

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.

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Contact

Phone: 337-475-5560

Website:

mcneesedrewecon.org



drewecon@mcneese.edu



@mcneesedrewecon



fb.com/mcneesedrewecon



3rd Quarter 2023 Issue

This issue shows that the effects of inflation have been somewhat dying down as the values of exports and severance tax collections have been falling. However, the weights of the exports out of the Calcasieu Ship Channel have remained high. The remaining variables show slow and steady growth throughout all the parishes which will hopefully continue throughout the year. Interesting developments in the SNAP program show that while the amount of benefits has fallen due to the expiration of emergency increases, the amount of households and beneficiaries has remained fairly steady. Gaming and tax collections remain strong but have come down slightly. Finally, employment has been growing over the past two quarters in the MSA and most parishes have seen slight increases in their employment figures.

The final piece of this report contains a piece written by guest columnist Gus Fontenot. Having attractive sites for businesses to locate and construct facilities on is crucial to economic development. Developers and site selectors want to know their location will have adequate infrastructure, transportation access, labor availability, etc. Gus serves as the Director of Site Development at the SWLA Economic Development Alliance. In the final essay, he discusses the importance of sites, the state's Certified Sites Program, and what is available in our economic region.

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

Dan Groft, Ph.D.

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

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Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

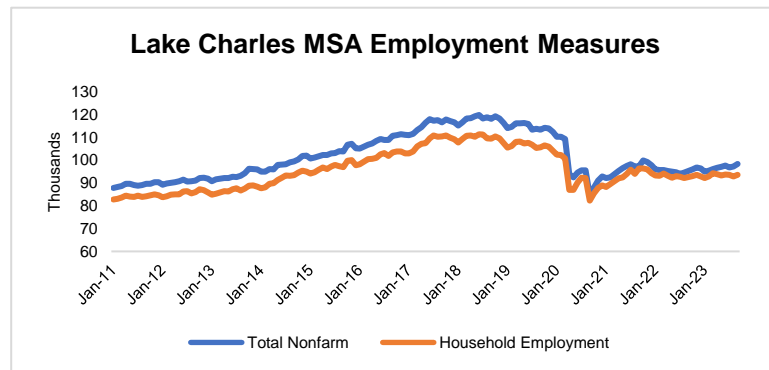
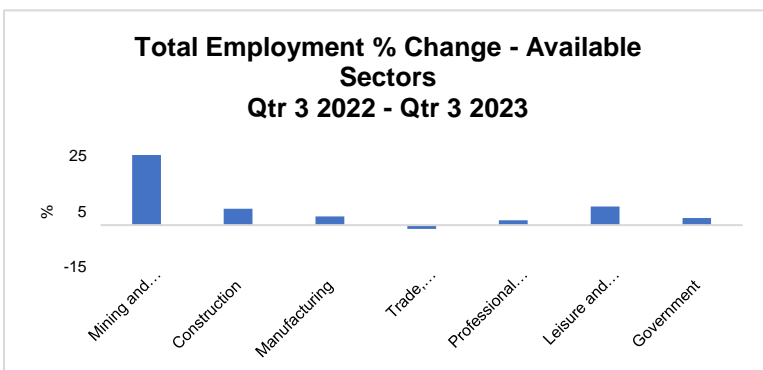
(measures in thousands of workers)	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total Nonfarm	94.6	96.3	95.5	97.1	97.4
Year-Over-Year Change	-3.0	-2.6	-0.3	2.2	2.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.0	-2.7	-0.3	2.3	3.0
Mining and Logging	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3
Construction	12.3	12.5	12.2	12.9	13.1
Year-Over-Year Change	-4.7	-3.8	-1.9	0.2	0.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-27.5	-23.3	-13.7	1.3	5.9
Manufacturing	10.6	10.8	10.9	11.0	10.9
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.3	2.2	2.2	3.5	3.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	17.2	17.7	17.1	17.0	17.0
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.6	0.4	0.6	1.0	-1.4
Professional and Business Services	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.6	9.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	-0.6	-0.1	-0.4	0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.4	-5.7	-1.4	-4.3	1.8
Leisure and Hospitality	12.5	12.5	12.6	13.1	13.4
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.7	3.0	4.4	8.2	6.6
Government	13.3	13.9	13.9	14.0	13.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.5	1.5	1.7	1.4	2.5
Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)	824.62	889.57	942.41	993.28	980.18
Year-Over-Year Change	40.0	141.5	178.7	192.4	155.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	5.1	18.9	23.4	24.0	18.9
Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)	25.53	26.63	27.74	29.01	28.55
Year-Over-Year Change	1.5	2.3	2.5	3.6	3.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	6.3	9.4	10.1	14.2	11.8

In the 3rd quarter of 2023, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) experienced a general overall increase in employment compared to the same quarter the previous year. After benchmark revisions, there have been drops almost every quarter, but the jobs have been ticking up.

Total nonfarm employment (presented in thousands of jobs in the table) grew by 2,800 jobs over the year for a 3.0% increase. Looking at the industries, most had increases or no change while Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, had the largest decline of 200 jobs (-1.4%). Leisure and Hospitality experienced the largest industry gain of 800 workers (+6.6%), followed by Construction with an increase of 700 workers (+5.9%). Professional and Business Services saw a 200 worker increase (+1.8%), Mining and

Logging had an increase of 100 jobs (+33.3%), and Government increased by 300 (+2.5%).

While there was a gain in employment, there were also increases in earnings measures. The average weekly earnings of all employees rose 18.9% and average hourly earnings rose 11.8%. Although not shown, average weekly hours of all employees in the 3rd quarter rose 6.3% over the year. Some of these dramatic increases are partly due to inflation.

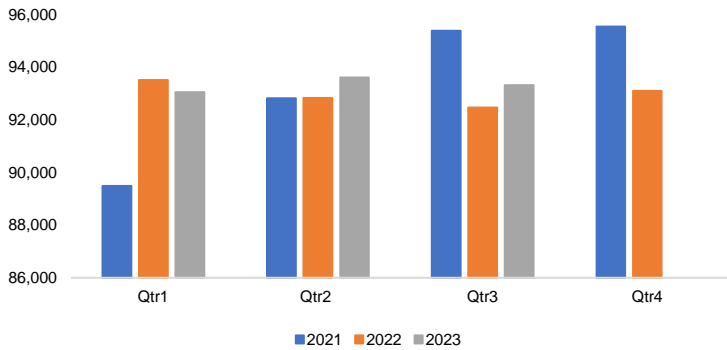


Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

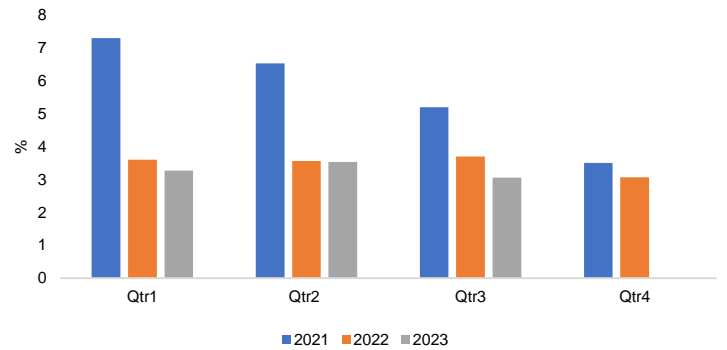
	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Household Employment	92,474	93,097	93,050	93,619	93,326
Year-Over-Year Change	-2,920	-2,444	-461	782	851
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.1	-2.6	-0.5	0.8	0.9
Household Unemployment	3,541	2,939	3,149	3,424	2,940
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,696	-512	-334	-17	-601
Year-Over-Year % Change	-32.4	-14.8	-9.6	-0.5	-17.0
Labor Force	96,016	96,036	96,199	97,043	96,266
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,617	-2,956	-795	765	250
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.6	-3.0	-0.8	0.8	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.1
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.5	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	-0.6

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total Job Openings	7,143	6,204	6,337	5,991	5,248
Year-Over-Year Change	25	-1,250	-691	-765	-1,895
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	-16.8	-9.8	-11.3	-26.5

Lake Charles MSA Employment



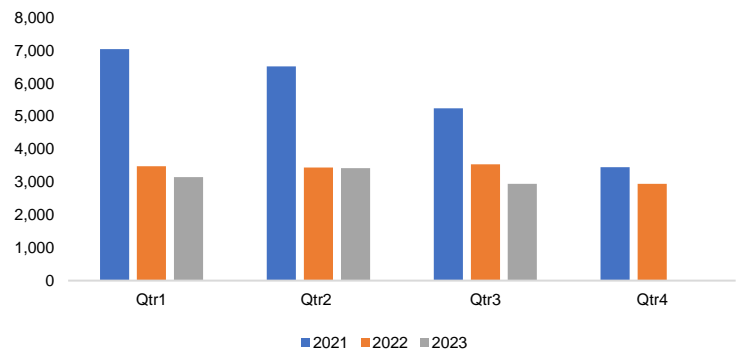
Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 3.1% which represents a 0.6 percentage point drop from a year ago. The household employment measure grew by 851 over the year for a 0.9% increase. The number of unemployed decreased by 601. This represented a 17% decrease. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was an increase of 250 (0.3%). More labor will be needed for long-term growth so future developments in this measure should be watched closely.

Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2023 averaged 5,248. Openings decreased by 1,895 (-26.5%) over the year.

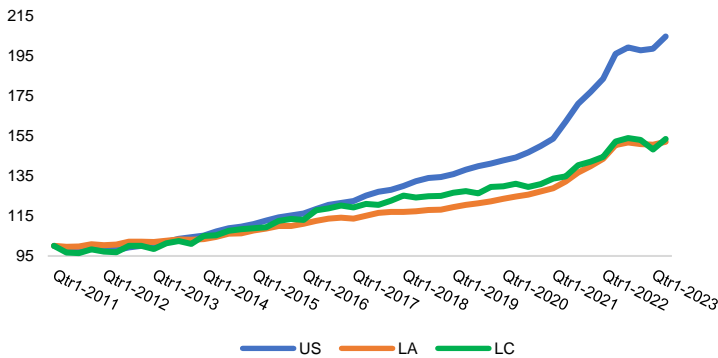
Lake Charles MSA Unemployment



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)

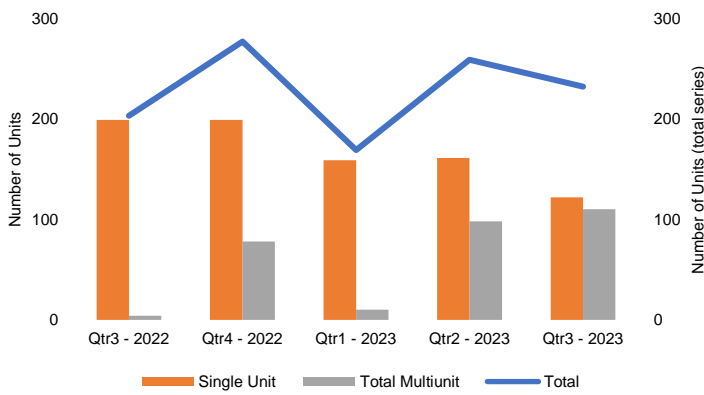


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr2 – 2022	Qtr2 - 2023	Year-over-Year % Change
Lake Charles HPI	152.2	153.6	0.9
Louisiana HPI	150.5	152.1	1.1
US HPI	196.0	204.7	4.5

As housing prices have been rising dramatically in recent years, they have flattened and the prices in the area were rising slower than the state and the nation. Price increases have certainly slowed. Looking at price changes over-the-year, from the 2nd quarter of 2022 to the same quarter in 2023, housing prices have risen 0.9% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to 1.1% in LA and 4.5% in the US.

Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

Lake Charles MSA Building Permits



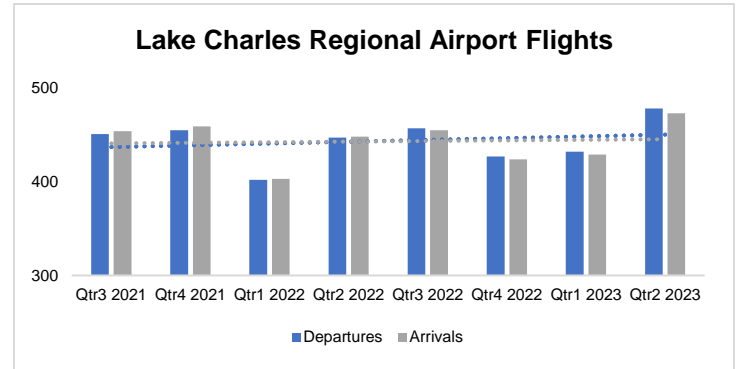
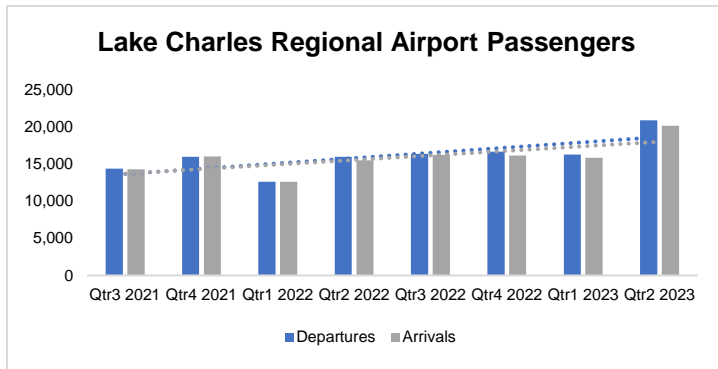
In the 3rd quarter of 2023, single unit permits fell by 77 over-the-year while multi-unit permits had an increase of 106, therefore the total increase was 29. This represented a 14.3% increase. The YTD figures show some different results with a decrease in single units of 286 and multi-unit permits decreasing by 42 for a total drop of 286 over the year in the third quarter. The total percentage decrease in YTD was 30.2%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits fell by \$9.8 million while multi-unit permit valuations rose by \$21.6 million for a total increase of \$11.8 million. This represented a 30.1% increase year-over-year in the 3rd quarter of 2023 for valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, there was a total decrease of 14.6% and multi-units saw a 42.4% change in valuation YTD.

The graph of building permits shows that single unit permits fell from the 4th quarter of 2022 to the 3rd quarter of 2023 while multi-unit permits rose. Since the 1st quarter of 2023 saw a drop in multi-unit permits, the blue line representing the total of single and multi-unit shows a large drop in the 1st quarter of 2023 while the overall trend of the line is relatively flat but remains high.

	Qtr-3 2022	Qtr-3 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-3 2022 YTD	Qtr-3 2023 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number								
Total	203	232	29	14.3	946	660	-286	-30.2
Single	199	122	-77	-38.7	686	442	-244	-35.6
Multi-unit	4	110	106	2650.0	260	218	-42	-16.2
Valuation (thousands \$)								
Total	39,347	51,181	11,834	30.1	162,814	139,003	-23,811	-14.6
Single	38,800	29,014	-9,786	-25.2	131,909	94,983	-36,926	-28.0
Multi-unit	547	22,167	21,620	3952.5	30,905	44,020	13,115	42.4

Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport



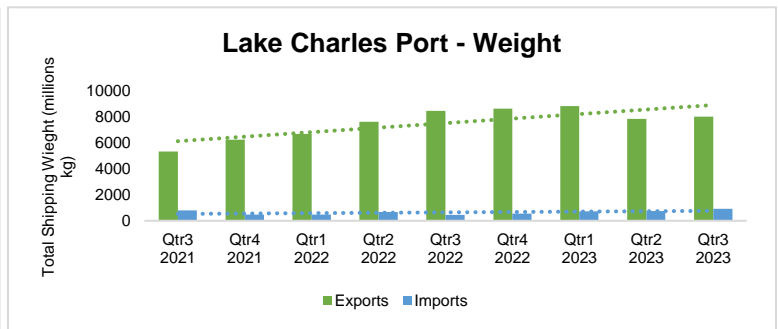
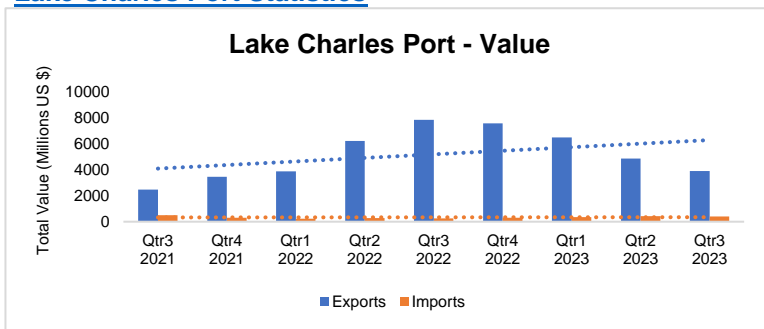
The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a great uptick in activity during the 2nd quarter of 2023 compared to the same quarter the previous year. Activity has increased during 2023 as the airport and area recover from the storms and flights have resumed out of LCH.

	Qtr-2 2022	Qtr-2 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	16,015	20,927	4,912	30.7
Arrivals	15,510	20,184	4,674	30.1
Flights				
Departures	447	478	31	6.9
Arrivals	448	473	25	5.6

Passengers departing in the 2nd quarter of 2023 rose 4,912 (+30.7%) since the 2nd quarter of 2022 and those arriving have increased 4,674 (+30.1%). In terms of flights, there has been an increase of 31 flights (+6.9%) departing Lake Charles over that same period while the number

of flights arriving has risen by 25 (+5.6%). The graphs showing these measures point to an upward trend after starting at low levels in 2020 due to the storms and COVID. Flights and passengers have been steadily increasing since that time. Hopefully, the strong performance in the 2nd quarter is a sign of more permanent things to come.

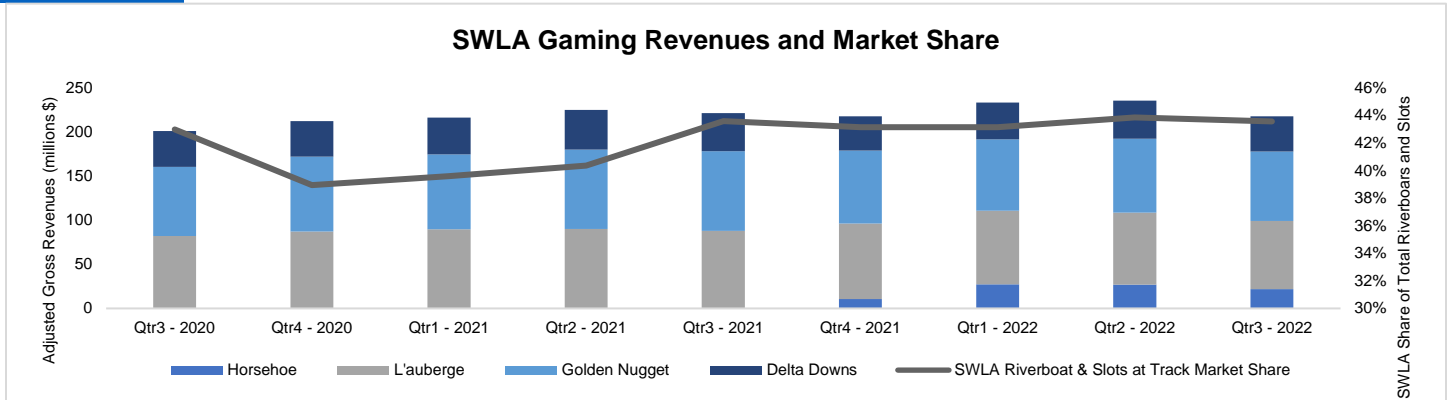
Lake Charles Port Statistics



The Lake Charles port has seen some decreases in exports and increases in import values in the 3rd quarter of 2023. The figures in the table below show the value of exports fell \$3.9 billion (-50.2%) over the year while the total value of imports rose \$143 million (+57.2%) The total weight of all exports fell 438 million kg (-5.2%) while the total weight of all imports rose 467 million kg (+101.2%). While values have fallen (due to falling energy prices), total weight has been steady.

	Qtr-3 2022	Qtr-3 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions \$)				
Exports	7,856	3,910	-3,946	-50.2
Imports	251	394	143	57.2
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	8,484	8,046	-438	-5.2
Imports	462	929	467	101.2

Gaming Statistics



	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total State AGR (millions)	507.8	504.3	540.8	536.6	499.9
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	40.8	-40.1	-5.2	-20.8	-8.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	8.7	-7.4	-1.0	-3.7	-1.6
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	221.3	217.5	233.2	235.3	217.7
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	20.6	5.6	17.1	10.3	-3.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	10.2	2.6	7.9	4.6	-1.6
Total AGR (millions)					
Horseshoe	0.0	10.6	27.3	26.8	21.9
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	0.0	10.6	27.3	26.8	21.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	-100.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
L'Auberge	87.8	85.7	83.3	81.6	77.3
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	5.9	-1.5	-6.4	-8.3	-10.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.1	-1.8	-7.1	-9.2	-12.0
Golden Nugget	90.3	82.7	80.8	83.7	78.5
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	11.9	-1.9	-4.1	-6.1	-11.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	15.2	-2.3	-4.8	-6.8	-13.1
Delta Downs	43.2	38.6	41.8	43.2	39.9
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	2.8	-1.5	0.2	-2.0	-3.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.0	-3.8	0.4	-4.5	-7.5
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	0.0%	4.9%	11.7%	11.4%	10.1%
L'Auberge	39.7%	39.4%	35.7%	34.7%	35.5%
Golden Nugget	40.8%	38.0%	34.6%	35.6%	36.1%
Delta Downs	19.5%	17.7%	17.9%	18.4%	18.3%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	0.0%	2.1%	5.1%	5.0%	4.4%
L'Auberge	17.3%	17.0%	15.4%	15.2%	15.5%
Golden Nugget	17.8%	16.4%	14.9%	15.6%	15.7%
Delta Downs	8.5%	7.7%	7.7%	8.1%	8.0%
SWLA Total AGR	43.6%	43.1%	43.1%	43.8%	43.5%

In terms of revenues, gaming establishments have rebounded from the pandemic and hurricanes and the Horseshoe has been open for three full quarters. Revenues in SWLA were about 1.6% lower than 3rd quarter of 2022 and statewide AGR in 2023 was 1.6% less than Q3 2022. We will need to wait for year-over-year comparisons with the Horseshoe open. Total revenues in SWLA for the 3rd quarter of 2023 were \$217.7 million, or a 1.6% percent decrease from the previous year.

