

# Economic Reporter

Promoting Economic Development in Southeast Louisiana

Fall 2010

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**NATIONAL**

**U.S. Economy**

**Dr. A. M. M. Jamal**  
 Professor of Management  
 Southeastern Louisiana University

The U. S. real gross domestic product rose at a 1.7 percent annual rate during the second quarter of 2010 and grew 3 percent since the second quarter of 2009.

Total civilian employment for the second quarter fell 0.8 percent compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

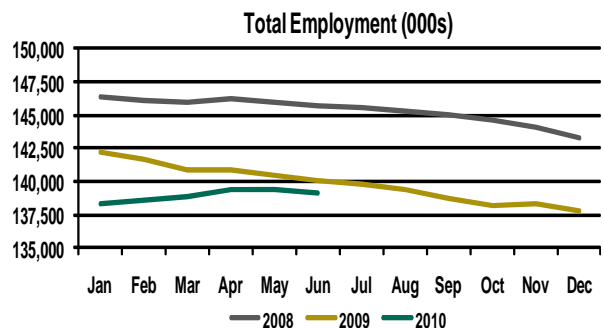
A survey of forecasters by the Reserve Bank of Philadelphia predicts the U.S. economy to grow 2.9 percent and 2.7 percent in 2010 and 2011 respectively. An alternative set of forecasts published by the Wachovia Bank indicates gains of 2.7 percent in 2010 and 2.2 percent in 2011.

**EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally Adjusted)**

*UNITED STATES (Numbers in Thousands)*

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Labor Force	154,351	154,426	153,927	153,854	153,720	153,059	153,170	153,512	153,910	154,715	154,393	153,741
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.7%	-0.6%	-0.9%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.2%	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.7%
Total Employment	139,817	139,433	138,768	138,242	138,381	137,792	138,333	138,641	138,905	139,455	139,420	139,119
% Change vs Prior Year	-4.0%	-4.0%	-4.3%	-4.4%	-4.0%	-3.9%	-2.7%	-2.1%	-1.4%	-1.0%	-0.7%	-0.7%
Total Nonfarm Emp.	130,294	130,082	129,857	129,633	129,697	129,588	129,602	129,641	129,849	130,162	130,594	130,373
% Change vs Prior Year	-4.9%	-4.9%	-4.7%	-4.5%	-3.9%	-3.5%	-3.0%	-2.4%	-1.7%	-1.0%	-0.4%	-0.2%
Unemployment Rate	9.4%	9.7%	9.8%	10.1%	10.0%	10.0%	9.7%	9.7%	9.7%	9.9%	9.7%	9.5%
% Change vs Prior Year	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.2%	2.8%	2.0%	1.5%	1.1%	0.9%	0.3%	0.0%

	3QT-09	4QT-09	1QT-10	2QT-10
Labor Force	154,235	153,544	153,531	154,283
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.3%	-0.7%	-0.5%	-0.3%
Total Employment	139,339	138,138	138,626	139,331
% Change vs Prior Year	-4.1%	-4.1%	-2.1%	-0.8%
Total Nonfarm Emp.	130,078	129,639	129,697	130,376
% Change vs Prior Year	-4.8%	-4.0%	-2.3%	-0.6%
Unemployment Rate	9.7%	10.0%	9.7%	9.7%
% Change vs Prior Year	3.6%	3.2%	1.5%	0.4%



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## STATE

### Louisiana Economy

Dr. A. M. M. Jamal

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Total state employment for the second quarter of 2010 was 1.0 percent higher compared to the previous quarter and 1.3 percent above the level for the second quarter of 2009. The unemployment rate for the second quarter was 6.9 percent, compared to a 6.8 percent rate for the same quarter last year. The state unemployment rate declined modestly from the previous quarter and was significantly below the 9.7 percent national average.

State sales tax collections for the second quarter rose 27.5 percent compared to the prior quarter but were 0.3 percent lower than for the second quarter of 2009. On a year-over-year basis, the decline was the smallest drop experienced for more than a year.

Louisiana's seasonally-adjusted personal income continued to grow in the second quarter of 2010, rising 1.1 percent over the prior quarter and 2.4 percent compared to the second quarter of 2009. The national average change was a 1 percent increase quarter-over-quarter and 2.2 percent over the past 12 months.

Separated into components, net earnings rose 1.2 percent in Louisiana, transfer receipts rose 2.1 percent, and dividends, interest and rent fell 0.4 percent.

Total Louisiana foreclosure filings were up 29 percent from the prior quarter and 48 percent from the second quarter of 2009 (RealtyTrac).

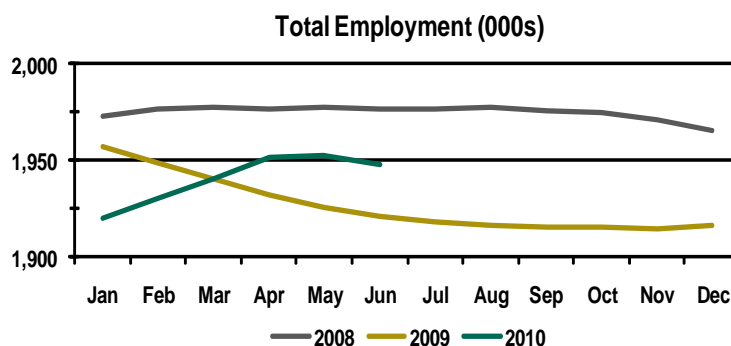
#### EMPLOYMENT (Seasonally Adjusted)

##### LOUISIANA (Numbers in Thousands)

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Labor Force	2,068	2,067	2,067	2,067	2,067	2,068	2,074	2,081	2,085	2,091	2,096	2,095
% Change vs Prior Year	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.7%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.1%	0.5%	0.7%	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%
Total Employment	1,918	1,916	1,915	1,916	1,915	1,916	1,920	1,930	1,941	1,951	1,952	1,948
% Change vs Prior Year	-3.0%	-3.1%	-3.1%	-3.0%	-2.8%	-2.5%	-1.9%	-0.9%	0.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.4%
Total Nonfarm Emp.	1,897	1,891	1,887	1,889	1,886	1,880	1,884	1,888	1,888	1,889	1,900	1,903
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.1%	-3.0%	-2.1%	-2.8%	-2.8%	-3.0%	-2.3%	-1.8%	-1.5%	-1.1%	-0.4%	0.2%
Unemployment Rate	7.2%	7.3%	7.3%	7.3%	7.3%	7.3%	7.4%	7.3%	6.9%	6.7%	6.8%	7.0%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.8%	2.6%	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%	1.3%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	-0.1%

	3QT-09	4QT-09	1QT-10	2QT-10
Labor Force	2,067	2,067	2,080	2,094
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.3%	-0.7%	0.4%	1.3%
Total Employment	1,917	1,916	1,930	1,951
% Change vs Prior Year	-3.0%	-2.8%	-0.9%	1.3%
Total Nonfarm Emp.	1,892	1,885	1,886	1,898
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.4%	-2.8%	-1.9%	-0.4%
Unemployment Rate	7.3%	7.3%	7.2%	6.9%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.6%	2.0%	1.3%	0.0%

