

CENTRAL LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DASHBOARD



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March 2023



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KEY FINDINGS

March 2023

COVID

Louisiana's risk of Covid is low as indicated on the statewide map. Covid cases in Regions 6 & 7 continue to decline from a slight rise in late December and early January.

EMPLOYMENT

The strong labor market experienced in the Alexandria MSA in 2022 softened in January. January's employment level was 1,817 below November 2022 and 2,184 below the July 2022 peak. Several other factors indicate a weakening in the labor market such as a rising unemployment rate, fewer job postings per unemployed, and a negative statewide economic index.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 Alexandria did not have the lowest unemployment rate among state's metro areas. Baton Rouge took top honor at 3.2%, while the unemployment rate in the Alexandria MSA rose to 3.4% in January from 3.0% in December, and 2.5% in November. Lafayette tied Alexandria at 3.4% while the Houma-Thibodaux and Lake Charles MSAs were at 3.5%. Alexandria remains below the statewide unemployment rate of 3.6%. However, the gap is narrowing as employment in other regions of the state have improved quickly. Employment in Natchitoches fell by 196 while the unemployment rate rose to 4.2% in January from 3.6% in December.

The labor market in the Alexandria MSA remains the tightest in the state, despite rising the unemployment rate. The ratio of job postings to unemployed fell from 4:1 to 3:1.

KEY FINDINGS

March 2023

For the first time since September 2021, the Coincident Economic Activity Index for Louisiana turned negative in December. The Index 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. In December 2022, the Index fell to 110.39, from 110.42 in November. Although the decline was small, it was first decline in nearly a year and half and may represent a slowing of the economy if the trend continues. Nevertheless, the Index ended 2022 up 3.4%

CONSUMER SPENDING

Consumer spending remains strong in central Louisiana as measured by sales tax revenue, despite weakening employment. Strong sales activity in December made for robust sales tax collections in January. Month-over-month declines in sales tax collections in February are typical when compared to January. February's collections exceeded the previous year in all reporting jurisdictions and nearly every jurisdiction was up on a year-to-date basis.

Vehicle sales were up in five of the six reporting jurisdictions on a year-over-year basis with Evangeline leading with a 32% increase. Natchitoches and Rapides had increases of 18% and 15%, respectively.

Cenla consumers continue to accelerate online purchasing. According to the Louisiana Remote Sellers Commission, online sales in central Louisiana were up 27% in January and February compared to the same period in 2022. Since August 2020 when remote sellers tax revenue collection started, \$46.8 million in sales tax revenue have been collected from online sales in central Louisiana. In that time, Rapides has collected \$14.3 million in tax revenues, Vernon \$5.4 million, Natchitoches \$3.7 million, Evangeline \$3.5 million, and Avoyelles \$3.2 million.

KEY FINDINGS

March 2023

PERMITS & HOUSING

Permit valuation data has been reorganized into a single page. This provides a better overview of permits in Cenla. So far in 2023, the valuation of construction permits are down -61% in the seven Cenla jurisdictions reporting compared to the first two months of 2022.

Higher mortgage rates continue to put pressure on the housing market. The 30 year fixed mortgage rate remained elevated in January and February, adversely impacting home sales in central Louisiana. The fixed rate stood at 6.73% on March 9th. The weakness in the housing market continues to impact lumber prices. The US Lumber Price Index remained unchanged in January from December, standing at -35% below last year's level. Homes are staying on the market longer compared to a year ago. For example, homes in Alexandria and Natchitoches spent 21-22% more days on the market than a year ago.

TRAVEL

Gasoline prices in the Gulf Coast region are up 14% from the December 19th low of \$2.64/gallon. Year-to-date hotel occupancy is up 32% in Vernon, and 25% in Natchitoches and Avoyelles. Rapides saw a -6% decline in occupancy compared to the first two months of 2022.

NEW BUSINESSES

New business applications in Louisiana in January and February fell -10% compared to 2022. However, 82 new businesses were created in Rapides year-to-date in 2023, compared to 83 during the same period last year.

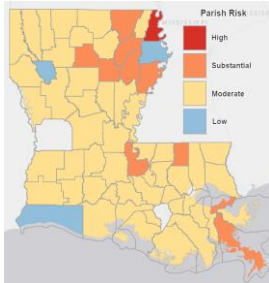
COVID-19

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

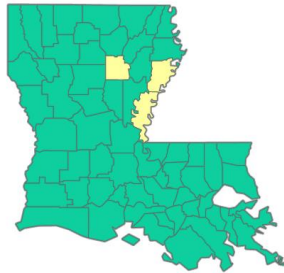
COVID-19 STATEWIDE RISK

COVID-19 statewide risk captured mid-month by parish from March 2022 – March 2023.

March



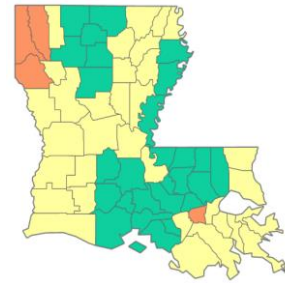
April



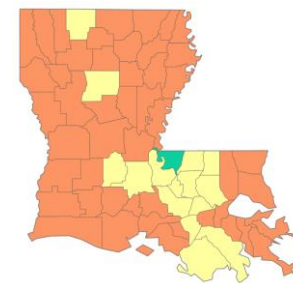
May



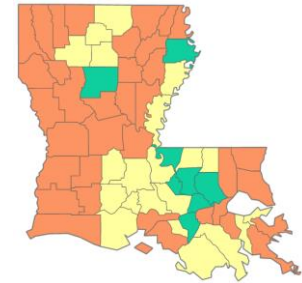
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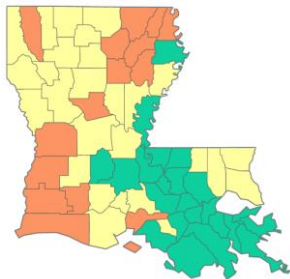
July



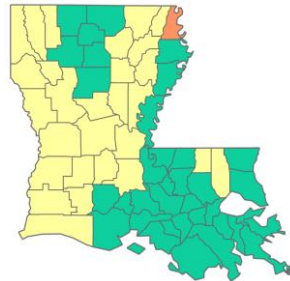
August



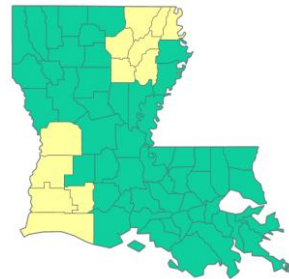
September



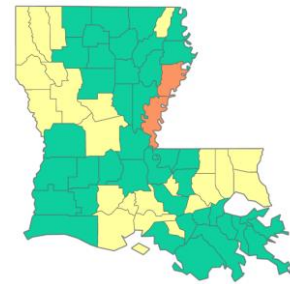
October



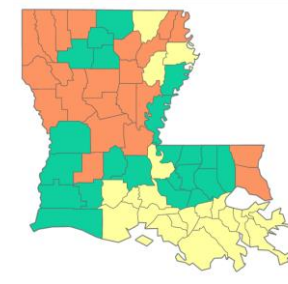
November



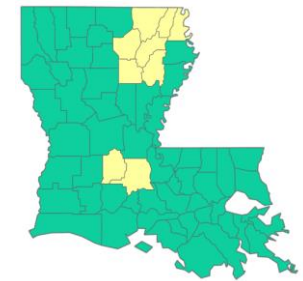
December



January '23



March '23



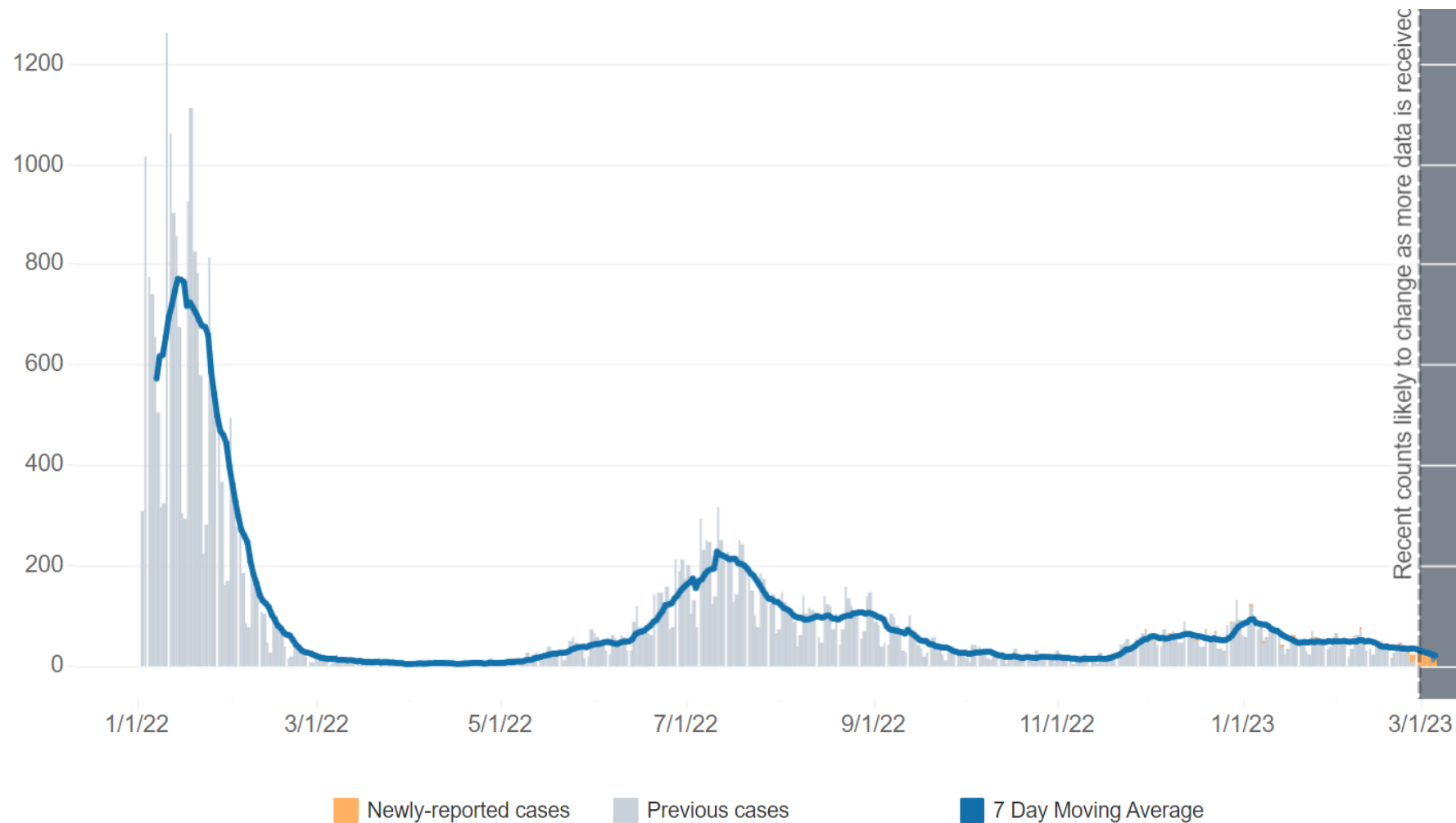
High

Medium

Low

COVID-19 CASES IN REGION 6

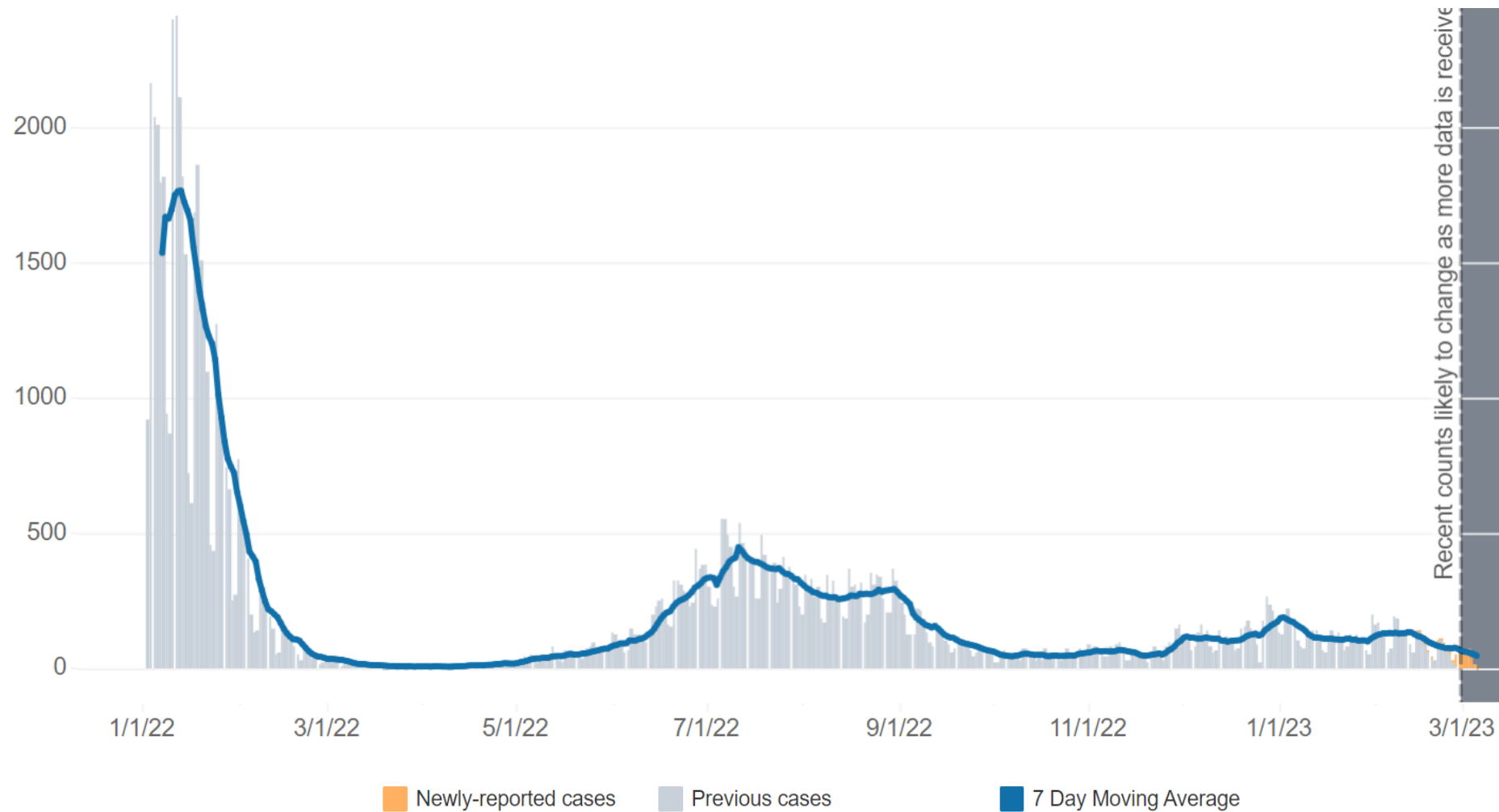
COVID-19 cases by collection date from January 2022 – March 2023 in Region 6 (Cenla).



Source: Louisiana Department of Health, COVID-19 Dashboard, <https://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus>, March 13, 2023.

COVID-19 CASES IN REGION 7

COVID-19 cases by collection date from January 2022 – March 2023 in Region 7 (Natchitoches).



Source: Louisiana Department of Health, COVID-19 Dashboard, <https://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus>, March 13, 2023.

