

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, May 2, 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:

[Historic Investment: Woodside Energy Announces \\$17.5 Billion Final Investment Decision for LNG Facility in Southwest Louisiana; Becomes Largest Foreign Direct Investment in State History](#)

[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:

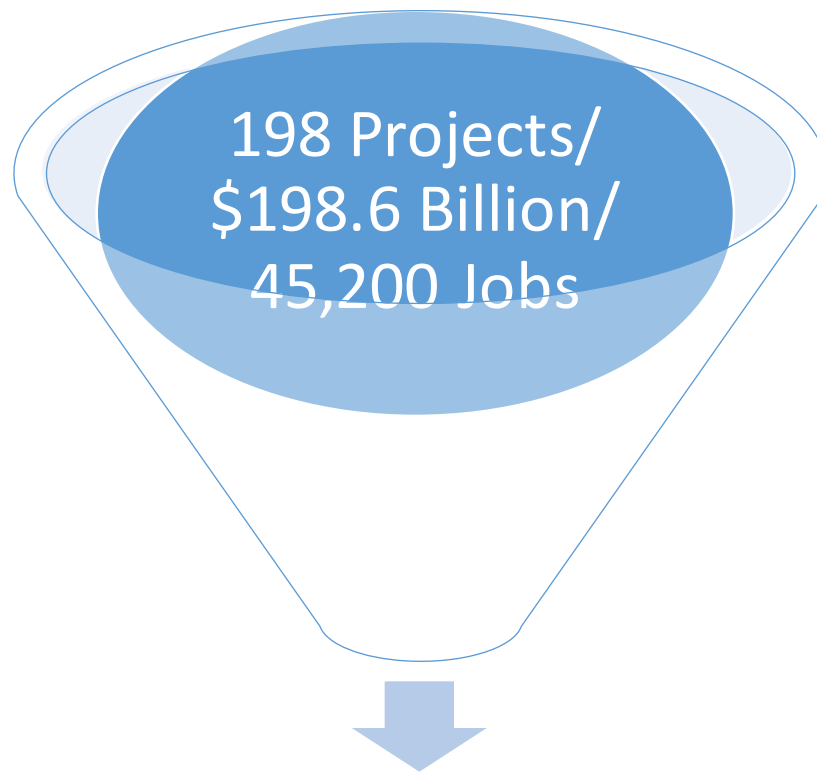
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LED PROJECT PIPELINE

As of 05/01/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 198 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$198.6 billion USD and with the potential to create almost 45,200 direct new jobs

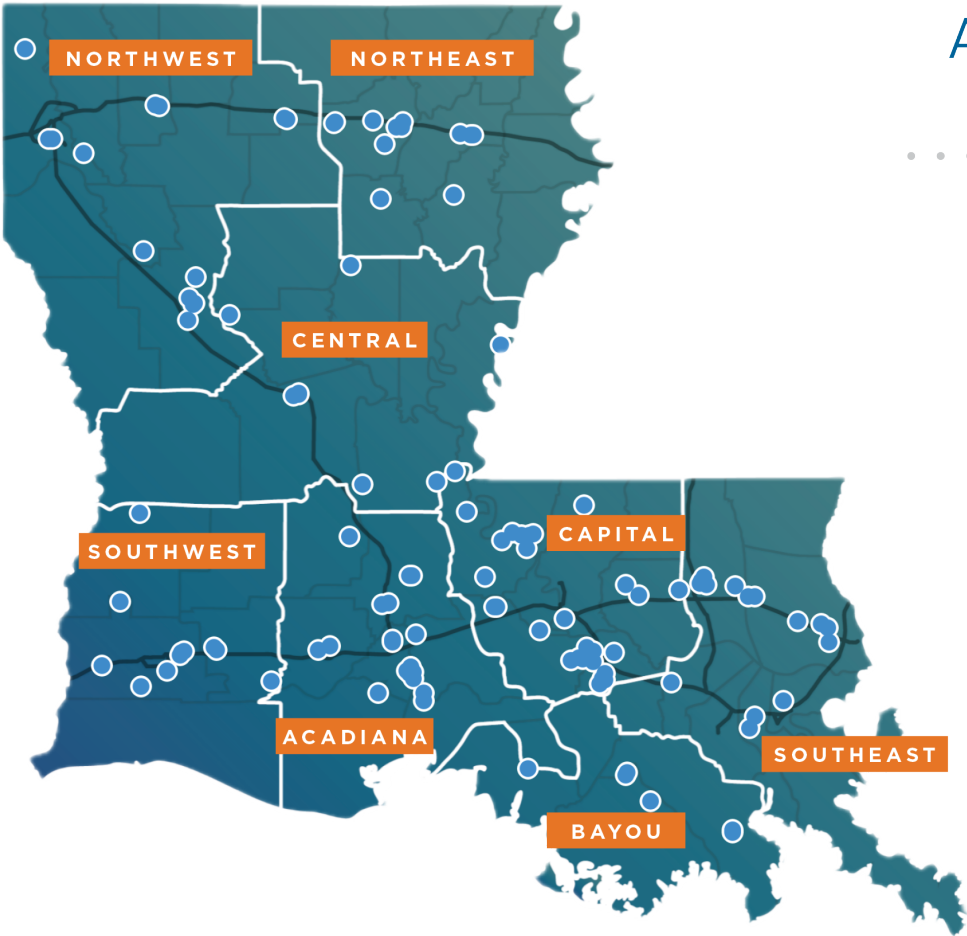
Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 42 projects that will account for over \$61.7 billion USD of investment and 5,340 direct new jobs



42 Projects announced · \$61.7 Billion in CapEx · 5,340 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.

MSA	Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	4.1	3.8	3.8	0.3	0.3
Baton Rouge	4	3.9	3.7	0.1	0.3
Hammond	4.9	4.6	4.4	0.3	0.5
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	4	3.7	3.5	0.3	0.5
Lafayette	3.9	3.6	3.6	0.3	0.3
Lake Charles	4.7	4.4	4.1	0.3	0.6
Monroe	5	4.9	4.6	0.1	0.4
New Orleans-Metairie	4.4	4.1	4.1	0.3	0.3
Shreveport-Bossier City	4.4	4.2	4.2	0.2	0.2
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	4	3.8	3.7	0.2	0.3
Louisiana	4.4	4.2	4.0	0.2	0.4

Note: For MSA and Louisiana, March 2024 data were subject to revision on 4/18/2025 and 3/5/2025, respectively. March 2025 data are preliminary.
Source: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/data.htm>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides monthly employment data that represents the number of covered workers in the private- and public-sector. The following figures illustrate monthly employment levels in the private-sector for Louisiana and each Parish with an MSA, including all employment in addition to goods producing, and service providing employment up to September 2024.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/cew/data.htm>

