

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, August 15, 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 AUGUST 2025 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[1834 Ventures Launches \\$20M Fund to Back Startups from Tulane Alumni and Extended Community](#)
August 14th, 2025

[PALA Interstate Announces \\$1.9 Million Investment in New Fabrication Equipment, Paint and Blasting Shop in Livingston Parish](#)
August 7th, 2025

[Louisiana's Five Lower Mississippi River Ports Partner to Launch First-Ever Unified Marketing Strategy](#)
August 7th, 2025

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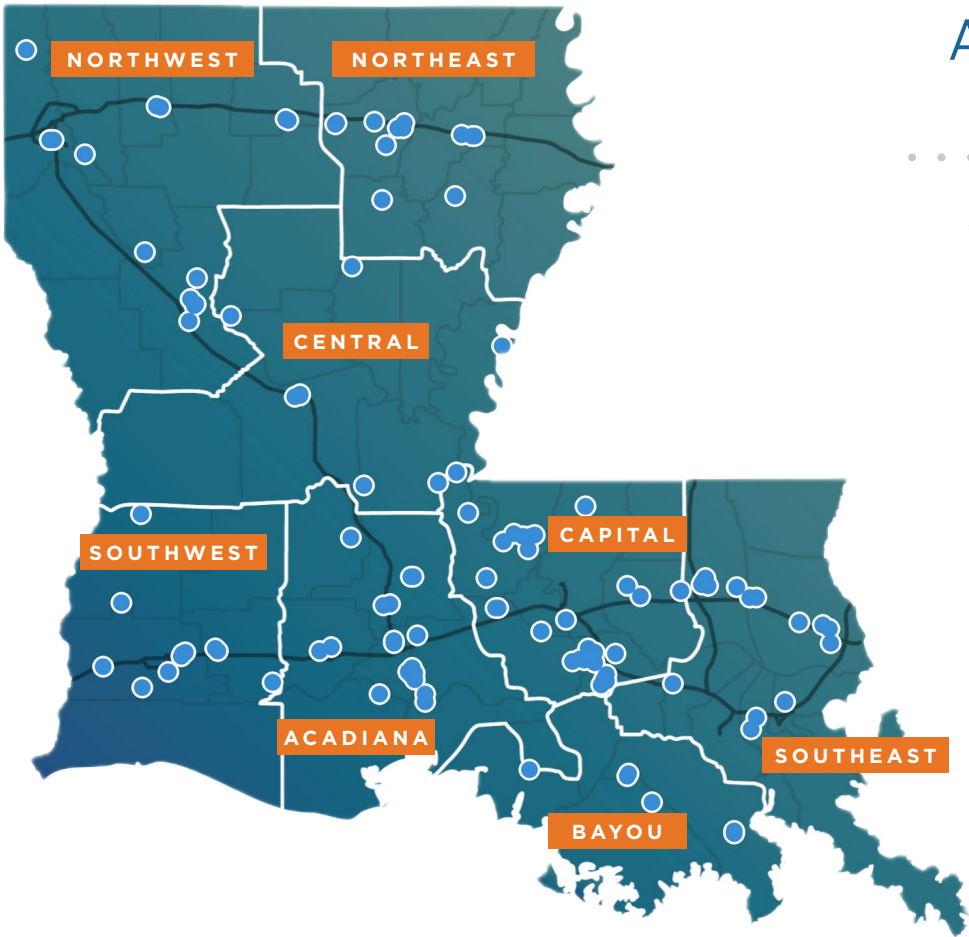
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 51 projects that will account for over \$63.3 billion USD of investment and more than 6,860 direct new jobs.

As of 08/14/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 182 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$189.5 billion USD and with the potential to create more than 34,585 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since its inception, Louisiana Economic Development has Certified 159 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	23
Bayou	6
Capital	28
Central	8
Northeast	12
Northwest	15
Southeast	17
Southwest	12

