

## 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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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021 Issue

This issue of the Drew CBEA report continues to focus on data illustrating the continuing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuilding from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. In the second quarter of 2020, the country was deep in the throes of the pandemic. When comparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 to the same quarter the previous year, some dramatic increases may arise. While all growth and data illustrating recovery is great news, we must remember that many comparisons are to a much lower level of economic activity that was not the norm. We are much closer to levels of economic activity prior to Hurricane Laura. However, like the rest of the nation, we are still mostly below pre-pandemic levels.

The Drew CEBA tracks a great deal of data related to the SWLA economy. Many variables are shown in this report and even more are available at our website, [mcneesdrewecon.org](http://mcneesdrewecon.org). However, it can be difficult to get a singular clear picture of the economy when looking at so many different aspects. The last part of this report explains and illustrates new economic indexes for SWLA. These indexes are constructed by taking different variables from the economy and using statistical techniques to boil them down to a single number. These indexes can give insights into the current movements, as well as predicted future movements, of the local economy.

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

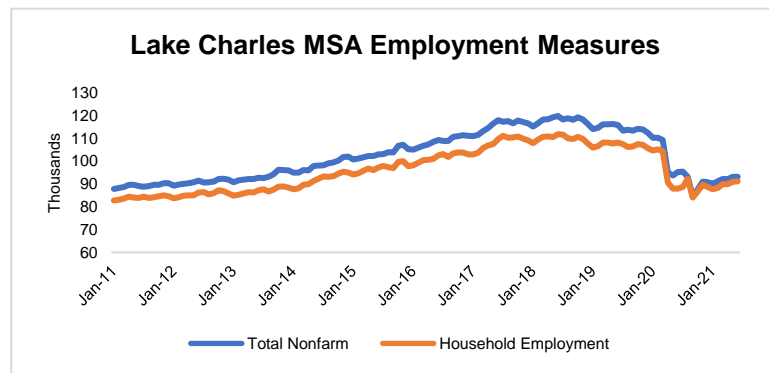
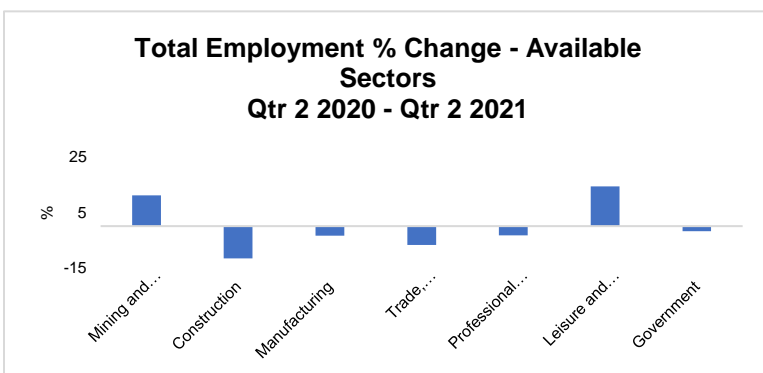
(measures in thousands of workers)	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>92.9</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-21.5	-22.5	-23.7	-18.8	-1.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-18.5	-19.8	-20.9	-17.1	-1.8
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	11.1	33.3	22.2	11.1
<b>Construction</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-9.9	-9.7	-10.1	-7.5	-1.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-40.2	-42.5	-44.6	-38.0	-11.6
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.6	-3.4	-5.3	-5.3	-3.4
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>15.2</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.8	-2.3	-3.8	-2.5	-1.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-10.1	-12.6	-20.4	-13.9	-6.8
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.5	-1.5	-1.7	-2.0	-0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-14.0	-14.9	-17.1	-19.6	-3.3
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-4.8	-4.4	-4.3	-3.1	1.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-31.4	-29.1	-29.5	-21.6	14.3
<b>Government</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.3</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.0	-1.6	-1.4	-1.1	-0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-6.6	-10.8	-9.1	-7.0	-1.8
<b>Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)</b>	<b>728.66</b>	<b>755.4</b>	<b>760.5</b>	<b>717.3</b>	<b>763.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-72.2	-65.2	-58.9	-46.0	34.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-9.0	-7.9	-7.2	-6.0	4.7
<b>Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)</b>	<b>21.89</b>	<b>22.52</b>	<b>22.26</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>22.6</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.0	-1.2	-1.8	-0.9	0.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.5	-5.1	-7.6	-4.1	3.4

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) has experienced decreases in employment compared to the same quarter the previous year. However, the recent decreases have been shrinking. There has been continued growth as the area continues to rebuild from hurricanes and the economy further opens up.

Total nonfarm employment (presented in thousands of jobs in the table) fell by 1,700 jobs over the year for a 1.8% decrease. Looking at the industries shows Leisure and Hospitality was the only industry that gained jobs over the year. The industry gained 1,500 jobs (+14.3%) COVID restrictions have eased and hurricane recovery continues. Construction experienced the largest percentage drop at 11.6% drop losing 1,700 jobs. Manufacturing only lost 400 jobs (-3.4%). Professional

and Business services lost 300 jobs for a 3.3% drop. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities lost 1,100 jobs (-6.8%) and government lost 300 jobs (-1.8%).

While there was a loss in employment, there were increases in earnings measures. Average weekly earnings of all employees rose 4.7% while average hourly earnings rose 3.4%. Although not shown, average weekly hours of all employees in the first quarter fell 1.3% over the year.

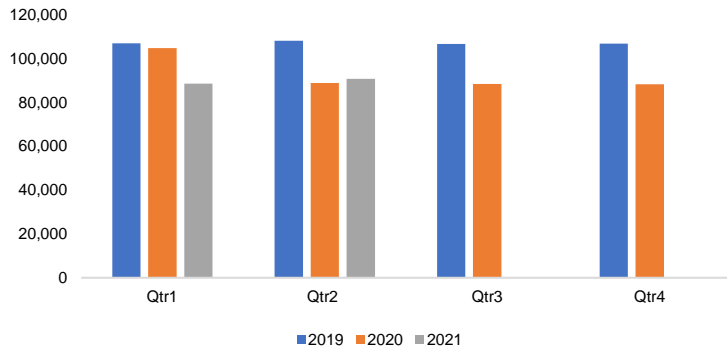


## Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

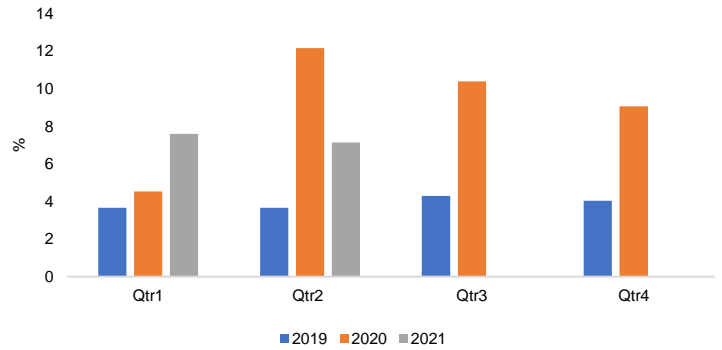
	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>88,843</b>	<b>88,328</b>	<b>88,313</b>	<b>88,583</b>	<b>90,671</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-19,222	-18,355	-18,438	-16,150	1,828
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.8	-17.2	-17.3	-15.4	2.1
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>12,361</b>	<b>10,176</b>	<b>8,793</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>6,990</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	8,191	5,374	4,299	2,327	-5,371
Year-Over-Year % Change	196.5	111.9	95.7	46.8	-43.5
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>101,203</b>	<b>98,504</b>	<b>97,106</b>	<b>95,882</b>	<b>97,661</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-11,031	-12,982	-14,139	-13,823	-3,543
Year-Over-Year % Change	-9.8	-11.6	-12.7	-12.6	-3.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	8.5	6.1	5.0	3.1	-5.0

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>4,954</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>6,092</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,695	-1,675	-876	470	2,217
Year-Over-Year % Change	-30.4	-25.3	-15.6	9.3	57.2

### Lake Charles MSA Employment

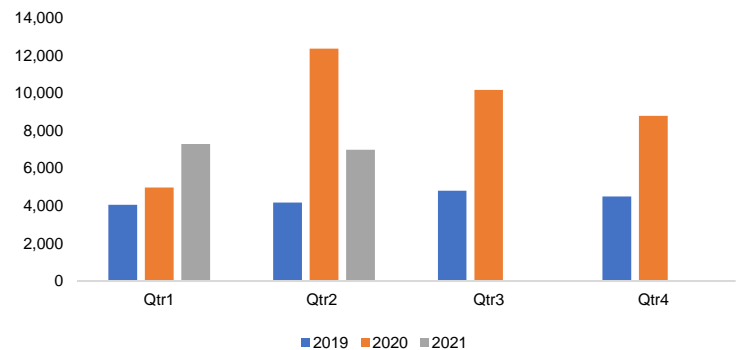


### Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 7.1% which represents a 5.0 percentage point decrease from a year ago as the effects of the pandemic were really hitting the area hard. The household employment measure rose by 1,828 over the year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter for a 2.1% increase. The number of unemployed decreased by 5,371. This represented a dramatic 43.5% decrease. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was a drop of 3,543 (-3.5%). Job openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 6,092. Openings increased by 2,217 (57.2%) over the year.

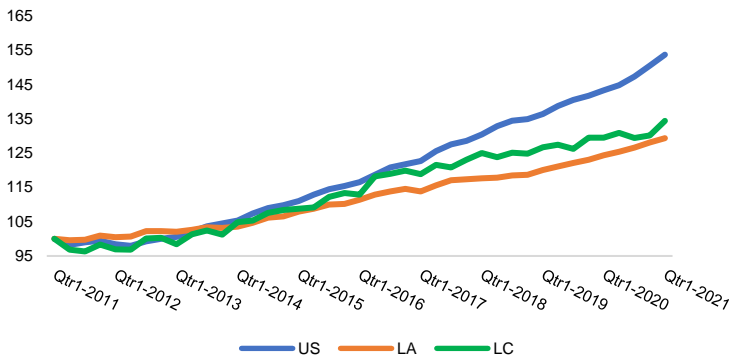
### Lake Charles MSA Unemployment



Overall, both the household and nonfarm employment measures show the MSA took a dramatic drop in the third and fourth quarters due to the pandemic and Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Jobs have been increasing but are still below pre-pandemic levels. Fortunately, the area is above pre-Laura levels.

## Housing Statistics

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

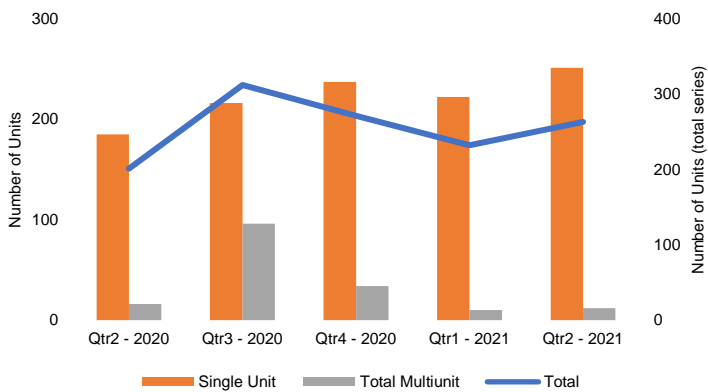


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr1- 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Year-over-Year % Change
<b>Lake Charles HPI</b>	129.5	134.4	3.8
<b>Louisiana HPI</b>	124.4	129.3	4.0
<b>US HPI</b>	143.3	153.7	7.2

The housing statistics show that prices in the area were rising slower than the state and the nation. Looking at price changes over-the-year, from the first quarter of 2020 to the same quarter in 2021, housing prices have only risen 3.8% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to 4.0% in LA and 7.2% in the US.

## Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

**Lake Charles MSA Building Permits**



In the second quarter of 2021, single unit permits rose by 66 over-the-year while multi-unit permits fell by 4 bringing the total increase to 62. This represented a 30.8% increase. The YTD figures show an increase of 51 in single unit and a drop of 10 for multi-unit bringing the total increase to 41. The percentage change for total permits YTD was 9%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits rose \$10 million while multi-unit permit valuations rose \$133,000 for a total increase of \$10.1 million. This represented a 29.4% rise year-over-year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 for valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, the total year-over-year change in valuation for single unit permits was an increase of \$7.3 million while the drop-in multi-unit permits was \$606 thousand leading

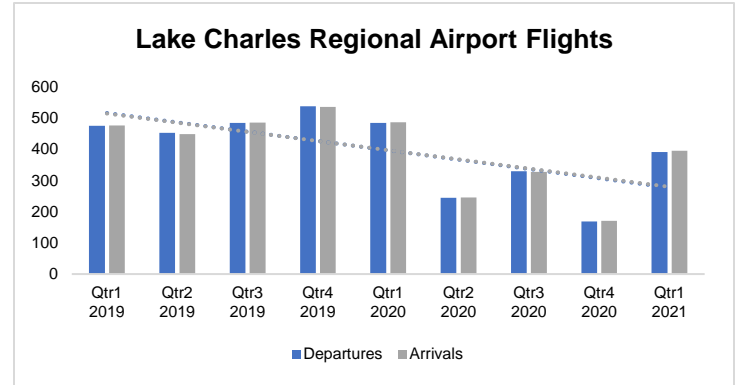
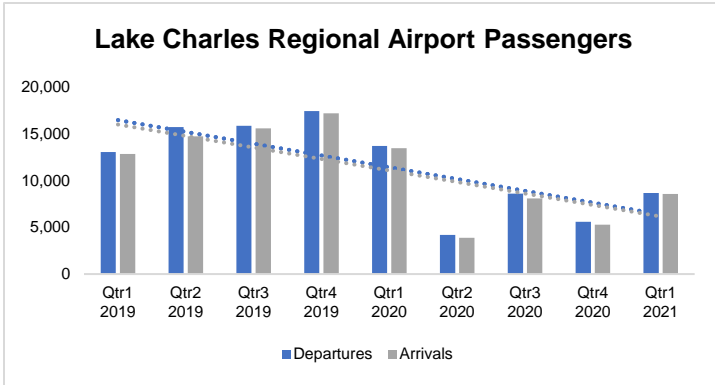
to a total drop in valuation of \$6.7 million. The percentage change in valuation for all permits YTD was an increase of 8.6%.

	Qtr-2 2020	Qtr-2 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-2 2020 YTD	Qtr-2 2021 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Number</b>								
<b>Total</b>	201	263	62	30.8	454	495	41	9.0
<b>Single</b>	185	251	66	35.7	422	473	51	12.1
<b>Multi-unit</b>	16	12	-4	-25.0	32	22	-10	-31.3
<b>Valuation</b>								
<b>(thousands \$) Total</b>	34,257	44,344	10,087	29.4	77,140	83,809	6,669	8.6
<b>Single</b>	33,243	43,197	9,954	29.9	74,670	81,943	7,273	9.7
<b>Multi-unit</b>	1,014	1,147	133	13.1	2,472	1,866	-606	-24.5

The graph of building permits shows that single unit permits have generally rising since the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 (during the pandemic). However, multiunit permits have fallen after jumping in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Total permits have remained relatively constant due to simultaneous falling of multiunit permits and increasing of single unit.

## Transportation Statistics

### Lake Charles Regional Airport



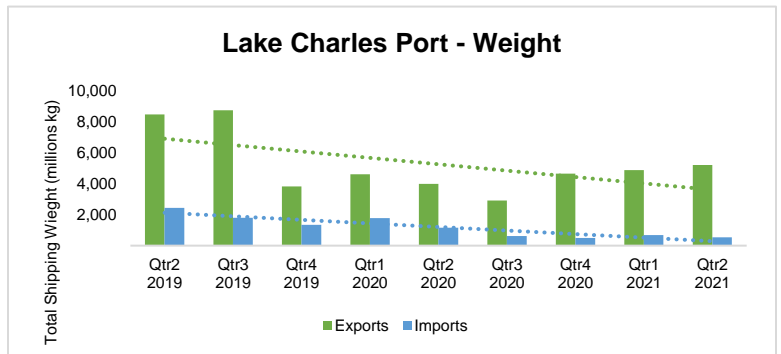
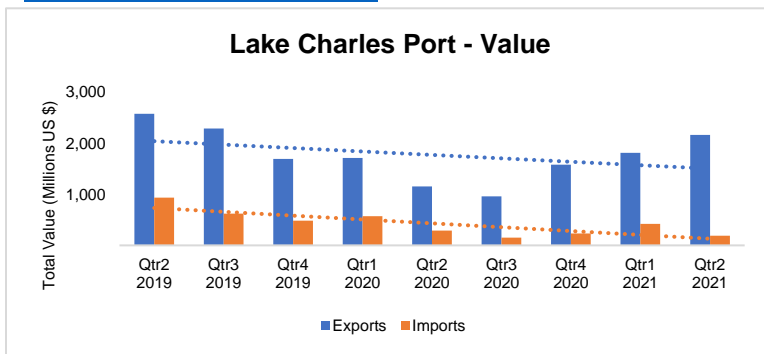
The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a downturn in activity during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter compared to the same quarter the previous year (prior to COVID). While some of the drop was due to the pandemic, more was due to the damages inflicted by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. However, activity has increased since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.

	Qtr-1 2020	Qtr-1 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Passengers</b>				
Departures	13,691	8,665	-5,026	-36.7
Arrivals	13,466	8,563	-4,903	-36.4
<b>Flights</b>				
Departures	485	391	-94	-19.4
Arrivals	487	396	-91	-18.7

Passengers departing in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 fell 5,026 (-36.7%) since the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 and those arriving have decreased 4,903 (-36.4%). In terms of flights, there has been a decrease of 94 flights (-19.4%) departing Lake Charles over that same period while the number

of flights arriving has fallen by 91 (-18.7%). The graphs showing these measures point to downward trends driven by a drop due to COVID and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter drop due to the storms. Activity has picked up as repairs are completed and American Airlines has resumed flights.

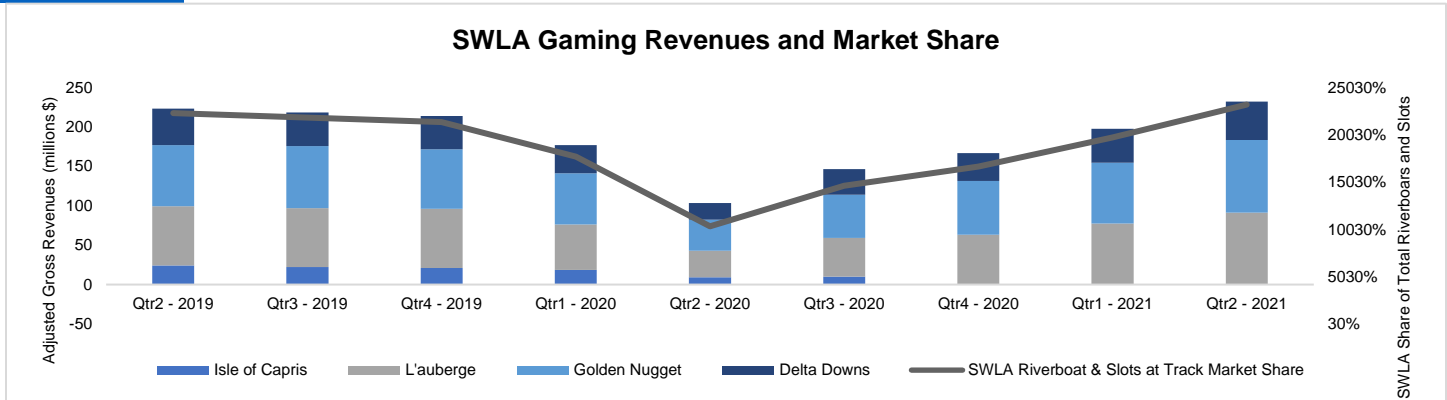
### Lake Charles Port Statistics



The Lake Charles port has seen a dramatic uptick in exports in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 compared to the previous year when we were in the depth of the pandemic. The figures in the table below show the value of exports rose \$1 billion (+87.7%) over the year while the total value of imports fell \$100 million (-34.9%). The total weight of all exports rose 1.2 billion kg (+30.2%) while the total weight of all imports fell 618 million kg (-53.2%).

	Qtr-2 2020	Qtr-2 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Value (millions \$)</b>				
Exports	1,155	2,167	1,013	87.7
Imports	287	186	-100	-34.9
<b>Shipping Weight (millions kg)</b>				
Exports	3,989	5,192	1,203	30.2
Imports	1,160	542	-618	-53.2

## Gaming Statistics



	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Total State AGR (millions)</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>413.7</b>	<b>420.8</b>	<b>497.7</b>	<b>609.2</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-319.0	-121.8	-104.2	53.6	380.0
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-58.2	-22.7	-19.8	12.1	165.8
<b>Total SWLA AGR (millions)</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>146.7</b>	<b>166.8</b>	<b>197.7</b>	<b>232.3</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-119.8	-71.8	-47.1	20.4	128.8
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-53.6	-32.9	-22.0	11.5	124.3
<b>Total AGR (millions)</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-15.0	-12.1	-20.9	-18.4	-9.3
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-61.7	-54.3	-100.1	-100.0	-100.0
<b>L'Auberge</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>91.4</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-41.4	-25.8	-12.2	19.9	57.8
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-55.2	-34.5	-16.2	34.5	172.2
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>92.1</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-38.3	-23.9	-7.4	11.9	52.6
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-49.2	-30.3	-9.8	18.4	132.9
<b>Delta Downs</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>48.8</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-25.1	-10.0	-6.6	7.1	27.7
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-54.3	-23.5	-15.8	19.5	130.9
<b>Share of Total SWLA AGR</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	9.0%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>L'Auberge</b>	32.4%	33.4%	37.9%	39.3%	39.4%
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	38.2%	37.4%	41.0%	38.9%	39.7%
<b>Delta Downs</b>	20.4%	22.2%	21.2%	21.8%	21.0%
<b>Share of Total State AGR</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	4.1%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>L'Auberge</b>	14.7%	11.8%	15.0%	15.6%	15.0%
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	17.3%	13.3%	16.2%	15.4%	15.1%
<b>Delta Downs</b>	9.2%	7.9%	8.4%	8.7%	8.0%
<b>SWLA Total AGR</b>	45.2%	35.4%	39.6%	39.7%	38.1%

In terms of revenues, gaming establishments have rebounded from the pandemic and hurricanes despite one being closed completely. Revenues reached pre-pandemic levels admissions are still below. Revenues are above 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020 figures which had some effects of the pandemic. Total revenues in SWLA for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021 increased \$20.4 million for a 11.5% increase compared to the same quarter the previous year.

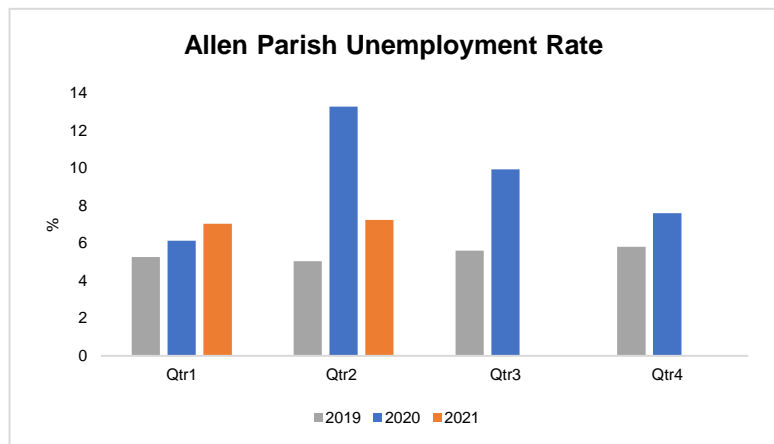
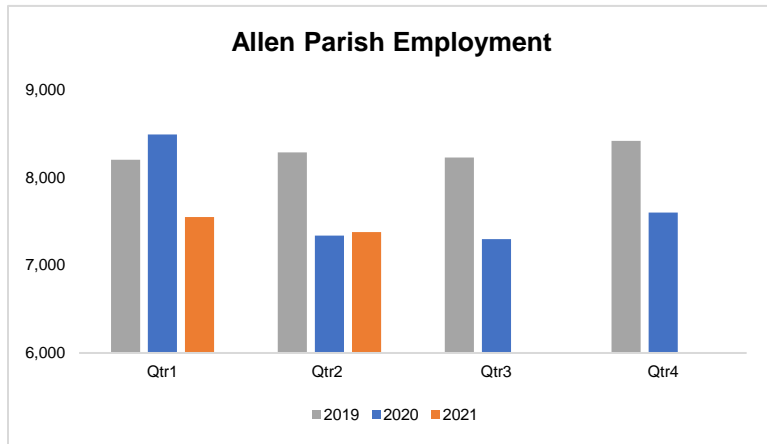
Isle of Capri collected no revenue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 due to closure. L'Auberge had an increase of \$57.8 million for a 172.2% increase. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage increase in AGR of 132.9% with an absolute increase of \$52.6 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$27.7 million rise in AGR over the year for a 130.9% increase. These figures indicate a solid recovery in the gaming market.

