

CENTRAL LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DASHBOARD



LSUA[®]

College of

Business

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September 2023

KEY FINDINGS

September 2023

EMPLOYMENT

Although the Alexandria MSA unemployment rate spiked at 4.1% in June as new graduates entered the workforce, by July the rate had dropped to 3.0% with the number employed rising by 543 to 63,509. The unemployment rate in Natchitoches fell from 5.6% in June to 4.2% in July. The rise in the unemployment rate in the summer appears to be seasonal with unemployment rates falling as new graduates find employment.

In July, employment in the Alexandria labor market rose from 62,966 in May to 63,509, while employment in Natchitoches fell from 16,113 in May to 15,575 in July.

Houma-Thibodaux and Lake Charles had the lowest unemployment rate in the state in July at 2.9%, while the rate for Alexandria and Baton Rouge stood at 3.0%.

Louisiana's unemployment rate in July was 3.3%, down from 4.5% in June and 3.9% in May. During that same month, the parishes in central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 3.7%, down from 4.5% a year ago, but above the state unemployment rate.

Alexandria remains the tightest labor market in the state in terms of total job postings and new postings, although it is easing locally and statewide. In July 2023, the Alexandria MSA labor market had a job posting ratio of 0.36, down from 0.39 in May. In other words, there were nearly 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 postings, which stood at 1.00 in July, up from 0.91 in May. This means there were an equal number of new jobs for newly unemployed.

KEY FINDINGS

September 2023

CONSUMER SPENDING

Through August 2023, consumer spending in central Louisiana was ahead or even with last year in all jurisdictions except one, when measured by sales tax revenue. On a month-over-month basis, seven of the 12 jurisdiction in central Louisiana saw increased sales in August over a year ago. Year-to-date through August, consumer spending in Ball was down -0.4%, while Woodworth was up 7.1%.

Year-to-date vehicle sales in Rapides are up only 1% after a strong showing in spring, according to sales tax collections through August. However, compared to a year ago vehicle sales in Rapides are down -2%. Evangeline had the highest year-to-date vehicle sales in the region, up 11%. Natchitoches and St. Landry posted gains of 6% and 4%, respectively. Overall, vehicles sales in central Louisiana are up 3% so far this year, compared to being down -2% in 2022.

Online consumer spending in central Louisiana remained unchanged in July from a month earlier. Nevertheless, online spending in July was 21% higher than a year ago, with year-to-date spending up 16%. These increases outpaced July 2022 when year-over-year and year-to-date spending were up 18% and 14%, respectively. LaSalle and Catahoula had the fastest YTD increases at 20%, while Allen and Natchitoches having the slowest at 13%.

Since August 2020 when remote sellers tax revenue collection started, \$57.2 million in sales tax revenue have been collected from online sales in central Louisiana, of which \$23 million came in the last 12 months. Under the remote sellers collection system, in the past three years Rapides has collected \$17.4 million in tax revenues, Vernon \$6.6 million, Natchitoches \$4.5 million, Evangeline \$4.3 million, and Avoyelles \$3.9 million.

KEY FINDINGS

September 2023

HOUSING

The cost of borrowing for a home continues to increase. As of September 19th, 30 year fixed mortgage rates stood at 7.19%., compared to 6.96% on July 13th in our last report. The September 2022 Economic Dashboard reported the 30 year fixed rate at 6.02%.

The median listing for a home in Alexandria is down -3% from a year ago, but up 8% in Leesville and 25% in Natchitoches. Those higher prices have resulted in a surge of active listing. Active listings in Leesville and Natchitoches are up 90% and 82%, respectively, from a year ago, while listings in Alexandria are up 31%. Year-over-year increases in the average listing price for Leesville and Natchitoches are more modest, with increases of 2% and 19%, respectively.

Activity in the housing market continues to be focused on existing homes, rather than new homes as indicated by the weakness in lumber prices. The US Lumber Price Index fell -4% in August from a month earlier and now stands -19% below last year's level. Complete permit data for central Louisiana was unavailable for this issue due to technical issues with the adoption of new software by a permitting agency.

TRAVEL

Hotel occupancy data based on hotel tax revenue were mixed. Natchitoches and Vernon continued showing positive YTD increases of 11% and 7%, respectively, while Rapides was down -5% and Avoyelles down -7%.

NEW BUSINESSES

New business applications in Louisiana through July were down -4% compared to last year. In Rapides, new business applications were up 9% for the year at 305, compared to 281 in 2022.

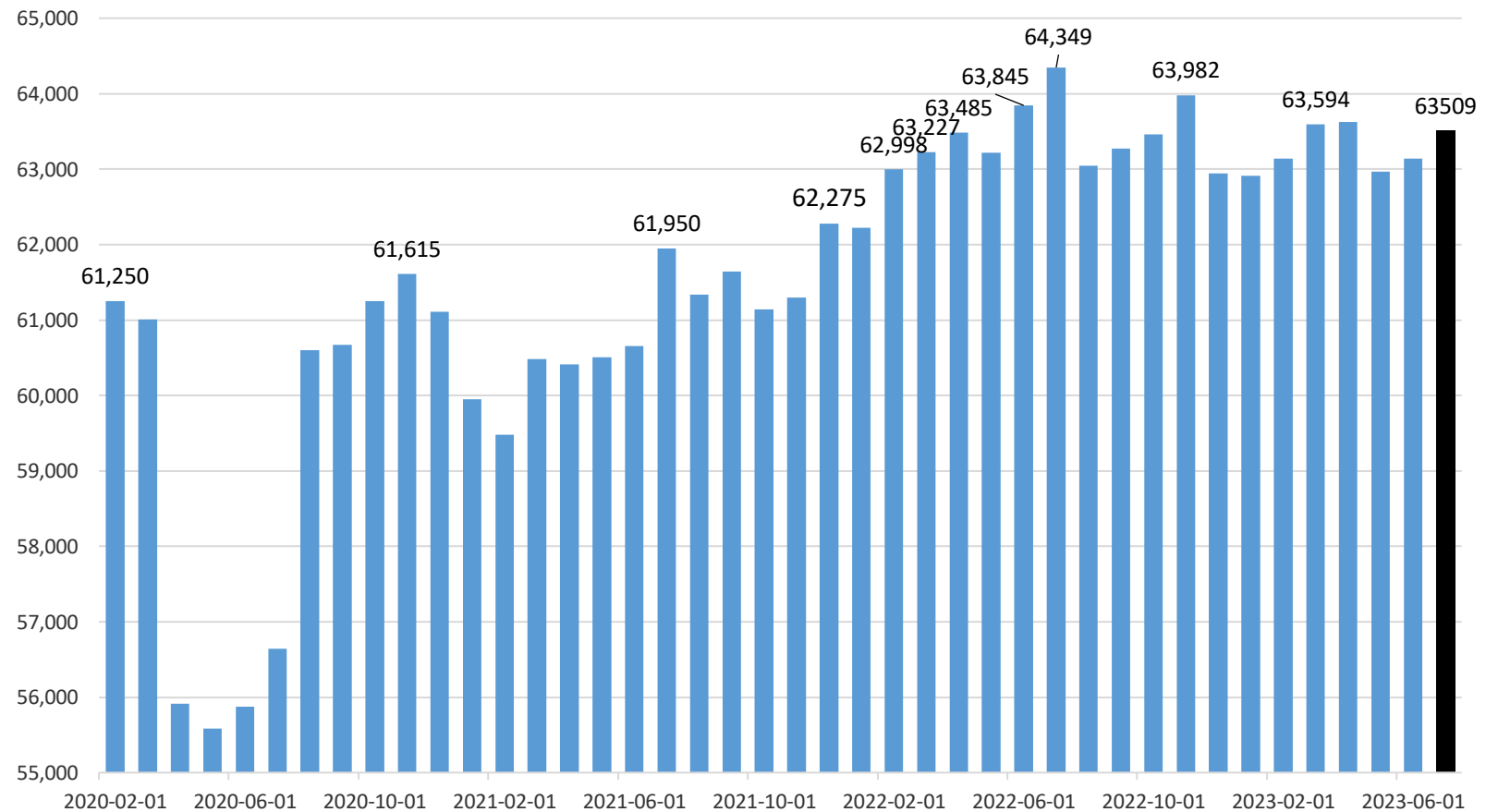
Employment

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

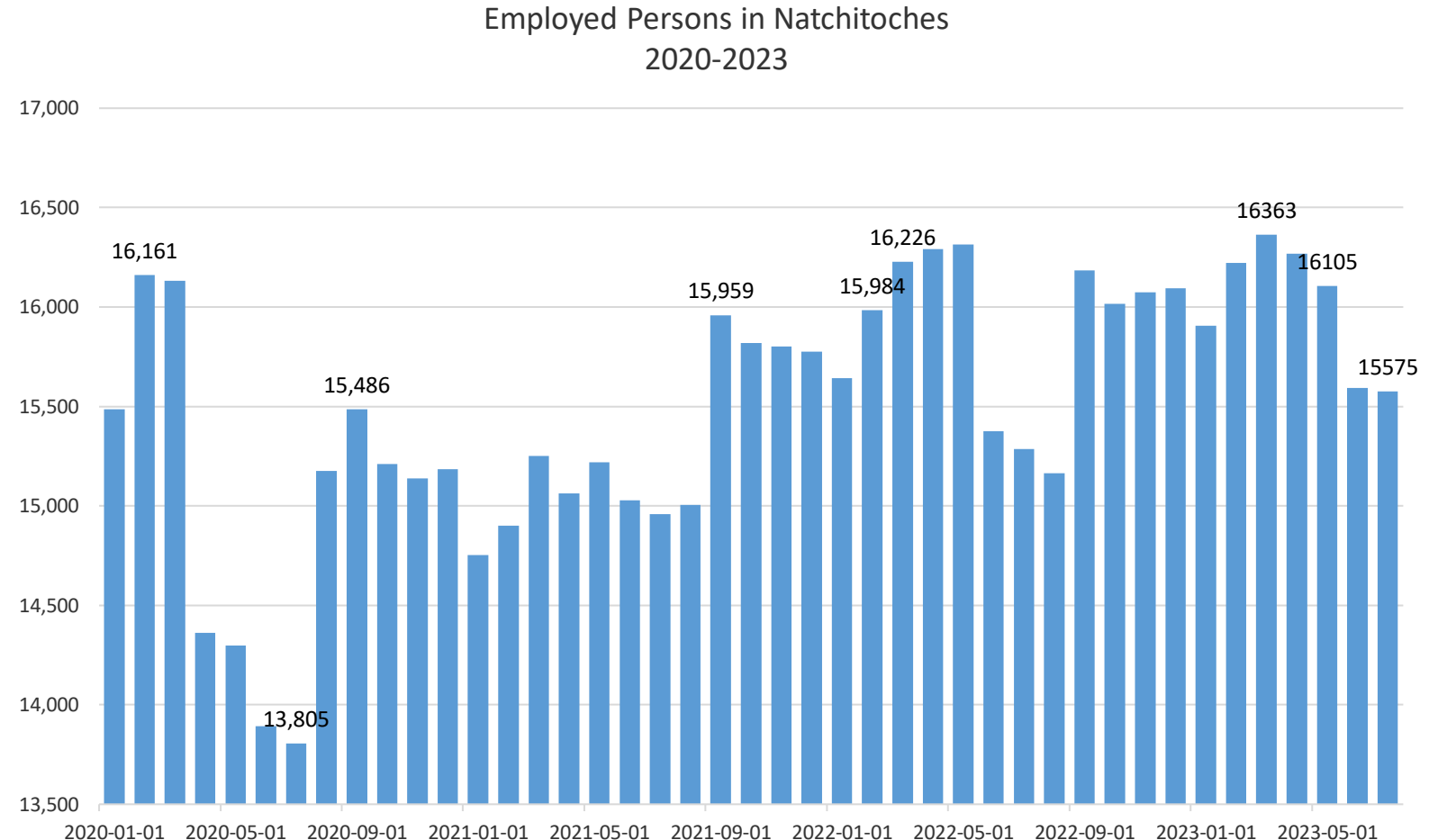


- Employment in the Alexandria MSA in July rose by 368 from June to 63,509.
- Employment in July 2023 was 840 below July 2022.

EMPLOYMENT IN NATCHITOCHESES

Employed persons in Natchitoches parish from 2020 – 2023.

- In July 2023, 15,575 were employed in Natchitoches parish, according to preliminary data.
- Employment is down 19 from June 2023 and down 740 from July 2022.
- The unemployment rate in Natchitoches parish in July 2023 was 4.2%, down from 5.6% in June.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY MSA

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

July 2023

- At 2.9%, the Houma-Thibodaux and Lake Charles MSA had the lowest unemployment rate in the state in July.
- ✓ Alexandria had the third lowest unemployment rate at 3.0%, tied with Baton Rouge
- Louisiana's unemployment rate in July was 3.3%, down from 4.5% in June and 3.9% in May.

