



The **AnalyST**

*St. Tammany Corporation's Economic Research Publication*

**May 2021**

# Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany

*16 charts and graphs that show how  
St. Tammany's community and economy have  
been changed by COVID-19 throughout 2020  
and into 2021*

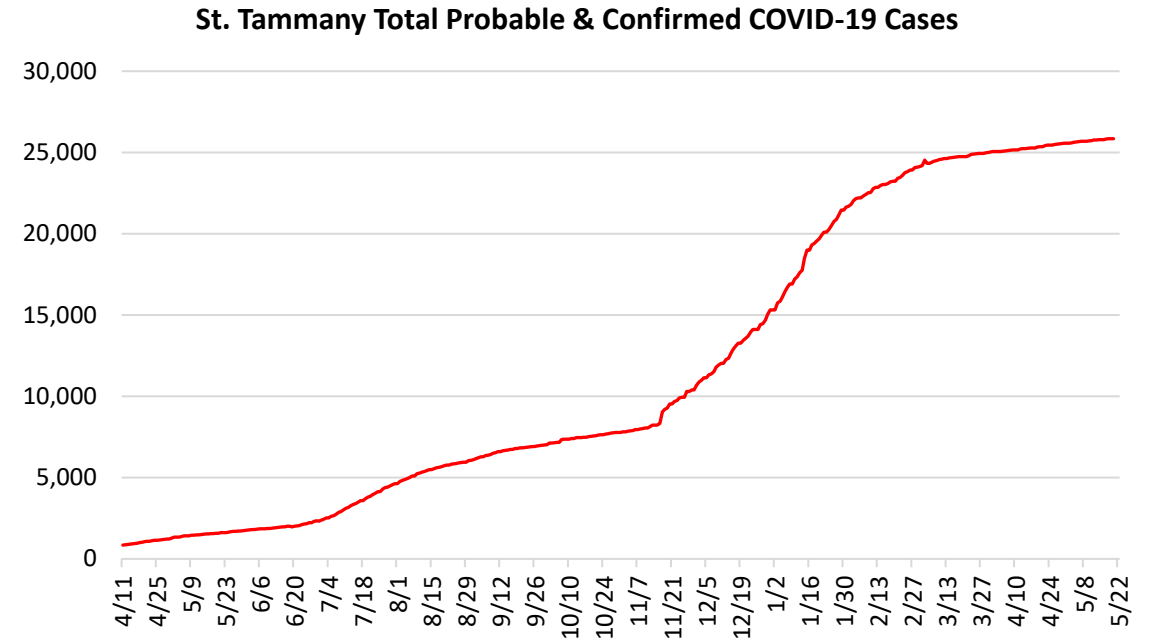
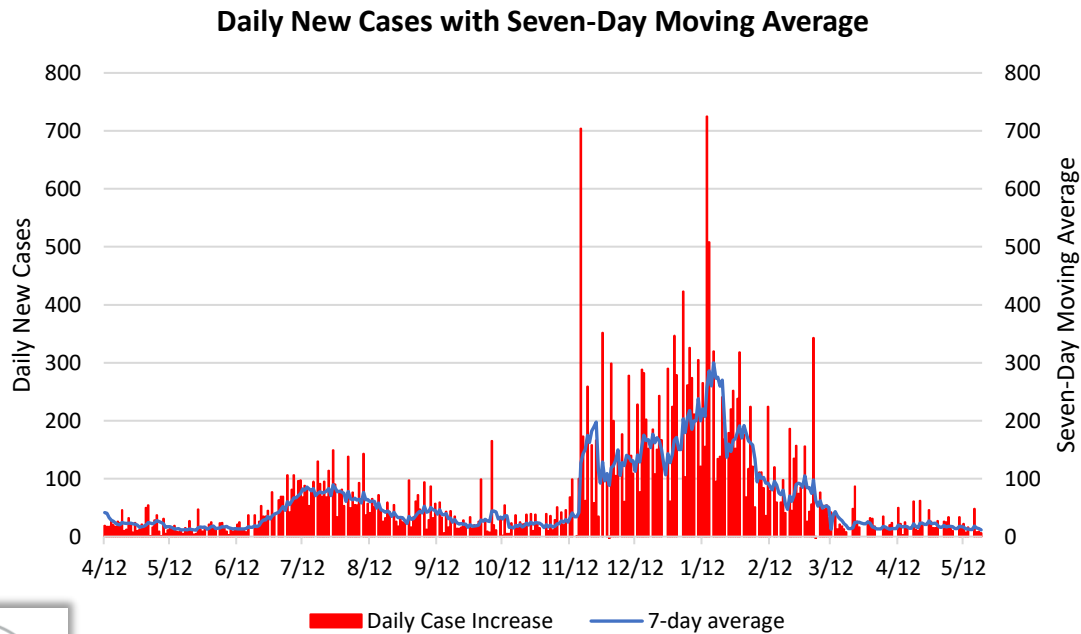


# COVID-19 in St. Tammany

## Cases

As of May 20, 2021:

- **21,359** confirmed positive cases
- **25,846** total probable + confirmed cases
- **374,648** tests administered
- **2.3%** confirmed positive test rate (one-week rate)



- **8,150** confirmed cases per 100,000 residents
- There have been **fewer than 100** new cases each day since early March and fewer than 50 new cases/day for about a month.
- Note: Due to a two-month statewide backlog that was reported in mid-November, total cases were drastically higher from November 17<sup>th</sup> onward. Additionally, total cases going forward include both probable cases and confirmed cases.

