

For perspective about the Louisiana economy, it is instructive to compare employment, population, real GSP, real GSP per capita, and real GSP per worker in Louisiana to that in other states. Perhaps a natural comparison for a sports-and-outdoor-activities-loving state like Louisiana are the states that are home to schools in the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

The first table below shows annual total non-farm employment in the U.S. and the states of the SEC for 2018 and 2024 and the change in employment from 2018 to 2024. The comparisons in the tables thus start a couple of years before the pandemic and end in the most recent full year.

In 2018, Louisiana had the 8th largest employment in the SEC but slipped to 9th in 2024. Louisiana was the only state in the SEC whose 2024 employment did not rise above its 2018 level, falling 0.4%, and population over this period fell 1.4%. From the second table, we see that Louisiana had the 9th largest population in both 2018 and 2024 but just nipped Kentucky in a photo finish in 2024. Mississippi was the only other state in the SEC whose population declined over the 2018-2024 period.

Employment (thousands of workers), U.S. & States of the SEC

Location	2018	2024	Change	%Change
United States	148894.0	157960.0	9066.0	6.1
Texas	12523.4	14130.5	1607.1	12.8
Florida	8790.2	9936.6	1146.4	13.0
Georgia	4545.7	4964.7	419.0	9.2
Tennessee	3074.1	3374.0	299.9	9.8
Missouri	2893.0	2988.9	95.9	3.3
South Carolina	2157.8	2355.8	198.0	9.2
Alabama	2046.1	2190.7	144.6	7.1
Louisiana	1990.9	1982.7	-8.2	-0.4
Kentucky	1930.4	2037.7	107.3	5.6
Oklahoma	1689.6	1778.9	89.3	5.3
Arkansas	1267.4	1366.2	98.8	7.8
Mississippi	1153.8	1189.4	35.6	3.1

Plots of total non-farm employment in Louisiana vs each state of SEC for 2000-2024 are found in Appendix A below.

Resident Population (thousands), U.S. & States of the SEC

Location	2018	2024	Change	%Change
United States	328794.0	340212.0	11418.0	3.5
Texas	28624.6	31290.8	2666.2	9.3
Florida	21254.9	23372.2	2117.3	10.0
Georgia	10519.4	11180.9	661.5	6.3
Tennessee	6778.2	7227.8	449.6	6.6
Missouri	6126.0	6245.5	119.5	2.0
South Carolina	5091.7	5478.8	387.1	7.6
Alabama	4891.6	5157.7	266.1	5.4
Louisiana	4664.5	4597.7	-66.8	-1.4
Kentucky	4464.3	4588.4	124.1	2.8
Oklahoma	3943.5	4095.4	151.9	3.9
Arkansas	3012.2	3088.4	76.2	2.5
Mississippi	2982.9	2943.1	-39.8	-1.3

Plots of resident population in Louisiana vs each state of SEC for 2000-2024 are found in Appendix B below.

Real GSP

How does Louisiana real GSP compare to that of the rest of the SEC? The first table below shows annual real GDP or GSP in the U.S. and the states of the SEC for 2018 and 2024 and the change in real GDP/GSP over this period.

As was the case for employment, real GSP in both Texas and Florida dwarves that of the rest of the SEC, and these states had the largest percentage increases in real GSP in the SEC from 2018 to 2024. Georgia is third in the size of real GSP, and its real GSP is substantially larger than the states below it. In 2018, Louisiana was 6th in size of real GSP just ahead of South Carolina, but Louisiana and South Carolina swapped places in 2024 following strong growth in South Carolina and the slowest growth in the SEC for Louisiana. Louisiana's 4.6% growth over this period was 4 percentage points below the next slowest growth and far below the average 16.6% growth in the rest of the SEC.

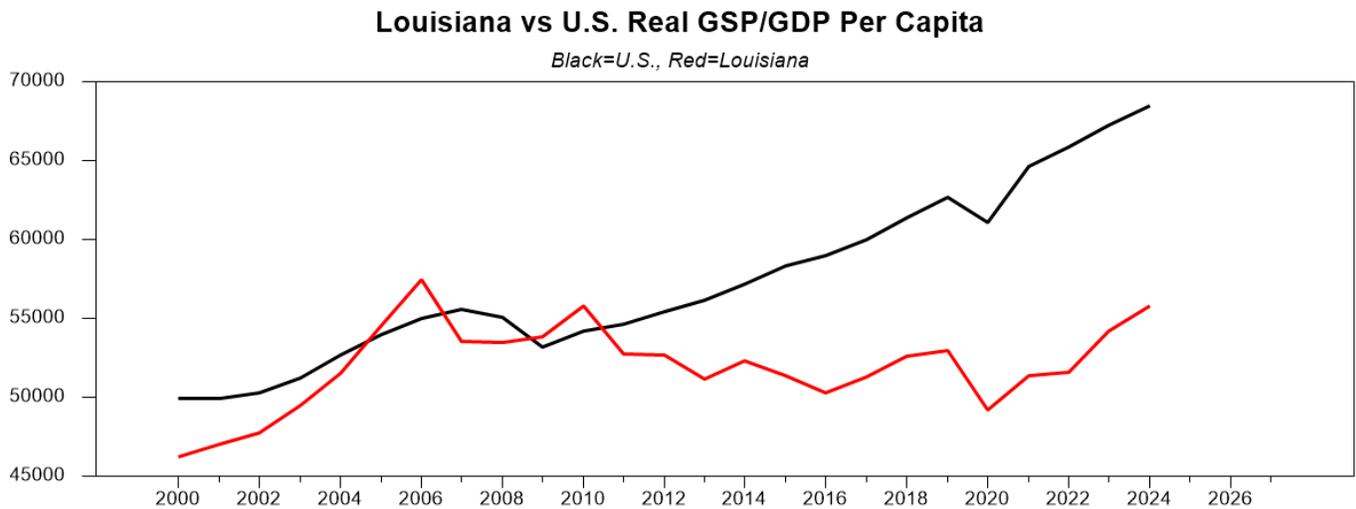
Real GDP or GSP (\$millions), U.S. & States of the SEC

Location	2018	2024	Change	%Change
United States	20193895.0	23305024.0	3111129.0	15.4
Texas	1746543.3	2172369.0	425825.2	24.4
Florida	1050433.8	1339619.0	289184.8	27.5
Georgia	600934.7	701072.8	100138.1	16.7
Tennessee	362363.7	432266.2	69902.5	19.3
Missouri	314182.4	356653.4	42471.0	13.5
Louisiana	245220.3	256422.3	11202.0	4.6
South Carolina	231663.3	273324.6	41661.3	18.0
Alabama	220808.8	252664.5	31855.7	14.4
Kentucky	205940.1	229885.4	23945.3	11.6
Oklahoma	196030.5	212783.8	16753.3	8.6
Arkansas	126371.2	148208.5	21837.3	17.28
Mississippi	110174.8	122438.1	12263.3	11.13

Plots of real GSP in Louisiana vs each state of SEC for 2000-2024 are found in Appendix C below.

Real Per Capita GDP or GSP (\$), U.S. & States of the SEC*

**real GDP/GSP divided by resident population*



We see strong real per capita GSP growth in Louisiana in the early 2000s, reaching a peak in 2006 and exceeding U.S. real per capital GDP in that year. Unfortunately, since then Louisiana real GSP drifted down and persistently fell below U.S. real per capita GDP after 2010, reaching its post-peak minimum in the pandemic. Louisiana real GSP per capita has rebounded from its pandemic low but is still below its peak reached almost 20 years earlier and remains well below U.S. real gdp GDP per capita.

How does Louisiana compare to the rest of the SEC? Louisiana was 4th in the SEC in 2018 just ahead of Missouri, but Missouri’s real per capita GSP now exceeds Louisiana’s and Florida jumped over both, rising from 7th to 4th in 2024. Louisiana experienced the second slowest growth in real GSP per capita of the SEC states over this period.

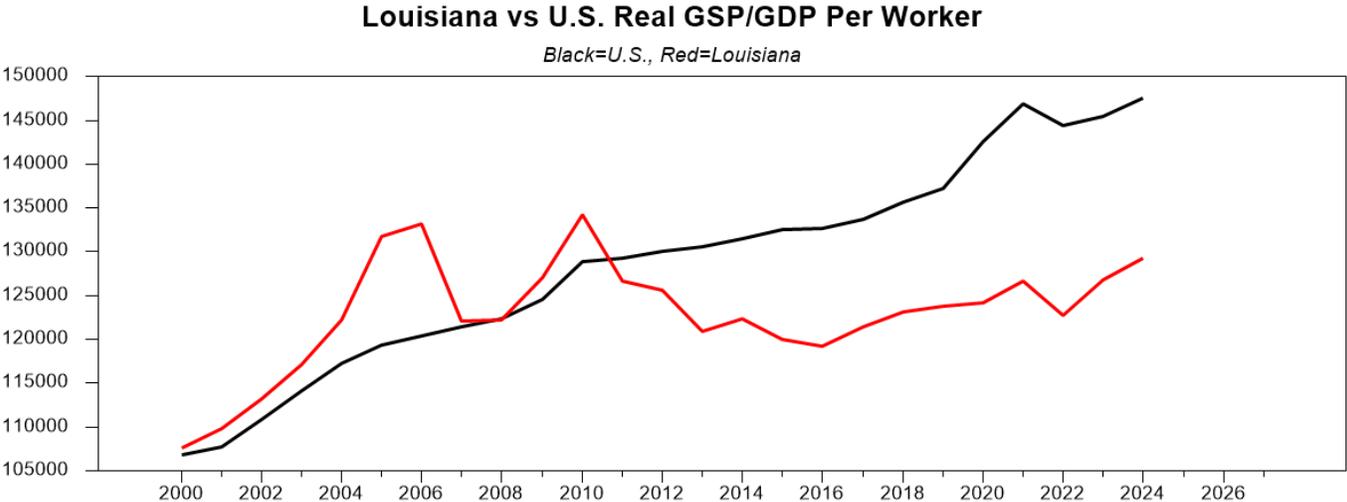
State	2018	2024	Change	% Change
United States	61418.1	68501.5	7083.4	11.5
Texas	61015.5	69425.1	8409.6	13.8
Georgia	57126.4	62702.8	5576.4	9.8
Tennessee	53460.3	59806.5	6346.2	11.9
Louisiana	52572.2	55771.4	3199.2	6.1
Missouri	51286.8	57106.0	5819.2	11.4
Oklahoma	49709.9	51956.9	2247.0	4.5
Florida	49420.7	57316.7	7896.0	16.0
Kentucky	46130.7	50101.7	3971.0	8.6
South Carolina	45498.2	49887.4	4389.2	9.7
Alabama	45140.2	48987.8	3847.6	8.5
Arkansas	41953.7	47989.5	6035.8	14.4
Mississippi	36935.7	41602.5	4666.8	12.6

Plots of real GSP per capita in Louisiana vs each state of SEC for 2000-2024 are found in Appendix D below.

Real Per Worker GDP or GSP (\$), U.S. & States of the SEC*

**real GDP/GSP divided by employed workers*

What about real GDP per worker, a measure of the average productivity of a non-farm worker?



Unlike real per capita GSP, real GSP per worker, except for 2008, is persistently above U.S. real GSP per worker until 2010. After this, like real per capita GSP, Louisiana real GSP per worker is consistently below the comparable U.S. measure. Thus, 2010 is a watershed year for both per capita and per worker Louisiana real GSP. The reason(s) for this will be explored in future updates. Within the SEC, Louisiana was a strong 3rd in 2018 but was surpassed in 2024 by Florida, and Tennessee is knocking at the door. Louisiana's growth in real per worker GSP of 5.0% exceeded only Oklahoma's dismal growth of 3.1%.

Location	2018	2024	Change	%Change
United States	135626.0	147537.5	11911.5	8.8
Texas	139462.4	153736.1	14273.7	10.2
Georgia	132198.0	141211.5	9013.5	6.8
Louisiana	123171.1	129329.9	6158.8	5.0
Florida	119500.4	134816.6	15316.2	12.8
Tennessee	117877.0	128116.8	10239.8	8.7
Oklahoma	116022.4	119615.4	3593.0	3.1
Missouri	108602.5	119326.0	10723.5	9.9
Alabama	107919.6	115335.1	7415.5	6.9
South Carolina	107360.9	116022.0	8661.1	8.1
Kentucky	106680.3	112816.1	6135.8	5.8
Arkansas	99707.0	108482.3	8775.2	8.8
Mississippi	95486.6	102941.1	7454.5	7.8

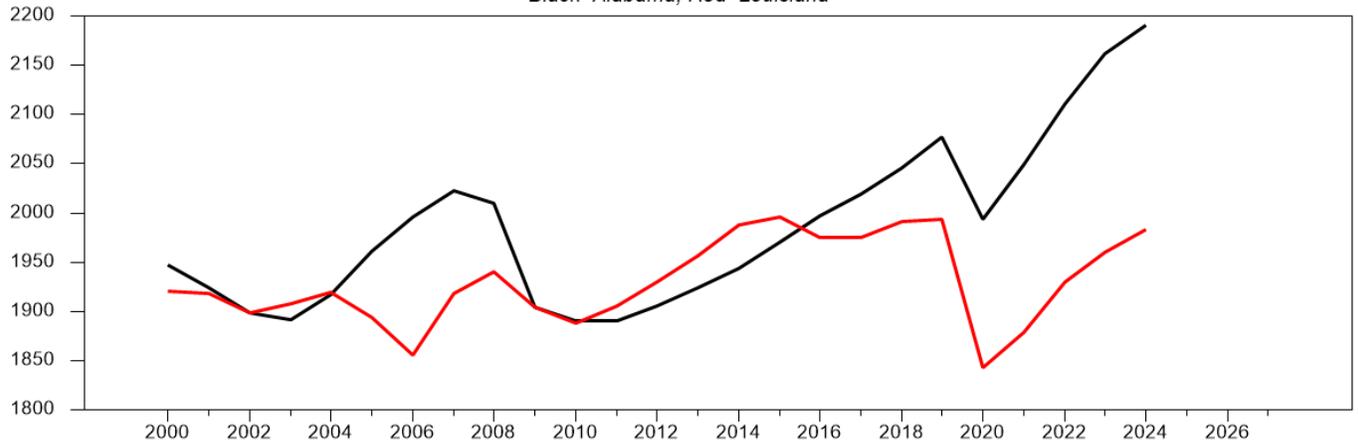
Plots of real GSP per worker in Louisiana vs each state of SEC for 2000-2024 are found in Appendix E below.

In terms of the size of the economy (total real GSP), over the 2018-2024 period Louisiana slipped from the last position in the top half of the SEC to the top of the bottom half of the SEC. Louisiana's relative standing in terms of real GSP per capita or real GSP per worker was and is higher than for real GSP, but, unfortunately, Louisiana slipped in its position for per capita or per worker real GSP from 2018 to 2024.

