Drew CBEA Quarterly Report
August 2025

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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2nd Quarter 2025 Issue

This 2nd Quarter 2025 issue points out the economic has been sort of a mixed bag. The MSA has seen slight increases in total nonfarm employment, but the parishes have seen drops in household employment and job openings. Tax revenues have generally been increasing while other variables have been flat, showing very little change. SNAP benefits have decreased somewhat dramatically in parishes.

The final piece shows highlights from the latest State of SWLA breakfast that was presented by the SWLA Economic Development Alliance at the Horseshoe Casino this year. It was a great event showcasing all the great developments at the regional and state level. While the coincident economic index for the region has been flat, there have been large increases in multi-unit permits in the previous year which should result in more building in the current and coming years. The statistical forecasts for jobs of the area point to continued flat trends but incorporating recent FIDs in the area greatly increase the trajectory over the next two years.

As always, thank you for reading.

Dan Groft, Ph.D.
Director, H.C. Drew Center for Business and Economic Analysis

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SWLA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Lake Charles MSA

Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

(measures in thousands of workers)	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 – 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total Nonfarm	**104.2**	**103.7**	**104.9**	**104.0**	**105.2**
Year-Over-Year Change	1.0	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.0	1.1	1.5	0.9	0.9
Mining and Logging	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	**11.4**	**10.8**	**10.8**	**10.4**	**10.5**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.1	0.3	-0.5	-0.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.0	1.2	3.2	-4.6	-7.6
Manufacturing	**12.3**	**12.1**	**12.3**	**12.3**	**12.4**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.5	2.0	1.4	0.0	0.8
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	**18.3**	**18.4**	**18.8**	**18.5**	**18.4**
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.5	-1.1	0.0	0.7	0.9
Information	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0.6**
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	-14.3	-14.3	-14.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	**3.7**	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.6**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.9	0.9	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8
Professional and Business Services	**10.2**	**10.5**	**10.3**	**10.0**	**10.2**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.0	6.8	5.5	4.2	0.0
Education and Health Services	**14.4**	**14.5**	**14.7**	**14.8**	**14.9**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.1	1.6	3.3	2.5	3.5
Leisure and Hospitality	**13.9**	**14.3**	**14.2**	**14.2**	**14.7**
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.7	0.2	0.9	2.6	5.3
Other Services	**2.8**	**2.8**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**3.0**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	-1.2	3.6	3.6	4.7
Government	**16.3**	**15.6**	**16.3**	**16.3**	**16.6**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.9	0.9	0.0	0.8	1.4
Average Weekly Wages (All Employees)	**1,066.83**	**1,088.86**	**1,175.45**	**1,167.33**	**1,135.78**
Year-Over-Year Change	73.6	110.3	205.9	173.7	68.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.4	11.3	21.2	17.5	6.5
Average Hourly Wage (All Employees)	**30.17**	**31.02**	**32.7**	**33.0**	**31.6**
Year-Over-Year Change	1.2	2.5	4.5	4.0	1.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.0	8.7	15.8	13.9	4.9
Average Weekly Hours (All Employees)	**35.4**	**35.1**	**35.9**	35.4	35.9
Year-Over-Year Change	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.1	0.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.3	2.3	4.7	3.1	1.5

In the 2nd 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 0.9% growth over the year. Looking at the industries, most had increases or no change while Construction had the largest decline of 900 jobs (-7.6%). Leisure and Hospitality saw an increase of 700 jobs (+5.3%). Education and Health Services saw an increase of 500 jobs (+3.5%). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities experienced a slight industry gain of 200 workers (+0.9%). Government also increased 200 jobs (+1.4%). Professional and Business Services, Mining and Logging, and Information all saw no real change in workers. Manufacturing and Other Services both saw a slight increase of 100 workers. Financial Activities (-1.8%) had a decrease of 100 jobs.

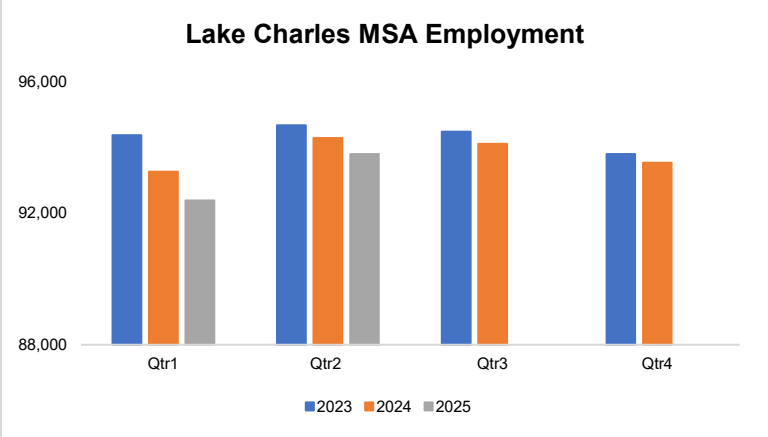
While there was a gain in employment, there were also increases in earnings measured. The average weekly earnings of all employees rose 6.5% and average hourly earnings rose 4.9%. The average weekly hours of all employees in the 2nd quarter rose 1.5% over the year.

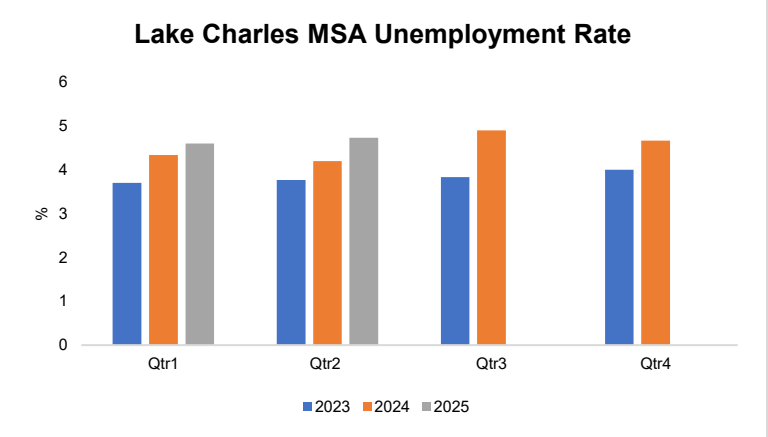
Lake Charles MSA

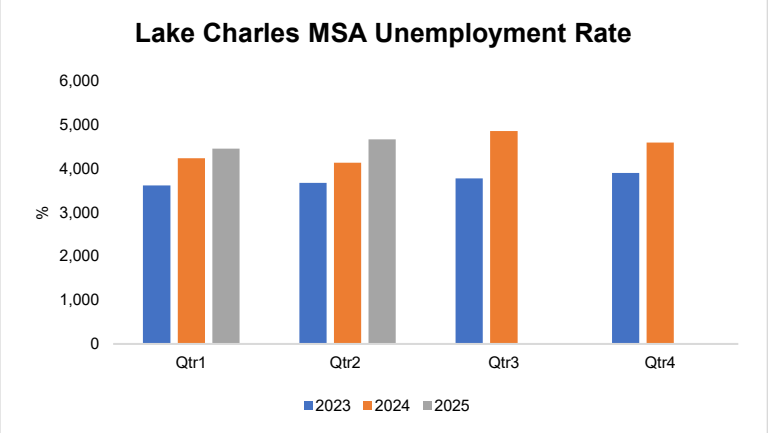
Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr1- 2025	Qtr2- 2025
Household Employment	**94,284**	**94,111**	**93,540**	**92,389**	**93,800**
Year-Over-Year Change	-390	-366	-255	-876	-483
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.9	-0.5
Household Unemployment	**4,135**	**4,859**	**4,593**	**4,457**	**4,667**
Year-Over-Year Change	462	1,086	697	224	532
Year-Over-Year % Change	12.6	28.8	17.9	5.3	12.9
Labor Force	**92,532**	**98,970**	**98,133**	**96,846**	**98,467**
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,087	720	442	-652	5,935
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.2	0.7	0.5	-0.7	6.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	**4.2**	**4.9**	**4.7**	**4.6**	**4.7**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.5

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total Job Openings	**4,671**	**4,132**	**3,869**	**3,723**	**4,027**
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,320	-1,116	-1,070	-1,098	-645
Year-Over-Year % Change	-22.0	-21.3	-21.7	-22.8	-13.8







The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 4.7%, which represents a 0.5 percentage point increase from a year ago. The household employment measure decreased by 483 over the year for a 0.5% decrease. The number of unemployed increased by 532. This represented a 12.9% increase. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was an increase of 5,935 (+6.4%). More labor will be needed for long-term growth so future developments in this measure should be watched closely.

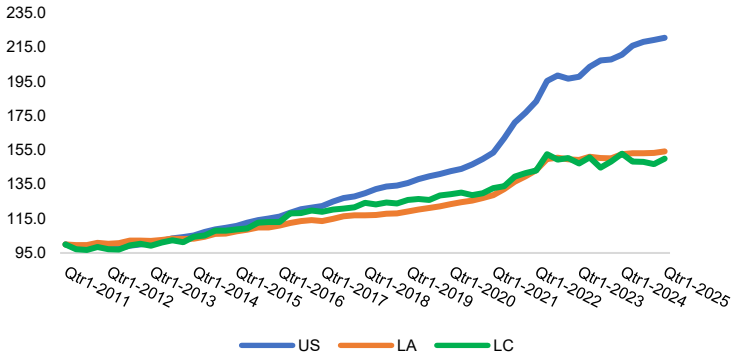
Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2025 averaged 4,027.

Openings decreased by 645 (-13.8%) over the year.

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

Lake Charles MSA

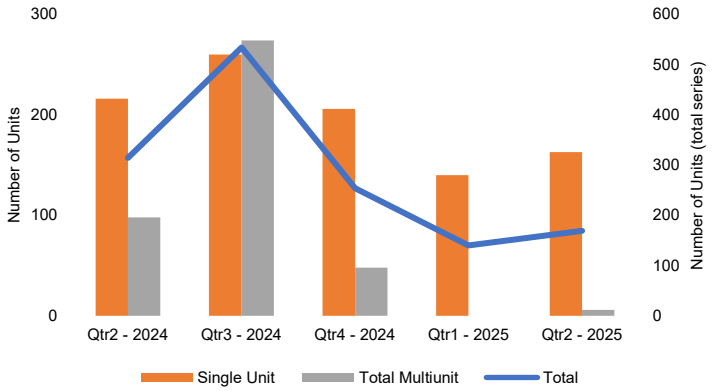
Housing Statistics



Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr1– 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	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 first quarter of 2025 to the same quarter in 2024, 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



In the 2nd quarter of 2025, single unit permits fell by 53 over-the-year while multi-unit permits had a decrease of 92, therefore the total decrease was 145. This represented a 46.2% decrease. The YTD figures show similar results with a decrease in single units of 86 and multi-unit permits decreasing by 208 for a total decrease of 294 over the year in the second quarter. The total percentage decrease in YTD was 48.8%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits fell by $10.8 million while multi-unit permit valuations fell by $21 million for a total decrease of $31.9 million. This represented a 47.5% decrease year-over-year in the 2nd quarter of 2025 for the valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, single unit valuations decreased $15.6 million and multi-unit valuations decreased $44 million for a total percentage change of -47.2%.

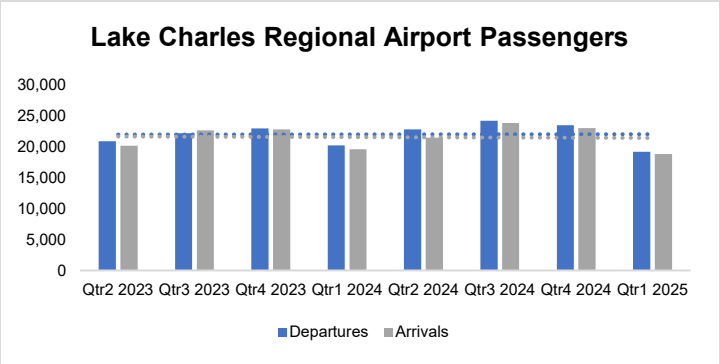
The graph of building permits shows that single-unit permits have been decreasing since the 3rd quarter of 2024 after spiking. Multi-unit permits were 0 in the 1st quarter of 2025. The blue line shows the total permits, and it has displayed a downward flat trend since 3rd quarter of 2024.