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor, Labor Market Statistics



## Gauging Trends in Louisiana's Economy: the Coincident Index

Herb Holloway

Research Economist

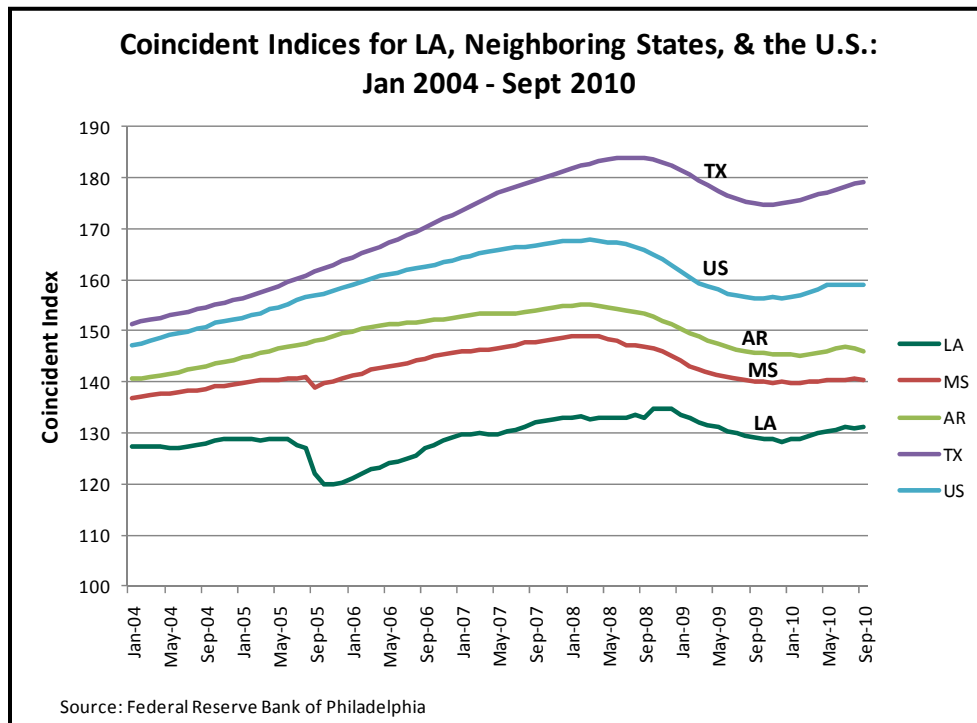
There are many measures that can be used to track various elements of an economy: total employment, unemployment rates, gross product, personal incomes, credit default rates, etc.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia has developed a measure called the *Coincident Index* to combine several factors into one number that can be used to gauge and compare the health and direction of every state's and the nation's economies.

As described on their website:

“The coincident indexes combine four state-level indicators to summarize current economic conditions in a single statistic. The four state-level variables in each coincident index are nonfarm payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing, the unemployment rate, and wage and salary disbursements deflated by the consumer price index (U.S. city average). The trend for each state's index is set to the trend of its gross domestic product (GDP), so long-term growth in the state's index matches long-term growth in its GDP. A dynamic single-factor model is used to create the state indexes. ...The model and the input variables are consistent across the 50 states, so the state indexes are comparable to one another.”

The indices for every state and the U.S. equaled 100 in July 1992, so differences in state indices reflect differences in growth since that time. The coincident indices for Louisiana, its neighboring states, and the U.S. since January 2004 are illustrated in the figure below.



## REGIONAL

### Northshore Employment

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Total employment in the Northshore Region (the five parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington) rose 1.8 percent during the second quarter of 2010 and was 1.3 percent higher compared to the same period of 2009.

The total civilian work force rose 2.2 percent when compared to the previous quarter and 2.0 percent over the second quarter of 2009. The unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2010 was 7 percent. In comparison,

unemployment rates were 6.6 percent in the previous quarter and 6.4 percent during the second quarter of 2009. The unemployment rate increased because the growth in the size of the workforce (+5,295) outpaced the gains in employment (+3,971).

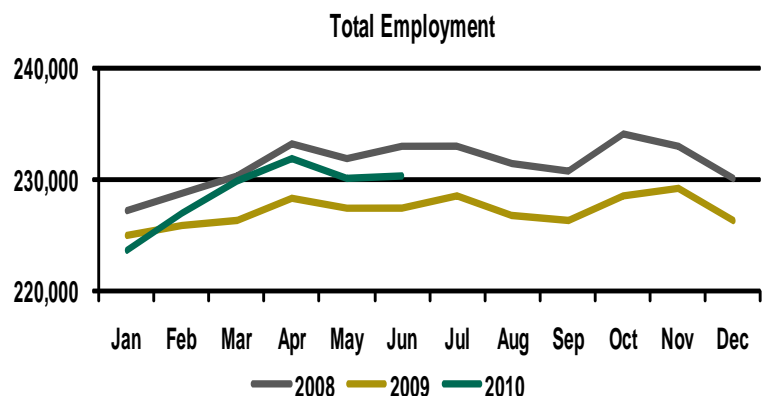
(Note: All regional and parish employment analysis is based on unadjusted employment data. Seasonally-adjusted data are not available at the parish level.)

### EMPLOYMENT (Not seasonally adjusted)

#### NORTHSHORE REGION

	<u>Jul 09</u>	<u>Aug 09</u>	<u>Sep 09</u>	<u>Oct 09</u>	<u>Nov 09</u>	<u>Dec 09</u>	<u>Jan 10</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>Jun 10</u>
Labor Force	245,484	243,733	242,299	244,422	243,960	241,917	242,253	242,215	243,827	246,306	247,316	250,558
% Change vs Prior Year	0.7%	0.3%	-0.2%	-0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	1.4%	1.8%	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%
Total Employment	228,640	226,836	226,388	228,703	229,275	226,306	223,677	227,019	229,935	232,041	230,193	230,311
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.8%	-2.0%	-1.9%	-2.3%	-1.6%	-1.7%	-0.6%	0.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.2%	1.2%
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.2%	6.6%	6.4%	6.2%	6.7%	7.7%	6.3%	5.9%	6.0%	6.9%	8.1%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.5%	2.3%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.9%	0.9%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%

	<u>3QT-09</u>	<u>4QT-09</u>	<u>1QT-10</u>	<u>2QT-10</u>
Labor Force	243,839	243,433	242,765	248,060
% Change vs Prior Year	0.3%	-0.2%	1.6%	2.0%
Total Employment	227,288	228,095	226,877	230,848
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.9%	-1.9%	0.5%	1.3%
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	6.4%	6.6%	7.0%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.1%	1.6%	1.0%	0.6%



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

## Estimated Retail Sales in the Northshore Region

Total value of taxable sales in the region rose 8.7 percent from the previous quarter, due primarily to strong sales in June. In comparison to the second quarter of 2009, taxable sales were lower by 3.2 percent. All of the individual parishes enjoyed gains in comparison to the previous quarter but were mostly lower compared to the prior year.

The smallest year-over-year decline occurred in Tangipahoa Parish (-0.9 percent), while the largest was experienced in Washington Parish (-12.6 percent).

In contrast, St. Helena experienced the only year over year increase, a gain of 5.7 percent.

### ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

#### NORTHSHORE REGION

	<u>Jul 09</u>	<u>Aug 09</u>	<u>Sep 09</u>	<u>Oct 09</u>	<u>Nov 09</u>	<u>Dec 09</u>	<u>Jan 10</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>Jun 10</u>
Total Est. Retail Sales (Mil.)	\$566.65	\$547.32	\$562.21	\$532.95	\$528.90	\$672.05	\$473.72	\$505.17	\$623.75	\$568.56	\$552.47	\$620.78
% Change vs Prior Month	-8.8%	-3.4%	2.7%	-5.2%	-0.8%	27.1%	-29.5%	6.6%	23.5%	-8.8%	-2.8%	12.4%
% Change vs. Prior Year	-8.5%	-6.7%	-6.0%	-10.6%	-5.6%	-9.9%	-13.9%	-7.4%	-3.2%	-4.5%	-5.1%	-0.1%
Quarterly Average Sales (Mil.)	\$558.73			\$577.97			\$534.22			\$580.60		
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	-6.8%			3.4%			-7.6%			8.7%		
% Change vs Prior Year	-7.1%			-8.8%			-7.9%			-3.2%		

Sources: Livingston Parish School Board - Sales and Use Tax Division, St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office - Sales and Use Tax Department, Tangipahoa Parish School Board - Sales and Use Tax Division, Washington Parish Sheriff's Office - Sales and Use Tax Dept.

