

CENTRAL LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DASHBOARD



LSUA[®]

College of

Business

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May 2023

KEY FINDINGS

May 2023

COVID

With the World Health Organization's declaration of the end of the Covid-19 global public emergency, the CENLA Economic Dashboard will no longer provide Covid updates. As shown in the final update, all sections of the state are at the lowest level of risk.

EMPLOYMENT

According to preliminary data, employment remains robust in central Louisiana. Employment in the Alexandria labor market in March rose for the second straight month, rising to 63,532 or 1,164 above January's level. Employment in Natchitoches reached a post-pandemic high at 16,439. The unemployment rate fell to 3.0% in the Alexandria MSA and 3.7% in Natchitoches. Baton Rouge now has the lowest unemployment rate in the state, a position held by Alexandria throughout the pandemic. The unemployment rate for central Louisiana in March was 3.5%, compared to the state unemployment rate of 3.3%. The rate in Grant and Avoyelles was 3.1% and 3.8%, respectively, with LaSalle having the lowest in the region at 2.6%.

The labor market in the Alexandria MSA remains the tightest in the state with three job postings for each unemployed. The state ratio was 0.53 in March, meaning there were two posting for every unemployed.

Both initial and continued unemployment claims are higher than a year ago. Initial claims are up 3% from April 2022, while continued claims are up 11%.

KEY FINDINGS

May 2023

PERMITS & HOUSING

Permit valuation data has been reorganized into a single page to provide a better overview of permits in Cenla. In the first four months of 2023, valuation of construction permits in Central Louisiana are down -31%. Permits year-to-date are down in all reporting jurisdictions except the City of Natchitoches with a 4% increase. Decreases range for -7% in Rapides to -54% in Avoyelles.

CONSUMER SPENDING

In March, consumer spending in central Louisiana remained strong as measured by sales tax revenue collected in April. On a month-over-month basis, every jurisdiction in central Louisiana saw increased sales in March with increases ranging from 20% in Evangeline to 103% in LaSalle. Likewise, consumer spending in every jurisdiction is ahead on a year-to-date basis, except Avoyelles and Evangeline.

Vehicle sales were up substantially in March compared to February in every parish reporting. The increase ranged from a low of 26-27% in Avoyelles, Evangeline, and Vernon to a high of 36-39% in Rapides and St. Landry. Natchitoches reported an increase of 43%. However, data for Natchitoches runs a month behind the rest of central Louisiana. So it reflects sales in February, not March.

Online consumer spending in central Louisiana slowed in March, according to collections in April. Although spending was up 6% from the previous month, it fell -2% below last year's level. Year-to-date, however, online spending continues to increase. In the first four months of 2023, online sales tax revenues were \$7.2 million, compared to \$6.1 million in 2022 and \$5.5 million in 2021.

KEY FINDINGS

May 2023

Higher mortgage rates continue to put pressure on the housing market, but the prospect of even higher rates has spurred buying in some areas. The 30 year fixed mortgage rate remained elevated in March and April, reaching a peak of 6.73% on March 9th. The weakness in the housing market continues to impact lumber prices. The US Lumber Price Index fell one percent in March and April, and now stands -32% below last year's level.

Home prices remain robust, despite rising interest rates. The median listing price in Natchitoches reached \$310,000 in April, while the number of days on the market fell from 95 to 59. The median and average listing prices were up in April in all local metro areas.

TRAVEL

Gasoline prices in the Gulf Coast region were up 9% in April compared to March, but remain -14% below a year ago. All four parishes reporting hotel occupancy data were up in April compared to March. For the year, Natchitoches and Vernon were up 24% and 27%, respectively.

NEW BUSINESSES

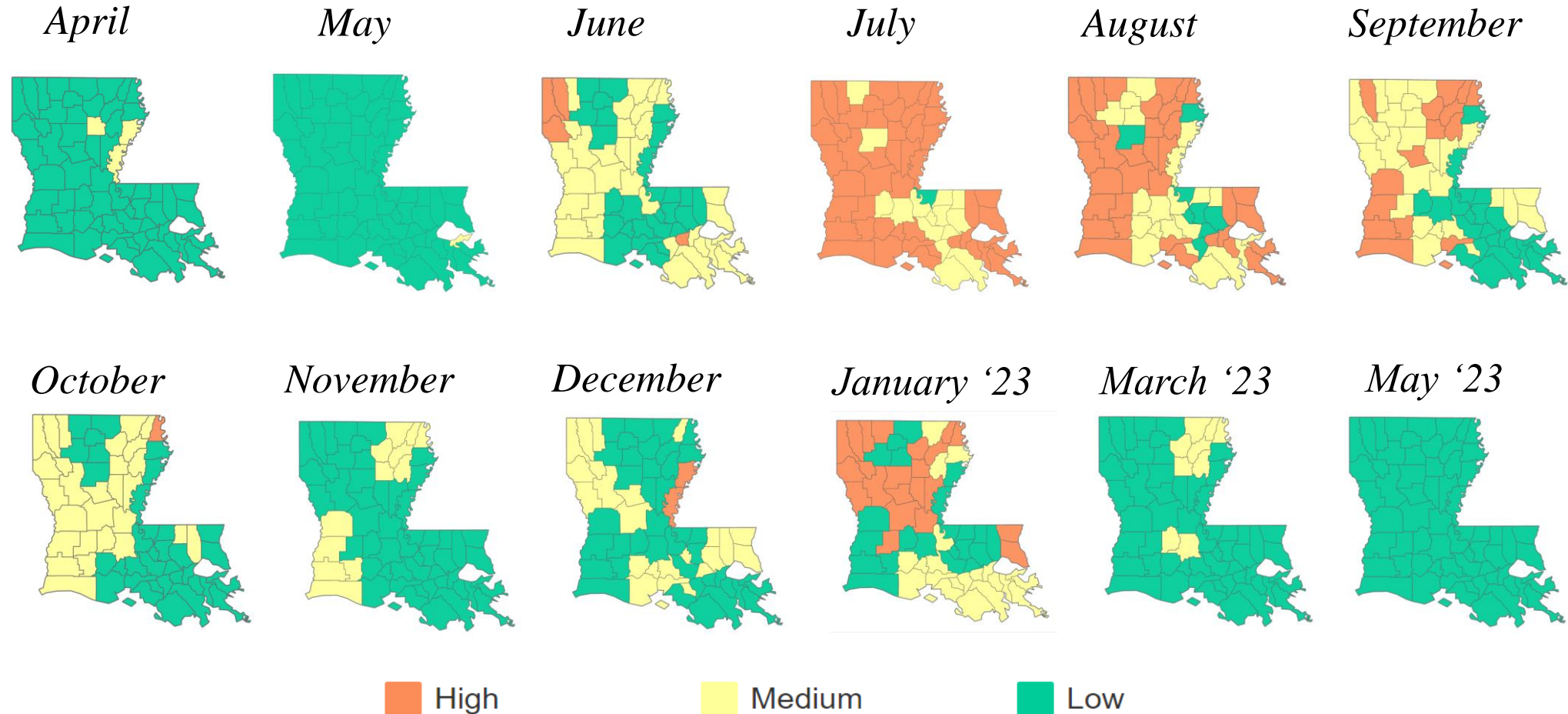
New business applications in Louisiana in April fell -11% compared to April 2022 and are down -6% so far this year compared to 2022. In Rapides, new business applications are down -3% compared to April 2022 and -1% year-to-date compared to last year.

COVID-19

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

COVID-19 STATEWIDE RISK

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



Source: Louisiana Office of Public Health, <https://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus>, May 8, 2023.

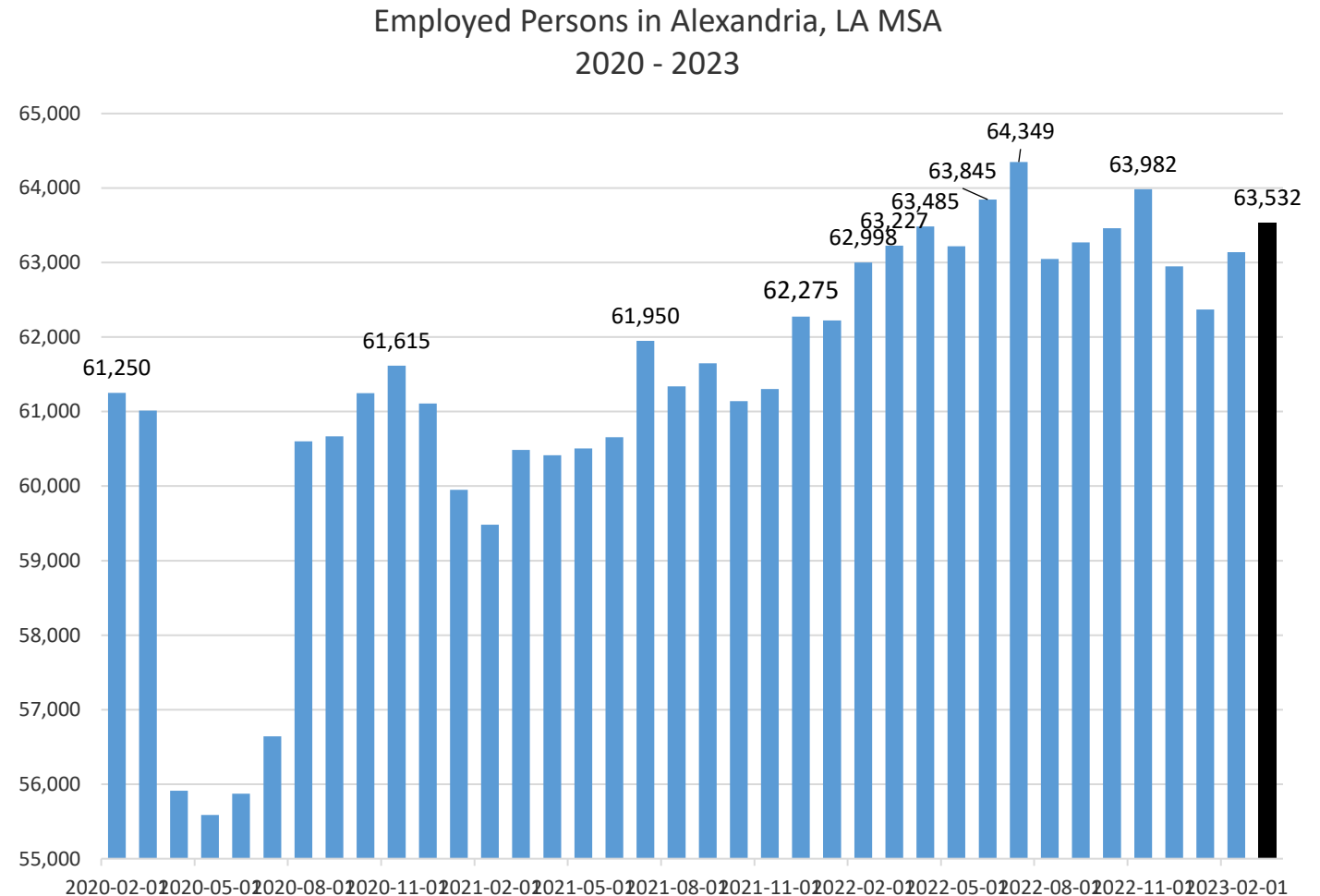
Employment

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

EMPLOYMENT IN ALEXANDRIA MSA

Employed persons in the Alexandria MSA from 2020 – 2023.

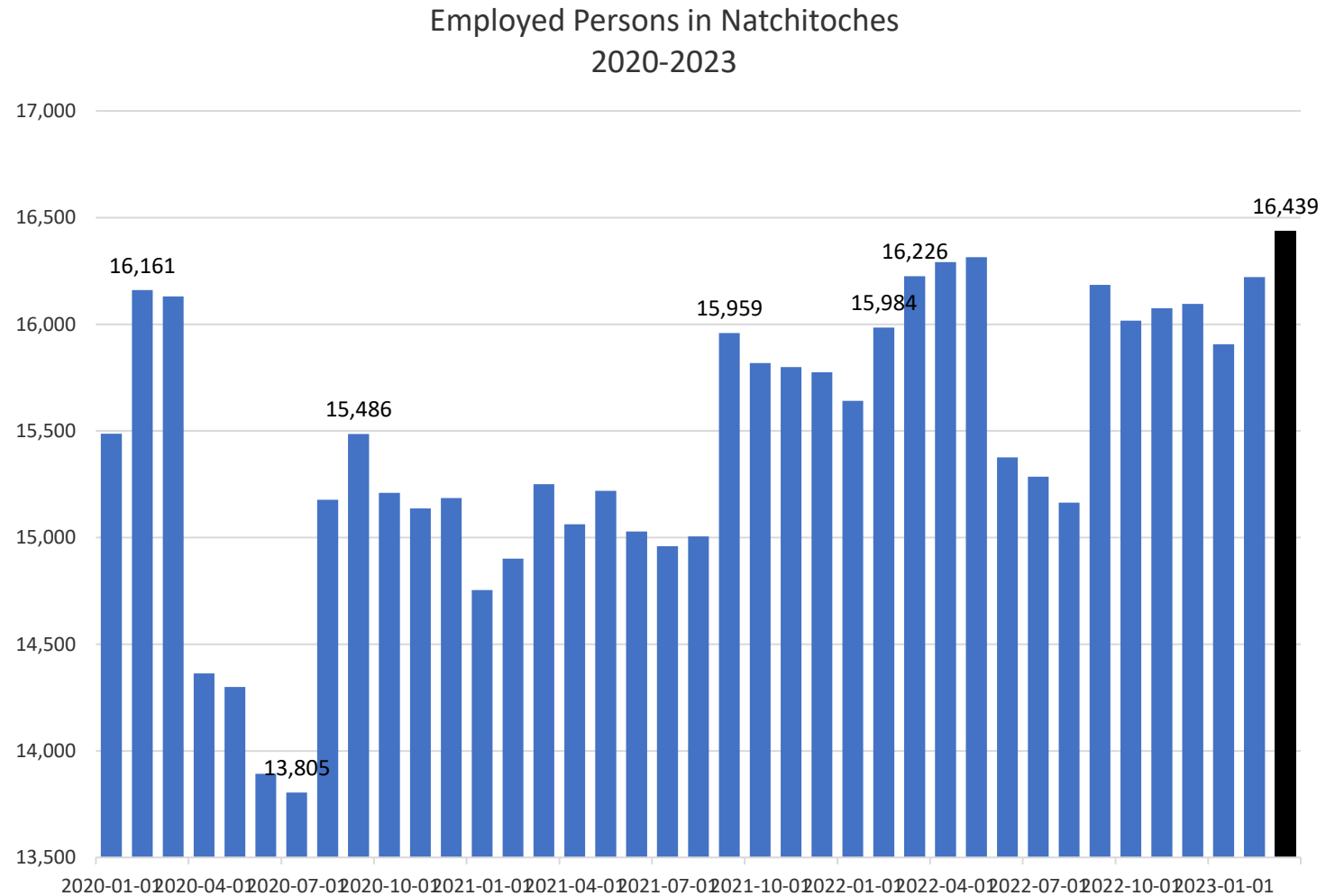
- ✓ Employment in March rose for the second straight month, rising to 63,532 or 1,164 above January's level.
- ✓ March 2023 employment was up 0.5% above a year ago.



