

About the Center

The H.C. Drew Center for Business and Economic Analysis (Drew CBEA) collects, tracks, and analyzes data relevant to the economy of Southwest Louisiana.

A joint venture between McNeese State University and the SWLA Alliance, the center strives to serve the community with high quality economic analysis, reports, and data collections.

Visit our website and follow us on social media to see what we have to offer.

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1st Quarter 2025 Issue

This 1st Quarter 2025 issue marks a new trend in Lake Charles labor market data. The parish of Jefferson Davis is now incorporated into much of the data for the Lake Charles MSA (not for job openings yet). This also means more detailed industry data is available for employment. The Drew CBEA can now track industries such as Education and Health Services, Financial Activities, and Other Services that were not available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics before the major annual benchmark. The annual benchmark also means revised historical employment data for the MSA and all five parishes within our region.

The final piece of this report looks at the SWLA economy as a region. I was recently asked, "What makes the five parishes in SWLA a 'region'?" The economies of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis are closely interwoven, and the essay sets out to show that fact using a variety of economic and societal variables. Commuting, migration, economic effects, trade flows, education, etc., are all heavily concentrated in this 5 parish area, compared to other parts of the state. This region operates as a functional economic unit and the five parishes are mutually reinforcing, not just isolated communities.

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)	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total Nonfarm	103.0	104.2	103.7	104.9	103.2
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.6	0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.5	0.2
Mining and Logging	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	10.9	11.4	10.8	10.8	10.1
Year-Over-Year Change	-1.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	-0.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.2	3.0	1.2	3.2	-7.1
Manufacturing	12.3	12.3	12.1	12.3	12.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.3	4.5	2.0	1.4	0.0
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	18.4	18.3	18.4	18.8	18.5
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.3	-0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.4	-2.5	-1.1	0.0	0.7
Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-14.3	-14.3	-14.3	-14.3	0.0
Financial Activities	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.9	0.9	0.9	-1.8	-1.8
Professional and Business Services	9.6	10.2	10.5	10.3	9.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.4	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.0	2.0	6.8	5.5	3.1
Education and Health Services	14.4	14.4	14.5	14.7	14.7
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.1	2.1	1.6	3.3	2.1
Leisure and Hospitality	13.9	13.9	14.3	14.2	14.2
Year-Over-Year Change	0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.7	-0.7	0.2	0.9	2.4
Other Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.6	0.0	-1.2	3.6	3.6
Government	16.2	16.3	15.6	16.3	16.0
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.8	1.9	0.9	0.0	-1.0
Average Weekly Wages (All Employees)	993.65	1,066.83	1,088.86	1,175.5	1,144.0
Year-Over-Year Change	51.2	73.6	110.3	205.9	150.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	5.4	7.4	11.3	21.2	15.1
Average Hourly Wage (All Employees)	28.94	30.17	31.02	32.7	32.8
Year-Over-Year Change	1.2	1.2	2.5	4.5	3.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.3	4.0	8.7	15.8	13.3
Average Weekly Hours (All Employees)	34.3	35.4	35.1	35.9	34.9
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	1.1	0.8	1.6	0.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.1	3.3	2.3	4.7	1.7

In the 1st quarter of 2025, 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 0.2% growth over the year. Looking at the industries, most had increases or no change while Construction had the largest decline of 800 jobs (-7.1%). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities experienced a slight industry gain of 100 workers (+0.7%). Professional and Business Services, Education and Health Services, and Leisure and Hospitality all saw an increase of 300 jobs. The Government sector (-1.0%) had a decrease of 200 jobs. Mining and Logging and Manufacturing saw no real change in workers.

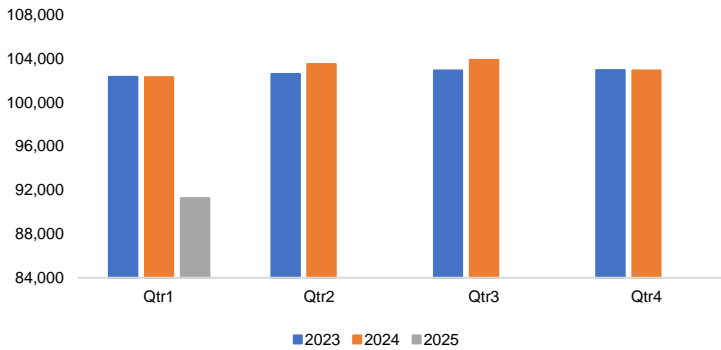
While there was a gain in employment, there were also increases in earnings measured. The average weekly earnings of all employees rose 15.1% and average hourly earnings rose 13.3%. The average weekly hours of all employees in the 1st quarter rose 1.7% over the year.

Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

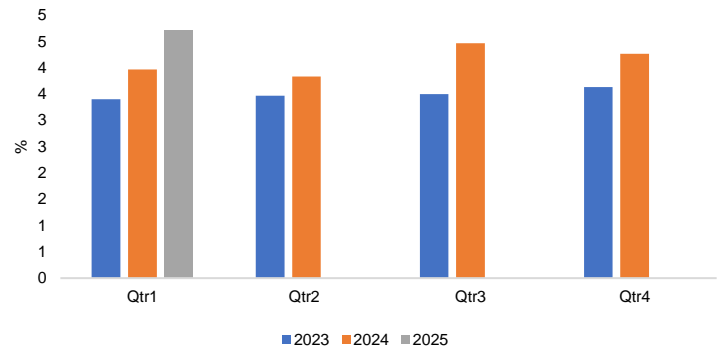
	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	Qtr1- 2025
Household Employment	93,265	94,284	94,111	93,540	92,439
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,105	-390	-366	-255	-826
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.9
Household Unemployment	4,232	4,135	4,859	4,593	4,455
Year-Over-Year Change	616	462	1,086	697	223
Year-Over-Year % Change	17.0	12.6	28.8	17.9	5.3
Labor Force	97,498	92,532	98,970	98,133	96,895
Year-Over-Year Change	-489	-1,087	720	442	-603
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	-1.2	0.7	0.5	-0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.2	4.9	4.7	4.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.3

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total Job Openings	4,821	4,671	4,132	3,869	3,723
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,516	-1,320	-1,116	-1,070	-1,098
Year-Over-Year % Change	-23.9	-22.0	-21.3	-21.7	-22.8

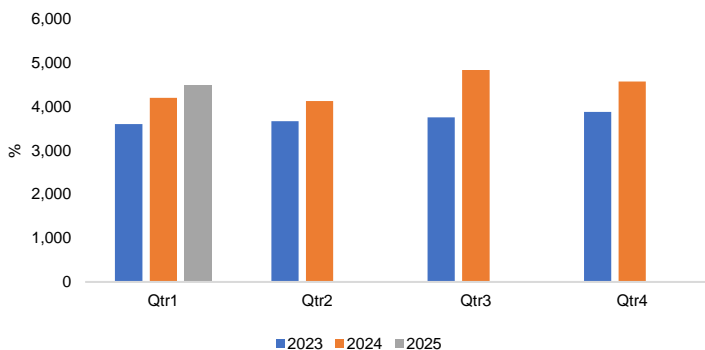
Lake Charles MSA Employment



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



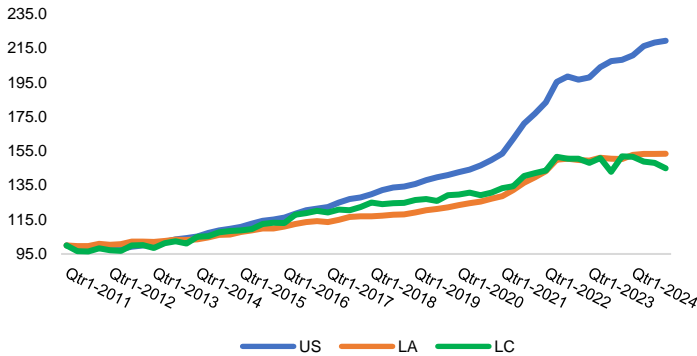
The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 4.6%, which represents a 0.3 percentage point increase from a year ago. The household employment measure decreased by 826 over the year for a 0.9% decrease. The number of unemployed increased by 223. This represented a 5.3% increase. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was a decrease of 603 (-0.6%). More labor will be needed for long-term growth so future developments in this measure should be watched closely.

Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2025 averaged 3,723. Openings decreased by 1,098 (-22.8%) 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)

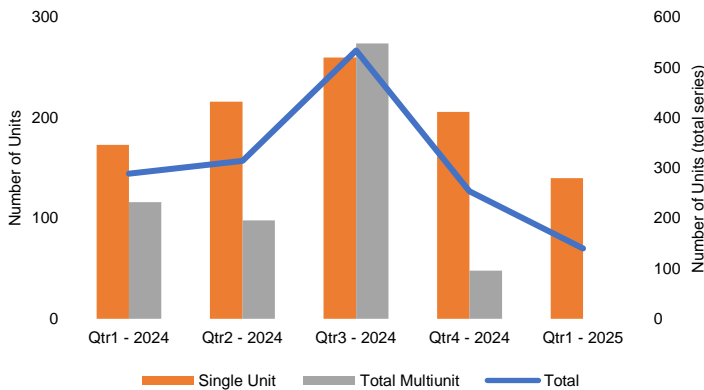


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr4- 2023	Qtr4 - 2024	Year-over-Year % Change
Lake Charles HPI	151.9	144.9	-4.6
Louisiana HPI	150.3	153.4	2.1
US HPI	208.2	219.3	5.4

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 fourth quarter of 2024 to the same quarter in 2023, housing prices have fallen 4.6% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to increases of 2.1% in LA and 5.4% in the US.

Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

Lake Charles MSA Building Permits



In the 1st quarter of 2025, single unit permits fell by 33 over-the-year while multi-unit permits had a decrease of 116, therefore the total decrease was 149. This represented a 51.6% decrease. The YTD figures show similar results with a decrease in single units of 33 and multi-unit permits decreasing by 116 for a total decrease of 149 over the year in the first quarter. The total percentage decrease in YTD was 51.6%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits fell by \$4.7 million while multi-unit permit valuations fell by \$23 million for a total decrease of \$27.7 million. This represented a 46.8% decrease year-over-year in the 1st quarter of 2025 for the valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, single unit valuations decreased

\$4.7 million and multi-unit valuations decreased \$23 million for a total percentage change of -46.8%.

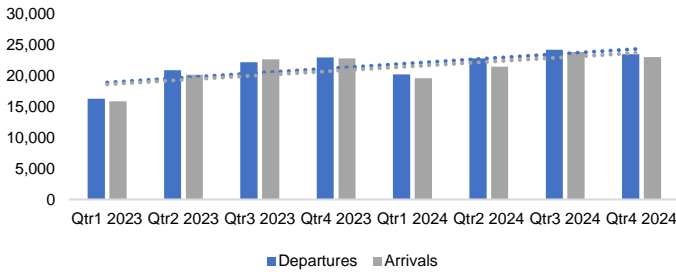
The graph of building permits shows that single-unit permits have been decreasing since the 3rd quarter of 2024 after spiking. Multi-unit permits were 0 in the 1st quarter of 2025. The blue line shows the total permits, and it has displayed a downward flat trend since 3rd quarter of 2024.

	Qtr-1 2024	Qtr-1 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-1 2024 YTD	Qtr-1 2025 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number								
Total	289	140	-149	-51.6	289	140	-149	-51.6
Single	173	140	-33	-19.1	173	140	-33	-19.1
Multi-unit	116	0	-116	-100.0	116	0	-116	-100.0
Valuation (thousands \$)								
Total	59,182	31,467	-27,715	-46.8	59,182	31,467	-27,715	-46.8
Single	36,210	31,467	-4,743	-13.1	36,210	31,467	-4,743	-13.1
Multi-unit	22,972	0	-22,972	-100.0	22,972	0	-22,972	-100.0

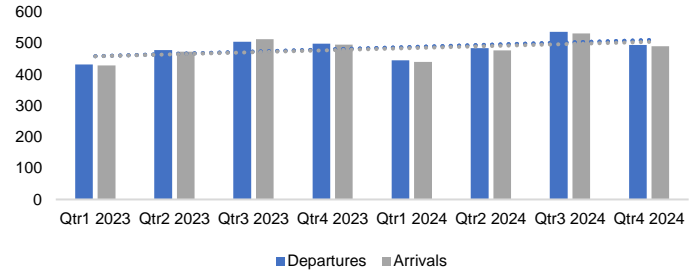
Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport

Lake Charles Regional Airport Passengers



Lake Charles Regional Airport Flights



The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a continued uptick in activity during the 4th 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.