TOTAL 121

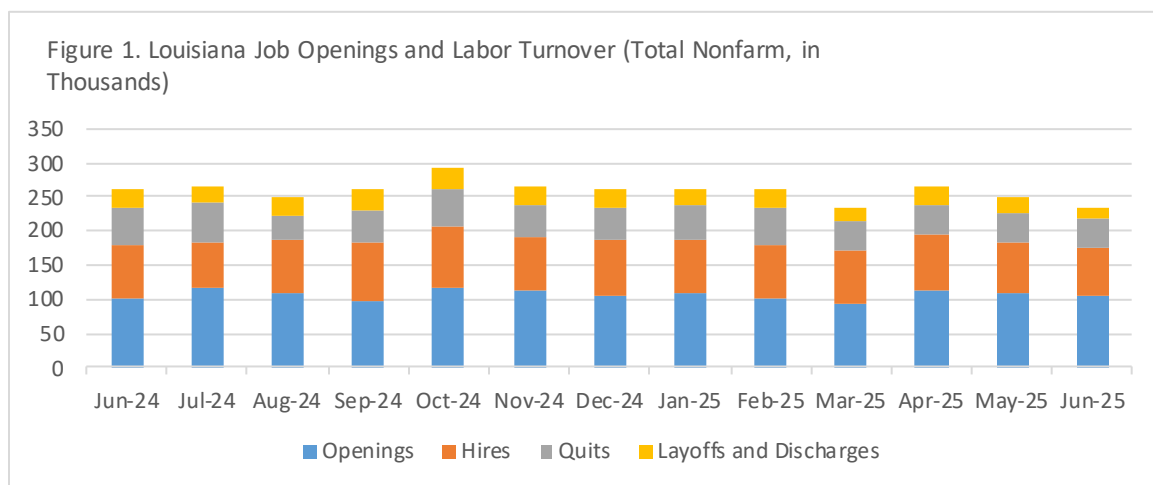
1. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces monthly estimates of job openings, hires, and separations for each state at the total nonfarm industry level.

Table 1. Louisiana Job Openings and Labor Turnover, Total Nonfarm (in Thousands)

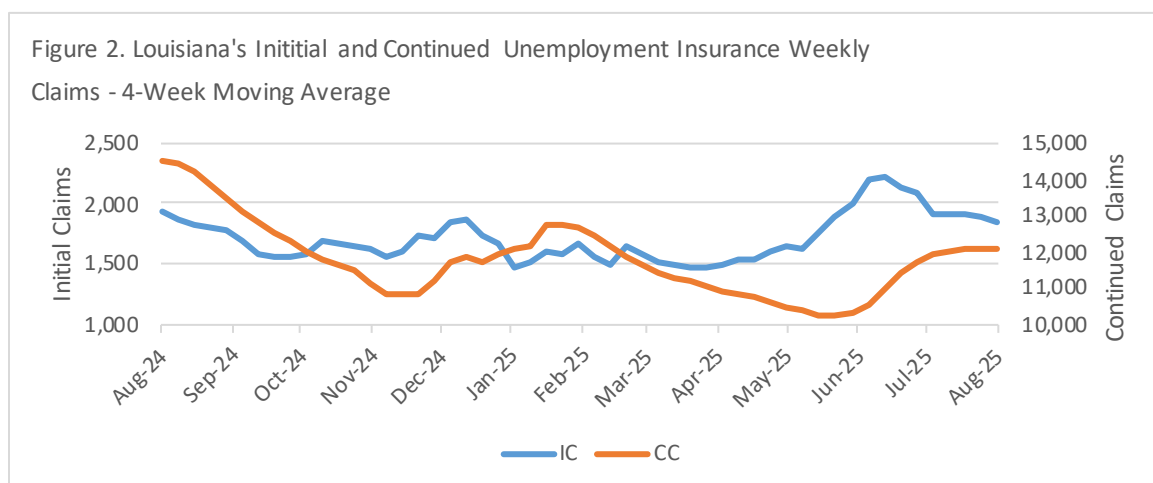
Category	6/16/2025 ¹	5/16/2025 ²	6/16/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Job Openings	104	111	96	-6.3%	8.3%
Hires	70	72	72	-2.8%	-2.8%
Quits	43	45	56	-4.4%	-23.2%
Layoffs and Discharges	19	20	23	-5.0%	-17.4%

Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Revised;
Source: [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov)



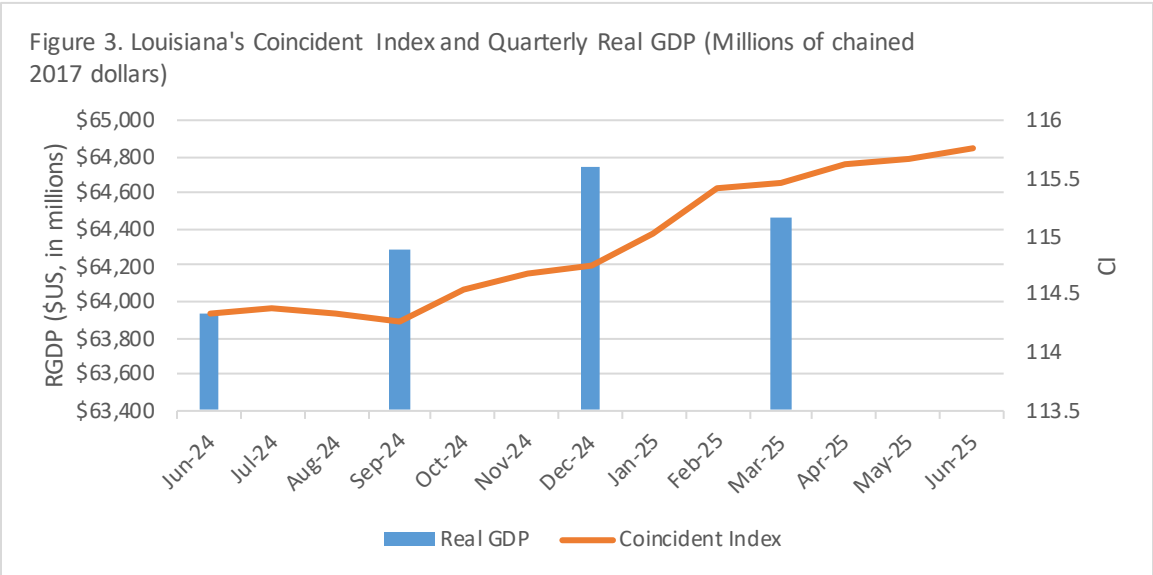
The following figures illustrate initial claims (4-week moving average) in Louisiana for unemployment insurance, which represent people who are newly filing for unemployment benefits, a leading indicator of labor market weakness. Also illustrated are continued claims (4-week moving average) for the state 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: [laworks.net](https://www.laworks.net)



