

Economic Reporter

Promoting Economic Development in Southeast Louisiana

Summer 2015

Vol. 11 · No. 2

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NATIONAL**U.S. Economy****Dr. A. M. M. Jamal**

Professor of Marketing and Supply Chain Management
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U. S. real gross domestic product declined at a 0.2 percent annual rate during the first quarter of 2015 and was 2.9 percent higher than in the first quarter of 2014.

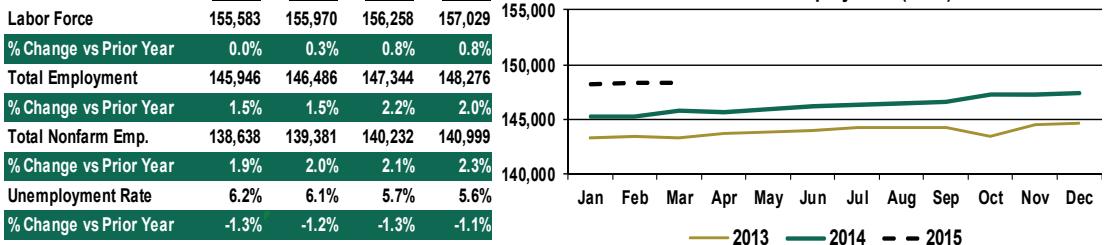
Total civilian employment for the first quarter of 2015 rose 2.0 percent compared to the corresponding period of the previous year while the workforce rose 0.8 percent. This helped the unemployment rate to drop from 6.6 percent to 5.6 percent.

A survey of professional economists by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia projects the U.S. economy to grow 2.4, 2.8, 2.8, and 2.5 percent in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. An alternative set of forecasts by Wells Fargo Bank indicates gains of 1.9 percent and 2.9 percent for 2015 and 2016.

U.S. housing starts totaled 2.93 million in 1Q2015, up from 2.80 million in 1Q2014, an increase of 4.7 percent.

EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally Adjusted)**UNITED STATES (Numbers in Thousands)**

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Labor Force	155,420	155,629	155,700	156,048	156,018	155,845	156,243	156,402	156,129	157,180	157,002	156,906
% Change vs Prior Year	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%	0.5%
Total Employment	145,724	145,868	146,247	146,401	146,451	146,607	147,260	147,331	147,442	148,201	148,297	148,331
% Change vs Prior Year	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	2.7%	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%	1.7%
Total Nonfarm Emp.	138,385	138,621	138,907	139,156	139,369	139,619	139,840	140,263	140,592	140,793	141,059	141,144
% Change vs Prior Year	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.3%	6.1%	6.2%	6.1%	5.9%	5.7%	5.8%	5.6%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.3%	-1.2%	-1.5%	-1.1%	-1.1%	-1.3%	-1.5%	-1.2%	-1.1%	-0.9%	-1.1%	-1.2%

Total Employment (000s)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Economic Reporter

STATE

Louisiana Economy

Dr. A. M. M. Jamal

Professor of Marketing and Supply Chain Management

Total state employment for the first quarter of 2015 rose 0.8 percent from the previous quarter and was 2.7 percent higher than for the first quarter of 2014.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2015 was 6.8 percent, compared to 5.5 percent in 1Q2014. The state unemployment rate was above the 5.6 percent national rate primarily because the Louisiana labor force grew faster than employment.

Sales tax collections for the first quarter of 2015 fell 12.4 percent compared to the prior quarter, but were 3.5 percent higher than for the first quarter of 2014. (On a year-over-year basis, the increase is a continuation of the trend observed during recent quarters.)

Seasonally-adjusted state personal income increased 0.8 percent (\$1.5 billion) in the first quarter of 2015, ranking 35th in the nation.

Net earnings were up \$543 million, dividends, interest and rents increased \$181 million, and personal transfer receipts increased by \$822 million.

Industries contributing the most quarter-over-quarter growth in earnings from 4Q2014 to 1Q2015 were "Health Care and Social Assistance" (+\$177 million), "Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services" (+\$161 million), and "Farm" (+ \$133 million).

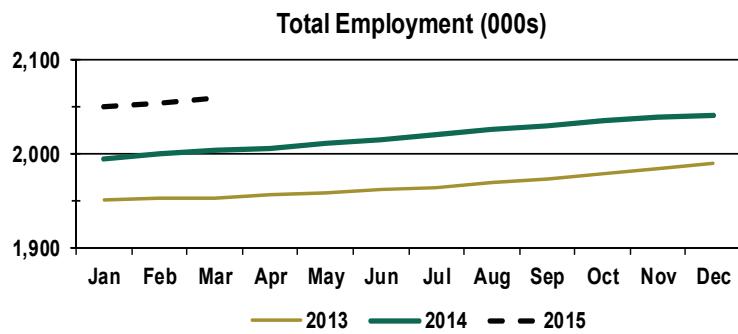
Earnings from "Mining" (which includes oil and gas) declined by \$357 million from 4Q2014 to 1Q2015.

EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally Adjusted)

LOUISIANA (Numbers in Thousands)

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Labor Force	2,127	2,137	2,148	2,159	2,171	2,181	2,189	2,196	2,201	2,203	2,202	2,205
% Change vs Prior Year	1.2%	1.7%	2.2%	2.7%	3.2%	3.6%	4.0%	4.2%	4.4%	4.4%	4.1%	4.0%
Total Employment	2,007	2,011	2,015	2,020	2,026	2,031	2,035	2,038	2,041	2,050	2,054	2,060
% Change vs Prior Year	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%
Total Nonfarm Emp.	1,972	1,978	1,981	1,982	1,985	1,988	1,992	1,994	1,997	1,999	1,987	1,984
% Change vs Prior Year	1.2%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.8%	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.9%	6.2%	6.4%	6.7%	6.9%	7.0%	7.2%	7.2%	7.0%	6.7%	6.6%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.2%	-0.9%	-0.5%	-0.1%	0.3%	0.7%	1.1%	1.4%	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%

	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15
Labor Force	2,137	2,170	2,195	2,204
% Change vs Prior Year	1.7%	3.2%	4.2%	4.2%
Total Employment	2,011	2,026	2,038	2,054
% Change vs Prior Year	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%
Total Nonfarm Emp.	1,977	1,985	1,994	1,987
% Change vs Prior Year	1.3%	1.5%	1.6%	1.0%
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	6.7%	7.1%	6.8%
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.9%	0.3%	-0.9%	1.3%



Source: Louisiana Department of Labor, Labor Market Statistics

REGIONAL

Northshore Employment

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Total employment in the Northshore Region (Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes) was 0.4 percent lower in 1Q2015 compared to the previous quarter, but rose 3.1 percent (+7,358 jobs) compared to the first quarter of 2014.

The total civilian work force in 1Q2015 was 0.5 percent lower than the previous quarter but 4.0 percent higher than in the first quarter of 2014.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2015 was 6.2 percent, compared to 6.4 percent in the previous quarter and 5.4 percent during the first quarter of 2014.

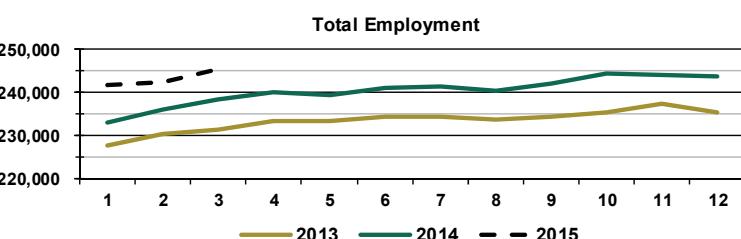
(Note: All regional and parish employment analyses are based on unadjusted employment data. Seasonally-adjusted data are not available at the parish level.)

