



# Bayou Region

## Business Barometer

October 2014

Assumption Parish won the site selection decision for Danos & Curole's new manufacturing facility. The \$23 million project will be located in Amelia and employ 100 workers when completed. Houma was chosen by Baywater Drilling for its \$10 million headquarter facility. These projects are just two announced during the past quarter, among 20 projects with Advance Notifications filed with Louisiana Economic Development for a total value of \$164 million. Once implemented these projects will employ 315 construction workers and 495 permanent employees. Of these projects, 1 is located in Assumption Parish; 5 in Lafourche; 3 in St. Mary; and 11 in Terrebonne Parish. Another 10 projects are in the works throughout the region. Also of note was Cameron Energy LLC's USDOE approval to begin construction of its LNG export facility. Although located in Cameron Parish, the project will employ 3,000 construction workers and 200 full time employees with undoubtedly a good number from the Bayou Region.

Employment was up last quarter. In August, regional employment, as reported by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, stood at 139,507, 3,368 more than one year ago. The August labor force, those working or available for work, stood at 146,955, an increase of 7,418 since January. The Region's unemployment rate stood at 5.1% in August.

Parish year over year employment changes from August 2013 to August 2014 were: Assumption Parish up 140 jobs; Lafourche up 1,418; St. Mary up 244, and Terrebonne up 1,568. State employment was up 52,697 over the past year. Locally, the top 5 sectors job growth over the year, in descending order: construction; employment services; trade, transportation, and utilities; leisure and hospitality; and mining.

While employment news is good, wages and income growth continue to lag. Average weekly wages for all sectors in the Bayou Region stood at \$1,021 in August, virtually the same as August 2012. This despite the fact that Louisiana personal income rose 1.5% in the second quarter of 2014. Nationally, median household income has fallen from \$56,895 in 1999 to \$51,939 for 2013 caused in part by baby boomers with high pay retire.

Oil prices continue to tumble sparked in part by Saudi Arabia's cut in price and expected drop in production of 500,000 barrels per day. November's delivery price for light, sweet crude fell to \$90.73, the lowest since April 2013 and West Texas Intermediate was at \$88.60 at the time of this writing. Meanwhile crude exports hit a 57-year high in July and currently stands around 400,000 barrels per day. Imports have steadily fallen, since 2007 by 8.7 million barrels per day. Experts say lifting the crude export ban would sustain the current US oil boom.

Sugar prices, once hovering around 20 cents per pound was sending farmers to look for alternative crops, mainly soybeans, and forcing the Fed to purchase \$278 million dollars worth of sugar last year. However, since Washington's recent approval of an import duty on Mexican sugar next year, whose dumping practices are blamed for much of the price drop, the price has risen to 22-25 cents per pound based solely on the announced duty. Prices from 2010 -2012 ranged between 27-34 cents. This year's State harvest is expected to be 12.5 million tons of cane down from 14 million in 2013. Farmers expect to yield 33 tons of sugar per acre.

### FAST FACTS

**August Regional Employment was 139,507, up 3,368 from one year ago**

**The Houma-Thibodaux MSA had the lowest Unemployment Rate in the State in August at 4.5%**

**Louisiana's unemployment rate in August was 6.4%**

**August US unemployment stood at 6.3%**

**Gulf of Mexico's Oil & Gas Rotary Rig Count on October 3<sup>rd</sup> was 61, up 8 from last quarter but down 2 from a year ago**

