

Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, February 20, 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:

[ICYMI: Starget Pharma Closes \\$18M Series A Financing and Announces Strategic Collaboration with Center for Molecular Imaging and Therapy in Louisiana](#)

February 20th, 2026

[American Airlines Adds Monroe–DFW Flight, Expanding Northeast Louisiana's Access to National and Global Markets](#)

February 19th, 2026

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

February 12th, 2026

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

February 12th, 2026

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

February 12th, 2026

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

February 6th, 2026

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

February 5th, 2026

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

February 5th, 2026

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

February 3rd, 2026

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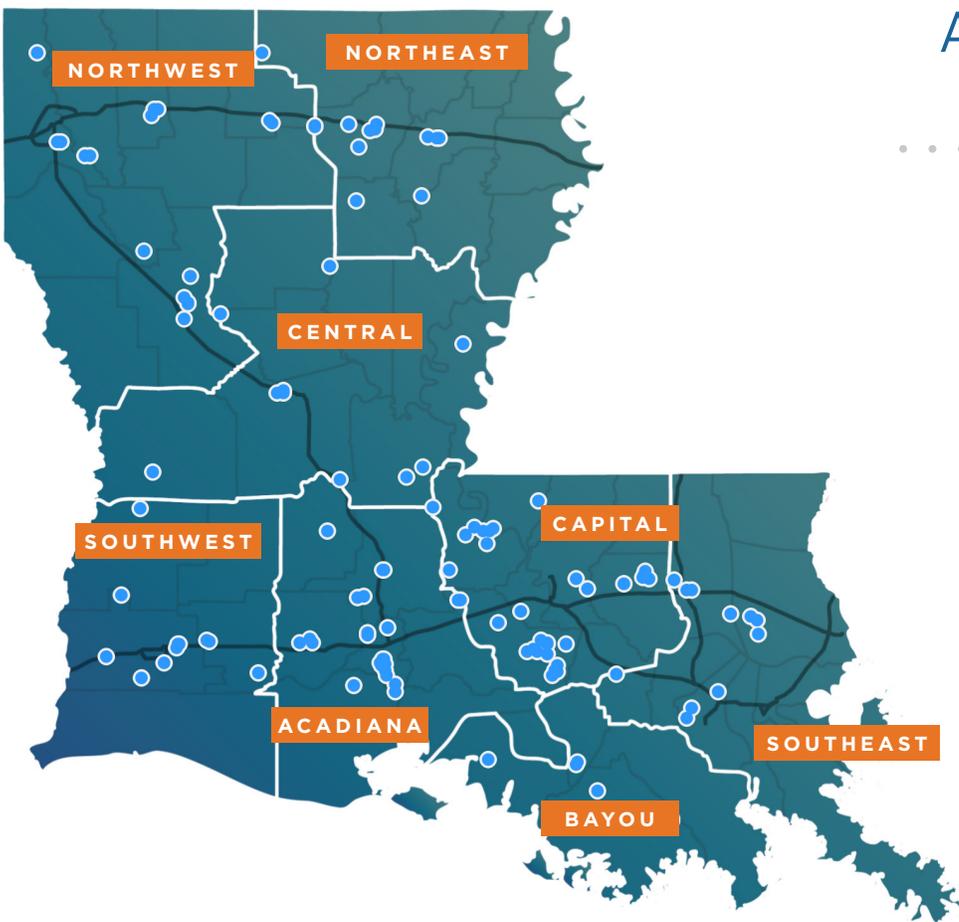
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

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 19, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 192 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)					
Category	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Job Openings	95	102	96	-6.9%	-1.0%
Hires	71	73	72	-2.7%	-1.4%
Quits	54	52	49	3.8%	10.2%
Layoffs and Discharges	25	21	25	19.0%	0.0%

