



The **AnalyST**

St. Tammany Corporation's Economic Research Publication

June 2021

Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany

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



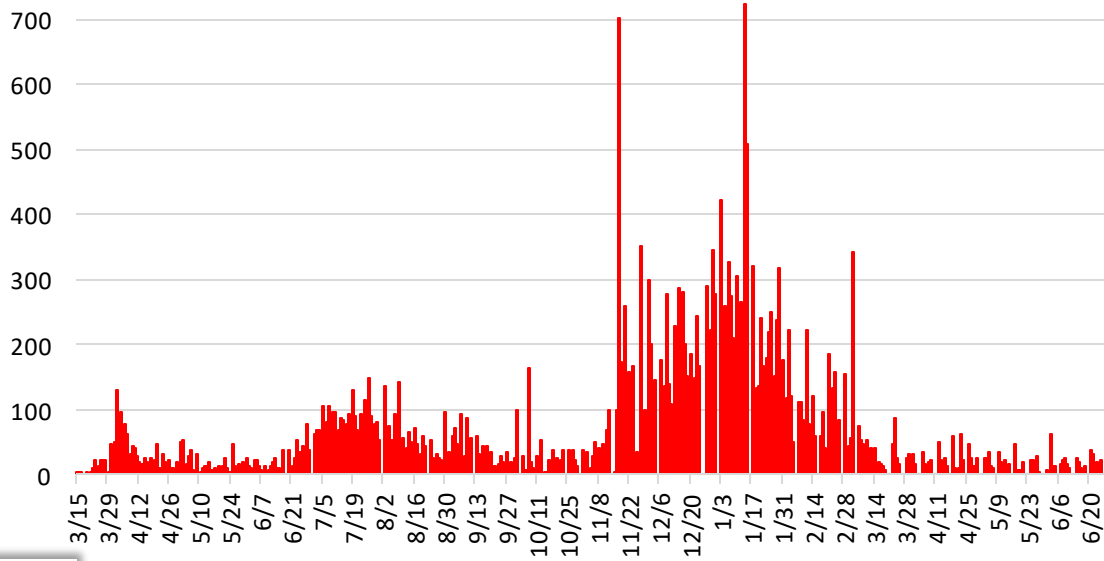
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Cases

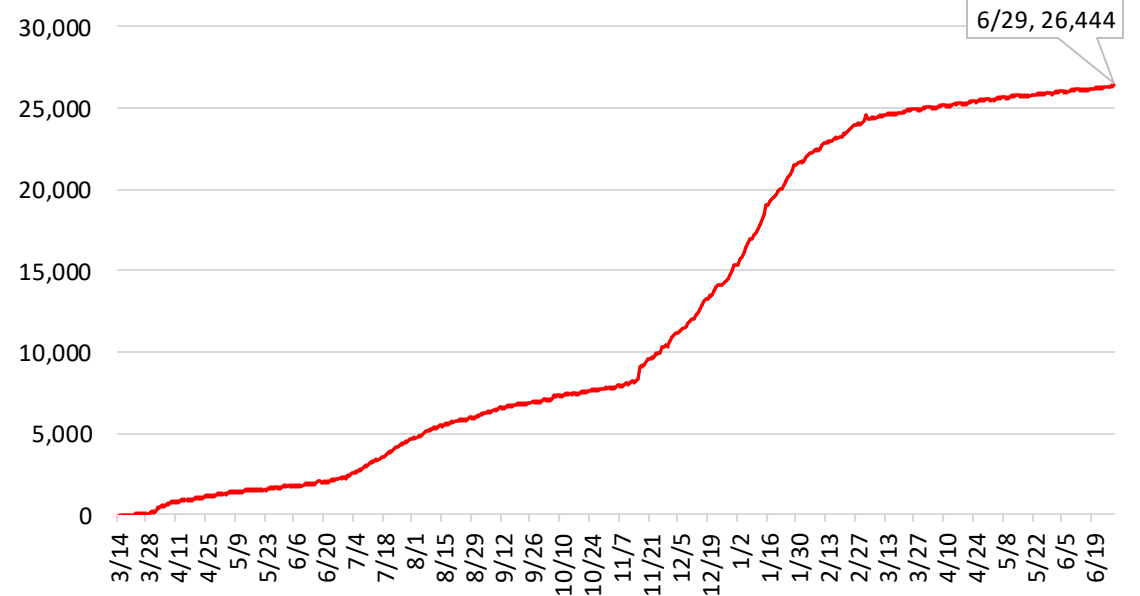
As of June 29, 2021:

- **21,791** confirmed positive cases
- **26,444** total probable + confirmed cases
- **398,047** tests administered

St. Tammany Daily Increases in COVID-19 Cases



St. Tammany Total Probable & Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



- **8,150** confirmed cases per 100,000 residents
- There have been **fewer than 100** new cases each day for nearly four months, since early March.
- 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

