Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Current market data.

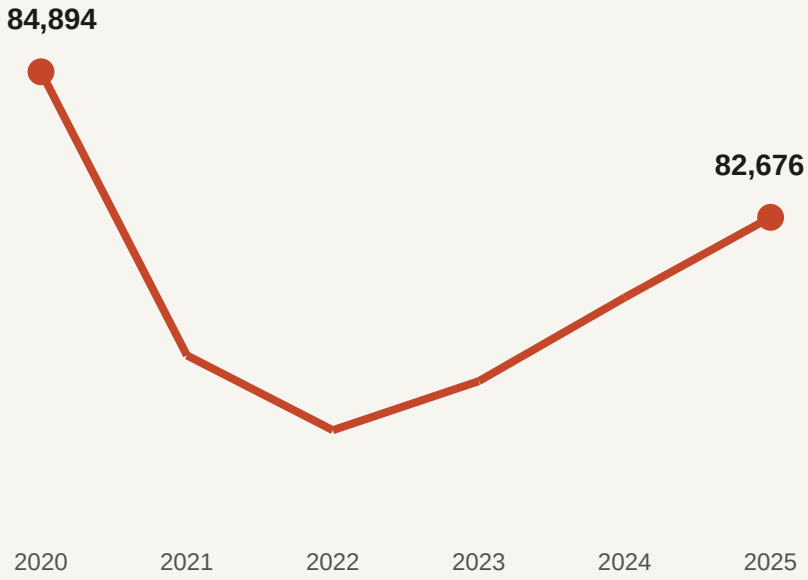
11 cards. Every number sourced and dated. Data as of Oct 30, 2026.

POPULATION

Down 2.6% since 2020.

82,676

people, the 5th-largest of Louisiana's cities and towns.



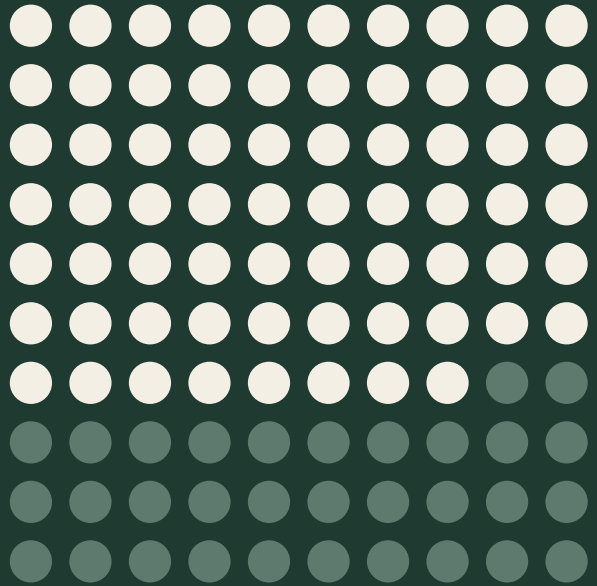
Source: Census Population Estimates, 2025

THE WORKDAY

7 in 10 jobs here go to people who live somewhere else.

67.6%

of 49,786 jobs located in Lake Charles are filled by in-commuters.



Each dot is 1% of jobs. Filled: held by in-commuters.

