METROPOLITAN REPORT

Economic Indicators for the New Orleans Area

Division of Business and Economic Research, University of New Orleans

Volume 18, No. 1 **2nd Anniversary Katrina Edition** **August 2007**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Metropolitan employment and population each stands at about 83% of pre-Katrina levels. Katrina removed 183,500 jobs from New Orleans. In the first year, 55,900 were recovered. In the second year, 21,900 jobs were gained. Growth, while continuing, has slowed.

- Construction, driven by recovery activity, is stronger than before the storm.

- Traditional drivers of the local economy such as the oil and gas industry, chemical manufacturing and the port, hover at or near pre-Katrina levels. Technical jobs exceeded their pre-Katrina levels.

- Educational services, medical services, grocery stores, and government are lagging behind the overall growth in population and jobs.

- Retail activity remains strong. Sales of motor vehicles are still running 13% above pre-Katrina levels and other retail sales are estimated to be up 27%.

- There are some interesting contrasts between job counts and statistics reflecting economic activity. Taxable retail sales are at 127% of pre-Katrina levels but being produced by 85% of the pre-Katrina retail employees. Gambling revenues of 112% are being accomplished by 87% of the employees. Hotel sales of 78% are being managed by 66% of the accommodation workers.

- Pressure on labor is reflected in higher wages. By the end of 2005, the average weekly wage (including overtime) had jumped to 126% of old levels. During 2006, those gains were sustained on average. However, in some sectors, wages continued to rise, while in others, wages started to moderate.

- Tourism, hit hard by Katrina, is growing but still lags the overall economy. In 2006, 3.7 million visitors came to the New Orleans area and spent $2.9 billion. In 2007, the number of visitors is projected to grow to just over 6 million to about 60% of its pre-Katrina levels.

- Despite the reduction in New Orleans visitors, gambling has held its own. Despite having one less casino, and even with Mississippi casinos returning to their old strength, gambling revenues are still up 12% over pre-storm values.

THE METROPOLITAN REPORT

This edition of the Metro report presents a snapshot of the metro area economic indicators before Katrina, in the autumn after Katrina and at the first and second anniversaries.

Statistics for the metro area, unless otherwise noted, contain information for the 7-parish area defined as the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner Metropolitan Statistical Area. This includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St.John the Baptist and St. Tammany parishes. St. James used to be considered part of the New Orleans MSA. However, in 2003, due to changes in commuting patterns, St. James Parish was removed from the New Orleans MSA by the federal Office of Management and Budget. However, St. James is included in the average wage data.

Data for individual parishes are contained at the back of the report, though the labor data shown for a parish lags the jobs numbers quoted for the metropolitan area. Employment data at the parish level is only currently available through December 2006. Other economic data at the parish level are relatively current. Unless noted, they are from June or July 2007.

Employment data at the metropolitan level underwent an enormous revision by the Louisiana Department of Labor in the last year. As a result, figures from last year may differ from those published in previous reports.

Table Definitions

The tables in this report have similar columns. The columns are:

- *2004*: average during the full calendar year.
- *2005 preK*: average during the period before Katrina. For monthly data, this will mean the average from January through August 2005.
- *Worst 2005 or low point*: the point in the data series during the autumn of 2005 (Sept through December) when the series was at its worst.
- *Last Year* : Data for the same period, one year before the data used in the “most current” column
- *Most Current*: The most current data available. For most series, this is usually either June or July 2007 data. Variations from this time period are noted. For volatile data, the average for the year to date is used instead of the most current point.
- *% at worst or % at low point*: The autumn “low point” over the average before Katrina. This gives an idea how poorly that indicator performed at its lowest point.
- *% Last Year:* Last Year over the 2005 preK average.
- *Current % preK*: The most current value over the 2005 preK average. This gives an indication of where things are now.

These data have not been seasonalized.

Overview

Prior to Hurricane Katrina the New Orleans economy was growing by just less than 2,000 jobs per year. The economy lost about 30% of its total jobs immediately following the storm. For the first year following Katrina, the area’s economy added about 5,000 jobs *per month*. However, in the second year the growth has slowed to an average of just over 1,800 jobs per month. Although this rate is substantially higher than the growth in pre-Katrina years, it indicates that the local economy will be unlikely to return to pre-Katrina levels without aggressive economic development.

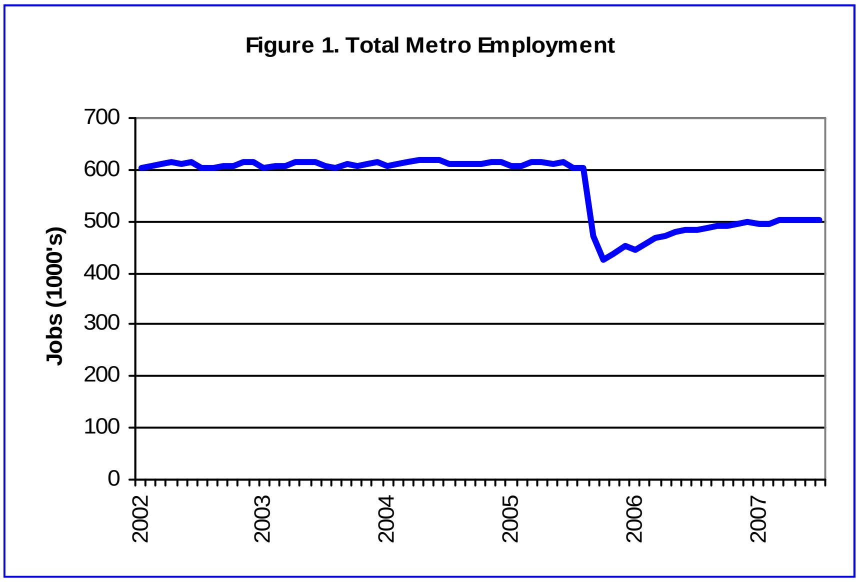
Looking at jobs in a different way, Katrina removed 183,500 jobs from New Orleans. In the first year, 55,900 were recovered. In the second year, 21,900 jobs were gained.

Employment stands at about 83% of its pre-Katrina level and the metro area population is estimated to also be at 83% of its pre-Katrina level. This time

