

# **Louisiana Economic Vitals**

## **Friday, April 25, 2025**



# PREFACE

The Louisiana Economic Development Economic Competitiveness team has prepared this weekly economic report. Data comes from federal and state governmental entities and third-party sources. The team has independently analyzed and condensed all data for brevity and utility.

## LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APRIL 2025 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[Mid South Extrusion Annnd Expansion in 7 Months With \\$12.5 Million Investment in Monroe](#)

[Another Louisiana Win: CF Industries, JERA and Mitsui Announce \\$4 Billion Final Investment Decision to Construct World's Largest Ammonia Facility in Ascension Parish](#)

### Direct questions and comments to:

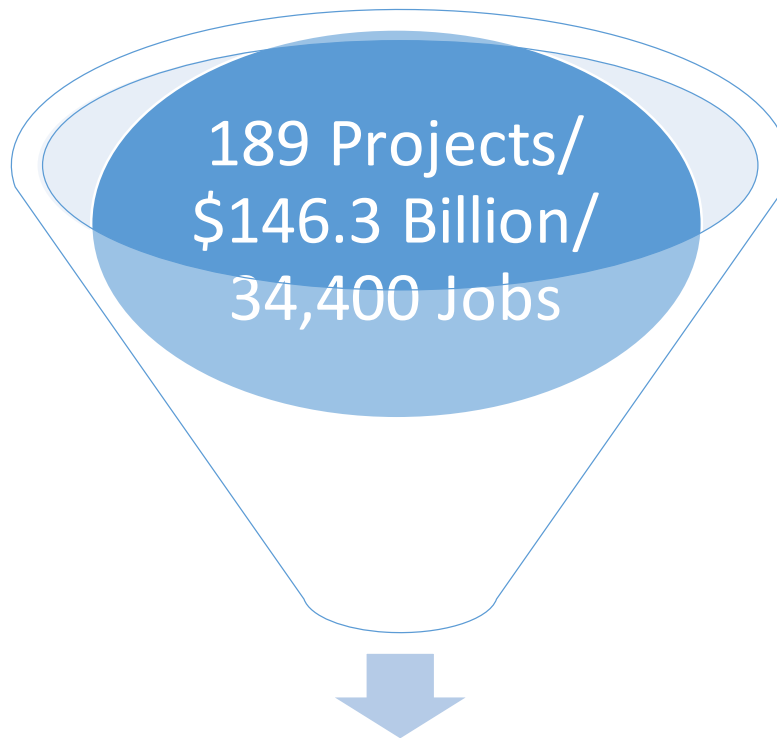
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# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

As of 04/24/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 189 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$146.3 billion USD and with the potential to create over 34,400 direct new jobs.

Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 41 projects that will account for over \$44 billion USD of investment and 4,840 direct new jobs.

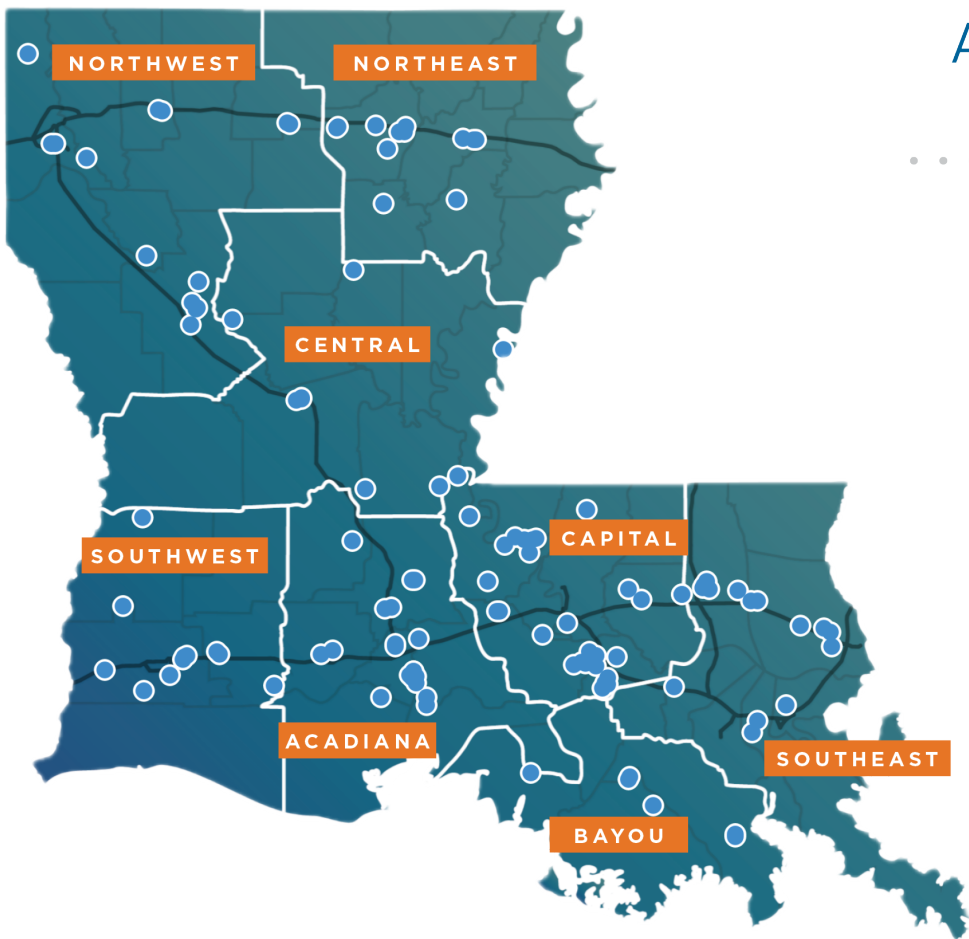


**From January 2024 through April 2025**

**41 Projects announced/ \$44.2 Billion in CapEx/ 4,840 Direct Jobs**

# CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since its inception, Louisiana Economic Development has Certified 157 Industrial sites, with portions or all of 31 of them moved into higher commerce. At full build out, that equates to over \$24.1 Billion in CapEx, more than 6,100 direct new jobs and total annual wages of more than \$383 million.



