

## About the Center

The H.C. Drew Center for Business and Economic Analysis (Drew CBEA) collects, tracks, and analyzes data relevant to the economy of Southwest Louisiana.

A joint venture between McNeese State University and the SWLA Alliance, the center strives to serve the community with high quality economic analysis, reports, and data collections.

Visit our website and follow us on social media to see what we have to offer.

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Issue

The [2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020 Drew CBEA Report](#) began with “A great deal has happened since the last quarterly report was released.” That statement pales in comparison it seems to what has happened to our area since that time. This report covers the latest available data for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, stretching from July to September 2020. Most of the data will likely not pick up the full effects of Hurricane Laura, and we are awaiting new information on the effects of Hurricane Delta.

The two hurricanes severely hampered our area’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As our economy started to slightly expand from the downturn, although still hampered by restrictions, the hurricanes inflicted historic damage on Southwest Louisiana. Our area has seen large increases in unemployment as businesses shut down as well as widespread commercial and residential property damage. While these obviously take an economic toll, the human toll cannot be overlooked as people have lost jobs, income, homes, and even family members.

This report shows the latest available quarterly economic data for the Lake Charles MSA and each parish in our region. No available data will be able to give the full scope of recent events but it can give a glimpse as to the effects and direction the economy has traveled. The final section gives an overview and analysis of the latest available labor market data to illustrate the effects of Hurricane Laura. As the area rebuilds, hopefully, these negative trends will reverse and pave the way for a more optimistic outlook.

Thank you for reading and, as always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact the Drew CBEA with any questions.

Dan Groft, Ph.D.

Director, H.C. Drew Center for Business and Economic Analysis

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## Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

(measures in thousands of workers)	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>113.0</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>95.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-5.4	-5.5	-5.7	-18.4	-17.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.6	-4.7	-5.0	-15.9	-15.8
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	-11.1	0.0
<b>Construction</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>18.3</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-4.6	-4.2	-3.8	-5.6	-4.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-16.9	-15.8	-15.8	-22.5	-19.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	-1.8	-1.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.6	-0.9	-3.1	-17.0	-17.3
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.3	-1.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.3	-0.2	-2.7	-7.2	-6.9
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-1.3	-1.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.9	-4.8	-4.2	-12.7	-11.3
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>11.6</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.6	-0.1	-0.1	-5.2	-3.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.7	-0.9	-0.9	-33.9	-22.3
<b>Government</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>13.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-1.2	-1.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.6	-1.9	-1.3	-7.9	-10.9
<b>Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)</b>	<b>820.60</b>	<b>819.38</b>	<b>763.25</b>	<b>728.66</b>	<b>757.6</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-7.0	-15.0	-50.0	-72.2	-63.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.8	-1.8	-6.1	-9.0	-7.7
<b>Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)</b>	<b>23.74</b>	<b>24.10</b>	<b>22.99</b>	<b>21.89</b>	<b>22.4</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	1.0	1.7	0.6	-1.0	-1.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.6	7.4	2.8	-4.5	-5.4

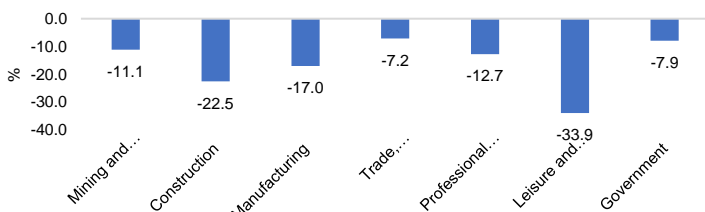
In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) has seen a large decrease in employment compared to the same quarter the previous year. This is no doubt due to the effects of the pandemic and Hurricane Laura. While the economy began a recovery in the early months of the quarter as the economy opened up, the hurricane hampered the uptick.

Total nonfarm employment (presented in thousands of jobs in the table) fell by 17,900 jobs over the year for a 15.8% decrease. Looking at the industries shows no industry gained jobs over the year. Due to the pandemic shutdowns and restrictions in place during the second quarter, Leisure and Hospitality experienced the largest percentage drop at 22.3% drop losing 3,300 jobs. Construction fell 4,500 jobs (-19.7%) while Manufacturing lost 1,900

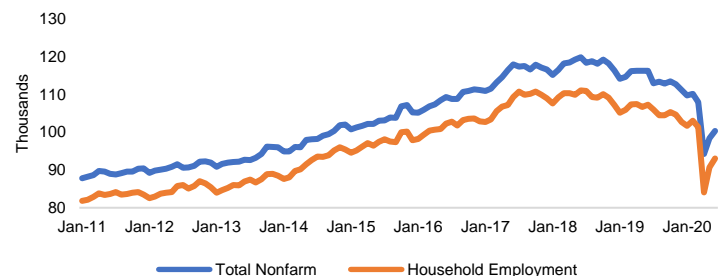
jobs (-17.3%). Professional and Business services lost 1,100 jobs for a 11.3% drop. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 1,300 jobs (-6.9%) and government lost 1,600 jobs (-10.9%).

This large loss in employment also saw large drops in earnings measures. Average weekly earnings of all employees fell 7.7% while average hourly earnings fell 5.4%. Although not shown, average weekly hours of all employees in the second quarter fell 2.4% over the year.

**Total Employment % Change - Available Sectors**  
Qtr 3 2019 - Qtr 3 2020



**Lake Charles MSA Employment Measures**

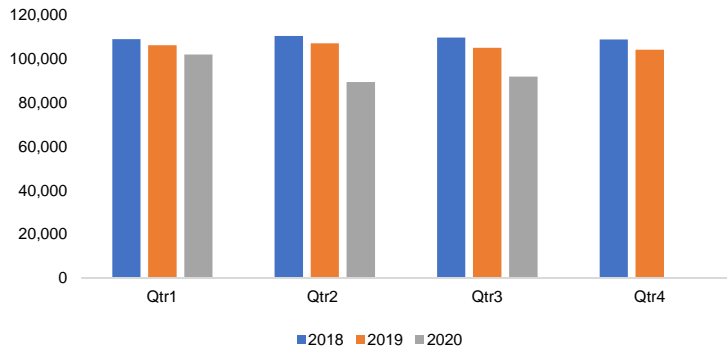


## Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

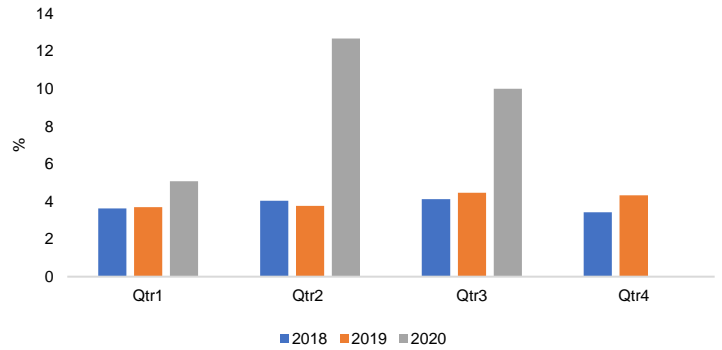
	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>104,962</b>	<b>104,174</b>	<b>102,008</b>	<b>89,379</b>	<b>91,902</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,784	-4,586	-4,111	-17,730	-13,060
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.4	-4.2	-3.9	-16.6	-12.4
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>4,937</b>	<b>4,719</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>12,987</b>	<b>10,195</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	190	836	1,389	8,769	5,258
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.0	21.5	34.1	207.9	106.5
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>109,899</b>	<b>108,894</b>	<b>107,465</b>	<b>102,366</b>	<b>102,097</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,594	-3,750	-2,722	-8,961	-7,802
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.0	-3.3	-2.5	-8.0	-7.1
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.9	1.4	8.9	5.5

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>6,629</b>	<b>5,599</b>	<b>5,026</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>4,954</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	1,010	202	-561	-1,695	-1,675
Year-Over-Year % Change	18.0	3.7	-10.0	-30.4	-25.3

### Lake Charles MSA Employment



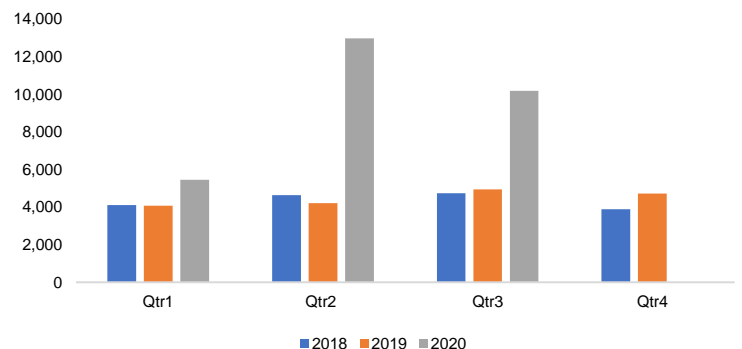
### Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 10.0% which represents a 5.5 percentage point increase from a year ago. Lake Charles currently has the third highest 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter unemployment rate of all MSA's in the state. The household employment measure fell by 13,060 over the year in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for a 12.4% decrease. The number of unemployed increased by 5,258. This represented a dramatic 106.5% increase. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was a drop of 7,802 (-7.1%).

Job openings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 averaged 4,954. Openings fell by 1,675 (25.3%) over the year.

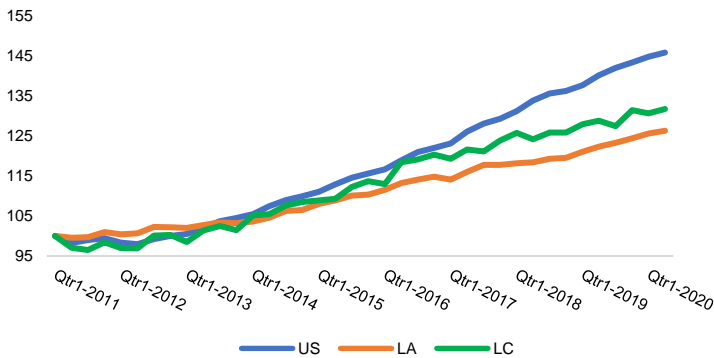
### Lake Charles MSA Unemployment



Overall, both the household and nonfarm employment measures show the MSA had been falling slightly (mainly due to construction projects finishing), but took a dramatic drop in the third quarter due to the pandemic and Hurricane Laura.

## Housing Statistics

**FHFA Quarterly Housing Price Indexes  
(Qtr1-2011 = 100)**

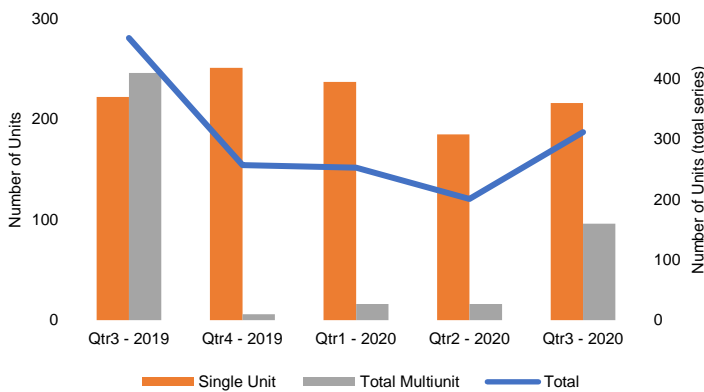


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr2 – 2019	Qtr2 – 2020	Year-over-Year % Change
<b>Lake Charles HPI</b>	128.8	131.7	2.3
<b>Louisiana HPI</b>	122.3	126.3	3.3
<b>US HPI</b>	140.2	145.8	4.0

The housing statistics show that prices in the area were rising slightly slower than the state and the nation from. Looking at price changes over-the-year, from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020, housing prices have only risen 2.3% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to 3.3% in LA and 4.0% in the US.

## Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

**Lake Charles MSA Building Permits**



In the second quarter of 2020, single unit permits fell by 6 over-the-year while multi-unit permits fell by 150 bringing the total drop to 156. This represented a 33.3% decrease. The YTD figures show a drop of 31 in single unit and 166 for multi-unit bringing the total decrease to 197. The percentage change for total permits YTD was -20.5%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits fell \$479 thousand while multi-unit permit valuations fell \$18.2 million for a total decrease of \$18.7 million. This represented a 29.5% drop year-over-year in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 for valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, the total year-over-year change in valuation for single unit permits was a drop of \$12.7 million while the drop in multi-unit permits was \$19.7 million leading to a total drop in valuation of

\$32.4 million. The percentage change in valuation for all permits YTD was a decrease of 21%.

