

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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2nd Quarter 2026 Issue

It seems government release schedule has been normalized after being unpredictable for a period of time. This second quarter report shows continued growth in the area. The MSA has seen continued job growth and most of the parishes are seeing increased levels of employment.

There have been continued positive signs as tax revenues and taxable sales have increased in Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis parishes. This report illustrates dramatic decreases in SNAP benefits, though local news reports chalk this up to procedural reasons, rather than new work requirements or immigration. Gaming revenues in the area continue to grow and Lake Charles saw an increase in building permits.

With all the back and forth about the importance of New Orleans to the state economy, the final piece examines the importance of Lake Charles economy to Louisiana. The report looks at jobs, GPD, tax, collections, etc. However, while New Orleans is a much larger economy in terms of population and labor, some per capita measures are quite striking (especially for Cameron). The piece ends with an illustration of a contribution analysis of the MSA using IMPLAN economic impact software. This provides estimates of economic activity from trade with other parishes in the state.

As always, 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)	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total Nonfarm	105.5	105.0	106.4	105.7	107.0
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	0.6	1.9	1.6	1.5
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.6	0.6	1.8	1.5	1.4
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	11.3	11.3	11.1	11.2	11.4
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.1	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	-1.2	3.7	4.7	3.1	1.2
Manufacturing	12.3	12.5	12.7	12.5	12.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.5	2.5	3.8	1.6	2.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	18.3	18.2	18.7	18.5	18.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.4
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.2	-1.4	-0.4	0.5	2.0
Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	0.0	-10.0	-10.0	0.0
Financial Activities	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	0.0	3.6	3.7	0.9
Professional and Business Services	9.8	9.8	10.0	9.9	10.1
Year-Over-Year Change	-0.4	-0.7	0.0	0.2	0.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	-3.6	-6.4	0.0	2.1	2.4
Education and Health Services	14.8	14.9	15.1	15.0	15.0
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.8	2.5	2.3	2.7	1.8
Leisure and Hospitality	14.6	14.6	14.5	14.3	14.8
Year-Over-Year Change	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.5	1.9	3.1	2.4	0.9
Other Services	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	9.7	4.2	6.2	-1.0	-1.0
Government	16.3	15.7	16.2	16.2	16.4
Year-Over-Year Change	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.2	0.6	-0.4	0.0	0.2
Average Weekly Wages (All Employees)	1,137.17	1,189.5	1,180.8	1,198.8	1,204.4
Year-Over-Year Change	70.3	100.6	5.4	31.5	67.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	6.6	9.2	0.5	2.7	5.9
Average Hourly Wage (All Employees)	31.62	32.4	32.2	32.3	32.6
Year-Over-Year Change	1.5	1.4	-0.5	-0.7	0.9
Year-Over-Year % Change	4.8	4.6	-1.4	-2.1	3.0
Average Weekly Hours (All Employees)	36.0	36.7	36.6	37.1	37.0
Year-Over-Year Change	0.6	1.6	0.7	1.7	1.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.7	4.5	1.9	4.9	2.9

In the 2nd quarter of 2026, the Lake Charles MSA (consisting of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes) experienced an increase in outcome compared to the same quarter the previous year. After benchmark revisions, there have been drops almost every quarter, but the jobs have been continuing to tick upwards.

Total nonfarm employment (presented in thousands of jobs in the table) saw 1.4% growth over the year. Looking at the industries, most had increases or no change while Other Services had a slight decline of -1.0%. Construction saw an increase of 100 jobs (+1.2%). Education and Health Services saw an increase of 300 jobs (+1.8%). Manufacturing experienced a slight industry gain of 300 workers (+2.4%). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2.0%) increased 400 jobs. Financial Activities saw a 0.9% growth. Professional and Business Services saw an increase of 200 jobs (+2.4%). Leisure and Hospitality (+0.9%) saw an increase of 100 workers. Mining and Logging, Government, and Information all saw no real change in workers.

While there was a gain in employment, there were also increases in average weekly wages measured and average hourly wage. The average weekly earnings of all employees rose 5.9% and average hourly earnings

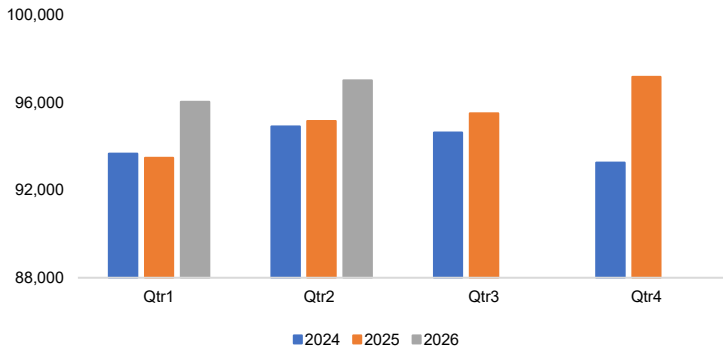
rose 3.0%. The average weekly hours of all employees in the 2nd quarter rose 2.9% over the year.

Selected Employment Indicators – Lake Charles MSA

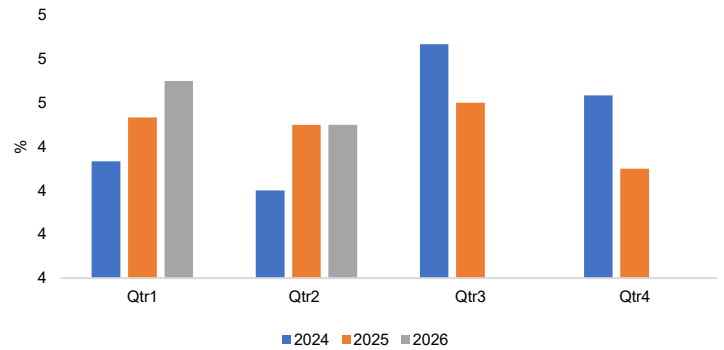
	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Household Employment	95,156	95,506	97,170	96,030	97,004.0
Year-Over-Year Change	260	888	3,912	2,552	1,847.7
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	0.9	4.2	2.7	1.9
Household Unemployment	4,493	4,612	4,365	4,762	4,555.0
Year-Over-Year Change	324	-241	-161	309	62.3
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.8	-5.0	-3.5	6.9	1.4
Labor Force	99,649	100,117	101,535	100,793	101,559.0
Year-Over-Year Change	7,117	647	3,752	2,861	1,910.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	7.7	0.7	3.8	2.9	1.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.5
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	0.0

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total Job Openings	4,027	4,156	3,829	4,121	4,540
Year-Over-Year Change	-645	24	-39	399	514
Year-Over-Year % Change	-13.8	0.6	-1.0	10.7	12.8

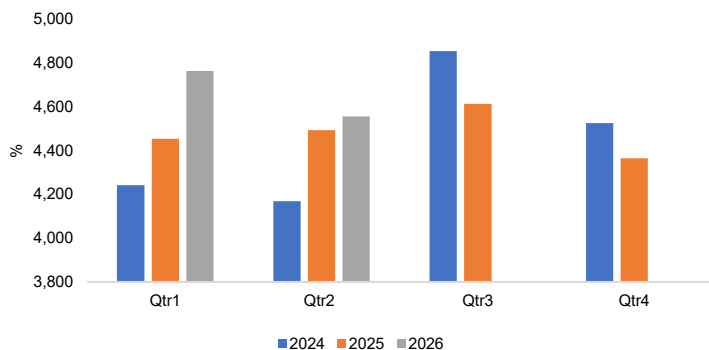
Lake Charles MSA Employment



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



Lake Charles MSA Unemployment Rate



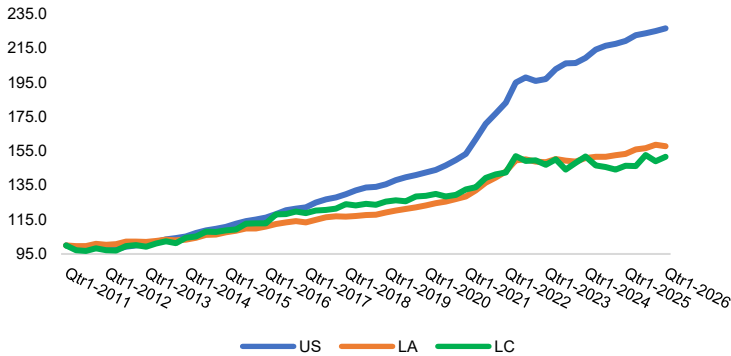
The quarterly average unemployment rate in the MSA currently sits at 4.5%, which remains the same from a year ago. The household employment measure increased by 1,848 over the year for a 1.9% increase. The number of unemployed increased by 62. This represented a 1.4% increase. As the labor force is the total of unemployed and employed, the total change in the labor force was an increase of 1,910 (+1.9%). 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 2026 averaged 4,540. Openings increased by 514 (+12.8%) 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)

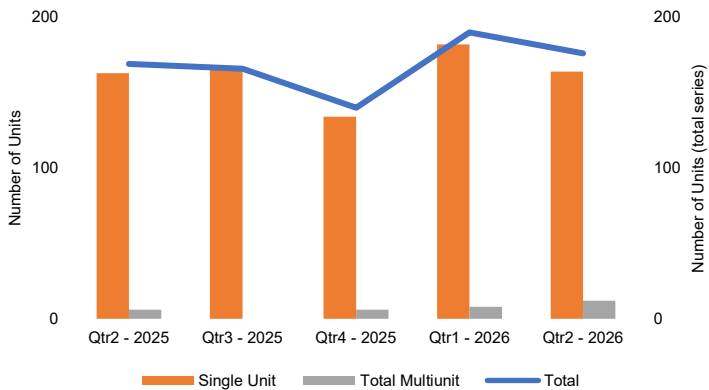


Home Price Index Comparisons	Qtr1 – 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Year-over-Year % Change
Lake Charles HPI	146.4	151.7	3.6
Louisiana HPI	153.3	157.8	2.9
US HPI	219.2	226.6	3.4

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 2026 to the same quarter in 2025, housing prices have risen 3.6% in the Lake Charles MSA compared to increases of 2.9% in LA and 3.4% in the US.

Housing Permits – Lake Charles MSA

Lake Charles MSA Building Permits



In the 2nd quarter of 2026, single unit permits rose by 1 over-the-year while multi-unit permits had an increase of 6, therefore the total increase was 7. This represented a 4.1% increase. The YTD figures show similar results with an increase in single units of 43 and multi-unit permits increasing by 14 for a total increase of 57 over the year in the second quarter. The total percentage increase in YTD was 18.4%. In terms of valuation, single unit permits fell by \$1.89 million while multi-unit permit valuations rose by \$656 thousand for a total decrease of \$1.23 million. This represented a 3.5% decrease year-over-year in the 2nd quarter of 2026 for the valuation of all permits. In terms of YTD numbers, single unit valuations increased \$6.85

million and multi-unit valuations increased \$1.18 million for a total percentage change of 12.0%.

