

# Louisiana Economic Vitals

## Friday, May 23, 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:

[Green Fuels Operating Announces \\$110 Million Investment to Transform Historic Evangeline Processing Facility](#) - May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

[Louisiana Celebrates Economic Development Week 2025, Highlighting Major Wins and Accelerating Momentum Driven by New Strategic Plan](#) - May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

[Newlab Expands to Louisiana with New Energy-Focused Innovation Hub](#) - May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

[Taking Louisiana to New Heights: Nation's Largest Regional Airline Carrier Establishes Maintenance Base at Shreveport Regional Airport](#) - May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Direct questions and comments to:

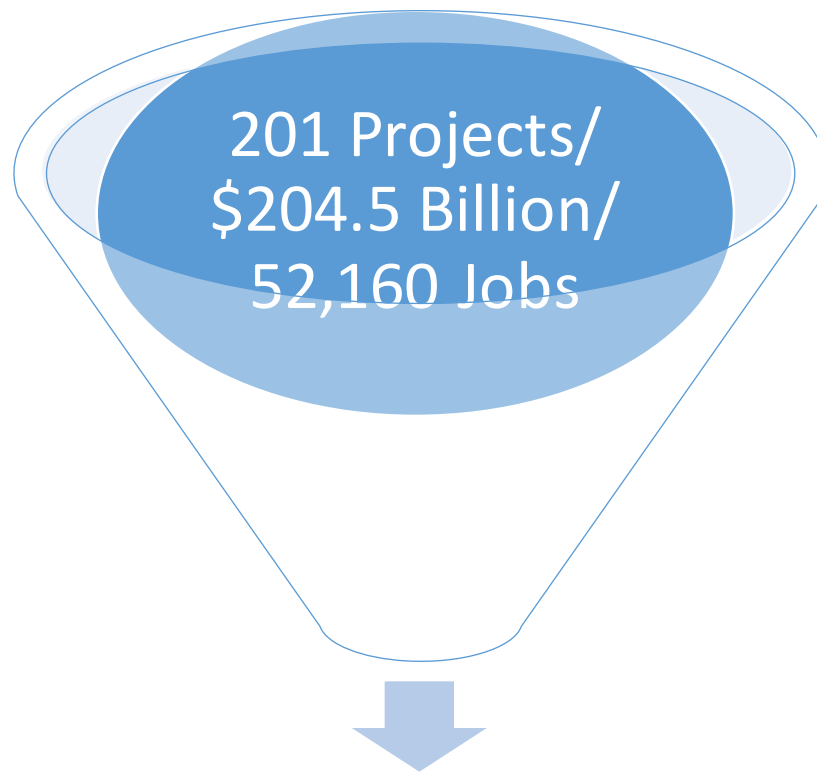
Dr. Christopher Coombs, Economist, Economic Competitiveness

E: [Christopher.Coombs@la.gov](mailto:Christopher.Coombs@la.gov) T: 225.342.5410

# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

As of 05/22/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 201 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$204.5 billion USD and with the potential to create almost 52,160 direct new jobs.

Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 44 projects that will account for over \$61.8 billion USD of investment and 5,550 direct new jobs.

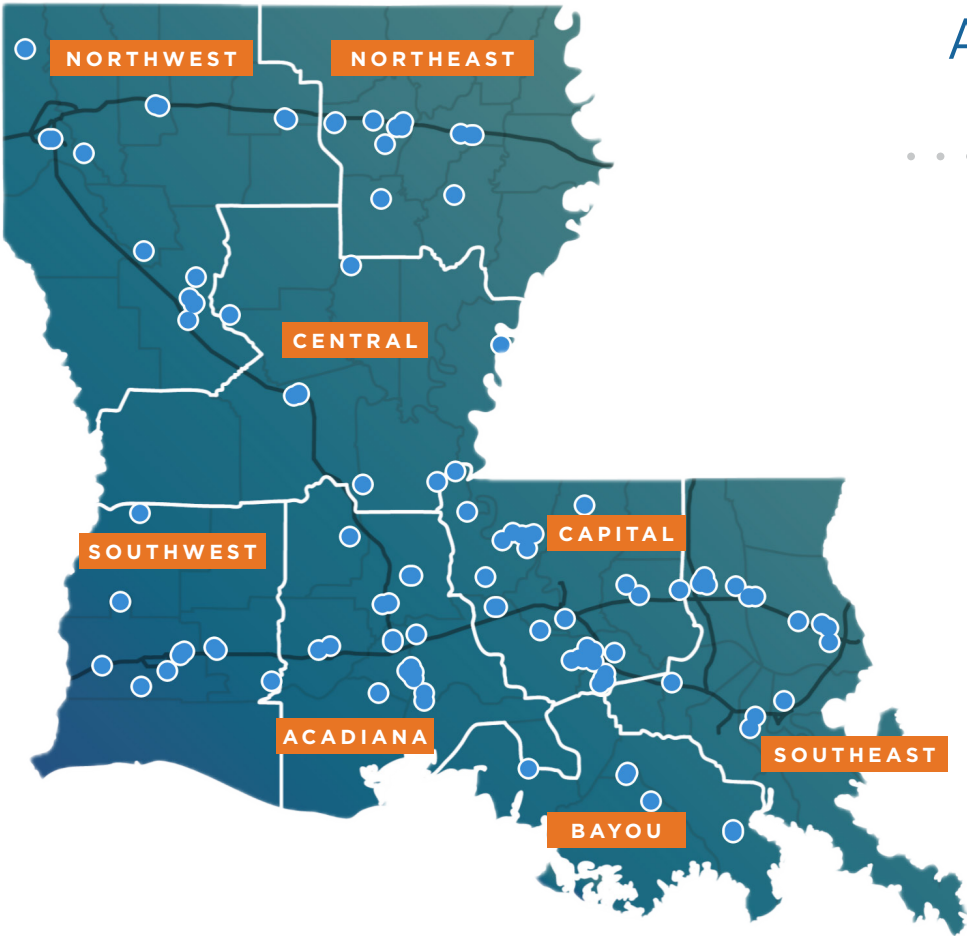


**From January 2024 through May 2025**

**44 Projects announced · \$61.8 Billion in CapEx · 5,550 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. . . . .	28
Central. . . . .	8
Northeast . . . . .	12
Northwest . . . . .	15
Southeast . . . . .	18
Southwest . . . . .	12

