



The **AnalyST**

St. Tammany Corporation's economic research publication

January 2021

Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany

20 charts and graphs that show how St. Tammany has been changed by COVID-19 throughout 2020 and into the new year



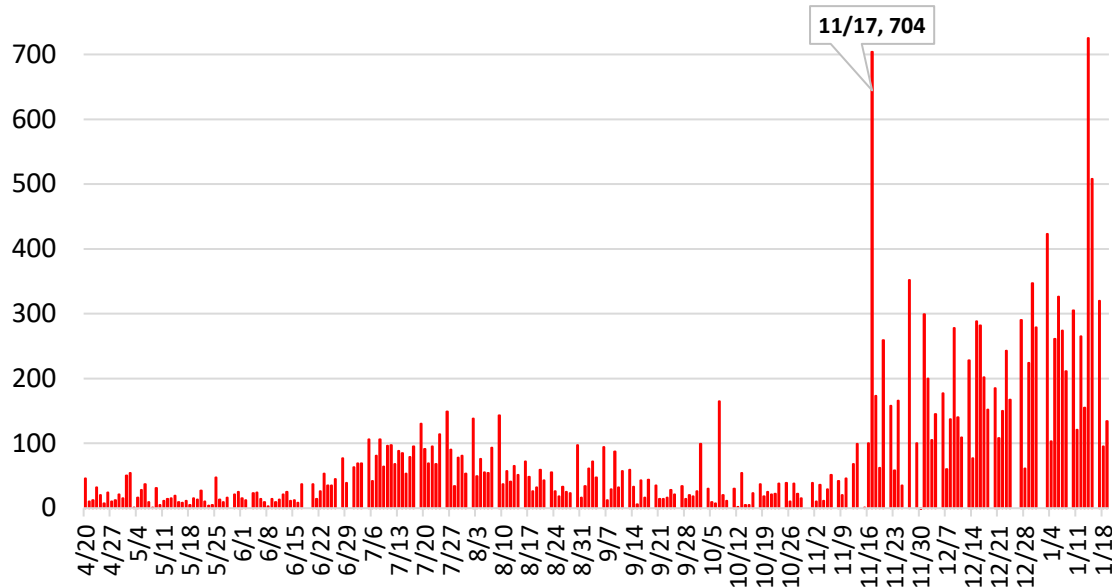
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Cases

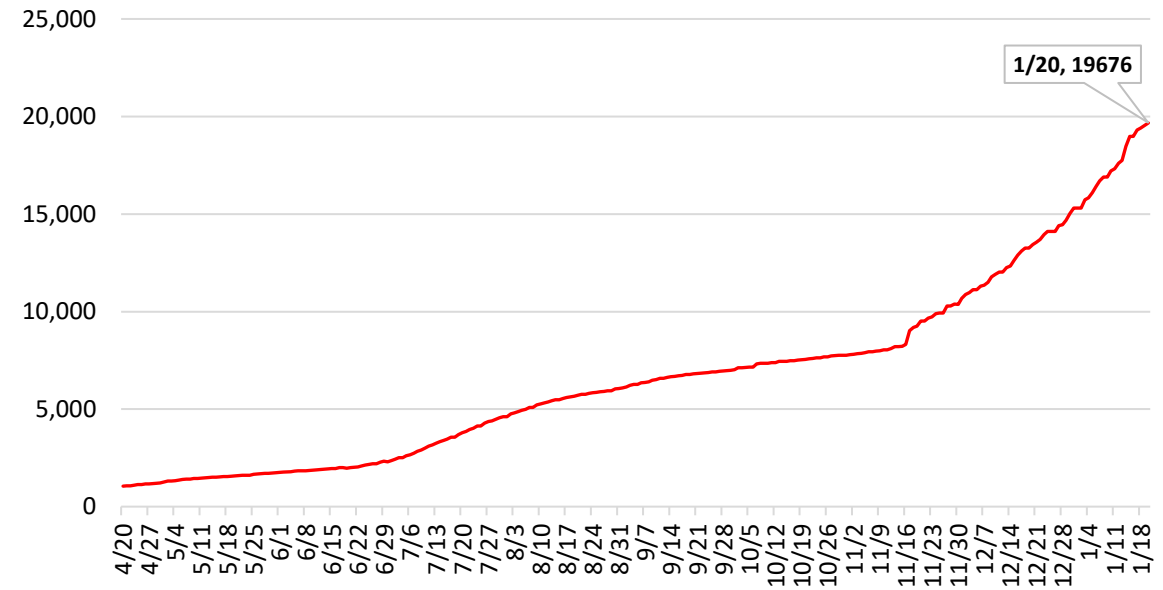
As of January 20, 2021:

- **17,000** confirmed positive cases
- **253,425** tests administered
- **6.7%** confirmed positive test rate (March-January)

St. Tammany Daily Increases in COVID-19 Cases



St. Tammany Total Probable & Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



- **6,464** confirmed cases per 100,000
- **6th highest** number of positive cases in Louisiana
- Note: Due to a two-month statewide backlog that was reported in mid-November, total cases were drastically higher from November 17th onward. Additionally, total cases going forward include both probable cases and confirmed cases.

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



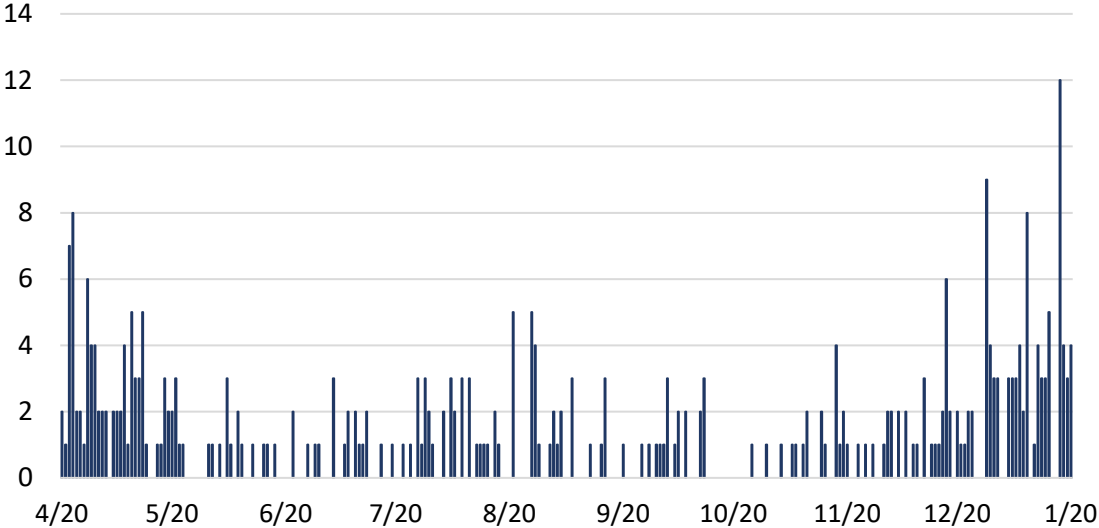
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Mortality

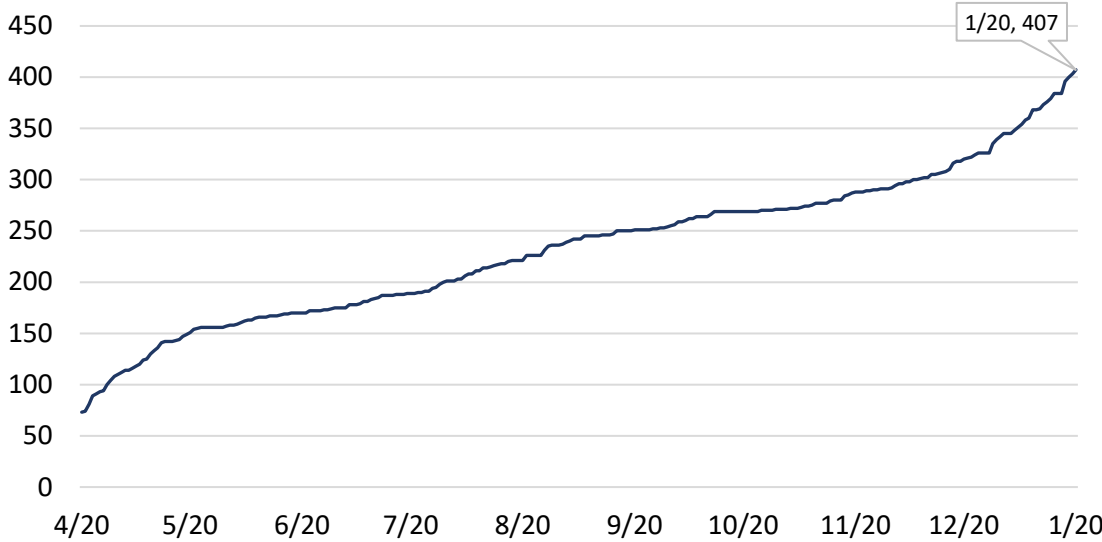
As of January 20th, 2021:

