

BGR Outlook on Jefferson

The Parish Council

April 1997

Introducing “BGR Outlook on Jefferson”

This report is the first in a new program of BGR governmental oversight and monitoring of Jefferson Parish governments. Titled “Outlook on Jefferson,” the program will monitor and report on the activities of the Parish Council, the Office of the District Attorney, the Office of the Sheriff, the School Board, and perhaps other parish governmental entities. The primary purpose of the project is to produce information for citizens on the performance of various local governments in Jefferson Parish.

This first report provides a baseline report on Jefferson Parish general government finances, updating BGR’s last report on this topic in July 1993. It highlights one issue likely to come before Jefferson Parish citizens fairly frequently in the next few years – the need for transportation improvements. It also highlights an area that was a “rising star” for parish government four years ago – its explicit commitment to economic development efforts through the Jefferson Economic Development Commission.

This report also introduces what will be a regular feature of the series, “Fast Facts,” on the inside back cover, a quick overview of income, employment, and earnings figures for the parish.

BGR gratefully acknowledges the support that has made possible this regional expansion of focus. BGR also acknowledges the cooperation and assistance of Jefferson Parish officials in the provision of information for this report.

BGR looks forward to providing an independent “Outlook on Jefferson” to the nearly half-a-million citizens of Jefferson Parish.

Precis of This Report

The structure of the Jefferson Parish general purpose government and budget are essentially the same as they were five years ago. The size of the parish government, by various measures, has decreased over that period, while the population inched up slightly until 1996 estimates. Whether the parish government is doing more with less, or is doing less and needs more, will be the subject of future reports.

Except when discussing the current year budget, this report uses 1995 figures as the latest year for which comparable figures are available.

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Structure of Parish Government

The government of the Parish of Jefferson is established in a home rule Charter adopted in 1957 and revised in 1982 and 1994. The Charter establishes the Parish Council as the legislative and policy-making body of the parish and the Parish President as chief administrative officer.

The Parish Council has the usual powers to levy and collect taxes, special assessments, service charges, license charges, fees, and other revenues, and to make appropriations for all parish purposes. It has the power to require reports from all parish officers and to conduct investigations of parish affairs.

The Council has the authority to establish, merge, and abolish special districts for the provision of essential services and has the power to enter into contracts with other governmental units for the performance of authorized functions.

The Council is composed of six members elected from single-member districts, plus a Chairman elected parish-wide. It generally meets twice a month, alternating between the East and West Banks.

District council members receive a salary of \$43, 650 per year plus an expense allowance

of \$3,600. The Council Chairman receives \$65,475 per year plus the \$3,600 expense allowance.

The Parish President is established by the Charter as the chief administrative officer of the parish and is responsible to the Parish Council for carrying out policies adopted by the Council and for administration and supervision of all parish departments, offices, agencies, and special districts.

A 1994 charter amendment gave the President power to veto most council ordinances, but the veto must be of the entire ordinance; it is not a line-item veto. The veto has not yet been used.

The Parish President receives a salary of \$87,300 per year and an expense allowance of \$4,800.

The Parish President has the power to appoint or remove all administrative officers and employees of the parish who are responsible to him.

Table A
Jefferson Parish — General Revenues by Source, 1986-1995
(unaudited — amounts in thousands)

Year	Taxes	Licenses and Permits	Inter- Governmental	Charges for Services	Gaming Fees and Commission	Fines and Forfeits	Special Assessments	Misc.	Interest	Total
1986	\$ 111,985	\$ 5,800	\$ 20,866	\$ 5,924		\$ 2,148		\$ 9,301	\$11,545	\$167,569
1987	120,474	5,591	19,708	5,812		2,413	1,059	10,240	7,958	173,255
1988	117,514	6,055	22,025	5,886		1,986	336	7,220	9,092	170,114
1989	127,300	6,252	24,946	6,574		2,008	714	6,473	10,576	184,843
1990	142,714	6,384	27,072	11,562		2,123	295	10,682	10,965	211,797
1991	141,795	6,661	27,397	13,041		2,108	232	12,330	9,123	212,687
1992	149,405	7,031	26,967	13,664		2,228	209	11,257	5,409	216,170
1993	157,570	7,085	24,847	14,121		2,383	215	9,885	3,839	219,945
1994	162,102	7,446	24,428	17,838	2,542	2,396	199	9,916	5,580	232,447
1995	162,710	8,016	29,289	18,668	3,195	2,592	223	11,841	7,909	244,443

Includes General, Special Revenue and Debt Service Funds. Does not include Enterprise Funds.
Source: Jefferson Parish Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Parish Resources: Money and People

Money

General Revenues

Since 1986, parish general revenues have increased from \$167.6 million to \$244.4 million, an increase of 45.8 percent and an average annual growth rate of 4.3 percent. When these actual dollars are adjusted for inflation, however, the increase between 1986 and 1995 is 6.62 percent. While general revenues adjusted for inflation grew 7.62 percent between 1986 and 1990, they declined just under one percent between 1990 and 1995.

