



The **AnalyST**

St. Tammany Corporation's Economic Research Publication

April 2021

Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany

17 charts and graphs that show how St. Tammany has been changed by COVID-19 throughout 2020 and into 2021



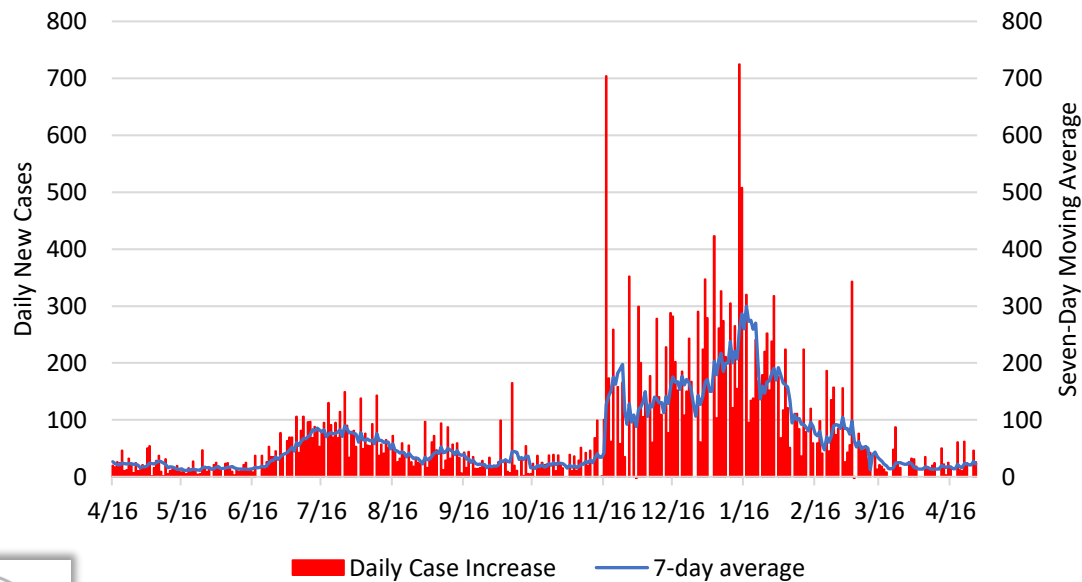
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Cases

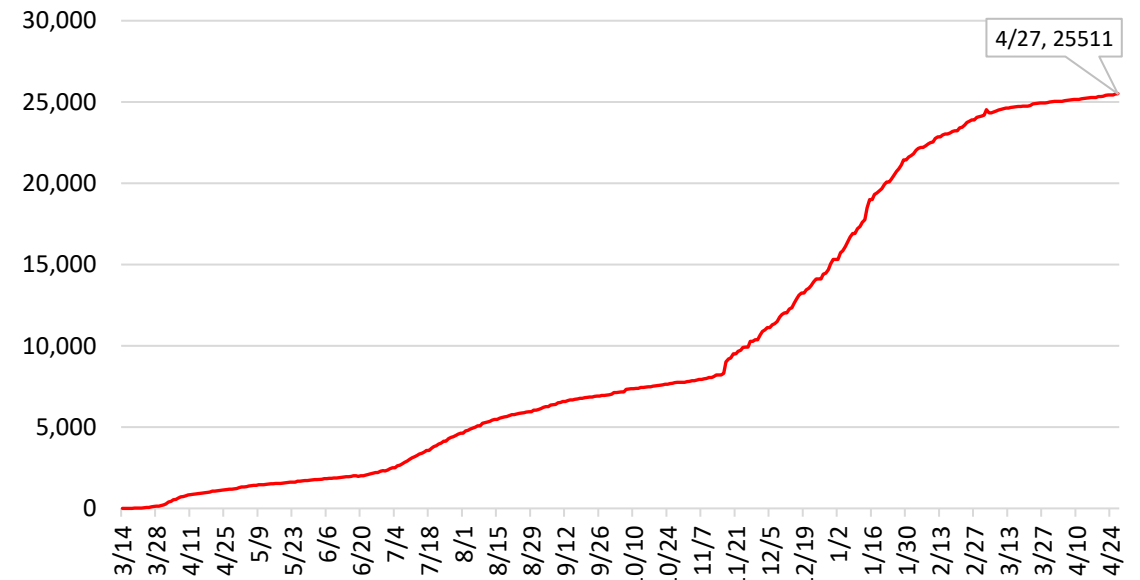
As of April 27, 2021:

- **21,117** confirmed positive cases
- **25,511** total probable + confirmed cases
- **358,471** tests administered
- **5.9%** confirmed positive test rate (March 2020 – April 2021)

Daily New Cases with Seven-Day Moving Average



St. Tammany Total Probable & Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



- **8,059** confirmed cases per 100,000 residents
- Since early March, there have been **fewer than 100** new cases each day.
- 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

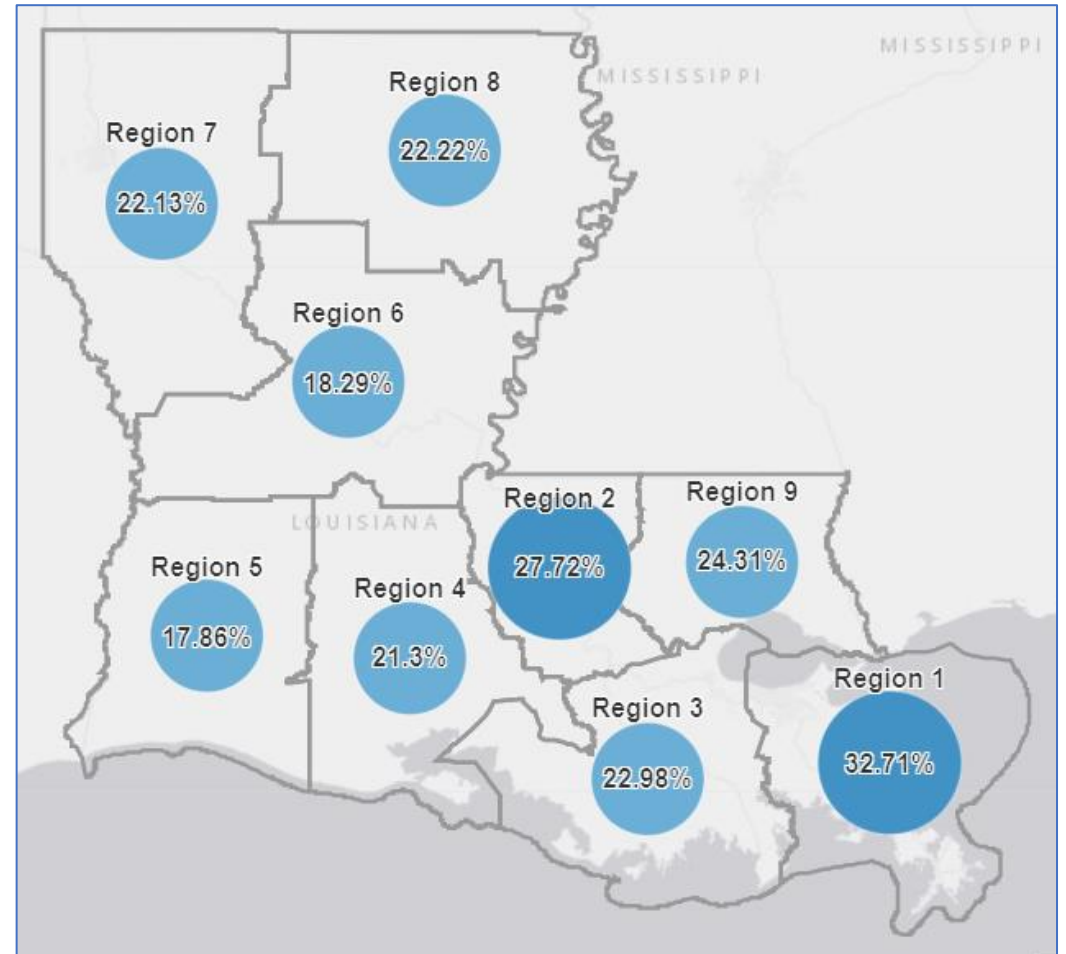


COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Vaccinations

As of April 26, 2021:

- **89,737** first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered.
 - **75,816** second doses have been administered.
- **35.6%** of the population has received at least one dose of the two-part vaccine.
 - **30.1%** of the population has received both doses.
- St. Tammany has the **4th 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



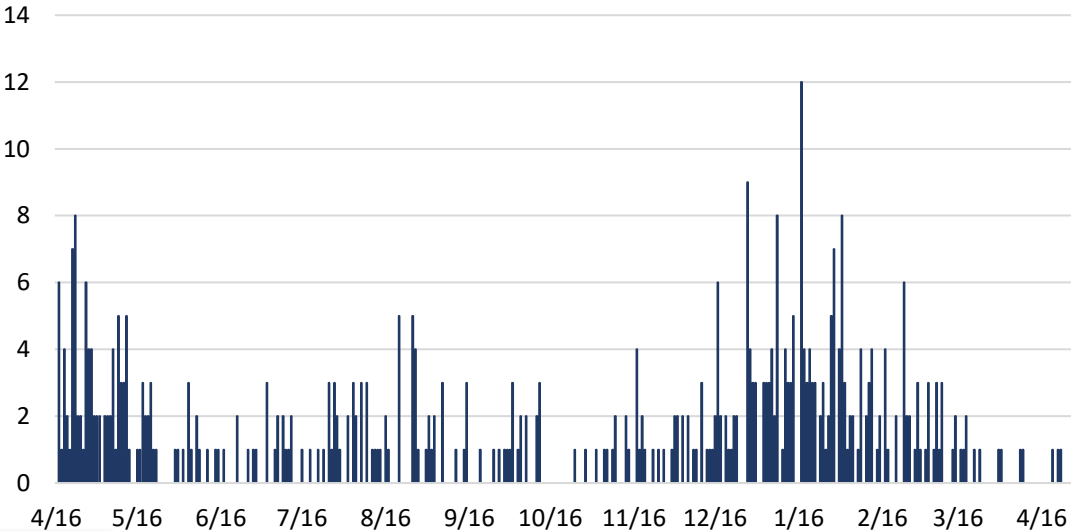
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Mortality

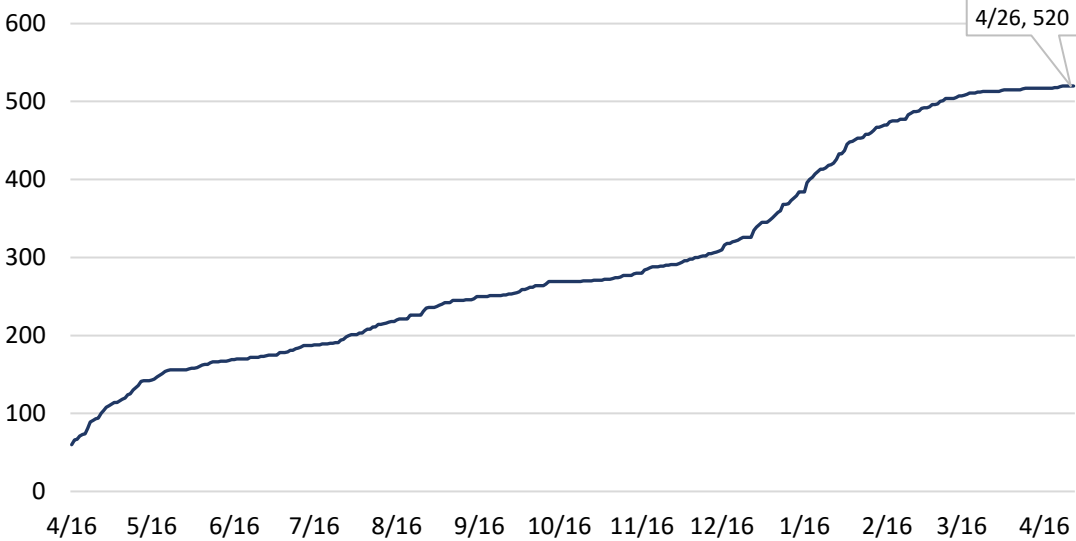
As of April 27, 2021:

- **520** deaths
- **2.5%** mortality rate (deaths as a proportion of confirmed cases)
- The longest period with no additional COVID-19 deaths was **10 days**, from 4/10 to 4/19.

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	63	3,673	32,238	113.9
White	452	19,198	215,496	89.1
Other	3	1,646	10,377	158.6
Unknown	0	705	N/A	N/A

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



Unemployment

- Number of initial claims for unemployment during the week ending 4/17/2021:

279

- Number of initial claims for unemployment during the week ending 4/18/2020:

5,317

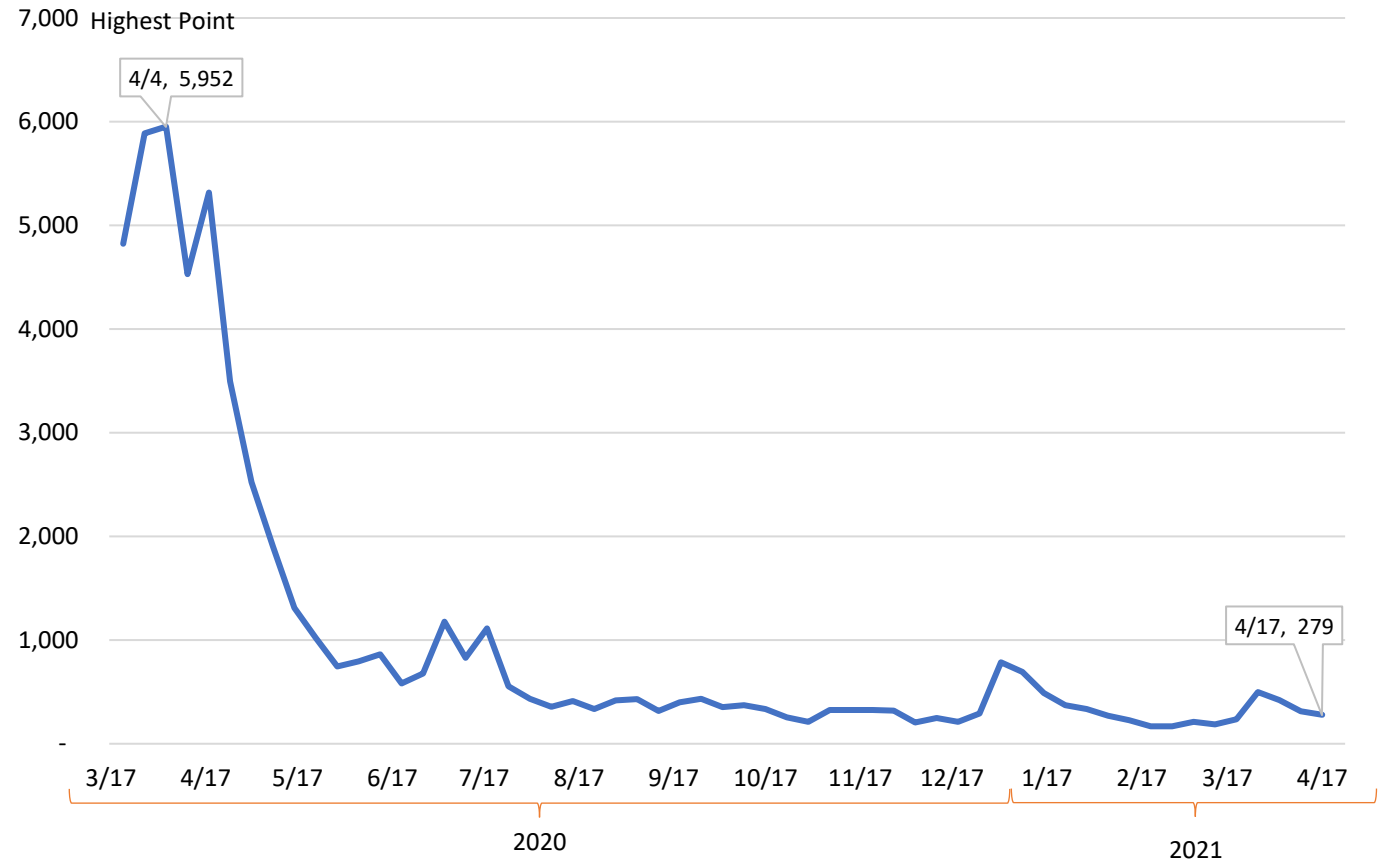
- Average weekly number of initial claims in 2020:

1,254

- Average weekly number of initial claims in 2021:

324

St. Tammany Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance

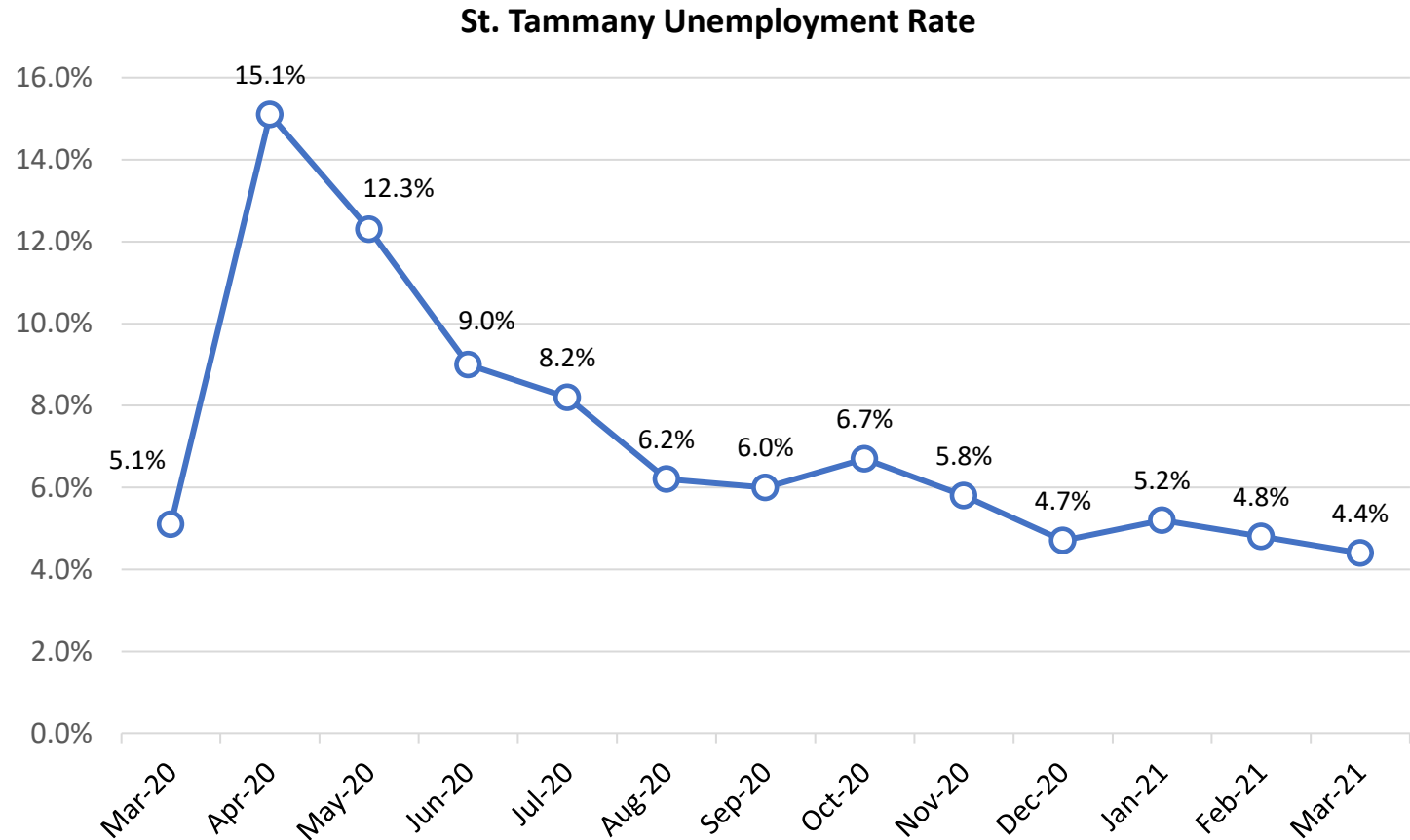


Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



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.



Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment

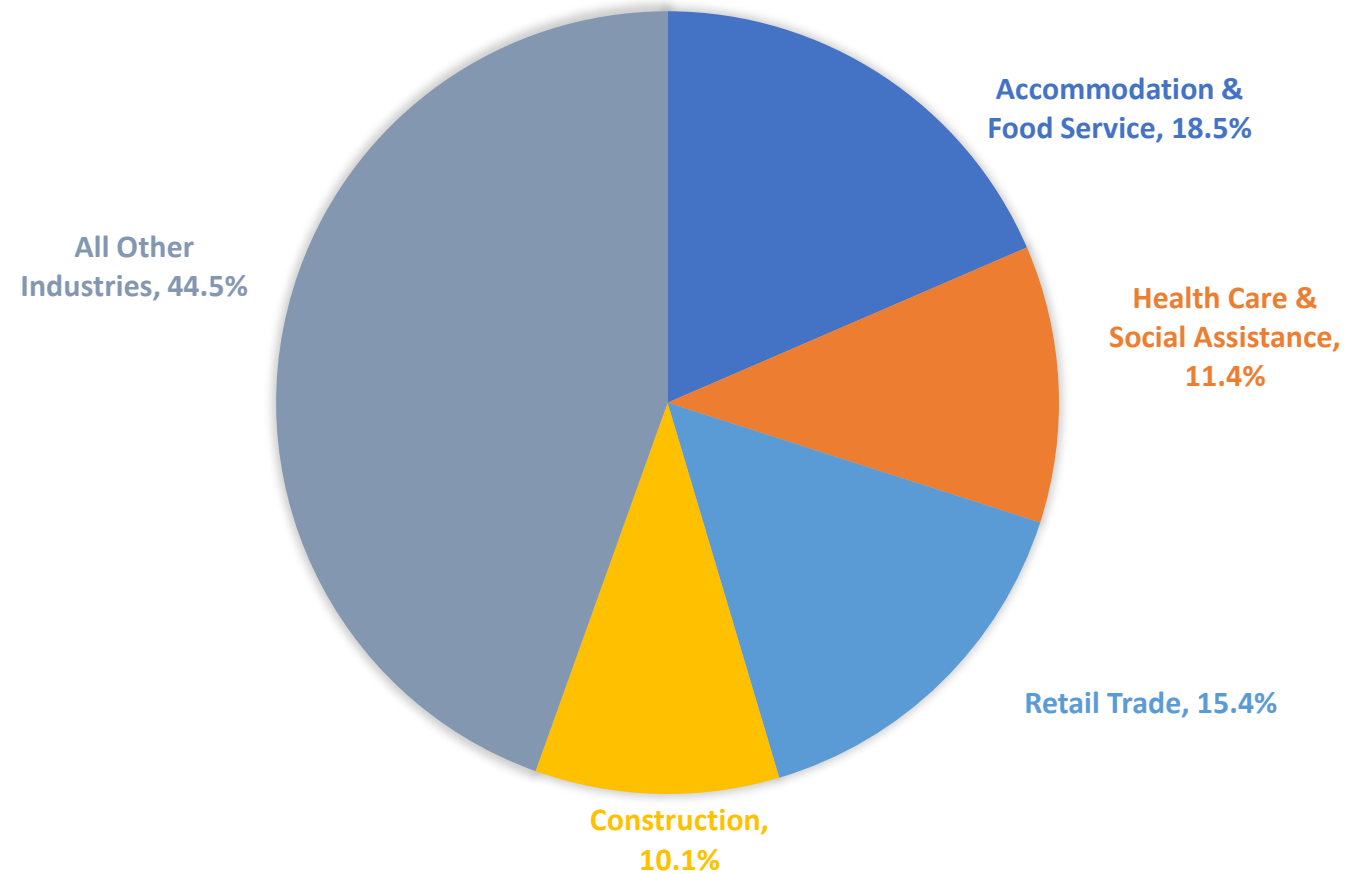
Louisiana Statewide UI Claims by Industry

Statewide, during the week ending April 17, 2021, the hardest-hit industries in terms of lost jobs were:

- **Accommodation & Food Service**, representing 18.5% of all initial claims filed;
- **Health Care and Social Assistance** (11.4%);
- **Retail Trade** (15.4%); and
- **Construction** (10.1%).

It is important to note that more than half of all initial claims filed, 55.5%, 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.



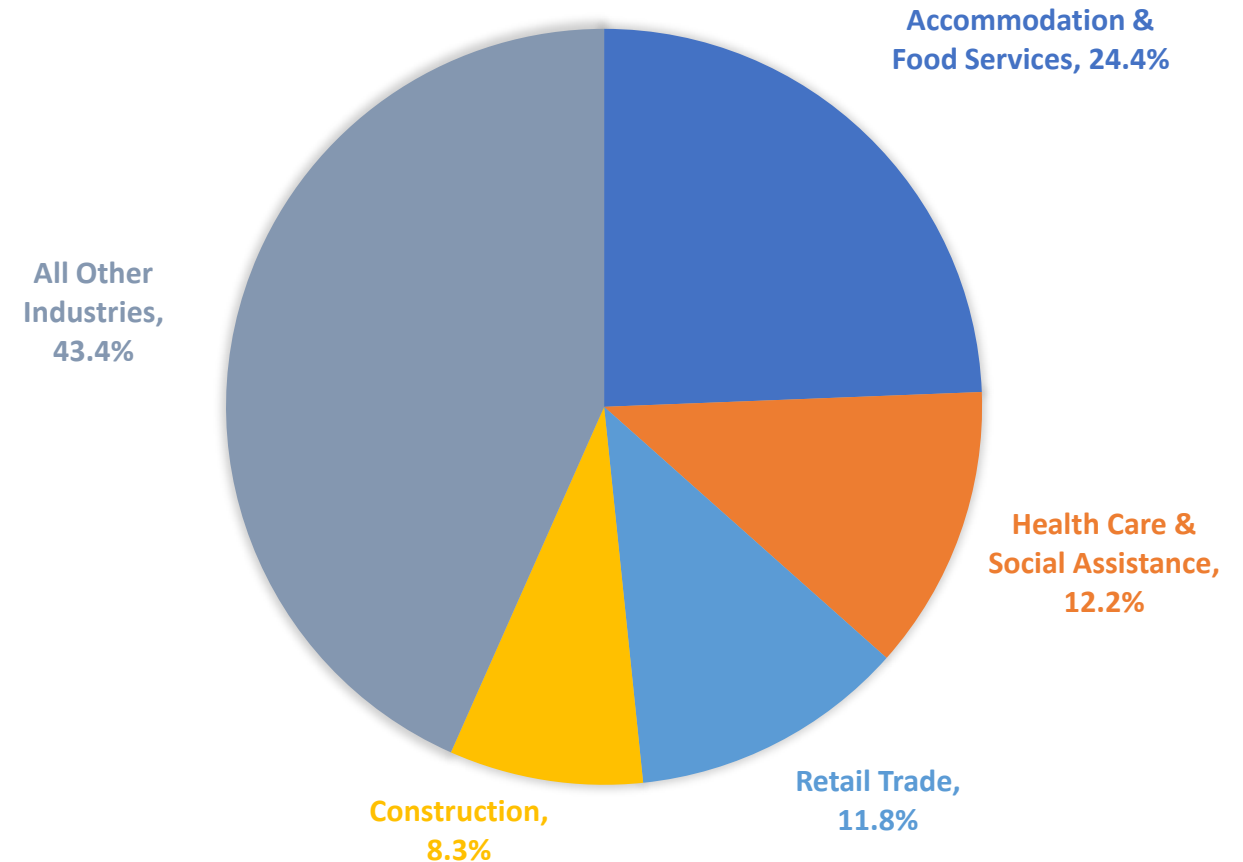
Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



St. Tammany Economic Makeup

Statewide, the hardest-hit industries due to the pandemic during the week of April 11-17, 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.



