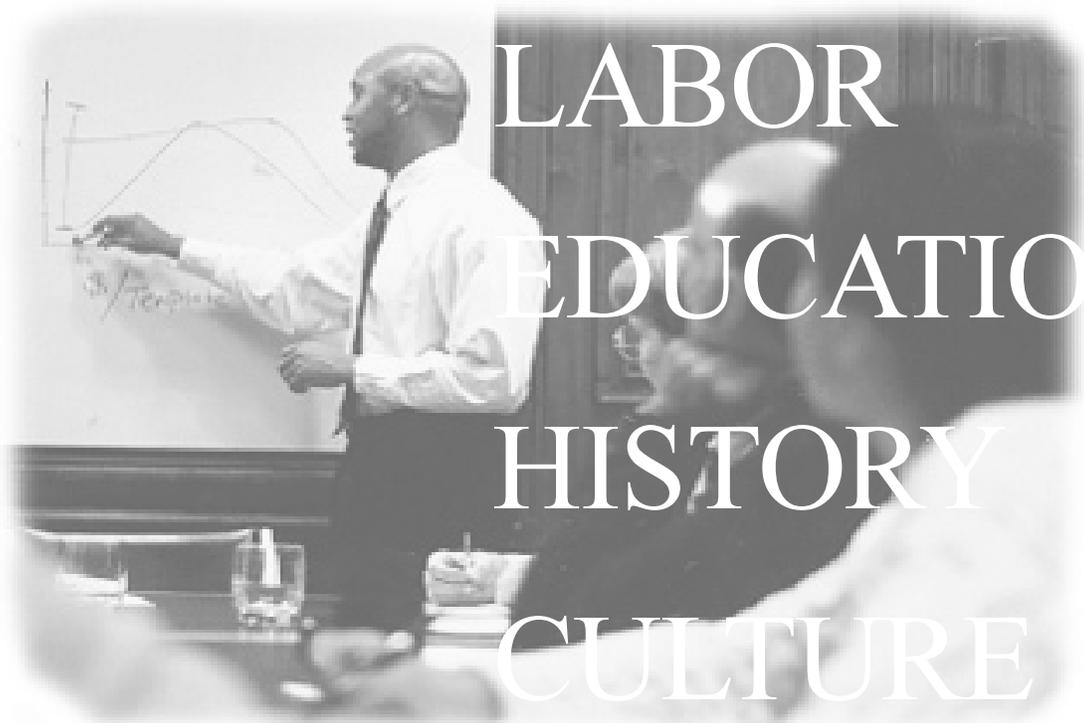




ST. JAMES



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



ST. JAMES
PARISH

St. James Parish

History¹

St. James was one of the original 19 parishes, and was created on March 31, 1807, by an act of the Orleans Territory Legislature. The original seat of government was the community of St. James, on the west bank of the Mississippi River. In 1869 it was moved up to the east bank, near the convent of the Sacred Heart. The site, now called Convent, is the present parish seat. St. James Parish, whose lands consist of rich soil, wooded lowlands, and marshes, can point with pride to continued development of its variety of natural resources and farm acreage. The mighty river that divides it is instrumental in the rapid growth of industry.



Culture and Recreation³

Visit St. James Historical Society Museum, a small turn-of-the-century pharmacy in Lutchter where tourist information is available, along with antiques and pictures from the past. On the grounds you will find an old Post Office, locomotive, train station, 800-year-old sinker cypress log, Blacksmith Shop, and more. Lost somewhere in the beautiful and glorious history of St. James Parish is when, where and why a bayou called Bayou des Acadiens became Blind River. Oak Alley Plantation, the South's most beautiful setting, begins with its spectacular trees, twenty-eight sheltering oaks over 250 years old. Lighting bonfires in St. James Parish on Christmas Eve has been a tradition since the 1880s. The annual Festivals of the Bonfires is the second weekend in December.