## Residential Building Permits in the Northshore Region

The value of residential building permits in the region for the second quarter of 2010 rose 39.6 percent over the prior quarter and 3.2 percent compared to the second quarter of 2009, projecting a continuation of the cautious recovery in construction activities in the coming months.

It should be noted that the value of permits in unincorporated St. Tammany Parish, Livingston Parish, and St. Helena Parish are based on data (or estimates) provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

#### NORTHSHORE REGION

	<u>Jul 09</u>	<u>Aug 09</u>	<u>Sep 09</u>	<u>Oct 09</u>	<u>Nov 09</u>	<u>Dec 09</u>	<u>Jan 10</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>Jun 10</u>
Total Units	231	319	227	184	148	133	142	139	200	222	174	178
% Change vs Prior Year	-11.2%	15.6%	22.7%	-11.1%	-9.8%	-31.4%	-9.0%	11.2%	-29.3%	12.7%	-25.0%	-21.2%
Total Value (\$000s)	30,934	55,514	31,927	29,035	35,124	25,137	24,805	16,870	27,271	35,879	27,123	33,247
% Change vs Prior Year	-26.1%	29.6%	5.6%	-5.7%	46.1%	6.4%	5.8%	-16.4%	-42.6%	30.7%	-11.1%	-5.9%
Unincorp. Units	199	287	207	160	127	126	132	121	176	212	157	168
% Change vs Prior Year	-14.2%	13.0%	35.3%	-15.3%	-15.9%	-31.9%	-8.3%	9.0%	-34.6%	21.1%	-29.0%	-19.2%
Uninc. Value (\$000s)	26,346	50,056	29,528	25,472	31,999	23,453	22,730	14,460	23,721	32,831	24,071	30,442
% Change vs Prior Year	-26.8%	30.2%	8.7%	-9.7%	48.1%	6.9%	3.3%	-19.3%	-47.3%	36.2%	-14.8%	-6.4%
Incorporated Units	23	22	9	24	21	7	10	18	24	10	17	10
% Change vs Prior Year	-17.9%	0.0%	-71.9%	33.3%	61.5%	-22.2%	-16.7%	28.6%	71.4%	-54.5%	54.5%	-44.4%
Inc. Value (\$000s)	3,675	3,591	993	3,562	3,125	1,684	2,075	2,410	3,550	3,048	3,052	2,805
% Change vs Prior Year	-37.8%	-18.3%	-67.5%	38.4%	28.3%	1.0%	45.1%	7.2%	39.8%	-8.9%	35.0%	1.1%

Sources: Livingston Parish -- Town of Albany, City of Denham Springs, Town of Livingston, Town of Walker, <http://censtats.census.gov>

St. Helena Parish -- <http://censtats.census.gov> (estimates with imputation)

St. Tammany Parish -- St. Tammany Parish Permit Office, Town of Abita Springs, Village of Folsom, Town of Madisonville, City of Mandeville, Town of Pearl River, City of Slidell, <http://censtats.census.gov>

Tangipahoa Parish -- Tangipahoa Parish Permit Office, City of Hammond, City of Ponchatoula

Washington Parish -- Washington Parish Permit Office, City of Bogalusa, Town of Franklinton, <http://censtats.census.gov>

## UPDATE: Livingston Parish

Herb Holloway  
Business Research Center

As anyone who has traveled the I-12 corridor recently is well aware, Livingston Parish is undergoing rapid growth and extensive development. A time traveler from even a few years back would hardly recognize the parish with all of the changes that have taken place—and are still under way!

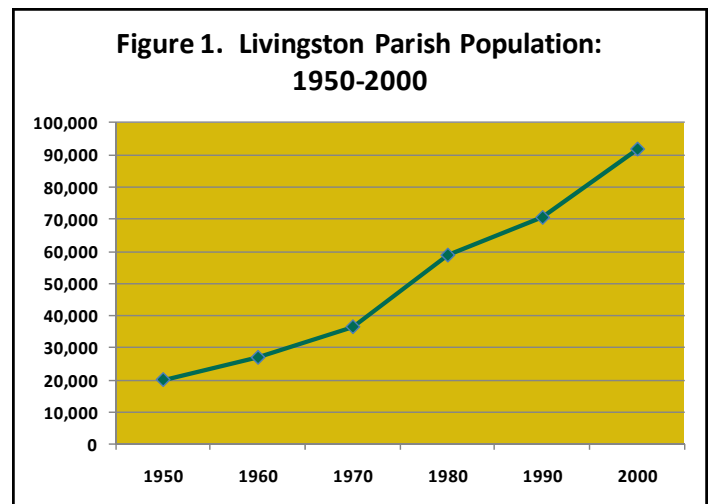
Recently completed, current, or proposed projects include:

- Construction of an I-12 interchange at Juban Road (opened April 2007).
- The opening of a Bass Pro Shops store in Denham Springs (February 2008).
- The opening of a Stines Lumber store in Walker in March 2009.
- Construction of two new medical facilities: North Oaks—Livingston Parish Medical Complex at the Satsuma I-12 interchange (expected to open late 2010) and a physician/outpatient complex being built by Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Walker (expected to open late 2011).
- Widening of I-12 to three lanes each direction from O’Neal Lane in Baton Rouge to the Juban Road interchange east of Denham Springs (currently under construction—expected completion in mid-2012).
- Construction of two new mixed-use developments at the I-12 interchanges at Satsuma (*Suma Crossing*—ongoing) and Juban Road (*Juban Crossing*—projected groundbreaking November 2010).
- Construction of a new Sam’s Club store near the Bass Pro Shops in Denham Springs (expected opening 2012).

To get a feel for what’s driving (and resulting from) all of this development activity, we’ll take a look at a few demographic and development measures and see how they’ve been trending over the last several years.

### POPULATION

The population of Livingston Parish has grown from 20,054 in 1950 to an estimated 123,326 in 2009 (U.S. Census Bureau). The most rapid decade of growth was from 1970-1980, when the population grew from 36,511 to 58,806, an average of 4.8 percent per year (see Figure 1 below). Population growth slowed in the ‘80s to 1.8 percent per year before increasing to 2.6 percent per year in the ‘90s.



Livingston Parish had the second-fastest population growth rate among Louisiana parishes from 2000-2009, increasing 34.3 percent from 91,814 in the 2000 Census to an estimated 123,326 on July 1, 2009 (U.S. Census Bureau). This equates to an average annual growth rate of 3.2 percent over the nine-year period.

