industrial projects filled worker camps and strained local housing

The Last Boom Added 29,800 Workers While Population Rose



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Population from Census Bureau Population Estimates July 1 (2000-2010 and 2010-2020 intercensal; Vintage 2025; retrieved Nov 2026). Jobs for NAICS sectors 23621, 23711, 23712, 23713, 23811, 23812, 23821, 23822, 23829, 23891 and 23899. Better Louisiana analysis

Analysis

- The last major industrial construction cycle began in 2012 and added almost 30,000 jobs
- During that period, Louisiana's total population grew by an estimated 66,400 people from 2012 to 2018

The Busiest Regions Have the Fewest Trade Workers

Trade workers by region, 2025

Region	Laborers	Electricians	Pipefitters	Supervisors	Operators	Carpenters	HVAC	Total*
Lake Charles	945	426	377	394	170	182	151	5,397
Monroe	303	317	185	173	95	60	197	2,886
Baton Rouge	3,639	2,366	1,953	2,425	1,225	1,149	724	28,137
Shreveport-Bossier	640	602	517	386	362	131	383	5,929
Alexandria	204	114	131	123	77	12	152	2,043
Lafayette	927	525	511	416	199	115	338	6,570
Louisiana	**11,481**	**8,011**	**5,892**	**6,171**	**3,802**	**2,227**	**3,652**	**85,042**

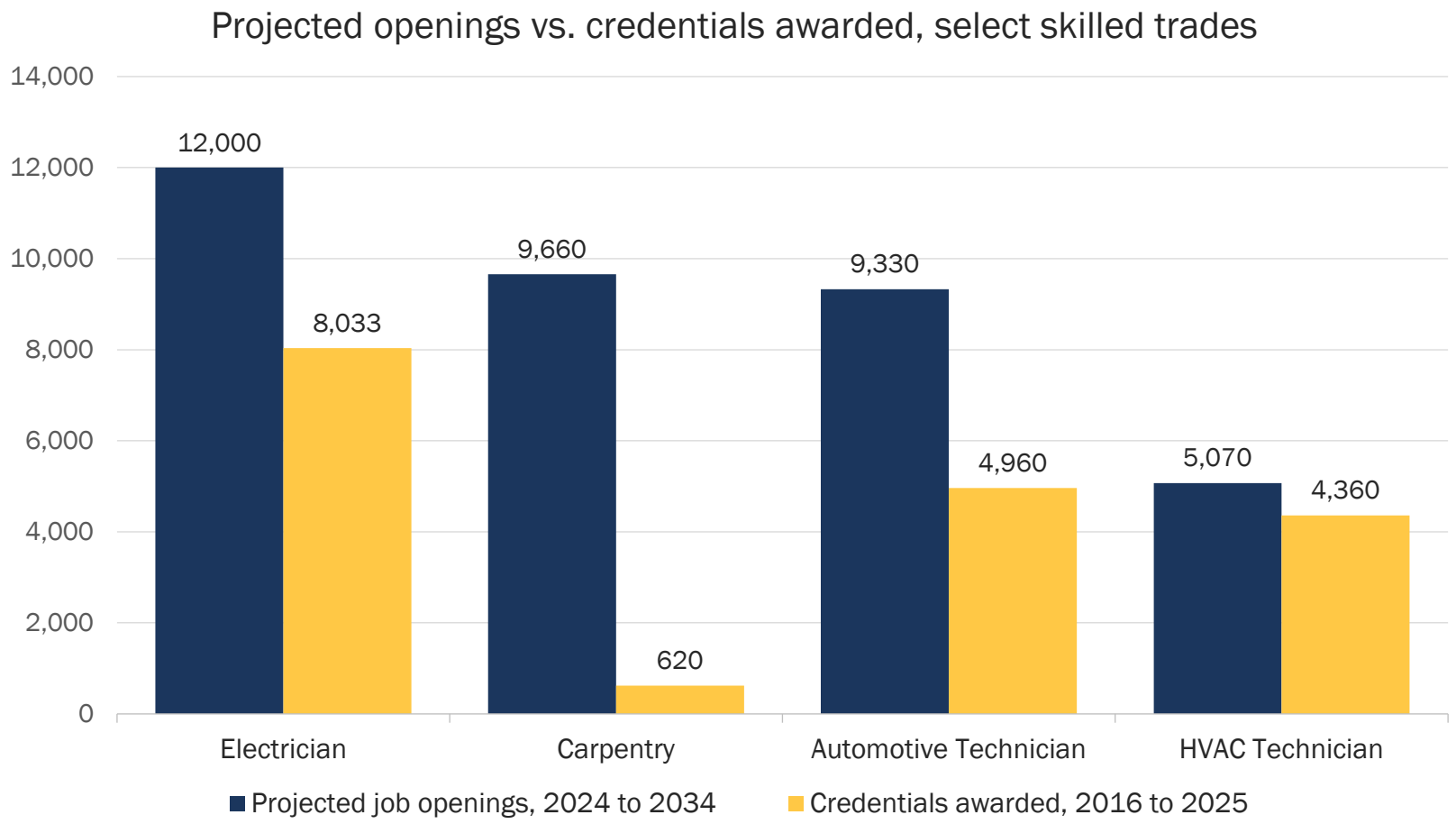
Source: Lightcast (2025 data, QCEW employees, pulled September 2026); Categories are Construction Laborers, Electricians, Plumbers/Pipefitters/Steamfitters, Construction Supervisors, Operating Engineers and Other Equipment Operators, Carpenters, HVAC Mechanics and Installers; Better Louisiana analysis.
*Includes other industrial construction occupations not listed individually in the table