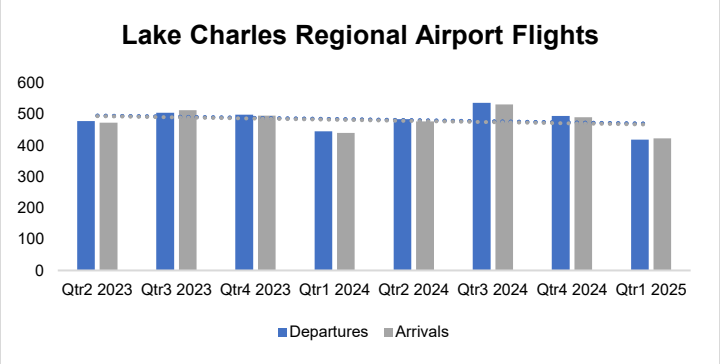
		Qtr-2 2024	Qtr-2 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-2 2024 YTD	Qtr-2 2025 YTD	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number									
	Total	314	169	-145	-46.2	603	309	-294	-48.8
	Single	216	163	-53	-24.5	389	303	-86	-22.1
	Multi-unit	98	6	-92	-93.9	214	6	-208	-97.2
Valuation									
(thousands $)	**Total**	67,104	35,220	-31,884	-47.5	126,286	66,687	-59,599	-47.2
	Single	45,736	34,895	-10,841	-23.7	81,946	66,362	-15,584	-19.0
	Multi-unit	21,368	325	-21,043	-98.5	44,340	325	-44,015	-99.3

Lake Charles MSA

Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport



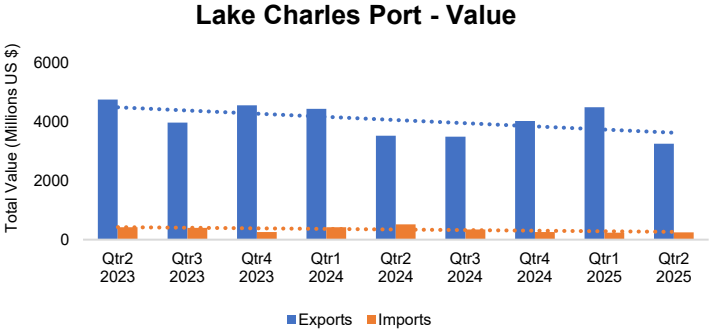


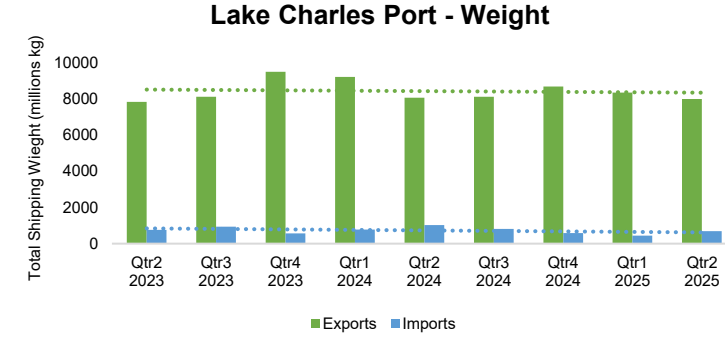
The Lake Charles regional airport experienced a downtick in activity during the 1st quarter of 2025 compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Activity has decreased compared to the start of 2024 but overall is still increasing as the airport and area recover from the storms and flights have resumed out of LCH.

	Qtr-1 2024	Qtr-1 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	20,239	19,215	-1,024	-5.1
Arrivals	19,607	18,831	-776	-4.0
Flights				
Departures	445	419	-26	-5.8
Arrivals	440	423	-17	-3.9

Passengers departing in the 1st quarter of 2025 fell 1,024 (-5.1%) since the 1st quarter of 2024 and those arriving have decreased 776 (-4.0%). In terms of flights, there has been a decrease of 26 flights (-5.8%) departing from Lake Charles over that same period while the number of flights arriving has fallen by 17 (-3.9%) as well. The number of passengers has been steadily increasing since 2020.

Lake Charles Port Statistics



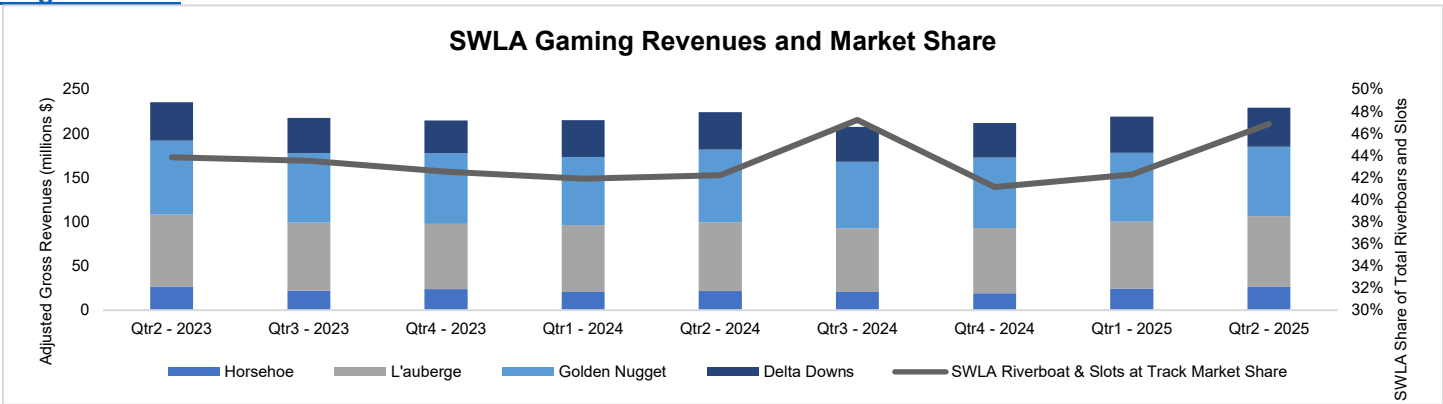


The Lake Charles port has seen decreases in export values and a decrease in import values in the 2nd quarter of 2025. The figures in the table below show the value of exports fell $279 million (-7.9%) over the year while the total value of imports fell by $265 million (-51.4%) The total weight of all exports fell 57 million kg (-0.7%) while the total weight of all imports fell 333 million kg (-32.7%). Export values have recently been rising, but total weights have been fairly steady, despite the recent slight decrease.

	Qtr-2 2024	Qtr-2 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions $)				
Exports	3,525	3,247	-279	-7.9
Imports	516	251	-265	-51.4
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	8,053	7,996	-57	-0.7
Imports	1,020	687	-333	-32.7

Lake Charles MSA

Gaming Statistics



	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total State AGR (millions)	**531.0**	**439.1**	**514.8**	**517.9**	**489.1**
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-5.6	-60.7	9.8	4.3	-41.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.1	-12.1	1.9	0.8	-7.9
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	**224.2**	**207.4**	**211.9**	**219.1**	**229.1**
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-11.1	-10.3	-3.1	3.8	4.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.7	-4.7	-1.4	1.8	2.2
Total AGR (millions)					
Horseshoe	**21.7**	**20.4**	**19.2**	**24.0**	**26.2**
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-5.0	-1.5	-4.7	3.6	4.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-18.8	-6.9	-19.7	17.6	20.7
L'Auberge	**77.7**	**72.2**	**73.9**	**76.3**	**80.3**
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-3.8	-5.1	0.0	0.4	2.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.7	-6.6	0.0	0.5	3.2
Golden Nugget	**82.4**	**75.4**	**79.6**	**77.7**	**78.7**
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-1.3	-3.1	-0.6	0.5	-3.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.5	-3.9	-0.7	0.7	-4.5
Delta Downs	**42.3**	**39.4**	**39.2**	**41.0**	**44.0**
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-0.9	-0.6	2.3	-0.7	1.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-2.1	-1.5	6.1	-1.7	3.9
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	9.7%	9.8%	9.1%	11.0%	11.5%
L'Auberge	34.7%	34.8%	34.9%	34.8%	35.0%
Golden Nugget	36.8%	36.4%	37.6%	35.5%	34.3%
Delta Downs	18.9%	19.0%	18.5%	18.7%	19.2%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	4.1%	4.6%	3.7%	4.6%	5.4%
L'Auberge	14.6%	16.4%	14.3%	14.7%	16.4%
Golden Nugget	15.5%	17.2%	15.5%	15.0%	16.1%
Delta Downs	8.0%	9.0%	7.6%	7.9%	9.0%
SWLA Total AGR	42.2%	47.2%	41.2%	42.3%	46.8%

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 2.2% higher than the 2nd quarter of 2024 and statewide AGR in Q2 2025 was 7.9% lower than Q2 2024. Total revenues in SWLA for the 2nd quarter of 2025 were $229.1 million, or a 2.2% percent increase from the previous year.

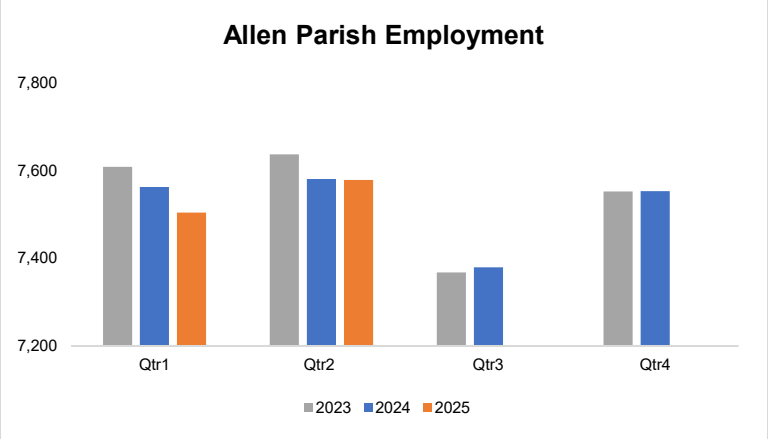
Horseshoe collected $26.2 million in revenue in the 2nd quarter of 2025 (+20.7%). L'Auberge saw a $2.5 million increase (+3.2%). The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage decrease in AGR of 4.5% with an absolute decrease of $3.7 million. Delta Downs experienced a $1.6 million increase in AGR over the year for a 3.9% increase. 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 46.8% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, which is a 4.6 percentage point increase from the 2nd quarter of 2024.

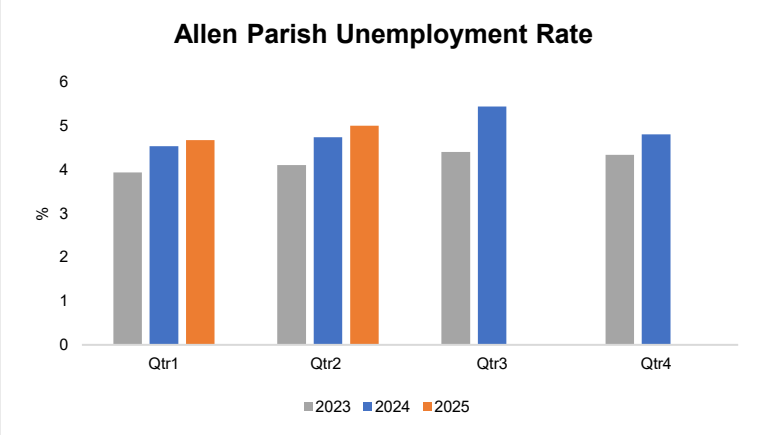
Allen Parish

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Household Employment	**7,581**	**7,380**	**7,553**	**7,504**	**7,579**
Year-Over-Year Change	-56	12	1	-58	-2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.7	0.2	0.0	-0.8	0.0
Household Unemployment	**377**	**422**	**379**	**366**	**401**
Year-Over-Year Change	52	84	39	8	25
Year-Over-Year % Change	16.1	25.0	11.4	2.1	6.5
Labor Force	**7,958**	**7,801**	**7,932**	**7,870**	**7,980**
Year-Over-Year Change	-4	96	39	-50	22
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.1	1.2	0.5	-0.6	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	**4.7**	**5.4**	**4.8**	**4.7**	**5.0**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.3

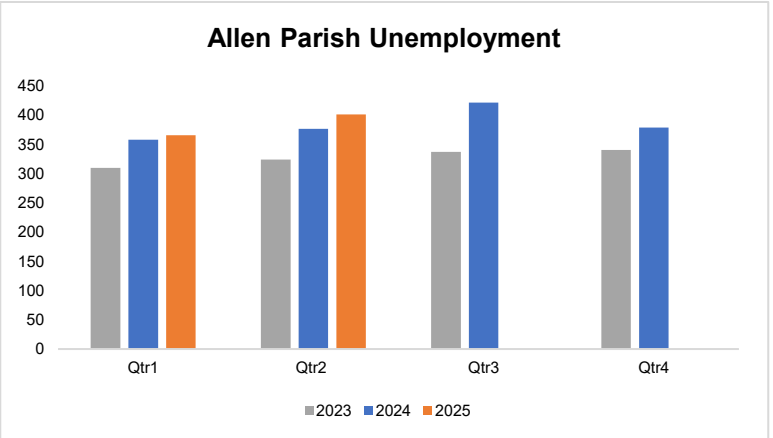
	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total Job Openings	**221**	**217**	**221**	**200**	**158**
Year-Over-Year Change	-20	-17	-6	-61	-63
Year-Over-Year % Change	-8.3	-7.4	-2.8	-23.4	-28.4





In the 2nd quarter of 2025, Allen parish saw a rise in the labor force of 22 (+0.3%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 25 over the year (+6.5%) while the number of employed people fell by 2 (0.0%) over the year. The unemployment rate rose over the year by 0.3 percentage points to 5.0%.