General revenues consist of taxes, licenses and permits, state and federal grants (inter-governmental), charges for services, gaming fees and commissions, fines and forfeitures, special assessments, interest, and other miscellaneous sources.

All but two revenue sources have generated increased revenues in actual dollars since 1986. See Table A. Charges for services saw the largest average annual growth in revenues, 13.6 percent. Taxes, licenses and permits, inter-governmental, fines and forfeitures, and miscellaneous sources averaged moderate annual growths of 4.2 percent, 3.7 percent, 3.8 percent, 2 percent, and 2.7 percent respectively.

Special assessment and interest revenues experienced a decline. Special assessments declined an average of 17.7 percent, while interest declined an average of 4.1 percent.

General tax revenues accounted for over half, 66.6 percent, of all revenue sources in 1995. Tax revenues consist of ad valorem (property), sales, severance, and miscellaneous taxes. Tax revenues for the parish amounted to \$162.7 million in 1995, up from \$112 million in 1986.

Sales taxes accounted for the majority of general tax revenues in 1995, 52 percent or



Figure 1(a)
Jefferson Parish
General Revenue Sources 1986

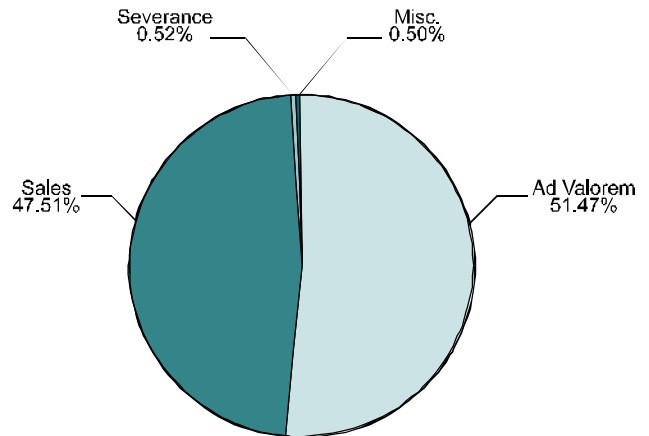
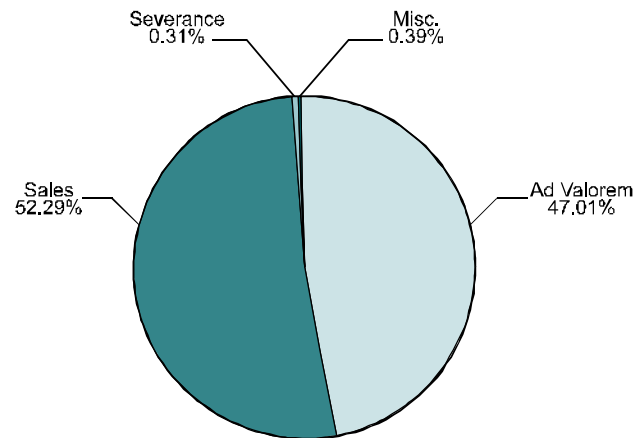


Figure 1(b)
Jefferson Parish
General Revenue Sources 1995



Source: Jefferson Parish Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

\$85.1 million, up from \$53.2 million in 1986. Property taxes accounted for 47 percent of tax revenues or \$76.5 million in 1995, up from \$57.7 million in 1986. See Figures 1, 2, and 3.

Revenues from Enterprise Funds are not included in the revenue figures. Enterprise funds are proprietary funds that account for operations that provide goods or services to the general public and are financed through user charges.

Two enterprise funds exist, the Consolidated Sewerage District No. 1, which accounts for the provision of sewerage and sewage treatment services to residents, and the

Consolidated Water District No. 1, which accounts for the provision of water services to residents. All activities accounted for in each fund are necessary to provide the respective services and include, but are not limited to, administration, operations, maintenance, and billing collections of a user fee.

General Expenditures

General expenditures of the parish increased from \$154.3 million in 1986 to \$228.2 million in 1995, an increase of 47.9 percent and an average annual growth rate of 4.4 percent. See Figure 4.

Adjusted for inflation, however, the general expenditures increased 8.09 percent from 1986 to 1995. Almost all that growth occurred between 1986 and 1990, when there was an 8.18 percent increase. General expenditures adjusted for inflation declined, though less than one-tenth-of-one percent, between 1990 and 1995.