TOTAL 121

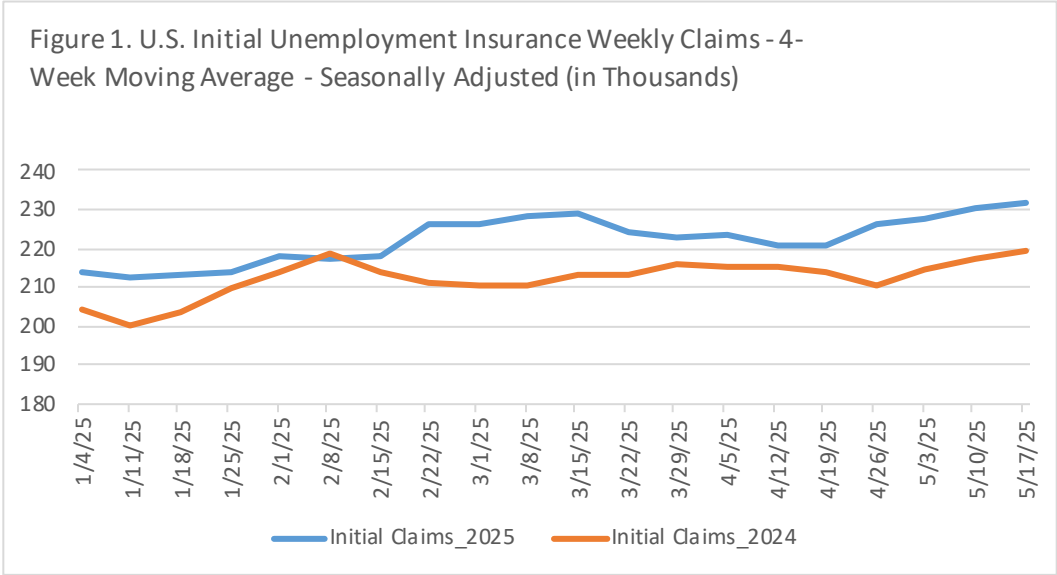
# 1. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The following table provides information on the proportion of a state's population that is age 16 years old and older and participating in the labor force with a comparison to the United States. A table with unemployment rates for these states and the U.S. is also provided.

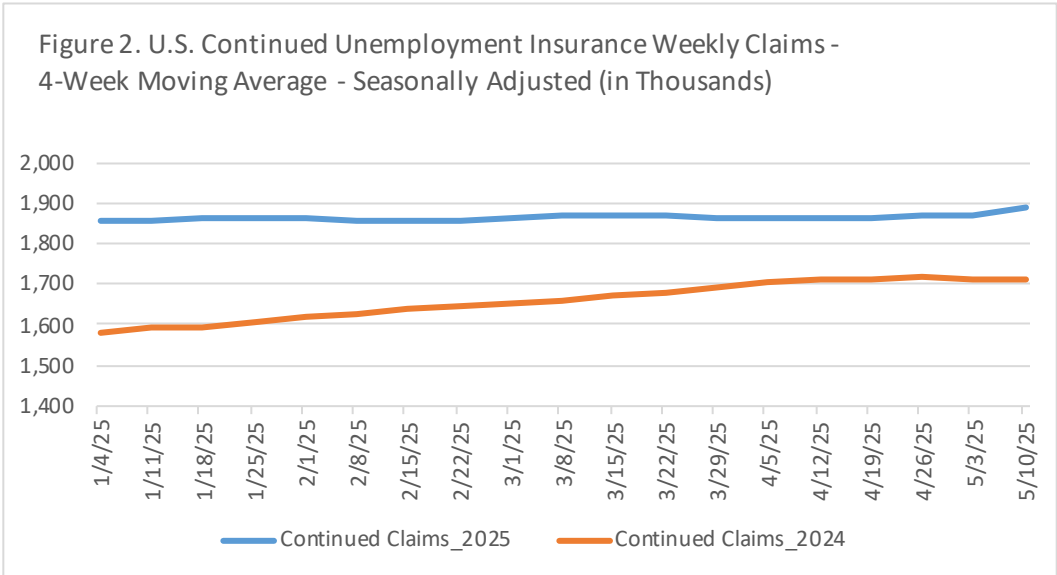
Table 1. State (The South) and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates					
Region	4/21/2025 <sup>1</sup>	3/21/25	4/21/2024 <sup>2</sup>	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Louisiana	57.9	57.9	58.2	-	-0.3
Alabama	57.9	57.8	57.4	0.1	0.5
Arkansas	58.4	58.4	58.1	-	0.3
Florida	58	58	58.7	-	-0.7
Georgia	60.8	60.9	61.7	-0.1	-0.9
Kentucky	58.4	58.4	58	-	0.4
Mississippi	56.2	56.1	54.8	0.1	1.4
Missouri	63.4	63.4	63.3	-	0.1
North Carolina	59.6	59.7	60.5	-0.1	-0.9
Oklahoma	62.6	62.6	62.8	-	-0.2
South Carolina	57.5	57.5	58	-	-0.5
Tennessee	59.7	59.6	59.6	0.1	0.1
Texas	64.9	64.8	64.8	0.1	0.1
U.S.	62.6	62.5	62.7	0.1	-0.1
Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary (except for U.S.); <sup>2</sup> Data were subject to revision on March 5, 2025 (except for U.S.); Data are seasonally adjusted; Source: <a href="https://www.bls.gov/lau/">https://www.bls.gov/lau/</a> and <a href="https://www.bls.gov/cps/">https://www.bls.gov/cps/</a>					

Table 2. State (The South) and U.S. Unemployment Rates					
Region	4/21/2025 <sup>1</sup>	3/21/25	4/21/2024 <sup>2</sup>	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Louisiana	4.4	4.4	4.1	-	0.3
Alabama	3.3	3.3	2.9	-	0.4
Arkansas	3.7	3.7	3.4	-	0.3
Florida	3.7	3.6	3.3	0.1	0.4
Georgia	3.6	3.6	3.4	-	0.2
Kentucky	5.2	5.2	4.9	-	0.3
Mississippi	4	3.9	2.8	0.1	1.2
Missouri	3.9	3.8	3.7	0.1	0.2
North Carolina	3.7	3.7	3.6	-	0.1
Oklahoma	3.2	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-0.1
South Carolina	4.2	4.1	3.9	0.1	0.3
Tennessee	3.5	3.6	3.2	-0.1	0.3
Texas	4.1	4.1	4	-	0.1
U.S.	4.2	4.2	3.9	-	0.3
Note: <sup>1</sup> Preliminary (except for U.S.); <sup>2</sup> Data were subject to revision on March 5, 2025 (except for U.S.); Data are seasonally adjusted; Source: <a href="https://www.bls.gov/lau/">https://www.bls.gov/lau/</a> & <a href="https://www.bls.gov/cps/">https://www.bls.gov/cps/</a>					

The following figures illustrate initial claims (current and previous year) for unemployment insurance, which represent people who are newly filing for unemployment benefits, a leading indicator of labor market weakness. Also illustrated are continued claims (current and previous year), which represent people who are still receiving benefits and this reflects 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.



