



St. Tammany Corporation's Economic Research Publication

February 2022

Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany

*12 charts and graphs that show how
St. Tammany's community and economy have
been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic*



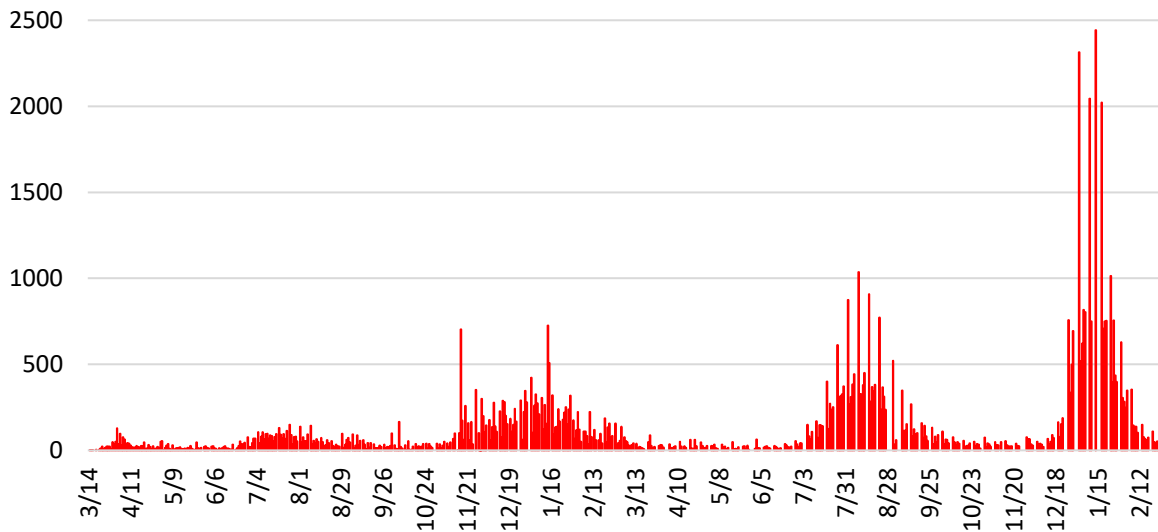
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Total Cases

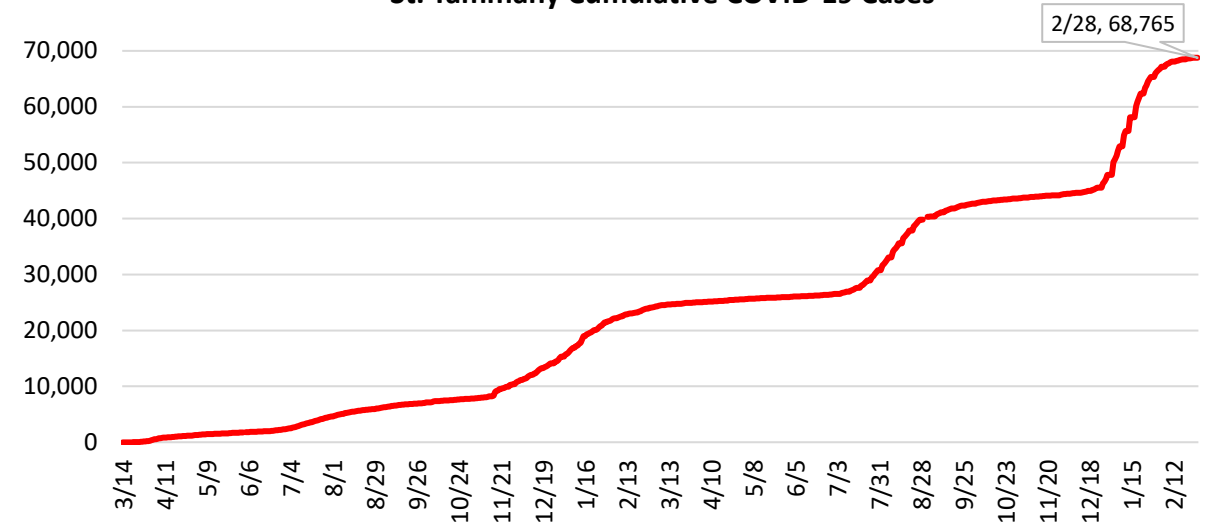
As of February 28, 2022:

- **68,765** total probable + confirmed cases
- **3,770** re-infections
- **720,124** total tests

St. Tammany Daily Increases in COVID-19 Cases



St. Tammany Cumulative COVID-19 Cases



- Average number of daily new cases during February 2022: **100** or 38 positive cases per 100,000 people
- Average number of daily new cases in February 2021: **87**
- **Note:** LDH defines a re-infection as “when a person becomes infected with COVID, enough time passes, and later becomes infected again. A person is considered to have been re-infected if they test positive again 90 days or more after their first positive test.”

