

Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany

*13 graphs that show how St. Tammany has
been changed by COVID-19*



St. Tammany Corporation's economic research publication

August 18, 2020

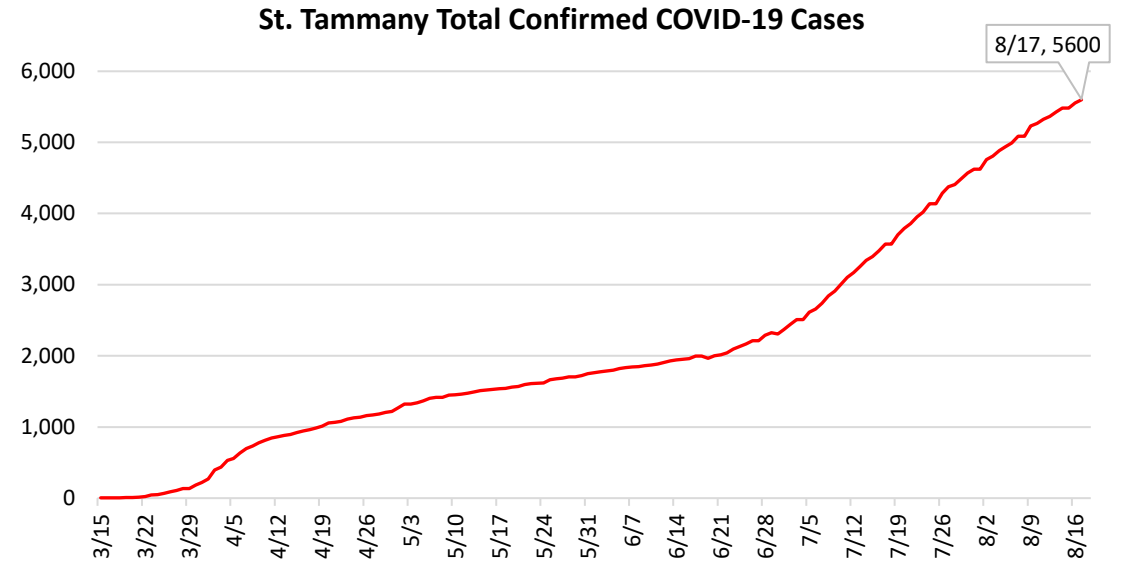
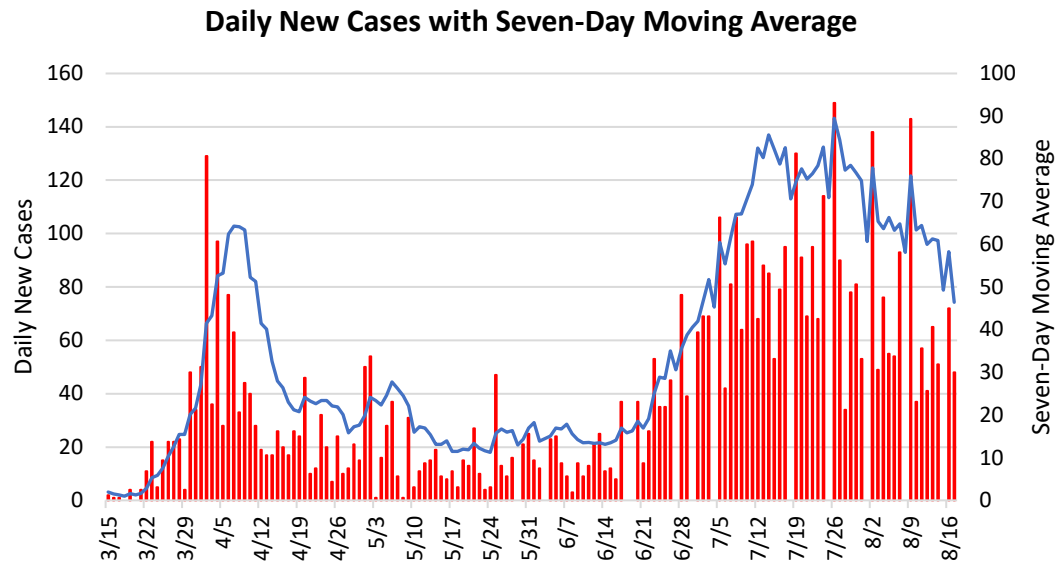


COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Cases

As of August 17, 2020:

- **5,600** positive cases
- **79,789** tests administered
- **7.0%** positive test rate



- **2,154** cases per 100,000
- **7th highest** number of positive cases in Louisiana
- The **seven-day moving average** is simply the average number of new cases per day for the previous seven days, used to indicate short-term trends.

