

COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

August 11, 2020

Lead Researcher:
Andrew Fitzgerald



Baton Rouge Area Chamber®

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

How has consumer spending been impacted by the pandemic?

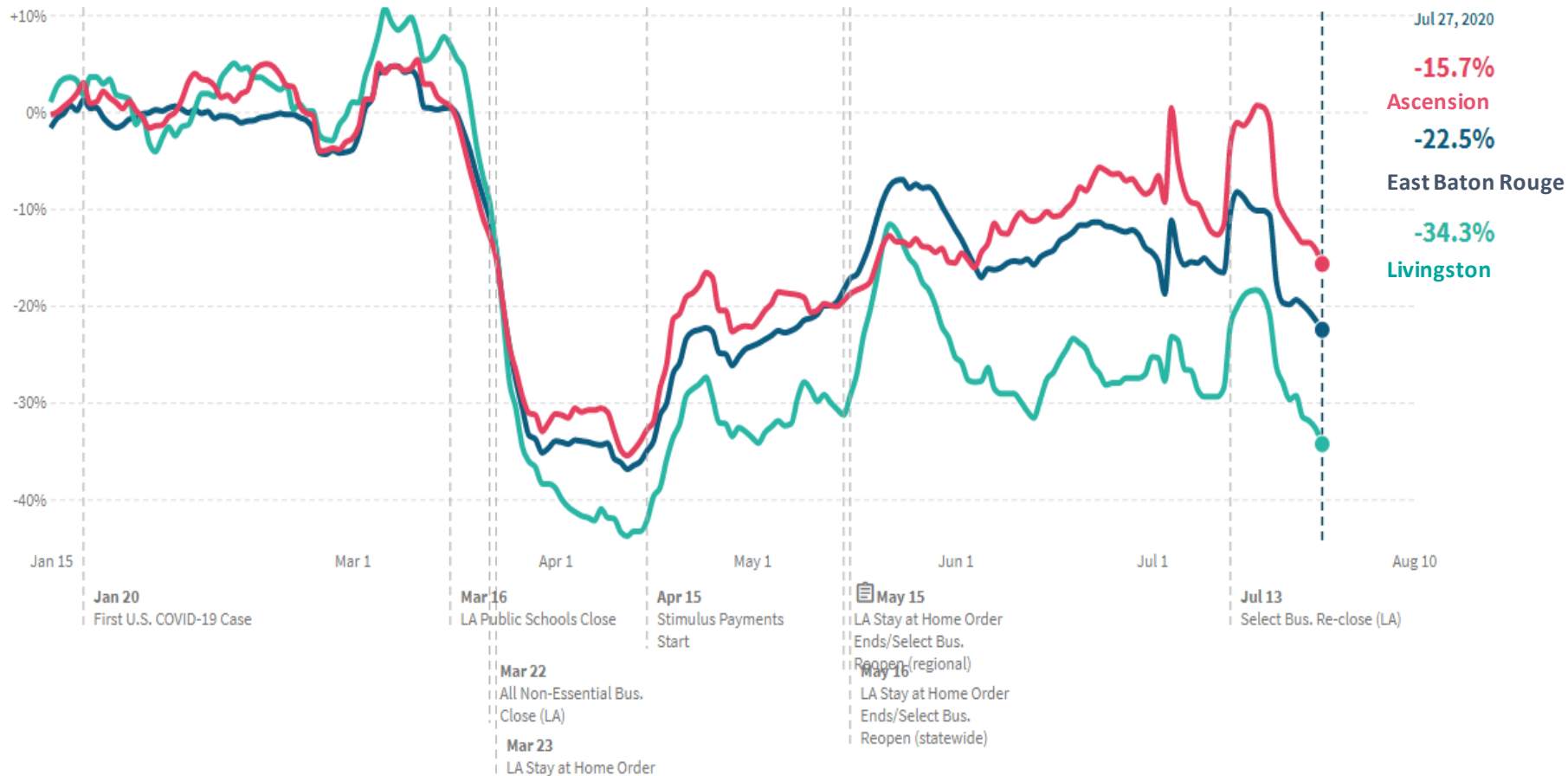


- Consumer spending remained around pre-pandemic levels for Ascension, but saw significant drops in Livingston and EBR.
- This data includes several weeks after the governor instituted rollbacks to reopening of businesses.

Sources: Opportunity Insights.

