

Economic Reporter

Promoting Economic Development in Southeast Louisiana

Fourth Quarter 2006

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U.S. Economy

Dr. A. M. M. Jamal

Professor of Management

The U. S. real gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 3.9 percent during the final quarter of 2006 and rose 5.7 percent during the past twelve months. Total non-farm employment for the fourth quarter grew 1.7 percent compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. A survey of

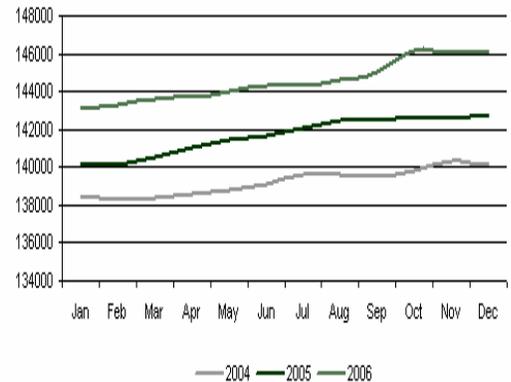
forecasters by the *Economist*, showed that the U.S. economy would grow 2.6 percent and 2.9 percent in 2007 and 2008 respectively. In addition, forecasts published by the Wachovia Bank indicate similar growth rates of 2.6 percent and 3.0 percent for 2006 and 2007 respectively.

EMPLOYMENT

UNITED STATES (Numbers in Thousands)

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Labor Force	150,114	150,449	150,652	150,811	150,991	151,321	151,534	151,698	151,635	152,397	152,590	152,572
% Change Last Year	1.4%	1.6%	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Total Employment	143,074	143,257	143,641	143,688	143,976	144,363	144,329	144,579	145,010	146,125	146,014	146,081
% Change Last Year	2.0%	2.2%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.6%	1.5%	1.8%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%
Total Non-farm	132,328	133,196	134,116	135,030	135,865	136,407	135,141	135,281	136,078	136,787	137,141	136,935
% Change Last Year	-0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	1.3%	1.9%	2.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.1%	1.8%
Unemployed	7,040	7,193	7,011	7,123	7,015	6,957	7,205	7,119	6,625	6,272	6,576	6,491
% Change Last Year	-9.0%	-10.0%	-8.4%	-7.0%	-8.3%	-7.1%	-3.9%	-3.7%	-13.5%	-15.4%	-13.2%	-12.0%
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.8%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%	4.8%	4.7%	4.4%	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%
Change Last Year	-0.5%	-0.6%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.4%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.7%	-0.8%	-0.7%	-0.6%

	1Q7-06	2Q7-06	3Q7-06	4Q7-06
Labor Force	150,405	151,041	151,622	152,520
% Change Last Year	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.6%
Total Employment	143,324	144,009	144,639	146,073
% Change Last Year	2.2%	1.8%	1.6%	2.4%
Total Non-farm	133,213	135,767	135,500	136,954
% Change Last Year	0.3%	1.8%	1.2%	2.0%
Unemployed	7,081	7,032	6,983	6,446
% Change Last Year	-9.1%	-9.2%	-7.1%	-13.5%
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%	4.2%
Change Last Year	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.4%	-0.7%



Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

STATE

Louisiana Employment Situation

Dr. A. M. M. Jamal
Professor of Management

The total state employment for the fourth quarter of 2006 declined 0.3 percent from the third quarter, but remained 0.1 percent higher than in the same months of the previous year. The increase was in non-farm employment, which expanded 1.6 percent in the fourth quarter of the year, up 3.7 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005.

The unemployment rate for the most recent three months was 4 percent compared with 3.7 percent in the third quarter and 9.5 percent one year ago. The unemployment rate is lower primarily because of a significant drop in the number of people actively seeking work.

EMPLOYMENT

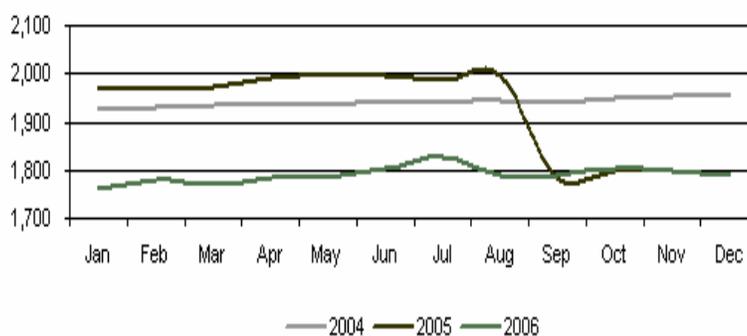
LOUISIANA (Numbers in Thousands)

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Labor Force	1,862	1,859	1,854	1,863	1,875	1,914	1,894	1,860	1,858	1,879	1,877	1,858
% Change Last Year	-11.0%	-11.2%	-10.9%	-11.3%	-11.2%	-11.2%	-11.7%	-12.8%	-8.2%	-7.5%	-7.6%	-2.0%
Total Employment	1,759	1,781	1,772	1,786	1,785	1,803	1,827	1,790	1,790	1,790	1,799	1,788
% Change Last Year	-10.8%	-9.5%	-10.1%	-10.4%	-10.6%	-9.8%	-8.0%	-10.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Non-farm	1,734	1,753	1,766	1,767	1,774	1,775	1,768	1,770	1,792	1,798	1,806	1,810
% Change Last Year	-10.0%	-8.9%	-8.5%	-8.6%	-8.3%	-8.2%	-7.8%	-7.8%	3.6%	4.2%	3.5%	3.4%
Unemployed	103	78	82	77	90	111	67	70	68	74	78	70
% Change Last Year	-14.0%	-38.1%	-25.6%	-29.0%	-21.3%	-19.9%	-49.2%	-45.6%	-71.6%	-67.8%	-66.5%	-36.1%
Unemployment rate	5.5%	4.2%	4.4%	4.1%	4.8%	5.8%	3.5%	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%	4.2%	3.8%
Change Last Year	-0.2%	-1.8%	-0.9%	-1.0%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-2.6%	-2.2%	-8.1%	-7.4%	-7.3%	-2.0%

	1Q-06	2Q-06	3Q-06	4Q-06
Labor Force	1,858	1,884	1,871	1,872
% Change Last Year	-11.0%	-11.2%	-11.0%	-5.8%
Total Employment	1,771	1,791	1,803	1,797
% Change Last Year	-10.1%	-10.3%	-6.3%	0.1%
Total Non-farm	1,751	1,772	1,777	1,805
% Change Last Year	-9.2%	-8.4%	-4.2%	3.7%
Unemployed	87	93	68	74
% Change Last Year	-26.1%	-13.0%	-59.0%	-61.2%
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.9%	3.7%	4.0%
Change Last Year	-1.0%	-0.7%	-4.3%	-5.6%

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

Louisiana Employment



STATE

Louisiana Shrimp Industry

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In 2005, (the latest year for which the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published complete information), consumption of all commercial fish and shellfish in the United States was 16.2 pounds per person. Of that total, shrimp was the most popular food. Shrimp in all forms accounted for 4.1 pounds, down 0.1 pounds from the previous year. Since Louisiana has a shrimp fishing industry and a shrimp processing industry, some people might be surprised to find out just how small a share of the shrimp eaten in the United States are caught in the United States. According to NMFS, of the total shrimp supply in the United States in 2005, U.S. commercial landings accounted for 9.8 percent and imports accounted for the rest.