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>



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>

## 2. COMMODITIES

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

**Table 3. Energy Commodities, Weekly**

Commodity	5/16/25	5/9/25	5/16/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	\$65.54	\$62.29	\$81.61	5.2%	-19.7%
WTI Crude Oil	\$63.94	\$60.39	\$80.61	5.9%	-20.7%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.20	\$3.19	\$2.23	0.3%	43.5%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.04	\$2.99	\$3.45	1.7%	-11.9%

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 4. 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 5. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of May 22, 2025**

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	\$1,067.38	\$10.67	\$/Bu	0.43%	1.51%	2.58%	-13.87%
Wheat	\$546.63	\$5.47	\$/Bu	-0.66%	2.56%	3.43%	-21.72%
Lumber	\$598.53	\$5.99	\$/MBF	0.27%	-0.83%	5.10%	12.61%
Palm Oil	\$3,821.00	\$38.21	\$/MT	-1.93%	-1.06%	-5.30%	-1.82%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$17.41	\$0.17	\$/Lb	-2.10%	-1.43%	-2.91%	-4.71%
Coffee	\$361.05	\$3.61	\$/Lb	-2.03%	-5.55%	6.34%	67.65%
Corn	\$462.50	\$4.63	\$/Bu	0.49%	3.34%	-1.80%	-0.11%
Rice	\$13.13	\$0.13	\$/CWT	-0.26%	1.59%	-0.68%	-28.95%
Orange Juice	\$289.29	\$2.89	\$/Lb	5.50%	8.71%	7.42%	-37.99%

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



### 3. RESIDENTIAL

The following tables provide data on new housing permits, construction, and existing homes listed for sale, which enables insights into a region's economic conditions, the mobility of residents, and investor sentiment.

**Table 6. New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized, by CBSA<sup>1</sup>**

CBSA	Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	28	26	28	7.7%	0.0%
Baton Rouge	357	257	300	38.9%	19.0%
Bogalusa	0	0	4	0.0%	-
DeRidder	7	6	12	16.7%	-41.7%
Hammond	111	105	103	5.7%	7.8%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	55	55	48	0.0%	14.6%
Lafayette	238	216	213	10.2%	11.7%
Lake Charles	48	51	67	-5.9%	-28.4%
Minden	4	4	2	0.0%	100.0%
Monroe	34	25	37	36.0%	-8.1%
Morgan City	3	1	1	200.0%	200.0%
Natchitoches	10	8	4	25.0%	150.0%
New Iberia	1	13	10	-92.3%	-90.0%
New Orleans-Metairie	165	167	137	-1.2%	20.4%
Opelousas	19	16	13	18.8%	46.2%
Ruston	14	20	12	-30.0%	16.7%
Shreveport-Bossier City	69	93	74	-25.8%	-6.8%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	88	114	101	-22.8%	-12.9%

<sup>1</sup>Bogalusa, DeRidder, Minden, Natchitoches, New Iberia, Opelousas, and Ruston are Micropolitan Statistical Areas.  
Source: <https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/msamonthly.html>



**Table 7. New Privately Owned Housing Unit Values (Per Unit) Authorized, by CBSA (in Thousands \$)<sup>1</sup>**

MSA	Value Per Unit			% Change	
	Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	\$239	\$246	\$223	-3.1%	7.1%
Baton Rouge	\$253	\$253	\$234	0.0%	8.3%
Bogalusa	-	-	\$50	-	-
DeRidder	\$306	\$303	\$95	1.2%	222.4%
Hammond	\$161	\$147	\$169	9.1%	-5.3%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	\$233	\$311	\$205	-24.9%	13.8%
Lafayette	\$215	\$228	\$230	-5.5%	-6.6%
Lake Charles	\$211	\$203	\$216	3.7%	-2.4%
Minden	\$243	\$217	\$278	11.9%	-12.6%
Monroe	\$267	\$275	\$240	-3.0%	11.1%
Morgan City	\$242	\$212	\$174	14.0%	38.9%
Natchitoches	\$235	\$184	\$338	27.2%	-30.6%
New Iberia	\$100	\$195	\$180	-48.8%	-44.4%
New Orleans-Metairie	\$257	\$352	\$279	-26.9%	-7.8%
Opelousas	\$184	\$227	\$197	-19.0%	-6.7%
Ruston	\$224	\$207	\$195	8.5%	14.8%
Shreveport-Bossier City	\$222	\$235	\$245	-5.6%	-9.6%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	\$311	\$307	\$303	1.4%	2.8%

<sup>1</sup>Bogalusa, DeRidder, Minden, Natchitoches, New Iberia, Opelousas, and Ruston are Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

Source: <https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/msamonthly.html>

**Table 8. U.S. Monthly New Residential Construction, by Status (Units in Thousands)**

Status	4/17/2025 <sup>1</sup>	3/17/2025 <sup>2</sup>	4/17/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Authorized	291.4	289	279.9	0.8%	4.1%
Starts	123.7	111.3	125.7	11.1%	-1.6%
Under Construction	1379.8	1375.5	1609.1	0.3%	-14.3%
Completions	115.5	126.9	132.1	-9.0%	-12.6%

Note: <sup>1</sup>Preliminary; <sup>2</sup>Revised; Data are not seasonally adjusted.

