

Prompt... **Geaux AI Economy**



Report 1:

Louisiana's Next Technological Transition

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Use of Artificial Intelligence

AI tools (Anthropic’s Claude, OpenAI’s ChatGPT) supported this report’s literature review, source discovery, drafting, editing, formatting, and exploratory data analysis. All analyses, interpretations, conclusions, and errors remain the author’s responsibility. Consistent with this report’s themes, AI served to augment—not replace—human judgment, with all substantive decisions remaining under human direction.



Artificial intelligence represents the latest in a long history of technological transitions that have reshaped economies and societies. Like steam power, railroads, electrification, mass production, computers, and the internet, AI presents both significant opportunities and important tradeoffs. The Geaux AI Economy research series has been initiated by Dr. Dek Terrell and the staff of the Center for Economics, Business, and Policy Research to provide insight into how Louisiana can benefit from Artificial Intelligence (AI) and yet preserve the many things that make Louisiana special. Dr. Terrell has authored numerous applied economics studies on Louisiana, including many impact studies helping assess the extent to which a tax subsidy today will be recouped in the future. Given the potential scale of the investment in this phase of technological change, Geaux AI Economy takes a broader view of how investments impact the state.

Each wave of technological advance in recent centuries has brought profound changes to both the workplace and society as a whole. With the advent of computers, the pace of technological change, has drastically increased. In the current wave of technological change, data centers, robotics manufacturing, and a changing workplace are likely to occur at a much faster pace than in prior technological advances.

Louisiana enters this transition from a unique position. While the state continues to face longstanding challenges in income, poverty, health, and educational outcomes, it also possesses an unexpected combination of assets—including abundant energy resources, industrial infrastructure, transportation networks, water resources, available land, and coordinated economic development efforts—that have made it an increasingly attractive location for AI-related investment.

Geaux AI Economy focuses on tracking success in harnessing AI-related technological change not solely by announced investment, data center construction, or economic activity but on whether artificial intelligence expands opportunity for Louisianians by increasing productivity, creating new pathways to employment and entrepreneurship, improving education and health care, strengthening existing industries, and enhancing quality of life while preserving Louisiana's unique culture, communities, and natural resources.

Because artificial intelligence is reshaping Louisiana through investment, infrastructure, the workforce, education, and public policy, no single report can adequately address every dimension of this technological transition. Geaux AI Economy is therefore organized as a continuing research series, with each report examining one aspect of Louisiana's evolving AI economy. This research series adopts a framework of exploring opportunities to harness technology to improve lives of Louisianians while preserving key attributes rather than advocacy. It recognizes that technological change inevitably has tradeoffs. Rather than promoting or opposing AI, the report evaluates how Louisiana can maximize the benefits of technological change while responsibly managing its economic, social, environmental, and fiscal implications.

This publication is the first in the Geaux AI Economy series. Future reports will examine Louisiana's competitiveness, workforce and education, and additional policy questions as artificial intelligence continues to evolve. Together, these reports are intended to provide independent, objective, and evidence-based research that helps Louisiana navigate its next technological transition.

The full Geaux AI Economy initiative is intended to be an ongoing conversation with Louisiana's stakeholders. Throughout this series, readers will have opportunities to share their perspectives through surveys and other forms of engagement. These responses will help identify emerging issues, inform future research, and ensure that subsequent reports reflect the questions and experiences of the people and organizations navigating this technological transition.

Figure 1. Geaux AI Economy Research Series

GEAUX AI ECONOMY Research Series

A multi-report research initiative





Louisiana's economy has long been shaped by technological change. From steam navigation along the Mississippi River to the expansion of the nation's rail network, from the rise of the petrochemical industry to offshore energy development and the digital economy, each technological transition has created new opportunities while challenging existing industries, workers, and institutions. Artificial intelligence (AI) represents the latest—and perhaps the most rapid—of these technological transitions.

Louisiana stands at an important moment in its economic history. Artificial intelligence has the potential to increase productivity, create new opportunities for innovation, and improve the economic well-being of Louisianians. The success of this technological transition should ultimately be measured not only by the projects we attract or the pace of technological adoption, but by whether it expands opportunity, reduces poverty, narrows economic disparities, and improves the quality of life for people across the state. Yet economic progress should not come at the expense of the qualities that make Louisiana unique. The state's rich culture, diverse communities, extraordinary natural beauty, and distinctive way of life are among its greatest strengths. The challenge is to harness the benefits of technological change while preserving the people, places, traditions, and natural resources that define Louisiana.