Shrimp are an annual species. Shrimp reach maturity within a single season and only rarely live more than a single year. This means that the shrimp population can recover from poor growing conditions or from a harvest, in a single season. The NMFS verifies annually that domestic stocks of shrimp are sustainable. The closures of some areas to fishing and the regulation of shrimp fishing seasons in each state help to ensure that shrimp stocks are not depleted and that the ecosystems on which this fishery depends are protected.

Currently, there are seven shrimp processing plants in Louisiana. DoRan Sea-Pak, soon to open in Independence, will be the eighth. DoRan is putting the finishing touches on their plant, and plans to begin operations April 23rd. The plant will operate six days per week, with employees working 12-hour days. DoRan will be a pack-for-hire processor, meaning that they will not be packing products

under their own label, but packing products to be sold under the customers' label. Shrimp will be picked up from the docks in DoRan's refrigerated trucks.

DoRan will be the only shrimp processor on the Gulf Coast operating a completely refrigerated plant. Temperatures in the plant will be kept to a maximum of 50 degrees.

DoRan will process wild-caught shrimp from the Gulf. Even though it has not yet begun production, there is already a certificate on the office wall certifying that DoRan is a processor of Wild American Shrimp. The Wild American Shrimp program promotes wild-caught domestic shrimp as a premium product.

So far (January and February 2007), landings of shrimp in Louisiana are running slightly ahead of landings during the same period in 2005, but behind the levels recorded in 2004 and 2003. The NMFS keeps track of overall statistics on fish and shrimp landings and prices. According to NMFS data, landed prices for Gulf and Atlantic shrimp in 2005 were only 81 percent of the prices received in 1982. So far this year, landed prices at northern Gulf ports (Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi) are lower than prices during the first two months of 2006, which were lower than the prices for any of the three years before that.

Lower prices have not kept shrimp fishermen off the water. After Katrina, then Rita came ashore in 2005, some thought the U.S. shrimp industry would never recover. The shrimp industry in Louisiana suffered tremendous losses in infrastructure, but those fishermen and processors that managed to stay in business or recover in time for the 2006 shrimp season experienced one of the largest harvests in years.

REGIONAL

North Shore Employment Situation

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Professor of Management

Total employment in the Northshore Region (the five parishes of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, Livingston and St. Helena) rose 3.8 percent during the fourth quarter of 2006 compared with the corresponding time for the prior year. St. Tammany and Livingston experienced 5.9 percent and 4.8 percent gains in employment during the past twelve months. On the other hand,

Washington Parish saw a 3.2 percent decline in employment followed by Tangipahoa, which experienced a 0.9 percent loss.

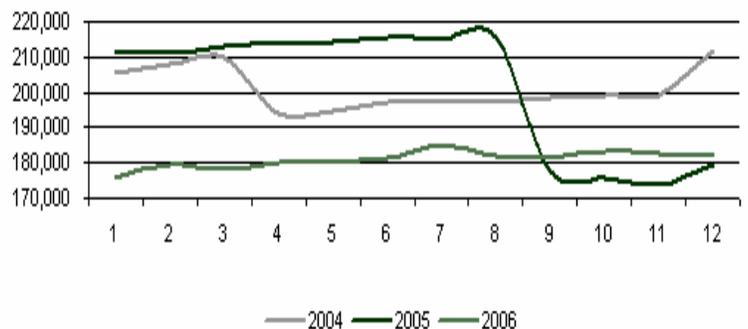
The unemployment rate in the region declined in the fourth quarter. The number of unemployed and the unemployment rate was lower in the region as a whole, and for each parish in the region, compared to the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT

NORTHSHORE

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Labor Force	187,633	188,827	187,631	189,033	190,487	193,589	192,309	189,526	188,378	190,877	190,738	189,319
% Change Last Year	-16.5%	-15.1%	-15.8%	-15.0%	-15.1%	-15.4%	-15.5%	-16.9%	-12.1%	-8.3%	-8.0%	-1.8%
Total Employment	175,669	179,627	178,376	180,292	180,437	181,638	185,192	182,097	181,389	183,440	182,885	182,230
% Change Last Year	-17.1%	-14.8%	-16.3%	-15.6%	-15.8%	-15.7%	-13.8%	-15.5%	2.1%	4.5%	5.3%	1.6%
Unemployed	6,270	4,818	5,026	4,930	5,784	7,088	4,288	4,490	4,259	4,499	4,773	4,411
% Change Last Year	-21.1%	-32.2%	-16.8%	-14.1%	-8.6%	-18.7%	-47.6%	-42.3%	-77.2%	-72.0%	-72.3%	-36.5%
Unemployment rate	3.3%	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%	0.0%	3.7%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%
Change Last Year	-0.2%	-0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.8%	-0.2%	-1.4%	-1.0%	-6.4%	-5.4%	-5.8%	-1.3%

	1Q-06	2Q-06	3Q-06	4Q-06
Labor Force	188,030	255,139	189,594	126,686
% Change Last Year	-15.8%	13.3%	-15.1%	-37.5%
Total Employment	177,891	242,520	182,309	121,705
% Change Last Year	-16.1%	13.1%	-10.1%	-30.9%
Unemployed	5,371	7,363	4,416	3,061
% Change Last Year	-23.6%	-7.7%	-61.7%	-77.2%
Unemployment rate	2.9%	2.8%	2.3%	1.6%
Change Last Year	-0.3%	-0.2%	-2.9%	-4.9%



Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

Sales Tax Collections in North Shore Region

The volume of sales reflects the level of business activity in a region, and represents an important aspect of the economic vigor of the Northshore parishes. Total value of taxable sales in the region fell 2.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006 when

compared with the same period a year ago. The value of sales grew 13.4 percent in St. Helena followed by a 8.3 percent growth in Livingston. On the other end of the spectrum the value of taxable sales fell 6 percent in Tangipahoa parish.

