

COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

November 3, 2020

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Baton Rouge Area Chamber®

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

How has unemployment been impacted during the pandemic?

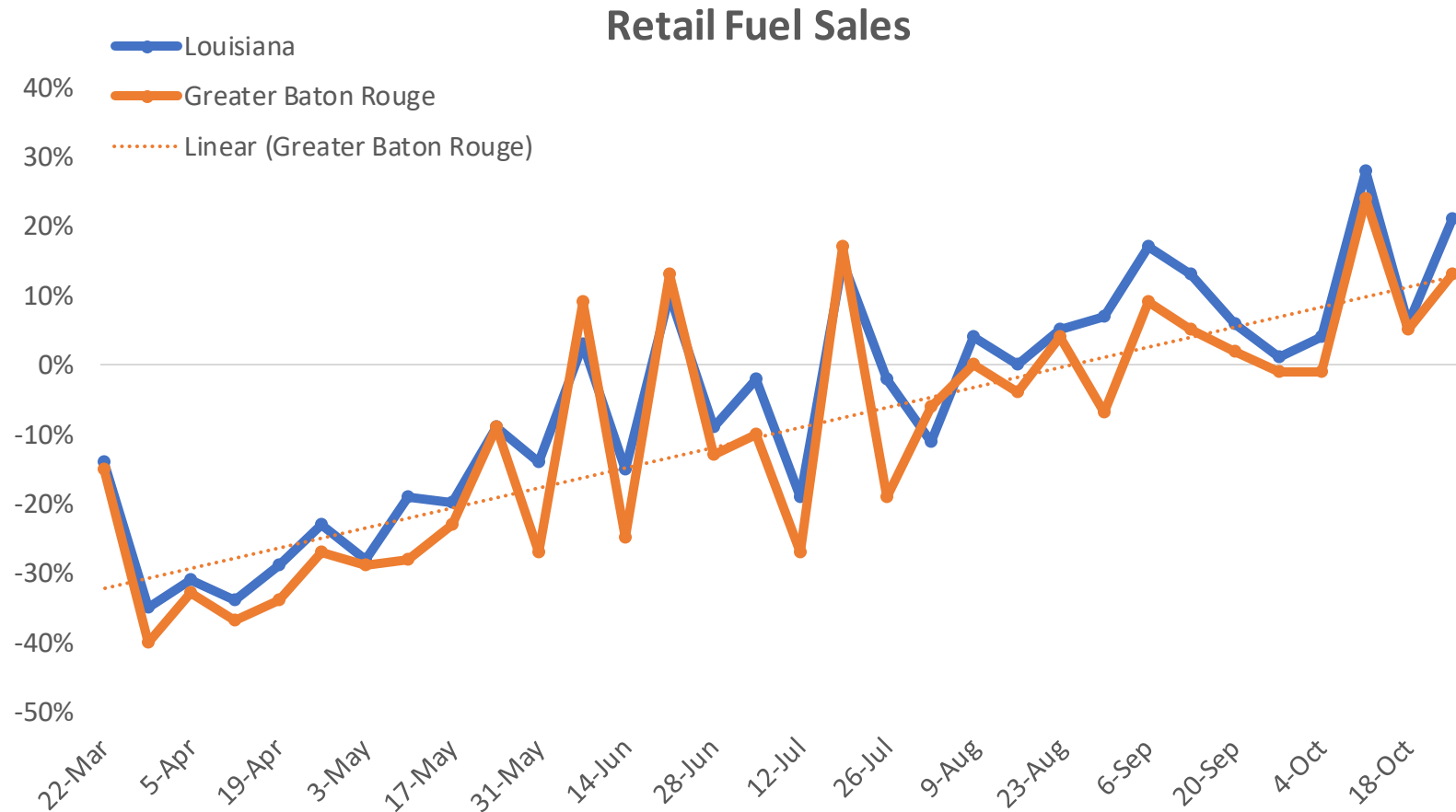
Parish	10-10-2020	10-17-2020	10-24-2020
Ascension	3,477	3,025	2,681
East Baton Rouge	16,869	14,977	13,173
East Feliciana	465	426	386
Iberville	1,360	1,234	1,071
Livingston	3,276	2,908	2,511
Point Coupee	665	615	538
St. Helena	354	333	293
West Baton Rouge	944	840	745
West Feliciana	216	199	179
BR MSA total	27,626	24,557	21,577