Analysis

- Data centers need electricians and LNG plants need pipefitters.
- Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Monroe have about 1,300 electricians and 1,100 pipefitters combined
- Baton Rouge has a third of the state's industrial construction workers
- Electricians may be the tightest trade



Skilled Trades Training Has Scaled Up, But More Still Needed



Source: Louisiana Works, Office of Research & Statistics, Sept 9 2026 report; 2024 to 2034 Long-Term Employment Projections; Louisiana Board of Regents, report CMPLXLS. Openings include new and replacement jobs. Credentials: reporting institutions only.

Analysis

- LA Works Labor Market Briefings cited recent trends and demand
- Electrician credentials nearly doubled, from 570 to 1,037 a year from 2021 to 2026
- HVAC credentials rose from 304 to 569 a year
- Carpentry lags most: about 600 credentials against 9,700 openings
- Credentials awarded are not people; more analysis would determine supply

Appendix: Projects in This Analysis

Project (Construction Phase)	Closest Metro	Peak Const. Jobs	Start	Build Time (Months)	Status (Nov 2026)
SpaceX Starbase Louisiana	Lafayette	34,516	2027	240	Announced Aug 2026; construction 2027
Woodside Louisiana LNG	Lake Charles	8,000	Apr 2025	56	Under construction
Meta Hyperion	Monroe	7,500	Dec 2024	96	Under construction
Venture Global CP2 (phases 1-2)	Lake Charles	7,500	Jun 2025	42	Under construction; phases 1 and 2 sanctioned
Hyundai-POSCO Louisiana Steel	Baton Rouge	4,800	Oct 2026	39	Air permit approved Oct 2026; construction can begin
Entergy (for Meta)	Monroe	4,500	Dec 2025	48	Under construction
Shintech Plaquemine expansion	Baton Rouge	3,000	Jan 2027	60	Announced Mar 2026; state tax exemption approved Oct 2026
Amazon Web Services (3 campuses)	Shreveport-Bossier	2,250	Jul 2026	30	Announced; construction start 2026
Commonwealth LNG	Lake Charles	2,000	May 2026	44	Under construction
CF Industries Blue Point One	Baton Rouge	1,500	Jul 2026	41	Under construction
Hut 8 River Bend	Baton Rouge	1,000	Oct 2025	27	Under construction
Applied Digital Delta Forge 1	Alexandria	1,000	Jan 2026	30	Under construction

Method: Each project's workforce follows a normal curve that peaks at its announced construction jobs over its build window. SpaceX uses its own yearly estimates (2027–2046, set in July of each year with a smooth curve between). Start dates and build times are estimates where not announced. Industrial construction includes 10 NAICS codes: 23621, 23711, 23712, 23713, 23811, 23812, 23821, 23822, 23891, 23899.