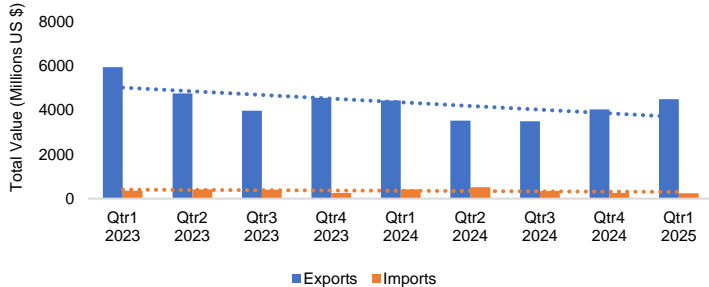
	Qtr-4 2023	Qtr 4- 2024	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	22,961	23,485	524	2.3
Arrivals	22,799	23,004	205	0.9
Flights				
Departures	499	495	-4	-0.8
Arrivals	496	490	-6	-1.2

Passengers departing in the 4th quarter of 2024 rose 524 (+2.3%) since the 4th quarter of 2023 and those arriving have increased 205 (+0.9%). In terms of flights, there has been a decrease of 4 flights (-0.8%) departing from Lake Charles over that same period while the number of

flights arriving has fallen by 6 (-1.2%) as well. The number of passengers have been steadily increasing since 2020.

Lake Charles Port Statistics

Lake Charles Port - Value



Lake Charles Port - Weight



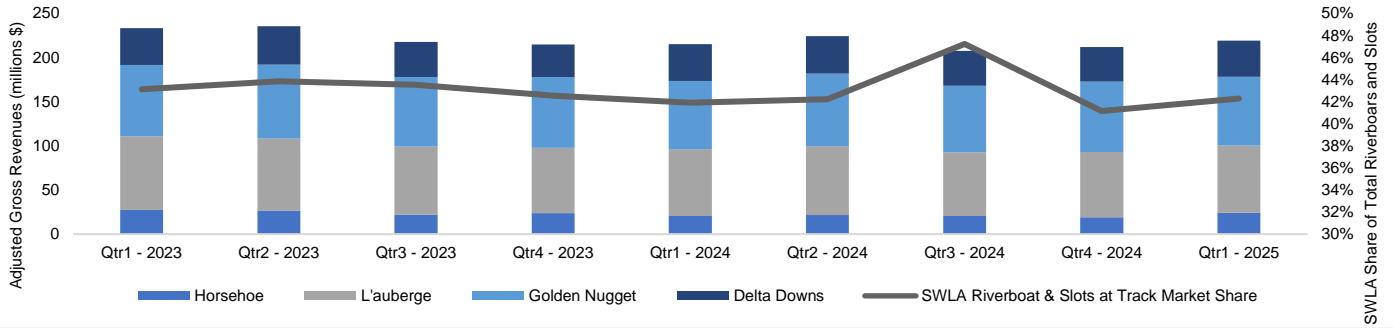
The Lake Charles port has seen increases in export values and a decrease in import values in the 1st quarter of 2025. The figures in the table below show the value of exports rose \$58 million (+1.3%) over the year while the total value of imports fell by \$177 million (-42.6%) The total weight of all exports fell 859 million kg (-9.3%) while the total weight of all imports fell 321 million kg (-41.6%). Export values have recently been rising, but total weights have been fairly

steady, despite the recent slight decrease.

	Qtr-1 2024	Qtr-1 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions \$)				
Exports	4,431	4,489	58	1.3
Imports	415	238	-177	-42.6
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	9,202	8,344	-859	-9.3
Imports	771	450	-321	-41.6

Gaming Statistics

SWLA Gaming Revenues and Market Share



	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total State AGR (millions)	513.6	531.0	439.1	514.8	517.9
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-27.1	-5.6	-60.7	9.8	4.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	-5.0	-1.1	-12.1	1.9	0.8
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	215.3	224.2	207.4	211.9	219.1
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-18.0	-11.1	-10.3	-3.1	3.8
Year-Over-Year % Change	-7.7	-4.7	-4.7	-1.4	1.8
Total AGR (millions)					
Horseshoe	20.4	21.7	20.4	19.2	24.0
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-6.9	-5.0	-1.5	-4.7	3.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-25.3	-18.8	-6.9	-19.7	17.6
L'Auberge	75.9	77.7	72.2	73.9	76.3
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-7.4	-3.8	-5.1	0.0	0.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.9	-4.7	-6.6	0.0	0.5
Golden Nugget	77.2	82.4	75.4	79.6	77.7
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-3.6	-1.3	-3.1	-0.6	0.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.4	-1.5	-3.9	-0.7	0.7
Delta Downs	41.7	42.3	39.4	39.2	41.0
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-0.1	-0.9	-0.6	2.3	-0.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	-2.1	-1.5	6.1	-1.7
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	9.5%	9.7%	9.8%	9.1%	11.0%
L'Auberge	35.3%	34.7%	34.8%	34.9%	34.8%
Golden Nugget	35.9%	36.8%	36.4%	37.6%	35.5%
Delta Downs	19.4%	18.9%	19.0%	18.5%	18.7%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	4.0%	4.1%	4.6%	3.7%	4.6%
L'Auberge	14.8%	14.6%	16.4%	14.3%	14.7%
Golden Nugget	15.0%	15.5%	17.2%	15.5%	15.0%
Delta Downs	8.1%	8.0%	9.0%	7.6%	7.9%
SWLA Total AGR	41.9%	42.2%	47.2%	41.2%	42.3%

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 1.8% higher than the 1st quarter of 2024 and statewide AGR in Q1 2025 was 0.8% higher than Q1 2024. Total revenues in SWLA for the 1st quarter of 2025 were \$219.1 million, or a 1.8% percent increase from the previous year.

Horseshoe collected \$24.0 million in revenue in the 1st quarter of 2025 (+17.6%). L'Auberge saw a \$0.4 million increase (+0.5%). The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage increase in AGR of 0.7% with an absolute increase of \$0.5 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$0.7 million decrease in AGR over the year for a 1.7% decrease. These figures still indicate a solid recovery in the gaming market from 2020;

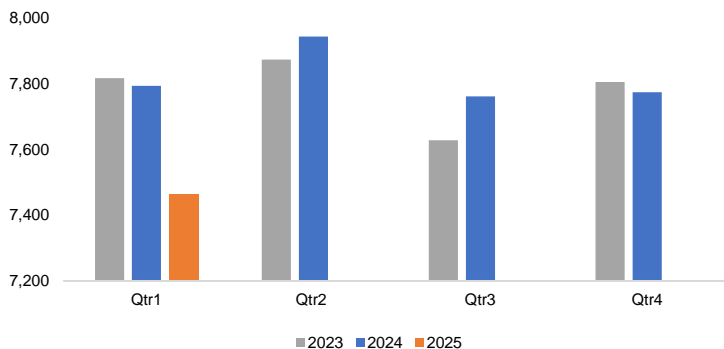
however, things had been slowing in terms year-over-year changes until this recent quarter. The four SWLA establishments made up 42.3% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, which is a 0.4 percentage point increase from the 1st quarter of 2024.

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

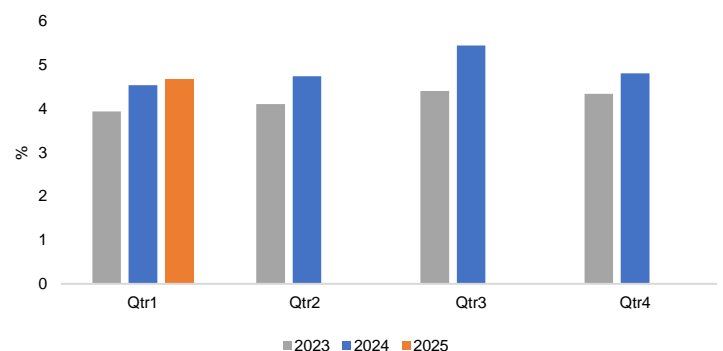
	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Household Employment	7,562	7,581	7,380	7,553	7,509
Year-Over-Year Change	-46	-56	12	1	-53
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.6	-0.7	0.2	0.0	-0.7
Household Unemployment	358	377	422	379	366
Year-Over-Year Change	48	52	84	39	8
Year-Over-Year % Change	15.6	16.1	25.0	11.4	2.1
Labor Force	7,921	7,958	7,801	7,932	7,875
Year-Over-Year Change	2	-4	96	39	-45
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	-0.1	1.2	0.5	-0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.7	5.4	4.8	4.7
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.1

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total Job Openings	261	221	217	221	200
Year-Over-Year Change	-4	-20	-17	-6	-61
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.5	-8.3	-7.4	-2.8	-23.4

Allen Parish Employment



Allen Parish Unemployment Rate

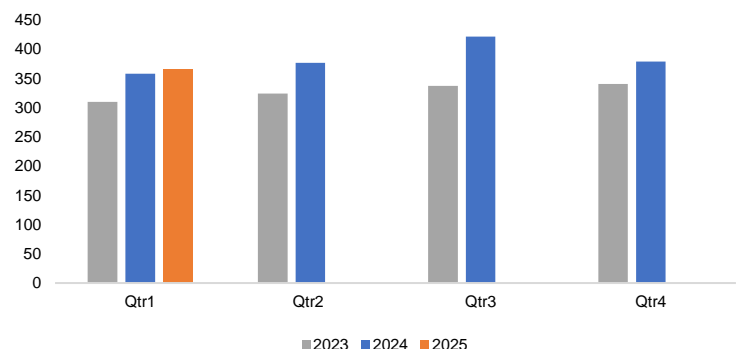


In the 1st quarter of 2025, Allen parish saw a drop in the labor force of 45 (-0.6%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 8 over the year (+2.1%) while the number of employed people fell by 53 (-0.7%) over the year. The unemployment rate rose over the year by 0.1 percentage points to 4.7%.

Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2025 averaged 200. Openings fell by 61 (-23.4%) over the year.

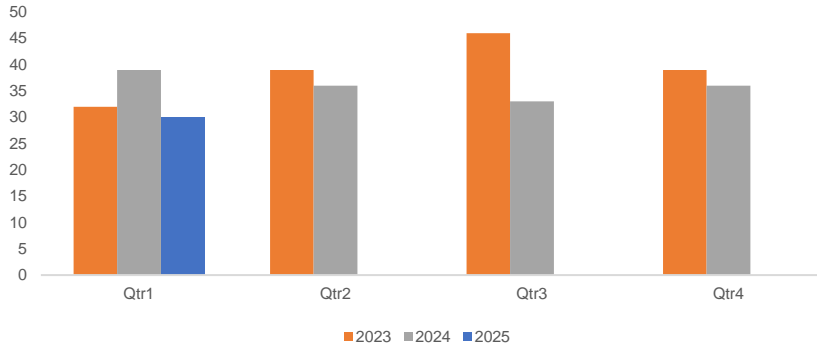
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 1st quarter of 2025, Allen has had slightly lower employment compared to previous year's levels and slightly higher unemployment levels compared to previous years.

Allen Parish Unemployment



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 30 in the 1st quarter of 2025 which was 9 less than the same quarter in 2024 and 2 less than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2025 was 30. This was 9 businesses less than the 1st quarter of 2024 YTD and 2 businesses fewer than the 1st quarter of 2023 YTD.