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

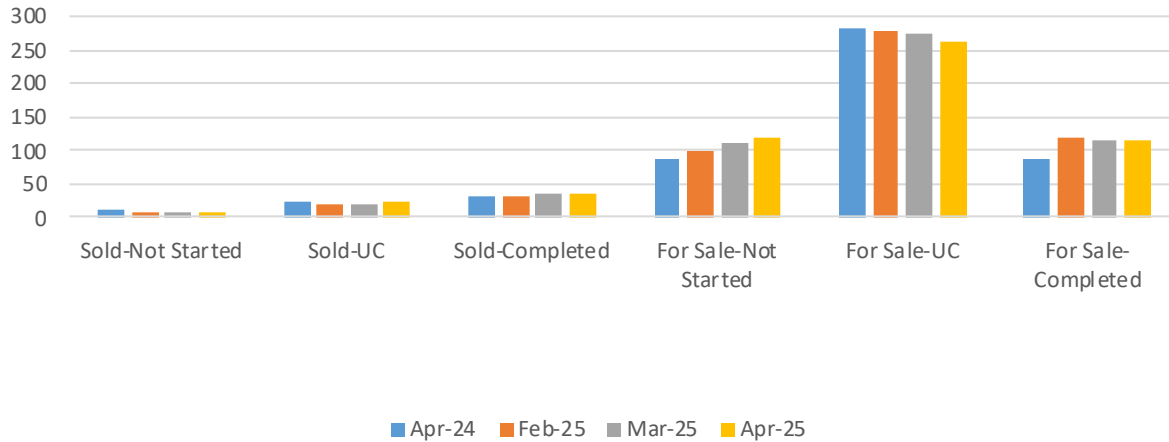
**Table 9. U.S. Monthly New Residential Sales, by Status (Units in Thousands)**

Status	4/1/2025 <sup>1</sup>	3/1/2025 <sup>2</sup>	4/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Sold	68	63	65	7.9%	4.6%
For Sale	497	500	458	-0.6%	8.5%

Note: <sup>1</sup>Preliminary; <sup>2</sup>Revised; Data are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Figure 3. New Single-Family Houses Sold and For Sale in U.S.  
by Construction Stage (Units in Thousands)



Source: <https://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/index.html>

Table 10. U.S. Existing Single-Family Home Sales

Category	4/23/2025 <sup>1</sup>	3/24/2025 <sup>2</sup>	4/23/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Inventory	1,450	1,330	1,200	9.02%	20.83%
U.S. Sales	349	315	360	10.79%	-3.06%
Months Supply	4.4	4	3.5	10.00%	25.71%
Sales Price <sup>3</sup>	\$414.0	\$408.0	\$396.6	1.47%	4.39%

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>

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 11. NAHB/Wells Fargo National Housing Market Index (HMI)

Category	May-25	Apr-25	May-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Housing Market Index	34	40	45	-6	-11
Housing Market Index Components:					
Single Family Sales: Present	37	45	51	-8	-14
Single Family Sales: Next 6 Months	42	43	51	-1	-9
Traffic of Prospective Buyers	23	25	30	-2	-7

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted; May 2025 data are preliminary; April 2025 data are revised.

Source: <https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/housing-economics/indices/housing-market-index>

## 4. PORTS

The following figures offer a snapshot of short-run export and import activity at each Louisiana port, reflecting the region's economic conditions, including trade patterns, industrial strengths, and supply chain dynamics.