Table 1: New Orleans Metropolitan Employment

Description	Jobs in Thousands: 2005 PreK	Low point during Fall 2005	Last Year July 06	Most Current July 07	Percentage of Pre-Katrina: Low point during Fall 2005	After 1 year July 2006	After 2 years July 2007
Total Nonfarm Employment	609.6	425.8	481.7	503.6	69.9%	79.0%	82.6%
Natural Resources	8.4	8.1	8.5	8.7	96.0%	100.7%	103.1%
Construction	29.6	21.8	31.6	32.8	73.6%	106.6%	110.7%
Heavy & Civil Engineering	7.2	6.0	7.7	8.5	82.9%	106.4%	117.4%
Specialty Trades	16.5	10.7	17.4	16.8	64.8%	105.3%	101.7%
Manufacturing	38.5	30.6	34.9	36.1	79.4%	90.6%	93.7%
Durable Goods	20.8	15.6	19	20.2	75.2%	91.6%	97.3%
Transportation Equipment	11.7	8.2	10.3	10.5	70.2%	88.2%	89.9%
Nondurable Goods	17.8	14.5	15.9	15.9	81.6%	89.5%	89.5%
Chemical Manufacturing	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.7	93.6%	91.6%	95.7%
Wholesale Trade	25.8	21.8	23.2	23.5	84.7%	90.1%	91.3%
Durable Goods Merchants	12.3	10.1	11.4	11.7	81.9%	92.5%	94.9%
Nondurable Goods Merchants	9.6	7.7	8	8.1	80.4%	83.6%	84.6%
Retail Trade	67.4	41.0	56.4	57.5	60.8%	83.7%	85.3%
Grocery Stores	10.1	3.9	7	7.3	38.5%	69.1%	72.0%
Drug Stores	5.2	3.6	4.4	4.3	69.6%	85.0%	83.1%
General Merchandise Stores	14.1	8.9	11	11.6	63.2%	78.2%	82.4%
Transport, Warehousing, and Utilities	28.2	21.2	24.8	25.0	75.3%	88.1%	88.8%
Transport/warehouse	26.3	19.5	21.9	22.2	74.1%	83.2%	84.4%
Information	10.2	7.3	6.6	7.1	71.7%	64.9%	69.8%
Financial Activities	33.0	25.9	26.5	26.7	78.5%	80.4%	81.0%
Banking	7.7	6.4	6.3	6.8	82.8%	81.6%	88.0%
Credit card/lending	2.8	1.9	2.2	2.1	68.2%	78.9%	75.3%
Professional and Business Services	74.6	54.0	65.5	69.6	72.4%	87.8%	93.3%
Professional, Scientific, Technical	28.4	21.6	27.4	29.3	76.0%	96.4%	103.1%
Legal	9.2	6.5	8	8.2	71.0%	87.4%	89.6%
Management of Companies	8.6	6.2	6.7	6.9	72.5%	78.4%	80.7%
Administrative Support/Waste Mgmt	37.6	24.8	31.4	33.4	65.9%	83.5%	88.8%
Educational Services (private)	19.5	11.2	12.4	13.4	57.3%	63.5%	68.6%
Colleges	10.3	7.0	7.8	8.2	67.7%	75.5%	79.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	61.7	38.2	42.9	45.8	61.9%	69.5%	74.2%
Ambulatory Health Care	21.8	14.1	17	17.6	64.7%	78.0%	80.7%
Hospitals	20.8	13.6	13.8	16.0	65.5%	66.5%	77.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	85.8	42.2	60.4	64.8	49.2%	70.4%	75.6%
Gambling Industries	5.9	3.1	4.4	5.1	52.7%	74.7%	86.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14.3	6.6	10.9	11.7	46.2%	76.4%	82.0%
Accommodation	15.5	8.6	9.1	10.2	55.4%	58.7%	65.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	56.0	24.4	40.4	42.9	43.6%	72.2%	76.6%
Other Services	22.4	13.3	15.9	17.3	59.5%	71.1%	77.4%
Government	104.6	79.6	72.1	75.3	76.1%	68.9%	72.0%
Federal Government	15.7	14.2	12.3	11.6	90.7%	78.5%	74.1%
State Government	27.1	20.7	16.1	18.4	76.5%	59.5%	68.0%
Local Government	61.8	44.5	43.7	45.3	72.0%	70.7%	73.3%

Current employment data for the 7 parish area is from July 2007. Source: LA Dept of Labor.



last year, at the first anniversary, the jobs were at 79% and population was at 78%. The whole economy can be summed up by the curve in Figure 1, above. The economy's comeback can be seen in a steep curve as recovery starts with a gradual flattening of the curve as the economy grows at a gradually slowing rate.

However, not all segments are following this average pattern. Figure 2 illustrates these differences. Construction and the oil and gas industry are stronger than before the storm. Construction is being driven by the recovery itself and mining by the high price of oil. Other traditional drivers of the local economy, such as chemical manufacturing and the port, hover at or near pre-Katrina levels. Technical jobs have exceeded their pre-Katrina levels, seemingly in support of the recovery building and the petrochemical industry.

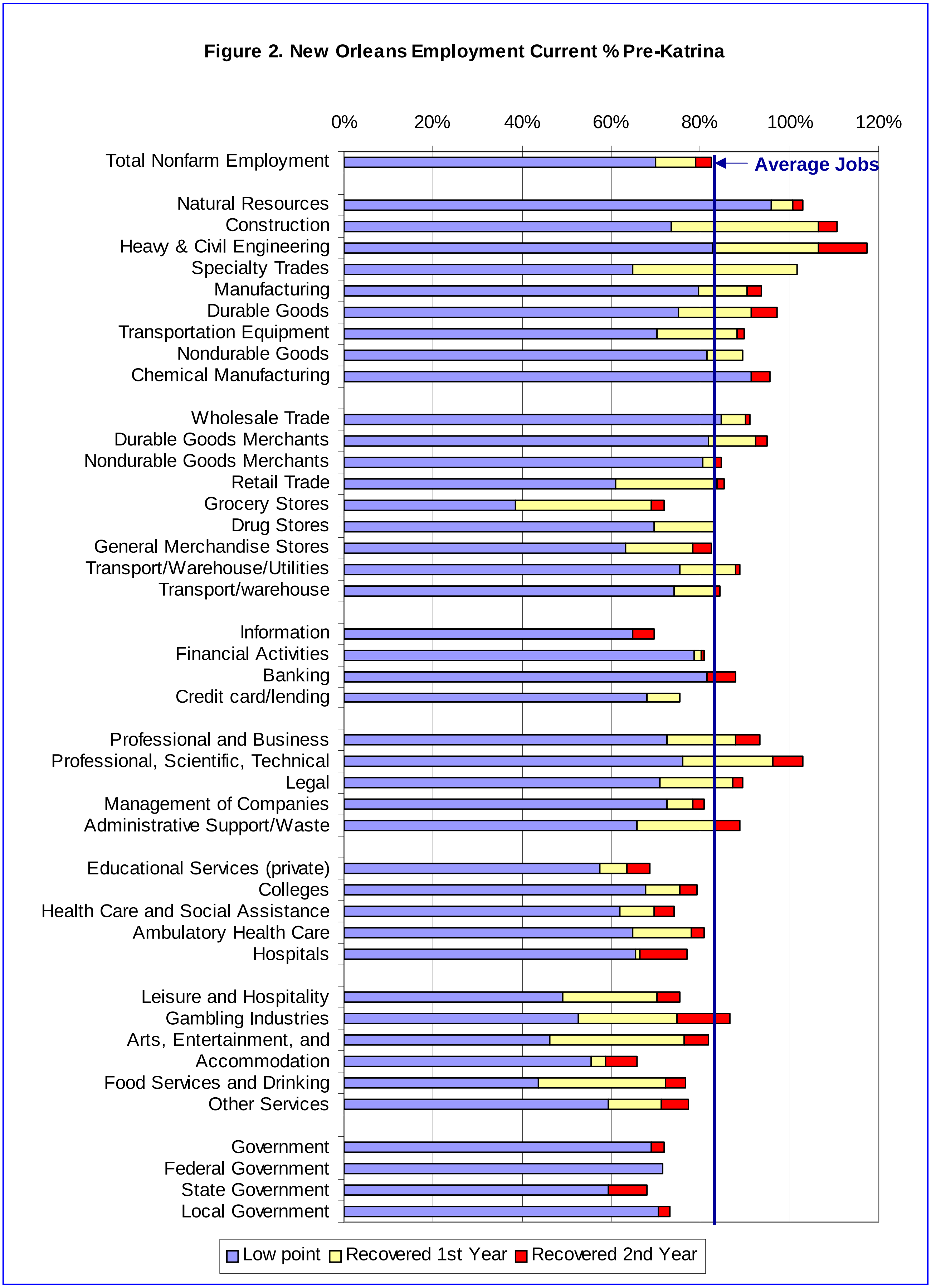
Other employment sectors related to servicing the smaller population, such as private educational services and government are well below the population measure of 83%. Tourism was hit the hardest of all. Tourism is growing but still lags the overall economy.

There are some interesting contrasts between job counts and statistics reflecting actual activity. The implication is that a lot of companies are running "lean" with fewer employees. Yet, in some cases they are managing to process large sales. Taxable retail sales are at 127% of pre-Katrina levels but being produced by 85% of the pre-Katrina employees. Gambling revenues of 112% are being produced by 87% of the employees. Hotel sales of 78% are being managed by 66% of the accommodation workers.

