

## 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.

## Contact

Phone: 337-475-5560

Website:

[mcneesedrewecon.org](http://mcneesedrewecon.org)

 [drewecon@mcneese.edu](mailto:drewecon@mcneese.edu)

 [@mcneesedrewecon](https://twitter.com/mcneesedrewecon)

 [fb.com/mcneesedrewecon](https://fb.com/mcneesedrewecon)



## 4<sup>th</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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020, the country was still feeling the economic effects of the pandemic to some degree, but Southwest Louisiana was just beginning recovery from Laura. Then in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020, Hurricane Delta hit the area. When comparing the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 to the same quarter the previous year, some dramatic increases may be shown as that full year spans recovery and the increased economic activity that comes with it. 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 year 2020 led to dramatic events on personal, societal, and economic levels, among others. In terms of the economy, new statistics have finally been released that show the effects on total production of all goods and services from the events of that year. Looking at Gross Domestic Product statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis shows the large drops in economic activity that occurred in our area in 2020. This gives a more holistic view of the economic impacts of COVID and the storms. The end section of this report illustrates and discusses the latest Gross Domestic Product estimates for our Lake Charles Metropolitan Statistical Area and all five parishes in SWLA.

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

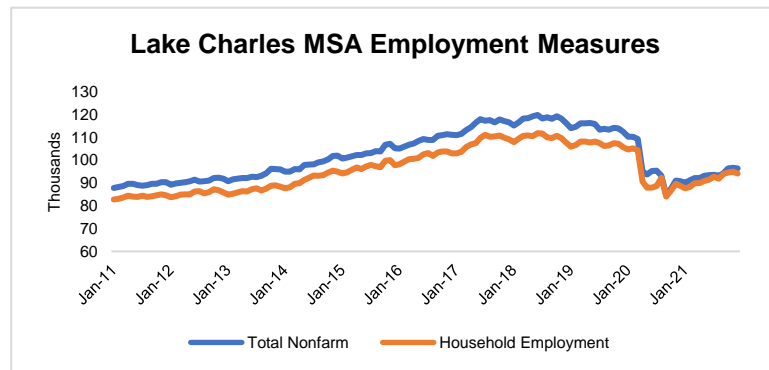
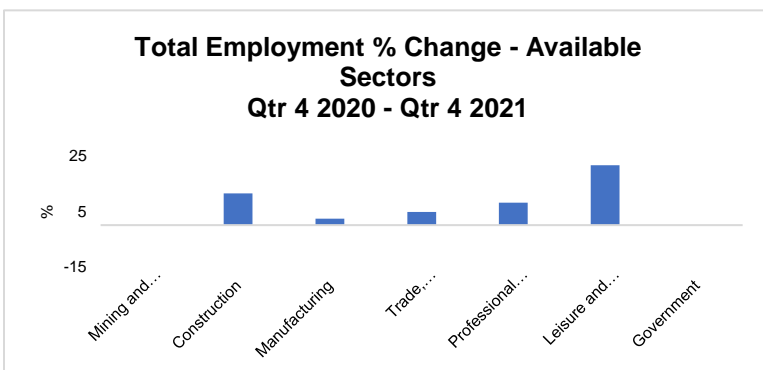
(measures in thousands of workers)	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>96.5</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-23.7	-18.8	-1.7	2.6	6.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-20.9	-17.1	-1.8	2.9	7.4
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	33.3	22.2	11.1	20.0	0.0
<b>Construction</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>14.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-10.1	-7.5	-1.7	0.2	1.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-44.6	-38.0	-11.6	1.5	11.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1	0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.3	-5.6	-3.4	-0.6	2.3
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>15.4</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-3.8	-2.6	-1.1	-0.8	0.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-20.4	-14.5	-6.6	-5.2	4.8
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.7	-2.0	-0.3	0.0	0.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.1	-19.6	-3.3	-0.4	8.1
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-4.3	-3.2	1.5	1.4	2.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-29.5	-21.8	14.3	12.8	21.6
<b>Government</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>14.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.4	-1.1	-0.2	0.4	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-9.1	-7.0	-1.6	2.8	0.0
<b>Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)</b>	<b>760.5</b>	<b>717.3</b>	<b>767.7</b>	<b>784.6</b>	<b>750.2</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-58.9	-46.0	39.0	29.2	-10.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-7.2	-6.0	5.4	3.9	-1.4
<b>Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)</b>	<b>22.26</b>	<b>22.07</b>	<b>22.71</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>24.3</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.8	-0.9	0.8	1.5	2.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-7.6	-4.0	3.8	6.7	9.2

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) experienced increases in employment compared to the same quarter the previous year. 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) rose by 6,700 jobs over the year for a 7.4% increase. Looking at the industries shows all industries either gained jobs over the year or experienced no change. Leisure and Hospitality experienced the largest industry gain of 21.6% as COVID restrictions have eased and hurricane recovery continues. Construction has seen gains as it has added 1,400 jobs (+11.4%). Government jobs remained at the same level. Manufacturing gained 200

jobs (+2.3%) while Professional and Business Services gained 700 jobs (+8.1%).

While there was a gain in employment, there were increases in some earnings measures. While Average weekly earnings of all employees fell 1.4%, average hourly earnings rose 9.2%. Although not shown, average weekly hours of all employees in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter fell 9.7% over the year leading to the overall weekly earnings drop.

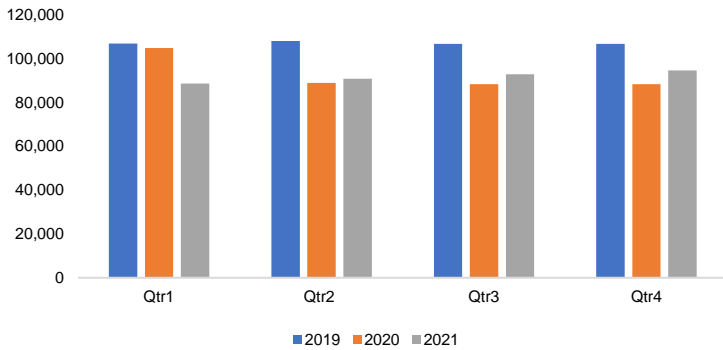


## Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

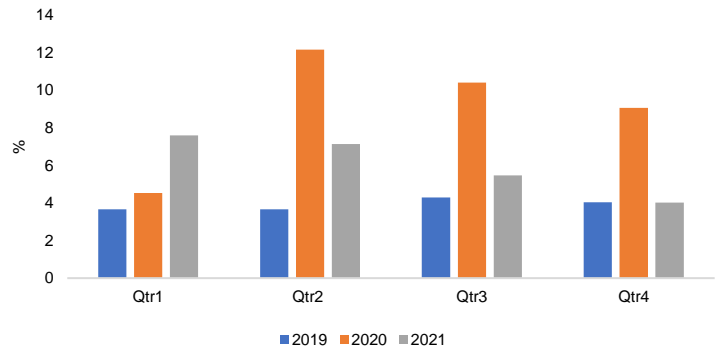
	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>88,313</b>	<b>88,583</b>	<b>90,786</b>	<b>92,869</b>	<b>94,502</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-18,438	-16,150	1,943	4,541	6,189
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.3	-15.4	2.2	5.1	7.0
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>8,793</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>6,990</b>	<b>5,380</b>	<b>3,963</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	4,299	2,327	-5,370	-4,796	-4,830
Year-Over-Year % Change	95.7	46.8	-43.4	-47.1	-54.9
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>97,106</b>	<b>95,882</b>	<b>97,776</b>	<b>98,249</b>	<b>98,465</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-14,139	-13,823	-3,427	-255	1,359
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.7	-12.6	-3.4	-0.3	1.4
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	5.0	3.1	-5.0	-4.9	-5.0

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>6,092</b>	<b>6,793</b>	<b>7,127</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-876	470	2,217	1,839	2,404
Year-Over-Year % Change	-15.6	9.3	57.2	37.1	50.9

**Lake Charles MSA Employment**

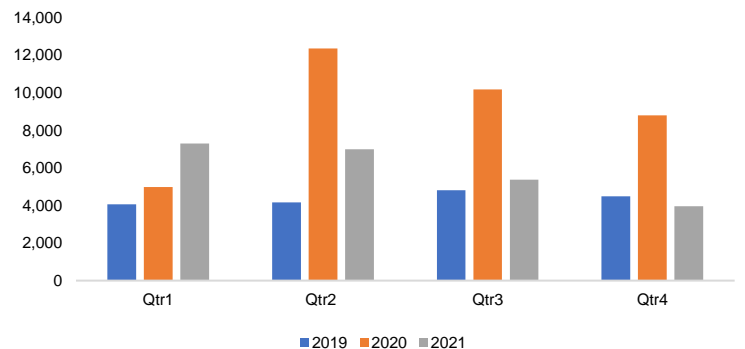


**Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate**



The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 4% which represents a 5percentage point decrease from a year ago as the effects of Hurricane Laura drove up the rate in that quarter. The household employment measure rose by 6,189 over the year for a 7% increase. The number of unemployed decreased by 4,830. This represented a dramatic 54.9% decrease. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was an increase of 1,359 (+1.4%). This is good news as more labor will be needed for long-term growth.

**Lake Charles MSA Unemployment**

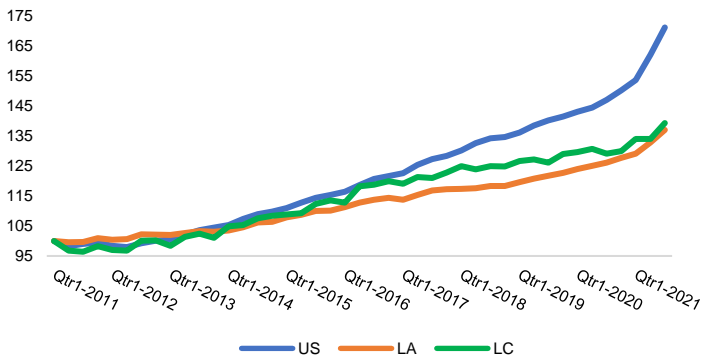


Job openings in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 7,127. Openings increased by 2,404 (+50.9%) over the year.

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)

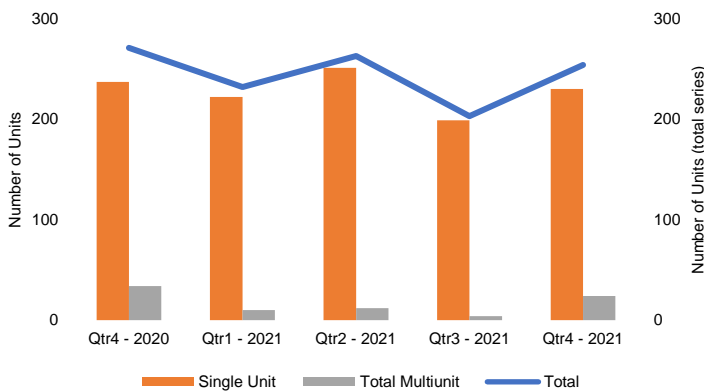


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr3 - 2020	Qtr3 - 2021	Year-over-Year % Change
<b>Lake Charles HPI</b>	129.1	139.3	7.9
<b>Louisiana HPI</b>	126.1	137.0	8.7
<b>US HPI</b>	147.0	171.1	16.4

As housing prices have been rising dramatically during this recovery, that prices in the area were rising slower than the state and the nation. Looking at price changes over-the-year, from the third quarter of 2020 to the same quarter in 2021, housing prices have risen 7.9% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to 8.7% in LA and 16.4% in the US.

## Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

**Lake Charles MSA Building Permits**



In the fourth quarter of 2021, single unit permits fell by 7 over-the-year while multi-unit permits fell by 10 bringing the total decrease to 17. This represented a 6.3% decrease. The YTD figures show an increase of 27 in single unit and a drop of 112 for multi-unit bringing the total decrease to 85. The percentage change for total permits YTD was an 8.2% decrease. In terms of valuation, single unit permits fell by \$1.9 million while multi-unit permit valuations fell by \$372 thousand for a total decrease of \$2.3 million. This represented a 5.5% drop year-over-year in the 4<sup>th</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 \$2 million while the drop-in multi-unit permits was \$7

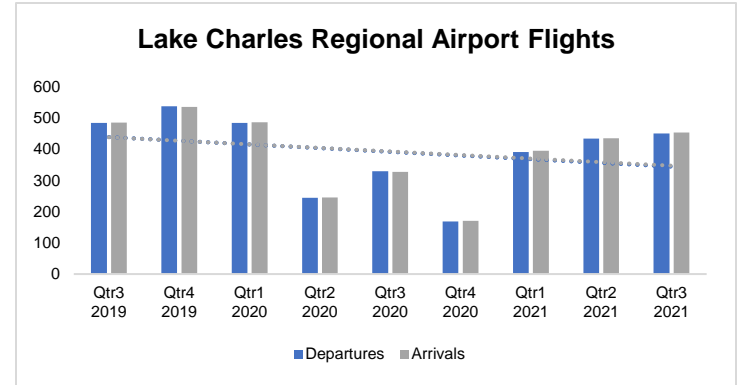
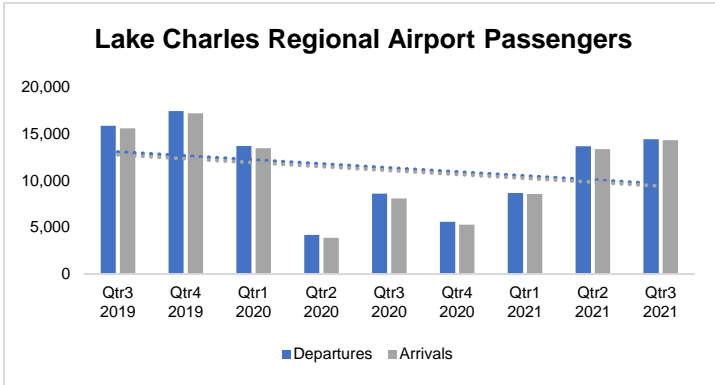
million leading to a total drop in valuation of \$5 million. The percentage change in valuation for all permits YTD was a decrease of 3.1%.

	Qtr-4 2020	Qtr-4 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-4 2020 YTD	Qtr-4 2021 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Number</b>								
<b>Total</b>	271	254	-17	-6.3	1,037	952	-85	-8.2
<b>Single</b>	237	230	-7	-3.0	875	902	27	3.1
<b>Multi-unit</b>	34	24	-10	-29.4	162	50	-112	-69.1
<b>Valuation (thousands \$)</b>								
<b>Total</b>	42,362	40,053	-2,309	-5.5	164,083	159,075	-5,008	-3.1
<b>Single</b>	40,298	38,361	-1,937	-4.8	153,391	155,382	1,991	1.3
<b>Multi-unit</b>	2,064	1,692	-372	-18.0	10,694	3,693	-7,001	-65.5

The graph of building permits shows that single unit permits have been steady throughout the year while multi-unit permits follow a downward trend but reached a higher level in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. Total permits have remained relatively constant over time.

## Transportation Statistics

### Lake Charles Regional Airport



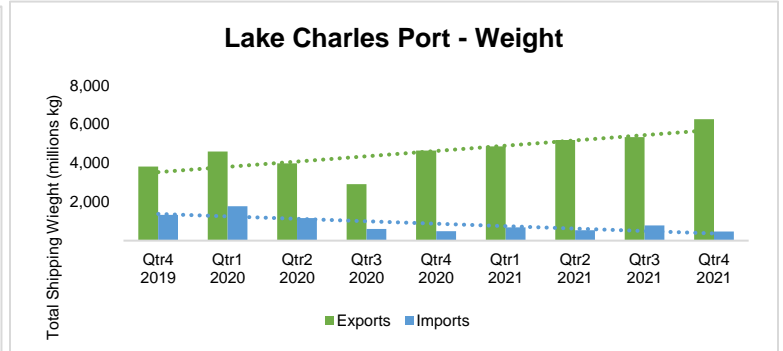
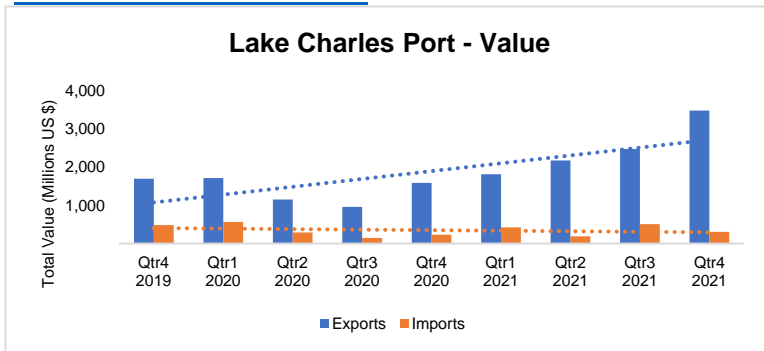
The Lake Charles regional airport experienced an uptick in activity during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter compared to the same quarter the previous year (during COVID). Activity has increased since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 as the airport and area recover from the storms and flights have resumed out of LCH.

	Qtr-3 2020	Qtr-3 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Passengers</b>				
Departures	8,587	14,412	5,825	67.8
Arrivals	8,101	14,317	6,216	76.7
<b>Flights</b>				
Departures	330	451	121	36.7
Arrivals	328	454	126	38.4

Passengers departing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021 rose 5,825 (+67.8%) since the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 and those arriving have increased 6,216 (+76.7%). In terms of flights, there has been an increase of 121 flights (+36.7%) departing Lake Charles over that same period while the number

of flights arriving has risen by 126 (+38.4%). The graphs showing these measures point to downward trends driven by a drop due to COVID and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 drop due to the storms. Flights and passengers have been steadily increasing since that time and will hopefully continue into the future.

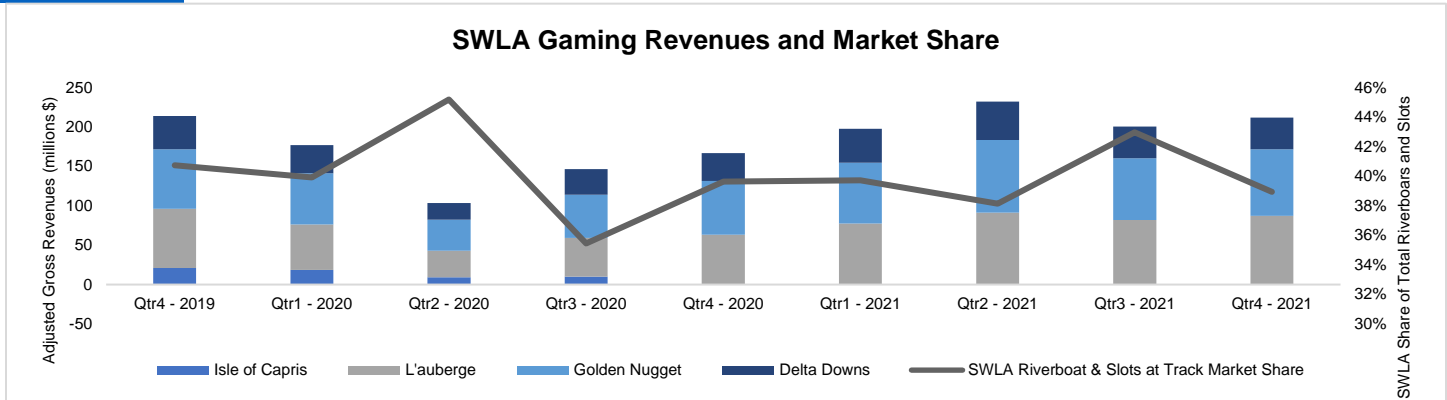
### Lake Charles Port Statistics



The Lake Charles port has seen an increase in exports and import values in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 and the overall trend in export values has turned upwards. The figures in the table below show the value of exports rose \$1.9 billion (+119.5%) over the year while the total value of imports rose \$76 million (+32.6%). The total weight of all exports rose 1.6 billion kg (+34.8%) while the total weight of all imports fell 17 million kg (-3.5%).

	Qtr-4 2020	Qtr-4 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Value (millions \$)</b>				
Exports	1,584	3,476	1,893	119.5
Imports	231	307	76	32.6
<b>Shipping Weight (millions kg)</b>				
Exports	4,647	6,264	1,617	34.8
Imports	491	17	-17	-3.5

## Gaming Statistics



	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total State AGR (millions)</b>	<b>420.8</b>	<b>497.7</b>	<b>609.2</b>	<b>467.0</b>	<b>544.3</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-104.2	53.6	380.0	53.3	123.6
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-19.8	12.1	165.8	12.9	29.4
<b>Total SWLA AGR (millions)</b>	<b>166.8</b>	<b>197.7</b>	<b>232.3</b>	<b>200.7</b>	<b>211.9</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-47.1	20.4	128.8	54.0	45.2
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-22.0	11.5	124.3	36.8	27.1
<b>Total AGR (millions)</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-20.9	-18.4	-9.3	-10.2	0.0
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-100.1	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0
<b>L'Auberge</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>87.2</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-12.2	19.9	57.8	32.9	24.0
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-16.2	34.5	172.2	67.3	38.0
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>84.6</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-7.4	11.9	52.6	23.5	16.3
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-9.8	18.4	132.9	42.8	23.9
<b>Delta Downs</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>40.1</b>
<b>Year-Over-Year Change (millions)</b>	-6.6	7.1	27.7	7.8	4.8
<b>Year-Over-Year % Change</b>	-15.8	19.5	130.9	24.0	13.6
<b>Share of Total SWLA AGR</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>L'Auberge</b>	37.9%	39.3%	39.4%	40.8%	41.1%
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	41.0%	38.9%	39.7%	39.1%	39.9%
<b>Delta Downs</b>	21.2%	21.8%	21.0%	20.1%	18.9%
<b>Share of Total State AGR</b>					
<b>Isle of Capri</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>L'Auberge</b>	15.0%	15.6%	15.0%	17.5%	16.0%
<b>Golden Nugget</b>	16.2%	15.4%	15.1%	16.8%	15.5%
<b>Delta Downs</b>	8.4%	8.7%	8.0%	8.6%	7.4%
<b>SWLA Total AGR</b>	39.6%	39.7%	38.1%	43.0%	38.9%

In terms of revenues, gaming establishments have rebounded from the pandemic and hurricanes despite one being closed completely. Revenues reached pre-pandemic levels (sometimes surpassed those levels) while admissions are still below. Revenues are above 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020 figures which had some effects of the pandemic. Total revenues in SWLA for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 increased \$45.2 million for a 27.1% increase compared to the same quarter the previous year.

Isle of Capri collected no revenue in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 due to closure. L'Auberge had an increase of \$24 million for a 38% increase. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage increase in AGR of 16.3% with an absolute increase of \$23.9 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$4.8 million rise in AGR over the year for a 13.6% increase. These figures indicate a solid recovery in the

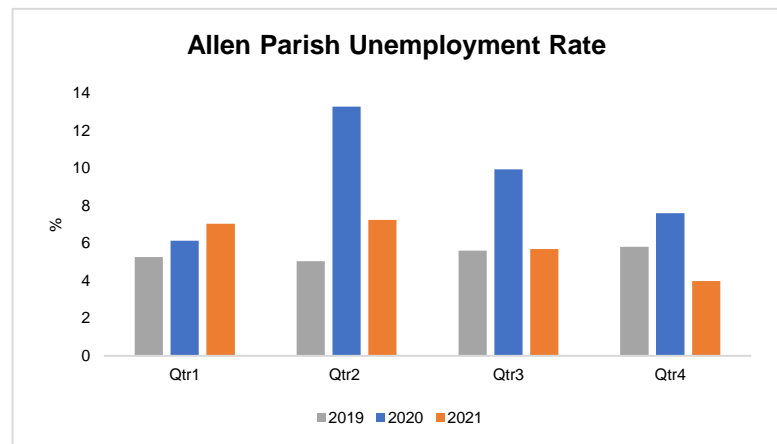
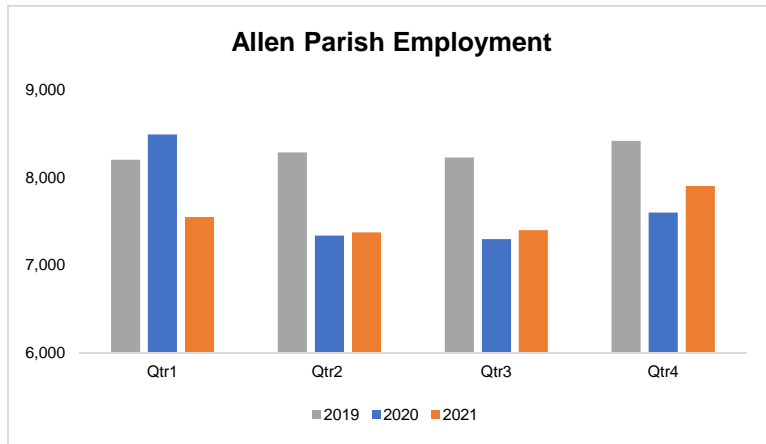
gaming market.