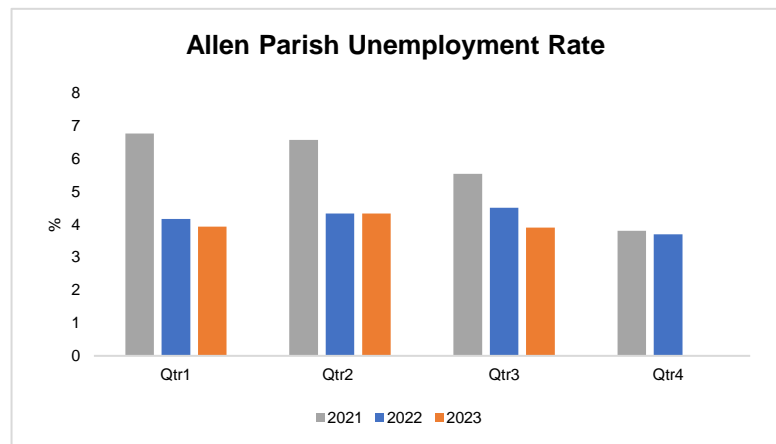
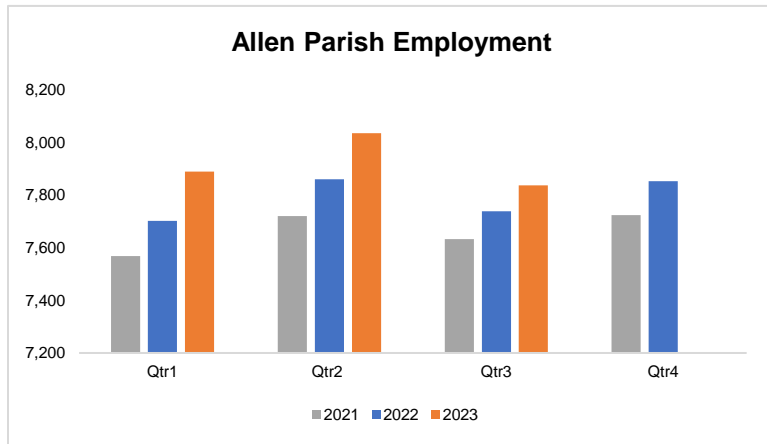
The Horseshoe collected \$21.9 million in revenue in the 3rd quarter of 2023. L 'Auberge had a decrease of \$10.5 million for a 12% decrease. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage drop in AGR of 13.1% with an absolute decrease of \$11.8 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$3.2 million decrease in AGR over the year for a 7.5% decrease. These figures still

indicate a solid recovery in the gaming market from 2020, however, things have been slowing in terms of Q3 year-over-year changes. This may be due to people making less frequent visits due to higher transportation costs (gasoline prices) and more spending on other goods due to inflation. Also, some of the increased activity at the Horseshoe may be eating into nearby casino AGR. The three SWLA establishments made up 43.5% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, which is essentially the same as the 43.6% in the 3rd quarter of 2022.

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Household Employment	7,739	7,853	7,890	8,035	7,837
Year-Over-Year Change	106	129	188	174	98
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.4	1.7	2.4	2.2	1.3
Household Unemployment	366	302	326	364	318
Year-Over-Year Change	-81	-6	-8	10	-48
Year-Over-Year % Change	-18.2	-1.8	-2.4	2.7	-13.0
Labor Force	8,105	8,155	8,216	8,399	8,155
Year-Over-Year Change	24	123	180	184	50
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	1.5	2.2	2.2	0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	3.7	3.9	4.3	3.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.6

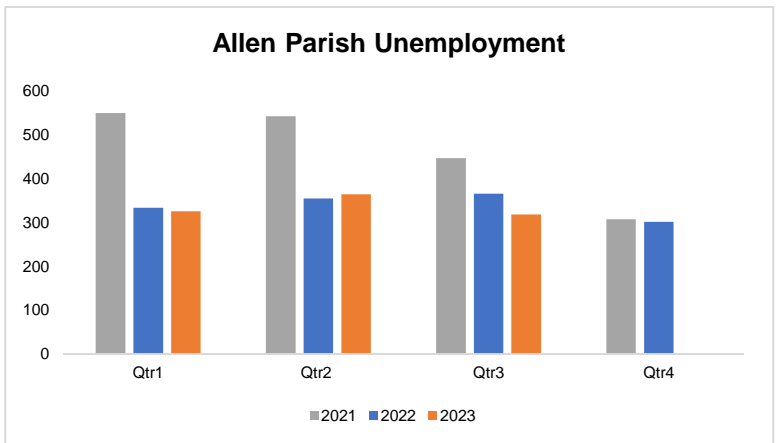
	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total Job Openings	302	244	265	241	235
Year-Over-Year Change	35	-17	-31	-62	-67
Year-Over-Year % Change	13.0	-6.5	-10.4	-20.4	-22.3



In the 3rd quarter of 2023, Allen parish saw a rise in the labor force of 50 (+0.6%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 98 over the year (+1.3 %) while the number of employed persons fell 48 (-13%) over the year. The unemployment rate fell over the year by six percentage points to 3.9%

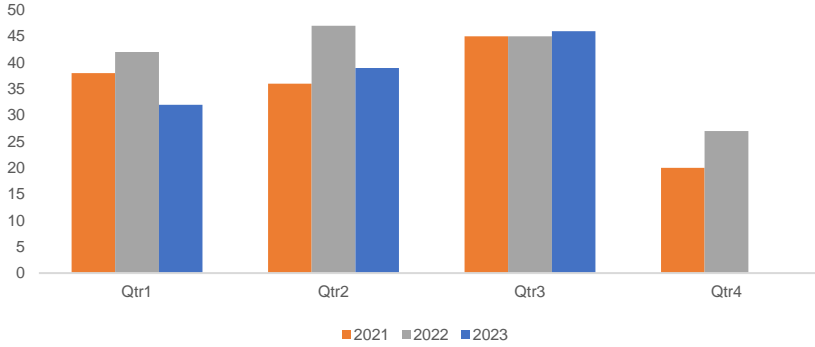
Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2023 averaged 235. Openings fell by 67 (-22.3%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 3rd quarter of 2023, Allen has had slightly higher employment compared to previous year levels and lower unemployment levels compared to previous years.



New Business Filings

Allen Parish New Domestic Business Filings



The graph to the left shows the number 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 46 in the 3rd quarter of 2023 which was 1 more than the same quarter in 2022 and 1 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2023 was 117. This was 17 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD and 2 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2021 YTD.

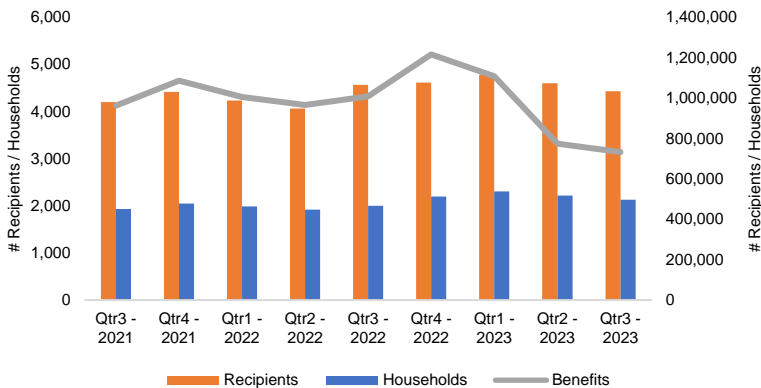
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	38	36	45	20
2022	42	47	45	27
2023	32	39	46	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	38	74	119	139
2022	42	89	134	161
2023	32	71	117	

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,564	4,610	4,782	4,595	4,426	-138	-3.0
Households	1,996	2,199	2,301	2,218	2,130	134	6.7
Benefits	1,007,259	1,215,027	1,107,740	772,732	732,265	-274,994	-27.3

Allen Parish SNAP Data



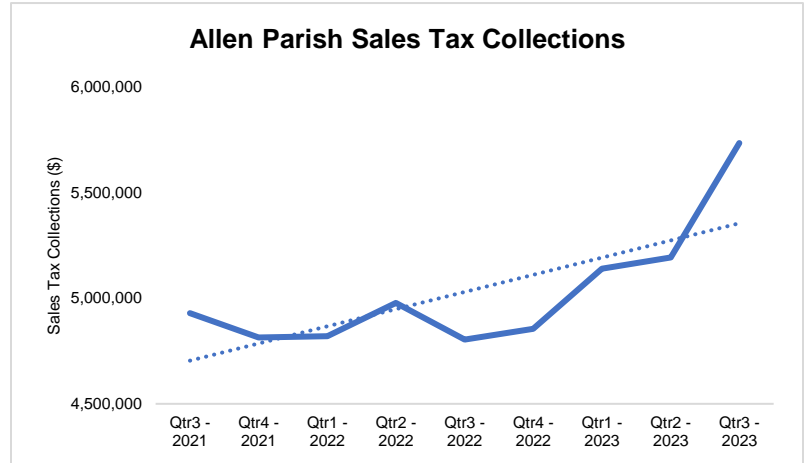
Allen parish had a decrease in SNAP recipients and an increase in households, along with a decrease in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,426 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2023. 138 fewer people received benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022 for a 3% decrease over this time. The total number of third quarter households receiving SNAP was 2,130, which was 134 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 6.7% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$732,265 in total during the 3rd quarter of 2023, which was a \$275 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 27.3% decrease in benefits in the parish. March

marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring and that showed up markedly in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. This lower level should be persistent in future quarters.

Tax Collections

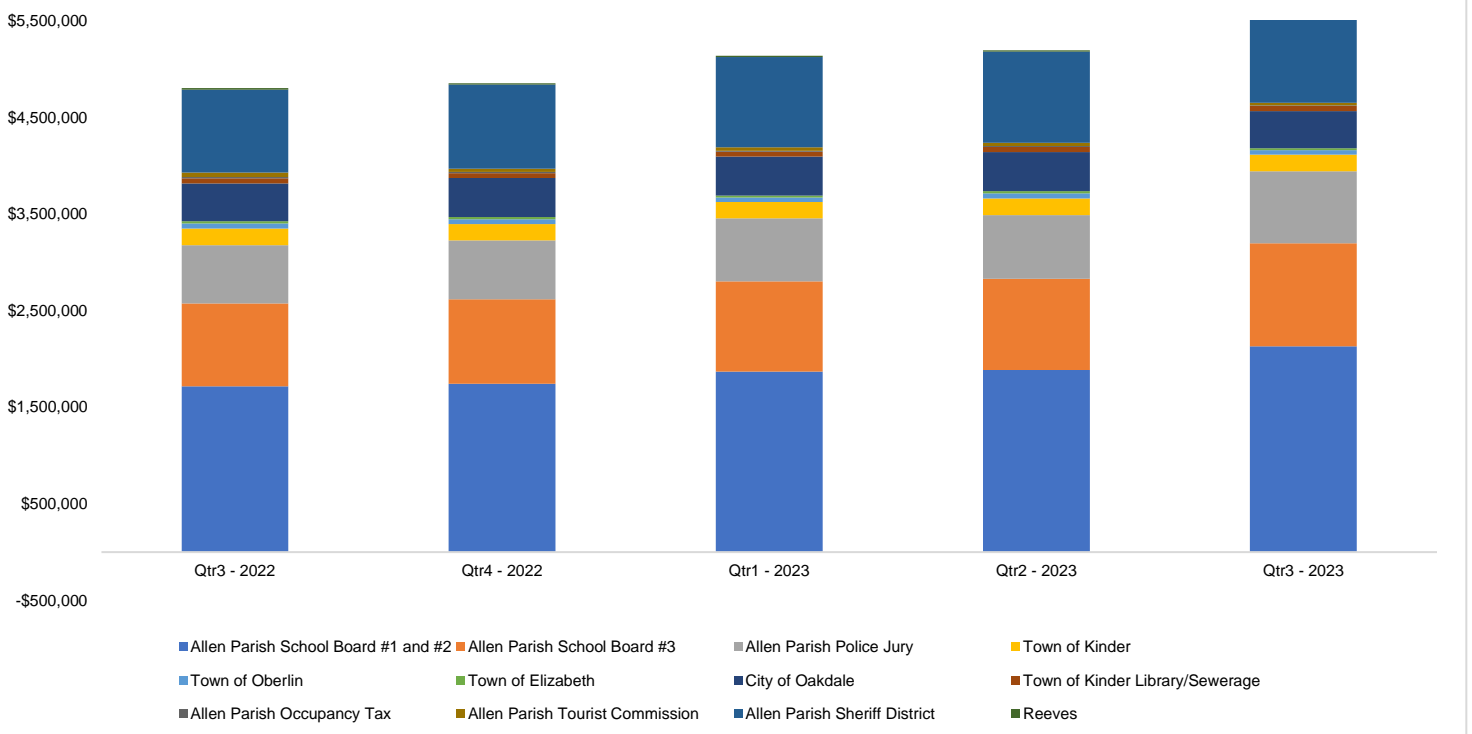
The Drew CBEA has built a history of Allen Parish sales tax collections with the help of the Allen Parish School Board. The numbers show an upward trend throughout the 3rd quarter of 2023.

Compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022, Allen parish has seen an overall increase in tax collections. Total tax collections increased \$930.6 thousand for a 19.4% increase. This is mostly likely due to the recent inflation the nation has been experiencing as a recent 1 percentage point increase in the local sales tax rate that has been normalized.



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	1,716,295	1,744,137	1,868,524	1,886,324	2,131,197	414,902	24.2
Allen Parish School Board #3	858,544	872,132	934,164	943,062	1,065,488	206,944	24.1
Allen Parish Police Jury	600,983	610,495	653,917	660,145	745,843	144,861	24.1
Town of Kinder	175,065	170,373	167,213	172,722	173,283	-1,782	-1.0
Town of Oberlin	51,330	49,575	46,164	53,249	45,675	-5,656	-11.0
Town of Elizabeth	23,651	22,674	21,394	23,229	19,459	-4,192	-17.7
City of Oakdale	391,206	403,109	402,664	402,859	383,862	-7,344	-1.9
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	52,520	51,112	50,164	51,907	51,985	-535	-1.0
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	14,929	11,378	11,772	10,988	8,615	-6,314	-42.3
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	44,786	34,133	35,316	32,963	25,844	-18,941	-42.3
Allen Parish Sheriff District	858,544	872,132	934,164	943,062	1,065,488	206,944	24.1
Reeves	16,381	13,659	14,044	13,309	18,098	1,717	10.5
Total	4,804,233	4,854,908	5,139,501	5,193,727	5,734,837	930,604	19.4

Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

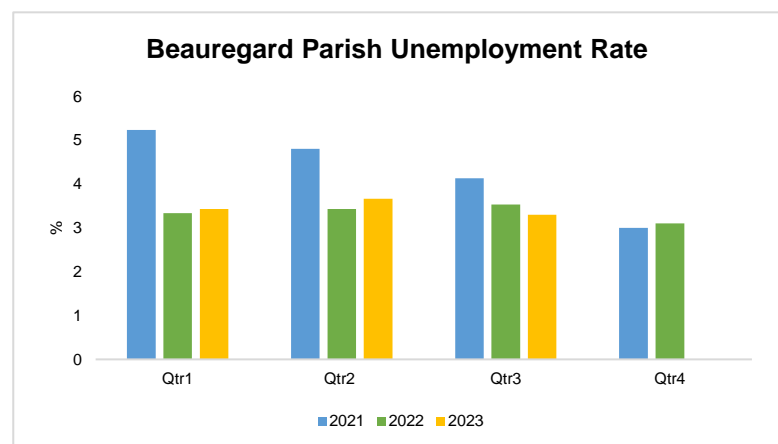
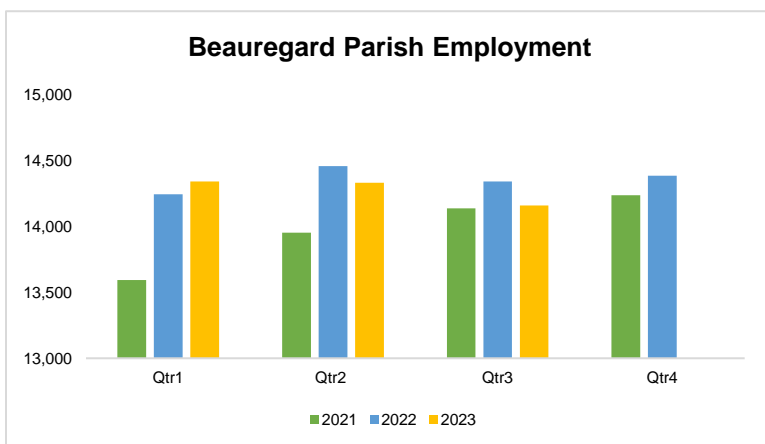
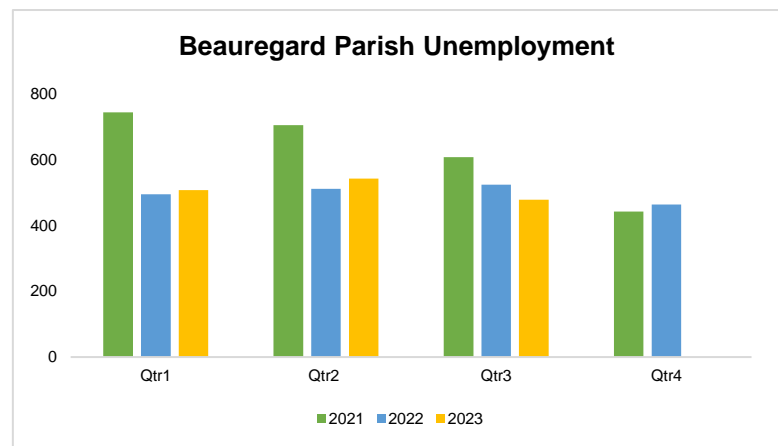
	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Household Employment	14,345	14,389	14,344	14,336	14,163
Year-Over-Year Change	207	150	98	-125	-183
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.5	1.1	0.7	-0.9	-1.3
Household Unemployment	525	464	508	542	479
Year-Over-Year Change	-83	22	13	31	-46
Year-Over-Year % Change	-13.7	4.9	2.6	6.1	-8.8
Labor Force	14,870	14,853	14,852	14,878	14,641
Year-Over-Year Change	123	172	110	-94	-229
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.8	1.2	0.7	-0.6	-1.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.5	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.3
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.2

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total Job Openings	569	550	501	470	397
Year-Over-Year Change	40	27	34	32	-173
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.6	5.2	7.2	7.3	-30.3

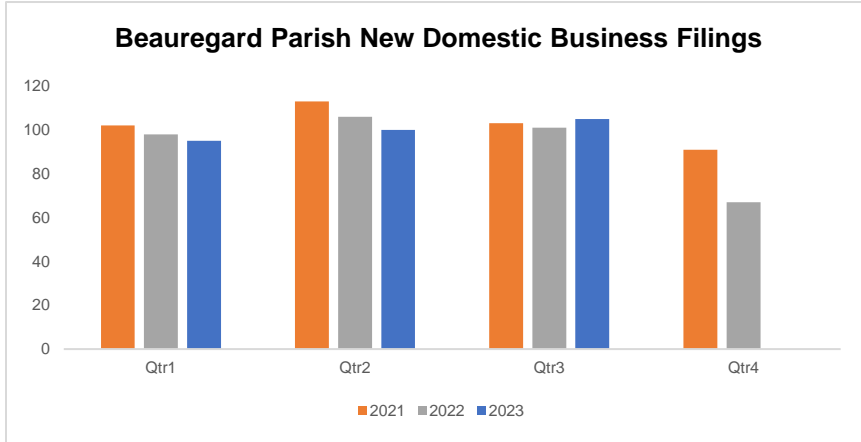
In the 3rd quarter of 2023, Beauregard parish saw a drop in household employment of 183 over the year (-1.3%) while the number of unemployed persons fell by 46 (-8.8%) over the year. This led to a decrease of 229 (-1.5%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points over the year to 3.3%.

Job openings in the 3rd quarter averaged 397. Openings fell by 173 (-30.3%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 3rd quarter of 2023, Beauregard has slightly lower unemployment and employment figures.



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 105 in the 3rd quarter of 2023 which was 4 more than the same quarter in 2022 and 2 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2023 was 300. This was 5 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD and 18 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2021 YTD.

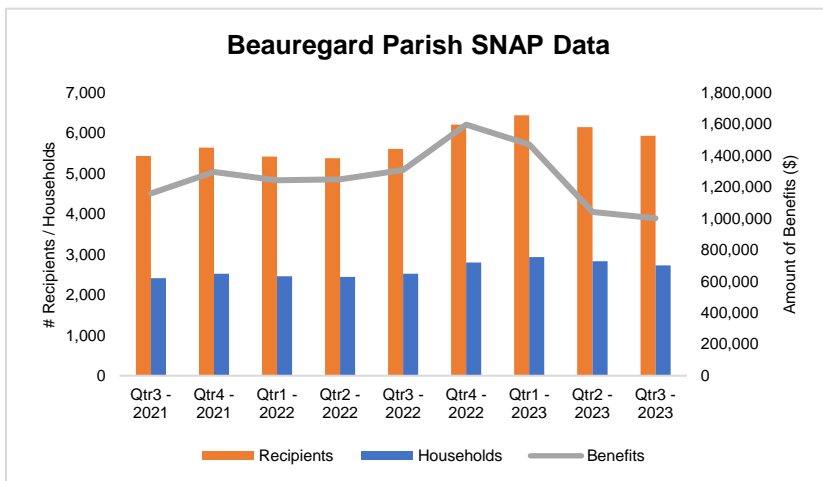
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	102	113	103	91
2022	98	106	101	67
2023	95	100	105	-

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	102	215	318	409
2022	98	204	305	372
2023	95	195	300	-

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,607	6,209	6,441	6,145	5,935	329	5.9
Households	2,525	2,797	2,932	2,829	2,732	206	8.2
Benefits	1,308,374	1,596,582	1,470,816	1,041,943	1,000,963	-307,411	-23.5

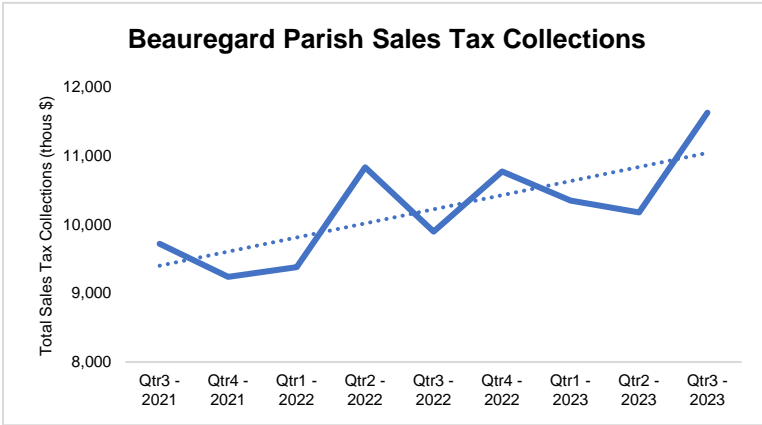
Beauregard parish has experienced increases in SNAP recipients, households and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,935 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2023. 329 more people received benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022 for a 5.9% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,732, which was 206 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented an 8.2% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1 million in total during the 3rd quarter of 2023, which was a \$307.4 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 23.5% decrease in benefits in the parish.



Looking at the graph illustrates a slightly increasing trend in benefits, households, and recipients, over the past two years. The later trends seem to show all the variables slightly falling throughout 2023. March marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that will show in future quarters.

Looking at the graph illustrates a slightly increasing trend in benefits, households, and recipients, over the past two years. The later trends seem to show all the variables slightly falling throughout 2023. March marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that will show in future quarters.

