

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, May 9, 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:

[Taking Louisiana to New Heights: Nation's Largest Regional Airline Carrier Establishes Maintenance Base at Shreveport Regional Airport](#)

Direct questions and comments to:

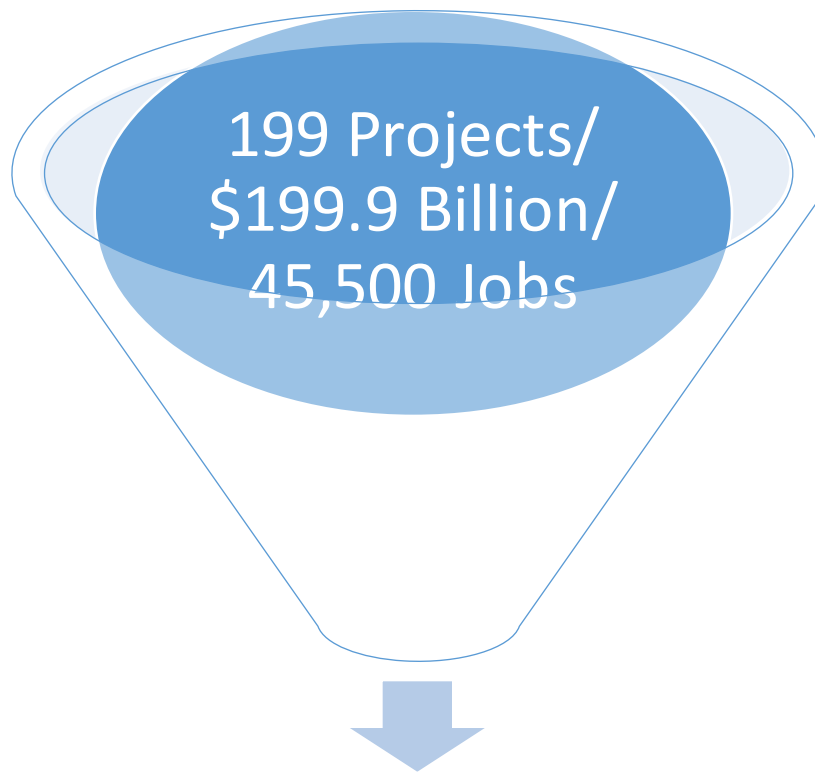
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LED PROJECT PIPELINE

As of 05/09/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 199 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$199.9 billion USD and with the potential to create almost 45,500 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.