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

How has the pandemic impacted the number of small businesses open?

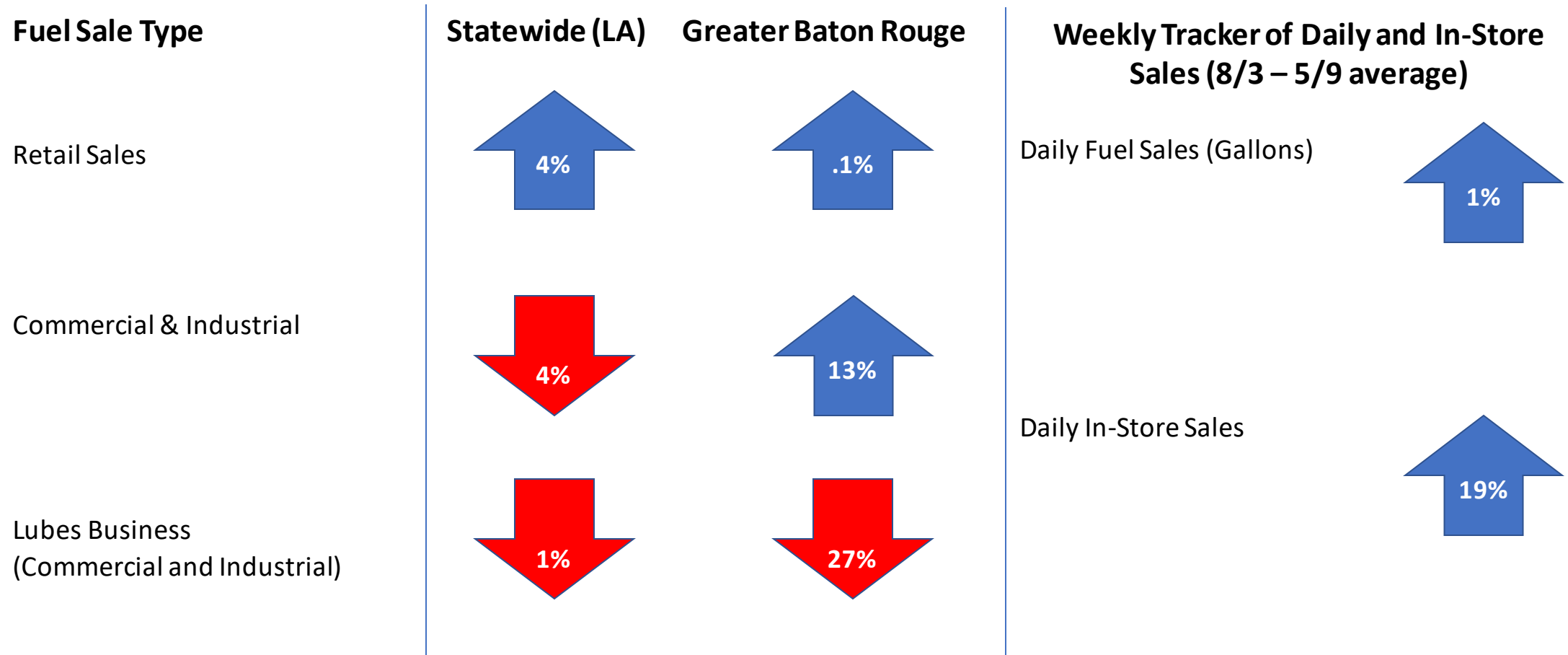


- There is a clear drop in the number of small businesses open from the date in which the governor closed bars.
- This high rate of closure has been felt most in Livingston, which has experienced a 46% drop in small business revenues.

Sources: Opportunity Insights.