EMPLOYMENT IN NATCHITOCHESES

Employed persons in Natchitoches parish from 2020 – 2023.

- ✓ In March 2023, 16,439 were employed in Natchitoches parish, according to preliminary data.
- ✓ Employment set a post-Covid high in March, topping the previous record of 16,315 in May 2022.
- ✓ The unemployment rate in Natchitoches parish in March was 3.7%, falling from 4.2% in January.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY MSA

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

- ✓ At 2.9%, the Baton Rouge MSA had the lowest unemployment rate in the state in March.
- Alexandria, Houma-Thibodaux, and Lake Charles tied for second with a 3.0% unemployment rate.
- ✓ Louisiana's unemployment rate in March was 3.3%, down from 3.6% in January.

March 2023

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Baton Rouge	441,625	428,970	12,655	2.9%
Alexandria	65,483	63,532	1,951	3.0%
Houma-Thibodaux	85,171	82,616	2,555	3.0%
Lake Charles	97,085	94,135	2,950	3.0%
Lafayette	215,622	208,870	6,752	3.1%
New Orleans-Metairie	597,956	577,803	20,153	3.4%
Shreveport-Bossier City	187,135	180,778	6,357	3.4%
Monroe	80,765	77,971	2,794	3.5%
Hammond	57,478	55,245	2,233	3.9%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY CENLA PARISH

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

March 2023

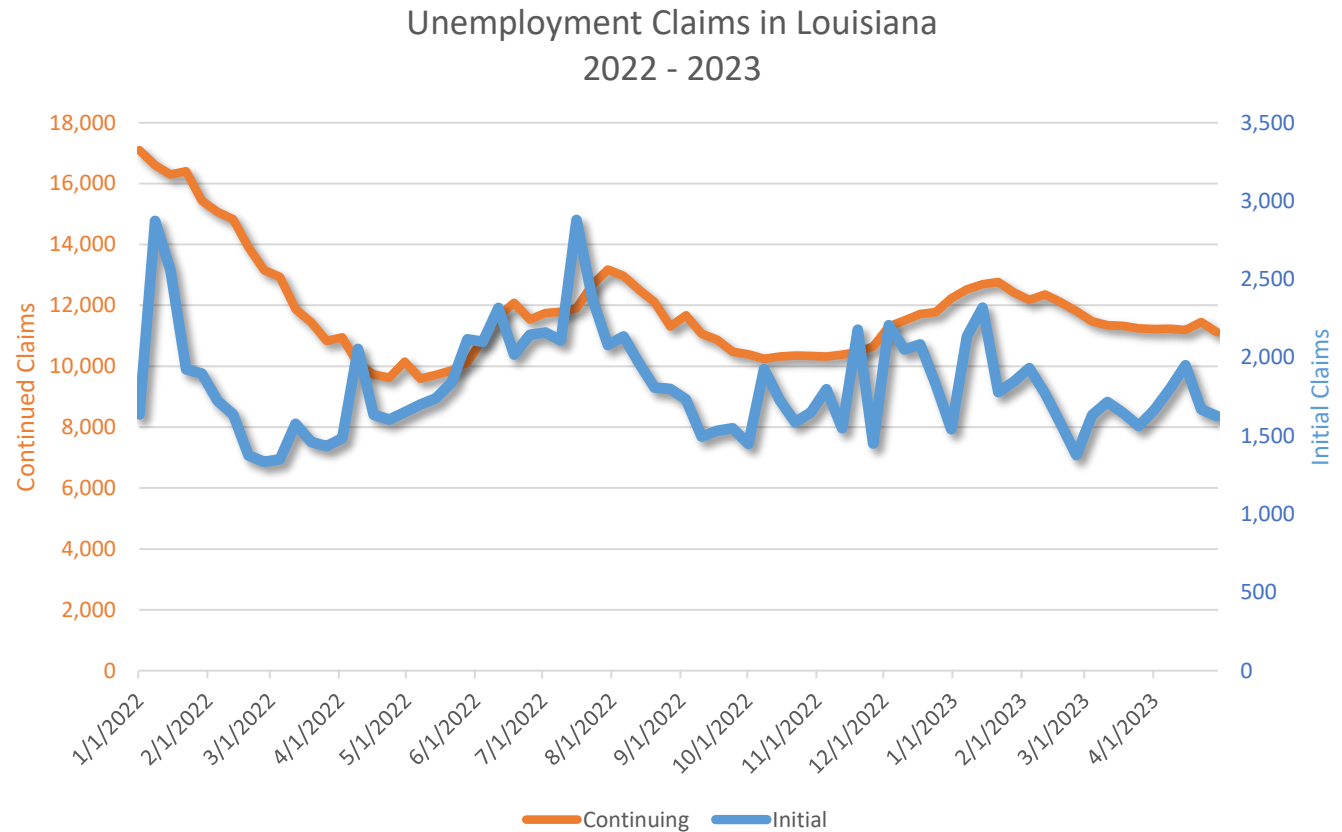
✓ In March 2023, the parishes in central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 3.5%, down from 4.0% in January 2023 and above the state unemployment rate of 3.3%

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate March 2023	Unemployment Rate Jan 2023
Allen	8,163	7,864	299	3.7%	4.3%
Avoyelles	14,360	13,817	543	3.8%	4.2%
Catahoula	3,392	3,257	135	4.0%	4.9%
Concordia	6,851	6,555	296	4.3%	4.9%
Evangeline	12,278	11,831	447	3.6%	4.1%
Grant	8,445	8,183	262	3.1%	3.7%
La Salle	6,827	6,648	179	2.6%	2.8%
Natchitoches	17,070	16,439	631	3.7%	4.2%
Rapides	57,038	55,349	1,689	3.0%	3.3%
St. Landry	31,987	30,660	1,327	4.1%	4.6%
Vernon	16,413	15,790	623	3.8%	5.2%

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS IN LOUISIANA

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

- ✓ Initial unemployment claims fell -2% in March, but rose 6% in April.
- ✓ Continued unemployment fell -6% in March and -1% in April.
- Both initial and continued unemployment claims are higher than a year ago. Initial claims are up 3% from April 2022 while continued claims are up 11%.



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 March 2023.

✓ In March 2023, the Alexandria MSA labor market had a job posting ratio of 0.33. The ratio shows there were three postings for each unemployed.

✓ Alexandria remains the tightest labor market in the state. However, Lafayette is not far behind.

■ The state ratio was 0.53 in March, meaning there were two posting for every unemployed.

March 2023

Rank	Metro Area	Unemployed	Job Postings	Unemployed per Job Opening
1	Alexandria	1,951	5,889	0.33
2	Lafayette	4,045	10,835	0.37
3	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	19,826	46,567	0.43
4	Lake Charles	2,950	6,265	0.47
5	Shreveport-Bossier City	5,789	11,921	0.49
6	Baton Rouge	12,655	25,052	0.51
7	Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	2,555	3,677	0.69
8	Monroe	2,794	3,840	0.73

Tax Revenue

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

TAX REVENUE OVERVIEW

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

April 2023

Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD		Vehicle Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Alexandria	32%	3%	1%		Avoyelles	27%	-20%	-7%
Avoyelles	36%	-19%	-3%		Evangeline	27%	16%	18%
Catahoula	34%	11%	15%		Natchitoches*	43%	17%	5%
Concordia	21%	17%	17%		Rapides	36%	1%	2%
Evangeline	20%	-22%	-5%		St. Landry	39%	14%	10%
Grant	45%	6%	0%		Vernon	26%	-2%	0%
La Salle	103%	53%	14%					
Natchitoches	40%	17%	8%		Hotel Occupancy Tax			
Pineville	28%	12%	10%		Avoyelles	13%	-27%	-3%
Rapides	31%	4%	2%		Natchitoches	4%	9%	24%
St. Landry	29%	1%	4%		Rapides	49%	-8%	-10%
Vernon	41%	5%	6%		Vernon	14%	28%	27%

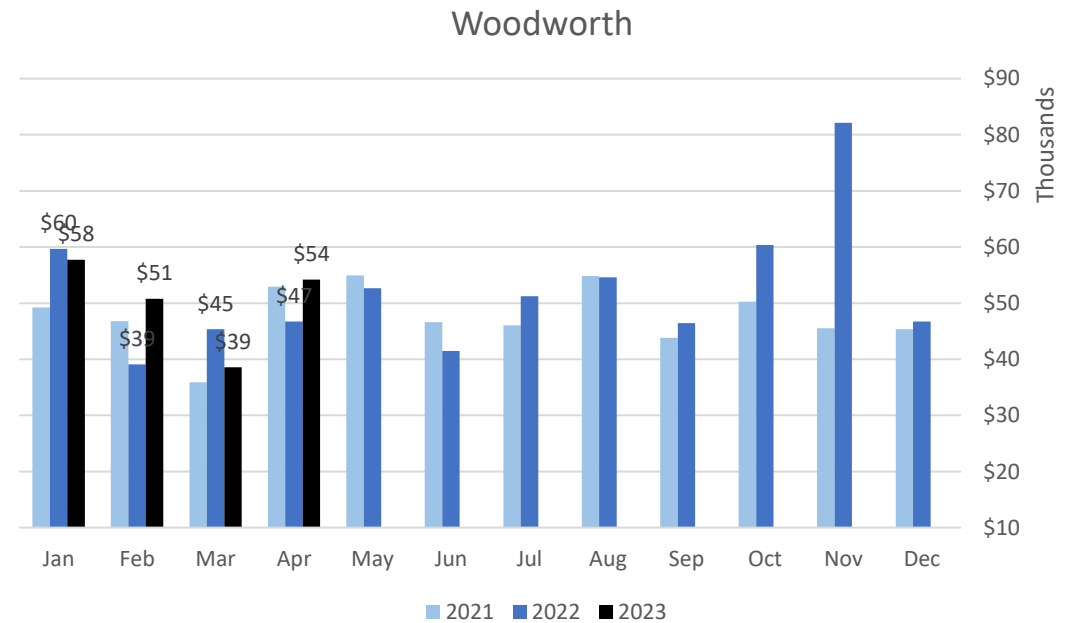
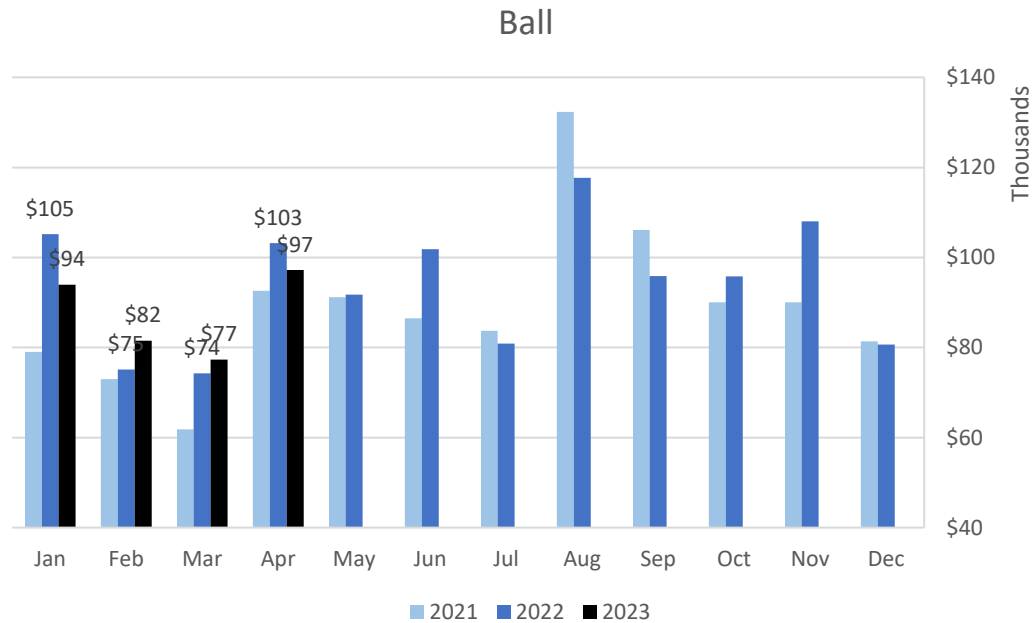
Notes: Current month tax revenue collection reflects sales activity in the previous month. *Current month data are not available. Represents prior month.

