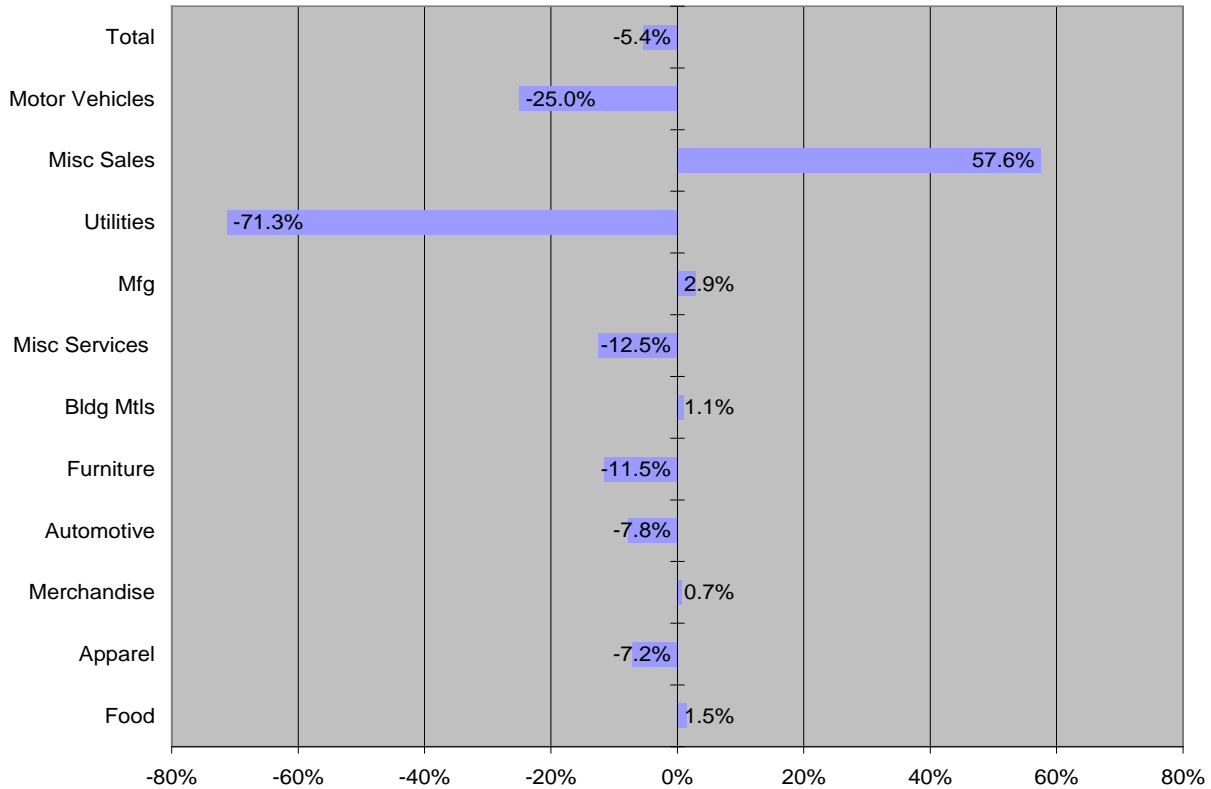


SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

October 21, 2008

Taxable Sales in Calcasieu Parish: Total and by Category

August Sales—Percent Change 2008 from 2007



Calcasieu Parish total taxable sales in August of 2008 were 5.4% lower than sales in the same month of 2007 (chart above provides more details). However, cumulative total taxable sales in the first eight months of 2008 were 3% higher than in the January through August period of 2007 (table below provides more details). Notice automotive sales and motor vehicles sales are down in both comparisons.

January through August Cumulative Sales—Percent Change 2008 from 2007

<u>Category of Sales</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Category of Sales</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Food	+ 9.9 %	Misc Services	+ 2.7 %
Apparel	+ 3.0 %	Manufacturing	+ 10.1 %
Merchandise	+ 0.1 %	Utilities	- 17.7 %
Automotive	- 3.2 %	Misc Sales	+ 15.4 %
Furniture	+ 3.2 %	Motor Vehicle	- 8.2 %
Building Materials	+ 3.4 %	Total Taxable Sales	+ 3.0 %

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