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

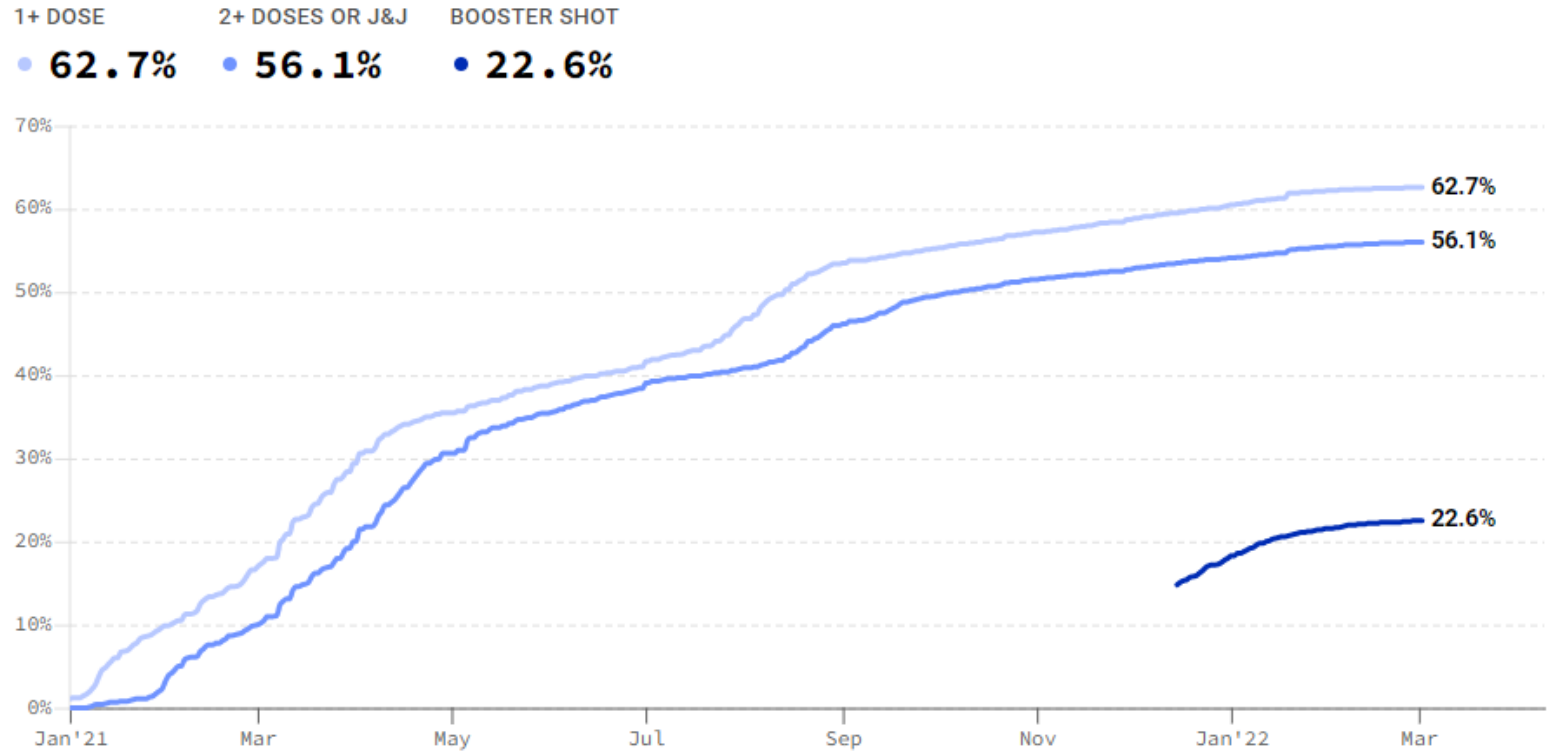


COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Vaccinations

As of February 28, 2022:

- **163,373** first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered.
 - **146,201** second doses have been administered (this number also includes single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine)
- **58,855** third doses, or booster shots, have been administered.
- St. Tammany has the **9th** highest vaccination rate in the state.
- Louisiana ranks **45th** out of 50 states in vaccination percentage.
- All Louisianans aged 5 years and older are eligible to be vaccinated.



