

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, August 8, 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:

[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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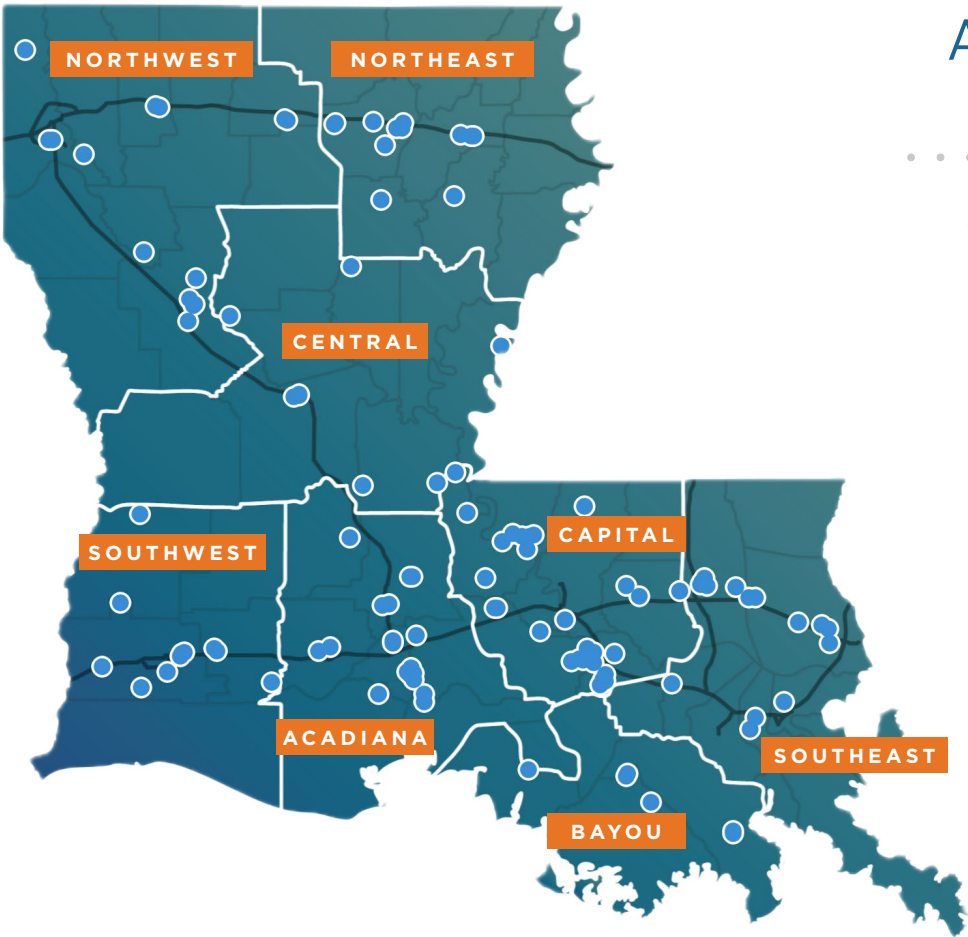
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

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 08/07/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 185 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$191.4 billion USD and with the potential to create more than 45,240 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 following table provides information on the current employment situation for the U.S. Also, the proportion of a state's (including states in the South) population that is age 16 years old and older and participating in the labor force with a comparison to the United States is presented in Table 2. A table with unemployment rates for these states and the U.S. is also provided.

Table 1. U.S. Employment and Earnings

Type	7/1/2025 ¹	6/1/2025 ¹	7/1/24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Nonfarm Employment	159,539	159,466	158,003	0.05%	1.0%
Goods-Producing Employment	21,654	21,667	21,677	-0.1%	-0.1%
Service-Providing Employment	137,885	137,799	136,326	0.1%	1.1%
Average Weekly Hours ²	34.3	34.2	34.2	0.3%	0.3%
Average Hourly Earnings ²	\$36.44	\$36.32	\$35.07	0.3%	3.9%
Labor Income Proxy ³	\$1,250	\$1,242	\$1,199	0.6%	4.2%

Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Total Private; ³Weekly, Average Hourly Earnings Multiplied by Average Weekly Hours Worked. Data are seasonally adjusted.

Source: bls.gov

Table 2. State Labor Force Participation Rates in the South and the U.S.