- Combined weekly claims have dropped for the 14th consecutive week and are down 63% in that timeframe.
- Claims were down more than 12% over the week and fell in every Capital Region parish. This is the lowest number of claims since March 28.

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

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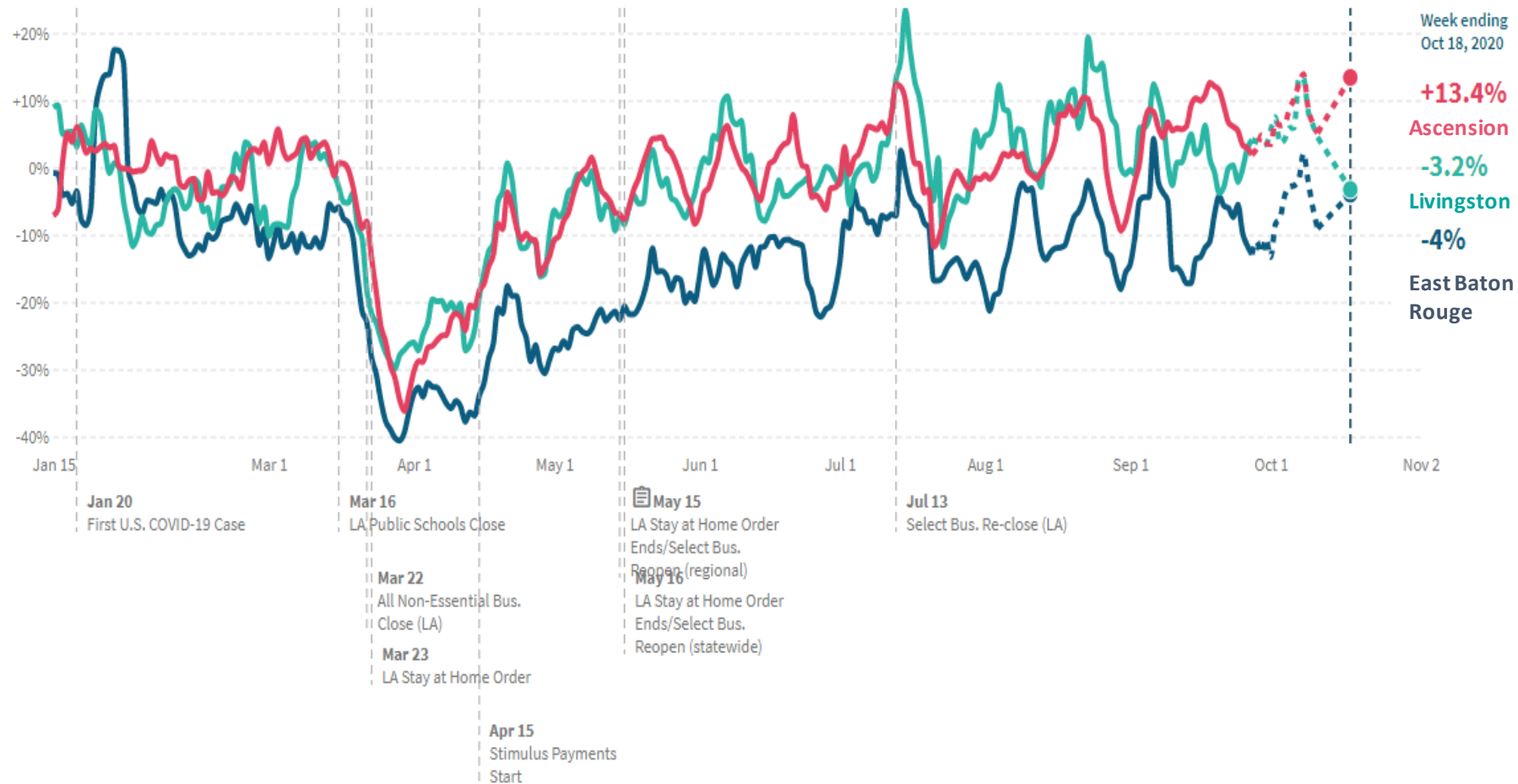
Retail fuel sales progression in Louisiana and Greater Baton Rouge during the pandemic.



