

COVID-19 Indicator Dashboard

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2020

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Baton Rouge Area Chamber®

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 15th	50,714	25,192	-50.3%
September 12th	53,930	23,503	-56.4%
September 19th	51,268	25,319	-50.6%

- CATS ridership continues to be well below 2019 numbers, although ridership is up over-the-week.

Residential Travel

Parish	Retail & Recreation	Grocery and Pharmacy	Parks	Transit Stations	Workplace	Residential
Ascension	0%	+1%	-	-	-29%	+5%
East Baton Rouge	-15%	-6%	+41%	-19%	-34%	+8%
East Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-33%	-
Iberville	-	-8%	-	-6%	-29%	-
Livingston	-1%	+1%	+35%	+19%	-26%	+4%
Point Coupee	-	-	-	-	-19%	-
St. Helena	-	-	-	-	-24%	-
West Baton Rouge	+7%	+9%	-	-10%	-31%	-
West Feliciana	-	-	-	-	-29%	-

- Mobility was mostly static, although data shows park attendance remained up.

Source: Google Mobility Change Report, September 11th, 2020; Capital Area Transit System.

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How has unemployment been impacted during the pandemic?

Parish	08-29-2020	09-05-2020	09-12-2020
Ascension	5,455	5,365	5,161
East Baton Rouge	25,838	25,226	24,380
East Feliciana	689	696	672
Iberville	1,964	1,949	1,875
Livingston	5,170	5,144	4,855
Point Coupee	959	982	945
St. Helena	506	482	464
West Baton Rouge	1,387	1,324	1,299
West Feliciana	317	315	291
BR MSA total	42,285	41,483	39,942

- Combined weekly claims have dropped for the eighth consecutive week and are down 30% in that timeframe.
- Both initial and continued claims fell over the week; there is little evidence that the renewed, lower federal benefits led to a meaningful increase in unemployment claims.

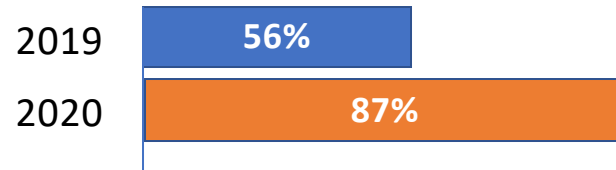
Sources: Louisiana Workforce Commission, BRAC Analysis.
 Dates signify initial plus continued claims for week ending on that day.

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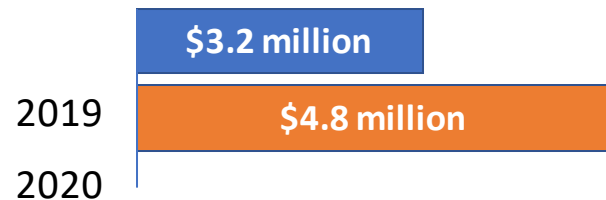
How has travel been impacted during the pandemic?