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.



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

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

April

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 3,071,113	\$ 4,579,128	\$ 4,359,255	\$ 4,470,075
March	\$ 2,856,685	\$ 3,037,395	\$ 3,357,567	\$ 3,397,713
% Chg over Prev Month	7.5%	50.8%	29.8%	31.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		49.1%	-4.8%	2.5%
YTD	\$ 13,140,523	\$ 15,472,335	\$ 15,677,457	\$ 15,847,299
% Chg over Prev YTD		17.7%	1.3%	1.1%

April



32%

Apr YoY



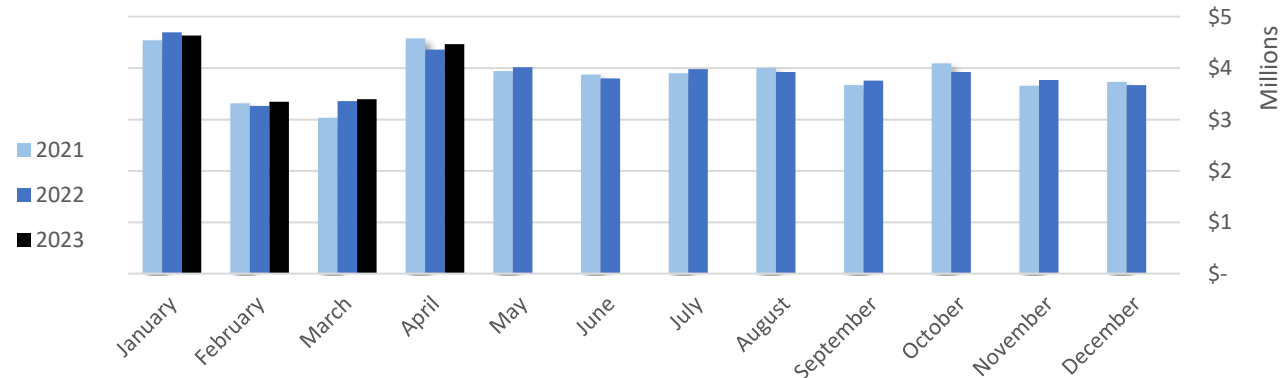
3%

Apr 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, May 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.

April

April  36%

Apr YoY  -19%

Apr YTD  -3%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 1,695,869	\$ 1,580,351	\$ 2,619,955	\$ 2,809,680	\$ 2,267,680
March	\$ 1,293,507	\$ 1,117,939	\$ 1,419,160	\$ 1,616,438	\$ 1,672,950
% Chg over Prev Month	31.1%	41.4%	84.6%	73.8%	35.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		-6.8%	65.8%	7.2%	-19.3%
YTD	\$ 6,063,306	\$ 5,758,383	\$ 7,671,586	\$ 8,317,792	\$ 8,062,014
% Chg over Prev YTD		-5.0%	33.2%	8.4%	-3.1%


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


Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. May 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.

April

April 
27%

Apr YoY 
-11%

Apr YTD 
-7%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 308,022	\$ 296,018	\$ 194,612	\$ 409,937	\$ 365,961
March	\$ 236,649	\$ 243,753	\$ 259,727	\$ 312,487	\$ 287,476
% Chg over Prev Month	30.2%	21.4%	-25.1%	31.2%	27.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		-3.9%	-34.3%	110.6%	-10.7%
YTD	\$ 1,024,453	\$ 1,082,973	\$ 1,132,938	\$ 1,391,504	\$ 1,288,839
% Chg over Prev YTD		5.7%	4.6%	22.8%	-7.4%


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


Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. May 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.

April

April 
34%

Apr YoY 
11%

Apr YTD 
15%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 537,328	\$ 1,777,183	\$ 677,357	\$ 751,935
March	\$ 384,586	\$ 464,418	\$ 513,165	\$ 560,815
% Chg over Prev Month	39.7%	282.7%	32.0%	34.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		230.7%	-61.9%	11.0%
YTD	\$ 1,893,483	\$ 3,366,603	\$ 2,472,470	\$ 2,842,085
% Chg over Prev YTD		77.8%	-26.6%	14.9%


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


Data Source: Catahoula Parish Tax Administrator, May 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.

April

April 
21%

Apr YoY 
17%

Apr YTD 
17%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 1,133,026	\$ 1,457,521	\$ 1,490,005	\$ 1,744,164
March	\$ 849,605	\$ 921,494	\$ 1,160,011	\$ 1,441,000
% Chg over Prev Month	33.4%	58.2%	28.4%	21.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		28.6%	2.2%	17.1%
YTD	\$ 4,044,789	\$ 4,901,836	\$ 5,317,312	\$ 6,213,358
% Chg over Prev YTD		21.2%	8.5%	16.9%


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


Data Source: Concordia Parish Tax Administrator. May 2023


EVANGELINE SALES TAX

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

April

April 
20%

Apr YoY 
-22%

Apr YTD 
-5%


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 1,790,920	\$ 1,760,760	\$ 2,940,437	\$ 3,530,399	\$ 2,757,842
March	\$ 1,371,683	\$ 1,323,124	\$ 1,562,969	\$ 2,119,514	\$ 2,298,775
% Chg over Prev Month	30.6%	33.1%	88.1%	66.6%	20.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		-1.7%	67.0%	20.1%	-21.9%
YTD	\$ 4,584,316	\$ 4,541,576	\$ 6,111,638	\$ 7,735,305	\$ 7,384,535
% Chg over Prev YTD		-0.9%	34.6%	26.6%	-4.5%


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. May 2023

EVANGELINE VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

April 
27%

Apr YoY 
16%

Apr YTD 
18%

April

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 310,254	\$ 303,815	\$ 424,161	\$ 418,281	\$ 486,663
March	\$ 259,766	\$ 261,498	\$ 274,428	\$ 359,573	\$ 382,655
% Chg over Prev Month	19.4%	16.2%	54.6%	16.3%	27.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		-2.1%	39.6%	-1.4%	16.3%
YTD	\$ 917,695	\$ 886,190	\$ 1,057,116	\$ 1,152,499	\$ 1,363,348
% Chg over Prev YTD		-3.4%	19.3%	9.0%	18.3%

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. May 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.

April



45%

Apr YoY



6%

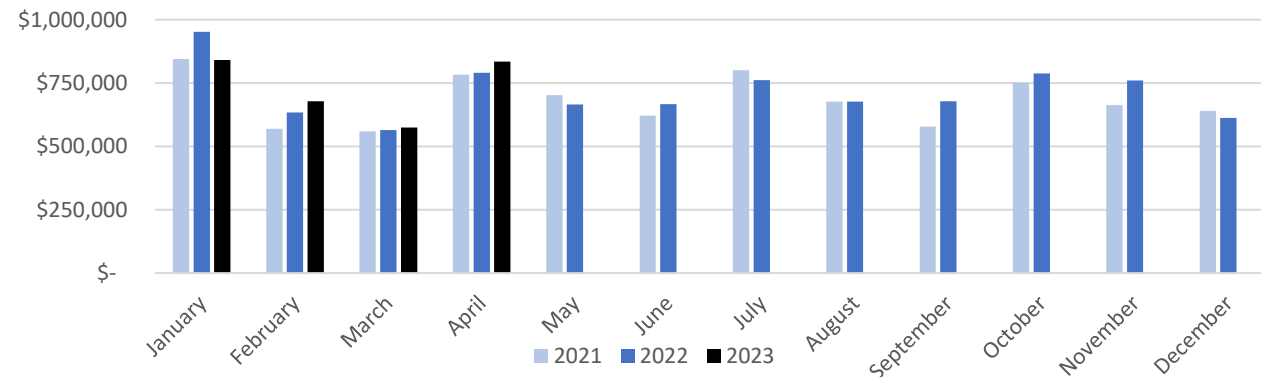
Apr YTD

0%

April

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 569,362	\$ 783,423	\$ 790,204	\$ 834,977
March	\$ 395,597	\$ 560,157	\$ 564,651	\$ 574,924
% Chg over Prev Month	43.9%	39.9%	39.9%	45.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		37.6%	0.9%	5.7%
YTD	\$ 2,078,520	\$ 2,758,413	\$ 2,940,992	\$ 2,929,377
% Chg over Prev YTD		32.7%	6.6%	-0.4%

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, May 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.

April

April 
103%

Apr YoY 
53%

Apr YTD 
14%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 1,192,251	\$ 1,111,808	\$ 1,215,855	\$ 1,859,236
March	\$ 721,926	\$ 834,953	\$ 942,586	\$ 914,085
% Chg over Prev Month	65.1%	33.2%	29.0%	103.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		-6.7%	9.4%	52.9%
YTD	\$ 3,665,148	\$ 3,964,025	\$ 4,509,460	\$ 5,155,734
% Chg over Prev YTD		-23.1%	13.8%	14.3%

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

Data Source: La Salle Parish Tax Administrator, May 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.

April

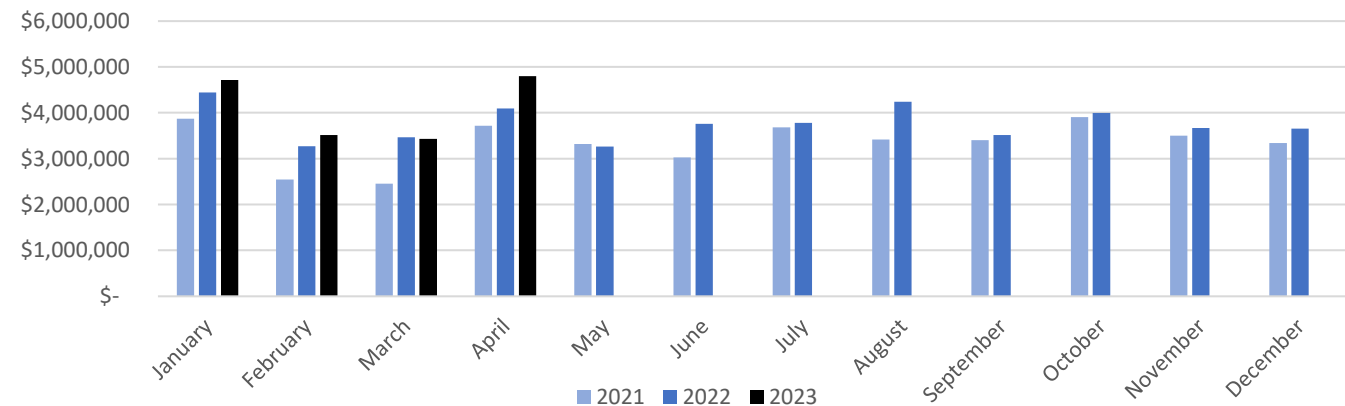
	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 2,914,039	\$ 3,718,739	\$ 4,090,820	\$ 4,796,751
March	\$ 2,353,228	\$ 2,457,642	\$ 3,463,007	\$ 3,429,240
% Chg over Prev Month	23.8%	51.3%	18.1%	39.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		27.6%	10.0%	17.3%
YTD	\$ 11,288,108	\$ 12,595,008	\$ 15,267,351	\$16,460,000
% Chg over Prev YTD		11.6%	21.2%	7.8%

April  40%

Apr YoY  17%

Apr YTD  8%

Natchitoches Parish Sales Tax Revenue
2021-2023



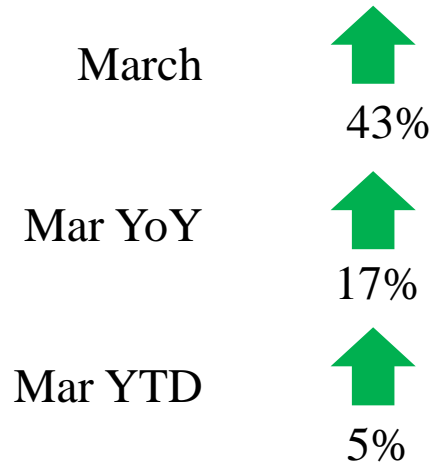
Note: Current month sales tax revenue collections reflects sales activity in the prior month.

Data Source: Natchitoches Parish Tax Commission, May 2023.

NATCHITOCHESES VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

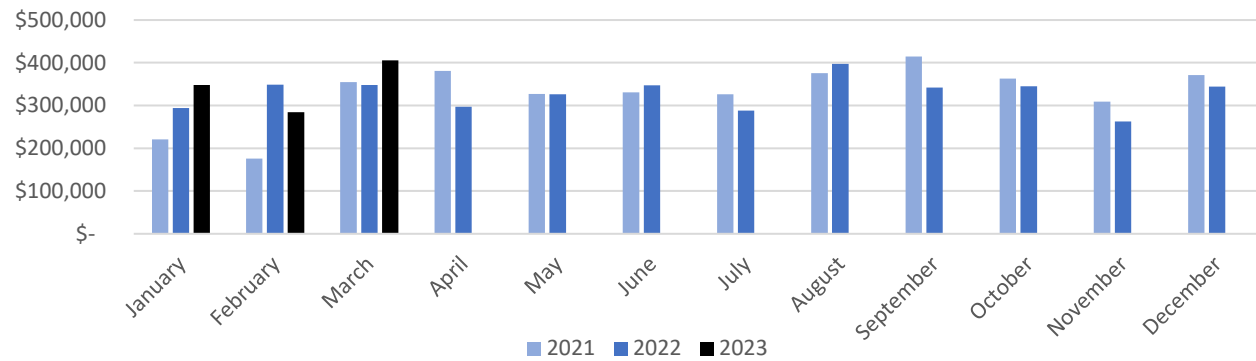
(BR) Natchitoches monthly vehicle sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.



