

# Louisiana Economic Vitals

## Friday, February 27, 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:

[Akston Chooses Louisiana for Major Life Sciences Manufacturing Expansion](#)

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana: Eye On The Next Era](#)

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Amazon Selects Louisiana for \\$12 Billion Data Center Campuses in Major U.S. Expansion](#)

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

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

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[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

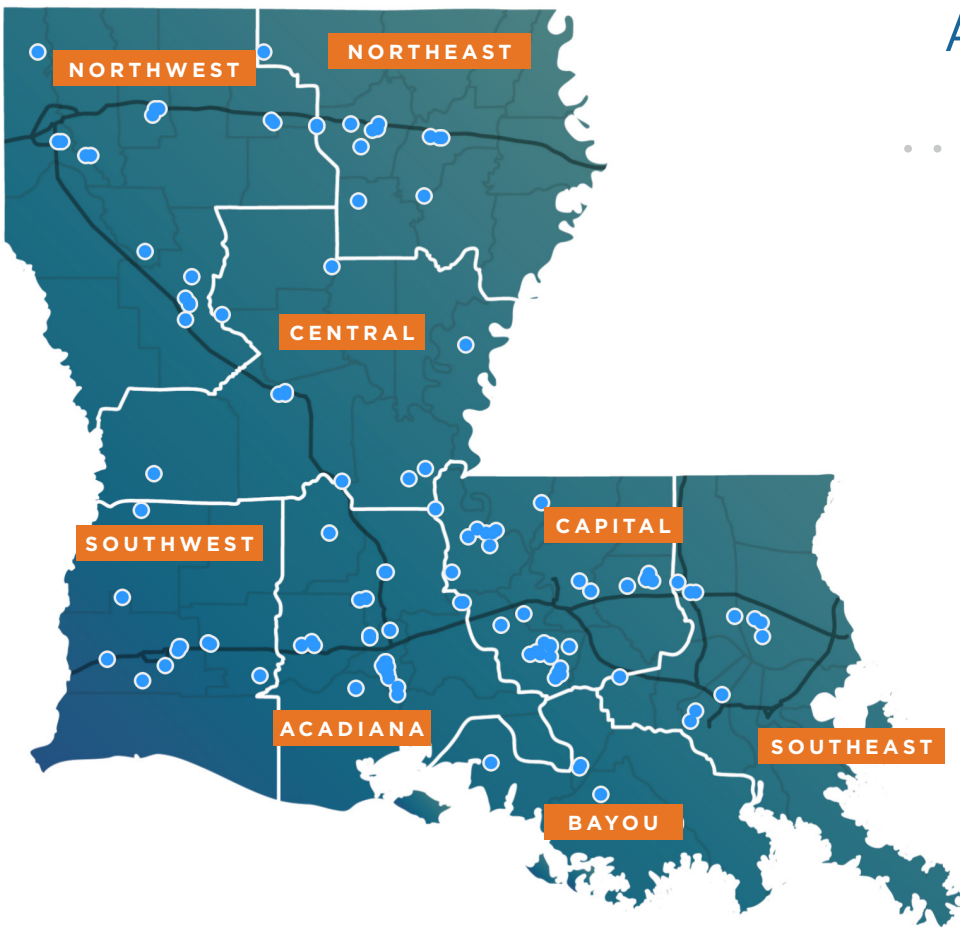
# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 79 projects representing over \$88 billion USD in new investment and more than 12,510 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of February 26, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 193 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$285.2 billion and the potential to create more than 42,090 direct new jobs.

# CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 165 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 following table shows the distribution number of job openings advertised online, as well as potential candidates in the HiRE workforce system in Louisiana by regional labor market areas on February 24, 2026. The candidate pool is comprised of individuals whose resumes have been active in the Louisiana Works HiRE system over the past twelve months. Job posting sources include private job boards, job distributors, and preferred employers - registered employers that post jobs directly in the HiRE system. A table listing the parishes served under each RLMA is also provided.

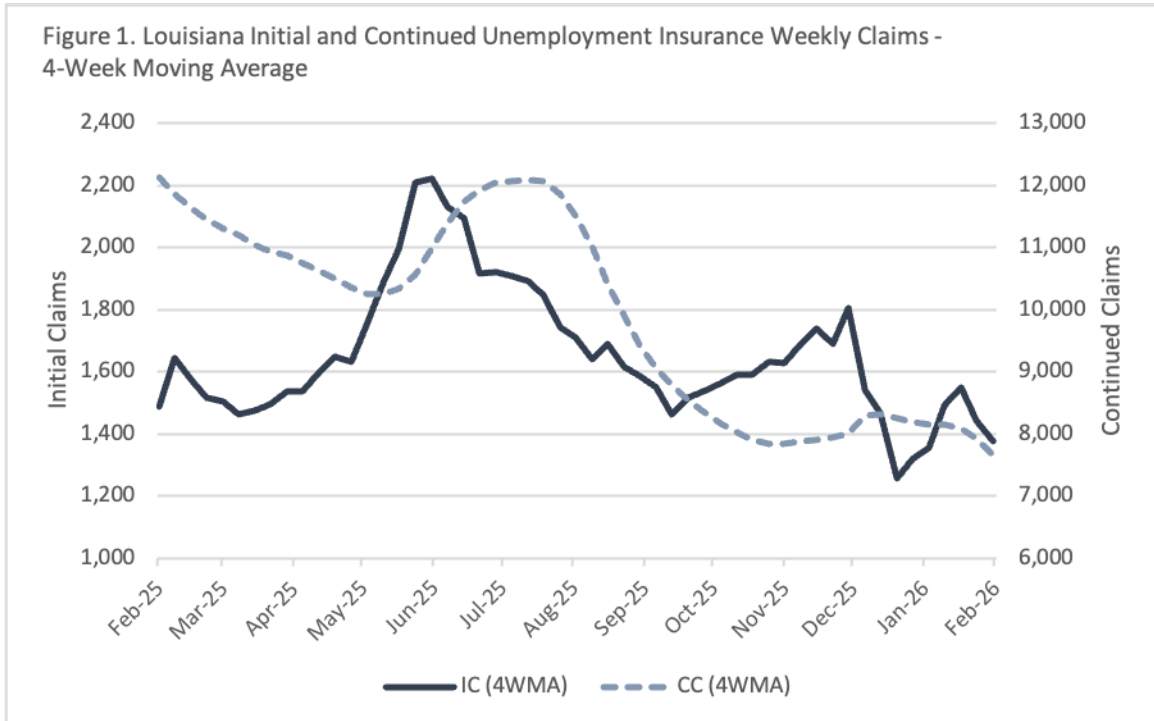
Source: [louisianaworks.net](http://louisianaworks.net)