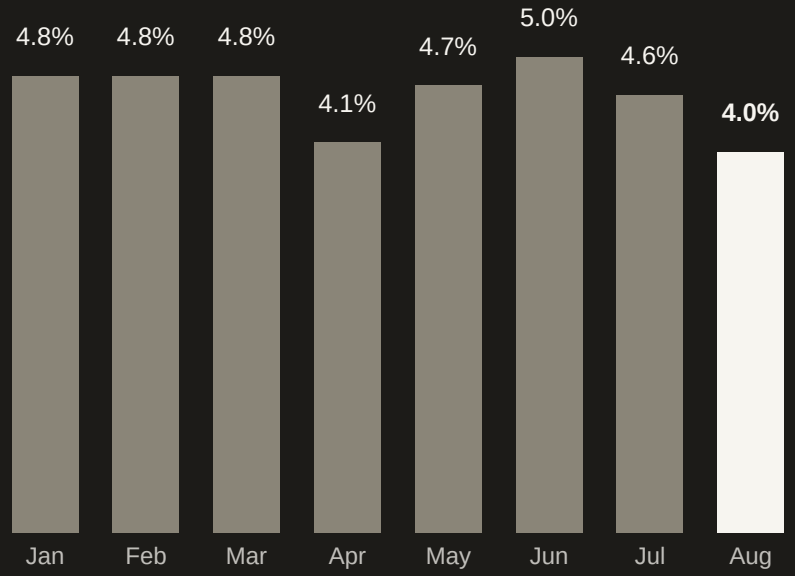
Source: Census LEHD LODES, 2023

UNEMPLOYMENT, 2026

The low came in August: 4.0%.

4.0%

in August 2026, the latest month released. A year earlier it was 4.6%.



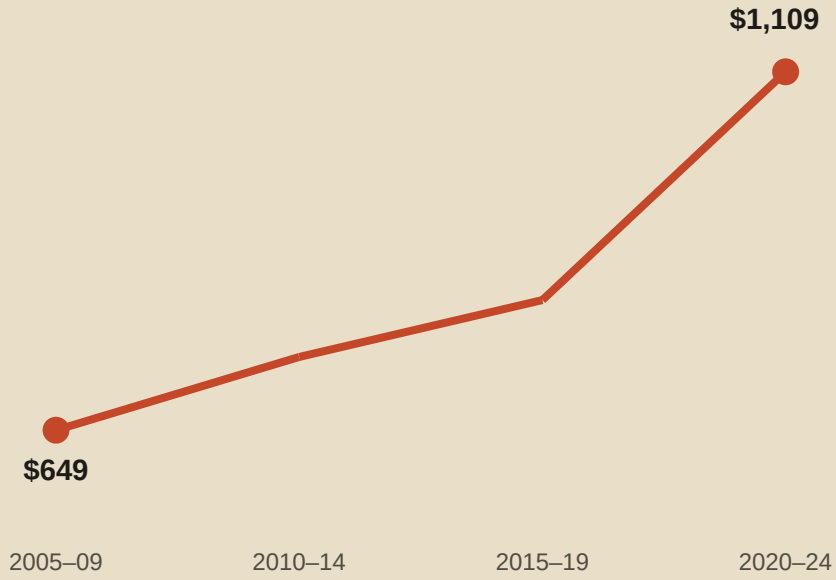
Source: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2026-08

RENT

Median rent is up 71% since the 2005–2009 survey, before inflation.

$1,109

a month. Louisiana's median is $1,064.

