

ASCENSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Experience the Ascension Advantage

POPULATION

PARISH

Ascension Parish

2007 Census Estimate	99,056
2000 Census	76,627
1990 Census	58,214

Age (2005 Estimate)

0 – 19	31.2%
20-34	22.1%
35-54	29.9%
55-64	9.0%
65+	8.0%

REGION

2007 Census Estimate	770,037
2000 Census	705,973
1990 Census	628,853

SOURCE: 2007, 2000 AND 1990 U.S. CENSUS BUREAU; 2005 AGE ESTIMATE BY XPERIAN/APPLIED GEOGRAPHIC SOLUTIONS

MARKET ACCESS

HIGHWAYS

Interstate-10; Interstate-12: 25 miles
US Hwy. 61
LA Highway 30, 44

FREIGHT RAIL

Canadian National/Illinois Central; KCS; Union Pacific

NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS/PORTS

	(Distance in Miles)
Port of Greater Baton Rouge* (45 ft.)	40
Port of New Orleans * (45 ft.)	60
Port of South Louisiana* (45 ft.)	45
<i>Foreign Trade Zone (*)</i>	

AIRPORTS

Baton Rouge Metro Airport (commercial; 7,000 ft. runway)	35
New Orleans International - 10,080 ft. runway	55
Louisiana Regional Airport (4,000'x100')	parish

MOTOR FREIGHT

50 freight carriers in the region
Terminal facilities are available in the parish.



Ascension Parish, Louisiana
Part of the 9-parish Baton Rouge Metro Area

DISTANCE TO MAJOR CITIES

(in miles, from center of parish)

Atlanta, GA	530
Birmingham, AL	405
Chicago, IL	890
Dallas, TX	470
Houston, TX	300
Little Rock, AR	500
Kansas City, MO	810
Nashville, TN	600
New Orleans, LA	60
St. Louis, MO	645

SOURCE: WWW.MAPQUEST.COM

PARCEL SERVICE

Federal Express	U.S. Postal Service
United Parcel Service	DHL

LABOR FORCE

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

	Annual 2007
Parish	47,380
Region	363,313
Louisiana	1,997,879

EMPLOYMENT

Parish	45,659
Region	349,520
Louisiana	1,921,347

UNEMPLOYMENT

Parish	3.6%
Region	3.8%
Louisiana	3.8%

SOURCE: LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, ANNUAL 2007

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.

Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Louisiana businesses receive an exemption of the 4 percent state sales, use, lease and rental tax on eligible machinery & equipment purchased in the state. The tax will be phased out by 2009.

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

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

Research & Development Tax Credit Program - income/franchise tax credits up to 20% of R & D expenditures.

Film and Production Tax Credit - Tax credits for filming and production of commercials, film, TV, etc. up to 25%.

TAXES

SALES TAX (2008)

East Ascension within Gonzales	8.5%
East Ascension within Sorrento	8.5%
East Ascension outside Gonzales or Sorrento	8.5%
West Ascension within Donaldsonville	8.5%
West Ascension outside Donaldsonville	8.5%

SOURCE: ASCENSION PARISH SALES TAX COMMISSION

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 (2007)

Parish wide average: 103.00
Municipality range: 6.27-11.51

SOURCE: ASCENSION 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

Orange Grove – 1,023-acre Greenfield site on the MS River; existing bulk handling dock; 1300-ft river front; excellent utility capacity; rail on-site.

Pointe Sunshine – 987-acre site on MS River optioned by local economic development agency and certified megasite, 50+ foot draft suitable for deepwater dock.

Ascension Commercial Park - 350 acres at intersection of Highways 30 and 73, just 3 miles from Interstate 10 and one-half mile from the Mississippi River. All utilities to site.

Donaldsonville Industrial & Technology Park - 62 acres located at LA Hwys. 70 and 3089. Only 10 miles from the I-10 Interchange.

Woodlands of Ascension Business Park - 107 acres on Highway 73 near intersection of Highway 30. Four miles from Interstate 10. Zoned Business Park. All utilities to site.

Melancon Property - 228 acres with 3,800 foot river frontage on Highway 73 and Highway 75 (River Road), five miles from Interstate 10 in Geismar.

GOVERNMENT

Parish	Municipality
Parish President & Council	Mayor

QUALITY OF LIFE

CLIMATE

Average Temperature	
January	61°
July	91°
Annually	68°
Average Annual Rainfall	60.3 inches

COST OF LIVING 100.6

SOURCE: ACCRA BATON ROUGE MSA

MEDICAL SERVICES (within region)

Medical Facility	No. of Beds
St. Elizabeth's Hospital (parish)	95
Prevost Hospital (parish)	25
Promise Hospital of Ascension (parish)	54
Baton Rouge General Medical Center	448
Ochsner Regional Medical Center	201
Earl K. Long Regional Medical Center	161
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical	721
Woman's Hospital	225

RECREATION

Pelican Point Golf Community

Festivals/Events

Jambalaya Festival; Sunshine Festival; Sorrento Boucherie Festival
www.ascensiontourism.com

UTILITIES & SERVICES

Electricity Entergy; DEMCO

Natural Gas – Gonzales; Atmos Energy LA

Water – People's Water Service; Gonzales

Sewerage – Donaldsonville; Gonzales

Telephone - Eatel; AT&T; Cox Communications

Fiber Optic – Network along Interstate-10 from New Orleans to Lake Charles into Texas



MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Company	Product/Service	Employees
Turner Industries	Chemical plant maintenance & construction	1,500
BASF	Industrial organic chemicals	1,000
Rubicon	Aniline, nitrobenzene	600
Motiva (part of plant in the parish)	Industrial organic chemicals	543
Shell Chemical LP	Industrial organic chemicals	500
Oxychem	Industrial organic chemicals	400
St. Elizabeth's Hospital	Private hospital	400
Honeywell	Petroleum refining	392
Eatel	Telecommunications	300
Lion Copolymer	Industrial inorganic chemicals	280
CF Industries	Anhydrous ammonia	258
Industrial Design and Construction Inc.	Chemical plant maintenance & construction	250
Promise Hospital	Acute care hospital	200
Air Products	Industrial gases	180
Industrial Coatings Contractors Inc.	Coating, caulking, weather, water, fireproofing	156
TMC Contractors Inc.	General electrical contractor	150
International Marine Tank Terminal	Liquid bulk logistics terminal	120
Carline Tank Service Inc	Tugboat service	140
Philadelphia Point Fleet Inc	Canal and intracoastal freight transportation	140
Trimac Transportation	Contract haulers	140
Pax, Inc.	Chemical plant maintenance & construction	130
Neese Industries Inc	Raincoats, except vulcanized rubber	55

SOURCE: AEDC interviews with company officials ,
Synchronist Retention Software, 2006-2008

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTACT

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