State	Jun-25	May-25	Jun-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alabama	58	58	57.5	-	0.4
Arkansas	58.4	58.4	58.2	-	-0.1
Florida	57.8	57.9	58.6	-0.1	-0.9
Georgia	60.6	60.7	61.8	-0.1	-1.1
Kentucky	58.4	58.4	58.2	-	0.3
Louisiana	58	57.9	58.3	0.1	-0.4
Mississippi	56	56.2	55.2	-0.1	0.2
Missouri	63.5	63.5	63.4	0.1	-
North Carolina	59.4	59.5	60.3	-0.1	-0.9
Oklahoma	62.7	62.7	62.8	-	-
South Carolina	57.6	57.5	58.1	-	-0.4
Tennessee	59.8	59.8	59.6	-	0.1
Texas	64.8	64.9	65	-	-0.1
U.S.	62.3	62.4	62.6	-0.1	-0.3

Source: bls.gov/lau & bls.gov/ces/data

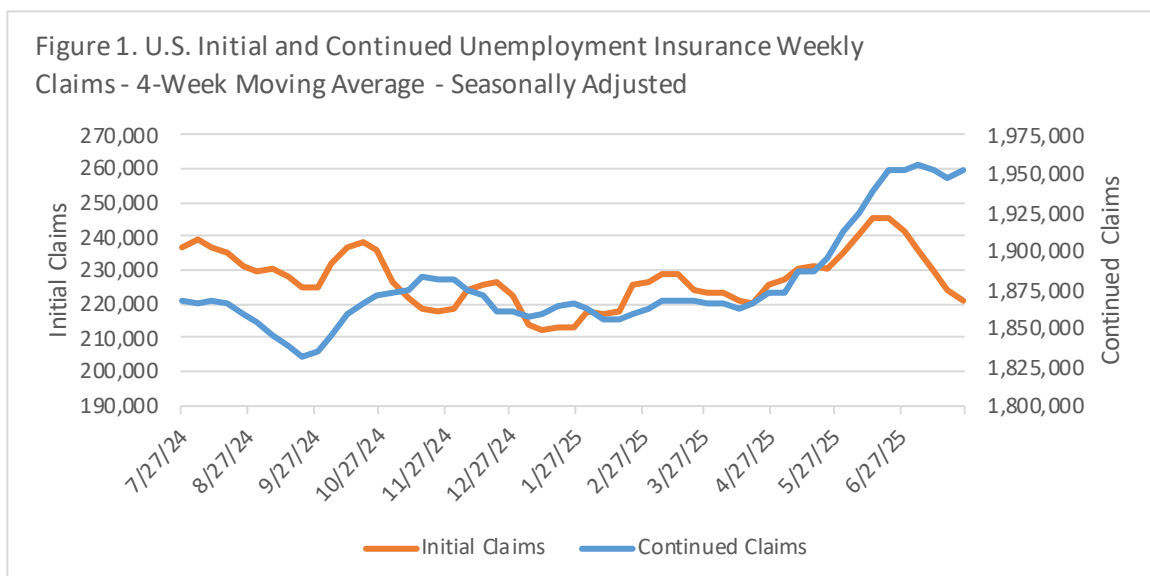
Table 3. State Unemployment Rates in the South and the U.S.

State	Jun-25	May-25	Jun-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alabama	3.2	3.3	2.9	0.2	0.3
Arkansas	3.7	3.7	3.4	-	0.3
Florida	3.7	3.7	3.4	-	0.4
Georgia	3.5	3.5	3.6	-	-0.1
Kentucky	4.9	5	5	-0.1	-0.1
Louisiana	4.5	4.5	4.2	-	0.3
Mississippi	4	4	2.9	-	1.1
Missouri	4	4	3.8	-	0.2
North Carolina	3.7	3.7	3.6	-	0.1
Oklahoma	3.1	3.1	3.3	-	-0.2
South Carolina	4.1	4.1	4.4	-	0.3
Tennessee	3.5	3.5	3.3	-	0.2
Texas	4	4.1	4.1	-0.1	-0.1
U.S.	4.1	4.2	4.1	-0.1	-

Source: [bls.gov/lau](https://www.bls.gov/lau) & [bls.gov/ces/data](https://www.bls.gov/ces/data)

Initial claims represent people who are newly filing for unemployment benefits and are a leading indicator of labor market weakness. Continued claims represent people who are still receiving benefits and they reflect 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;
fred.stlouisfed.org/series/IC4WSA & fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CCSA



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 4. Energy Commodities, Weekly					
Commodity	8/1/25	7/25/25	8/2/24	% Change	
				(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	\$72.41	\$70.09	\$80.26	3.3%	-9.8%
WTI Crude Oil	\$69.58	\$67.11	\$77.11	3.7%	-9.8%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$3.03	\$3.19	\$1.90	-5.0%	59.5%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.04	\$3.02	\$3.36	0.7%	-9.5%