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

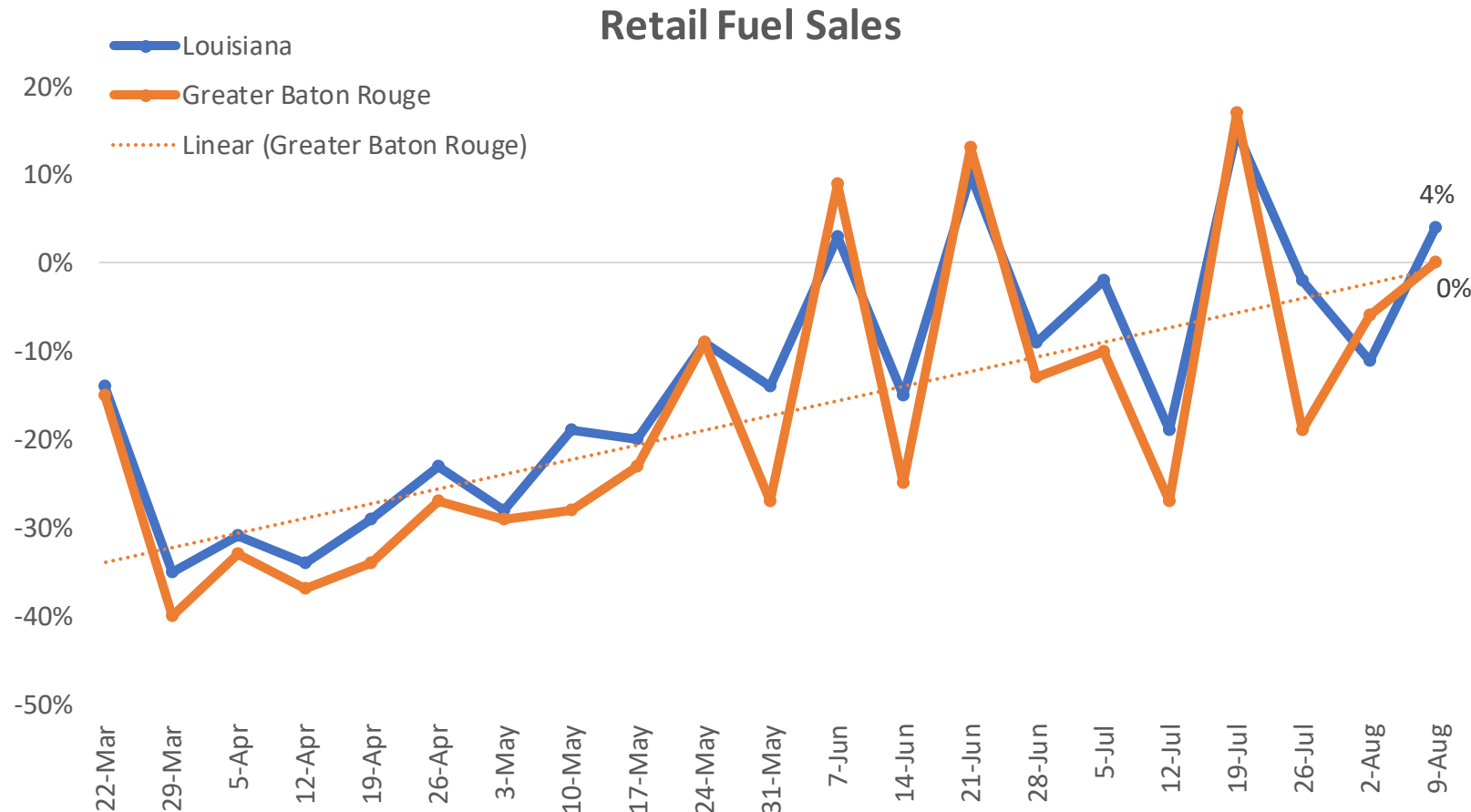
How have fuel sales (gas stations) been impacted during the pandemic?



Fuel sales reflect change in year-over-year from August 3rd to August 9th, 2020 to similar week in 2019.

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

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



- Retail sales are up to their 2019 rates in Baton Rouge, and slightly above that in the state.
- The trendline illustrates that despite several down weeks in the last month, Capital Region fuel sales have a strong growth trend toward 2019 sales numbers.

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

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 1st	48,690	21,874	-55.1%
August 8th	50,107	24,374	-51.4%

Residential Travel

Parish	Retail and Recreation	Grocery and Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Ascension	+3%	+8%	-	-	-31%	+9%
East Baton Rouge	-9%	+1%	+3%	-14%	-36%	+10%
East Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-26%	-
Iberville	-	+7%	-	-7%	-31%	-
Livingston	+5%	+9%	+22%	+10%	-28%	+7%
Point Coupee	-	-	-	-	-28%	-
St. Helena	-	-	-	-	-28%	-
West Baton Rouge	0%	+6%	-	-5%	-32%	-
West Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-30%	-

- CATS ridership had one of its strongest weeks, but is still significantly down over the year.

