

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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1st Quarter 2022 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 1st quarter of 2022, the country was in some ways returning to normalcy. However, the new Omicron variant and rising inflation throughout the economy began to take a toll on the nation. While there may have been a decline in national output according to the preliminary GDP release, our area has seen continued gains in many economic variables. This is great news as it signals continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.

While our area has been recovering, it is important to remember we still have some ways to go. There are still many job openings and there is still much rebuilding to be done. Recently, the Census released their latest population estimates showing changes from July 2020 to July 2021. These figures give insight into the number of residents our area lost. This can have longer-term economic effects if the trend is not reversed. The end of this report presents presentation and analysis of the latest population figures.

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)	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total Nonfarm	92.8	96.3	98.6	100.9	100.3
Year-Over-Year Change	-17.1	2.7	6.7	10.3	7.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-15.5	2.9	7.3	11.3	8.0
Mining and Logging	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	14.9	16.5	18.1	18.5	18.3
Year-Over-Year Change	-4.9	1.8	4.9	4.0	3.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-24.9	12.0	37.2	27.3	23.0
Manufacturing	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.0	-2.2	0.6	3.9	2.3
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	16.3	16.7	16.8	17.3	16.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.6	0.4	0.8	1.4	0.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-9.1	2.5	5.2	8.8	3.7
Professional and Business Services	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.3
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-11.3	2.6	5.2	3.6	1.1
Leisure and Hospitality	10.9	11.5	12.0	12.3	12.2
Year-Over-Year Change	-3.6	2.0	1.2	2.3	1.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-25.1	21.0	11.1	22.7	12.3
Government	13.7	13.8	13.5	13.6	13.5
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.6	-0.7	-0.4	0.1	-0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-10.7	-4.6	-3.1	0.5	-1.0
Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)	717.3	767.7	784.6	748.1	760.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-46.0	39.0	29.2	-12.4	43.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-6.0	5.4	3.9	-1.6	6.0
Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)	22.07	22.71	24.02	24.34	25.13
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.9	0.8	1.5	2.1	3.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.0	3.8	6.7	9.3	13.9

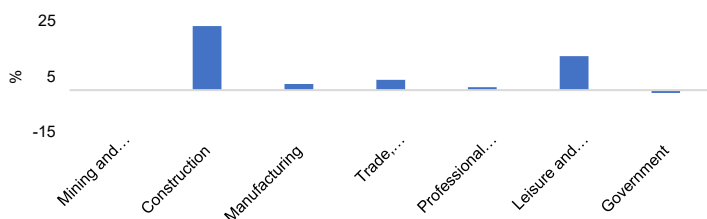
In the 1st quarter of 2022, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) experienced increases in employment compared to the same quarter the previous year. There has been continued growth as the area continues to rebuild from hurricanes and the economy further opens up.

Total nonfarm employment (presented in thousands of jobs in the table) rose by 7,400 jobs over the year for an 8% increase. Looking at the industries shows all industries either gained jobs over the year or experienced no change, with the exception of Government. Construction experienced the largest industry gain of 23% as hurricane rebuilding continues. This is a great trend that will hopefully continue. Leisure and Hospitality has seen gains as it has added 1,300 jobs (+12.3%). Manufacturing gained 200 jobs (+2.3%)

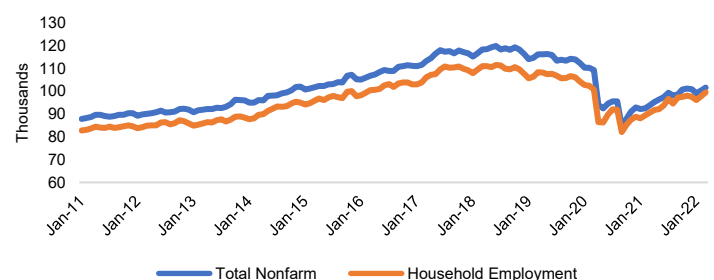
while Professional and Business Services gained 100 jobs (+1.1%). Government lost 100 jobs (-1.0%).

While there was a gain in employment, there were increases in some earnings measures. Average weekly earnings of all employees rose 6% and average hourly earnings rose 13.9%. Although not shown, average weekly hours of all employees in the 1st quarter fell 6.9% over the year.

Total Employment % Change - Available Sectors
Qtr 1 2021 - Qtr 1 2022



Lake Charles MSA Employment Measures

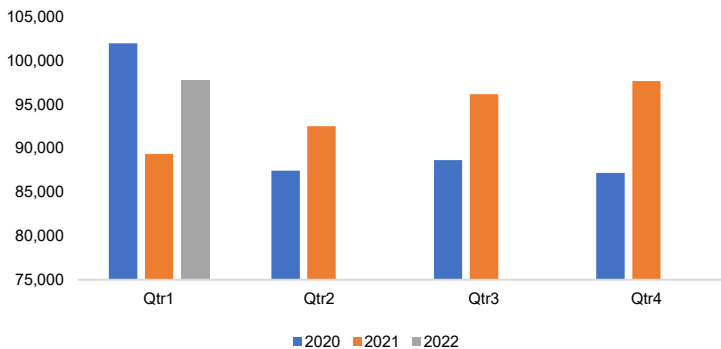


Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

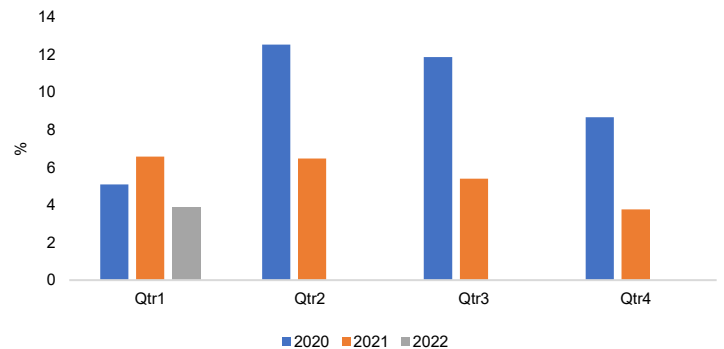
	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Household Employment	89,354	92,526	96,143	97,663	97,759
Year-Over-Year Change	-12,614	5,095	7,497	10,483	8,405
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.4	5.8	8.5	12.0	9.4
Household Unemployment	6,304	6,426	5,478	3,849	3,913
Year-Over-Year Change	861	-6,109	-6,390	-4,422	-2,390
Year-Over-Year % Change	15.8	-48.7	-53.8	-53.5	-37.9
Labor Force	95,657	98,952	101,620	101,512	101,672
Year-Over-Year Change	-11,753	-1,014	1,107	6,061	6,015
Year-Over-Year % Change	-10.9	-1.0	1.1	6.3	6.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.5	5.4	3.8	3.9
Year-Over-Year Change	1.5	-6.1	-6.5	-4.9	-2.7

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total Job Openings	5,496	6,092	6,793	7,127	6,764
Year-Over-Year Change	470	2,217	1,839	2,404	1,269
Year-Over-Year % Change	9.3	57.2	37.1	50.9	23.1

Lake Charles MSA Employment



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate

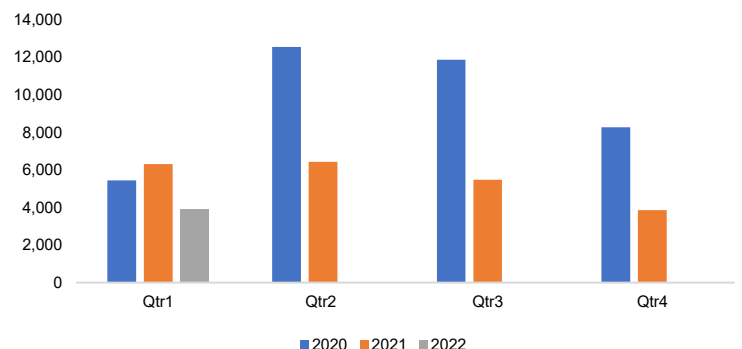


The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 3.9% which represents a 2.7 percentage point decrease from a year ago. The household employment measure rose by 8,405 over the year for a 9.4% increase. The number of unemployed decreased by 2,390. This represented a dramatic 37.9% decrease. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was an increase of 6,015 (+6.3%). This is good news as more labor will be needed for long-term growth.

Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2022 averaged 6,764. Openings increased by 1,269 (+23.1%) over the year.

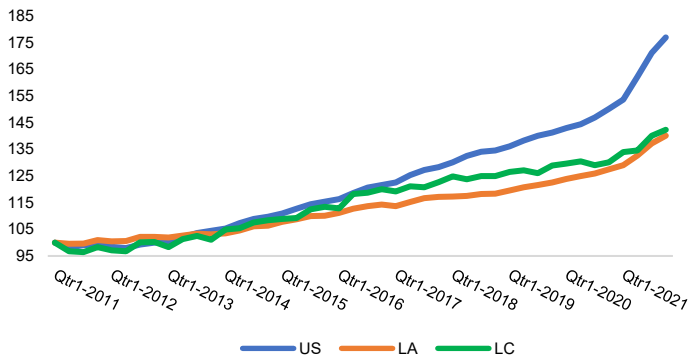
Jobs have been increasing but are still below pre-pandemic levels. Fortunately, the area is above pre-Laura levels.

Lake Charles MSA Unemployment



Housing Statistics

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

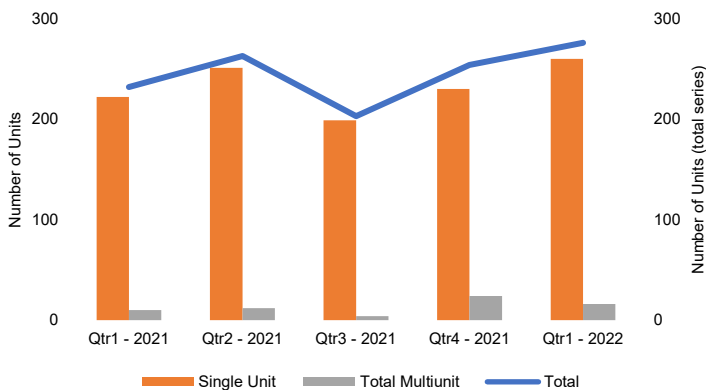


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr4 - 2020	Qtr4 - 2021	Year-over-Year % Change
Lake Charles HPI	130.1	142.3	9.4
Louisiana HPI	127.5	140.1	9.9
US HPI	150.1	176.9	17.9

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 fourth quarter of 2020 to the same quarter in 2021, housing prices have risen 9.4% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to 9.9% in LA and 17.9% in the US.

Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

Lake Charles MSA Building Permits



In the 1st quarter of 2022, single unit permits rose by 38 over-the-year while multi-unit permits rose by 6 bringing the total increase to 44. This represented a 19% increase. The YTD figures are the same due to this just being 1st quarter data. In terms of valuation, single unit permits rose by \$7.3 million while multi-unit permit valuations rose by \$555 thousand for a total increase of \$7.8 million. This represented a 19.8% increase year-over-year in the 1st quarter of 2021 for valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, the figures are the same due to this being the first quarter data.

