

# CENTRAL LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DASHBOARD



# LSUA<sup>®</sup>

College of

## Business

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July 2023

# KEY FINDINGS

*July 2023*

## EMPLOYMENT

According to preliminary data, employment remains relatively stable in central Louisiana. However, as new graduates enter the workforce the unemployment rate in the Alexandria MSA rose from 2.9% in April to 3.5% in May, while the rate in Natchitoches rose from 3.8% in April to 4.6% in May. The rise in the unemployment rate should be temporary with rates falling to normal as new graduates find employment.

Employment in the Alexandria labor market in May fell to 62,911 from 63,623 in April. After reaching a post-pandemic high in the Spring, employment in Natchitoches parish fell from 16,363 in March to 16,113 in May.

Baton Rouge now has the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.4%, a position held by the Alexandria throughout the pandemic. Alexandria ranked second at 3.5%, with Houma-Thibodaux and Lake Charles at 3.6%.

In May 2023, the parishes in central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 4.2%, up from 3.5% in April and below the state unemployment rate of 4.4%.

Alexandria remains the tightest labor market in the state, although it is easing locally and statewide. In May 2023, the Alexandria MSA labor market had a job posting ratio of 0.39, up from 0.33 in March. In other words, there were just under three postings for every unemployed. However, a new measure of labor supply and demand established by the Louisiana Workforce Commission provides a more current snapshot of labor market conditions. It measures the number of unemployed per new job posting, which was 0.91 in May or nearly a 1-to-1 ratio.

Both initial and continued unemployment claims are higher than a year ago. Initial unemployment claims rose 18% in May and another 19% in June., while continued unemployment claims rose 3% in May and 19% in June over the previous month.

# KEY FINDINGS

*July 2023*

## CONSUMER SPENDING

Through the first half of 2023, consumer spending in central Louisiana is ahead of last year in nearly all jurisdictions as measured by sales tax revenue. On a month-over-month basis, nine of the 12 jurisdiction in central Louisiana saw increased sales in June. Likewise, consumer spending in all but one jurisdiction was positive on a year-over-year basis, while 10 out of 12 reported increases year-to-date over the same period last year. Consumer spending in Ball is up 2% through June over the first half of 2022, while Woodworth has had a 7% increase during this period.

Vehicle sales were up 31% in Rapides in May, according to June sales tax collections, and were 12% higher than a year ago. Natchitoches had the highest year-over-year percentage increase in vehicle sales at 14%, while Evangeline had the highest percentage year-to-date increase at 11%. Vehicle sales in Avoyelles and Vernon are down 3% and 5%, respectively, year-to-date.

Online consumer spending in central Louisiana continues to outpace traditional sales in terms of percentage growth. In June, online sales grew 10% from May 2023 and 10% over June 2022. Online sales are up 14% in the first six months of 2023, compared to the same period in 2022. Since the start of the remote sellers collections in August 2020, Rapides has collected \$16.3 million in tax revenues, Vernon \$6.2 million, Natchitoches \$4.2 million, Evangeline \$4.0 million, and Avoyelles \$3.6 million.

## PERMITS & HOUSING

The higher cost of borrowing is impacting future constructions in the central Louisiana as shown in the decline in permit valuations. In the first six months of 2023, valuation of construction permits in central Louisiana are down

# KEY FINDINGS

*July 2023*

-26% compared to the same period last year. Permits year-to-date are down in all reporting jurisdictions, except Rapides which has a 3% increase and the City of Natchitoches with an 11% increase.

Higher mortgage rates continue to affect the housing market. Nevertheless, home prices and active listings are up locally. The 30 year fixed mortgage rate remained elevated in May and June, and stood at 6.96% on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Activity in the housing market seems to be focused on existing homes, rather than new homes as indicated by the weakness in lumber prices. The US Lumber Price Index fell now stands -20% below last year's level.

As mentioned earlier, home prices remain robust despite rising interest rates. The median price of a home is up from a year ago in all four metro areas of central Louisiana (Alexandria, Natchitoches, Leesville, and Opelousas) ranging from 2% in Alexandria to 23% in Leesville. As home prices increase so do active listings which are up year-over-year with Alexandria and Natchitoches reporting increases of 31% and 58%, respectively.

## TRAVEL

Hotel occupancy data based on hotel tax revenue were mixed. Natchitoches and Vernon fared best with YTD increases of 13% and 12%, respectively, while Rapides was down -10% so far this year compared to 2022.

## NEW BUSINESSES

New business applications in Louisiana through May were down -8% compared to last year. In Rapides, new business applications were up 1% for the year at 229, compared to 226 in 2022.

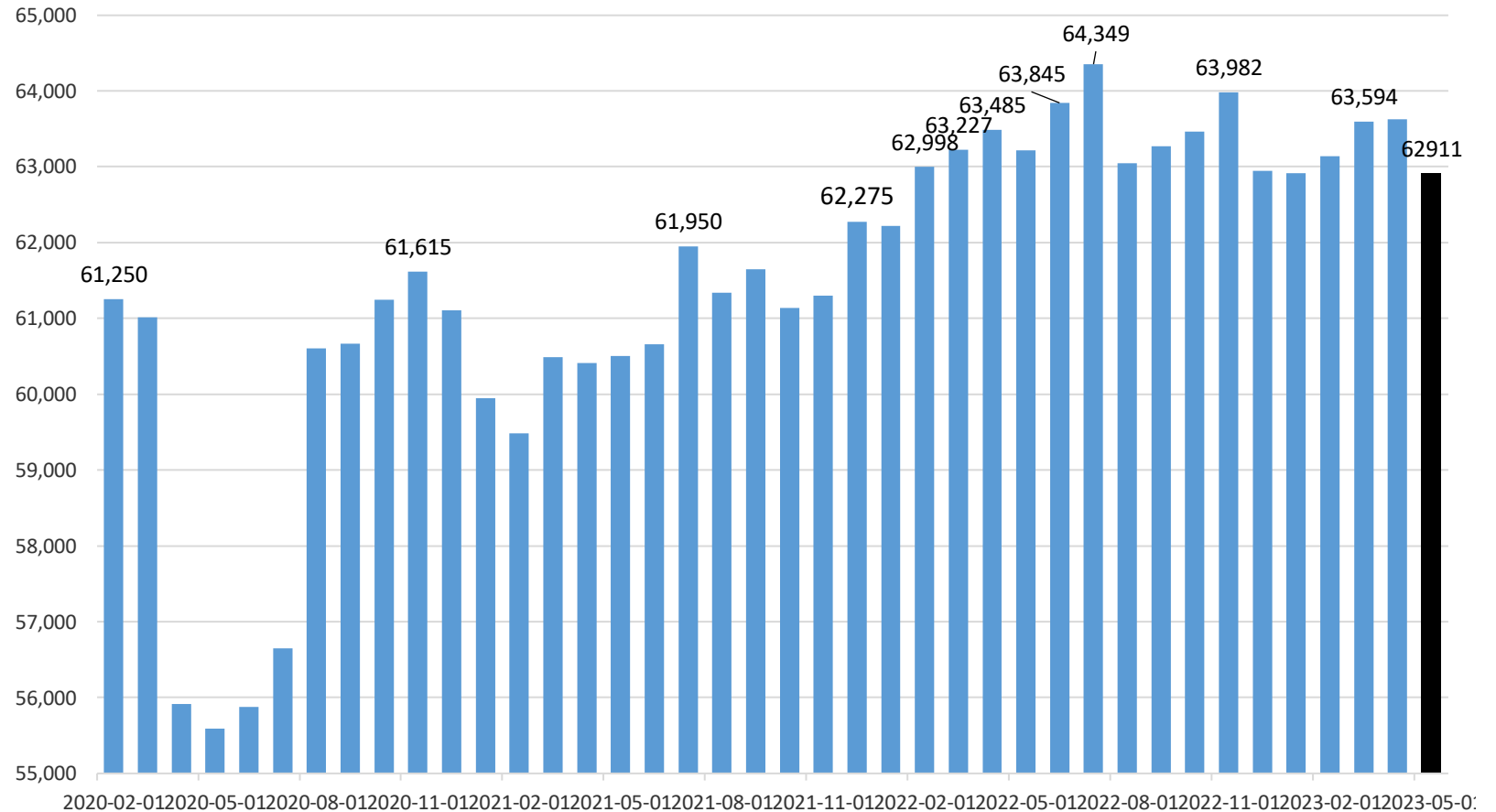
# Employment

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

# EMPLOYMENT IN ALEXANDRIA MSA

*Employed persons in the Alexandria MSA from 2020 – 2023.*

Employed Persons in Alexandria, LA MSA  
2020 - 2023

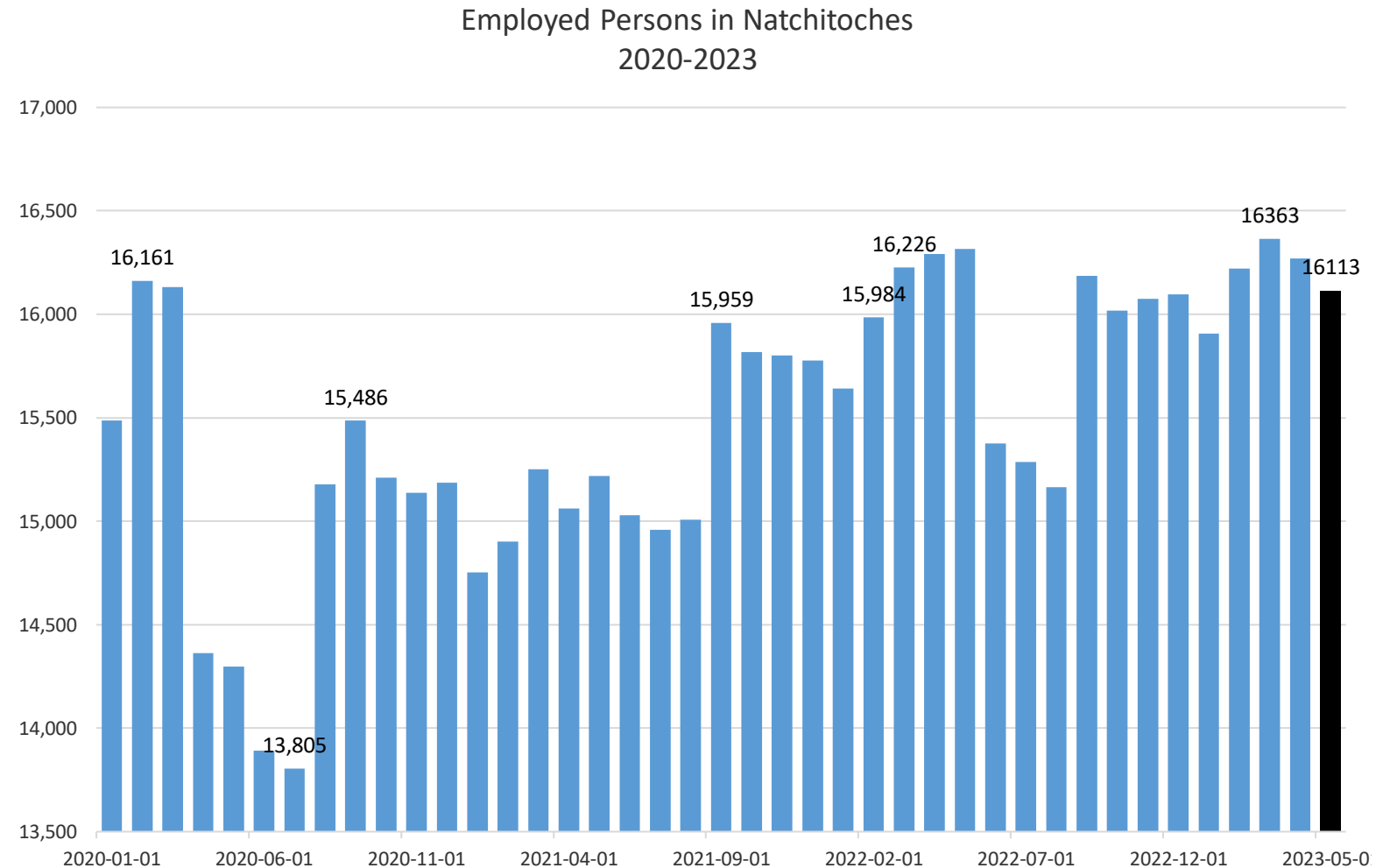


- Employment in the Alexandria MSA in May fell by 712 from April to 62,911.
- Employment in May 2023 was 305 below May 2022.

# EMPLOYMENT IN NATCHITOCHESES

*Employed persons in Natchitoches parish from 2020 – 2023.*

- In May 2023, 16,113 were employed in Natchitoches parish, according to preliminary data.
- Employment is down 250 from a post-Covid high set in March 2023 and down 202 from May 2022.
- The unemployment rate in Natchitoches parish in May 2023 was 4.6%, up from 3.5% a year ago.



# UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY MSA

*The table below shows May 2023 unemployment rate, labor force, and employment data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the state.*

*May 2023*

- At 3.4%, the Baton Rouge MSA had the lowest unemployment rate in the state in May.
- ✓ Alexandria was second at 3.5%, while Houma-Thibodaux and Lake Charles were at 3.6% unemployment rate.
- Louisiana's unemployment rate in June was 4.4%, up from 3.9% in May and 3.2% in April.