Appendix A: Plots of Louisiana Employment vs Each State of the SEC

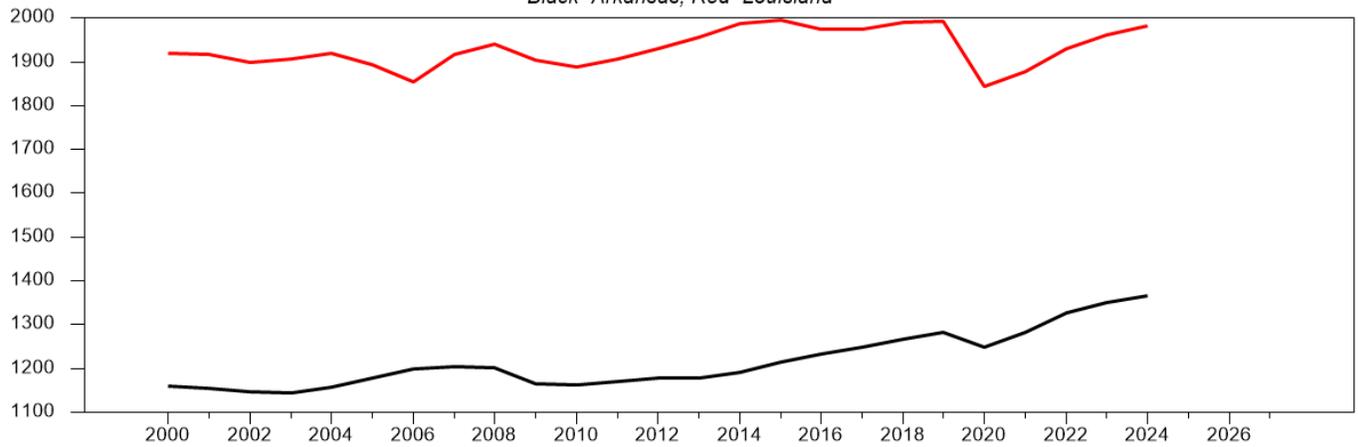
Louisiana vs Alabama Employment

Black=Alabama, Red=Louisiana



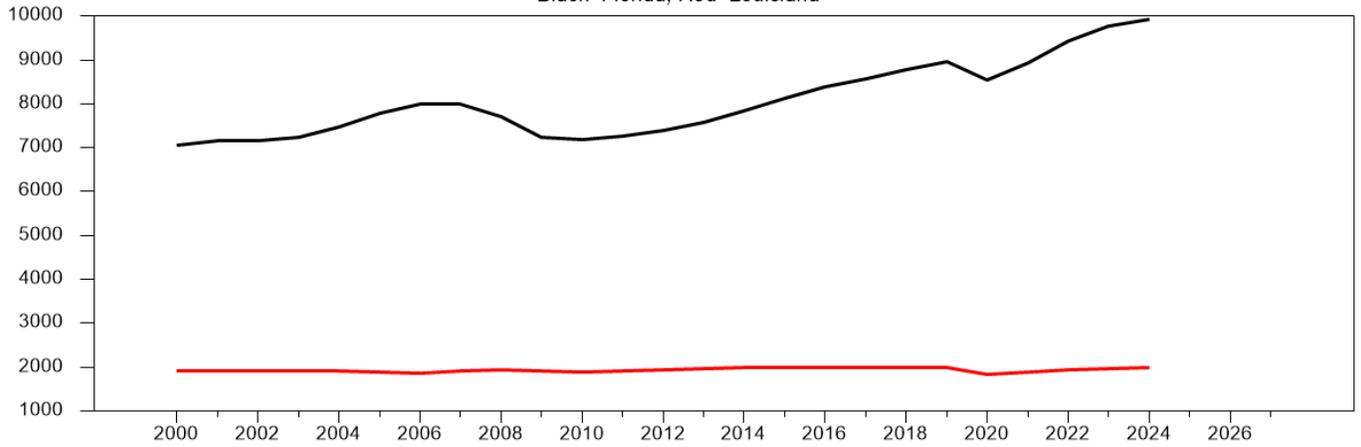
Louisiana vs Arkansas Employment

Black=Arkansas, Red=Louisiana



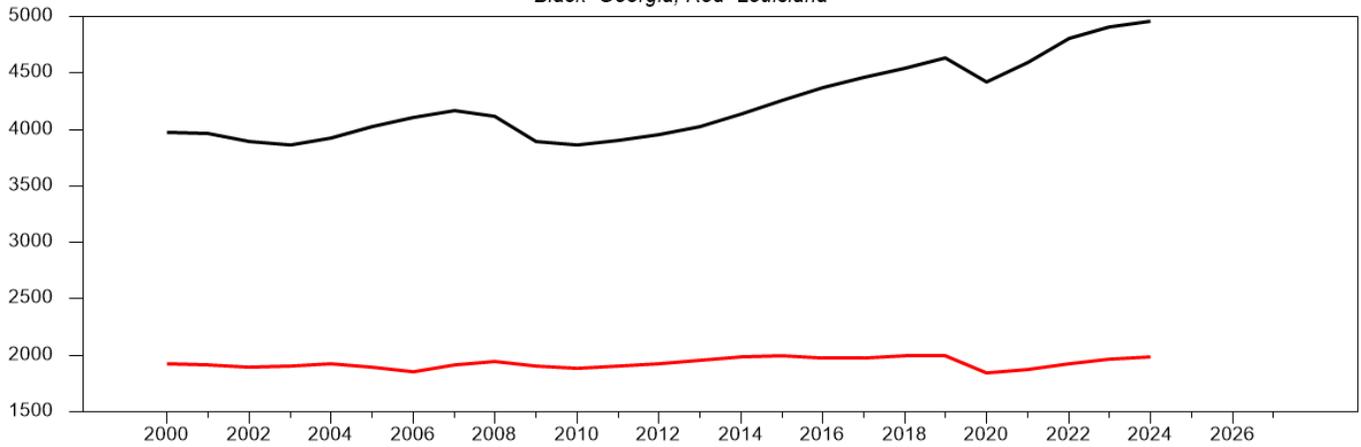
Louisiana vs Florida Employment

Black=Florida, Red=Louisiana



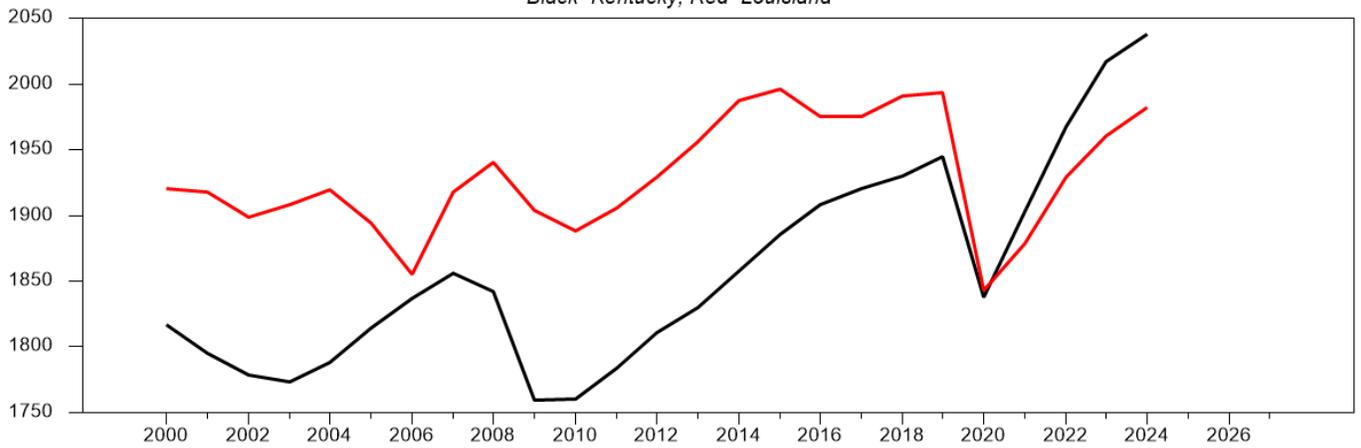
Louisiana vs Georgia Employment

Black=Georgia, Red=Louisiana



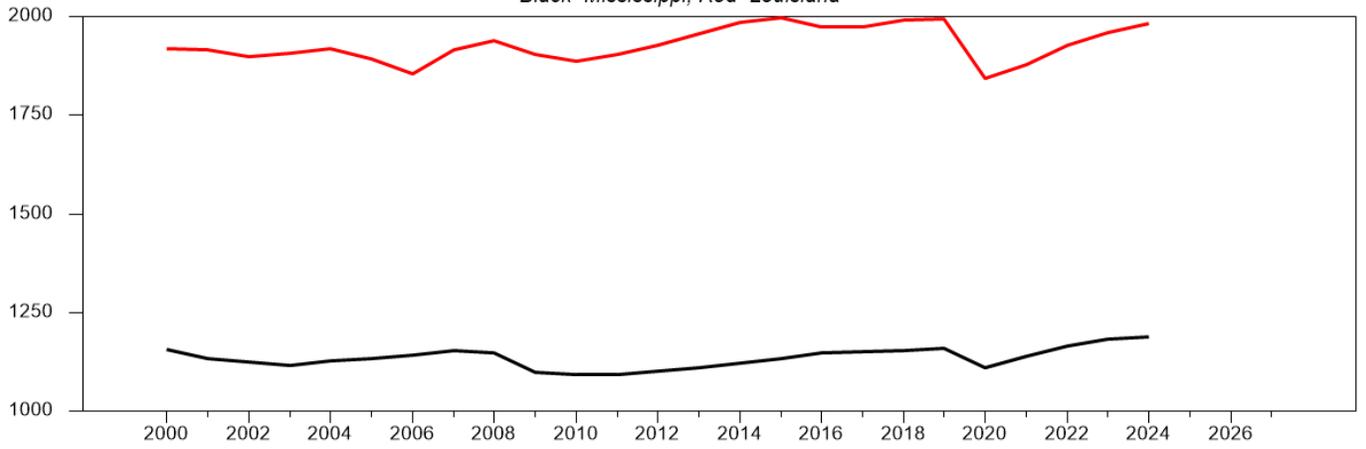
Louisiana vs Kentucky Employment

Black=Kentucky, Red=Louisiana



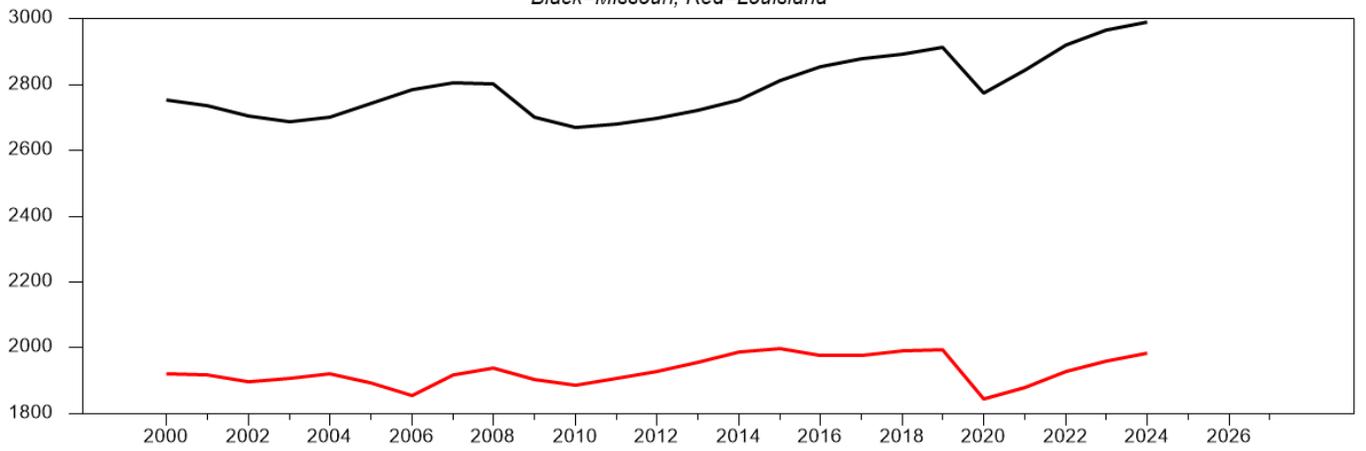
Louisiana vs Mississippi Employment

Black=Mississippi, Red=Louisiana



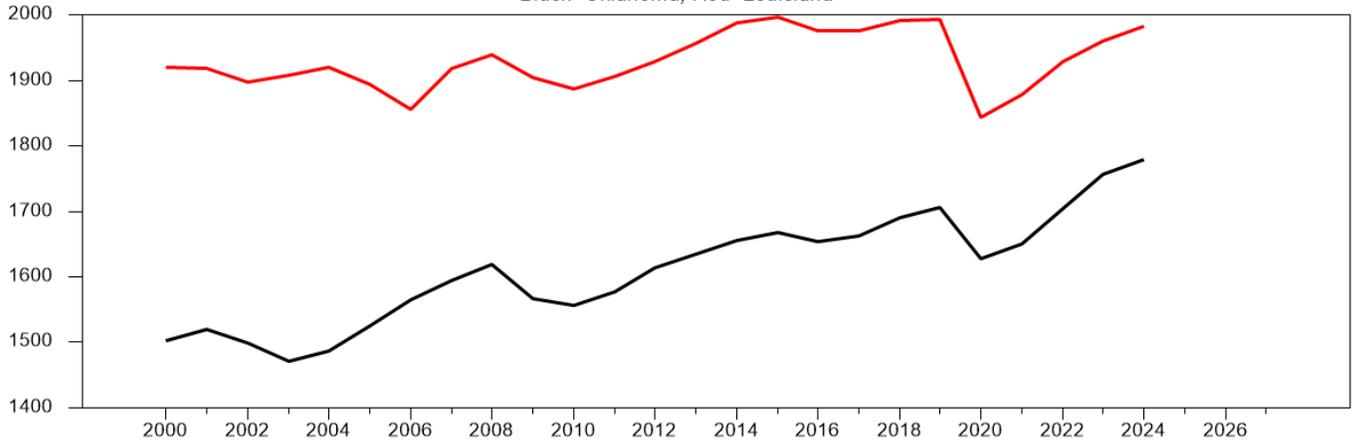
Louisiana vs Missouri Employment

Black=Missouri, Red=Louisiana



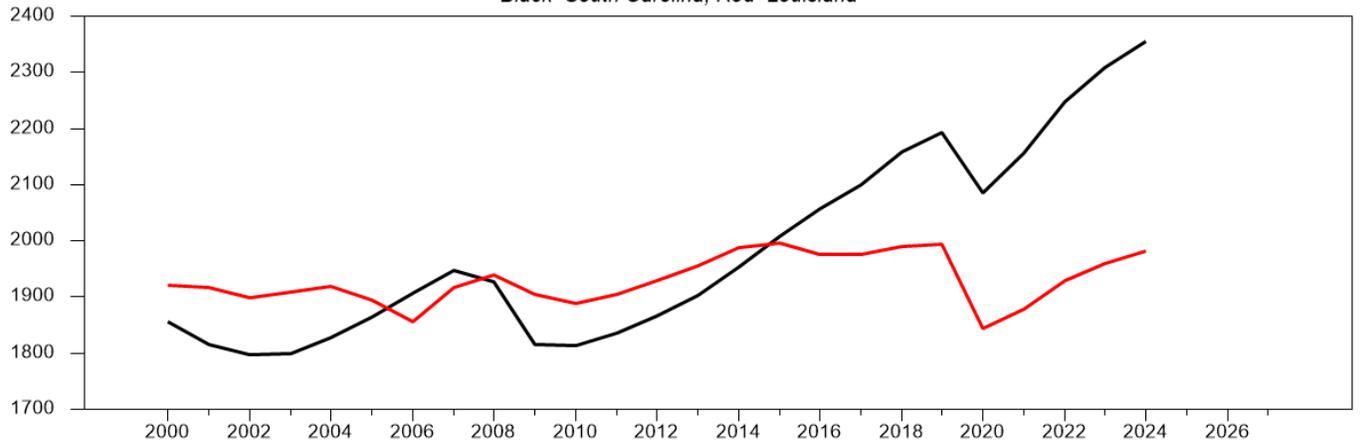
Louisiana vs Oklahoma Employment

