



- **Georgia**
- **Kentucky**
- **Louisiana**
- **Mississippi**
- **Missouri**

For four issues of Southern Business & Development, we are having some fun. It's the "Best of Economic Development in the American South," and each issue features three to five Southern states, beginning with Spring 2015. You can use the results as a unique aid in your search for a suitable site for your business in the American South.



# L

## 2015 Best of Economic Development in

# LOUISIANA



Port of South Louisiana at LaPlace was voted one of the Best Small Town Industrial Sites in Louisiana. Over 4,000 oceangoing vessels and 55,000 barges call at the Port of South Louisiana each year, making it the top ranked port in the country for export tonnage and total tonnage.

### 1. Louisiana's Three Best Economic Development Assets

- Gulf of Mexico
- Mississippi River
- Port system
- Workforce

Also receiving votes: Incentive programs; Low taxes; Right to work; Geography; New Orleans; Haynesville Shale; England Airpark; Oil & gas industry; Interstate system.

### 2. The Louisiana Economy's Most Important Employers

- CenturyLink
- Dow Chemical
- ExxonMobil

Also receiving votes: Laitram Corporation; Roy. O. Martin; Sasol; Military; Federal government; Stuller;

Acadian; ConAgra; Halliburton; Nucor; Benteler Steel/Tube.

### 3. Louisiana's Most Important New Employers

- Cheniere
- IBM
- Nucor
- Sasol

Also receiving votes: Union Tank Car; CGI; Bell Helicopter.

### 4. Louisiana's Most Admired Companies

- CenturyLink
- Edison Chouest
- Stuller Settings
- Tabasco

Also receiving votes: ExxonMobil; Abita Springs Brewery; Westlake Chemical; Turner Industries; CSRS; Acadian.

### 5. Louisiana's Most Admired Manufacturers

- Bell Helicopter
- Benteler Steel
- Stuller Settings

Also receiving votes: Oceaneering; Laitram; ExxonMobil; Shell; Dow; Roy O Martin; Tabasco.

### 6. Louisiana's Most Admired Service Companies

- Entergy
- Ochsner Hospital
- Resource Environmental Solutions

Also receiving votes: Acadian; SDT Waste Services; NRG/Reliance Energy; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana; Frank's International; Halliburton.

### 7. Louisiana's Most Admired Food Manufacturing Companies

- Bruce Foods
- ConAgra
- McIlhenny Company

### 8. The Best of R&D in Louisiana

- Albermarle
- Cyber Command Center
- LITE Center
- National Center for Advanced Manufacturing

Also receiving votes: New Iberia Research Center; Michoud; ExxonMobil; Monsanto.

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Lafayette, La., is one city that seems to have it all — it was recognized for digital media, its creative class, aerospace, tech hub, its economic development agency, and as a great place to retire.

### 9. Best Locations for Biosciences in Louisiana

- Baton Rouge
- New Orleans
- Shreveport

### 10. Best Aerospace Locations in Louisiana

- Chennault-Lake Charles
- England AirPark
- Lafayette
- Shreveport

Also receiving votes: New Iberia Airport; New Orleans; Lake Charles; Acadiana Regional Airport.

### 11. Louisiana's Best Community Colleges for Workforce Training

- Delgado Community College
- Fletcher Community College
- South Louisiana Community College
- SOWELA Technical Community College

Also receiving votes: Bossier Parish Community College; Young Memorial; Louisiana Capital Area Community College.



McIlhenny Tabasco was recognized as one of the state's most admired companies.

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## Helping our clients meet their business challenges one project at a time.

"Jones Walker has been ADD's trusted counsel since 2008 on major projects in our region. Currently, ADD is responsible for the Federal City Project, which is transforming a former Navy base to a mixed use development. They provided the solutions needed to navigate complex negotiations with the Navy, state agencies, New Orleans, and private organizations. Jones Walker is a true partner and helps us succeed."