Table 1. Supply (Candidates) and Demand (Job Openings Advertised) by Regional Labor Market Area for February 24, 2026					
Area (RLMA)	Job Opening Ads	Candidates	Candidates per Job	Median Wage	Ads with Wage
New Orleans (1)	13,842	14,174	1.02	\$47,471	2,063
Baton Rouge (2)	9,636	12,706	1.32	\$48,984	1,427
Houma (3)	1,542	13,310	6.69	\$40,000	207
Lafayette (4)	5,760	11,878	2.06	\$33,280	701
Lake Charles (5)	3,172	10,663	3.36	\$35,018	334
Alexandria (6)	3,425	10,672	3.12	\$45,000	603
Shreveport (7)	6,775	11,334	1.67	\$46,540	957
Monroe (8)	2,243	10,722	4.78	\$39,520	299

Table 2. Regional Labor Market Areas and Parishes Covered	
Region (RLMA)	Parishes
New Orleans (1)	Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany
Baton Rouge (2)	Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
Houma (3)	Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne
Lafayette (4)	Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion
Lake Charles (5)	Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Vernon
Alexandria (6)	Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Winn
Shreveport (7)	Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster
Monroe (8)	Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

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.netv](http://laworks.netv)



## 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 3. Energy Commodities, Weekly							
Commodity	2/20/26	2/13/26	1/23/26	2/21/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$71.66	\$70.70	\$66.99	\$76.09	1.4%	7.0%	-5.8%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$65.30	\$63.93	\$60.16	\$72.10	2.1%	8.5%	-9.4%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	\$3.08	\$3.27	\$12.02	\$5.90	-5.8%	-74.4%	-47.8%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	\$2.80	\$2.79	\$2.75	\$3.00	0.4%	1.8%	-6.7%

Table 4. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of February 26, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,153.50	\$11.54	\$/Bu	0.5%	1.1%	8.1%	12.8%
Wheat	\$564.79	\$5.65	\$/Bu	0.2%	1.1%	8.1%	3.5%
Lumber	\$556.00	\$5.56	\$/MBF	-1.6%	-4.6%	-7.2%	-10.4%
Palm Oil	\$4,046.00	\$40.46	\$/MT	-0.2%	-1.2%	-4.2%	-12.2%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$14.15	\$0.14	\$/Lb	1.3%	3.5%	-4.4%	-27.9%
Coffee	\$283.58	\$2.84	\$/Lb	-0.4%	-0.7%	-22.8%	-24.8%
Corn	\$431.84	\$4.32	\$/Bu	0.2%	1.5%	1.4%	-7.0%
Rice	\$9.85	\$0.10	\$/CWT	0.1%	-3.1%	-10.1%	-25.8%
Orange Juice	\$178.48	\$1.78	\$/Lb	0.02%	-4.7%	-18.9%	-39.4%

### 3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

Louisiana Realtors® produces monthly reports on local market updates for the state and its regions. The following figures illustrate regional **pending sales** by month with a year-over-year comparison for 2024 and 2025. A list of parishes served by each regional entity is also provided.

Source: [louisiana.stats.showingtime.com](https://louisiana.stats.showingtime.com)

**Bayou Board of REALTORS®** - Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, Terrebonne;

**Greater Central Louisiana Realtors® Association** - Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Evangeline, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Winn;

**Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors®** - Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana;

**Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors®** - Beauregard, Sabine, Vernon;

**New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors®** - Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John;

**Northeast Realtors® of Louisiana** -Caldwell, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll;

**Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors®** - Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Webster;