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Baton Rouge	438,870	423,786	15,084	3.4%
Alexandria	65,220	62,911	2,309	3.5%
Houma-Thibodaux	85,062	81,995	3,067	3.6%
Lake Charles	96,483	92,974	3,509	3.6%
Lafayette	215,711	207,706	8,005	3.7%
New Orleans-Metairie	593,842	570,175	23,667	4.0%
Monroe	80,659	77,315	3,344	4.1%
Shreveport-Bossier City	186,909	179,326	7,583	4.1%
Hammond	57,511	54,843	2,668	4.6%



# UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY CENLA PARISH

*The table below shows May 2023 unemployment rate, labor force, and employment data for central Louisiana parishes.*

*May 2023*

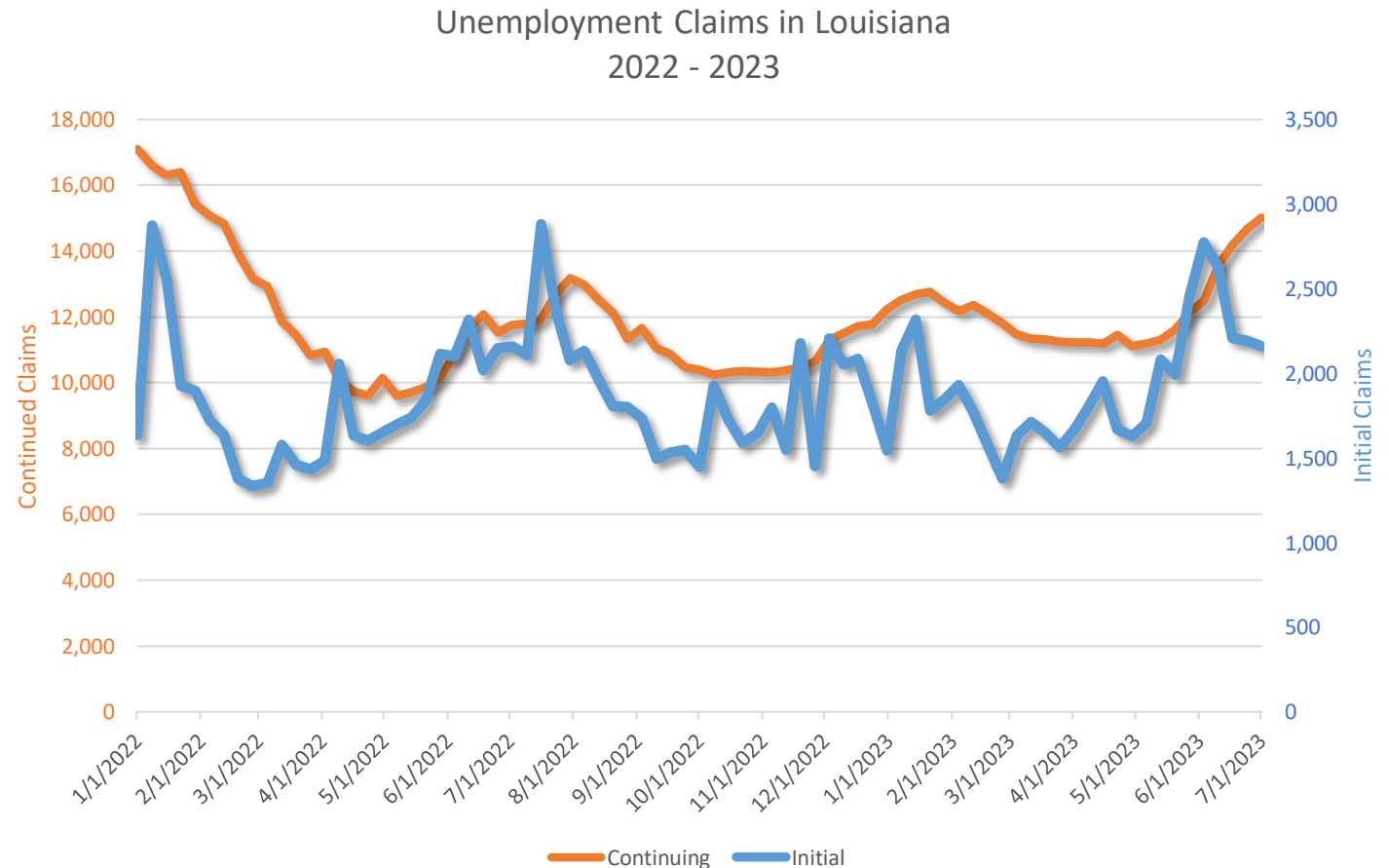
✓ In May 2023, the parishes in central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 4.2%, up from 3.5% in April but below the state unemployment rate of 4.4%

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate May 2023	Unemployment Rate May 2022
Allen	8,360	7,999	361	4.3%	4.0%
Avoyelles	14,356	13,708	648	4.5%	4.0%
Catahoula	3,473	3,310	163	4.7%	4.1%
Concordia	6,971	6,639	332	4.8%	4.3%
Evangeline	12,211	11,702	509	4.2%	3.8%
Grant	8,413	8,118	295	3.5%	3.1%
La Salle	6,786	6,564	222	3.3%	2.5%
Natchitoches	16,885	16,113	772	4.6%	3.5%
Rapides	56,807	54,793	2,014	3.5%	3.1%
St. Landry	31,898	30,341	1,557	4.9%	4.3%
Vernon	16,423	15,718	705	4.3%	3.6%

# UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS IN LOUISIANA

*Initial and continued unemployment claims in Louisiana from January 2022 to June 2023.*

- Initial unemployment claims rose 18% in May and 19% in June over the previous month.
- Continued unemployment claims rose 3% in May and 19% in June over the previous month.
- Both initial and continued unemployment claims are higher than a year ago. Initial claims are up 14% from June 2022, while continued claims are up 19% from a year ago.



# UNEMPLOYED PER JOB POSTING

*The table below shows the number of unemployed, number of advertised jobs online, and the ratio of unemployed to advertised job openings online for Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Louisiana in June 2023.*

✓ In May 2023, the Alexandria MSA labor market had a job posting ratio of 0.39, up from 0.33 in March. However, the number of unemployed per new job posting was 0.91.

✓ Alexandria remains the tightest labor market in the state, although it is easing.

■ The state ratio of job posting to unemployed was 0.77 in May and 1.93 for new job posting.

*May 2023*

Area	Unemployed	Job Openings	# New Job Postings	# Unemployed per Job Posting	# Unemployed per New Job Posting
Alexandria	2,309	5,886	2,527	0.39	0.91
Lafayette	4,852	10,264	4,243	0.47	1.14
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	23,247	44,085	17,407	0.53	1.34
Lake Charles	3,509	6,125	2,469	0.57	1.42
Shreveport-Bossier City	6,937	11,514	4,369	0.60	1.59
Baton Rouge	15,084	24,881	10,259	0.61	1.47
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	3,067	3,570	1,262	0.86	2.43
Monroe	3,344	3,805	1,464	0.88	2.28

# Tax Revenue

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

# TAX REVENUE OVERVIEW

*An overview of sales, vehicle sales, and hotel occupancy taxes collected in the June 2023 reflecting sales activity in the previous month, unless otherwise noted.*

*June 2023*

<b>Sales Tax</b>	<b>M/M</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>YTD</b>		<b>Vehicle Sales Tax</b>	<b>M/M</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Alexandria	1%	3%	1%		Avoyelles	4%	2%	-3%
Avoyelles	4%	2%	-3%		Evangeline	2%	1%	11%
Catahoula	1%	6%	12%		Natchitoches*	17%	14%	7%
Concordia	1%	26%	20%		Rapides	31%	12%	1%
Evangeline	-2%	5%	-1%		St. Landry	11%	-2%	2%
Grant	-10%	15%	6%		Vernon	-5%	-18%	-5%
La Salle	5%	15%	14%					
Natchitoches	5%	-4%	6%		<b>Hotel Occupancy Tax</b>			
Pineville	6%	7%	8%		Avoyelles	26%	-8%	-6%
Rapides	6%	6%	2%		Natchitoches	6%	1%	13%
St. Landry	0%	2%	3%		Rapides	-14%	-19%	-10%
Vernon	-26%	3%	6%		Vernon	-5%	-5%	12%

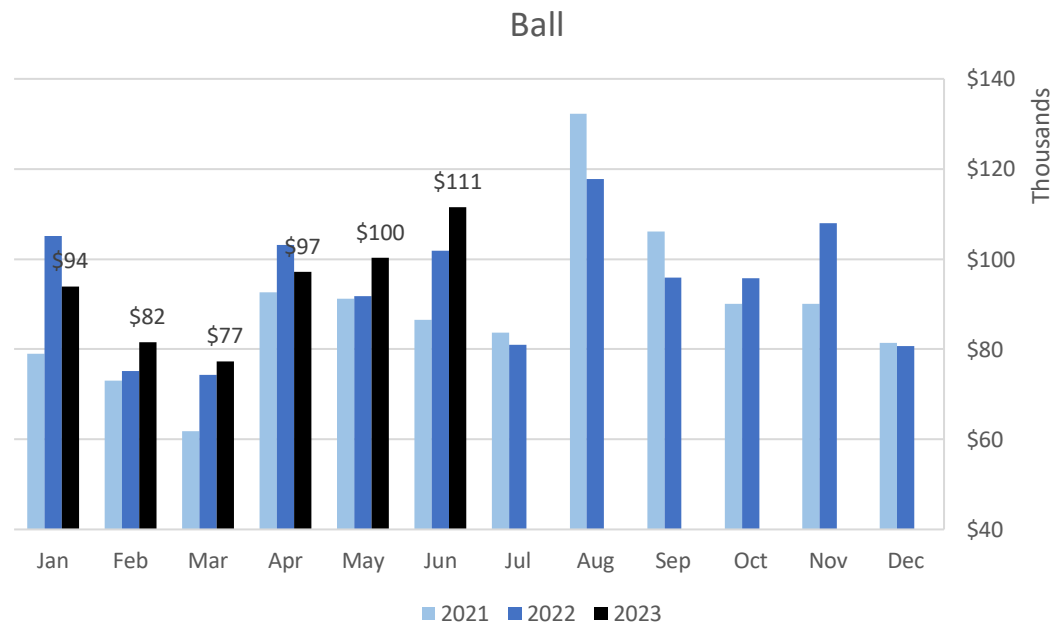
Notes: Current month tax revenue collection reflects sales activity in the previous month. \*Current month data are not available. Represents prior month.

N/a = Not available

Data Source noted in detailed reports.

# BALL & WOODWORTH

*An overview of sales tax revenue collected in Ball and Woodworth from 2021 - 2023.*



Year-to-date through June, consumer spending in Ball is up 7.4%, while Woodworth is up 1.9%. Sales tax revenue is a proxy for consumer spending.

Note: Current tax revenue reflects sales activity in prior month.  
 Data Source: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, July 2023.

# ALEXANDRIA SALES TAX

*(TR) Alexandria total sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

*(BR) Alexandria total monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.*

*June*

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 3,179,215	\$ 3,873,988	\$ 3,800,050	\$ 3,920,985
May	\$ 2,853,830	\$ 3,946,768	\$ 4,020,558	\$ 3,884,128
% Chg over Prev Month	11.4%	-1.8%	-5.5%	0.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		21.9%	-1.9%	3.2%
YTD	\$ 19,173,568	\$ 23,293,090	\$ 23,498,065	\$ 23,652,411
% Chg over Prev YTD		21.5%	0.9%	0.7%

June



1%

Jun YoY



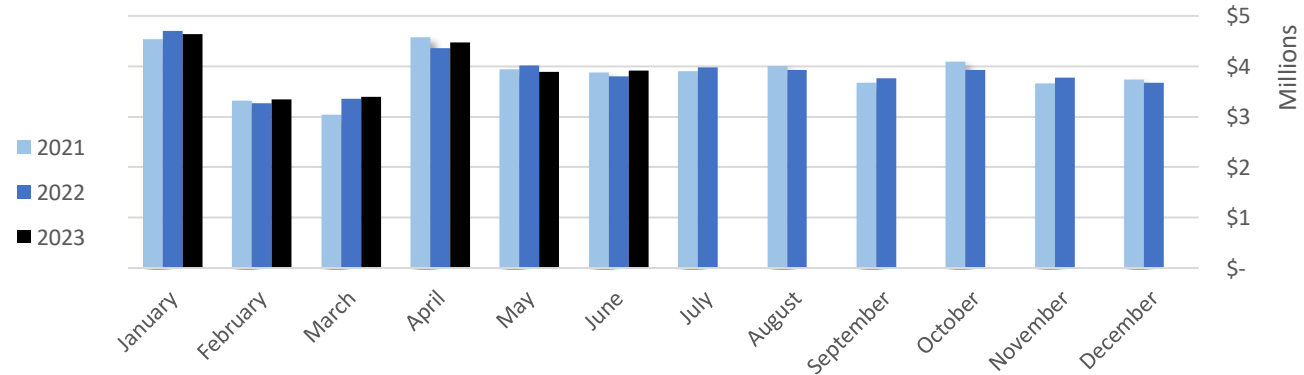
3%

Jun YTD



1%

Alexandria Sales Tax Revenue  
2021-2023






Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in previous month.

Data Source: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, July 2023.

# AVOYELLES SALES TAX

*Avoyelles Parish total sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons. Vehicle and hotel tax revenues are excluded.*

		<i>June</i>				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	 4%	\$ 1,408,574	\$ 1,415,776	\$ 1,689,583	\$ 1,898,645	\$ 1,934,743
Jun YoY	 2%	\$ 1,330,457	\$ 1,367,712	\$ 1,875,067	\$ 1,949,252	\$ 1,854,964
		% Chg over Prev Month	5.9%	3.5%	-9.9%	-2.6%
		% Chg over Prev Year		0.5%	19.3%	12.4%
Jun YTD	 -3%	\$ 8,802,336	\$ 8,541,871	\$ 11,236,236	\$ 12,165,689	\$ 11,851,721
		% Chg over Prev YTD		-3.0%	31.5%	8.3%


Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.  
Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. July 2023.





# AVOYELLES VEHICLE SALES TAX

*Avoyelles Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

*June*

June   
-1%

Jun YoY   
-4%

Jun YTD   
-5%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 337,189	\$ 290,412	\$ 457,416	\$ 359,127	\$ 344,777
May	\$ 305,928	\$ 201,863	\$ 430,401	\$ 343,134	\$ 348,453
% Chg over Prev Month	10.2%	43.9%	6.3%	4.7%	-1.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		-13.9%	57.5%	-21.5%	-4.0%
YTD	\$ 1,667,571	\$ 1,575,248	\$ 2,020,754	\$ 2,093,765	\$ 1,982,070
% Chg over Prev YTD		-5.5%	28.3%	3.6%	-5.3%


Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.


Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. July 2023


# CATAHOULA SALES TAX

*Catahoula Parish total sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

## June

June   
1%

Jun YoY   
6%

Jun YTD   
12%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 435,382	\$ 598,373	\$ 598,373	\$ 635,759
May	\$ 466,424	\$ 603,964	\$ 629,209	\$ 629,209
% Chg over Prev Month	-6.7%	-0.9%	-4.9%	1.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		37.4%	0.0%	6.2%
YTD	\$ 2,795,289	\$ 4,715,043	\$ 3,674,807	\$ 4,107,053
% Chg over Prev YTD		68.7%	-22.1%	11.8%


Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.


