# CENTRAL LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DASHBOARD





— College of ———

**Business** 

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January 2023





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#### **KEY FINDINGS**

January 2023

#### **COVID**

The map of Covid-19 statewide risk is now expanded to show 12 months of transition. A review of the map shows high risk in a third of the parishes. Covid cases in 2022 in Regions 6 & 7 have been declining with each successive high. April and May had the lowest risk in 2022, follow by the fall months of October - December. All of central Louisiana parishes were at high risk in mid-January, except for Concordia, Evangeline, Vernon which were low risk.

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

Employment in the Alexandria MSA in November increased by 489 to 63,950 from October, while the unemployment rate fell to 2.5%. Employment in Natchitoches parish increased by 55 to 16,072, while the unemployment rate fell to 3.1%.

The local labor market remained strong in November. The Alexandria MSA unemployment rate was the lowest among the major metro areas at 2.5%, with Baton Rouge and Lafayette closing the gap at 2.6% and 2.7%. In November, central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 3.0%, slightly above the state's rate of 2.9%.

The labor market in Alexandria remained extremely tight in November with the number of unemployed reaching 1,632, the lowest point in 32 years. Rapides has a 2.4% unemployment rate and Natchitoches stood at 3.1%. While continued unemployment claims fell -29% in 2022, from its peak of 17,103 on January 1 to 12,227 at year end, the trend in the second half of 2022 is up which is concerning for employment in 2023.



#### **KEY FINDINGS**

January 2023

#### **CONSUMER SPENDING**

The Alexandria MSA had a current-dollar GDP of \$7.03 billion in 2021 compared to \$6.43 billion in 2020, a 9.5% increase. However, real GDP (adjusted for inflation) in the Alexandria MSA was \$5.55 billion in 2021 compared to \$5.41 billion in 2020, only a 2.6% increase.

Every jurisdictions collected less sales tax in December than November, except for Natchitoches and Vernon which matched the previous month. On a positive note, every jurisdiction was up for the year except for two. Alexandria had no change from 2021 and Concordia was down -15% from the previous year. Sales tax revenue is used as a measure of consumer spending.

Sales tax revenue for Rapides was up 1% for the year, from \$169 million in 2021 to \$171 million in 2022, but up 31% since 2017. Although Alexandria saw no growth in its sales tax revenue in 2022, revenue is up 22% since 2017. Pineville had the second highest sales tax growth in 2022, up 5% and 12% since 2017. Sales tax revenue in Ball was up 7% in 2022 and 66% since 2017, accounting for the fastest spending growth in Rapides.

Consumer spending on vehicles as measured by tax revenue was either down or showed no growth in five of the six jurisdictions, with Evangeline as the lone exception showing a 1% gain. A slight downturn was not unexpected after tremendous vehicle sales from 2019 to 2021 when vehicles sales 44% increase. Lodging experienced a difficult year as well, with annual hotel occupancy taxes down -3% in Vernon, -10% in Rapides, and -13% in Avoyelles. Only Natchitoches had a gain for the year, a sizeable 17%.

According to the Louisiana Remote Sellers Commission, 2022 saw \$21 million in online sales taxes collected in central Louisiana compared to \$17 million in 2021, a 24% increase.



#### **KEY FINDINGS**

January 2023

#### **PERMITS & HOUSING**

Permit valuation data has been reorganized into a single page. This provides a better overview of permits in Cenla. Unfortunately, permit data from the City of Alexandria was not available for October so year-end totals are not available. Nevertheless, Avoyelles and Pineville had the highest percentage growth at 36% and 30%, respectively.

Higher mortgage rates continue to put pressure on the housing market. The 30 year fixed mortgage rate, which reached 7.08% on November 10, is impacting new residential construction in the Alexandria MSA as shown in Census Bureau data. New residential construction permits were in an uptrend from Summer 2020 to Summer 2022. However, the uptrend is in jeopardy as mortgage rates remained high in the second half of 2022.

The weakness in the housing market continues to impact lumber prices. In December 2022, the US Lumber Price Index fell -5% from November. Currently, the Lumber Index stands -25% below a year ago.

#### **TRAVEL**

Gasoline prices in the Gulf Coast region have fallen from a peak on June 13 of \$4.63/gallon to a low of \$2.64/gallon on December 19. In December, air passenger traffic remained -7% below December 2019 and -10% below for the year.

#### **NEW BUSINESSES**

New business applications in Louisiana in 2022 fell -20% compared to 2021. The number of new businesses established in Rapides in December 2022 decreased -40% from November and was -33% lower than a year ago. Year-to-date, 399 new businesses have been created in Rapides in 2022, compared to 518 in 2021, representing a -23% decline.



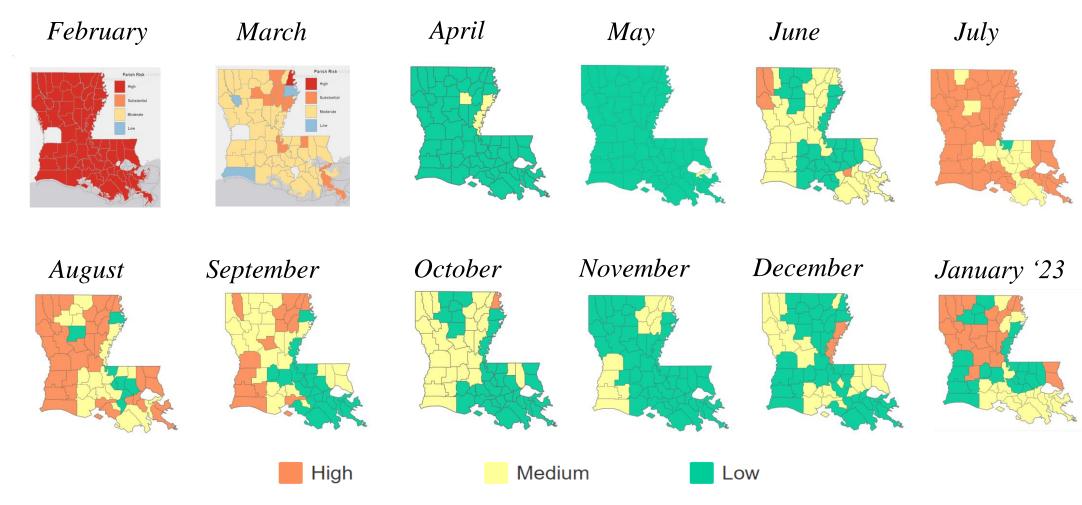


# COVID-19

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

# **COVID-19 STATEWIDE RISK**

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

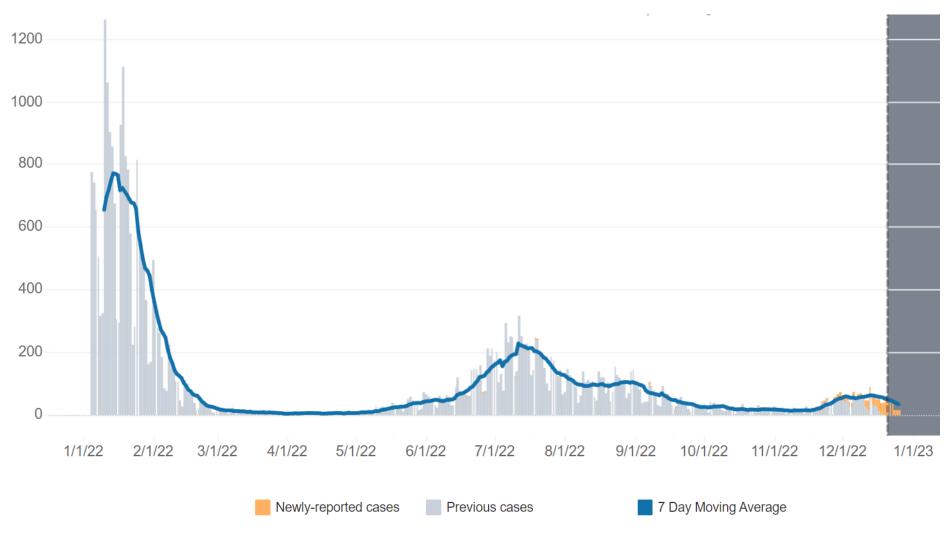




Source: Louisiana Office of Public Health, https://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus, December 28, 2022.

# **COVID-19 CASES IN REGION 6 IN 2022**

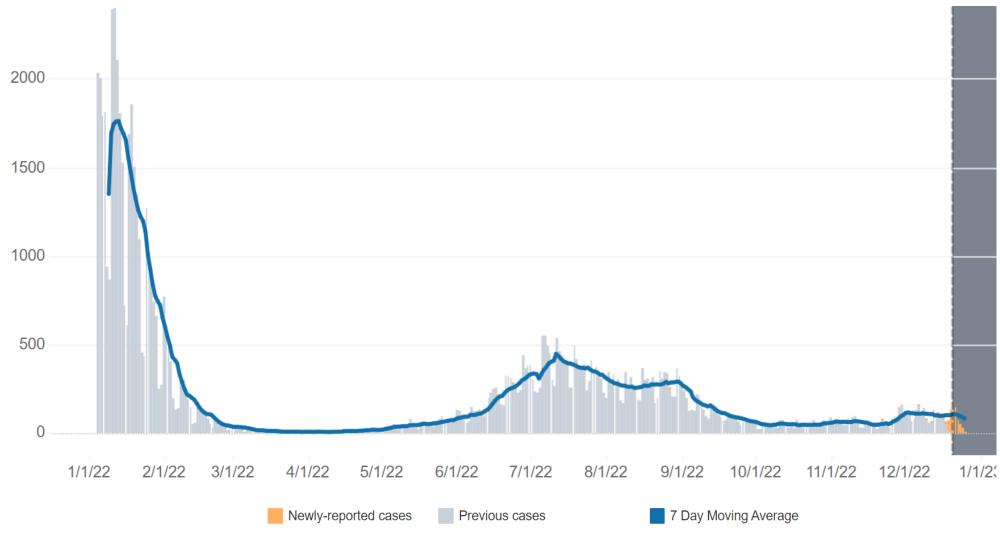
COVID-19 cases by collection date from January — December 2022 in Region 6 (Cenla).





# **COVID-19 CASES IN REGION 7 IN 2022**

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







# Employment

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

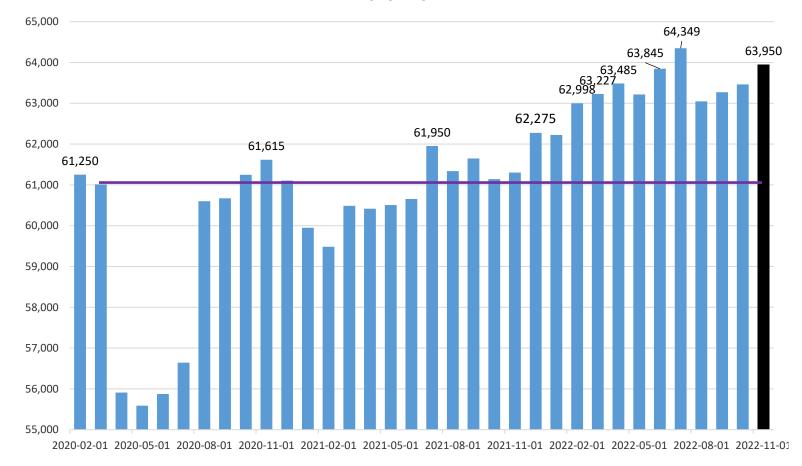
# **EMPLOYMENT IN ALEXANDRIA MSA**

Employed persons in the Alexandria MSA from 2020 – 2022.

