Louisiana Economic Vitals
Friday, October 17, 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 October 2025 Announcements:

Louisiana Launches $150M FastSites Fund — A Bold New Era of Speed, Strategy, and Statewide Growth
October 16th, 2025

South Louisiana Rail Facility Expands to Create New Opportunities for Louisiana Rice Farmers
October 13th, 2025

ICYMI: EquipmentShare Celebrates Grand Opening of New Branch in Louisiana – Part of a Statewide Expansion Exceeding $187 Million
October 10th, 2025

Bollinger Shipyards Wins Major U.S. Defense Deal - Built in Louisiana, Backed by America
October 10th, 2025

MMR Group Expands Louisiana Footprint with $55.2 Million Investment in Lafayette to Serve Growing Tech Markets
October 6th, 2025

DMR Technologies to Launch Full-Scale U.S. Drone Manufacturing Facility in Lafayette
October 2nd, 2025

Direct questions and comments to:

Dr. Christopher Coombs, Economist, Economic Competitiveness

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

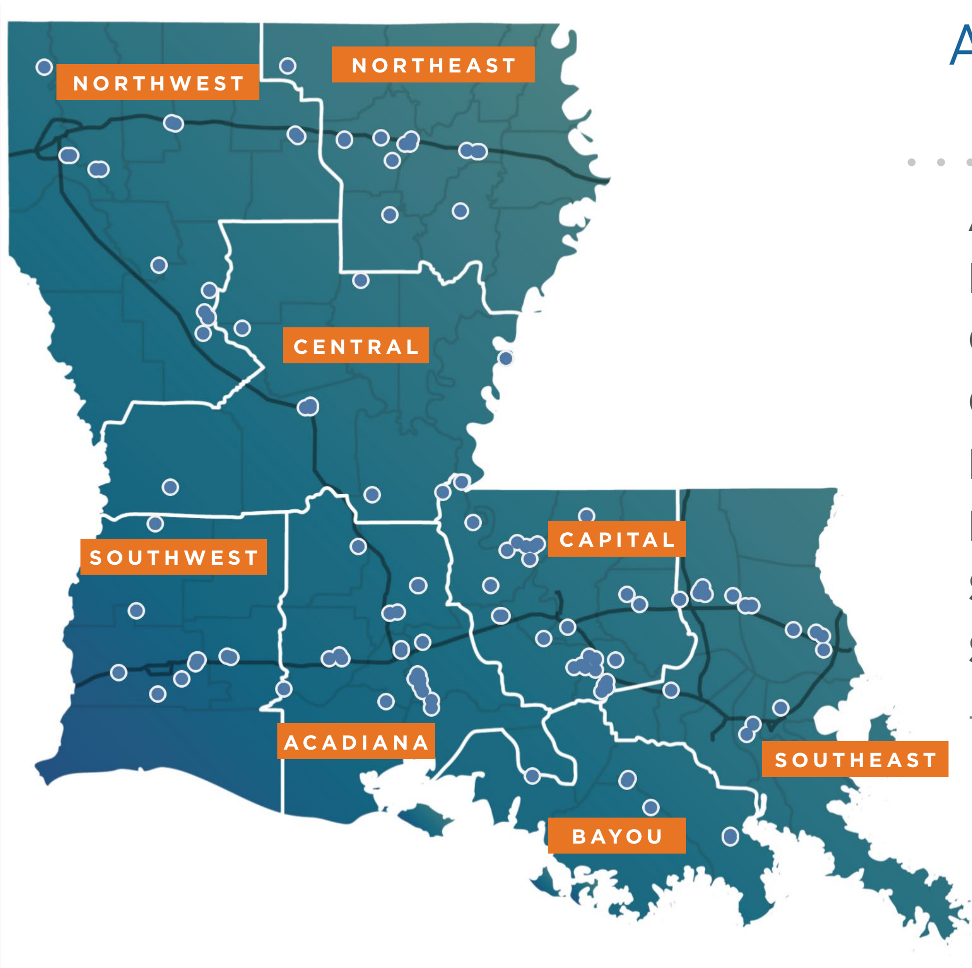
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since the start of the current administration, LED has announced 59 projects that will account for over $63.9 billion USD of investment and more than 8,060 direct new jobs.