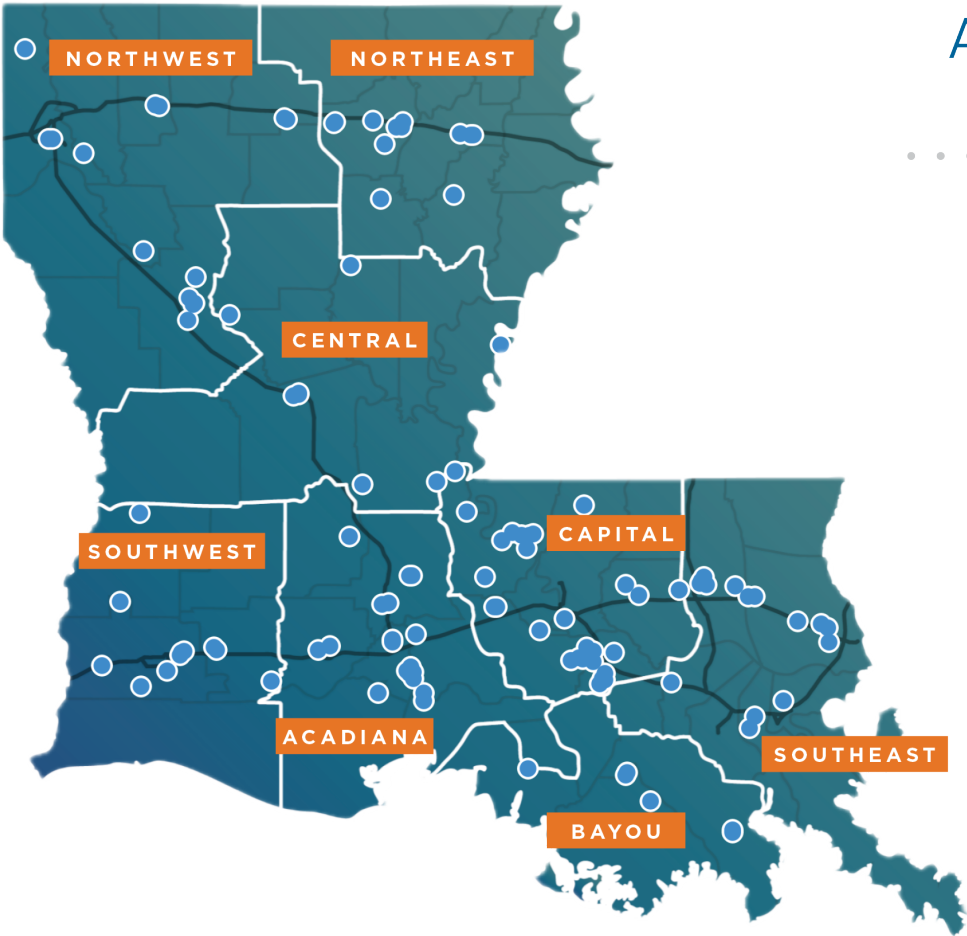


From January 2024 through May 2025

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	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. U.S. Employment and Earnings					
Industry	4/1/25 ¹	3/1/25 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: ¹ Preliminary; ² Total Private; ³ Weekly, Average Hourly Earnings Multiplied by Average Weekly Hours Worked.
Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ces/data/>

Table 2. Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) Labor Force					
MSA	Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	63,828	62,829	64,142	1.6%	-0.5%
Baton Rouge	430,642	426,623	432,129	0.9%	-0.3%
Hammond	61,120	60,366	61,033	1.2%	0.1%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	87,288	85,912	87,993	1.6%	-0.8%
Lafayette	198,109	195,696	198,224	1.2%	-0.1%
Lake Charles	98,271	96,670	98,513	1.7%	-0.2%
Monroe	95,204	93,782	96,020	1.5%	-0.8%
New Orleans-Metairie	466,986	463,353	468,514	0.8%	-0.3%
Shreveport-Bossier City	167,279	166,317	167,736	0.6%	-0.3%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	129,580	128,088	129,270	1.2%	0.2%

Note: March 2024 data were subject to revision on 4/18/2025. March 2025 data are preliminary.
Source: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/data.htm>

Table 3. Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) Employment					
MSA	Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	61,213	60,418	61,708	1.3%	-0.8%
Baton Rouge	413,205	410,235	416,091	0.7%	-0.7%
Hammond	58,140	57,601	58,323	0.9%	-0.3%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	83,804	82,707	84,887	1.3%	-1.3%
Lafayette	190,462	188,597	191,132	1.0%	-0.4%
Lake Charles	93,666	92,396	94,431	1.4%	-0.8%
Monroe	90,451	89,197	91,566	1.4%	-1.2%
New Orleans-Metairie	446,663	444,352	449,394	0.5%	-0.6%
Shreveport-Bossier City	159,939	159,380	160,771	0.4%	-0.5%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	124,364	123,250	124,536	0.9%	-0.1%

Note: March 2024 data were subject to revision on 4/18/2025. March 2025 data are preliminary.
Source: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/data.htm>

Table 4. Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) Unemployment Rate with State Comparison

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 MSAs 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>

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

Commodity	5/2/25	4/25/25	5/3/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	\$63.50	\$67.92	\$85.73	-6.5%	-25.9%
WTI Crude Oil	\$60.99	\$63.62	\$81.74	-4.1%	-25.4%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.09	\$3.00	\$1.64	3.0%	88.4%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.03	\$3.01	\$3.49	0.7%	-13.2%

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. 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	N/A	\$13.13	\$9.13	-	-
Asia Liquefied Natural Gas	N/A	\$13.12	\$9.79	-	-
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 7. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of May 9, 2025

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	\$1,041.81	\$10.42	\$/Bu	-0.66%	1.24%	4.36%	-13.47%
Wheat	\$514.21	\$5.14	\$/Bu	0.14%	-2.34%	-4.42%	-22.50%
Lumber	\$553.67	\$5.54	\$/MBF	2.51%	0.21%	-7.19%	3.59%
Palm Oil	\$3,857.00	\$38.57	\$/MT	1.47%	-1.68%	-9.19%	0.13%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$17.78	\$0.18	\$/Lb	1.57%	2.64%	-2.09%	-7.95%
Coffee	\$398.13	\$3.98	\$/Lb	0.42%	2.04%	16.04%	96.10%
Corn	\$443.89	\$4.44	\$/Bu	1.05%	-3.76%	-8.10%	-5.51%
Rice	\$12.44	\$0.12	\$/CWT	-2.13%	-1.35%	-6.05%	-35.65%
Orange Juice	\$244.62	\$2.45	\$/Lb	-0.65%	-4.80%	-8.09%	-38.32%

Source: tradingeconomics.com/commodities

3. RESIDENTIAL

The following tables provide information on local (CBSA) housing markets by analyzing buyer demand with median and average prices. Also, Realtor.com provides a state-by-state report card on the availability and affordability of new homes and we present these findings for Louisiana and other Southern states.