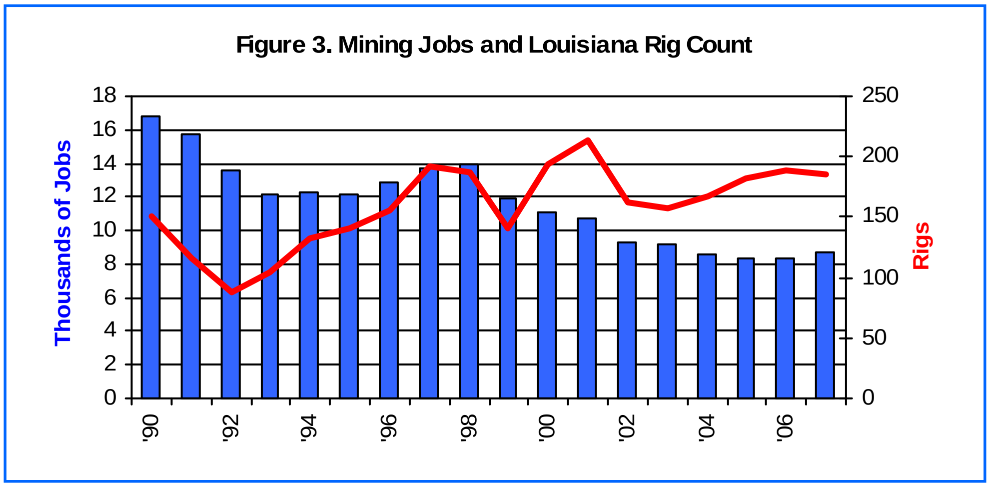
Some of the causes for the slowdown in local growth in the second year are: a shortage of affordable housing has resulted in a labor shortage and substantially higher wages for low-skilled workers; high insurance costs; uncertainty about safety of levees; slower than expected flow of insurance and Road Home money; and quality of life issues such as inadequate availability of medical care, limited public school availability in Orleans Parish, and damaged infrastructure.

Unemployment remains low. New unemployment claims, especially, are very low compared to the size of population.

Growth Rates. Figure 2, illustrates the different patterns of growth within different types of jobs. Some sectors had major growth in the first year following Katrina but have virtually stopped growing in the second year. Examples of this phenomenon include retail trade, especially drug stores. Other sectors languished in the months following Katrina, but picked up in the second year. Hospitals, state and local government, banking, information, and (to a lesser extent) accommodations represent this trend. In contrast, local federal government jobs have continually been lost since Katrina.



July 2007 data. Low point is low point during whole time frame after storm—not limited to autumn 2005.



Wages. The pressure on labor is reflected in higher wages. By the end of 2005, the average weekly wage (including overtime) had jumped to 126% of pre-storm. By the end of 2006, those gains were sustained. The implication is that the supply of workers has stabilized to match the growth in the economy, but not enough for wages to fall. Table 2, below, contains a breakout of wages earned by industry type, including overtime pay.

All segments are well above inflation growth with the possible exceptions of utilities, education, and management of companies. Some others, like retail and administrative/waste services have started to stabilize. Retail was up 31% at the end of 2005 and has slipped to being up 28%. Admin/Waste went from up 56% to up 35%. In contrast, wages for Professional/technical has continued to grow over the last year from 135% above pre-storm to 153%.

Table 2 : 8 parish region Quarterly Average Weekly Wage

	2004	2005 PreK	Dec 2005	Dec 2006	% of PreK Dec 05	%of PreK Dec 06
All segments	662	681	857	858	126%	126%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	483	418	601	664	144%	159%
Mining	1439	1684	1614	1860	96%	110%
Utilities	1019	1204	1181	1115	98%	93%
Construction	704	683	913	966	134%	141%
Manufacturing	961	1009	1064	1123	105%	111%
Wholesale Trade	929	958	1114	1215	116%	127%
Retail Trade	430	418	548	535	131%	128%
Transportation and Warehousing	846	830	976	1034	118%	125%
Information	743	751	959	941	128%	125%
Finance and Insurance	903	985	1286	1211	131%	123%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	605	596	816	831	137%	139%
Professional and Technical Services	1069	941	1274	1441	135%	153%
Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises	1028	1232	1201	1105	98%	90%
Administrative and Waste Services	468	473	737	640	156%	135%
Educational Services	662	677	674	702	100%	104%
Health Care and Social Assistance	713	678	812	864	120%	127%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	610	598	969	745	162%	125%
Accommodation and Food Services	285	290	349	358	120%	123%
Other Services, except Public Admin	493	464	629	618	136%	133%
Public Administration	772	784	892	931	114%	119%

Source: LA Dept of Labor. Includes overtime pay. 8 parishes: N.O. MSA plus St. James parish

Population. While residents continue to move back into the most heavily damaged areas (Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes), suburban parishes seem to be in a state of flux as people move in and out, leaving the population relatively even. The metropolitan area is estimated to have a population of 1,090,000 which is 83% of the old population.

Orleans parish growth has shown the greatest movement in the last year, gaining back an estimated 11% of its pre-Katrina population to reach about 60% of it's old count. Figures 9 and 10 on page 15 graphically show the changes in individual parishes.

Petrochemical and Manufacturing. Shipbuilding, the port and the petrochemical industry had large capital investments in the New Orleans region and were quick to get their businesses going again. Not as many jobs were lost in the first place and recovery has progressed to near pre-Katrina levels. Transport and warehousing at 84% of pre-Katrina levels is the slowest of these segments but still slightly above the average economy mark of 83%.

In oil and gas, a traditional mainstay of the New Orleans economy, there had been a flow of jobs away over the last ten years as illustrated by the difference between the uptick in rig count and mining jobs in Figure 3. The high price of oil (see figure 4) has this segment of the economy booming nationwide and despite the flow of jobs elsewhere, the number of jobs in the mining industry locally has grown slightly above pre-Katrina levels.

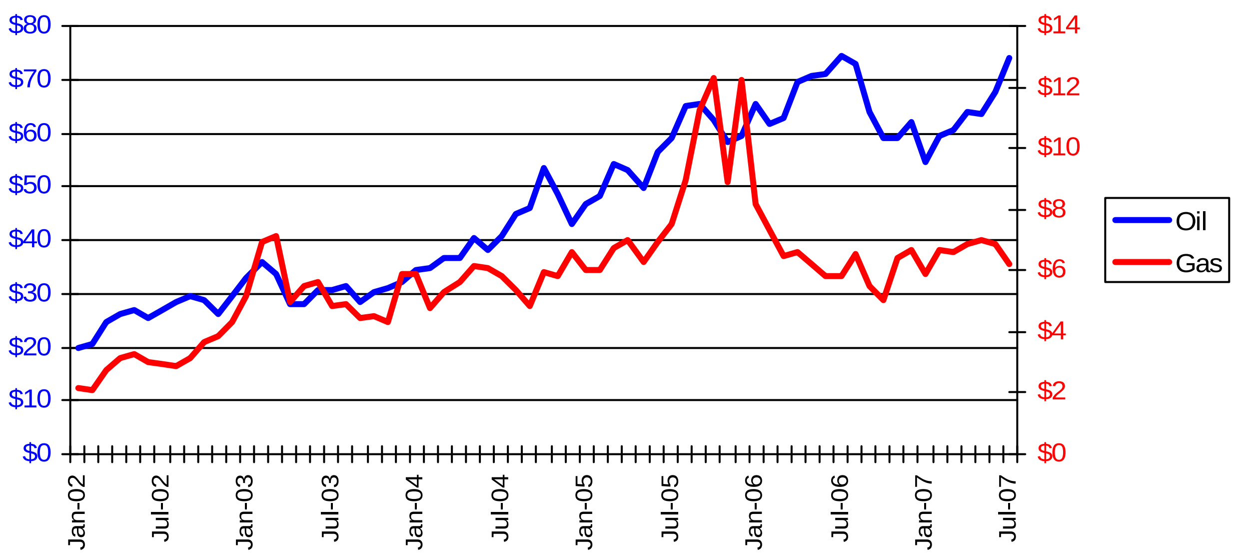
Manufacturing, led by durable goods, is outperforming the economy as a whole, but has not yet reached its pre-storm levels. Transportation equipment manufacturing is the largest type of durable manufacturing in the metro area. Most of the recovery of jobs was in the first year with some continuing into the second.