Table 5. 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 6. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of August 7, 2025							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	\$963.75	\$9.64	\$/Bu	0.2%	0.2%	-6.0%	-4.4%
Wheat	\$517.49	\$5.17	\$/Bu	1.8%	-1.1%	-5.5%	-3.7%
Lumber	\$669.04	\$6.69	\$/MBF	-0.1%	-3.3%	10.2%	33.3%
Palm Oil	\$4,241.00	\$42.41	\$/MT	-0.6%	-0.1%	2.2%	14.6%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$16.14	\$0.16	\$/Lb	0.7%	-1.4%	-0.01%	-12.9%
Coffee	\$293.64	\$2.94	\$/Lb	0.3%	-0.8%	2.1%	19.5%
Corn	\$383.89	\$3.84	\$/Bu	1.0%	-2.6%	-6.6%	-3.3%
Rice	\$12.65	\$0.13	\$/CWT	1.3%	2.8%	-0.5%	-16.0%
Orange Juice	\$220.61	\$2.21	\$/Lb	-5.2%	-13.5%	-10.9%	-49.1%

3. RESIDENTIAL SALES

Louisiana Realtors® produces monthly reports on local market updates for the state and its regions. The following table presents these updates, which enables insights into the state's economic conditions, the mobility of residents, and investor sentiment.

Source: louisiana.stats.showingtime.com/reports

Table 7. Louisiana Realtors® Local Market Update for Louisiana								
Metric	Jun-25	May-25	Jun-24	% Change		YTD 2025	YTD 2024	% Change
				(MoM)	(YoY)			
New Listings	5,448	6,040	5,558	-9.8%	-2.0%	32,533	32,736	-0.6%
Pending Sales	3,719	3,999	3,548	-7.0%	4.8%	21,272	20,869	1.9%
Closed Sales	3,789	3,828	3,434	-1.0%	10.3%	19,243	19,211	0.2%
Days on Market Until Sale	71	72	62	-1.4%	14.5%	77	69	11.6%
Median Sales Price¹	\$260,000	\$250,000	\$251,530	4.0%	3.4%	\$249,000	\$244,000	2.0%
Average Sales Price¹	\$316,760	\$297,419	\$297,212	6.5%	6.6%	\$296,054	\$285,414	3.7%
Percent of List Price Received¹	97.3%	97.2%	97.2%	-0.1	0.1	97.1%	97.0%	0.1
Housing Affordability Index	107	110	110	-2.7%	-	112	113	-0.9%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	17,853	17,772	18,297	0.5%	-2.4%	-	-	-
Months Supply of Inventory	5.5	5.5	5.7	0.0%	-3.5%	-	-	-
Note: ¹Does not account for sale concessions and/or downpayment assistance; the change in Percent of List Price Received is presented as a percentage-point change								

The following tables provide data on residential listings that have increased and decreased in listing price. From total listings, we eliminate new and pending listings to get net active listings. The number of net active listings with price increases and with price decreases are each expressed as a ratio of the net to get the monthly ratios provided below.

Table 8. Ratio of Residential Listings with Price Increases, by CBSA in Louisiana

CBSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	0.7%	1.7%	0.7%	-0.9	0.0
Baton Rouge	3.0%	1.9%	1.7%	1.1	1.3
Bogalusa	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0
DeRidder	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0	-1.6
Hammond	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0	-2.4
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	0.8%	0.9%	0.3%	0.0	0.5
Lafayette	1.5%	1.6%	2.3%	-0.1	-0.8
Lake Charles	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0	0.0
Minden	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	-7.7	0.0
Monroe	0.0%	1.3%	0.7%	-1.3	-0.7
Morgan City	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Natchitoches	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0
New Iberia	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0	-1.8
New Orleans-Metairie	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0	0.2
Opelousas	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Ruston	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Shreveport-Bossier City	2.1%	2.2%	1.5%	-0.1	0.6
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	-0.2	-0.1

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

Table 9. Ratio of Residential Listings with Price Decreases, by CBSA in Louisiana

CBSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	36.7%	41.3%	46.9%	-4.6	-10.2
Baton Rouge	51.4%	51.4%	51.2%	0.0	0.2
Bogalusa	26.5%	42.4%	31.4%	-15.8	-4.8
DeRidder	26.3%	32.7%	41.6%	-6.4	-15.3
Hammond	62.0%	59.1%	53.8%	2.9	8.2
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	32.2%	32.7%	29.8%	-0.5	2.4
Lafayette	54.7%	55.5%	50.8%	-0.8	3.9
Lake Charles	33.8%	32.3%	40.2%	1.4	-6.5
Minden	47.5%	69.2%	35.9%	-21.8	11.6
Monroe	44.6%	59.7%	55.4%	-15.1	-10.7
Morgan City	37.2%	41.2%	35.6%	-4.1	1.6
Natchitoches	26.2%	42.4%	22.0%	-16.2	4.2
New Iberia	51.9%	55.2%	39.3%	-3.4	12.6
New Orleans-Metairie	35.0%	40.7%	36.3%	-5.7	-1.3
Opelousas	46.5%	39.5%	34.2%	7.0	12.3
Ruston	39.6%	49.3%	34.8%	-9.7	4.8
Shreveport-Bossier City	48.4%	47.6%	53.6%	0.7	-5.3
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	47.3%	55.4%	54.1%	-8.1	-6.8

Source: realtor.com/research/data/

The U.S. Census Bureau publishes the Value of Construction Put in Place every month, a statistic that reflects current spending on construction which is a form of fixed investment. High levels of construction spending often indicate business confidence, population growth, or public infrastructure investment.