**Realtor® Association of Acadiana** - Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermilion;

**Southwest Louisiana Association of Realtors®** - Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis;

and, although not included

**Northshore Area Board of Realtors®** - St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington

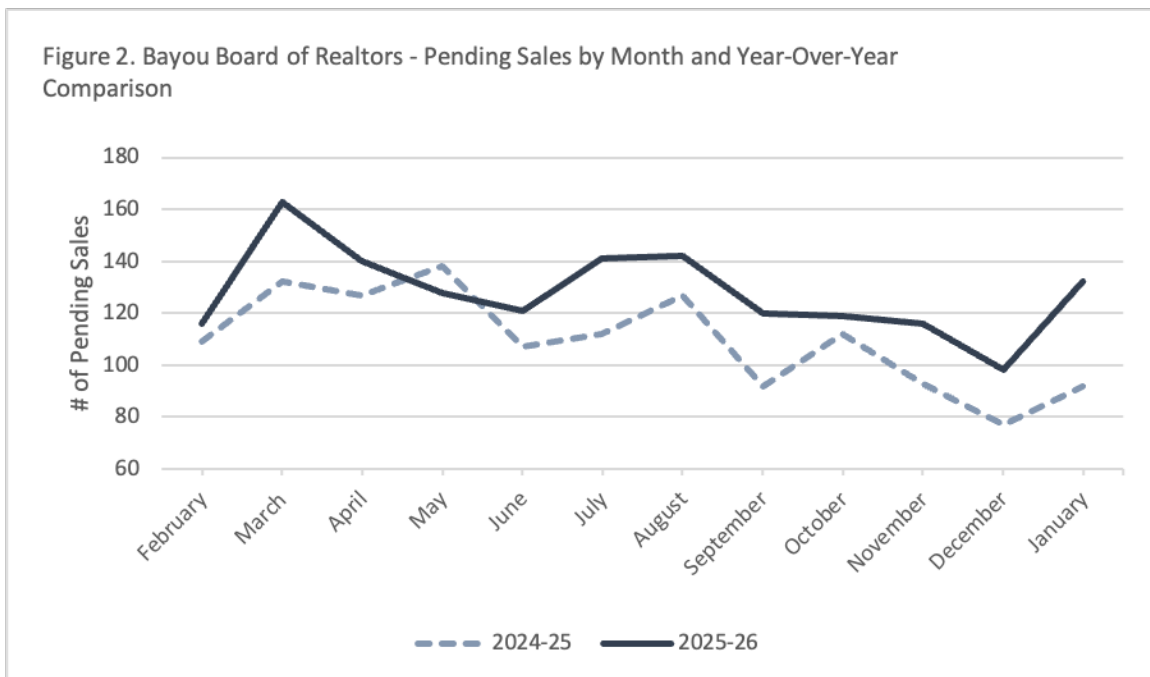


Figure 3. Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

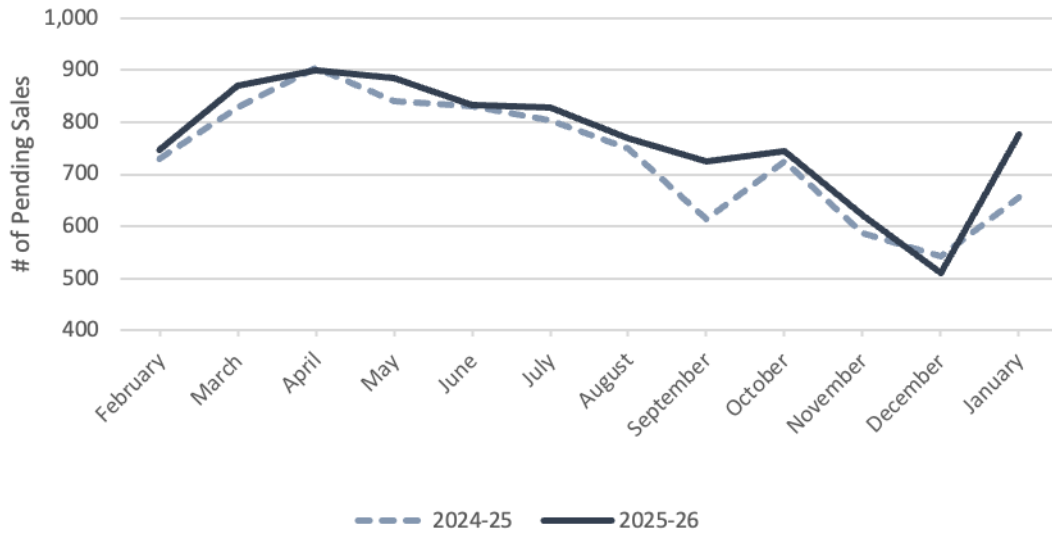


Figure 4. Greater Central Louisiana Realtors Association - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

