

# COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

October 14, 2021

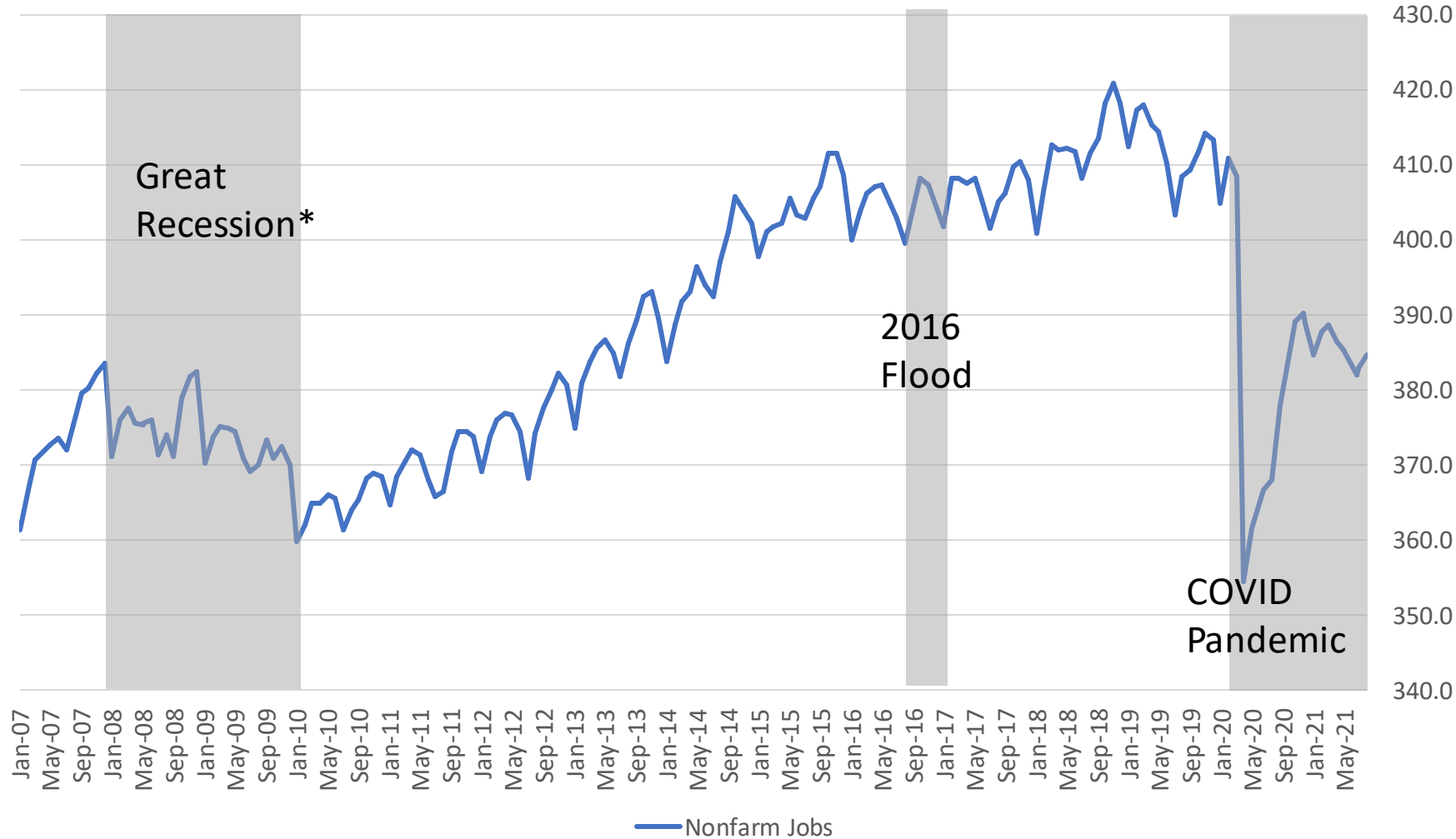
Lead Researchers: Andrew Fitzgerald and  
Jake Polansky



Baton Rouge Area Chamber®

# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

The region gained 1,800 jobs in August, marking two consecutive months of job growth after three months of declining job numbers.



