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GREATER NEW ORLEANS ECONOMIC DATA CENTER

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CONTINUED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE KEY PARISHES IN THE NEW ORLEANS MSA JEFFERSON, ORLEANS AND the STIDELL, MANDERVILLE AND COVENTON MSA

DATA SOURCE

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

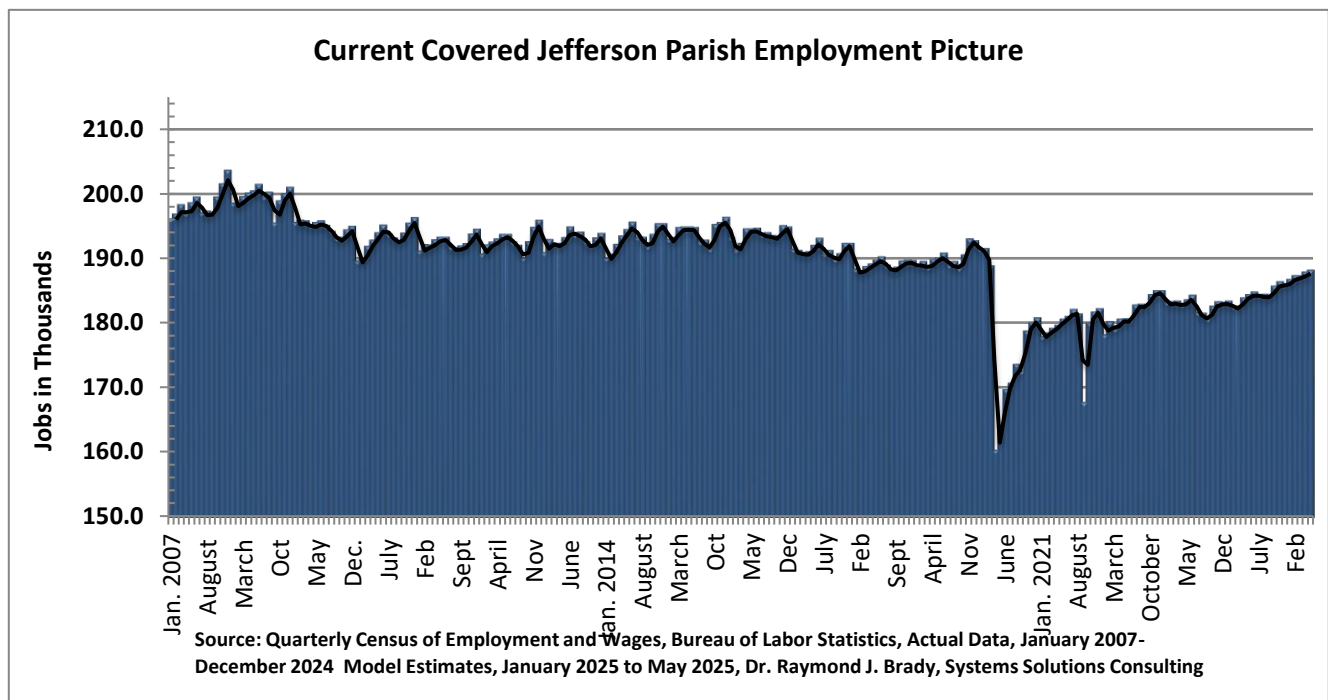
DEFINITIONS

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages- The primary economic product is the tabulation of employment and wages of establishments which report to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs of the United States. Employment covered by these UI programs represents about 99.7% of all wage and salary civilian employment in the country. It counts only filled jobs, whether full or part-time, temporary or permanent, by place of work. Wages include bonuses, stock options, severance pay, profit distributions, cash value of meals and lodging, tips and other gratuities, and, in some States, employer contributions to certain deferred compensation plans such as 401(k) plans.

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

Employment Change from 2007 to May 2025: Jefferson Parish

Table 1



Long-term Jefferson Parish's employment economy peaked in June 2008 at 201,900 QCEW jobs. During late 2019, the job situation showed an uptick before the floor dropped out of the parish economy due the Covid-Pandemic lockdown, with the job economy in April 2020 bottoming out with the loss of 31,200 jobs between February 2000 and April 2000. The level of total jobs fell from 191,100 jobs to 159,900 over this period. Between April and December 2020, the parish recovered 20,500 of the lost jobs.

This recovery began to falter between December 2020 and May 2021, with job growth going side-ways. The parish job recovery trend improved again in 2021. Between January 2021 and December 2021, the parish added 4,300 QCEW jobs. Looking at the annual average data and between 2021 and 2022, QCEW jobs increased by 2,500 jobs. Between the annual average QCEW jobs in 2022 and 2023 the parish added 2,000 jobs. Between the annual average between 2023 and 2024, the parish added 1,600 QCEW jobs. The annual average number of QCEW jobs in 2024 184,000. In May 2025, the parish had an estimated 187,800 QCEW jobs. However, the May 2025 job estimate shows that the parish still had 3,800 fewer QCEW jobs than February 2020. On a positive note, job losses, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, were not as severe as in Orleans Parish due to the virtual collapse of the Leisure and Hospitality industry. Long-term, Jefferson Parish's employment environment as Table 1 shows has been running side-ways with no real upward trend in job growth.

