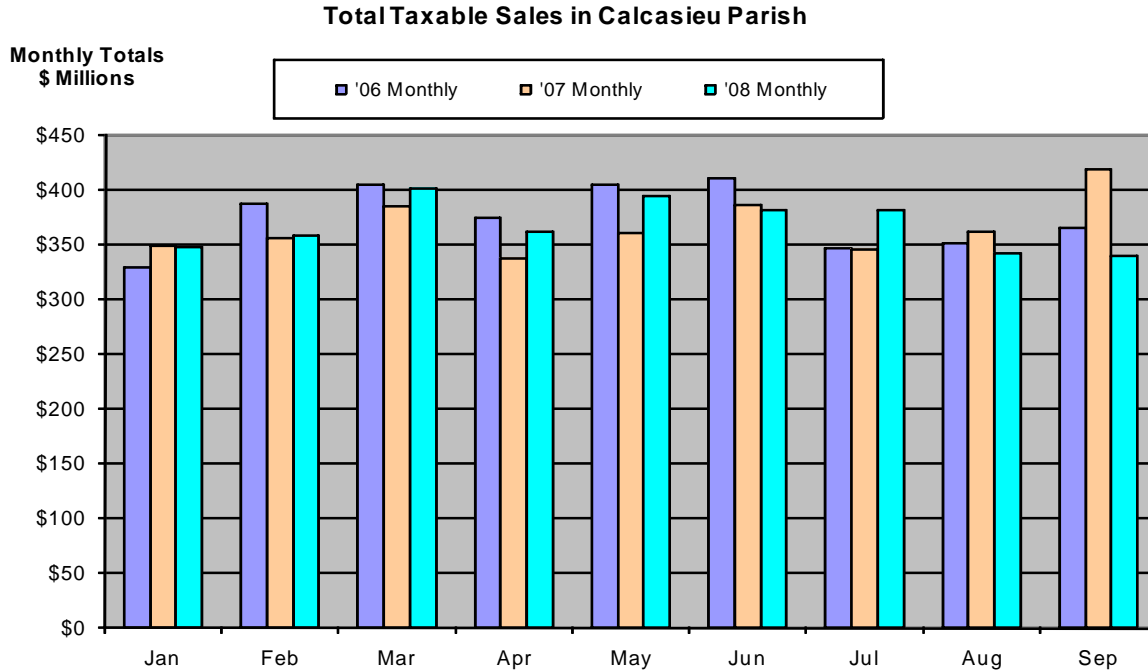


SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

November 12, 2008

Taxable Sales in Calcasieu Parish: Total and by Category



Includes transactions subject to Calcasieu Parish sales and use taxes.

In September 2008, total taxable sales in Calcasieu Parish dropped by over \$79 million or 19% compared to the same month of 2007. One month earlier, in August 2008 total taxable sales were 5.4% lower than sales in August of 2007. The chart above shows same-month total taxable sales comparisons for 2006, 2007, and 2008. There appears to be evidence of a gradual slow-down in local spending since May 2008. The table below shows that cumulative total taxable sales in the first nine months of 2008 were just 0.2% higher than in the January through September period of 2007.

January through September Cumulative Sales—Percent Change 2008 from 2007

<u>Category of Sales</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Category of Sales</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Food	+ 9.2 %	Misc Services	+ 3.1 %
Apparel	+ 1.4 %	Manufacturing	+ 5.0 %
Merchandise	- 0.6 %	Utilities	- 23.2 %
Automotive	- 20.1 %	Misc Sales	+ 13.3 %
Furniture	+ 2.7 %	Motor Vehicle	- 9.7 %
Building Materials	+ 2.2 %	Total Taxable Sales	+ 0.2 %

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