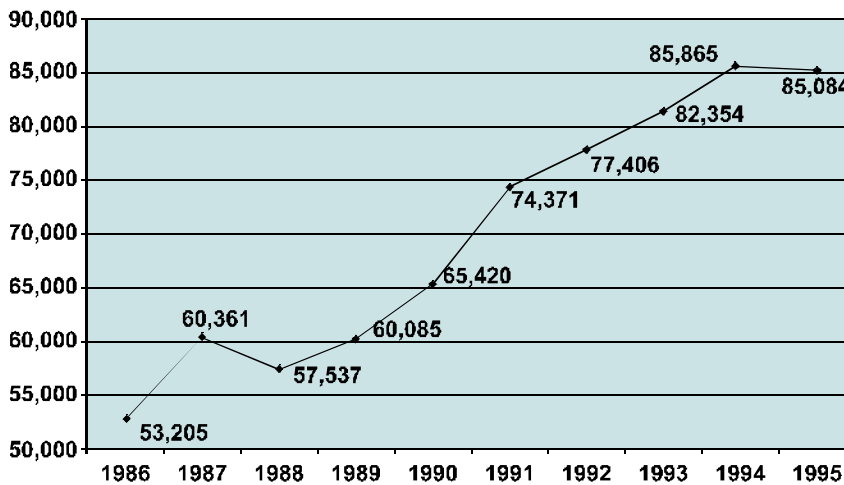
General expenditures include spending from general, special revenue, and debt service funds.

In 1995 general fund expenditures totaled \$39.4 million, special fund expenditures totaled \$159.4 million, and debt service fund expenditures totaled \$54.7 million.

Public works is the largest general expenditure and accounted for 26.8 percent of expenditures in 1995 or \$61.2 million. Prior to 1989, transit was included in public works. If transit were included for 1995, public works would total \$67.2 million or 29.5 percent of expenditures. See Figure 5.

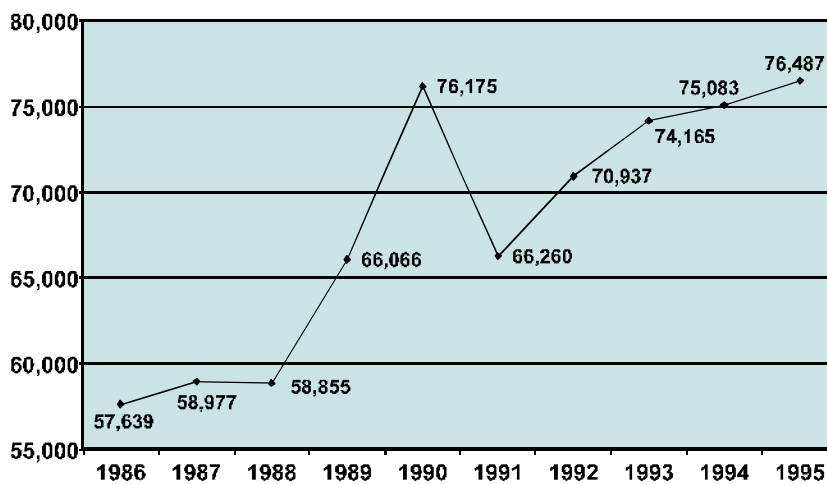
Debt service is the second largest parish expenditure. In 1995 debt service totaled \$47.4 million or 20.8 percent of expenditures, up from \$34.5 million in 1986. In 1995 public safety expenditures were 16.6 percent

Figure 2
Jefferson Parish
Sales Tax Revenues, 1986-1995
(amounts in thousands)



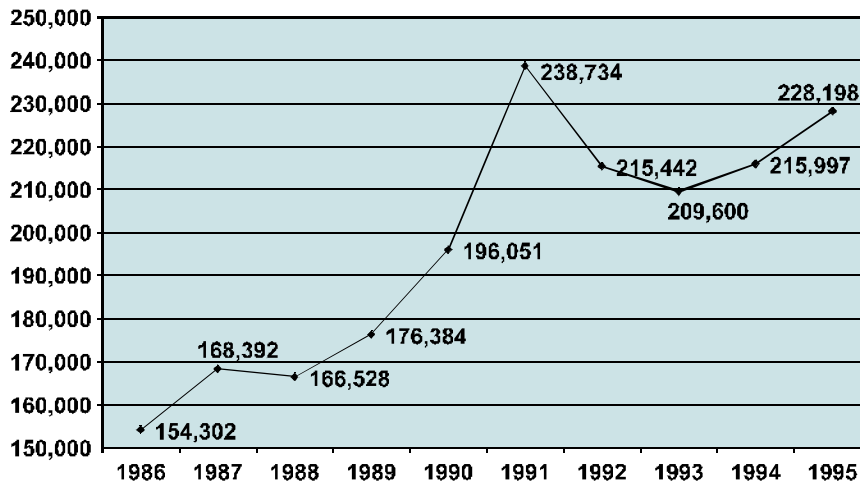
Source: Jefferson Parish Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Figure 3
Jefferson Parish
Property Tax Revenues, 1986-1995
(amounts in thousands)