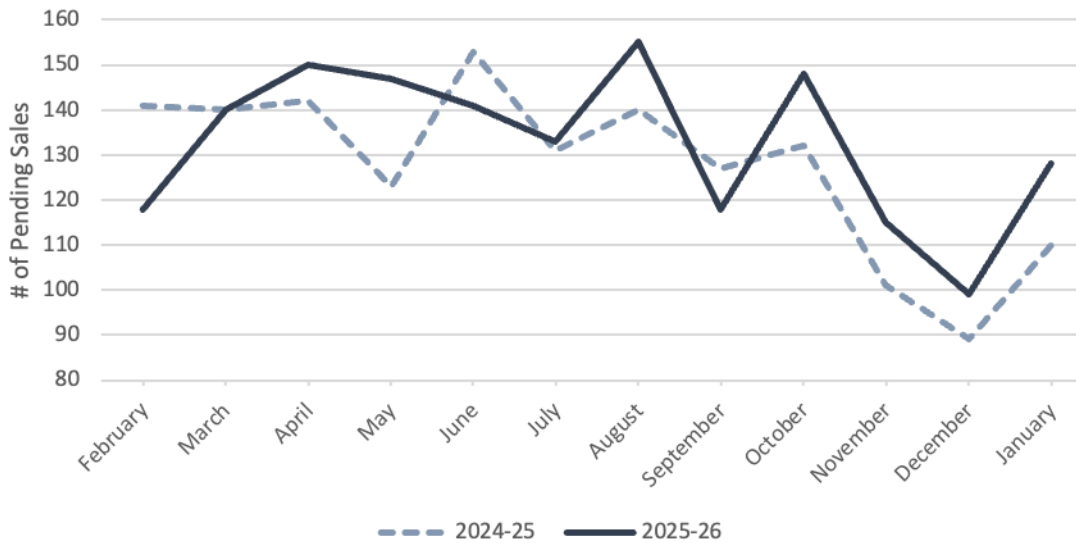


Figure 5. Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

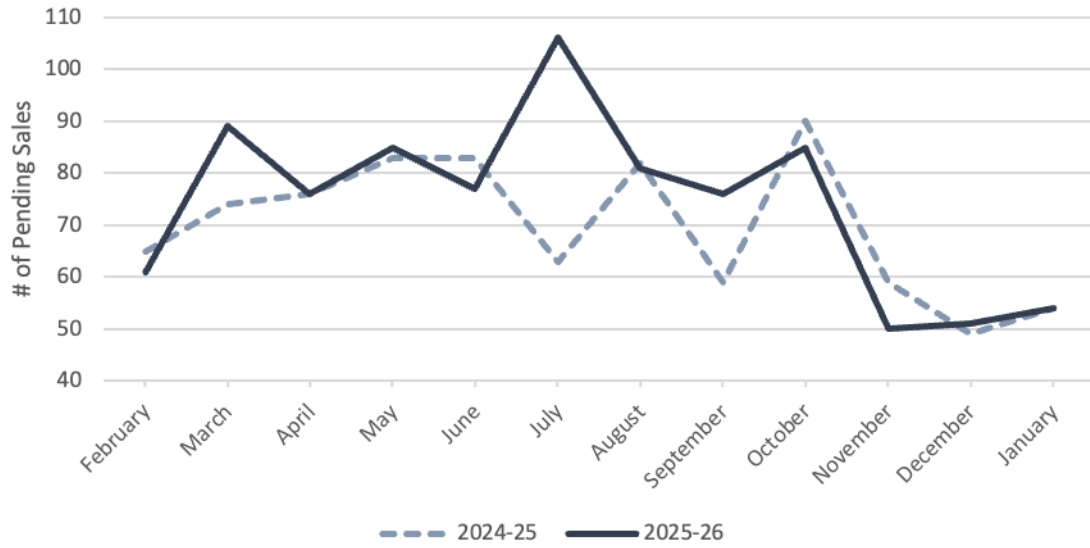


Figure 6. New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

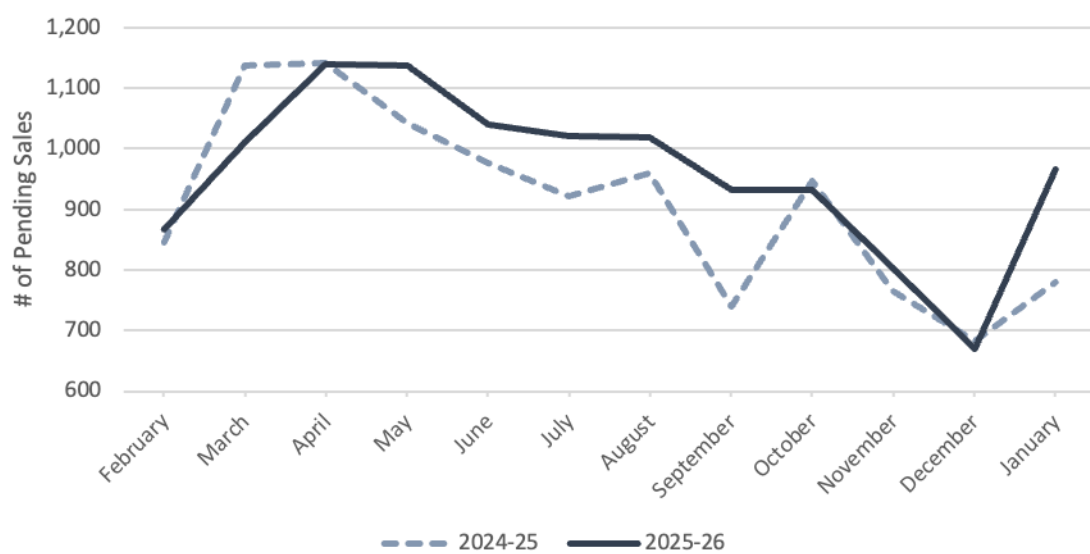


Figure 7. Northeast Realtors of Louisiana - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

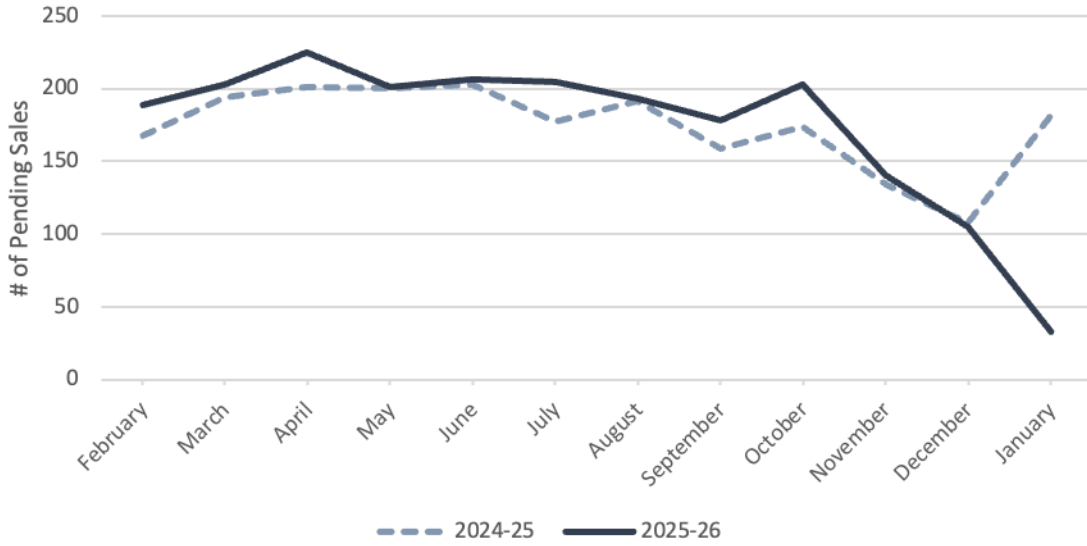


Figure 8. Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

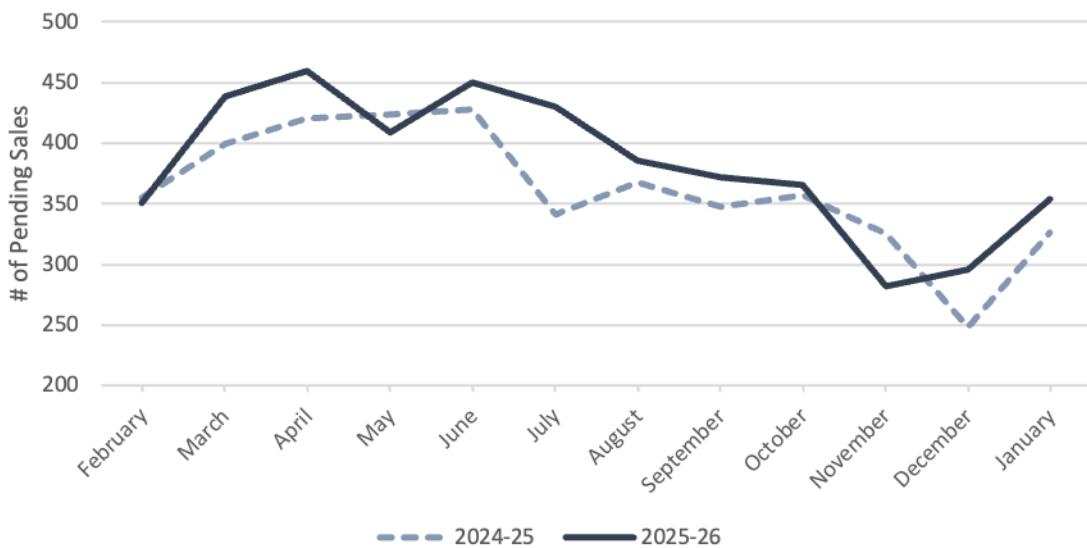


Figure 9. Realtor Association of Acadiana - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