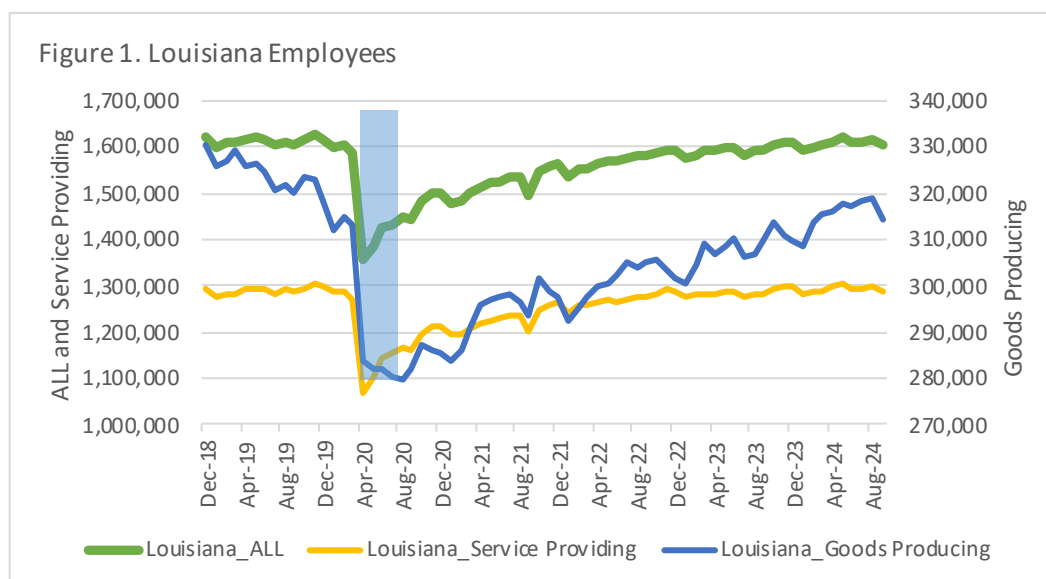


Figure 2. Caddo-Bossier Employees

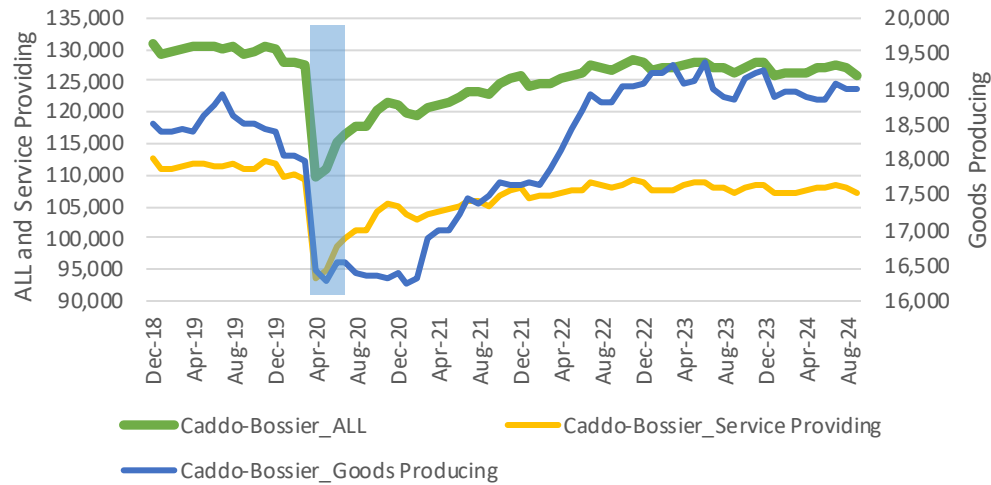


Figure 3. Calcasieu Employees

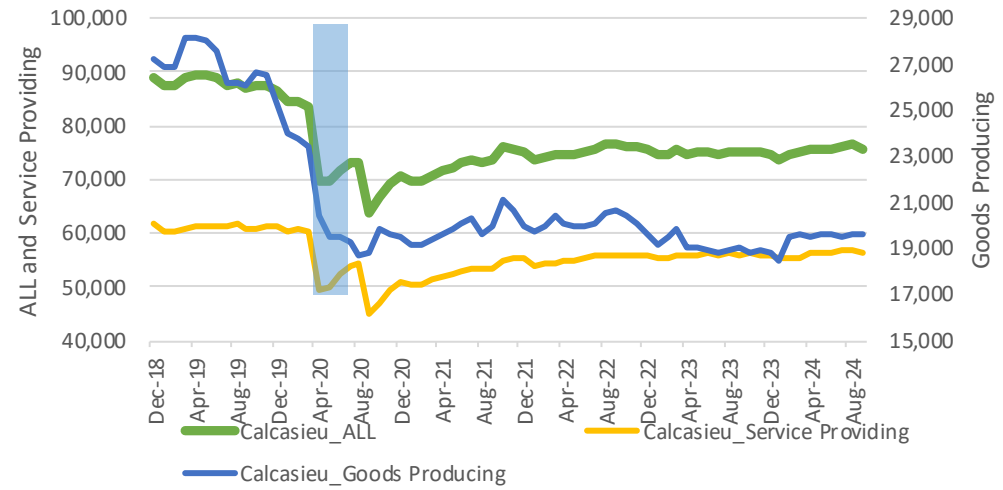


Figure 4. East Baton Rouge Employees

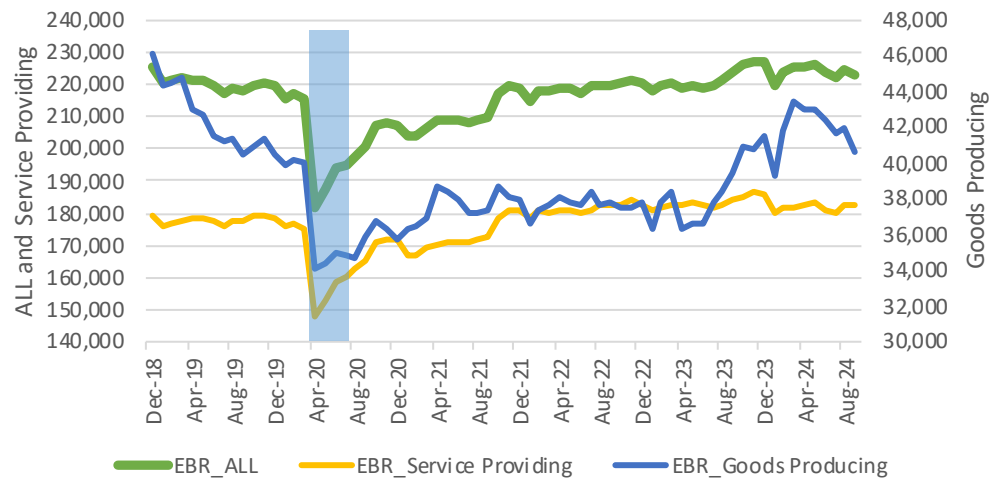


Figure 5. Jefferson-Orleans Employees

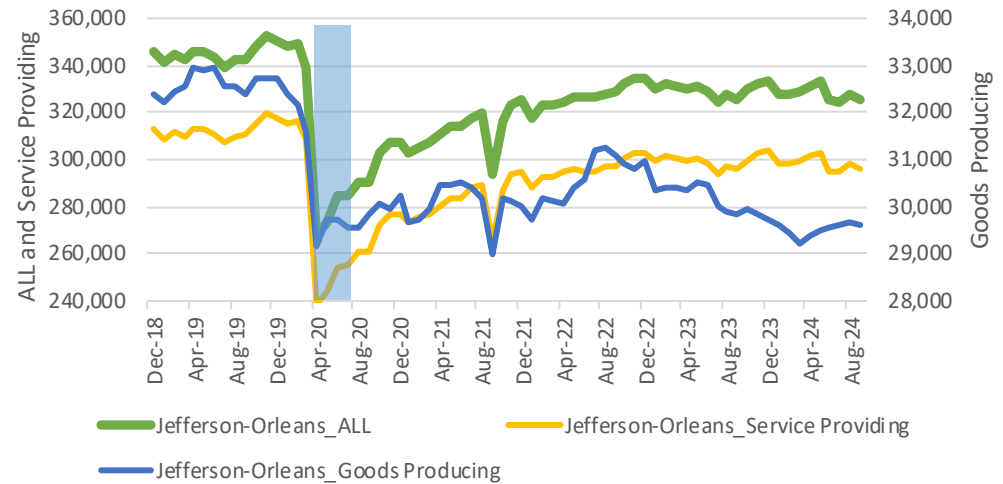


Figure 6. Lafayette Employees

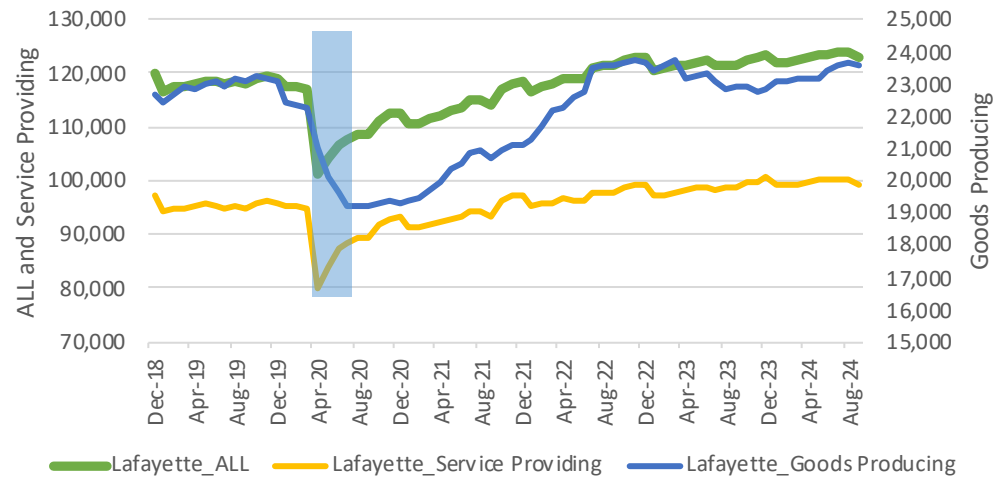


Figure 7. Ouachita Employees

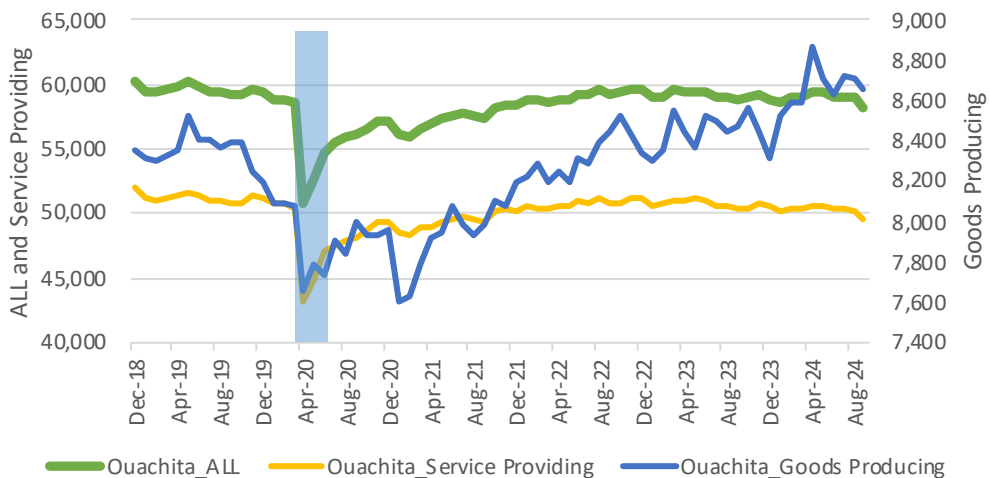


Figure 8. Rapides Employees

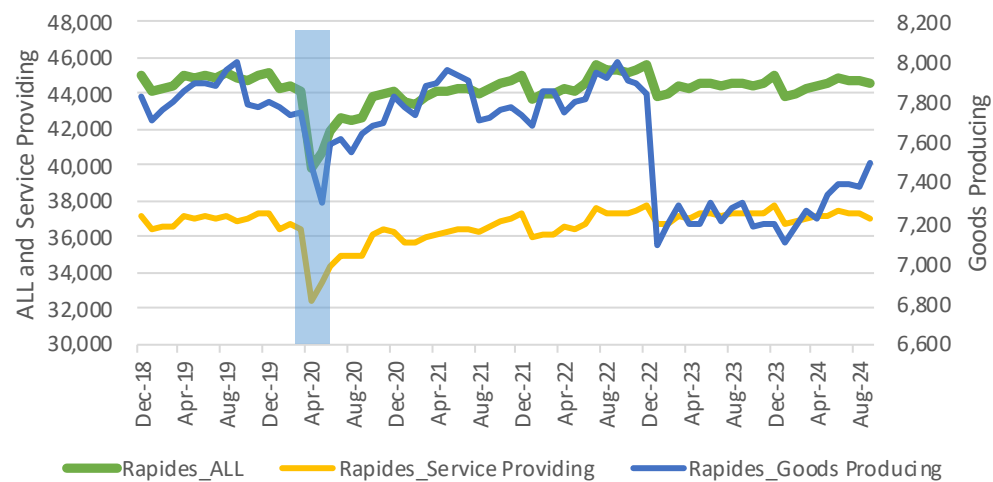


Figure 9. St. Tammany Employees

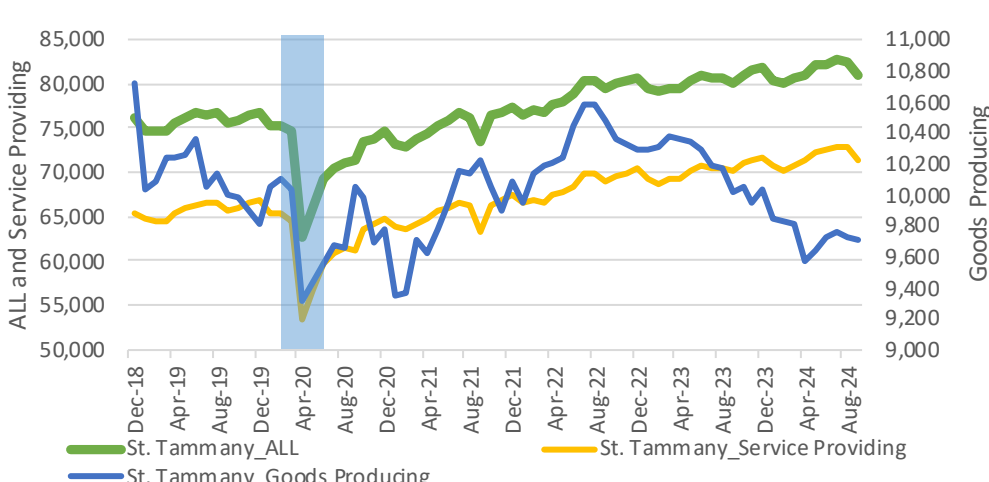


Figure 10. Tangipahoa Employees

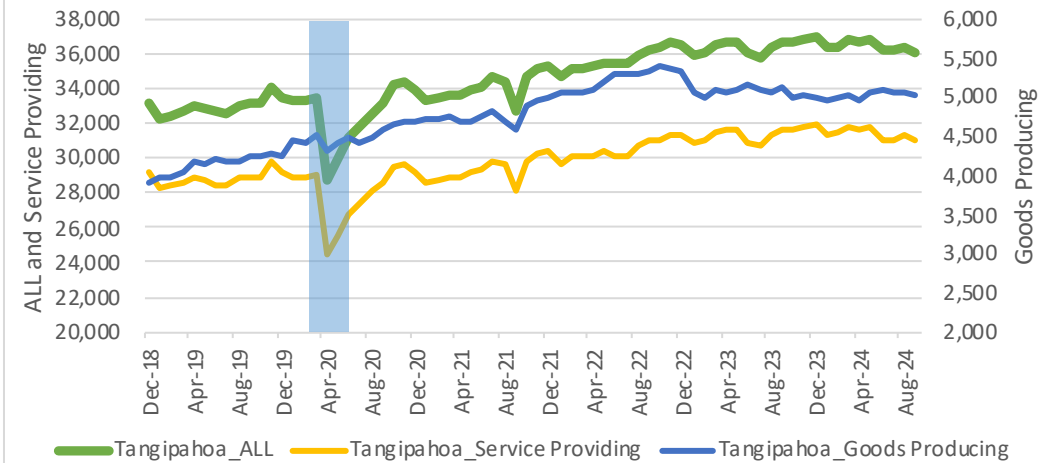
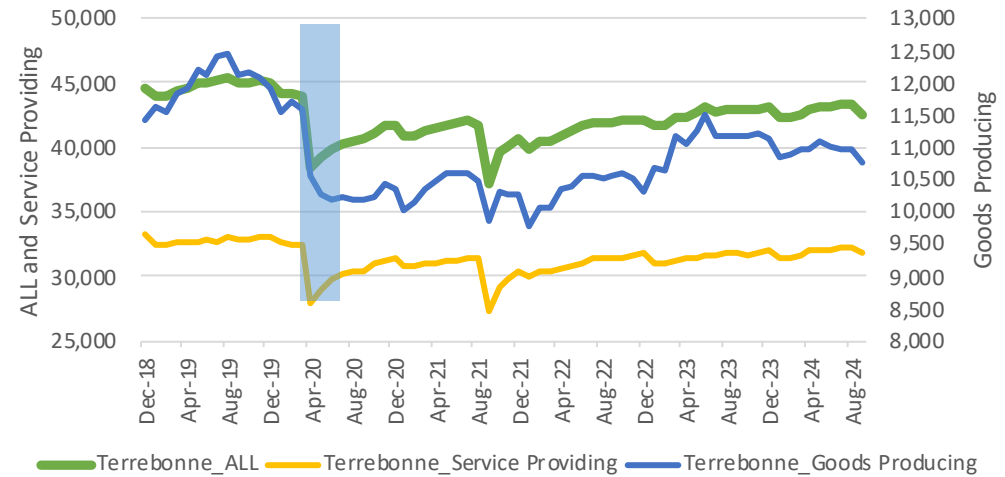


Figure 11. Terrebonne Employees



2. COMMODITIES

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

Table 2. Energy Commodities, Weekly and Monthly

Commodity	4/25/25	4/18/25	4/26/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	\$67.92	\$67.76	\$88.53	0.2%	-23.3%
WTI Crude Oil	\$63.62	\$62.92	\$84.48	1.1%	-24.7%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.00	\$3.26	\$1.54	-8.0%	94.8%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.01	\$3.02	\$3.50	-0.3%	-14.0%