Data Source: Catahoula Parish Tax Administrator, July 2023


# CONCORDIA SALES TAX

*Concordia Parish total sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

*June*

June   
1%

Jun YoY   
26%

Jun YTD   
20%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 1,098,299	\$ 1,169,143	\$ 1,287,796	\$ 1,620,609
May	\$ 1,045,294	\$ 1,408,079	\$ 1,235,987	\$ 1,602,966
% Chg over Prev Month	5.1%	-17.0%	4.2%	1.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		6.5%	10.1%	25.8%
YTD	\$ 6,188,382	\$ 7,479,058	\$ 7,841,095	\$ 9,436,933
% Chg over Prev YTD		20.9%	4.8%	20.4%


Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.  
Data Source: Concordia Parish Tax Administrator. July 2023


# EVANGELINE SALES TAX

*Evangeline Parish total sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year and YTD comparisons.*

*June*

June   
-2%

Jun YoY   
5%

Jun YTD   
-1%


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 1,552,490	\$ 1,603,239	\$ 1,891,888	\$ 2,243,079	\$ 2,353,499
May	\$ 1,595,997	\$ 1,489,051	\$ 2,033,049	\$ 2,248,969	\$ 2,400,596
% Chg over Prev Month	-2.7%	7.7%	-6.9%	-0.3%	-2.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		3.3%	18.0%	18.6%	4.9%
YTD	\$ 7,732,803	\$ 7,633,866	\$ 10,036,575	\$ 12,227,353	\$ 12,138,630
% Chg over Prev YTD		-1.3%	31.5%	21.8%	-0.7%


Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in prior month. Evangeline implemented a 1% sales tax increase July 1, 2021.


Data Source: Evangeline Parish Sales Tax Commissioner. July 2023

# EVANGELINE VEHICLE SALES TAX

*Evangeline Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year and YTD comparisons.*

June  2%

Jun YoY  1%

Jun YTD  11%

*June*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
May	\$ 332,890	\$ 312,664	\$ 455,177	\$ 434,290	\$ 439,144
April	\$ 351,269	\$ 247,941	\$ 443,548	\$ 419,662	\$ 432,804
% Chg over Prev Month	-5.2%	26.1%	2.6%	3.5%	1.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		-6.1%	45.6%	-4.6%	1.1%
YTD	\$ 1,601,854	\$ 1,446,795	\$ 1,955,841	\$ 2,006,451	\$ 2,235,296
% Chg over Prev YTD		-9.7%	35.2%	2.6%	11.4%

Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in prior month. Evangeline implemented a 1% sales tax increase July 1, 2021.

Data Source: Evangeline Parish Sales Tax Commissioner. July 2023

# GRANT SALES TAX

*(TR) Grant sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

*(BR) Grant monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.*

June



-10%

Jun YoY



15%

Jun YTD

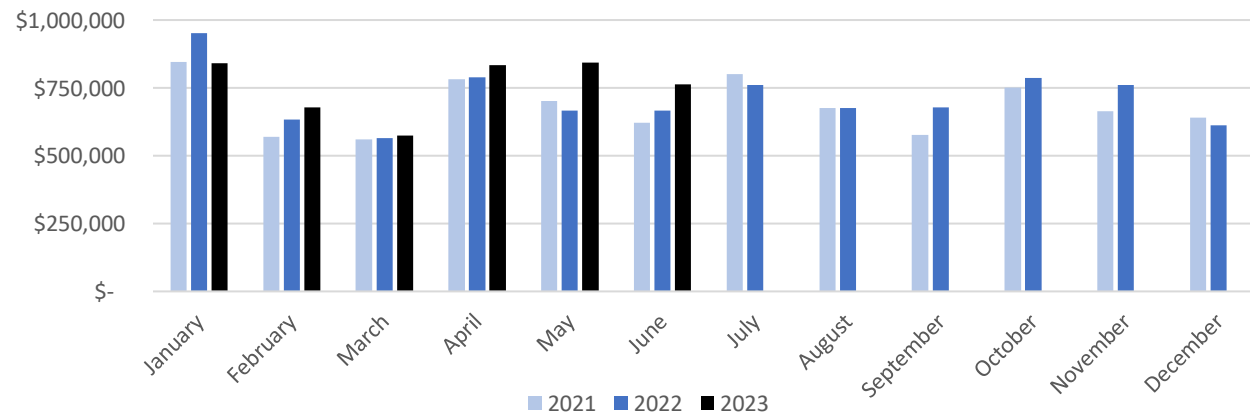


6%

*June*

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 553,726	\$ 621,676	\$ 666,907	\$ 763,933
May	\$ 498,509	\$ 702,808	\$ 665,839	\$ 844,465
% Chg over Prev Month	11.1%	-11.5%	0.2%	-9.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		12.3%	7.3%	14.5%
YTD	\$ 3,130,755	\$ 4,082,897	\$ 4,273,738	\$ 4,537,775
% Chg over Prev YTD		30.4%	4.7%	6.2%

Grant Parish Sales Tax Revenue  
2021-2023




Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in prior month.


Data Source: Grant Parish Sheriff's Office, July 2023.


# LA SALLE SALES TAX

*La Salle Parish total sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

## June

June   
5%

Jun YoY   
15%

Jun YTD   
14%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 741,245	\$ 1,066,770	\$ 1,099,392	\$ 1,268,506
May	\$ 828,127	\$ 1,080,943	\$ 1,100,524	\$ 1,204,123
% Chg over Prev Month	-10.5%	-1.3%	-0.1%	5.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		43.9%	3.1%	15.4%
YTD	\$ 5,234,520	\$ 6,111,738	\$ 6,709,376	\$ 7,628,363
% Chg over Prev YTD		-19.9%	9.8%	13.7%

Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the previous month.

Data Source: La Salle Parish Tax Administrator, July 2023

# NATCHITOCHESES SALES TAX

*(TR) Natchitoches sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

*(BR) Natchitoches monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.*

June

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 2,626,321	\$ 3,027,744	\$ 3,760,942	\$ 3,628,639
May	\$ 2,531,560	\$ 3,321,520	\$ 3,266,995	\$ 3,455,941
% Chg over Prev Month	3.7%	-8.8%	15.1%	5.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		15.3%	24.2%	-3.5%
YTD	\$ 16,445,989	\$ 18,944,272	\$ 22,295,288	\$ 23,544,580
% Chg over Prev YTD		15.2%	17.7%	5.6%

June



5%

Jun YoY



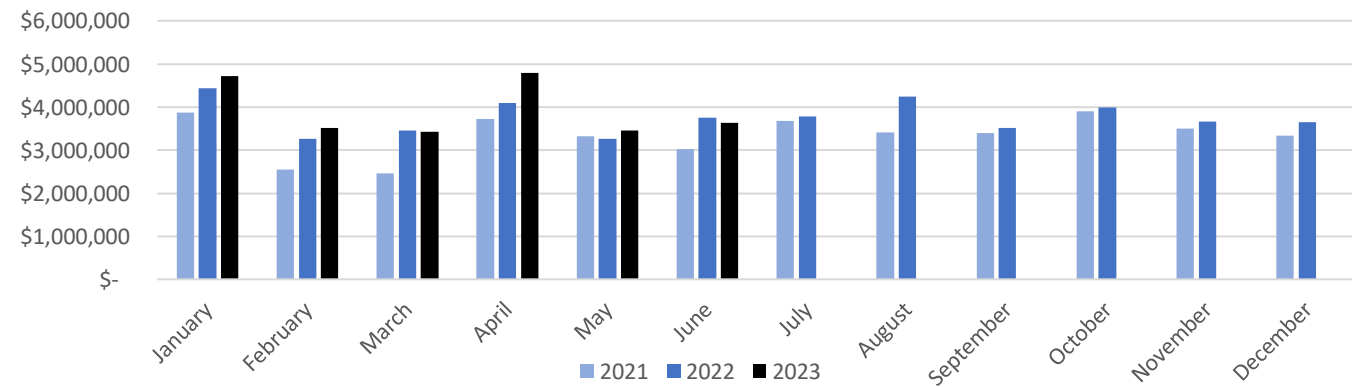
-4%

Jun YTD



6%

Natchitoches Parish Sales Tax Revenue  
2021-2023



Note: Current month sales tax revenue collections reflects sales activity in the prior month.

Data Source: Natchitoches Parish Tax Commission, July 2023.




# NATCHITOCHESES VEHICLE SALES TAX


*(TR) Natchitoches vehicle sales tax revenue collected with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*


*(BR) Natchitoches monthly vehicle sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.*

May\*

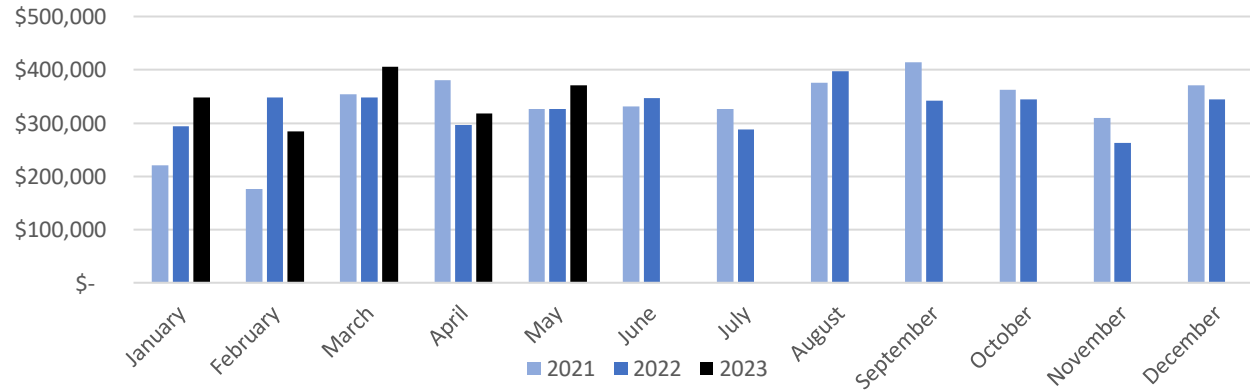
	2020	2021	2022	2023
May	\$ 267,889	\$ 327,063	\$ 326,529	\$ 370,942
April	\$ 213,945	\$ 380,731	\$ 296,853	\$ 317,537
% Chg over Prev Month	25.2%	-14.1%	10.0%	16.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		22.1%	-0.2%	13.6%
YTD	\$ 1,266,400	\$ 1,459,024	\$ 1,613,692	\$ 1,725,933
% Chg over Prev YTD		15.2%	10.6%	7.0%

May  17%

May YoY  14%

May YTD  7%

Natchitoches Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue  
2021-2023



Note: Current sales tax revenue collections reflects sales activity in the prior month. \*June 2023 vehicle sales tax revenue was not available at time of publication.

Data Source: Natchitoches Parish Tax Commission, July 2023.

# PINEVILLE SALES TAX

*(TR) Pineville sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

*(BR) Pineville monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.*

*June*

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 1,173,245	\$ 1,118,128	\$ 1,181,718	\$ 1,268,490
May	\$ 940,343	\$ 1,145,958	\$ 1,176,960	\$ 1,192,310
% Chg over Prev Month	24.8%	-2.4%	0.4%	6.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		-4.7%	5.7%	7.3%
YTD	\$ 6,066,399	\$ 6,868,380	\$ 6,980,458	\$ 7,561,683
% Chg over Prev YTD		13.2%	1.6%	8.3%

June



6%

Jun YoY



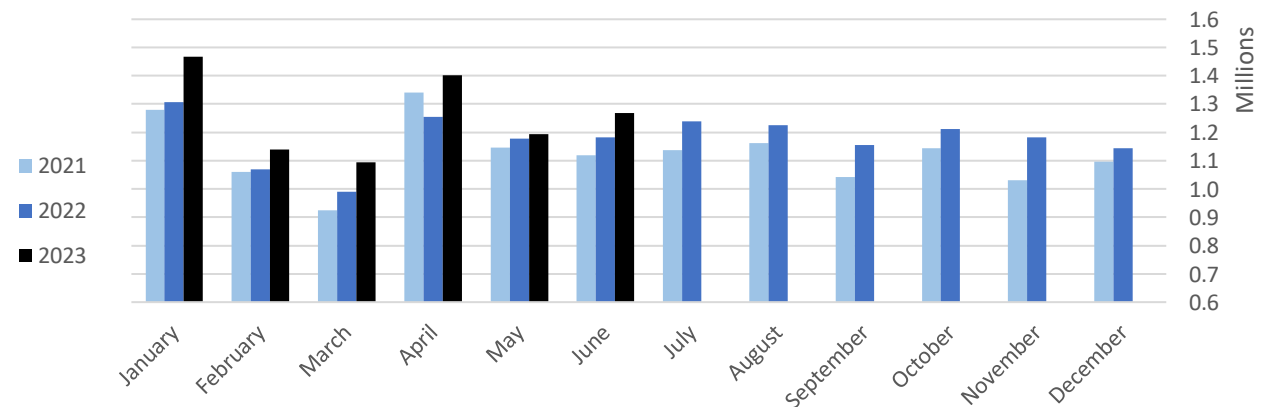
7%

Jun YTD



8%

Pineville Sales Tax Revenue  
2021-2023



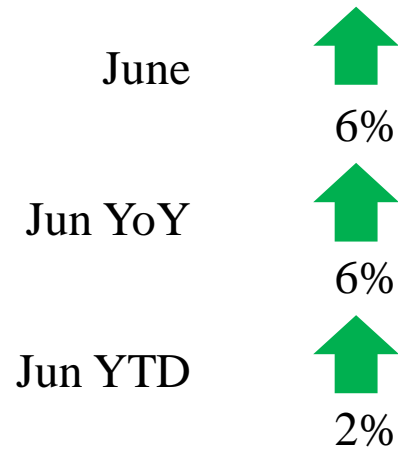
Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.

Data Source: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, July 2023.

