

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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4th Quarter 2024 Issue

This 4th Quarter 2024 issue illustrates continuing flat state of our region's economy. The local airport saw large increases in flights and passengers. Most parishes saw increases in terms of sales tax collections and taxable sales. Total nonfarm employment in the Lake Charles MSA remains flat. Gaming revenues have been experiencing year-over-year declines, but the share of total gaming revenues in the state remains above 40%. While exports values have exhibited a downward trend, this is mainly due to price changes as the weights have remained mostly constant.

The final piece of this report looks at the SWLA economy in international terms. The possibility (and realization) of new tariffs obviously raises the question as to how these will affect the local economy. Tariffs have been publicly announced, delayed, announced again, sometimes implanted, etc. While it's too early to tell how tariffs will affect our area, we can at least get a good overview of who our major trading partners are and obtain a possible scope of the area's exposure to any international trade protections.

Thank you for reading.

Dan Groft, Ph.D.

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

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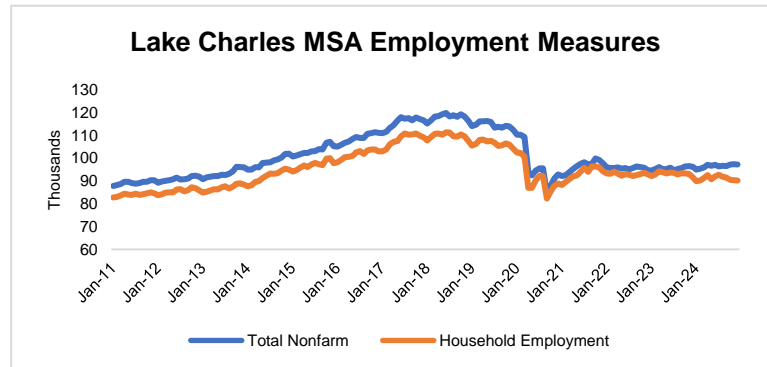
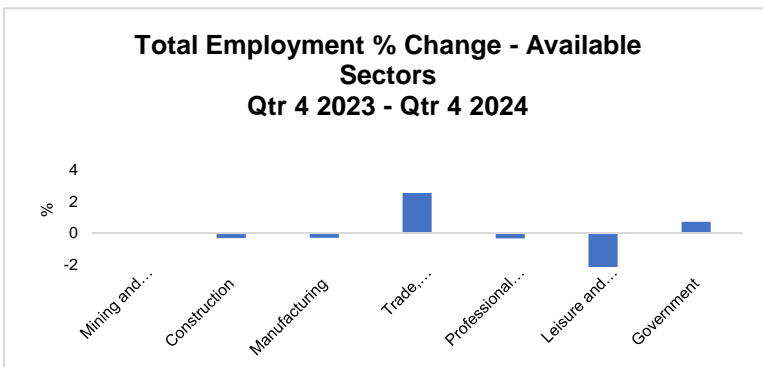
Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

(measures in thousands of workers)	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total Nonfarm	96.4	95.4	96.9	96.5	97.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.8	0.1	1.6	1.3	0.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.9	0.1	1.6	1.4	0.9
Mining and Logging	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	-10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	10.5	10.3	10.8	10.7	10.5
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.0	-1.1	-0.2	0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.4	-9.6	-1.8	0.6	-0.3
Manufacturing	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.1	2.4	0.3	-0.6	-0.3
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	17.2	16.9	16.9	17.1	17.7
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.0	-0.4	-0.4	2.0	2.5
Professional and Business Services	9.6	9.4	9.7	9.6	9.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.7	-1.4	3.2	0.7	-0.3
Leisure and Hospitality	13.6	13.3	13.6	13.4	13.2
Year-Over-Year Change	0.9	0.5	0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.3	3.9	2.8	-2.9	-3.2
Government	14.2	14.1	14.2	13.6	14.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.6	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.7
Average Weekly Earnings (All Employees)	969.56	993.65	1,066.83	1,090.39	1,179.4
Year-Over-Year Change	80.0	51.2	73.6	111.9	209.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	9.0	5.4	7.4	11.4	21.6
Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)	28.24	28.94	30.17	31.03	32.8
Year-Over-Year Change	1.6	1.2	1.2	2.5	4.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	6.0	4.3	4.0	8.8	16.3

In the 4th 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 0.9% 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 (-3.2%). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities experienced the largest industry gain of 400 workers (+2.5%). Construction, Professional and Business Services, and Manufacturing all saw a decrease of 0.3%. The Government sector (+0.7%) all had an increase of 100 jobs. Mining and Logging saw no real change in workers.

While there was a gain in employment, there were also increases in earnings measured. The average weekly earnings of all employees rose 21.6% and average hourly earnings rose 16.3%. Although not shown, the average weekly hours of all employees in the 4th quarter rose 4.6% over the year.

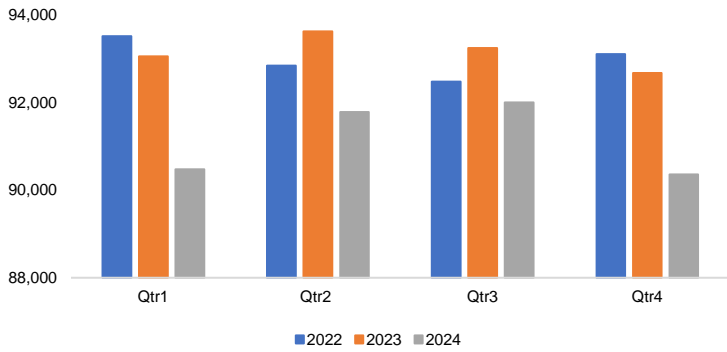


Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

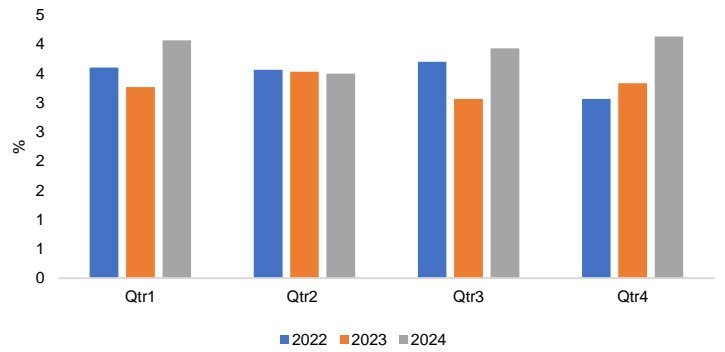
	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024
Household Employment	92,668	90,471	91,779	91,996	90,353
Year-Over-Year Change	-429	-2,579	-1,840	-1,244	-2,315
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	-2.8	-2.0	-1.3	-2.5
Household Unemployment	3,198	3,818	3,337	3,803	3,875
Year-Over-Year Change	258	668	-87	863	677
Year-Over-Year % Change	8.8	21.2	-2.5	29.4	21.2
Labor Force	95,866	94,288	92,532	95,799	94,228
Year-Over-Year Change	-171	-1,911	-1,087	-381	-1,637
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	-2.0	-1.2	-0.4	-1.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.3	4.1	3.5	3.9	4.1
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.8

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total Job Openings	4,939	4,821	4,671	4,132	3,869
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,265	-1,516	-1,320	-1,116	-1,070
Year-Over-Year % Change	-20.4	-23.9	-22.0	-21.3	-21.7

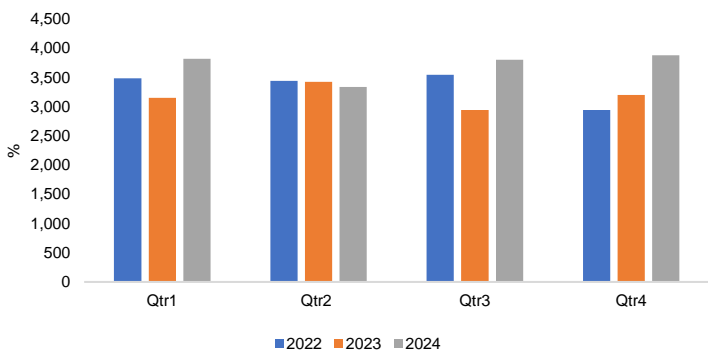
Lake Charles MSA Employment



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 4.1%, which represents a 0.8 percentage point increase from a year ago. The household employment measure decreased by 2,315 over the year for a 2.5% decrease. The number of unemployed increased by 677. This represented a 21.2% increase. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was a decrease of 1,637 (-1.7%). More labor will be needed for long-term growth so future developments in this measure should be watched closely.

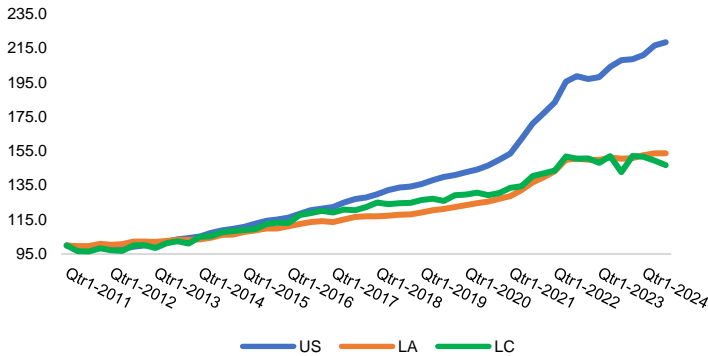
Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2024 averaged 3,869.

Openings decreased by 1,070 (-21.7%) over the year.

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

Housing Statistics

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

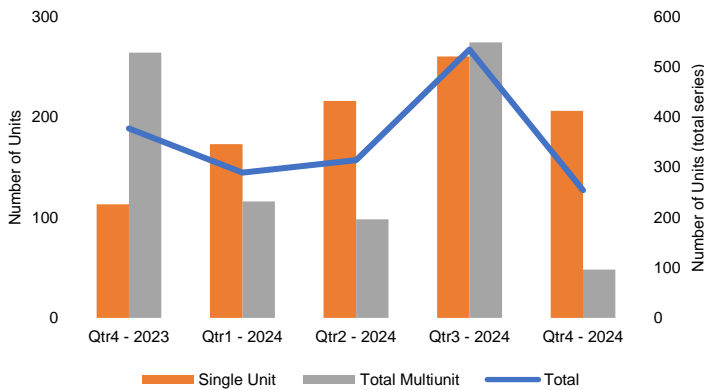


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr3 – 2023	Qtr3 - 2024	Year-over-Year % Change
Lake Charles HPI	142.6	146.8	2.9
Louisiana HPI	150.5	153.6	2.1
US HPI	208.0	218.5	5.1

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 third quarter of 2024 to the same quarter in 2023, housing prices have risen 2.9% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to increases of 2.1% in LA and 5.1% in the US.

Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

Lake Charles MSA Building Permits



In the 4th quarter of 2024, single unit permits rose by 93 over-the-year while multi-unit permits had a decrease of 216, therefore the total decrease was 123. This represented a 32.6% decrease. The YTD figures show some different results with an increase in single units of 284 and multi-unit permits increasing by 148 for a total increase of 432 over the year in the fourth quarter. The total percentage increase in YTD was 45.0%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits rose by \$13.4 million while multi-unit permit valuations fell by \$40.3 million for a total decrease of \$26.9 million. This represented a 35.2% decrease year-over-year in the 4th quarter of 2024 for the valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, single

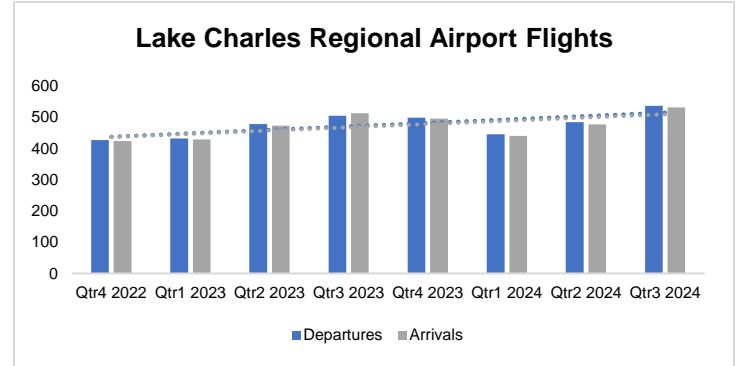
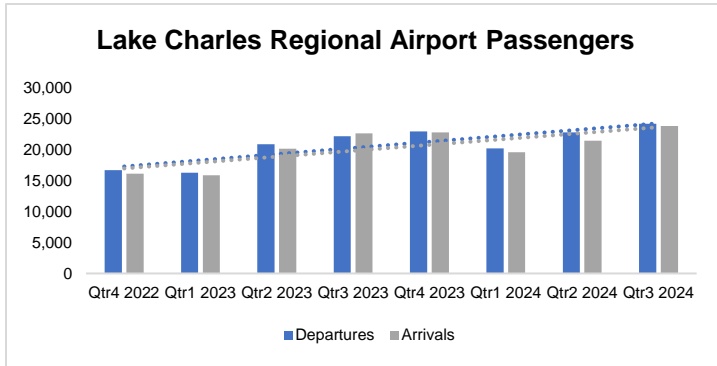
unit valuations increased \$38.2 million and multi-unit valuations increased \$42.3 million for a total percentage change of 40.6%.