The region saw a slight drop in the share of total state revenues. The three SWLA establishments made up 38.9% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, falling from 39.6% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 (which included Isle of Capri). The SWLA gaming industry still has high shares in the state totals despite having one casino closed.

## Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>7,601</b>	<b>7,551</b>	<b>7,376</b>	<b>7,401</b>	<b>7,905</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-865	-941	39	103	304
Year-Over-Year % Change	-10.2	-11.1	0.5	1.4	4.0
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>327</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	124	19	-553	-359	-301
Year-Over-Year % Change	24.5	3.4	-49.1	-44.8	-47.9
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>8,124</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>7,843</b>	<b>8,232</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-742	-923	-514	-255	3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.3	-10.2	-6.1	-3.2	0.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	2.0	0.9	-6.0	-4.3	-3.6

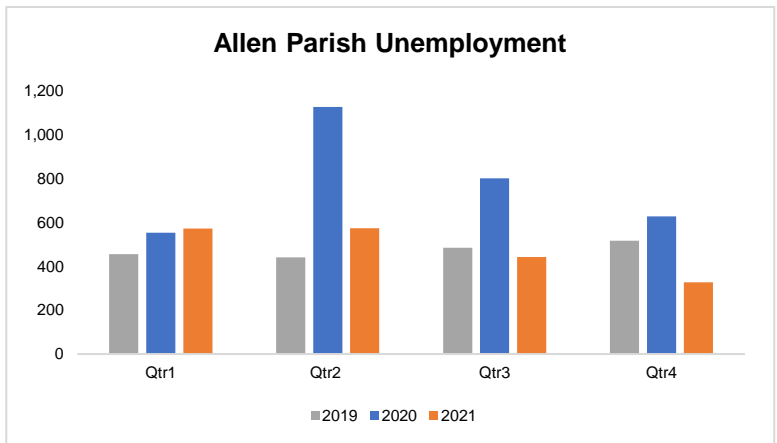
	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>253</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	11	13	55	67	92
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.1	8.3	39.3	34.8	56.8



In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Allen parish saw a rise in the labor force of 3 (+00%). This was broken down by a decrease in household unemployment of 301 over the year (-47.9%) while the number of employed persons rose 304 (+4.0%) over the year. The unemployment rate fell 3.6 percentage points over the year to 4.0%.

Job openings in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 253. Openings rose by 92 (+56.8%) over the year.

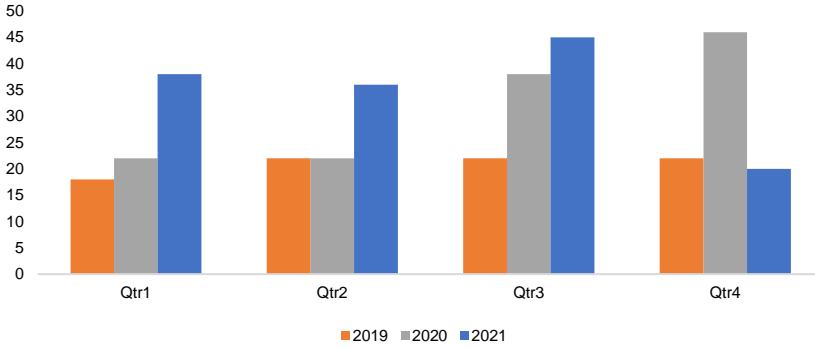
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Allen has had lower unemployment and a slightly higher employment compared to 2020 levels as it continues recovery.





## 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 20 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 which was the 26 less than the same quarter in 2020 and 2 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 was 139. This was 11 businesses higher than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 55 businesses higher than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

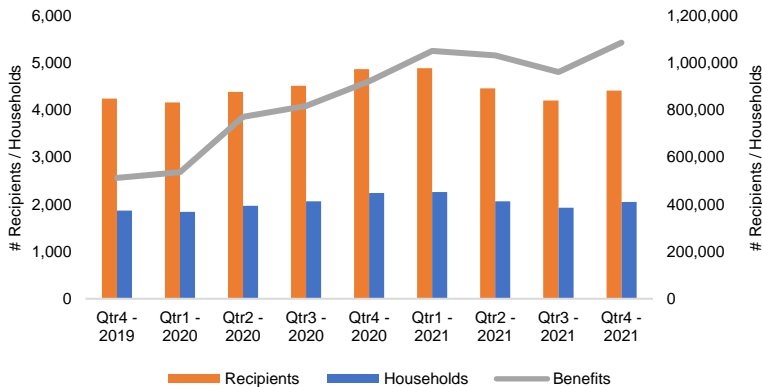
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	18	22	22	22
<b>2020</b>	22	22	38	46
<b>2021</b>	38	36	45	20

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	119	139

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	4,867	4,884	4,458	4,199	4,415	-452	-9.3
<b>Households</b>	2,241	2,261	2,067	1,930	2,048	-193	-8.6
<b>Benefits</b>	921,432	1,050,320	1,031,955	960,978	1,085,622	164,190	17.8

**Allen Parish SNAP Data**



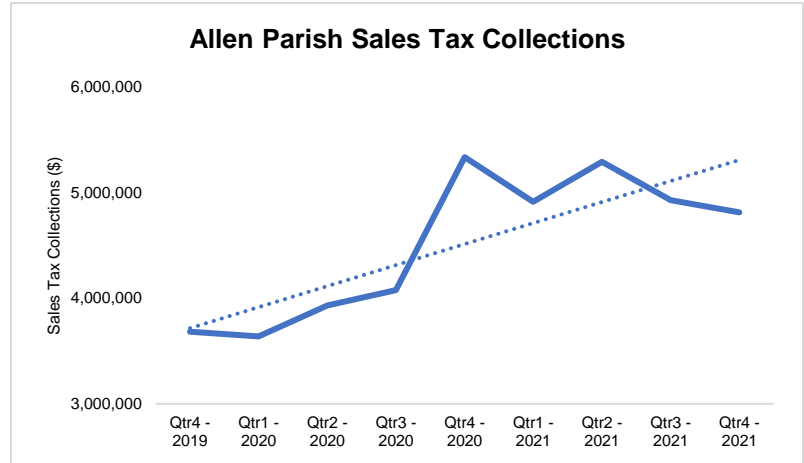
Allen parish had a decrease in SNAP recipients, households but an increase in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,415 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. 452 less people received benefits compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 for a 9.3% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP was 2,048 which was 193 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 8.6% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$1.1 million in total during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$164.2 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 17.8% rise in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates over the past two years an overall

increasing trend in benefits due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and effects of the storms. From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021, however, there have been drops in SNAP households and recipients. Benefits have risen due to adjustments in the amounts.

## Tax Collections

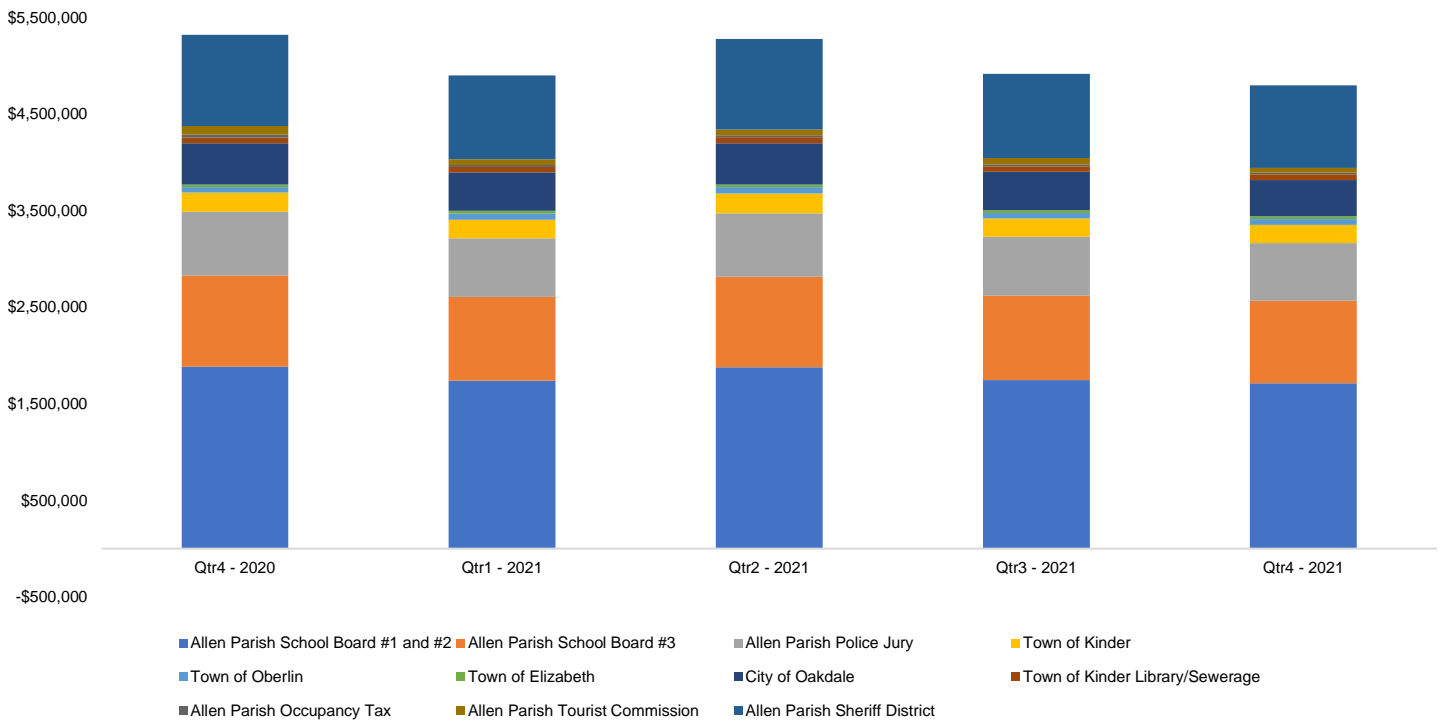
The Drew CBEA has begun building a history of Allen Parish sales tax collections with the help of the Allen Parish School Board. The numbers show clear upward movement throughout most of the year.

Compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Allen parish has seen an overall decrease in tax collections. Total tax collections decreased \$522.7 thousand for a 9.8% decrease. This is mainly due to normalized shopping recovery patterns from COVID and the storms, and a 1 percentage point increase in the local sales tax rate has been normalized.



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2</b>	1,882,518	1,736,979	1,875,774	1,746,029	1,710,559	-171,959	-9.1
<b>Allen Parish School Board #3</b>	944,436	868,096	938,673	872,939	855,155	-89,281	-9.5
<b>Allen Parish Police Jury</b>	661,107	607,670	657,074	611,059	598,611	-62,497	-9.5
<b>Town of Kinder</b>	197,934	191,697	203,274	186,737	188,283	-9,650	-4.9
<b>Town of Oberlin</b>	56,954	61,910	66,230	57,307	59,307	2,353	4.1
<b>Town of Elizabeth</b>	27,072	29,469	29,321	30,633	29,977	2,905	10.7
<b>City of Oakdale</b>	425,006	398,584	427,427	395,348	374,899	-50,107	-11.8
<b>Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage</b>	59,380	57,509	60,982	56,022	56,485	-2,895	-4.9
<b>Allen Parish Occupancy Tax</b>	30,334	19,793	20,085	21,549	17,046	-13,288	-43.8
<b>Allen Parish Tourist Commission</b>	91,003	59,379	60,255	64,648	51,138	-39,865	-43.8
<b>Allen Parish Sheriff District</b>	944,436	868,096	938,673	872,939	855,155	-89,281	-9.5
<b>Reeves</b>	16,029	14,742	13,204	14,516	16,913	884	5.5
<b>Total</b>	5,336,210	4,913,925	5,290,973	4,929,726	4,813,529	-522,682	-9.8

## Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



## Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

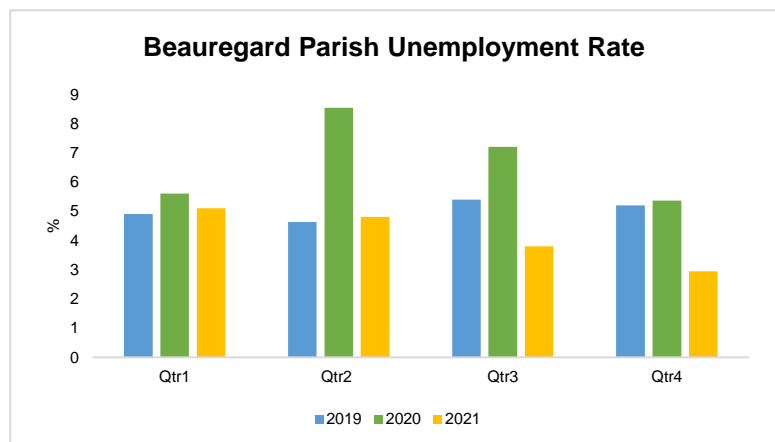
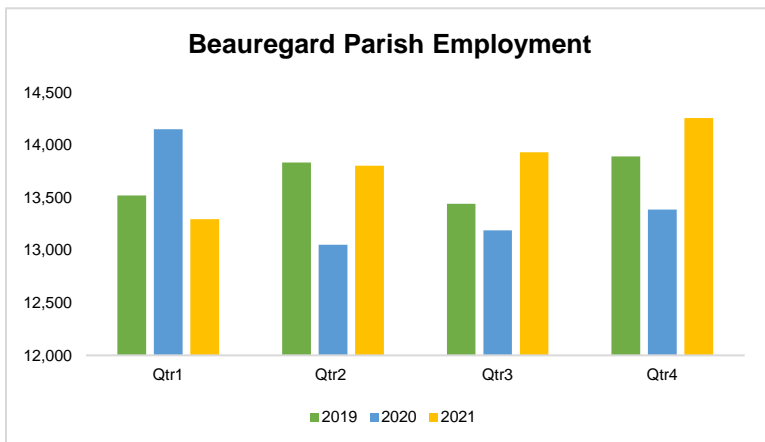
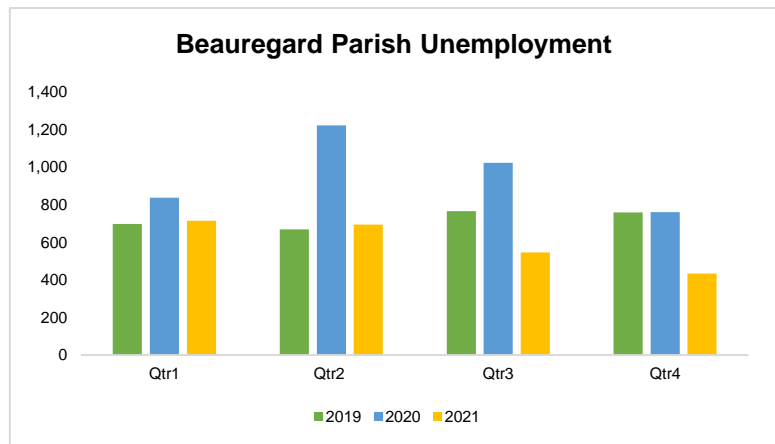
	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>13,386</b>	<b>13,295</b>	<b>13,803</b>	<b>13,929</b>	<b>14,254</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-808	-854	750	741	868
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.7	-6.0	5.7	5.6	6.5
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>433</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	12	-123	-527	-477	-329
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.6	-14.7	-43.1	-46.6	-43.2
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>14,148</b>	<b>14,009</b>	<b>14,497</b>	<b>14,475</b>	<b>14,687</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-796	-977	223	264	539
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.3	-6.5	1.6	1.9	3.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	-0.5	-3.7	-3.4	-2.4

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>503</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	85	177	193	232	148
Year-Over-Year % Change	31.6	82.1	105.1	81.9	41.6

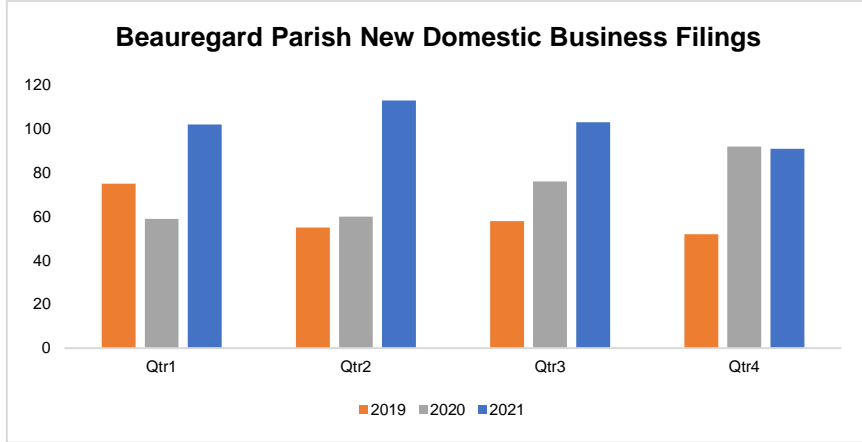
In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Beauregard parish saw a rise in household employment of 868 over the year (+6.5%) while the number of unemployed persons dropped 329 (-43.2%) over the year. This led to an increase of 539 (+3.8%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate dropped 2.4 percentage points over the year to 2.9%.

Job openings in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter averaged 503. Openings rose by 148 (+41.6%) 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Beauregard has lower unemployment and higher employment figures compared to 2020. The labor force has risen 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 91 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 1 less than the same quarter the previous year and 39 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 was 409. This was 122 more businesses than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 169 businesses higher than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

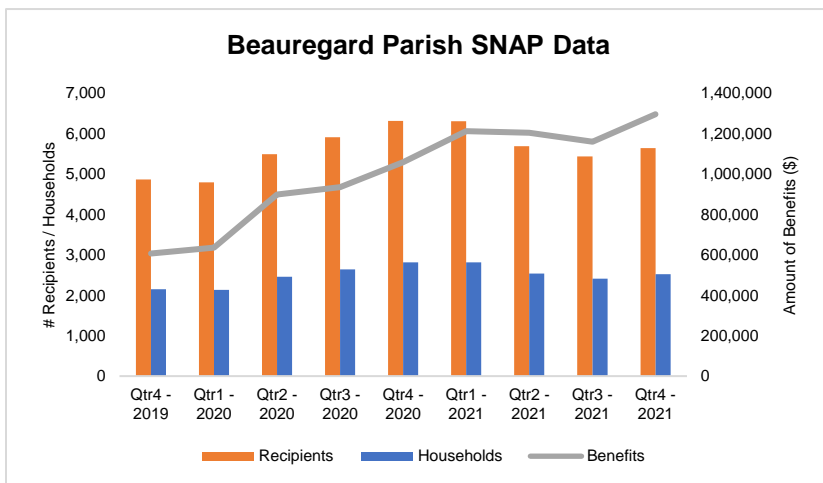
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	75	55	58	52
<b>2020</b>	59	60	76	92
<b>2021</b>	102	113	103	91

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	318	409

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	6,309	6,304	5,687	5,433	5,639	-670	-10.6
<b>Households</b>	2,812	2,810	2,538	2,412	2,521	-290	-10.3
<b>Benefits</b>	1,058,026	1,211,119	1,203,688	1,158,913	1,295,130	237,104	22.4

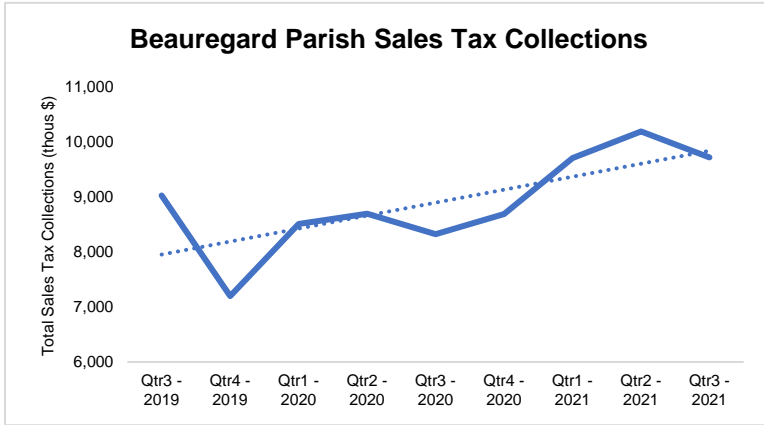
Beauregard parish has had a decrease in SNAP recipients, households but more benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,639 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. 670 fewer people received benefits compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 for an 10.6% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,521 which was 290 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented an 10.3% decrease.



In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.3 million in total during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$237.1 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 22.4% increase in benefits in the parish.

Looking at the graph illustrates an increasing trend in benefits before flattening in 2021. The pandemic has led to a greater amount of total benefits for the area. Benefits have also risen due to adjustments in the amounts.

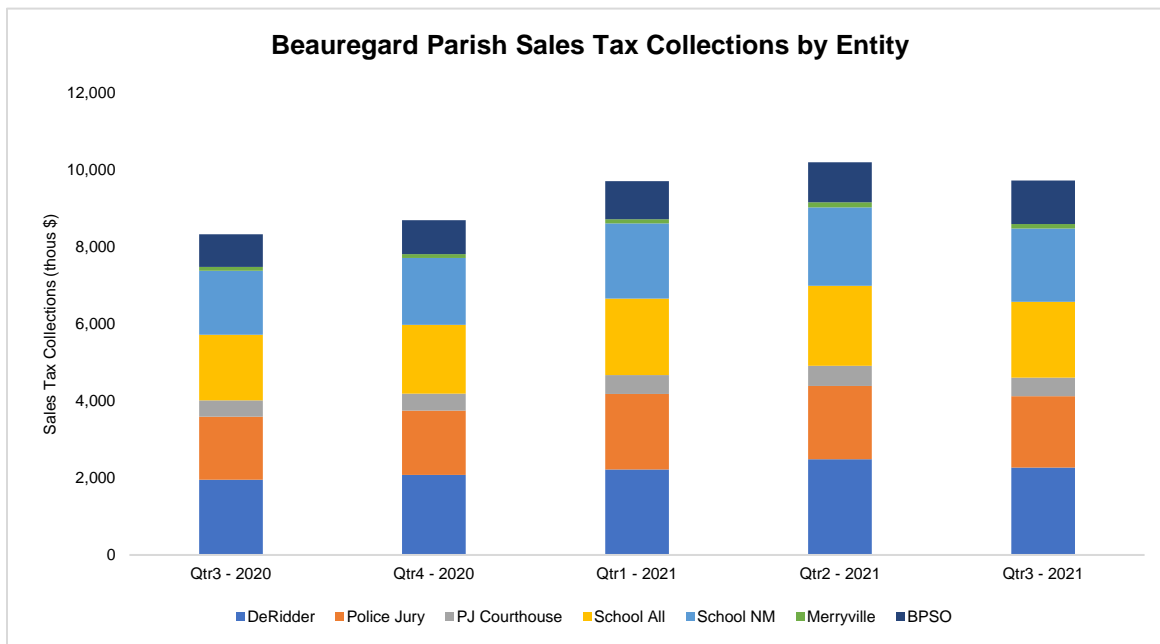
## Tax Collections



Beauregard parish has seen an increase in its sales tax collections in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections rose by \$547.4 thousand over the year for a 6.3% increase. Part of this no doubt comes from increased purchases in the parish after the storms but the economy is normalizing. 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 \$80.8 thousand (+3.9%) over the year. All other entities all experienced increases in sales tax

collections. Police Jury grew the largest in absolute terms at \$140.2 thousand (+8.4%). School board revenues, All and NM, rose by \$106.7 thousand (+6.0%) and \$112.2 thousand (+6.5%), respectively. BPSO collections increased \$64.7 thousand (+7.3%) and PJ Courthouse collections rose \$26.8 thousand (+6.1%). Finally, Merryville collections rose \$15.9 thousand (+16.1%).

