

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, January 9, 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 Wins Back-to-Back Platinum Deal of the Year, Signaling a New Era of National Competitiveness](#)
January 5th, 2026

Direct questions and comments to:

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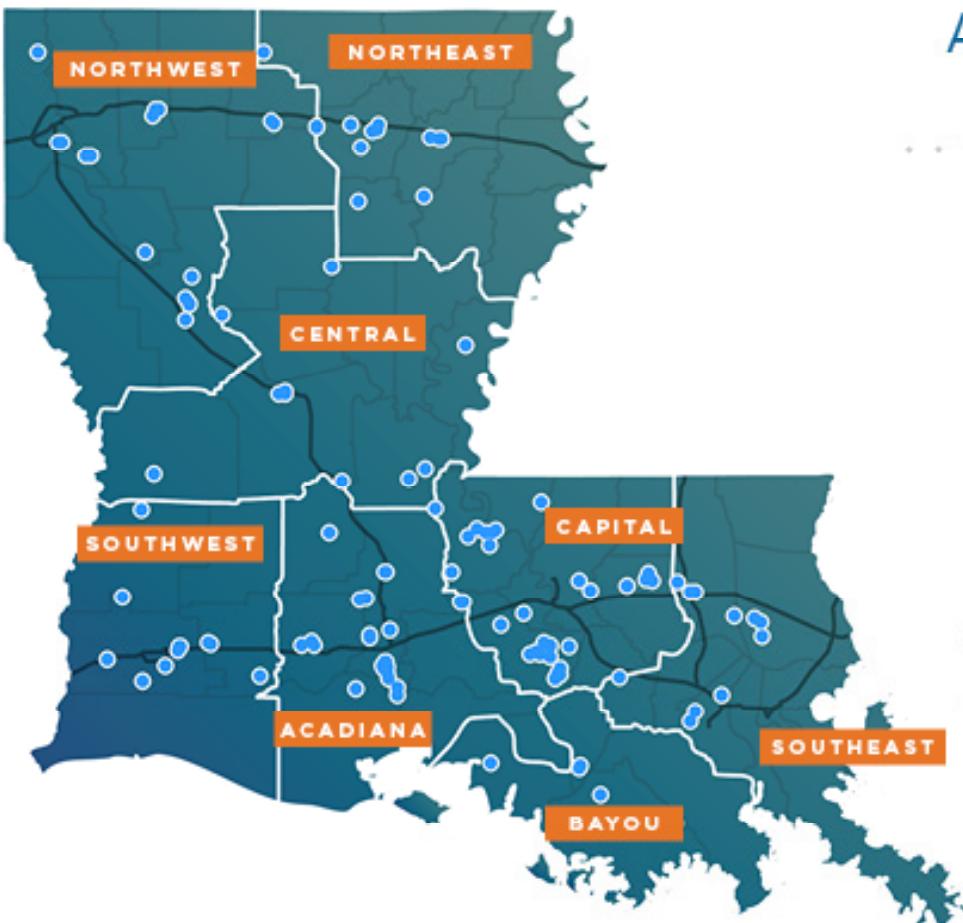
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 75 projects representing over \$75.6 billion USD in new investment and more than 11,570 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of January 8, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 189 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$241.3 billion and the potential to create more than 55,095 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 123 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	.....	16
Southeast	.....	17
Southwest	.....	14

TOTAL **123**

1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes monthly estimates of job openings, hires, and separations for the U.S. and each state at the total nonfarm industry level. National estimates for November and Louisiana JOLTS for October are provided in the following tables. The survey data is designed to illuminate if there is a churn of workers moving to better opportunities, a dynamism that typically drives wage growth and economic momentum.

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

Table 1. U.S. Job Openings and Labor Turnover - November, Total Nonfarm (In Thousands)

Category	11/16/2025 ¹	10/16/2025 ²	11/16/24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Job Openings	7,146	7,449	8,031	-4.1%	-11.0%
Hires	5,115	5,368	5,307	-4.7%	-3.6%
Quits	3,161	2,973	3,032	6.3%	4.3%
Layoffs and Discharges	1,687	1,850	1,739	-8.8%	-3.0%

Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted.