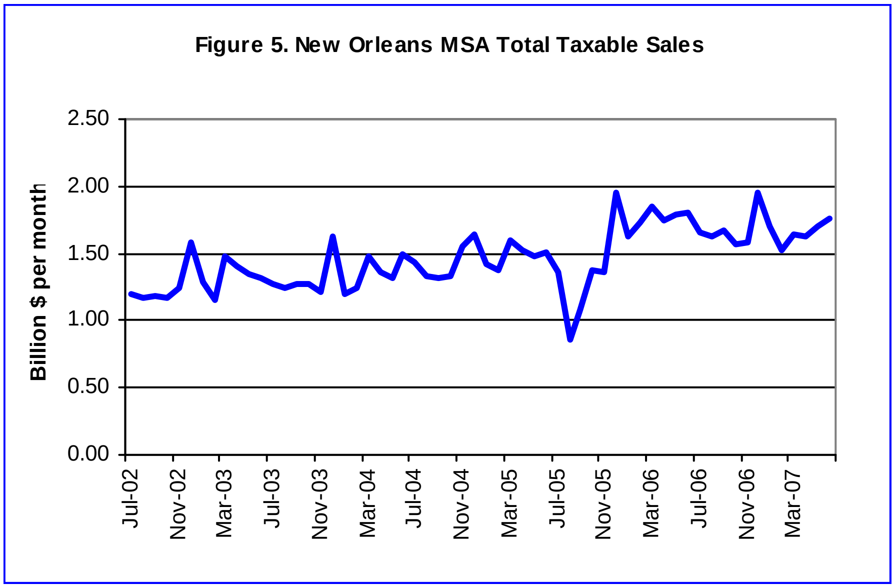
As energy prices remain high, global chemical demand is robust, and the port of New Orleans moves critical products through robust infrastructure, the strength of these traditional segments is likely to prevail.

Trade. Employment in the trade sector remains weak, as high labor costs reduce hours, and lower population in some parishes reduces the demand for particular stores. Grocery stores in particular have been slow to open. Even with 83% of population back, only 72% of grocery store jobs have been recovered.

Services. Professional and technical services are thriving, but other services supporting a smaller population, like education and health services, lag. Hospitals, for instance, grew in the second year to reach 66.5% of their old employment while the population is estimated to be at 83%.

Figure 4. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Prices

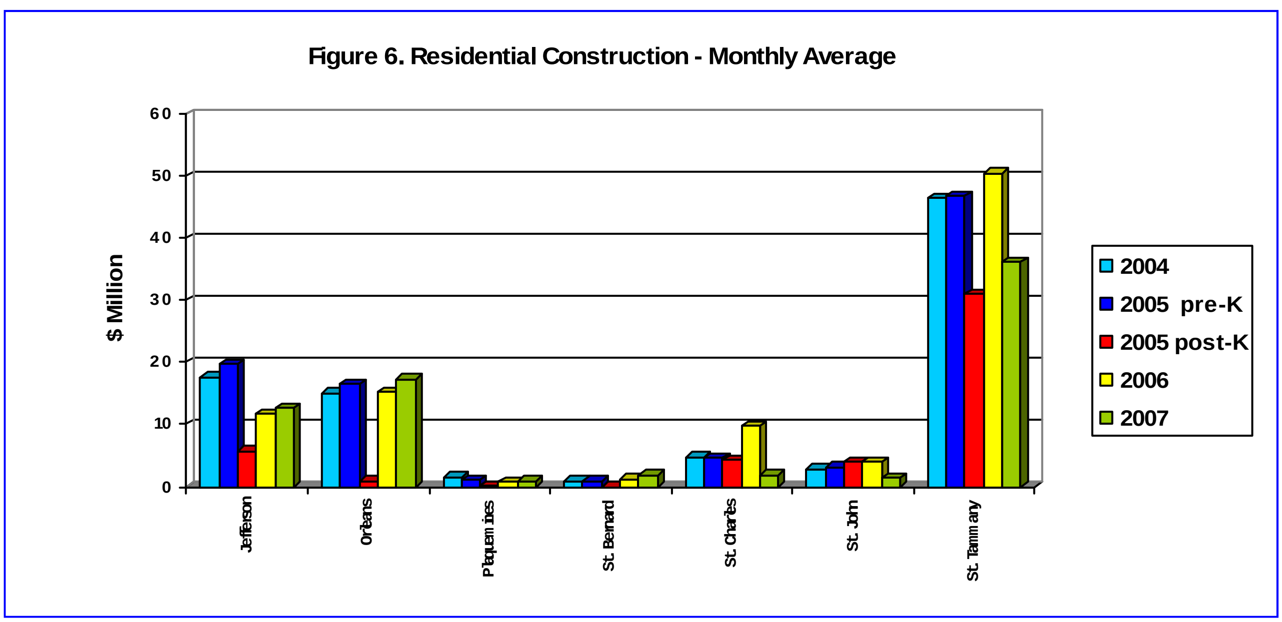




Construction. Growth in construction continued, fueled by the non-building sector. The infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, of the area needed repair prior to the storm, and Katrina contributed to the area's needs. The growth in heavy and civil engineering is one indicator of the growth in this type of building. Non-residential construction is showing a large amount of activity due to construction of commercial properties and refinery expansion.

As insurance money is used to rebuild homes and commercial buildings, and the Road Home money started to flow into the economy, more areas of the metro area started to see construction progress. This activity fuels economic activity as homes and businesses are furnished and decorated. Figure 6 shows the distribution of residential construction activity around the parishes. The residential dollar figures are sure to be understatements of activity due to the large untracked cash economy in residential renovation construction. The surge in activity reinforces higher sales tax collections throughout the metro area.

Sales. Retail sales continue to be strong. See Figure 5 above to see that retail sales are still well above pre-storm levels. The latest figures for June 2007 were at 127% of pre-storm levels. Motor vehicles continue to move at a fast rate 13% above pre-storm though they have leveled off from last year's impressive 37% rate.



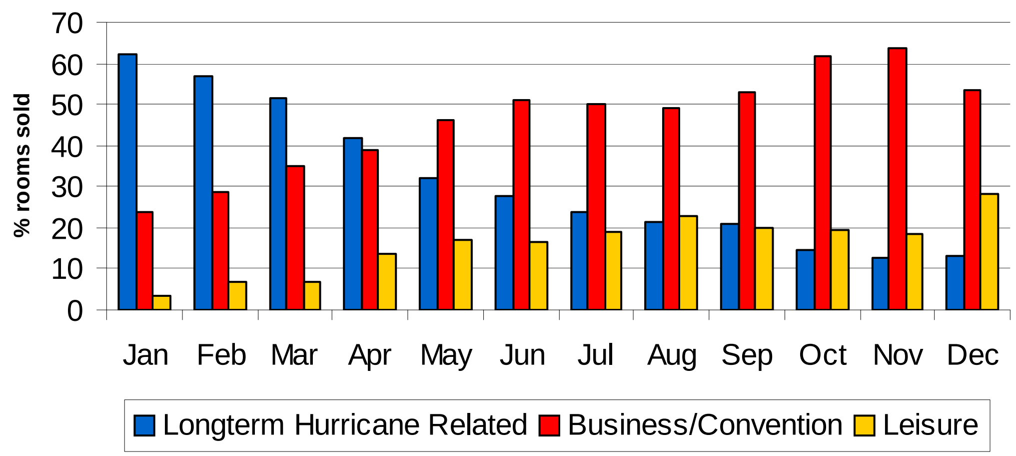
Proprietary data supplied by F. W. Dodge Division, McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Table 3: Other New Orleans Metropolitan Economic Indicators (per month)