The State Coincident Index combines several key economic indicators into a single composite number to measure current economic activity in each U.S. state. The components typically include: Nonfarm payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing, unemployment rate, and wage and salary disbursements (adjusted for inflation). The coincident index tends to follow the same trends as state GDP but with low lag times, which makes it a timely high-frequency proxy for real GDP before GDP is released. Note: 2007 = 100.

Source: philadelphiafed.org



2. COMMODITIES

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

Source: fred.stlouisfed.org

Table 2. Energy Commodities, Weekly					
Commodity	8/8/25	8/1/25	8/9/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	\$68.17	\$72.41	\$78.84	-5.9%	-13.5%
WTI Crude Oil	\$65.75	\$69.58	\$76.33	-5.5%	-13.9%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$2.99	\$3.03	\$1.88	-1.3%	59.0%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.02	\$3.04	\$3.33	-0.7%	-9.3%

Table 3. Energy Commodities, Monthly					
Commodity	6/1/25	5/1/25	6/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Diesel	\$3.60	\$3.50	\$3.80	2.9%	-5.3%
EU Natural Gas	\$12.30	\$11.62	\$10.29	5.9%	19.5%
Asia Liquefied Natural Gas	\$12.96	\$11.68	\$10.11	11.0%	28.2%
Global Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.68	\$3.46	\$2.48	6.4%	48.4%
Brent Crude Oil Global	\$69.85	\$64.09	\$74.98	9.0%	-6.8%
WTI Crude Oil Global	\$68.54	\$62.20	\$79.91	10.2%	-14.2%

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

Source: tradingeconomics.com

Table 4. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of August 14, 2025							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	\$1,010.91	\$10.11	\$/Bu	-1.3%	4.1%	1.7%	6.6%
Wheat	\$501.76	\$5.02	\$/Bu	-1.2%	-3.2%	-6.7%	-5.0%
Lumber	\$607.56	\$6.08	\$/MBF	0.3%	-9.3%	-7.4%	15.7%
Palm Oil	\$4,405.00	\$44.05	\$/MT	-0.7%	3.9%	6.2%	17.3%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$16.61	\$0.17	\$/Lb	-1.5%	3.7%	0.3%	-6.9%
Coffee	\$318.95	\$3.19	\$/Lb	-0.3%	6.9%	5.6%	33.0%
Corn	\$371.90	\$3.72	\$/Bu	-0.7%	-3.2%	-7.3%	-6.3%
Rice	\$12.80	\$0.13	\$/CWT	0.1%	0.7%	1.0%	-13.0%
Orange Juice	\$245.81	\$2.45	\$/Lb	0.4%	9.1%	-21.8%	-46.5%

3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE METRICS

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 5. Median Days on Market by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

CBSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	78	77	66	1.3%	18.2%
Baton Rouge	71	66	60	7.6%	18.3%
Bogalusa	86	71	76	21.1%	13.2%
DeRidder	91	89	88	2.2%	3.4%
Hammond	59	54	74	9.3%	-20.3%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	98	86	86	14.0%	14.0%
Lafayette	69	72	73	-4.2%	-5.5%
Lake Charles	86	82	85	4.9%	1.2%
Minden	68	68	58	0.0%	17.2%
Monroe	63	65	67	-3.1%	-6.0%
Morgan City	82	101	64	-18.8%	28.1%
Natchitoches	101	92	76	9.8%	32.9%
New Iberia	73	69	76	5.8%	-3.9%
New Orleans-Metairie	74	71	68	4.2%	8.8%
Opelousas	77	71	94	8.5%	-18.1%
Ruston	66	58	65	13.8%	1.5%
Shreveport-Bossier City	68	67	57	1.5%	19.3%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	66	64	65	3.1%	1.5%