The region saw a very slight drop in the share of total state revenues. The three SWLA establishments made up 38.1% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, falling from 45.2% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 (which included Isle of Capri). The SWLA gaming industry still has similar shares prior to the pandemic despite having one casino closed.

## Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>7,298</b>	<b>7,601</b>	<b>7,551</b>	<b>7,380</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,130	-1,057	-865	-941	43
Year-Over-Year % Change	-13.3	-12.6	-10.2	-11.1	0.6
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>573</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	668	291	124	19	-554
Year-Over-Year % Change	145.4	57.1	24.5	3.4	-49.1
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>8,464</b>	<b>8,099</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>8,124</b>	<b>7,953</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-462	-766	-742	-923	-511
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.2	-8.6	-8.3	-10.2	-6.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	8.1	4.2	2.0	0.9	-6.0

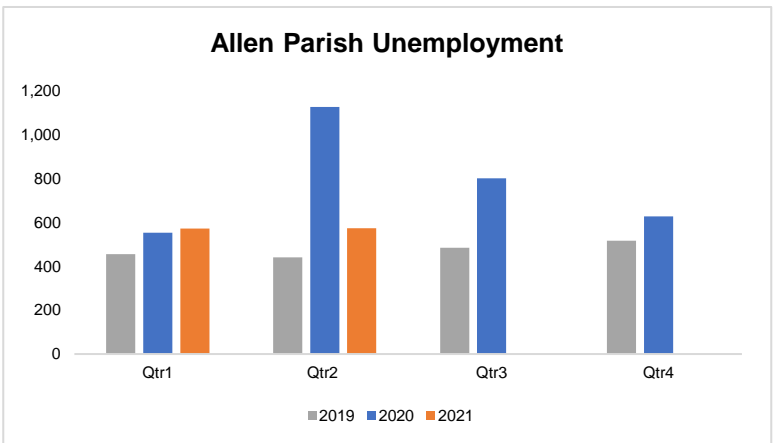
	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>194</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-18	26	11	13	55
Year-Over-Year % Change	-11.3	15.6	7.1	8.3	39.3



In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, Allen parish saw a drop in the labor force of 511 (-6%). This was broken down by a decrease in household unemployment of 554 over the year (-49.1%) while the number of employed persons rose 43 (+0.6%) over the year. The unemployment rate fell 6 percentage points over the year to 7.2%.

Job openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 194. Openings rose by 55 (+39.3%) over the year.

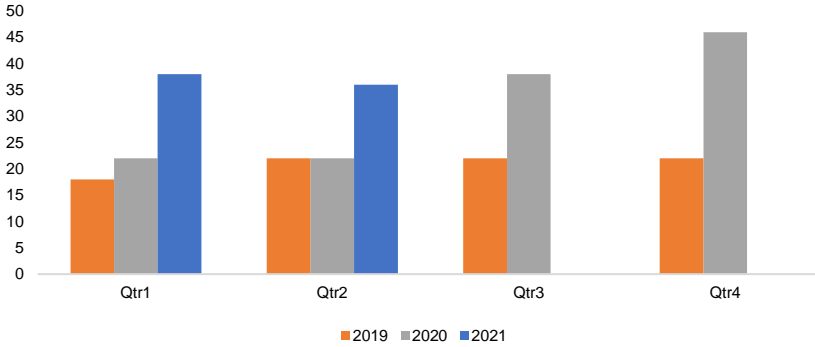
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, Allen has had lower unemployment and a slightly higher employment compared to 2020 levels as it continues recovery. However, overall labor force has been falling compared to pre-pandemic levels.





## 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 36 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 which was the 14 more than the same quarter in 2020 and 14 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 was 74. This was 30 businesses higher than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 34 businesses lower than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

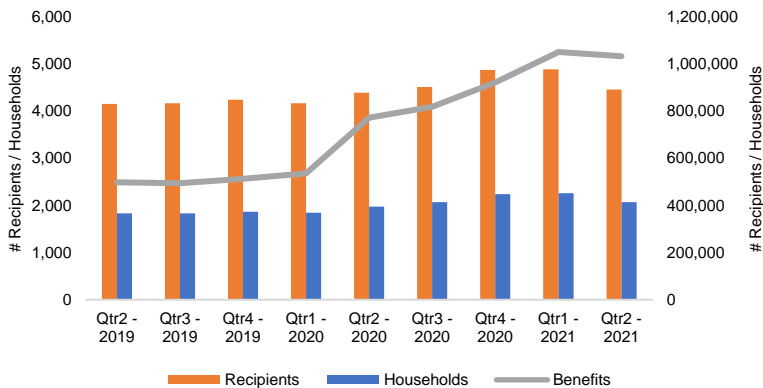
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	18	22	22	22
<b>2020</b>	22	22	38	46
<b>2021</b>	38	36		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	18	40	62	84
<b>2020</b>	22	44	82	128
<b>2021</b>	38	74		

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	4,386	4,513	4,867	4,884	4,458	72	1.6
<b>Households</b>	1,973	2,068	2,241	2,261	2,067	94	4.7
<b>Benefits</b>	771,752	817,835	921,432	1,050,320	1,031,955	260,202	33.7

**Allen Parish SNAP Data**



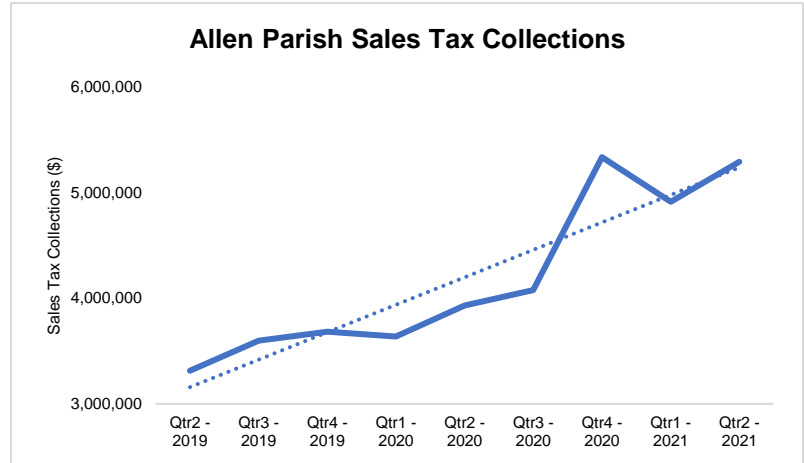
Allen parish had a continuing increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,458 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. 72 more people received benefits compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 for an 1.6% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP was 2,067 which was 94 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 4.7% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$1 million in total during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$260.2 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 33.7% 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 and effects of the storms. From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, however, there have been drops in all SNAP measures.

## Tax Collections

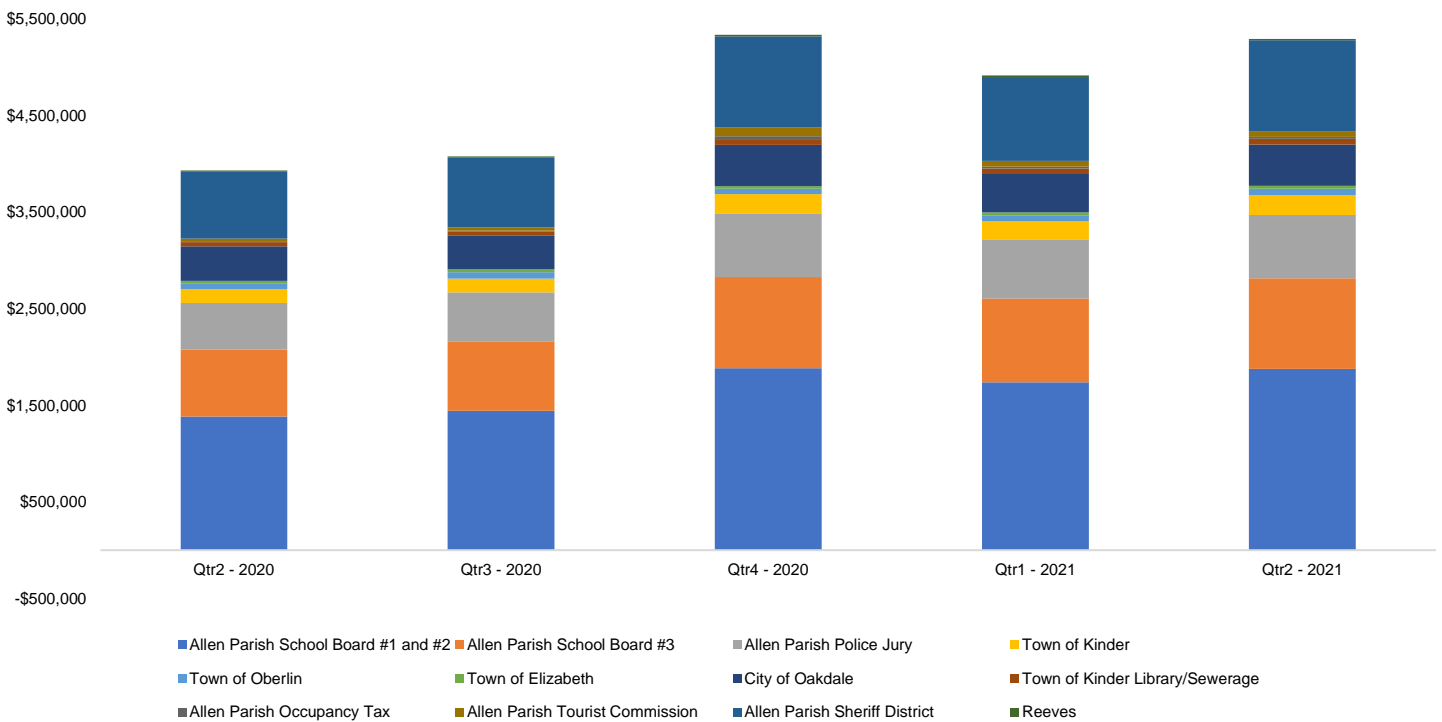
The Drew CBEA has begun building a history of Allen Parish sales tax collections with the help of the Allen Parish School Board. The numbers show clear upward movement throughout most of the year.

Compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020, Allen parish has seen an overall increase in tax collections. Total tax collections increased \$1.36 million for a 34.6% increase. This is mainly due to increased shopping during COVID, recovery from the storms, and a 1 percentage point increase in the local sales tax rate.



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2</b>	1,382,632	1,441,878	1,882,518	1,736,979	1,875,774	493,142	35.7
<b>Allen Parish School Board #3</b>	691,986	721,166	944,436	868,096	938,673	246,688	35.6
<b>Allen Parish Police Jury</b>	484,392	504,818	661,107	607,670	657,074	172,681	35.6
<b>Town of Kinder</b>	142,217	145,001	197,934	191,697	203,274	61,057	42.9
<b>Town of Oberlin</b>	57,529	65,862	56,954	61,910	66,230	8,701	15.1
<b>Town of Elizabeth</b>	28,830	28,365	27,072	29,469	29,321	490	1.7
<b>City of Oakdale</b>	359,408	348,021	425,006	398,584	427,427	68,019	18.9
<b>Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage</b>	42,665	43,500	59,380	57,509	60,982	18,317	42.9
<b>Allen Parish Occupancy Tax</b>	8,662	10,780	30,334	19,793	20,085	11,423	131.9
<b>Allen Parish Tourist Commission</b>	25,986	32,339	91,003	59,379	60,255	34,269	131.9
<b>Allen Parish Sheriff District</b>	691,986	721,166	944,436	868,096	938,673	246,687	35.6
<b>Reeves</b>	14,356	15,001	16,029	14,742	13,204	-1,152	-8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,930,651</b>	<b>4,077,897</b>	<b>5,336,210</b>	<b>4,913,925</b>	<b>5,290,973</b>	<b>1,360,322</b>	<b>34.6</b>

## Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



## Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

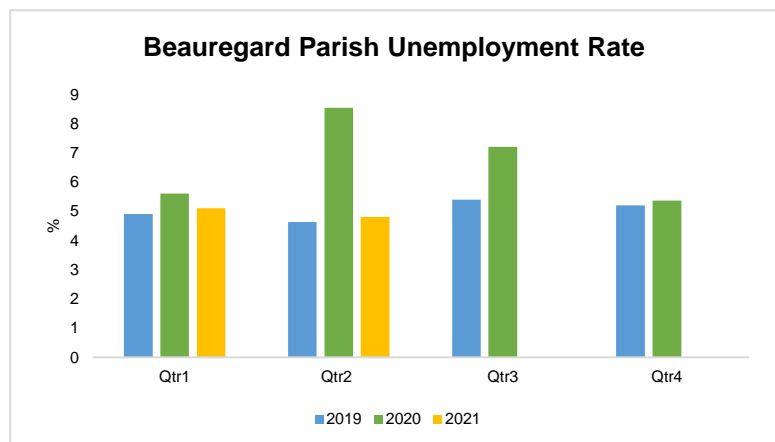
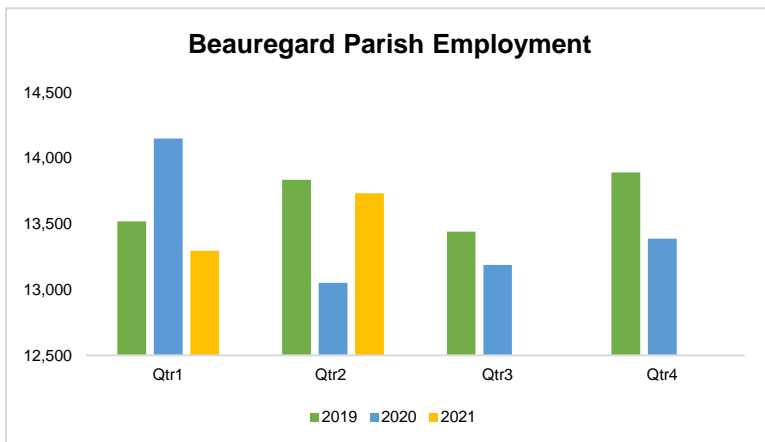
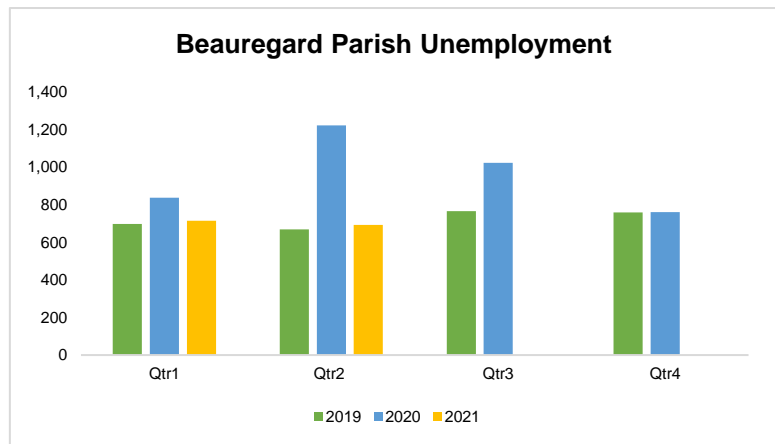
	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>13,052</b>	<b>13,188</b>	<b>13,386</b>	<b>13,295</b>	<b>13,733</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,011	-898	-808	-854	681
Year-Over-Year % Change	-7.2	-6.4	-5.7	-6.0	5.2
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>693</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	519	212	12	-123	-529
Year-Over-Year % Change	73.9	26.1	1.6	-14.7	-43.3
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>14,274</b>	<b>14,211</b>	<b>14,148</b>	<b>14,009</b>	<b>14,426</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-492	-686	-796	-977	152
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.3	-4.6	-5.3	-6.5	1.1
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	3.8	1.8	0.3	-0.5	-3.7

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>376</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-35	25	85	177	193
Year-Over-Year % Change	-16.2	9.8	31.6	82.1	105.1

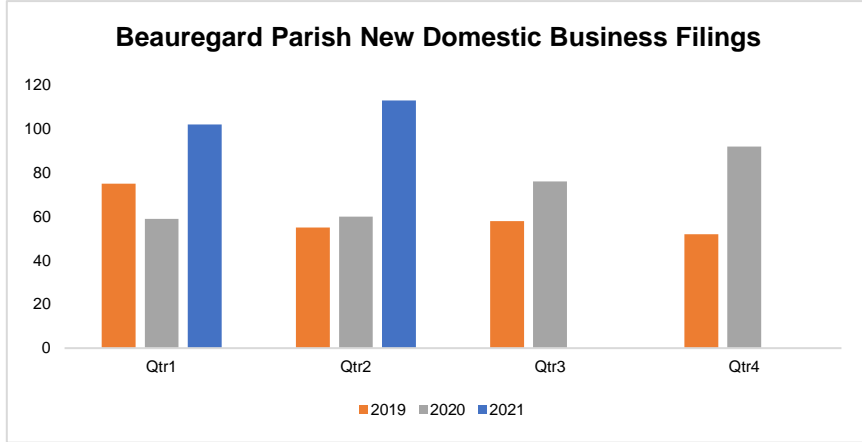
In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, Beauregard parish saw a rise in household employment of 681 over the year (+5.2%) while the number of unemployed persons dropped 529 (-43.3%) over the year. This led to an increase of 152 (+1.1%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate dropped 3.7 percentage points over the year to 4.8%.

Job openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter averaged 376. Openings rose by 193 (+105.1%) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, Beauregard has lower unemployment and higher employment figures compared to 2020. The labor force rose after continuous drops.



## 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 113 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 53 more than the same quarter the previous year and 58 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 was 215. This was 96 more businesses than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 85 businesses higher than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

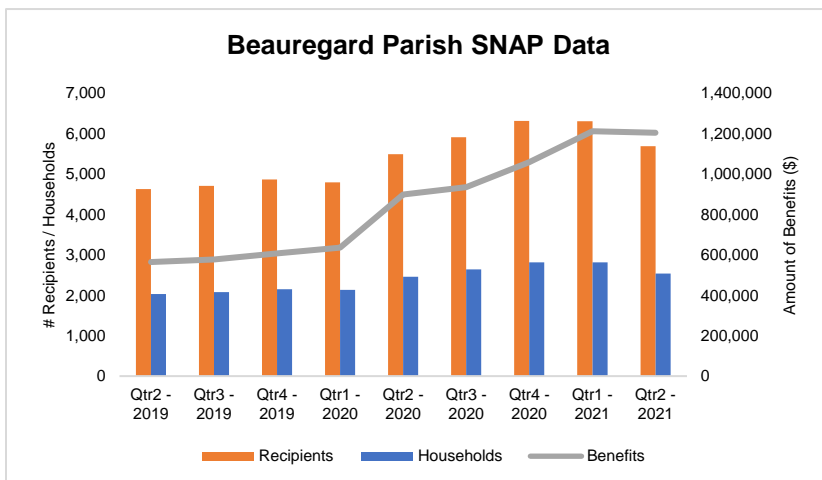
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	75	55	58	52
<b>2020</b>	59	60	76	92
<b>2021</b>	102	113		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	75	130	188	240
<b>2020</b>	59	119	195	287
<b>2021</b>	102	215		

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	5,492	5,905	6,309	6,304	5,687	196	3.6
<b>Households</b>	2,454	2,636	2,812	2,810	2,538	84	3.4
<b>Benefits</b>	898,771	934,335	1,058,026	1,211,119	1,203,688	304,917	33.9

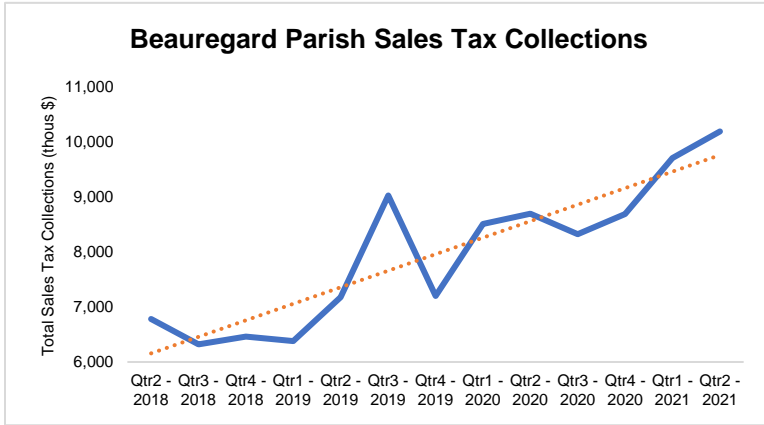
Beauregard parish has had a slight increase in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,687 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. 196 more people received benefits compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 for a 3.6% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,538 which was 84 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 3.4%



increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.2 million in total during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$304.9 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 33.9% rise in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates a relatively flat trend in benefits before a sharp rise. The pandemic has led to more people receiving a greater amount of benefits.

However, all three components of the SNAP measures have experienced decreases from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021. This hopefully illustrates some signs of recovery.

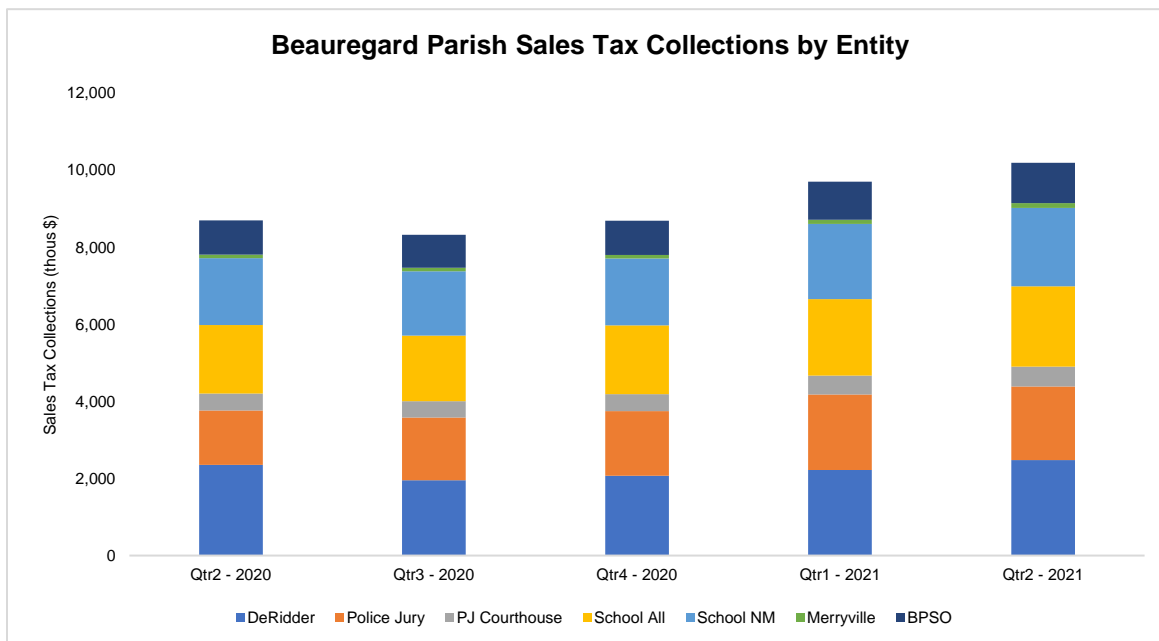
## Tax Collections



Beauregard parish has seen an increase in its sales tax collections in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections rose by \$1.5 million over the year for a 17.2% 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 \$130.3 thousand (+5.5%) over the year. All other entities all experienced increases in sales tax collections. Police Jury collections grew the largest at

\$497.3 thousand (+34.9%). School board revenues, All and NM, rose by \$308.8 thousand (+17.4%) and \$296.4 thousand (17.1%), respectively. PJ Courthouse collections rose \$76.4 thousand (+17.3%) and BPSO increased \$154.1 thousand (+17.4%) over the year. Finally, Merryville collections rose \$34.9 thousand (+37.9%).

