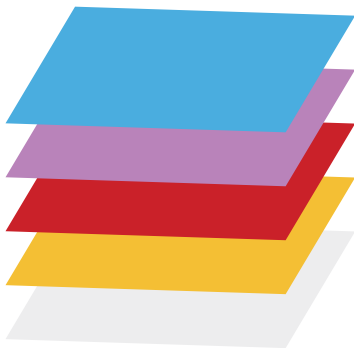




**2024
EDITION**



STATE OF THE 
COMMUNITY
REPORT BOSSIER
CHAMBER



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Our transportation system along with our healthcare, defense, and energy sectors are all assets in our Northwest Louisiana region.

And while they are strength points, we believe there's room for each of them to continue to grow to produce more economic opportunities. For our third year, we have produced this report to chart these assets as well as focus on areas where we can advocate, learn or grow.

Not every region has the benefit of so many assets – particularly the size of Shreveport-Bossier. We have what it takes to be great. You'll see it on every page of this report.

But the work is not done here. We believe every business leader, elected official and advocate for our area should be looking to help us grow these assets, in addition to looking for new growth points.

We also believe in taking the time to stop and celebrate the successes that we work so hard to achieve. On the final page of our report this year, you will find some of our recent economic wins that we want to celebrate TOGETHER!



Jessica Hemingway
Vice President/Bossier Chamber of Commerce

**Principal Investigator/
State of the Community Report**

METHODOLOGY

Much of this year's report focuses on the past three years for data, post 2020. You will find data on how we are doing as well as information about new and exciting initiatives coming to our area.

We have also partnered with the [Council for a Better Louisiana \(CABL\)](https://cabl.org/projects-and-events/louisiana-fact-book/) to provide data points on many of our pages that reflect how our state is doing. These data points are from CABL's Louisiana Fact Book, which you can find in its totality at cabl.org/projects-and-events/louisiana-fact-book/.

In addition to our four assets of healthcare, energy, transportation and defense, we have added two pages that we find are imperative for our region as well – Cyber/Technology and Education. Our cyber and technology sector continues to grow as we work to build a knowledge-based workforce that will not only diversify our economy but also work to raise the median income of our region. And, we all know that the foundation for all of our workforce and industries is education. We find that information from our school systems to be vital to track as we talk about our local economy.



Damien Ford,
Bossier Chamber Community Sustainability Chair

SPONSORS

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, [Willis Knighton Health](#), for supporting this project from its inception. And thanks to this year's supporting sponsors, [Barksdale Federal Credit Union](#) and the [Bossier Council on Aging](#).

PRESENTING SPONSOR



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



HEALTHCARE



HEALTHCARE SPONSOR:



BY THE NUMBERS

HEALTHCARE SECTOR EARNINGS FOR CADDO AND BOSSIER PARISHES:

\$2.4
BILLION
IN 2023

\$2.33B **\$2.36B**
2021 2022

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT FOR CADDO AND BOSSIER PARISHES:

\$2.7
BILLION
IN 2023

\$2.16B **\$2.7B**
2021 2022

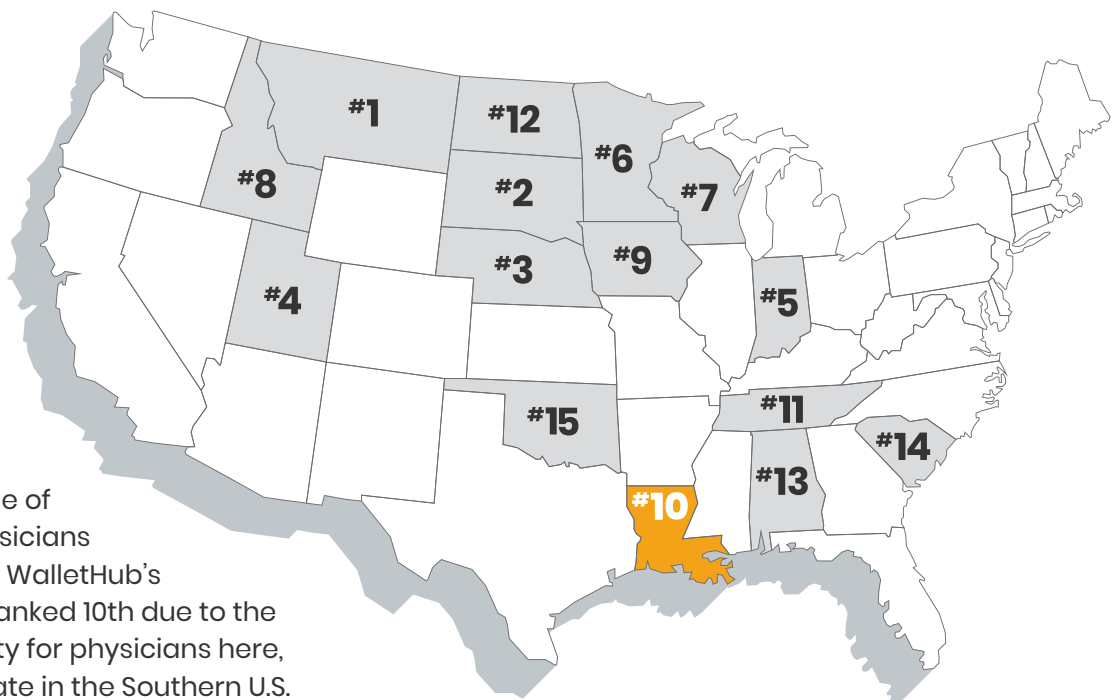


Source: Lightcast



LOUISIANA: A TOP CHOICE FOR PHYSICIANS IN 2024

Louisiana was named one of the 15 best states for physicians to practice, according to WalletHub's 2024 ranking. Louisiana ranked 10th due to the abundance in opportunity for physicians here, higher than any other state in the Southern U.S.



LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT



PROGRESS THAT MATTERS

The first new building on the LSUHS campus, the Center for Medical Education, opened during the past year providing a transformative environment for students. The \$84M facility enabled the implementation of a new curriculum while providing enhanced wellness options and centralized student support resources.

Students at the LSUHS School of Medicine increased their research project participation and authoring of peer reviewed papers by double digits in FY23-24. With “matching” to a residency becoming even more competitive with the addition of new US medical schools, LSUHS is focused in maintaining their five-year match average of 99%.

PARTNERSHIPS

AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND

LSU Health Shreveport has entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the Air Force Global Strike Command at Barksdale AFB to study the physiological and cognitive impact of long duration deployments.

JOINT DISASTER MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

LSU Health Shreveport is one of a limited number of sites nationally selected to participate with the Joint Disaster Medicine and Public Health Research Ecosystem.

BLACK AND AFRICAN AMERICAN CONNECTION TO PARKINSONS DISEASE

LSU Health Shreveport is the national leader in enrolling patients into the Black and African American Connection to Parkinsons Disease clinical trial and was the first site in Louisiana to be selected to participate in this MJFox funded clinical trial.

LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT EXTRAMURAL GRANT FUNDING

FY24

\$24,104,851

FY23

\$23,399,273

FY22

\$18,328,081

Source: LSU Health Shreveport



LSUHS Cancer and Cardiovascular Research: LSU Health is a planned, state-of-the-art research facility that will take over space in Mall St. Vincent in Shreveport. The facility will attract more world-class funded researchers and give them the space they need to thrive.



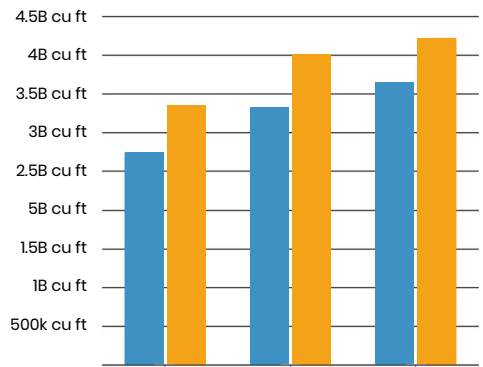
ENERGY SPONSOR:



NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION



Louisiana makes up about 10 percent of the U.S. total marketed natural gas production and holds 6% of the nation's natural gas reserves.



Haynesville Shale order of production: DeSoto, Caddo, Red River, Bossier, Bienville & Webster Parishes.