Source: Louisiana Department of Health



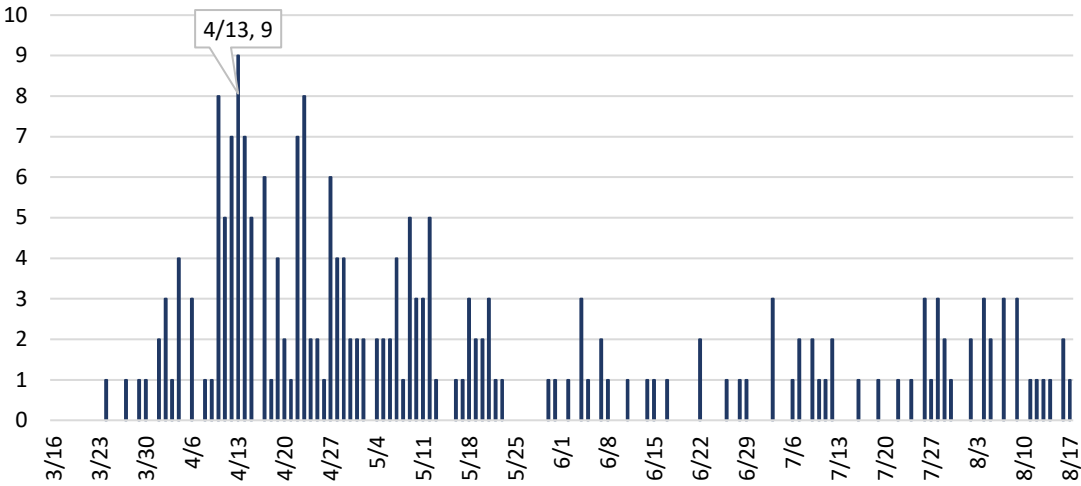
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Mortality

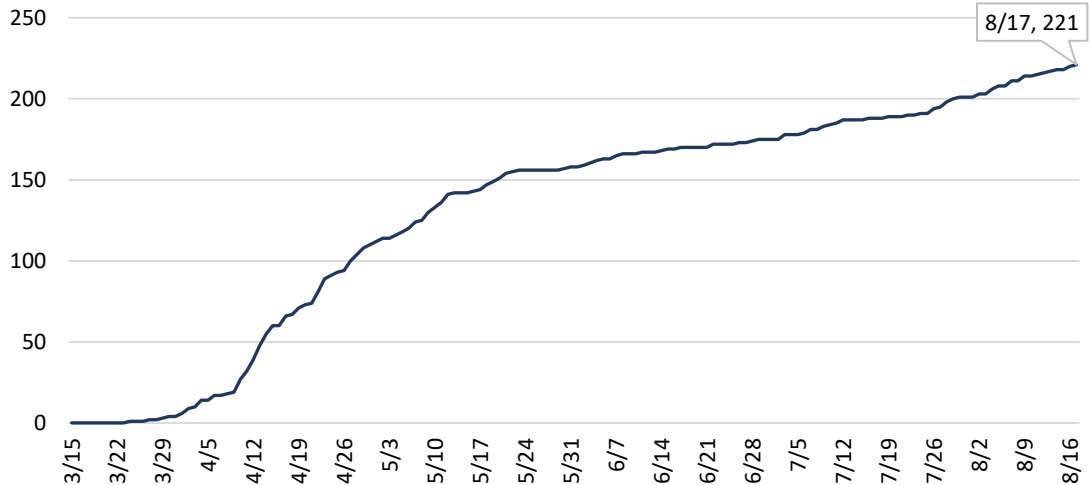
As of August 17, 2020:

- **221** deaths
- **3.9%** mortality rate (deaths as a proportion of cases)
- **5th highest** number of COVID-19 deaths in Louisiana

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	31	878	32,238	27.2
White	184	3653	215,496	17.0
Other	1	361	10,377	34.8
Unknown	0	372	N/A	N/A