- **407** deaths
- **2.4%** mortality rate (deaths as a proportion of confirmed cases)
- **5th highest** number of COVID-19 deaths in Louisiana

St. Tammany Daily Increase in COVID-19 Deaths



St. Tammany Total COVID-19 Deaths



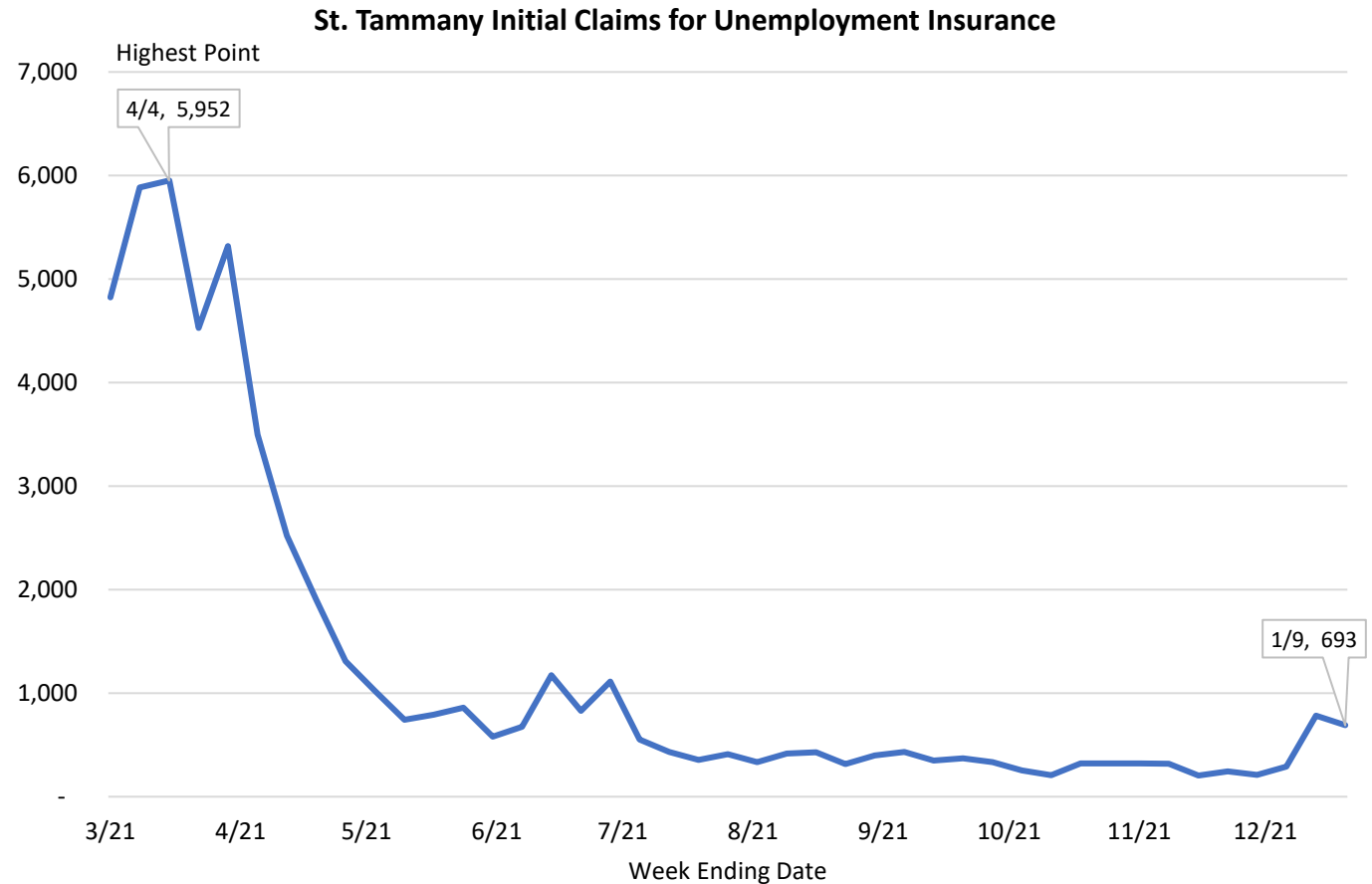
Demographic Breakdown				
Race	Deaths	Cases	Population (2018)	Cases per 1,000
Black	48	2,727	32,238	84.6
White	358	14,517	215,496	67.4
Other	2	1,290	10,377	124.3
Unknown	0	797	N/A	N/A

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



Unemployment

- Weekly initial UI claims continued to level off until the end of 2020, with the number of initial claims during the week ending 12/26 totaling **292**.
- However, during the weeks ending 1/2/2021 and 1/9/2021, claims **increased by more than double**, totaling 785 and 693, respectively, the highest numbers since July 2020.
- This increase is in line with the national trend; according to the U.S. Department of Labor, 1.15 million people nationwide filed initial claims with their states during the week ending 1/9, an increase of 25% from the previous week. The same week in 2020 saw 338,550 initial UI claims nationwide.
- The reason for such a sharp jump in UI claims: the national economy lost 140,000 jobs in December alone, a step backward from the progress needed to recover from the ongoing recession.
- As COVID-19 cases worsened over the holidays, more businesses have had to shutter, leading to such a loss in employment.

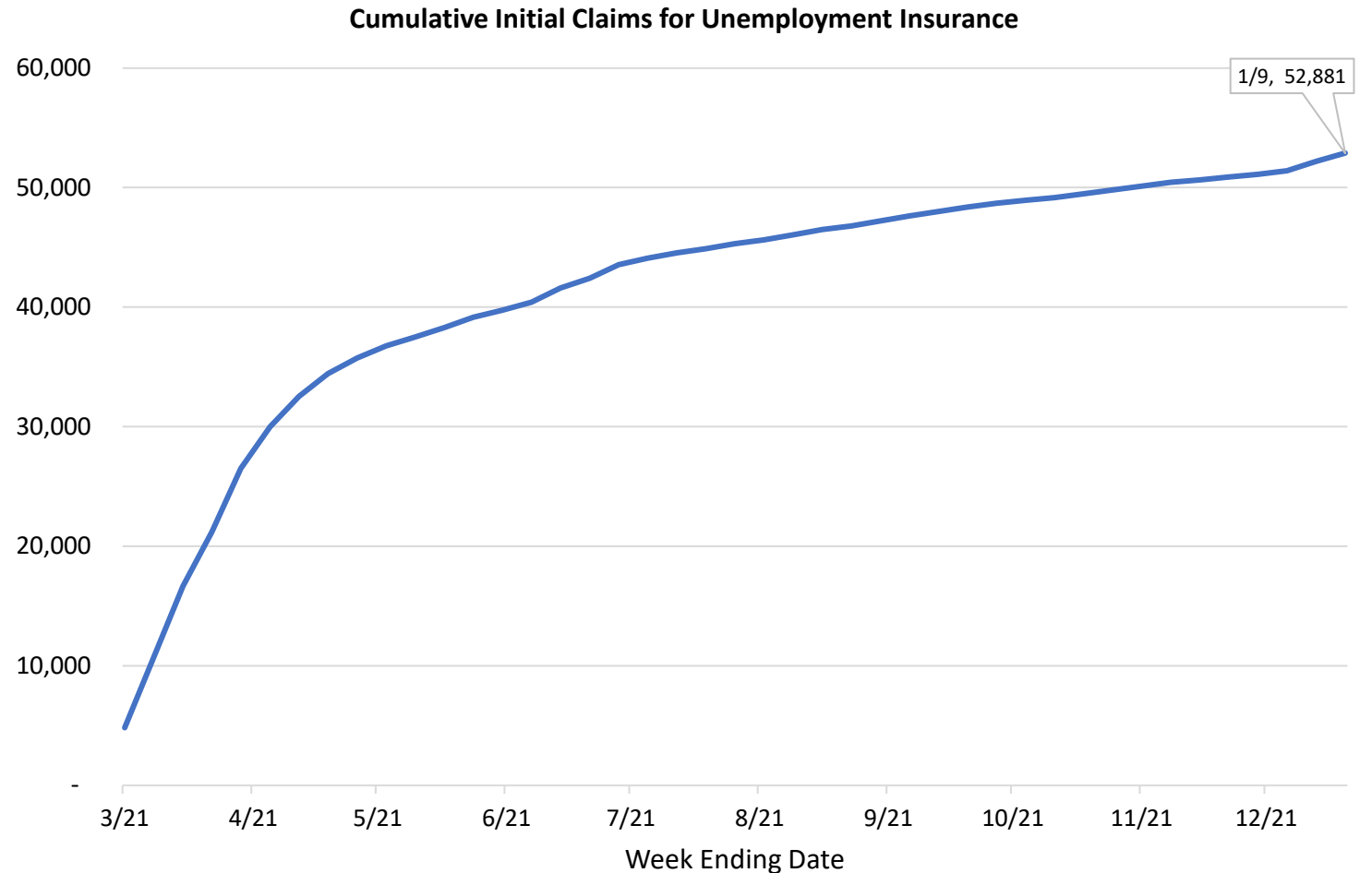


Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment

- The graph to the right shows the total number of initial unemployment claims since the beginning of the pandemic.
- This graph does not reflect the current number of unemployed workers in our economy but serves as a visual representation of the cumulative number of initial claims filed.