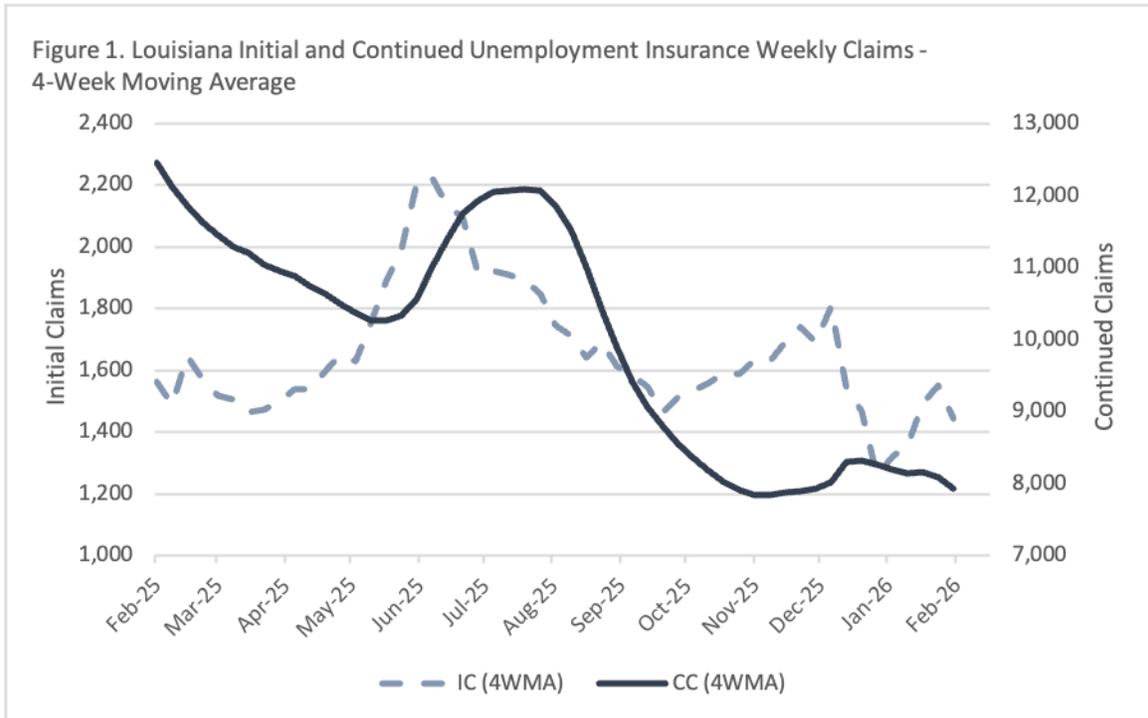
Note: December 2025 data are preliminary; Data are seasonally adjusted

Table 2. U.S. Job Openings and Labor Turnover, Total Nonfarm (In Thousands)					
Category	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Job Openings	6,542	6,928	7,508	-5.6%	-12.9%
Hires	5,293	5,121	5,374	3.4%	-1.5%
Quits	3,204	3,193	3,095	0.3%	3.5%
Layoffs and Discharges	1,762	1,701	1,669	3.6%	5.6%

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



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 3. Energy Commodities, Weekly					
Commodity	2/13/26	2/6/26	2/14/25	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$70.70	\$69.84	\$76.01	1.2%	-7.0%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$63.93	\$63.09	\$72.17	1.3%	-11.4%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	\$3.27	\$5.01	\$4.03	-34.7%	-18.9%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	\$2.79	\$2.77	\$3.02	0.7%	-7.6%

Table 4. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of February 19, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,136.70	\$11.37	\$/Bu	0.3%	-0.1%	8.0%	8.7%
Wheat	\$555.27	\$5.55	\$/Bu	1.6%	0.5%	8.8%	-5.2%
Lumber	\$573.94	\$5.74	\$/MBF	-1.5%	-3.7%	-6.6%	-7.1%
Palm Oil	\$4,001.00	\$40.01	\$/MT	-1.1%	-3.7%	-1.0%	-11.1%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$13.66	\$0.14	\$/Lb	-0.8%	1.3%	-7.2%	-35.3%
Coffee	\$282.15	\$2.82	\$/Lb	-1.2%	-5.0%	-18.4%	-28.8%
Corn	\$424.41	\$4.24	\$/Bu	-0.5%	-1.5%	0.2%	-14.7%
Rice	\$10.17	\$0.10	\$/CWT	-1.0%	-9.1%	-4.7%	-27.0%
Orange Juice	\$187.58	\$1.88	\$/Lb	-5.0%	14.9%	-6.9%	-40.8%

3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

The following table includes national-level data on new privately-owned single-housing units by status.