## UPDATE: Livingston Parish...continued

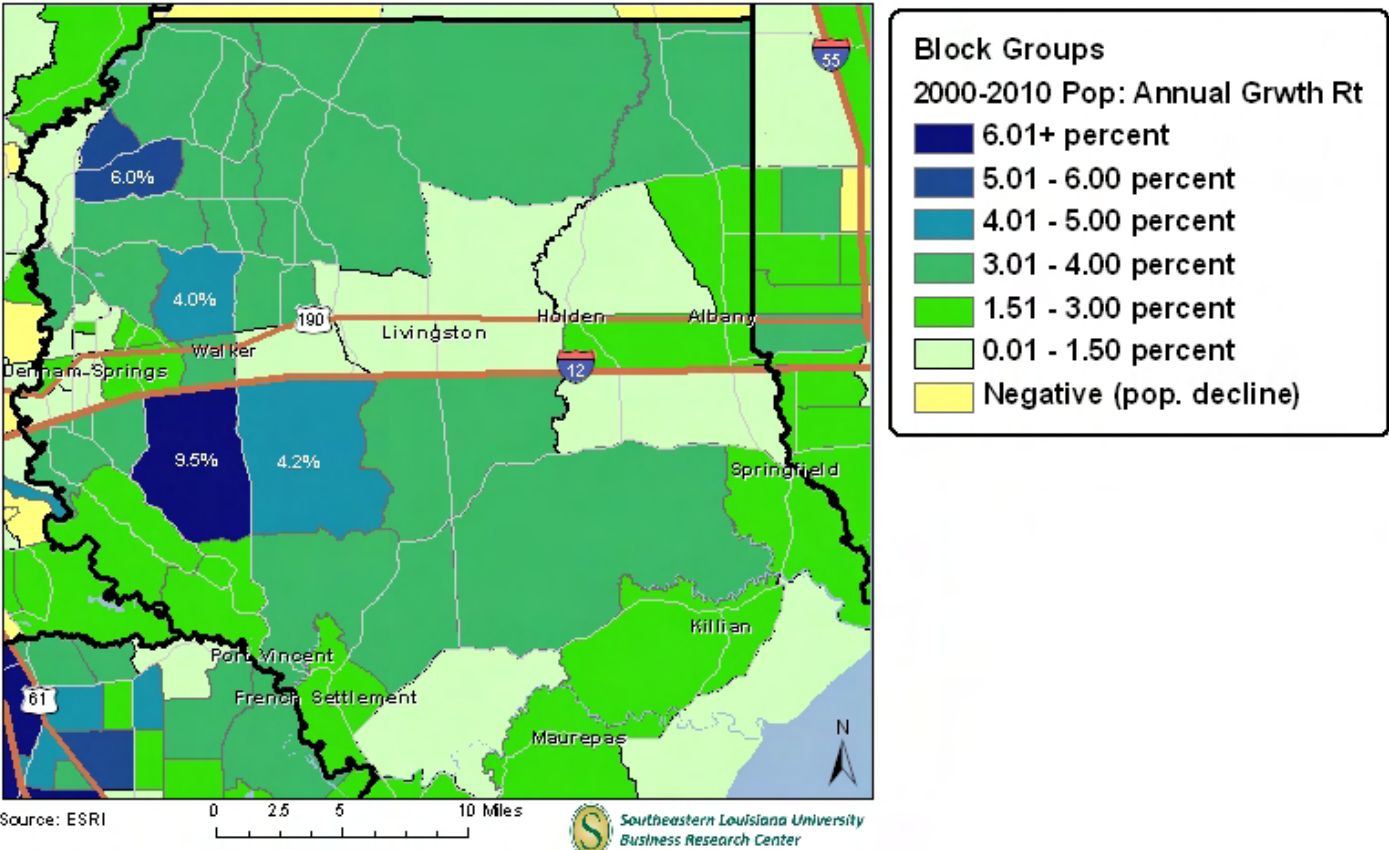
Annual growth rates during this period ranged from 1.9 percent in 2008-2009 to 5.7 percent in 2005-2006, when Hurricane Katrina led to an influx of new residents from storm-damaged parishes.

Although all parts of the parish have grown during this period, analyzing population changes by U.S. Census block group reveals that populations in some areas have grown more than others.

Figure 2 (below), based on population estimates from ESRI, reveals that the fastest growth has occurred south of I-12 between Denham Springs and Walker, in an area bordered by Juban Road on the west and Walker Road South on the east. This block group (in dark blue on the map) averaged an estimated 9.5 percent annual population growth from 2000-2010.

The next fastest growing area was a block group near Watson (medium blue) — bordered by LA 16 on the west, LA 1024 on the south, LA 1022 and LA 1019 on the north, and Perkins Road on the east — which averaged growth of 6.0 percent per year, followed by two areas with very similar growth rates of 4.2 and 4.0 percent (light blue) - a large block group bordered by I-12, Walker Road South, Hood Road, and Satsuma Road South, and a smaller block group bordered by LA 1025 on the north, the CN railroad spur on the south, LA 447 on the east, and West Colyell Creek on the west.

**Fig.2. Livingston Parish Annual Population Growth Rate by Block Group: 2000-2010**



## UPDATE: Livingston Parish...continued

### TRAFFIC COUNTS

With increased populations comes increased traffic, of course, especially in a dispersed, commuting-based economy such as Livingston Parish. Using data provided by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD), Figure 3 illustrates all of the monitoring sites in the parish that recorded average daily traffic (ADT) counts higher than 25,000 vehicles in 2009.

Most of them are on I-12, as would be expected, but there were also five stations on Range Avenue/LA 16 in Denham and one on Walker Road that exceeded 25,000 vehicles per day. The highest count by far was on I-12 where it crosses Pete's Highway. This new monitoring location, used for the first time in 2009, recorded an average of 74,022 vehicles per day—confirming the high volumes of traffic which necessitated the widening of I-12.

**Figure 3. Livingston Parish Average Daily Traffic Counts: 2009\***  
(All locations exceeding 25,000 vehicles per day.)



Source: Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

\*All counts are from 2009 except the 38,193 where LA 3002 (South Range Avenue) intersects I-12, which is from 2006.



Figure 4 illustrates those monitoring locations that recorded the greatest percentage increases in traffic flows from 2003-2009. Nine locations with increases of over 50 percent are shown in Figure 4. Because some of the high percentage increases were on relatively lightly-used rural roads, both the percentage increase and vehicle count increase are indicated in order to highlight the differences in volume.



## UPDATE: Livingston Parish...continued

The greatest percentage and numeric increase by a large margin was for a monitoring station on LA 1034 (Vincent Road) near the entrance to South Park. This location's ADT increased 273 percent from 2003-2009, going from 3,655 vehicles per day to 13,643.

Other locations recording increases of greater than 50 percent were scattered throughout the parish, with three clustered near Port Vincent and French Settlement on LA 16 and LA 42.

**Figure 4. Livingston Parish Average Daily Traffic Counts: Change from 2003-2009**

(All locations exceeding increase of 50%.)