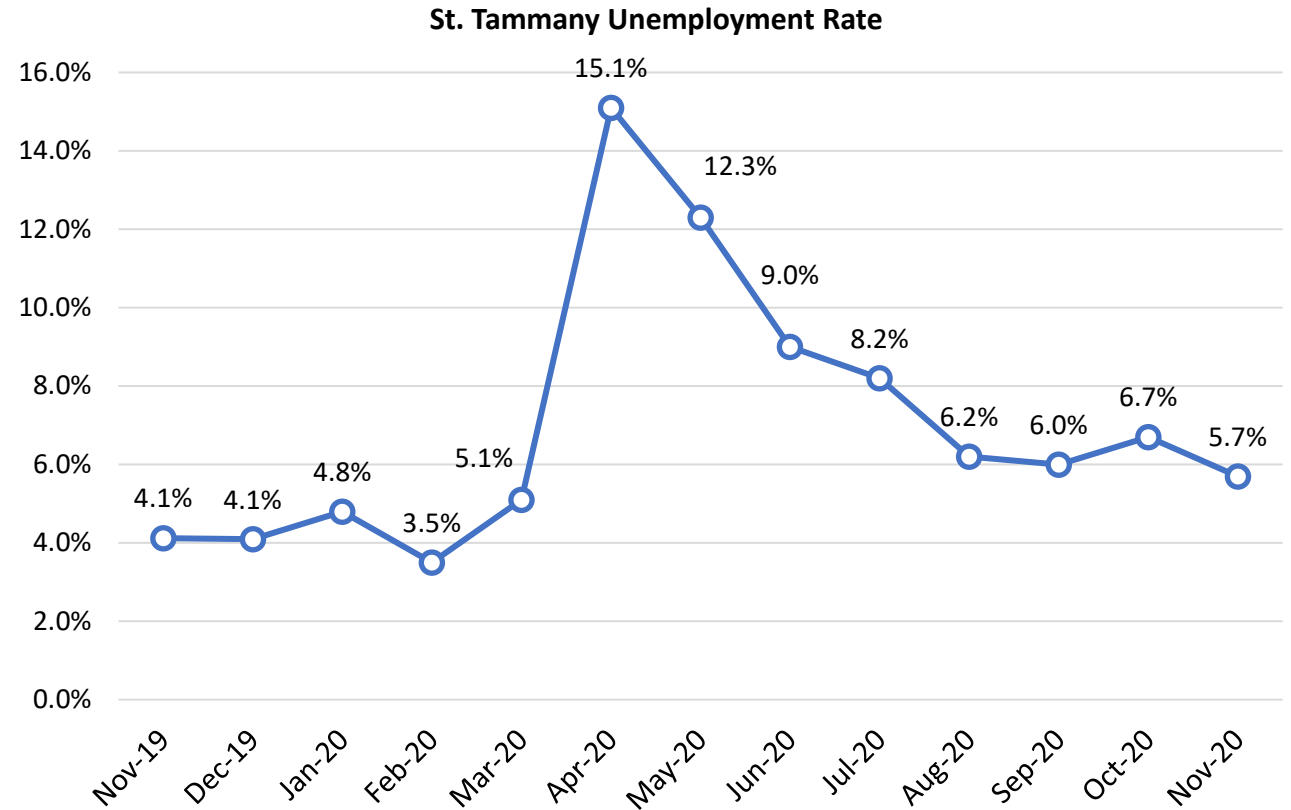


Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment

- In its most recent jobs report, LWC reported that St. Tammany's unemployment rate was **5.7%** in November 2020, lower than:
 - the national rate (6.7%),
 - the Louisiana rate (8.3%),
 - and the Greater New Orleans rate (9.8%).



Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment Insurance Claims

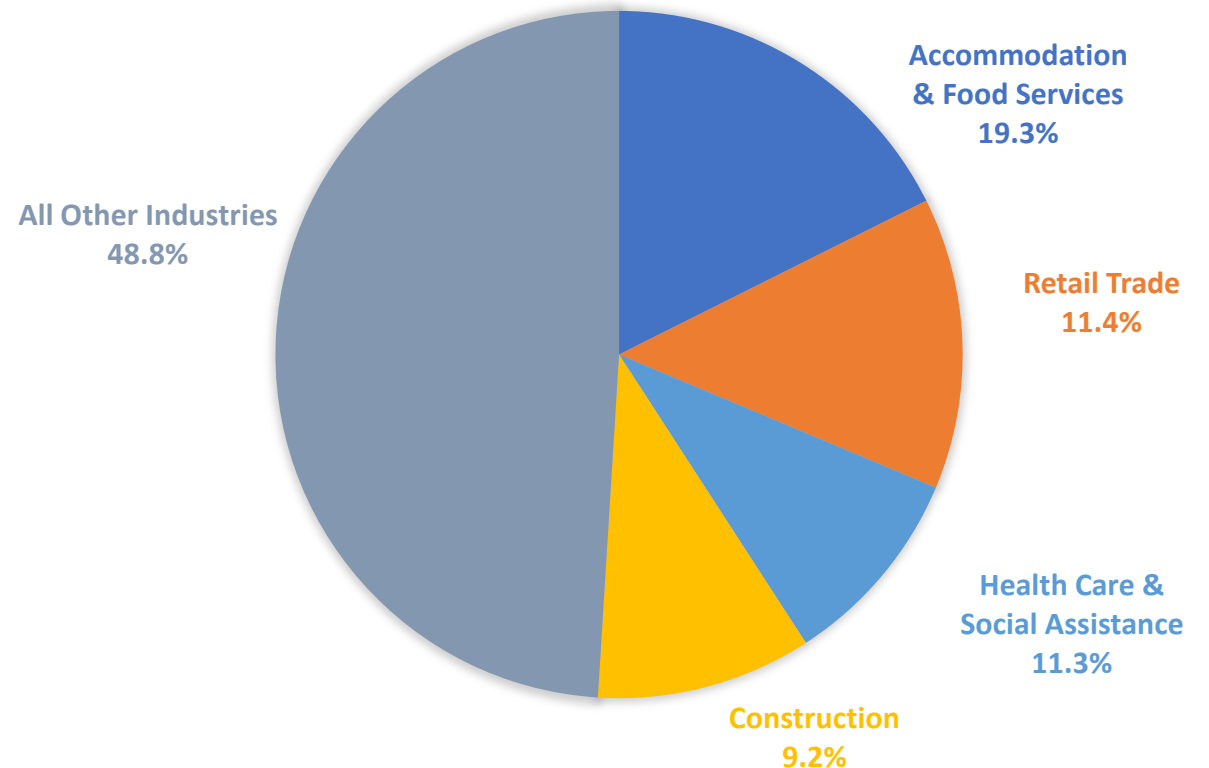
Statewide, during the week of January 9, 2021, the hardest-hit industries in terms of lost jobs have been:

- **Accommodation & Food Service**, representing 19.3% of all initial claims filed;
- **Health Care and Social Assistance** (11.3%);
- **Retail Trade** (11.4%); and
- **Construction** (9.2%).

It is important to note that more than half of initial claims filed were from workers in just four industries.

“All Other Industries” includes sectors such as finance and insurance; real estate; professional, scientific, and technical services; transportation, wholesale trade; education; etc.

