Led by Energy Projects, Louisiana Tops $20 Billion in Total Economic Investment

Louisiana leveraged its unique business advantages, sector diversity and support for innovation and climate action in 2022 to generate $20.7 billion in capital investment and more than 18,000 direct, indirect, and retained jobs, Business & Innovation Connection reports.

It marks the second consecutive year of more than $20 billion in economic investment, third consecutive year of more than $10 billion of investment and the fifth consecutive year-over-year investment growth, according to the Louisiana Economic Development 2022 Annual Report.

The report highlights the 9,035 new direct and indirect jobs and 9,102 retained jobs resulting from 53 state-supported economic development projects across the state’s eight economic regions last year. Included are 12 major projects with investments of more than $100 million and four mega-projects with investments of more than $1 billion:

- Clean Hydrogen Works’ proposed $7.5 billion hydrogen-ammonia production and export facility and CF Industries’ $2 billion ammonia plant project with carbon capture, both in Ascension Parish;
- Port NOLA’s $1.8 billion Louisiana International Terminal project in St. Bernard Parish; and
- Venture Global’s final investment decision for its LNG facility project in Plaquemines Parish, which increased the originally announced capital investment from $8.5 billion to $13.2 billion. Read more.

Louisiana DOTD Breaks Ground on LA 70 Widening Project

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Shawn D.
Wilson, Ph.D., along with state and local officials, recently celebrated the start of construction on the LA 70 widening project in Ascension and St. James Parishes.

This $53.2 million project will widen LA 70 from the LA 22 interchange in Sorrento to the base of the Sunshine Bridge on the east side of the Mississippi River. A separate two-lane highway will be constructed parallel to the existing two-lane road, forming a four-lane divided highway.

“Because of the industry growth in this region, we have seen the need to move this project forward. This capacity project will be immensely beneficial to this region as it continues to grow and will allow for easier and safer travels for the businesses and industry of the region, as well as the citizens who use LA 70 on a regular basis,” Wilson stated in a news release. “The community and the trades rely on an efficient roadway system for their economic growth, which is what this project will accomplish for the success and future of not only Ascension and St. James Parishes, but this region of the state.”

Currently, more than 33,000 vehicles travel along this corridor daily. In the next 20 years, the number of motorists who will utilize this corridor is anticipated to increase to nearly 50,000 vehicles per day. Crews are currently working on utility relocations, with roadway construction estimated to begin in April, with an estimated completion in Spring 2025, weather permitting.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Meet the FEYA Top 10 Finalists

NSPE is pleased to announce the 10 finalists for the 2023 Federal Engineer of the Year Award, honoring engineers employed by a federal agency with at least 50 engineers worldwide. All have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

The winner of this year’s award will be announced during a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24, and will be selected from the following finalists.

- **Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer, networks/WAN specialist; Tennessee Valley Authority
- **Steven C. Dunn, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer; General Services Administration Public Buildings Service
• Chad C. Hogan, P.E., lead engineer; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Material Command

• Capt. Jeneé A. Jagoda, P.E., PMP, engineering flight commander; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command

• Capt. Christopher C. Jankowski, P.E., PMP, ENV SP, chief of operations engineering; US Department of the Air Force, Pacific Air Forces

• Andrew R. Lawrence, P.E., salvage engineering response team principal architect; US Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard

• Nicholas Brian Melly, P.E., fire protection engineer; US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

• Dr. Brandon L. Toliver, P.E., branch chief, basing and beddown; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Installation & Mission Support

• Brian R. Wybrecht, P.E., civil engineer; US Department of the Army, US Army Europe and Africa
2023 Lineup of 15 Free PDHs Are Available

NSPE membership offers the benefit of access to 15 on-demand webinars. This year’s webinars address various topics of interest to professional engineers including ethics, emerging technologies, construction projects, and licensure. Upon successful completion of each webinar quiz (with a passing score of 70% or higher), the quiz taker will receive an attendance certificate with the appropriate credits earned for that session. Access the free webinars.

2022 NSPE Scholarship Winners

The NSPE Education Foundation awarded several scholarships to support talented students pursuing engineering degrees in ABET-accredited programs.
Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship

Leah Griesmer, from Broadview Heights, Ohio, is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

Katelyn King, from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, is studying biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering

Sebastian Rodriguez, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is attending Carnegie Mellon University to study mechanical engineering.

The George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship

Tyler Kleinsasser is a graduate student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship

Eli Ordaz is studying civil engineering at Brigham Young University.

Steinman Scholarship

Kathleen Abrams is attending the University of South Carolina, majoring in biomedical engineering.

Michael Chavez is studying electrical engineering, with an emphasis on renewable energy, at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Jake Schneider, of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, is pursuing his degree in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Louisville.

Lindsay Steis, of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, is attending Gannon University, majoring in environmental engineering.

Jonathan Windham, of Sumrall, Mississippi, is pursuing an electrical engineering degree at Mississippi State University.

The 2023 Scholarship Season Opens

The NSPE Education Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2023 scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application deadline is April 1.
Congratulations to the 2022 Scholarship Winners!

Kathleen Abrams
Steinman Scholarship

Mike Chavez
Steinman Scholarship

Laah Criesmer
Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship

Katelyn King
Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship

Tyler Kleinsasser
Highlowsen Fellowship

Élt Órduz
Swedish and Dan Poppit Scholarship

Sebastian Rodriguez
Maunee & Howard Bitman Scholarship

Jake Schneider
Steinman Scholarship

Lindsay Steis
Steinman Scholarship

Jonathan Windham
Steinman Scholarship

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