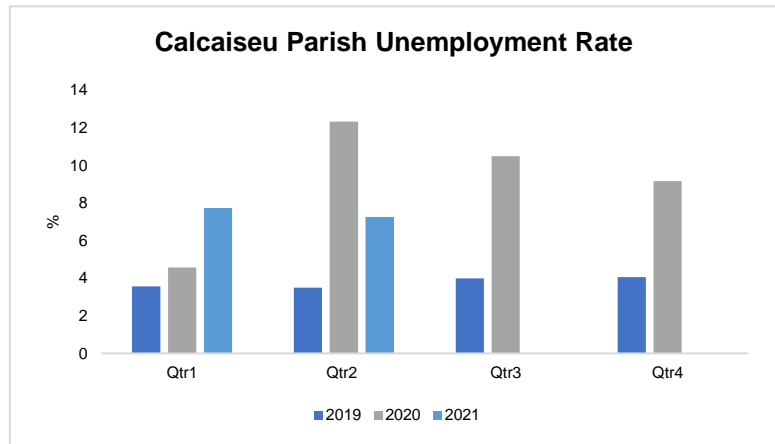
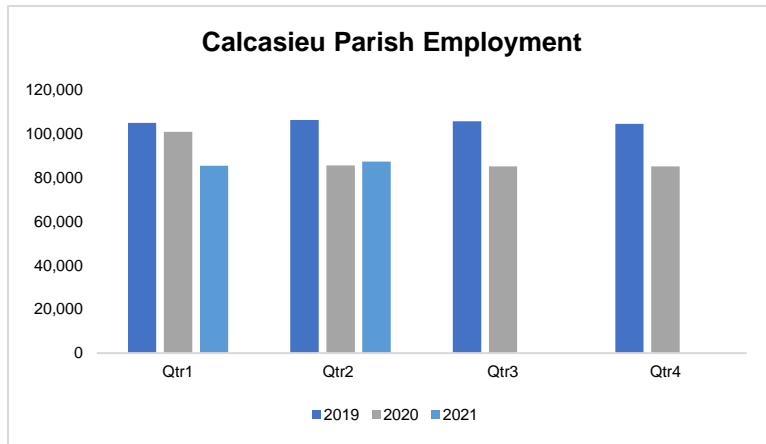
Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>DeRidder</b>	2,350.9	1,955.1	2,075.1	2,222.1	2,481.2	130.3	5.5
<b>Police Jury</b>	1,413.2	1,630.0	1,673.5	1,955.9	1,906.9	493.7	34.9
<b>PJ Courthouse</b>	442.1	424.5	442.0	494.1	518.5	76.4	17.3
<b>School All</b>	1,773.0	1,702.9	1,781.4	1,982.4	2,081.8	308.8	17.4
<b>School NM</b>	1,738.7	1,667.3	1,734.5	1,949.6	2,035.1	296.4	17.1
<b>Merryville</b>	92.1	92.9	98.7	112.8	127.0	34.9	37.9
<b>BPSO</b>	884.8	851.7	884.9	988.3	1,038.9	154.1	17.4
<b>Total</b>	8,694.7	8,324.5	8,690.1	9,705.2	10,189.5	1,494.8	17.2



## Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>85,659</b>	<b>85,163</b>	<b>85,146</b>	<b>85,406</b>	<b>87,421</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-18,534	-17,694	-17,781	-15,572	1,763
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.8	-17.2	-17.3	-15.4	2.1
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>12,101</b>	<b>9,967</b>	<b>8,617</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>6,851</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	8,071	5,316	4,269	2,337	-5,250
Year-Over-Year % Change	200.2	114.3	98.2	48.6	-43.4
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>97,760</b>	<b>95,129</b>	<b>93,763</b>	<b>92,553</b>	<b>94,272</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-10,463	-12,377	-13,511	-13,235	-3,488
Year-Over-Year % Change	-9.7	-11.5	-12.6	-12.5	-3.6
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	8.6	6.2	5.1	3.2	-5.1

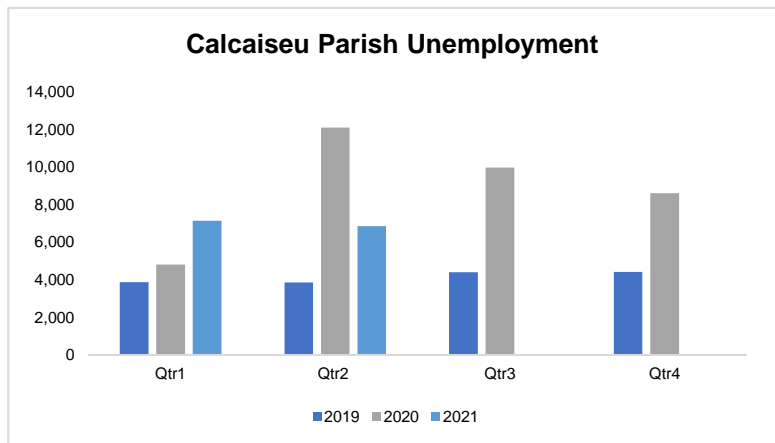
	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>5,941</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,654	-1,548	-800	484	2,169
Year-Over-Year % Change	-30.5	-24.3	-14.9	9.9	57.5



In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, Calcasieu parish saw a drop in the labor force of 3,488 (-3.6%). This was due to an increase in household employment of 1,763 over the year (+2.1%) while the number of unemployed persons fell 5,250 (-43.4%). The unemployment rate fell 5.1 percentage points over the year to 7.3%.

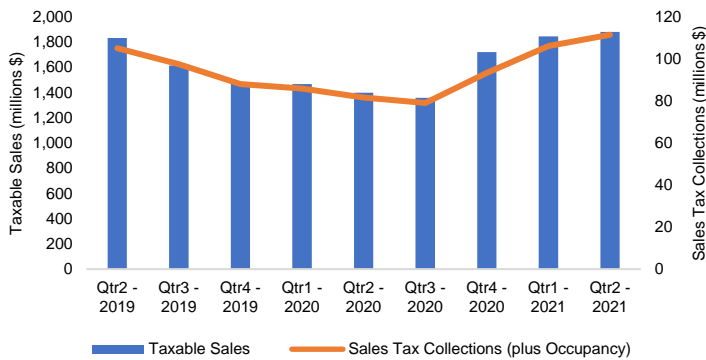
Job openings in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter averaged 5,941. Openings rose by 2,169 (+57.5%) over the year.

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 a higher employment level in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 compared to 2020. The unemployment level is much lower than in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020. Calcasieu employment figures have been hit the hard by the storms and the labor force remains lower compared to early 2020.

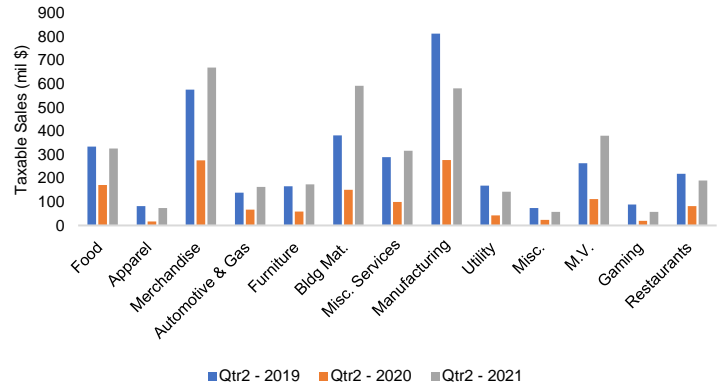


## Tax Collections

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



**Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 2 YTD**



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Food</b>	170.9	147.8	140.4	162.3	163.3	-7.6	-4.4
<b>Apparel</b>	17.0	31.7	20.2	34.1	40.3	23.3	136.8
<b>Merchandise</b>	276.0	255.1	286.8	331.2	337.5	61.5	22.3
<b>Automotive &amp; Gas</b>	66.5	79.2	82.2	74.9	88.3	21.8	32.7
<b>Furniture</b>	59.6	62.8	62.6	89.1	84.9	25.3	42.4
<b>Bldg Mat.</b>	151.5	148.2	348.5	307.7	283.8	132.3	87.4
<b>Misc. Services</b>	100.2	97.9	180.9	156.6	160.6	60.4	60.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>	277.6	222.1	247.0	285.9	294.8	17.1	6.2
<b>Utility</b>	42.3	34.0	57.3	84.7	58.9	16.5	39.1
<b>Misc.</b>	23.6	29.8	26.7	27.8	29.5	5.9	24.9
<b>M.V.</b>	111.8	137.4	176.0	182.2	197.8	86.0	76.9
<b>Gaming</b>	19.2	30.0	29.8	23.9	34.0	14.8	77.5
<b>Restaurants</b>	81.5	81.5	62.4	85.0	105.4	23.8	29.2
<b>Total</b>	1397.7	1357.6	1721.0	1845.3	1879.0	481.3	34.4

Calcasieu parish has recently seen large increases in taxable sales. Much of the increases come from building materials and motor vehicles as rebuilding and repairs commence after the storms. Every category, with the exception of

apparel, experienced an increase in taxable sales over the year. Sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have risen by \$29.9 million over the year for a 36.6% increase. General sales taxes rose by \$28.5 million (+35.4%) over the year. Occupancy taxes were higher. These taxes rose \$1.4 million for a 126% increase. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish rose \$481.3 million (+34.4%) over the year. Almost all categories of sales increased. The most striking (in percentage terms) were Apparel (+136.8%) and Building Materials (+87.4%), which came from recovery from the pandemic (Apparel) and storms (Building Materials). Motor Vehicles also increased 76.9% while sales at gaming establishments are recovering from the pandemic (+29.2%). While Food sales fell 4.4%, it seems more are eating at Restaurants as sales increased 29.2%. Furniture store sales increased 42.4% while Utilities increased 39.1%. Miscellaneous Services and General Merchandise sales in the parish increased 60.3% and 22.3%, respectively. Manufacturing had the smallest increase (+6.2%).

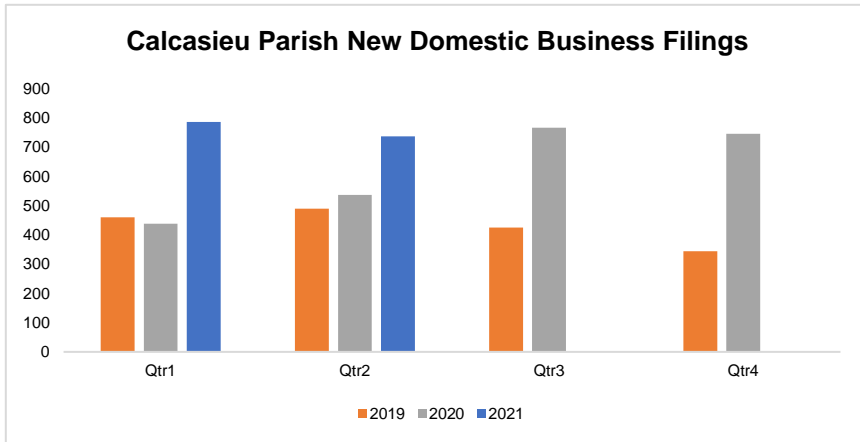
Collections (mil \$)	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>General Sales Tax Collections</b>	80.5	77.5	90.9	104.1	108.9	28.5	35.4
<b>Occupancy Taxes</b>	1.1	1.5	2.5	1.9	2.5	1.4	126.2
<b>Sales Tax Collections</b>	81.6	79.0	93.4	106.1	111.4	29.9	36.6

YTD figures show that total taxable sales have risen in the parish by \$860.4 million compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD figure for a 30% increase. This led to a \$50.1 million increase in sales tax collections (+29.9%).

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2019</b>	1,764.7	3,596.1	5,210.1	6,685.0
<b>2020</b>	1,466.2	2,863.9	4,221.5	5,942.4
<b>2021</b>	1,845.3	3,724.3		

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2019</b>	102.4	207.5	304.9	392.8
<b>2020</b>	85.8	167.4	246.4	339.8
<b>2021</b>	106.1	217.5		

## New Business Filings



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

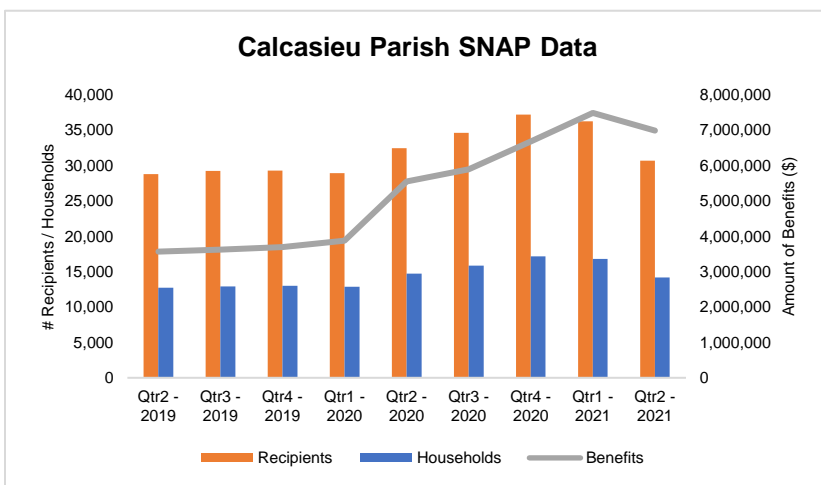
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 737 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 200 more than the same quarter the previous year and 247 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 was 1,524. This was 574 more businesses than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 548 businesses higher than the same quarter of 2019 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	460	490	425	344
<b>2020</b>	439	537	767	746
<b>2021</b>	787	737		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	460	950	1375	1719
<b>2020</b>	439	976	1743	2489
<b>2021</b>	787	1524		

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	32,455	34,636	37,172	36,259	30,666	-1,789	-5.5
<b>Households</b>	14,726	15,863	17,179	16,810	14,169	-557	-3.8
<b>Benefits</b>	5,544,380	5,888,494	6,675,059	7,486,287	6,987,175	1,442,795	26.0



Calcasieu parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients and households while benefits have increased over the year. The parish had an average of 30,666 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. This was 1,789 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 for 5.5% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 14,169 which was 557 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 3.8% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$7 million in total during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$1.4 million increase over-the-year. This was a 26% increase in benefits

in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates an overall flat trend in benefits in 2019 before spiking in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 and continuing. There were decreases from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, indicating a recovery.