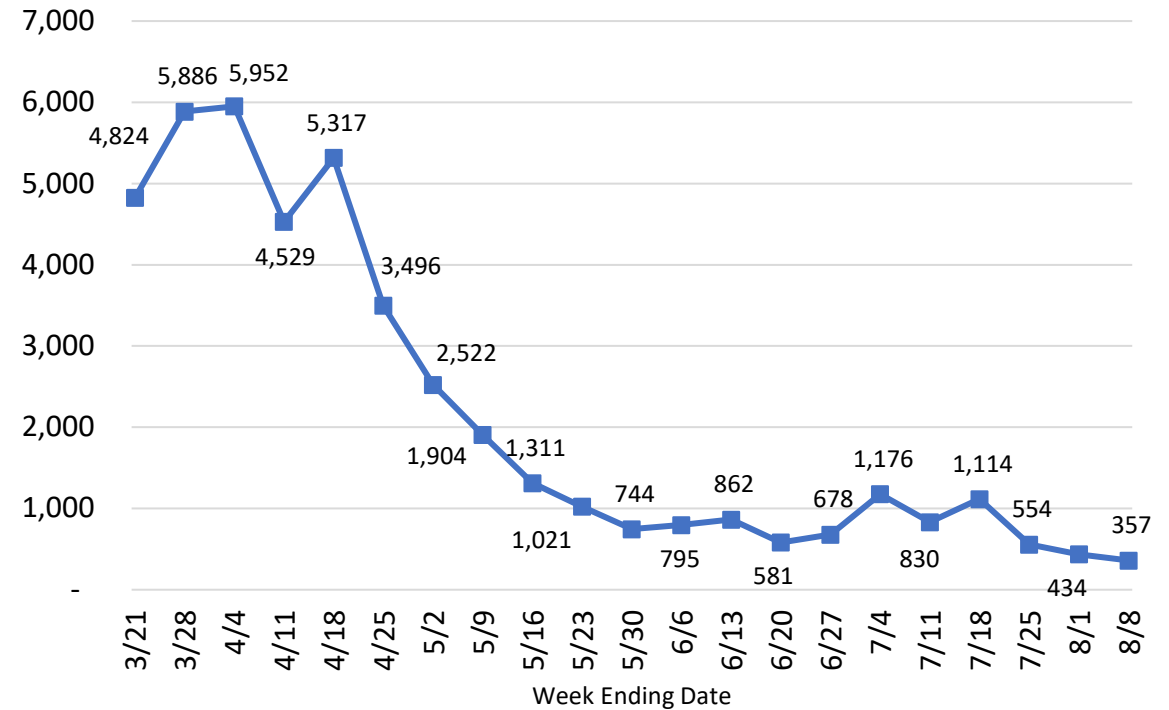
Source: Louisiana Department of Health



Unemployment

- Weekly UI claims continue to decline, with the number of claims during the week ending 8/8 totaling the **lowest** since the pandemic began.
- According to data from the Louisiana Workforce Commission, St. Tammany's labor force contracted from 120,763 in June 2019 to 110,754 in June 2020, a difference of **10,009**.
- This could be because many workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic-induced economic downturn are not actively looking for employment and are therefore no longer counted as "unemployed;" they have left the labor force.
- However, St. Tammany's labor force did slightly increase from May 2020 to June 2020, adding back **702** workers.

St. Tammany Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

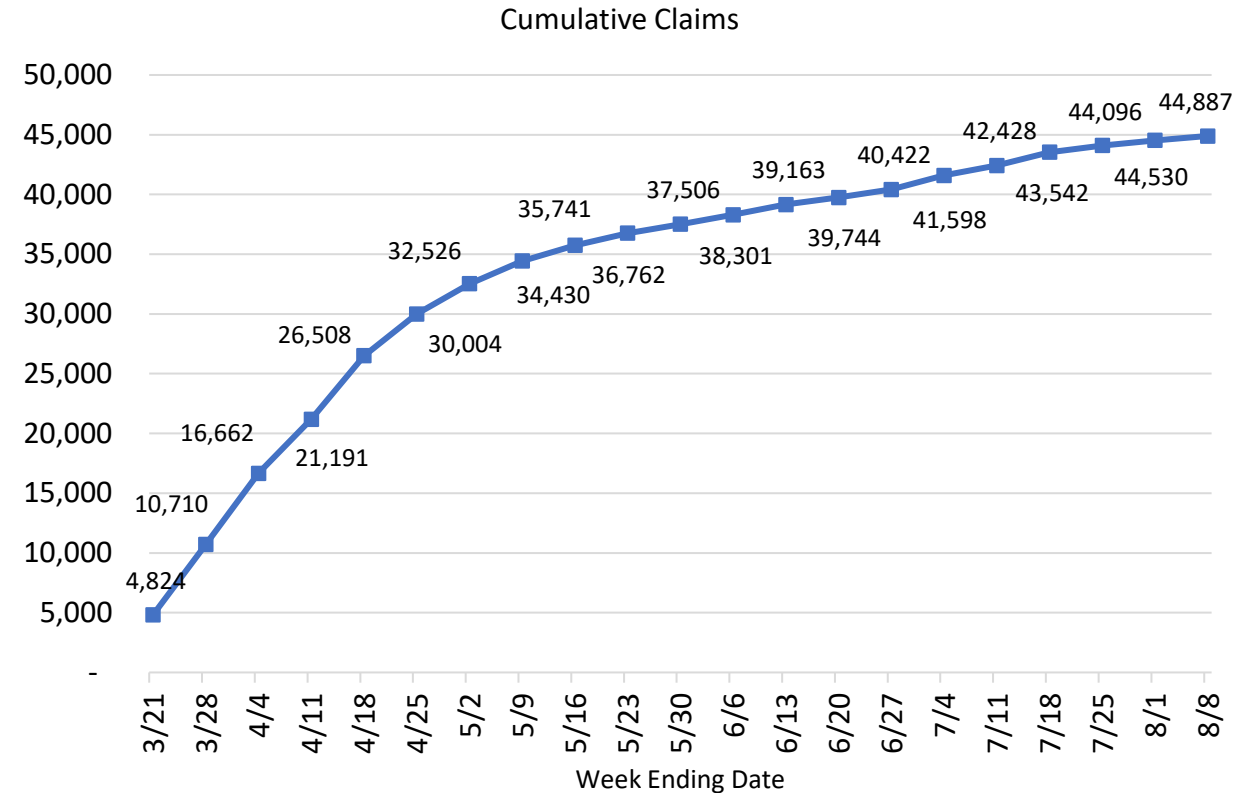


Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment

- As demonstrated on the previous page, the number of weekly initial claims has mostly continued to decline, which has led to a flatter curve for the number of total claims filed in St. Tammany.
- **44,887** total initial unemployment insurance claims means that **more than 40%** of the workforce has been unemployed at some point since the stay-at-home order began.
- St. Tammany's total number of initial claims is the **5th highest** in the state.

