

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, May 16, 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 MAY 2025 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[Newlab Expands to Louisiana with New Energy-Focused Innovation Hub](#)

Direct questions and comments to:

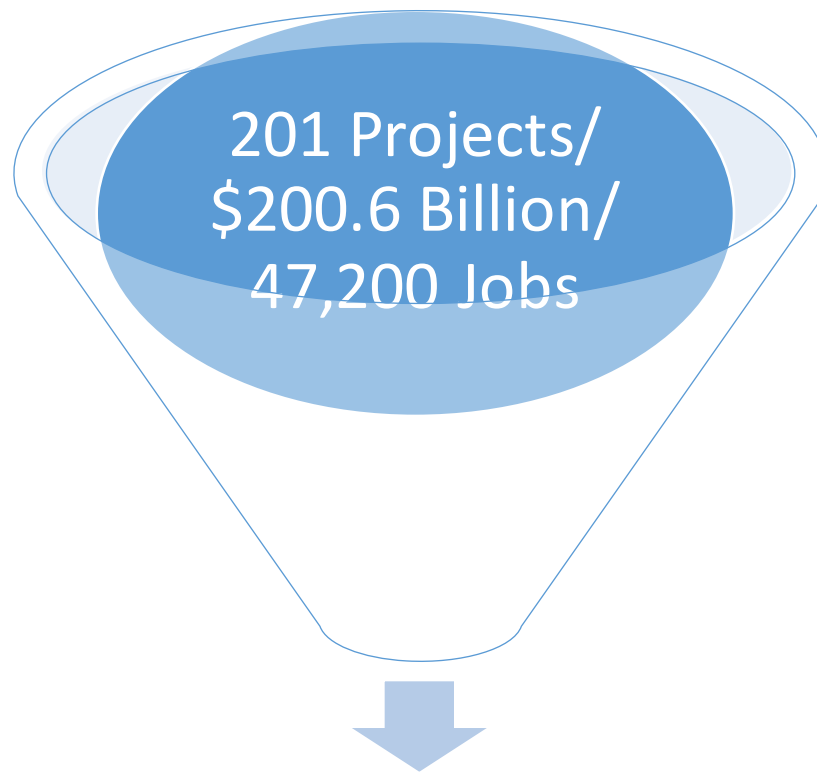
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LED PROJECT PIPELINE

As of 05/15/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 201 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$200.6 billion USD and with the potential to create almost 47,200 direct new jobs

Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 43 projects that will account for over \$61.7 billion USD of investment and 5,490 direct new jobs