## Major BR MSA Job Losses

- Great Recession\* (12/07 – 1/10): -6.2%
- 2016 Flood (8/16): -1.0%
  - Led to lower job count in high-employment times like holidays
- 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic (3/20 – 8/21): -5.8%
  - -13.2% in April 2020, at the lowest point for nonfarm jobs

Source: BLS, LWC, BRAC Analysis.

\*Technical dates of the recession are 12/2007 to 6/2009, but greatest negative job effects felt in Baton Rouge metro area in 1/2010

# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Job numbers went up in the first month without enhanced UI benefits, but the Construction industry lost 600 jobs and maintains the greatest percentage of pandemic-related job loss.

## Major industries in the Capital Region

Industry	COVID Job Loss	%age Lost
Construction	-6,200	-13.1%
Professional Services	-2,900	-5.8%
Education & Healthcare	-1,100	-2.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	-1,900	-4.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-2,800	-4.0%
Manufacturing	-800	-2.7%
Government	-4,500	-5.8%

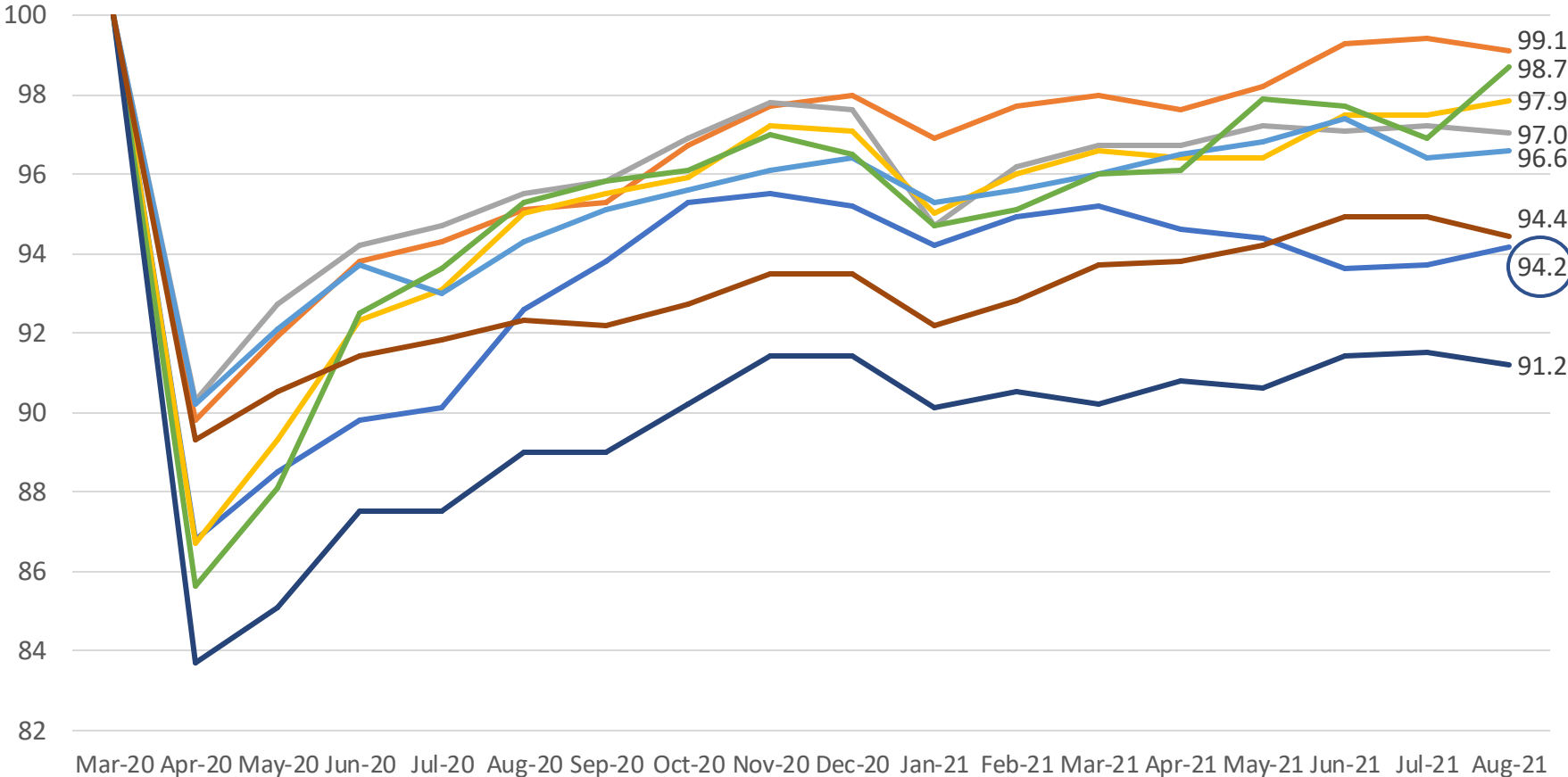
- Government (+3,000) and Professional Services (+600) both saw strong rebounds this month after job declines in the previous month.
- Despite a rare decrease in Education & Healthcare jobs between the months of July and August (-300), this sector has gained 1,900 jobs over-the-year.
- While it remains 12.3% above job numbers from a year ago, the Leisure & Hospitality sector ended its three-month streak of job growth with a loss of 1,200 jobs.