Source: <https://portwatch.imf.org/pages/port-monitor>

Figure 4. Baton Rouge Export Volume

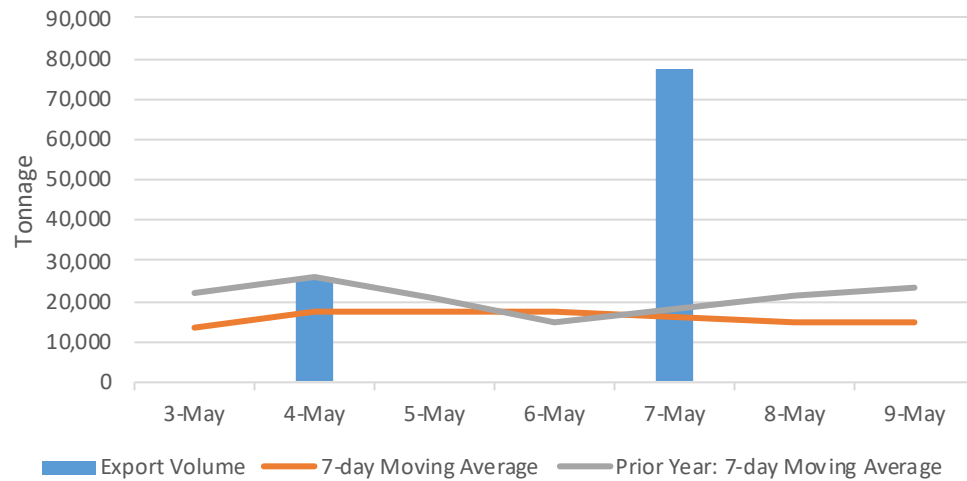


Figure 5. New Orleans Export Volume

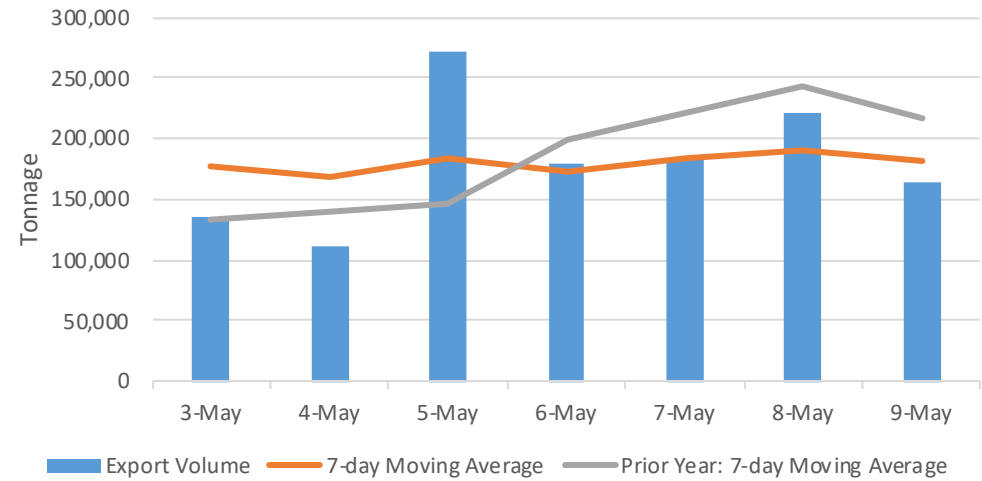


Figure 6. South Louisiana Export Volume

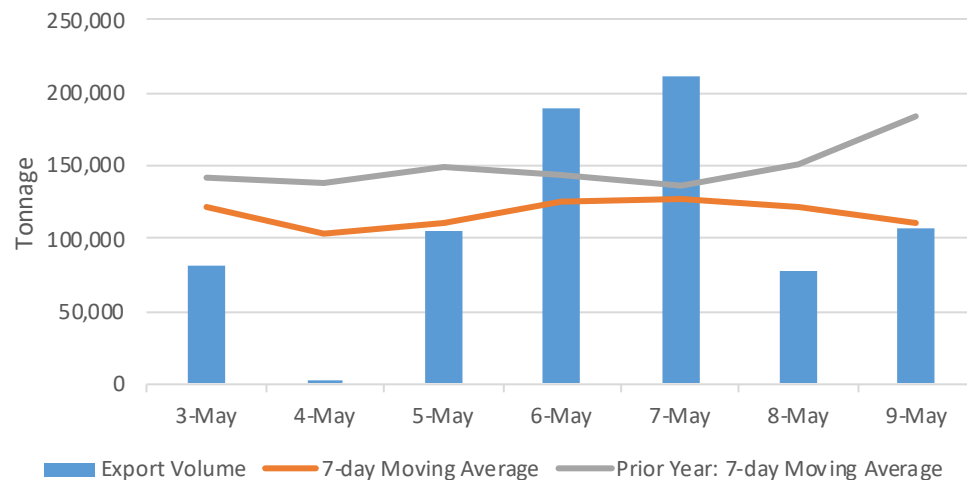


Figure 7. Lake Charles Export Volume

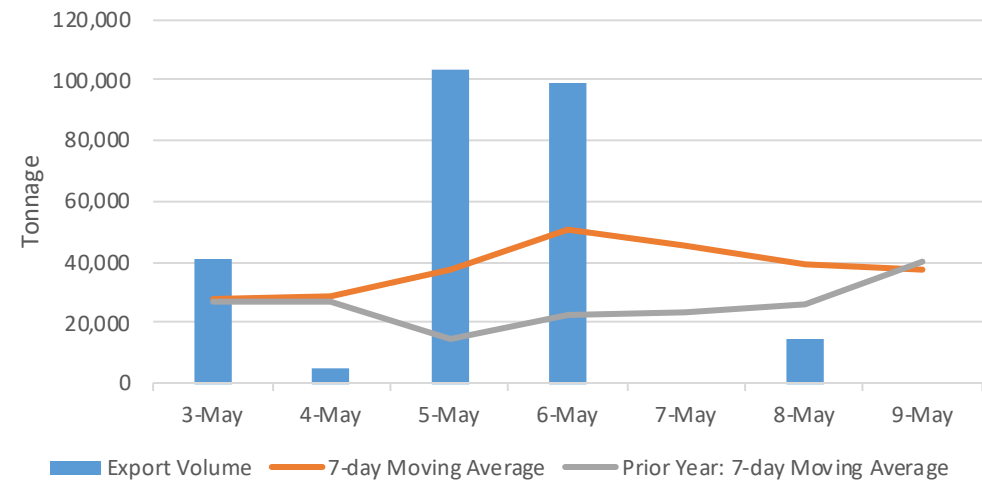


Figure 8. Baton Rouge Import Volume

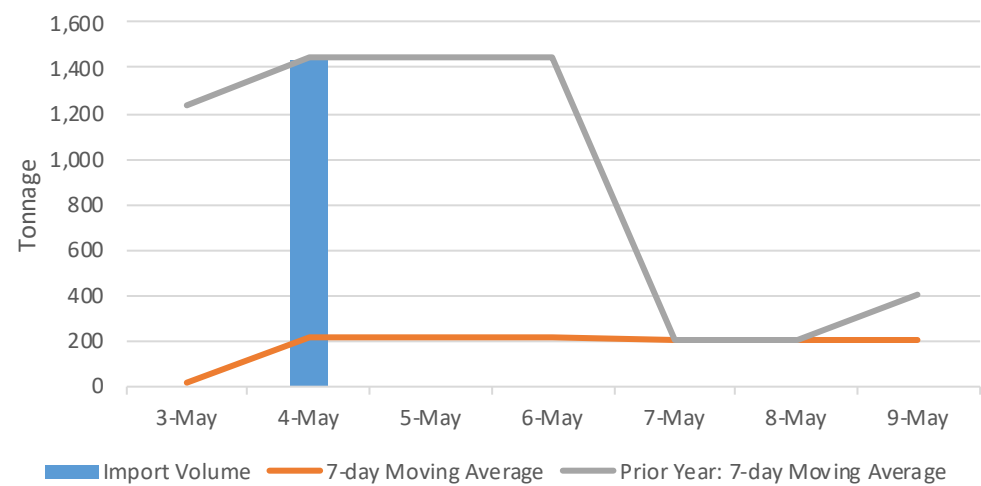


Figure 9. New Orleans Import Volume

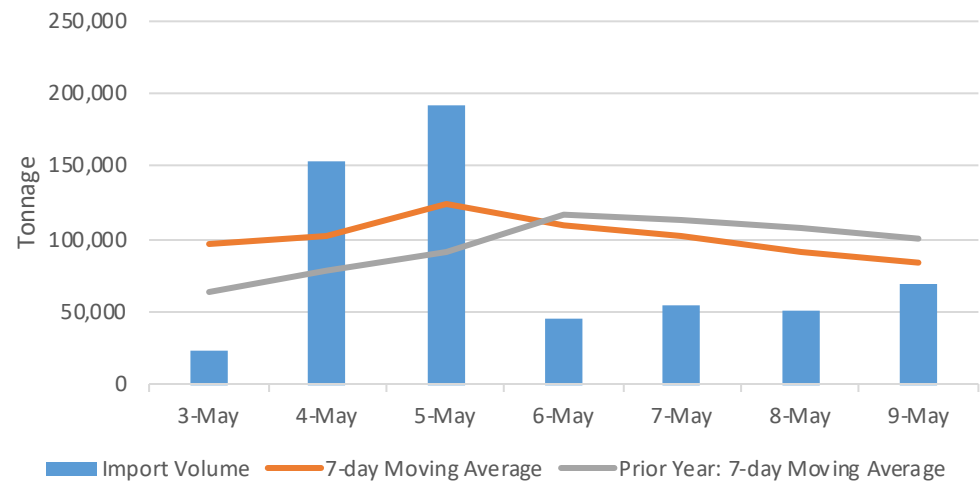


Figure 10. South Louisiana Import Volume

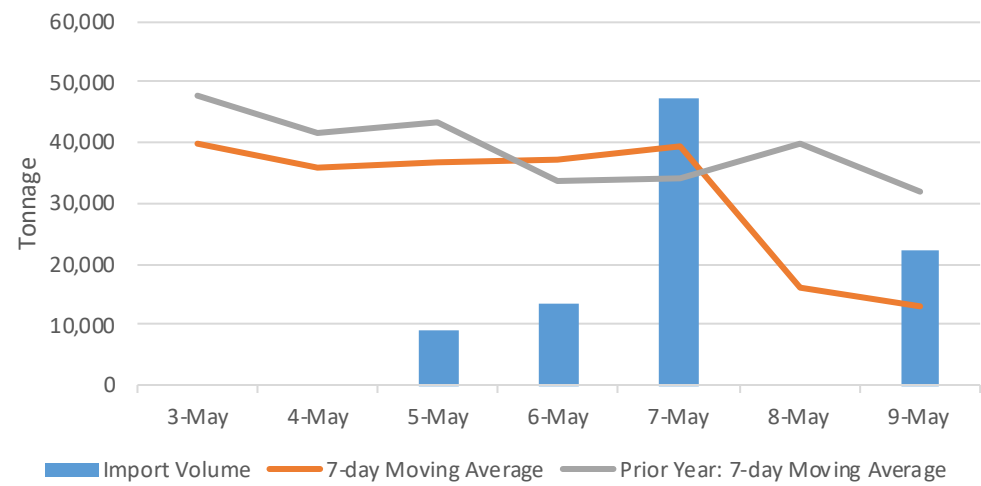


Figure 11. Lake Charles Import Volume

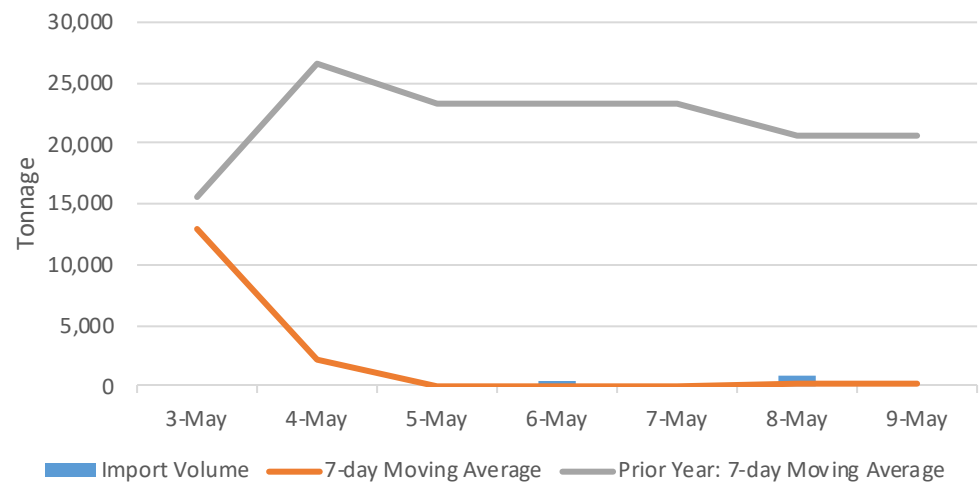