## Active Certified Sites by Region

Acadiana	21
Bayou	6
Capital	29
Central	8
Northeast	12
Northwest	14
Southeast	17
Southwest	11

TOTAL 118

# 1. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The following tables provide data with information on each region's availability, use, and idleness of labor resources for the production of goods and services.

**Table 1. Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) Labor Force**

MSA	Feb-25	Jan-25	Feb-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	62,814	62,790	63,669	0.0%	-1.3%
Baton Rouge	424,611	421,158	427,833	0.8%	-0.8%
Hammond	60,362	59,980	60,286	0.6%	0.1%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	85,866	85,198	87,219	0.8%	-1.6%
Lafayette	195,981	194,594	196,072	0.7%	0.0%
Lake Charles	96,651	95,743	97,513	0.9%	-0.9%
Monroe	93,792	93,906	95,357	-0.1%	-1.6%
New Orleans-Metairie	463,965	460,016	464,468	0.9%	-0.1%
Shreveport-Bossier City	166,631	165,094	167,620	0.9%	-0.6%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	128,281	126,910	127,877	1.1%	0.3%

Source: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov); February 2024 data were subject to revision on April 18, 2025.

**Table 2. Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) Employment**

MSA	Feb-25	Jan-25	Feb-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	60,404	60,298	61,104	0.2%	-1.1%
Baton Rouge	408,217	403,880	411,376	1.1%	-0.8%
Hammond	57,597	57,030	57,541	1.0%	0.1%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	82,660	81,974	83,962	0.8%	-1.6%
Lafayette	188,879	187,290	188,778	0.8%	0.1%
Lake Charles	92,377	91,256	93,269	1.2%	-1.0%
Monroe	89,208	89,048	90,768	0.2%	-1.7%
New Orleans-Metairie	444,958	439,722	444,806	1.2%	0.0%
Shreveport-Bossier City	159,689	157,970	160,405	1.1%	-0.4%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	123,442	122,055	122,959	1.1%	0.4%

Source: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov); February 2024 data were subject to revision on April 18, 2025.

**Table 3. Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) Unemployment Rate with State Comparison**

MSA	Feb-25	Jan-25	Feb-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	3.8	4.0	4.0	-5.0%	-5.0%
Baton Rouge	3.9	4.1	3.8	-4.9%	2.6%
Hammond	4.6	4.9	4.6	-6.1%	0.0%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	3.7	3.8	3.7	-2.6%	0.0%
Lafayette	3.6	3.8	3.7	-5.3%	-2.7%
Lake Charles	4.4	4.7	4.4	-6.4%	0.0%
Monroe	4.9	5.2	4.8	-5.8%	2.1%
New Orleans-Metairie	4.1	4.4	4.2	-6.8%	-2.4%
Shreveport-Bossier City	4.2	4.3	4.3	-2.3%	-2.3%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0%	0.0%
Louisiana	4.2	4.4	4.2	-4.5%	0.0%

Source: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov); February 2024 data were subject to revision on April 18, 2025.

As a broad check for identifying whether an MSA's labor market is fundamentally strong or weak, the national noncyclical (or “natural”) rate of unemployment (NRU) is provided in the following figure. The NRU represents the unemployment level expected in a healthy economy and although it does not account for regional economic dynamics, or the unique industry mixes, demographic profiles, and cost-of-living factors that may influence their labor markets differently, an MSA unemployment rate that is consistently higher than the national NRU may suggest structural issues such as skills mismatch or lack of investment.

Figure 1. Louisiana MSA Unemployment Rates with National Noncyclical Rate of Unemployment, by Month

