

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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3rd Quarter 2024 Issue

This 3rd Quarter 2024 issue illustrates the somewhat flat state of our region's economy. Some variables have fallen (gaming revenues) while others have risen slightly (Lake Charles MSA nonfarm employment). An interesting outcome the previous quarter was some good news in the housing market. Housing prices decreased somewhat in the second quarter (latest available data) and the number of permits increased for both single-unit and multi-unit. Another strange event was the large drop in imports, according to Census trade data, experienced in the Calcasieu Ship Channel. This led to drops in imports for the 3rd quarter of 2024.

The final piece of this report presents the Drew CBEA constructed SWLA Stock Index. This index consists of 22 stocks from companies that have a significant presence in our region. This can serve as an economic indicator of the financial health and the future direction of our economy. The measure is available at the Drew CBEA website, under [SWLA Economic Indexes](#), and will be updated monthly. We also welcome suggestions for companies that have readily available stock data to include in the index.

Thank you for reading.

Dan Groft, Ph.D.

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

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Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

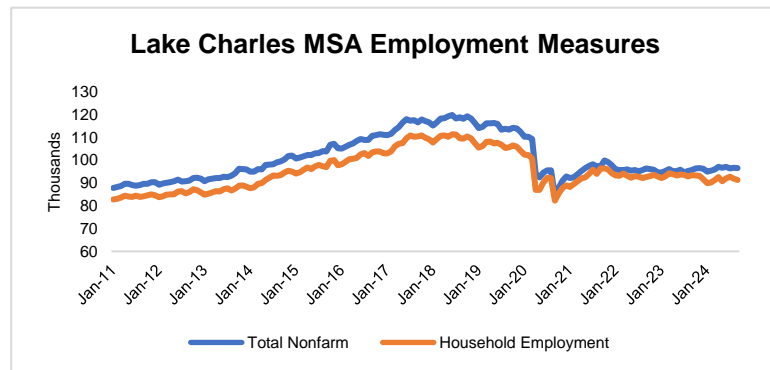
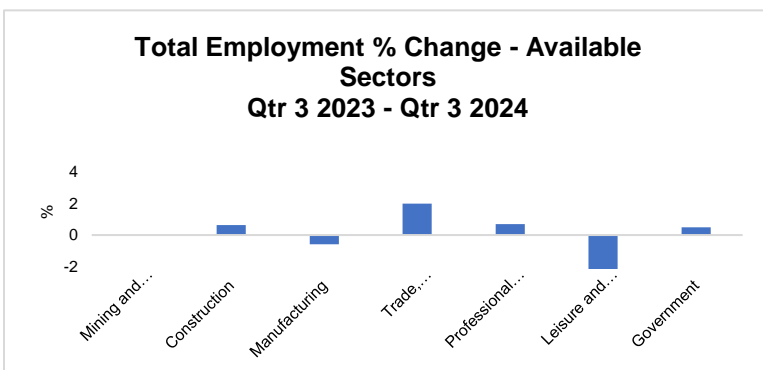
(measures in thousands of workers)	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total Nonfarm	95.2	96.4	95.4	96.9	96.5
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.4	0.8	0.1	1.6	1.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	0.9	0.1	1.6	1.4
Mining and Logging	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-10.0	0.0	-10.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	10.6	10.5	10.3	10.8	10.7
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.6	-1.0	-1.1	-0.2	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-13.3	-8.4	-9.6	-1.8	0.6
Manufacturing	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.7	2.1	2.4	0.3	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	16.8	17.2	16.9	16.9	17.1
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.1	-1.0	-0.4	-0.4	2.0
Professional and Business Services	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.7	9.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.4	-0.7	-1.4	3.2	0.7
Leisure and Hospitality	13.8	13.6	13.3	13.6	13.4
Year-Over-Year Change	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	-0.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.8	7.3	3.9	2.8	-2.9
Government	13.6	14.2	14.1	14.2	13.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.0	2.6	1.0	0.9	0.5
Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)	978.54	969.56	993.65	1,066.83	1,090.39
Year-Over-Year Change	153.9	80.0	51.2	73.6	111.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	18.7	9.0	5.4	7.4	11.4
Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)	28.53	28.24	28.94	30.17	31.03
Year-Over-Year Change	3.0	1.6	1.2	1.2	2.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	11.8	6.0	4.3	4.0	8.8

In the 3rd quarter of 2024, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) experienced an increase in outcome compared to the same quarter the previous year. After benchmark revisions, there have been drops almost every quarter, but the jobs have been continuing to tick upwards.

Total nonfarm employment (presented in thousands of jobs in the table) saw 1.4% growth over the year. Looking at the industries, most had increases or no change while Leisure and Hospitality had the largest decline of 400 jobs (-2.9%). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities experienced the largest industry gain of 300 workers (+2.0%). Construction (+0.6%), Professional and Business Services (+0.7%), and the Government sector (+0.5%) all had an increase of 100 jobs. Manufacturing saw a 0.6% decrease in workers and Mining and Logging saw no real

change in workers.

While there was a gain in employment, there were also increases in earnings measures. The average weekly earnings of all employees rose 11.4% and average hourly earnings rose 8.8%. Although not shown, average weekly hours of all employees in the 3rd quarter rose 2.4% over the year.

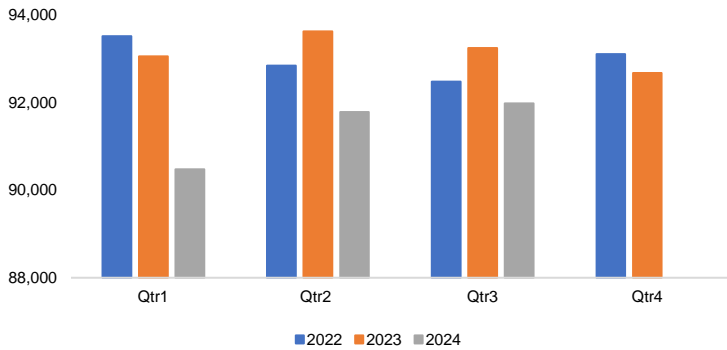


Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

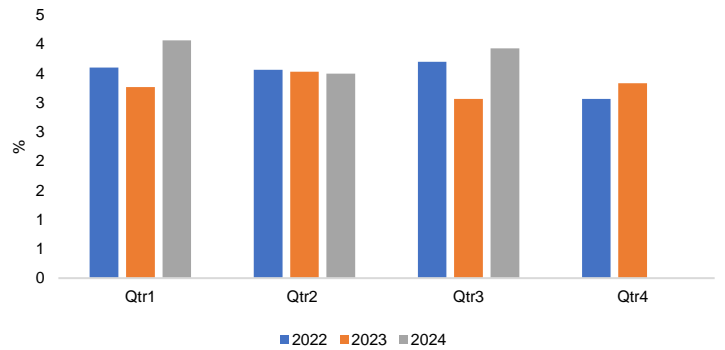
	Qtr3- 2023	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024
Household Employment	93,240	92,668	90,471	91,779	91,975
Year-Over-Year Change	765	-429	-2,579	-1,840	-1,264
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.8	-0.5	-2.8	-2.0	-1.4
Household Unemployment	2,940	3,198	3,818	3,337	3,802
Year-Over-Year Change	-601	258	668	-87	863
Year-Over-Year % Change	-17.0	8.8	21.2	-2.5	29.3
Labor Force	96,180	95,866	94,288	92,532	95,778
Year-Over-Year Change	164	-171	-1,911	-1,087	-402
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.2	-0.2	-2.0	-1.2	-0.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.1	3.3	4.1	3.5	3.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.6	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.9

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total Job Openings	5,248	4,939	4,821	4,671	4,132
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,895	-1,265	-1,516	-1,320	-1,116
Year-Over-Year % Change	-26.5	-20.4	-23.9	-22.0	-21.3

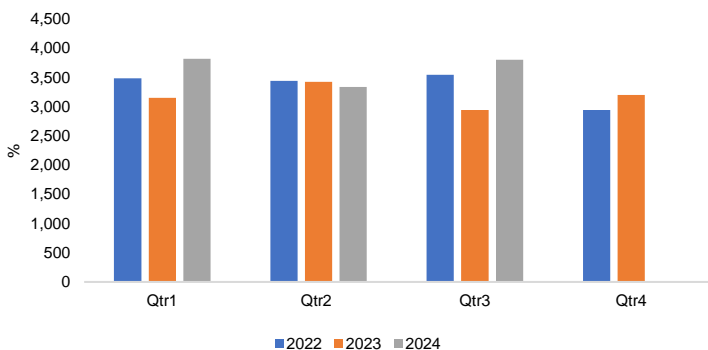
Lake Charles MSA Employment



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 3.9%, which represents a 0.9 percentage point increase from a year ago. The household employment measure decreased by 1,264 over the year for a 1.4% decrease. The number of unemployed increased by 863. This represented a 29.3% increase. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was a decrease of 402 (-0.4%). More labor will be needed for long-term growth so future developments in this measure should be watched closely.

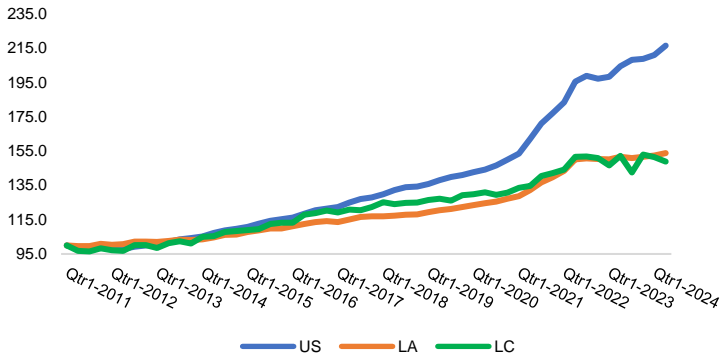
Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2024 averaged 4,132.

Openings decreased by 1,116 (-21.3%) over the year.

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

Housing Statistics

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

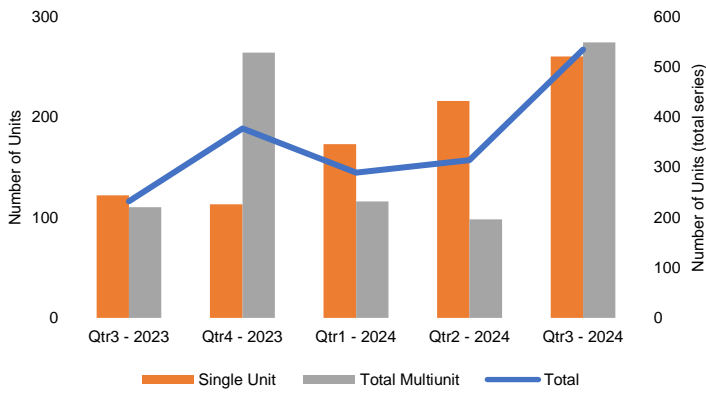


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr2 – 2023	Qtr2 - 2024	Year-over-Year % Change
Lake Charles HPI	152.3	148.9	-2.3
Louisiana HPI	151.6	153.8	1.5
US HPI	204.4	216.5	5.9

As housing prices have been rising dramatically in recent years, they have flattened and the prices in the area were falling while there were slower increases in the state and the nation. Looking at price changes over-the-year, from the second quarter of 2024 to the same quarter in 2023, housing prices have fallen 2.3% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to increases of 1.5% in LA and 5.9% in the US.

Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

Lake Charles MSA Building Permits



In the 3rd quarter of 2024, single unit permits rose by 138 over-the-year while multi-unit permits had an increase of 164, therefore the total increase was 302. This represented a 130.2% increase. The YTD figures show some different results with an increase in single units of 191 and multi-unit permits increasing by 364 for a total increase of 555 over the year in the third quarter. The total percentage increase in YTD was 95.4%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits rose by \$12.5 million while multi-unit permit valuations rose by \$39.4 million for a total increase of \$52 million. This represented an 101.6% increase year-over-year in the 3rd quarter of 2024 for valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, single

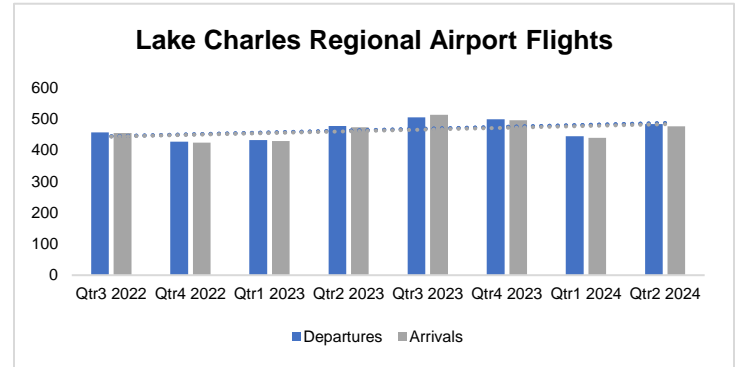
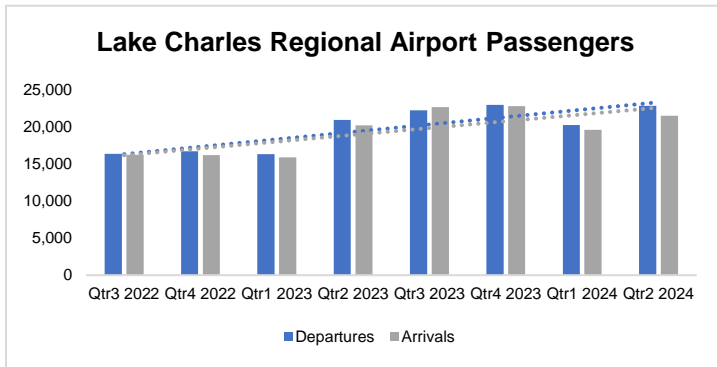
unit valuations increased \$24.7 million and multi-unit valuations increased \$82.6 million for a total percentage change of 88%.

The graph of building permits shows that single-unit permits have been increasing since the 3rd quarter of 2023. Multi-unit permits spiked in the 4th quarter of 2023 but and the 4th quarter of 2024. The blue line shows the total permits, and it has displayed an increasing trend since the beginning of 2023.

	Qtr-3 2023	Qtr-3 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-3 2023 YTD	Qtr-3 2024 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number								
Total	232	534	302	130.2	582	1,137	555	95.4
Single	122	260	138	113.1	458	649	191	41.7
Multi-unit	110	274	164	149.1	124	488	364	293.5
Valuation (thousands \$)								
Total	51,181	103,160	51,979	101.6	122,060	229,446	107,386	88.0
Single	29,014	41,550	12,536	43.2	98,761	123,496	24,735	25.0
Multi-unit	22,167	61,610	39,443	177.9	23,299	105,950	82,651	354.7

Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport



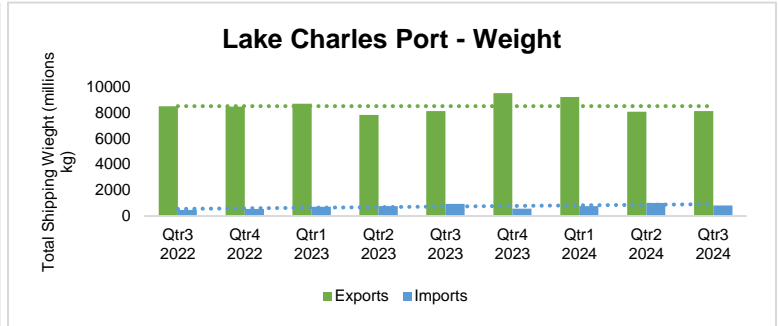
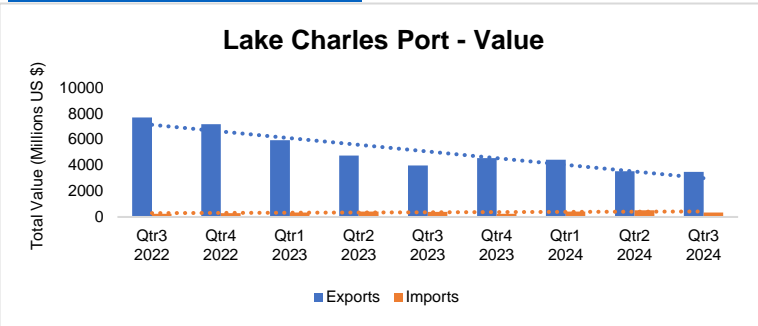
The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a continued uptick in activity during the 2nd quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter the previous year. Activity has decreased compared to the start of 2024 but overall is still increasing as the airport and area recover from the storms and flights have resumed out of LCH.

	Qtr-2 2023	Qtr-2 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	20,927	22,812	1,885	9.0
Arrivals	20,184	21,482	1,298	6.4
Flights				
Departures	478	484	6	1.3
Arrivals	473	477	4	0.8

Passengers departing in the 2nd quarter of 2024 rose 1,885 (+9.0%) since the 2nd quarter of 2023 and those arriving have increased 1,298 (+6.4%). In terms of flights, there has been an increase of 6 flights (+1.3%) departing Lake Charles over that same period while the number

of flights arriving has risen by 4 (+0.8%) as well. Flights and passengers have been steadily increasing since 2020.

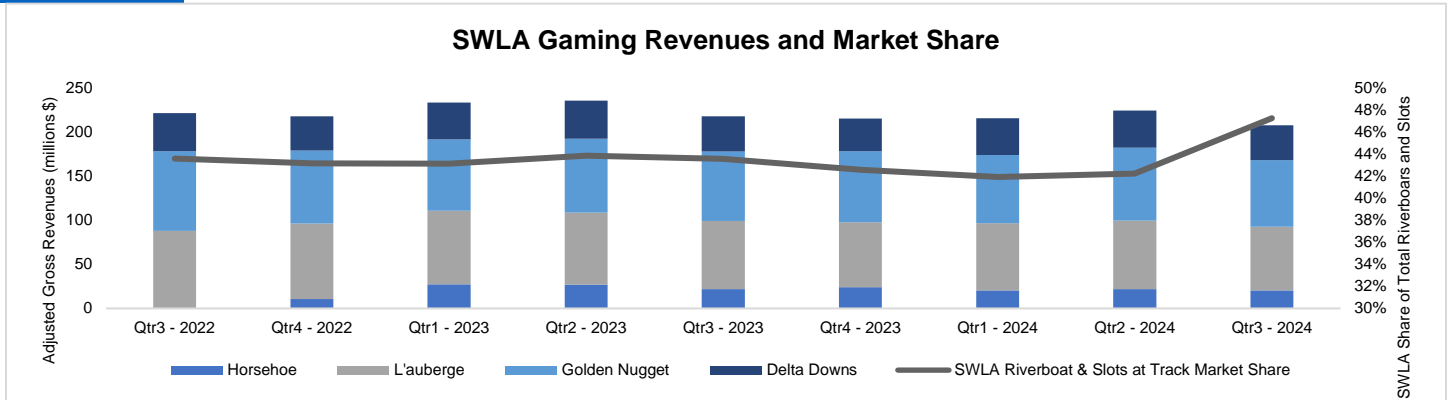
Lake Charles Port Statistics



The Lake Charles port has seen decreases in export and import values in the 3rd quarter of 2024. The figures in the table below show the value of exports fell \$478 million (-12%) over the year while the total value of imports decreased by \$55 million (-14%). The total weight of all exports rose 5 million kg (+0.1%) while the total weight of all imports fell 109 million kg (-11.7%). While values have fallen (due to falling energy prices), total weight has been steady and even increased over the year.

	Qtr-3 2023	Qtr-3 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions \$)				
Exports	3,970	3,491	-478	-12.0
Imports	394	339	-55	-14.0
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	8,105	8,111	5	0.1
Imports	929	820	-109	-11.7

Gaming Statistics



	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total State AGR (millions)	499.9	505.0	513.6	531.0	439.1
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-8.0	0.7	-27.1	-5.6	-60.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.6	0.1	-5.0	-1.1	-12.1
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	217.7	214.9	215.3	224.2	207.4
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-3.6	-2.6	-18.0	-11.1	-10.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.6	-1.2	-7.7	-4.7	-4.7
Total AGR (millions)					
Horseshoe	21.9	23.9	20.4	21.7	20.4
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	21.9	13.3	-6.9	-5.0	-1.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	#DIV/0!	125.8	-25.3	-18.8	-6.9
L'Auberge	77.3	73.9	75.9	77.7	72.2
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-10.5	-11.8	-7.4	-3.8	-5.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-12.0	-13.7	-8.9	-4.7	-6.6
Golden Nugget	78.5	80.2	77.2	82.4	75.4
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-11.8	-2.5	-3.6	-1.3	-3.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-13.1	-3.1	-4.4	-1.5	-3.9
Delta Downs	39.9	37.0	41.7	42.3	39.4
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-3.2	-1.6	-0.1	-0.9	-0.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-7.5	-4.2	-0.2	-2.1	-1.5
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	10.1%	11.1%	9.5%	9.7%	9.8%
L'Auberge	35.5%	34.4%	35.3%	34.7%	34.8%
Golden Nugget	36.1%	37.3%	35.9%	36.8%	36.4%
Delta Downs	18.3%	17.2%	19.4%	18.9%	19.0%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	4.4%	4.7%	4.0%	4.1%	4.6%
L'Auberge	15.5%	14.6%	14.8%	14.6%	16.4%
Golden Nugget	15.7%	15.9%	15.0%	15.5%	17.2%
Delta Downs	8.0%	7.3%	8.1%	8.0%	9.0%
SWLA Total AGR	43.5%	42.6%	41.9%	42.2%	47.2%

In terms of revenues, gaming establishments have rebounded from the pandemic and hurricanes and the Horseshoe has now been open for year-over-year comparisons. Revenues in SWLA were about 4.7% lower than the 3rd quarter of 2023 and statewide AGR in 2024 was 12.1% lower than Q3 2023. Total revenues in SWLA for the 3rd quarter of 2024 were \$207.4 million, or a 4.7% percent decrease from the previous year.

