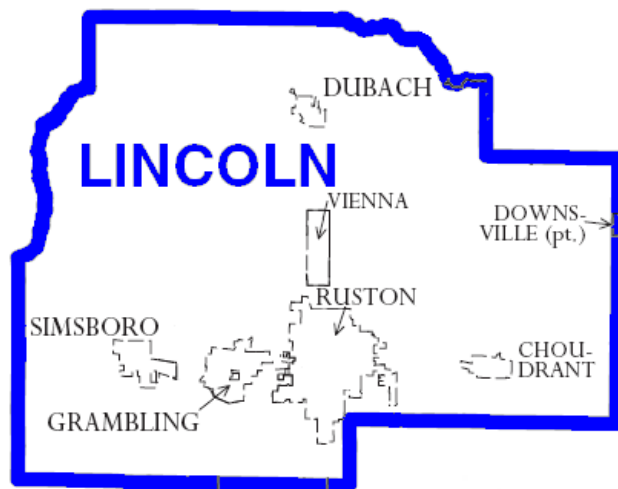




# **WELCOME TO RUSTON & LINCOLN PARISH**



# **Excellence Made Here**

**Ruston, Louisiana is centrally located in northern Louisiana. As the Parish Seat of Lincoln Parish (County), Ruston is large enough to offer many wonderful amenities and small enough to maintain our unique small town charm. As the home of Louisiana Tech University, Ruston has an exciting energy, offers a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and maintains a pro-business attitude.**

Ruston lies at the intersection of Interstate 20 and Highway 167, providing easy access to a number of national markets. The Parish has a rail line and regional airport to provide additional means of transportation for the community, which has the infrastructure in place to support further growth and development. Lincoln Parish is also home to a diverse economic base of both domestic and internationally based companies, including advanced manufacturing, technology/support services, healthcare, and financial services. Ruston is also home to some of the best K-12 schools in the region.

While our people are one of our best assets, there is a quality of life in Lincoln Parish that is second to none. Whether you are interested in mountain biking trails, an 18-hole professional golf course, arts and entertainment, hunting and fishing, collegiate sports, museums, or festivals, Lincoln parish has something for everyone.

Ruston is the ideal place to start, expand or grow your business. You will find a business friendly atmosphere, infrastructure to support your business, easy access to neighboring markets, access to a top tier university, and a great quality of life. Come see what Ruston can do for you!

# LINCOLN PARISH

## Parish Demographics

2017 Estimate 47,774  
2010 Census 46,735  
2000 Census 42,509  
Households 17,169  
Median Age 27.4 years

*\*US Census Bureau, 2011-2017 American Community Survey & QuickFacts*

## City Populations

Ruston 22,416  
Grambling 5,217  
Choudrant 973  
Dubach 966  
Simsboro 846  
Vienna 387

*\*2010 Census & 2017 Treasurer of the State of Louisiana*

## Education

### Universities

Louisiana Tech University, Ruston – 12,467 total enrollment in fall 2018  
Grambling State University, Grambling – 5,205 total enrollment in fall 2018  
Louisiana Delta Community College-Ruston Campus – 326 enrollment in spring 2019

*\*Websites*

### Lincoln Parish Schools

Public Schools 15  
Private Schools 4  
Total Enrollment 7,505

*\*Lincoln Parish School Board & Websites*

## Unemployment Rates

December 2018 4.5%  
November 2018 5.0%  
October 2018 5.1%

*\*Louisiana Workforce Commission*

## Est. Population Age 16+ by Employment Status

Total	38,570
In Armed Forces	31
Civilian – Employed	20,541
Civilian – Unemployed	2,767
Not in Labor Force	15,231

*\*US Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey*

## Largest Employers – Lincoln Parish

<u>Employer, City</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Employment</u>
Louisiana Tech University, Ruston	Education	1200
Lincoln Parish School Board, Ruston	Education	1080
Grambling State University, Grambling	Education	590
Northern Louisiana Medical Center, Ruston	Health Care	525
Green Clinic, Ruston	Health Care	377
Methodist Children’s Home, Ruston	Education	350
Hunt, Guillot and Associates LLC, Ruston (HQ)	Project Managers/Engineering	290
City of Ruston, Ruston	Government	289
Ardagh Group, Simsboro	Glassware Manufacturing	220
Origin Bank, Ruston (HQ)	Financial Services	200
Roseburg Forest Products, Simsboro	Wood Prod Manufacturing	180
Mortgage Contracting Services, Ruston	Property Management	150
ML Smith Jr Inc., Ruston	Masonry/Stone Contractor	120
Industrial Insulation Group LLC, Grambling	Adhesive Manufacturing	103
Genesis Energy, Ruston	Trucking	82
Xerium, Ruston	Roll Cover Production	80
O’Neal Gas/Hercules Transport, Choudrant	Tank Delivery/Installation	75
Mid-States Wood Preservers, Simsboro	Wood Preservation	65
Bank of Ruston, Ruston (HQ)	Financial Services	55
Argent Financial Group, Inc., Ruston (HQ)	Financial Services	51
Franke Consumer Products Inc., Ruston	Metal Prod Manufacturing	50
Lincoln Builders, Inc., Ruston	Construction	50

*\*On-site company visitations*

## Business Openings – City of Ruston

On May 14, 2018, a ground breaking was held for a new retail development – Ruston Marketplace.

Tenants announced to date include Hobby Lobby, TJ Maxx, Ulta, Five Below, and Rack Room Shoes.

The development plans to open in the spring of 2019.