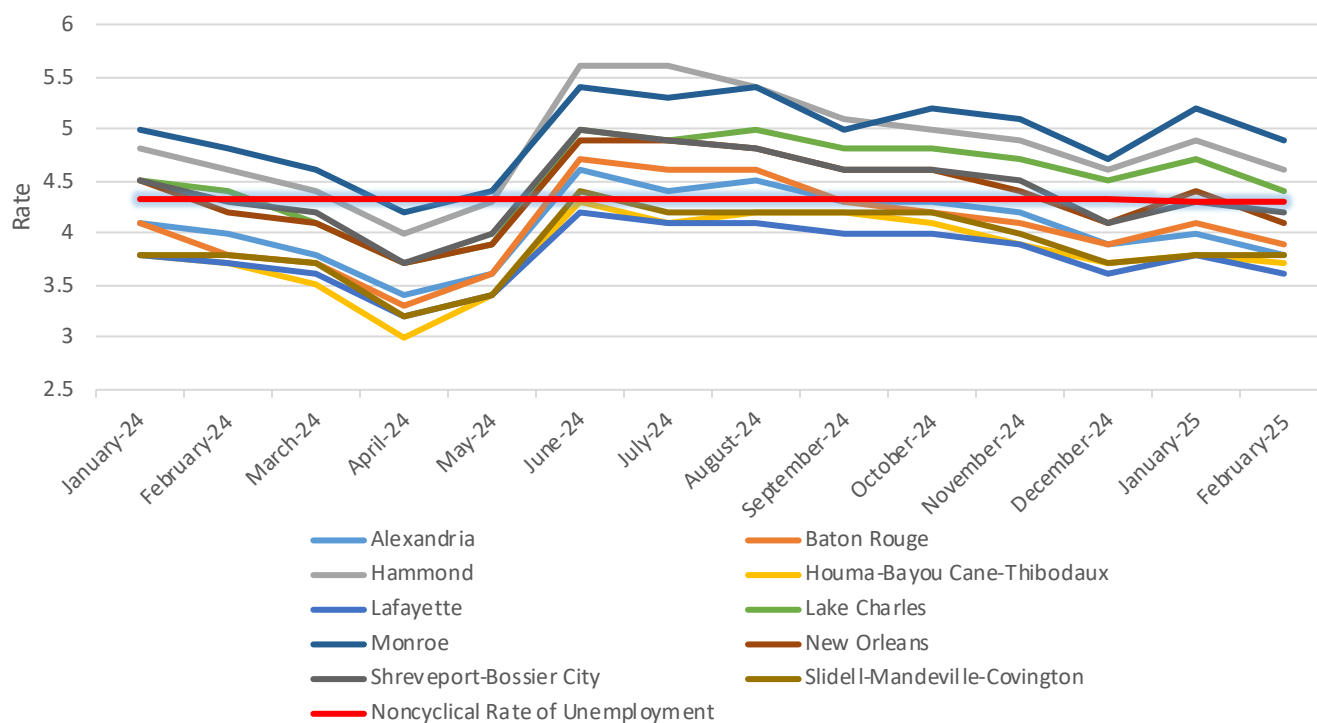


Table 4. Louisiana Job Openings and Labor Turnover, Total Nonfarm (in Thousands)

Category	2/16/25 <sup>1</sup>	1/16/25	2/16/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Hires	73	82	84	-11.0%	-13.1%
Job Openings	107	120	124	-10.8%	-13.7%
Layoffs and Discharges	26	27	26	-3.7%	0.0%
Quits	49	46	44	6.5%	11.4%
Total Separations	81	79	73	2.5%	11.0%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; Source: <https://www.bls.gov/jlt/>

## 2. COMMODITIES

The following tables provide data on the prices of energy and agricultural commodities, which reflect the overall health of the economy.

Table 5. Energy Commodities, Weekly and Monthly					
Commodity	4/18/25	4/11/25	4/19/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	\$67.76	\$66.10	\$89.59	2.5%	-24.4%
WTI Crude Oil	\$62.92	\$61.24	\$84.65	2.7%	-25.7%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.26	\$3.67	\$1.46	-11.2%	123.3%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.02	\$3.04	\$3.51	-0.7%	-14.0%
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <a href="https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/32217?t=gas&amp;ob=pv&amp;od=desc">https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/32217?t=gas&amp;ob=pv&amp;od=desc</a>					

Figure 2. Brent Crude Oil Price, Weekly % Change for 2024 and 2025

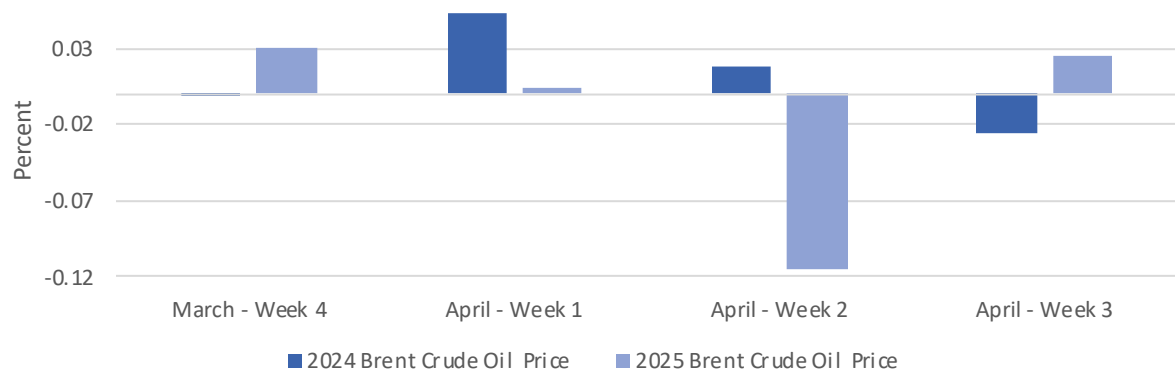


Figure 3. WTI Crude Oil Price, Weekly % Change for 2024 and 2025

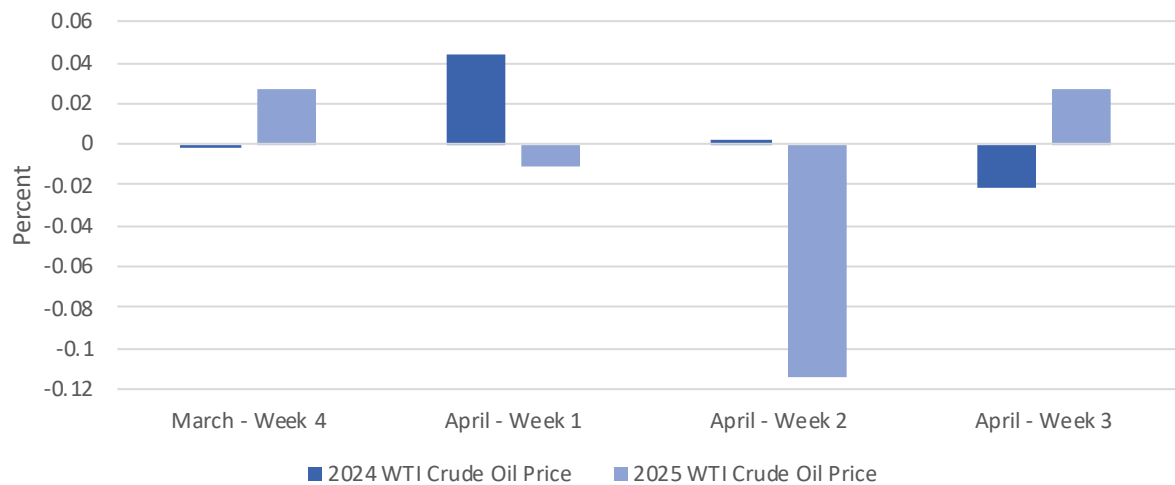


Figure 4. Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price, Weekly % Change for 2024 and 2025