Hotel Occupancy

September 6 – September 12



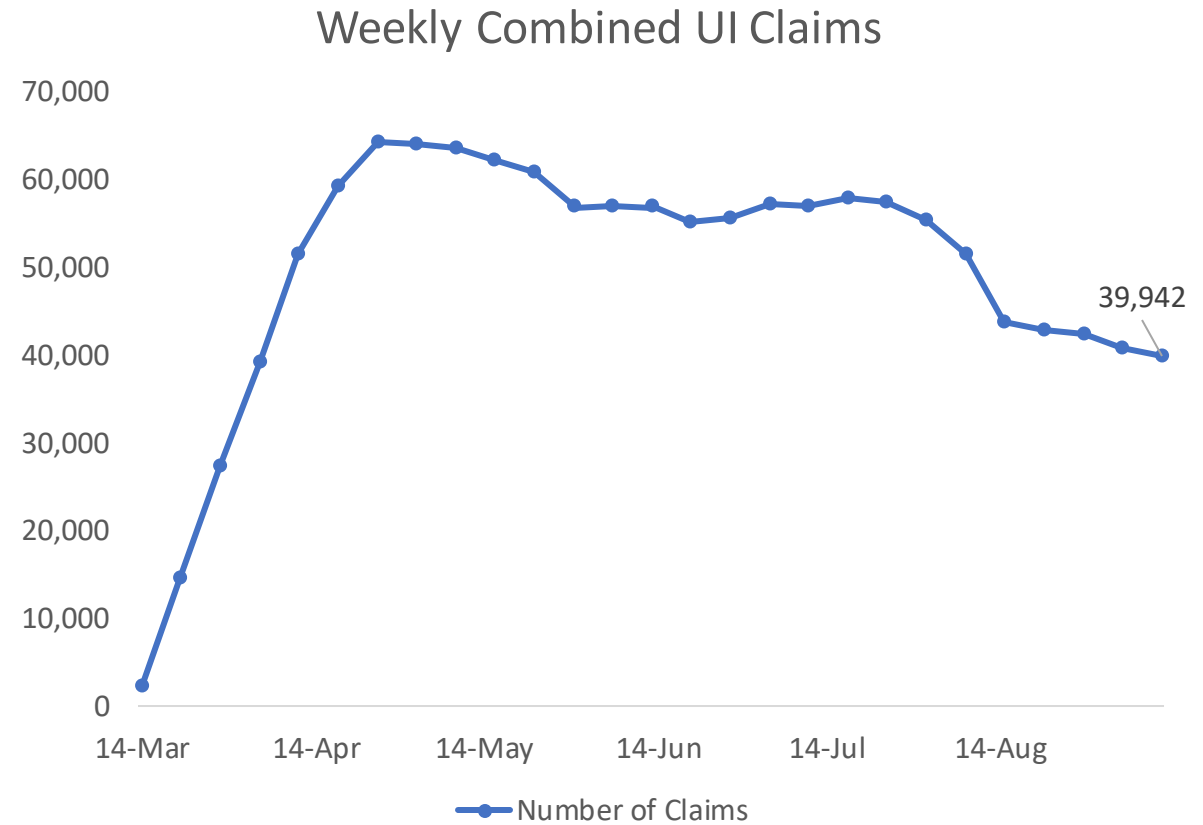
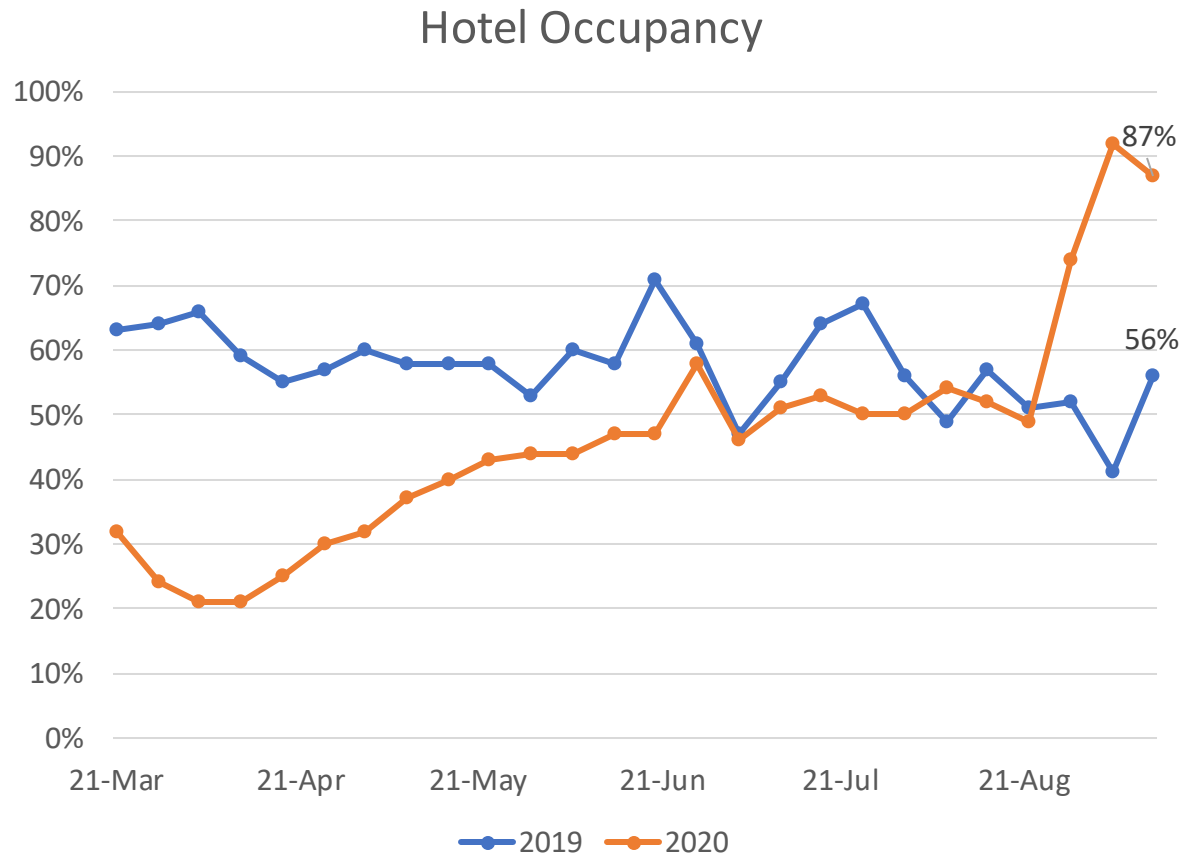
Revenue September 6 – September 12



- 2020 occupancy rates sustained a third week of a spike due to evacuees and were over 30% higher than the same week last year.
- Revenues were up 50% over 2019 for the week, which aids organizations that rely on hotel occupancy taxes and will face funding concerns in 2021.
- The influx likely led to greater consumer spending at restaurants and retailers in the region; that data will be available in the coming weeks.