Employment

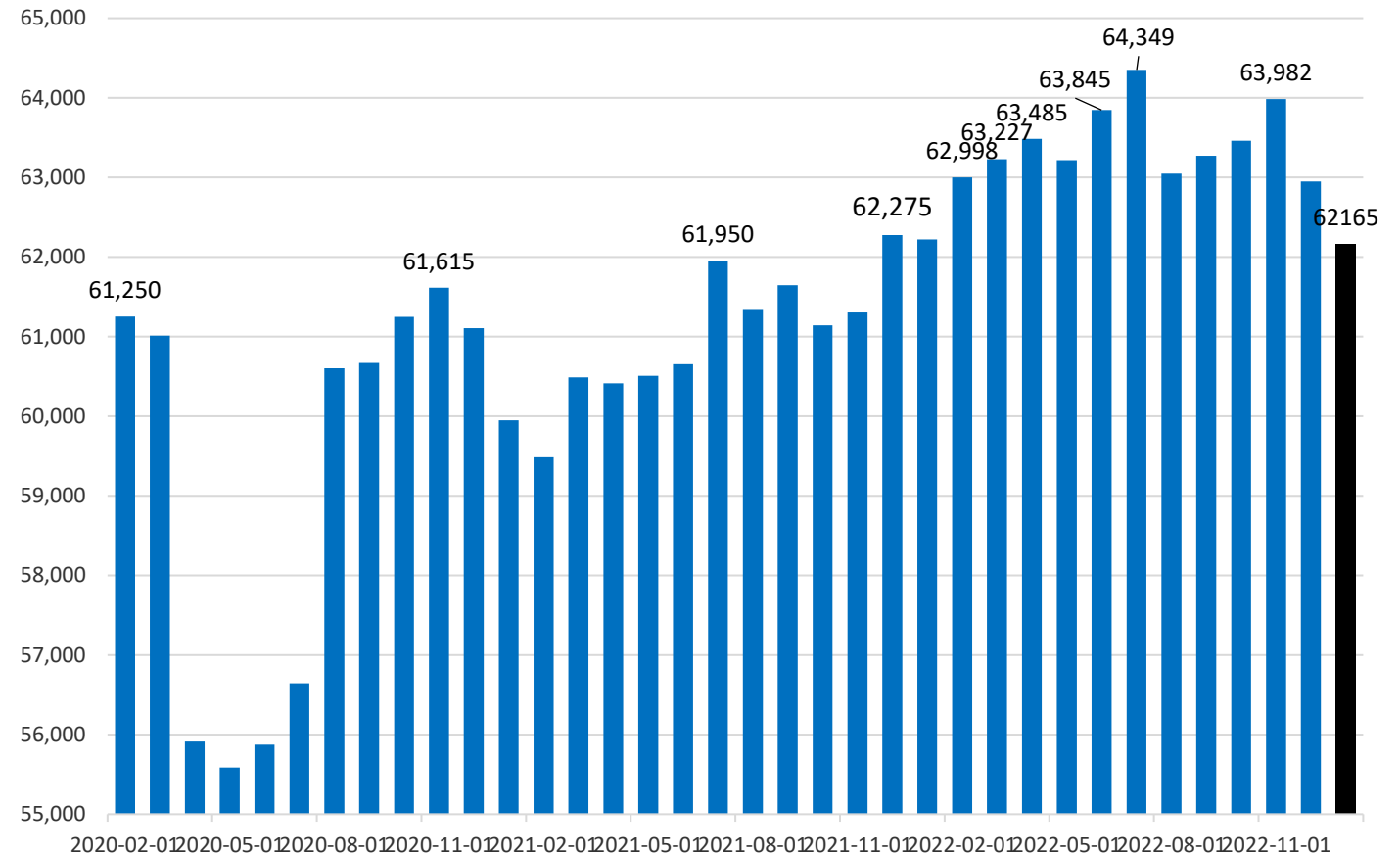
Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

EMPLOYMENT IN ALEXANDRIA MSA

Employed persons in the Alexandria MSA from 2020 – 2023.

- ✓ Employment in January decreased 1,817 from November to January
- ✓ Employment in January is down 57 from a year ago.
- ✓ Unemployment rate in the Alexandria MSA in January was 3.4%, up from 3.0% in December and 2.5% in November.

Employed Persons in Alexandria, LA MSA
2020 - 2023

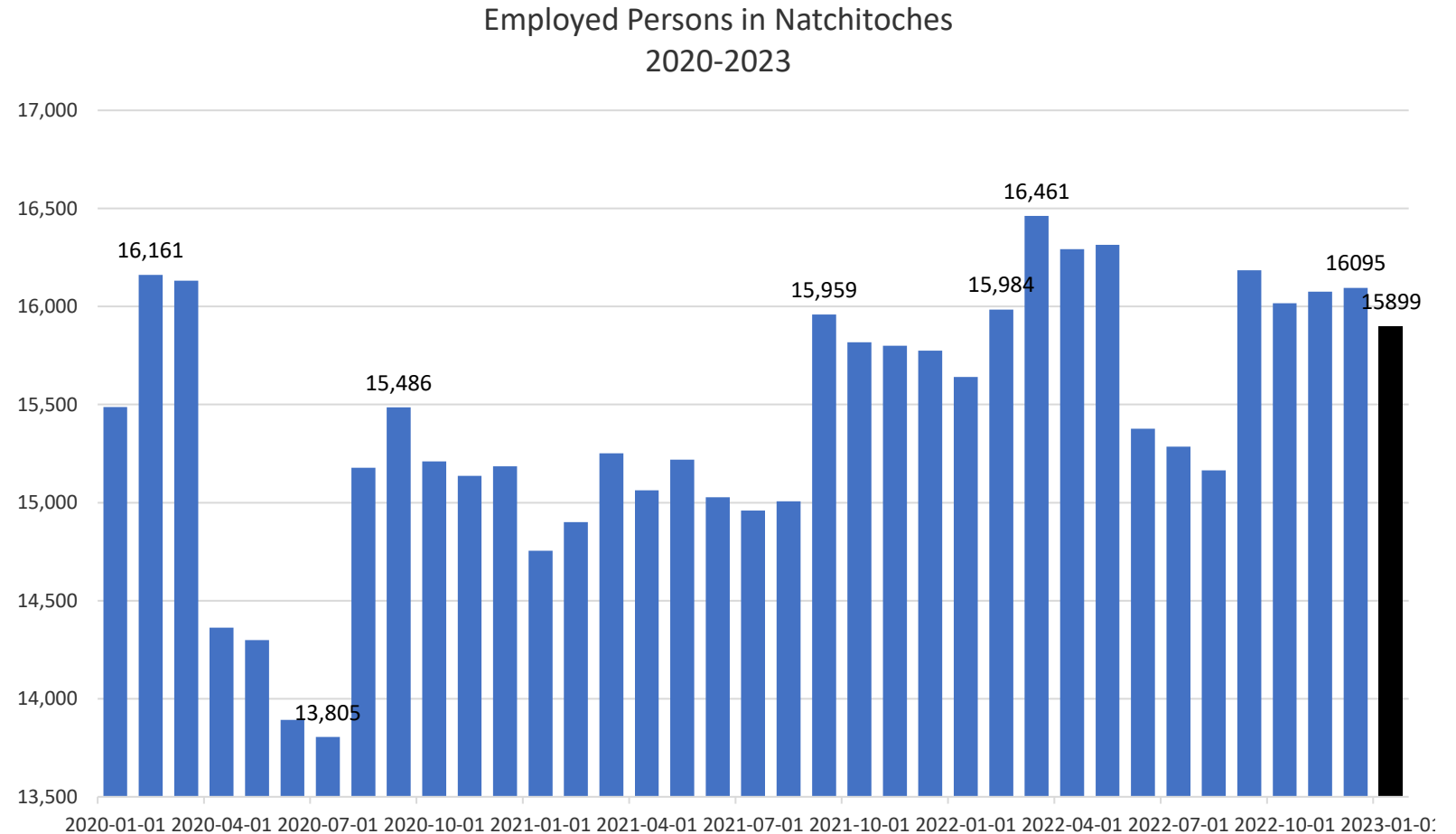


Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission, March 19, 2023.

EMPLOYMENT IN NATCHITOCHES

Employed persons in Natchitoches parish from 2020 – 2023.

- ✓ In January 2023, 15,899 were employed in Natchitoches parish, down from 16,095 in December, a decrease of -196.
- ✓ The unemployment rate in Natchitoches parish in January rose to 4.2% from 3.6% in December.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY MSA

The table below shows December 2022 and January 2023 unemployment rate, labor force, and employment data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the state.

- ✓ At 3.2%, the Baton Rouge MSA had the unemployment rate in the state in January.
- January 2023 marked the first time since the start of the pandemic nearly three years ago that the Alexandria MSA did not have the lowest unemployment rate in the state
- ✓ Louisiana's unemployment rate in January was 3.6%.

January 2023

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Baton Rouge	431,293	417,285	14,008	3.2%
Alexandria	64,327	62,165	2,162	3.4%
Lafayette	212,366	205,080	7,286	3.4%
Houma-Thibodaux	83,472	80,581	2,891	3.5%
Lake Charles	95,181	91,880	3,301	3.5%
Monroe	79,141	76,175	2,966	3.7%
New Orleans-Metairie	591,740	570,093	21,647	3.7%
Shreveport-Bossier City	184,379	177,478	6,901	3.7%
Hammond	56,365	53,916	2,449	4.3%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY CENLA PARISH

The table below shows December 2022 and January 2023 unemployment rate, labor force, and employment data for central Louisiana parishes.

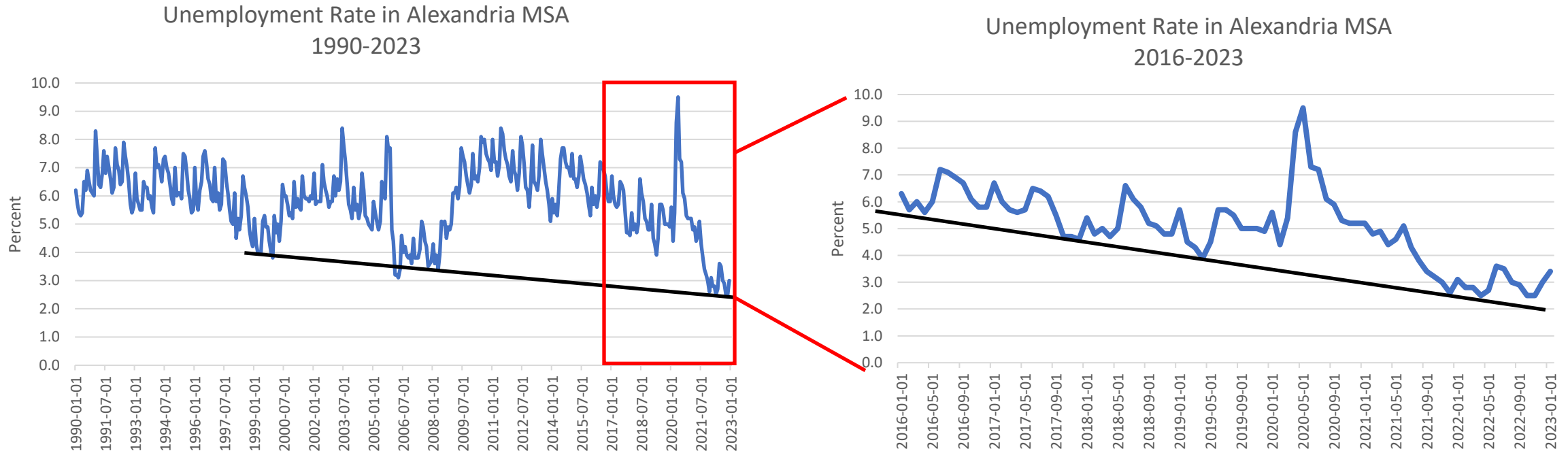
January 2023

✓ In January 2023, parishes in central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 4.0%, up from 3.0% in November 2022.

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate Jan 2023	Unemployment Rate Dec 2022
Allen	8,199	7,843	356	4.3%	3.9%
Avoyelles	14,177	13,580	597	4.2%	3.8%
Catahoula	3,440	3,273	167	4.9%	4.1%
Concordia	6,856	6,522	334	4.9%	4.2%
Evangeline	11,913	11,430	483	4.1%	3.5%
Grant	8,321	8,015	306	3.7%	3.3%
La Salle	6,767	6,575	192	2.8%	2.5%
Natchitoches	16,600	15,899	701	4.2%	3.6%
Rapides	56,006	54,150	1,856	3.3%	3.0%
St. Landry	31,455	30,013	1,442	4.6%	4.0%
Vernon	16,500	15,648	852	5.2%	4.8%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN ALEXANDRIA MSA

The graphs below shows the unemployment rate in Rapides from 1990 – 2023 and 2016 – 2023.

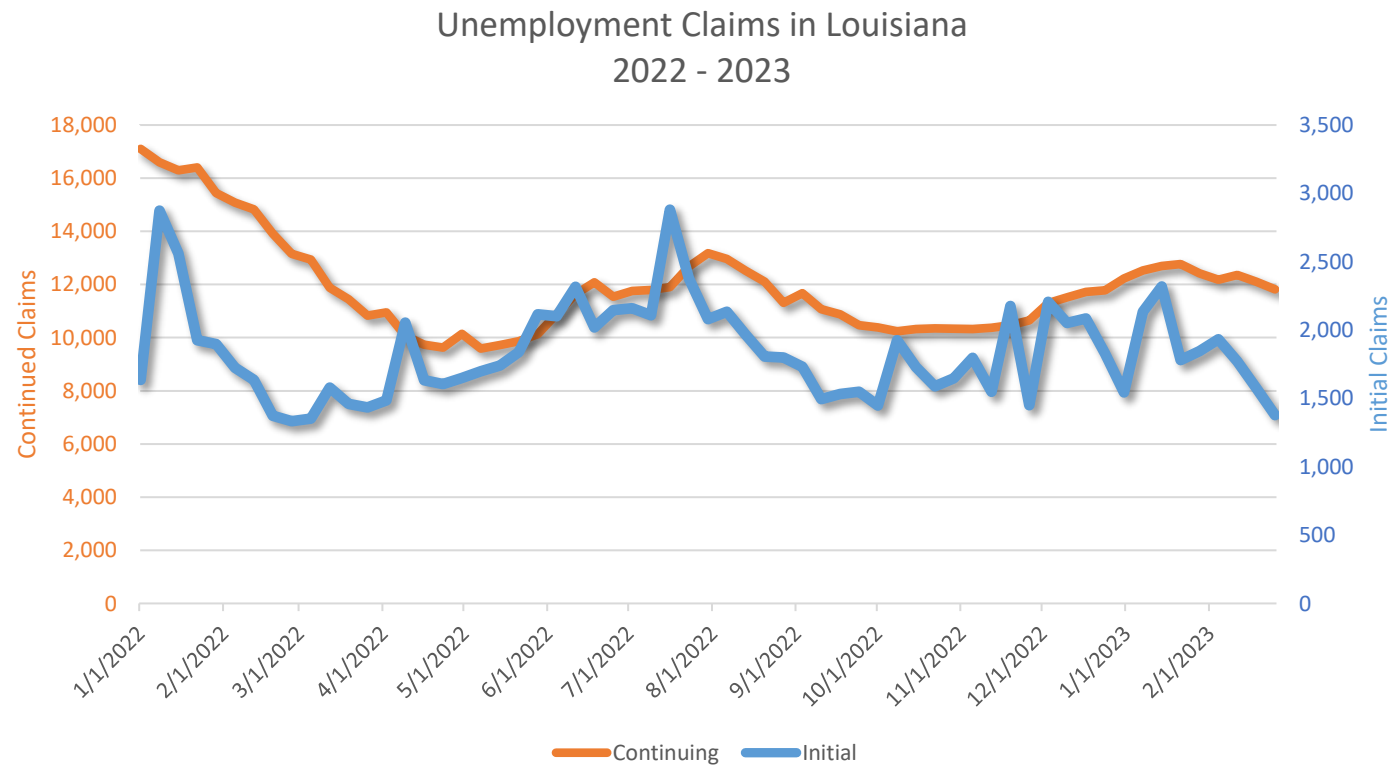


✓ In January 2023, Rapides had an unemployment rate of 3.4%, up from 3.0% in December 2022, representing the second consecutive monthly increase.