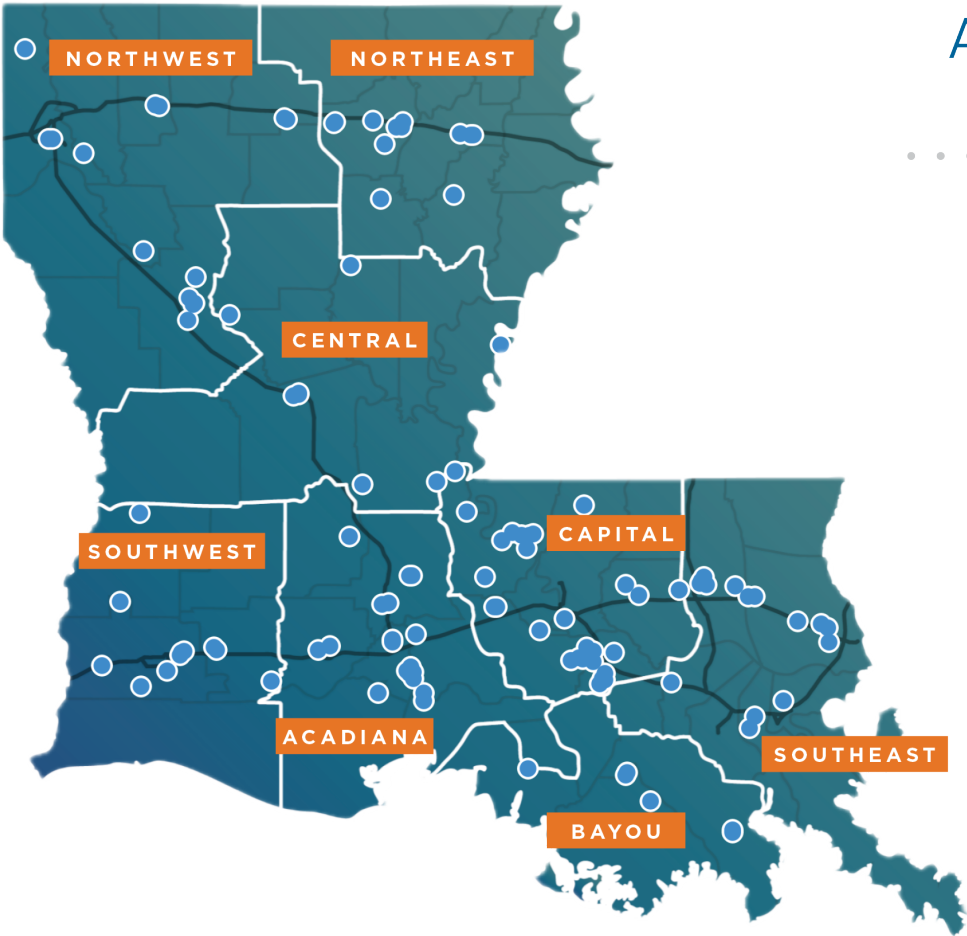


From January 2024 through May 2025

43 Projects announced · \$61.7 Billion in CapEx · 5,490 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	22
Bayou	6
Capital	30
Central	7
Northeast	12
Northwest	15
Southeast	18
Southwest	12

TOTAL 122

1. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The Job Openings Ratio - job openings as a percent of employment (plus openings) - estimates the share of total labor demand that is currently unmet. A ratio closer to 1 indicates a tight labor market - many job openings relative to employed workers - which could suggest worker shortages, strong demand, or a mismatch between job requirements and available labor.

Table 1. Job Openings Ratios for Louisiana, Rest of the South, and the U.S. (Seasonally Adjusted)					
Region	Feb-25	Jan-25	Feb-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Louisiana	5.1	5.3	6.1	-0.2	-1.0
Alabama	5.0	5.4	5.3	-0.4	-0.3
Arkansas	5.9	5.4	5.6	0.5	0.2
Florida	4.8	4.9	4.9	-0.1	-0.1
Georgia	5.5	5.4	5.2	0.1	0.3
Kentucky	5.1	6.2	5.4	-1.1	-0.3
Mississippi	5.1	4.8	5.7	0.2	-0.7
Missouri	4.7	5.3	5.9	-0.6	-1.2
North Carolina	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0
Oklahoma	5.3	4.6	6.4	0.7	-1.2
South Carolina	5.1	5.2	6.4	-0.1	-1.3
Tennessee	4.3	4.8	5.2	-0.6	-1.0
Texas	4.1	4.1	5.4	0.0	-1.4
U.S.	4.5	4.7	5.1	-0.2	-0.6

https://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/news-release/jobopeningslaborturnover_louisiana.htm

Figure 1. Job Openings Ratios for Louisiana, Rest of the South, and the U.S. (Seasonally Adjusted)

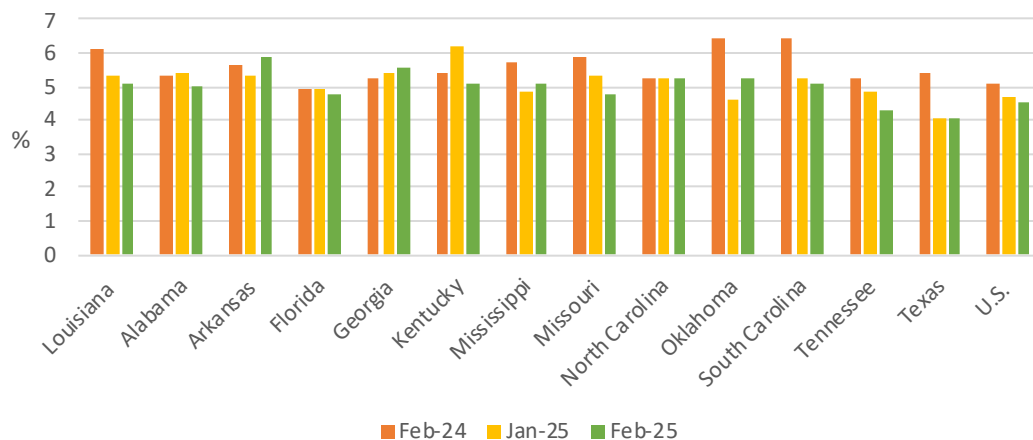


Table 2. U.S. Employment and Current Earnings

Industry	4/1/2025 ¹	3/1/2025 ¹	4/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Nonfarm	159,316	158,411	157,438	0.6%	1.2%
Goods-Producing	21,562	21,404	21,514	0.7%	0.2%
Service-Providing	137,754	137,007	135,924	0.5%	1.3%
Average Weekly Hours ²	34.2	34.5	34.1	-0.9%	0.3%
Average Hourly Earnings ²	\$36.14	\$36.22	\$34.86	-0.2%	3.7%
Labor Income Proxy ³	\$1,236	\$1,250	\$1,189	-1.1%	4.0%

Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Total Private, Unadjusted for Inflation; ³Weekly, Average Hourly Earnings Multiplied by Average Weekly Hours Worked.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ces/data/>

Real earnings - earnings adjusted for inflation, tell us whether workers can actually buy more, the same, or less with their wages over time.

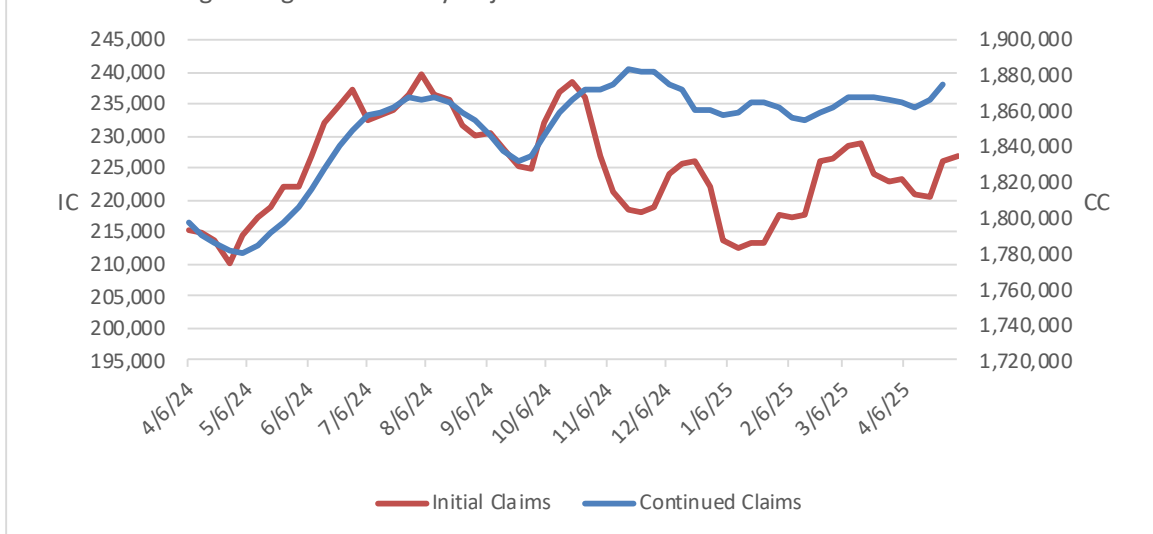
Table 3. Real (constant 1982-1984 dollars) Earnings for All Employees in U.S. on Private Nonfarm Payrolls, (Seasonally Adjusted)

Category	Apr-25	Mar-25	Apr-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Real Average Hourly	\$11.26	\$11.26	\$11.10	-	1.4%
Average Weekly Hours	34.2	34.5	34.1	-0.9%	0.3%
Real Average Weekly	\$385.09	\$388.47	\$378.51	-0.9%	1.7%

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/realer.t01.htm>

Initial claims represent people who are newly filing for unemployment benefits and are a leading indicator of labor market weakness. Continued claims represent people who are still receiving benefits and they reflect the persistence of unemployment. If both initial and continued claims are rising together, it suggests new layoffs and difficulty finding new employment. If initial claims rise but continued claims remain stable or fall, it might indicate a short-term shock rather than a potential recession. Declining continued claims, even if initial claims stay elevated, could signal that people are getting back to work quickly, and if continued claims rise while initial claims fall, that could signal a slowing rate of new layoffs, but ongoing unemployment problems.

Figure 2. U.S. Initial and Continued Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims - 4-Week Moving Average - Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Employment and Training Administration, 4-Week Moving Average of Initial Claims and Continued Claims, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/IC4WSA> and <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CCSA>.