- Retail fuel sales were higher than 2019 for both the state and region for the third consecutive week.
- Even as parts of the Capital Region economy remain closed, regional retail fuel sales have trended at or above 2019 levels for two months.

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How has consumer spending been impacted by the pandemic?



- While consumer spending has fully recovered and is above pre-COVID levels in Ascension, it still lags slightly in Livingston and East Baton Rouge.
- Another round of federal stimulus through enhanced unemployment benefits, a one-time stimulus payment, or more money allocated to PPP would likely increase spending.

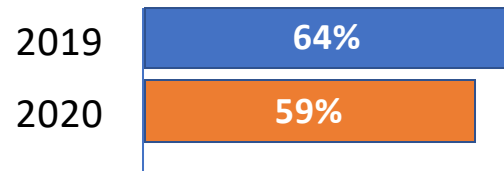
Sources: Opportunity Insights; dotted lines indicate data is preliminary.

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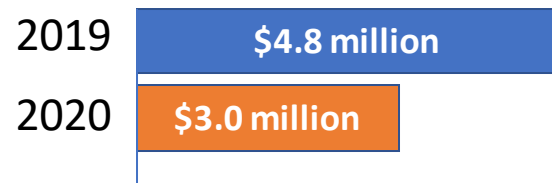
How has travel been impacted during the pandemic?