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 3. Energy Commodities, Monthly

Commodity	3/1/25	2/1/25	3/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Diesel Price	\$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 4. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of April 24, 2024

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	\$1,043.82	\$10.44	\$/Bushel	0.34%	-0.56%	3.20%	-13.14%
Wheat	\$525.94	\$5.26	\$/Bushel	2.08%	-0.77%	-1.88%	-15.51%
Palm Oil	\$3,880.00	\$38.80	\$/Tonne	-0.77%	-4.39%	-13.59%	0.99%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$17.04	\$0.17	\$/Pounds	-0.66%	-6.28%	-10.52%	-11.82%
Coffee	\$398.70	\$3.99	\$/Pounds	1.32%	-1.72%	3.25%	95.28%
Corn	\$466.62	\$4.67	\$/Bushel	0.50%	-2.53%	1.99%	1.39%
Rice	\$12.81	\$0.13	\$/Hndrdwght (CWT)	-1.08%	-1.01%	-2.07%	-31.22%
Orange Juice	\$255.26	\$2.55	\$/Pounds	-3.67%	1.31%	8.89%	-31.91%

Source: tradingeconomics.com/commodities

3. RESIDENTIAL CONTRSTRUCTION & 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 5. Value of U.S. Construction Put in Place					
Type	3/1/25 ¹	2/1/25 ²	3/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Construction	\$2,196,060	\$2,206,880	\$2,135,771	-0.5%	2.8%
Total Private Construction	\$1,687,970	\$1,697,679	\$1,650,284	-0.6%	2.3%
Residential	\$937,668	\$941,676	\$911,890	-0.4%	2.8%
Nonresidential	\$750,303	\$756,003	\$738,393	-0.8%	1.6%
Total Public Construction	\$508,090	\$509,201	\$485,488	-0.2%	4.7%
Residential	\$11,801	\$11,780	\$12,035	0.2%	-1.9%
Nonresidential	\$496,289	\$497,421	\$473,452	-0.2%	4.8%

Note: ¹ Preliminary; ² Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted, but not for price changes; Annual rates in millions of dollars.
Source: www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html

Table 6. U.S. Monthly New Residential Sales, by Status (Units in Thousands)					
Type	3/1/25 ¹	2/1/25 ²	3/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Sold	69	59	65	16.9%	6.2%
For Sale	493	493	455	0.0%	8.4%

Note: ¹ Preliminary; ² Revised; Data are not seasonally adjusted.
Source: www.census.gov/construction/nrs/index.html

The Existing-Home Sales data measures sales and prices of existing single-family homes for the nation overall in addition to regions of the country. These figures include condos and co-ops, in addition to single-family homes.