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS IN LOUISIANA

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

- ✓ Initial unemployment claims rose 4% following the Christmas season, but fell -18% in February.
- ✓ Continued unemployment followed suit, rising 8% in January before falling -4% in February.
- ✓ Both initial and continued unemployment claims are trending down.



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 February 2023.

February 2023

- ✓ In January 2023, the Alexandria MSA labor market had a job opening ratio of 0.36, up from 0.26 in November 2022, meaning the area went from four postings per unemployed to three.
- The state ratio was 0.62 in January.

Rank	Metro Area	Unemployed	Job Postings	Unemployed per Job Opening
1	Alexandria MSA	2,162	5,940	0.36
2	Lafayette MSA	4,434	9,878	0.45
3	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner MSA	21,256	44,089	0.48
4	Lake Charles MSA	3,301	5,853	0.56
5	Shreveport-Bossier City MSA	6,274	10,948	0.57
6	Baton Rouge MSA	14,008	23,613	0.59
7	Monroe MSA	2,966	3,610	0.82
8	Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux MSA	2,891	3,466	0.83

Tax Revenue

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

TAX REVENUE OVERVIEW

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

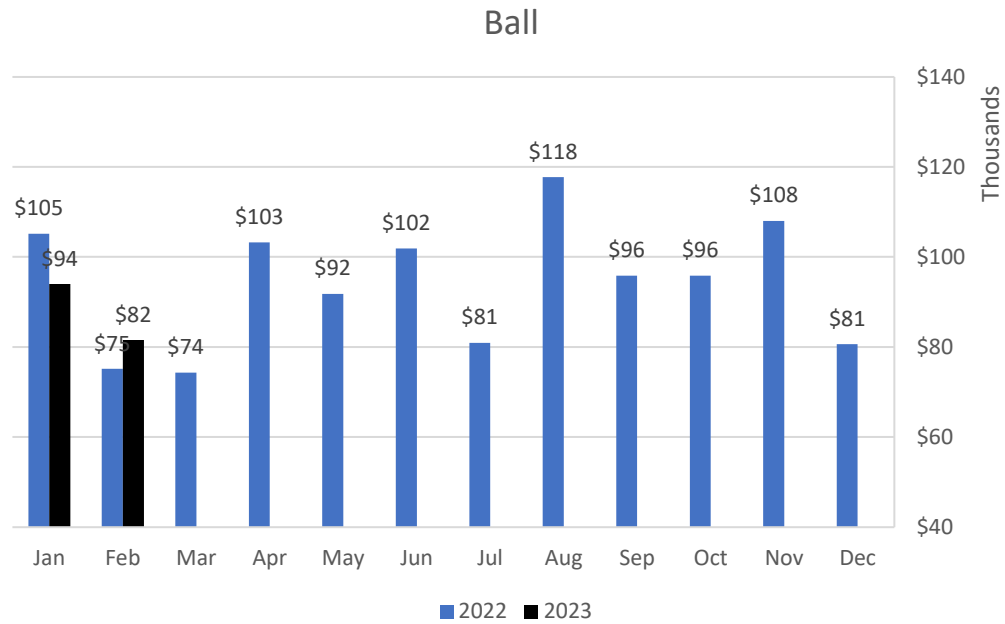
February 2023

Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD		Vehicle Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Alexandria	-28%	2%	0.2%		Avoyelles	4%	-2%	-5%
Avoyelles	-32%	7%	6%		Evangeline	53%	32%	14%
Catahoula	12%	45%	19%		Natchitoches*	1%	18%	18%
Concordia	-11%	22%	14%		Rapides	-1%	15%	7%
Evangeline	-4%	12%	3%		St. Landry	12%	17%	8%
Grant	-20%	7%	-4%		Vernon	-12%	10%	8%
La Salle	74%	45%	1%					
Natchitoches	-26%	8%	7%		Hotel Occupancy Tax			
Pineville	-22%	6%	10%		Avoyelles	-14%	120%	25%
Rapides	-25%	2%	1%		Natchitoches	-24%	65%	25%
St. Landry	-23%	9%	7%		Rapides	26%	0%	-6%
Vernon	-28%	3%	7%		Vernon	26%	34%	32%

Notes: December tax revenue collection reflects sales activity in November. *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 in January and February 2023.



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

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


ALEXANDRIA SALES TAX


(TR) Alexandria total sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.


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

February

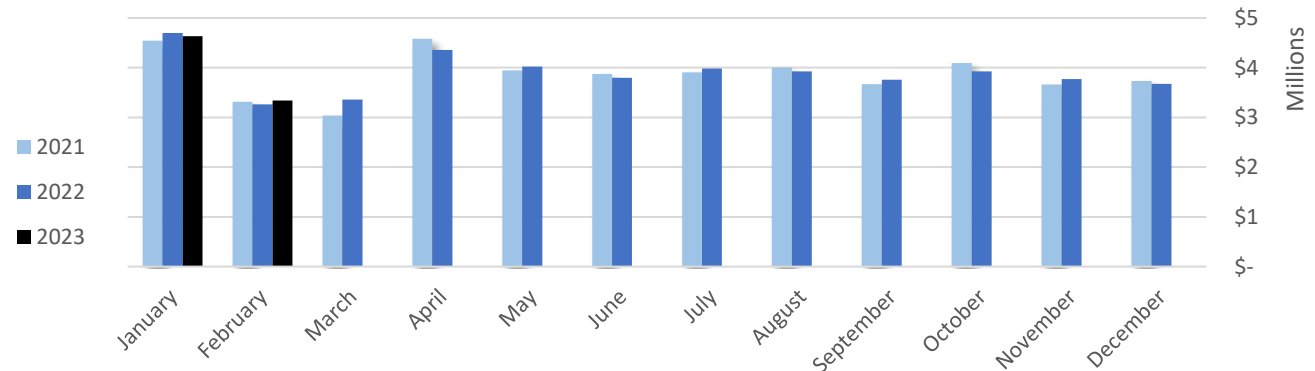
	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 3,079,930	\$ 3,313,658	\$ 3,264,360	\$ 3,343,413
January	\$ 4,132,795	\$ 4,542,155	\$ 4,696,275	\$ 4,636,098
% Chg over Prev Month	-25.5%	-27.0%	-30.5%	-27.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		7.6%	-1.5%	2.4%
YTD	\$ 7,212,725	\$ 7,855,813	\$ 7,960,635	\$ 7,979,511
% Chg over Prev YTD		8.9%	1.3%	0.2%

February  -28%

Feb YoY  2%

Feb YTD  0.2%

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, March 2023.


AVOYELLES SALES TAX

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

February

February  -32%

Feb YoY  7%

Feb YTD  6%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 1,177,667	\$ 1,212,841	\$ 1,557,712	\$ 1,562,150	\$ 1,674,200
January	\$ 1,896,263	\$ 1,847,251	\$ 2,074,759	\$ 2,329,526	\$ 2,447,184
% Chg over Prev Month	-37.9%	-34.3%	-24.9%	-32.9%	-31.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		3.0%	28.4%	0.3%	7.2%
YTD	\$ 3,073,930	\$ 3,060,093	\$ 3,632,471	\$ 3,891,675	\$ 4,121,385
% Chg over Prev YTD		-0.5%	18.7%	7.1%	5.9%


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


Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. March 2023.


AVOYELLES VEHICLE SALES TAX

Avoyelles Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.

February

February 
4%

Feb YoY 
-2%

Feb YTD 
-5%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 287,839	\$ 287,866	\$ 330,453	\$ 330,453	\$ 324,255
January	\$ 191,942	\$ 255,336	\$ 348,146	\$ 338,628	\$ 311,147
% Chg over Prev Month	50.0%	12.7%	-5.1%	-2.4%	4.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		0.0%	14.8%	0.0%	-1.9%
YTD	\$ 479,782	\$ 543,203	\$ 678,599	\$ 669,080	\$ 635,401
% Chg over Prev YTD		13.2%	24.9%	-1.4%	-5.0%


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


Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. March 2023


CATAHOULA SALES TAX

Catahoula Parish total sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.

February

February 
-12%

Feb YoY 
45%

Feb YTD 
19%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 460,357	\$ 520,518	\$ 492,832	\$ 714,415
January	\$ 511,212	\$ 604,484	\$ 789,116	\$ 814,920
% Chg over Prev Month	-9.9%	-13.9%	-37.5%	-12.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		13.1%	-5.3%	45.0%
YTD	\$ 971,569	\$ 1,125,002	\$ 1,281,948	\$ 1,529,335
% Chg over Prev YTD		15.8%	14.0%	19.3%


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


Data Source: Catahoula Parish Tax Administrator, March 2023


CONCORDIA SALES TAX

Concordia Parish total sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.

February

February 
-11%

Feb YoY 
22%

Feb YTD 
14%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 936,784	\$ 1,060,357	\$ 1,173,354	\$ 1,426,120
January	\$ 1,125,374	\$ 1,462,464	\$ 1,493,942	\$ 1,602,074
% Chg over Prev Month	-16.8%	-27.5%	-21.5%	-11.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		13.2%	10.7%	21.5%
YTD	\$ 2,062,158	\$ 2,522,821	\$ 2,667,296	\$ 3,028,194
% Chg over Prev YTD		22.3%	5.7%	13.5%




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

Data Source: Concordia Parish Tax Administrator. March 2023

EVANGELINE SALES TAX

Evangeline Parish total sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year and YTD comparisons.

February

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	 -4%	\$ 1,421,713	\$ 1,457,692	\$ 1,608,232	\$ 2,085,392	\$ 2,327,918
Feb YoY	 12%	\$ 1,675,458	\$ 1,674,965	\$ 2,001,054	\$ 2,531,152	\$ 2,433,309
		% Chg over Prev Month	-15.1%	-13.0%	-19.6%	-17.6%
		% Chg over Prev Year		2.5%	10.3%	29.7%
Feb YTD	 3%					
		YTD	\$ 3,097,171	\$ 3,132,657	\$ 3,609,286	\$ 4,616,544
		% Chg over Prev YTD		1.1%	15.2%	27.9%
						3.1%


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. March 2023


EVANGELINE VEHICLE SALES TAX

Evangeline Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year and YTD comparisons.

February

February 
53%

Feb YoY 
32%

Feb YTD 
14%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 347,675	\$ 320,877	\$ 358,527	\$ 374,645	\$ 494,030
January	\$ 292,397	\$ 286,825	\$ 361,503	\$ 341,667	\$ 323,340
% Chg over Prev Month	18.9%	11.9%	-0.8%	9.7%	52.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		-7.7%	11.7%	4.5%	31.9%
YTD	\$ 640,072	\$ 607,702	\$ 720,030	\$ 716,312	\$ 817,370
% Chg over Prev YTD		-5.1%	18.5%	-0.5%	14.1%


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. March 2023


GRANT SALES TAX

(TR) Grant sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

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

February  -20%

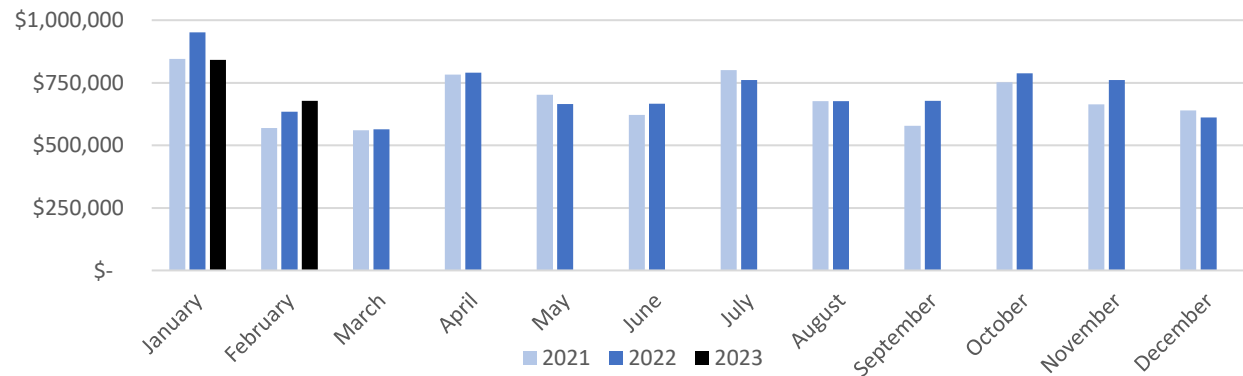
Feb YoY  7%

Feb YTD  -4%

February

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 478,335	\$ 569,528	\$ 634,531	\$ 677,838
January	\$ 635,226	\$ 845,305	\$ 951,606	\$ 841,638
% Chg over Prev Month	-24.7%	-32.6%	-33.3%	-19.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		19.1%	11.4%	6.8%
YTD	\$ 1,113,561	\$ 1,414,833	\$ 1,586,137	\$ 1,519,476
% Chg over Prev YTD		27.1%	12.1%	-4.2%

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, March 2023.

LA SALLE SALES TAX

La Salle Parish total sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.

February

		2020	2021	2022	2023
February	 74%	\$ 814,504	\$ 901,836	\$ 1,042,656	\$ 1,512,822
January		\$ 936,466	\$ 1,115,428	\$ 1,308,363	\$ 869,591
% Chg over Prev Month		-13.0%	-19.1%	-20.3%	74.0%
Feb YoY	 45%		10.7%	15.6%	45.1%
YTD		\$ 1,750,971	\$ 2,017,264	\$ 2,351,019	\$ 2,382,413
Feb YTD	 1%		-15.3%	16.5%	1.3%


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


Data Source: La Salle Parish Tax Administrator, March 2023


NATCHITOCHESES SALES TAX

(TR) Natchitoches sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

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

February  -26%

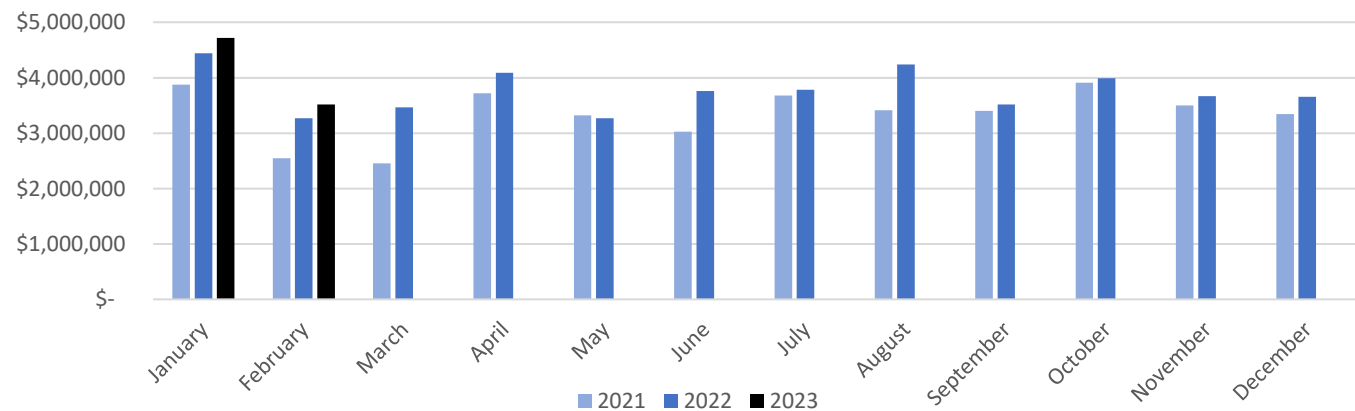
Feb YoY  8%

Feb YTD  7%

February

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 2,487,086	\$ 2,545,399	\$ 3,270,980	\$ 3,516,194
January	\$ 3,533,755	\$ 3,873,228	\$ 4,442,544	\$ 4,717,815
% Chg over Prev Month	-29.6%	-34.3%	-26.4%	-25.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		2.3%	28.5%	7.5%
YTD	\$ 6,020,841	\$ 6,418,627	\$ 7,713,524	\$ 8,234,009
% Chg over Prev YTD		6.6%	20.2%	6.7%

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, March 2023.


NATCHITOCHESES VEHICLE SALES TAX


(TR) Natchitoches vehicle sales tax revenue collected in December '22 and January '23 with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.


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

*January**

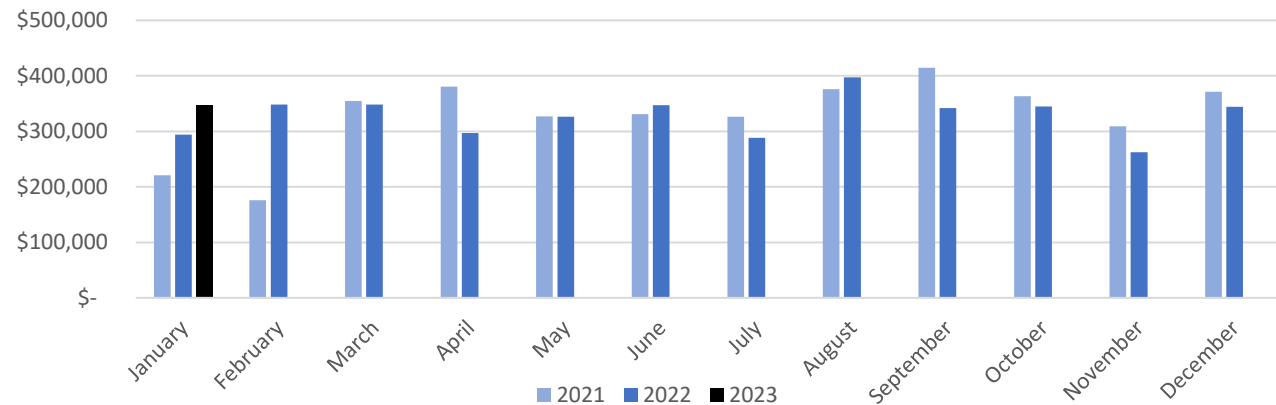
	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	\$ 255,474	\$ 220,644	\$ 293,717	\$ 347,651
December (Prev Yr)	\$ 301,235	\$ 330,343	\$ 371,042	\$ 343,992
% Chg over Prev Month	-15.2%	-33.2%	-20.8%	1.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		-13.6%	33.1%	18.4%
YTD	\$ 255,474	\$ 220,644	\$ 293,717	\$ 347,651
% Chg over Prev YTD		-13.6%	33.1%	18.4%

January 
1%

Jan YoY 
18%

Jan YTD 
18%

Natchitoches Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue
2021-2023





Note: Current sales tax revenue collections reflects sales activity in the prior month. *February 2023 vehicle sales tax revenue was not available at time of publication.
Data Source: Natchitoches Parish Tax Commission, March 2023.


PINEVILLE SALES TAX

(TR) Pineville sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

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

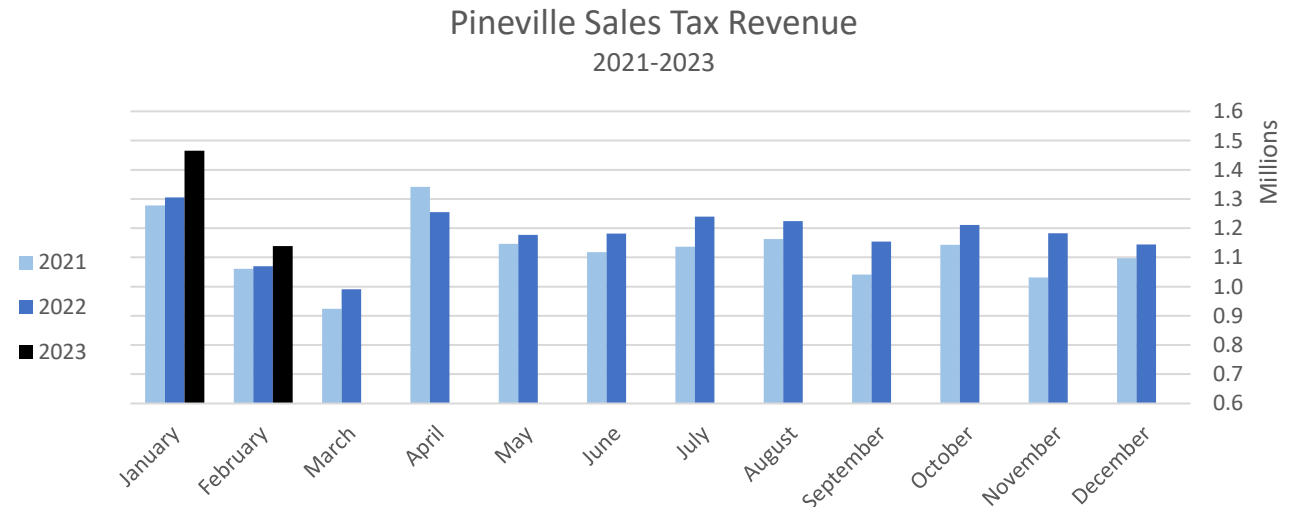
February  -22%

Feb YoY  6%

Feb YTD  10%

February

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 1,004,243	\$ 1,061,220	\$ 1,070,275	\$ 1,139,048
January	\$ 1,098,450	\$ 1,278,518	\$ 1,305,610	\$ 1,465,878
% Chg over Prev Month	-8.6%	-17.0%	-18.0%	-22.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		5.7%	0.9%	6.4%
YTD	\$ 2,102,693	\$ 2,339,738	\$ 2,375,885	\$ 2,604,926
% Chg over Prev YTD		11.3%	1.5%	9.6%



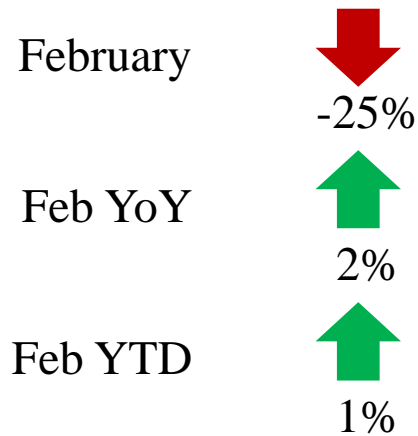
Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.

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

RAPIDES SALES TAX

(TR) Rapides Parish sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

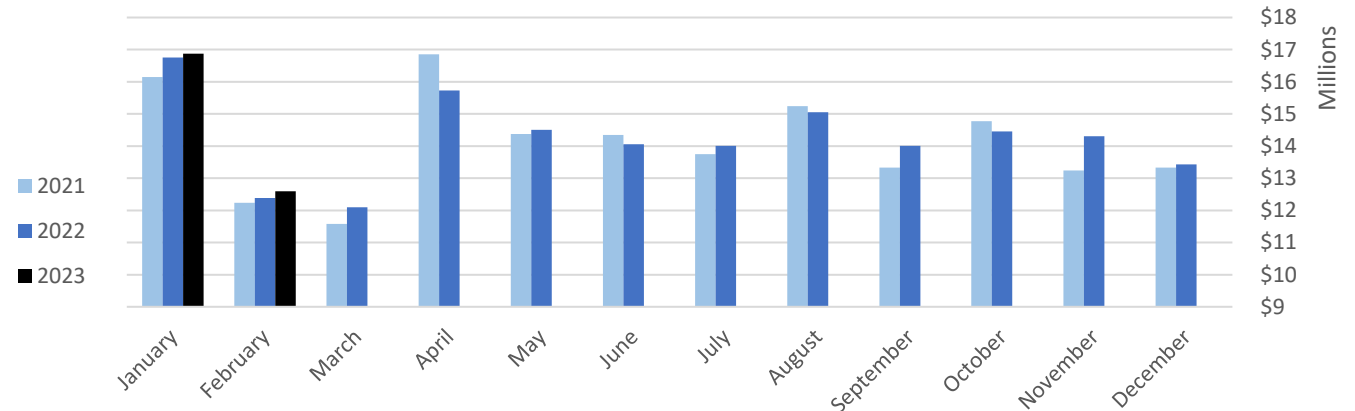
(BR) Rapides monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.



February

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 11,163,593	\$ 12,235,503	\$ 12,387,486	\$ 12,597,085
January	\$ 13,981,762	\$ 16,147,576	\$ 16,750,854	\$ 16,873,652
% Chg over Prev Month	-20.2%	-24.2%	-26.0%	-25.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		9.6%	1.2%	1.7%
YTD	\$ 25,145,355	\$ 28,383,079	\$ 29,138,340	\$ 29,470,737
% Chg over Prev YTD		12.9%	2.7%	1.1%

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, March 2023.


RAPIDES VEHICLE SALES TAX

Rapides Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

February

February 
1%

Feb YoY 
15%

Feb YTD 
7%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 1,171,176	\$ 1,282,207	\$ 1,145,955	\$ 1,322,667
January	\$ 1,042,217	\$ 1,369,215	\$ 1,337,852	\$ 1,341,146
% Chg over Prev Month	12.4%	-6.4%	-14.3%	-1.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		9.5%	-10.6%	15.4%
YTD	\$ 2,213,393	\$ 2,651,422	\$ 2,483,807	\$ 2,663,813
% Chg over Prev YTD		19.8%	-6.3%	7.2%


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


ST. LANDRY SALES TAX

St. Landry Parish sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

February

February  -23%

Feb YoY  9%

Feb YTD  7%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 5,224,951	\$ 6,107,045	\$ 6,351,429	\$ 6,912,985
January	\$ 8,146,901	\$ 7,895,905	\$ 8,525,245	\$ 8,977,428
% Chg over Prev Month	-35.9%	-22.7%	-25.5%	-23.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		16.9%	4.0%	8.8%
YTD	\$ 13,371,852	\$ 14,002,950	\$ 14,876,674	\$ 15,890,413
% Chg over Prev YTD		4.7%	6.2%	6.8%


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


ST. LANDRY VEHICLE SALES TAX

St. Landry Parish vehicle sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

February

February 
12%

Feb YoY 
17%

Feb YTD 
8%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 984,653	\$ 951,000	\$ 890,920	\$ 1,039,066
January	\$ 814,922	\$ 861,140	\$ 934,729	\$ 925,958
% Chg over Prev Month	20.8%	10.4%	-4.7%	12.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		-3.4%	-6.3%	16.6%
YTD	\$ 1,799,575	\$ 1,812,139	\$ 1,825,649	\$ 1,965,024
% Chg over Prev YTD		0.7%	0.7%	7.6%


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


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


VERNON SALES TAX

Vernon Parish sales tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.

February

February 
-28%

Feb YoY 
3%


Feb YTD 
7%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 1,957,891	\$ 2,353,361	\$ 2,505,338	\$ 2,580,706
January	\$ 2,567,259	\$ 3,082,880	\$ 3,275,330	\$ 3,603,984
% Chg over Prev Month	-23.7%	-23.7%	-23.5%	-28.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		20.2%	6.5%	3.0%
YTD	\$ 4,525,151	\$ 5,436,241	\$ 5,780,667	\$ 6,184,691
% Chg over Prev YTD		20.1%	6.3%	7.0%


VERNON VEHICLE SALES TAX

Vernon Parish vehicle tax revenue collected in January and February with previous month, year, and year-to-date comparisons.

February

February 
-15%

Feb YoY 
10%

Feb YTD 
8%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 505,433	\$ 505,911	\$ 438,287	\$ 482,018
January	\$ 378,347	\$ 566,188	\$ 531,258	\$ 565,811
% Chg over Prev Month	33.6%	-10.6%	-17.5%	-14.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		0.1%	-13.4%	10.0%
YTD	\$ 883,780	\$ 1,072,099	\$ 969,546	\$ 1,047,828
% Chg over Prev YTD		21.3%	-9.6%	8.1%

REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE BY PARISH

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

	Feb-23	Jan-23	Feb-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Allen	\$ 78,861	\$ 108,227	\$ 64,057	-27%	23%	20%
Avoyelles	\$ 109,729	\$ 150,361	\$ 83,734	-27%	31%	23%
Catahoula	\$ 42,775	\$ 58,595	\$ 32,843	-27%	30%	25%
Concordia	\$ 53,144	\$ 75,985	\$ 41,709	-30%	27%	20%
Evangeline	\$ 155,693	\$ 199,497	\$ 95,962	-22%	62%	49%
Grant	\$ 55,902	\$ 84,170	\$ 44,896	-34%	25%	20%
LaSalle	\$ 47,245	\$ 69,237	\$ 36,036	-32%	31%	27%
Natchitoches	\$ 137,002	\$ 190,731	\$ 111,632	-28%	23%	24%
Rapides	\$ 560,250	\$ 701,884	\$ 403,713	-20%	39%	34%
St Landry	\$ 301,146	\$ 433,855	\$ 247,412	-31%	22%	22%
Vernon	\$ 187,764	\$ 238,810	\$ 150,319	-21%	25%	16%
Total (Cenla)	\$ 1,729,511	\$ 2,311,352	\$ 1,312,313	-25%	32%	27%

✓ Total online sales tax revenue in Cenla in January and February 2023 was up 27% from the first two months last year.

✓ Online sales in Cenla during the Christmas season (November and December) were up 12% in 2022 compared to 2021.