Hotel Occupancy

October 18 – October 24



Revenue October 18 – October 24

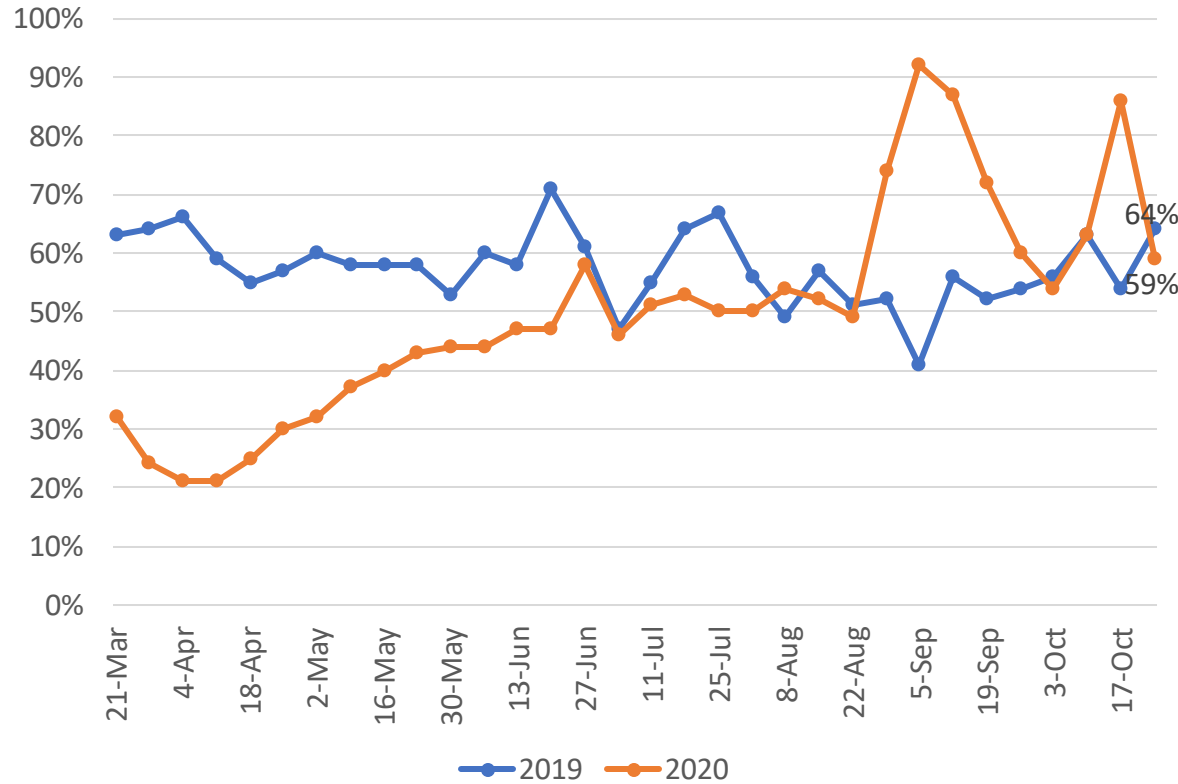


- 2020 occupancy rates are slightly lower than those of 2019. With another storm hitting South Louisiana last week, next week's numbers may show an uptick.
- In addition, revenues fell this week, indicating that room rental rates are likely lower than they were in 2019.