TOP STATES IN PRODUCTION

State	2021	2022
TEXAS	24.6%	25.4%
PENNSYLVANIA	21.8%	20.4%
LOUISIANA	9.9%	11.1%
WEST VIRGINIA	7.4%	7.4%
OKLAHOMA	6.7%	6.9%

ACROSS THE NATION

- 1 The U.S. was the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter in 2023, with LA handling 61% of U.S. LNG exports to 30 countries such as France, the U.K., Netherlands, Spain and S. Korea, among the largest recipients.
- 2 Louisiana's 15 crude oil refineries account for about one-sixth of the nation's refining capacity and can process nearly 3 million barrels of crude oil per day.
- 3 Louisiana's total energy consumption ranks fourth in the U.S. and its per capita energy consumption is the second highest, mainly due to energy-intensive chemical, petroleum, and natural gas industries. However, LA has the highest per capita residential sector electricity consumption in the U.S.
- 4 The most active natural gas market center in North America is the Henry Hub in Erath, Louisiana—where nine interstate and three intrastate pipelines interconnect.

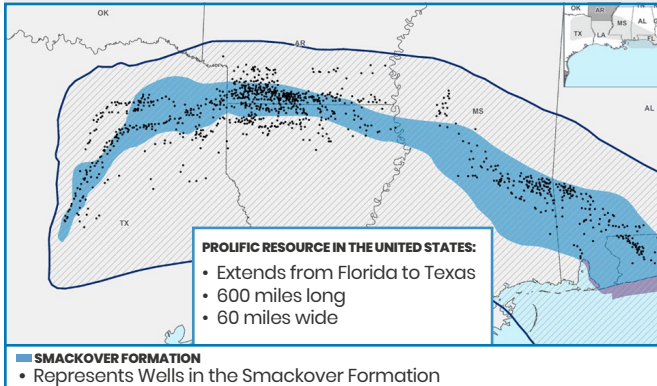
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, updated in 2024

THE HAYNESVILLE SHALE

The natural gas production in the Haynesville Shale peaked in May 2023 and is 14% lower in September 2024.

Source: Baker Hughes

USGS STUDY REVEALS SIGNIFICANT LITHIUM POTENTIAL IN THE SMACKOVER FORMATION



US Geological Survey-led study *estimated* between 5 and 19 million tons of lithium reserves are located beneath southwestern Arkansas in the Smackover Formation. If commercially recoverable, the amount of lithium present would meet projected 2030 world demand for lithium in car batteries nine times over.

While Louisiana has yet to be explored for lithium, 2024 Senate Bill 285, now Act 126, takes a step in the direction of encouraging exploration of lithium in Louisiana. The law now gives authority to the Office of Conservation to establish units (a particular set of acres) for brine production, and to add brine to the substances currently regulated by the state's mineral code.

production, and to add brine to the substances currently regulated by the state's mineral code.



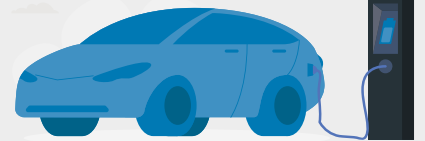
LNG PAUSE

In January, the Biden Administration, through the Department of Energy, issued a pause on liquefied natural gas export approvals. Sixteen attorney generals, including Louisiana's, filed suit. Congress drafted bills to combat the pause. On July 1, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana issued a temporary injunction on the pause but DOE still has the authority to vet whether an LNG project is of public interest before granting licenses.

Projects waiting for that approval include the Calcasieu Pass 2 and Commonwealth LNG projects in Louisiana and an expansion of the Corpus Christi LNG project in Texas.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

IN MAY 2024, LOUISIANA HAD **260 PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING LOCATIONS**



DIRECT AIR CAPTURE (DAC)

DAC technology is a form of **carbon dioxide (CO₂) removal** that takes CO₂ from ambient, or still, air. The separated CO₂ can then be permanently stored deep underground, or it can be converted into products.

Source: Department of Energy

BLUE METHANOL

Produced using blue hydrogen in combination with carbon capture technology, blue methanol is vastly reducing well-to-tank carbon dioxide emissions.



PERCENTAGE OF LOUISIANA'S ENERGY PRODUCTION FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES



4.5% 2021
3.5% 2020



TOTAL ENERGY PRODUCTION IN LOUISIANA FROM ALL SOURCES

RANKED **8TH** HIGHEST IN THE U.S.



Source: Council for A Better Louisiana, Louisiana Fact Book



PROGRESS ON OUR PRIORITIES

TRANSPORTATION SPONSOR:



Many of our high visibility transportation projects are making great strides. While progress has been made, we will continue to advocate for the projects all the way to completion.