# Employment in November increased 489 over October to 63,950.

- Employment level in November increased by 2,549 over a year ago.
- ✓ Unemployment rate in November in the Alexandria MSA was 2.5% compared to 2.9% for the state.

#### Employed Persons in Alexandria, LA MSA 2020 - 2022



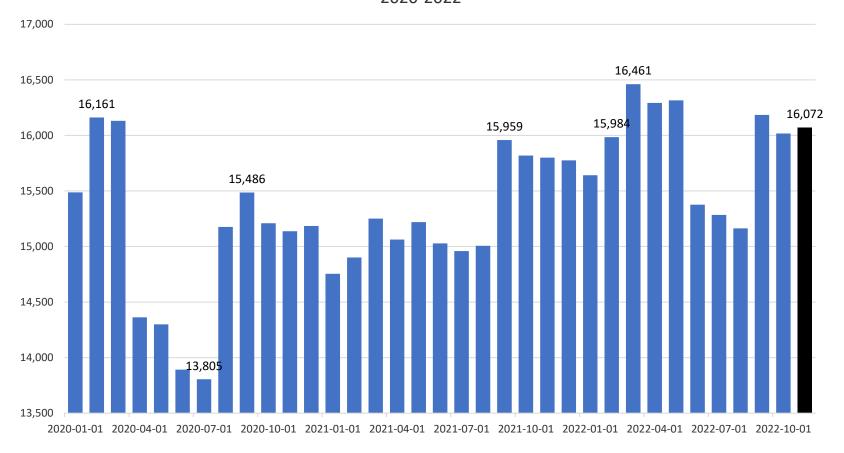


# **EMPLOYMENT IN NATCHITOCHES**

*Employed persons in Natchitoches parish from 2020 – 2022.* 

- ✓ In November 2022, 16,072 were employed in Natchitoches parish, up from 16,017 in October, an increase of 55.
- The unemployment rate in Natchitoches parish in November fell to 3.1%.

# Employed Persons in Natchitoches 2020-2022





# **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG LA METROS**

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

- At 2.5%, the Alexandria MSA unemployment rate in November remained the lowest among the state's major metro areas.
- ✓ Louisiana's unemployment rate in November was 2.9%.

#### November 2022

Anna	Labor Force	Employed		Unemployment
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Alexandria	65,573	63,950	1,623	2.5%
Baton Rouge	425,513	414,349	11,164	2.6%
Lafayette	217,584	211,790	5,794	2.7%
Lake Charles	103,374	100,622	2,752	2.7%
Houma-Thibodaux	84,883	82,532	2,351	2.8%
Monroe	79,267	76,975	2,292	2.9%
Shreveport-Bossier City	187,202	181,518	5,684	3.0%
New Orleans-Metairie	602,089	583,273	18,816	3.1%
Hammond	56,942	54,885	2,057	3.6%



### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY CENLA PARISH**

The table below shows November 2022 preliminary unemployment rate, labor force, and employment data for central Louisiana parishes.

In November, parishes in central Louisiana had an unemployment rate of 3.0%, down from 3.1% in October and slightly above to the state's rate of 2.9%.

#### November 2022

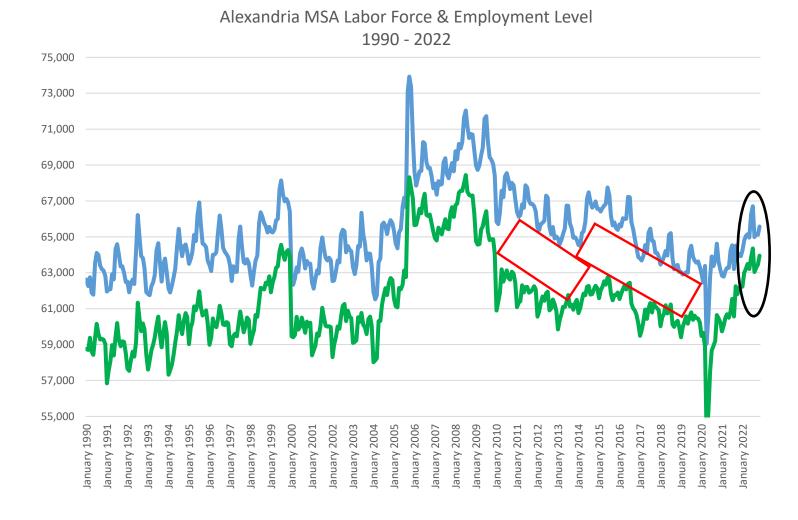
				Unemployment	Unemployment
Area	Labor Force	<b>Employed</b>	Unemployed	Rate Nov 2022	Rate Oct 2022
Allen	8,122	7,847	275	3.4%	3.2%
Avoyelles	13,125	12,677	448	3.4%	3.4%
Catahoula	3,364	3,253	111	3.3%	3.2%
Concordia	6,987	6,732	255	3.6%	3.8%
Evangeline	11,993	11,623	370	3.1%	3.3%
Grant	8,463	8,236	227	2.7%	2.6%
La Salle	6,716	6,577	139	2.1%	2.2%
Natchitoches	16,589	16,072	517	3.1%	3.1%
Rapides	57,110	55,714	1,396	2.4%	2.5%
St. Landry	32,330	31,148	1,182	3.7%	3.7%
Vernon	15,826	15,341	485	3.1%	3.9%



## LABOR FORCE & EMP. LEVEL IN ALEXANDRIA MSA

*Total number in labor force and employed in the Alexandria MSA from 1990 – 2022.* 

- The labor force reached approximately 74,000 in October 2005, the employment level reached 68,000+ in October 2005 and July 2008.
- The gap between the labor force (blue line) and the employment level (green line) represents unemployed. In 2022, the gap has narrowed.

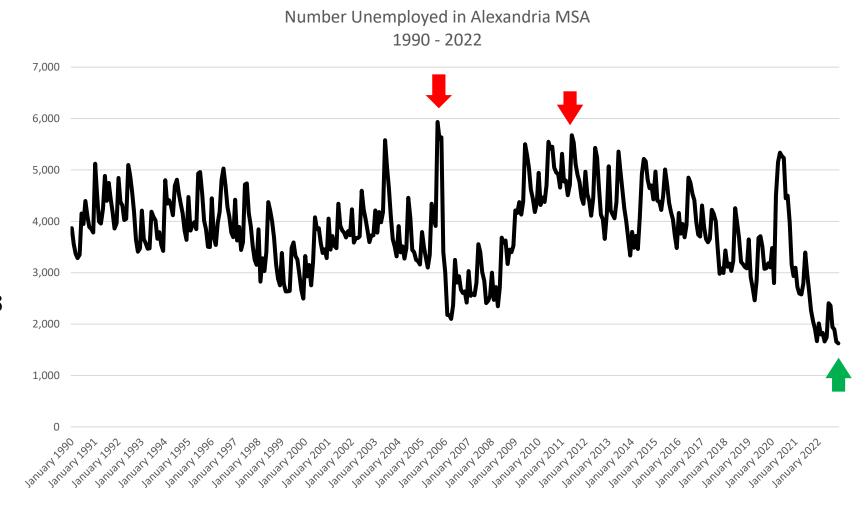




# **UNEMPLOYED IN ALEXANDRIA MSA**

*Number unemployed in the Alexandria MSA from 1990 – 2022.* 

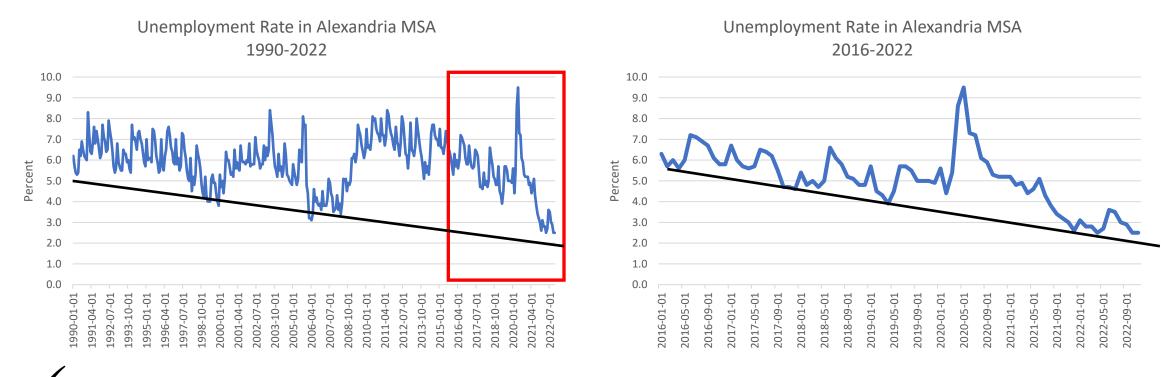
- The number of unemployed in the Alexandria MSA reached 5,934 in September 2005 with a secondary peak in June 2011 of 5,676.
- ✓ Reached a low of 1,623 in November 2022.





# **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN RAPIDES**

The graphs below shows the unemployment rate in Rapides from 1990 – 2022 and 2016 - 2022.



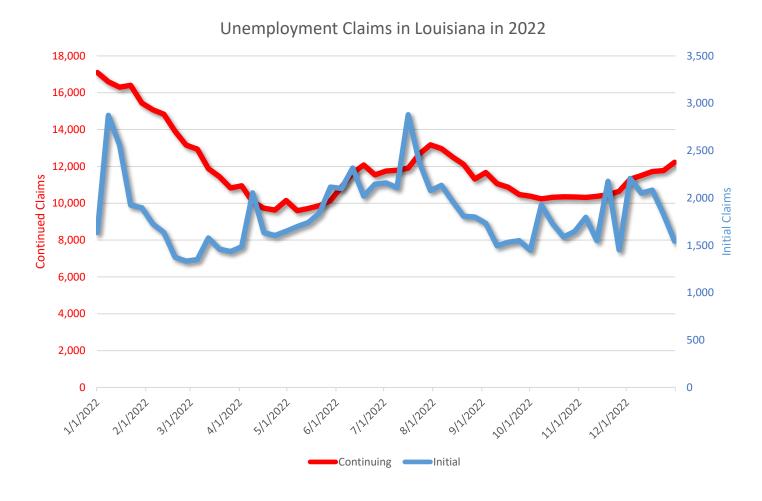
In November 2022, Rapides had an unemployment rate of 2.4%, down from 3.1% in January 2022 and a peaked at 3.6% for the year in June.



