

H.C. Drew Center for Business and Economic Analysis Quarterly Report

February 2021

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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4th Quarter 2020 Issue

This issue of the Drew CBEA report focuses on data illustrating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuilding from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. As the area continues rebuilding, pretty much all parishes are seeing increases in their tax revenues and a continuing trend of new business filings, which the whole country is [experiencing](#). The figures show most parishes are still below pre-pandemic levels in terms of employment but taxable sales and sales tax collections have seen an increase. Residents are also seeing increased assistance in the form of higher SNAP benefits in each parish.

Since there has been so much talk about the minimum wage in the news, this report takes a look some of the data related to this topic. All aspects of minimum wage changes can't possibly be covered in this report, but certain aspects of the data on workers earning hourly wages in the state and area are illustrated and examined. These characteristics include looking at industries, age groups, and educational attainment. The report also looks at how many workers would be affected by an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

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)	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total Nonfarm	112.4	109.2	97.8	94.8	95.2
Year-Over-Year Change	-5.5	-5.7	-18.4	-18.2	-17.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.7	-5.0	-15.9	-16.1	-15.3
Mining and Logging	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	0.0	-11.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	22.1	20.5	19.1	18.3	18.3
Year-Over-Year Change	-4.2	-3.8	-5.6	-4.5	-3.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	-15.8	-15.8	-22.5	-19.6	-17.2
Manufacturing	10.6	10.4	8.9	8.9	8.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	-0.3	-1.8	-1.9	-1.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.9	-3.1	-17.0	-17.3	-15.8
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	18.6	17.9	16.8	16.7	15.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	-0.5	-1.3	-1.6	-3.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	-2.7	-7.2	-8.6	-16.5
Professional and Business Services	10.0	9.9	9.1	8.7	8.4
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.5	-0.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.8	-4.2	-12.7	-13.0	-15.4
Leisure and Hospitality	14.9	14.6	10.1	10.7	11.2
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	-0.1	-5.2	-4.2	-3.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.9	-0.9	-33.9	-28.1	-24.6
Government	15.2	15.1	14.3	13.1	13.8
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.3	-0.2	-1.2	-1.6	-1.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.9	-1.3	-7.9	-11.1	-9.0
Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)	819.38	763.25	728.66	755.4	771.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-15.0	-50.0	-72.2	-65.2	-47.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.8	-6.1	-9.0	-7.9	-5.8
Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)	24.10	22.99	21.89	22.52	22.06
Year-Over-Year Change	1.7	0.6	-1.0	-1.2	-2.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.4	2.8	-4.5	-5.1	-8.5

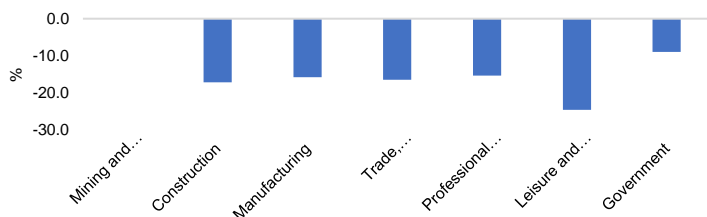
In the 4th quarter of 2019, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) has continued to experience large decreases in employment compared to the same quarter the previous year. However, compared to the 3rd quarter of 2020, there has been growth as the area continues to rebuild from hurricanes.

Total nonfarm employment (presented in thousands of jobs in the table) fell by 17,200 jobs over the year for a 15.3% decrease. Looking at the industries shows no industry gained jobs over the year. Leisure and Hospitality experienced the largest percentage drop at 24.6% drop losing 3,700 jobs. Construction fell 17,200 jobs (-17.2%) while Manufacturing lost 1,700 jobs (-15.8%). Professional and Business services lost 1,500 jobs for a 15.4% drop. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

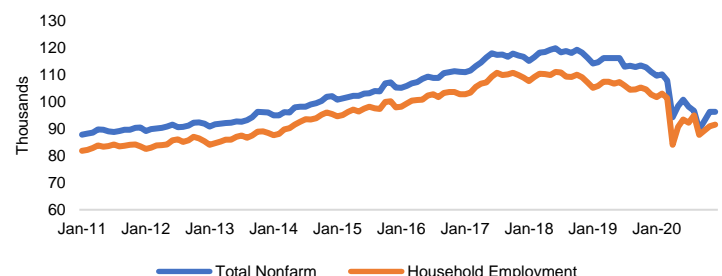
lost 3,100 jobs (-16.5%) and government lost 1,400 jobs (-9.0%).

This loss in employment also saw large drops in earnings measures. Average weekly earnings of all employees fell 5.8% while average hourly earnings fell 8.5%. Although not shown, average weekly hours of all employees in the fourth quarter actually rose 2.9% over the year.

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



Lake Charles MSA Employment Measures

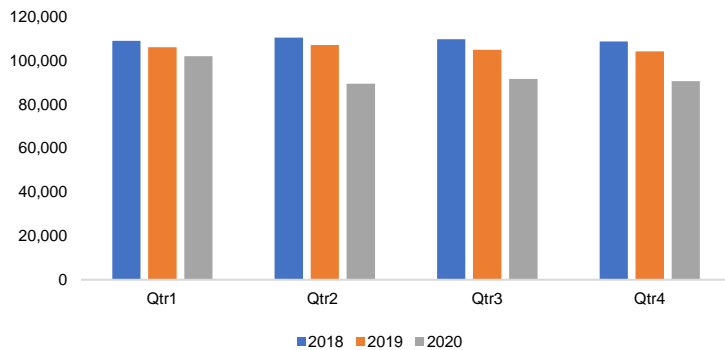


Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

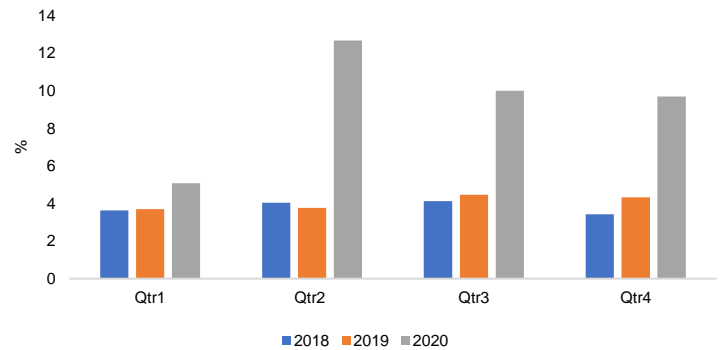
	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Household Employment	104,174	102,008	89,379	91,644	90,617
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,586	-4,111	-17,730	-13,319	-13,557
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.2	-3.9	-16.6	-12.7	-13.0
Household Unemployment	4,719	5,458	12,987	10,161	9,791
Year-Over-Year Change	836	1,389	8,769	5,225	5,071
Year-Over-Year % Change	21.5	34.1	207.9	105.8	107.5
Labor Force	108,894	107,465	102,366	101,805	100,408
Year-Over-Year Change	-3,750	-2,722	-8,961	-8,094	-8,486
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.3	-2.5	-8.0	-7.4	-7.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	5.1	12.7	10.0	9.7
Year-Over-Year Change	0.9	1.4	8.9	5.5	5.4

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total Job Openings	5,599	5,026	3,875	4,954	4,723
Year-Over-Year Change	202	-561	-1,695	-1,675	-876
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.7	-10.0	-30.4	-25.3	-15.6

Lake Charles MSA Employment

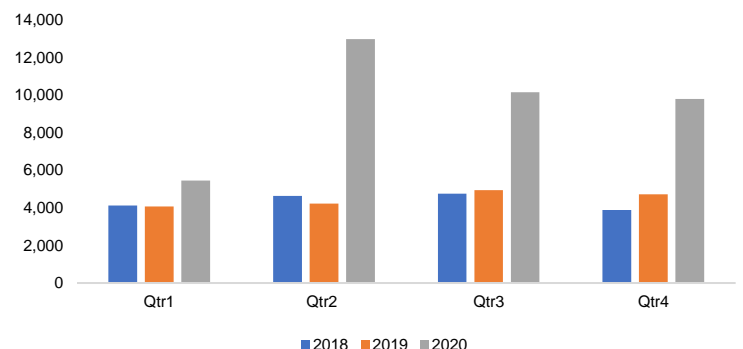


Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 9.7% which represents a 5.4 percentage point increase from a year ago. Lake Charles currently has the 2nd highest 4th quarter unemployment rate of all MSA's in the state, behind New Orleans. The household employment measure fell by 13,557 over the year in the 4th quarter for a 13% decrease. The number of unemployed increased by 5,071. This represented a dramatic 107.5% increase. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was a drop of 8,486 (-7.8%). Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2020 averaged 4,723. Openings fell by 876 (-15.6%) over the year.

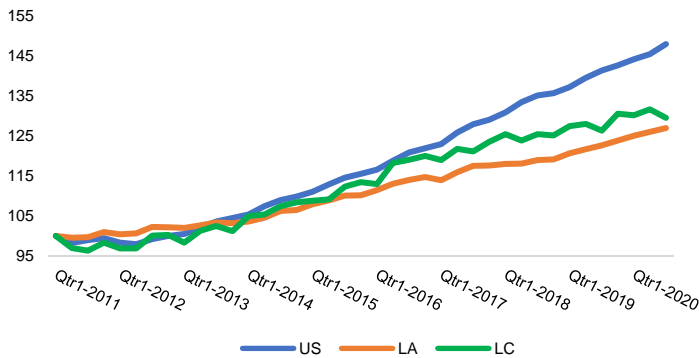
Lake Charles MSA Unemployment



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 and fourth quarters due to the pandemic and Hurricanes Laura and Delta. At the same time, unemployment measures shot up as people lost jobs and businesses.

Housing Statistics

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

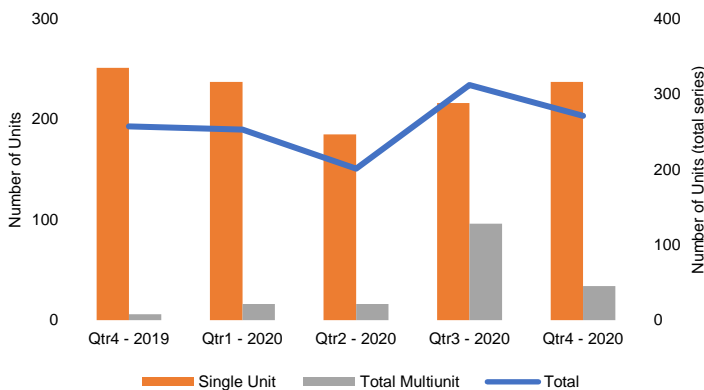


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr3- 2019	Qtr3 - 2020	Year-over-Year % Change
Lake Charles HPI	126.3	129.6	2.6
Louisiana HPI	122.6	127.0	3.5
US HPI	141.3	148.0	4.7

The housing statistics show that prices in the area were rising slower than the state and the nation from. Looking at price changes over-the-year, from the third quarter of 2019 to the same quarter in 2020, housing prices have only risen 2.6% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to 3.5% in LA and 4.7% in the US.

Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

Lake Charles MSA Building Permits



In the fourth quarter of 2020, single unit permits fell by 14 over-the-year while multi-unit permits rose by 28 bringing the total increase to 28. This represented a 5.4% increase. The YTD figures show drops of 45 in single unit and 138 for multi-unit bringing the total decrease to 183. The percentage change for total permits YTD was -15%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits fell \$2.4 million while multi-unit permit valuations rose \$1.7 million for a total decrease of \$721 million. This represented a 1.7% drop year-over-year in the 4th 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 \$15.1 million while the drop in multi-unit permits was \$18 million leading to a total drop in valuation of \$33.1 million.

