

# Louisiana Economic Vitals

## Friday, February 13, 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 FEBRUARY 2026 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[New 'storyteller' initiative designed to highlight positive takes on Louisiana's economy](#)

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana is working to make it easier for local businesses to recruit employees. Here's how.](#)

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[This New Orleans startup found a new way to build training weapons. Now, it wants to scale up.](#)

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[RPCC, Hyundai Steel and State Leaders Break Ground on New Training Center in Donaldsonville](#)

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Speed, Certainty and Confidence: How Louisiana Is Redefining the Business Experience](#)

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Tulane-inspired VC fund reaches fundraising milestone: Shreveport org to support energy startups](#)

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[The Shaw Group to Double Workforce in Livingston Parish to Support Growing Demand](#)

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

### Direct questions and comments to:

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# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 79 projects representing over \$76.03 billion USD in new investment and more than 11,970 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of February 12, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 191 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$285.7 billion and the potential to create more than 51,035 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 125 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 . . . . .	18
Southwest . . . . .	14

TOTAL **125**

# 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. 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. Louisiana Job Openings and Labor Turnover, Total Nonfarm (in Thousands)					
Series	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Total Employment (in Thousands)	164,520	163,992	163,831	0.3%	0.4%
Labor Force Participation Rate	62.5%	62.4%	62.6%	0.1	-0.1
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.4%	4.0%	-0.1	0.3

Table 2. Total Employment, by State					
State	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	2,317,206	2,312,614	2,281,387	0.2%	1.6%
Arkansas	1,383,259	1,379,718	1,366,792	0.3%	1.2%
Florida	10,738,718	10,741,791	10,784,691	-0.03%	-0.4%
Georgia	5,219,749	5,211,587	5,212,728	0.2%	0.1%
Kentucky	2,022,172	2,017,244	1,992,827	0.2%	1.5%
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>2,000,664</b>	<b>1,993,536</b>	<b>1,986,155</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Mississippi	1,237,068	1,235,621	1,239,656	0.1%	-0.2%
Missouri	3,074,526	3,064,054	3,023,630	0.3%	1.7%
North Carolina	5,104,078	5,094,276	5,089,467	0.2%	0.3%
Oklahoma	1,946,808	1,949,927	1,924,351	-0.2%	1.2%
South Carolina	2,489,407	2,480,949	2,437,016	0.3%	2.1%
Tennessee	3,402,179	3,392,574	3,308,533	0.3%	2.8%
Texas	15,283,623	15,264,904	15,073,263	0.1%	1.4%

Note: December 2025 data are preliminary; Data are seasonally adjusted

**Table 3. Labor Force Participation Rate, by State**

State	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	57.7%	57.6%	57.6%	0.1	0.1
Arkansas	59.0%	58.8%	58.3%	0.2	0.7
Florida	57.5%	54.5%	58.1%	3	-0.6
Georgia	60.7%	60.6%	61.3%	0.1	-0.6
Kentucky	58.1%	58.1%	58.2%	0	-0.1
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Mississippi	55.6%	55.6%	55.9%	0	-0.2
Missouri	64.0%	63.9%	63.2%	0.1	0.8
North Carolina	59.2%	59.1%	59.8%	0.1	-0.6
Oklahoma	63.0%	63.0%	62.6%	0	0.4
South Carolina	58.1%	58.0%	57.7%	0.1	0.4
Tennessee	60.4%	60.3%	59.5%	0.1	0.9
Texas	64.7%	64.7%	64.8%	0	-0.1