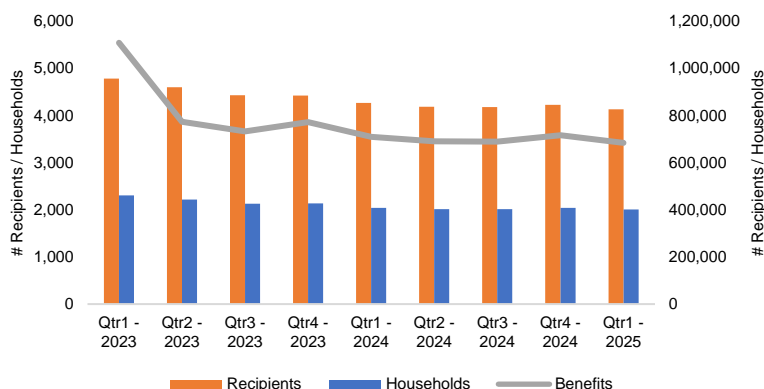
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	32	39	46	39
2024	39	36	33	36
2025	30			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	32	71	117	156
2024	39	75	108	144
2025	30			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,262	4,185	4,175	4,226	4,128	-134	-3.1
Households	2,037	2,009	2,011	2,043	2,008	-29	-1.4
Benefits	709,687	690,190	689,083	715,544	683,462	-26,225	-3.7

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 4,128 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2025. 134 fewer people received benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2024 for a 3.1% decrease over this time. The total number of first quarter households receiving SNAP was 2,008, which was 29 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 1.4% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$683,462 in total during the 1st quarter of 2025, which was a \$26,225 decrease over-the-year. This was a 3.7% decrease in benefits in the parish. March 2023 marked a large

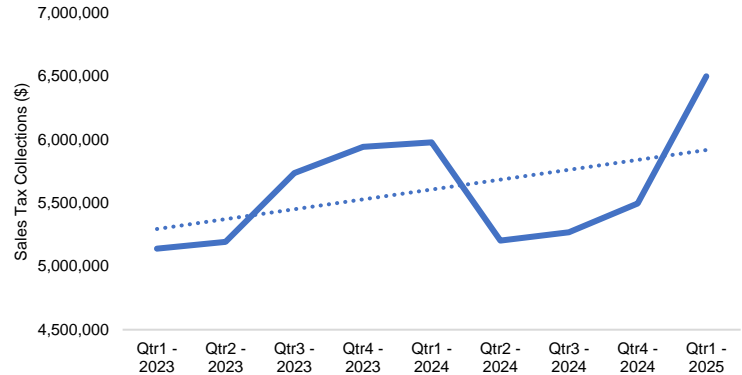
drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring and that showed up markedly in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. This lower level should be persistent in future quarters, as has begun to show in the graph.

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.

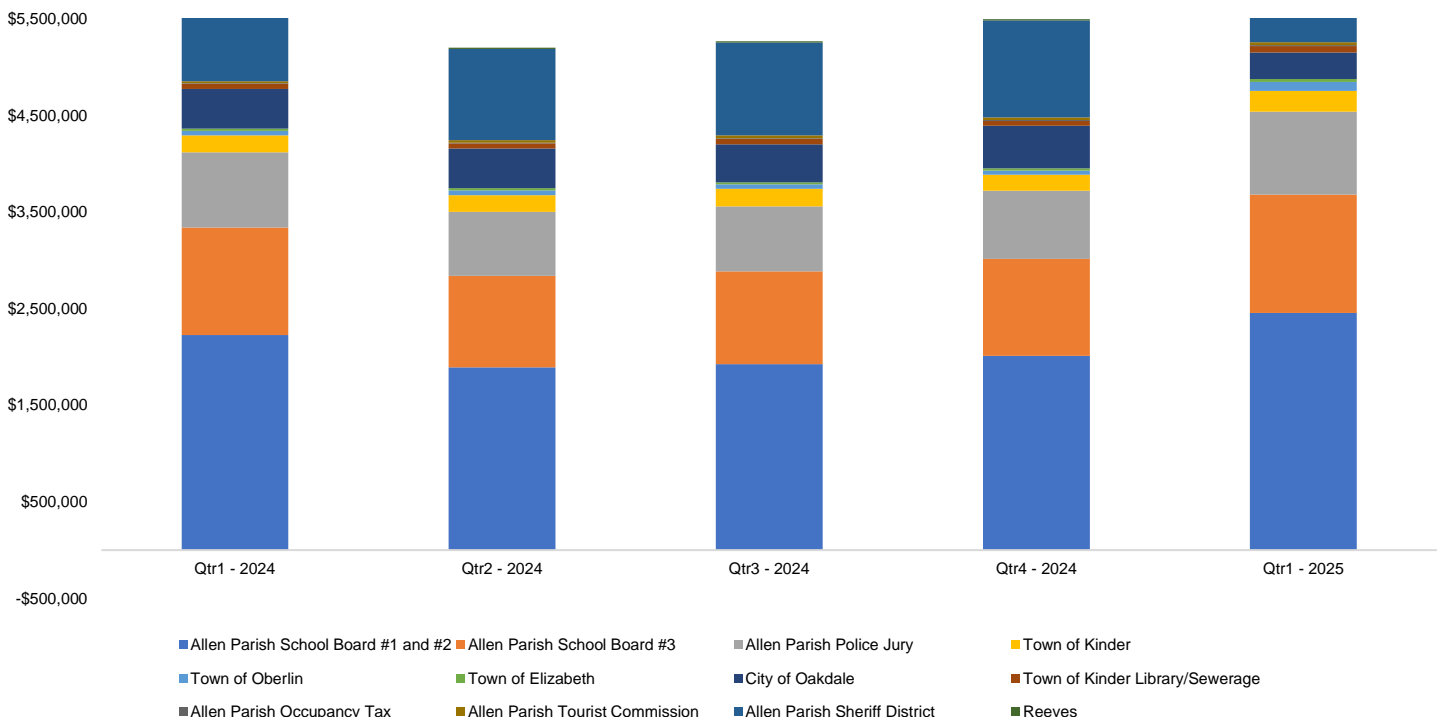
Compared to the 1st quarter of 2024, Allen Parish has seen an overall increase in tax collections. Total tax collections increased \$521.0 thousand for an 8.7% increase.

Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	2,225,820	1,892,827	1,923,878	2,010,780	2,454,296	228,477	10.3
Allen Parish School Board #3	1,112,876	946,287	961,516	1,005,183	1,227,005	114,130	10.3
Allen Parish Police Jury	779,014	662,403	673,063	703,630	858,905	79,891	10.3
Town of Kinder	175,340	172,766	182,898	166,104	214,651	39,311	22.4
Town of Oberlin	48,068	50,098	44,750	45,021	90,907	42,839	89.1
Town of Elizabeth	21,951	22,894	20,905	20,899	30,045	8,095	36.9
City of Oakdale	411,305	411,973	394,083	441,031	277,199	-134,105	-32.6
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	52,602	51,830	54,870	49,831	64,396	11,793	22.4
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	6,732	7,898	9,393	9,028	10,151	3,419	50.8
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	20,197	23,694	28,179	27,084	30,452	10,256	50.8
Allen Parish Sheriff District	1,112,876	946,287	961,516	1,005,183	1,227,005	114,130	10.3
Reeves	11,944	13,171	12,929	12,644	14,734	2,789	23.4
Total	5,978,724	5,202,130	5,267,980	5,496,419	6,499,747	521,024	8.7

Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

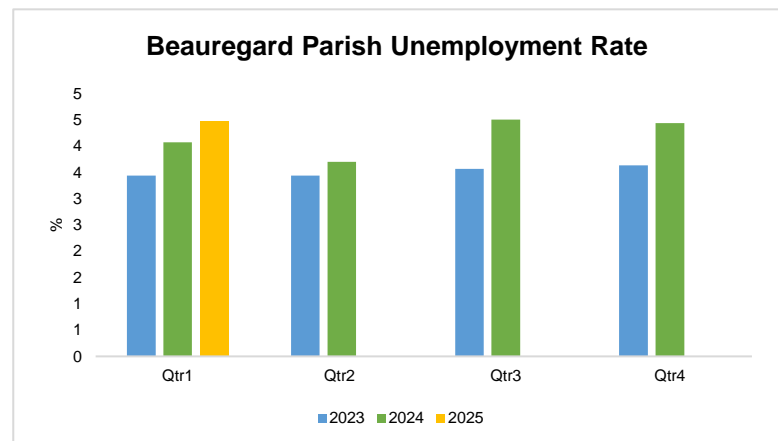
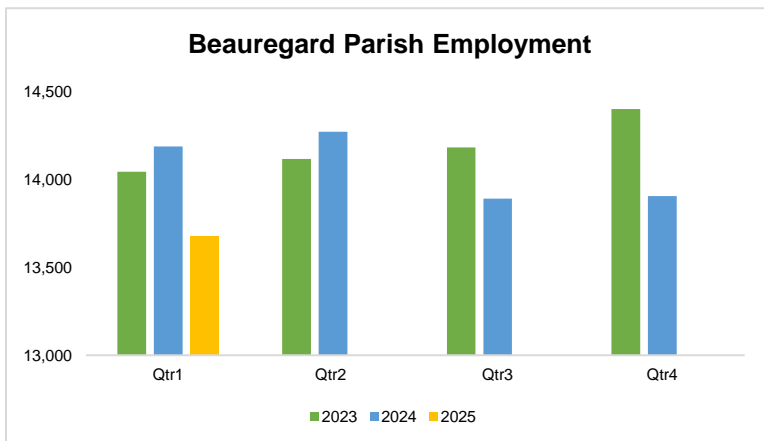
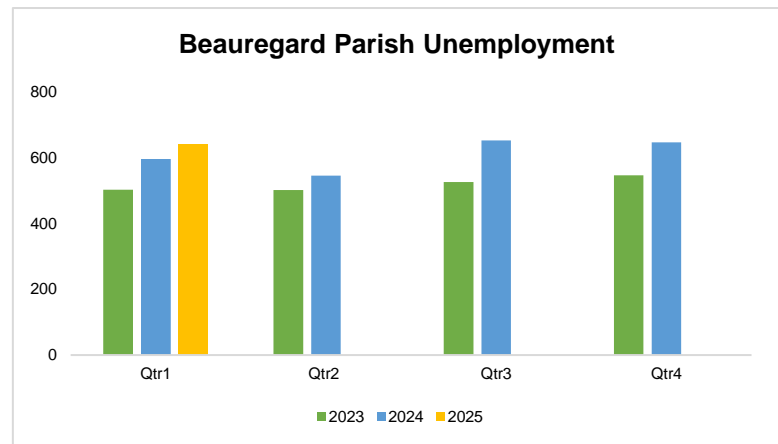
	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Household Employment	14,191	14,275	13,892	13,909	13,679
Year-Over-Year Change	145	155	-292	-495	-512
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.0	1.1	-2.1	-3.4	-3.6
Household Unemployment	597	546	653	647	642
Year-Over-Year Change	94	44	127	100	45
Year-Over-Year % Change	18.7	8.8	24.1	18.2	7.6
Labor Force	14,788	14,821	14,545	14,555	14,321
Year-Over-Year Change	239	199	-166	-395	-467
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.6	1.4	-1.1	-2.6	-3.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.5
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.4

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total Job Openings	395	349	281	300	204
Year-Over-Year Change	-106	-121	-116	-74	-191
Year-Over-Year % Change	-21.1	-25.8	-29.2	-19.8	-48.4

In the 1st quarter of 2025, Beauregard parish saw a fall in household employment of 512 over the year (-3.6%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 45 (+7.6%) over the year. This led to a decrease of 467 (-3.2%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points over the year to 4.5%.