*March**

	2020	2021	2022	2023
March	\$ 271,863	\$ 354,670	\$ 348,287	\$ 405,662
February	\$ 257,229	\$ 175,916	\$ 348,306	\$ 284,141
% Chg over Prev Month	5.7%	101.6%	0.0%	42.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		30.5%	-1.8%	16.5%
YTD	\$ 784,566	\$ 751,230	\$ 990,310	\$1,037,454
% Chg over Prev YTD		-4.2%	31.8%	4.8%

Natchitoches Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue
2021-2023



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

April

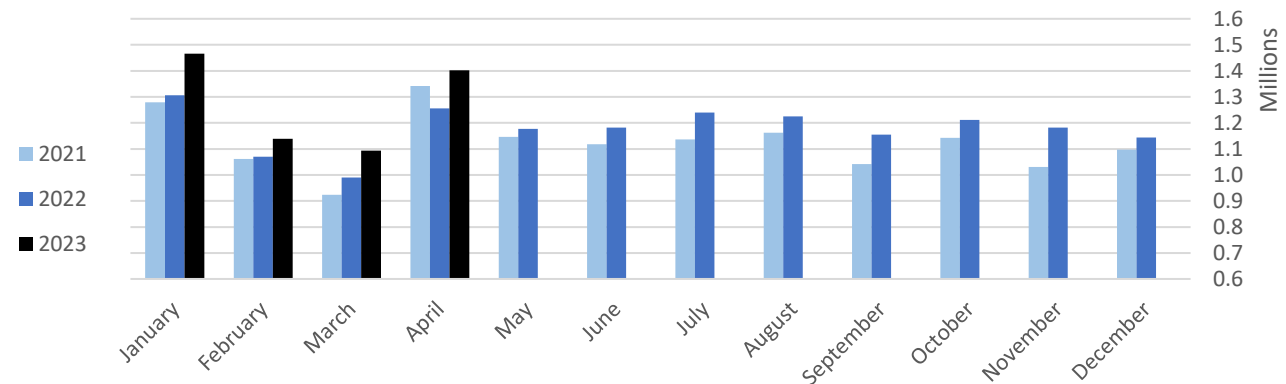
	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 1,022,196	\$ 1,341,110	\$ 1,255,368	\$ 1,402,135
March	\$ 827,923	\$ 923,448	\$ 990,528	\$ 1,093,823
% Chg over Prev Month	23.5%	45.2%	26.7%	28.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		31.2%	-6.4%	11.7%
YTD	\$ 3,952,811	\$ 4,604,295	\$ 4,621,780	\$ 5,100,883
% Chg over Prev YTD		16.5%	0.4%	10.4%

April 
28%

Apr YoY 
12%

Apr YTD 
10%

Pineville Sales Tax Revenue
2021-2023



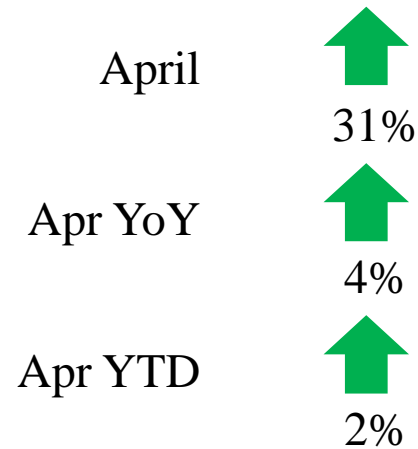
Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.

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

RAPIDES SALES TAX

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

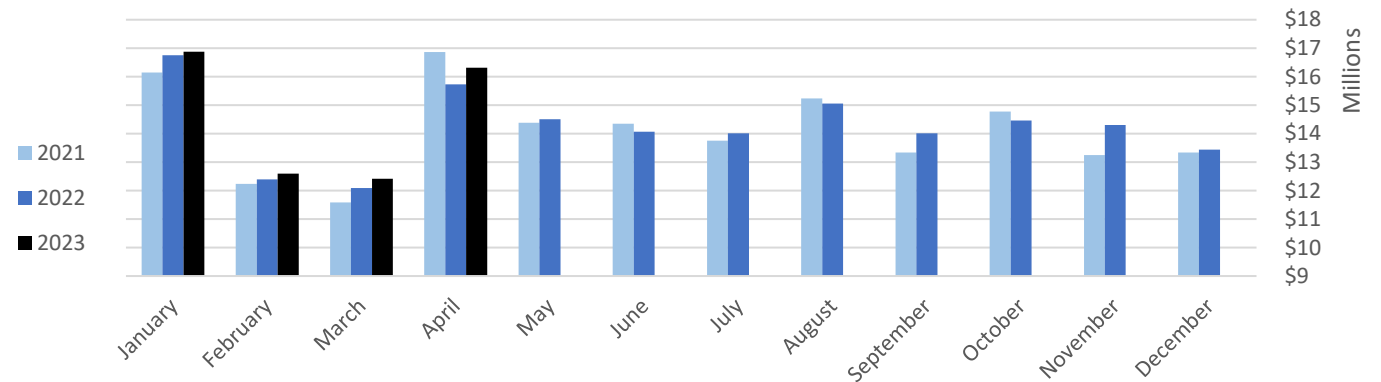
(BR) Rapides monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.



April

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 11,623,165	\$ 16,857,286	\$ 15,727,641	\$ 16,308,922
March	\$ 10,102,203	\$ 11,580,922	\$ 12,092,263	\$ 12,411,157
% Chg over Prev Month	15.1%	45.6%	30.1%	31.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		45.0%	-6.7%	3.7%
YTD	\$ 46,870,722	\$ 56,821,287	\$ 56,958,244	\$ 58,190,816
% Chg over Prev YTD		21.2%	0.2%	2.2%

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, May 2023.


RAPIDES VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

April

April 
36%

Apr YoY 
1%

Apr YTD 
2%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 1,516,979	\$ 2,084,760	\$ 1,527,439	\$ 1,539,297
March	\$ 1,044,076	\$ 1,602,681	\$ 1,225,393	\$ 1,128,778
% Chg over Prev Month	45.3%	30.1%	24.6%	36.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		37.4%	-26.7%	0.8%
YTD	\$ 4,774,448	\$ 6,338,862	\$ 5,236,639	\$ 5,331,889
% Chg over Prev YTD		32.8%	-17.4%	1.8%


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


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


ST. LANDRY SALES TAX

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

April

April 
29%

Apr YoY 
1%

Apr YTD 
4%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 6,520,588	\$ 8,410,439	\$ 8,638,042	\$ 8,699,307
March	\$ 5,181,543	\$ 5,712,925	\$ 6,591,040	\$ 6,725,779
% Chg over Prev Month	25.8%	47.2%	31.1%	29.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		29.0%	2.7%	0.7%
YTD	\$ 25,073,983	\$ 28,126,314	\$ 30,105,756	\$ 31,315,498
% Chg over Prev YTD		12.2%	7.0%	4.0%


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

April

April 
39%

Apr YoY 
14%

Apr YTD 
10%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 840,492	\$ 1,139,936	\$ 1,001,116	\$ 1,138,399
March	\$ 706,995	\$ 705,239	\$ 759,315	\$ 819,029
% Chg over Prev Month	18.9%	61.6%	31.8%	39.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		35.6%	-12.2%	13.7%
YTD	\$ 3,344,298	\$ 3,642,667	\$ 3,574,659	\$ 3,922,452
% Chg over Prev YTD		8.9%	-1.9%	9.7%


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


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


VERNON SALES TAX

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

April

April 
41%

Apr YoY 
5%


Apr YTD 
6%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 2,391,293	\$ 3,296,983	\$ 3,486,113	\$ 3,653,719
March	\$ 2,051,827	\$ 2,399,290	\$ 2,519,268	\$ 2,595,375
% Chg over Prev Month	16.5%	37.4%	38.4%	40.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		37.9%	5.7%	4.8%
YTD	\$ 8,968,271	\$11,132,514	\$11,786,048	\$12,433,784
% Chg over Prev YTD		24.1%	5.9%	5.5%

VERNON VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

April

April 
26%

Apr YoY 
-2%

Apr YTD 0%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 450,049	\$ 663,831	\$ 551,386	\$ 539,755
March	\$ 384,478	\$ 397,615	\$ 493,410	\$ 428,560
% Chg over Prev Month	17.1%	67.0%	11.8%	25.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		47.5%	-16.9%	-2.1%
YTD	\$ 1,718,307	\$ 2,133,546	\$ 2,014,342	\$ 2,016,143
% Chg over Prev YTD		24.2%	-5.6%	0.1%

REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE BY PARISH

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

	Apr-23	Mar-23	Apr-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Allen	\$ 80,383	\$ 67,735	\$ 72,103	19%	11%	17%
Avoyelles	\$ 113,088	\$ 99,755	\$ 113,278	13%	0%	15%
Catahoula	\$ 54,923	\$ 36,777	\$ 39,228	49%	40%	26%
Concordia	\$ 53,129	\$ 50,666	\$ 52,492	5%	1%	15%
Evangeline	\$ 111,695	\$ 114,307	\$ 142,153	-2%	-21%	22%
Grant	\$ 62,248	\$ 53,396	\$ 56,774	17%	10%	16%
LaSalle	\$ 44,401	\$ 48,501	\$ 44,057	-8%	1%	21%
Natchitoches	\$ 115,865	\$ 122,221	\$ 131,813	-5%	-12%	12%
Rapides	\$ 465,589	\$ 449,187	\$ 507,674	4%	-8%	18%
St Landry	\$ 325,525	\$ 316,765	\$ 311,254	3%	5%	18%
Vernon	\$ 206,507	\$ 179,299	\$ 187,846	15%	10%	14%
Total (Cenla)	\$ 1,633,353	\$ 1,538,609	\$ 1,658,672	6%	-2%	17%

✓ Total online sales tax revenue in Cenla in April 2023 was up 6% from March, but down -2% from April 2022.

✓ Online sales in Cenla during the first four months of 2023 were up 17% compared to the same period in 2022.

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

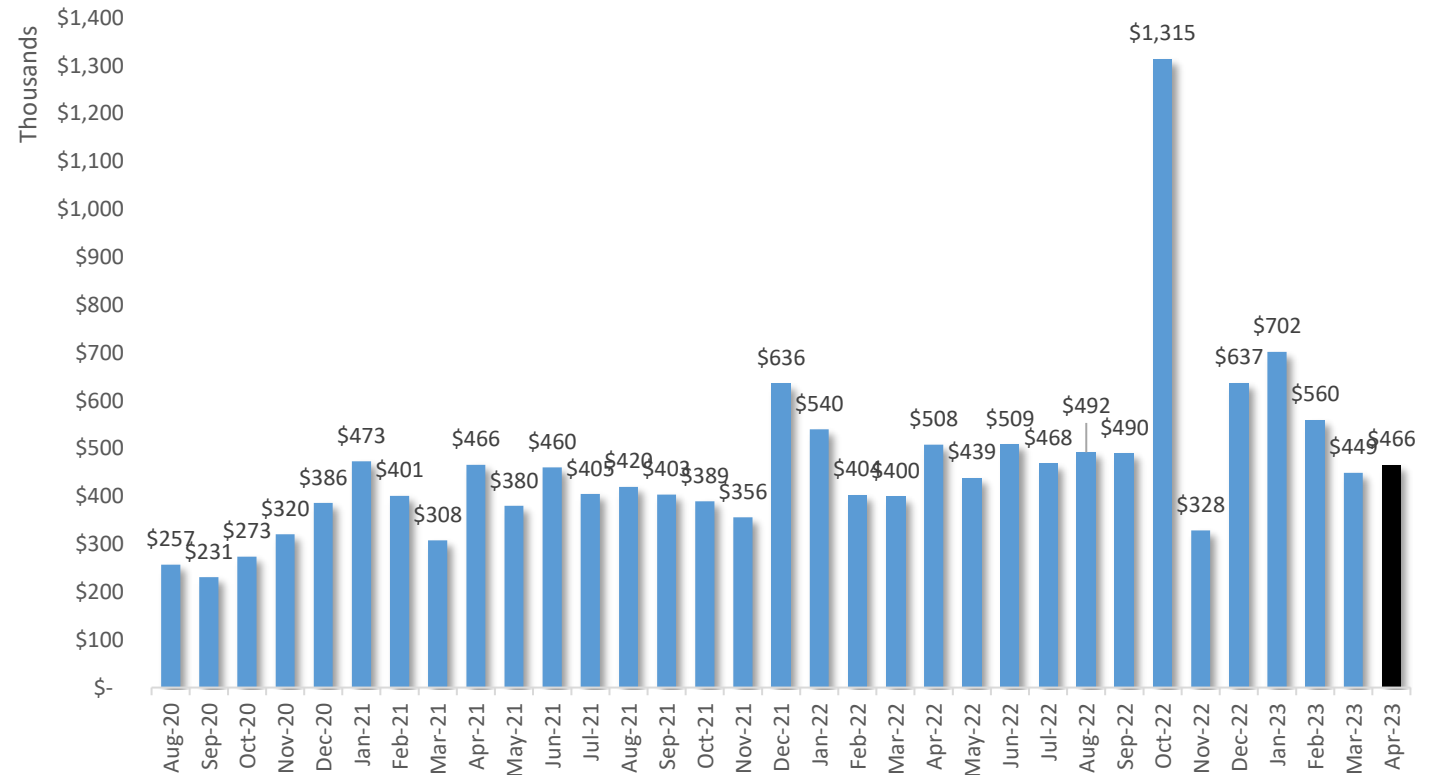
Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – April 2023

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, \$50 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 \$15.3 million in tax revenues, Vernon \$5.8 million, Natchitoches \$3.9 million, Evangeline \$3.7 million, and Avoyelles \$3.4 million.