2. COMMODITIES

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

Table 4. Energy Commodities, Weekly

Commodity	5/9/25	5/2/25	5/10/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	\$62.29	\$63.50	\$82.95	-1.9%	-24.9%
WTI Crude Oil	\$60.90	\$60.99	\$80.26	-0.1%	-24.1%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.19	\$3.09	\$2.00	3.2%	59.5%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$2.99	\$3.03	\$3.46	-1.3%	-13.6%

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis;

Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/32217?t=gas&ob=pv&od=desc>

Table 5. Energy Commodities, Monthly

Commodity	4/1/25	3/1/25	4/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Diesel	\$3.57	\$3.59	\$4.00	-0.6%	-10.8%
EU Natural Gas	\$11.57	\$13.13	\$9.13	-11.9%	26.7%
Asia Liquefied Natural Gas	\$11.57	\$13.12	\$9.79	-11.8%	18.2%
Global Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.42	\$4.14	\$1.60	-17.4%	113.8%
Brent Crude Oil Global	\$68.13	\$71.74	\$89.94	-5.0%	-24.2%
WTI Crude Oil Global	\$63.54	\$68.24	\$85.35	-6.9%	-25.6%

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis;

Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/32217?t=gas&ob=pv&od=desc>

Table 6. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of May 16, 2025

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	\$1,050.05	\$10.50	\$/Bu	-0.13%	-0.16%	1.31%	-14.42%
Wheat	\$532.27	\$5.32	\$/Bu	-0.14%	2.02%	-3.00%	-18.27%
Lumber	\$603.52	\$6.04	\$/MBF	1.17%	9.00%	5.22%	14.40%
Palm Oil	\$3,870.00	\$38.70	\$/MT	0.21%	1.44%	-3.54%	-0.51%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$17.70	\$0.18	\$/Lb	-0.01%	-0.58%	-1.09%	-2.21%
Coffee	\$374.98	\$3.75	\$/Lb	-1.94%	-5.21%	-0.33%	81.45%
Corn	\$449.12	\$4.49	\$/Bu	0.25%	-0.08%	-6.82%	-0.69%
Rice	\$12.91	\$0.13	\$/CWT	2.22%	4.07%	-4.16%	-31.22%
Orange Juice	\$265.46	\$2.65	\$/Lb	-0.18%	3.85%	-12.48%	-40.67%

Source: tradingeconomics.com/commodities

3. RESIDENTIAL

Regional housing market indicators can reflect local economic conditions, affordability, demand vs, supply, migration trends, and cost of living. The median listing price vs. the U.S. shows whether homes in the local area are more or less expensive than the national average.

Table 7. Median Days on Market by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
CBSA	Apr-25	Mar-25	Apr-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	75	72	65	4.2%	15.4%
Baton Rouge	66	78	61	-15.4%	8.2%
Bogalusa	86	101	60	-14.9%	43.3%
DeRidder	70	81	60	-13.6%	16.7%
Hammond	70	86	57	-18.6%	22.8%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	81	91	72	-11.0%	12.5%
Lafayette	66	78	57	-15.4%	15.8%
Lake Charles	81	92	74	-12.0%	9.5%
Minden	60	64	69	-6.3%	-13.0%
Monroe	71	82	57	-13.4%	24.6%
Morgan City	99	96	86	3.1%	15.1%
Natchitoches	60	60	65	0.0%	-7.7%
New Iberia	71	77	57	-7.8%	24.6%
New Orleans-Metairie	67	74	61	-9.5%	9.8%
Opelousas	75	93	93	-19.4%	-19.4%
Ruston	68	123	67	-44.7%	1.5%
Shreveport-Bossier City	58	60	54	-3.3%	7.4%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	61	68	56	-10.3%	8.9%
Source: https://www.realtor.com/research/data/					

Table 8. Median Listing Price Versus the United States, by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

CBSA	Apr-25	Mar-25	Apr-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	N/A	N/A	55.3%	-	-
Baton Rouge	70.7%	70.6%	72.7%	0.001	-0.02
Houma-Thibodaux	54.3%	53.9%	53.5%	0.004	0.01
Lafayette	63.3%	63.5%	62.3%	-0.002	0.01
Lake Charles	54.8%	55.3%	56.4%	-0.005	-0.02
Monroe	57.7%	56.5%	59.5%	0.012	-0.02
New Orleans-Metairie	75.4%	76.4%	76.8%	-0.010	-0.01
Shreveport-Bossier City	60.0%	58.8%	55.8%	0.012	0.04
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	79.4%	78.8%	80.7%	0.006	-0.01

Source: <https://www.realtor.com/research/data/>

4. PORTS

The following figures provide data on Louisiana's imports and exports for the top 20 countries and commodities for January 2024 through March 2025. This data reflects the state's top trading partners and products that are exchanged over the period.