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	Last Year	Most Current	% At Worst	%of PreK-Last Yr	% of PreK Curr
Crude Oil Price ($)	54.04	58.32	74.41	74.12	108%	138%	137%
Natural Gas Price ($)	6.93	8.88	5.82	6.19	128%	84%	89%
Louisiana Rig Count	184	162	188	182	88%	102%	99%
Louisiana Oil Production (Thou Bbls/ Day)	1,416	290	1,330	1,366	20%	94%	96%
Louisiana Natural Gas Production (Mill Cub Ft)	112,501	85,544	119,683	112,973	76%	106%	100%
Foreign Trade per month (tons)	2,459,860	463,448	2,415,847	2,012,000	19%	98%	82%
Imports (tons) - Apr 07	1,387,566	91,595	1,425,124	978,670	7%	103%	71%
Exports (tons) - Apr 07	1,072,293	371,853	990,723	1,033,330	35%	92%	96%
Hotel/Motel Sales per month ($Thou)	78,152	17,337	54,772	61,342	22%	70%	78%
Convention Roomnights	128,225	15,670	40,483	88,702	12%	32%	69%
Air Freight Cargo Tonnage	7,424	1,862	4,304	4,184	25%	58%	56%
Deplanements	429,580	18,966	287,363	319,301	4%	67%	74%
Airport Capacity (Seats)	20,676	2,197	11,761	14,274	11%	57%	69%
Hotel Room Capacity (rooms)	38,525	11,876	29,642	32,126	31%	77%	83%
Hotel Room Rate ($)	125.55	97.06	135.53	126.78	77%	108%	101%
Hotel Occupancy Rate (%)	74.0	56.1	72.4	66.0	76%	98%	89%
Total Gambling Revenues ($)	53,570,658	0	61,381,712	59,803,474	0%	115%	112%
Riverboat Casino Revenues ($)	24,528,268	0	29,783,995	24,613,474	0%	121%	100%
Bally's AGR $	4,767,476	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Boomtown AGR $	10,226,227	0	17,780,417	14,895,968	0%	174%	146%
Treasure Chest AGR $	9,534,565	0	12,003,578	9,717,506	0%	126%	102%
Harrah's Casino Revenues ($)	29,042,390	0	31,597,717	35,190,000	0%	109%	121%
Casino Revenue Mississippi Gulf Coast	109,332,988	0	74,639,808	122,391,496	0%	68%	112%
Construction Contracts Awarded per month ($Mill)	164.0	15.4	228.7	361.9	9%	139%	221%
Non-Residential	38.7	0.0	61.9	215.6	0%	160%	557%
Residential	90.9	11.0	90.3	81.2	12%	99%	89%
Non-Building	34.4	4.4	76.5	65.1	13%	222%	189%
Housing Starts	530	79	482	429	15%	91%	81%
Population	1,319,367	672,989	1,024,678	1,090,000	51%	78%	83%
Taxable Sales excl Motor Vehicles($)	1,389,291,891	1,074,280,422	1,812,041,005	1,765,301,268	77%	130%	127%
Motor Vehicle Sales per month ($)	164,923,397	107,350,907	226,686,380	186,299,314	65%	137%	113%
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8	8.6	4.5	4.4	178%	94%	92%
Unemployment Claims - Initial per week	789	254	357	302	32%	45%	38%
Unemployment Claims - Continued per week	7,941	5,003	3,166	2,917	63%	40%	37%

Hotel/motel sales include Orleans and Jefferson Parishes only.
Hotel room rate and hotel occupancy rate are supplied by PKF.
Construction figures are proprietary data supplied by F. W. Dodge Division, McGraw-Hill, Inc.
Construction, convention, and hotel rates are monthly average year to date. Foriegn trade is current as of April 2007.
Population figures are a combination of data supplied by Dr. Ray Brady of System Solutions Consulting,, U.S. Dept. of Census., GCR & Associates, and the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center.

Figure 7. 2006 New Orleans Hotel Visitors



Tourism. As the local tourism industry recovers, jobs in restaurants and bars and in arts, entertainment and recreation are returning. However, the number of jobs at hotels is still lagging.

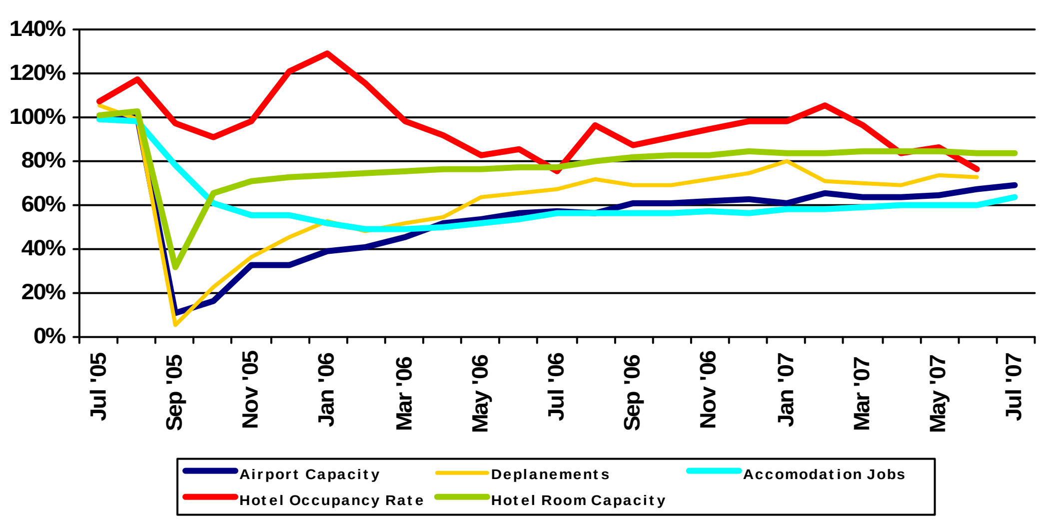
In 2006, 3.7 million visitors came to the New Orleans area and spent $2.9 billion. Of this total, $724 million was spent on lodging, $1.0 billion in restaurants, $441 million on shopping, $308 million in bars and nightclubs, $250 million on entertainment/recreation, and $139 million on local transport.

Of those visitors, 45.7% came for vacation/pleasure, 9.5% came for business/convention, 13.7% came for corporate meeting/business, and 31.1% came for hurricane-related purposes. In contrast, in 2004, leisure travelers were estimated to be 69% of visitors.

The number of visitors appears low when compared to the record number of visitors, 10.1 million, in 2004. However, recovery workers and local residents supported by FEMA filled hotel rooms during the first months of 2006, so hotel sales were not so low. Figure 7, above, shows the gradual departure of those types of hotel guests as more traditional leisure guests start to return. Just over 6 million visitors are forecast to come to New Orleans in 2007.

Despite the reduction in New Orleans visitors, gambling flourished.

Figure 8. Tourism Indicators compared to pre-Katrina levels



Parish Figures

Indicators available to monitor economic activity in individual parishes in the New Orleans metropolitan area are shown in Table 4. The number of employees subject to unemployment insurance taxation and the total wages paid to those workers form the basis for local parish economic analysis. These "covered" employment and wages are reported quarterly for major industries, on a place-of-work basis. The time lag in receiving the parish data is longer than for other indicators in this publication and, data is only reported through the end of 2006. Other data, such as sales tax and population, is current through July 07.