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

Table 5. U.S. New Privately Owned Single-Housing Units Authorized, by Status (Thousands of Units.)					
Status	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Authorized	129.5	133.7	134.5	-3.1%	-3.7%
Starts	69.4	71.0	74.9	-2.3%	-7.3%
Under Construction	569.2	593.9	623.5	-4.2%	-8.7%
Completions	98.9	85.8	89.8	15.3%	10.1%

Note: For 2025, November and December data are preliminary; Data are not seasonally adjusted.

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 6. 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%
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%
United States	76,360	73,428	84,363	787,122	4.0%	-9.5%

Table 7. 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%
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%
United States	\$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

Figure 2. Baton Rouge Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

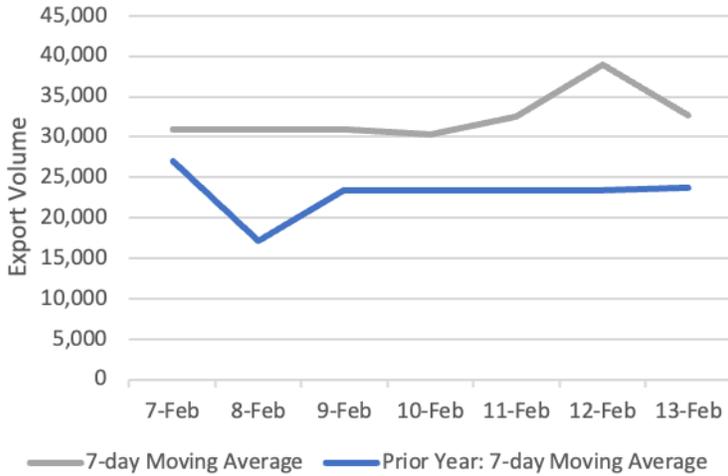


Figure 3. New Orleans Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

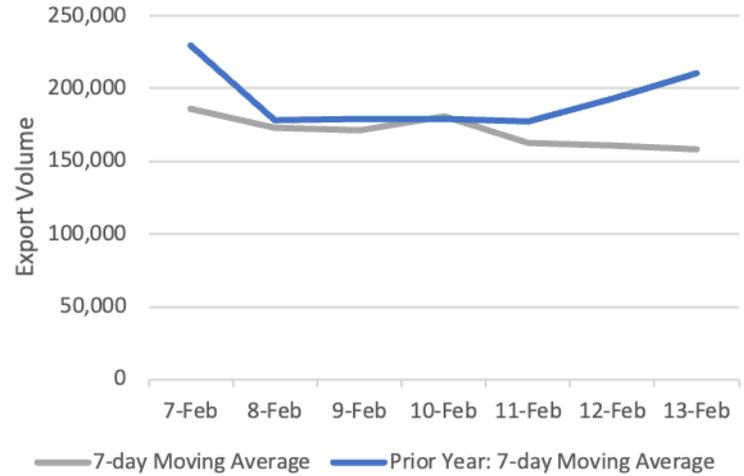


Figure 4. South Louisiana Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

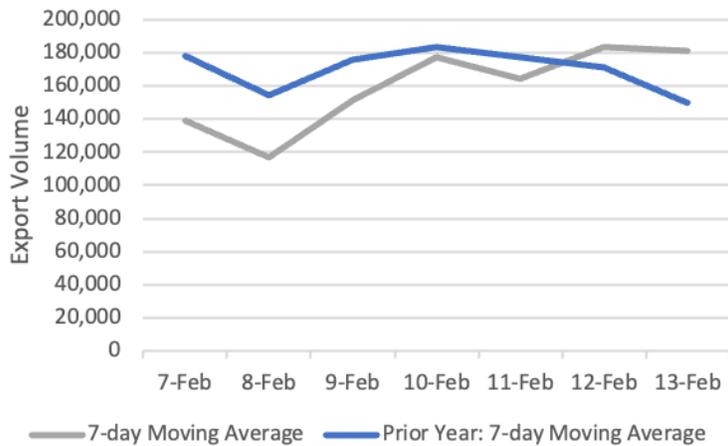


Figure 5. Lake Charles Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

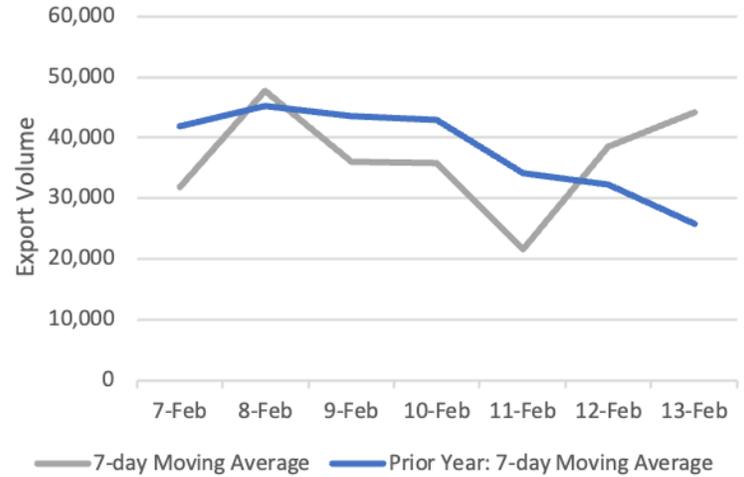


Figure 6. Plaquemines Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

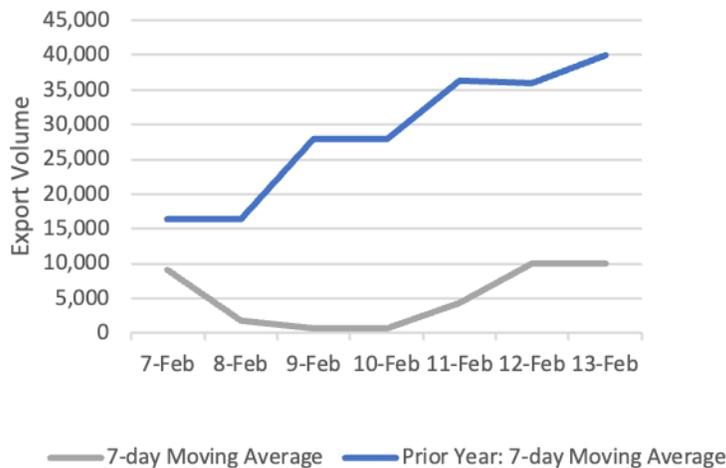


Figure 7. Baton Rouge Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

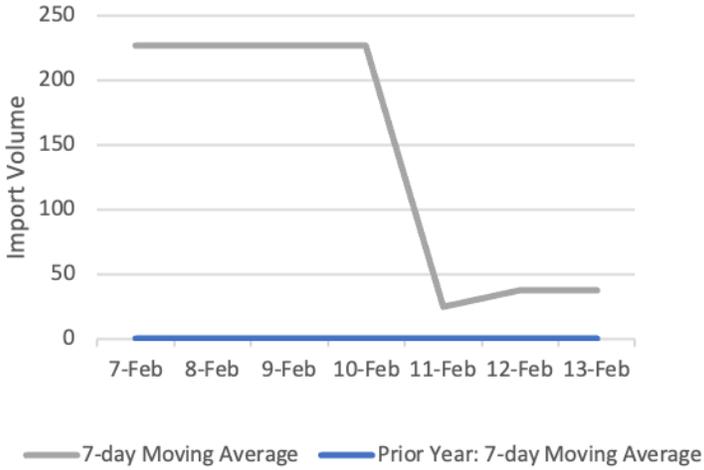