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

Table 5. Median Days on Market by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

MSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Baton Rouge	68.3%	69.6%	71.5%	-1.3	-3.2
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	51.2%	49.9%	53.6%	1.3	-2.4
Lafayette	62.6%	61.9%	62.6%	0.7	-
Lake Charles	54.6%	54.2%	54.5%	0.4	0.1
Monroe	58.9%	56.6%	61.6%	2.3	-2.7
New Orleans-Metairie	72.2%	73.7%	74.2%	-1.5	-2
Shreveport-Bossier City	58.6%	59.2%	54.9%	-0.6	3.7
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	80.8%	79.4%	77.4%	1.4	3.4

Note: Alexandria and Hammond data not available.

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: portwatch.imf.org/pages/port-monitor

Figure 4. Baton Rouge Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

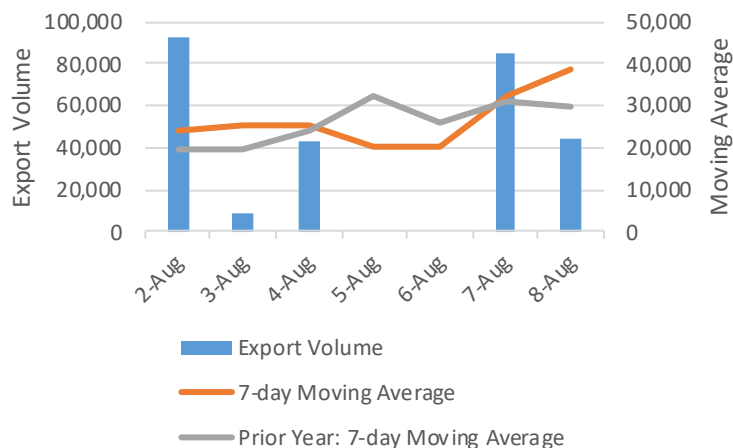


Figure 5. New Orleans Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

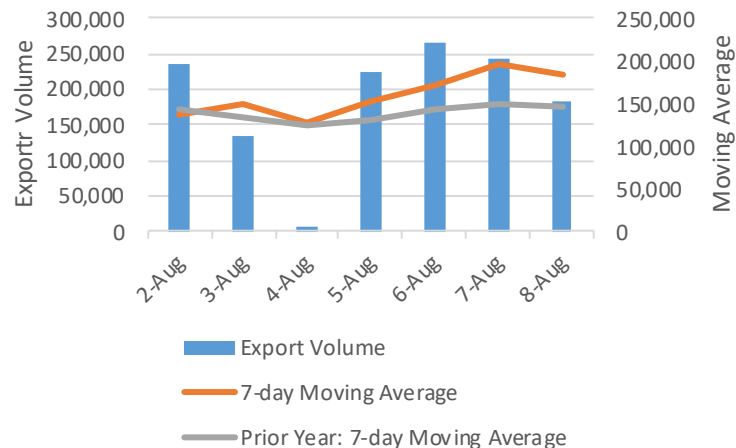


Figure 6. South Louisiana Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

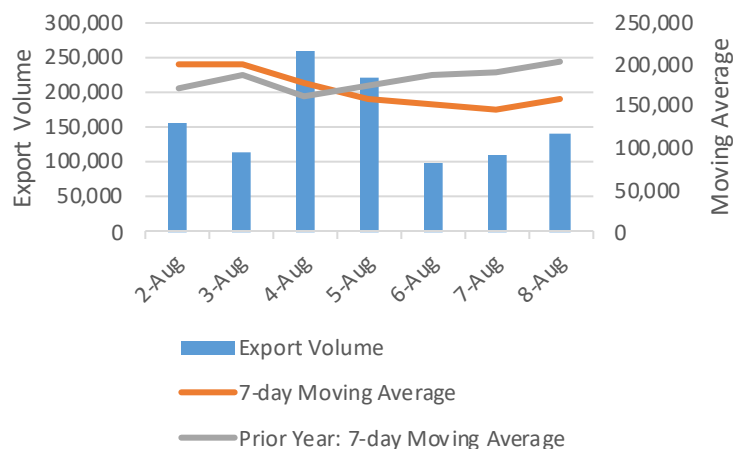


Figure 7. Lake Charles Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

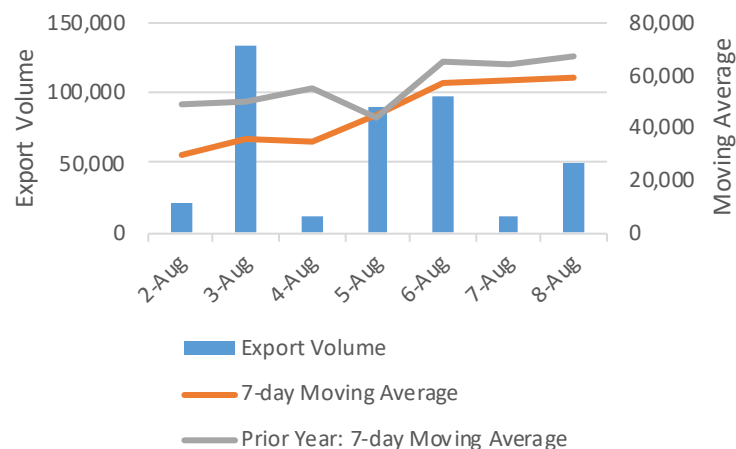