Figure 12. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

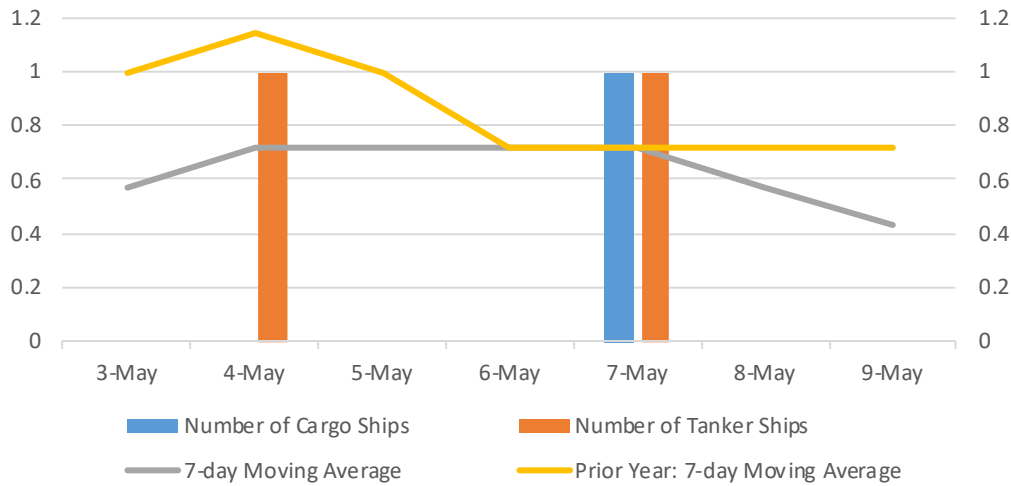


Figure 13. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

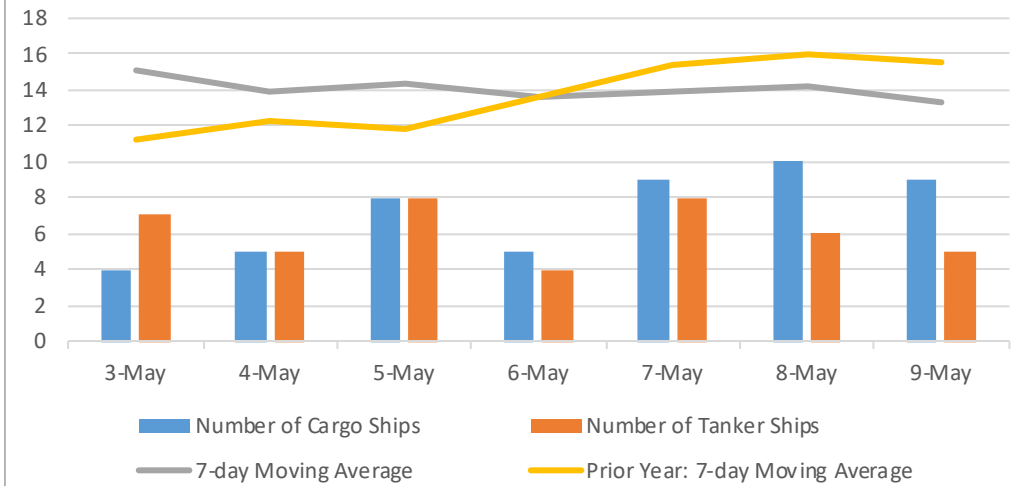


Figure 14. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

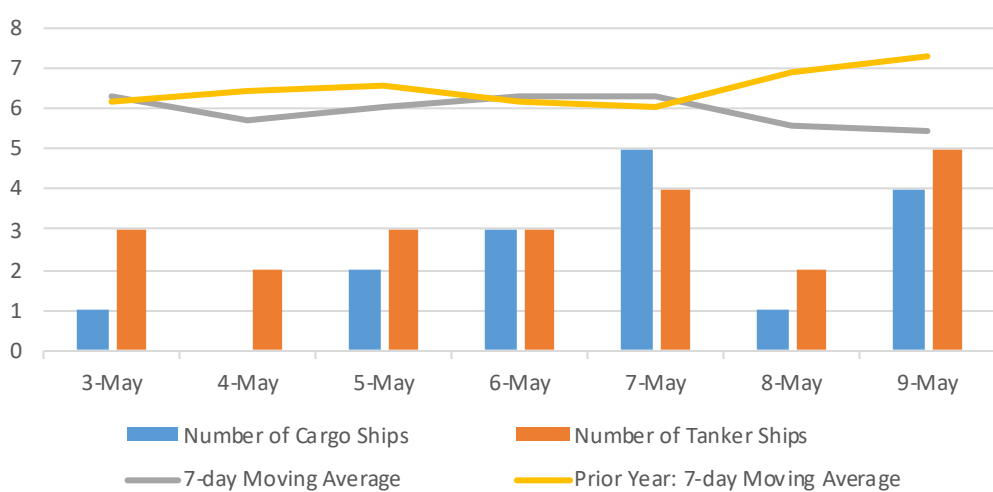
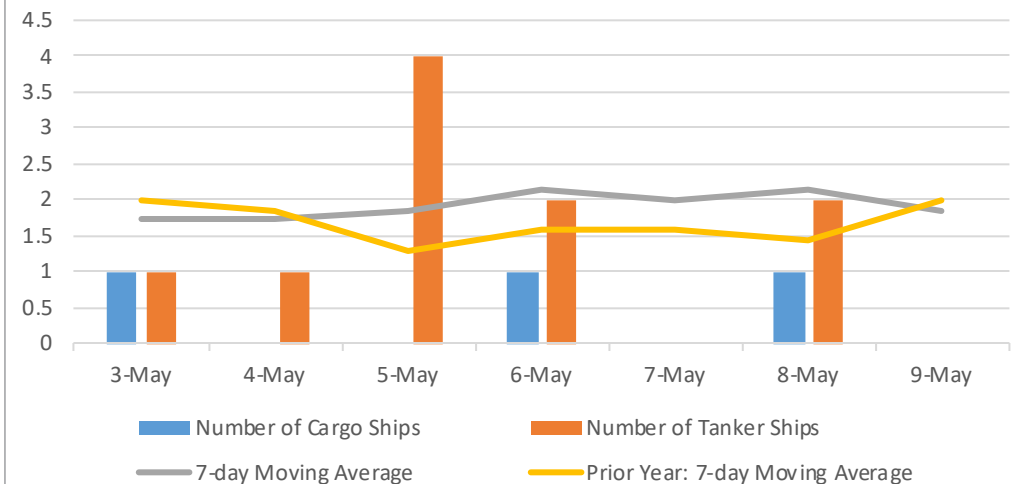


Figure 15. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



## 5. 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 12. Louisiana and U.S. Oil & Gas Weekly Rig Counts**

Location	5/16/25	5/9/25	4/18/25	% Change	
				(WoW)	(MoM)
Louisiana (Total all areas)	32	31	36	3.23%	-11.11%
North	19	19	18	-	5.56%
