

## **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:

<u>SNT Selects Louisiana for First U.S. Consolidated Manufacturing Facility</u> August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

LIV Golf Announces Commitment to New Orleans City Park with 2026 Debut August 27th, 2025

Radiance Technologies Announces \$370 Million Microchip Facility in North Louisiana to Bolster and Secure National Supply Chains

August 25th, 2025

Southern Economic Development Council Honors Louisiana Economic Development for Excellence in Communications

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Direct questions and comments to:

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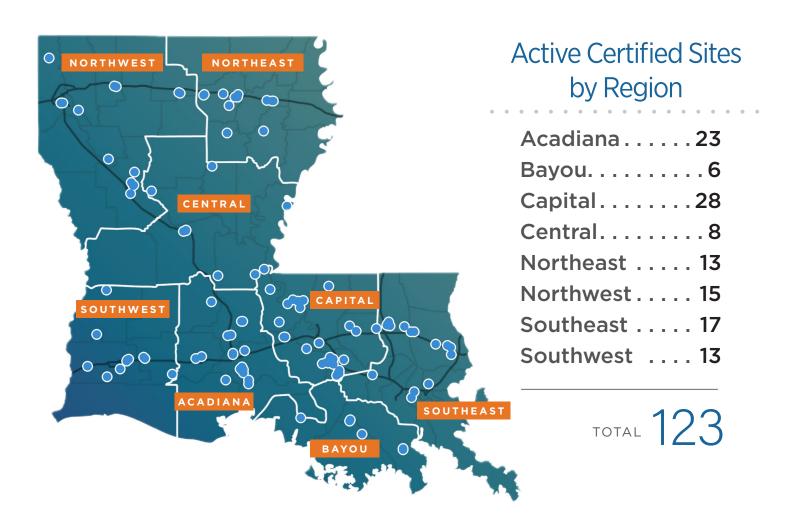
## LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 54 projects that will account for over \$63.8 billion USD of investment and more than 7,280 direct new jobs.

As of 09/04/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 173 distinct projects, with a combined value of over \$221.8 billion USD and with the potential to create more than 38,435 direct new jobs.

## CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since its inception, Louisiana Economic Development has Certified 160 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.



#### 1. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The following tables present data on various employment indicators for the U.S., selected (southern) states, and MSAs in Louisiana. Each indicator is intended to capture a different but complementary dimension of labor market health.

Source: https://www.bls.gov

Table 1. U.S. Employment Indicators										
	% Ch	ange								
Indicator	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Nonfarm Employment	159,227	160,293	157,771	-0.7%	0.9%					
Private Sector Average Weekly Hours	34.2	34.6	34.1	-1.2%	0.3%					
Unemployment Rate 4.6% 4.4% 4.5% 0.2 0.1										
Note: June and July 2025 data is preliminary. Nonfarm employment in thousands										

Table 2. Louisiana Employment Indicators										
	% Change									
Indicator	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Nonfarm Employment	1986.6	1996.8	1965.8	-0.5%	1.1%					
Private Sector Average Weekly Hours	35.8	36.2	36.5	-1.1%	-1.9%					
Unemployment Rate 4.7% 5.1% 4.8% -0.4 -0.1										
Note: July 2025 data is preliminary. Nonfarm employment in thousands										

Table 3. Total Nonfarm Employment, by State									
				% Change					
State	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)				
Alabama	2,211.2	2,219.5	2,182.5	-0.4%	1.3%				
Arkansas	1,374.1	1,382.8	1,348.0	-0.6%	1.9%				
Florida	9,947.3	9,967.8	9,803.9	-0.2%	1.5%				
Georgia	4,978.3	5,004.8	4,942.1	-0.5%	0.7%				
Kentucky	2,040.7	2,067.8	2,014.5	-1.3%	1.3%				
Louisiana	1,986.6	1,996.8	1,965.8	-0.5%	1.1%				
Mississippi	1,194.2	1,200.5	1,178.0	-0.5%	1.4%				
Missouri	3,026.3	3,039.7	2,968.7	-0.4%	1.9%				
North Carolina	5,055.3	5,116.8	4,968.0	-1.2%	1.8%				
Oklahoma	1,785.7	1,804.6	1,757.7	-1.0%	1.6%				
South Carolina	2,435.7	2,439.1	2,344.2	-0.1%	3.9%				
Tennessee	3,372.9	3,403.0	3,339.0	-0.9%	1.0%				
Texas	14,268.4	14,342.1	14,027.9	-0.5%	1.7%				
Note: July 2025 data is preliminary. Nonfarm employment in thousands									