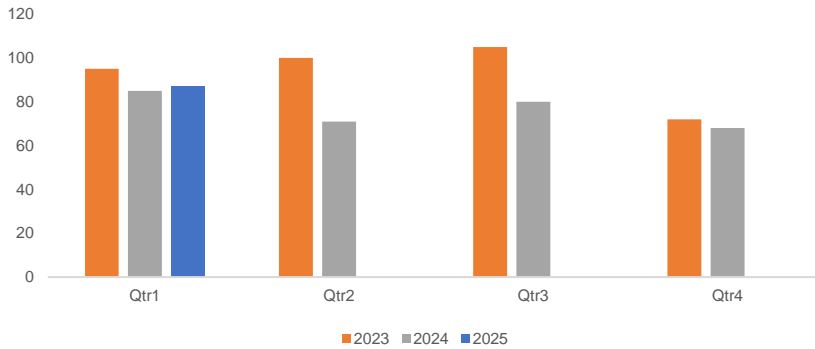
Job openings in the 1st quarter averaged 204. Openings fell by 191 (-48.4%) over the year.

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 1st quarter of 2025, 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 87 in the 1st quarter of 2025, which was 2 more than the same quarter in 2024 and 8 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2025 was 87. There were 2 less businesses in the 1st quarter of 2024 than in 2025 YTD and 8 businesses less than the 1st quarter of 2023 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	95	100	105	72
2024	85	71	80	68
2025	87			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	95	195	300	372
2024	85	156	236	304
2025	87			

SNAP Benefits

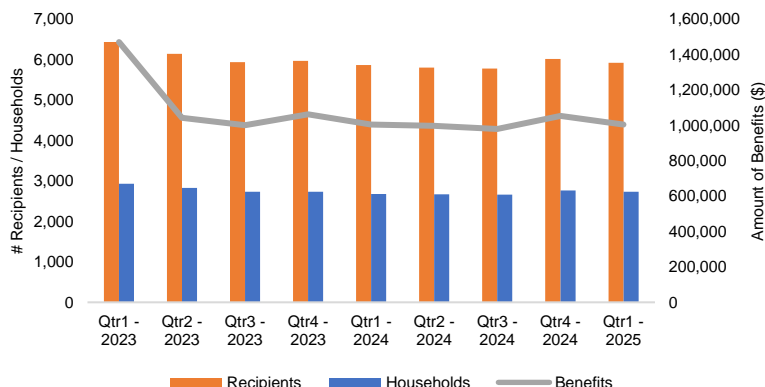
	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,865	5,803	5,777	6,015	5,924	59	1.0
Households	2,675	2,673	2,662	2,763	2,733	57	2.1
Benefits	1,005,277	997,529	979,728	1,053,771	1,004,539	-738	-0.1

Beauregard parish has experienced increases in SNAP recipients and households and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,924 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2025. 59 more people received benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2024 for a 1.0% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,733, which was 57 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a

2.1% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$1.0 million in total during the 1st quarter of 2025, which was a \$738 decrease over-the-year. This was a 0.1% decrease in benefits in the parish.

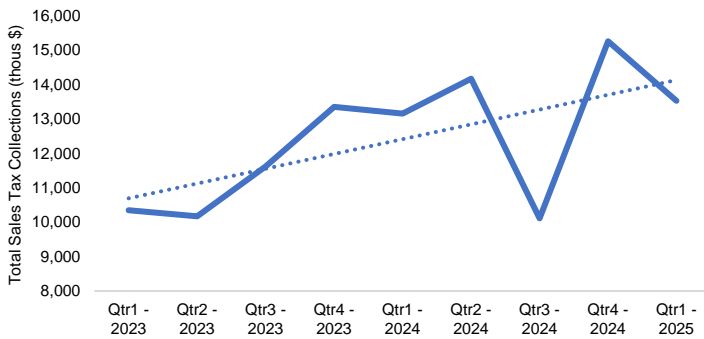
Looking at the graph illustrates relative flat trends in benefits, households, and recipients, over the past two years after coming down from the first couple of quarters shown.

Beauregard Parish SNAP Data



Tax Collections

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections

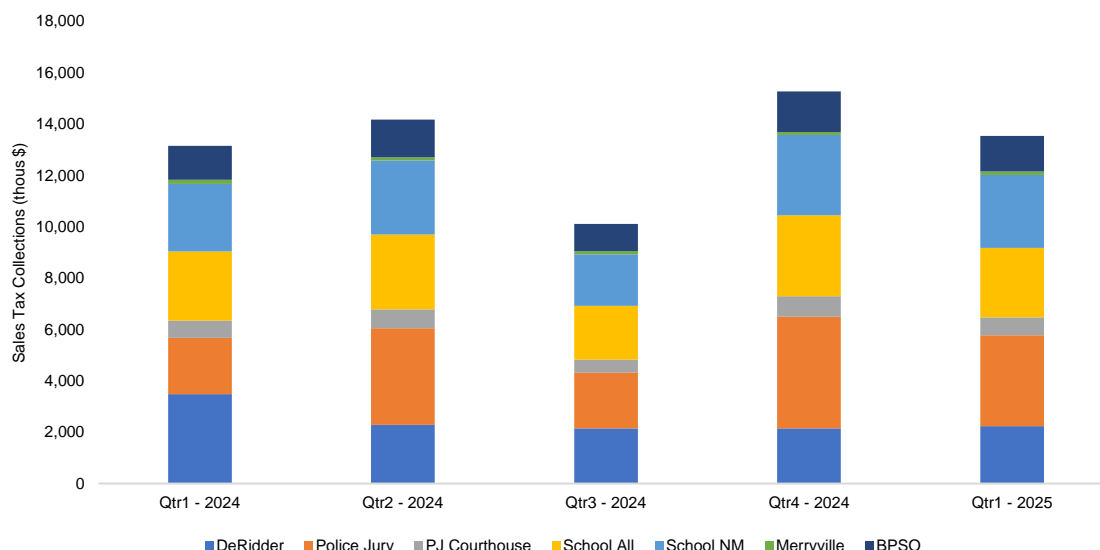


Beauregard parish has seen an overall increase in its sales tax collections in the 1st quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections rose by \$378.4 thousand over the year for a 2.9% increase. Looking at the entities that receive sales tax distributions shows that Police Jury collects the most revenue, but other areas are close. The Police Jury category saw a \$1.35 million increase (+61.2%). DeRidder saw a notable year-over-year decrease of \$1.2 million (-35.8%) over the year. Another large increase came from the School NM, which increased \$218.0 thousand, or an 8.3% increase. All School board

revenues rose by roughly \$11.7 thousand (+0.4%). BPSO collections rose by \$54.3 thousand (+4.1%) and PJ Courthouse rose \$26.8 thousand (+4.0%). Merryville tax collections saw a decrease in sales taxes of \$30.6 thousand, marking a 18.6% decrease.

Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	3,478.9	2,279.5	2,142.1	2,141.9	2,231.7	-1,247.2	-35.8
Police Jury	2,197.8	3,768.4	2,178.7	4,358.6	3,543.1	1,345.3	61.2
PJ Courthouse	669.1	728.1	510.7	787.8	696.0	26.8	4.0
School All	2,685.1	2,920.9	2,088.7	3,156.5	2,696.8	11.7	0.4
School NM	2,629.8	2,881.6	2,002.8	3,124.4	2,847.9	218.0	8.3
Merryville	164.4	123.3	129.8	112.8	133.8	-30.6	-18.6
BPSO	1,328.3	1,467.0	1,058.6	1,578.6	1,382.6	54.3	4.1
Total	13,153.4	14,168.9	10,111.3	15,260.6	13,531.8	378.4	2.9

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity

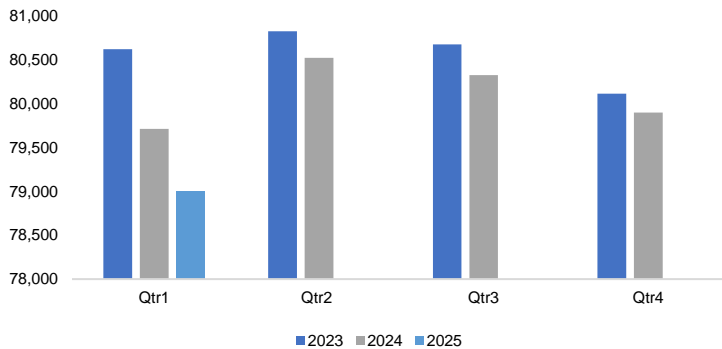


Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

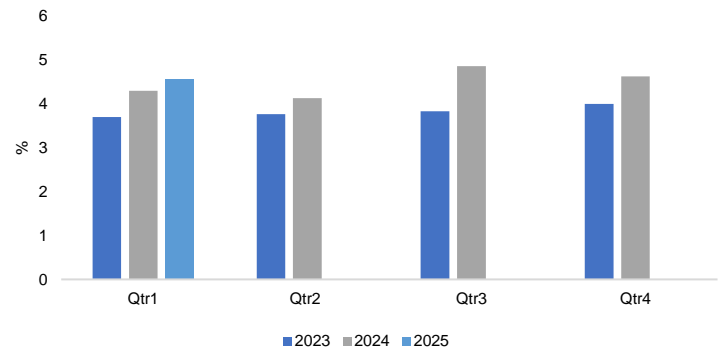
	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Household Employment	79,712	80,524	80,327	79,900	79,001
Year-Over-Year Change	-911	-304	-350	-213	-711
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.1	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.9
Household Unemployment	3,589	3,500	4,112	3,881	3,774
Year-Over-Year Change	492	361	885	551	186
Year-Over-Year % Change	15.9	11.5	27.4	16.5	5.2
Labor Force	83,300	84,023	84,439	83,781	82,775
Year-Over-Year Change	-419	57	535	338	-525
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.5	0.1	0.6	0.4	-0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.1	4.9	4.6	4.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.3

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total Job Openings	4,585	4,586	4,046	3,747	3,647
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,681	-1,300	-1,025	-1,001	-938
Year-Over-Year % Change	-26.8	-22.1	-20.2	-21.1	-20.5

Calcasieu Parish Employment



Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment Rate

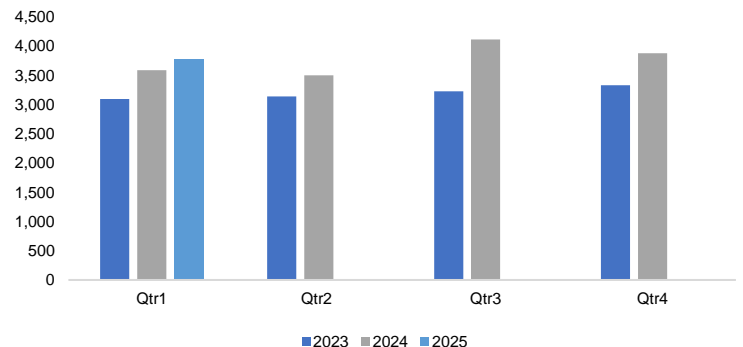


In the 1st quarter of 2025, Calcasieu parish saw a decrease in the labor force of 525 (-0.6%). This was due to a decrease in household employment of 711 over the year (-0.9%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 186 (+5.2%). The unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points over the year to 4.6%.

Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2025 averaged 3,647. Openings fell by 938 (-20.5%) over the year.

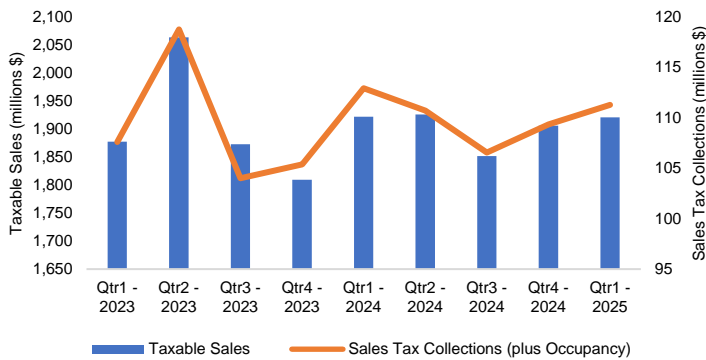
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Calcasieu had a much lower employment level in the 1st quarter of 2025 compared to 2024. The unemployment level is slightly higher than in the 1st quarter of 2024.

Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment

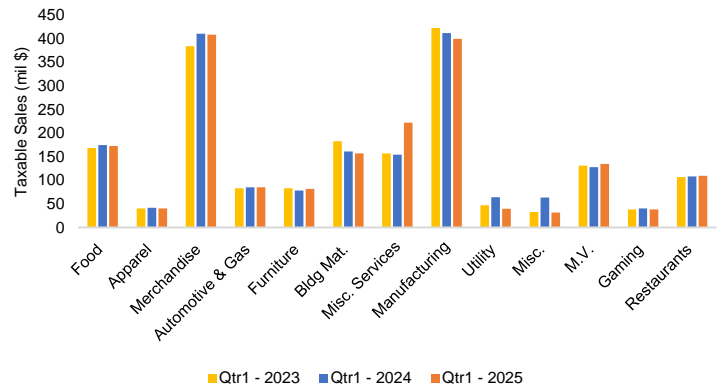


Tax Collections

Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 1 YTD



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	174.4	166.5	167.2	163.8	172.5	-1.9	-1.1
Apparel	41.7	35.3	34.0	36.9	40.6	-1.1	-2.7
Merchandise	410.5	378.1	382.0	389.6	408.3	-2.2	-0.5
Automotive & Gas	85.4	94.5	101.3	100.2	85.3	0.0	0.0
Furniture	78.5	82.0	71.0	72.7	81.7	3.2	4.1
Bldg Mat.	161.2	166.6	153.6	191.7	157.1	-4.1	-2.6
Misc. Services	154.1	211.6	193.0	189.8	221.7	67.6	43.9
Manufacturing	412.1	384.3	377.1	402.1	399.9	-12.2	-3.0
Utility	64.2	49.2	35.8	37.8	39.8	-24.4	-38.0
Misc.	63.6	49.3	28.7	38.3	31.8	-31.9	-50.1
M.V.	127.7	142.8	145.5	133.8	134.8	7.1	5.6
Gaming	40.1	46.0	46.4	38.0	38.1	-2.1	-5.1
Restaurants	108.2	119.6	115.8	111.2	109.1	0.9	0.9
Total	1,921.8	1,925.7	1,851.4	1,905.9	1,920.8	-1.0	-0.1

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 a decrease in the 1st

quarter of 2025. Looking at the 1st quarter, compared to the same quarter the previous year, sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have fallen by \$1.6 million over the year for a 1.5% decrease. General sales taxes fell by \$1.7 million (-1.5%) over the year. Occupancy taxes didn't have a significant change. These taxes rose \$0.1 million for a 2.2% increase year over year. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish fell \$1.0 million (-0.05%) over the year. Misc. Services rose the largest in absolute terms and in percentage (+\$67.6 million, +43.9%). While Misc. fell the largest in absolute terms and percentage points (-\$31.9 million, -50.1%). Gaming fell in percentage terms (-5.1%) and Utilities fell (-38.0%). Food (-1.1%), Apparel (-2.7%), Merchandise (-0.5%), Building Materials (-2.6%), Manufacturing (-3.0%) all experienced decreases in collections. Furniture increased(+4.1%) and Restaurants increased (+0.9%). M.V. increased (+5.6%) while Automotive & Gas stayed constant.

Collections (mil \$)	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	111.2	108.6	104.4	107.5	109.5	-1.7	-1.5
Occupancy Taxes	1.7	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	0.0	2.2
Sales Tax Collections	112.9	110.7	106.5	109.3	111.3	-1.6	-1.5

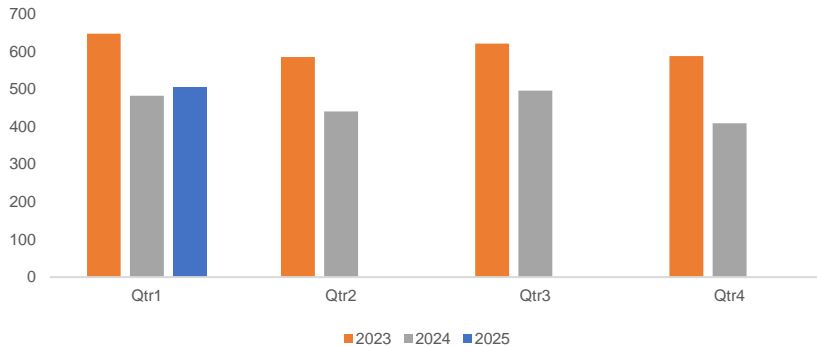
YTD figures show that total taxable sales have fallen in the parish by \$1.0 million compared to the 1st quarter of 2024 YTD figure for a 0.05% decrease. There was a \$1.6 million decrease in sales tax collections (-1.4%) YTD.

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
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
2025	1,920.8			

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2022	107.6	226.3	330.3	435.7
2024	112.9	223.6	330.1	439.5
2025	111.3			

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 504 in the 1st quarter of 2025 which was 21 more than the same quarter in 2024 and 144 less than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2025 was 504. This was 21 businesses more than the 1st quarter of 2024 YTD and 144 businesses less than the 1st quarter of 2023 YTD.

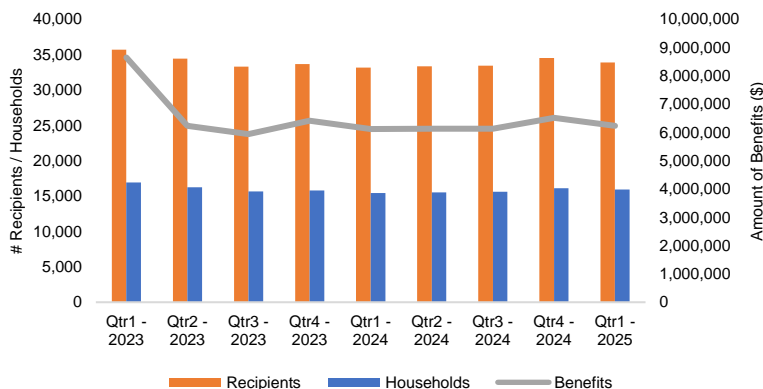
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	648	586	621	588
2024	483	441	496	409
2025	504			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	648	1,234	1,855	2,443
2024	483	924	1,420	1,829
2025	504			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	33,173	33,327	33,424	34,497	33,862	688	2.1
Households	15,444	15,538	15,604	16,105	15,943	499	3.2
Benefits	6,118,961	6,133,221	6,134,951	6,519,436	6,236,055	117,094	1.9

Calcasieu Parish SNAP Data



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 33,862 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2025. This was 688 more people receiving benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2024 for a 2.1% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 15,943, which was 499 more than in the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 3.2% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$6.2 million in total during the 1st quarter of 2025, which was a \$117 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 1.9% increase in benefits in the parish.

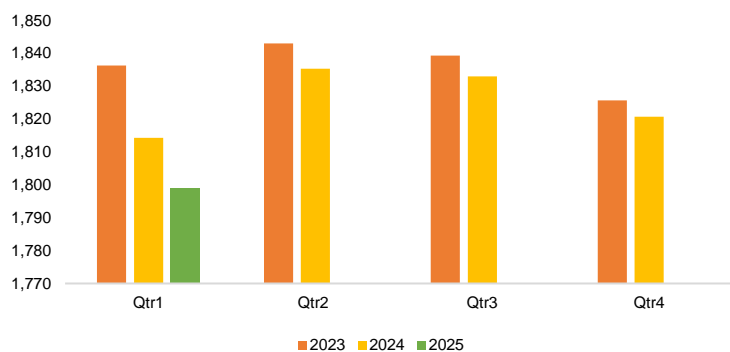
Looking at the graph illustrates a rising trend in benefits from the time period where variables peaked in the 4th quarter of 2022. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that is showing in future quarters. Throughout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

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

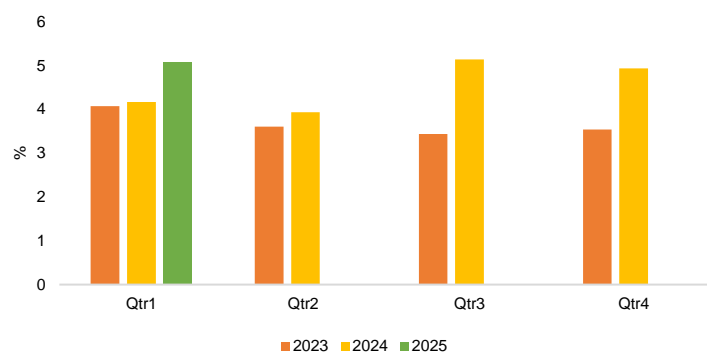
	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Household Employment	1,814	1,835	1,833	1,821	1,799
Year-Over-Year Change	-22	-8	-6	-5	-15
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.8
Household Unemployment	79	75	99	95	96
Year-Over-Year Change	1	6	34	28	17
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.9	8.1	51.3	41.3	22.0
Labor Force	1,893	1,911	1,932	1,915	1,895
Year-Over-Year Change	-21	-2	27	23	2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.1	-0.1	1.4	1.2	0.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.2	3.9	5.1	4.9	5.1
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	0.3	1.7	1.4	0.9

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total Job Openings	236	85	86	122	75
Year-Over-Year Change	165	-20	-91	-69	-160
Year-Over-Year % Change	231.9	-19.3	-51.4	-36.1	-68.0

Cameron Parish Employment



Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate

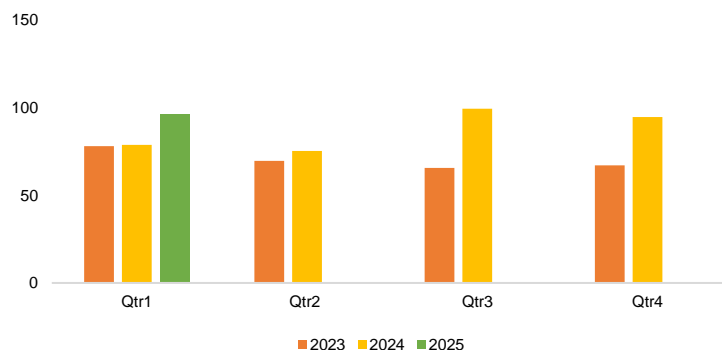


In the 1st quarter of 2025, Cameron parish had a decrease in household employment of 15 over the year (-0.8%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 17 (+22.0%). This meant an increase of 2 (+0.1%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose 0.9 percentage points over the year to 5.1%.

Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2025 averaged 75. Openings fell by 160 (-68.0%) over the year.

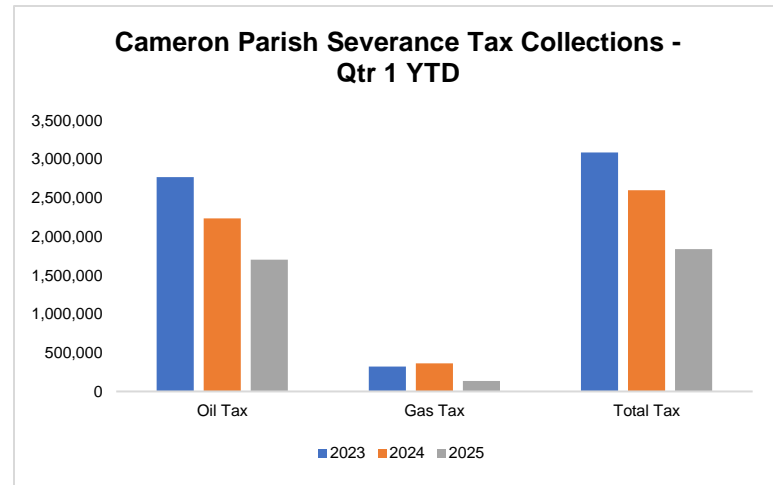
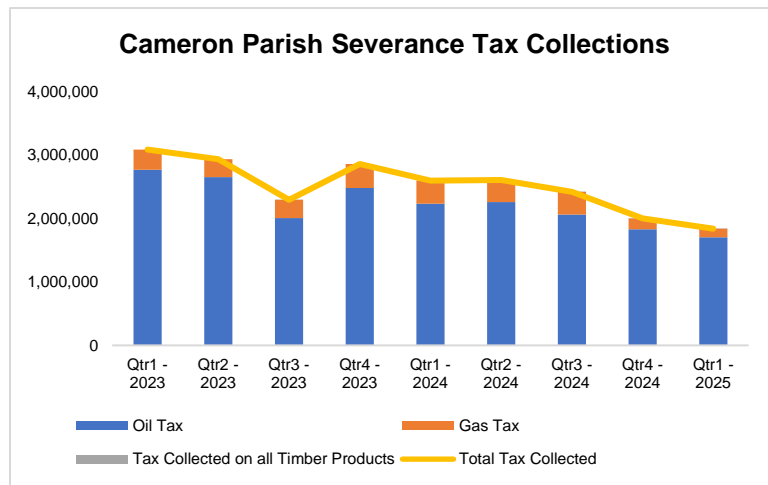
Cameron Parish had a lower employment level in the 1st quarter of 2025 compared to the same quarter the previous year and the unemployment measures were higher. These results led to a slight rise in the labor force in Cameron Parish.