Rapides Parish
2020 - 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 – April 2023

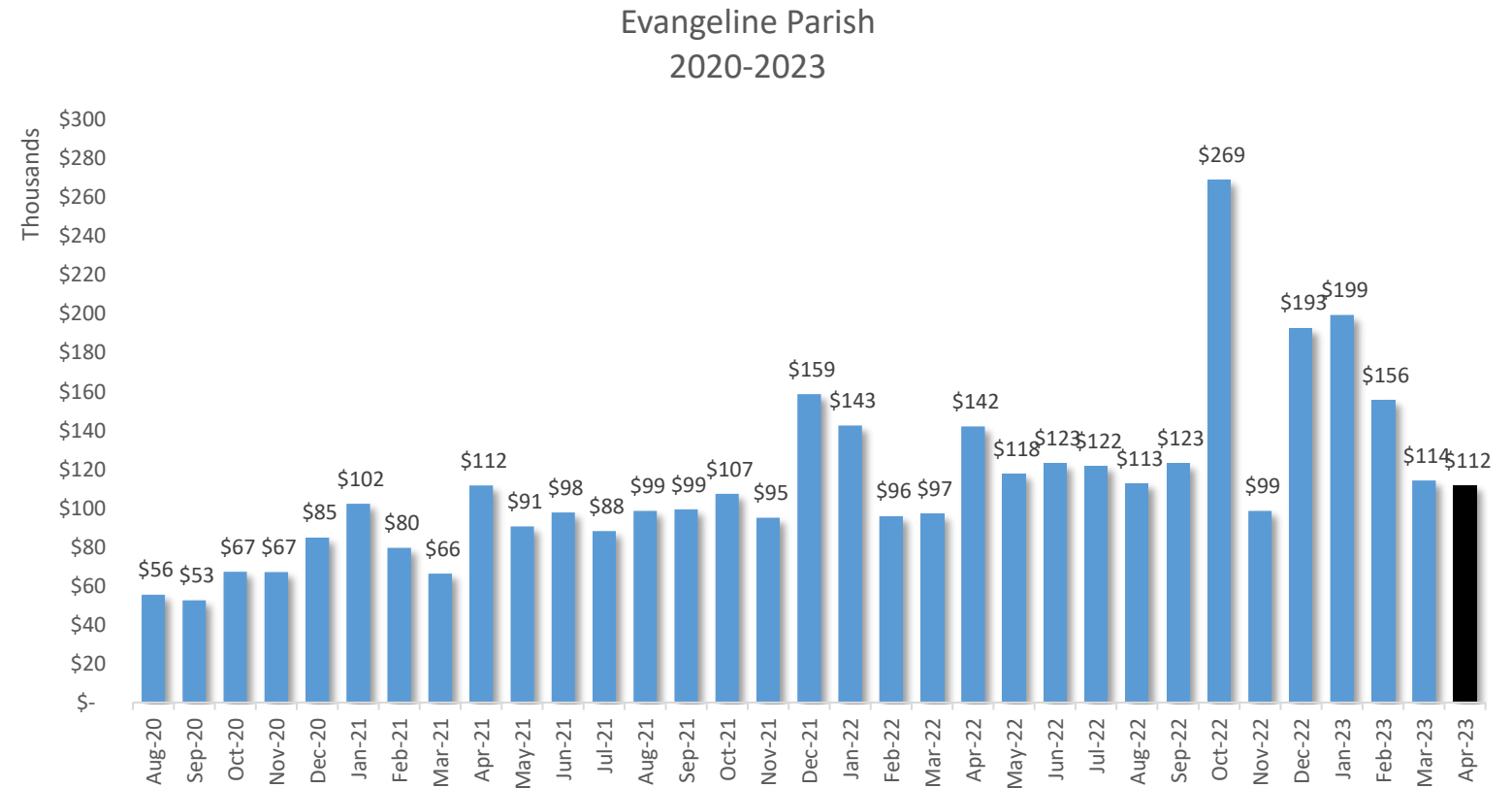
REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN EVANGELINE

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

April  -2%

Apr YoY  21%

Apr YTD  22%





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 – April 2023

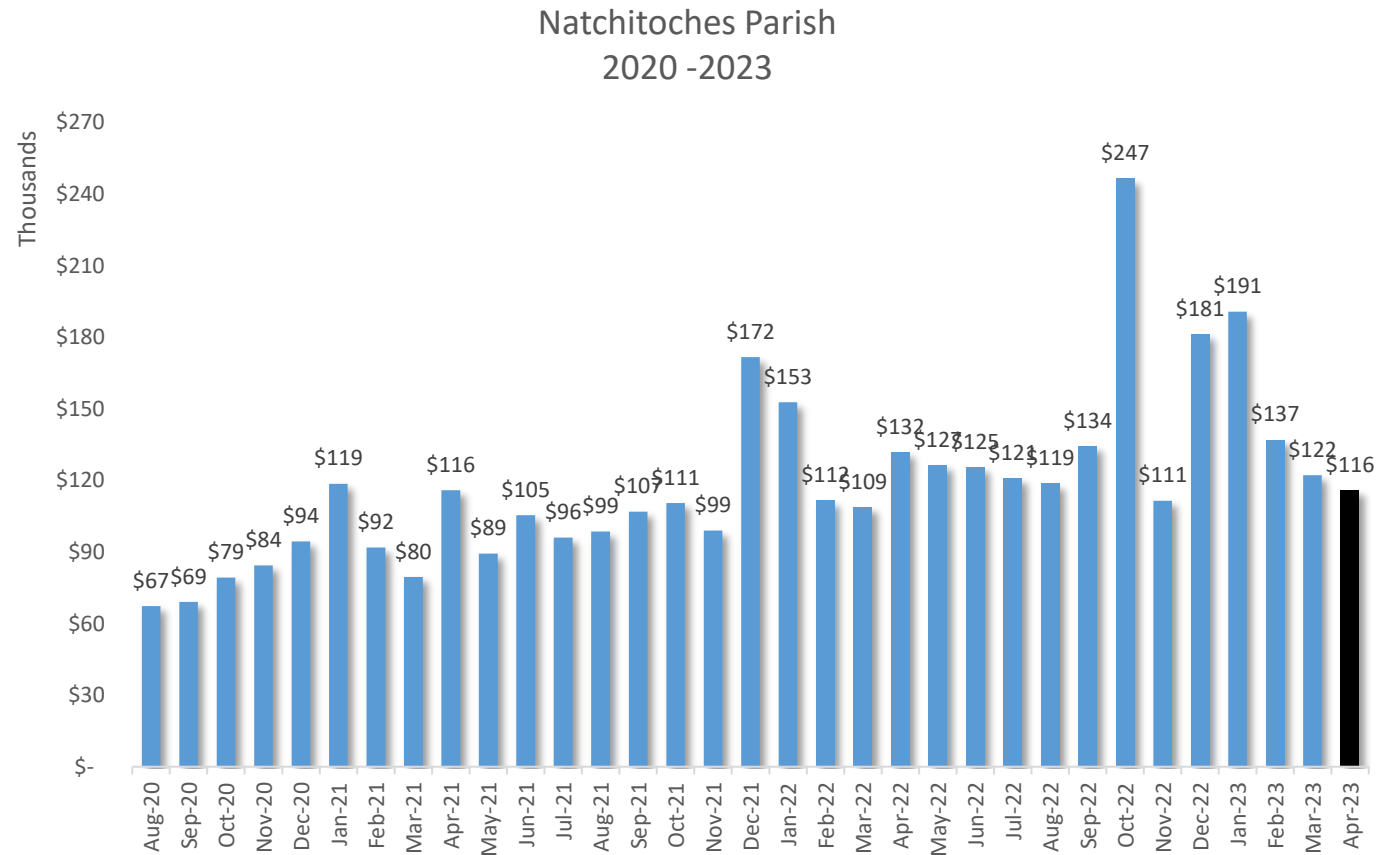
REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN NATCHITOCHESES

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

April  -5%

Apr YoY  -12%

Apr YTD  12%




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 – April 2023


REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN RAPIDES

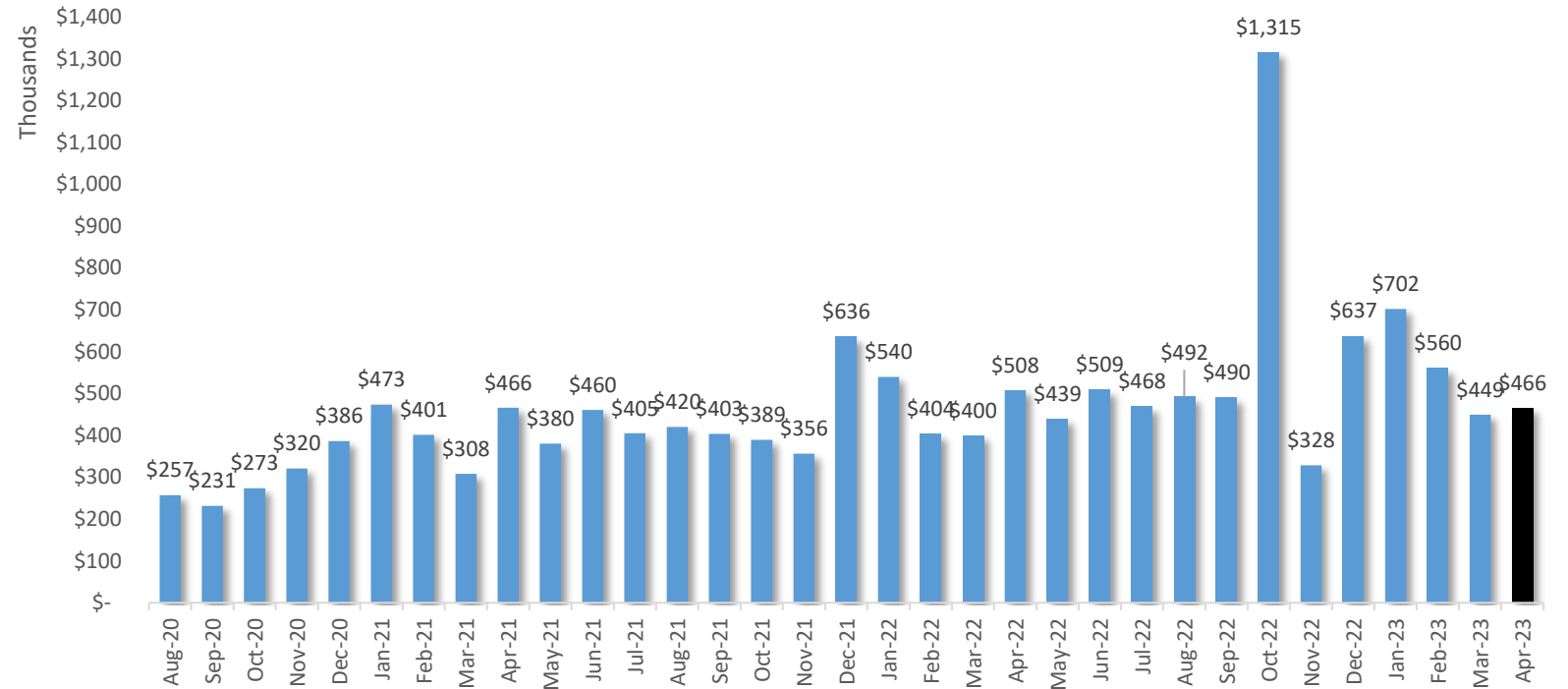
Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Rapides Parish from August 2020 – April 2023.

Rapides Parish
2020 - 2023

April 
4%

Apr YoY 
-8%

Apr YTD 
18%



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 – April 2023

Permits & Housing

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

CENLA PERMIT VALUATIONS

This table shows the valuation of permits issued in March and April 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.