Source: Louisiana Department of Health; St. Tammany Corporation Analysis

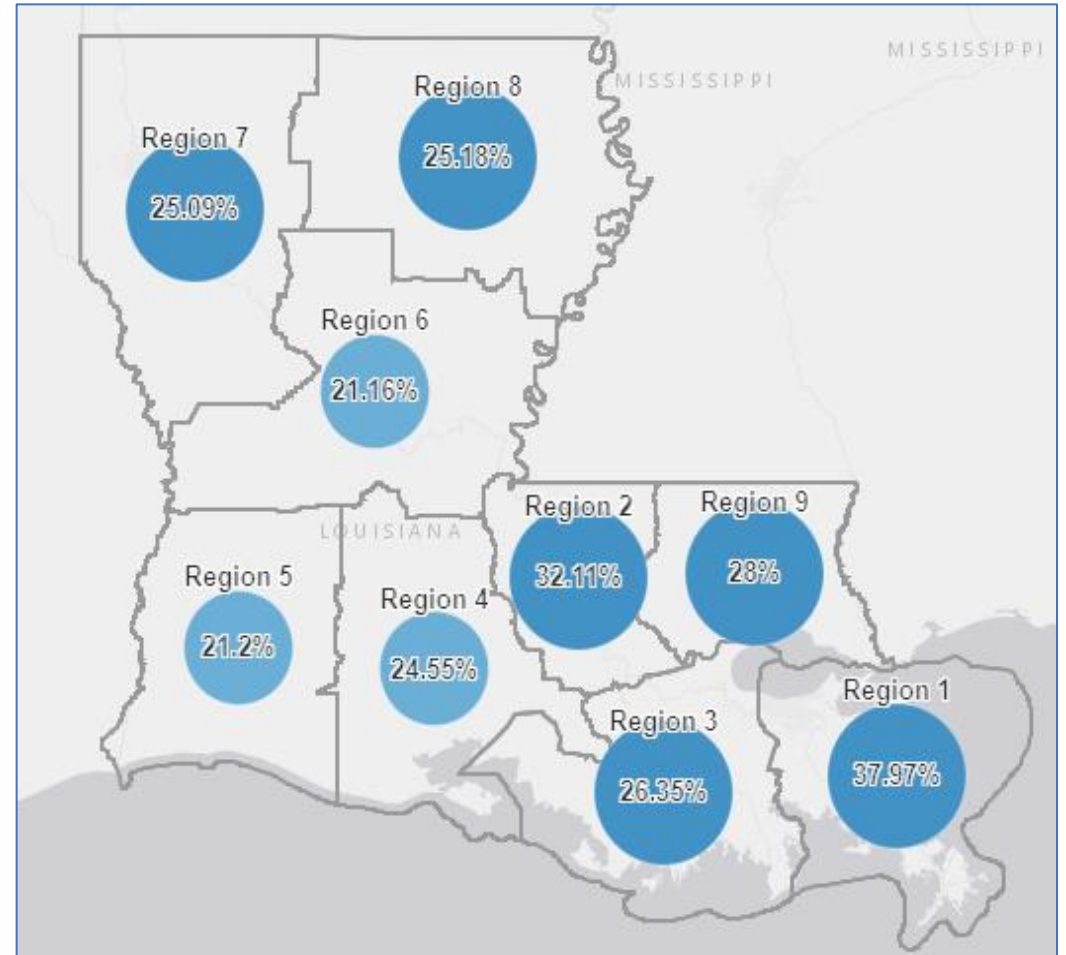


# COVID-19 in St. Tammany

## Vaccinations

As of May 20, 2021:

- **96,224** first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered.
  - **86,856** second doses have been administered.
- **38.2%** of the population has received at least one dose of the two-part vaccine.
  - **34.5%** of the population has received both doses.
- St. Tammany has the **4<sup>th</sup> highest full vaccination rate** in the state.
- The map to the right shows the full vaccination rate for each of Louisiana's nine health regions.