Source: Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development



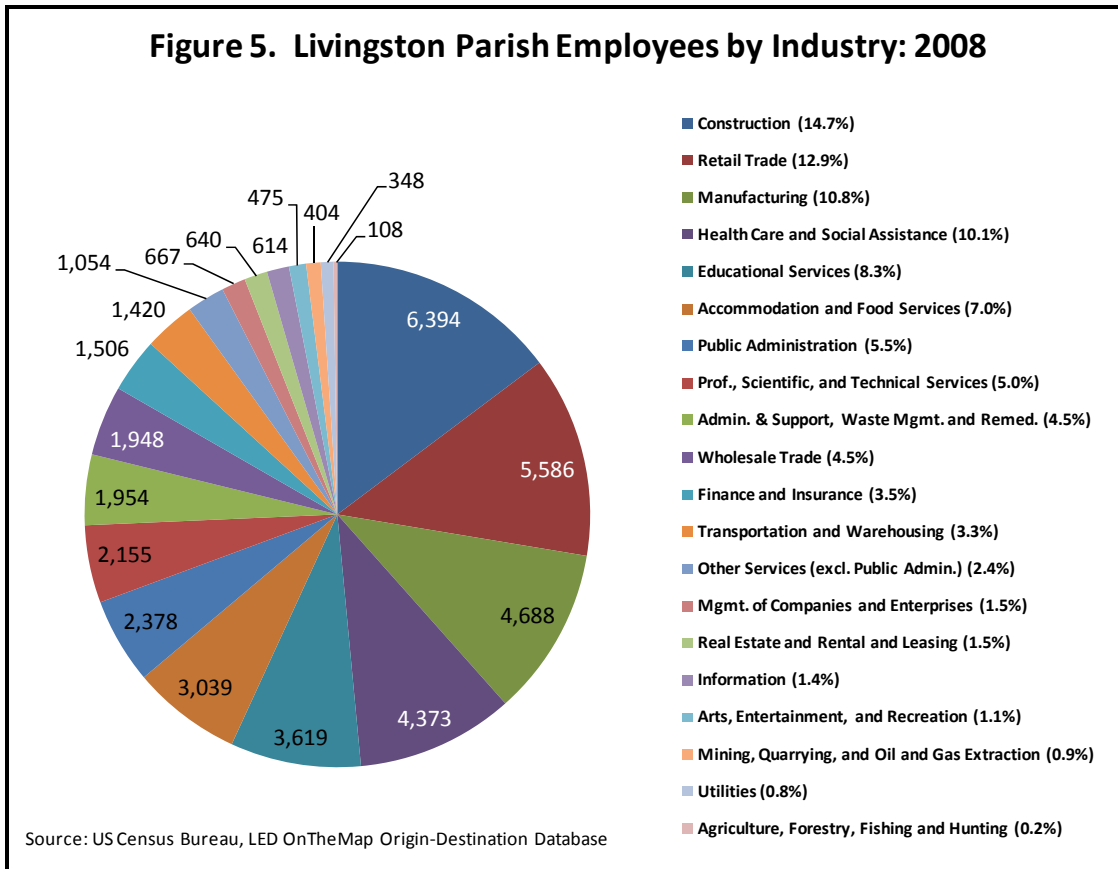
## EMPLOYMENT and WAGES

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau approximately 76 percent of employed Livingston Parish residents worked outside of Livingston Parish in 2008. This was down from approximately 80 percent in 2002.

Approximately 43 percent of Livingston Parish employees worked in East Baton Rouge Parish in 2008, down from 50 percent in 2002. The remainder worked in Livingston Parish (24 percent in 2008), Tangipahoa Parish (6 percent), Ascension (5 percent), Jefferson Parish (4 percent), Orleans Parish (2 percent), and other parishes/states (16 percent).

As shown in Figure 5 on the following page, almost half (48.5 percent) of employed Livingston Parish residents worked in the top four industries—construction (14.7 percent), retail trade (12.9 percent), manufacturing (10.8 percent), and healthcare and social assistance (10.1 percent).

## UPDATE: Livingston Parish...continued



The discussion above relates to employed Livingston Parish residents, regardless of where they work. Regarding jobs *within* Livingston Parish (regardless of where the employees live), the top six industries by employment, their number of employees and average wages, and the growth in employment and average wages are shown in Table 1.

The six industries listed in Table 1 accounted for 75.2 percent of all jobs within Livingston Parish in the period from 4Q08—3Q09. *Retail Trade* added the most jobs from 2001-2009 (+ 1,078) and earnings from *Construction* jobs increased the most (+ 52.1 percent) among these top six industries.

	2009=4Q08-3Q09		2001=4Q00-3Q01		
	2009 Total Employees	2009 % of All Jobs	% Growth in Emp. 2001-2009	2009 Avg. Monthly Earnings	% Growth in Earnings 2001-2009
Retail Trade	3,909	18.0%	38.1%	\$1,831	19.9%
Educational Services	3,708	17.0%	29.6%	\$2,581	34.6%
Manufacturing	2,918	13.4%	31.9%	\$4,760	48.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,983	9.1%	51.7%	\$1,101	40.7%
Construction	1,948	8.9%	30.4%	\$3,532	52.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,903	8.7%	27.4%	\$2,337	35.0%

## LOCAL

### Livingston Parish

Livingston Parish enjoyed a 0.8 percent gain in employment compared to the second quarter of 2009. The labor force grew 1.8 percent, and the unemployment rate increased to 7.1 percent from 6.7 percent in the first quarter of 2010.

Retail sales fell 0.9 percent compared to the second quarter of 2009, a smaller decline than the regional average of -3.2 percent.

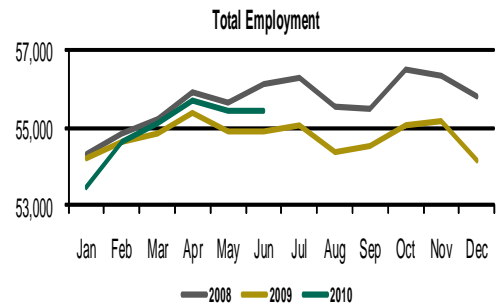
The value of residential building permits rose 3.3 percent compared to the second quarter of 2009, based on data provided by local municipalities and the U.S. Census Bureau.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### LIVINGSTON PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Labor Force	59,184	58,457	58,346	58,747	58,755	58,070	57,968	58,354	58,581	59,252	59,653	60,330
% Change vs Prior Year	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%	-0.5%	0.0%	-0.6%	1.2%	1.4%	1.1%	1.4%	2.2%	1.8%
Total Employment	55,034	54,352	54,537	55,059	55,148	54,144	53,452	54,650	55,083	55,704	55,421	55,447
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.2%	-2.1%	-1.7%	-2.5%	-2.1%	-3.0%	-1.4%	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%
Unemployment Rate	7.0%	7.0%	6.5%	6.3%	6.1%	6.8%	7.8%	6.3%	6.0%	6.0%	7.1%	8.1%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.8%	2.6%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.5%	1.3%	0.7%	0.7%	1.2%	0.7%

	3Q7-09	4Q7-09	1Q7-10	2Q7-10
Labor Force	58,662	58,524	58,301	59,745
% Change vs Prior Year	0.6%	-0.4%	1.3%	1.8%
Total Employment	54,641	54,784	54,395	55,524
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.0%	-2.5%	-0.3%	0.8%
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	6.4%	6.7%	7.1%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.5%	2.1%	1.5%	0.9%



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

### ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

#### LIVINGSTON PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Est. Retail Sales (Mil.)	\$96.33	\$97.99	\$106.43	\$91.32	\$90.43	\$109.60	\$85.09	\$85.06	\$111.30	\$102.25	\$100.73	\$109.76
% Change vs Prior Month	-10.9%	1.7%	8.6%	-14.2%	-1.0%	21.2%	-22.4%	0.0%	30.8%	-8.1%	-1.5%	9.0%
% Change vs. Prior Year	-11.5%	-11.1%	-0.6%	-14.8%	-6.2%	-20.8%	-15.3%	-11.4%	-5.5%	-2.7%	-1.5%	1.5%
Quarterly Average Sales (Mil.)			\$100.25			\$97.12			\$93.82			\$104.25
% Change vs. Prior Quarter			-4.7%			-3.1%			-3.4%			11.1%
% Change vs Prior Year			-7.7%			-14.8%			-10.4%			-0.9%