As of 10/16/2025, LED is involved with and tracking 185 distinct projects, with a combined value of over $233.5 billion USD and with the potential to create more than 46,425 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since its inception, Louisiana Economic Development has Certified 162 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	13
Northwest	16
Southeast	17
Southwest	14
TOTAL	125

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](bls.gov)

Table 1. State and Metro Area Private Sector Employment (in Thousands)

Area	Aug-25	Jul-25	Aug-24	% Change	
				(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

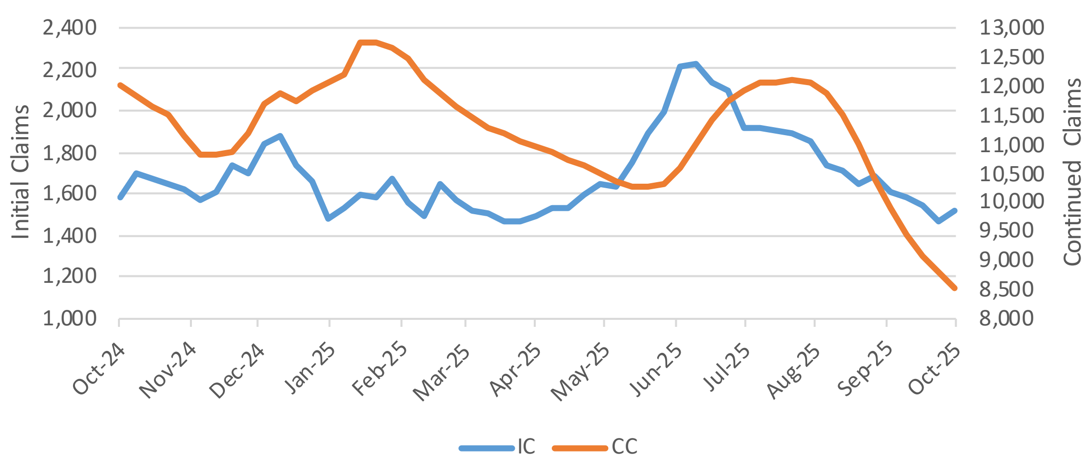
Area	Aug-25	Jul-25	Aug-24	% Change	
				(MoM)	(YoY)
Alexandria	36.6	36.5	36.8	0.3%	-0.5%
Baton Rouge	36.1	36.1	37.7	-	-4.2%
Hammond	33.1	32.5	32.6	1.8%	1.5%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	39.8	39.4	41.8	1.0%	-4.8%
Lafayette	37.5	37.4	38.2	0.3%	-1.8%
Lake Charles	36.2	36.6	35.3	-1.1%	2.5%
Monroe	32.2	32.1	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.					

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.

Figure 1. Louisiana Inititial and Continued Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims - 4-Week Moving Average



2. COMMODITIES

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

Source: eia.gov

Table 4. Energy Commodities, Weekly					
				% Change	
Commodity	10/10/25	10/3/25	10/11/24	(WoW)	(YoY)
Brent Crude Oil	$66.65	$67.15	$79.34	-0.7%	-16.0%
WTI Crude Oil	$62.10	$62.59	$75.69	-0.8%	-18.0%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	$3.23	$3.16	$2.40	2.2%	34.6%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	$2.93	$3.00	$3.07	-2.3%	-4.6%