SALES TAX												
NORTHSHORE												
	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Total Sales (Mil.)	\$704	\$617	\$679	\$685	\$679	\$703	\$634	\$617	\$651	\$594	\$613	\$683
% Change Last Year	48.0%	45.5%	46.4%	36.2%	44.3%	41.7%	32.9%	69.7%	50.6%	-8.7%	-5.0%	6.7%
Sales Tax Collected (Mil.)	\$31	\$28	\$30	\$30	\$31	\$31	\$28	\$27	\$29	\$26	\$27	\$31
% Change Last Year	47.6%	46.9%	45.1%	35.3%	46.3%	40.7%	32.4%	77.3%	45.5%	-10.9%	-5.0%	9.8%

Source: St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office (Sales and Use Tax Division), Tangipahoa Parish Council - School Board, St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office, Livingston Parish Sales Tax Department, Washington Parish Sheriff's Office - Sales and Use Tax Department

Building Permits in North Shore Region

Construction projects reflect another aspect of a region's economy. The value of building permits is usually a leading indicator of the construction activity during the future months. The value of residential building permits in the region for the fourth quarter of 2006 grew 137.7 percent over a twelve month period, projecting a vigorous gain in future construction activities. There was a wide

dispersion in the value of building permits among the parishes of the region. On a percentage basis, St. Helena witnessed the biggest increase of 571.4 percent in the past twelve months. This was followed by 499.1 percent, 482.6 percent and 223.2 percent gains in St. Tammany, Washington and Tangipahoa parishes respectively. Livingston experienced a relatively modest gain of 18.2 percent for the year.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS												
NORTHSHORE												
	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
Total Units	314	594	800	681	613	585	472	774	514	515	472	938
% Change Last Year	-53.4%	56.7%	102.5%	71.1%	43.9%	41.6%	16.8%	36.0%	69.6%	106.8%	76.1%	313.2%
Value (\$000s)	34,716	37,854	55,454	53,138	50,526	43,683	38,013	73,652	39,548	35,706	30,541	98,192
% Change Last Year	71.2%	107.1%	175.9%	142.9%	148.8%	101.8%	85.5%	198.6%	48.7%	108.3%	12.2%	295.6%
Unincopr. Units	257	516	727	606	504	489	423	594	396	430	401	885
% Change Last Year	-58.5%	50.4%	105.4%	71.7%	29.9%	28.7%	14.9%	11.0%	51.1%	117.2%	91.9%	373.3%
Value (\$000s)	24,713	24,767	41,534	39,763	30,481	28,038	29,715	59,407	26,184	24,963	23,271	84,581
% Change Last Year	104.7%	66.8%	169.2%	149.0%	111.9%	61.9%	111.7%	238.7%	23.8%	136.9%	25.6%	375.1%
Corp. Units	57	78	73	75	109	96	49	180	118	85	71	53
% Change Last Year	3.6%	116.7%	78.0%	66.7%	186.8%	190.9%	36.1%	429.4%	187.8%	66.7%	20.3%	32.5%
Value (\$000s)	10,003	13,087	13,920	13,375	20,045	15,646	8,298	14,245	13,365	10,742	7,270	13,610
% Change Last Year	21.8%	281.5%	198.2%	126.5%	238.4%	261.4%	28.5%	99.9%	145.0%	62.6%	-16.2%	93.9%

Source: St Tammany Parish - Economic Development Information Clearing House, Tangipahoa - Building Permit Office, Washington Parish - Building Permit Office, St. Helena Parish - Building Permit Office.
*Hammond Corp. not included.

REGIONAL

Regional Real Estate

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Nationally, home sales in 2006 lagged behind sales reported in 2004 and in 2005. In contrast to the national trend, the sales rate for existing homes in Louisiana was higher in 2006 than in 2004 or 2005. The same was true in Mississippi and Texas. In both Louisiana and Mississippi, the seasonally-adjusted sales rate of existing homes peaked in the first quarter of 2006 and has since declined. In Texas, the seasonally adjusted rate for sales of existing homes peaked in the third quarter of 2006.

In Louisiana, existing homes (including single-family homes and condominiums) sold at a seasonally-adjusted rate of 87,000 per year in the fourth quarter, and ended the year with sales of 92,200. This was 15.8 percent higher than sales in 2004, and more than 5 percent higher than in 2005.

In order to compare the rate of home sales by state and for the nation, the following index compares the seasonally adjusted rate in each state to the average volume of sales reported in 2004, with the 2004 figure being equal to 100.

Prices for existing single-family homes in the Baton Rouge metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased faster through the second quarter of 2006 than prices in any other MSA for which the National Association of Realtors has published prices. In the second half of the year, the rate of increase slowed, and the median sales price for existing homes in the Baton Rouge MSA in the fourth quarter of 2006 was 12.7 percent higher than the median price one year earlier. Prices also increased through mid-2006 in other nearby metropolitan areas, from Gulfport to Houston, before moderating or falling slightly in the second half of the year.

Although sales of homes in the Northshore area have increased in terms of both sales numbers and value for the year as a whole, sales in the fourth quarter showed a substantial decline.

Existing Home Sales: Rate of Sales Compared to 2004

	'04 Annual	'05 Annual	1Q '06	2Q '06	3Q '06	4Q '06	'06 annual
U.S. Total State	100.0	104.4	100.2	98.6	92.6	92.1	95.6
Louisiana	100.0	109.5	124.1	109.7	113.9	109.3	115.8
Mississippi	100.0	105.7	120.8	109.6	98.1	113.1	109.8
Texas	100.0	109.5	113.5	120.1	122.7	120.0	119.2

Source: National Association of Realtors, Existing Home Sales by State.
4th quarter data is preliminary.

According to information obtained from the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, the median price of residential single-family homes sold in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes all increased over the comparable value in 2005 by; 14.0 percent in St. Tammany, 21.4 percent in Tangipahoa, and 15.2 percent in Washington Parish. The average length of time that homes in these parishes were on the market in 2006 also fell compared to the length of time homes were on the market in 2005, for all three parishes.

REGIONAL

Real Estate

Median Existing Home Prices and One-Year Change in Price, 2Q 2005 – 2Q 2006

Metropolitan Statistical Area	2Q '06 price	1-year change	4Q '06 price	1-year change
Baton Rouge, LA	\$172,300	27.3%	173,400	12.7%
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	178,000	16.6%	162,100	- 9.3%
Gulfport-Biloxi, MS	144,600	16.6%	152,000	3.4%
Jackson, MS	149,300	13.4%	145,300	2.0%
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA	136,100	8.8%	131,700	4.9%
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX	152,700	7.2%	148,600	1.6%

