Louisiana Economic Vitals Friday, August 22, 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

<u>Louisiana's Five Lower Mississippi River Ports Partner to Launch First-Ever Unified Marketing Strategy</u> August 7th, 2025

Direct questions and comments to:

Dr. Christopher Coombs, Economist, Economic Competitiveness

E: Christopher.Coombs@la.gov T: 225.342.5410

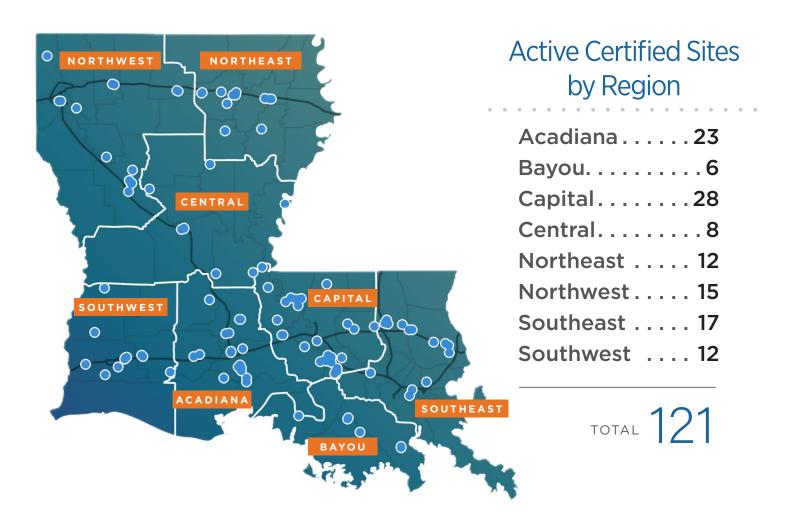
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

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 08/21/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 181 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$190 billion USD and with the potential to create more than 34,870 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.



1. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The following tables provide data on state and metropolitan employment, hours, and earnings (current U.S. dollars) figures for July 2025. All figures are for the private sector and are not seasonally adjusted. The Louisiana state figures are also provided.

Source: bls.gov

Table 1. Louisiana Job Openings and Labor Turnover, Total Nonfarm (in Thousands)										
				% Change						
Area	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Alexandria	48.4	48.4	48.2	-	0.4%					
Baton Rouge	354.8	357.5	351.2	-0.8%	1.0%					
Hammond	39	39.1	38.7	-0.3%	0.8%					
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	75.4	75.7	75.1	-0.4%	0.4%					
Lafayette	163.8	164.3	161.2	-0.3%	1.6%					
Lake Charles	88.7	88.9	88.2	-0.2%	0.6%					
Monroe	77.7	77.7	77.3	-	0.5%					
New Orleans-Metairie	420.3	422.6	416.2	-0.5%	1.0%					
Shreveport-Bossier City	142	142.3	140.6	-0.2%	1.0%					
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	88.3	88.4	87.2	-0.1%	1.3%					
Louisiana	1676.8	1679.7	1658	-0.2%	1.1%					
Note: Data are not seasonally adjuste	ed; July 2025 data	are preliminary. Ju	une 2025 data are	revised.						

				% Change	
Area	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	36.4	37.2	38.2	-2.2%	-4.7%
Baton Rouge	36.2	36.1	36.6	0.3%	-1.1%
Hammond	32.5	32.7	32.7	-0.6%	-0.6%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	39.4	39.9	41.4	-1.3%	-4.8%
Lafayette	37.3	37.5	38.3	-0.5%	-2.6%
Lake Charles	36.1	36.4	34.8	-0.8%	3.7%
Monroe	32.3	33.2	36.1	-2.7%	-10.5%
New Orleans-Metairie	35.7	35.6	36	0.3%	-0.8%
Shreveport-Bossier City	34.5	35.9	35.2	-3.9%	-2.0%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	34.2	35.1	34.3	-2.6%	-0.3%
Louisiana	35.8	36.2	36.5	-1.1%	-1.9%

