



**“Our business backbone is strong. The major economic driver employers in our state experienced limited impact. Our infrastructure is sound, and all major business functions, ports, airports, highways, railways and pipelines are operating at a high level.”**

— Gov. John Bel Edwards, in a November letter to Site Selection magazine readers in the wake of record flooding in March and August

**Louisiana Economic Development**  
1051 N 3rd Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
**Don Pierson**  
SECRETARY ED  
225-342-3000

**Gov. John Bel Edwards (D)**

**OpportunityLouisiana.com**

# Louisiana

**Pop. (2016):** 4,766,833  
**Median household income:** \$44,609  
**Credit Rating:** AA/Negative

**Pop. growth 2016–2021:** 0.77%  
**Median age:** 36.8  
**Right-to-work state:** Yes

## Legislative Update

- In June, the governor announced changes in Louisiana’s Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) through an executive order that “accomplishes two important aims for the first time: Local governing bodies will have a seat at the table when decisions are made about local property tax exemptions, and companies applying for those exemptions must demonstrate job creation or job retention – or both – in order to merit industrial tax exemptions.”
- Louisiana Economic Development (LED) has undertaken a review of the state’s Motion Picture Production Tax Credit program, with recommendations for reform and best practices to be addressed in the 2017 fiscal session.
- A bill stalled that would have raised the state minimum wage from the current \$7.25 to \$8.50 by 2018.
- After a FY 2016 budget shortfall of \$313 million despite three special sessions, the governor’s agenda for the 2017 session includes work to “reform our state’s broken tax code.”

**GDP**  
**24<sup>th</sup>**



**2015 GDP**  
(in millions of current US\$)  
**\$239,305**



**41**

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2016-2017: -5



**29**

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure: \$662,778



**18**

Number of NCRCs: **66,628** | Percent Improvement 2016-2017: **25%**



**49**

College Attainment Percent: **44.7%**



**5**

Lowest Electric Power Cost (cents/kWh): **5.50**



**33**



*Lindsey Janies Photography*

**SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA**

# Welcome to Opportunity

- ▶ Six Ports, including one of the Nation’s largest—The Port of Lake Charles
- ▶ Chennault Industrial Park With A 10,000 Foot Runway
- ▶ Shovel-Ready Industrial Park On I-10
- ▶ Airparks With Greenfields
- ▶ Custom Sites Available



SEED CENTER, 4310 RYAN ST.  
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70605  
337.433.3632  
FAX: 337.436.3727  
[WWW.ALLIANCESWLA.ORG](http://WWW.ALLIANCESWLA.ORG)

Contact  
**George Swift**  
[gswift@allianceswla.org](mailto:gswift@allianceswla.org)

