

Allen Parish Profile

Allen Parish is located in Southwest Louisiana with the total land area is 775 square miles or 496,000 acres. Towns, roads, water areas, and plants, mills, etc. take up about 22,000 acres. Acres in timberland are about 344,000 acres, while 130,000 acres are used for farm and pasture land. The 2006 Census figures record an estimated population of 25,447 persons residing in Allen Parish.

There are three major towns in the mostly rural parish: Kinder, Oberlin, and Oakdale. All are on Highway 165 which traverses the parish north to south. Other communities are Elizabeth, Grant, Mittie, Reeves, Soileau and LeBlanc. The parish seat is Oberlin. Oakdale is the largest populated area with some 8,137 people.

Most of the Federal and State Agencies have branch offices in the parish. A prison and illegal alien detention center is located in Oakdale. A state medium security prison is located on Highway 165 between Oberlin and Kinder. A major wood using industry which manufactures lumber is located in Oakdale. There are several small sawmills and crosstie mills in the parish. A small manufacturer of boating safety devises is located in Kinder.

A gambling casino operated on the Coushatta Reservation is in operation at this time. This casino has employed approximately 3,400 people, many of which are Allen parish residents.