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



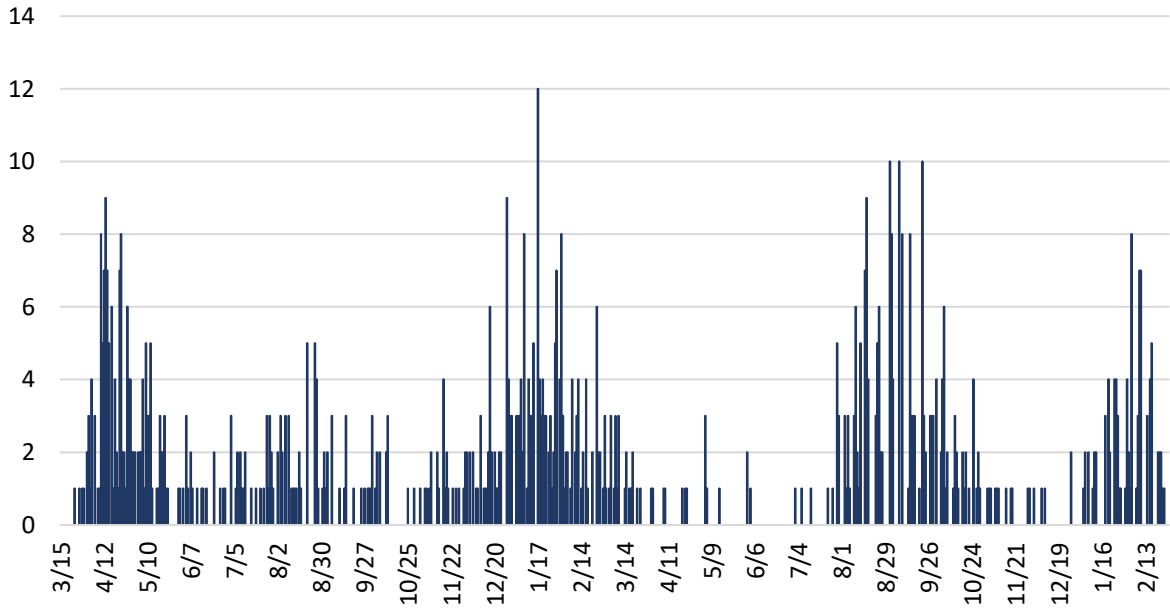
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Total Mortality

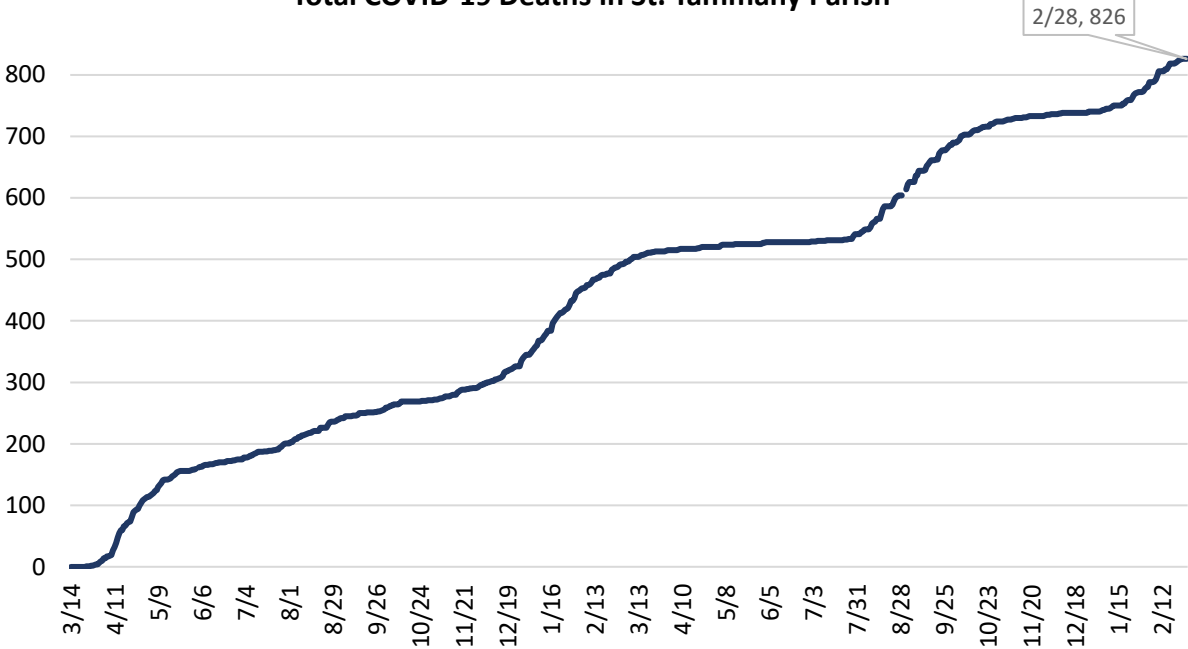
As of February 28, 2022:

- **826** deaths (770 confirmed + 56 probable)
- **1.5%** mortality rate
(deaths as a proportion of confirmed cases)

Daily COVID-19 Deaths in St. Tammany Parish



Total COVID-19 Deaths in St. Tammany Parish



Demographic Breakdown

Race	Deaths	Cases	Population (2018)
Black	100	11,268	29,803
White	715	48,200	209,123
Other	9	4,147	13,167
Unknown	0	7,003	N/A

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



Unemployment Claims

Average number of initial claims for unemployment during February 2022:

50

Average number of initial claims for unemployment during February 2021:

194

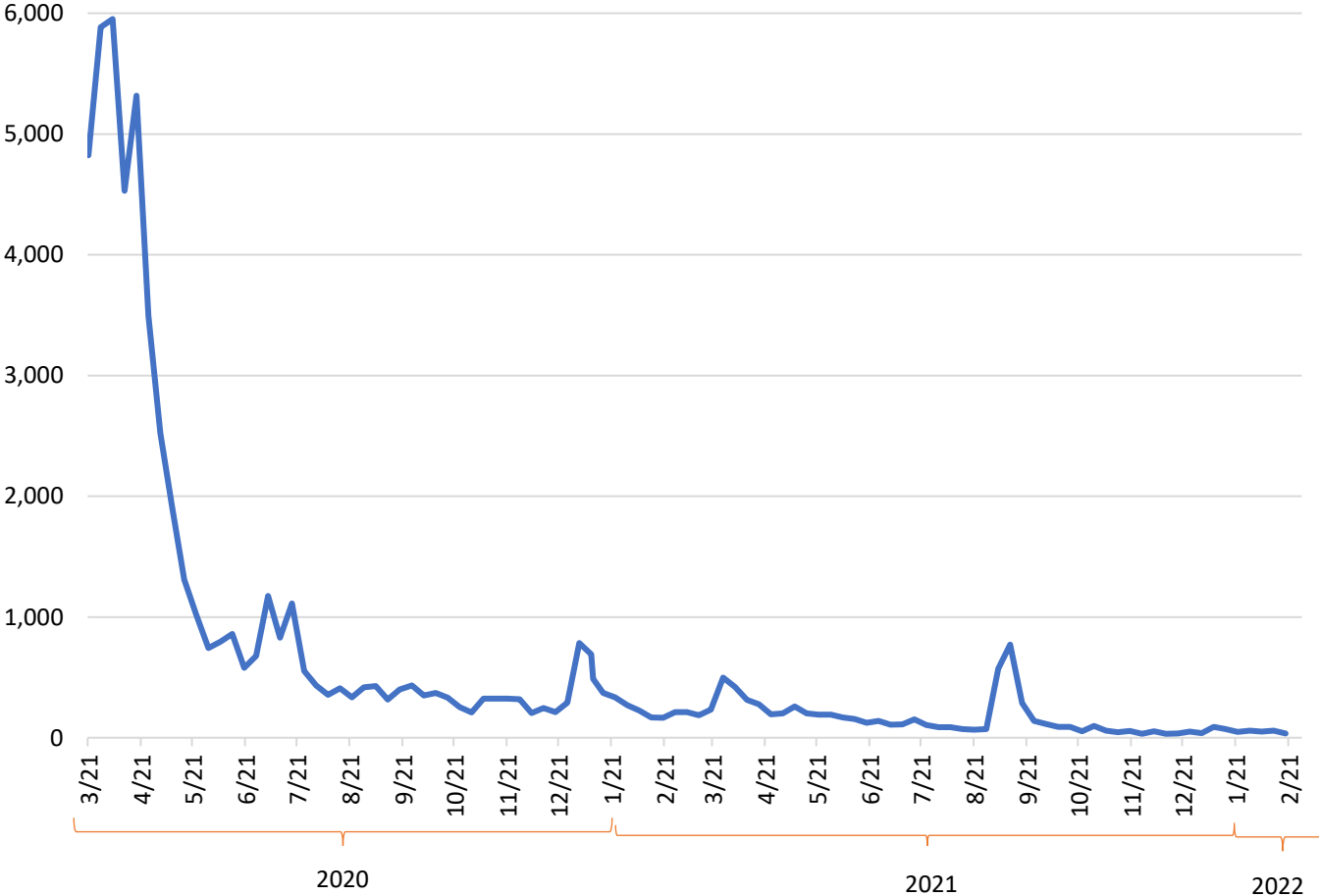
Average weekly number of initial claims, March-December 2020:

1,243

Average weekly number of initial claims, the year of 2021:

197

St. Tammany Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance



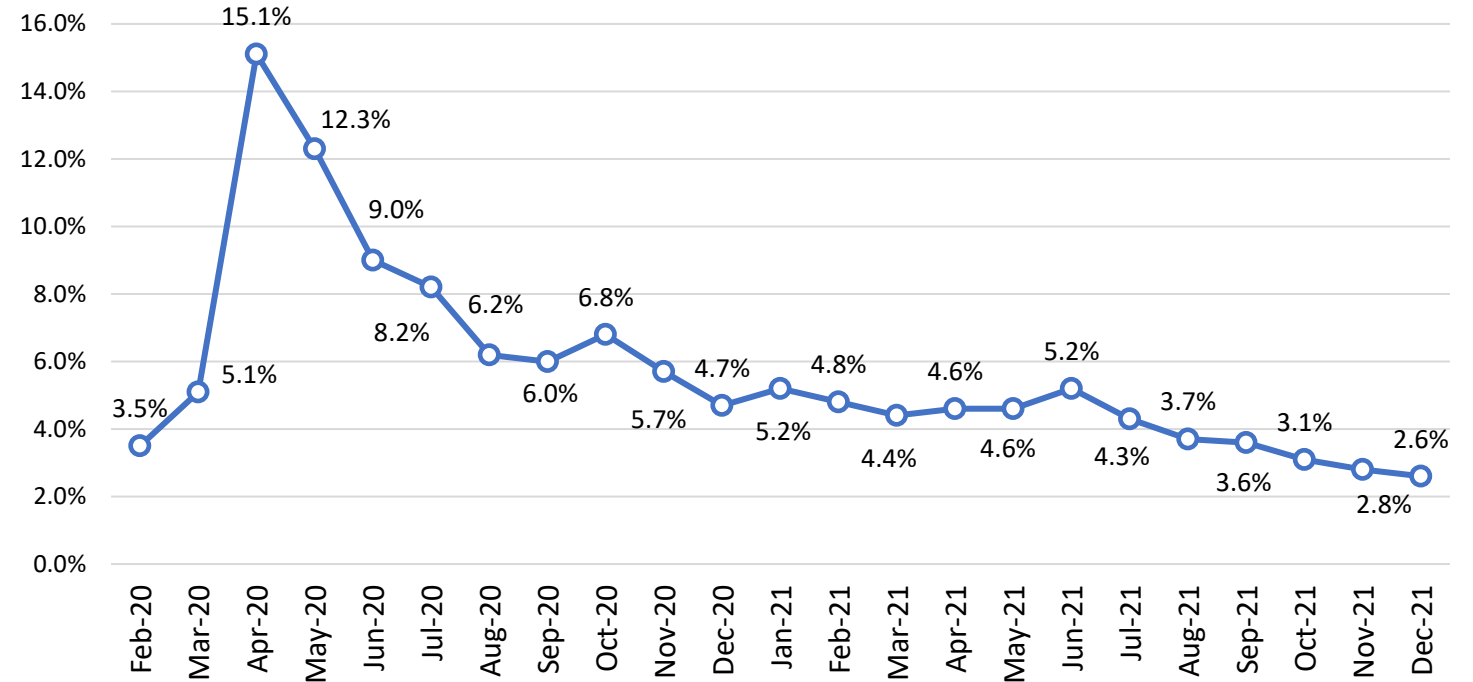
Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment Rate

