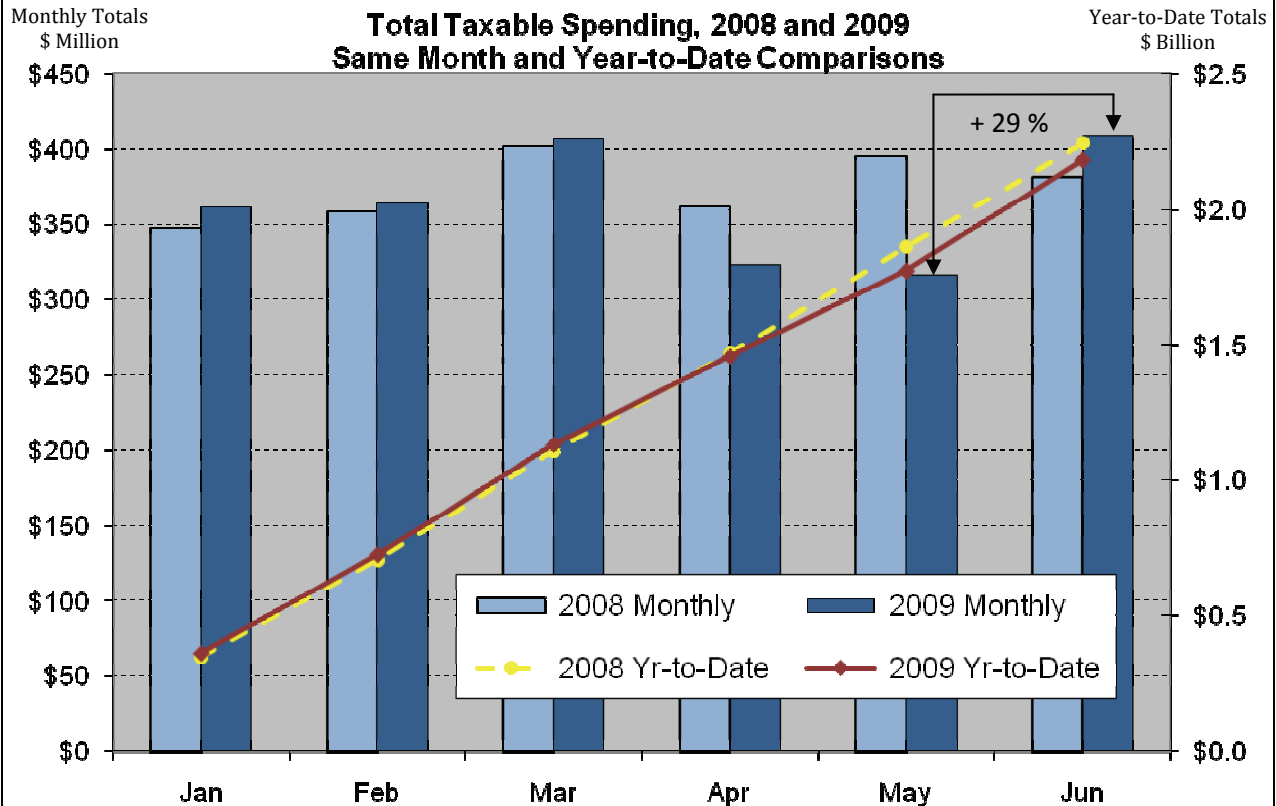


SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

August 26, 2009

Taxable Spending in Calcasieu Parish—Total and by Category



Total taxable spending rebounded by 29% in June after dropping sharply in April and May—see chart. Compared the same period a year ago, cumulative total taxable spending over the January through June period of 2009 lagged by 2.8%—see table. In the first half of 2009 taxable spending outpaced the 2008 figures in only three of the eleven reported categories.

Cumulative Taxable Spending by Category--1st Six Months 2009 Compared to 2008

| | <u>% Change</u> | | <u>% Change</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Food | + 17.9 % | Misc Services | - 15.2 % |
| Apparel | - 1.7 % | Manufacturing | - 6.8 % |
| Merchandise | + 0.2 % | Utilities | + 152.5 % |
| Automotive | - 9.2 % | Misc Sales | - 9.5 % |
| Furniture | - 0.6 % | Motor Vehicle | - 23.4 % |
| Building Materials | - 16.1 % | Total Taxable Sales | - 2.8 % |

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Visit our webpage at www.mcneese.edu/drewecon to view the Center's graphical database and quarterly *Southwest Louisiana Economic Indicator* reports.