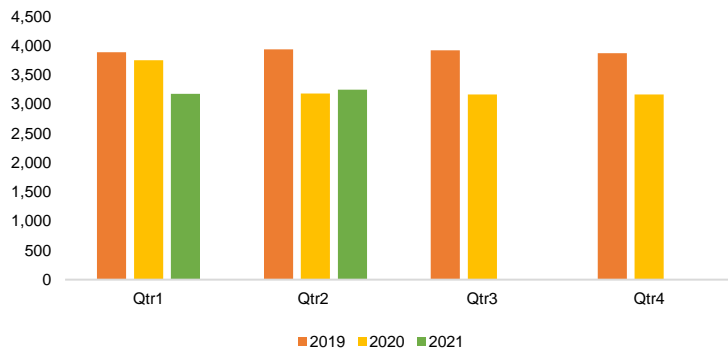


## Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

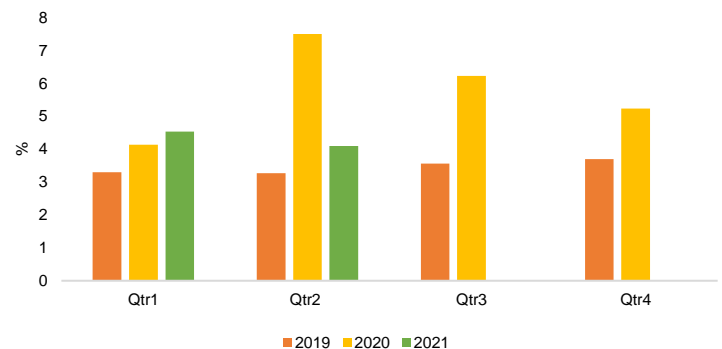
	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>3,184</b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>3,177</b>	<b>3,250</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-688	-662	-658	-578	66
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.8	-17.3	-17.2	-15.4	2.1
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>139</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	121	57	30	-10	-121
Year-Over-Year % Change	86.8	37.7	20.3	-6.4	-46.5
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>3,444</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>3,389</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-568	-604	-628	-588	-55
Year-Over-Year % Change	-14.2	-15.2	-15.8	-15.0	-1.6
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	4.0	2.4	1.6	0.4	-3.4

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>151</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-40	-127	-76	-14	48
Year-Over-Year % Change	-28.1	-49.5	-34.2	-9.3	46.6

**Cameron Parish Employment**



**Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate**

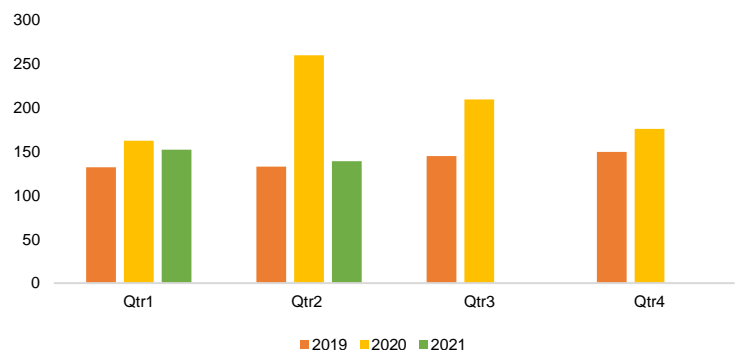


In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, Cameron parish had an increase in household employment of 66 over the year (+2.1%) while the number of unemployed persons dropped by 121 (-46.5%). This meant a decrease of 55 (-1.6%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate fell 3.4 percentage points over the year to 4.1%.

Job openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 151. Openings rose by 48 (+46.6%) over the year.

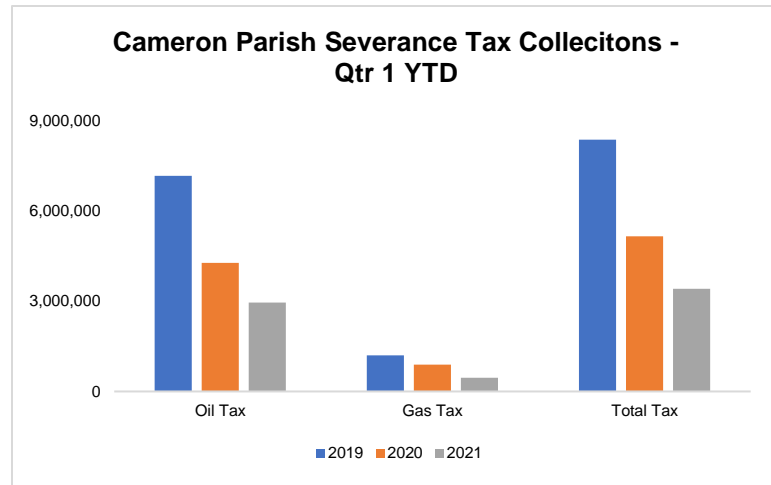
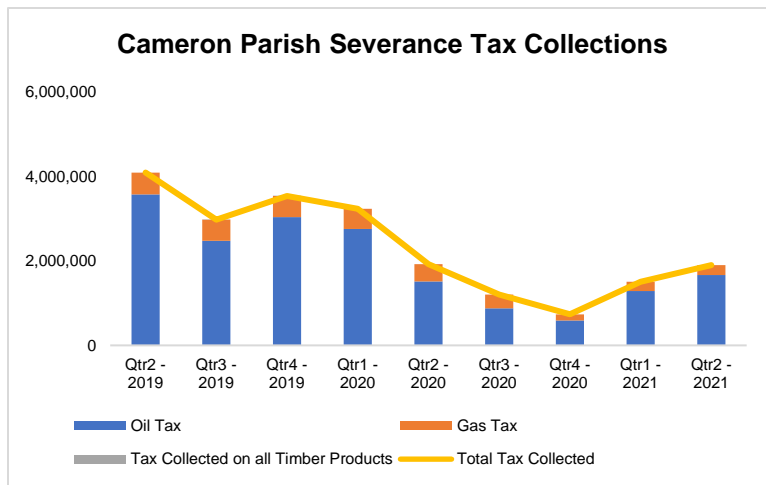
Cameron Parish had a slightly higher employment level in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter the previous year while the unemployment measure was also lower. As Cameron has been hit by hard by two hurricanes and this has resulted in falling labor force even though the unemployment rate has fallen.

**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 generally 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 first quarter YTD figures for each severance tax type (as well as total) over the past three years.

Severance Tax Collections	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Oil Tax</b>	1,513,188	881,297	589,588	1,286,389	1,667,195	154,008	10.2
<b>Gas Tax</b>	409,637	323,106	147,297	218,223	235,952	-173,686	-42.4
<b>Tax Collected on all Timber Products</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
<b>Total Tax Collected</b>	1,922,825	1,204,403	736,885	1,504,611	1,903,147	-19,678	-1.0

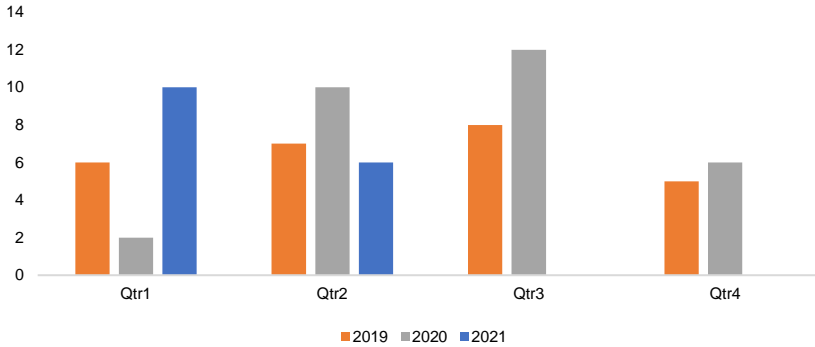
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	4,276,091	8,368,328	11,341,916	14,881,376
<b>2020</b>	3,235,649	5,158,474	6,362,877	7,099,761
<b>2021</b>	1,504,611	3,407,758		

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 rose by \$154 thousand compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented an 10.2% increase as oil prices have recently increased. In terms of gas collections, those fell \$173.7 thousand over that period for a 42.4% decrease. Timber product collections have been zero. Total severance taxes collected from the parish have fallen \$19.7 thousand over the year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 for an 1% decrease. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter collections did represent an improvement from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021.

The YTD figures show in 2021 there was a substantial drop in total severance taxes collected compared to the previous year. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2021 YTD, severance taxes fell \$1.75 million for a fall of 33.9%. 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 6 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 4 less than the same quarter the previous year and 1 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 was 16. This was 4 more business than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 3 businesses higher than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

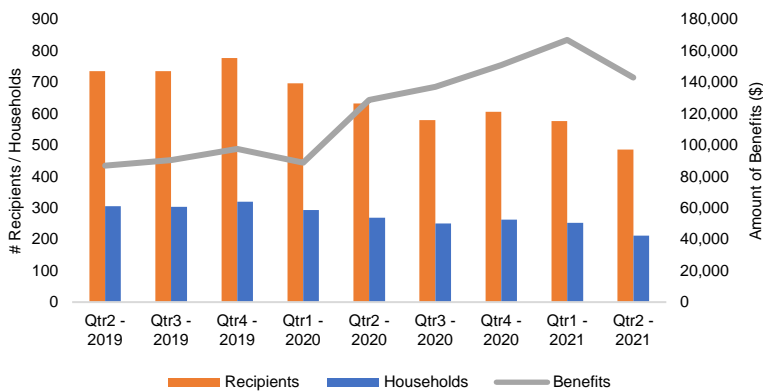
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	6	7	8	5
<b>2020</b>	2	10	12	6
<b>2021</b>	10	6	-	-

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	6	13	21	26
<b>2020</b>	2	12	24	30
<b>2021</b>	10	16	-	-

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	631	579	605	576	485	-146	-23.1
<b>Households</b>	268	250	262	252	211	-57	-21.2
<b>Benefits</b>	128,470	136,963	150,788	166,746	142,799	14,329	11.2

**Cameron Parish SNAP Data**



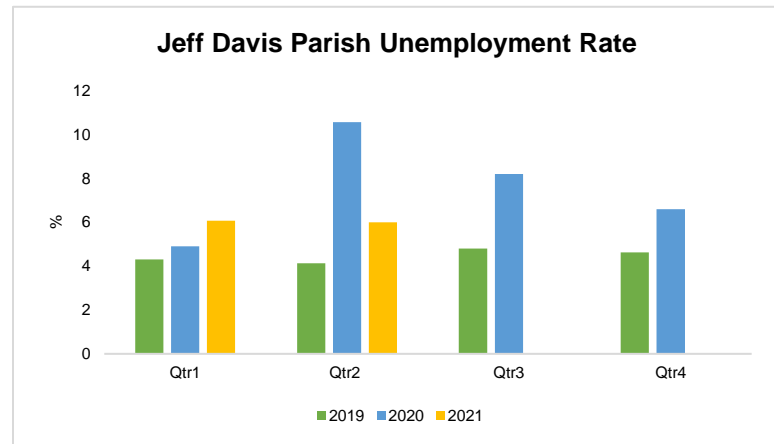
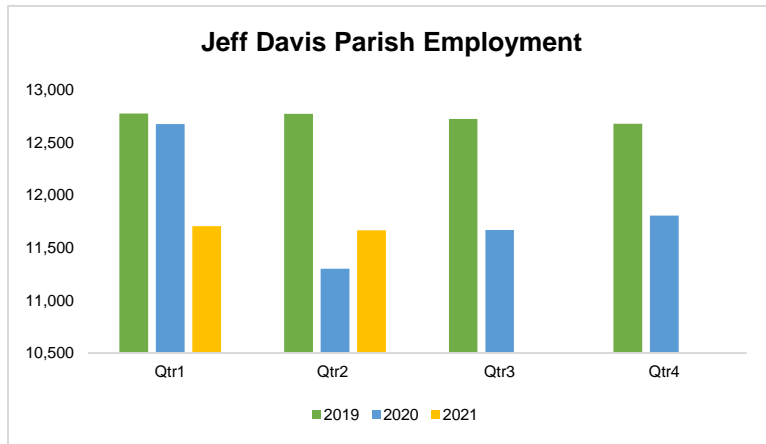
Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients and households while experiencing a rise in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 485 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. This was 146 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 for a 23.1% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 211 which was 57 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 21.2% decrease. While the number of recipients and households decreased, benefits rose. The parish received an average of \$142.8 thousand in total during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$14 thousand increase over-the-

year. This was an 11.2% 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. Part of this falling participation is most likely due to population loss from the storms.

## Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>11,301</b>	<b>11,669</b>	<b>11,806</b>	<b>11,706</b>	<b>11,666</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,555	-1,316	-1,031	-970	366
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.1	-10.1	-8.0	-7.7	3.2
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>742</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	766	364	227	109	-598
Year-Over-Year % Change	133.3	54.1	37.4	16.9	-44.6
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>12,641</b>	<b>12,705</b>	<b>12,639</b>	<b>12,463</b>	<b>12,408</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-789	-952	-804	-861	-232
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.9	-7.0	-6.0	-6.5	-1.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	6.3	3.3	2.1	1.2	-4.6

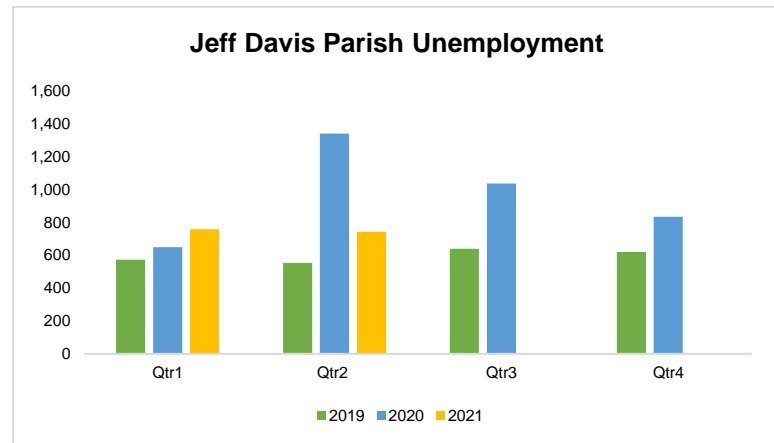
	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2020	Qtr2 - 2020
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>278</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-11	-17	-5	52	43
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.6	-7.2	-1.7	16.5	18.3



In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, Jefferson Davis parish saw a decrease of 232 (-1.8%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by an increase in household employment of 366 over the year (+3.2%) while the number of unemployed persons fell 598 (-44.6%). The unemployment rate fell 4.6 percentage points over the year to 6.0%.

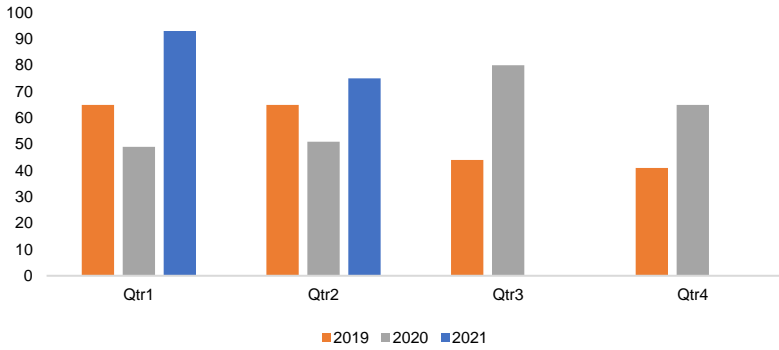
Job openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 278. Openings rose by 43 (+18.3%) over the year.

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. Jeff Davis parish had higher figures for employment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020, with lower unemployment figures. As the level of unemployment fell more, the total labor force has decreased.



## 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 75 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 24 more than the same quarter the previous year and 10 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 was 168. This was 68 more businesses than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 38 businesses higher than the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

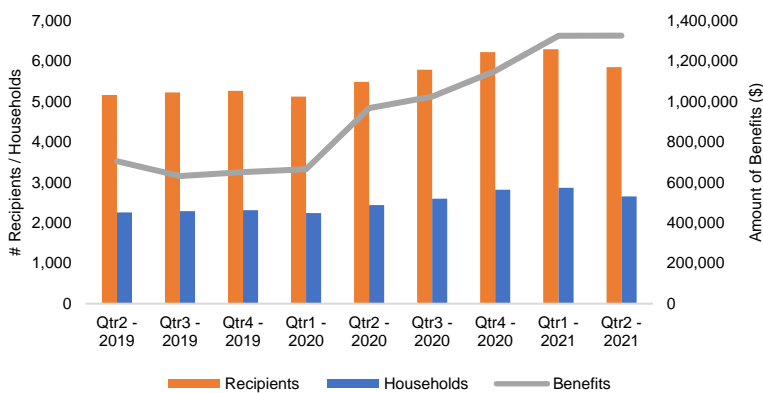
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	65	65	44	41
<b>2020</b>	49	51	80	65
<b>2021</b>	93	75		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	65	130	174	215
<b>2020</b>	49	100	180	245
<b>2021</b>	93	168		

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	5,484	5,782	6,219	6,295	5,852	368	6.7
<b>Households</b>	2,440	2,595	2,821	2,863	2,650	210	8.6
<b>Benefits</b>	966,671	1,024,278	1,151,357	1,325,623	1,325,712	359,042	37.1

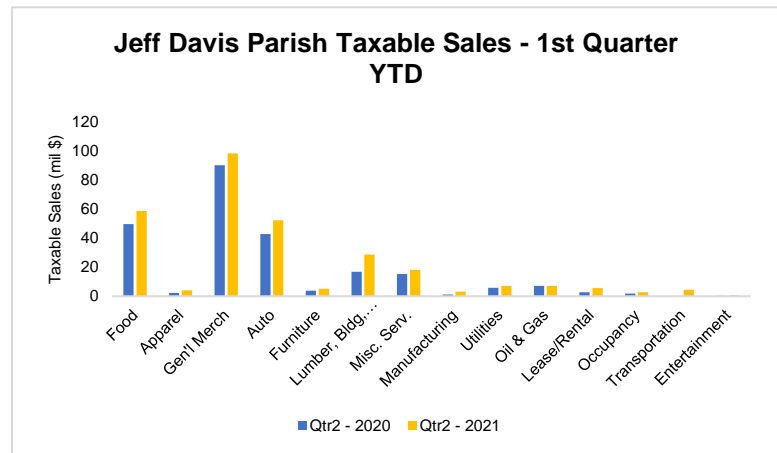
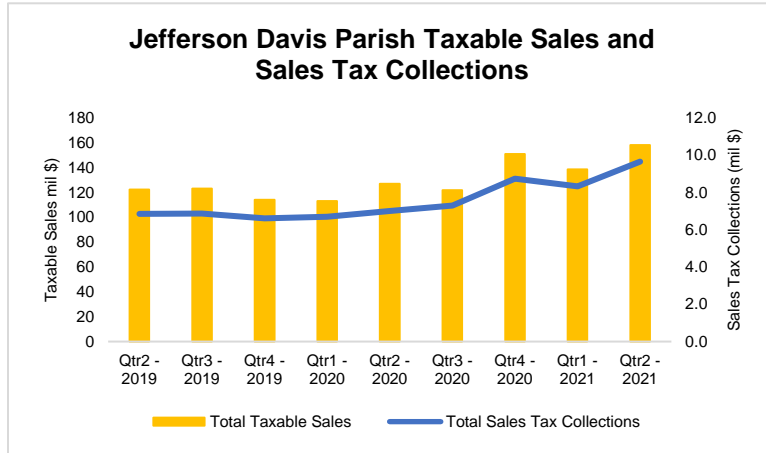
**Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data**



Jefferson Davis parish has had increases in SNAP recipients, households and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,852 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. This was 368 more people receiving benefits compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 for a 6.7% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,650 which was 210 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 6.8% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.3 million in total during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$359 thousand rise over-the-year. This was a 37.1% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph

illustrates an overall decreasing trend in benefits beginning in 2019 before spiking in the second quarter of 2020. This has been 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. Despite annual increases, there were decreases from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, indicating a recovery.

## Tax Collections



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	26.2	25.6	31.0	28.3	30.5	4.2	16.0
Apparel	0.9	1.2	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.0	114.9
Gen'l Merch	49.6	35.7	45.8	48.3	50.0	0.4	0.8
Auto	23.1	32.1	30.9	23.5	28.9	5.8	25.0
Furniture	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.7	0.9	52.5
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	9.2	10.7	11.8	8.0	20.7	11.5	124.6
Misc. Serv.	6.6	6.9	8.1	10.1	8.0	1.4	21.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.2	0.5	1.7	1.5	0.9	175.1
Utilities	2.9	3.3	4.4	4.0	3.2	0.3	9.5
Oil & Gas	3.7	1.7	5.5	3.1	4.0	0.3	8.9
Lease/Rental	1.1	1.3	5.1	3.0	2.5	1.4	126.9
Occupancy	1.1	0.8	3.1	1.3	1.4	0.4	33.6
Transportation	0.0	0.0	0.9	2.3	2.2	2.2	6,359.6
Entertainment	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	364.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>127.0</b>	<b>121.7</b>	<b>150.9</b>	<b>138.6</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>24.5</b>

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr2 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Total Sales Tax Collections</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>38.0</b>

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2019</b>	113.6	236.0	359.1	473.2
<b>2020</b>	113.0	240.0	361.7	512.6
<b>2021</b>	138.6	296.6		

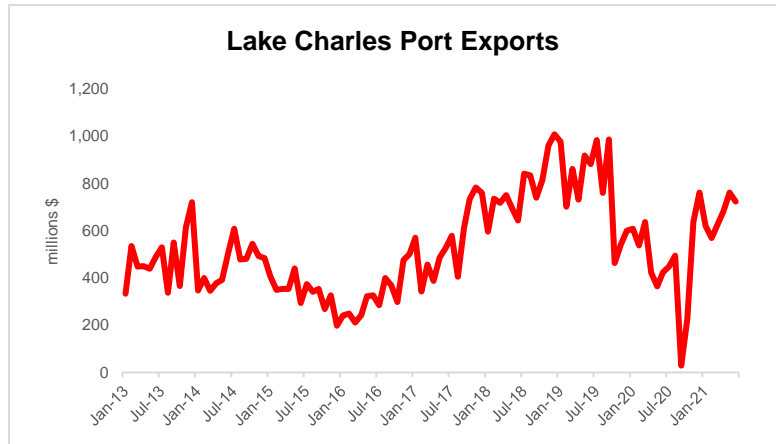
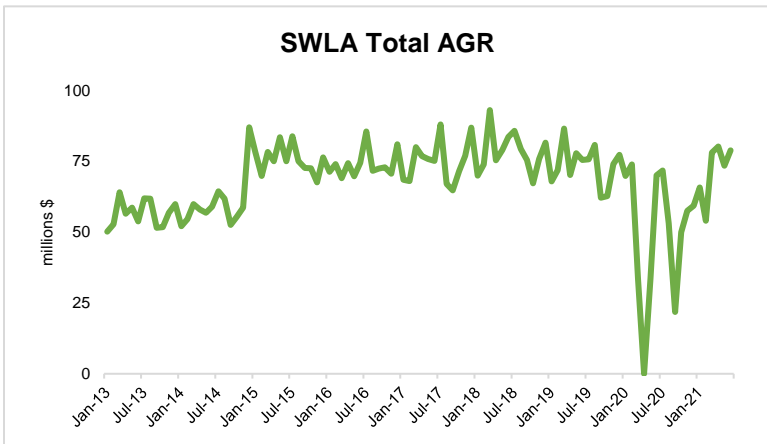
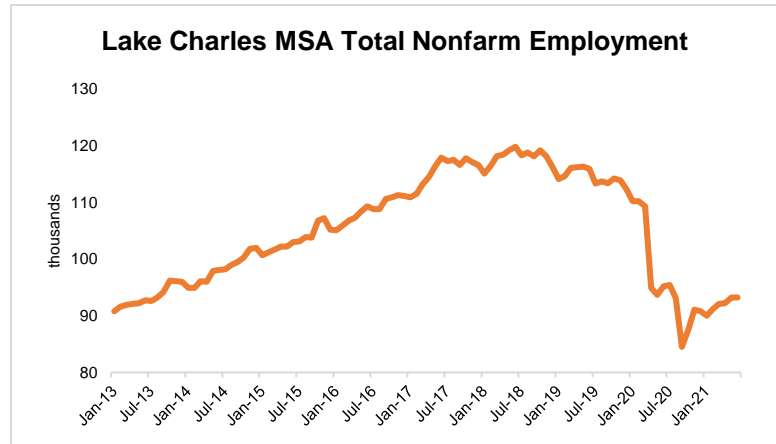
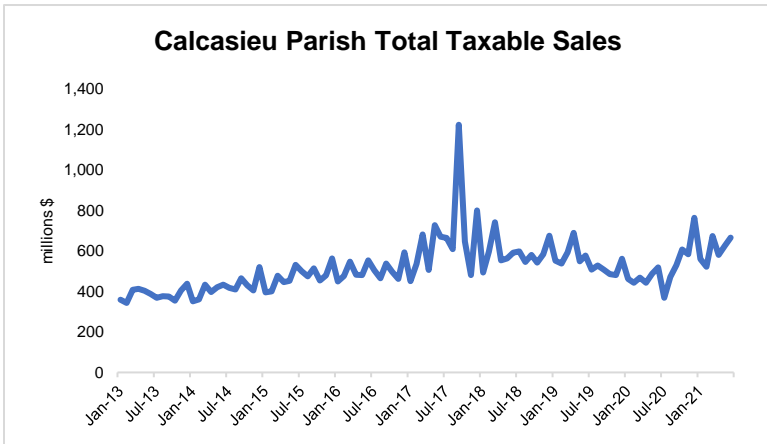
Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2019</b>	6.7	13.5	20.4	27.0
<b>2020</b>	6.7	13.7	21.0	29.7
<b>2021</b>	8.3	18.0		

Jefferson Davis Parish saw an increase in its sales tax collections in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have increased by approximately \$2.7 million over the year for a 38% increase. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by \$31.1 million (+24.5%) over the year. The largest absolute increase occurred in Lumber, Building, and Contractors (+\$11.5 million, +124.6%). This is no doubt due to rebuilding efforts and increasing lumber prices. Auto also experienced a large increase (+\$5.8 million, +25%) as did Food (+\$4.2 million, +16%). Transportation and Manufacturing experienced large percentage increases of 6,359.6% and 129.2%, respectively. However, most of the changes were small in absolute terms. Every category had increases in taxable sales indicating continued recovery.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by \$56.7 million compared to the same quarter in 2020 for a 23.6% increase. This led to a \$4.3 million increase in 2021 YTD sales tax collections (+31.3%).