Source: Livingston Parish School Board - Sales and Use Tax Division

### RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

#### LIVINGSTON PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Units	57	189	54	47	42	42	44	54	70	90	75	82
% Change vs Prior Year	-3.4%	256.6%	-1.8%	-13.0%	5.0%	100.0%	-29.0%	68.8%	-52.7%	28.6%	-27.2%	-26.1%
Total Value (\$000s)	6,941	33,627	9,201	8,483	4,803	4,955	5,531	6,536	8,432	13,354	11,239	12,551
% Change vs Prior Year	-36.1%	281.3%	-4.7%	-10.9%	-36.4%	32.8%	-49.0%	13.1%	-67.8%	48.5%	-13.0%	-10.7%
Unincorp. Units	55	179	48	43	41	42	41	45	63	89	75	79
% Change vs Prior Year	-5.2%	251.0%	-9.4%	-14.0%	13.9%	121.1%	-31.7%	50.0%	-56.6%	43.5%	-26.5%	-27.5%
Uninc. Value (\$000s)	6,488	32,242	8,646	7,745	4,703	4,955	4,837	5,309	7,432	13,254	11,239	11,712
% Change vs Prior Year	-36.6%	281.3%	-7.5%	-12.2%	-26.0%	47.8%	-54.3%	0.3%	-70.9%	70.1%	-12.3%	-14.5%
Incorporated Units	2	10	6	4	1	0	3	9	7	1	0	3
% Change vs Prior Year	100.0%	400.0%	200.0%	0.0%	-75.0%	-100.0%	50.0%	350.0%	133.3%	-87.5%	-100.0%	50.0%
Inc. Value (\$000s)	453	1,385	555	738	100	0	694	1,227	1,000	100	0	840
% Change vs Prior Year	-27.8%	280.5%	n/a	6.0%	-91.7%	-100.0%	159.1%	151.8%	60.8%	-91.7%	-100.0%	136.5%

Sources: La Dept. of Econ. Dev., Livingston Parish Permit Office, Town of Albany, City of Denham Springs, Town of Livingston, Town of Walker, <http://censtats.census.gov>

**Note:** Valuation estimation procedure discontinued by Livingston Parish Permit Office after June 2008. Unincorporated values from July 2008 forward

are based on values estimated by the La. Dept. of Economic Development or U.S. Census Bureau. Comparisons to values in prior periods are not valid.

# Economic Reporter

## St. Helena Parish

Employment in St. Helena in the second quarter of 2010 rose 0.8 percent compared to the same months of the previous year. The unemployment rate for the quarter was 12.1 percent, higher than the 11.4 percent of the previous quarter and the highest in the region.

Retail sales rose 5.7 percent compared to the second quarter of 2009, the only gain in contrast to the decline for the overall Northshore region.

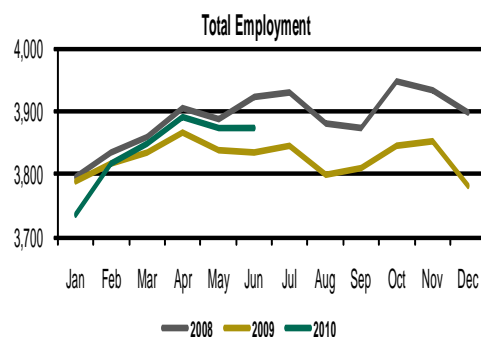
The Census Bureau's estimated value of St. Helena building permits rose 199.6 percent over the past twelve months. (Actual building permit data is not available from St. Helena Parish.)

### EMPLOYMENT

#### ST. HELENA PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Labor Force	4,394	4,335	4,290	4,304	4,322	4,303	4,297	4,297	4,281	4,314	4,388	4,531
% Change vs Prior Year	-11.5%	-11.4%	-12.2%	-10.7%	-10.4%	-12.1%	1.3%	2.7%	-8.4%	-8.1%	-9.0%	-11.9%
Total Employment	3,845	3,798	3,810	3,847	3,853	3,783	3,735	3,818	3,849	3,892	3,872	3,874
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.2%	-2.1%	-1.7%	-2.5%	-2.1%	-3.0%	-1.5%	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%
Unemployment Rate	12.5%	12.4%	11.2%	10.6%	10.9%	12.1%	13.1%	11.1%	10.1%	9.8%	11.8%	14.5%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.9%	2.8%	0.5%	2.2%	2.4%	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.9%	1.7%

	3QT-09	4QT-09	1QT-10	2QT-10
Labor Force	4,340	4,310	4,292	4,411
% Change vs Prior Year	0.4%	0.1%	2.0%	2.7%
Total Employment	3,818	3,828	3,801	3,879
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.0%	-2.5%	-0.3%	0.8%
Unemployment Rate	12.0%	11.2%	11.4%	12.1%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.1%	2.4%	2.0%	1.6%



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

### ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

#### ST. HELENA PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Est. Retail Sales (Mil.)	\$5.31	\$4.93	\$6.57	\$5.82	\$4.18	\$6.20	\$3.74	\$4.42	\$5.35	\$4.85	\$5.02	\$5.49
% Change vs Prior Month	7.7%	-7.1%	33.3%	-11.3%	-28.3%	48.6%	-39.7%	18.1%	21.1%	-9.3%	3.5%	9.3%
% Change vs. Prior Year	-21.4%	-9.8%	8.5%	-10.5%	-32.7%	-32.2%	-28.4%	-7.7%	-8.5%	12.1%	-5.0%	11.4%
Quarterly Average Sales (Mil.)			\$5.60			\$5.40			\$4.50			\$5.12
% Change vs. Prior Quarter			15.5%			-3.5%			-16.6%			13.7%
% Change vs Prior Year			-8.0%			-25.9%			-14.8%			5.7%

Source: Sales tax collections from St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office expanded using tax rate of .05 (5%)

Sept and Oct 2009 = EST MATED by BRC based on combined Sept/Oct collections.

### RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

#### ST. HELENA PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Units	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	3	2	2
% Change vs Prior Year	-50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	200.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total Value (\$000s)	150	150	150	-	-	150	150	150	150	578	385	385
% Change vs Prior Year	-41.0%	18.0%	18.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	285.3%	156.8%	156.8%

Source: <http://censtats.census.gov> (estimates with imputation)

## St. Tammany Parish

Total employment in St. Tammany Parish in the second quarter of 2010 rose 1.7 percent compared to a year ago, exceeding the average gain in the region. The workforce increased by 1.9 percent, resulting in an unemployment rate of 5.6 percent, the lowest in the region.

Retail sales fell 3.4 percent compared to the second quarter of 2009, a decline that was slightly greater than the regional average.

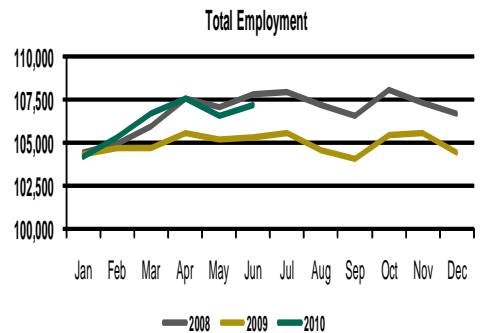
The value of building permits rose 30.2 percent over the previous quarter and was 44.8 percent higher than in the second quarter of 2009, pointing to strong residential construction activity over the following weeks and months.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### ST. TAMMANY PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Labor Force	112,069	111,312	110,104	111,465	111,347	110,354	111,086	110,933	111,998	113,050	112,793	114,510
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.8%	-1.1%	-0.4%	-1.0%	1.2%	1.0%	1.8%	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%
Total Employment	105,626	104,666	104,099	105,493	105,652	104,491	104,262	105,358	106,744	107,572	106,591	107,207
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.2%	-2.3%	-2.4%	-2.4%	-1.6%	-2.1%	-0.1%	0.7%	1.9%	1.9%	1.3%	1.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	6.0%	5.5%	5.4%	5.1%	5.3%	6.1%	5.0%	4.7%	4.8%	5.5%	6.4%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	0.3%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%

	3QT-09	4QT-09	1QT-10	2QT-10
Labor Force	111,162	111,055	111,339	113,451
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.5%	-0.8%	1.3%	1.9%
Total Employment	104,797	105,212	105,455	107,123
% Change vs Prior Year	-2.3%	-2.0%	0.8%	1.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.3%	5.3%	5.6%
% Change vs Prior Year	1.8%	1.2%	0.5%	0.2%