Table 4. Average Weekly Hours Worked - Private Sector, by State								
				% Ch	ange			
State	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)			
Alabama	35.4	35.7	34.5	-0.3%	2.6%			
Arkansas	34.7	35.1	34.5	-0.4%	0.6%			
Florida	34.2	34.6	34	-0.4%	0.6%			
Georgia	34.6	34.9	34	-0.3%	1.8%			
Kentucky	35.1	35.4	35	-0.3%	0.3%			
Louisiana	35.8	36.2	36.5	-0.4%	-1.9%			
Mississippi	35.4	35.7	34.9	-0.3%	1.4%			
Missouri	33.6	33.7	32.9	-0.1%	2.1%			
North Carolina	33.8	34.3	33.8	-0.5%	-			
Oklahoma	35.1	35.7	34.7	-0.6%	1.2%			
South Carolina	33.8	34.1	33.7	-0.3%	0.3%			
Tennessee	34.5	34.9	34.6	-0.4%	-0.3%			
Texas	36.1	36.5	35.4	-0.4%	2.0%			
Note: July 2025 data is preliminary.								

Table 5. Unemployment Rate, by State								
				% Point Change				
State	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)			
Alabama	2.9%	3.0%	3.4%	-0.1	-0.5			
Arkansas	4.3%	4.2%	4.0%	0.1	0.3			
Florida	4.1%	3.9%	3.8%	0.2	0.3			
Georgia	3.6%	3.7%	3.9%	-0.1	-0.3			
Kentucky	5.6%	4.9%	5.8%	0.7	-0.2			
Louisiana	4.7%	5.1%	4.8%	-0.4	-0.1			
Mississippi	4.6%	4.5%	3.7%	0.1	0.9			
Missouri	4.7%	4.4%	4.3%	0.3	0.4			
North Carolina	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%	-0.2	-0.3			
Oklahoma	3.2%	3.4%	3.6%	-0.2	-0.4			
South Carolina	4.7%	4.4%	4.9%	0.3	-0.2			
Tennessee	4.4%	4.0%	3.9%	0.4	0.5			
Texas	4.2%	4.1%	4.5%	0.1	-0.3			
Note: July 2025 data is preliminary.								

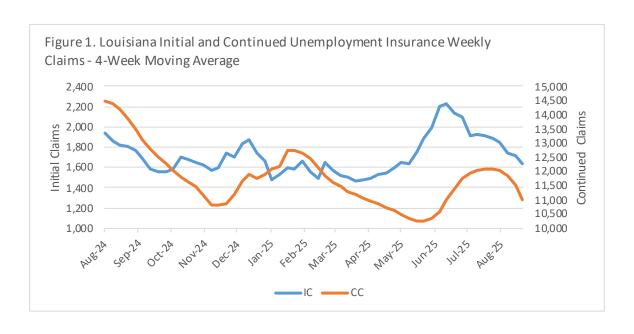
Table 6. Total Nonfarm Employment, by Louisiana MSA									
				% Point Change					
MSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)				
Alexandria	61.9	62.2	61.8	-0.5%	0.2%				
Baton Rouge	425.5	430.9	422.2	-1.3%	0.8%				
Hammond	50.7	50.8	50.1	-0.2%	1.2%				
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	85.6	86.2	85.4	-0.7%	0.2%				
Lafayette	186.2	187.1	183.3	-0.5%	1.6%				
Lake Charles	104.4	105.5	103.6	-1.0%	0.8%				
Monroe	92.0	92.0	91.2	-	0.9%				
New Orleans-Metairie	473.7	477.7	469.7	-0.8%	0.9%				
Shreveport-Bossier City	168.7	169.6	167.4	-0.5%	0.8%				
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	103.3	103.7	102.0	-0.4%	1.3%				

Table 7. Average Weekly Hours Worked - Private Sector, by Louisiana MSA									
				% Change					
MSA	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%				
Note: July 2025 data is preliminary.									