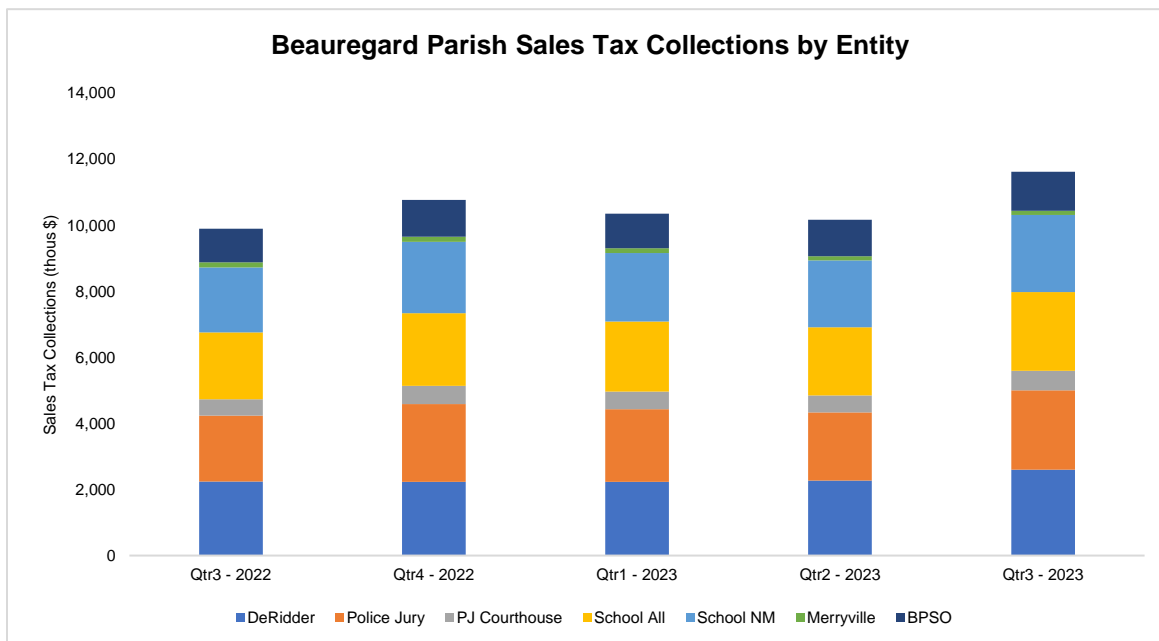
Tax Collections



Beauregard parish has seen an overall decrease in its sales tax collections in the 3rd quarter of 2023, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections rose by \$1.7 million over the year for a 17.5% increase. Looking at the entities that receive sales tax distributions shows that DeRidder collects the most revenue, but other areas are close. The DeRidder category saw a notable year-over-year increase of \$360.2 thousand (+16.1%) over the year. The largest increase came from the Police Jury, with an absolute rise of \$410.4 thousand, or a 20.6% increase. School board revenues rose by roughly \$358.8 thousand

(+17.8%) and \$371.3 thousand (+18.8) for All and NM, respectively. BPSO collections rose by \$171.3 thousand (+16.8%) and PJ Courthouse collections rose \$90.5 thousand (+18%). Merryville tax collections saw a decline in sales taxes of \$31.4 thousand, with the largest notable decrease in percent change over the year of 21.1%.

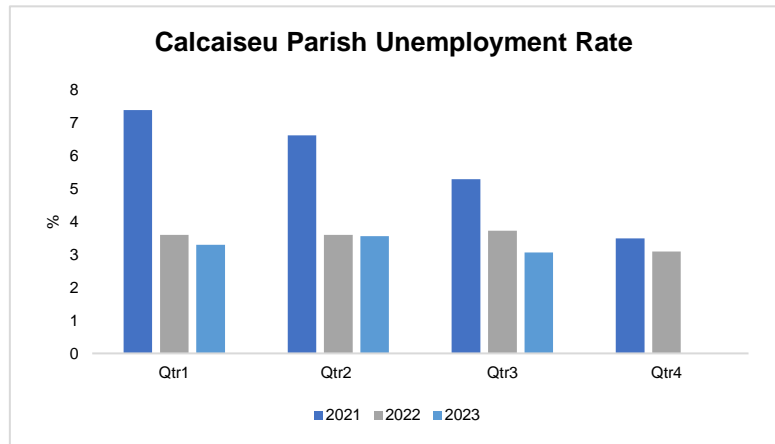
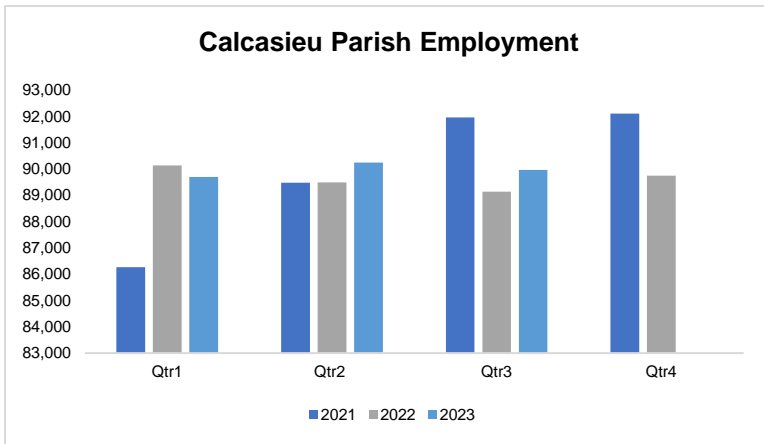
Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	2,239.6	2,230.3	2,234.6	2,267.0	2,599.8	360.2	16.1
Police Jury	1,993.9	2,357.9	2,199.2	2,066.2	2,404.3	410.4	20.6
PJ Courthouse	503.1	549.0	528.6	514.8	593.6	90.5	18.0
School All	2,019.4	2,205.6	2,122.9	2,065.0	2,378.2	358.8	17.8
School NM	1,969.7	2,154.9	2,075.2	2,025.3	2,341.0	371.3	18.8
Merryville	148.6	159.9	140.3	124.9	117.2	-31.4	-21.1
BPSO	1,018.9	1,114.0	1,047.4	1,108.7	1,190.2	171.3	16.8
Total	9,893.2	10,771.6	10,348.3	10,171.9	11,624.3	1,731.1	17.5



Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Household Employment	89,141	89,744	89,697	90,242	89,959
Year-Over-Year Change	-2,823	-2,358	-443	752	818
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.1	-2.6	-0.5	0.8	0.9
Household Unemployment	3,441	2,846	3,049	3,324	2,859
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,676	-515	-335	-20	-582
Year-Over-Year % Change	-32.8	-15.3	-9.9	-0.6	-16.9
Labor Force	92,582	92,590	92,746	93,566	92,818
Year-Over-Year Change	-4,499	-2,873	-778	732	236
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.6	-3.0	-0.8	0.8	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.1
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.6	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	-0.7

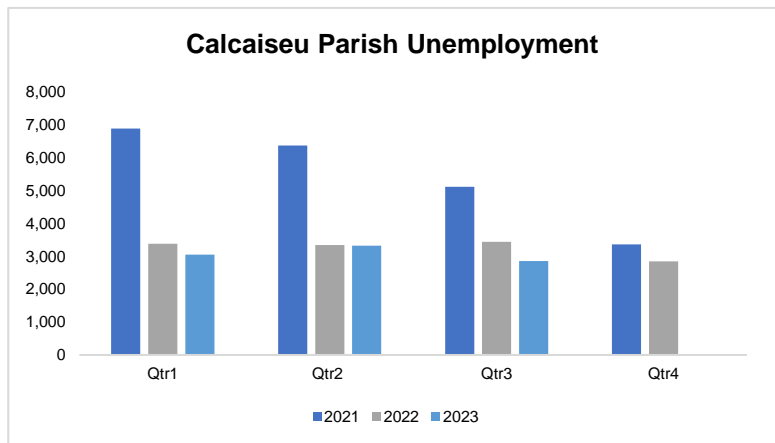
	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total Job Openings	7,066	6,140	6,266	5,886	5,071
Year-Over-Year Change	68	-1,213	-668	-803	-1,995
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.0	-16.5	-9.6	-12.0	-28.2



In the 3rd quarter of 2023, Calcasieu parish saw an increase in the labor force of 236 (+0.3%). This was due to an increase in household employment of 818 over the year (+0.9%) while the number of unemployed people fell by 582 (-16.9%). The unemployment rate fell 0.7 percentage points over the year to 3.1%.

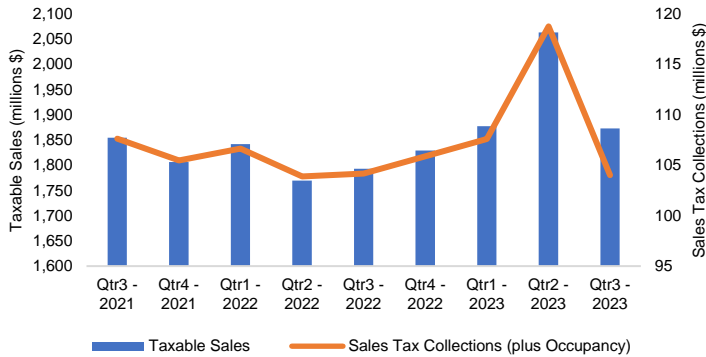
Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2023 averaged 5,071. Openings fell by 1,995 (-28.2%) over the year.

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. Calcasieu had a slightly higher employment level in the 3rd quarter of 2023 compared to 2022. The unemployment level is lower than the 3rd quarter of 2022.

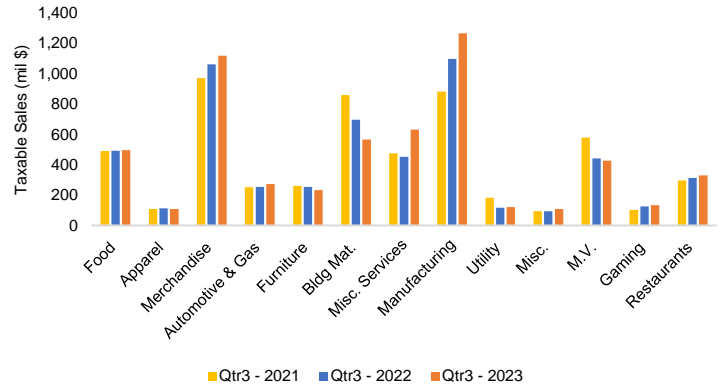


Tax Collections

Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 3 YTD



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	158.9	157.8	168.3	168.7	158.6	-0.4	-0.2
Apparel	33.4	37.0	40.3	35.9	33.2	-0.2	-0.5
Merchandise	356.7	370.8	384.1	376.6	357.5	0.8	0.2
Automotive & Gas	84.0	87.3	82.8	93.2	97.8	13.7	16.3
Furniture	79.9	75.6	83.1	77.8	71.4	-8.5	-10.6
Bldg Mat.	212.7	210.7	182.8	185.0	198.6	-14.1	-6.6
Misc. Services	146.9	144.1	156.8	307.2	167.3	20.4	13.9
Manufacturing	356.1	393.3	422.6	442.1	401.3	45.2	12.7
Utility	36.7	42.5	47.4	36.7	36.4	-0.3	-0.8
Misc.	31.5	30.9	33.1	34.0	41.4	9.9	31.5
M.V.	143.7	139.2	130.9	146.7	150.0	6.3	4.4
Gaming	48.5	37.3	38.5	44.8	51.0	2.5	5.2
Restaurants	103.9	102.5	106.4	114.4	108.2	4.3	4.1
Total	1,792.9	1,829.1	1,877.1	2,063.2	1,872.7	79.8	4.4

Taxable sales in Calcasieu parish have flattened out after the major upticks following the storms. This flattening has occurred even with inflation.

Collections experienced a large uptick in the 2nd

quarter of 2023 due to a settlement. Looking at the 3rd quarter, compared to the same quarter the previous year, sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have risen by \$4.1 million over the year for a 3.9% increase. General sales taxes rose by \$4.1 million (+4.1%) over the year. Occupancy taxes decreased. These taxes fell by \$100 thousand for a 2.7% decrease. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish rose \$79.8 million (+4.4%) over the year. Manufacturing rose the largest in absolute terms (+\$45.2 million, +12.7%). Miscellaneous rose the most in percentage terms (+31.5%). Miscellaneous services also increased \$20.4 million (+13.9%). Merchandise(+0.2%), Restaurants (+4.1%), Motor Vehicles (+4.4%), Restaurants (+4.1%), Automotive and gas (+16.3%), and Gaming (+5.2%), all had increases. Food (-0.2%). Apparel (-0.5%), Furniture (-10.6%), Utilities (-0.8%), fell along with Building materials (-6.6%). However, these categories are recovering with much higher levels that were seen during COVID and storm recovery.