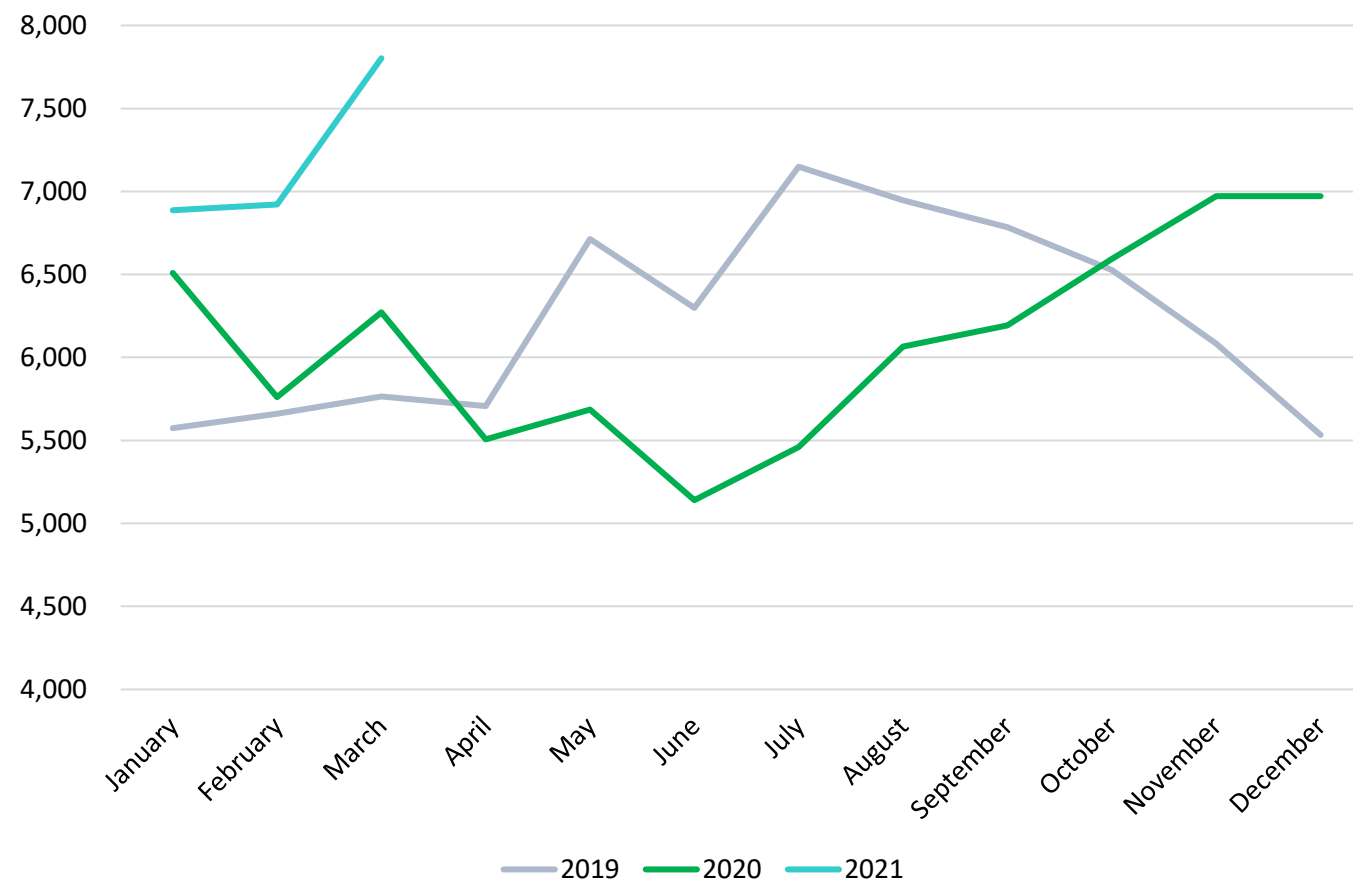
Source: EMSI



Job Postings

Year-over-Year Comparison

- Compared to 2019, job postings across all industries in St. Tammany were significantly lower from April to September 2020.
- **The first quarter of 2021** has seen the highest number of job postings—over 1,000 more—compared with the same months during previous years.
- Jobs in highest demand include registered nurses, truck drivers, and retail salespeople.

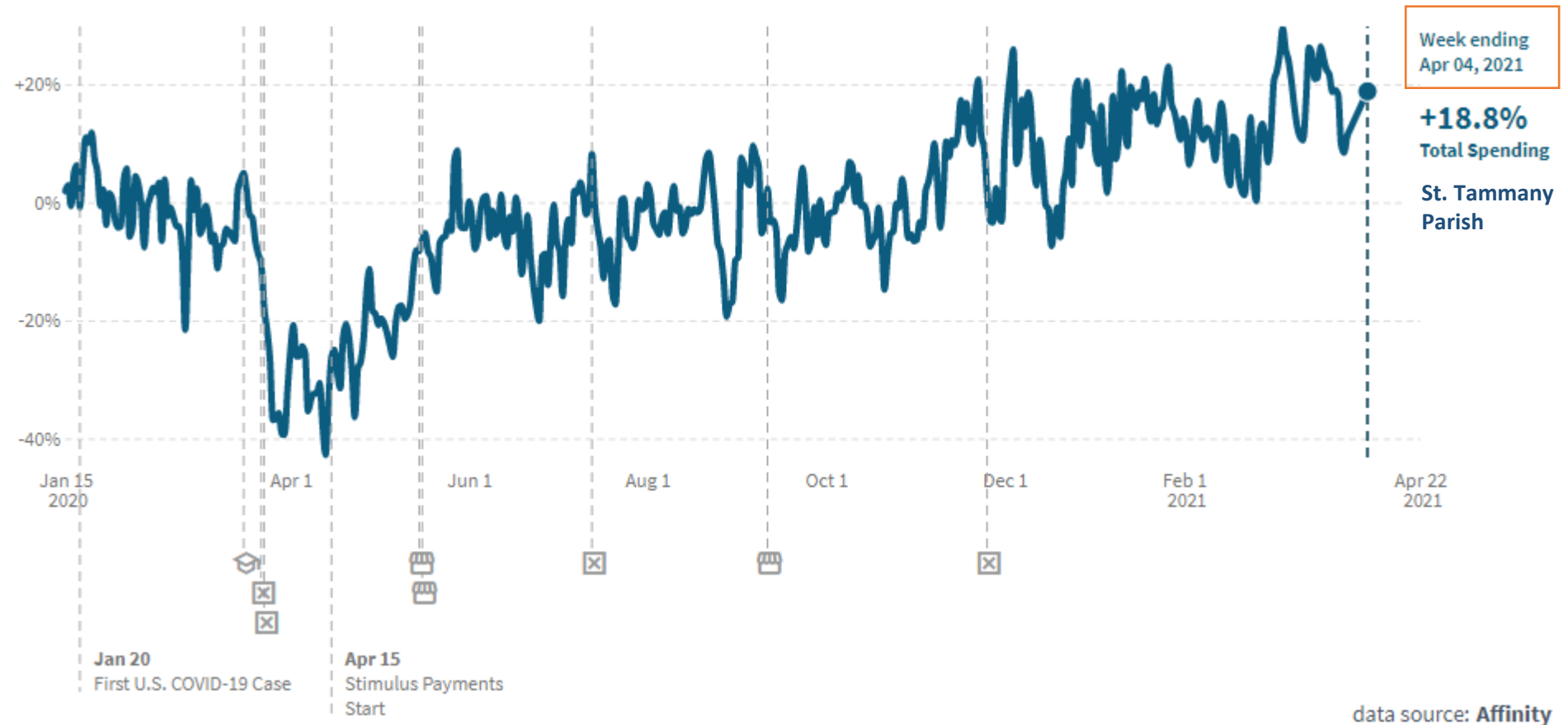


Source: EMSI



Changes in Consumer Spending

- As of April 4, 2021, total consumer spending in St. Tammany had increased to **18.8% higher** than January 2020 levels.