Louisiana Statewide UI Claims by Industry



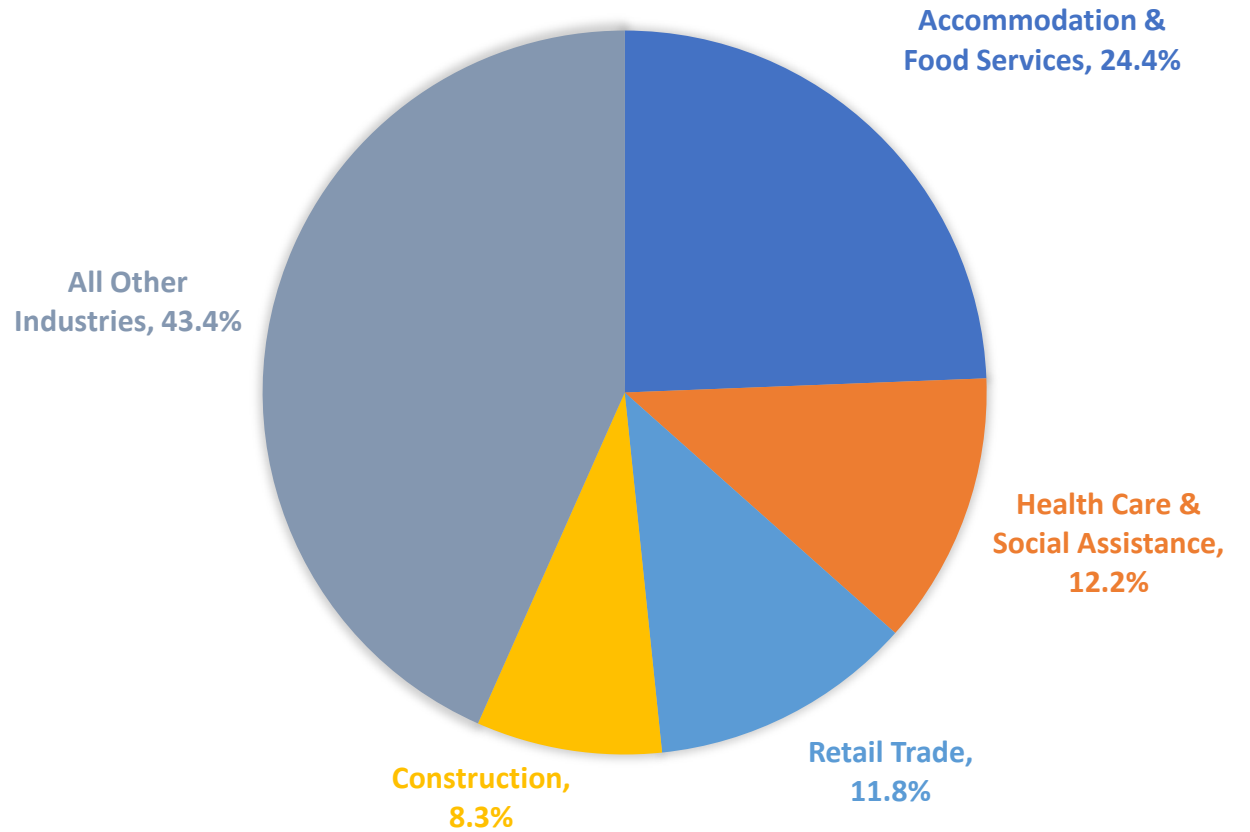
Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



St. Tammany Economic Makeup

Statewide, the hardest-hit industries due to the pandemic during the first full week of January, as shown on the previous page, have been nearly proportional to St. Tammany's industrial makeup in terms of jobs.

"All Other Industries" includes sectors such as finance and insurance; real estate; professional, scientific, and technical services; transportation, wholesale trade; education; etc.



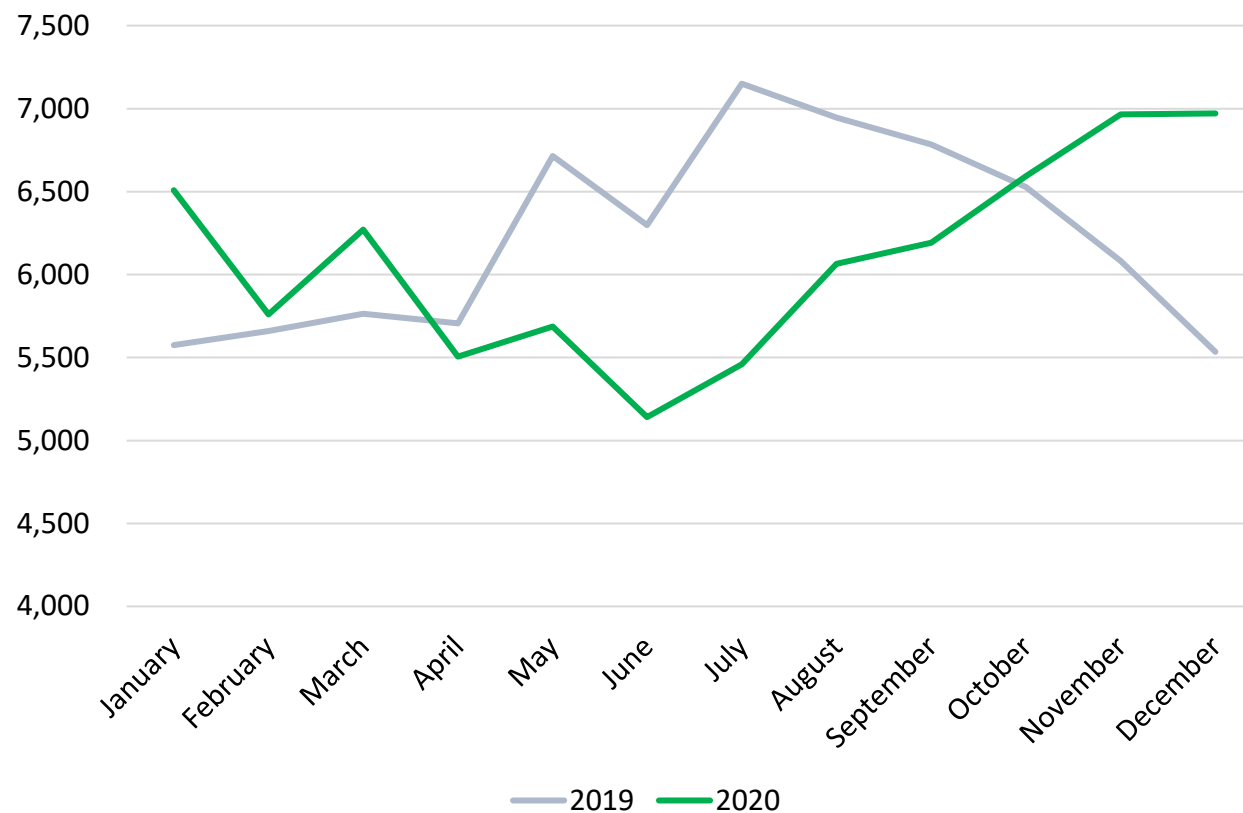
Source: EMSI



Job Postings

Year-over-Year Comparison

- Compared to 2019, job postings in 2020 were significantly lower from April to September.
- In December, there were **6,971** jobs posted in St. Tammany, higher than December 2019's 5,534 postings and notably almost exactly the same as November 2020's 6,972 job postings.