Table 2. Louisiana Job Openings and Labor Turnover - October, Total Nonfarm (In Thousands)

Category	10/16/2025 ¹	9/16/2025 ²	10/16/24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Job Openings	115	105	113	9.5%	1.8%
Hires	73	72	87	1.4%	-16.1%
Quits	43	54	52	-20.4%	-17.3%
Layoffs and Discharges	22	20	35	10.0%	-37.1%

Note: ¹Preliminary; ²Revised; Data are seasonally adjusted.

The following tables present data on various employment indicators for Louisiana and the rest of the southern states. Each indicator is intended to capture a different but complementary dimension of labor market health. Data are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Table 3. Total Private Employment, by State (in Thousands)

State	Nov-25	Oct-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%

Note: November 2025 data are preliminary.

Table 4. Average Weekly Hours Worked - Private Sector, by State

State	Nov-25	Oct-25	Nov-24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	35.9	35.4	34.9	0.5%	2.9%
Arkansas	35.2	35.1	34.8	0.1%	1.1%
Florida	34.5	34.1	34.3	0.4%	0.6%
Georgia	35.1	34.7	34.2	0.4%	2.6%
Kentucky	35.2	34.9	34.8	0.3%	1.1%
Louisiana	36.4	35.9	36.4	0.5%	0.0%
Mississippi	35.5	35.6	34.9	-0.1%	1.7%
Missouri	33.4	33.1	33.2	0.3%	0.6%
North Carolina	34.4	33.9	33.8	0.5%	1.8%
Oklahoma	35.4	35.2	35.2	0.2%	0.6%
South Carolina	34.5	34	33.6	0.5%	2.7%
Tennessee	34.9	34.7	34.3	0.2%	1.7%
Texas	36.5	36.1	35.9	0.4%	1.7%

Note: November 2025 data are preliminary.

Table 5. Total Private Average Hourly Earnings, by State

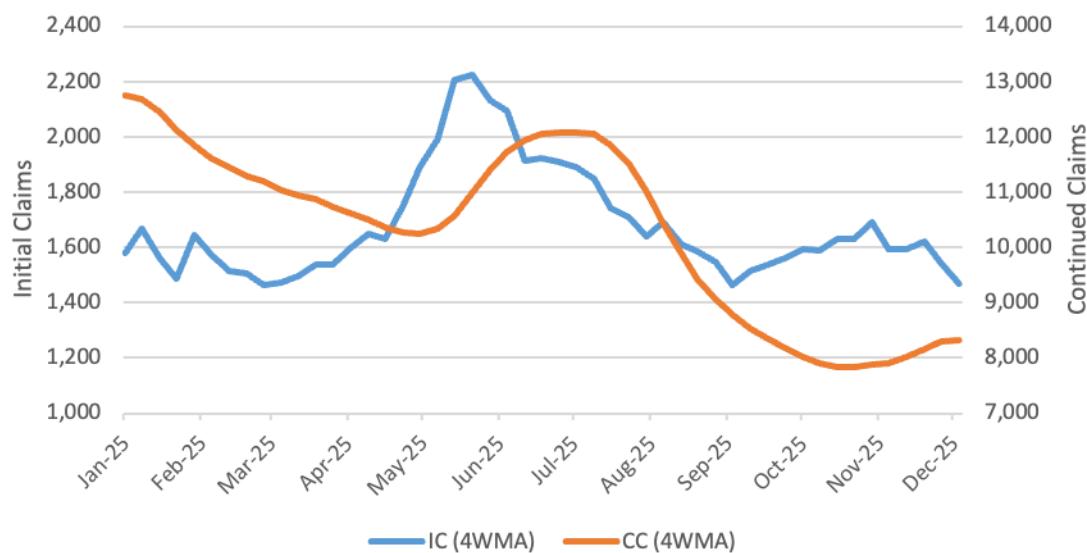
State	Nov-25	Oct-25	Nov-24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	\$32.00	\$31.75	\$30.52	0.3%	4.8%
Arkansas	\$29.83	\$29.53	\$28.80	0.3%	3.6%
Florida	\$35.50	\$34.93	\$33.11	0.6%	7.2%
Georgia	\$36.18	\$35.51	\$33.24	0.7%	8.8%
Kentucky	\$30.80	\$30.57	\$29.60	0.2%	4.1%
Louisiana	\$30.32	\$30.54	\$28.90	-0.2%	4.9%
Mississippi	\$27.78	\$27.91	\$27.16	-0.1%	2.3%
Missouri	\$32.71	\$32.42	\$32.10	0.3%	1.9%
North Carolina	\$34.58	\$34.32	\$32.91	0.3%	5.1%
Oklahoma	\$31.74	\$31.24	\$30.76	0.5%	3.2%
South Carolina	\$33.49	\$32.77	\$31.69	0.7%	5.7%
Tennessee	\$31.51	\$31.39	\$30.29	0.1%	4.0%
Texas	\$35.15	\$34.80	\$33.47	0.4%	5.0%

