



MOREHOUSE



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



Morehouse Parish



History¹

Morehouse lies mostly in the Mississippi River delta land, amply irrigated by numerous streams and bayous. It was originally a part of the Ouachita Territory, which extended from the Mississippi River to the Red River, encompassing a large part of northeast Louisiana. The first settlers arrived in 1796 under the colonization program of the Spanish governor, Baron De Carondelet. Baron De Carondelet granted 12 leagues square to the Dutch nobleman Baron De Bastrop, with the provision that he bring 500 settlers to the area. Abraham Morehouse was one of these early settlers. The parish was formally organized on March 25, 1844, and the parish and principal city named after the two founding fathers. In the 1890s the railroad arrived, bringing many more settlers and causing a more rapid movement of the economy.

Culture and Recreation³

There are 8 local parks and one state park in Morehouse Parish. There are several festivals each year, including the Farm Festival in January, and the Bonita Alligator Festival in June. Morehouse Parish boasts a museum, an energetic little theatre troupe, and a unique tourist center with Spanish land grants on view. The Snyder Museum has both permanent and traveling exhibits. Among the more interesting objects in its permanent collection are antique farming implements and cotton memorabilia. For visitors who might want to experience what an early theatre might have been like, the Rose Theatre offers a peek. Home to the Cotton Country Players, the theatre is very active. The building, constructed in 1927, has some particularly interesting architectural features, including rare cast-cement emblems.

Parish Seat¹ Bastrop¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Bastrop	
1990	13,916
1997 (estimate)	14,028

Parish Population²

1990	31,938
1997 (estimate)	31,722

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Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White	56%
African American	44%
Other	0%
Male	47%
Female	53%
Population age 0-4	7%
Population age 65 & Over	15%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	120 ft.
Land area in square miles	794.3
Water area in square miles ⁴	11.0

Climate²

Average temperatures

Annual	65°
January	37°
July	82°
Annual average rainfall	65.7 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	16,640
Employed	15,290
Unemployed	1,350
Unemployment	8.1%

Agriculture¹

Cotton, rice, wheat, soybeans, corn, livestock and timber.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Grambling State University, Grambling
Louisiana Tech University, Ruston
Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe

Public Libraries⁵ 6

References

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

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	6.3%
High school graduate or higher	57.8%
Some college or higher	24.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	10.5%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

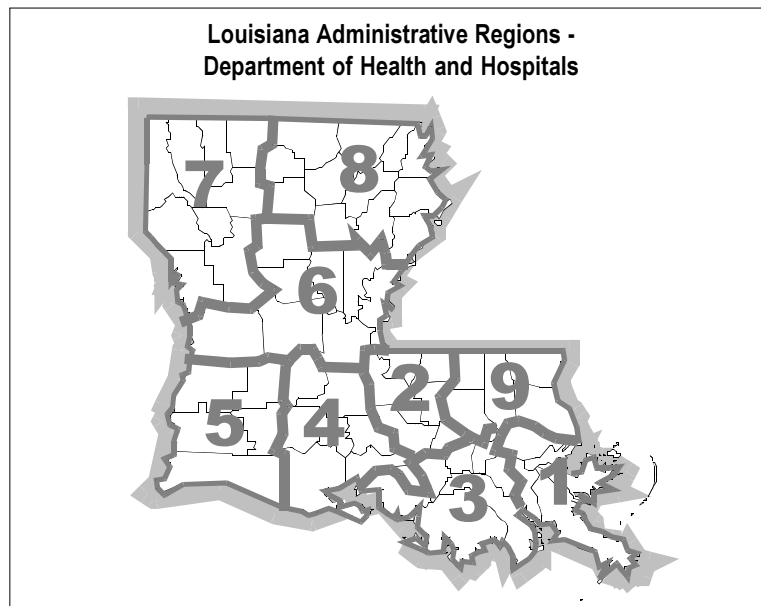
Private Employers	
International Paper Company (Paper mill)	1,080
Ditto Apparel of California, Inc. (Apparel)	550
Wal-Mart (Discount retail)	225
Public Employers	
Morehouse Parish School System (Education)	787
Morehouse General Hospital (Medical)	416
City of Bastrop (Government)	180

Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	28.6%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	40.9%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$15,878



- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.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