- In the most recent jobs report, Louisiana Workforce Commission reported that St. Tammany's unemployment rate was **2.6%** in December 2021, lower than:
 - the United States rate (3.9%),
 - the Louisiana rate (4.8%),
 - and the Greater New Orleans rate (4.4%).
- December 2021 has shown the **lowest unemployment rate** since before the pandemic began (February 2020).
- In fact, St. Tammany Parish's December unemployment rate is the **lowest in recorded history**.

St. Tammany Unemployment Rate



Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission; Federal Reserve of St. Louis FRED



Employment Situation

United States

- The most recent jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that the national economy added back **678,000 jobs** during the month of February alone, the unemployment rate edged down to 3.8% from 4.0% in January, and the number of unemployed workers edged down to 6.3 million.
- This report marks **10 straight months** of strong economic recovery, with the national economy adding a record **7 million jobs** in a single year.
- This means that **over 90% of jobs** lost at the start of the pandemic have been recovered, and if strong monthly numbers continue, economists predict a full economic recovery by Summer 2022.
- The national economy is still 2.1 million jobs short of pre-pandemic levels.
- For comparison, in February 2020, prior to the pandemic, the unemployment rate was 3.5%, and the number of unemployed workers was 5.7 million.
- The industry with the strongest recovery numbers during February was leisure and hospitality, with a gain of 179,000 jobs in February. Significant job growth also occurred in food services and drinking places (+124,000) and in accommodation (+28,000).
 - Compared to February 2020, employment in leisure and hospitality is still down by 1.5 million, or 9.0 percent.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

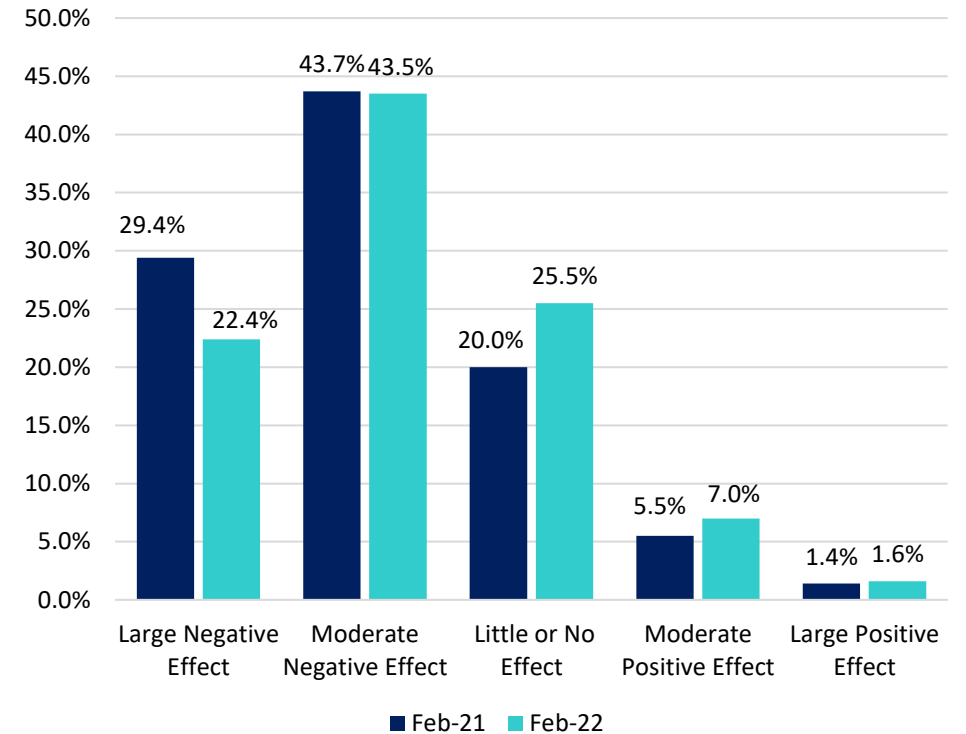


Small Business Pulse

Based on responses collected **February 21 through February 27, 2022**, the U.S. Census Bureau's Small Business Pulse Survey estimates that:

- **32.3%** of U.S. small businesses report a large or moderate increase in demand for their business's goods or services compared to six months ago
- **21.9%** of U.S. wholesale small businesses expect to improve methods of logistics, delivery, or distribution in the next six months. The national average is **10.7%**
- **55.4%** of U.S. manufacturing & **48.9%** of construction small businesses were affected by availability of supplies or inputs used to provide goods or services in the last week. The national average was **32.4%**
- **22.4%** of U.S. small businesses report a large negative effect by the Coronavirus pandemic. For responses collected during the same week in 2021, this statistic was 29.4%
- **11.0%** of U.S. small businesses required employee COVID19 vaccination & **8.6%** a negative COVID19 test before physically coming to work in the last week. For responses collected in February 2021, these were 12.2% & 10.6%, respectively

Overall, how has your business been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (Louisiana)?



Source: United States Census Bureau Small Business Pulse Survey



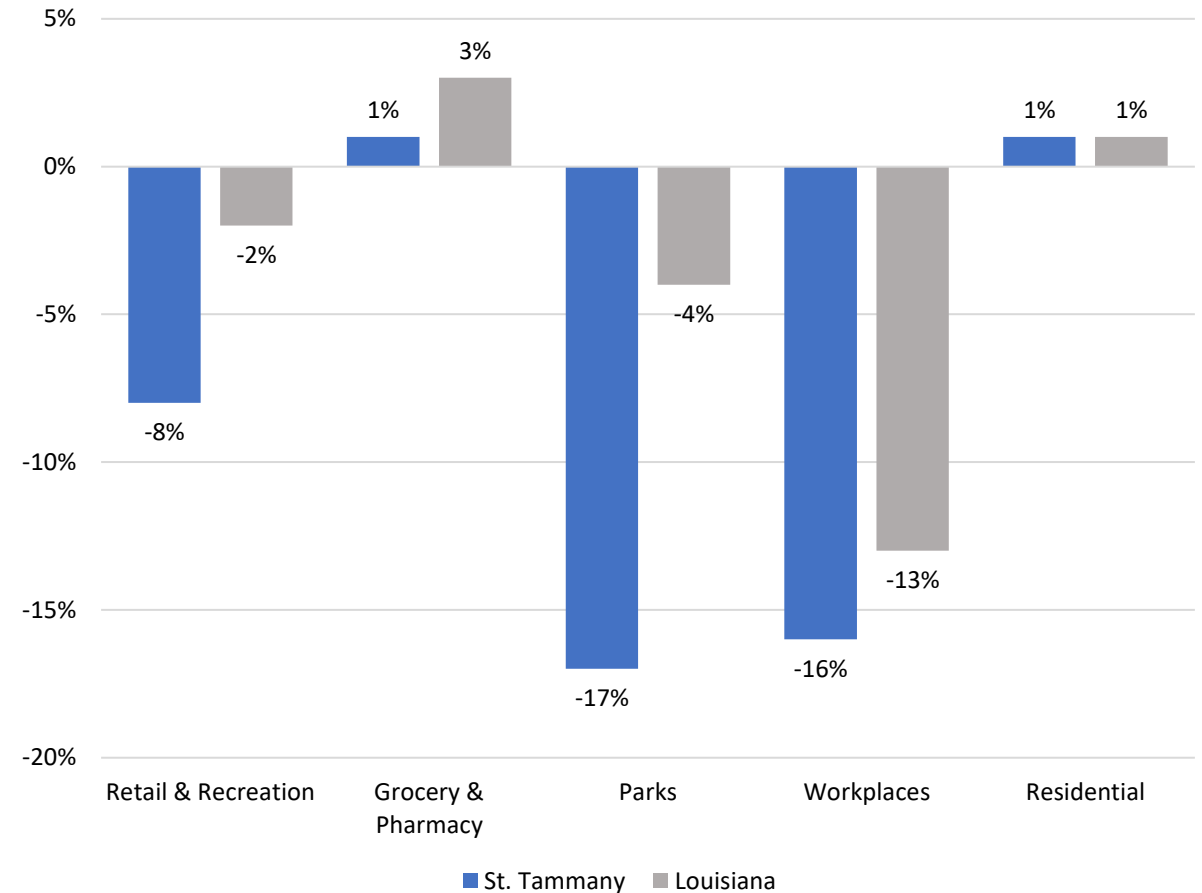
Residential Travel Since Stay-at-Home Order