Note: November 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.

Source: laworks.net

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



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

Table 6. Energy Commodities, Weekly

Commodity	1/2/26	12/26/25	1/3/25	% Change	
				WoW	YoY
Brent Crude Oil	\$62.18	\$63.21	\$75.42	-1.6%	-17.6%
WTI Crude Oil	\$57.54	\$58.01	\$73.15	-0.8%	-21.3%
Henry Hub Natural Gas	\$4.25	\$3.45	\$3.46	23.2%	22.8%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas	\$2.68	\$2.69	\$2.96	-0.4%	-9.5%

Table 7. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of January 8, 2026

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	% Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,049.29	\$10.49	\$/Bu	-0.3%	1.8%	-3.4%	6.2%
Wheat	\$521.78	\$5.22	\$/Bu	0.8%	3.1%	-2.3%	-2.0%
Lumber	\$526.54	\$5.27	\$/MBF	-0.3%	-1.3%	-4.4%	-6.7%
Palm Oil	\$4,042.00	\$40.42	\$/MT	0.2%	-0.2%	-1.5%	-5.9%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$15.04	\$0.15	\$/Lb	0.5%	3.0%	2.5%	-21.3%
Coffee	\$377.67	\$3.78	\$/Lb	1.3%	5.8%	-4.1%	18.6%
Corn	\$447.73	\$4.48	\$/Bu	0.3%	1.5%	-0.01%	-1.8%
Rice	\$10.12	\$0.10	\$/CWT	-0.4%	5.9%	0.2%	-28.9%
Orange Juice	\$216.54	\$2.17	\$/Lb	-9.4%	3.1%	41.1%	-57.2%

3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

Regional housing market indicators can reflect local economic conditions, affordability, demand vs, supply, migration trends, and cost of living. The following tables provide data on median listing price, total listing counts, and median days on the market at the CBSA level for Louisiana.

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

Table 8. Median Listing Price by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

CBSA	Nov-25	Oct-25	Nov-24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Alexandria	\$236,500	\$240,575	\$230,000	-1.7%	2.8%
Baton Rouge	\$310,000	\$310,000	\$299,000	-	3.7%
Bogalusa	\$195,000	\$193,125	\$193,000	1.0%	1.0%
DeRidder	\$229,000	\$229,000	\$260,000	-	-11.9%
Hammond	\$269,950	\$272,000	\$269,640	-0.8%	0.1%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	\$223,200	\$227,450	\$235,000	-1.9%	-5.0%
Lafayette	\$269,900	\$270,000	\$275,000	-0.04%	-1.9%
Lake Charles	\$235,000	\$238,797	\$237,000	-1.6%	-0.8%
Minden	\$160,000	\$160,750	\$194,750	-0.5%	-17.8%
Monroe	\$245,000	\$249,450	\$230,000	-1.8%	6.5%
Morgan City	\$173,950	\$170,750	\$190,000	1.9%	-8.4%
Natchitoches	\$246,250	\$264,975	\$295,000	-7.1%	-16.5%
New Iberia	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$182,500	-	-6.8%
New Orleans-Metairie	\$300,000	\$310,000	\$320,500	-3.2%	-6.4%
Opelousas	\$193,500	\$194,950	\$185,000	-0.7%	4.6%
Ruston	\$265,000	\$270,000	\$269,000	-1.9%	-1.5%
Shreveport-Bossier City	\$244,900	\$249,000	\$249,480	-1.6%	-1.8%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	\$339,000	\$349,950	\$339,000	-3.1%	-