Table 2
Covid 19 Pandemic Impact on Jefferson Parish Job Economy
4th Quarter 2019 to 4th Quarter 2024

	4 th Quarter 2019	4 th Quarter 2024	change
JEFFERSON	191,649	186,769	-4,880
Health care and social assistance	33,380	35,963	2,583
Professional and technical services	9,975	10,753	778
Information	2,017	2,530	513
Real estate and rental and leasing	3,686	3,989	303
Management of companies and enterprises	2,798	2,906	108
Other services, except public administration	6,009	6,064	55
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	41	39	-2
Public administration	6,211	6,192	-19
Educational services	8,973	8,830	-143
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	4,732	4,579	-153
Transportation and warehousing	9,657	9,468	-189
Wholesale trade	9,775	9,454	-321
Administrative and waste services	14,205	13,828	-377
Utilities	1,162	706	-456
Mining	634	165	-469
Manufacturing	9,003	8,489	-514
Finance and insurance	8,527	7,492	-1,035
Construction	13,138	12,033	-1,105
Retail trade	26,951	25,129	-1,822
Accommodation and food services	20,776	18,151	-2,625

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 2 illustrates the continuing impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on employment sectors in Jefferson Parish. Sixty percent (60%) of the job losses were concentrated in Accommodations and Food Services (NAICS 72), Construction (NAICS 23) and Retail Trade (NAICS 52).

Table 3 points out that the parish job base never recovered to the pre-Hurricane Katrina level, as of the 4th quarter of 2024.

Table 3
Historical Change in Jobs in Jefferson Parish

		Year 2005	Year 2024	Change 2nd Quarter 2005 to 4th Quarter 2024
	NAICS	2nd Quarter	4th Quarter	
		Quarterly Employment	Quarterly Employment	
JEFFERSON		216,401	186,769	-29,632
Health care and social assistance	81	28,672	35,963	7,291
Transportation and warehousing	53	8,920	9,468	548
Professional and technical services	61	10,212	10,753	541
Management of companies and enterprises	62	2,602	2,906	304
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	11	80	39	-41
Other services, except public administration	44-45	6,432	6,064	-368
Public administration	48-49	6,619	6,192	-427
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	92	5,065	4,579	-486
Utilities	22	1,366	706	-660
Real estate and rental and leasing	56	4,919	3,989	-930
Information	54	3,462	2,530	-932
Mining	21	1,980	165	-1,815
Finance and insurance	55	9,315	7,492	-1,823
Construction	23	13,960	12,033	-1,927
Administrative and waste services	71	16,951	13,828	-3,123
Wholesale trade	51	13,056	9,494	-3,562
Accommodation and food services	31-33	23,126	18,151	-4,975
Information	51	7,646	2,530	-5,116
Retail trade	52	30,902	25,129	-5,773
Manufacturing	42	17,338	8,489	-8,849
Educational services	72	suppressed	8,830	*

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

As pointed out in Table 3, the collapse of the ship building industry in the parish left economic wounds in which the parish still has not recovered. The only sectors in the parish which either recovered to the pre-Katrina job level or grew well past the base year 2005 level were Health Care and Social Assistance, Transportation and Warehousing and Professional and Technical Services and Management of Companies. Comparing the change in jobs between Tables 2 and 3 reveals structural changes in the parishes economy before the economic shock brought on by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

First, the current base of manufacturing in the parish did well during the economic shock of the pandemic. Manufacturing, after the economic shock of the collapse of ship building in the parish, stabilized between the 8,000 to 9,000 range. Retail Trade, affected by changes in product delivery technology and cost reductions stabilized starting in the 1st quarter 2018 within the 25,000 to 26,000 job range. However, continued slow contraction is likely to continue because of behavior changes in shopping habits vis-à-vis on-line shopping. As Table 1 illustrates, the current long-term trend suggests a very slow or no job growth path.

Table 4
Jefferson Parish Top Ten Private Sector Job Industries and Annual Pay Profile in 2024

TOP TEN JOB INDUSTRIES AND AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY			
NAICS		Jobs	Annual Pay
722	Food services and drinking places	17,086	\$25,612
622	Hospitals	15,183	\$92,936
621	Ambulatory health care services	12,920	\$66,714
561	Administrative and support services	12,284	\$45,911
541	Professional, scientific, and technical services	10,516	\$84,858
238	Specialty trade contractors	6,947	\$69,977
423	Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	5,275	\$91,007
455	General merchandise retailers	5,048	\$29,016
524	Insurance carriers and related activities	4,717	\$97,745
445	Food and beverage retailers	4,075	\$31,321
Total Jobs and Weighted Average Pay		94,051	\$62,395
TOP TEN AVERAGE PAY INDUSTRIES AND CORRESPONDING JOBS			
		Jobs	Annual Pay
711	Performing arts, spectator sports, and related industries	940	\$549,065
221	Utilities	285	\$141,952
425	Wholesale trade agents and brokers	653	\$134,064
519	Web search portals, libraries, archives, and other information services	24	\$132,886
523	Securities, commodity contracts, and other financial investments and related activities	419	\$130,421
325	Chemical manufacturing	681	\$126,373
533	Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets (except copyrighted works)	29	\$116,622
483	Water transportation	706	\$114,174
513	Publishing industries	95	\$106,430
551	Management of companies and enterprises	2906	\$98,603
Total Jobs and Weighted Average Pay		6,738	\$173,443

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 4 above provides a snapshot of the 2024 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) for the top ten industries in terms of employment and wages. The top ten *industries with respect to jobs* represent 51% of the total annual average parish jobs of 184,738 in 2024. Within the top ten industries with respect to jobs, Table 4 shows that 61% are concentrated in four industries. These industries by order of jobs (a) Food Services and Drinking Places, (b) Hospitals (c) Ambulatory Care Services and (d) Administrative and Support Services. What is the comparative change in the *share* of the top ten employment sector over-time?