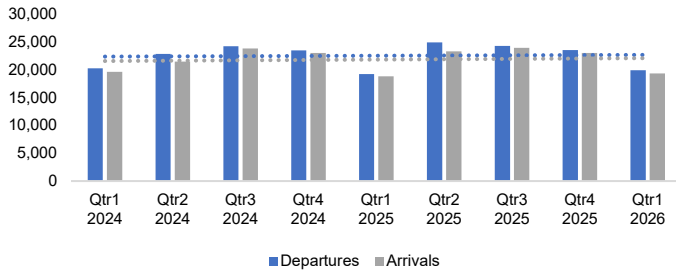
The graph of building permits shows that single-unit permits have been decreasing since the 3rd quarter of 2024 after spiking. Multi-unit permits were 0 in the 1st quarter of 2025 and again in the third quarter. The blue line shows the total permits, and it has displayed a downward flat trend since 3rd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

		Qtr-2 2025	Qtr-2 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change	Qtr-2 2025	Qtr-2 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Number									
	Total	169	176	7	4.1	309	366	57	18.4
	Single	163	164	1	0.6	303	346	43	14.2
	Multi-unit	6	12	6	100.0	6	20	14	233.3
Valuation									
(thousands \$)	Total	35,220	33,988	-1,232	-3.5	66,687	74,713	8,026	12.0
	Single	34,895	33,007	-1,888	-5.4	66,362	73,212	6,850	10.3
	Multi-unit	325	981	656	201.8	325	1,501	1,176	361.8

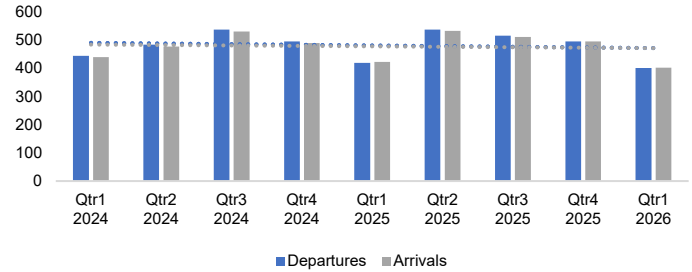
Transportation Statistics

Lake Charles Regional Airport

Lake Charles Regional Airport Passengers



Lake Charles Regional Airport Flights



The Lake Charles regional airport experienced an uptick in activity during the 4th quarter of 2025 compared to the same quarter of the previous year in terms of passengers. However, there was a slight downturn in the number of flights arriving. The graphs above illustrate a slight upward trend in passengers over the past two years while flights have remained somewhat flat.

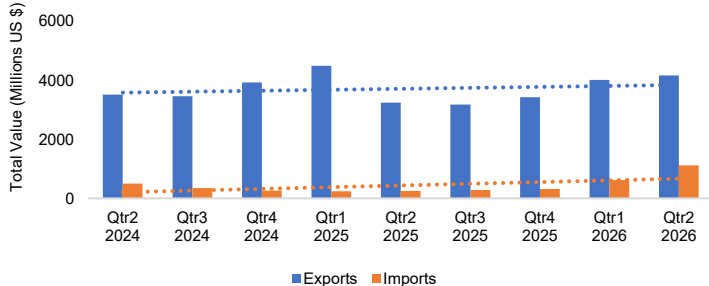
	Qtr-1 2025	Qtr-1 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Passengers				
Departures	19,215	19,905	690	3.6
Arrivals	18,831	19,299	468	2.5
Flights				
Departures	419	401	-18	-4.3
Arrivals	423	402	-21	-5.0

Passengers departing in the 1st quarter of 2026 rose 690 (+3.6%) since the 1st quarter of 2025 and those arriving have increased 468(+2.5%). In terms of flights, there has been a decrease of 18 flights (-4.3%) departing from Lake Charles over that same period while the number of flights

arriving has fallen by 21 (-5.0%) as well. The number of passengers has been steadily increasing since 2020.

Lake Charles Port Statistics

Lake Charles Port - Value



Lake Charles Port - Weight

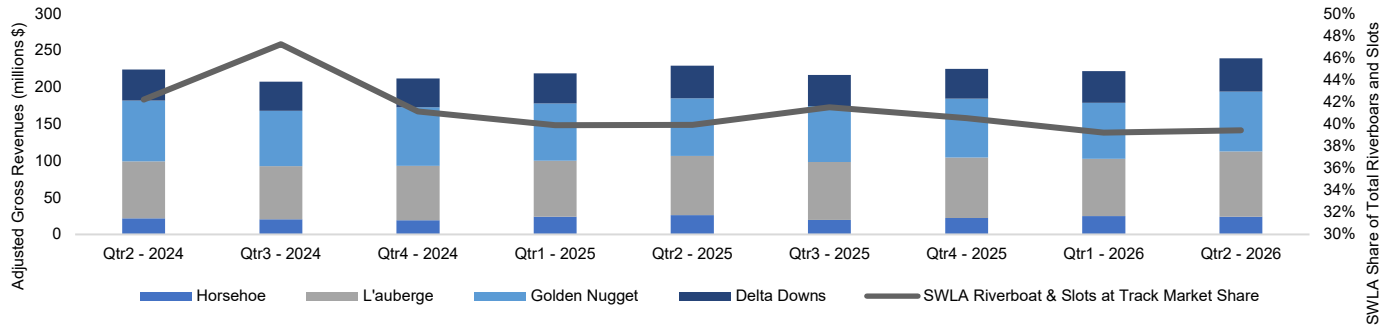


The Lake Charles port has seen increases in export values and an increase in import values in the 2nd quarter of 2026. The figures in the table below show the value of exports rose \$915 million (+28.2%) over the year while the total value of imports rose by \$869 million (+346.3%) The total weight of all exports rose 384 million kg (+4.8%) while the total weight of all imports rose 367 million kg (+53.4%). Export values have recently been falling, as have total weights in the past three quarters.

	Qtr-2 2025	Qtr-2 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Value (millions \$)				
Exports	3,247	4,162	915	28.2
Imports	251	1,120	869	346.3
Shipping Weight (millions kg)				
Exports	7,996	8,380	384	4.8
Imports	687	1,054	367	53.4

Gaming Statistics

SWLA Gaming Revenues and Market Share



	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total State AGR (millions)	573.7	521.6	554.6	566.2	606.3
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	42.8	82.5	39.9	16.9	32.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	8.1	18.8	7.7	3.1	5.7
Total SWLA AGR (millions)	229.1	216.5	224.9	222.1	239.1
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	4.9	9.1	13.0	3.0	10.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.2	4.4	6.1	1.4	4.4
Total AGR (millions)					
Horseshoe	26.2	19.8	22.5	25.1	24.2
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	4.5	-0.6	3.3	1.1	-2.0
Year-Over-Year % Change	20.7	-3.0	17.1	4.4	-7.6
L'Auberge	80.3	78.6	81.9	77.8	88.5
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	2.5	6.4	8.1	1.5	8.2
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.2	8.9	10.9	1.9	10.3
Golden Nugget	78.7	76.1	80.0	76.2	81.3
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	-3.7	0.6	0.4	-1.5	2.6
Year-Over-Year % Change	-4.5	0.8	0.6	-2.0	3.3
Delta Downs	44.0	42.1	40.5	43.0	45.1
Year-Over-Year Change (millions)	1.6	2.7	1.2	2.0	1.1
Year-Over-Year % Change	3.9	6.9	3.1	4.9	2.5
Share of Total SWLA AGR					
Isle of Capri	11.5%	9.1%	10.0%	11.3%	10.1%
L'Auberge	35.0%	36.3%	36.4%	35.0%	37.0%
Golden Nugget	34.3%	35.1%	35.6%	34.3%	34.0%
Delta Downs	19.2%	19.4%	18.0%	19.4%	18.9%
Share of Total State AGR					
Isle of Capri	4.6%	3.8%	4.1%	4.4%	4.0%
L'Auberge	14.0%	15.1%	14.8%	13.7%	14.6%
Golden Nugget	13.7%	14.6%	14.4%	13.5%	13.4%
Delta Downs	7.7%	8.1%	7.3%	7.6%	7.4%
SWLA Total AGR	39.9%	41.5%	40.5%	39.2%	39.4%

In terms of revenues, gaming establishments have rebounded from the pandemic and hurricanes, and the Horseshoe has now been open for year-over-year comparisons. Revenues in SWLA were about 4.4% higher than in the 2nd quarter of 2025 and statewide AGR in Q2 2026 was 5.7% higher than Q2 2025. Total revenues in SWLA for the 2nd quarter of 2026 were \$239.1 million, or a 4.4% percent increase from the previous year.

Horseshoe collected \$24.2 million in revenue in the 2nd quarter of 2026 (-7.6%). L'Auberge saw a \$8.2 million increase (+10.3%). The Golden Nugget had an annual percentage increase in AGR of 3.3% with an absolute increase of \$2.6 million. Delta Downs experienced a \$1.1 million increase in AGR over the year for a 2.5% increase. These figures still indicate a solid recovery in the gaming market from 2020;

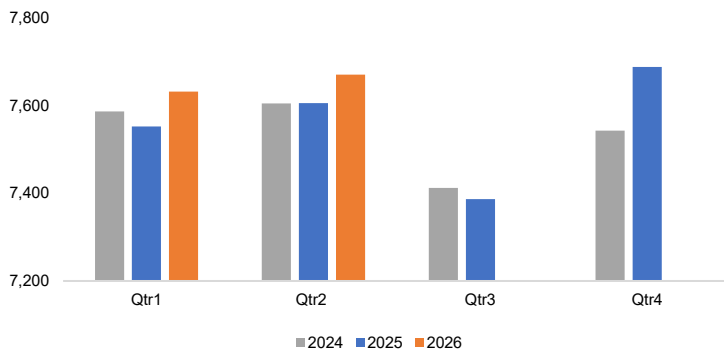
however, things had been slowing in terms of year-over-year changes until this recent quarter. The four SWLA establishments made up 39.4% of the total AGR from riverboats and slots and tracks in the state, which is a 0.5 percentage point decrease from the 2nd quarter of 2025.

Selected Employment Indicators – Allen Parish

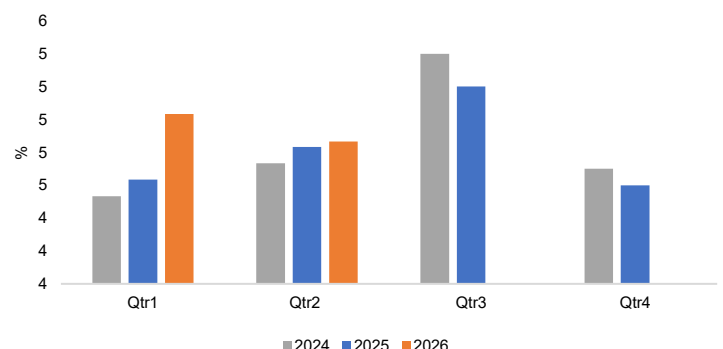
	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Household Employment	7,606	7,387	7,688	7,632	7,671
Year-Over-Year Change	1	-25	145	79	65
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.0	-0.3	1.9	1.1	0.9
Household Unemployment	386	405	373	404	393
Year-Over-Year Change	8	-16	-2	39	7
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.1	-3.8	-0.6	10.6	1.9
Labor Force	7,992	7,792	8,061	8,036	8,064
Year-Over-Year Change	9	-41	143	118	72
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.1	-0.5	1.8	1.5	0.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8	5.2	4.6	5.0	4.9
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.0

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total Job Openings	158	144	125	158	167
Year-Over-Year Change	-63	-73	-96	-42	9
Year-Over-Year % Change	-28.4	-33.6	-43.4	-21.2	5.9

Allen Parish Employment



Allen Parish Unemployment Rate

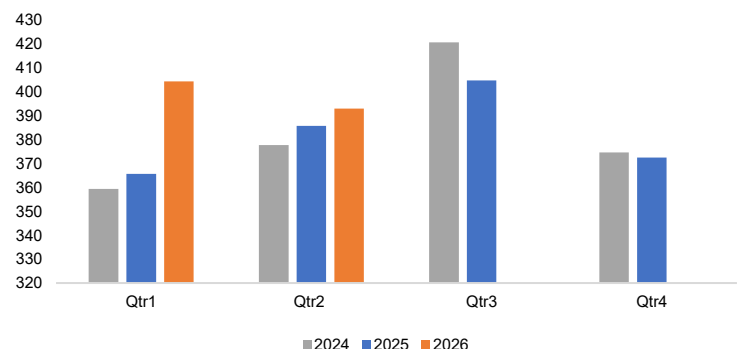


In the 2nd quarter of 2026, Allen parish saw a rise in the labor force of 72 (+0.9%). This was broken down by an increase in household unemployment of 7 over the year (+1.9%) while the number of people employed rose by 65 (+0.9%) over the year. The unemployment rate rose over the year by 0.1 percentage points to 4.9%.

Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2026 averaged 167. Openings rose by 9 (+5.9%) over the year.

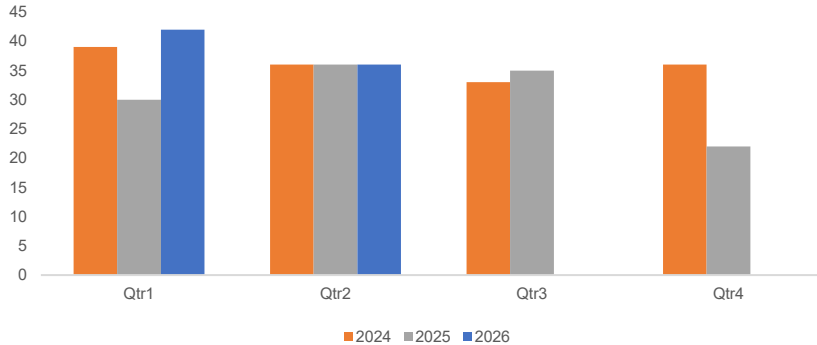
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. In the 2nd quarter of 2026, Allen has had slightly higher employment compared to previous year's levels and higher unemployment levels compared 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 36 in the 2nd quarter of 2026 which was the same as the second quarter in 2025 and the same as the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2026 was 78. This was 12 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2025 YTD and 3 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD.

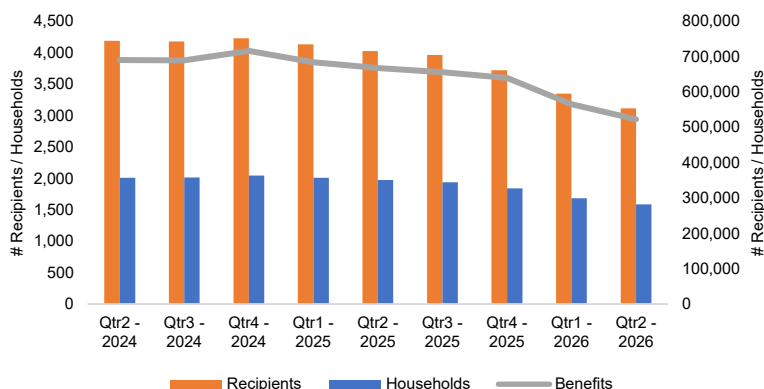
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	39	36	33	36
2025	30	36	35	22
2026	42	36		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	39	75	108	144
2025	30	66	101	123
2026	42	78		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	4,024	3,961	3,716	3,346	3,113	-911	-22.6
Households	1,973	1,936	1,838	1,683	1,585	-388	-19.7
Benefits	667,183	655,051	639,100	564,875	522,223	-144,960	-21.7

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 3,113 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2026. 911 fewer people received benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2025 for a 22.6% decrease over this time. The total number of second quarter households receiving SNAP was 1,585, which was 388 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 19.7% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$522,223 in total during the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was a \$144,960 decrease over-the-year. This was a 21.7% decrease in benefits in the parish. March 2023 marked a large

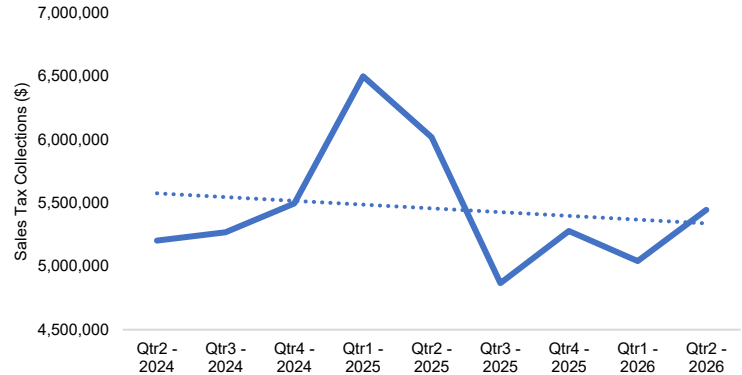
drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring and that showed up markedly in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. This lower level should be persistent in future quarters, as has begun to show in the graph.

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 a downward trend throughout the 2nd quarter of 2026.

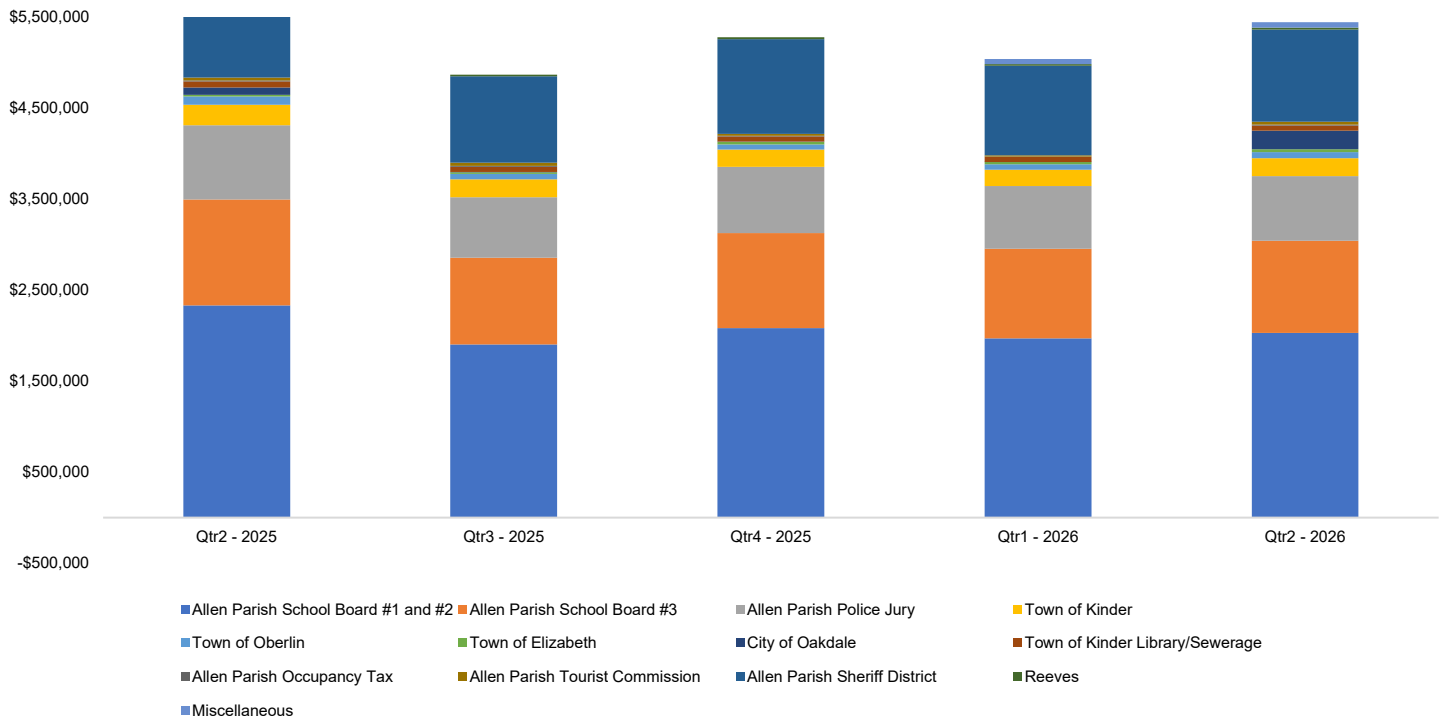
Compared to the 2nd quarter of 2025, Allen Parish has seen an overall decrease in tax collections. Total tax collections decreased \$575 thousand for a 9.6% decrease. This decrease is most likely driven by a spike seen in previous months due to the completion of a large-scale construction project.

Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections



Allen Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Allen Parish School Board #1 and #2	2,331,274	1,904,185	2,083,922	1,969,513	2,029,526	-301,748	-12.9
Allen Parish School Board #3	1,165,609	952,058	1,041,694	984,661	1,014,567	-151,042	-13.0
Allen Parish Police Jury	815,928	666,442	729,187	689,264	710,197	-105,730	-13.0
Town of Kinder	222,917	194,411	190,639	181,363	195,451	-27,466	-12.3
Town of Oberlin	92,053	60,061	56,969	57,015	65,729	-26,324	-28.6
Town of Elizabeth	18,095	17,880	27,714	26,114	31,669	13,573	75.0
City of Oakdale	83,139	2,236	2,108	257	204,454	121,314	145.9
Town of Kinder Library/Sewerage	66,876	58,323	57,192	54,409	58,636	-8,240	-12.3
Allen Parish Occupancy Tax	9,948	11,047	7,149	4,592	10,198	251	2.5
Allen Parish Tourist Commission	29,843	33,141	21,448	13,776	30,595	752	2.5
Allen Parish Sheriff District	1,165,609	952,058	1,041,694	984,661	1,014,567	-151,042	-13.0
Reeves	18,354	15,379	19,080	18,386	19,894	1,540	8.4
City of Oakdale #2	0	0	0	56,692	59,059	59,059	#DIV/0!
Total	6,019,644	4,867,221	5,278,886	5,040,754	5,444,542	-575,103	-9.6

Allen Parish Tax Collections by Entity



Selected Employment Indicators – Beauregard Parish

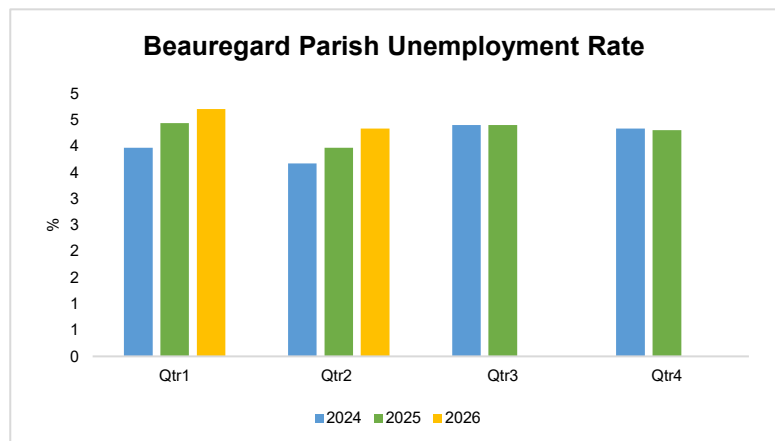
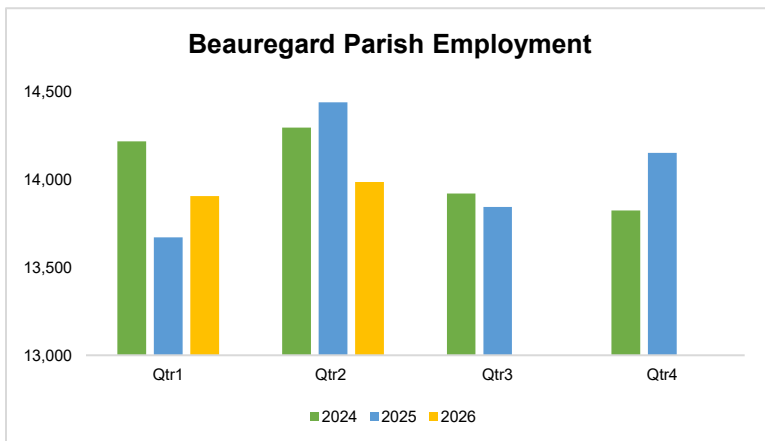
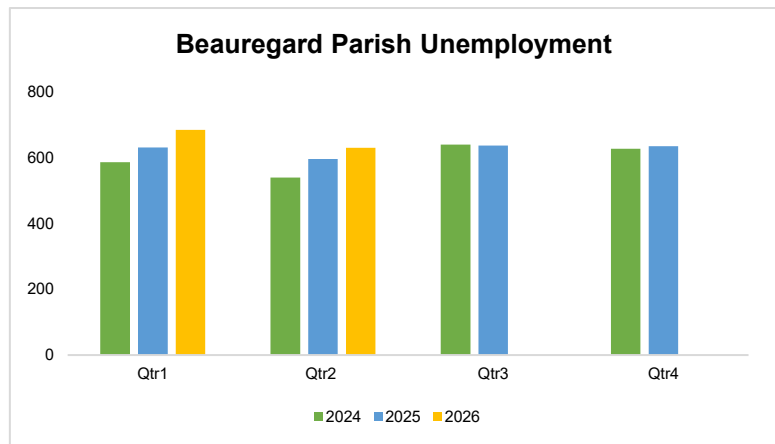
	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Household Employment	14,442	13,846	14,154	13,907	13,988
Year-Over-Year Change	143	-77	328	235	-453
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.0	-0.6	2.4	1.7	-3.1
Household Unemployment	596	637	635	685	631
Year-Over-Year Change	56	-3	8	54	35
Year-Over-Year % Change	10.4	-0.4	1.2	8.5	5.8
Labor Force	15,038	14,483	14,789	14,592	14,619
Year-Over-Year Change	199	-80	336	288	-419
Year-Over-Year % Change	1.3	-0.5	2.3	2.0	-2.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.3
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total Job Openings	260	320	296	270	342
Year-Over-Year Change	-89	39	-4	66	82
Year-Over-Year % Change	-25.4	13.9	-1.2	32.5	31.4