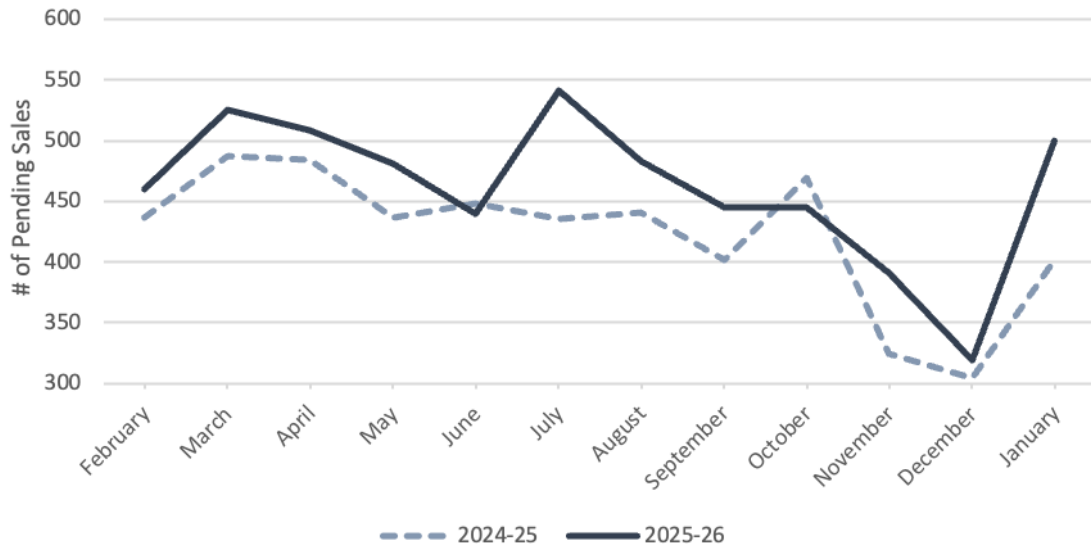
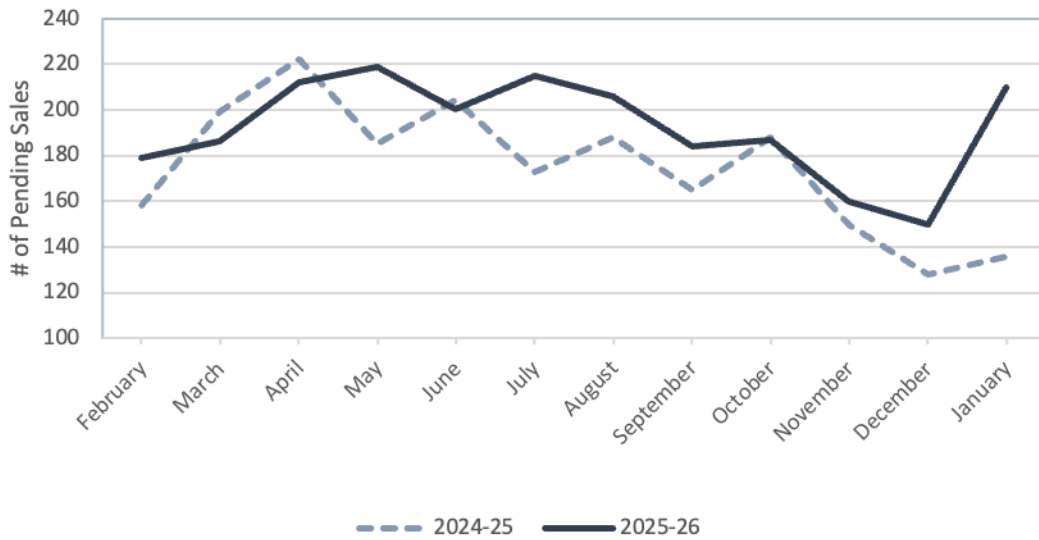


Figure 10. Southwest Louisiana Association of Realtors - Pending Sales by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison



The following table provides existing-home sales data, which measures sales and prices of existing single-family homes for the nation overall, and gives breakdowns for the major regions the country. The figures include condos and co-ops, in addition to single-family homes.

Source: [nar.realtor](https://www.nar.realtor)

Table 5. Existing U.S. Home Sales					
Indicator	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Sales	223,000	346,000	240,000	-35.5%	-7.1%
Inventory (Mos. Supply)	3.7	3.5	3.5	5.7%	5.7%
Sales Price	\$396,800	\$405,100	\$393,400	-2.0%	0.9%

# 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 11. Baton Rouge Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