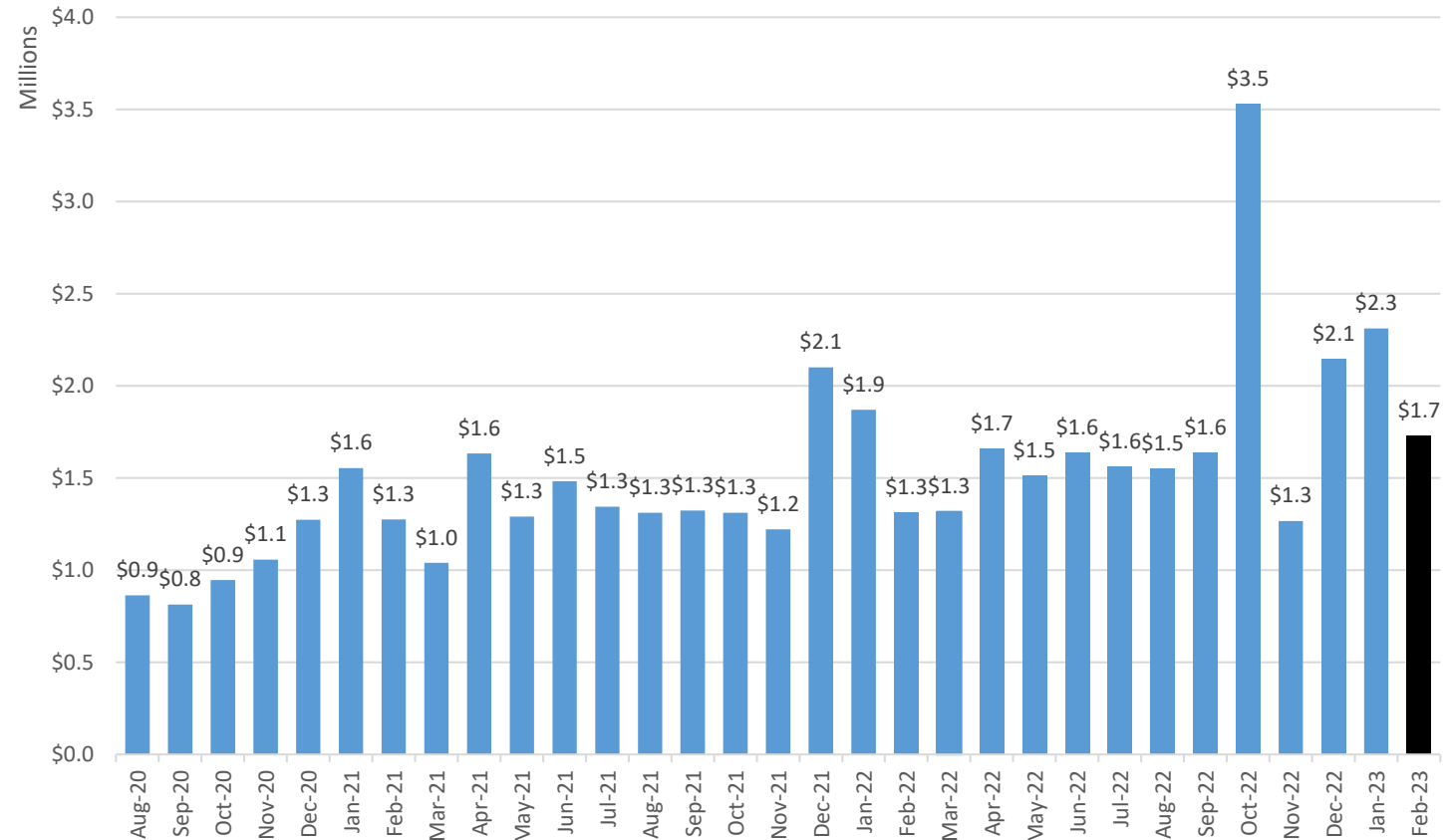
Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month.

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

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



✓ Since August 2020 when remote sellers tax revenue collection started, \$46.8 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 \$14.3 million in tax revenues, Vernon \$5.4 million, Natchitoches \$3.7 million, Evangeline \$3.5 million, and Avoyelles \$3.2 million.


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 – February 2023

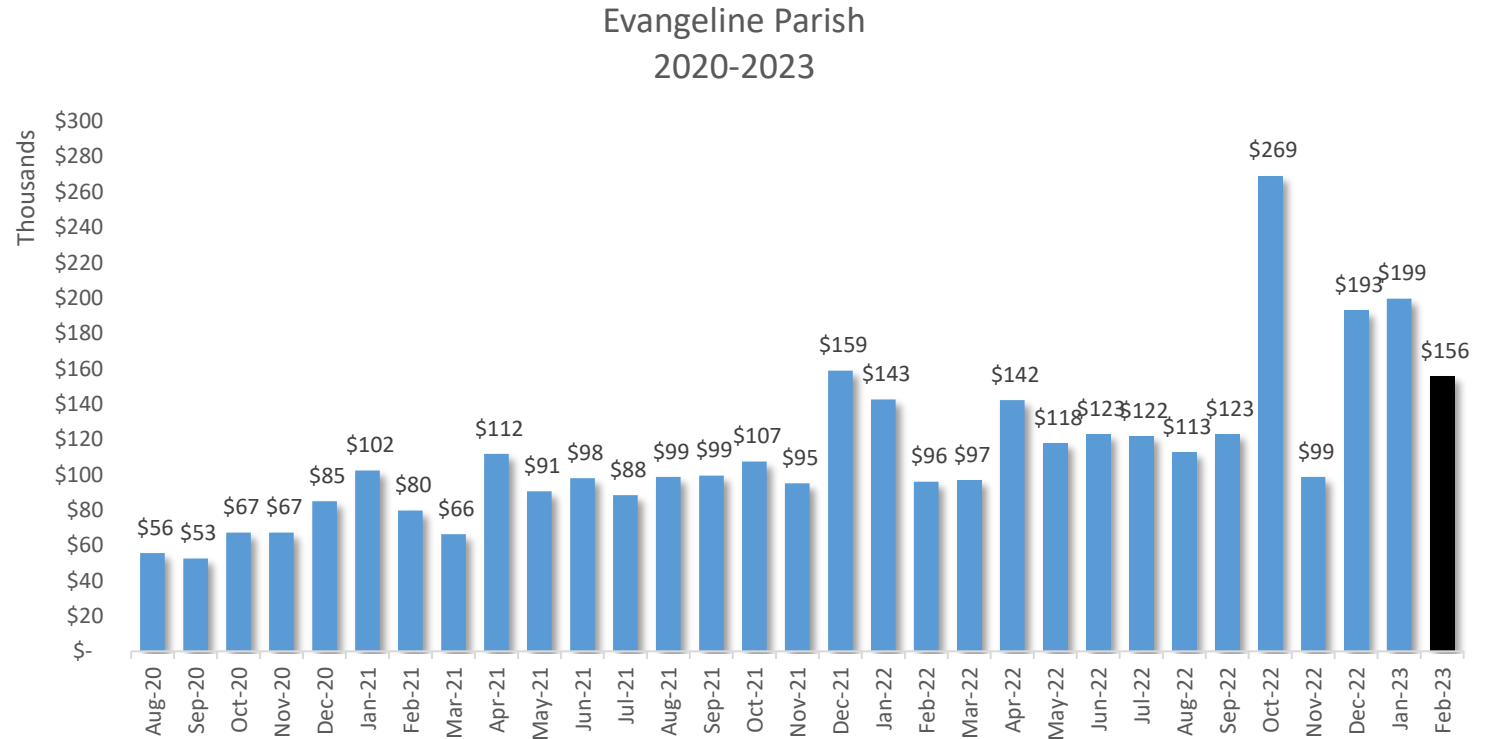
REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN EVANGELINE

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

February  -22%

Feb YoY  62%

Feb YTD  49%





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 – February 2023

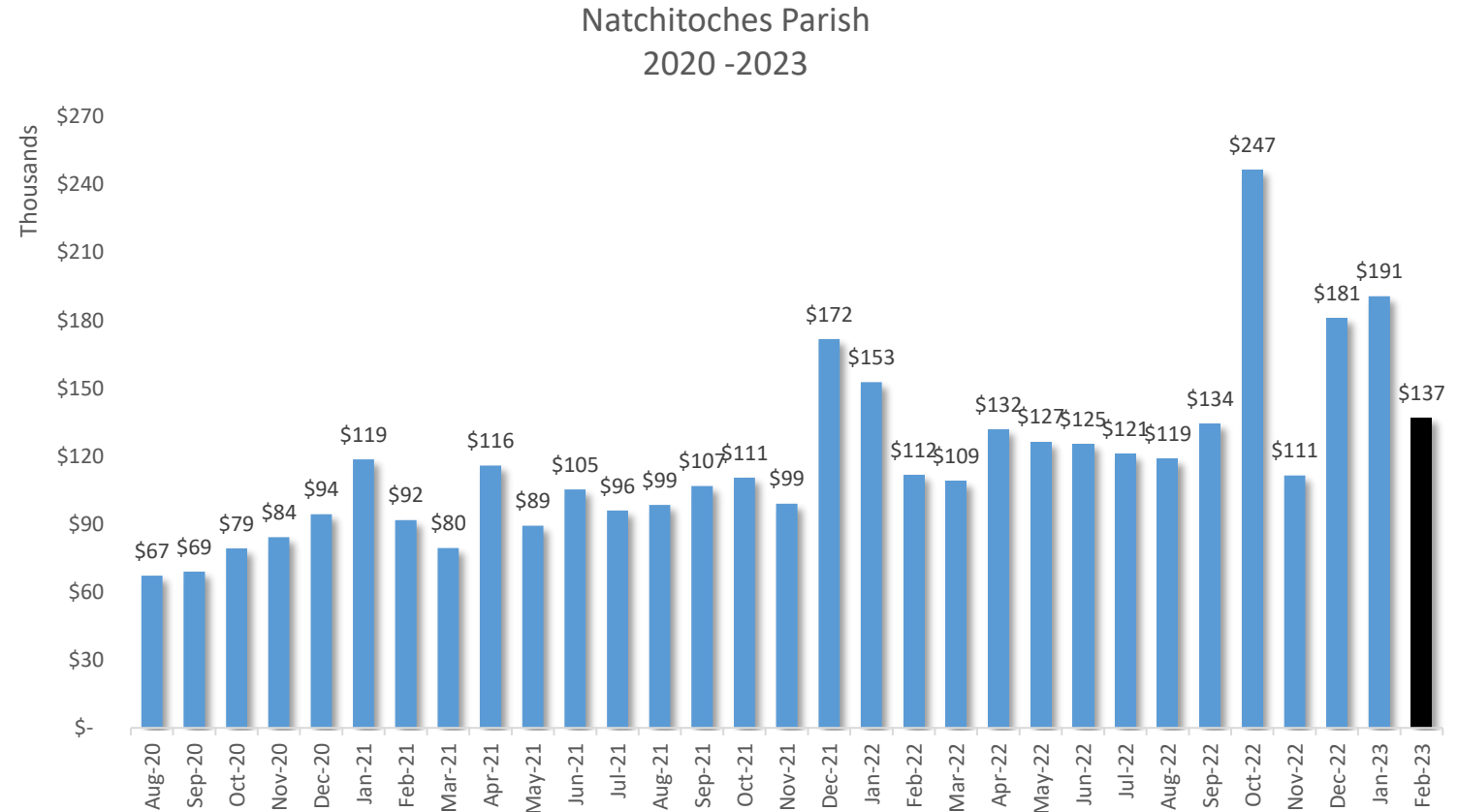
REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN NATCHITOCHESES

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

February  -28%

Feb YoY  23%

Feb YTD  24%




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 – February 2023


REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN RAPIDES

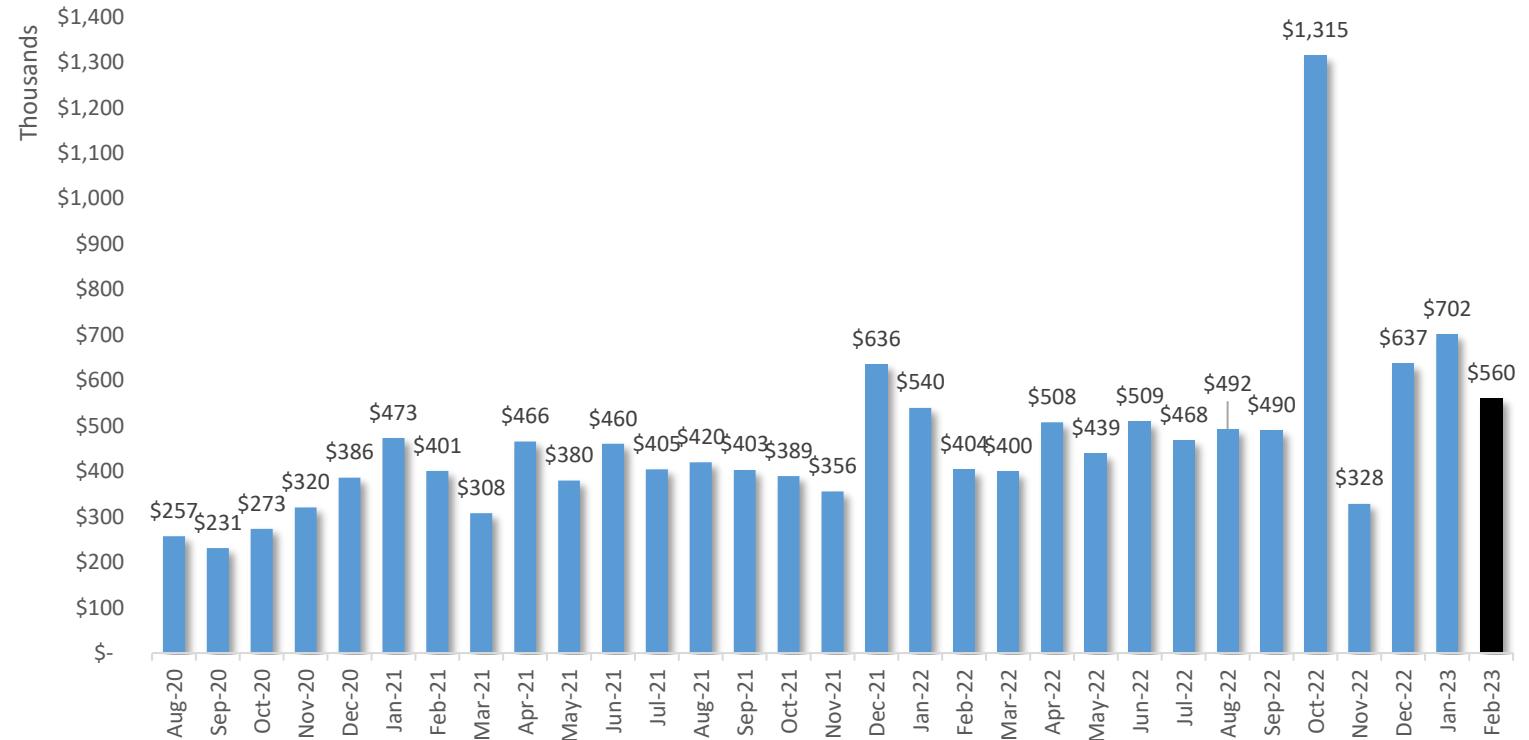
Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Rapides Parish from August 2020 – February 2023.

Rapides Parish
2020 - 2023

February 
-20%

Feb YoY 
39%

Feb YTD 
34%



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 – February 2023

Permits & Housing

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

CENLA PERMIT VALUATIONS

This table shows the valuation of permits issued in January and February 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.