— Kathy Lynn Honaker, Executive Director  
Algiers Development District

"In the face of global competition, Elmer Chocolate needed to consider a wide range of options to stay competitive and facilitate future growth. Together with the Jones Walker team, we worked with federal, state, parish, city, local governments, and with regional EDOs to assist us. Elmer Chocolate now has a \$40 million capital investment to modernize our production facility, retain personnel and create new jobs. It was a great team effort."

— Robert Nelson, CEO  
Elmer Chocolate

"Jones Walker attorneys gave us the advice we needed to feel comfortable participating in an extremely complicated transaction that brought together a broad range of public and private partners. The resulting project has created jobs and made a significant economic impact on our community."

— Jonathan Tullos, Executive Director  
Wiregrass Economic Development Corp.

Jones Walker LLP and its affiliate, Jones Walker Consulting, LLC, advise clients in all aspects of economic development, including site selection, structuring, and obtaining statutory and discretionary tax incentives and other competitive advantages, and improvement of the overall business environment. We have extensive experience in the automotive, aerospace/defense, shipbuilding, rail, petroleum/petrochemical, and manufacturing industries.

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The Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance staff, including CEO George Swift, center right. SWLA EDA was named one of Louisiana's Best Local Economic Development Agencies.

**12. Best Engineering/Architecture Firms in Louisiana**

- Architects Southwest
- CSRS
- Hunt Guillot & Associates

Also receiving votes: URS; Aecom; Waldemar Nelson; Chicago Bridge and Iron.

**13. Louisiana's Best Economic Development Law Firms**

- Adams and Reese
- Jones Walker
- Kean Miller

Also receiving votes: Breazeale Sachse & Wilson; Taylor Porter.

**14. Best Contractors for Industrial Projects in Louisiana**

- Cajun Industries
- Performance Contractors
- Turner Industries

Also receiving votes: Boh Brothers; Chicago Bridge and Iron; Kinder Morgan; Lemoine Company; JB Mouton.

**15. Louisiana's Best Industrial Real Estate Firms**

- Beau Box Commercial Properties
- Coldwell Banker Commercial Pelican
- Stirling Properties

Also receiving votes: NAI Latter & Blum; Saurage Rotenberg.

**16. Best Small Business Banks in Louisiana**

- Business First Bank
- Iberia Bank
- Progressive Bank

Also receiving votes: FNBC; Red River Bank; Community Trust Bank; Gulf Coast Bank; MidSouth Bank; Home Bank.

**17. Best Megasites in Louisiana**

- Ascension Megasite
- Citrus Lands
- England AirPark
- Franklin Farms

Also receiving votes: Chennault; Michoud Assembly Facility; Iberville Parish Riverside.

**18. Best Small Town Industrial Sites in Louisiana**

- Bogalusa
- Port of South Louisiana
- New Iberia Port and Airport

Also receiving votes: Vivian; Natchitoches Parish Port; War II Industrial Park; Broussard.

**19. Best Riverfront Industrial Sites in Louisiana**

- Ascension Megasite
- Point Sunshine
- Waterloo Site

Also receiving votes: Minnie/Alice; Goldmine; Carville; NRG Industrial Park; Zeringue/Cabonocey.

**20. Best Locations for Digital Media in Louisiana**

- Baton Rouge
- Lafayette
- New Orleans

Also receiving votes: Shreveport.

CONTINUED

## LOUISIANA

### 21. Best Cities in Louisiana for the Creative Class

- Baton Rouge
- Lafayette
- New Orleans

Also receiving votes: Shreveport.

### 22. Best Places in Louisiana to Hire Veterans

- Alexandria
- Lake Charles
- Shreveport

Also receiving votes: New Orleans; Monroe; Baton Rouge.