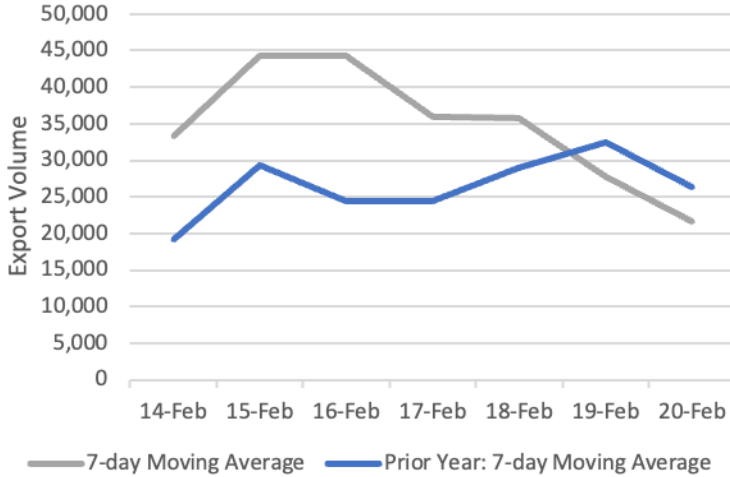


Figure 12. New Orleans Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

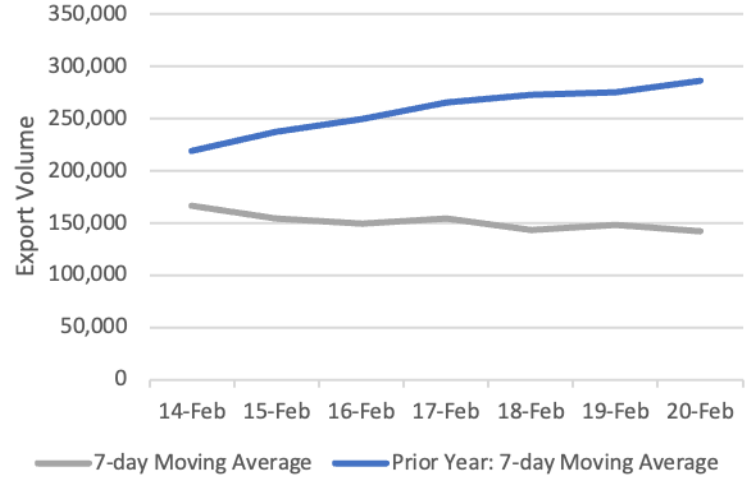


Figure 13. South Louisiana Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

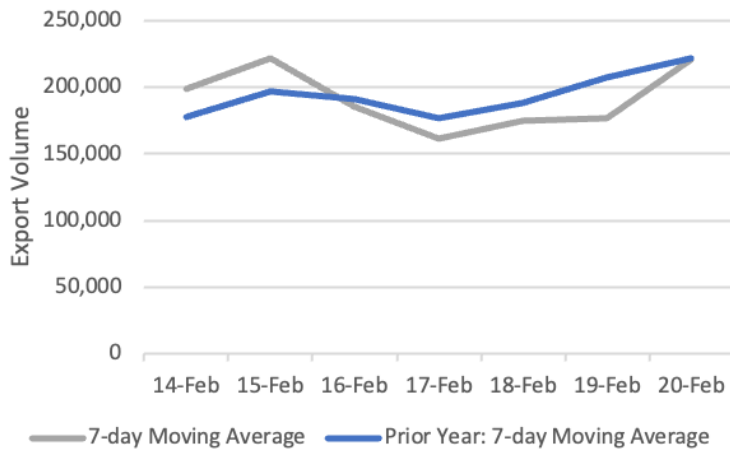


Figure 14. Lake Charles Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

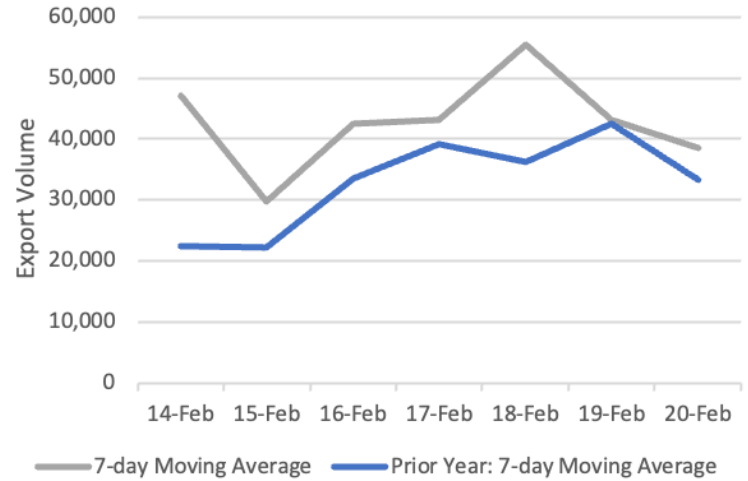


Figure 15. Plaquemines Port Export Volume, by Tonnage

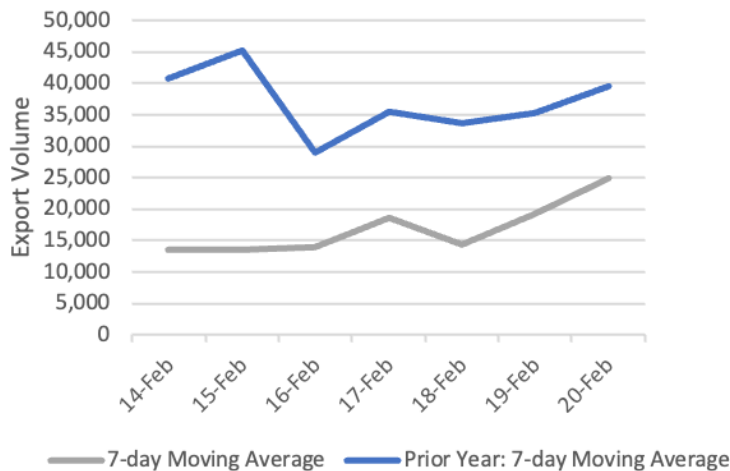


Figure 16. Baton Rouge Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

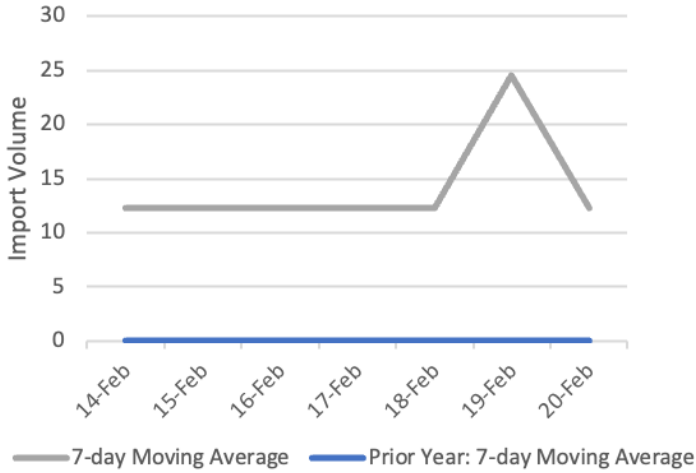


Figure 17. New Orleans Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

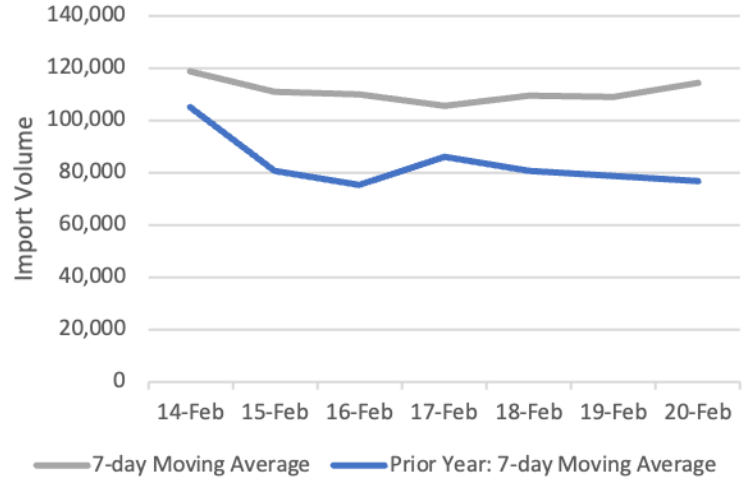


Figure 18. South Louisiana Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

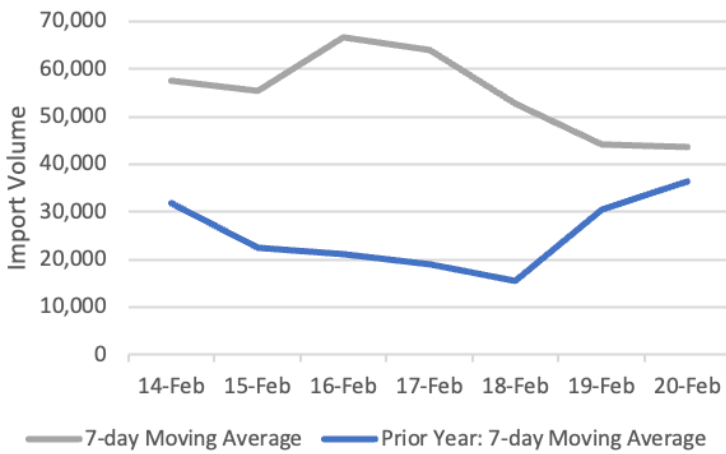