South Inland - Water	3	2	2	50.00%	50.00%
South Inland - Land	2	1	7	100.00%	-71.43%
State Offshore	0	0	0	-	-
Louisiana Federal Offshore	8	9	9	-11.11%	-11.11%
U.S. Total	576	578	585	-0.35%	-1.54%

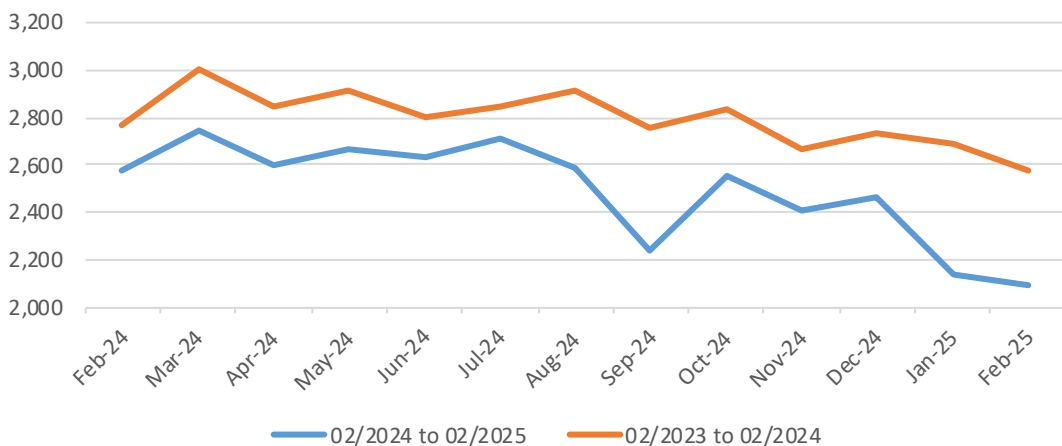
Source: State of Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, reported by Baker Hughes.

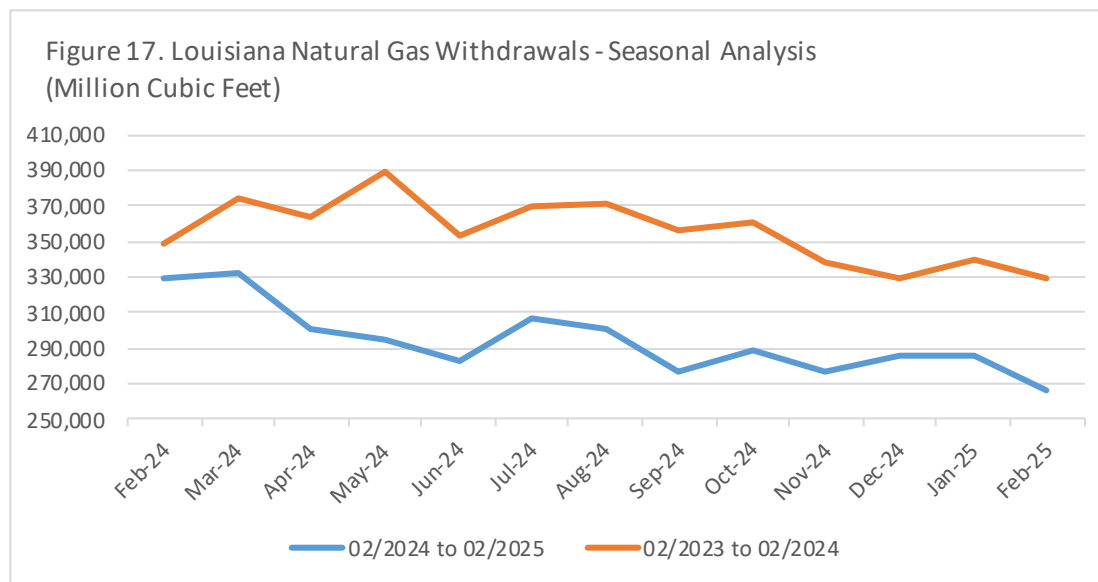
**Table 13. Louisiana Monthly Oil and Gas Production**

Category	5/16/25	5/9/25	4/18/25	% Change	
				(WoW)	(MoM)
Crude Oil	2,093	2,131	2,571	-1.78%	-18.59%
Natural Gas	266,463	285,316	329,900	-6.61%	-19.23%

Source: State of Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, reported by Baker Hughes.

