The most noteworthy increase in revenue among the region’s privately owned banks has been at Gulf Coast Bank and Trust of New Orleans. Its nearly 11 percent increase from 2014 to 2015 builds on another positive year when the bank saw an approximate 13 percent rise in revenue.

Gulf Coast Bank had $114.98 million in revenue in 2015, compared to $103.37 million in 2014. The bank, which added two branches last year, had a 23 percent increase in employees, jumping from 350 employees in 2015 to 430 employees in 2016.

Guy Williams, president and CEO, said the bank has done well learning how to “operate in a hyper-regulated environment.”

“Our mortgage business has expanded, and we continue to gain customers,” he said.

The bank expects that its continual footprint expansion will be a large contributor to growth in 2016. In December 2015, Gulf Coast Bank acquired AmeriFactors Financial Group LLC in Orlando, Florida. They also opened branches in Hammond and Gretna to bring the bank’s total to 19 branches overall.

He said these additions help to “insulate the bank from the oil downturn.”

“I’m very optimistic for the future,” Williams said. “New Orleans is a city that has had a great renaissance, and we’re benefiting from that.”

In 2015, Gulf Coast had record pre-taxed earnings of $28.48 million. The bank's total assets increased by 12.5 percent, ending the year at $1.372 billion in total assets.

“The record earnings year was the result of growth across all divisions including retail, trust and investments, residential mortgage, commercial mortgage, accounts receivable financing and consumer lending,” Williams said. Other banks also saw increases in revenue. Those rounding out the top five include Resource Bank, Metairie Bank and Trust Co., First American Bank and Trust and First Bank and Trust.

—Lance Traweek