Figure 19. Lake Charles Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

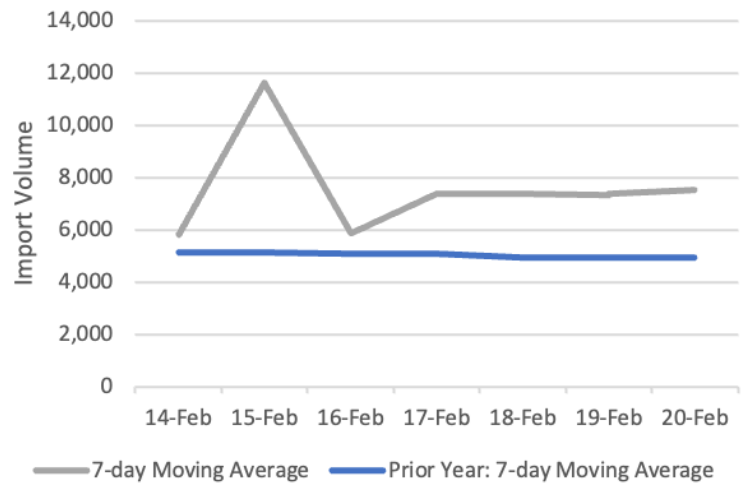


Figure 20. Plaquemines Port Import Volume, by Tonnage

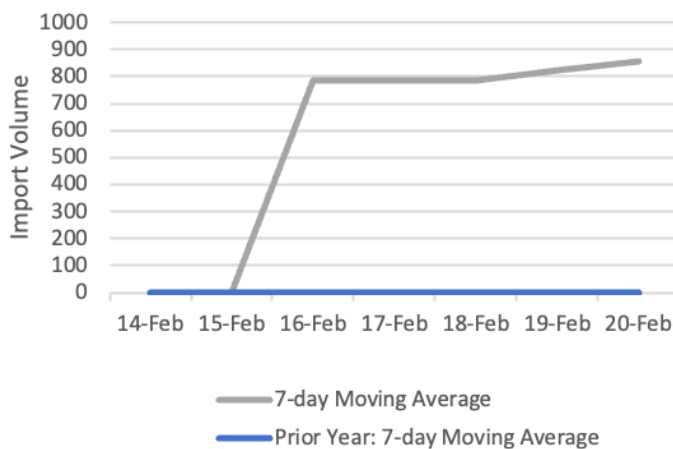


Figure 21. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

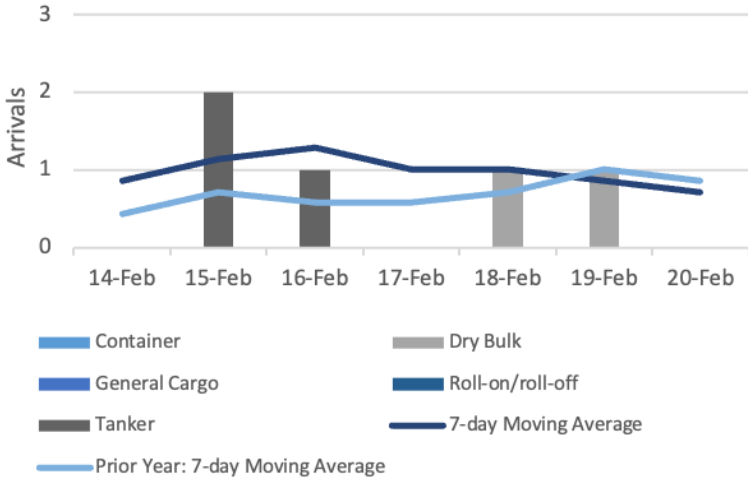


Figure 22. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

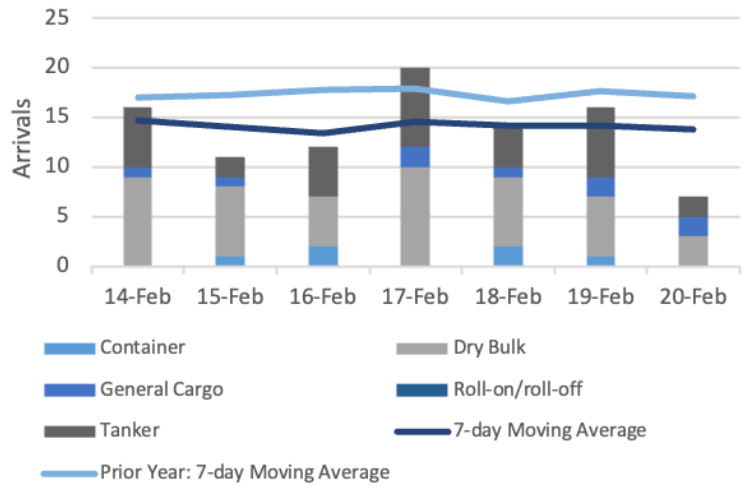


Figure 23. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

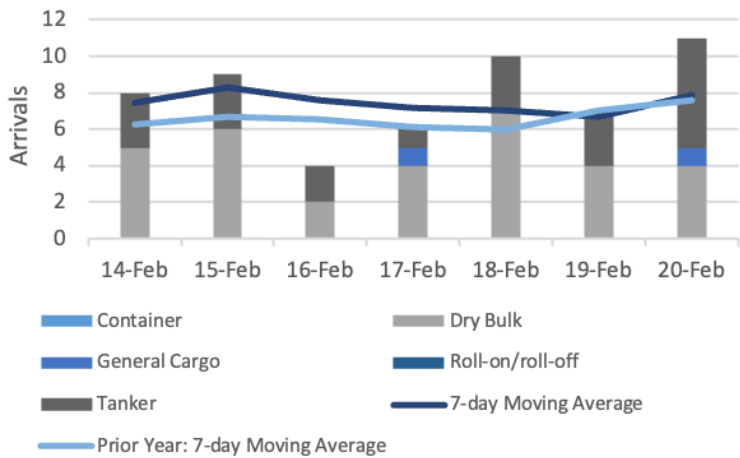


Figure 24. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

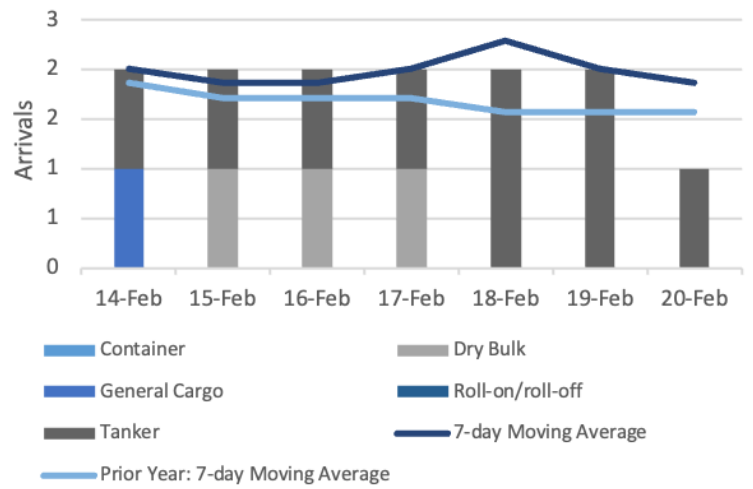
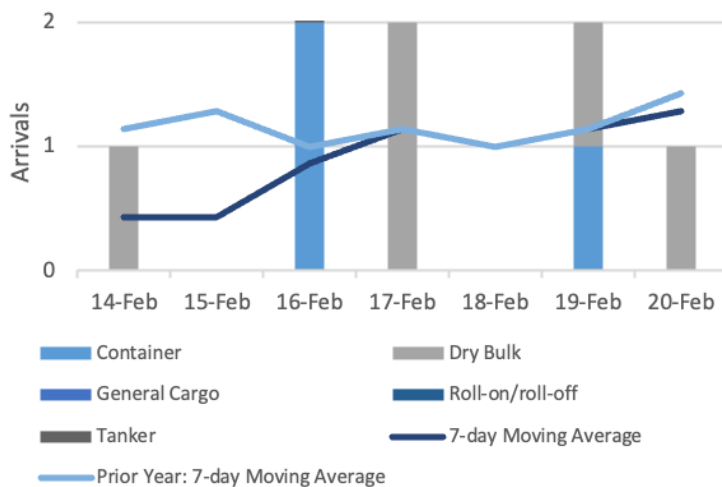


Figure 25. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



# March

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 <a href="#">U.S. Import &amp; Export Price Indexes</a> [Jan]	6 <a href="#">Employment</a> [Feb] <a href="#">Manufacturing &amp; Trade Inventory &amp; Sales</a> [Dec]	7
8	9	10 <a href="#">Parish Employment &amp; Wages</a> [QCEW] [2025:Q3] <a href="#">NFIB Small Business Optimism Index</a> [Feb]	11 <a href="#">CPI</a> [Feb] <a href="#">Real Earnings</a> [Feb] <a href="#">Federal Budget</a> [Feb]	12 <a href="#">New Residential Construction</a> [Jan]	13 <a href="#">U. of Michigan Sentiment</a> [Mar] <a href="#">Durable Goods</a> [Jan]	14
15 <a href="#">Industrial Production</a> [Feb]	16 <a href="#">NAHB HMI</a> [Mar] <a href="#">Pending Home Sales</a> [Feb]	17 <a href="#">PPI</a> [Feb]	18 <a href="#">New Residential Sales</a> [Jan]	19	20	21
22	23	24 <a href="#">U.S. Import &amp; Export Price Indexes</a> [Feb]	25	26 <a href="#">Total Vehicle Sales</a> [Feb]	27	28
29	30 <a href="#">Consumer Confidence</a> [Mar]	31				