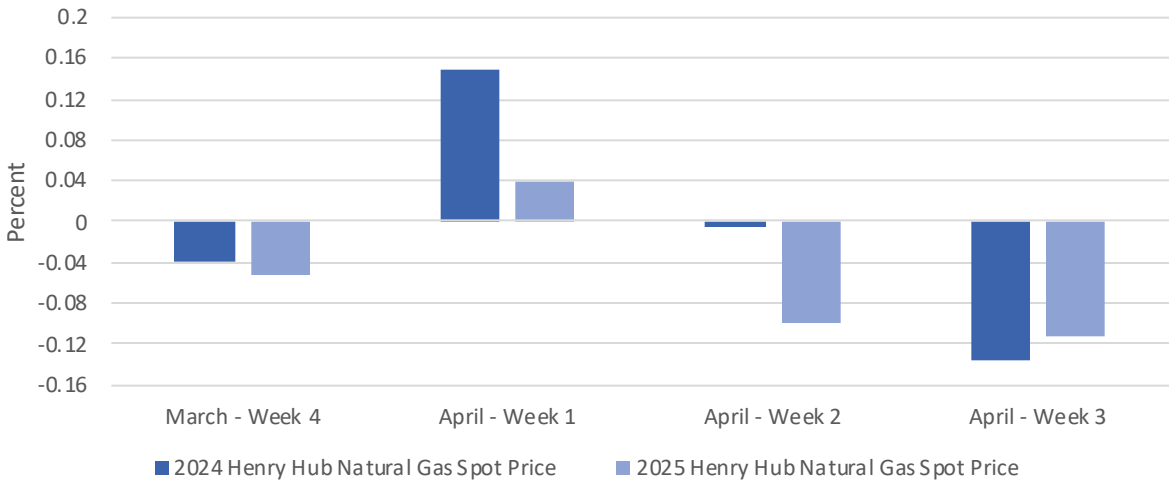
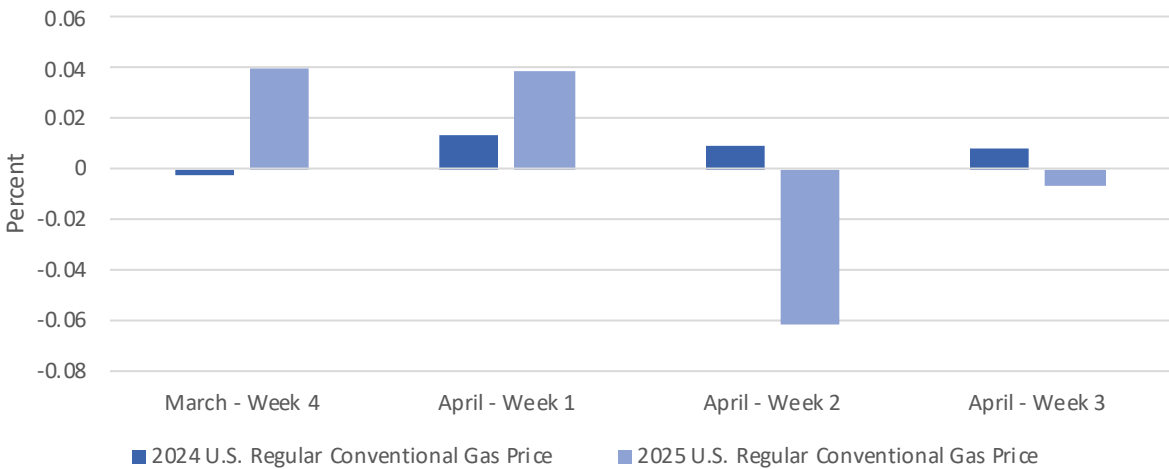


Figure 5. U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price, Weekly % Change for 2024 and 2025





**Table 6. Energy Commodities, Monthly**

Commodity	3/1/25	2/1/25	3/1/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Diesel	\$3.59	\$3.68	\$4.02	-2.3%	-10.7%
EU Natural Gas	\$13.13	\$15.33	\$8.51	-14.4%	54.3%
Asia Liquefied Natural Gas	\$13.12	\$14.72	\$8.99	-10.9%	45.9%
Global Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$4.14	\$3.75	\$1.75	10.5%	137.0%
Brent Crude Oil Global	\$71.74	\$75.19	\$84.96	-4.6%	-15.6%
WTI Crude Oil Global	\$68.24	\$71.54	\$81.41	-4.6%	-16.2%

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis;  
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/32217?t=gas&ob=pv&od=desc>

**Table 7. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of April 25, 2025**

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,051.93	\$10.52	\$/Bushel	0.05%	1.58%	5.11%	-9.24%
Wheat	\$531.22	\$5.31	\$/Bushel	0.37%	-1.30%	-0.70%	-14.59%
Palm Oil	\$4,150.00	\$41.50	\$/Tonne	2.82%	4.40%	-2.56%	6.52%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$17.98	\$0.18	\$/Pounds	0.26%	0.41%	-7.14%	-7.36%
Coffee	\$409.55	\$4.10	\$/Pounds	1.05%	8.70%	4.58%	78.79%
Corn	\$478.09	\$4.78	\$/Bushel	0.18%	-0.81%	5.89%	6.18%
Rice	\$13.11	\$0.13	\$/Hndrdwght (CWT)	-0.72%	-2.79%	-0.53%	-30.43%
Orange Juice	\$254.29	\$2.54	\$/Pounds	0.43%	-16.71%	-2.62%	-34.41%

Source: [tradingeconomics.com/commodities](https://tradingeconomics.com/commodities)

### 3. RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION AND SALES

The following tables provide data on new housing construction, which enables insights into a region’s economic conditions, the mobility of residents, and investor sentiment.