PHASE	PLANNING/ ENVIRONMENTAL	FUNDING	ENGINEERING	CONSTRUCTION	NOTES:	
I-20 BAFB Gate Access (Local)	█	█	█	█	█	Construction complete as of Nov. 1, 2024.
I-20 BAFB Gate Access (Base)	█	█	█	█	█	Clearing and grubbing.
I-69 SIU 15 Service Road	█	█	█	█	█	Fully funded thanks to \$22.6M INFRA Grant. Engineering underway. Construction could begin late 2025.
I-69 SIU 15 Mainline	█	█	█	█	█	ROD issued applying for MEGA Grant Funding.
I-49 North (I-220 to State Line)	█	█	█	█	█	Construction Complete.
I-49 Inner City Connector	█	█	█	█	█	Fall 2023 Public Meeting on Alternatives. Finalizing the Draft EIS including cultural and historical studies. Partial funding from BP Oil spill and Vehicle Sales Tax.
Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511)	█	█	█	█	█	Project let as design build, clearing and grubbing has begun. Groundbreaking ceremony was held in August 2024 and construction is underway.
I-20 Rehabilitation	█	█	█	█	█	Phase 3 began Oct 27, 2024 and remains on track for late 2025 completion.
LA 3132 (Inner Loop) Extension	█	█	█	█	█	FONSJ Issued. NLCOG has programed \$1 million to begin ROW mapping. DOTD prosed agreement with Red River Expressway Toll project for development of their project.
I-20 Passenger Rail	█	█	█	█	█	The FRA granted \$500,000 from the Corridor Identification and Development Program and \$400,000 from the Interstate Rail Compacts grant program for developing the I-20 Corridor Intercity Passenger Rail Service, connecting Shreveport, Ruston, and Monroe to Dallas.

Source: NLCOG

QUALITY OF BRIDGES

Structures that are deficient can pose safety risks, More often they cause re-routing of traffic at the cost of both time and money. **The backlog of road and bridge projects in Louisiana has grown to \$19 billion.**

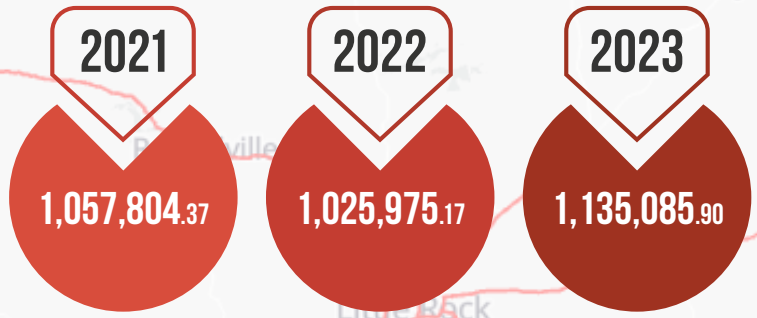


PERCENTAGE OF STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES

12.8% 2021
13.2% 2020

Source: Council for A Better Louisiana, Louisiana Fact Book

PORT OF CADDO-BOSSIER COMBINED WATERBORNE AND RAIL CARGO TONNAGE



PORT'S REACH

Understanding the movement of goods is vital to businesses, residents, and those responsible for transportation improvements. The [Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments](#) looked at how freight movements were made in relation to the [Port of Caddo-Bossier](#). This created a unique form of Origin-Destination (O-D) analysis for commercial traffic originating from and ending at the port complex to determine the true reach of goods movement to and from the port.

Source: StreetLight's anonymized location data including Location-Based Services (LBS), Connected Vehicle Data (CVD), Global Positioning Services (GPS) and Commercial Truck Data

DEFENSE



DEFENSE SPONSOR:



BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE

The economic influence of [Barksdale Air Force Base](#) on Shreveport–Bossier and its surrounding areas has continued to grow, solidifying its position as the region’s largest employer.

2023 PERSONNEL

TOTAL MILITARY

6,735

TOTAL CIVILIANS

2,270

TOTAL DEPENDENTS

5,374

TOTAL

14,379

ECONOMIC IMPACT

TOTAL PAYROLL

\$591,961,319

MAJOR EXPENDITURES

\$199,610,293

VALUE OF JOB CREATION

\$146,274,480

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$937,846,092

JOBS CREATED

TOTAL JOBS CREATED

3,036

AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY*

\$48,180

ESTIMATED ANNUAL DOLLAR VALUE OF JOBS CREATED

\$146,274,480

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



LED

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

77,000 JOBS

in Louisiana supported by U.S. military spending.

