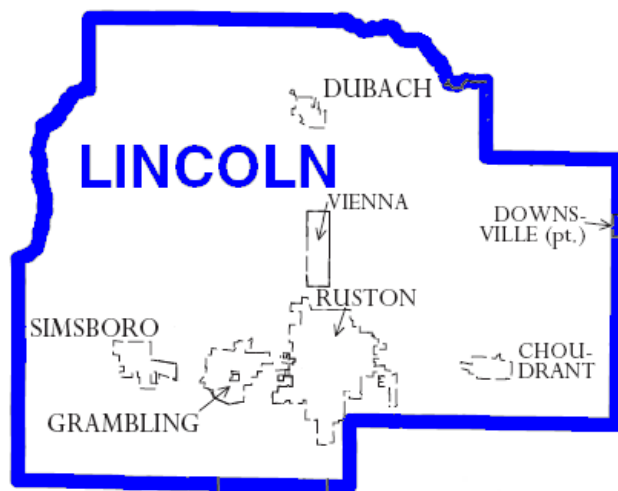




# **WELCOME TO RUSTON & LINCOLN PARISH**



# 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

2016 Estimate 47,774  
2010 Census 46,735  
2000 Census 42,509  
Households 17,169  
Median Age 27.4 years

*\*US Census Bureau, 2011-2016 American Community Survey & QuickFacts*

## City Populations

Ruston 22,370  
Grambling 5,217  
Choudrant 973  
Dubach 966  
Simsboro 846  
Vienna 387

*\*2010 Census & 2016 QuickFacts*

## Education

### Universities

Louisiana Tech University, Ruston – 12,873 total enrollment in fall 2017  
Grambling State University, Grambling – 5,188 total enrollment in fall 2017  
Louisiana Delta Community College-Ruston Campus – 180 enrollment in fall 2017

*\*Websites*

### Lincoln Parish Schools

Public Schools 15  
Private Schools 4  
Total Enrollment 7,505

*\*Lincoln Parish School Board & Websites*

## Unemployment Rates

September 2017 5.6%  
August 2017 6.2%  
July 2017 6.3%

*\*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
Ardagh Group, Simsboro	Glassware Manufacturing	440
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	268
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	100
Xerium, Ruston	Roll Cover Production	80
Franke Consumer Products Inc., Ruston	Metal Prod Manufacturing	75
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
Lincoln Builders, Inc., Ruston	Construction	50
Monster Moto, Ruston (HQ)	Recreation Vehicle Manufacturing	50

*\*On-site company visitations*

## Business Openings – City of Ruston

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.

On April 15, 2015, the City of Ruston announced the recruitment of Monster Moto’s manufacturing and headquarters facility. Reshoring from China, the company will hire 287 employees over 10 years. Since Monster Moto began factory operations in mid-2016, they have formed a partnership with UPS, which led to production of six videos. They were also featured on Fox & Friends and the Ellen DeGeneres’ 12 Days of Christmas Giveaways.

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 2016, 64 New Commercial Permits were issued totaling over \$22,416,000 and 109 New Residential Permits were issued totaling over \$9,152,000.

Commercial openings over the past 18 months include Walmart Neighborhood Market, Newk’s Restaurant, Dairy Queen, Holiday Inn Express, St. Francis Medical Center, Jimmy Johns, Flying Burger, Waffle House, Sam’s Southern Eatery, Courtyard Marriott, Best Western Plus, and Chick-fil-A restaurant. 780 new housing units are currently under construction or permitted for construction.

## Rankings

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.

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.

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.

Louisiana Tech University ranked Top 10 in the nation among U.S. institutions for number of U.S. patents issued per research dollar (AUTM 2014).

## 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)

### 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

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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