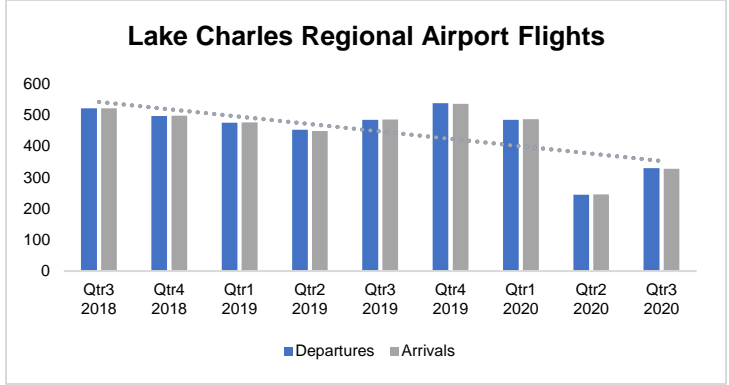
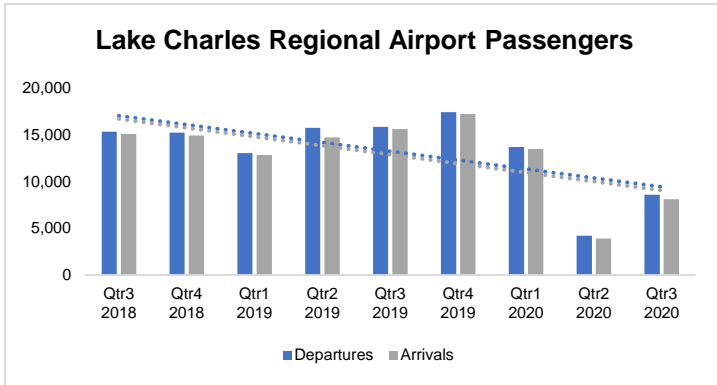
The percentage change in valuation for all permits YTD was a decrease of 16.8%.

		Qtr-4 2019	Qtr-4 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-4 2019 YTD	Qtr-4 2020 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number									
	Total	257	271	14	5.4	1,220	1,037	-183	-15.0
	Single	251	237	-14	-5.6	920	875	-45	-4.9
	Multi-unit	6	34	28	466.7	300	162	-138	-46.0
Valuation (thousands \$)									
	Total	43,083	42,362	-721	-1.7	197,210	164,083	-33,127	-16.8
	Single	42,697	40,298	-2,399	-5.6	168,478	153,391	-15,087	-9.0
	Multi-unit	386	2,064	1,678	434.7	28,732	10,694	-18,038	-62.8

The graph of building permits shows that there was a slight dip in permits during the 2nd quarter of 2020 (during the pandemic). Since that time, total permits have been at a slightly higher level. Part of this is no doubt due to hurricane rebuilding in the 4th quarter but another part was the spike seen in July affecting the second quarter number of multi-unit permits.

Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport

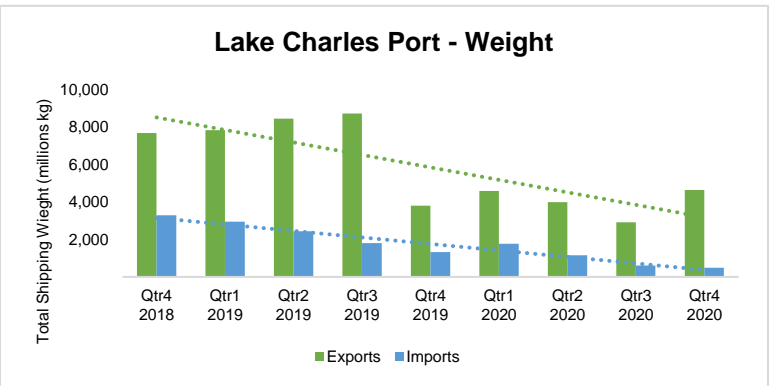
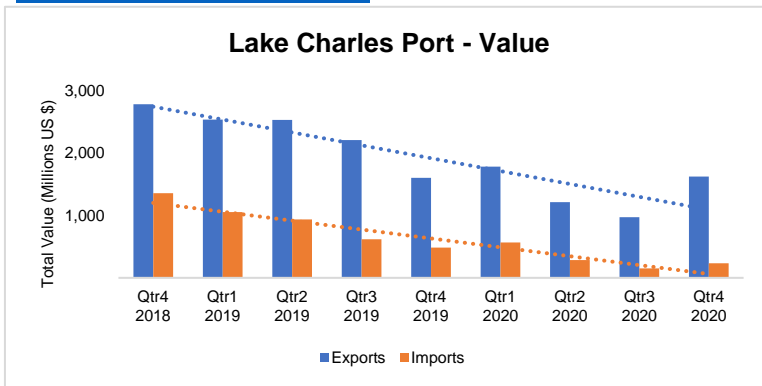


	Qtr-3 2019	Qtr-3 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	15,836	8,587	-7,249	-45.8
Arrivals	15,587	8,101	-7,486	-48.0
Flights				
Departures	485	330	-155	-32.0
Arrivals	486	328	-158	-32.5

The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a slight uptick in activity during the 3rd quarter compared to the 2nd quarter but still fell dramatically over the year.

Passengers departing in the 3rd quarter of 2020 fell 7,249 (-45.8%) since the 3rd quarter of 2019 and those arriving have decreased 7,486 (-48.0%). In terms of flights, there has been a decrease of 155 flights (-32%) departing Lake Charles over that same period while the number of flights arriving has fallen by 158 (-32.5%). The graphs showing these measures point to a downward trend driven by mainly by the 2nd quarter drop and only slightly higher 3rd quarter activity. This activity should pick up as American Airlines resumes flights.

Lake Charles Port Statistics

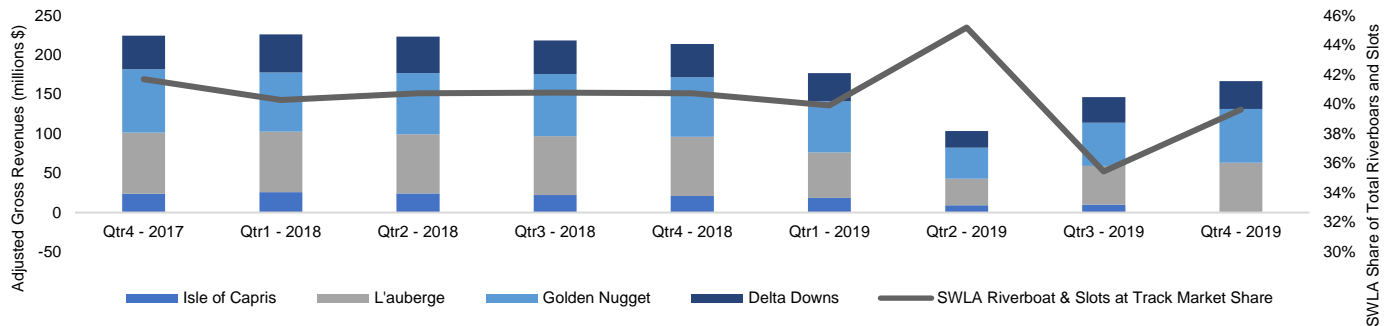


The Lake Charles port has seen an uptick in exports in the 4th quarter of 2020 compared to the previous year. The figures in the table below show the value of exports rose \$21.5 million (+1.3%) over the year while the total value of imports fell \$254 million (-52.3%). The total weight of all exports rose 833 million kg (+21.8%) while the total weight of all imports fell 844 million kg (-63.2%).

	Qtr-3 2019	Qtr-3 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions \$)				
Exports	1,605	1,626	21	1.3
Imports	486	231	-254	-52.3
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	3,814	4,647	833	21.8
Imports	1,335	491	-844	-63.2

Gaming Statistics

SWLA Gaming Revenues and Market Share



	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total State AGR (millions)	524.9	444.0	229.2	413.7	420.8
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-13.5	-117.4	-319.0	-121.8	-104.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.5	-20.9	-58.2	-22.7	-19.8
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	213.9	177.2	103.6	146.7	166.8
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-10.6	-49.0	-119.8	-71.8	-47.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.7	-21.7	-53.6	-32.9	-22.0
Total AGR (millions)					
Isle of Capri	20.9	18.4	9.3	10.2	0.0
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-3.1	-7.4	-15.0	-12.1	-20.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.9	-28.6	-61.7	-54.3	-100.1
L'Auberge	75.4	57.7	33.6	49.0	63.2
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-2.2	-19.2	-41.4	-25.8	-12.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.8	-24.9	-55.2	-34.5	-16.2
Golden Nugget	75.7	65.0	39.6	54.9	68.3
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-4.6	-10.3	-38.3	-23.9	-7.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.7	-13.6	-49.2	-30.3	-9.8
Delta Downs	41.9	36.1	21.1	32.5	35.3
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-0.8	-12.2	-25.1	-10.0	-6.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.9	-25.2	-54.3	-23.5	-15.8
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	9.8%	10.4%	9.0%	7.0%	0.0%
L'Auberge	35.2%	32.6%	32.4%	33.4%	37.9%
Golden Nugget	35.4%	36.6%	38.2%	37.4%	41.0%
Delta Downs	19.6%	20.4%	20.4%	22.2%	21.2%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	4.0%	4.2%	4.1%	2.5%	0.0%
L'Auberge	14.4%	13.0%	14.7%	11.8%	15.0%
Golden Nugget	14.4%	14.6%	17.3%	13.3%	16.2%
Delta Downs	8.0%	8.1%	9.2%	7.9%	8.4%
SWLA Total AGR	40.7%	39.9%	45.2%	35.4%	39.6%

indicating recovery.

The region saw a very slight drop in the share of total state revenues. The three SWLA establishments made up 39.6% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, down only slightly from 40.7% in the 4th quarter of 2019 (which included Isle of Capri). The SWLA gaming industry still has a similar share despite having one casino closed.

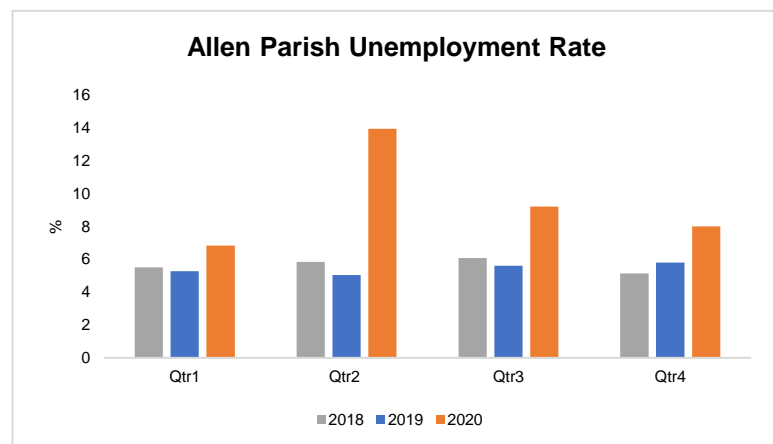
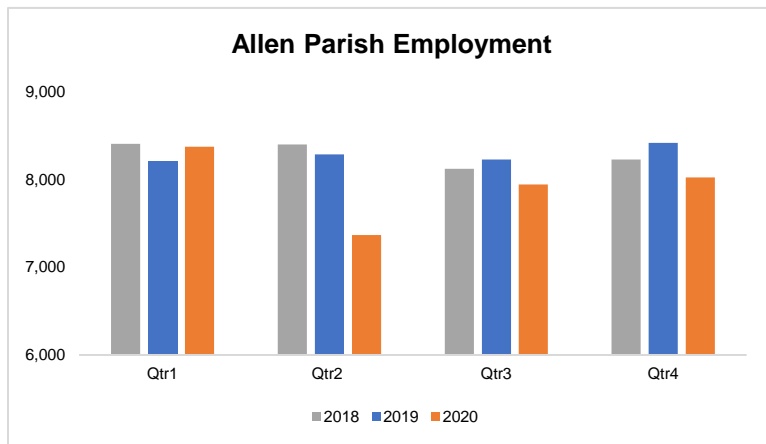
Gaming establishments have been operating at reduced capacity. Restrictions and the temporary closing of Isle of Capri are still preventing revenues and admissions from reaching pre-pandemic levels, despite recent gains. Total revenues in SWLA for the 4th quarter of 2020 fell \$47.1 million for a 22% decrease compared to the same quarter the previous year.