- The last week saw significant increase in retail and recreation mobility, as well as grocery and pharmacy.

Source: Google Mobility Change Report, August 8th, 2020;
Capital Area Transit System.

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

How has unemployment been impacted during the pandemic?

Parish	07-18-2020	07-25-2020	08-01-2020
Ascension	7,580	7,484	7,264
East Baton Rouge	34,911	34,658	33,824
East Feliciana	951	956	939
Iberville	2,451	2,429	2,400
Livingston	7,897	7,738	7,524
Point Coupee	1,302	1,284	479
St. Helena	630	621	602
West Baton Rouge	1,840	1,833	1,789
West Feliciana	445	466	459
BR MSA total	58,007	57,469	55,280

- Combined weekly claims dropped slightly over the week overall and in the region's three largest parishes.
- Unemployment claims have been static since the start of Phase Two.
- The federal unemployment enhancement ended last week, so next week's numbers may be an early indicator of the extent to which the supplement discouraged employment.

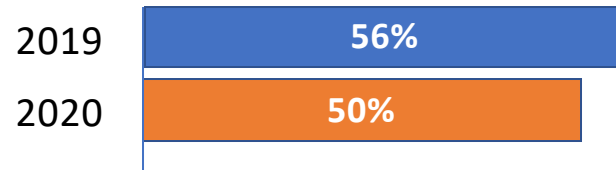
Sources: Louisiana Workforce Commission, BRAC Analysis.
 Dates signify initial plus continued claims for week ending on that day.

Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

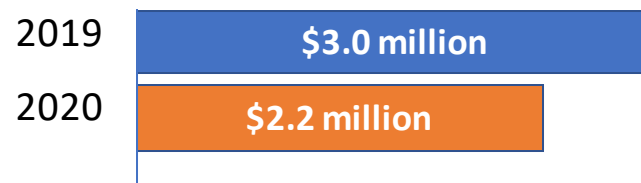
How has travel been impacted during the pandemic?