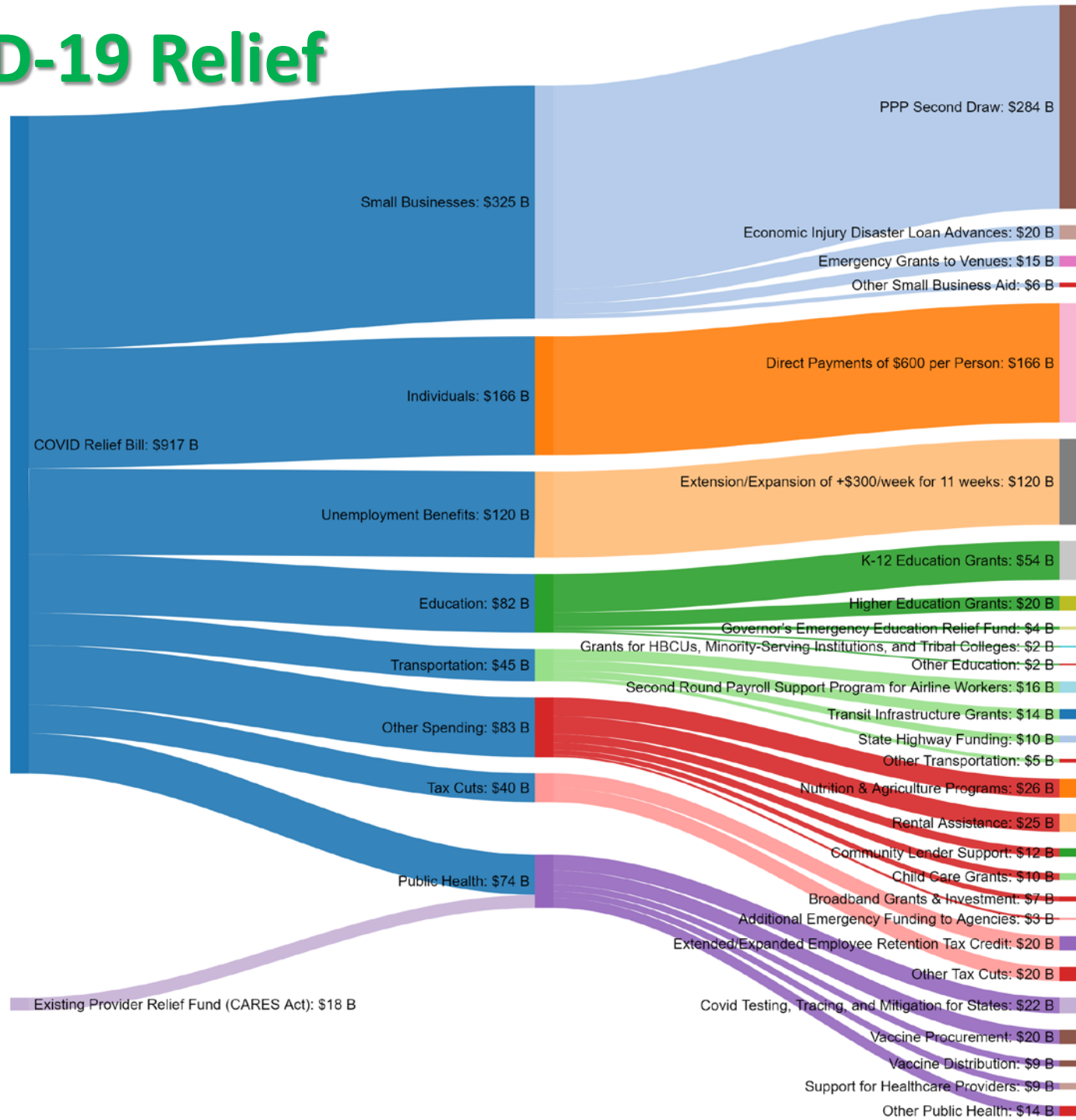


Source: EMSI



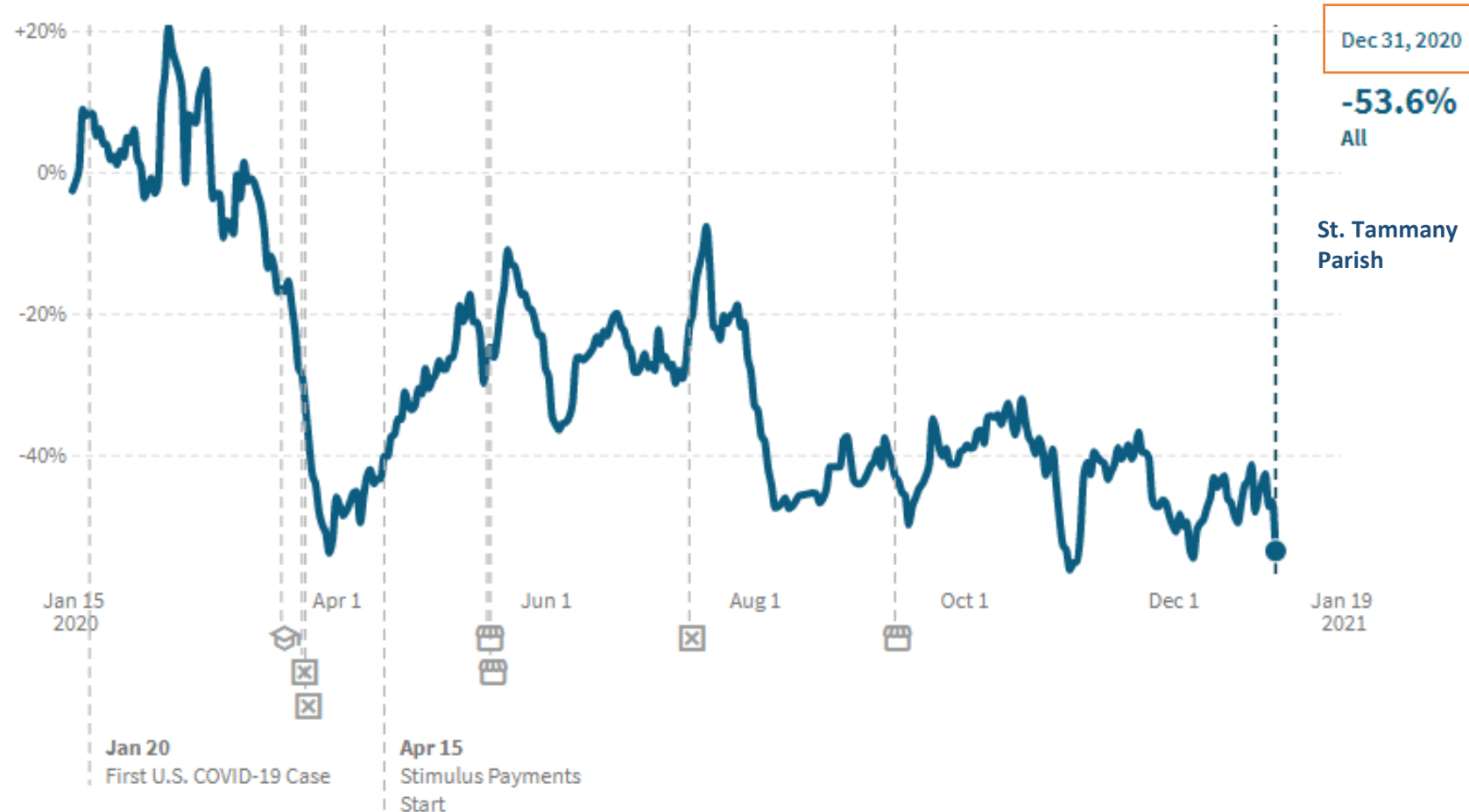
COVID-19 Relief

- On December 27, Congress passed a second stimulus package totaling \$917 billion to follow the CARES Act in March.
- Focus areas of the bill included small business relief, direct payments to individuals, unemployment supplements, and coronavirus testing, tracing, and vaccine distribution.
- The visualization to the right breaks down to which areas the funding flows.



Changes in Small Business Revenue

- As of December 31, 2020, total small business revenue in St. Tammany was **down more than half** of its January 2020 levels.
- The lowest point was March 30, when revenue was at **-81.9%**.
- From the initial effects of the pandemic on the economy through the end of the year, small business revenue has struggled to improve, hovering between 35% and 55% **lower** than January 2020 levels from August through December.