February

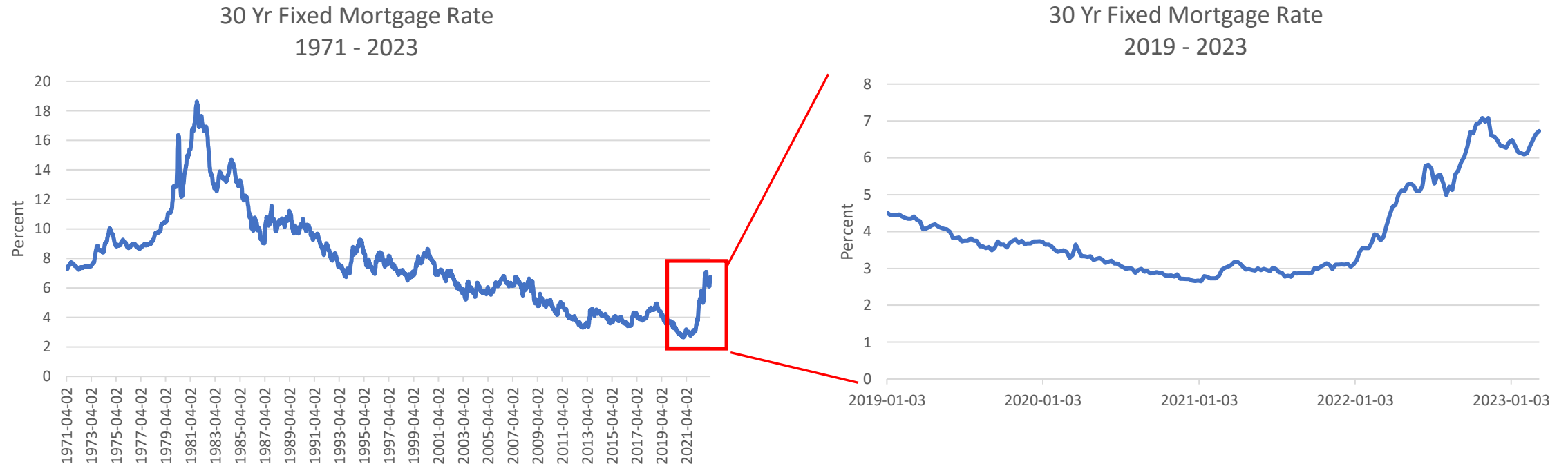
	Feb-23	Jan-23	Feb-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Alexandria - Commercial	\$ 3,721,784	\$ 2,518,428	\$11,194,878	48%	-67%	-48.0%
Alexandria - Residential	\$ 707,266	\$ 1,134,723	\$ 883,955	-38%	-20%	-20.0%
Avoyelles	\$ 3,096,060	\$ 1,509,685	\$36,302,230	105%	-91%	-89.0%
Evangeline	\$ 2,768,975	\$ 535,000	\$ 5,632,234	418%	-51%	-53.0%
City of Natchitoches	\$ 1,366,106	\$11,831,950	\$ 1,622,772	-88%	-16%	520.0%
Natchitoches Parish	\$ 1,301,425	\$ 2,514,681	\$ 1,429,512	-48%	-9%	12.0%
Pineville	\$ 258,135	\$ 955,440	\$ 404,891	-73%	-36%	-73.0%
Rapides	\$ 3,257,856	\$ 8,410,070	\$ 5,632,234	-61%	-42%	0.0%
Total	\$16,477,607	\$29,409,977	\$63,102,706	-44%	-74%	-61.0%

Note: n/a = not available.

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

30 YEAR FIXED MORTGAGE RATE

30-Year Fixed Rate Mortgage Average in the United States from 1971 – 2023 and from 2019 – 2023.

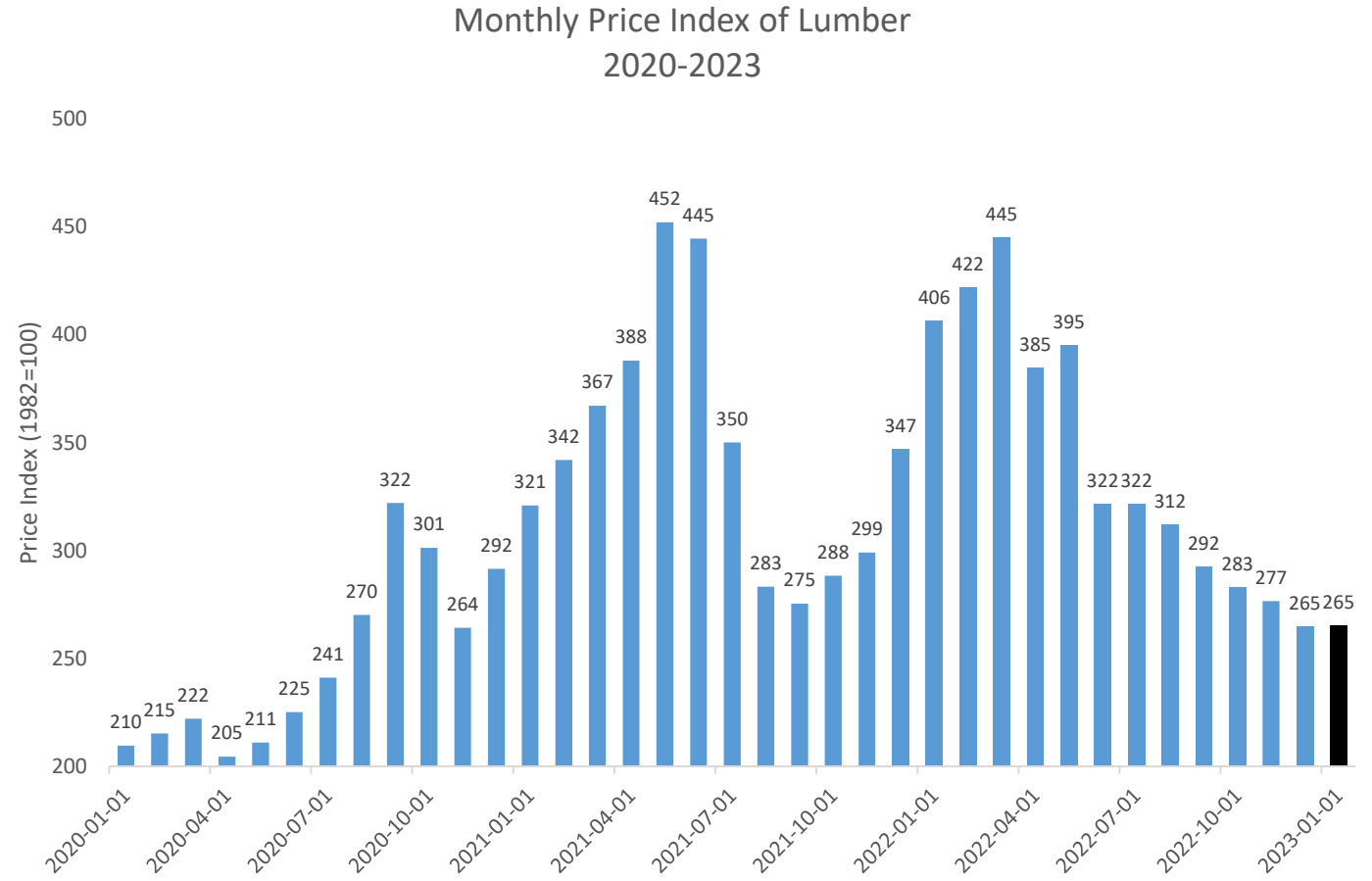


- 30 year fixed mortgage rates on March 9, 2023 was 6.73%.

LUMBER PRICES

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

- In January 2023, the US Lumber Price Index remained unchanged from December 2022.
- Currently, the Lumber Index stands -35% below a year ago when it stood at 406.



ACTIVE LISTINGS BY MSA

The count of active single-family and condo/townhome listings from January 2019- February 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



62%

Leesville



43%

Natchitoches



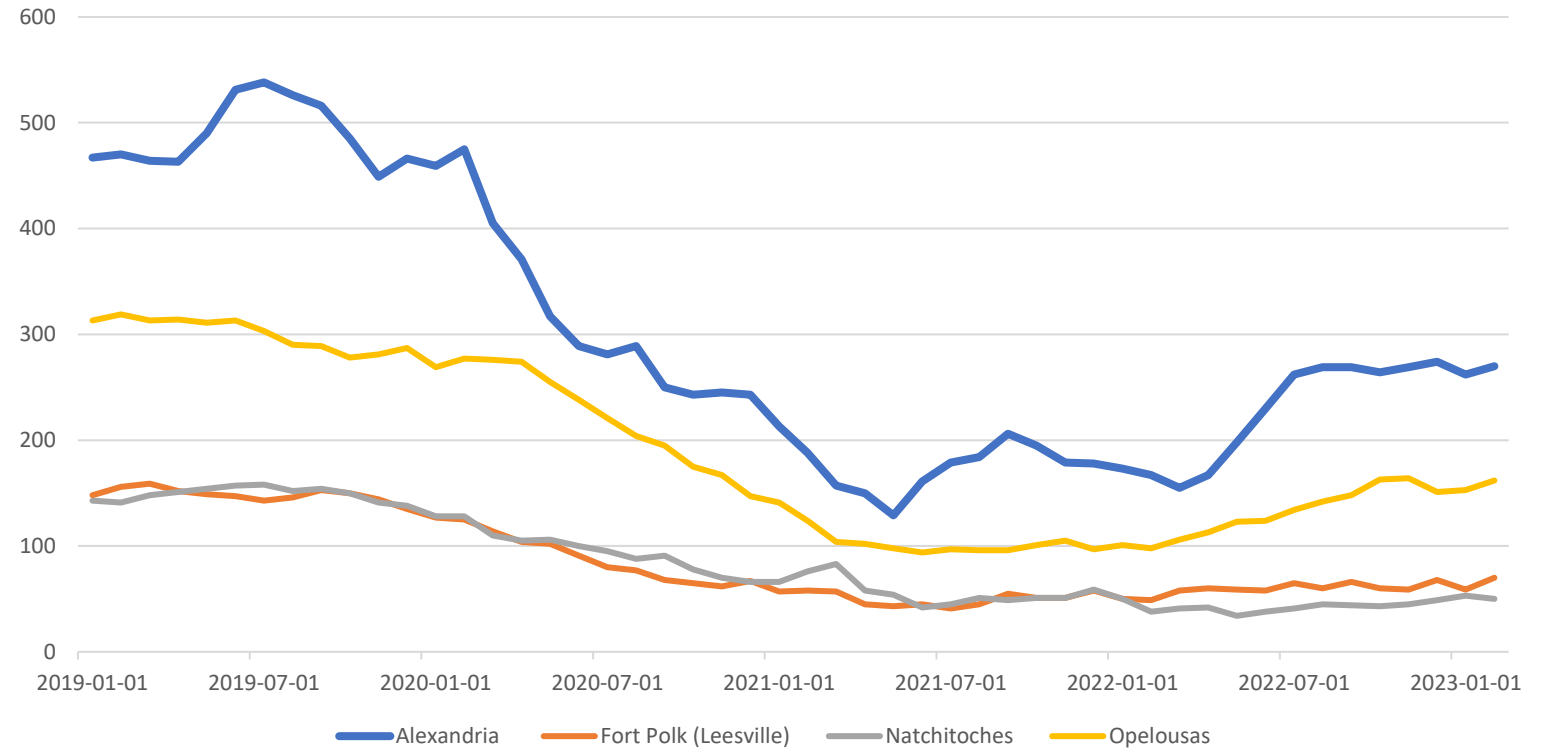
32%

Opelousas



65%

Active Listing Count
2020-2023

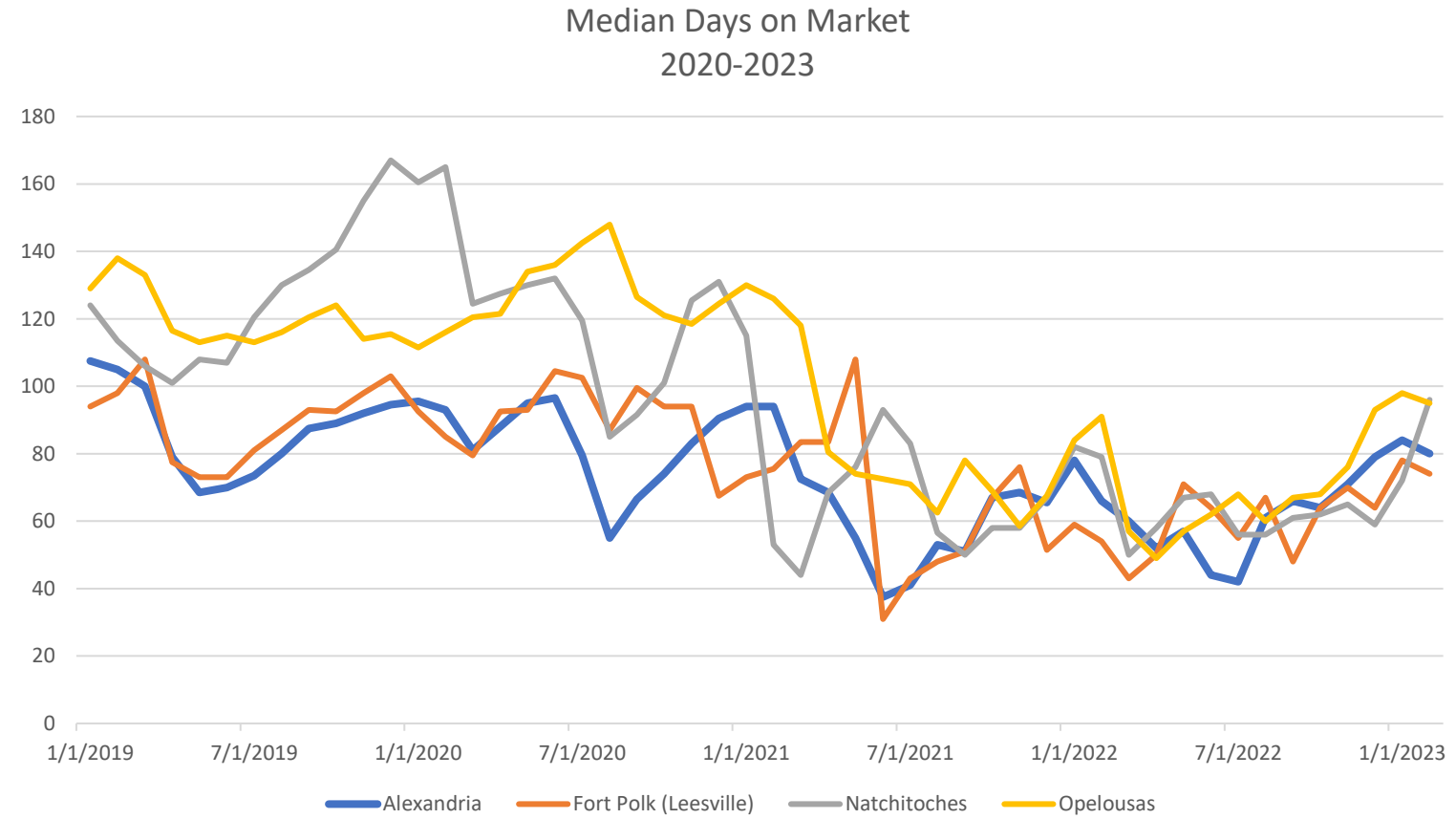


MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET BY MSA

The median number of days property listings spend on the market from January 2019 – February 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria	↑	21%
Leesville	↑	37%
Natchitoches	↑	22%
Opelousas	↑	4%



MEDIAN LISTING PRICE BY MSA

The median listing price of houses from January 2019 - February 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



