

Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 3: Louisiana's Economy

Internet Activity



The Constitution of the United States requires that a census be conducted every ten years. The count gives us a look at trends in the country, such as changes in the economy and the population as a whole. In this activity, you will use data to create graphs showing changes in the population of Louisiana in the last half of the 20th century and early 21st century. You will create other graphs to show information about Louisiana's economy.

Instructions: Use the information from the link below to find information to create graphs.

United States Census Data: [1900-1990](#) [2000](#) [2010](#)

Part I: Finding the Facts

Take a moment to see how the data are organized. At the first link, notice years at the top of columns, with each row standing for the national, state, or parish population.

1. What was the population of Louisiana in 2010? _____
2. What was the population of Louisiana in 1940? _____
3. By how much did Louisiana's population change between 1940 and 2010?

4. Let's see what that looks like as a percentage increase (Hint: use this equation:
((population in 2010 – population in 1940) ÷ population in 1940) x 100 = _____
5. Use the same process to calculate the percent increase in population of the United States during the same period and record that information.

6. In a sentence, compare the population trend of the U.S. with that of Louisiana during this time period.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>
1940	
1950	
1960	
1970	
1980	
1990	
2000	
2010	

7. Complete the table with population data about Louisiana using information from the website. Write a statement to summarize the data.

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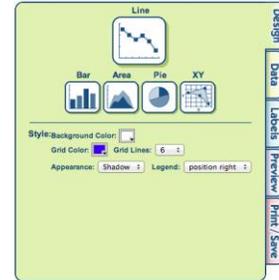
Internet Activity

Part II: Creating a Graph

Click here to visit the [Create-A-Graph](#) website. Use this online tool to create a graph.



- Begin by clicking “Line” since a line graph shows “data over time” and this graph will show how the population of Louisiana changed over 70 years.



- Click the “Data” tab. Complete each field, as shown. Hint: you may want to put your name in the Source field!

Graph Title: Louisiana Population 1940-2010
 X Axis Label: Year
 Y Axis Label: Population
 Source: US Census

Data Set: Items 8 Groups 1

Group 1
 Group Label: Louisiana F
 Line Width: large
 Point Shape: circle
 Point Size: medium
 Color: [Red] [Red]

Item	Label	Value
Item 1:	1940	2363880
Item 2:	1950	2683516
Item 3:	1960	3257022
Item 4:	1970	3641306
Item 5:	1980	4205900
Item 6:	1990	4219970
Item 7:	2000	4468976
Item 8:	2010	4533372

Min-Value:
 Max-Value:

NOTE: Values may only be numbers.

- Click the “Labels” tab and click “No” for Show Label.
- Click the “Preview” tab to inspect the graph. Return to the other tabs, if needed, to improve your graph.
- Click the “Print/Save” tab. Follow onscreen instructions to Print and/or Save the graph. Staple the copy to this sheet.

Part III: Use the directions that you just followed to create another graph. [Click this link](#) then click the links marked to see information from 2000 and from more recent years. Choose a data set about the state of Louisiana. For instance, compare Unemployment in those two time periods.

Print a copy of the completed graph and staple it to this activity sheet. Write a short summary of the trend that you notice on the graph. What do these data mean for Louisiana? How would this information help planners learn about the economy of Louisiana?

People QuickLinks

- American Community Survey: Estimates based on a sample of households over a 5-year period:
 - [Social Characteristics](#)
 - [Economic Characteristics](#)
 - [Housing Characteristics](#)
 - [Demographic and Housing Estimates](#)
- Demographic profile from the 2010 Census:
 - [Demographic Profile](#)
- Census 2000 population, demographic, and housing information: Complete counts from questions collected on the short form and the long form:
 - [General Demographic Characteristics](#)
 - Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino origin: [Louisiana counties, Places in Louisiana](#)

Estimates based on the one-in-six sample of housing units that received the long form:

- [Demographic Characteristics](#)
- [Social Characteristics](#)
- [Economic Characteristics](#)
- [Housing Characteristics](#)