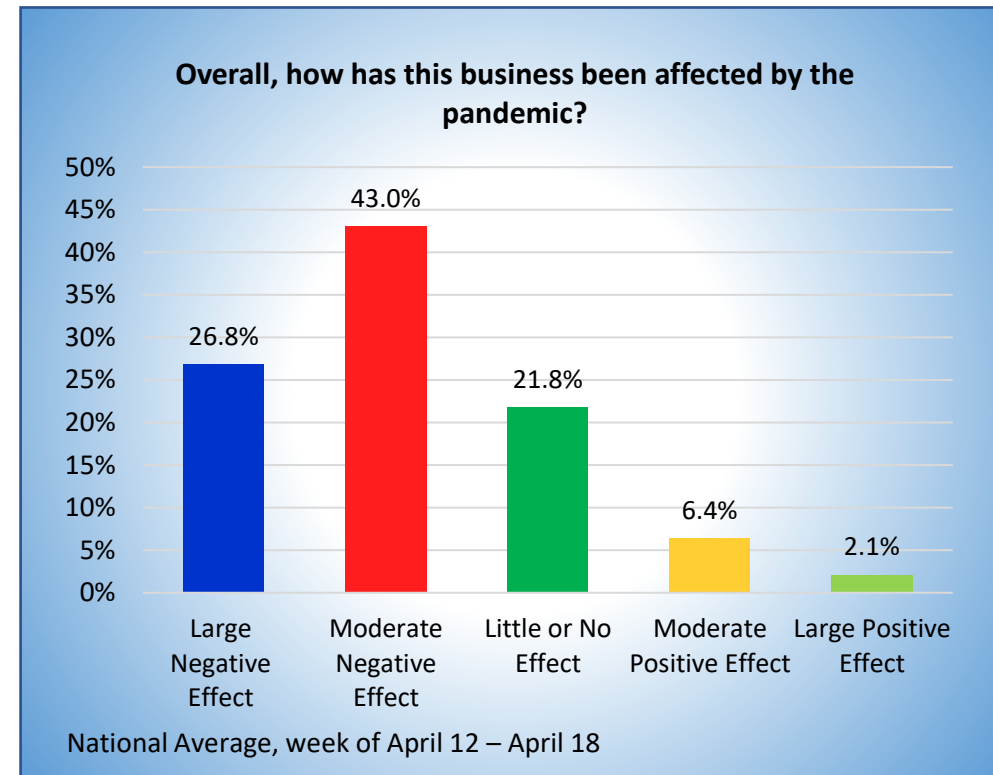
Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker



Small Business Pulse

According to a nationwide survey of small businesses conducted by the Census Bureau during the week of **4/12 – 4/18**:

- **54.4%** of U.S. Accommodation and Food Services small businesses believe they will need to identify and hire new employees in the next 6 months. The national average for all sectors for this statistic is **32.1%**
- **30.9%** of U.S. small businesses experienced domestic supplier delays in the last week, based on responses collected 4/12 – 4/18 from the Small Business Pulse Survey. For responses collected 4/5 – 4/11, this statistic was **29.3%**
- **57.9%** of U.S. Educational Services small businesses believe that more than 6 months will pass before returning to their normal level of operations. The national average for all sectors for this statistic is **36.8%**
- Only **8.5%** of U.S. small businesses experienced an increase in the number of paid employees in the last week. For responses collected 4/5 – 4/11, this statistic was **8.2%**
- **20.1%** of U.S. small businesses experienced a decrease in operating revenues/sales/receipts in the last week. For responses collected 4/5 – 4/11, this statistic was **19.8%**