Table 8. Unemployment Rate, by Louisiana MSA									
				% Change					
MSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)				
Alexandria	4.2%	4.7%	4.4%	-0.5	-0.2				
Baton Rouge	4.5%	4.9%	4.6%	-0.4	-0.1				
Hammond	5.4%	5.9%	5.6%	-0.5	-0.2				
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	4.1%	4.5%	4.1%	-0.4	-				
Lafayette	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%	-0.3	-0.1				
Lake Charles	4.8%	5.2%	4.9%	-0.4	-0.1				
Monroe	5.0%	5.5%	5.3%	-0.5	-0.3				
New Orleans-Metairie	4.8%	5.1%	4.9%	-0.3	-0.1				
Shreveport-Bossier City	4.6%	5.0%	4.9%	-0.4	-0.3				
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	4.1%	4.5%	4.2%	-0.4	-0.1				
Note: July 2025 data is preliminary.									

Initial claims represent people in Louisiana who are newly filing for unemployment benefits and are a leading indicator of labor market weakness. Continued claims represent people in the state 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>laworks.net</u>



## 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										
				% Ch	ange					
Commodity	8/29/25	8/22/25	8/30/24	(WoW)	(YoY)					
Brent Crude Oil	\$67.77	\$67.82	\$80.83	-0.1%	-16.2%					
WTI Crude Oil	\$64.52	\$64.14	\$76.36	0.6%	-15.5%					
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$1.94	-	46.9%					
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$3.06	\$3.04	\$3.19	0.7%	-4.1%					

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: tradingeconomics.com

Table 11. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of September 4, 2025											
				% Change							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)				
Soybeans	\$1,010.47	\$10.10	\$/Bu	-0.5%	-1.7%	4.3%	0.1%				
Wheat	\$497.32	\$4.97	\$/Bu	-1.3%	-2.5%	-2.1%	-11.3%				
Lumber	\$535.97	\$5.36	\$/MBF	2.2%	-4.6%	-21.6%	7.5%				
Palm Oil	\$4,449.00	\$44.49	\$/MT	0.2%	0.02%	3.7%	13.5%				
Sugar (No. 11)	\$15.71	\$0.16	\$/Lb	-2.0%	-4.8%	-2.5%	-18.6%				
Coffee	\$387.80	\$3.88	\$/Lb	0.6%	0.04%	29.9%	58.0%				
Corn	\$398.56	\$3.99	\$/Bu	0.2%	3.4%	4.5%	-3.0%				
Rice	\$11.55	\$0.12	\$/CWT	-1.5%	0.3%	-7.8%	-25.1%				
Orange Juice	\$230.95	\$2.31	\$/Lb	1.9%	-4.0%	-1.6%	-58.0%				

## 3. RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

The following tables provide data on new housing permits for the U.S., selected states, and Louisiana MSAs, which enables insights into a region's economic conditions, the mobility of residents, and investor sentiment.

Table 12. New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized, by State and U.S.										
	Tota	al Units (unadjus	% CI	nange						
State	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)					
Alabama	1,502	1,337	1,456	12.3%	3.2%					
Arkansas	1,204	1,363	1,051	-11.7%	14.6%					
Florida	14,661	19,538	15,414	-25.0%	-4.9%					
Georgia	5,548	4,194	5,054	32.3%	9.8%					
Kentucky	1,233	1,206	1,227	2.2%	0.5%					
Louisiana	1,082	1,202	1,347	-10.0%	-19.7%					
Mississippi	647	695	692	-6.9%	-6.5%					
Missouri	1,195	2,036	1,558	-41.3%	-23.3%					
North Carolina	7,156	7,421	8,956	-3.6%	-20.1%					
Oklahoma	1,135	1,326	1,137	-14.4%	-0.2%					
South Carolina	3,770	4,264	4,605	-11.6%	-18.1%					
Tennessee	4,132	3,962	3,564	4.3%	15.9%					
Texas	19,248	18,712	19,859	2.9%	-3.1%					
United States	121,488	128,513	126,531	-5.5%	-4.0%					
Source: census.gov										