### **UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS IN LOUISIANA**

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

- ✓ Initial unemployment claims ended 2022 down -6%, falling from 1,636 to 1,543. Initial claims peaked July 16 at 2,879.
- Continued unemployment claims fell -29% in 2022, from its peak of 17,103 on January 1 to 12,227 at year end.





## **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 November 2022.

- In November 2022, the Alexandria MSA labor market had a job opening ratio of 0.26, meaning there were four job postings per unemployed.
- The state ratio was .50 in November.

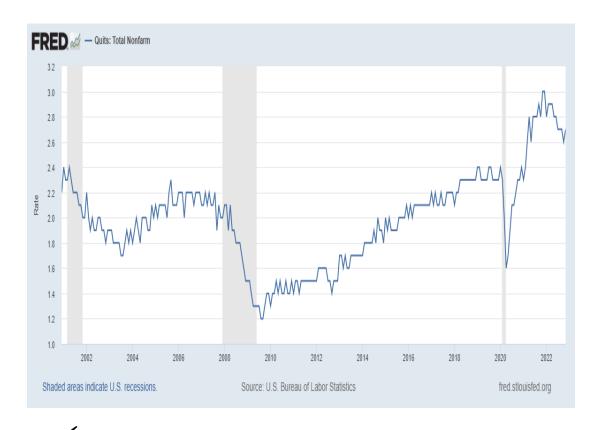
#### November 2022

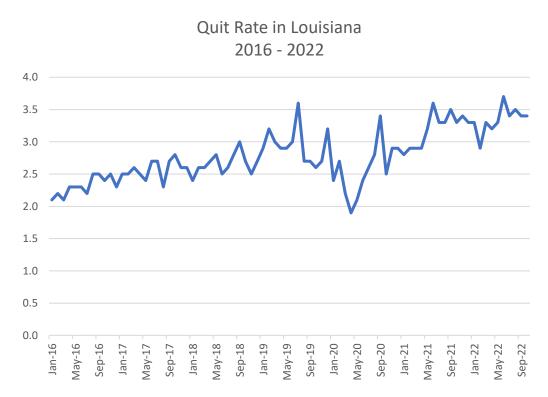
Rank	Metro Area	Unemployed	Job Postings	Unemployed per Job Opening
1	Alexandria	1,623	6,338	0.26
2	Lafayette	3,472	10,000	0.35
3	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	18,458	47,271	0.39
4	Lake Charles	2,752	6,077	0.45
5	Baton Rouge	11,164	23,676	0.47
6	Shreveport-Bossier City	5,199	10,534	0.49
7	Monroe	2,292	3,408	0.67
8	Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	2,351	3,295	0.71



## **QUIT RATE IN U.S. & LOUISIANA**

The graph below shows the rate of quits in the U.S. from 2000 – 2022 and in Louisiana from 2016 - 2022 as a percentage of total employed.





In November 2022, the U.S. had a quit rate of 2.7% compared to 3.4% in Louisiana. Employees are more likely to change jobs when feeling secure about the economy and less likely otherwise.





# Tax Revenue

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

### TAX REVENUE OVERVIEW

An overview of sales, vehicle sales, and hotel occupancy taxes collected in the December 2022 reflecting sales activity in November 2022, unless otherwise noted.

#### December 2022

Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD	Vehicle Sales Tax	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Alexandria	-3%	-2%	0%	Avoyelles	-10%	0%	0%
Avoyelles	-12%	1%	6%	Evangeline	2%	9%	1%
Catahoula	-24%	-11%	-15%	Natchitoches*	-24%	-11%	-9%
Concordia	-18%	3%	7%	Rapides	6%	22%	- <b>7</b> %
Evangeline	-12%	-7%	12%	St. Landry	-4%	6%	0%
Grant	-20%	-4%	4%	Vernon	-12%	-9%	-9%
La Salle	-9%	13%	12%				
Natchitoches	0%	9%	12%	Hotel Occupancy Tax			
Pineville	-3%	4%	5%	Avoyelles	-8%	-28%	-13%
Rapides	-6%	1%	1%	Natchitoches	33%	25%	17%
St. Landry	-11%	-4%	5%	Rapides	12%	-9%	-10%
Vernon	0%	2%	5%	Vernon	0%	30%	-3%

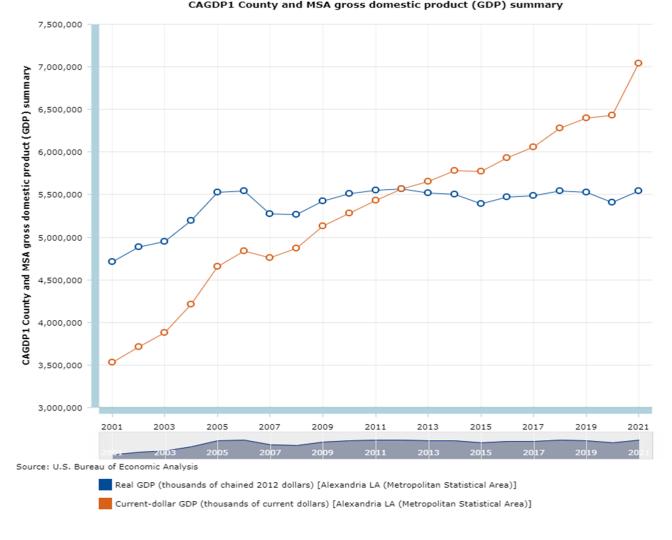
Notes: December tax revenue collection reflects sales activity in November. \*Current month data are not available. Represents prior month. N/a = Not available Data Source noted in detailed reports.

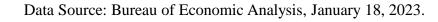


#### **GDP FOR ALEXANDRIA MSA**

The graph below shows the gross domestic product in the Alexandria MSA from 2000 – 2022 in nominal and inflation-adjusted dollars with 2012 as the base year.

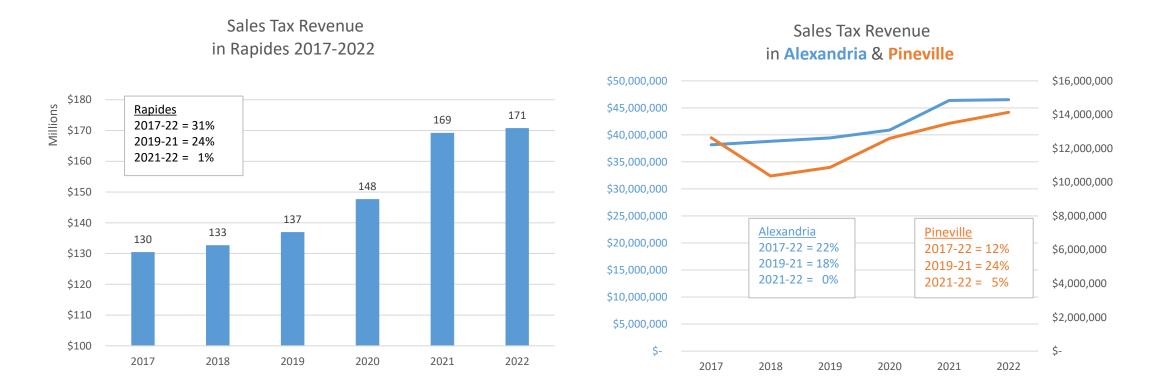
- The Alexandria MSA had a current-dollar GDP of \$7.03 billion in 2021 compared to \$6.43 billion in 2020, a 9.5% increase.
- Real GDP (adjusted for inflation) in the Alexandria MSA was \$5.55 billion in 2021 compared to \$5.41 billion in 2020, only a 2.6% increase.





# 2017- 2022 TAX REVENUE IN RAPIDES PARISH AND CITIES

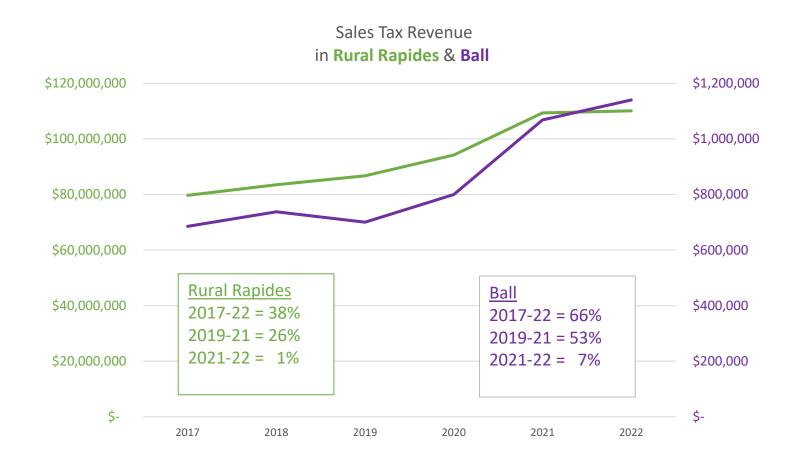
An overview of annual sales tax revenues in Rapides parish, Alexandria, and Pineville from 2017-2022.





### 2017- 2022 TAX REVENUE IN RURAL RAPIDES & BALL

An overview of annual sales tax revenues in rural areas of Rapides parish and Ball from 2017-2022.

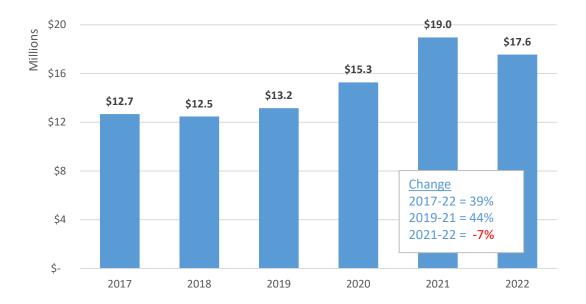




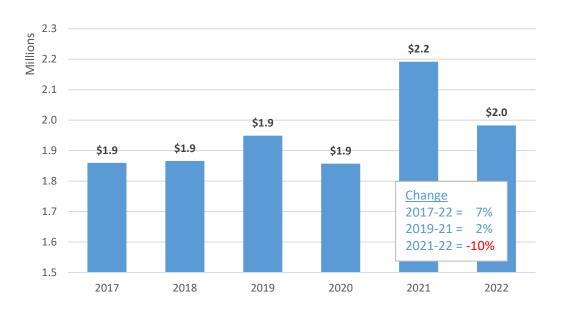
## 2017- 2022 VEHICLE AND LODGING TAX REVENUE

An overview of annual vehicle and lodging sales tax revenues in Rapides parish from 2017-2022.