For nearly three decades, my research and the work of my colleagues have focused on helping Louisiana better understand its economy and prepare for economic change. I have authored numerous impact studies assessing whether a tax subsidy today is recouped through future economic activity. Given the scale of investment in this phase of technological change, *Geaux AI Economy* asks that same question with a holistic approach. The emergence of AI-related investment presents an opportunity that few would have anticipated even a decade ago. This report is intended to help Louisiana understand that opportunity, evaluate both its potential and its tradeoffs, and make informed decisions during this new technological transition.

The purpose of the *Geaux AI Economy* initiative is to provide independent, objective, and evidence-based analysis that helps business leaders, educators, policymakers, workers, and citizens make informed decisions during a period of rapid technological change. The initiative neither advocates for nor discourages the adoption of artificial intelligence. Rather, it seeks to improve the quality of decision-making by identifying opportunities, recognizing tradeoffs, and distinguishing established evidence from informed judgment.

Technological change today is the inevitable extension of prior developments. The impact of that technological change on the lives of Louisianians depends on the actions of the State's leaders today.

This report is the first in a research series examining AI's implications for Louisiana. It establishes a factual baseline by documenting the state's emerging AI landscape, examining the factors that have attracted major investments, and identifying both opportunities and challenges associated with this new phase of economic development.

A second report this Fall will examine AI-related capital investment in greater depth, focusing on the economic benefits, infrastructure requirements, and potential tradeoffs associated with large-scale data center development. The third report will explore AI's implications for Louisiana's workforce, including changes in occupations, tasks, education, and training. Together, this research series is intended to provide a framework for understanding how AI may reshape Louisiana's economy and how the state can respond thoughtfully to that transition.

Throughout this series, the emphasis is on potential rather than prediction, and on careful analysis rather than advocacy. Louisiana possesses an unusual combination of assets that positions it to benefit from AI-related investment, but long-term success will depend not simply on attracting projects. It will depend on how effectively the state translates technological change into broader gains in productivity, workforce skills, economic opportunity, and quality of life. We hope these reports contribute to that effort.

1. Why Louisiana?



1.1 A Short History of Technological Change in Louisiana

In an area where seaports were the primary means of commerce, New Orleans held a crucial competitive advantage at the mouth of the Mississippi. Early in its history, New Orleans was the third largest city in the United States driven by commerce created by access to that port. With the advent of steam engines, commerce on the Mississippi changed, but New Orleans continued to prosper with the new technology.

As railroads entered the picture and acted as a substitute for internal commerce, the relative economic importance of New Orleans and Louisiana declined. With the advent of roads and air travel, New Orleans experienced a further decline in its status as a trading hub. While Louisiana's ports remain a crucial engine of economic growth both for the state and nation, recognition of competition and competitive advantages across the entire array of assets is crucial when comparing regions (Porter, 1990).

1.2 Louisiana's Current Comparative Advantages

Louisiana's assets in the current wave of technological change come from both natural resources and its industrial history. Data centers need power, land, water, and a regulatory environment willing to move faster than utility and permitting timelines historically allow. Louisiana is not the cheapest state, not the most educated, and not the most technologically advanced. However, Louisiana does offer comparative advantages over many other locations.

Data centers require very large amounts of energy. Louisiana's natural gas feedstocks from the Haynesville and adjacent basins provide the natural resource to provide that power in a manner that complements renewable infrastructure. Entergy, Louisiana's industrial grid based on its Petrochem legacy, offers large blocks of immediate capacity that few states can match.

Since its founding, Louisiana's ports have proved an engine of growth for the State and nation. The Port of South Louisiana and Port of New Orleans continue to provide that deep-water access and global logistics reach. The Mississippi River, Atchafalaya, and shallow aquifer systems give Louisiana a structural advantage over drought-prone Western states — a constraint that is already binding on data-center siting in Arizona,

Texas, and parts of Georgia. NASA Michoud Assembly Facility and Stennis Space Center anchor federal R&D adjacency and a humanoid-robotics supply chain that is rare among states competing for AI projects.