EMPLOYMENT (Not seasonally adjusted)

NORTHSORE REGION

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Labor Force	252,452	253,833	257,996	259,161	258,622	259,055	261,379	260,630	259,601	259,119	257,766	261,040
% Change vs Prior Year	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	2.8%	3.2%	3.8%	4.5%	4.2%	5.1%	4.8%	3.7%	3.6%
Total Employment	239,986	239,361	240,953	241,294	240,494	242,063	244,569	244,082	243,798	241,705	242,520	245,264
% Change vs Prior Year	2.8%	2.6%	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%	3.2%	3.9%	2.8%	3.6%	3.7%	2.8%	2.9%
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	5.7%	6.6%	6.9%	7.0%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.3%	6.7%	5.9%	6.0%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.2%	-1.0%	-1.2%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	1.3%	1.4%	1.0%	0.9%	0.6%

	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15
Labor Force	254,760	258,946	260,537	259,308
% Change vs Prior Year	1.5%	3.2%	4.6%	4.0%
Total Employment	240,100	241,284	244,150	243,163
% Change vs Prior Year	2.7%	3.0%	3.4%	3.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	6.8%	6.4%	6.2%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.1%	0.2%	1.1%	0.8%



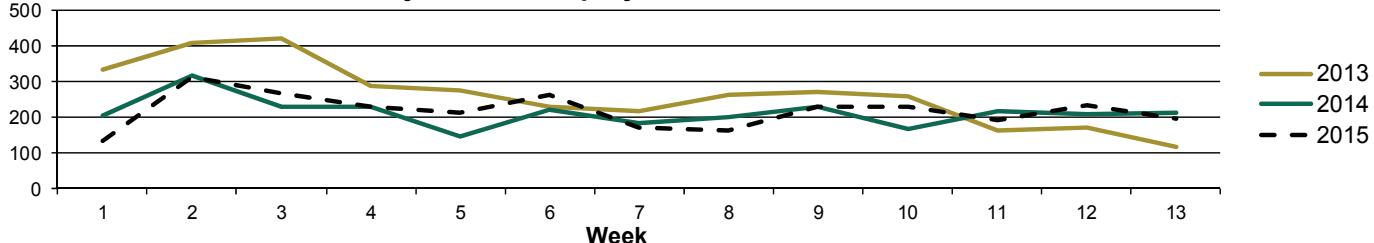
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CLAIMS

Northshore Region

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Date	1/3/15	1/10/15	1/17/15	1/24/15	1/31/15	2/7/15	2/14/15	2/21/15	2/28/15	3/7/15	3/14/15	3/21/15	3/28/15
Initial UI Claims	135	314	266	232	213	262	172	165	230	230	192	233	199
Weeks Claimed	1,837	1,889	1,916	1,878	1,844	1,828	1,837	1,810	1,804	1,831	1,730	1,780	1,771

Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Economic Reporter

Estimated Retail Sales in the Northshore Region

The 1Q2015 value of retail sales for the region fell 7.7 percent from the previous quarter but was 6.0 percent higher than for the first quarter of 2014.

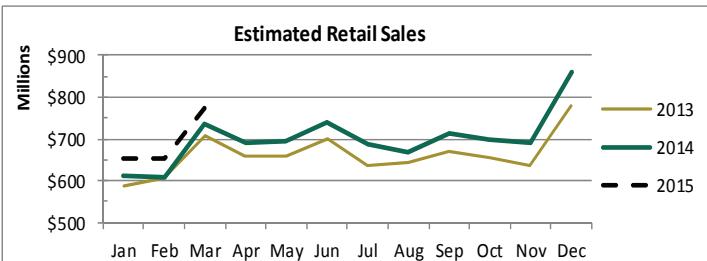
All the parishes in the Northshore region except St. Helena saw year-over-year gains in sales compared to the first quarter of 2014.

ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

NORTHSORE REGION

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Estimated Retail Sales (mil.)	\$690.79	\$695.31	\$740.38	\$686.65	\$667.66	\$713.92	\$699.59	\$690.91	\$861.73	\$654.39	\$651.13	\$772.45
% Change vs Prior Month	-6.3%	0.7%	6.5%	-7.3%	-2.8%	6.9%	-2.0%	-1.2%	24.7%	-24.1%	-0.5%	18.6%
% Change vs. Prior Year	5.0%	5.5%	5.9%	8.2%	3.7%	6.5%	6.8%	8.7%	10.6%	6.7%	6.9%	4.8%
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15								
Quarterly Avg. Sales (mil.)	\$708.83	\$689.41	\$750.74	\$692.66								
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	8.5%	-2.7%	8.9%	-7.7%								
% Change vs Prior Year	5.5%	6.1%	8.8%	6.0%								

Sources: Livingston Parish School Board - Sales and Use Tax Division
 St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office
 St. Tammany Parish Sales and Use Tax Department
 Tangipahoa Parish School Board - Sales and Use Tax Division
 Washington Parish Sheriff's Office - Sales and Use Tax Department



Residential Building Permits in the Northshore Region

Building permits for residential units in the Northshore region for 1Q2015 rose 26.0 percent over the prior quarter and were 16.9 percent higher than in the first quarter of 2014, reflecting an encouraging outlook for construction in the region overall.

On a year-over-year basis, Livingston and St. Tammany parishes showed strong increases in

the number of permits issued, Tangipahoa and Washington reported declines, and St. Helena was unchanged.

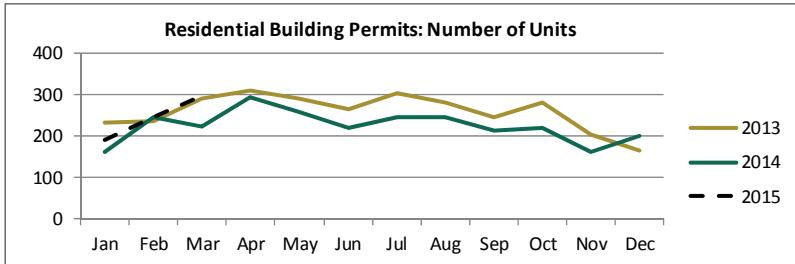
It should be noted that the number of units in unincorporated St. Tammany Parish and all of Washington Parish are based on data (or estimates) provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

NORTHSORE REGION

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Total Permits	292	252	220	242	230	211	218	160	195	191	245	295
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.0%	-9.7%	-14.7%	-18.0%	-18.1%	-9.4%	-13.1%	-17.1%	30.9%	18.6%	1.2%	33.5%
Total Units	292	259	220	244	245	211	220	162	199	191	245	296
% Change vs Prior Year	-5.5%	-10.4%	-17.0%	-19.5%	-12.8%	-13.9%	-21.1%	-19.8%	22.1%	18.6%	0.4%	33.9%

	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15
Total Permits	764	683	573	731
% Change vs Prior Year	-8.5%	-15.6%	-3.4%	17.1%
Total Units	771	700	581	732
% Change vs Prior Year	-10.7%	-15.6%	-9.8%	16.9%



Sources: Livingston Parish -- Livingston Parish Permit Office, Town of Albany, City of Denham Springs, Town of Livingston, Town of Walker, <http://censtats.census.gov>

St. Helena Parish -- St. Helena Parish Permit Office and <http://censtats.census.gov> (estimates with imputation)