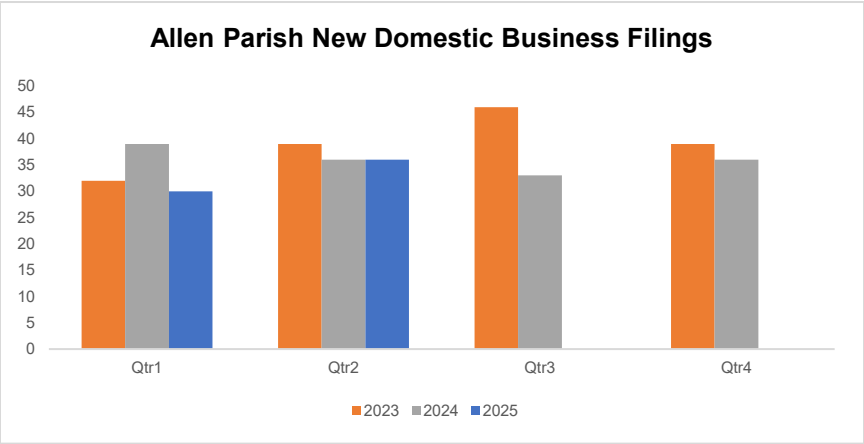
Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2025 averaged 158. Openings fell by 63 (-28.4%) over the year.



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 2nd 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

New 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.

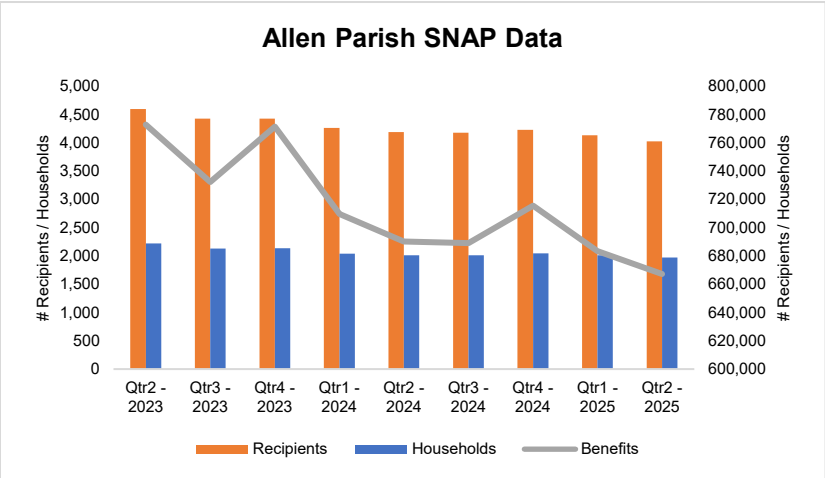
The number of new business filings in Allen parish was 36 in the 2nd quarter of 2025 which was the same as the second quarter in 2024 and 3 less than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2025 was 66. This was 9 businesses less than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD and 5 businesses fewer than the 2nd quarter of 2023 YTD.

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

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	32	71	117	156
2024	39	75	108	144
2025	30	66		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,185	4,175	4,226	4,128	4,024	-161	-3.8
Households	2,009	2,011	2,043	2,008	1,973	-36	-1.8
Benefits	690,190	689,083	715,544	683,462	667,183	-23,007	-3.3



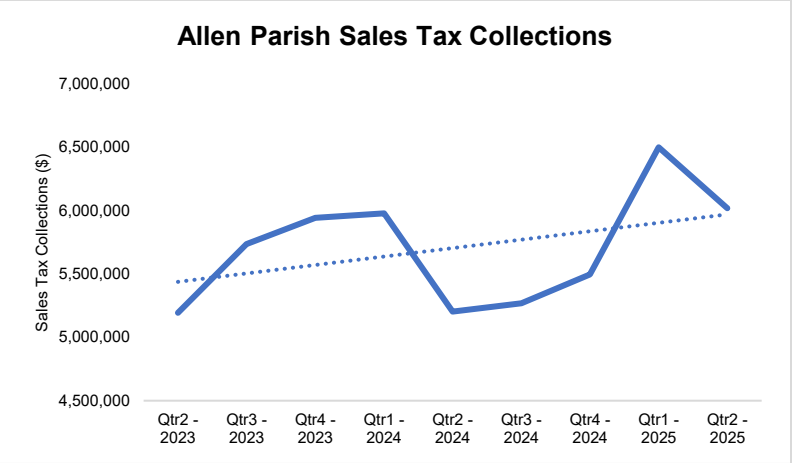
Allen parish had a decrease in SNAP recipients and in households, along with a decrease in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,024 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2025. 161 fewer people received benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2024 for a 3.8% decrease over this time. The total number of second quarter households receiving SNAP was 1,973, which was 36 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 1.8% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received $667,183 in total during the 2nd quarter of 2025, which was a $23,007 decrease over-the-year. This was a 3.3% 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.

Allen Parish

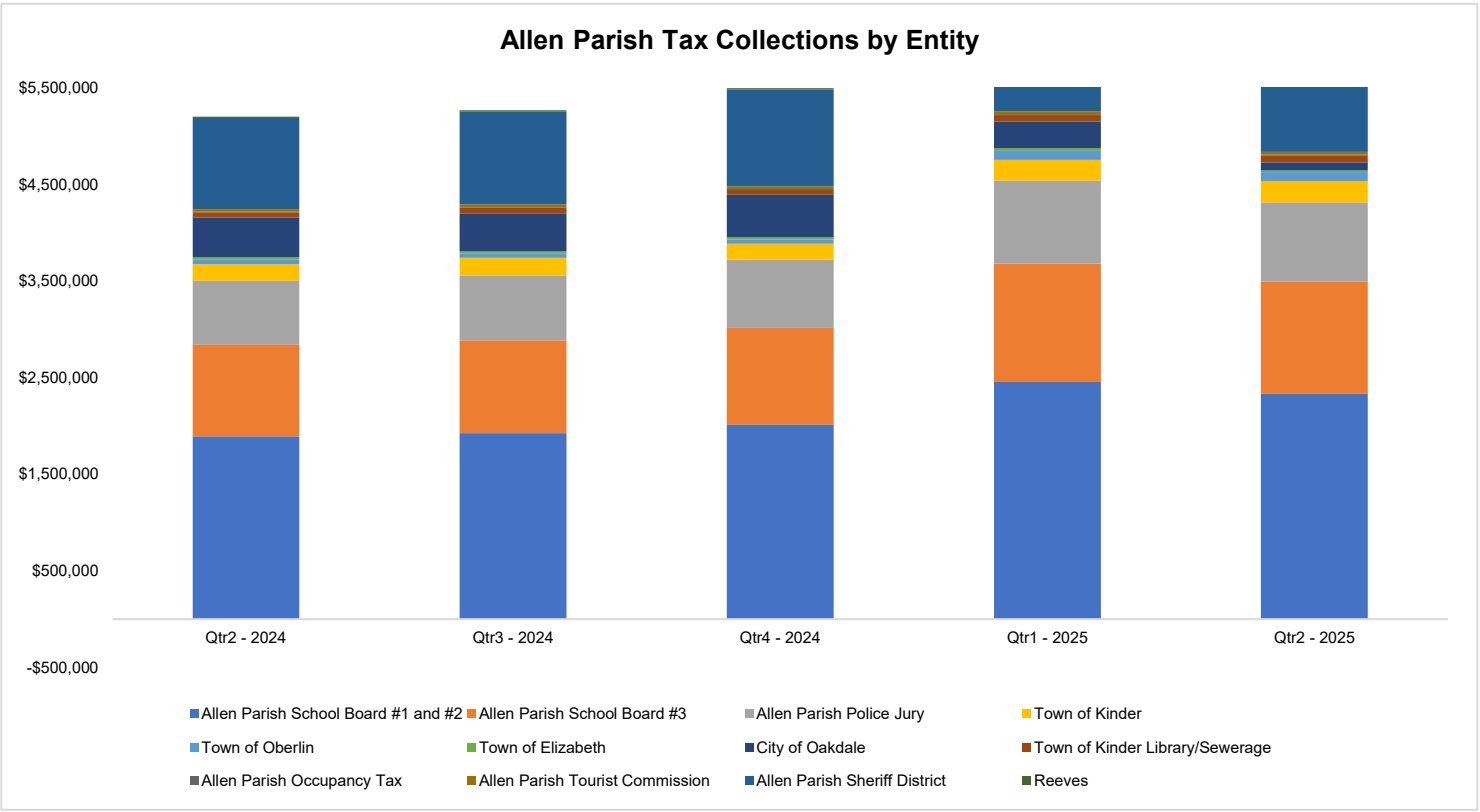
Tax Collections

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 2nd quarter of 2024, Allen Parish has seen an overall increase in tax collections. Total tax collections increased $817.5 thousand for a 15.7% increase.



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	1,892,827	1,923,878	2,010,780	2,454,296	2,331,274	438,447	23.2
Allen Parish School Board #3	946,287	961,516	1,005,183	1,227,005	1,165,609	219,322	23.2
Allen Parish Police Jury	662,403	673,063	703,630	858,905	815,928	153,525	23.2
Town of Kinder	172,766	182,898	166,104	214,651	222,917	50,151	29.0
Town of Oberlin	50,098	44,750	45,021	90,907	92,053	41,955	83.7
Town of Elizabeth	22,894	20,905	20,899	30,045	18,095	-4,799	-21.0
City of Oakdale	411,973	394,083	441,031	277,199	83,139	-328,834	-79.8
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	51,830	54,870	49,831	64,396	66,876	15,045	29.0
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	7,898	9,393	9,028	10,151	9,948	2,049	25.9
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	23,694	28,179	27,084	30,452	29,843	6,149	25.9
Allen Parish Sheriff District	946,287	961,516	1,005,183	1,227,005	1,165,609	219,322	23.2
Reeves	13,171	12,929	12,644	14,734	18,354	5,183	39.3
Total	5,202,130	5,267,980	5,496,419	6,499,747	6,019,644	817,515	15.7



