

A Look at Louisiana Agriculture



Capital: Baton Rouge

Population: 4,410,796

Founded: April 30, 1812 (18th)

State Bird: Eastern Brown Pelican

State Tree: Bald Cypress

State Flower: Orange Blossom

Number of Counties: 64

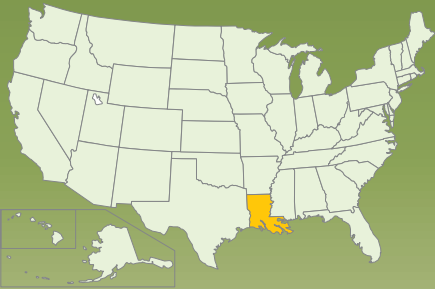
Largest City: New Orleans, 1 million

Nickname: Pelican State

Number of Farms: 30,000

Average Farm Size: 269 acres

Total Farmland: 8.1 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Climate is humid, subtropical.
- The average annual precipitation ranges from 48" in the northwestern part of the state to 70" in the southeastern part of the state.
- January is the coldest month with temperatures ranging from 32°F to 55°F.
- July is the warmest month with temperature ranging from 73°F to 93°F.
- Louisiana is divided into 5 natural regions based on differences in relief, soil, and vegetation: Mississippi Floodplain, Terraces, Marsh, Red River Valley and the Hills.
- Elevation ranges from approximately 4 feet below sea level in New Orleans to 535 feet above sea level on Driskell Mountain in Bienville Parish.

Crops & Livestock

- More than 40% of the U.S. grain exports move through Louisiana ports.
- Poultry is the largest animal industry in the state; in 2000, 1.1 billion pounds of broilers and 35.7 million dozen eggs were produced.
- Louisiana ranks #1 in the nation in the production of crawfish, shrimp, alligators, menhaden, and oysters.
- The commercial fishing industry produces 25% of all seafood in the U.S. and includes shrimp, menhaden (pogy), crabs, and several species of finfish.
- Forestry is the #1 agriculture industry in Louisiana (13.9 million acres of forests).
- The other top crops in Louisiana are rice, corn, sugarcane, soybeans, and cattle and calves.
- Ranked 3rd nationally for rice production.
- Louisiana is the sole source of the Tabasco pepper, a popular condiment known around the world and for perique tobacco, which is used as flavoring with other tobaccos.

General

- The top three industries in Louisiana are the petrochemical industry, agriculture and tourism.
- Louisiana is the 3rd largest producer of petroleum and the 2nd largest producer of natural gas in the United States.
- Louisiana has the greatest concentration of crude oil refineries, natural processing plants and petrochemical products facilities in the Western Hemisphere.
- Louisiana has the longest coastline of any state – 15,000 miles.
- Louisiana has 5,000 miles of navigable waterways.
- Louisiana is home to 41% of the nation's wetlands.
- The Mississippi River, which ends its journey in Louisiana by emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, drains at least 31 states. It is the Mississippi River that has formed much of the state.