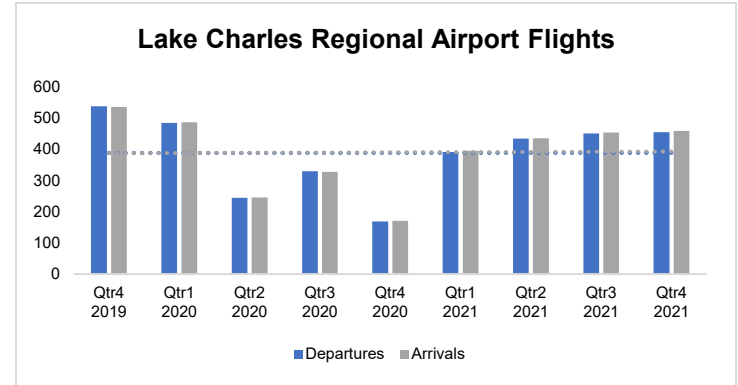
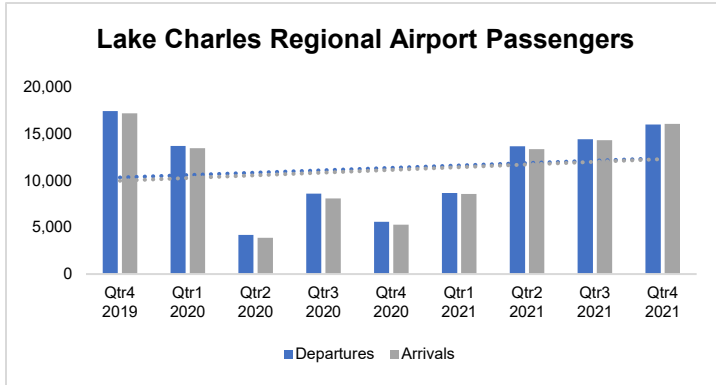
The graph of building permits shows that single unit permits have been rising since the 3rd quarter of 2021.

Multi-unit permits have been generally steady with a slight peak in the 4th quarter of 2021. Total permits fell from the 2nd quarter of 2021, but have been increasing since that time.

		Qtr-1 2021	Qtr-1 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-1 2021 YTD	Qtr-1 2022 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number									
	Total	232	276	44	19.0	232	276	44.0	19.0
	Single	222	260	38	17.1	222	260	38.0	17.1
	Multi-unit	10	16	6	60.0	10	16	6.0	60.0
Valuation									
(thousands \$)	Total	39,465	47,296	7,831	19.8	39,465	47,296	7,831	19.8
	Single	38,746	46,022	7,276	18.8	38,746	46,022	7,276	18.8
	Multi-unit	719	1,274	555	77.2	719	1,274	555	77.2

Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport



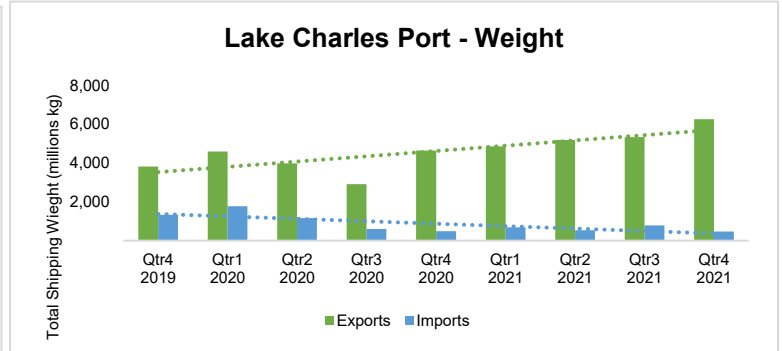
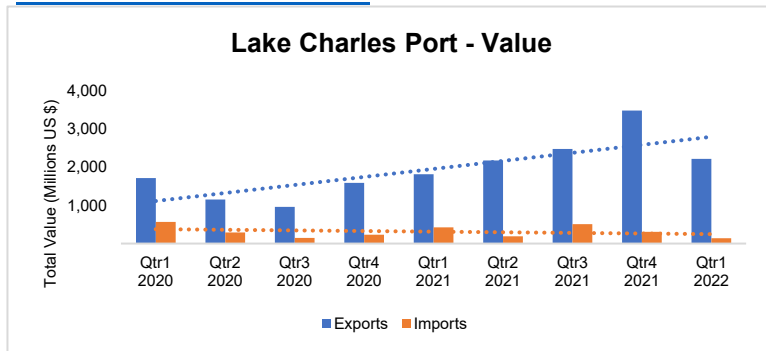
The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a dramatic uptick in activity during the 4th quarter compared to the same quarter the previous year (during COVID). Activity has increased since the 4th quarter of 2020 as the airport and area recover from the storms and flights have resumed out of LCH.

	Qtr-4 2020	Qtr-4 2021	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	5,577	15,987	10,410	186.7
Arrivals	5,273	16,057	10,784	204.5
Flights				
Departures	169	455	286	169.2
Arrivals	171	459	288	168.4

Passengers departing in the 4th quarter of 2021 rose 10,410 (+186.7%) since the 4th quarter of 2020 and those arriving have increased 10,784 (+204.5%). In terms of flights, there has been an increase of 286 flights (+169.2%) departing Lake Charles over that same period while the

number of flights arriving has risen by 288 (+168.4%). The graphs showing these measures point to a flattening trend after experiencing large drops in late 2020 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

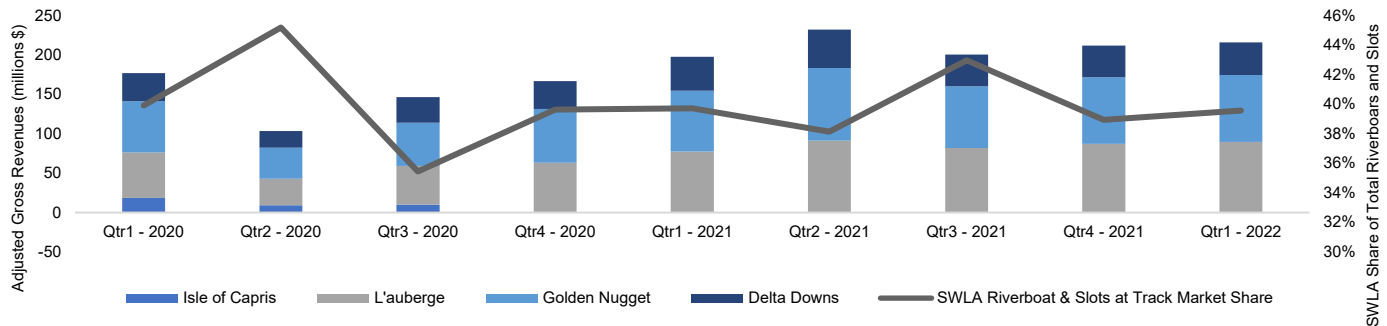


The Lake Charles port has seen an increase in exports values and a decrease in import values in the 1st quarter of 2022 and the overall trend in export values has turned upwards. The figures in the table below show the value of exports rose \$1.9 billion (+119.5%) over the year while the total value 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-1 2021	Qtr-1 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions \$)				
Exports	1,815	3,899	2,084	114.8
Imports	420	240	-180	-42.9
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	4,867	6,708	1,841	37.8
Imports	683	468	-215	-31.5

Gaming Statistics

SWLA Gaming Revenues and Market Share



	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total State AGR (millions)	497.7	609.2	467.0	544.3	546.0
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	53.6	380.0	53.3	123.6	48.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	12.1	165.8	12.9	29.4	9.7
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	197.7	232.3	200.7	211.9	216.1
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	20.4	128.8	54.0	45.2	18.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	11.5	124.3	36.8	27.1	9.3
Total AGR (millions)					
Isle of Capri	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-18.4	-9.3	-10.2	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0
L'Auberge	77.6	91.4	81.9	87.2	89.7
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	19.9	57.8	32.9	24.0	12.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	34.5	172.2	67.3	38.0	15.6
Golden Nugget	76.9	92.1	78.4	84.6	84.8
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	11.9	52.6	23.5	16.3	8.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	18.4	132.9	42.8	23.9	10.4
Delta Downs	43.2	48.8	40.3	40.1	41.6
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	7.1	27.7	7.8	4.8	-1.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	19.5	130.9	24.0	13.6	-3.7
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
L'Auberge	39.3%	39.4%	40.8%	41.1%	41.5%
Golden Nugget	38.9%	39.7%	39.1%	39.9%	39.3%
Delta Downs	21.8%	21.0%	20.1%	18.9%	19.2%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
L'Auberge	15.6%	15.0%	17.5%	16.0%	16.4%
Golden Nugget	15.4%	15.1%	16.8%	15.5%	15.5%
Delta Downs	8.7%	8.0%	8.6%	7.4%	7.6%
SWLA Total AGR	39.7%	38.1%	43.0%	38.9%	39.6%

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 1st quarter 2021 figures which had some effects of the pandemic and storms. Total revenues in SWLA for the 1st quarter of 2022 increased \$18.5 million for a 9.3% increase compared to the same quarter the previous year.

Isle of Capri collected no revenue in the 1st quarter of 2022 due to closure. L'Auberge had an increase of \$12.1 million for a 15.6% increase. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage increase in AGR of 10.4% with an absolute increase of \$8 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$1.6 million drop in AGR over the year for a 3.7% increase. These figures indicate a solid recovery in

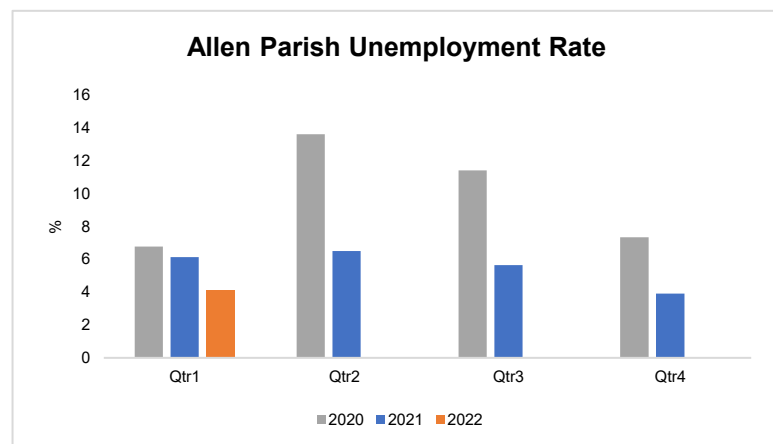
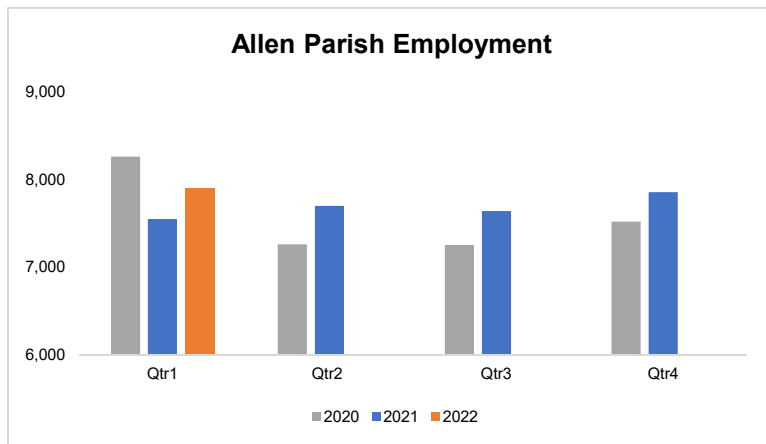
the gaming market from 2020, however, things are slowing somewhat.