### 23. Best Tech Hubs in Louisiana

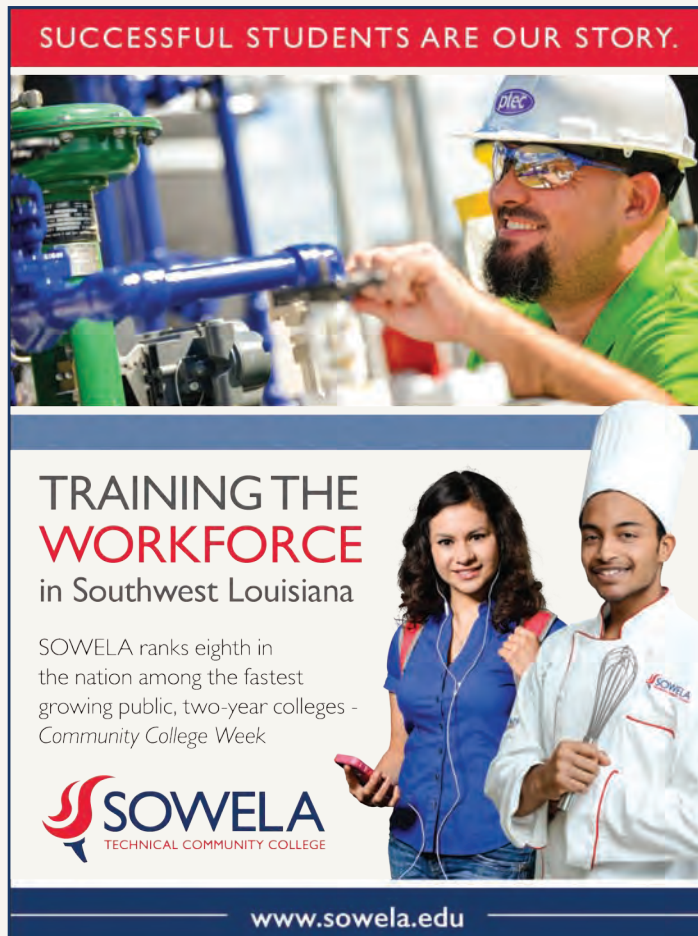
- Baton Rouge
- Lafayette
- New Orleans

Also receiving votes: Ruston.

### 24. Louisiana's Best Local Economic Development Agencies

- Greater New Orleans Inc.
- Lafayette EDA
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- SWLA Economic Development Alliance

Also receiving votes: Iberia Development Foundation; England Air Park; One Acadiana; Livingston EDC; Ascension EDC.



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Greater New Orleans Inc. was named one of Louisiana's Best Local Economic Development Agencies.

### 25. Best Louisiana Cities for African-American Business Ownership

- Bossier City
- New Orleans
- Shreveport

Also receiving votes: Baton Rouge.

### 26. Best Places to Retire in Louisiana

- Lafayette
- Natchitoches
- New Orleans

Also receiving votes: St. Francisville; Lake Charles; Youngsville; Carencro.

### 27. Louisiana's Best Craft Breweries

- Abita
- Parish Brewing Co.
- Tin Roof

Also receiving votes: NOLA Beer; Bayou Teche Brewing.

### 28. Louisiana's Best Sporting Events

- LSU Football
- Saints Football
- Sugar Bowl

Also receiving votes: Grambling Football; Angola Prison Rodeo; Zurich Golf Classic; Louisiana Grand Prix; UL Lafayette Football; UL Lafayette Baseball; Louisiana Open; Louisiana Tech Football.

### 29. Louisiana's Best Non-Sporting Events

- Festivals Acadiens et Creoles
- Jazz Fest
- Mardi Gras

Also receiving votes: Bayou Country SuperFest; Christmas Lights Festival in Natchitoches; Festival International de Louisiana.

### 30. Best Three Restaurants in Louisiana

- Antoine's
- Commander's Palace
- Galatoire's

Also receiving votes: Cochon; Jacque Imo's; Café Vermillionville; Juban's; Nino's Italian; Charley G's; French Press; Tsunami.