**Figure 16. Louisiana Field Production of Crude Oil - Seasonal Analysis**  
(Thousand Barrels)





## 6. 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**

Industrial Production	4/16/2025 <sup>1</sup>	3/16/2025 <sup>2</sup>	4/16/24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Index	103.9	103.9	102.4	-	1.5
Major Market Groups					
Final Products	101.1	101.2	100.6	-0.1	0.5
Consumer Goods	101.5	101.7	101.7	-0.2	-0.2
Business Equipment	96.5	96.3	94.2	0.2	2.3
Nonindustrial Supplies	102.6	103.2	100.4	-0.6	2.2
Construction	102.8	103.8	99.6	-1.0	3.2
Materials	106.7	106.4	104.5	0.3	2.2
Major Industry Groups (NAICS)					
Manufacturing	100.7	101.1	99.4	-0.4	1.3
Mining	120.4	120.7	119.5	-0.3	0.9
Utilities	109.2	105.7	104.7	3.5	4.5

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 18. Industrial Production by Industry Group - Percentage Point Contribution to Monthly Change

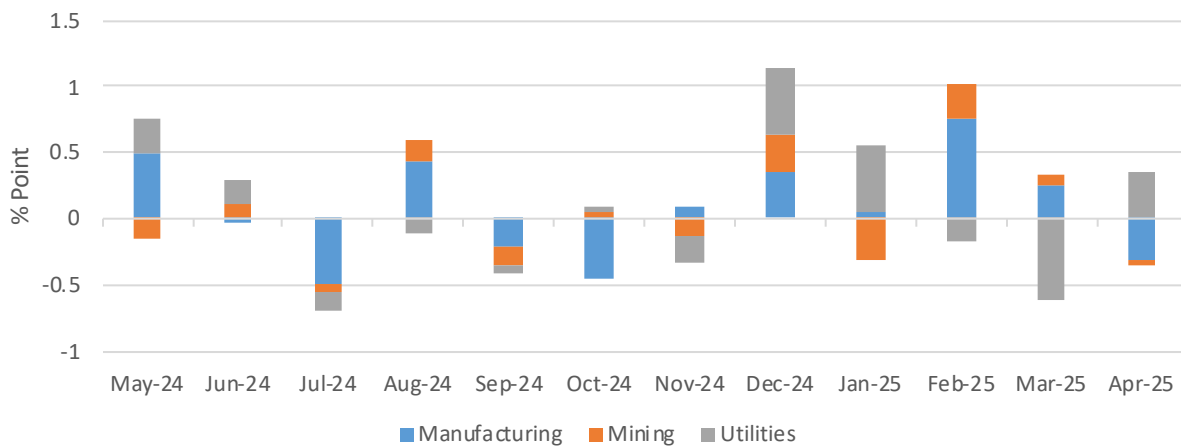


Figure 19. Industrial Index with Percentage Point Change (MoM)

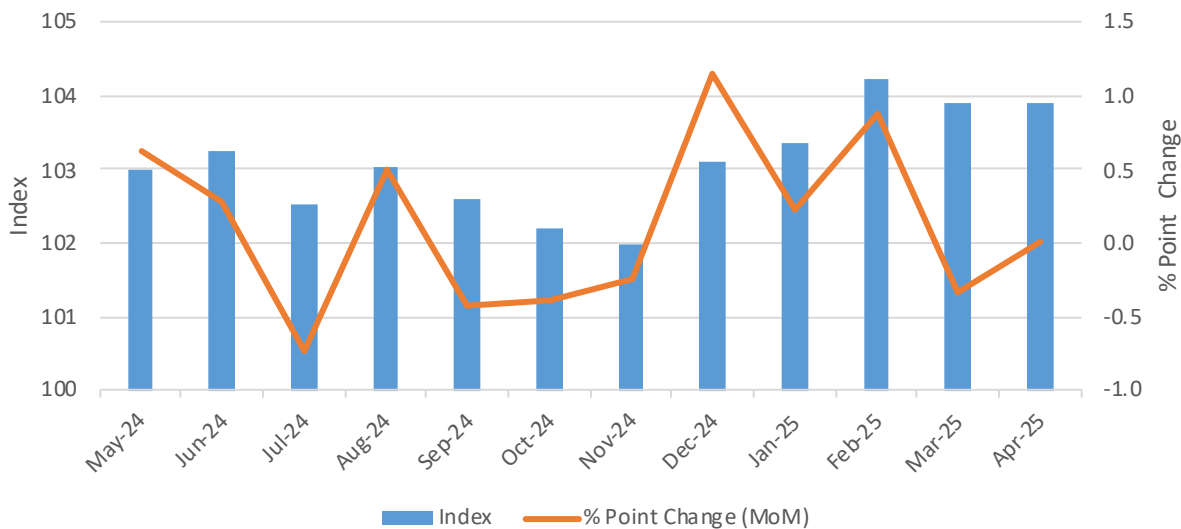


Table 15. U.S. Capacity Utilization

Capacity Utilization	4/16/2025 <sup>1</sup>	3/16/2025 <sup>2</sup>	4/16/24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Industry	77.7	77.8	77.7	-0.1	0
Manufacturing	76.8	77.2	76.9	-0.4	-0.1
Mining	90.2	90.5	89.3	-0.3	0.9
Utilities	71.3	69.2	70.8	2.1	0.5
Stage-Of-Process Groups					
Crude	88.5	88.6	88.5	-0.1	0
Primary and Semifinished	76.1	75.8	74.9	0.3	1.2
Finished	75.2	75.7	73.9	-0.5	1.3

Note: 1 Preliminary; 2 Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted.

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

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