Source: Jefferson Parish Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Figure 4
Jefferson Parish
Total General Governmental Expenditures, 1986-1995
 (amounts in thousands)



Source: Jefferson Parish Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

of total expenditures, a slight decline in actual dollars from 1986.

It appears that in 1994 general government expenditures experienced a decline. This apparent decline is due to the fact that inter-governmental expenditures had been included in general government expenditures in prior years. Taking this change in classification into account, general government expenditures totaled \$29.1 million, up from \$18.3 million in 1986.

In 1995, health and welfare, cultural and recreation, housing and urban development, and transit experienced small increases in expenditures over 1986.

Expenditures per capita totaled \$323.72 in 1986. In 1990 this figure increased \$48.63 to \$372.35, a 15 percent increase. In 1995, this

figure decreased to \$363.79, a 2.3 percent decrease from 1990 and a 12.4 percent increase over 1986. These figures are adjusted for inflation.

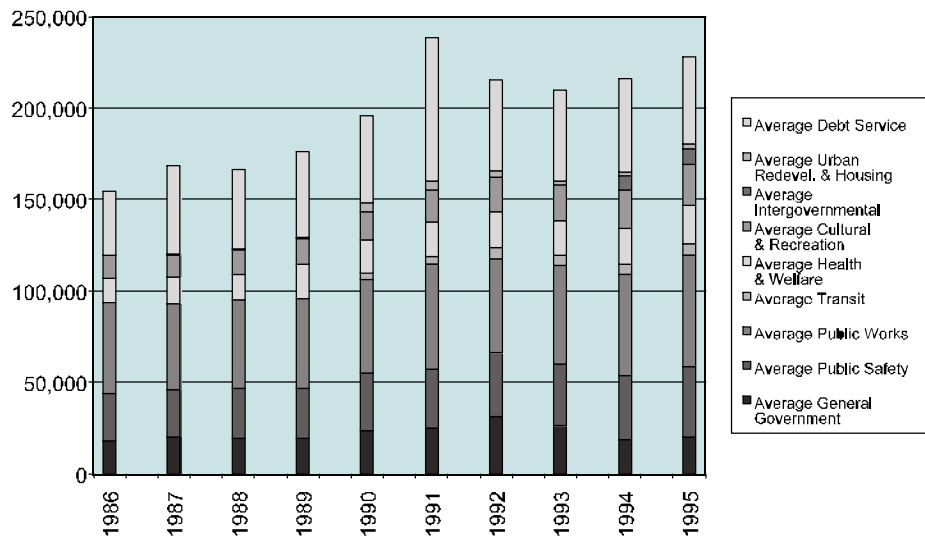
Tax Structure

The local tax structure of Jefferson Parish is comprised of property taxes (ad valorem); sales taxes; and other, which include beer, severance, and chain store taxes.

Property taxes are levied on real property for maintenance and operation, debt service, and capital improvements for various purposes, parish-wide and in special districts.

The tax is computed by applying a millage rate to a percentage of the value of taxable property. (One mill is equal to one one-thousandth of a dollar.) For 1996, parish millages ranged from 54.10 in Westwego to 121.28 in the Bridge City, Avondale, and Waggaman area.

Figure 5
Jefferson Parish
General Expenditures by Function, 1986-1995
 (amounts in thousands)



Source: Jefferson Parish Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

The sales tax rate in the parish is 8 3/4 percent. Four percent of the rate is state sales tax. The remaining portion is divided accordingly:

Parish	2 3/8 cents
<i>General Fund</i>	1/2 cent
<i>Drainage/ Sewage</i>	1/2 cent
<i>Sewerage</i>	
<i>Capital</i>	7/8 cent
<i>Roads and Bridges</i>	1/2 cent
Sheriff	3/8 cent
School Board	2 cents

The Office of the Sheriff, which in turn receives a commission, collects all sales taxes. The commission is nine-and-a-half percent from the school board and 11 percent from the parish.