Beauregard Parish

Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

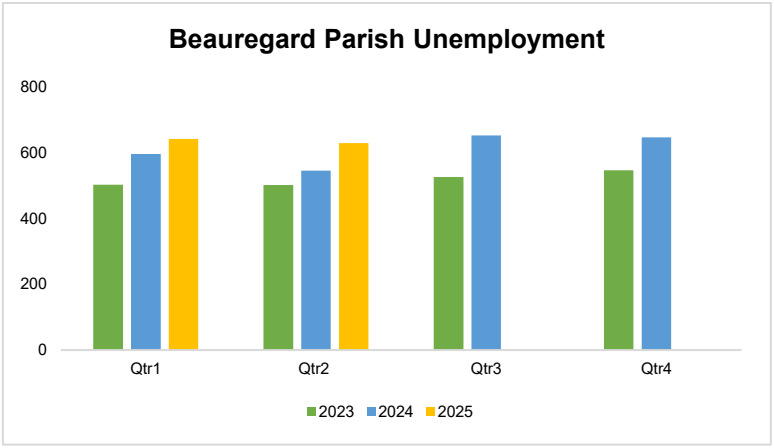
	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Household Employment	**14,275**	**13,892**	**13,909**	**13,644**	**13,732**
Year-Over-Year Change	155	-292	-495	-547	-543
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.1	-2.1	-3.4	-3.9	-3.8
Household Unemployment	**546**	**653**	**647**	**642**	**629**
Year-Over-Year Change	44	127	100	45	83
Year-Over-Year % Change	8.8	24.1	18.2	7.5	15.3
Labor Force	**14,821**	**14,545**	**14,555**	**14,285**	**14,361**
Year-Over-Year Change	199	-166	-395	-502	-460
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.4	-1.1	-2.6	-3.4	-3.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	**3.7**	**4.5**	**4.4**	**4.5**	**4.4**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.7

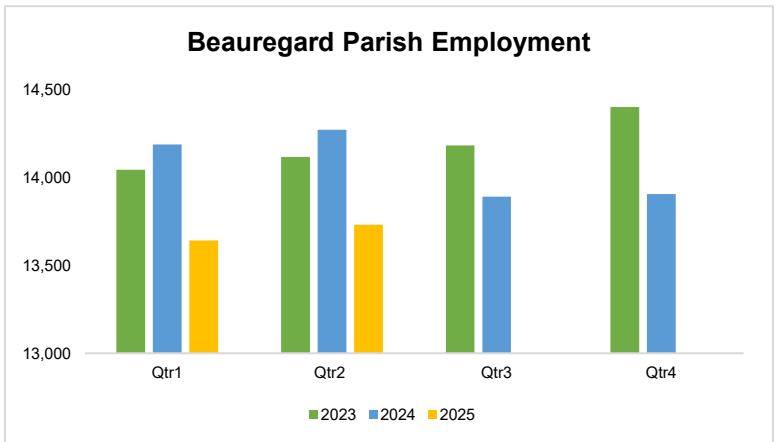
	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total Job Openings	**349**	**281**	**300**	**204**	**260**
Year-Over-Year Change	-121	-116	-74	-191	-89
Year-Over-Year % Change	-25.8	-29.2	-19.8	-48.4	-25.4

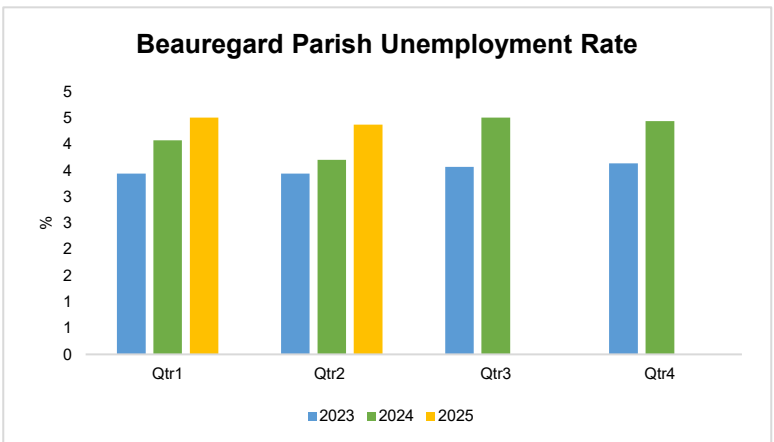
In the 2nd quarter of 2025, Beauregard parish saw a fall in household employment of 543 over the year (-3.8%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 83 (+15.3%) over the year. This led to a decrease of 460 (-3.1%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points over the year to 4.4%.

Job openings in the 2nd quarter averaged 260. Openings fell by 89 (-25.4%) 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 2nd quarter of 2025, Beauregard has slightly higher unemployment and lower employment figures.

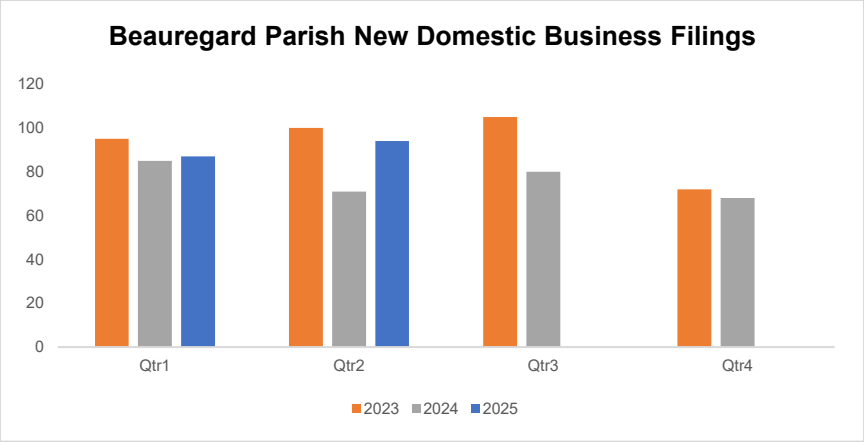






Beauregard Parish

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 Beauregard parish was 94 in the 2nd quarter of 2025, which was 23 more than the same quarter in 2024 and 6 less compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2025 was 181. There were 25 more businesses in the 2nd quarter of 2025 than in 2024 YTD and 14 businesses less than the 2nd quarter of 2023 YTD.

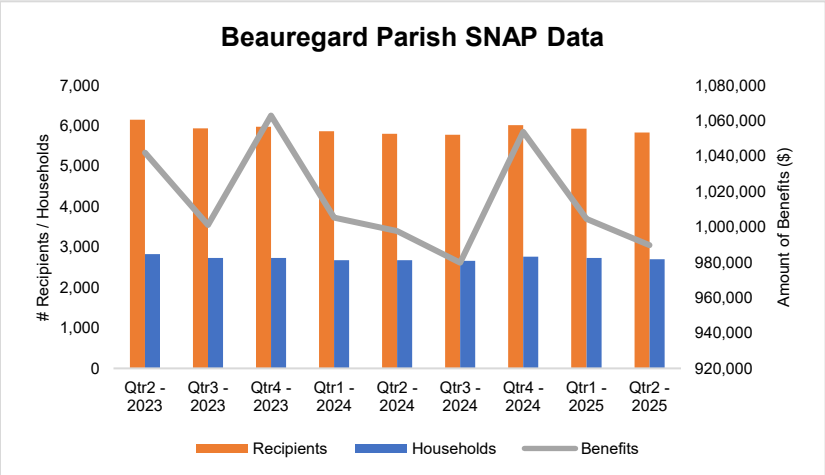
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	95	100	105	72
2024	85	71	80	68
2025	87	94		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	95	195	300	372
2024	85	156	236	304
2025	87	181		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,803	5,777	6,015	5,924	5,833	30	0.5
Households	2,673	2,662	2,763	2,733	2,697	24	0.9
Benefits	997,529	979,728	1,053,771	1,004,539	989,566	-7,963	-0.8

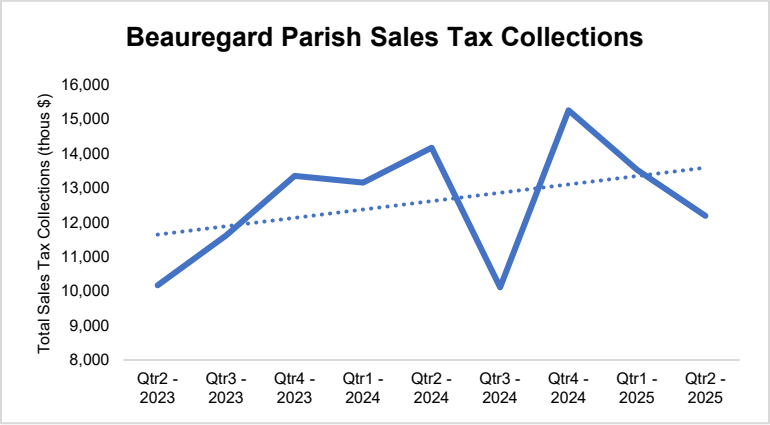
Beauregard parish has experienced increases in SNAP recipients and households and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,833 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2025. 30 more people received benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2024 for a 0.5% increase over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,697, which was 24 more than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 0.9% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of $989.6 thousand in total during the 2nd quarter of 2025, which was a $7,963 decrease over-the-year. This was a 0.8% decrease in benefits in the parish.



Looking at the graph illustrates relative flat trends in benefits, households, and recipients, over the past two years. Benefit amounts have been up and down, but the trend remains flat.

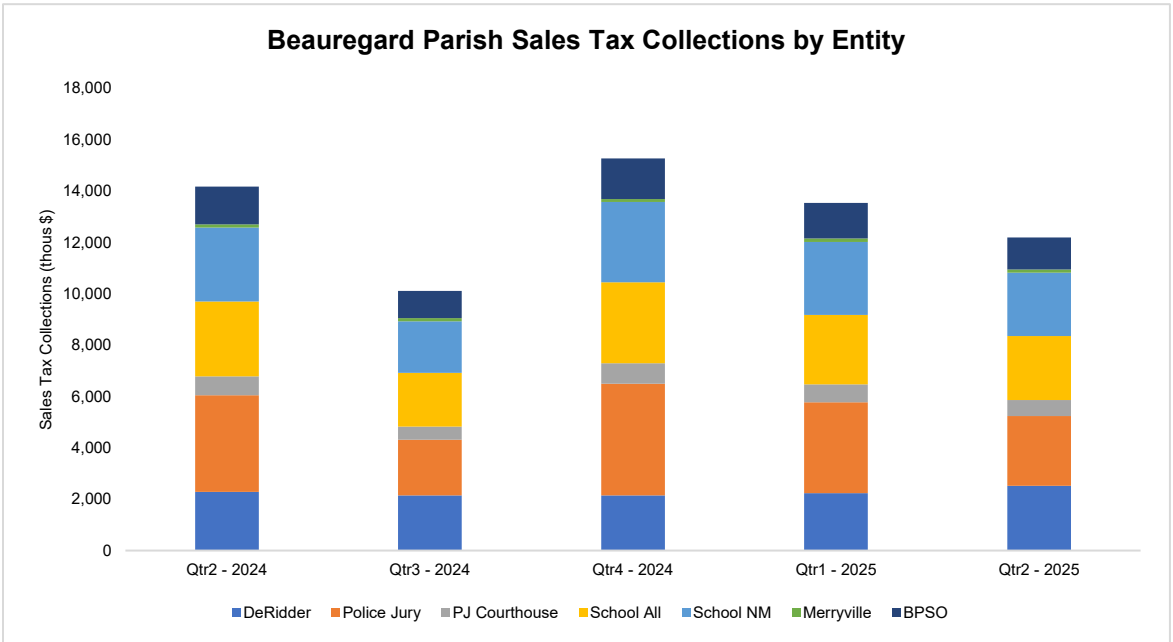
Beauregard Parish

Tax Collections



Beauregard parish has seen an overall decrease in its sales tax collections in the 2nd quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections fell by $1.97 million over the year for a 13.9% decrease. Looking at the entities that receive sales tax distributions shows that Police Jury collects the most revenue, but other areas are close. The Police Jury category saw a $1.05 million decrease (-28.0%). DeRidder saw a notable year-over-year increase of $238 thousand (+10.4%) over the year. Another increase came from Merryville, which increased $5.1 thousand, or a 4.1% increase. All School board revenues fell by roughly $419.8 thousand (-14.4%). BPSO collections fell by $221.1 thousand (-15.1%) and PJ Courthouse fell $104.7 thousand (-14.4%). School NM tax collections saw a decrease in sales taxes of $419.1 thousand, marking a 14.5% decrease.

