

St. Mary Parish Economic Development News

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July 2020



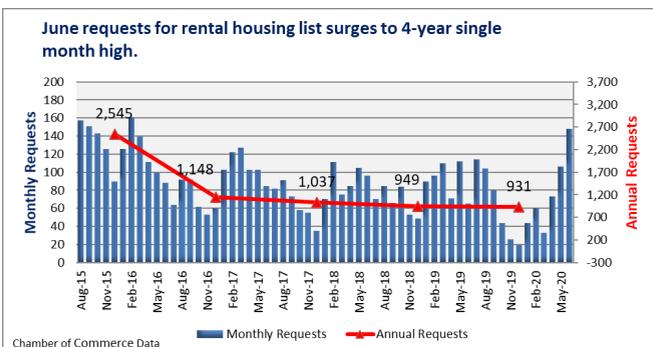
Frank's Message

West Texas Intermediate is hanging around \$40/bbl. seems to be a lot better than last quarter of \$20-30/bbl. So what's next? The industry is on its knees praying for a \$50-60/bbl. price in the 4th quarter. It appears OPEC and Russia have momentarily come to their senses and are more cautious about controlling supply available for the market. Texas shale production has slowed significantly for now but is anticipated to increase, should prices begin to rise.

On the brighter side of things locally, there has been an increase in the manufacturing, construction, housing and retail areas:

- Seven manufacturers have applied for incentives, 4 new companies and 3 existing.
- Three retailers from a truck stop, and 2 hardware suppliers.
- Two housing units, a senior apartment and assisted living facility.
- A large fuel conversion facility and a potential alternative energy generating plant.
- The three (3) carbon black plants continue making their environmental quality and cogeneration investments of over \$350 million.

The result of the completion of all these projects is \$350 million investment and 150 new direct jobs. You may have noticed that there is no current activity from the oil field at this time.



Parish Economic Development Briefs

Oil & Gas

Louisiana's Weekly Rotary Rig Count fell by 38 over the past year to just 31 for the week of July 10, 2020. Louisiana's offshore count was 10. The U.S. rig count was down 700. Oil prices edged upward to the low \$40's by July 16th.

Employment / Unemployment

Parish employment in May, the most current available data, was 16,620 up 1,209 from April, but down 2,029 from one-year ago. The unemployment rate in May was 13.9%. Comparing industry employment data from 4th quarter 2018 to 4th quarter 2019, job gains were led by transportation and warehousing, administrative and waste management, construction, professional and technical services, and real estate.

Continued claims filed for unemployment in St. Mary Parish for the week ending July 11th was 3,035, trending upward.

Sales Tax Activity

Sales tax collections for the first 6 months in 2020 were \$17.36 million, up 4.96% from the same period in 2019.

Business Activity

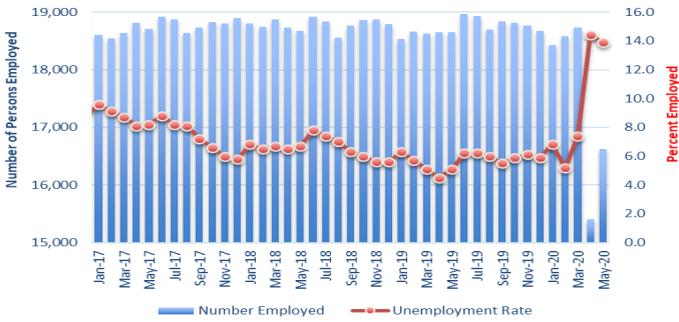
A total of 10 Projects-in-the-Pipeline have the potential to invest \$490 million and 315 new jobs, however most projects have slowed or are delayed.

Williams Memorial Airport Business Park offers certified site. This shovel ready site is the only state certified site in the Parish.

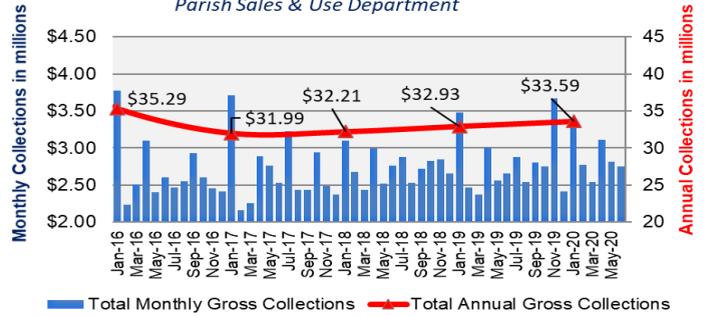


Economic Facts and Figures

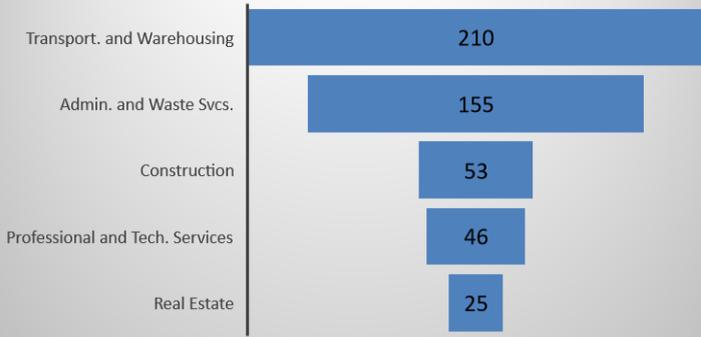
St. Mary Parish May employment rebounds 7.8% from April's low.



First half of 2020 Sales Tax Collections increase 4.96% compared to same period in 2019
Parish Sales & Use Department



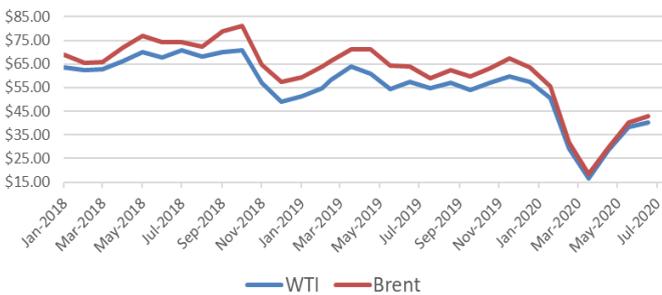
Top Employment Growth Sectors, 4th Qtr. 2018 to 4th Qtr. 2019, number of new jobs



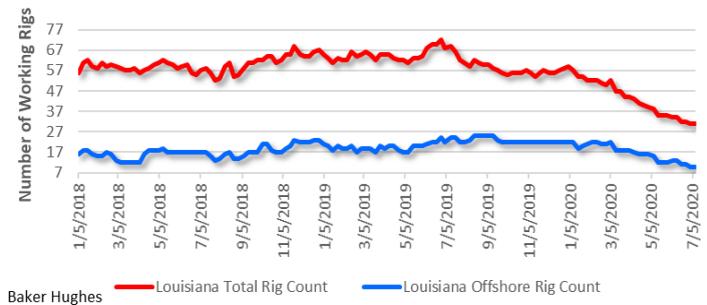
St. Mary Parish continued unemployment claims increase in July.



Average monthly spot price for WTI and Brent continue to increase due to expected supply cuts caused by lower demand



On July 10th, Louisiana's Total Rig Count was 31, down 38 from one-year ago, offshore rigs decreased by 12 to 10. The US count was 258, down 700 from one-year ago.



Got a comment, send us an email or call:

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