Note: December 2025 data are preliminary; Data are seasonally adjusted

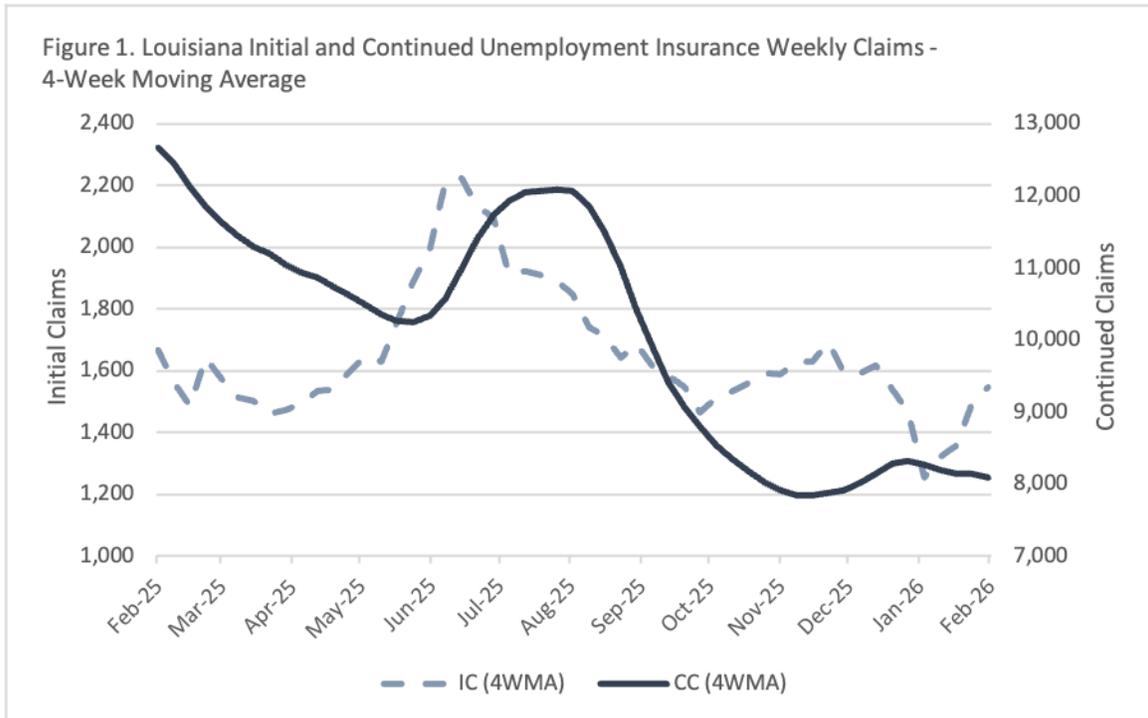
**Table 4. Unemployment Rate, by State**

State	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	2.7%	2.7%	3.3%	0	-0.6
Arkansas	4.2%	4.1%	3.6%	0.1	0.6
Florida	4.3%	4.2%	3.4%	0.1	0.9
Georgia	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	0.1	0
Kentucky	4.5%	4.7%	5.3%	-0.2	-0.8
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Mississippi	3.7%	3.8%	3.6%	-0.1	0.1
Missouri	3.9%	4.0%	3.6%	-0.1	0.3
North Carolina	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	0	0.2
Oklahoma	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%	0.1	0.3
South Carolina	4.8%	4.6%	4.4%	0.2	0.4
Tennessee	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%	0	-0.1
Texas	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%	0.1	0.1

Note: December 2025 data are preliminary; Data are seasonally adjusted

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](http://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](http://eia.gov)

Table 5. Energy Commodities, Weekly					
Commodity	2/6/26	1/30/26	2/7/25	Change	
				WoW	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$69.84	\$70.43	\$70.09	-0.8%	-0.4%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$63.09	\$62.90	\$72.05	0.3%	-12.4%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	\$5.01	\$13.80	\$3.28	-63.7%	52.7%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	\$2.77	\$2.75	\$3.02	0.7%	-8.3%