# RAPIDES SALES TAX

*(TR) Rapides Parish sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

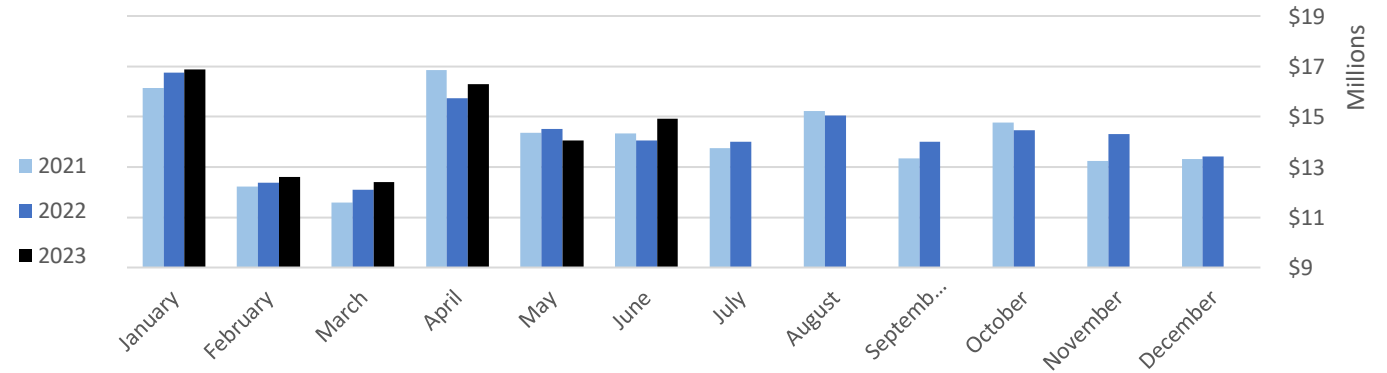
*(BR) Rapides monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.*



## June

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 11,881,114	\$ 14,341,720	\$ 14,061,247	\$ 14,914,111
May	\$ 10,398,820	\$ 14,375,860	\$ 14,504,126	\$ 14,065,399
% Chg over Prev Month	14.3%	-0.2%	-3.1%	6.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		20.7%	-2.0%	6.1%
YTD	\$ 69,150,656	\$ 85,538,867	\$ 85,523,617	\$ 87,170,326
% Chg over Prev YTD		23.7%	0.0%	1.9%


Rapides Parish Total Sales Tax Revenue  
2021-2023





Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.  
Data Source: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, July 2023.

# RAPIDES VEHICLE SALES TAX

*Rapides Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

June  31%

Jun YoY  12%

Jun YTD  1%

*June*

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 1,130,397	\$ 1,867,319	\$ 1,650,350	\$ 1,853,338
May	\$ 789,052	\$ 1,748,800	\$ 1,591,661	\$ 1,412,614
% Chg over Prev Month	43.3%	6.8%	3.7%	31.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		65.2%	-11.6%	12.3%
YTD	\$ 6,693,898	\$ 9,954,981	\$ 8,478,651	\$ 8,597,841
% Chg over Prev YTD		48.7%	-14.8%	1.4%

Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.


Data Source: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, July 2023.


# ST. LANDRY SALES TAX

*St. Landry Parish sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

## June

June 0%

Jun YoY  2%

Jun YTD  3%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 6,588,567	\$ 7,060,457	\$ 7,400,984	\$ 7,542,057
May	\$ 5,630,178	\$ 7,405,238	\$ 7,556,748	\$ 7,565,192
% Chg over Prev Month	17.0%	-4.7%	-2.1%	-0.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		7.2%	4.8%	1.9%
YTD	\$ 37,292,729	\$ 42,592,009	\$ 45,063,488	\$ 46,422,747
% Chg over Prev YTD		14.2%	5.8%	3.0%


Note: Current sales tax revenue collection reflects sales activity in prior month.  
Data Source: Tax revenue data from St. Landry Parish School Board. July 2023


# ST. LANDRY VEHICLE SALES TAX

*St. Landry Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

*June*

June   
11%

Jun YoY   
-2%

Jun YTD   
2%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 757,901	\$ 1,092,232	\$ 1,076,348	\$ 1,054,194
May	\$ 650,959	\$ 1,188,894	\$ 1,141,784	\$ 952,432
% Chg over Prev Month	16.4%	-8.1%	-5.7%	10.7%
% Chg over Prev Year		44.1%	-1.5%	-2.1%
YTD	\$ 4,753,158	\$ 5,923,793	\$ 5,792,791	\$ 5,905,486
% Chg over Prev YTD		24.6%	-2.2%	1.9%


Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in prior month.


Data Source: Tax revenue data from St. Landry Parish School Board. July 2023


# VERNON SALES TAX

*Vernon Parish sales tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

*June*

June  -26%

Jun YoY  3%


Jun YTD  6%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 1,899,854	\$ 2,176,920	\$ 2,188,411	\$ 2,248,891
May	\$ 2,362,124	\$ 2,825,982	\$ 2,778,488	\$ 3,042,065
% Chg over Prev Month	-19.6%	-23.0%	-21.2%	-26.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		14.6%	0.5%	2.8%
YTD	\$ 13,230,248	\$ 16,135,417	\$ 16,752,947	\$ 17,724,740
% Chg over Prev YTD		22.0%	3.8%	5.8%


# VERNON VEHICLE SALES TAX

*Vernon Parish vehicle tax revenue collected in the most recent month with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

*June*

June   
-5%

Jun YoY   
-18%

Jun YTD   
-5%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 391,574	\$ 535,112	\$ 584,098	\$ 481,857
May	\$ 296,679	\$ 588,436	\$ 552,521	\$ 509,504
% Chg over Prev Month	32.0%	-9.1%	5.7%	-5.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		36.7%	9.2%	-17.5%
YTD	\$ 2,406,560	\$ 3,257,094	\$ 3,150,960	\$ 3,007,504
% Chg over Prev YTD		35.3%	-3.3%	-4.6%



# REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE BY PARISH

*Remote sellers tax revenue by parish with month-over-month, year-over-year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

- ✓ Total online sales tax revenue in Cenla in June 2023 was up 10% from May and 10% from June 2022.
- ✓ Online sales in Cenla during the first half of 2023 were up 14% compared to the same period in 2022.

	Jun-23	May-23	Jun-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Allen	\$ 82,145	\$ 73,139	\$ 77,732	12%	6%	12%
Avoyelles	\$ 126,908	\$ 111,713	\$ 110,018	14%	15%	14%
Catahoula	\$ 41,202	\$ 41,422	\$ 39,572	-1%	4%	19%
Concordia	\$ 59,525	\$ 55,013	\$ 49,798	8%	20%	15%
Evangeline	\$ 140,235	\$ 127,845	\$ 123,008	10%	14%	18%
Grant	\$ 66,054	\$ 59,017	\$ 62,216	12%	6%	13%
LaSalle	\$ 57,825	\$ 47,202	\$ 45,554	23%	27%	20%
Natchitoches	\$ 140,605	\$ 131,538	\$ 125,479	7%	12%	11%
Rapides	\$ 533,596	\$ 484,526	\$ 508,870	10%	5%	14%
St Landry	\$ 338,344	\$ 316,419	\$ 310,105	7%	9%	15%
Vernon	\$ 214,362	\$ 183,614	\$ 182,880	17%	17%	13%
Total (Cenla)	\$ 1,800,801	\$ 1,631,448	\$ 1,635,232	10%	10%	14%

Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month

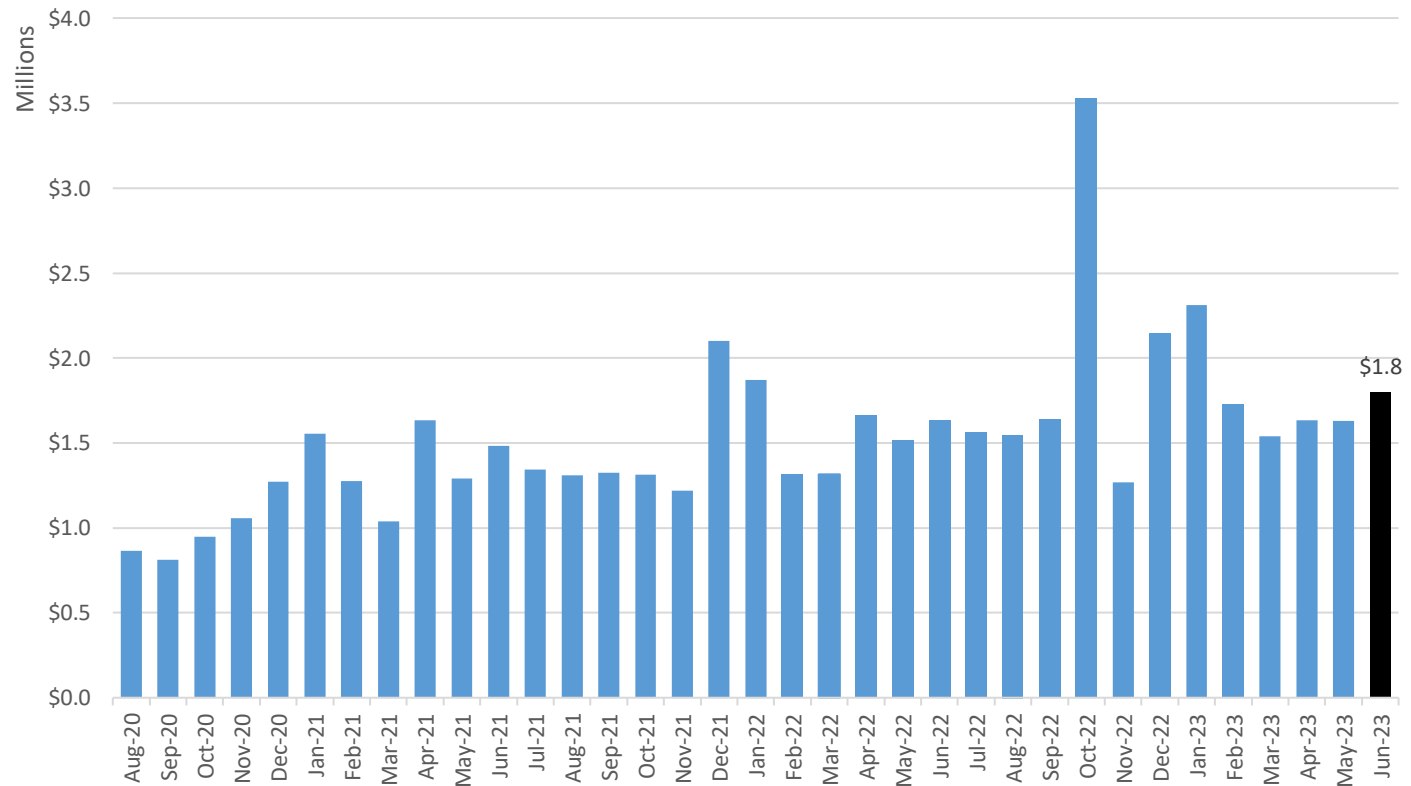
Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – June 2023

# REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN CENLA

*Remote seller tax revenue is tax revenue from online sales by location of the seller at the time of purchase.*

- ✓ Since August 2020 when remote sellers tax revenue collection started, \$53.5 million in sales tax revenue have been collected from online sales in central Louisiana.
- ✓ Since the start of the remote sellers collections, Rapides has collected \$16.3 million in tax revenues, Vernon \$6.2 million, Natchitoches \$4.2 million, Evangeline \$4.0 million, and Avoyelles \$3.6 million.

Remote Sellers Sales Tax Collection in Cenla  
August 2020 - June 2023




Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month


Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – June 2023


# REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN RAPIDES

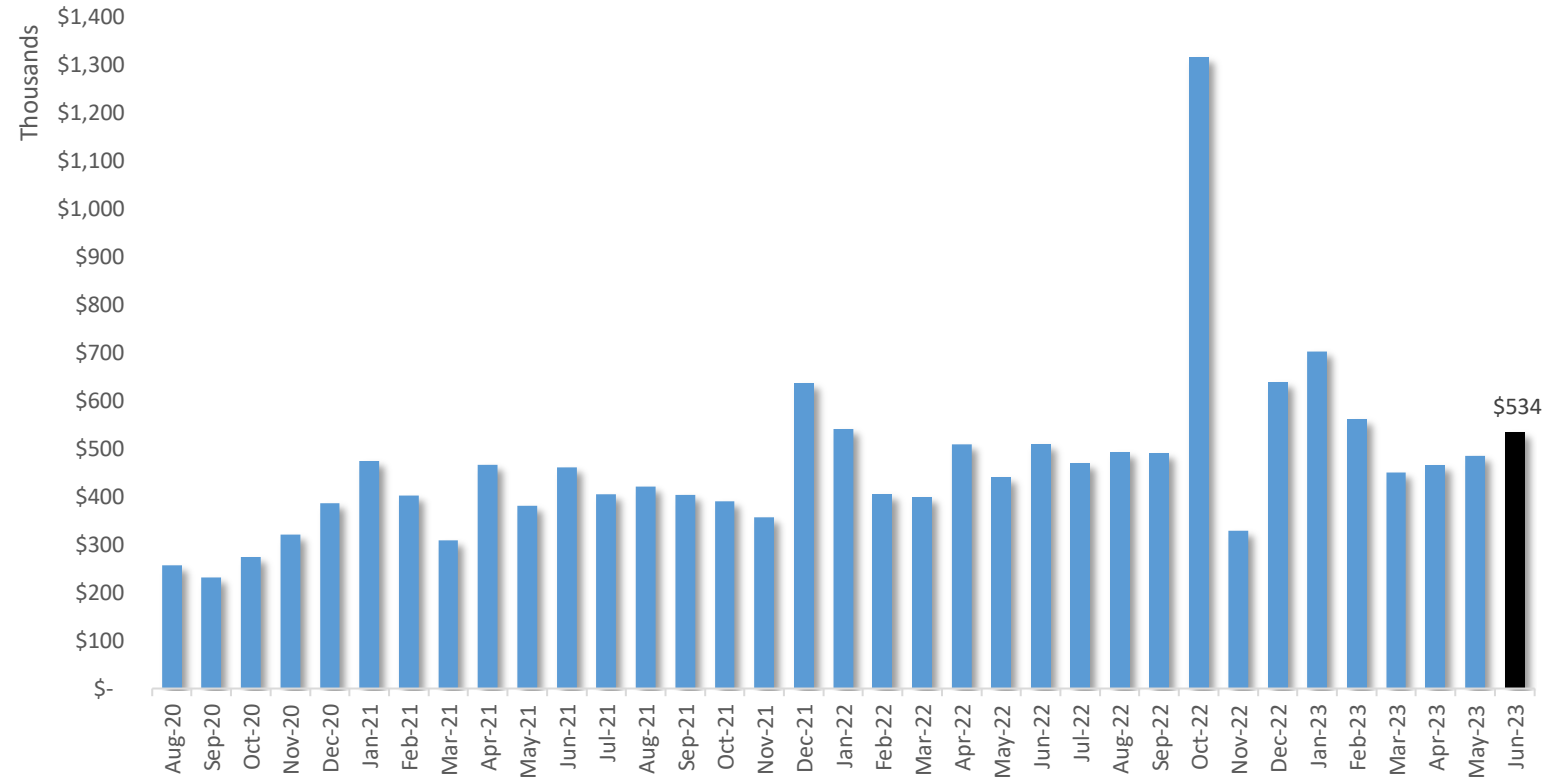
*Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Rapides Parish from August 2020 – June 2023.*