Sales Tax Collections (thous $)	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	2,279.5	2,142.1	2,141.9	2,231.7	2,517.6	238.2	10.4
Police Jury	3,768.4	2,178.7	4,358.6	3,543.1	2,715.0	-1,053.4	-28.0
PJ Courthouse	728.1	510.7	787.8	696.0	623.5	-104.7	-14.4
School All	2,920.9	2,088.7	3,156.5	2,696.8	2,501.1	-419.8	-14.4
School NM	2,881.6	2,002.8	3,124.4	2,847.9	2,462.5	-419.1	-14.5
Merryville	123.3	129.8	112.8	133.8	128.4	5.1	4.1
BPSO	1,467.0	1,058.6	1,578.6	1,382.6	1,246.0	-221.1	-15.1
Total	14,168.9	10,111.3	15,260.6	13,531.8	12,194.2	-1,974.7	-13.9

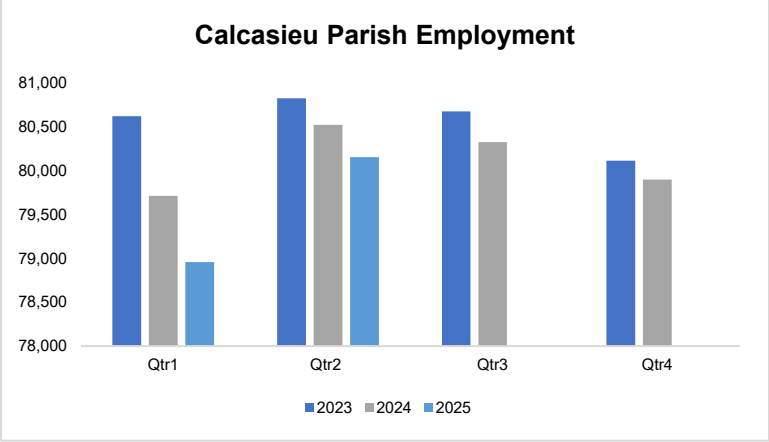


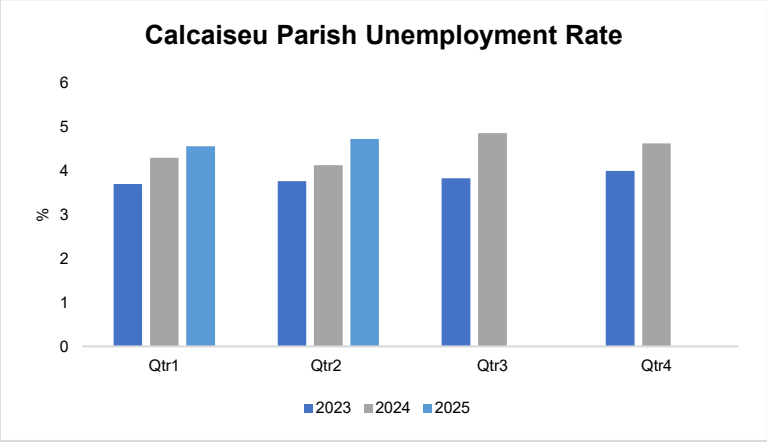
Calcasieu Parish

Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Household Employment	**80,524**	**80,327**	**79,900**	**78,957**	**80,154**
Year-Over-Year Change	-304	-350	-213	-755	-370
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.9	-0.5
Household Unemployment	**3,500**	**4,112**	**3,881**	**3,776**	**3,976**
Year-Over-Year Change	361	885	551	187	476
Year-Over-Year % Change	11.5	27.4	16.5	5.2	13.6
Labor Force	**84,023**	**84,439**	**83,781**	**82,733**	**84,130**
Year-Over-Year Change	57	535	338	-568	107
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.1	0.6	0.4	-0.7	0.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	**4.1**	**4.9**	**4.6**	**4.6**	**4.7**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.6

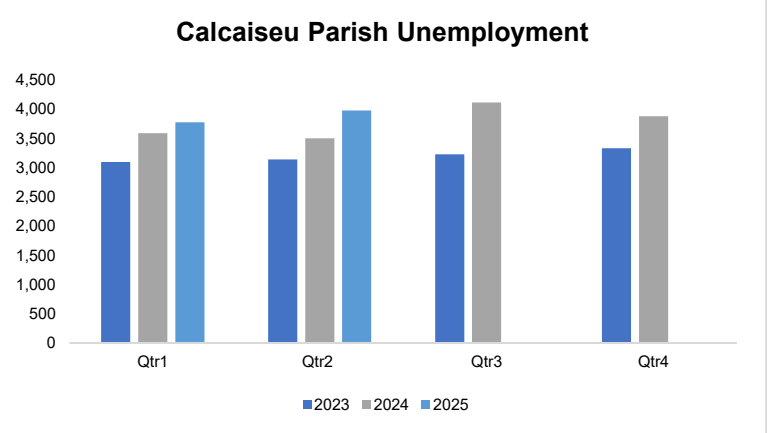
	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total Job Openings	**4,586**	**4,046**	**3,747**	**3,647**	**3,893**
Year-Over-Year Change	-1,300	-1,025	-1,001	-938	-693
Year-Over-Year % Change	-22.1	-20.2	-21.1	-20.5	-15.1





In the 2nd quarter of 2025, Calcasieu Parish saw an increase in the labor force of 107 (+0.1%). This was due to a decrease in household employment of 370 over the year (-0.5%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 476 (+13.6%). The unemployment rate rose 0.6 percentage points over the year to 4.7%.

Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2025 averaged 3,893. Openings fell by 693 (-15.1%) 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 lower employment level in the 2nd quarter of 2025 compared to 2024. The unemployment level is slightly higher than in the 2nd quarter of 2024.

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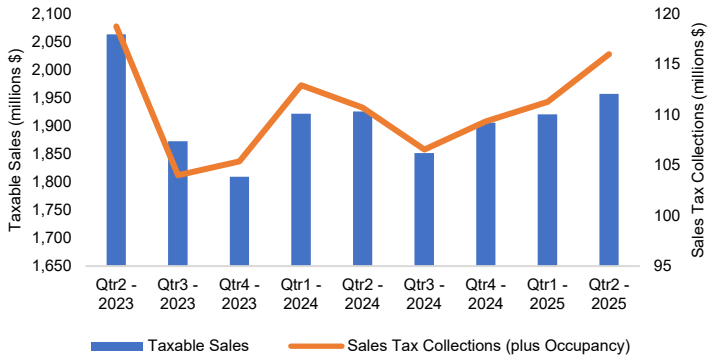
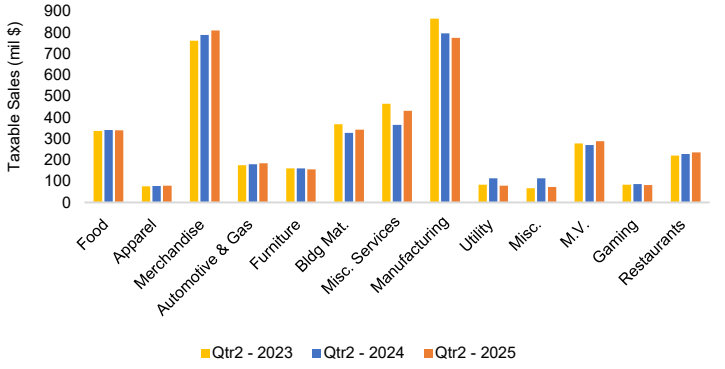
H.C. Drew Center For Business & Economic Analysis

SWLA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Calcasieu Parish

Tax Collections





Collections (mil $)	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	Qtr1- 2025	Qtr2- 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	166.5	167.2	163.8	172.5	167.9	1.4	0.9
Apparel	35.3	34.0	36.9	40.6	39.1	3.8	10.7
Merchandise	378.1	382.0	389.6	408.3	401.9	23.9	6.3
Automotive & Gas	94.5	101.3	100.2	85.3	98.6	4.2	4.4
Furniture	82.0	71.0	72.7	81.7	74.3	-7.6	-9.3
Bldg Mat.	166.6	153.6	191.7	157.1	185.2	18.6	11.2
Misc. Services	211.6	193.0	189.8	221.7	209.8	-1.8	-0.9
Manufacturing	384.3	377.1	402.1	399.9	374.7	-9.6	-2.5
Utility	49.2	35.8	37.8	39.8	38.8	-10.3	-21.0
Misc.	49.3	28.7	38.3	31.8	41.8	-7.5	-15.3
M.V.	142.8	145.5	133.8	134.8	153.2	10.4	7.3
Gaming	46.0	46.4	38.0	38.1	44.2	-1.8	-3.9
Restaurants	119.6	115.8	111.2	109.1	127.3	7.7	6.5
Total	1,925.7	1,851.4	1,905.9	1,920.8	1,956.9	31.3	1.6

Taxable sales in Calcasieu parish have seeemd 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 2nd quarter of 2025. Looking at the 2nd quarter, compared to the same quarter the previous year, sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have risen by $5.3 million over the year for a 4.8% increase. General sales taxes rose by $5.2 million (+4.8%) over the year. Occupancy taxes didn't have a significant change. These taxes rose $0.1 million for a 6.4% increase year over year. This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish rose $31.3 million (+1.6%) over the year. Merchandise rose the largest in absolute terms (+$23.9 million, +6.3%). While Building Materials rose the largest in percentage points (+$18.6 million, +11.2%). Utility fell the largest in absolute terms and percentage points (-$10.3 million, -21.0%). Misc. fell in percentage terms (-15.3%) and Furniture fell (-9.3%). Food (+0.9%), Apparel (+10.7%), Automotive & Gas (+4.4%), M.V. (+7.3%), and Restaurants (+6.5%) all experienced increases in collections. While Gaming decreased (-3.9%), Manufacturing decreased (-2.5%), and Misc. Services decreased (-0.9%).

Collections (mil $)	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	108.6	104.4	107.5	109.5	113.8	5.2	4.8
Occupancy Taxes	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.2	0.1	6.4
Sales Tax Collections	110.7	106.5	109.3	111.3	116.0	5.3	4.8

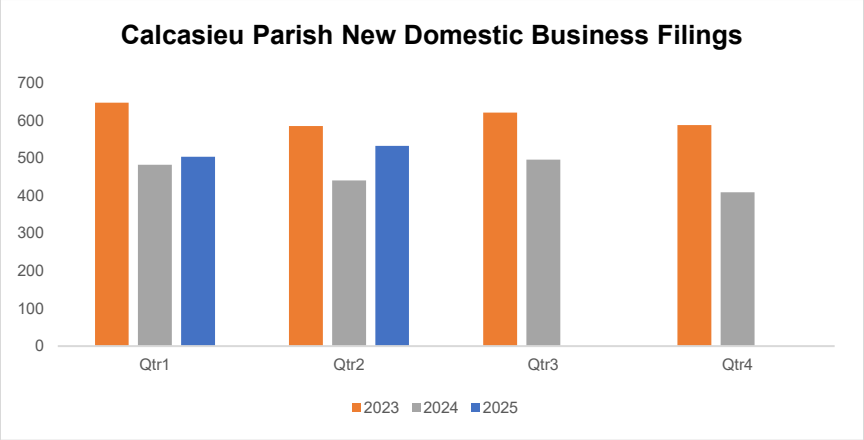
YTD figures show that total taxable sales have risen in the parish by $30.3 million compared to the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD figure for a 0.8% increase. There was a $3.7 million increase in sales tax collections (+1.7%) YTD.