Source: census.gov**Table 10. Value of U.S. Construction Put in Place**

Type	6/1/2025 ¹	5/1/2025 ²	5/1/24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Total Construction	\$2,136,210	\$2,143,885	\$2,199,846	-0.4%	-2.9%
Total Private Construction	\$1,621,932	\$1,630,199	\$1,710,951	-0.5%	-5.2%
Residential	\$883,089	\$889,101	\$941,441	-0.7%	-6.2%
Nonresidential	\$738,844	\$741,098	\$769,510	-0.3%	-4.0%
Total Public Construction	\$514,278	\$513,686	\$488,895	0.1%	5.2%
Residential	\$12,004	\$12,126	\$11,076	-1.0%	8.4%
Nonresidential	\$502,273	\$501,561	\$477,819	0.1%	5.1%

Note: 1 Preliminary; 2 Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted, but not for price changes; Annual rates in millions of dollars.

4. PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX

The Purchasing Managers' Index, and its subcomponents, is an economic indicator that reflects the business conditions in the manufacturing or services sector. 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 or its subcomponents. 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.

Note: A subcomponent that is not coded red or green is due to a more nuanced interpretation of the data. Reading each index in context with the other indices is key to assessing the state of the manufacturing industry in the U.S.

Source: ismworld.org

Index	Jul-25	Jun-25	% Point Change (MoM)	Trend ² (Months)
Manufacturing PMI	48	49	-1	5
New Orders ¹	47.1	46.4	0.7	6
Production ¹	51.4	50.3	1.1	2
Employment ¹	43.4	45	-1.6	6
Supplier Deliveries	49.3	54.2	-4.9	1
Inventories ¹	48.9	49.2	-0.3	3
Customers' Inventories	45.7	46.7	-1	10
Prices	64.8	69.7	-4.9	10
Backlog of Orders	46.8	44.3	2.5	34
New Export Orders	46.1	46.3	-0.2	5
Imports	47.6	47.4	0.2	4

Note: ¹Data are seasonally adjusted; ²Number of months moving in current direction.

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 and about 54% of Louisiana's GDP. The ISM Services PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) measures the economic health of the U.S. services sector.

Index	Jul-25	Jun-25	% Point Change (MoM)	Direction	Rate of Change	Trend ² (Months)
Services PMI	50.1	50.8	-0.7	Growing	From Growing	2
Business Activity/Production ¹	52.6	54.2	-1.6	Growing	From Growing	2
New Orders ¹	50.3	51.3	-1	Growing	From Growing	2
Employment ¹	46.4	47.2	-0.8	Contracting	From Contracting	2
Supplier Deliveries	51	50.3	0.7	Slowing	Faster	8
Inventories	51.8	52.7	-0.9	Growing	From Growing	2
Inventory Sentiment	53.2	57.1	-3.9	Too High	Slower	27
Prices ¹	69.9	67.5	2.4	Increasing	Faster	98
Backlog of Orders	44.3	42.4	1.9	Contracting	Faster	5
New Export Orders	47.9	51.1	-3.2	Contracting	Slower	1
Imports	45.9	51.7	-5.8	Contracting	Slower	1

Note: ¹Data are seasonally adjusted; ²Number of months moving in current direction.

5. U.S. CONSUMER METRICS

Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) on final goods like automobiles, appliances, and other durables, as well as expenditures on food and clothing (nondurables), in addition to spending on services like visits to the dentist or an amusement park make up about two-thirds of U.S. Gross Domestic Product. The biggest determinant of consumer spending is income, but also includes consumer credit, which allows consumers to smooth consumption over time. The following section is a brief snapshot of the consumer situation in the U.S. utilizing various consumer metrics.

The figures below illustrate how much money consumers have to spend (Real Disposable Income) and how they choose to spend (Durable and Nondurable Goods, and Services) or save it (Saving Rates). The price indexes used to calculate Real Personal Consumption Expenditures are also illustrated.