Although the parish data do not show the very latest developments, they do reveal the details of the economic story. Orleans and St. Bernard jobs were hit the hardest but have recovered some, moving from 62 to 67% and 35 to 49%, respectively, over the year. In contrast, St. Charles, St. Tammany and St. John the Baptist have surpassed their pre-storm levels of jobs at 102, 108 and 113%, respectively.

Many interesting facts can be gleaned from the parish employment tables. One of the hardest hit sectors in the metro area, when calculated percentage-wise, was St. Bernard's health care sector—which was at 18% of pre-storm levels. The highest was the mining sector in St. Tammany's it reached 152% of old levels and in St. John the Baptist parish, it reached 148%.

Table 4: Parish Economic Indicators

Orleans

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	Last Year	Most Current	% At Worst	Pct Last	% Of PreK
Total Employment	242,933	143,332	149,425	162,514	59%	62%	67%
Agriculture/Fishing	55	40	47	56	73%	86%	102%
Mining	4,163	4,036	4,150	3,653	97%	100%	88%
Utilities	1,905	1,782	1,782	1,068	94%	94%	56%
Construction	5,978	3,601	5,944	5,927	60%	99%	99%
Manufacturing	8,422	5,902	6,153	7,375	70%	73%	88%
Wholesale Trade	6,001	4,334	4,577	4,565	72%	76%	76%
Retail Trade	19,086	7,160	7,805	11,192	38%	41%	59%
Transport & Warehousing	13,263	8,857	10,027	9,822	67%	76%	74%
Information	5,455	3,972	4,140	3,118	73%	76%	57%
Finance and Insurance	8,453	5,903	5,903	6,071	70%	70%	72%
Real Estate and Rental	4,021	2,388	2,395	2,314	59%	60%	58%
Professional & Tech Svcs	14,581	10,843	13,717	13,459	74%	94%	92%
Mgmt. of Enterprises	4,628	2,648	2,706	3,520	57%	58%	76%
Admin. & Waste Services	15,917	8,079	9,784	10,435	51%	61%	66%
Educational Services	29,484	15,592	15,779	17,733	53%	54%	60%
Health Care & Soc. Assist.	32,096	17,962	18,193	15,993	56%	57%	50%
Arts/Entertainment	8,669	4,819	5,344	6,619	56%	62%	76%
Accommodation and Food	36,231	13,654	15,257	22,677	38%	42%	63%
Other Services	7,230	3,375	3,727	4,936	47%	52%	68%
Public Administration	16,803	11,719	11,719	11,477	70%	70%	68%
Total Earnings per quarter($)	2,214,721,507	1,837,847,421	1,837,847,421	1,958,474,097	83%	83%	88%
Average Wkly Wage ($)	723	972	972	941	134%	134%	130%
Population	454,863	114,840	223,388	274,000	25%	49%	60%
Unemployment Claims per wk (Initial)	310	2,685	134	92	865%	43%	30%
Unemployment Claims (Continued)	3,219	5,847	1,261	910	182%	39%	28%
Res. Const. Contracts ($Mill)*	16.5	0.0	39.8	36.7	0%	241%	223%
Non-Res. Const Contracts ($Mill)*	18.9	0.0	8.0	44.2	0%	42%	234%
Taxable Sales ($)	444,510,369	4,800,293	342,269,298	376,185,153	1%	77%	85%
Motor Vehicle Sales ($)	36,986,791	17,090,044	35,850,295	35,390,530	46%	97%	96%

Earnings and Employment only current as of December 2006. Other indicators (sales, construction, population, current as of June or July 07.

**Construction data is proprietary data supplied by F.W. Dodge Division of McGraw-Hill, Inc.*

Jefferson

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	Last Year	Current	% Worst	PctLast	PctCurr
Total Employment	214,213	158,303	179,508	198,078	74%	84%	92%
Agriculture/Fishing	82	47	69	59	57%	84%	72%
Mining	1,991	1,917	1,998	2,001	96%	100%	101%
Utilities	1,379	1,427	1,507	1,469	103%	109%	107%
Construction	13,795	9,941	13,308	14,977	72%	96%	109%
Manufacturing	17,488	12,101	15,254	15,725	69%	87%	90%
Wholesale Trade	12,950	10,963	11,537	11,922	85%	89%	92%
Retail Trade	30,857	20,451	26,103	31,766	66%	85%	103%
Transport & Warehousing	8,896	6,866	7,424	8,169	77%	83%	92%
Information	3,466	2,711	2,763	2,808	78%	80%	81%
Finance and Insurance	9,393	8,521	8,900	8,266	91%	95%	88%
Real Estate and Rental	4,896	3,474	3,778	4,320	71%	77%	88%
Professional & Tech Svcs	10,286	7,534	9,164	10,173	73%	89%	99%
Mgmt. of Enterprises	2,579	2,151	2,330	2,619	83%	90%	102%
Admin. & Waste Services	16,342	10,347	12,602	14,553	63%	77%	89%
Educational Services	10,321						
Health Care & Soc. Assist.	28,523	21,034	22,819	26,294	74%	80%	92%
Arts/Entertainment	4,967	3,232	3,707	3,902	65%	75%	79%
Accommodation and Food	22,689	11,882	15,352	18,655	52%	68%	82%
Other Services	6,370	3,703	4,829	5,672	58%	76%	89%
Public Administration	6,597	6,036	6,036	5,875	92%	92%	89%
Total Earnings per quarter($)	1,724,020,482	1,810,099,424	1,810,099,424	2,092,349,388	105%	105%	121%
Average Wkly Wage ($)	638	812	812	817	127%	127%	128%
Population	452,824	258,128	431,361	435,000	57%	95%	96%
Unemployment Claims per wk (Initial)	261	3,971	107	80	1520%	41%	31%
Unemployment Claims (Continued)	2,654	10,634	819	788	401%	31%	30%
Res. Const. Contracts ($Mill)*	19.8	1.1	13.6	10.3	6%	69%	52%
Non-Res. Const Contracts ($Mill)*	9.2	2.3	2.2	15.5	25%	24%	168%
Taxable Sales ($)	524,952,478	563,478,849	792,025,968	720,716,451	107%	151%	137%
Motor Vehicle Sales ($)	62,461,430	35,377,209	96,781,766	74,538,420	57%	155%	119%

Plaquemines

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	Last Year	Current	% Worst	PctLast	PctCurr
Total Employment	15,329	12,455	14,234	14,548	81%	93%	95%
Agriculture/Fishing	52	38	41	42	72%	78%	80%
Mining	1,707	1,501	1,879	1,928	88%	110%	113%
Construction	1,505	1,282	1,566	1,403	85%	104%	93%
Manufacturing	1,996	1,552	1,757	2,142	78%	88%	107%
Wholesale Trade	711	555	617	793	78%	87%	112%
Retail Trade	658	309	353	445	47%	54%	68%
Transport & Warehousing	1,884	1,595	2,434	1,880	85%	129%	100%
Information				41			
Finance and Insurance	129	96	96	102	74%	74%	79%
Real Estate and Rental	610	491	535	522	80%	88%	86%
Professional & Tech Svcs	342	283	334	492	83%	98%	144%
Mgmt. of Enterprises	108	91	98		84%	91%	
Admin. & Waste Services	596	500	691	693	84%	116%	116%
Educational Services	1,658	1,048	1,097	973	63%	66%	59%
Health Care & Soc. Assist.	625	384	406	726	61%	65%	116%
Arts/Entertainment	38	4	7	31	11%	18%	81%
Accommodation and Food	839	447	604	639	53%	72%	76%
Other Services	308	136	288	219	44%	94%	71%
Public Administration	1,430	1,280	1,280	1,254	90%	90%	88%
Total Earnings per quarter($)	158,609,621	168,093,411	168,093,411	190,754,914	106%	106%	120%
Average Wkly Wage ($)	814	928	928	1,003	114%	114%	123%
Population	28,995	5,794	22,512	25,000	20%	78%	86%
Unemployment Claims per wk (Initial)	12	234	3	2	1878%	24%	16%
Unemployment Claims (Continued)	131	1,032	41	36	791%	31%	28%
Res. Const. Contracts ($Mill)*	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.9	0%	62%	79%
Non-Res. Const Contracts ($Mill)*	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Taxable Sales ($)	40,434,025	28,733,885	72,846,643	65,380,130	71%	180%	162%
Motor Vehicle Sales ($)	5,269,551	4,138,782	7,966,097	6,404,365	79%	151%	122%