Source: Louisiana Department of Health; St. Tammany Corporation Analysis



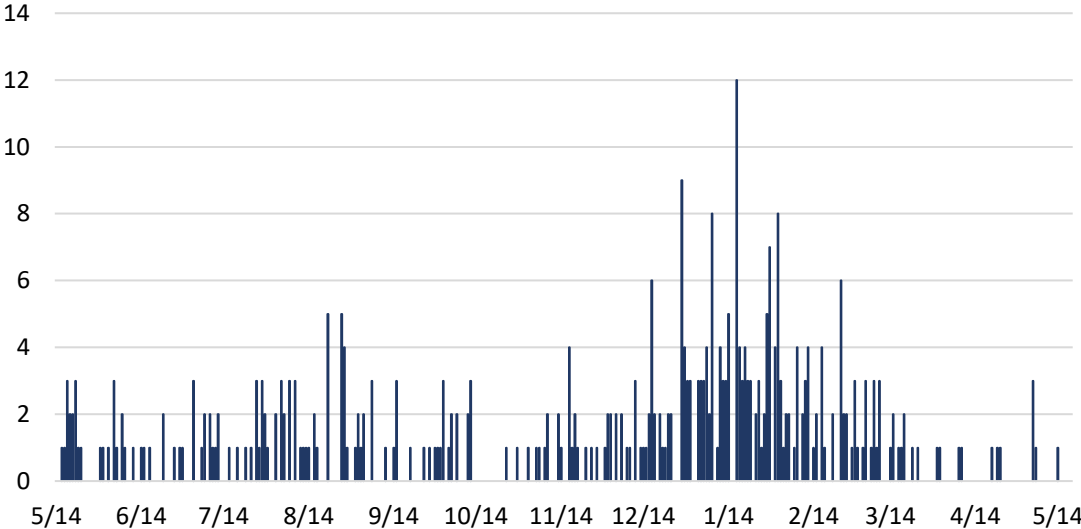
# COVID-19 in St. Tammany

## Mortality

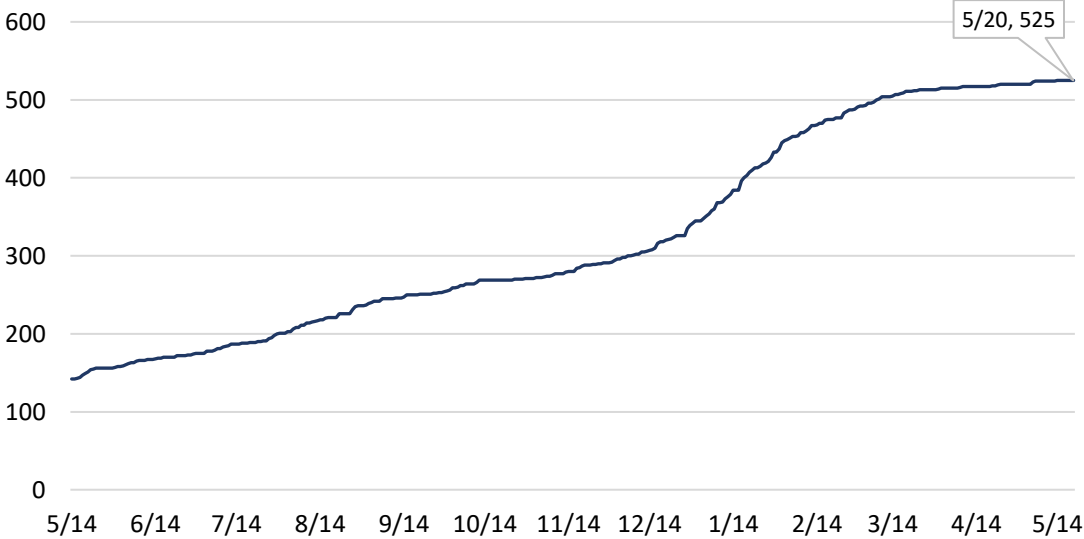
As of May 20, 2021:

- **525** deaths
- **2.5%** mortality rate (deaths as a proportion of confirmed cases)
- The longest period with no additional COVID-19 deaths was **11 days**, from 4/24 to 5/4.

St. Tammany Daily Increase in COVID-19 Deaths



St. Tammany Total COVID-19 Deaths



Demographic Breakdown				
Race	Deaths	Cases	Population (2018)	Cases per 1,000
Black	64	3,782	32,238	117.3
White	457	19,493	215,496	90.5
Other	4	1,697	10,377	163.5
Unknown	0	734	N/A	N/A

Source: Louisiana Department of Health; St. Tammany Corporation Analysis



# Unemployment

Number of initial claims for unemployment during the week ending 5/8/2021:

259

Number of initial claims for unemployment during the same week in 2020 (week ending 5/9/2020):

1,904

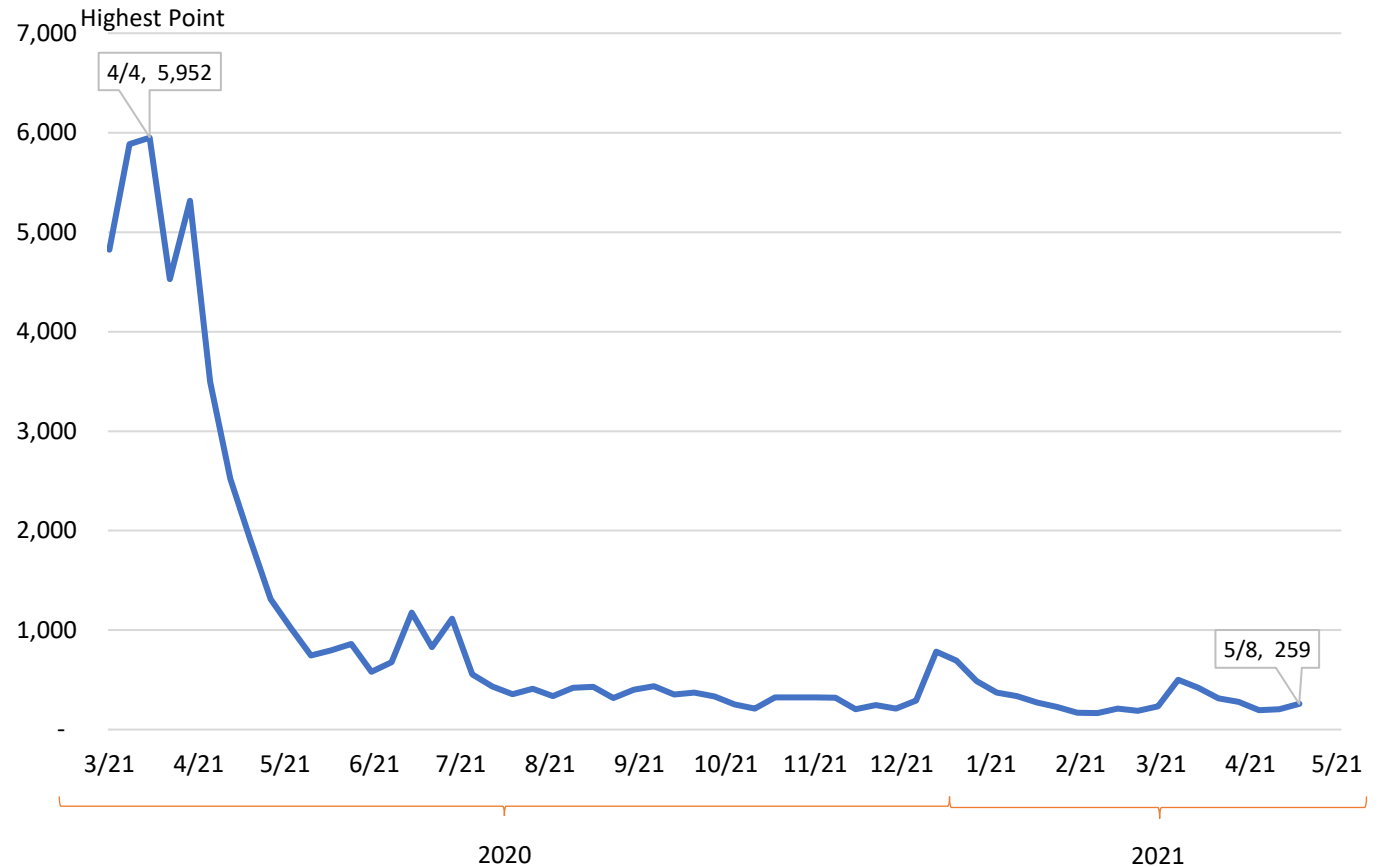
Average weekly number of initial claims, March-December 2020:

1,254

Average weekly number of initial claims in 2021:

332

St. Tammany Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance



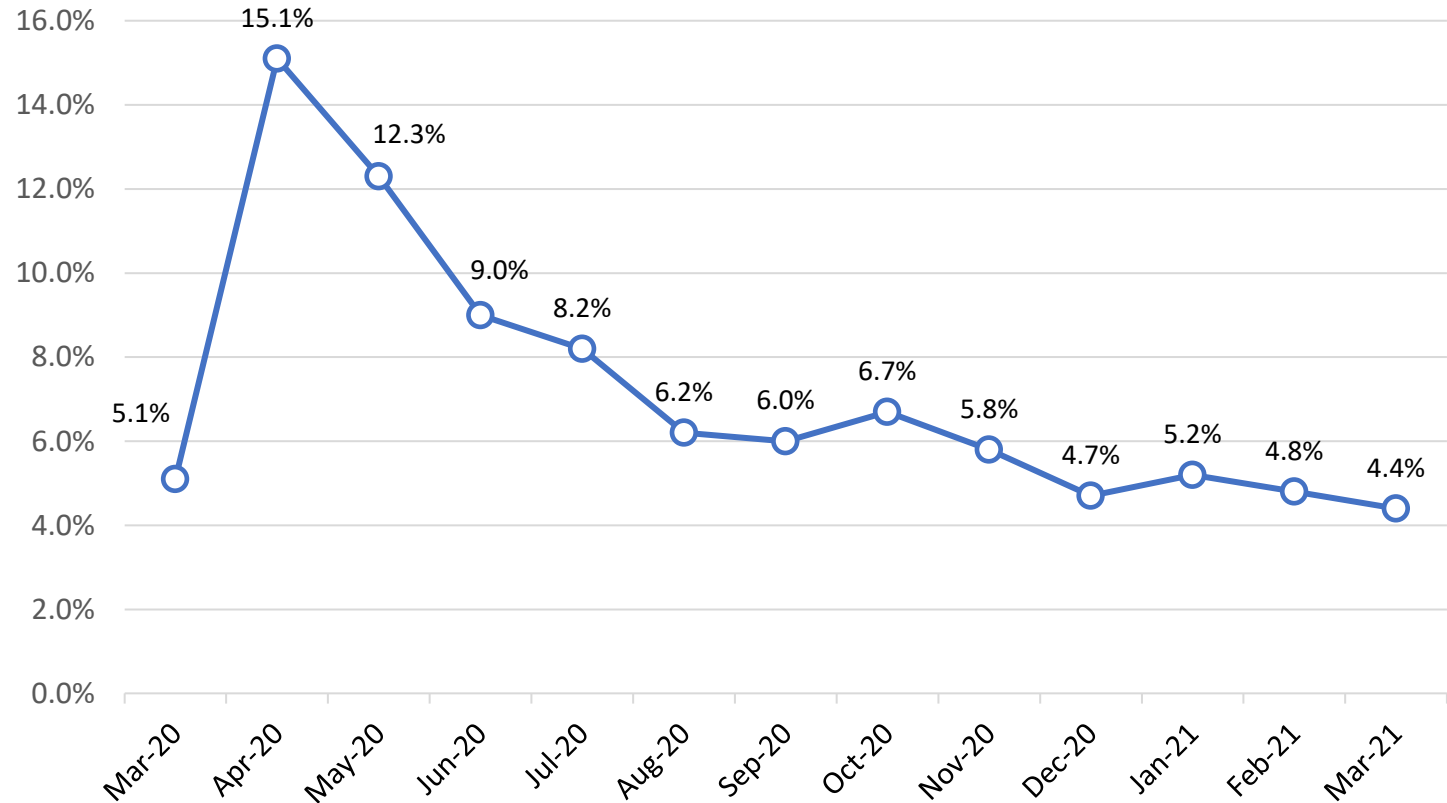
Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



# Unemployment

- In its most recent jobs report, LWC reported that St. Tammany's unemployment rate was **4.4%** in March 2021, lower than:
  - the national rate (6.0%),
  - the Louisiana rate (7.3%),
  - and the Greater New Orleans rate (8.0%).
- The same report showed that from February to March, **1,121** people rejoined the labor force.
- March's unemployment rate is the lowest in over a year.