Louisiana Economic Development (LED) has also made a significant effort to pair existing industrial incentives with new AI incentives to achieve success in this area. The large number of AI projects attracted to the state suggests LED's strategy is working — consistent with the historical pattern that regions offering complementary assets fare best in each new wave of technological change.

Table 1 provides a partial list of the assets that make Louisiana competitive in this latest round of technical change.

Table 1. Major AI Assets Supporting Louisiana’s Emerging AI Economy

Category	Asset / Project	Location	Why It Matters
AI Data Centers	Meta Hyperion	Richland Parish	Flagship announced AI infrastructure
AI Data Centers	Amazon Web Services	Caddo & Bossier Parishes	Cloud & AI computing
AI Data Centers	Hut 8	River Bend / West Feliciana Parish	High-performance computing
AI Data Centers	Applied Digital	Rapides Parish / Central Louisiana	AI compute infrastructure
Universities	LSU	Baton Rouge	AI research and workforce
Universities	Southern University	Baton Rouge	AI education
Universities	UL Lafayette	Lafayette	Applied AI
Universities	Louisiana Tech	Ruston	Engineering talent
Federal	NASA Michoud	New Orleans	Advanced manufacturing
Regional	Stennis Space Center	Hancock County, MS	Regional R&D asset
Energy	Haynesville Shale	North Louisiana	Natural gas supply
Energy	Entergy Industrial Grid	Statewide	Large electric capacity
Logistics	Port of South Louisiana	River Parishes	Global logistics
Logistics	Port of New Orleans	New Orleans	Trade gateway
Manufacturing	Hyundai Steel	Ascension Parish	Advanced manufacturing
Manufacturing	Westlake Complex	Lake Charles	Industrial ecosystem

Note: For a more complete list of all projects, see Louisiana Economic Development (2026).

1.3 Louisiana’s Current AI Environment

While Louisiana remains a relatively small player when measured by the number of operating data centers, recent investment announcements suggest that its role is changing rapidly. Bell (2026) ranked Louisiana second nationally in 2025 data center capital investment, reflecting the unprecedented scale of projects entering development. Although announced investments do not guarantee future outcomes, they demonstrate that Louisiana has become a significant destination for AI infrastructure investment. The challenge now is to translate those investments into lasting opportunities for Louisiana’s workers, businesses, and communities.

Table 2. Major Capital Projects in Louisiana

Location	Major Project	Capital Investment
Richland Parish	Meta Hyperion	More than \$50 Billion
Caddo & Bossier Parishes	Amazon Web Services	\$12.0 Billion
Plaquemines Parish	Venture Global — Plaquemines Expansion	\$18.0 Billion
Calcasieu Parish	Woodside Louisiana LNG	\$17.5 Billion
Cameron Parish	Commonwealth LNG	\$13.0 Billion
West Feliciana Parish	Hut 8 — River Bend (Phase I)	Up to \$10.0 Billion
Ascension Parish	Hyundai Steel	\$5.8 Billion
Rapides Parish	Applied Digital — Delta Forge 1	\$3.6 Billion

Note: Selected major projects. Amounts reflect public announcements through July 2026. See Louisiana Economic Development (2026). Capital investment figures are approximate and reflect publicly announced amounts.

1.4 Implications for Louisiana

- ▶ Many waves of technological change have hit Louisiana and helped shape our future. Our assets, natural resources, industrial base, and culture have defined the results of each innovation.
- ▶ Artificial intelligence is simply the latest innovation. Louisiana finds itself surprisingly well positioned to take advantage of this new technology.
- ▶ Louisiana still has choices. The impact of this new wave of technological change depends on the choices we make.

2. Evaluating Louisiana’s Opportunities and Tradeoffs



2.1 Louisiana’s Starting Point

Louisiana begins this technological transition with significant opportunities for improvement in income, health, education, and economic opportunity. These longstanding challenges make the potential benefits of AI especially important, while also underscoring the need to evaluate success by improvements in people’s lives rather than investment alone. These indicators are presented not to dwell on Louisiana’s challenges, but to establish why this technological transition matters. The objective of this report is not to describe Louisiana’s past, but to consider how emerging technologies can contribute to a more prosperous future.