In the 2nd quarter of 2026, Beauregard parish saw a fall in household employment of 453 over the year (-3.1%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 35 (+5.8%) over the year. This led to a decrease of 419 (-2.8%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points over the year to 4.3%.

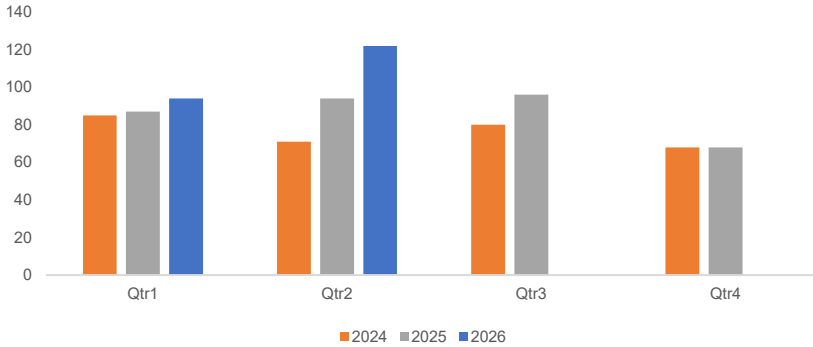
Job openings in the 2nd quarter averaged 342. Openings rose by 82 (+31.4%) over the year.

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 2026, Beauregard has higher unemployment figures and a lower employment level compared to the previous two years.



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 122 in the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was 28 more than in the 2nd quarter in 2025 and 51 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2026 was 216. There were 35 more businesses in the 2nd quarter of 2026 than in 2025 YTD and 60 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	85	71	80	68
2025	87	94	96	68
2026	94	122		

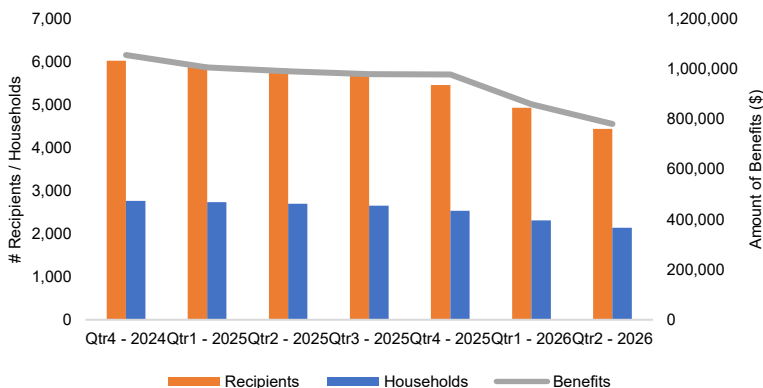
Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	85	156	236	304
2025	87	181	277	345
2026	94	216		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,833	5,729	5,448	4,920	4,436	-1,397	-23.9
Households	2,697	2,648	2,528	2,310	2,137	-560	-20.8
Benefits	989,566	978,041	976,048	857,830	779,368	-210,198	-21.2

Beauregard parish has experienced decreases in SNAP recipients and households and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,436 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2026. 1,397 less people received benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2025 for a 23.9% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,137, which was 560 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 20.8% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received an average of \$779,368 in total during the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was a \$210,198 decrease over-the-year. This was a 21.2% decrease in benefits in the parish.

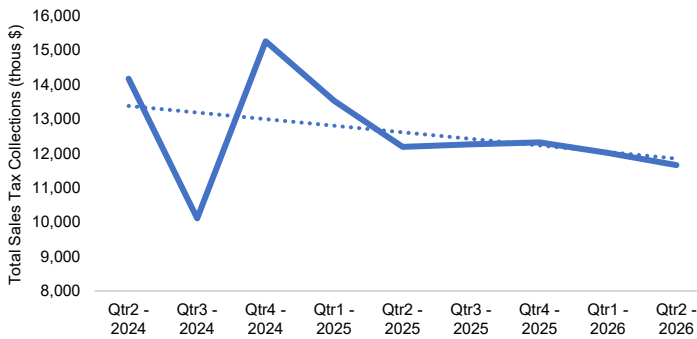
Beauregard Parish SNAP Data



Looking at the graph illustrates slightly downward trends in benefits, households, and recipients, over the past two years. Benefit amounts have been up and down, but the trend has turned down.

Tax Collections

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections

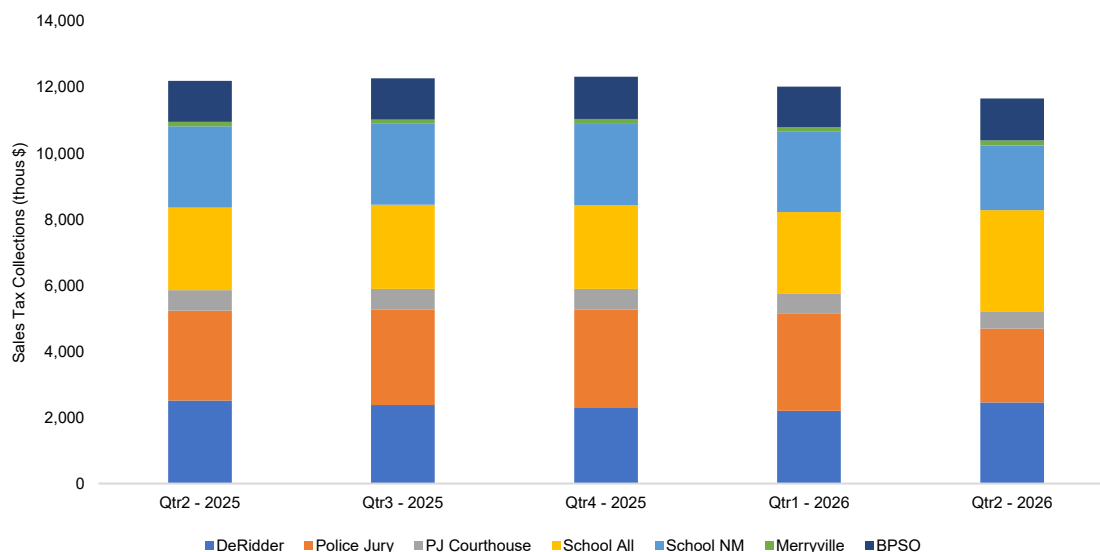


Beauregard parish has seen an overall decrease in its sales tax collections in the 2nd quarter of 2026, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections fell by \$537.7 thousand over the year for a 4.4% decrease. Looking at the entities that receive sales tax distributions shows that School All collected the most revenue, but other areas are close. The School All Category saw a \$585 thousand increase (+23.4%). The Police Jury category saw a \$474 thousand decrease (-17.5%). DeRidder saw a year-over-year decrease of \$61.8 thousand (-2.5%) over the year. Other decreases came from PJ Courthouse, which

decreased \$124.7 thousand, or a 20.0% decrease. School NM fell by roughly \$508 thousand (-20.6%). Merryville collections rose by \$27.8 thousand (+21.6%). While BPSO tax collections saw an increase in sales taxes of \$18.1 thousand, marking a 1.5% increase.

Sales Tax Collections (thous \$)	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
DeRidder	2,517.6	2,376.4	2,307.6	2,206.0	2,455.8	-61.8	-2.5
Police Jury	2,715.0	2,886.9	2,961.9	2,933.8	2,241.0	-474.1	-17.5
PJ Courthouse	623.5	628.5	629.8	615.7	498.7	-124.7	-20.0
School All	2,501.1	2,555.4	2,537.0	2,468.3	3,086.0	584.8	23.4
School NM	2,462.5	2,449.5	2,481.4	2,430.1	1,954.7	-507.8	-20.6
Merryville	128.4	127.2	126.6	131.1	156.1	27.8	21.6
BPSO	1,246.0	1,245.0	1,277.3	1,230.5	1,264.1	18.1	1.5
Total	12,194.2	12,269.0	12,321.5	12,015.4	11,656.4	-537.7	-4.4

Beauregard Parish Sales Tax Collections by Entity

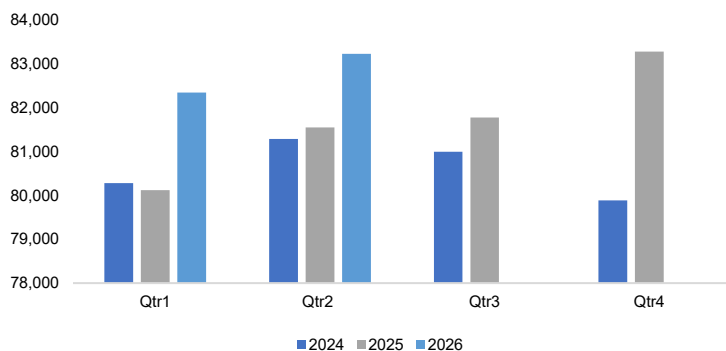


Selected Employment Indicators – Calcasieu Parish

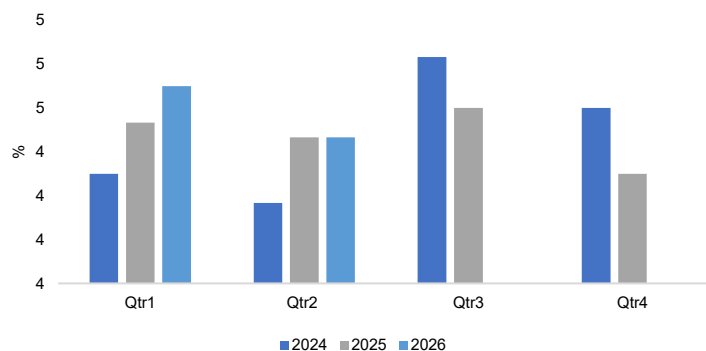
	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Household Employment	81,551	81,777	83,279	82,343	83,227
Year-Over-Year Change	264	779	3,391	2,221	1,676
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	1.0	4.2	2.8	2.1
Household Unemployment	3,839	3,950	3,739	4,086	3,902
Year-Over-Year Change	300	-169	-98	303	63
Year-Over-Year % Change	8.5	-4.1	-2.5	8.0	1.6
Labor Force	85,390	85,727	87,018	86,429	87,130
Year-Over-Year Change	563	610	3,294	2,524	1,739
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.7	0.7	3.9	3.0	2.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.5
Year-Over-Year Change	0.3	-0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.0

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total Job Openings	3,893	3,862	3,463	3,789	4,179
Year-Over-Year Change	-693	-184	-284	141	286
Year-Over-Year % Change	-15.1	-4.5	-7.6	3.9	7.3

Calcasieu Parish Employment



Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment Rate

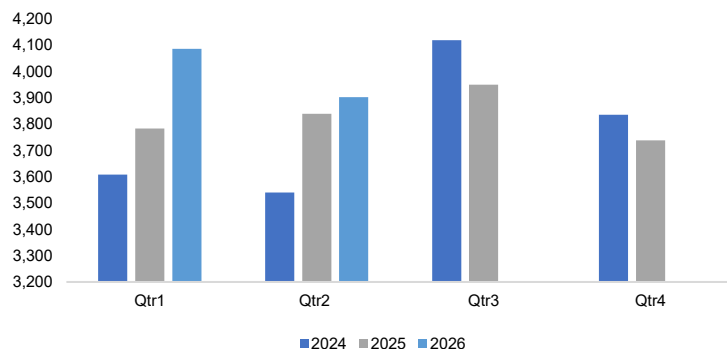


In the 2nd quarter of 2026, Calcasieu Parish saw an increase in the labor force of 1,739 (+2.0%). This was due to an increase in household employment of 1,676 over the year (+2.1%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 63 (+1.6%). The unemployment rate stayed the same over the year at 4.5%.

Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2026 averaged 4,179. Openings rose by 286 (+7.3%) over the year.

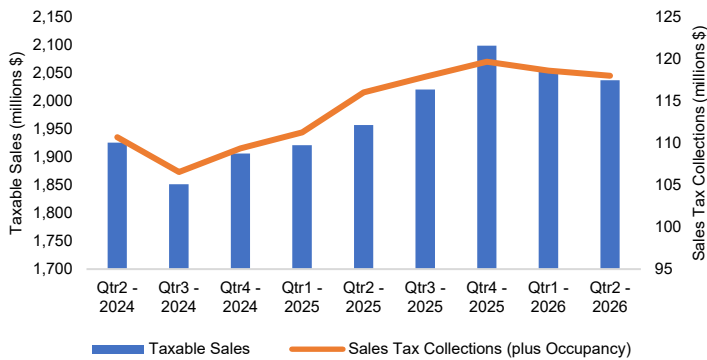
The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Calcasieu had a higher employment level in the 2nd quarter of 2026 compared to 2025. The unemployment level is slightly higher than in the 2nd quarter of 2025.

Calcaiseu Parish Unemployment

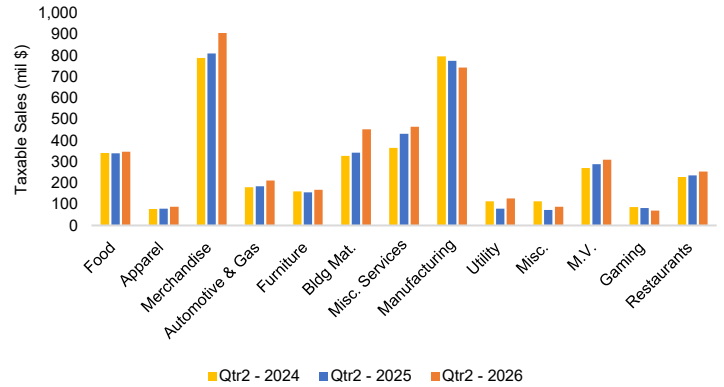


Tax Collections

Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Calcasieu Parish Taxable Sales - Qtr 2 YTD



Collections (mil \$)	Qtr2- 2025	Qtr3- 2025	Qtr4- 2025	Qtr1- 2026	Qtr2- 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	167.9	162.8	163.8	176.6	170.4	2.6	1.5
Apparel	39.1	37.0	46.3	45.9	42.6	3.5	9.1
Merchandise	401.9	403.0	417.3	452.0	454.0	52.1	13.0
Automotive & Gas	98.6	104.2	98.5	97.9	113.5	14.9	15.1
Furniture	74.3	75.4	87.1	85.7	81.7	7.3	9.9
Bldg Mat.	185.2	177.9	199.8	210.3	242.3	57.0	30.8
Misc. Services	209.8	219.6	242.0	233.6	230.5	20.7	9.9
Manufacturing	374.7	443.8	415.0	348.6	395.1	20.4	5.4
Utility	38.8	40.5	84.9	67.0	60.7	21.8	56.2
Misc.	41.8	42.3	44.9	40.5	48.2	6.4	15.3
M.V.	153.2	150.7	153.0	146.0	162.9	9.6	6.3
Gaming	44.2	42.8	31.3	29.9	40.0	-4.2	-9.5
Restaurants	127.3	120.5	114.5	122.7	131.7	4.4	3.4
Total	1,956.9	2,020.4	2,098.3	2,056.7	2,173.5	216.6	11.1

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 an increase in the 2nd

quarter of 2026. Looking at the 2nd quarter, compared to the same quarter the previous year, sales tax collections, plus occupancy, have risen by \$10.8 million over the year for a 9.3% increase. General sales taxes rose by \$10.3 million (+9.0%) over the year. Occupancy taxes rose by \$0.5 million (+24.5%). This occurred as total taxable sales in the parish rose \$216.6 million (+11.1%) over the year. Building Mat. rose the largest in absolute terms (+\$57.0 million, +30.8%). While Utility rose the largest in percentage points (+\$21.8 million, +56.2%). Gaming had the only decrease in taxable sales (-\$4.2 million, -9.5%). Merchandise had a large increase in absolute terms (+\$52.1 million, +13.0%). Automotive & Gas (+15.1%), and Misc. (+15.3%) had double digit percentage increases. While Food (+1.5%), Apparel (+9.1%), Furniture (+9.9%), Misc. Services (+9.9%), Manufacturing (+5.4%), M.V. (+6.3%), and Restaurants (+3.4%) all experienced increases in collections as well.

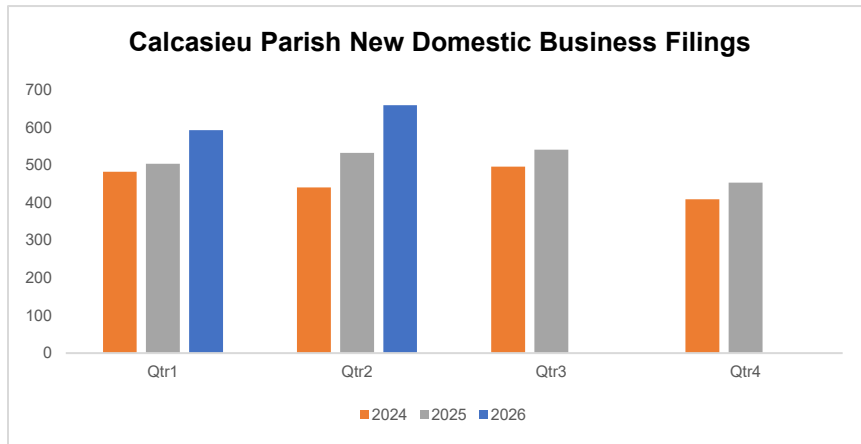
Collections (mil \$)	Qtr2- 2025	Qtr3- 2025	Qtr4- 2025	Qtr1- 2026	Qtr2- 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
General Sales Tax Collections	113.8	115.6	117.4	116.6	124.1	10.3	9.0
Occupancy Taxes	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.8	0.5	24.5
Sales Tax Collections	116.0	117.9	119.6	118.6	126.8	10.8	9.3

YTD figures show that total taxable sales have risen in the parish by \$352.5 million compared to the 2nd quarter of 2025 YTD figure for a 9.1% increase. There was a \$9.3 million increase in sales tax collections (+4.1%) YTD.

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2024	1,921.8	3,847.4	5,698.8	7,604.6
2025	1,920.8	3,877.7	5,898.1	7,996.4
2026	2,056.7	4,230.2		

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2024	112.9	223.6	330.1	439.5
2025	111.3	227.3	345.1	464.8
2026	118.6	236.6		

New Business Filings



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

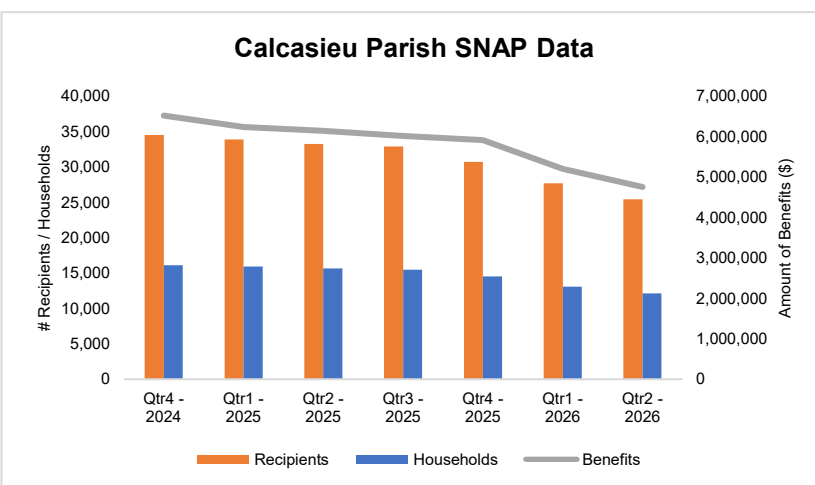
The number of new business filings in Calcasieu parish was 660 in the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was 127 more than the same quarter in 2025 and 219 more than the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2026 was 1,253. This was 216 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2025 YTD and 329 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD.

Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	483	441	496	409
2025	504	533	541	454
2026	593	660		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	483	924	1,420	1,829
2025	504	1,037	1,578	2,032
2026	593	1,253		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	33,250	32,897	30,735	27,666	25,443	-7,807	-23.5
Households	15,669	15,468	14,506	13,099	12,148	-3,520	-22.5
Benefits	6,143,421	6,019,076	5,913,253	5,198,949	4,754,002	-1,389,418	-22.6



Calcasieu parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients and in households, along with a decrease in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 25,443 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2026. This was 7,807 less people receiving benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2025 for a 23.5% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 12,148, which was 3,520 less than in the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 22.5% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$4.75 million in total during the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was a \$1.39 million decrease over-the-year. This was a 22.6% decrease in benefits in

the parish. Looking at the graph illustrates a falling trend in benefits from the time period where variables peaked in the 4th quarter of 2022. Throughout 2025, the amount of benefits has come down after peaking at the end of 2024. This trend has continued into the first quarter of 2026.