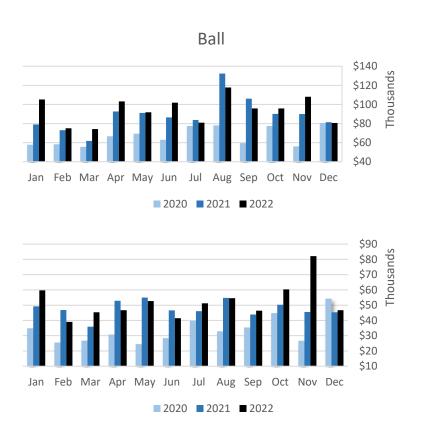
# Lodging Sales Tax Revenue in Rapides 2017-2022





# **RAPIDES PARISH TOWNS & CITIES**

An overview of sales tax revenue collected in other Rapides Parish towns and cities in December 2022 (excluding Alexandria and Pineville).



#### December

	Dec-22	Nov-22	Dec-21	% M/M	% Y/Y	%YTD
Ball	\$80,657	\$108,023	\$81,395	-25.3%	-0.9%	5.9%
Boyce	\$48,653	\$47,195	\$39,270	3.1%	23.9%	-6.7%
Cheneyville	\$1,906	\$3,063	\$2,949	-37.8%	-35.4%	47.6%
Glenmora	\$14,664	\$19,584	\$19,843	-25.1%	-26.1%	-4.7%
Lecompte	\$28,552	\$24,705	\$23,178	15.6%	23.2%	1.8%
Woodworth	\$46,734	\$82,132	\$45,356	-43.1%	3.0%	8.4%

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

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



# **ALEXANDRIA SALES TAX**

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

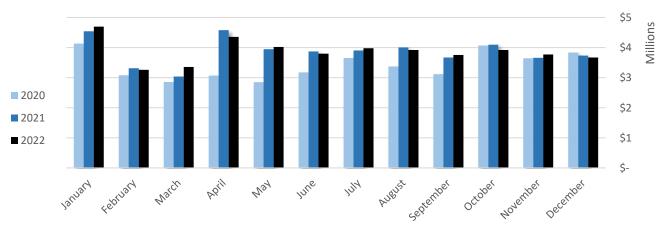
(BR) Alexandria total monthly sales tax revenue from 2020 to present.



#### December

	2019		2020	2021	2022		
December	\$	3,304,565	\$ 3,837,325	\$ 3,734,534	\$	3,671,898	
November	\$	3,009,970	\$ 3,644,343	\$ 3,659,805	\$	3,770,593	
% Chg over Prev Month		9.8%	5.3%	2.0%		-2.6%	
% Chg over Prev Year			16.1%	-2.7%		-1.7%	
YTD	\$ 3	39,422,880	\$ 40,876,845	\$ 46,361,662	\$	46,524,818	
% Chg over Prev YTD			3.7%	13.4%		0.4%	

Alexandria Sales Tax Revenue



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



## **AVOYELLES SALES TAX**

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

December	-12%
Dec YoY	1%
Dec YTD	6%

#### December

	2018	2019		2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 1,315,332	\$ 1,483,307	\$	1,565,736	\$ 1,708,107	\$ 1,732,185
November	\$ 1,327,497	\$ 1,381,375	\$	1,740,322	\$ 1,771,546	\$ 1,959,282
% Chg over Prev Month	-0.9%	7.4%	)	-10.0%	-3.6%	-11.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		12.8%	)	5.6%	9.1%	1.4%
YTD	\$ 16,686,430	\$ 17,621,515	\$	18,179,299	\$ 22,298,320	\$ 23,668,338
% Chg over Prev YTD		5.6%	)	3.2%	22.7%	6.1%

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

Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. January 2023.



## **AVOYELLES VEHICLE SALES TAX**

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



#### December

	2018		2019	2020			2021	2022		
December	\$ 213,280	\$	217,793	\$	300,598	\$	285,905	\$	285,305	
November	\$ 252,683	\$	344,537	\$	338,066	\$	355,777	\$	317,889	
% Chg over Prev Month	-15.6%		-36.8%		-11.1%		-19.6%		-10.3%	
% Chg over Prev Year			2.1%		38.0%		-4.9%		-0.2%	
YTD	\$ 3,135,135	\$	3,346,864	\$	3,576,377	\$	4,114,543	\$	4,107,213	
% Chg over Prev YTD			6.8%		6.9%		15.0%		-0.2%	

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

Data Source: Avoyelles Parish School Board. January 2023



# CATAHOULA SALES TAX

Catahoula Parish total sales tax revenue collected in December with previous month, year, and yearto-date comparisons.

December	-24%
Dec YoY	-11%
Dec YTD	-15%

#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 530,966	\$ 543,087	\$ 551,876	\$ 490,794
November	\$ 353,919	\$ 410,962	\$ 614,526	\$ 644,857
% Chg over Prev Month	50.0%	32.2%	-10.2%	-23.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		2.3%	1.6%	-11.1%
YTD	\$ 5,700,428	\$ 5,891,740	\$ 8,510,038	\$ 7,216,590
% Chg over Prev YTD		3.4%	44.4%	-15.2%

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

Data Source: Catahoula Parish Tax Administrator, January 2023



# **CONCORDIA SALES TAX**

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

# December -18% Dec YoY 3% Dec YTD 7%

#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 1,172,459	\$ 1,255,832	\$ 1,267,286	\$ 1,308,998
November	\$ 944,540	\$ 1,004,142	\$ 1,207,293	\$ 1,594,361
% Chg over Prev Month	24.1%	25.1%	5.0%	-17.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		7.1%	0.9%	3.3%
YTD	\$ 13,392,009	\$ 13,319,751	\$ 15,167,240	\$ 16,265,144
% Chg over Prev YTD		-0.5%	13.9%	7.2%

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

Data Source: Concordia Parish Tax Administrator. January 2023



# **EVANGELINE SALES TAX**

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

# December -12% Dec YoY -7% Dec YTD 12%

#### December

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 1,436,980	\$ 1,390,677	\$ 1,523,452	\$ 2,269,568	\$ 2,110,430
November	\$ 1,488,901	\$ 1,976,232	\$ 1,771,601	\$ 2,262,876	\$ 2,391,638
% Chg over Prev Month	-3.5%	-29.6%	-14.0%	0.3%	-11.8%
% Chg over Prev Year		-3.2%	9.5%	49.0%	-7.0%
YTD	\$ 16,581,886	\$ 17,376,100	\$ 17,858,095	\$ 23,365,695	\$ 26,212,258
% Chg over Prev YTD		4.8%	2.8%	30.8%	12.2%

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. January 2023



### **EVANGELINE VEHICLE SALES TAX**

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



#### December

	2018	2019			2020	2021			2022		
November	\$ 249,226	\$	219,748	\$	306,309	\$	329,723	\$	360,297		
October	\$ 295,869	\$	330,988	\$	339,180	\$	428,648	\$	355,014		
% Chg over Prev Month	-15.8%		-33.6%		-9.7%		-23.1%		1.5%		
% Chg over Prev Year			-11.8%		39.4%		7.6%		9.3%		
YTD	\$ 3,205,419	\$	3,303,929	\$	3,581,958	\$	4,393,371	\$	4,422,219		
% Chg over Prev YTD			3.1%	·	8.4%		22.7%		0.7%		

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

Data Source: Evangeline Parish Sales Tax Commissioner. January 2023



## **GRANT SALES TAX**

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

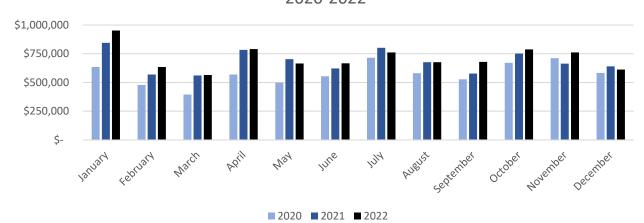
(BR) Grant monthly sales tax revenue from 2020 to present.



#### December

	2019			2020	2021	2022		
December	\$	418,667	\$	582,796	\$ 640,149	\$	612,223	
November	\$	524,391	\$	711,713	\$ 663,541	\$	760,641	
% Chg over Prev Month		-20.2%		-18.1%	-3.5%		-19.5%	
% Chg over Prev Year				39.2%	9.8%		-4.4%	
YTD	\$ 5	5,954,740	\$	6,919,392	\$ 8,194,332	\$	8,551,100	
% Chg over Prev YTD				16.2%	18.4%		4.4%	

# Grant Parish Sales Tax Revenue 2020-2022



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

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



# LA SALLE SALES TAX

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

# December -9% Dec YoY 13% Dec YTD

#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 923,277	\$ 927,632	\$ 959,729	\$ 1,088,774
November	\$ 775,187	\$ 814,227	\$ 953,565	\$ 1,194,609
% Chg over Prev Month	19.1%	13.9%	0.6%	-8.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		0.5%	3.5%	13.4%
YTD	\$ 10,714,139	\$ 10,448,878	\$ 12,272,162	\$ 13,678,805
% Chg over Prev YTD		-23.6%	17.4%	11.5%

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

Data Source: La Salle Parish Tax Administrator, January 2023

12%



#### NATCHITOCHES SALES TAX

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

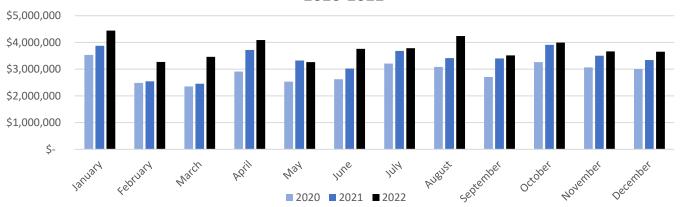
(BR) Natchitoches monthly sales tax revenue from 2020 to present.



#### December

	2019	2020	2021		2022
December	\$ 2,694,977	\$ 3,005,083	\$ 3,342,236	\$	3,655,782
November	\$ 2,905,066	\$ 3,067,779	\$ 3,503,058	\$	3,666,227
% Chg over Prev Month	-7.2%	-2.0%	-4.6%		-0.3%
% Chg over Prev Year		11.5%	11.2%		9.4%
YTD	\$ 32,954,016	\$ 34,788,843	\$ 40,195,555	\$4	15,151,955
% Chg over Prev YTD		5.6%	15.5%		12.3%

Natchitoches Parish Sales Tax Revenue 2020-2022



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

Data Source: Natchitoches Parish Tax Commission, January 2023.



#### NATCHITOCHES VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

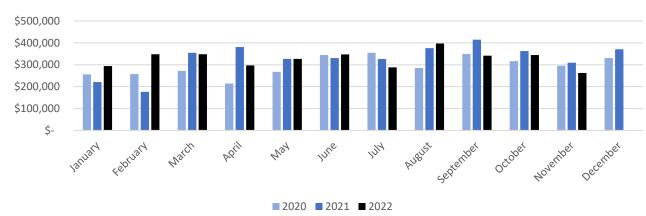
(BR) Natchitoches monthly vehicle sales tax revenue from 2020 to present.