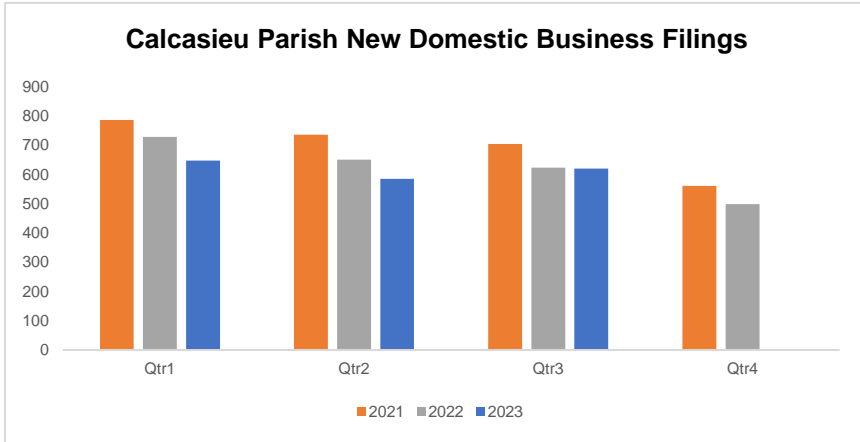
Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	102.0	104.0	105.8	116.6	106.1	106.1	4.1
Occupancy Taxes	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.1	-0.1	-2.7
Sales Tax Collections	104.2	105.9	107.6	118.1	108.2	108.2	4.1

YTD figures show that total taxable sales have risen in the parish by \$302.6 million compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD figure for a 5.5% increase. There was a \$15.6 million increase in sales tax collections (+5.0%) YTD.

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2021	1,845.3	3,724.3	5,578.6	7,383.4
2022	1,841.8	3,717.5	5,510.5	7,339.5
2023	1,877.1	3,940.3	5,813.0	

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2021	106.1	217.5	325.1	430.6
2022	106.7	210.5	314.7	420.6
2023	107.6	226.3	330.3	

New Business Filings



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

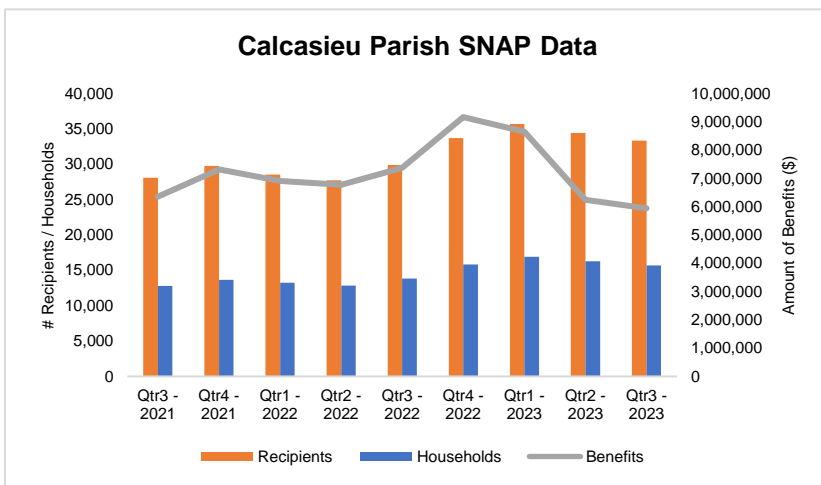
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 621 in the 3rd quarter of 2023 which was 3 less than the same quarter in 2022 and 84 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2023 was 1,855. This was 149 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD and 374 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2021 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	787	737	705	562
2022	729	651	624	499
2023	648	586	621	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	787	1,524	2,229	2,791
2022	729	1,380	2,004	2,503
2023	648	1,234	1,855	

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	29,895	33,691	35,679	34,416	33,299	3,404	11.4
Households	13,832	15,804	16,905	16,257	15,666	1,834	13.3
Benefits	7,370,504	9,161,356	8,644,742	6,234,293	5,939,100	-1,431,404	-19.4



Calcasieu parish has had increases in SNAP recipients, households, and a drop in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 33,299 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2023. This was 3,404 more people receiving benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022 for a 11.4% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 15,666 which was 1,834 higher than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 13.3% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$5.9 million in total during the 3rd quarter of 2023, which was a \$1.4 million decrease over-the-year. This was an 19.4% decrease in benefits in the

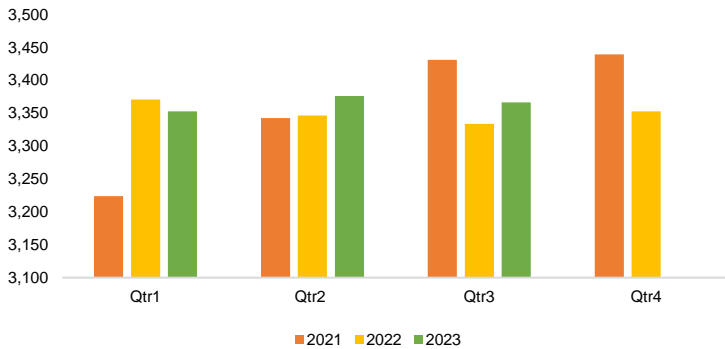
parish. Looking at the graph illustrates a rising trend in benefits since 2021 before peaking in the 4th quarter of 2022. The later trends seem to show all the variables rising indicating more citizens are receiving assistance. March marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that will show in future quarters. Throughout 2023, the variables are showing slight drops.

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

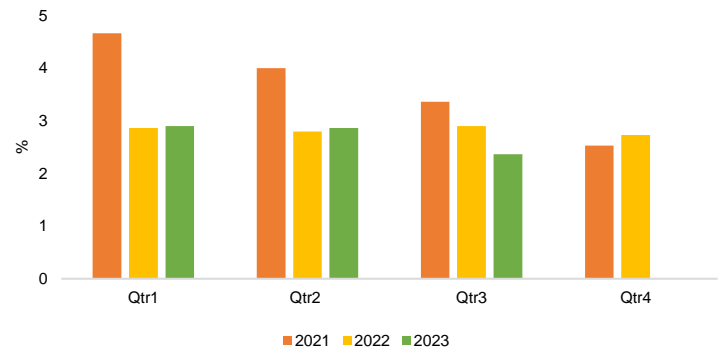
	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2022	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Household Employment	3,334	3,353	3,353	3,376	3,367
Year-Over-Year Change	-97	-86	-18	30	33
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.8	-2.5	-0.5	0.9	1.0
Household Unemployment	100	93	100	100	81
Year-Over-Year Change	-20	4	2	3	-19
Year-Over-Year % Change	-16.9	4.1	1.7	3.4	-18.9
Labor Force	3,434	3,446	3,453	3,477	3,448
Year-Over-Year Change	-118	-83	-17	33	14
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.3	-2.3	-0.5	1.0	0.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.4
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.5

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total Job Openings	77	64	71	105	177
Year-Over-Year Change	-43	-37	-22	38	100
Year-Over-Year % Change	-35.7	-36.5	-23.9	55.7	128.9

Cameron Parish Employment



Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate

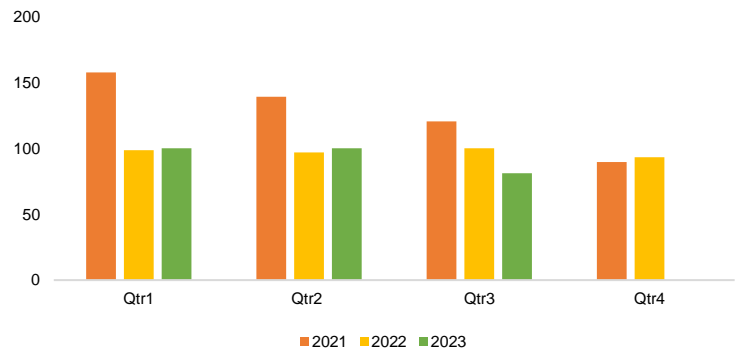


In the 3rd quarter of 2023, Cameron parish had an increase in household employment of 33 over the year (+1.0%) while the number of unemployed persons fell by 19 (-18.9%). This meant an increase of 14 (+0.4%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points over the year to 2.4%.

Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2023 averaged 177. Openings rose by 100 (+128.9%) over the year.

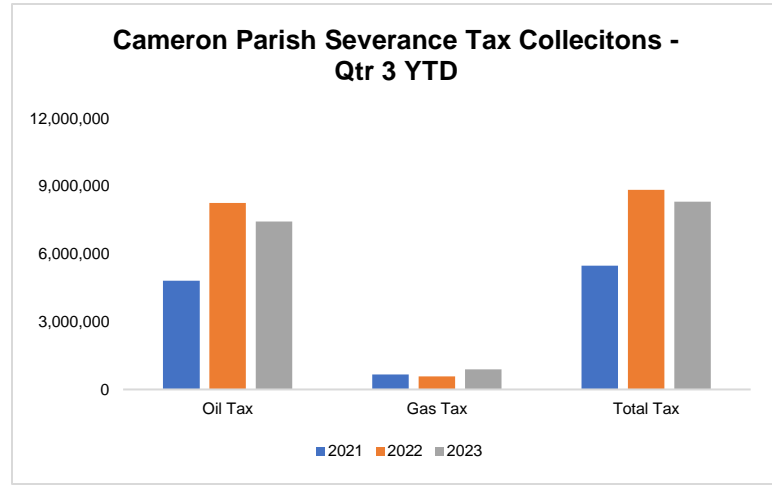
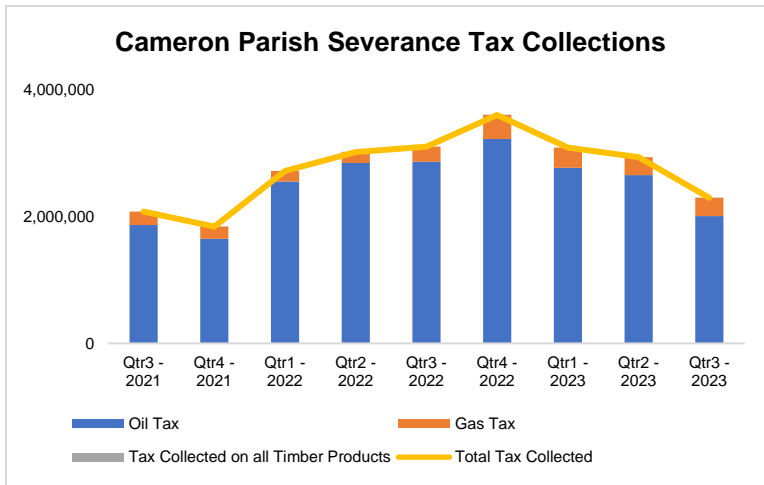
Cameron Parish had a higher employment level in the 3rd quarter of 2023 compared to the same quarter the previous year while the unemployment measures turned lower. The benchmark revisions show that Cameron Parish has had falling labor force throughout 2022 but have had increases the last two quarters.

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 3rd quarter YTD figures for each severance tax type (as well as total) over the past three years. Total severance tax collections have been slowly falling since the end of 2022.