Table 6. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of February 12, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,136.05	\$11.36	\$/Bu	1.1%	2.1%	9.3%	10.3%
Wheat	\$541.29	\$5.41	\$/Bu	0.7%	1.1%	6.0%	-6.3%
Lumber	\$589.03	\$5.89	\$/MBF	-0.8%	0.9%	2.5%	-1.9%
Palm Oil	\$4,046.00	\$40.46	\$/MT	-0.3%	-3.9%	-0.4%	-11.2%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$13.81	\$0.14	\$/Lb	-0.4%	-3.2%	-7.2%	-31.3%
Coffee	\$298.14	\$2.98	\$/Lb	2.0%	-3.1%	-17.1%	-31.1%
Corn	\$429.22	\$4.29	\$/Bu	0.4%	-1.0%	2.6%	-12.8%
Rice	\$11.20	\$0.11	\$/CWT	0.6%	-0.6%	5.6%	-20.2%
Orange Juice	\$171.56	\$1.72	\$/Lb	-7.2%	7.9%	14.5%	-51.5%

### 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)

Table 7. New Privately Owned Single-Housing Units Authorized, by State and U.S.						
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%
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>9,696</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
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%

Table 8. New Privately Owned Single-Housing Unit Values (Per Unit) Authorized, by State and U.S.					
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%
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>\$247,935</b>	<b>\$251,578</b>	<b>\$261,093</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>
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. PORTS

The following figures provide a snapshot of short-term export, import, and vessel arrival activity across Louisiana's five deep-water ports, reflecting the region's current economic conditions, trade patterns, industrial strengths, and supply chain dynamics.

Source: [portwatch.imf.org](http://portwatch.imf.org)