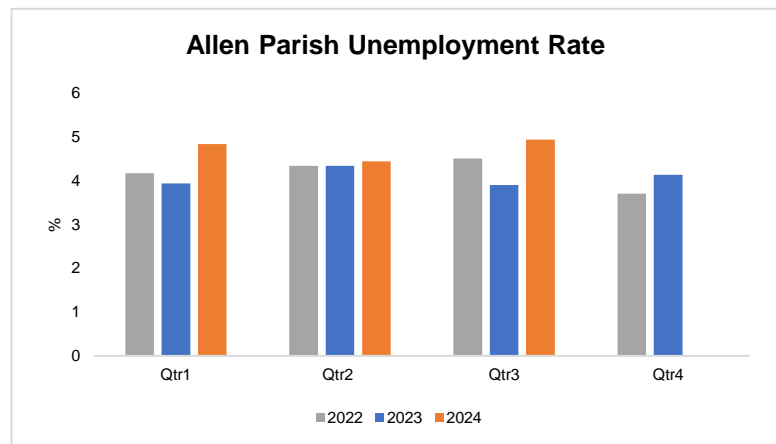
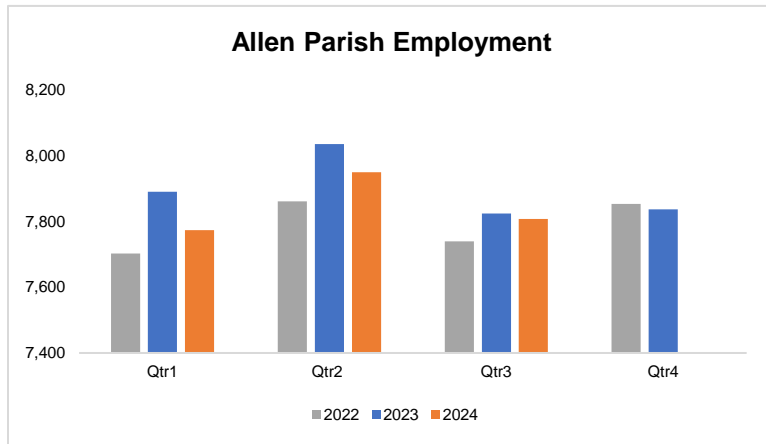
Horseshoe collected \$20.4 million in revenue in the 3rd quarter of 2024. L'Auberge had a decrease of \$5.1 million for a 6.6% decrease. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage drop in AGR of 3.9% with an absolute decrease of \$3.1 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$0.6 million decrease in AGR over the year for a 1.5% 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. Some of the increased activity at the Horseshoe may be eating into nearby casino AGR. The four SWLA establishments made up 47.2% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, which is a 3.7% percentage point increase from the 3rd quarter of 2023.

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Household Employment	7,824	7,836	7,774	7,950	7,808
Year-Over-Year Change	85	-17	-116	-85	-16
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.1	-0.2	-1.5	-1.1	-0.2
Household Unemployment	318	337	395	370	403
Year-Over-Year Change	-48	36	70	5	85
Year-Over-Year % Change	-13.0	11.8	21.4	1.5	26.6
Labor Force	8,142	8,174	8,169	8,319	8,210
Year-Over-Year Change	37	19	-47	-80	69
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.5	0.2	-0.6	-1.0	0.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.9	4.1	4.8	4.4	4.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.6	0.4	0.9	0.1	1.0

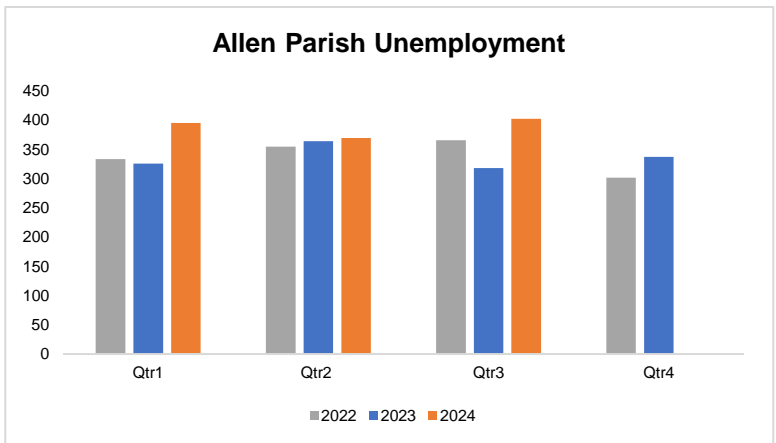
	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total Job Openings	235	227	261	221	217
Year-Over-Year Change	-67	-16	-4	-20	-17
Year-Over-Year % Change	-22.3	-6.7	-1.5	-8.3	-7.4



In the 3rd quarter of 2024, Allen parish saw a drop in the labor force of 16 (-0.2%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 85 over the year (+26.6%) while the number of employed persons rose 69 (+0.8%) over the year. The unemployment rate rose over the year by one percentage points to 4.9%.

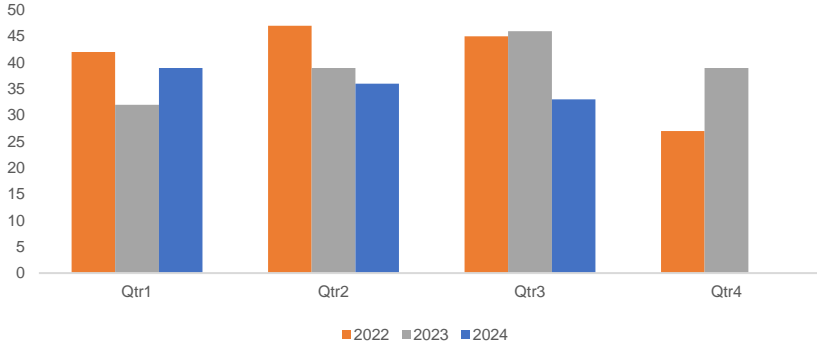
Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2024 averaged 217. Openings fell by 17 (-7.4%) over the year.

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 2024, Allen has had slightly lower employment compared to previous year levels and higher 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 33 in the 3rd quarter of 2024 which was 13 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 12 less than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2024 was 108. This was 9 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2023 YTD and 26 businesses fewer than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD.

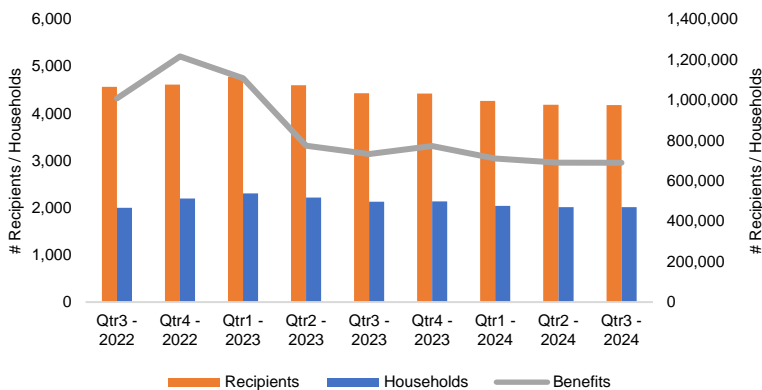
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	42	47	45	27
2023	32	39	46	39
2024	39	36	33	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	42	89	134	161
2023	32	71	117	156
2024	39	75	108	

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,426	4,423	4,262	4,185	4,175	-251	-5.7
Households	2,130	2,135	2,037	2,009	2,011	-119	-5.6
Benefits	732,265	771,253	709,687	690,190	689,083	-43,182	-5.9

Allen Parish SNAP Data



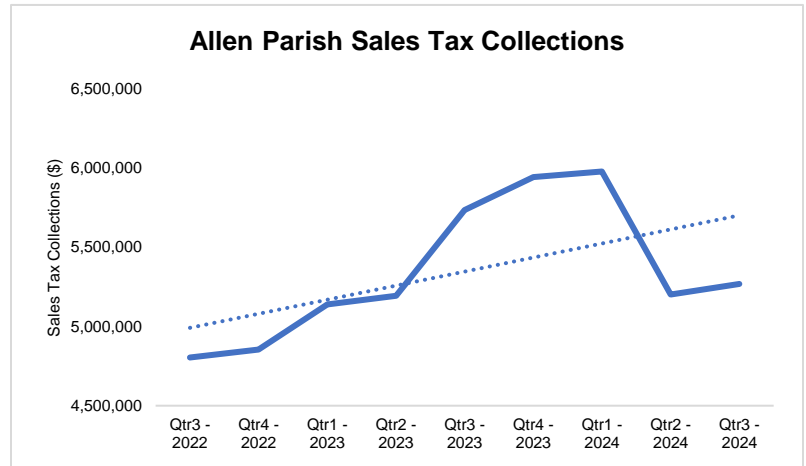
Allen parish had a decrease in SNAP recipients and in households, along with a decrease in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,175 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2024. 251 fewer people received benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2023 for a 5.7% decrease over this time. The total number of third quarter households receiving SNAP was 2,011, which was 119 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 5.6% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$689,083 in total during the 3rd quarter of 2024, which was a \$43 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 5.9% decrease in benefits in the parish. March 2023 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, as it has begun to show in quarter 4 and quarter 1 in 2024.

Tax Collections

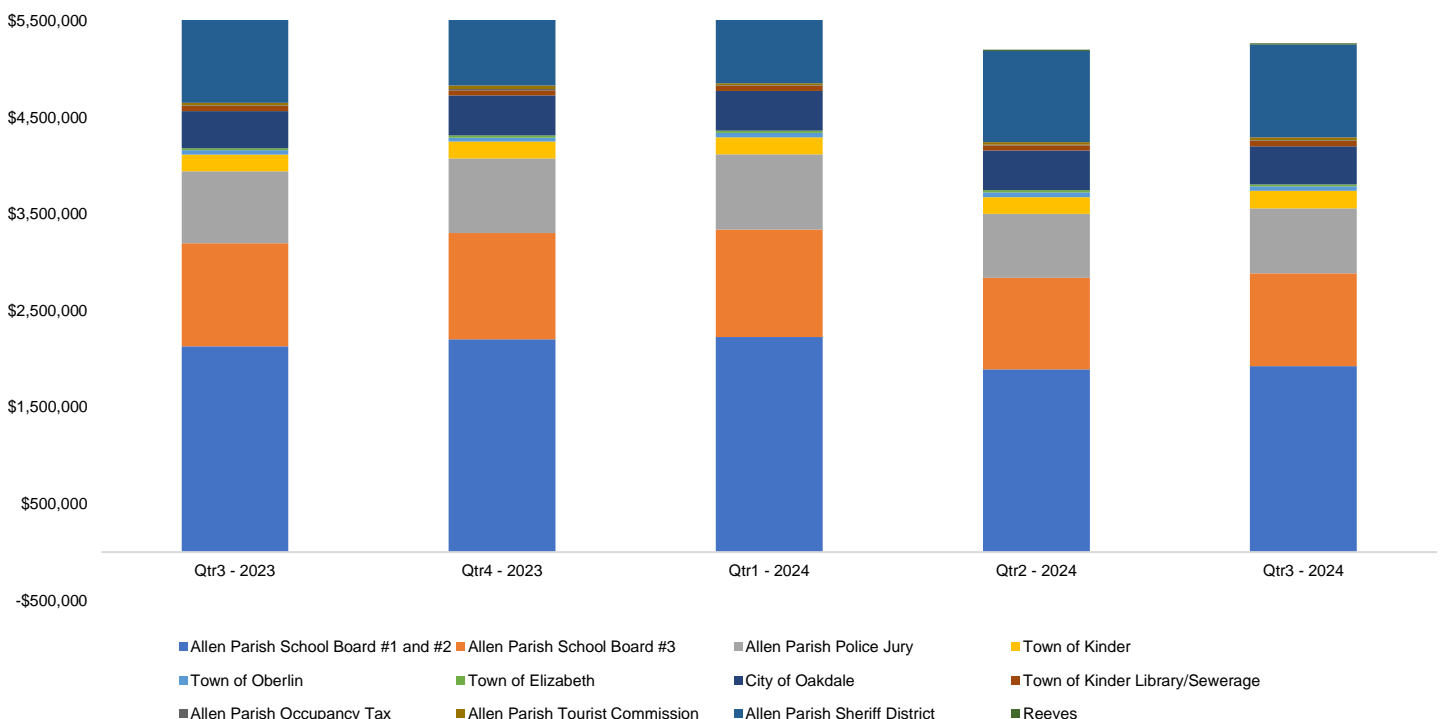
The Drew CBEA has built a history of Allen Parish sales tax collections with the help of the Allen Parish School Board. The numbers show an upward trend throughout the 2nd quarter of 2024.