St. Tammany Unemployment Rate



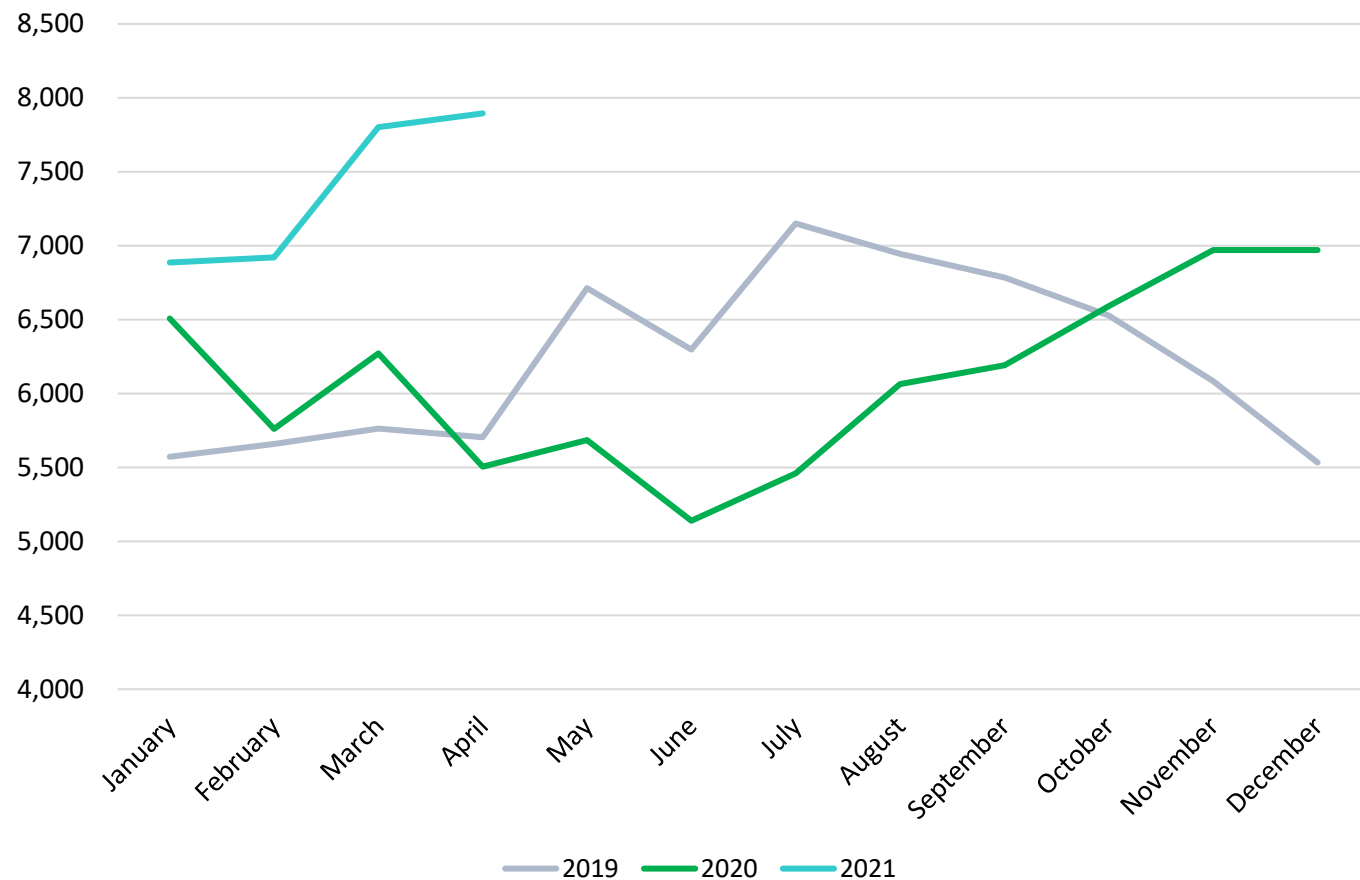
Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



# Job Postings

## Year-over-Year Comparison

- Compared to 2019, job postings across all industries in St. Tammany were significantly lower from April to September 2020.
- April 2021 continued the trend of higher job postings than all previous years and all previous months, with nearly **7,900 unique job postings**.
- Jobs in highest demand continue to be registered nurses, truck drivers, and retail salespeople.

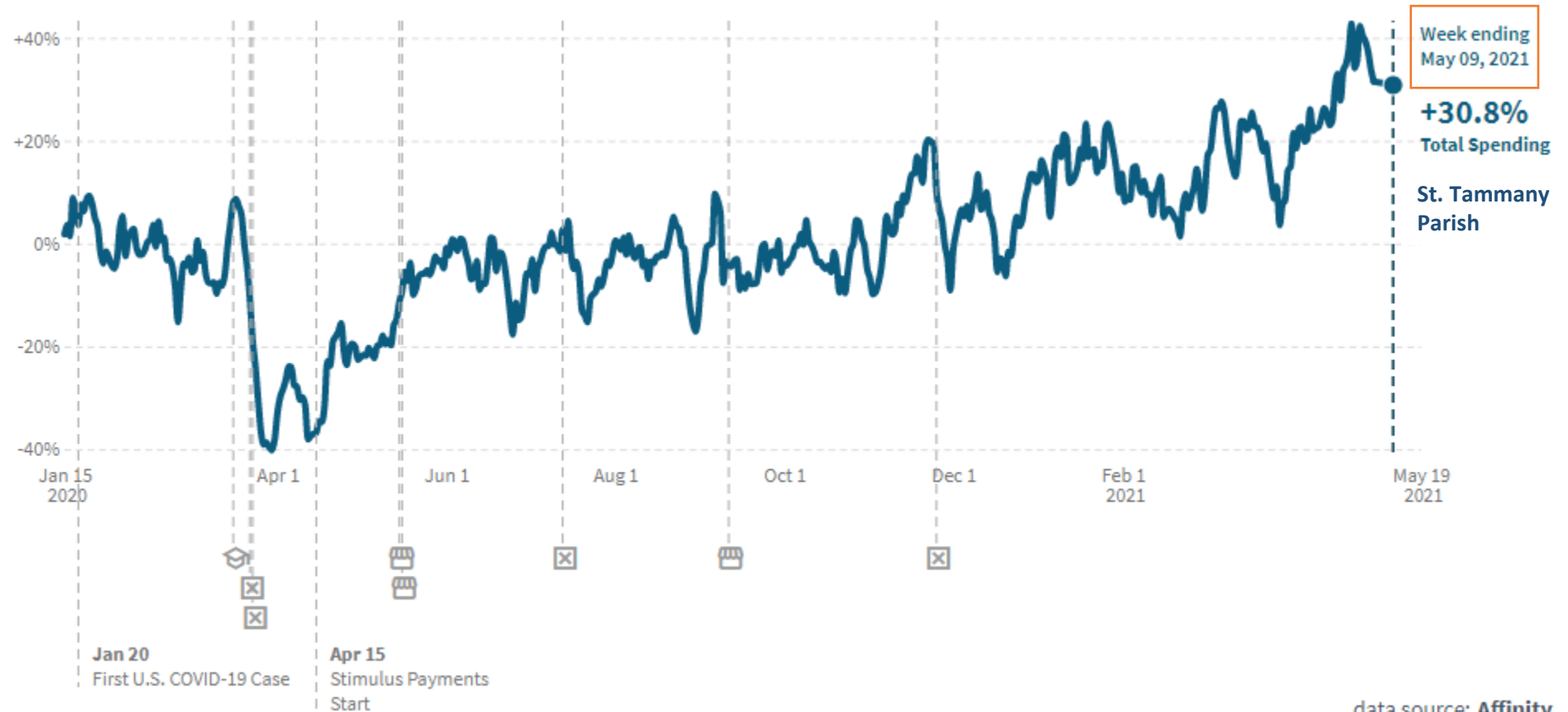


Source: EMSI



# Changes in Consumer Spending

- As of May 9, 2021, total consumer spending in St. Tammany had increased to **30.8% higher** than January 2020 levels.
- On the same day in 2020, consumer spending was **down 17.9%**, demonstrating a nearly 50 percentage point improvement.



Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker





# Household Pulse

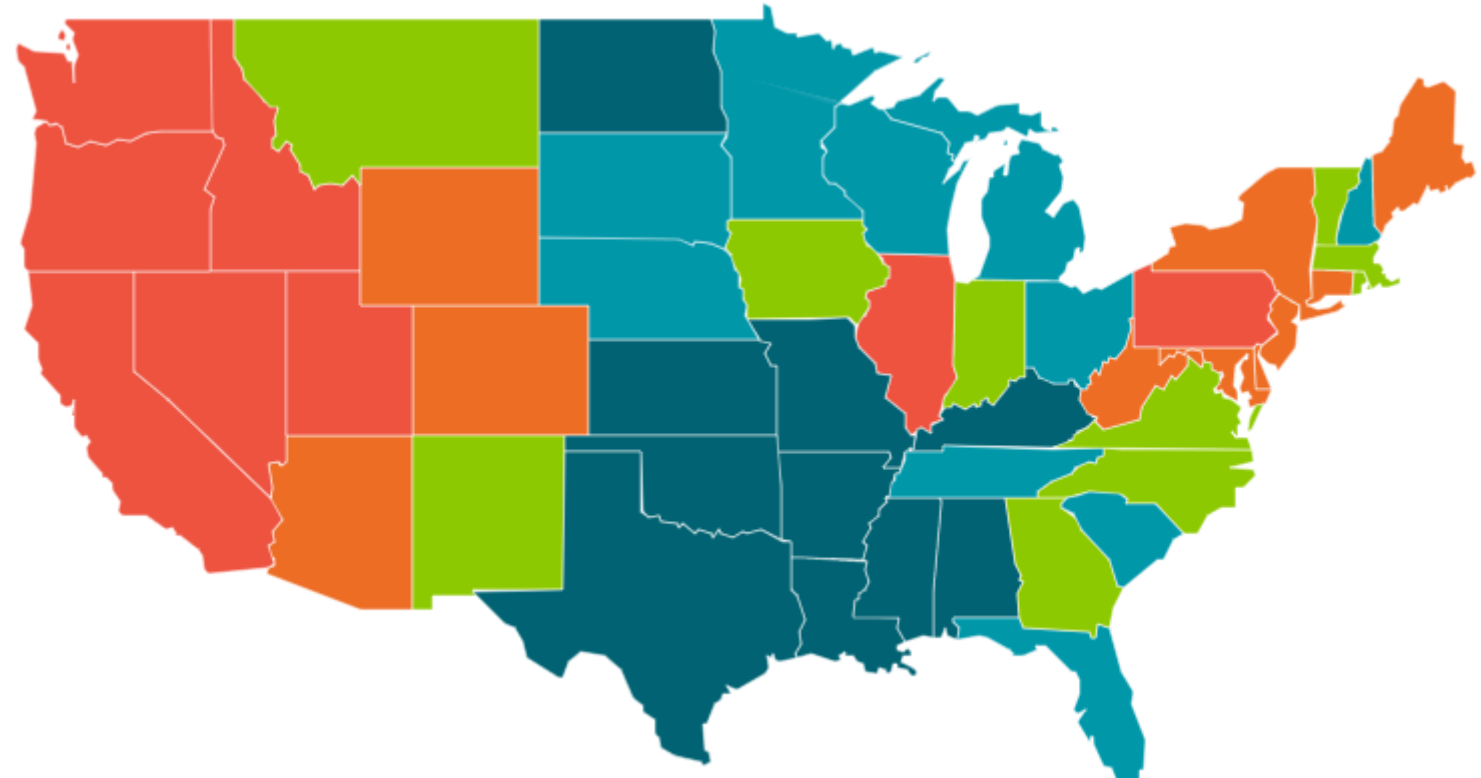
According to a nationwide survey conducted by the Census Bureau from **4/14 – 4/26**:

- Of adults living in households with children enrolled in public/private school, **25.7%** were in households where students received food assistance from school in the last 7 days.
- **25.7%** of American adults had an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone in the last 4 weeks.
- **25.2%** of adults are planning to take overnight trips or trips to places more than 100 miles away in the next 4 weeks.
- **26.2%** of adults live in households where it has been somewhat or very difficult to pay usual household expenses in the last 7 days.
- Of adults living in households not current on rent or mortgage, **30.6%** report eviction or foreclosure in the next two months is somewhat or very likely.
- **27%** of adults live in households where at least one adult teleworked because of the coronavirus pandemic in the last 7 days.
- **8.1%** of American adults lived in households where there was either sometimes or often not enough to eat in the previous 7 days.
- **14.8%** of American adults expect someone in their household to experience a loss in employment income in the next 4 weeks.

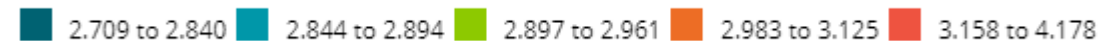
*Source: Census Bureau Household Pulse*



# Gas Prices



Retail Fuel Prices



- As of May 20, 2021, the average fuel price in the U.S. is **\$3.04** per gallon, surpassing \$3.00 for the **first time since 2014**.
- In April, national prices averaged \$2.877.
- Nationally, April's prices are **up 111¢** from the same time in 2020, when they were \$1.927.