As noted above, the top ten industries account for 51% of the total annual average parish jobs in 2024. That share was 50% in 2019, 49.9% in 2018 and 49.6% in 2017. It remains unclear whether Covid-19 altered the concentration of these key industries with respect to jobs.

The total number of jobs in the top pay industries represents 3.7% of all industries in the parish in 2024. Noteworthy is the fact that in 2013 and among the top ten paying industries, there were 1,369 jobs in NAICS 213 (Support Services in Mining). In 2024, the annual average was less than 100 jobs, Wholesale Traders and Brokers (NAICS 425) went from 1,868 in 2012 to 653 in 2024, according to QCEW data. Telecommunications (NAICS 517) jobs fell from 1,372 jobs to 742. The only sector showing growth in these high-end jobs was NAICS 325, Chemicals, going from 641 in 2012 to 681 in 2024.

Table 5
Top Ten Annual Average QCEW Jobs in Jefferson Parish for the Years 2024 and 2019

2024			
NAICS	Industry_Title	Jobs	Annual Pay
10	Total, All Industries in Parish	184,738	\$63,826
722	Food services and drinking places	17,086	\$25,612
622	Hospitals	15,183	\$92,936
621	Ambulatory health care services	12,920	\$66,714
561	Administrative and support services	12,284	\$45,911
541	Professional, scientific, and technical services	10,516	\$84,858
238	Specialty trade contractors	6,947	\$69,977
423	Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	5,275	\$91,007
455	General merchandise retailers	5,048	\$29,016
524	Insurance carriers and related activities	4,717	\$97,745
445	Food and beverage retailers	4,075	\$31,321
2019			
NAICS	Industry_Title	Jobs	Annual Pay
10	Total, all industries in the Parish	189,845	\$50,999
722	Food services and drinking places	19,032	\$18,571
561	Administrative and support services	12,864	\$34,134
621	Ambulatory health care services	12,722	\$56,046
622	Hospitals	11,476	\$77,618
541	Professional and technical services	9,878	\$71,784
238	Specialty trade contractors	8,481	\$56,378
524	Insurance carriers and related activities	5,582	\$79,703
423	Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	5,428	\$70,440
452	General merchandise stores	5,333	\$24,268
445	Food and beverage stores	4,231	\$23,528

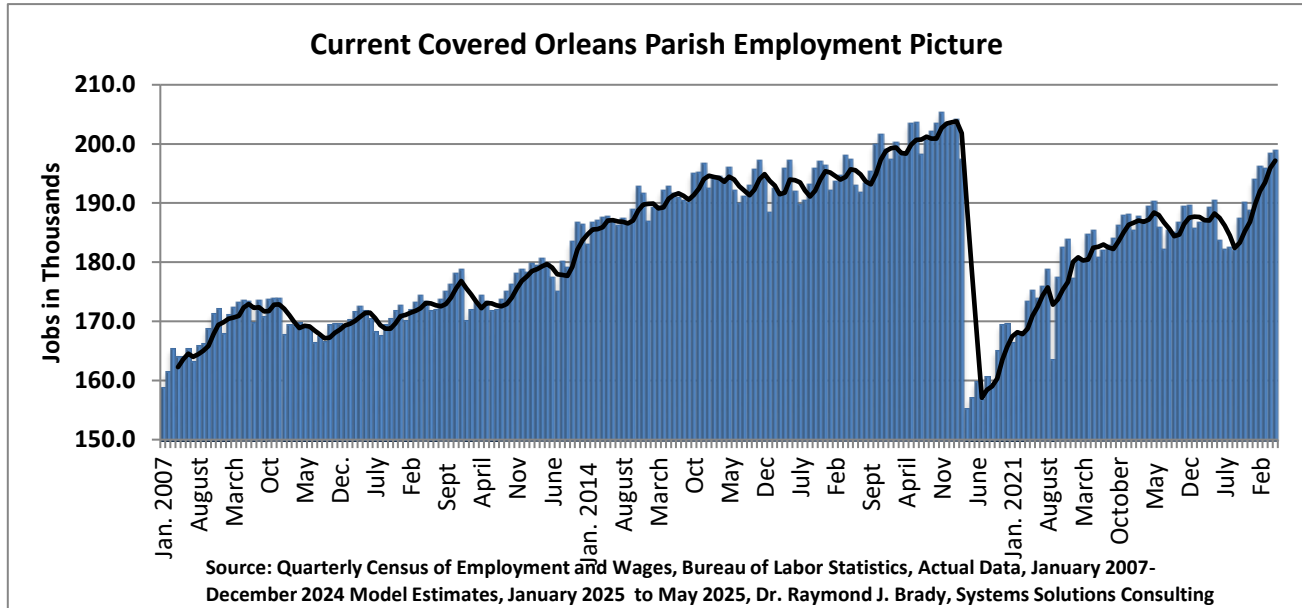
Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages

Table 5 above shows the top ten private sector employment industries in Jefferson Parish for the years 2024 and 2019. The tables illustrate the dramatic decline in both total QCEW jobs, and the impact on food and drinking places (NAICS 722) of the Covid-19 lockdown and slow recovery of jobs in that industry. One obvious outcome of the comparison of the top ten industries in Jefferson Parish with respect to employment is the further concentration of jobs into a smaller number of total industries. In 2019, fifty percent (50%) of the total QCEW jobs in the parish were concentrated in the top ten job industries. In 2024, the fraction had increased to fifty-one percent (51%).

Employment Change from 2007 to May 2025: Orleans Parish

Table 6 shows Orleans Parish time series QCWQ employment data from January 2007 to May 2025. The data series maps the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the New Orleans job economy.

Table 6



Orleans Parish economy was hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, losing almost 24% of its January 2020 employment base or almost 48,000 QCEW jobs between January 2020 and April 2020. The economy began an immediate recovery in May, but partly because of necessary health restrictions the economy only recovered about 14,300 QCEW jobs of the 48,000 lost between January and April 2020. In 2021, the parish recovered another 14,000. Between January and December 2022, job growth added 10,600 QCEW jobs. **As of May 2025, Orleans Parish job numbers were still nearly 5,200 fewer than in February 2020.**

Table 7 illustrates the devastation the pandemic brought to the Leisure and Hospitality industry in New Orleans. Leisure and Hospitality accounted for 48% of the gross losses (counting only losses in the total) in New Orleans between the 4th quarter of 2019 and the 4th quarter 2024. Just as alarming is the loss of jobs in Administrative and Waste Services. Although still in economic recovery, the results of the pandemic may result in a restructuring of the hospitality industry. One potential impact of the Covid-19 health crisis would be further introduction of digital technology into this industry impacting employee demand and restructuring the roles of employees in the industry. Administrative and Support Services is another industry potentially affected by the pandemic through restructuring the demand for labor. Employers may be increasingly substituting digital technologies that affect demand for support services jobs. It remains to be seen whether technology will further invade the occupational structure of this industry.

Table 7
Covid 19 Pandemic Impact on Orleans Parish Job Economy
4th Quarter 2019 to 4th Quarter 2024

	4 th Quarter 2019	4 TH Quarter 2024	Change
ORLEANS PARISH (TOTAL JOBS)	203,931	188,403	-12,527
Accommodation and food services	42,898	37,362	-5,536
Retail trade	14,824	13,299	-1,525
Information	5,298	3,839	-1,459
Management of companies and enterprises	3,078	1,932	-1,146
Administrative and waste services	12,670	11,586	-1,084
Public administration	12,846	11,989	-857
Mining	1,592	829	-763
Wholesale trade	3,532	3,200	-332
Other services, except public administration	6,131	5,861	-270
Construction	4,397	4,185	-212
Finance and insurance	5,073	4,901	-172
Transportation and warehousing	8,882	8,848	-34
Professional and technical services	15,522	15,498	-24
Educational services	23,807	23,805	-2
Utilities	1,153	1,164	11
Real estate and rental and leasing	3,134	3,155	21
Manufacturing	4,408	4,461	53
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	187	268	81
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	6,910	7,161	251
Health care and social assistance	27,565	28,055	490

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 8 looks at the long-term historical change in QCEW jobs between the 2nd quarter of 2005 (prior to the August 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster) and the 4th quarter of 2024. The data suggests that New Orleans has structurally changed to a more narrowly focused job economy. It becomes clear that Accommodations and Food Services drives the economy of New Orleans, and that the Covid-19 pandemic may have lingering effects on this important sector. Simply subtracting (Table 8) the 4th quarter 2024 jobs in Accommodation and Food Services from the 4th Quarter 2019 shows that this sector still was down by over 7,500 jobs between these periods. As a positive note, Health Care and Social Assistance showed an increase between the 4th quarter of 2019 and the 4th quarter of 2024 illustrating the growing importance of health care which serves as the underlying strength needed to keep the economy functioning.

Table 8
Historical Change in Jobs in Orleans Parish

	NAICS	Year 2005	Year 2024	Change 2nd Quarter 2005 to 4th Quarter 2024
		2nd Quarter	4th Quarter	
		Quarterly Employment	Quarterly Employment	
		244,151	191,404	
ORLEANS				-52,747
Professional and technical services	54	14,554	15,498	944
Accommodation and food services	72	36,782	37,362	580
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	11	56	268	212
Utilities	22	1,894	1,164	-730
Real estate and rental and leasing	53	4,070	3,155	-915
Information	51	4,896	3,839	-1,057
Other services, except public administration	81	7,227	5,861	-1,366
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	71	8,641	7,161	-1,480
Construction	23	6,128	4,185	-1,943
Management of companies and enterprises	55	4,631	1,932	-2,699
Wholesale trade	42	5,999	3,200	-2,799
Mining	21	4,181	829	-3,352
Finance and insurance	52	8,384	4,901	-3,483
Manufacturing	31-33	8,573	4,464	-4,109
Health care and social assistance	62	32,291	28,055	-4,236
Educational services	61	28,578	23,805	-4,773
Transportation and warehousing	48-49	13,687	8,848	-4,839
Administrative and waste services	56	16,682	11,586	-5,096
Public administration	92	17,186	11,989	-5,197
Retail trade	44-45	19,195	13,299	-5,896