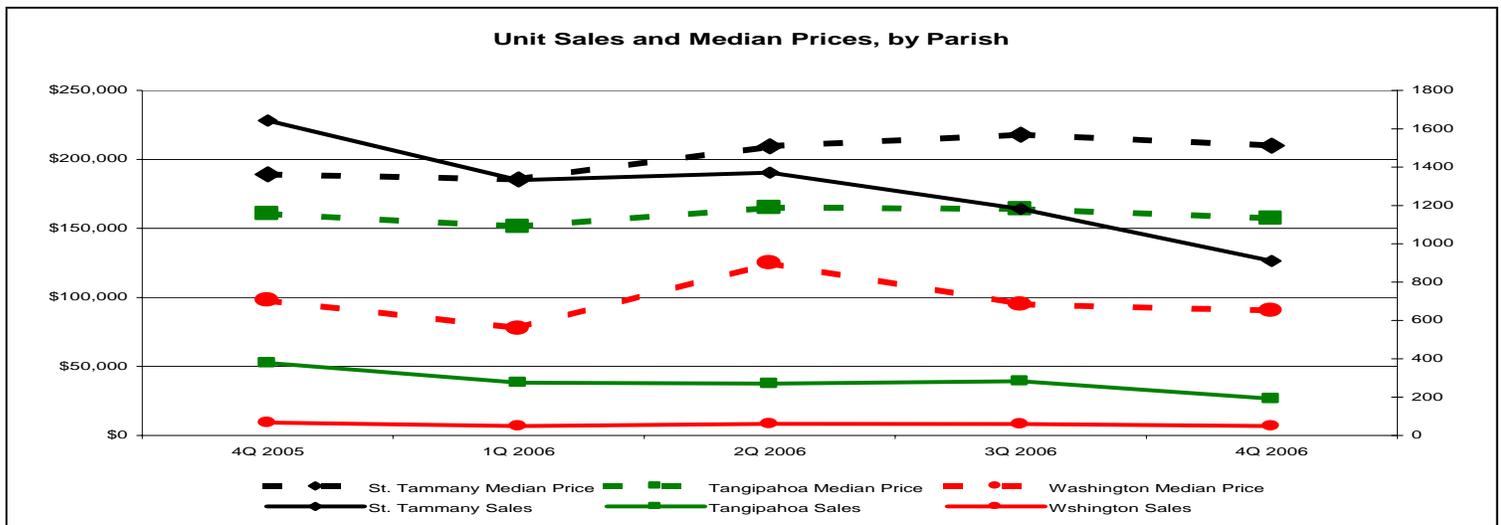
Source: National Association of Realtors, Single-family Home Sales by Metropolitan Statistical Area. 4th quarter data is preliminary.

In St. Tammany Parish, the median sales price of an existing single-family home and the average price per square foot increased every quarter from the fourth quarter of 2005 through the third quarter of 2006, and declined in the fourth quarter 2006. The number of houses sold per quarter has generally declined since the fourth quarter of 2005, and in the fourth quarter of 2006, sales fell 23 percent compared to the previous quarter. The average number of days on the market declined in each successive quarter from the fourth quarter of 2005 through the second quarter of 2006, and then increased in the third and fourth quarters of 2006.

In Tangipahoa Parish, when the data is considered by quarters, the median selling price of an existing

single-family home reached its highest level in the second quarter of 2006. The average price per square foot increased through the third quarter of 2006, and then declined. The number of homes sold has generally declined since the fourth quarter of 2005, and in the fourth quarter of 2006, fell 44.9 percent compared to the previous quarter. The average number of days on the market declined in each successive quarter through the third quarter of 2006, and then increased in the fourth quarter.

In Washington Parish, with a much smaller reported volume of sales, the median price for sales of existing single-family homes reached a maximum in the second quarter of 2006. The number of homes sold per quarter has declined over the past year, and fell 16.7 percent in the fourth quarter. There has not been a clear trend in the number of days on the market.



REGIONAL

Economic Impact of the CASA Tennis Tournament 2006

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Introduction

The CASA Women's 25K Pro Tennis Tournament is an annual event held to support various charitable causes, as well as to promote athletics in the area while spurring local economic activity. Last year 68 players, plus coaches and spectators, took advantage of the lodging, dining, and entertainment amenities in an around the Hammond area. The second annual tournament was sponsored by several local area sponsors as well as nationally recognized organizations. Participants from around the world played to gain ranking points to enter into several grand-slam events including the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. Players also competed in singles and double play to vie for a \$25,000 purse. The event was held from March 27-April 2 at Oak Knoll Country Club in Hammond and is the only world ranking tennis tournament in the area. Coverage of the entire tournament was broadcast nationwide on The Tennis Channel and reached nearly 20 million households. The tournament was considered a great success with nearly \$2000 in ticket sales and had a substantial impact on the regional economy. Many participants rated this tournament one of the best \$25,000 tournaments in the world. In this year's event, players competed in the Wolfe Lumber Women's Challenger at the Oak Knoll Country Club, March 26-April 1.

Input-Output Method

The Input-Output method was used in order to estimate the total economic impact of the tournament on the regional economy. According to

the Input-Output method, each product or service is comprised of inputs from other industries, which provide the goods and services needed to produce the item. The product or service of each industry also serves as an input to other industries. As a result of these intertwined relationships, each economic activity produces a ripple effect throughout the entire economy. The U.S. Department of Commerce has developed tables that estimate the impact of the expenditure of each dollar on a product or service, which incorporate all direct and indirect economic activities that ensue from the initial purchase. This data is available at the national, state and regional level. This analysis uses the Input-Output table for the Northshore parishes, which include St. Tammany Parish, to estimate economic impact of the tennis tournament.

The Analysis

The participants and fans spend most of their money on hotels, food/drinks, souvenirs, transportation, etc. In order to estimate the total expenditures at the tournament we sought an estimate of the total number of those who attended the tournament and the average amount spent by each one of them in each category. The economic impact of an event can be estimated from the direct expenditures in each of the various categories.

The organizers of the tournament estimated that for last year's tournament, an average of 95 participants and fans were in attendance each day between March 26 and 31 and the attendance was an average of 200 during the weekend of April 1-2.

REGIONAL

Con't - Economic Impact CASA Tennis Tournament 2006

A survey of 176 individuals over the duration of the 2006 tournament revealed that each person spent an average of \$118.60 daily in addition to admission tickets. In addition, the organizers spent \$55,000 towards the tournament. The economic impact of these expenditures is summarized in Table 1.

It is estimated that the participants, fans and the sponsors spent a total of \$170,000 to attend the tournament. According to the Input-Output method, each dollar of direct expenditures generates additional expenditures throughout the economy. Based on the expenditures reported for food, lodging, gifts, gasoline and other categories, the multiplier is estimated to be approximately 1.73. In other words each dollar spent at the tournament generated an additional 0.73 dollars of

economic activity in the region. This resulted in a total economic impact of \$293,600 from the first round of expenditures.

Another measure of the impact of an economic activity is the amount of income generated in the community as a consequence of the initial expenditure. We estimated the earnings impact to be \$101,700 in 2006.

