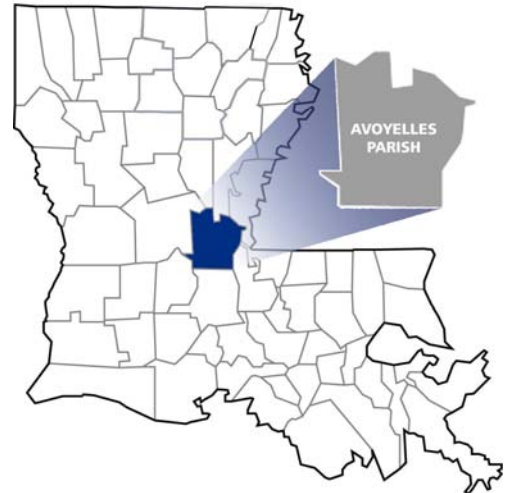


Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana

Central Louisiana Region

Allen, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides and Vernon



POPULATION

PARISH

Avoyelles Parish

2005 Census Estimate	42,098
2000 Census	41,481
1990 Census	39,159

Age (2000)

0 – 19	30% (12,309)
20-34	20% (8,312)
35-54	28% (11,455)
55-64	9% (3,730)
64+	13% (5,675)

REGION

2005 Census Estimate	352,199
2000 Census	353,283
1990 Census	355,343

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; 2005 CENSUS ESTIMATE

MARKET ACCESS

HIGHWAYS

US Hwy: US Hwy. 71 in the parish; 60 miles to US Hwy. 190 @ Opelousas
 Interstate: I-49 parallels LA Hwy. 1 at Alexandria (20 miles)
 LA Highway: LA Hwy. 1 and 105 run north-south into US 190 ; LA Hwy. 105 runs along the Atchafalaya River

FREIGHT RAIL

Kansas City Southern; Union Pacific in the region

NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS/PORTS

	(Distance in Miles)
Port of Avoyelles (18 ft.)*	0
Port of Alexandria Depth (9 ft.)	32
Federal Renewal Community (*)	

AIRPORTS

Alexandria International (commercial; 9,350 & 7,000 ft. runways)	32 miles
Simmesport General Airport Runway length????	0

MOTOR FREIGHT

Several major freight carriers. Terminal facilities are not available in the parish.

DISTANCE TO MAJOR CITIES

(in miles, from center of parish)

Atlanta, GA	595
Birmingham, AL	470
Dallas, TX	355
Houston, TX	300
Lafayette, LA	70
Little Rock, AR	390
Memphis, TN	450
New Orleans, LA	150
Oklahoma City, OK	560
Shreveport, LA	175

SOURCE: WWW.MAPQUEST.COM

PARCEL SERVICE

U.S. Postal Service
 UPS

LABOR FORCE (August 2006)

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Parish	15,184
Region	148,747
Louisiana	1,860,221

EMPLOYMENT

Parish	14,547
Region	143,378
Louisiana	1,790,329

UNEMPLOYMENT

Parish	4.2%
Region	3.6%
Louisiana	3.8%

SOURCE: LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, AUGUST 2006

WAGES (2005)

SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL WAGES

Category	Median Hourly
Professional	
Accountant/Auditor	\$19.36
Mechanical Engr.	\$30.03
Systems Analyst	\$28.07
Computer Programmer	\$18.06
Retail	
Hotel Desk Clerk	\$6.96
Sales Clerk	\$8.34
Stock Clerk	\$7.92
Clerical	
Bookkeeping/Acct. Clerk	\$11.05
Data Entry Keyer	\$9.53
General Secretary	\$10.06
Receptionist	\$8.50
General Office Clerk	\$8.13
Customer Service Representative	\$9.60
Unskilled	
Hand Packer & Packager	\$8.22
Material Handler	\$7.68
Packaging Machine Operator	\$8.99
Shipping/Receiving Clerk	\$10.13
Medical Assistant	\$9.07
Skilled	
Machinist	\$17.30
Machinery Maintenance	\$12.82
Welder and Cutter	\$12.33
Install, Maintain & Repair Worker	\$10.99
Cutting Machine Operator	\$11.11

Technical

Power Plant Operator	\$20.88
Industrial Production Managers	\$29.95
Medical Lab Technician	\$13.09
Registered Nurse	\$22.09
Electronics Repairer	\$22.77

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, ALEXANDRIA MSA OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE ESTIMATES, 2005.

EMPLOYMENT INCOME

	2003	2004
Total Personal	\$792,647	\$827,889
Per Capita Personal	\$18,929	\$19,730
Median Household:	\$23,851	

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, 2004

AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISION

Division	Parish	Region	Louisiana
Agriculture	2.5%	2.2%	0.7%
Mining	0.1%	0.6%	2.4%
Utilities	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
Construction	6.0%	7.2%	7.4%
Manufacturing	4.5%	5.5%	8.4%
Wholesale			
Trade	1.4%	3.3%	4.1%
Retail Trade	13.4%	12.6%	12.0%
Trans/Wrhouse	1.8%	2.4%	4.3%
Information	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%

Fin. & Insurance	3.8%	2.9%	3.5%
Real Estate	0.9%	1.2%	1.9%
Prof/Tech Serv	1.6%	4.0%	4.2%
Mng. of co.	0.2%	0.6%	1.1%
Admin & Waste	0.8%	4.8%	5.3%
Education Serv	*	10.2%	9.3%
Healthcare/Soc	17.8%	20.8%	14.3%
Arts/Ent/Recr	*	2.0%	2.2%
Accomd/Food	4.9%	7.0%	8.0%
Other Services	1.5%	2.1%	2.6%
Public Admin.	14.2%	8.1%	5.6%

SOURCE: LA DEPT. OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT & TOTAL WAGES PAID BY EMPLOYERS SUBJECT TO THE LA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW, 4TH QUARTER 2005; (*) USUALLY INDICATES ONE EMPLOYER OR OTHER REASONS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO DIVULGE DATA.

