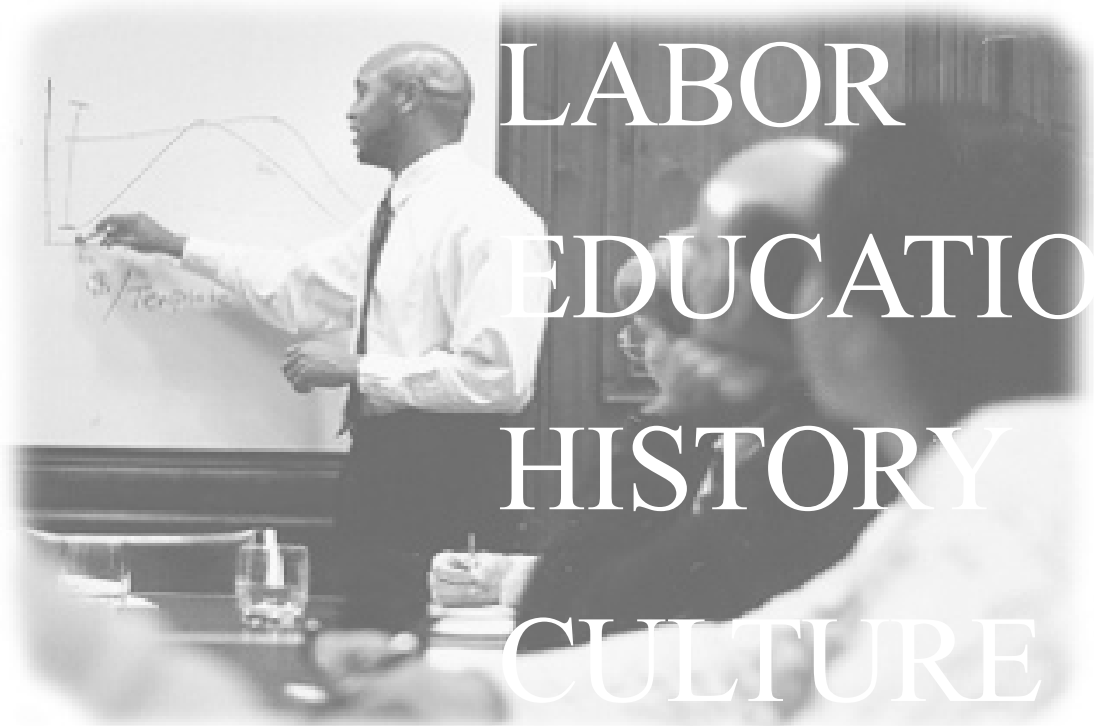




VERMILION



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*



Vermilion Parish

**Vermilion Parish
Tourist Commission**
P.O. Box 1106
Abbeville, LA 70511-
1106
337-898-6600

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Larry Richard
Regional Administrator
Acadian Regional
Office
Brandywine III, Ste.
100
825 Kaliste Saloom Rd.
Lafayette, LA 70508
337-262-5311
337-262-5237 fax

History¹

Vermilion Parish was established on March 25, 1844, carved out of Lafayette parish under Governor Mouton’s administration. Present-day Perry (Perry’s Bridge) was named the parish seat at that time; the parish seat is now in Abbeville. The name comes from Vermilion River and Vermilion Bay, both named because the bluff along the lands of the course of the river is reddish, or vermilion, in color. It offers summer and winter hunting and fishing in many bayous and 50 miles fronting the Gulf of Mexico. An improved state highway leads to Pecan Island, where commercial and private hunting camps are located and hunters from all parts of the nation come to enjoy their favorite sport. The parish has an abundant supply of fresh water and fertile lands which offer an inviting and desirable spot for the location of new industries.



Culture and Recreation³

Vermilion Parish offers a cornucopia of culture, history, and unique attraction. Explore magnificent marshlands, Leland Bowman Locks in Intracoastal City, emu and alligator farms, and diverse agriculturally rich lands. Experience a Cajun Cowboy Cattle Drive, a tour of Abbeville’s Historic District including the grandiose St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, or a trip to Erath’s Acadian History Museum. As you travel the Jean Lafitte Scenic Byway, enjoy the abundant wildlife, hybrid day lilies, flora, pristine and serene land, and wonderful waterways. Capitalize on some of the best birding spots in America. Vermilion Parish, “the most Cajun place on Earth” according to a recent census, touts fabulous food; fun-filled festivities in Abbeville, Erath, Gueydan and Kaplan; toe-tappin’ Cajun, French, Zydeco and Country music; and “joie de vivre”!

Parish Seat¹ Abbeville¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Abbeville	
1990	11,187
1997 (estimate)	13,047
Kaplan	
1990	4,535
1997 (estimate)	5,289



Parish Population²

1990	50,055
1997 (estimate)	51,318
Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates) ⁶	
White	83%
African American	15%
Other	2%
Male	49%
Female	51%
Population age 0-4	7%
Populations age 65 & over	16%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	18 ft.
Land area in square miles	1,173.9
Water area in square miles ⁴	364.6

Climate²

Average temperatures

Annual	67°
January	51°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	60.2 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	22,540
Employed	20,910
Unemployed	1,430
Unemployment Rate	6.4%

Agriculture¹

Rice sugarcane, beef cattle, soybeans, cotton and sweet potatoes; oil, gas and related industries, rice milling, cane syrup, fishing and trapping.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)
Louisiana State University, Eunice
University of Southwestern Louisiana,
Lafayette

Public Libraries⁵ 8

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	9.0%
High school graduate or higher	58.3%
Some college or higher	22.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	8.8%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers	
Garan, Inc. (Leisure Apparel)	300
Robie's Food Store (Retail Grocery)	205
Riviana Foods (Rice Milling)/Wal-Mart (Disc. Retailer)	175
Public Employers	
Vermilion Parish School Board (Education)	1,086
Abbeville General Hospital (Medical)	389
Vermilion Parish Policie Jury (Government)	225

Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	21.0%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	30.4%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$16,439



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>

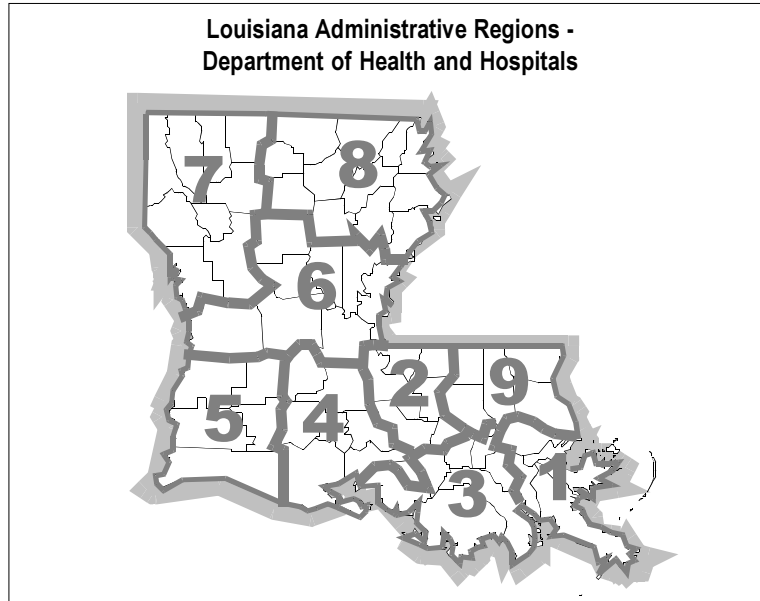
⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>

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>.



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington