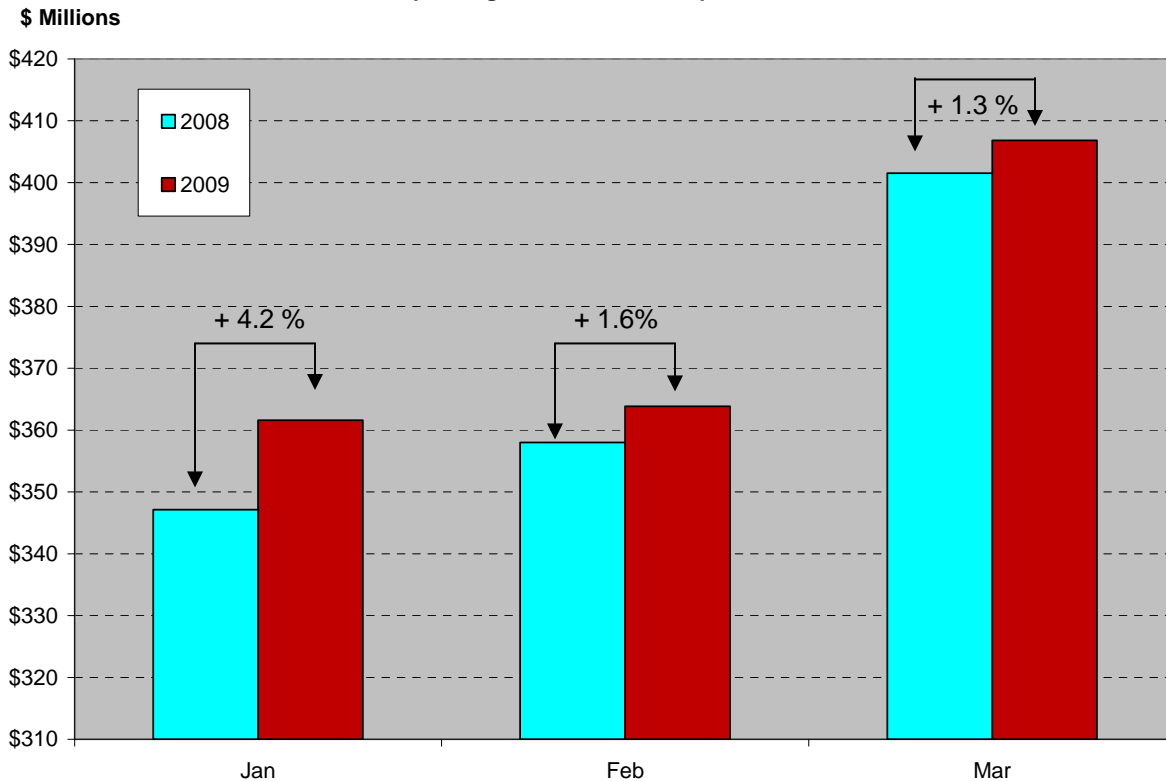


SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

May 18, 2009

Taxable Spending in Calcasieu Parish—Total and by Category

Total Taxable Spending—Same Month Comparisons, 2008 and 2009



Total taxable spending was higher during each of the first three months of 2009 than during the same months of 2008—see chart. Cumulative total taxable spending during the three month period rose by 2.3% compared to a year ago—see table. In the first quarter of 2009 taxable spending increased in seven of the eleven reported categories.

Cumulative Taxable Spending by Category--1st Qtr 2009 compared to 1st Qtr 2008

	<u>% Change</u>		<u>% Change</u>
Food	+ 32.4 %	Misc Services	- 9.0 %
Apparel	+ 1.3 %	Manufacturing	+ 5.2 %
Merchandise	+ 0.6 %	Utilities	+ 47.6 %
Automotive	+ 18.9 %	Misc Sales	+ 2.8 %
Furniture	- 2.3 %	Motor Vehicle	- 22.3 %
Building Materials	- 14.4 %	Total Taxable Sales	+ 2.3 %

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