Figure 2. Baton Rouge Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

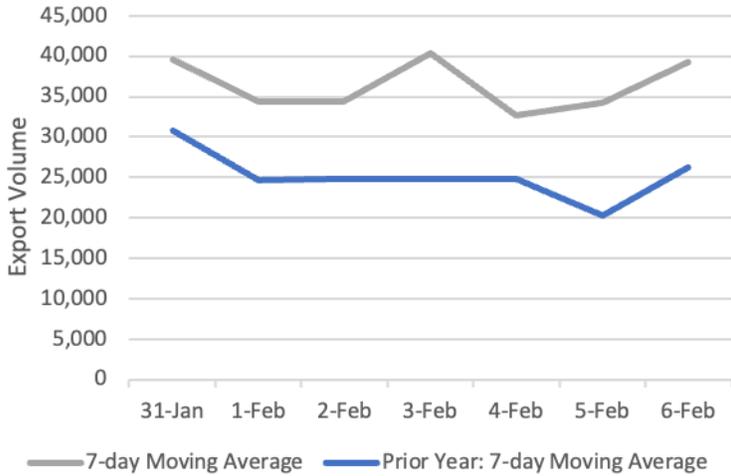


Figure 3. New Orleans Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

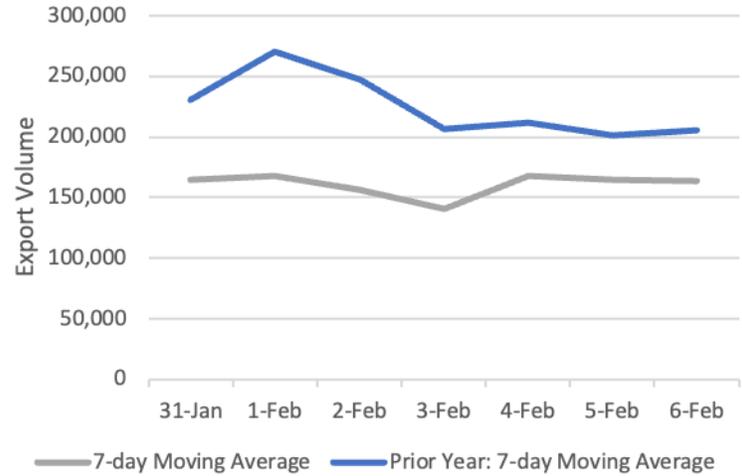


Figure 4. South Louisiana Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

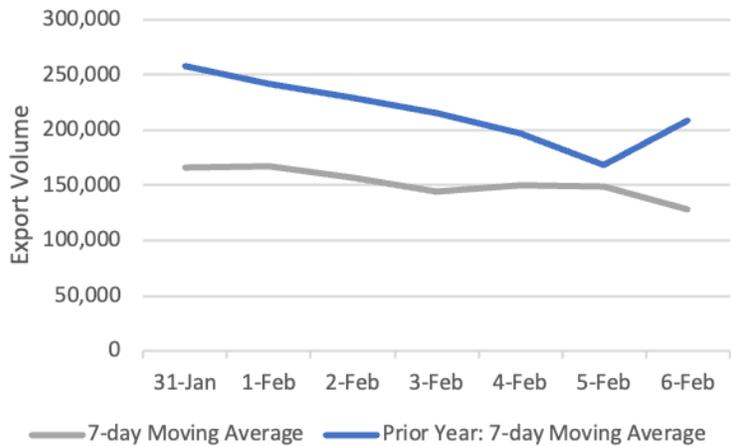


Figure 5. Lake Charles Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