April

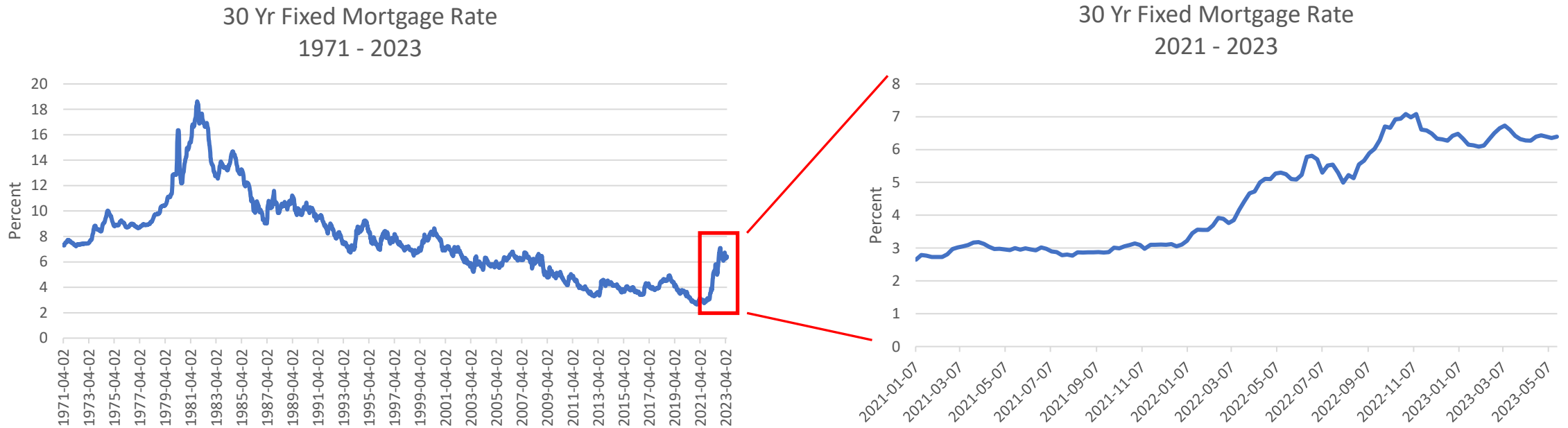
	Apr-23	Mar-23	Apr-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Alexandria - Commercial	\$ 3,227,034	\$ 2,056,278	\$ 707,365	57%	356%	-15.0%
Alexandria - Residential	\$ 796,300	\$ 777,800	\$ 781,597	2%	2%	-48.5%
Avoyelles	\$13,403,538	\$ 7,908,604	\$ 5,697,920	69%	135%	-53.9%
Evangeline	\$ 1,982,586	\$ 1,915,500	\$ 3,345,938	4%	-41%	-37.4%
City of Natchitoches	\$ 199,808	\$ 967,691	\$ 9,310,381	-79%	-98%	4.2%
Natchitoches Parish	\$ 1,476,400	\$ 2,616,711	\$ 3,198,336	-44%	-54%	-8.9%
Pineville	\$ 578,321	\$ 2,591,980	\$ 1,676,047	-78%	-65%	-36.0%
Rapides	\$ 5,130,519	\$ 4,448,568	\$ 5,753,000	15%	-11%	-6.5%
Total	\$22,771,172	\$20,449,054	\$28,981,622	11%	-21%	-31.4%

Note: N/A = not available.

Data Source: Rapides Area Planning Commission, City of Alexandria, Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, May 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 May 18, 2023 was 6.39%.

LUMBER PRICES

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

- In April 2023, the US Lumber Price Index fell -1% from March.
- Currently, the Lumber Index stands -32% below a year ago when it stood at 385.



ACTIVE LISTINGS BY MSA

The count of active single-family and condo/townhome listings from January 2020- April 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



59%

Leesville



23%

Natchitoches



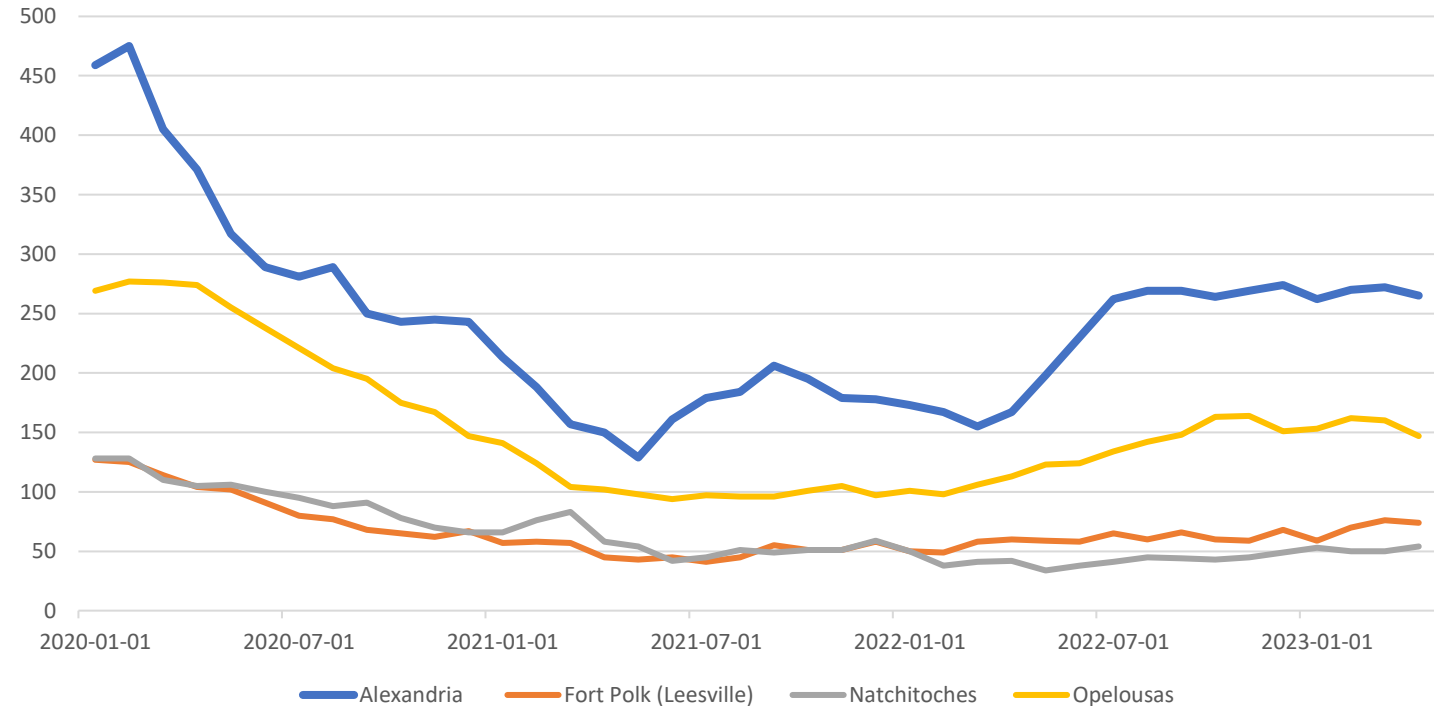
29%

Opelousas



30%

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 – April 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



40%

Leesville



36%

Natchitoches



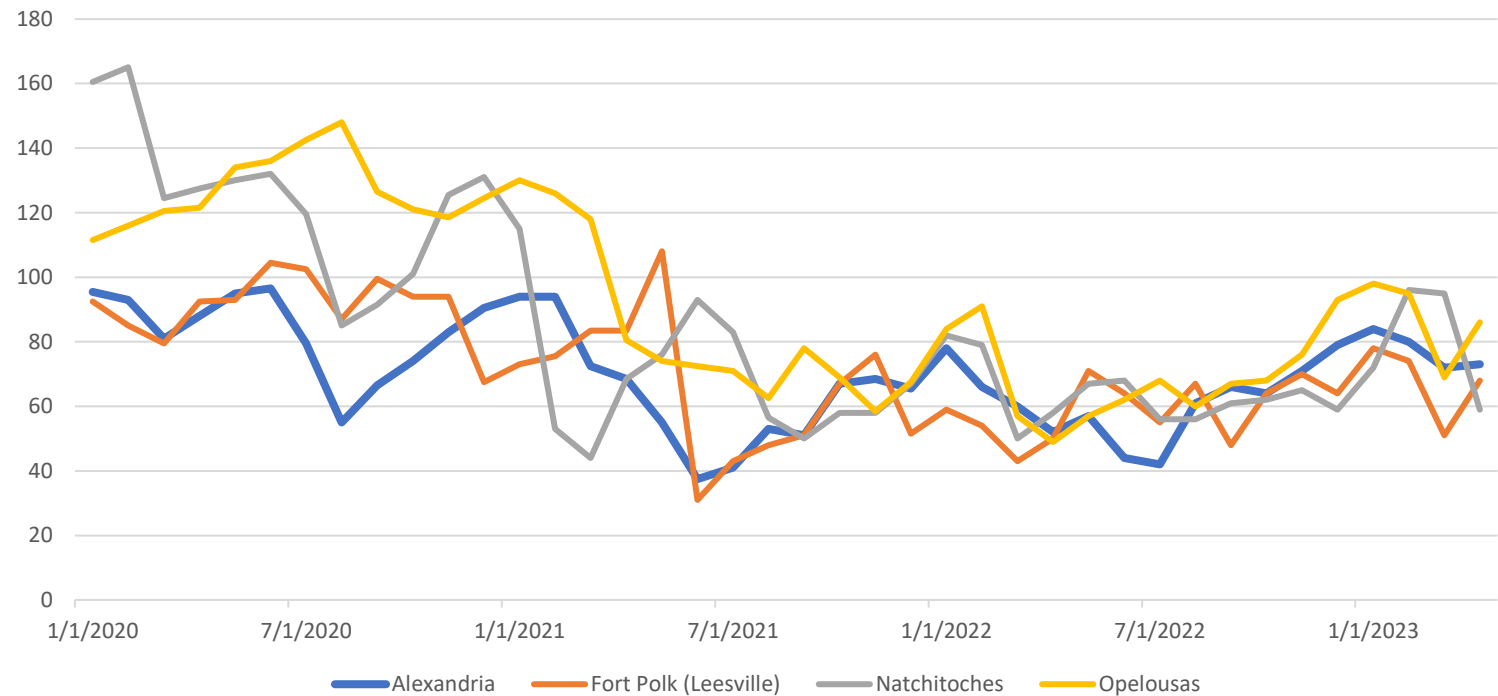
2%

Opelousas



76%

Median Days on Market
2020-2023



MEDIAN LISTING PRICE BY MSA

The median listing price of houses from January 2020 - April 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



3%

Leesville



65%

Natchitoches

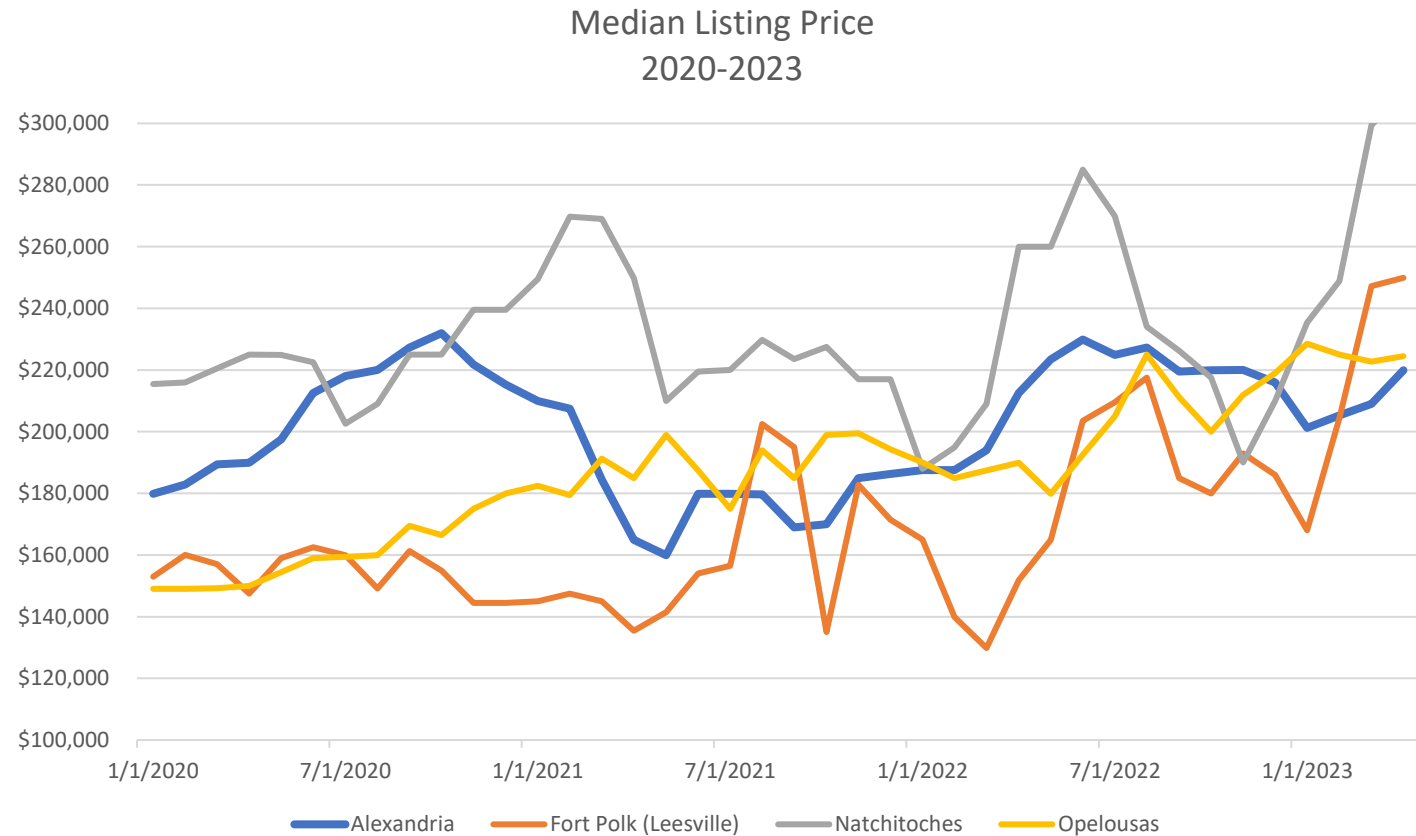


19%

Opelousas



18%



AVERAGE LISTING PRICE BY MSA

The average listing price of houses from January 2020 - April 2023 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