Black=Oklahoma, Red=Louisiana



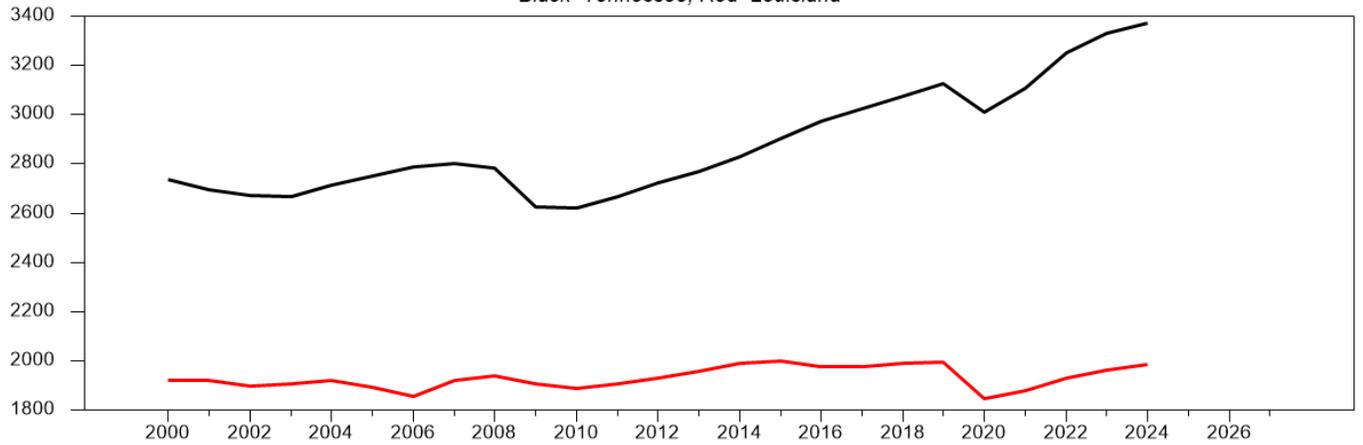
Louisiana vs South Carolina Employment

Black=South Carolina, Red=Louisiana



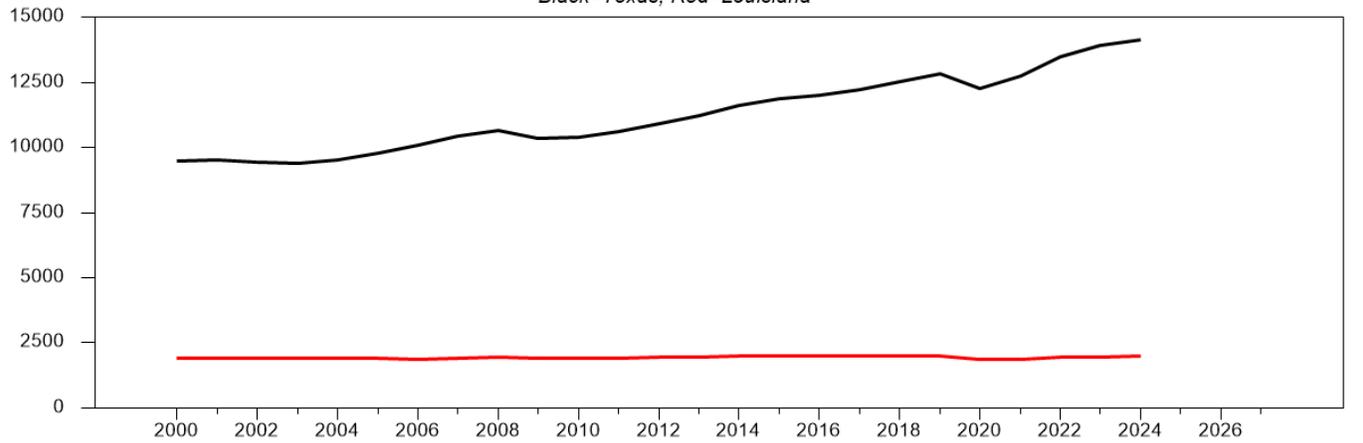
Louisiana vs Tennessee Employment

Black=Tennessee, Red=Louisiana



Louisiana vs Texas Employment

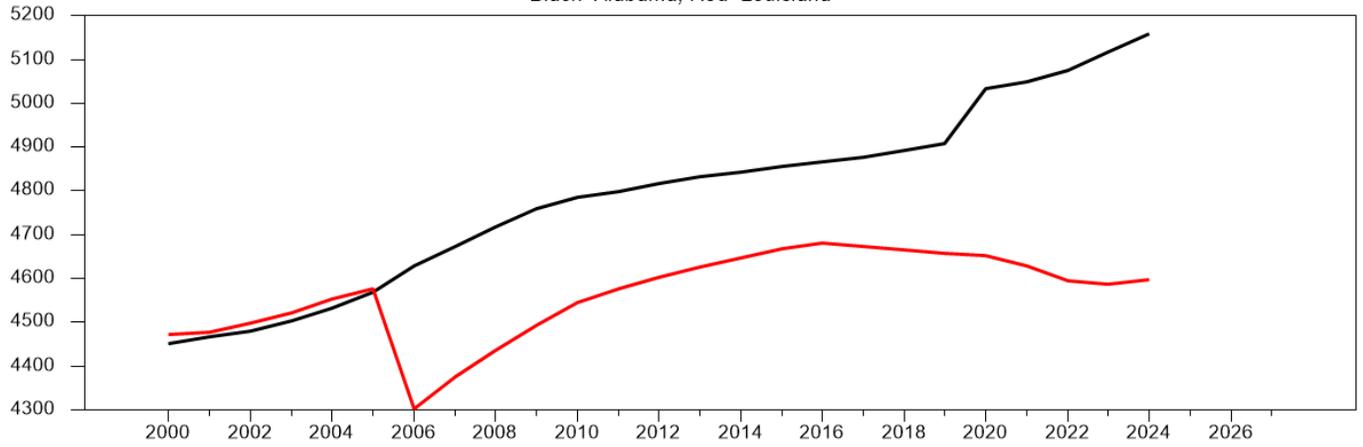
Black=Texas, Red=Louisiana



Appendix B: Plots of Louisiana Population vs Each State of the SEC

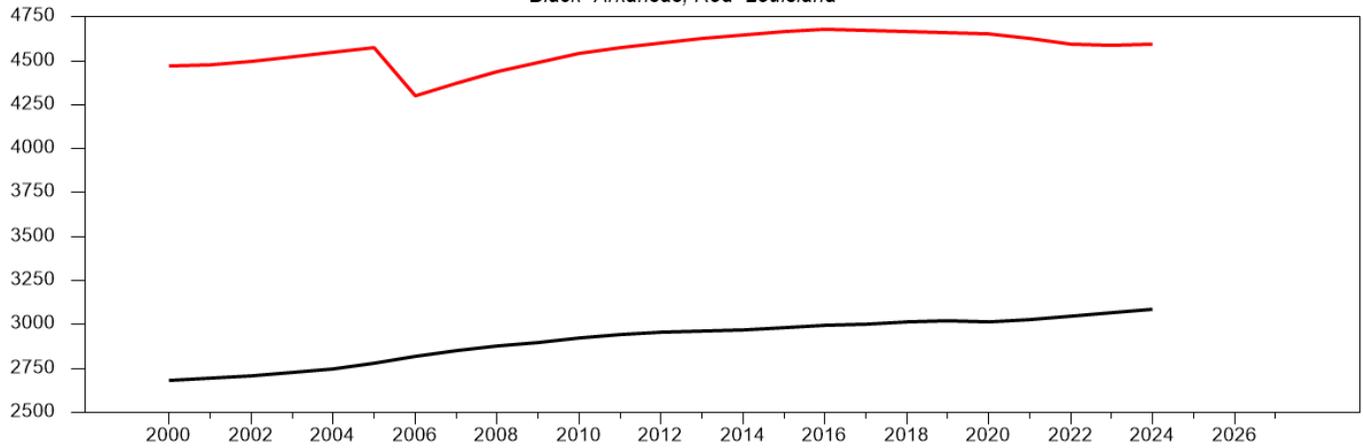
Louisiana vs Alabama Population

Black=Alabama, Red=Louisiana



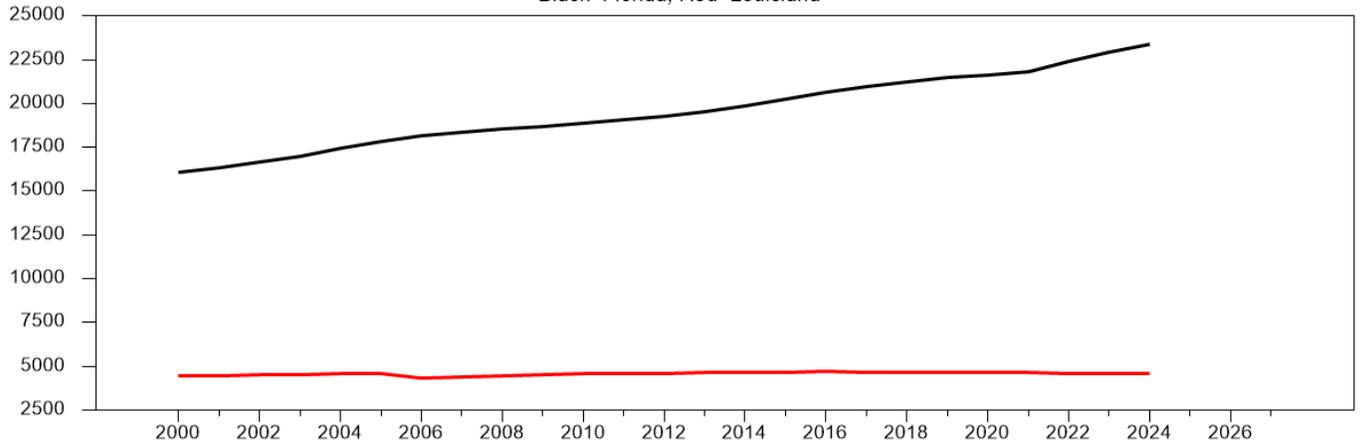
Louisiana vs Arkansas Population

Black=Arkansas, Red=Louisiana



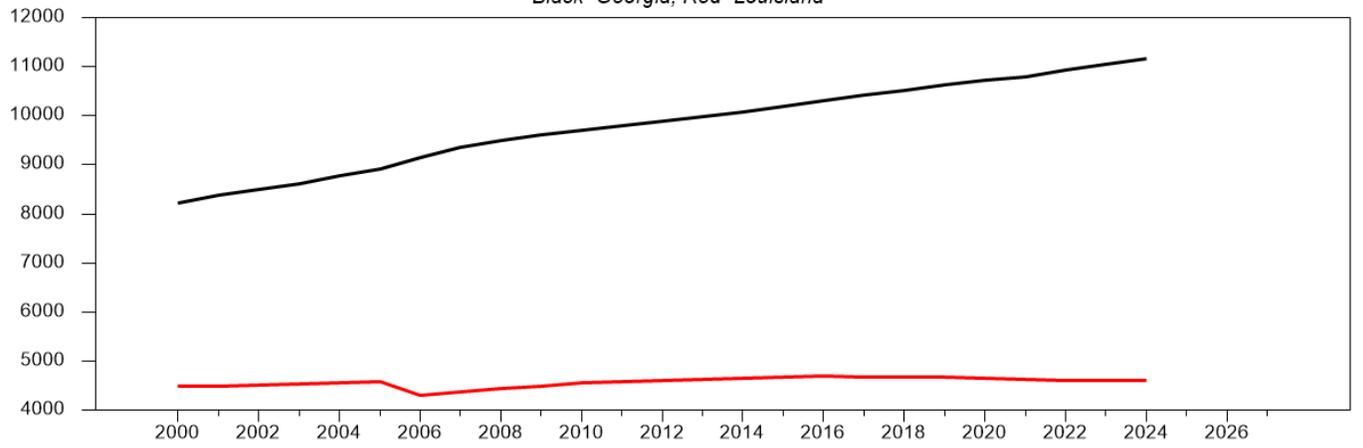
Louisiana vs Florida Population

Black=Florida, Red=Louisiana



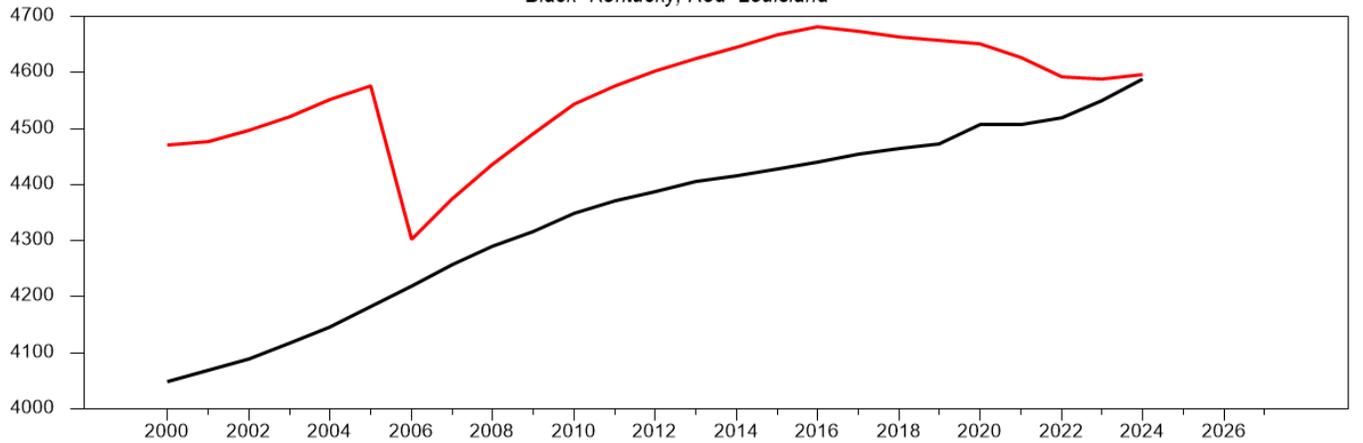
Louisiana vs Georgia Population

Black=Georgia, Red=Louisiana



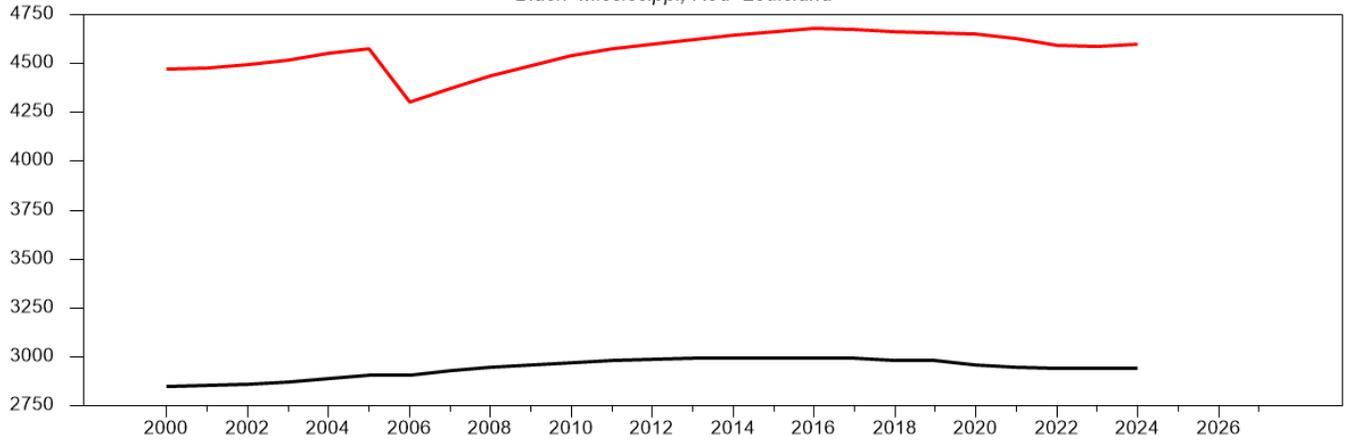
Louisiana vs Kentucky Population