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Houma-Thibodaux	84,476	82,020	2,456	2.9%
Lake Charles	96,429	93,615	2,814	2.9%
Alexandria	65,476	63,509	1,967	3.0%
Baton Rouge	431,684	418,583	13,101	3.0%
Lafayette	214,953	208,547	6,406	3.0%
Monroe	80,132	77,399	2,733	3.4%
New Orleans-Metairie	590,572	570,257	20,315	3.4%
Shreveport-Bossier City	186,204	179,807	6,397	3.4%
Hammond	57,414	55,086	2,328	4.1%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY CENLA PARISH

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

July 2023

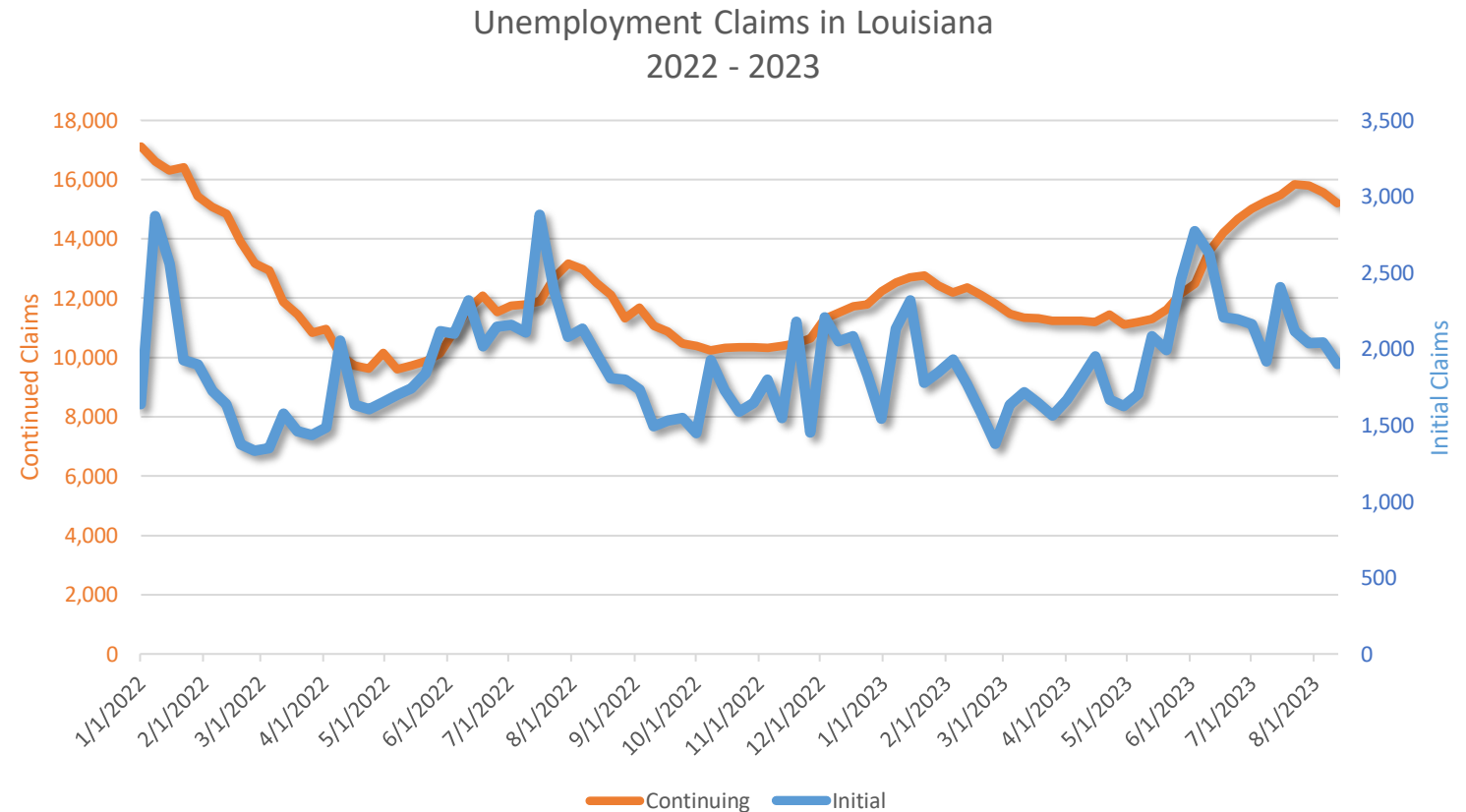
✓ In July 2023, the parishes in central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 3.7%, down from 4.5% a year ago, but above the state unemployment rate of 3.3%

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate July 2023	Unemployment Rate July 2022
Allen	8,087	7,767	320	4.0%	5.2%
Avoyelles	14,463	13,863	600	4.1%	5.2%
Catahoula	3,511	3,359	152	4.3%	4.9%
Concordia	6,935	6,620	315	4.5%	5.8%
Evangeline	12,060	11,619	441	3.7%	5.0%
Grant	8,463	8,178	285	3.4%	4.2%
La Salle	6,548	6,358	190	2.9%	3.1%
Natchitoches	16,251	15,575	676	4.2%	5.1%
Rapides	57,013	55,331	1,682	3.0%	3.7%
St. Landry	32,045	30,759	1,286	4.0%	5.1%
Vernon	16,461	15,770	691	4.2%	4.4%

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS IN LOUISIANA

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

- Initial unemployment claims fell -13% in July and -10% in August over the previous month.
- Continued unemployment claims rose 13% in July but fell -4% in August over the previous month.
- Initial claims remain at the same level as a year ago. However, continued unemployment claims are higher than a year ago by 22%.



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 July 2023.

✓ In July 2023, the Alexandria MSA labor market had a job posting ratio of 0.36, down from 0.39 in May. However, the number of unemployed per new job posting was 1.00.

✓ Alexandria remains the tightest labor market in the state in terms of total and new job postings.

■ The state ratio of total job posting to unemployed was 0.69 in August and 1.74 for new job postings.

July 2023

Area	Unemployed	Job Openings	# New Job Postings	# Unemployed per Job Posting	# Unemployed per New Job Posting
Alexandria	1,967	5,406	1,973	0.36	1.00
Lafayette	3,904	9,419	3,644	0.41	1.07
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	19,919	40,087	14,496	0.50	1.37
Lake Charles	2,814	5,461	1,848	0.52	1.52
Baton Rouge	13,101	21,854	7,515	0.60	1.74
Shreveport-Bossier City	5,839	9,419	2,906	0.62	2.01
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	2,456	3,333	1,195	0.74	2.06
Monroe	2,733	3,424	1,183	0.80	2.31

Tax Revenue

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

TAX REVENUE OVERVIEW

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

August 2023

Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD		Vehicle Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Alexandria	1%	2%	1%		Avoyelles	-11%	-1%	-2%
Avoyelles	-13%	9%	0%		Evangeline	3%	15%	11%
Catahoula	35%	3%	9%		Natchitoches*	29%	27%	6%
Concordia	15%	18%	21%		Rapides	0%	-2%	1%
Evangeline	-5%	9%	-1%		St. Landry	-7%	14%	4%
Grant	-9%	10%	7%		Vernon	-7%	-4%	-4%
La Salle	18%	-1%	10%					
Natchitoches	8%	-4%	4%		Hotel Occupancy Tax			
Pineville	-2%	5%	8%		Avoyelles	0%	-2%	-7%
Rapides	10%	3%	2%		Natchitoches	32%	28%	11%
St. Landry	14%	10%	4%		Rapides	-16%	1%	-5%
Vernon	-23%	-6%	7%		Vernon	-13%	-14%	7%

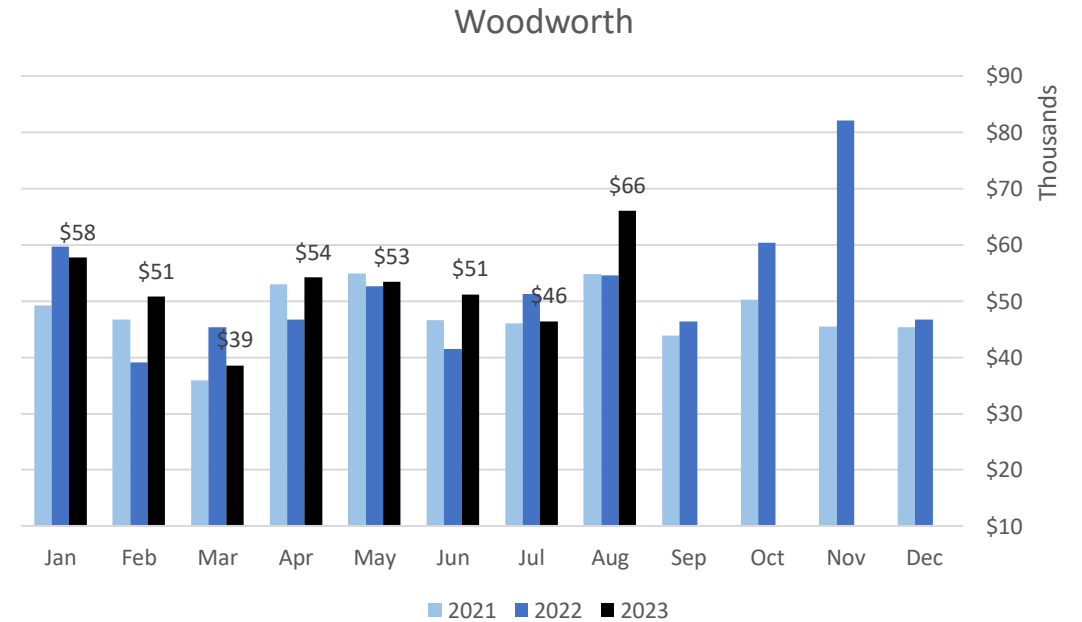
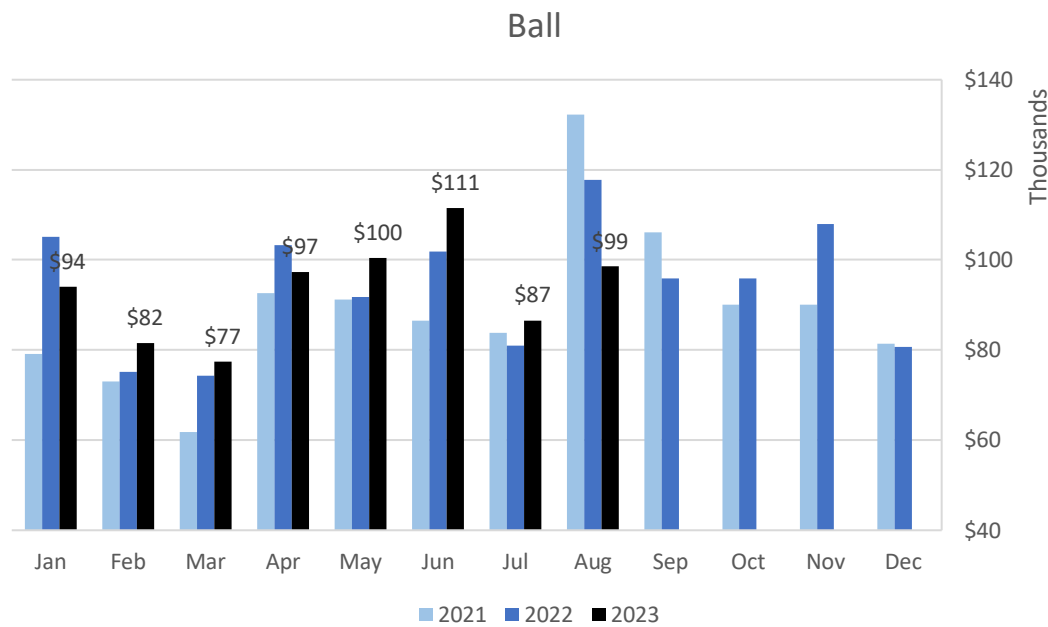
Notes: Current month tax revenue collection reflects sales activity in the previous month. *Current month data are not available. Represents prior month.

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 August, consumer spending in Ball is down -0.4%, while Woodworth is up 7.1%. 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, September 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.

August

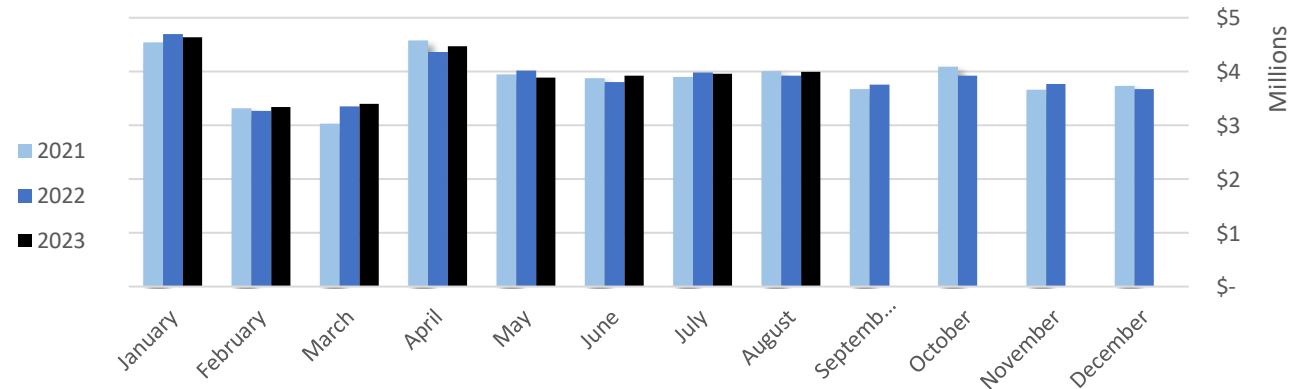
	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 3,376,015	\$ 4,004,760	\$ 3,922,360	\$ 3,994,558
July	\$ 3,655,288	\$ 3,903,243	\$ 3,981,778	\$ 3,955,718
% Chg over Prev Month	-7.6%	2.6%	-1.5%	1.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		18.6%	-2.1%	1.8%
YTD	\$ 26,204,870	\$ 31,201,093	\$ 31,402,203	\$ 31,602,686
% Chg over Prev YTD		19.1%	0.6%	0.6%

August  1%

Aug YoY  2%

Aug 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, September 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.