Source: [bea.gov](https://www.bea.gov)

Figure 2. U.S. Real Disposable Personal Income vs. Real Personal Consumption Expenditures, by Month and Spending Category (\$US Billions)

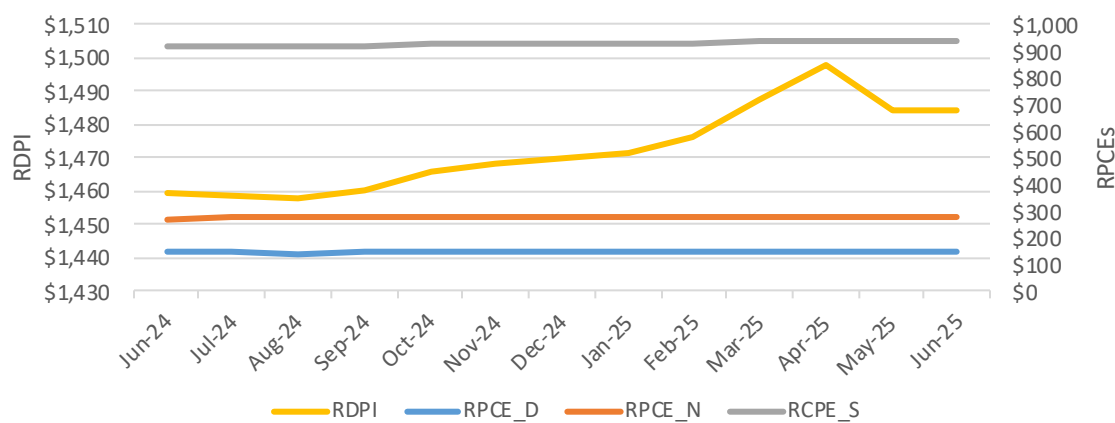
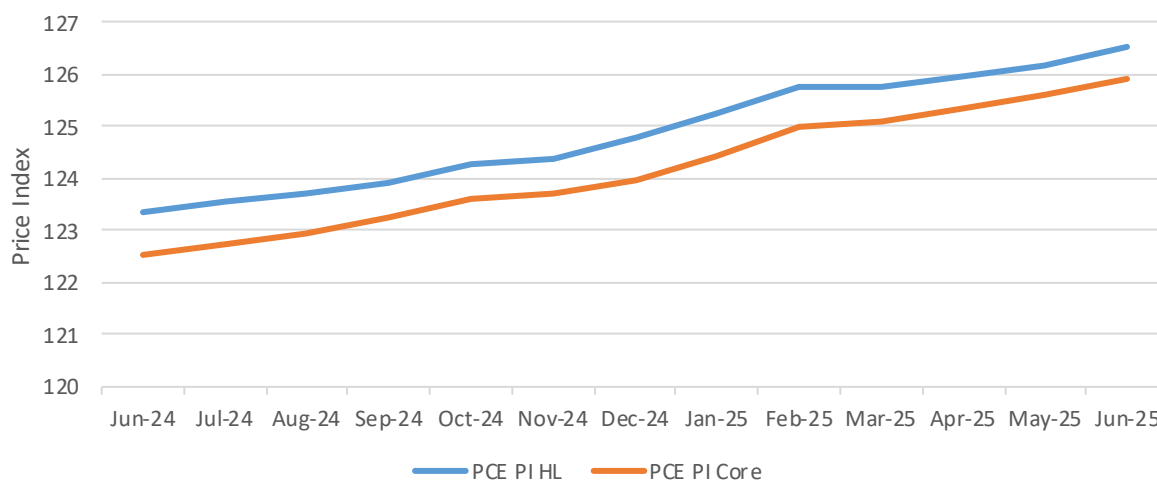
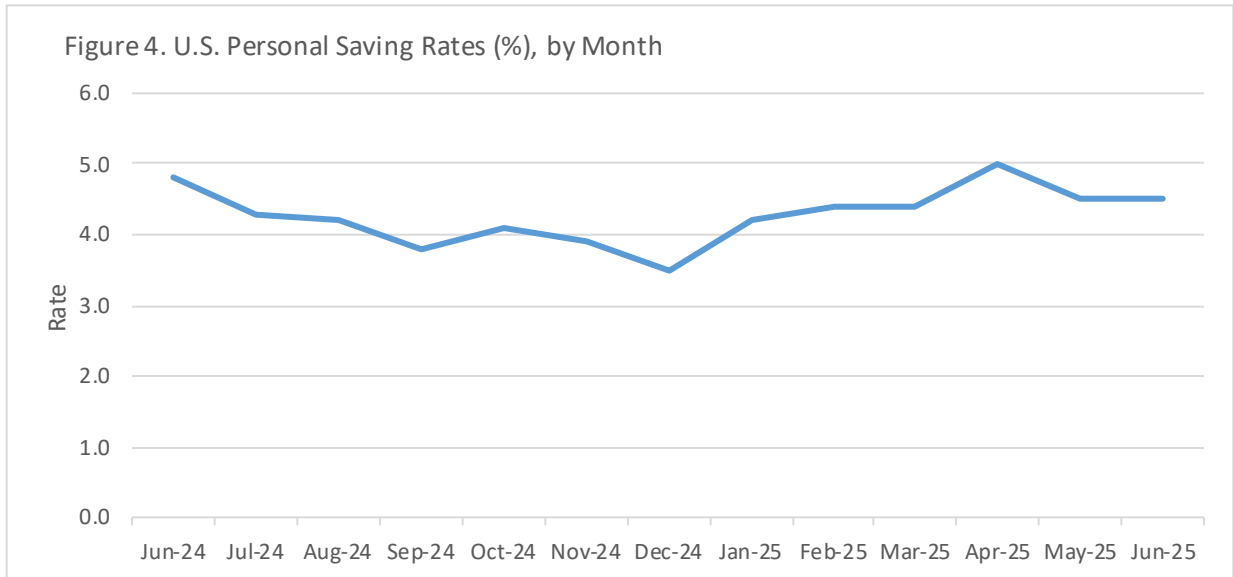