Severance Tax Collections	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	2,868,554	3,228,089	2,769,987	2,657,018	2,009,809	-858,744	-29.9
Gas Tax	237,889	376,894	320,832	282,844	287,780	49,891	21.0
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	0	10	0	0	38	38	NA
Total Tax Collected	3,106,443	3,604,993	3,090,819	2,939,862	2,297,628	-808,815	-26.0

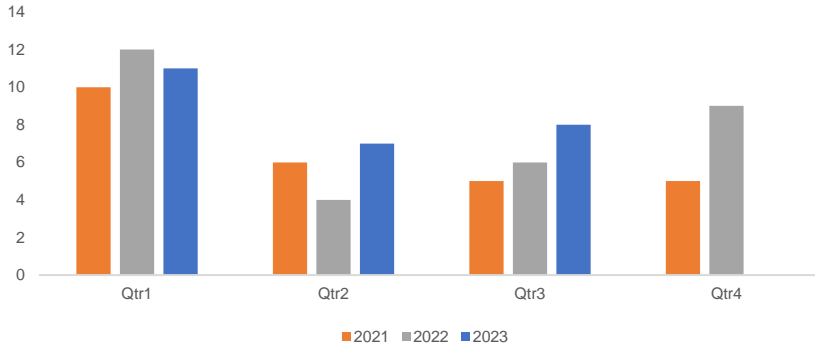
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	1,504,611	3,407,758	5,486,005	7,328,955
2022	2,720,428	5,738,572	8,845,014	12,450,008
2023	3,090,819	6,030,682	8,328,309	

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 3rd quarter of 2023 actually fell by \$858.7 thousand compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented a 29.9% decrease as oil prices have recently decreased and production picked up from the pandemic. In terms of gas collections, those rose \$49.9 thousand over that period for a 21% increase. Timber product collections were \$38 in the 3rd quarter, The 3rd quarter of 2023 saw some increases in gas severance taxes collected while the biggest component continued its declines.

The YTD figures show in 2023 there was a decline in 3rd quarter total severance taxes collected compared to the same quarter in the previous year. In the 3rd quarter 2023 YTD, severance taxes fell \$516.7 thousand for a decrease of 5.8%. As mentioned previously, much of this can be traced to the drop in oil prices compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022.

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 8 in the 3rd quarter of 2023 which was 2 more than the same quarter in 2022 and 3 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2023 was 26. This was 4 businesses more than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD and 5 businesses more than the 3rd quarter of 2021 YTD.

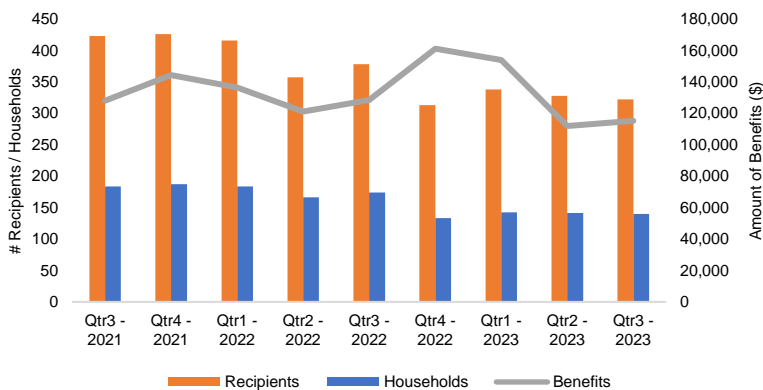
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	10	6	5	5
2022	12	4	6	9
2023	11	7	8	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	10	16	21	26
2022	12	16	22	31
2023	11	18	26	

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	378	313	338	328	322	-56	-14.9
Households	174	133	142	141	140	-34	-19.7
Benefits	128,323	161,010	153,850	111,832	115,091	-13,232	-10.3

Cameron Parish SNAP Data



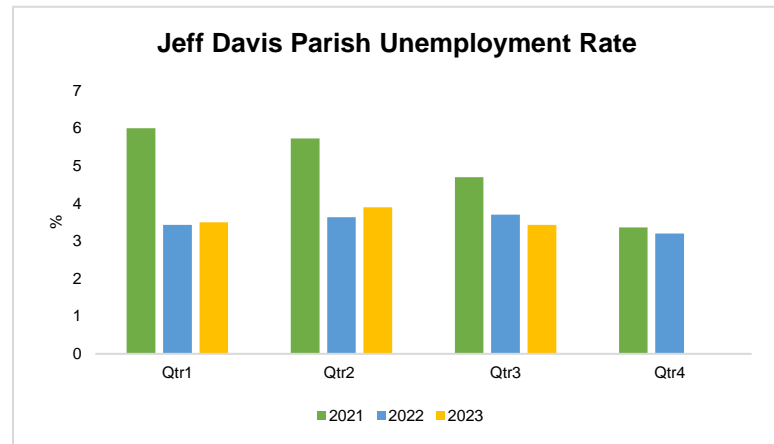
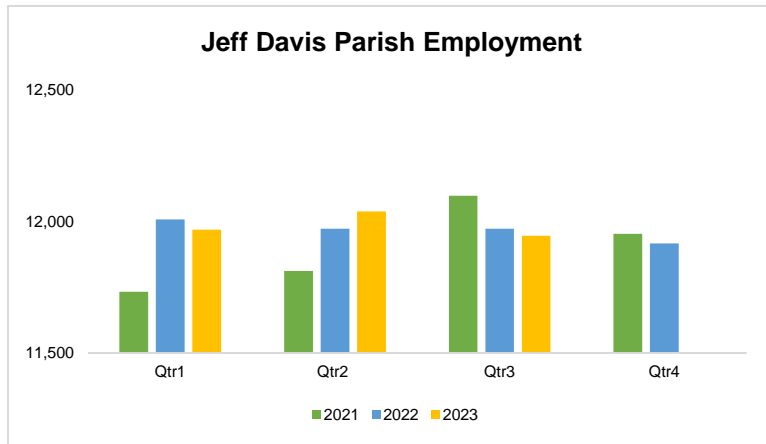
Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients and households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 328 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2023. This was 29 fewer people receiving benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2022 for an 8.2% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 141 which was 25 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 15% decrease. The parish received an average of \$111.8 thousand in total during the 2nd quarter of 2023, which was a \$9.19 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 7.5% decrease in benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates

recipients, households, and benefits falling throughout 2021 and 2022. 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 until the recent spike. March marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that will show in future quarters.

Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Household Employment	11,972	11,916	11,968	12,038	11,945
Year-Over-Year Change	-125	-37	-39	65	-27
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.0	-0.3	-0.3	0.5	-0.2
Household Unemployment	458	395	434	490	425
Year-Over-Year Change	-139	-20	5	41	-33
Year-Over-Year % Change	-23.3	-4.9	1.2	9.2	-7.3
Labor Force	12,430	12,311	12,402	12,528	12,370
Year-Over-Year Change	-264	-57	-34	106	-60
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.1	-0.5	-0.3	0.9	-0.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.4
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.0	-0.2	0.1	0.3	-0.3

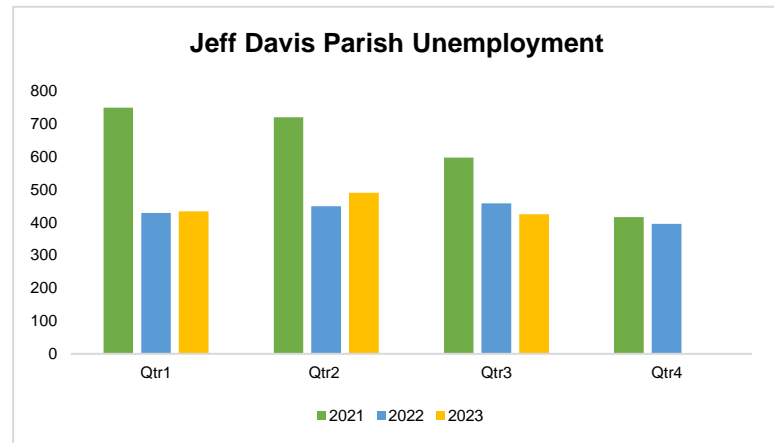
	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023
Total Job Openings	364	380	532	500	412
Year-Over-Year Change	80	3	146	115	48
Year-Over-Year % Change	28.0	0.8	37.8	29.9	13.1



In the 3rd quarter of 2023, Jefferson Davis parish saw a decrease of 60 (-0.5%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by a decrease in household employment of 27 over the year (-0.2%) while the number of unemployed persons fell by 33 (-7.3%). The unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points over the year to 3.4%.

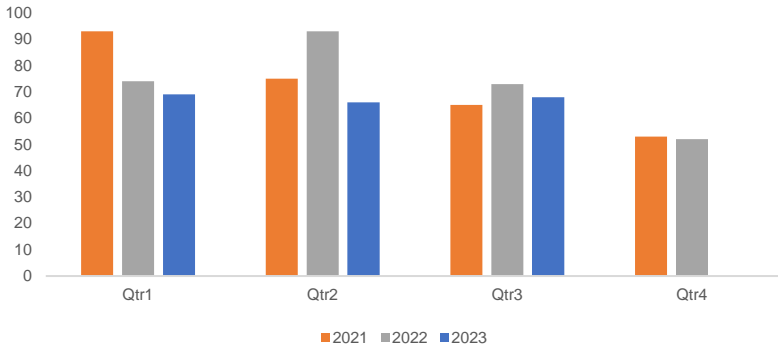
Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2023 averaged 412. Openings rose by 48 (+13.1%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Jeff Davis parish had lower figures for employment in the 2nd quarter of 2023 compared to 2022, with lower unemployment figures.



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 68 in the 3rd quarter of 2023 which was 5 less than the same quarter in 2022 and 3 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2023 was 203. This was 37 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD and 30 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2021 YTD.

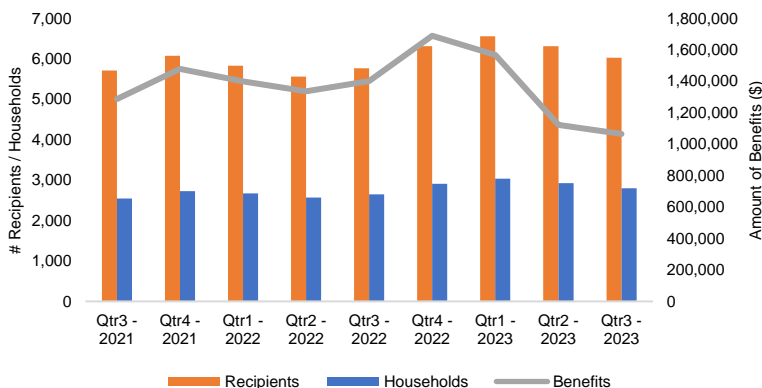
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	93	75	65	53
2022	74	93	73	52
2023	69	66	68	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2021	93	168	233	286
2022	74	167	240	292
2023	69	135	203	

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3- 2022	Qtr4- 2022	Qtr1- 2023	Qtr2- 2023	Qtr3- 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,764	6,309	6,556	6,309	6,027	263	4.6
Households	2,649	2,910	3,032	2,921	2,800	151	5.7
Benefits	1,401,765	1,688,952	1,567,634	1,121,286	1,065,011	-336,754	-24.0

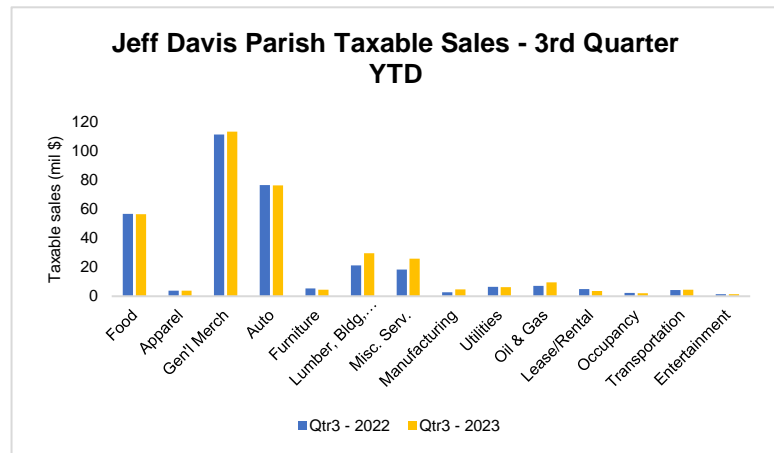
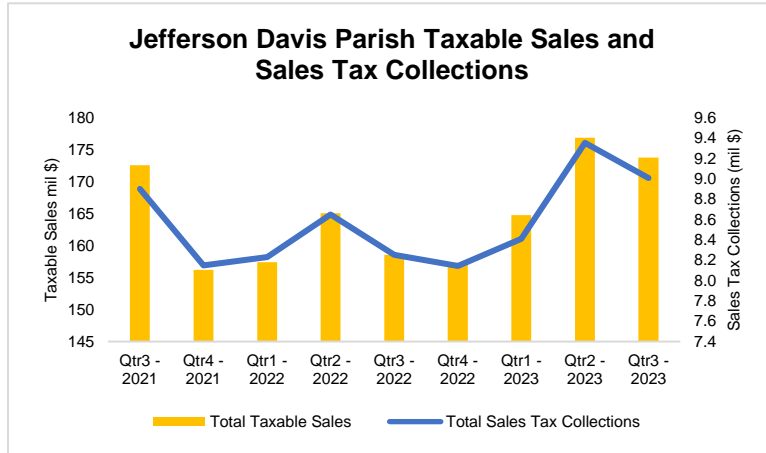
Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data



Jefferson Davis parish has had increases in SNAP recipients, households, and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 6,027 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2023. This was 263 more people receiving benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2022 for a 4.6% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,800 which was 151 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 5.7% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$1.1 million in total during the 3rd quarter of 2023, which was a \$336.8 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 24% decrease in benefits in the parish.