Source: Census Bureau Small Business Pulse



COVID-19 Economic Relief

Restaurant Revitalization Fund

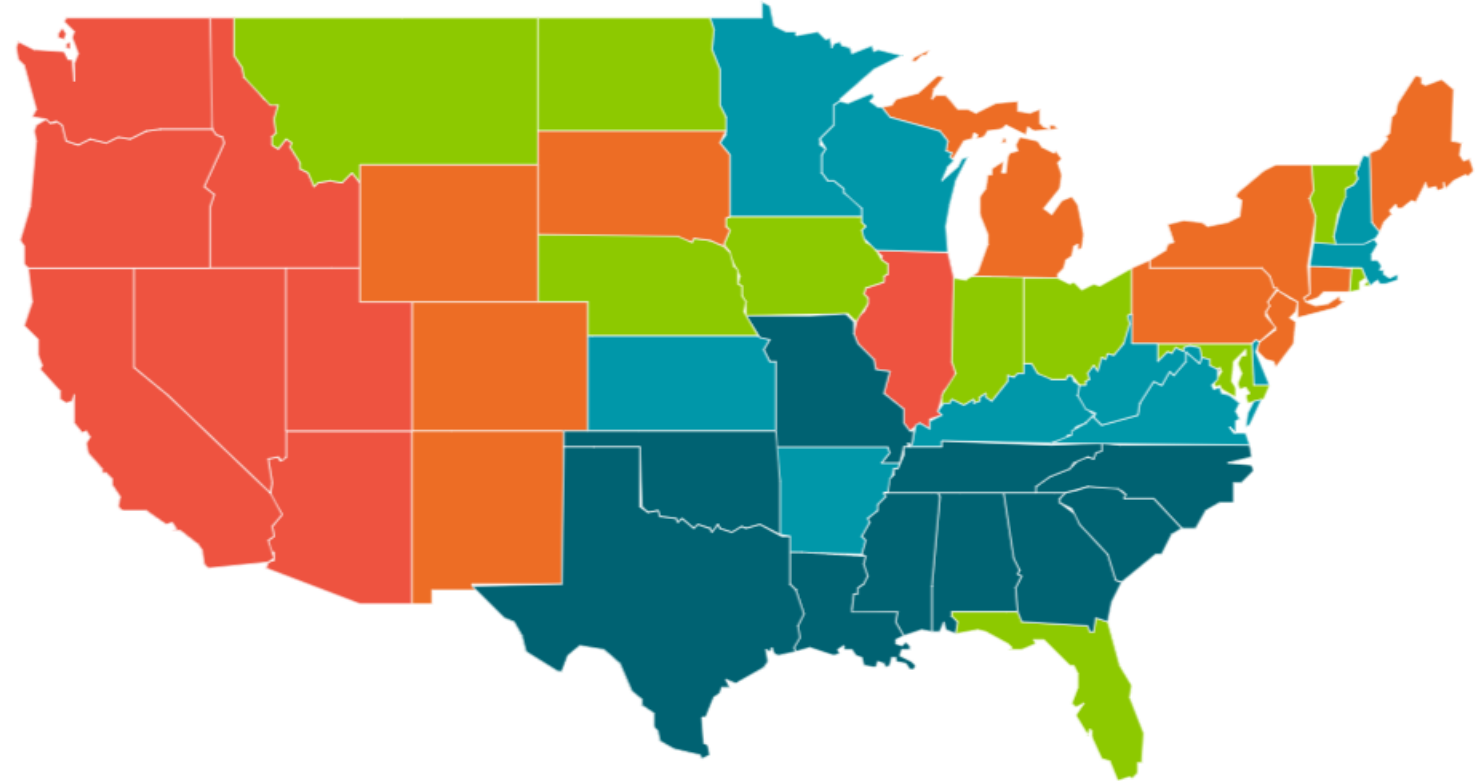
Quick Facts

- Authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress in March, the **Restaurant Revitalization Fund** is a **\$28.6 billion program** designed to disburse grants equal to a venue's pandemic losses.
- The National Restaurant Association estimates that restaurants have lost **\$250 billion** in revenue since the beginning of the pandemic.
- This program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss **up to \$10 million per business** and no more than \$5 million per physical location to be spent on payroll, rent/utilities, construction costs for outdoor dining accommodations, supplier and operational costs, and other expenses approved by the SBA.
- Businesses that are **eligible** to apply for this program include:
 - Restaurants
 - Food stands, food trucks, food carts
 - Caterers
 - Bars/lounges
 - Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars
 - Bakeries
 - Brewpubs/taprooms
 - Breweries and/or microbreweries
 - Wineries and distilleries
- **Applicants can begin registering for an account on Friday, April 30, and begin applying on Monday, May 3.**

Source: Small Business Administration



Gas Prices



Retail Fuel Prices



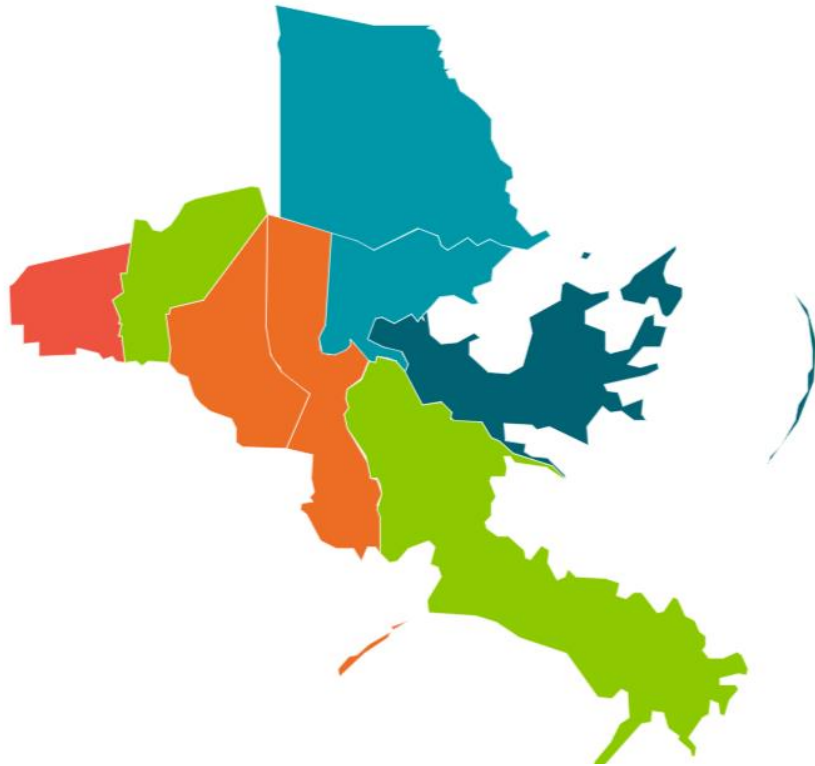
- As of April 26, 2021, the average fuel price in the U.S. is **\$2.881** per gallon.
- In March, national prices averaged \$2.853.
- Nationally, April's prices are up 114¢ from the same time in 2020, when they were \$1.74.

Source: GasBuddy.com



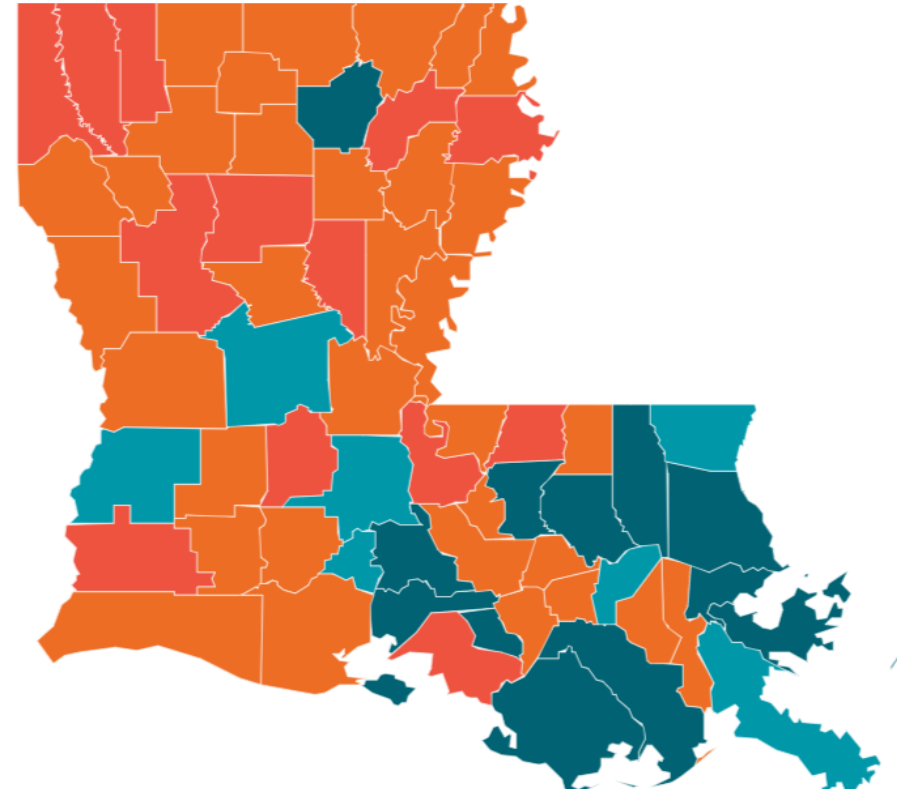
Gas Prices

- As of April 26, 2021, St. Tammany's average fuel price is **\$2.543**, lower than the state and New Orleans Metro prices.
- In the New Orleans Metro, the average price is \$2.553 in April 2021, up from last April's \$1.563.
- The state average fuel price is \$2.583.