Source: BLS, LWC LMI Bulletin, BRAC Analysis. Job numbers are through July 2021.

# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Louisiana's largest metros lag in job recovery compared to out-of-state peer metros.

Metro Area Employment Index



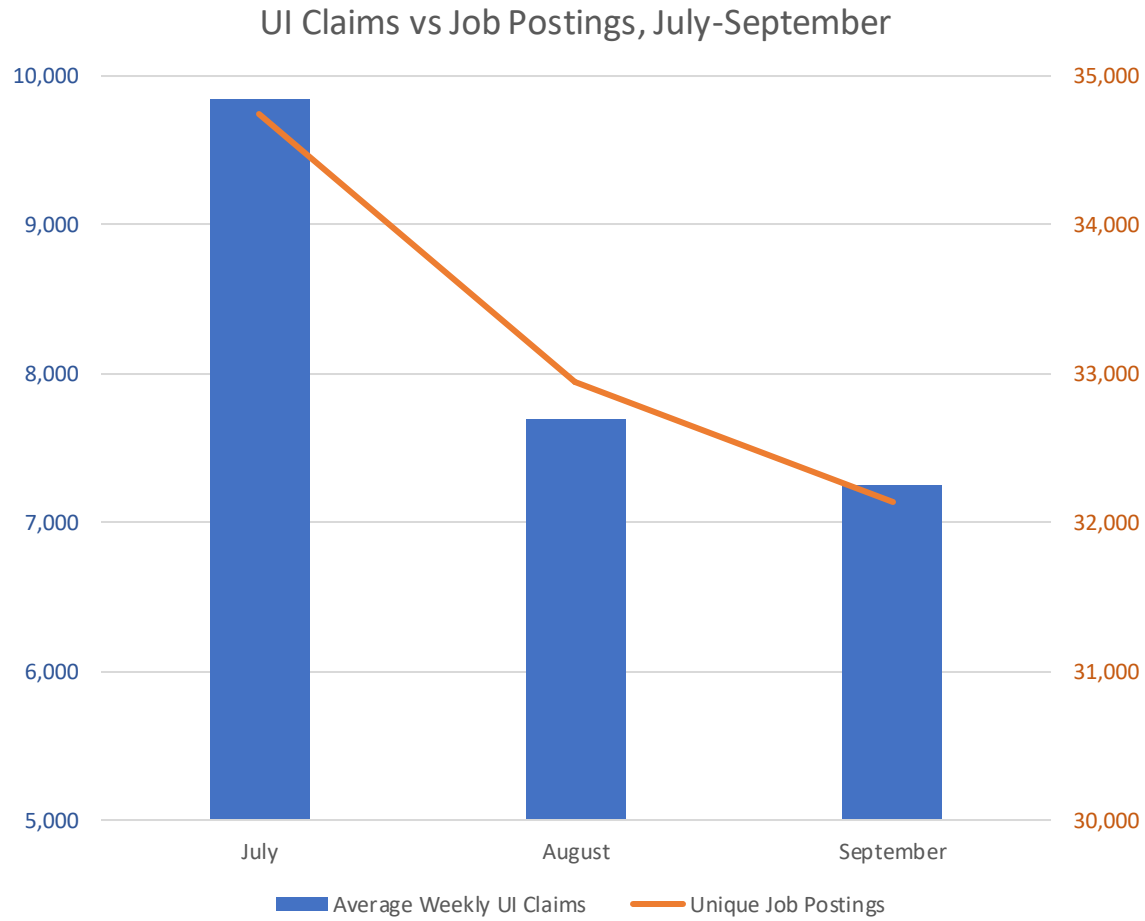
- Compared to peer regions, Baton Rouge saw the second highest % growth in its employment index during August.
- Baton Rouge is still down ~13,000 jobs compared to March 2020, despite having its lowest unemployment rate (currently at 5.0%) in almost 17 months.
- Any job-related impacts from Hurricane Ida will be visible next month.