- A recent national survey of hotel owners found that 67% say they could not survive another six months at current occupancy levels, implying that the uptick over the last month may have been crucial for local hotels.

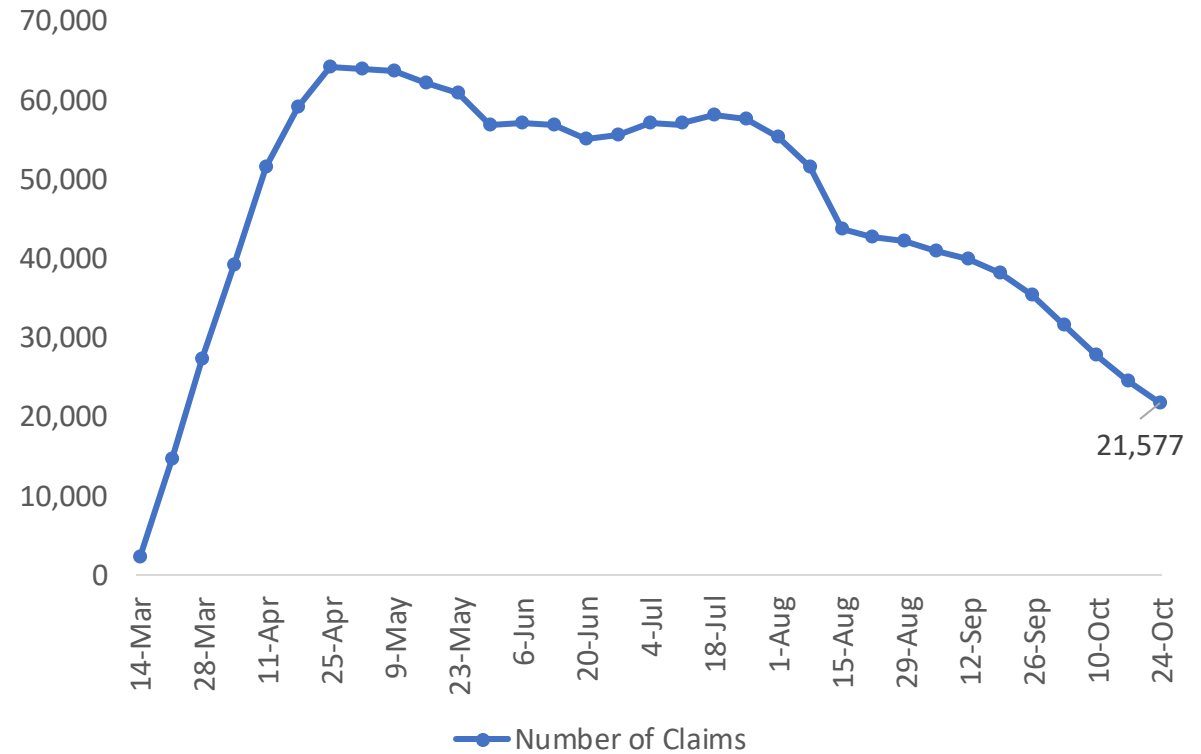
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Both hotel occupancy and unemployment claims have shown marked improvement from the height of the pandemic.