August

August  -13%

Aug YoY  9%

Aug YTD 0%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 1,359,051	\$ 1,492,541	\$ 1,689,171	\$ 1,762,440	\$ 1,917,436
July	\$ 1,428,461	\$ 1,604,074	\$ 1,995,289	\$ 2,106,508	\$ 2,193,368
% Chg over Prev Month	-4.9%	-7.0%	-15.3%	-16.3%	-12.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		9.8%	13.2%	4.3%	8.8%
YTD	\$ 11,589,849	\$ 11,638,486	\$ 14,920,696	\$ 16,034,638	\$ 15,962,526
% Chg over Prev YTD		0.4%	28.2%	7.5%	-0.4%

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

August

August 
-11%

Aug YoY 
-1%

Aug YTD 
-2%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 292,917	\$ 406,296	\$ 412,169	\$ 352,749	\$ 348,918
July	\$ 262,096	\$ 375,528	\$ 415,951	\$ 339,655	\$ 393,134
% Chg over Prev Month	11.8%	8.2%	-0.9%	3.9%	-11.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		38.7%	1.4%	-14.4%	-1.1%
YTD	\$ 2,222,584	\$ 2,357,072	\$ 2,848,874	\$ 2,786,169	\$ 2,724,121
% Chg over Prev YTD		6.1%	20.9%	-2.2%	-2.2%


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


Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. September 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.

August

August 
35%

Aug YoY 
3%

Aug YTD 
9%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 516,541	\$ 854,679	\$ 725,249	\$ 750,057
July	\$ 575,103	\$ 526,875	\$ 556,583	\$ 554,212
% Chg over Prev Month	-10.2%	62.2%	30.3%	35.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		65.5%	-15.1%	3.4%
YTD	\$ 3,886,933	\$ 6,096,597	\$ 4,956,639	\$ 5,411,322
% Chg over Prev YTD		56.8%	-18.7%	9.2%


Note: Current month sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month.
Data Source: Catahoula Parish Tax Administrator, September 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.

August

August 
15%

Aug YoY 
18%

Aug YTD 
21%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 1,204,454	\$ 1,512,542	\$ 1,518,621	\$ 1,797,576
July	\$ 1,282,109	\$ 1,159,623	\$ 1,183,857	\$ 1,569,785
% Chg over Prev Month	-6.1%	30.4%	28.3%	14.5%
% Chg over Prev Year		25.6%	0.4%	18.4%
YTD	\$ 8,674,945	\$ 10,151,223	\$ 10,543,573	\$ 12,804,294
% Chg over Prev YTD		17.0%	3.9%	21.4%


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


EVANGELINE SALES TAX

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

August

August  -5%

Aug YoY  9%

Aug YTD  -1%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 1,495,056	\$ 1,742,197	\$ 2,102,214	\$ 2,234,896	\$ 2,435,555
July	\$ 1,635,230	\$ 1,800,168	\$ 2,087,819	\$ 2,446,723	\$ 2,564,989
% Chg over Prev Month	-8.6%	-3.2%	0.7%	-8.7%	-5.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		16.5%	20.7%	6.3%	9.0%
YTD	\$ 10,863,089	\$ 11,176,231	\$ 14,226,608	\$ 16,908,972	\$ 17,139,174
% Chg over Prev YTD		2.9%	27.3%	18.9%	1.4%


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. September 2023


EVANGELINE VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

August

August 
3%

Aug YoY 
15%

Aug YTD 
11%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 320,521	\$ 418,622	\$ 416,214	\$ 403,183	\$ 464,578
July	\$ 285,501	\$ 410,144	\$ 467,473	\$ 437,312	\$ 451,895
% Chg over Prev Month	12.3%	2.1%	-11.0%	-7.8%	2.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		30.6%	-0.6%	-3.1%	15.2%
YTD	\$ 2,207,876	\$ 2,275,561	\$ 2,839,528	\$ 2,846,946	\$ 3,151,769
% Chg over Prev YTD		3.1%	24.8%	0.3%	10.7%

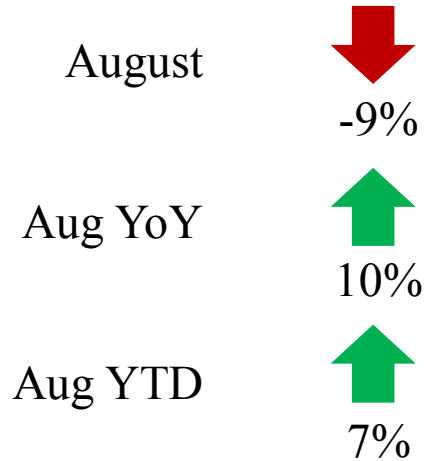
Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in prior month. Evangeline implemented a 1% sales tax increase July 1, 2021.

Data Source: Evangeline Parish Sales Tax Commissioner. September 2023

GRANT SALES TAX

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

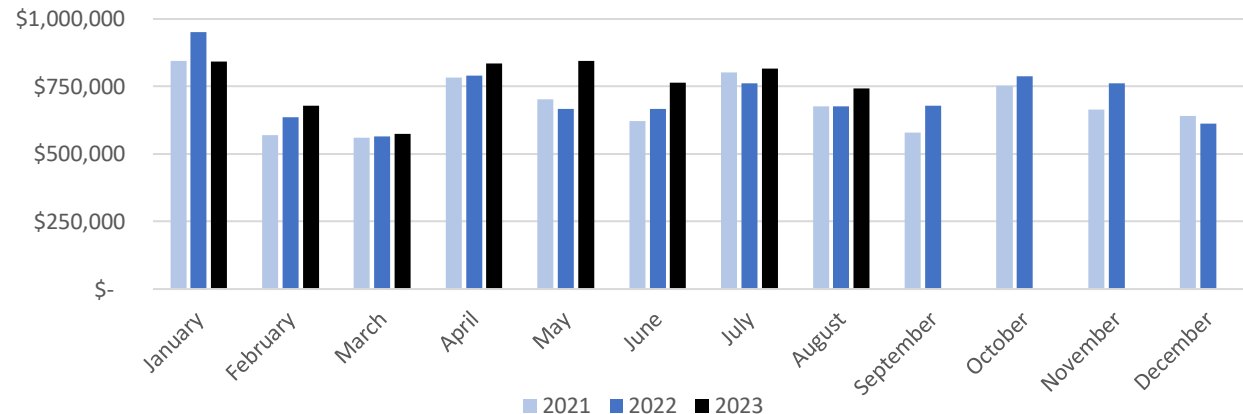
(BR) Grant monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.



August

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 580,391	\$ 676,771	\$ 676,852	\$ 741,320
July	\$ 715,846	\$ 801,118	\$ 761,250	\$ 816,748
% Chg over Prev Month	-18.9%	-15.5%	-11.1%	-9.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		16.6%	0.0%	9.5%
YTD	\$ 4,426,992	\$ 5,560,786	\$ 5,711,840	\$ 6,095,843
% Chg over Prev YTD		25.6%	2.7%	6.7%

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, September 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.

August

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 859,808	\$ 1,207,278	\$ 1,266,386	\$ 1,258,445
July	\$ 899,235	\$ 988,410	\$ 1,077,644	\$ 1,062,484
% Chg over Prev Month	-4.4%	22.1%	17.5%	18.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		40.4%	4.9%	-0.6%
YTD	\$ 6,993,563	\$ 8,307,426	\$ 9,053,406	\$ 9,949,292
% Chg over Prev YTD		-16.5%	9.0%	9.9%

August		18%
Aug YoY		-1%
Aug YTD		10%

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

Data Source: La Salle Parish Tax Administrator, September 2023

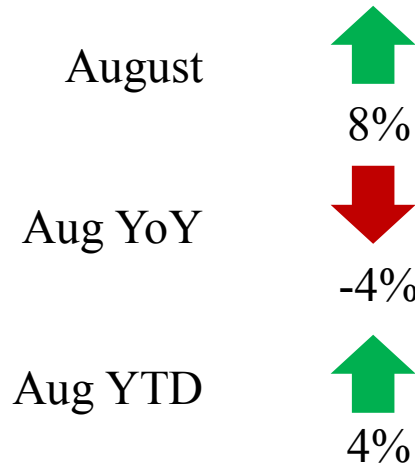
NATCHITOCHESES SALES TAX

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

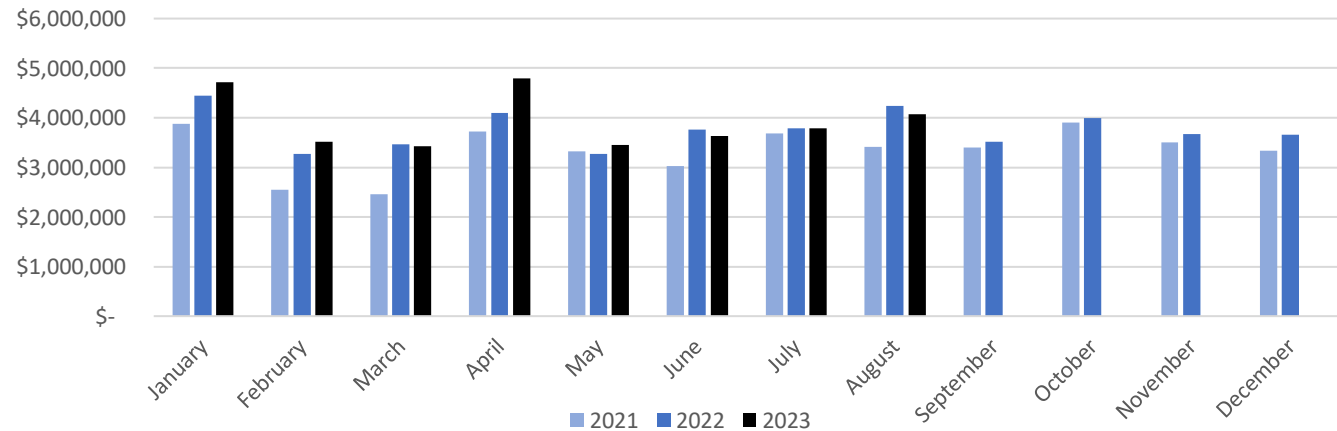
(BR) Natchitoches monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.

August

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 3,087,365	\$ 3,414,233	\$ 4,242,607	\$ 4,072,379
July	\$ 3,208,245	\$ 3,681,893	\$ 3,782,692	\$ 3,783,365
% Chg over Prev Month	-3.8%	-7.3%	12.2%	7.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		10.6%	24.3%	-4.0%
YTD	\$ 22,741,599	\$ 26,040,398	\$ 30,320,587	\$ 31,400,324
% Chg over Prev YTD		14.5%	16.4%	3.6%



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, September 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.

*July**

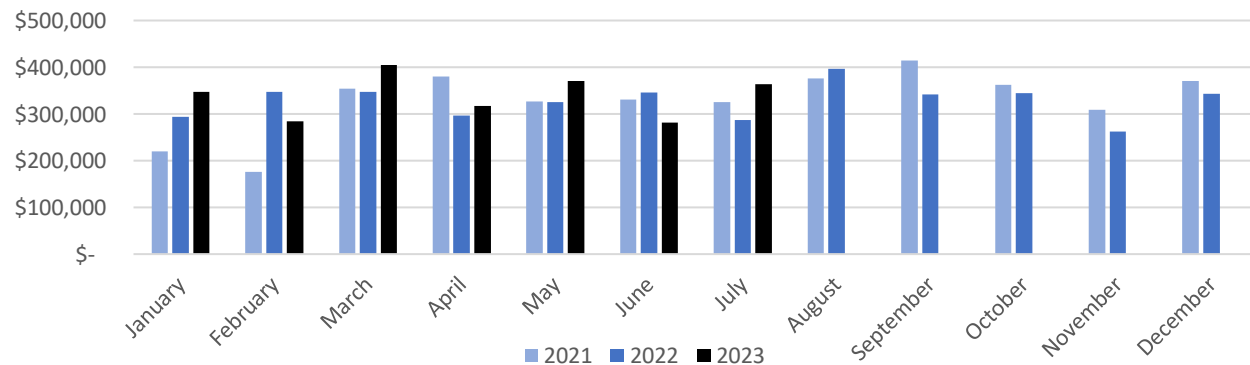
	2020	2021	2022	2023
July	\$ 354,912	\$ 326,163	\$ 288,092	\$ 364,907
June	\$ 344,338	\$ 330,706	\$ 347,083	\$ 282,424
% Chg over Prev Month	3.1%	-1.4%	-17.0%	29.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		-8.1%	-11.7%	26.7%
YTD	\$ 1,965,650	\$ 2,115,893	\$ 2,248,867	\$ 2,373,264
% Chg over Prev YTD		7.6%	6.3%	5.5%