The region saw a slight drop in the share of total state revenues. The three SWLA establishments made up 39.6% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, falling from 39.7% in the 1st quarter of 2021. The SWLA gaming industry still has high shares in the state totals despite having one casino closed.

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Household Employment	7,550	7,698	7,641	7,856	7,900
Year-Over-Year Change	-711	438	387	335	350
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.6	6.0	5.3	4.4	4.6
Household Unemployment	492	535	454	319	336
Year-Over-Year Change	-110	-606	-477	-278	-156
Year-Over-Year % Change	-18.2	-53.1	-51.3	-46.5	-31.8
Labor Force	8,042	8,234	8,095	8,176	8,236
Year-Over-Year Change	-821	-168	-90	57	194
Year-Over-Year % Change	-9.3	-2.0	-1.1	0.7	2.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.5	5.6	3.9	4.1
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.6	-7.1	-5.8	-3.4	-2.0

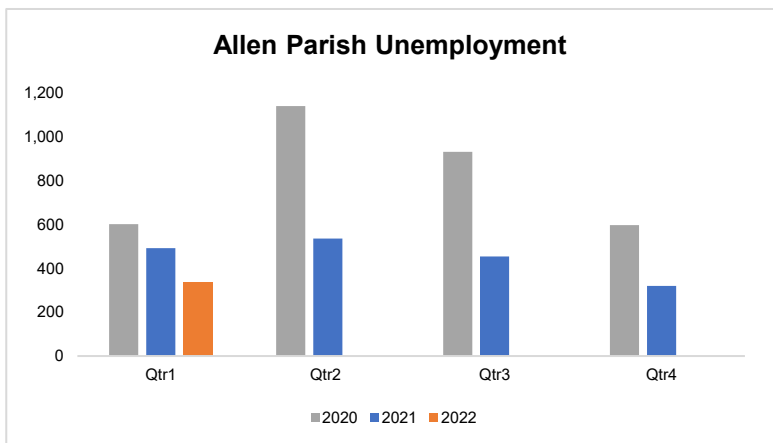
	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total Job Openings	175	194	260	253	288
Year-Over-Year Change	13	55	67	92	113
Year-Over-Year % Change	8.3	39.3	34.8	56.8	64.9



In the 1st quarter of 2022, Allen parish saw a rise in the labor force of 194 (+2.4%). This was broken down by a decrease in household unemployment of 156 over the year (-31.8%) while the number of employed persons rose 350 (+4.6%) over the year. The unemployment rate fell 2 percentage points over the year to 4.1%.

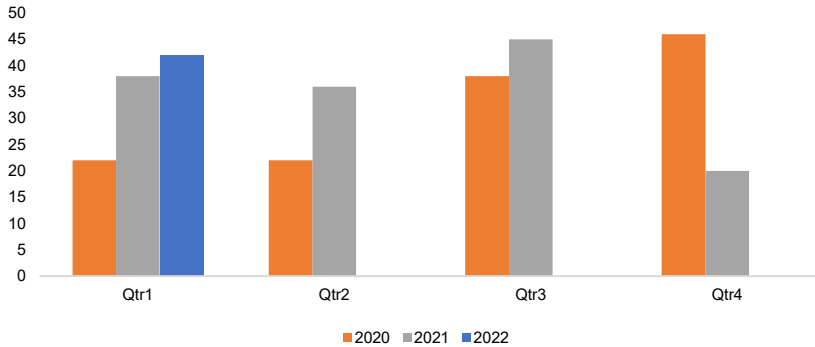
Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2022 averaged 288. Openings rose by 113 (+64.9%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 1st quarter of 2022, Allen has had lower unemployment and a slightly higher employment compared to 2021 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 42 in the 1st quarter of 2022 which was 4 more than the same quarter in 2021 and 20 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2022 was 42. This was 4 businesses higher than the 1st quarter of 2021 YTD and 20 businesses higher than the 1st quarter of 2020 YTD.

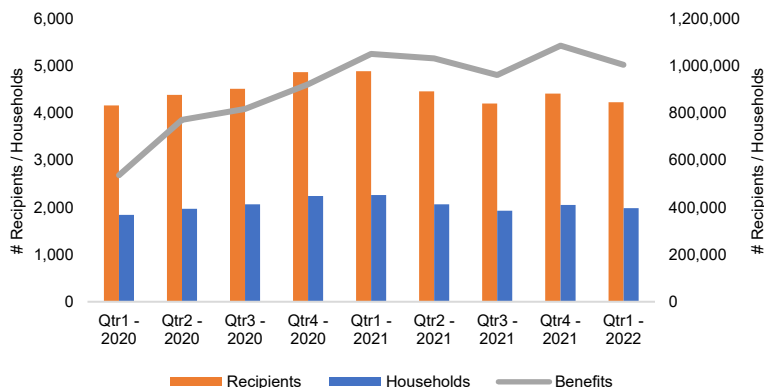
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	22	22	38	46
2021	38	36	45	20
2022	42			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	22	44	82	128
2021	38	74	119	139
2022	42			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,884	4,458	4,199	4,415	4,227	-657	-13.5
Households	2,261	2,067	1,930	2,048	1,985	-276	-12.2
Benefits	1,050,320	1,031,955	960,978	1,085,622	1,005,141	-45,179	-4.3

Allen Parish SNAP Data



Allen parish had a decrease in SNAP recipients, households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,227 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2022. 657 less people received benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2021 for a 13.5% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP was 1,985 which was 276 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 12.2% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$1 million in total during the 1st quarter of 2022, which was a \$45.2 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 4.3% drop in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates over the past two years an overall

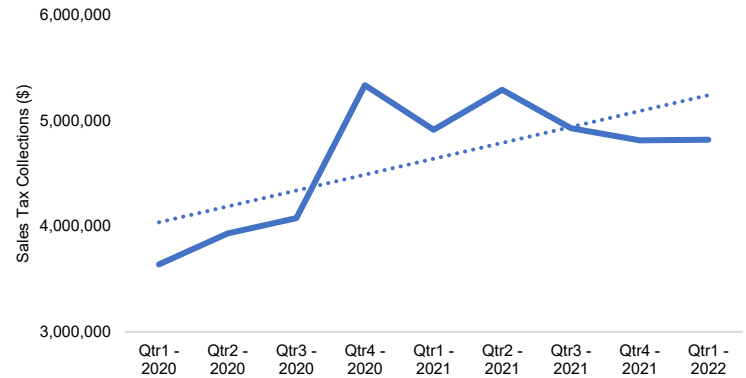
increasing trend in benefits due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and effects of the storms. From the 1st to the 3rd quarter of 2021, however, there have been drops in SNAP households and recipients. Benefits have risen due to adjustments in the amounts. The later trends seem to show all the variables flattening out.

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 flat or downward movement throughout the 1st quarter of 2022.

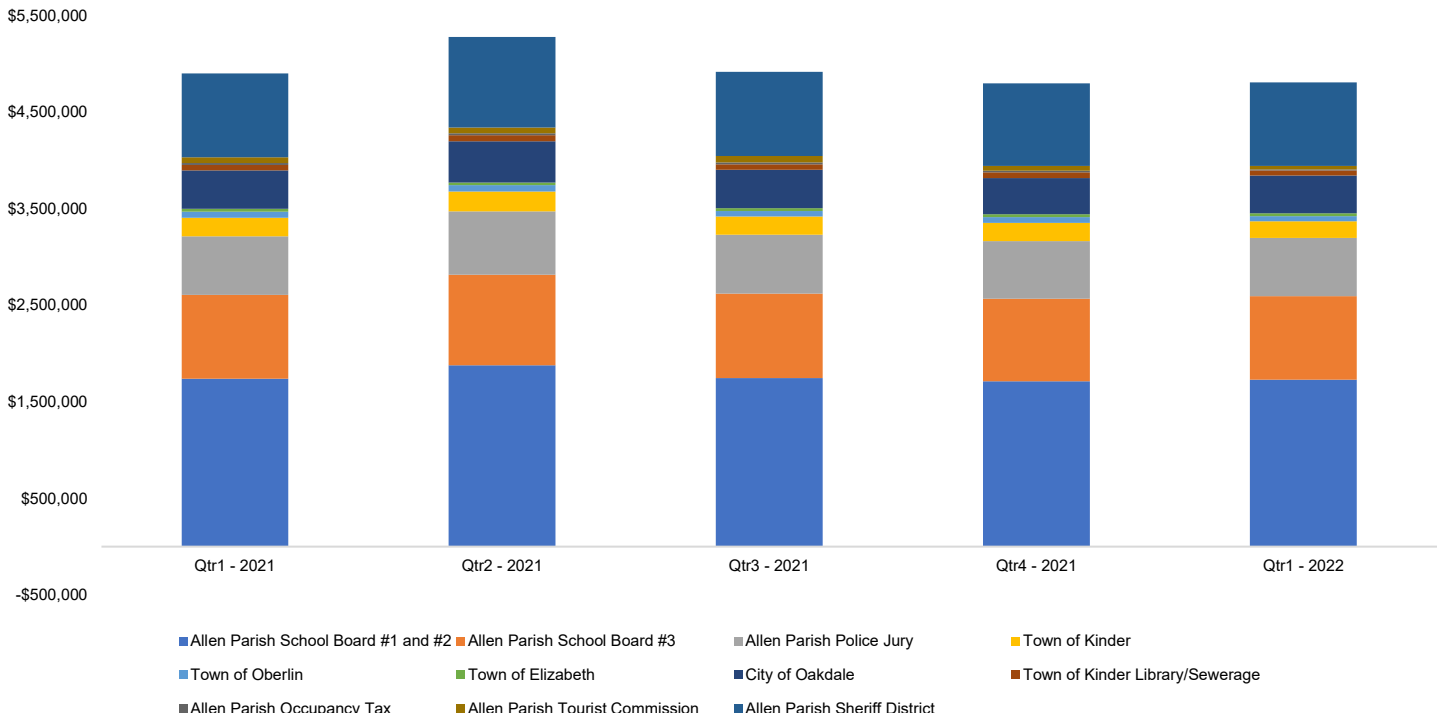
Compared to the 1st quarter of 2021, Allen parish has seen an overall decrease in tax collections. Total tax collections decreased \$94 thousand for a 1.9% decrease. This is mainly due to normalized shopping recovery patterns from COVID and the storms, and a 1 percentage point increase in the local sales tax rate has been normalized.

Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	1,736,979	1,875,774	1,746,029	1,710,559	1,727,819	-9,160	-0.5
Allen Parish School Board #3	868,096	938,673	872,939	855,155	863,697	-4,399	-0.5
Allen Parish Police Jury	607,670	657,074	611,059	598,611	604,590	-3,080	-0.5
Town of Kinder	191,697	203,274	186,737	188,283	171,826	-19,871	-10.4
Town of Oberlin	61,910	66,230	57,307	59,307	53,634	-8,276	-13.4
Town of Elizabeth	29,469	29,321	30,633	29,977	27,674	-1,795	-6.1
City of Oakdale	398,584	427,427	395,348	374,899	393,091	-5,493	-1.4
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	57,509	60,982	56,022	56,485	51,548	-5,961	-10.4
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	19,793	20,085	21,549	17,046	12,109	-7,684	-38.8
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	59,379	60,255	64,648	51,138	36,327	-23,053	-38.8
Allen Parish Sheriff District	868,096	938,673	872,939	855,155	863,697	-4,399	-0.5
Reeves	14,742	13,204	14,516	16,913	13,695	-1,047	-7.1
Total	4,913,925	5,290,973	4,929,726	4,813,529	4,819,705	-94,220	-1.9

Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

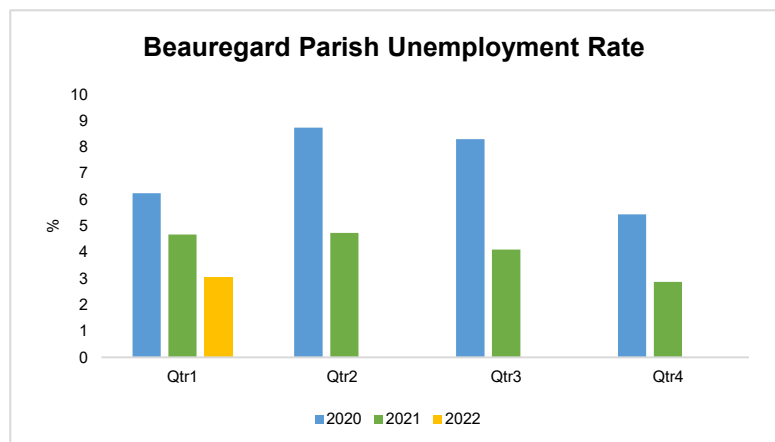
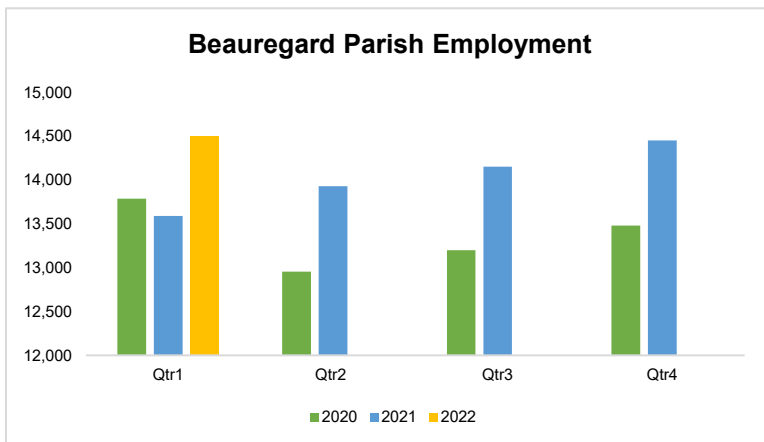
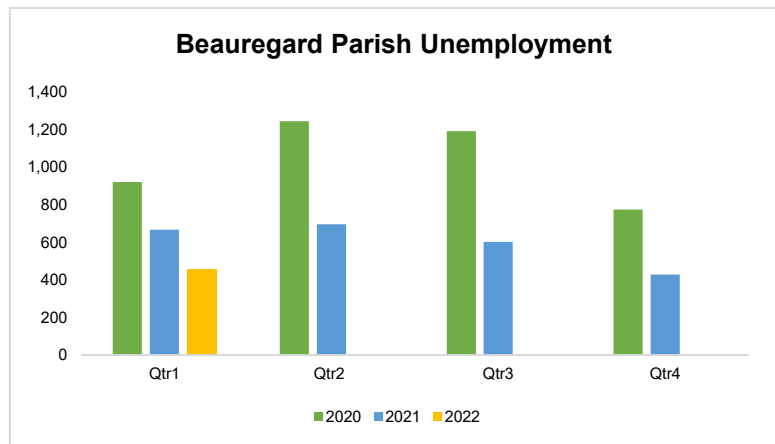
	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Household Employment	13,588	13,929	14,153	14,449	14,502
Year-Over-Year Change	-199	974	954	971	914
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	6.7
Household Unemployment	667	696	603	428	455
Year-Over-Year Change	-254	-547	-588	-346	-212
Year-Over-Year % Change	-27.6	-44.0	-49.4	-44.7	-31.8
Labor Force	14,255	14,625	14,756	14,877	14,957
Year-Over-Year Change	-453	427	366	625	703
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.1	3.0	2.5	4.4	4.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.7	4.7	4.1	2.9	3.0
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.6	-4.0	-4.2	-2.6	-1.6

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total Job Openings	393	376	516	503	456
Year-Over-Year Change	177	193	232	148	64
Year-Over-Year % Change	82.1	105.1	81.9	41.6	16.2

In the 1st quarter of 2022, Beauregard parish saw a rise in household employment of 914 over the year (+6.7%) while the number of unemployed persons dropped 212 (-31.8%) over the year. This led to an increase of 703 (+4.9%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate dropped 1.6 percentage points over the year to 3%.

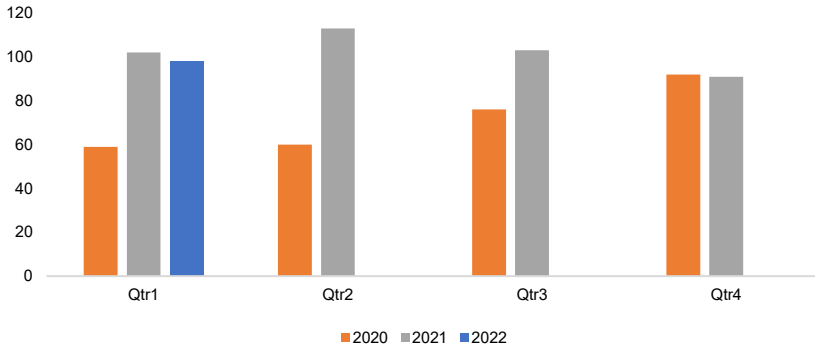
Job openings in the 1st quarter averaged 456. Openings rose by 64 (+16.2%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 1st quarter of 2020, Beauregard has lower unemployment and higher employment figures. The labor force has risen after continuous drops.



New Business Filings

Beauregard Parish New Domestic Business Filings



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

The number of new business filings in Beauregard parish was 98 in the 1st quarter of 2022 which was 4 less than the same quarter the previous year and 39 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2022 was 98. This was 4 less businesses than the 1st quarter of 2021 YTD and 39 businesses higher than the 1st quarter of 2020 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	59	60	76	92
2021	102	113	103	91
2022	98			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	59	119	195	287
2021	102	215	318	409
2022	98			

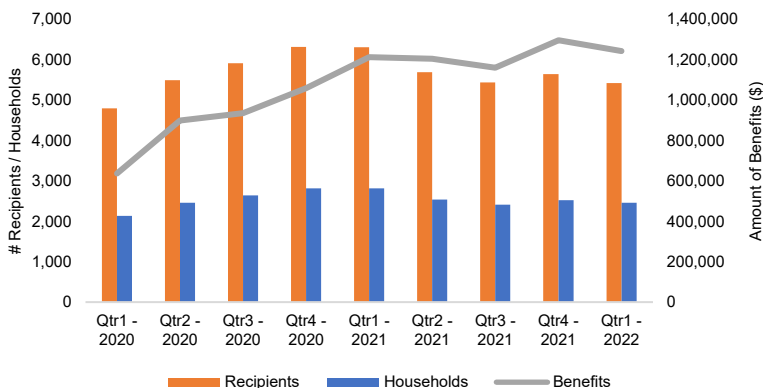
SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	6,304	5,687	5,433	5,639	5,419	-886	-14.0
Households	2,810	2,538	2,412	2,521	2,459	-350	-12.5
Benefits	1,211,119	1,203,688	1,158,913	1,295,130	1,242,185	31,065	2.6

Beauregard parish has had a decrease in SNAP recipients, households but more benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,419 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2022. 886 fewer people received benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2021 for an 14% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,459 which was 350 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented an 12.5% decrease.

In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.2 million in total during the 1st quarter of 2022, which was a \$31.1 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 2.6% increase in benefits in the parish.

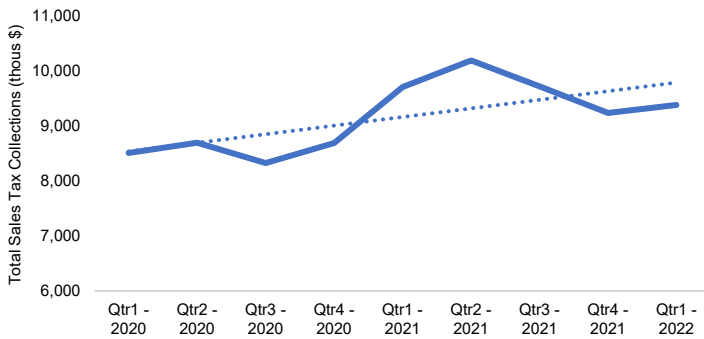
Beauregard Parish SNAP Data



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. The later trends seem to show all the variables flattening out.

Tax Collections

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections

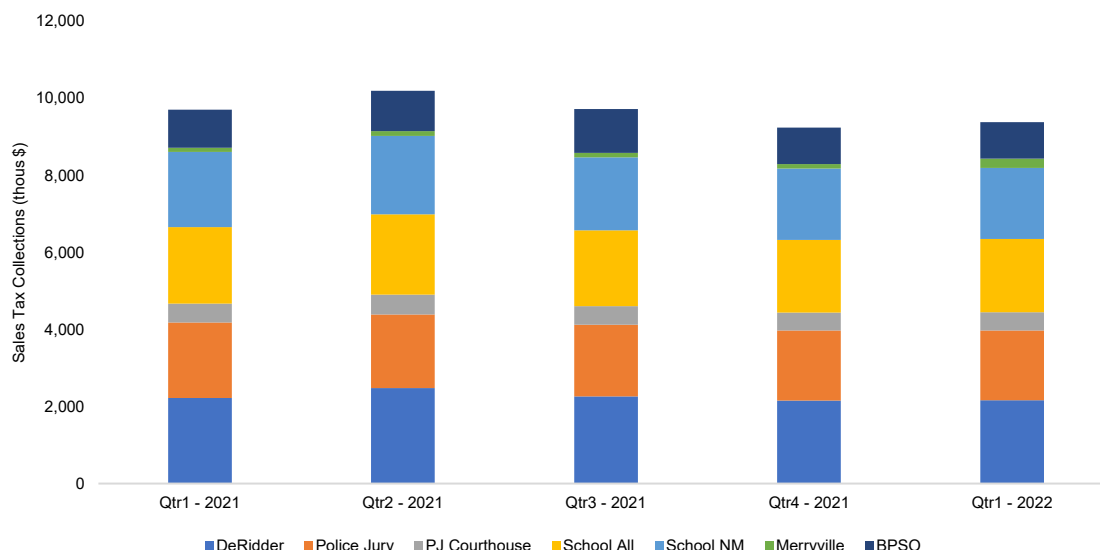


Beauregard parish has seen a decrease in its sales tax collections in the 1st quarter of 2022, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections fell by \$327.4 thousand over the year for a 3.4% decrease. Looking at the entities that receive sales tax distributions shows that DeRidder collects the most revenue. These are sales conducted within the city limits. This category saw a year-over-year drop of \$59.8 thousand (-2.7%) over the year. All other entities all experienced decreases in sales tax collections except Merryville which had a dramatic increase. Merryville tax collections grew by \$133.4 thousand for a 118.2% increase. Police

Jury fell the largest in absolute terms at \$148.5 thousand (-7.6%). School board revenues, All and NM, fell by \$81.2 thousand (-4.1%) and \$104.8 thousand (-5.4%), respectively. BPSO collections decreased \$46.1 thousand (-4.7%) and PJ Courthouse collections fell \$20.4 thousand (-4.1%).

Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	2,222.1	2,481.2	2,265.9	2,156.0	2,162.3	-59.8	-2.7
Police Jury	1,955.9	1,906.9	1,853.1	1,813.6	1,807.4	-148.5	-7.6
PJ Courthouse	494.1	518.5	486.2	468.9	473.7	-20.4	-4.1
School All	1,982.4	2,081.8	1,969.3	1,888.1	1,901.2	-81.2	-4.1
School NM	1,949.6	2,035.1	1,894.3	1,846.7	1,844.8	-104.8	-5.4
Merryville	112.8	127.0	117.1	114.6	246.2	133.4	118.2
BPSO	988.3	1,038.9	1,134.4	949.6	942.2	-46.1	-4.7
Total	9,705.2	10,189.5	9,720.2	9,237.5	9,377.8	-327.4	-3.4

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity

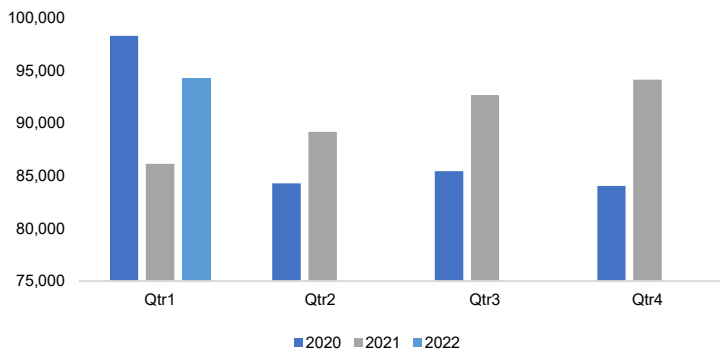


Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

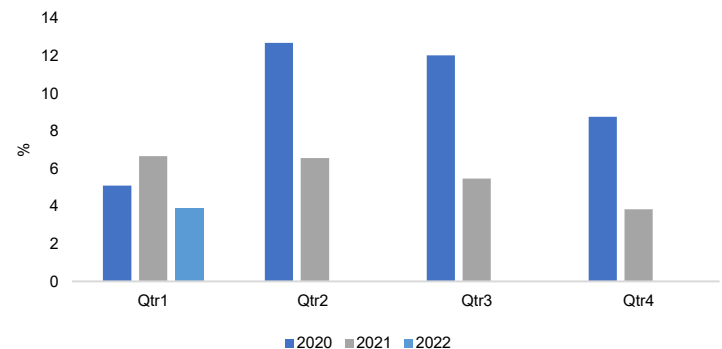
	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Household Employment	86,135	89,194	92,685	94,148	94,235
Year-Over-Year Change	-12,160	4,912	7,230	10,109	8,100
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.4	5.8	8.5	12.0	9.4
Household Unemployment	6,162	6,288	5,358	3,762	3,822
Year-Over-Year Change	896	-5,983	-6,266	-4,332	-2,341
Year-Over-Year % Change	17.0	-48.8	-53.9	-53.5	-38.0
Labor Force	92,297	95,482	98,043	97,910	98,057
Year-Over-Year Change	-11,264	-1,071	964	5,777	5,760
Year-Over-Year % Change	-10.9	-1.1	1.0	6.3	6.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.7	6.6	5.5	3.8	3.9
Year-Over-Year Change	1.6	-6.1	-6.6	-4.9	-2.8

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total Job Openings	5,358	5,941	6,673	7,030	6,673
Year-Over-Year Change	484	2,169	1,849	2,452	1,315
Year-Over-Year % Change	9.9	57.5	38.3	53.6	24.5

Calcasieu Parish Employment



Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment Rate

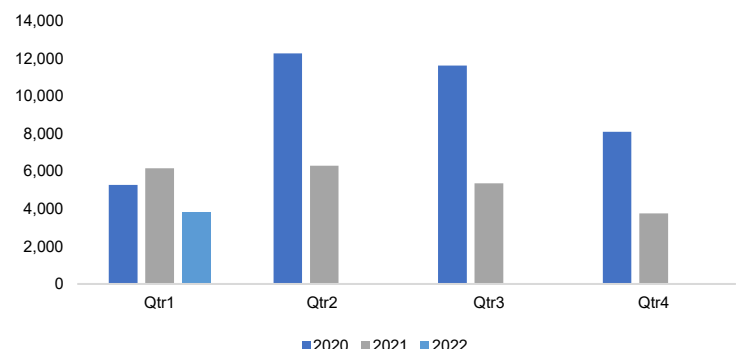


In the 1st quarter of 2022, Calcasieu parish saw an increase in the labor force of 5,760 (+6.2%). This was due to an increase in household employment of 8,100 over the year (+9.4%) while the number of unemployed persons fell 2,341 (-38%). The unemployment rate fell 2.8 percentage points over the year to 3.9%.

Job openings in the 1st quarter averaged 6,673. Openings rose by 1,315 (+24.5%) over the year.

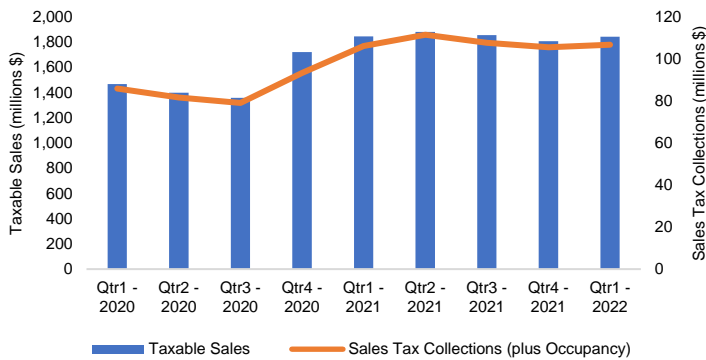
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Calcasieu had a higher employment level in the 1st quarter of 2022 compared to 2021. The unemployment level is much lower than in the 1st quarter of 2021.

Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment

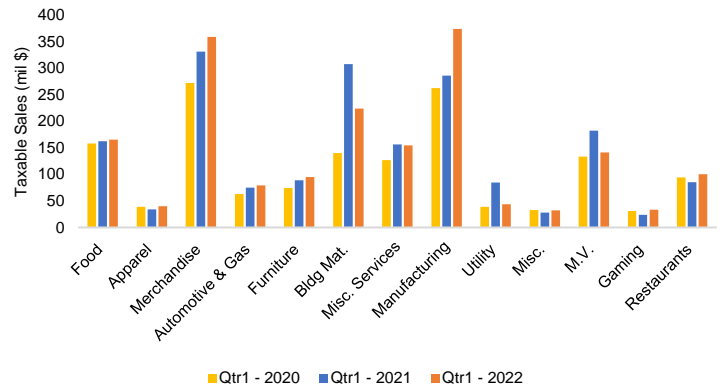


Tax Collections

Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 1 YTD



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	162.3	163.3	163.7	161.2	165.6	3.3	2.1
Apparel	34.1	40.3	34.9	39.3	40.0	5.9	17.4
Merchandise	331.2	337.5	301.7	332.6	358.9	27.7	8.4
Automotive & Gas	74.9	88.3	89.7	82.6	79.3	4.4	5.9
Furniture	89.1	84.9	87.1	84.2	94.9	5.8	6.5
Bldg Mat.	307.7	283.8	267.5	248.3	223.9	-83.8	-27.2
Misc. Services	156.6	160.6	159.2	162.7	154.5	-2.1	-1.3
Manufacturing	285.9	294.8	301.1	311.3	373.8	87.9	30.8
Utility	84.7	58.9	39.3	65.2	43.9	-40.8	-48.2
Misc.	27.8	29.5	35.8	27.6	31.9	4.1	14.8
M.V.	182.2	197.8	199.6	154.7	141.1	-41.1	-22.5
Gaming	23.9	34.0	43.5	35.5	33.4	9.5	39.9
Restaurants	85.0	105.4	106.2	99.5	100.4	15.4	18.1
Total	1845.3	1879.0	1854.4	1804.8	1841.8	-3.5	-0.2

Calcasieu parish has recently seen large increases in taxable sales but the amounts seem to be flattening out. Much of the increases came from building materials and motor vehicles as rebuilding and repairs commenced

after the storms, but those are slowing down. 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 \$0.7 million over the year for a 0.6% increase. General sales taxes rose by \$0.6 million (+0.6%) over the year. Occupancy taxes were little changed. These taxes had essentially no change but a 1.2% increase. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish fell \$3.5 million (+0.2%) over the year. Building Materials (-27.2%), Utilities (-48.2%), Motor Vehicles (-22.5%), and Miscellaneous Services (-1.3%) were the only categories to fall. Sales at gaming establishments are recovering (+39.9%). While Food sales rose 2.1%, it seems people are still eating at Restaurants as sales increased 18.1%. Furniture store sales increased 6.5 % while Apparel sales increased 17.4%. Miscellaneous Retailers and Merchandise sales in the parish increased 14.8% and 8.4%, respectively. Manufacturing had the largest percentage increase (+30.8%).

Collections (mil \$)	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	104.1	108.9	105.0	103.2	104.8	104.8	0.6
Occupancy Taxes	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.2
Sales Tax Collections	106.1	111.4	107.6	105.6	106.7	106.7	0.6

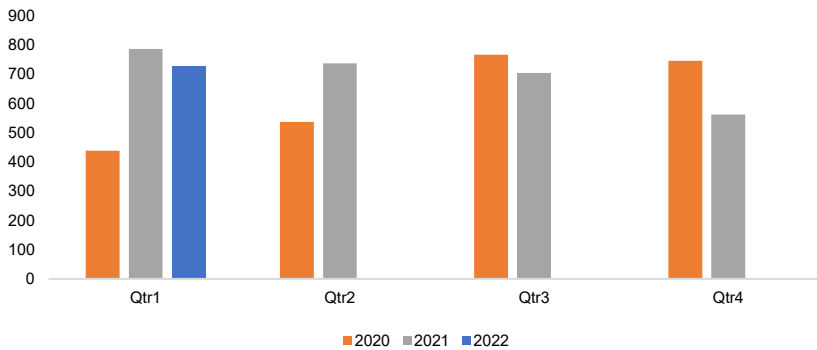
YTD figures show that total taxable sales have fallen in the parish by \$3.5 compared to the 1st quarter of 2021 YTD figure for a 0.2% decrease. Despite the drop in sales, there was a \$0.7 million increase in sales tax collections (+0.6%).