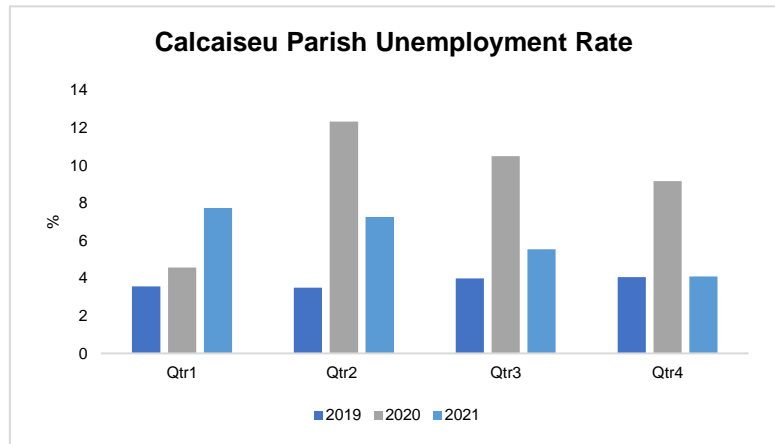
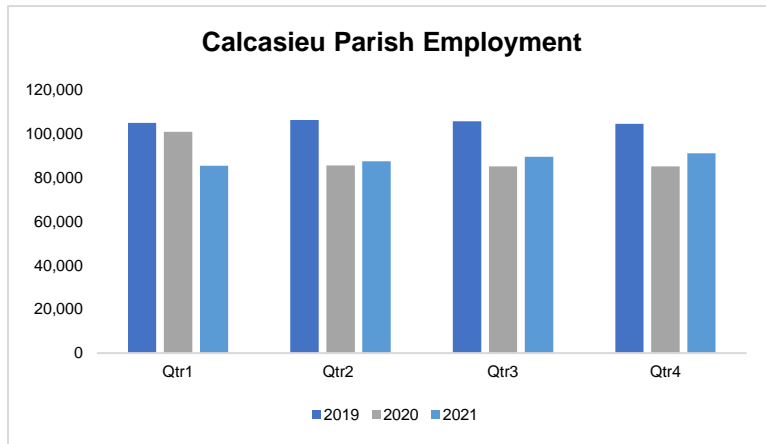
Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>DeRidder</b>	2,075.1	2,222.1	2,481.2	2,265.9	2,156.0	80.8	3.9
<b>Police Jury</b>	1,673.5	1,955.9	1,906.9	1,853.1	1,813.6	140.2	8.4
<b>PJ Courthouse</b>	442.0	494.1	518.5	486.2	468.9	26.8	6.1
<b>School All</b>	1,781.4	1,982.4	2,081.8	1,969.3	1,888.1	106.7	6.0
<b>School NM</b>	1,734.5	1,949.6	2,035.1	1,894.3	1,846.7	112.2	6.5
<b>Merryville</b>	98.7	112.8	127.0	117.1	114.6	15.9	16.1
<b>BPSO</b>	884.9	988.3	1,038.9	1,134.4	949.6	64.7	7.3
<b>Total</b>	8,690.1	9,705.2	10,189.5	9,720.2	9,237.5	547.4	6.3



## Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>85,146</b>	<b>85,406</b>	<b>87,532</b>	<b>89,545</b>	<b>91,116</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-17,781	-15,572	1,873	4,382	5,970
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.3	-15.4	2.2	5.1	7.0
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>8,617</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>6,851</b>	<b>5,270</b>	<b>3,876</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	4,269	2,337	-5,250	-4,697	-4,741
Year-Over-Year % Change	98.2	48.6	-43.4	-47.1	-55.0
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>93,763</b>	<b>92,553</b>	<b>94,383</b>	<b>94,814</b>	<b>94,992</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-13,511	-13,235	-3,377	-315	1,229
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.6	-12.5	-3.5	-0.3	1.3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	5.1	3.2	-5.1	-5.0	-5.1

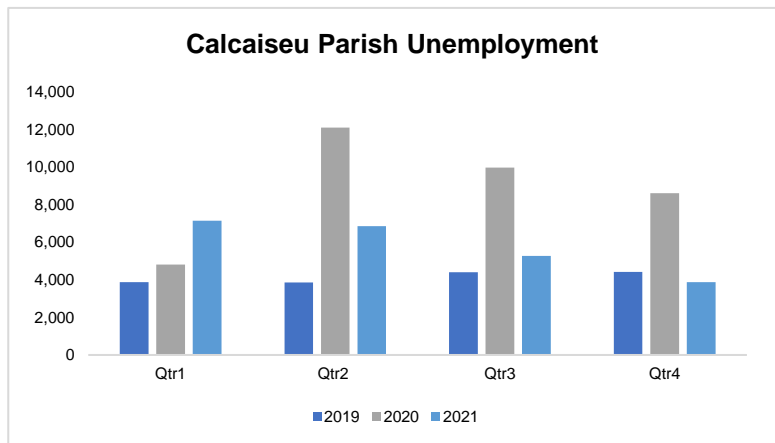
	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>6,673</b>	<b>7,030</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-800	484	2,169	1,849	2,452
Year-Over-Year % Change	-14.9	9.9	57.5	38.3	53.6



In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Calcasieu parish finally saw an increase in the labor force of 1,229 (+1.3%). This was due to an increase in household employment of 5,3970 over the year (+7%) while the number of unemployed persons fell 4,741 (-55%). The unemployment rate fell 5.1 percentage points over the year to 4.1%.

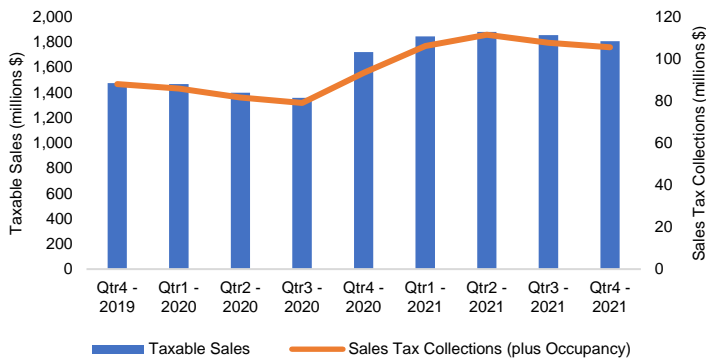
Job openings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter averaged 7,030. Openings rose by 2,452 (+53.6%) over the year.

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. Calcasieu had a higher employment level in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 compared to 2020. The unemployment level is much lower than in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020. Calcasieu employment figures were hit the hard by the storms and the labor force is higher compared to late 2020.

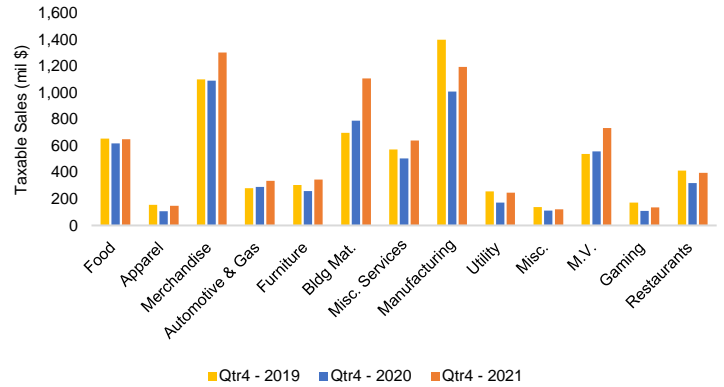


## Tax Collections

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



**Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 4 YTD**



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Food</b>	140.4	162.3	163.3	163.7	161.2	20.7	14.8
<b>Apparel</b>	20.2	34.1	40.3	34.9	39.3	19.1	94.3
<b>Merchandise</b>	286.8	331.2	337.5	301.7	332.6	45.8	16.0
<b>Automotive &amp; Gas</b>	82.2	74.9	88.3	89.7	82.6	0.4	0.5
<b>Furniture</b>	62.6	89.1	84.9	87.1	84.2	21.6	34.5
<b>Bldg Mat.</b>	348.5	307.7	283.8	267.5	248.3	-100.2	-28.7
<b>Misc. Services</b>	180.9	156.6	160.6	159.2	162.7	-18.2	-10.0
<b>Manufacturing</b>	247.0	285.9	294.8	301.1	311.3	64.3	26.0
<b>Utility</b>	57.3	84.7	58.9	39.3	65.2	7.8	13.7
<b>Misc.</b>	26.7	27.8	29.5	35.8	27.6	0.9	3.4
<b>M.V.</b>	176.0	182.2	197.8	199.6	154.7	-21.3	-12.1
<b>Gaming</b>	29.8	23.9	34.0	43.5	35.5	5.7	19.2
<b>Restaurants</b>	62.4	85.0	105.4	106.2	99.5	37.1	59.4
<b>Total</b>	1721.0	1845.3	1879.0	1854.4	1804.8	83.8	4.9

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. However, these two categories

experienced drops compared to the same quarter the previous year as the economy adjusts. Sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have risen by \$13.1 million over the year for a 13.1% increase. General sales taxes rose by \$12.3 million (+13.5%) over the year. Occupancy taxes were lower. These taxes fell \$0.1 million for a 2.4% decrease. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish rose \$83.8 million (+4.9%) over the year. Building Materials (-28.7%), Misc. Services (-10%), and Motor Vehicles (-12.1%) were the only categories to fall. Sales at gaming establishments are recovering (+19.2%). While Food sales rose 14.8%, it seems more are eating at Restaurants as sales increased 59.4%. Furniture store sales increased 34.5% while Utilities increased 13.7%. Manufacturing and General Merchandise sales in the parish increased 26% and 16%, respectively. Apparel had the largest percentage increase (+94.3%).

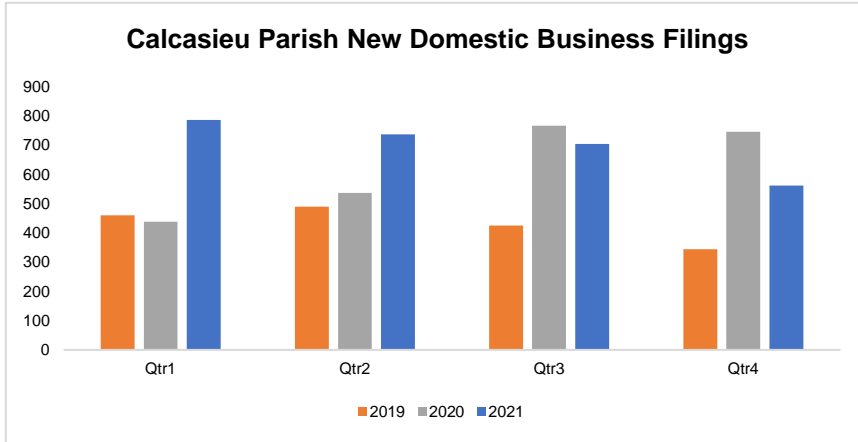
Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>General Sales Tax Collections</b>	90.9	104.1	108.9	105.0	103.2	12.3	13.5
<b>Occupancy Taxes</b>	2.5	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.4	-0.1	-2.4
<b>Sales Tax Collections</b>	93.4	106.1	111.4	107.6	105.6	12.3	13.1

YTD figures show that total taxable sales have risen in the parish by \$1,441 million (\$1.4 billion) compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD figure for a 24.2% increase. This led to a \$90.8 million increase in sales tax collections (+26.7%).

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	5,578.6	7,383.4

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	325.1	430.6

## New Business Filings



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

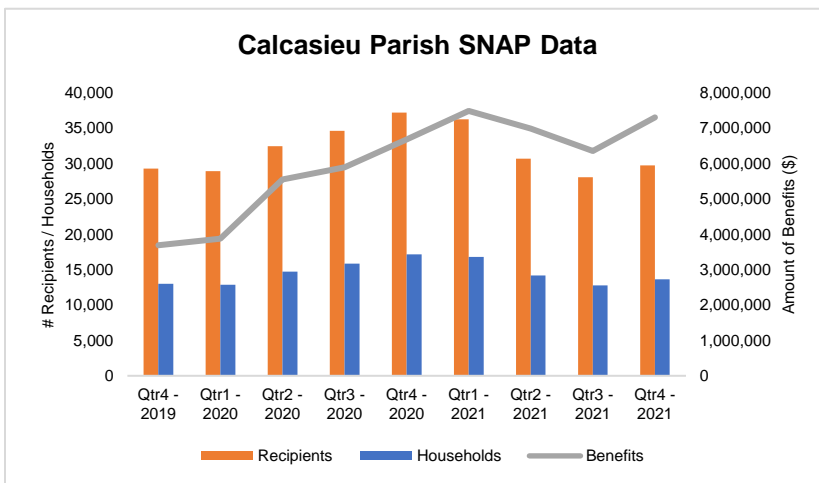
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 562 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 184 less than the same quarter the previous year and 218 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 was 2,791. This was 302 more businesses than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 1,719 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	705	562

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	460	950	1,375	1,719
<b>2020</b>	439	976	1,743	2,489
<b>2021</b>	787	1,524	2,229	2,791

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	37,172	36,259	30,666	28,053	29,728	-7,443	-20.0
<b>Households</b>	17,179	16,810	14,169	12,775	13,654	-3,525	-20.5
<b>Benefits</b>	6,675,059	7,486,287	6,987,175	6,357,173	7,307,365	632,306	9.5



Calcasieu parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients and households while benefits have increased over the year. The parish had an average of 29,728 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. This was 7,443 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 for a 20% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 13,654 which was 3,525 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 20.5% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$7.3 million in total during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$632.3 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 9.5% increase in

benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates a rising trend in benefits in early 2020 before peaking in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021. Since then, there have been decreases from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021, indicating a recovery. Benefits have risen recently due to adjustments in the amounts.