Although the stay-at-home order is no longer in effect, some people still choose 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

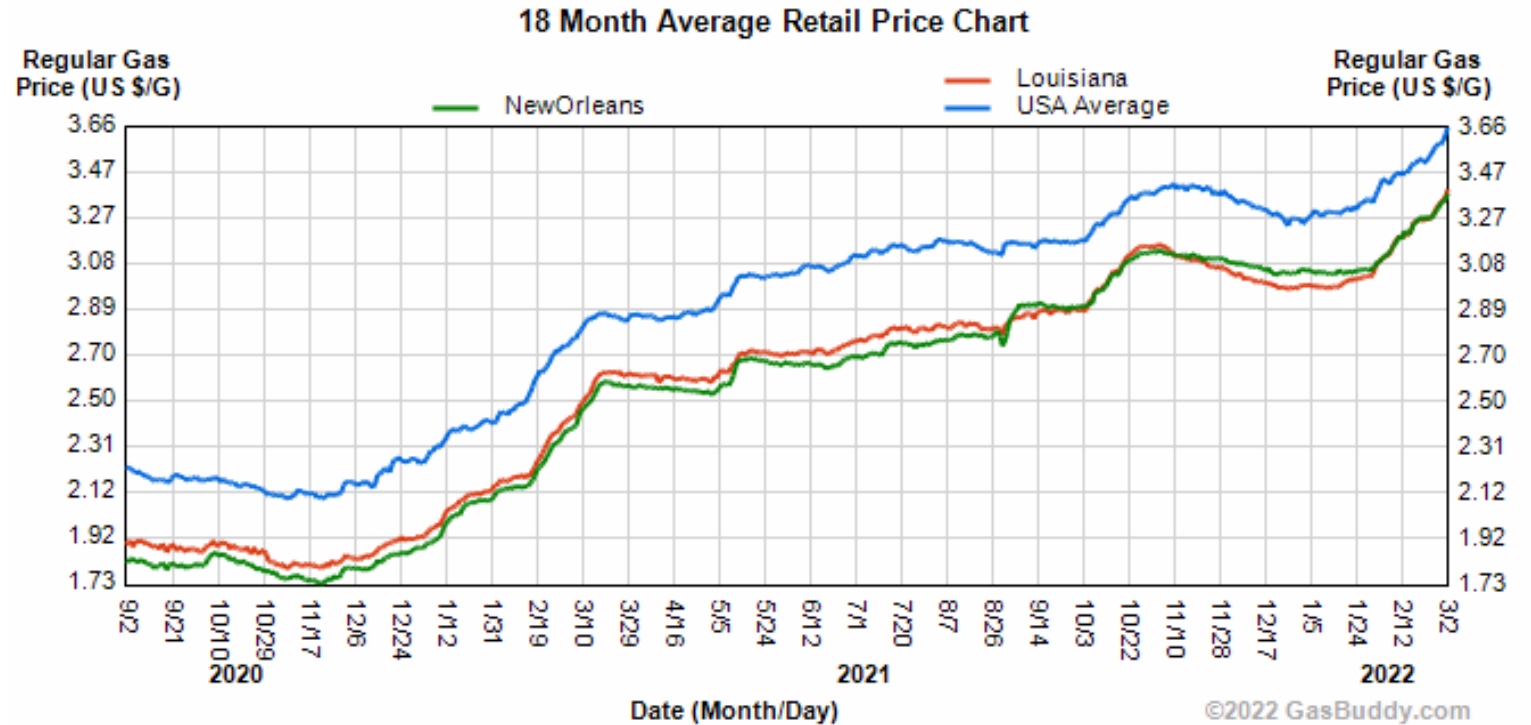


Source: Google | COVID-19 Community Mobility Report – February 2022



Gas Prices

- The graph to the right shows the average gas prices in the New Orleans metro, state, and nation over an 18-month period, from September 2020 through February 2022.
- Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, gas prices were low due to low demand during stay-at-home ordinances. As the economy began to reopen, an increase in demand drove gas prices back up.
- By the end of February, gas prices in the New Orleans metro reached more than \$3.30 for the first time in nearly a decade.