Black=Kentucky, Red=Louisiana



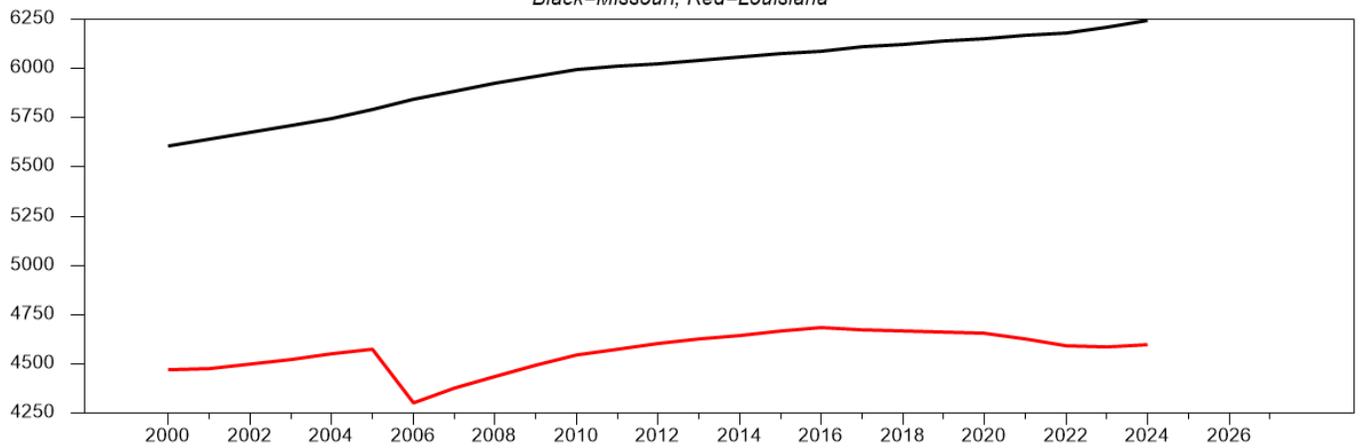
Louisiana vs Mississippi Population

Black=Mississippi, Red=Louisiana



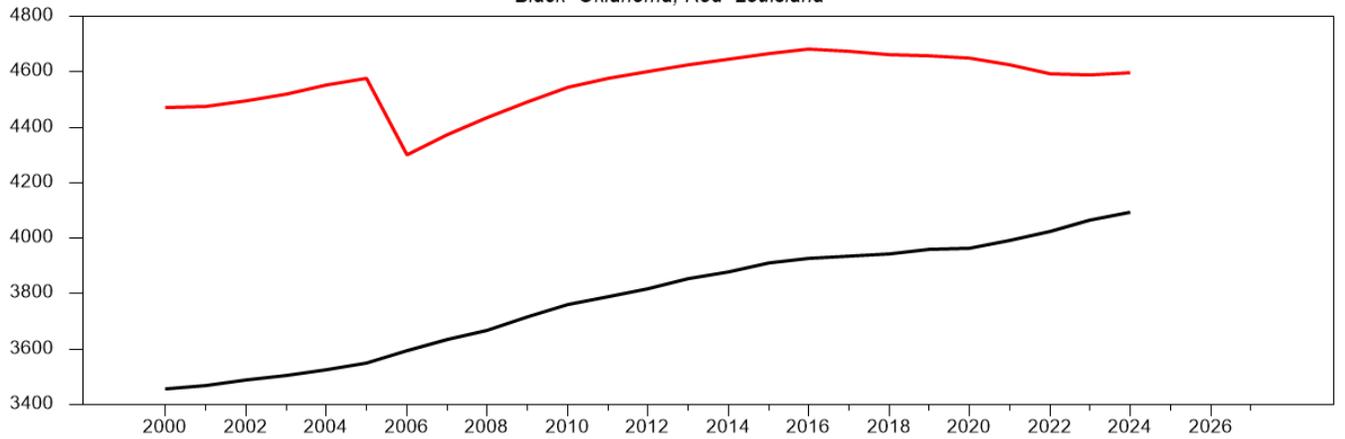
Louisiana vs Missouri Population

Black=Missouri, Red=Louisiana



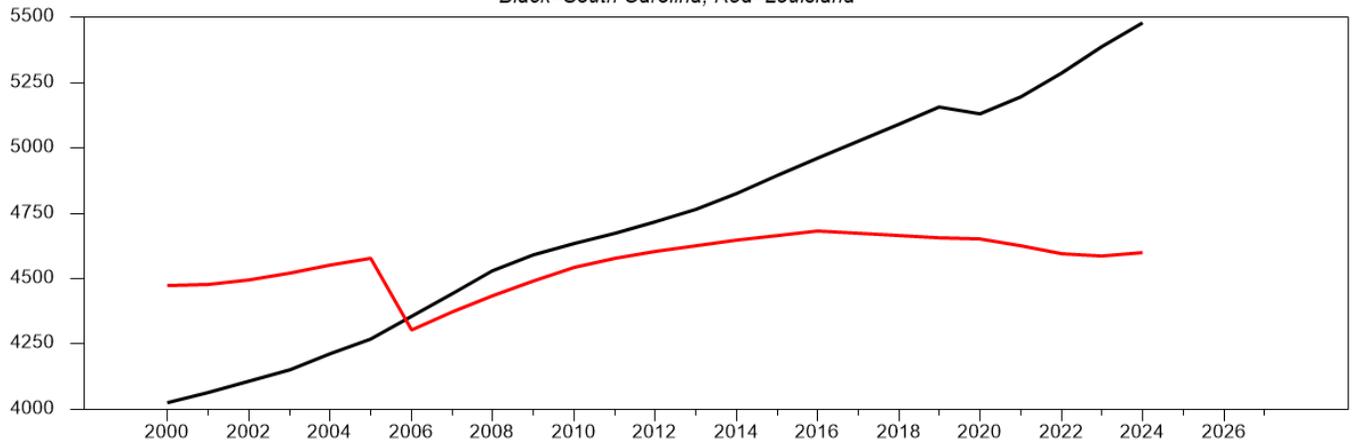
Louisiana vs Oklahoma Population

Black=Oklahoma, Red=Louisiana



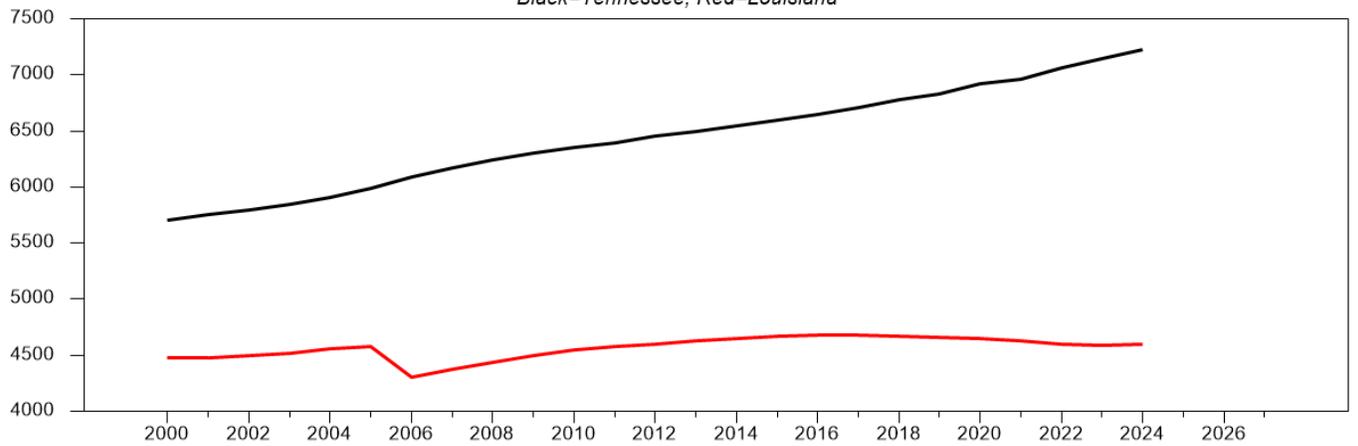
Louisiana vs South Carolina Population

Black=South Carolina, Red=Louisiana



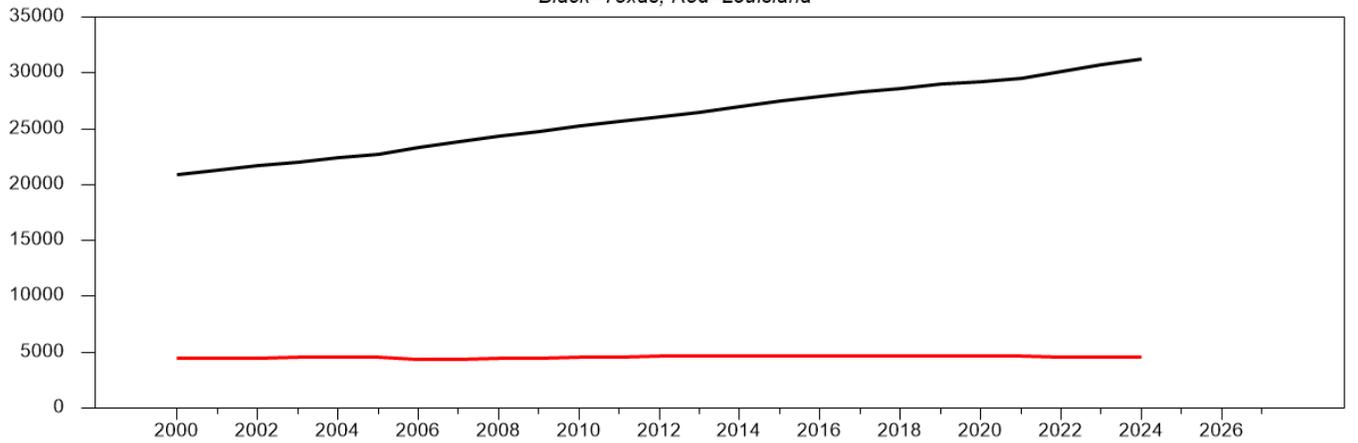
Louisiana vs Tennessee Population

Black=Tennessee, Red=Louisiana



Louisiana vs Texas Population

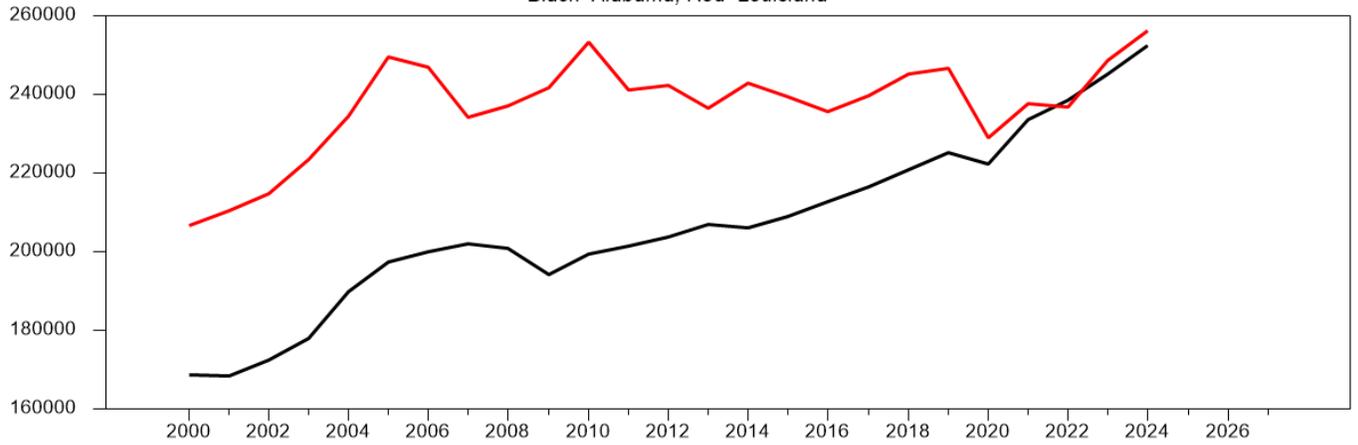
Black=Texas, Red=Louisiana



Appendix C: Plots of Louisiana Real GSP vs Each State of the SEC

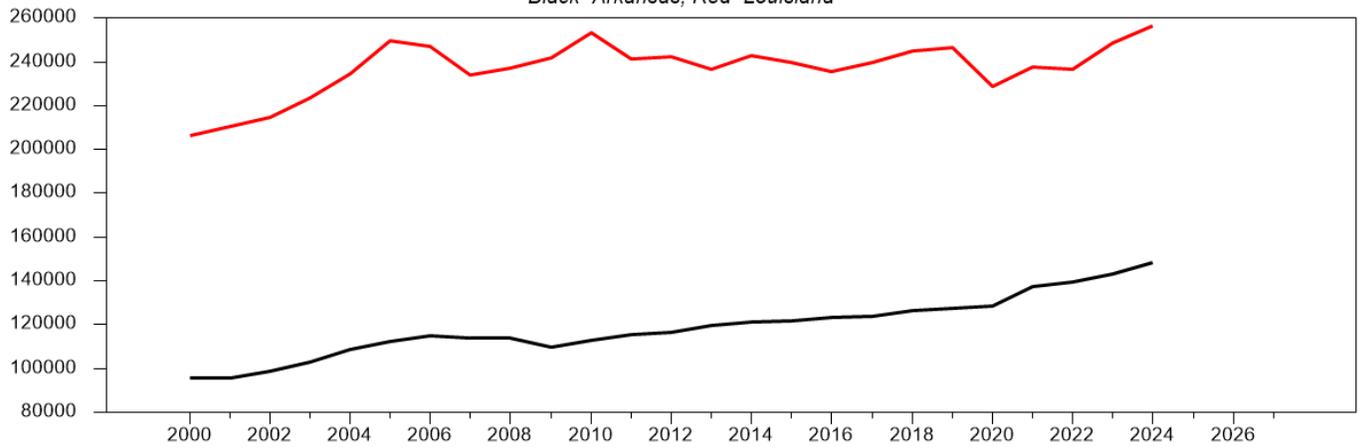
Louisiana vs Alabama Real GSP

Black=Alabama, Red=Louisiana



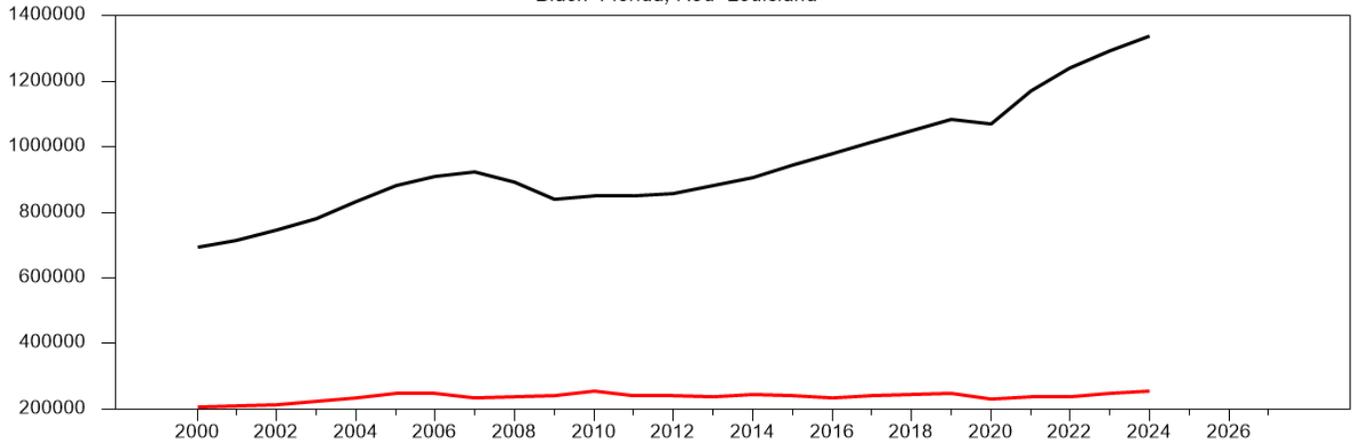