Table 8. 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 9. Median Price by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

CBSA	Apr-25	Mar-25	Apr-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	\$239,350	\$239,950	\$234,975	-0.3%	1.9%
Baton Rouge	\$305,000	\$299,990	\$312,500	1.7%	-2.4%
Bogalusa	\$200,375	\$198,000	\$239,840	1.2%	-16.5%
DeRidder	\$254,750	\$254,000	\$285,000	0.3%	-10.6%
Hammond	\$279,950	\$270,000	\$266,500	3.7%	5.1%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	\$234,250	\$229,000	\$229,900	2.3%	1.9%
Lafayette	\$272,950	\$269,900	\$267,765	1.1%	1.9%
Lake Charles	\$236,125	\$234,900	\$242,500	0.5%	-2.6%
Minden	\$187,000	\$185,000	\$202,450	1.1%	-7.6%
Monroe	\$248,625	\$240,000	\$255,850	3.6%	-2.8%
Morgan City	\$179,950	\$179,500	\$187,225	0.3%	-3.9%
Natchitoches	\$299,250	\$299,000	\$291,000	0.1%	2.8%
New Iberia	\$159,500	\$169,999	\$197,000	-6.2%	-19.0%
New Orleans-Metairie	\$325,000	\$324,450	\$330,000	0.2%	-1.5%
Opelousas	\$182,750	\$185,250	\$189,250	-1.4%	-3.4%
Ruston	\$272,500	\$270,000	\$258,000	0.9%	5.6%
Shreveport-Bossier City	\$258,925	\$250,000	\$239,975	3.6%	7.9%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	\$342,500	\$334,900	\$346,970	2.3%	-1.3%

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

Table 10. Average Price by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

CBSA	Apr-25	Mar-25	Apr-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	\$299,079	\$296,158	\$272,519	1.0%	9.7%
Baton Rouge	\$399,697	\$399,035	\$413,422	0.2%	-3.3%
Bogalusa	\$236,632	\$233,418	\$302,577	1.4%	-21.8%
DeRidder	\$292,280	\$288,286	\$353,235	1.4%	-17.3%
Hammond	\$328,004	\$317,140	\$320,566	3.4%	2.3%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	\$304,936	\$306,808	\$298,086	-0.6%	2.3%
Lafayette	\$373,521	\$374,762	\$353,152	-0.3%	5.8%
Lake Charles	\$281,320	\$281,340	\$302,020	0.0%	-6.9%
Minden	\$214,426	\$227,795	\$250,712	-5.9%	-14.5%
Monroe	\$344,984	\$322,141	\$322,942	7.1%	6.8%
Morgan City	\$220,077	\$217,052	\$255,790	1.4%	-14.0%
Natchitoches	\$367,193	\$343,614	\$319,863	6.9%	14.8%
New Iberia	\$209,361	\$210,979	\$248,025	-0.8%	-15.6%
New Orleans-Metairie	\$452,847	\$452,983	\$464,577	0.0%	-2.5%
Opelousas	\$268,720	\$269,677	\$261,188	-0.4%	2.9%
Ruston	\$371,557	\$378,268	\$336,755	-1.8%	10.3%
Shreveport-Bossier City	\$318,844	\$311,591	\$302,326	2.3%	5.5%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	\$462,877	\$459,982	\$463,077	0.6%	0.0%

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

Table 11. Homebuilding Affordability in the South, by Realtor.com

State	Rank	Grade	Realtors® Affordability Score	Median Listing Price	Median HH Income	Share of 2024 Permits	Share of Population	New Construction Premium
Alabama	13	B-	0.71	\$328,950	\$60,578	1.4%	1.5%	16.7%
Arkansas	8	B	0.74	\$296,829	\$59,274	0.9%	0.9%	41.5%
Florida	14	C+	0.52	\$445,826	\$69,226	11.8%	6.8%	-4.0%
Georgia	9	B	0.64	\$392,678	\$72,877	4.6%	3.3%	15.2%
Kentucky	18	C+	0.75	\$304,296	\$62,837	1.1%	1.3%	32.2%
Louisiana	12	B-	0.77	\$278,215	\$58,060	1.0%	1.4%	11.4%
Mississippi	37	C-	0.72	\$291,262	\$55,030	0.5%	0.9%	41.9%
Missouri	22	C	0.82	\$298,696	\$68,010	1.2%	1.8%	50.9%
North Carolina	5	B+	0.59	\$408,663	\$68,774	6.4%	3.3%	2.6%
Oklahoma	15	C+	0.77	\$297,540	\$63,261	0.9%	1.2%	33.4%
South Carolina	1	A	0.65	\$354,429	\$64,898	3.2%	1.6%	-8.2%
Tennessee	25	C	0.55	\$433,987	\$66,631	3.1%	2.1%	15.3%
Texas	3	A-	0.61	\$370,663	\$73,203	15.3%	9.2%	7.5%

Source: <https://www.realtor.com/research/state-report-cards-2025/>

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 1. Top 5 Baton Rouge Exports
March 2024 - March 2025