Conclusion

Our analysis shows that the CASA Tournament produced a significant impact on the regional economy. The economic impact of the 2007 tournament has not yet been determined, but the impact is likely to grow over time, especially if the sponsors are able to raise the top prize money from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Table 1

Economic Impact of the 2006 CASA Tennis Tournament

	Direct Expenditure	Economic Impact Based on Direct and Indirect Expenditure	Earnings Impact
A. Organizer	\$55,000	\$93,500	\$38,500
B. Participants + Fans	\$115,000	\$200,100	\$63,200
Total	\$170,000	\$293,600	\$101,700

LOCAL

St. Tammany Parish

Total employment in St. Tammany dipped slightly in the fourth quarter, but remains higher than one year ago. Total sales and sales tax collected in the parish increased slightly over the third quarter, but were slightly less than the same period last year. Construction activity generally peaks in the second and third quarters, and the number and value of building permits in both incorporated and unincorporated areas fell slightly in the fourth quarter compared to the previous quarter. Construction activity remains strong, however, and far surpassed the levels of one year ago.

EMPLOYMENT

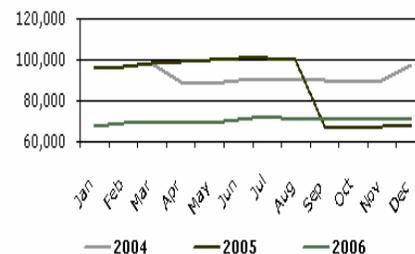
ST. TAMMANY

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Labor Force	73,145	73,674	73,021	72,649	73,592	75,467	75,146	73,646	73,401	74,402	74,239	73,551
% Change Last Year	-27.5%	-27.3%	-28.0%	-28.8%	-28.8%	-28.6%	-29.0%	-29.5%	-14.1%	-10.6%	-11.6%	-0.9%
Total Employment	67,451	69,292	68,792	68,838	69,326	70,604	72,317	70,707	70,671	71,464	71,159	70,873
% Change Last Year	-29.8%	-28.4%	-29.8%	-30.4%	-30.4%	-30.1%	-28.6%	-29.1%	4.9%	7.3%	5.5%	4.9%
Unemployed	5,694	4,382	4,229	3,811	4,266	4,863	2,829	2,939	2,730	2,938	3,080	2,678
% Change Last Year	18.9%	-2.8%	20.5%	20.5%	11.9%	6.2%	-38.1%	-37.2%	-84.9%	-82.3%	-81.4%	-59.5%
Unemployment rate	7.8%	5.9%	5.8%	5.2%	5.8%	6.4%	3.8%	4.0%	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%	3.6%
Change Last Year	3.1%	1.5%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-17.4%	-16.1%	-15.6%	-5.3%

	1Q7-06	2Q7-06	3Q7-06	4Q7-06
Labor Force	73,280	73,903	74,064	74,064
% Change Last Year	-27.6%	-28.7%	-24.9%	-8.0%
Total Employment	68,512	69,589	71,232	71,165
% Change Last Year	-29.3%	-30.3%	-20.4%	5.9%
Unemployed	4,768	4,313	2,833	2,899
% Change Last Year	11.7%	56.8%	-68.9%	-78.1%
Unemployment rate	6.5%	5.8%	3.8%	3.9%
Change Last Year	2.3%	2.1%	-6.1%	-12.3%

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

Employment St. Tammany



SALES TAX

ST. TAMMANY

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Total Sales (Mil.)	\$ 364.61	\$ 359.66	\$ 404.62	\$ 371.66	\$ 397.76	\$ 402.44	\$ 345.92	\$ 342.07	\$ 362.33	\$ 308.89	\$ 342.24	\$ 405.36
% Change Last Year	58.7%	58.5%	49.2%	34.5%	56.4%	45.1%	41.1%	117.7%	39.8%	-18.3%	-5.0%	11.2%
Sales Tax Collected (Mil.)	\$ 19.14	\$ 18.88	\$ 21.24	\$ 19.51	\$ 20.88	\$ 21.13	\$ 18.16	\$ 17.96	\$ 19.02	\$ 16.22	\$ 17.97	\$ 21.28
% Change Last Year	58.7%	58.5%	49.2%	34.5%	56.4%	45.1%	41.1%	117.7%	39.8%	-18.3%	-5.0%	11.2%

Source: St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office (Sales and Use Tax Division)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

ST. TAMMANY

	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
Total Units	38	346	369	276	304	289	186	332	217	239	210	223
% Change Last Year	-92.8%	79.3%	72.4%	30.8%	16.9%	26.2%	-18.4%	-12.4%	843.5%	696.7%	296.2%	486.8%
Value (\$000s)	7,860	59,418	64,111	49,273	56,562	54,858	33,759	42,427	37,888	50,425	38,864	39,653
% Change Last Year	-90.3%	80.0%	94.7%	36.0%	29.2%	42.2%	-14.0%	-30.4%	1540.9%	885.7%	335.1%	430.5%
Unincorp. Units	23	295	335	236	228	235	162	204	165	195	187	197
% Change Last Year	-95.3%	64.8%	65.0%	24.2%	-5.8%	9.8%	-21.7%	-42.4%	768.4%	712.5%	750.0%	838.1%
Value (\$000s)	4,667	49,994	56,772	40,981	43,018	47,380	29,597	35,141	30,947	43,429	35,719	35,270
% Change Last Year	-93.7%	60.6%	79.0%	24.4%	5.5%	29.9%	-15.4%	-35.9%	2464.0%	1134.3%	838.4%	828.8%
Incorp. Units	15	51	34	40	76	54	24	128	52	44	23	26
% Change Last Year	-59.5%	264.3%	209.1%	90.5%	322.2%	260.0%	14.3%	412.0%	1200.0%	633.3%	-25.8%	52.9%
Value (\$000s)	3,193	9,424	7,339	8,292	13,544	7,478	4,162	7,286	6,940	6,996	3,145	4,383
% Change Last Year	-50.6%	401.7%	507.1%	153.5%	354.0%	255.6%	-2.1%	18.0%	529.8%	338.1%	-38.6%	19.2%

Source: Economic Development Information Clearing House

Tangipahoa Parish

Both the labor force and the number of employed in Tangipahoa Parish increased compared to the third quarter, and were higher than the fourth quarter of 2005. Total sales and sales tax collected declined slightly compared to the third quarter of this year and fourth quarter 2005. The number and value of building permits continued to expand, both compared to the previous quarter and the previous year.