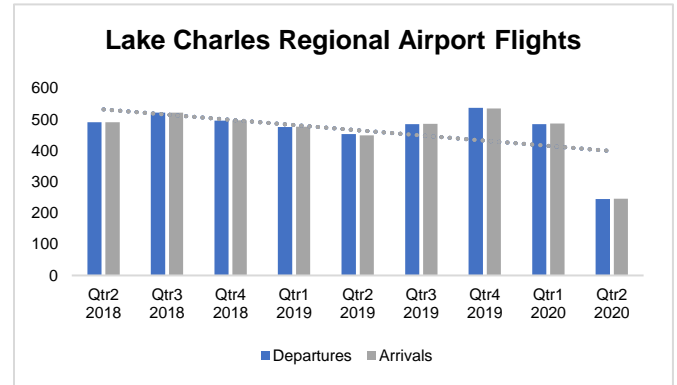
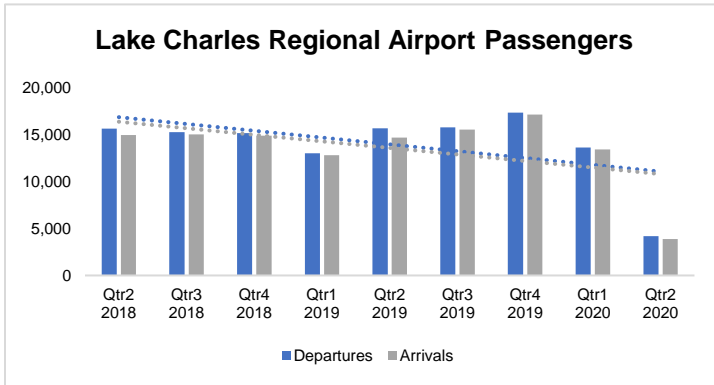
		Qtr-3 2019	Qtr-3 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-3 2019 YTD	Qtr-3 2020 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Number</b>									
	<b>Total</b>	468	312	-156	-33.3	963	766	-197	-20.5
	<b>Single</b>	222	216	-6	-2.7	669	638	-31	-4.6
	<b>Multi-unit</b>	246	96	-150	-61.0	294	128	-166	-56.5
<b>Valuation</b>									
	<b>Total (thousands \$)</b>	63,238	44,581	-18,657	-29.5	154,127	121,721	-32,406	-21.0
	<b>Single</b>	38,902	38,423	-479	-1.2	125,781	113,093	-12,688	-10.1
	<b>Multi-unit</b>	24,336	6,158	-18,178	-74.7	28,346	8,630	-19716	-69.6

The graph of building permits shows that there was a spike in multiunit permits in the third quarter of 2019 before falling in subsequent quarters. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter total of 2020 was higher than the previous three quarters due mainly to a large number of multi-unit permits in July.



## Transportation Statistics

### Lake Charles Regional Airport

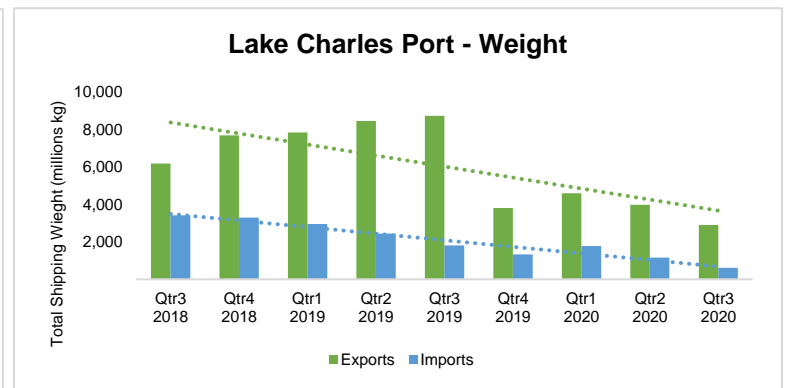
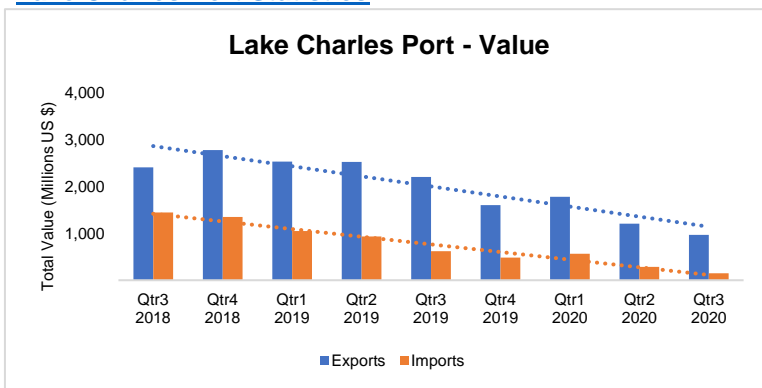


	Qtr-2 2020	Qtr-2 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Passengers</b>				
Departures	15,724	4,196	-11,528	-73.3
Arrivals	14,731	3,892	-10,839	-73.6
<b>Flights</b>				
Departures	453	245	-208	-45.9
Arrivals	449	246	-203	-45.2

The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a dramatic drop in activity during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, reflecting the lack of travel during the height of the pandemic shutdowns.

Passengers departing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 fell 11,528 (-73.3%) since the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 and those arriving have decreased 10,839 (-73.6%). In terms of flights, there has been a large decrease of 208 flights (-45.9%) departing Lake Charles over that same period while the number of flights arriving has fallen by 203 (-45.2%). The graphs showing these measures point to a downward trend driven by mainly by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter drop.

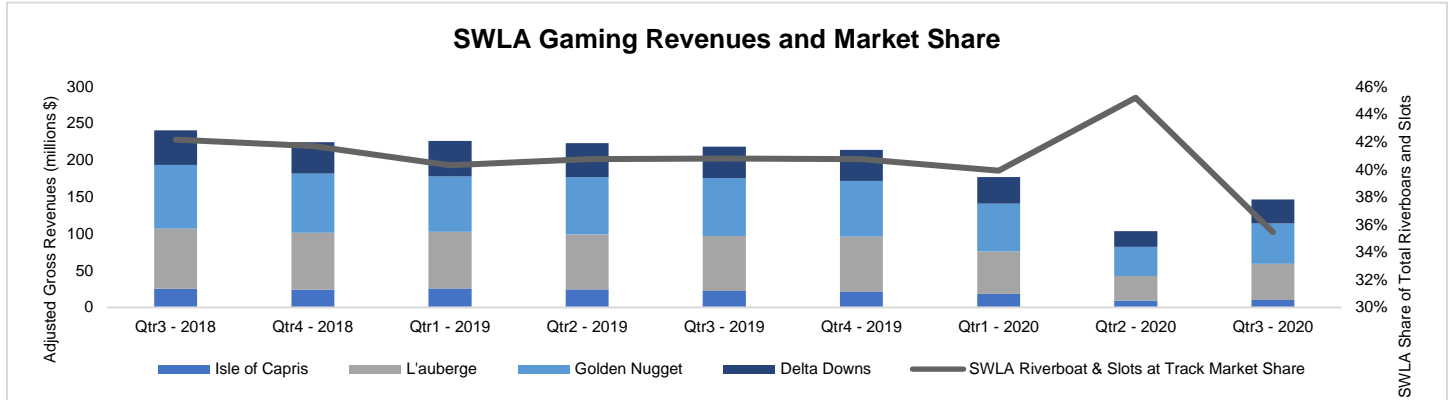
### Lake Charles Port Statistics



The Lake Charles port has seen falling export and import values over the past two years as shown in the graph above. The latest drops are no doubt in large part due to the pandemic and hurricanes. The figures in the table below show the value of exports fell \$1.2 billion (-56.0%) over the year while the total value of imports fell \$471 million (-75.9%). The total weight of all exports fell 5.8 billion kg (-66.7%) while the total weight of all imports fell 1.2 billion kg (-66.2%).

	Qtr-3 2019	Qtr-3 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Value (millions \$)</b>				
Exports	2,210	972	-1,238	-56.0
Imports	620	150	-471	-75.9
<b>Shipping Weight (millions kg)</b>				
Exports	8,735	2,913	-5,822	-66.7
Imports	1,803	610	-1,193	-66.2

## Gaming Statistics



	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total State AGR (millions)</b>	<b>535.6</b>	<b>524.9</b>	<b>444.0</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>413.7</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-34.9	-13.5	-117.4	-319.0	-121.8
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-6.1	-2.5	-20.9	-58.2	-22.7
<b>Total SWLA AGR (millions)</b>	<b>218.5</b>	<b>213.9</b>	<b>177.2</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>146.7</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-22.0	-10.6	-49.0	-119.8	-71.8
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-9.2	-4.7	-21.7	-53.6	-32.9
<b>Total AGR (millions)</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>10.2</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-3.2	-3.1	-7.4	-15.0	-12.1
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-12.6	-12.9	-28.6	-61.7	-54.3
<b>L'Auberge</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>49.0</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-6.9	-2.2	-19.2	-41.4	-25.8
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-8.5	-2.8	-24.9	-55.2	-34.5
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>54.9</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-7.5	-4.6	-10.3	-38.3	-23.9
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-8.7	-5.7	-13.6	-49.2	-30.3
<b>Delta Downs</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>32.5</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-4.4	-0.8	-12.2	-25.1	-10.0
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-9.4	-1.9	-25.2	-54.3	-23.5
<b>Share of Total SWLA AGR</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	10.2%	9.8%	10.4%	9.0%	7.0%
<b>L'Auberge</b>	34.2%	35.2%	32.6%	32.4%	33.4%
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	36.1%	35.4%	36.6%	38.2%	37.4%
<b>Delta Downs</b>	19.5%	19.6%	20.4%	20.4%	22.2%
<b>Share of Total State AGR</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	4.2%	4.0%	4.2%	4.1%	2.5%
<b>L'Auberge</b>	14.0%	14.4%	13.0%	14.7%	11.8%
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	14.7%	14.4%	14.6%	17.3%	13.3%
<b>Delta Downs</b>	7.9%	8.0%	8.1%	9.2%	7.9%
<b>SWLA Total AGR</b>	40.8%	40.7%	39.9%	45.2%	35.4%

Gaming establishments were shut down from the first half of March through the second half of May. Since that time, they've been operating at reduced capacity. While the gaming industry has come back strong, restrictions are still preventing revenues and admissions from reaching pre-pandemic levels. This has all led to drops in gaming revenue (and admissions) in the 3rd quarter of 2020 compared to 2019. Total revenues in SWLA for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 fell \$121.8 million for a 22.7% decrease compared to the same quarter the previous year.

Isle of Capri experienced an absolute drop of \$12.1 million for a 54.3% decrease over-the-year. L'Auberge had an absolute drop of \$25.8 million for a 34.5% decrease. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage drop in AGR of 30.3% with absolute decreases of \$23.9 million. Delta

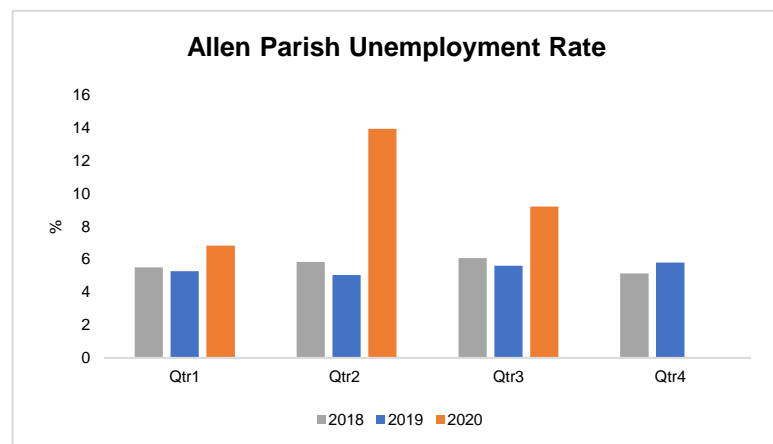
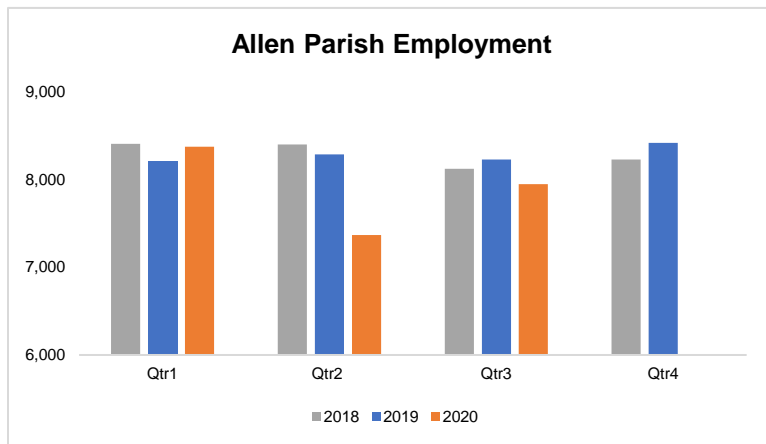
Downs experienced a \$10 million drop in AGR over the year for a 23.5% decrease.

The four casinos in the region saw a sharp drop in the share of total state revenues. The four SWLA establishments made up 35.4% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, down considerably from previous quarter figures. The largest share of SWLA AGR in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 came from Golden Nugget which equaled 37.4%, followed closely by L'Auberge at 33.4%.

## Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>8,217</b>	<b>8,384</b>	<b>8,374</b>	<b>7,368</b>	<b>7,947</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	105	105	112	-1,015	-270
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.3	1.3	1.4	-12.1	-3.3
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>804</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	1	94	152	723	275
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	21.3	32.7	154.7	51.9
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>8,746</b>	<b>8,919</b>	<b>8,989</b>	<b>8,558</b>	<b>8,751</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	107	199	264	-292	5
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.2	2.3	3.0	-3.3	0.1
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	1.0	1.5	8.7	3.1

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>193</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	20	7	10	-18	26
Year-Over-Year % Change	13.9	4.6	6.8	-11.3	15.6

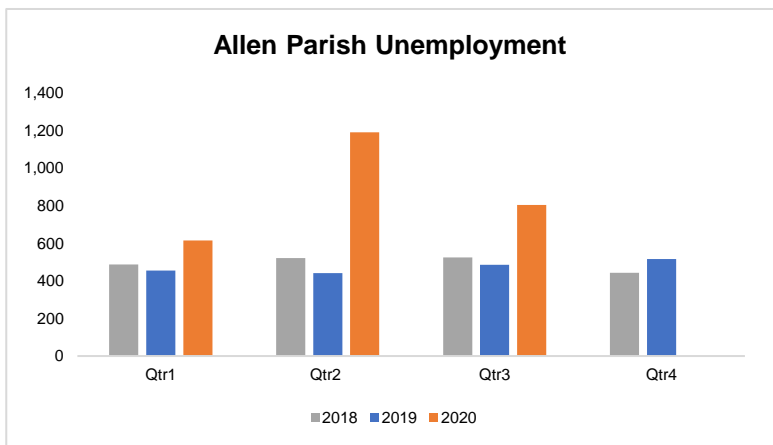


In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, Allen parish saw an increase in the labor force of 5 (+0.1%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 275 over the year (+51.9%) while the number of employed persons fell 270 (-3.3%) over the year. The unemployment rate rose 3.1 percentage points over the year to 9.2%.

Job openings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 averaged 193. Openings rose by 26 (+15.6%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years.

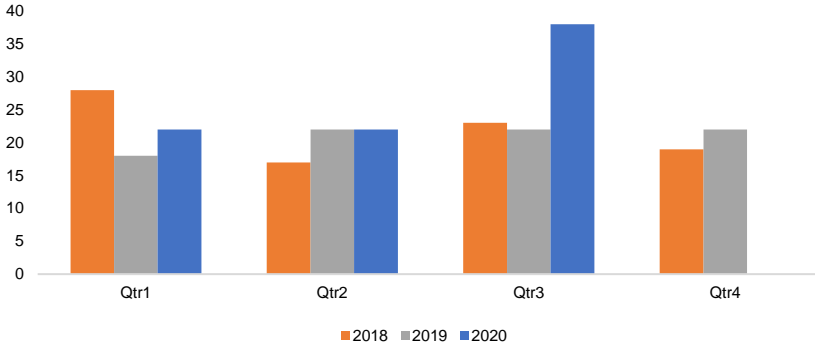
In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, Allen has had generally higher unemployment and lower employment figures while the labor force has been steady over the year.





## New Business Filings

**Allen Parish New Domestic Business Filings**



The graph to the left shows the amount of new business filings each quarter compared to the same quarter in the previous two years.

The number of new business filings in Allen parish was 38 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 which was 16 more than the same quarter in 2019 and 15 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 was 82. This was 20 businesses higher than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD and 14 business lower than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 YTD.

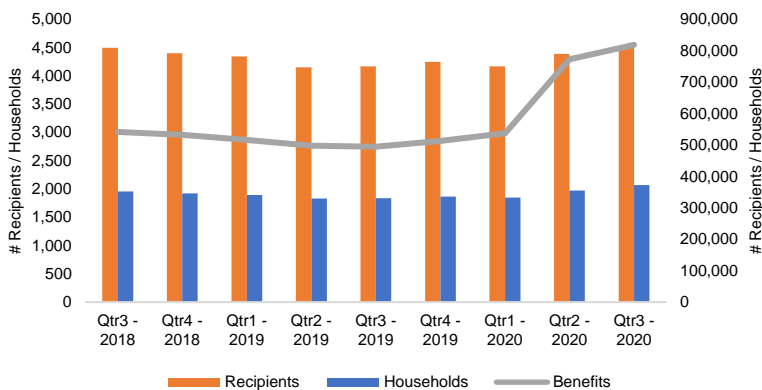
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	28	17	23	19
<b>2019</b>	18	22	22	22
<b>2020</b>	22	22	38	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	28	45	68	87
<b>2019</b>	18	40	62	84
<b>2020</b>	22	44	82	

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	4,165	4,242	4,162	4,386	4,513	349	8.4
<b>Households</b>	1,835	1,866	1,845	1,973	2,068	233	12.7
<b>Benefits</b>	494,041	512,278	536,533	771,752	817,835	323,794	65.5

**Allen Parish SNAP Data**



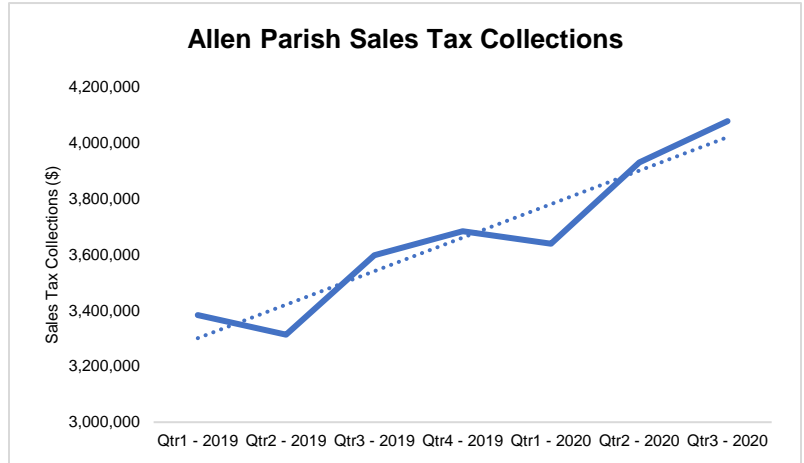
Allen parish has had an increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,513 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020. 349 more people received benefits compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 for an 8.4% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP was 2,068 which was 233 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 12.7% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$817.8 thousand in total during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, which was a \$323.8 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 65.5% rise in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates over the past

two years an overall decreasing trend in benefits before a sharp rise due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Tax Collections

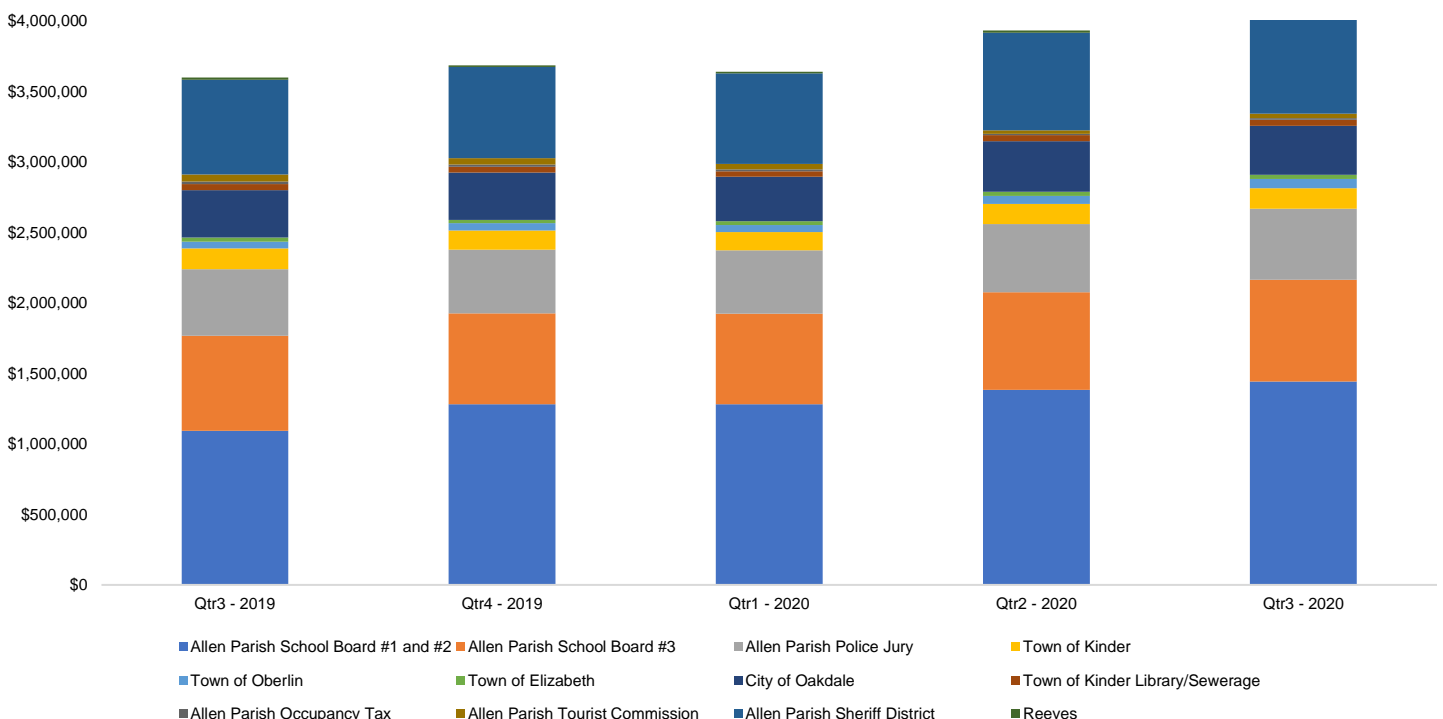
The Drew CBEA has begun building a history of Allen Parish sales tax collections with the help of the Allen Parish School Board. The numbers show clear upward movement throughout most of the year.

Compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019, Allen parish has seen an overall increase in tax collections. Total tax collections increased \$480.5 thousand for a 13.4% increase. This is mainly due to increased shopping during COVID as the sales tax rate was raised by 1 percentage point starting with the second quarter of 2019.



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	1,092,684	1,280,303	1,281,813	1,382,632	1,441,878	349,194	32.0
Allen Parish School Board #3	674,263	645,265	641,545	691,986	721,166	46,903	7.0
Allen Parish Police Jury	471,985	451,688	449,084	484,392	504,818	32,833	7.0
Town of Kinder	147,544	137,175	129,010	142,217	145,001	-2,543	-1.7
Town of Oberlin	48,330	50,163	50,073	57,529	65,862	17,532	36.3
Town of Elizabeth	28,849	24,619	26,846	28,830	28,365	-485	-1.7
City of Oakdale	335,473	335,061	315,427	359,408	348,021	12,548	3.7
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	44,263	41,153	38,703	42,665	43,500	-763	-1.7
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	16,716	15,261	13,219	8,662	10,780	-5,936	-35.5
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	50,147	45,784	39,658	25,986	32,339	-17,808	-35.5
Allen Parish Sheriff District	672,771	645,266	641,545	691,986	721,166	48,395	7.2
Reeves	14,391	12,330	11,625	14,356	15,001	610	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,597,416</b>	<b>3,684,067</b>	<b>3,638,550</b>	<b>3,930,651</b>	<b>4,077,897</b>	<b>480,481</b>	<b>13.4</b>

## Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



## Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

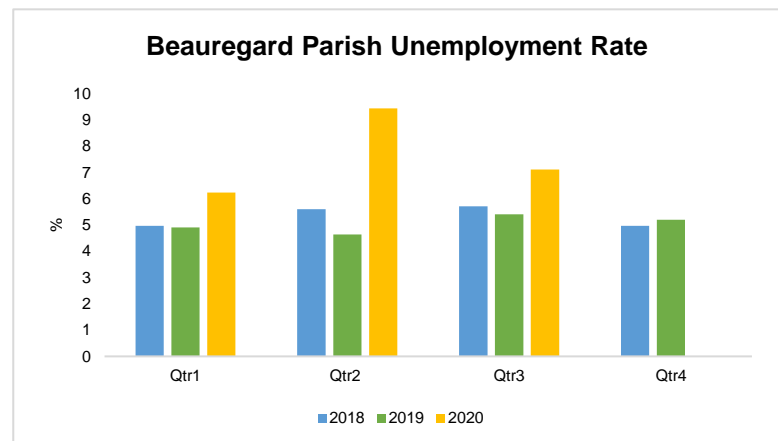
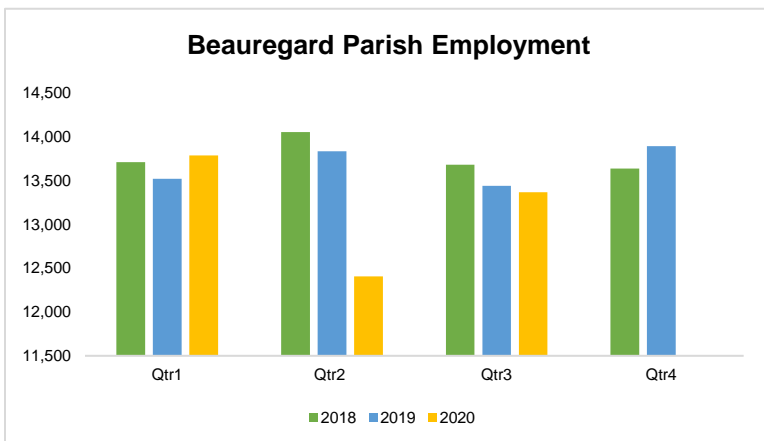
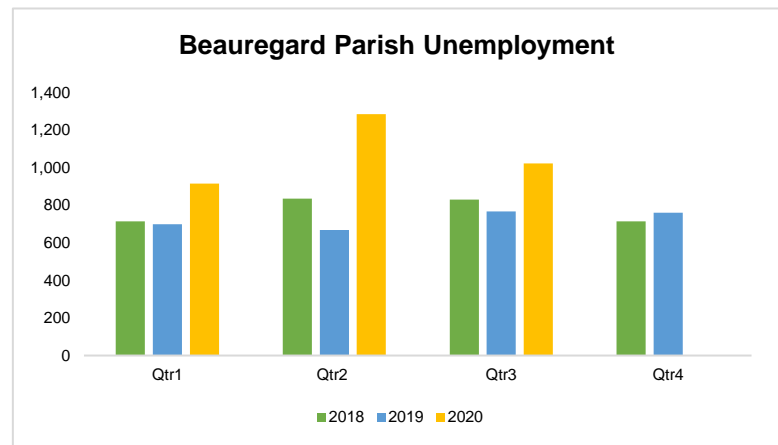
	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>13,897</b>	<b>13,908</b>	<b>13,785</b>	<b>12,407</b>	<b>13,367</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	207	162	131	-1,531	-530
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.5	1.2	1.0	-11.0	-3.8
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>1,022</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1	76	208	577	191
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.1	10.7	29.4	81.6	22.9
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>14,728</b>	<b>14,691</b>	<b>14,703</b>	<b>13,691</b>	<b>14,389</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	206	238	342	-954	-340
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.4	1.6	2.4	-6.5	-2.3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	0.4	1.3	4.6	1.4

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>284</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	17	108	22	-35	25
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.2	67.1	11.6	-16.2	9.8

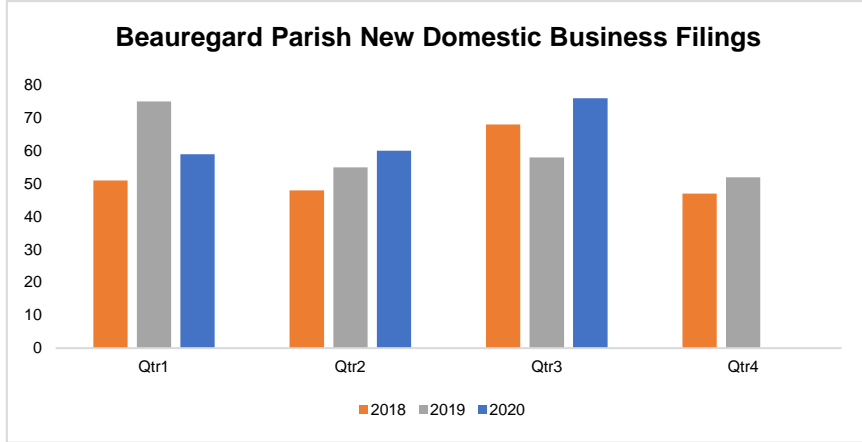
In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, Beauregard parish saw a drop in household employment of 530 over the year (-3.8%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 191 (+22.9%) over the year. This led to a drop of 340 (-2.3%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose 1.4 percentage points over the year to 7.1%.

Job openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter averaged 284. Openings rose by 25 (+9.8%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020, Beauregard has generally had higher unemployment and lower employment figures, representing a falling labor force.



## New Business Filings



The graph shows the amount of new business filings each quarter compared to the same quarter in the previous two years.

The number of new business filings in Beauregard parish was 76 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 which was 18 more than the same quarter the previous year and 8 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 was 195. This was 7 more businesses than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD and 28 businesses higher than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 YTD.

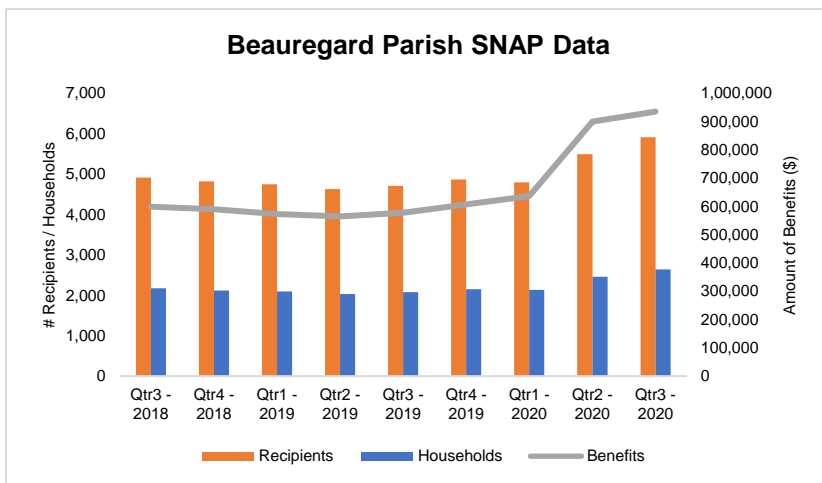
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	51	48	68	47
<b>2019</b>	75	55	58	52
<b>2020</b>	59	60	76	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	51	99	167	214
<b>2019</b>	75	130	188	240
<b>2020</b>	59	119	195	

## SNAP Benefits

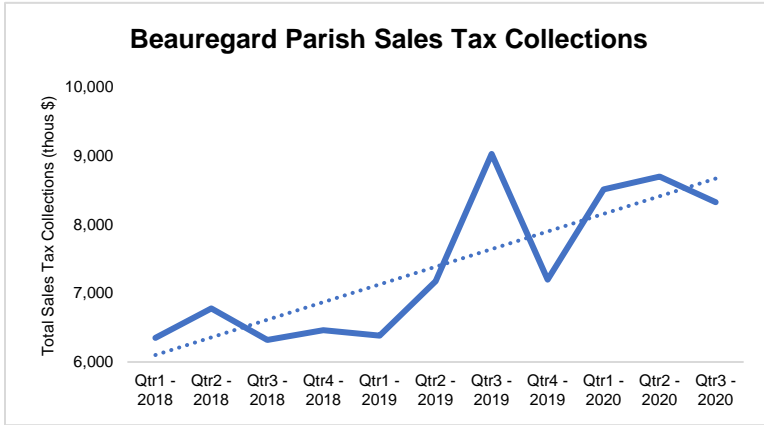
	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	4,702	4,859	4,793	5,492	5,905	1,204	25.6
<b>Households</b>	2,079	2,151	2,129	2,454	2,636	558	26.8
<b>Benefits</b>	577,607	606,476	636,193	898,771	934,335	356,728	61.8

Beauregard parish has had a sharp increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,905 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020. 1,204 more people received benefits compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 for a 25.6% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,636 which was 558 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 26.8%



increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$934.3 thousand in total during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, which was a \$356.7 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 61.8% rise in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates over the past two years a slight decreasing trend in benefits before a sharp rise. This trend is also shown in the number of households and recipients receiving benefits. The pandemic has led to more people receiving a greater number of benefits.

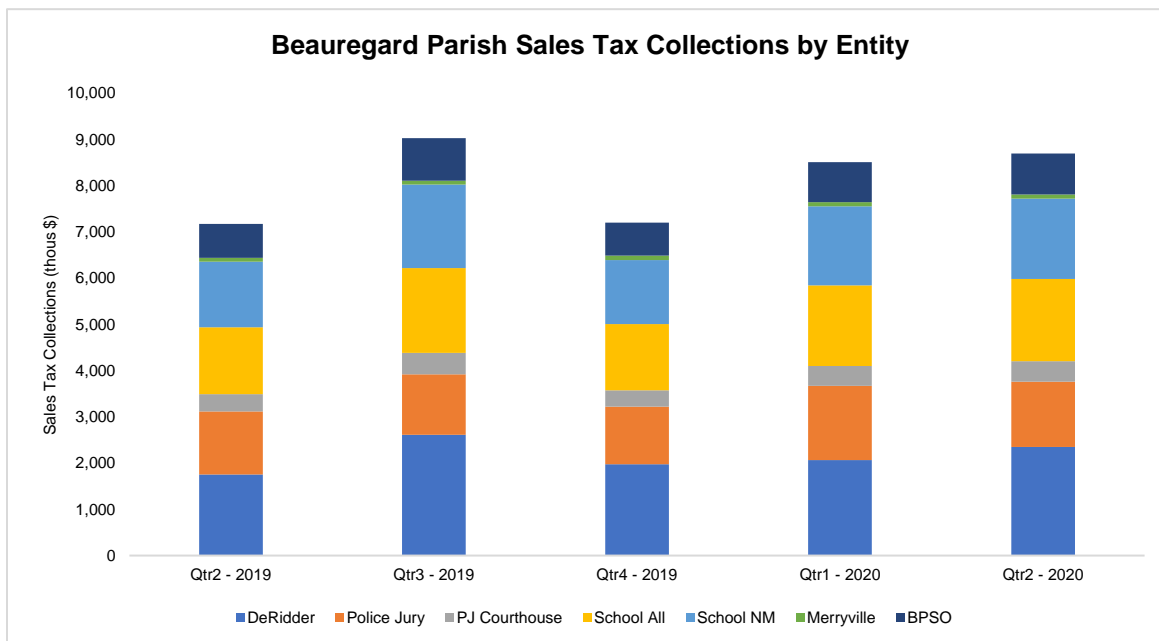
## Tax Collections



Beauregard parish has seen an decrease in its sales tax collections in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have fallen by \$700 thousand over the year for a 7.8% decrease. Looking at the entities that receive sales tax distributions shows that DeRidder collects the most revenue. These are sales conducted within the city limits. This category saw a year-over-year decrease of \$657.8 thousand (-25.2%) over the year. Most other entities all experienced decreases in sales taxes. Two categories experienced increases; Police Jury collections grew \$322.1 thousand (+24.6%) and

Merryville revenues grew \$10.2 thousand (+12.3%). School board revenues, All and NM, fell by \$133 thousand (-7.2%) and \$139.3 thousand (-7.7%), respectively. PJ Courthouse collections fell \$36.2 thousand (-7.9%) and BPSO fell \$66.1 thousand (-7.8%) over the year.

Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>DeRidder</b>	2,612.9	1,976.0	2,067.4	2,350.9	1,955.1	-657.8	-25.2
<b>Police Jury</b>	1,307.9	1,245.3	1,600.3	1,413.2	1,630.0	322.1	24.6
<b>PJ Courthouse</b>	460.7	355.5	434.6	442.1	424.5	-36.2	-7.9
<b>School All</b>	1,835.9	1,432.8	1,740.8	1,773.0	1,702.9	-133.0	-7.2
<b>School NM</b>	1,806.6	1,384.4	1,709.5	1,738.7	1,667.3	-139.3	-7.7
<b>Merryville</b>	82.7	92.5	89.4	92.1	92.9	10.2	12.3
<b>BPSO</b>	917.8	711.2	869.2	884.8	851.7	-66.1	-7.2
<b>Total</b>	9,024.6	7,197.6	8,511.1	8,694.7	8,324.5	-700.0	-7.8



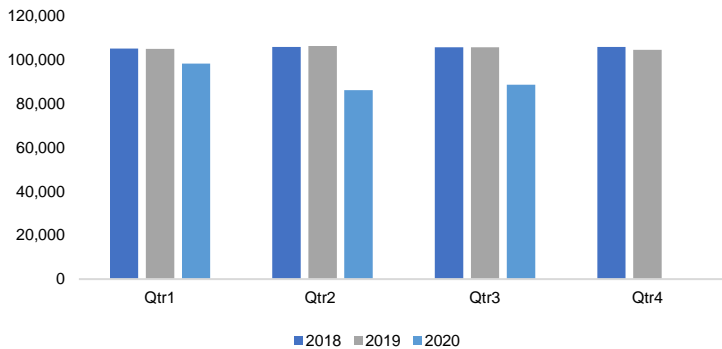


## Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

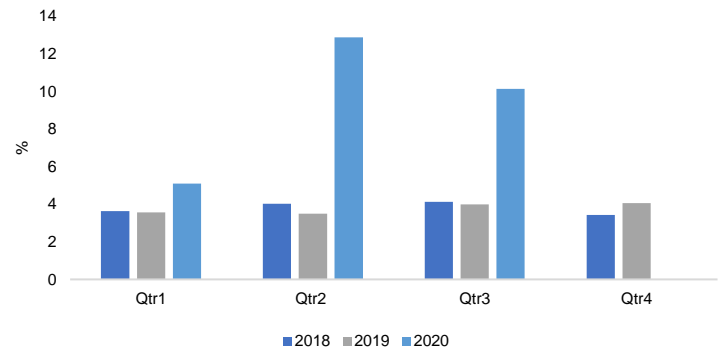
	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>101,194</b>	<b>100,439</b>	<b>98,348</b>	<b>86,173</b>	<b>88,606</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,616	-4,422	-3,962	-17,095	-12,587
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.4	-4.2	-3.9	-16.6	-12.4
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>4,779</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>5,278</b>	<b>12,714</b>	<b>9,985</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	191	810	1,347	8,638	5,206
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.2	21.6	34.3	211.9	108.9
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>105,972</b>	<b>105,003</b>	<b>103,626</b>	<b>98,887</b>	<b>98,591</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,425	-3,612	-2,615	-8,457	-7,381
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.0	-3.3	-2.5	-7.9	-7.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	0.9	1.4	9.1	5.6