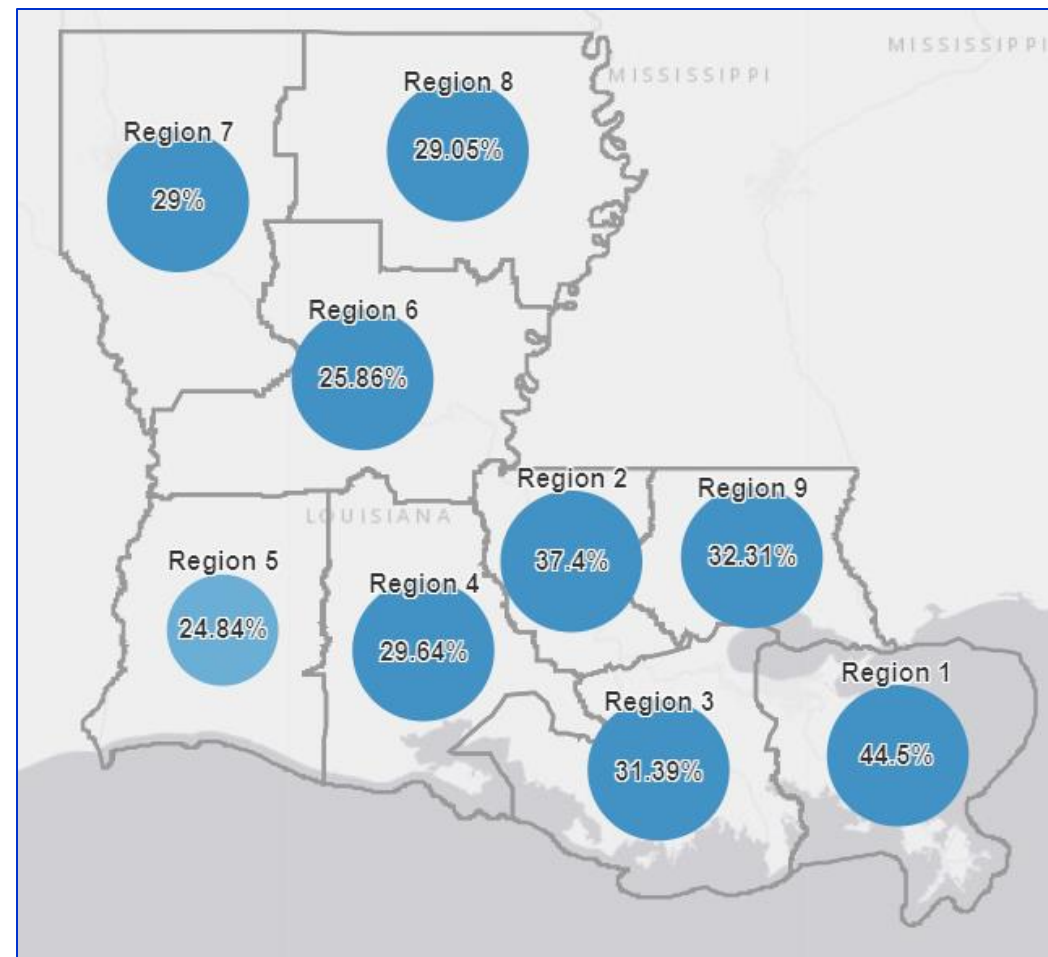


COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Vaccinations

In St. Tammany, as of June 28, 2021:

- **105,146** first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered.
 - **98,672** second doses have been administered.
- **41.7%** of the population has received at least one dose of the two-part vaccine.
 - **39.1%** of the population has received both doses.
- St. Tammany has the **5th highest vaccination rate** in the state.
- With 34% of the state's population fully vaccinated, **Louisiana ranks 49th** out of 50 states, only ahead of Mississippi.
- 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



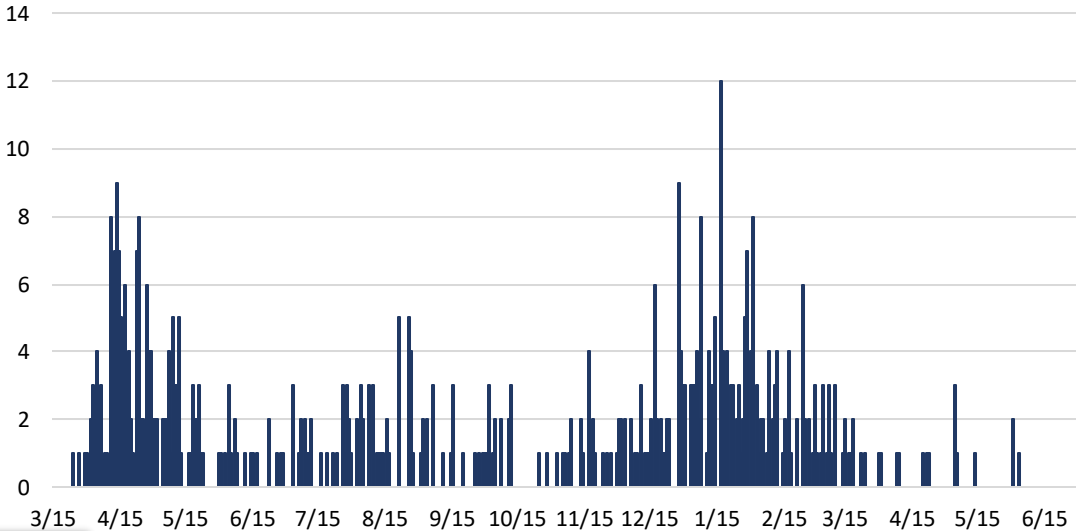
COVID-19 in St. Tammany

Mortality

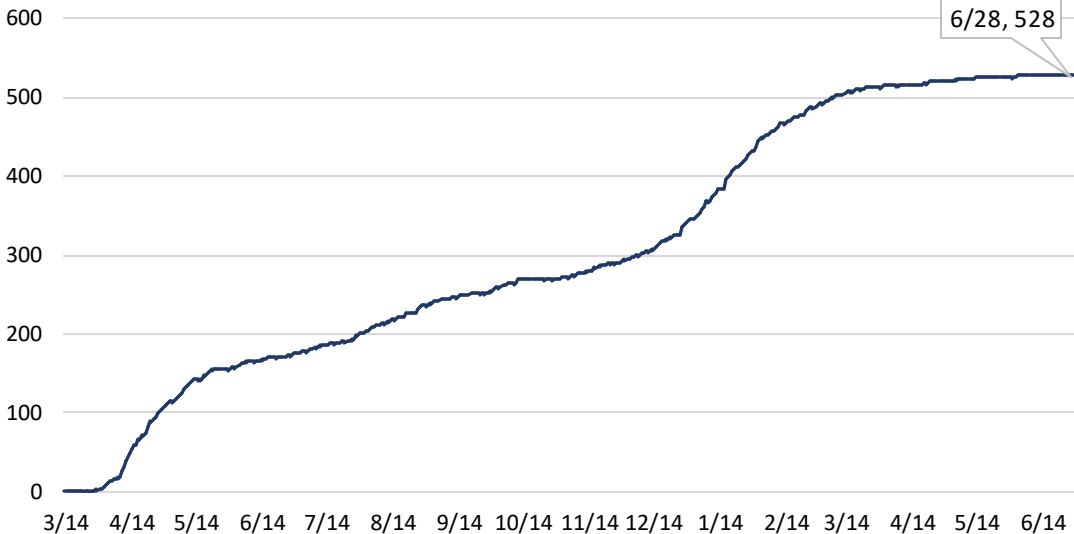
As of June 29, 2021:

- **528** deaths
- **2.4%** mortality rate (deaths as a proportion of confirmed cases)
- For **26 consecutive days** and counting, there have been no additional deaths attributed to COVID-19, the longest stretch since the beginning of the pandemic.