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	3,877.7		

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	227.3		

Calcasieu Parish

New Business Filings



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

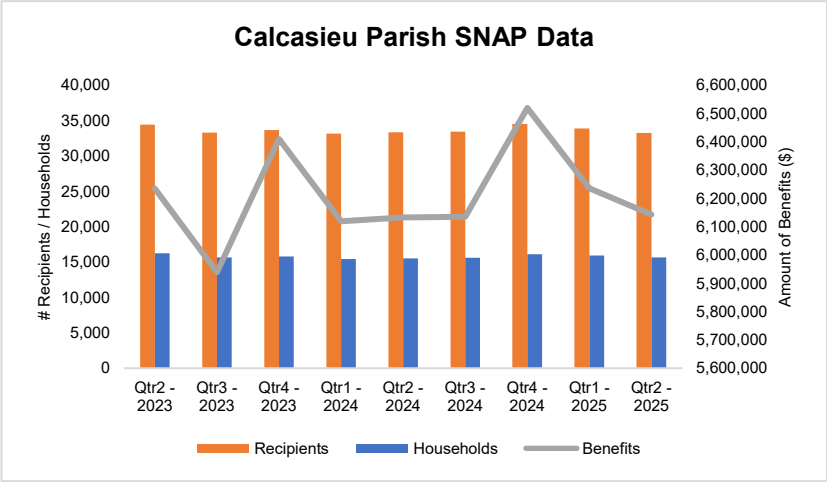
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 533 in the 2nd quarter of 2025 which was 92 more than the same quarter in 2024 and 53 less than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2025 was 1,037. This was 113 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD and 197 businesses less than the 2nd quarter of 2023 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	648	586	621	588
2024	483	441	496	409
2025	504	533		

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	1,037		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	33,327	33,424	34,497	33,862	33,250	-77	-0.2
Households	15,538	15,604	16,105	15,943	15,669	130	0.8
Benefits	6,133,221	6,134,951	6,519,436	6,236,055	6,143,421	10,200	0.2



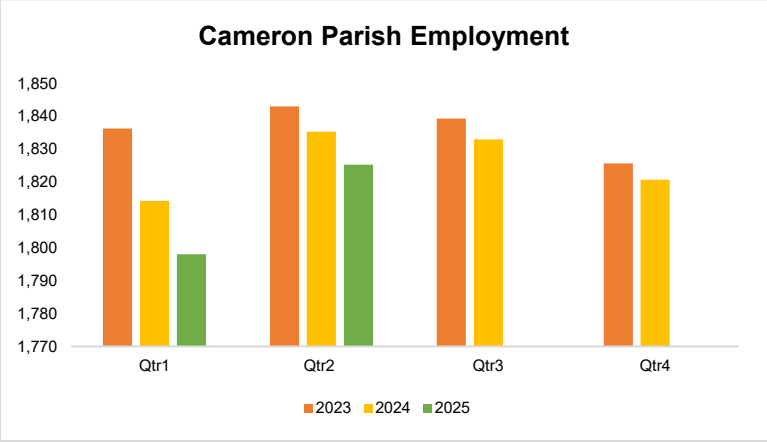
Calcasieu parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients and increases in households, along with an increase in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 33,250 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2025. This was 77 less people receiving benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2024 for a 0.2% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 15,669, which was 130 more than in the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 0.8% increase. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of $6.1 million in total during the 2nd quarter of 2025, which was a $10.2 thousand increase over-the-year. This was a 0.2% 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 2025, the amount of benefits has come down after peaking at the end of 2024.

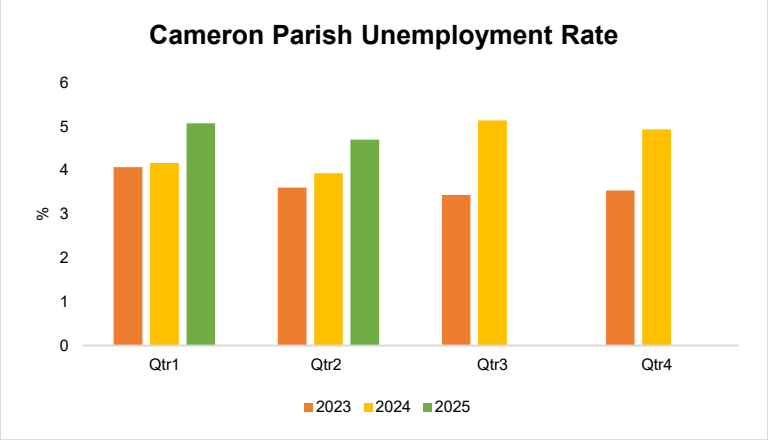
Cameron Parish

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Household Employment	**1,835**	**1,833**	**1,821**	**1,798**	**1,825**
Year-Over-Year Change	-8	-6	-5	-16	-10
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.9	-0.5
Household Unemployment	**75**	**99**	**95**	**96**	**90**
Year-Over-Year Change	6	34	28	17	15
Year-Over-Year % Change	8.1	51.3	41.3	22.0	19.9
Labor Force	**1,911**	**1,932**	**1,915**	**1,894**	**1,916**
Year-Over-Year Change	-2	27	23	1	5
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.1	1.4	1.2	0.1	0.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	**3.9**	**5.1**	**4.9**	**5.1**	**4.7**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.8

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total Job Openings	**85**	**86**	**122**	**75**	**134**
Year-Over-Year Change	-20	-91	-69	-160	49
Year-Over-Year % Change	-19.3	-51.4	-36.1	-68.0	57.3

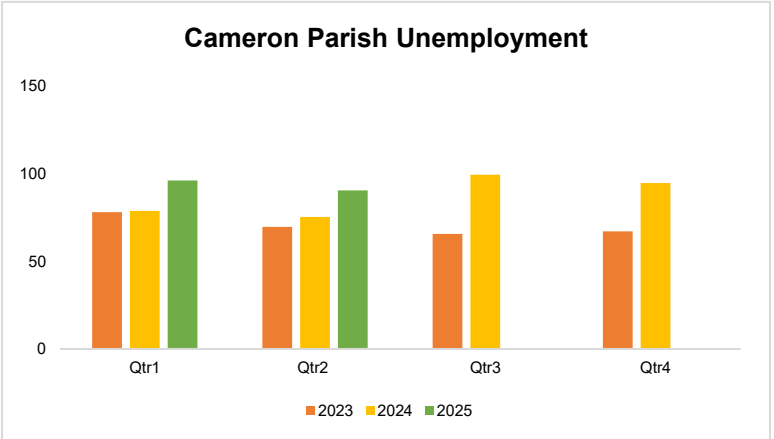




In the 2nd quarter of 2025, Cameron parish had a decrease in household employment of 10 over the year (-0.5%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 15 (+19.9%). This meant an increase of 5 (+0.3%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose 0.8 percentage points over the year to 4.7%.

Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2025 averaged 134. Openings rose by 49 (+57.3%) over the year.

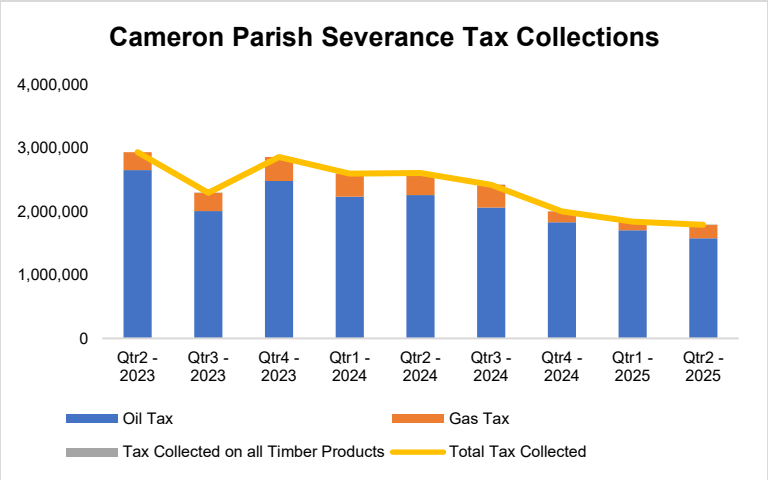
Cameron Parish had a lower employment level in the 2nd quarter of 2025 compared to the same quarter the previous year and the unemployment measures were higher. These results led to a slight rise in the labor force in Cameron Parish.

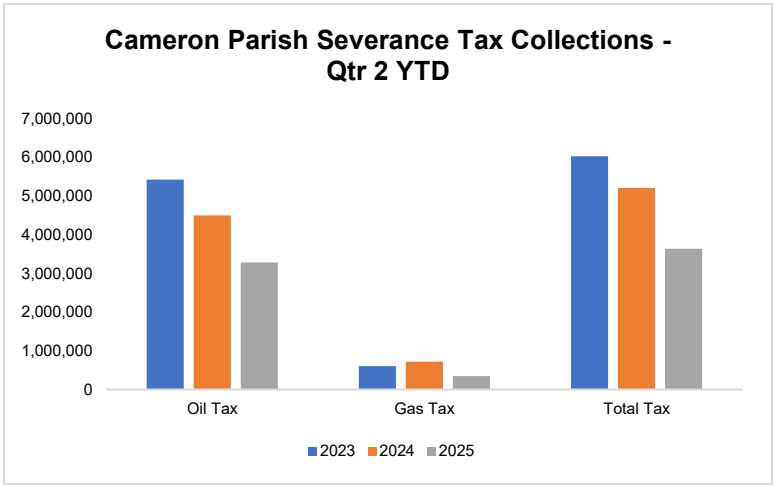


Cameron Parish

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 2nd 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	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	2,260,074	2,065,184	1,833,727	1,704,321	1,581,963	-678,111	-30.0
Gas Tax	352,310	360,599	170,086	137,579	210,896	-141,414	-40.1
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	-3	23	11	23	11	14	466.67
Total Tax Collected	2,612,381	2,425,806	2,003,824	1,841,922	1,792,869	-819,511	-31.4

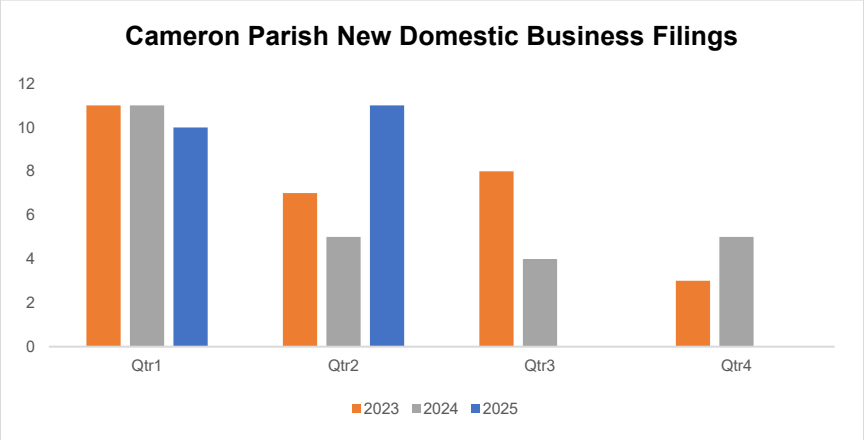
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	3,090,819	6,030,682	8,328,309	11,189,877
2024	2,601,045	5,213,425	7,639,232	9,643,056
2025	1,841,922	3,634,791		

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 2nd quarter of 2025 fell by $678.1 thousand compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented a 30.0% decrease. In terms of gas collections, those fell $141.4 thousand over that period for a 40.1% decrease. Timber product collections were $11 thousand in the 2nd quarter, a 447.6% increase. The 2nd 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 2nd quarter total severance taxes collected compared to the same quarter in the previous year. In the 2nd quarter of 2025 YTD, severance taxes fell $1.58 million for a decrease of 30.3%.

Cameron Parish

New Business Filings



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

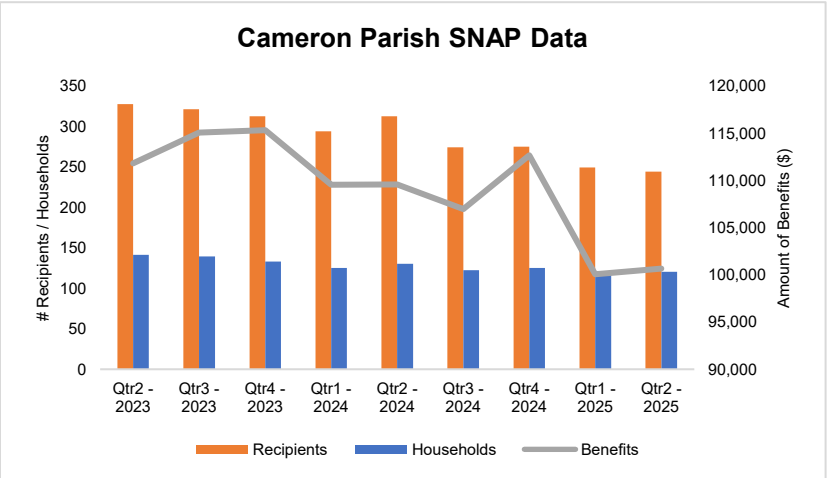
The number of new business filings in Cameron parish was 11 in the 2nd quarter of 2025, which was 6 more than the same quarter in 2024 and 4 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2025 was 21. This was 5 business more than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD and 3 more than of the 2nd quarter of 2023 YTD.