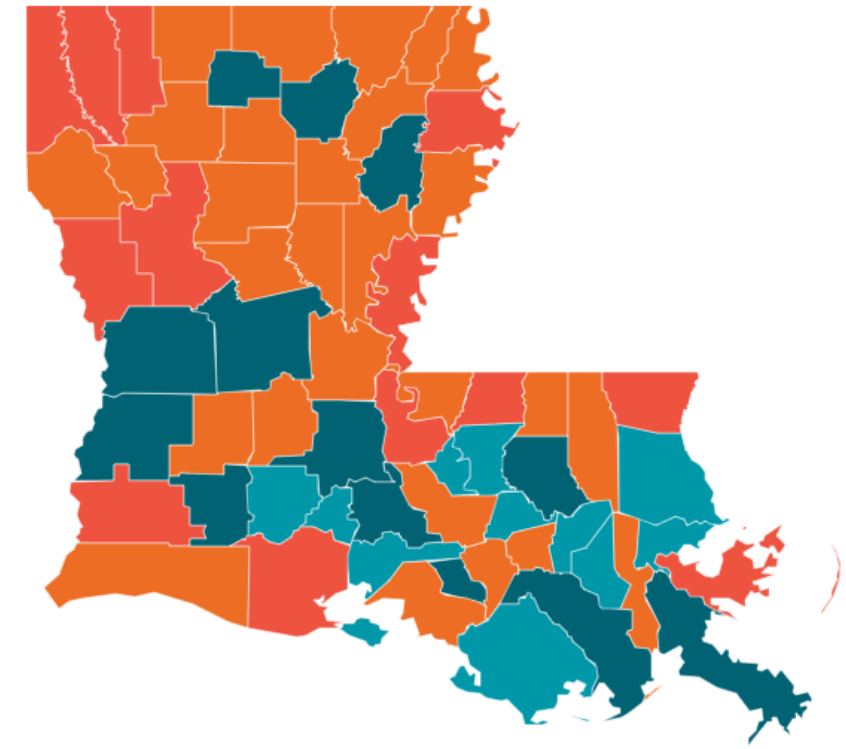
Source: GasBuddy.com



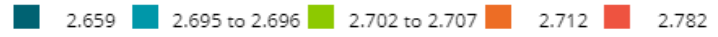
# Gas Prices



- As of May 20, 2021, St. Tammany's average fuel price is **\$2.702**, lower than the state and slightly higher than the New Orleans Metro prices.
- In the New Orleans Metro, the average price is **\$2.553** in May 2021, slightly up from April's \$2.561 but still lower than 95% of other metro areas in the U.S.
- The state average fuel price is \$2.709, the **2<sup>nd</sup> lowest** average price in the nation.