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	65	3,859	32,238	119.7
White	459	19,808	215,496	91.9
Other	4	1,769	10,377	170.5
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 6/19/2021:

126

Number of initial claims for unemployment during the same week in 2020 (week ending 6/20/2020):

581

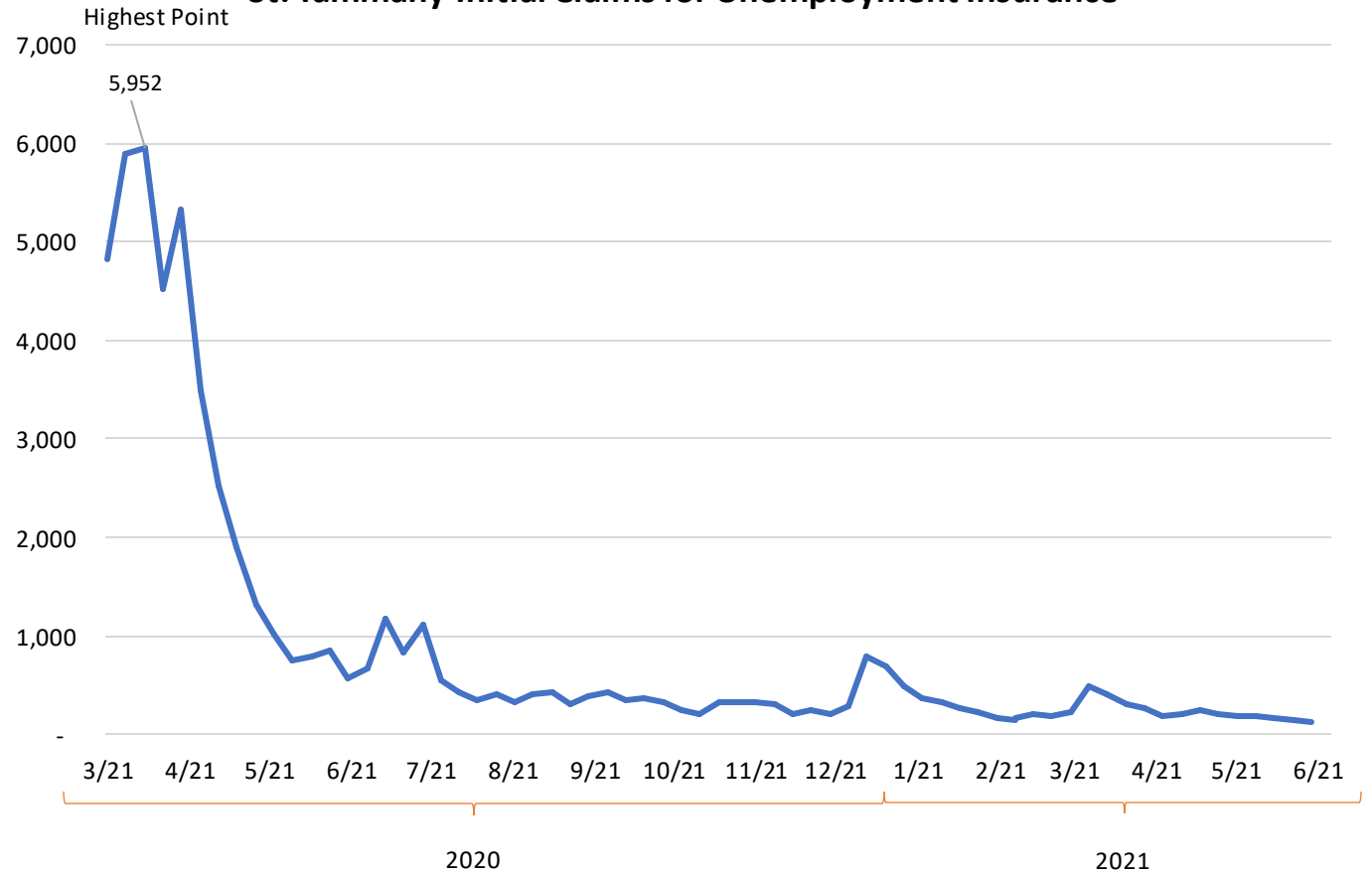
Average weekly number of initial claims, March-December 2020:

1,254

Average weekly number of initial claims in 2021:

294

St. Tammany Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance



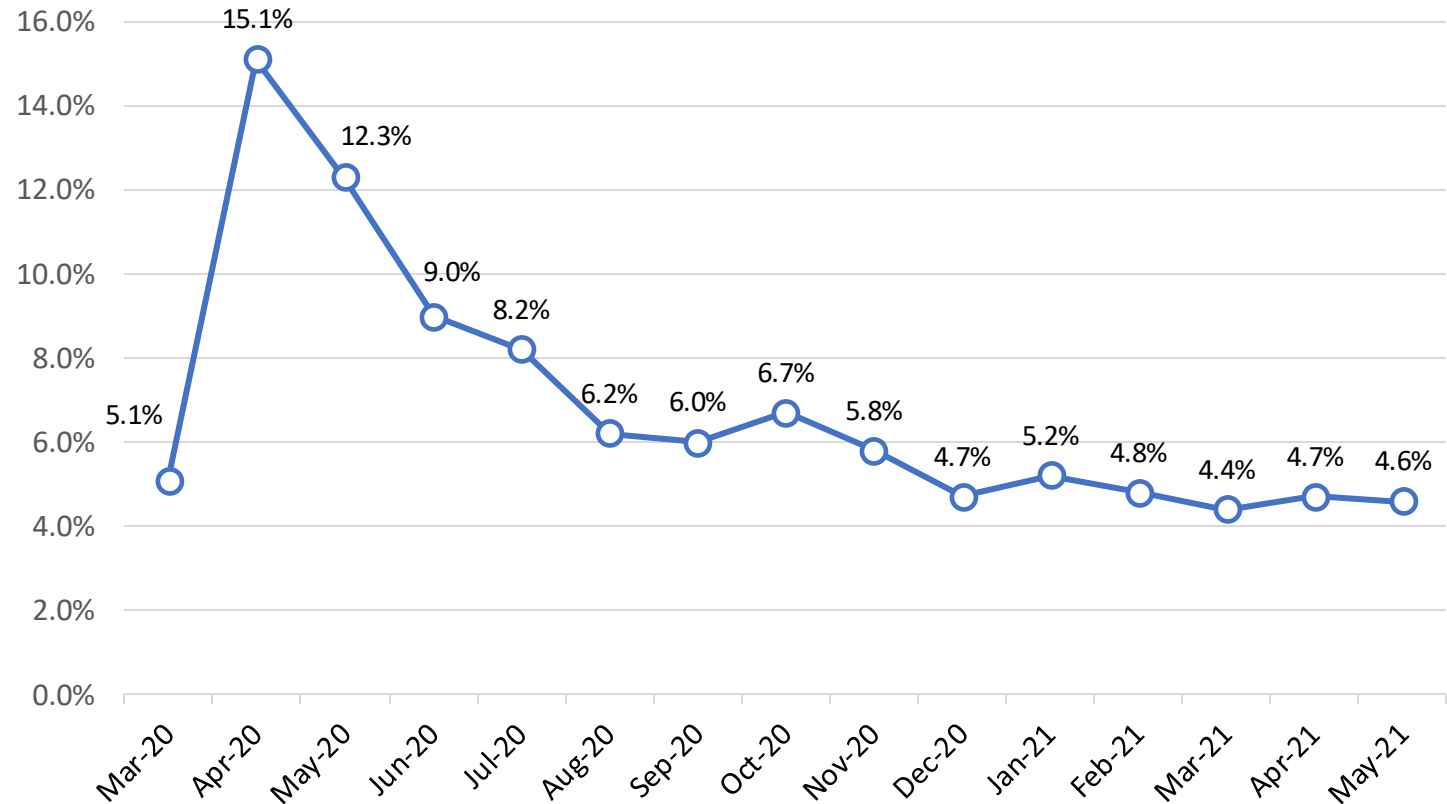
Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



Unemployment

- In its most recent jobs report, LWC reported that St. Tammany's unemployment rate was **4.6%** in March 2021, lower than:
 - the national rate (5.8%),
 - the Louisiana rate (7.1%),
 - and the Greater New Orleans rate (8.1%).
- The same report showed that from April to May, the number of people in the labor force was only slightly changed, with 222 workers rejoining the workforce.

St. Tammany Unemployment Rate



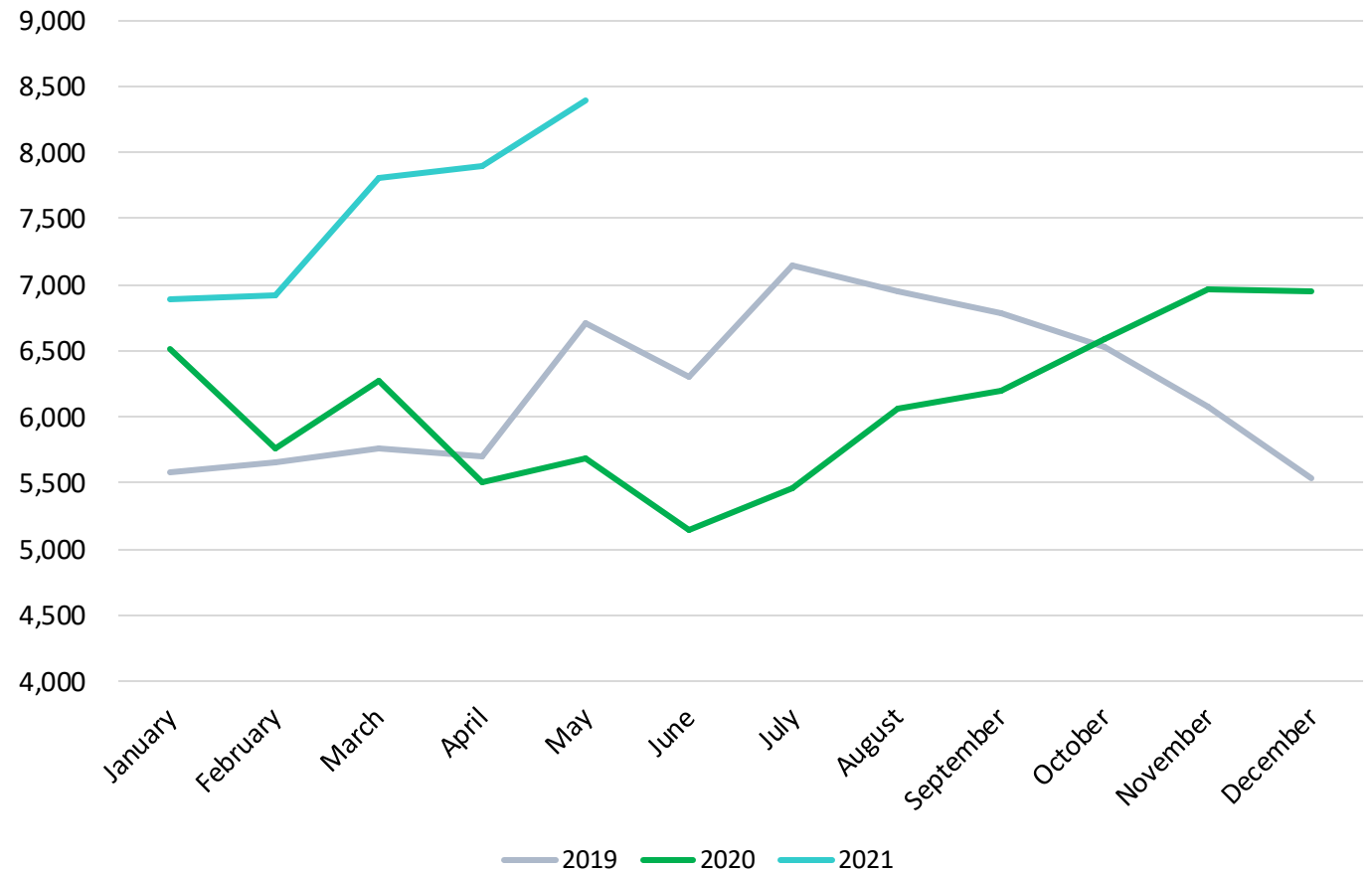
Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission



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.
- May 2021 continued the trend of higher job postings than all previous years and all previous months, with more than **8,400 unique job postings**.
- Jobs in highest demand continue to be registered nurses, truck drivers, and retail salespeople.