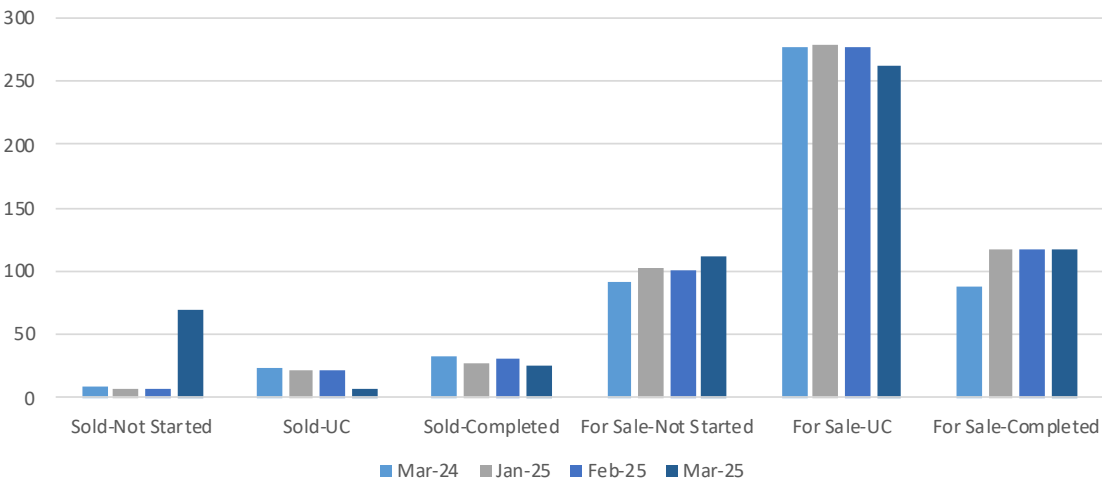
Table 8. U.S. Monthly New Residential Construction, by Status (Units in Thousands)					
Status	3/17/25 <sup>1</sup>	2/17/25 <sup>2</sup>	3/17/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Authorized	289	276.7	278.5	4.4%	3.8%
Starts	110.7	110.7	109.8	0.0%	0.8%
Under Construction	1,375	1,391.4	1,624.6	-1.2%	-15.4%
Completions	127.1	114.2	122.5	11.3%	3.8%
Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised; Not Seasonally Adjusted					
Source: <a href="https://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/current/index.html">https://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/current/index.html</a>					

The NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) is based on a monthly survey of single-family builders and is designed to gauge and track the pulse of the single-family housing market. A higher reading (>50) is an indication that the majority of builders feel confident about the current and near-term outlook for housing.

Table 9. NAHB/Wells Fargo National Housing Market Index (HMI)					
Index	Apr-25	Mar-25	April-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Housing Market Index	40	39	51	2.6%	-21.6%
Housing Market Index Components:					
Single Family Sales: Present	45	43	57	4.7%	-21.1%
Single Family Sales: Next 6 Months	43	47	60	-8.5%	-28.3%
Traffic of Prospective Buyers	25	24	34	4.2%	-26.5%
Note: Seasonally Adjusted;					
Source: <a href="https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/housing-economics/indices/housing-market-index">https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/housing-economics/indices/housing-market-index</a>					

Table 10. U.S. Monthly New Residential Sales, by Status (Units in Thousands)					
Status	3/1/25 <sup>1</sup>	2/1/25 <sup>2</sup>	3/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Sold	69	59	65	16.9%	6.2%
For Sale	493	493	455	0.0%	8.4%
Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised; Not Seasonally Adjusted.					
Source: <a href="https://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/current/index.html">https://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/current/index.html</a>					

Figure 6. New Single-Family Houses Sold and For Sale in U.S. by Construction Stage (Units in Thousands)



**Table 11. U.S. Existing Single-Family Home Sales**

Category	3/24/25 <sup>1</sup>	2/24/25 <sup>2</sup>	3/24/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Inventory	1,150	1,080	970	6.48%	18.56%
U.S. Sales	285	235	294	21.28%	-3.06%
Months Supply	3.8	3.3	3.1	15.15%	22.58%
Sales Price <sup>3</sup>	\$408.0	\$400.9	\$396.6	1.77%	2.87%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised; <sup>3</sup> Median Price; Data are not seasonally adjusted; Inventory and U.S. Sales are in thousand units; Sales Price is in thousand dollars

Source: <https://www.nar.realtor/infographics/existing-home-sales-housing-snapshot>

## 4. PORTS

The following tables provide data on exports and imports at each Louisiana port, which reflects the economic conditions of the region, including trade, industry strengths, and supply chains.

**Table 12. Export Volume by Louisiana Port (in metric tons)**

Port	4/14/25 <sup>1</sup>	4/7/25 <sup>2</sup>	4/15/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Fourchon	0	220	0		
Baton Rouge	88,849	45,775	281,336	94.1%	-68.4%
Lake Charles	234,652	267,971	165,570	-12.4%	41.7%
New Orleans	959,350	1,367,955	1,031,799	-29.9%	-7.0%
South Louisiana	990,809	821,487	1,045,181	20.6%	-5.2%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised

Source: <https://portwatch.imf.org/pages/>

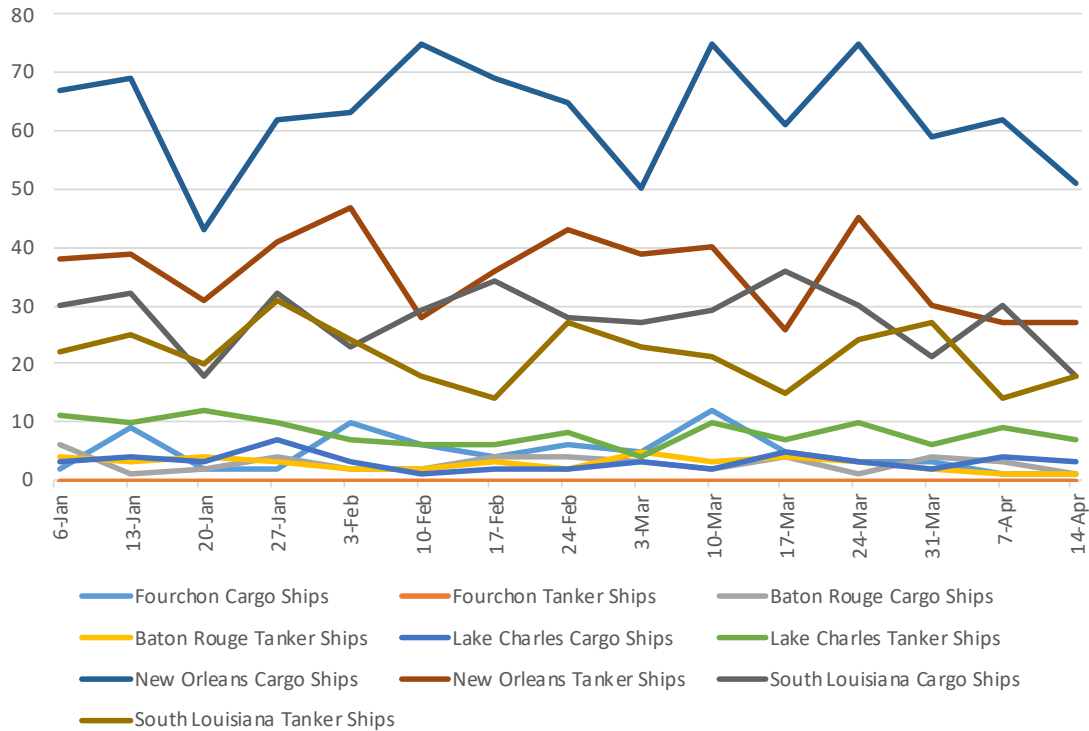
**Table 13. Import Volume by Louisiana Port (in metric tons)**

Port	4/14/25 <sup>1</sup>	4/7/25 <sup>2</sup>	4/15/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Fourchon	0	652	0		
Baton Rouge	187	187	187	0.0%	0.0%
Lake Charles	5,593	6,951	55,930	-19.5%	-90.0%
New Orleans	358,607	495,488	472,996	-27.6%	-24.2%
South Louisiana	156,743	264,146	749,348	-40.7%	-79.1%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised

Source: <https://portwatch.imf.org/pages/>

Figure 5. Arrivals by Port  
Cargo and Tanker Ships



## 5. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Industrial production measures the real output (adjusted for inflation) of factories, mines, and utilities in the U.S. It is an approximate measure of demand. Capacity utilization tells us how much of the available industrial capacity is usually being used – how busy factories are. These measures help to gauge where we are in the economic cycle.

Table 14. U.S. Industrial Production (Seasonally Adjusted)

Industrial Production	3/16/25 <sup>1</sup>	2/16/25 <sup>2</sup>	3/16/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Index	103.9	104.2	102.6	-0.3%	1.3%
Major Market Groups					
Final Products	101.1	101.4	100.5	-0.3%	0.6%
Consumer Goods	101.7	102.7	101.4	-1.0%	0.3%
Business Equipment	95.9	94.3	94.9	1.7%	1.1%
Nonindustrial Supplies	103	102.8	100.9	0.2%	2.1%
Construction	103.5	102.9	101.3	0.6%	2.2%
Materials	106.5	107.1	104.7	-0.6%	1.7%
Major Industry Groups					
Manufacturing	100.5	100.1	99.5	0.4%	1.0%
Mining	120.8	120	119.6	0.7%	1.0%
Utilities	105.5	112	101.1	-5.8%	4.4%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted. 2017=100

Source: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/g17/Current/default.htm>

Figure 8. Industrial Production by Industry Group  
Percentage Point Contribution to Monthly Change in Index (March 2025 = -0.3%)