1997 Operating Budget

Parish operating revenues are expected to amount to \$217.8 million in 1997, a one-quarter-of-one-percent increase from the 1996 amended budget, where revenues totaled

Table B
Jefferson Parish
Operating Revenues, 1996-1997

	1996		1997		% Change 1996-1997
	Amended Budget	Percent of Total Revenue	Proposed Budget	Percent of Total Revenue	
All Funds					
Taxes *	\$ 133,595,000	61.5%	\$ 135,128,000	62.0%	1.15%
Licenses and Permits	7,986,000	3.7%	7,975,000	3.7%	-0.14%
Intergovernmental	10,972,000	5.0%	10,638,000	4.9%	-3.04%
Charges for Services **	57,435,000	26.4%	54,300,000	24.9%	-5.46%
Fines and Forfeitures	2,356,000	1.1%	2,425,000	1.1%	2.93%
Interest Income	3,590,000	1.7%	4,369,000	2.0%	21.70%
Miscellaneous	1,342,000	0.6%	2,977,000	1.4%	121.83%
Operating Revenues	\$ 217,276,000		\$ 217,812,000		

* Figures do not include Debt Service Funds.

** Figures include Enterprise Funds.

Source: Jefferson Parish 1997 Operating Budget

\$217.3 million. Although there is anticipated growth in fines and forfeitures, interest income, and miscellaneous sources, these sources will yield only 4.5 percent of revenues.

Charges for services, which account for 25 percent of budgeted revenues, are expected to decline 5.5 percent. License and permits and intergovernmental revenues are also expected to decline a little less than two percent.

The small increase in total operating revenues can be attributed to a slight increase in tax revenues, a little over one percent. Taxes would account for 62 percent of revenues, or \$135.1 million, an increase from 1996, when taxes amounted to \$133.6 million or 61.5 percent. See Table B.

Operating expenditures are expected to be \$223.7 million in 1997. This amount is a 4.59 percent increase over the 1996 amended budget, which totaled \$213.9 million. By function, public works would account for the largest percentage, 28.8 percent, or \$64.4 million.

By category, personal services would account for 46.6 percent of expenditures, or \$104.2 million. Health and safety and culture and recreation expenditures will experience the largest increase in 1997. Health and welfare expenditures will

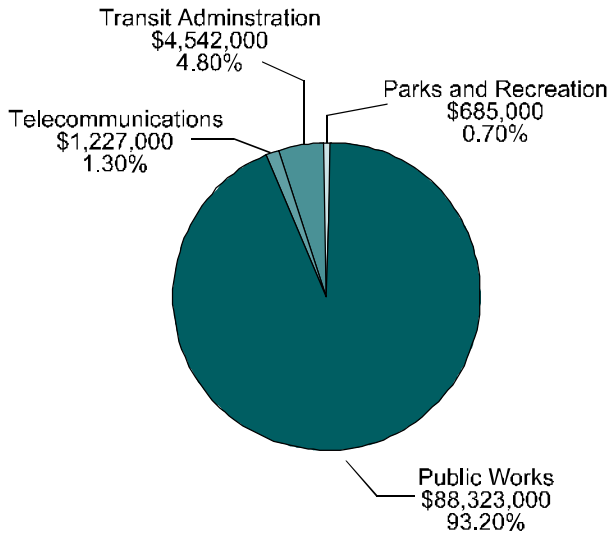
Table C
Jefferson Parish
Operating Expenditures by Function and Category, 1996-1997

Function	1996		1997		% Change Amended 1996 to Adopted 1997
	Amended Expenditures	Adopted Expenditures	Adopted Expenditures	Adopted Expenditures	
General Government	\$ 45,614,000	\$ 46,732,000			2.45%
Public Safety Functions	32,075,000	33,383,000			4.08%
Health and Welfare	4,380,000	5,043,000			15.14%
Public Works	61,991,000	64,364,000			3.83%
Enterprise Funds	37,289,000	37,595,000			0.82%
Transit	6,875,000	7,045,000			2.47%
Culture and Recreation	24,574,000	28,429,000			15.69%
Urban Redevelopment	1,087,000	1,119,000			2.94%
Total	\$ 213,885,000	\$ 223,710,000			4.59%

Category	1996		1997		% Change Amended 1996 to Adopted 1997
	Amended Expenditures	Adopted Expenditures	Adopted Expenditures	Adopted Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$ 99,149,000	\$ 104,221,000			5.12%
Supplies	14,590,000	14,525,000			-0.45%
Purchased Services:					
Professional and Technical	49,163,000	50,080,000			1.87%
Property	24,226,000	26,528,000			9.50%
Other	10,734,000	10,227,000			-4.72%
General Expenses	9,092,000	10,594,000			16.52%
Capital Outlay	6,907,000	7,512,000			8.76%
Debt Service	24,000	23,000			-4.17%
Total	\$ 213,885,000	\$ 223,710,000			4.59%

Source: Jefferson Parish 1997 Operating Budget

Figure 6
Jefferson Parish
1997 Capital Budget Elements



Source: Jefferson Parish 1997 Operating Budget

increase by 15 percent, and culture and recreation will increase by 15.7 percent. See Table C.