Retail Fuel Prices

■ 2.541
 ■ 2.543 to 2.547
 ■ 2.556 to 2.576
 ■ 2.581 to 2.587
 ■ 2.616



Retail Fuel Prices

■ 2.433 to 2.553
 ■ 2.553 to 2.581
 ■ 2.581
 ■ 2.581 to 2.623
 ■ 2.624 to 2.834

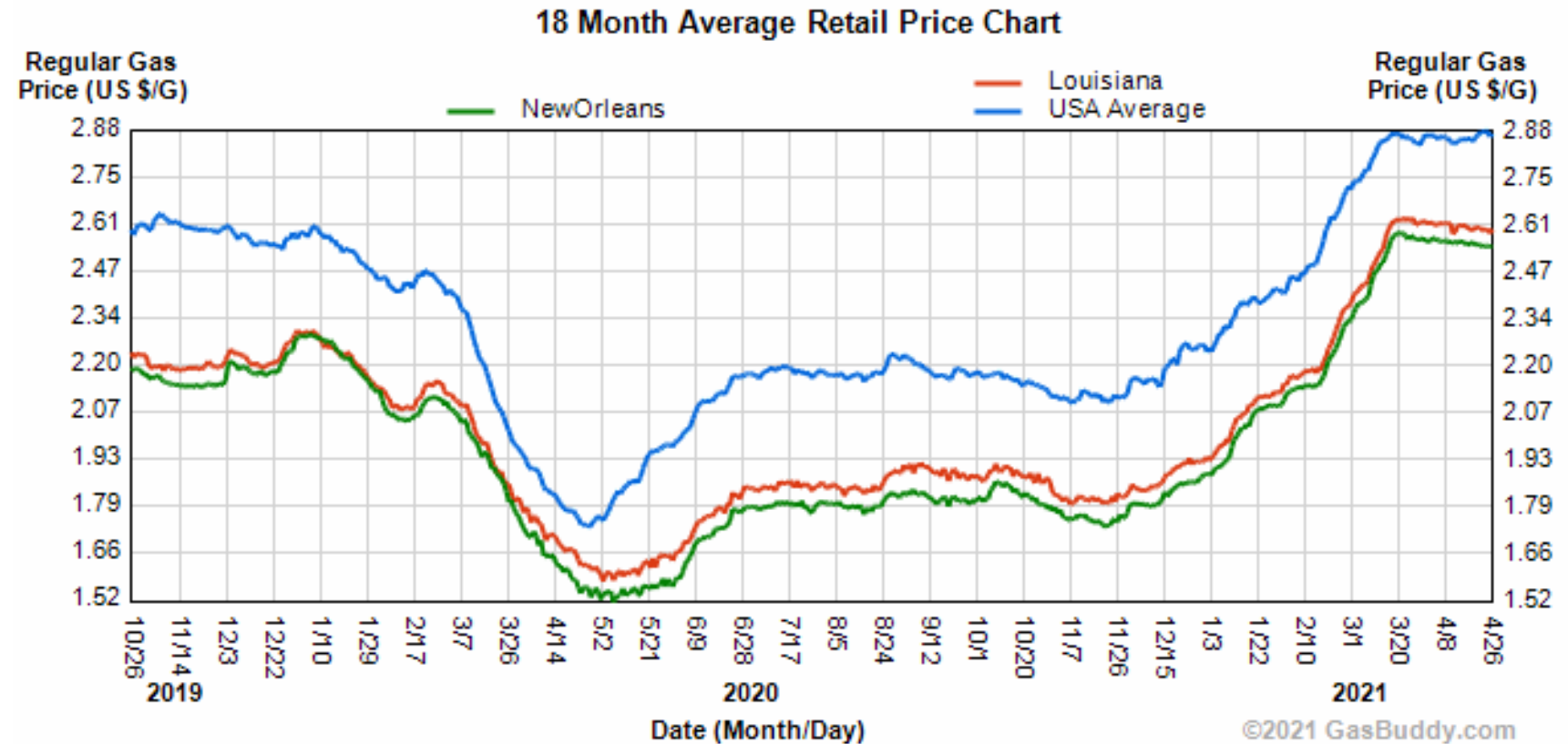


Source: GasBuddy.com



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 began to rise during the first quarter of the year and remained steady into the beginning of the second quarter.



Source: GasBuddy.com



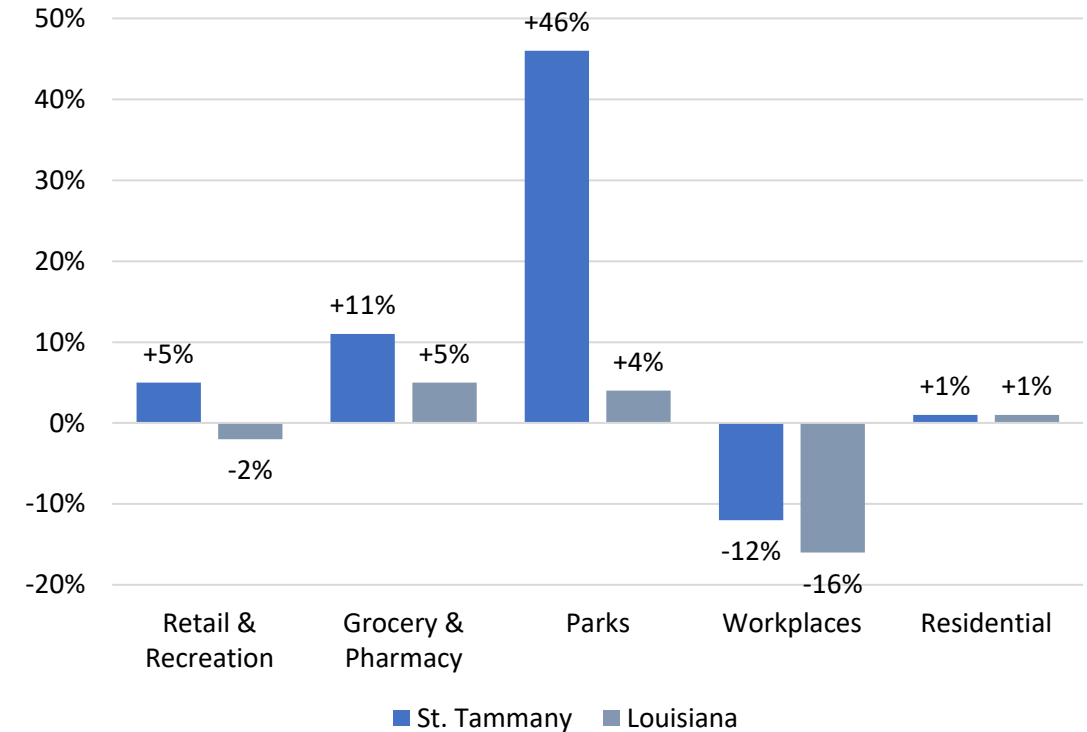
Residential Travel Since Stay-at-Home Order

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 – April 2021



Key Takeaways

- St. Tammany has recorded 25,500 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and has surpassed 500 COVID-related deaths. However, daily new cases have stayed below 100 for nearly two months, and for 10 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.
- About 70% of small business owners nationwide say that their business is still negatively impacted by the pandemic. More than half of small businesses in the Accommodation & Food Services industry report that they will need new staff in the next six months. Many of the businesses in that industry will be eligible to apply for grants through the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.
- Gas prices in the New Orleans Metro are among the lowest 10% of metro areas in the nation.





**ST. TAMMANY
CORPORATION**

The Economic Development Organization for St. Tammany

The **AnalyST**

St. Tammany Corporation's economic research publication



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