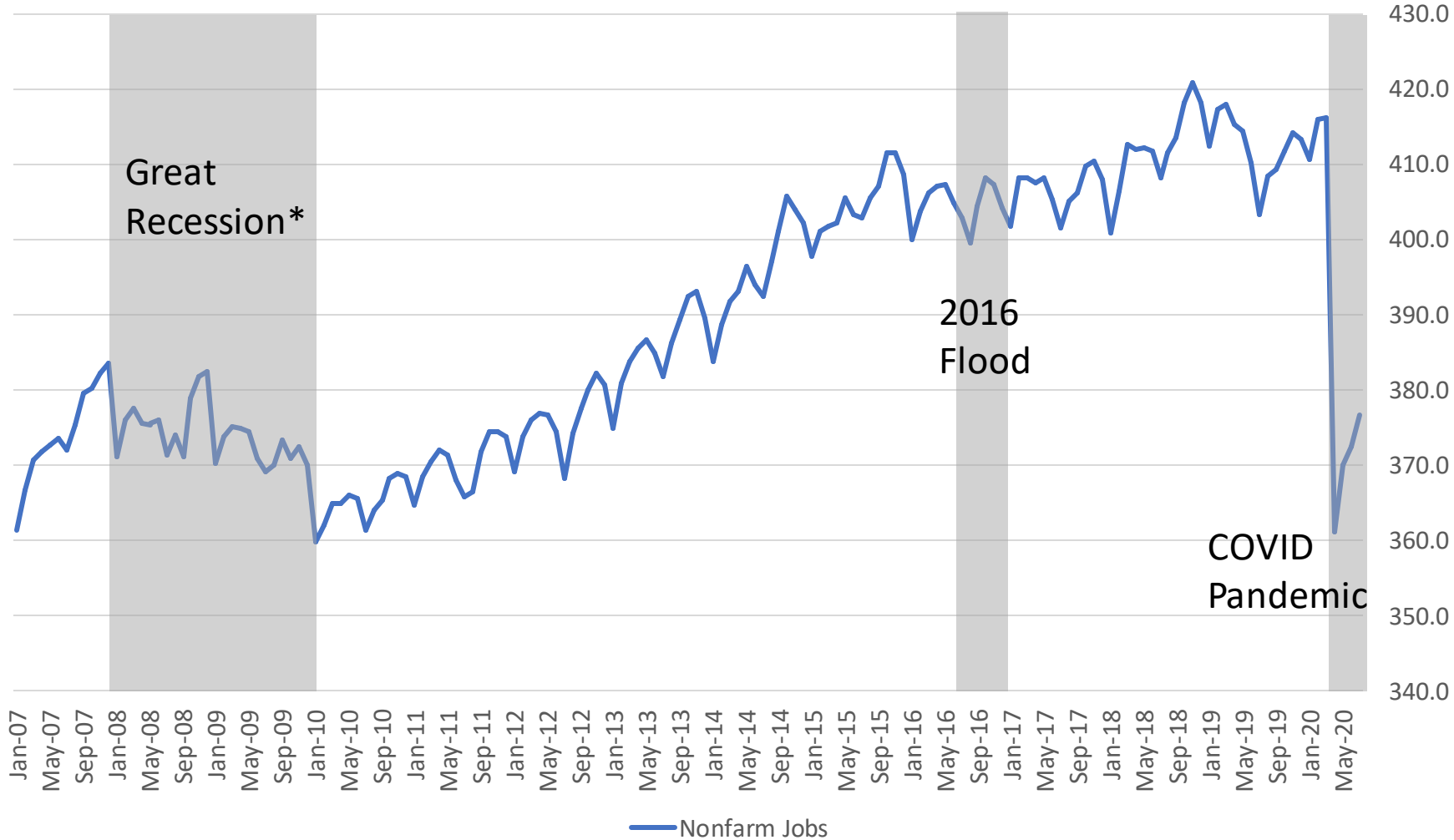
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While hotel occupancy remained high due to evacuees, unemployment claims are still about 14 times higher than a normal week.