Selected Employment Indicators – Cameron Parish

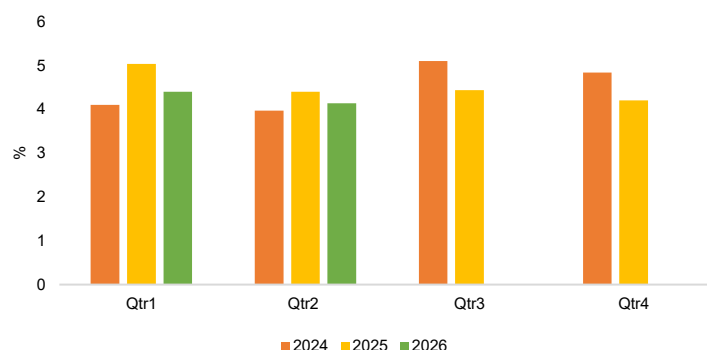
	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Household Employment	1,796	1,803	1,834	1,811	1,829
Year-Over-Year Change	5	17	74	48	33
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.3	0.9	4.2	2.7	1.9
Household Unemployment	83	83	80	83	79
Year-Over-Year Change	9	-13	-10	-10	-4
Year-Over-Year % Change	12.2	-13.5	-10.8	-11.1	-5.2
Labor Force	1,879	1,887	1,914	1,894	1,908
Year-Over-Year Change	14	4	64	38	29
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.7	0.2	3.5	2.0	1.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.1
Year-Over-Year Change	0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.3

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total Job Openings	134	294	367	333	361
Year-Over-Year Change	49	208	245	257	228
Year-Over-Year % Change	57.3	241.5	200.5	341.6	170.3

Cameron Parish Employment



Cameron Parish Unemployment Rate

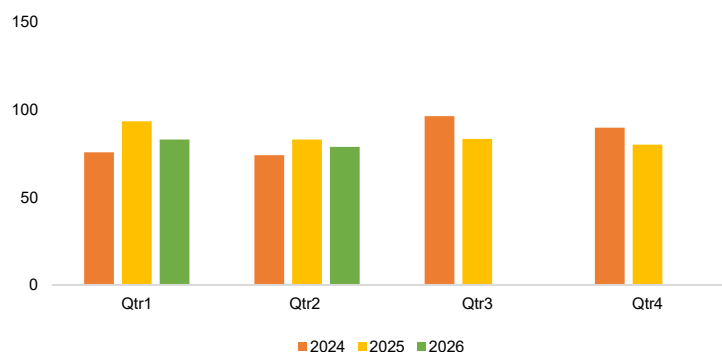


In the 2nd quarter of 2026, Cameron parish had an increase in household employment of 33 over the year (+1.9%) while the number of unemployed people fell by 4 (-5.2%). This meant an increase of 29 (+1.5%) in the total labor force. The unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points over the year to 4.1%.

Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2026 averaged 361. Openings rose by 228 (+170.3%) over the year.

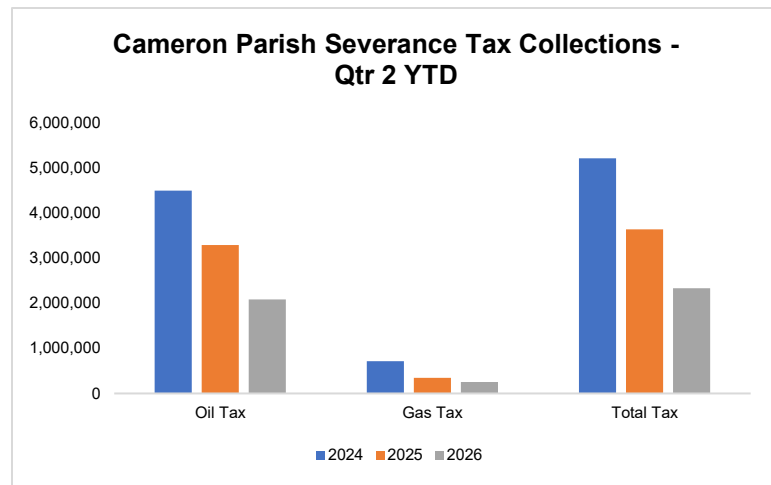
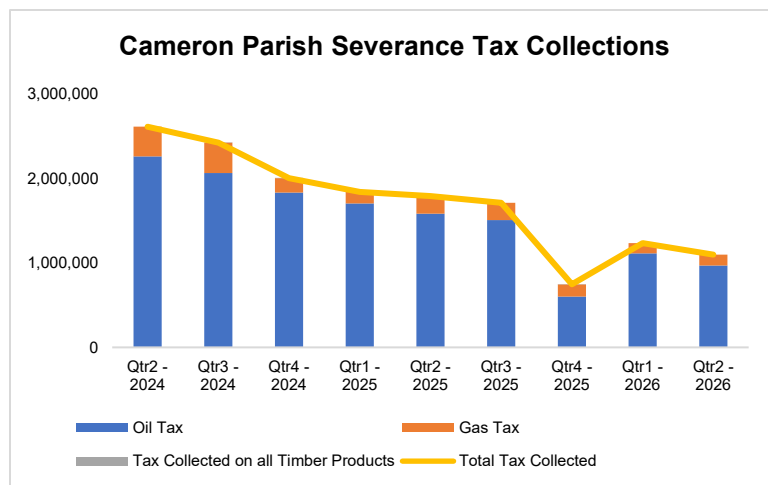
Cameron Parish had a higher employment level in the 2nd quarter of 2026 compared to the same quarter the previous year and the unemployment measures were average. These results led to a slight rise in the labor force in Cameron Parish.

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 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 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Oil Tax	1,581,963	1,508,376	600,126	1,114,286	967,359	-614,604	-38.9
Gas Tax	210,896	204,284	146,825	119,306	131,414	-79,481	-37.7
Tax Collected on all Timber Products	11	0	9	0	0	-11	-100.0
Total Tax Collected	1,792,869	1,712,660	746,959	1,233,592	1,098,773	-694,096	-38.7

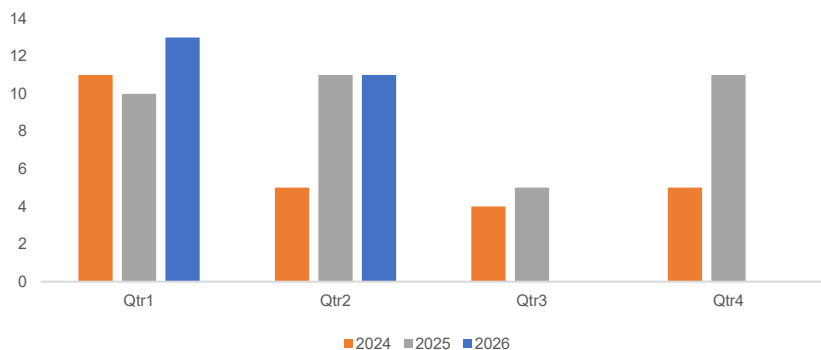
Total Severance Tax Collections (YTD)	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	2,601,045	5,213,425	7,639,232	9,643,056
2025	1,841,922	3,634,791	5,347,451	6,094,411
2026	1,233,592	2,332,365		

The largest amount of severance tax collections from Cameron are taxes on oil. Oil tax collections in the 2nd quarter of 2026 fell by \$614.6 thousand compared to the same quarter the previous year. This represented a 38.9% decrease. In terms of gas collections, those fell \$79.4 thousand over that period for a 37.7% decrease. Timber product collections were \$0 in the 2nd quarter. The 2nd quarter of 2026 saw some decreases in gas severance taxes collected while the biggest component continued its decline.

The YTD figures show that in 2026 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 2026 YTD, severance taxes fell \$1.3 million for a decrease of 35.8% compared to the YTD figures from the previous year.

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 11 in the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was the same as the same quarter in 2025 and 6 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2026 was 24. This was 3 business more than the 2nd quarter of 2025 YTD and 8 more than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD.

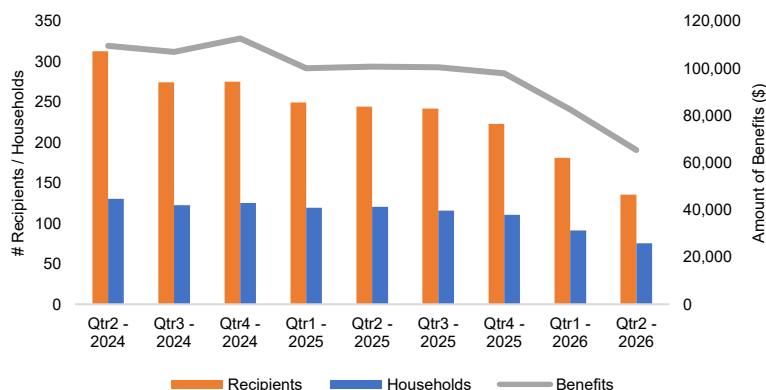
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	11	5	4	5
2025	10	11	5	11
2026	13	11		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	11	16	20	25
2025	10	21	26	37
2026	13	24		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	244	242	223	181	136	-109	-44.5
Households	121	116	111	91	75	-45	-37.6
Benefits	100,682	100,524	97,902	82,587	65,385	-35,297	-35.1

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 136 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2026. This was 109 less than the amount of people receiving benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2025 for a 44.5% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 75, which was 45 fewer than in the 2nd quarter of 2025. This represented a 37.6% decrease. The parish received an average of \$65.4 thousand in total during the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was a \$35,297 decrease over-the-year. This was a 35.1% decrease in benefits in the parish.

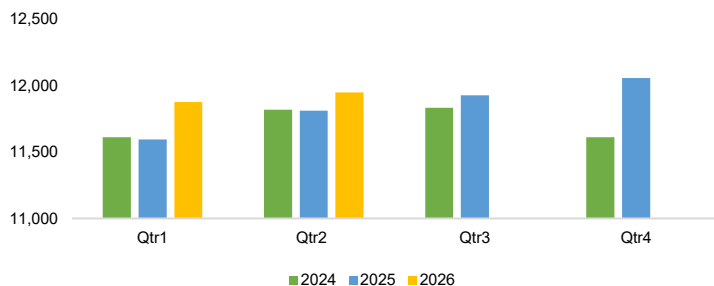
Looking at the graph illustrates recipients, households, and benefits falling since the end of 2022. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency benefits expiring, and that has been showing in future quarters. The number of benefits, number recipients and households, has fallen to a much lower level for 2026.

Selected Employment Indicators – Jefferson Davis Parish

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Household Employment	11,810	11,926	12,057	11,876	11,948
Year-Over-Year Change	-9	93	447	283	138
Year-Over-Year % Change	-0.1	0.8	3.9	2.4	1.2
Household Unemployment	570	578	546	593	574
Year-Over-Year Change	15	-59	-53	16	4
Year-Over-Year % Change	2.7	-9.3	-8.9	2.8	0.6
Labor Force	12,380	12,504	12,603	12,470	12,522
Year-Over-Year Change	6	33	394	299	142
Year-Over-Year % Change	0.1	0.3	3.2	2.5	1.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.8	4.6
Year-Over-Year Change	0.1	-0.5	-0.6	0.0	0.0

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026
Total Job Openings	306	284	308	358	319
Year-Over-Year Change	-55	18	-28	32	14
Year-Over-Year % Change	-15.3	6.9	-8.2	9.8	4.5

Jeff Davis Parish Employment

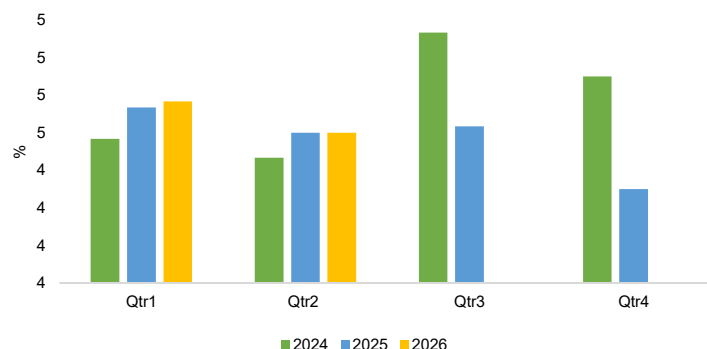


In the 2nd quarter of 2026, Jefferson Davis Parish saw an increase of 142 (+1.1%) in the total labor force. This was broken down by an increase in household employment of 138 over the year (+1.2%) while the number of unemployed people rose by 4 (+0.6%). The unemployment rate stayed the same compared to last year at 4.6%.