Hotel Occupancy

July 26 – August 1



Revenue from July 26 – August 1

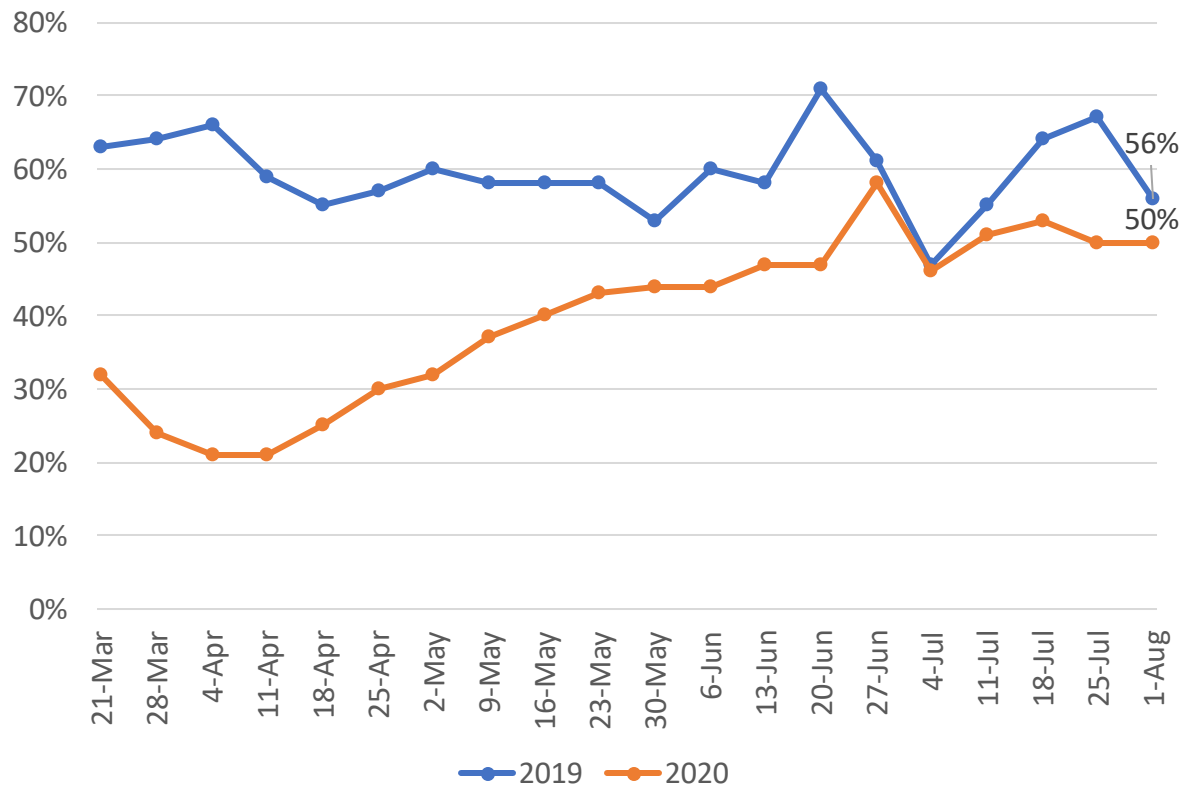


- 2020 occupancy was static, but in 2019 hotels experienced an occupancy drop this week.
- Revenue for 2020 remained the same week-over-week as well.
- The spike in cases in the Gulf South and East Baton Rouge in particular, as well as the lack of events like baseball and soccer tournaments, are negatively impacting the hospitality sector.

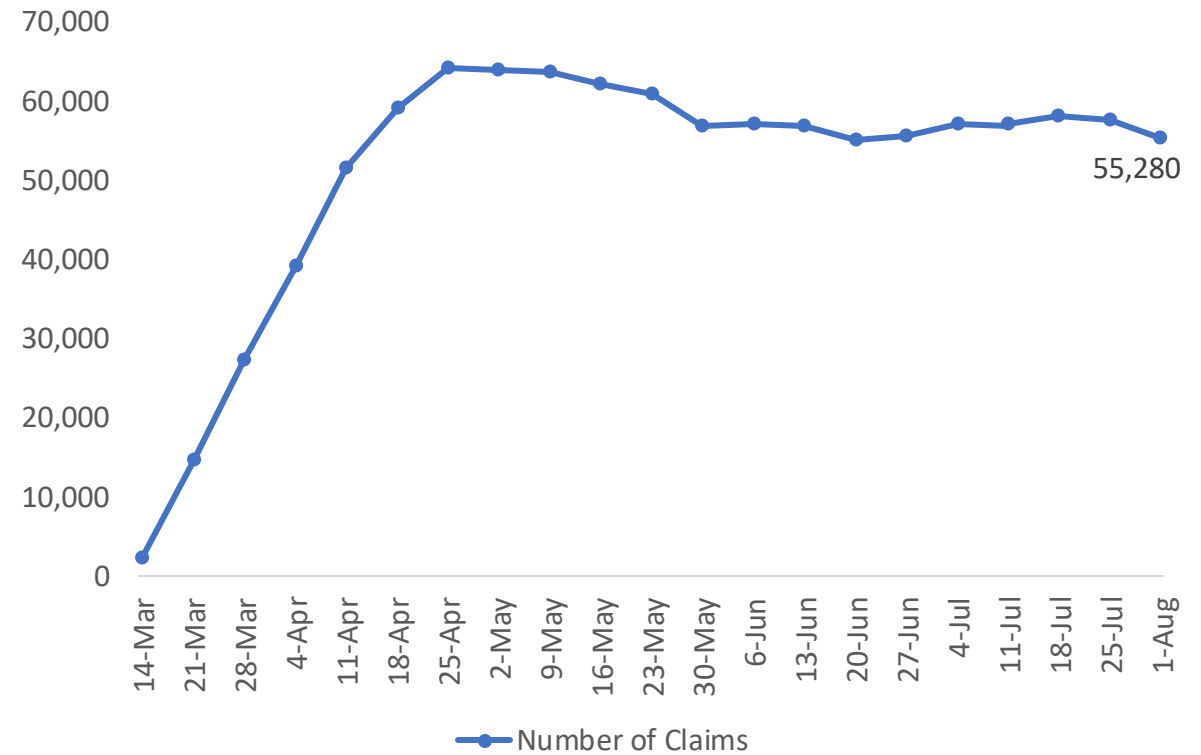
Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

While hotel occupancy has begun to match 2019 rates, unemployment claims are still about twenty times higher than a normal week.