8%

Leesville



17%

Natchitoches

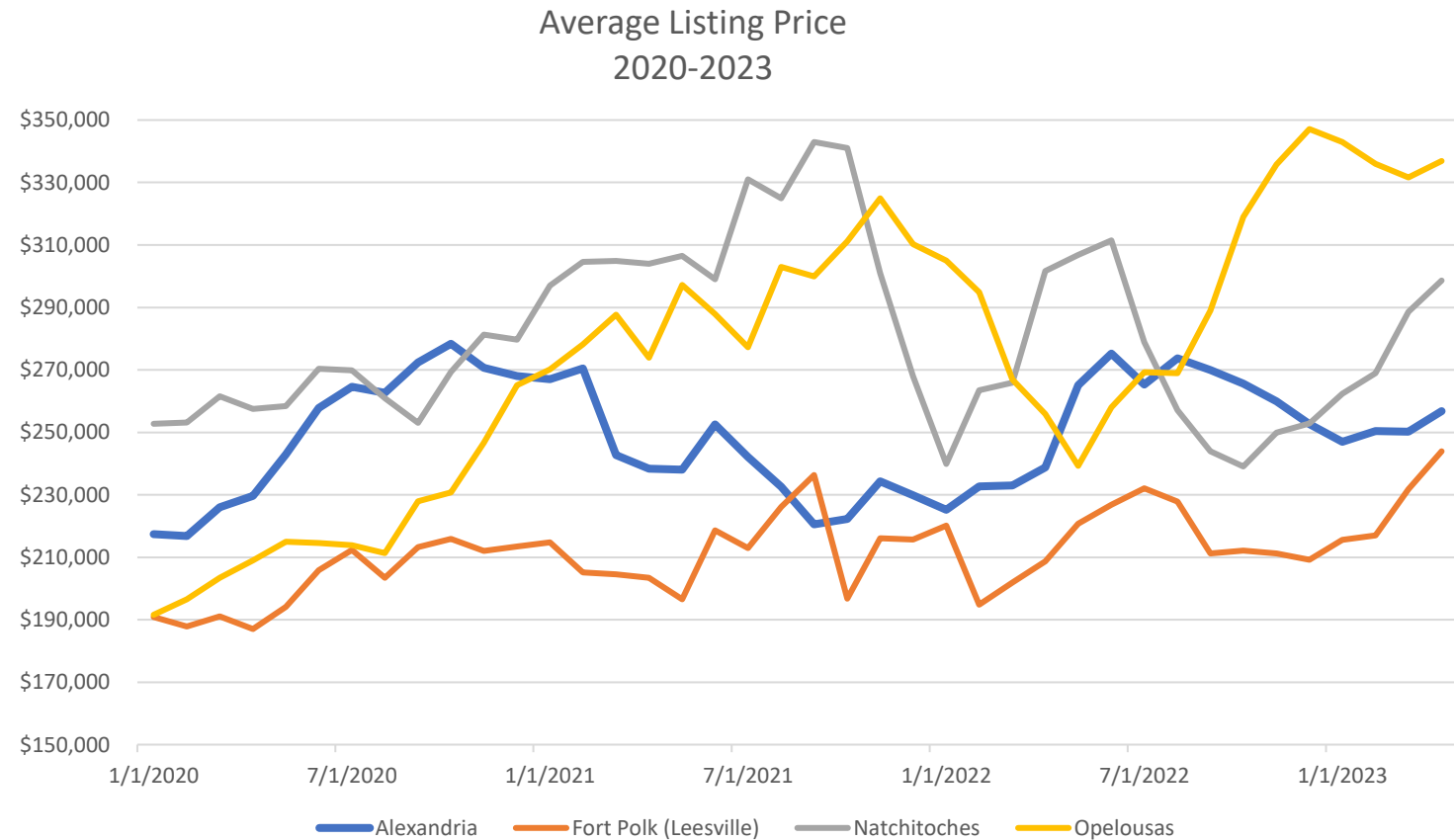


-1%

Opelousas



32%




Travel


Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard


AVOYELLES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

April

April 
13%

Apr YoY 
-27%

Apr YTD 
-3%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 12,256	\$ 12,880	\$ 12,672	\$ 12,584	\$ 9,190
March	\$ 8,137	\$ 3,369	\$ 12,468	\$ 8,829	\$ 8,133
% Chg over Prev Month	50.6%	282.2%	1.6%	42.5%	13.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		5.1%	-1.6%	-0.7%	-27.0%
YTD	\$ 35,371	\$ 33,142	\$ 35,170	\$ 34,049	\$ 33,092
% Chg over Prev YTD		-6.3%	6.1%	-3.2%	-2.8%


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. May 2023.


NATCHITOCHESES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

April

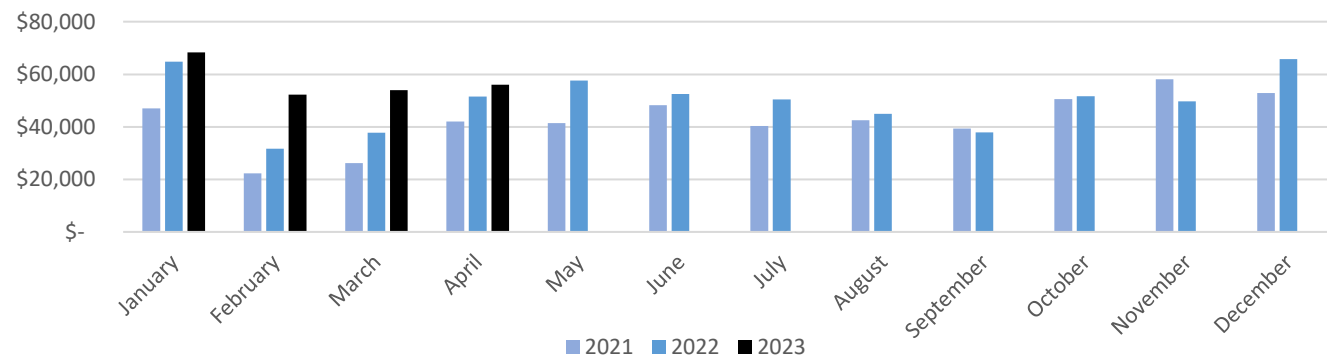
April 
4%

Apr YoY 
9%

Apr YTD 
24%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 19,577	\$ 42,089	\$ 51,511	\$ 56,043
March	\$ 27,438	\$ 26,266	\$ 37,849	\$ 53,989
% Chg over Prev Month	-28.7%	60.2%	36.1%	3.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		115.0%	22.4%	8.8%
YTD	\$ 124,857	\$ 137,723	\$ 185,953	\$ 230,685
% Chg over Prev YTD		10.3%	35.0%	24.1%

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, May 2023.


RAPIDES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

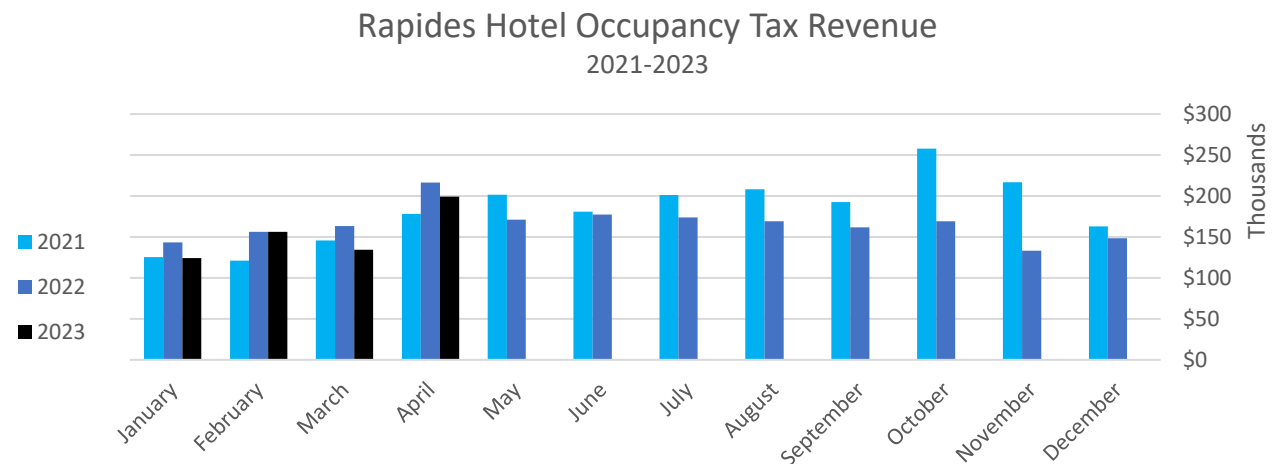
April

April 
49%

Apr YoY 
-8%

Apr YTD 
-10%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 81,343	\$ 178,228	\$ 216,216	\$ 199,238
March	\$ 111,228	\$ 145,466	\$ 163,396	\$ 134,138
% Chg over Prev Month	-26.9%	22.5%	32.3%	48.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		119.1%	21.3%	-7.9%
YTD	\$ 504,101	\$ 570,026	\$ 679,244	\$ 613,683
% Chg over Prev YTD		13.1%	19.2%	-9.7%




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, May 2023.


VERNON HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

April

April 
14%

Apr YoY 
28%

Apr YTD 
27%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	\$ 22,675	\$ 12,195	\$ 31,404	\$ 25,594	\$ 32,783
March	\$ 22,347	\$ 22,343	\$ 26,878	\$ 24,482	\$ 28,888
% Chg over Prev Month	1.5%	-45.4%	16.8%	4.5%	13.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		-46.2%	157.5%	-18.5%	28.1%
YTD	\$ 77,990	\$ 73,405	\$ 107,307	\$ 88,276	\$ 112,063
% Chg over Prev YTD		-5.9%	46.2%	-17.7%	26.9%

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. May 2023.

GULF COAST RETAIL GASOLINE PRICE

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

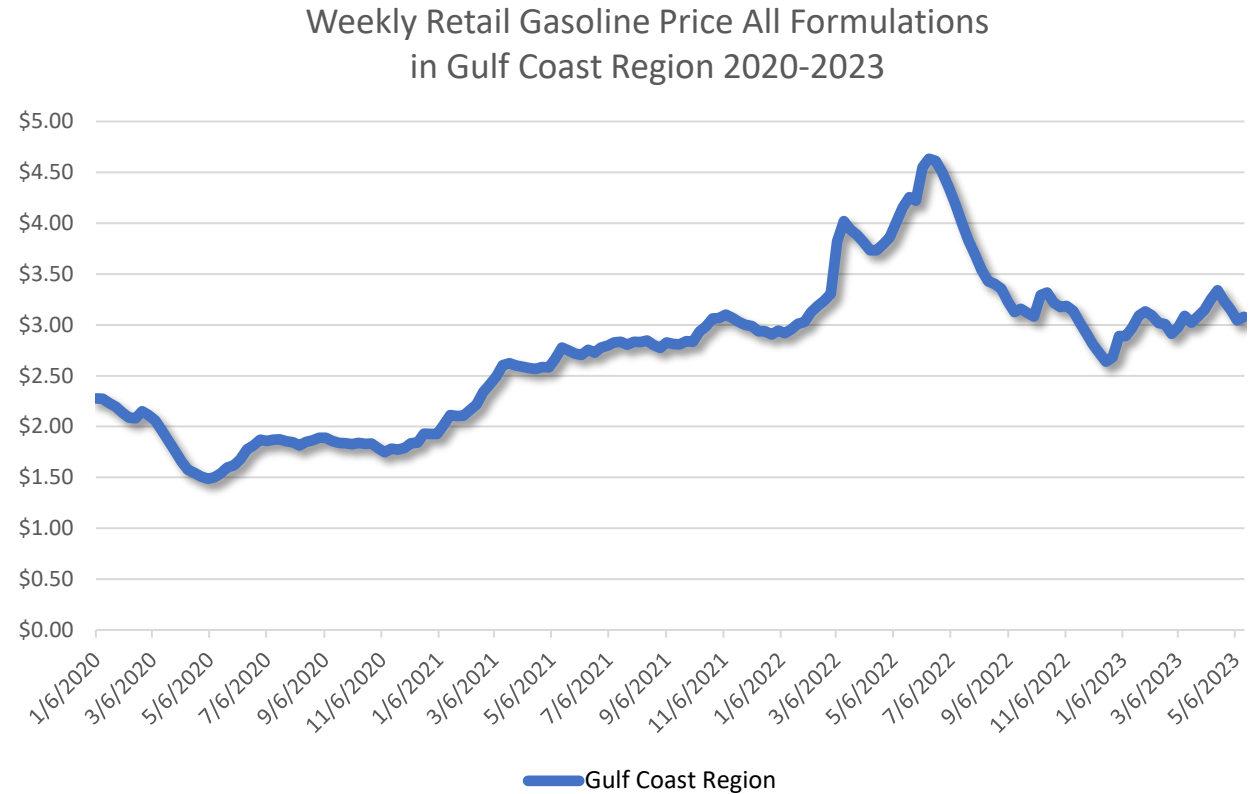
April

↑
9%

Apr YoY

↓
-14%

- April 2023 average retail gasoline price in Gulf Coast region was \$3.24/gal., up \$0.26 from March, but down \$0.53 from April 2022.