Hotel Occupancy



Weekly Combined UI Claims



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How has travel been impacted during the pandemic?

CATS Transportation Ridership

Week Ending	2019 Ridership	2020 Ridership	%age Change
April 25th	46,838	15,846	-66.2%
May 30th	47,289	21,115	-55.3%
June 20th	46,730	23,944	-48.8%
July 4th	46,773	22,558	-51.8%
August 15th	50,714	25,192	-50.3%
September 12th	53,930	23,503	-56.4%
October 17th	47,187	26,998	-42.8%
October 31st	51,043	20710	-59.4%

- CATS ridership once again dropped to less than half of what it was in the same week in 2019.

Residential Travel

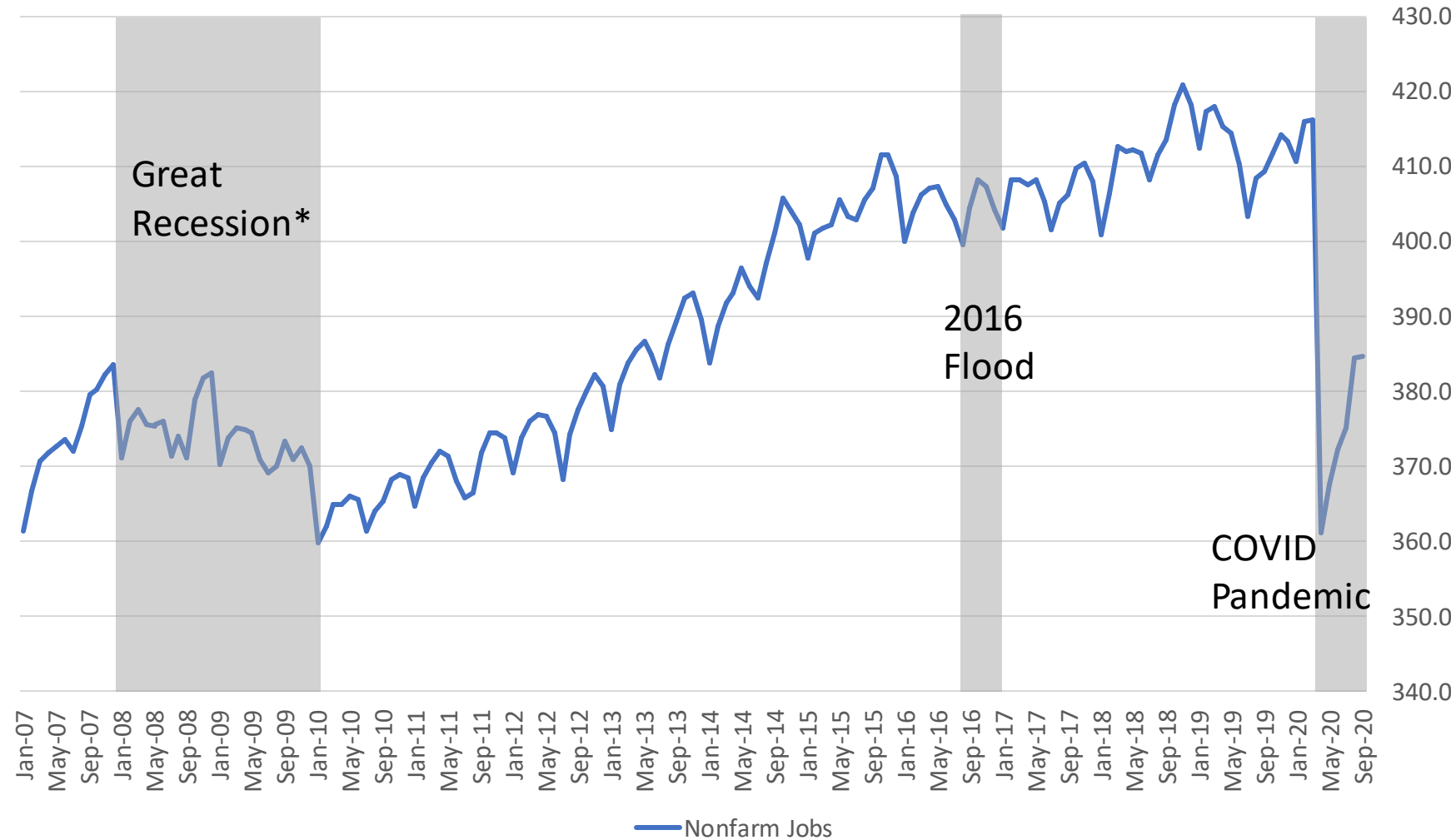
Parish	Retail & Recreation	Grocery and Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Ascension	-2%	+6%	-	-	-15%	+5%
East Baton Rouge	-15%	-6%	+3%	-14%	-27%	+7%
East Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-18%	-
Iberville	-52%	-2%	-	-4%	-23%	+2%
Livingston	0%	+7%	+4%	0%	-13%	+4%
Point Coupee	-	-	-	-	-17%	-
St. Helena	-	-	-	-	-19%	-
West Baton Rouge	-10%	+9%	-	+3%	-21%	+3%
West Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-29%	-