#### November\*

	2019	2020	2021		2022
November	\$ 209,849	\$ 295,325	\$ 309,179	\$	262,295
October	\$ 358,593	\$ 316,647	\$ 362,996	\$	344,678
% Chg over Prev Month	-41.5%	-6.7%	-14.8%		-23.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		40.7%	47.3%		-11.2%
YTD	\$ 3,439,433	\$ 3,542,420	\$ 3,949,615	\$3	,594,932
% Chg over Prev YTD		3.0%	11.5%		-9.0%

Natchitoches Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue 2020-2022



Note: Current sales tax revenue collections reflects sales activity in the prior month. \*December 2022 vehicle sales tax revenue was not available at time of publication. Data Source: Natchitoches Parish Tax Commission, January 2023.



#### PINEVILLE SALES TAX

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

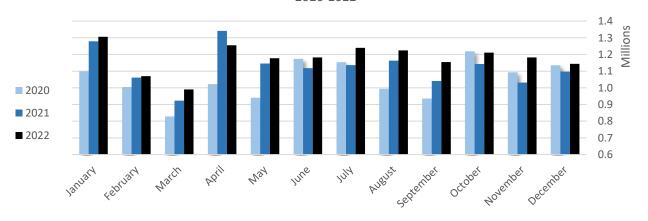
(BR) Pineville monthly sales tax revenue from 2020 to present.



#### December

	2019			2020	2021	2022
December	\$	966,455	\$	1,134,648	\$ 1,097,164	\$ 1,143,743
November	\$	881,728	\$	1,092,633	\$ 1,031,203	\$ 1,182,383
% Chg over Prev Month		9.6%		3.8%	6.4%	-3.3%
% Chg over Prev Year				17.4%	-3.3%	4.2%
YTD	\$1	0,881,178	\$	12,595,065	\$ 13,479,726	\$ 14,135,753
% Chg over Prev YTD				15.8%	7.0%	4.9%

Pineville Sales Tax Revenue 2020-2022



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



#### RAPIDES SALES TAX

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

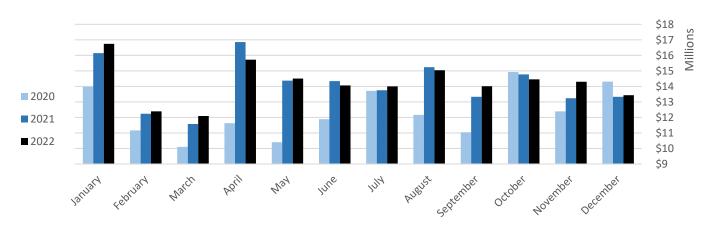
(BR) Rapides monthly sales tax revenue from 2020 to present.



#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 11,949,427	\$ 14,310,091	\$ 13,331,411	\$ 13,431,039
November	\$ 10,020,103	\$ 12,392,688	\$ 13,241,984	\$ 14,304,071
% Chg over Prev Month	19.3%	15.5%	0.7%	-6.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		19.8%	-6.8%	0.7%
YTD	\$ 137,003,634	\$ 147,695,439	\$ 169,210,555	\$ 170,775,225
% Chg over Prev YTD		7.8%	14.6%	0.9%

Rapides Parish Total Sales Tax Revenue 2020-2022



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



#### RAPIDES VEHICLE SALES TAX

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



#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 1,026,339	\$ 1,361,953	\$ 1,234,386	\$ 1,502,797
November	\$ 1,026,339	\$ 1,361,953	\$ 1,438,175	\$ 1,416,360
% Chg over Prev Month	0.0%	0.0%	-14.2%	6.1%
% Chg over Prev Year		32.7%	-9.4%	21.7%
YTD	\$13,116,461	\$15,275,186	\$18,960,225	\$17,554,031
% Chg over Prev YTD		16.5%	24.1%	-7.4%

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



#### ST. LANDRY SALES TAX

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



#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 5,662,822	\$ 6,109,745	\$ 7,049,948	\$ 6,787,545
November	\$ 5,187,307	\$ 6,821,590	\$ 6,490,074	\$ 7,661,723
% Chg over Prev Month	9.2%	-10.4%	8.6%	-11.4%
% Chg over Prev Year		7.9%	15.4%	-3.7%
YTD	\$ 69,912,003	\$ 77,708,999	\$ 85,658,162	\$ 90,142,152
% Chg over Prev YTD		11.2%	10.2%	5.2%

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

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



#### ST. LANDRY VEHICLE SALES TAX

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

# December -4% Dec YoY 6% Dec YTD 0%

#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 780,156	\$ 791,899	\$ 929,755	\$ 981,343
November	\$ 780,156	\$ 917,278	\$ 1,002,152	\$ 1,018,312
% Chg over Prev Month	0.0%	-13.7%	-7.2%	-3.6%
% Chg over Prev Year		1.5%	17.4%	5.5%
YTD	\$ 9,845,907	\$10,059,110	\$11,974,932	\$11,963,764
% Chg over Prev YTD		2.2%	19.0%	-0.1%

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

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



#### **VERNON SALES TAX**

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



#### December

		2019		2020		2021		2022
December	\$	2,141,345	\$	2,620,406	\$	2,661,011	\$	2,725,060
November	\$	2,049,125	\$	2,753,949	\$	2,576,339	\$	2,732,568
% Chg over Prev Month		4.5%		-4.8%		3.3%		-0.3%
% Chg over Prev Year				22.4%		1.5%		2.4%
YTD	\$2	24,872,604	\$2	28,625,947	\$3	32,964,137	\$3	34,533,698
% Chg over Prev YTD				15.1%		15.2%		4.8%



#### **VERNON VEHICLE SALES TAX**

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



#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 307,569	\$ 457,095	\$ 466,266	\$ 422,388
November	\$ 434,791	\$ 499,679	\$ 463,495	\$ 479,485
% Chg over Prev Month	-29.3%	-8.5%	0.6%	-11.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		48.6%	2.0%	-9.4%
YTD	\$ 4,978,439	\$ 5,187,616	\$ 6,397,233	\$ 5,853,788
% Chg over Prev YTD		4.2%	23.3%	-8.5%



#### REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE BY PARISH

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

- Total online sales tax revenue in Cenla in December 2022 is up 69% from a month earlier and up 2% from December 2021.
- ✓ YTD online sales tax revenue are up 24% in central Louisiana.

	Dec-22	Nov-22	Dec-21	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Allen	\$ 99,342	\$ 69,893	\$ 96,845	42%	3%	19%
Avoyelles	\$ 142,927	\$ 93,261	\$ 149,266	53%	-4%	20%
Catahoula	\$ 54,092	\$ 31,549	\$ 51,240	71%	6%	16%
Concordia	\$ 66,923	\$ 36,741	\$ 70,572	82%	-5%	22%
Evangeline	\$ 192,802	\$ 98,640	\$ 158,758	95%	21%	37%
Grant	\$ 72,808	\$ 41,607	\$ 80,851	75%	-10%	21%
LaSalle	\$ 62,765	\$ 41,128	\$ 59,490	53%	6%	24%
Natchitoches	\$ 181,187	\$ 111,452	\$ 171,712	63%	6%	30%
Rapides	\$ 637,241	\$ 328,426	\$ 635,693	94%	0%	28%
St Landry	\$ 405,440	\$ 255,427	\$ 388,798	59%	4%	23%
Vernon	\$ 228,922	\$ 158,973	\$ 237,479	44%	-4%	15%
Total (Cenla)	\$ 2,144,449	\$ 1,267,097	\$ 2,100,704	69%	2%	24%

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

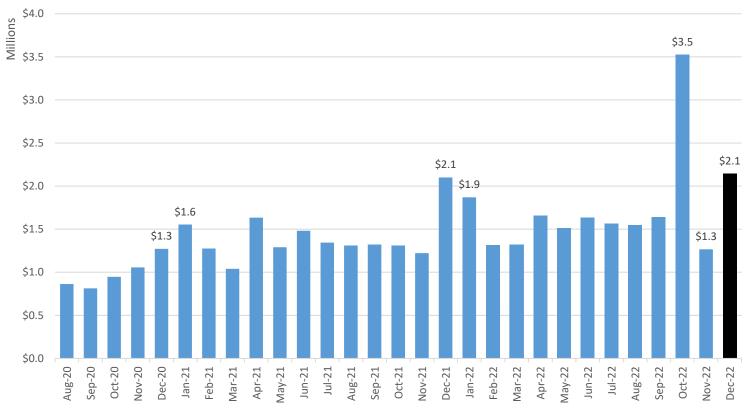
Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – January 2022



#### 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 - December 2022
- ✓ 2022 saw \$21 million in online sales taxes collected in Cenla compared to \$17 million in 2021, a 24% increase.
- Since August 2020 when remote sellers tax revenue collection started, \$43 million in sales tax revenue have been collected from online sales in central Louisiana.



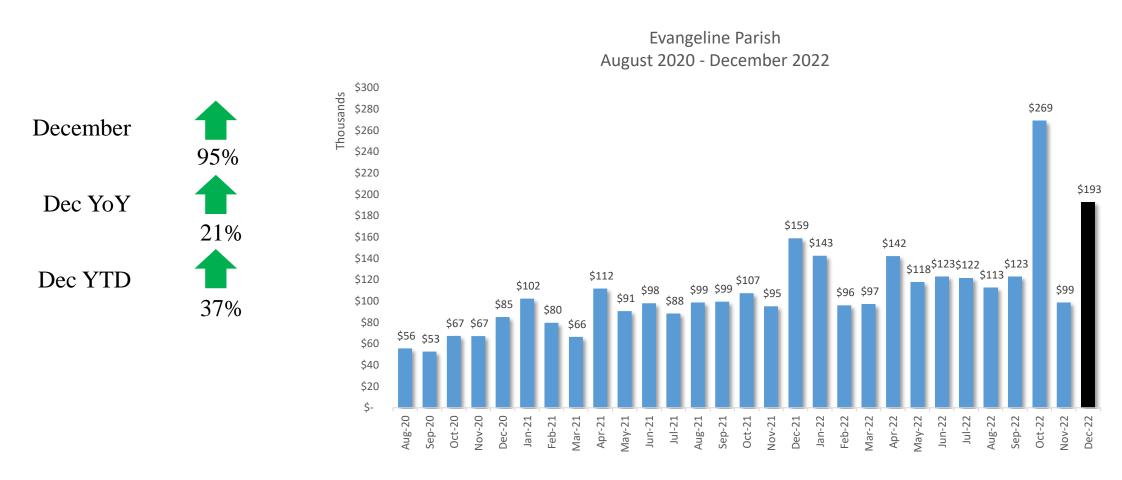
Note: Sales tax revenue collected in the current month reflects sales activity in the prior month.

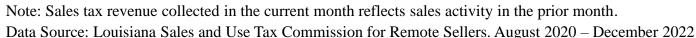
Data Source: Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers. August 2020 – December 2022



#### REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN EVANGELINE

Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Evangeline Parish from August 2020 – December 2022.