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2020	1,466.2	2,863.9	4,221.5	5,942.4
2021	1,845.3	3,724.3	5,578.6	7,383.4
2022	1,841.8			

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2020	85.8	167.4	246.4	339.8
2021	106.1	217.5	325.1	430.6
2022	106.7			

New Business Filings

Calcasieu 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 Calcasieu parish was 729 in the 1st quarter of 2022 which was 58 less than the same quarter the previous year and 290 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2022 was 729. This was 58 less businesses than the 1st quarter of 2021 YTD and 290 businesses higher than the same quarter of 2020 YTD.

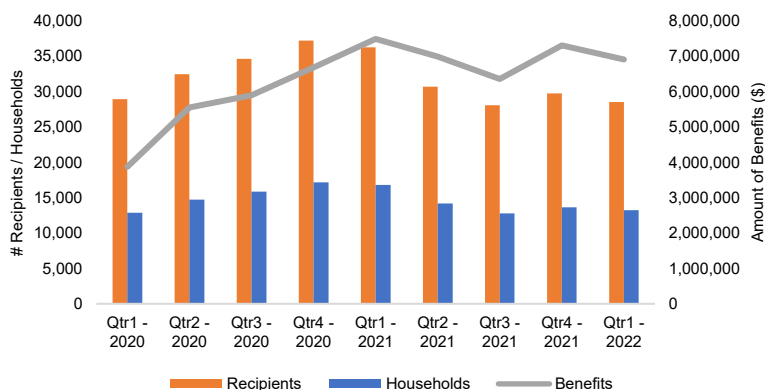
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	439	537	767	746
2021	787	737	705	562
2022	729			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	439	976	1,743	2,489
2021	787	1,524	2,229	2,791
2022	729			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	36,259	30,666	28,053	29,728	28,521	-7,738	-21.3
Households	16,810	14,169	12,775	13,654	13,234	-3,576	-21.3
Benefits	7,486,287	6,987,175	6,357,173	7,307,365	6,901,103	-585,184	-7.8

Calcasieu Parish SNAP Data



Calcasieu parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients, households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 28,521 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2022. This was 7,738 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2021 for a 21.3% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 13,234 which was 3,576 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 21.3% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$6.9 million in total during the 1st quarter of 2022, which was a \$585.2 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 7.8% decrease in benefits in the parish. Looking at

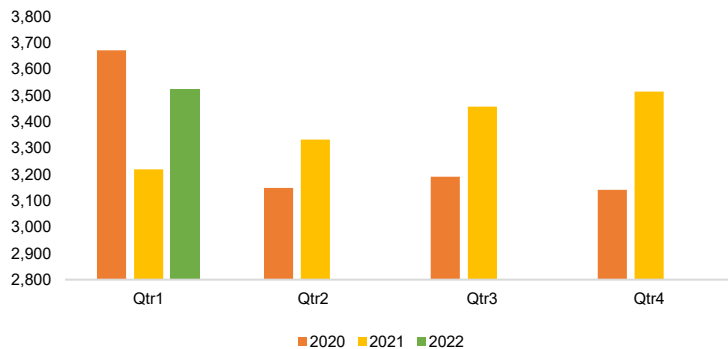
the graph illustrates a rising trend in benefits in early 2020 before peaking in the 1st quarter of 2021. Since then, there have been decreases from the 1st quarter to the 3rd quarter of 2021, indicating a recovery. Benefits have risen recently due to adjustments in the amounts. The later trends seem to show all the variables flattening out.

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

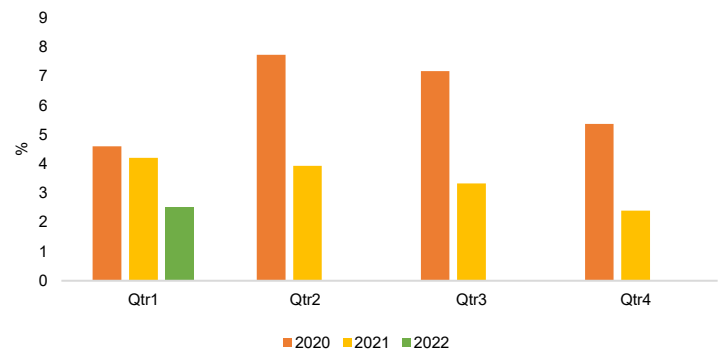
	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Household Employment	3,219	3,332	3,458	3,515	3,524
Year-Over-Year Change	-454	184	267	374	305
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.4	5.8	8.4	11.9	9.5
Household Unemployment	141	138	120	87	92
Year-Over-Year Change	-35	-126	-124	-90	-50
Year-Over-Year % Change	-20.0	-47.8	-51.0	-50.8	-35.1
Labor Force	3,360	3,470	3,578	3,603	3,615
Year-Over-Year Change	-489	57	142	284	255
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.7	1.7	4.1	8.6	7.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.2	3.9	3.3	2.4	2.5
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.4	-3.8	-3.8	-3.0	-1.7

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total Job Openings	137	151	120	97	91
Year-Over-Year Change	-14	48	-10	-48	-46
Year-Over-Year % Change	-9.3	46.6	-7.7	-33.0	-33.7

Cameron Parish Employment



Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate

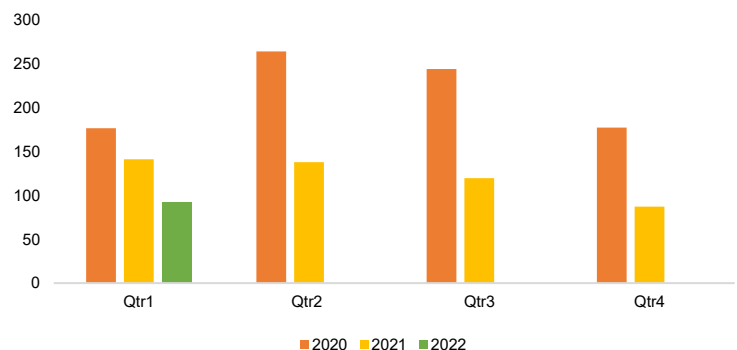


In the 1st quarter of 2022, Cameron parish had an increase in household employment of 305 over the year (+9.5%) while the number of unemployed persons dropped by 50 (-35.1%). This meant an increase of 255 (+7.6%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate fell 1.7 percentage points over the year to 2.5%.

Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2022 averaged 91. Openings fell by 46 (-33.7%) over the year.

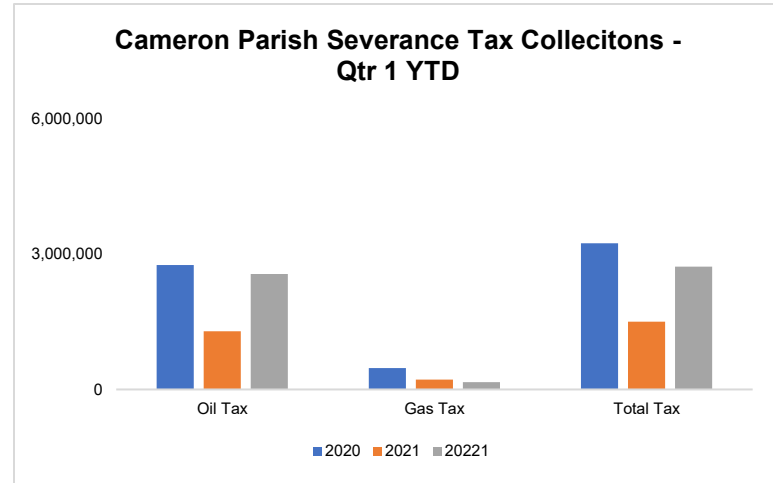
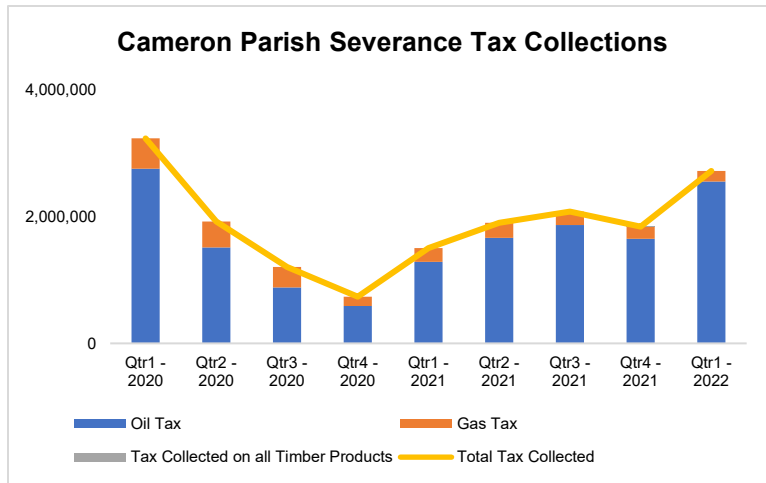
Cameron Parish had a slightly higher employment level in the 1st quarter of 2022 compared to the same quarter the previous year while the unemployment measures were also lower. As Cameron is recovering from the two hurricanes, the labor force has increased since the unemployment rate has fallen.

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 1st quarter YTD figures for each severance tax type (as well as total) over the past three years.

Severance Tax Collections	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	1,286,389	1,667,195	1,866,129	1,650,096	2,555,080	1,268,691	98.6
Gas Tax	218,223	235,952	212,118	192,841	165,348	-52,875	-24.2
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	0	0	0	13	0	0	NA
Total Tax Collected	1,504,611	1,903,147	2,078,247	1,842,950	2,720,428	1,215,816	80.8

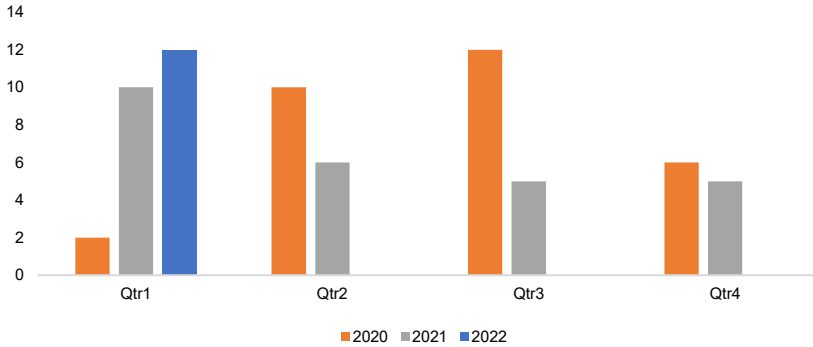
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	3,235,649	5,158,474	6,362,877	7,099,761
2021	1,504,611	3,407,758	5,486,005	7,328,955
2022	2,720,428			

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 1st quarter of 2022 rose by \$1.3 million compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented an 98.6% increase as oil prices have recently increased and production picked up from the pandemic. In terms of gas collections, those fell \$52.9 thousand over that period for a 24.2% decrease. Timber product collections have been 0 in the 1st quarter. Total severance taxes collected from the parish have risen \$1.2 million over the year in the 1st quarter of 2022 for an 80.8% increase. The 1st quarter of 2022 continued the increases seen in recent quarters as recovery continues.