Figure 8. New Orleans Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

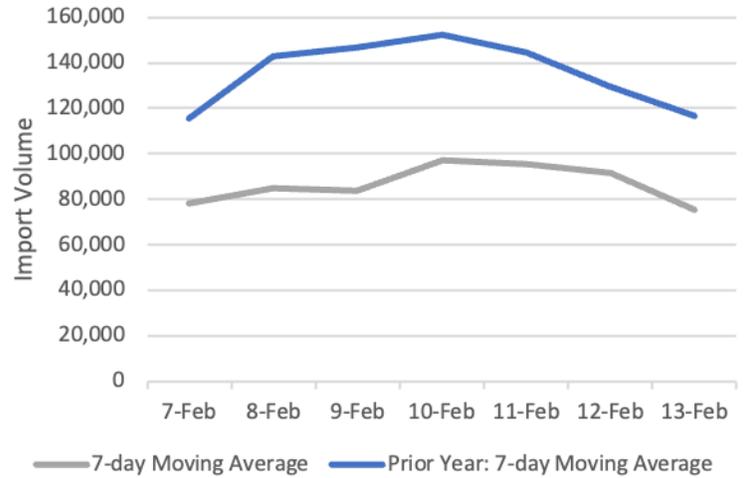


Figure 9. South Louisiana Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

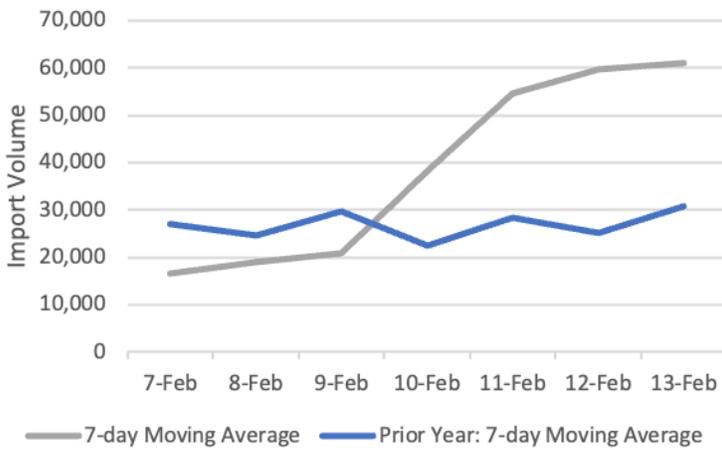


Figure 10. Lake Charles Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

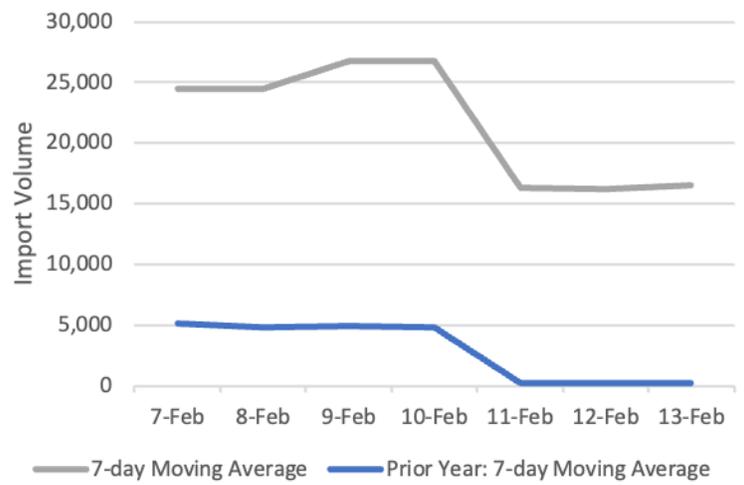


Figure 11. Plaquemines Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

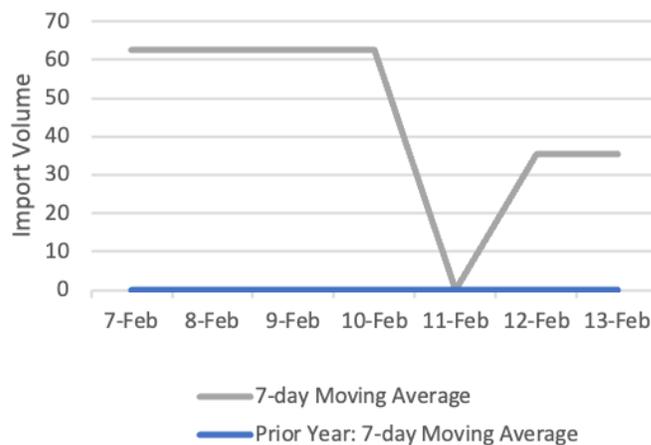


Figure 12. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

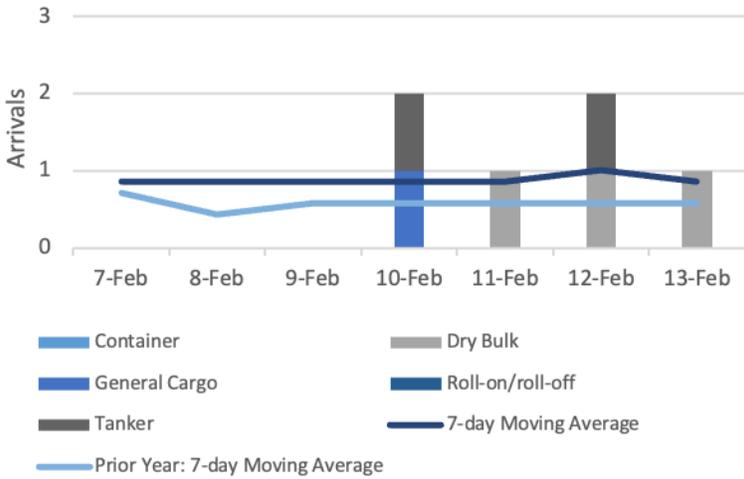


Figure 13. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

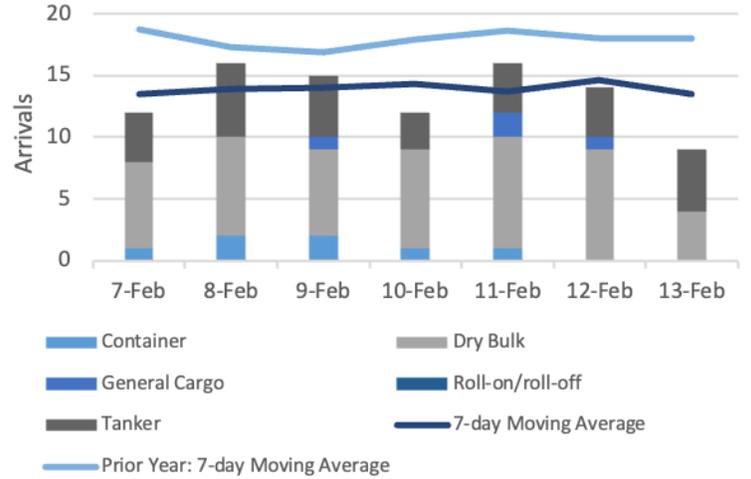


Figure 14. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

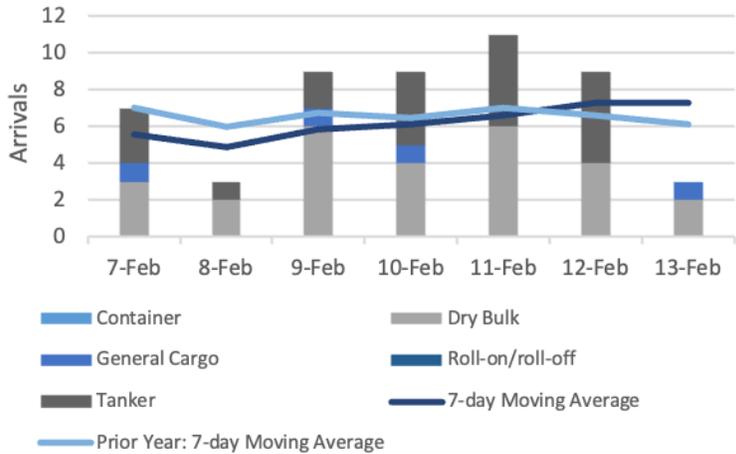


