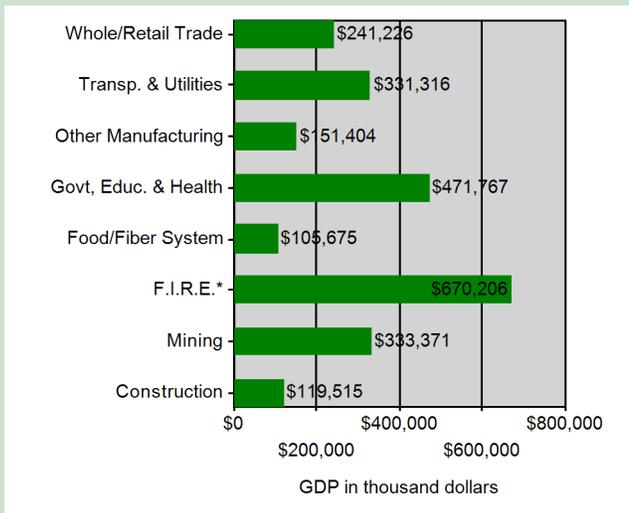


Lafourche Parish generates approximately \$2,424 million in total economic activity in 2004 as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP measures the value-added that is created by the parish. Lafourche Parish ranks 15 out of all 64 parishes in GDP created for the state.

## Industrial Structure

The F.I.R.E.\* sector contributes more to Lafourche Parish's GDP than any other sector totaling \$670,206 thousand. A breakdown of each major industry's contribution is shown in Figure 1.

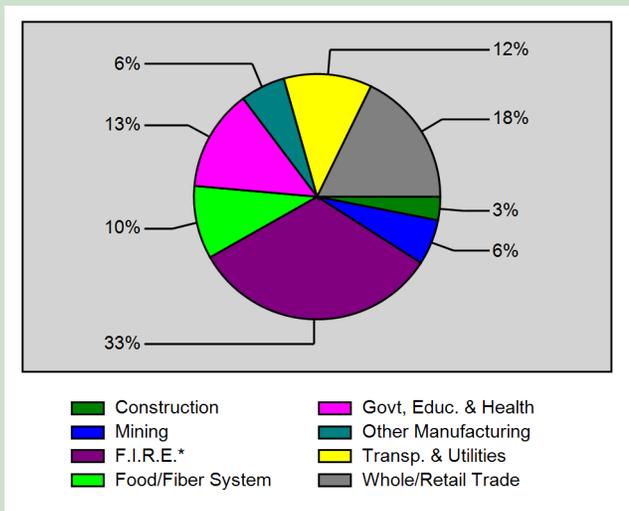
**Figure 1:** GDP (Value-Added) by major industry in 2004 (thousands of dollars)



\* 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 2004 at 9,391 of the total 28,719 jobs in the parish. The distribution of jobs by major sector is presented in Figure 2.

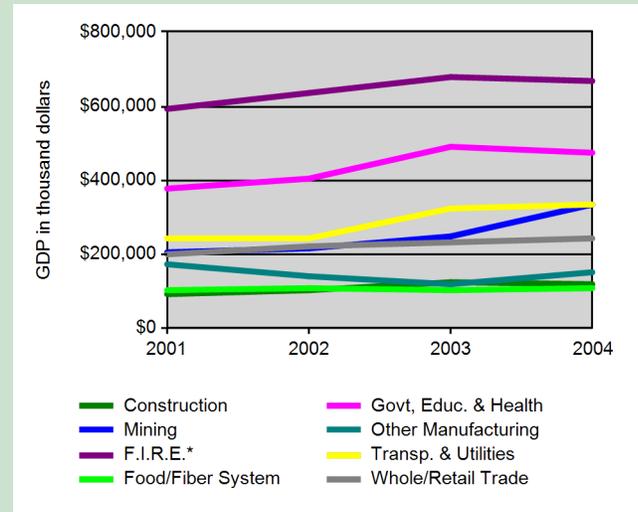
**Figure 2:** Distribution of Employment by major industry in 2004



## Growth Trends

Lafourche Parish has seen its economy grow by 23% as measured by GDP (inflation adjusted) between 2001 and 2004. The fastest growing sector during that period was the Mining sector that grew by 64%. The slowest growing sector was the Other Manufacturing sector that grew by -12%. Lafourche saw total full-time and part-time employment grow by 1,252 jobs, or 5% of total jobs over the four year period. Detailed growth in parish GDP for the most recent four year period is shown in Figure 3.

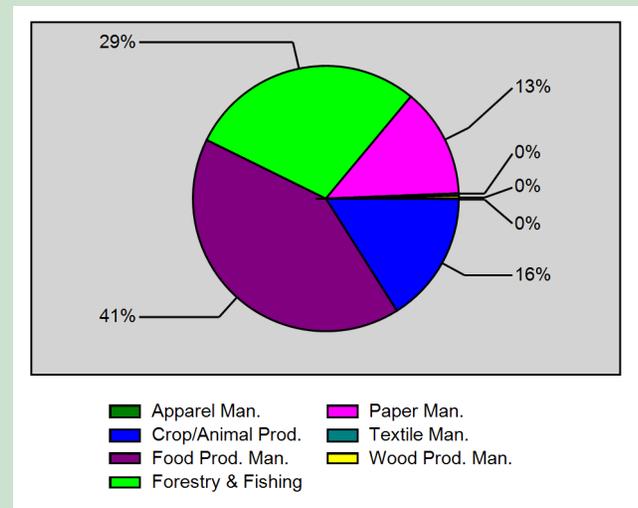
**Figure 3:** Four year growth in GDP (Value-Added) by major industry between 2001 and 2004



## Food and Fiber System

The Food and Fiber System generates \$105,675 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 \$76,907 thousand and supply 1,072 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 2004



This Food and Fiber System also includes food service and drinking establishments that generate \$28,768 thousand in GDP and supply 1,695 jobs to the parish.