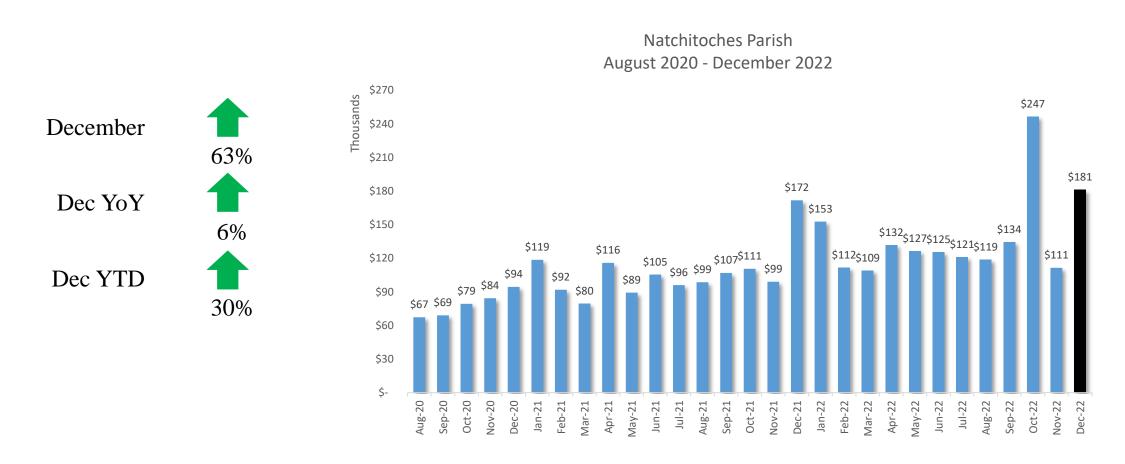


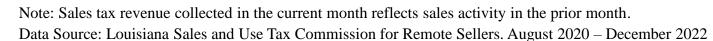




#### REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN NATCHITOCHES

Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Natchitoches Parish from August 2020 – December 2022.

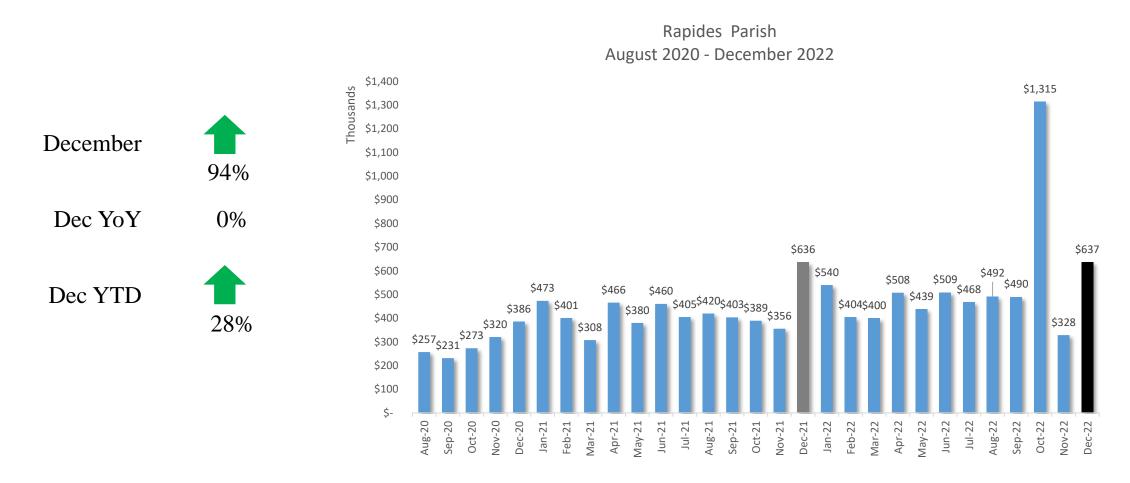






#### REMOTE SELLERS TAX REVENUE IN RAPIDES

Remote sellers tax revenue from online sales in Rapides Parish from August 2020 – December 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 – December 2022





## Permits & Housing

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

#### **CENLA PERMIT VALUATIONS**

This table shows the valuation of permits issued in December 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.

#### December

	Dec-22	Nov-22	Dec-21	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Alexandria - Commercial	\$ 798,800	\$ 4,693,797	\$ 2,890,245	-83%	-72%	n/a
Alexandria - Residential	\$ 1,793,579	\$ 1,857,389	\$ 2,131,015	-3%	-16%	n/a
Avoyelles	\$ 2,550,162	\$23,467,247	\$ 5,808,535	-89%	-56%	36.1%
Evangeline	\$ 1,944,798	\$ 1,957,771	\$ 1,660,000	-1%	17%	-12.4%
City of Natchitoches	\$ 5,425,824	\$ 405,365	\$ 104,300	1239%	5102%	-16.1%
Natchitoches Parish	\$ 866,630	\$ 2,222,012	\$ 1,558,300	-61%	-44%	15.4%
Pineville	\$ 699,166	\$ 250,500	\$ 79,133	179%	784%	30.1%
Rapides	\$ 2,713,578	\$ 3,845,807	\$ 4,456,820	-29%	-39%	-85.4%
Total	\$14,200,158	\$32,148,702	\$13,667,088	-56%	4%	n/a

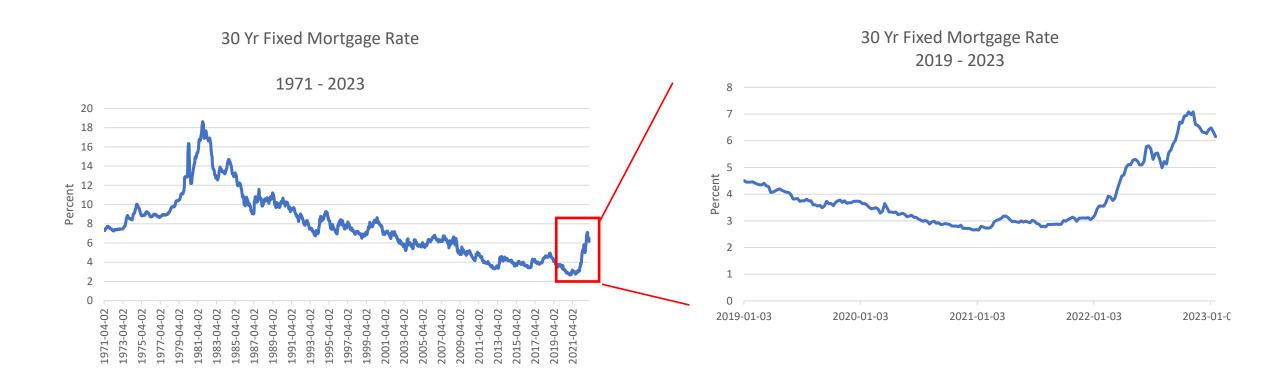
Note: n/a = not available. Data was incomplete for City of Alexandria in October 2022.

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



#### 30 YEAR FIXED MORTGAGE RATE

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



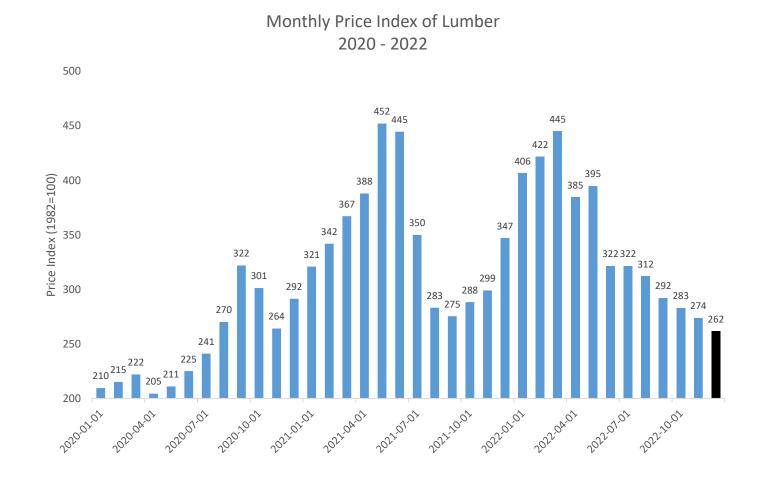
■ 30 year fixed mortgage rates this year peaked in 2022 the week of November 10 at 7.08%.



#### **LUMBER PRICES**

The chart represents the Lumber Price Index in the U.S. from January 2020 – December 2022.

- In December 2022, the US Lumber Price Index fell -5% to 262 from 274 in November.
- Currently, the Lumber Index stands-25% below a year ago.



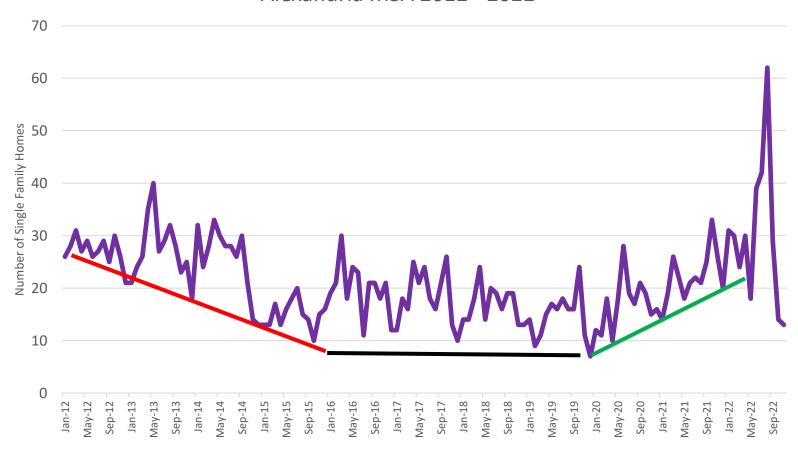


#### NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IN ALEXANDRIA

The chart represents the number of permits issued for new residential units in the Alexandria MSA from 2012-2022.

New Residential Construction Alexandria MSA 2012 - 2022

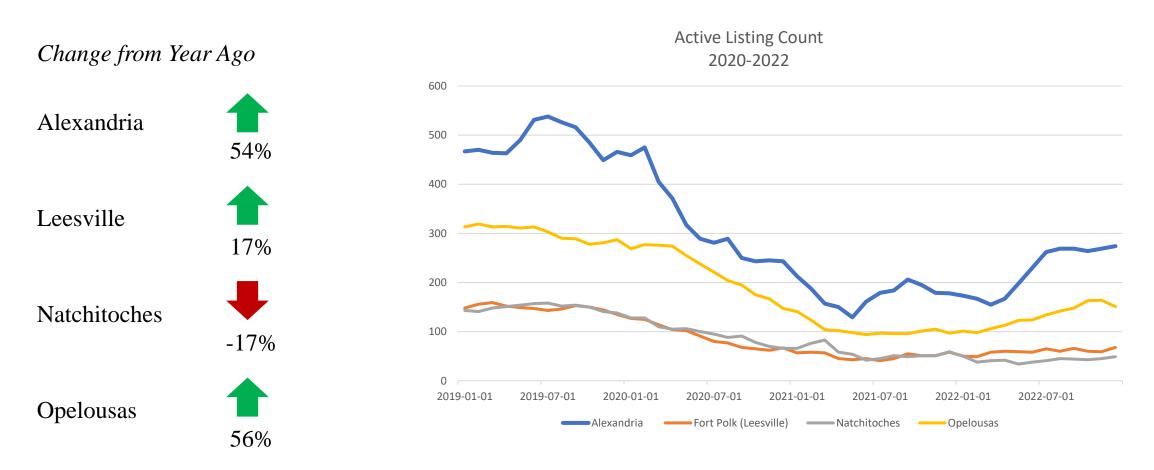
- New residential construction permits were in an uptrend from Spring 2020 to Spring 2022.
- Permits for housing experienced a downtrend from 2012-2015 and leveled off from 2016-2019, before trending up in 2020.
- The uptrend is in jeopardy as mortgage rates have risen.





