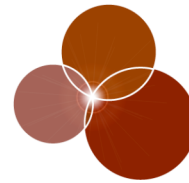


**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Trends:  
An Analysis of the United Way of Acadiana Service Area**

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**Prepared for:**  
United Way of Acadiana  
Lafayette, LA

**Prepared by:**



TRIANGLE  
RESEARCH  
PARTNERS

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## Overview

The purpose of this brief analysis is to help the United Way of Acadiana identify key trends of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) filing in its service area. This analysis is based upon Parish information collected by the Brookings Institution between 2001 and 2005 (the most recent available) and includes:

- Acadia
- Lafayette
- St. Martin
- Vermilion

This analysis is meant to provide a benchmark of the number and percent of Parish residents receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The Brookings Institution's EITC Project has collected EITC data for nearly a decade. The data is widely utilized by organizations nationally to understand EITC trends, including the United Way of America. However, the primary limitation of the data is that it is only available through 2005. Another consideration that should be taken into account is the impact of Hurricane Katrina upon the Parish populations. It is still unknown the extent to which the economic situation of filers changed; perhaps leading to an increase in qualified filers. It is recommended that this scenario be considered when using this data in any decision-making process.

**Percent (%) of Tax Filers Receiving EITC  
2005**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
1	St. Martin	33.5%
2	Acadia	30.3%
3	Vermilion	25.6%
4	Lafayette	23.5%

Source: The Brookings Institution &  
Triangle Research Partners

## Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Trends, 2001-2005

### Acadia Parish, LA

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% Change, '01-'05
<b>Total Tax Returns Filed</b>	22,585	22,444	22,445	22,515	22,865	1.2%
<b>Receiving EITC</b>	6,233	6,748	6,807	6,915	6,932	11.2%
<b>% Receiving EITC</b>	27.6%	30%	30.3%	30.7%	30.3%	9.8%

### Lafayette Parish, LA

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% Change, '01-'05
<b>Total Tax Returns Filed</b>	84,371	84,244	84,556	86,659	87,748	4%
<b>Receiving EITC</b>	17,240	18,825	19,330	20,086	20,669	19.9%
<b>% Receiving EITC</b>	20.4%	22.3%	22.8%	23.1%	23.5%	15.2%

### St. Martin Parish, LA

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% Change, '01-'05
<b>Total Tax Returns Filed</b>	20,050	20,134	20,279	20,473	20,952	4.5%
<b>Receiving EITC</b>	6,096	6,639	6,852	6,899	7,039	15.5%
<b>% Receiving EITC</b>	30.4%	32.9%	33.7%	33.6%	33.5%	10.2%

### Vermilion Parish, LA

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% Change, '01-'05
<b>Total Tax Returns Filed</b>	21,142	21,126	21,288	21,523	21,486	1.6%
<b>Receiving EITC</b>	4,766	5,280	5,388	5,533	5,521	15.8%
<b>% Receiving EITC</b>	22.5%	24.9%	25.3%	25.7%	25.6%	13.8%

Source: The Brookings Institution & Triangle Research Partners

## Source

### **EITC Project, The Brookings Institution**

<http://www.brookings.edu/metro/EITC/EITC-Homepage.aspx>

- Note: For more in-depth data (by zip code), please visit the above link.

## **About Triangle Research Partners**

Triangle Research Partners, LLC provides its clients customized and affordable research services in order to allow them to gain a better understanding of their community. Knowledge of a community's strengths, weaknesses, needs, and goals can help organizations create strategies to positively impact their relationship with the community and improve their bottom line. By systematically gathering and synthesizing available data about a community or community issue, an objective knowledge base can be developed for organizational use. This enables our clients to make more informed decisions and maximize the use of their resources to positively impact their communities.

### **Our Mission**

We provide research support to private, public, and nonprofit organizations seeking to understand the community in which they operate.

### **Our Vision**

We aspire to empower organizations to become leaders and advocates for community change.

### **Our Values**

We believe that any organization wishing to strengthen their understanding of the community in which they operate can do so when equipped with objective, sound, and customized tools. We approach a relationship with our clients with the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and ethics.

### **Contact Information**

Nathaniel H. Goetz, President & CEO  
Triangle Research Partners, LLC  
P.O. Box 14769  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709  
(919) 451-9637  
[Nate@TriangleResearchPartners.com](mailto:Nate@TriangleResearchPartners.com)  
[www.TriangleResearchPartners.com](http://www.TriangleResearchPartners.com)