

How sustainable is the Parish economy? What efforts can be taken now to ensure good jobs are available for Parish residents in the future?

# Plaquemines Parish MASTER PLAN



President Billy Nungesser

PURPOSE STATEMENT: *To understand base conditions of the local and regional economy and to identify ways to strengthen and improve the local business environment, employment opportunities, and workforce development.*

## Big Ideas

- Plaquemines' unique location in the Mississippi delta is an asset that can be utilized to attract new businesses to the parish.
- New port facilities have the potential to bring additional revenue and stature to Plaquemines Parish and the New Orleans metropolitan area.
- Development of the ecotourism industry can bring new jobs and opportunities to the parish.
- Plaquemines Parish is a prime location for renewable energy sources – including wind and hydrokinetic energy and is coordinating with potential investors on employing such technologies.

## Big Decisions & Questions

- How do we retain our population and strengthen our workforce?
- How do we rebuild our coast in a way that improves our economic capabilities?
- How do we retain our younger populations to live and work here?
- How can we strategically connect our unique assets to grow tourism in our community? What are the big steps that are needed?
- What should be the community's role, if any, in mitigating conflicts among important local industries, such as the oil industry and fishing?
- What will be the long term impact of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster be on the local economy?

## Related Big Issues

- ❖ Traffic congestion in Belle Chasse along US 23 is a deterrent to attracting new businesses.
  - Potential Transportation network improvements will help – Extension of Peters Road and improvements to the railroad network.
- ❖ The way coastal restoration occurs will have long-term impacts on several of the Parish's industries that center upon the natural resources that Plaquemines has to offer.
- ❖ Increased levee protection will provide additional security to our big economic engines – including Conoco Phillips.
- ❖ Infrastructure needs – water and sewer – to support new businesses.
- ❖ The population and labor force of Plaquemines Parish has declined since Katrina.

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

### Education

Belle Chasse Academy

### Fisheries & Agriculture

Daybrook Fisheries

### Military

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans

### Oil, Gas, and Petrochemicals

ConocoPhillips Company  
Chevron Oronite Co.

### Oil and Gas Industry Support

ART Catering  
Fab-Con Inc.  
Versatruss Americas LLC

### Shipyards & Marine Support

BJ Services Co.  
C & C Services

### Transportation, Warehousing, & Storage

Teco Bulk Terminal  
Stolthaven

### Waste Management

Environmental Operators, LLC

### Other Services

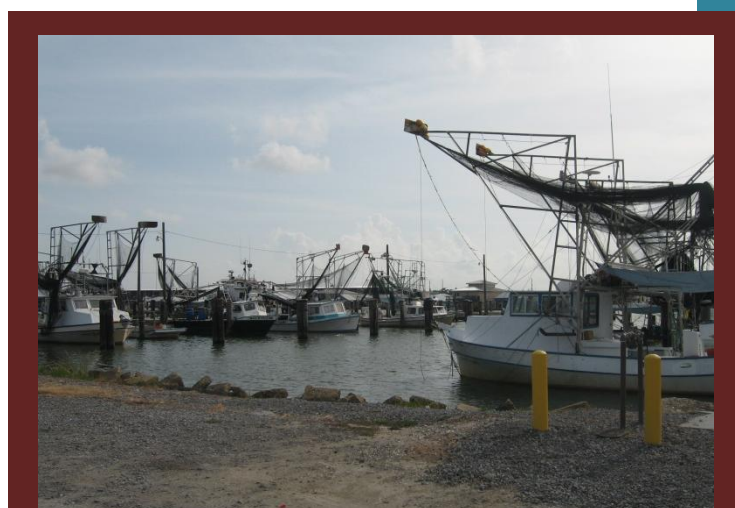
Industrial Pipe, Inc.  
Point Eight Power  
Scott Armature LLC