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

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	11	18	26	29
2024	11	16	20	25
2025	10	21		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	313	274	275	249	244	-68	-21.9
Households	130	123	125	119	121	-10	-7.4
Benefits	109,576	106,989	112,681	100,072	100,682	-8,893	-8.1



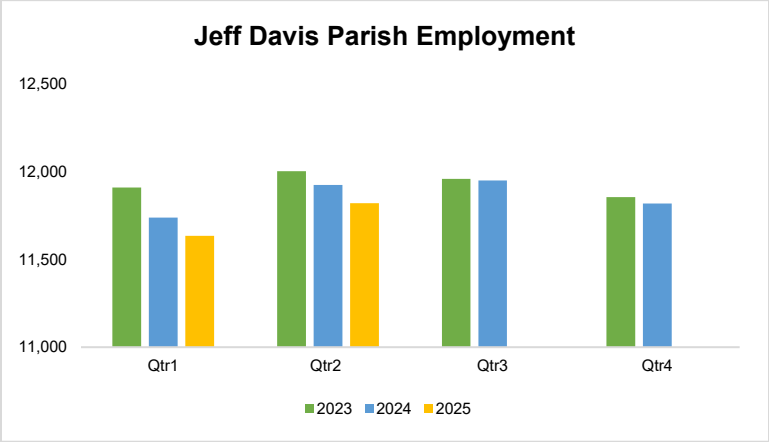
Cameron parish has had drops in SNAP recipients and households, and benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 244 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2025. This was 68 less than the amount of people receiving benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2024 for a 21.9% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 121, which was 10 fewer than in the 2nd quarter of 2024. This represented a 7.4% decrease. The parish received an average of $100.7 thousand in total during the 2nd quarter of 2025, which was a $8,893 decrease over-the-year. This was an 8.1% 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. The amount of benefits, number recipients and households, has fallen to a much lower level for 2025.

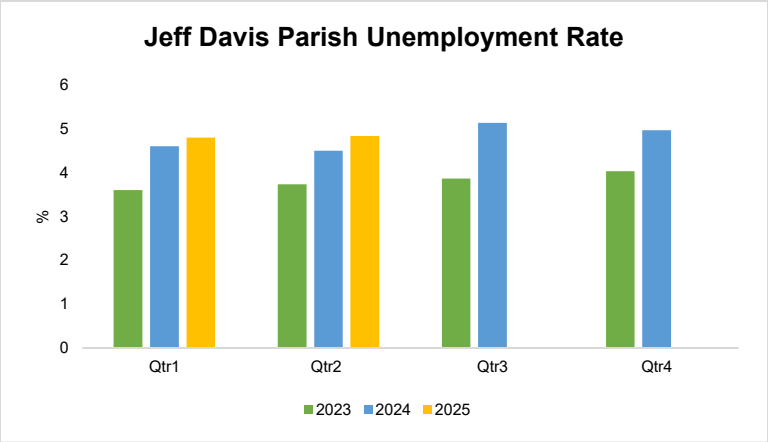
Jefferson Davis Parish

Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Household Employment	**11,925**	**11,951**	**11,819**	**11,634**	**11,821**
Year-Over-Year Change	-78	-9	-37	-105	-104
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.7	-0.1	-0.3	-0.9	-0.9
Household Unemployment	**560**	**648**	**618**	**585**	**601**
Year-Over-Year Change	95	167	118	20	41
Year-Over-Year % Change	20.5	34.8	23.7	3.5	7.3
Labor Force	**12,484**	**12,599**	**12,437**	**12,219**	**12,422**
Year-Over-Year Change	17	158	81	-85	-63
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.1	1.3	0.7	-0.7	-0.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	**4.5**	**5.1**	**5.0**	**4.8**	**4.8**
Year-Over-Year Change	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.2	0.3

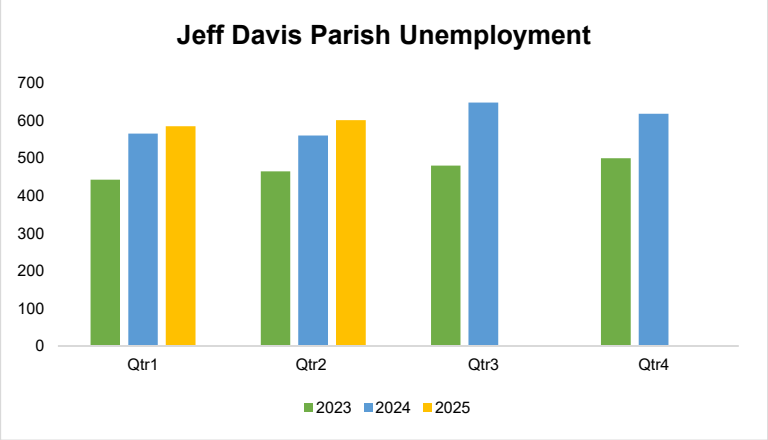
	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025
Total Job Openings	**361**	**265**	**336**	**326**	**306**
Year-Over-Year Change	-139	-146	-125	-127	-55
Year-Over-Year % Change	-27.8	-35.5	-27.2	-28.0	-15.3





In the 2nd quarter of 2025, Jefferson Davis Parish saw a decrease of 63 (-0.5%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by a decrease in household employment of 104 over the year (-0.9%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 41 (+7.3%). The unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points over the year to 4.8%.

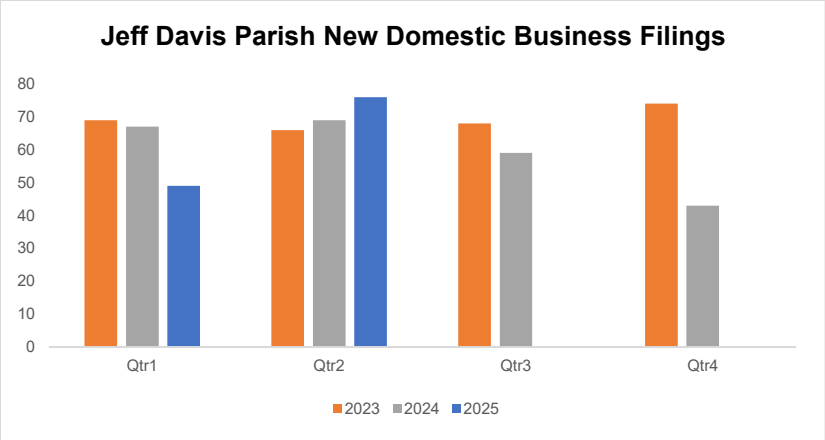
Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2025 averaged 306. Openings fell by 55 (-15.3%) over the year.



The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Jeff Davis parish had slightly lower figures for employment in the 2nd quarter of 2025 compared to 2024, with slightly higher unemployment figures and rate.

Jefferson Davis Parish

New Business Filings



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

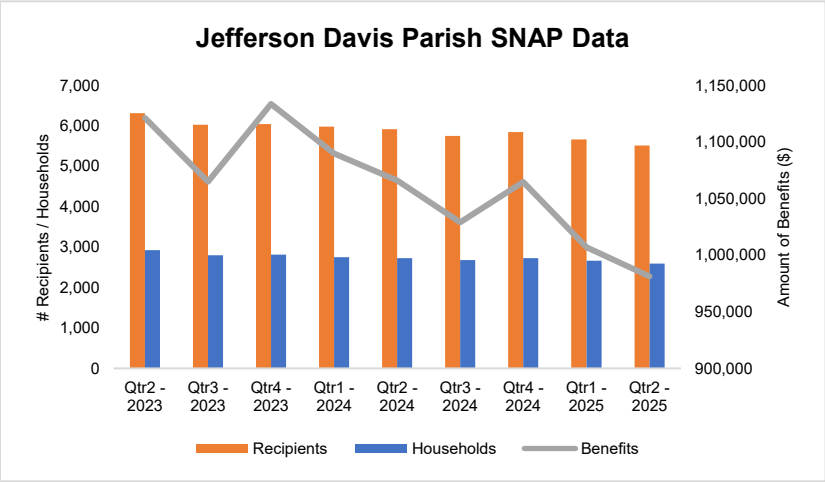
The number of new business filings in Jefferson Davis parish was 76 in the 2nd quarter of 2025 which was 7 more than the same quarter in 2024 and 10 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2025 was 125. This was 11 businesses less than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD and 10 businesses less than the 2nd quarter of 2023 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	69	66	68	74
2024	67	69	59	43
2025	49	76		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2023	69	135	203	277
2024	67	136	195	238
2025	49	125		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2024	Qtr3 - 2024	Qtr4 - 2024	Qtr1 - 2025	Qtr2 - 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,918	5,751	5,845	5,662	5,512	-406	-6.9
Households	2,729	2,675	2,723	2,661	2,589	-140	-5.1
Benefits	1,066,181	1,028,934	1,064,640	1,007,004	981,278	-84,902	-8.0

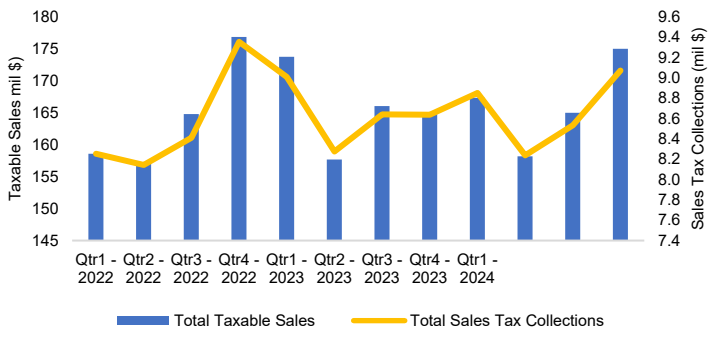


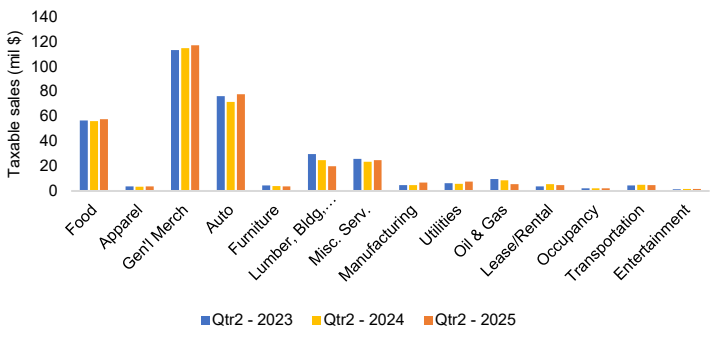
Jefferson Davis parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients, households, and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 5,512 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2025. This was 406 less people receiving benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2024 for a 6.9% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,589, which was 140 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 5.1% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received $981.3 thousand in total during the 2nd quarter of 2025, which was a $84.9 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was an 8.0% 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 since 2023 and benefits have fallen quite a bit through 2025.

Jefferson Davis Parish

Tax Collections





Taxable Sales (mil $)	Qtr2- 2024	Qtr3- 2024	Qtr4- 2024	Qtr1- 2025	Qtr2- 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	29.3	27.6	27.2	27.3	30.4	1.1	3.9
Apparel	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.9	0.3	21.5
Gen'l Merch	56.0	53.4	54.9	58.3	58.7	2.6	4.7
Auto	39.7	44.5	34.2	33.5	44.3	4.6	11.6
Furniture	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.0	1.6	-0.2	-13.5
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	10.3	11.0	10.2	10.2	9.7	-0.6	-5.4
Misc. Serv.	11.3	10.5	11.5	12.6	12.2	0.9	8.2
Manufacturing	1.6	5.4	3.2	3.6	3.2	1.5	91.9
Utilities	3.0	3.3	3.0	4.2	3.4	0.4	13.5
Oil & Gas	3.5	2.3	3.3	2.9	2.6	-0.9	-25.8
Lease/Rental	2.4	2.0	3.0	2.2	2.6	0.2	6.3
Occupancy	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	-0.1	-6.3
Transportation	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	0.2	9.1
Entertainment	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.1	15.9
Total	29.3	27.6	27.2	27.3	175.0	10.2	6.2

Tax Collections (mil $)	Qtr2– 2024	Qtr3– 2024	Qtr4– 2024	Qtr1– 2025	Qtr2– 2025	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	8.6	8.9	8.2	8.5	9.1	0.4	5.0

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	340.0		

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	17.6		

Jefferson Davis Parish saw a 5.0% increase in its sales tax collections in the 2nd quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have risen by approximately $400 thousand over the year. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by $10.2 million (+6.2%) over the year. The largest percentange increase occurred in Manufacturing (+$1.5 million, +91.9%), followed by Apparel (+$0.3 million, +21.5%). Food experienced an increase in taxable sales (+$1.1 million, +3.9%) as did General Merch (+$2.6 million, +4.7%), Auto (+$4.6 million, 11.6%), Misc. Serv. (+$0.9 million, +8.2%), Utilities (+$0.4 million, +13.5%), Lease/Rental (+$0.2 million, +6.3%), Transportation (+$0.2 million, +9.1%), and Entertainment (+$0.1 million, +15.9%). Oil & Gas had the largest decrease in absolute terms and percentage (-$0.9 million, -25.8%). While additional drops occurred in Furniture (-$0.2 million, -13.5%), Lumber, Building, Contractors (-$0.6 million, -5.4%), and Occupancy (-$0.1 million, -6.3%).