Rapides Parish  
2020 - 2023

June   
10%

Jun YoY   
5%

Jun YTD   
14%




Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month


Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – June 2023


# REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN NATCHITOCHES

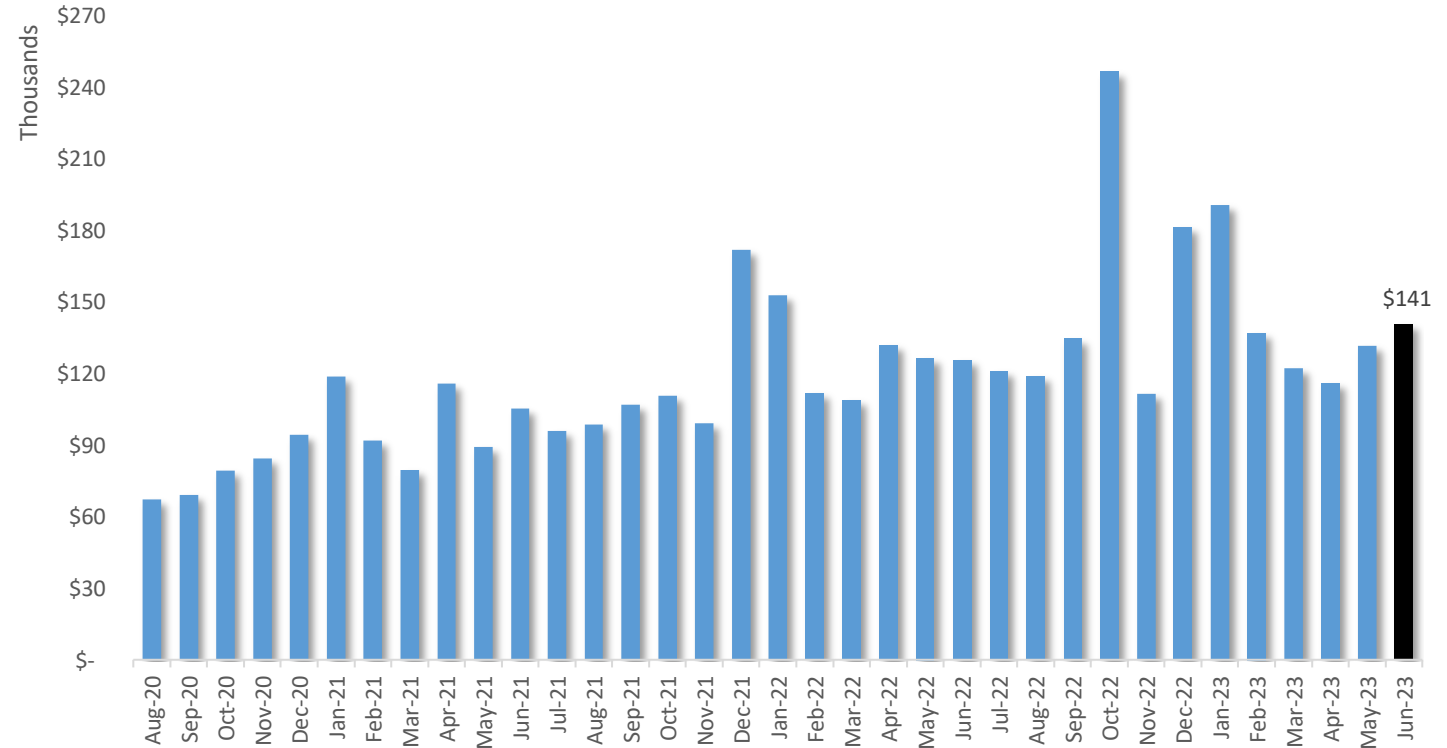
*Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Natchitoches Parish from August 2020 – June 2023.*

Natchitoches Parish  
2020 -2023

April   
7%

Apr YoY   
12%

Apr YTD   
11%

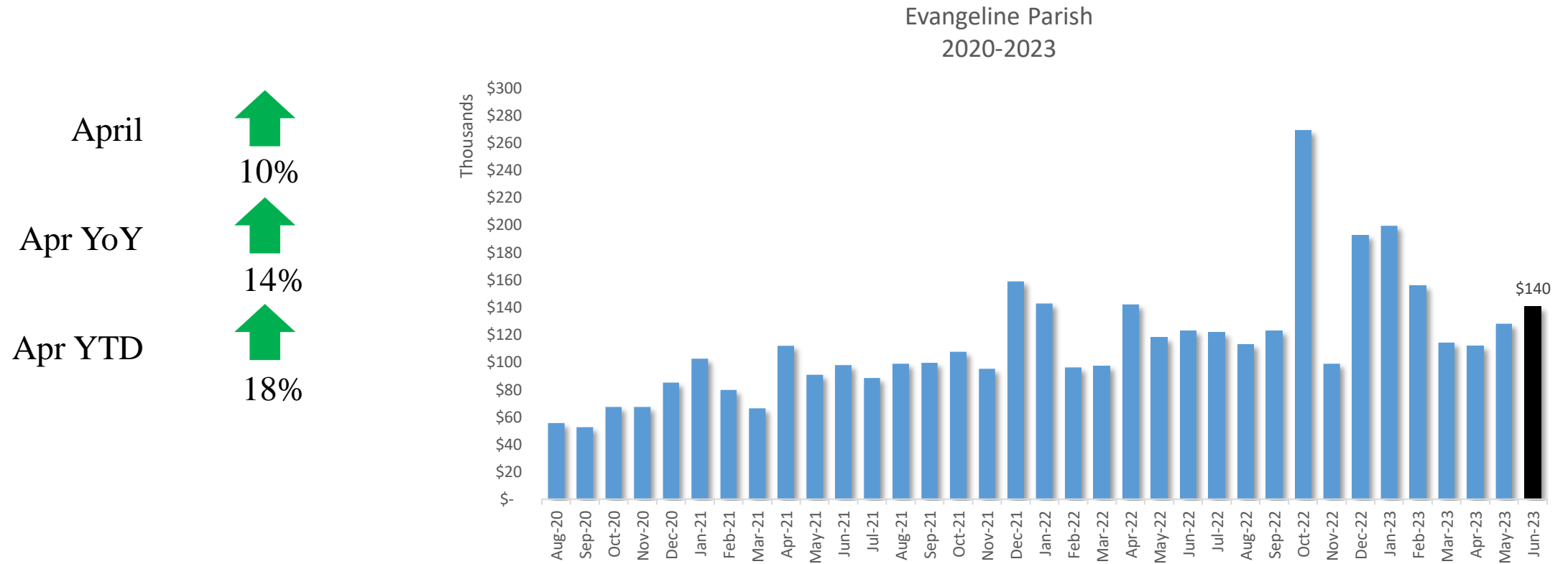


Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month

Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – June 2023

# REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN EVANGELINE

*Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Evangeline Parish from August 2020 – June 2023.*



Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month

Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – June 2023

# Permits & Housing

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

# CENLA PERMIT VALUATIONS

*This table shows the valuation of permits issued in May and June 2023 for select jurisdictions of Rapides Area Planning Commission, the City of Alexandria, the City of Natchitoches, and Natchitoches Parish with month-to-month, year-to-year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

## *June*

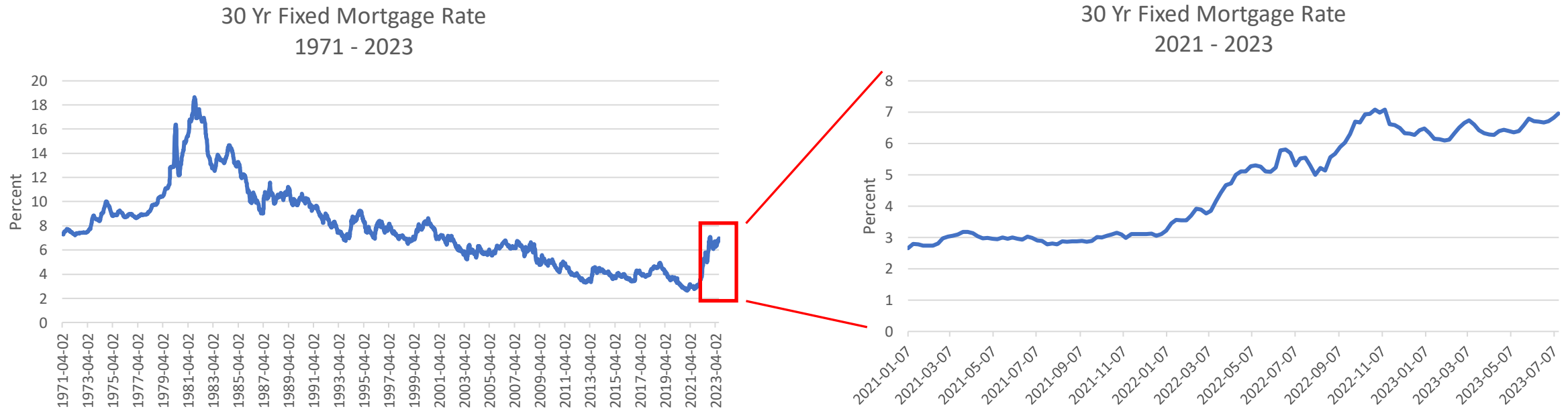
	<b>Jun-23</b>	<b>May-23</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>M/M</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Alexandria - Commercial	\$ 238,800	\$ 2,770,180	\$ 1,866,900	-91%	-87%	-16%
Alexandria - Residential	\$ 365,456	\$ 1,709,558	\$ 1,157,487	-79%	-68%	-32%
Avoyelles	\$ 2,823,271	\$ 5,671,236	\$ 3,901,485	-50%	-28%	-48%
Evangeline	\$ 1,791,000	\$ 638,583	\$ 1,073,645	180%	67%	-28%
City of Natchitoches	\$ 2,525,925	\$ 2,598,485	\$ 2,810,180	-3%	-10%	11%
Natchitoches Parish	\$ 772,537	\$ 2,193,792	\$ 5,361,172	-65%	-86%	-41%
Pineville	\$ 1,198,711	\$ 402,824	\$ 206,000	198%	482%	-23%
Rapides	\$ 4,618,164	\$ 6,353,765	\$ 6,543,995	-27%	-29%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,333,864</b>	<b>\$ 22,338,423</b>	<b>\$ 22,920,864</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>-37%</b>	<b>-26%</b>

Note: N/A = not available.

Data Source: Rapides Area Planning Commission, City of Alexandria, Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, July 2023.

# 30 YEAR FIXED MORTGAGE RATE

*30-Year Fixed Rate Mortgage Average in the United States from 1971 – 2023 and from 2021 – 2023.*



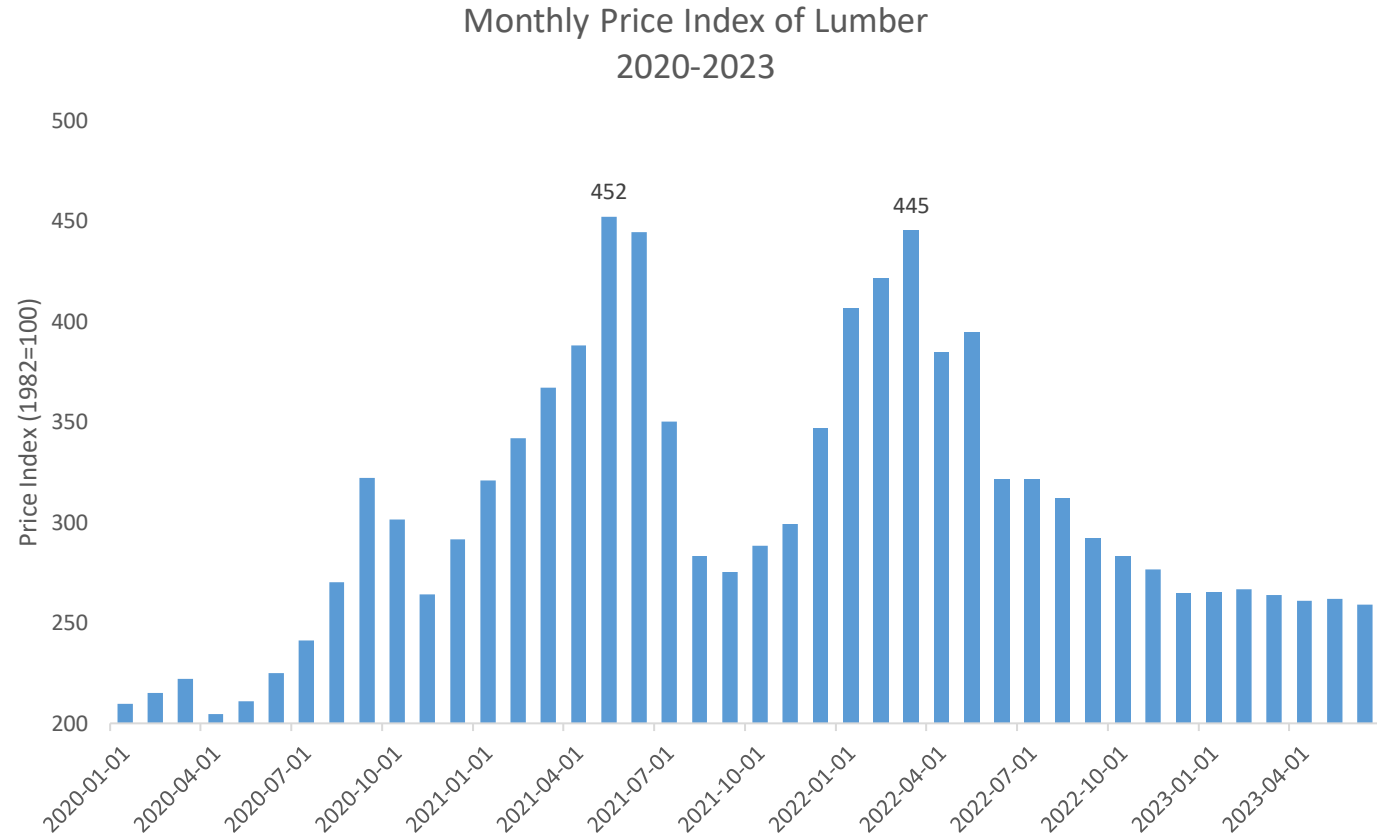
- 30 year fixed mortgage rates on July 13, 2023 was 6.96%.