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 1st 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	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	2,236,829	2,260,074	2,065,184	1,833,727	1,704,321	-532,508	-23.8
Gas Tax	364,202	352,310	360,599	170,086	137,579	-226,624	-62.2
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	14	-3	23	11	23	9	64.7
Total Tax Collected	2,601,045	2,612,381	2,425,806	2,003,824	1,841,922	-759,123	-29.2

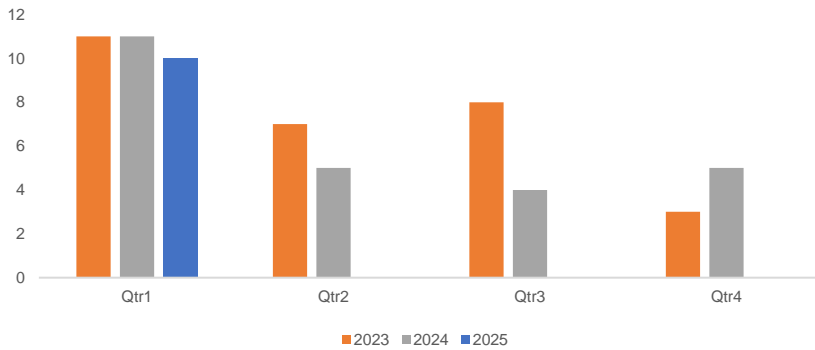
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	3,090,819			
2024	2,601,045			
2025	1,841,922			

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 1st quarter of 2025 fell by \$532.5 thousand compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented a 23.8% decrease. In terms of gas collections, those fell \$226.6 thousand over that period for a 62.2% decrease. Timber product collections were \$23 thousand in the 1st quarter, a 64.7% increase. The 1st quarter of 2025 saw some decreases in gas severance taxes collected while the biggest component continued its decline.

The YTD figures show that in 2025 there was a decline in 1st quarter total severance taxes collected compared to the same quarter in the previous year. In the 1st quarter of 2025 YTD, severance taxes fell \$759.1 thousand for a decrease of 29.2%.

New Business Filings

Cameron 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 Cameron parish was 10 in the 1st quarter of 2025, which was 1 less than the same quarter in 2024 and 1 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2025 was 10. This was 1 business less than the 1st quarter of 2024 YTD and 1 less than of the 1st quarter of 2023 YTD.

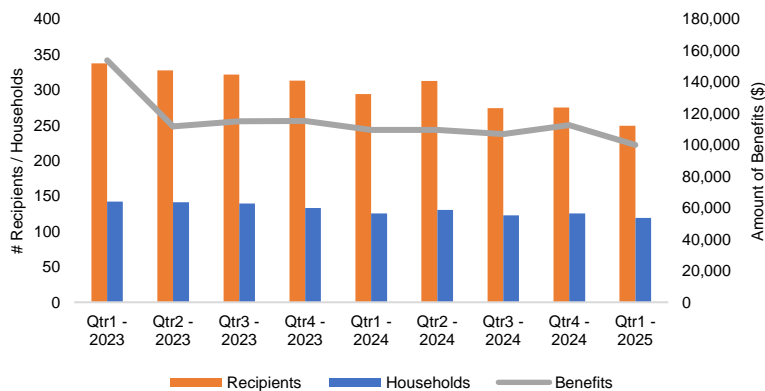
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	11	7	8	3
2024	11	5	4	5
2025	10			

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	11	18	26	29
2024	11	16	20	25
2025	10			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	294	313	274	275	249	-45	-15.3
Households	125	130	123	125	119	-6	-4.8
Benefits	109,559	109,576	106,989	112,681	100,072	-9,487	-8.7

Cameron Parish SNAP Data



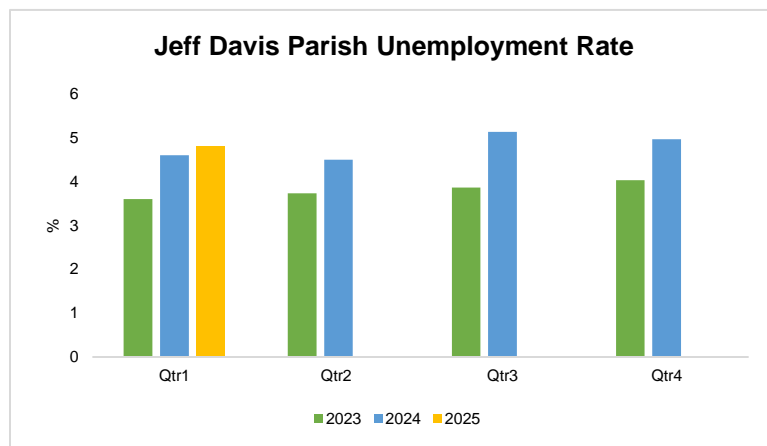
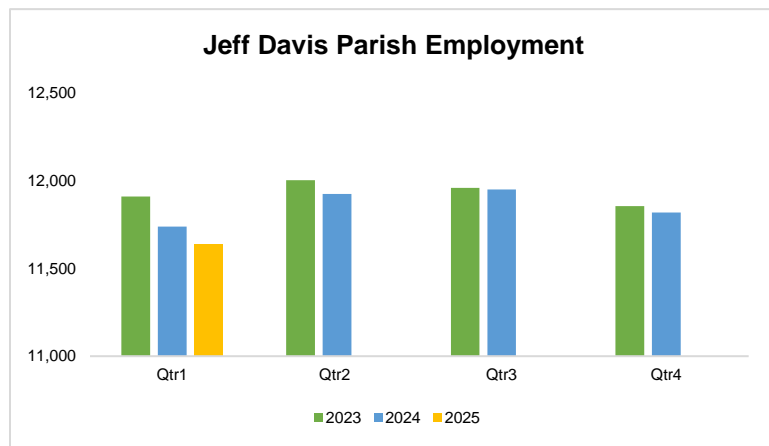
Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients and households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 249 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2025. This was 45 less than the amount of people receiving benefits in the 1st quarter of 2024 for a 15.3% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 119, which was 6 fewer than in the 1st quarter of 2024. This represented a 4.8% decrease. The parish received an average of \$100.1 thousand in total during the 1st quarter of 2025, which was a \$9,487 decrease over-the-year. This was an 8.7% 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

	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Household Employment	11,739	11,925	11,951	11,819	11,640
Year-Over-Year Change	-172	-78	-9	-37	-100
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.4	-0.7	-0.1	-0.3	-0.8
Household Unemployment	565	560	648	618	585
Year-Over-Year Change	123	95	167	118	20
Year-Over-Year % Change	27.7	20.5	34.8	23.7	3.5
Labor Force	12,304	12,484	12,599	12,437	12,225
Year-Over-Year Change	-49	17	158	81	-80
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.4	0.1	1.3	0.7	-0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	4.5	5.1	5.0	4.8
Year-Over-Year Change	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.2

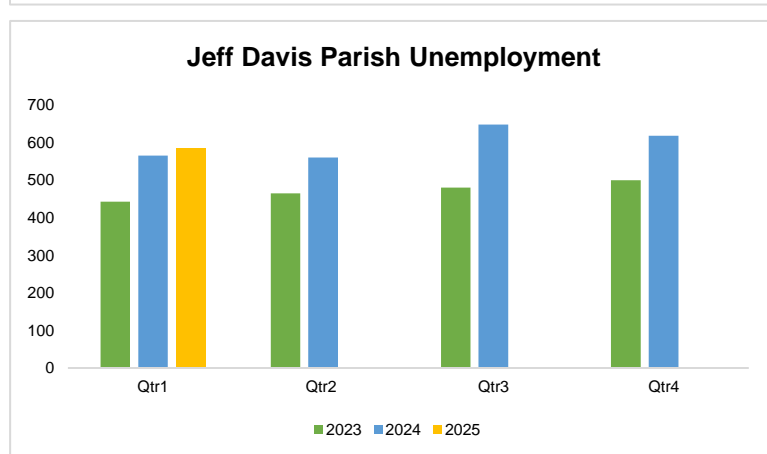
	Qtr1 - 2024	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025
Total Job Openings	453	361	265	336	326
Year-Over-Year Change	-80	-139	-146	-125	-127
Year-Over-Year % Change	-15.0	-27.8	-35.5	-27.2	-28.0



In the 1st quarter of 2025, Jefferson Davis parish saw a decrease of 80 (-0.6%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by a decrease in household employment of 100 over the year (-0.8%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 20 (+3.5%). The unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points over the year to 4.8%.

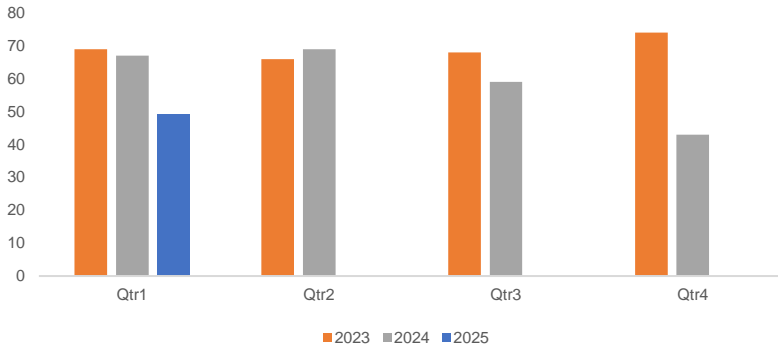
Job openings in the 1st quarter of 2025 averaged 326. Openings fell by 127 (-28.0%) over the year.

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 1st quarter of 2025 compared to 2024, with slightly higher unemployment figures and rate.