St. Bernard

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	Last Year	Current	% Worst	PctLast	PctCurr
Total Employment	17,497	5,861	6,128	8,498	33%	35%	49%
Mining	65	50	76	65	77%	116%	100%
Utilities	133	88	97	80	66%	73%	60%
Construction	1,449	628	938	1,896	43%	65%	131%
Manufacturing	1,771	1,169	1,224	1,365	66%	69%	77%
Wholesale Trade	509	274	297	392	54%	58%	77%
Retail Trade	2,727	356	364	864	13%	13%	32%
Transport & Warehousing	750	478	588	589	64%	78%	79%
Information	91	56	56	44	62%	62%	49%
Finance and Insurance	378	147	147	81	39%	39%	21%
Real Estate and Rental	232	96	96	49	41%	41%	21%
Professional & Tech Svcs	327	99	138	175	30%	42%	53%
Mgmt. of Enterprises	111	48	49	62	43%	44%	56%
Admin. & Waste Services	293	207	226	321	71%	77%	110%
Educational Services	2,103	353	353	490	17%	17%	23%
Health Care & Soc. Assist.	2,710	410	479	497	15%	18%	18%
Arts/Entertainment	399	37	45	97	9%	11%	24%
Accommodation and Food	1,826	109	140	561	6%	8%	31%
Other Services	777	142	158	203	18%	20%	26%
Public Administration	979	615	649	641	63%	66%	66%
Total Earnings per quarter($)	123,029,511	72,699,600	72,699,600	106,294,690	59%	59%	86%
Average Wkly Wage ($)	568	934	934	966	164%	164%	170%
Population	65,364	6,554	15,514	25,000	10%	24%	38%
Unemployment Claims per wk (Initial)	49	570	1	0	1165%	2%	0%
Unemployment Claims (Continued)	423	1,013	15	0	239%	4%	0%
Res. Const. Contracts ($Mill)*	1	0	2	1	0%	175%	142%
Non-Res. Const Contracts ($Mill)*	2	0	0	1	9%	0%	55%
Taxable Sales ($)	52,605,913	32,221,884	41,951,485	44,811,606	61%	80%	85%
Motor Vehicle Sales ($)	6,720,146	9,819,010	5,265,724	4,942,608	146%	78%	74%

St. Charles

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	LastYear	Current	% Worst	PctLast	PctCurr
Total Employment	22,693	22,028	22,028	23,180	97%	97%	102%
Agriculture/Fishing	15	9	17		61%	115%	
Mining	66						
Utilities	813	791	810	784	97%	100%	96%
Construction	3,134	3,094	3,096	3,031	99%	99%	97%
Manufacturing	4,601	4,447	4,447	4,477	97%	97%	97%
Wholesale Trade	2,222	1,989	1,989	1,913	90%	90%	86%
Retail Trade	1,449	1,345	1,438	1,582	93%	99%	109%
Transport & Warehousing	1,305	1,191	1,228	1,814	91%	94%	139%
Information	167	146	146	139	88%	88%	83%
Finance and Insurance	285	278	282	288	97%	99%	101%
Real Estate and Rental	343	301	313	289	88%	91%	84%
Professional & Tech Svcs	596	521	577	770	87%	97%	129%
Mgmt. of Enterprises	84	77	80	86	92%	96%	103%
Admin. & Waste Services	1,940	2,107	2,107	2,263	109%	109%	117%
Health Care & Soc. Assist.	1,410	1,348	1,365	1,507	96%	97%	107%
Arts/Entertainment	212	124	134	172	58%	63%	81%
Accommodation and Food	980	829	857	972	85%	87%	99%
Other Services	288	269	289	264	93%	100%	92%
Public Administration	724	705	724	700	97%	100%	97%
Total Earnings per quarter($)	261,097,007	276,359,260	276,359,260	300,732,841	106%	106%	115%
Average Wkly Wage ($)	884	948	948	1,001	107%	107%	113%
Population	50,633	52,137	52,761	52,600	103%	104%	104%
Unemployment Claims per wk (Initial)	31	1,242	13	31	4036%	42%	101%
Unemployment Claims (Continued)	303	6,879	172	233	2270%	57%	77%
Res. Const. Contracts ($Mill)*	5	3	6	6	64%	130%	124%
Non-Res. Const Contracts ($Mill)*	0	0	2	0	0%	356%	44%
Taxable Sales ($)	70,360,192	55,829,821	115,953,943	116,331,384	79%	165%	165%
Motor Vehicle Sales ($)	7,886,741	5,331,604	11,578,168	11,171,849	68%	147%	142%

St. John the Baptist

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	LastYear	Current	% Worst	PctLast	PctCurr
Total Employment	12,917	12,707	13,453	14,555	98%	104%	113%
Agriculture/Fishing	48	63	63	46	132%	132%	96%
Mining	259	266	278	384	103%	107%	148%
Utilities	160	155	155	162	97%	97%	101%
Construction	1,118	1,071	1,165	1,193	96%	104%	107%
Manufacturing	2,166	2,149	2,184	2,473	99%	101%	114%
Wholesale Trade	474	480	505	611	101%	107%	129%
Retail Trade	1,654	1,652	1,830	1,864	100%	111%	113%
Transport & Warehousing	991	940	993	1,056	95%	100%	107%
Information	166	150	156	196	90%	94%	118%
Finance and Insurance	240	223	243	249	93%	101%	104%
Real Estate and Rental	187	180	186	206	96%	100%	110%
Professional & Tech Svcs	238	202	236	286	85%	99%	120%
Mgmt. of Enterprises	78	80	84	109	103%	108%	140%
Admin. & Waste Services	827	866	979	1,080	105%	118%	131%
Health Care & Soc. Assist.	1,192	1,131	1,158	1,271	95%	97%	107%
Arts/Entertainment	227	140	152	192	62%	67%	85%
Accommodation and Food	996	963	1,084	1,157	97%	109%	116%
Other Services	256	202	269	266	79%	105%	104%
Public Administration	507	488	494	516	96%	97%	102%
Total Earnings per quarter($)	116,471,469	128,366,381	128,366,381	146,002,278	110%	110%	125%
Average Wkly Wage ($)	695	741	741	777	107%	107%	112%
Population	46,393	49,983	48,537	48,600	108%	105%	105%
Unemployment Claims per wk (Initial)	38	1,756	46	25	4566%	120%	65%
Unemployment Claims (Continued)	382	6,241	342	310	1633%	89%	81%
Res. Const. Contracts ($Mill)*	3.1	2.4	1.5	1.4	77%	48%	45%
Non-Res. Const Contracts ($Mill)*	2.1	0.0	0.0	144.1	0%	0%	999+%
Taxable Sales ($)	47,303,676	71,958,013	69,664,394	70,009,085	152%	147%	148%
Motor Vehicle Sales ($)	6,778,269	4,059,420	10,623,476	8,155,941	60%	157%	120%