# LUMBER PRICES

*The chart represents the Lumber Price Index in the U.S. from January 2020 – June 2023.*

- In June 2023, the US Lumber Price Index fell -1% from May.
- Currently, the Lumber Index stands -20% below a year ago when it stood at 322.



# ACTIVE LISTINGS BY MSA

*The count of active single-family and condo/townhome listings from January 2020- June 2023 for Alexandria, Leesville, Natchitoches, and Opelousas.*

## Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



31%

Leesville



31%

Natchitoches



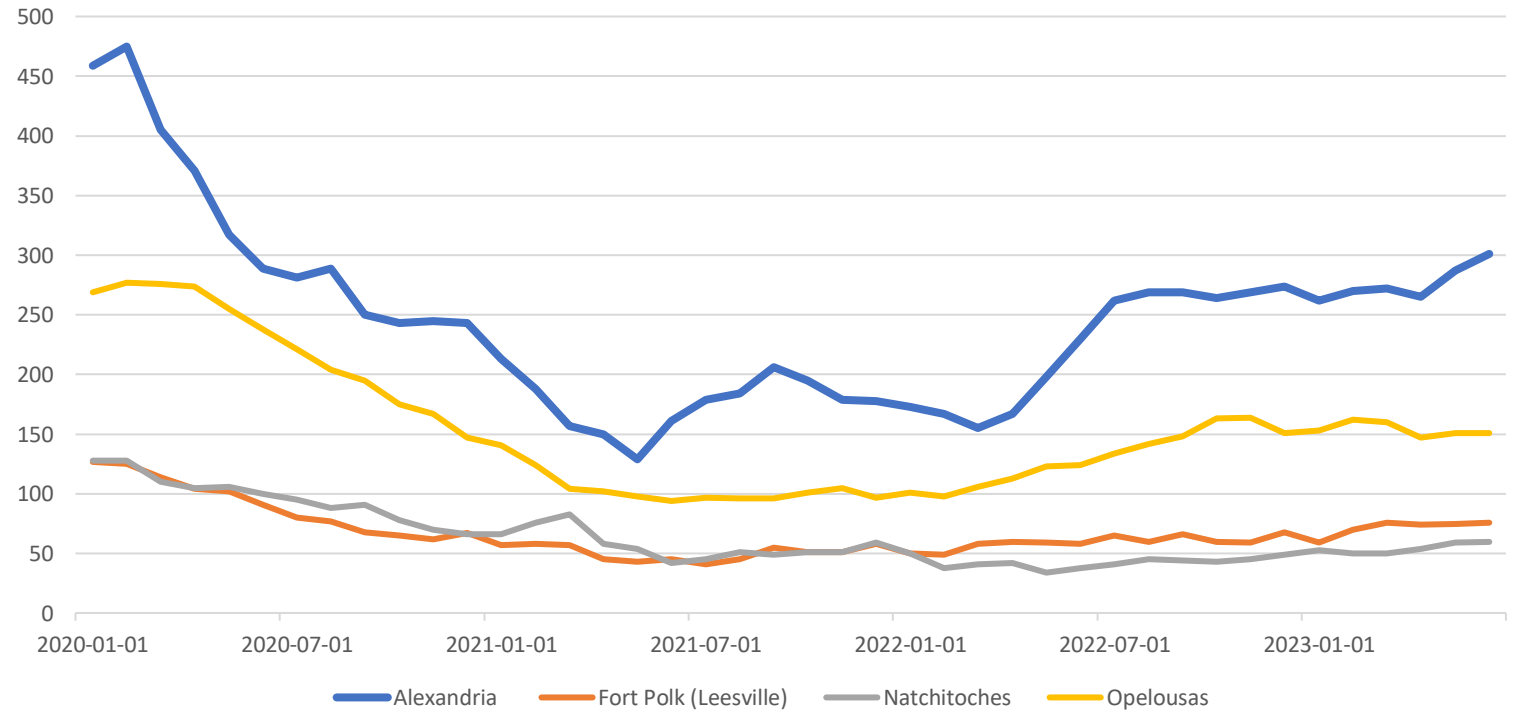
58%

Opelousas



22%

Active Listing Count  
2020-2023



# MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET BY MSA

*The median number of days property listings spend on the market from January 2020 – June 2023 for Alexandria, Leesville, Natchitoches, and Opelousas.*

## Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



43%

Leesville



13%

Natchitoches



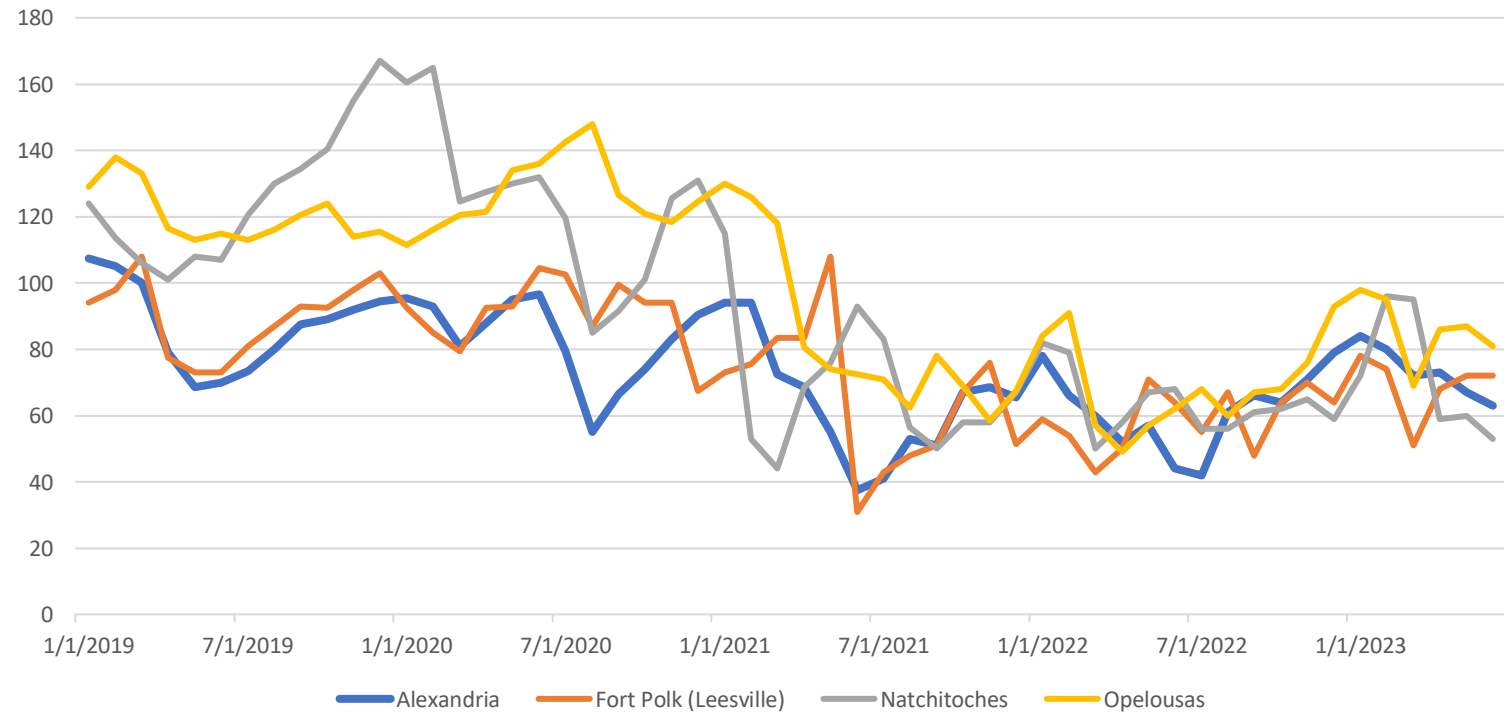
-22%

Opelousas



31%

Median Days on Market  
2020-2023



# MEDIAN LISTING PRICE BY MSA

*The median listing price of houses from January 2020 - June 2023 for Alexandria, Leesville, Natchitoches, and Opelousas.*

## Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



2%

Leesville



23%

Natchitoches

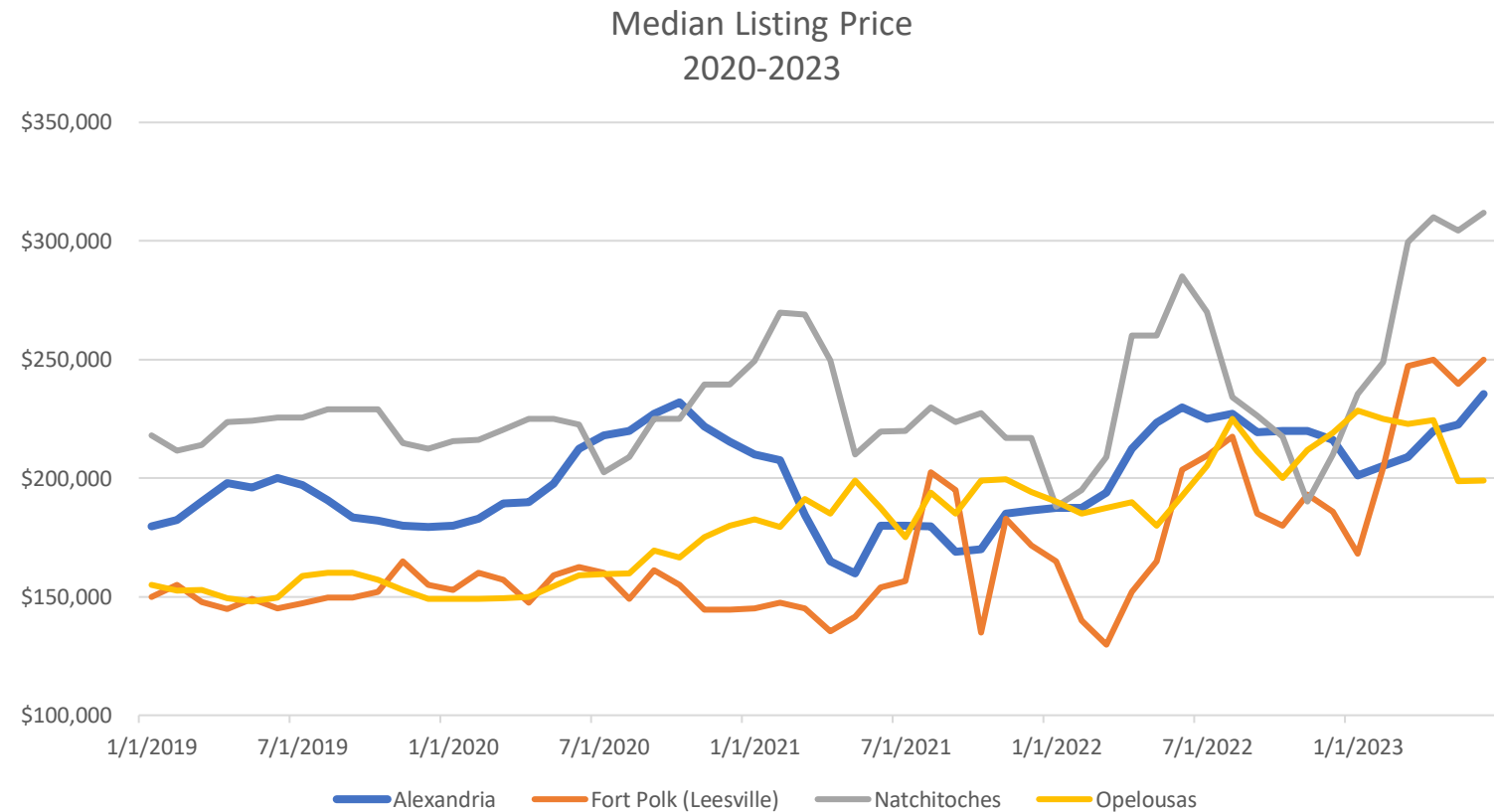


9%

Opelousas



3%



# AVERAGE LISTING PRICE BY MSA

The average listing price of houses from January 2020 - June 2023 for Alexandria, Leesville, Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

