Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, September 26, 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 September 2025 Announcements:

Hunt Forest Products, Tolko Industries and Louisiana Economic Development dedicate new high-tech sawmill in Northwest Louisiana
September 25th, 2025

Louisiana Breaks into Top 10 States for Doing Business
September 24th, 2025

Electric aircraft? Shreveport's Metro Aviation, state economic leaders talk opportunities
September 24th, 2025

LED secretary kicks off statewide tour in northeast Louisiana
September 23rd, 2025

VRC Metal Systems Announces $1.56 Million Investment in Cutting-Edge Air Force Maintenance Facility
September 18th, 2025

Landry Unveils Bold Plan, Creates Pipeline of Opportunity for Louisiana Businesses
September 16th, 2025

Noble Plastics Announces $8.5 Million Expansion in Acadiana to Build Local Supply Chain for First Solar
September 9th, 2025

Direct questions and comments to:

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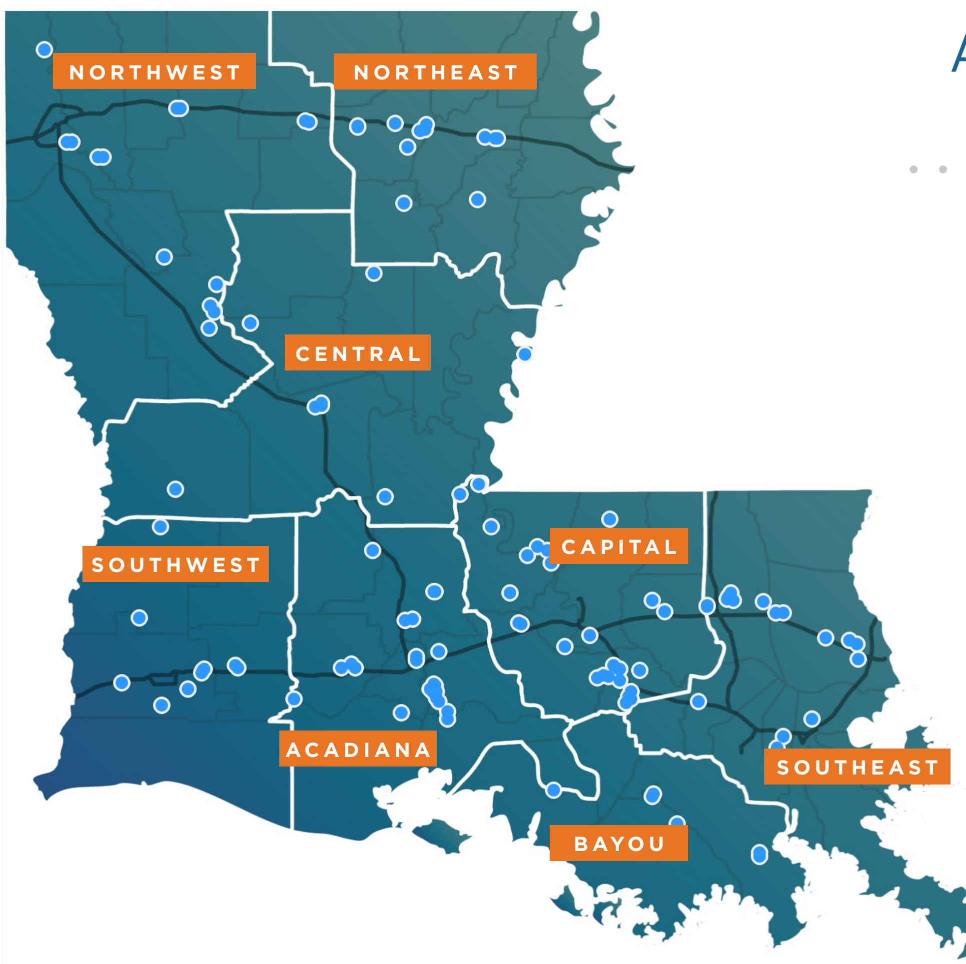
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 56 projects that will account for over $63.8 billion USD of investment and more than 7,330 direct new jobs.

As of 09/25/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 183 distinct projects, with a combined value of over $205.3 billion USD and with the potential to create more than 43,925 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since its inception, Louisiana Economic Development has Certified 161 Industrial sites, with portions or all of 32 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	27
Central	9
Northeast	12
Northwest	16
Southeast	17
Southwest	14
TOTAL	124

1. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The following tables provide data on state and metropolitan employment, hours, and earnings (current U.S. dollars) figures for August 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. State and Metro Area Private Sector Employment (in Thousands)					
				% Change	
Area	Aug-25	Jul-25	Aug-24	(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	48.6	48.3	48.3	-	0.6%
Baton Rouge	356.1	355.2	354.5	0.3%	0.5%
Hammond	39	38.8	39	0.5%	-
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	75.4	75.4	75.4	-	-
Lafayette	163.4	163.5	161.4	-0.1%	1.2%
Lake Charles	88.2	88.5	88.3	-0.3%	-0.1%
Monroe	77.6	77.5	77.3	-	0.4%
New Orleans-Metairie	421.5	420.9	419.7	0.1%	0.4%
Shreveport-Bossier City	142.9	142.5	140.7	0.3%	1.6%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	88.3	88.2	87.3	0.1%	1.1%
Louisiana	1680.6	1676.7	1666.6	0.2%	0.8%
Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted; July 2025 data are revised. August 2025 data are preliminary.					

Table 2. State and Metro Area Private Sector Average Weekly Hours					
				% Change	
Area	Aug-25	Jul-25	Aug-24	(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	36.6	36.5	36.8	0.3%	-0.5%
Baton Rouge	36.1	36.1	37.7	-	-4.2%
Hammond	33.1	32.5	32.6	1.8%	1.5%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	39.8	39.4	41.8	1.0%	-4.8%
Lafayette	37.5	37.4	38.2	0.3%	-1.8%
Lake Charles	36.2	36.6	35.3	-1.1%	2.5%
Monroe	32.2	32.1	35.9	0.3%	-10.3%
New Orleans-Metairie	35.8	35.7	36.3	0.3%	-1.4%
Shreveport-Bossier City	34.5	34.3	35.5	0.6%	-2.8%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	34.4	34.3	34.7	0.3%	-0.9%
Louisiana	35.9	35.7	36.9	0.6%	-2.7%
Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted; July 2025 data are revised. August 2025 data are preliminary.					