New Business Filings

Jeff Davis 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 Jefferson Davis parish was 49 in the 1st quarter of 2025 which was 18 less than the same quarter in 2024 and 20 fewer compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 1st quarter of 2025 was 49. This was 18 businesses less than the 1st quarter of 2024 YTD and 20 businesses less than the 1st quarter of 2023 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings

	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	69	66	68	74
2024	67	69	59	43
2025	49			

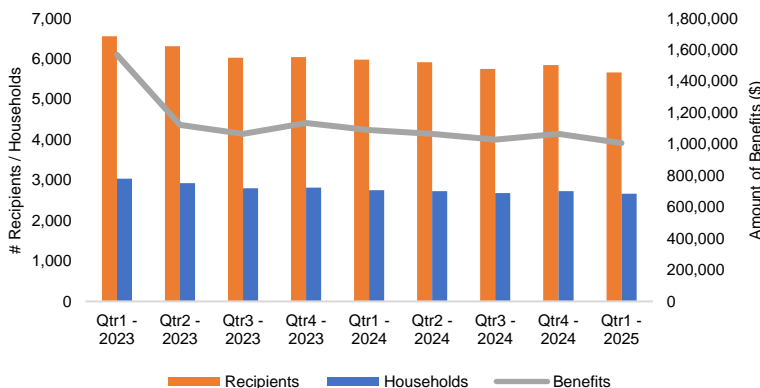
Qtrly New Business Filings YTD

	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	69	135	203	277
2024	67	136	195	238
2025	49			

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	Qtr1- 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,980	5,918	5,751	5,845	5,662	-318	-5.3
Households	2,754	2,729	2,675	2,723	2,661	-93	-3.4
Benefits	1,089,672	1,066,181	1,028,934	1,064,640	1,007,004	-82,668	-7.6

Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data

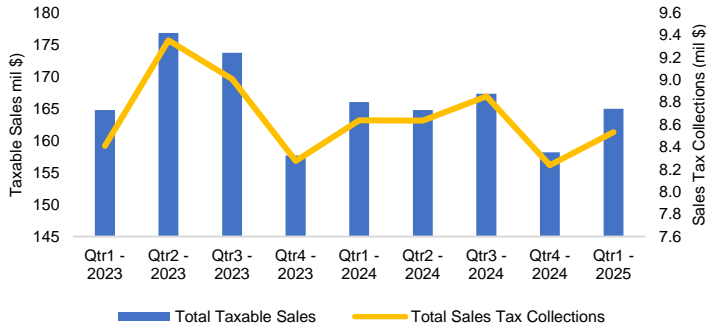


Jefferson Davis parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients, households, and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,662 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 1st quarter of 2025. This was 318 less people receiving benefits compared to the 1st quarter of 2024 for a 5.3% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,661, which was 93 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 3.4% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$1.01 million in total during the 1st quarter of 2025, which was a \$82.7 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 7.6% decrease in benefits in the parish.

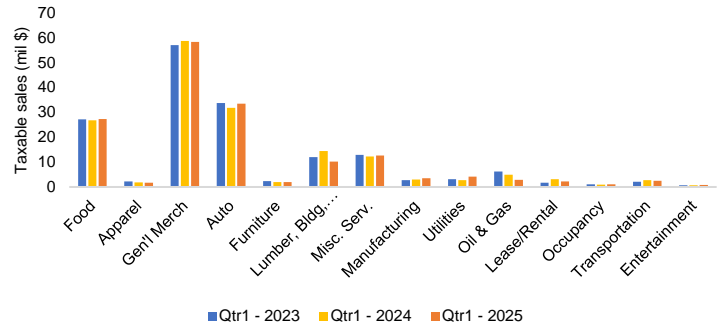
Looking at the graph illustrates an overall flat trend in benefits since the fourth quarter of 2022. The number of households and recipients receiving benefits has been flat since falling in early 2023. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency 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 - 1st Quarter YTD



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	Qtr1- 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	26.8	29.3	27.6	27.2	27.3	0.5	1.9
Apparel	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.7	-0.2	-8.8
Gen'l Merch	58.7	56.0	53.4	54.9	58.3	-0.4	-0.7
Auto	31.8	39.7	44.5	34.2	33.5	1.8	5.6
Furniture	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.0	-0.1	-2.7
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	14.5	10.3	11.0	10.2	10.2	-4.2	-29.2
Misc. Serv.	12.3	11.3	10.5	11.5	12.6	0.4	3.0
Manufacturing	3.0	1.6	5.4	3.2	3.6	0.5	17.4
Utilities	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.0	4.2	1.4	50.5
Oil & Gas	4.9	3.5	2.3	3.3	2.9	-2.0	-41.0
Lease/Rental	3.1	2.4	2.0	3.0	2.2	-0.9	-29.0
Occupancy	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.1	13.3
Transportation	2.7	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.4	-0.3	-10.8
Entertainment	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.1	10.4
Total	26.8	29.3	27.6	27.2	27.3	0.5	1.9

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr1- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	Qtr1- 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	8.6	8.6	8.9	8.2	8.5	-0.1	-1.2

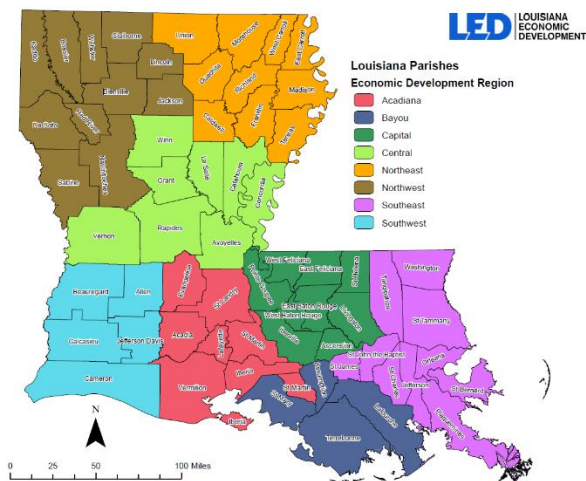
Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2023	164.8	341.7	515.5	673.1
2024	166.1	330.8	498.2	656.4
2025	165.0			

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2023	8.4	17.8	26.8	35.1
2024	8.6	17.3	26.1	34.4
2025	8.5			

Jefferson Davis Parish saw a 1.2% decrease in its sales tax collections in the 1st quarter of 2025, 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 (+1.9%) over the year. The largest percentage increase occurred in Utilities (+\$1.4 million, +50.5%), followed by Manufacturing (+\$0.5 million, +17.4%). Occupancy experienced an increase in taxable sales (+\$0.1 million, +13.3%) as did Entertainment(+\$0.1 million, +10.4%), Auto (+\$1.8 million, 5.6%), Food (+\$0.5 million, +1.9%), and Misc. Serv. (+\$0.4 million, +3.0%). Lumber, Building, Contractors had the largest decrease in absolute terms (-\$4.2 million, -29.2%). While Oil & Gas had the largest decrease in percentage (-\$2.0 million, -41.0%). Additional drops occurred in Lease/Rental (-\$0.9 million, -29.0%), Apparel (-\$0.2 million, -8.8%), General Merch (-\$0.4 million, -0.7%), Furniture (-\$0.1 million, -2.7%), and Transportation (-\$0.3 million, -10.8%).

The 1st quarter of 2025 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have decreased in the parish by \$1.1 million compared to the same quarter in 2024 for a 0.7% decrease. There was a \$0.1 million decrease in 2025 YTD sales tax collections (-1.2%).

An interesting question was recently posed to me, “What makes our 5 parishes a region?”. Admittedly, this is something that is often not discussed in state economic circles. A lot has always boiled down to tradition and how the state views our area. Louisiana Economic Development places Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis parishes as the Southwest Region as shown in the map below. For many years, the Lake Charles MSA consisted of just Calcasieu and Cameron parishes, before the Office of Management and Budget recently added Jefferson Davis Parish to the MSA. So it may have seemed like the MSA’s throughout the state were identified and the state started allocating parishes based on their location to the MSA’s. Other agencies have their own definitions of regions. For example, the Louisiana Workforce Commission places [Vernon Parish in the Lake Charles Region](#). Some may wonder if Acadia or Vermillion should be considered a part of SWLA.



This essay will look at why our five parishes can economically be considered a region. While many economic aspects can be considered, this piece will focus on the following:

1. Commuters
2. Migration
3. Economic Impact / Contribution Analysis
4. Trade Flows
5. Economic Correlations
6. Higher Education

Commuters

One of the strongest arguments for SWLA’s regional cohesion is commuter flow. The workforce moves fluidly across parish lines, with significant commuting occurring between rural parishes and the urban core of Lake Charles in Calcasieu. Jefferson Davis and Beauregard parishes, for example, supply workers to Calcasieu’s industrial and service sectors, reinforcing economic integration. Cameron Parish, though geographically distinct, has deep economic ties through its LNG export facilities and offshore industries, requiring specialized labor drawn from the entire region. Two sources of commuter flows are shown below. The first comes from the commuting patterns of workers from the Census 2016-2020 ACS County-to-County Migration Flows.

		2016 – 2020 ACS				
		Place of Residence				
		Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
Place of Work	Allen	62.2%	1.0%	0.2%	0.0%	4.6%
	Beauregard	6.5%	53.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	Calcasieu	14.2%	24.4%	92.0%	48.8%	28.6%
	Cameron	0.0%	0.7%	2.7%	47.6%	0.9%
	Jefferson Davis	3.5%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%	50.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
SWLA		86.4%	79.8%	95.6%	96.8%	84.8%
SWLA Minus Parish		24.2%	26.1%	3.6%	49.2%	34.1%

2016 – 2020 ACS		Place of Work				
		Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
Place of Residence	Allen	61.6%	5.5%	1.3%	0.0%	3.8%
	Beauregard	1.6%	74.9%	3.6%	1.4%	0.0%
	Calcasieu	2.1%	2.8%	81.9%	33.5%	4.4%
	Cameron	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	20.6%	0.1%
	Jefferson Davis	5.8%	0.0%	3.2%	1.5%	69.3%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	SWLA	71.1%	83.2%	91.4%	57.0%	77.6%
	SWLA Minus Parish	9.5%	8.3%	9.5%	36.4%	8.3%

These tables show percentages of where workers live and where they work. Almost all parishes have most of their residents who are employed commuting within their own parish. A notable exception is Cameron parish. Approximately 49% of workers who live in Cameron Parish work in Calcasieu. 33.5% of the jobs in Cameron are held by Calcasieu Parish residents. The low 57% total jobs in Cameron held by SWLA residents is skewed by the large amount of workers that live in nearby Texas (particularly Jefferson County). Looking at a 25% commuting threshold used by the OMB, it's easy to see why Jefferson Davis Parish was recently included in the MSA as over 28% of workers living in the parish work in Calcasieu. These tables illustrate that 80% - 97% of workers who live in the 5-parish area commute within their own parish or one of the other 4 parishes in the region. 57% - 91% of workers in the 5-parish area live in the region.

While these are 2016 – 2020 ACS estimates, alternative estimates from the Census LEHD OnTheMap for all jobs show similar outcomes. The results shown in the table below are for 2022 data, but the patterns hold for recent years.

2022 OnTheMap		Place of Residence				
		Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
Place of Work	Allen	35.9%	1.8%	0.6%	0.7%	3.4%
	Beauregard	2.6%	34.1%	1.1%	1.0%	0.8%
	Calcasieu	17.0%	24.6%	71.4%	38.0%	25.8%
	Cameron	0.7%	0.7%	1.8%	27.2%	0.9%
	Jefferson Davis	2.6%	0.8%	1.1%	2.1%	30.9%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	SWLA	58.8%	62.0%	75.9%	69.0%	61.8%
	SWLA Minus	22.8%	27.9%	4.5%	41.9%	30.9%

	2022 OnTheMap	Place of Work				
		Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
Place of Residence	Allen	35.9%	1.8%	0.6%	0.7%	3.4%
	Beauregard	2.6%	34.1%	1.1%	1.0%	0.8%
	Calcasieu	17.0%	24.6%	71.4%	38.0%	25.8%
	Cameron	0.7%	0.7%	1.8%	27.2%	0.9%
	Jefferson Davis	2.6%	0.8%	1.1%	2.1%	30.9%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	SWLA	58.8%	62.0%	75.9%	69.0%	61.8%
	SWLA Minus Parish	22.8%	27.9%	4.5%	41.9%	30.9%

While the tables are from different data sources (ACS asks the workers, OnTheMap LEHD uses employment records), the patterns are similar. The majority of commuters for almost all parishes commute within the SWLA region. Our region has a strong cohesive workforce that is mobile to fulfill labor needs.

Migration

Population movements further solidify SWLA as a distinct region. The previous section showed how workers commute, but if residents move outside of their parish and stay in SWLA, their location decision can illustrate the cohesiveness of our area.

To examine this further, Lightcast estimates of IRS Migration statistics for 2022 are used. Inbound migration and outbound migration for each parish from all other parishes/counties in the nation are totaled. The first table shows the percentage of inbound movers that come from the other four parishes in SWLA and the percentage of outbound movers from the parish that go to other SWLA parishes.