July  29%

Jul YoY  27%

Jul YTD  6%

Natchitoches Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue
2021-2023





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

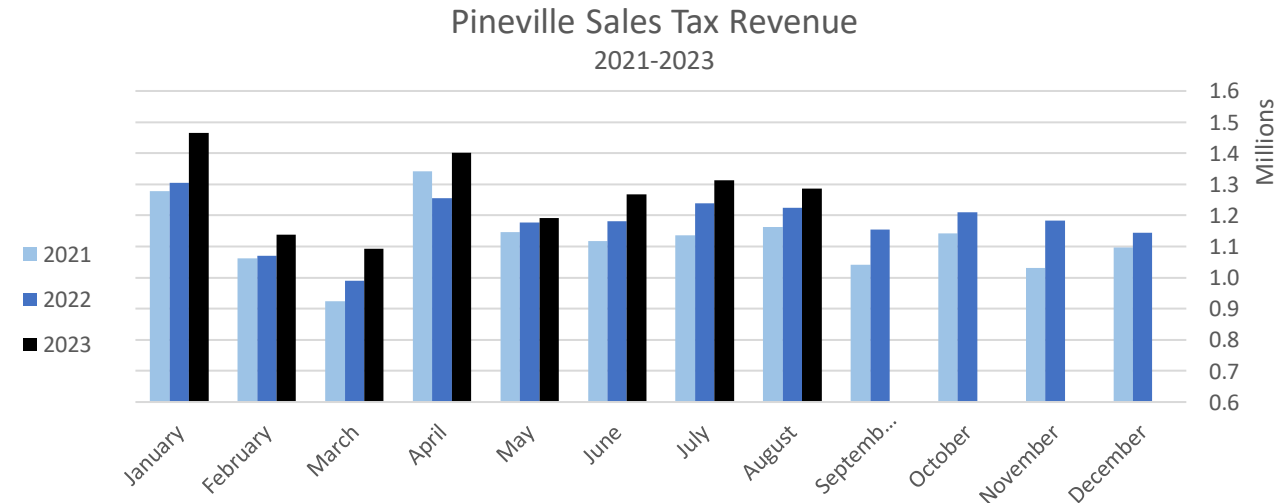
August  -2%

Aug YoY  5%

Aug YTD  8%

August

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 994,293	\$ 1,162,510	\$ 1,224,575	\$ 1,286,675
July	\$ 1,153,483	\$ 1,136,530	\$ 1,239,218	\$ 1,312,833
% Chg over Prev Month	-13.8%	2.3%	-1.2%	-2.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		16.9%	5.3%	5.1%
YTD	\$ 8,214,174	\$ 9,167,420	\$ 9,444,250	\$ 10,161,191
% Chg over Prev YTD		11.6%	3.0%	7.6%



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

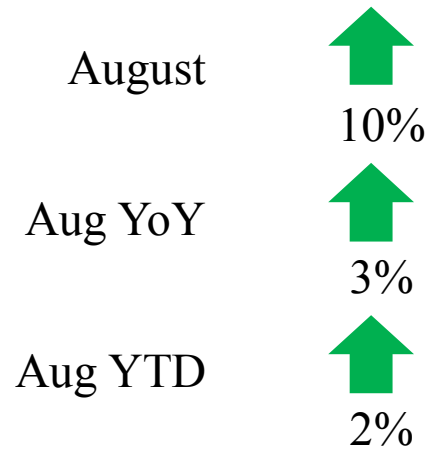
RAPIDES SALES TAX

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

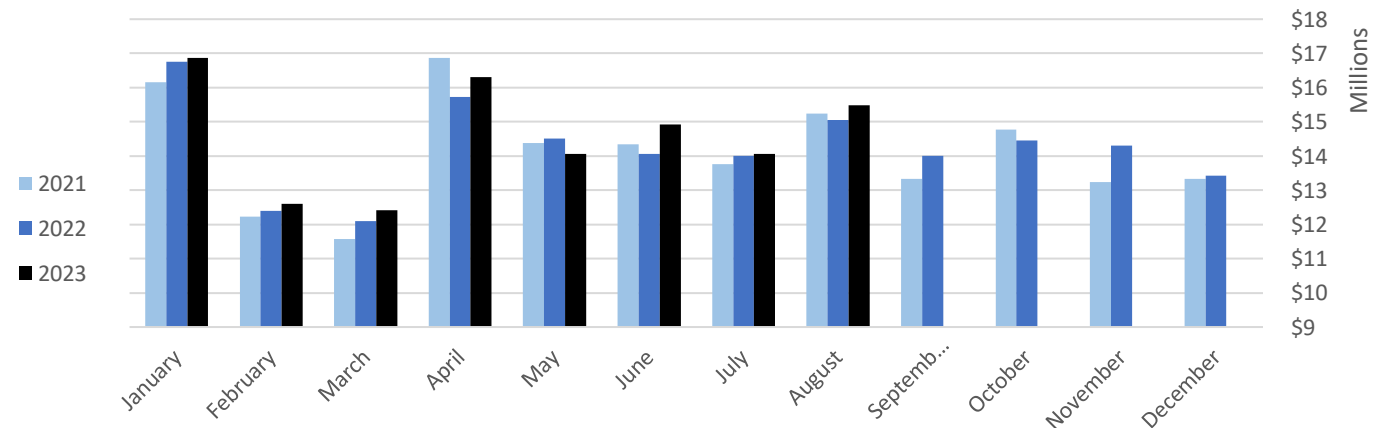
(BR) Rapides monthly sales tax revenue from 2021 to present.

August

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 12,164,470	\$ 15,237,754	\$ 15,047,407	\$ 15,474,177
July	\$ 13,709,468	\$ 13,752,280	\$ 14,004,646	\$ 14,066,903
% Chg over Prev Month	-11.3%	10.8%	7.4%	10.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		25.3%	-1.2%	2.8%
YTD	\$ 95,024,594	\$ 114,528,901	\$ 114,575,670	\$ 116,711,406
% Chg over Prev YTD		20.5%	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, September 2023.


RAPIDES VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

August

August 0%

Aug YoY  -2%

Aug YTD  1%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 1,533,699	\$ 1,586,861	\$ 1,427,975	\$ 1,401,247
July	\$ 1,716,536	\$ 1,586,861	\$ 1,427,975	\$ 1,401,247
% Chg over Prev Month	-10.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		3.5%	-10.0%	-1.9%
YTD	\$ 9,944,133	\$ 13,128,703	\$ 11,334,601	\$ 11,400,335
% Chg over Prev YTD		32.0%	-13.7%	0.6%

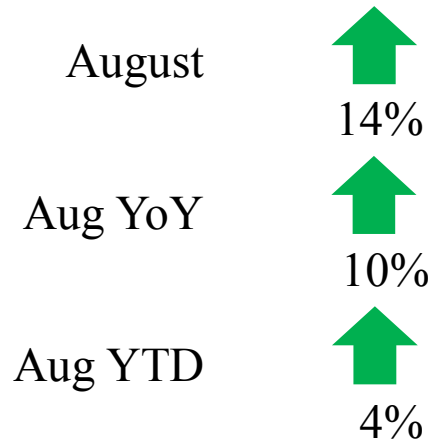
Note: Current sales tax revenue reflects sales activity in the prior month. Data for July and August are averaged for the period.

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

ST. LANDRY SALES TAX

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

August




	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 6,239,039	\$ 7,091,591	\$ 7,999,037	\$ 8,779,845
July	\$ 7,878,371	\$ 8,026,542	\$ 7,289,380	\$ 7,708,169
% Chg over Prev Month	-20.8%	-11.6%	9.7%	13.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		13.7%	12.8%	9.8%
YTD	\$ 51,410,138	\$ 57,710,141	\$ 60,351,905	\$ 62,910,760
% Chg over Prev YTD		12.3%	4.6%	4.2%


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

August

August 
-7%

Aug YoY 
14%

Aug YTD 
4%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 938,690	\$ 1,006,739	\$ 918,125	\$ 1,048,581
July	\$ 939,225	\$ 1,131,639	\$ 1,046,256	\$ 1,131,639
% Chg over Prev Month	-0.1%	-11.0%	-12.2%	-7.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		7.2%	-8.8%	14.2%
YTD	\$ 6,631,073	\$ 8,108,043	\$ 7,757,172	\$ 8,085,706
% Chg over Prev YTD		22.3%	-4.3%	4.2%


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


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


VERNON SALES TAX

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

August

August  -23%

Aug YoY  -6%


Aug YTD  7%


	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 2,261,492	\$ 2,142,209	\$ 3,216,015	\$ 3,029,920
July	\$ 2,980,447	\$ 3,450,395	\$ 3,166,793	\$ 3,952,992
% Chg over Prev Month	-24.1%	-37.9%	1.6%	-23.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		-5.3%	50.1%	-5.8%
YTD	\$ 18,472,187	\$ 21,728,021	\$ 23,135,756	\$ 24,707,650
% Chg over Prev YTD		17.6%	6.5%	6.8%


VERNON VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

August

August 
-7%

Aug YoY 
-4%

Aug YTD 
-4%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	482,345.05	578,138.28	545,304.14	525,505.31
July	513,427.67	601,620.26	560,318.12	567,468.00
% Chg over Prev Month	-6.1%	-3.9%	-2.7%	-7.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		19.9%	-5.7%	-3.6%
YTD	\$ 3,402,333	\$ 4,436,852	\$ 4,256,582	\$ 4,100,477
% Chg over Prev YTD		30.4%	-4.1%	-3.7%

REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE BY PARISH

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

	Aug-23	JUL-23	Aug-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Allen	\$ 84,830	\$ 85,570	\$ 72,468	-1%	17%	13%
Avoyelles	\$ 115,730	\$ 127,350	\$ 99,009	-9%	17%	16%
Catahoula	\$ 45,829	\$ 46,042	\$ 36,353	0%	26%	20%
Concordia	\$ 60,799	\$ 60,419	\$ 47,280	1%	29%	16%
Evangeline	\$ 145,136	\$ 138,889	\$ 112,745	4%	29%	19%
Grant	\$ 65,917	\$ 66,923	\$ 55,045	-2%	20%	14%
LaSalle	\$ 45,129	\$ 60,721	\$ 44,205	-26%	2%	20%
Natchitoches	\$ 145,855	\$ 142,889	\$ 118,729	2%	23%	13%
Rapides	\$ 547,120	\$ 564,282	\$ 491,998	-3%	11%	15%
St Landry	\$ 361,782	\$ 359,698	\$ 295,525	1%	22%	16%
Vernon	\$ 249,540	\$ 219,714	\$ 175,058	14%	43%	19%
Total (Cenla)	\$ 1,867,667	\$ 1,872,497	\$ 1,548,415	0%	21%	16%

- ✓ Total online sales tax revenue in Cenla in August 2023 was unchanged from July but up 21% from August 2022.
- ✓ Online sales in Cenla during the first eight months of 2023 were up 16% compared to the same period in 2022.

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

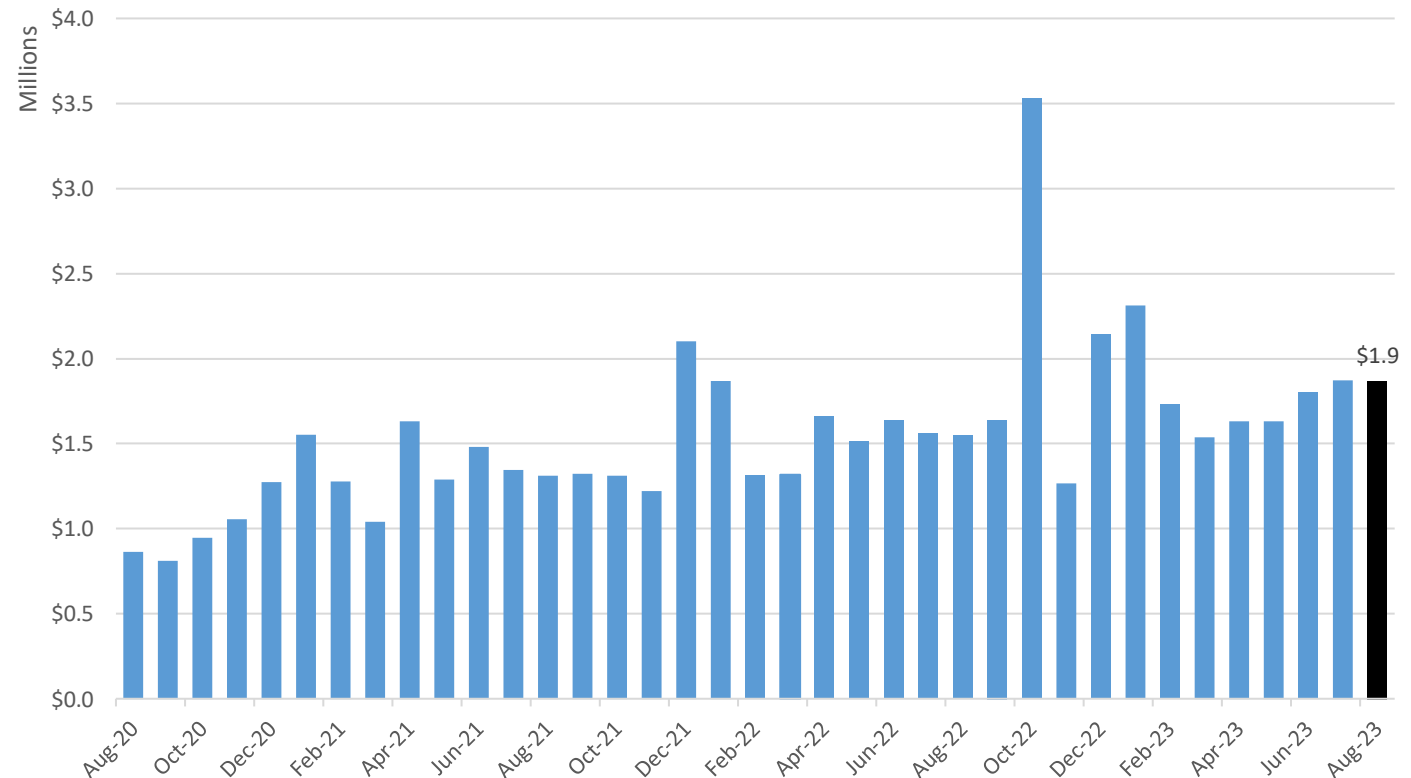
Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – September 2023

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, \$57.2 million in sales tax revenue have been collected from online sales in central Louisiana, of which \$23 million was in the last 12 months.
- ✓ Since the start of the remote sellers collections, Rapides has collected \$17.4 million in tax revenues, Vernon \$6.6 million, Natchitoches \$4.5 million, Evangeline \$4.3 million, and Avoyelles \$39 million.