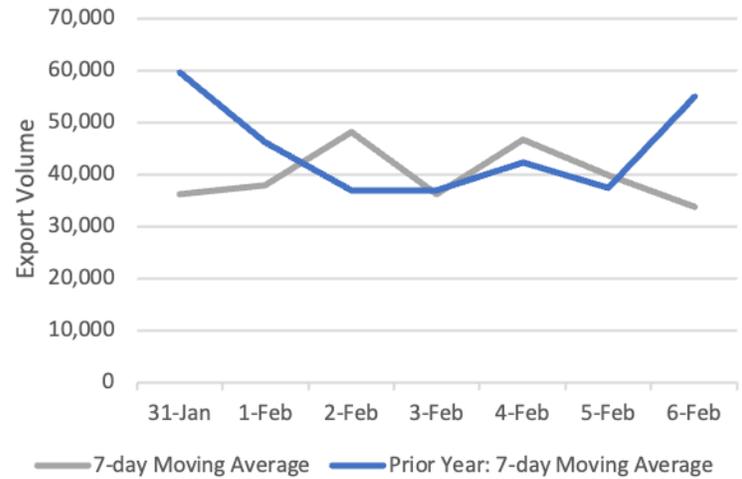


Figure 6. Plaquemines Port Export Volume, by Tonnage



Figure 7. Baton Rouge Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

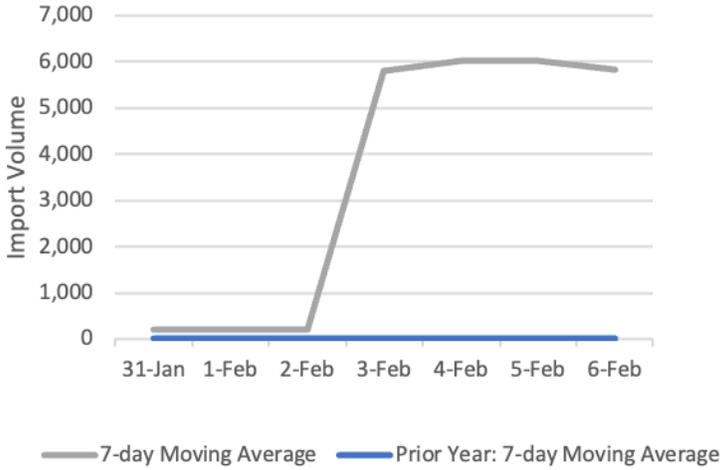


Figure 8. New Orleans Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

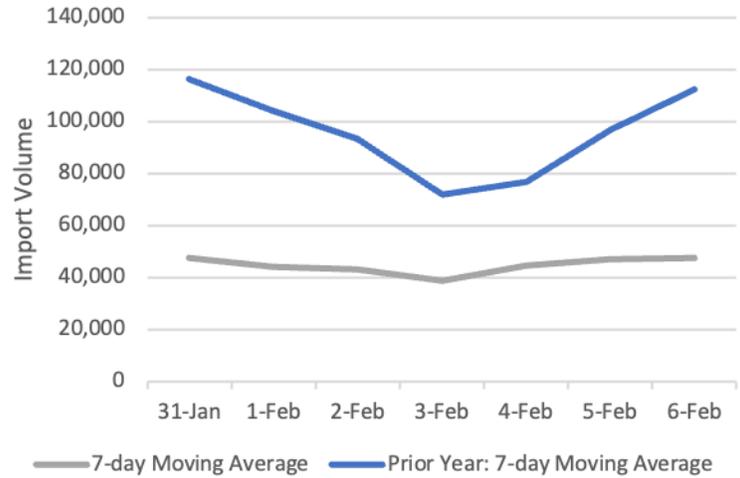