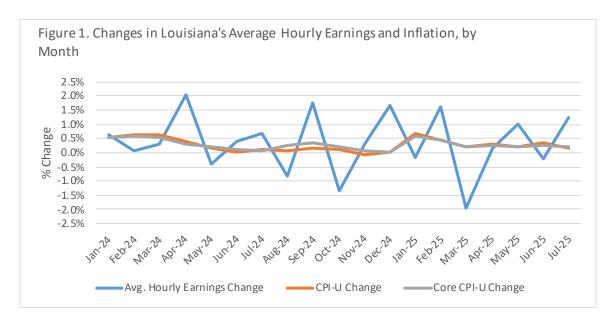
Table 3. State and Metro Area Private Sector Average Hourly Earnings										
				% Change						
Area	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Alexandria	\$25.89	\$26.06	\$26.39	-0.7%	-1.9%					
Baton Rouge	\$32.31	\$32.51	\$31.10	-0.6%	3.9%					
Hammond	\$21.79	\$21.81	\$19.03	-0.1%	14.5%					
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	\$29.97	\$30.45	\$27.51	-1.6%	8.9%					
Lafayette	\$28.03	\$27.90	\$26.44	0.5%	6.0%					
Lake Charles	\$32.62	\$31.75	\$30.51	2.7%	6.9%					
Monroe	\$28.76	\$29.43	\$30.50	-2.3%	-5.7%					
New Orleans-Metairie	\$30.97	\$30.24	\$30.48	2.4%	1.6%					
Shreveport-Bossier City	\$27.31	\$27.66	\$24.82	-1.3%	10.0%					
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	\$33.26	\$32.82	\$35.27	1.3%	-5.7%					
Louisiana	\$29.86	\$29.50	\$28.94	1.2%	3.2%					

Table 4. State and Metro Area Private Sector Average Weekly Earnings % Change Jul-25 Jun-25 Jul-24 (MoM) (YoY) Area Alexandria \$942.40 \$969.43 \$1,008.10 -2.8% -6.5% **Baton Rouge** \$1,169.62 \$1,173.61 \$1,138.26 -0.3% 2.8% -0.7% Hammond \$708.18 \$713.19 \$622.28 13.8% Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux -2.8% 3.7% \$1,180.82 \$1,214.96 \$1,138.91 3.2% Lafayette \$1,045.52 \$1,046.25 \$1,012.65 -0.1% Lake Charles \$1,177.58 \$1,155.70 \$1,061.75 1.9% 10.9% Monroe \$928.95 \$977.08 \$1,101.05 -4.9% -15.6% New Orleans-Metairie 2.7% 0.8% \$1,105.63 \$1,076.54 \$1,097.28 -5.1% 7.8% Shreveport-Bossier City \$942.20 \$992.99 \$873.66 Slidell-Mandeville-Covington \$1,137.49 \$1,151.98 \$1,209.76 -1.3% -6.0% Louisiana \$1,068.99 \$1,067.90 \$1,056.31 0.1% 1.2%

Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted; July 2025 data are preliminary. June 2025 data are revised.

The following figure tracks the monthly percentage changes in average hourly earnings for Louisiana against the monthly percentage changes in the CPI and the CPI less food and energy (Core CPI).

Source: <u>bls.gov/sae</u> & <u>bls.gov/cpi/</u>



The Employee Motivation and Commitment Index (EMC Index) from ADP Research is a real-time measure that tracks how employees feel about their jobs, their place in the organization, and their employers. The index provides insight into the relationship between worker motivation, commitment, and business outcomes, such as productivity and turnover. As a measure of worker allegiance, the index offers insight into whether workers are flourishing in their jobs or detaching. December 2021 = 100.

Source: httadpresearch.com/category/emc-index/

averages)				% Point Change		
Sector	Aug-25	Jul-25	Aug-24	(MoM)	(YoY)	
Finance and Insurance	119	109	111	10	8	
Construction	111	109	111	2	-	
Educational Services	144	150	136	-6	8	
Health Care and Social Assistance	140	141	145	-1	-5	
Information	150	147	131	3	19	
Manufacturing	229	230	165	-1	64	
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	148	149	129	-1	19	
Real Estate	124	96	116	28	8	
Retail/Wholesale Trade	156	147	122	9	34	
Transportation and Warehousing	167	162	148	5	19	