Figure 15. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

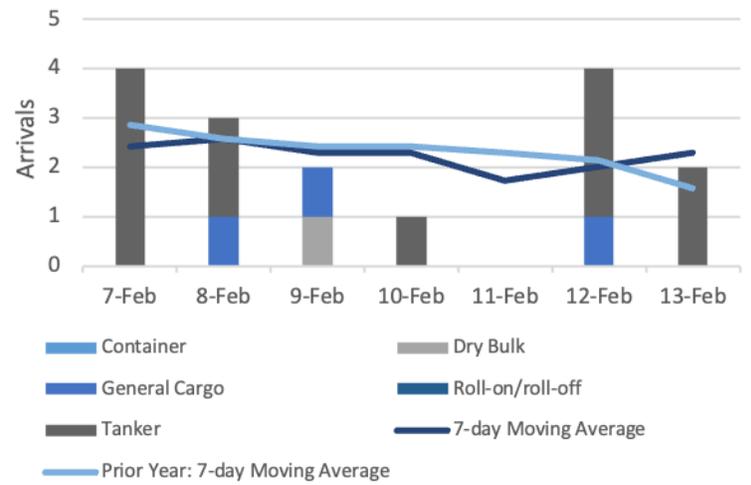
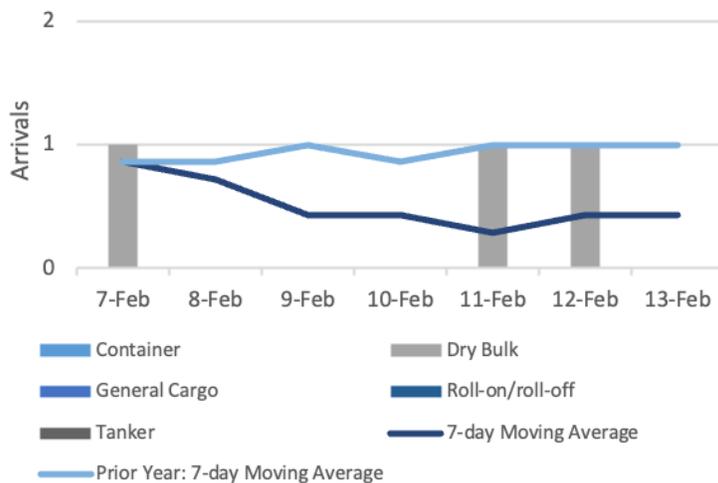


Figure 16. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



5. 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.

Source: State of Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources & [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#).

Table 8. Louisiana and U.S. Oil & Gas Rig Counts							
Location	1/13/26	1/6/26	12/12/25	1/10/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Louisiana (Total all areas)	44	41	47	32	7.3%	-6.4%	37.5%
North - Land	28	27	34	18	3.7%	-17.6%	55.6%
South Inland - Water	1	1	2	1	0.0%	-50.0%	0.0%
South Inland - Land	5	5	2	3	0.0%	150.0%	66.7%
State Offshore	0	0	1	0	0.0%	-100.0%	0.0%
Louisiana Federal Offshore	10	8	8	10	25.0%	25.0%	0.0%
U.S. Total	551	551	548	584	0.0%	0.5%	-5.7%

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 JOLTS [Dec]	6 Metro Area Employment [Dec] U. of Michigan Sentiment [Feb]	7
8	9 Retail Sales [Dec] U.S. Import & Export Price Indexes [Dec] Manufacturing & Trade Inventory & Sales [Nov] NFIB Small Business Optimism Index [Jan]	10 Employment [Jan] Federal Budget [Jan]	11 Existing Home Sales [Jan]	12 Real Earnings [Jan] CPI [Jan]	13	14
15	16 NAHB HMI [Feb]	17 New Residential Construction [Nov & Dec] Durable Goods [Dec] Industrial Production [Jan]	18 State JOLTS [Dec] International Trade [Dec] Pending Home Sales [Jan]	19 New Residential Sales [Nov & Dec]	20	21
22	23 Consumer Confidence [Feb]	24	25	26 Total Vehicle Sales [Jan]	27	28