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 9 presents the top ten employment industries, and the top ten industries with the highest pay in 2024. The top ten employers in the City of New Orleans accounted for 53% of total annual average employment (191,404 jobs) in that year. The top section of the table also illustrates that private sector QCEW jobs in New Orleans are concentrated in three broad NAICS sectors: (a) Food and Drinking Places (NAICS 722), (b) Educational Services (NAICS 611) and (c) Professional and Technical Services (NAICS 541) and accounted for 56,602 jobs.

The top ten sectors with the highest average pay in 2024 accounted for 3.3% of the total annual average jobs. Three of the top ten sectors with respect to pay were concentrated in Securities, Commodities and Contracts (NAICS 523), Support Activities for Mining (NAICS 213), Wholesale Trade Agents and Brokers (NAICS 425). These sectors accounted for 20% of the jobs associated with the upper end of the wage and salary distribution.

Table 9
Orleans Parish Top Ten Private Sector Job Industries and Annual Pay Profile in 2024

	TOP TEN JOB INDUSTRIES AND AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY		
NAICS		Jobs	Annual Pay
722	Food services and drinking places	26,497	\$31,810
611	Educational services	17,596	\$66,814
541	Professional, scientific, and technical services	14,381	\$108,282
561	Administrative and support services	10,015	\$55,403
721	Accommodation	9,712	\$46,808
621	Ambulatory health care services	9,609	\$74,522
624	Social assistance	4,653	\$39,255
711	Performing arts, spectator sports, and related	3,101	\$41,857
455	General merchandise retailers	2,818	\$30,148
445	Food and beverage retailers	2,669	\$28,786
	Total Jobs and Weighted Average Pay	101,051	\$57,154
	TOP TEN AVERAGE PAY INDUSTRIES AND CORRESPONDING JOBS		
		Jobs	Annual Pay
523	Securities, commodity contracts, and other finan	733	\$238,408
213	Support activities for mining	236	\$197,534
425	Wholesale trade agents and brokers	283	\$153,081
221	Utilities	253	\$138,607
551	Management of companies and enterprises	1,990	\$136,543
519	Web search portals, libraries, archives, and oth	91	\$134,638
518	Computing infrastructure providers, data process	420	\$130,269
333	Machinery manufacturing	20	\$124,900
522	Credit intermediation and related activities	2,190	\$124,703
325	Chemical manufacturing	147	\$124,618
	Total Jobs and Weighted Average Pay	6,363	\$146,529

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

As an example of the growing concentration of wage and salary income into fewer top paying job sectors, in 2024 3.4% of the jobs were in the upper ten highest paying industries. In the year 2019, that fraction was 4.5% of the total QCEW jobs in Orleans Parish.

Employment Change from 2007 to May 2025: St. Tammany Parish

St. Tammany Parish QCEW jobs shrunk by 12,900 between January 2020 and April 2020, due to the Covid-19 health crisis. In January 2020, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program of BLS reported 90,200 jobs. That number contracted to 77,300 by April of 2020. The parish began its recovery in May of that year. It continued to add jobs, recovering 11,700 of the jobs lost by December 2020. In December of 2020, the parish had 89,000 QCEW jobs. **By October 2021, the QCEW jobs has recovered to the pre-pandemic level in February 2020.** Between the annual average for 2022 and 2023, QCEW jobs increased by 2,600 jobs. Between the annual average of 2023 and the annual average of 2024, parish employment was estimated to have increased by 1,200 QCEW jobs. May 2025 estimate was 98,600 QCEW jobs. Table 10 shows the trend over this period.