Table 3. Opportunities for Improvement

Item	Ranking
Median Income	48th (US Census Bureau)
Poverty	2nd highest (US Census Bureau)
Prime Age Labor Force Participation	Last in nation (Harris, et al., 2026)
Life Expectancy	48th (Arias, et al., 2025)

2.2 The Opportunity

Economists since Solow (1957) have recognized productivity growth as a principal driver of long-run economic growth. Like previous technological transitions, AI has the potential to expand opportunities for individuals, businesses, and communities throughout Louisiana. As with prior waves of technological change, productivity gains are ultimately shared between owners of capital and workers as output and incomes grow over time. Workers with greater productivity earn higher wages.

These new technologies are also providing new opportunities for entrepreneurship, remote work which opens doors for both those splitting time between family responsibilities and work and rural workers whose opportunities have been limited in recent years by location.

New technologies also offer the potential to lead to significant improvements in healthcare. Both through helping researchers produce advances in medicine and enhancing access to those in more remote areas, technological advances offer promise for a better future.

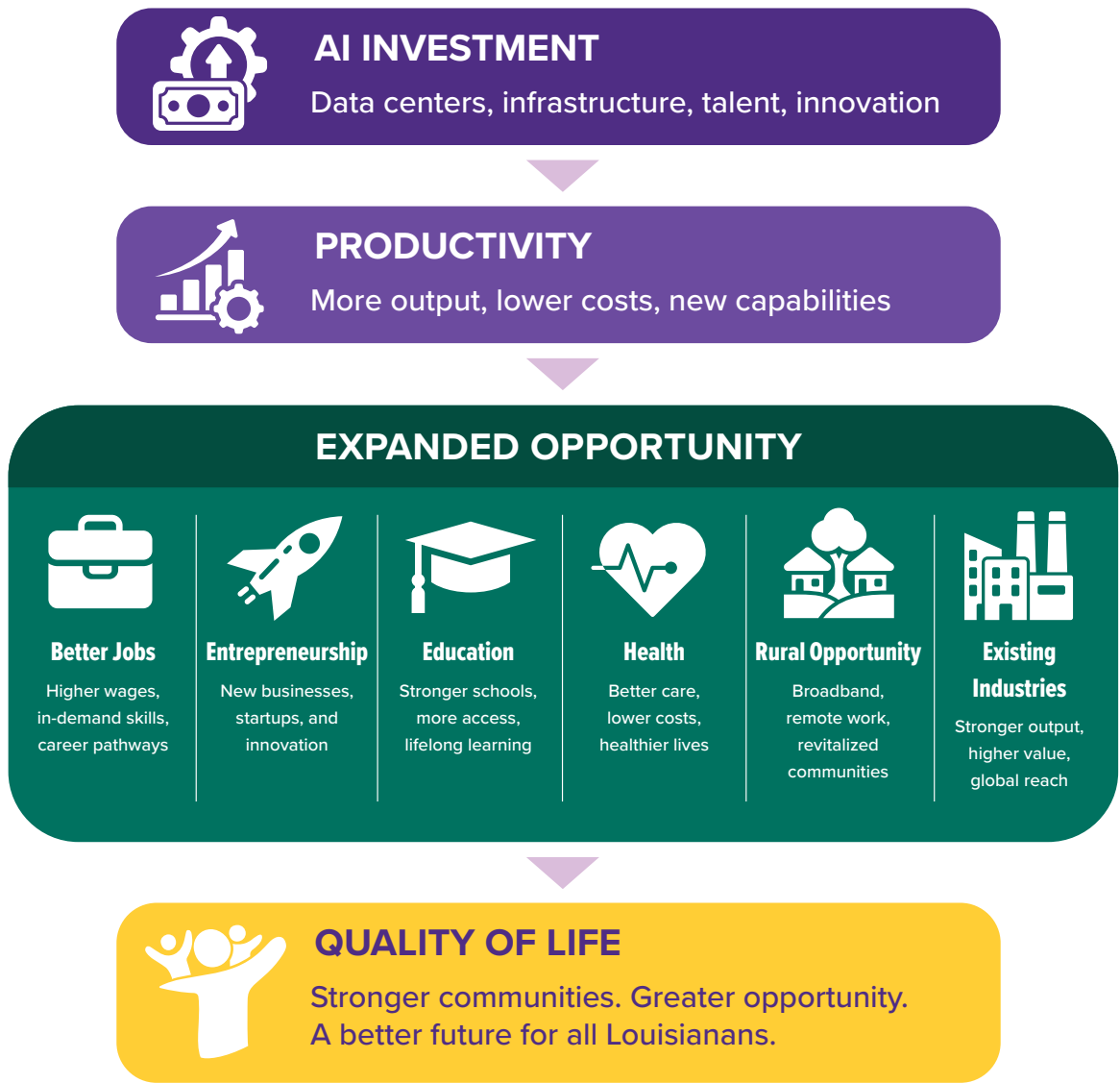
Artificial intelligence is also changing how we teach and expanding opportunities both across geography and demographic groups. Productivity growth means both new industries and existing industries becoming more competitive.