Table 7. U.S. Existing Single-Family Home Sales					
Type	3/24/25 ¹	2/24/25 ²	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 ³	\$408	\$400.9	\$396.6	1.77%	2.87%

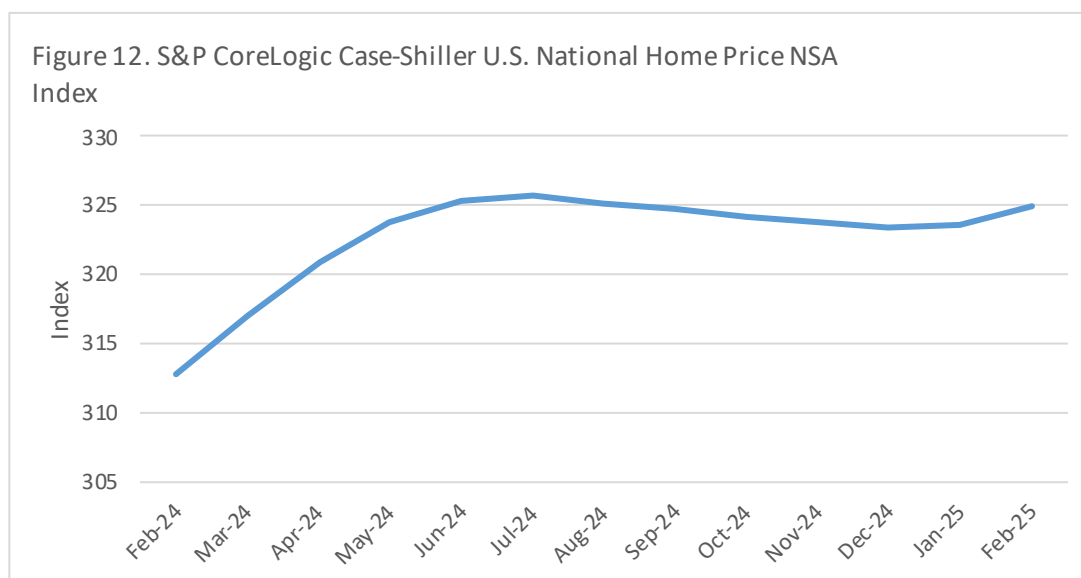
Note: ¹ Preliminary; ² Revised; Data are not seasonally adjusted. ³Median Price. Inventory and U.S. Sales are in thousand units; Sales Price is in thousand dollars
Source: www.census.gov/construction/nrs/index.html

The Pending Home Sales Index (PHS), a leading indicator of housing activity, measures housing contract activity, and is based on signed real estate contracts for existing single-family homes, condos, and co-ops. Because a home goes under contract a month or two before it is sold, the Pending Home Sales Index generally leads existing home sales by a month or two.

Table 8. U.S. Pending Home Sales Index					
Type	3/28/25 ¹	2/28/25 ²	3/29/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Pending Home Sales Index	90.4	67.4	90.5	34.12%	-0.11%
Note: ¹ Preliminary; ² Revised; Data are not seasonally adjusted; January 2001 = 100. Source: www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/housing-statistics/pending-home-sales					

The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index is a composite of single-family home price indices for the nine U.S. Census divisions and is calculated monthly.

Table 9. S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index					
Index	Feb-25	Jan-25	Feb-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Home Price Index	324.92	323.6	312.8	0.41%	3.87%
Note: January 2000 =100; Source: www.spglobal.com/spdji/en/indices/indicators/sp-corelogic-case-shiller-us-national-home-price-nsa-index/#overview					



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.