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Job losses in the Capital Region are still fifty percent higher than those from 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 – 7/20): -9.5%
 - -13.2% in April
 - -11.1% in May
 - -10.5% in June

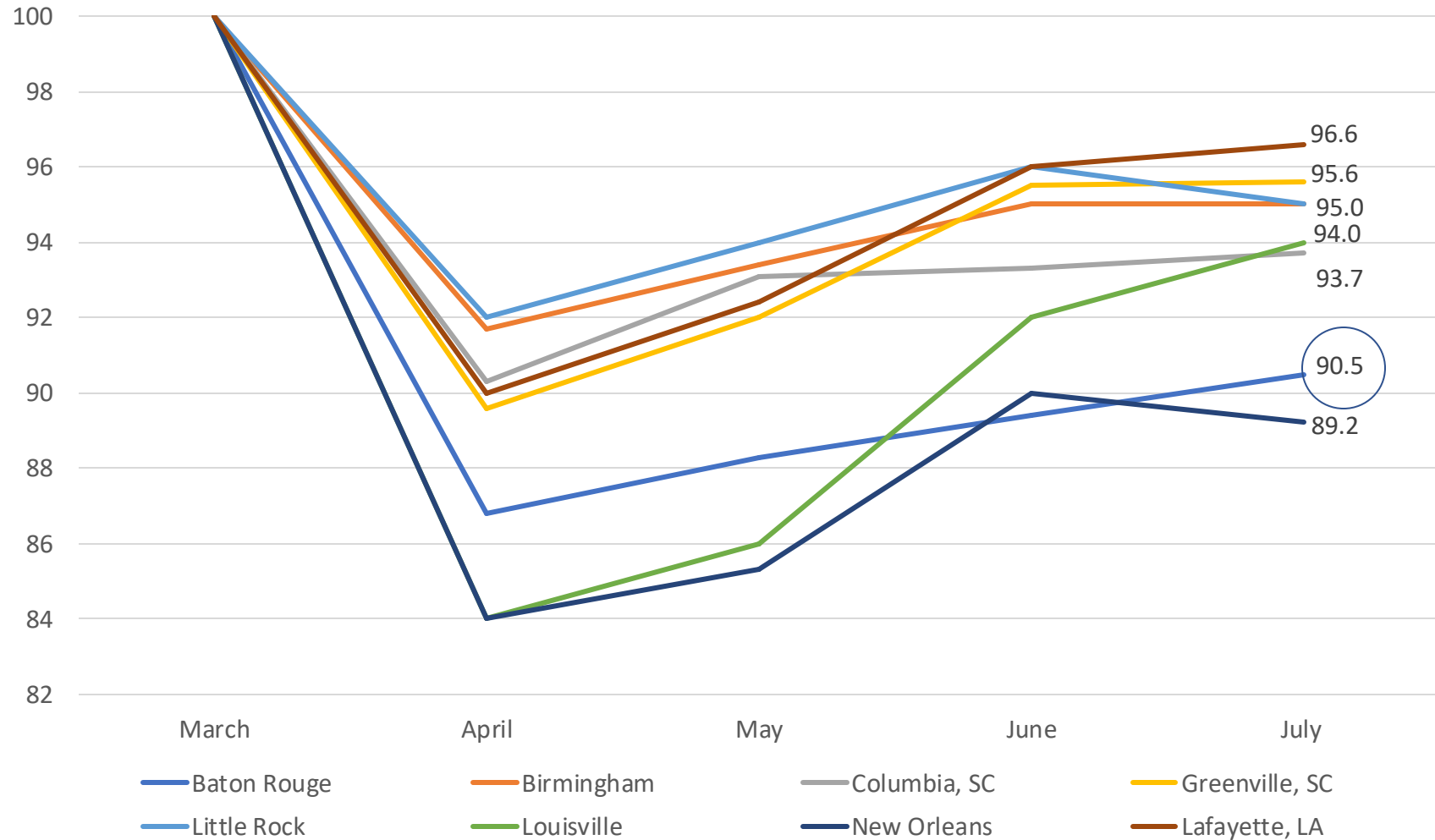
Source: BLS, LWC, BRAC Analysis.

*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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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 struggling most.