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>6,372</b>	<b>5,378</b>	<b>4,875</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>4,824</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	881	88	-570	-1,654	-1,548
Year-Over-Year % Change	16.0	1.7	-10.5	-30.5	-24.3

**Calcasieu Parish Employment**



**Calcasieu Parish Unemployment Rate**

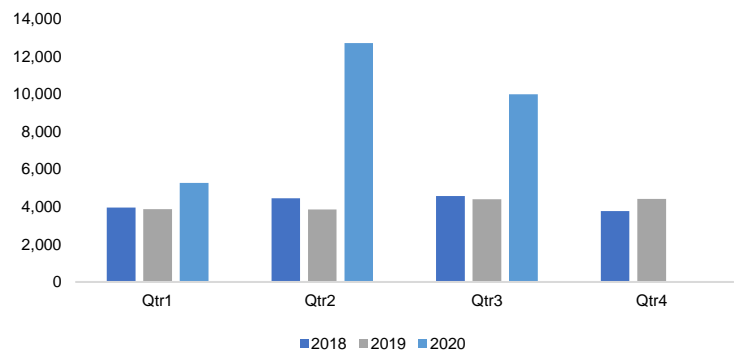


In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, Calcasieu parish saw a drop in the labor force of 7,381 (-7.0%). This was due to a drop in household employment of 12,587 over the year (-12.4%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 5,206 (+108.9%). The unemployment rate rose 5.6 percentage points over the year to 10.1%.

Job openings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter averaged 4,824. Openings fell by 1,548 (-24.3%) over the year.

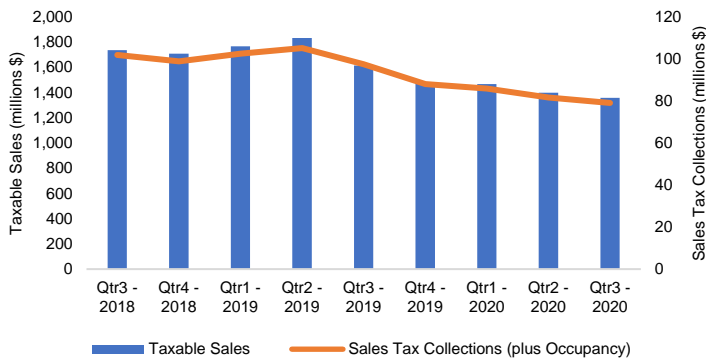
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Calcasieu had lower employment levels through 2020 compared to the previous years. The unemployment measures have been higher than in 2019. It appears that this trend will continue throughout the year as the economy recovers from the pandemic and hurricanes.

**Calcasieu Parish Unemployment**

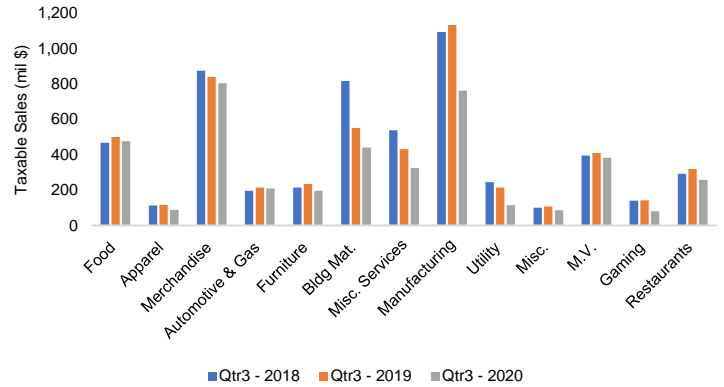


## Tax Collections

**Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections**



**Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 3 YTD**



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Food</b>	165.4	153.3	158.1	170.9	147.8	-17.6	-10.6
<b>Apparel</b>	35.5	38.3	38.9	17.0	31.7	-3.8	-10.8
<b>Merchandise</b>	263.2	261.3	271.9	276.0	255.1	-8.1	-3.1
<b>Automotive &amp; Gas</b>	74.5	67.7	63.0	66.5	79.2	4.7	6.3
<b>Furniture</b>	67.5	69.6	74.4	59.6	62.8	-4.7	-7.0
<b>Bldg Mat.</b>	167.3	148.2	140.3	151.5	148.2	-19.2	-11.4
<b>Misc. Services</b>	143.0	141.4	126.9	100.2	97.9	-45.1	-31.5
<b>Manufacturing</b>	320.4	266.5	262.5	277.6	222.1	-98.3	-30.7
<b>Utility</b>	45.8	41.0	39.1	42.3	34.0	-11.8	-25.8
<b>Misc.</b>	34.6	30.6	32.8	23.6	29.8	-4.8	-13.8
<b>M.V.</b>	145.5	129.1	133.2	111.8	137.4	-8.1	-5.6
<b>Gaming</b>	52.3	31.8	30.9	19.2	30.0	-22.3	-42.6
<b>Restaurants</b>	98.9	96.0	94.2	81.5	81.5	-17.3	-17.5
<b>Total</b>	1,614.0	1,474.9	1,466.2	1,397.7	1,357.6	-256.4	-15.9

Calcasieu parish has seen declining taxable sales and sales tax revenues since hitting a major peak in 2017. Therefore, it is difficult to quantify how much of the drop is due to the continuing trend back to a more normal level and

how much is pandemic induced. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter alone includes effects of Hurricane Laura (filing delays, closures, rebuilding) and a continuing pandemic downturn. Sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have fallen by \$18.4 million over the year for a 18.9% decrease. General sales taxes fell by \$17.7 million (-18.6%) over the year. Occupancy taxes were intensely hurt by the shutdowns and lack of visitation. These taxes fell \$0.7 million for a 31.5% decrease. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish fell \$256.4 million (-15.9%) over the year. All categories of sales, with one exception, suffered annual declines. The most striking (in percentage terms) were Gaming (-42.6%), Miscellaneous Services (-31.5%) and Manufacturing (-30.7%). Automotive & Gas was the only category to see an increase (+6.3%).

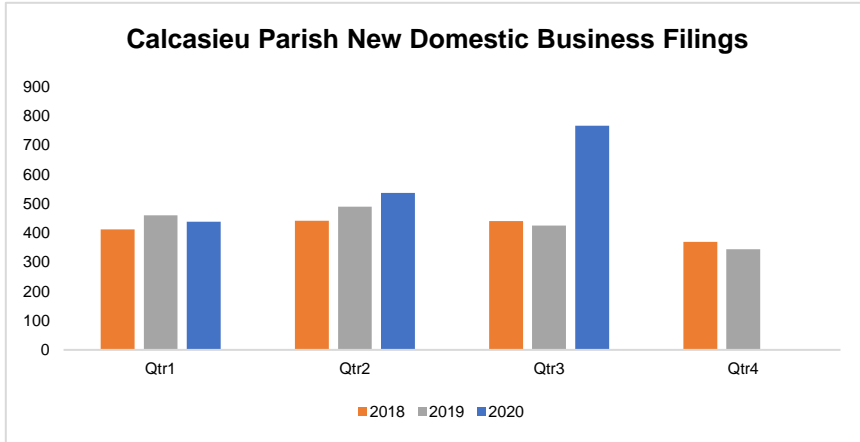
Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>General Sales Tax Collections</b>	95.2	86.1	84.3	80.5	77.5	-17.7	-18.6
<b>Occupancy Taxes</b>	2.2	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.5	-0.7	-31.5
<b>Sales Tax Collections</b>	97.4	88.0	85.8	81.6	79.0	-18.4	-18.9

YTD figures show that total taxable sales have fallen in the parish by \$988.7 million compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD figure for a 19% decrease. This led to a \$58.5 million decrease in sales tax collections (-19.2%).

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2018</b>	1,890.8	3,749.8	5,484.7	7,191.6
<b>2019</b>	1,764.7	3,596.1	5,210.1	6,639.3
<b>2020</b>	1,466.2	2,863.9	4,221.5	

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2018</b>	108.0	217.8	319.6	418.3
<b>2019</b>	102.4	207.5	304.9	392.8
<b>2020</b>	85.8	167.4	246.4	

## New Business Filings



The graph shows the amount of new business filings each quarter compared to the same quarter in the previous two years.

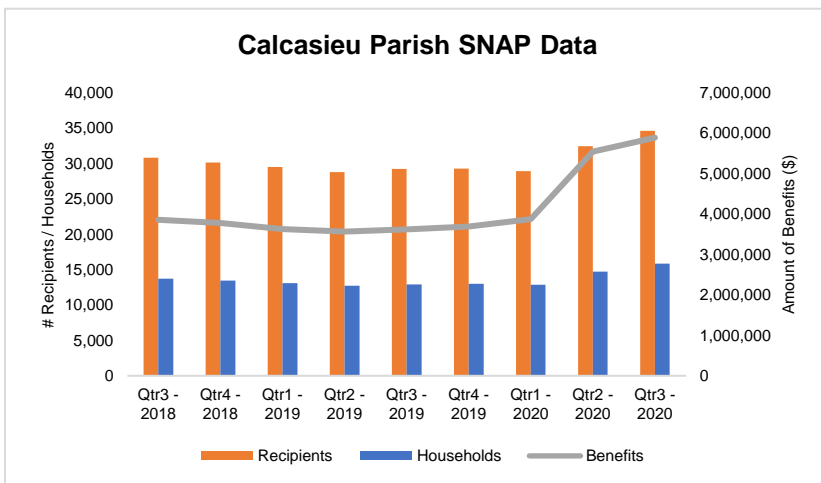
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 767 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 which was 342 more than the same quarter the previous year and 326 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 was 1,743. This was 368 more businesses than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD and 448 businesses higher than the same quarter of 2018 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	412	442	441	370
<b>2019</b>	460	490	425	344
<b>2020</b>	439	537	767	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	412	854	1,295	1,665
<b>2019</b>	460	950	1,375	1,719
<b>2020</b>	439	976	1,743	

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	29,234	29,303	28,914	32,455	34,636	5,402	18.5
<b>Households</b>	12,906	13,023	12,877	14,726	15,863	2,957	22.9
<b>Benefits</b>	3,621,400	3,690,243	3,872,104	5,544,380	5,888,494	2,267,094	62.6



Calcasieu parish has had an increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 34,636 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020. This was 5,402 more people receiving benefits compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 for an 18.5% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 15,863 which was 2,957 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 22.9% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$5.9 million in total during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, which was a \$2.3 million increase over-the-year. This was a 62.6% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at the

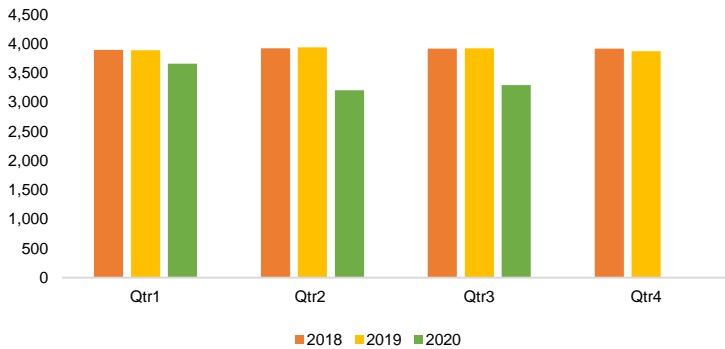
graph illustrates an overall decreasing trend in benefits over the past two years before spiking in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and continuing into the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This trend is also shown in the number of households and recipients receiving benefits as the coronavirus pandemic has affected the economy.

## Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

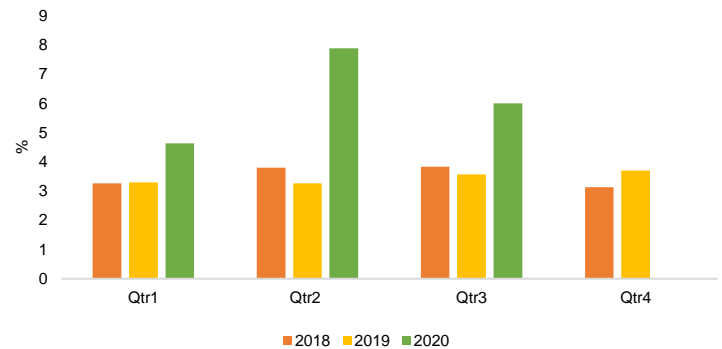
	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>3,296</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-168	-164	-149	-636	-473
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.3	-4.2	-3.9	-16.5	-12.5
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>210</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0	26	42	131	52
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	20.1	30.9	92.3	33.1
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>3,839</b>	<b>3,479</b>	<b>3,506</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-169	-138	-107	-505	-420
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.1	-3.4	-2.7	-12.7	-10.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	0.8	1.2	4.3	2.0

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>130</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	129	114	9	-40	-127
Year-Over-Year % Change	101.3	106.5	6.3	-28.1	-49.5

**Cameron Parish Employment**



**Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate**

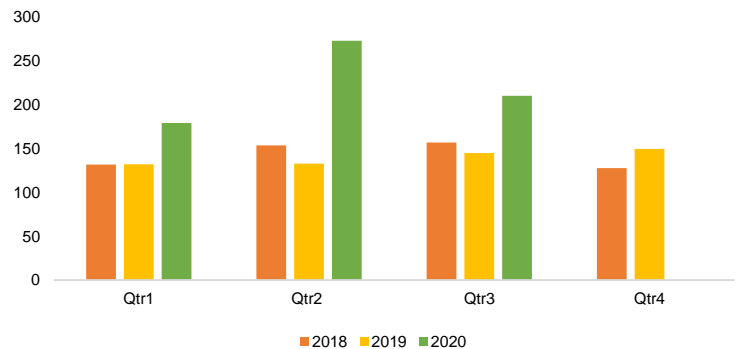


In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, Cameron parish had a drop in household employment of 473 over the year (-12.5%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 52 (+33.1%). This meant a decrease of 420 (-10.7%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate increased 2.0 percentage points over the year to 6.0%.

Job openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 averaged 103. Openings fell by 40 (-28.1%) over the year.

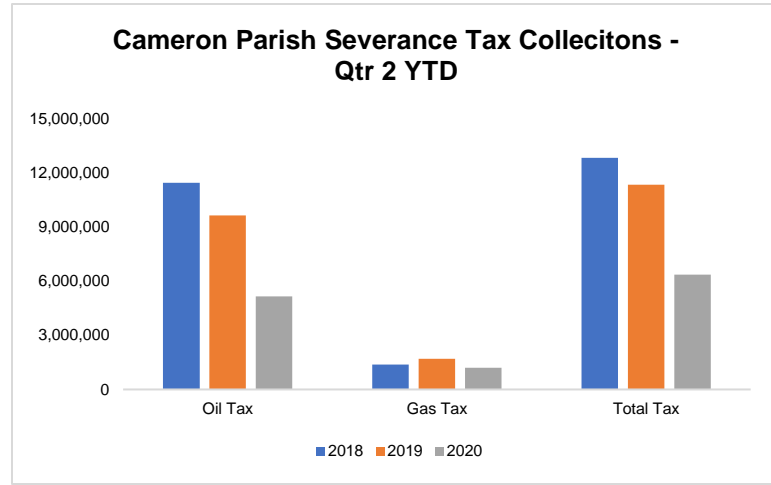
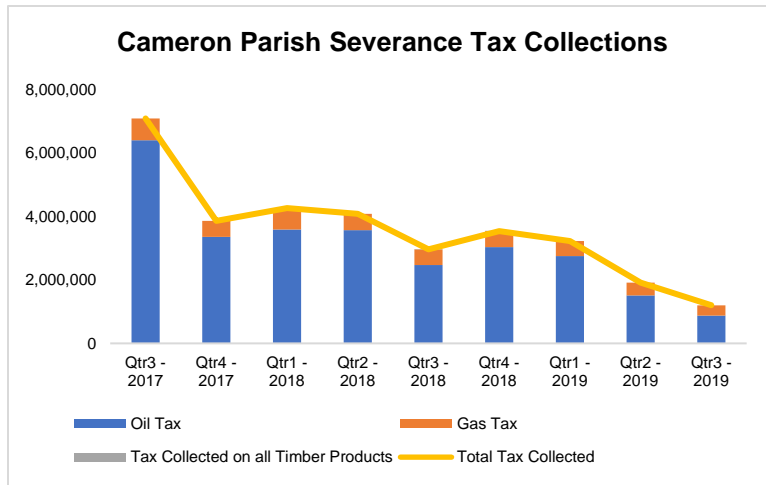
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Each quarter, Cameron parish had lower employment levels through 2020 compared to the previous year. The unemployment measures have been higher than in 2019. As Cameron has been hit by hard by two hurricanes, these trends should continue into the future.

**Cameron Parish Unemployment**



## Tax Collections

Cameron parish collects no local sales tax, so it is not possible to show the monthly or quarterly trends in those particular tax collections in the parish. However, Cameron is the parish in SWLA that is responsible for the highest amount of state severance tax collections. In order to give some view into the severance tax collections in the parish, below are figures and data relating to the recent severance tax collections by category for Cameron.



The graph on the above left shows the total severance tax collections from each source with the line representing total collections. The graph on the upper right shows the latest fourth quarter YTD figures for each severance tax type (as well as total) over the past three years.

Severance Tax Collections	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Oil Tax</b>	2,478,060	3,039,578	2,758,732	1,513,188	881,297	-1,596,763	-64.4
<b>Gas Tax</b>	495,506	499,860	476,917	409,637	323,106	-172,400	-34.8
<b>Tax Collected on all Timber Products</b>	21	22	0	0	0	-21	-100.0
<b>Total Tax Collected</b>	2,973,588	3,539,460	3,235,649	1,922,825	1,204,403	-1,769,185	-59.5

Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	2,491,262	5,728,810	12,830,771	16,695,828
2019	4,276,091	8,368,328	11,341,916	14,881,376
2020	3,235,649	5,158,474	6,362,877	

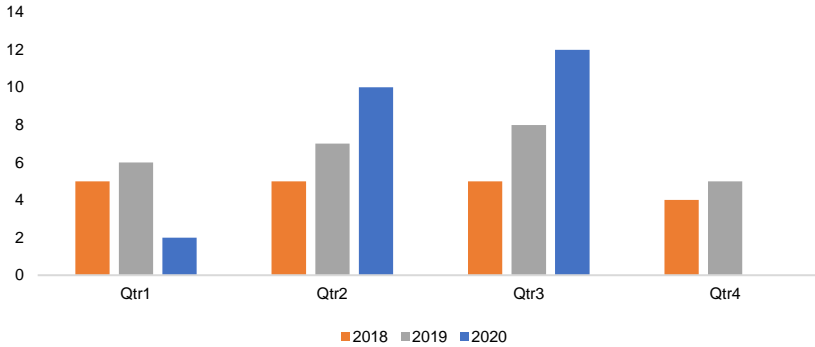
The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 fell by \$1.6 million compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented a 64.4% drop as oil prices fell due to the pandemic and the hurricane disrupted production. In terms of gas collections, those fell \$172 thousand over that period for a 34.8% decrease. Timber product collections have been negligible. Total severance taxes collected from the parish have fallen \$1.7 million over the year in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 for an 59.5% decrease.

The YTD figures show in 2020 there was a substantial drop in total severance taxes collected compared to the previous year. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2020 YTD, severance taxes fell \$5 million for growth of -43.9%. As mentioned previously, much of this can be traced to the drop in oil prices and production activity throughout the state and nation due to the pandemic and Hurricane Laura.



## New Business Filings

**Cameron Parish New Domestic Business Filings**



The graph shows the amount of new business filings each quarter compared to the same quarter in the previous two years.

The number of new business filings in Cameron parish was 12 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 which was 4 more than the same quarter the previous year and 7 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 was 24. This was 3 more business than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD and 9 businesses higher than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 YTD.

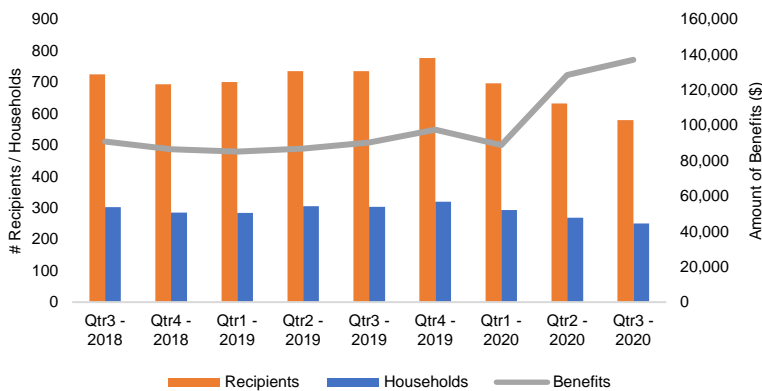
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	5	5	5	4
<b>2019</b>	6	7	8	5
<b>2020</b>	2	10	12	0

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	5	10	15	19
<b>2019</b>	6	13	21	26
<b>2020</b>	2	12	24	0

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	734	776	696	631	579	-155	-21.2
<b>Households</b>	303	319	293	268	250	-53	-17.5
<b>Benefits</b>	90,256	97,422	88,766	128,470	136,963	46,707	51.7

**Cameron Parish SNAP Data**



Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients and households while experiencing a sharp rise in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 579 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020. This was 155 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 for a 21.2% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 250 which was 53 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 17.5% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$137 thousand in total during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, which was an \$46.7 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 51.7% increase in benefits in the

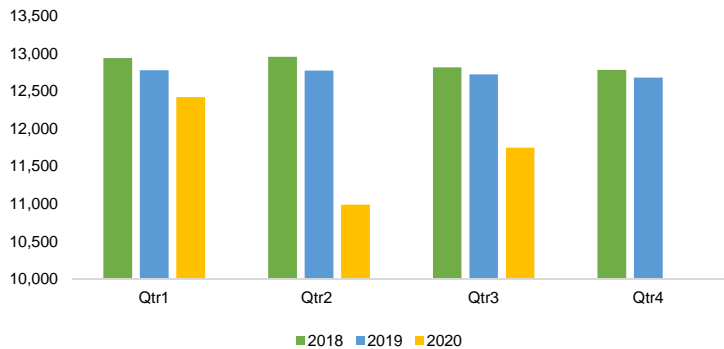
parish. Looking at the graph illustrates recipients and households falling throughout the year while benefits have sharply increased in the last quarter due to the pandemic.

## Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

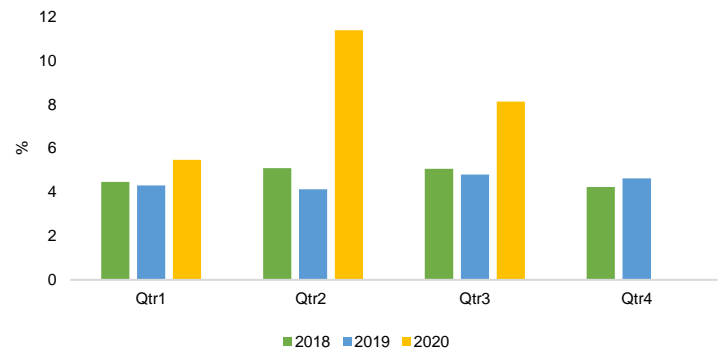
	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>12,749</b>	<b>12,574</b>	<b>12,420</b>	<b>10,989</b>	<b>11,749</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-79	-150	6	-1,703	-1,000
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.6	-1.2	0.0	-13.4	-7.8
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,040</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	4	77	137	827	346
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.5	13.7	23.7	141.8	49.9
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>13,443</b>	<b>13,213</b>	<b>13,137</b>	<b>12,400</b>	<b>12,789</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-76	-73	143	-876	-654
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.6	-0.5	1.1	-6.6	-4.9
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	0.6	1.0	7.0	3.0

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>220</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	3	46	35	-11	-17
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.3	18.4	12.5	-4.6	-7.2

**Jeff Davis Parish Employment**



**Jeff Davis Parish Unemployment Rate**

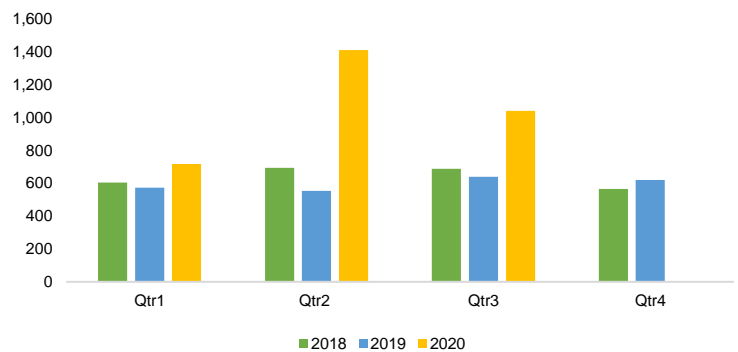


In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, Jefferson Davis parish saw a decrease of 654 (-4.9%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by a drop in household employment of 1,000 over the year (-7.8%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 346 (+49.9%). The unemployment rate increased 3.0 percentage points over the year to 8.1%.

