

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, January 16, 2026



PREFACE

Louisiana Economic Vitals is a weekly report prepared by LED's State Economic Competitiveness (SEC) team. This report provides readers with data from federal and state governmental entities, as well as other credible third-party sources. All data has been independently analyzed and summarized to ensure clarity, brevity, and practical utilization.

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JANUARY 2026 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[Louisiana Attracts Major Walmart Reinvestment in Acadiana Distribution Center](#)

January 15th, 2026

[Louisiana NOW: A New Standard](#)

January 14th, 2026

[\\$450 Million ATALCO, Federal Partnership Revitalizes Louisiana Facility, Secures Critical U.S. Supply Chain](#)

January 13th, 2026

[Louisiana Impact Fund Launches to Keep Companies, Jobs & Wealth in Louisiana](#)

January 13th, 2026

[G-Unit Film & Television Louisiana, LLC, State Finalize Agreement for Entertainment Redevelopment in Shreveport](#)

January 12th, 2026

[Louisiana Wins Back-to-Back Platinum Deal of the Year, Signaling a New Era of National Competitiveness](#)

January 5th, 2026

Direct questions and comments to:

Dr. Christopher Coombs, Economist, Economic Competitiveness

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

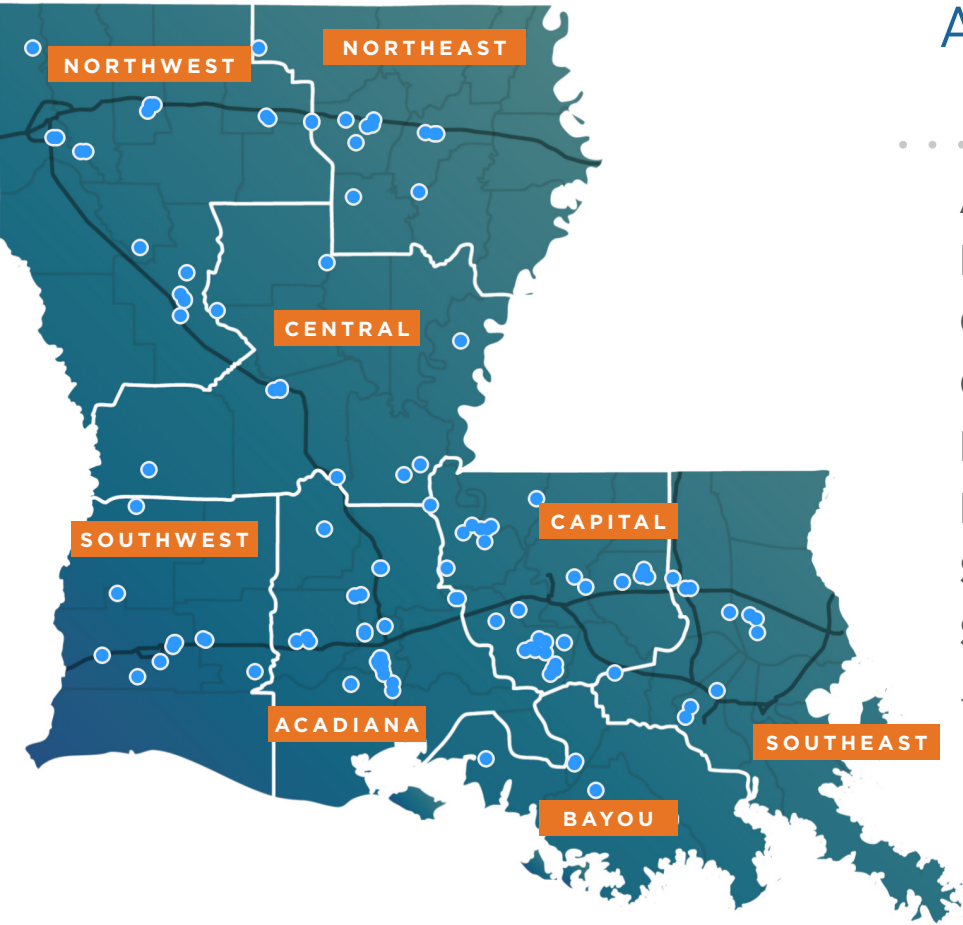
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 76 projects representing over \$75.9 billion USD in new investment and more than 11,570 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of January 16, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 190 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$242.5 billion and the potential to create more than 54,775 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 164 industrial sites, with all or portions of 36 sites advancing into active commerce. At full build-out, these projects represent more than \$34.5 billion in capital investment, over 6,350 direct new jobs, and more than \$407 million in total annual wages statewide. Currently, there are 124 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.