\$9.64 BILLION

annual economic impact of U.S. military spending in Louisiana.

The military accounts for nearly

4% OF LOUISIANA JOBS.

This is about one of every 26 jobs in the state.

EMPOWERING HEROES

As a part of Louisiana’s efforts to foster a strong community that honors and uplifts those who have sacrificed for our country, there are a number of support services extended to our veterans to help them find post-military opportunities and success.

VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS PROGRAMS



Louisiana boasts **more than 25,000 veteran-owned businesses** that benefit from grants and mentorship programs for veterans through organizations such as LED and SBA.

LOUISIANA’S VETERAN INITIATIVE



Louisiana offers a certification program to **help eligible Veteran-owned and Service-Connected Disabled-Veteran-owned small businesses** gain greater access to purchasing and contracting opportunities that are available at state government levels.

HEALTHCARE SUPPORT



[Overton Brooks VA Medical Center](#) in Northwest Louisiana provides our veterans with access to programs that include **comprehensive care** as well as **mental health support**.

SUPPORT FOR OUR SEPARATING MILITARY POPULATION

The Boot is a new initiative that aims to retain our service members from Fort Johnson, Barksdale AFB, Naval Air Station and JRB Belle Chasse, as well as attract transitioning military from out of state

bases. These men and women who proudly served their country will bolster our workforce and build new businesses in burgeoning industries like technology, aviation, manufacturing, and healthcare.

Source: www.theboot.la



THE BOOT: WORKING TO KEEP OUR TRAINED MILITARY IN LOUISIANA



HIRE

Access talented candidates for your workforce.



TRAIN

Upskill and re-skill highly motivated learners for new careers.



SUPPORT

Donate your time, talent, or treasure to clear their pathway to civilian life.

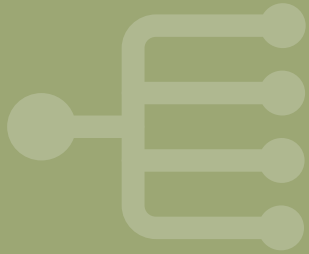


ADVOCATE

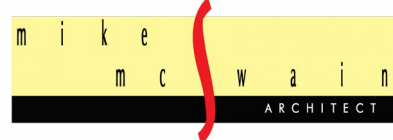
Provide local, state, and federal leadership to advance the mission.

Source: www.theboot.la

CYBER AND TECHNOLOGY



CYBER AND TECHNOLOGY SPONSOR:



Across NW Louisiana, estimated impact of this emerging industry:

APPROXIMATELY
2,500 JOBS

WITH AN ESTIMATED 350 EMPLOYERS COMPETING FOR EMPLOYEES

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS VALIDATE SKILLS

A critical component of today's cyber careers are the industry certifications that help professionals validate their skills, demonstrate expertise, and stay current in an ever-evolving field. Having well-known organizations like CompTIA, (ISC)² and EC-Council on candidate

resumes provides employers with the confidence that their potential hires possess the necessary skills, can handle cyber threats, and maintain secure systems.

Additional certifications that are requested for local job openings include CompTIA Security+, Certified Information Systems Auditor, Certified Information Systems Security Professional, Global Information Security Manager and Certified Information Privacy Professional.

CYBER JOBS
COMPUTER SCIENCE IS A DEFINING AND NECESSARY SKILL FOR CYBER JOBS AND THE DEMAND FOR THIS SKILL IS PROJECTED TO **GROW BY NEARLY 27% IN OUR REGION.**



CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE RATIO

85% SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER
83% NATIONAL AVERAGE

*This supply/demand ratio shows that Shreveport-Bossier currently only has enough cybersecurity workers to fill **85 percent** of the jobs local employers demand. The national average is **83 percent**.*

ACCESS TO BROADBAND

Access to high-speed internet services has become a necessity for individuals, businesses, healthcare, education, and the economy as a whole.



HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICES

85.4% 2022
81.2% 2021

Source: Council for A Better Louisiana, Louisiana Fact Book



CADDO

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
33,245



1.73%

MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS



613

STUDENTS HOME-SCHOOLED

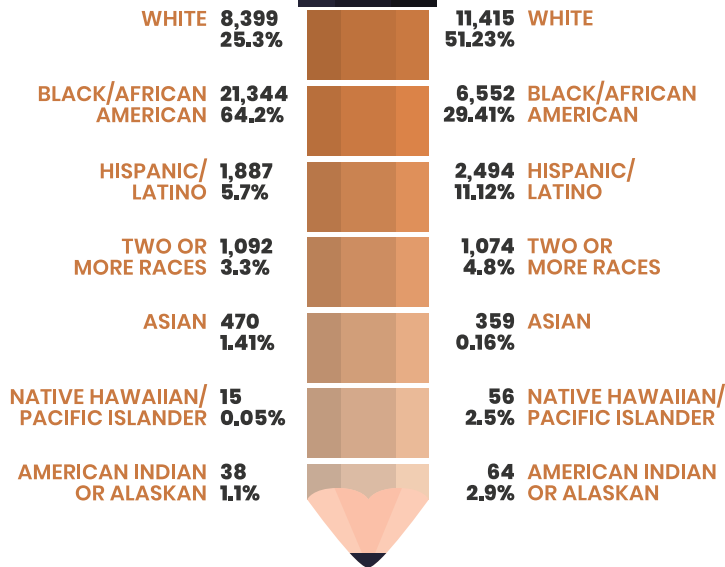


70%

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

Source: Caddo data reflects available 2022 data.

CADDO ENROLLMENT BOSSIER



Source: Dept. of Education, as of February 1, 2024

BOSSIER

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
22,279



13.5%

MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS



395

STUDENTS HOME-SCHOOLED



45.71%

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

BOSSIER WORKFORCE READINESS STATS

STUDENTS WITH A TOPS DIPLOMA

1,133

STUDENTS WITH A JUMPSTART DIPLOMA

327

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS IN COURSEWORK AT BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIVE LEARNING

1,840

STUDENT EARNED INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATIONS 2022-2023

3,041

INCREASING EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Growing this number of students is key to continuing education and skills training beyond high school and increasing education attainment.



Source: Council for A Better Louisiana, Louisiana Fact Book

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH SOME COLLEGE CREDIT AND/OR INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL

59% 2022
53% 2021



ECONOMIC WINS

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

PROLEC GE USA LLC
 CREATES **153** NEW DIRECT JOBS | **162** INDIRECT JOBS | **282** RETAINED JOBS

AMAZON, LAST MILE FACILITY
 CREATES **1,000** NEW DIRECT JOBS | **1,118** INDIRECT JOBS

SLB
 CREATES **596** NEW DIRECT JOBS | **749** INDIRECT JOBS

TEAL JONES
 CREATES **125** NEW DIRECT JOBS | **369** INDIRECT JOBS

Teal Jones Group began construction of the \$110 million, 235-acre sawmill near Plain Dealing, Louisiana in 2022.

HEIRLOOM
 CREATES **81** NEW DIRECT JOBS | **188** INDIRECT JOBS | **269** POTENTIAL NEW JOBS

During the first phase, Heirloom plans to invest \$475 million to establish its first DAC facility in Louisiana and second in North America.

BENTELER STEEL/TUBE MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
 CREATES **49** NEW DIRECT JOBS | **347** RETAINED JOBS | **96** INDIRECT JOBS | **145** POTENTIAL NEW JOBS

Benteler Steel/Tube, A leading global specialist in metal processing is expanding its presence at the Port of Caddo-Bossier with the construction of a new threading facility for hot rolled seamless steel tubes. The \$21 million investment will allow the company to streamline supply chains for customers in the oil and gas, energy and engineering sectors.



BENEFITS OF LOUISIANA

3.6% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

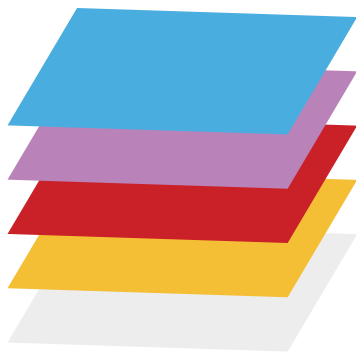
9,900 JOBS GAINED BETWEEN JUNE 2023 - JUNE 2024

COST OF LIVING **7%** BELOW NATIONAL AVERAGE

ABUNDANT JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTHCARE, IT/TECH AND ENERGY



2024 EDITION



STATE OF THE COMMUNITY REPORT

OF THE 
BOSSIER
CHAMBER