The common thread connecting these opportunities is not artificial intelligence itself, but the expansion of human opportunity through higher productivity, improved access to knowledge, and broader participation in the economy.

Figure 2. How AI Can Expand Opportunity and Improve Quality of Life

From Investment to Opportunity

How AI investment can expand opportunity and improve quality of life



GEAUX AI ECONOMY

2.3 Tradeoffs

Every major technological transition has required society to balance innovation with preservation of the environment. Artificial intelligence is unlikely to be different. Successfully managing this balance will require thoughtful decisions by state and local governments, businesses, educational institutions, and communities. Louisiana’s comparative advantages create important opportunities, but realizing those opportunities will require careful planning.

As new infrastructure arrives, the State must also seek to preserve its natural beauty that led to the moniker “sportsman’s paradise.” Artificial intelligence also may accelerate impacts that individuals, the workplace, and

communities already feel in terms of isolation. It is absolutely crucial that Louisiana maintain the interactions among its people that have made it such a unique culture even as machines do more.

As with prior industrial developments or economic development initiatives, it is important to be cognizant of both the costs and benefits of projects resulting from this new technology. In many cases, both the costs and benefits may be felt over many years and can be difficult to quantify.

Technological progress has historically involved both innovation and economic disruption (Schumpeter, 1942). While uncertainty will remain surrounding the opportunities and tradeoffs associated with this new technological change, Geaux AI Economy focuses on creating a framework for measuring and preparing for success as this rapidly evolving technology hits Louisiana's economy. In this case, the impacts on ratepayers and Louisiana's seemingly plentiful water supply will be important.

2.4 Defining Success

While Finance generally assumes risk neutral firms maximizing expected profits, economists have long focused on individuals and societies maximizing a more general notion of well-being called utility. In his 1998 Nobel lecture, Economist Amartya Sen observed

“Human development, as an approach, is concerned with... advancing the richness of human life, rather than the richness of the economy in which human beings live...”

This perspective shifts the discussion from measuring technological change solely by economic output to evaluating whether it expands meaningful opportunities for people. Artificial intelligence should not be evaluated solely by the investment it attracts or the productivity it generates, but also by whether it expands opportunities for Louisianians.

Those opportunities may take many forms: higher incomes, better jobs, entrepreneurship, improved health care, stronger educational outcomes, remote work that connects rural communities to global labor markets, great productivity for existing businesses, and new pathways for individuals who have historically faced limited economic opportunities.

Ultimately, artificial intelligence will change Louisiana. The question is whether those changes expand opportunities for more Louisianians while preserving the important qualities that make the state unique.

2.5 Implications for Louisiana

- ▶ Louisiana's comparative advantages create an opportunity to improve long-term prosperity.
- ▶ Successful AI adoption requires balancing opportunity with preservation of Louisiana's existing assets while recognizing uncertainty and long horizons.
- ▶ Success should be judged by expanded opportunity and improved quality of life rather than investment alone.

3. Preparing for Louisiana's Next Technological Change



3.1 Workforce

Throughout history, technological change has reshaped work. Focusing on a cornerstone industry for Louisiana, technical change has long played a key role in agriculture. Over time, most farmers moved from plowshares behind mules to tractors and more recently to complex equipment allowing precision planting and management in agriculture. Thanks in part to this technology-led change, average yield per acre has grown at a rate to support billions of people today.