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



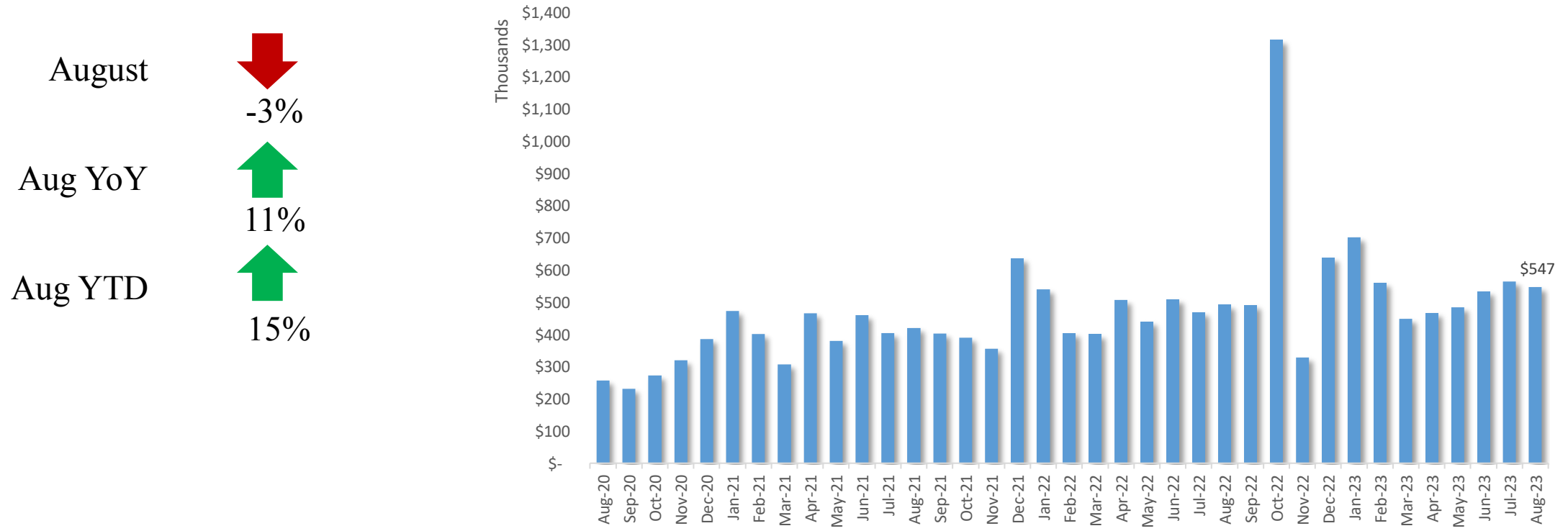
Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month

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

REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN RAPIDES

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

Rapides Parish
2020 - 2023

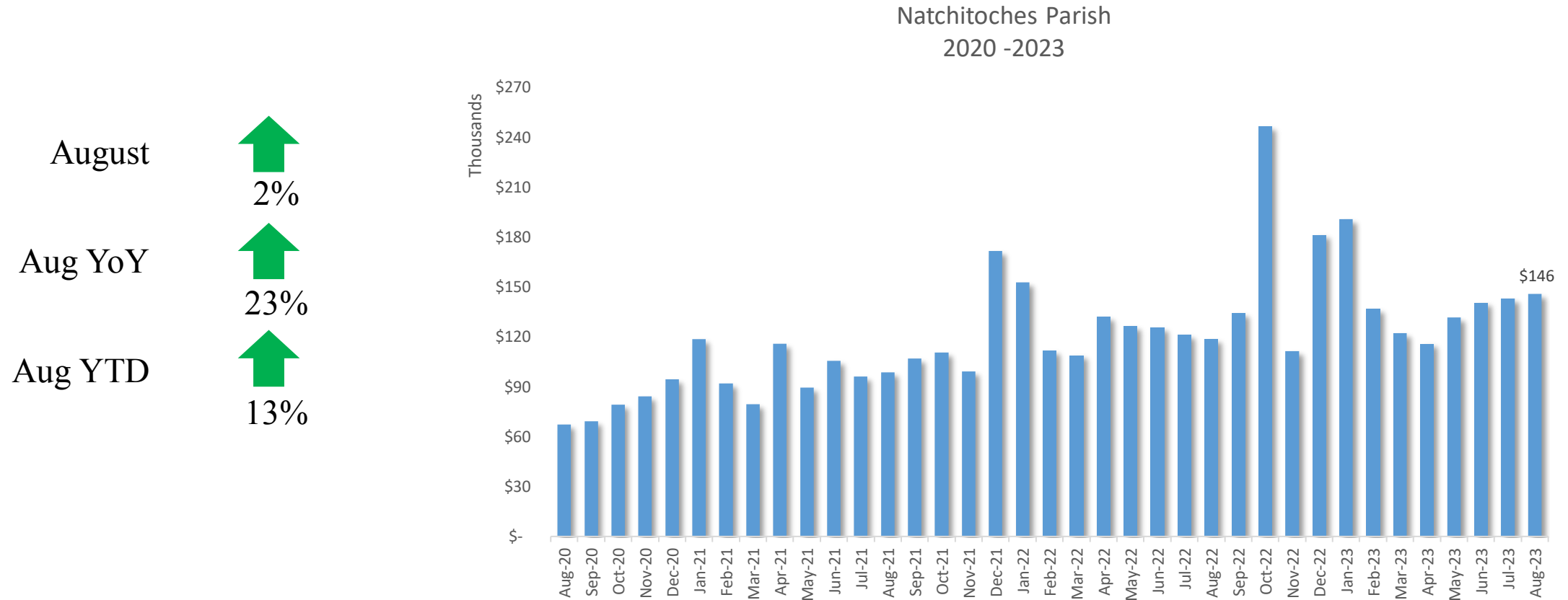


Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month

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

REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN NATCHITOCHES

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

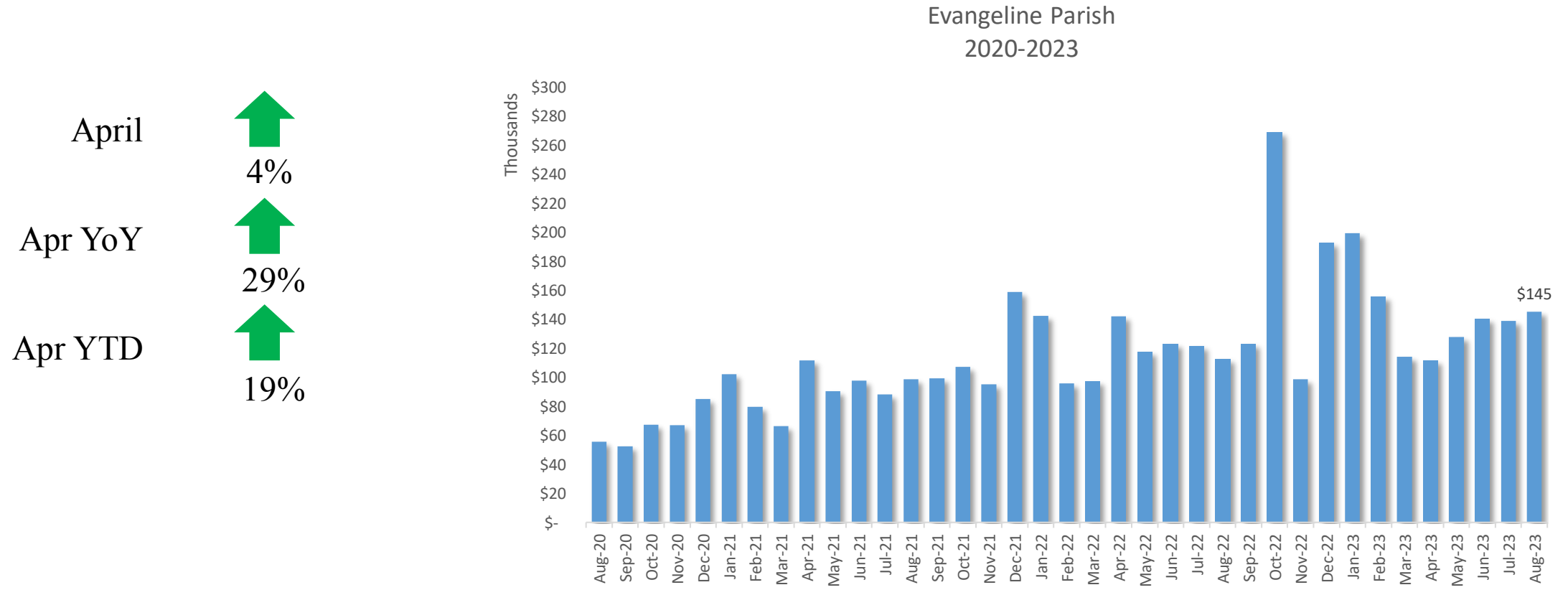


Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month

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

REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN EVANGELINE

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



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

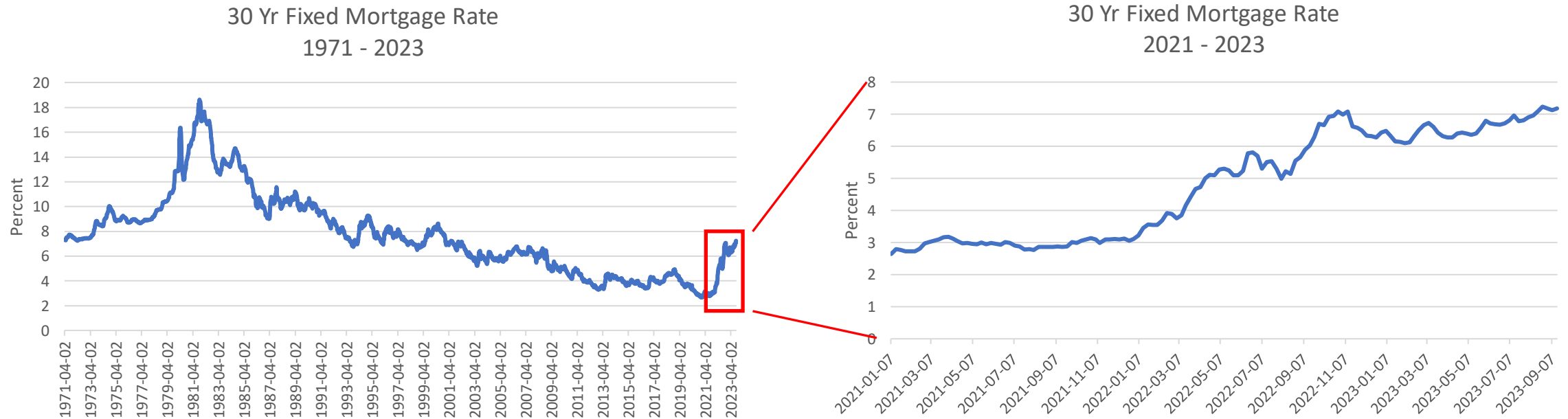
Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – September 2023

Housing

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

30 YEAR FIXED MORTGAGE RATE

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

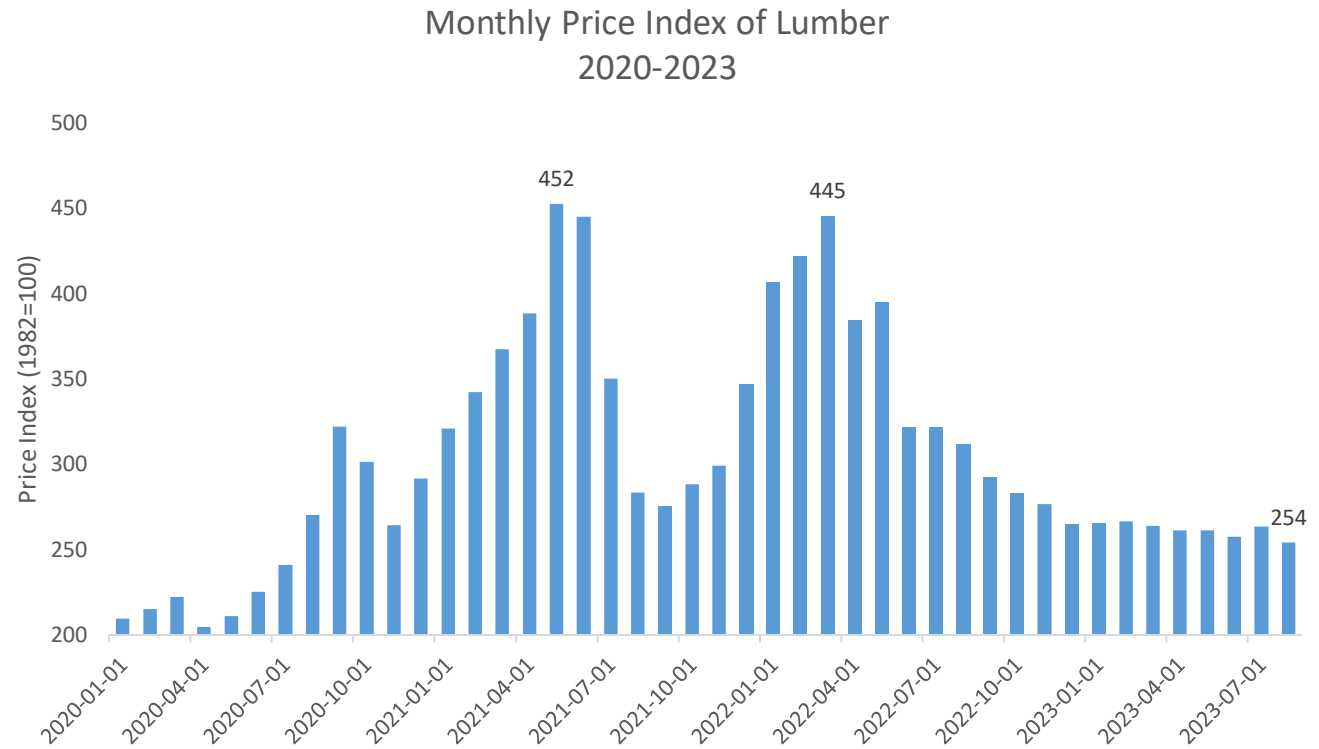


- 30 year fixed mortgage rates on September 21, 2023 was 7.19%.