Compared to the 3rd quarter of 2023, Allen Parish has seen an overall decrease in tax collections. Total tax collections decreased \$467 thousand for an 8.1% decrease.



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr3- 2023	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	2,131,197	2,202,262	2,225,820	1,892,827	1,923,878	-207,319	-9.7
Allen Parish School Board #3	1,065,488	1,101,908	1,112,876	946,287	961,516	-103,972	-9.8
Allen Parish Police Jury	745,843	771,337	779,014	662,403	673,063	-72,780	-9.8
Town of Kinder	173,283	176,428	175,340	172,766	182,898	9,616	5.5
Town of Oberlin	45,675	38,941	48,068	50,098	44,750	-925	-2.0
Town of Elizabeth	19,459	23,500	21,951	22,894	20,905	1,446	7.4
City of Oakdale	383,862	414,736	411,305	411,973	394,083	10,221	2.7
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	51,985	52,929	52,602	51,830	54,870	2,885	5.5
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	8,615	11,648	6,732	7,898	9,393	778	9.0
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	25,844	34,943	20,197	23,694	28,179	2,335	9.0
Allen Parish Sheriff District	1,065,488	1,101,907	1,112,876	946,287	961,516	-103,972	-9.8
Reeves	18,098	13,506	11,944	13,171	12,929	-5,169	-28.6
Total	5,734,837	5,944,045	5,978,724	5,202,130	5,267,980	-466,857	-8.1

Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

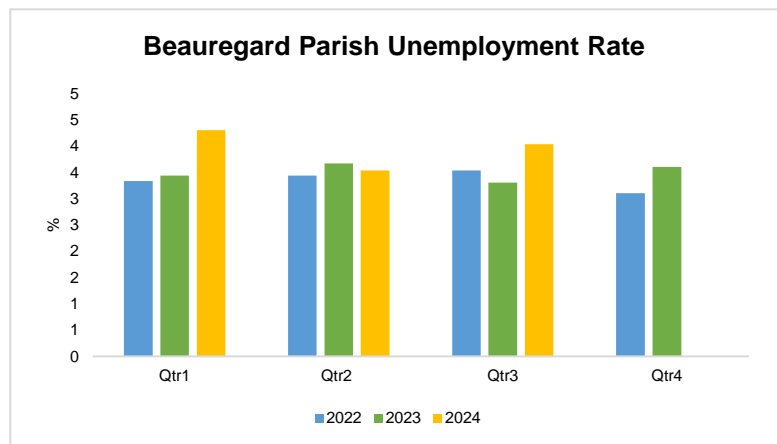
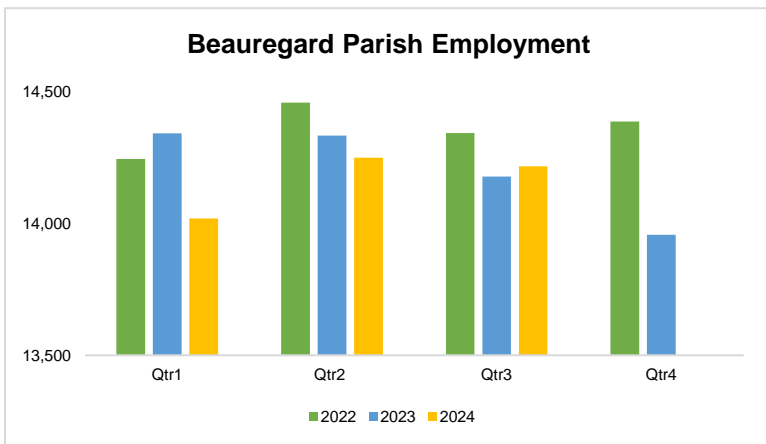
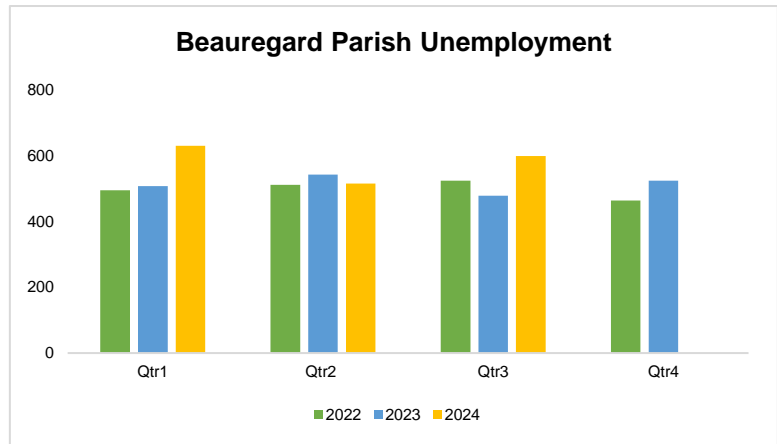
	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Household Employment	14,179	13,958	14,020	14,251	14,219
Year-Over-Year Change	-166	-431	-324	-85	40
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.2	-3.0	-2.3	-0.6	0.3
Household Unemployment	479	524	631	516	599
Year-Over-Year Change	-46	60	123	-26	121
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.8	12.9	24.1	-4.9	25.2
Labor Force	14,658	14,482	14,650	14,767	14,818
Year-Over-Year Change	-212	-371	-202	-111	160
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.4	-2.5	-1.4	-0.7	1.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.3	3.6	4.3	3.5	4.0
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.2	0.5	0.9	-0.1	0.7

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total Job Openings	397	374	395	349	281
Year-Over-Year Change	-173	-176	-106	-121	-116
Year-Over-Year % Change	-30.3	-32.0	-21.1	-25.8	-29.2

In the 3rd quarter of 2024, Beauregard parish saw a rise in household employment of 40 over the year (+0.3%) while the number of unemployed persons rose by 121 (+25.2%) over the year. This led to an increase of 160 (+1.1%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points over the year to 4.0%.

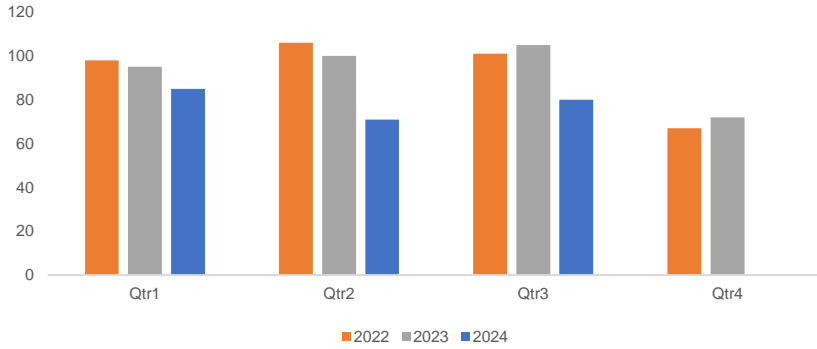
Job openings in the 3rd quarter averaged 281. Openings fell by 116 (-29.2%) over the year.

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 3rd quarter of 2024, Beauregard has slightly higher unemployment and lower employment figures.



New Business Filings

Beauregard Parish New Domestic Business Filings



The graph 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 Beauregard parish was 80 in the 3rd quarter of 2024 which was 25 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 21 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2024 was 236. There were 64 more businesses in the 3rd quarter of 2023 than in 2024 YTD and 69 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	98	106	101	67
2023	95	100	105	72
2024	85	71	80	

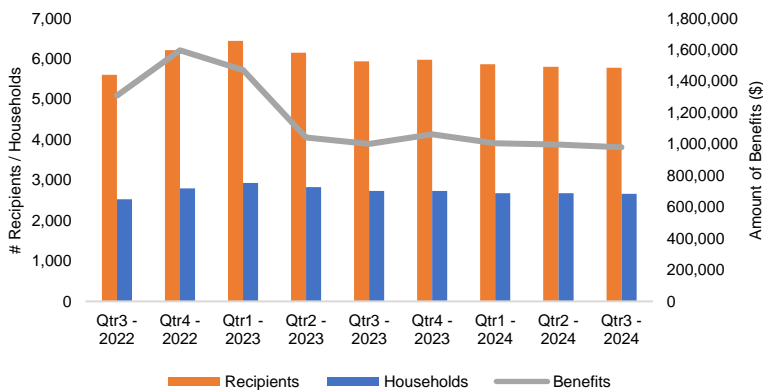
Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	98	204	305	372
2023	95	195	300	372
2024	85	156	236	

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,935	5,973	5,865	5,803	5,777	-158	-2.7
Households	2,732	2,735	2,675	2,673	2,662	-69	-2.5
Benefits	1,000,963	1,062,906	1,005,277	997,529	979,728	-21,235	-2.1

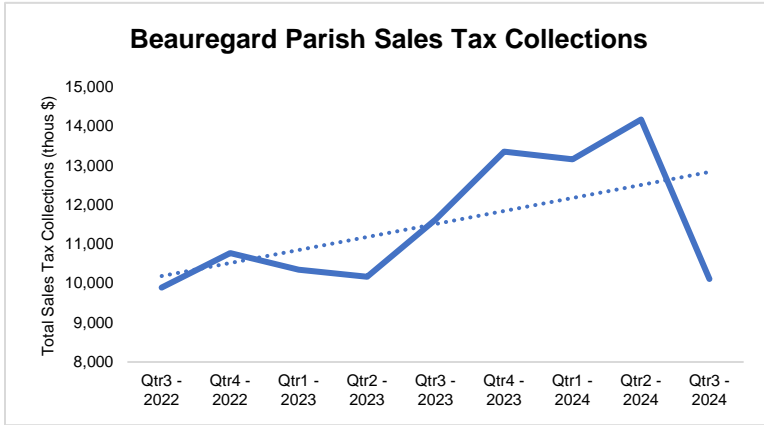
Beauregard parish has experienced decreases in SNAP recipients, households and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,777 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2024. 158 less people received benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2023 for a 2.7% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,662, which was 69 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 2.5% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$980 thousand in total during the 3rd quarter of 2024, which was a \$21.2 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 2.1% decrease in benefits in the parish.

Beauregard Parish SNAP Data



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 then raising again towards the end of the year. March 2023 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.