There are so many different variables that can be used to look at the state of an economy. In just this report alone, the Drew CBEA reports on labor markets, transportation, new businesses, tax collections, etc., and our website collects and illustrates even more data that cannot be covered in each quarterly report. With all the data that's available, sometimes it's easy to get pulled in different directions when wanting to just get a simple answer about the direction of the economy.

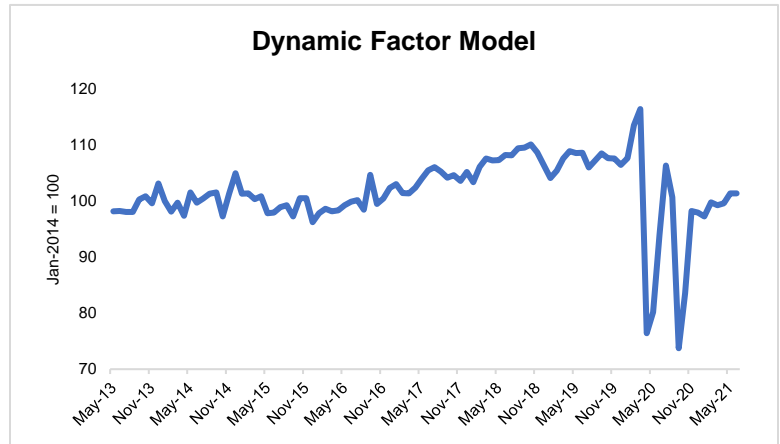
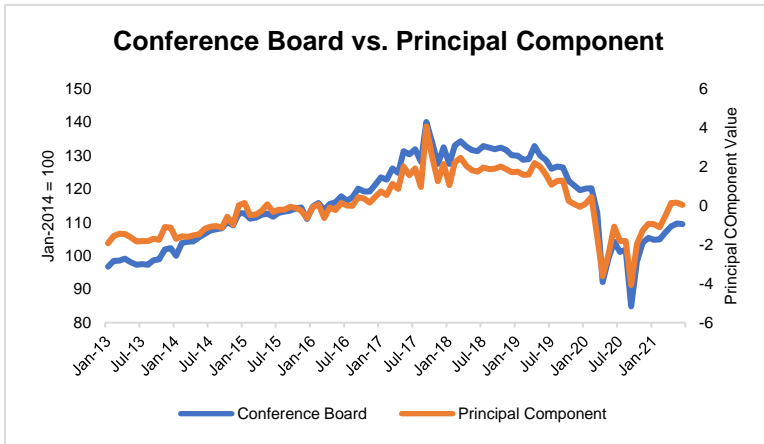
To help with this problem, the Drew CBEA has created a coincident index of economic activity for SWLA. The SWLA Coincident Economic Index takes four major facets of the local economy and condenses them into a single number to illustrate the current economic direction. The four variables are Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales, Lake Charles MSA Total Nonfarm Employment, Total SWLA Gaming Adjusted Gross Revenues, and Value of Total Exports from the Lake Charles Port.



All data is seasonally adjusted to account for fluctuations based on seasonal events (such as weather, holidays, school schedules, etc.). In order to accomplish this, the Drew CBEA uses the X-12 seasonal adjustment procedure. This helps smooth out much of the short-run fluctuations in the data and gives a better picture of underlying trends in the variables. Next, the data measured in dollars is deflated in order to remove any inflationary influence. Removing inflationary impacts helps to show real changes in the economic variables.

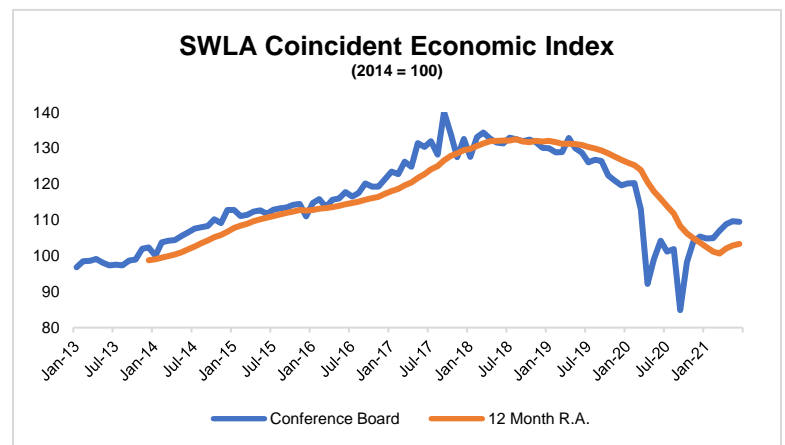
After seasonally adjusting and deflating the variables, a statistical technique must be chosen to combine all the measures into a single index. Economists have used many different methods to create indexes ranging from simple algebraic calculations to more complicated Bayesian econometric techniques.

The Drew CBEA has tested numerous techniques to construct the economic index. Specifically, indexes have been constructed from a basic Conference Board methodology, using a principal component, and implementing a dynamic factor model (DFM). Each method produces similar results in terms of movements. The dynamic factor model may look a little different as the trends from these models have no economic meaning. Often as a cosmetic gesture, the trends are set to mimic trends in a broad measure of the economy, such as output.



All the indexes generally show an increase in general economic activity prior to a drastic drop off at the start of the COVID pandemic. Since that time, there was another major fall due to Hurricane Laura and the damage caused to the local economy. The Conference Board methodology and principal component both show the economy has surpassed pre-Laura levels while the DFM shows continued recovery but not quite to the level prior to the storm.

The Drew CBEA will currently report the coincident economic index using the Conference Board Methodology. The index as been rebased to show how the economy compares to the year 2014 (2014=100). While the index was constructed from seasonally adjusted and deflated data to get a measure of real activity and make the trends easier to see, its also helpful to look at the rolling average of the index to see how the economy has been growing compared to an overall trend. The graph to the right shows the index and its 12-month rolling average. During the economic boom in SWLA, the index was continually growing above the rolling average. Since 2019, the economy has taken dips due to construction completion of large economic development projects and drastic drops from COVID and the storms. However, the graph shows that our local economic index has finally reached levels above those of Hurricane Laura and has reversed the trend from negative to positive. This does not imply that everything is completely back to normal since the storms, but it does show significant improvement and recovery has taken place.



While coincident indicators show the current condition of the local economy, leading indexes can show the future direction of the economy<sup>1</sup>. Generally, leading indexes are constructed to give a glimpse as to movements in the coincident index that can be expected in the near future (for example, 6 months or 9 months from now).

<sup>1</sup>There are also lagging indexes which show the past state of the economy, but the Drew CBEA has not begun to construct these.

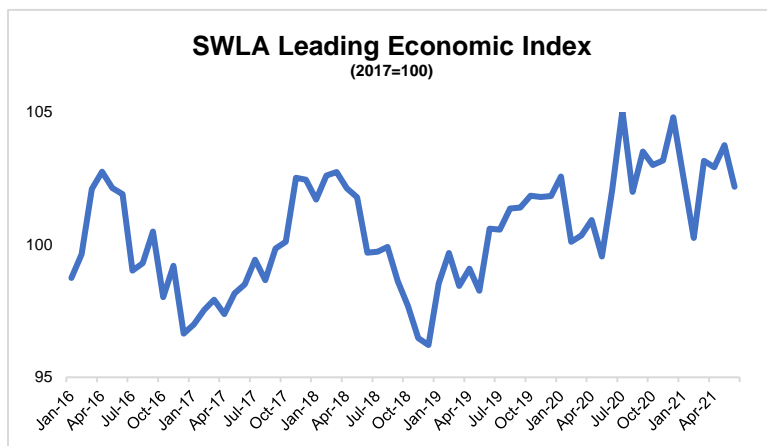


In order to construct leading indexes, one must choose variables that lead an economy. In the case of SWLA, the Drew CBEA has been working with the following group of variables:

1. [Census Total Building Permits for the Lake Charles MSA](#)
2. [New Business Filings in Calcasieu Parish from the Louisiana Secretary of State](#)
3. [The Real Trade Weighted U.S. Dollar Index from the Federal Reserve](#)
4. [The Henry Hub Price of Natural Gas](#)
5. [Job Openings in the Lake Charles MSA](#)
6. [The Chemical Activity Barometer from the American Chemistry Council](#)
7. Drew CBEA constructed SWLA Stock Price Index

The first six variables are all available publicly. The last is a new measure the Drew CBEA has created from using the stock information of 22 publicly traded companies that have a significant presence in SWLA. The market capitalization of each stock is estimated from available information and the index is created by weighting the market cap of each company.

Current changes in each of these 7 variables should affect future occurrences in the local economy. Using the same methodology as constructing a coincident index, the preliminary leading index for SWLA is shown below. It's important

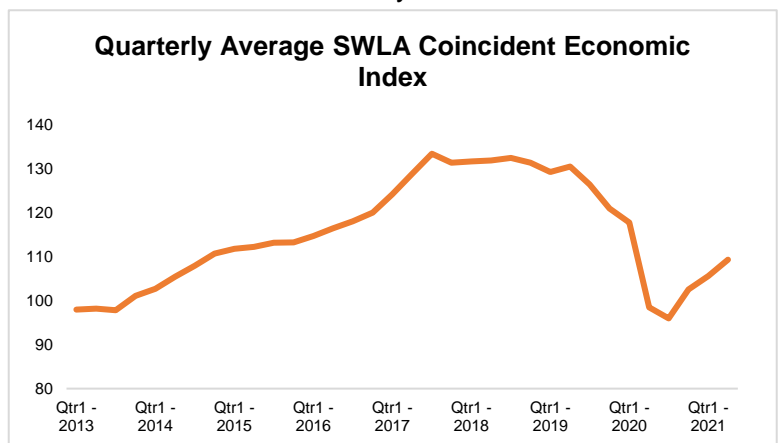


to remember that **changes** in the leading index should predict future **changes** in the coincident index. However, what this area has gone through had made producing accurate leading indexes difficult, if not impossible. In fact, in light of the COVID pandemic, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve has [completely stopped producing leading indexes by state](#). It should be obvious that any forecasts or predicted movements should be taken with extreme caution, especially in light of world occurrences over the past two years. This is **especially** true for SWLA which also had other natural disasters.

At this time, the Drew CBEA will make the coincident indicator index [available for download](#) from the website

and will continue to work with the leading index. As more normal times return, the leading index will be refined and posted in the near future<sup>2</sup>. It is also quite possible that [as methodologies change](#), indexes may change with them. For example, the Drew CBEA may work with a dynamic factor model or principal component approach if time shows a particular method produces a result more in line with the direction of the local economy.

For now, using the SWLA Coincident Economic Index can provide a single simple barometer showing how the economy has currently been moving. For an even better picture, the Coincident Index is shown converted to quarterly measures. The values of the index have been averaged for each quarter and plotted. While we are still recovering, the area has experienced continued economic growth over the past two quarters.



<sup>2</sup> You can contact the Drew CBEA to discuss the indexes at any time.

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/](http://mcneesedrewecon.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