EMPLOYMENT												
TANGIPAHOA												
	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Labor Force	44,927	45,400	45,364	46,563	46,571	46,714	46,533	46,234	45,882	46,693	46,699	46,207
% Change Last Year	-7.9%	-2.3%	-3.2%	-5.7%	-6.3%	-7.0%	-6.5%	-10.2%	-16.9%	-12.6%	-10.9%	-1.8%
Total Employment	41,997	43,198	43,069	44,378	44,076	43,704	44,703	44,349	44,071	44,754	44,677	44,304
% Change Last Year	-7.8%	-0.9%	-3.0%	-5.7%	-6.5%	-6.3%	-3.8%	-8.2%	-2.0%	0.4%	3.9%	1.5%
Unemployed	2,930	2,202	2,295	2,185	2,495	3,010	1,830	1,885	1,811	1,939	2,022	1,903
% Change Last Year	-9.2%	-23.8%	-6.7%	-6.2%	-3.3%	-16.1%	-45.0%	-41.4%	-82.3%	-78.1%	-78.5%	-43.7%
Unemployment rate	6.5%	4.9%	5.1%	4.7%	5.4%	6.4%	3.9%	4.1%	3.9%	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%
Change Last Year	-0.6%	-1.3%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	-0.7%	-2.8%	-2.1%	-14.6%	-12.3%	-13.6%	-3.1%

	1Q-06	2Q-06	3Q-06	4Q-06
Labor Force	45,230	46,616	46,216	46,533
% Change Last Year	-3.9%	-6.1%	-4.7%	1.9%
Total Employment	42,755	44,053	44,374	44,578
% Change Last Year	-3.9%	-6.1%	-4.7%	1.9%
Unemployed	2,476	2,563	1,842	1,955
% Change Last Year	-13.4%	-2.9%	-67.1%	-72.9%
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.5%	4.0%	4.2%
Change Last Year	-0.7%	-0.2%	-6.5%	-9.7%

Tangipahoa Employment

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

SALES TAX												
TANGIPAHOA												
	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Total Sales (Mil.)	\$ 176.49	\$ 129.26	\$ 144.67	\$ 155.99	\$ 139.17	\$ 153.07	\$ 153.72	\$ 135.04	\$ 142.36	\$ 141.40	\$ 137.10	\$ 124.06
% Change Last Year	49.7%	39.5%	56.5%	41.2%	35.1%	50.1%	39.0%	36.6%	90.6%	0.3%	-4.8%	-13.3%
Sales Tax Collected (Mil.)	\$ 3.53	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.89	\$ 3.12	\$ 2.78	\$ 3.06	\$ 3.07	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.85	\$ 2.83	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.48
% Change Last Year	49.7%	39.5%	56.5%	41.2%	35.1%	50.1%	39.0%	36.6%	90.6%	0.3%	-4.8%	-13.3%

Source: Tangipahoa Parish Council - School Board

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS												
TANGIPAHOA												
	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
Total Units	129	110	175	175	124	109	110	175	153	149	93	425
% Change Last Year	79.2%	59.4%	153.6%	243.1%	74.6%	58.0%	31.0%	153.6%	10.1%	30.7%	12.0%	507.1%
Value (\$000s)	18,784	15,205	24,981	25,565	21,218	17,339	16,908	25,701	19,360	16,590	12,738	59,576
% Change Last Year	195.0%	253.5%	N/A	-100.0%	-174.3%	329.4%	-95.8%	-430.9%	-112.4%	-85.5%	38.2%	-2379.2%
Unincorp. Units	97	88	146	149	99	81	96	133	95	117	74	368
% Change Last Year	61.7%	44.3%	160.7%	282.1%	86.8%	39.7%	37.1%	121.7%	-6.9%	56.0%	25.4%	557.1%
Value (\$000s)	13,113	12,247	19,564	21,749	15,718	12,124	14,421	20,155	14,111	13,771	9,704	52,341
% Change Last Year	92.2%	120.8%	178.0%	334.7%	133.0%	52.5%	128.4%	157.8%	51.8%	515.6%	30.5%	556.4%
Incorp. Units	32	22	29	26	25	28	14	42	58	32	19	57
% Change Last Year	166.7%	175.0%	123.1%	116.7%	38.9%	154.5%	0.0%	366.7%	56.8%	-17.9%	-20.8%	307.1%
Value (\$000s)	5670	2958	5417	3816	5500	5215	2487	5545	5249	2818	3034	7235
% Change Last Year	1314.3%	-6.2%	-49.1%	34.5%	-107.7%	-130.9%	-283.3%	-660.0%	-87.8%	-929.3%	5.6%	-580.0%

Source: Tangipahoa - Building Permit Office

Livingston Parish

Livingston Parish experienced increases in both the overall work force and the number of employed in the fourth quarter. Both figures increased over the third quarter, and compared to one year ago. Total sales and sales tax collected also expanded in the fourth quarter, largely due to strong spending in December. The number and value of building permits were substantially higher than in the same period last year, indicating continued strong growth in construction.

EMPLOYMENT

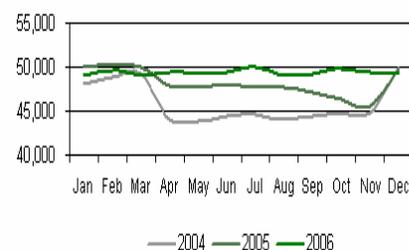
LIVINGSTON

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Labor Force	50,947	51,228	50,735	51,103	51,250	51,982	51,559	50,715	50,701	51,455	51,194	50,830
% Change Last Year	-3.9%	-3.0%	-3.0%	2.1%	2.5%	1.9%	1.7%	0.3%	-1.3%	3.1%	3.7%	-1.9%
Total Employment	49,063	49,681	49,061	49,409	49,181	49,426	50,016	49,082	49,168	49,852	49,467	49,263
% Change Last Year	-1.8%	-0.9%	-2.0%	3.1%	3.2%	3.3%	5.0%	2.9%	4.3%	7.5%	8.7%	-1.2%
Unemployed	1,884	1,547	1,674	1,694	2,069	2,556	1,543	1,633	1,533	1,603	1,727	1,567
% Change Last Year	-38.1%	-42.3%	-26.1%	-20.6%	-12.0%	-19.3%	-49.2%	-43.1%	-63.7%	-55.1%	-55.1%	-19.6%
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	4.0%	4.9%	3.0%	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%	3.4%	3.1%
Change Last Year	-2.0%	-2.1%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-0.7%	-1.3%	-3.0%	-2.5%	-5.2%	-4.0%	-4.4%	-0.7%

	1Q-06	2Q-06	3Q-06	4Q-06
Labor Force	50,970	51,445	50,992	51,160
% Change Last Year	-3.3%	2.1%	0.2%	1.6%
Total Employment	49,268	49,339	49,422	49,527
% Change Last Year	-1.5%	3.2%	4.1%	4.8%
Unemployed	1,702	2,106	1,570	1,632
% Change Last Year	-36.1%	-19.7%	-53.6%	-47.7%
Unemployment rate	3.3%	4.1%	3.1%	3.2%
Change Last Year	-1.7%	-1.0%	-3.6%	-3.0%