Parish Seat¹ Convent¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²
None

Parish Population²

1990 20,879

1997 (estimate) 21,569

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White 48%

African American 52%

Other 0%

Male 48%

St. James Historical Society
P.O. Box 426
Gramercy, LA 70052
504-869-9752

Regional Office of Public Health
Larry Richard
Regional Administrator
Acadian Regional Office
Brandywine III, Ste. 100
825 Kaliste Saloom Rd.
Lafayette, LA 70508
318-262-5311
318-262-5237 fax



Female	52%
Population age 0-4	8%
Populations age 65 & over	10%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	20 ft.
Land area in square miles	246.1
Water area in square miles ⁴	11.7

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	69°
January	57°
July	82°
Annual average rainfall	60.8 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	8,900
Employed	8,000
Unemployed	900
Unemployment	10.5%

Agriculture¹

Sugarcane, perique tobacco, soybeans, corn, hay, oats, vegetable farming, fruit orchards, beef cattle and crawfish farming.; oil and natural gas, oil refining, sugar refining, chemicals, fertilizer and aluminum.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)
New Orleans
 Delgado Community College; Dillard University; Louisiana State University Medical Center; Loyola University, N.O. Baptist Theological Seminary; Notre Dame Seminary School of Theology; Our Lady of Holy Cross College; Southern University; Tulane University; University of New Orleans; Xavier University
Baton Rouge
 Louisiana State University

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

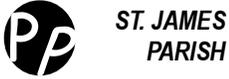
Less than 5th grade	5.8%
High school graduate or higher	61.1%
Some college or higher	22.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	8.1%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers	
Star Enterprises (Gas Products)	503
Kaiser Aluminum (Alumina)	500
Savannah Foods (Sugar Refinery)	400
Public Employers	
St. James Parish School Board (Education)	623
St. James Parish Council (Government)	355
St. James Parish Hospital (Medical)	131

Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	20.2%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	28.6%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$17,761



Southern University
Thibodaux
 Nicholls State University
Hammond
 Southeastern Louisiana University

References

¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA

² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://ded.state.la.us>

³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>

⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>

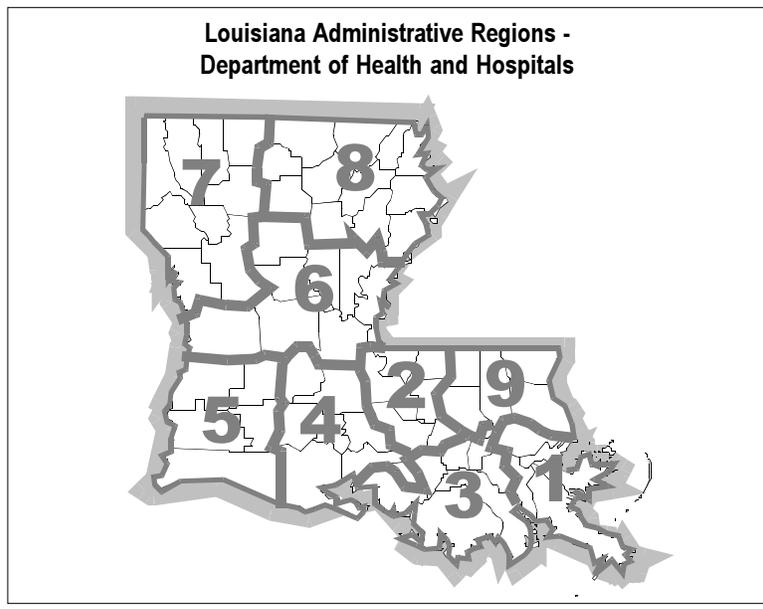
⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>

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>.

Public Libraries⁵ 2



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Region 1
 Jefferson
 Orleans
 Plaquemines
 St. Bernard</p> <p>Region 2
 Ascension
 East Baton Rouge
 East Feliciana
 Iberville
 Pointe Coupee
 West Baton Rouge
 West Feliciana</p> | <p>Region 3
 Assumption
 Lafourche
 St. Charles
 St. James
 St. John
 St. Mary
 Terrebonne</p> <p>Region 4
 Acadia
 Evangeline
 Iberia
 Lafayette
 St. Landry
 St. Martin
 Vermillion</p> | <p>Region 5
 Allen
 Beauregard
 Calcasieu
 Cameron
 Jefferson Davis</p> <p>Region 6
 Avoyelles
 Catahoula
 Concordia
 Grant
 LaSalle
 Rapides
 Vernon
 Winn</p> | <p>Region 7
 Bienville
 Bossier
 Caddo
 Claiborne
 DeSoto
 Natchitoches
 Red River
 Sabine
 Webster</p> <p>Region 8
 Caldwell
 East Carroll
 Franklin
 Jackson
 Lincoln
 Madison
 Morehouse
 Ouachita
 Richland
 Tensas
 Union
 West Carroll</p> <p>Region 9
 Livingston
 St. Helena
 St. Tammany
 Tangipahoa
 Washington</p> |
|--|---|---|--|