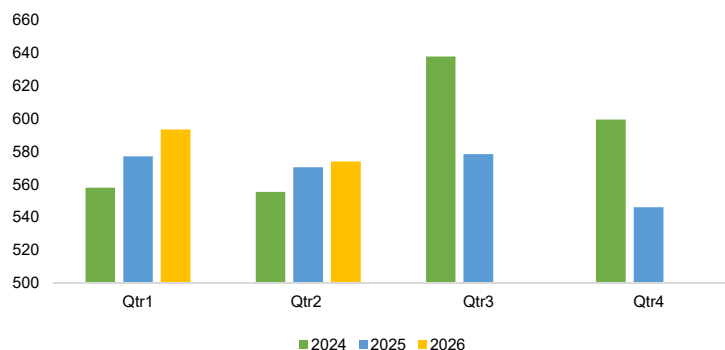
Job openings in the 2nd quarter of 2026 averaged 319. Openings rose by 14 (+4.5%) over the year.

The graphs show the levels of household employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each quarter compared to the same quarter the previous two years. Jeff Davis Parish had slightly higher figures for employment in the 2nd quarter of 2026 compared to 2025, with slightly higher unemployment figures and the same unemployment rate.

Jeff Davis Parish Unemployment Rate

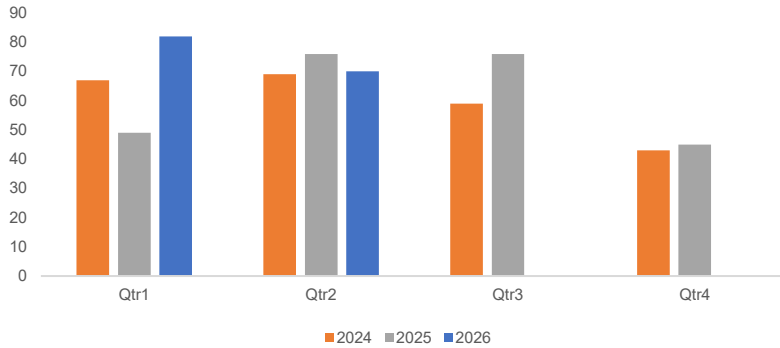


Jeff Davis Parish Unemployment



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 70 in the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was 6 less than the same quarter in 2025 and 1 more compared to the same quarter 2 years ago. The YTD total for the 2nd quarter of 2026 was 152. This was 27 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2025 YTD and 16 businesses more than the 2nd quarter of 2024 YTD.

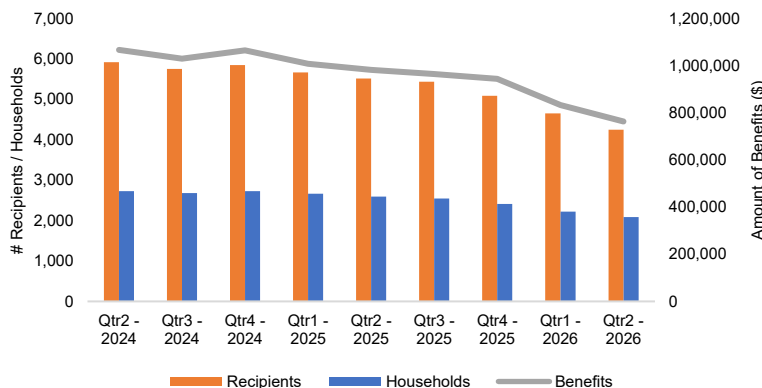
Qtrly New Business Filings	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	67	69	59	43
2025	49	76	76	45
2026	82	70		

Qtrly New Business Filings YTD	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
2024	67	136	195	238
2025	49	125	201	246
2026	82	152		

SNAP Benefits

	Qtr2 - 2025	Qtr3 - 2025	Qtr4 - 2025	Qtr1 - 2026	Qtr2 - 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Recipients	5,512	5,433	5,088	4,652	4,248	-1,264	-22.9
Households	2,589	2,541	2,407	2,221	2,087	-502	-19.4
Benefits	981,278	963,989	943,076	831,908	762,800	-218,478	-22.3

Jefferson Davis Parish SNAP Data

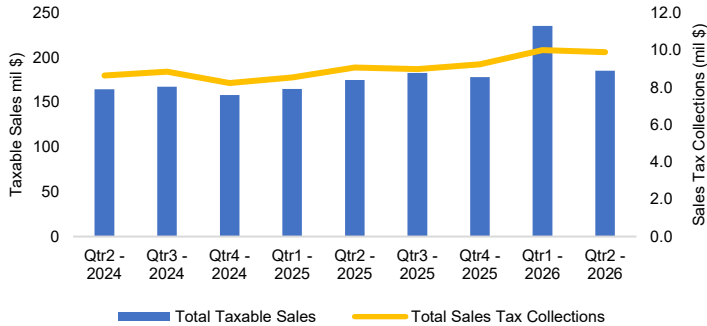


Jefferson Davis parish has had decreases in SNAP recipients, households, and drops in benefits over the year. The parish had an average of 4,248 recipients of SNAP benefits in the 2nd quarter of 2026. This was 1,264 less people receiving benefits compared to the 2nd quarter of 2025 for a 22.9% decrease over this time. The total number of households receiving SNAP averaged 2,087, which was 502 less than the same quarter in the previous year. This represented a 19.4% decrease. In terms of benefits, the parish received \$762.8 thousand in total during the 2nd quarter of 2026, which was a \$218.4 thousand decrease over-the-year. This was a 22.3% decrease in benefits in the parish.

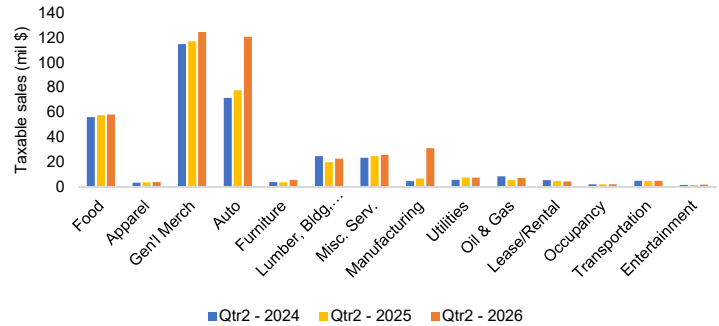
Looking at the graph illustrates an overall flat trend in benefits since the fourth quarter of 2022. The number of households and recipients receiving benefits has been flat since falling in early 2023. March 2023 marked a large drop in total benefits to bring down the whole of quarter 1 due to emergency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

Tax Collections

Jefferson Davis Parish Taxable Sales and Sales Tax Collections



Jeff Davis Parish Taxable Sales - 2nd Quarter YTD



Taxable Sales (mil \$)	Qtr2- 2025	Qtr3- 2025	Qtr4- 2025	Qtr1- 2026	Qtr2- 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Food	30.4	28.5	28.1	27.9	30.3	-0.2	-0.6
Apparel	1.9	1.3	2.1	2.2	1.7	-0.2	-10.4
Gen'l Merch	58.7	57.0	58.0	61.1	63.3	4.7	8.0
Auto	44.3	53.0	44.4	77.8	42.9	-1.3	-3.0
Furniture	1.6	2.6	2.5	3.5	2.4	0.8	49.4
Lumber, Bldg, Contractors	9.7	9.6	13.6	12.6	10.0	0.3	3.0
Misc. Serv.	12.2	14.2	12.3	13.6	12.3	0.1	0.8
Manufacturing	3.2	4.2	4.1	22.5	8.6	5.5	174.0
Utilities	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	4.2	0.8	23.5
Oil & Gas	2.6	2.8	2.9	4.2	3.1	0.5	18.5
Lease/Rental	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.0	-0.5	-20.4
Occupancy	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	-0.1	-6.4
Transportation	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5	0.1	4.4
Entertainment	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.0	-1.4
Total	175.0	182.9	178.3	235.4	185.4	10.4	5.9

Tax Collections (mil \$)	Qtr2- 2025	Qtr3- 2025	Qtr4- 2025	Qtr1- 2026	Qtr2- 2026	YoY Change	YoY % Change
Total Sales Tax Collections	9.1	9.0	9.3	10.0	9.9	0.8	9.2

Taxable Sales YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2024	166.1	330.8	498.2	656.4
2025	165.0	340.0	522.9	701.1
2026	235.4	420.8		

Sales Tax YTD (mil \$)	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
2024	8.6	17.3	26.1	34.4
2025	8.5	17.6	26.6	35.8
2026	10.0	19.9		

Jefferson Davis Parish saw a 9.2% increase in its sales tax collections in the 2nd quarter of 2026, compared to the same quarter the previous year. Sales tax collections have risen by \$0.8 million over the year. This occurred as taxable sales in the parish rose by \$10.4 million (+5.9%) over the year. The largest increase in absolute and percentage terms occurred in Manufacturing (+\$5.5 million, +174.0%). General Merch. experienced an increase in taxable sales (+\$4.7 million, +8.0%) as did Furniture (+\$0.8 million, +49.4%), Lumber, Building, Contractors (+\$0.3 million, 3.0%), Misc. Services (+\$0.1 million, +0.8%), Utilities (+\$0.8 million, +23.5%), Oil & Gas (+\$0.5 million, +18.5%), Transportation (+\$0.1 million, +4.4%). Lease/Rental had the largest decrease in percentage points (-\$0.5 million, -20.4%). While Auto had the largest decrease in absolute terms (-\$1.3 million, -3.0%). Food (-\$0.2 million, -0.6%), Apparel (-\$0.2 million, -0.6%), and Occupancy (-\$0.1 million, 6.4%) experienced drops.

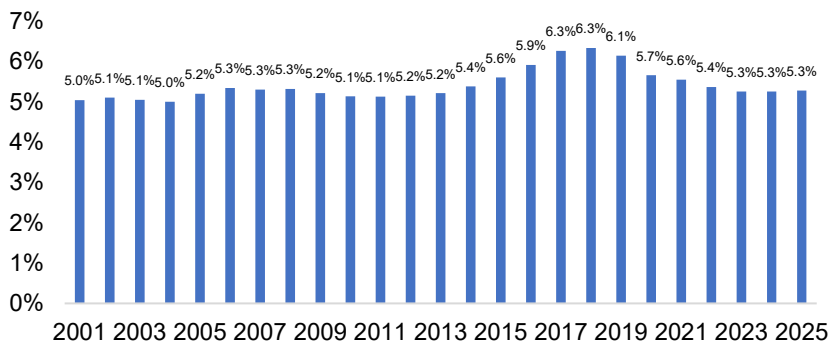
The 2nd quarter of 2026 YTD figures show that total taxable sales have increased in the parish by \$80.8 million compared to the same quarter in 2025 for a 23.8% increase. There was a \$2.3 million increase in 2026 YTD sales tax collections (+13.1%).

Lake Charles Importance to Louisiana

There has recently been a lot of discussion about the [importance of New Orleans to the state economy](#). Some think New Orleans “thinks they’re so special” while others have stated that New Orleans remains the most vibrant part of the state economy. The truth is probably somewhere in between (as generally seems to be the case). Much of the economic data has looked at MSA’s. It is true that the NOLA MSA is a collection of parishes that is the largest in terms of population and there is quite a bit of commerce taking place. When looking at MSA’s, New Orleans still is the largest area by population and the largest draw for tourists, providing a worldwide view of Louisiana. However, in recent years, the MSA has lost parishes to the recent Slidell MSA which is doing very well in terms of economic growth in population and jobs. The point of this essay, of course, isn’t to focus on NOLA’s importance to the Louisiana economy, but that of the Lake Charles MSA.