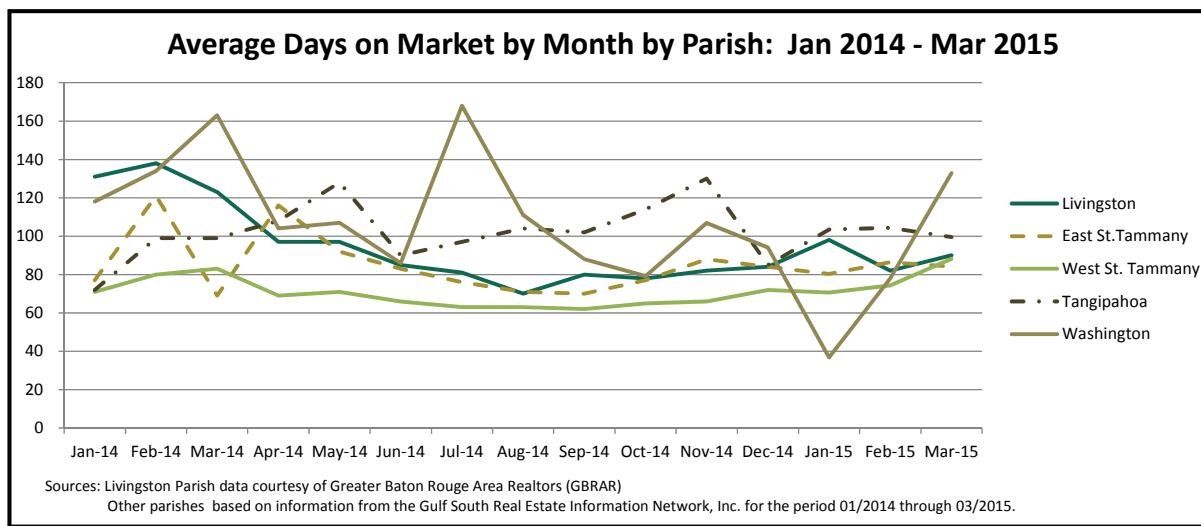
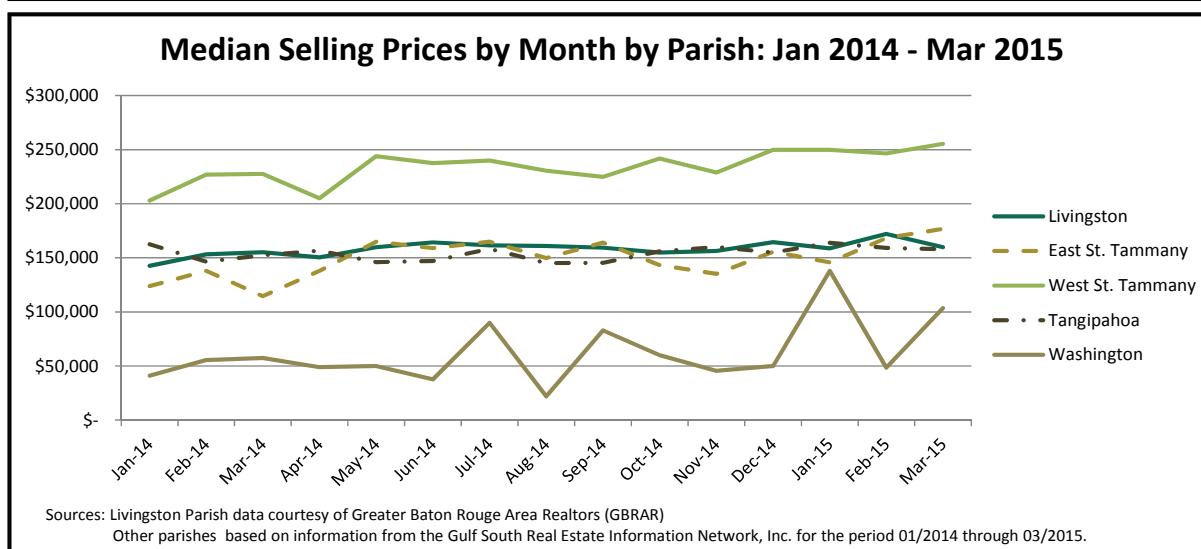
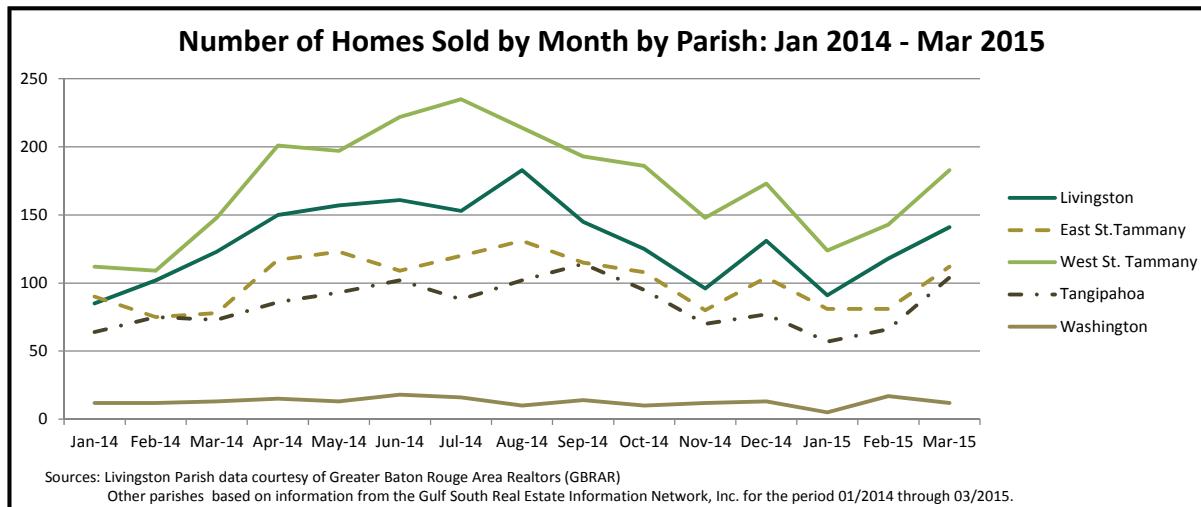
St. Tammany Parish -- St. Tammany Parish Permit Office, Town of Abita Springs, Village of Folsom, Town of Madisonville, City of Mandeville, Town of Pearl River, City of Slidell, <http://censtats.census.gov>

Tangipahoa Parish -- Tangipahoa Parish Permit Office, City of Hammond, City of Ponchatoula, <http://censtats.census.gov>

Washington Parish -- <http://censtats.census.gov>

Trends in the Northshore Housing Market by Parish

Herb Holloway
Research Economist



Economic Reporter

LOCAL

Livingston Parish

Livingston Parish employment in 1Q2015 fell 0.7 percent from the prior quarter but grew 4.3 percent compared to the first quarter of 2014.

The unemployment rate of 5.4 percent was lower than the 5.7 percent in the prior quarter but higher than the 4.8 percent of 1Q2014.

The value of taxable sales rose 9.7 percent compared to the first quarter of 2014, a larger increase than the 6.0 percent average for the re-

gion. The number of building permits for residential units rose 47.4 percent from the previous quarter and was 26.1 percent higher than the first quarter of 2014, based on data provided by local officials and the U.S. Census Bureau.

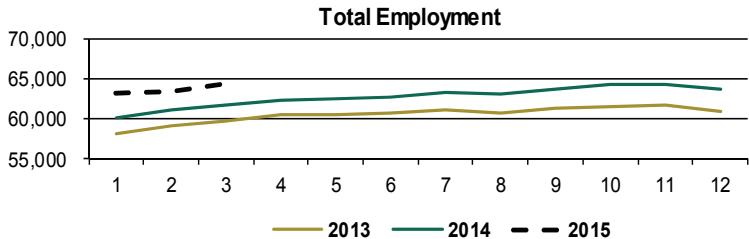
Livingston Parish residents purchased 1,299 new cars and light trucks in 1Q2015, including 132 from dealers within Livingston Parish. Parish dealers also sold 70 new vehicles to residents of other parishes within Louisiana.

EMPLOYMENT

LIVINGSTON PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Labor Force	65,133	66,019	66,864	67,514	67,420	67,797	68,420	68,365	67,355	67,090	66,941	67,910
% Change vs Prior Year	1.7%	2.5%	2.4%	3.5%	4.3%	4.6%	5.3%	5.4%	5.6%	5.7%	4.7%	4.7%
Total Employment	62,281	62,596	62,786	63,278	63,128	63,794	64,391	64,365	63,647	63,131	63,503	64,337
% Change vs Prior Year	3.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%	4.6%	4.2%	4.5%	4.9%	4.0%	4.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	5.2%	6.1%	6.3%	6.4%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.5%	5.9%	5.1%	5.3%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.3%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	1.1%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%

	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15
Labor Force	66,005	67,577	68,047	67,314
% Change vs Prior Year	2.2%	4.2%	5.5%	5.0%
Total Employment	62,554	63,400	64,134	63,657
% Change vs Prior Year	3.3%	3.9%	4.4%	4.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	6.2%	5.7%	5.4%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.1%	0.2%	0.9%	0.6%