9%

Leesville



46%

Natchitoches

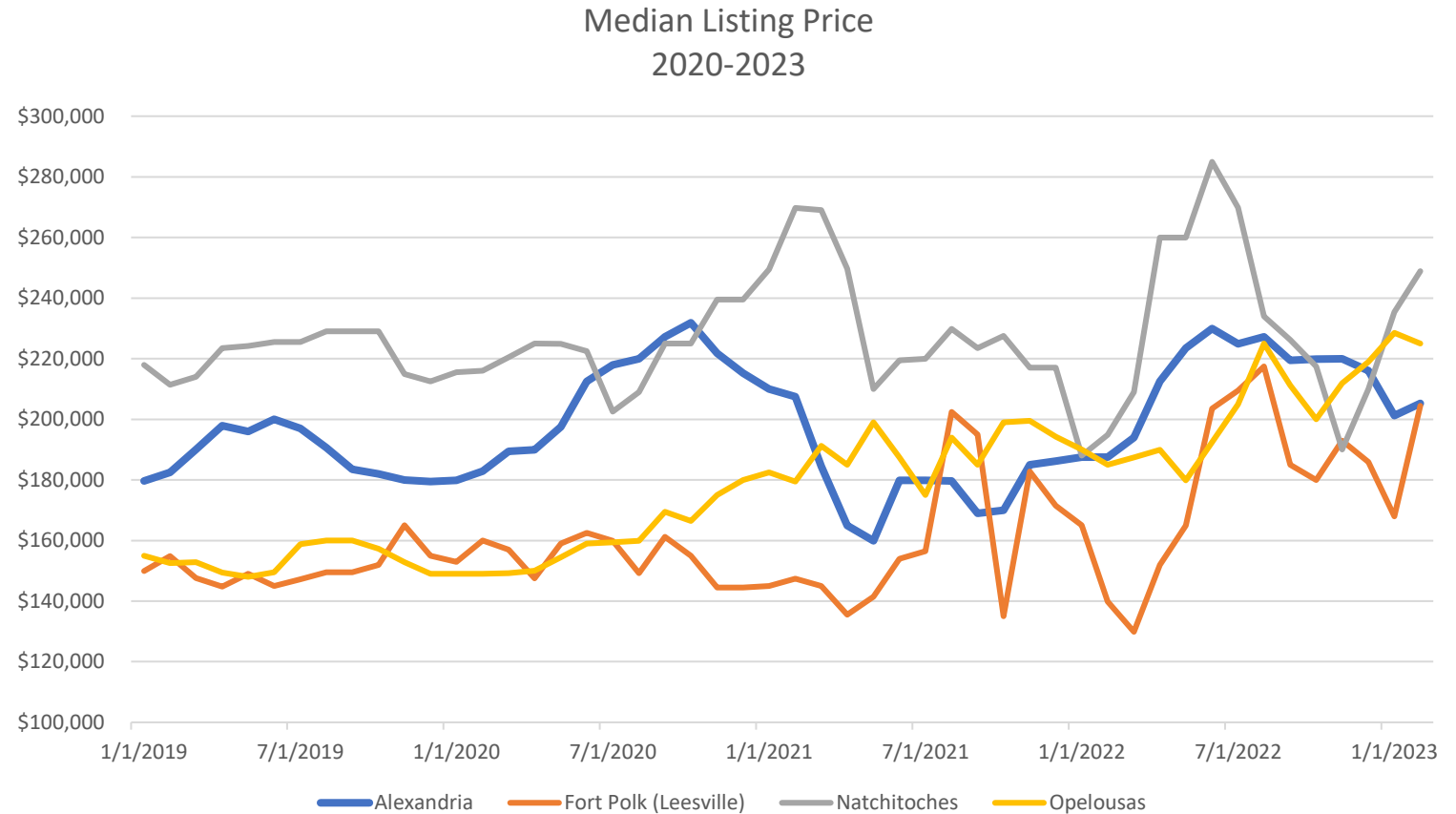


28%

Opelousas



22%



AVERAGE LISTING PRICE BY MSA

The average listing price of houses from January 2019 - February 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



8%

Leesville



11%

Natchitoches

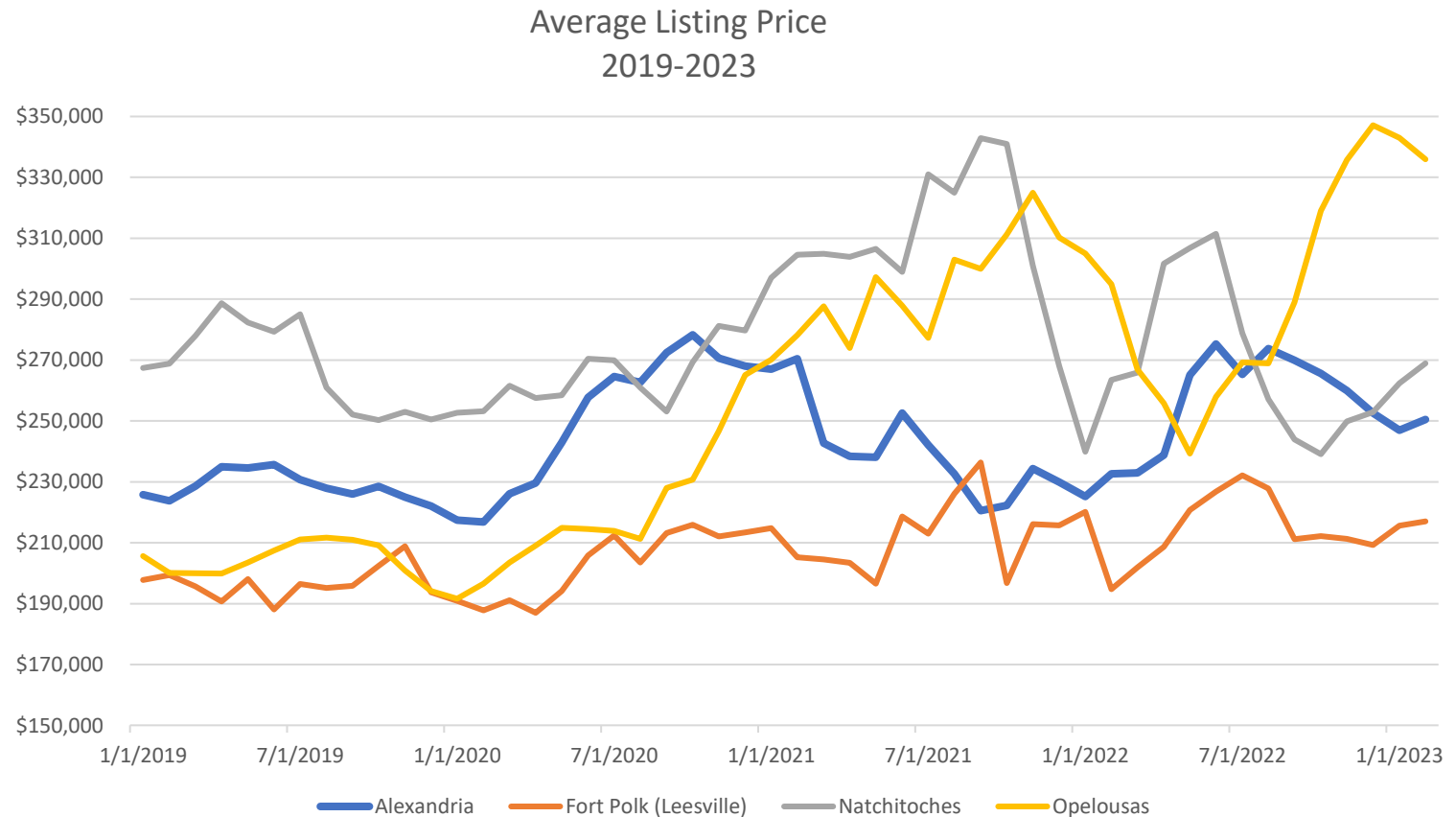


2%

Opelousas



14%




Travel


Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard


AVOYELLES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

February

February 
-14%

Feb YoY 
120%

Feb YTD 
25%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 6,704	\$ 9,093	\$ 3,319	\$ 3,319	\$ 7,302
January	\$ 8,274	\$ 7,801	\$ 6,711	\$ 9,316	\$ 8,467
% Chg over Prev Month	-19.0%	16.6%	-50.5%	-64.4%	-13.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		35.6%	-63.5%	0.0%	120.0%
YTD	\$ 14,978	\$ 16,893	\$ 10,030	\$ 12,635	\$ 15,768
% Chg over Prev YTD		12.8%	-40.6%	26.0%	24.8%

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. March 2023.


NATCHITOCHESES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX


Natchitoches Parish hotel occupancy tax revenue for January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

February

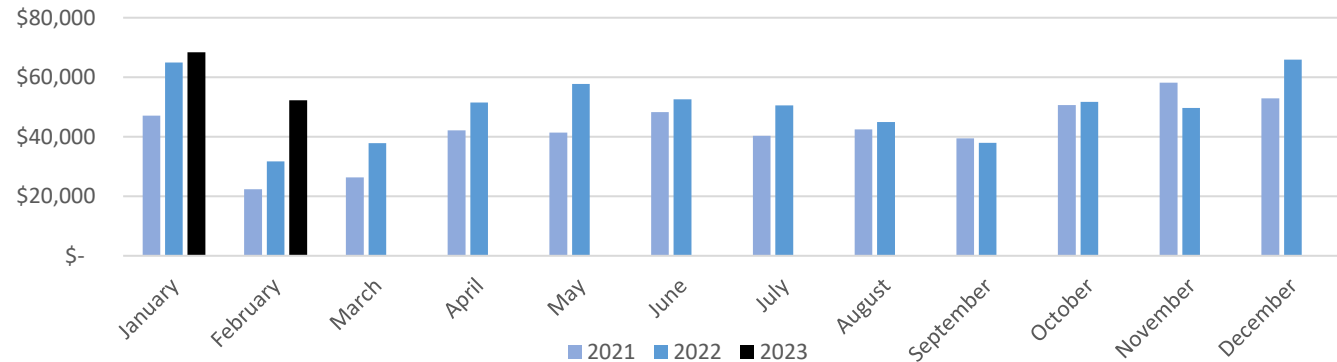
	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 26,095	\$ 22,345	\$ 31,710	\$ 52,266
January	\$ 51,747	\$ 47,023	\$ 64,883	\$ 68,387
% Chg over Prev Month	-49.6%	-52.5%	-51.1%	-23.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		-14.4%	41.9%	64.8%
YTD	\$ 77,842	\$ 69,368	\$ 96,593	\$ 120,653
% Chg over Prev YTD		-10.9%	39.2%	24.9%

February  -24%

Feb YoY  65%

Feb YTD  25%

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, March 2023.


RAPIDES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

Rapides Parish hotel occupancy tax revenue for January and February with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

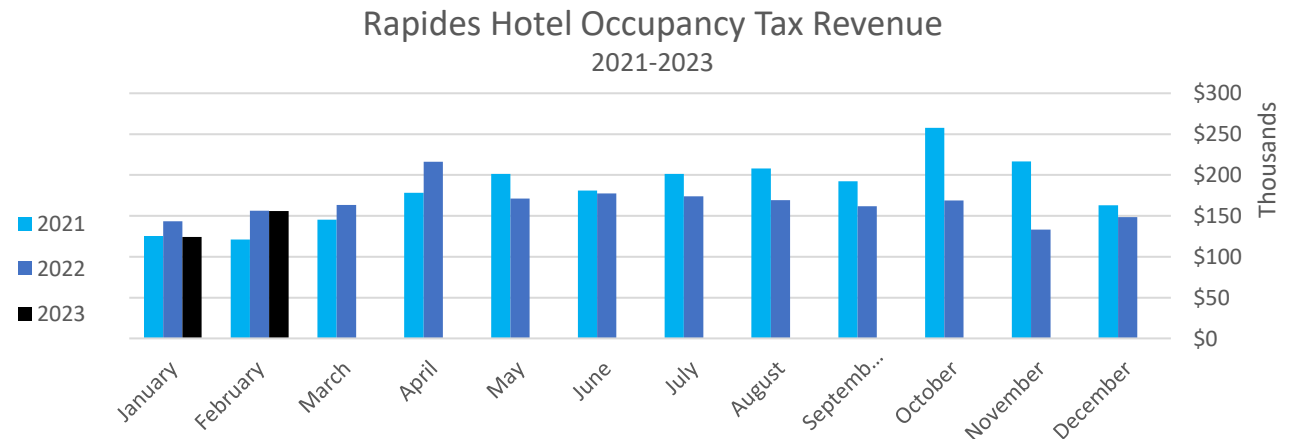
February

February 
26%

Feb YoY 0%

Feb YTD 
-6%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 176,249	\$ 120,971	\$ 156,160	\$ 156,075
January	\$ 135,281	\$ 125,361	\$ 143,472	\$ 124,232
% Chg over Prev Month	30.3%	-3.5%	8.8%	25.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		-31.4%	29.1%	-0.1%
YTD	\$ 311,530	\$ 246,332	\$ 299,632	\$ 280,307
% Chg over Prev YTD		-20.9%	21.6%	-6.4%




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, March 2023.


VERNON HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

February

February 
26%

Feb YoY 
34%

Feb YTD 
32%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	\$ 19,852	\$ 20,164	\$ 28,158	\$ 20,987	\$ 28,070
January	\$ 13,115	\$ 18,703	\$ 20,867	\$ 17,213	\$ 22,322
% Chg over Prev Month	51.4%	7.8%	34.9%	21.9%	25.7%
% Chg over Prev Year		1.6%	39.6%	-25.5%	33.8%
YTD	\$ 32,968	\$ 38,867	\$ 49,025	\$ 38,200	\$ 50,392
% Chg over Prev YTD		17.9%	26.1%	-22.1%	31.9%

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. March 2023.

GULF COAST RETAIL GASOLINE PRICE

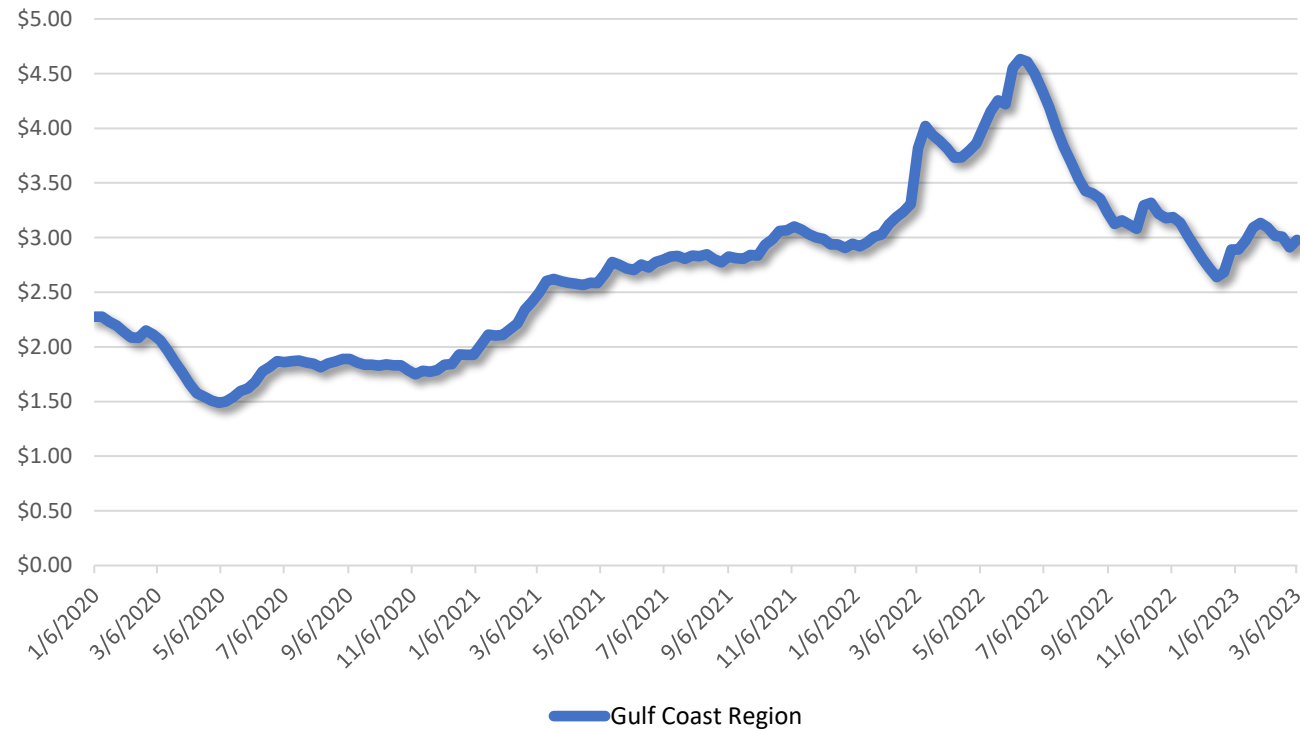
Weekly retail price of gasoline in the Gulf Coast region for all formulations from 2020 – 2023.