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 6. Energy Commodities, Weekly										
				% Change						
Commodity	8/15/25	8/8/25	8/16/24	(WoW)	(YoY)					
Brent Crude Oil	\$67.17	\$68.17	\$82.47	-1.5%	-18.6%					
WTI Crude Oil	\$64.34	\$65.75	\$79.49	-2.1%	-19.1%					
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$2.94	\$2.99	\$2.13	-1.7%	38.0%					
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.02	\$3.02	\$3.29	-	-8.2%					

Table 7. Energy Commodities, Monthly									
				% Change					
Commodity	6/1/25	5/1/25	6/1/24	(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: <u>tradingeconomics.com</u>

Table 8. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of August 21, 2025											
				% Change							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)				
Soybeans	\$1,019.05	\$10.19	\$/Bu	0.4%	1.3%	1.0%	8.5%				
Wheat	\$505.14	\$5.05	\$/Bu	-0.2%	0.3%	-8.1%	-1.2%				
Lumber	\$596.00	\$5.96	\$/MBF	0.1%	-1.7%	-10.8%	16.3%				
Palm Oil	\$4,462.00	\$44.62	\$/MT	-0.8%	1.3%	4.7%	16.6%				
Sugar (No. 11)	\$16.44	\$0.16	\$/Lb	-0.7%	-0.9%	1.0%	-7.8%				
Coffee	\$368.48	\$3.68	\$/Lb	2.5%	13.0%	24.5%	49.9%				
Corn	\$382.09	\$3.82	\$/Bu	0.4%	1.8%	-4.4%	-3.0%				
Rice	\$11.96	\$0.12	\$/CWT	-0.5%	-6.4%	-3.4%	-19.6%				
Orange Juice	\$239.48	\$2.39	\$/Lb	-0.9%	-3.9%	-27.7%	-51.5%				

3. RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

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 9. U.S. Monthly New Residential Construction Totals, by Status (Units in Thousands)										
				% Change						
Status	7/17/2025 ¹	6/17/2025 ²	7/17/24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Authorized	260.1	271.5	282.7	-4.2%	-8.0%					
Starts	130.2	126.2	115.3	3.2%	12.9%					
Under Construction	1,371.8	1,368.1	1,565.4	0.3%	-12.4%					
Completions	122.4	117.1	144.4	4.5%	-15.2%					

Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Revised; Data are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: census.gov

Table 10. U.S. Monthly New Reside							
	% Point	Change					
Status	6/1/2025 ¹	5/1/2025 ²	6/1/24	(MoM)	(YoY)		
Sold	54	56	58	-3.6%	-6.9%		
For Sale	511	501	468	2.0%	9.2%		
Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Revised; Data are not seasonally adjusted. Source: census.gov							

Table 11. U.S. Existing Single-Family Home Sales % Point Change Category 6/23/20251 5/24/2025² 6/23/24 (MoM) (YoY) 0.65% 15.67% Inventory 1.55 1.54 1.34 U.S. Sales 4.01 3.93 3.98 2.04% 0.75% Months Supply 4.3 4.4 3.7 -2.27% 16.22% Sales Price³ \$422,400 \$432,700 \$421,400 -2.38% 0.24%

Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Revised; ³Median Price; Data are not seasonally adjusted; Inventory and U.S. Sales are in million units. Source: nar.realtor Copyright ©2025 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

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.

Source: nahb.org

Table 12. NAHB/Wells Fargo National Housing Market Index (HMI)										
				% Point Change						
Index	Aug-25	Jul-25	Aug-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Housing Market Index	32	33	39	-3.0%	-17.9%					
Housing Market Index Components:										
Single Family Sales: Present	35	36	44	-2.8%	-20.5%					
Single Family Sales: Next 6 Months	43	43	49	-	-12.2%					
Traffic of Prospective Buyers	22	20	25	10.0%	-12.0%					
Nata Data are assessed by a live to be Assessed by					-12.070					

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted; August 2025 data are preliminary; July 2025 data are revised.

4. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The tables below present state-level exports and imports classified by the Harmonized System (HS). Export data reflect the state of origin of movement—the location where goods began their journey to the port of exit—which may differ from the state of production. For state-level imports, data reflect the state of destination—the location where goods are delivered for domestic consumption—which may differ from the state of final use.