**9 Buildings, down 6 from last quarter; and 41 Sites, up 1 from last quarter.**

**These properties are listed for sale or lease at:**

<http://www.louisianasiteselection.com/bayouregion/Home.aspx>

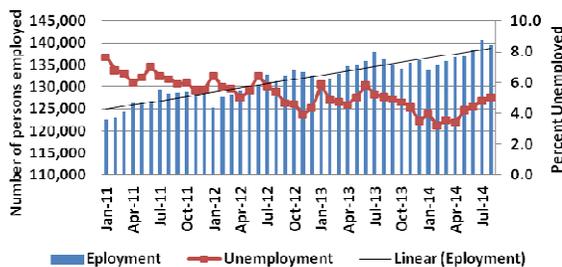


**South Louisiana Economic Council**  
Assumption • Lafourche • St. Mary • Terrebonne

October 2014

Bayou Region Business Barometer

**Regional Employment / Unemployment  
January 2011 to August 2014**



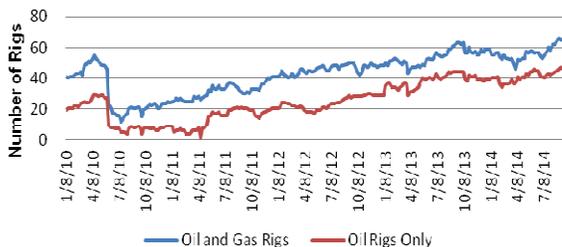
**Bayou Region Labor Force & Employment  
January 2011 to August 2014**

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



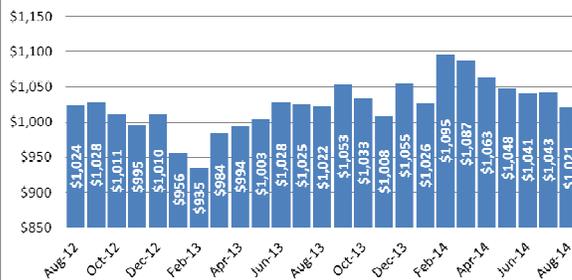
**Gulf of Mexico Rotary Rig Count  
2010 to Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014**

Source: Baker Hughes

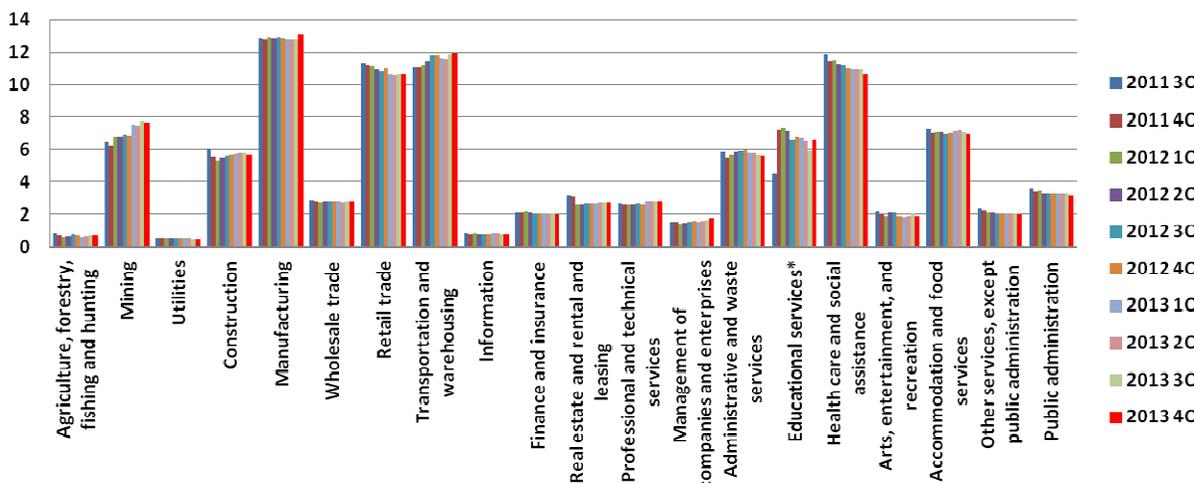


**Bayou Region Average Weekly Wage  
all Sectors**

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



**Percent of Regional Total Quarterly Employment by Sector  
3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2011 to 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2013**



A Quarterly Publication of the South Louisiana Economic Council

[www.bayouregion.com](http://www.bayouregion.com)

Funded in part by Louisiana Economic Development  
Prepared by Edmonson Associates @ edmonsonassociatesonline.com