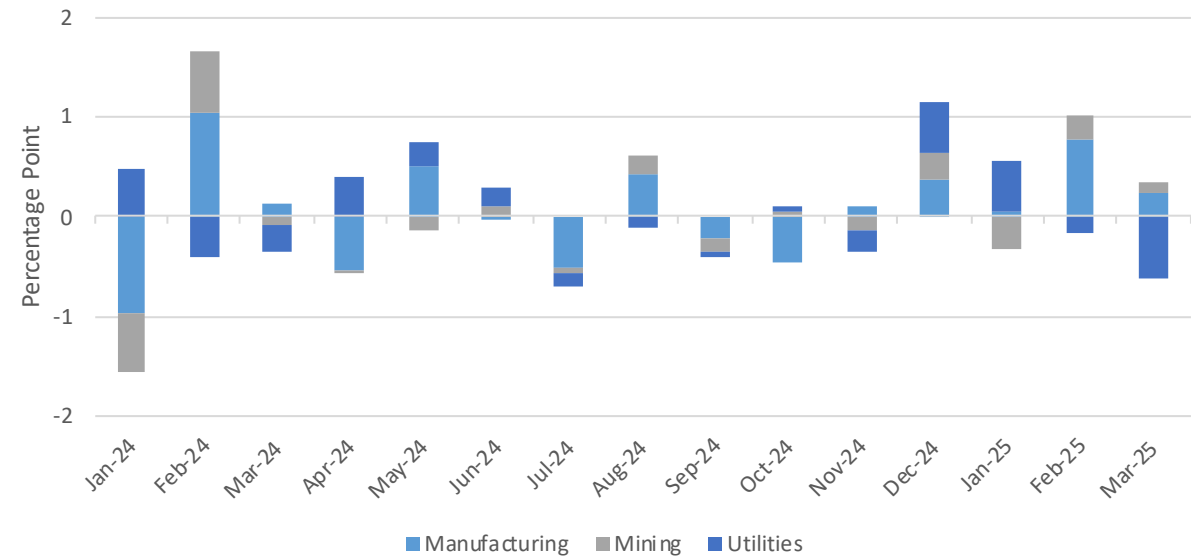
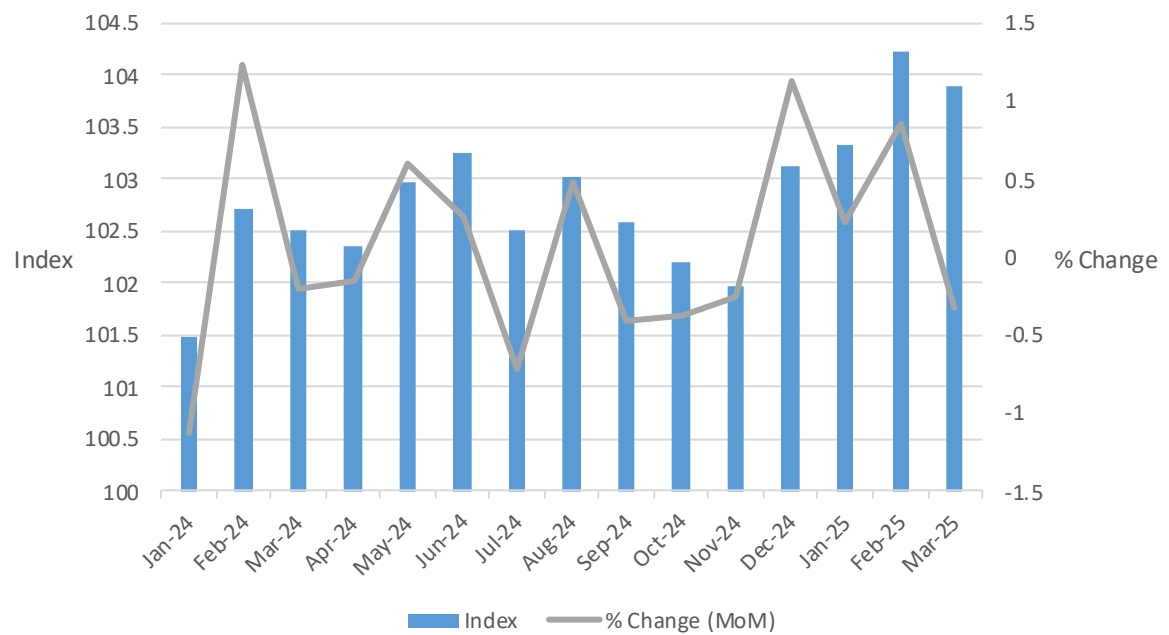


Figure 9. Industrial Index with % Change (MoM)



**Table 15. U.S. Capacity Utilization (Seasonally Adjusted)**

Capacity Utilization	3/16/25 <sup>1</sup>	2/16/25 <sup>2</sup>	3/16/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Industry	77.8	78.2	76.8	-0.5%	1.3%
Manufacturing	77.3	77.1	76.31	0.3%	1.3%
Mining	90.6	90.1	91.1	0.6%	-0.5%
Utilities	69.1	73.5	66.63	-6.0%	3.7%
Stage-Of-Process Groups					
Crude	88.9	88.9	89.1	0.0%	-0.2%
Primary and Semifinished	75.9	77	74.7	-1.4%	1.6%
Finished	75.5	75.1	74.2	0.5%	1.8%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted.

Source: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/g17/Current/default.htm>

**Table 16. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, New Orders, Unfilled Orders and Inventories (\$ Millions)**

Capacity Utilization	3/16/25 <sup>1</sup>	2/16/25 <sup>2</sup>	3/16/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Durable Goods					
Shipments	\$293,000	\$292,770	\$282,410	0.08%	3.75%
New Orders	\$315,729	\$289,150	\$282,096	9.19%	11.92%
Unfilled Orders	\$1,429,569	\$1,401,893	\$1,397,856	1.97%	2.27%
Total Inventories	\$533,336	\$532,790	\$527,903	0.10%	1.03%
Capital Goods					
Shipments	\$100,730	\$102,409	\$94,237	-1.64%	6.89%
New Orders	\$127,153	\$102,286	\$98,654	24.31%	28.89%
Unfilled Orders	\$1,083,591	\$1,057,168	\$1,055,728	2.50%	2.64%
Total Inventories	\$260,723	\$259,750	\$255,943	0.37%	1.87%

Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary; <sup>2</sup> Revised;

Source: <https://www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3/index.html>

# 6. OIL & GAS

Oil and Gas rig counts signal future oil and gas production levels. More rigs usually mean companies are ramping up drilling, expecting either higher prices or rising demand. A declining rig count may suggest lower future supply, possibly due to falling prices or reduced demand. Also, high rig counts often reflect strong capital investment in energy infrastructure, signaling confidence in the market while a sharp drop might indicate companies are pulling back spending, which can reflect broader economic uncertainty. Because energy is a key input for nearly all economic activity, changes in rig counts can correlate with GDP growth, industrial production, and transportation activity.

Table 17. Louisiana and U.S. Oil & Gas Weekly Rig Counts					
Location	4/18/25	4/11/25	3/14/25	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Louisiana					
North	18	18	17		5.88%
South Inland - Water	2	2	2		
South Inland - Land	7	4	1	75.00%	600.00%
State Offshore	0	0	1		-100.00%
Louisiana Federal Offshore	9	9	10		-10.00%
U.S. Total	585	583	592	0.34%	-1.18%
Source: State of Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, retrieved from Baker Hughes.					