However, while adoption of highly specialized, advanced technology for much of the sector drives crucial gains in yield per acre, that is not the full story. A modern farm likely must hire specialized mechanics to repair state-of-the-art equipment and may even contract out portions of the production process. At the same time, family farms still exist using older technology where an individual farmer makes many of the repairs to his or her own equipment. This example suggests that technological change is better viewed as an evolution. Based on Sen's work (and our definition of success in Chapter 2), the use of less advanced technology by some does not constitute failure.

There is hope that artificial intelligence will further lead to advances in areas that help mankind. For example, by replacing humans or changing workplace processes in the most dangerous occupations where technological advance offers the hope of leading to a continued reduction in workforce accidents and injuries. Through replacing humans on repetitive tasks that involve little use of creativity, new technology could enable humans to engage in more creative activities.

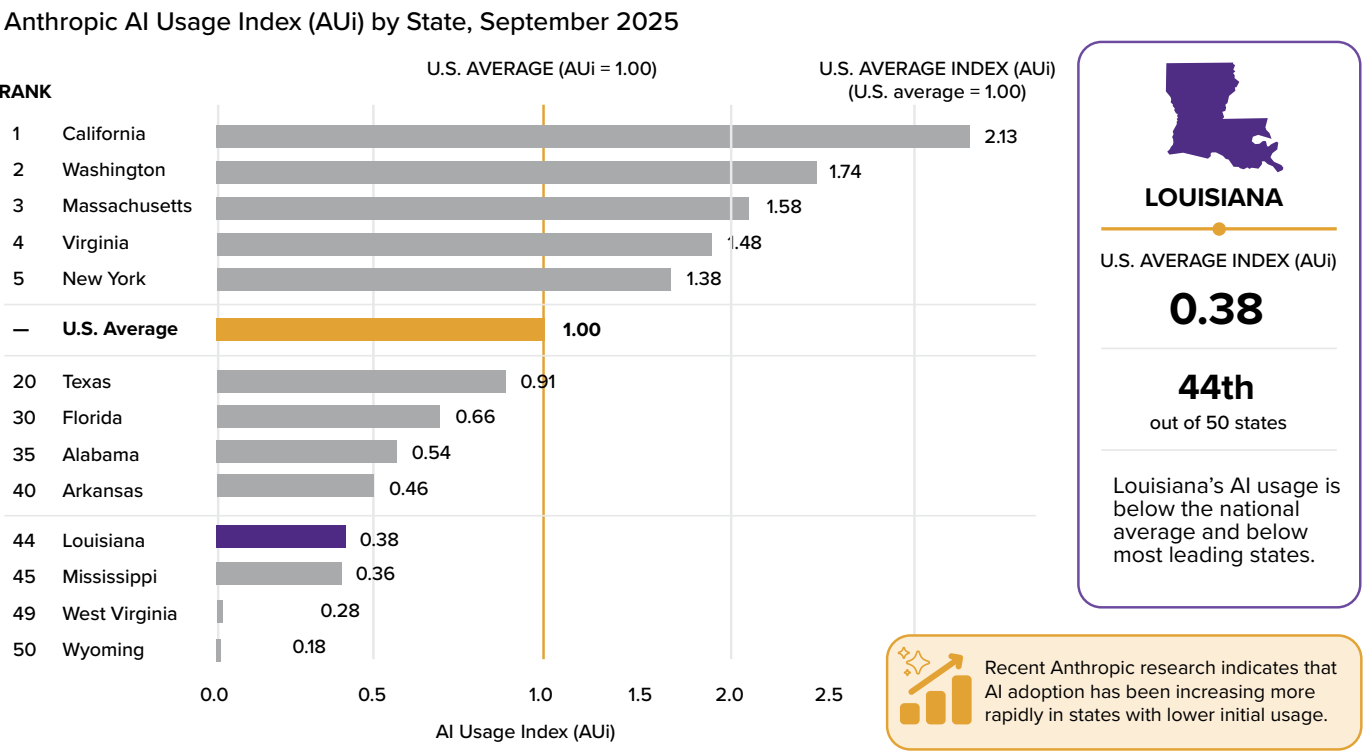
As tasks evolve, occupations will evolve as well. Though AI is inevitable, the implementation of AI is not predetermined, nor is the impact on specific occupations. At a simple level, one can predict that digital tasks are easier to replace than physical ones. However, it is important not to leave it at that.