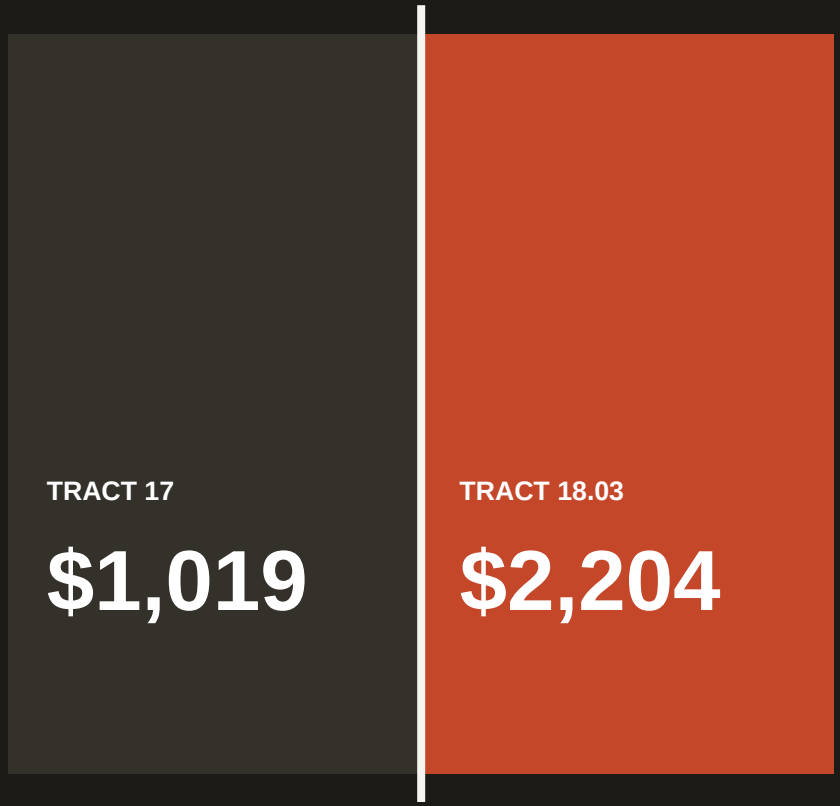


Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THE SEAM

Cross one tract line and median rent doubles.

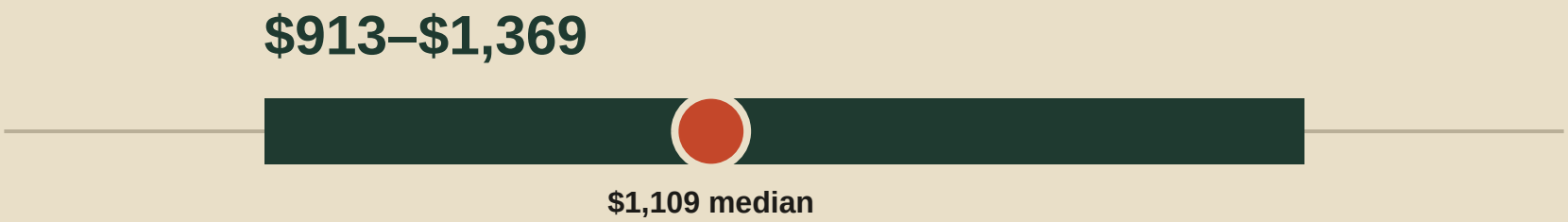
A $1,185 gap between neighbors, the sharpest rent edge between adjacent tracts in Calcasieu Parish.



Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

ROOM TO BUILD

The median rent sits inside what local wages can carry.



is the monthly rent range local workforce wages support.

Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

BUILDING

67% of the housing here was built before 2000.

6,674

homes permitted in ten years, 2016–2025

49%

of those were in multifamily buildings

67%

of all homes were built before 2000

Source: Census Building Permits Survey, 2016-2025; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

UNITS NEEDED

Closing the gap would add 0.3–1.2% to the 40,742 homes here.

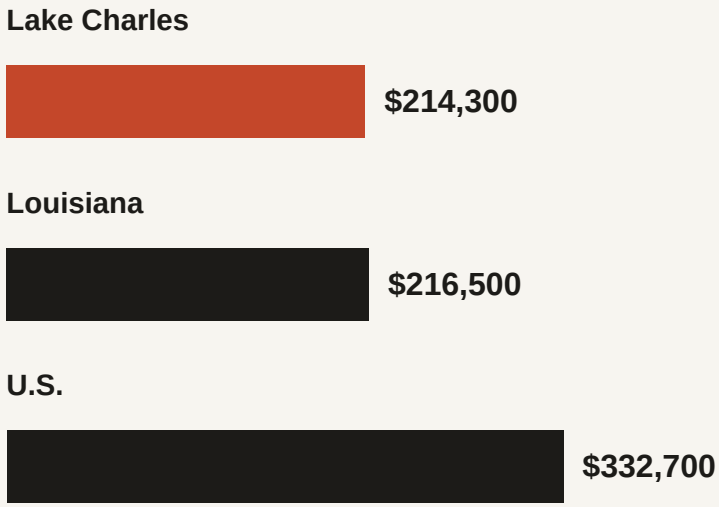
134–498

is the estimated number of missing housing units, from the lowest to the highest of three estimates.

Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023

HOME VALUE

A median home costs 1% less than Louisiana's.



$214,300

median home value in Lake Charles.

Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THAT WAS LAKE CHARLES'S 2026

Every number came from a public source, with its date.

New Census data usually lands in December. The next Edition follows it.

See this Edition at **almanacdata.ai/e/la/lake-charles/**