Table 10

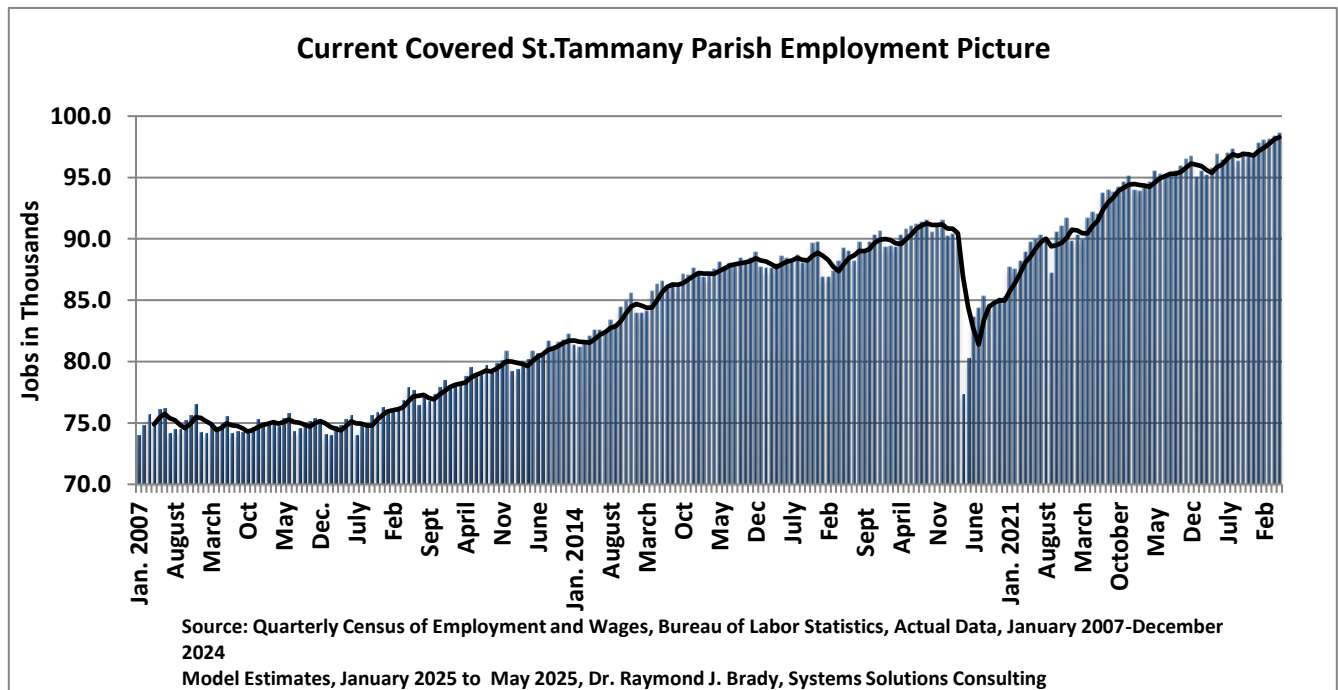


Table 11 presents data between the 4th quarter 2019 and the 4th quarter 2024 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and shows the distribution of jobs in the era of Covid-19. The parish weathered the lockdown and slow recovery rather well compared to Jefferson and Orleans Parish. For example, 4th quarter 2020 data for St. Tammany was 3% lower than the 4th quarter 2019. In Jefferson, 4th quarter 2020 shows a 6.4% lower jobs level than in the 4th quarter 2019. Orleans Parish 4th quarter 2020 jobs were 17.1% below the 4th quarter 2019 level. Table 11 also shows that between the 4th quarter 2019 and the 4th quarter of 2024, the parish economy had added 6,320 QCEW jobs, with Health Care and Social Assistance adding the most jobs. This was followed by Professional and Technical Services job additions. Up to May 2025 and among the three parishes in this paper is the only parish where total job levels have recovered back to the pre-Covid employment level.

Table 11
Covid 19 Pandemic Impact on St. Tammany Parish Job Economy
4th Quarter 2019 to 4th Quarter 2024

		4 th Quarter 2019	4 th Quarter 2024	Change
ST. TAMMANY (Total Jobs)		91,076	97,396	6,320
Health care and social assistance	62	17356	19,468	2,112
Professional and technical services	54	5,137	6,447	1,310
Accommodation and food services	72	11516	12,146	630
Transportation and warehousing	48-49	3,355	3,893	538
Other services, except public administration	81	2446	2,914	468
Administrative and waste services	56	3873	4,274	401
Finance and insurance	52	2,967	3,351	384
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	71	1637	1,910	273
Construction	23	5,807	5,994	187
Manufacturing	31-33	3,044	3,207	163
Public administration	92	3168	3,301	133
Wholesale trade	42	4,148	4,262	114
Real estate and rental and leasing	53	970	1,069	99
Information	51	999	1,074	75
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	11	159	122	-37
Utilities	22	356	319	-37
Management of companies and enterprises	55	1524	1,476	-48
Retail trade	44-45	13523	13,110	-413
Mining	21	1,250	697	-553
Educational services	61	*	*	*

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics; * = suppressed

Table 12 below presents job data over a longer period to better understand growth during the post-Katrina era. St. Tammany was minimally damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and the table shows that the top three job growth sectors are linked mostly to local serving industries, driven by population growth. Between 2005 and July 2024, St. Tammany added 60,257 residents to its population 2005 population base. Because St. Tammany Parish has been the growth center of this region, the Census Bureau has created a new MSA for St. Tammany called the Slidell-Mandeville-Covington MSA. The net consequence has been the fact the New Orleans MSA population now was estimated at 966,230 for July 2024 or less than one million. The St. Tammany MSA was estimated at 277,615 population for the same period. **Using a comparative scale and excluding St. Tammany Parish (Slidell, Mandeville and Covington MSA) from the sum of the parishes in the New Orleans MSA, the New Orleans MSA has declined by an estimated 203,000 individuals between July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2024.**

Table 12
Historical Change in Jobs in St. Tammany Parish

	NAICS	Year 2005	Year 2024	Change 2nd Quarter 2005 to 4th Quarter 2024
		2nd Quarter	4th Quarter	
		Quarterly Employment	Quarterly Employment	
ST. TAMMANY		68,883	97,396	28,513
Health care and social assistance	62	12,444	19,468	7,024
Accommodation and food services	72	8,220	12,146	3,926
Professional and technical services	54	3,296	6,447	3,151
Administrative and waste services	56	1,984	4,274	2,290
Transportation and warehousing	48-49	1,659	3,893	2,234
Retail trade	44-45	11,587	13,110	1,523
Construction	23	4,553	5,994	1,441
Wholesale trade	42	2,901	4,262	1,361
Manufacturing	31-33	2,085	3,207	1,122
Other services, except public administration	81	1,819	2,914	1,095
Finance and insurance	52	2,445	3,351	906
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	71	1,271	1,910	639
Mining	21	191	697	506
Management of companies and enterprises	55	1,000	1,476	476
Public administration	92	2,828	3,301	473
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	11	152	122	-30
Utilities	22	408	319	-89
Real estate and rental and leasing	53	1,173	1,069	-104
Information	51	1,491	1,074	-417
Educational services	61	*	*	*

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Louisiana Workforce Commission
Education data suppressed to prevent disclosure.