Figure 3. Louisiana Ports Exports - Top 20 Countries (\$US Millions) - Jan. 2024 - Mar. 2025

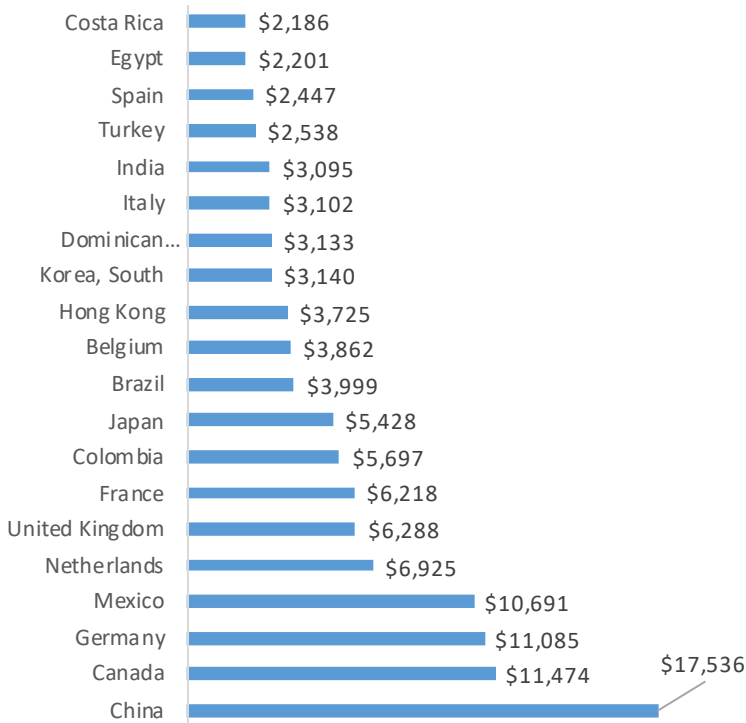


Figure 4. Louisiana Ports - Top 20 Exports (\$US Millions), Jan. 2024 - Mar. 2025

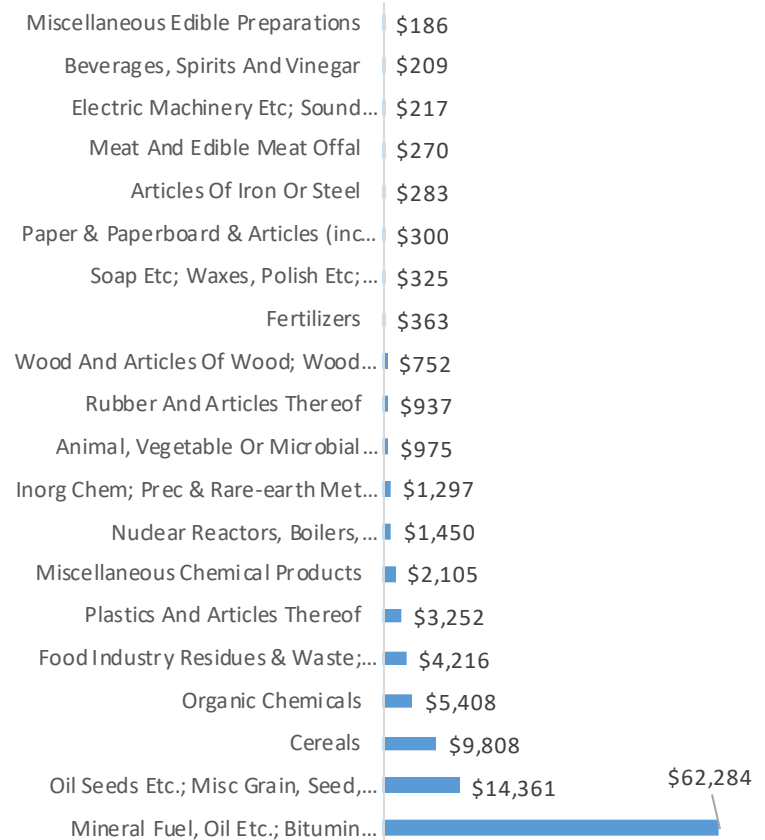


Figure 5. Louisiana Ports Imports - Top 20 Countries (\$US Millions) - Jan. 2024 - Mar. 2025