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

### ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

#### ST. TAMMANY PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Est. Retail Sales (Mil.)	\$301.70	\$290.37	\$303.83	\$279.63	\$285.33	\$366.98	\$250.72	\$267.90	\$327.86	\$304.82	\$293.56	\$330.64
% Change vs Prior Month	-10.4%	-3.8%	4.6%	-8.0%	2.0%	28.6%	-31.7%	6.8%	22.4%	-7.0%	-3.7%	12.6%
% Change vs. Prior Year	-9.1%	-6.9%	-4.7%	-11.1%	-8.1%	-8.7%	-13.5%	-5.6%	-3.8%	-2.7%	-5.9%	-1.8%
Quarterly Average Sales (Mil.)	\$298.63			\$310.65			\$282.16			\$309.68		
% Change vs. Prior Quarter	-6.9%			4.0%			-9.2%			9.8%		
% Change vs Prior Year	-7.0%			-9.2%			-7.4%			-3.4%		

Source: Sales tax collections from St. Tammany Parish Sales and Use Tax Department expanded using an average tax rate of .04825 (4.825%)

### RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

#### ST. TAMMANY PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Units	50	63	62	53	51	50	51	51	56	77	46	39
% Change vs Prior Year	-47.9%	-49.6%	-22.5%	26.2%	64.5%	-37.5%	-5.6%	54.5%	-12.5%	102.6%	15.0%	-20.4%
Total Value (\$000s)	10,264	13,783	9,937	11,045	22,988	14,480	11,164	5,575	10,980	15,357	9,035	11,693
% Change vs Prior Year	-41.1%	-37.8%	-32.4%	40.3%	248.2%	62.0%	49.5%	-12.5%	-16.5%	121.9%	30.1%	5.8%
Unincorp. Units	39	58	59	42	43	44	44	46	50	70	39	35
% Change vs Prior Year	-50.6%	-50.8%	5.4%	20.0%	48.3%	-39.7%	-4.3%	64.3%	-10.7%	118.8%	11.4%	-5.4%
Uninc. Value (\$000s)	8,107	12,415	9,500	9,269	21,328	12,896	9,783	4,714	9,430	12,558	6,816	10,019
% Change vs Prior Year	-37.9%	-36.4%	-22.8%	35.1%	242.4%	68.6%	50.3%	-10.9%	-18.7%	107.8%	20.9%	10.6%
Incorporated Units	11	5	3	11	8	6	7	5	6	7	7	4
% Change vs Prior Year	-35.3%	-28.6%	-87.5%	57.1%	300.0%	-14.3%	-12.5%	0.0%	-25.0%	16.7%	40.0%	-66.7%
Inc. Value (\$000s)	2,156	1,367	438	1,776	1,660	1,584	1,381	861	1,550	2,799	2,219	1,674
% Change vs Prior Year	-50.6%	-48.1%	-81.7%	75.6%	345.0%	22.8%	44.6%	-20.3%	-0.2%	219.0%	69.9%	-16.3%

Sources: St. Tammany Parish Permit Office, Town of Abita Springs, Village of Folsom, Town of Madisonville, City of Mandeville,

Town of Pearl River, City of Slidell, <http://censtats.census.gov> (some data estimated)

# Economic Reporter

## Tangipahoa Parish

Employment in Tangipahoa Parish in the second quarter of 2010 rose 1.7 percent compared to both the previous quarter and the second quarter of 2009. The larger increase in the work force (+2.9 percent) caused the unemployment rate to rise to 8.7 percent, up 0.6 percent from the previous quarter and 1.1 percent over the second quarter of 2009, and exceeding the regional average of 7.0 percent.

Retail sales dropped 2.3 percent compared to the same quarter in 2009, a smaller decline than the average for the Northshore.

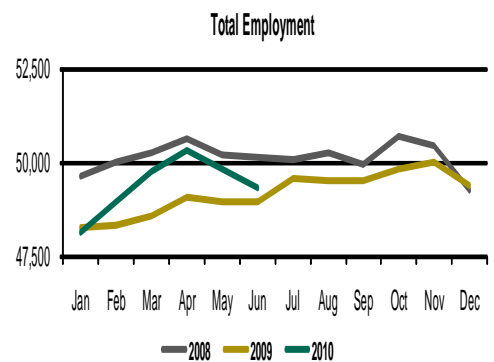
The value of building permits rose 4.7 percent from the previous quarter but fell 34.9 percent from the second quarter of 2009.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### TANGIPAHOA PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Labor Force	54,211	54,091	53,633	53,878	53,925	53,709	53,116	52,987	53,637	54,227	54,505	54,939
% Change vs Prior Year	2.3%	1.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.8%	2.1%	2.2%	2.6%	2.9%	3.4%	3.3%	2.2%
Total Employment	49,538	49,524	49,481	49,793	49,980	49,373	48,141	48,934	49,778	50,289	49,805	49,324
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.0%	-1.4%	-1.0%	-1.8%	-0.9%	0.2%	-0.2%	1.3%	2.5%	2.5%	1.7%	0.8%
Unemployment Rate	8.6%	8.4%	7.7%	7.6%	7.3%	8.1%	9.4%	7.6%	7.2%	7.3%	8.6%	10.2%
% Change vs Prior Year	3.0%	2.6%	1.2%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%	2.1%	1.3%	0.4%	0.7%	1.4%	1.2%

	3Q7-09	4Q7-09	1Q7-10	2Q7-10
Labor Force	53,978	53,837	53,247	54,557
% Change vs Prior Year	1.3%	1.0%	2.6%	2.9%
Total Employment	49,514	49,715	48,951	49,806
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.1%	-0.8%	1.2%	1.7%
Unemployment Rate	8.3%	7.7%	8.1%	8.7%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.3%	1.7%	1.3%	1.1%



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

### ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

#### TANGIPAHOA PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Est. Retail Sales (Mil.)	\$126.65	\$123.32	\$127.96	\$119.75	\$115.52	\$149.88	\$107.88	\$119.29	\$141.94	\$127.98	\$123.55	\$140.14
% Change vs Prior Month	-9.4%	-2.6%	3.8%	-6.4%	-3.5%	29.7%	-28.0%	10.6%	19.0%	-9.8%	-3.5%	13.4%
% Change vs. Prior Year	-7.3%	-6.1%	-3.9%	-8.7%	-5.3%	-7.8%	-12.4%	-2.5%	-1.0%	-3.0%	-4.3%	0.2%
Quarterly Average Sales (Mil.)			\$125.98			\$128.38			\$123.04			\$130.56
% Change vs. Prior Quarter			-5.7%			1.9%			-4.2%			6.1%
% Change vs Prior Year			-5.8%			-7.4%			-5.1%			-2.3%

Source: Sales tax collections from the Tangipahoa Parish School Board - Sales and Use Tax Division expanded using a tax rate of .02 (2%)

### RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

#### TANGIPAHOA PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Units	114	56	99	78	47	34	37	28	69	46	47	49
% Change vs Prior Year	31.0%	-38.5%	141.5%	-22.0%	-47.2%	-59.5%	19.4%	-41.7%	11.3%	-47.7%	-43.4%	0.0%
Total Value (\$000s)	12,666	6,087	11,232	8,852	6,151	4,740	7,060	3,901	7,279	5,942	6,099	7,058
% Change vs Prior Year	15.0%	-44.2%	153.3%	-22.9%	-35.4%	-51.8%	74.0%	-39.5%	4.1%	-47.8%	-37.8%	-13.1%
Unincorp. Units	104	49	99	69	35	34	37	26	58	45	38	46
% Change vs Prior Year	28.4%	-38.0%	175.0%	-26.6%	-58.8%	-59.5%	19.4%	-39.5%	-3.3%	-43.8%	-51.9%	2.2%
Uninc. Value (\$000s)	11,600	5,248	11,232	7,803	4,786	4,740	7,060	3,686	6,279	5,856	5,330	6,766
% Change vs Prior Year	11.1%	-45.0%	169.8%	-27.0%	-46.2%	-51.8%	74.0%	-37.0%	-7.5%	-42.1%	-41.8%	-12.1%
Incorporated Units	10	7	0	9	12	0	0	2	11	1	9	3
% Change vs Prior Year	66.7%	-41.7%	-100.0%	50.0%	200.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-60.0%	450.0%	-87.5%	125.0%	-25.0%
Inc. Value (\$000s)	1,066	839	0	1,049	1,365	0	0	215	1,000	87	769	292
% Change vs Prior Year	85.8%	-38.6%	-100.0%	32.4%	115.3%	0.0%	0.0%	-64.4%	387.8%	-93.2%	18.3%	-30.6%