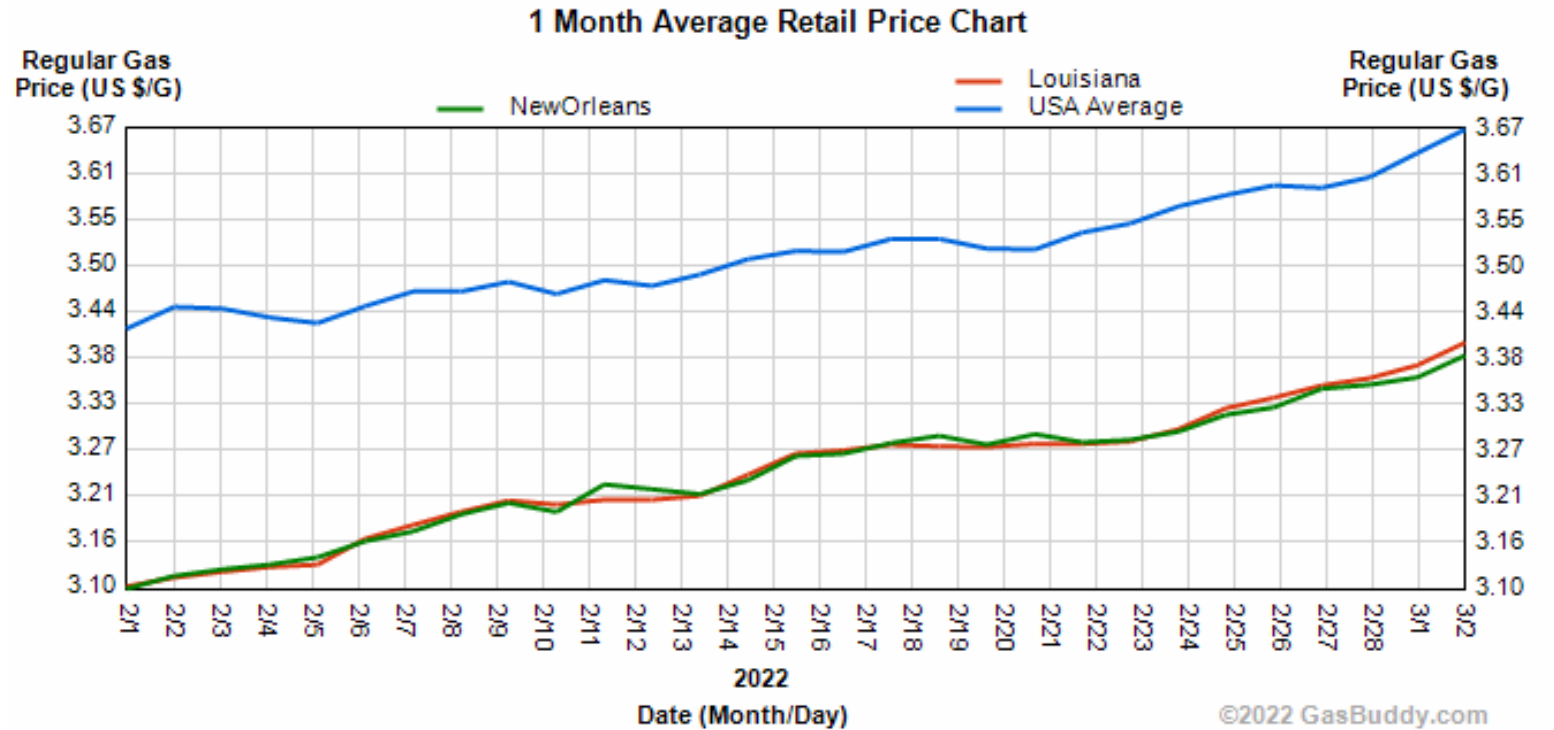
Source: GasBuddy.com



Gas Prices

Continued

- Throughout the month of February alone, gas prices have risen to near-record levels.
- According to Patrick De Haan, Head of Petroleum Analysis at GasBuddy: “The Russian invasion of Ukraine has sparked high level concern that oil production could eventually be stifled, or even sanctioned, from the world’s second largest oil producer, leading to less supply as demand grows. That possibility has pushed up the national average price of gasoline considerably in the last week, and the situation could worsen at any time, keeping gas prices elevated for the foreseeable future. In addition to the unstable situation with the Russian invasion, we’re also entering the time of year that seasonality pushes gasoline prices up by anywhere from 25 to 75 cents by Memorial Day.”



Source: GasBuddy.com



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. Currently, the occupancy rate is averaging at **38%**.
- This national trend tells us that working from home, as well as more flexible work schedules with hybrid options, will be the enduring norm for some time.

OCCUPANCY OVER TIME - MARCH 4, 2020 TO MARCH 2, 2022



*On March 22, 2021, Kastle moved from daily to weekly data reporting to provide a more robust and comprehensive picture of office occupancy. We have also recalculated data back to the start of the time series for consistency. This has only a marginal impact on most cities and the national average.

Source: Kastle Return-to-Work Barometer



Key Takeaways

- The month of February is the first time that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has reported re-infection rates along with other COVID-19 public health metrics. St. Tammany has seen more than 3,700 reinfections since LDH began reporting this metric.
- Due to the current geopolitical landscape, there has been a steep increase in gas and oil prices during February, with gas prices in the New Orleans metro reaching more than \$3.30 and the national average reaching more than \$3.60 for the first time in nearly a decade. These increases are predicted to continue through the second quarter.
- In December 2021, St. Tammany's unemployment was reported to be the lowest ever recorded at 2.6%. This extraordinarily low rate is connected to the significant number of workers who have left the labor force during the pandemic, as well as the labor struggles that businesses across the country have seen in recent months.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' February jobs report, about 90% of jobs have returned since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, wages are not keeping up with inflation. Inflation rose 7.5% last year, while wages grew only 5.1%.





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CORPORATION**

The Economic Development Organization for St. Tammany

The **AnalyST**

St. Tammany Corporation's economic research publication



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