Table 13. New Privately Owned Housing Unit Values (Per Unit) Authorized, by State and U.S. (in Thousands \$)							
	Value Per Unit			% Change			
State	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)		
Alabama	\$284.2	\$288.2	\$284.2	-1.4%	-		
Arkansas	\$241.0	\$245.6	\$238.1	-1.9%	1.2%		
Florida	\$340.8	\$262.2	\$262.9	30.0%	29.6%		
Georgia	\$255.7	\$269.1	\$263.1	-5.0%	-2.8%		
Kentucky	\$213.9	\$210.4	\$240.5	1.7%	-11.0%		
Louisiana	\$273.3	\$241.0	\$231.3	13.4%	18.2%		
Mississippi	\$191.4	\$196.3	\$190.1	-2.5%	0.7%		
Missouri	\$315.9	\$229.2	\$253.8	37.9%	24.5%		
North Carolina	\$278.9	\$268.2	\$237.5	4.0%	17.4%		
Oklahoma	\$253.3	\$238.1	\$246.8	6.4%	2.6%		
South Carolina	\$307.5	\$284.5	\$273.8	8.1%	12.3%		
Tennessee	\$255.8	\$246.5	\$267.3	3.8%	-4.3%		
Texas	\$240.0	\$244.3	\$236.2	-1.8%	1.6%		
United States	\$273.5	\$260.9	\$257.2	4.9%	6.4%		
Source: census.gov							

	Tota	al Units (unadju	% Change		
MSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	24	27	21	-11.1%	14.3%
Baton Rouge	326	342	274	-4.7%	19.0%
Bogalusa	0	0	0	-	-
DeRidder	11	3	6	266.7%	83.3%
Hammond	78	112	105	-30.4%	-25.7%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	32	55	34	-41.8%	-5.9%
Lafayette	186	176	174	5.7%	6.9%
Lake Charles	62	44	255	40.9%	-75.7%
Minden	2	2	2	-	-
Monroe	30	31	23	-3.2%	30.4%
Morgan City	10	7	2	42.9%	400.0%
Natchitoches	2	3	9	-33.3%	-77.8%
New Iberia	9	12	10	-25.0%	-10.0%
New Orleans-Metairie	119	156	154	-23.7%	-22.7%
Opelousas	12	13	15	-7.7%	-20.0%
Ruston	16	21	8	-23.8%	100.0%
Shreveport-Bossier City	72	82	131	-12.2%	-45.0%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	69	94	93	-26.6%	-25.8%

Note: ¹Bogalusa, DeRidder, Minden, Natchitoches, New Iberia, Opelousas, and Ruston are Micropolitan Statistical Areas. Source: <a href="https://www.census.gov">https://www.census.gov</a>

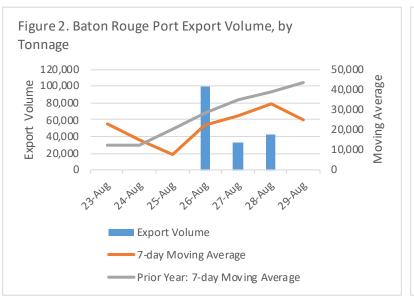
		Value Per Unit	% Change		
MSA	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-24	(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	\$240	\$333	\$237	-28.0%	1.1%
Baton Rouge	\$254	\$216	\$253	17.7%	0.6%
Bogalusa				-	-
DeRidder	\$139	\$180	\$303	-22.5%	-54.0%
Hammond	\$174	\$151	\$147	15.1%	17.7%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	\$252	\$261	\$192	-3.5%	31.4%
Lafayette	\$220	\$250	\$220	-11.7%	0.2%
Lake Charles	\$243	\$186	\$210	30.5%	16.0%
Minden	\$276	\$276	\$276	-	-
Monroe	\$221	\$286	\$326	-22.8%	-32.2%
Morgan City	\$247	\$188	\$213	31.6%	16.2%
Natchitoches	\$433	\$372	\$226	16.4%	91.7%
New Iberia	\$224	\$169	\$193	32.5%	16.1%
New Orleans-Metairie	\$529	\$277	\$245	91.0%	115.9%
Opelousas	\$200	\$191	\$181	4.5%	10.3%
Ruston	\$183	\$203	\$296	-9.8%	-38.3%
Shreveport-Bossier City	\$311	\$235	\$201	32.5%	54.9%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	\$297	\$365	\$361	-18.5%	-17.7%

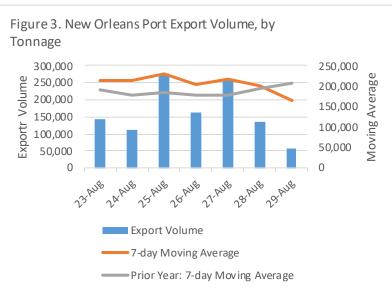
Note: ¹Bogalusa, DeRidder, Minden, Natchitoches, New Iberia, Opelousas, and Ruston are Micropolitan Statistical Areas. Source: <a href="https://www.census.gov">https://www.census.gov</a>