Active Certified Sites by Region	
Acadiana	23
Bayou	6
Capital	25
Central	9
Northeast	13
Northwest	17
Southeast	17
Southwest	14
TOTAL 124	

1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The following tables present data on the employment situation for Louisiana and the rest of the southern states, in addition to the U.S. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released December data for the U.S., which is presented in Table 1. Each indicator is intended to capture a different but complementary dimension of labor market health.

Source: www.bls.gov

Table 1. U.S. Employment Situation for December, Not Seasonally Adjusted					
Region	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Employees, Total Private (in Thousands)	136,762	136,828	136,080	-0.05%	0.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.3	3.8	-0.2	0.3

Table 2. Total Private Employment (in Thousands), by Region, Not Seasonally Adjusted					
Region	Nov-25	Sep-25	Nov-24	% Change	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	1,799.8	1,796.4	1,788.2	0.2%	0.6%
Arkansas	1,183.8	1,184.9	1,165.8	-0.1%	1.5%
Florida	8,941.7	8,883.4	8,882.4	0.7%	0.7%
Georgia	4,308.2	4,287.8	4,281.4	0.5%	0.6%
Kentucky	1,747.7	1,745.4	1,742.4	0.1%	0.3%
Louisiana	1,693.0	1,687.7	1,678.6	0.3%	0.9%
Mississippi	973.7	965.2	963.8	0.9%	1.0%
Missouri	2,599.0	2,590.2	2,565.7	0.3%	1.3%
North Carolina	4,357.8	4,348.5	4,276.9	0.2%	1.9%
Oklahoma	1,445.9	1,443.3	1,429.1	0.2%	1.2%
South Carolina	2,037.1	2,032.5	1,994.5	0.2%	2.1%
Tennessee	2,966.1	2,949.1	2,945.9	0.6%	0.7%
Texas	12,248.8	12,227.4	12,152.1	0.2%	0.8%
U.S.	136,828	136,690	135,893	0.1%	0.7%
Note: November 2025 data are preliminary. Because October data is unavailable, the month-over-month change includes					

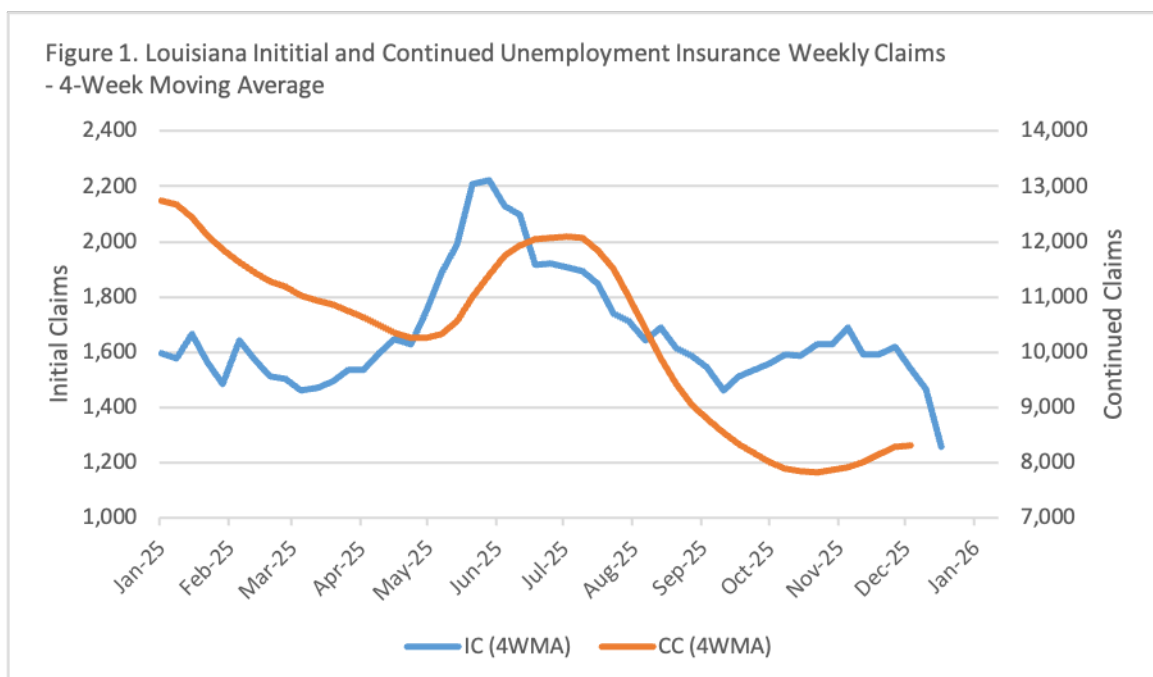
Table 3. Unemployment Rate, by Region, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Region	Nov-25	Sep-25	Nov-24	Change (% Point)	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	2.7	2.9	3.3	-0.2	-0.6
Arkansas	4.2	4.2	3.3	0.0	0.9
Florida	4.9	4.2	3.5	0.7	1.4
Georgia	4.0	3.4	3.5	0.6	0.5
Kentucky	4.5	4.5	5.0	0.0	0.5
Louisiana	4.2	4.4	4.4	-0.2	-0.2
Mississippi	3.8	3.6	3.4	0.2	0.4
Missouri	3.5	3.5	3.3	0.0	0.2
North Carolina	4.1	3.7	3.7	0.4	0.4
Oklahoma	4.0	3.5	3.2	0.5	0.8
South Carolina	5.0	4.5	4.2	0.5	0.8
Tennessee	3.7	3.5	3.7	0.2	0.0
Texas	4.2	4.4	4.1	-0.2	-0.1
U.S.	4.3	4.3	4.0	0.0	0.3

