

2024 EDITION



PLACEHOLDED

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.

But 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!

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) 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 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.



Jessica Hemingway **Vice President/Bossier** Chamber of Commerce

Principal Investigator/ State of the Community Report



Damien Ford, **Bossier Chamber Community Sustainability**

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.











BY THE NUMBERS

HEALTHCARE SECTOR AND BOSSIER PARISHES \$2.33B \$2.36B



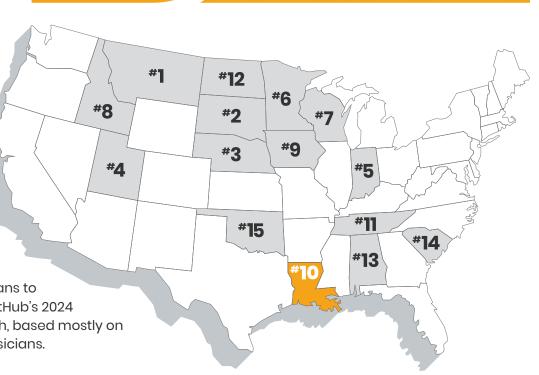


Health System



Source: Lightcast

Louisiana was named one of the 15 best states for physicians to practice, according to WalletHub's 2024 ranking. Louisiana ranked 10th, based mostly on the opportunity here for physicians.



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.

The number of 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 participate in this MJFox funded clinical trial.

LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT **EXTRAMURAL GRANT FUNDING**







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.



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.

4.5B cu ft 3.5B cu 1 3B cu f 2.5B cu ft 1.5B cu ft 1B cu ft 500k cu ft ◆ HAYNESVILLE SHALE ◆ STATE

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

TOP STATES IN PRODUCTION

TEXAS

2021

24.6% 25.4% 2022

21.8% 20.4% 2021 2022

PENNSYLVANIA

LOUISIANA 9.9% 11.1% 2021 2022

7.4% 7.4% 2022

6.7% 6.9% 2021 2022

WEST VIRGINIA

OKLAHOMA

THE HAYNESVILLE SHALE

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

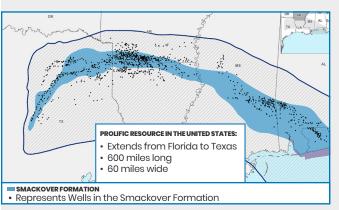
Source: Baker Hughes

ACROSS THE NATION

- 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 like France, the U.K., Netherlands, Spain and South Korea, among the largest recipients.
- 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 calendar day.
- Louisiana's total energy consumption ranks fourth in the U.S. and it's 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.
- 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

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.

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: Dept. of Energy

BLUE METHANOL

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



PERCENTAGE OF LOUISIANA'S **ENERGY PRODUCTION FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES**



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



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

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PHASE	PLANNING/ ENVIRONMENTAL	FUNDING	ENGINEERING	CONSTRUCTION	NOTES: Source: NLCOG
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. Ground Breaking Tuesday, August 20, 2024.
I-20 Rehabilitation					Phase 3 began Oct 27, 2024 and remains on track for late 2025 completion.
LA 3132 (Inner Loop) Extension					FONSI Issued. NLCOG has programed \$1 million to begin ROW mapping. DOTD propsed 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.

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



Fay (eville Muskogee 2022 2023 2021 **PORT OF CADDO-BOSSIER** COMBINED **1,057,804**.37 1,025,975.17 1,135,085.90 **WATERBORNE AND RAIL CARGO TONNAGE** Hot Springs Sherman Greenville 69 Naco Collogo Station **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 (NLCOG) looked at how freight movements were made in relation to the Port of Caddo-Bossier, creating 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 Galveston

Bento ville

Tulsa

/ater

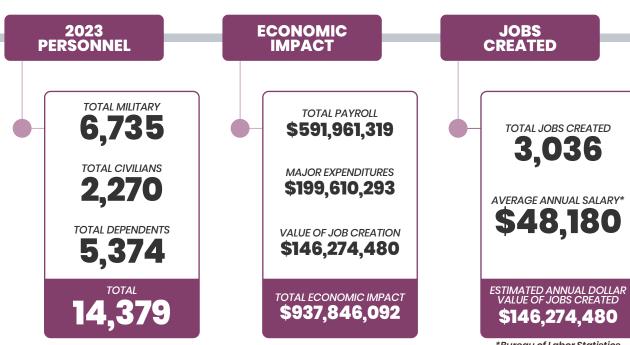


DEFENSE SPONSOR:



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.





EMPOWERING HEROES

By fostering a strong community that honors and uplifts those who have sacrificed for our country, these support services extended to our veterans showcases our commitment to 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



Certification program designed 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 the state government level.

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 website: 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.



Provide local, state, and Federal leadership to advance the

Source: www.theboot.la

10 BOSSIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPONSOR: CYBER INNOVATION CENTER 2024 STATE OF COMMUNITY REPORT 11



emerging industry **APPROXIMATELY**

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 wellknown organizations like CompTIA, (ISC)², and EC-Council on candidate

SPONSOR:

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 NEARL 27% IN OUR REGION.





ARCHITECT

CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE RATIO

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY, LA 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, health care, education, and the economy as a whole.



HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICES

4% 2022

81.2% 2021

Source: Council for A Better Louisiana, Louisiana Fact Book

Bossier Youth Leadership Program



CADDO

000 MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

NEED NEW DATA ON 1 AND 2

000

76%

Caddo data reflects available 2022 data.

ENROLLMENT BOSSIER

BLACK OR AFRICAN 21,344 AMERICAN 64.2%

CADDO

HISPANIC/ 1,887 LATINO 5.7%

WHITE 8,399

MORE RACES 3.3%

ASIAN 470

NATIVE HAWAIIAN 15 OR PACIFIC ISLANDER 0.05%

AMERICAN INDIAN 38 OR ALASKAN 1.1%



11,415 WHITE 51.23%

6,552 BLACK OR AFRICAN 29.41% AMERICAN

2,494 HISPANIC/ 11.12% LATINO

1,074 TWO OR 4.8% MORE RACES

359 ASIAN 0.16%

56 NATIVE HAWAIIAN
2.5% OR PACIFIC ISLANDER

64 AMERICAN INDIAN 2.9% OR ALASKAN

BOSSIER

MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

WORKFORCE READINESS STATS

STUDENTS WITH A TOPS DIPLOMA

CADDO BOSSIER 1,133 000

STUDENTS WITH A JUMPSTART DIPLOMA

CADDO BOSSIER 327 000

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS IN COURSEWORK AT CADDO CAREER CENTER

CADDO BOSSIER 000 1840

STUDENT EARNED INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATIONS 22-23

CADDO **BOSSIER**

000 3.041

Source: Dept. of Education, All stats as of February 1, 2022

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

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

> 9% 2022 53% 2021

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PROLEC GE USA LLC

EST 153 NEW DIRECT JOBS

162 INDIRECT | 282 RETAINED JOBS



AMAZON, LAST MILE FACILITY

NEW DIRECT JOBS 1,118 INDIRECT JOBS



SLB

#596 DIRECT | 749 INDIRECT JOBS





TEAL JONES

Fig. 125 NEW DIRECT JOBS 1369 JOBS

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



HEIRLOOM

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



BENTELER STEEL/TUBE MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

49 DIRECT JOBS

347RETAINED | 96 INDIRECT | 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

S GAINED BETWEEN
JUNE 2023 - JUNE 2024

COST OF **70/0** BELOW NATIONAL LIVING **70/0** AVERAGE

ABUNDAN OB HEALTHCARE, OPPORTUNITIES IN IT/TECH AND ENERGY



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