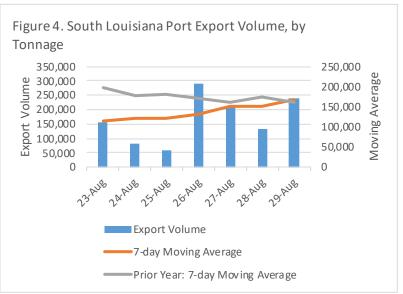
#### 4. PORTS

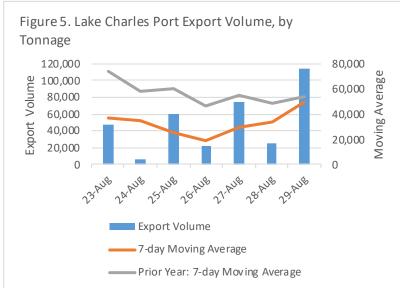
The following figures offer a snapshot of short-run export and import activity at each Louisiana port, reflecting the region's economic conditions, including trade patterns, industrial strengths, and supply chain dynamics.

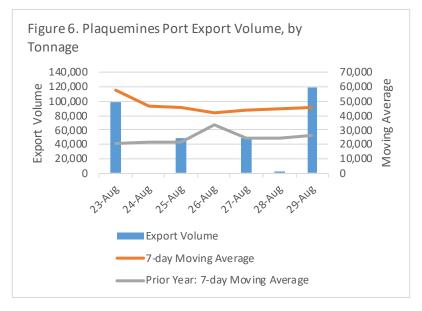
Source: portwatch.imf.org/pages/port-monitor