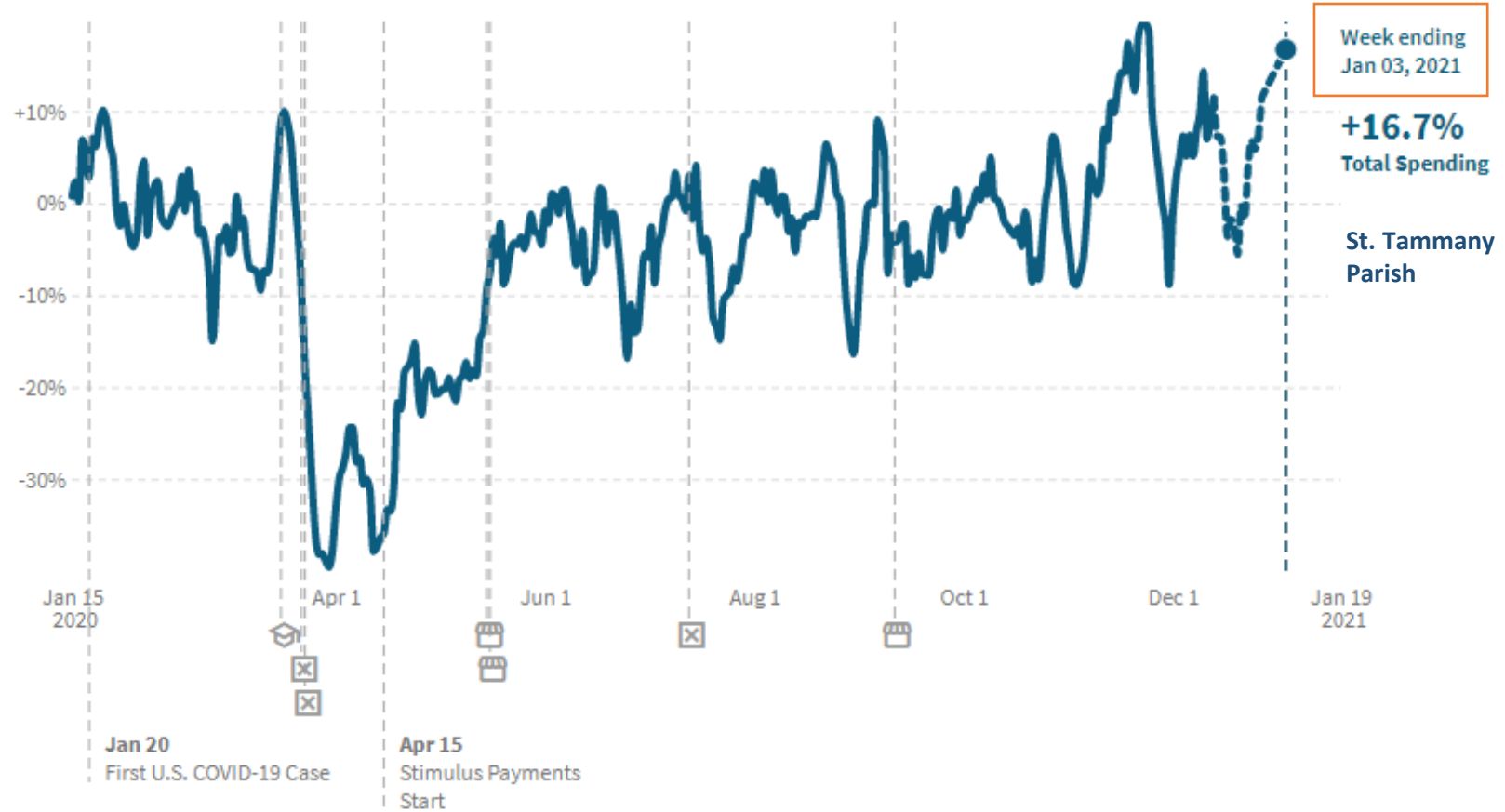


Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker



Changes in Consumer Spending

- As of January 3, 2021, total consumer spending in St. Tammany had increased to **16.7% higher** than January 2020 levels.
- Compared alongside small business revenue levels, shown on the previous page to be down more than half in the same time period, consumer spending has recovered more quickly and steadily.



Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker



Small Business Pulse

According to a nationwide survey of small businesses conducted by the Census Bureau during the week of January 4 through January 10:

- **23.5%** of U.S. small businesses experienced a decrease in the total number of hours worked in the last week by paid employees
- **12.4%** of U.S. small businesses experienced a decrease in the number of paid employees in the last week
- **46.4%** of U.S. small businesses believe more than 6 months will pass before their business returns to normal operations
- **40.4%** of U.S. small businesses have experienced a decrease in operating revenue. For responses collected 12/28 – 1/3, this statistic was 41.8%
- **75.0%** of U.S. small businesses have experienced a large or moderate negative effect from the Coronavirus pandemic
- **48.0%** of U.S. retail trade businesses have experienced domestic supplier delays in the last week

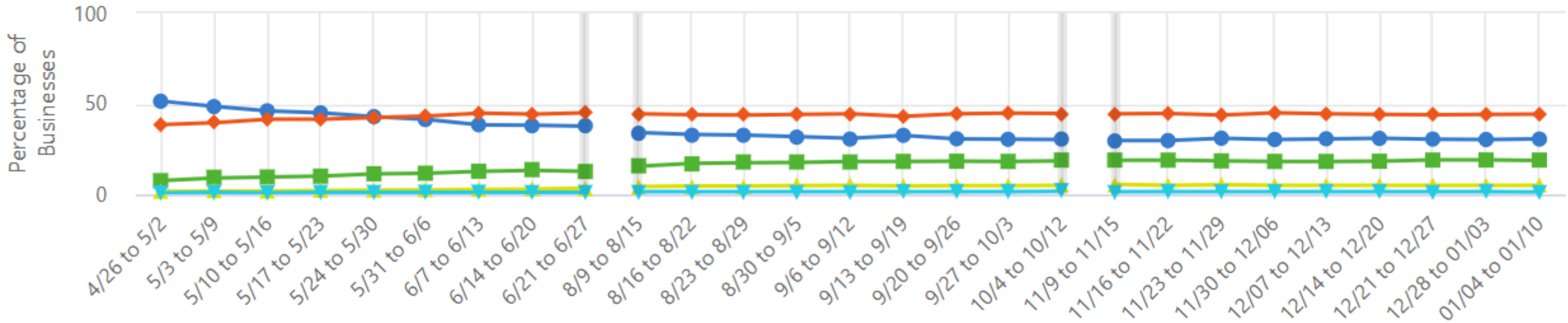
Source: Census Bureau, Small Business Pulse



Small Business Pulse

Overall, how has this business been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic?

National Average



Note: No data collected between 6/27 and 8/9. No data collected between 10/12 and 11/9.

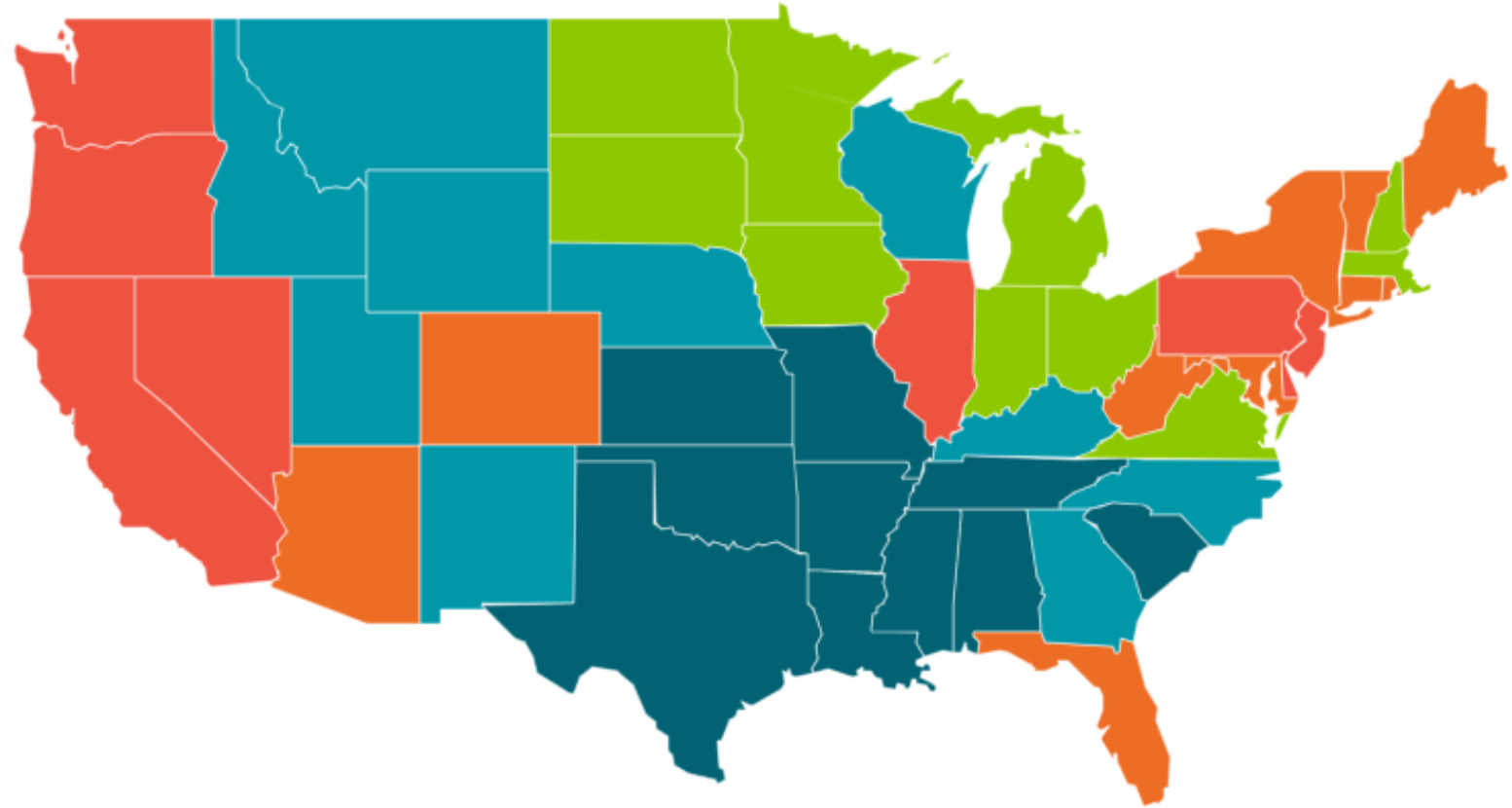
- Large negative effect
- ◆ Moderate negative effect
- Little or no effect
- ★ Moderate positive effect
- ▲ Large positive effect

Source: Census Bureau, Small Business Pulse



Gas Prices

- In January 2021, the average fuel price in the U.S. is **\$2.42** per gallon.
- In December, national prices averaged \$2.21.
- Nationally, January's prices are down 13¢ from the same time in 2020, when they were \$2.55.