Figure 13. Baton Rouge Export Volume

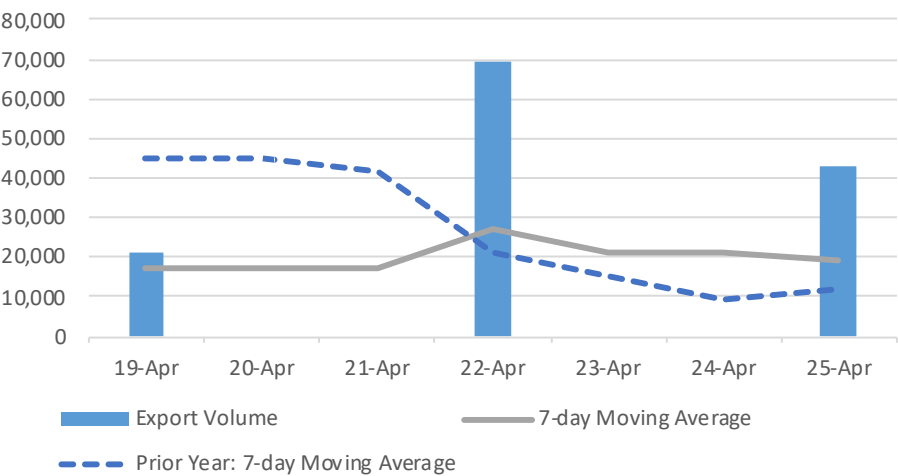


Figure 14. Lake Charles Export Volume

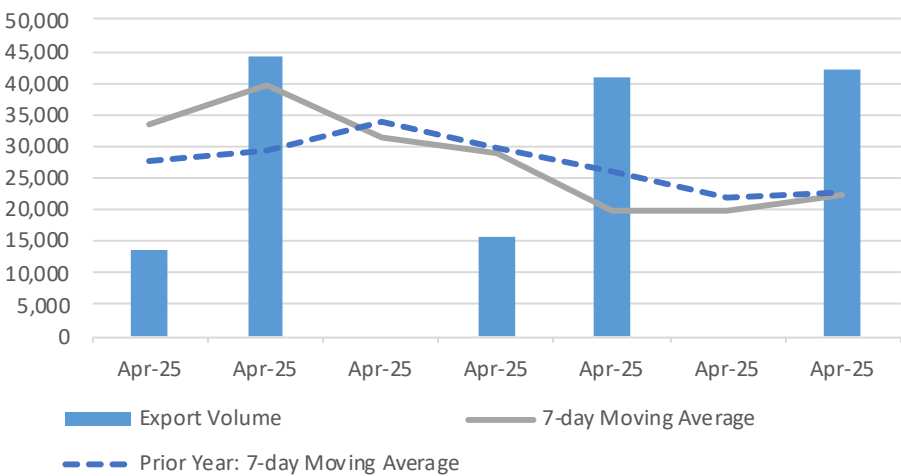


Figure 15. New Orleans Export Volume

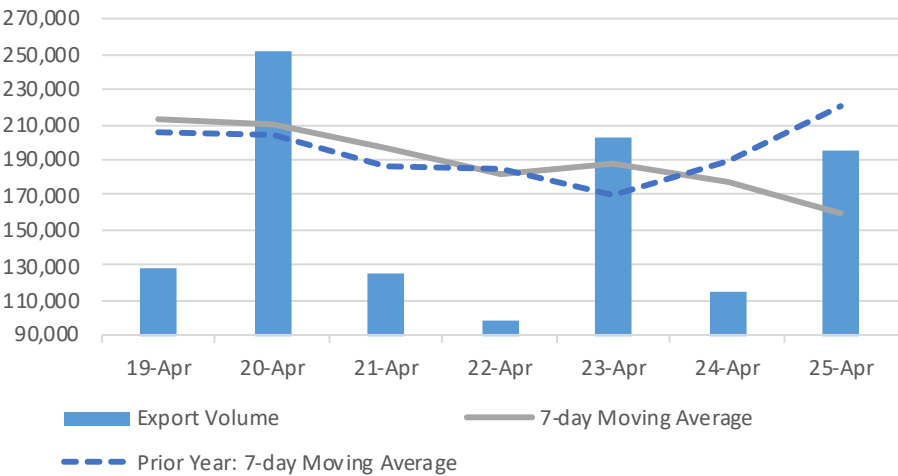


Figure 16. South Louisiana Export Volume

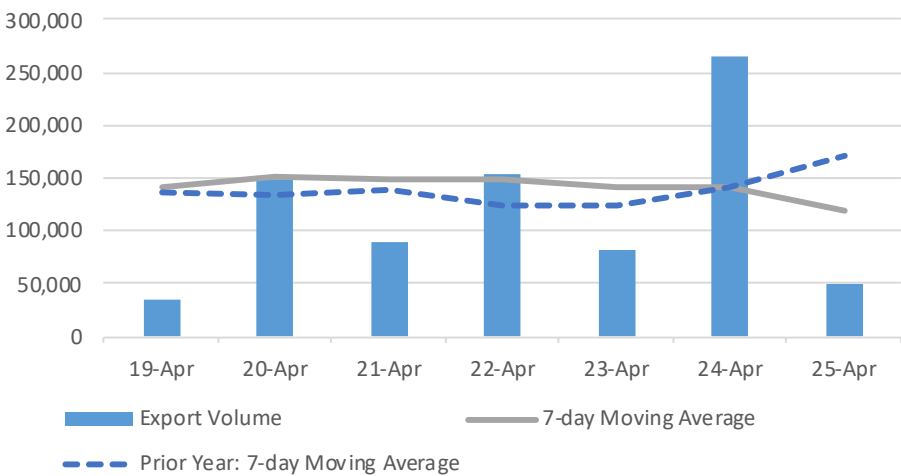


Figure 17. Baton Rouge Port Import Volume

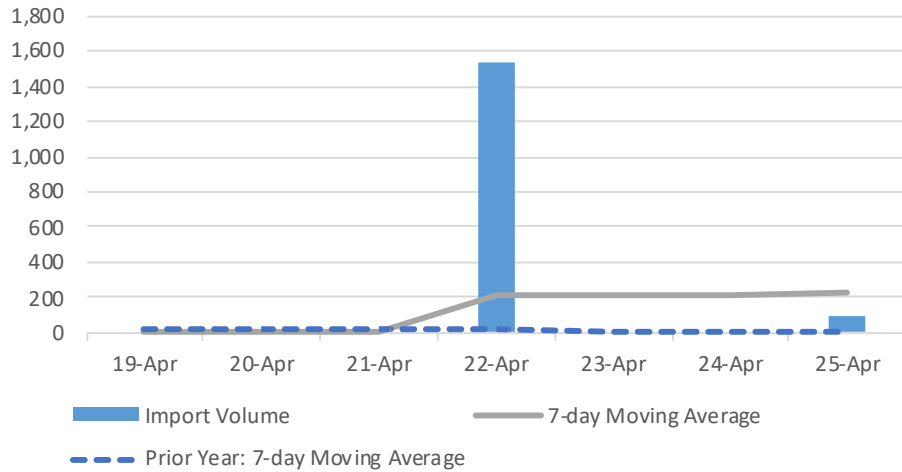


Figure 18. Lake Charles Port Import Volume

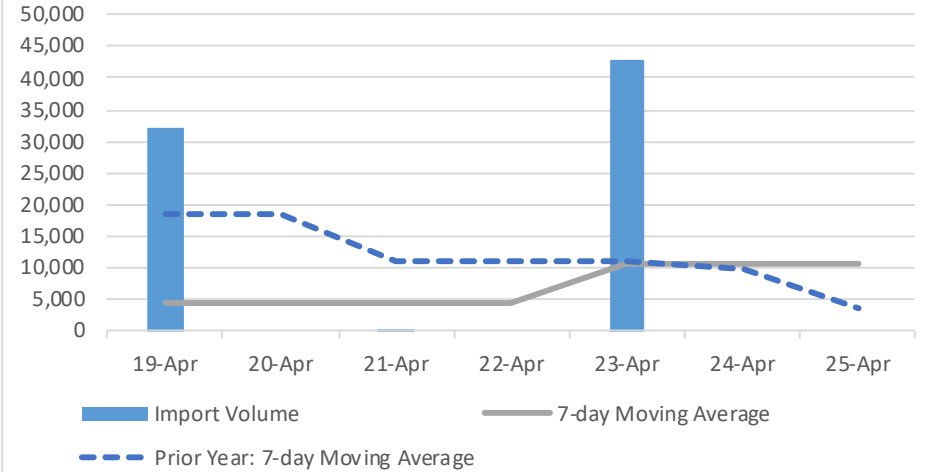


Figure 19. New Orleans Import Volume

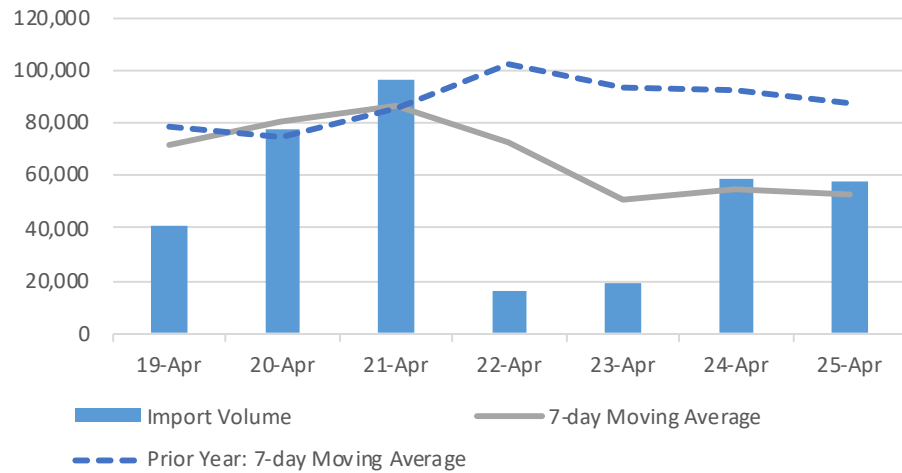


Figure 20. South Louisiana Port Import Volume

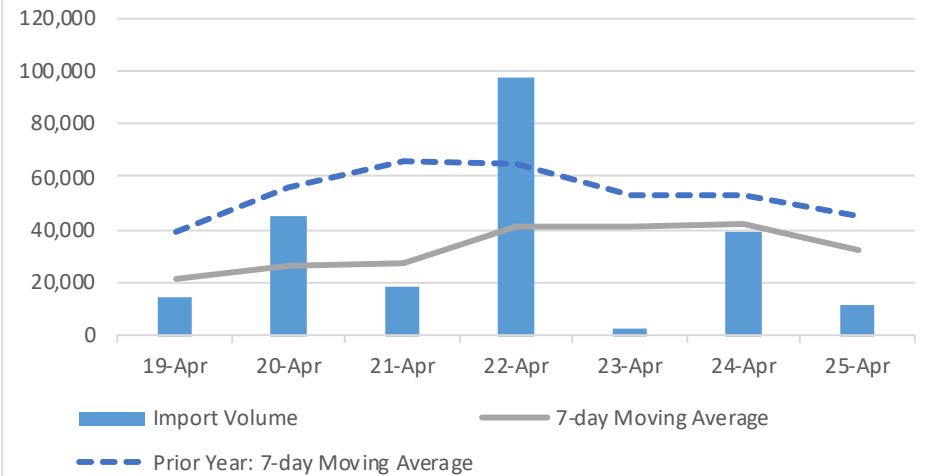


Figure 21. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

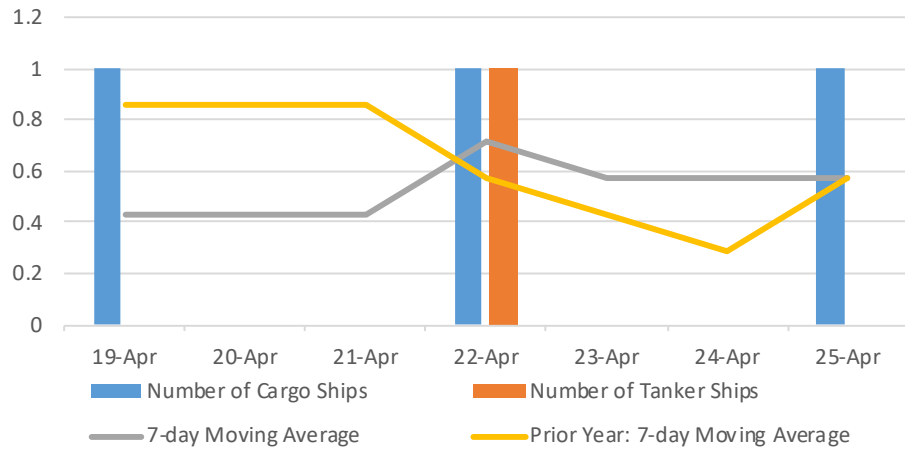


Figure 22. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

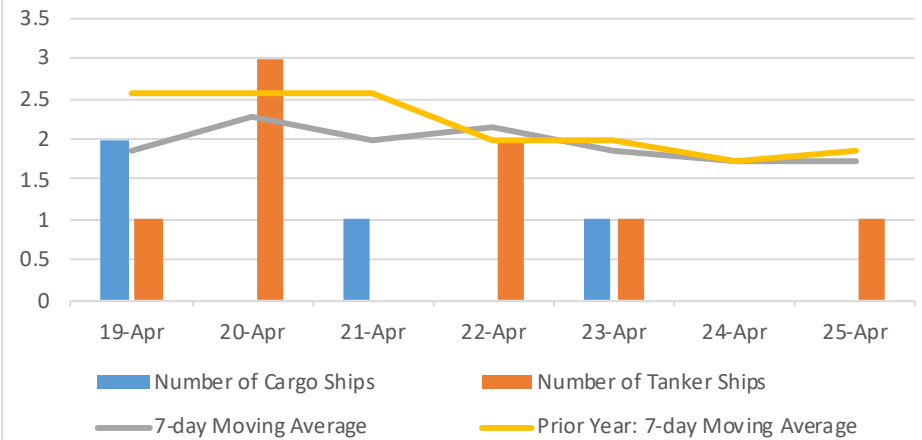


Figure 23. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

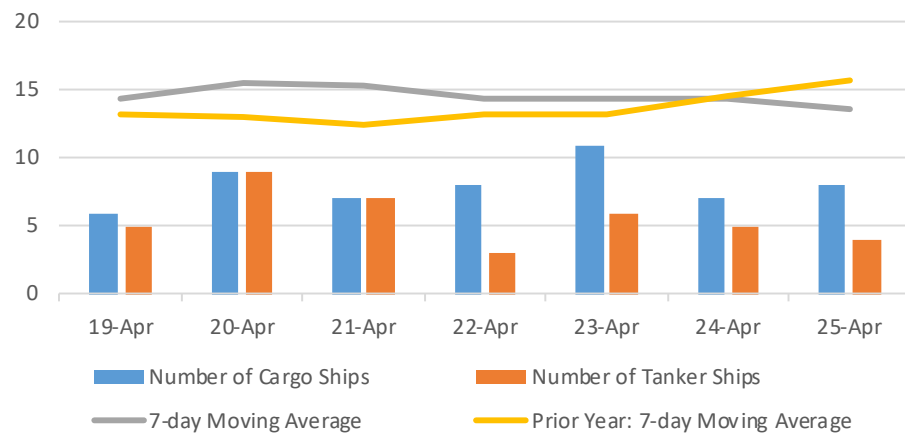
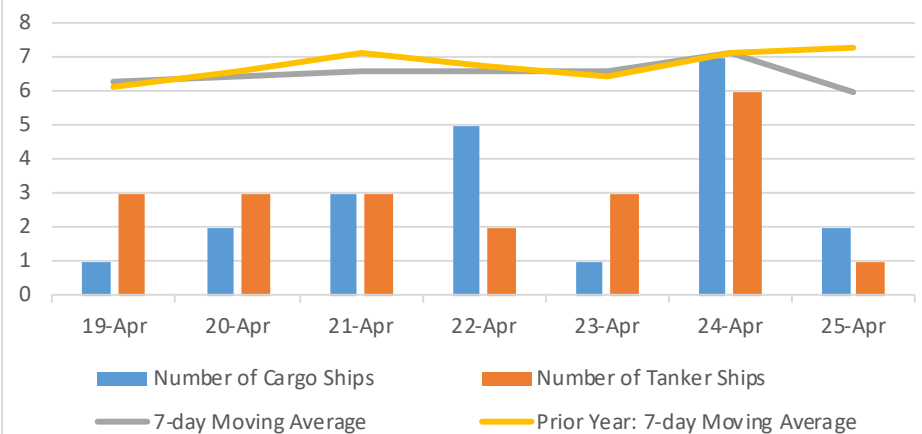


Figure 24. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



5. GDP & PERSONAL INCOME

Table 10. U.S. Real Gross Domestic Product and Major Expenditure Components, by Quarter					
Component	2025:Q1	2024:Q4	2024:Q1	% Change	
				(QoQ)	(YoY)
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	\$5,748.1	\$6,001.7	\$5,638.5	-4.2%	1.9%
Personal Consumption Expenditures	\$3,982.9	\$4,187.5	\$3,871.4	-4.9%	2.9%
Gross Private Domestic Investment	\$1,105.3	\$1,071.6	\$1,047.0	3.1%	5.6%
Net Exports of Goods and Services	(318.5)	(259.9)	(225.9)		
Exports	642.6	673.1	626.7	-4.5%	2.5%
Imports	(961.2)	(933.0)	(852.6)	3.0%	12.7%
Government Consumption Expenditures and Gross Investment	970.7	1,000.4	946.6	-3.0%	2.5%
Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted billions of chained (2017) dollars at quarterly rates; Imports are a subtraction in the calculation of GDP, therefore, an increase results in a negative contribution to GDP and are noted in red. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis					