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

Livingston Employment



SALES TAX

LIVINGSTON

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Total Sales (Mil.)	\$ 108.51	\$ 88.24	\$ 89.18	\$ 110.01	\$ 97.21	\$ 105.68	\$ 97.03	\$ 100.50	\$ 105.15	\$ 97.01	\$ 97.15	\$ 117.01
% Change Last Year	26.2%	19.9%	30.4%	33.5%	25.4%	30.8%	16.1%	29.8%	39.6%	3.5%	-2.9%	28.9%
Sales Tax Collected (Mil.)	\$ 5.43	\$ 4.43	\$ 4.48	\$ 5.52	\$ 4.92	\$ 5.31	\$ 4.85	\$ 5.03	\$ 5.26	\$ 4.85	\$ 4.86	\$ 5.85
% Change Last Year	23.9%	19.9%	29.3%	33.2%	26.4%	30.0%	15.8%	28.9%	38.7%	1.5%	-3.2%	28.0%

Source: Livingston Parish Sales Tax Department

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

LIVINGSTON

	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
Total Units	121	108	231	189	137	144	150	226	116	97	101	142
% Change Last Year	95.2%	14.9%	145.7%	64.3%	65.1%	48.5%	87.5%	98.2%	-12.8%	3.2%	-5.6%	34.0%
Value (\$000s)	9,460	9,870	19,947	15,623	11,237	13,863	14,307	35,512	9,447	8,329	9,132	13,461
% Change Last Year	-139.2%	-120.8%	N/A	-181.4%	-1.1%	-69.7%	-123.8%	19.2%	-392.0%	-44.1%	-70.2%	-4443.6%
Unincorp. Units	117	107	224	183	133	133	141	219	113	92	99	133
% Change Last Year	95.0%	18.9%	173.2%	71.0%	64.2%	46.2%	76.3%	92.1%	-15.0%	4.5%	-4.8%	34.3%
Value (\$000s)	9,077	9,710	19,083	14,858	10,547	12,153	12,883	34,394	9,036	7,777	8,738	12,565
% Change Last Year	86.9%	31.9%	161.5%	60.4%	61.4%	57.5%	90.9%	277.2%	-16.9%	8.2%	-1.7%	49.4%
Incorp. Units	4	1	7	6	4	11	9	7	3	5	2	9
% Change Last Year	100.0%	-75.0%	-41.7%	-25.0%	100.0%	83.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-16.7%	-33.3%	28.6%
Value (\$000s)	383	160	864	765	690	1710	1423.5	1118.19	411.19	551.79	393.69	896.2
% Change Last Year	211.4%	-48.7%	-42.8%	-21.6%	220.9%	251.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-14.8%	21.9%	27.8%

Source: Livingston Parish - Building Permit Office

Washington Parish

The labor force and the number of employed declined in Washington Parish in the fourth quarter of 2006; both compared to the third quarter of 2006, and compared to fourth quarter 2005. Total sales in the parish, and sales tax collected also declined slightly. The number and value of building permits, however, which are indicators of future construction, expanded steadily through October and November and ended the year with a substantial increase in December.

EMPLOYMENT

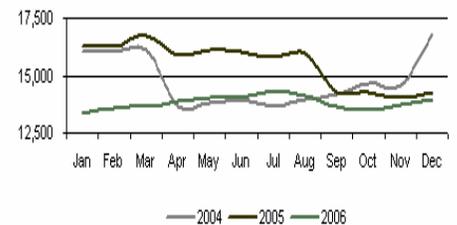
WASHINGTON

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05
Labor Force	14,386	14,350	14,416	14,611	14,908	15,170	14,933	14,843	14,355	14,235	14,513	14,639
% Change Last Year	-18.0%	-17.7%	-18.8%	-12.9%	-13.0%	-13.4%	-12.6%	-13.7%	-17.1%	-15.8%	-14.2%	-5.0%
Total Employment	13,344	13,594	13,640	13,853	14,031	14,062	14,268	14,143	13,657	13,494	13,736	13,960
% Change Last Year	-18.1%	-16.5%	-18.5%	-12.7%	-12.8%	-12.5%	-9.6%	-11.4%	-4.5%	-5.3%	-1.9%	-2.3%
Unemployed	1,042	756	776	758	877	1,108	665	700	698	741	777	679
% Change Last Year	-17.6%	-34.9%	-24.0%	-17.5%	-15.6%	-23.7%	-49.3%	-43.4%	-76.9%	-72.0%	-73.4%	-39.2%
Unemployment rate	7.2%	5.3%	5.4%	5.2%	5.9%	7.3%	4.5%	4.7%	4.9%	5.2%	5.4%	4.6%
Change Last Year	0.0%	-1.4%	-0.4%	-0.3%	-0.2%	-1.0%	-3.2%	-2.5%	-12.6%	-10.5%	-11.8%	-2.6%

	1Q-06	2Q-06	3Q-06	4Q-06
Labor Force	14,384	14,896	14,710	14,462
% Change Last Year	-18.2%	-13.1%	-14.5%	-11.9%
Total Employment	13,526	13,982	14,023	13,730
% Change Last Year	-17.7%	-12.6%	-8.6%	-3.2%
Unemployed	858	914	688	732
% Change Last Year	-25.3%	-7.5%	-63.0%	-67.1%
Unemployment rate	6.0%	6.1%	4.7%	5.1%
Change Last Year	-0.6%	-0.5%	-6.1%	-8.3%

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

Washington Employment



SALES TAX

WASHINGTON

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Total Sales (Mil.)	\$ 46.56	\$ 35.09	\$ 35.13	\$ 39.62	\$ 38.76	\$ 35.33	\$ 30.35	\$ 33.03	\$ 35.22	\$ 40.31	\$ 30.97	\$ 31.55
% Change Last Year	28.6%	29.2%	25.6%	37.7%	23.1%	16.2%	-7.6%	27.1%	88.9%	22.0%	-12.1%	-15.9%
Sales Tax Collected (Mil.)	\$ 2.14	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.78	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.52	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.45
% Change Last Year	28.6%	29.2%	25.6%	37.7%	23.1%	16.2%	-7.6%	27.1%	88.9%	22.0%	-12.1%	-15.9%

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

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

WASHINGTON

	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
Total Units	26	30	25	37	45	38	19	31	24	25	41	188
% Change Last Year	160.0%	36.4%	56.3%	105.6%	350.0%	192.3%	137.5%	416.7%	1100.0%	127.3%	86.4%	1466.7%
Value (\$000s)	3,280	3,356	3,187	3,351	4,246	4,594	2,003	3,524	3,362	3,231	4,717	19,677
% Change Last Year	643.7%	66.2%	208.4%	166.2%	426.1%	405.6%	202.6%	726.3%	1659.9%	190.4%	122.3%	1206.1%
Unincorp. Units	20	26	22	34	41	35	17	28	19	21	35	180
% Change Last Year	233.3%	116.7%	100.0%	142.9%	310.0%	191.7%	142.9%	366.7%	850.0%	90.9%	66.7%	1700.0%
Value (\$000s)	2,523	2,811	2,887	2,849	3,935	3,351	1,778	3,228	2,598	2,855	4,020	18,581
% Change Last Year	543.6%	50.4%	276.4%	141.3%	387.6%	302.5%	190.5%	656.9%	1259.9%	156.6%	103.8%	1340.4%
Incorp. Units	6	4	3	3	4	3	2	3	5	4	6	8
% Change Last Year	50.0%	-60.0%	-40.0%	-25.0%	N/A	200.0%	100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	500.0%	300.0%
Value (\$000s)	757	545	300	501.69	311	1243	225	296	764	376.3	697	1096.3
% Change Last Year	1444.9%	264.1%	12.7%	545.7%	N/A	1535.5%	350.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	364.7%	406.4%

Source: Washington Parish - Building Permit Office

Economic Reporter

St. Helena Parish

St. Helena is gradually recovering from the losses due to Katrina. Total employment in the fourth quarter rose 2.5 percent during the past year. Consequently there was a drop in both the total number of unemployed and in the unemployment rate. A 14.3 percent gain in sales tax in the fourth quarter, compared to the same period in 2005, also points to an optimistic outlook for the parish.