EDUCATION

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (within 100 miles)

College/University	Location	Enrollment
LSU-Alexandria*	Alexandria	3,052
University of LA at Lafayette	Lafayette	17,075
Louisiana State Univ.	Baton Rouge	33,264
Southern University	Baton Rouge	10,364
Northwestern State	Natchitoches	9,847

TWO-YEAR COLLEGE (within 100 miles)

Louisiana College	Pineville	2,600
Baton Rouge Community College	Baton Rouge	7,000

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM, FALL 2006;

*RECENTLY DESIGNATED A 4-YEAR COLLEGE

TECHNICAL COLLEGES (within 100 miles)

Campus	Program with highest enrollment
Hessmer	Office systems tech; welding
Alexandria	Computer tech; auto tech; drafting; welding; general education (transferable)
Cottonport	Office systems tech; welding; automotive; computer
Huey P. Long	Same
Lamar Salter	Same

SOURCE: LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM, 2006

PRIMARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION

	2006 Enrollment
Public Schools	6,315 (13 schools)
Nonpublic Schools	954 (4 schools)
Teacher:Student Ratio	15:1
ACT Score (2006)	19.2

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

High School Graduate or Higher	89%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2000

INCENTIVES

Quality Jobs Program – Annual refundable credit up to 6% of payroll for a period of up to 10 years.

Industrial Property Tax Exemption – exempts new manufacturers & expansions from state, parish and local property taxes for up to 10 years.

Enterprise Zone - tax credits & exemptions for hiring within a designated zone.

Inventory Tax Credit – 100% income tax credit on inventory taxes paid.

Customized Worker Training – Training fund providing customized training to develop the skills of a new employer's workforce.

Sales Tax Exemption - 4% exemption on state sales tax use, lease and rental tax on eligible machinery & equipment purchased in the state.

Restoration Tax Abatement - 10-year property tax abatement on the improvements made to commercial and residential properties in designated areas.

Renewal Community - HUD incentive program offering tax credits & other incentives to employers in the majority of Avoyelles Parish including the Port.

TAXES

SALES TAX (2006)

Community	Sales Tax Rate
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Bunkie	4.5%
Cottonport	4%
Mansura	5%
Marksville	5%
Moreauville	4.5%
Plaucheville	4%
Simmesport	5%
Balance of Parish	3%
Louisiana	4%

SOURCE: AVOYELLES PARISH SALES & USE TAX

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX

One of the lowest in the nation. There are no local occupational or local income taxes in the state of Louisiana.

PARISH MILLAGE (2006)

Bunkie	78.25
Cottonport	59.61
Evergreen	59.68
Hessmer	57.87
Mansura	54.66
Marksville	54.19
Moreauville	59.77
Plaucheville	60.40
Simmesport	60.38
Average Millage	
Wards 1 - 11	45.36 – 66.72

SOURCE: AVOYELLES PARISH ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

PROPERTY TAXES/ASSESSMENT RATIO

Only local and parish governments levy property taxes in Louisiana. There is no state tax.

Assessors are required by law to assess on improvements of industrial property at 15% of fair market value. (Land at 10%)

Private residences are assessed at 10% of fair market value. There is no property tax on the first \$75,000.

INDUSTRIAL SITES

Port of Avoyelles Industrial Park – 1,500 acres available on the Atchafalaya River on LA Hwy. 1; inland waterway feeds into the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico.

GOVERNMENT

Parish	Policy Jury
Municipalities	Mayor

QUALITY OF LIFE

CLIMATE

Average Temperature

January	55 degrees
July	77 degrees
Average Annual Rainfall	66 inches

MEDICAL SERVICES (within region)

Medical Facility	No. of Beds
Bunkie General Hospital	33
Avoyelles Hospital	55
Rapides Regional Medical Center	385
Christus St. Frances Cabrini	246
8 nursing homes in Avoyelles Parish	870

RECREATION

Golf

Tamahka Trails Golf Club; Alexandria Country Club

Parks

Chico State Park; Camp Beauregard – LA National Guard; Wildlife Management Areas; Atchafalaya Basin; Solomon Northup Trail; Marksville State Commemorative Area; National 4-H Museum
Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe Paragon Casino & Resort

Activities

Hunting, fishing, boating, agriculture events.

Civic Centers/Theater

Festivals/Events

Atchafalaya River Festival; Mardi Gras; Tunica Biloxi Pow Wow; Farm Festival; and Cochon de Lait.

UTILITIES & SERVICES

Electricity – Cleco Power LLC

Natural Gas –

Water – City

Sewerage – City

Telephone - BellSouth

Fiber Optic - 2 service providers in the parish



MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Company	Product/Service	Employees
Paragon Casino	Casino facility and hotel resort	1,478
Avoyelles Parish School Board	Public school system	925
Avoyelles Correctional Center	Correctional facility	274
Bayou Vista Nursing Home	Nursing home facility	150
Cottonport Bank	Local financial institution	129
MD Desant		120
Bunkie General Hospital	Local general hospital services	100
Union Bank Shares	Financial institution	76
Elderwood Preserving Company	Wood preservation	75
Kerotest		65
O'Leary Brothers		60
Kojis and Sons Signs	Sign manufacturing	50
St. Romain Oil	Oil services	23

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTACT

Avoyelles Parish Port Commission

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