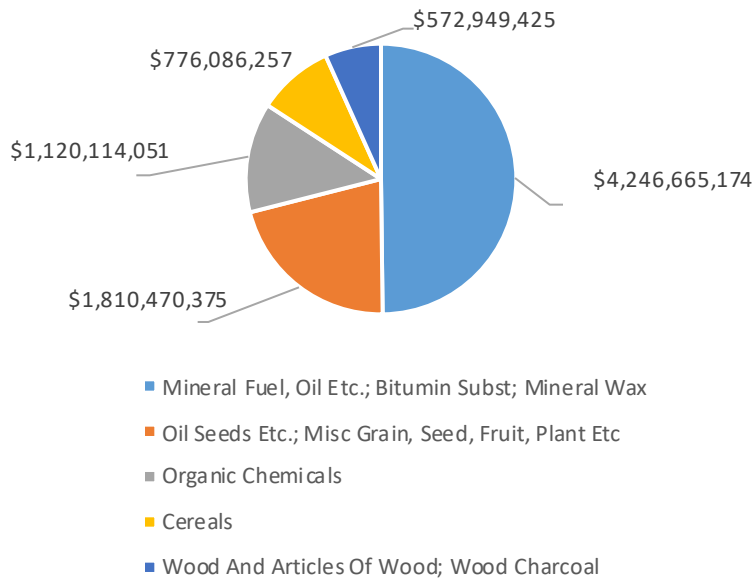


Figure 2. Top 5 Gramercy Port Exports
March 2024 - March 2025

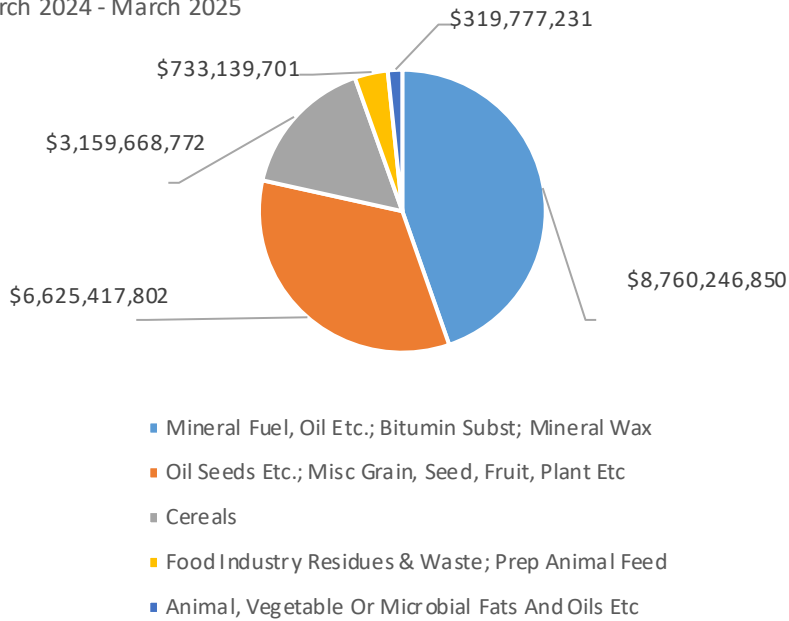


Figure 3. Top 5 Lake Charles Port Exports
March 2024 - March 2025

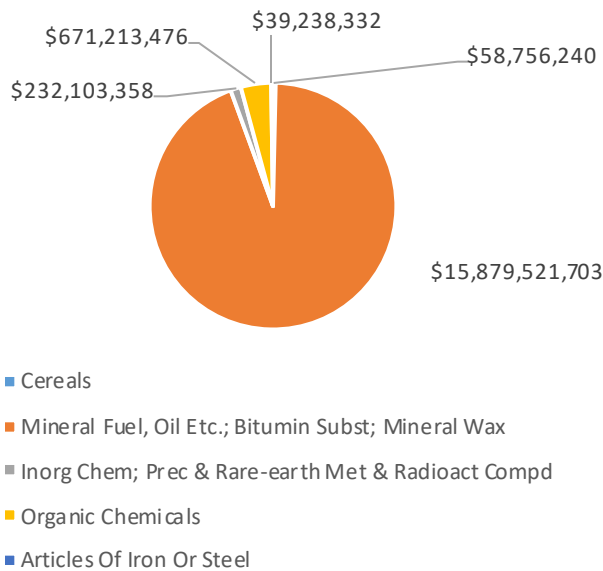


Figure 4. Top 5 Morgan City Port Exports
March 2024 - March 2025

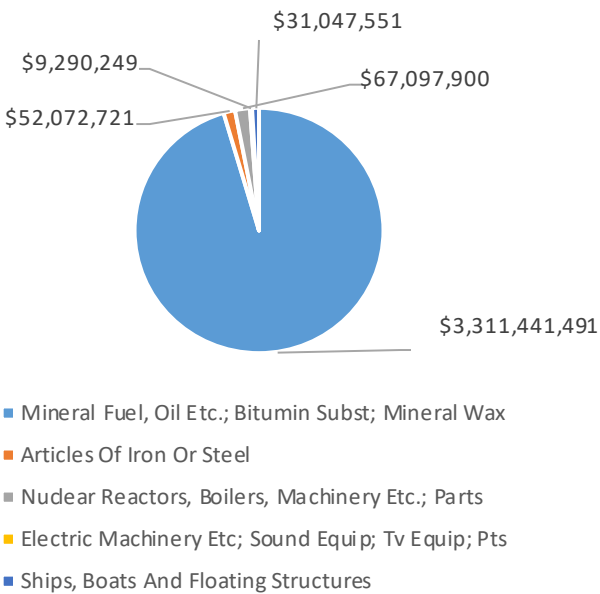


Figure 5. Top 5 New Orleans Port Exports
March 2024 - March 2025

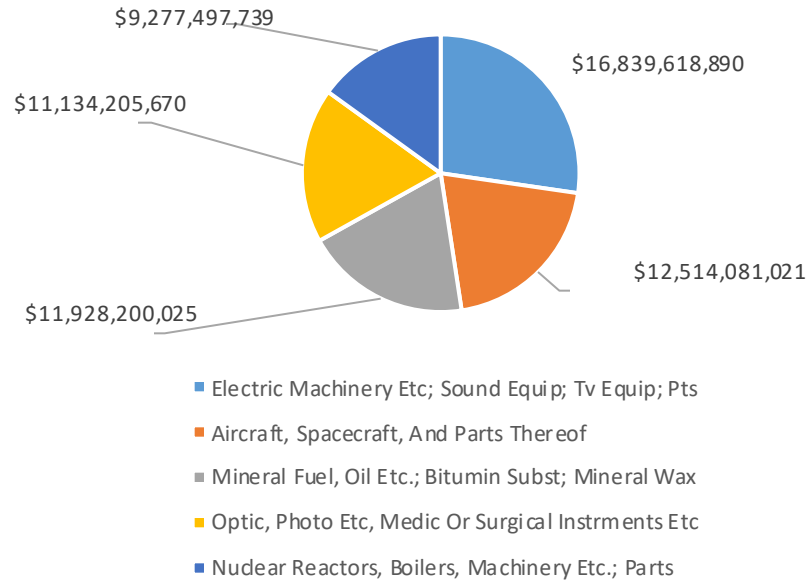


Figure 6. Top 5 Shreveport-Bossier Port Exports March 2024 - March 2025

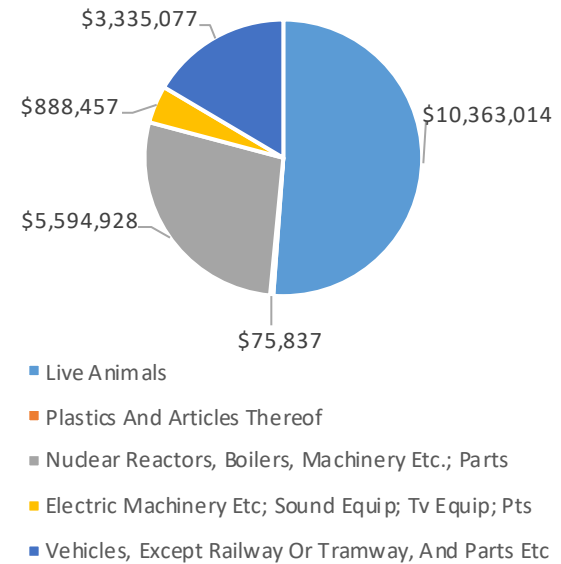