Isle of Capri collected no revenue in the 4th quarter of 2020 due to closure. L'Auberge had an absolute drop of \$12.2 million for a 16.2% decrease. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage drop in AGR of 9.8% with an absolute decrease of \$7.4 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$6.6 million drop in AGR over the year for a 15.8% decrease. While these are still losses on an annual basis, compared to the 3rd quarter, the open casinos experienced much smaller drops

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Household Employment	8,384	8,374	7,368	7,946	8,026
Year-Over-Year Change	105	112	-1,015	-271	-358
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.3	1.4	-12.1	-3.3	-4.3
Household Unemployment	535	615	1,190	802	697
Year-Over-Year Change	94	152	723	273	162
Year-Over-Year % Change	21.3	32.7	154.7	51.6	30.4
Labor Force	8,919	8,989	8,558	8,748	8,723
Year-Over-Year Change	199	264	-292	2	-196
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.3	3.0	-3.3	0.0	-2.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	6.8	13.9	9.2	8.0
Year-Over-Year Change	1.0	1.5	8.7	3.1	2.0

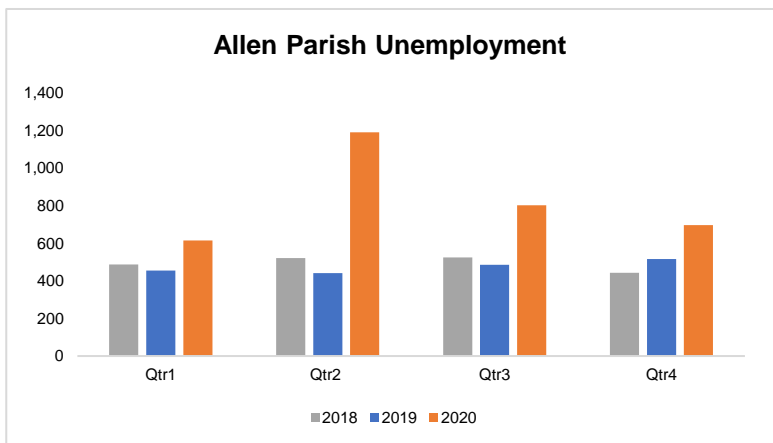
	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total Job Openings	151	161	139	193	161
Year-Over-Year Change	7	10	-18	26	11
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.6	6.8	-11.3	15.6	7.1



In the 4th quarter of 2020, Allen parish saw a drop in the labor force of 196 (-2.2%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 162 over the year (+30.4%) while the number of employed persons fell 358 (-4.3%) over the year. The unemployment rate rose 2 percentage points over the year to 8%.

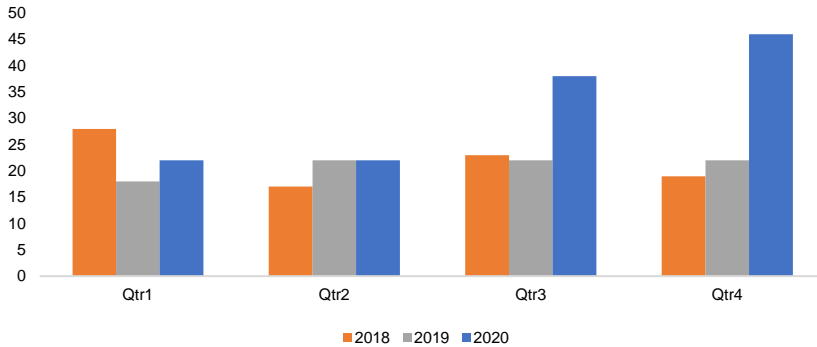
Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2020 averaged 161. Openings rose by 11 (+7.1%) over the year.

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. In the 4th 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 4th quarter of 2020 which was the 24 more than the same quarter in 2019 and 27 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2020 was 128. This was 44 businesses higher than the 4th quarter of 2019 YTD and 41 business lower than the 4th quarter of 2018 YTD.

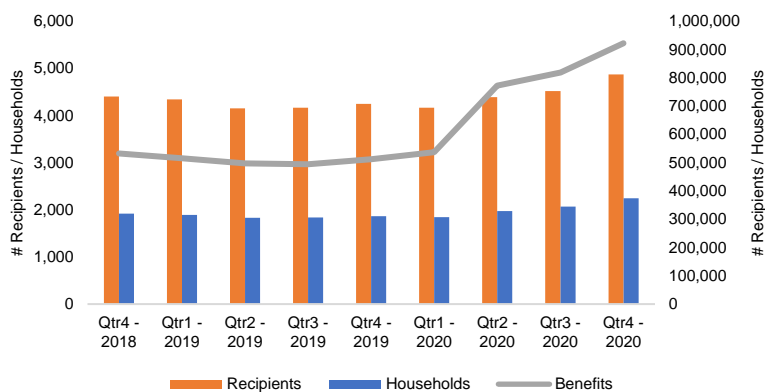
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	28	17	23	19
2019	18	22	22	22
2020	22	22	38	46

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	28	45	68	87
2019	18	40	62	84
2020	22	44	82	128

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,242	4,162	4,386	4,513	4,867	625	14.7
Households	1,866	1,845	1,973	2,068	2,241	375	20.1
Benefits	512,278	536,533	771,752	817,835	921,432	409,153	79.9

Allen Parish SNAP Data



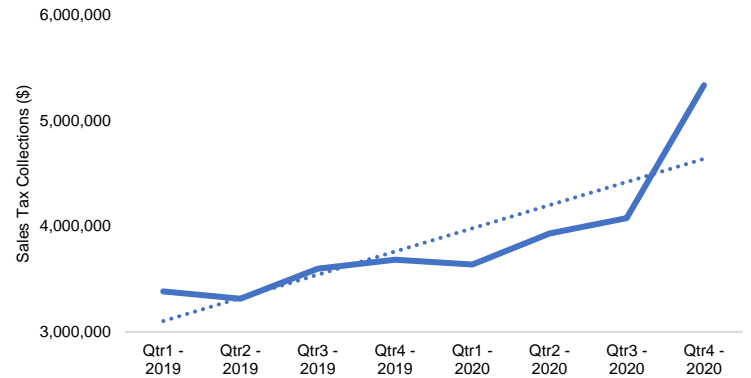
Allen parish had a continuing increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,867 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2020. 625 more people received benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2019 for an 14.7% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP was 2,241 which was 375 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 20.1% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$921.4 thousand in total during the 4th quarter of 2020, which was a \$409.2 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 79.9% 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.

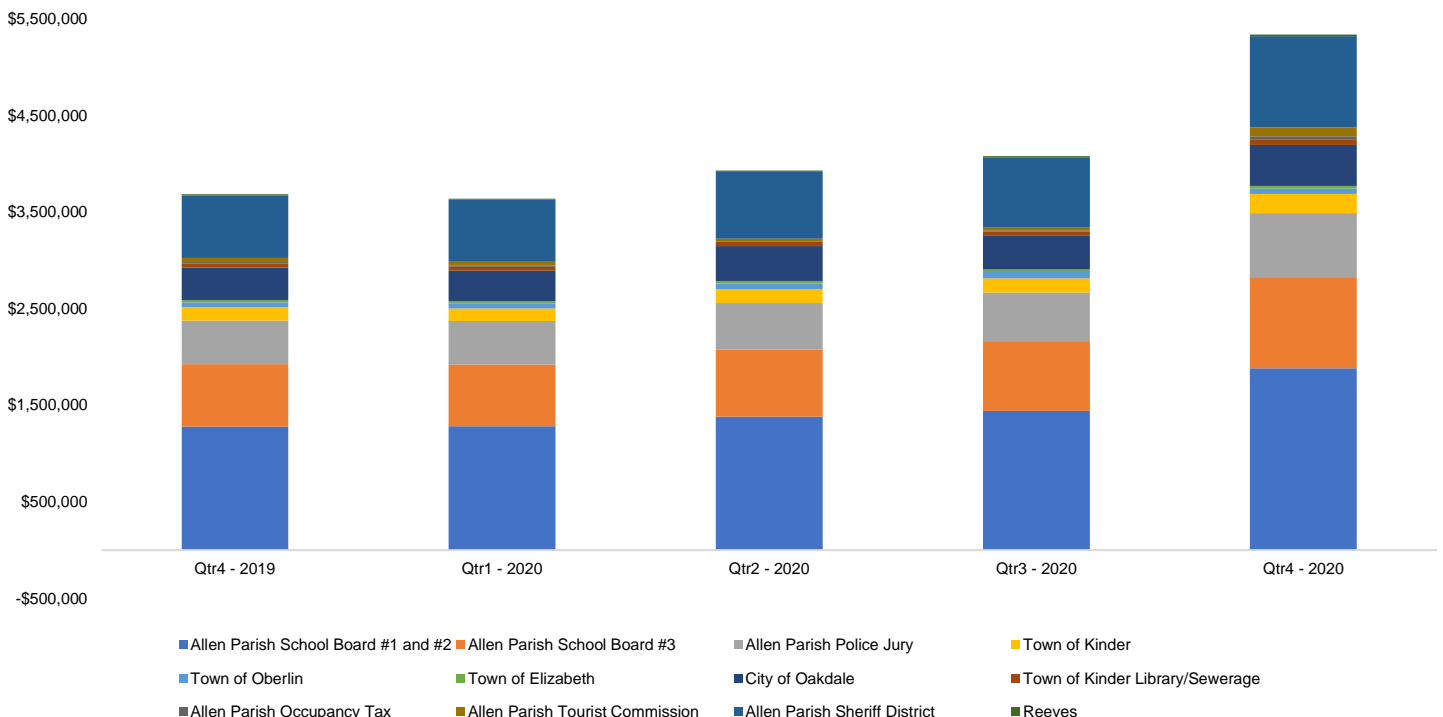
Compared to the 4th quarter of 2019, Allen parish has seen an overall increase in tax collections. Total tax collections increased \$1.7 million for a 44.8% increase. This is mainly due to increased shopping during COVID. The large jump illustrated around the 3rd quarter of 2020 is also partly due to a 1 percentage point increase in the local sales tax rate.

Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	1,280,303	1,281,813	1,382,632	1,441,878	1,882,518	602,215	47.0
Allen Parish School Board #3	645,265	641,545	691,986	721,166	944,436	299,171	46.4
Allen Parish Police Jury	451,688	449,084	484,392	504,818	661,107	209,420	46.4
Town of Kinder	137,175	129,010	142,217	145,001	197,934	60,759	44.3
Town of Oberlin	50,163	50,073	57,529	65,862	56,954	6,791	13.5
Town of Elizabeth	24,619	26,846	28,830	28,365	27,072	2,453	10.0
City of Oakdale	335,061	315,427	359,408	348,021	425,006	89,945	26.8
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	41,153	38,703	42,665	43,500	59,380	18,228	44.3
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	15,261	13,219	8,662	10,780	30,334	15,073	98.8
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	45,784	39,658	25,986	32,339	91,003	45,219	98.8
Allen Parish Sheriff District	645,266	641,545	691,986	721,166	944,436	299,171	46.4
Reeves	12,330	11,625	14,356	15,001	16,029	3,700	30.0
Total	3,684,067	3,638,550	3,930,651	4,077,897	5,336,210	1,652,143	44.8

Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Household Employment	13,908	13,785	12,407	13,364	13,478
Year-Over-Year Change	162	131	-1,531	-533	-429
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.2	1.0	-11.0	-3.8	-3.1
Household Unemployment	784	915	1,284	1,020	844
Year-Over-Year Change	76	208	577	189	60
Year-Over-Year % Change	10.7	29.4	81.6	22.7	7.7
Labor Force	14,691	14,703	13,691	14,384	14,322
Year-Over-Year Change	238	342	-954	-344	-369
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.6	2.4	-6.5	-2.3	-2.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	6.2	9.4	7.1	5.9
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	1.3	4.6	1.4	0.6

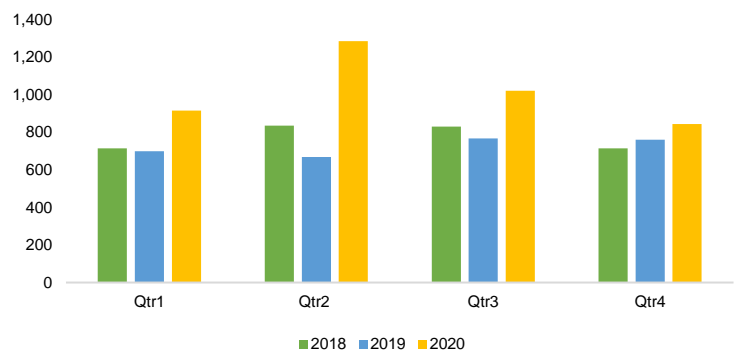
	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total Job Openings	270	216	183	284	355
Year-Over-Year Change	108	22	-35	25	85
Year-Over-Year % Change	67.1	11.6	-16.2	9.8	31.6

In the 4th quarter of 2020, Beauregard parish saw a drop in household employment of 429 over the year (-3.1%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 60 (+7.7%) over the year. This led to a drop of 369 (-2.5%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage points over the year to 5.9%.

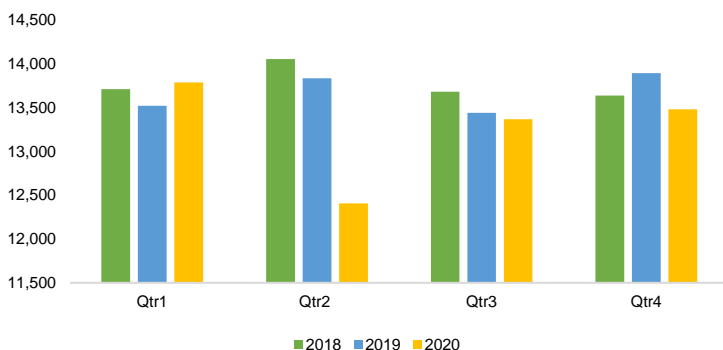
Job openings in the 4th quarter averaged 355. Openings rose by 85 (+31.6%) over the year.

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 4th quarter of 2020, Beauregard has generally had higher unemployment and lower employment figures, representing a falling labor force.

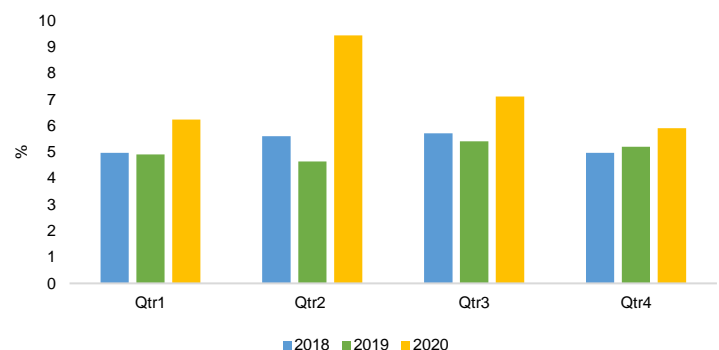
Beauregard Parish Unemployment



Beauregard Parish Employment

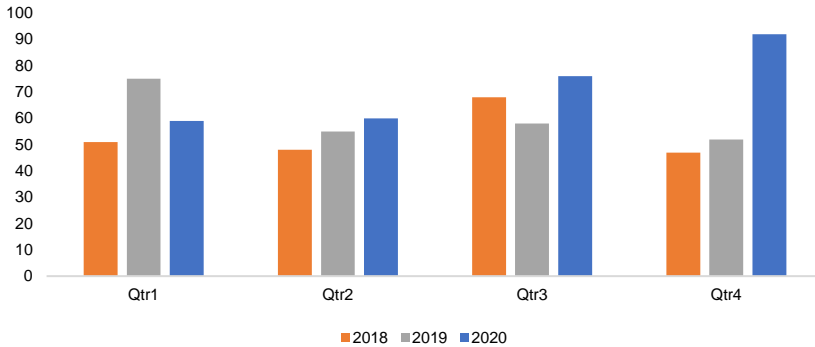


Beauregard Parish Unemployment Rate



New Business Filings

Beauregard 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 Beauregard parish was 92 in the 4th quarter of 2020 which was 40 more than the same quarter the previous year and 41 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2020 was 287. This was 47 more businesses than the 4th quarter of 2019 YTD and 73 businesses higher than the 4th quarter of 2018 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	51	48	68	47
2019	75	55	58	52
2020	59	60	76	92

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	51	99	167	214
2019	75	130	188	240
2020	59	119	195	287

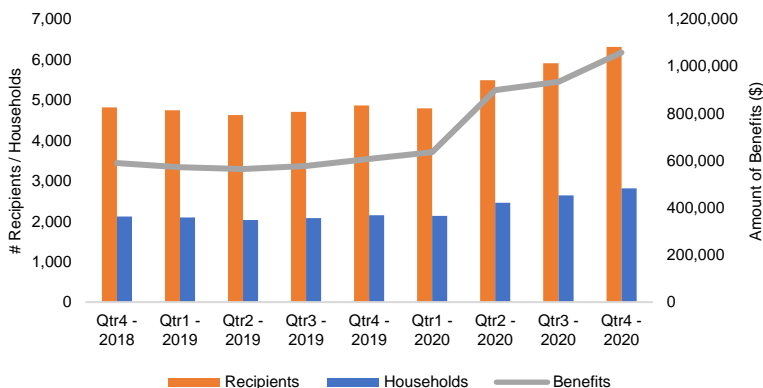
SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,859	4,793	5,492	5,905	6,309	1,450	29.8
Households	2,151	2,129	2,454	2,636	2,812	660	30.7
Benefits	606,476	636,193	898,771	934,335	1,058,026	451,550	74.5

Beauregard parish has had a sharp increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 6,309 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2020. 1,450 more people received benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2019 for a 29.8% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,812 which was 660 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 30.7%

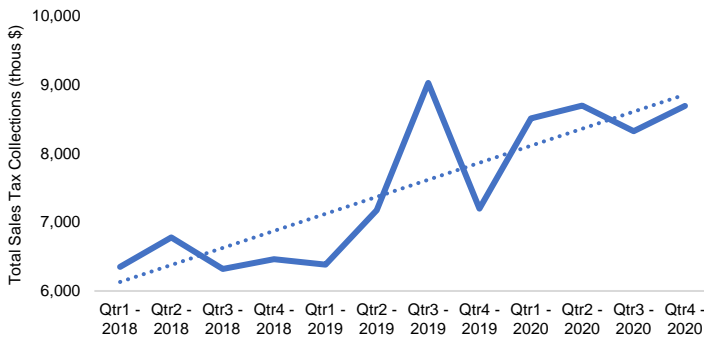
increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.1 million in total during the 4th quarter of 2020, which was a \$451.6 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 74.5% rise in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates over the past two years a slight decreasing trend 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.

Beauregard Parish SNAP Data



Tax Collections

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections

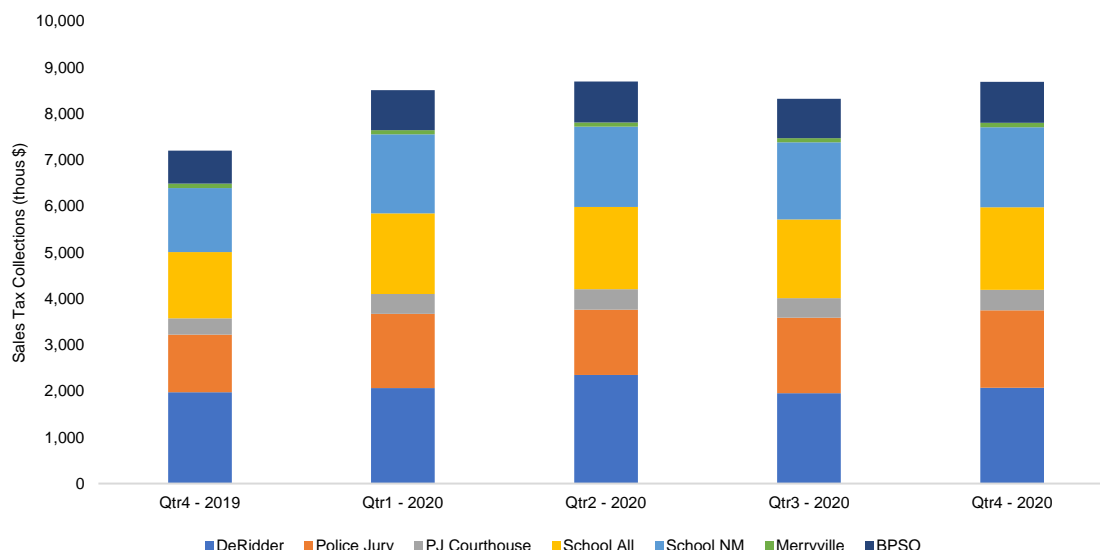


Beauregard parish has seen an increase in its sales tax collections in the 4th quarter of 2020, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections rose by \$1.5 million over the year for a 20.7% increase. Part of this no doubt comes from increased purchases in the parish after the storms. 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 increase of \$99.1 thousand (+5%) over the year. All other entities all experienced increases in sales tax collections. Police Jury collections grew the largest at

\$428.2 thousand (+34.4%). School board revenues, All and NM, rose by \$348.6 thousand (+24.3%) and \$350.1 thousand (25.3%), respectively. PJ Courthouse collections rose \$86.5 thousand (+24.3%) and BPSO increased \$173.8 thousand (+24.4%) over the year. Finally, Merryville collections rose \$6.2 thousand (+6.7%)

Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	1,976.0	2,067.4	2,350.9	1,955.1	2,075.1	99.1	5.0
Police Jury	1,245.3	1,600.3	1,413.2	1,630.0	1,673.5	428.2	34.4
PJ Courthouse	355.5	434.6	442.1	424.5	442.0	86.5	24.3
School All	1,432.8	1,740.8	1,773.0	1,702.9	1,781.4	348.6	24.3
School NM	1,384.4	1,709.5	1,738.7	1,667.3	1,734.5	350.1	25.3
Merryville	92.5	89.4	92.1	92.9	98.7	6.2	6.7
BPSO	711.2	869.2	884.8	851.7	884.9	173.8	24.4
Total	7,197.6	8,511.1	8,694.7	8,324.5	8,690.1	1,492.5	20.7