On November 21, 2016, the City of Ruston announced that Ruston was selected as the location for the new Weyerhaeuser Regional Office. Twenty jobs were consolidated into a new office building that opened May 2017.

The Ruston location of Xerium/Stowe Woodward was selected for their company expansion adding 10,000 square feet to the facility and 10 new jobs. The ribbon cutting for the expansion was held in October 2014. Xerium was awarded the 2015 Lantern Award for the Northwest Region.

The City of Ruston welcomed Mortgage Contracting Services, LLC in September 2012. They are up to 150 employees and in 2014 doubled the size of their facility to 20,600 square feet.

In 2018, 104 New Commercial Permits were issued totaling over \$56.3M and 59 New Residential Permits were issued totaling over \$8.9M.

From 2015-2017, 81 businesses with over 900 employees have opened in Ruston including Walmart Neighborhood Market, Holiday Inn Express, Courtyard Marriott, Best Western Plus, St. Francis Medical Center, Planet Fitness, Newk’s Restaurant, Dairy Queen, Jimmy Johns, Flying Burger, Waffle House, Sam’s Southern Eatery, and Chick-fil-A restaurant. In addition, 780 new housing units are currently under construction or permitted for construction.

## Rankings

Ruston was certified as a Louisiana Development Ready Community in August 2018 by Louisiana Economic Development.

Ruston was certified as a Louisiana Retirement Community in March 2018 by Louisiana Office of Tourism.

Ruston was ranked Louisiana's 5<sup>th</sup> Safest City in 2018 by National Council for Home Safety and Security.

Ruston was named Louisiana's 5<sup>th</sup> Safest City by Safehome.org in 2017.

Through Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Ruston was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Beautification Award in July 2017.

The City of Ruston was selected as a top retirement destination by "Where to Retire" magazine. Ruston was featured as one of the "Top 8 Tax-Friendly Cities" in the United States in the January/February 2017 issue.

Kiplinger ranked Louisiana Tech University No. 1 overall among Louisiana's public institutions in its Best College Values 2017 report. Louisiana Tech was No. 1 in Louisiana for out-of-state students and No. 72 nationally, and was No. 2 in the state for in-state students and No. 78 nationally.

A.E. Phillips Lab School was named the top elementary school in Louisiana in 2016 by StartClass, an education research site powered by Graphiq – an international technology company that delivers insights and analyses from worldwide data.

Louisiana Tech University, a Tier One National University, ranked No. 1 in Louisiana and No. 36 in the nation in annual percentage return on investment for graduates according to PayScale.com 2016.

Louisiana Tech ranked #1 in the State of Louisiana and #35 in the nation for best college "risk-reward" by LendEDU in 2016.

The City of Ruston won the Louisiana Municipal Association's 2016 Community Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Improvement in Community Development presented by Louisiana Economic Development and LIDEA.

The City of Ruston won the Louisiana Municipal Association's 2015 Community Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Improvement in Economic Development presented by Louisiana Economic Development and LIDEA.

The City of Ruston was given the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation's Safest 70 Award in 2015 for exemplary dedication to workplace safety.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

### Sports

Louisiana Tech University & Grambling State University

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Softball

Squire Creek Country Club, Choudrant (18-hole championship golf course)

Piney Hills Cyclists, Ruston

Lincoln Parish Park, Ruston

Mountain Bike Trails (rated some of the best in America)

Ruston Sports Complex (under construction)

### Museums, Art and Festivals

Eddie Robinson Museum, Grambling (NCAA most wins in college history, 1986)

North Louisiana Military Museum, Ruston

Lincoln Parish Museum, Ruston

Autrey House, Dubach (1849 dogtrot house)

Dixie Center for the Arts, Ruston

Louisiana Peach Festival, Ruston (longest running agricultural festival in the state)

## Lagniappe

The City of Ruston is currently constructing a 185 acre Sports Complex that will be capable of hosting 6 different tournaments at once – all ages of baseball, girls’ softball, adult softball, soccer, tennis, and cross country. The Ruston Sports Complex will feature all turf fields, a 6-acre stocked pond, walking trails, concessions, and plenty of parking. Ruston has already won the bid to host the 2019 Dixie Youth World Series.

Louisiana Tech University created the nation’s first four-year degree in cyber engineering to support CSRA’s expansion into nearby Bossier City. In April 2018, the union between CSRA and GDIT created the premier provider of IT solutions to local, state and federal government agencies.

Louisiana Tech University is connected to the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative, or LONI, which is a state-of-the-art, fiber optics network that connects Louisiana and Mississippi research universities to one another as well as National LambdaRail and Internet2.

The City of Ruston has an internal fiber network that offers up to 10 Gbps which translates into higher speed, higher capacity, and greater reliability of data access. This system has significant commercial value and is a significant competitive advantage for businesses in need of high quality data transfer.

Louisiana Tech is expanding their Research Campus to allow additional opportunities for existing and start-up companies with a research intensive focus.

New Tech at Ruston High School provides an instructional approach centered on project-based learning and integrated technology in the classroom.

Ruston is a Downtown Development District, Louisiana Main Street, Historic District Community, Cultural District, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ruston has completed 5 phases of a 9 phase Downtown Revitalization project.

A Tax Increment District exists along Interstate 20.

Health Care specialties have been expanding locally making Ruston a regional health care hub.

Leadership Lincoln is offered to the community through the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

Local Civic Groups including Rotary, Kiwanis, Junior Auxiliary, United Way, Boys and Girls Club, and others are very active in the community.

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