The YTD figures show in 2022 there was a rise in total severance taxes collected compared to the previous year. In the 1st quarter 2022 YTD, severance taxes rose \$1.2 million for an increase of 80.8%. 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 12 in the 1st quarter of 2022 which was 2 less than the same quarter the previous year and 10 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2022 was 12. This was 2 businesses less than the 1st quarter of 2021 YTD and 10 businesses more than the 1st quarter of 2020 YTD.

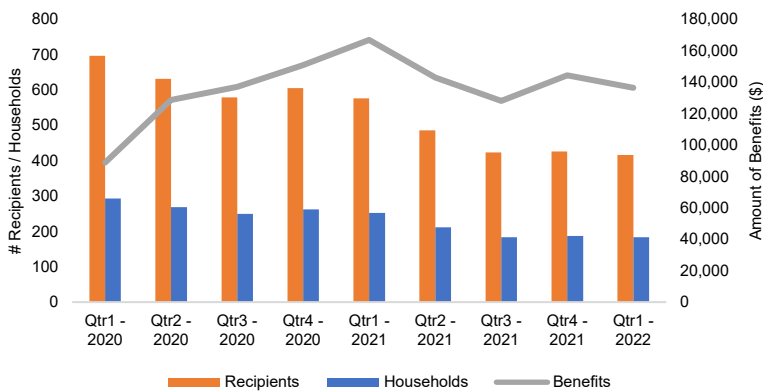
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	2	10	12	6
2021	10	6	5	5
2022	12			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	2	12	24	30
2021	10	16	21	26
2022	12			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	576	485	423	426	416	-160	-27.8
Households	252	211	183	187	183	-69	-27.2
Benefits	166,746	142,799	128,010	144,182	136,302	-30,444	-18.3

Cameron Parish SNAP Data



Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients, households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 416 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2022. This was 160 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2021 for a 27.8% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 183 which was 69 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 27.2% decrease. The number of recipients and households decreased, as well as benefits. The parish received an average of \$136.3 thousand in total during the 1st quarter of 2022, which was a \$30.4 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was an 18.3%

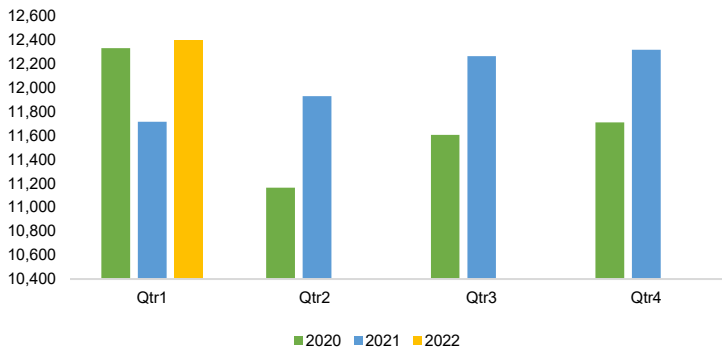
decrease in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates recipients, households, and benefits falling throughout 2021. Part of this falling participation is most likely due to population loss from the storms. Benefits have risen recently due to adjustments in the amounts but the overall trends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

Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

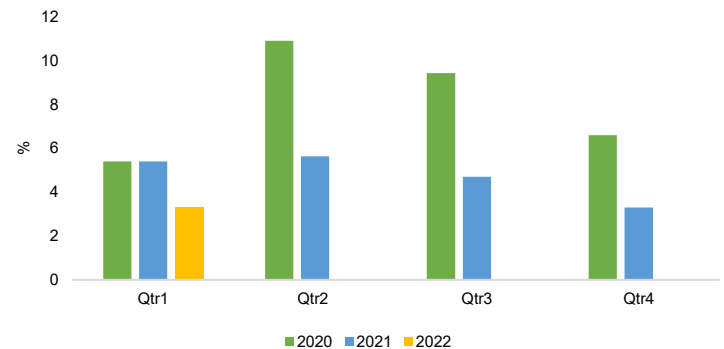
	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Household Employment	11,716	11,928	12,264	12,318	12,397
Year-Over-Year Change	-614	765	660	609	682
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.0	6.9	5.7	5.2	5.8
Household Unemployment	670	711	604	421	423
Year-Over-Year Change	-38	-651	-604	-406	-247
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.3	-47.8	-50.0	-49.1	-36.9
Labor Force	12,385	12,639	12,868	12,739	12,820
Year-Over-Year Change	-652	114	56	203	435
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.0	0.9	0.4	1.6	3.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.4	5.6	4.7	3.3	3.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	-5.3	-4.7	-3.3	-2.1

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022
Total Job Openings	364	278	275	365	374
Year-Over-Year Change	52	43	55	72	10
Year-Over-Year % Change	16.5	18.3	25.2	24.6	2.8

Jeff Davis Parish Employment



Jeff Davis Parish Unemployment Rate

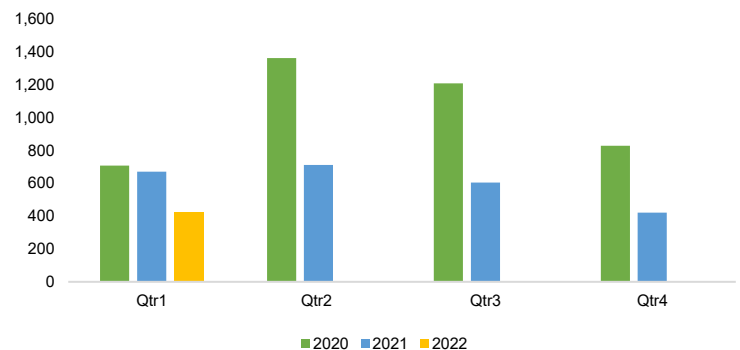


In the 1st quarter of 2022, Jefferson Davis parish saw an increase of 435 (+3.5%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by an increase in household employment of 682 over the year (+5.8%) while the number of unemployed persons fell 247 (-36.9%). The unemployment rate fell 2.1 percentage points over the year to 3.3%.

Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2022 averaged 374. Openings rose by 10 (+2.8%) over the year.

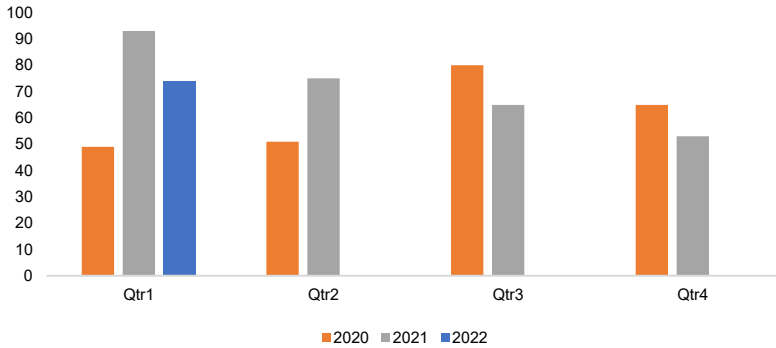
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Jeff Davis parish had higher figures for employment in the 1st quarter of 2021, with lower unemployment figures.

Jeff Davis Parish Unemployment



New Business Filings

Jeff Davis Parish New Domestic Business Filings



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

The number of new business filings in Jefferson Davis parish was 74 in the 1st quarter of 2022 which was 19 less than the same quarter the previous year and 25 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2022 was 74. This was 19 fewer businesses than the 1st quarter of 2021 YTD and 25 businesses higher than the 1st quarter of 2020 YTD.

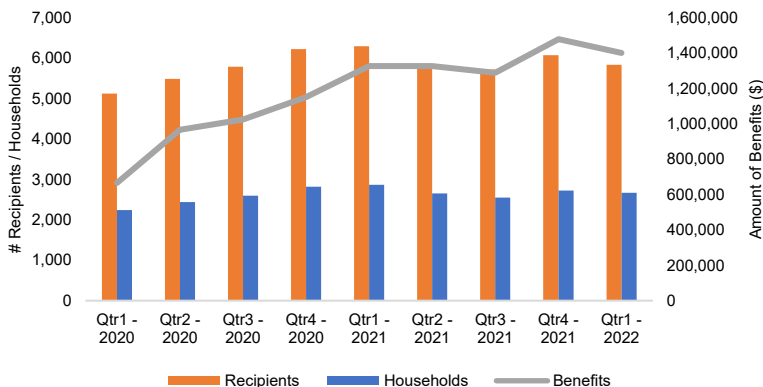
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	49	51	80	65
2021	93	75	65	53
2022	74			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2020	49	100	180	245
2021	93	168	233	286
2022	74			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	6,295	5,852	5,711	6,073	5,830	-465	-7.4
Households	2,863	2,650	2,548	2,727	2,671	-192	-6.7
Benefits	1,325,623	1,325,712	1,287,970	1,478,315	1,399,619	73,996	5.6

Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data

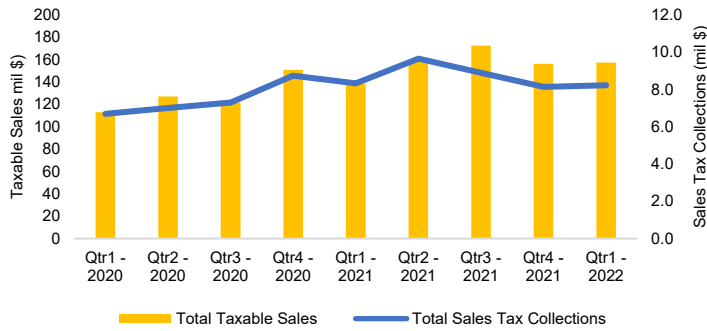


Jefferson Davis parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients and households with increases in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,830 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2022. This was 465 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2021 for a 7.4% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,671 which was 192 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 6.7% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.4 million in total during the 1st quarter of 2022, which was a \$74 thousand rise over-the-year. This was a 5.6% increase in benefits in the parish. Looking at

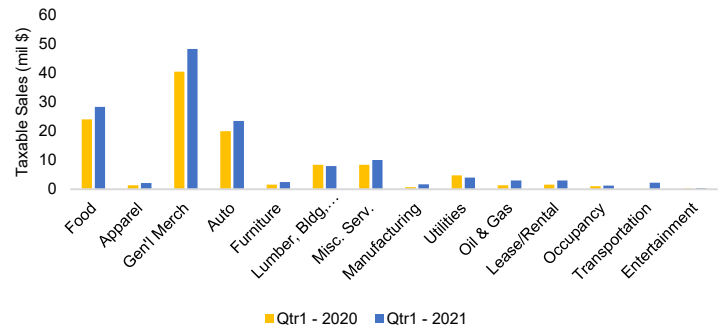
the graph illustrates an overall increasing trend in benefits beginning in early 2020 before peaking in the first quarter of 2021. This trend is also shown in the number of households and recipients receiving benefits. This is no doubt due to the pandemic. Despite annual increases, there were decreases from the 1st quarter to the 3rd quarter of 2021, indicating a recovery. Benefits have risen due to adjustments in the amounts. The later trends seem to show all the variables flattening out.