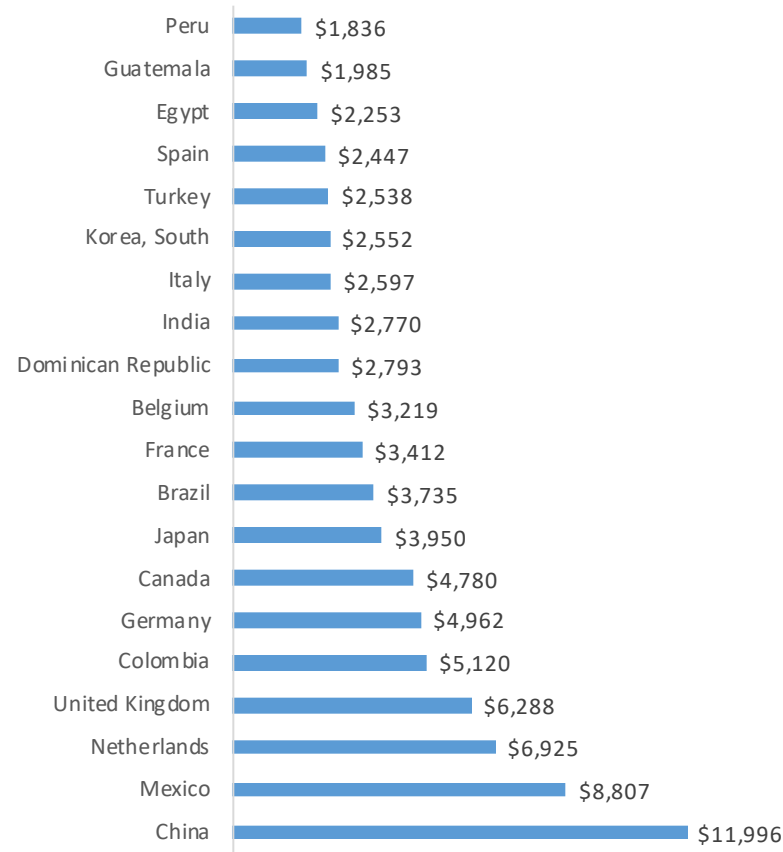
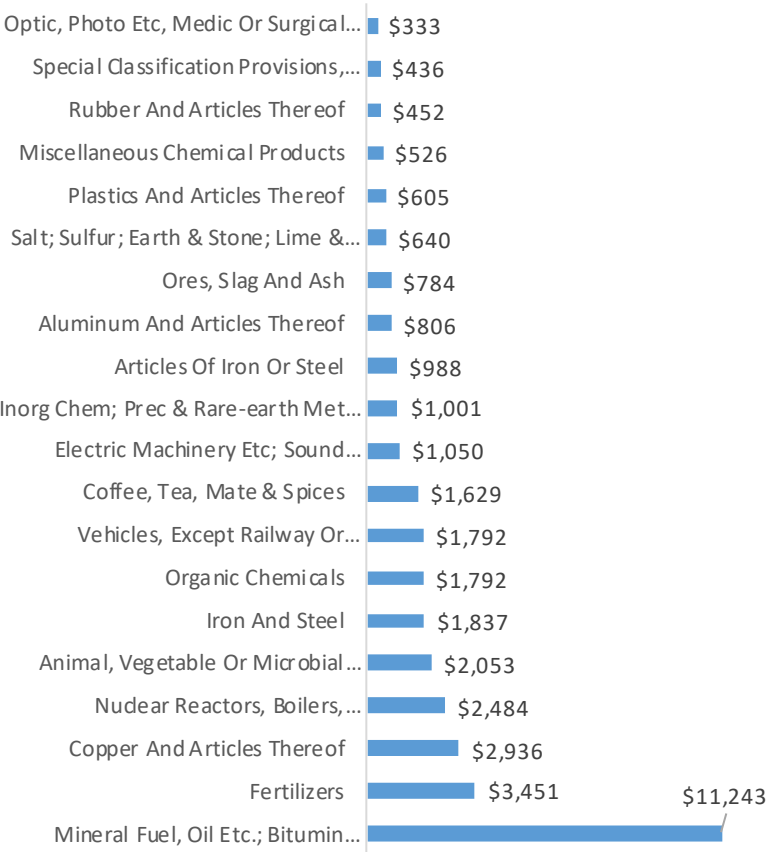


Figure 6. Louisiana Ports - Top 20 Imports (\$US, Millions) - Jan. 2024 - Mar. 2025



5. MANUFACTURING & RETAIL SALES

Sales in Manufacturing indicate how much product is being ordered and moved, suggesting demand from both businesses and consumers, and retail sales show how much consumers are spending and what they are purchasing, which is a direct signal of consumer and financial health.