LUMBER PRICES

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

- In August 2023, the US Lumber Price Index fell -4% from July.
- Currently, the Lumber Index stands -19% below a year ago when it stood at 312.

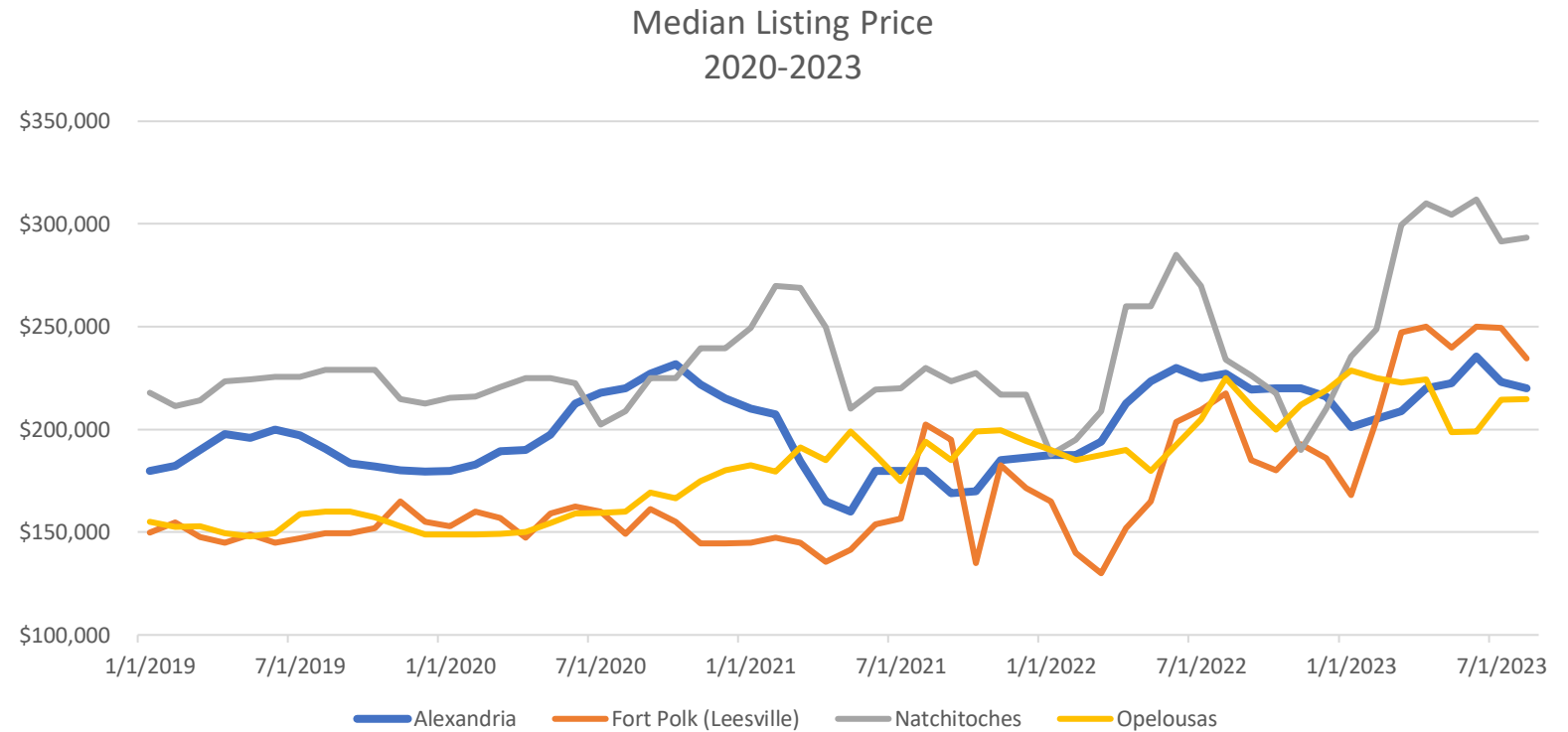


MEDIAN LISTING PRICE BY MSA

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

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria	↓	-3%
Leesville	↑	8%
Natchitoches	↑	25%
Opelousas	↓	-5%



AVERAGE LISTING PRICE BY MSA

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

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria



-8%

Leesville



2%

Natchitoches



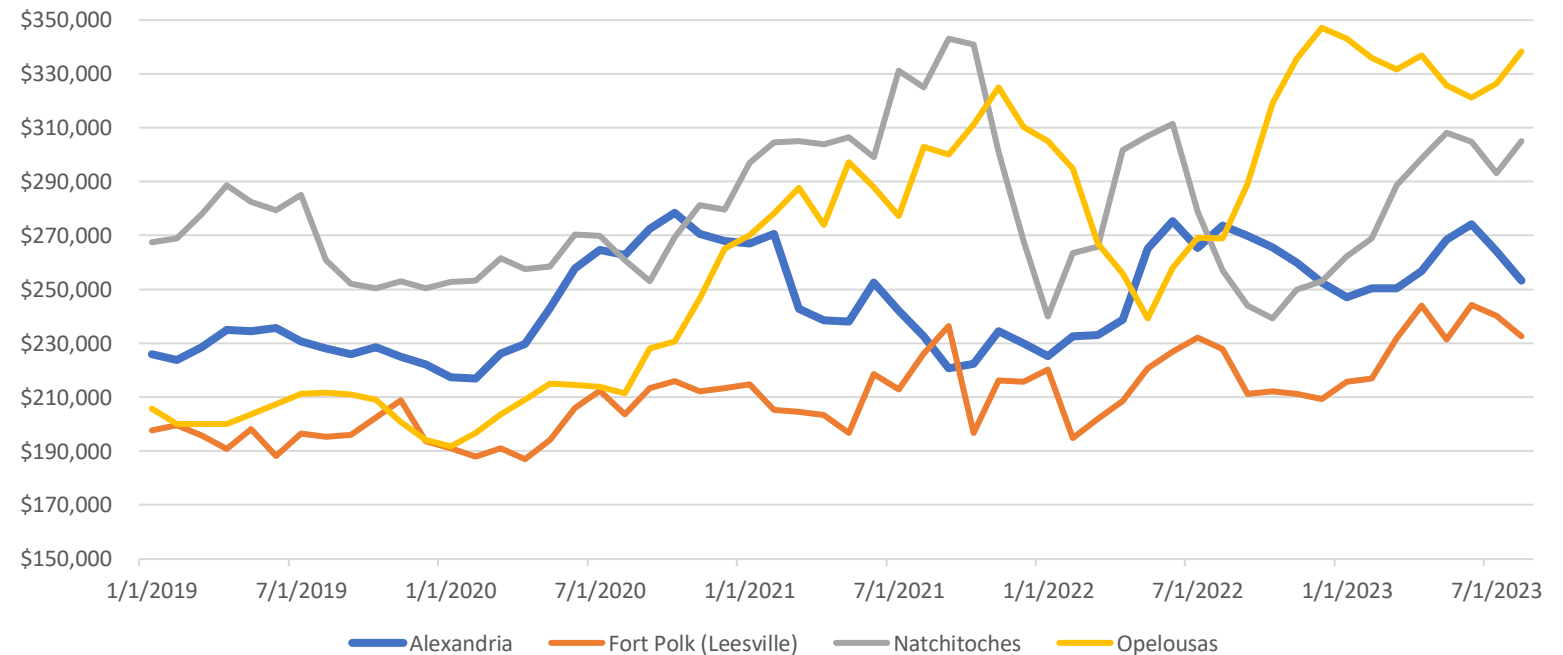
19%

Opelousas



26%

Average Listing Price
2020-2023

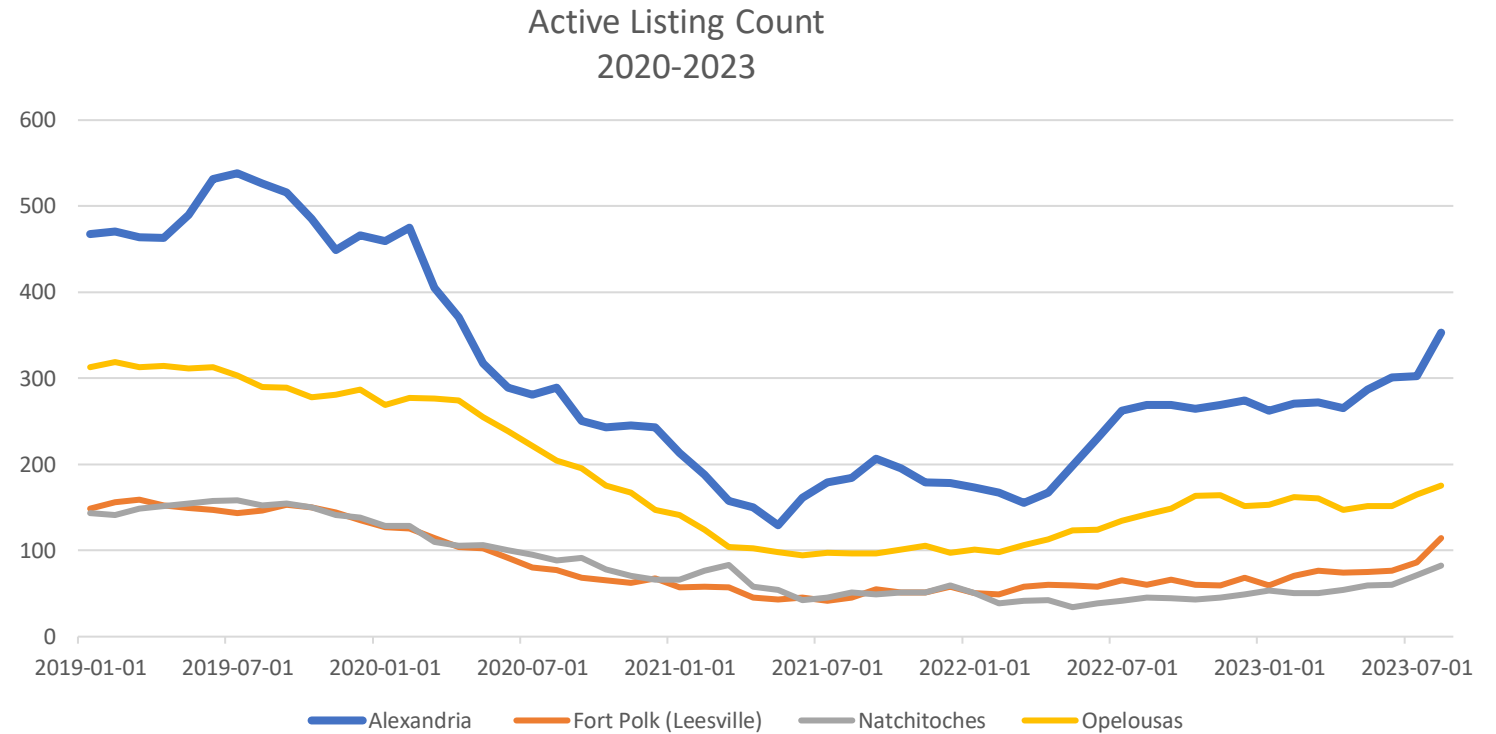


ACTIVE LISTINGS BY MSA

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

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria	↑ 31%
Leesville	↑ 90%
Natchitoches	↑ 82%
Opelousas	↑ 23%