Louisiana vs Arkansas Real GSP

Black=Arkansas, Red=Louisiana



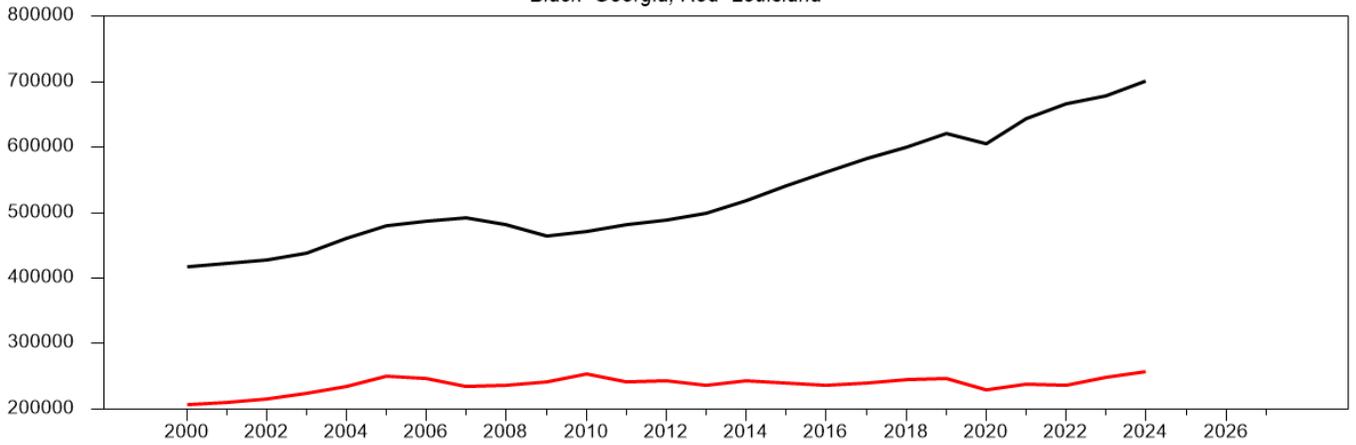
Louisiana vs Florida Real GDP

Black=Florida, Red=Louisiana



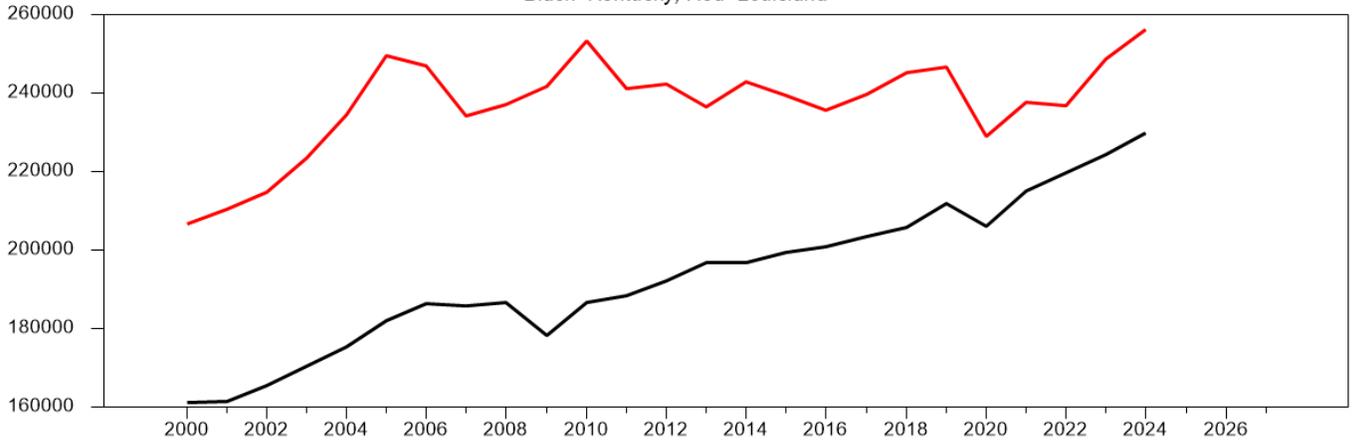
Louisiana vs Georgia Real GDP

Black=Georgia, Red=Louisiana



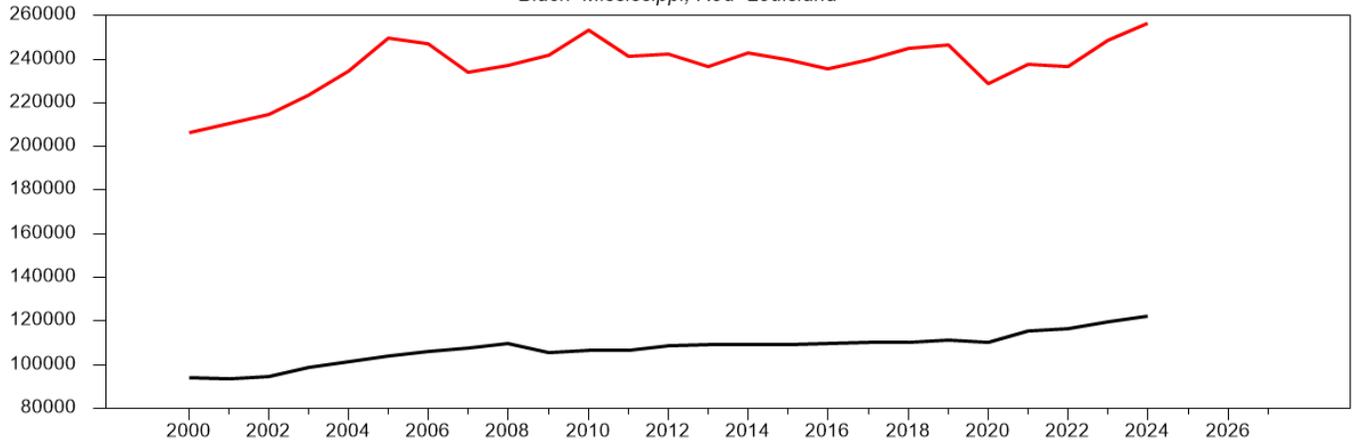
Louisiana vs Kentucky Real GDP

Black=Kentucky, Red=Louisiana



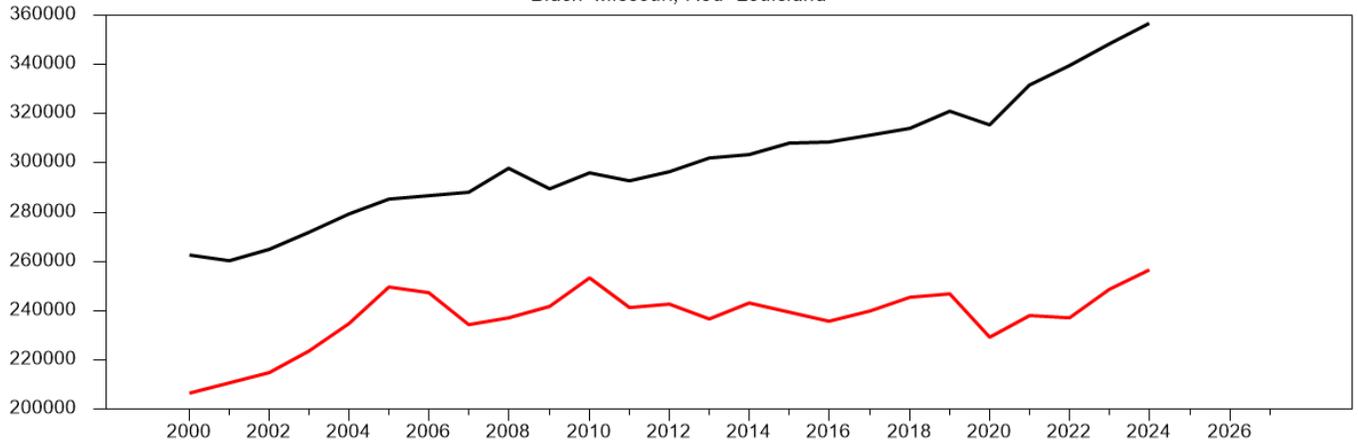
Louisiana vs Mississippi Real GSP

Black=Mississippi, Red=Louisiana



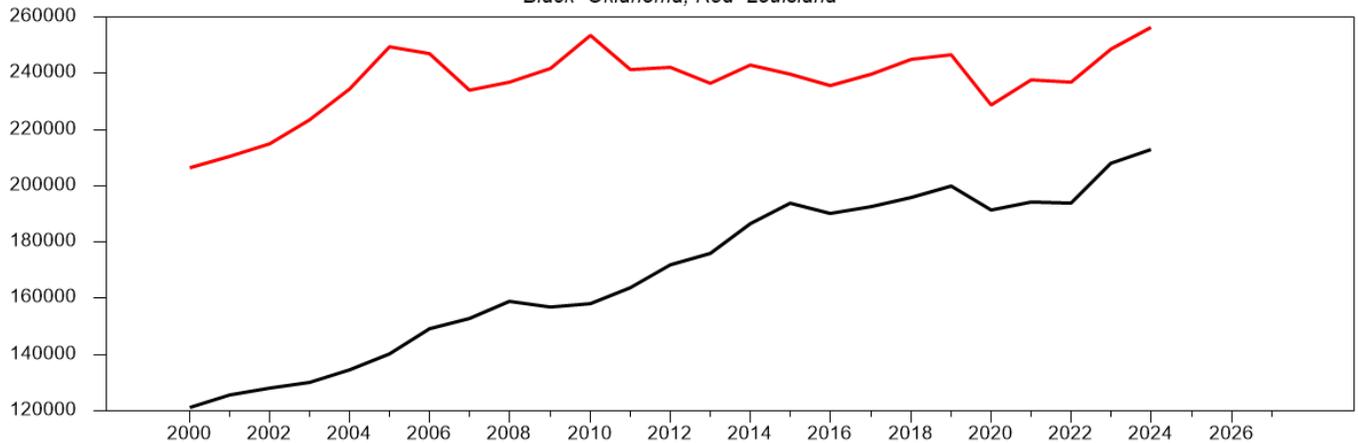
Louisiana vs Missouri Real GSP

Black=Missouri, Red=Louisiana



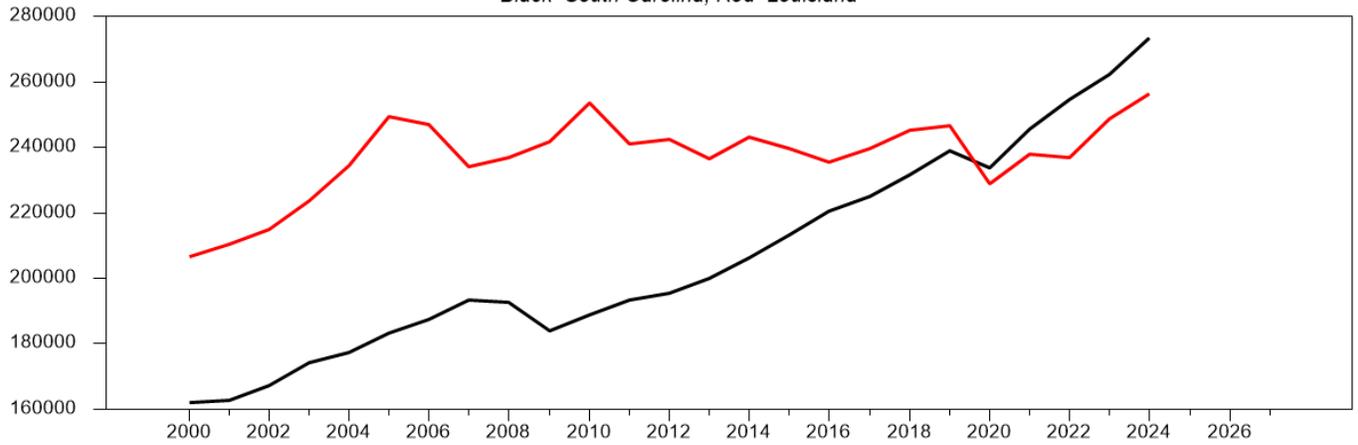
Louisiana vs Oklahoma Real GSP

Black=Oklahoma, Red=Louisiana



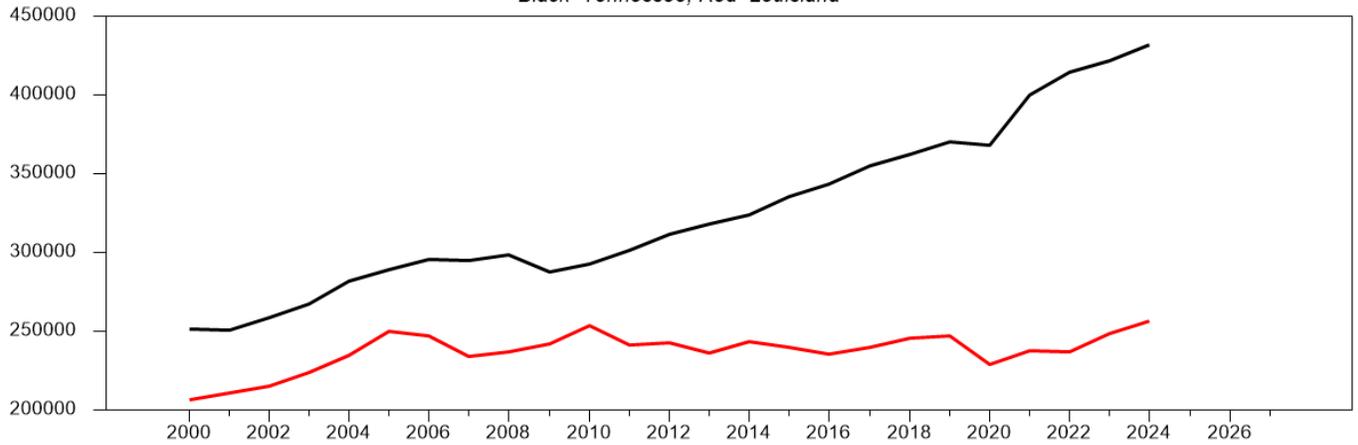
Louisiana vs South Carolina Real GDP

Black=South Carolina, Red=Louisiana



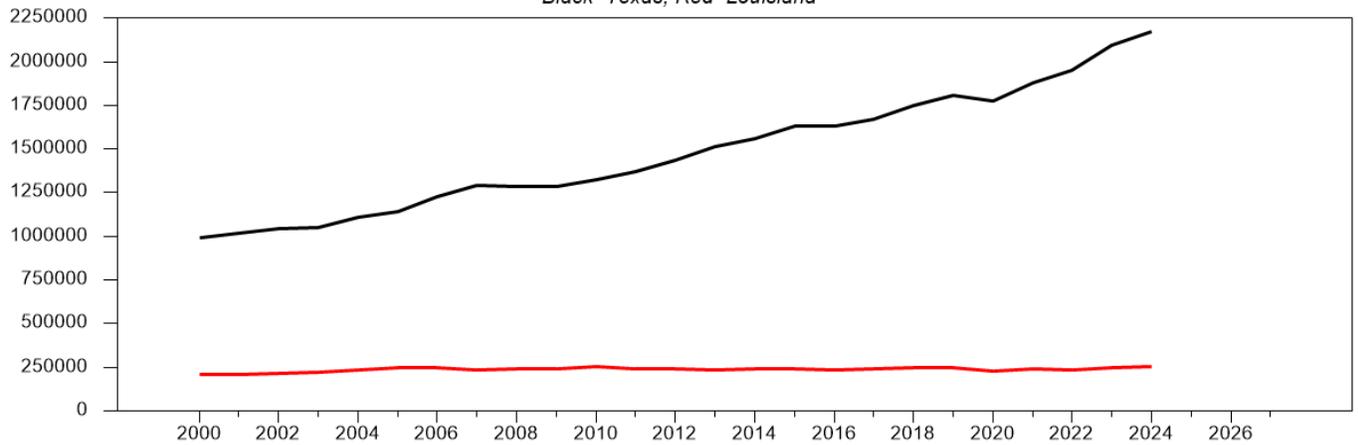
Louisiana vs Tennessee Real GDP