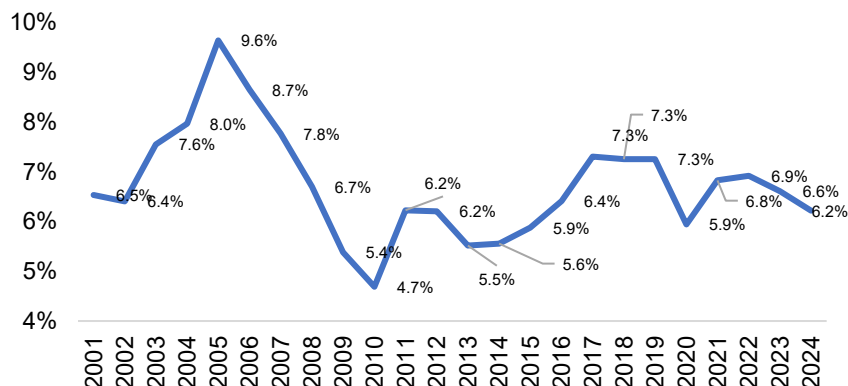
For a considerable period of time, the Lake Charles MSA consisted of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes only (in fact some data, such as the job openings in this report, still classify the MSA that way). With the latest release of MSA definitions from the Office of Management and Budget, Jefferson Davis parish was added to the MSA. So all data shown will incorporate this change. Since 2001, the Lake Charles MSA nonfarm employment has average about 5.4% of all Louisiana state employment. It reached highs of 6.3% in 2017 and 2018 before falling dramatically due to construction completion of industrial facilities, COVID, and the storms. Since that time, it’s settled around 5.3% which is still higher than it was in the early 2000’s.

Lake Charles Nonfarm Employment - % of State



While NOLA is responsible for 26.9% of the state’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it was 30.4% in 2001. Looking at Lake Charles, it was most recently responsible for 6.2% of the state GDP, down from 6.5% in 2001. It’s worth noting that the share of GDP was rising substantially until 2019. After the huge rebuilding efforts from Hurricane Rita, there was a slight downward trajectory before picking up again. During the first economic boom in Lake Charles, the amount of GDP as a total percentage of the state was rising, peaking at 7.3% before 2020. While not as high as previous years, it’s still a nice recovery from 2020 and much higher than the end of the great recession.

Lake Charles GDP - % of State



In terms of state tax revenues, the latest LDR annual report shows the Lake Charles MSA accounted for \$161,687,745 in state sales tax revenues in FY 2025. In terms of income tax, the MSA accounted for \$217,054,068 in individual Louisiana income tax revenues that same year. While Cameron recently led the parishes in per capita sales tax collections, that is not the case with the latest fiscal year. However, Cameron still has the highest per capita income tax revenue of all parishes at \$1,275. This should be expected because Cameron Parish pays the highest average annual wage of all parishes at \$136,684, according to the BLS QCEW.

Lake Charles Importance to Louisiana

The importance of a local economy isn't completely measured by shares of certain economic variables compared to the state as a whole. The fact that Lake Charles has a smaller population than many MSA's will always skew these figures to what seem to be a lower end. If we look at the per capita measures of certain variables, the differences become intriguing, as shown by Cameron's tax figure. When looking at per capita real GDP measures (the amount of real GDP per resident), the most recent figure puts Lake Charles at \$64,286. This is 15% higher than the Louisiana measure of \$55,909. The Lake Charles MSA has experienced increased population in recent years which slightly brings down the measures. However, the MSA figure is still higher than the state.

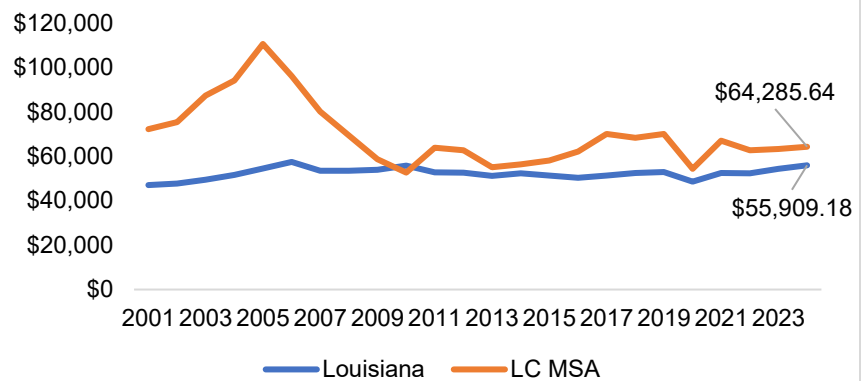
When looking at the parish estimates, Cameron's low population but large industrial output results in per capita measures that far exceed any of the surrounding parishes. This increase was driving by construction during the first wave of LNG construction.

This role of LNG exports also places Cameron Parish and the entire MSA as a player in the global economy. According to the International Trade Administration, the Lake Charles MSA exported \$24.1 billion in 2024. This made it by far the largest per capita exporter in the state. This figure decreased as it's based on values rather than weights, and energy prices have been falling.

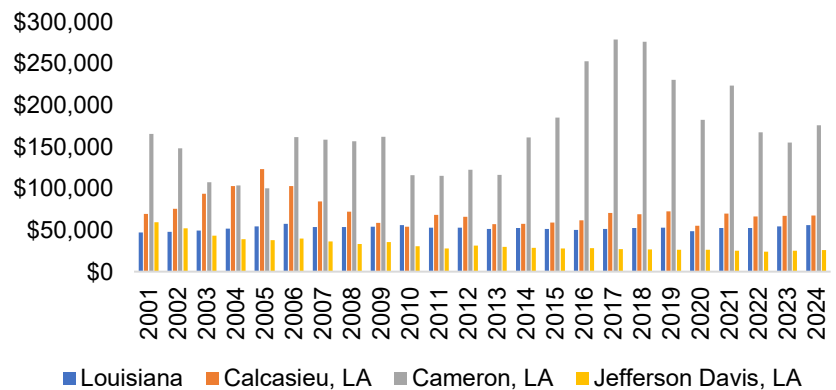
Finally, as an exercise, it would be interesting to try and quantify the area's contribution to the state economy using economic impact modeling. A contribution analysis estimates "the economic contribution of an existing industry or group of industries in a region, at their current levels of production". Essentially, contribution analysis shows what the total economic effects in Louisiana are from the three parishes Lake Charles MSA.

A contribution analysis not only the direct effects of economic activity but also the indirect and induced effects. The indirect effects stem from business-to-business transactions in the supply chain while induced effects show the effects from household spending that comes about due to the earnings generated from the economic activity of these industries. The results show estimates of the economic activity for four variables:

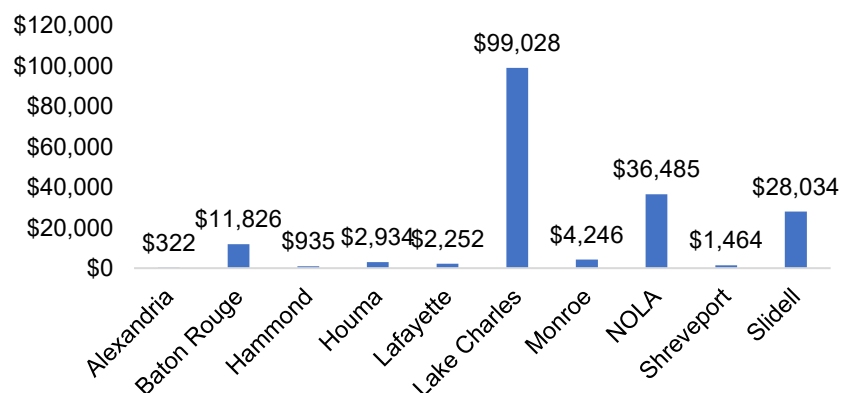
Per Capita Real GDP Measures



Parish Per Capita Real GDP



Per Capita MSA Exports



- A. Employment – number of jobs
- B. Labor income – all forms of employment income, including compensation (wages, salaries, and benefits) and proprietor income
- C. Value-Added – another term for Gross Domestic Product, referred to in this report at times as “final production”
- D. Output – the value of production at all stages of the production process

This analysis also uses IMPLAN’s Multi-Regional Input-Output (MRIO) methodology. This allows for the direct effects of the MSA to be assessed and the trade with the remaining parishes in the state to be modeled to get the full indirect and induced impacts in the state.

The table below shows the direct effects of the Lake Charles, MSA.

Lake Charles MSA				
Impact	Employment	Labor Income	GDP	Output
1 - Direct	137,382	\$9,800,905,398	\$24,488,749,841	\$63,752,333,412
2 - Indirect	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3 - Induced	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	137,382	\$9,800,905,398	\$24,488,749,841	\$63,752,333,412

This shows that Lake Charles MSA directly generates over 137 thousand jobs¹, \$9.8 million in labor income, and almost \$24.5 billion in GDP.

The table below shows the indirect and induced effects in all of the remaining parishes from trade with the MSA. There are only indirect and induced effects as all of the direct effects came from Lake Charles, and the trade with the rest of the state is shown through indirect and induced outcomes.

Effects on Louisiana Outside Lake Charles MSA				
Impact	Employment	Labor Income	GDP	Output
1 - Direct	137,382	\$9,800,905,398	\$24,488,749,841	\$63,752,333,412
2 - Indirect	5,093	\$419,771,318	\$876,502,391	\$2,169,703,251
3 - Induced	4,928	\$270,047,066	\$508,017,396	\$900,726,915
Total	147,404	\$10,490,723,783	\$25,873,269,627	\$66,822,763,579
% of State	5.2%	5.9%	7.7%	9.6%

The Lake Charles MSA supports an additional 10 thousand jobs, almost \$690 million in labor income, and over \$25.8 billion in GDP, throughout the state.

To put these numbers into perspective, the final line shows the contribution of the MSA as a percentage Louisiana in total. Lake Charles contributed 5.2% of Louisiana employment and 5.9% of total labor income. The area also contributes almost 8% of GDP, and almost 10% of total output, to the state. However, it must be noted that Lake Charles is very close Texas. Therefore, a great deal of economic activity in the region is also contributing to the economy of our neighbors as trade with nearby parishes (Orange, Jefferson, etc.) results in substantial gains for those areas.

¹ <https://support.implan.com/hc/en-us/articles/30779951167771-Employment-in-IMPLAN>
Jobs in IMPLAN include all wage and salary employment as well as all proprietor employment.

Lake Charles Importance to Louisiana

The data presented here suggest that discussions about which region is "most important" to Louisiana often miss the larger point. New Orleans remains a vital economic, cultural, and tourism center for the state, but the Lake Charles MSA plays a critical role in different ways. Despite accounting for only about 5% of the state's employment, the region generates outsized contributions in GDP, output, exports, wages, tax revenues, and international trade. The area's industrial base, energy sector, and export infrastructure create economic effects that extend well beyond the boundaries of Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis parishes.

Perhaps the most telling finding is that a region with a relatively small population contributes nearly 8% of Louisiana's GDP and almost 10% of its total economic output when broader economic linkages are considered. Those figures underscore the importance of Southwest Louisiana not only to local residents, but to businesses, workers, and communities across the entire state.

Just as importantly, this contribution is not static. The region is entering another period of substantial investment, with major LNG expansions, petrochemical projects, and related infrastructure developments either recently announced, under construction, or under consideration. Combined with one of the nation's most significant energy export corridors, these investments have the potential to generate billions in additional economic activity, expand the tax base, and strengthen Louisiana's position in global energy markets. While no project is guaranteed and economic conditions can change, the development pipeline suggests that the Lake Charles area is positioned to remain one of Louisiana's primary growth centers for years to come. The question, then, is not whether Lake Charles is important to Louisiana. The data clearly show that it is. Rather, the question is how much of the state's economic future will be shaped by the continued growth and competitiveness of Southwest Louisiana. If recent investment announcements are any indication, the Lake Charles region's greatest economic contributions may still lie ahead.

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