Figure 9. South Louisiana Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

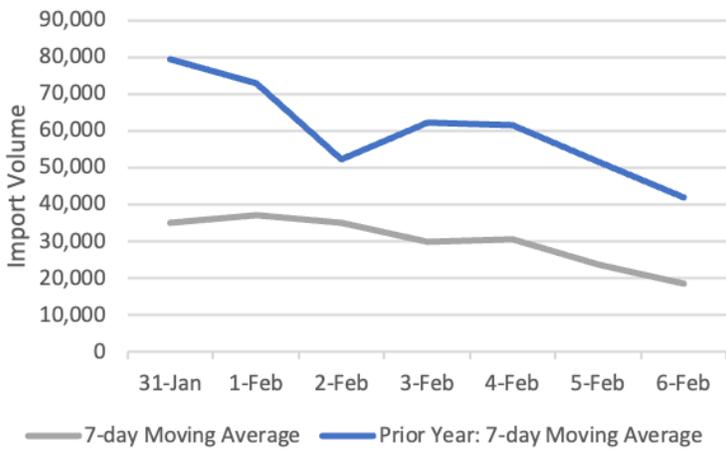


Figure 10. Lake Charles Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

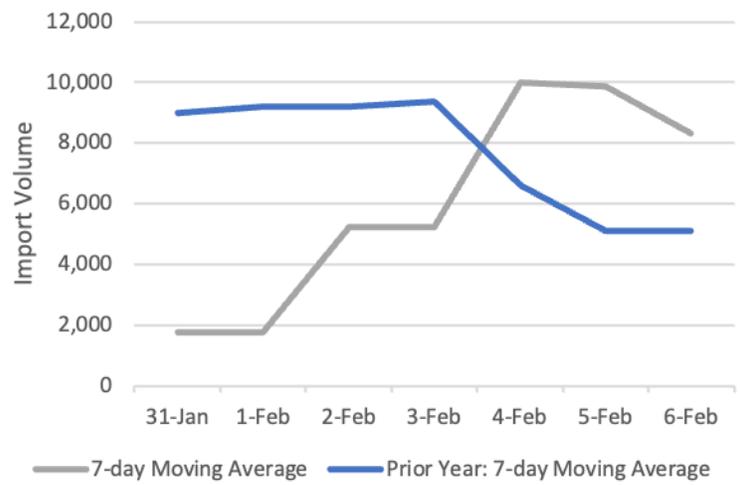


Figure 11. Plaquemines Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

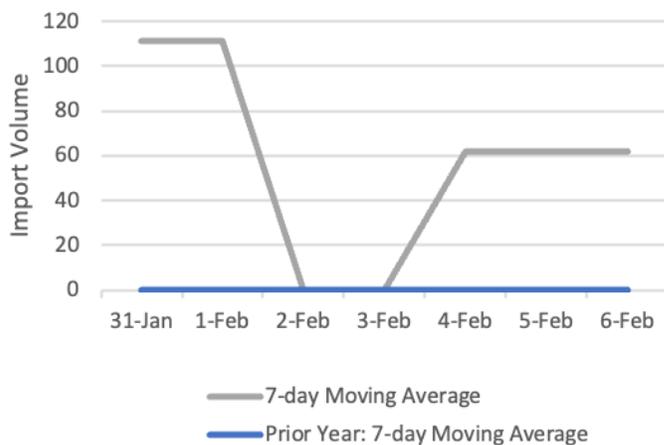


Figure 12. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

