



Continued Economic Growth and Changes in First Quarter

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DATE

MacArthur, new AEDC President

The AEDC recently hired Kate MacArthur as President & CEO. She brings over 10 years of economic development experience working previously in Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Focusing on creating new jobs by business recruitment and retention through marketing and project management. Her other priorities include working on transportation issues, tax problems, and alleviating other issues that could negatively impact local business activity.



Kate MacArthur

RiverPlex MegaPark Site: Marketing a Major Asset

With preliminary engineering and infrastructure feasibility studies completed for the 17,000-acre site on the west bank of the Mississippi, AEDC is looking at ways to market this exceptional site that offers prime river location with road, rail and potential deep water dock access. Engaging BRAC, LED, and national site selectors, AEDC will be conducting research over the next few months to create a marketing strategy to target national and international corporations and developers.

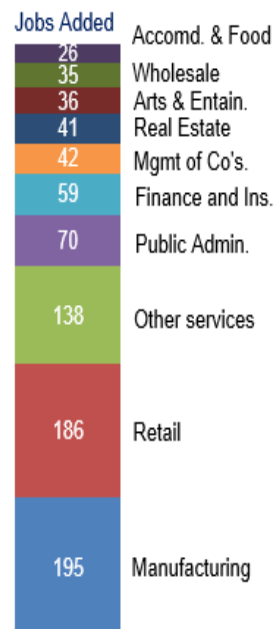
Parish Economic Development Briefs

For the latest reported month (March), total employment in the parish was 59,202; an increase of 586 jobs from a year ago and up 1,775 from January. The parish unemployment rate in March was 4.5%, up 0.1 points from February; Louisiana's rate was 5.4%, unchanged; and the nation's 4.6%, down 0.1.

Annual sales tax collections for 2016 were up \$430,000 from 2015. Home sales in February increased by 35.6% from January, and the months' supply of inventory remained the same at 2.3.

Staff met with 16 local companies during the first quarter of 2017 at which two companies expressed interest in expanding. The staff has a goal to reach out to 50 by the end of the year.

Top Growth Sectors 3rd Qtr. 2015 - 3rd Qtr. 2016



Looking to Start a Business?

You're not alone. According to 2015 U.S. Census data, 7.8% of parish residents are either self-employed or are sole proprietors. For assistance in getting started, visit AEDC's website for helpful tips and resources at www.ascensionedc.com. To find a mentor and training, call SCORE Baton Rouge at (225) 215-0080 or visit: www.scorebr.org.

AEDC Board of Directors

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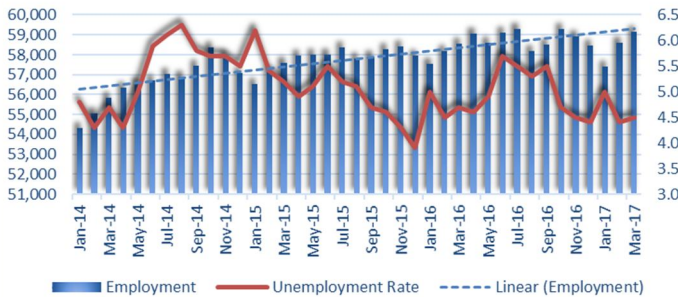
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what's new in Ascension is our quarterly newsletter. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to: mtaillon@ascensionedc.com.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

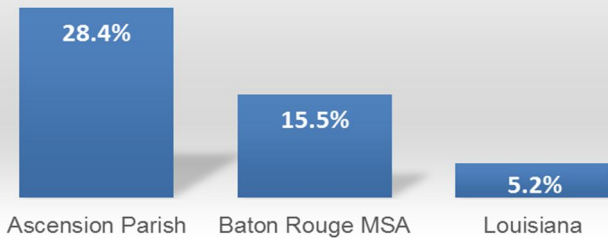
Employment trend remains positive after 4th quarter losses



Increase in annual sales tax collections continue in 2016



10-year growth in labor force continues to outpace region, state % change March 2007 to March 2017



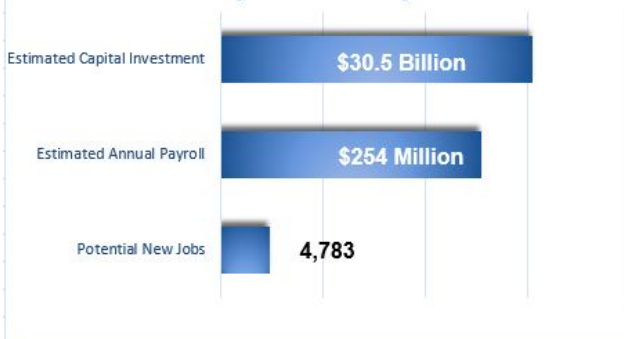
Home sales up 4.6% in February, inventory falls

	Feb-16	Feb-17
New Listings	216	158
Pending Sales	183	143
Closed Sales	131	137
Median Sale Price	\$213,000	\$202,220
Pct. List Price Received	98.5%	98.0%
Days on Market	72	71
Inventory of Homes for Sale	422	374
Months Supply	2.8	2.3

Sources: Louisiana Workforce Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics for employment and wage data, AEDC for project information, the Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors for housing data, and BRAC for sales tax data.

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

Projects in the Pipeline



Projects in the Pipeline represent potential projects discussed or inquiries made to AEDC that may occur over the next several years. Based on current project information, AEDC estimates these projects have the potential to create 4,783 jobs, an estimated payroll of \$254 million, and new capital investment of \$30.5 billion.

For a list of available buildings and sites within the parish visit our home page at: <http://www.ascensionedc.com>