Table 3. State and Metro Area Private Sector Average Hourly Earnings					
				% Change	
Area	Aug-25	Jul-25	Aug-24	(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	$26.39	$25.94	$27.38	1.7%	-3.6%
Baton Rouge	$33.37	$32.45	$30.78	2.8%	8.4%
Hammond	$21.54	$21.60	$19.52	-0.3%	10.3%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	$29.27	$29.94	$28.12	-2.2%	4.1%
Lafayette	$27.73	$28.23	$26.74	-1.8%	3.7%
Lake Charles	$32.31	$32.84	$30.65	-1.6%	5.4%
Monroe	$27.73	$28.81	$29.67	-3.7%	-6.5%
New Orleans-Metairie	$30.21	$30.76	$30.45	-1.8%	-0.8%
Shreveport-Bossier City	$27.60	$27.48	$25.09	0.4%	10.0%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	$33.42	$33.01	$34.34	1.2%	-2.7%
Louisiana	$29.71	$29.82	$28.70	-0.4%	3.5%

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

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					
				% Change	
Commodity	9/19/25	9/12/25	9/13/24	(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	$68.33	$67.23	$74.98	1.6%	-8.9%
WTI Crude Oil	$63.98	$63.06	$72.14	1.5%	-11.3%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	$3.05	$2.96	$2.26	3.0%	35.0%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	$3.05	$3.04	$3.07	0.3%	-0.7%

Table 5. 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: tradingeconomics.com

Table 6. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of September 25, 2025							
				% Change			
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	$1,011.70	$10.12	$/Bu	0.3%	-2.4%	-1.6%	-2.7%
Wheat	$523.52	$5.24	$/Bu	0.7%	-0.1%	2.8%	-10.4%
Lumber	$583.07	$5.83	$/MBF	-0.6%	1.7%	1.4%	11.0%
Palm Oil	$4,440.00	$44.40	$/MT	1.4%	0.1%	-0.7%	6.9%
Sugar (No. 11)	$15.54	$0.16	$/Lb	-0.6%	1.1%	-5.3%	-33.3%
Coffee	$365.28	$3.65	$/Lb	-1.0%	-4.1%	-4.9%	33.6%
Corn	$425.72	$4.26	$/Bu	0.4%	0.5%	9.9%	3.1%
Rice	$11.45	$0.11	$/CWT	-0.1%	-0.6%	-3.5%	-23.3%
Orange Juice	$245.06	$2.45	$/Lb	0.3%	2.0%	-7.7%	-48.4%

3. REAL ESTATE IN LOUISIANA

The following figures illustrate the “push-pull” dynamic between new listings (increase in supply) of homes for sale and price reductions of active homes for sale (market adjustment). New listings lead to price reductions as more supply pressure eventually forces sellers to cut asking prices. This is a forward-looking signal; listings anticipate reductions. Price reductions then lead to a decrease in new listings (or delayed). This is a feedback loop, which dampens further supply pressure. To smooth out short-term shocks and seasonality, 4-month moving averages (4MMA) for New listings and Price Reductions were calculated. New listings for Louisiana are plotted against price reductions lagged by three months in the first figure. Figure 1 illustrates a direct or positive correlation between new listings and a 3-month lag in price reductions. In figure 2, price reductions for Louisiana are plotted against new listings lagged by three months. In this figure, an inverse or negative correlation is shown between price reductions and a 3-month lag in new listings. The remaining figures illustrate the correlations using data from MSAs in Louisiana.