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 fell in the 4th quarter of 2024. The blue line shows the total permits, and it has displayed a relatively flat trend with the exception of the 3rd quarter of 2024.

	Qtr-4 2023	Qtr-4 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-4 2023 YTD	Qtr-4 2024 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number								
Total	377	254	-123	-32.6	959	1,391	432	45.0
Single	113	206	93	82.3	571	855	284	49.7
Multi-unit	264	48	-216	-81.8	388	536	148	38.1
Valuation (thousands \$)								
Total	76,466	49,586	-26,880	-35.2	198,526	279,032	80,506	40.6
Single	26,525	39,986	13,461	50.7	125,286	163,482	38,196	30.5
Multi-unit	49,941	9,600	-40,341	-80.8	73,240	115,550	42,310	57.8

Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport



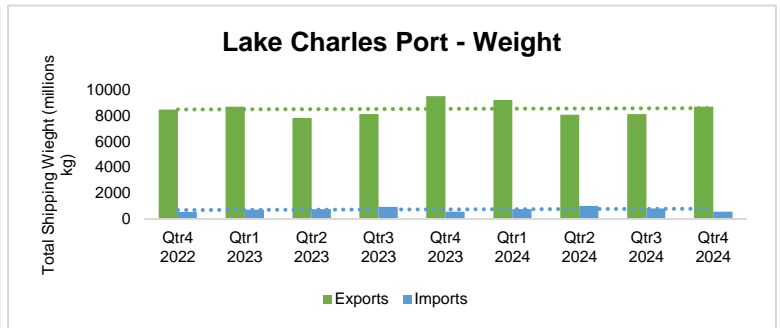
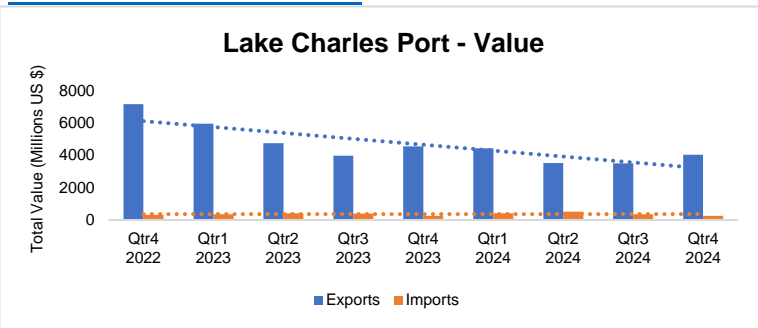
The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a continued uptick in activity during the 3rd quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Activity has decreased compared to the start of 2024 but overall is still increasing as the airport and area recover from the storms and flights have resumed out of LCH.

	Qtr-3 2023	Qtr- 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	22,216	24,213	1,997	9.0
Arrivals	22,661	23,836	1,175	5.2
Flights				
Departures	505	537	32	6.3
Arrivals	513	531	18	3.5

Passengers departing in the 3rd quarter of 2024 rose 1,997 (+9.0%) since the 3rd quarter of 2023 and those arriving have increased 1,175 (+5.2%). In terms of flights, there has been an increase of 32 flights (+6.3%) departing from Lake Charles over that same period while the

number of flights arriving has risen by 18 (+3.5%) as well. Flights and passengers have been steadily increasing since 2020.

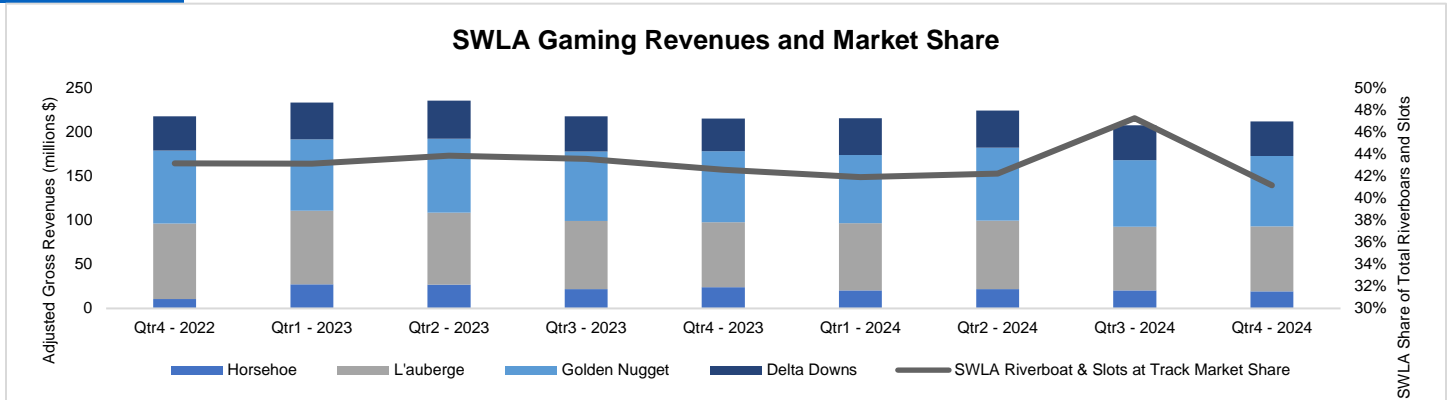
Lake Charles Port Statistics



The Lake Charles port has seen decreases in export values and an increase in import values in the 4th quarter of 2024. The figures in the table below show the value of exports fell \$525 million (-11.6%) over the year while the total value of imports increased by \$4 million (+1.6%) The total weight of all exports fell 804 million kg (-8.5%) while the total weight of all imports rose 15 million kg (+2.7%). While values have fallen (due to falling energy prices), total weight has been steady.

	Qtr-4 2023	Qtr-4 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions \$)				
Exports	4,549	4,024	-525	-11.6
Imports	254	258	4	1.6
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	9,486	8,682	-804	-8.5
Imports	562	577	15	2.7

Gaming Statistics



	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total State AGR (millions)	505.0	513.6	531.0	439.1	514.8
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	0.7	-27.1	-5.6	-60.7	9.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.1	-5.0	-1.1	-12.1	1.9
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	214.9	215.3	224.2	207.4	211.9
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-2.6	-18.0	-11.1	-10.3	-3.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.2	-7.7	-4.7	-4.7	-1.4
Total AGR (millions)					
Horseshoe	23.9	20.4	21.7	20.4	19.2
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	13.3	-6.9	-5.0	-1.5	-4.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	125.8	-25.3	-18.8	-6.9	-19.7
L'Auberge	73.9	75.9	77.7	72.2	73.9
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-11.8	-7.4	-3.8	-5.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-13.7	-8.9	-4.7	-6.6	0.0
Golden Nugget	80.2	77.2	82.4	75.4	79.6
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-2.5	-3.6	-1.3	-3.1	-0.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.1	-4.4	-1.5	-3.9	-0.7
Delta Downs	37.0	41.7	42.3	39.4	39.2
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-1.6	-0.1	-0.9	-0.6	2.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.2	-0.2	-2.1	-1.5	6.1
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	11.1%	9.5%	9.7%	9.8%	9.1%
L'Auberge	34.4%	35.3%	34.7%	34.8%	34.9%
Golden Nugget	37.3%	35.9%	36.8%	36.4%	37.6%
Delta Downs	17.2%	19.4%	18.9%	19.0%	18.5%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	4.7%	4.0%	4.1%	4.6%	3.7%
L'Auberge	14.6%	14.8%	14.6%	16.4%	14.3%
Golden Nugget	15.9%	15.0%	15.5%	17.2%	15.5%
Delta Downs	7.3%	8.1%	8.0%	9.0%	7.6%
SWLA Total AGR	42.6%	41.9%	42.2%	47.2%	41.2%

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 1.4% lower than the 4th quarter of 2023 and statewide AGR in 2024 was 1.9% higher than Q4 2023. Total revenues in SWLA for the 4th quarter of 2024 were \$211.9 million, or a 1.4% percent decrease from the previous year.

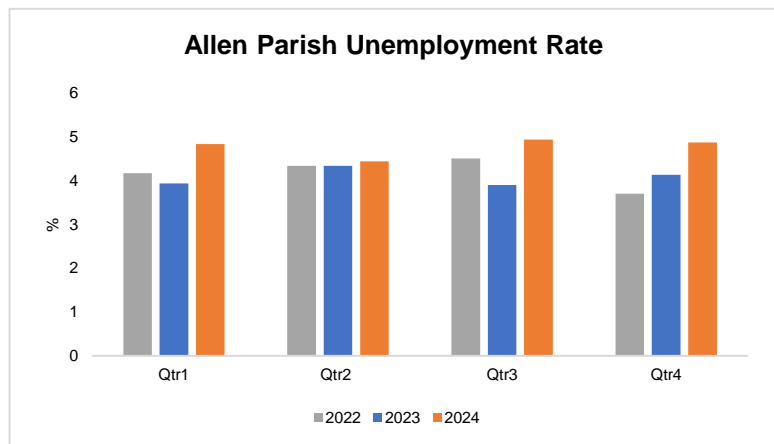
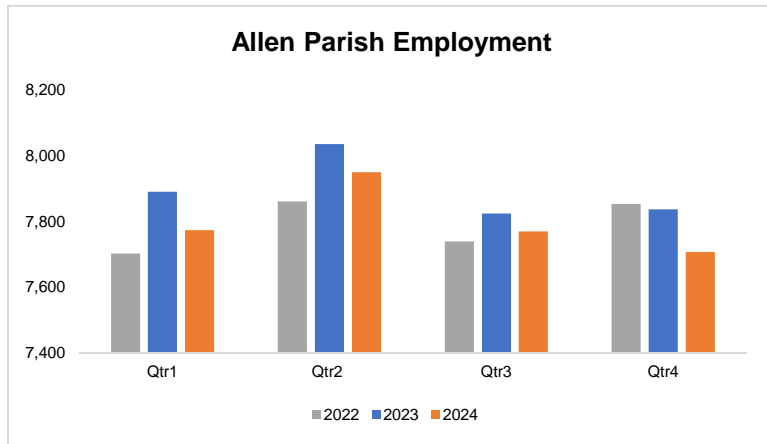
Horseshoe collected \$19.2 million in revenue in the 4th quarter of 2024. L'Auberge saw no change. The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage drop in AGR of 0.6% with an absolute decrease of \$0.6 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$2.3 million increase in AGR over the year for a 6.1% increase. These figures still indicate a solid recovery in the gaming market from 2020, however, things have been

slowing in terms of Q4 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 41.2% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, which is a 1.4% percentage point decrease from the 4th quarter of 2023.

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Household Employment	7,836	7,774	7,950	7,770	7,707
Year-Over-Year Change	-17	-116	-85	-54	-129
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	-1.5	-1.1	-0.7	-1.6
Household Unemployment	337	395	370	403	394
Year-Over-Year Change	36	70	5	85	56
Year-Over-Year % Change	11.8	21.4	1.5	26.6	16.7
Labor Force	8,174	8,169	8,319	8,173	8,101
Year-Over-Year Change	19	-47	-80	31	-73
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.2	-0.6	-1.0	0.4	-0.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	4.8	4.4	4.9	4.9
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	0.9	0.1	1.0	0.7

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total Job Openings	227	261	221	217	221
Year-Over-Year Change	-16	-4	-20	-17	-6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-6.7	-1.5	-8.3	-7.4	-2.8

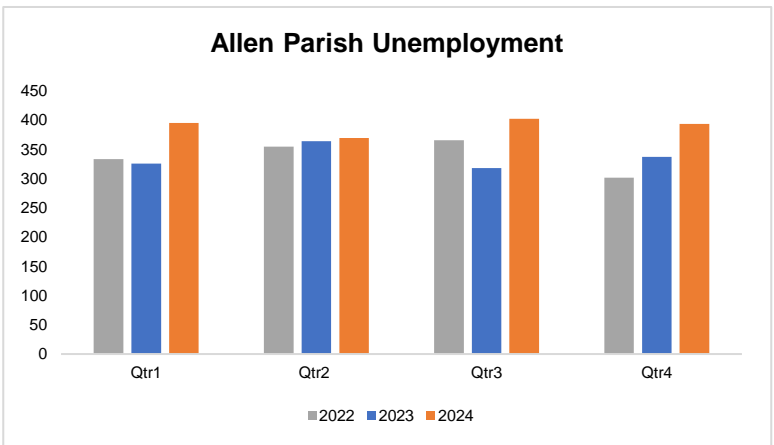


In the 4th quarter of 2024, Allen parish saw a drop in the labor force of 73 (-0.9%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 56 over the year (+16.7%) while the number of employed people fell by 129 (-1.6%) over the year. The unemployment rate rose over the year by 0.7 percentage points to 4.9%.

Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2024 averaged 221. Openings fell by 6 (-2.8%) over the year.

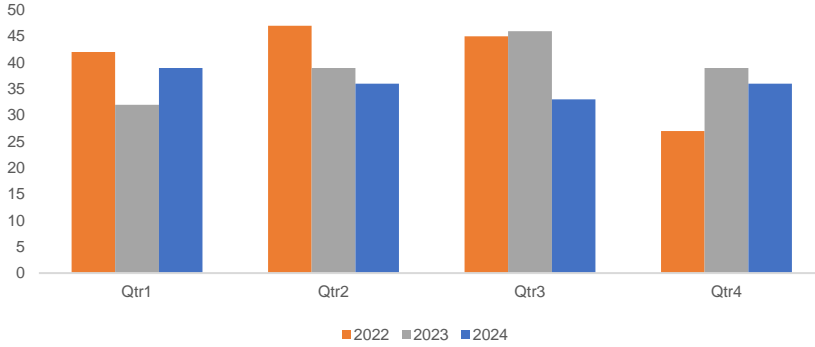
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years.

In the 4th quarter of 2024, Allen has had slightly lower employment compared to previous year's 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 36 in the 4th quarter of 2024 which was 3 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 9 more than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2024 was 144. This was 12 businesses less than the 4th quarter of 2023 YTD and 17 businesses fewer than the 4th quarter of 2022 YTD.

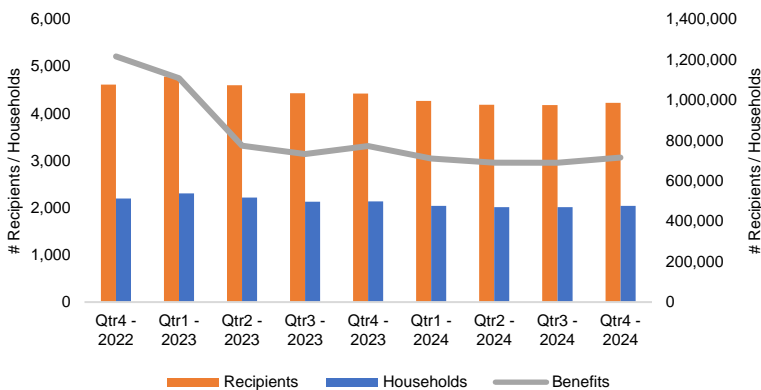
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	42	47	45	27
2023	32	39	46	39
2024	39	36	33	36

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	42	89	134	161
2023	32	71	117	156
2024	39	75	108	144

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,423	4,262	4,185	4,175	4,226	-197	-4.5
Households	2,135	2,037	2,009	2,011	2,043	-92	-4.3
Benefits	771,253	709,687	690,190	689,083	715,544	-55,708	-7.2

Allen Parish SNAP Data



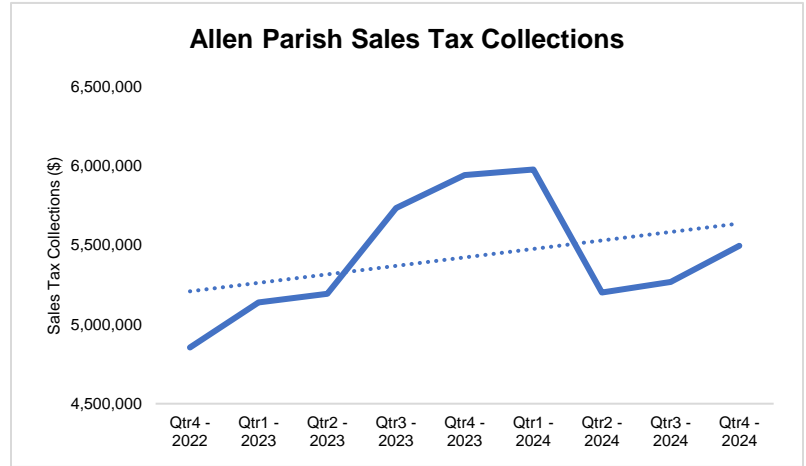
Allen parish had a decrease in SNAP recipients and in households, along with a decrease in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,226 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2024. 197 fewer people received benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2023 for a 4.5% decrease over this time. The total number of fourth quarter households receiving SNAP was 2,043, which was 92 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 4.3% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$715,544 in total during the 4th quarter of 2024, which was a \$56 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 7.2% 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 has begun to show in the graph.

Tax Collections

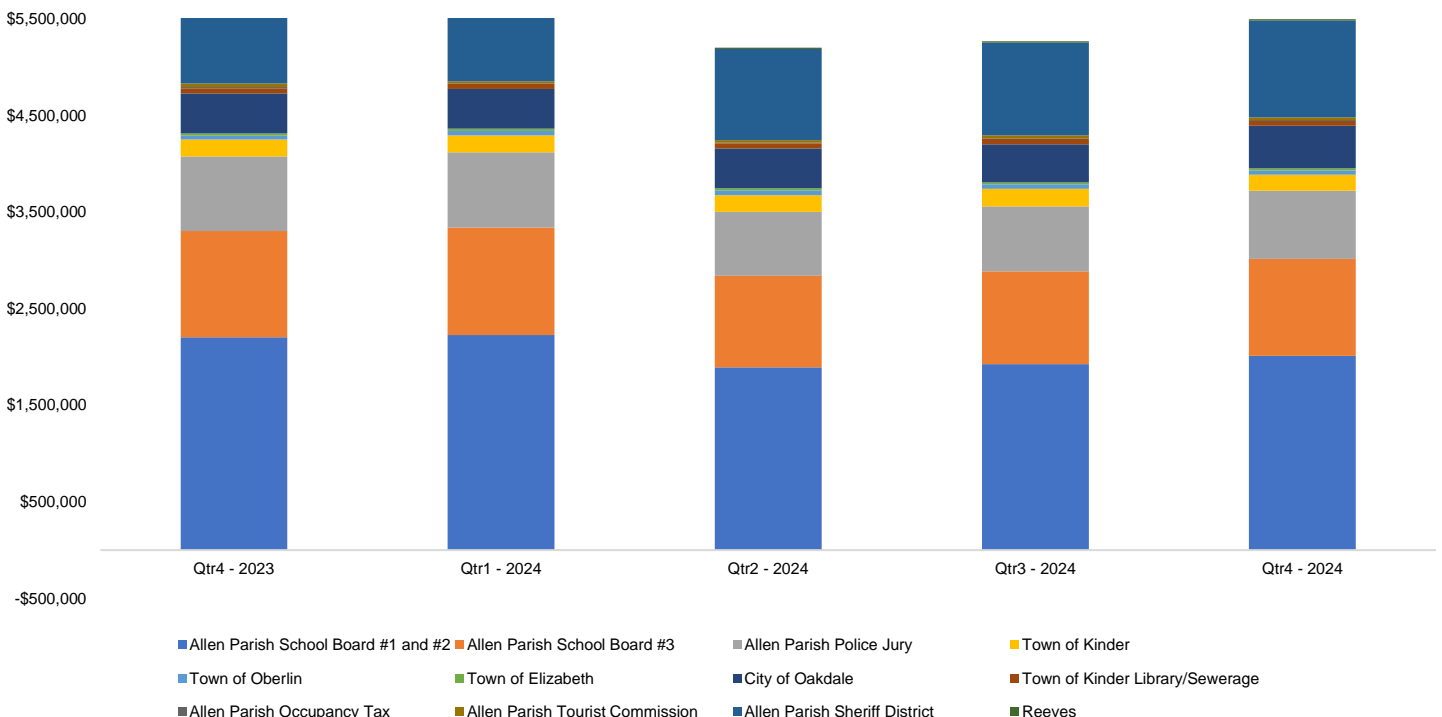
The Drew CBEA has built a history of Allen Parish sales tax collections with the help of the Allen Parish School Board. The numbers show an upward trend throughout the 2nd quarter of 2024.

Compared to the 4th quarter of 2023, Allen Parish has seen an overall decrease in tax collections. Total tax collections decreased \$447.6 thousand for a 7.5% decrease.



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	2,202,262	2,225,820	1,892,827	1,923,878	2,010,780	-191,482	-8.7
Allen Parish School Board #3	1,101,908	1,112,876	946,287	961,516	1,005,183	-96,724	-8.8
Allen Parish Police Jury	771,337	779,014	662,403	673,063	703,630	-67,707	-8.8
Town of Kinder	176,428	175,340	172,766	182,898	166,104	-10,324	-5.9
Town of Oberlin	38,941	48,068	50,098	44,750	45,021	6,080	15.6
Town of Elizabeth	23,500	21,951	22,894	20,905	20,899	-2,602	-11.1
City of Oakdale	414,736	411,305	411,973	394,083	441,031	26,295	6.3
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	52,929	52,602	51,830	54,870	49,831	-3,097	-5.9
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	11,648	6,732	7,898	9,393	9,028	-2,620	-22.5
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	34,943	20,197	23,694	28,179	27,084	-7,859	-22.5
Allen Parish Sheriff District	1,101,907	1,112,876	946,287	961,516	1,005,183	-96,724	-8.8
Reeves	13,506	11,944	13,171	12,929	12,644	-863	-6.4
Total	5,944,045	5,978,724	5,202,130	5,267,980	5,496,419	-447,626	-7.5

Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

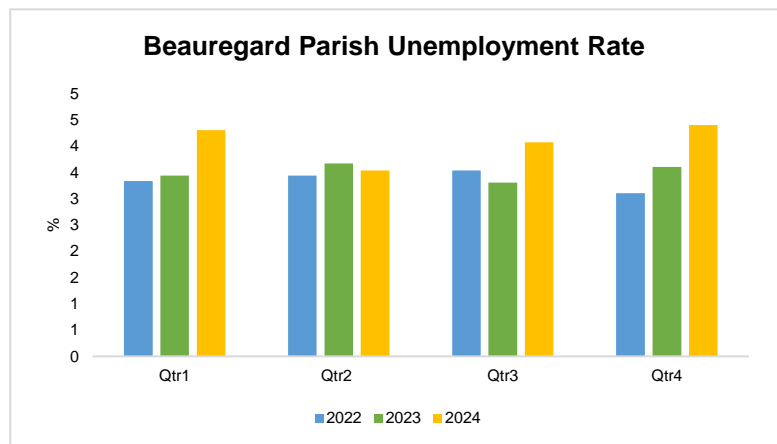
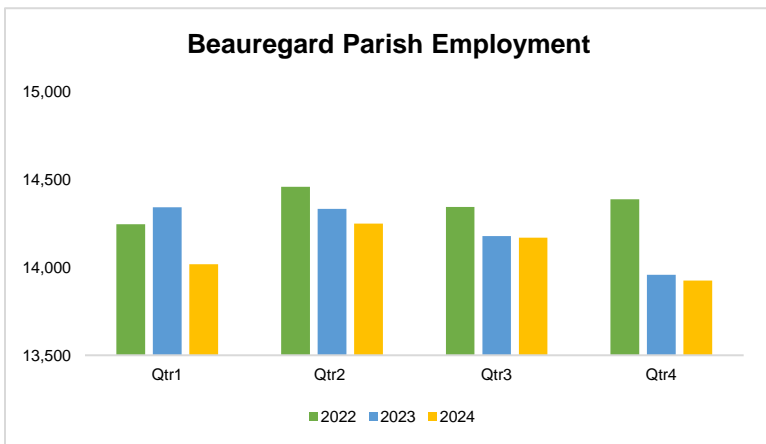
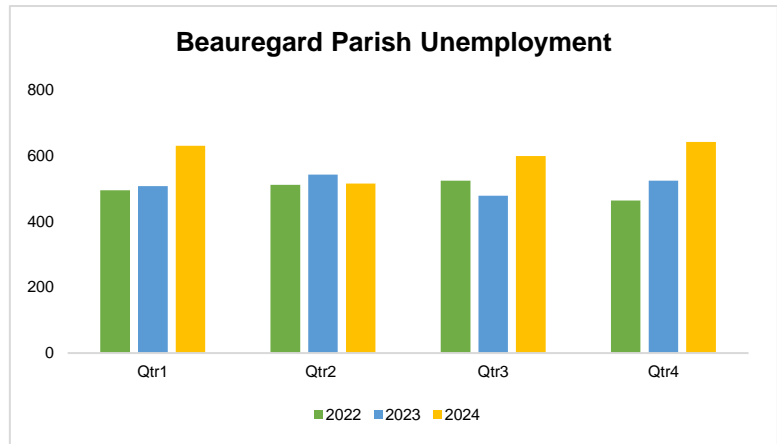
	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Household Employment	13,958	14,020	14,251	14,170	13,927
Year-Over-Year Change	-431	-324	-85	-9	-32
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.0	-2.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.2
Household Unemployment	524	631	516	599	642
Year-Over-Year Change	60	123	-26	120	118
Year-Over-Year % Change	12.9	24.1	-4.9	25.1	22.5
Labor Force	14,482	14,650	14,767	14,769	14,569
Year-Over-Year Change	-371	-202	-111	112	86
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.5	-1.4	-0.7	0.8	0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.6	4.3	3.5	4.1	4.4
Year-Over-Year Change	0.5	0.9	-0.1	0.8	0.8

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total Job Openings	374	395	349	281	300
Year-Over-Year Change	-176	-106	-121	-116	-74
Year-Over-Year % Change	-32.0	-21.1	-25.8	-29.2	-19.8

In the 4th quarter of 2024, Beauregard parish saw a fall in household employment of 32 over the year (-0.2%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 118 (+22.5%) over the year. This led to an increase of 86 (+0.6%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose by 0.8 percentage points over the year to 4.4%.