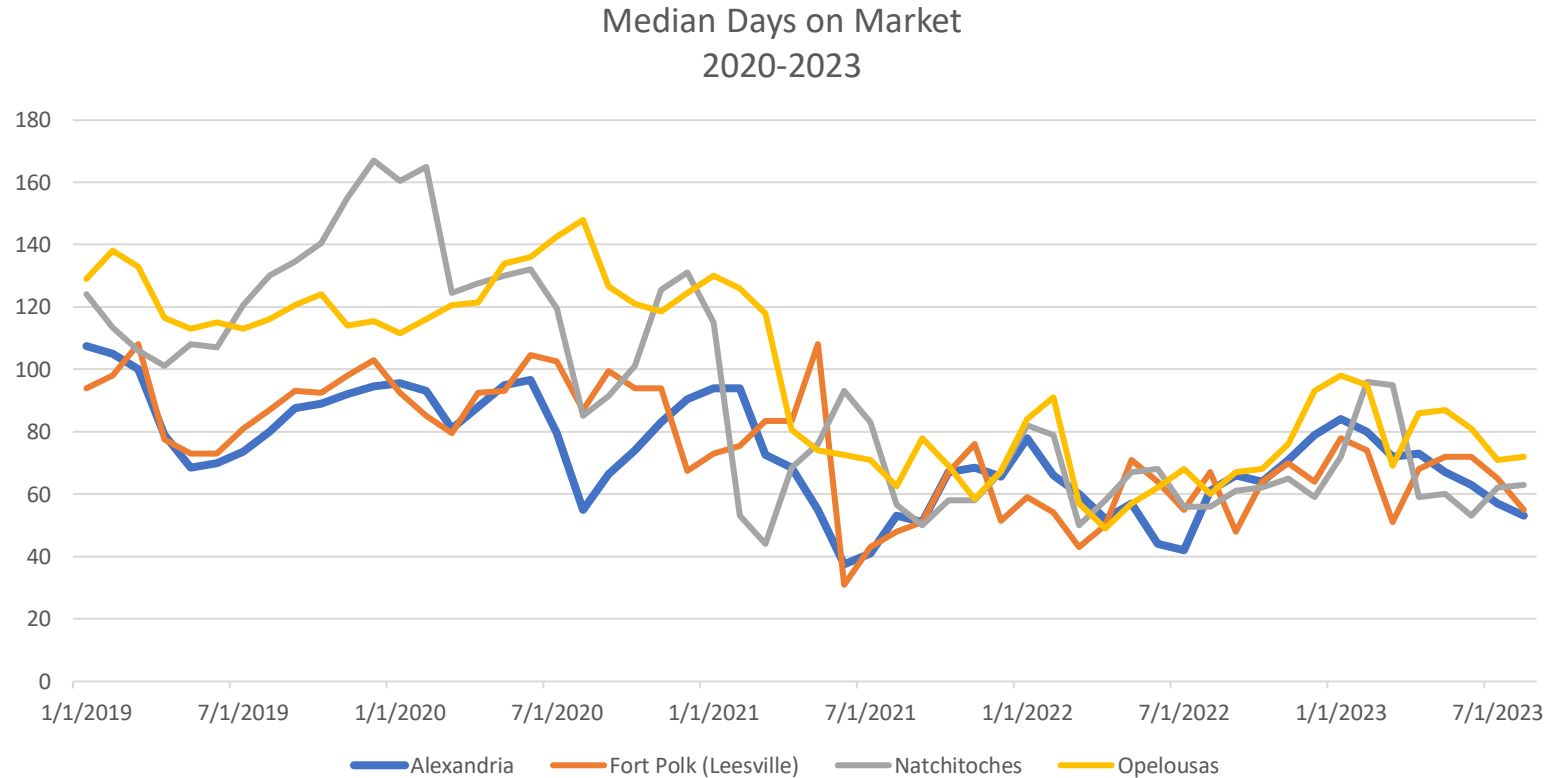


MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET BY MSA

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

Change from Year Ago

Alexandria	↓	-23%
Leesville	↓	-18%
Natchitoches	↑	13%
Opelousas	↑	20%





Travel

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

AVOYELLES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

August

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	0%	\$ 14,228	\$ 13,383	\$ 18,012	\$ 15,964	\$ 15,676
July		\$ 14,731	\$ 11,955	\$ 15,904	\$ 17,530	\$ 15,646
% Chg over Prev Month		-3.4%	12.0%	13.3%	-8.9%	0.2%
Aug YoY	 -2%		-5.9%	34.6%	-11.4%	-1.8%
Aug YTD	 -7%					
YTD		\$ 90,729	\$ 70,272	\$ 95,569	\$ 93,230	\$ 87,087
% Chg over Prev YTD			-22.5%	36.0%	-2.4%	-6.6%

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. September 2023.


NATCHITOCHESES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX


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

August

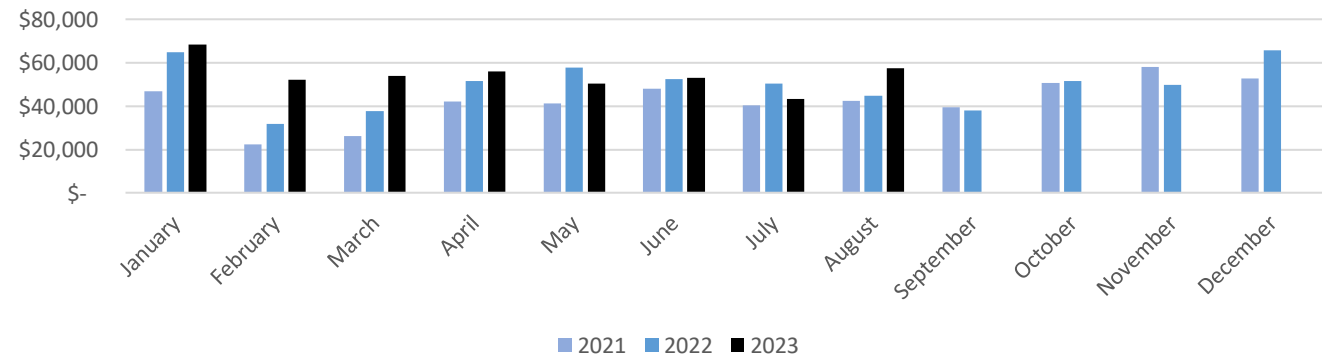
	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 31,675	\$ 42,488	\$ 44,956	\$ 57,380
July	\$ 27,575	\$ 40,297	\$ 50,487	\$ 43,449
% Chg over Prev Month	14.9%	5.4%	-11.0%	32.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		34.1%	5.8%	27.6%
YTD	\$ 233,711	\$ 310,110	\$ 391,550	\$ 434,881
% Chg over Prev YTD		32.7%	26.3%	11.1%

August 
32%

Aug YoY 
28%

Aug YTD 
11%

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, September 2023.


RAPIDES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

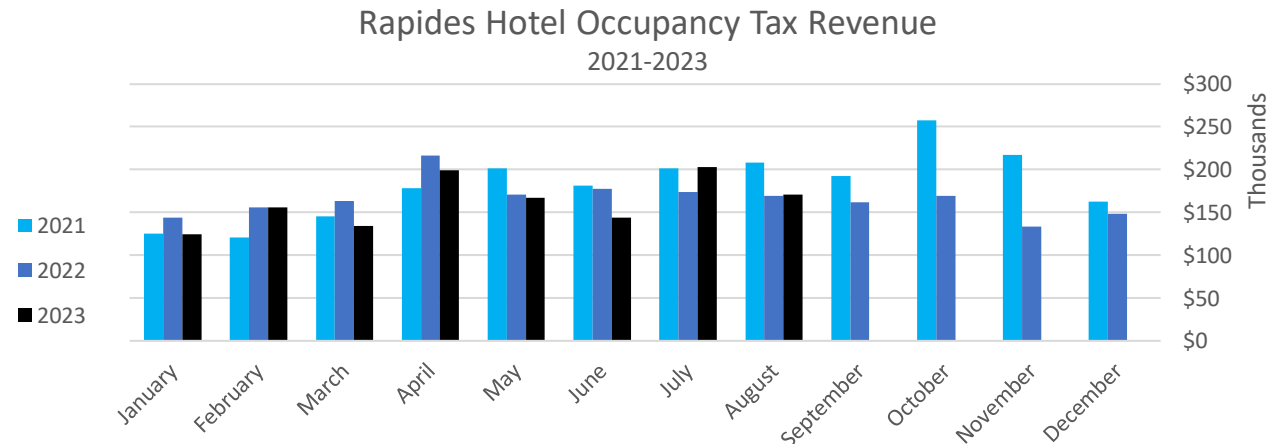
August

August  -16%

Aug YoY  1%

Aug YTD  -5%

	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 105,064	\$ 208,193	\$ 169,181	\$ 170,596
July	\$ 126,105	\$ 201,180	\$ 173,838	\$ 203,144
% Chg over Prev Month	-16.7%	3.5%	-2.7%	-16.0%
% Chg over Prev Year		98.2%	-18.7%	0.8%
YTD	\$ 965,364	\$ 1,361,754	\$ 1,370,683	\$ 1,298,058
% Chg over Prev YTD		41.1%	0.7%	-5.3%




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: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, September 2023.


VERNON HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

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

August

August  -13%

Aug YoY  -14%

Aug YTD  7%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	\$ 24,523	\$ 21,565	\$ 25,572	\$ 30,912	\$ 26,581
July	\$ 27,193	\$ 17,510	\$ 32,546	\$ 30,576	\$ 30,581
% Chg over Prev Month	-9.8%	23.2%	-21.4%	1.1%	-13.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		-12.1%	18.6%	20.9%	-14.0%
YTD	\$ 172,292	\$ 131,785	\$ 222,573	\$ 215,238	\$ 229,797
% Chg over Prev YTD		-23.5%	68.9%	-3.3%	6.8%

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. August 2023.

GULF COAST RETAIL GASOLINE PRICE

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

Aug



7%

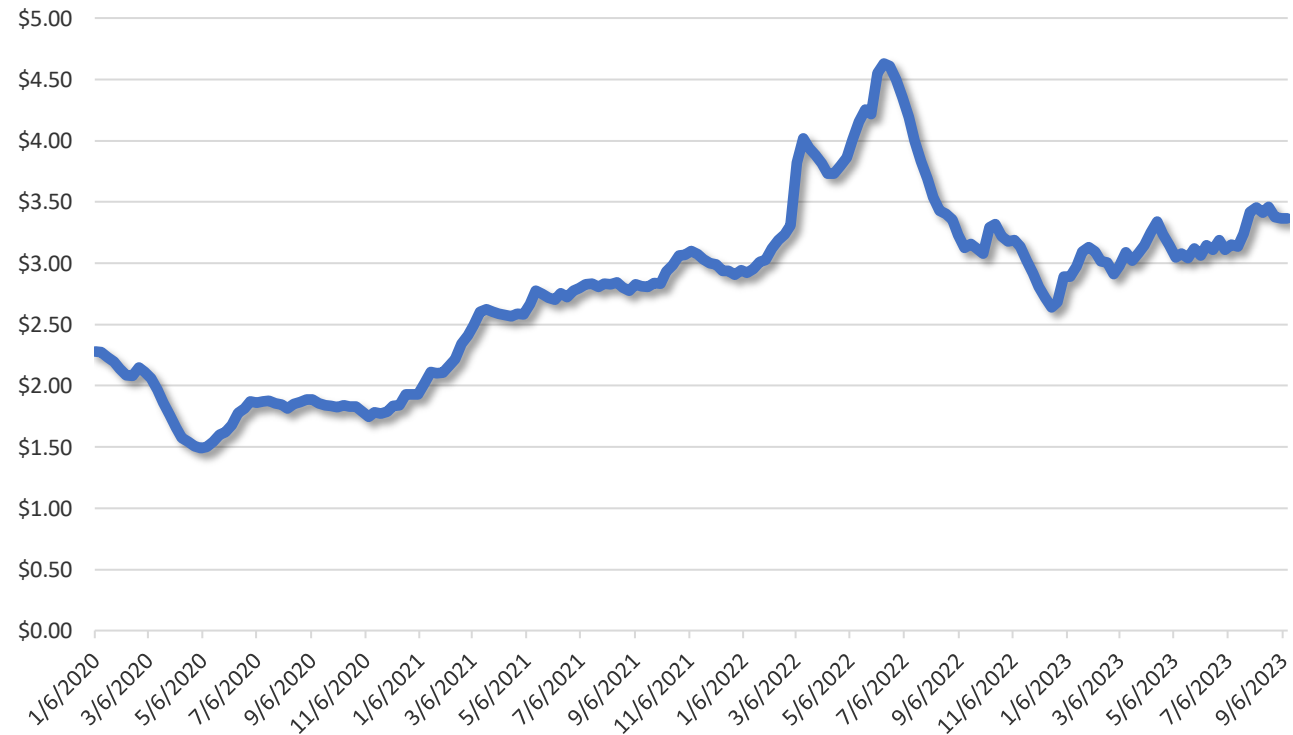
Aug YoY



-1%

- July 2023 average retail gasoline price in Gulf Coast region was \$3.43/gal., up \$0.22 from July, but down \$0.05 from August 2022.