Looking at the graph illustrates an overall flat trend in benefits since the second quarter of 2021. The number of households and recipients receiving benefits has been flat before increasing in the final two quarters of 2022. March marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that will show in future quarters. The variables have been slightly falling throughout 2023.

Tax Collections



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	28.1	27.3	27.1	29.4	27.8	-0.4	-1.2
Apparel	1.6	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.4	-0.2	-10.9
Gen'l Merch	52.8	55.9	56.9	56.3	54.1	1.2	2.3
Auto	41.9	35.7	33.7	42.5	41.0	-1.0	-2.3
Furniture	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.0	-0.4	-17.8
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	10.6	10.7	11.9	17.6	16.8	6.1	57.5
Misc. Serv.	8.4	7.2	12.9	12.9	11.8	3.4	40.6
Manufacturing	2.1	1.9	2.8	1.9	2.3	0.2	9.5
Utilities	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.8	-0.2	-6.4
Oil & Gas	1.6	4.6	6.2	3.3	4.7	3.0	186.3
Lease/Rental	2.0	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.5	0.5	24.9
Occupancy	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.1	7.4
Transportation	2.0	2.8	2.1	2.3	4.8	2.8	135.8
Entertainment	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.3
Total	158.6	157.3	164.8	176.9	173.8	15.2	9.6

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2022	Qtr4 - 2022	Qtr1 - 2023	Qtr2 - 2023	Qtr3 - 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	8.3	8.1	8.4	9.4	9.0	0.8	9.2

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2021	138.6	296.6	469.3	625.5
2022	157.4	322.5	481.1	638.4
2023	164.8	341.7	515.5	

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2021	8.3	18.0	26.9	35.0
2022	8.2	16.9	25.1	33.3
2023	8.4	17.8	26.8	

Jefferson Davis Parish saw a 9.2% increase in its sales tax collections in the 3rd quarter of 2023, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have risen by approximately \$800 thousand over the year for a 9.2% increase. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by \$15.2 million (+7.2%) over the year. The largest percentage increase occurred in Oil & Gas (+\$3.0 million, +186.3%) followed by Transportation (+2.8 million, +135.8%). Lumber experienced the largest absolute increase in taxable sales (+\$6.1 million, +57.5%). Auto (+\$2.6 million, +6.5%), Miscellaneous Services (+\$3.4 million, +40.6%), General Merchandies (+\$1.2 million, +2.3%), Manufacturing (+\$0.2 million, +9.5%), Lease/Rental (+\$0.5 million, +24.9%), Occupancy (+\$0.1 million, +7.4%), and Entertainment (+\$0.0 million, +0.3%) also had increases in sales. The largest percentage drops occurred in Furniture (-\$0.4 million, -17.8%), Apparel (-\$0.2 million, -10.9%), and Utilities (-\$0.2 million, -6.4%). The largest absolute drop occurred in Auto (-\$1.0 million, -2.3%). Food was the other category that had a drop in sales over the year (-\$0.4 million, -1.2%).

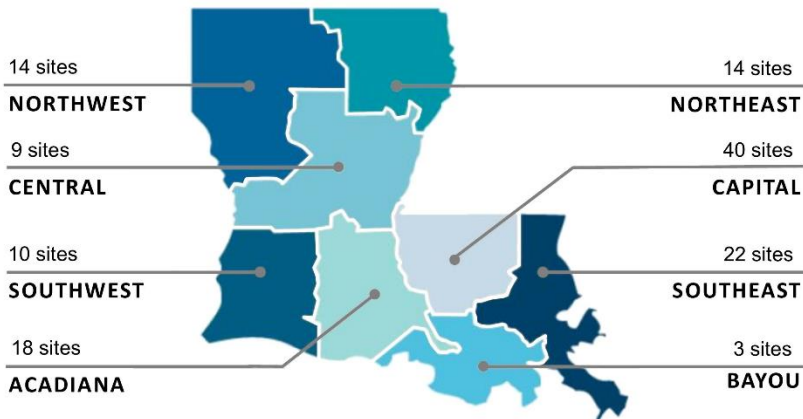
The 3rd quarter of 2023 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by \$34.4 million compared to the same quarter in 2022 for a 7.1% increase. There was a \$1.6 million increase in 2023 YTD sales tax collections (+6.5%).

Economic Development is a broad subject that encompasses many disciplines. It's why the umbrella is an appropriate logo for the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance. Under the umbrella of economic development are efforts involving workforce development, retail recruitment, quality of life initiatives, educational support, marketing and promotion, and other advocacy efforts. Another aspect of economic development is site development.

When trying to attract business and industry to our region, it requires many of the components already mentioned to align and work together. Site readiness is an essential strategy of economic development. The Alliance works to identify and cultivate sites across the region that could potentially land industrial operations that are looking for a home.

Having industrial sites available and prepared for development offers businesses a faster speed to market, which could impact the investor's bottom line. A healthy portfolio of shovel-ready sites also helps us compete against other regions vying for the same target industries, whether that be warehousing and distribution, heavy industry, light industry, or other types of manufacturing and production. As the old saying goes, "Time is money." The faster a business can find a site and hit the ground running on a site, the better it is for business.

Good sites require a long checklist of features that make them ideal opportunities. Most important is supporting infrastructure. Does the site have adequate water and sewer service? What about access and proximity to good highways? Is the site rail served or accessible by ships or barges? Is it close to sources of input such as natural gas, electricity, pipeline corridors, or other required feedstocks?



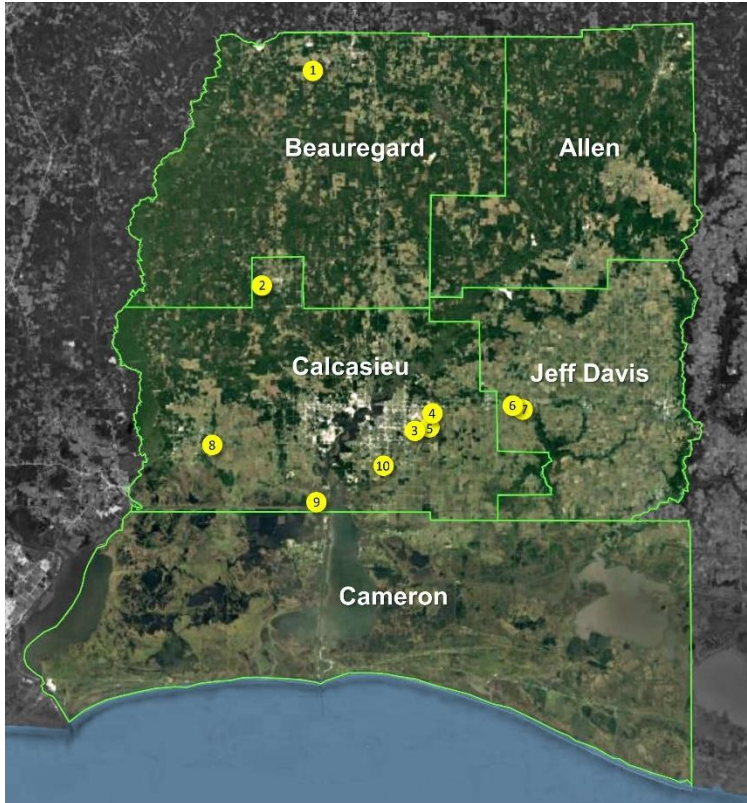
In addition to good infrastructure, other factors could determine whether the site is ripe for development. In Southwest Louisiana, common obstacles to development include the presence of extensive wetlands, or being in the 100- or 500-year flood zone. Other deterrents could arise from legacy environmental contamination, proximity to residential areas, lack of proper zoning, or poor geologic conditions that would make it difficult to build certain structures.

The perfect site rarely exists. The Alliance's goal, after identifying a potential site, is to see if it can be made better, and thus, more competitive in the marketplace. There are programs accessible through The Alliance that help manage this.

The Louisiana Certified Sites program is one way for private landowners to obtain due diligence on their property, with the goal of getting the property into industrial commerce. The due diligence produced under this program, managed by Louisiana Economic Development (LED), includes studies such as a wetland delineation, a geotechnical soil report, an environmental assessment, and many other investigations and data-gathering efforts.

Having this due diligence on file in advance of interest in a site will help that site be more attractive to potential investors. Certification provides faster speed to market for a site, and identifies any potential issues that might hinder a site's ability to be developed. Threats to quick development include the presence of endangered species, cultural artifacts, contamination, or lack of supporting infrastructure. If obstacles exist, the certification program works to find remedies to those problems so that there are few unknowns that remain about a site that a developer might unexpectedly encounter.

LED's Certified Sites program provides this due diligence to the landowner at just a 25% cost-share, with the State covering the remaining 75% of costs. It's a great deal for landowners looking to develop their property for industrial use, and beneficial to the region by enhancing our industrial site inventory. Today, Southwest Louisiana has 10 LED Certified Sites across its five-parish territory, with additional sites pending certification. Statewide, there are more than 100 LED certified sites.



Another tool for site development is the newly created Louisiana Competes program. This is a program funded by recent legislation that pays to have publicly owned sites improved for economic development purposes. Such improvements range anywhere from improved lighting, pavement, utility construction, landscaping or clearing, wetland mitigation, and many other upgrades.

The Louisiana Competes program only requires a 10% match from the public landowner for a project, with 90% being covered by the State. This was the first year the program has rolled out, and Southwest Louisiana has already submitted applications for improvements on public properties located in Beauregard, Calcasieu, and Jeff Davis parishes. Further opportunities are also being explored in Cameron and Allen parishes, too, through either police juries, ports, airports, or other public property owners.

Finding a good site isn't just a challenge for investors. It is a challenge for successful economic development. Any property owner that would like to see industrial development on their property should contact The Alliance

for an evaluation of their site. The Alliance will help explore opportunities for development, either through site-improvement efforts or by marketing and promoting the site. But, we need the help and cooperation of landowners to find such properties.

If you're interested in either the Certified Sites or the Louisiana Competes programs, contact Gus Fontenot, Director of Site Development for The Alliance, at (337) 433-3632 or gfontenot@allianceswla.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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