Figure 1. Louisiana New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

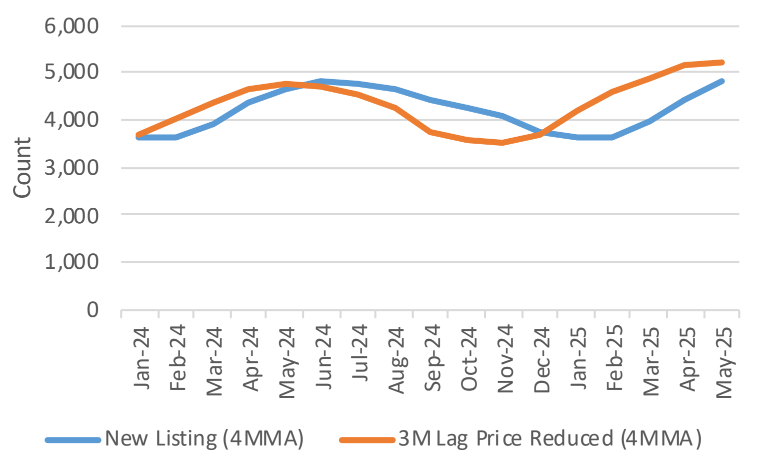


Figure 2. Louisiana Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

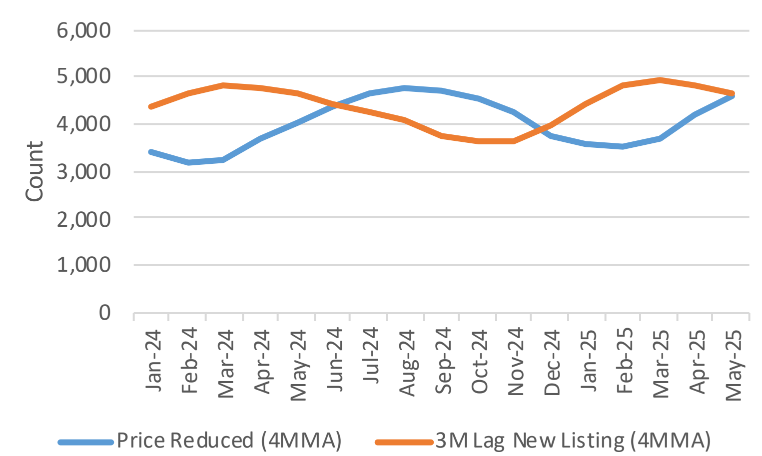


Figure 3. Alexandria New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

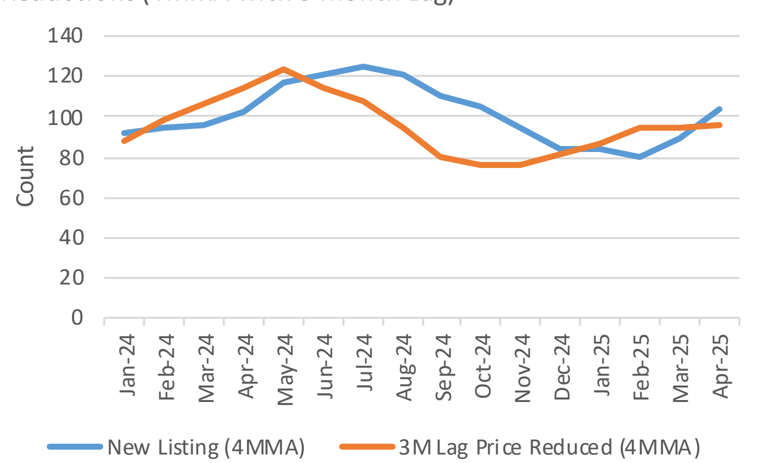


Figure 4. Alexandria Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

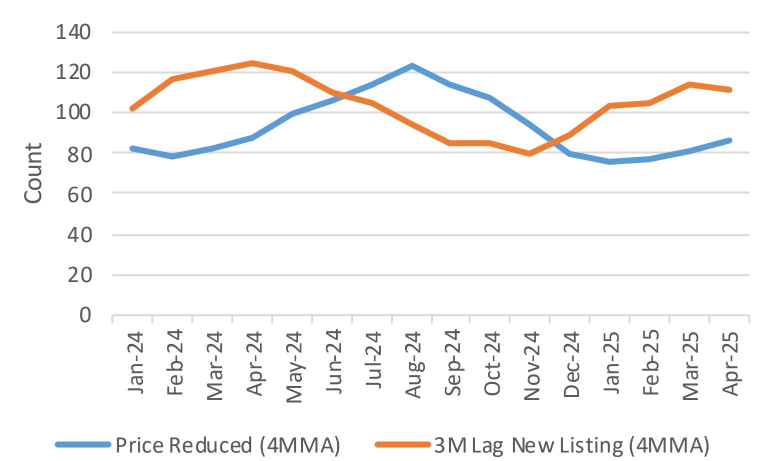


Figure 5. Baton Rouge New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

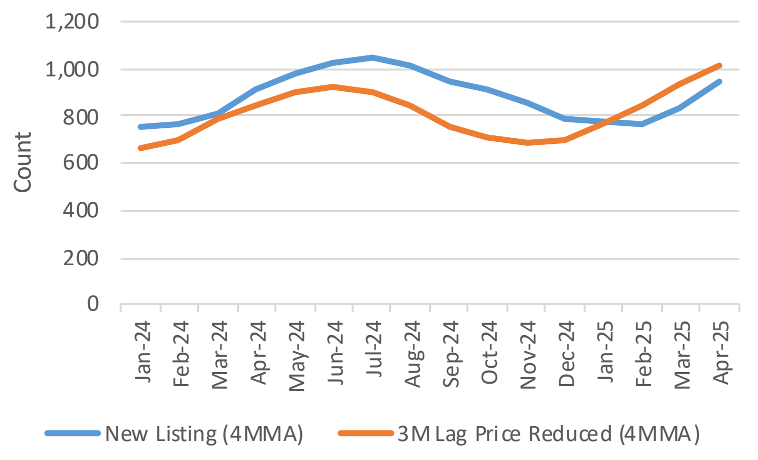


Figure 6. Baton Rouge Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

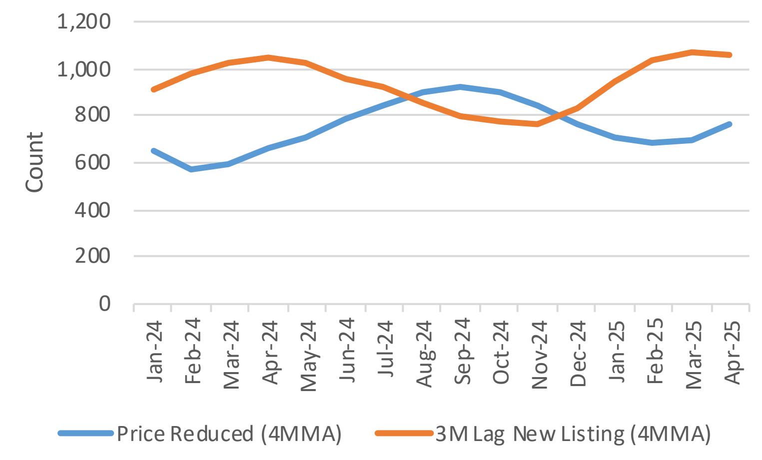


Figure 7. Hammond New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

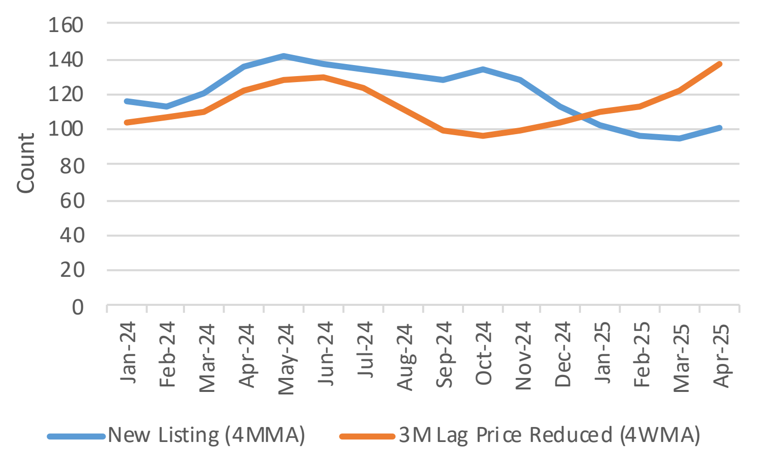


Figure 8. Hammond Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

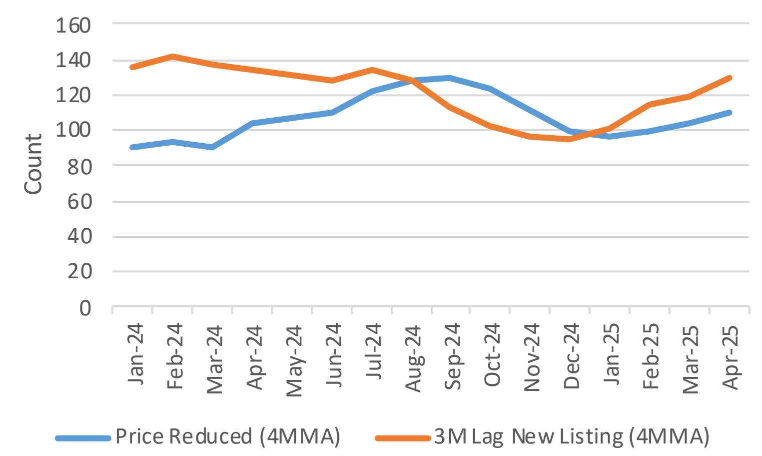


Figure 9. Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