Figure 7. Top 5 Baton Rouge Port Imports
March 2024 - March 2025

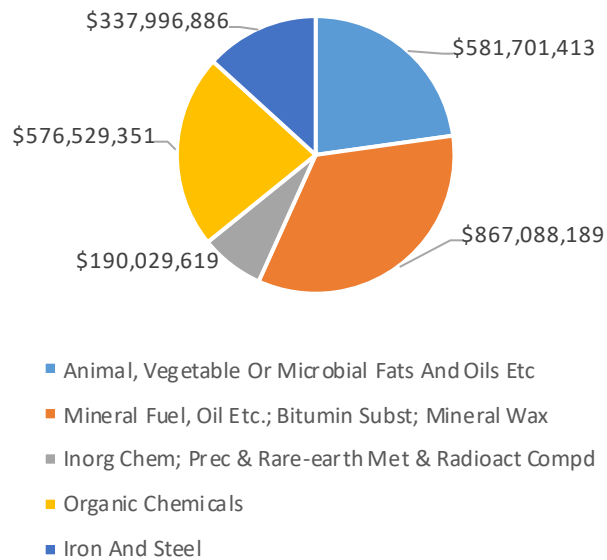


Figure 8. Top 5 Gramercy Port Imports
March 2024 - March 2025

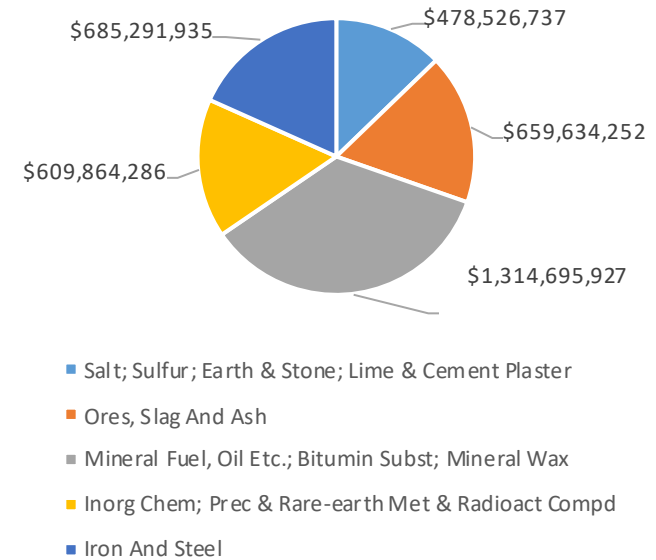


Figure 9. Top 5 Lake Charles Port Imports
March 2024 - March 2025

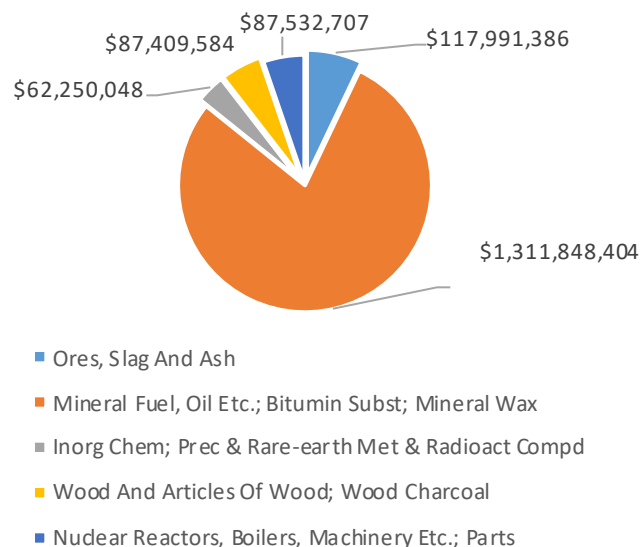


Figure 10. Top 5 Morgan City Port Imports
March 2024 - March 2025

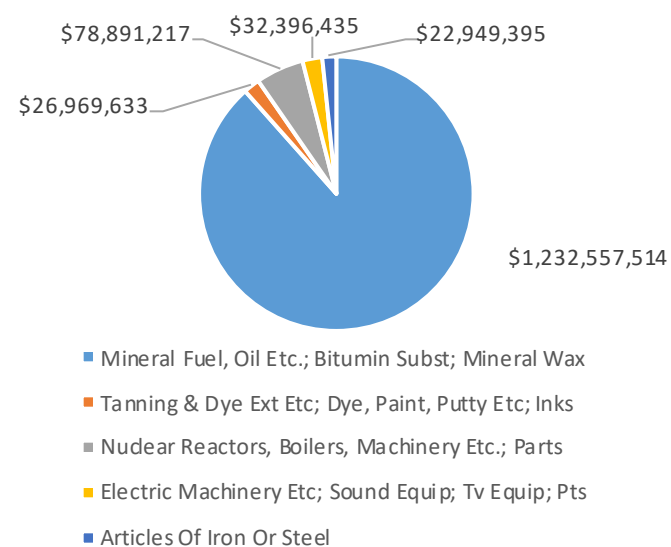


Figure 11. Top 5 New Orleans Port Imports
March 2024 - March 2025

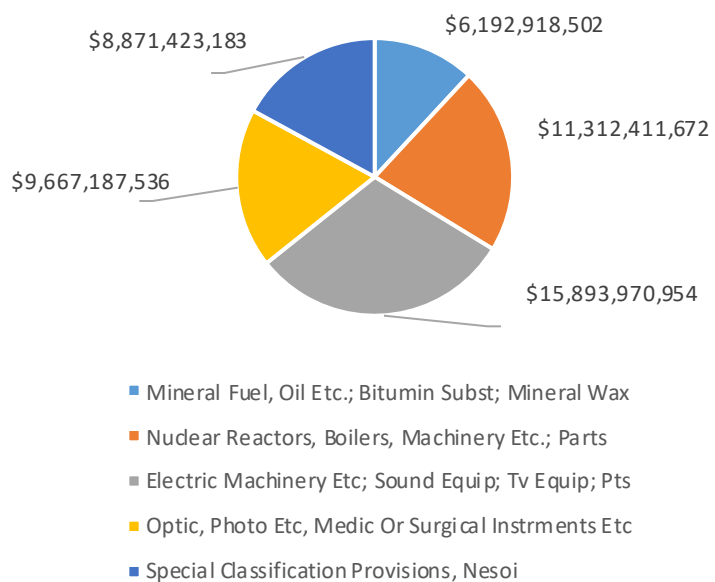
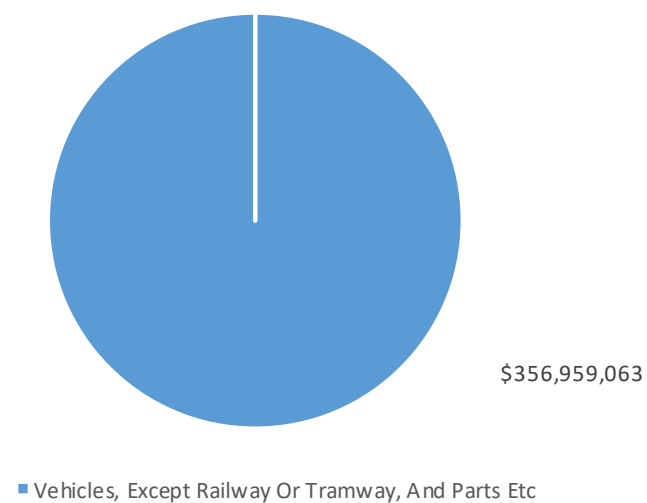


Figure 12. Top 5 Shreveport-Bossier City Port Imports