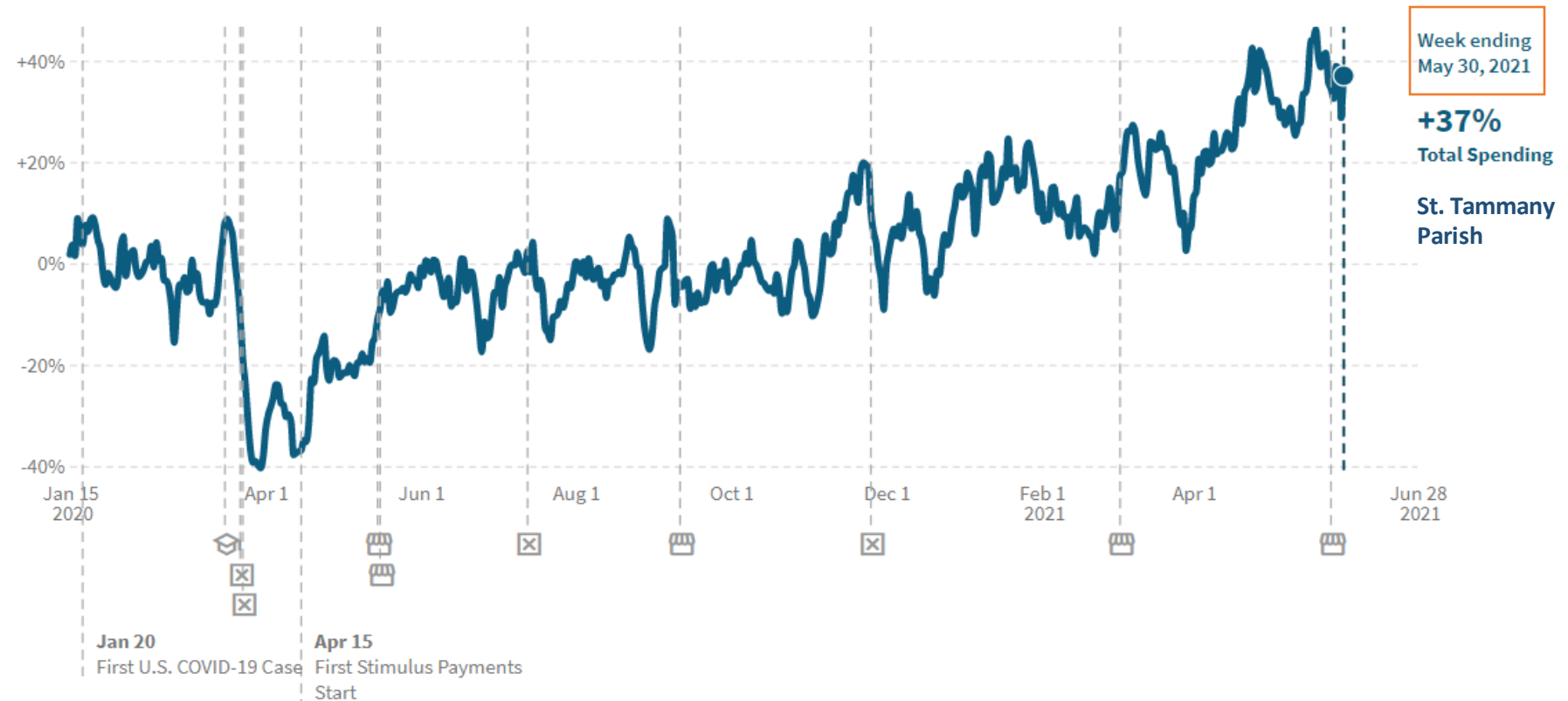


Source: EMSI



Changes in Consumer Spending

- As of May 30, 2021, total consumer spending in St. Tammany had increased to **37% higher** than January 2020 levels.
- On the same day in 2020, consumer spending was **down 3.3%**, demonstrating a 40 percentage point improvement.



data source: **Affinity**

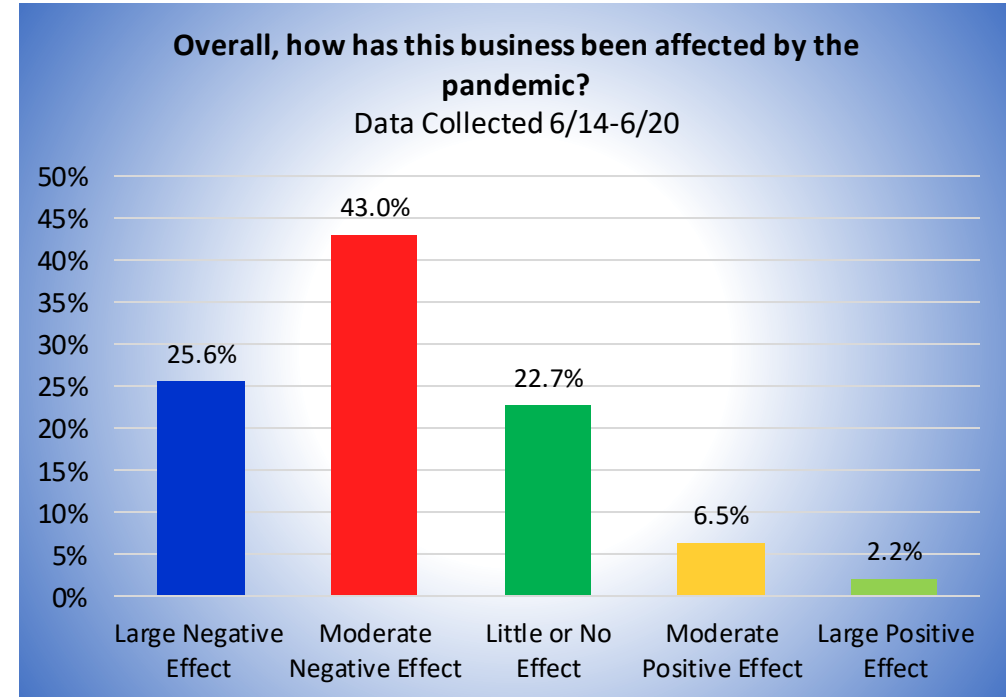
Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker



Small Business Pulse

According to a nationwide survey conducted by the Census Bureau from **6/14 – 6/20**:

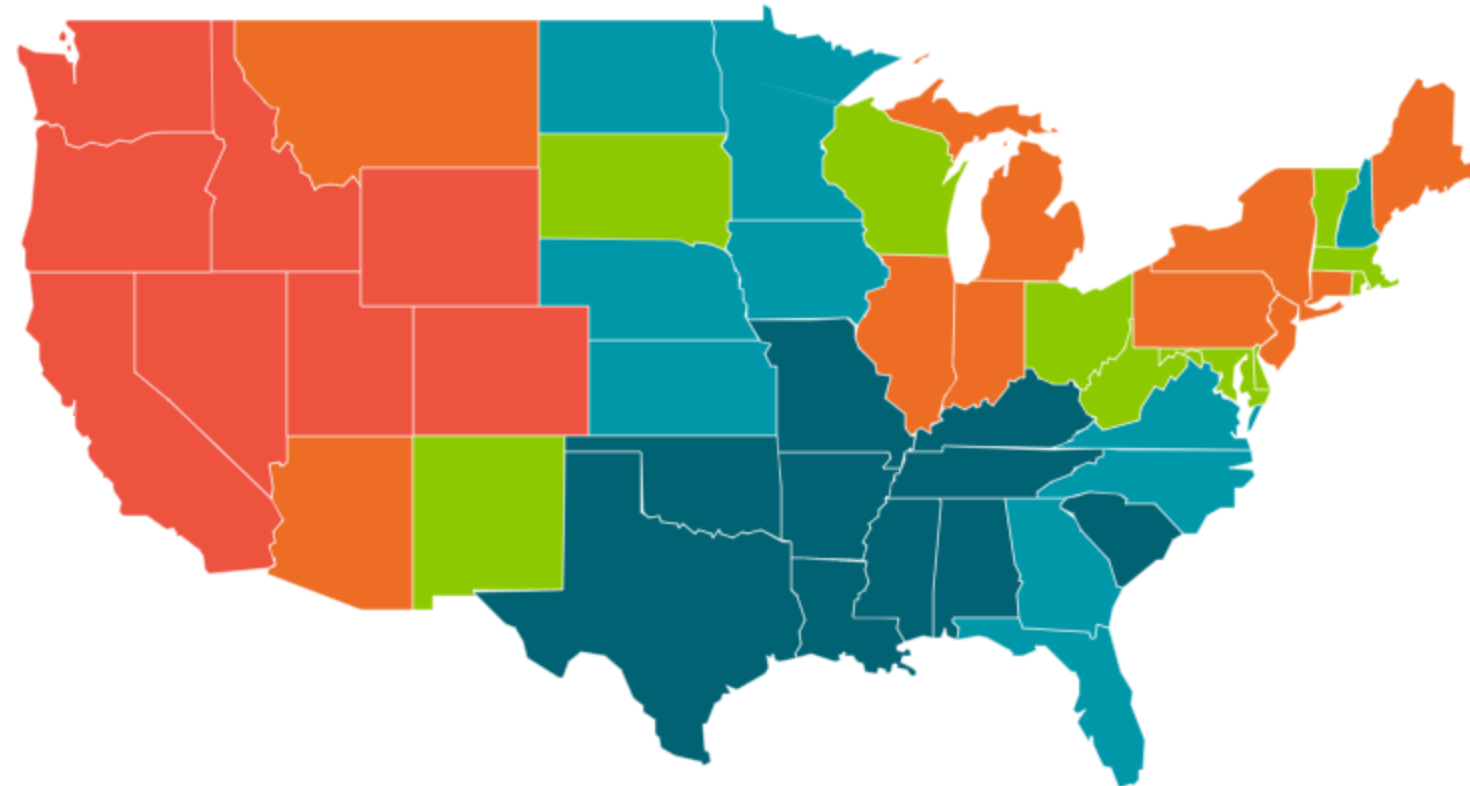
- **68.6%** of U.S. small businesses have experienced negative effects from the coronavirus pandemic.
- **13.2%** of U.S. small businesses experienced an increase in operating revenues in the last week. For responses collected 6/7 – 6/13, this statistic was **12.1%**
- **35.8%** of U.S. small businesses believe they will need to identify and hire new employees in the next 6 months
- **61.8%** of U.S. Manufacturing Small Businesses experienced domestic supplier delays in the last week. The national average for this statistic was **36.7%**
- **39.1%** of U.S. Wholesale Trade Small Businesses experienced foreign supplier delays in the last week. For responses collected 6/7 – 6/13, this statistic was **40.2%**
- **25.6%** of U.S. Small Businesses have experienced a large negative effect from the coronavirus pandemic. For responses collected during the same week in 2020, this statistic was **38.2%**