Figure 8. Plaquemines Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

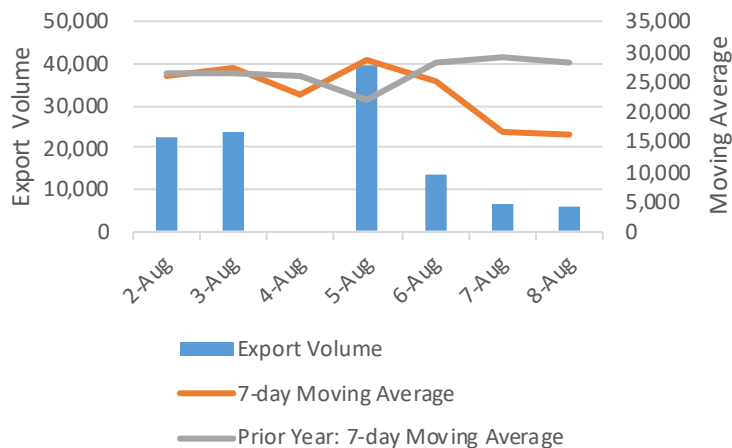


Figure 9. Baton Rouge Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

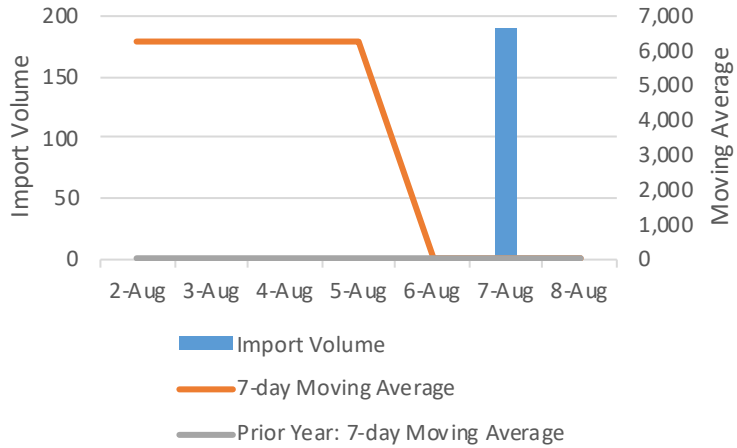


Figure 10. New Orleans Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

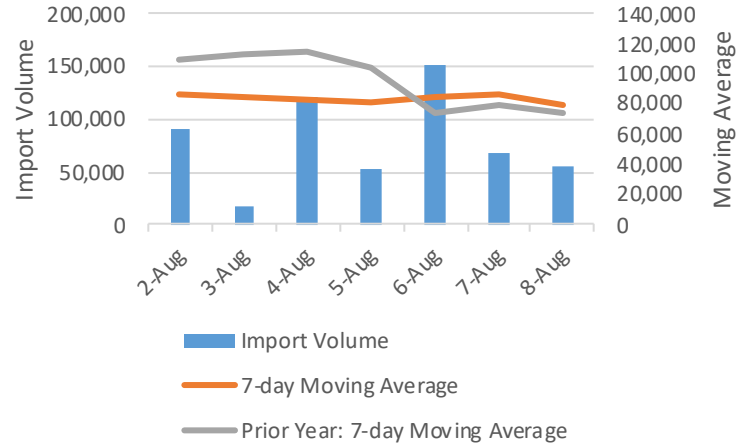


Figure 11. South Louisiana Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

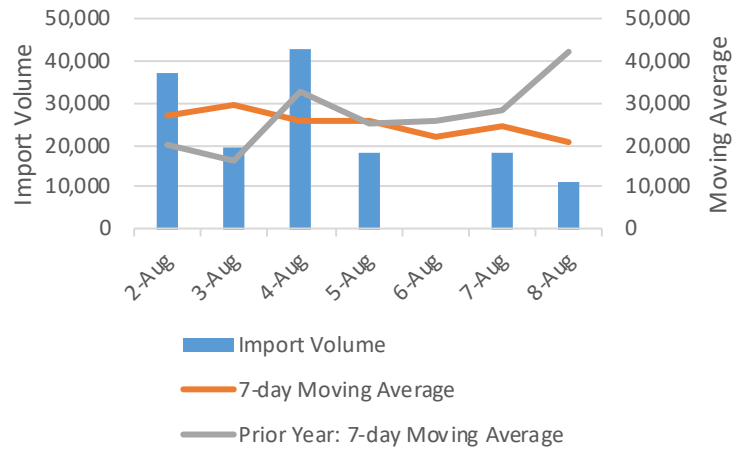


Figure 12. Lake Charles Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

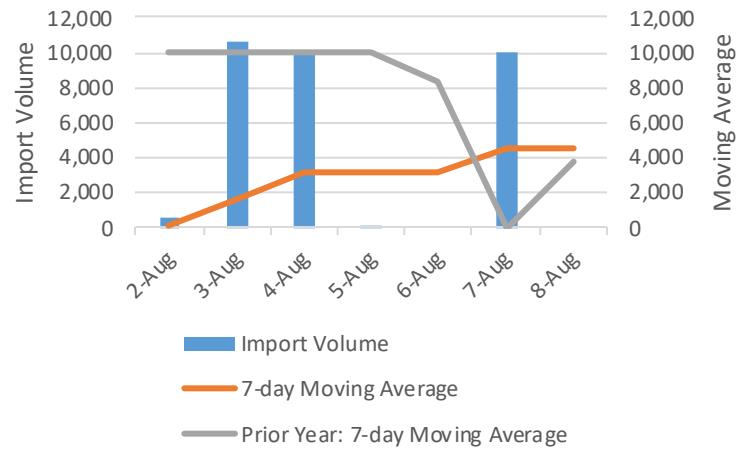