Source: <u>usatrade.census.gov</u>

Table 13. Louisiana Port Exports - Top 10 - June 2025, by Total Value (\$US, in Millions)										
				% Change						
Commodity	Jun-25	May-25	Jun-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Mineral Fuel, Oil Etc.; Bitumin Subst; Mineral Wax	\$4,082.1	\$4,200.2	\$4,321.3	-2.8%	-5.5%					
Cereals	\$725.5	\$810.7	\$531.7	-10.5%	36.5%					
Organic Chemicals	\$395.4	\$411.6	\$306.4	-3.9%	29.0%					
Oil Seeds Etc.; Misc Grain, Seed, Fruit, Plant Etc	\$319.2	\$389.9	\$331.3	-18.1%	-3.7%					
Food Industry Residues & Waste; Prep Animal Feed	\$256.7	\$269.9	\$254.1	-4.9%	1.0%					
Plastics And Articles Thereof	\$206.7	\$204.1	\$216.0	1.3%	-4.3%					
Miscellaneous Chemical Products	\$175.8	\$121.5	\$150.5	44.7%	16.8%					
Inorg Chem; Prec & Rare-earth Met & Radioact Compd	\$101.6	\$104.9	\$91.2	-3.2%	11.5%					
Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery Etc.; Parts	\$94.3	\$110.2	\$118.7	-14.4%	-20.5%					
Animal, Vegetable Or Microbial Fats And Oils Etc	\$29.7	\$160.1	\$65.2	-81.4%	-54.5%					

Table 14. Louisiana Port Imports - Top 10 - June 2025, by Total Value (\$US, in Millions)										
				% Change						
Commodity	Jun-25	May-25	Jun-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Copper And Articles Thereof	\$779.9	\$630.8	\$161.7	23.6%	382.2%					
Mineral Fuel, Oil Etc.; Bitumin Subst; Mineral Wax	\$668.8	\$676.2	\$915.0	-1.1%	-26.9%					
Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery Etc.; Parts	\$213.3	\$238.9	\$148.4	-10.7%	43.7%					
Electric Machinery Etc; Sound Equip; Tv Equip; Pts	\$212.9	\$131.6	\$38.8	61.7%	449.2%					
Vehicles, Except Railway Or Tramway, And Parts Etc	\$158.5	\$35.1	\$104.2	352.2%	52.1%					
Coffee, Tea, Mate & Spices	\$151.6	\$191.7	\$96.7	-20.9%	56.7%					
Iron And Steel	\$108.9	\$115.1	\$121.7	-5.4%	-10.6%					
Fertilizers	\$103.6	\$210.0	\$229.0	-50.7%	-54.8%					
Organic Chemicals	\$95.1	\$83.7	\$127.4	13.6%	-25.4%					
Animal, Vegetable Or Microbial Fats And Oils Etc	\$32.8	\$159.4	\$101.6	-79.4%	-67.7%					

5. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Industrial production measures the real output (adjusted for inflation) of the manufacturing, mining, and utilities sector in the U.S. economy. 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 15. U.S. Industrial Production							
				% Change			
Industrial Production	7/16/2025 ¹	6/16/2025 ²	7/16/24	(MoM)	(YoY)		
Total Index	104	104.1	102.6	-0.1%	1.4%		
Major Market Groups							
Final Products	101.5	101.4	100.3	0.1%	1.2%		
Consumer Goods	101.9	101.8	101.3	0.1%	0.6%		
Business Equipment	97.5	97	93.9	0.5%	3.8%		
Nonindustrial Supplies	102	102.3	101.1	-0.3%	0.9%		
Construction	102.2	102.4	100.2	-0.2%	2.0%		
Materials	106.7	107.1	104.8	-0.4%	1.8%		
Major Industry Groups (NAICS)							
Manufacturing	100.2	100.2	98.8	-	1.4%		
Mining	120.9	121.4	118.6	-0.4%	1.9%		
Utilities	108.3	108.5	107.4	-0.2%	0.8%		

Note: 1 Preliminary; 2 Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted; 2017 = 100.