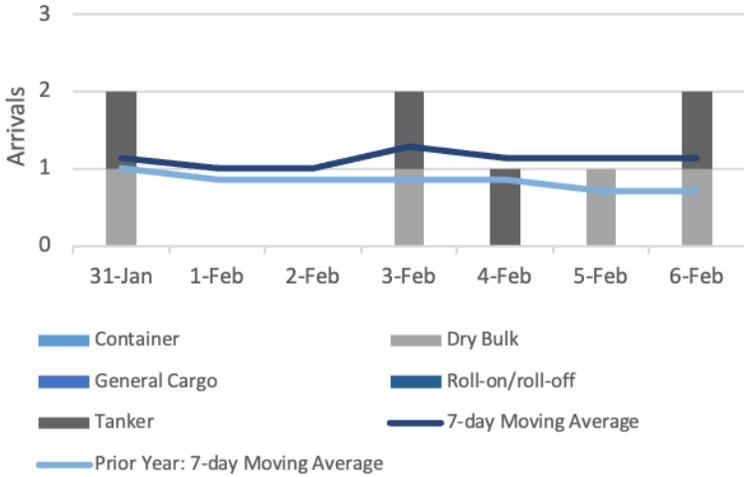


Figure 13. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

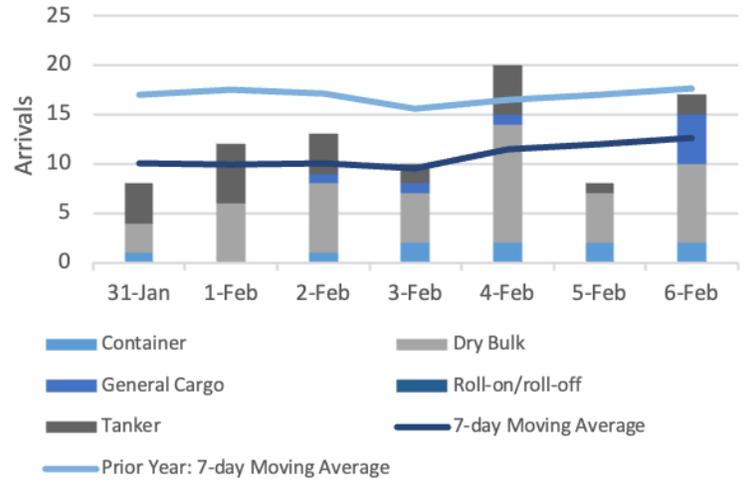


Figure 14. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

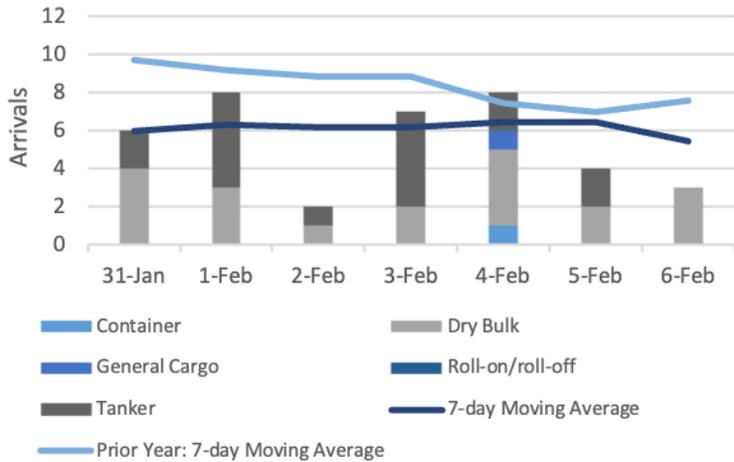


Figure 15. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

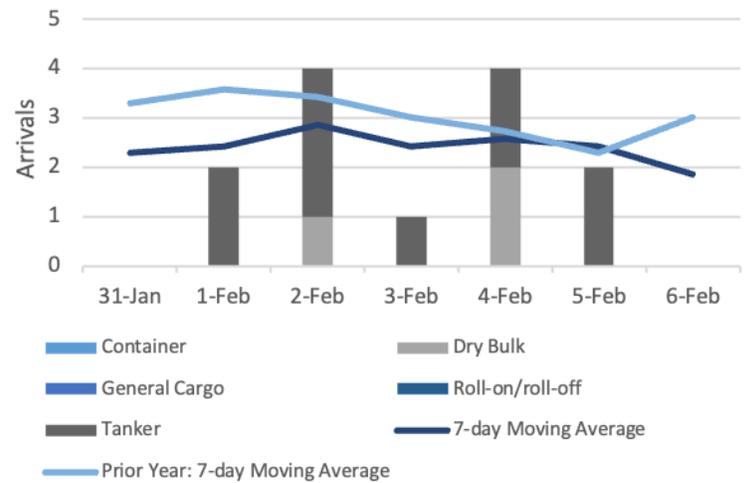
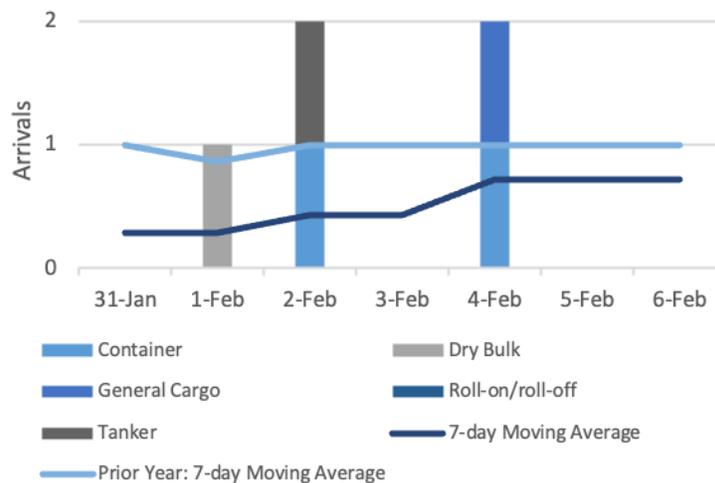