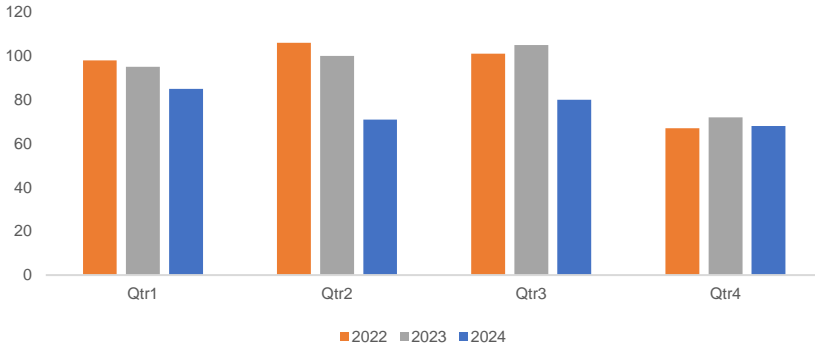
Job openings in the 4th quarter averaged 300. Openings fell by 74 (-19.8%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 4th 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 68 in the 4th quarter of 2024 which was 4 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 1 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2024 was 304. There were 68 more businesses in the 4th quarter of 2023 than in 2024 YTD and 68 businesses less than the 4th 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	68

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	98	204	305	372
2023	95	195	300	372
2024	85	156	236	304

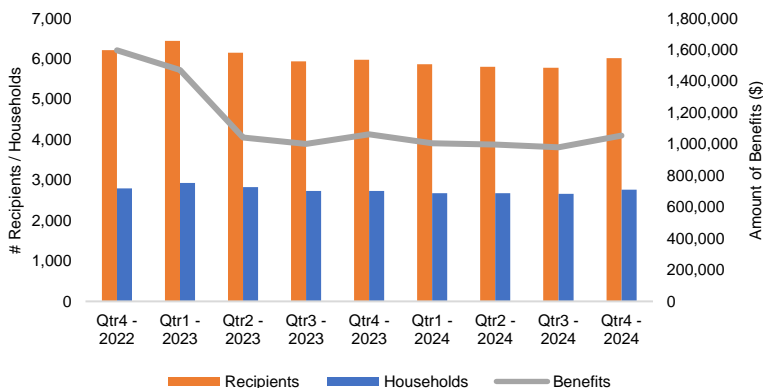
SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,973	5,865	5,803	5,777	6,015	42	0.7
Households	2,735	2,675	2,673	2,662	2,763	28	1.0
Benefits	1,062,906	1,005,277	997,529	979,728	1,053,771	-9,135	-0.9

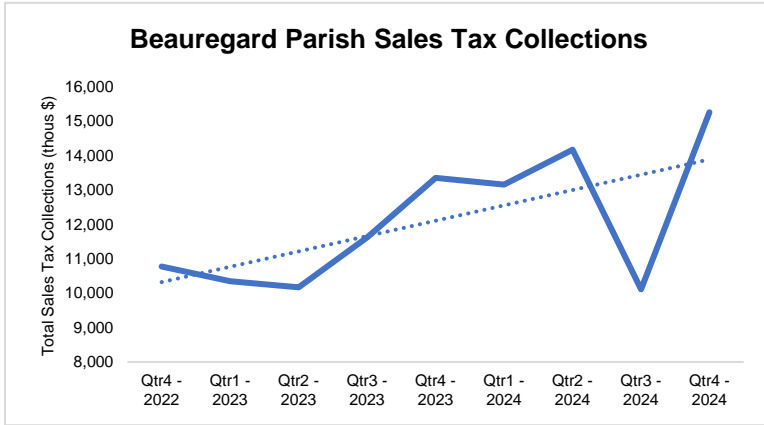
Beauregard parish has experienced increases in SNAP recipients and households and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 6,015 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2024. 42 more people received benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2023 for a 0.7% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,763, which was 28 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 1.0% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.05 million in total during the 4th quarter of 2024, which was a \$9.1 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 0.9% decrease in benefits in the parish.

Looking at the graph illustrates relative flat trends in benefits, households, and recipients, over the past two years after coming down from the first couple of quarters shown.

Beauregard Parish SNAP Data



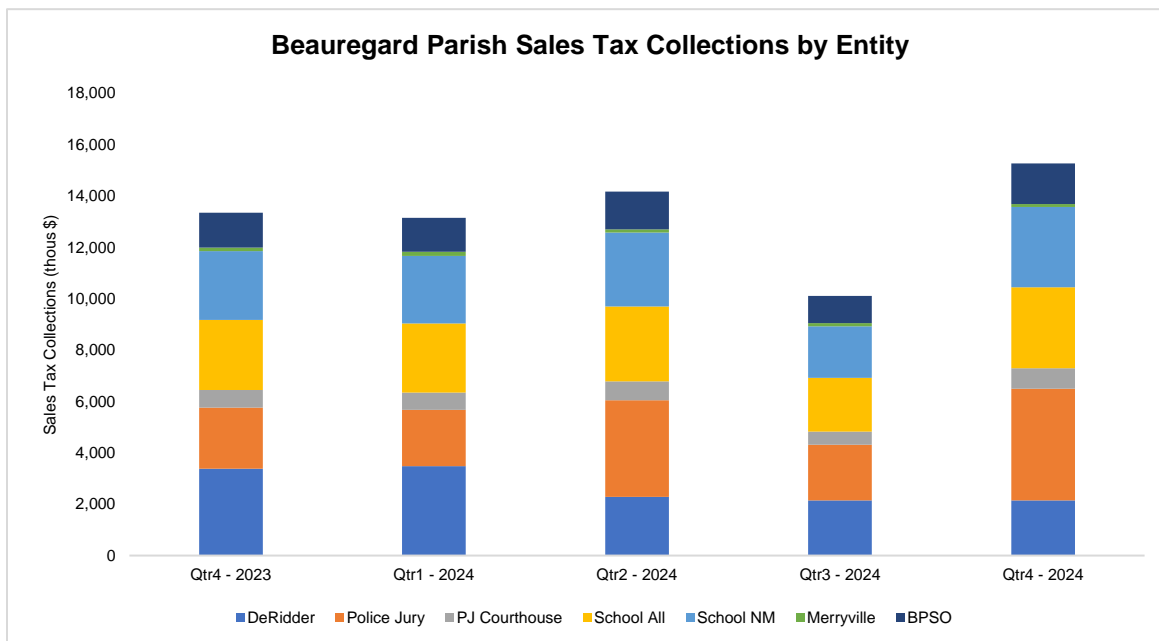
Tax Collections



Beauregard parish has seen an overall increase in its sales tax collections in the 4th quarter of 2024, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections rose by \$1.9 million over the year for a 14.3% increase. 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 \$1.98 million increase (+82.9%). DeRidder saw a notable year-over-year decrease of \$1.2 million (-36.7%) over the year. Another large increase came from the School NM, which increased \$441.6 thousand, or a 16.5% increase. All School board

revenues rose by roughly \$433 thousand (+15.9%). BPSO collections rose notably by \$212.3 thousand (+15.5%) and PJ Courthouse rose \$108 thousand (+15.9%). Merryville tax collections saw a decrease in sales taxes of \$18.7 thousand, marking a 14.2% decrease.

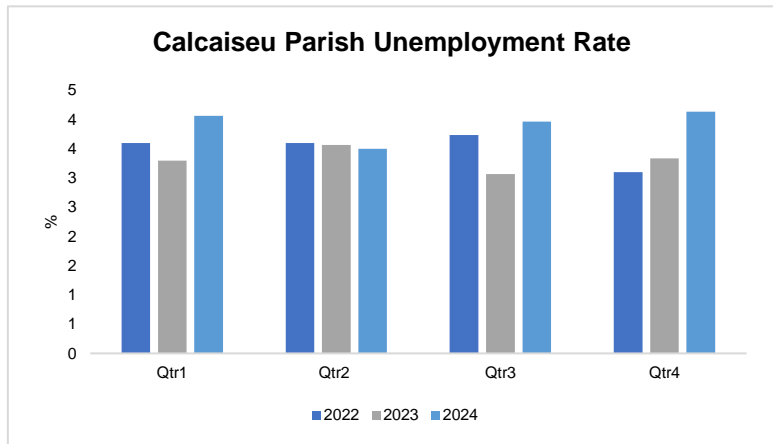
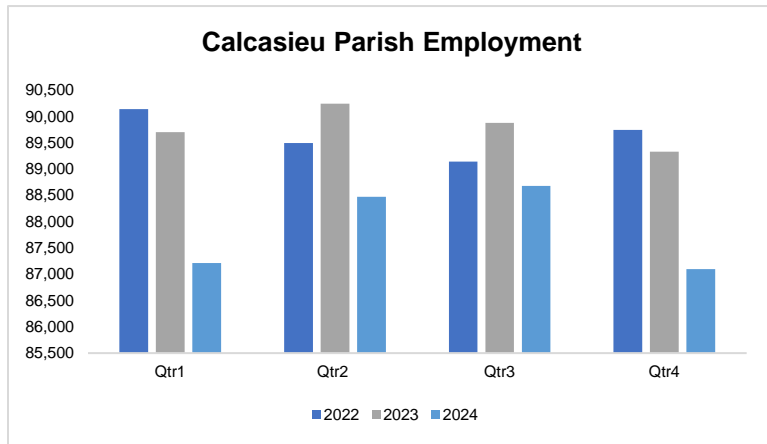
Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	3,382.3	3,478.9	2,279.5	2,142.1	2,141.9	-1,240.4	-36.7
Police Jury	2,382.7	2,197.8	3,768.4	2,178.7	4,358.6	1,975.9	82.9
PJ Courthouse	679.8	669.1	728.1	510.7	787.8	108.0	15.9
School All	2,724.0	2,685.1	2,920.9	2,088.7	3,156.5	432.5	15.9
School NM	2,682.7	2,629.8	2,881.6	2,002.8	3,124.4	441.6	16.5
Merryville	131.5	164.4	123.3	129.8	112.8	-18.7	-14.2
BPSO	1,366.3	1,328.3	1,467.0	1,058.6	1,578.6	212.3	15.5
Total	13,349.3	13,153.4	14,168.9	10,111.3	15,260.6	1,911.3	14.3



Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Household Employment	89,328	87,213	88,470	88,676	87,095
Year-Over-Year Change	-416	-2,485	-1,772	-1,200	-2,234
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	-2.8	-2.0	-1.3	-2.5
Household Unemployment	3,110	3,707	3,243	3,683	3,752
Year-Over-Year Change	264	658	-81	824	642
Year-Over-Year % Change	9.3	21.6	-2.4	28.8	20.7
Labor Force	92,438	90,919	91,713	92,359	90,847
Year-Over-Year Change	-152	-1,827	-1,854	-376	-1,591
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	-2.0	-2.0	-0.4	-1.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.3	4.1	3.5	4.0	4.1
Year-Over-Year Change	0.2	0.8	-0.1	0.9	0.8

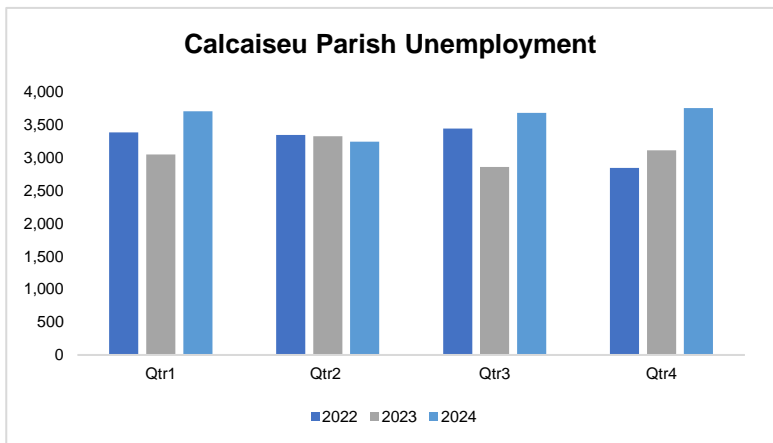
	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total Job Openings	4,748	4,585	4,586	4,046	3,747
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,392	-1,681	-1,300	-1,025	-1,001
Year-Over-Year % Change	-22.7	-26.8	-22.1	-20.2	-21.1



In the 4th quarter of 2024, Calcasieu parish saw a decrease in the labor force of 1,591 (-1.7%). This was due to a decrease in household employment of 2,234 over the year (-2.5%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 642 (+20.7%). The unemployment rate rose 0.8 percentage points over the year to 4.1%.