Table 13 identifies the top ten job industries in the parish, and the top ten average pay industries. The top ten job industries account for 46% of total QCEW jobs in the parish in 2024. The weighted average pay for the sum of these industries was 76% of the unweighted average pay for all industries. The top pay industries in the parish accounted for 6.1% of the total QCEW jobs in 2024, and the weighted average pay of the ten pay industries was 242% above the parish wide average of (\$59,310) in 2024. As has been observed in other parishes in this survey, the fraction of very high pay jobs as a percentage of total jobs has declined over time.

Table 13
St. Tammany Parish Top Ten Private Sector Job Industries and Annual Pay Profile in 2024

TOP TEN JOB INDUSTRIES AND AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY			
NAICS		Jobs	Annual Pay
722	Food services and drinking places	11,729	\$21,731
621	Ambulatory health care services	7,491	\$66,272
541	Professional, scientific, and technical services	6,245	\$81,933
561	Administrative and support services	3,738	\$50,883
238	Specialty trade contractors	3,584	\$61,418
455	General merchandise retailers	2,899	\$28,019
622	Hospitals	2,827	\$63,597
624	Social assistance	2,596	\$25,767
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	2,442	\$43,824
445	Food and beverage retailers	2,373	\$29,912
Total Jobs and Weighted Average Pay		45,924	\$47,453
TOP TEN AVERAGE PAY INDUSTRIES AND CORRESPONDING JOBS			
		Jobs	Annual Pay
211	Oil and gas extraction	424	\$250,718
551	Management of companies and enterprises	1,434	\$202,181
481	Air transportation	12	\$127,770
213	Support activities for mining	269	\$123,656
425	Wholesale trade agents and brokers	582	\$122,032
516	Broadcasting and content providers	19	\$118,367
513	Publishing industries	131	\$116,572
519	Web search portals, libraries, archives, and other information services	23	\$114,950
488	Support activities for transportation	782	\$110,246
423	Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	2,265	\$107,081
Total Jobs and Weighted Average Pay		5,941	\$143,236

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 14 presents job data for the top ten industries in the year 2019 and 2024. The most obvious observation is the decline in QCEW jobs between the annual average job between these two periods. Ambulatory health care facilities (NAICS 621) and Professional and technical services (NAICS 541) remained in their second and third places in the ranking. With respect to Ambulatory care services, it indicates that these businesses either were concerned about loss of employees and kept them or demand for these services did not fall off. Professional and technical services increased their demand for employees indicating the importance of the output of these services, even with a pandemic.

Table 14
Annual Average QCEW Jobs in St. Tammany Parish for the Years 2019 and 2024

2024

NAICS	INDUSTRIES	EMPLOYMENT	ANNUAL AVERAGE PAY
10	Total All Industries	96,791	\$59,310
722	Food services and drinking places	11,729	\$21,731
621	Ambulatory health care services	7,491	\$66,272
541	Professional, scientific, and technical services	6,245	\$81,933
561	Administrative and support services	3,738	\$50,883
238	Specialty trade contractors	3,584	\$61,418
455	General merchandise retailers	2,899	\$28,019
622	Hospitals	2,827	\$63,597
624	Social assistance	2,596	\$25,767
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	2,442	\$43,824
445	Food and beverage retailers	2,373	\$29,912

2019

NAICS	INDUSTRIES	EMPLOYMENT	ANNUAL AVERAGE PAY
10	Total, all industries	90,374	\$47,835
722	Food services and drinking places	10,951	\$16,728
621	Ambulatory health care services	6,545	\$59,316
541	Professional and technical services	4,967	\$67,216
561	Administrative and support services	3,443	\$38,343
238	Specialty trade contractors	3,403	\$49,540
452	General merchandise stores	2,963	\$23,797
624	Social assistance	2,316	\$19,871
622	Hospitals	2,303	\$54,800
445	Food and beverage stores	2,273	\$23,217
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	2,028	\$30,992

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages

Finally, Table 15 presents the average calculated pay of the period 2004 to 2023. This level is calculated by BLS by dividing the sum of QCEW jobs into the sum of the payroll data.