Black=Tennessee, Red=Louisiana



Louisiana vs Texas Real GDP

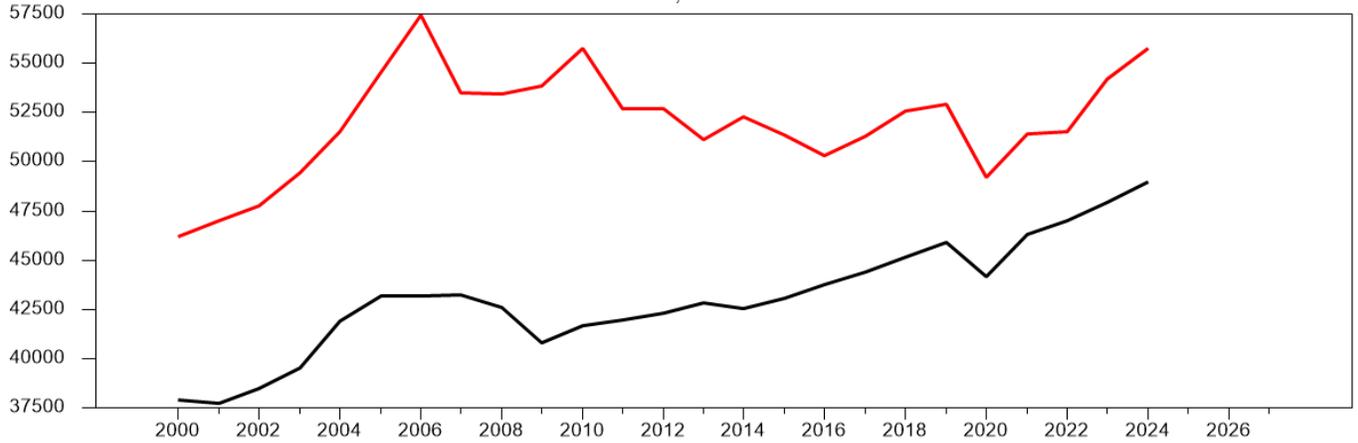
Black=Texas, Red=Louisiana



Appendix D: Plots of Louisiana Real GSP per Capita vs Each State of the SEC and the U.S.

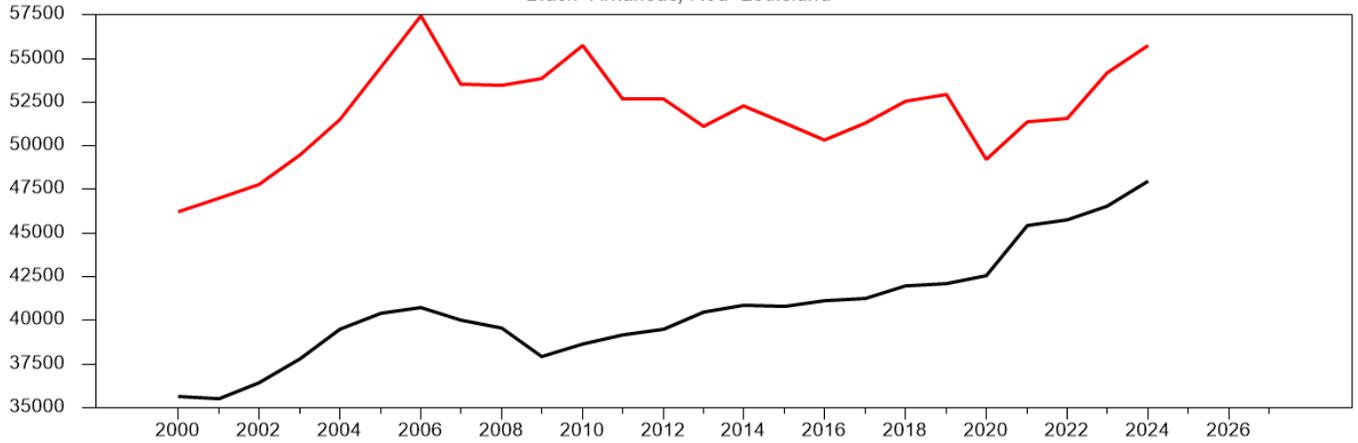
Louisiana vs Alabama Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Alabama, Red=Louisiana



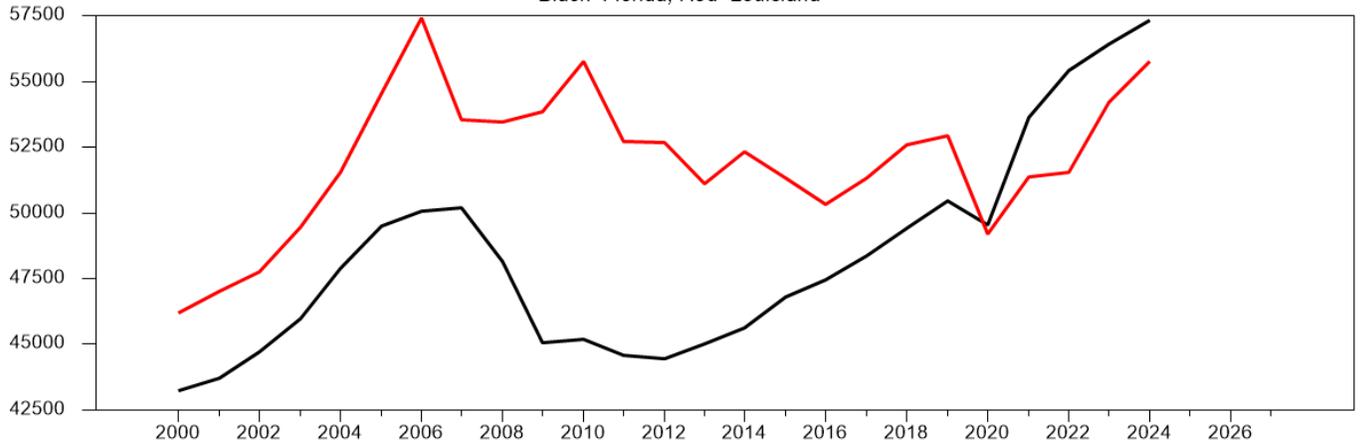
Louisiana vs Arkansas Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Arkansas, Red=Louisiana



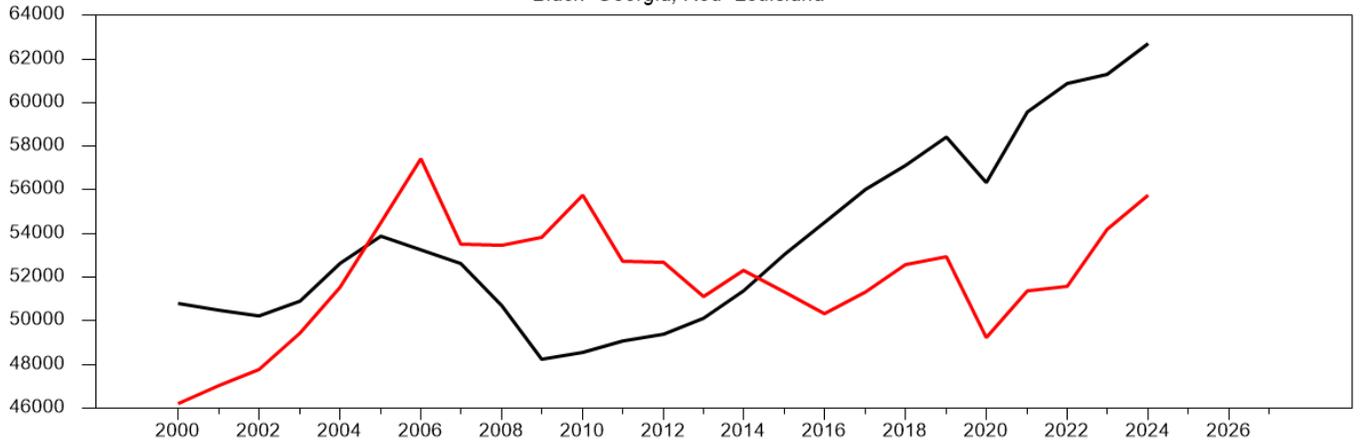
Louisiana vs Florida Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Florida, Red=Louisiana



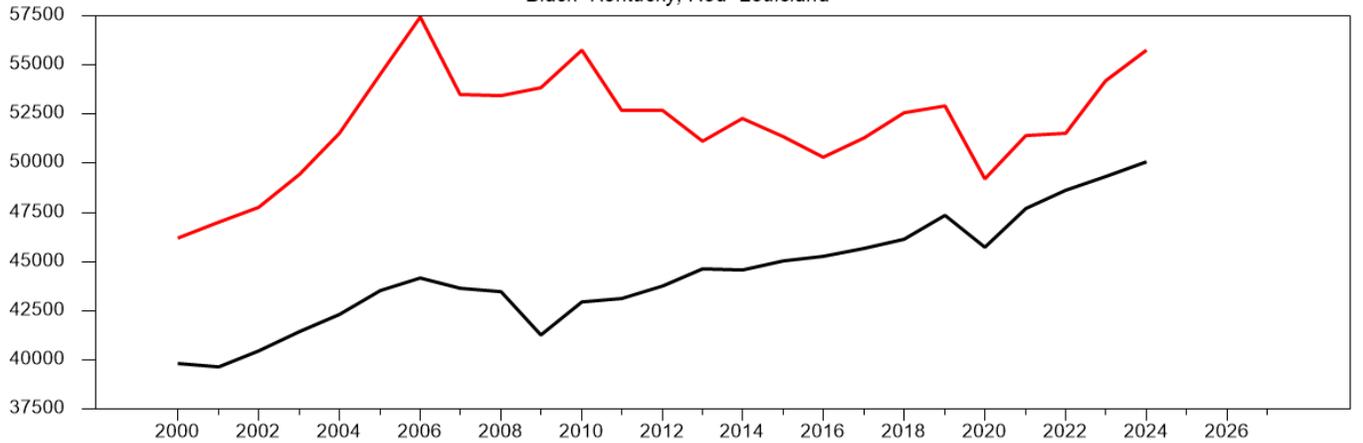
Louisiana vs Georgia Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Georgia, Red=Louisiana



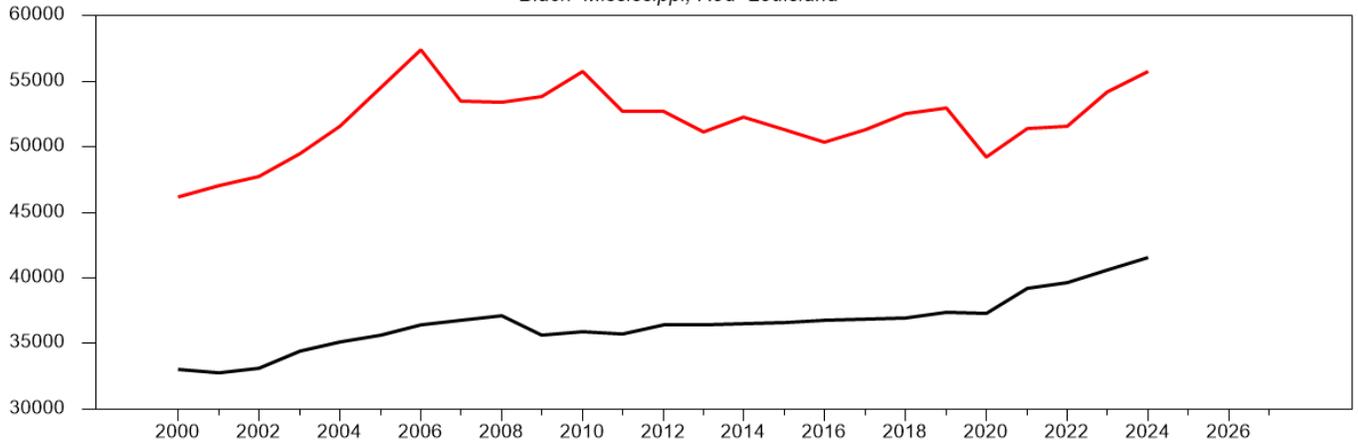
Louisiana vs Kentucky Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Kentucky, Red=Louisiana