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity

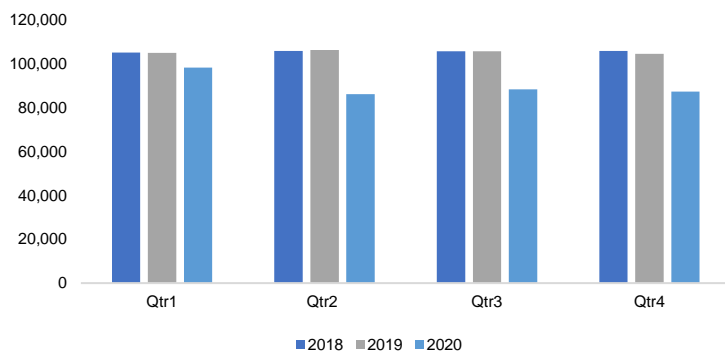


Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

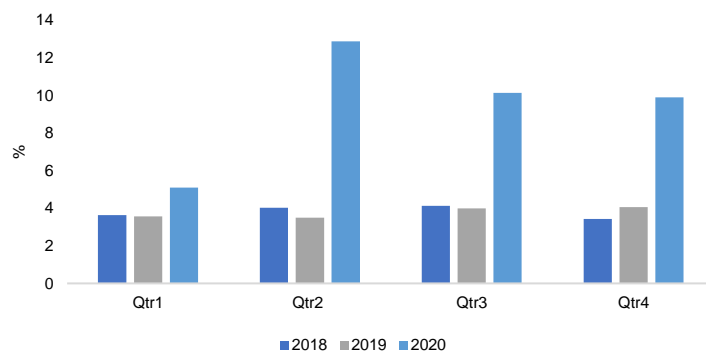
	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Household Employment	100,439	98,348	86,173	88,357	87,365
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,422	-3,962	-17,095	-12,837	-13,074
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.2	-3.9	-16.6	-12.7	-13.0
Household Unemployment	4,564	5,278	12,714	9,952	9,595
Year-Over-Year Change	810	1,347	8,638	5,173	5,031
Year-Over-Year % Change	21.6	34.3	211.9	108.3	110.2
Labor Force	105,003	103,626	98,887	98,309	96,959
Year-Over-Year Change	-3,612	-2,615	-8,457	-7,663	-8,043
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.3	-2.5	-7.9	-7.2	-7.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	5.1	12.9	10.1	9.9
Year-Over-Year Change	0.9	1.4	9.1	5.6	5.6

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total Job Openings	5,378	4,875	3,772	4,824	4,578
Year-Over-Year Change	88	-570	-1,654	-1,548	-800
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.7	-10.5	-30.5	-24.3	-14.9

Calcasieu Parish Employment



Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment Rate

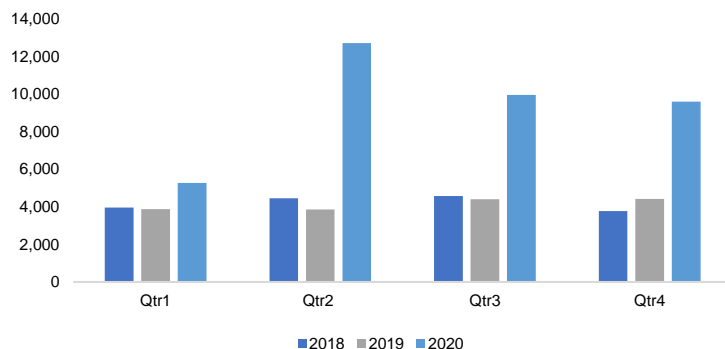


In the 4th quarter of 2020, Calcasieu parish saw a drop in the labor force of 8,043 (-7.7%). This was due to a drop in household employment of 13,074 over the year (-13%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 5,031 (+110.2%). The unemployment rate rose 5.6 percentage points over the year to 9.9%.

Job openings in the 4th quarter averaged 4,578. Openings fell by 800 (-14.9%) over the year.

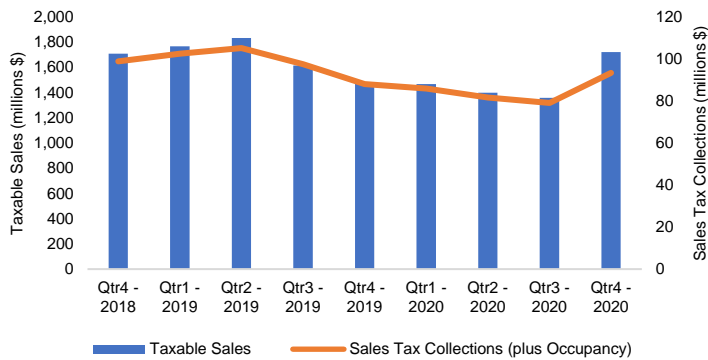
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Calcasieu had lower employment levels through 2020 compared to the previous years. The unemployment measures have been higher than in 2019. Calcasieu employment figures have been hit the hard by the storms.

Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment

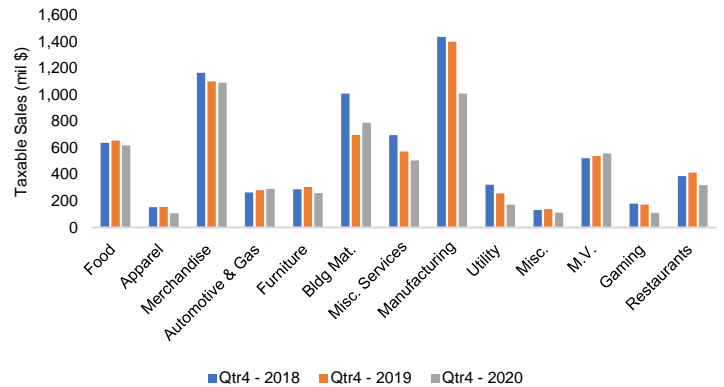


Tax Collections

Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 4 YTD



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	153.3	158.1	170.9	147.8	140.4	-12.9	-8.4
Apparel	38.3	38.9	17.0	31.7	20.2	-18.1	-47.3
Merchandise	261.3	271.9	276.0	255.1	286.8	25.5	9.8
Automotive & Gas	67.7	63.0	66.5	79.2	82.2	14.5	21.4
Furniture	69.6	74.4	59.6	62.8	62.6	-7.0	-10.1
Bldg Mat.	148.2	140.3	151.5	148.2	348.5	200.3	135.1
Misc. Services	141.4	126.9	100.2	97.9	180.9	39.5	27.9
Manufacturing	266.5	262.5	277.6	222.1	247.0	-19.5	-7.3
Utility	41.0	39.1	42.3	34.0	57.3	16.3	39.8
Misc.	30.6	32.8	23.6	29.8	26.7	-3.8	-12.5
M.V.	129.1	133.2	111.8	137.4	176.0	46.9	36.4
Gaming	31.8	30.9	19.2	30.0	29.8	-2.0	-6.3
Restaurants	96.0	94.2	81.5	81.5	62.4	-33.5	-35.0
Total	1,474.9	1,466.2	1,397.7	1,357.6	1,721.0	246.1	16.7

Calcasieu parish has recently seen increases in taxable sales. Much of the increases come from building materials and motor vehicles as rebuilding and repairs commence after the storms. Other categories are still being

affected by the pandemic and recession. Sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have risen fallen by \$5.4 million over the year for a 6.2% increase. General sales taxes rose by \$4.8 million (+5.6%) over the year. Occupancy taxes were higher due to first responders and repair workers obtaining lodging. These taxes rose \$0.6 million for a 31.8% increase. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish rose \$246.1 million (+16.7%) over the year. The categories of sales were a mixed bag in terms of increases and decreases. The most striking (in percentage terms) were Building Materials (+135.1%), Utility (+39.8%) and Motor Vehicles (+36.4%). Large decreases were seen in Apparel (-47.3%) and Restaurants (-35%). The results point to rebuilding from the hurricanes causing increases occurring at the same time as the pandemic is depressing sales in other industries.

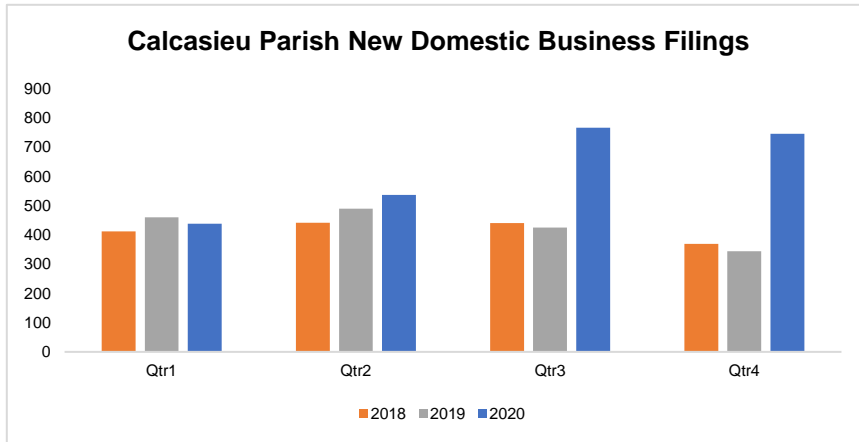
Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	86.1	84.3	80.5	77.5	90.9	4.8	5.6
Occupancy Taxes	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.5	2.5	0.6	31.8
Sales Tax Collections	88.0	85.8	81.6	79.0	93.4	5.4	6.2

YTD figures show that total taxable sales have fallen in the parish by \$988.7 million compared to the 3rd 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
2018	1,890.8	3,749.8	5,484.7	7,191.6
2019	1,764.7	3,596.1	5,210.1	6,639.3
2020	1,466.2	2,863.9	4,221.5	5,942.4

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2018	108.0	217.8	319.6	418.3
2019	102.4	207.5	304.9	392.8
2020	85.8	167.4	246.4	339.8

New Business Filings



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

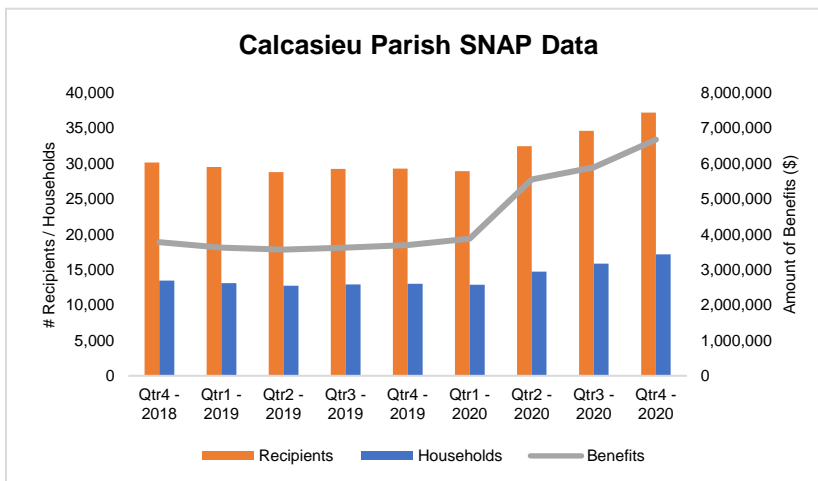
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 746 in the 4th quarter of 2020 which was 402 more than the same quarter the previous year and 376 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2020 was 2,489. This was 770 more businesses than the 4th quarter of 2019 YTD and 824 businesses higher than the same quarter of 2018 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	412	442	441	370
2019	460	490	425	344
2020	439	537	767	746

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	412	854	1,295	1,665
2019	460	950	1,375	1,719
2020	439	976	1,743	2,489

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	29,303	28,914	32,455	34,636	37,172	7,869	26.9
Households	13,023	12,877	14,726	15,863	17,179	4,156	31.9
Benefits	3,690,243	3,872,104	5,544,380	5,888,494	6,675,059	2,984,816	80.9



Calcasieu parish has had an increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 37,172 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2020. This was 7,869 more people receiving benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2019 for an 26.9% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 17,179 which was 4,156 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 31.9% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$6.7 million in total during the 4th quarter of 2020, which was an almost \$3 million increase over-the-year. This was a 80.9% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at

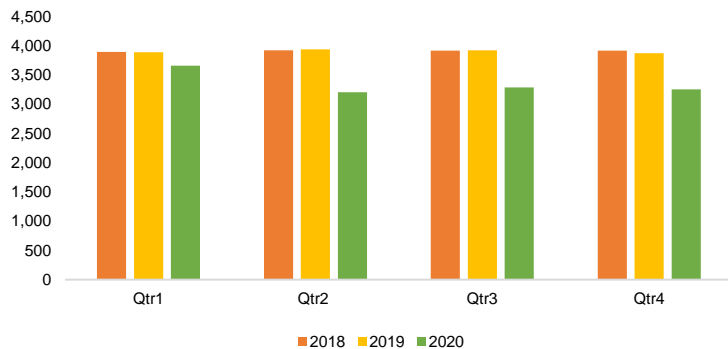
the graph illustrates an overall decreasing trend in benefits over the past two years before spiking in the 2nd quarter and continuing into the 4th. This trend is also shown in the number of households and recipients receiving benefits as the coronavirus pandemic and hurricanes have affected the local economy.