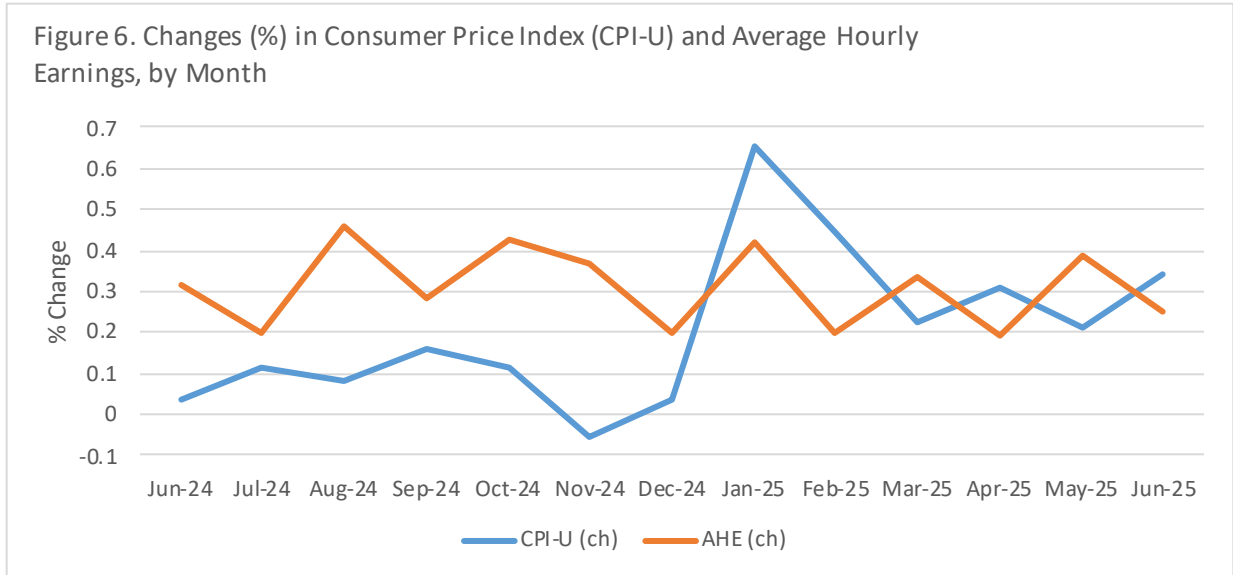
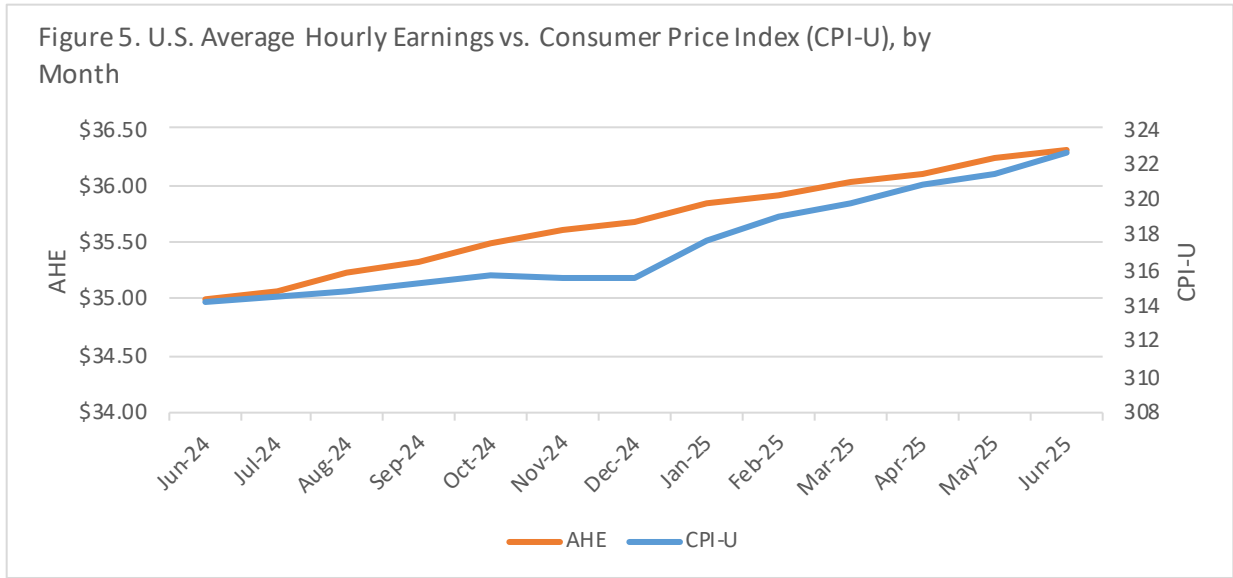
Figure 3. U.S. PCE PI Headline vs. PCE PI Core, by Month