Table 9. U.S. Monthly Sales for Manufacturers, Retailers, and Merchant Wholesalers (in Millions \$)

Category	3/16/2025 ¹	2/16/2025 ²	3/16/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Business	\$1,919,909	\$1,907,305	\$1,838,084	0.7%	4.5%
Manufacturing	\$596,221	\$596,820	\$584,267	-0.1%	2.0%
Retail Trade	\$625,784	\$616,714	\$595,969	1.5%	5.0%
Wholesalers	\$697,904	\$693,771	\$657,848	0.6%	6.1%

Note: Adjusted for seasonality and trading day differences; not price changes; 1 Preliminary; 2 Revised;

Source: <https://www.census.gov/mtis/current/index.html>

Table 10. U.S. Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business (Percent Change)

Category	April 2025 Advance		March 2025 Preliminary	
	March 2025 ¹ (MoM)	April 2024 ² (YoY)	Feb. 2025 ² (MoM)	March 2024 ² (YoY)
Retail & food services, total	0.1	5.2	1.7	5.2
Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.1	4.2	0.8	4.4
Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.1	6.2	2	6.1
Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.2	5.4	1.1	5.3
Retail	-0.1	4.7	1.5	5
Motor vehicle & parts dealers	-0.1	9.4	5.5	8.9
Auto & other motor veh. dealers	-0.1	10.2	6	9.4
Furniture & home furn. Stores	0.3	7.8	-0.1	8.6
Electronics & appliance stores	0.3	0.1	1.5	2.5
Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	0.8	3.2	2.9	2
Food & beverage stores	0	2.7	0	3.5
Grocery stores	-0.1	2.7	-0.1	3.6
Health & personal care stores	-0.2	8.5	1	9.3
Gasoline stations	-0.5	-6.8	-2.5	-4.5
Clothing & clothing accessories stores	-0.4	3.5	1.1	7
Sporting goods, hobby, musical, instrument, & book stores	-2.5	1.7	3.8	3
General merchandise stores	-0.2	2.8	0.5	3.3
Department stores	-1.4	-3.4	0.4	0.6
Miscellaneous store retailers	-2.1	6	1.4	7.9
Nonstore retailers	0.2	7.5	0.1	6.1
Food services & drinking places	1.2	7.8	3	6.8

Note: ¹ Preliminary; ² Revised;

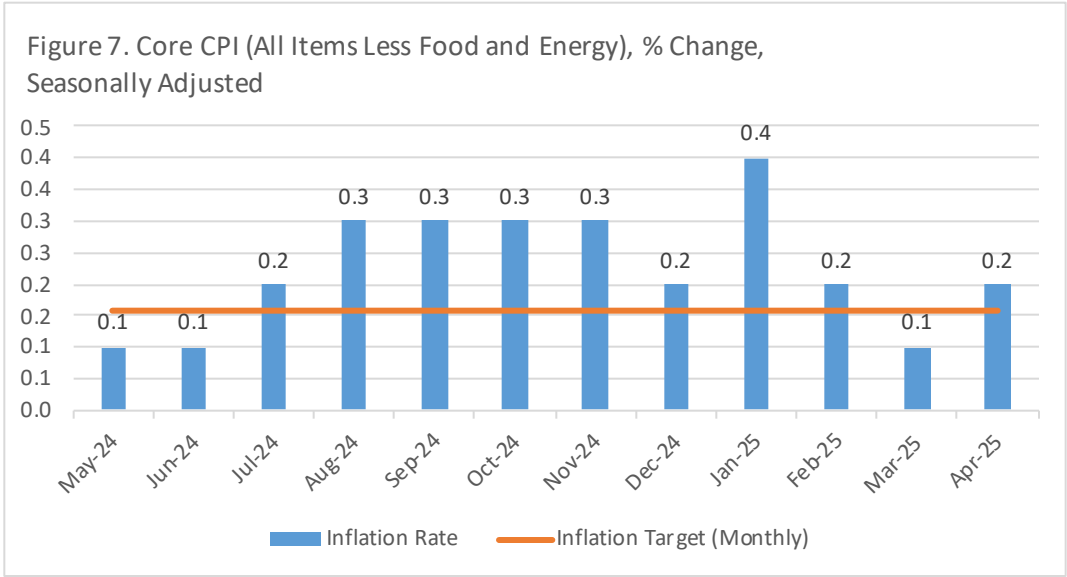
Source: <https://www.census.gov/retail/sales.html>

6. CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) tracks the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a basket of goods and services. It's one of the most widely used indicators of inflation in the United States.