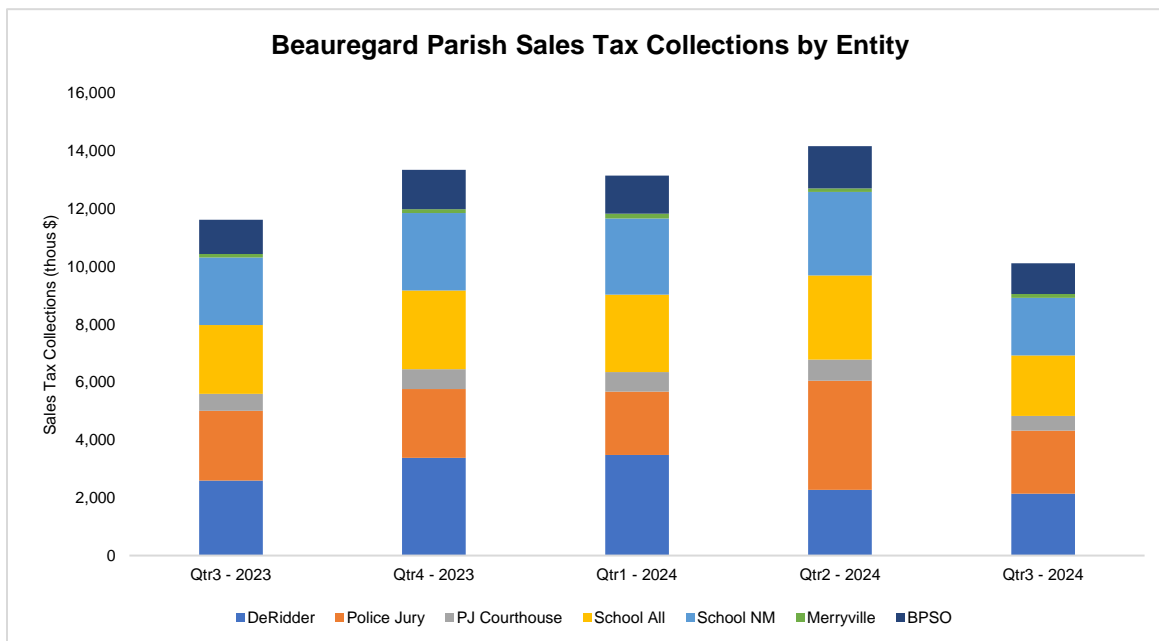
Tax Collections



Beauregard parish has seen an overall decrease in its sales tax collections in the 3rd quarter of 2024, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections fell by \$1.5 million over the year for a 13% decrease. Looking at the entities that receive sales tax distributions shows that Police Jury collects the most revenue, but other areas are close. The Police Jury category saw a \$226 thousand decrease (-9.4%). DeRidder saw a notable year-over-year decrease of \$458 thousand (-17.6%) over the year. Another large decrease came from the School NM, which decreased \$338.2 thousand, or a 14.4% decrease. All School

board revenues fell by roughly \$290 thousand (-12.2%). BPSO collections fell notably by \$132 thousand (-11.1%) and PJ Courthouse fell \$82.9 thousand (-14%). Merryville tax collections saw an increase in sales taxes of \$12.6 thousand, marking a 10.7% increase.

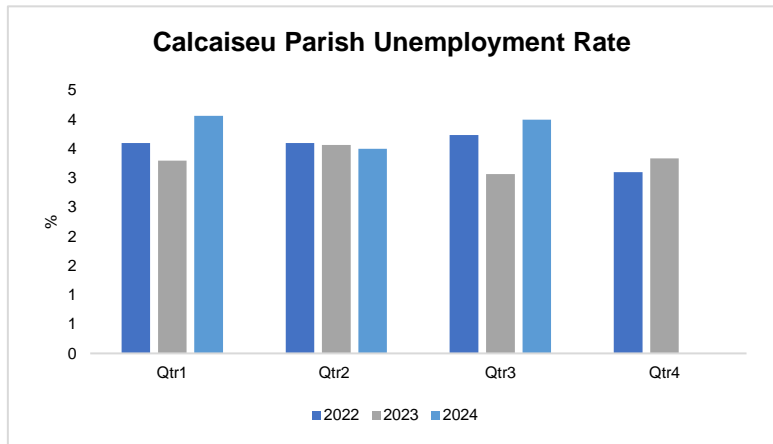
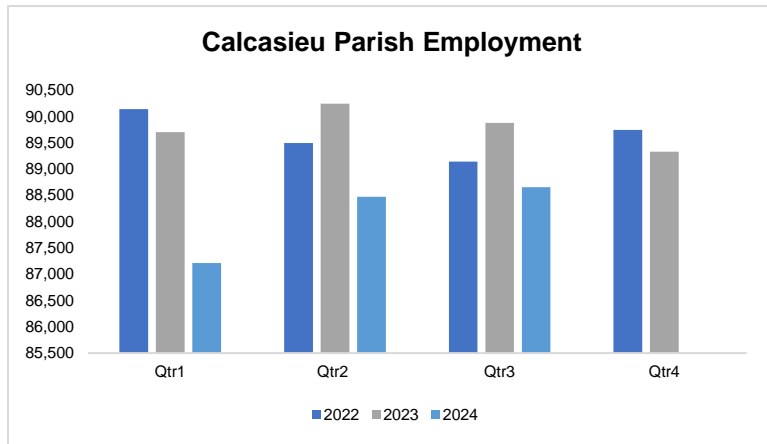
Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	2,599.8	3,382.3	3,478.9	2,279.5	\$2,142	-457.7	-17.6
Police Jury	2,404.3	2,382.7	2,197.8	3,768.4	\$2,179	-225.6	-9.4
PJ Courthouse	593.6	679.8	669.1	728.1	\$511	-82.9	-14.0
School All	2,378.2	2,724.0	2,685.1	2,920.9	\$2,089	-289.5	-12.2
School NM	2,341.0	2,682.7	2,629.8	2,881.6	\$2,003	-338.2	-14.4
Merryville	117.2	131.5	164.4	123.3	\$130	12.6	10.7
BPSO	1,190.2	1,366.3	1,328.3	1,467.0	\$1,059	-131.7	-11.1
Total	11,624.3	13,349.3	13,153.4	14,168.9	\$10,111	-1,513.0	-13.0



Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Household Employment	89,876	89,328	87,213	88,470	88,656
Year-Over-Year Change	736	-416	-2,485	-1,772	-1,220
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.8	-0.5	-2.8	-2.0	-1.4
Household Unemployment	2,859	3,110	3,707	3,243	3,682
Year-Over-Year Change	-582	264	658	-81	824
Year-Over-Year % Change	-16.9	9.3	21.6	-2.4	28.8
Labor Force	92,735	92,438	90,919	91,713	92,339
Year-Over-Year Change	153	-152	-1,827	-1,854	-396
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.2	-0.2	-2.0	-2.0	-0.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.1	3.3	4.1	3.5	4.0
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.7	0.2	0.8	-0.1	0.9

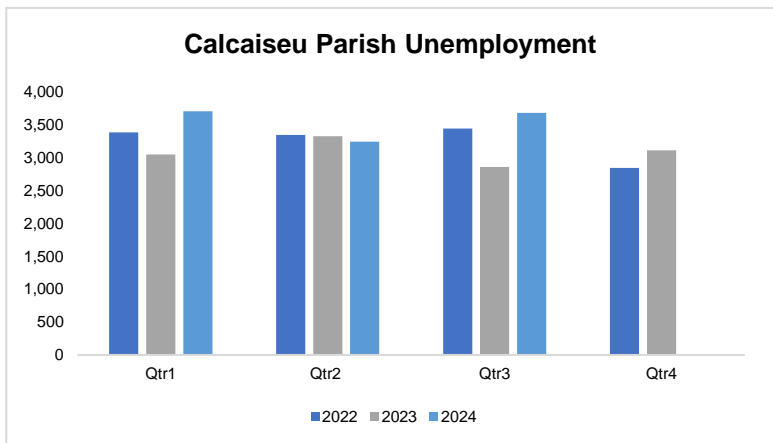
	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total Job Openings	5,071	4,748	4,585	4,586	4,046
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,995	-1,392	-1,681	-1,300	-1,025
Year-Over-Year % Change	-28.2	-22.7	-26.8	-22.1	-20.2



In the 3rd quarter of 2024, Calcasieu parish saw a decrease in the labor force of 396 (-0.4%). This was due to a decrease in household employment of 1,220 over the year (-1.4%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 824 (+28.8%). The unemployment rate rose 0.9 percentage points over the year to 4.0%.

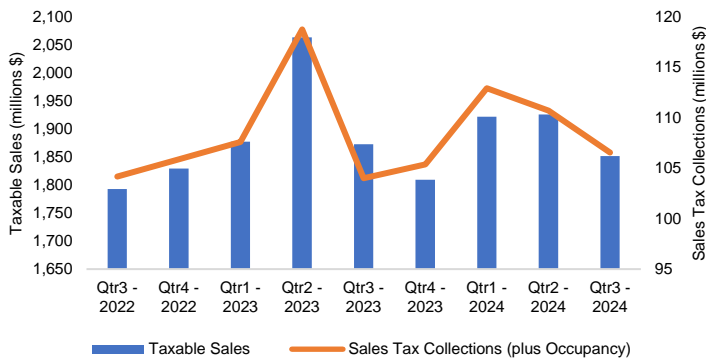
Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2024 averaged 4,046. Openings fell by 1,025 (-20.2%) over the year.

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 much lower employment level in the 3rd quarter of 2024 compared to 2023. The unemployment level is slightly higher than the 3rd quarter of 2023.

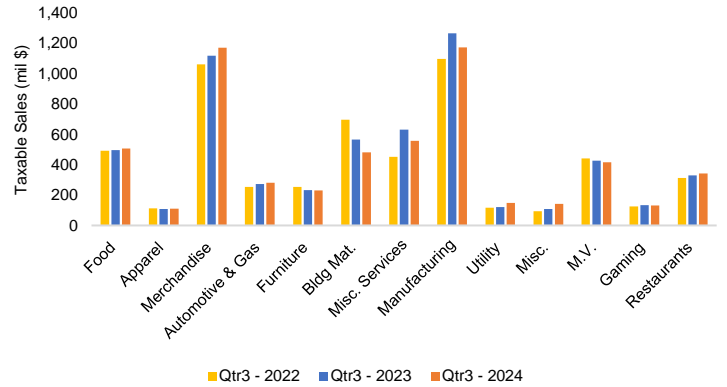


Tax Collections

Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 3 YTD



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	158.6	161.8	174.4	166.5	167.2	8.7	5.5
Apparel	33.2	35.5	41.7	35.3	34.0	0.8	2.3
Merchandise	357.5	370.5	410.5	378.1	382.0	24.5	6.9
Automotive & Gas	97.8	88.6	85.4	94.5	101.3	3.5	3.6
Furniture	71.4	74.0	78.5	82.0	71.0	-0.5	-0.7
Bldg Mat.	198.6	167.0	161.2	166.6	153.6	-44.9	-22.6
Misc. Services	167.3	180.0	154.1	211.6	193.0	25.7	15.4
Manufacturing	401.3	376.9	412.1	384.3	377.1	-24.2	-6.0
Utility	36.4	38.3	64.2	49.2	35.8	-0.6	-1.7
Misc.	41.4	29.1	63.6	49.3	28.7	-12.7	-30.7
M.V.	150.0	137.0	127.7	142.8	145.5	-4.6	-3.1
Gaming	51.0	44.3	40.1	46.0	46.4	-4.6	-9.0
Restaurants	108.2	106.4	108.2	119.6	115.8	7.7	7.1
Total	1,872.7	1,809.4	1,921.8	1,925.7	1,851.4	-21.3	-1.1

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 drop in the 3rd quarter of 2024. Looking at the

3rd quarter, compared to the same quarter the previous year, sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have fallen by \$1.7 million over the year for a 1.6% decrease. General sales taxes fell by \$1.7 million (-1.6%) over the year. Occupancy taxes decreased. These taxes stayed at \$2.1 million for a 1.7% decrease year over year. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish fell \$21.3 million (-1.1%) over the year. Miscellaneous rose the largest in absolute terms and percentage points (+\$25.7 million, +15.4%). Gaming fell in percentage terms (-9.0%) and Utilities fell (-1.7%). Food (+5.5%), Apparel (+2.3%), Merchandise (+6.9%), Automotive & Gas (+3.6%) all experienced rises in collections. Furniture decreased(-0.5) and Restaurants increased (+7.7).

Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	106.1	103.4	111.2	108.6	104.4	-1.7	-1.6
Occupancy Taxes	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.1	2.1	0.0	-1.7
Sales Tax Collections	108.2	105.4	112.9	110.7	106.5	-1.7	-1.6

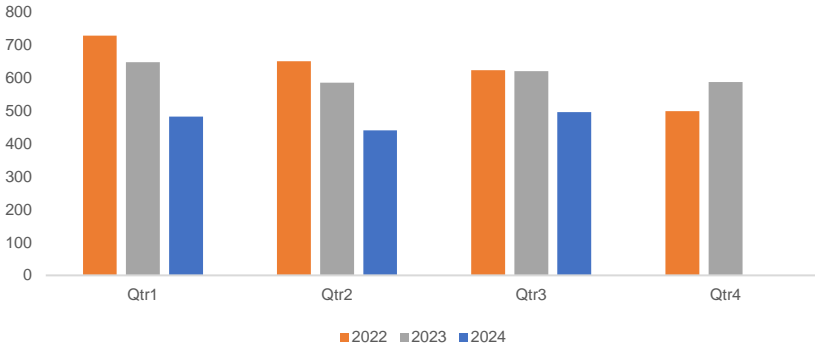
YTD figures show that total taxable sales have fallen in the parish by \$114.2 million compared to the 3rd quarter of 2023 YTD figure for a 2% decrease. There was a \$200 thousand decrease in sales tax collections (-0.1%) YTD.

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2022	1,841.8	3,717.5	5,510.5	7,339.5
2023	1,877.1	3,940.3	5,813.0	7,622.4
2024	1,921.8	3,847.4	5,698.8	

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2022	106.7	210.5	314.7	420.6
2023	107.6	226.3	330.3	435.7
2024	112.9	223.6	330.1	

New Business Filings

Calcasieu Parish New Domestic Business Filings



The graph 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 Calcasieu parish was 496 in the 3rd quarter of 2024 which was 125 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 128 less than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2024 was 1,420. This was 435 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2023 YTD and 584 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD.

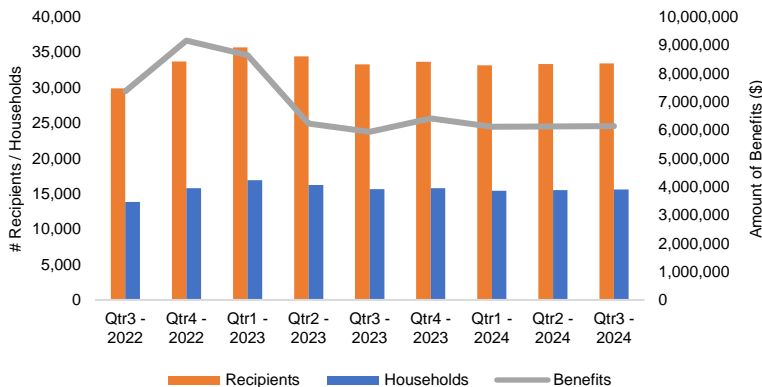
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	729	651	624	499
2023	648	586	621	588
2024	483	441	496	-

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	729	1,380	2,004	2,503
2023	648	1,234	1,855	2,443
2024	483	924	1,420	-

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	33,299	33,649	33,173	33,327	33,424	125	0.4
Households	15,666	15,803	15,444	15,538	15,604	-62	-0.4
Benefits	5,939,100	6,409,417	6,118,961	6,133,221	6,134,951	195,851	3.3

Calcasieu Parish SNAP Data



Calcasieu parish has had increases in SNAP recipients and decreases in households, along with an increase in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 33,424 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2024. This was 125 more people receiving benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2023 for a 0.4% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 15,604 which was 62 fewer than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 0.4% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$6.1 million in total during the 3rd quarter of 2024, which was a \$196 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 3.3% increase in

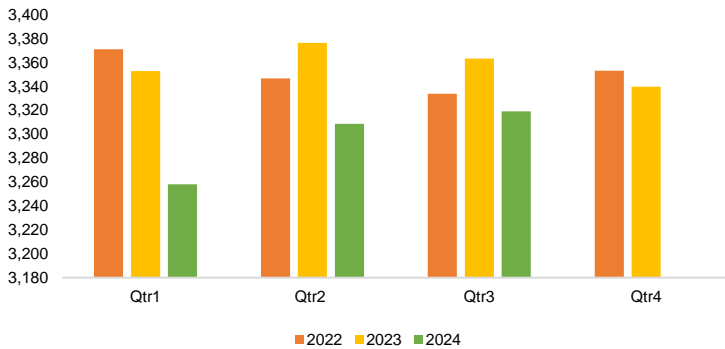
benefits in the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates a rising trend in benefits from 2021 before peaking in the 4th quarter of 2022. The later trends seem to show all the variables rising indicating more citizens are receiving assistance. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring 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 and a subsequent upward shift in Q4 2023 and decreasing afterward.

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

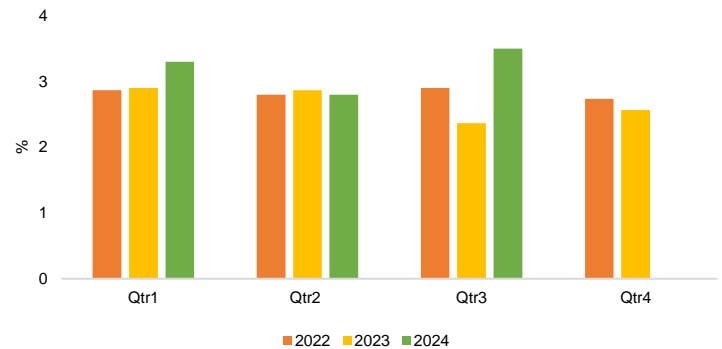
	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Household Employment	3,363	3,340	3,258	3,309	3,319
Year-Over-Year Change	30	-13	-95	-68	-44
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.9	-0.4	-2.8	-2.0	-1.3
Household Unemployment	81	88	111	95	120
Year-Over-Year Change	-19	-6	11	-6	39
Year-Over-Year % Change	-18.9	-6.1	10.6	-5.6	48.0
Labor Force	3,445	3,427	3,369	3,403	3,439
Year-Over-Year Change	11	-19	-84	-73	-5
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	-0.6	-2.4	-2.1	-0.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.4	2.6	3.3	2.8	3.5
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.5	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	1.1

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total Job Openings	177	191	236	85	86
Year-Over-Year Change	100	127	165	-20	-91
Year-Over-Year % Change	128.9	200.0	231.9	-19.3	-51.4

Cameron Parish Employment



Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate

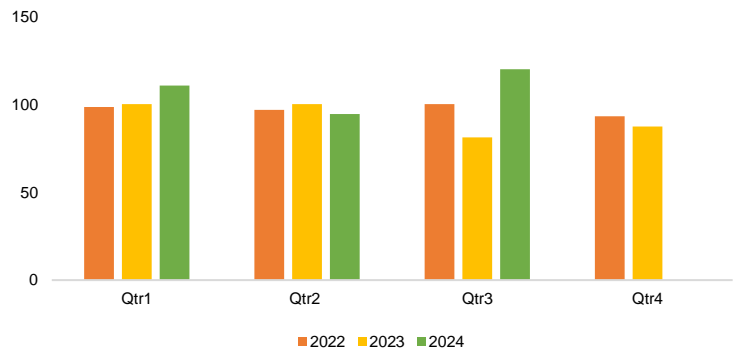


In the 3rd quarter of 2024, Cameron parish had a decrease in household employment of 44 over the year (-1.3%) while the number of unemployed persons rose by 39 (+48%). This meant a decrease of 5 (-0.2%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose 1.1 percentage points over the year to 3.5%.

Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2024 averaged 86. Openings fell by 91 (-51.4%) over the year.

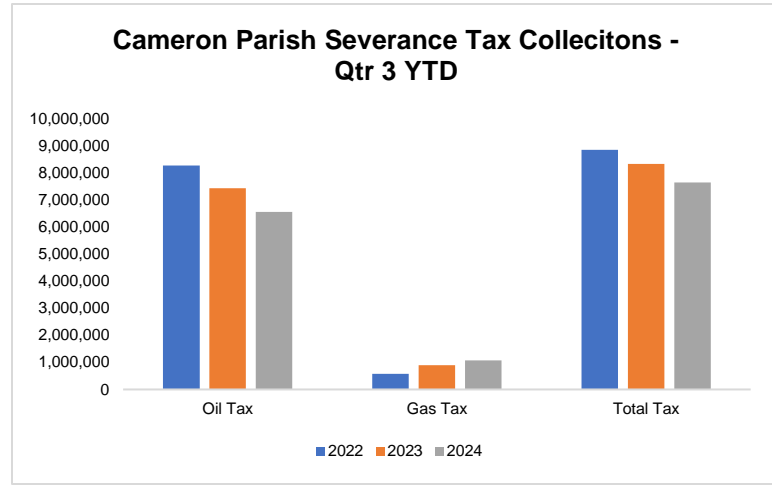
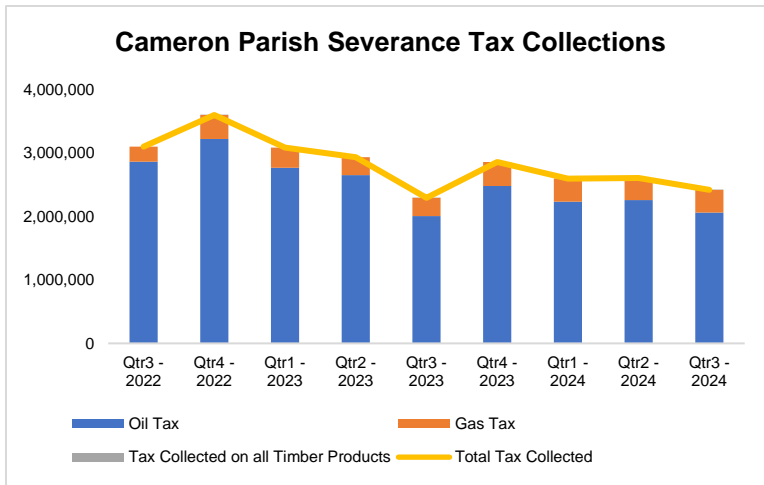
Cameron Parish had a lower employment level in the 3rd quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter the previous year and the unemployment measures were higher. These drops led to continued drops in the labor force in Cameron Parish.