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

Source: tradingeconomics.com

Table 5. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of October 16, 2025							
				% Change			
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	(YoY)
Soybeans	$1,009.66	$10.10	$/Bu	0.3%	-1.2%	-3.27%	2.1%
Wheat	$495.72	$4.96	$/Bu	-0.5%	-2.1%	-6.2%	-15.9%
Lumber	$625.55	$6.26	$/MBF	-0.2%	4.0%	9.3%	19.8%
Palm Oil	$4,518.00	$45.18	$/MT	1.0%	-1.7%	1.6%	5.6%
Sugar (No. 11)	$15.85	$0.16	$/Lb	1.0%	-2.5%	2.0%	-28.6%
Coffee	$398.11	$3.98	$/Lb	0.8%	5.4%	5.9%	56.7%
Corn	$417.12	$4.17	$/Bu	0.1%	-0.3%	-2.3%	2.6%
Rice	$10.52	$0.11	$/CWT	-0.6%	-3.4%	-9.2%	-29.9%
Orange Juice	$193.22	$1.93	$/Lb	0.3%	-5.9%	-23.9%	-60.8%

3. REAL ESTATE IN LOUISIANA

The following table provides data on residential building permits for MSAs (and CBSAs) in Louisiana for the month of August in 2024 and 2025, in addition to the totals through August of each year, and the monthly average through August for each year. For the averages, if the observation is green, this indicates the monthly permit amount in August of that year is greater than the previous month (the average is rising). If the observation is red, the August permit amount is less than the previous month (the average is falling). The last column indicates the difference in the yearly average, through August, expressed as a percent. A green observation indicates the average for 2025 is greater than the average for 2024, and a red observation indicates the 2025 average is below the 2024 average, through August of each year.

Source: census.gov

Table 6. New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized, by CBSA

CBSA	Aug-25	Total (through August 2025)	Average 2025 (8 month)	Aug-24	Total (through August 2024)	Average 2024 (8 month)	Difference in Averages 2025 - 2024 (%, 8 month)
Alexandria	24	198	25	17	169	21	17.2%
Baton Rouge	686	3,475	434	291	2,093	262	66.0%
Bogalusa	2	2	0.25	0	6	0.75	-66.7%
DeRidder	5	55	7	5	63	8	-12.7%
Hammond	50	709	89	104	857	107	-17.3%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	34	404	51	75	420	53	-3.8%
Lafayette	168	1,501	188	159	1,396	175	7.5%
Lake Charles	49	410	51	111	968	121	-57.6%
Minden	2	50	6	3	23	3	117.4%
Monroe	32	302	38	31	297	37	1.7%
Morgan City	9	43	5	6	28	4	53.6%
Natchitoches	2	38	5	11	59	7	-35.6%
New Iberia	9	55	7	13	70	9	-21.4%
New Orleans-Metairie	157	1,190	149	181	1,129	141	5.4%
Opelousas	11	101	13	8	99	12	2.0%
Ruston	17	120	15	9	104	13	15.4%
Shreveport-Bossier City	143	685	86	99	744	93	-7.9%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	69	687	86	94	778	97	-11.7%

The following table provides data on the value-per-unit for single-family building permits for MSAs (and CBSAs) in Louisiana for the month of August in 2024 and 2025, in addition to the monthly average through August for each year. For the averages, if the observation is green, this indicates the monthly value-per-unit in August of that year is greater than the previous month (the average is rising). If the observation is red, the August value-per-unit is less than the previous month (the average is falling). The last column indicates the difference in the yearly average, through August, expressed as a percent. A green observation indicates the average for 2025 is greater than the average for 2024, and a red observation indicates the 2025 average is below the 2024 average, through August of each year.