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

Major industries in the Capital Region

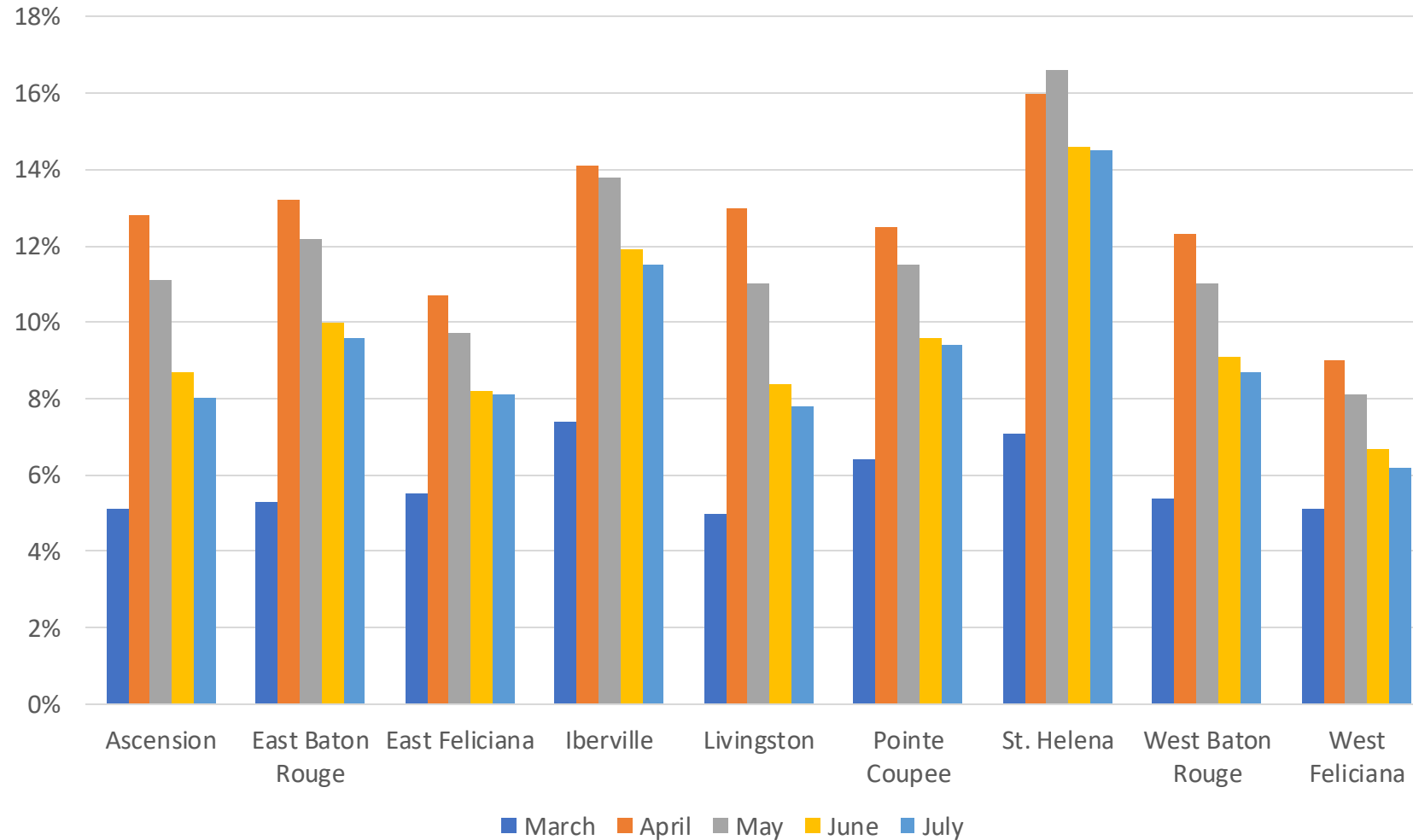
Industry	COVID Job Loss	%age Lost
Leisure & Hospitality	-11,400	-26.9%
Construction	-9,900	-18.7%
Government	-7,300	-9.5%
Manufacturing	-1,300	-4.3%
Professional Services	-3,300	-6.6%
Education & Healthcare	-3,000	-5.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-1,400	-2.0%

- The three hardest-hit sectors are still a combined 28,600 jobs below their pre-pandemic counts.
- The region has 39,600 total fewer jobs than in March, meaning 7 in 10 jobs still lost are concentrated in those three industries.
- Baton Rouge's disproportionately high number of construction jobs, combined with delays in planned industrial expansions, are a significant cause of the region's lag in recovery relative to peer regions.

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There is significant variation between parishes concerning return to work.

Unemployment Rates by Parish



- Ascension, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, and West Feliciana have made significant progress toward lowering unemployment to pre-pandemic rates.
- All but two parishes have managed to bring rates down below the state and national rate.
- Considering the continuing restrictions on businesses in the state, rate drops this significant are a positive indicator for the Capital Region.