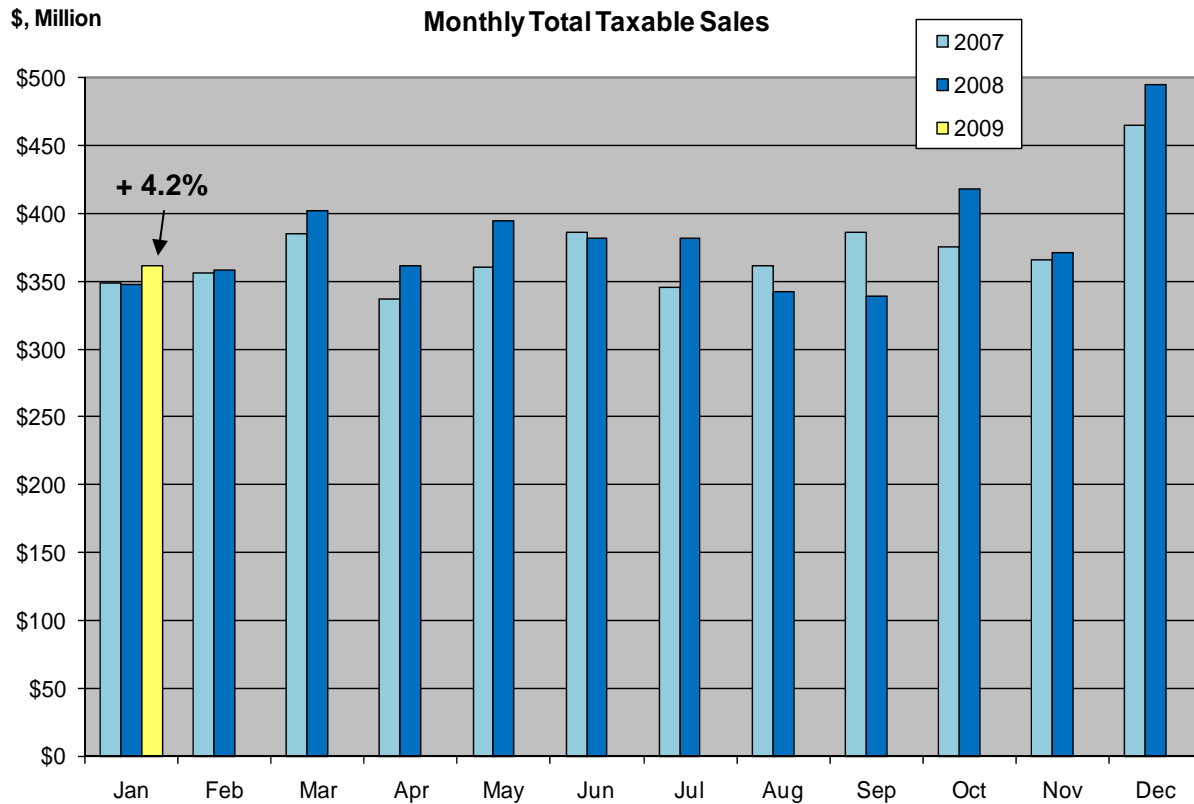


# SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

March 5, 2009

## Taxable Sales in Calcasieu Parish—Total and by Category



Total taxable spending in January 2009 reached almost \$362 million—over 4% higher than spending in January 2008. In contrast to national trends, same month comparisons of taxable spending registered gains in October, November, December, and January (see chart). Taxable sales in January 2009 increased in eight out of the eleven categories reported in the table below.

### Taxable Sales by Category—Change from January 2008 to January 2009

<u>Category of Sales</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Category of Sales</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Food	+ 10.9 %	Misc Services	- 20.1 %
Apparel	+ 8.2 %	Manufacturing	+ 22.3 %
Merchandise	+ 4.8 %	Utilities	- 31.5 %
Automotive	+ 3.6 %	Misc Sales	+ 36.1 %
Furniture	+ 3.3 %	Motor Vehicle	- 16.4 %
Building Materials	+ 11.7 %	<b>Total Taxable Sales</b>	<b>+ 4.2 %</b>

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