Table 15

	Average Annual Pay (Current \$)				
	U.S	Louisiana	New Orleans MSA	New Orleans	Jefferson
Year 2004	\$39,354	\$31,880	\$34,487	\$36,877	\$32,549
2006	\$42,535	\$36,604	\$42,434	\$47,796	\$39,601
2007	\$44,458	\$38,229	\$43,255	\$48,163	\$40,612
2008	\$45,563	\$40,381	\$45,108	\$49,948	\$42,007
2009	\$45,559	\$40,579	\$45,121	\$49,514	\$42,390
2010	\$46,751	\$41,461	\$46,108	\$49,804	\$43,429
2011	\$48,043	\$42,380	\$46,827	\$49,844	\$44,560
2012	\$49,289	\$43,284	\$47,083	\$49,006	\$44,793
2013	\$49,804	\$44,011	\$47,509	\$48,810	\$44,668
2014	\$51,361	\$45,338	\$48,437	\$49,689	\$45,384
2015	\$52,937	\$45,919	\$49,492	\$50,157	\$46,733
2016	\$53,611	\$45,624	\$49,458	\$50,150	\$47,034
2017	\$55,375	\$46,498	\$50,488	\$51,018	\$48,203
2018	\$57,265	\$48,097	\$51,848	\$52,222	\$49,273
2019	\$59,219	\$49,297	\$53,245	\$53,691	\$50,999
2000	\$64,013	\$51,968	\$57,415	\$60,492	\$54,272
2021	\$67,610	\$53,886	\$59,469	\$62,546	\$56,663
2022	\$69,985	\$56,605	\$61,962	\$63,972	\$59,642
2023	\$72,357	\$59,058	\$64,555	\$65,185	\$62,028
2024	\$75,604	\$61,285	\$68,578	\$67,632	\$63,826
Area Income 2010-2024 % Change	61.7%	47.8%	48.7%	35.8%	47.0%
Southern urban CPI % Change 2010-2024	44.4%				

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Data for Orleans and Jefferson parishes for 2000 illustrates the impact of the Covid lockdown on the calculated average for each parish. Particularly for Orleans, the collapse of the Leisure and Hospitality industry with respect to average parish wide calculated pay shows a jump in the parish average pay between 2019 and 2020 well above the earlier years trend. Jobs. The statistical trend, based upon the times series data from 2004 to 2019, suggests a parish wide calculated pay level of \$54,280. However, as Table 5 shows the average based upon the number type of jobs in 2020 resulted in an average of \$60,492 (Orleans Parish). The Covid pandemic not only affected the lives of people, but it had a profound impact on economic data specifically when calculating sum averages based upon the distribution of employment and wages in 2020. Why? The industry most affected by Covid-19 has been the Leisure and Hospitality Industry. The U.S. annual average Leisure and Hospitality jobs fell by 3.6 million between 2019 and 2020. In Orleans Parish which (officially) showed a 12.7% increase in average pay and at the same time, showed a loss of 29,000 jobs between 2019 and 2020. The historical average increase was 2.5% compounded annually between 2004 and 2019. Orleans Parish's share of Leisure and Hospitality jobs in 2019 was 24%. In 2020, it fell to 17.2%. The weighted average pay *in this industry* in Orleans Parish was 53% of the parish wide pay total of \$53,691. In 2020 and because of the collapse of this industry employment, the ratio of average pay in Leisure and Hospitality (\$28,916) fell to 47.8% of the parish-wide average of \$60,492. In short, the decline in Leisure and Hospitality jobs and corresponding lower level of pay associated with those jobs resulted in a distortion of the historical

growth in the parish wide average. Why? As noted earlier, the calculated parish wide rose sharply because of the reduction *in the number of jobs in the bottom quartile of all jobs in terms of pay..* Average pay data for 2024 shows a return to the long-term trend in the parish-wide growth in the calculated average pay for the U.S, Louisiana, the New Orleans MSA, Orleans, Jefferson and the Slidell, Manderville and Covington MSA.

Table 16

Increase in Average Pay in Select Areas from 2022 to 2024		
Current \$		
Area	Percentage Change	
U.S.	4.8%	
Louisiana	3.8%	
N.O.MSA, Ex. St. Tammany	6.2%	
Orleans	3.8%	
Jefferson	2.9%	
St. Tammany MSA	6.5%	

CONCLUSION

This working paper updates and modifies information available from the 2019-2023 paper. Of particular interest is the impact of Covid-19 on the distribution of jobs in the target parishes, and its impact (the distribution) on the calculated average pay found in Table 5. The tables in this paper present information of the job profiles in each parish in a ranking format. Further, Table 1,6 and 11 present the level of QCEW jobs in a parish as of May 2025. Table 7 dramatically illustrates the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic on the decline of jobs in Orleans Parish. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the job losses between 2019 and 2020 was concentrated Accommodation and Food Services (NAICS 72) and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (NAICS 71). This speaks to the dependency of the local economy of this industry. The least affected parish, based upon this sample, was St. Tammany Parish by the pandemic. Without further analysis, the conjecture is that parish is more dependent on local serving industries, with continued population growth. As Table 1 illustrates, Jefferson Parish job change has been in a narrow band since 2007. The job economy realistically has been stagnant for a long period of time which might simply indicate that Orleans and Jefferson parishes are highly integrated from an economic perspective. Tables 3 and 8 points to the fact that the employment base of both parishes never recovered from Hurricane Katrina up to this date. **On might assign this lack of job and population recovery of these parishes to Hurricane Katrina (2005) or possibly, this disaster simply accelerated internal historical structural weaknesses in these economies that began to appear in the late 1970s—well before the disaster of Hurricane Katrina.**