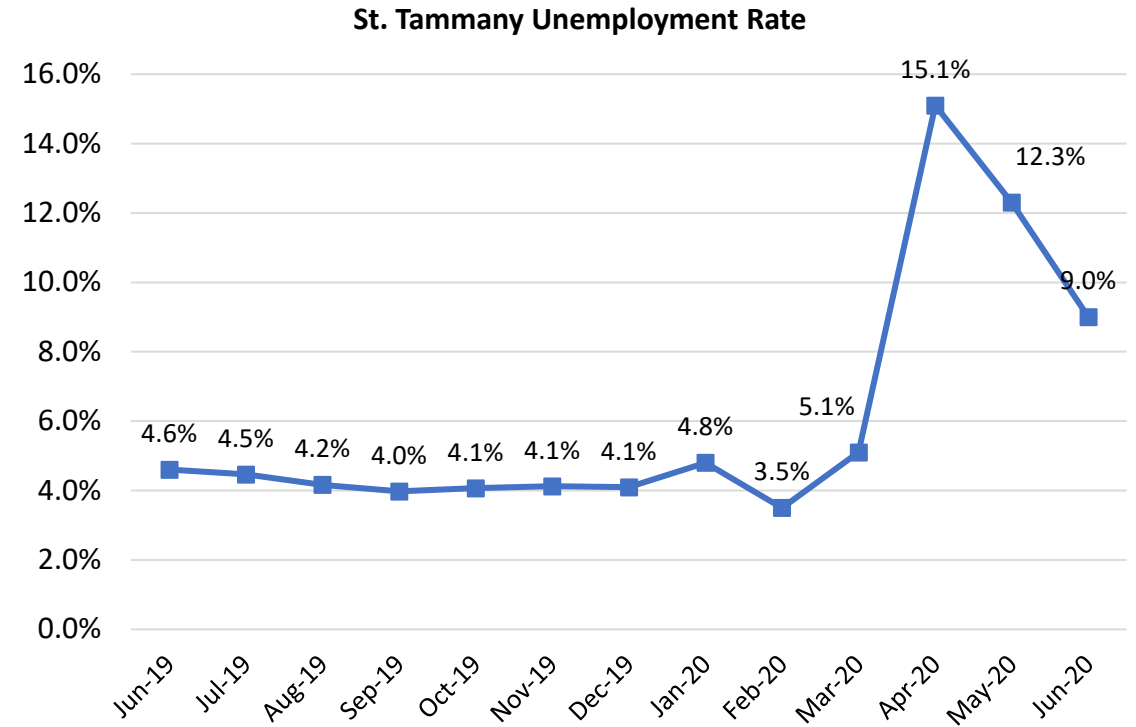


Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment

- LWC reported that St. Tammany's unemployment rate was **9.0%** in June, lower than the national rate (11.1%), the Louisiana rate (9.7%) and the Greater New Orleans rate (12.9%).
- As of August 8, 2020, St. Tammany's unemployment rate is an **estimated 11.3%** based on continued claims plus initial claims for the preceding week.



Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission

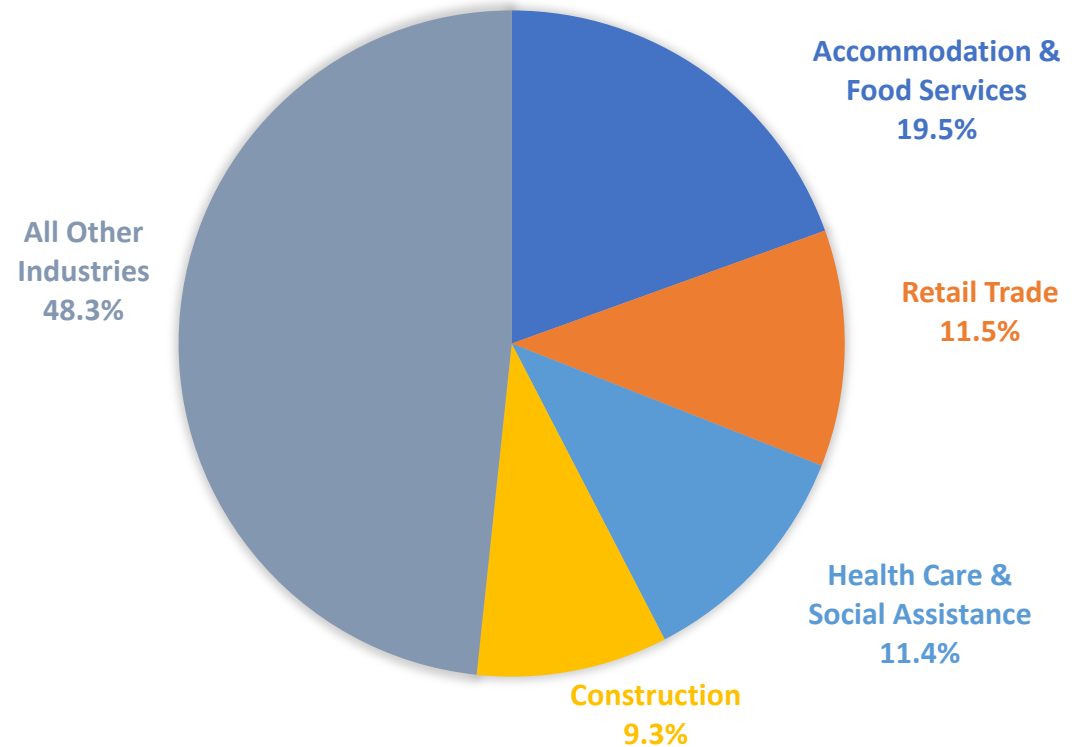


Unemployment Insurance Claims

Louisiana Statewide UI Claims by Industry

Statewide, as of August 8, 2020, the hardest-hit industries in terms of lost jobs have been:

- **Accommodation & Food Service**, representing 19.5% of all claims filed;
- **Retail Trade** (11.5%);
- **Health Care and Social Assistance** (11.4%); and
- **Construction** (9.3%).