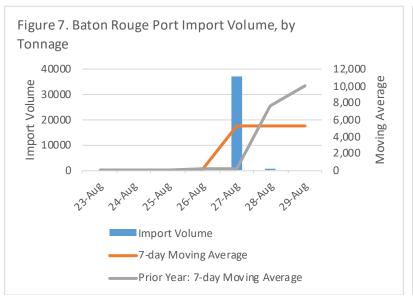


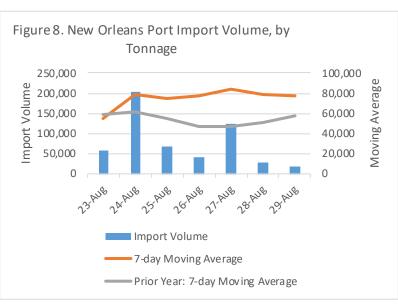


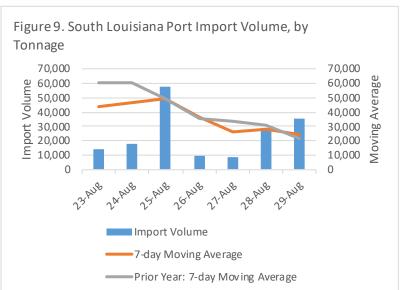


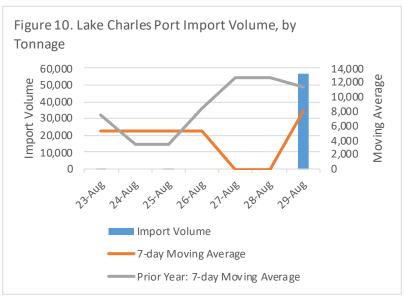


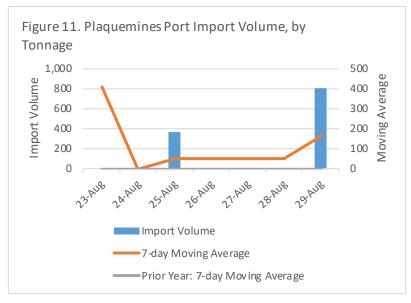


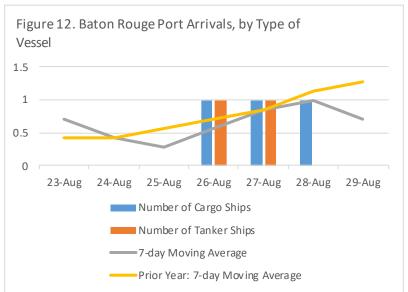


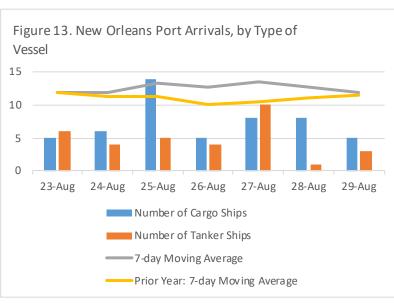


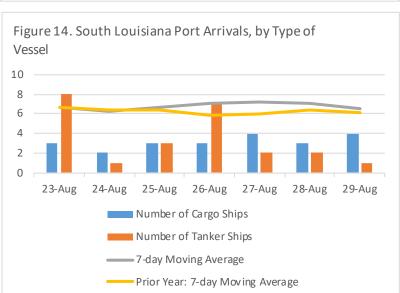


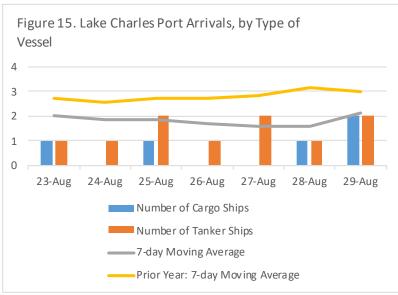


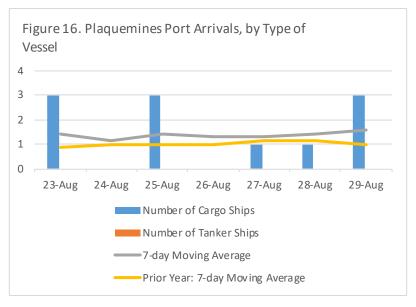












#### 5. OIL & GAS

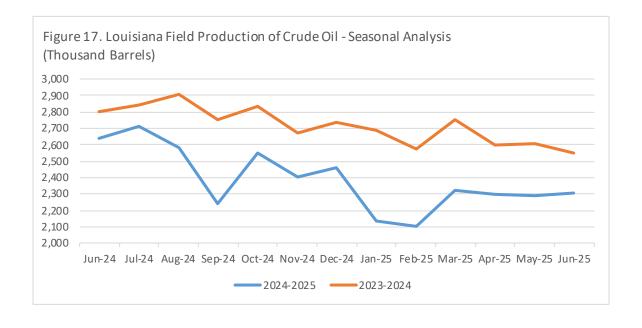
Oil and Gas rig counts signal future oil and gas production levels. More rigs usually mean companies are ramping up drilling, expecting either higher prices or rising demand. A declining rig count may suggest lower future supply, possibly due to falling prices or reduced demand. Also, high rig counts often reflect strong capital investment in energy infrastructure, signaling confidence in the market while a sharp drop might indicate companies are pulling back spending, which can reflect broader economic uncertainty. Because energy is a key input for nearly all economic activity, changes in rig counts can correlate with GDP growth, industrial production, and transportation activity.

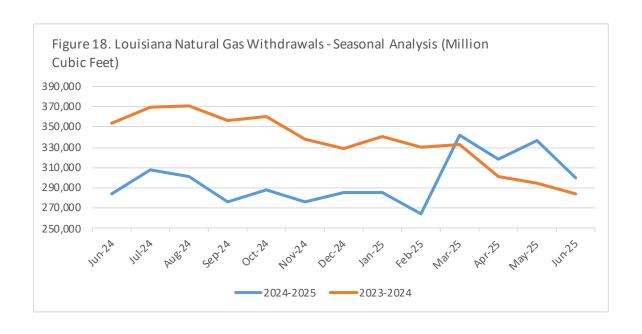
Table 16. Louisiana and U.S. Oil & Gas Rig Counts							
				% Change			
Location	8/29/25	7/25/25	8/30/24	(MoM)	(YoY)		
Louisiana (Total all areas)	41	39	42	5.1%	-2.4%		
North - Land	25	23	24	8.7%	4.2%		
South Inland - Water	3	3	1	-	200.0%		
South Inland - Land	4	4	2	-	100.0%		
State Offshore	0	0	0	-	-		
Louisiana Federal Offshore	9	9	15	-	-40.0%		
U.S. Total	536	542	583	-1.1%	-8.1%		

Source: State of Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, reported by Baker Hughes.

Table 17. Louisiana Monthly Oil and Gas Production							
				% Change			
Туре	Jun-25	May-25	Jun-24	(MoM)	(YoY)		
Crude Oil <sup>1</sup>	2,364	2,425	2,597	-2.5%	-9.0%		
Natural Gas <sup>2</sup>	300,289	336,127	283,356	-10.7%	6.0%		

Note: <sup>1</sup>Thousand Barrels; <sup>2</sup>Million Cubic Feet Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration





## 2025

# September

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