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

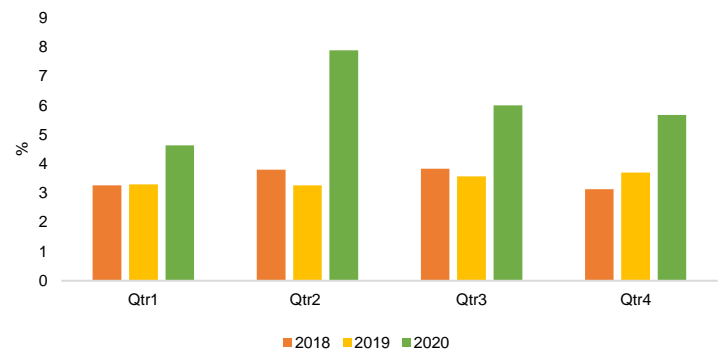
	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Household Employment	3,736	3,660	3,206	3,287	3,253
Year-Over-Year Change	-164	-149	-636	-482	-483
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.2	-3.9	-16.5	-12.8	-12.9
Household Unemployment	155	179	273	209	196
Year-Over-Year Change	26	42	131	51	41
Year-Over-Year % Change	20.1	30.9	92.3	32.5	26.2
Labor Force	3,891	3,839	3,479	3,496	3,449
Year-Over-Year Change	-138	-107	-505	-431	-442
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.4	-2.7	-12.7	-11.0	-11.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	4.6	7.9	6.0	5.7
Year-Over-Year Change	0.8	1.2	4.3	2.0	1.7

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total Job Openings	221	151	103	130	145
Year-Over-Year Change	114	9	-40	-127	-76
Year-Over-Year % Change	106.5	6.3	-28.1	-49.5	-34.2

Cameron Parish Employment



Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate

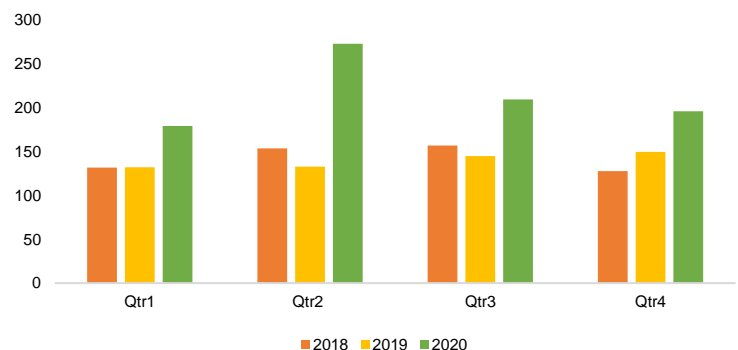


In the 4th quarter of 2020, Cameron parish had a drop in household employment of 483 over the year (-12.9%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 41 (+26.2%). This meant a decrease of 442 (-11.4%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate increased 1.7 percentage points over the year to 5.7%.

Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2020 averaged 145. Openings fell by 76 (-34.2%) over the year.

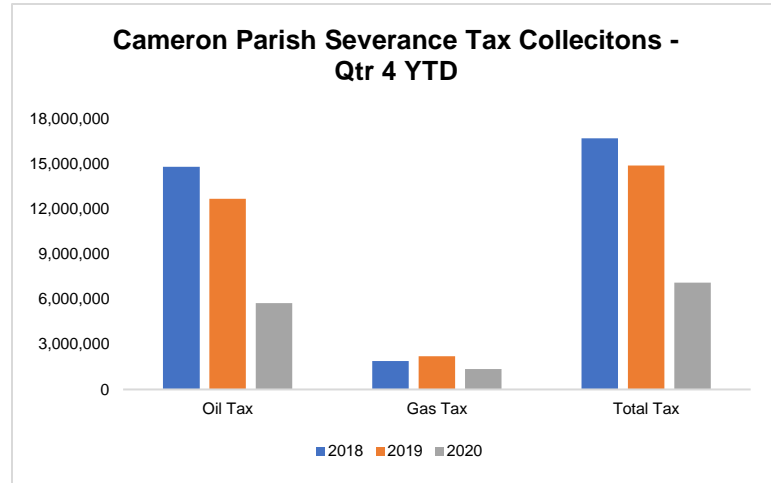
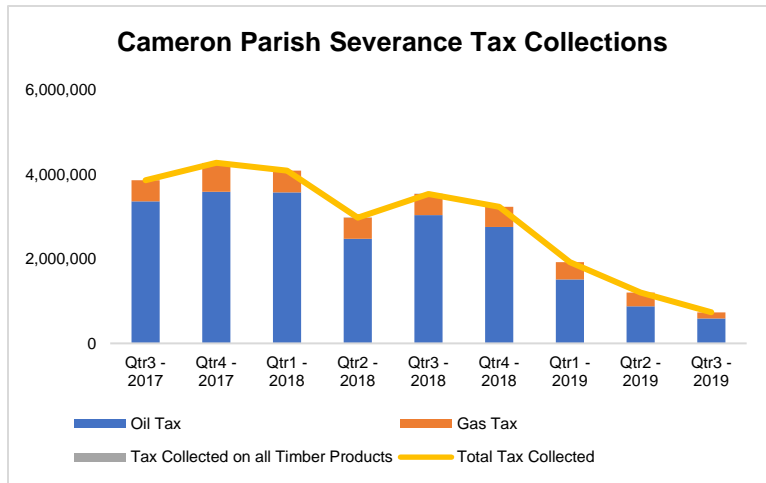
Compared to previous quarter, Cameron parish had lower employment levels through 2020 compared to the previous year while the unemployment measures have been higher. As Cameron has been hit by hard by two hurricanes, these trends of higher unemployment and lower employment should continue into the future.

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	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	3,039,578	2,758,732	1,513,188	881,297	589,588	-2,449,991	-80.6
Gas Tax	499,860	476,917	409,637	323,106	147,297	-352,563	-70.5
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	22	0	0	0	0	-22	-100.0
Total Tax Collected	3,539,460	3,235,649	1,922,825	1,204,403	736,885	-2,802,575	-79.2

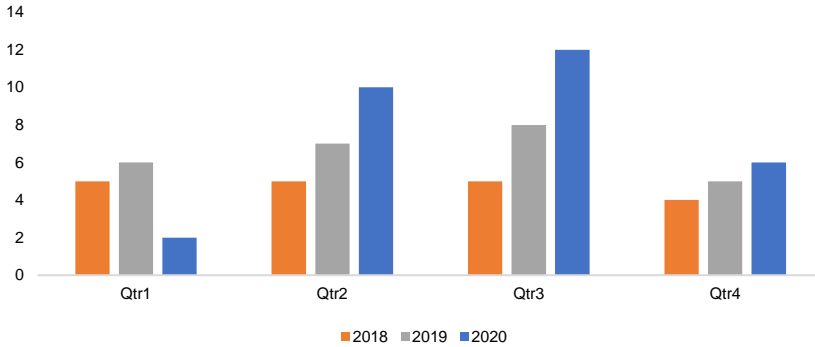
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	2,491,262	5,728,810	12,830,771	16,695,828
2019	4,276,091	8,368,328	11,341,916	14,881,376
2020	3,235,649	5,158,474	6,362,877	7,099,761

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 4th quarter of 2020 fell by \$2.5 million compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented an 80.6% drop as oil prices fell due to the pandemic and the hurricane disrupted production. In terms of gas collections, those fell \$352.6 thousand over that period for a 70.5% decrease. Timber product collections have been negligible. Total severance taxes collected from the parish have fallen \$2.8 million over the year in the 4th quarter of 2020 for an 79.2% decrease.

The YTD figures show in 2020 there was a substantial drop in total severance taxes collected compared to the previous year. In the 4th quarter 2020 YTD, severance taxes fell \$7.8 million for growth of -52.3%. 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 6 in the 4th quarter of 2020 which was 1 more than the same quarter the previous year and 2 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2020 was 30. This was 4 more business than the 4th quarter of 2019 YTD and 11 businesses higher than the 4th quarter of 2018 YTD.

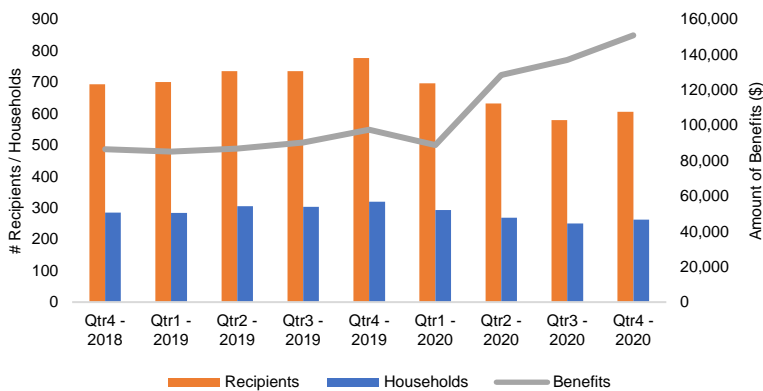
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	5	5	5	4
2019	6	7	8	5
2020	2	10	12	6

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	5	10	15	19
2019	6	13	21	26
2020	2	12	24	30

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	776	696	631	579	605	-171	-22.0
Households	319	293	268	250	262	-57	-18.0
Benefits	97,422	88,766	128,470	136,963	150,788	53,366	54.8

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 605 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2020. This was 171 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2019 for a 22% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 262 which was 57 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 18% decrease. While the number of recipients and households increase, benefits rose substantially. The parish received an average of \$150.8 thousand in total during the 4th quarter of 2020, which was an \$53.4 thousand

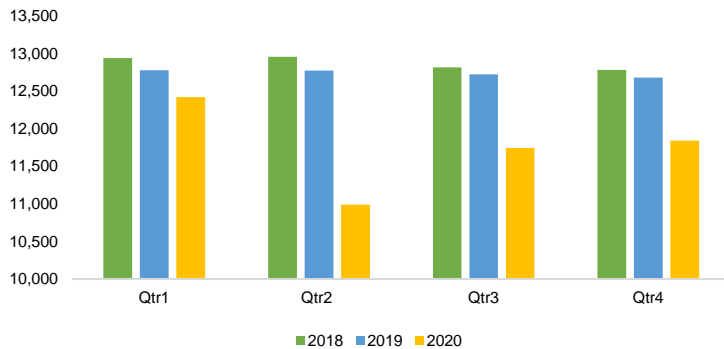
increase over-the-year. This was a 54.8% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates recipients and households falling throughout the year while benefits have sharply increased in the last quarter due to the pandemic and storms.

Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

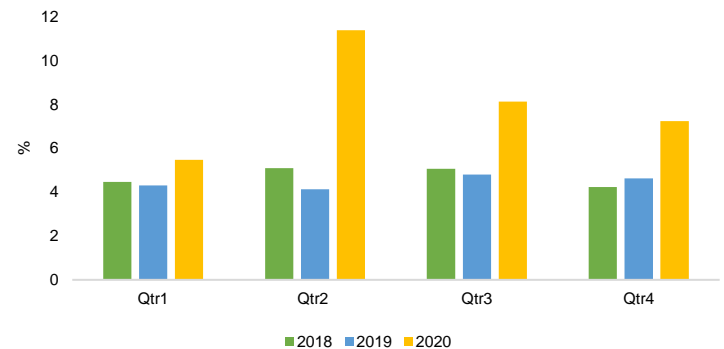
	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Household Employment	12,574	12,420	10,989	11,743	11,840
Year-Over-Year Change	-150	6	-1,703	-1,006	-734
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.2	0.0	-13.4	-7.9	-5.8
Household Unemployment	639	717	1,410	1,038	925
Year-Over-Year Change	77	137	827	344	286
Year-Over-Year % Change	13.7	23.7	141.8	49.5	44.7
Labor Force	13,213	13,137	12,400	12,780	12,765
Year-Over-Year Change	-73	143	-876	-663	-448
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	1.1	-6.6	-4.9	-3.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8	5.5	11.4	8.1	7.2
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	1.0	7.0	3.0	2.4

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020
Total Job Openings	298	312	235	220	293
Year-Over-Year Change	46	35	-11	-17	-5
Year-Over-Year % Change	18.4	12.5	-4.6	-7.2	-1.7

Jeff Davis Parish Employment



Jeff Davis Parish Unemployment Rate

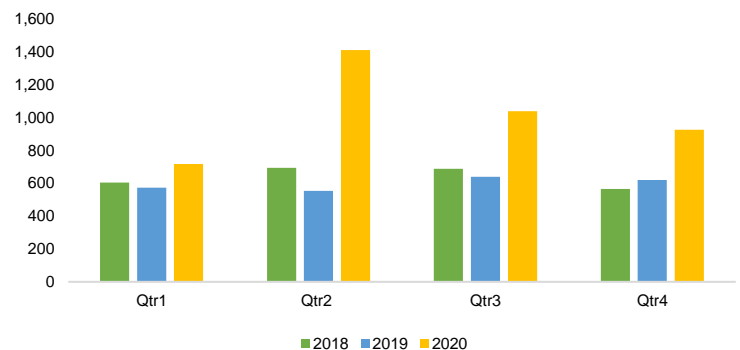


In the 4th quarter of 2020, Jefferson Davis parish saw a decrease of 448 (-3.4%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by a drop in household employment of 734 over the year (-5.8%) while the number of unemployed persons rose 286 (+44.7%). The unemployment rate increased 2.4 percentage points over the year to 7.2%.

Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2020 averaged 293. Openings fell by 5 (-1.7%) over the year.

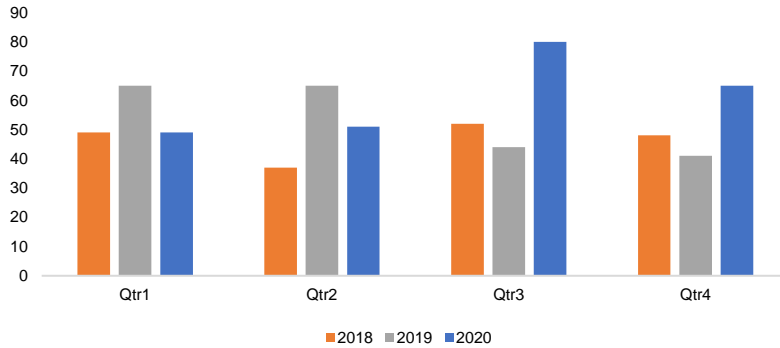
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Jeff Davis parish has had generally lower figures for employment in 2019 compared to the previous year, with higher unemployment figures.

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 65 in the 4th quarter of 2020 which was 24 more than the same quarter the previous year and 17 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2020 was 245. This was 245 more businesses than the 3rd quarter of 2019 YTD and 59 businesses higher than the 4th quarter of 2018 YTD.

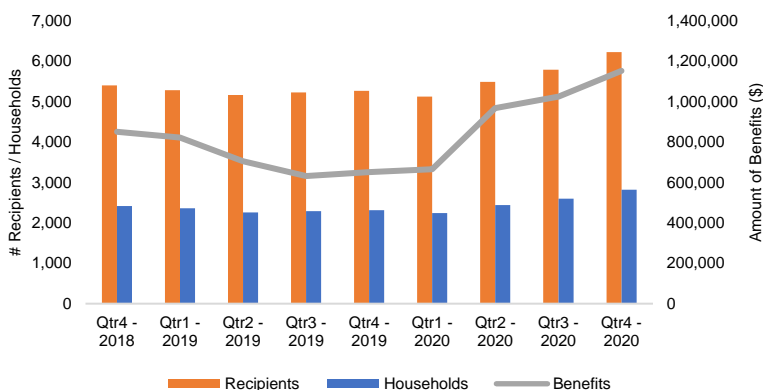
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	49	37	52	48
2019	65	65	44	41
2020	49	51	80	85

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2018	49	86	138	186
2019	65	130	174	215
2020	49	100	180	245

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,266	5,117	5,484	5,782	6,219	952	18.1
Households	2,312	2,241	2,440	2,595	2,821	509	22.0
Benefits	650,214	665,681	966,671	1,024,278	1,151,357	501,143	77.1

Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data

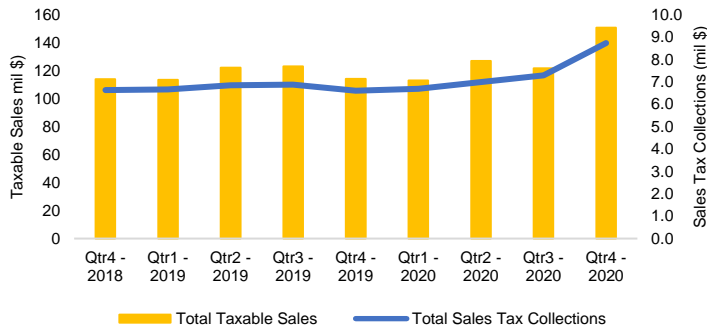


Jefferson Davis parish has had increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 6,219 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2020. This was 952 more people receiving benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2019 for a 18.1% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,821 which was 509 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 22% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.2 million in total during the 4th quarter of 2020, which was a \$501.1 thousand rise over-the-year. This was a 77.1% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at the

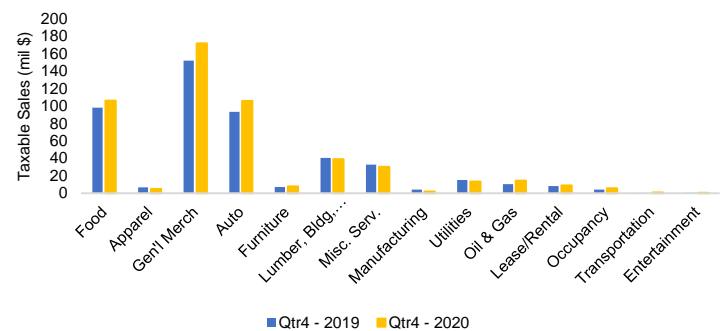
graph illustrates an overall decreasing trend in benefits over the past two years before spiking in the second quarter followed by continued growth. This trend is also shown in the number of households and recipients receiving benefits. This is no doubt due to the pandemic.

Tax Collections

Jefferson Davis Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Jeff Davis Parish Taxable Sales - 4th Quarter YTD



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	24.1	23.3	26.2	25.6	31.0	6.9	28.8
Apparel	1.4	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.4	0.1	5.4
Gen'l Merch	40.5	40.6	49.6	35.7	45.8	5.3	13.2
Auto	20.0	19.8	23.1	32.1	30.9	11.0	55.0
Furniture	1.6	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.1	0.5	28.9
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	8.4	7.5	9.2	10.7	11.8	3.3	39.7
Misc. Serv.	8.4	8.7	6.6	6.9	8.1	-0.2	-2.8
Manufacturing	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.5	-0.2	-33.3
Utilities	4.8	2.9	2.9	3.3	4.4	-0.4	-9.1
Oil & Gas	1.4	3.5	3.7	1.7	5.5	4.1	303.6
Lease/Rental	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.3	5.1	3.6	232.6
Occupancy	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.8	3.1	2.1	209.9
Transportation	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.7	470.0
Entertainment	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	19.0
Total	114.2	113.0	127.0	121.7	150.9	36.8	32.2

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2019	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.6	2.1	32.2

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2018	116.6	249.4	376.0	490.0
2019	113.6	236.0	359.1	473.2
2020	113.0	240.0	361.7	512.6

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2018	6.7	14.0	20.9	27.5
2019	6.7	13.5	20.4	27.0
2020	6.7	13.7	21.0	29.7

Jefferson Davis parish saw a large increase in its sales tax collections in the 4th quarter of 2020, compared to the same quarter the previous year as more spending from the storms occurred in the area. Sales tax collections have increased by approximately \$2.1 million over the year for a 32.2% increase. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by \$36.8 million (+32.2%) over the year. The largest absolute increase occurred in Auto (+\$11 million, +55.0%). Food also experienced a large increase (+\$6.9 million, +28.8%) as did general merchandise (+\$5.3 million, +13.2%). Lumber experienced a large percentage increase of 39.7% (+\$3.3 million). While this was a large percentage change, the last categories in the table show dramatic percentage increases over 200% but these were on top of very small bases. However, the storms have helped lead to increases in pretty much all categories.

These increases have propelled total sales for the year above those of 2019. The 4th quarter of 2020 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by \$39.4 million compared to the same quarter in 2019 last year for an 8.3% increase. This led to a \$2.7 million increase in 2020 YTD sales tax collections (+10.1%).

The current federal minimum wage stands at \$7.25 an hour. Louisiana has [no state minimum wage](#) and must abide by that federal figure. Nearby states Alabama and Mississippi have no minimum wage while Georgia has a state minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour so it must also follow the federal amount. Texas and Oklahoma have state minimum wages, but they are equal to the federal \$7.25. Arkansas and Florida are the only two nearby Southern states with minimum wages above the federal level (\$11.00 in Arkansas and \$8.65 in Florida). Looking at the federal minimum wage level, the latest available data from the [BLS shows that in 2019](#), the state of Louisiana had 4.6% of workers paid at hourly rates earning above or below the minimum wage (2.3% are at the minimum wage level, 2.4% are below the level). This translates to our state have 1.089 million hourly paid workers with 50,000 making at or below minimum wage (25,000 at that level, 26,000 below). The estimates come from the [Current Population Survey](#) which is used for a variety of studies and figures, mainly calculating the unemployment rate for the entire country.

Using [CPS-IPUMS](#) to analysis CPS data, lets look a little more closely at the characteristics of our state minimum wage workers. As with any survey data like the CPS, there is a large margin of error, but we will still focus on the what the data is saying. The first striking point is that over 60% of workers in the state making minimum wage or below are 30 years old or younger. In terms of educational attainment, almost all of the workers earning minimum wage have no post-secondary degree. 86% of workers earning at or below minimum have either less than a high school education or a high school diploma or equivalent (some college but no degree implies a high school diploma or equivalent). Those who have completed an Associates, Bachelor's or Master's degree account for only 14% of those earning at or below minimum wage.