Figure 13. Plaquemines Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

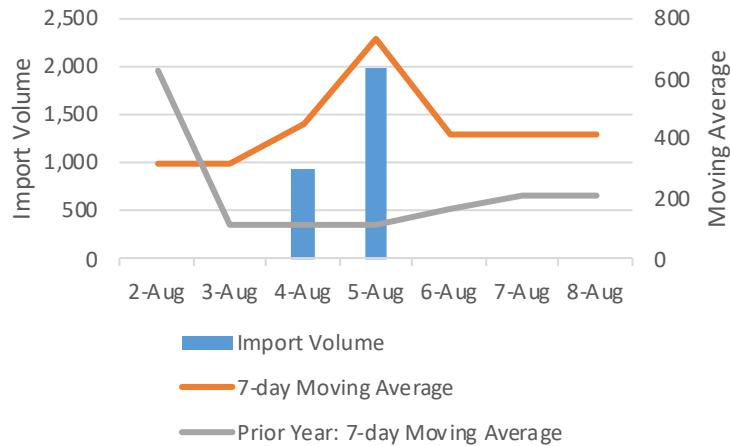


Figure 14. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

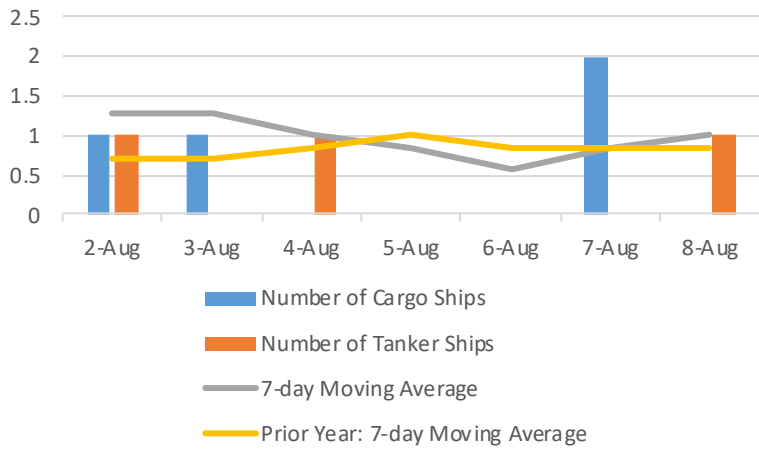


Figure 15. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

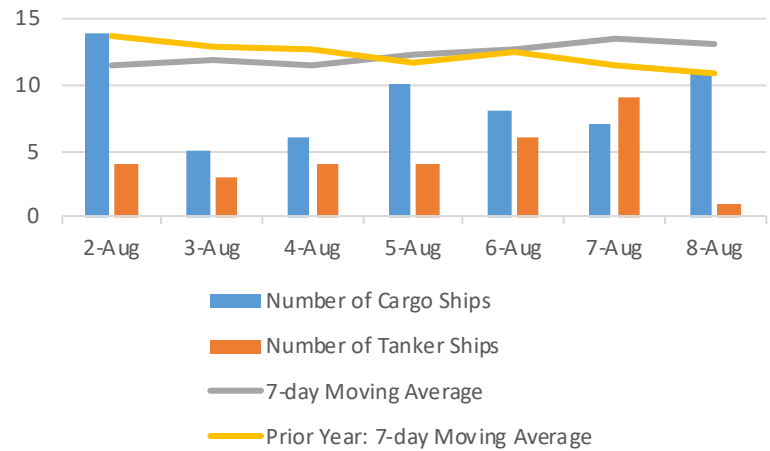


Figure 16. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

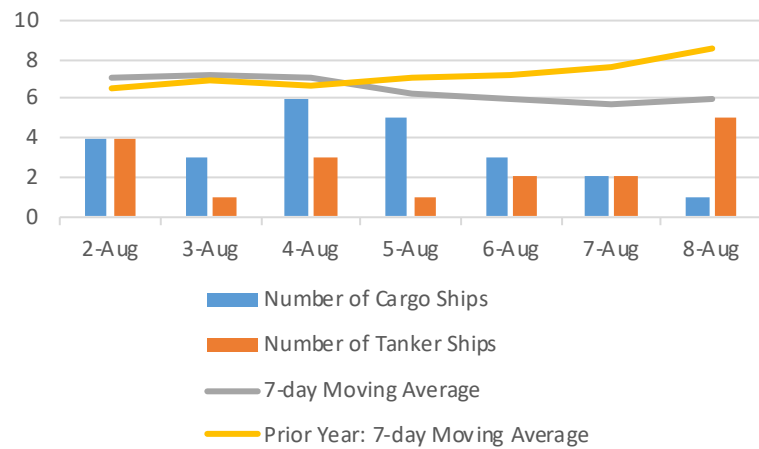


Figure 17. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

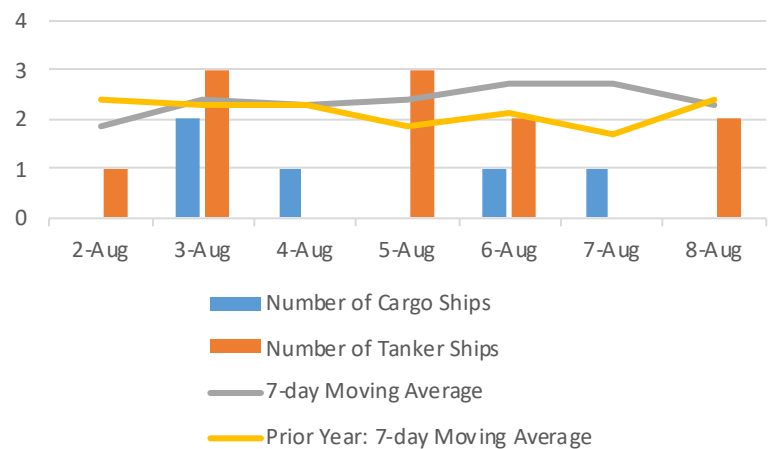
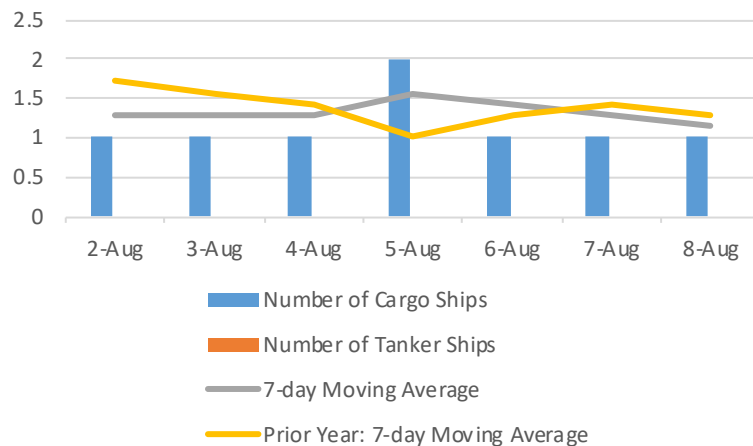