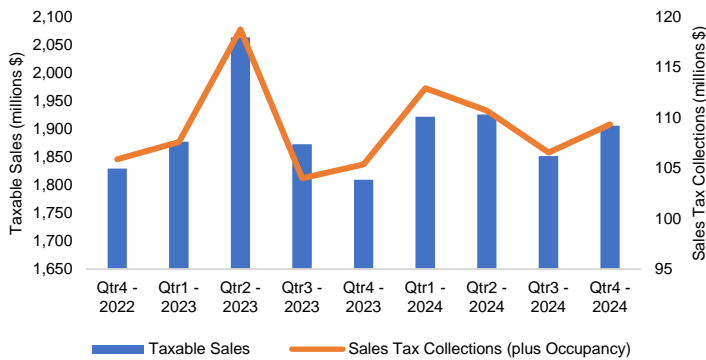
Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2024 averaged 3,747. Openings fell by 1,001 (-21.1%) over the year.

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. Calcasieu had a much lower employment level in the 4th quarter of 2024 compared to 2023. The unemployment level is slightly higher than in the 4th quarter of 2023.

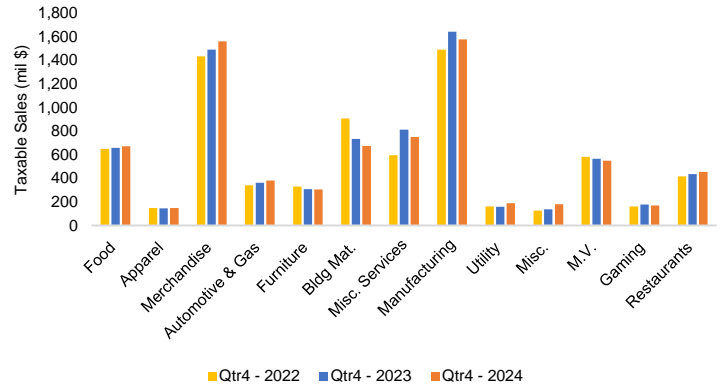


Tax Collections

Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 4 YTD



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	161.8	174.4	166.5	167.2	163.8	2.0	1.2
Apparel	35.5	41.7	35.3	34.0	36.9	1.4	4.0
Merchandise	370.5	410.5	378.1	382.0	389.6	19.1	5.2
Automotive & Gas	88.6	85.4	94.5	101.3	100.2	11.6	13.0
Furniture	74.0	78.5	82.0	71.0	72.7	-1.3	-1.8
Bldg Mat.	167.0	161.2	166.6	153.6	191.7	24.6	14.8
Misc. Services	180.0	154.1	211.6	193.0	189.8	9.8	5.5
Manufacturing	376.9	412.1	384.3	377.1	402.1	25.2	6.7
Utility	38.3	64.2	49.2	35.8	37.8	-0.4	-1.1
Misc.	29.1	63.6	49.3	28.7	38.3	9.1	31.2
M.V.	137.0	127.7	142.8	145.5	133.8	-3.2	-2.3
Gaming	44.3	40.1	46.0	46.4	38.0	-6.3	-14.2
Restaurants	106.4	108.2	119.6	115.8	111.2	4.8	4.5
Total	1,809.4	1,921.8	1,925.7	1,851.4	1,905.9	96.5	5.3

Taxable sales in Calcasieu parish have seemed to be more volatile over the past two years with more spikes and drops when looking at the data on a quarterly basis.

Collections experienced an increase in the 4th

quarter of 2024. Looking at the 4th quarter, compared to the same quarter the previous year, sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have risen by \$4.0 million over the year for a 3.8% increase. General sales taxes rose by \$4.1 million (3.9%) over the year. Occupancy taxes decreased. These taxes fell \$0.1 million for a 5.0% decrease year over year. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish rose \$96.5 million (+5.3%) over the year. Manufacturing rose the largest in absolute terms (+\$25.2 million, +6.7%) While Miscellaneous rose the largest in percentage points (+31.2%, +\$9.1 million). Gaming fell in percentage terms (-14.2%) and Utilities fell (-1.1%). Food (+1.2%), Apparel (+4.0%), Merchandise (+5.2%), Automotive & Gas (+13%) all experienced rises in collections. Furniture decreased (-1.8%) and Restaurants increased (+4.5%).

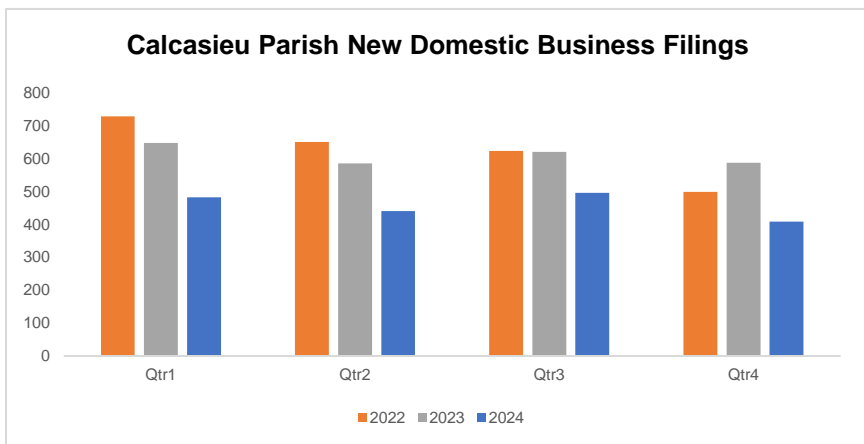
Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	103.4	111.2	108.6	104.4	107.5	4.1	3.9
Occupancy Taxes	2.0	1.7	2.1	2.1	1.9	-0.1	-5.0
Sales Tax Collections	105.4	112.9	110.7	106.5	109.3	4.0	3.8

YTD figures show that total taxable sales have fallen in the parish by \$17.8 million compared to the 4th quarter of 2023 YTD figure for a 0.2% decrease. There was a \$3.7 million increase in sales tax collections (+0.9%) 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	7,604.6

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	439.5

New Business Filings



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

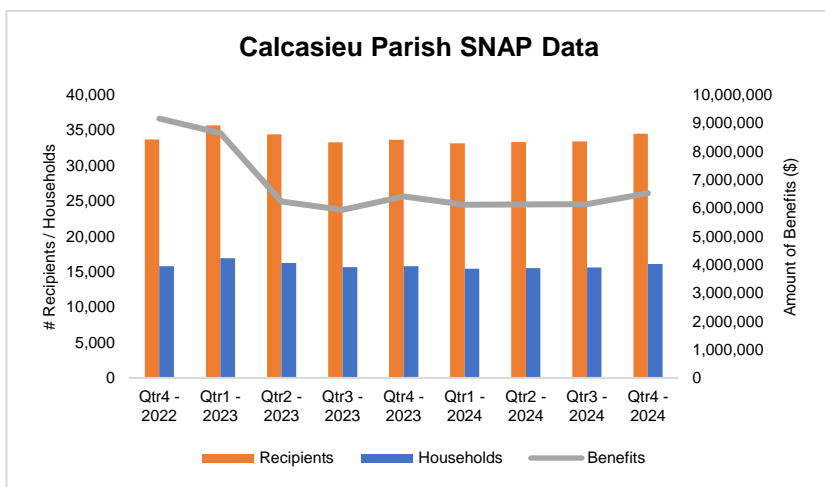
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 409 in the 4th quarter of 2024 which was 179 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 90 less than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2024 was 1,829. This was 614 businesses less than the 4th quarter of 2023 YTD and 674 businesses less than the 4th 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	409

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	1,829

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	33,649	33,173	33,327	33,424	34,497	848	2.5
Households	15,803	15,444	15,538	15,604	16,105	302	1.9
Benefits	6,409,417	6,118,961	6,133,221	6,134,951	6,519,436	110,019	1.7



Calcasieu parish has had increases in SNAP recipients and in households, along with an increase in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 34,497 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2024. This was 848 more people receiving benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2023 for a 2.5% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 16,105, which was 302 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 1.9% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$6.5 million in total during the 4th quarter of 2024, which was a \$110 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 1.7% increase in benefits in the parish.

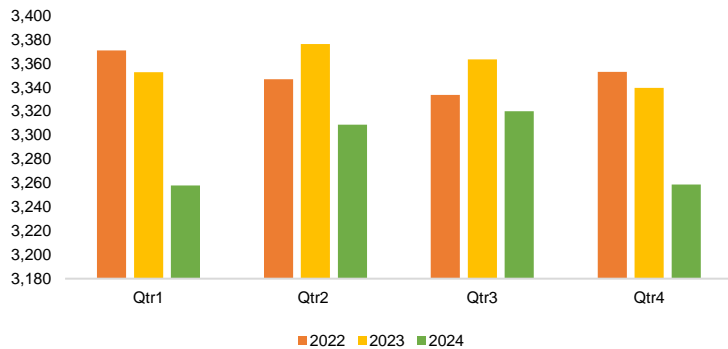
Looking at the graph illustrates a rising trend in benefits from the time period where variables peaked in the 4th quarter of 2022. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that is showing in future quarters. Throughout 2023 and 2024, the variables are relatively flat trends.

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

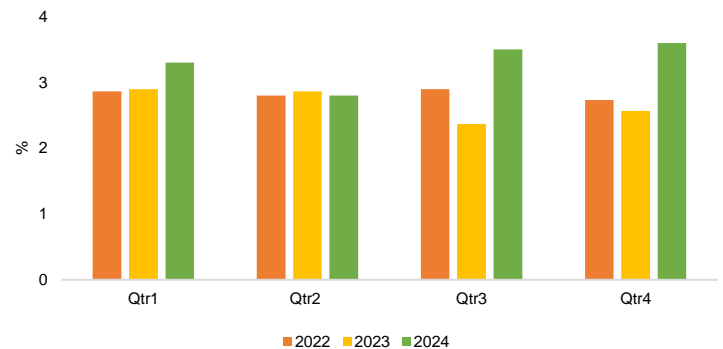
	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Household Employment	3,340	3,258	3,309	3,320	3,259
Year-Over-Year Change	-13	-95	-68	-43	-81
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.4	-2.8	-2.0	-1.3	-2.4
Household Unemployment	88	111	95	120	123
Year-Over-Year Change	-6	11	-6	39	35
Year-Over-Year % Change	-6.1	10.6	-5.6	48.0	39.9
Labor Force	3,427	3,369	3,403	3,440	3,381
Year-Over-Year Change	-19	-84	-73	-4	-46
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.6	-2.4	-2.1	-0.1	-1.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.6	3.3	2.8	3.5	3.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	1.1	1.0

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total Job Openings	191	236	85	86	122
Year-Over-Year Change	127	165	-20	-91	-69
Year-Over-Year % Change	200.0	231.9	-19.3	-51.4	-36.1

Cameron Parish Employment



Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate



In the 4th quarter of 2024, Cameron parish had a decrease in household employment of 81 over the year (-2.4%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 35 (+39.9%). This meant a decrease of 46 (-1.3%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose 1.0 percentage points over the year to 3.6%.

Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2024 averaged 122. Openings fell by 69 (-36.1%) over the year.

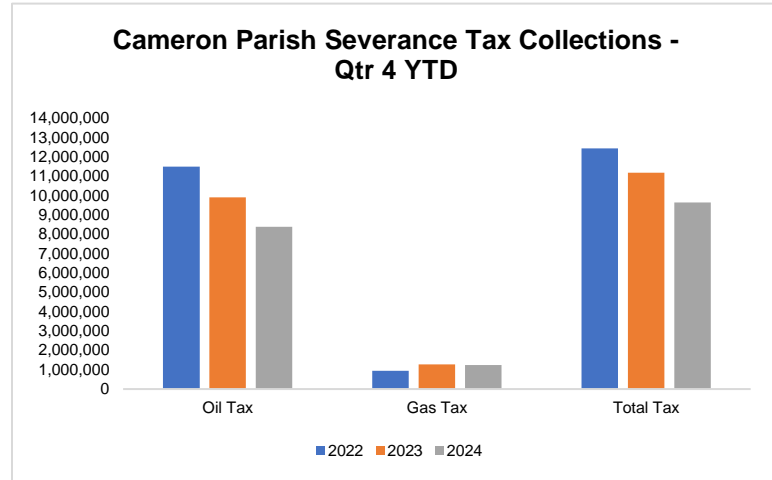
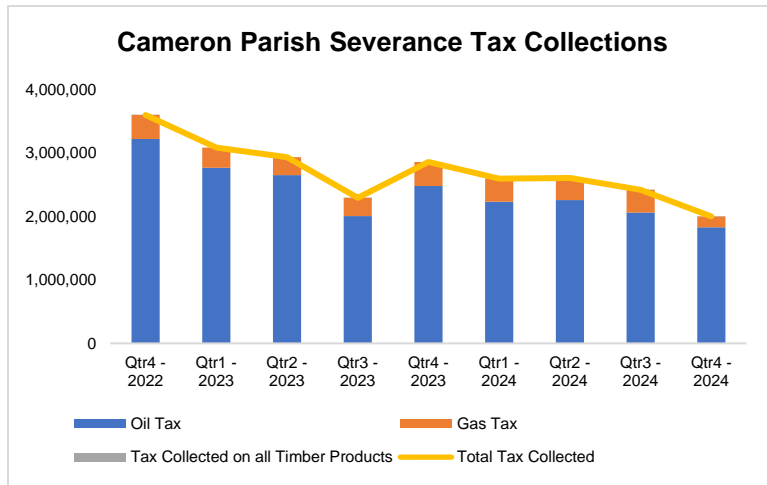
Cameron Parish had a lower employment level in the 4th quarter of 2024 compared to the same quarter the previous year and the unemployment measures were higher. These drops led to continued drops in the labor force in Cameron Parish.

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 4th 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	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	2,482,637	2,236,829	2,260,074	2,065,184	1,833,727	-648,910	-26.1
Gas Tax	378,931	364,202	352,310	360,599	170,086	-208,845	-55.1
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	0	14	-3	23	11	11	NA
Total Tax Collected	2,861,568	2,601,045	2,612,381	2,425,806	2,003,824	-857,744	-30.0

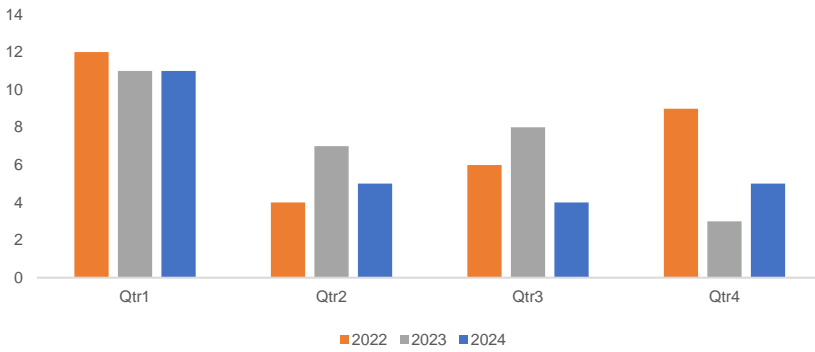
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	2,720,428	5,738,572	8,845,014	12,450,008
2023	3,090,819	6,030,682	8,328,309	11,189,877
2024	2,601,045	5,213,425	7,639,232	9,643,056

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 4th quarter of 2024 fell by \$648.9 thousand compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented a 26.1% decrease. In terms of gas collections, those fell \$208.8 thousand over that period for a 55.1% decrease. Timber product collections were \$11 thousand in the 4th quarter. The 4th quarter of 2024 saw some decreases in gas severance taxes collected while the biggest component continued its decline.

The YTD figures show that in 2024 there was a decline in 4th quarter total severance taxes collected compared to the same quarter in the previous year. In the 4th quarter of 2024 YTD, severance taxes fell \$1.5 million for a decrease of 13.8%.

New Business Filings

Cameron Parish New Domestic Business Filings



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

The number of new business filings in Cameron parish was 5 in the 4th quarter of 2024, which was 2 more than the same quarter in 2023 and 4 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2024 was 25. This was 4 businesses less than the 4th quarter of 2023 YTD and the same 6 less than of the 4th quarter of 2022 YTD.

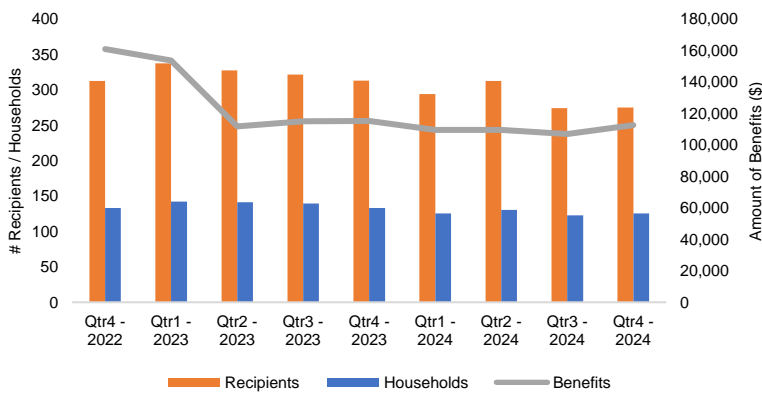
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	12	4	6	9
2023	11	7	8	3
2024	11	5	4	5

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	12	16	22	31
2023	11	18	26	29
2024	11	16	20	25

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	313	294	313	274	275	-38	-12.0
Households	133	125	130	123	125	-8	-5.8
Benefits	115,340	109,559	109,576	106,989	112,681	-2,659	-2.3

Cameron Parish SNAP Data



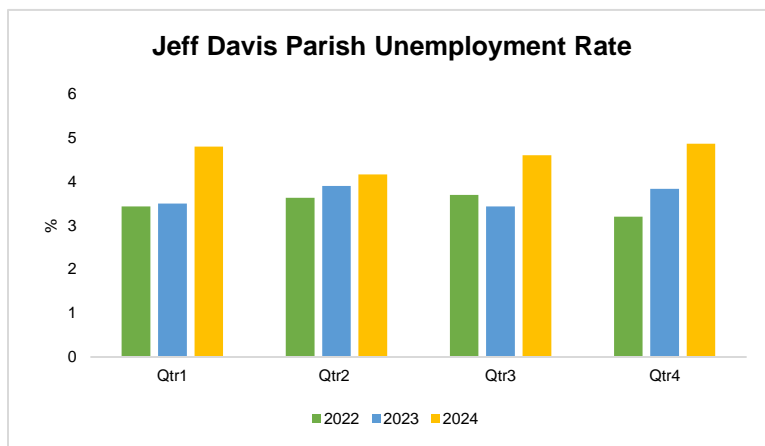
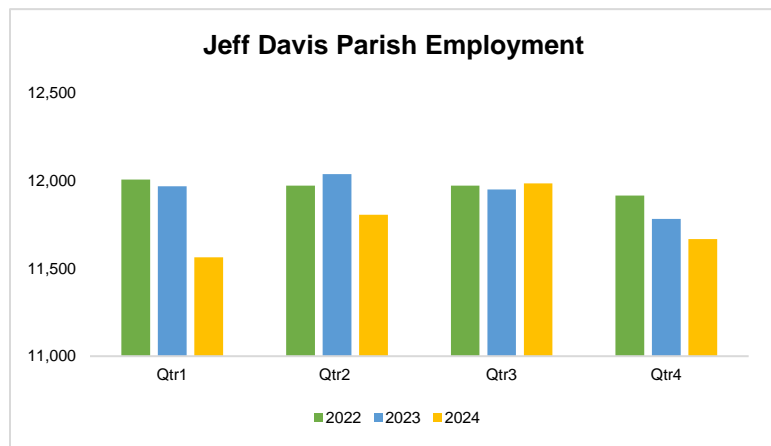
Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients and households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 275 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2024. This was 38 less than the amount of people receiving benefits in the 4th quarter of 2023 for a 12.0% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 125, which was 8 fewer than in the 4th quarter of 2023. This represented a 5.8% decrease. The parish received an average of \$112.7 thousand in total during the 4th quarter of 2024, which was a \$2.7 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 2.3% decrease in benefits in the parish.

Looking at the graph illustrates recipients, households, and benefits falling since the end 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 has been showing in future quarters. Throughout most of 2023 and 2024, the trend has been relatively flat overall.

Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Household Employment	11,783	11,563	11,806	11,985	11,667
Year-Over-Year Change	-133	-405	-232	35	-116
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.1	-3.4	-1.9	0.3	-1.0
Household Unemployment	467	585	517	579	596
Year-Over-Year Change	72	151	27	154	129
Year-Over-Year % Change	18.2	34.8	5.5	36.4	27.5
Labor Force	12,251	12,148	12,323	12,564	12,263
Year-Over-Year Change	-61	-254	-205	190	13
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	-2.1	-1.6	1.5	0.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.8	4.8	4.2	4.6	4.9
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	1.3	0.3	1.2	1.0

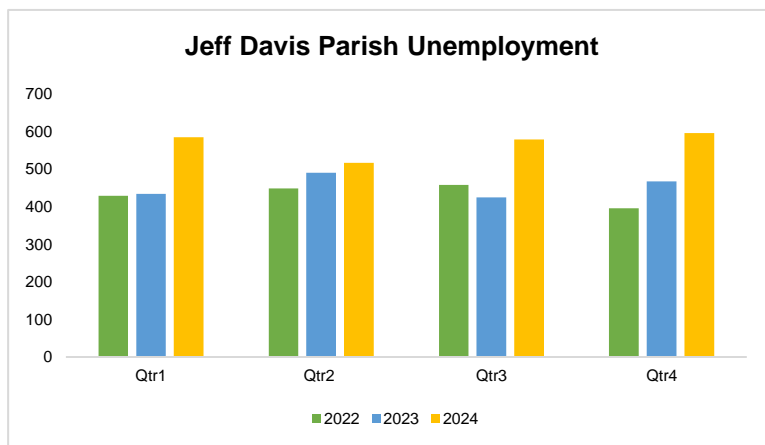
	Qtr4 - 2023	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024
Total Job Openings	461	453	361	265	336
Year-Over-Year Change	82	-80	-139	-146	-125
Year-Over-Year % Change	21.5	-15.0	-27.8	-35.5	-27.2



In the 4th quarter of 2024, Jefferson Davis parish saw an increase of 13 (+0.1%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by a decrease in household employment of 116 over the year (-1.0%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 129 (+27.5%). The unemployment rate rose 1.0 percentage points over the year to 4.9%.

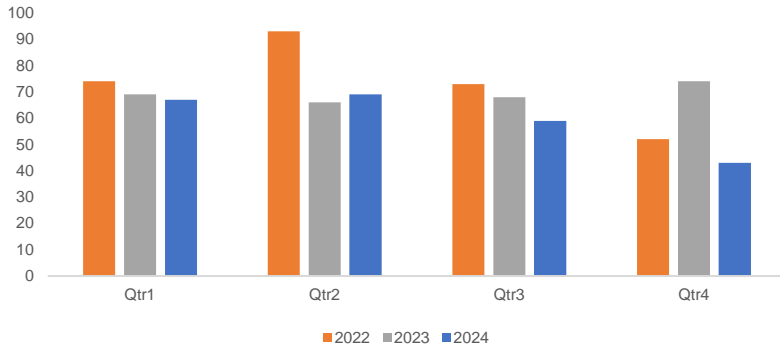
Job openings in the 4th quarter of 2024 averaged 336. Openings fell by 125 (-27.2%) over the year.