Some advanced AI algorithms are now solving mathematical problems that humans have failed to solve for many years. Does that mean we do not need mathematicians? In terms of occupations, a full understanding of the scientific method is needed. Simply stated, one makes a conjecture of how the world works, tests that theory to verify successes and failures of the base theory and then proposes a new theory. If mankind is to continue to advance, humans must continue to play the crucial role of testing, evaluating, and proposing new theories. Artificial intelligence is a powerful tool, but hallucinations can simply repeat errors with no human intervention.

While the number of workers needed in various occupations may shift considerably, the need for workers to help manage new tools should ensure survival of most occupations at some level.

To see where Louisiana ranks in AI adoption, Anthropic's AI Usage Index, which measures Claude usage relative to each state's working-age population, provides one of the best early publicly available sources. As shown in Figure 3, Louisiana currently ranks below the national average, suggesting that AI adoption remains in its early stages relative to many other states. Recent Anthropic research also indicates that adoption has accelerated more rapidly in states with lower initial usage. Together, these findings suggest that Louisiana's current ranking should be viewed as a baseline rather than a permanent outcome.

Figure 3. Louisiana’s Current AI Usage Relative to Other States



Source: Anthropic Economic Index, September 2025
(U.S. adult population age 18+; U.S. average = 1.00)

GEAUX AI ECONOMY
Opportunity | Productivity | Stewardship | Quality of Life

3.2 Education and Lifelong Learning

Economic research on technological change has evolved from emphasizing differences in workers’ educational attainment toward understanding how technology reshapes the tasks performed within occupations. This shift provides a useful framework for understanding AI, which increasingly augments or automates specific tasks rather than replacing entire occupations. The workforce implications of this transition are examined in greater detail in a later report.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2024), 27.8% of adults 25 and older in Louisiana hold a bachelor’s degree or higher. Comparing across all 50 states, Louisiana’s raw percentage places it 48th out of 50 in overall educational attainment, outranking only Mississippi and West Virginia. This was particularly troubling during the last round of technological change, which most economists viewed as skill-biased because the gap between higher educated workers and less educated workers widened.

However, Louisiana may be in a much better position for this new wave of technological change. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (2025), Louisiana 4th graders led the entire country in reading growth over consecutive testing cycles and Louisiana 4th and 8th graders improved from 49th to 32nd between 2019 and 2024 on reading and math scores. Young Louisianians are gaining relatively on the nation.

While technological gain often “lifts all boats”, the information age ushered in larger gains for college educated workers relative to those without a college degree. Many experts expect AI-led technological change to provide better opportunities across education levels. While we won’t address workforce impacts in detail until report 3, it is worth saying that many believe AI will impact the digital workforce faster than those who work with their hands

(as many Louisiana workers do). In the words of Mike (Silverman, 2023): “I haven’t seen any plumbing robots. I haven’t seen any electrician robots.”

The Louisiana Board of Regents (2025) also points out that Louisiana scores much higher with 52.5% of citizens receiving certifications, community college degrees or college degrees. For over 29 years, Louisiana has run a successful incumbent worker training program. The strong industrial base also led to strong apprentice programs and employer training. These workers without skills specifically designed for the digital age may be in a position to benefit more relatively than others in the labor force.

3.3 Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

Louisiana’s colleges and universities have long led the way in promoting research, innovation and creating a groundwork for entrepreneurship in the state. As previously stated, artificial intelligence reinforces rather than eliminates the need for a human role in scientific method creating new questions, testing results, and pushing for further advancements even in a world where new tools play a larger role in scientific discovery. As with prior advances, universities also play a central role in teaching students how to use new technologies.