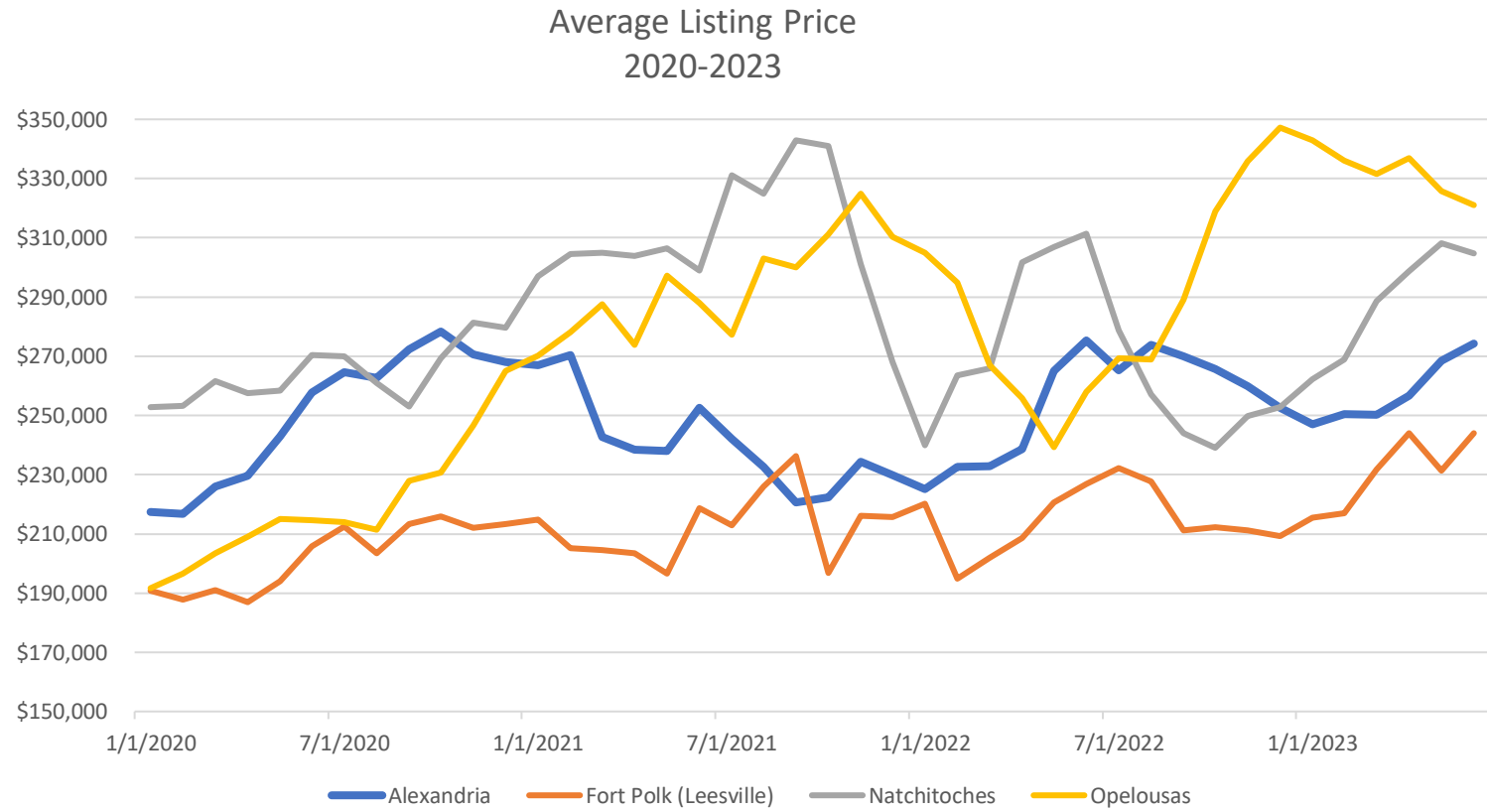
## Change from Year Ago

Alexandria 0%

Leesville  8%

Natchitoches  -2%

Opelousas  24%




# Travel


Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard


# AVOYELLES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

*Avoyelles Parish hotel occupancy tax revenue with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

*June*

June   
26%

Jun YoY   
-8%

Jun YTD   
-6%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 12,855	\$ 3,891	\$ 13,571	\$ 13,688	\$ 12,623
May	\$ 13,544	\$ 7,901	\$ 12,912	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,049
% Chg over Prev Month	-5.1%	-50.8%	5.1%	14.1%	25.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		-69.7%	248.8%	0.9%	-7.8%
YTD	\$ 48,915	\$ 41,043	\$ 48,082	\$ 46,049	\$ 43,141
% Chg over Prev YTD		-16.1%	17.1%	-4.2%	-6.3%


Note: Current tax revenue reflects hotel occupancy activity in the prior month. Hotel occupancy tax revenue is used as a proxy for hotel occupancy rate.


Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. July 2023.


# NATCHITOCHESES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

*Natchitoches Parish hotel occupancy tax revenue with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

*June*

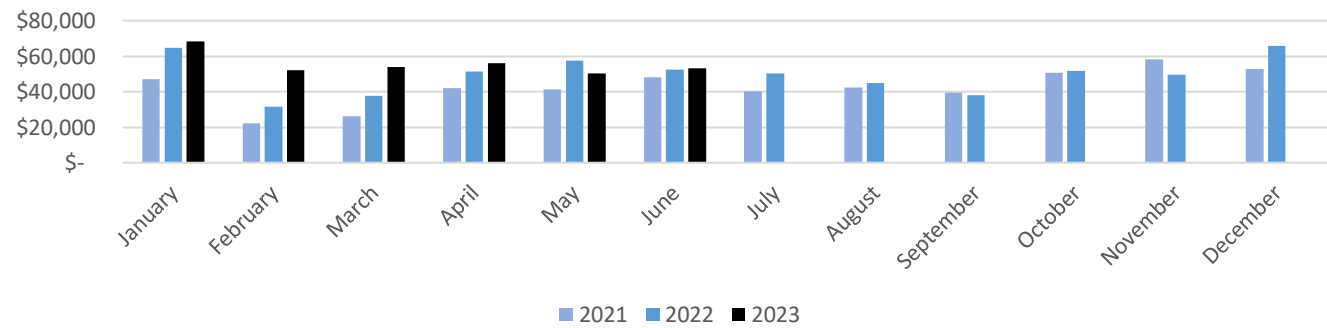
June   
6%

Jun YoY   
1%

Jun YTD   
13%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 21,253	\$ 48,205	\$ 52,497	\$ 53,069
May	\$ 28,351	\$ 41,397	\$ 57,657	\$ 50,298
% Chg over Prev Month	-25.0%	16.4%	-8.9%	5.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		126.8%	8.9%	1.1%
YTD	\$ 174,461	\$ 227,325	\$ 296,107	\$ 334,052
% Chg over Prev YTD		30.3%	30.3%	12.8%

Natchitoches Hotel Sales Tax Revenue  
2021-2023



Note: Current tax revenue reflects hotel occupancy activity in the prior month. Hotel occupancy tax revenue is used as a proxy for hotel occupancy rate.  
Data Source: Natchitoches Parish Tax Administrator, July 2023.





# RAPIDES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

*Rapides Parish hotel occupancy tax revenue for the most recent month with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.*

*June*

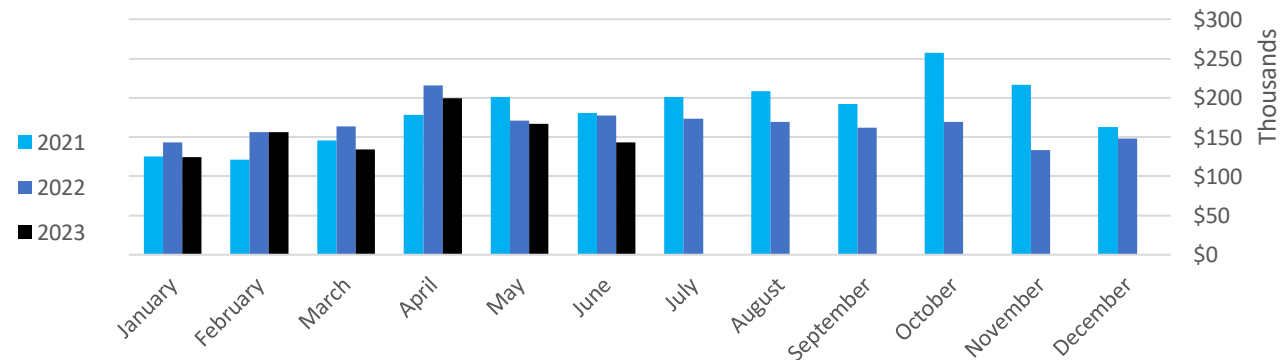
June  -14%

Jun YoY  -19%

Jun YTD  -10%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 88,906	\$ 180,866	\$ 177,388	\$ 143,623
May	\$ 141,188	\$ 201,489	\$ 171,032	\$ 167,012
% Chg over Prev Month	-37.0%	-10.2%	3.7%	-14.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		103.4%	-1.9%	-19.0%
YTD	\$ 734,195	\$ 952,381	\$ 1,027,664	\$ 924,318
% Chg over Prev YTD		29.7%	7.9%	-10.1%

Rapides Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue  
2021-2023



Note: Current tax revenue reflects hotel occupancy activity in the prior month. Hotel occupancy tax revenue is used as a proxy for hotel occupancy rate.

Data Source: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, July 2023.


# VERNON HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

*Vernon Parish hotel, motel, and RV occupancy tax revenue with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

*June*

June   
-5%

Jun YoY   
-5%

Jun YTD   
12%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	\$ 21,857	\$ 13,995	\$ 27,049	\$ 31,123	\$ 29,550
May	\$ 20,730	\$ 5,310	\$ 30,099	\$ 34,352	\$ 31,022
% Chg over Prev Month	5.4%	163.6%	-10.1%	-9.4%	-4.7%
% Chg over Prev Year		-36.0%	93.3%	15.1%	-5.1%
YTD	\$ 120,576	\$ 92,711	\$ 164,455	\$ 153,751	\$ 172,635
% Chg over Prev YTD		-23.1%	77.4%	-6.5%	12.3%

Note: Current tax revenue collection reflects hotel occupancy activity in the prior month. Hotel occupancy tax revenue is used as a proxy for hotel occupancy rate.  
Data Source: Vernon Parish Sales Tax Department. July 2023.

# GULF COAST RETAIL GASOLINE PRICE

*Weekly retail price of gasoline in the Gulf Coast region for all formulations from 2020 – 2023.*

Weekly Retail Gasoline Price All Formulations  
in Gulf Coast Region 2020-2023

June



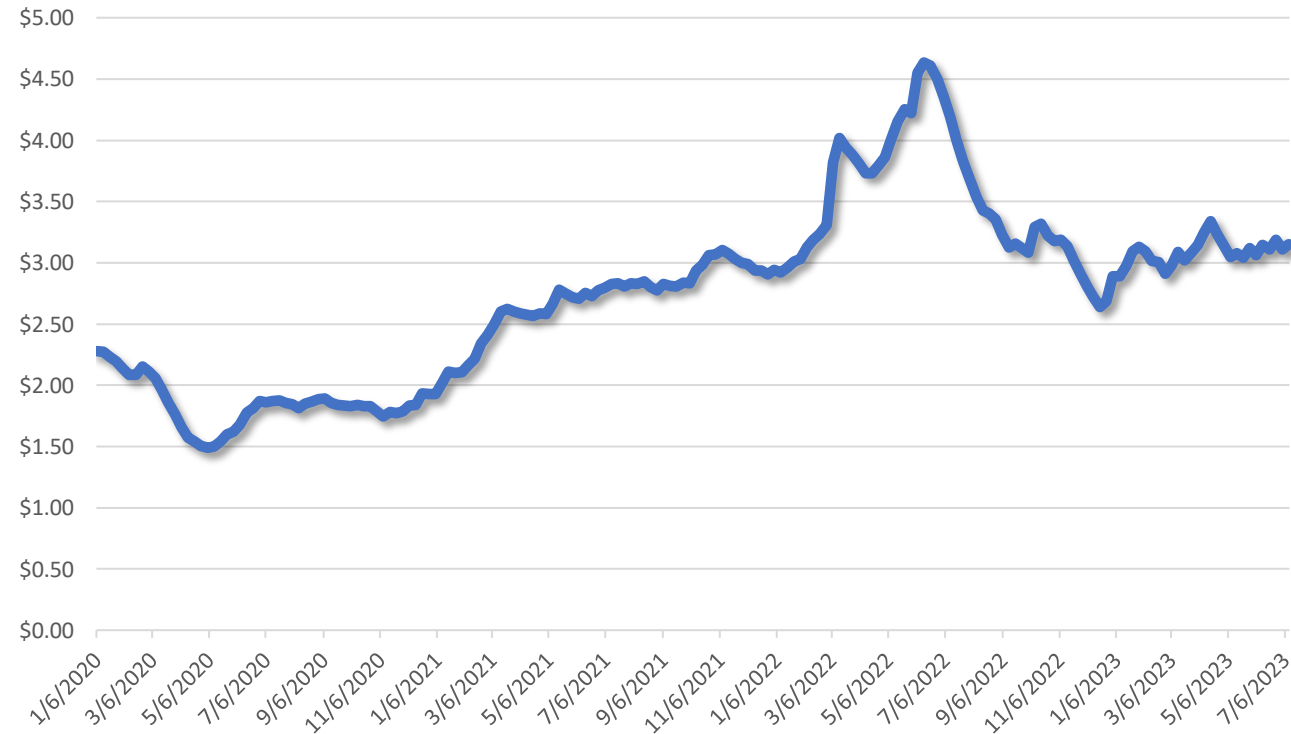
2%

Jun YoY



-32%

- June 2023 average retail gasoline price in Gulf Coast region was \$3.13/gal., up \$0.06 from May, but down \$1.44 from June 2022.

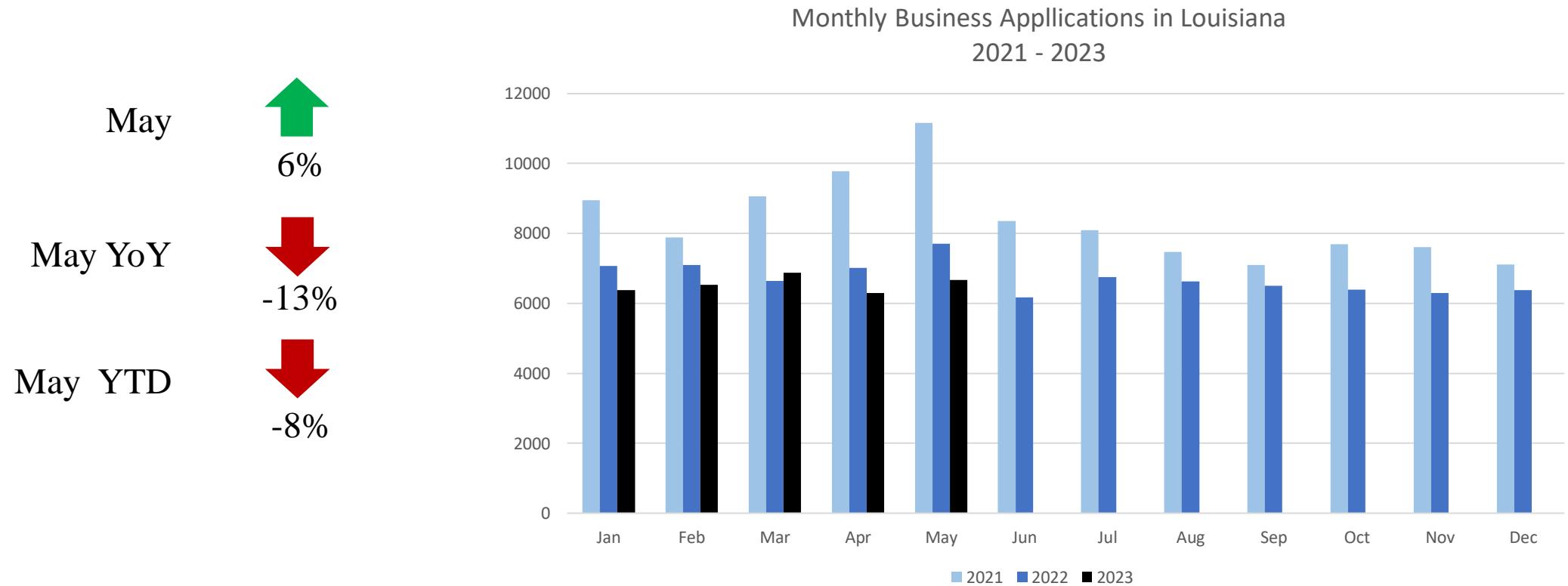


# Local & Louisiana

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

# NEW BUSINESS APPS IN LOUISIANA

*The chart below represents the monthly number of new businesses applications in Louisiana from 2021-2023 (seasonally adjusted).*



Note: Data reflects businesses applications, not necessarily business formations.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, Retrieved July 17, 2023.