Tax Collections

Jefferson Davis Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Jeff Davis Parish Taxable Sales - 1st Quarter YTD



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	28.3	30.5	29.1	27.4	26.5	-1.8	-6.5
Apparel	2.1	1.9	1.6	3.2	2.0	-0.1	-6.0
Gen'l Merch	48.3	50.0	53.9	51.3	53.3	4.9	10.2
Auto	23.5	28.9	46.5	37.7	36.6	13.1	56.0
Furniture	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.6	3.0	0.5	20.5
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	8.0	20.7	20.1	9.7	11.5	3.5	43.3
Misc. Serv.	10.1	8.0	9.0	7.7	9.6	-0.4	-4.1
Manufacturing	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.4	-0.4	-21.9
Utilities	4.0	3.2	3.1	4.3	3.3	-0.7	-16.8
Oil & Gas	3.1	4.0	-0.5	3.3	3.5	0.4	13.1
Lease/Rental	3.0	2.5	2.1	2.7	2.8	-0.2	-5.3
Occupancy	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.1	-0.2	-15.1
Transportation	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	-0.1	-5.7
Entertainment	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.4	101.0
Total	138.6	158.1	172.6	156.2	157.4	18.9	13.6

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr1 - 2021	Qtr2 - 2021	Qtr3 - 2021	Qtr4 - 2021	Qtr1 - 2022	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	8.3	9.7	8.9	8.1	8.2	-0.1	-1.2

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2020	113.0	240.0	361.7	512.6
2021	138.6	296.6	469.3	625.5
2022	157.4			

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2020	6.7	13.7	21.0	29.7
2021	8.3	18.0	26.9	35.0
2022	8.2			

Jefferson Davis Parish saw a decrease in its sales tax collections in the 1st quarter of 2022, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have fallen by approximately \$100 thousand over the year for a 1.2% decrease. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by \$18.9 million (+3.6%) over the year. The largest absolute and percentage increases occurred in Auto (+\$13.1 million, +56%). Lumber and building materials experienced a large increase (+\$3.5 million, +43.3%). Furniture had a small absolute increase but a large percentage change (+\$0.5 million, +20.5%). Oil and Gas (+\$0.4 million, +101%) and General Merchandise (+\$4.9 million, +10.2%) also experienced percentage increases that were relatively large. Apparel experienced an absolute and percentage decrease (-\$0.1 million, -6%). Manufacturing experienced a large percentage decrease of 21.9%. Utilities (-\$0.7 million, -16.8%) and occupancy (-\$0.2 million, -15.1%) both had drops in sales. Entertainment had a 195.4% increase, however, that increase was small in absolute terms. Food had the largest absolute drop of \$1.8 million (-6.5%).

The 1st quarter of 2022 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by \$18.9 million compared to the same quarter in 2021 for a 13.6% increase. Even though there was a drop in sales, there was a \$0.1 million decrease in 2021 YTD sales tax collections (-1.2%).

SWLA has been wondering about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the area's storms on people choosing to remain or leave the region. Many have seen reports that look at USPS change of address data showing large population losses in the Lake Charles area. There have also been points made in the news about the Calcasieu Parish school system losing thousands of students. However, nothing was official. Now, the US Census has released the latest [Population Estimates for 2021](#). These estimates show the population estimates as of July 1st 2020 and July 1st 2021. This is the time period right before the storms, but post-COVID. While there are also estimates looking at the change from April 1st, 2020 to July 1st 2021, this analysis will look at the July – July estimates as they give the best view of the storms' damage. An important note is that since the estimates go to July 1st, 2021, they reflect time for people to have come back to area. Therefore, this gives a view of people who have left for an extended period of time, if not permanently. If many of these people have not come back but plan to, this is definitely more evidence of less than optimal housing recovery/rebuilding time.

When looking at population changes, there are some components that must be defined. Natural change is equal to the births minus the deaths which is one component of change. Then there is net migration which is equal to in-migrants from other areas compared to out-migrants to other areas. This is shown in domestic terms (within the US) and international terms (in and out of the US). Adding up the natural increase and migration should give you the total change. However, there are often differences from the totals that the models calculate so there is a residual to account for that. The tables below show the total population and changes in all parishes as well as the Lake Charles MSA and the 5-parish region as a whole.

	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021
Allen Parish	22,697	22,687
Beauregard Parish	36,573	36,584
Calcasieu Parish	216,416	205,282
Cameron Parish	5,619	5,080
Jefferson Davis Parish	32,166	32,345
Lake Charles MSA	222,035	210,362
SWLA	313,471	301,978

Changes from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021								
	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	International Net Migration	Domestic Net Migration	Net Migration	Residual	Total Change (Natural Increase + Net Migration + Residual)
Allen	301	291	10	11	-35	-24	4	-10
Beauregard	476	464	12	10	-17	-7	6	11
Calcasieu	2,826	2,468	358	92	-11,380	-11,288	-204	-11,134
Cameron	71	67	4	-2	-534	-536	-7	-539
Jefferson Davis	406	446	-40	4	212	216	3	179
Lake Charles MSA	2,897	2,535	362	90	-11,914	-11,824	-211	-11,673
SWLA	4,080	3,736	344	115	-11,754	-11,639	-198	-11,493

The entire SWLA region experienced a significant drop in population over the year. The area lost almost 11,500 residents which amounted to a 3.7% drop in one year.

Each of the parishes had unique changes, but most of the largest drops (absolute and percentage) were in Calcasieu and Cameron. No doubt that some places like Jefferson Davis received more residents from migration from these two parishes. However, the small increases in net migration (or negative net migration in Beauregard in spite of a population increase) lead one to conclude that many people left SWLA for other places in Louisiana (Lafayette, Baton Rouge, etc.) or Texas.

1. Allen Parish

The population in Allen parish fell 10 persons over the year. This was due mainly to the negative net migration of 24 overpowering the natural increase of 10 (with a residual of 4).

2. Beauregard Parish

The population in Beauregard parish rose 11 persons over the year. This was due mainly to the negative net migration of 7 being lower than the natural increase of 12 (with a residual of 6)

3. Calcasieu Parish

Calcasieu Parish was hit especially hard by natural disasters during the time period analyzed. This made the area stand out not just at the state level, but the national level as well. The parish lost 11,134 people. Even though the parish had a natural increase of 358 (more births than deaths), the parish lost 11,288 in terms of domestic migration. Looking only at domestic migration, Calcasieu had a drop of 11,380 in net domestic migration with an increase of 92 in international net migration.

Calcasieu had the largest absolute decrease in population of all parishes in the state (-11,134) and the second largest percentage decrease (-5.1%). It had the second largest **rates** of negative net migration in the state behind Cameron. In national terms, Calcasieu had the 9th largest percentage decline in population of all counties in the nation. In terms of "larger" counties in the nation, Calcasieu parish ranked behind New York County (-6.6%) and San Francisco County (-6.3%).

4. Cameron Parish

Cameron Parish was the first to be hit by the storms experienced. Cameron had the 13th highest population drop in the state (-539) in absolute terms but it was the highest percentage drop in the state. Nationally, Cameron had the second largest percentage fall of all counties in the country. The parish's 9.6% drop was only below Loving County in Texas. That county had a 14.9% drop, but that was only due to 10 people leaving the county. The current population there is 57. Cameron parish currently has slightly over 5,000 residents and there are serious recovery questions to be asked about the area.

5. Jefferson Davis Parish

Jefferson Davis Parish was one of only two parishes in the region to have a population increase (the other being Beauregard). Their 179 increase was due to positive net migration of 216 as the parish actually had a natural decrease in population of 40. This 0.6% increase was also the highest in the area.

Allen, Beauregard, and Jefferson Davis parishes only had slight changes in their populations. Calcasieu and Cameron parishes were the areas to have the most significant drops. As these two parishes make up the Lake Charles, MSA, the drops in both of these areas lead to Lake Charles having the largest drop in population of all MSA's in the nation. The table below shows the changes in population for all the MSA's in the state.

Lake Charles and SWLA Population Estimates

The tables below show the total population and changes for all MSA's in Louisiana.

	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021
Alexandria	151,736	150,890
Baton Rouge	870,178	871,905
Hammond	133,549	135,217
Houma-Thibodaux	206,814	206,212
Lafayette	478,077	479,212
Lake Charles	222,035	210,362
Monroe	206,557	204,884
New Orleans-Metairie	1,270,366	1,261,726
Shreveport-Bossier City	392,525	389,155

Changes from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021								
	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	International Net Migration	Domestic Net Migration	Net Migration	Residual	Total Change (Natural Increase + Net Migration + Residual)
Alexandria, LA	1,820	2,021	-201	41	-706	-665	20	-846
Baton Rouge, LA	10,236	8,970	1,266	616	-181	435	26	1,727
Hammond, LA	1,863	1,617	246	27	1,386	1,413	9	1,668
Houma-Thibodaux, LA	2,391	2,435	-44	75	-672	-597	39	-602
Lafayette, LA	6,068	5,392	676	218	175	393	66	1,135
Lake Charles, LA	2,897	2,535	362	90	-11,914	-11,824	-211	-11,673
Monroe, LA	2,446	2,727	-281	47	-1,456	-1,409	17	-1,673
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	14,626	14,530	96	1,241	-9,824	-8,583	-153	-8,640
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA	4,893	5,082	-189	118	-3,298	-3,180	-1	-3,370

Only Baton Rouge, Hammond, and Lafayette experienced population increases during the year. Those were also the only areas to have positive net migration as the entire state of Louisiana experienced a large amount of negative net migration.

As mentioned above, the Lake Charles MSA drop in population of 5.3% lead all MSA's in the country. No other MSA lost more in percentage terms than our area. While counties like New York or San Francisco had larger percentage drops than Calcasieu, many residents most likely moved to other counties within the area. As people left Calcasieu and Cameron, the total MSA figures dropped dramatically.

This is something that could lead dire consequence for our economy if not reversed. A growing economy cannot continually experience population declines. An economy needs workers to produce output, earn and spend incomes, and provide tax revenues for public goods and services that can be used by all of its citizens. SWLA needs a steadily growing educated labor force to get to longer term prosperity. More people means not only a greater supply of workers but also more demand for goods and services. Hopefully, as more homes are repaired/built and higher quality of measures are realized in the region, a greater number of people will look to SWLA as a place to build a career and call home.

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

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

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

2. Quarterly Housing Price Indexes - Federal Housing Finance Agency (rebased to have the first quarter of 2011 equal 100)
3. Lake Charles MSA Building Permits – Census Building Permits Survey (BPS)^b

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

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

- a. Quarterly values are obtained from averaging the monthly values
- b. Quarterly values are obtained from summing the monthly values