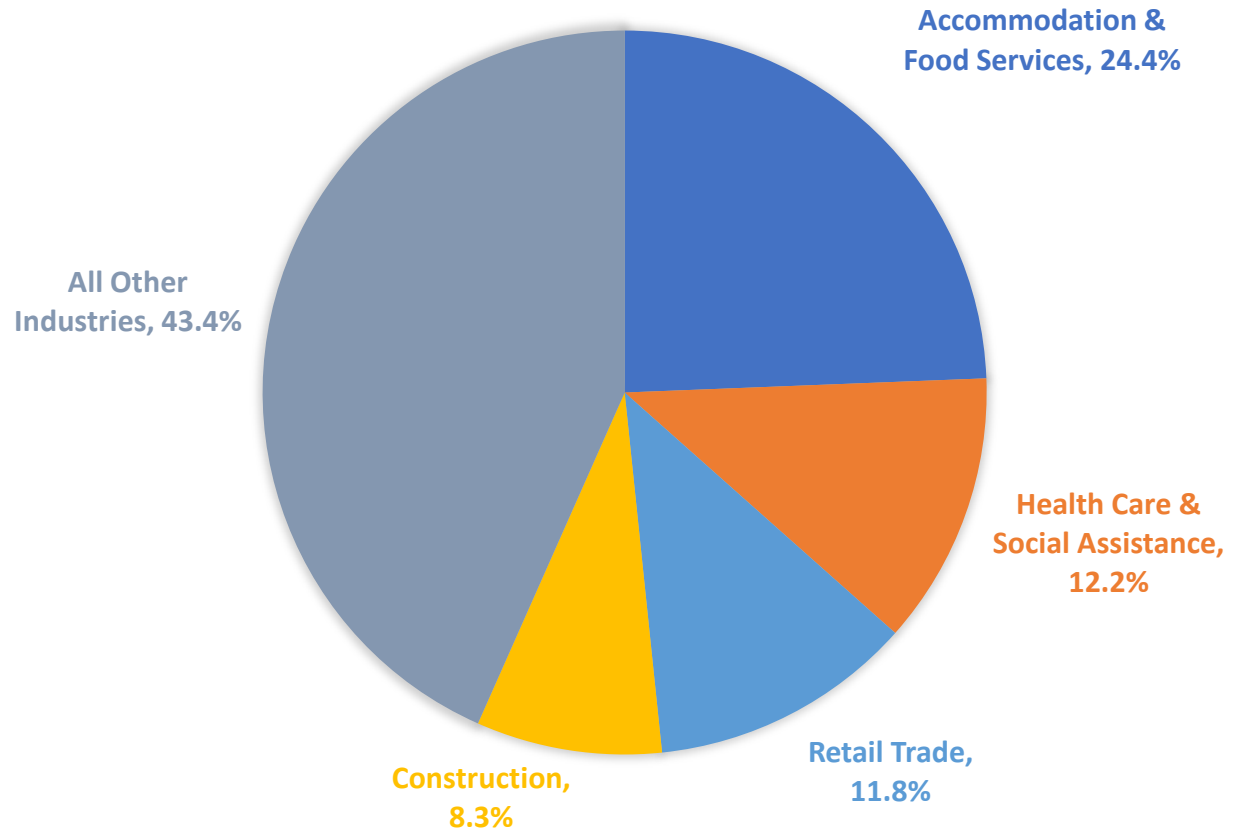


Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



St. Tammany Economic Makeup

Statewide, the hardest-hit industries during the pandemic, as shown on the previous page, have been proportional to St. Tammany's industrial makeup.



Source: EMSI



Job Postings

Year-to-Year Comparison

From March 2020 to July 2020:

- There were **9,089** unique job postings in St. Tammany.
- The ratio of total job postings to unique (not duplicated) job postings was **4:1**, meaning that each open position was posted on about 4 different websites.
- The median job posting was left up for **28 days**.
- The median advertised salary was **\$41,600**.
- The most in-demand jobs included nurses, truck drivers, retail salespeople, customer service representatives, and stockers/order fillers.

From March 2019 to July 2019:

- There were **12,705** unique job postings in St. Tammany.
- The ratio of total job postings to unique (not duplicated) job postings was **4:1**, meaning that each open position was posted on about 4 different websites.
- The median job posting was left up for **24 days**.
- The median advertised salary was **\$45,700**.
- The most in-demand jobs included truck drivers, nurses, retail salespeople, and customer service representatives.

Source: EMSI



Job Postings

Month-to-Month Comparison

January 2020:

6,508 unique postings
6:1 posting ratio
58 days median posting duration
\$41,600 median advertised salary

February 2020:

5,761 unique postings
6:1 posting ratio
38 days median posting duration
\$41,600 median advertised salary

March 2020:

6,271 unique postings
6:1 posting ratio
42 days median posting duration
\$41,600 median advertised salary

April 2020:

5,506 unique postings
6:1 posting ratio
33 days median posting duration
\$41,300 median advertised salary

May 2020:

5,686 unique postings
6:1 posting ratio
66 days median posting duration
\$39,000 median advertised salary

June 2020:

5,140 unique postings
5:1 posting ratio
31 days median posting duration
\$44,700 median advertised salary

July 2020:

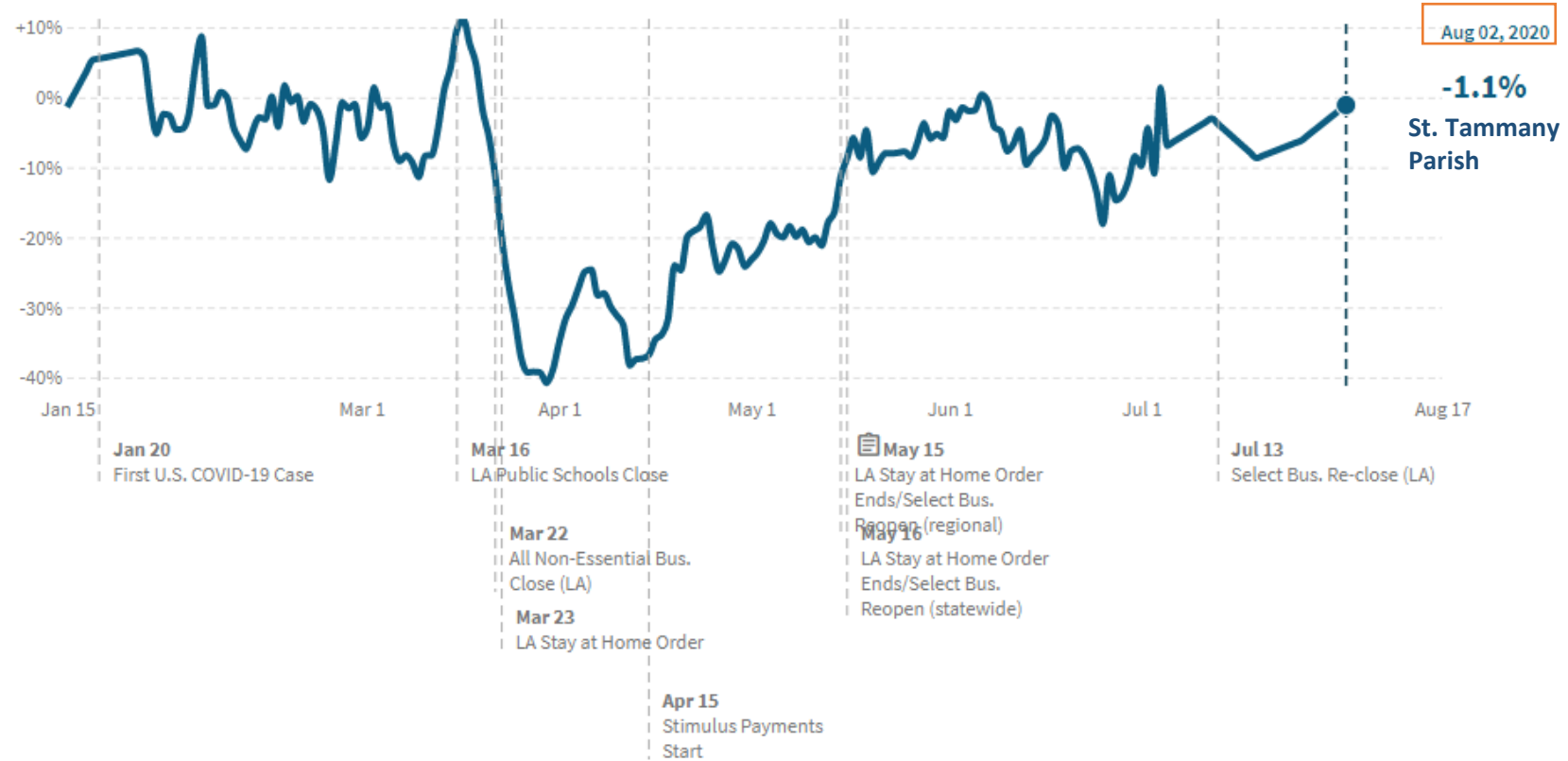
5,460 unique postings
6:1 posting ratio
32 days median posting duration
\$42,600 median advertised salary

Source: EMSI



Changes in Consumer Spending

- Consumer spending began to take a dive following school closures in Louisiana, and while making a rocky path to recovery, has nearly returned to pre-COVID-19 levels.
- As of August 2, 2020, total consumer spending in St. Tammany **decreased by 1.1%** compared to January 2020.
- The lowest point was April 1, when consumer spending was at **-42.7%**.
- The steepest increases in spending can be seen immediately following the distribution of direct stimulus payments and the end of the stay-at-home order/beginning of Phase I.