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

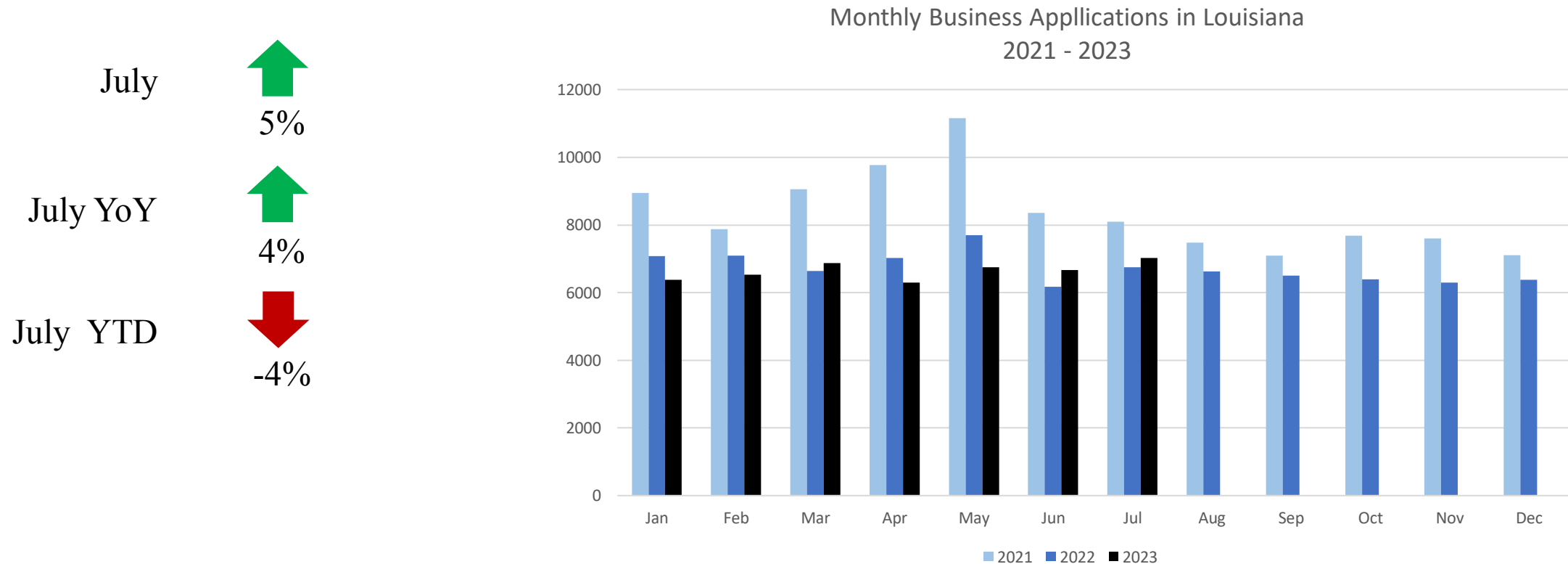


Local & Louisiana

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).



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

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

NEW BUSINESSES IN RAPIDES

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

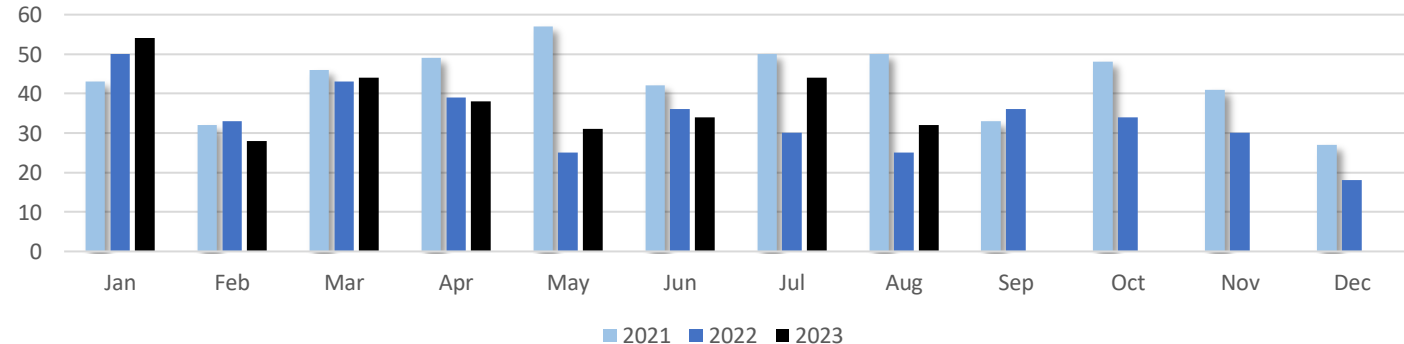
August

- The number of new businesses established in Rapides in August 2023 decreased -27% from July but was 28% higher than a year ago.

- ✓ Year-to-date, 305 new businesses have been created in Rapides in 2023, compared to 281 last year.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
August	35	37	50	25	32
July	44	47	50	30	44
% Chg Prev Month	-20.5%	-21.3%	0.0%	-16.7%	-27.3%
% Chg from Prev Year		5.7%	35.1%	-50.0%	28.0%
YTD	317	271	369	281	305
% Chg over Prev YTD		-14.5%	36.2%	-23.8%	8.5%

New Businesses in Rapides
2021-2023



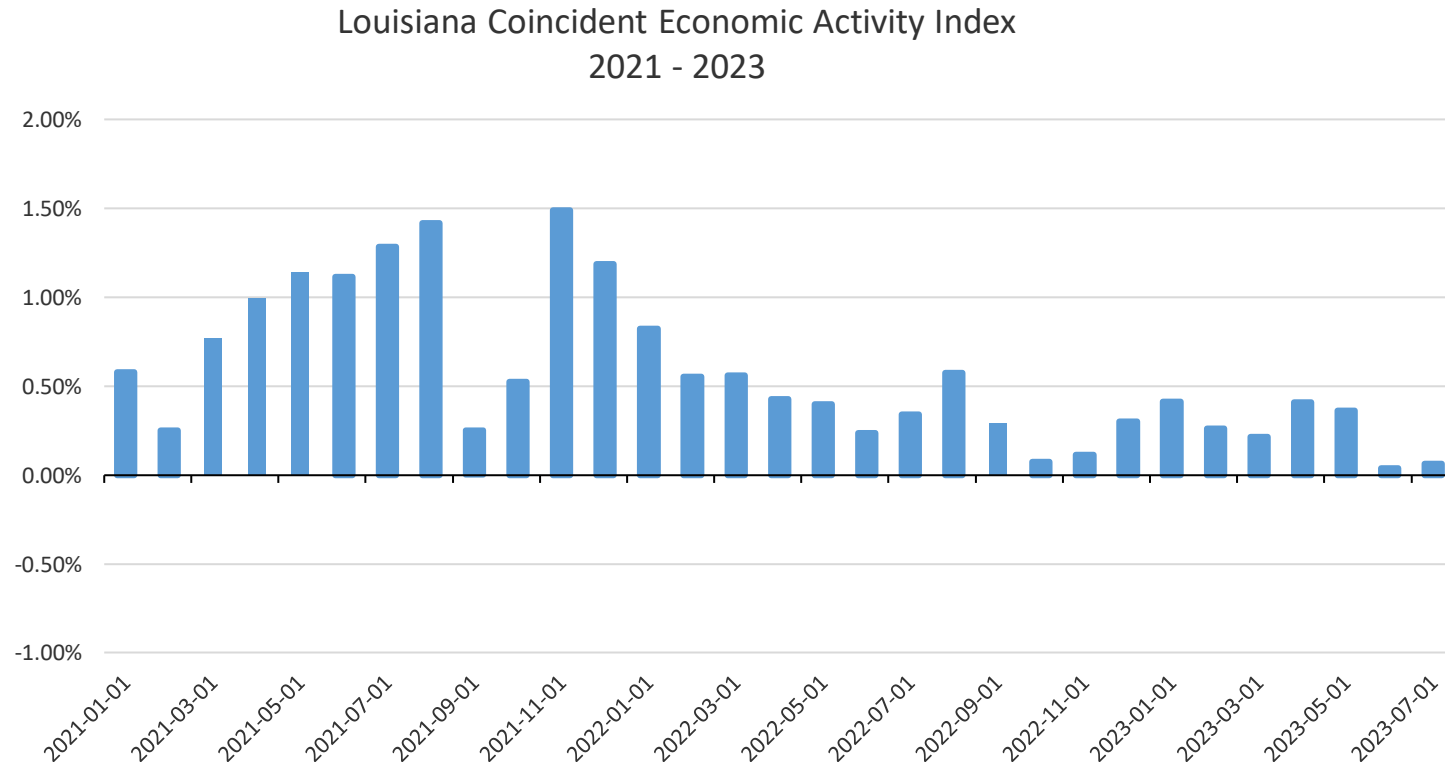
Note: Data reflects businesses established in the current month.

Data Source: Rapides Parish Sales and Use Tax Department, August 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 July 2023, the Index rose 0.06%. The recalibrated index shows continuous economic growth since 2021. However, growth has slowed considerably.*
- *The Index is up 1.5% since July 2022.*



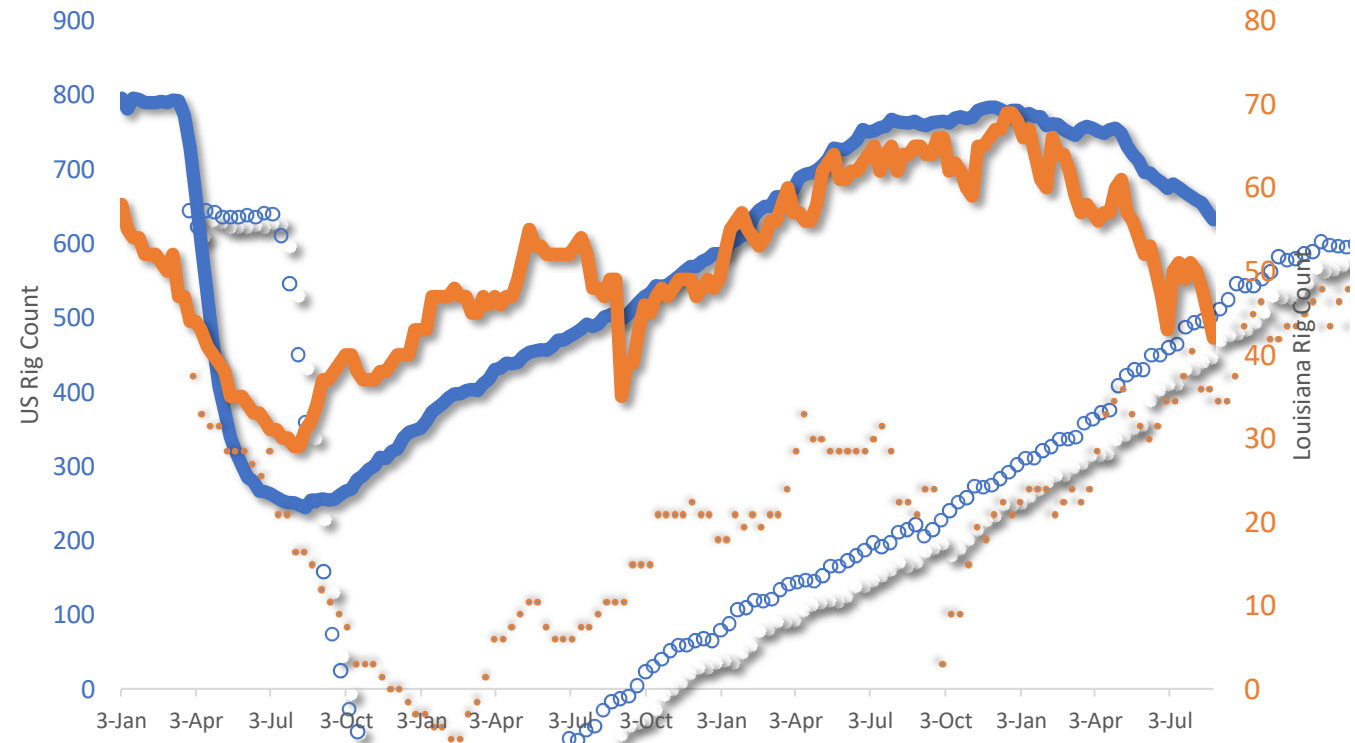
BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNT

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

	Aug 23	Jul 23	Aug 22
Louisiana	48	50	64
US	647	672	764

- Average rig count in Louisiana in August 2023 was down two rigs from July and down 16 rigs from a year ago, a decrease of -25%.
- Nationwide, the rig count fell as well from 764 a year ago to 647 in August 2023, a decrease of -15%.

Rig Count in Louisiana & US
2020-2023



LOUISIANA GAMING REVENUE

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

July 2023

July 0%

Jul YoY



-7%

Jul YTD



-4%

	July-23	Jun-23	July-22	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Video Poker	\$ 61,512,557	\$ 61,840,072	\$ 66,740,807	-0.5%	-7.8%	-7.1%
Riverboat	\$ 146,631,626	\$ 148,917,913	\$ 152,213,887	-1.5%	-3.7%	-2.6%
Landbased	\$ 17,475,547	\$ 19,847,061	\$ 22,629,880	-11.9%	-22.8%	-5.2%
Slots	\$ 27,560,068	\$ 22,599,255	\$ 29,323,733	22.0%	-6.0%	-4.2%
Total	\$ 253,179,798	\$ 253,204,301	\$ 270,908,307	0.0%	-6.5%	-4.2%

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

Data Source: Louisiana Gaming Control Board, Sept. 17, 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 November 28, 2023*

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