Table 11. Change in CPI-U, U.S. City Average, Seasonally Adjusted			
Category	Apr-25	Mar-25	Since Apr-24 ¹
All Items	0.2%	-0.1%	2.3%
All Items Less Food and Energy (Core CPI)	0.2%	0.1%	2.8%
Medical Care	50.0%	0.2%	2.7%

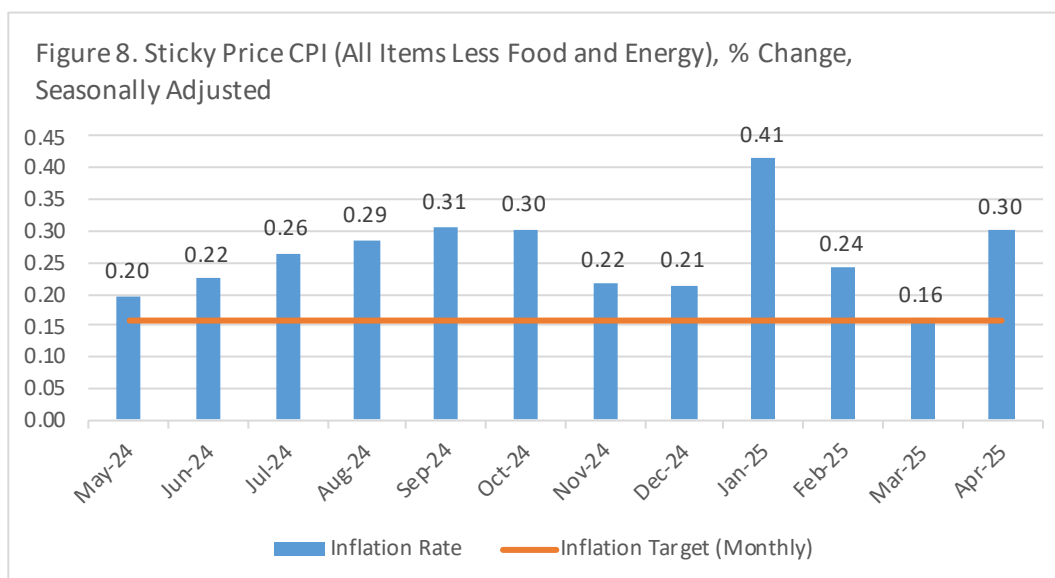
Note: ¹ Not seasonally adjusted; Source: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>



The Sticky Price Consumer Price Index (CPI) is calculated from a subset of goods and services included in the CPI that change price relatively infrequently. Because these goods and services change price relatively infrequently, they are thought to incorporate expectations about future inflation to a greater degree than prices that change on a more frequent basis. One possible explanation for sticky prices could be the costs (menu costs) firms incur when changing price.

Table 12. Change in Sticky CPI-U, U.S. City Average, Seasonally Adjusted			
Category	Apr-25	Mar-25	Since Apr-24
All Items	0.31%	0.18%	3.2%
All Items Less Food and Energy (Core CPI)	0.30%	0.16%	3.2%

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>



May

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
				Construction Spending [Mar] 1 ISM Manufacturing [Apr] Total Vehicle Sales [Apr]	Employment [Apr] 2	3
4	ISM Services [Apr] 5	Trade Balance [Mar] 6	FOMC Statement Consumer Credit [Mar] 7	Productivity [Q1 P] 8	9	10
11	Federal Budget [Apr] 12	NFIB Small Business [Apr] 13 CPI [Apr]	14	Retail Sales [Apr] 15 Industrial Production [Mar] Business Inventories [Mar] NAHB Index [May]	PPI [Apr] 16 Housing Starts [Apr] Import Price Index [Apr] U of Michigan Sentiment [May]	17
18	19	20	State Employment [Apr] 21	Existing Home Sales [Apr] 22	New Home Sales [Apr] 23	24
25	26	Durable Goods [Apr] 27 S&P/C-S Home Prices [Mar] Consumer Confidence [May]	FOMC Minutes [May] 28	GDP & Profits [Q1 2 nd] 29 Pending Home Sales [Apr]	Personal Income [Apr] 30	31
	Memorial Day [U.S. Markets Closed]					