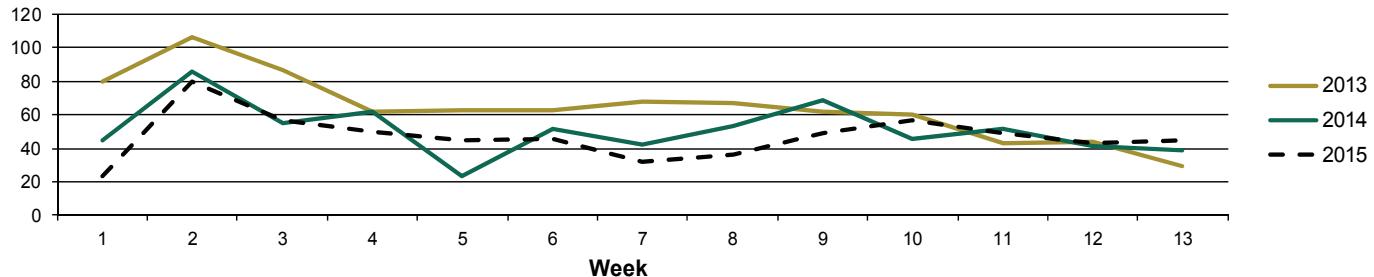
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CLAIMS

LIVINGSTON PARISH

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Date	1/3/15	1/10/15	1/17/15	1/24/15	1/31/15	2/7/15	2/14/15	2/21/15	2/28/15	3/7/15	3/14/15	3/21/15	3/28/15
Initial UI Claims	23	80	57	50	45	46	32	36	49	57	49	43	45
Weeks Claimed	353	367	381	367	364	362	356	348	342	351	348	364	351

Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



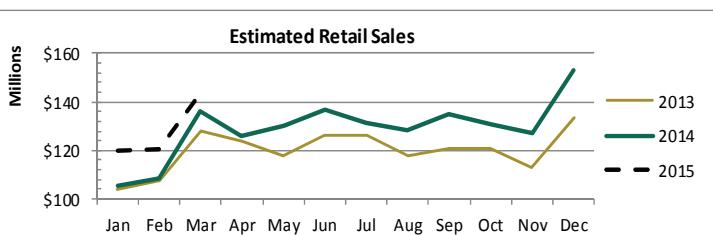
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Livingston Parish—continued

ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

LIVINGSTON PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Estimated Retail Sales (mil.)	\$126.10	\$130.14	\$136.68	\$131.23	\$128.57	\$134.81	\$130.47	\$127.07	\$152.82	\$120.08	\$120.33	\$143.12
% Change vs Prior Month	-7.2%	3.2%	5.0%	-4.0%	-2.0%	4.9%	-3.2%	-2.6%	20.3%	-21.4%	0.2%	18.9%
% Change vs. Prior Year	1.8%	10.4%	8.5%	4.2%	9.3%	11.8%	7.9%	12.5%	14.4%	14.1%	10.9%	5.3%
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15								
Quarterly Avg. Sales (mil.)	\$130.97	\$131.54	\$136.79	\$127.85								
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	12.4%	0.4%	4.0%	-6.5%								
% Change vs Prior Year	6.9%	8.4%	11.7%	9.7%								

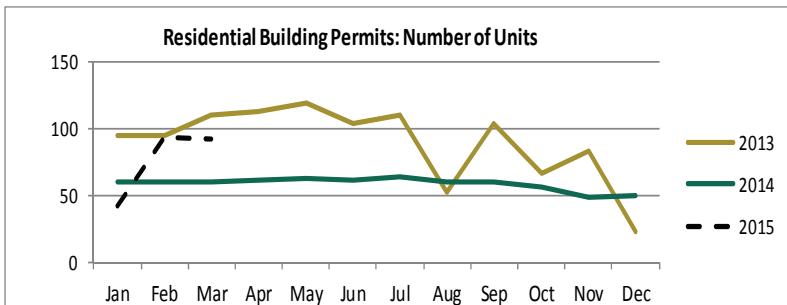


Source: Livingston Parish School Board - Sales and Use Tax Division

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

LIVINGSTON PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Total Permits	61	63	61	64	60	60	56	48	50	42	93	92
% Change vs Prior Year	-40.2%	-42.2%	-36.5%	-37.3%	13.2%	-34.1%	-15.2%	-35.1%	117.4%	-30.0%	55.0%	53.3%
Total Units	61	63	61	64	60	60	56	48	50	42	93	92
% Change vs Prior Year	-46.0%	-47.1%	-40.8%	-41.8%	13.2%	-41.7%	-15.2%	-42.2%	117.4%	-30.0%	55.0%	53.3%
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15								
Total Permits	185	184	154	227								
% Change vs Prior Year	-39.7%	-25.2%	-5.5%	26.1%								
Total Units	185	184	154	227								
% Change vs Prior Year	-44.8%	-30.8%	-10.5%	26.1%								

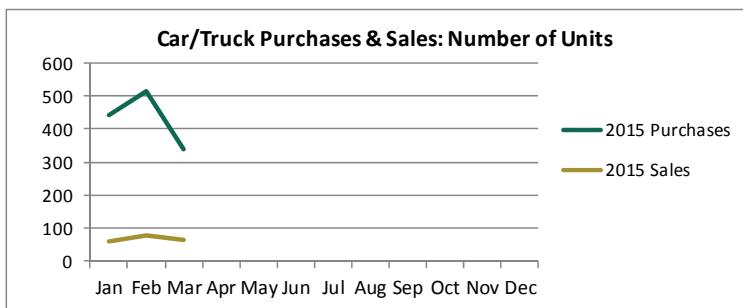


Sources: Town of Albany, City of Denham Springs, Town of Livingston, Livingston Parish Permit Office, <http://censtats.census.gov>
(Note: City of Walker permits estimated for 3Q2014)

New Light Vehicle Purchases & Sales

LIVINGSTON PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
New Car/Truck Purchases	n/a	444	516	339								
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a											
Purchases within Parish	n/a	39	54	39								
New Car/Truck Sales*	n/a	61	79	62								
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a											
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15								
New Car/Truck Purchases	1,299	n/a	n/a	n/a								
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a								
Purchases within Parish	132	n/a	n/a	n/a								
New Car/Truck Sales*	202	n/a	n/a	n/a								
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a								



Source: Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety (compiled by Dominion Cross-Sell)

* = Includes only new vehicle sales within Louisiana

Economic Reporter

St. Helena Parish

Employment in St. Helena Parish in the first quarter of 2015 rose 4.4 percent (+183 jobs) compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The labor force grew 5.3 percent, causing the unemployment rate to rise to 9.7 percent from the 9.0 percent of a year ago.

The value of taxable sales fell 5.5 percent compared to the first quarter of 2014, in contrast to

the 6.0 percent average increase for the region.

Building permits for residential units fell 37.5 percent from the previous quarter but were unchanged compared to 1Q2014.

Residents of St. Helena Parish purchased 39 new cars and light trucks in the first quarter of 2015.

EMPLOYMENT													
ST. HELENA PARISH													
Labor Force	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	
	4,548	4,624	4,758	4,818	4,795	4,808	4,792	4,786	4,780	4,746	4,712	4,775	
% Change vs Prior Year	-7.9%	-8.2%	-10.4%	-9.7%	-8.8%	-7.5%	-6.2%	-5.5%	-5.2%	6.0%	4.7%	-4.8%	
Total Employment	4,180	4,200	4,222	4,270	4,256	4,299	4,326	4,324	4,284	4,248	4,274	4,326	
% Change vs Prior Year	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%	3.9%	4.2%	4.6%	4.3%	4.6%	5.0%	4.0%	4.4%	
Unemployment Rate	8.1%	9.2%	11.3%	11.4%	11.2%	10.6%	9.7%	9.7%	10.4%	10.5%	9.3%	9.4%	
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.6%	-2.0%	-2.1%	-1.4%	-0.9%	-0.7%	-0.6%	0.3%	1.0%	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%	
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15									
Labor Force	4,643	4,807	4,786	4,744									
% Change vs Prior Year	0.7%	2.7%	4.8%	5.3%									
Total Employment	4,201	4,275	4,311	4,283									
% Change vs Prior Year	3.3%	3.9%	4.5%	4.4%									
Unemployment Rate	9.5%	11.1%	9.9%	9.7%									
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.2%	-1.0%	0.3%	0.7%									

Total Employment

Month	2013	2014	2015
Jan	4,050	4,000	4,250
Feb	4,080	4,100	4,280
Mar	4,120	4,150	4,300
Apr	4,150	4,180	4,320
May	4,180	4,200	4,340
Jun	4,200	4,220	4,360
Jul	4,220	4,240	4,380
Aug	4,200	4,220	4,360
Sep	4,220	4,240	4,380
Oct	4,240	4,260	4,400
Nov	4,240	4,260	4,400
Dec	4,220	4,240	4,380

Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CLAIMS													
ST. HELENA PARISH													
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Date	1/3/15	1/10/15	1/17/15	1/24/15	1/31/15	2/7/15	2/14/15	2/21/15	2/28/15	3/7/15	3/14/15	3/21/15	3/28/15
Initial UI Claims	3	6	4	4	1	5	1	1	3	8	2	5	4
Weeks Claimed	29	30	30	33	35	35	37	35	30	36	34	36	30

Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

Week	2013	2014	2015
1	3	3	4
2	7	3	6
3	11	2	4
4	4	4	4
5	10	2	2
6	4	4	4
7	8	1	1
8	6	4	1
9	4	4	3
10	6	8	4
11	1	1	3
12	3	2	4
13	2	1	4

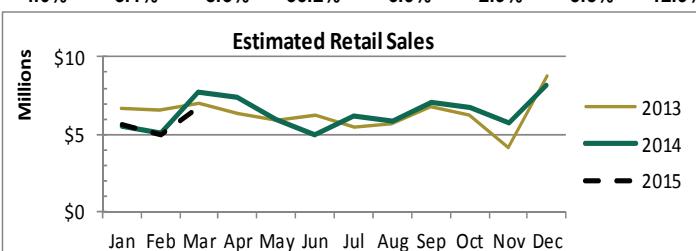
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

St. Helena Parish—continued

ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

ST. HELENA PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Estimated Retail Sales (mil.)	\$7.37	\$5.97	\$4.90	\$6.12	\$5.88	\$7.01	\$6.76	\$5.68	\$8.20	\$5.66	\$4.90	\$6.74
% Change vs Prior Month	-4.7%	-19.1%	-17.9%	24.9%	-3.9%	19.2%	-3.6%	-16.0%	44.5%	-31.0%	-13.5%	37.6%
% Change vs. Prior Year	15.8%	0.6%	-21.1%	12.7%	4.0%	3.1%	8.3%	36.2%	-6.9%	2.9%	-3.3%	-12.9%
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15								
Quarterly Avg. Sales (mil.)	\$6.08	\$6.34	\$6.88	\$5.76								
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	-0.3%	4.3%	8.5%	-16.2%								
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.5%	6.3%	7.4%	-5.5%								



Source: St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

ST. HELENA PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Total Permits	1	1	5	5	2	4	4	1	3	2	1	2
% Change vs Prior Year	0.0%	-50.0%	150.0%	400.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	-50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Units	1	1	5	5	2	4	4	1	3	2	1	2
% Change vs Prior Year	0.0%	-50.0%	150.0%	400.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	-50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15								
Total Permits	7	11	8	5								
% Change vs Prior Year	75.0%	175.0%	33.3%	0.0%								
Total Units	7	11	8	5								
% Change vs Prior Year	75.0%	175.0%	33.3%	0.0%								

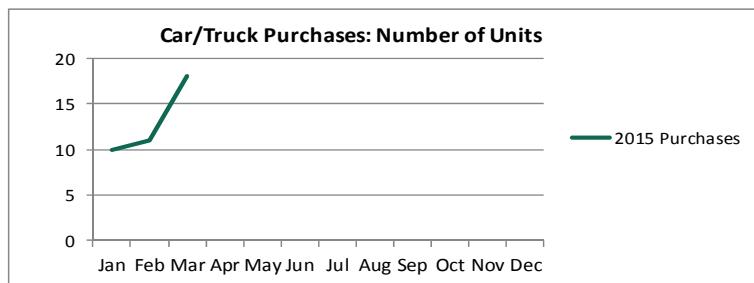
Sources: 2008-2010 - <http://censtats.census.gov> (estimates w/ imputation)
2011-2015 - St. Helena Parish Police Jury: Building Permit Department

New Light Vehicle Purchases & Sales

ST. HELENA PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
New Car/Truck Purchases	10	11	18									
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a	n/a	n/a									
Purchases within Parish	0	0	0									
New Car/Truck Sales*	0	0	0									
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a	n/a	n/a									
	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15								
New Car/Truck Purchases	39											
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a											
Purchases within Parish	0											
New Car/Truck Sales*	0											
% Change vs Prior Year	n/a											

Source: Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety (compiled by Dominion Cross-Sell)
* = Includes only new vehicle sales within Louisiana



Economic Reporter

St. Tammany Parish

Total employment in St. Tammany Parish in the first quarter of 2015 increased 2.1 percent compared to 1Q2014, somewhat below the average gain for the region (3.1 percent).

The labor force increased by 3.1 percent and the unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent from 4.8 percent in 1Q2014.

The value of taxable retail sales in 1Q2015 rose 4.9 percent compared to the first quarter of 2014, short of the 6.0 percent average gain for the region.

Building permits for residential units rose 44.5 percent over the previous quarter and 27.3 percent compared to the first quarter of 2014, reflecting a very optimistic outlook for construction activities in the parish.

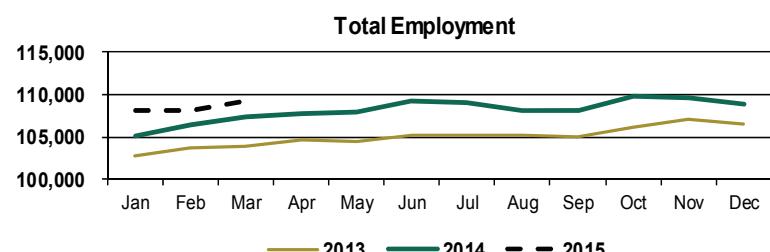
St. Tammany Parish residents purchased 2,862 new cars and light trucks in 1Q2015. St. Tammany Parish dealers sold a total of 2,592 new cars and light trucks within Louisiana — 1,686 to parish residents and 906 to residents of other parishes. Data was not available for out-of-state sales.

EMPLOYMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Labor Force	112,844	114,120	116,347	116,563	115,851	115,295	117,022	116,705	115,413	115,237	114,387	115,795
% Change vs Prior Year	1.9%	2.5%	2.7%	3.6%	3.5%	3.8%	4.4%	3.7%	3.6%	4.1%	2.7%	2.6%
Total Employment	107,808	108,013	109,177	109,087	108,144	108,109	109,794	109,544	108,860	108,142	108,148	109,330
% Change vs Prior Year	3.1%	3.5%	3.7%	3.6%	2.9%	2.9%	3.5%	2.2%	2.1%	2.9%	1.7%	1.9%
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	5.4%	6.2%	6.4%	6.7%	6.2%	6.2%	6.1%	5.7%	6.2%	5.5%	5.6%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.1%	-0.9%	-0.9%	0.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	1.4%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%

	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15
Labor Force	114,437	115,903	116,380	115,140
% Change vs Prior Year	2.4%	3.6%	3.9%	3.1%
Total Employment	108,333	108,447	109,399	108,540
% Change vs Prior Year	3.4%	3.1%	2.6%	2.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	6.4%	6.0%	5.7%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.0%	0.5%	1.2%	0.9%



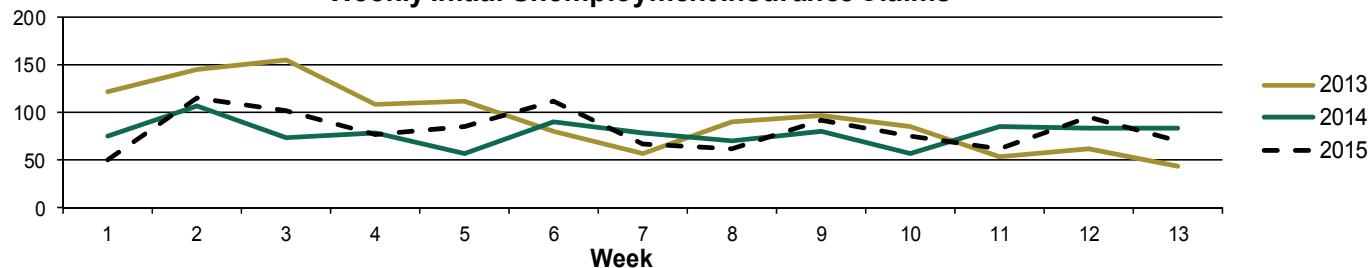
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CLAIMS