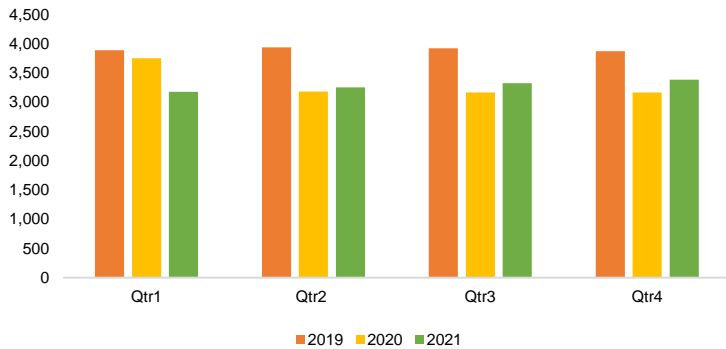


## Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

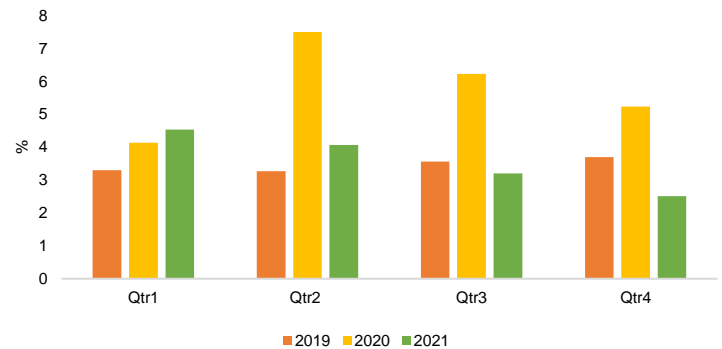
	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>3,177</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>3,386</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-658	-578	70	159	219
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.2	-15.4	2.2	5.0	6.9
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>87</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	30	-10	-121	-99	-89
Year-Over-Year % Change	20.3	-6.4	-46.5	-47.5	-50.4
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>3,473</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-628	-588	-51	60	130
Year-Over-Year % Change	-15.8	-15.0	-1.5	1.8	3.9
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	1.6	0.4	-3.4	-3.0	-2.7

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>97</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-76	-14	48	-10	-48
Year-Over-Year % Change	-34.2	-9.3	46.6	-7.7	-33.0

**Cameron Parish Employment**



**Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate**

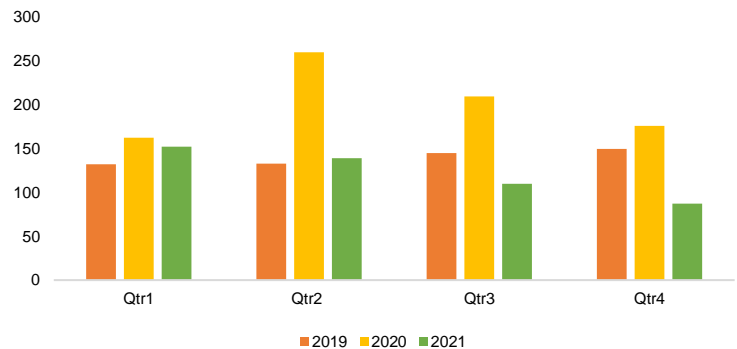


In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Cameron parish had an increase in household employment of 219 over the year (+6.9%) while the number of unemployed persons dropped by 89 (-50.4%). This meant an increase of 130 (+3.9%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate fell 2.7 percentage points over the year to 2.5%.

Job openings in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 97. Openings fell by 48 (-33%) over the year.

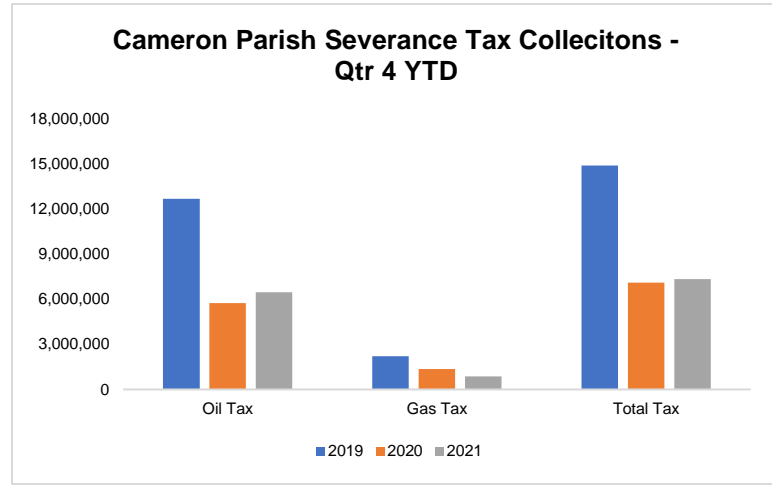
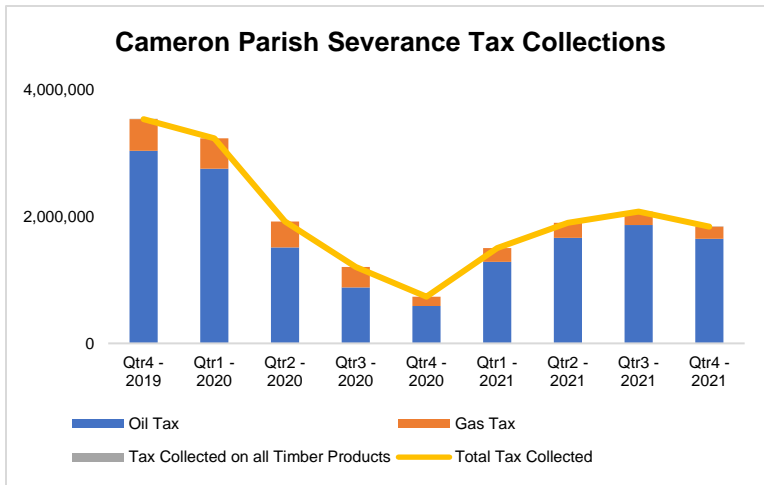
Cameron Parish had a slightly higher employment level in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter the previous year while the unemployment measure was also lower. As Cameron is recovering from the two hurricanes, the labor force has increased since the unemployment rate has fallen.

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

Severance Tax Collections	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Oil Tax</b>	589,588	1,286,389	1,667,195	1,866,129	1,650,096	1,060,509	179.9
<b>Gas Tax</b>	147,297	218,223	235,952	212,118	192,841	45,544	30.9
<b>Tax Collected on all Timber Products</b>	0	0	0	0	13	13	NA
<b>Total Tax Collected</b>	736,885	1,504,611	1,903,147	2,078,247	1,842,950	1,106,066	150.1

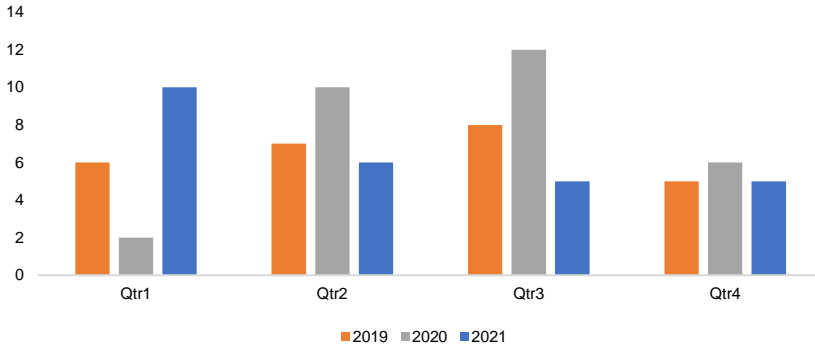
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	4,276,091	8,368,328	11,341,916	14,881,376
<b>2020</b>	3,235,649	5,158,474	6,362,877	7,099,761
<b>2021</b>	1,504,611	3,407,758	5,486,005	7,328,955

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 rose by \$1.1 million compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented an 179.9% increase as oil prices have recently increased and production picked up from the pandemic. In terms of gas collections, those rose \$45.5 thousand over that period for a 30.9% decrease. Timber product collections have been small at around \$13. Total severance taxes collected from the parish have risen \$1.1 million over the year in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 for a 150.1% increase. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 continued the increases seen in recent quarters as recovery continues.

The YTD figures show in 2021 there was a rise in total severance taxes collected compared to the previous year. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021 YTD, severance taxes rose \$229.2 thousand for an increase of 3.2%. As mentioned previously, much of this can be traced to the rise in oil prices and production activity throughout the state and nation due to recovery from 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 5 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 1 less than the same quarter the previous year and the same compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 was 26. This was 4 businesses less than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and the same businesses as the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

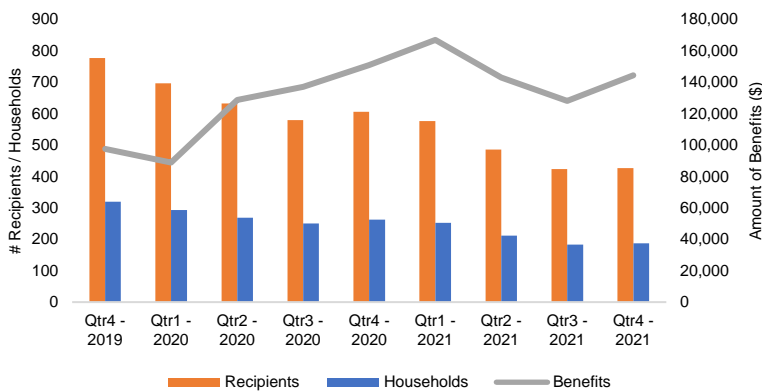
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	6	7	8	5
<b>2020</b>	2	10	12	6
<b>2021</b>	10	6	5	5

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	21	26

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	605	576	485	423	426	-179	-29.6
<b>Households</b>	262	252	211	183	187	-75	-28.5
<b>Benefits</b>	150,788	166,746	142,799	128,010	144,182	-6,606	-4.4

**Cameron Parish SNAP Data**



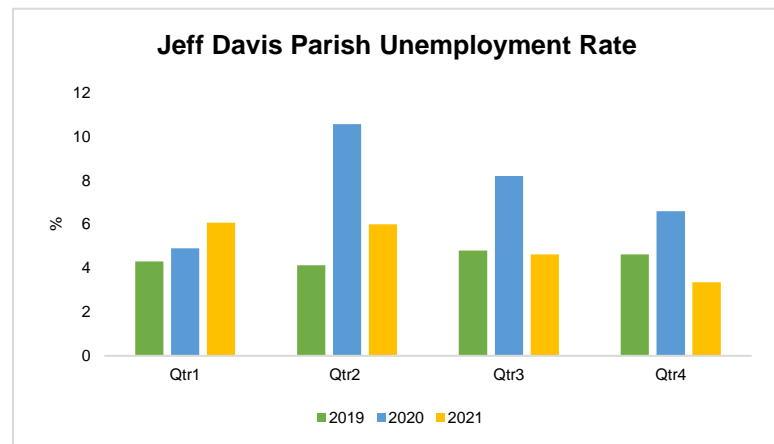
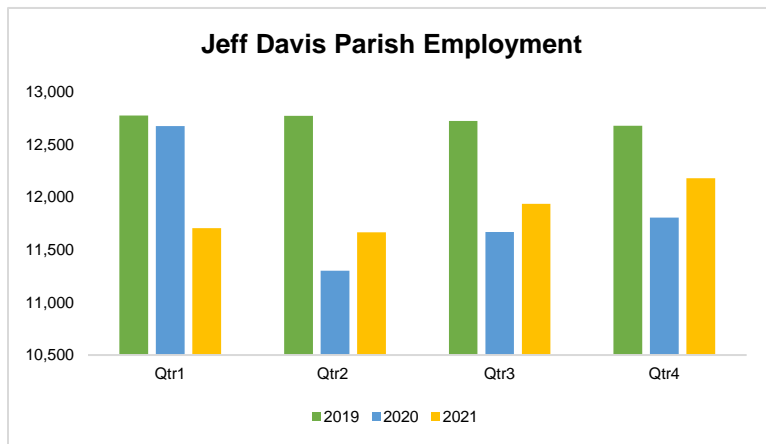
Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients, households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 426 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. This was 179 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 for a 29.6% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 187 which was 75 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 28.5% decrease. The number of recipients and households decreased, as well as benefits. The parish received an average of \$144.2 thousand in total during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$6.6 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was an 4.4%

decrease in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates recipients, households, and benefits falling throughout 2021. Part of this falling participation is most likely due to population loss from the storms. Benefits have risen recently due to adjustments in the amounts.

## Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Household Employment</b>	<b>11,806</b>	<b>11,706</b>	<b>11,666</b>	<b>11,936</b>	<b>12,181</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,031	-970	365	267	376
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.0	-7.7	3.2	2.3	3.2
<b>Household Unemployment</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>424</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	227	109	-598	-458	-409
Year-Over-Year % Change	37.4	16.9	-44.6	-44.2	-49.1
<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>12,639</b>	<b>12,463</b>	<b>12,408</b>	<b>12,514</b>	<b>12,605</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-804	-861	-233	-190	-34
Year-Over-Year % Change	-6.0	-6.5	-1.8	-1.5	-0.3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	2.1	1.2	-4.6	-3.6	-3.2

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021
<b>Total Job Openings</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>365</b>
Year-Over-Year Change	-5	52	43	55	72
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.7	16.5	18.3	25.2	24.6

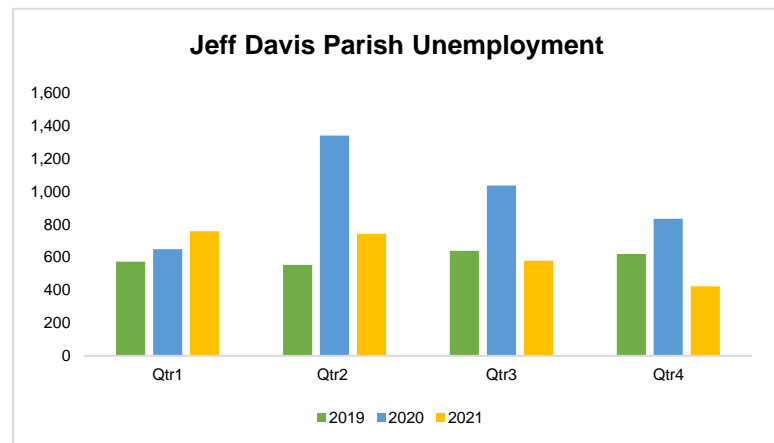


In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, Jefferson Davis parish saw a decrease of 34 (-0.3%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by an increase in household employment of 376 over the year (+3.2%) while the number of unemployed persons fell 409 (-49.1%). The unemployment rate fell 3.2 percentage points over the year to 3.4%.

Job openings in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 averaged 365. Openings rose by 72 (+24.6%) over the year.

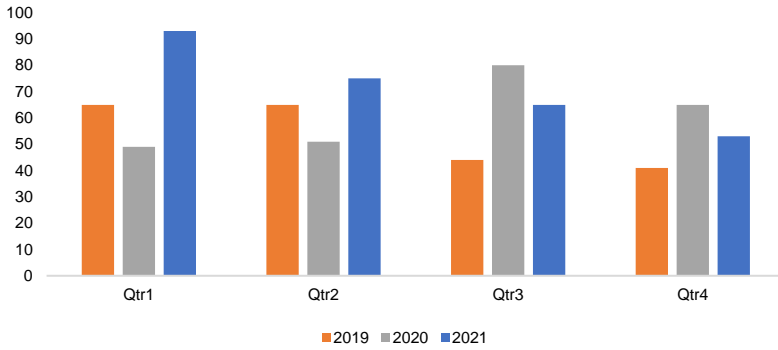
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years.

Jeff Davis parish had higher figures for employment in the 4<sup>th</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 53 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 which was 12 less than the same quarter the previous year and 13 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 was 286. This was 41 more businesses than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 YTD and 71 businesses higher than the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 YTD.

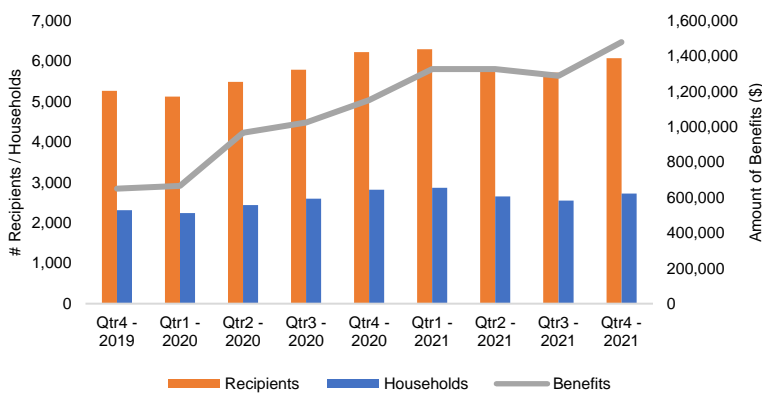
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
<b>2019</b>	65	65	44	41
<b>2020</b>	49	51	80	65
<b>2021</b>	93	75	65	53

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	233	286

## SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Recipients</b>	6,219	6,295	5,852	5,711	6,073	-146	-2.3
<b>Households</b>	2,821	2,863	2,650	2,548	2,727	-94	-3.3
<b>Benefits</b>	1,151,357	1,325,623	1,325,712	1,287,970	1,478,315	326,958	28.4

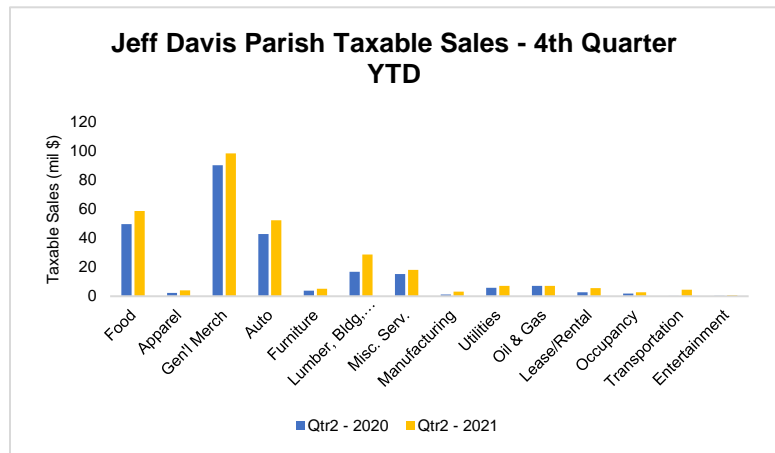
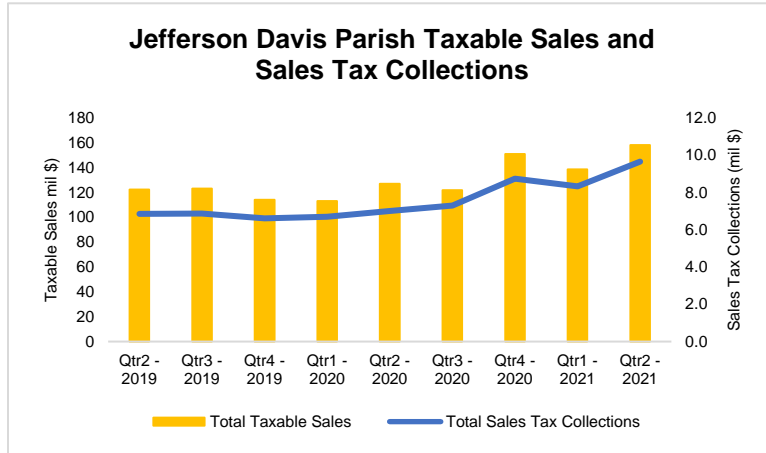
**Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data**



Jefferson Davis parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients and households with increases in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 6,073 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. This was 146 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 for a 2.3% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,727 which was 94 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 3.3% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.48 million in total during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, which was a \$327 thousand rise over-the-year. This was a 28.4% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at

the graph illustrates an overall increasing trend in benefits beginning in early 2020 before peaking in the first quarter of 2021. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021, indicating a recovery. Benefits have risen due to adjustments in the amounts.

## Tax Collections



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	31.0	28.3	30.5	29.1	27.4	-3.7	-11.8
Apparel	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.6	3.2	1.8	123.1
Gen'l Merch	45.8	48.3	50.0	53.9	51.3	5.5	12.0
Auto	30.9	23.5	28.9	46.5	37.7	6.8	21.9
Furniture	2.1	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.6	0.5	25.0
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	11.8	8.0	20.7	20.1	9.7	-2.1	-18.0
Misc. Serv.	8.1	10.1	8.0	9.0	7.7	-0.5	-5.9
Manufacturing	0.5	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.3	278.2
Utilities	4.4	4.0	3.2	3.1	4.3	0.0	-1.1
Oil & Gas	5.5	3.1	4.0	-0.5	3.3	-2.2	-40.4
Lease/Rental	5.1	3.0	2.5	2.1	2.7	-2.4	-47.8
Occupancy	3.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	-1.3	-43.9
Transportation	0.9	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.2	143.6
Entertainment	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	195.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>150.9</b>	<b>138.6</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>172.6</b>	<b>156.2</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
<b>Total Sales Tax Collections</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-6.9</b>

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2019</b>	<b>113.6</b>	<b>236.0</b>	<b>359.1</b>	<b>473.2</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>113.0</b>	<b>240.0</b>	<b>361.7</b>	<b>512.6</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>138.6</b>	<b>296.6</b>	<b>469.3</b>	<b>625.5</b>

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
<b>2019</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>29.7</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>35.0</b>

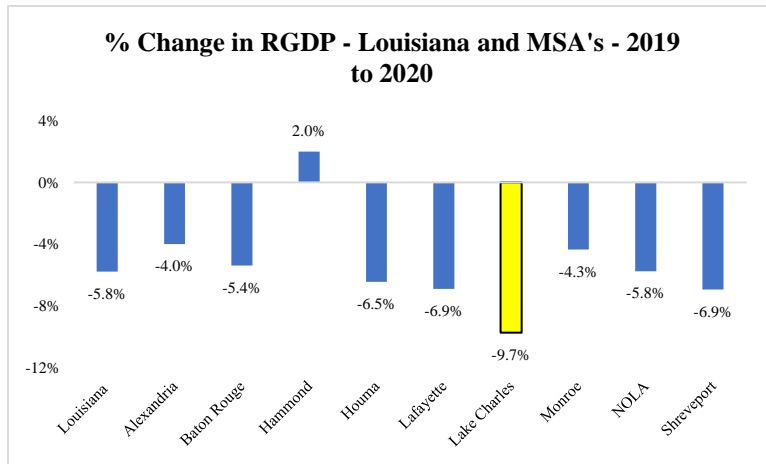
Jefferson Davis Parish saw an decrease in its sales tax collections in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have fallen by approximately \$600 thousand over the year for a 6.9% decrease. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by \$5.3 million (+3.5%) over the year. The largest absolute increase occurred in Auto (+\$6.8 million, +21.9%). General Merchandise also experienced a large increase (+\$5.5 million, +12%). Apparel experienced a small absolute but large percentage increase (+\$1.8 million, +123.1%). Manufacturing and Transportation experienced large percentage increases of 278.2% and 143.6%, respectively. Entertainment also had a 195.4% increase. However, most of the changes were small in absolute terms. Lumber, Building, an Contractors (+\$2.1 million, -18%) fell due to rebuilding efforts most likely slowing. Food had the largest absolute drop of \$3.7 million (-11.8%).

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by \$112.9 million compared to the same quarter in 2020 for a 22% increase. This led to a \$5.3 million increase in 2021 YTD sales tax collections (+17.8%).

The year of 2020 will always be remembered throughout the world for the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In our region, the area will also remember 2020 for COVID as well as two hurricanes. The area experienced large drops in economic activity due to all of these events. While these events were actually happening, economists had to rely on higher frequency data that's available such as monthly employment reports and weekly unemployment insurance claims data. However, enough time has passed that we can finally begin to analyze the full view of economic output effects thanks to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). On December 8, 2021, the BEA related the [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\) by County statistics for 2020](#). This includes GDP estimates for each county (parish) in the US as well as all the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's).

GDP is the value of goods and services produced within an economy during a given amount of time, usually a year. These statistics show the value of goods and services produced in each parish and MSA. Also, most economists tend to focus on Real GDP (RGDP). RGDP accounts for inflation and tries to show the total amount of production without inflationary distortions. RGDP tries to keep prices constant to get a better measure of total output. Therefore, most of the figures and discussion will focus on RGDP.

From 2019 to 2020, the Lake Charles MSA experienced a drop in total output (RGDP) of over \$1.6 billion. In percentage terms this amounted to a 9.7% drop. This was largest drop of all MSA's in the state and was larger than the 5.8% drop experienced in the state as a whole.