The figures below illustrate changes in the prices consumers pay for goods and services and how the change in hourly wages compare to changes in prices. The upward slope in the PCE price indexes, and the consumer price index imply inflation and average hourly earnings have followed a similar path over this period.

Source: [bea.gov](https://www.bea.gov)



The following graphs illustrate the dynamics of consumer credit, income, and financial stress. Both revolving and nonrevolving consumer credit experienced a notable decline in the fourth quarter of 2024. This shift likely reflects a combination of elevated interest rates, tighter lending standards, and increased consumer caution amid economic uncertainty. With borrowing costs remaining high, households may have opted to reduce reliance on credit, particularly around the holiday season, traditionally a period of higher revolving credit usage. Additionally, a slowdown in durable goods purchases—especially in the auto sector—likely contributed to the decline in nonrevolving credit. This retreat from borrowing may also signal a broader shift in consumer behavior toward financial conservatism as inflation and recession concerns persisted late into the year and into the first part of 2025.

Source: [federalreserve.gov](https://www.federalreserve.gov) & [bea.gov](https://www.bea.gov)

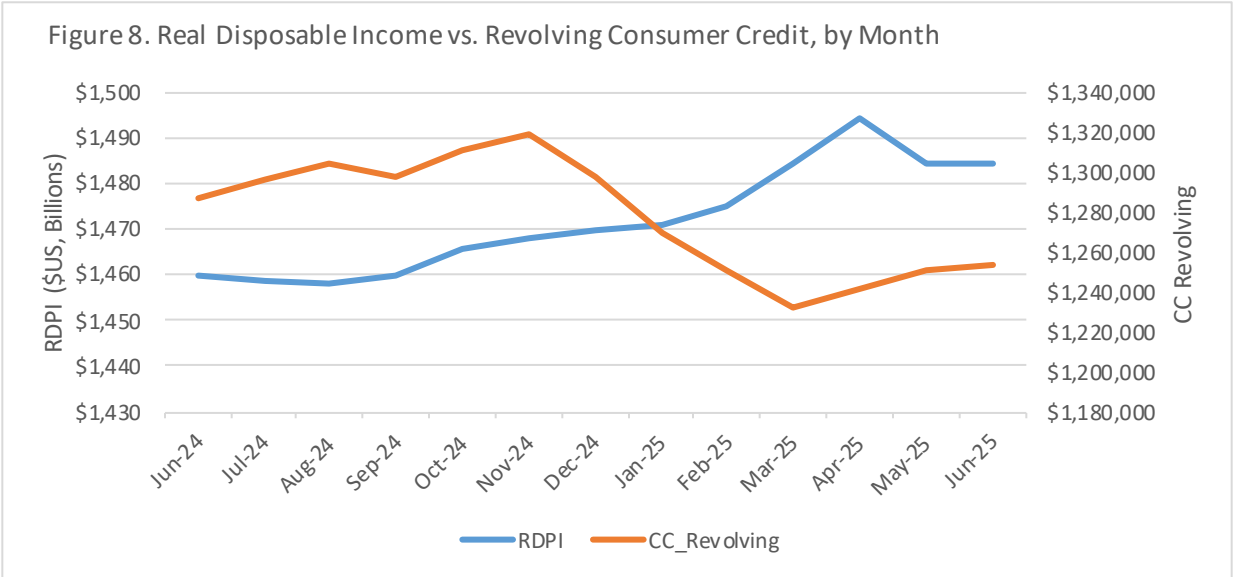
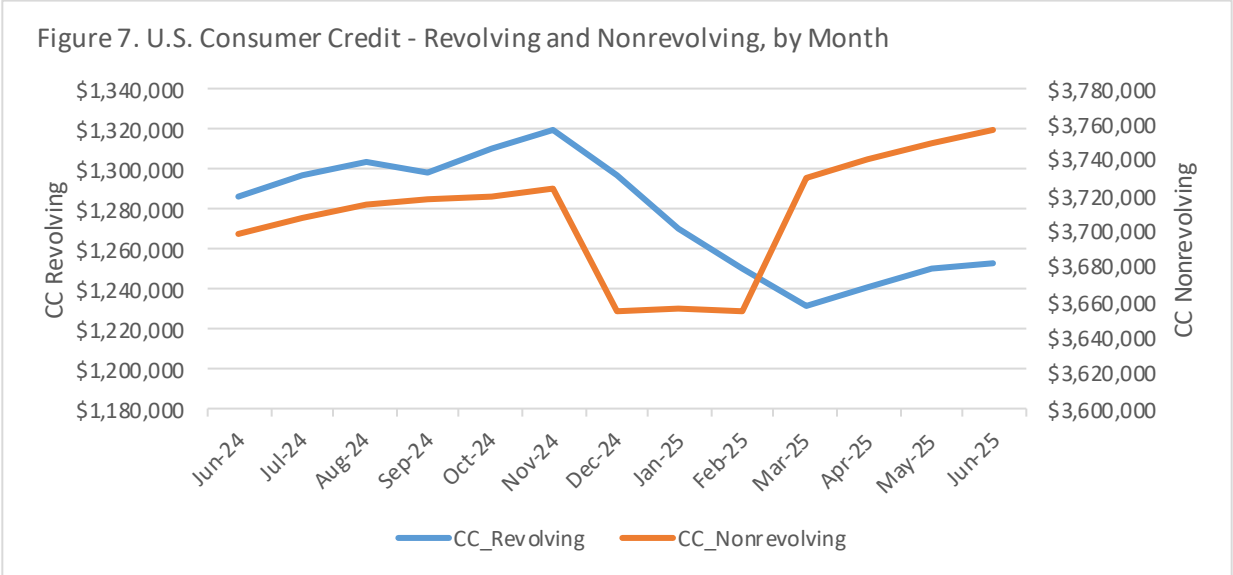
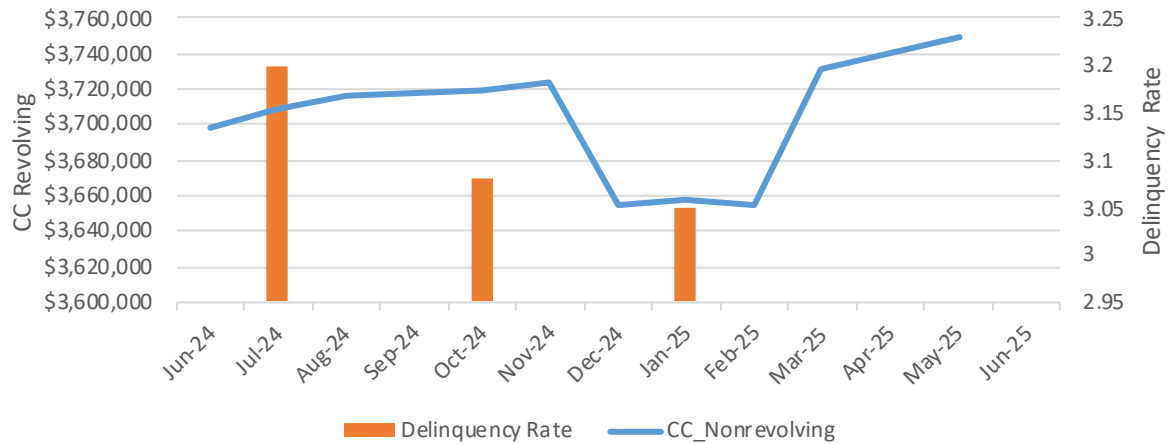


Figure 9. U.S. Revolving Consumer Credit vs. Delinquency Rates, by Month and Quarter