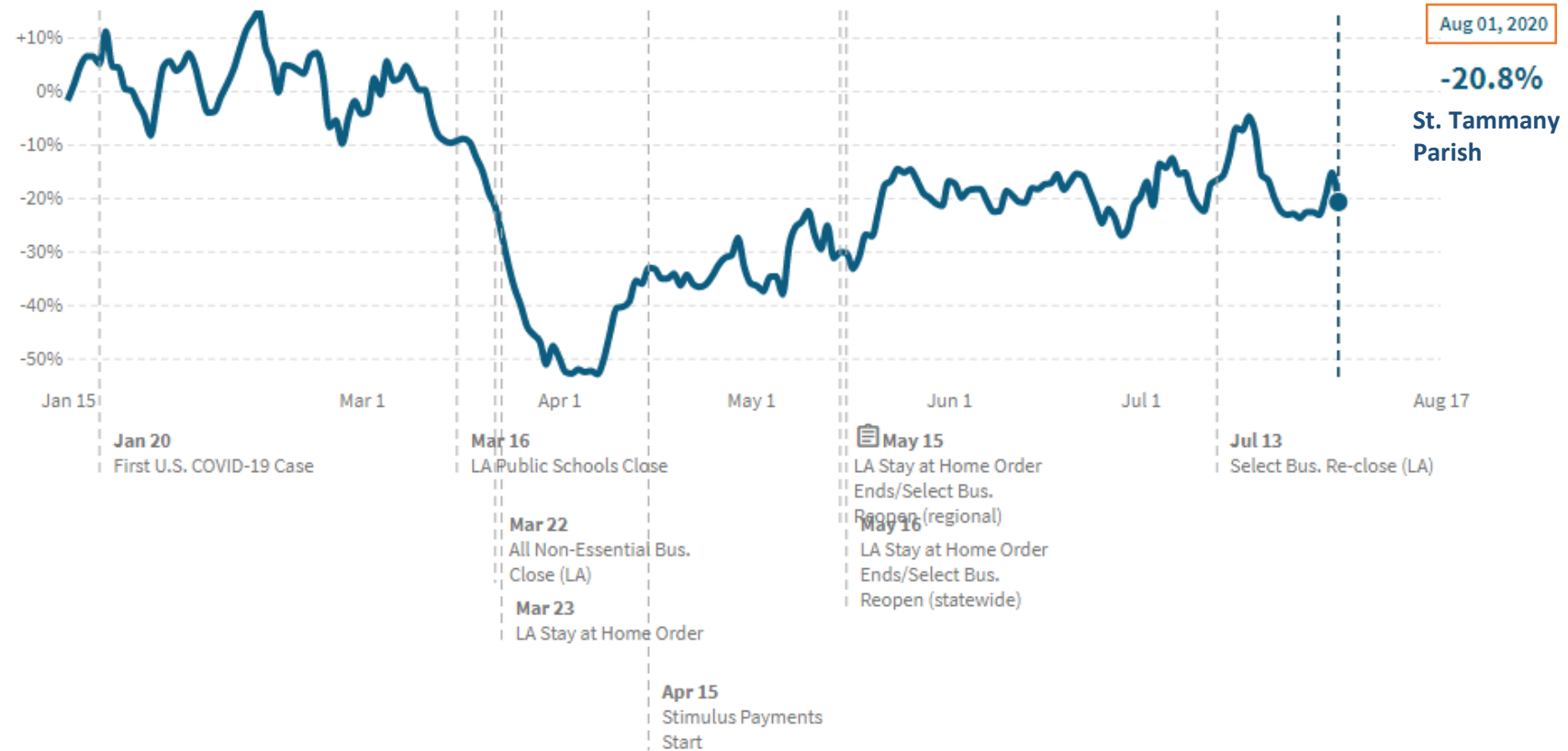


Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker



Changes in Small Business Revenue

- Small business revenue began to take a dive around the time of the stay-at-home order, and while making a slow recovery, has not yet returned to pre-COVID-19 levels.
- As of August 1, 2020, total small business revenue in St. Tammany **decreased by 20.8%** compared to January 2020. Revenues have hovered around this level since late May-early June.
- The lowest point was April 8, when revenue was at **-51.1%**.
- The steepest increase in small business revenue can be seen following the end of the statewide stay-at-home order.



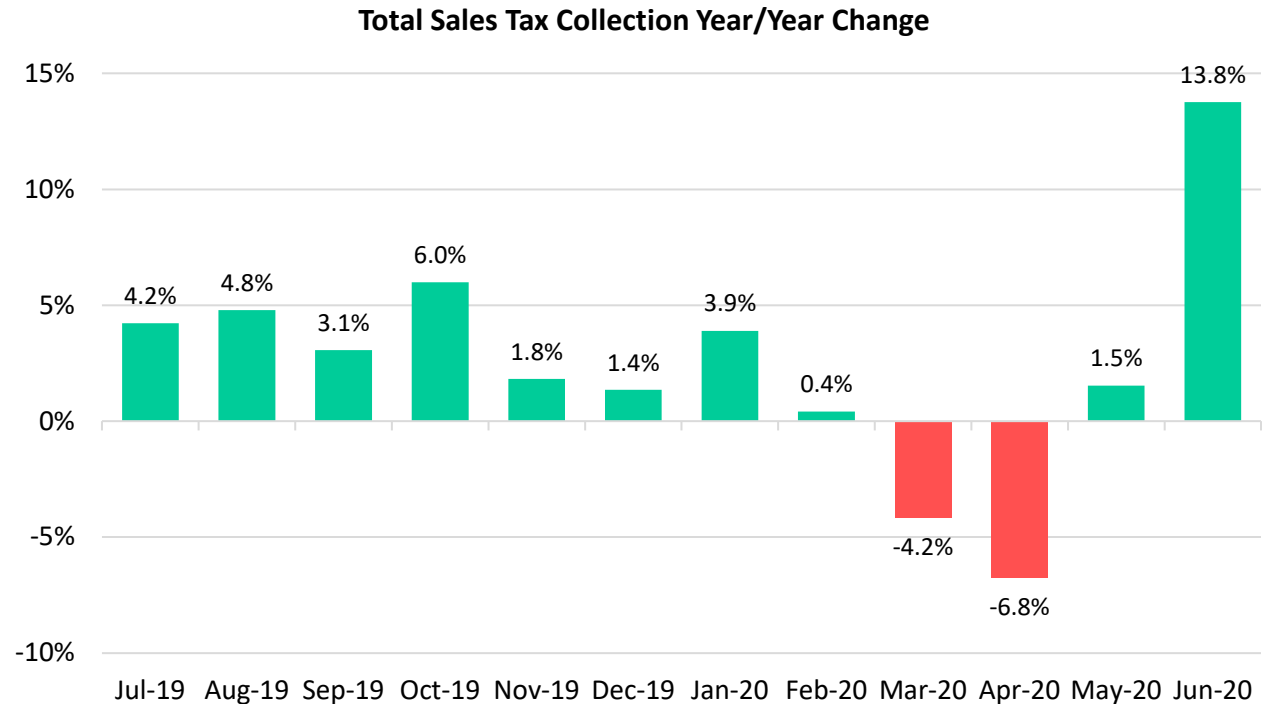
Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker



Sales Tax Collections

Year-over-Year Growth

- Following eight months of consecutive year-over-year sales tax growth during the most recent fiscal year, March and April saw sharp decreases in sales taxes compared to the same months in 2019.
- These two months were during the height of the pandemic-induced shutdown when only essential businesses were permitted to remain open.
- However, once the stay-at-home order expired on May 15, sales taxes rose slightly during May and more sharply during June.



Source: St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office



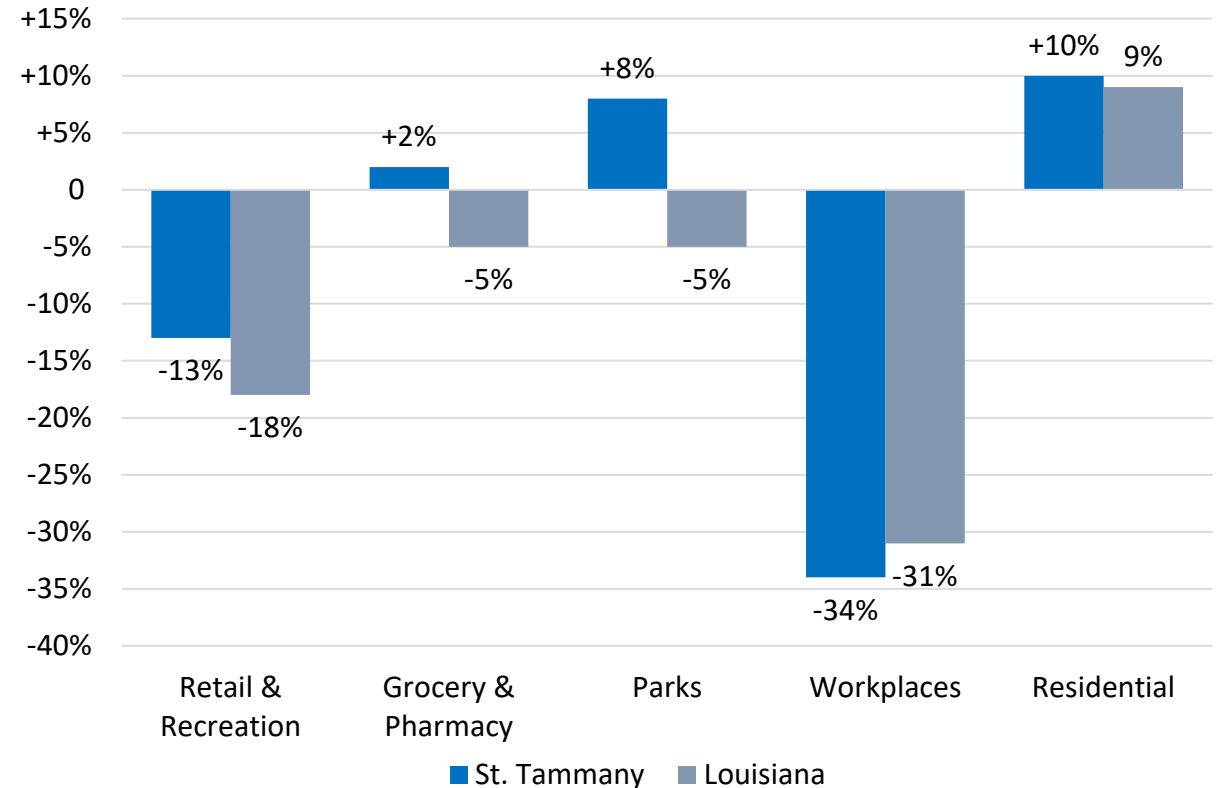
Residential Travel Since Stay-at-Home Order

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 – August 2020



Key Takeaways

- St. Tammany's COVID-19 positive case curve continues to slope more steeply upward as positive cases accelerate to 5,600 after breaking 4,000 less than one month ago.
- More than 40% of St. Tammany's workforce has been unemployed at some point since the start of the pandemic's effects on the economy, and the unemployment rate still hovers above 11.0%.
- St. Tammany's industrial makeup renders the economy particularly vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic, with accommodations & food service, retail, and other service jobs comprising a significant portion of the economy.
- The economy, although no longer shut down, is making a slow recovery, with small business revenues still down more than 20% and a significantly lower rate of participation in the labor force.





**ST. TAMMANY
CORPORATION**

The Economic Development Organization for St. Tammany

The **AnalyST**

St. Tammany Corporation's economic research publication

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