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. Jeff Davis parish had slightly lower figures for employment in the 4th 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 43 in the 4th quarter of 2024 which was 31 less than the same quarter in 2023 and 9 fewer compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 4th quarter of 2024 was 238. This was 39 businesses less than the 4th quarter of 2023 YTD and 54 businesses less than the 4th quarter of 2022 YTD.

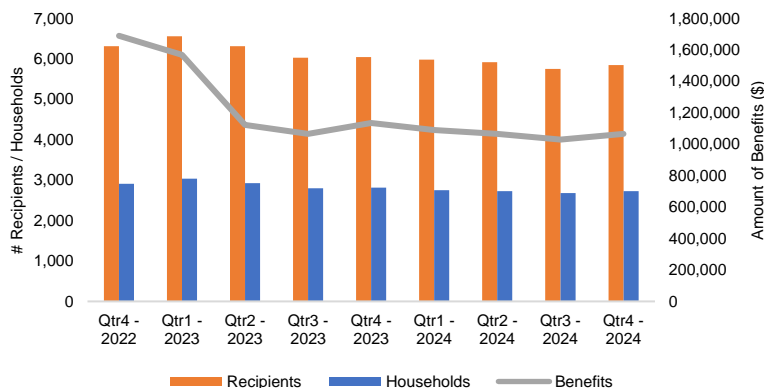
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	74	93	73	52
2023	69	66	68	74
2024	67	69	59	43

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2022	74	167	240	292
2023	69	135	203	277
2024	67	136	195	238

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	6,044	5,980	5,918	5,751	5,845	-199	-3.3
Households	2,816	2,754	2,729	2,675	2,723	-93	-3.3
Benefits	1,133,535	1,089,672	1,066,181	1,028,934	1,064,640	-68,895	-6.1

Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data

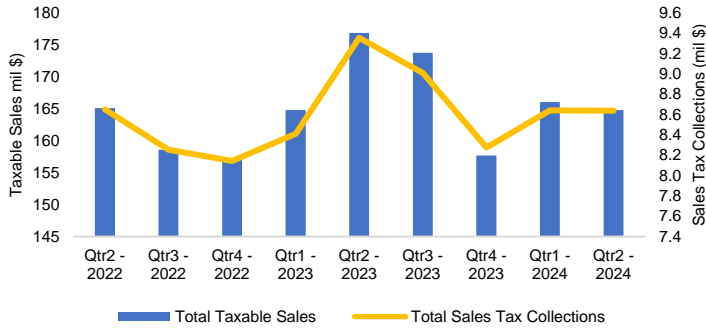


Jefferson Davis parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients, households, and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,845 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 4th quarter of 2024. This was 199 less people receiving benefits compared to the 4th quarter of 2023 for a 3.3% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,723, which was 93 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 3.3% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$1.06 million in total during the 4th quarter of 2024, which was a \$68.9 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 6.1% decrease in benefits in the parish.

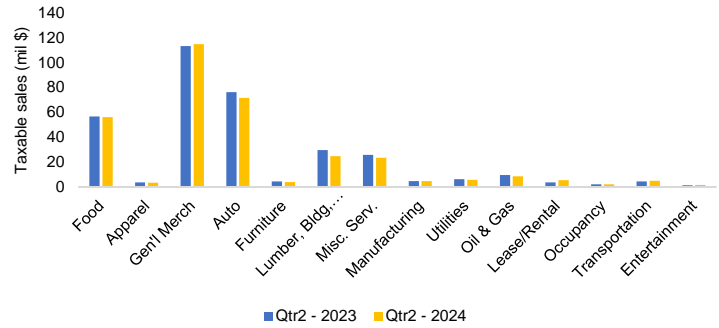
Looking at the graph illustrates an overall flat trend in benefits since the fourth quarter of 2022. The number of households and recipients receiving benefits has been flat since falling in early 2023. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency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

Tax Collections

Jefferson Davis Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Jeff Davis Parish Taxable Sales - 2nd Quarter YTD



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	26.4	26.8	29.3	27.6	27.2	0.8	2.9
Apparel	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.7	-0.1	-5.4
Gen'l Merch	53.8	58.7	56.0	53.4	54.9	1.1	2.1
Auto	33.0	31.8	39.7	44.5	34.2	1.2	3.6
Furniture	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	0.0	-1.8
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	11.6	14.5	10.3	11.0	10.2	-1.4	-12.3
Misc. Serv.	11.5	12.3	11.3	10.5	11.5	0.0	-0.1
Manufacturing	3.1	3.0	1.6	5.4	3.2	0.1	3.6
Utilities	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.0	-0.1	-3.9
Oil & Gas	4.3	4.9	3.5	2.3	3.3	-1.0	-22.5
Lease/Rental	2.7	3.1	2.4	2.0	3.0	0.3	11.7
Occupancy	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.2	19.6
Transportation	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.0	2.1	-0.7	-24.6
Entertainment	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.2	20.1
Total	157.7	166.1	164.8	167.4	158.2	0.5	0.3

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2023	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.9	8.2	-0.0	-0.5

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	656.4

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	34.4

Jefferson Davis Parish saw a 0.5% decrease in its sales tax collections in the 4th quarter of 2024, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have fallen by approximately \$100 thousand over the year. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by \$0.5 million (+0.3%) over the year. The largest percentage increase occurred in Entertainment (+0.2 million, +20.1%), followed by Occupancy (+\$0.2 million, +19.6%). Lease/Rental experienced an increase in taxable sales (+\$0.3 million, +11.7%) as did Manufacturing(+\$0.1 million, +5.2%), Auto (+\$1.2 million, 3.6%), Food (+\$0.8 million, +2.9%), and General Merchandise (+\$1.1 million, +2.1%). Transportation (-\$0.7 million, -24.6%) had decreases in sales. Additional drops occurred in Oil & Gas (-\$1.0 million, -22.5%), Apparel (-\$0.1 million, -5.4%), Lumber, Building, Contractors (-\$1.4 million, -12.3%), and Utilities (-\$0.1 million, 3.9%).

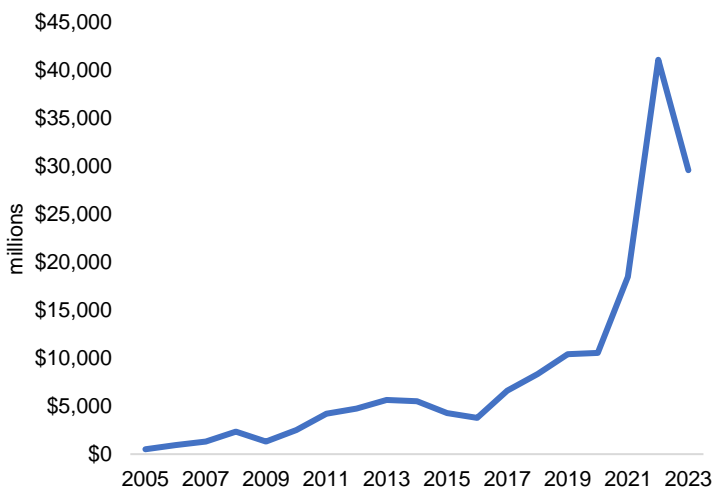
The 4th quarter of 2024 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have decreased in the parish by \$16.7 million compared to the same quarter in 2023 for a 2.5% decrease. There was a \$0.7 million decrease in 2024 YTD sales tax collections (-2.0%).

There has been much uncertainty and speculation regarding tariffs that may or may not be implemented by the Trump administration. Tariffs of 25% on imports from Canada (with 10% tariff on Canada's energy exports) and Mexico were originally announced and then delayed for 30 days. A tariff of 10% on China was also announced and implemented and a further 25% tariff on Chinese steel and aluminum has been announced as of this writing. This uncertainty has worked its way into the stock markets and economic watchers are trying to get some grasp on what will eventually happen. There are many arguments for and against trade protections (such as tariffs) in economic literature. Some of these include arguments pertaining to national defense, protection from dumping (selling cheaper goods to drive out domestic competition), fighting foreign government subsidies, and protecting infant industries by giving them time to grow. The aim of this piece isn't to argue for or against the proposed tariffs, or trade protection in general, but to illustrate the SWLA exposure to international trade.

When looking at International Trade, two main sources of data are looked at by the Drew CBEA. The [International Trade Administration](#) (ITA) and Census Bureau's [USATradeOnline](#) both show exports from different areas. Starting with the ITA, the [Metropolitan Export Series](#) provides overviews of exports by MSA based on the origin of exports. According to the ITA FAQ, "the origin of an export is determined by the zip code of the U.S. Principal Party of Interest (USPPI). The USPPI is the entity that receives the primary monetary benefit from the export. This differs from the Origin of Movement - Based on Origin State (OM-State) data series which provides export statistics based on the state from which the merchandise starts its journey to the port of export." So, we can see where most of the goods produced in the area are exported.

The growth in exports from the Lake Charles MSA has been drastic over the decade or so. This is attributable to the growth in LNG exports. Furthermore, the increases in inflation that have occurred since 2021 also certainly put an increase in the export values from the area which are heavily concentrated on energy. This is illustrated by the top industries that compose our area's exports. The drop shown in 2023 can also be attributed to the drop in inflation that was experienced. 2023 is the latest full year of available data.

Lake Charles MSA Exports



NAICS/Industry	2023 Exports (millions)	% of Total
211--Oil & gas	\$22,695.7	76.7%
324--Petroleum & coal products	\$5,529.4	18.7%
325--Chemicals	\$1,169.2	3.9%
Residual - Not in Top 5	\$73.8	0.2%
311--Processed foods	\$72.9	0.2%
336--Transportation equipment	\$60.3	0.2%
Total	\$29,601.2	

In terms of the top 5 industries that the Lake Charles MSA exports to, oil and gas, petroleum and coal products, and chemicals make up almost the entirety of exports. All are very energy intensive.

When thinking of tariffs, they are a tax on imports. As goods come into the country, the business that imports them must pay the tax. So, these exports will not really be affected UNLESS the countries we export to impose retaliatory tariffs on our goods. If our trading partners place tariffs on goods produced in the US that are exported to them, this could decrease the demand for American goods going overseas. Unfortunately, the data from the ITA does not give the best picture of the area's main export destinations.

What's reported by the ITA shows that the largest destination for our exports is "Residual", meaning we cannot see the countries we export to in detail. However, the largest individual countries reported are mainly in Europe. This is further illustrated by the top Regions / Trade areas where the EU has by far the largest share. This is to be expected as after the Russia and Ukraine conflict, much of the area's LNG went to European countries.

As the current administration is proposing tariffs on the EU and United Kingdom, this further exposes the area retaliatory tariffs and their effects. If the 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico went into effect, there would be some exposure but the exports to USMCA trading partners represents 5.6% of total exports. So retaliatory tariffs would not be as detrimental compared to a region like the EU.

