



Louisiana Budget Project

PROVIDING INDEPENDENT,
NONPARTISAN research and analysis
of Louisiana fiscal issues and their
impact on low and moderate
income residents.

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Contact:

KAREN MILLER

225.929.5266, x220

EDWARD ASHWORTH

225.929.5266 x224

225.907.3035 (cell)

STAFF

Edward Ashworth
Director
edwardashworth@lano.org

Tim Mathis
Analyst
timmathis@lano.org

Karen Miller
Communications/Public Relations
karenmiller@lano.org

LOUISIANA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COUNTS NOT OUT OF LINE WITH THOSE IN OTHER STATES

(Baton Rouge – June 16, 2011) A new report by the Louisiana Budget Project analyzes comparable state-to-state data to inform the recent debate concerning whether Louisiana has too many public employees.

The report finds that, contrary to statements made by a number of public officials, overall staffing levels in Louisiana are on par with those in other states. Once Louisiana's unique Charity Hospital System is accounted for, the number of public employees delivering state services is comparable to other states based on population ("per capita") and on size of the state's economy, as measured by Louisiana's gross state product ("per GSP").

Other significant findings include that Louisiana has far fewer Corrections officials guarding our large number of state prisoners than all but three other states and that we have fewer college and public school teachers per capita than most other states.

"These data have significant public policy implications," said Edward Ashworth, Director of the Louisiana Budget Project. "Lawmakers need to overhaul Louisiana's antiquated and inefficient Charity Hospital System. And, if education is the future economic driver of Louisiana's economy, as Gov. Jindal and others have proposed, the state needs to adopt budget policies that encourage hiring more instructional employees, not dismissing those that we have."

The Baton Rouge-based Louisiana Budget Project provides independent research and analysis of Louisiana fiscal issues and their impact on low- and moderate-income residents.

For a copy of the full report and more information on LBP, visit www.labudget.org and read [The Real Numbers Behind Louisiana's Public Employment Statistics](#).

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8281 Goodwood Blvd, Ste A
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

PO Box 66558
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

225-929-5266
225-925-2711 [fax]

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