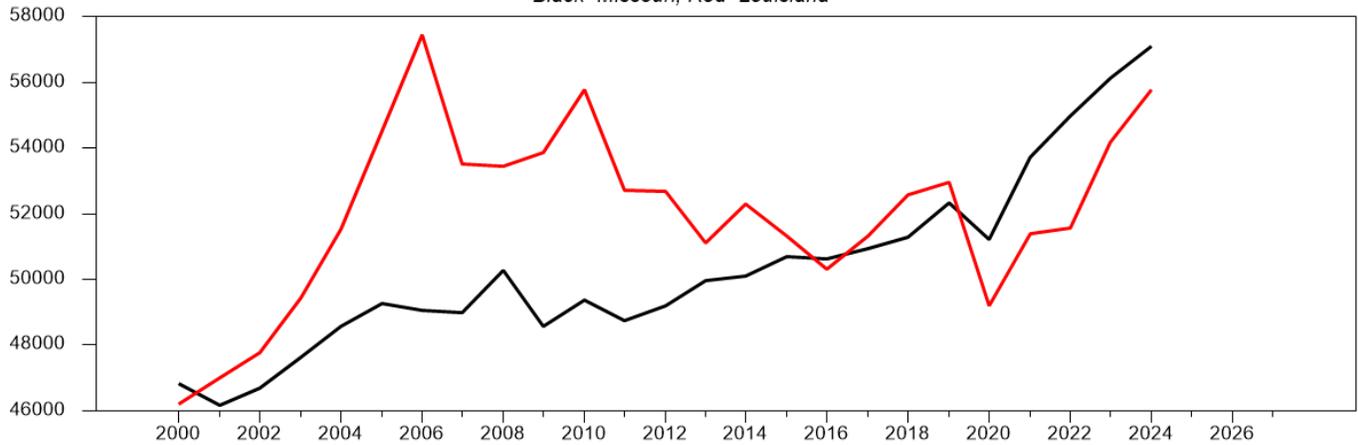
Louisiana vs Mississippi Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Mississippi, Red=Louisiana



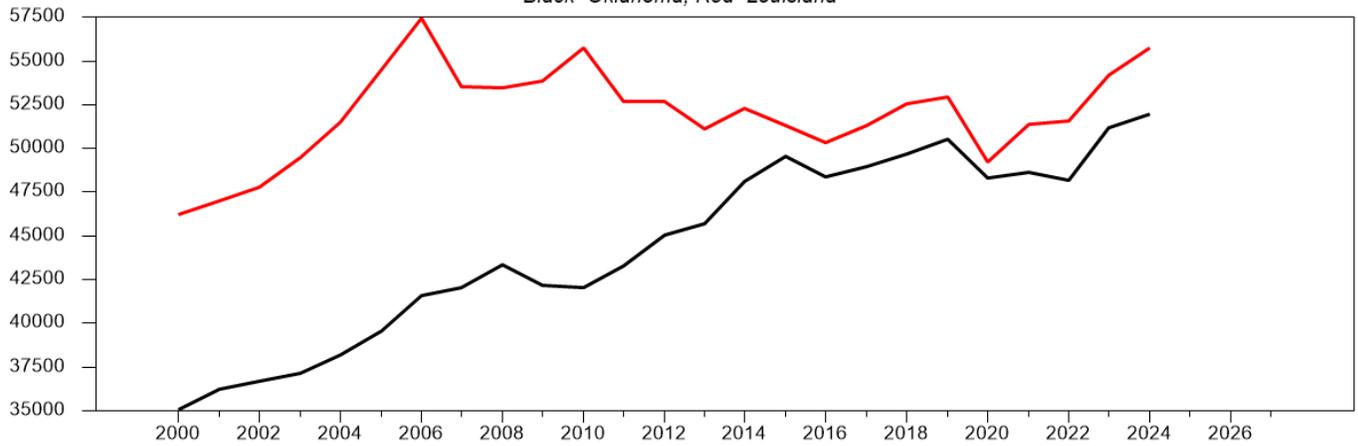
Louisiana vs Missouri Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Missouri, Red=Louisiana



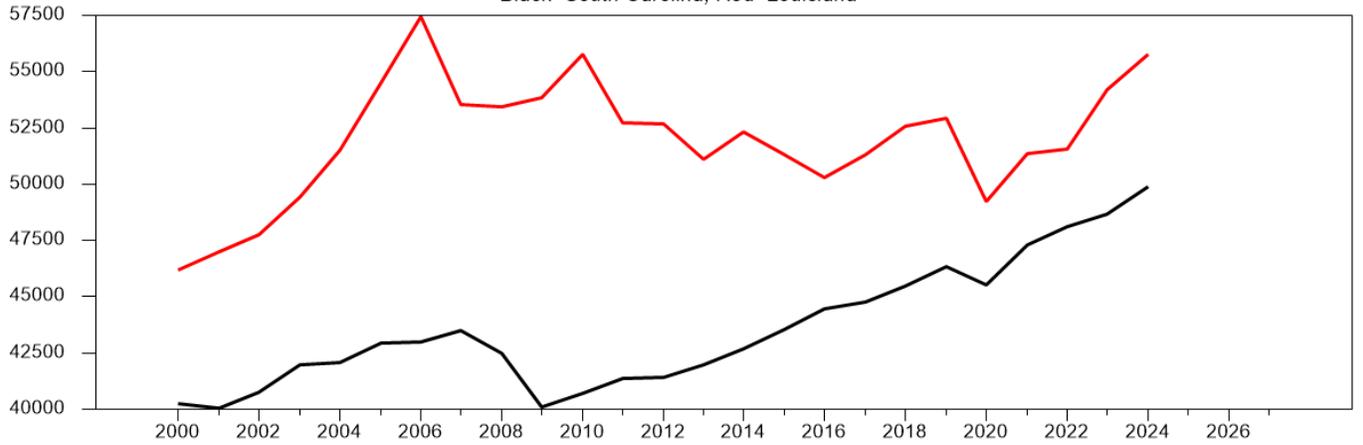
Louisiana vs Oklahoma Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Oklahoma, Red=Louisiana



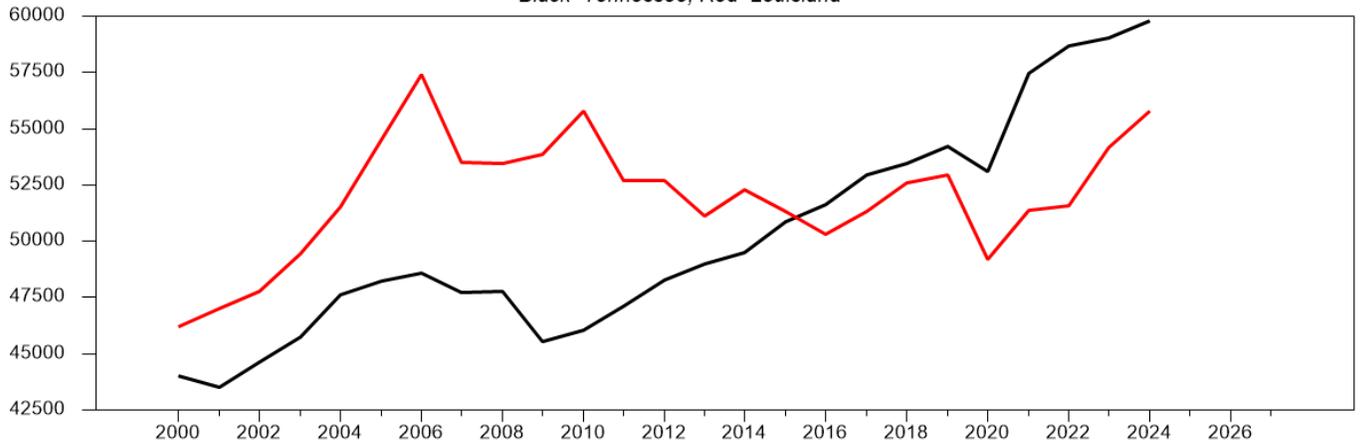
Louisiana vs South Carolina Real GSP Per Capita

Black=South Carolina, Red=Louisiana



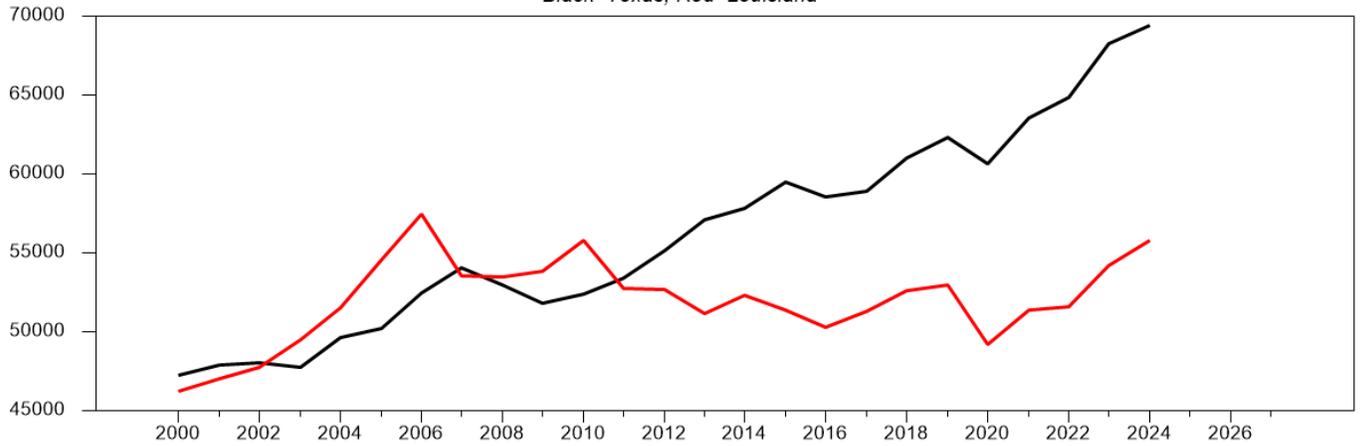
Louisiana vs Tennessee Real GSP Per Capita

Black=Tennessee, Red=Louisiana



Louisiana vs Texas Real GSP Per Capita

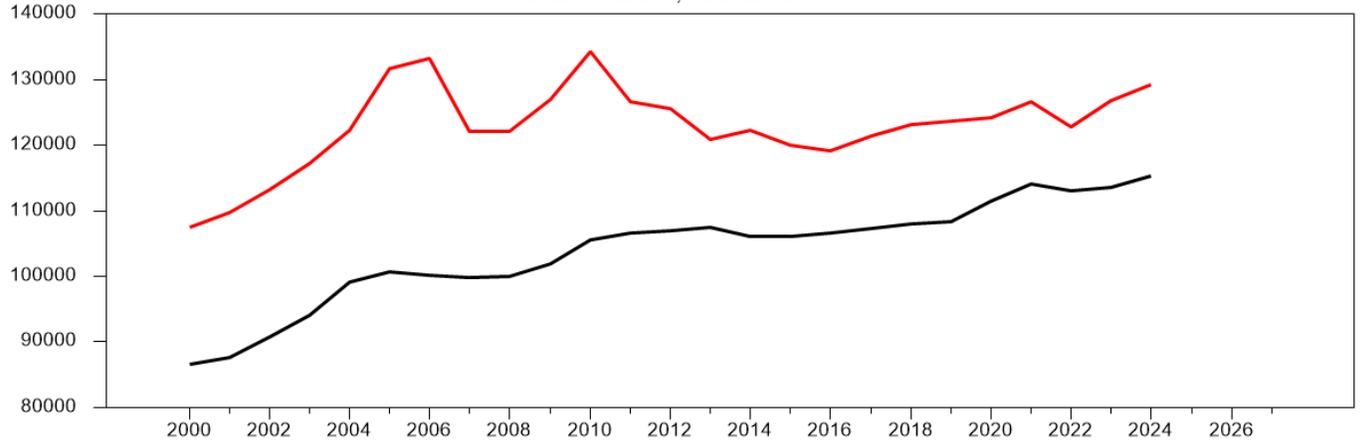
Black=Texas, Red=Louisiana



Appendix E: Plots of Louisiana Real GSP per Worker vs Each State of the SEC

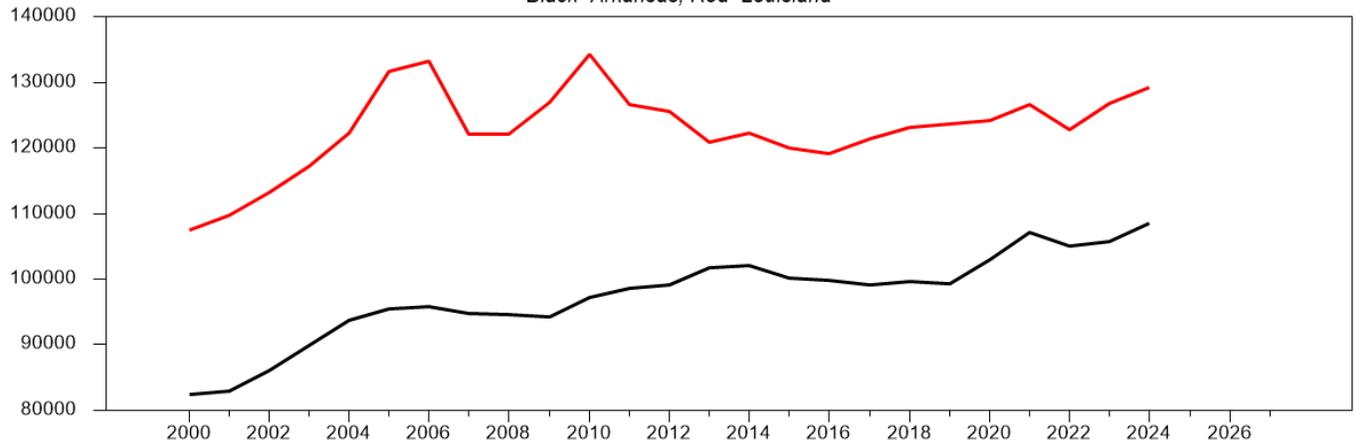
Louisiana vs Alabama Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Alabama, Red=Louisiana



