Acadiana Urbanizing

A new State Department of Public Works "data digest" describes the marked change in Acadiana's rural population that is rapidly urbanizing, where per capita income has increased by 130 per cent in the past decade. By 1960 the area was producing more farm products than ever before, and the region's new economy was attracting new industries and residents. The report suggests that the four most populous counties in Acadiana are Lafayette, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion. Lafayette, in particular, has enjoyed rapid growth in the past decade, with its per capita income nearly doubling since 1960. The growth in Lafayette is attributed to the development of manufacturing and service industries, which have attracted new residents to the area. The report also notes the importance of the oil industry in Acadiana's economy, with major oil and gas production in the region. Overall, the report suggests that Acadiana is experiencing a significant shift from a rural to an urban economy.