Source: census.gov

Table 7. New Privately Owned Housing Unit (Single-Family) Values (Per Unit) Authorized, by CBSA (in Thousands $)

CBSA	Aug-25	Average 2025 (8 month)	Aug-24	Average 2024 (8 month)	Difference in Averages - 2025 - 2024 (%, 8 month)
Alexandria	$241	$269	$245	$252	6.8%
Baton Rouge	$275	$268	$254	$261	2.7%
Bogalusa	-	-	-	-	
DeRidder	$288	$225	$327	$193	16.8%
Hammond	$181	$223	$177	$194	14.9%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	$217	$248	$211	$201	23.6%
Lafayette	$249	$232	$233	$230	0.8%
Lake Charles	$225	$224	$160	$198	12.9%
Minden	$276	$254	$240	$251	1.2%
Monroe	$258	$226	$255	$236	-4.1%
Morgan City	$304	$308	$212	$205	50.1%
Natchitoches	$413	$250	$229	$220	13.6%
New Iberia	$193	$175	$135	$199	-11.9%
New Orleans-Metairie	$281	$358	$294	$290	23.3%
Opelousas	$198	$200	$192	$188	6.3%
Ruston	$184	$209	$291	$252	-17.1%
Shreveport-Bossier City	$348	$259	$233	$225	15.1%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	$412	$323	$354	$322	0.4%