#### **ACTIVE LISTINGS BY MSA**

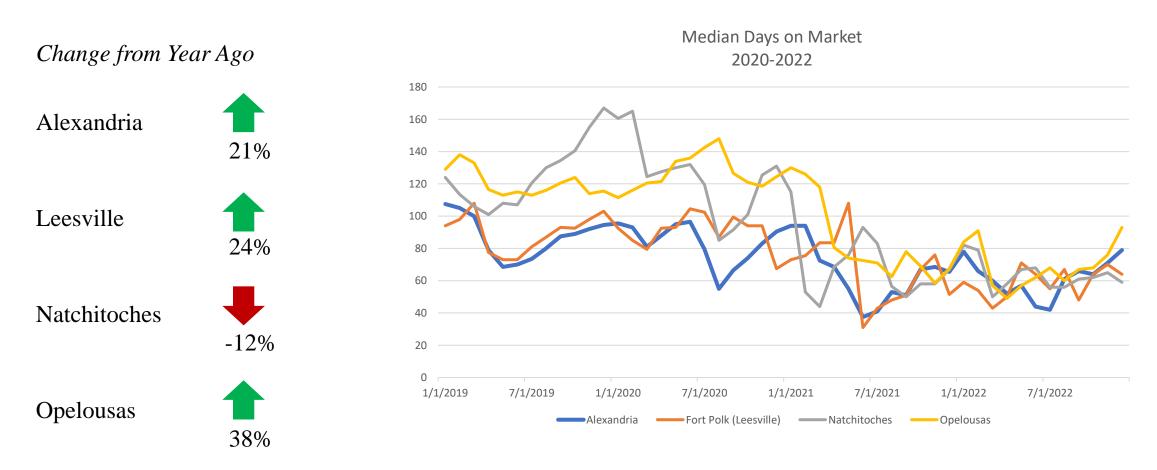
The count of active single-family and condo/townhome listings from January 2019- December 2022 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.





#### MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET BY MSA

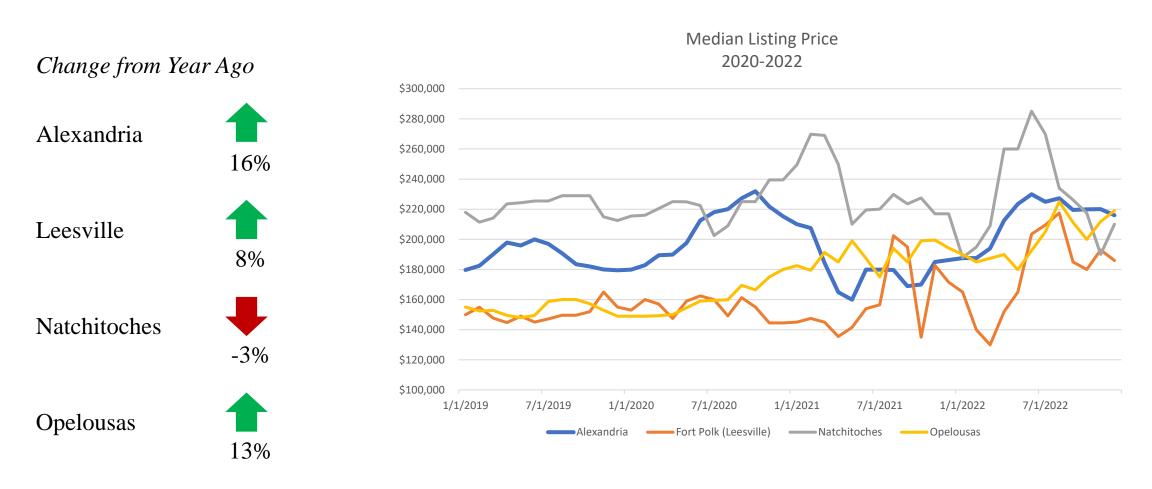
The median number of days property listings spend on the market from January 2019 – December 2022 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.





#### MEDIAN LISTING PRICE BY MSA

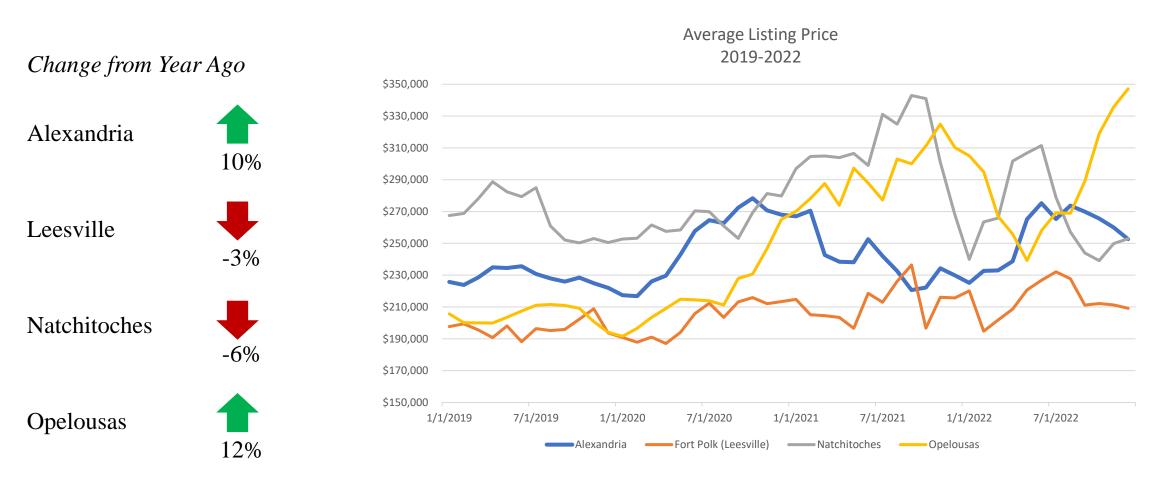
The median listing price of houses from January 2019 - December 2022 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.





#### **AVERAGE LISTING PRICE BY MSA**

The average listing price of houses from January 2019 - December 2022 for Alexandria, Fort Polk (Leesville), Natchitoches, and Opelousas.







### Travel

Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

#### **AVOYELLES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX**

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

#### December



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	\$ 8,243	\$ 11,221	\$ 7,208	\$ 11,811	\$ 8,481
November	\$ 9,630	\$ 9,664	\$ 16,076	\$ 14,593	\$ 9,206
% Chg over Prev Month	-14.4%	16.1%	-55.2%	-19.1%	-7.9%
% Chg over Prev Year		36.1%	-35.8%	63.9%	-28.2%
YTD	\$ 130,625	\$ 135,347	\$ 123,765	\$ 150,291	\$ 131,366
% Chg over Prev YTD		3.6%	-8.6%	21.4%	-12.6%

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. January 2023.



#### NATCHITOCHES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

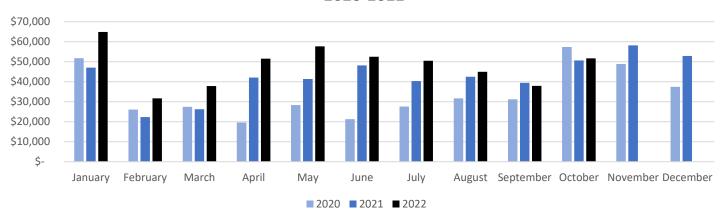
Natchitoches Parish hotel occupancy tax revenue for December with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

# December 33% Dec YoY 25% Dec YTD 17%

#### December

	2019			2020		2021	2022		
December	\$	42,609	\$	37,453	\$	52,888	\$	65,851	
November	\$	39,397	\$	48,909	\$	58,161	\$	49,684	
% Chg over Prev Month		8.2%		-23.4%		-9.1%		32.5%	
% Chg over Prev Year				-12.1%		41.2%		24.5%	
YTD	\$	435,897	\$	408,567	\$	511,172	\$	596,709	
% Chg over Prev YTD				-6.3%	)	25.1%		16.7%	

Natchitoches Hotel Sales Tax Revenue 2020-2022



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, January 2023.



#### RAPIDES HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

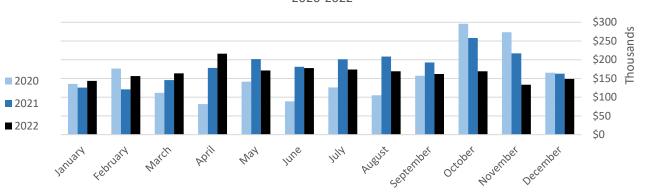
Rapides Parish hotel occupancy tax revenue for December with previous month, year, and YTD comparisons.

# December 12% Dec YoY -9% Dec YTD -10%

#### December

	2019	2020 2021			2022				
December	\$ 156,863	\$	16	55,394	\$ 162,836		\$	148	3,424
November	\$ 173,028		\$	273,269	\$ 216,77	76		\$	133,116
% Chg over Prev Month	-9.3%			-39.5%	-24.9	%			11.5%
% Chg over Prev Year				5.4%	-1.5	%			-8.9%
YTD	\$ 1,948,935		\$1	,857,073	\$2,191,62	24		\$1	.,982,950
% Chg over Prev YTD				-4.7%	18.0	%			-9.5%





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, January 2023.



#### **VERNON HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX**

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



#### December

	2019	2020	2021		2022	
December	\$ 32,056	\$ 24,378	\$	20,775	\$	27,067
November	\$ 21,451	\$ 45,067	\$	30,824	\$	27,130
% Chg over Prev Month	49.4%	-45.9%		-32.6%		-0.2%
% Chg over Prev Year		-24.0%		-14.8%		30.3%
YTD	\$ 278,392	\$ 269,715	\$	333,026	\$	324,341
% Chg over Prev YTD		-3.1%		23.5%		-2.6%

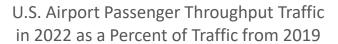
Note: Current tax revenue collection reflects hotel occupancy activity in the prior month. Hotel occupancy tax revenue is used as a proxy for hotel occupancy rate. Data Source: Vernon Parish Sales Tax Department. January 2023.

