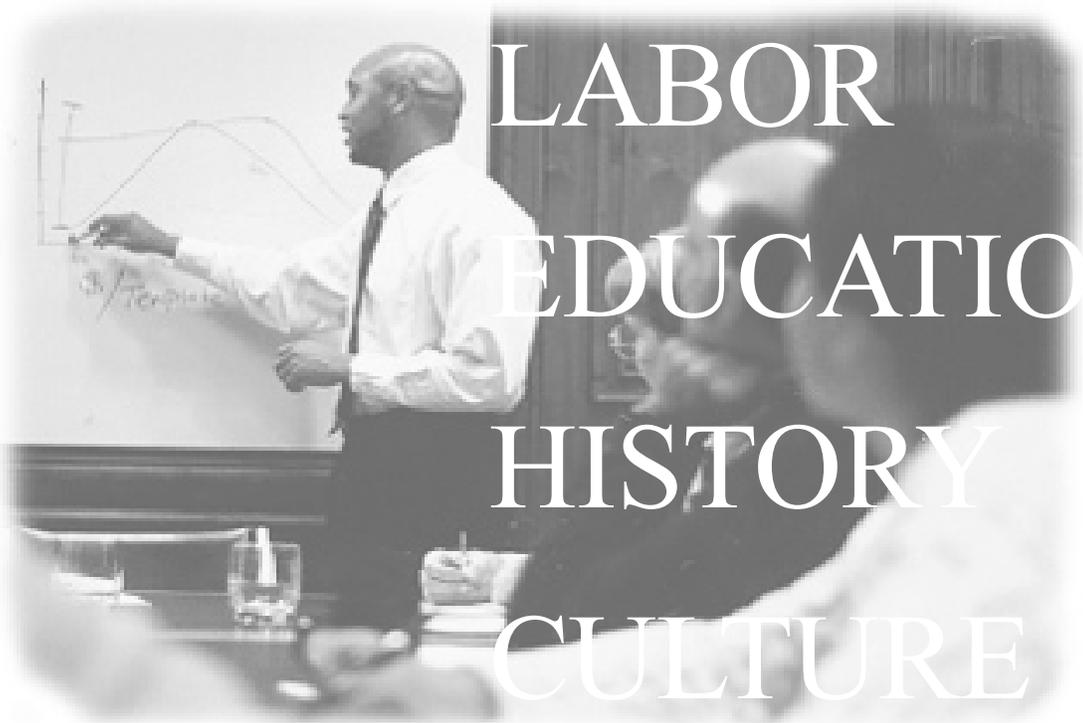


CALCASIEU



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



Calcasieu Parish

History¹

Organized as a parish on March 24, 1840, “Calcasieu,” which means “crying eagle,” is said to have been the name of an Attakapas chief. As he went into battle, he gave a peculiar cry like an eagle. One of the first pioneers to arrive in the area was Charles Sallier, originally from the province of Savoie, France. He married the daughter of Barthelemy LeBleu, who had arrived in 1772 from Bordeaux, France. The community became known as Charley’s Lake.

Those who settled between 1780 and 1819 acquired their property from the Indians or homesteaded what was then known as the Rio Hondo lands. During the Civil War, the Sabine River became an important hideout for blockade runners. Strong Confederate earthworks were built along the Sabine. A large sulphur deposit was discovered in the late 1860s near the present city of Sulphur. One of the world’s largest sulphur industries was established at the site and became significant when techniques for deep well drilling became known. With the advent of the deepwater port, Calcasieu Parish has been destined for growth and development.

Culture and Recreation³

Southwest Louisiana/Lake Charles, overlooking a freshwater lake, with the only white sand beach along the Gulf Coast, is the Festival Capital of Louisiana. Cajun Fun Country has over 75 annual festivals and special events such as Contraband Days, Mardi Gras, and the Cajun French Music Festival. Discover the Historic “Charpentier” District with nearly 20 blocks of unique Victorian era homes. Tour the Creole Nature Trail Scenic Byway, a 105-mile driving tour with four wildlife refuges and the Cajun Riviera at Holly Beach. Be sure to bring a camera because the most popular shots are of the alligators and wildlife. Southwest Louisiana has four delightful museums depicting the history of Old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, the famous Sulphur Mines, and the DeQuincy Railroad, plus a museum especially for children.