The gap between projected operating revenues and expenditures will be funded through available prior year undedicated and unreserved fund balances.

Capital Budget

The capital budget, a separate document from the operating budget, is the current year spending portion of the parish's five-year plan for meeting capital needs. The capital improvements identified for 1997 spending amount to \$94.8 million, of which \$3.1 million is included in the 1997 operating budget. The remaining funding is provided through capital improvement property tax millages, available bond

funds, construction accounts, federal grants, and other sources.

The 1997 Capital Budget Annual Element contains spending for four departments: parks and recreation, public works, telecommunications, and transit administration. For 1997, public work projects account for the majority of capital expenditures, \$88.3 million of the \$94.8 million, or 93.2 percent. See Figure 6. Public works projects include improvements; related to drainage, sewerage, street improvements, and water.

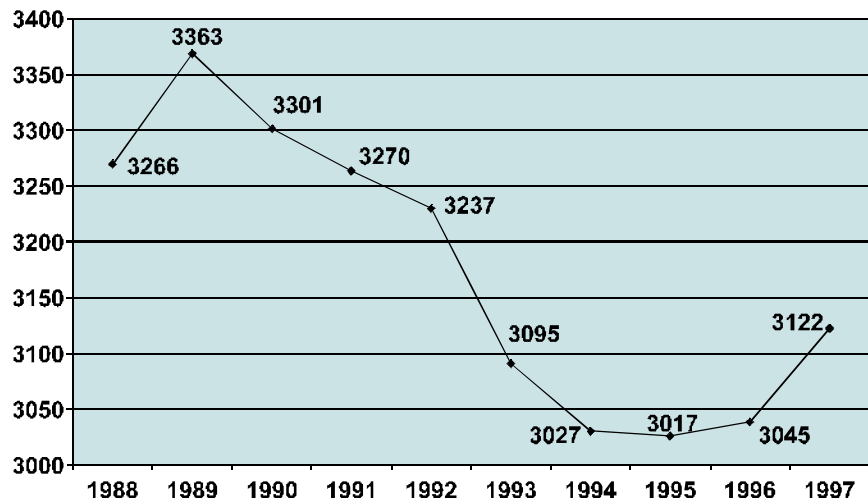
Personnel

The number of parish personnel has declined an average of a little more than one percent from 1988 to 1996. Personnel numbers reached their peak in 1989 at 3,363. In 1996 the number of employees was 3,045, one percent more than 1995, when the number was at its lowest (3,017). See Figure 7.



The number of parish employees for each 1,000 residents was 6.97 in 1988. This number

Figure 7
Jefferson Parish Personnel Count, 1988-1997



Source: Jefferson Parish 1997 Operating Budget

increased to 7.36 in 1990 but in 1995 dropped to 6.58, below the 1988 figure.

The number of personnel is expected to increase two-and-a-half percent in 1997 to 3,122 positions, a gain of 77. The largest increase, 39 positions, will occur in the library department. This increase can be attributed to the opening of the East Bank Regional Library.

The electronic information system management department will see an increase of 20; and the district attorney will see an increase of 14, most of which most would be department secretaries.

The GIS (Geographic Information System) department will decrease its staff by 17. Two other areas, water distribution and drainage pumping stations, will experience a small increase, six and five positions respectively. The remaining departments will either experience no staff increases or a one-to-two position increase. A few departments will experience decreases of one or two positions.

Transportation Funding Proposals

One of the major issues confronting Jefferson Parish is road construction and improvements. To address those needs, a Transportation Action Committee has been formed to follow up on the Jeff 2000 sessions.

The committee formed four subcommittees, the Causeway Corridor Improvements Subcommittee, the West Bank and East Bank Priorities Subcommittees, and the Revenue Subcommittee.

Preliminary reports from these committees estimate a total of \$177.1 million in need projects. The Causeway Subcommittee estimate a \$76 million in needed projects. Of this amount, an estimated \$28 million could be funded with federal funds, leaving an estimated \$48 million needed in local funds. The Eastbank Subcommittee has estimated \$58.1

million in needed projects; and the West Bank Subcommittee, an estimated \$43 million in projects.

The Revenue Subcommittee is in charge of finding sufficient revenue to fund the improvements recommended by the West Bank and East Bank Priorities Subcommittees.