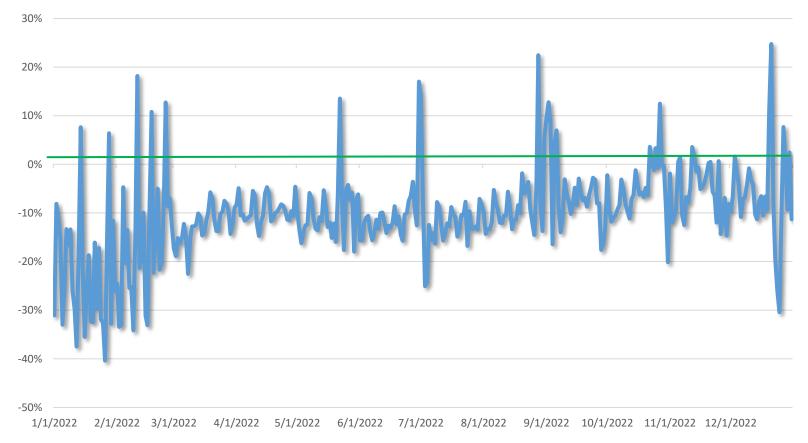


#### **AIR TRAVELER STATS**

Nationwide daily percentage of passengers passing through current TSA checkpoints in 2022 expressed as a percentage of traffic in 2019.

- Nationally, air passenger traffic in December 2022 decreased -1.3% from the previous month.
- In December, air passenger traffic remained -7% below the December 2019 level.
- U.S. air passenger traffic in 2022 was down -10.3% from 2019.

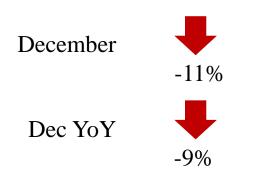




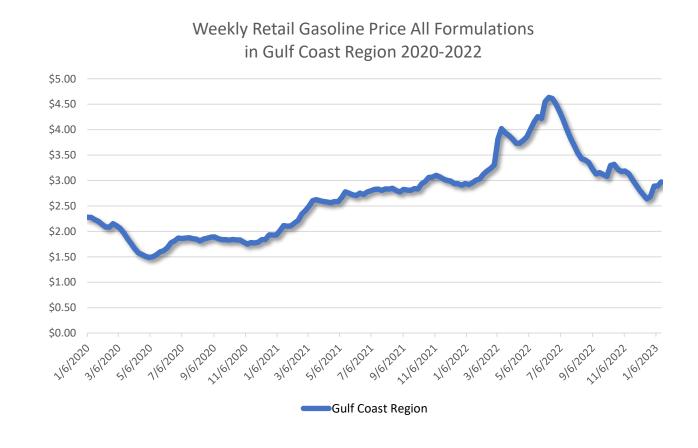


#### **GULF COAST RETAIL GASOLINE PRICE**

Weekly retail price of gasoline in the Gulf Coast region for all formulations from 2020 - 2022.



- at \$4.63 a gallon. The low of 2022 was December 19 at 2.64.
- December 2022 average retail gasoline price in Gulf Coast region was \$2.71/gal., down 35 cents from November and 9% lower than a year ago.







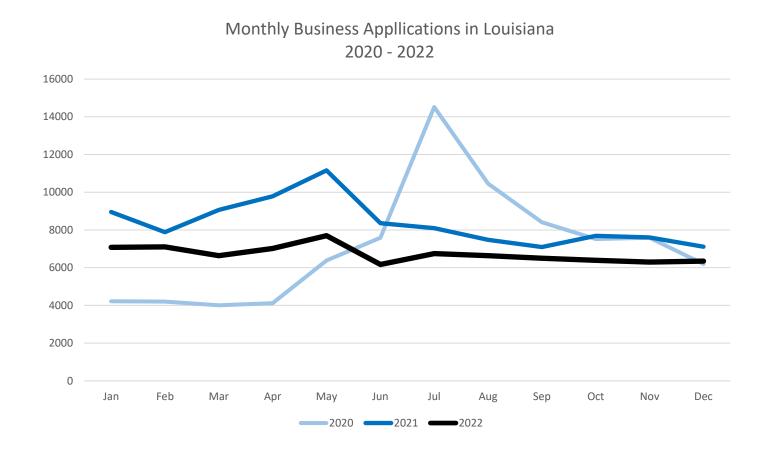
### Local & Louisiana

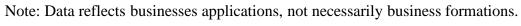
Central Louisiana Economic Dashboard

#### **NEW BUSINESS APPS IN LOUISIANA**

The chart below represents the monthly number of new businesses applications in Louisiana from 2020-2022 (seasonally adjusted).







Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, Retrieved January 21, 2023.



#### **NEW BUSINESSES IN RAPIDES**

The table and chart below represent the number of new businesses established each month in Rapides from January 2020 through December 2022.

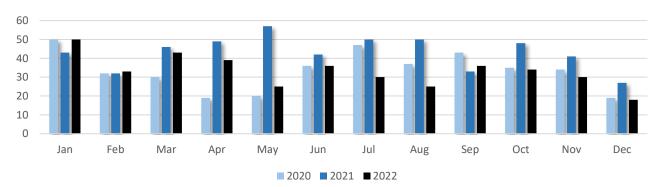
The number of new businesses established in Rapides in December 2022 decreased -40% from November and was -33% lower than a year ago.

Year-to-date, 399 new businesses have been created in Rapides in 2022, compared to 518 in 2021, representing a -23% decline.

#### December

	2019	2020	2021	2022
December	21	19	27	18
November	20	34	41	30
% Chg Prev Month	5.0%	-44.1%	-34.1%	-40.0%
% Chg from Prev Year		-9.5%	42.1%	-33.3%
YTD	427	402	518	399
% Chg over Prev YTD		-5.9%	28.9%	-23.0%

New Businesses in Rapides 2020-2022



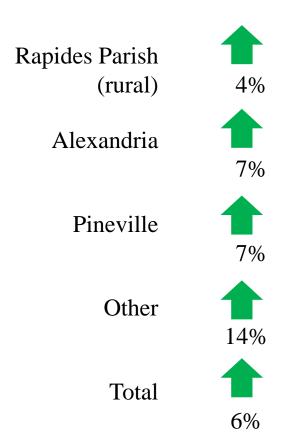
Note: Data reflects businesses established in the current month.

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



#### RAPIDES OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

Rapides Parish occupational license revenue YTD with previous YTD comparisons.



#### December Year-to-Date

	2021		2022
\$	661,090	\$	688,955
)			4.2%
\$	1,945,367	\$	2,072,700
)			6.5%
\$	436,306	\$	465,234
)			6.6%
\$	150,755	\$	171,479
)			13.7%
\$	3,193,518	\$	3,398,368
)			6.4%
	\$	\$ 661,090 \$ 1,945,367 \$ 436,306 \$ 150,755 \$ 3,193,518	\$ 661,090 \$ \$ 1,945,367 \$ \$ 436,306 \$ \$ 150,755 \$ \$ 3,193,518 \$

Note: Rapides Parish reflects unincorporated areas. Data reflects licenses paid year-to-date.

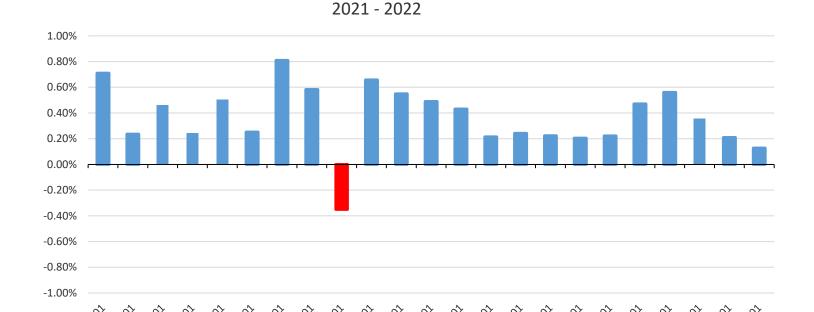
Data Source: Rapides Parish Police Jury Treasurer's Reports, January 2023.



#### 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 November 2022, the Index rose to 110.28, compared to 110.14 in October 2022.
- ✓ The Index is up 2.8% since January 2022.



Louisiana Coincident Economic Activity Index



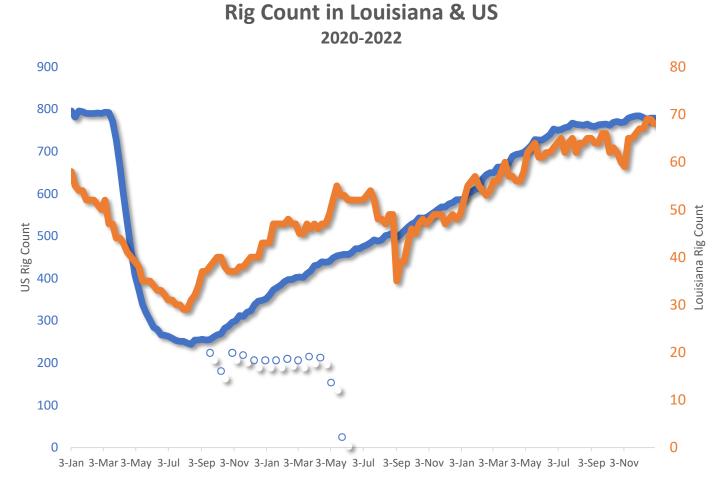
#### **BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNT**

Represents the number of drilling rigs actively exploring for or developing oil or natural gas in Louisiana and the U.S. in 2020-2022.

	Dec 22	Nov 22	Dec 21
Louisiana	65	68	48
US	780	789	579

Average rig count in Louisiana in December was down three rigs from November and up 17 rigs from a year ago, an increase of 38%.

Nationwide, the rig count rose from 579 a year ago to 780 in December, an increase of 35%.





#### LOUISIANA GAMING REVENUE

Gaming revenue in Louisiana for November 2022 with previous month and year comparisons.



#### November 2022

	Nov-22	Oct-22	Nov-21	M/M	Y/Y	YTD
Video Poker	\$ 61,664,561	\$ 62,967,456	\$ 69,773,384	-2.1%	-11.6%	-2.8%
Riverboat	\$ 135,377,994	\$ 130,990,774	\$ 147,569,204	3.3%	-8.3%	-0.4%
Landbased	\$ 23,318,809	\$ 22,344,295	\$ 12,698,764	4.4%	83.6%	14.7%
Slots	\$ 23,444,222	\$ 25,695,488	\$ 25,852,568	-8.8%	-9.3%	-5.4%
Total	\$ 243,805,586	\$241,998,013	\$ 255,893,920	0.7%	-4.7%	-0.5%

Data Source: Louisiana Gaming Control Board, November 20, 2022. http://lgcb.dps.louisiana.gov/revenue\_reports.html



<sup>\*</sup> Note: Year-to-Date percentage reflects calendar year.

#### **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 March 20, 2023