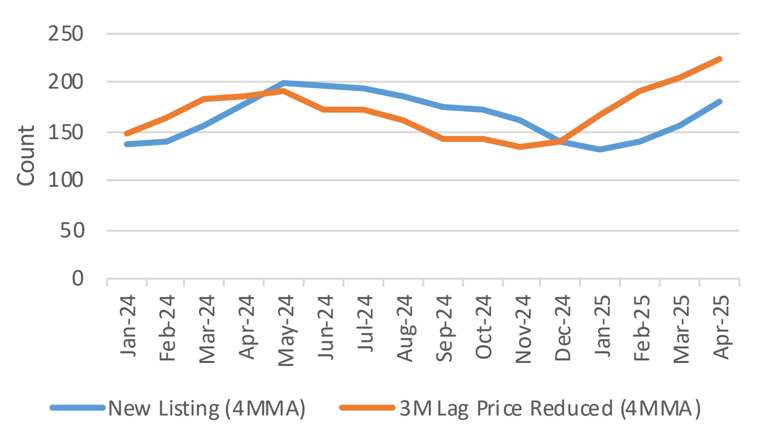


Figure 10. Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

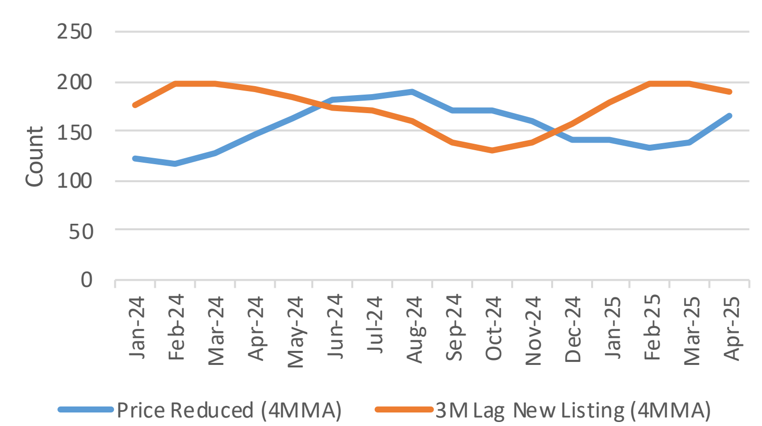


Figure 11. Lafayette New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

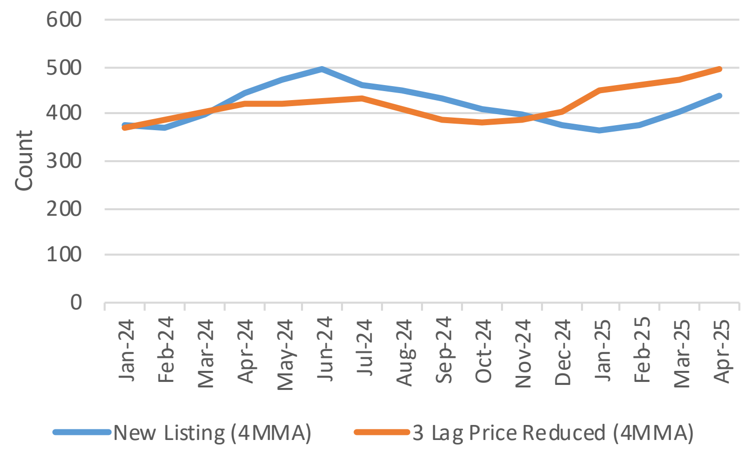


Figure 12. Lafayette Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

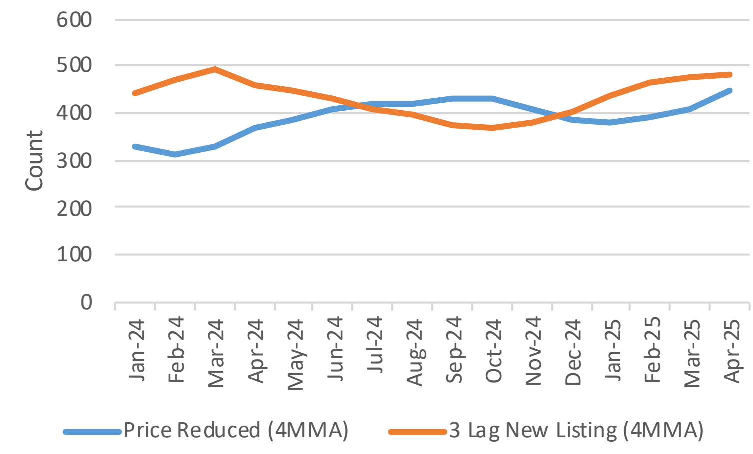


Figure 13. Lake Charles New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

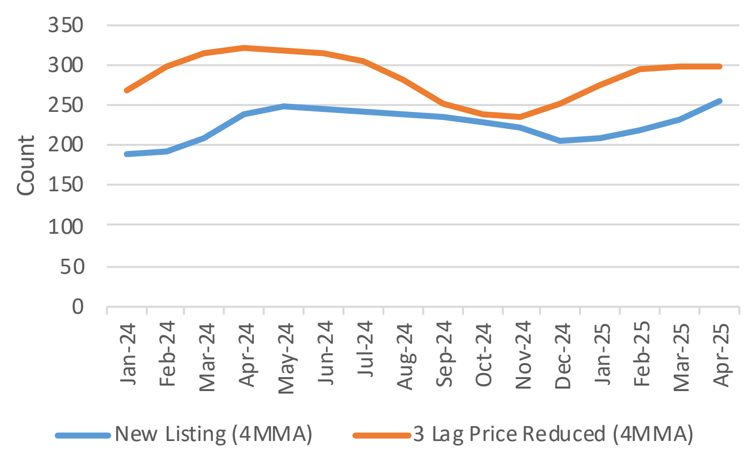


Figure 14. Lake Charles Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

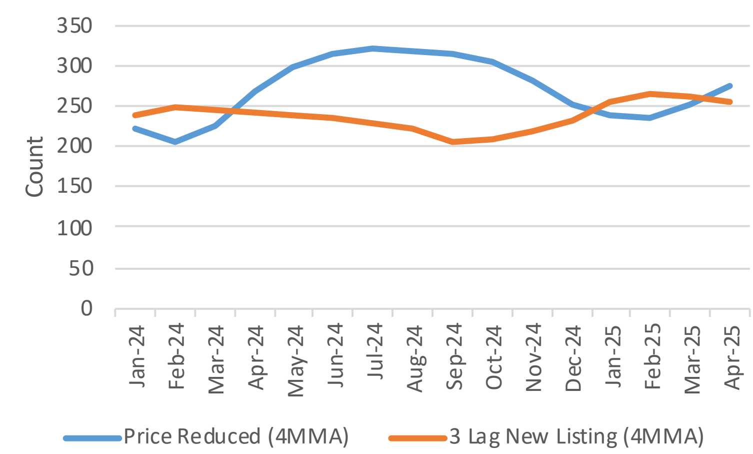


Figure 15. New Orleans-Metairie New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

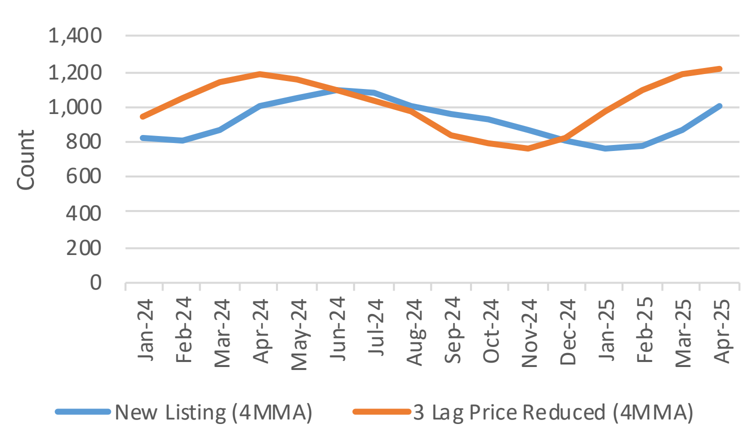


Figure 16. New Orleans-Metairie Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

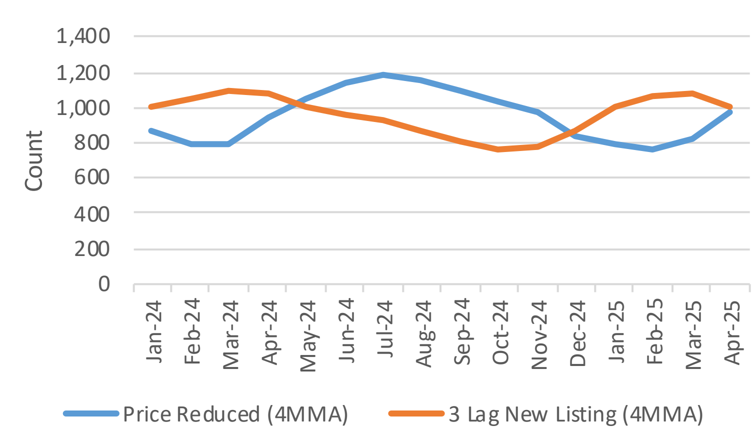


Figure 17. Shreveport-Bossier New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