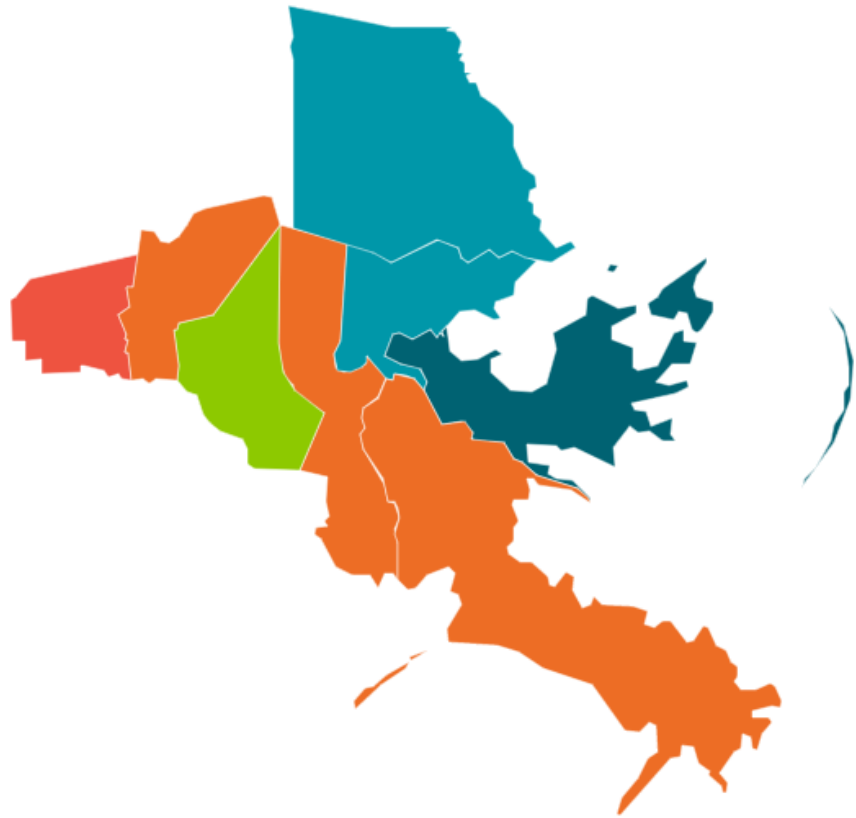


2.075 to 2.173 2.206 to 2.280 2.285 to 2.343 2.347 to 2.486 2.488 to 3.520

Source: GasBuddy.com



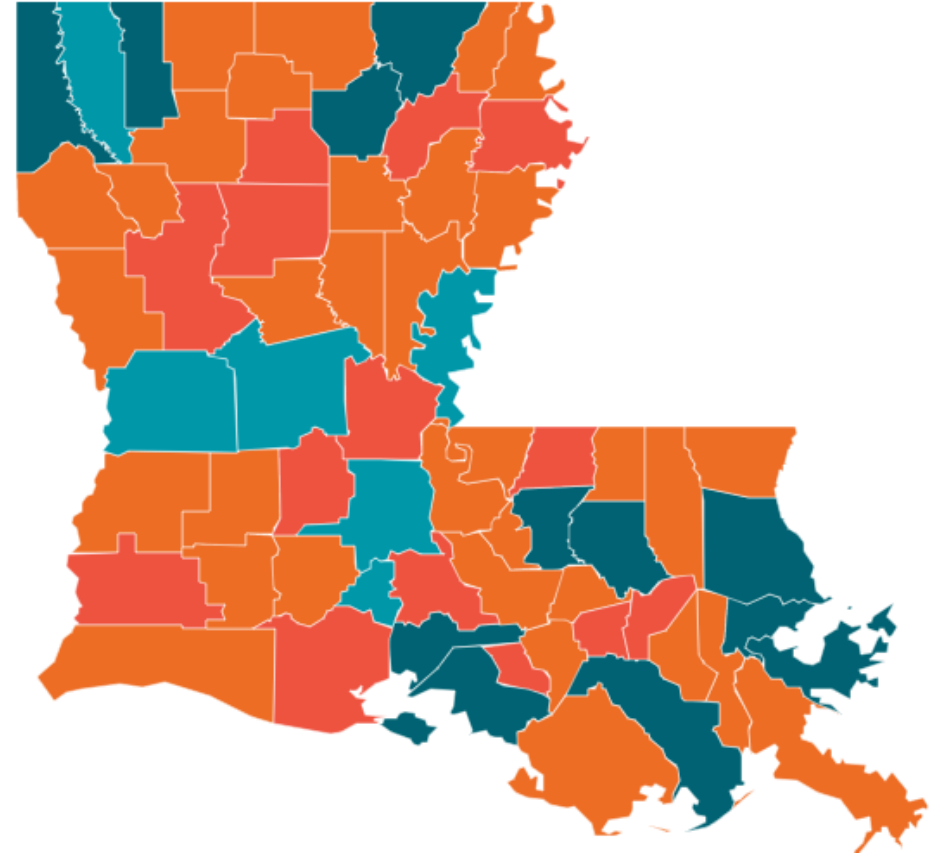
Gas Prices



■ 2.034
 ■ 2.045 to 2.057
 ■ 2.095 to 2.099
 ■ 2.099 to 2.107
 ■ 2.133



- In January 2021, St. Tammany's average fuel price is **\$2.05**, one of the lowest prices in the metro, state, and nation.
- In the New Orleans Metro, average price is \$2.06 in January 2021.
- In December, prices in the New Orleans metro had averaged \$1.86.
- January's prices in the New Orleans Metro are down 16.5¢ from the same time in 2020, when they were \$2.23.



Retail Fuel Prices

■ 1.969 to 2.057
 ■ 2.064 to 2.076
 ■ 2.076
 ■ 2.076 to 2.104
 ■ 2.107 to 2.199

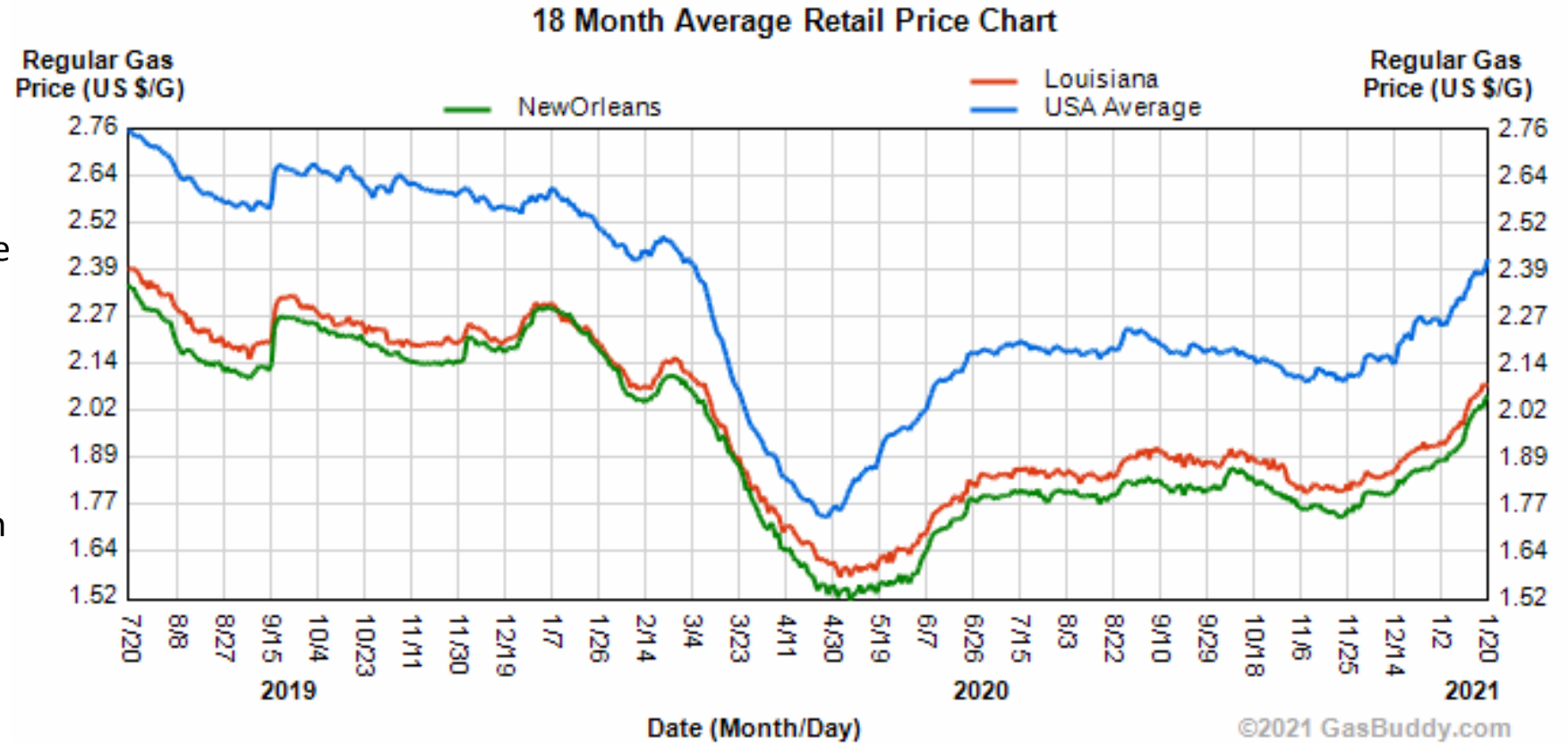


Source: GasBuddy.com



Gas Prices

- The graph to the right shows the average gas prices in the New Orleans metro, state, and nation from mid-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, and prices have steadily begun to rise following the new year.