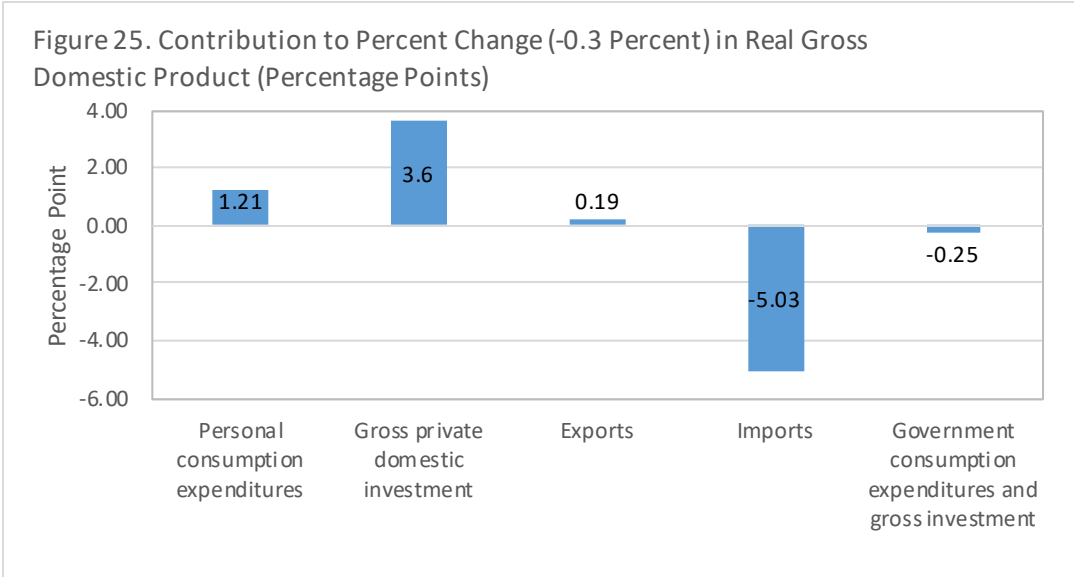


Table 11. U.S. Personal Income and Its Disposition, by Quarter					
Component	2025:Q1	2024:Q4	2024:Q1	% Change	
				(QoQ)	(YoY)
Personal Income	\$25,397.2	\$24,998.4	\$24,344.2	1.6%	4.3%
Disposable Personal Income	\$22,235.0	\$21,893.0	\$21,378.6	1.6%	4.0%
Personal Saving	\$883.6	\$802.8	\$1,148.1	10.1%	-23.0%
Personal Saving Rate	4.0	3.7	5.4	8.1%	-25.9%
Note: Data are seasonally adjusted billions of dollars at quarterly rates. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis					

The Consumer Confidence Survey® reflects prevailing business conditions and likely developments for the months ahead. It details consumer attitudes, buying intentions, vacation plans, and consumer expectations for inflation, stock prices, and interest rates. The Present Situation Index is based on consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions, and the Expectations Index is based on consumers' short-term outlook for income, business, and labor market conditions.

Table 12. U.S. Consumer Confidence, Monthly						
Index	Apr-25	Mar-25	Apr-24	% Point Change		Trend ¹
				(MoM)	(YoY)	
Consumer Confidence Index	86	92.9	97	-6.9	-11	5
Present Situation Index	133.5	134.5	142.9	-1	-9.4	3
Expectations Index	54.4	65.2	66.4	-10.8	-12	2
Note: ¹ Number of months moving in current direction.						
Source: https://www.conference-board.org/topics/consumer-confidence						

6. MANUFACTURING

The Manufacturing PMI is a composite index based on surveys of purchasing managers in the manufacturing industry. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in manufacturing. The ISM Report on Business is a monthly report published by the ISM that includes the Manufacturing PMI and detailed commentary on business conditions such as prices, backlogs of orders, and direct quotes from purchasing managers. These economic indicators, in addition to the trends, are utilized to gauge economic momentum.

Table 13. ISM Manufacturing PMI and Report on Business				
Index	Apr-25	Mar-25	% Point Change (MoM)	Trend ² (Months)
Manufacturing PMI	48.7	49	-0.3	2
New Orders ¹	47.2	45.2	2	3
Production ¹	44	48.3	-4.3	2
Employment ¹	46.5	44.7	1.8	3
Supplier Deliveries	55.2	53.5	1.7	5
Inventories ¹	50.8	53.4	-2.6	2
Customers' Inventories	46.2	46.8	-0.6	7
Prices	69.8	69.4	0.4	7
Backlog of Orders	43.7	44.5	-0.8	31
New Export Orders	43.1	49.6	-6.5	2
Imports	47.1	50.1	-3	1
Note: ¹ Data are seasonally adjusted; ² Number of months moving in current direction Source: Institute For Supply Management				

Survey Respondents:

"Uncertainty over tariffs is providing a big challenge from both Tier-1 suppliers we will have to pay tariffs on directly and Tier-2 suppliers that will try to pass tariffs through to us in the form of price increases and tariff surcharges." [Chemical Products]

"The most important topic is tariffs. Risks include margin erosion due to rising operational costs and freight delays disrupting delivery timelines. Supplier relationships are strained by pain-share negotiations, and competitors are gaining share by importing from lower-tariff regions." [Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products]

"Tariff whiplash is causing us major issues with customers. The two issues we are seeing: (1) customers are holding back orders to understand what is happening with tariffs on their products or (2) they are forcing us to accept the tariffs, which causes us to 'no quote' the job as we cannot take on that type of risk for an order." [Machinery]

"There is a lot of concern about the inflationary impacts from tariffs in our industry. Domestic producers are charging more for everything because they can." [Fabricated Metal Products]

"Demand is slightly lower than plan, but it has been steady amid tariff concerns. Significant time has been spent quantifying the impact of changing tariff rates. Our costs will increase, and we are discussing how to share that impact across suppliers and customers." [Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components]

"The recently imposed 145-percent tariff rate on Chinese imports is significantly affecting our 2025 profitability. Due to the complexity of our parts and the lack of alternate sources, we are unable to find any alternate suppliers — especially at a reasonable cost — to our current Chinese sources. Incoming orders have slowed due to market volatility and uncertainty." [Miscellaneous Manufacturing]

"Strategic procurement and the supply chain are paralyzed in a world that changes daily due to tariffs." [Nonmetallic Mineral Products]

Source: <https://www.ismworld.org/supply-management-news-and-reports/reports/ism-report-on-business/pmi/april/>

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] ISM Manufacturing [Apr] Total Vehicle Sales [Apr]	Employment [Apr]	
4	ISM Services [Apr]	Trade Balance [Mar]	FOMC Statement Consumer Credit [Mar]	Productivity [Q1 P]		
11	Federal Budget [Apr]	NFIB Small Business [Apr] CPI [Apr]		Retail Sales [Apr] Industrial Production [Mar] Business Inventories [Mar] NAHB Index [May]	PPI [Apr]	Housing Starts [Apr] Import Price Index [Apr] U of Michingan Sentiment [May]
18			State Employment [Apr]	Existing Home Sales [Apr]	New Home Sales [Apr]	
25	Memorial Day [U.S. Markets Closed]	Durable Goods [Apr] S&P/C-S Home Prices [Mar] Consumer Confidence [May]	FOMC Minutes [May]	GDP & Profits [Q1 2 nd] Pending Home Sales [Apr]	Personal Income [Apr]	