March 2024 - March 2025



5. SERVICES

The services sector — which includes industries like healthcare, retail, finance, hospitality, and more (essentially non-manufacturing businesses) - accounts for approximately 70-80% of U.S. GDP, about 54% of Louisiana's GDP, and about 77% of all jobs in Louisiana. The ISM Services PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) measures the economic health of the U.S. services sector.

Table 12. ISM Services PMI and Report on Business

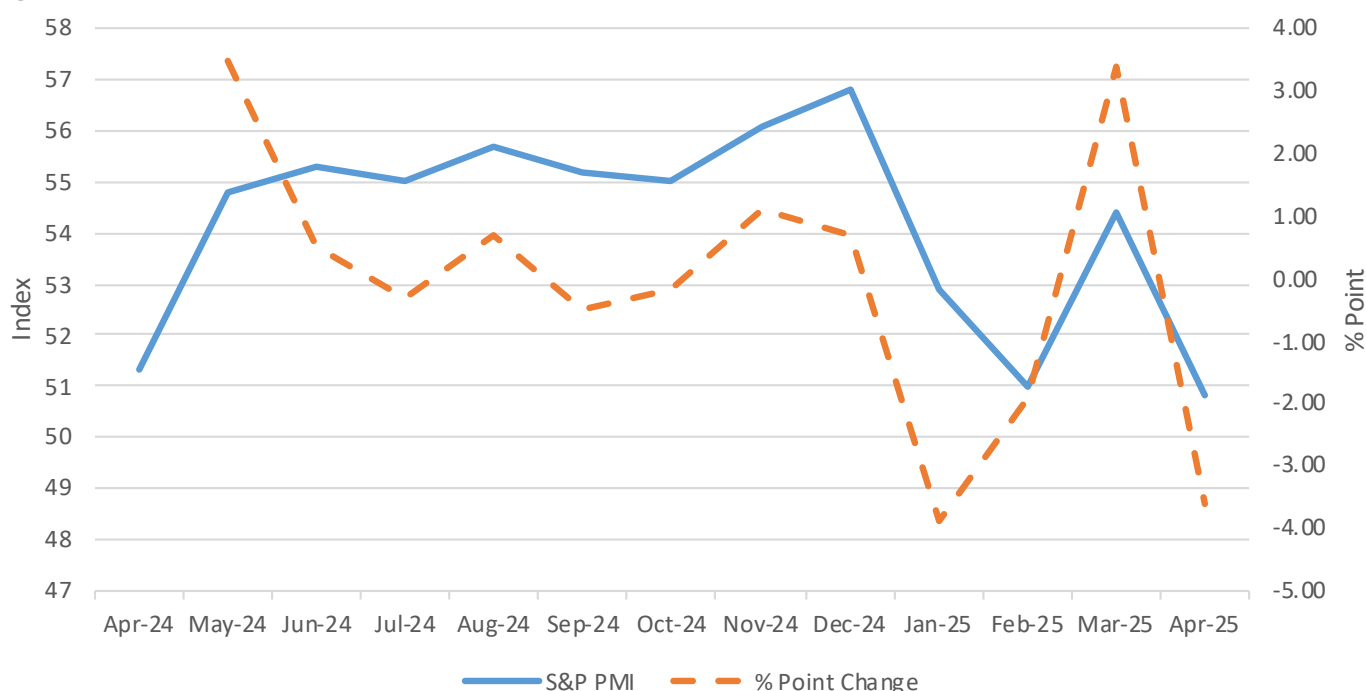
Index	Apr-25	Mar-25	% Point Change (MoM)	Direction	Rate of Change	Trend ² (Months)
Services PMI	51.6%	50.8%	0.8%	Growing	Faster	10
Business Activity/Production ¹	53.7%	55.9%	-2.2%	Growing	Slower	59
New Orders ¹	52.3%	50.4%	1.9%	Growing	Faster	10
Employment ¹	49.0%	46.2%	2.8%	Contracting	Slower	2
Supplier Deliveries	51.3%	50.6%	0.7%	Slowing	Faster	5
Inventories	53.4%	50.3%	3.1%	Growing	Faster	3
Inventory Sentiment	56.1%	56.6%	-0.5%	Too High	Slower	24
Prices ¹	65.1%	60.9%	4.2%	Increasing	Faster	95
Backlog of Orders	48.0%	47.4%	0.6%	Contracting	Slower	2
New Export Orders	48.6%	45.8%	2.8%	Contracting	Slower	2
Imports	44.3%	52.6%	-8.3%	Contracting	From Growing	1