February 0%

Feb YoY  -6%

- Gasoline peaked on June 13, 2022 at \$4.63 a gallon. The low of 2022 was December 19 at \$2.64. Prices are up 14% from the December low.
- February 2023 average retail gasoline price in Gulf Coast region was \$3.01/gal., relatively unchanged from January's 3.00/gal.

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





Local & Louisiana


Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

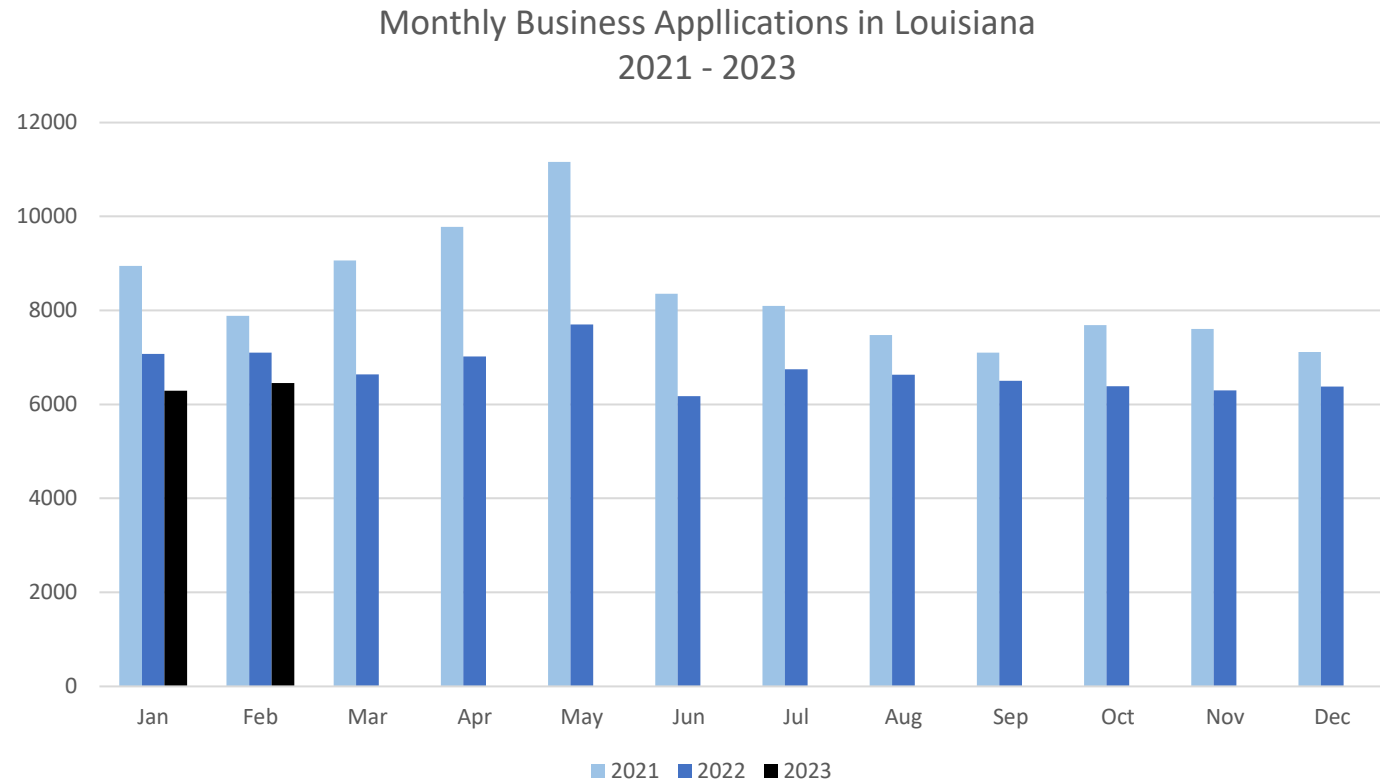
NEW BUSINESS APPS IN LOUISIANA

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

February 
3%

Feb YoY 
-9%

Feb YTD 
-10%



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

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, Retrieved March 13, 2023.

NEW BUSINESSES IN RAPIDES

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

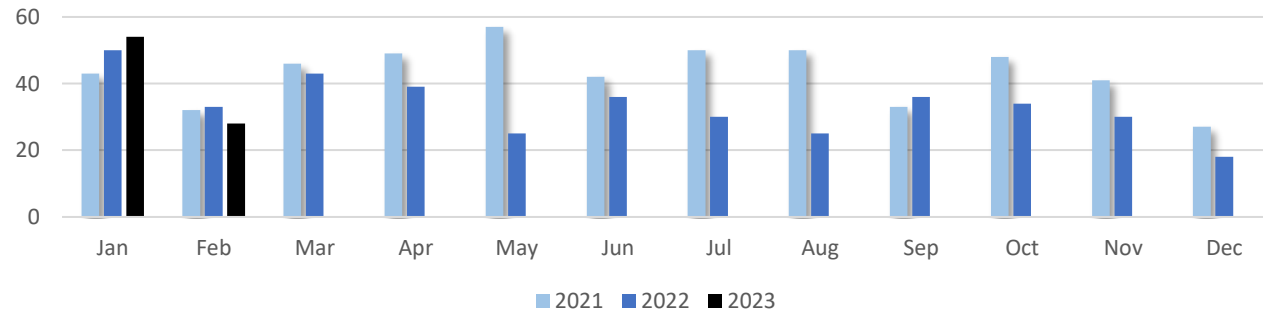
February

- The number of new businesses established in Rapides in February 2023 decreased -48% from January and was -15% lower than a year ago.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
February	46	32	32	33	28
January	28	50	43	50	54
% Chg Prev Month	64.3%	-36.0%	-25.6%	-34.0%	-48.1%
% Chg from Prev Year		-30.4%	0.0%	3.1%	-15.2%
YTD	74	82	75	83	82
% Chg over Prev YTD		10.8%	-8.5%	10.7%	-1.2%

- ✓ Year-to-date, 82 new businesses have been created in Rapides in 2023, compared to 83 last year.

New Businesses in Rapides
2021-2023



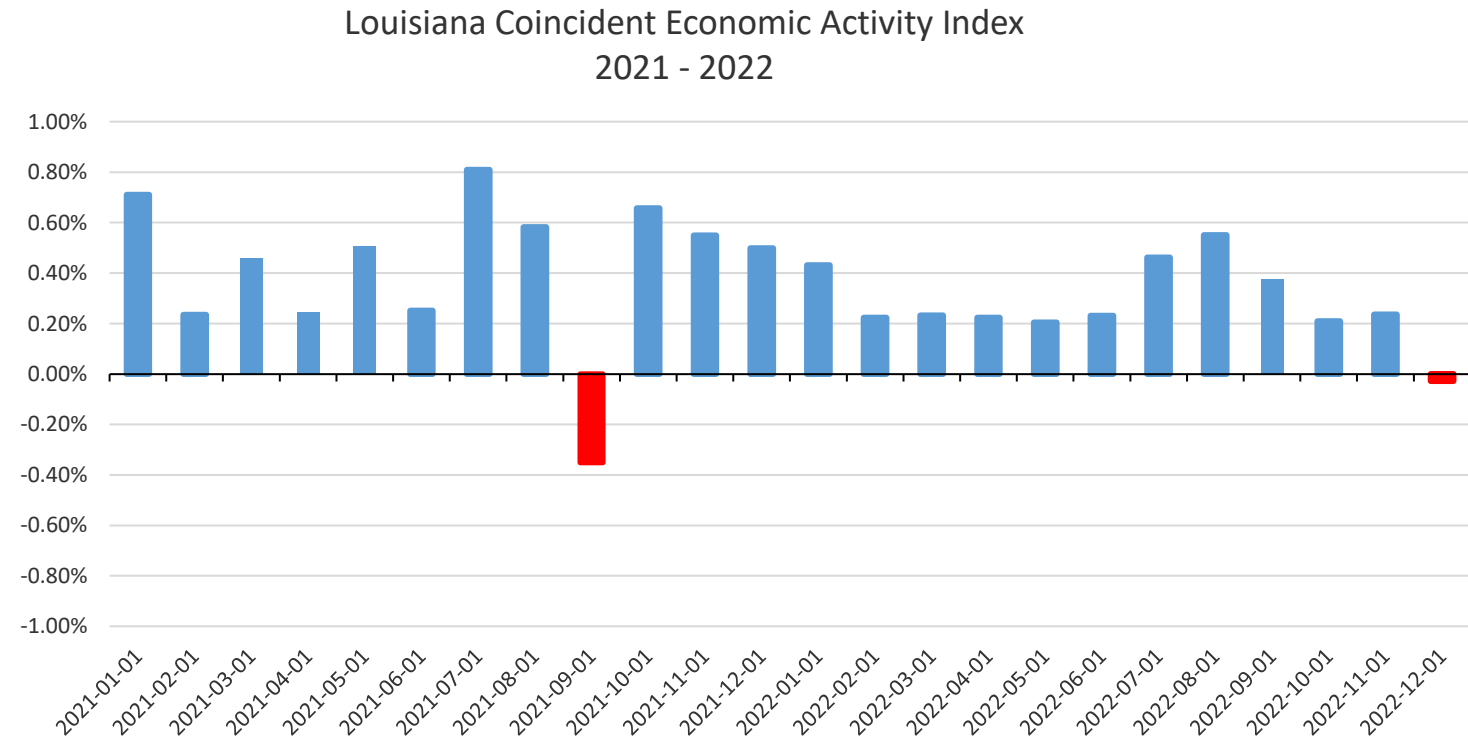
Note: Data reflects businesses established in the current month.

Data Source: Rapides Parish Sales and Use Tax Department, March 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 December 2022, the Index fell to 110.39, from 110.42 in November 2022. The decline was the first since September 2021 and may represent a slowing of the economy if the trend continues*
- ✓ *The Index is up 3.4% since December 2021.*



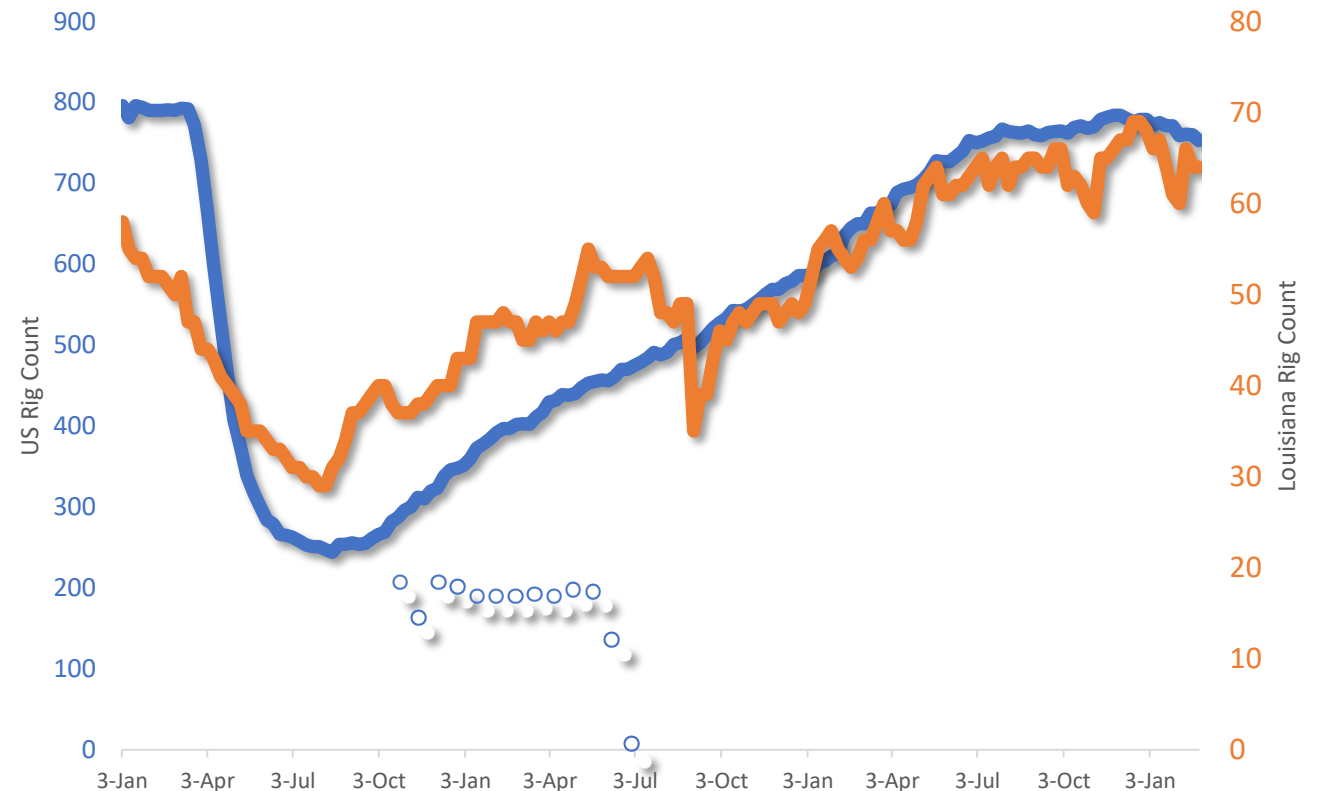
BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNT

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

	Feb 23	Jan 23	Feb 22
Louisiana	64	65	54
US	758	772	636

- ✓ Average rig count in Louisiana in February was down one rig from January and up 10 rigs from a year ago, an increase of 19%.
- ✓ Nationwide, the rig count rose from 636 a year ago to 772 in February, an increase of 21%.


Rig Count in Louisiana & US
2020-2023





LOUISIANA GAMING REVENUE

Gaming revenue in Louisiana for January 2023 with previous month and year comparisons.

January 2023

January 
-8%

Jan YoY 
1%

Jan YTD 
1%

	Jan-23	Dec-22	Jan-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Video Poker	\$ 62,125,271	\$ 66,525,429	\$ 65,507,470	-6.6%	-5.2%	-5.2%
Riverboat	\$ 147,800,039	\$ 162,698,770	\$ 145,905,090	-9.2%	1.3%	1.3%
Landbased	\$ 20,145,396	\$ 22,942,785	\$ 17,728,620	-12.2%	13.6%	13.6%
Slots	\$ 26,033,342	\$ 26,071,636	\$ 24,586,303	-0.1%	5.9%	5.9%
Total	\$ 256,104,048	\$278,238,620	\$ 253,727,483	-8.0%	0.9%	0.9%

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

Data Source: Louisiana Gaming Control Board, March 13, 2023. 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

Also, special thanks to the following partners for distributing the dashboard.

- LSUA Foundation
- Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Marksville Chamber of Commerce
- Bunkie Chamber of Commerce
- Evangeline Chamber of Commerce
- Concordia Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce
- Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce

- *Next Issue: Week of May 22, 2023*

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