Source: Census Bureau Small Business Pulse



Gas Prices



Retail Fuel Prices

2.736 to 2.840 2.861 to 2.971 2.974 to 3.028 3.075 to 3.247 3.269 to 4.314

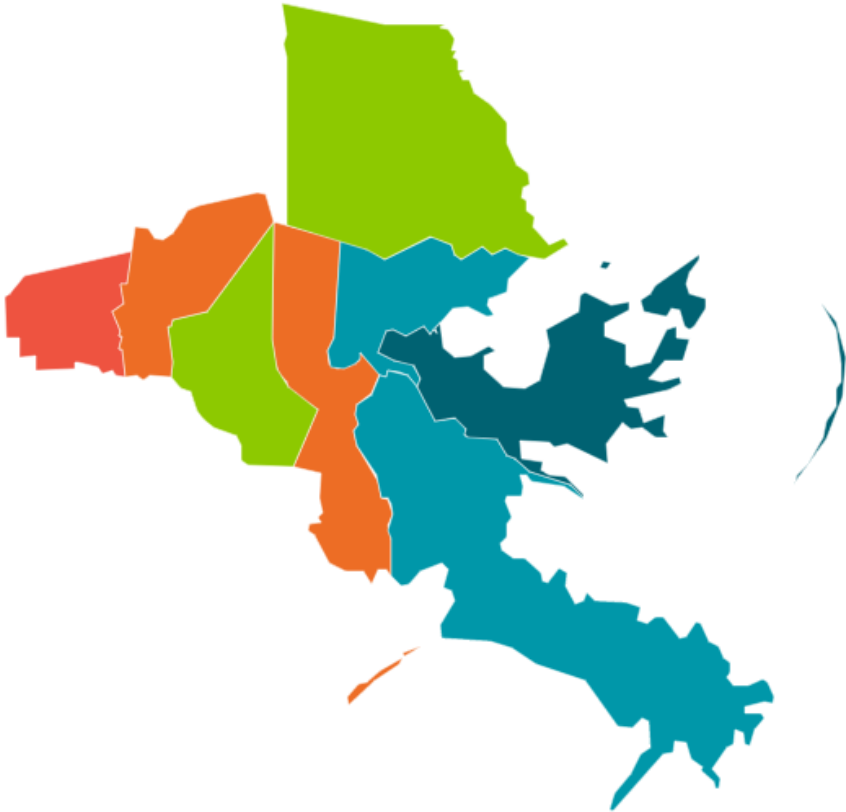
- As of June 29, 2021, the average fuel price in the U.S. is **\$3.11** per gallon, continuing last month's trend of hovering above \$3.00/gallon.
- In May, national prices averaged \$3.05.
- Nationally, June's prices are **up 92¢** from the same time in 2020, when they were \$2.18.
- Prices were significantly lower in 2020 because of low demand due to lack of travel and daily commuting nationwide.

Source: GasBuddy.com

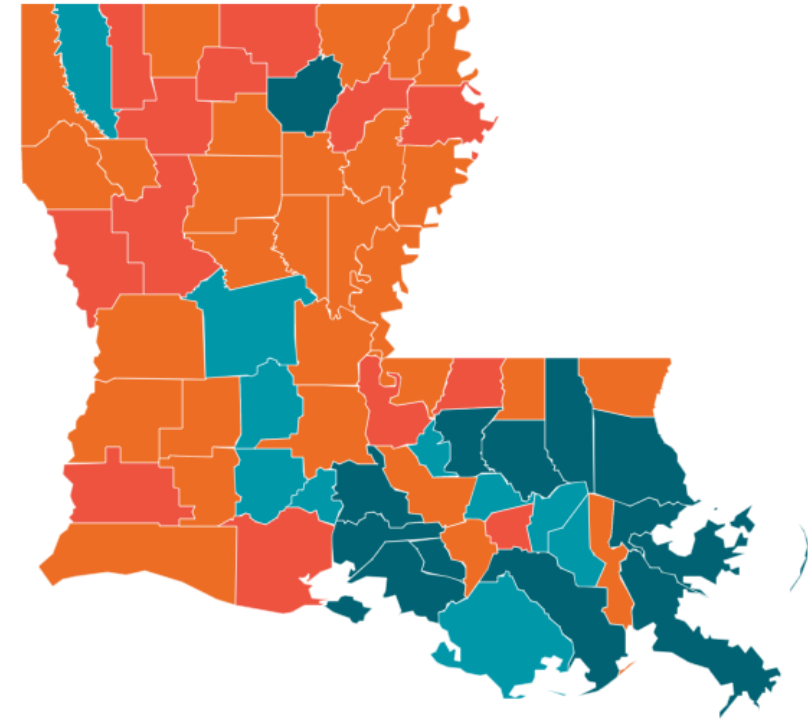


Gas Prices

- As of June 29, 2021, St. Tammany's average fuel price is **\$2.698**, lower than the state and about the same as the New Orleans Metro average of \$2.699.
- In the New Orleans Metro, the average price is slightly up from May's \$2.671 but still lower than more than 95% of other metro areas in the U.S.
- The state average fuel price is \$2.739, the **2nd lowest** average price in the nation.