Job openings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 averaged 220. Openings fell by 17 (-7.2%) over the year.

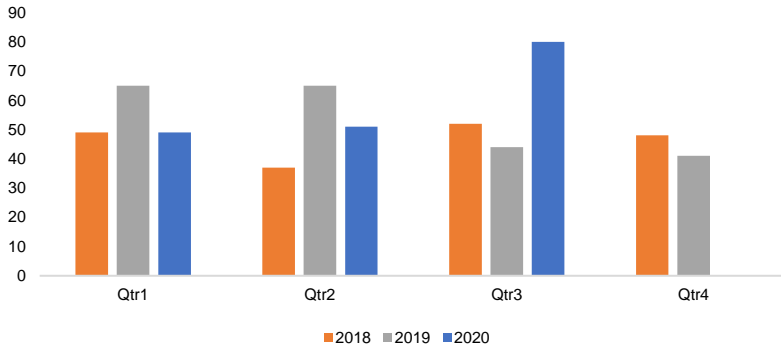
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Jeff Davis parish has had generally lower figures for employment in 2019 compared to the previous year, with higher unemployment figures.

**Jeff Davis Parish Unemployment**



## New Business Filings

**Jeff Davis Parish New Domestic Business Filings**



The graph shows the amount of new business filings each quarter compared to the same quarter in the previous two years.

The number of new business filings in Jefferson Davis parish was 80 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 which was 36 more than the same quarter the previous year and 28 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 was 180. This was 6 more businesses than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD and 42 businesses higher than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 YTD.

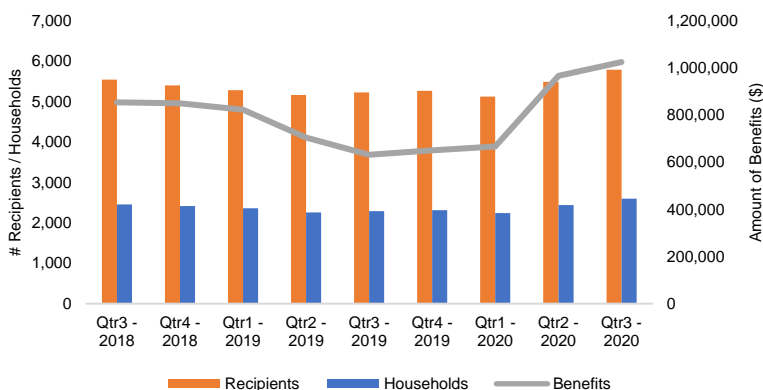
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	49	37	52	48
<b>2019</b>	65	65	44	41
<b>2020</b>	49	51	80	-

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2018</b>	49	86	138	186
<b>2019</b>	65	130	174	215
<b>2020</b>	49	100	180	-

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	5,224	5,266	5,117	5,484	5,782	558	10.7
<b>Households</b>	2,288	2,312	2,241	2,440	2,595	307	13.4
<b>Benefits</b>	631,257	650,214	665,681	966,671	1,024,278	393,021	62.3

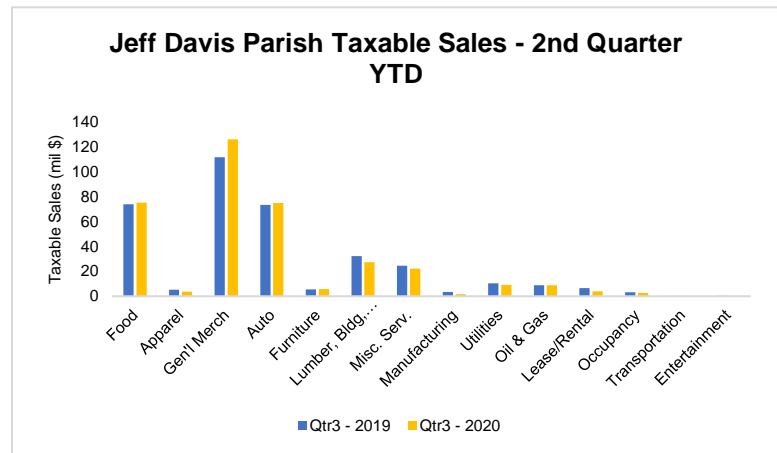
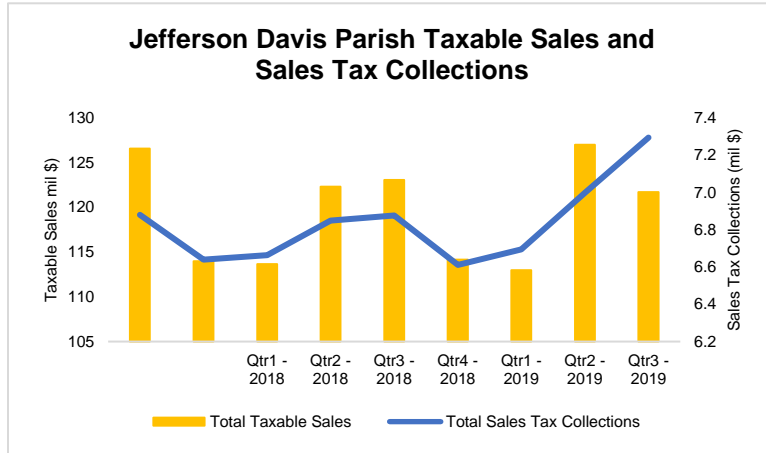
**Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data**



Jefferson Davis parish has had increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,782 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020. This was 558 more people receiving benefits compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 for a 10.7% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,595 which was 307 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 13.4% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1 million in total during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, which was a \$393 thousand rise over-the-year. This was a 62.3% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates an

overall decreasing trend in benefits over the past two years before spiking in the second quarter and maintaining that higher level. This trend is also shown in the number of households and recipients receiving benefits. This is no doubt due to the pandemic.

## Tax Collections



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	25.0	24.1	23.3	26.2	25.6	0.6	2.4
Apparel	1.1	1.4	1.5	0.9	1.2	0.1	14.0
Gen'l Merch	37.4	40.5	40.6	49.6	35.7	-1.6	-4.3
Auto	31.2	20.0	19.8	23.1	32.1	0.9	2.8
Furniture	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.8	2.0	0.4	26.5
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	9.4	8.4	7.5	9.2	10.7	1.3	14.0
Misc. Serv.	8.0	8.4	8.7	6.6	6.9	-1.1	-13.6
Manufacturing	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	-0.5	-69.1
Utilities	3.8	4.8	2.9	2.9	3.3	-0.5	-12.5
Oil & Gas	1.8	1.4	3.5	3.7	1.7	-0.1	-4.4
Lease/Rental	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.3	-0.5	-29.7
Occupancy	1.2	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.8	-0.4	-30.7
Transportation	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-88.7
Entertainment	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	64.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>123.1</b>	<b>114.2</b>	<b>113.0</b>	<b>127.0</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2019	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Total Sales Tax Collections</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>

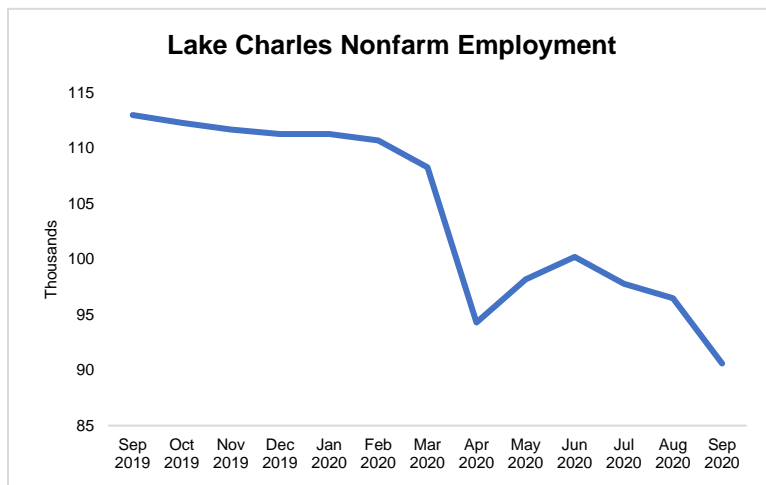
Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2018</b>	116.6	249.4	376.0	490.0
<b>2019</b>	113.6	236.0	359.1	473.2
<b>2020</b>	113.0	240.0	361.7	

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2018</b>	6.7	14.0	20.9	27.5
<b>2019</b>	6.7	13.5	20.4	27.0
<b>2020</b>	6.7	13.7	21.0	

Jefferson Davis parish saw an increase in its sales tax collections in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have increased by approximately \$400 thousand over the year for a 6.1% increase. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish fell slightly by \$1.4 million (-1.1%) over the year. The largest absolute increase occurred in Lumber, Building, and Contractors (+\$1.3 million, +14.0%). This is most likely due to the fact that more Jefferson Davis parish stores remained open after Hurricane Laura and recovery began. This may also explain the rise in Furniture collections (+\$400 thousand, +26.5%). Auto also saw an increase of \$900 thousand (+2.8%). The largest absolute drops occurred in General Merchandise (-\$1.6 million, -4.3%) and Miscellaneous Services (-\$1.1 million, -13.6%). In percentage terms, the largest increases were Entertainment (+64.9%, though the absolute collections were very low) and Furniture. The biggest percentage drops were Transportation (-88.7%) and Miscellaneous Services.

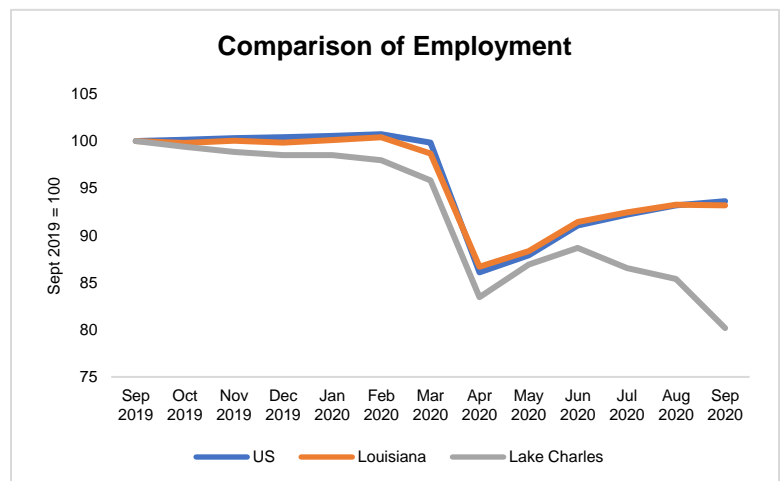
The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by \$2.7 million compared to the same quarter in 2019 last year for a 1.7% increase. This led to a \$599 thousand increase in 2020 YTD sales tax collections (+2.9%).

This section of the Drew CBEA quarterly report is usually reserved for analysis of one specific economic topic related to the SWLA economy. Our area is facing unprecedented circumstances which affect not only the economy but our daily lives. First, the area experienced a dramatic economic downturn, along with the rest of the state and the country, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Next, Hurricanes Laura and Delta hit our area, causing historic destruction and hardship. In terms of the local economy, we are still awaiting official data to get the full scope of effects. At the time of this writing, according to FEMA, [Laura's](#) Incident Period was from August 22 – August 27, and resulted in 68,873 individual applications approved while total individual and households program dollars approved was over \$186 million. [Delta's](#) Incident Period was from October 6 – October 10, resulting in 1,695 individual applications approved while total individual and households program dollars approved was over \$6 million. This does not even begin to capture the scope of damage to the local economy as it does not show number of businesses closed, amount of business lost, migration, jobs eliminated, etc.



However, the BLS has released the latest preliminary job estimates for the month of September, including our Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes). As these figures are for September, they will not show the effects of Delta. Looking at nonfarm employment over the past year shows the COVID hit bringing down employment dramatically in April before beginning a slight recovery from May to June. The numbers began another downward slide, although slight, in June due mainly to construction and then in July due to a drop in local government workers (which was reversed in September). As the rest of the state and nation continued a recovery, Laura caused a dramatic decline in employment in the MSA in the month of September. This is illustrated by the graph indexing

nonfarm employment for the nation, state, and MSA to September 2019. The graph shows that while Lake Charles was slightly declining (due to construction falling), the dramatic drop from the pandemic affected Lake Charles more than other areas. While other areas were recovering, our area saw continuing drops in July and August before Hurricane Laura hit in late August. This caused an even greater drop in employment compared to the state and nation. Relative to September 2019, employment in the nation has fallen 6.4% while Louisiana has seen a drop of 6.8%. As of now, the drop over the year stands at nearly 20% due mostly to Hurricane Laura. This is more than three times the drop in the nation and almost three times the drop in the state.