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Date	1/3/15	1/10/15	1/17/15	1/24/15	1/31/15	2/7/15	2/14/15	2/21/15	2/28/15	3/7/15	3/14/15	3/21/15	3/28/15
Initial UI Claims	50	116	102	78	86	112	67	63	92	76	63	96	70
Weeks Claimed	648	682	680	672	676	678	700	703	699	712	655	669	677

Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



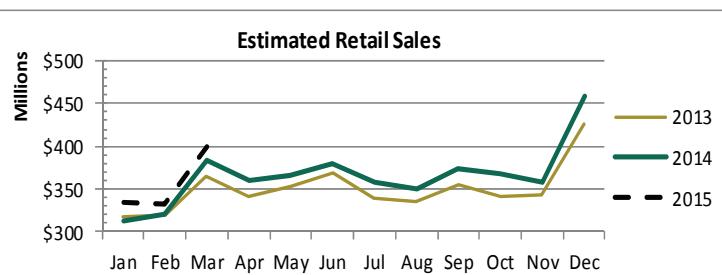
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

St. Tammany Parish—continued

ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Estimated Retail Sales (mil.)	\$359.33	\$366.16	\$379.57	\$357.56	\$350.30	\$373.10	\$367.61	\$357.93	\$459.13	\$334.55	\$331.54	\$399.22
% Change vs Prior Month	-6.1%	1.9%	3.7%	-5.8%	-2.0%	6.5%	-1.5%	-2.6%	28.3%	-27.1%	-0.9%	20.4%
% Change vs. Prior Year	5.5%	3.9%	2.7%	5.5%	4.3%	4.9%	7.6%	4.1%	8.0%	6.9%	3.5%	4.3%
	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>								
Quarterly Avg. Sales (mil.)	\$368.35	\$360.32	\$394.89	\$355.10								
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	8.8%	-2.2%	9.6%	-10.1%								
% Change vs Prior Year	4.0%	4.9%	6.7%	4.9%								

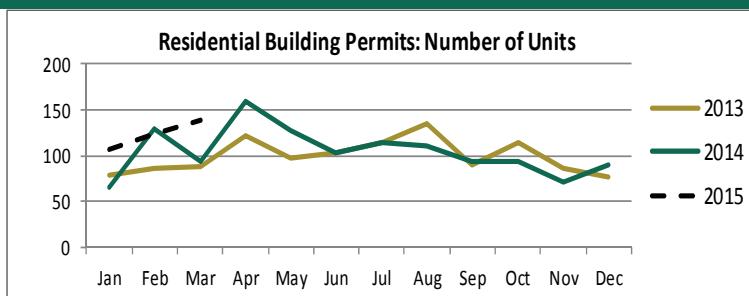


Source: St. Tammany Sales and Use Tax Department

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Total Permits	160	128	103	114	109	94	93	71	90	106	123	139
% Change vs Prior Year	32.2%	30.6%	1.0%	0.0%	-19.3%	5.6%	-18.4%	-16.5%	18.4%	60.6%	-4.7%	47.9%
Total Units	160	128	103	114	110	94	93	71	90	106	123	138
% Change vs Prior Year	32.2%	30.6%	1.0%	0.0%	-18.5%	5.6%	-18.4%	-16.5%	18.4%	60.6%	-4.7%	46.8%
	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>								
Total Permits	391	317	254	368								
% Change vs Prior Year	21.8%	-6.2%	-7.6%	27.3%								
Total Units	391	318	254	367								
% Change vs Prior Year	21.8%	-5.9%	-7.6%	27.0%								

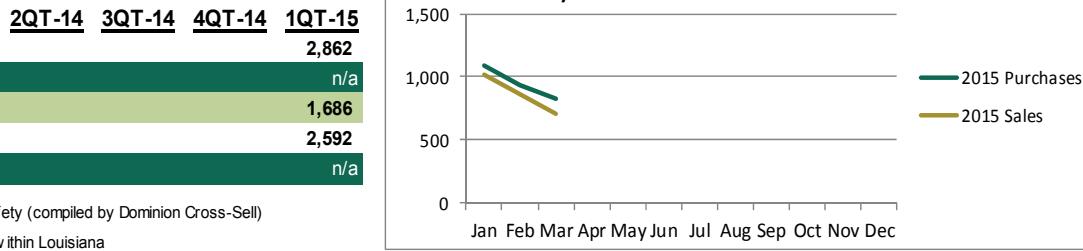


Sources: St. Tammany Parish Permit Office, Town of Abita Springs, Village of Folsom, Town of Madisonville, City of Mandeville, Town of Pearl River, City of Slidell, <http://censtats.census.gov> (some data estimated)

New Light Vehicle Purchases & Sales

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
New Car/Truck Purchases										1,093	938	831
% Change vs Prior Year										n/a	n/a	n/a
Purchases within Parish										659	555	472
New Car/Truck Sales*										1,019	863	710
% Change vs Prior Year										n/a	n/a	n/a



Source: Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety (compiled by Dominion Cross-Sell)

* = Includes only new vehicle sales within Louisiana

Economic Reporter

Tangipahoa Parish

Total employment in Tangipahoa Parish in the first quarter of 2015 grew 3.9 percent compared to the first quarter of 2014. The workforce rose 4.9 percent, causing the unemployment rate to rise to 7.4 percent from the 6.6 percent of a year ago.

The value of taxable sales rose 4.0 percent compared to the first quarter of the previous year, which was below the 6.0 percent average for the region.

Permitted residential units fell 12.6 percent from the previous quarter and were 8.8 percent lower

compared to the first quarter of 2014, reflecting a moderately depressed outlook for residential construction activities.

Tangipahoa Parish residents purchased 1,183 new cars and light trucks in the first quarter of 2015, including 616 from dealers within the parish and 567 from outside dealers.

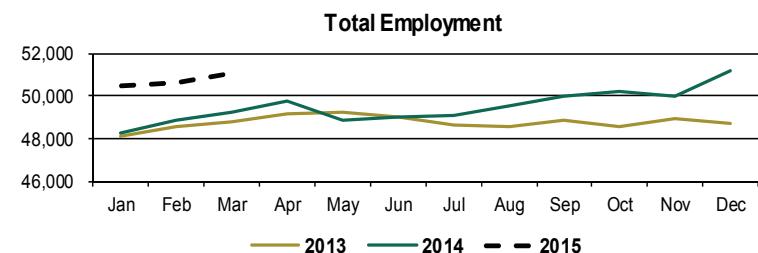
Tangipahoa Parish dealers also sold 672 vehicles to residents of other Louisiana parishes, for total in-state sales of 1,288 vehicles.

EMPLOYMENT

TANGIPAHOA PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Labor Force	52,940	52,104	52,718	53,066	53,553	53,791	53,869	53,927	55,326	54,855	54,436	55,035
% Change vs Prior Year	0.4%	-1.9%	-2.0%	0.2%	1.7%	2.2%	3.5%	3.7%	7.2%	5.6%	4.6%	4.4%
Total Employment	49,760	48,851	49,024	49,078	49,549	49,991	50,225	49,987	51,146	50,440	50,593	51,069
% Change vs Prior Year	1.2%	-0.7%	0.0%	0.9%	2.1%	2.3%	3.4%	2.1%	5.1%	4.5%	3.6%	3.7%
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	6.2%	7.0%	7.5%	7.5%	7.1%	6.8%	7.3%	7.6%	8.0%	7.1%	7.2%
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.8%	-1.1%	-1.9%	-0.6%	-0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	1.4%	1.9%	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%

	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15
Labor Force	52,587	53,470	54,374	54,775
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.2%	1.4%	4.8%	4.9%
Total Employment	49,212	49,539	50,453	50,701
% Change vs Prior Year	0.2%	1.7%	3.5%	3.9%
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	7.4%	7.2%	7.4%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.3%	-0.3%	1.1%	0.8%



