

## Introduction

The southern state of Louisiana lies north of the Gulf of Mexico and along the Mississippi River. The area was originally colonized by the French in the 17th century. Agriculture has been an important economic activity since the 18th century because of Louisiana's semitropical climate and alluvial soil. In the early 20th century, petroleum and natural gas were discovered, fueling the development of an extraction industry. The industry grew rapidly until the mid-1980s when prices fell significantly. Though not as prominent as it once was, energy is still a vital component of the state economy. Louisiana currently leads the nation in the production of sulfur and salt and ranks high in crude petroleum, natural gas, and natural gas liquids production. Many tourists are drawn to the city of New Orleans because of its unique Cajun culture and famous Mardi Gras celebration.



**Abbreviation:** LA

**Capital:** Baton Rouge

**Nick Name:** Pelican State

**Time Zone-Standard:** GMT -5

**Time Zone-Daylight Saving:** GMT -4

**Sales Tax Rate:** 5.00%

**Motto:** Union, Justice, Confidence

**Web Site:** <http://www.louisiana.gov>

## Government

**Governor:** John Bel Edwards (D)

**Senator:** Bill Cassidy (R)

**Senator:** John N. Kennedy (R)

**Entered Union:** April 30, 1812

## Statistics

Total GDP (Billions):	\$239,305.00 (2015)
Per Capita Real GDP:	\$44,587 (2015)
Population:	4,681,666 (2016)
% of People under Poverty Level:	19.50%
Per Capita Personal Income:	\$43,487
Unemployment Rate:	6.10% (2016)
% of Population with a Bachelor's Degree:	23.20%
Total Exports:	\$64,813,659,468.00 (2014)

## Top 5 Export Partner Countries

Country	Exports
China	\$8,233,077,607
Mexico	\$6,320,429,462
Canada	\$3,067,525,861
Japan	\$2,780,973,566
Netherlands	\$2,763,604,587

## Top 5 Export Merchandise

Segment	Exports
Petroleum & Coal Products	\$25,479,169,558
Crop Production	\$15,752,781,322
Chemical Manufactures	\$9,117,951,154
Processed Foods	\$4,654,261,295
Machinery Manufactures	\$2,512,666,183

## Major Cities

City	Population
New Orleans	389,617
Baton Rouge	228,590
Shreveport	197,204

## Main Airports

Code	Name	City
AEX	Alexandria International Airport	Alexandria
BTR	Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport	Baton Rouge
LFT	Lafayette Regional Airport	Lafayette
MSY	Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport	Metairie
SHV	Shreveport Regional Airport	Shreveport

## Main Ports

Plaquemines Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, Port Fourchon, Port of New Orleans

## Corporations

Company	Fortune 1000 Rank	Revenue	City
CenturyLink	160	\$17,470,000,000	Monroe
Entergy	263	\$10,846,000,000	New Orleans
Albemarle	654	\$3,491,000,000	Baton Rouge
Pool	791	\$2,571,000,000	Covington

**Corporate Marginal Income Tax Rate:** 4.00% > \$0 || 5.00% > \$25,000 || 6.00% > \$50,000 || 7.00% > \$100,000 || 8.00% > \$200,000

**Individual Income Tax Rate:** 2.00% > \$0 || 4.00% > \$12,500 || 6.00% > \$50,000

## U.S. Commercial Service

**Web page:** <http://export.gov/louisiana/>