Note: November 2025 data are preliminary. Because October data is unavailable, the month-over-month change includes data for November & September

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: laworks.net



2. COMMODITIES

The following tables provide data on the weekly prices of energy and agricultural commodities, reflecting the broader economic performance of these sectors.

Source: [eia.gov](https://www.eia.gov) & tradingeconomics.com

Table 4. Energy Commodities, Weekly					
Commodity	1/9/26	1/2/26	1/10/25	% Change	
				MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil	\$62.93	\$62.18	\$78.14	1.2%	-19.5%
WTI Crude Oil	\$57.56	\$57.54	\$75.14	0.03%	-23.4%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$2.91	\$4.25	\$3.93	-31.5%	-26.0%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$2.67	\$2.68	\$2.95	-0.4%	-9.5%

Table 5. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of January 15, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,053.99	\$10.54	\$/Bu	1.1%	0.7%	-0.8%	3.4%
Wheat	\$514.00	\$5.14	\$/Bu	0.2%	-0.8%	0.9%	-4.4%
Lumber	\$605.03	\$6.05	\$/MBF	9.6%	14.3%	7.4%	0.7%
Palm Oil	\$3,993.00	\$39.93	\$/MT	-1.2%	-1.2%	0.8%	-4.5%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$14.59	\$0.15	\$/Lb	-0.5%	-2.6%	-1.6%	-20.7%
Coffee	\$355.45	\$3.55	\$/Lb	0.03%	-4.5%	1.0%	8.8%
Corn	\$422.71	\$4.23	\$/Bu	0.1%	-5.2%	-3.16%	-10.9%
Rice	\$10.62	\$0.11	\$/CWT	0.4%	6.9%	11.8%	-27.5%
Orange Juice	\$198.23	\$1.98	\$/Lb	0.3%	-9.0%	17.8%	-57.4%

3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

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

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

Region	Oct-25	Sep-25	Oct-24	YTD	Change (%)	
					MoM	YoY
Alabama	1,309	1,230	1,480	12,941	6.4%	-11.6%
Arkansas	691	830	874	8,840	-16.7%	-20.9%
Florida	9,990	8,517	9,687	95,979	17.3%	3.1%
Georgia	3,867	3,532	3,778	38,386	9.5%	2.4%
Kentucky	656	763	812	7,261	-14.0%	-19.2%
Louisiana	1,018	1,014	1,012	9,696	0.4%	0.6%
Mississippi	628	648	700	6,199	-3.1%	-10.3%
Missouri	1,043	1,708	1,077	10,035	-38.9%	-3.2%
North Carolina	4,763	5,083	5,773	56,703	-6.3%	-17.5%
Oklahoma	941	835	980	9,914	12.7%	-4.0%
South Carolina	3,130	3,017	3,119	34,115	3.7%	0.4%
Tennessee	2,635	2,442	2,614	27,087	7.9%	0.8%
Texas	10,433	10,205	13,553	122,293	2.2%	-23.0%
U.S.	76,360	73,428	84,363	787,122	4.0%	-9.5%

Region	Oct-25	Sep-25	Oct-24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	\$289,644	\$279,654	\$288,678	3.6%	0.3%
Arkansas	\$287,883	\$302,733	\$276,662	-4.9%	4.1%
Florida	\$333,419	\$340,313	\$319,718	-2.0%	4.3%
Georgia	\$284,479	\$296,701	\$284,358	-4.1%	0.04%
Kentucky	\$250,552	\$276,130	\$264,294	-9.3%	-5.2%
Louisiana	\$247,935	\$251,578	\$261,093	-1.4%	-5.0%
Mississippi	\$187,602	\$186,330	\$198,624	0.7%	-5.5%
Missouri	\$361,026	\$344,198	\$338,376	4.9%	6.7%
North Carolina	\$313,594	\$305,946	\$295,281	2.5%	6.2%
Oklahoma	\$266,334	\$286,326	\$274,683	-7.0%	-3.0%
South Carolina	\$325,644	\$314,734	\$305,744	3.5%	6.5%
Tennessee	\$300,052	\$343,545	\$309,044	-12.7%	-2.9%
Texas	\$293,030	\$290,903	\$293,193	0.7%	-0.1%
U.S.	\$321,975	\$324,826	\$314,922	-0.9%	2.2%