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.

Source: [conference-board.org](https://www.conference-board.org)

Table 13. The Conference Board U.S. Consumer Confidence Index®, Monthly

Index	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Consumer Confidence Index	97.2	95.2	100.3	2	-3.1
Present Situation Index	131.5	133	133.6	-1.5	-2.1
Expectations Index	74.4	69.9	78.2	4.5	-3.8

Note: 1985=100.

The University of Michigan's Surveys of Consumers provide a timely barometer of how Americans think the economy is doing and where it's headed. Produced monthly, the survey gauges how U.S. consumers feel about their personal financial situation now and one year ahead, the overall economy, both current conditions and future outlook, buying conditions for large household items, and inflation expectations over the next year and longer term.

Source: sca.isr.umich.edu

Table 14. University of Michigan Index of Consumer Sentiment and Subsets

Index	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	% Point Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Consumer Sentiment	61.7	60.7	66.4	1.6%	-7.1%
Economic Conditions	68	64.8	62.7	4.9%	8.5%
Consumer Expectations	57.7	58.1	68.8	-0.7%	-16.1%
Inflation Expectations (Short-Run)	4.5%	5.0%	2.9%	-0.5	1.6
Inflation Expectations (Long-Run)	3.4%	4.0%	3.0%	-0.6	0.4

Note: Changes in inflation expectations are expressed as percentage-point changes.

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] 7 Consumer Credit [June]	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
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