A six-year study of Louisiana unemployment ending in 1985 was released this week by the Research and Statistics Division of the Department of Labor.

The 225-page report shows employment trends from June 1979, when the LSU Business Review said the state was "on a knife's edge between inflation and recession," until June 1985.

Evangeline Parish, according to the report, had its share of economic problems during the past six years.

In June 1979, the revised Labor Department estimate for the parish showed an unemployment rate of 10.2 percent, representing 10,575 employed and 1,200 unemployed out of a civilian labor force of 11,775.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the parish, known for its hardworking, yet easy lifestyle, stood at 5,500, with manufacturing employment at 350.

The major sources of jobs in Evangeline were nondurable goods in manufacturing, 250; durable goods, 100; retail trade, 1,225; services, 875; finance, insurance and real estate, 225; transportation and public utilities, 225; construction, 450; mining, 100; and wholesale trade, 175.

Six years later, the employment picture in Evangeline Parish had altered for the worse. The revised June 1985 employment report showed an unemployment rate of 15.5 percent, representing 12,325 employed and 2,250 unemployed of a civilian work force of 14,575. The state rate was 11.5 percent and the national rate was 7.5.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment stood at 6,500, with manufacturing employment at 425 jobs. Durable goods in manufacturing employed, 125; nondurable goods, 300; retail trade, 1,425; services, 1,425; finance, insurance and real estate, 300; transportation and public utilities, 450; construction, 275; mining, 150; and wholesale trade, 200.

"The report was designed to answer many questions posed by the news media," said Secretary of Labor Dudley J. Patin, Jr., "and is intended as an aid to a better understanding of the unemployment situation in each parish of Louisiana."

During the period of the report, said Secretary Patin, the Louisiana Job Service placed 494,025 individuals in jobs.

"Louisiana processed unemployment insurance claims totaling approximately $2.7 billion from June 1979 to June 1985," said Patin.

"These claims dollars are maximum velocity dollars into each community's economy, thus preventing job-and-skill flight," he explained. "The unemployed would have been worse off without these benefits."

The Louisiana unemployment rate of 11.0 in November 1985 ranked second in the nation, and, said Patin, "we still face serious employment problems." He attributed the loss of jobs during the six-year period covered by the study to the impact of the world oil glut on South Louisiana, particularly and also to the national recession for the state as a whole.

Patin warned that continuing budget cuts at the state and national level further threaten the stability of the Employment Security system, which administers unemployment benefits and helps job seekers find work.

Nothing in the report is new, said Patin, adding, "This information is all too familiar to state and local officials, but the report serves as an invaluable reference point to those seeking to understand the problem. We hope that this will assist those engaged in future planning of new and expanded industry and business so sorely needed for our state."

The six-year report states, "Like many other Southwest Louisiana parishes, Evangeline sustained its highest unemployment in 1983, reaching 17.8 percent in March of that year. (The latest figures released for December of 1985 put unemployment at 15 percent in the parish.) The world oil glut was a contributing factor to high unemployment in the parish which would welcome a statistical return to June 1979 when its 10.2 percent unemployment rate compared with a Louisiana rate of 7.6 and a national rate of 5.6."