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 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. 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 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	2,009,809	2,482,637	2,236,829	2,260,074	2,065,184	55,375	2.8
Gas Tax	287,780	378,931	364,202	352,310	360,599	72,819	25.3
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	38	0	14	-3	23	-16	-40.8
Total Tax Collected	2,297,628	2,861,568	2,601,045	2,612,381	2,425,806	128,179	5.6

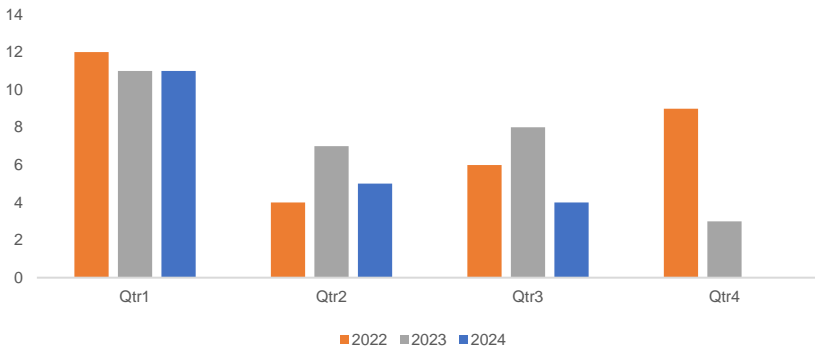
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	2,720,428	5,738,572	8,845,014	12,450,008
2023	3,090,819	6,030,682	8,328,309	11,189,877
2024	2,601,045	5,213,425	7,639,232	

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 3rd quarter of 2024 rose by \$55.4 thousand compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented a 2.8% increase. In terms of gas collections, those rose \$72.8 thousand over that period for a 25.3% increase. Timber product collections were -16 in the 3rd quarter. The 3rd quarter of 2024 saw some increases in gas severance taxes collected while the biggest component discontinued its decline.

The YTD figures show in 2024 there was a decline in 3rd quarter total severance taxes collected compared to the same quarter in the previous year. In the 3rd quarter 2024 YTD, severance taxes fell \$689.1 thousand for a decrease of 8.3%.

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 4 in the 3rd quarter of 2024 which was 4 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 2 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2024 was 20. This was 6 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2023 YTD and the same 2 less as of the 2nd quarter of 2022 YTD.

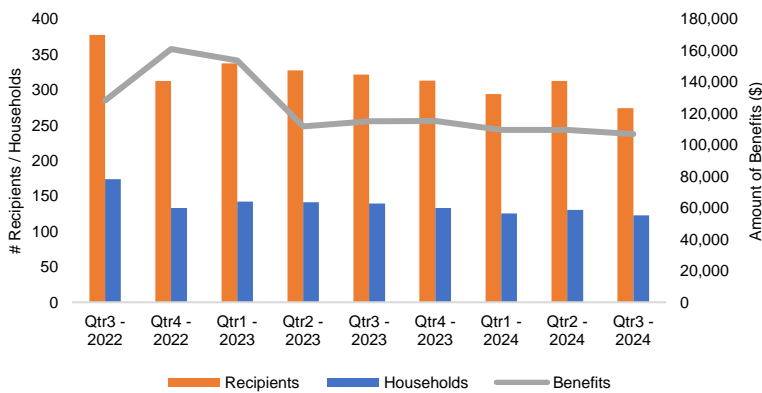
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	12	4	6	9
2023	11	7	8	3
2024	11	5	4	-

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	12	16	22	31
2023	11	18	26	29
2024	11	16	20	-

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	322	313	294	313	274	-47	-14.7
Households	140	133	125	130	123	-17	-12.2
Benefits	115,091	115,340	109,559	109,576	106,989	-8,102	-7.0

Cameron Parish SNAP Data



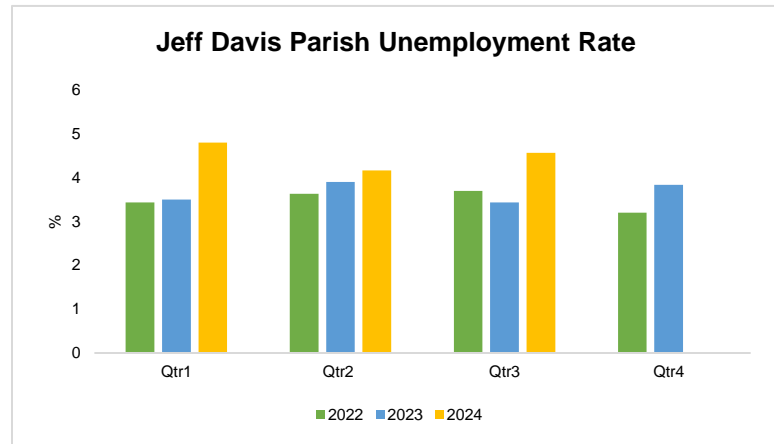
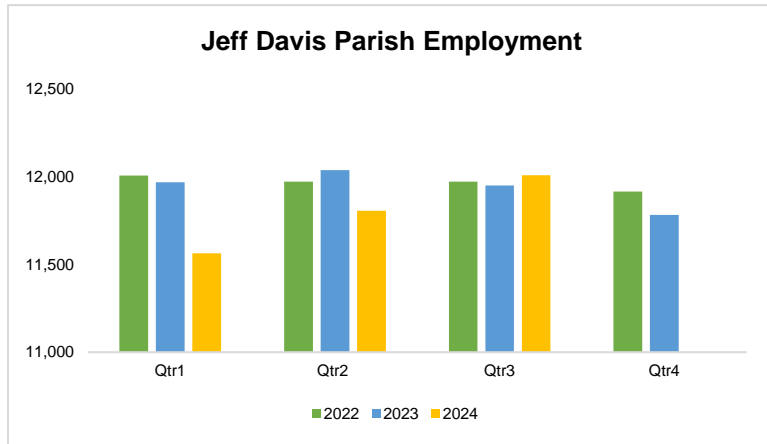
Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients and households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 274 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2024. This was 47 less than the amount of people receiving benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2023 for a 14.7% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 123, which was 17 fewer than the 3rd quarter of 2023. This represented a 12.2% decrease. The parish received an average of \$107 thousand in total during the 3rd quarter of 2024, which was an \$8.1 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 7.0% decrease in benefits in the

parish. Looking at the graph illustrates recipients, households, and benefits falling throughout end of 2022 and 2023. 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 from 2021 until the recent spike. March 2023 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 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Household Employment	11,950	11,783	11,563	11,806	12,010
Year-Over-Year Change	-22	-133	-405	-232	60
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	-1.1	-3.4	-1.9	0.5
Household Unemployment	424	467	585	517	579
Year-Over-Year Change	-34	72	151	27	155
Year-Over-Year % Change	-7.4	18.2	34.8	5.5	36.4
Labor Force	12,374	12,251	12,148	12,323	12,589
Year-Over-Year Change	-56	-61	-254	-205	214
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	-0.5	-2.1	-1.6	1.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.4	3.8	4.8	4.2	4.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.3	0.6	1.3	0.3	1.1

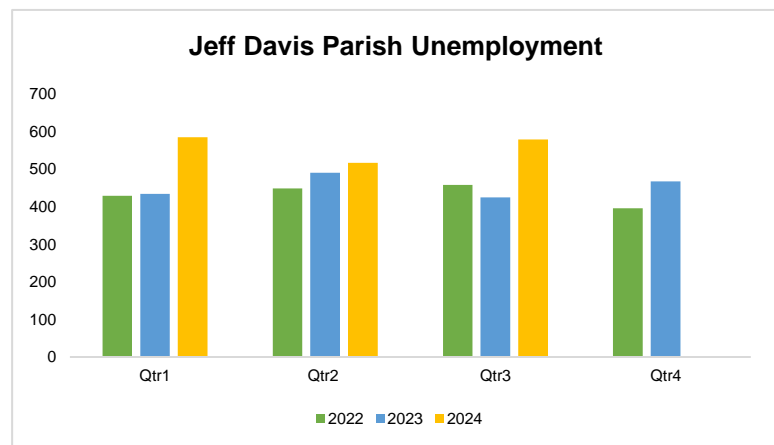
	Qtr3 - 2023	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024
Total Job Openings	412	461	453	361	265
Year-Over-Year Change	48	82	-80	-139	-146
Year-Over-Year % Change	13.1	21.5	-15.0	-27.8	-35.5



In the 3rd quarter of 2024, Jefferson Davis parish saw an increase of 214 (+1.7%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by an increase in household employment of 60 over the year (+0.5%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 155 (+36.4%). The unemployment rate rose 1.1 percentage points over the year to 4.6%.

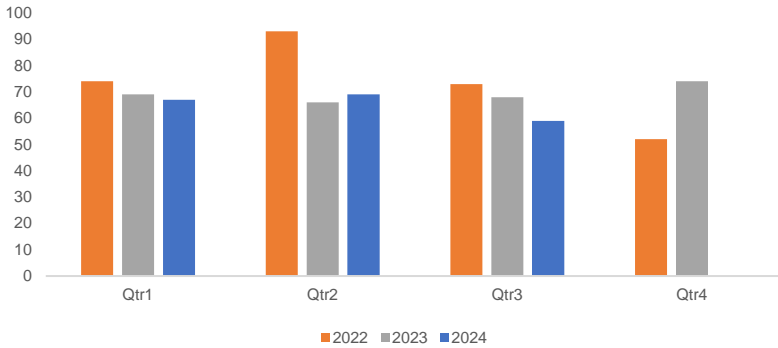
Job openings in the 3rd quarter of 2024 averaged 265. Openings fell by 146 (-35.5%) over the year.

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. Jeff Davis parish had slightly higher figures for employment in the 3rd quarter of 2024 compared to 2023, with higher unemployment figures and rate.



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 59 in the 3rd quarter of 2024 which was 9 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 14 fewer compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 3rd quarter of 2024 was 195. This was 8 business less than the 3rd quarter of 2023 YTD and 45 businesses less than the 3rd quarter of 2022 YTD.