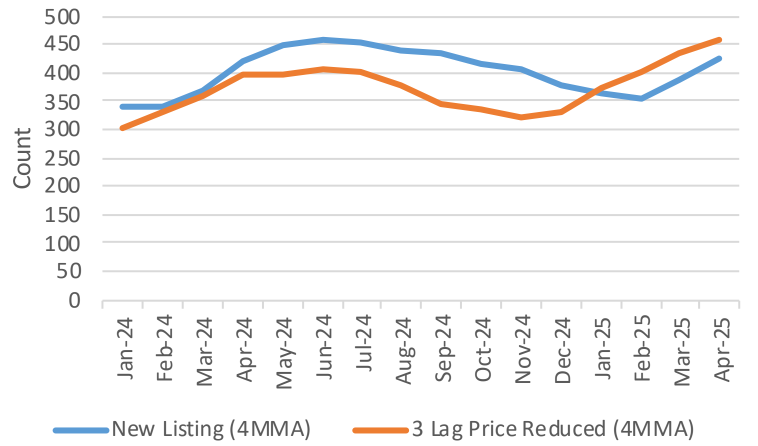


Figure 18. Shreveport-Bossier Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

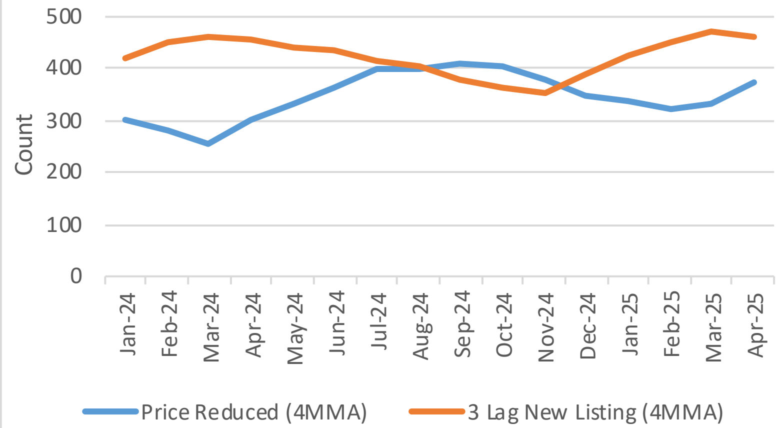


Figure 19. Slidell-Mandeville-Covington New Listings (4MMA) and Price Reductions (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)

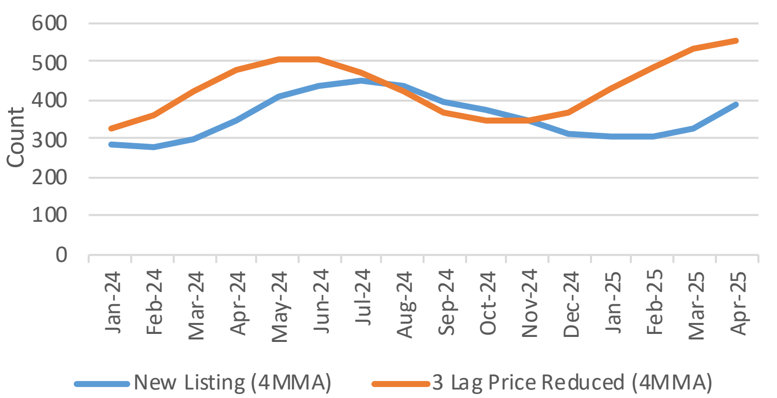
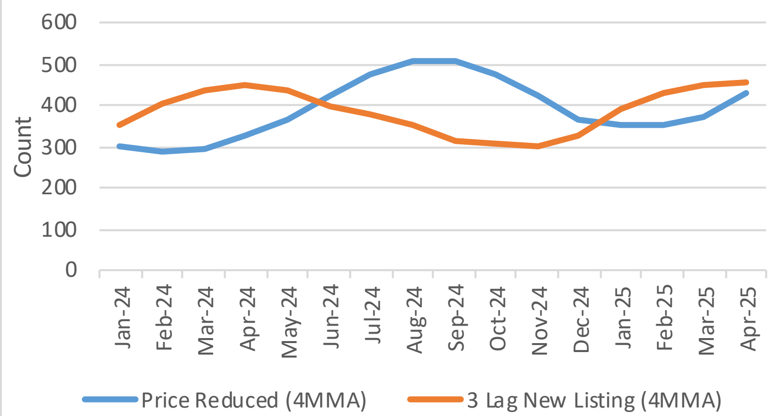


Figure 20. Slidell-Mandeville-Covington Price Reductions (4MMA) and New Listings (4MMA with 3 Month Lag)



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 21. Baton Rouge Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