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

Figure 2. Baton Rouge Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

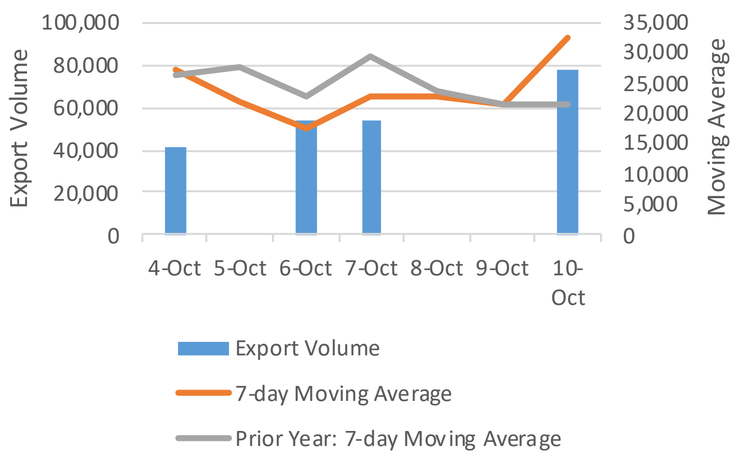


Figure 3. New Orleans Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

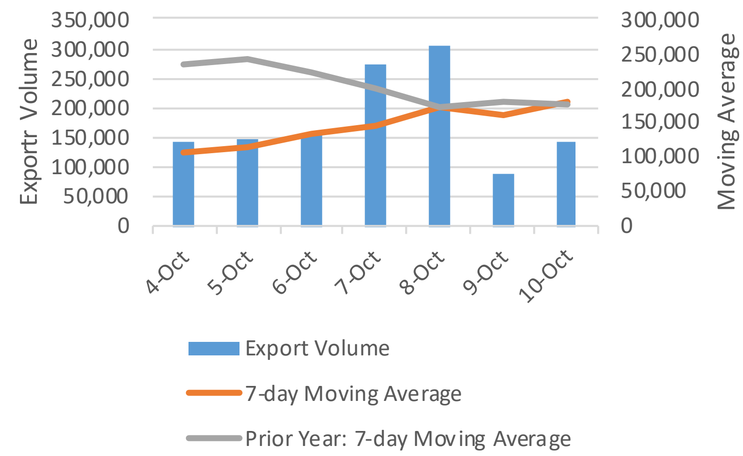


Figure 4. South Louisiana Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

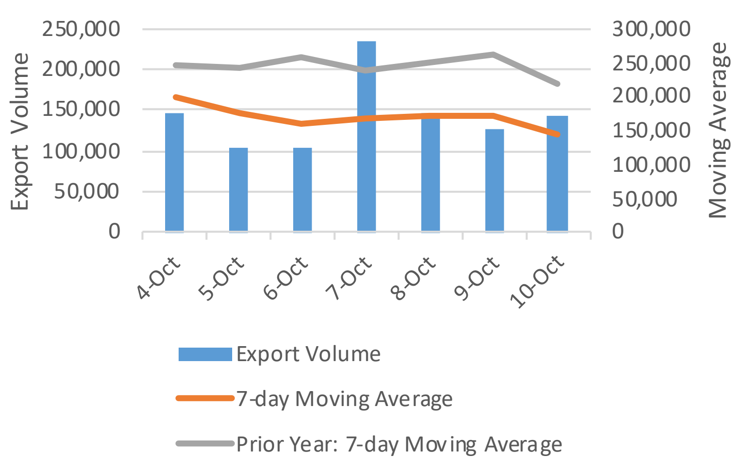


Figure 5. Lake Charles Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

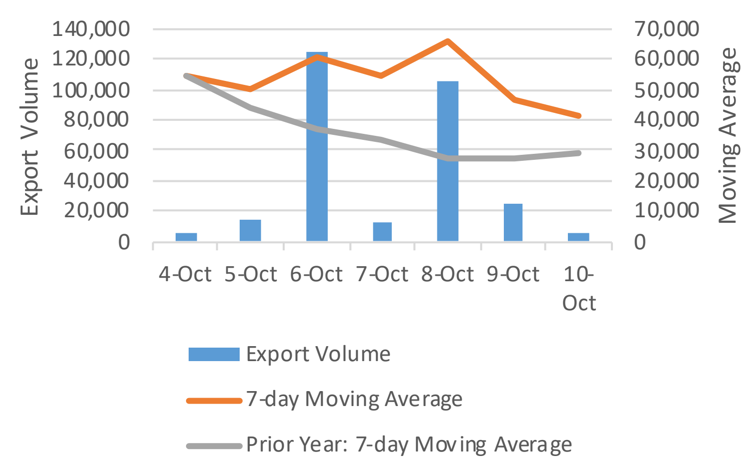


Figure 6. Baton Rouge Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

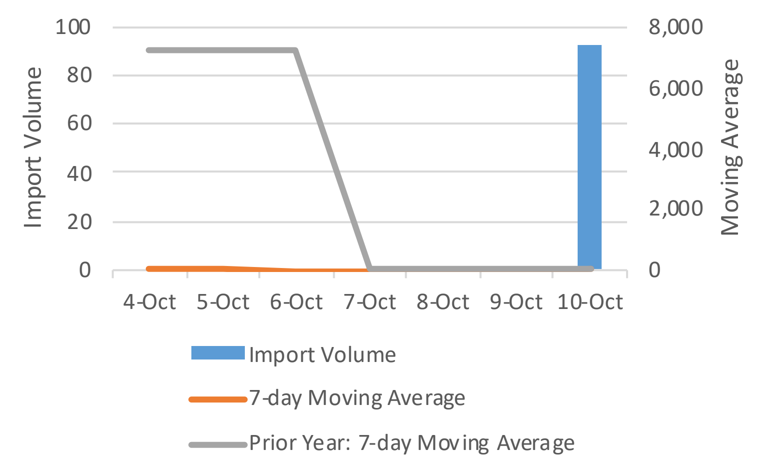


Figure 7. New Orleans Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

Figure 8. South Louisiana Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