Looking at just the change in employment from August to September, the country gained 0.5%, the state lost 0.1%, and the Lake Charles MSA lost 5,900 jobs for a 6.1% drop. Looking at available industries' employment (not seasonally adjusted) on the next page shows that almost every industry lost jobs from August to September. The two main industries that gained jobs were construction (only 100 jobs) and total government, driven by changes at the local level. However, this seems to be just a quick reversal of the large drop in local government that occurred the previous month. Looking at private employment shows an even more dramatic drop at almost 8,000 jobs lost in one month. Of the available industries, the largest drop was in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities which lost 2,100 jobs in one month. Of this, Retail Trade accounted for 1,800 of the jobs lost. Over the past two months, our MSA has lost 7,400 total jobs (-7.5%).

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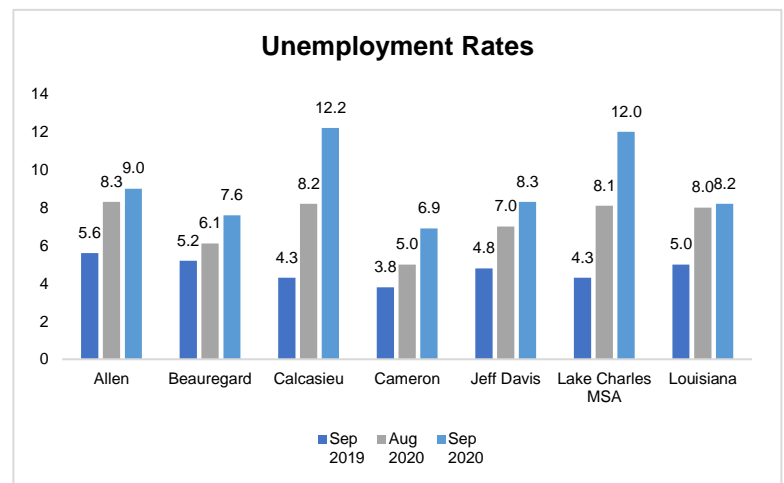


Industry	Jul - Aug Absolute Change	Jul - Aug % Change	Aug - Sep Absolute Change	Aug - Sep % Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	-1,500	-1.5%	-5,900	-6.1%
<b>Total Private</b>	500	0.6%	-7,900	-9.3%
<b>Goods Producing</b>	100	0.4%	100	0.4%
<b>Service-Providing</b>	-1,600	-2.3%	-6,000	-8.7%
<b>Private Service Providing</b>	400	0.7%	-8,000	-14.0%
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Construction</b>	100	0.5%	100	0.5%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	300	1.7%	-2,100	-11.8%
<b>Retail Trade</b>	200	1.8%	-1,800	-15.8%
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	-300	-3.3%	-300	-3.4%
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	400	3.4%	-800	-6.7%
<b>Government</b>	-2,000	-14.5%	2,000	16.9%
<b>Federal Government</b>	100	16.7%	-100	-14.3%
<b>State Government</b>	0	0.0%	100	3.8%
<b>Local Government</b>	-2,100	-19.8%	2,000	23.5%

Helping confirm an indication that the area's industrial base is strong, the Manufacturing industry has seen no monthly changes in employment. Also, hopefully, the construction industry will continue upward movement as rebuilding continues in our area.

Looking at each parish shows that every parish in our area has seen a weakening labor market. The graph below shows not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for each [parish](#) in our region, the [Lake Charles MSA](#), and the state. For comparison purposes, the values for September 2019,

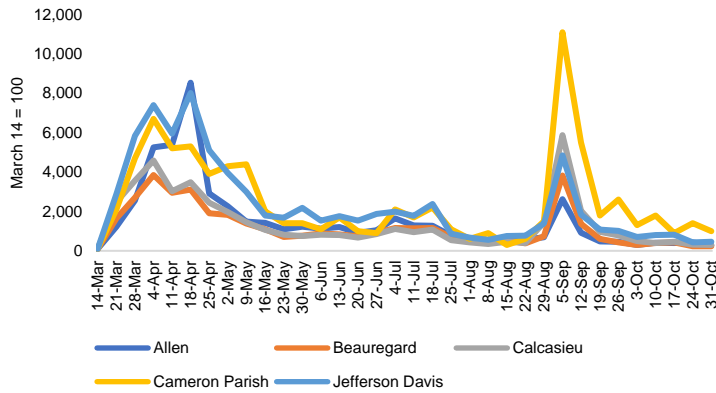
August 2020, and September 2020 are shown. It is important to note that these measures are based on the status of workers for the week that contained the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. Therefore, the August figures do not contain the impacts of Hurricane Laura. Compared to September of 2019, every area shown has had a dramatic increase in the unemployment rate. Every parish has a dramatically higher September rate compared to the same month the previous year. Calcasieu, which took the brunt of Laura's effects after Cameron, currently has the highest unemployment rate at 12.2%. Compared to September 2019, the unemployment rate increased 7.9 percentage points. Compared to August, Calcasieu saw an increase of 4 percentage points from 8.2%. While Calcasieu shows the highest increase, every parish has seen a rise in the rate, indicating weakening labor market conditions.



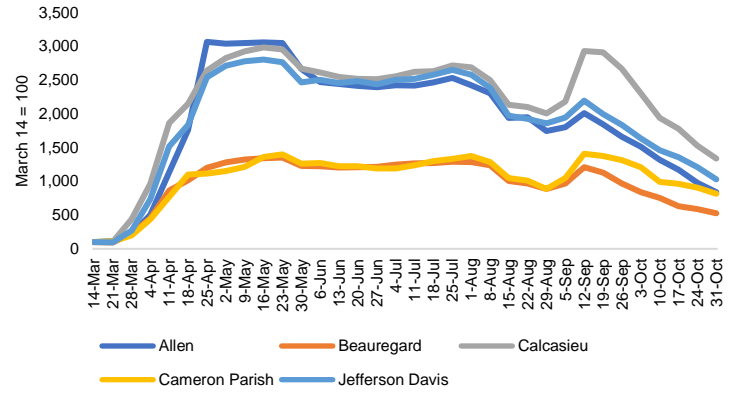
Since most data is released with a lag, we are always waiting for new releases to show the past situation of our economy. One of the quickest releases we can look to are unemployment insurance claims, which are released on a weekly basis. Since the start of the pandemic, the [Louisiana Workforce Commission](#) has been releasing claims data at the [parish level](#). This claims data provides an indicator for the way the labor market is trending. There are two types of claims data that are reported. Initial claims represent applications for unemployment insurance from first-time applicants. Continuing claims represent unemployment claims from people that are renewing previously approved claims and continue to receive unemployment insurance funds. Therefore, a spike in initial claims will generally be followed very closely with an increase in continuing claims. According to the [Louisiana Fiscal Office](#), "As a general rule of thumb, trend increases in initial claims reflect more firing, while decreases reflect less firing. At the same time, trend increases in continuing claims reflect less hiring while decreases reflect more hiring." Continued claims are often used as a proxy for the number of unemployed people as these represent payments to persons that are unemployed for a prolonged period of time.

The graphs on the next page are initial and continued claims for each parish indexed to March 14<sup>th</sup>. This is right before the pandemic induced shutdowns began to take effect. The reason for indexing is that a parish with a larger population like Calcasieu will show a larger number of claims while the indexes show the changes relative to a single point in time. What is striking is comparing the magnitudes of the spikes from COVID, with those from Hurricane Laura.

**Initial Claims**

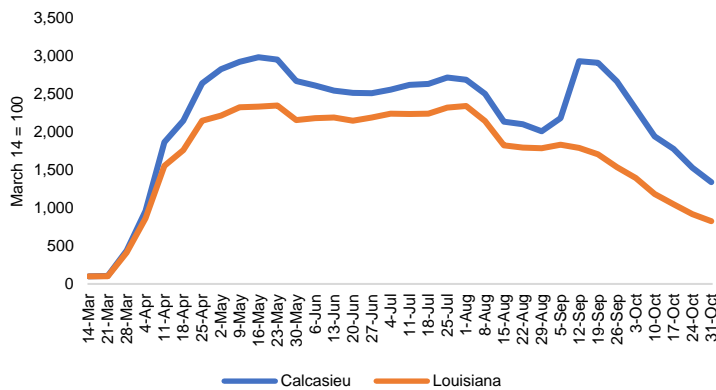


**Continued Claims**



Hurricane Laura caused a spike in initial claims in Calcasieu that was higher than at any point during the early part of the pandemic shutdowns. Fortunately, this Laura spike in initial claims was more temporary in nature compared to prolonged increases each week from the pandemic. As the initial claims were increasing each week during the pandemic, the continued claims increases followed suit in later weeks. Most notable was the spike in continued claims that took place in each parish after the hurricane. While continued claims was starting a downward trend, Hurricane Laura caused a dramatic interruption trending the data upward before continuing the drop.

**Louisiana vs. Calcasieu Continued Claims**



For comparison, the graph to the left indexes state level unemployment insurance continued claims and Calcasieu parish continued claims. The parish was following a similar trend as the state prior to Hurricane Laura. After Laura hit, the large spike is shown to affect our area much more than the state in general. As Louisiana continued its downward trend from late August, the parish had a sharp increase and remained higher for weeks due to the higher number of unemployed workers.

One final interesting note is to examine possible reasons the claims are coming down, even after the hurricane. The most obvious is that as the economy opens up and

the economic recovery begins, more workers are hired and come off the unemployment insurance rolls. Another reason may have to do with the expiration of benefits. Regular state benefits expire at 26 weeks and claims filed early in the pandemic would be running out starting in mid-September. The graph shows an acceleration in the drop in continued claims in the state around this time and continuing on. For our area, earlier claims may have expired and the effects were masked by new Laura related claims. After the quick spike in initial became continued, the earlier claims continued expiration and the number of claims resumed its downward trajectory. This may not completely reflect the labor market in Louisiana and our area as it is all state claims data. Many may have moved off of the state program but stayed on the extended federal program as federal benefits were extended by 13 weeks on top of the 26. Many unemployed people may have seen their state benefits expire although they have not obtained new jobs and are still receiving benefits from the federal government.

Overall, the latest available data points to our area being in a more negative economic position compared to the state and the nation as a whole. Hopefully, the rebuilding that follows will reverse this trend, even if it is somewhat slowed by the ongoing pandemic.

The following sources were utilized for each of the graphs and tables shown in the report. Data transformations are described in the footnotes and it should be noted some of the totals in the report may be off due to rounding. The monthly data used for the report, and more not shown, is available at our website, [mcneeseedrewecon.org/](http://mcneeseedrewecon.org/).

1. Lake Charles MSA Employment Indicators – BLS CES/SAE and LAUS<sup>a</sup>

Total nonfarm employment, average weekly hours, and average weekly earnings statistics for the area come from the BLS State and Metro Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings (SAE) measures which are derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES). The household employment measures for the MSA (and parishes) come from the BLS Local Area Employment Statistics (LAUS). The CES/SAE measures are derived from a survey of businesses while LAUS figures come from a survey of households that become part of a BLS formula/model to derive the household employment statistics. For more information, please contact the Drew CBEA.

2. Quarterly Housing Price Indexes - Federal Housing Finance Agency (rebased to have the first quarter of 2011 equal 100)

3. Lake Charles MSA Building Permits – Census Building Permits Survey (BPS)<sup>b</sup>

Note: While the building permit YTD figures in this report are calculated by summing up the monthly values, they may not match the YTD values given from pulling data directly from the Census BPS. The YTD monthly values at the BPS are changed due to late and missed filings. However, the monthly values of permits and valuations, which this report uses, are not changed at the Census BPS. These differences appear to be fairly minor, however. For more information, please contact the Drew CBEA.

4. Lake Charles Regional Airport Statistics – Bureau of Transportation Statistics, TranStats<sup>b</sup>

5. Lake Charles Port Statistics – Census USA Trade Online<sup>b</sup>

6. Lake Charles Gaming Statistics – Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Louisiana Gaming Control Board<sup>b</sup>

7. Parish Employment Indicators – BLS LAUS<sup>a</sup>

The labor force is the sum of household employment and household unemployment.

8. Parish Job Openings – Louisiana Workforce Commission<sup>a</sup>

9. New Business Filings – Louisiana Secretary of State<sup>b</sup>

10. Parish SNAP Benefits – Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services<sup>a</sup>

11. Allen Parish Tax Collections – Allen Parish School Board<sup>b</sup>

12. Beauregard Parish Tax Collections – Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office<sup>b</sup>

13. Calcasieu Parish Tax Collections – Calcasieu Parish School Board<sup>b</sup>

14. Cameron Parish Severance Tax Collections – Louisiana Department of Revenue<sup>b</sup>

15. Jefferson Davis Parish Tax Collections – Jefferson Davis Parish School Board<sup>b</sup>

16. Unemployment Insurance Claims – Louisiana Workforce Commission

a. Quarterly values are obtained from averaging the monthly values

b. Quarterly values are obtained from summing the monthly values