St. Tammany

Description	2005 PreK	Worst	LastYear	Current	% Worst	PctLast	PctCurr
Total Employment	68,450	57,876	64,442	73,633	85%	94%	108%
Agriculture/Fishing	148	121	135	138	82%	91%	93%
Mining	188	196	212	285	104%	113%	152%
Utilities	410	401	403	404	98%	98%	98%
Construction	4,428	3,860	4,419	5,051	87%	100%	114%
Manufacturing	2,111	1,766	2,083	2,448	84%	99%	116%
Wholesale Trade	2,917	2,830	2,933	3,313	97%	101%	114%
Retail Trade	11,506	9,677	12,056	13,629	84%	105%	118%
Transport & Warehousing	1,825	1,452	1,661	1,937	80%	91%	106%
Information	1,488	858	862	1,396	58%	58%	94%
Finance and Insurance	2,410	2,296	2,492	2,661	95%	103%	110%
Real Estate and Rental	1,154	877	1,068	1,197	76%	93%	104%
Professional & Tech Svcs	3,285	2,750	3,320	3,842	84%	101%	117%
Mgmt. of Enterprises	986	897	937	1,120	91%	95%	114%
Admin. & Waste Services	1,996	1,555	1,916	2,741	78%	96%	137%
Health Care & Soc. Assist.	12,383	10,564	11,542	12,501	85%	93%	101%
Arts/Entertainment	1,211	771	806	1,117	64%	67%	92%
Accommodation and Food	8,073	5,172	6,811	8,053	64%	84%	100%
Other Services	1,795	1,199	1,572	1,942	67%	88%	108%
Public Administration	2,816	2,607	2,639	2,747	93%	94%	98%
Total Earnings per quarter($)	503,460,192	551,294,993	551,294,993	663,506,581	110%	110%	132%
Average Wkly Wage ($)	576	680	680	703	118%	118%	122%
Population	220,295	180,513	230,605	230,000	82%	105%	104%
Unemployment Claims per wk (Initial)	87	1,801	77	72	2072%	89%	83%
Unemployment Claims (Continued)	829	7,663	520	640	925%	63%	77%
Res. Const. Contracts ($Mill)*	46.7	1.3	38.8	29.0	3%	83%	62%
Non-Res. Const Contracts ($Mill)*	6.3	0.5	1.0	37.9	8%	16%	602%
Taxable Sales ($)	235,428,194	254,862,131	377,329,274	371,867,459	108%	160%	158%
Motor Vehicle Sales ($)	38,820,470	31,534,839	58,620,854	45,695,601	81%	151%	118%

Figure 9. New Orleans Metro Population

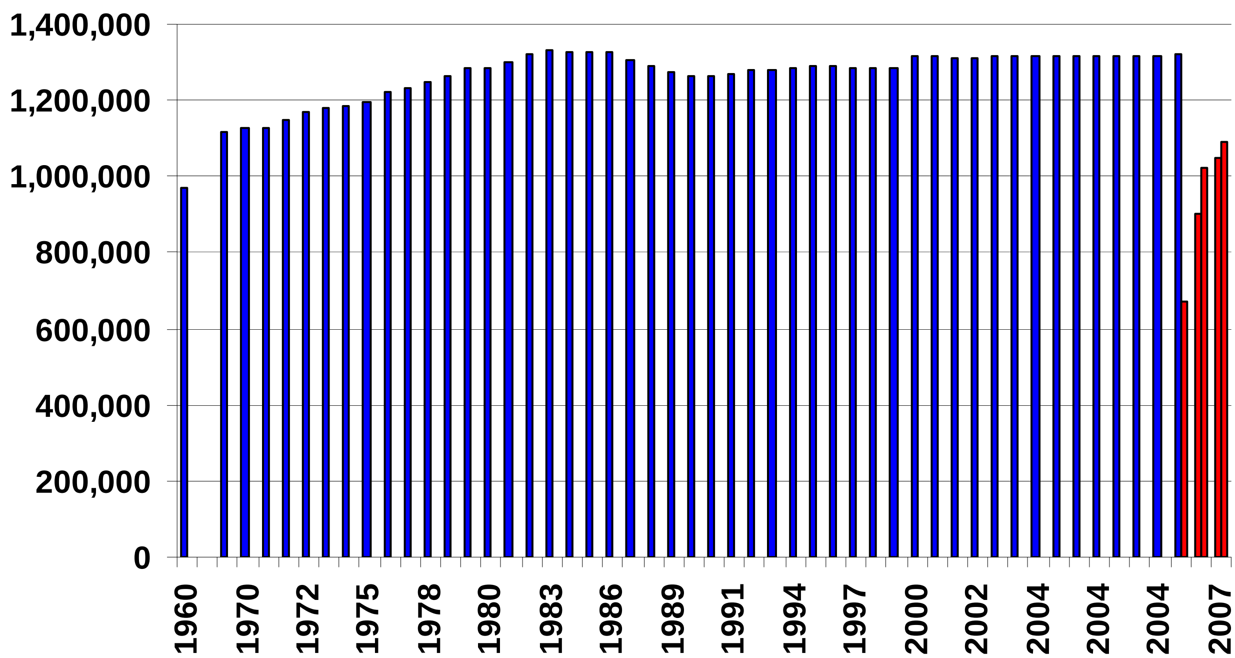
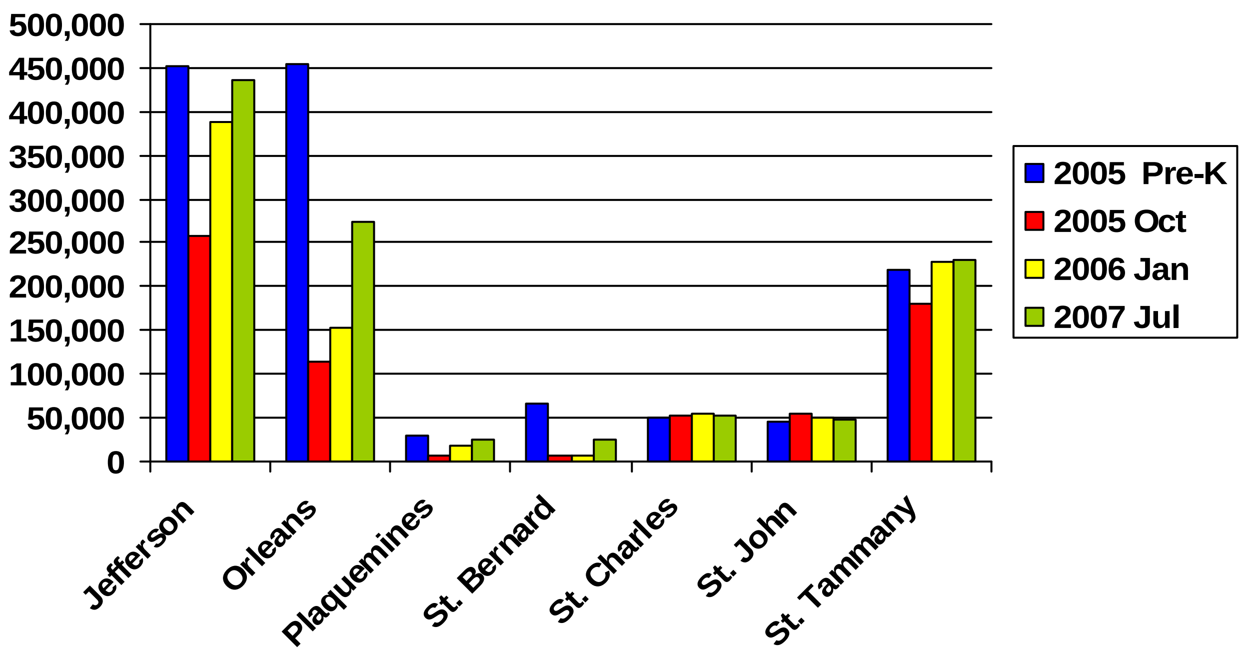


Figure 10. Parish Population



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