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Plaquemines Parish is part of the metropolitan New Orleans labor market with total wages of \$23.4 billion in 2008.
- The Parish's total 2008 employment was 14,500 – this reflects workers living inside and outside of the parish.
- 64 percent of the Plaquemines workforce is employed in the parish, another 36 percent travels elsewhere to work.
- Plaquemines Parish has a low unemployment rate (those parish residents looking for work but without a job): 5.5 percent in March 2010, compared to 6 percent unemployment for the New Orleans metropolitan area, 6.9 percent for Louisiana, and 10.2 percent for the United States overall. This compares to a 5.8 percent unemployment rate for Plaquemines Parish in March 2009. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.)
- Plaquemines serves as the operational center for offshore oil and gas industry – producing 17 million barrels of oil and 105 million cubic ft. of gas and accounts for ~25 percent of the annual state severance revenues (\$100 million) and annual royalty revenues (\$140 million).
- In 2009, Plaquemines Parish produced 1/3 of the state's oysters, 1/5 of the state's shrimp, and 3/5 of the State's menhaden – with a total fisheries and wildlife gross farm value of \$57 million. Plaquemines produces 62 percent of the State's citrus, including navels, satsumas, and other citrus
- The Mississippi River connects to the Gulf of Mexico in the Plaquemines Parish, creating a unique ecotourism destination and an important commercial route.
- Plaquemines is home to Naval Air Station Joint Army Reserve located in Belle Chasse, which currently maintains a civilian and military staff of 5,000, with expected employment to increase to 7,500 by 2011. The army base contributes over \$600 million dollars to local economy.
- Since June 2004, the Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry has been representing the interests of companies in Plaquemines Parish.

## PLANNED INVESTMENTS

- Port facility expansion near Braithwaite or in central area of the parish.
- Development of a port to increase trade routes from the Panama Canal to the Gulf of Mexico.
- Ecotourism – including Wetlands Discovery Center.
- Investment in Fort Jackson, Fort St. Phillip, and other historic sites to increase tourism impact in region; application for Fort Jackson becoming a national park is under way.



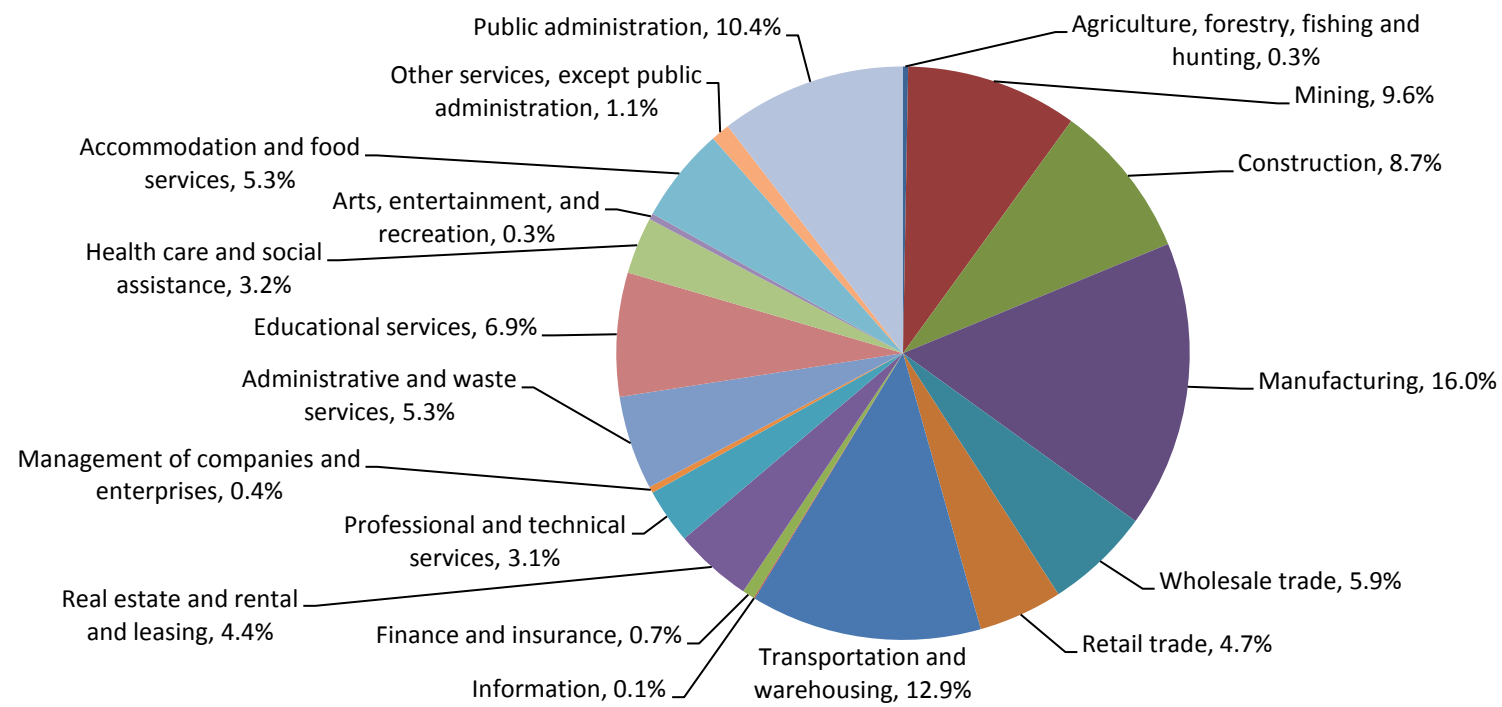
(above) The fishing industry is an important economic sector in Plaquemines Parish.