EMPLOYMENT

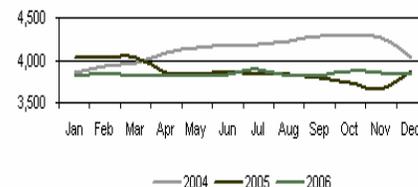
ST. HELENA

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Labor Force	4,228	4,175	4,095	4,107	4,166	4,256	4,138	4,088	4,039	4,092	4,093	4,092
% Change Last Year	-4.6%	-5.3%	-5.3%	-2.5%	-0.7%	-2.5%	-4.6%	-4.8%	-18.7%	-13.5%	-13.8%	-6.6%
Total Employment	3,814	3,862	3,814	3,814	3,823	3,842	3,888	3,816	3,822	3,876	3,846	3,830
% Change Last Year	-5.2%	-4.2%	-5.3%	-1.2%	-0.3%	-0.2%	1.4%	-0.5%	0.7%	3.9%	4.9%	-1.2%
Unemployed	414	313	281	293	343	414	250	272	217	216	247	262
% Change Last Year	1.0%	-16.8%	-4.7%	-17.2%	-4.2%	-19.1%	-50.0%	-40.5%	-81.5%	-70.4%	-77.2%	-47.9%
Unemployment rate	9.8%	7.5%	6.9%	7.1%	8.2%	9.7%	6.0%	6.7%	5.4%	5.3%	6.0%	6.4%
Change Last Year	0.6%	-1.0%	0.1%	-1.3%	-0.3%	-2.0%	-5.5%	-3.9%	-18.3%	-15.8%	-16.8%	-5.1%

	1Q7-06	2Q7-06	3Q7-06	4Q7-06
Labor Force	4,166	4,176	4,088	4,092
% Change Last Year	-5.1%	-1.9%	-9.8%	-11.4%
Total Employment	3,830	3,826	3,842	3,851
% Change Last Year	-4.9%	-0.6%	0.5%	2.5%
Unemployed	336	350	246	242
% Change Last Year	-6.8%	-12.6%	-65.4%	-72.0%
Unemployment rate	8.1%	8.3%	6.0%	5.9%
Change Last Year	-0.1%	-1.2%	-9.2%	-12.6%

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

St Helena Employment



SALES TAX

ST. HELENA

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Total Sales (Mil.)	\$ 7.44	\$ 4.42	\$ 5.43	\$ 7.85	\$ 6.34	\$ 6.05	\$ 7.25	\$ 6.02	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.77	\$ 5.62	\$ 5.49
% Change Last Year	35.5%	23.4%	45.8%	57.7%	42.9%	10.3%	48.3%	50.9%	38.6%	29.3%	-4.1%	17.8%
Sales Tax Collected (Mil.)	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.22
% Change Last Year	35.5%	23.4%	45.8%	57.7%	42.9%	10.3%	48.3%	50.9%	38.6%	29.3%	-4.1%	17.8%

Source: St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

ST. HELENA

	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
Total Units	-	-	-	4	3	5	7	10	4	5	6	7
% Change Last Year	N/A	-100.0%	-100.0%	33.3%	50.0%	0.0%	75.0%	900.0%	-33.3%	N/A	100.0%	600.0%
Value (\$000s)	-	-	-	307	282	410	633	1,630	439	560	809	1,095
% Change Last Year	N/A	-100.0%	-100.0%	-41.5%	-6.0%	-50.0%	75.8%	831.4%	-44.4%	N/A	241.4%	742.3%

Source: St Helena Parish - Building Permit Office

SLU College of Business and Technology—Faculty Highlight

Mike Asoodeh came to the US at a young age to attend high school in Dallas, TX. His original plans included a high school degree, a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and some graduate work. Due to political upheavals in his native country, he had to make changes to his original plans, and later became a US citizen. Before joining Southeastern faculty in January of 1995, Mike taught and was involved in research and development at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, and University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He earned a Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University. He has 20 years of experience in the education, engineering, science, and technology fields. Mike's many qualifications include: teaching, computer and communication expertise, systems engineering, distance education, and adult education/training.

Mike developed a technology-rich Material Science classroom and a state-of-the-art Industrial Robotics Laboratory at Southeastern. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Industrial Technology, and has also been the Assistant Vice President for Technology at Southeastern since 1996. Mike has been an active member of a number of state, regional and national organizations. Although he is not teaching this semester, he is heavily involved in many Departmental related activities. Mike and his wife Jessica have three children: Joshua, Joy and Jonathan. They attend church at Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, LA. Mike is also the owner of Asoodeh and Associates, and is a partner in St. James Technologies. SJT has a pending patent in a laser measuring systems for ship operations.

Southeast Louisiana Business Center

The Southeast Louisiana Business Center continues to operate under its model for university facilitated economic development. Since 2003, the center has diligently worked to fulfill its mission of facilitating economic development in this region.

The Southeast Louisiana Business Center was invited to present its model at the University Economic Development Association's national meeting in Savanna, Georgia last October. This national association focuses on policy, practice, and partnerships that enhance the relationship between higher education and economic development.

The Center Director, Bill Joubert, was recognized at the Association of Small Business Development Centers' national conference in Houston, Texas last September. He received the "Star Performer" award for his economic and business consulting efforts.

Some of the Center's accomplishments during the past three years include the creation and retention of over 600 jobs, assisting with over \$100 million in capital formation, and assisting with over 200 business startup and expansion projects. The Southeast Louisiana Business Center has also hosted nearly 4,000 meetings, 200 training events resulting in over 13,000 hours of training, received over 16,000 phone calls, and assisted almost 3,000 visitors. The Business Research Center has completed several studies and projects which include the impact of the Southland Baseball Conference, a cable franchise study, a labor report on the Florida Parishes, impact of Southeastern's Columbia Theater, impact of the new co-op milk plant, and impact of several regional events including the Renaissance Festival and Mandeville Seafood Festival. The Center's business incubator has aided the growth of over 11 companies, resulting in over \$15 million in capital formation.



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