Source: BLS, BRAC Analysis.



# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Unemployment claims continue a gradual trend downward across the Capital Region, coinciding with a lower number of weekly unemployment claims.



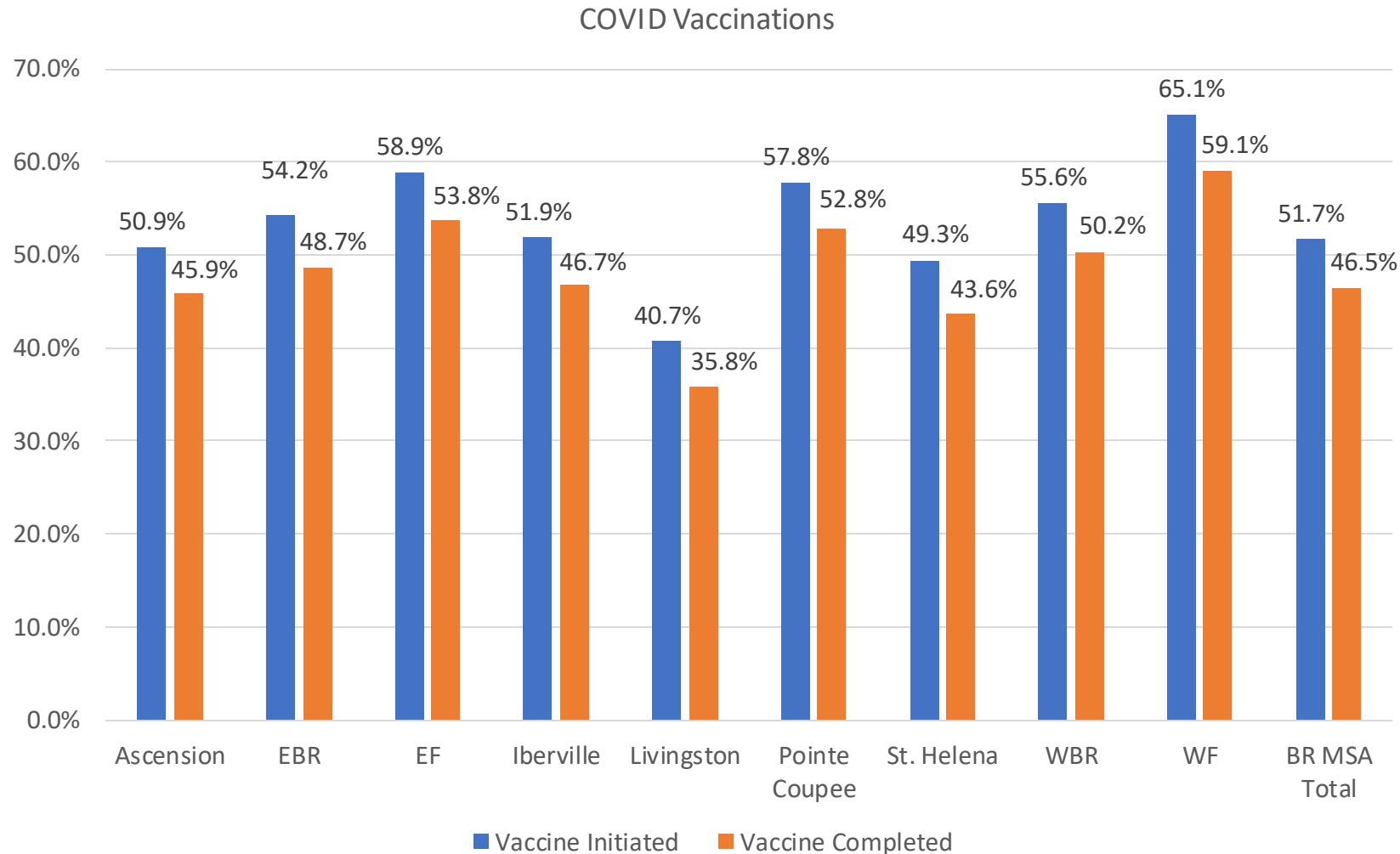
Sources: Louisiana Workforce Commission, EMSI, BRAC Analysis.  
Dates signify initial plus continued claims for week ending on that day.