SWLA Percentage of Migration - National		
	Total In-Migration	Total Out-Migration
Allen	40.6%	35.2%
Beauregard	36.0%	34.1%
Calcasieu	21.4%	18.9%
Cameron	52.9%	56.0%
Jefferson Davis	44.1%	45.0%

SWLA Percentage of Migration – Louisiana		
	Total In-Migration	Total Out-Migration
Allen	49.8%	46.9%
Beauregard	55.1%	54.0%
Calcasieu	41.5%	44.8%
Cameron	68.3%	74.9%
Jefferson Davis	54.2%	57.0%

The first table shows that a large percentage of migration stays within the 5-parish area, compared to the rest of the **United States**. As Calcasieu has the largest population (by far), the number of people from different origins and destinations throughout the country will be much larger, contributing to smaller percentages. However, when looking at only at migration within Louisiana, the percentages increase.

Migration trends indicate residents relocate within the five-parish area rather than leaving for more distant metro areas in the state such as Lafayette or Baton Rouge. Essentially over half of all migration within the region occurs within the 5 parishes compared to the other 59 parishes in Louisiana. This internal mobility suggests that economic and social factors drive decisions to remain in the broader SWLA economy, strengthening regional identity.

Economic Contribution Analysis

When looking at a region, the economic activity and trade among the areas is crucial to illustrate the importance of economic activity among the 5-parish area. This section uses Contribution Analysis in IMPLAN economic impact software. A contribution analysis shows what the economic impacts would be if an entire industry, group of industries, area, etc. were removed. The spillover / multiplied effects are done in a Multi-Regional Input-Output (MRIO) Model. For the MRIO model, each parish is constructed separately and the remaining 59 parishes in the state are grouped together. The illustration is done in two parts:

1. For each parish, all other economic activity for the other four parishes is eliminated with the rest of the state remaining intact. The indirect and induced impacts to each parish are estimated from this.
2. The percentage loss in economic activity in each parish from removing the other SWLA parishes is compared to the loss that would occur if the rest of the state was eliminated, but the 5-parish area remained intact. Basically, this shows how harmful eliminating the 4 other parishes are compared to eliminating the remaining 59 parishes.

Allen			
	Surrounding 4 Parishes Eliminated		Rest of Louisiana Eliminated
Employment	3.4%	>	2.5%
Labor Income	2.6%	>	1.9%
Real GDP	3.2%	>	2.3%
Output	2.9%	>	2.1%

Beauregard			
	Surrounding 4 Parishes Eliminated		Rest of Louisiana Eliminated
Employment	7.1%	>	7.0%
Labor Income	5.9%	<	6.0%
Real GDP	6.2%	<	6.7%
Output	5.7%	>	5.7%

Calcasieu			
	Surrounding 4 Parishes Eliminated		Rest of Louisiana Eliminated
Employment	1.0%	>	0.5%
Labor Income	0.8%	>	0.4%
Real GDP	0.6%	>	0.4%
Output	0.4%	>	0.3%

Cameron			
	Surrounding 4 Parishes Eliminated		Rest of Louisiana Eliminated
Employment	1.3%	>	0.1%
Labor Income	0.6%	>	0.1%
Real GDP	0.5%	>	0.1%
Output	0.4%	>	0.1%

Jefferson Davis			
	Surrounding 4 Parishes Eliminated		Rest of Louisiana Eliminated
Employment	12.4%	>	3.4%
Labor Income	11.3%	>	3.4%
Real GDP	11.2%	>	4.3%
Output	10.8%	>	4.0%

In almost all instances of the economic variables, it is more harmful to eliminate the surrounding parishes in SWLA than it is to eliminate the rest of the state. This is especially true in the case of Jefferson Davis Parish with the only exceptions being insignificant differences in employment and output for Beauregard Parish

Economic contribution assessments reveal a structured specialization across parishes, each playing a crucial role in the broader economy. Calcasieu anchors the region with industry and services, while Cameron facilitates energy exports, Beauregard and Allen focus on timber and agriculture, and Jefferson Davis balances agribusiness with emerging infrastructure developments. These roles form a mutually reinforcing economic network rather than isolated systems.

Trade Flows

Not only are impacts calculated but this analysis looks at Trade Flows among all parishes / counties. IMPLAN's domestic Trade Flow dataset consists of county-to-county dollar values of domestic trade in all IMPLAN Commodities (including services). The trade captured by this dataset is for both intermediate and final uses and includes trade within a county (and a county to itself). A key aspect of the dataset is that the trade is on an origin-of-production basis, not an origin-of-movement basis. This means that the data set tracks from where a Commodity is produced to where it is consumed, as either an intermediate or final use rather than from where a Commodity begins its export journey. This analysis looks at the trade flows from each parish in the SWLA area to the rest of the parishes / counties in Louisiana and the nation. Since we are looking at why SWLA is a region in the state, the Louisiana numbers are explained.

SWLA % of Total - National						
		Origin				
		Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
Destination	Allen	50.9%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%
	Beauregard	1.3%	55.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	Calcasieu	4.2%	5.0%	34.9%	4.8%	14.4%
	Cameron	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	26.7%	0.3%
	Jefferson Davis	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.1%	61.4%
SWLA Total		57.3%	60.7%	36.4%	31.7%	76.7%

When looking at trade flows in Louisiana, commodities and services originating in the 5-parish area almost exclusively have destinations in the same region. This is to be expected as the vast majority of production originating in a parish will end up in the same parish. To parse out the effects a little more, the last table shows the percentage of trade within the region from each parish, not including own effects.

Even removing own effects for each parish, a great deal of Louisiana trade flow takes place within the other parishes in the region, compared to the rest of the state. Trade in SWLA for each parish ranges from 30% to 67%. These amounts are large considering the remaining percentages are spread across 59 other parishes, rather than just four.

Southwest Louisiana's five parishes are deeply interconnected through trade networks that facilitate the movement of commodities across industries. The IMPLAN commodity trade flow data highlights the exchange of goods between parishes, revealing how each plays a distinct role in supporting the broader regional economy.

SWLA % of Total - Louisiana Only						
		Origin				
		Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
Destination	Allen	77.0%	0.5%	0.6%	0.1%	0.6%
	Beauregard	2.0%	83.8%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%
	Calcasieu	6.3%	7.7%	87.1%	12.4%	17.1%
	Cameron	0.6%	0.1%	0.9%	69.3%	0.3%
	Jefferson Davis	0.8%	0.0%	1.4%	0.4%	73.1%
SWLA Total		86.8%	92.1%	90.9%	82.4%	91.2%

SWLA % of Total - Louisiana Only						
		Origin				
		Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
Destination	Allen		3.0%	4.5%	0.3%	2.3%
	Beauregard	8.8%		7.2%	0.4%	0.2%
	Calcasieu	27.6%	47.4%		40.5%	63.6%
	Cameron	2.5%	0.4%	7.3%		1.2%
	Jefferson Davis	3.7%	0.1%	10.8%	1.2%	
SWLA Total		42.6%	50.9%	29.7%	42.5%	67.3%

Economic Correlations

The 5-parish area is an economically connected region and movements in major economic variables are similar. For illustration, since 2019 (and other years tested), the growth in the Labor Force and Employment have *generally* exhibited a higher correlation with the surrounding parishes and the region as a whole, compared to the state, the other 59 parishes, and the nation. To illustrate, below are correlation matrices for the change in the labor force and the change in employment, as measured by the BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

%Change In Labor Force Correlation Matrix									
	US	Louisiana	Rest of Louisiana	SWLA	Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
US	100%	59%	73%	65%	62%	29%	69%	73%	32%
Louisiana	59%	100%	97%	41%	46%	27%	43%	41%	18%
Rest of Louisiana	73%	97%	100%	46%	47%	28%	49%	49%	23%
SWLA	65%	41%	46%	100%	73%	73%	99%	94%	85%
Allen	62%	46%	47%	73%	100%	44%	73%	71%	44%
Beauregard	29%	27%	28%	73%	44%	100%	67%	55%	68%
Calcasieu	69%	43%	49%	99%	73%	67%	100%	96%	80%
Cameron	73%	41%	49%	94%	71%	55%	96%	100%	75%
Jefferson Davis	32%	18%	23%	85%	44%	68%	80%	75%	100%

% Change in QCEW Employment Correlation Matrix									
	US	Louisiana	Rest of Louisiana	SWLA	Allen	Beauregard	Calcasieu	Cameron	Jefferson Davis
US	100%	83%	89%	76%	88%	45%	83%	-28%	62%
Louisiana	83%	100%	99%	64%	85%	52%	73%	-31%	59%
Rest of Louisiana	89%	99%	100%	68%	88%	51%	77%	-31%	61%
SWLA	76%	64%	68%	100%	90%	89%	97%	21%	95%
Allen	88%	85%	88%	90%	100%	70%	97%	-21%	77%
Beauregard	45%	52%	51%	89%	70%	100%	79%	52%	97%
Calcasieu	83%	73%	77%	97%	97%	79%	100%	-3%	86%
Cameron	-28%	-31%	-31%	21%	-21%	52%	-3%	100%	45%
Jefferson Davis	62%	59%	61%	95%	77%	97%	86%	45%	100%

While Cameron parish is somewhat of an outlier in some instances, the correlations in labor force and employment are usually higher with SWLA in every parish. The correlations among parishes themselves are also generally higher.

This is evidence that trends across SWLA exhibit high correlation—employment fluctuations, housing market shifts, and consumer spending patterns largely move in tandem. Industrial expansions or contractions in one parish ripple into service economies in other nearby parishes, demonstrating the shared business environment.

Higher Education: Workforce Preparation

There are two institutions of higher education in SWLA, McNeese State University and SOWELA Technical Community College. The Board of Regents data shows the majority of the enrollment in each of these institutions comes from the 5 parishes in SWLA (Cameron has a lower percentage / rank due to its very low population). The results illustrated are for the Fall Semester of 2024 – 2025 but the patterns generally hold for the previous years.

SWLA Parish Enrollment and Totals			
	McNeese	SOWELA	Total
Allen	148	164	312
Beauregard	353	230	583
Calcasieu	2,900	2,161	5,061
Cameron	118	31	149
Jefferson Davis	481	289	770
SWLA	4,000	2,875	6,875
Louisiana Total	5,324	3,322	8,646
Institution Total	6,252	3,446	9,698
SWLA % Louisiana Total	75.1%	86.5%	79.5%
SWLA % Total	64.0%	83.4%	70.9%

Nearby parishes such as Acadia and Lafayette produce students for the schools in SWLA, however, the overwhelming majority of students come from the region. Students from the 5-parish area make up over 75% of McNeese's Louisiana population and 64% of the total (counting out of state and international). Students from the 5-parish area make up over 86% of the SOWELA's Louisiana population and 83% of the total (counting out of state and international).

McNeese State University, SOWELA Technical Community College, and industry-focused training centers align their programs with the economic needs of SWLA, supporting local employers with specialized talent. This coordination illustrates a deliberate approach to maintaining a skilled workforce within the five-parish framework.

Southwest Louisiana's five-parish configuration—Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis—forms an economically interconnected region through shared workforce dynamics, industrial dependencies, and historical trade relationships. While state agencies define regional boundaries differently, SWLA's unity is evident across multiple indicators. The majority of workers commute within the 5-parish area and commuting flows show strong daily interdependence across parish lines. Most migration occurs within the region, indicating social and familial ties across parishes. Removing nearby parishes has a greater economic impact on each parish than removing the rest of Louisiana. This reveals tight economic spillovers and linkages. Intra-parish trade exceeds 40% to 67% (excluding own-parish trade), demonstrating deep economic integration. Labor force and employment trends across the five parishes move in tandem, showing strong economic correlations across years. SWLA functions as a synchronized local economy, more tightly linked than to the rest of Louisiana or the nation. Over 75% of McNeese's and 86% of SOWELA's Louisiana student population comes from the five parishes. Higher education institutions serve and are shaped by this regional population base. The region operates as a functional economic unit. These five parishes are mutually reinforcing, not isolated communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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