Hotel Occupancy

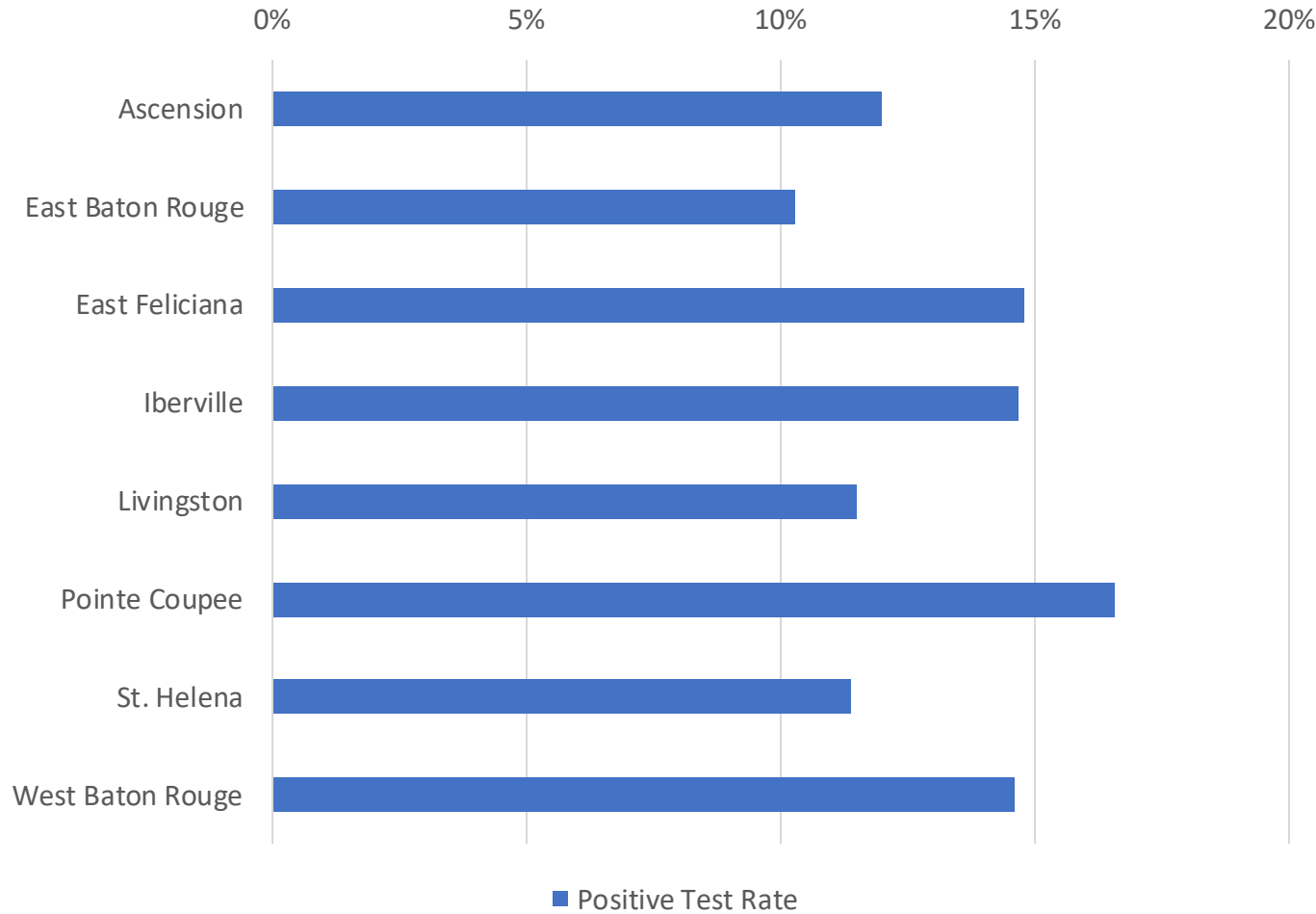


Weekly Combined UI Claims



Capital Region COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

Percentage of positive test rates by parish over the last 14 days.



- While EBR has seen a drop in positive cases over the last two weeks, rates have risen in other large parishes like Ascension and Livingston.
- The international "recommended positivity rate" - the rate that experts say demonstrates that there is sufficient testing and spread is trending down - is 5%. No Capital Region parish meets that standard.

Sources: [Louisiana Coronavirus Data](#), through noon 8/9/20. Because of reporting discrepancies, West Feliciana data unavailable.