Not surprisingly, LSU has a variety of initiatives in this area. LSU AI Connect is a cross-disciplinary hub for AI exploration and collaboration. LSU’s Office of Data and Strategic Analytics (ODSA)’s AI/Data Analytics Faculty Fellows program has run since fall 2023. LSU joined the AI Alliance membership in December 2024 alongside CERN, NASA, and 140+ member organizations (at the time) committed to open, responsible AI. More recently LSU held the AI in Action Symposium and introduced the AI bachelor’s degree (March 2026) — the first dedicated AI undergraduate program in the state, approved by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Tulane’s Innovation Institute seed fund, AI-integrated professional programs and AI+ environmental justice create additional higher educational opportunities.

Likewise, LSU Health Sciences, University of Louisiana Lafayette, Louisiana Tech, HBCUs such as Southern University, Xavier, and Grambling as well as UNO and McNeese are introducing programs focused on the new AI-technology. Following a longstanding Louisiana tradition, River Parishes Community College has introduced a workforce training partnership with Hyundai Steel and is assuming the lead role in advanced manufacturing training during this latest phase of technological innovation.

As with any new technology, startups and commercialization will appear. Given the large capital infusion into Louisiana, Louisiana’s small businesses and entrepreneurs will have significant opportunities if the appropriate support structure is in place.

New technology also offers potential for additional efficiency in existing industries. Sensor feeds in Petrochem plants have already eliminated the need for humans to continuously monitor gauges throughout plants and new autonomous process safety monitoring, anomaly detection, and operator alerts offer the potential for additional safety and efficiency gains in Louisiana’s key Petrochem sector. New technology can also play a role in transcription and data handling in healthcare, insurance and state government. Our survey series is designed to obtain information on how new technology is affecting Louisiana’s industries today.

Ultimately, every application of artificial intelligence requires human judgment—judgment about which roles should remain human, the appropriate pace of adoption, and the balance between innovation and preservation.

3.4 Monitoring the Transition

Geaux AI Economy is intended to monitor Louisiana’s success in implementing this new technology to maximize opportunities of Louisiana’s citizens. This report is the first report in a series of three reports that will be updated on an annual basis.

Using regular surveys of employers, workers, educators and the general population, Geaux AI Economy will track the extent to which this new technological growth is providing expanded opportunity and improved quality of life to Louisianians as well as the extent of those benefits across various residents.

Occupational forecasts at two-time horizons will be produced to help provide workers, educators, and policymakers with quantifiable measures of skills that will be needed in the future. While no forecast is perfect, we hope our research will provide a window into the future with evaluation and modification of past forecasts offering the opportunity for updating over time with AI technology adoption and evolution.

3.5 Implications for Louisiana

- ▶ Louisiana stands at the crossroads of a new technological growth period better aligned with Louisiana's historical workforce strengths.
- ▶ Uneven change in the workforce with some sectors adopting change much faster than others can be a strength, not a weakness.
- ▶ To capture the opportunities, Louisiana's citizens, employers, educators, and government leaders must step into the forefront to harness artificial intelligence for the benefit of Louisiana's citizens, not simply ride the new wave of technology.

Conclusion



Artificial intelligence represents the latest chapter in Louisiana's long history of technological transition. Like the innovations that reshaped the state's economy in earlier generations, AI presents both significant opportunities and important challenges. The pace of change is uncertain, but the need for thoughtful preparation is not.

Louisiana enters this transition with an unusual combination of comparative advantages. Louisiana's energy resources, industrial capabilities, transportation infrastructure, research institutions, and economic development leadership have positioned the state to attract substantial AI-related investment. Those advantages create an important opportunity, but they do not guarantee long-term success.

Ultimately, the success of this technological transition should not be measured solely by the projects Louisiana attracts or the technologies it adopts. It should be measured by whether technological progress expands opportunity, reduces poverty, strengthens communities, improves productivity, and enhances the quality of life for people throughout the state. Equally important, economic progress should preserve the culture, natural beauty, and distinctive way of life that make Louisiana unique.

The purpose of the Geaux AI Economy initiative is not to predict the future, but to help Louisiana prepare for it. By providing independent, objective, and evidence-based economic research, the initiative seeks to inform decisions that will shape the state's future long after today's technologies have evolved.

Artificial intelligence will continue to change. Louisiana's values and long-term aspirations need not. Technological change is inevitable, but the impact depends on the choices we make today. Louisiana has navigated major technological transitions before. Artificial intelligence presents another opportunity to build on the state's unique strengths while preparing for a changing economy.

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