Source: GasBuddy.com



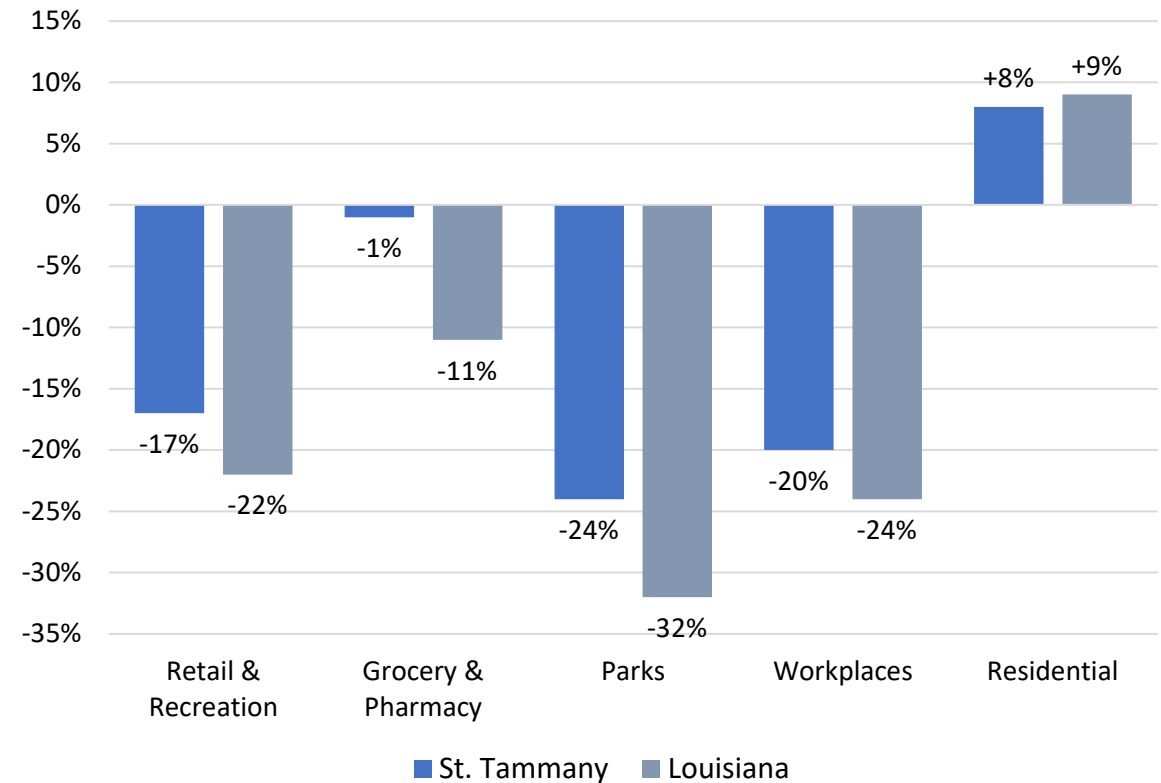
Residential Travel Since Stay-at-Home Order

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



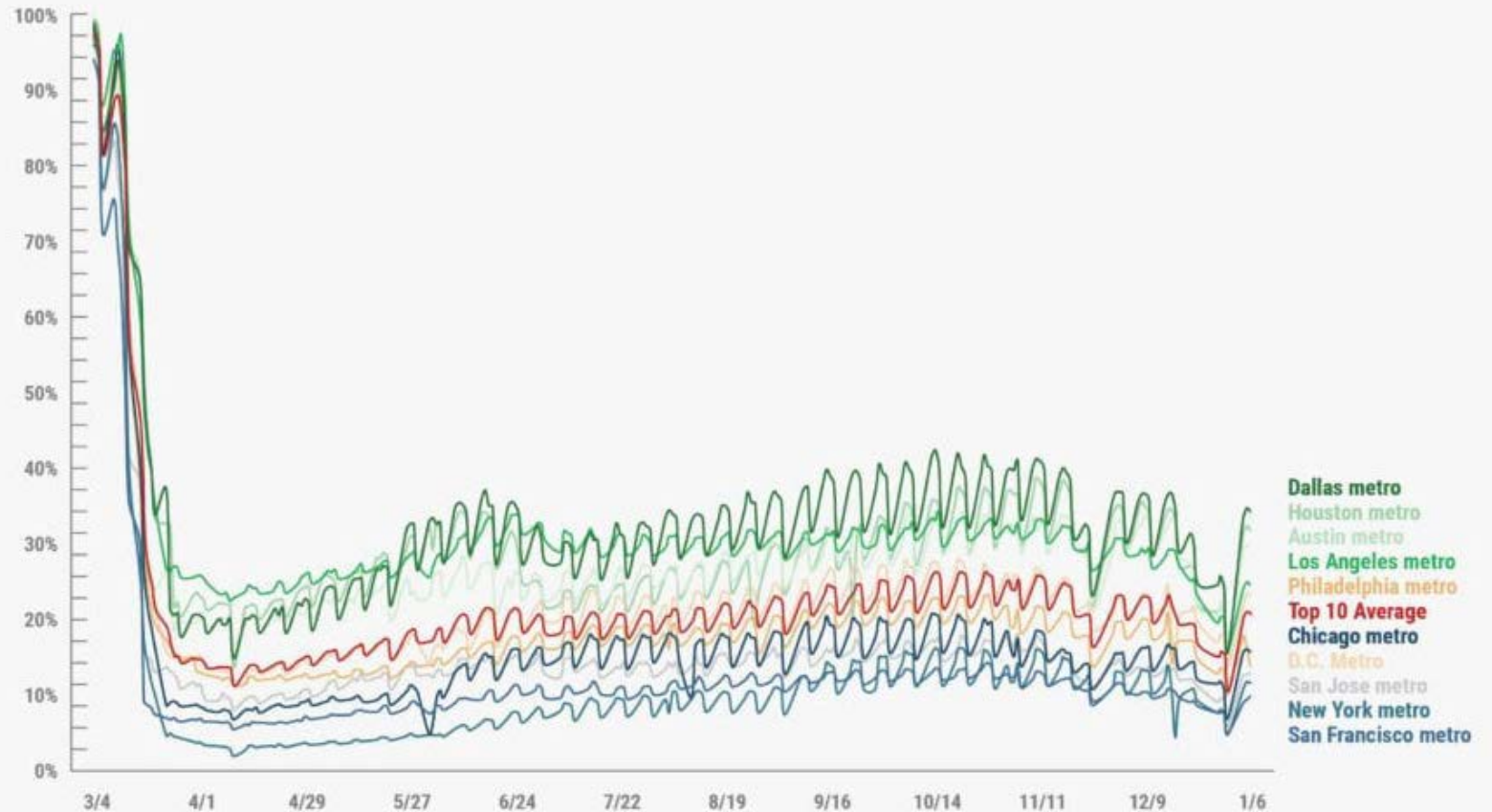
Source: Google | COVID-19 Community Mobility Report – January 2020



Returning to Work

- Kastle Systems, an electronic card-swipe entry system provider that serves over 40,000 businesses nationwide, has tracked office occupancy rates by measuring the use of their product in major cities across the country.
- The numbers for all major cities have been rising each week but are nowhere near pre-pandemic levels.
- The low point in late December, followed by a sharp rise leading up to January 6, shows the change in patterns due to the holidays.
- This national trend tells us that working from home will be the enduring norm for some time.

OCCUPANCY OVER TIME – MARCH 4 TO JANUARY 6



Source: Kastle Return-to-Work Barometer





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CORPORATION**

The Economic Development Organization for St. Tammany

The **AnalyST**

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