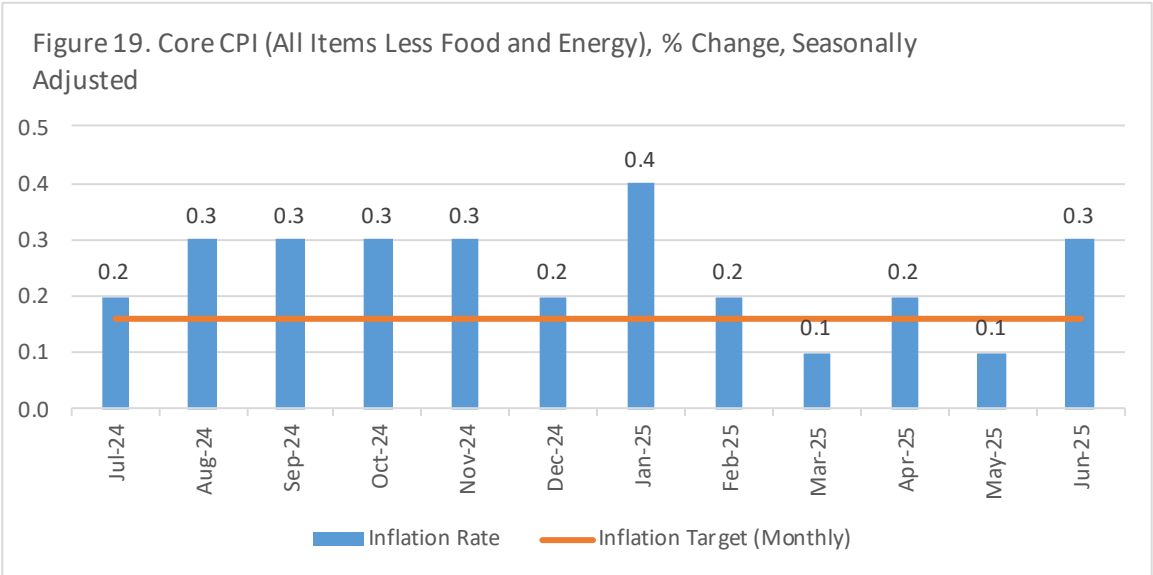
Figure 18. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



5. 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 7. Change in CPI-U, U.S. City Average, by Month, Seasonally Adjusted			
Category	Jul-25	Jun-25	Since July-24 ¹
All Items	0.2%	0.3%	2.7%
All Items Less Food and Energy (Core CPI)	0.3%	0.2%	3.1%
Medical Care Services	0.8%	0.6%	4.3%
Eggs	-3.4%	-7.4%	16.4%
Note: ¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted Source: bls.gov			



6. SMALL BUSINESS OUTLOOK

The NFIB's Small Business Economic Trends (SBET) report is a comprehensive monthly survey-based assessment of the U.S. small business sector—covering both current conditions and near-term outlook. Because small businesses account for about half of the U.S. private-sector workforce and nearly 44% of all economic activity, shifts in sentiment captured in this index are considered highly influential. The report is a copyright of the NFIB Research Center.

The table below shows July's Optimism and Uncertainty Indexes and selected components, reported as net percentages—the share of firms reporting an increase minus those reporting a decrease. Positive values indicate more improvement than decline, and negative values indicate the opposite. "Actual" reflects recent performance over the past 1–3 months, while "Expected" reflects anticipated conditions over the next 3–6 months. Because expectations often shift before actual results, the "Expected" measures can serve as an early signal of economic turning points.

Source: [nfib.com](https://www.nfib.com)

Table 8. NFIB Small Business Economic Trends for the U.S. - July 2025					
Metric	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Optimism Index ¹	100.3	98.6	93.7	1.7	6.6
Uncertainty Index ²	97	89	90	8	7
General Business Conditions	36.0%	22.0%	-7.0%	14	29
Sales Expectations (next 3 months)	6.0%	7.0%	-9.0%	-1	15
Hiring Plans (next 3 months)	14.0%	13.0%	15.0%	1	-1
Actual Price Changes (compared to 3 months ago)	24.0%	29.0%	22.0%	-5	2
Actual Employment Changes (last 3 months)	-2.0%	-8.0%	-3.0%	6	1
Actual Interest Rate Paid (average on short-term loans)	8.7%	8.8%	9.4%	-0.1	-0.7
Actual Capital Expenditures (last 6 months)	55.0%	50.0%	54.0%	5	1
Note: ¹ The 52-year average is 98. ² July 2025 index is fifth highest reading, historically.					

August

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
					Employment [July] 1 Construction Spending [June] ISM Manufacturing [July] Total Vehicle Sales [July]	2
3	4	Trade Balance [June] ISM Services [July] 5	6	Productivity [Q2 P] Consumer Credit [June] 7	8	9
10	11	NFIB Small Business [July] CPI [July] Fed Budget [July] 12	State JOLTS [June] 13	PPI [July] 14	Retail Sales [July] Industrial Production [July] Business Inventories [June] U. of Michigan Sentiment [August] 15	16
17	NAHB Index [August] 18	Housing Starts [July] State Employment [July] 19	FOMC Minutes [July] 20	Existing Home Sales [July] 21	22	23
24	New Home Sales [July] 25	Durable Goods [July] S&P/C-S Home Prices [June] Consumer Confidence [August] 26	27	GDP & Profits [Q2 2 nd] Pending Home Sales [July] 28	Personal Income [July] 29	30
31						