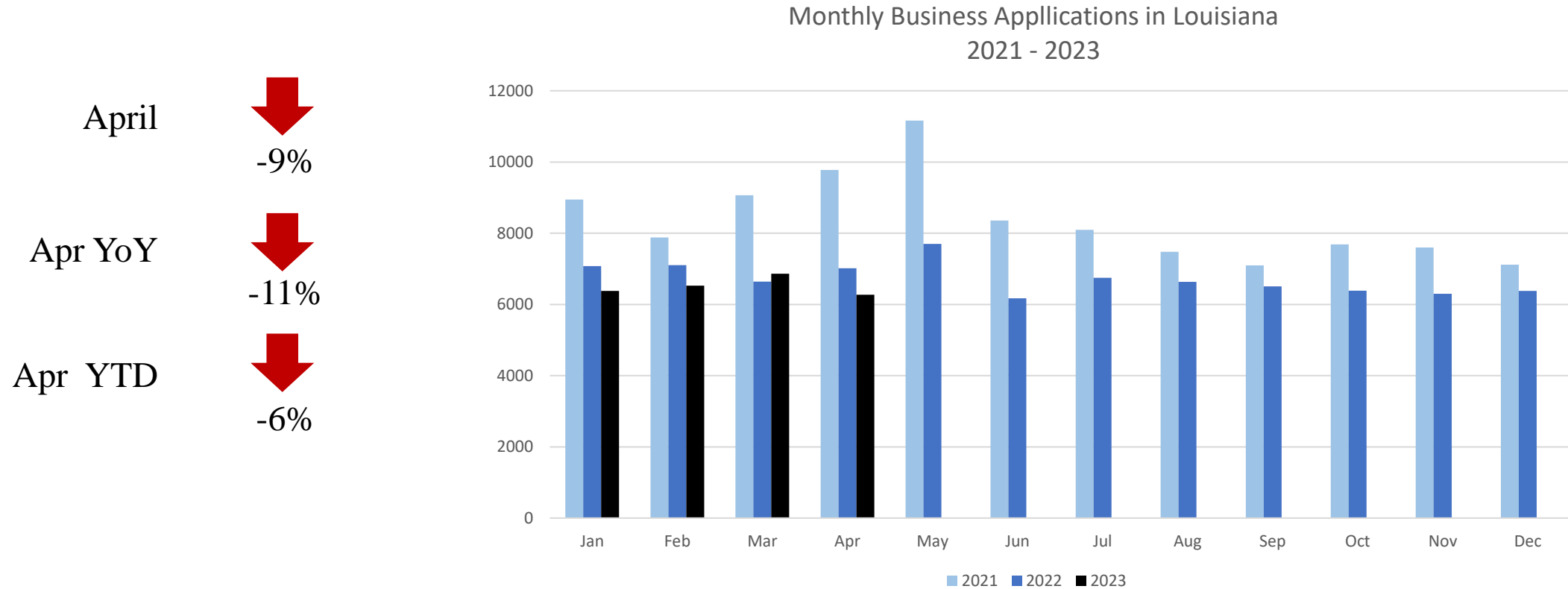


Local & Louisiana

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 May 17, 2023.

NEW BUSINESSES IN RAPIDES

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

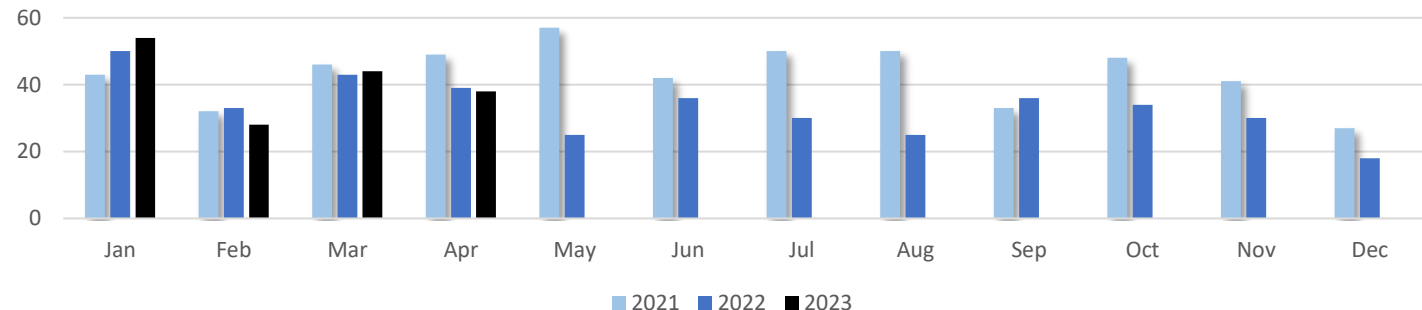
April

- The number of new businesses established in Rapides in April 2023 decreased -14% from March and was -3% lower than a year ago.

- ✓ Year-to-date, 164 new businesses have been created in Rapides in 2023, compared to 165 last year.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
April	30	19	49	39	38
March	45	30	46	43	44
% Chg Prev Month	-33.3%	-36.7%	6.5%	-9.3%	-13.6%
% Chg from Prev Year		-36.7%	157.9%	-20.4%	-2.6%
YTD	149	131	170	165	164
% Chg over Prev YTD		-12.1%	29.8%	-2.9%	-0.6%

New Businesses in Rapides
2021-2023



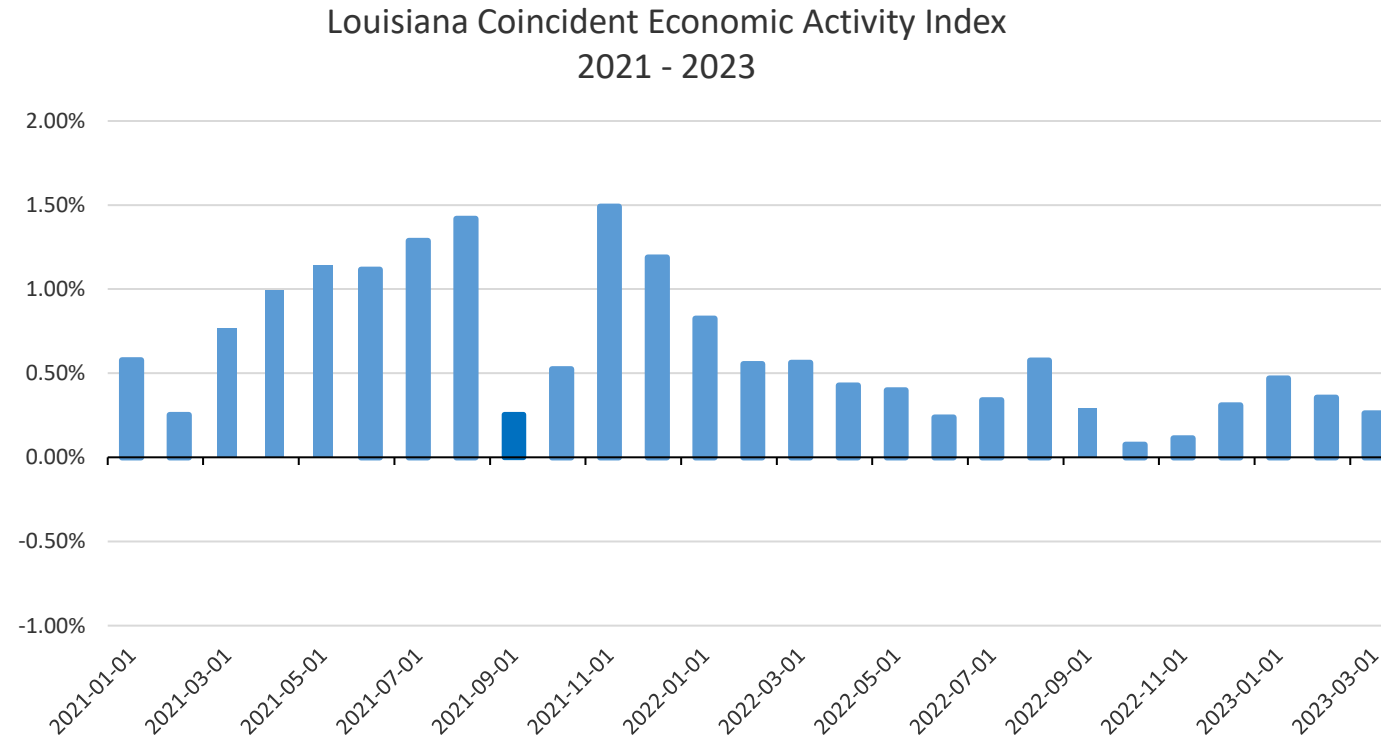
Note: Data reflects businesses established in the current month.

Data Source: Rapides Parish Sales and Use Tax Department, May 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 March and April 2023, the Index rose 0.35% and 0.26% respectively. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia recalibrated the index recently.*
- ✓ *The Index is up 1.9% since March 2022.*



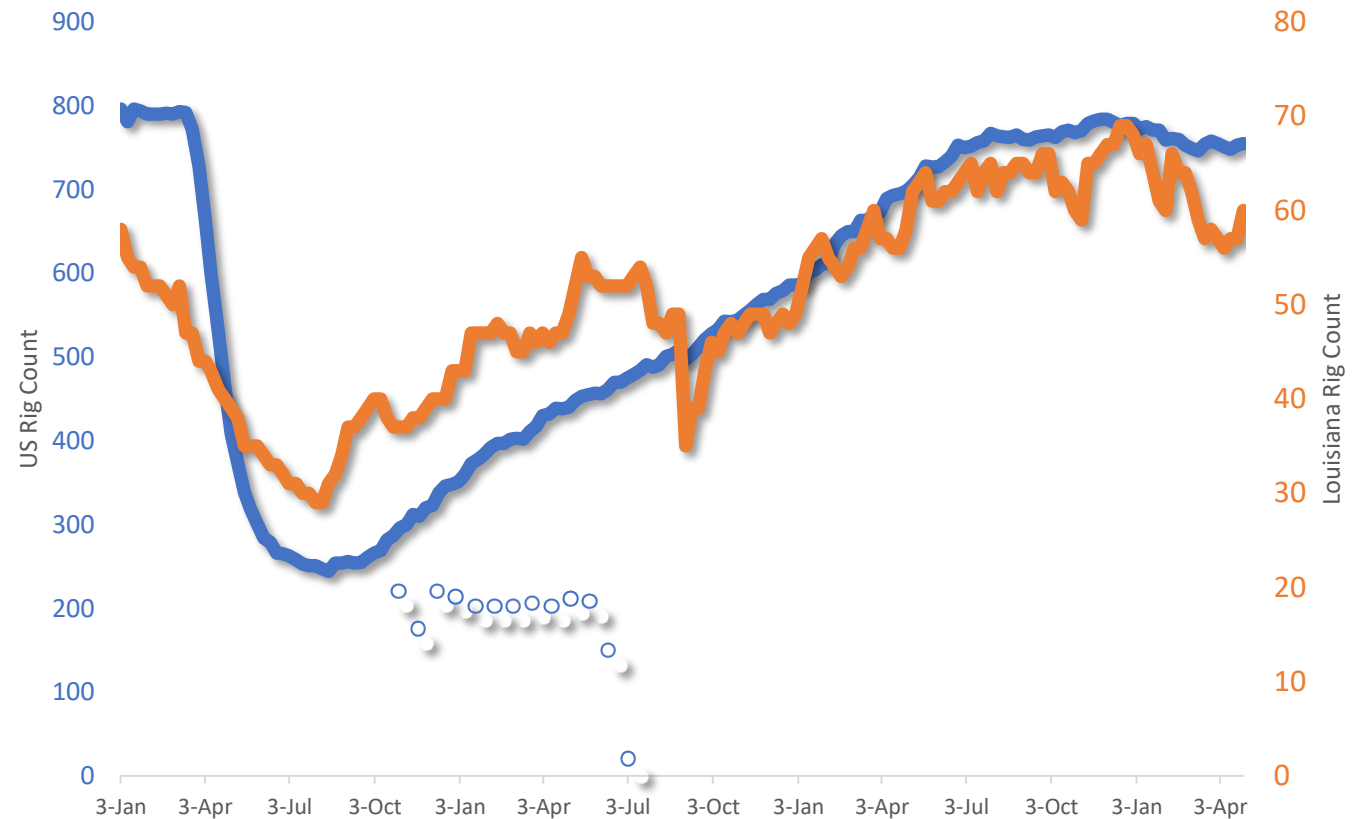
BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNT

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

	Apr 23	Mar 23	Apr 22
Louisiana	58	59	54
US	752	752	690

- ✓ Average rig count in Louisiana in April was down one rig from March but up 4 rigs from a year ago, an increase of 7%.
- ✓ Nationwide, the rig count rose from 690 a year ago to 752 in April 2023, an increase of 9%.


Rig Count in Louisiana & US
2020-2023





LOUISIANA GAMING REVENUE

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

April 2023

April 
-9%

Apr YoY 
-9%

Apr YTD 
1%

	Apr-23	Mar-23	Apr-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Video Poker	\$ 66,462,650	\$ 73,602,852	\$ 73,479,825	-9.7%	-9.5%	-5.2%
Riverboat	\$ 150,846,711	\$ 166,605,157	\$ 161,061,903	-9.5%	-6.3%	1.3%
Landbased	\$ 21,322,082	\$ 22,026,226	\$ 26,994,562	-3.2%	-21.0%	13.6%
Slots	\$ 28,545,257	\$ 29,711,852	\$ 30,764,426	-3.9%	-7.2%	5.9%
Total	\$ 267,176,700	\$291,946,087	\$ 292,300,716	-8.5%	-8.6%	0.9%

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

Data Source: Louisiana Gaming Control Board, May 19, 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 July 24, 2023*

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