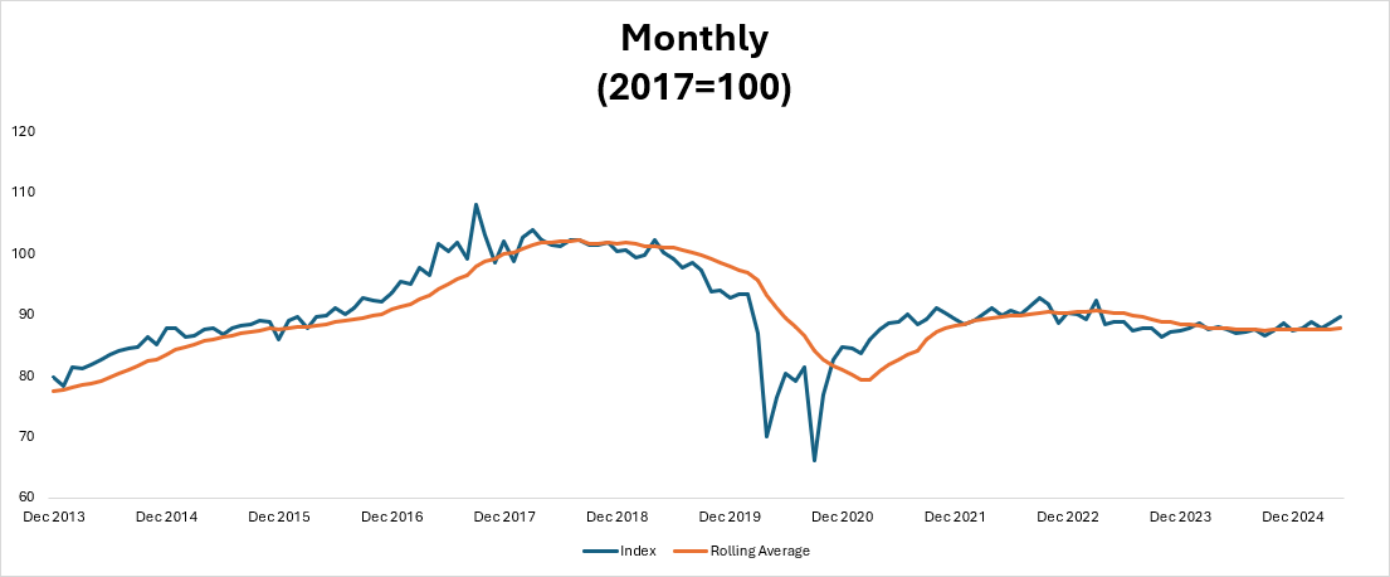
The 2nd quarter of 2025 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by $9.2 million compared to the same quarter in 2024 for a 2.8% increase. There was a $0.3 million increase in 2025 YTD sales tax collections (+1.7%).

State of SWLA - Recap

The SWLA Alliance recently held its 4th annual State of Southwest Louisiana Breakfast. We hope you were able to attend. After being held at the SEED Center the past three years, it was moved to the Horseshoe casino to accommodate a larger audience. We are so happy to put on this event and hope it continues to grow in the future. There have been a few stories in the American Press related to the event and its content. The first one explains how the upcoming strategic plan that's being constructed aligns with the vision of the state's agency, Louisiana Economic Development. Many of the topics from the Drew CBEA portion were presented to the local Kiwanis Club and were covered in more detail in a second story. Furthermore, the local Thrive magazine has recently released the 2025 Home Grown issue available at newsstands and online. The Director of the Drew CBEA, Dr. Dan Groft, wrote a piece illustrating some highlights from the event. The piece is printed below and is also available here.

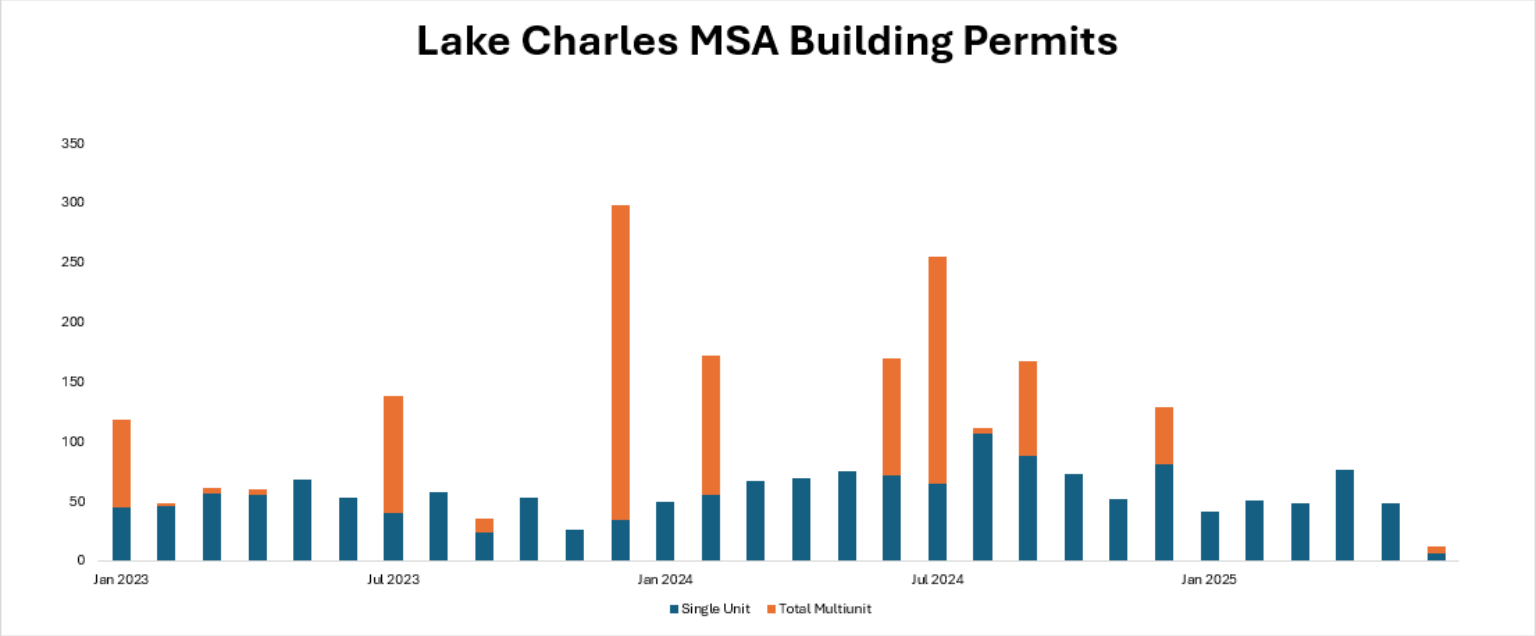
Lake Charles MSA Bouncing Back, Seeing Positive Signs of Economic Growth

At the recent State of Southwest Louisiana breakfast event, McNeese State University, the Alliance, and LED all came together to show the bright economic transformation that is coming to the state and region. Dr. Daniel Groft presented a comprehensive economic outlook, highlighting both national and local trends, emphasizing long-term and year-over-year trends across key indicators. Nationally, the economy has shown steady growth in output since 2020 and employment remains strong, though growth is stabilizing, while inflation appears to be easing. In Louisiana, employment has finally surpassed pre-pandemic levels, and the state saw its first population increase in years in 2024. The Lake Charles MSA, while still recovering from significant employment losses since 2020, is showing signs of resilience, particularly in manufacturing, healthcare, and hospitality. The area has also seen two straight years of population growth, each faster than the state as a whole. Taxable sales, exports, and gaming revenues have remained at high levels. Combining these into a coincident economic index points to a gradual recovery and a new upward trend.

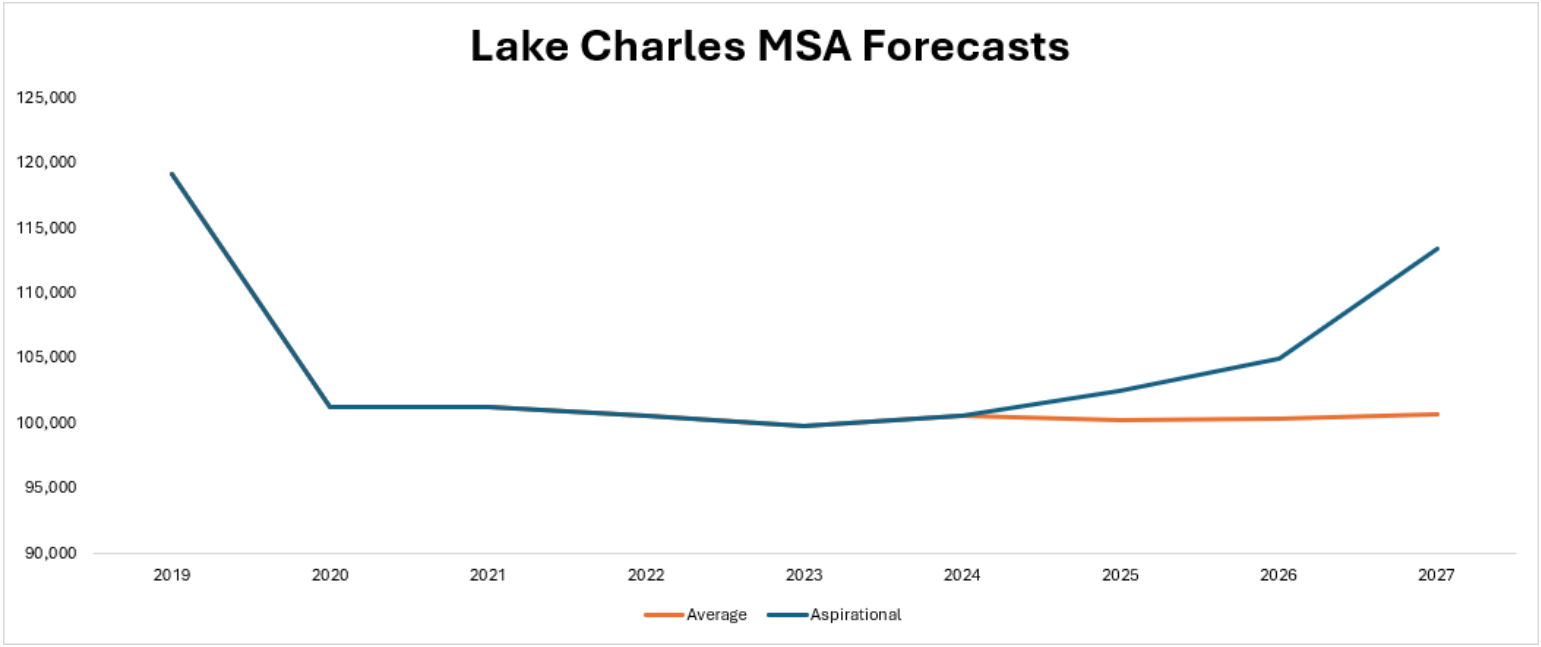


Housing activity should be on the rise as a flurry of multi-unit building permits that were obtained last year should have construction in progress, if not yet completed.

State of SWLA - Recap



Looking ahead, there is much road to travel as there have been overall drops in the labor force but the region's economic trajectory is optimistic, driven by billions of dollars in energy investments and infrastructure projects, and a renewed focus on quality of life and workforce development. Statistical models point to slight growth in most parishes and a continued flat trajectory for the area as a whole. But incorporating just a few economic development projects shows that employment growth could dramatically increase.



Sources

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

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

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

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

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

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

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