Figure 16. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



## 5. CPI AND INFLATION

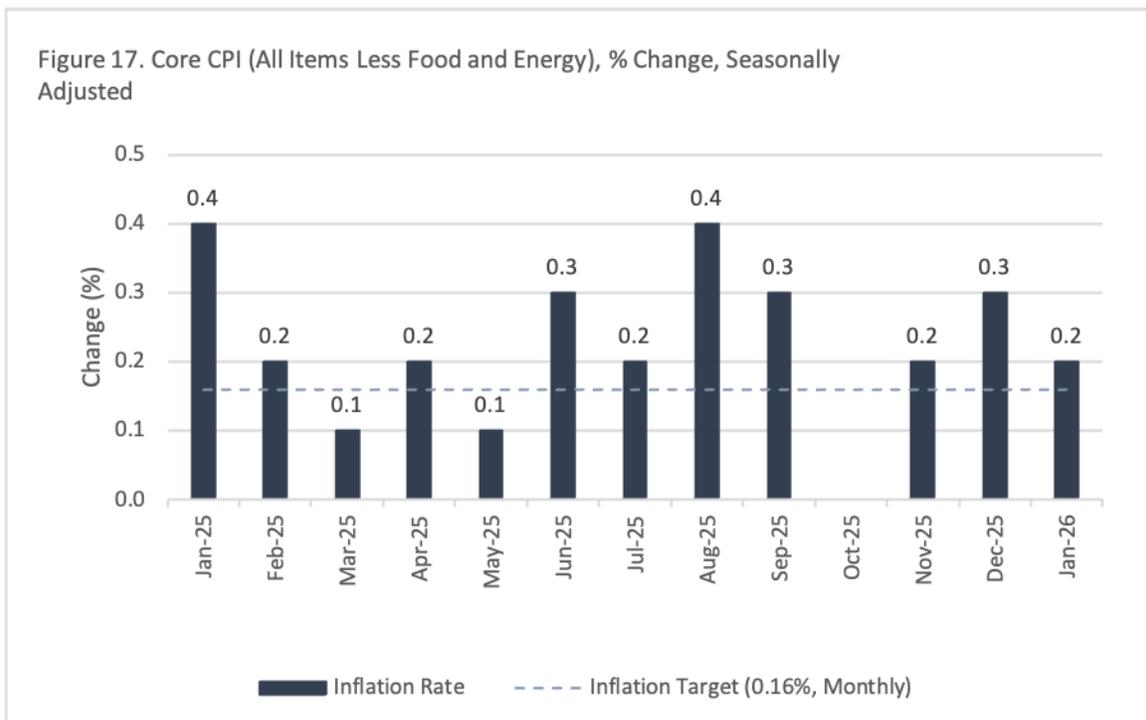
The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) tracks the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a basket of goods and services. It's one of the most widely used indicators of inflation in the United States. The following table presents the urban consumer price index for December and January, 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 9. Change in CPI-U, U.S. City Average by Month, Seasonally Adjusted**

Category	Jan-26	Dec-25	Change	
			MoM	Since Jan-25 <sup>1</sup>
All Items	0.2	0.3	-0.1	2.4%
All Items Less Food and Energy (Core CPI)	0.3	0.2	0.1	2.5%
Medical Care Services	0.3	0.4	-0.1	3.9%

Note: <sup>1</sup>Not Seasonally Adjusted. Base Period: 1982-84=100.



# February\*

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.

\*Revised calendar reflects updated release dates following appropriations lapse.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 <a href="#">JOLTS</a> [Dec]	6 <a href="#">Metro Area Employment</a> [Dec] <a href="#">U. of Michigan Sentiment</a> [Feb]	7
8	9 <a href="#">Retail Sales</a> [Dec] <a href="#">U.S. Import &amp; Export Price Indexes</a> [Dec] <a href="#">Manufacturing &amp; Trade Inventory &amp; Sales</a> [Nov] <a href="#">NFIB Small Business Optimism Index</a> [Jan]	10 <a href="#">Employment</a> [Jan] <a href="#">Federal Budget</a> [Jan]	11 <a href="#">Existing Home Sales</a> [Jan]	12 <a href="#">Real Earnings</a> [Jan] <a href="#">CPI</a> [Jan]	13	14
15	16 <a href="#">NAHB HMI</a> [Feb]	17 <a href="#">New Residential Construction</a> [Nov & Dec] <a href="#">Durable Goods</a> [Dec] <a href="#">Industrial Production</a> [Jan]	18 <a href="#">State JOLTS</a> [Dec] <a href="#">International Trade</a> [Dec] <a href="#">Pending Home Sales</a> [Jan]	19 <a href="#">New Residential Sales</a> [Nov & Dec]	20	21
22	23 <a href="#">Consumer Confidence</a> [Feb]	24	25	26 <a href="#">Total Vehicle Sales</a> [Jan]	27	28