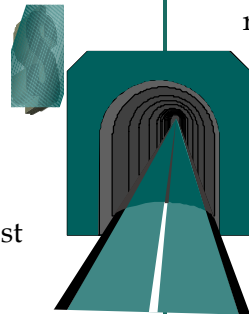
One of the means of financing road construction is a proposed local user fee on cars and trucks registered in the Parish. The fee would be collected at the time of registration.

Since the Parish does not have the authority to impose a user fee on vehicles, the Council has passed a resolution supporting such authority; and legislation has been introduced supporting the measure. The measure would be subject to voter approval. Another source of funding would be a sales tax increase.

Another proposal under consideration to help fund road work is House Bill 411, which would create the Louisiana Transportation Development Act. The bill would permit local governments to create independent authorities that could undertake major road projects. The authority could impose and revise tolls, fees, and charges for each project sufficient to pay all maintenance, operation, debt services, and reserve or replacement costs.

Also under House Bill 411, neighboring local governments would also be able to join together to create an authority to build roads. Authorities could issue bonds to pay for construction of the projects and would be responsible for operation and maintenance until the bonds were paid off.

Once the bond debt was paid, ownership and responsibility would revert to the parish or municipal that formed the authority. In the case of the project's being part of a state highway, ownership and responsibility would revert to the state. The measure would only apply to new roads and highways.



Economic Development Funding

JEDCO

The parish created a publicly funded Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) in 1987. It is designed to bring together successful business leaders who could pool ideas for success in the private sector and apply them in an attempt to stimulate development in the parish. According to its own figures, JEDCO has had a 28,474 job and a \$1.12 billion impact since its establishment.

One of JEDCO's most valuable assets has been the Business Incubator. The incubator is divided into two locations, the East Bank (the Enterprise Center) and the West Bank (JEDCO West). The purpose of the incubators is to offer novice entrepreneurs assistance in starting their new companies. According to JEDCO, the incubator has assisted 268 businesses and has had a job impact of 1,115 jobs since its inception.

JEDCO also assists businesses through the Financing the Future Program. The program helps companies secure financing from the federal government, banks, and other private sources. JEDCO reports that the program has assisted 154 businesses and has had a job impact of 2,100 jobs.

JEDCO Business Outreach program helps existing business with such matters as tax incentive programs and provides such information as parish demographics. According to JEDCO, the program has helped 343 business and has created more than 23,714 jobs.

The parish funded portion of JEDCO's operating budget has increased 106 percent from 1989 to 1994, but only 8.6 percent from 1994 to the 1997 budget. In 1996 the operating budget reached \$1.087 million. The 1997 adopted budget will increase a little less than three percent to \$1.118 million.

Triumph Becomes Default

What should have been a triumph for JEDCO has turned into a major loan default. In 1990 JEDCO guaranteed the largest loan in its history, a \$4.5 million loan that was 18 times more than it had underwritten in the two years since opening its door. This loan and a second one in 1994, for another \$2.6 million, went into default. According to the State Department of Economic Development, the default will stand as the most costly failure of a government-sponsored economic development effort in the history of the state.

The default could also cost the parish more than \$6 million in federal grants it put up for collateral. That would be a loss of roughly \$13 for every man, woman, and child in the parish. The loans were made through a U.S. Housing and Urban Development program that permits local governments to loan federal money to businesses promising to either employ low-to-moderate income people or improve blighted areas.

The failure has prompted the Parish Council to launch an investigation, and it has been reported that the Council has recommended that the parish take over the agency. The question under investigation is whether the Council properly approved the loans and whether JEDCO was diligent enough in the oversight of the company that received the money.

In February the council passed a resolution requesting JEDCO maintain its present level of operations and funding until such time as the overview of JEDCO's programs can be completed. An overview of JEDCO's programs, past, present and future, will be conducted to determine whether the established goals and mission of JEDCO have and are being met and the legal relationship between JEDCO and the parish's governing authority.

Conclusion

Finding ways to finance intensifying transportation needs and finding a way to manage satisfactorily the public investment of Jefferson Parish in economic development are two challenges facing the Jefferson Parish general purpose government. Responding to declining general operating revenues is another.

The charter amendments of 1994 made certain elements of the Jefferson Parish budget process more orderly and adoption of the budget seemingly less contentious, but responding to emerging needs and fiscal realities for 1998 and beyond will require more than “house-keeping” changes.

Themes BGR sounded in 1993—the need for improved, parish-wide planning and the need to link that planning to budgeting, among

others—continue to resound in 1997. BGR will offer analyses and recommendations as problems and prospects for addressing them develop.