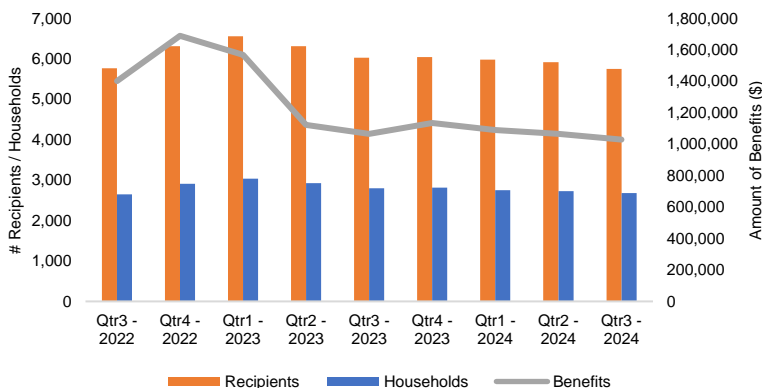
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	74	93	73	52
2023	69	66	68	74
2024	67	69	59	

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	74	167	240	292
2023	69	135	203	277
2024	67	136	195	

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr3- 2023	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	6,027	6,044	5,980	5,918	5,751	-276	-4.6
Households	2,800	2,816	2,754	2,729	2,675	-124	-4.4
Benefits	1,065,011	1,133,535	1,089,672	1,066,181	1,028,934	-36,078	-3.4

Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data

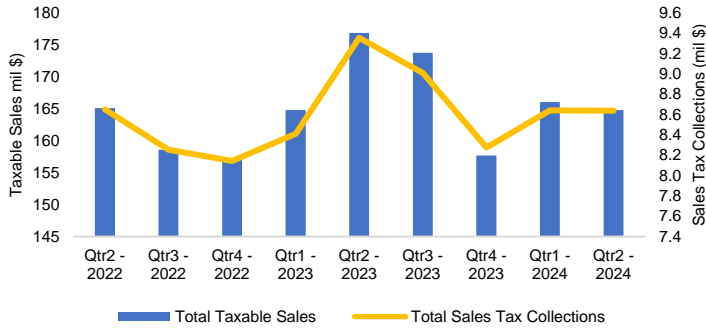


Jefferson Davis parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients, households, and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,751 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 3rd quarter of 2024. This was 276 less people receiving benefits compared to the 3rd quarter of 2023 for a 4.6% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,675, which was 124 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 4.4% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$1.03 million in total during the 3rd quarter of 2024, which was a \$36.1 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 3.4% decrease in benefits in the parish.

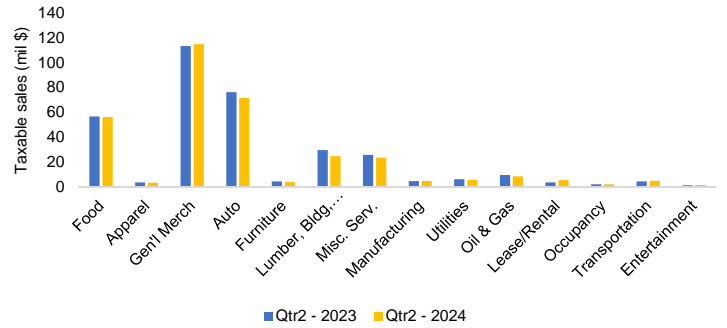
Looking at the graph illustrates an overall flat trend in benefits since the second quarter of 2021. The number of households and recipients receiving benefits has been flat before increasing in the final two quarters of 2022. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that will show in future quarters. The variables have been slightly falling throughout 2023 and into the start of 2024.

Tax Collections

Jefferson Davis Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Jeff Davis Parish Taxable Sales - 2nd Quarter YTD



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr3- 2023	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	27.8	26.4	26.8	29.3	27.6	-0.1	-0.5
Apparel	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.4	0.0	-0.4
Gen'l Merch	54.1	53.8	58.7	56.0	53.4	-0.6	-1.2
Auto	41.0	33.0	31.8	39.7	44.5	3.6	8.7
Furniture	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.8	-0.2	-9.4
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	16.8	11.6	14.5	10.3	11.0	-5.8	-34.6
Misc. Serv.	11.8	11.5	12.3	11.3	10.5	-1.3	-10.9
Manufacturing	2.3	3.1	3.0	1.6	5.4	3.1	136.6
Utilities	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.3	0.5	17.0
Oil & Gas	4.7	4.3	4.9	3.5	2.3	-2.4	-50.5
Lease/Rental	2.5	2.7	3.1	2.4	2.0	-0.5	-19.0
Occupancy	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.1	5.2
Transportation	4.8	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.0	-2.8	-57.6
Entertainment	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.0	-4.8
Total	173.8	157.7	166.1	164.8	167.4	-6.4	-3.7

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr3- 2023	Qtr1- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	9.0	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.9	-0.2	-1.7

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2022	157.4	322.5	481.1	638.4
2023	164.8	341.7	515.5	673.1
2024	166.1	330.8	498.2	

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2022	8.2	16.9	25.1	33.3
2023	8.4	17.8	26.8	35.1
2024	8.6	17.3	26.1	

Jefferson Davis Parish saw a 1.7% decrease in its sales tax collections in the 3rd quarter of 2024, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have fallen by approximately \$200 thousand over the year. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish fell by \$6.4 million (-3.7%) over the year. The largest percentage increase occurred in Manufacturing (+3.1 million, +136.6%), followed by Utilities (+\$0.5 million, +17.0%). Auto experienced an increase in taxable sales (+\$3.6 million, +8.7%) as did Occupancy (+\$0.1 million, +5.2%). General Merchandise (-\$0.6 million, -1.2%) had decreases in sales. Additional drops occurred in Furniture (-\$0.2 million, -9.4%), Apparel (-\$0.4 million, -0.4%), Misc. Services (-\$1.3 million, -10.9%), and Transportation (-\$2.8 million, -57.6%). Oil and Gas was another category that had a drop in sales over the year (-\$2.4 million, -50.5%).

The 3rd quarter of 2024 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have decreased in the parish by \$17.3 million compared to the same quarter in 2023 for a 3.4% decrease. There was a \$0.7 million decrease in 2024 YTD sales tax collections (-2.6%).

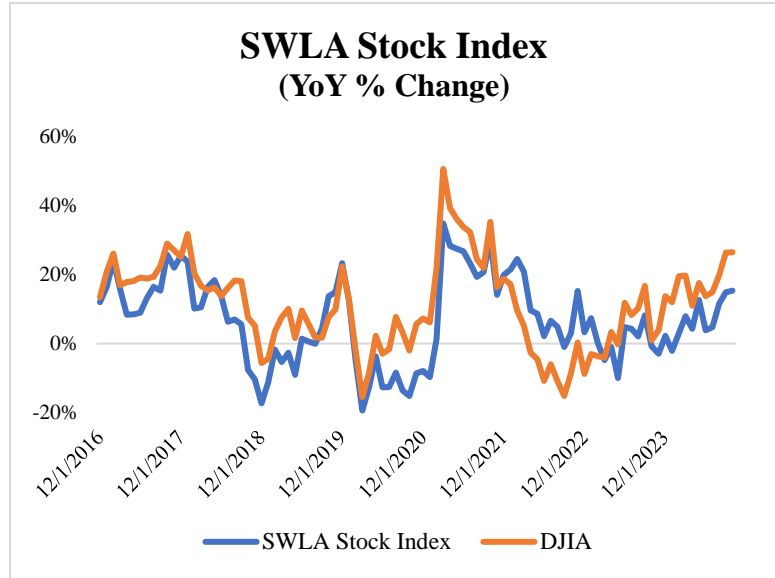
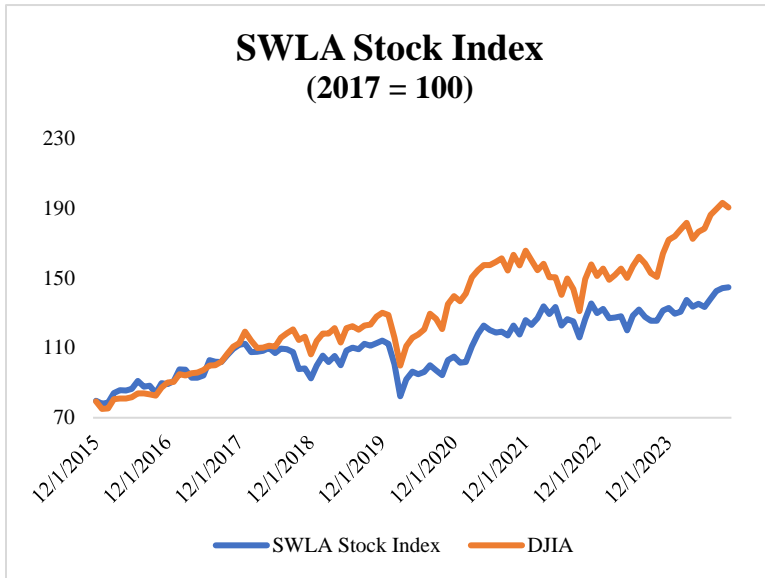
With talk of the stock market following the recent presidential election (as well as before), the Drew CBEA has constructed the Southwest Louisiana Stock Index (SWLA Stock Index). This index includes a diverse selection of companies that have a significant footprint in Southwest Louisiana. This index is designed as a price-weighted index, similar in construction to the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), rather than a market capitalization-weighted index.

In a price-weighted index, each stock's influence is determined solely by its stock price, irrespective of the company's market value. Higher-priced stocks have a greater impact on the index's movement. There are benefits and drawbacks to a price-weighted index. Price-weighted indices are straightforward to calculate, as they only require the prices of the constituent stocks and are easily understood by investors who see a direct connection between the stock's price and the index's influence. However, price weighting does not account for the company's market value, so a highly valued stock with a low price has less influence than a lower-valued stock with a high price. This can skew the index's representation, especially in sectors with varying stock prices. Additionally, stock splits can influence price-weighted indices significantly, which may distort their representation. The SWLA stock Index, like the DJIA, follows this structure to give a basic view of the traded companies with a strong presence in our region.

Stock Symbol	Company
AA	Alcoa Corp
AIQY	Air Liquide
AMSF	Amerisafe, Inc.
APD	Air Products and Chemicals
BRDCY	Bridgestone
CKX	CKX Lands
CNP	CenterPoint Energy
ET	Energy Transfer
ETR	Entergy
GDEN	Golden Entertainment Inc
JDVB	JD Bacnshares
LNG	Cheniere Energy
LYB	LyondellBasell
MCDIF	McDermott International Ltd
NOC	Northrop Grumman Corp
PPG	PPG Industries
PSX	Phillips 66
SRE	Sempra
SSL	Sasol
THNPY	Technip Energies NV
TRGP	Targa Resources Corp
WLK	Westlake Corp

The SWLA Stock Index includes 22 stocks illustrated in the table to the left. These companies represent a range of industries central to the Southwest Louisiana economy, including energy (Cheniere Energy, Phillips 66), chemicals (LyondellBasell, Westlake Corp), industrials (Alcoa Corp, Northrop Grumman Corp), and finance (JD Bancshares). This mix gives a balanced view of sectors critical to the SWLA economy.

With the SWLA Stock Index starting at the end of 2015 set at a base of 100 for 2017, tracking both the total index level and its year-over-year percentage changes provides a dynamic picture of economic trends within the region. As shown in the graph on the next page, the SWLA Stock Index follows a similar pattern as the DJIA. However, the recover from the 2020 drop was not as strong in SWLA. Due to this slower recovery and the same base, one should also look at year-over-year changes. While the percentage changes in the SWLA Stock Index are usually lower than those of the DJIA, the increases in 2022 were higher for the group of SWLA stocks. Observing these year-over-year percent changes can help stakeholders understand the economic cycles affecting the area, as well as the impact of external factors, such as commodity prices in the energy and chemicals sectors, that disproportionately affect Southwest Louisiana.



The SWLA Stock Index is now available at the [Drew CBEA website](#) under [SWLA Economic Indexes](#). This measure will be updated every month and is subject to change. In the future, the Drew CBEA may transform the index to one of market capitalization for comparison with another total index, such as the S&P 500. There may also be refinements to the calculations. For now, this is a simple average price index that can give insight into the SWLA economy. The Drew CBEA will certainly take suggestions on any other stocks we may not have included that readers of this report feel should be included. If you have any suggestions on this index, please email the center at drewecon@mcneese.edu.

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