Sources: Tangipahoa Parish Permit Office, City of Hammond, and City of Ponchatoula

## Washington Parish

Total employment in Washington Parish in the second quarter of 2010 fell 0.4 percent compared to the second quarter of the previous year. The labor force rose 0.5 percent, resulting in an unemployment rate of 9.5 percent, up from 9.2 percent in the previous quarter and significantly higher than the regional average of 7 percent.

Sales tax collections were 12.6 percent lower compared to the previous year, a steeper decline than the regional average of -3.2 percent.

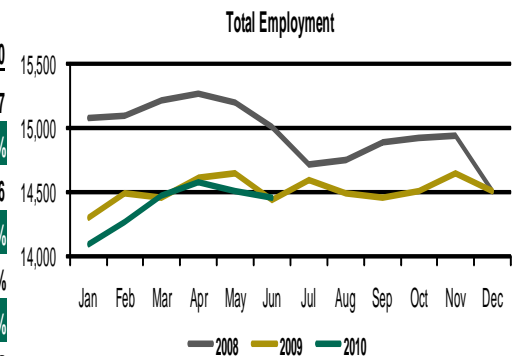
The value of building permits increased 26.3 percent over the prior quarter but fell 2.4 percent in comparison to the second quarter of 2009.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### WASHINGTON PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Labor Force	16,175	16,075	15,926	16,028	16,080	16,001	15,786	15,644	15,762	15,885	15,977	16,248
% Change vs Prior Year	2.4%	1.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.8%	2.5%	1.9%	0.2%	0.8%	0.6%	0.1%	0.8%
Total Employment	14,597	14,496	14,461	14,511	14,642	14,515	14,087	14,259	14,481	14,584	14,504	14,459
% Change vs Prior Year	-0.8%	-1.7%	-2.9%	-2.8%	-2.0%	0.1%	-1.5%	-1.6%	0.2%	-0.2%	-1.0%	0.1%
Unemployment Rate	9.8%	9.8%	9.2%	9.5%	8.9%	9.3%	10.8%	8.9%	8.1%	8.2%	9.2%	11.0%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	2.2%	3.1%	1.7%	0.6%	0.7%	1.0%	0.7%

	3QT-09	4QT-09	1QT-10	2QT-10
Labor Force	16,059	16,036	15,731	16,037
% Change vs Prior Year	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	0.5%
Total Employment	14,518	14,556	14,276	14,516
% Change vs Prior Year	-1.8%	-1.6%	-1.0%	-0.4%
Unemployment Rate	9.6%	9.2%	9.2%	9.5%
% Change vs Prior Year	2.9%	2.6%	1.8%	0.8%



Source: Labor Market Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

### ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES

#### WASHINGTON PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Est. Retail Sales (Mil.)	\$36.66	\$30.71	\$17.43	\$36.43	\$33.45	\$39.38	\$26.30	\$28.50	\$37.30	\$28.65	\$29.60	\$34.75
% Change vs Prior Month	15.6%	-16.3%	-43.2%	109.0%	-8.2%	17.7%	-33.2%	8.4%	30.9%	-23.2%	3.3%	17.4%
% Change vs. Prior Year	3.8%	10.0%	-47.1%	0.3%	32.5%	17.5%	-16.7%	-26.3%	1.9%	-29.9%	-12.4%	9.6%
Quarterly Average Sales (Mil.)			\$28.27			\$36.42			\$30.70			\$31.00
% Change vs. Prior Quarter			-20.3%			28.8%			-15.7%			1.0%
% Change vs Prior Year			-11.8%			14.9%			-13.8%			-12.6%

Source: Washington Parish Sheriff's Office - Sales and Use Tax Department. Sept. 2009 collections down partially due to office closures and staff layoffs in October 2009.

### RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

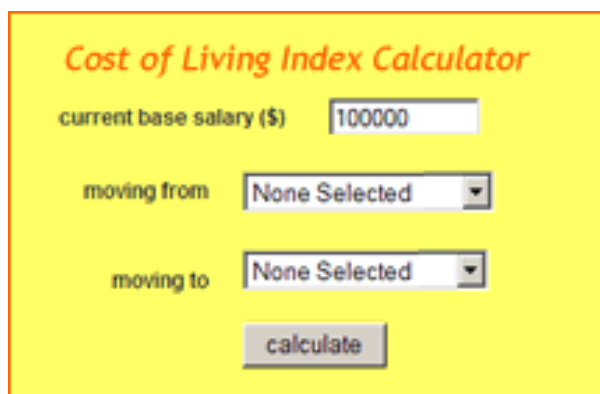
#### WASHINGTON PARISH

	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10
Total Units	9	10	11	6	8	6	9	5	4	6	4	6
% Change vs Prior Year	-43.8%	66.7%	37.5%	-33.3%	166.7%	-25.0%	12.5%	-54.5%	-50.0%	n/a	-20.0%	-62.5%
Total Value (\$000s)	913	1,867	1,406	655	1,182	812	900	708	430	648	365	1,560
% Change vs Prior Year	-60.9%	130.5%	7.8%	-60.5%	413.9%	-17.1%	-3.4%	-50.8%	-59.7%	n/a	-47.9%	-19.4%

Sources: Washington Parish Permit Office, City of Bogalusa, Town of Franklinton, <http://censtats.census.gov>

### ACCRA Cost of Living Index Web Calculator Now Available!

The Southeastern Business Research Center (BRC), a data collector for the C2ER ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI), is pleased to make the ACCRA COLI Web Calculator available at no charge on the BRC "Welcome Page" at <http://www.selu.edu/brc>.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Cost of Living Index Calculator" on a yellow background. It includes a text input field for "current base salary (\$)" with the value "100000". Below it are two dropdown menus for "moving from" and "moving to", both currently set to "None Selected". At the bottom is a "calculate" button.

The ACCRA COLI web calculator allows you to compare the cost of living in more than 300 urban areas across the U.S. with any of nine Louisiana cities. The calculator will display the income you need to earn in the Louisiana target city to maintain an equivalent standard of living, list the composite and category indices, show percentage differences in five major categories between the selected areas, and list an item-by-item price comparison of over 50 products and services. Try it out!



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- Business Research Center
- Office of Economic & Business Development
- Southeast Louisiana Business Center
- College of Business

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**St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office**

**St. Tammany Parish Permit Office and Sheriff's Office Sales and Use Tax Department**

**Tangipahoa Parish Permit Office and School Board Sales and Use Tax Department**

**Washington Parish Building and Planning Department and Sheriff's Office Sales and Use Tax Department**

**Building permit offices of the following municipalities:**

**Town of Abita Springs  
Village of Albany  
City of Denham Springs  
Village of Folsom  
City of Hammond  
Town of Livingston**

**Town of Madisonville  
City of Mandeville  
Town of Pearl River  
City of Ponchatoula  
City of Slidell  
Town of Walker**