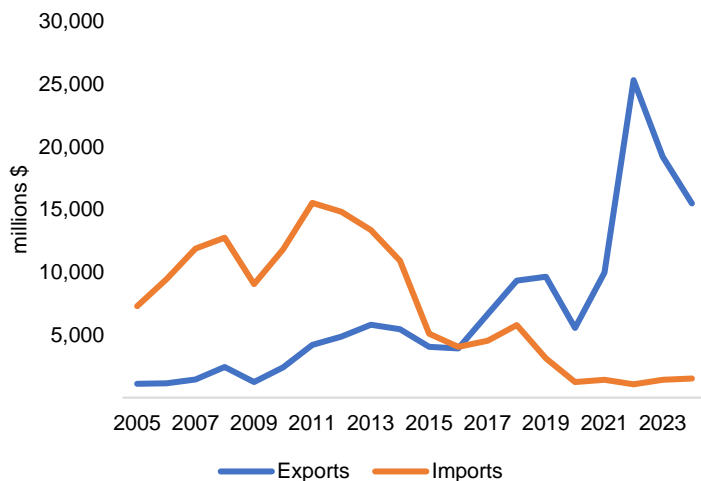
Country	2023 Exports (millions)	% of Total
Residual	\$11,568.9	39.1%
Netherlands	\$3,128.0	10.6%
France	\$3,007.0	10.2%
United Kingdom	\$2,783.6	9.4%
Korea, South	\$1,280.0	4.3%
Spain	\$1,263.6	4.3%
Italy	\$960.4	3.2%
Dominican Republic	\$825.6	2.8%
Turkey	\$802.1	2.7%
Argentina	\$791.4	2.7%
Poland	\$759.7	2.6%
Belgium	\$712.2	2.4%
Guatemala	\$710.8	2.4%
Chile	\$614.9	2.1%
Colombia	\$393.1	1.3%
Total	\$29,601.2	

Area	2023 Exports (millions)
EU	\$12,546.6
APEC	\$6,626.3
FTA Partners	\$6,621.9
Asia	\$5,626.3
S. America	\$2,661.0
CAFTA-DR	\$2,290.0
USMCA	\$1,665.2
ASEAN	\$334.0
Africa	\$147.0

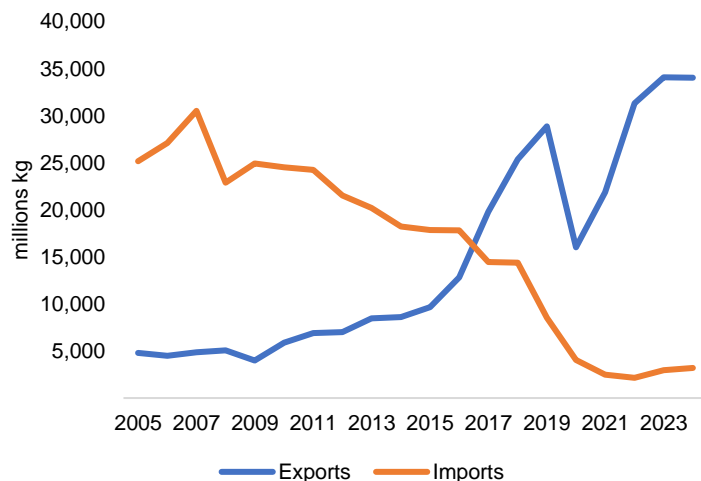
One final point to make regarding the ITA data is that we can compare ourselves to other MSA's. Looking at total exports, the \$29.6 billion from the Lake Charles MSA puts us at number 15 among all available MSA's. As we are a smaller area, we will obviously be below areas like Houston (#1 in the nation), Los Angeles, New York, etc. But in per capita terms (total exports divided by the population), the Lake Charles MSA is #2 in the entire nation. At \$123,296.21 in exports per person, our MSA is only behind Corpus Christi at \$161,803.95. The space between the top 2 MSA's and the rest is dramatic. Third on the ranking is nearby Beaumont-Port Arthur. Their per capita exports are just above \$70,000 a person. This shows the dramatic exposure to international trade the SWLA economy has compared to other parts of the nation.

While the ITA has data on exports from the MSA until 2023, the USATradeOnline data from the Census has data by states and ports. Since there is no MSA data, we can also inspect the data to look at exports leaving the area through the Calcasieu Ship Channel. Furthermore, this data also allows us to see the imports that are coming in through the shipping channel. While the values in dollar terms are subject to inflation, the Census data also shows exports and imports by weight. This is valuable information as it appears exports have been falling over the past two years, but this is mainly due to price changes (affecting values) as weights have remained relatively constant. The graphs illustrate total exports and imports from the ship channel in terms of values and weights. For many years, our area imported a great deal more than it sent to other countries. That has changed dramatically over the past decade as both export values and weights have far surpassed the import levels.

Census Lake Charles Trade Values



Census Lake Charles Trade Weights



The data shows that the top exports and imports from the ship channel are under Harmonized System (HS) code 27 which is related to Oil and Gas.

Top Exports	2024 Total (\$)	Percentage of Total
27 Mineral Fuel, Oil Etc.; Bitumin Subst; Mineral Wax	14,534,651,224	93.9%
29 Organic Chemicals	608,592,249	3.9%
28 Inorg Chem; Prec & Rare-earth Met & Radioact Compd	208,681,077	1.3%
Total All Commodities	15,471,623,362	

Top Imports	2024 Total (\$)	Percentage of Total
27 Mineral Fuel, Oil Etc.; Bitumin Subst; Mineral Wax	1,180,980,428	76.9%
26 Ores, Slag And Ash	89,781,652	5.8%
44 Wood And Articles Of Wood; Wood Charcoal	66,247,293	4.3%
28 Inorg Chem; Prec & Rare-earth Met & Radioact Compd	52,928,533	3.4%
84 Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery Etc.; Parts	52,679,309	3.4%
Total All Commodities	1,536,671,896	

The breakdown of the 27 HS code shows that most of the exports in this category from the ship channel are LNG. However, a large percentage (over \$4.6 billion) is also in the HS classification for refined oil production. Many of the goods included in that category include jet fuel, motor fuel, lubricating oils, etc. The largest component of imports in 27 HS code is crude oil.

Exports	2024 Total (\$)
Total All Commodities	15,471,623,362
27 Mineral Fuel, Oil Etc.; Bitumin Subst; Mineral Wax	14,534,651,224
2710 Oil (not Crude) From Petrol & Bitum Mineral Etc.	5,120,437,906
271012 Lt Oils, Preps Gt=70% Petroleum/bitum Nt Biodiesel	464,092,706
271019 Petrol Oil Bitum Mineral (nt Crud) Etc Nt Biodiesl	4,656,345,200
2711 Petroleum Gases & Other Gaseous Hydrocarbons	9,042,199,654
271111 Natural Gas, Liquefied	9,042,199,654

Imports	2024 Total (\$)
Total All Commodities	1,536,671,896
27 Mineral Fuel, Oil Etc.; Bitumin Subst; Mineral Wax	1,180,980,428
2709 Crude Oil From Petroleum And Bituminous Minerals	1,098,404,754
2710 Oil (not Crude) From Petrol & Bitum Mineral Etc.	50,197,784
271019 Petrol Oil Bitum Mineral (nt Crud) Etc Nt Biodiesl	50,197,784

As we can see what comprises most of the exports and imports in terms of commodities, we can also see where most of the exports go and where most of the imports come from.

Exports by Region	2024 Total (\$)	Percentage of Total
Europe	6,713,915,888	43.4%
South/Central America	3,935,756,304	25.4%
Asia	3,023,380,673	19.5%
North America	1,385,516,952	9.0%
Africa	404,716,525	2.6%
Australia and Oceania	8,337,020	0.1%
Total All Commodities	15,471,623,362	
Canada	247,908,493	1.6%
China	626,648,732	4.1%
Mexico	1,137,608,459	7.4%

Imports by Region	2024 Total (\$)	Percentage of Total
North America	903,788,479	58.8%
Europe	245,267,216	16.0%
South/Central America	190,030,738	12.4%
Africa	126,533,086	8.2%
Asia	71,032,665	4.6%
Australia and Oceania	19,712	0.0%
Total All Commodities	1,536,671,896	
Canada	333,657,758	21.7%
China	4,998,672	0.3%
Mexico	570,130,721	37.1%

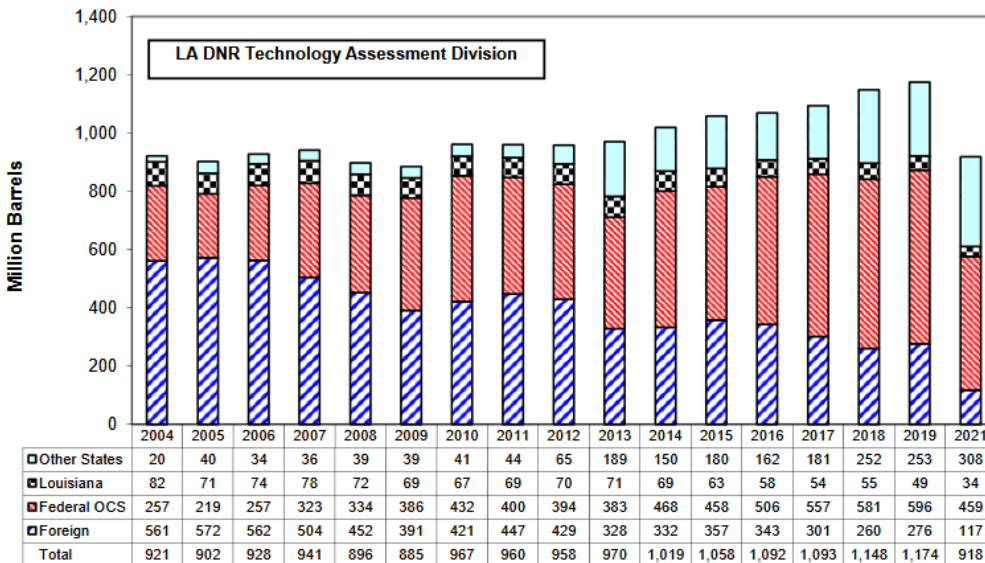
Most of the exports from the ship channel go to Europe, South America, and Asia. In terms of the three countries where tariffs have been proposed / implemented, those countries make up 13% of total exports. While imports are a much smaller number, the percentages are much greater. The three main countries represent almost 60% of the total imports. The largest commodities coming in from the North American trading partners are in the 27 HS code which contains oil and digging further into the data shows that it is almost completely crude oil. As this area is home to many refineries, and oil is used in almost all functions of economic activity, tariffs on oil will have an effect on this area.

There is, however, some good news related to the imported oil. The Louisiana DNR Energy Facts Annual report

shows that in terms of state refinery inputs, the amount of foreign oil has been drastically declining.

Figure 20

LOUISIANA REFINERY CRUDE OIL INPUT BY SOURCE



Using [SONRIS](#), the data from the three local refineries shows that in terms of inputs, the amount of international is somewhat small but not something to ignore. Most of the oil that's used by refineries is domestic (Louisiana and other parts of the nation) while 11.5% is from international sources. There's not a way to break down the countries exactly, but it is probably a great deal comes from North America.

Barrels	301	302	303	304	305
Refinery	LA	GOM	Domestic	Int'l	Total
Calcasieu Refining	33,891,574	0	0	0	33,891,574
Phillips 66 - Lake Charles	12,653,891	0	42,460,020	27,307,178	82,421,089
Citgo - Lake Charles	0	0	152,969,455	4,174,918	157,144,373
Total	46,545,465	0	195,429,475	31,482,096	273,457,036

One more important stat to show is LNG exports. Most of the LNG exports from this area go to areas in the EU since the Russian and Ukraine conflict. If the EU imposes retaliatory tariffs on US LNG exports, there will certainly be impacts to the area. This could also trigger more competition from Qatar and Australia. But in relation to China, which has placed tariffs on US LNG, these make a small percentage of total SWLA LNG exports. The table below shows year-to-date LNG export volumes from January 2024 until November 2024.

LNG Exports to China	MCF	% of Total
Cameron LNG to China	43,169	7.2%
Calcasieu Pass to China	11,043	2.5%
Sabine Pass to China	70,168	5.1%
Total LNG Exports	MCF	
Cameron LNG Total	599,941	
Calcasieu Pass Total	448,902	
Sabine Pass Total	1,379,232	
SWLA to China % of Total	5.1%	

In terms of LNG exports from each of the facilities, the amount that goes to China represents a very small percentage. Looking at all three together, LNG exports to China represent about 5% of the total. This does not mean that tariffs imposed by China are not concerning, but it does illuminate the fact that much of our LNG export activity goes to countries that have not imposed additional tariffs.

Of course, all these figures in terms of the Ship Channel and LNG are waterborne. There are other figures related to pipelines, truck, rail, and other forms of transport that are not readily available. There are products produced in the area that are exported via other modes of transportation that this report cannot estimate. Furthermore, many of the goods and services

we consume are comprised of imported goods. These imports may be final goods, or they may make up a significant portion of the supply chain.

Something else not analyzed is the role of agriculture. The SWLA has many agricultural products that may be shipped from the region or even outside. If products such as rice, soybeans, and sugarcane (which are the main crops grown in the state) are tarified by other countries, that could also affect local farmers.

As evidenced by this essay, tariffs and their effects can be complicated to assess. There are considerations related to how much the tariff will be, where goods are coming from, where they are going, how much businesses will absorb increased costs, how other countries will respond, etc. However, the tariffs will undoubtedly affect our region, no matter what the reason for placing them. This data shows that SWLA is internationally relevant. We are the second largest MSA in terms of exports per capita. We export refined energy products as well as import crude oil from the rest of the world. Fortunately, many of our exports go to countries where (at this moment), retaliatory tariffs aren't as large a threat. But tariffs on goods we import (and retaliatory tariffs from countries we export to) will disrupt the prices, costs, and planning of firms in our region as well as the purchasing habits of our consumers. There's no doubt these will have an effect, though the magnitude of those impacts is uncertain.

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, mcneese drewecon.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