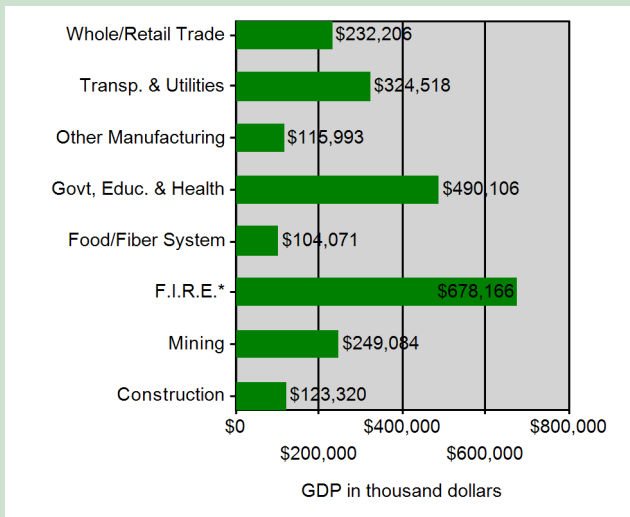


Lafourche Parish generates approximately \$2,317 million in total economic activity in 2003 as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP measures the value-added that is created by the parish. Lafourche Parish ranks 14 out of all 64 parishes in GDP created for the state.

Industrial Structure

The F.I.R.E.* sector contributes more to Lafourche Parish's GDP than any other sector totaling \$678,166 thousand. A breakdown of each major industry's contribution is shown in Figure 1.

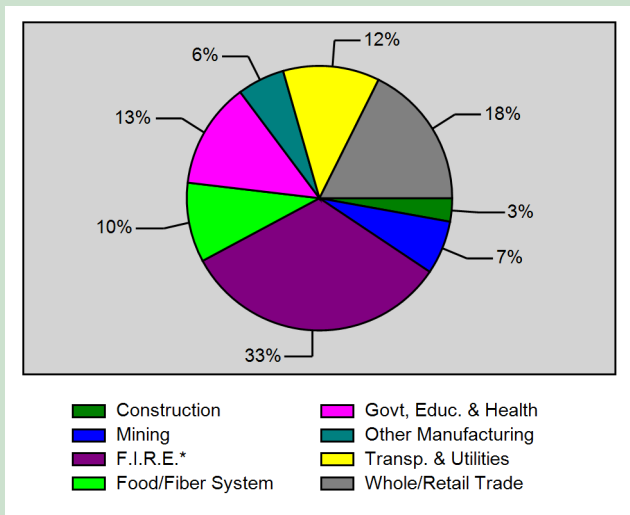
Figure 1: GDP (Value-Added) by major industry in 2003 (thousands of dollars)



* F.I.R.E. includes Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Other Services sectors.

The F.I.R.E.* sector supplied the most full-time and part-time jobs to the parish in 2003 at 9,416 of the total 28,758 jobs in the parish. The distribution of jobs by major sector is presented in Figure 2.

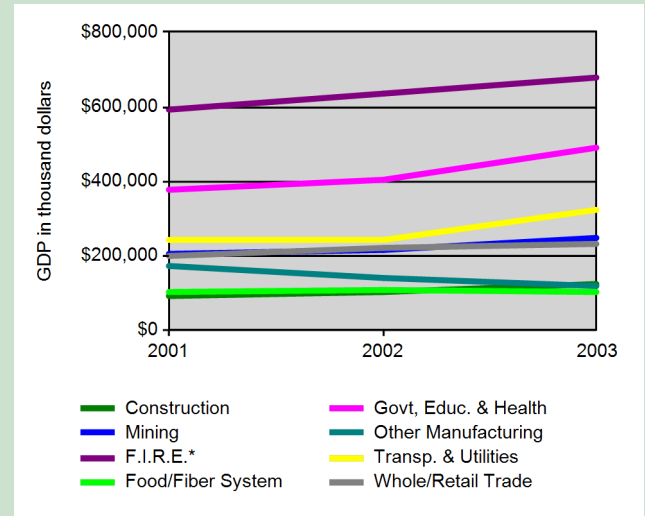
Figure 2: Distribution of Employment by major industry in 2003



Growth Trends

Lafourche Parish has seen its economy grow by 17% as measured by GDP (inflation adjusted) between 2001 and 2003. The fastest growing sector during that period was the Construction sector that grew by 34%. The slowest growing sector was the Other Manufacturing sector that grew by -33%. Lafourche saw total full-time and part-time employment grow by 1,292 jobs, or 5% of total jobs over the three year period. Detailed growth in parish GDP for the most recent three year period is shown in Figure 3.

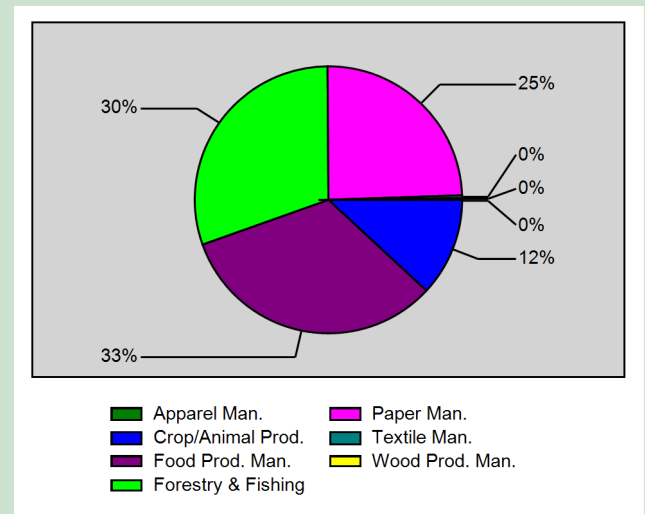
Figure 3: Three year growth in GDP (Value-Added) by major industry between 2001 and 2003



Food and Fiber System

The Food and Fiber System generates \$104,071 thousand for Lafourche Parish's economy and ranks 8 in GDP among the parish's major industrial sectors. The system includes production agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors as well as food and fiber manufacturing (processing) sectors. These food and fiber product sectors generate \$76,910 thousand and supply 1,128 jobs. The distribution of GDP by each food and fiber product sector is presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Distribution of Food Fiber Product GDP (Value-Added) by major industry in 2003



This Food and Fiber System also includes food service and drinking establishments that generate \$27,161 thousand in GDP and supply 1,670 jobs to the parish.