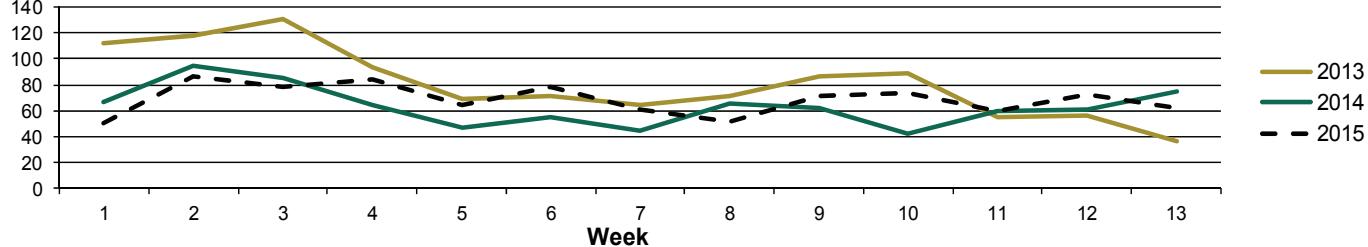
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CLAIMS

TANGIPAHOA PARISH

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Date	1/3/15	1/10/15	1/17/15	1/24/15	1/31/15	2/7/15	2/14/15	2/21/15	2/28/15	3/7/15	3/14/15	3/21/15	3/28/15
Initial UI Claims	51	87	79	84	65	79	61	52	71	74	60	73	62
Weeks Claimed	650	652	663	634	617	591	587	566	573	576	554	564	570

Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Tangipahoa Parish—continued

ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

TANGIPAHOA PARISH

	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>Jun 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Sep 14</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>
Estimated Retail Sales (mil.)	\$155.68	\$152.82	\$173.88	\$154.64	\$149.15	\$156.59	\$161.26	\$164.98	\$195.44	\$150.85	\$153.53	\$175.35
% Change vs Prior Month	-5.4%	-1.8%	13.8%	-11.1%	-3.5%	5.0%	3.0%	2.3%	18.5%	-22.8%	1.8%	14.2%
% Change vs. Prior Year	1.9%	3.7%	10.5%	8.4%	4.0%	5.3%	9.5%	16.9%	16.8%	-3.0%	8.9%	6.5%
	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>								
Quarterly Avg. Sales (mil.)	\$160.79	\$153.46	\$173.90	\$159.91								
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	4.6%	-4.6%	13.3%	-8.0%								
% Change vs Prior Year	5.4%	5.9%	14.5%	4.0%								



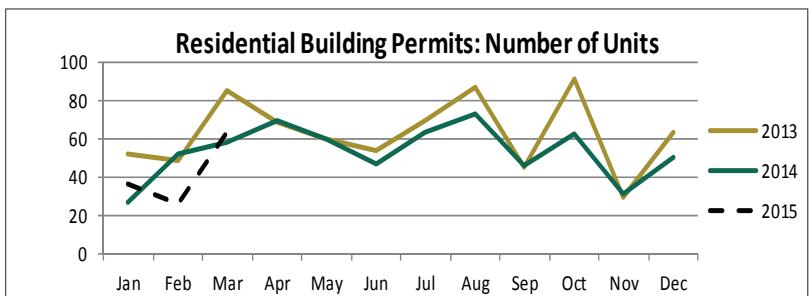
Source: Sales Tax Division of the Tangipahoa Parish School System

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

TANGIPAHOA PARISH

	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>Jun 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Sep 14</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>
Total Permits	69	53	47	61	58	46	60	29	46	36	26	61
% Change vs Prior Year	1.5%	-11.7%	-13.0%	-24.6%	-37.9%	2.2%	-4.8%	0.0%	-6.1%	33.3%	-48.0%	5.2%
Total Units	69	60	47	63	73	46	62	31	50	36	26	63
% Change vs Prior Year	1.5%	0.0%	-13.0%	-21.7%	-21.8%	2.2%	-31.9%	6.9%	-20.6%	33.3%	-50.0%	8.6%

	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>
Total Permits	169	165	135	123
% Change vs Prior Year	-7.1%	-17.9%	-4.3%	-8.9%
Total Units	176	182	143	125
% Change vs Prior Year	-3.3%	-9.5%	-21.9%	-8.8%



Source: Tangipahoa Parish Permit Office, City of Hammond Permit Office, City of Ponchatoula Permit Office

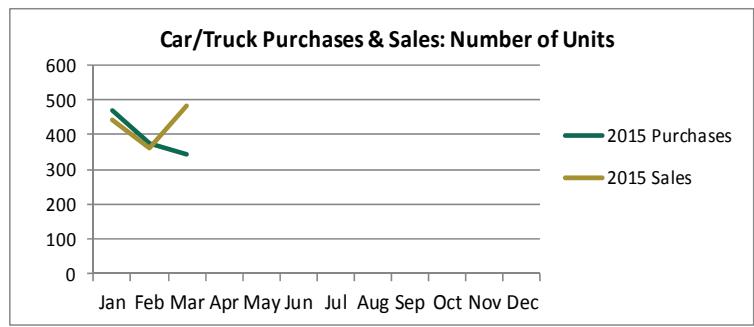
(Note: City of Hammond permits for 1Q2015 estimated by BRC)

New Light Vehicle Purchases & Sales

TANGIPAHOA PARISH

	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>Jun 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Sep 14</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>
New Car/Truck Purchases										468	373	342
% Change vs Prior Year										n/a	n/a	n/a
Purchases within Parish										250	181	185
New Car/Truck Sales*										444	361	483
% Change vs Prior Year										n/a	n/a	n/a

	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>
New Car/Truck Purchases			1,183	
% Change vs Prior Year			n/a	
Purchases within Parish			616	
New Car/Truck Sales*			1,288	
% Change vs Prior Year			n/a	



Source: Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety (compiled by Dominion Cross-Sell)

* = Includes only new vehicle sales within Louisiana

Economic Reporter

Washington Parish

Total employment in Washington Parish in the first quarter of 2015 rose 2.2 percent compared to the first quarter of the previous year. The labor force rose 3.4 percent, leading to an increase in the unemployment rate to 7.8 percent from the 6.7 percent of 1Q2014.

The value of taxable sales in 1Q2015 was 15.5 percent higher than in the first quarter of the previous year, far surpassing the 6.0 percent average gains for the region.

Residential building permits fell 63.6 percent from the prior quarter and were 46.7 percent lower compared to the first quarter of 2014, projecting a significant slowing of residential construction activity for the parish.

Washington Parish residents purchased 291 new cars and light trucks in the first quarter of 2015 — 31 from dealers within Washington Parish and 260 from outside the parish.

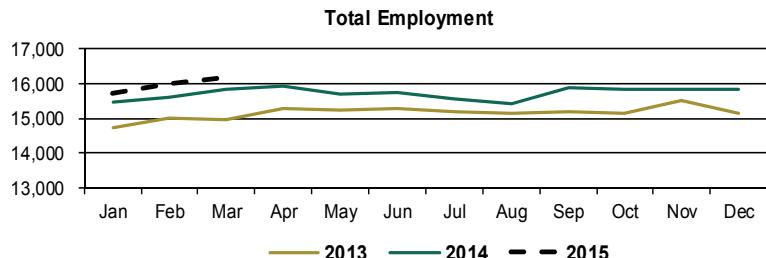
Washington Parish dealers sold 10 additional vehicles to residents of other Louisiana parishes.