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Fast Facts about Jefferson Parish

Jefferson Parish and Louisiana Selected Economic Profiles 1988-1994							
Jefferson Parish							
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total Personal Income (\$000)	\$ 6,870,346	\$ 7,229,623	\$ 7,627,728	\$ 7,976,279	\$ 8,293,343	\$ 8,683,446	\$ 9,209,305
	3.27%	5.23%	5.51%	4.57%	3.98%	4.70%	6.06%
Per Capita Personal Income	\$ 15,069	\$ 15,998	\$ 17,016	\$ 17,628	\$ 18,189	\$ 19,040	\$ 20,170
	4.25%	6.16%	6.36%	3.60%	3.18%	4.68%	5.93%
Total Employment (full- and part-time)	218,659	221,301	226,760	227,686	227,288	231,893	240,030
	3.20%	1.21%	2.47%	0.41%	-0.17%	2.03%	3.51%
Number of Proprietors	31,098	29,643	31,164	32,091	31,868	32,569	33,195
	7.01%	-4.68%	5.13%	2.97%	-0.69%	2.20%	1.92%
Average Earnings per Job	\$ 19,425	\$ 20,342	\$ 21,157	\$ 22,197	\$ 23,078	\$ 23,724	\$ 24,506
	1.79%	4.72%	4.01%	4.92%	3.97%	2.80%	3.30%
Population	456,000	452,000	448,000	453,000	456,000	456,000	457,000
	-0.87%	-0.88%	-0.88%	1.12%	0.66%	0.00%	0.22%

Louisiana							
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total Personal Income (\$000)	\$53,910,941	\$56,369,203	\$60,288,038	\$63,956,324	\$67,589,269	\$71,043,834	\$76,037,539
	5.68%	4.56%	6.95%	6.08%	5.68%	5.11%	7.03%
Per Capita Personal Income	\$ 12,568	\$ 13,254	\$ 14,281	\$ 15,079	\$ 15,817	\$ 16,559	\$ 17,622
	7.03%	5.46%	7.75%	5.59%	4.89%	4.69%	6.42%
Total Employment (full- and part-time)	1,937,481	1,950,844	2,007,846	2,034,500	2,052,624	2,089,192	2,150,023
	1.59%	0.69%	2.92%	1.33%	0.89%	1.78%	2.91%
Number of Proprietors	286,887	277,747	285,629	291,880	292,896	298,002	302,287
	-0.38%	-3.19%	2.84%	2.19%	0.35%	1.74%	1.44%
Average Earnings per Job	\$ 19,847	\$ 20,501	\$ 21,392	\$ 22,392	\$ 23,366	\$ 23,893	\$ 24,779
	4.75%	3.30%	4.35%	4.67%	4.35%	2.26%	3.71%
Population	4,290,000	4,253,000	4,217,000	4,241,000	4,273,000	4,290,000	4,315,000
	-1.27%	-0.86%	-0.85%	0.57%	0.75%	0.40%	0.58%

Jefferson Parish as a Percent of Louisiana							
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total Personal Income	12.74%	12.83%	12.65%	12.47%	12.27%	12.22%	12.11%
Total Employment (full- and part-time)	11.29%	11.34%	11.29%	11.19%	11.07%	11.10%	11.16%
Number of Proprietors	10.84%	10.67%	10.91%	10.99%	10.88%	10.93%	10.98%
Population	10.63%	10.63%	10.62%	10.68%	10.67%	10.63%	10.59%

Source: Center of Business and Economic Research, Northeast Louisiana University

BGR Outlook on Jefferson Parish Council

Quick View

- ❖ The fundamental structure of the Jefferson Parish general purpose government is the same as before the charter amendments of 1994.
- ❖ The structure of the Jefferson Parish budget – that is, the proportion of spending for various purposes – is essentially unchanged over the past five years.
- ❖ Sales and property taxes have flip-flopped between 1986 and 1995 as the #1 and #2 sources of general tax revenues.
- ❖ The size of parish government measured both by number of employees and by number of employees per capita decreased between 1988 and 1995.
- ❖ The size of parish government measured by both general operating revenues and general expenditures, adjusted for inflation, decreased slightly from 1990 to 1995. For the entire period 1986-95, general revenues and general expenditures both grew; but the increases occurred between 1986 and 1990.
- ❖ The size of government measured by general parish expenditures per 1000/residents, adjusted for inflation, has increased 12 percent for the entire period from 1986 to 1995 but only 2.3 percent since 1990.
- ❖ Whether the Jefferson Parish general purpose government is doing more with less, or is doing less and needs more, will be the subject of future reports.