Table 9. Total Listing Count by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

CBSA	Nov-25	Oct-25	Nov-24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Alexandria	494	485	477	1.9%	3.6%
Baton Rouge	4,125	4,199	4,060	-1.8%	1.6%
Bogalusa	129	121	148	6.6%	-12.8%
DeRidder	179	177	220	1.1%	-18.6%
Hammond	564	566	537	-0.4%	5.0%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	1,109	1,074	942	3.3%	17.7%
Lafayette	2,025	2,029	1,863	-0.2%	8.7%
Lake Charles	1,334	1,372	1,299	-2.8%	2.7%
Minden	119	119	96	-	24.0%
Monroe	666	666	668	-	-0.3%
Morgan City	175	176	141	-0.6%	24.1%
Natchitoches	133	126	118	5.6%	12.7%
New Iberia	207	217	231	-4.6%	-10.4%
New Orleans-Metairie	4,809	4,780	4,768	0.6%	0.9%
Opelousas	289	292	287	-1.0%	0.7%
Ruston	168	177	117	-5.1%	43.6%
Shreveport-Bossier City	1,939	1,935	1,790	0.2%	8.3%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	1,817	1,859	1,767	-2.3%	2.8%

Table 10. Median Days on Market by CBSA, Monthly (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

CBSA	Nov-25	Oct-24	Nov-24	Change (%)	
				MoM	YoY
Alexandria	66	67	85	-1.5%	-22.4%
Baton Rouge	78	79	81	-1.3%	-3.7%
Bogalusa	76	91	88	-16.5%	-13.6%
DeRidder	81	67	96	20.9%	-15.6%
Hammond	80	80	74	-	8.1%
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	103	102	108	1.0%	-4.6%
Lafayette	77	74	84	4.1%	-8.3%
Lake Charles	103	91	90	13.2%	14.4%
Minden	71	75	77	-5.3%	-7.8%
Monroe	74	66	77	12.1%	-3.9%
Morgan City	103	91	93	13.2%	10.8%
Natchitoches	79	70	103	12.9%	-23.3%
New Iberia	82	71	78	15.5%	5.1%
New Orleans-Metairie	77	78	80	-1.3%	-3.8%
Opelousas	89	83	109	7.2%	-18.3%
Ruston	81	68	107	19.1%	-24.3%
Shreveport-Bossier City	68	64	67	6.3%	1.5%
Slidell-Mandeville-Covington	78	76	78	2.6%	-

4. OIL AND 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.

Source: State of Louisiana Department of Energy & Natural Resources & U.S. Energy Information Administration

Table 11. Louisiana and U.S. Oil & Gas Rig Counts

Location	12/26/25	12/19/25	11/28/25	12/27/24	Change (%)		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Louisiana (Total all areas)	44	41	43	29	7.3%	2.3%	51.7%
North - Land	30	28	30	19	7.1%	0.0%	57.9%
South Inland - Water	3	3	2	0	0.0%	50.0%	
South Inland - Land	2	2	2	0	0.0%	0.0%	
State Offshore	1	1	0	0	0.0%		
Louisiana Federal Offshore	8	7	9	10	14.3%	-11.1%	-20.0%
U.S. Total	545	542	544	589	0.6%	0.2%	-7.5%

Table 12. Louisiana Monthly Oil and Gas Production

Location	12/26/25	12/19/25	11/28/25	Change (%)		
				MoM	YoY	
Crude Oil ¹	2,043	2,086	2,494	-2.1%	-18.1%	
Natural Gas ²	320,173	311,528	288,151	2.8%	11.1%	

Note: ¹Thousands Barrels; ²Million Cubic Feet

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
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		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]		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	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]		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Pending Home Sales [Dec]	GDP [Q3 1 st]	State GDP & Personal Income [2025:Q3]		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Durable Goods [Nov] State Jolts [Nov] Consumer Confidence [Jan]		International Trade [Nov] Total Vehicle Sales [Dec] Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories & Orders [Nov]			