# NEW BUSINESSES IN RAPIDES

The chart below represent the number of new businesses established each month in Rapides from January 2021 through June 2023.

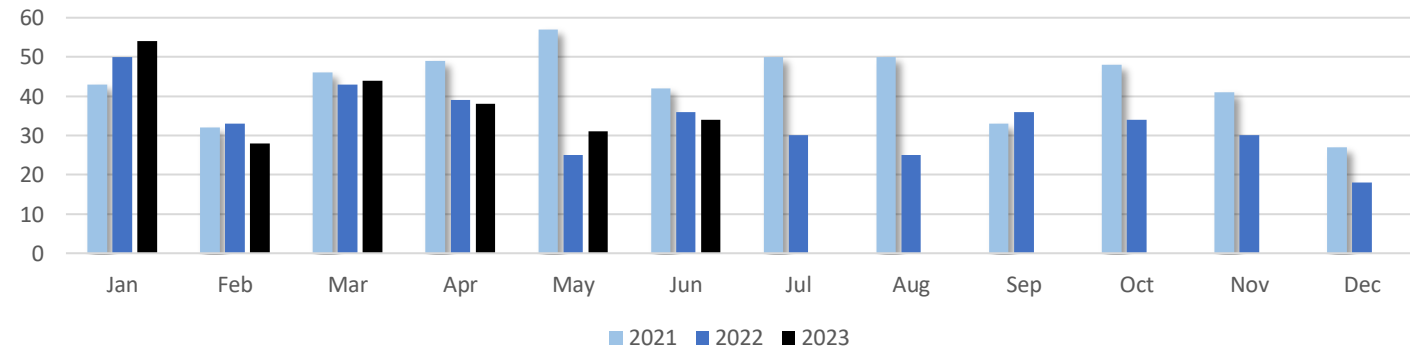
- The number of new businesses established in Rapides in June 2023 decreased -11% from May and was -6% lower than a year ago.

- ✓ Year-to-date, 229 new businesses have been created in Rapides in 2023, compared to 226 last year.

*June*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
June	44	36	42	36	34
May	30	19	49	39	38
% Chg Prev Month	46.7%	89.5%	-14.3%	-7.7%	-10.5%
% Chg from Prev Year		-18.2%	16.7%	-14.3%	-5.6%
YTD	238	187	269	226	229
% Chg over Prev YTD		-21.4%	43.9%	-16.0%	1.3%

New Businesses in Rapides  
2021-2023



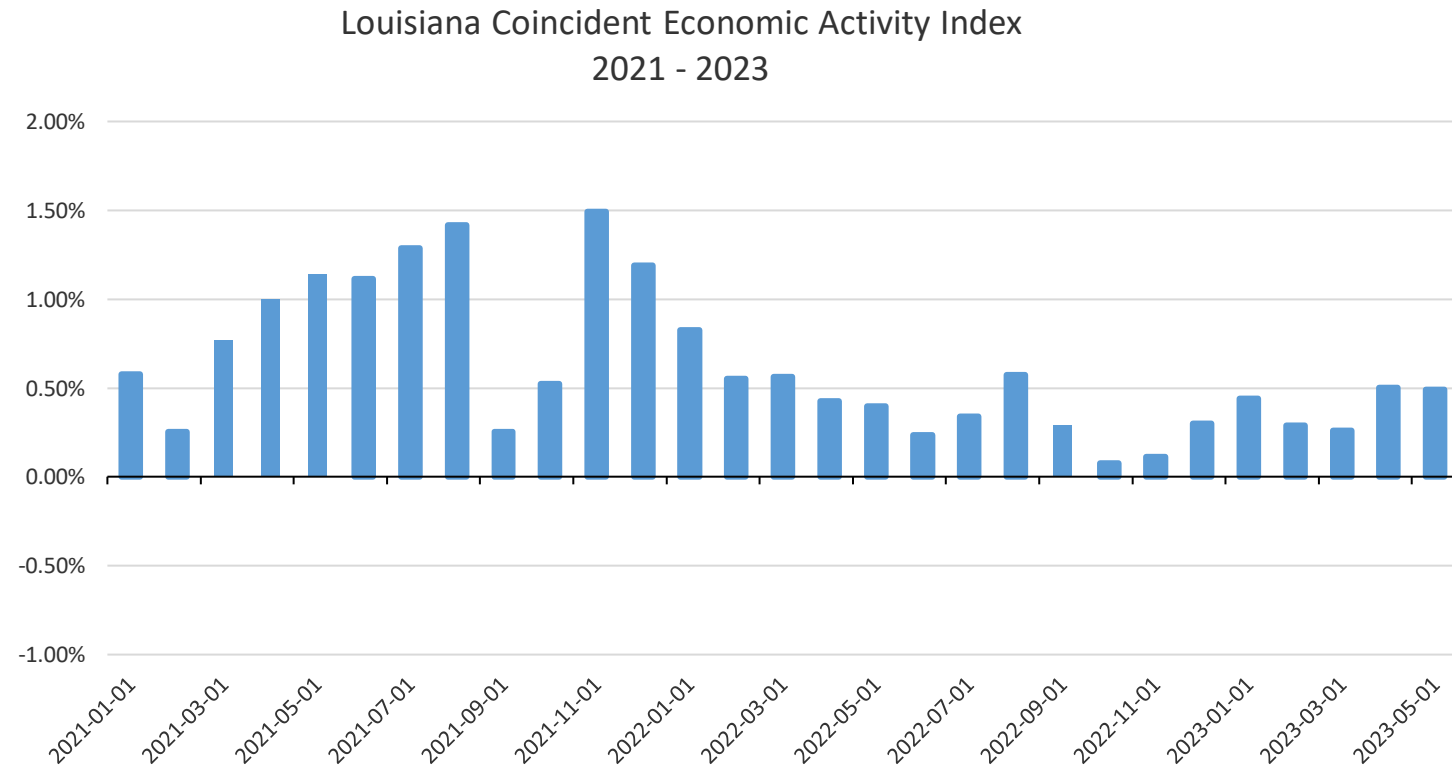
Note: Data reflects businesses established in the current month.

Data Source: Rapides Parish Sales and Use Tax Department, June 2023.

# LOUISIANA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY INDEX

*The Coincident Economic Activity Index for Louisiana is set to match the trend in the gross state product and includes four indicators: nonfarm payroll employment, the unemployment rate, average hours worked in manufacturing and wages and salaries. The column graph below represents the percentage change in the index. A positive percentage represents an expanding statewide economy.*

- *In May 2023, the Index rose 0.49%. The recalibrated index shows continuous economic growth since 2021.*
- *The Index is up 2.0% since May 2022.*

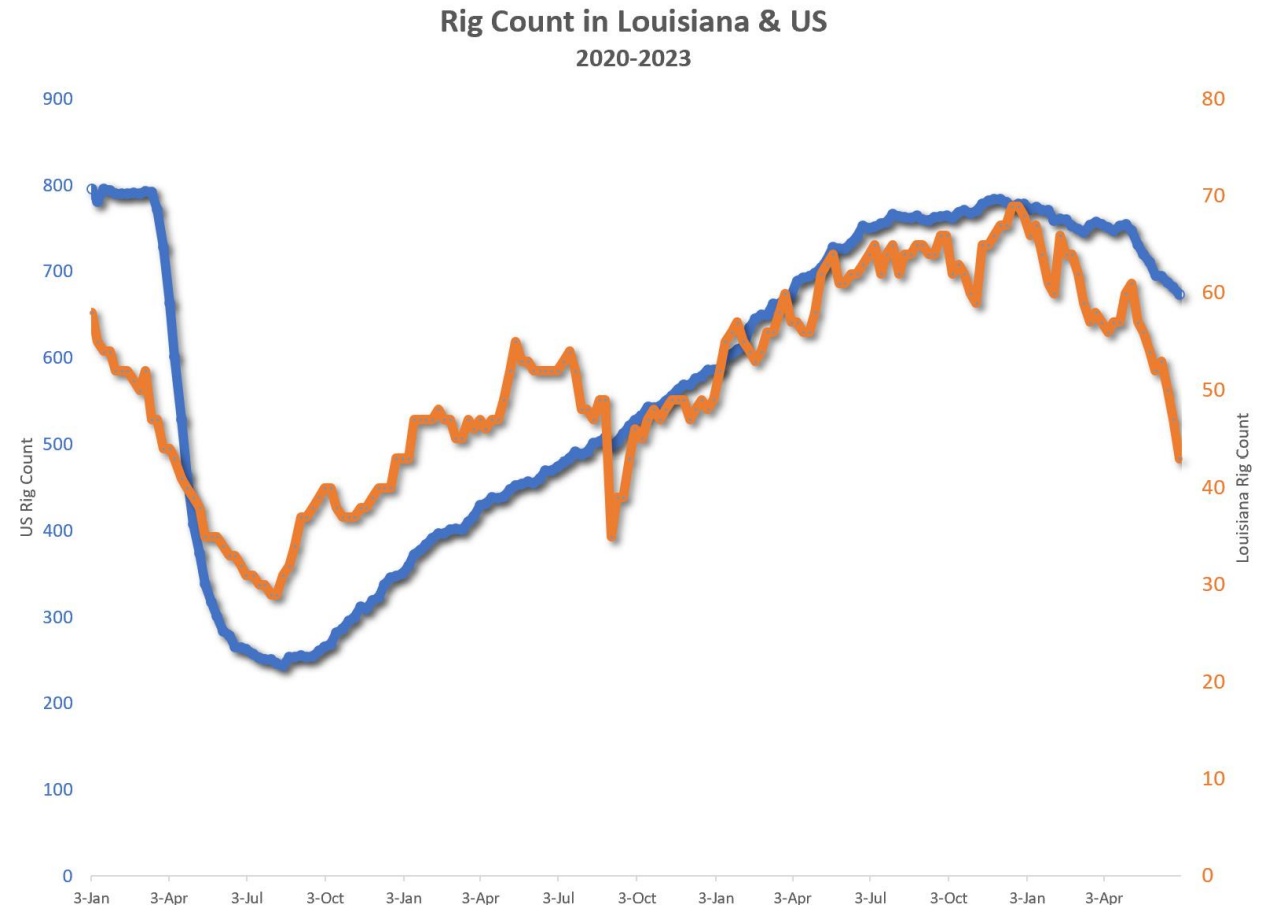


# BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNT

*Represents the number of drilling rigs actively exploring for or developing oil or natural gas in Louisiana and the U.S. in 2020-2023.*

	May 23	Jun 23	Jun 22
Louisiana	57	49	62
US	728	687	738

- Average rig count in Louisiana in June was down nine rigs from May 2023 and down 13 rigs from a year ago, a decrease of -21%.
- Nationwide, the rig count fell as well from 738 a year ago to 687 in June 2023, a decrease of -7%.








# LOUISIANA GAMING REVENUE

*Gaming revenue in Louisiana for May 2023 with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.*

*May 2023*

May   
-9%

May YoY   
-9%

May YTD   
-4%

	<b>May-23</b>	<b>Apr-23</b>	<b>May-22</b>	<b>M/M</b>	<b>Y/Y</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Video Poker	\$ 65,116,836	\$ 66,462,650	\$ 69,423,553	-2.0%	-6.2%	-7.5%
Riverboat	\$ 153,420,927	\$ 150,846,711	\$ 156,966,486	1.7%	-2.3%	-2.6%
Landbased	\$ 21,707,691	\$ 21,322,082	\$ 20,754,352	1.8%	4.6%	-1.5%
Slots	\$ 27,706,991	\$ 28,545,257	\$ 29,577,048	-2.9%	-6.3%	-1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 267,176,700</b>	<b>\$291,946,087</b>	<b>\$ 292,300,716</b>	<b>-8.5%</b>	<b>-8.6%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>

\* Note: Year-to-Date percentage reflects calendar year.

Data Source: Louisiana Gaming Control Board, July 13, 2023. [http://lgcb.dps.louisiana.gov/revenue\\_reports.html](http://lgcb.dps.louisiana.gov/revenue_reports.html)

# CONTRIBUTORS

*The data presented throughout the CENLA Economic Dashboard reflects contributions from the following local organizations.*

- Rapides Parish Policy Jury Treasurer
- Rapides Sales Tax Administrator
- Avoyelles Parish School Board
- Alexandria International Airport
- Alexandria / Pineville Area CVB
- Rapides Area Planning Commission
- City of Alexandria Planning Division
- Evangeline Parish Sales Tax Commissioner
- Concordia, Catahoula, & La Salle Tax Administrator
- Louisiana Office of Public Health
- St. Landry Parish School Board
- Grant Parish Sheriff's Office
- Natchitoches Parish Tax Commission
- Natchitoches Parish Planning and Zoning
- City of Natchitoches Planning
- Vernon Parish Sales Tax Department

# THANK YOU

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