- While travel to work was relatively static, there was more mobility to Retail & Recreation in Ascension and EBR.

Source: Google Mobility Change Report, October 27th, 2020;
Capital Area Transit System.

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The region added 11,400 jobs in August, but losses are still higher than the height of the Great Recession.



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 – 9/20): -7.6%
 - -13.2% in April
 - -11.1% in May
 - -10.6% in June
 - -9.9% in July
 - -7.6% in August

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

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Leisure & Hospitality, Construction, and Government jobs have not yet recovered from pandemic-related losses.

Major industries in the Capital Region

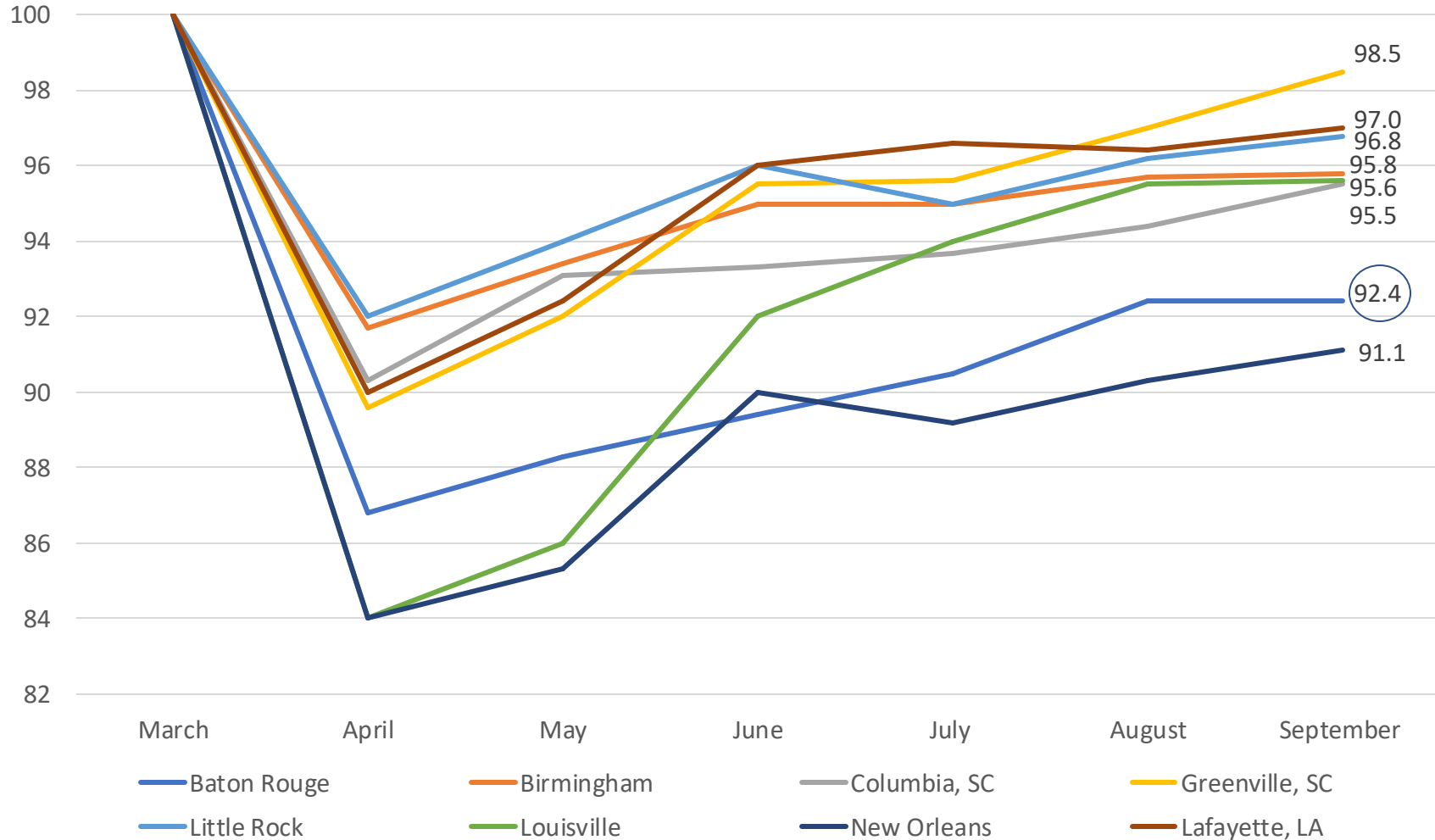
Industry	COVID Job Loss	%age Lost
Leisure & Hospitality	-11,500	-28.4%
Construction	-9,400	-17.8%
Education & Healthcare	-3,600	-6.8%
Professional Services	-1,800	-3.6%
Manufacturing	-1,500	-2.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-1,300	-1.9%
Government	-200	-0.2%

- The metro area added just 200 jobs from August to September.
- Major movers were Government (+1,400), Education & Healthcare (-1,200), and Construction (+700).
- The majority of the 31,600 jobs still lost from the pandemic are in the Leisure & Hospitality and Construction sectors. These sectors are limited due to government restrictions on their opening and uncertainty in the industrial space, respectively.

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The Capital Region has higher job loss in Leisure & Hospitality and Construction than its peers.