Retail Fuel Prices



Retail Fuel Prices

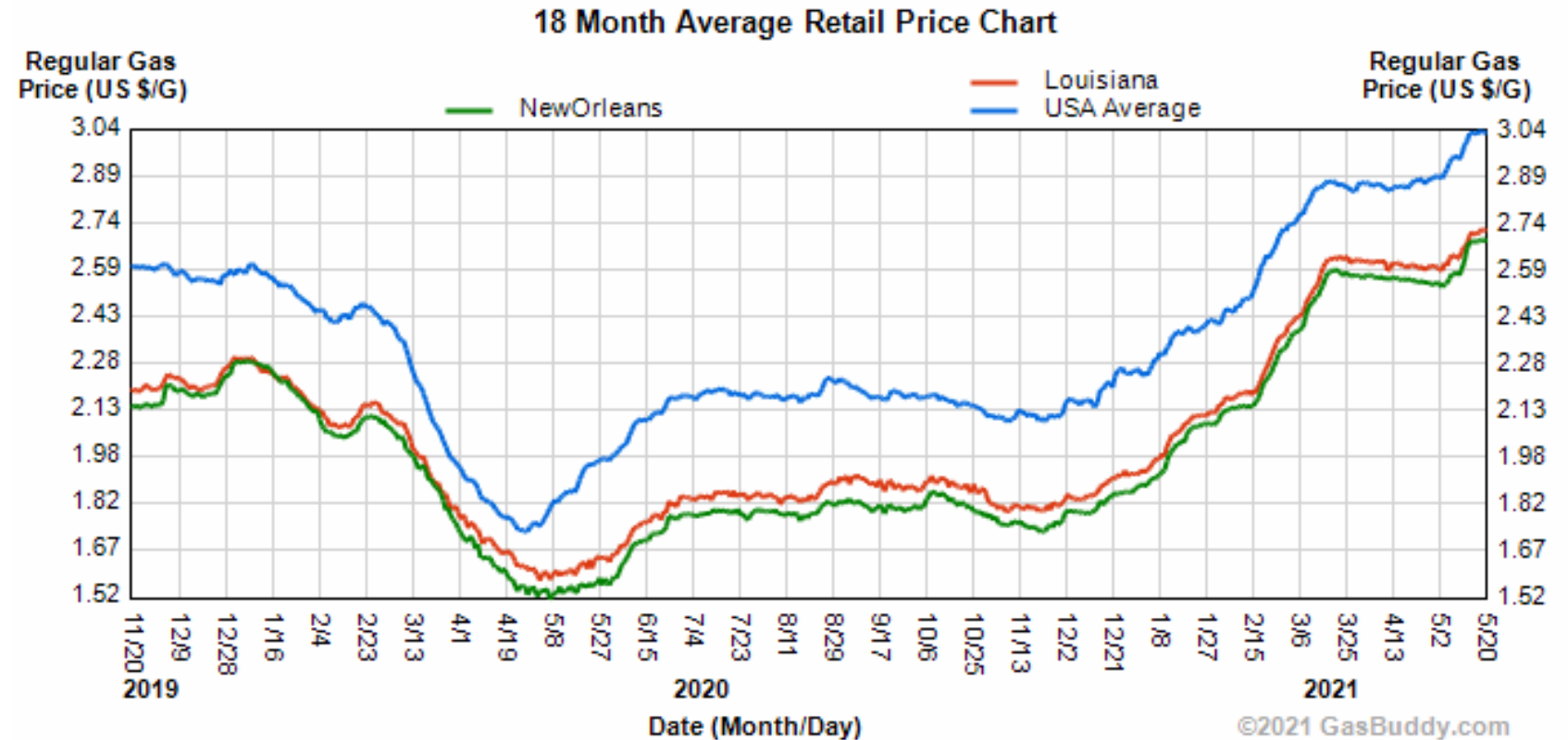


Source: GasBuddy.com



# Gas Prices

- The graph to the right shows the average gas prices in the New Orleans metro, state, and nation from late 2019, before we felt the initial effects of the pandemic on our economy, through the following 18 months until now.
- Gas prices in the New Orleans metro are consistently lower than the state and nation. Prices steadily rose during the first quarter of the year and have continued to rise through the second quarter as more people feel comfortable increasing their road travel.



Source: GasBuddy.com



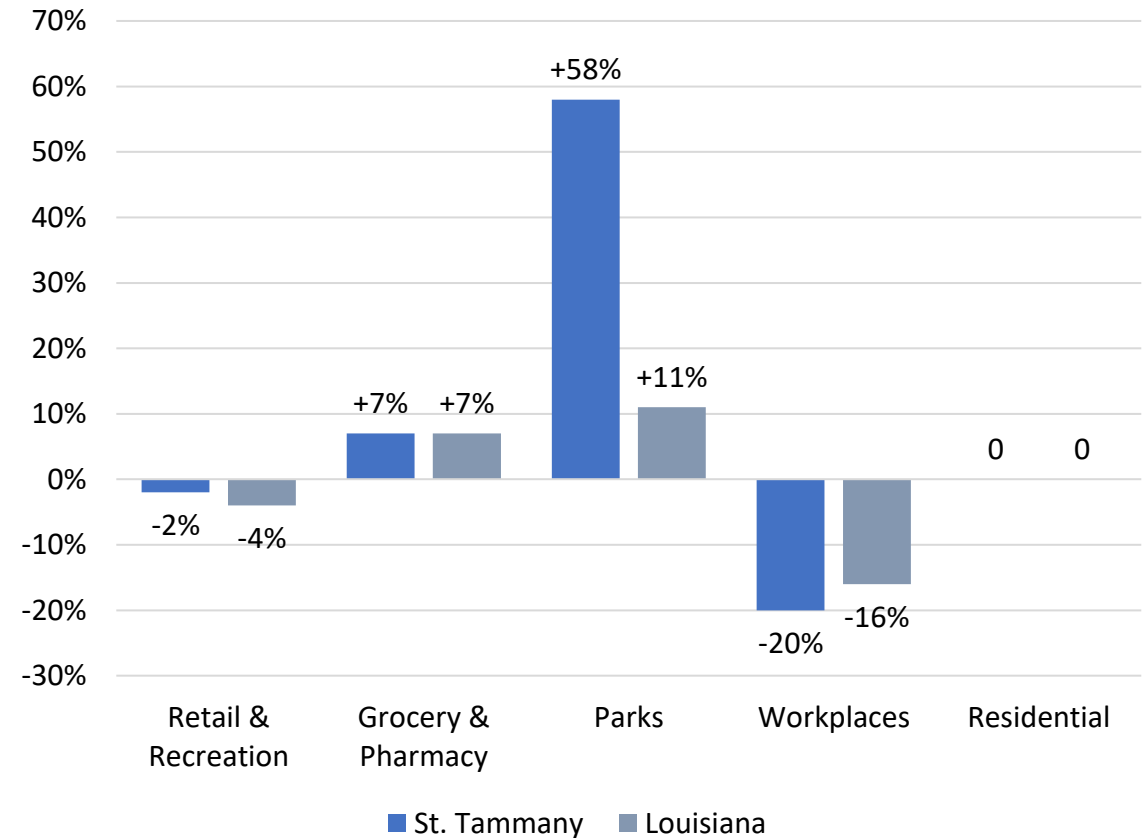
# Residential Travel Since Stay-at-Home Order

Although the stay-at-home order is no longer in effect, people are still encouraged to limit their travel in order to stay safe. The purpose of the community mobility report is to give insight into key questions:

- How have travel and mobility in St. Tammany been impacted by the pandemic?
- How well has St. Tammany adhered to the stay-at-home order?
- Where are people going when they aren't going to work, going shopping, or doing leisure/entertainment activities?

## Definitions:

- **Retail & Recreation:** places like restaurants, cafes, shopping centers, theme parks, museums, libraries, and movie theaters
- **Grocery & Pharmacy:** places like grocery markets, food warehouses, farmers markets, specialty food shops, drug stores, and pharmacies
- **Parks:** places like national parks, public beaches, marinas, dog parks, plazas, and public gardens
- **Workplaces:** places of work
- **Residential:** places of residence
- Negative percentages indicate reduction in travel



Source: Google | COVID-19 Community Mobility Report



# Key Takeaways

- St. Tammany has recorded 25,800 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and has surpassed 500 COVID-related deaths over 14 months. However, daily new cases have stayed below 100 for three months, and for 11 consecutive days in April, there were no new COVID-19 deaths in St. Tammany. Relatedly, St. Tammany also continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the state.
- So far in 2021, the average number of weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance in St. Tammany is about a quarter of the 2020 average. The unemployment rate has remained below 6.0% in St. Tammany for five consecutive months.
- While many households across the nation now feel more comfortable traveling and returning to work, school, and doctors' appointments, many households continue to struggle with finances, employment, housing, and food insecurity resulting from the ongoing economic crisis.
- Gas prices in the New Orleans Metro are among the lowest 5% of metro areas in the nation at a time when the national average fuel price has surpassed \$3.00 per gallon for the first time since 2014.





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*The Economic Development Organization for St. Tammany*

The **AnalyST**

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