Number of Louisiana Hourly Workers Earning at or Below Min Wage by Educational Attainment - 2019

Highest Level of Education	At or Below Min Wage	Percentage of Total
Less than HS	16,128	32.4%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	14,159	28.4%
Some College but not degree	12,602	25.3%
Associate's Degree	3,288	6.6%
Bachelor's Degree	3,197	6.4%
Master's Degree	475	1.0%

Number of Louisiana Hourly Workers Earning at or Below Min Wage by Age - 2019

Age Range	At or Below Min Wage	Percentage of Total
15-18	8,237	16.5%
19-22	12,693	25.5%
23-30	10,722	21.5%
31-40	7,537	15.1%
41-50	4,275	8.6%
51-60	3,410	6.8%
61+	2,976	6.0%

In terms of industries that have the most workers earning at or below \$7.25, [Accommodation and Food Services](#) leads the way. This is expected as this industry includes restaurants which employ waiters and waitresses legally making below minimum wage (and

Number of Louisiana Hourly Workers Earning at or Below Min Wage by Industry- 2019

NAICS Code	Industry	At or Below Min Wage	Percentage of Total
23	Construction	521	1.0%
33	Manufacturing	551	1.1%
42	Wholesale trade	671	1.3%
44-45	Retail trade	3,159	6.3%
49	Transportation and warehousing	552	1.1%
56	Mgmt., admin, and waste services	2,134	4.3%
61	Educational services	955	1.9%
62	Health care and social assistance	6,413	12.9%
71	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3,162	6.3%
72	Accommodation and food services	30,888	62.0%
81	Other services	843	1.7%

theoretically earning up more than the difference in tips). 62% of workers earning \$7.25 or less work in this industry. Health care and social assistance has the second largest percentage of 12.9%. Finally, retail trade has 6.3% of its workers earning minimum wage. Although occupations are not shown, the largest majority of workers making at or below the minimum wage work as waiters and waitresses. Other occupations with significantly large percentages earning this include cashiers and health aides (nursing, psychiatric, home).

Although the data is highly subject to errors at lower geographies, the CPS shows that for the Lake Charles MSA, the number of workers earning at or below the minimum wage in 2019 is strikingly high at 6%. The data estimates there were over 61,000 hourly paid workers and approximately 3,700 were at or below the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. All of the workers earning these wage rates were 30 years or younger. Since the data is so unreliable at this MSA geography level, there is not much we can glean about the industries or occupations of these workers.

Number of Lake Charles MSA Hourly Workers Earning at or Below Min Wage by Age- 2019

Age Range	At or Below Min Wage	Percentage of Total
15-18	796	21.6%
19-22	964	26.1%
23-30	1,928	52.3%
31-40	0	0.0%
41-50	0	0.0%
51-60	0	0.0%
61+	0	0.0%

Of course, this data analysis is based on the official results for 2019. The BLS has not officially released 2020 results, but using the data from CPS-IPUMS could give approximate results as to what will be published. As 2020 was not a normal year, there is no certainty as to what the results will be or if there will be any modifications made due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the latest data does show the state lost almost 96,000 hourly workers in 2020 compared to 2019. Since the figures for minimum wage workers are obtained from hourly employed workers, this is of interest. Of these workers, only 3.2% made at or below the minimum wage in 2020 (compared to 4.6% in 2019). Were minimum wage

workers let go from their jobs or did some get a slight raise in 2020? The actual answer is most likely a combination of both but it must be assumed a great deal lost their jobs in the pandemic shutdown.

There are some contrasts between the 2019 and 2020 figures. The tables below show that a majority of workers earning these rates still have a high school diploma or less, but a larger percentage of workers earning minimum wage or less have an associate's degree. Also, the majority of workers are still 30 years or older, but there have been increases in the share of total workers for those aged above 51 years old. In terms of industries, while Accommodation and Food Services and Health Care and Social assistance still employ the most workers at these wage rates, the percentage of total workers in retail trade has fallen considerably (3.8% in 2020 compared to 6.3% in 2019). This can most likely be attributed to a great number of layoffs in the retail sector throughout 2020.

Number of Louisiana Hourly Workers Earning at or Below Min Wage by Educational Attainment - 2020

Highest Level of Education	At or Below Min Wage	Percentage of Total
Less than HS	4,443	13.9%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	10,258	32.2%
Some College but not degree	11,568	36.3%
Associate's Degree	3,469	10.9%
Bachelor's Degree	1,640	5.1%
Master's Degree	490	1.5%

Number of Louisiana Hourly Workers Earning at or Below Min Wage by Age - 2020

Age Range	At or Below Min Wage	Percentage of Total
15-18	2,512	7.9%
19-22	6,400	20.1%
23-30	9,604	30.1%
31-40	4,355	13.7%
41-50	2,717	8.5%
51-60	3,261	10.2%
61+	3,017	9.5%

Focusing in on the Lake Charles MSA, the pandemic, hurricanes, and smaller geography make this data even more unreliable. However, if we are following the same data and methodology used for the state, in 2020, Lake Charles lost a great deal of hourly workers with the survey CPS only counting

approximately 32,000 workers being paid at hourly rates. The percentage of these workers earning at or below \$7.25 an hour is 3.7%, putting us much more in line with the state figures.

There has been a great deal of talk about increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The economics literature on the minimum wage is voluminous and one of the most debated topics in the history of the social science. This article can't possibly begin to outline every argument for and against an increase. However, we can use the data to see how the state and area workers may be affected if the minimum wage is increased by more than double to that \$15 figure. While this piece has shown the number of

workers at or below the current minimum wage, how many workers would see any increase? First, there is one interesting point to show related to a \$15 an hour wage. In both 2019 and 2020, the hourly wage rate that most workers earn in the state of Louisiana is \$15. In 2019, 7.1% of hourly paid workers made \$15 an hour while 6.7% made this amount. So an increase in the minimum wage to this level would only put them at the new minimum but not result in any pay increases.

Number of Louisiana Hourly Workers Earning at or Below Min Wage by Industry- 2020

NAICS Code	Industry	At or Below Min Wage	Percentage of Total
21	Mining	827	2.6%
31-33	Manufacturing	1,201	3.8%
44-45	Retail Trade	1,224	3.8%
49	Transportation and Warehousing	911	2.9%
52	Finance	1,262	4.0%
56	Mgmt., admin, and waste services	1,266	4.0%
61	Educational services	487	1.5%
62	Health care and social assistance	5,958	18.7%
71	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,796	5.6%
72	Accommodation and food services	14,663	46.0%
81	Other services	1,736	5.4%
92	Public Administration	536	1.7%

Using the CPS-IPUMS data shows approximately 463 thousand workers made above \$7.25 an hour but below \$15 in 2019. This number fell to about 410,500 in 2020. If the minimum wage were increased to \$15, this would mean over 50% of hourly workers would earn at or below the minimum wage in Louisiana.

NAICS Code	Industry	2019		2020	
		Above \$7.25 and Below \$15	Percentage of Total	Above \$7.25 and Below \$15	Percentage of Total
11	Agriculture	1,270	0.3%	NA	NA
21	Mining	7,406	1.6%	4,532	1.1%
22	Utilities	2,015	0.4%	2,484	0.6%
23	Construction	25,887	5.6%	15,377	3.7%
31-33	Manufacturing	22,860	4.9%	16,502	4.0%
42	Wholesale Trade	7,644	1.6%	3,720	0.9%
44-45	Retail Trade	84,852	18.3%	98,017	23.9%
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	17,568	3.8%	15,546	3.8%
51	Information	4,264	0.9%	1,162	0.3%
52	Finance and Insurance	14,172	3.1%	9,488	2.3%
53	Real Estate	6,225	1.3%	5,438	1.3%
54	Professional Services	11,719	2.5%	12,114	3.0%
56	Mgmt., admin, and waste services	17,034	3.7%	19,388	4.7%
61	Educational services	27,044	5.8%	22,057	5.4%
62	Health care and social assistance	83,164	17.9%	80,125	19.5%
71	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	12,621	2.7%	7,209	1.8%
72	Accommodation and food services	70,952	15.3%	66,579	16.2%
81	Other services	24,385	5.3%	16,317	4.0%
92	Public Administration	22,488	4.9%	14,483	3.5%

In terms of age groups, the group containing 23 to 30 year old workers would have the most obtaining an increase. While younger workers would be most affected, the number of workers making above \$7.25 and below \$15 is relatively high for other age groups as well.

Finally, in terms of educational attainment, hourly workers with a high school diploma or equivalent is the group that would see the most workers with a wage increase.

However, a great number of workers with some college, but no degree would see increases as well. An interesting note is that a good number of hourly workers with Bachelor's and Master's degrees make above the current minimum wage and below \$15.

When looking at the Lake Charles MSA, raising the minimum wage to \$15 would affect a great number of workers. In 2019, the data shows over 27,000 workers earning at or below \$15 an hour (like the state, in 2019, \$15 was the wage most workers earned in Lake Charles). In 2020, that number of workers dropped to over 13,500 (as the total number of workers fell. The totals show that if the minimum wage were raised to \$15, over 40% of hourly workers in the MSA would earn at or below the minimum wage.

Age Range	2019		2020	
	Above \$7.25 and Below \$15	Percentage of Total	Above \$7.25 and Below \$15	Percentage of Total
15-18	21,671	4.7%	26,598	6.5%
19-22	69,529	15.0%	62,991	15.3%
23-30	106,568	23.0%	101,498	24.7%
31-40	87,883	19.0%	72,649	17.7%
41-50	69,737	15.0%	48,812	11.9%
51-60	58,559	12.6%	58,368	14.2%
61+	49,623	10.7%	39,622	9.7%

Highest Level of Education	2019		2020	
	Above \$7.25 and Below \$15	Percentage of Total	Above \$7.25 and Below \$15	Percentage of Total
Less than HS	87,117	18.8%	66,429	16.2%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	174,848	37.7%	172,388	42.0%
Some College but not degree	112,745	24.3%	97,641	23.8%
Associate's Degree	46,241	10.0%	37,174	9.1%
Bachelor's Degree	36,825	7.9%	30,016	7.3%
Master's Degree	5,794	1.2%	4,850	1.2%
Professional School Degree	NA	NA	1,340	0.3%
Doctorate Degree	NA	NA	699	0.2%

This data has only looked at workers that made at or below the minimum wage (whether it was \$7.25 or \$15). Another component that must be remembered is that many workers already make \$15 an hour or an amount that is only slightly above. If the minimum wage were swiftly increased to this level, many workers would want higher wages. A worker currently making \$15 an hour has a wage rate that is more than double the current minimum. In order to keep the same relationship to a higher minimum of \$15, this worker would need to have a raise amounting to \$31 an hour. Wages would increase not just for minimum wage workers but for many workers at all hourly rates.

Most would agree that any minimum wage increases should be slow and gradual over a period of years. This prevents drastic jumps in labor costs and sets expectations for wage movements over time. This data shows that a great number of workers in the state and Lake Charles area would be affected by increased wages but does not show the difficulties some businesses may face when faced with such a drastic jump. Some possible outcomes would be closed businesses, laid off workers, fewer hours for employees, etc. Any drastic jumps in the minimum wage would not be desirable in an area greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and recovering from back-to-back hurricanes.

As mentioned above, the minimum wage is one of the biggest debates in all of economics. This piece is showing the breakdowns based on data that's available for our area and reported by the BLS. It is in no way to take a stand on one side or another in terms of increase. Closer inspection by industry, occupations, age groups, etc., may provide insights into the differential effects of any government changes in wage rates and all effects, intended and unintended, must be considered.

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, mcneesedrewecon.org/.

1. Lake Charles MSA Employment Indicators – BLS CES/SAE and LAUS^a

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)^b

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^b
5. Lake Charles Port Statistics – Census USA Trade Online^b
6. Lake Charles Gaming Statistics – Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Louisiana Gaming Control Board^b
7. Parish Employment Indicators – BLS LAUS^a
- The labor force is the sum of household employment and household unemployment.
8. Parish Job Openings – Louisiana Workforce Commission^a
9. New Business Filings – Louisiana Secretary of State^b
10. Parish SNAP Benefits – Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services^a
11. Allen Parish Tax Collections – Allen Parish School Board^b
12. Beauregard Parish Tax Collections – Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office^b
13. Calcasieu Parish Tax Collections – Calcasieu Parish School Board^b
14. Cameron Parish Severance Tax Collections – Louisiana Department of Revenue^b
15. Jefferson Davis Parish Tax Collections – Jefferson Davis Parish School Board^b
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