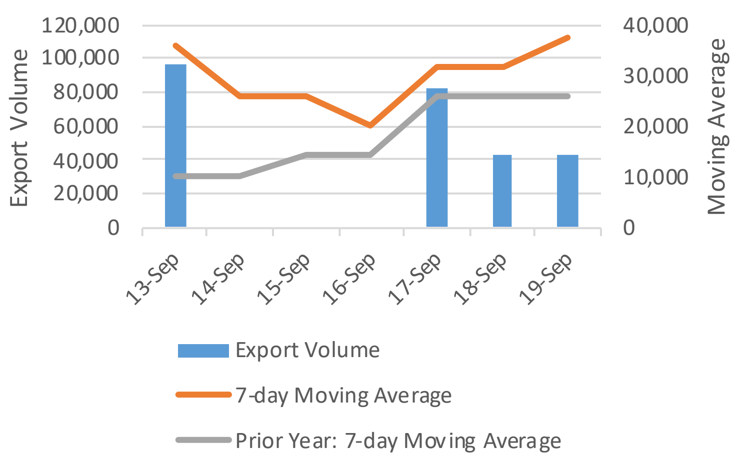


Figure 22. New Orleans Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

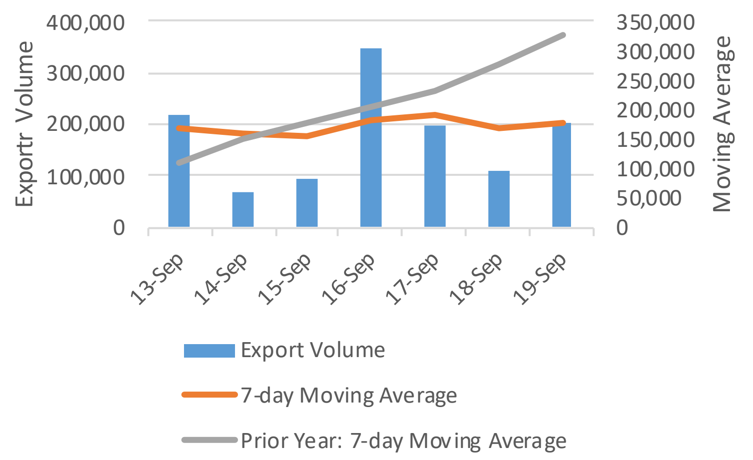


Figure 23. South Louisiana Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

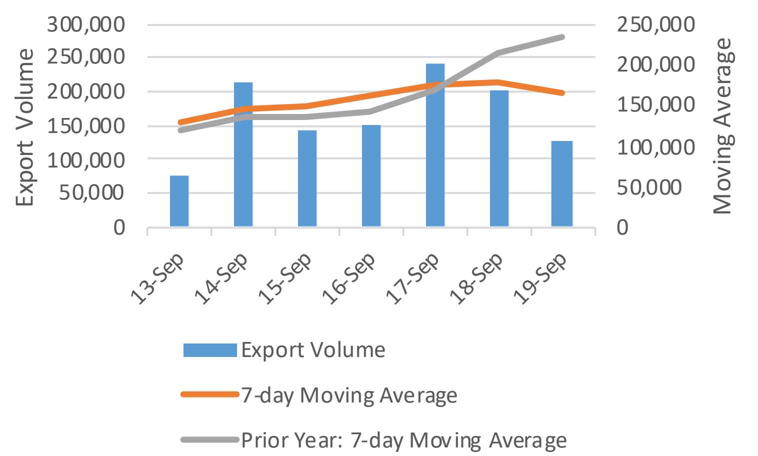


Figure 24. Lake Charles Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

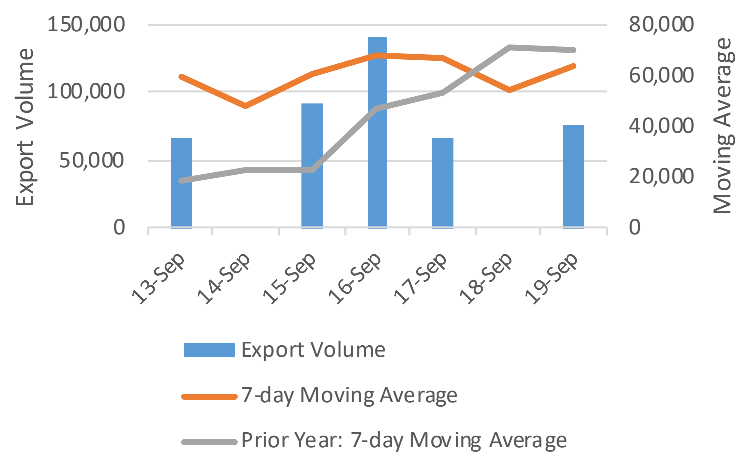


Figure 25. Plaquemines Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

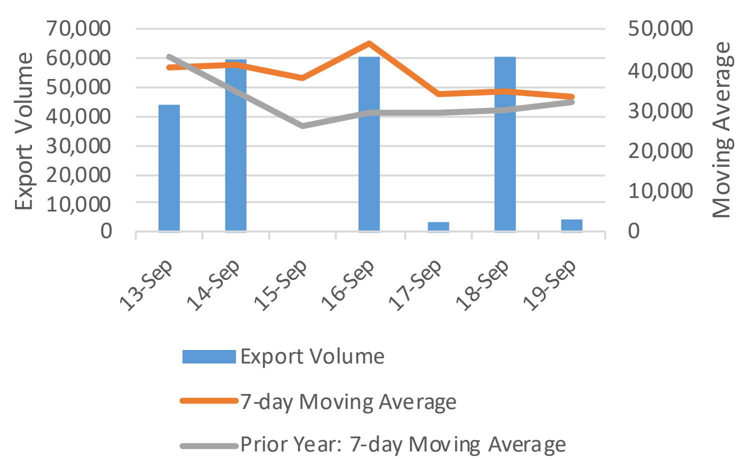


Figure 26. Baton Rouge Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

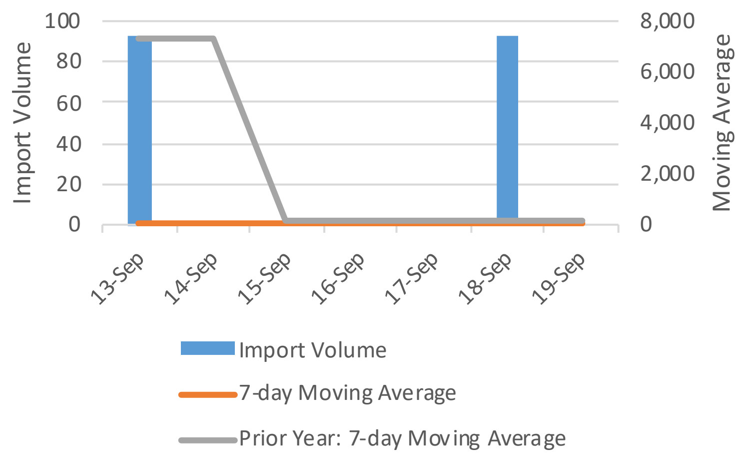


Figure 27. New Orleans Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

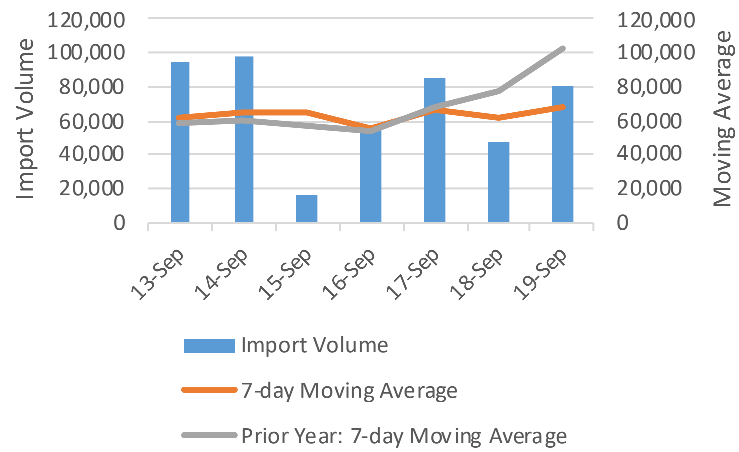


Figure 28. South Louisiana Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

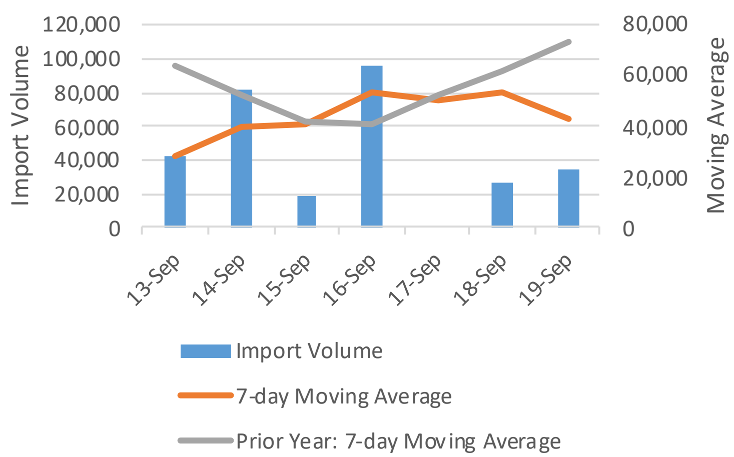


Figure 29. Lake Charles Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

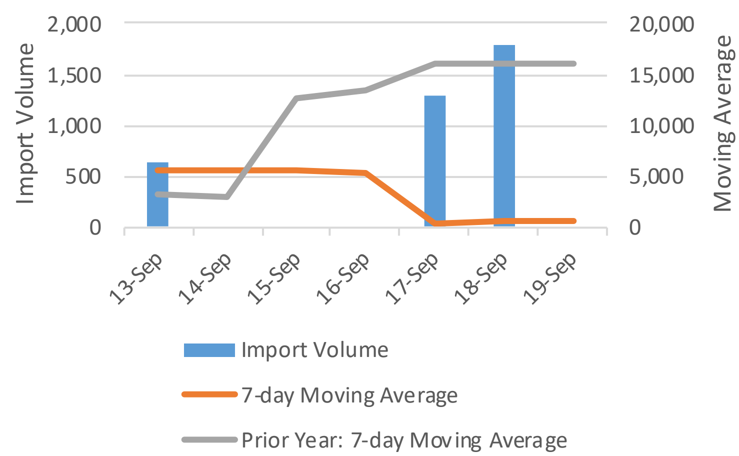


Figure 30. Plaquemines Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

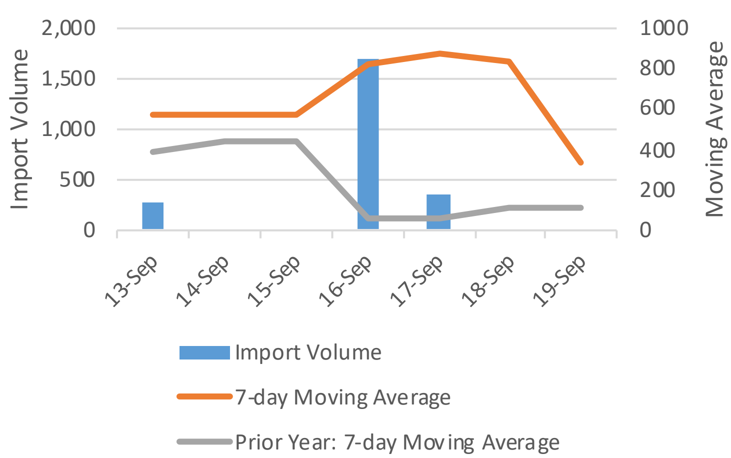


Figure 31. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

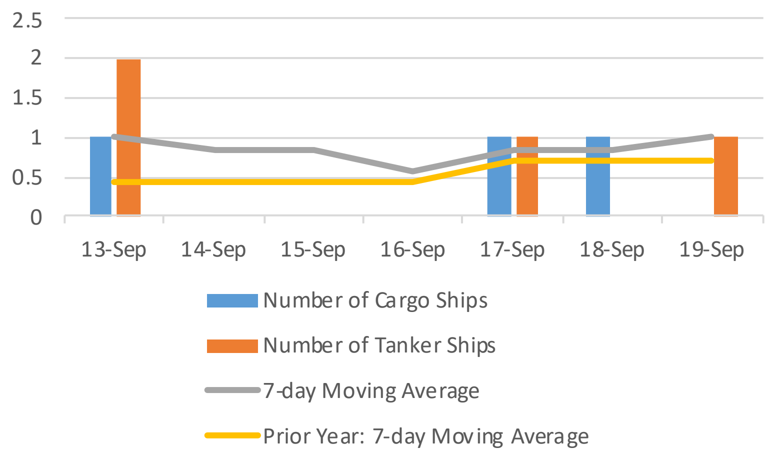


Figure 32. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

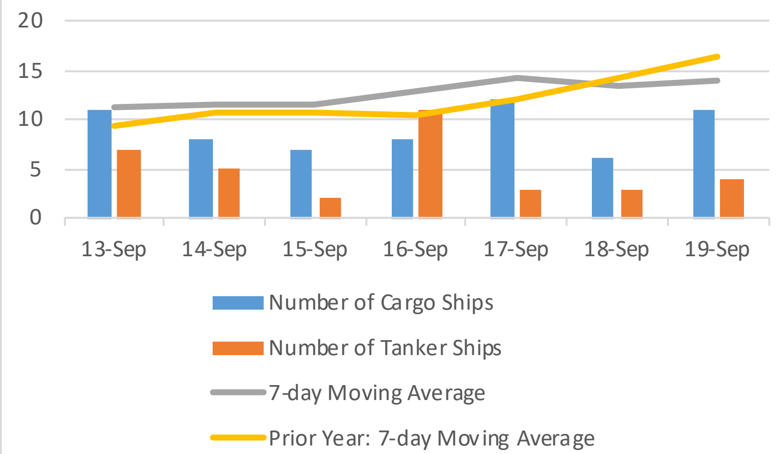


Figure 33. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

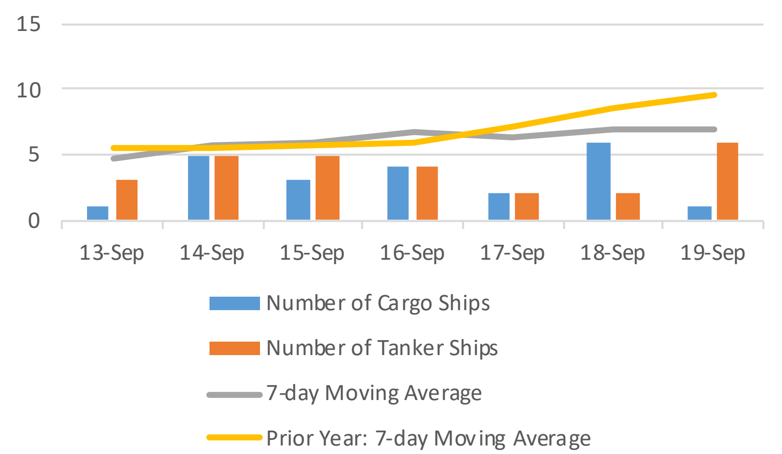


Figure 34. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

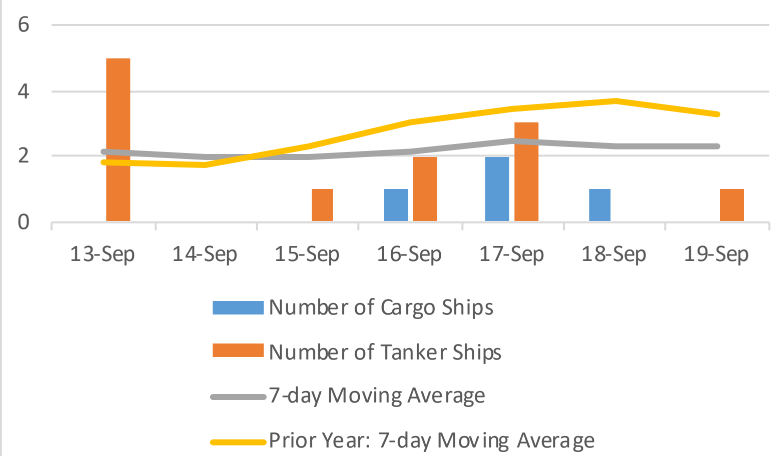
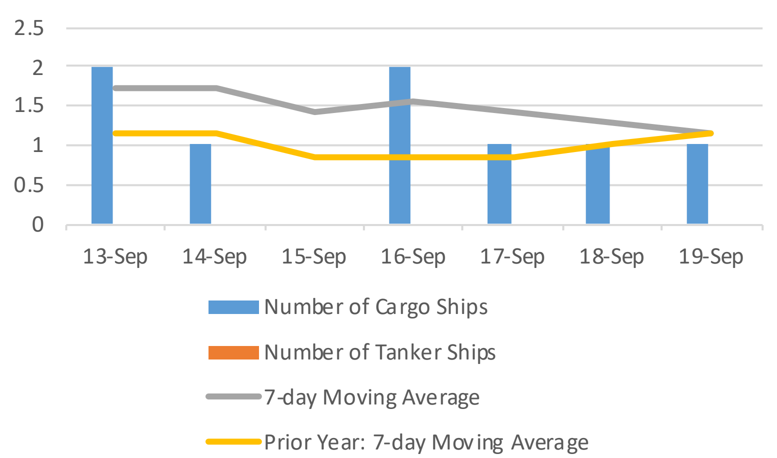