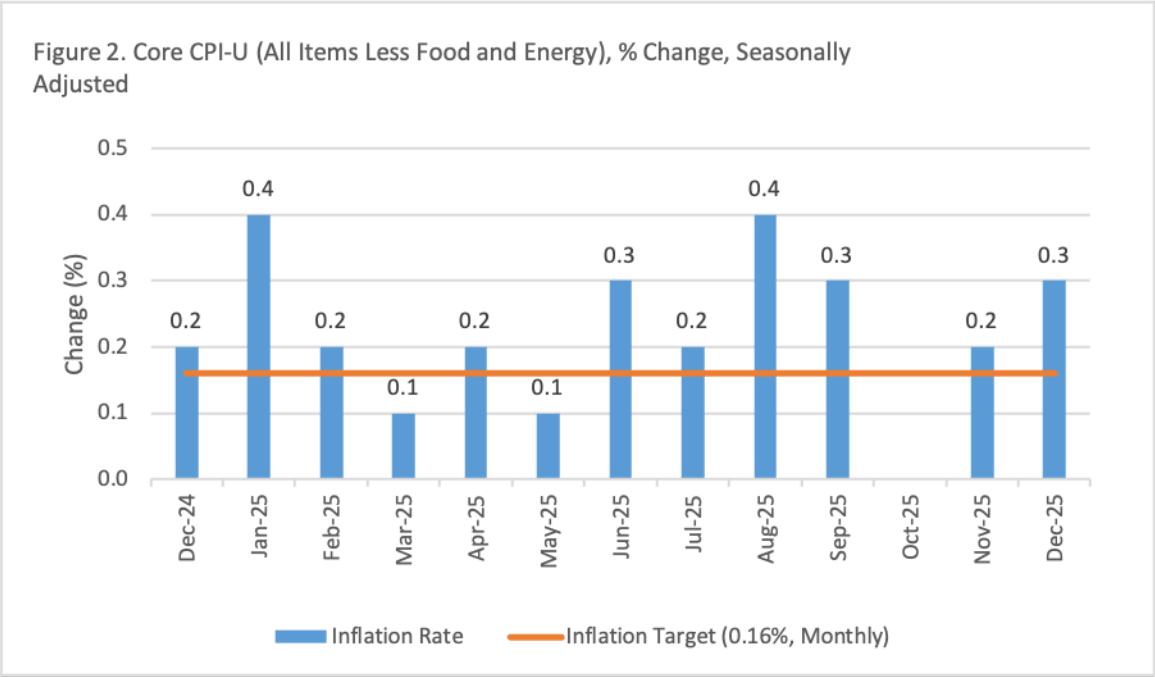
4. CPI AND INFLATION

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) tracks the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a basket of goods and services. It's one of the most widely used indicators of inflation in the United States. The following table presents the urban consumer price index for November and December, in addition to the annual percentage-change in the basket price, for selected categories. The figure below illustrates the monthly percentage change in the CPI against a monthly target of 0.16-percent.

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

Table 8. Change in CPI-U, U.S. City Average by Month, Seasonally Adjusted				
Category	Dec-25	Nov-25	Change (%)	
			MoM	Since Dec-24 ¹
All Items	326.030	325.031	0.3%	2.7%
All Items Less Food and Energy (Core CPI)	331.860	331.068	0.2%	2.6%
Medical Care Services	642.549	639.986	0.4%	3.5%

Note: ¹Not Seasonally Adjusted. Base Period: 1982-84=100.



January

2026

Economic Calendar

The *Louisiana Economic Vitals* 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	2	3
4	5	6	JOLTS [Nov] State Employment [Nov] Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories & Orders [Oct]	Productivity & Costs [2025:Q3, Preliminary] International Trade [Oct]	Employment [Dec] U. of Michigan Sentiment [Jan] New Residential Construction [Sept & Oct]	10
11	12	Real Earnings [Dec] CPI [Dec] NFIB Small Business Optimism Index [Dec] Federal Budget [Dec] New Residential Sales [Sept & Oct]	PPI [Nov] Manufacturing & Trade Inventory & Sales [Oct] Retail Sales [Nov] Existing Home Sales [Dec]	Import and Export Price Indexes [Nov]	Metro Area Employment [Nov] Industrial Production [Dec] NAHB HMI [Jan]	17
18	19	20	Pending Home Sales [Dec]	GDP [Q3 1st]	State GDP & Personal Income [2025:Q3]	24
25	Durable Goods [Nov]	26	State Jolts [Nov] Consumer Confidence [Jan]	28	International Trade [Nov] Total Vehicle Sales [Dec] Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories & Orders [Nov]	31