## DRAFT FOCUS SHEET

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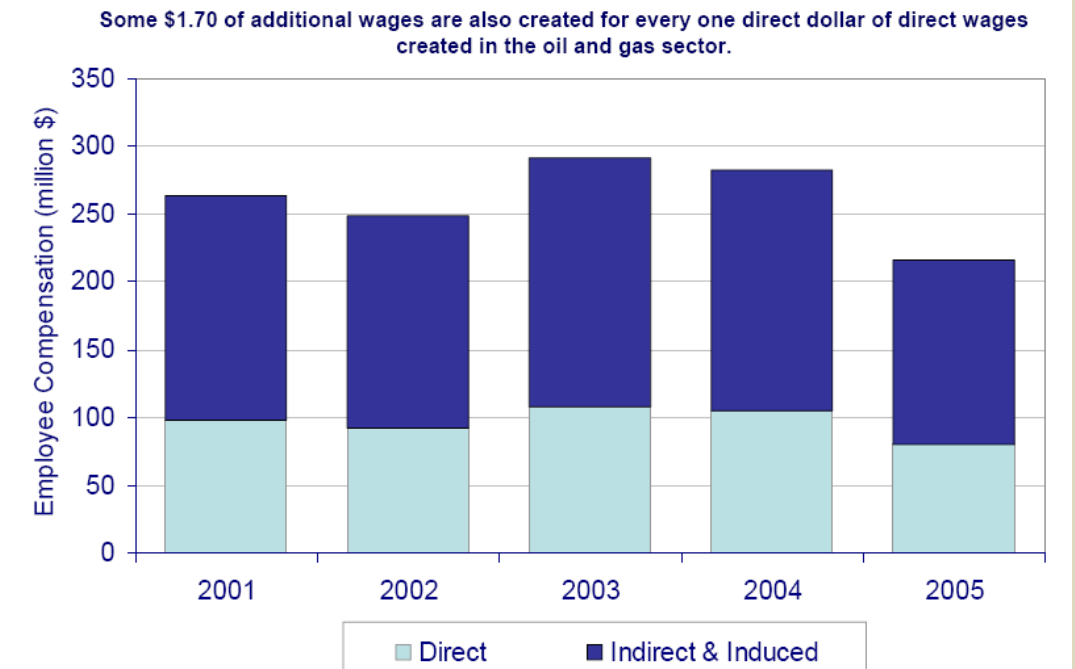
# GROWING OUR ECONOMY

**2009 Employment in Plaquemines Parish by Industry Sector**



Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission. Percentages are based on average monthly employment for the third quarter of 2009.

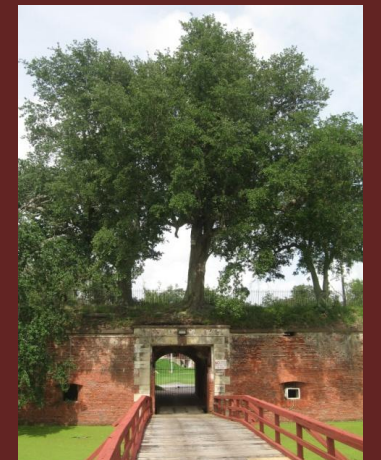
**Wages Supported by Oil and Gas in Plaquemines Parish**



Source: Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University. June 2006. *The Importance of Energy Production and Infrastructure in Plaquemines Parish.*



(left) Strike Fighter Squadron Stationed on the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base; (center) Industrial site on east bank of the parish; (right) Shipping plays an important role in the Plaquemines Parish economy.



(left) Woodland Plantation is an important part of the tourism industry in Plaquemines Parish. (right) Fort Jackson has the potential to attract thousands of visitors a year.

**DRAFT FOCUS SHEET**

*Plaquemines Parish*  
**MASTER PLAN**