EMPLOYMENT

WASHINGTON PARISH

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14	Jul 14	Aug 14	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15
Labor Force	16,987	16,966	17,309	17,200	17,003	17,364	17,276	17,309	17,223	17,191	17,290	17,525
% Change vs Prior Year	2.3%	1.7%	1.5%	2.4%	2.4%	5.0%	5.2%	4.0%	6.5%	3.5%	3.6%	3.3%
Total Employment	15,957	15,701	15,744	15,581	15,417	15,870	15,833	15,862	15,861	15,744	16,002	16,202
% Change vs Prior Year	4.3%	3.1%	2.9%	2.5%	1.8%	4.4%	4.6%	2.3%	4.8%	1.8%	2.5%	2.4%
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	7.5%	9.0%	9.4%	9.3%	8.6%	8.4%	8.4%	7.9%	8.4%	7.4%	7.5%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.8%	-1.3%	-1.3%	-0.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.0%	0.8%

	2QT-14	3QT-14	4QT-14	1QT-15
Labor Force	17,087	17,189	17,269	17,335
% Change vs Prior Year	1.8%	3.2%	5.2%	3.4%
Total Employment	15,801	15,623	15,852	15,983
% Change vs Prior Year	3.5%	2.9%	3.9%	2.2%
Unemployment Rate	7.5%	9.1%	8.2%	7.8%
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.5%	0.3%	1.2%	1.1%



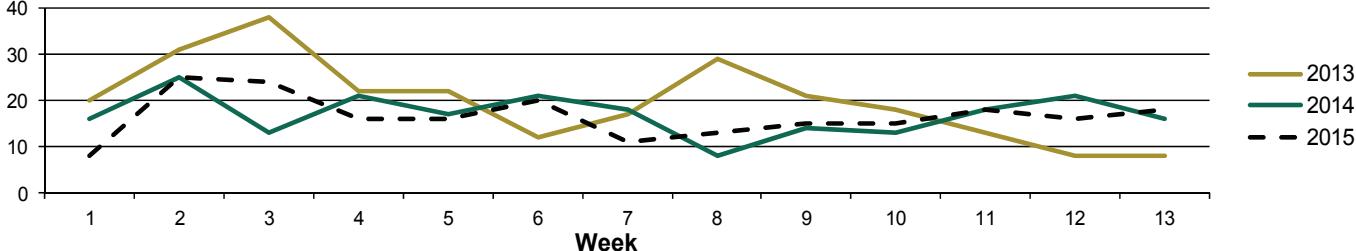
Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) CLAIMS

WASHINGTON PARISH

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Date	1/3/15	1/10/15	1/17/15	1/24/15	1/31/15	2/7/15	2/14/15	2/21/15	2/28/15	3/7/15	3/14/15	3/21/15	3/28/15
Initial UI Claims	8	25	24	16	16	20	11	13	15	15	18	16	18
Weeks Claimed	157	158	162	172	152	162	157	158	160	156	139	147	143

Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Washington Parish—continued

ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

WASHINGTON PARISH

	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>Jun 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Sep 14</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>
Estimated Retail Sales (mil.)	\$42.31	\$40.22	\$45.35	\$37.11	\$33.76	\$42.42	\$33.50	\$35.25	\$46.14	\$43.25	\$40.83	\$48.01
% Change vs Prior Month	-8.2%	-4.9%	12.8%	-18.2%	-9.0%	25.7%	-21.0%	5.2%	30.9%	-6.3%	-5.6%	17.6%
% Change vs. Prior Year	23.6%	12.8%	12.8%	72.0%	-17.4%	9.2%	-13.8%	5.5%	3.6%	26.4%	19.8%	4.2%
	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>								
Quarterly Avg. Sales (mil.)	\$42.63	\$37.76	\$38.30	\$44.03								
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	11.8%	-11.4%	1.4%	15.0%								
% Change vs Prior Year	16.1%	11.9%	-1.6%	15.5%								

Source: Washington Parish Sheriff's Office - Sales and Use Tax Department.

Note: November and December 2014 sales tax collections combined in data submitted by WPSO, so retail sales for these two months were estimated by BRC.

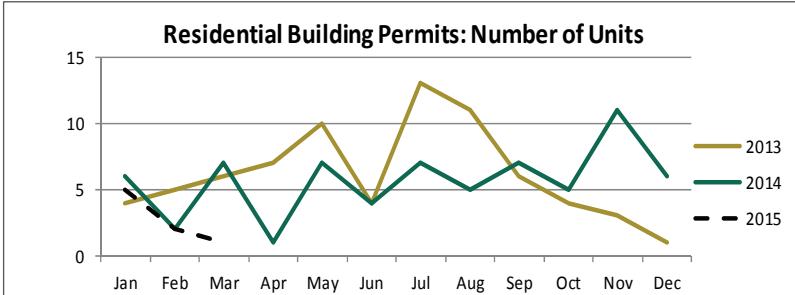


RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

WASHINGTON PARISH

	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>Jun 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Sep 14</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>
Total Permits	1	7	4	7	5	7	5	11	6	5	2	1
% Change vs Prior Year	-85.7%	-30.0%	0.0%	-46.2%	-54.5%	16.7%	25.0%	266.7%	500.0%	-16.7%	0.0%	-85.7%
Total Units	1	7	4	7	5	7	5	11	6	5	2	1
% Change vs Prior Year	-85.7%	-30.0%	0.0%	-46.2%	-54.5%	16.7%	25.0%	266.7%	500.0%	-16.7%	0.0%	-85.7%

	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>
Total Permits	12	19	22	8
% Change vs Prior Year	-42.9%	-36.7%	175.0%	-46.7%
Total Units	12	19	22	8
% Change vs Prior Year	-42.9%	-36.7%	175.0%	-46.7%



Sources: Washington Parish Permit Office and
<http://censtats.census.gov>

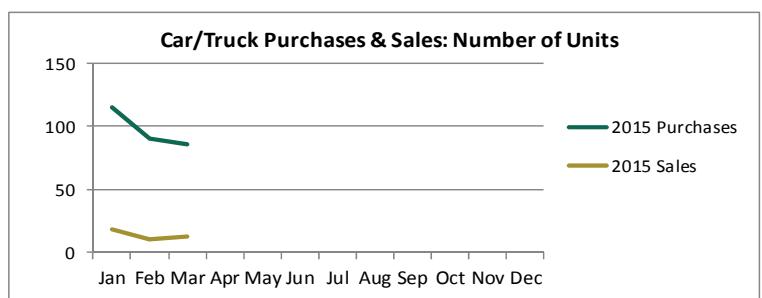
New Light Vehicle Purchases & Sales

WASHINGTON PARISH

	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>Jun 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Sep 14</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>
New Car/Truck Purchases										115	90	86
% Change vs Prior Year										n/a	n/a	n/a
Purchases within Parish										14	8	9
New Car/Truck Sales*										18	10	13
% Change vs Prior Year										n/a	n/a	n/a

	<u>2QT-14</u>	<u>3QT-14</u>	<u>4QT-14</u>	<u>1QT-15</u>
New Car/Truck Purchases			291	
% Change vs Prior Year			n/a	
Purchases within Parish			31	
New Car/Truck Sales*			41	
% Change vs Prior Year			n/a	

Source: Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety (compiled by Dominion Cross-Sell)
* = Includes only new vehicle sales within Louisiana



Economic Reporter

SOUTHEASTERN

Gnarly Barley

Southeastern alumni brew a successful local business

Zac and Cari Caramonta opened Gnarly Barley Brewing Company in the heart of Hammond in the spring of 2014 and have experienced growth that has surprised even them. Their success, though, is not the result of luck, but of years of planning.

After much research, planning and recipe creating, Zac did his first full brew in their kitchen – and it was a success.

Soon thereafter Zac designed and built a larger scale brewing system and moved from the kitchen to the garage. In 2011, the couple made the jump into the business world, forming an LLC and getting ready to produce beer to sell.

After working festivals and brewing small quantities, the couple knew the time was right to move to the next level.

Releasing their first beers in May 2014, growth in the past months has been far beyond expectations. Gnarly Barley currently produces three main beers: Catahoula Common, Radical Rye P.A. and Korova Milk Porter.

Each beer is an original recipe created by Zac, and all three have received acclaim both locally or regionally. Gnarly Barley beers have won awards in the region and have been listed on every regional top beer list and ranking since opening last year.

As of June 2015, Gnarly Barley was offered in nearly 300 bars and restaurants from Lafayette to Slidell. Zac and Cari see strong growth for some time based on current sales trends and the feedback they are receiving.

Read the full "Gnarly Barley: Home Grown Brew" story and more in the current edition of [Southeastern Magazine](#). - (Article courtesy of Southeastern's Public Information Office.)



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- Southeast Louisiana Business Center
- College of Business

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St. Tammany Parish Permit Office and Sheriff's Office Sales and Use Tax Department

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Washington Parish Building and Planning Department and Sheriff's Office Sales and Use Tax Department

Building permit offices of the following municipalities:

Town of Abita Springs
Village of Albany
City of Denham Springs
Village of Folsom
City of Hammond
Town of Livingston

Town of Madisonville
City of Mandeville
Town of Pearl River
City of Ponchatoula
City of Slidell
Town of Walker