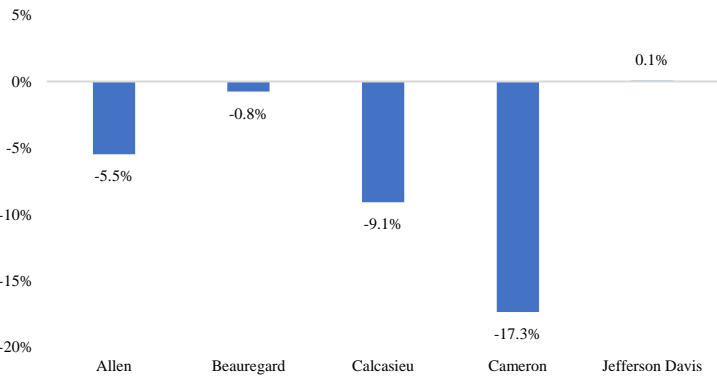
The economy of SWLA was more affected by 2020 than any other region in the state. Unfortunately, at the Lake Charles MSA level, much of the data by industry is not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information. However, some industries are available. Agriculture actually grew 51% (+\$5 million). That was the main industry to show any growth for data that is available. Mining fell 32% for a \$72.5 million drop as production fell due to declining demand in 2020. Construction fell by 35% for a \$631 million drop. Manufacturing only fell 4% resulting in a \$283.6 million decrease in that industry's production. Transportation and warehousing fell by \$30.6 (-10%) while Professional and business services fell by

\$114.2 million (-13%). Educational services, health care, and social assistance fell by \$109.2 million for a 12% decrease while Other services fell \$23.2 million (-13%). It's often shown that government employment in our area was propping up much of the employment growth in the area (as evidenced by the fact it took private employment a little longer to get to pre-storm levels as opposed to total employment). Government only fell 3% in the RGDP stats for a \$25.7 million drop. This was the smallest percentage drop of all available major industries.

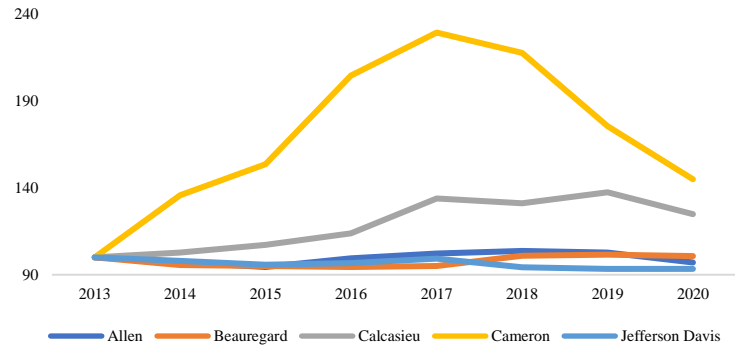
Focusing on the 5 parish SWLA region, Cameron Parish had the largest drop in real GDP with a 17.3% drop. Calcasieu followed with a 9.1% drop. Jefferson Davis Parish was the only parish in our region to show an increase. This is attributable to a large increase in agricultural production during the year.

The graphs on the next page show the percentage change from 2019 to 2020 in RGDP for each parish and indexed RGDP measures for each parish. The indexes transform RGDP since 2013 into a measure where all begin at the same level in 2013. The subsequent figures show the percentage growth relative to 2013. What's apparent is that Cameron had significant output growth until it began to fall in 2018 with the completed construction of many economic development projects. Calcasieu parish also had very large increases. An interesting note is that both Allen and Jefferson Davis are below 2013 levels of RGDP while Beauregard is at approximately the same level.

**SWLA Parish % Change in RGDP - 2019 to 2020**



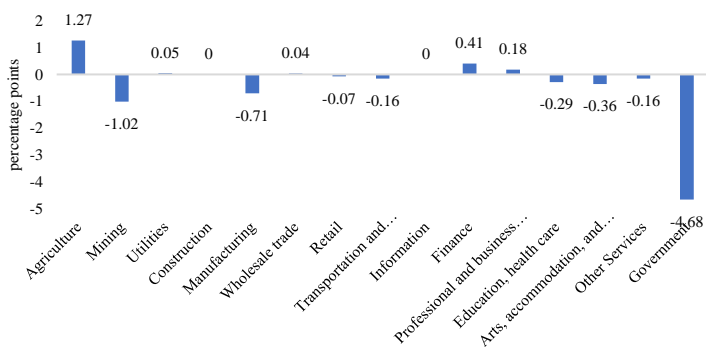
**Parish Real GDP (2013 = 100)**



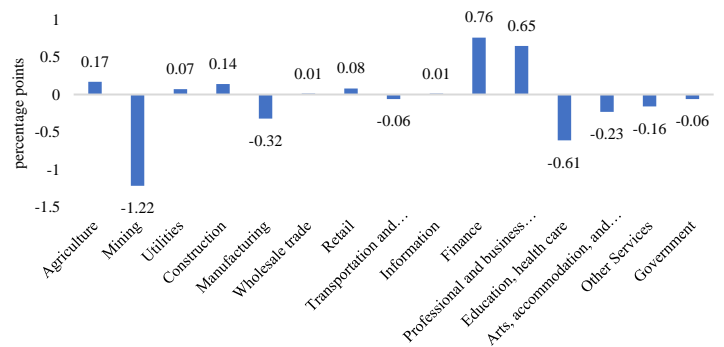
One of the most useful aspects of the RGDP statistics released by the BEA is the contribution to percentage change figures that are shown for each are. This allows for detailed inspection of which industries really accounted for the changes in RGDP. For example, supposed RGDP increased 10%. If the contribution of an industry was at 8 percentage points, this would mean that 2% of that total growth was attributable to other industries. Some may be negative while others positive, but the net effect of all contributions would equal the percentage change. Below are graphs for the contribution to percentage growth for each parish in SWLA.

Allen Parish had a 5.5% drop in RGDP. Of this amount, 4.68 percentage points is attributable to government in the area. This was the main driver of negative RGDP growth in the parish. Other industries had slight drops or increases, with the exception of Agriculture, which positively affected RGDP by 1.27 percentage points.

**Contribution to 5.5% Drop in Allen Parish Real GDP**



**Contribution to 0.8% Drop in Beauregard Parish Real GDP**

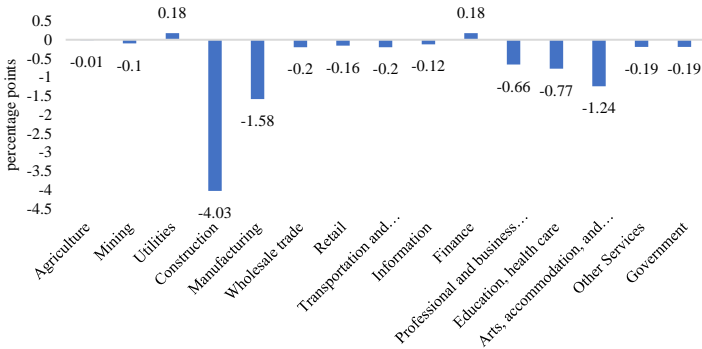


Beauregard Parish had a much lower drop in RGDP compared to the other parishes. RGDP only fell 0.8% in 2020. Much of this was driven by a drop in mining and logging which contributed 1.22 percentage points to the RGDP change. Education, health care, and social assistance also contributed -0.61 percentage points. An interesting note is that Finance and Professional and business services positively contributed 0.76 and 0.65 percentage points, respectively.

On the next page is the graph that shows contributions of industries in Calcasieu Parish. Calcasieu Parish has the largest economy of all parishes in SWLA. The changes in the parish RGDP can have significant ripple effects for other parts of the region. The drop of RGDP in was \$1.4 billion for a 9.1% drop.



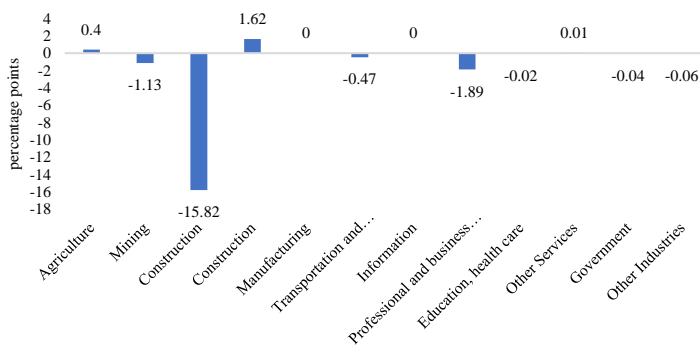
**Contribution to 9.1% Drop in Calcasieu Parish Real GDP**



The largest contributor to the drop in economic activity in Calcasieu came from Construction which contributed 4.03 percentage points in the downward direction. The next largest drop was in Manufacturing, which contributed 1.58 percentage points. Arts, accommodation and food services in the area were in a particularly difficult position due pandemic related closures and then heavy damages from the disasters. The industry contributed 1.24 percentage points to the drop. When thinking about the storms (and pandemic), the only two industries that contributed positively to RGDP in Calcasieu were Utilities and Finance. The story can be told, that as savings increased during the shutdown and

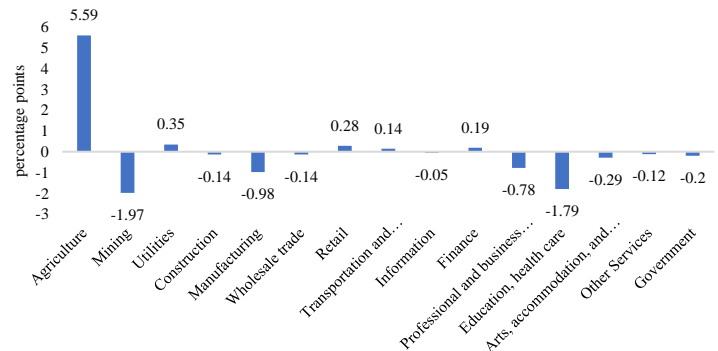
houses went up in value from both the pandemic and storms in the area with many people needing a place to live, financial activities in the area were up. Also, utilities produced a great deal of output in terms of more output and income being paid in the area during the major recovery operations.

**Contribution to 17.4% Drop in Cameron Parish Real GDP**



Cameron Parish was drastically hit by the storms. However, the largest contributor to the 17.4% decline in RGDP was due to Construction. While the pandemic and storms undoubtedly slowed or halted construction projects in the area, this large decrease is more likely due to the continuing decline in construction activity as large plants in the parish have finished construction and begun operations. This is evidenced by the fact that manufacturing (operations after construction) positively contributed 1.62 percentage points to RGDP growth. Professional and business services were the next largest negative contributor at 1.89 percentage points. Mining also negatively contributed 1.13 percentage points as demand fell during the pandemic and production fell as a result (also a result of the storms).

**Contribution to 0.1% Increase in Jeff Davis Parish Real GDP**



As mentioned earlier, Jefferson Davis Parish was the only area in SWLA to experience and increase RGDP in 2020. This is undoubtedly due to increases in the Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. Part of this may have been the large increases in demand for lumber during the pandemic and recovery (and subsequently lumber prices) leading to more production in the area as well as increased agricultural production. While that industry did well in 2020, Mining and Education, health care, and social assistance negatively contributed 1.97 and 1.79 percentage points, respectively. Manufacturing negatively contributed 0.98 percentage points. It seems Jefferson Davis was not hit as badly by the storms and some production was increased to help with efforts in nearby parishes. Retail trade grew (as shown on the Drew CBEA website of [Jefferson Davis Parish taxable sales](#)) and contributed 0.28 percentage points as more people went to purchase items in the parish.

If the Agriculture industry were removed from the economy, the RGDP of Jefferson Davis Parish would have fallen 5.5%. The importance of this industry in the parish for 2020 is evident and contributed to the only positive figure for the area.

SWLA was hit incredibly hard by many events in 2020. For much of the year, economists had to rely on indicators of economic activity such as jobs and taxable sales data to glean the direction of the economy. While the latest RGDP statistics are technically still preliminary (they are revised the next year as more data comes in), these give the best look into how actual production of output, and consequently economic activity, was affected throughout the year. The data shows that no one in Louisiana suffered greater losses in economic output than our area. The Lake Charles MSA RGDP fell by 9.7%. This was mainly driven by large drops in Construction as well as decreases in Manufacturing and Arts, accommodation, and food services. Hopefully, the trends in the latter industries are reversing as the economy opens up after the pandemic. More importantly, Construction will increase as the area continually rebuilds from the damage caused by the natural disasters. Luckily, the [employment trends in these industries](#) are pointing to this. As we look back to check the economic performance from a tumultuous year, it's more important to focus on returning to sustained future growth.

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