Figure 35. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



5. U.S. GDP & PERSONAL INCOME

The following tables present the third (revised) estimate for Q2:2025 U.S. gross domestic product. Real GDP for the U.S. increased at an annual rate of 3.8 percent in the second quarter of 2025 according to the third estimate released by the U.S . Bureau of Economic Analysis. The increase in real GDP in the second quarter primarily reflected an increase in consumer spending and a decrease in imports, which are a subtraction in the calculation of GDP.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis - bea.gov

Table 7. U.S. Real Gross Domestic Product and Major Expenditure Components, by Quarter (3rd estimate)

Component	2025:Q2	2025:Q1	2024:Q2	% Change (QoQ)	% Change (YoY)
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	$5,942.8	$5,887.1	$5,821.6	0.9%	2.1%
Personal Consumption Expenditures	$4,111.4	$4,086.5	$4,002.4	0.6%	2.7%
Gross Private Domestic Investment	$1,095.7	$1,083.4	$1,066.2	1.1%	2.8%
Net Exports of Goods and Services	($264.5)	($345.2)	($258.1)	-23.4%	2.5%
Exports	$661.8	$664.9	$652.0	-0.5%	1.5%
Imports	($926.3)	($1,010.1)	($910.1)	-8.3%	1.8%
Government Consumption Expenditures and Gross Investment	$998.3	$998.5	$979.8	-0.02%	1.9%

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted billions of chained (2017) dollars at quarterly rates; Imports are a subtraction in the calculation of GDP, therefore, an increase results in a negative contribution to GDP and are noted in red.

Figure 36. Contribution to Percent Change (3.8 Percent) in Real Gross Domestic Product (Percentage Points), Annualized Rate