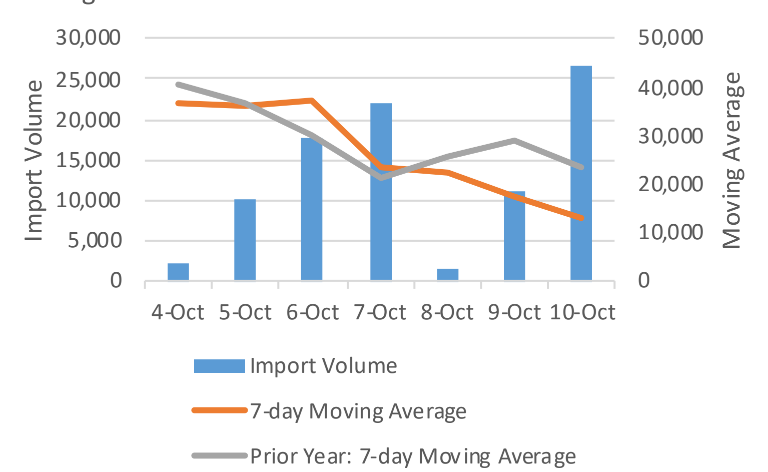


Figure 9. Lake Charles Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

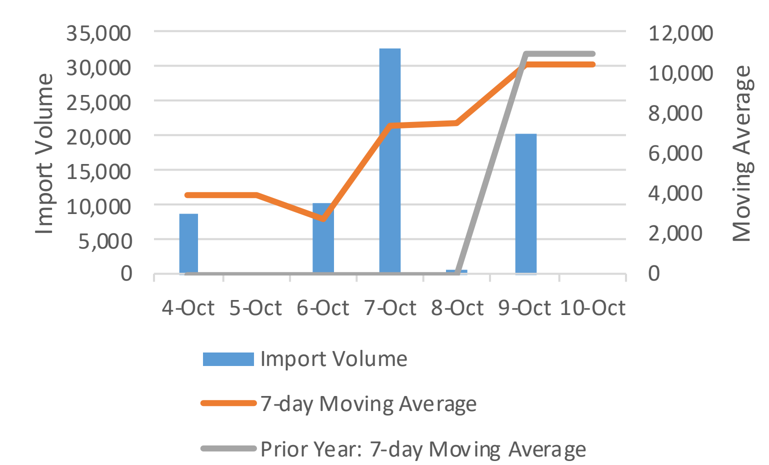


Figure 10. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

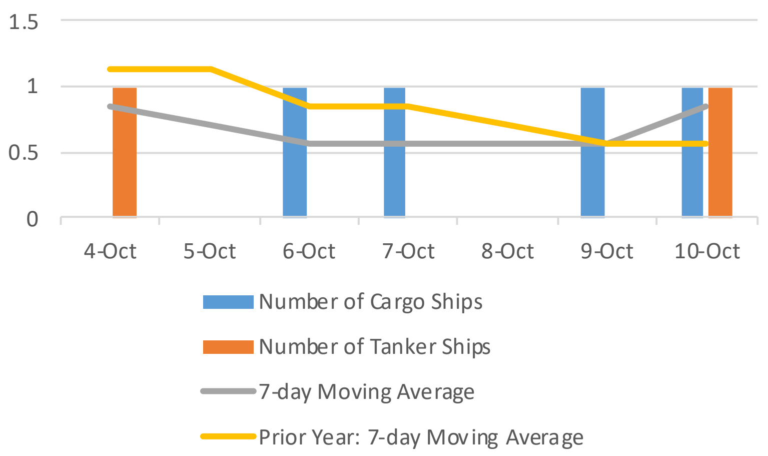


Figure 11. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

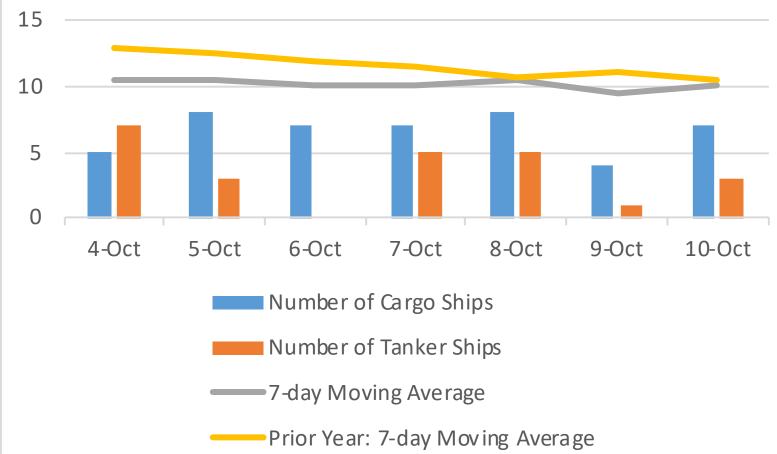


Figure 12. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

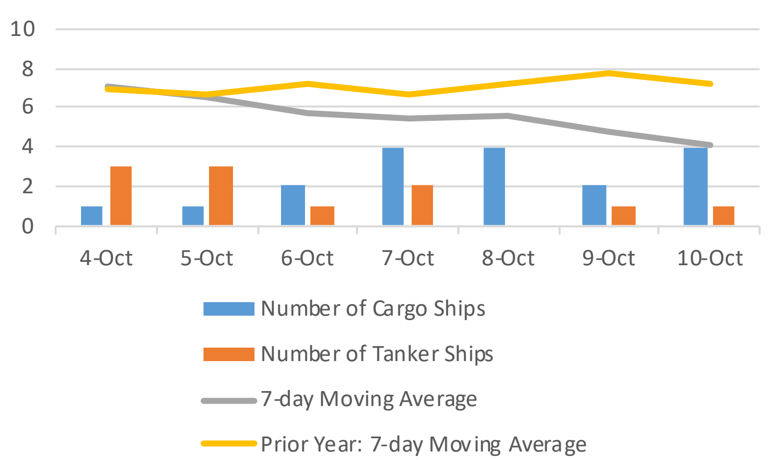
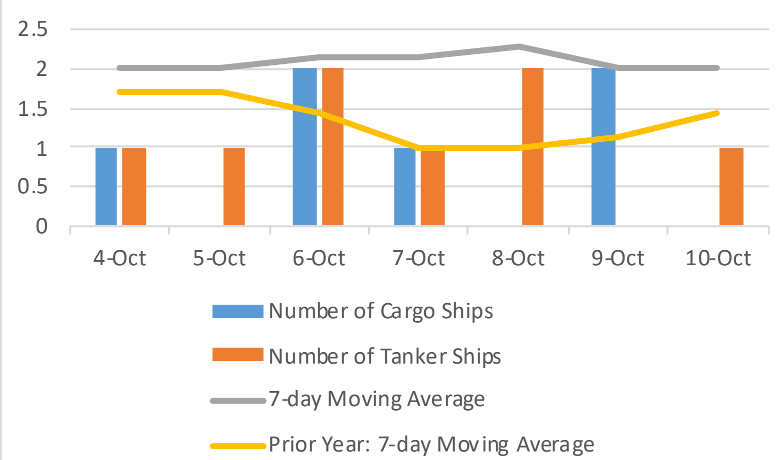


Figure 13. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



October

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 *Construction Spending* [Aug] *ISM Manufacturing* [Sep] *Total Vehicle Sales* [Sep] *MSA Employment* [Aug]	2	3 *Employment* [Sep] *ISM Services* [Sep]	4
5	6	7	8 *Trade Balance* [Aug] *U.S. Trade in Goods by State* [Aug] *Consumer Credit* [Aug]	9 *FOMC Minutes* [Sep]	10 *U. of Michigan Sentiment* [Oct] *Federal Budget* [Aug]	11
12	13 Columbus Day [U.S. Markets Closed]	14 *NFIB Small Business* [Sep]	15 *CPI* [Sep]	16 *Retail Sales* [Sep] *PPI* [Sep] *Business Inventories* [Aug] *NAHB Index* [Oct]	17 *Housing Starts* [Sep] *Import Price Index* [Sep] *Industrial Production* [Sep]	18
19	20	21 *State Employment* [Sep]	22	23 *Existing Home Sales* [Sep]	24 *New Home Sales* [Sep] *State Coincidence Index* [Sep]	25
26	27 *Durable Goods* [Sep]	28 *S&P/C-S Home Prices* [Aug] *Consumer Confidence* [Oct]	29 *Pending Home Sales* [Sep] *FOMC Statement*	30 *GDP* [Q3 1st]	31 *Personal Income* [Sep]	