Note: ¹ Data are seasonally adjusted; ² Number of months moving in current direction. A reading of 50+ indicates growth.
Source: Institute For Supply Management

The S&P Global U.S. Services PMI tracks variables such as sales, employment, inventories and prices. The PMI varies between 0 and 100, with a reading above 50 indicating an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease.

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/services-pmi/news/443044>

Figure 13. S&P Global U.S. Services PMI



5. WHOLESALE INVENTORIES

The Monthly Wholesale Trade report provides national estimates of monthly sales, inventories, and inventories-to-sales ratios by kind of business for wholesale firms located in the United States. Data from this survey provide business leaders and policymakers with an up-to-date picture of the nation's economic condition, and are a key element in estimating the quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For example, despite strong demand for electrical products and computer equipment, a stable inventory-to-sales ratio shows wholesalers are keeping up with inventory replenishment.

Table 13. U.S. Monthly Sales and Inventories of Merchant Wholesalers, Percentage Changes, Including Inventories-to-Sales Ratios¹

Category	Sales		Inventories		Inventories-to-Sales		
	% Change (MoM)	% Change (YoY)	% Change (MoM)	% Change (YoY)	Mar-25	Feb-25	Mar-24
U.S. Total	0.6	6.1	0.4	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.35
Durable	1	8.5	0.6	1.5	1.69	1.7	1.81
Automotive	-1	0.1	1.2	0.8	1.78	1.74	1.76
Furniture	-1	1.1	2.7	6.8	2.08	2.01	1.97
Lumber	1.3	3.1	-0.6	4.8	1.75	1.78	1.72
Prof. equip.	1.2	11.9	0.3	6.1	1.17	1.18	1.23
Comp. equip.	2.7	21.1	0.5	19	0.87	0.89	0.89
Metals	2.4	3	0.1	-3.8	2.13	2.18	2.28
Electrical	2.5	20.9	-1	-3.1	0.97	1	1.2
Hardware	-1	6.6	1.3	4.7	2.15	2.1	2.18
Machinery	0.7	4.2	0.6	1.7	2.92	2.93	2.99
Misc. Durable	1.4	6.8	2.4	1.9	1.52	1.5	1.59
Nondurable	0.3	3.9	0.1	3.4	0.93	0.94	0.94
Paper	-1.7	0.5	0.8	6.2	1.06	1.03	1
Drugs	2.8	13.4	1	4.6	0.94	0.96	1.02
Apparel	-0.8	3.5	-0.8	-6.5	2.06	2.06	2.28
Groceries	-0.2	4.3	0.4	8.3	0.72	0.71	0.69
Farm products	4.6	2.6	-2.4	10.5	1.26	1.35	1.17
Chemicals	0.7	-2	2.1	2.1	1.15	1.13	1.1
Petroleum	-4.6	-4.6	0.7	0.3	0.33	0.31	0.31
Alcohol	1.8	-1.9	0.6	3.5	1.66	1.68	1.57
Misc. Nondur.	3.3	5.5	-1.3	0.7	1.71	1.79	1.8

Note: ¹ Except manufacturers' sales branches and offices; Data used to calculate percentage changes have been adjusted for seasonality but not for price changes.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey, May 8, 2025, Project No. 7503922 / Approval CB-DRB-FY25-0004

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	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]	Housing Starts [Apr] 16 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]					