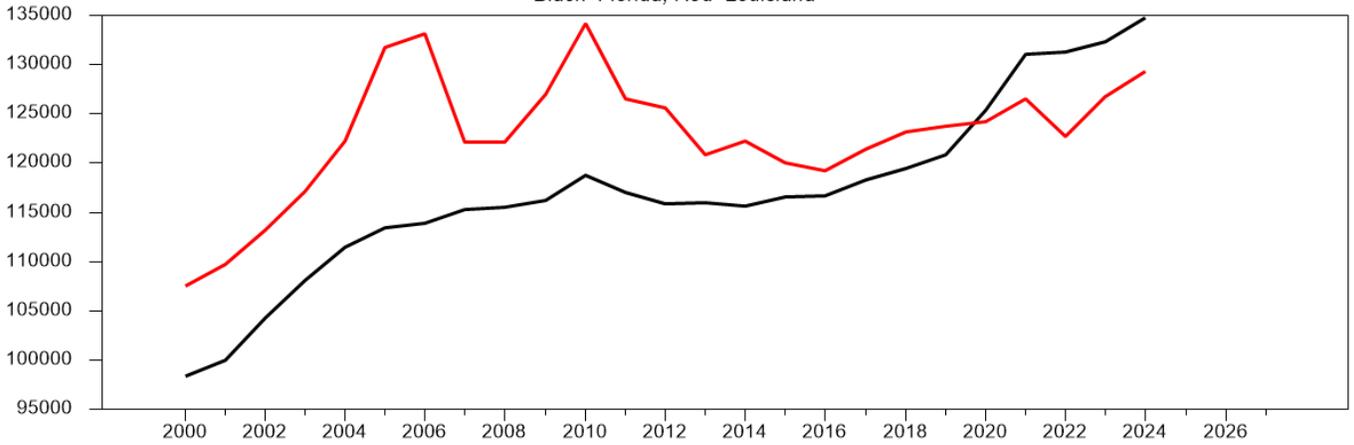
Louisiana vs Arkansas Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Arkansas, Red=Louisiana



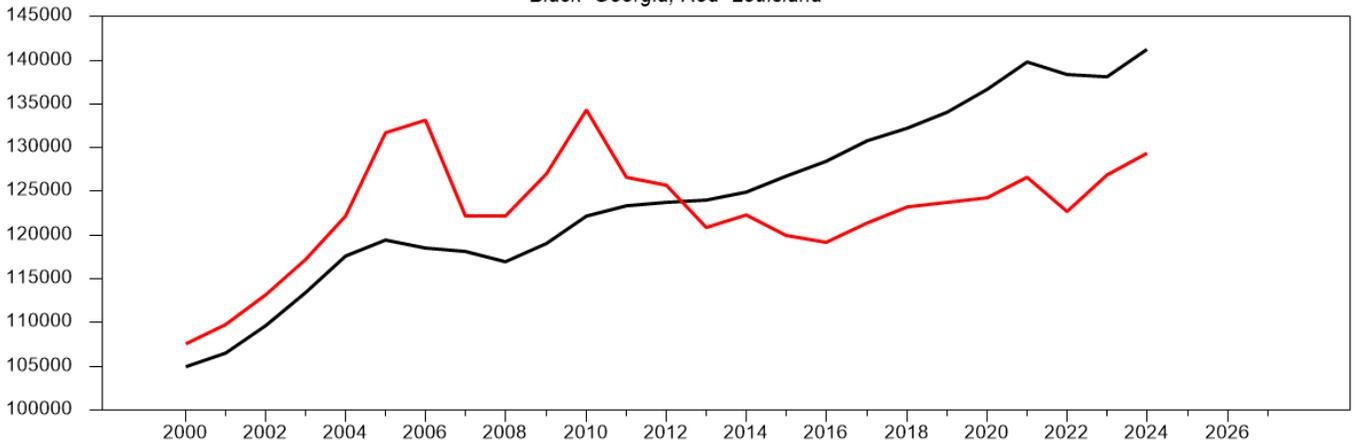
Louisiana vs Florida Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Florida, Red=Louisiana



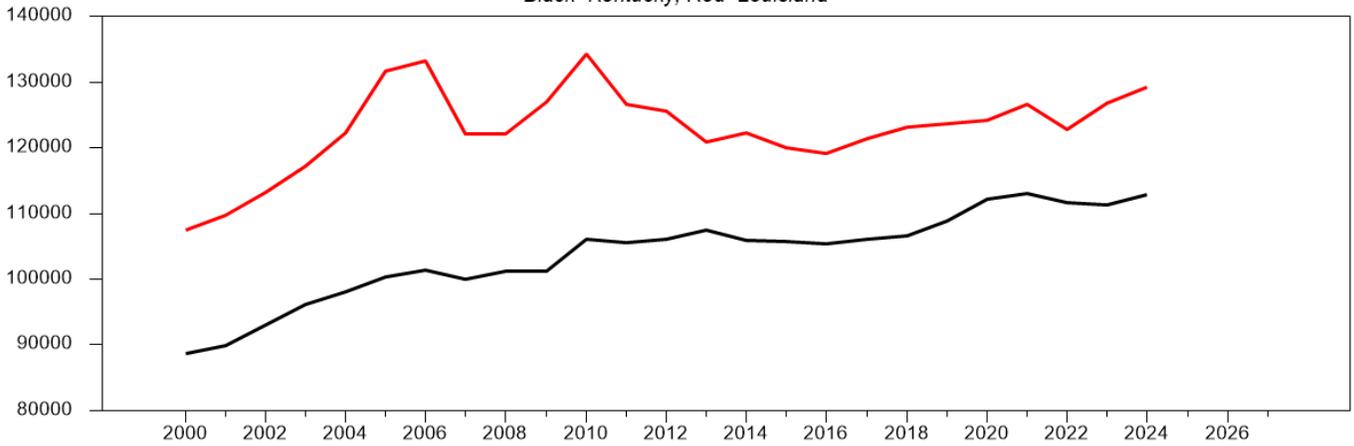
Louisiana vs Georgia Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Georgia, Red=Louisiana



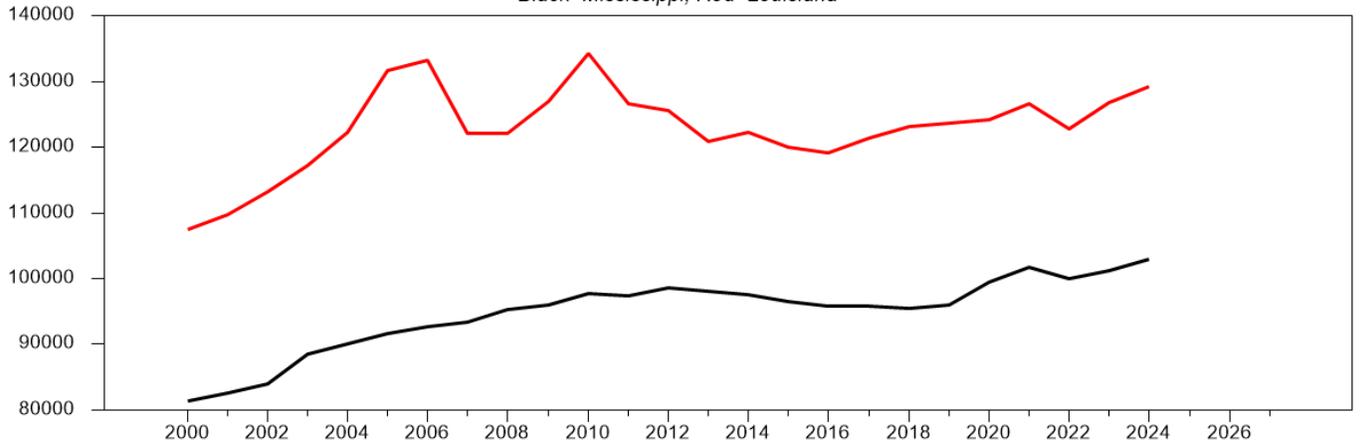
Louisiana vs Kentucky Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Kentucky, Red=Louisiana



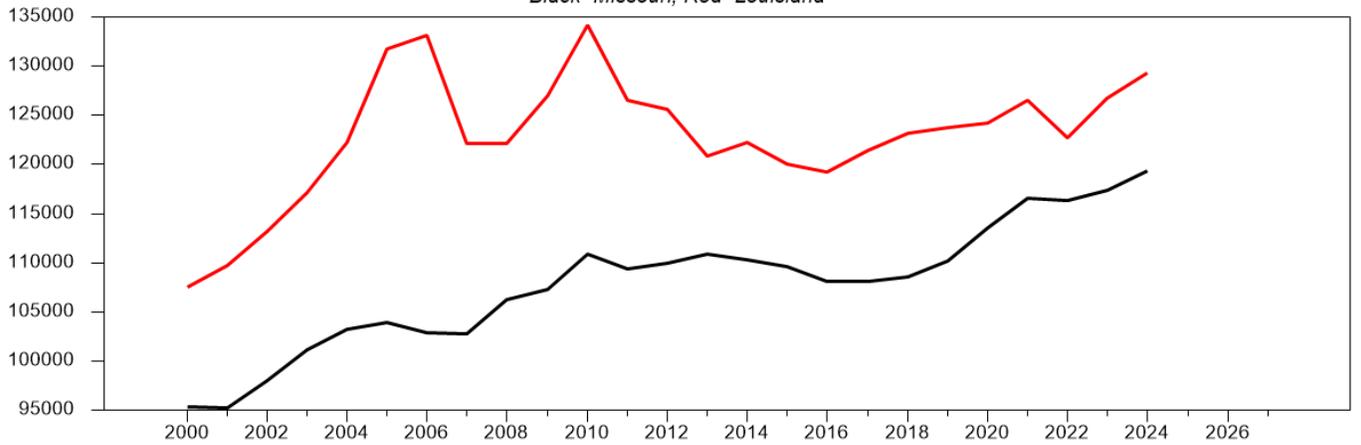
Louisiana vs Mississippi Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Mississippi, Red=Louisiana



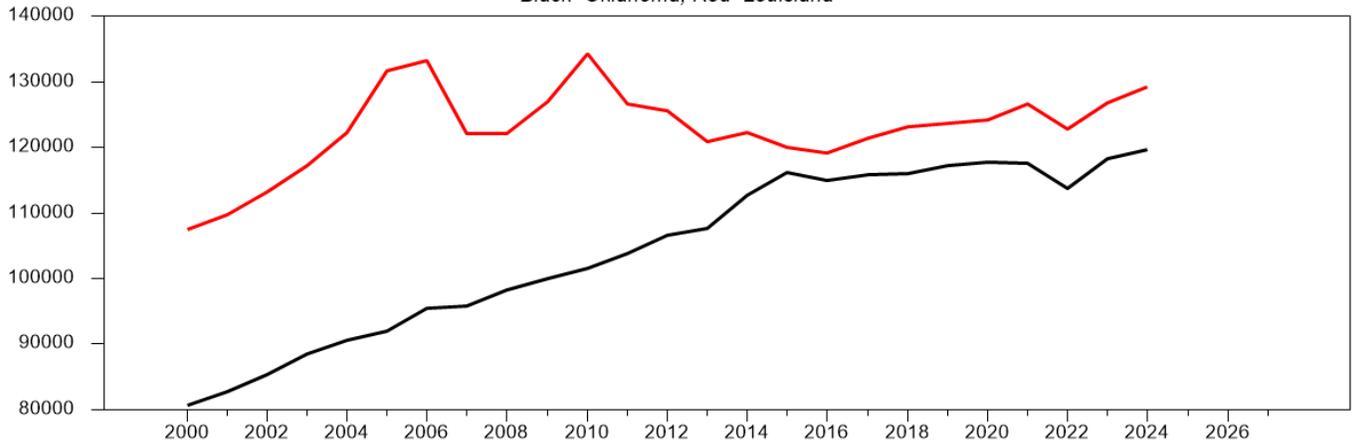
Louisiana vs Missouri Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Missouri, Red=Louisiana



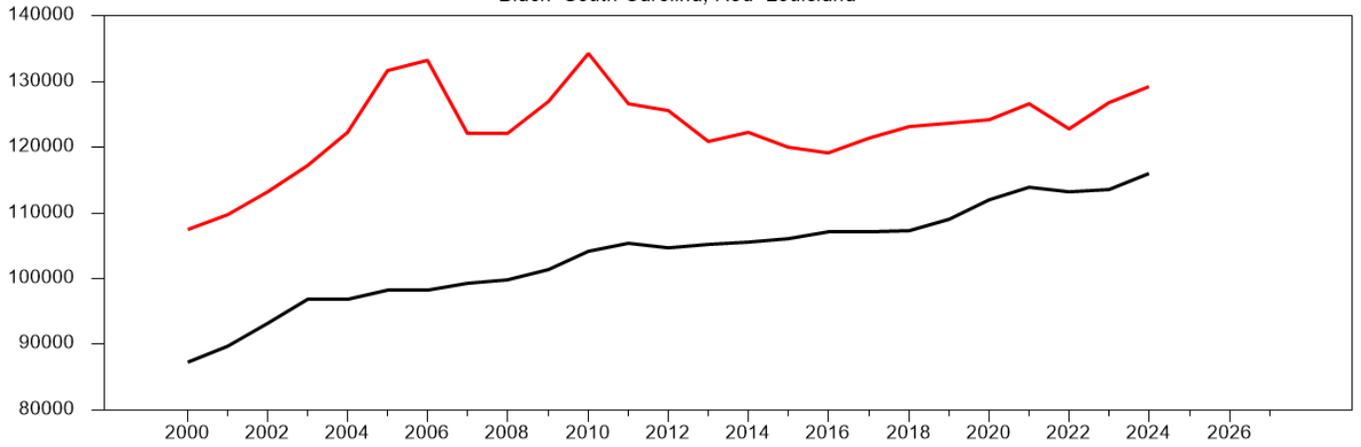
Louisiana vs Oklahoma Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Oklahoma, Red=Louisiana



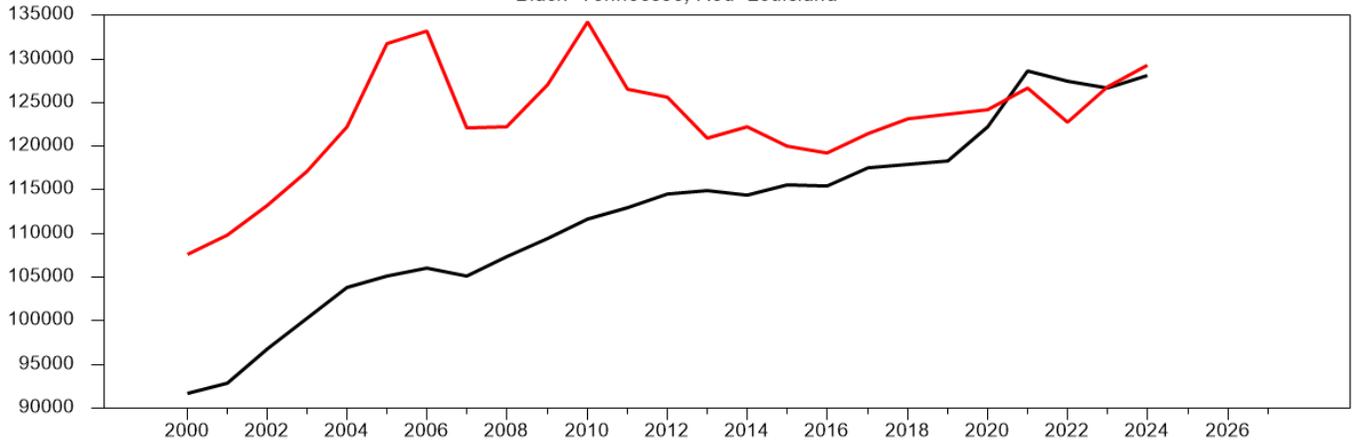
Louisiana vs South Carolina Real GSP Per Worker

Black=South Carolina, Red=Louisiana



Louisiana vs Tennessee Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Tennessee, Red=Louisiana



Louisiana vs Texas Real GSP Per Worker

Black=Texas, Red=Louisiana