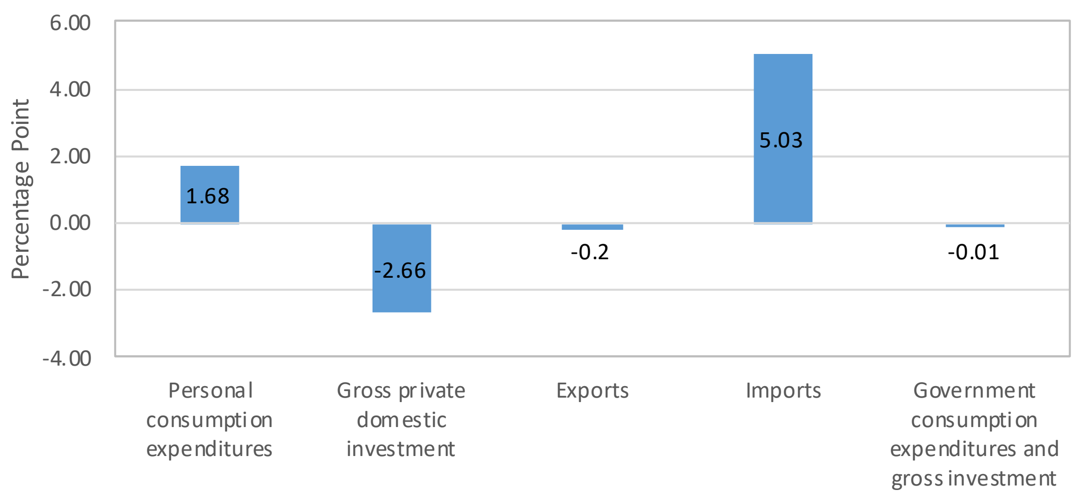


Table 8. U.S. Personal Income and Its Disposition, by Quarter

Component	2025:Q2	2025:Q1	2024:Q2	% Change (QoQ)	% Change (YoY)
Personal Income	$6,516.8	$6,429.4	$6,200.2	1.4%	5.1%
Disposable Personal Income	$5,714.6	$5,640.9	$5,460.8	1.3%	4.6%
Personal Saving	$303.1	$290.8	$315.7	4.2%	-4.0%
Personal Saving Rate	5.3	5.2	5.8	0.1	-0.5

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted billions of dollars, excluding personal saving rate. Change in Personal Saving Rate measured as percentage point.

September

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
	1 Labor Day [U.S. Markets Closed]	2 Construction Spending [Jul] ISM Manufacturing [Aug]	3 JOLTS [Jul] Total Vehicle Sales [Aug]	4 Trade Balance [Jul] Productivity [Q2 F] ISM Services [Aug]	5 Employment [Aug]	6
7	8 Consumer Credit [Jul]	9 NFIB Small Business [Aug] QCEW [Q1:2025] Housing Inventory [Aug]	10 PPI [Aug]	11 CPI [Aug] Real Earngins [Aug] Market Hotness [Aug] Federal Budget [Aug]	12 U. of Michigan Sentiment [Sep]	13
14	15	16 Retail Sales [Aug] Import Price Index [Aug] Industrial Production [Aug] Business Inventories [Jul] NAHB Index [Sep]	17 Housing Starts [Aug] State JOLTS [Jul] FOMC Statement	18	19 State Employment [Aug]	20
21	22	23 Existing Home Sales [Aug]	24 New Home Sales [Aug] State Coincidence Index [Aug]	25 GDP [Q2 3rd] Durable Goods [Aug]	26 Personal Income [Aug] State GPD, Consumption Expenditures, & Personal Income [Q2 2025]	27
28	29 Pending Home Sales [Aug]	30 S&P/C-S Home Prices [Jul] Consumer Confidence [Sep] JOLTS [Aug]				