Parish	9/11/2021	9/18/2021	9/25/21	10/2/21
Ascension	1,111	1,069	999	910
East Baton Rouge	4,476	4,353	4,322	4,116
East Feliciana	144	126	145	136
Iberville	346	349	340	327
Livingston	1,009	933	871	752
Point Coupee	187	183	192	178
St. Helena	111	96	94	90
West Baton Rouge	225	212	229	210
West Feliciana	50	60	54	54
<b>BR MSA total</b>	<b>7,659</b>	<b>7,381</b>	<b>7,246</b>	<b>6,773</b>

- Declining numbers of posted jobs across the region complement the month-over-month decline in UI claims.
- Weekly UI claims are down 80% from a year ago.

# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Vaccine uptake varies significantly among Capital Region parishes.

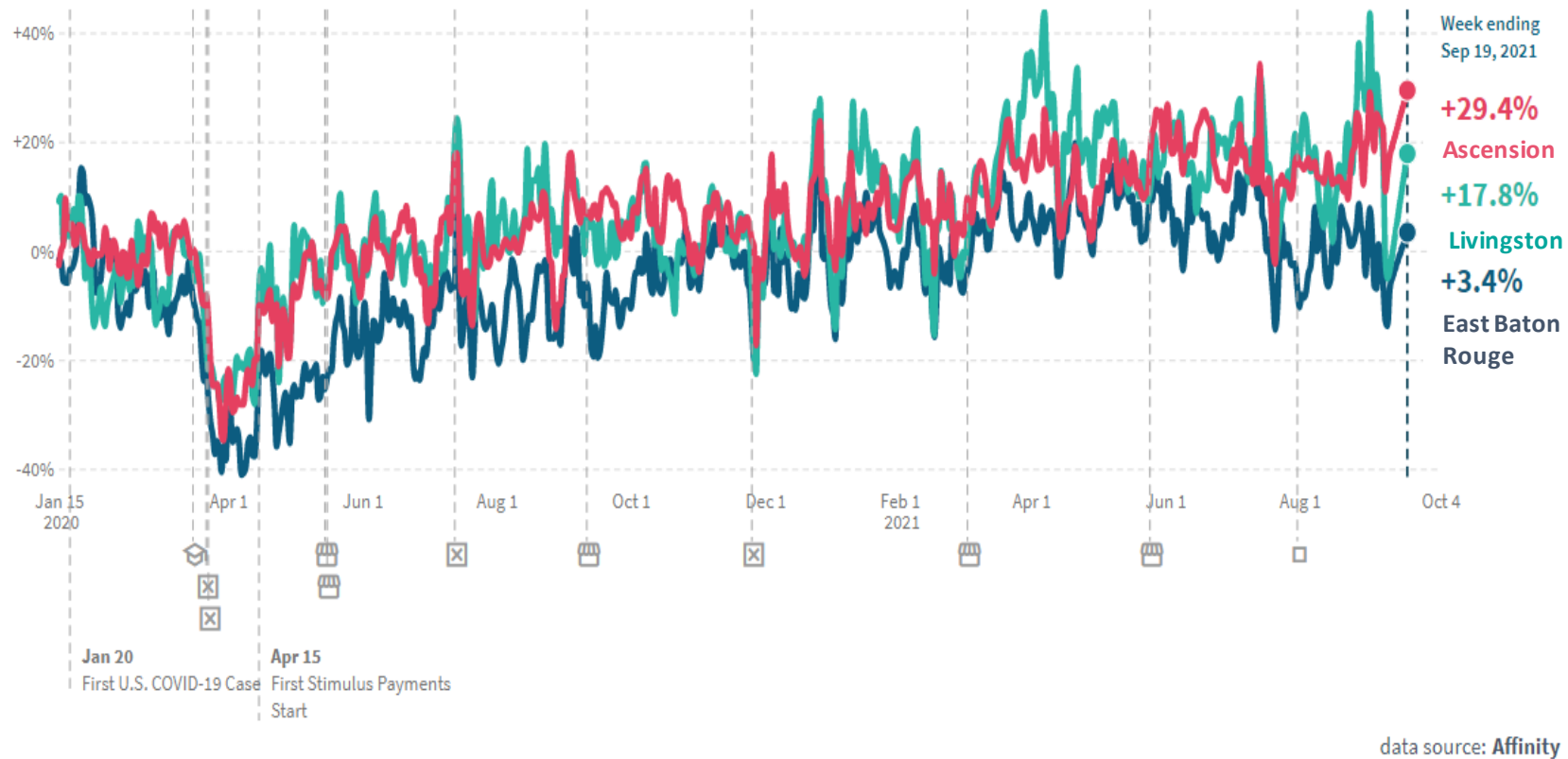


Source: Louisiana Department of Health.  
Note: All percentages based on total population.

- The region's increase in completed vaccines (+4.9%) compared to initiated vaccines (+2.3%) over the last month suggests there is less momentum in getting new people to receive the shot.
- Livingston's vaccination rates are currently about 13% lower than the rest of the Capital Region.
- West Baton Rouge (+3.3%) and Iberville/Pointe Coupee (+3.1%) saw the largest increases in vaccine initiations over-the-month.
- West Feliciana is the most-vaccinated parish in Louisiana.

# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

How has consumer spending been impacted by the pandemic?



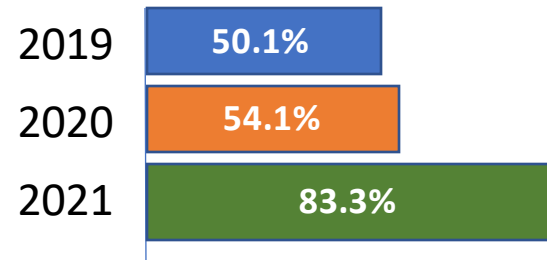
- Consumer spending rose in the metro's three largest parishes over the last 30 days.
- Both Livingston and Ascension have largely remained above pre-pandemic levels of spending: over the last 7 months, Livingston has fallen below pre-pandemic spending twice and Ascension has fallen below pre-pandemic spending only once.
- East Baton Rouge has seen consumer spending rise 13.8% since ending enhanced UI benefits July 31.

# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

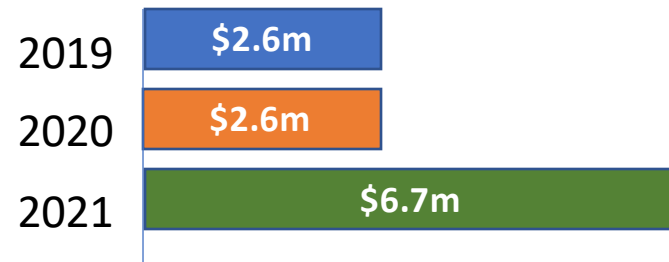
How has travel been impacted during the pandemic?

## Hotel Occupancy

September 26 – October 2



Revenue September 26 – October 2



- High occupancy rates over the past month may reflect line workers, health care workers, and other Hurricane Ida responders staying in available rooms across the region.
- Both total revenues & price per room are up significantly compared to 2019 and 2020.
- Occupancy and revenues are comparably high more than a month after Ida's landfall. Expect occupancy and revenues to remain comparably high while recovery workers use the Capital Region as a jumping off point for their recovery work.