2.646 2.686 to 2.689 2.698 to 2.711 2.728 to 2.735 2.747



Retail Fuel Prices

2.634 to 2.704 2.711 to 2.735 2.735 2.735 to 2.746 2.747 to 2.902

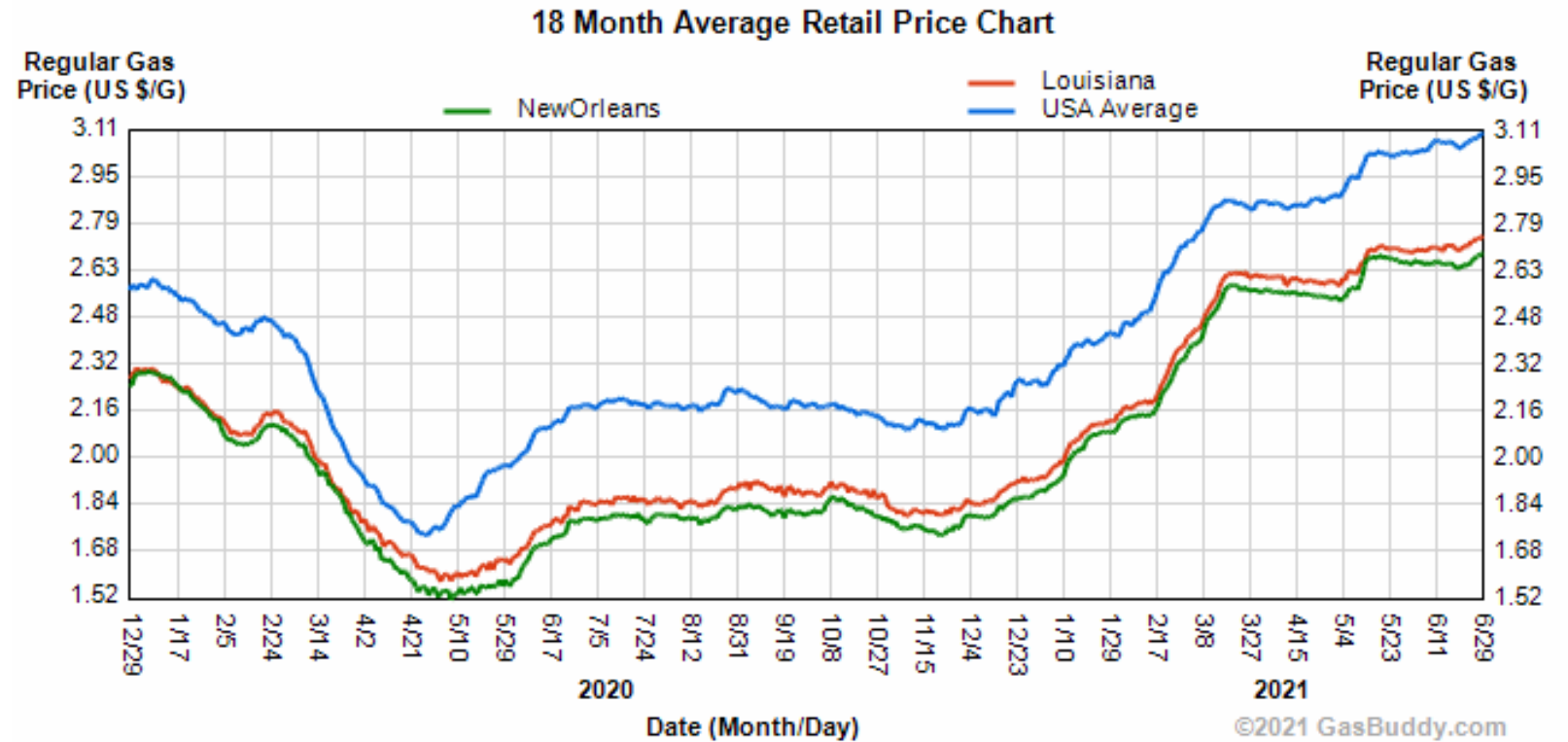


Source: GasBuddy.com



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



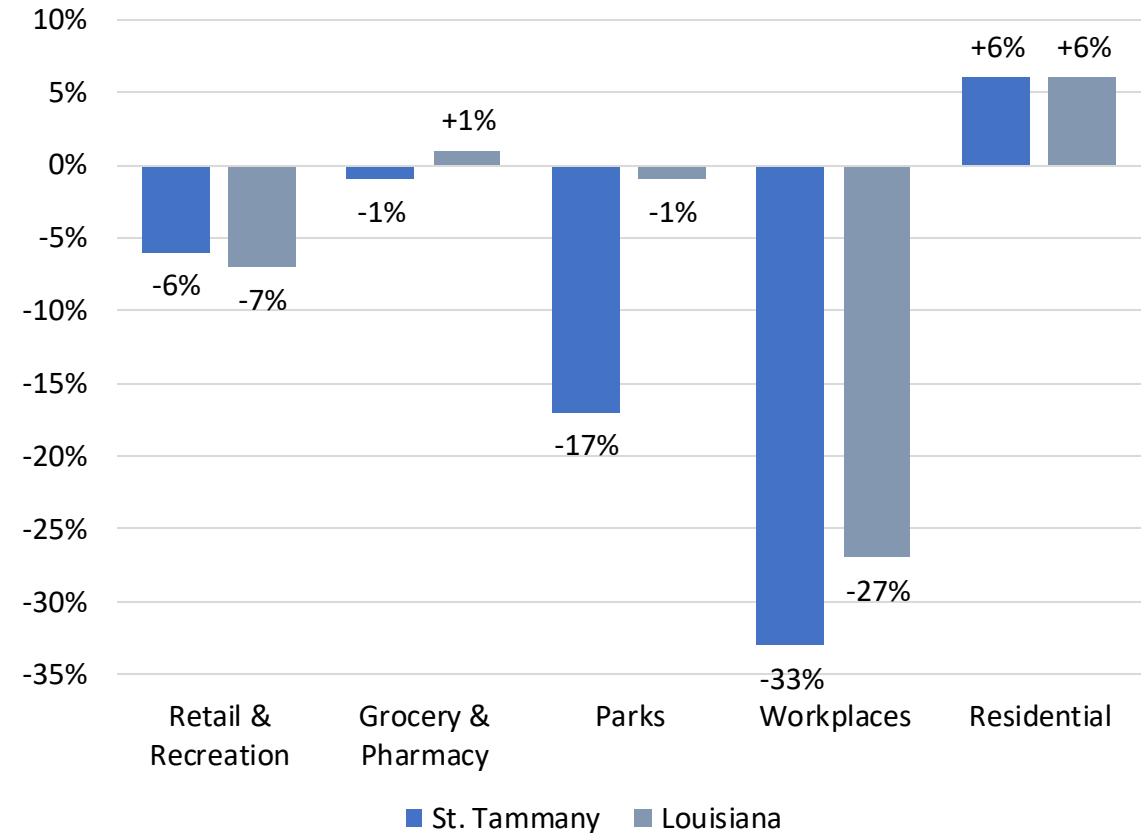
Residential Travel Since Stay-at-Home Order

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 more than 26,000 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 26 consecutive days in June, 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 less than a quarter of the 2020 average. The unemployment rate has remained below 6.0% in St. Tammany for seven consecutive months.
- Nearly 70% of U.S. small businesses have experienced negative effects from the coronavirus pandemic, and although revenues are trending up, continue to face issues such as foreign and domestic supplier delays and the need to hire new staff.
- 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 been sustained above \$3.00 per gallon for the longest period since 2014.





**ST. TAMMANY
CORPORATION**

The Economic Development Organization for St. Tammany

The **AnalyST**

St. Tammany Corporation's economic research publication



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