Table 18. Louisiana Monthly Oil and Gas Production					
Type	Jan-25	Dec-25	Jan-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Crude Oil <sup>1</sup>	2,126	2,454	2,686	-13.37%	-20.85%
Natural Gas <sup>2</sup>	287,484	285,434	340,076	0.72%	-15.46%
Note: <sup>1</sup> Thousand Barrels; <sup>2</sup> Million Cubic Feet; Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration					

Figure 10. Louisiana Field Production of Crude Oil (Thousand Barrels)

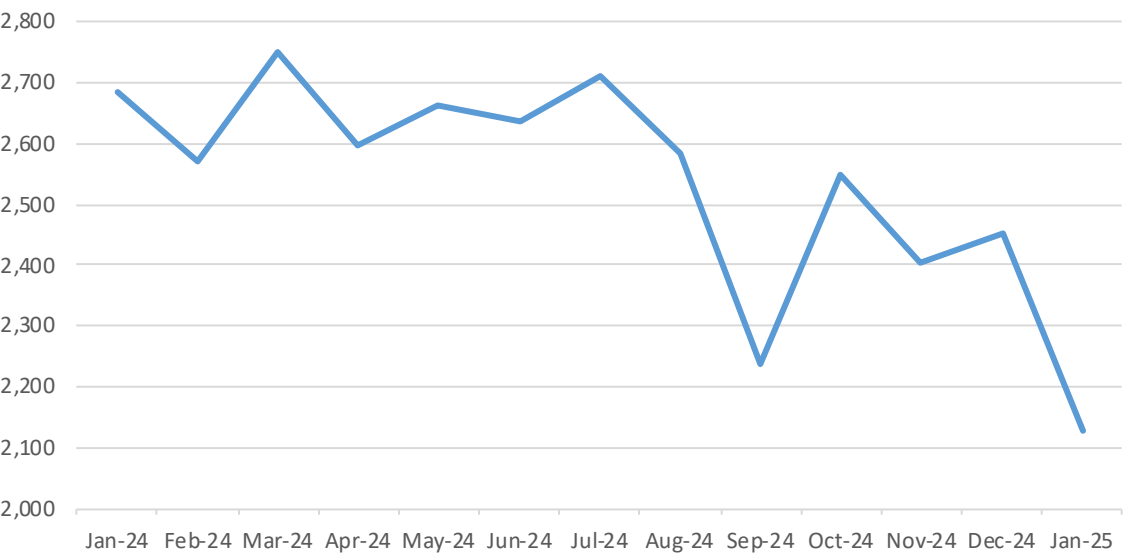
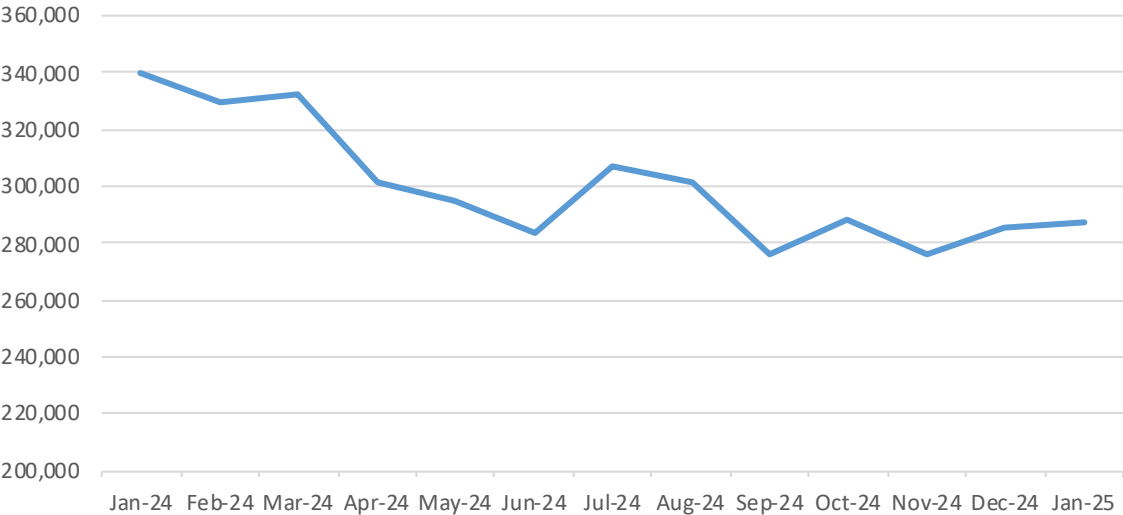


Figure 11. Louisiana Natural Gas Gross Withdrawals (Million Cubic Feet)





# APRIL

## 2025

### Economic Calendar

The Economic Calendar provides insights into upcoming events and data releases. It includes information on national economic indicators, such as GDP, employment figures, inflation rates, and central bank meetings. Links to source are included.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <a href="#">Construction Spending</a> [Feb] <a href="#">ISM Manuf.</a> [Mar] <a href="#">JOLTS</a> [Feb] <a href="#">Total Vehicle Sales</a> [Mar]	2 <a href="#">Factory Orders</a> [Feb]	3 <a href="#">Trade Balance</a> [Feb] <a href="#">ISM Services</a> [Mar]	4 <a href="#">Employment</a> [Mar]	5
6	7 <a href="#">Consumer Credit</a> [Feb]	8 <a href="#">NFIB Small Business</a> [Mar]	9 <a href="#">FOMC Minutes</a> [Mar] Metro Area Employment and Unemployment (Monthly) [Feb]	10 <a href="#">CPI</a> [Mar] <a href="#">Federal Budget</a> [Mar] Real Earnings [Mar]	11 <a href="#">PPI</a> [Mar] <a href="#">U. of Mich. Sentiment</a> [Apr]	12
13	14	15 U.S. Import and Export Price Index (Mar)	16 Retail Sales [Mar] Industrial Production [Mar] Business Inventories [Feb] NAHB Index [Apr]	17 Housing Starts [Mar]	18 State Employment and Unemployment [Mar]  <b>Good Friday</b> [U.S. Markets Closed]	19
20	21	22	23 New Home Sales [Mar] Fed Beige Book	24 Durable Goods [Mar] Existing Home Sales [Mar]	25	26
27	28	29 S&P/C-S Home Prices [Feb] Consumer Confidence [Apr] JOLTS [Mar]	30 <b>GDP [Q1 1<sup>st</sup>]</b> Personal Income [Mar] Pending Home Sales [Mar]			