**Southwest Louisiana
Convention and
Visitors Bureau**
1211 N. Lakeshore Dr.
P.O. Box 1912
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-436-9588

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Howard Dohn Alexander
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional
Office
4240 Senator J.
Bennett Johnston Ave.
Lake Charles, LA
70615
337-491-2040
337-491-2041 fax

Parish Seat¹ Lake Charles¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Lake Charles	
1990	70,580
1997 (estimate)	75,424
Sulphur	
1990	20,125



1997 (estimate)	21,280
Moss Bluff CDP*	
1990	8,039
1997 (estimate)	N/A*
Prien CDP*	
1990	6,448
1997 (estimate)	N/A*
Westlake	
1990	5,007
1997 (estimate)	5,104

*Census Designated Place

Parish Population²

1990	168,134
1997 (estimate)	178,654

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White	75%
African American	25%
Other	1%
Male	49%
Female	51%
Population age 0-4	7%
Population age 65 & over ...	11%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	20 ft.
Land area in square miles	1,071.2
Water area in square miles ⁴	23.2

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	69°
January	56°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	74.6 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	84,700
Employed	79,200
Unemployed	5,500
Unemployment	6.5%

Educational Attainment (1990) ⁷	
Less than 5th grade	4.9%
High school graduate or higher	70.3%
Some college or higher	36.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	14.7%
Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees ²	
Private Employers	
Turner Industries, Inc. (Industrial construction)	2,000
Players Riverboat Casino/Showboat Star (Gaming)	1,950
Lake Charles Mem. Hosp. (Med.)/PPG Indust. (Chem.)	1,700
Public Employers	
Calcasieu Parish School Board (Education)	4,000
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury (Government)	950
West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital (Medical)	948
Poverty and Income	
Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	16.5%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	24.5%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$20,084



Agriculture¹

Rice, beef cattle, oil and related industries, and chemical and petrochemical plants.

Colleges/Universities²

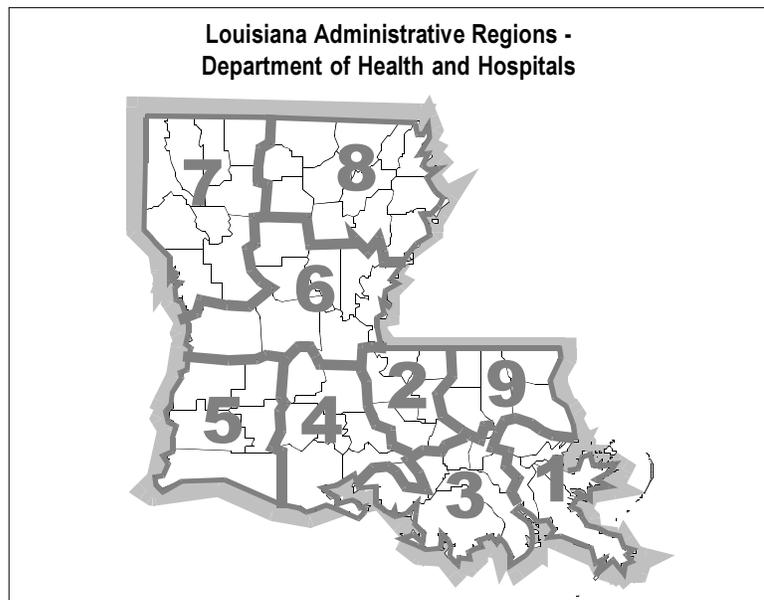
(within one hour commute)

Louisiana State University, Eunice; McNeese State University, Lake Charles; University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette

Public Libraries⁵ 15

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- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



Region 1

- Jefferson
- Orleans
- Plaquemines
- St. Bernard

Region 2

- Ascension
- East Baton Rouge
- East Feliciana
- Iberville
- Pointe Coupee
- West Baton Rouge
- West Feliciana

Region 3

- Assumption
- Lafourche
- St. Charles
- St. James
- St. John
- St. Mary
- Terrebonne

Region 4

- Acadia
- Evangeline
- Iberia
- Lafayette
- St. Landry
- St. Martin
- Vermilion

Region 5

- Allen
- Beauregard
- Calcasieu
- Cameron
- Jefferson Davis

Region 6

- Avoyelles
- Catahoula
- Concordia
- Grant
- LaSalle
- Rapides
- Vernon
- Winn

Region 7

- Bienville
- Bossier
- Caddo
- Claiborne
- DeSoto
- Natchitoches
- Red River
- Sabine
- Webster

Region 8

- Caldwell
- East Carroll
- Franklin
- Jackson
- Lincoln
- Madison
- Morehouse
- Ouachita
- Richland
- Tensas
- Union
- West Carroll

Region 9

- Livingston
- St. Helena
- St. Tammany
- Tangipahoa
- Washington