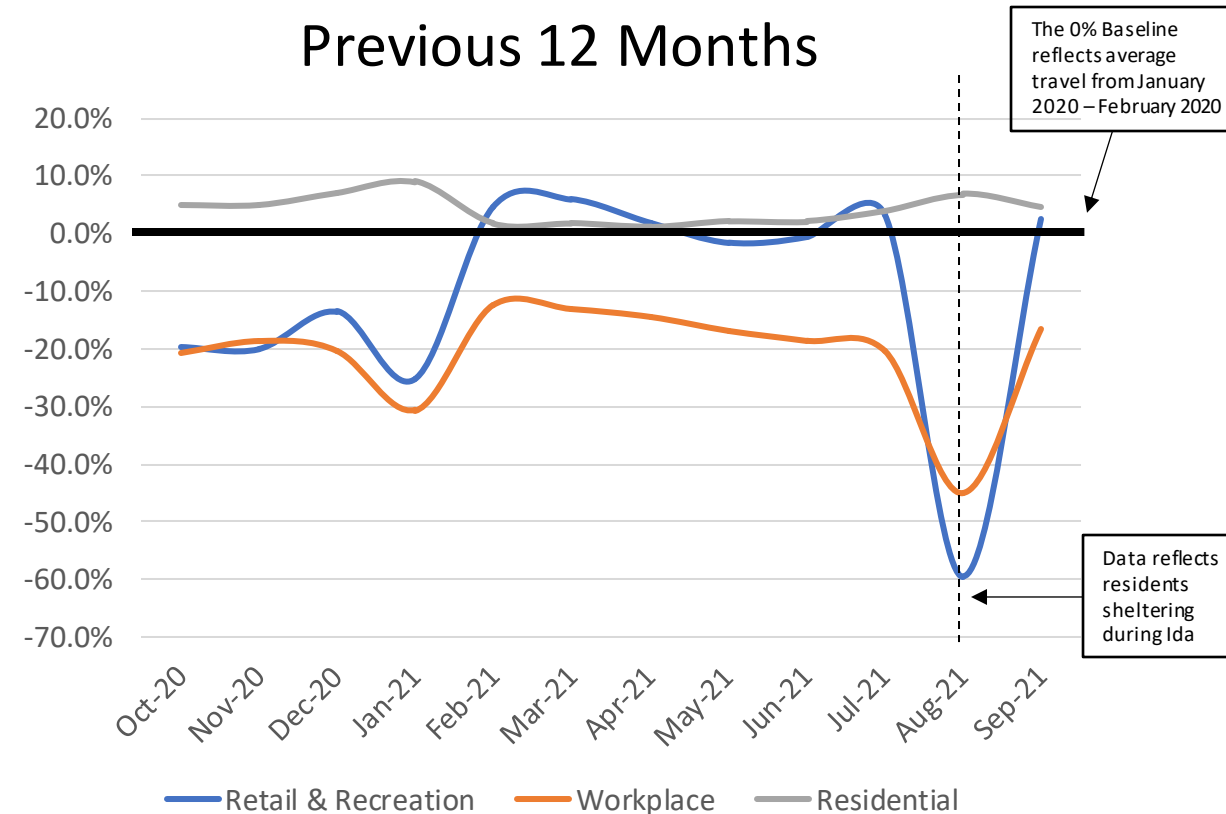
# Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

How has travel been impacted during the pandemic?

## Residential Travel

Parish	Retail & Recreation	Grocery & Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Ascension	+8%	+4%	-	-	-11%	+5%
East Baton Rouge	-10%	-3%	-37%	-20%	-26%	+6%
East Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-9%	-
Iberville	-	-6%	-	+4%	-26%	+5%
Livingston	+10%	+20%	+21%	+18%	-5%	+2%
Point Coupee	-	-	-	-	-7%	-
St. Helena	-	-	-	-	-24%	-
West Baton Rouge	+2%	+6%	-	+4%	-15%	+5%
West Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-26%	-

## Travel across the Capital Region, Previous 12 Months



- Travel to Retail & Recreation and Residential areas are above pre-pandemic levels while workplace travel remains low.