Source: federalreserve.gov

Table 16. U.S. Capacity Utilization						
				% Point Change		
Capacity Utilization	7/16/2025 ¹	6/16/2025 ²	7/16/24	(MoM)	(YoY)	
Total Industry	77.5	77.7	77.6	-0.2	-0.1	
Manufacturing	76.8	76.9	76.6	-0.1	0.2	
Mining	90.3	90.8	88.9	-0.5	0.4	
Utilities	70	70.4	72.1	-0.4	-2.1	
Stage-Of-Process Groups						
Crude	87.9	88.5	86.9	-0.6	1	
Primary and Semifinished	75.6	75.9	76.3	-0.3	-0.7	
Finished	75.5	75.4	75.1	0.1	0.4	

Note: 1 Preliminary; 2 Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted; 2017 = 100.

Source: federalreserve.gov

6. MANUFACTURING SALES & INVENTORIES

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 17. U.S. Monthly Sales for Manufacturers, Retailers, and Merchant Wholesalers (in Millions \$)						
				% Change		
Category	6/16/2025 ¹	5/16/2025 ²	6/16/24	(MoM)	(YoY)	
Total Business	\$1,924,746	\$1,914,247	\$1,854,041	0.5%	3.8%	
Manufacturing	\$602,411	\$599,560	\$591,770	0.5%	1.8%	
Retail Trade	\$623,882	\$618,037	\$599,979	0.9%	4.0%	
Wholesalers	\$698,450	\$696,650	\$662,292	0.3%	5.5%	

Note: Adjusted for seasonality and trading day differences;not price changes; ¹Preliminary; ²Revised Source: <u>census.gov</u>

Table 18. U.S. Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business (Percent Change)						
	July 2025 Ac	lvance From	June 2025 Advance From			
Kind of Business	June 2025¹ (MoM)	July 2024 ² (YoY)	May 2025 ² (MoM)	June 2024 ² (YoY)		
Retail & food services, total	0.5%	3.9%	0.9%	4.4%		
Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.3%	3.7%	0.8%	3.8%		
Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.5%	4.5%	0.9%	5.0%		
Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.2%	4.4%	0.8%	4.6%		
Retail	0.7%	3.7%	0.9%	4.0%		
Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.6%	4.7%	1.4%	6.6%		
Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.7%	4.9%	1.6%	7.1%		
Furniture & home furn. stores	1.4%	5.1%	0.1%	4.5%		
Electronics & appliance stores	-0.6%	-2.3%	-0.3%	-0.6%		
Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	-1.0%	-2.6%	1.3%	-0.3%		
Food & beverage stores	0.5%	2.5%	0.8%	2.7%		
Grocery stores	0.4%	2.6%	0.9%	3.0%		
Health & personal care stores	0.4%	5.6%	1.0%	9.7%		
Gasoline stations	0.7%	-2.9%	0.6%	-3.4%		
Clothing & clothing accessories stores	0.7%	5.0%	1.1%	4.7%		
Sporting goods, hobby, musical, instrument, & book stores	0.8%	2.3%	-0.7%	-0.1%		
General merchandise stores	0.4%	2.3%	0.5%	2.8%		
Department stores	0.9%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-3.3%		
Miscellaneous store retailers	-1.7%	10.6%	2.7%	12.3%		
Nonstore retailers	0.8%	8.0%	0.9%	5.2%		
Food services & drinking places	-0.4%	5.6%	0.6%	6.7%		

Note: ¹ Preliminary; ² Revised; Source: <u>census.gov</u>

2025

August

Economic Calendar

New Home Sales

[July]

31

The Economic Calendar provides insights into upcoming events and data releases.

Durable Goods

S&P/C-S Home Prices

Consumer Confidence

[July]

[August]

26

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] Construction Spending [June] ISM Manufacturing [July] Total Vehicle Sales [July]	2		
3	4	Trade Balance [June] ISM Services [July]	6	Productivity [Q2 P] Consumer Credit [June]	8	9		
10	11	NFIB Small Business [July] CPI [July] Fed Budget [July]	State JOLTS [June]	PPI [July]	Retail Sales [July] Industrial Production [July] Business Inventories [June] U. of Michigan Sentiment [August]	16		
17	NAHB Index [August]	Housing Starts [July] State Employment [July]	FOMC Minutes 20 [July]	Existing Home Sales 21 [July]	22	23		

GDP & Profits

Pending Home Sales

[Q2 2nd]

[July]

Personal Income

[July]