Metro Area Employment Index

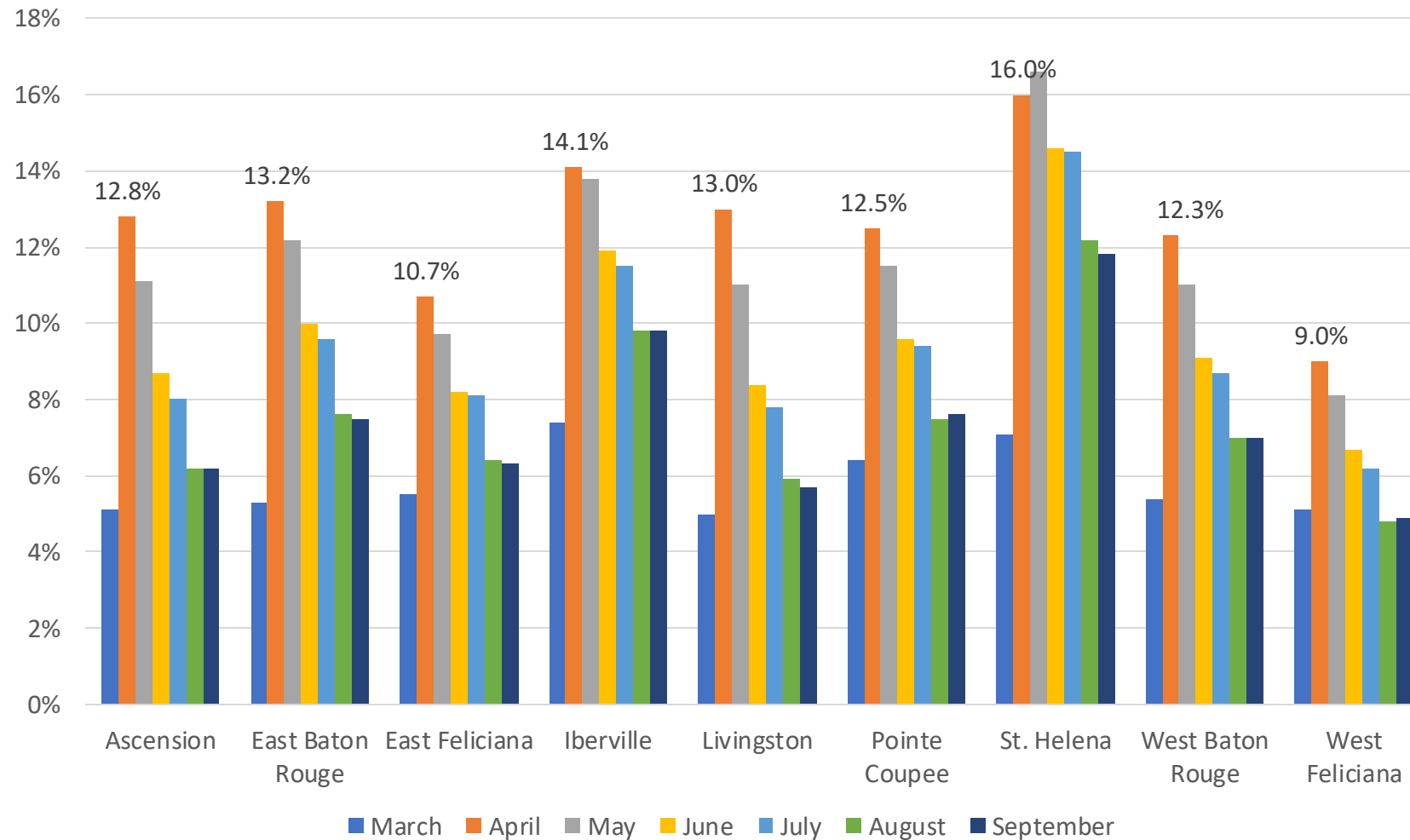


- Job recovery in Baton Rouge and New Orleans has lagged that of out-of-state peers, as well as Lafayette.
- Part of this is due to state COVID policy – Louisiana has more restrictive regulations on bars and restaurants than other states in the region, and that sector is a third of jobs lost.

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There is significant variation between parishes concerning return to work.

Unemployment Rates by Parish



- Unemployment was mostly flat over the month, although St. Helena saw a 0.4% drop.
- All but two parishes have managed to bring rates down below the state and national rate.
- An ongoing question is whether the elevated unemployment rate is due to ongoing business restrictions or permanent business closures.