Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, April 10, 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 April 2026 Announcements:

Innovation Meets Industry: How Louisiana Is Scaling Ideas Into Impact
April 7th, 2026

New Orleans Launches the United States Back to Space with NASA's Artemis Moon Mission
April 1st, 2026

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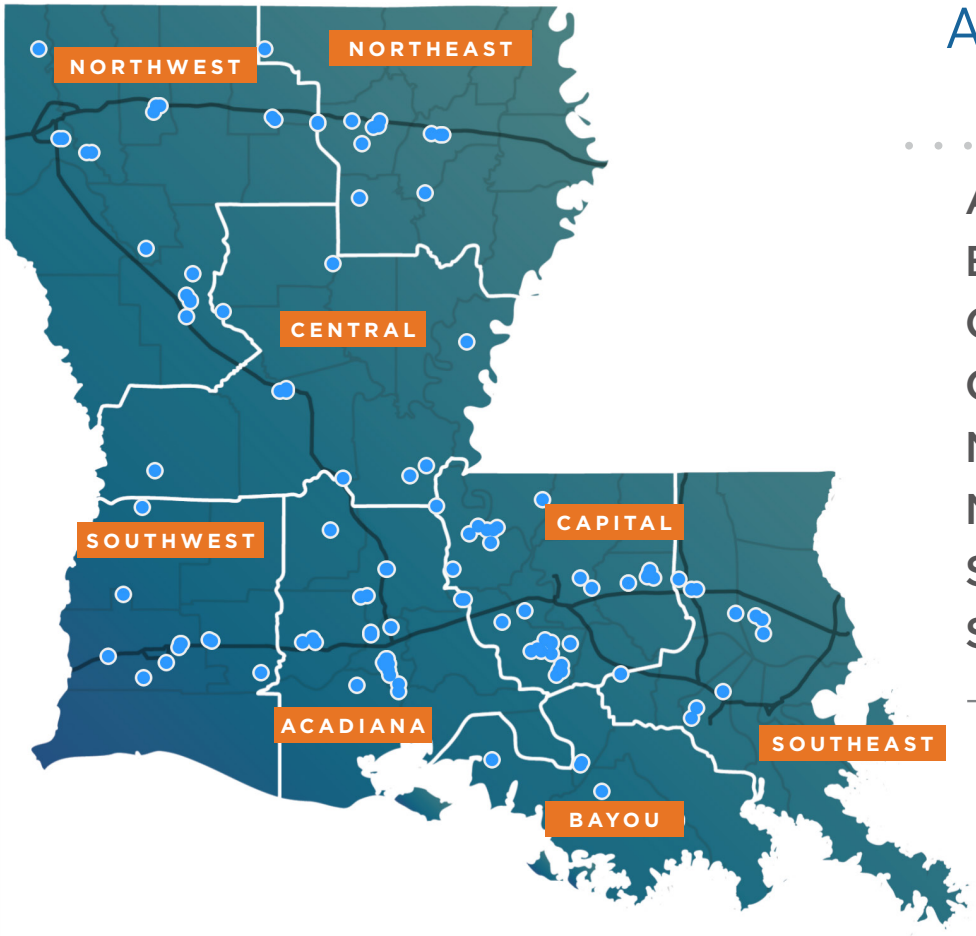
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 84 projects representing over $92.7 billion USD in new investment and more than 12,800 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of April 9, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 179 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $242.4 billion and the potential to create more than 44,385 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 124 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.



Active Certified Sites by Region

Acadiana	22
Bayou	6
Capital	24
Central	9
Northeast	14
Northwest	17
Southeast	18
Southwest	14

TOTAL 124

1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The Current Population Survey (CPS) includes a sample of households selected to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population. Based on responses to a series of questions on work and job search activities, each person 16 years and over in a sample household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force.

People are classified as employed if they did any work at all as paid employees during the reference week; worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm; or worked without pay at least 15 hours in a family business or farm. People are also counted as employed if they were temporarily absent from their jobs because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons.

People are classified as unemployed if they meet all of the following criteria: they had no employment during the reference week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific active efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. People laid off from a job and expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The unemployment data derived from the household survey in no way depend upon the eligibility for or receipt of unemployment insurance benefits.

The following table includes estimates from the March 2026 survey for employment and unemployment in the U.S., including reasons for and duration of employment.

Source: bls.gov

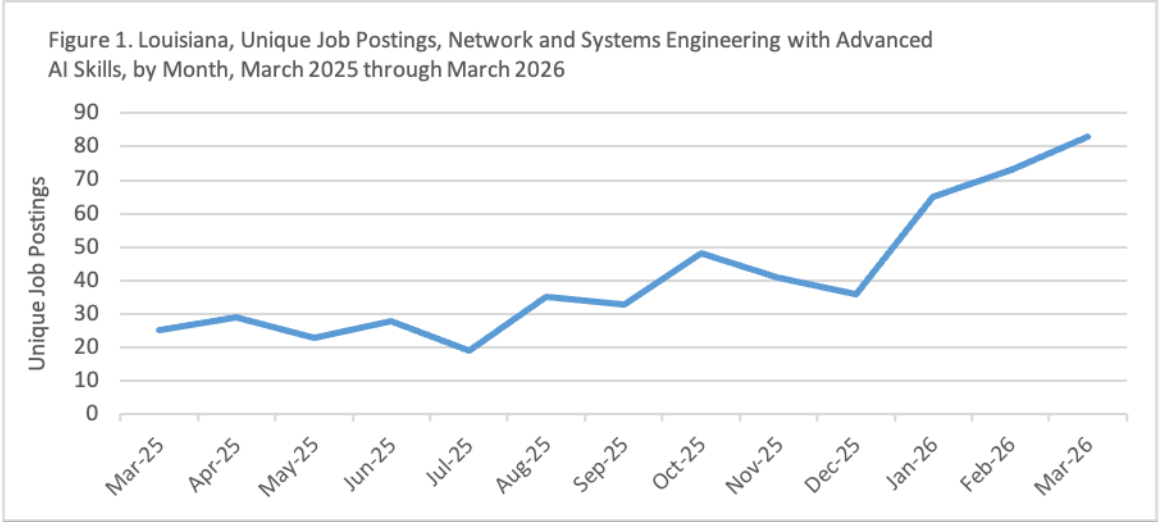
Table 1. U.S. Employment and Unemployment, by Reason and Duration, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in Thousands)

Category	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Employment	157,775	157,204	157,540	0.4%	0.1%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.7%	4.2%	-0.4	0.1
Unemployed, by reason					
Job losers and temporary jobs lost to completion	3,626	4,090	3,552	-11.3%	2.1%
Job leavers	887	870	858	2.0%	3.4%
Reentrants	2,215	2,363	2,155	-6.3%	2.8%
New entrants	610	729	677	-16.3%	-9.9%
Unemployed, by duration					
Less than 5 weeks	1,838	2,198	2,085	-16.4%	-11.8%
5 to 14 weeks	2,157	2,540	2,338	-15.1%	-7.7%
15 to 26 weeks	1,422	1,344	1,220	5.8%	16.6%
27 weeks and over	1,919	1,969	1,599	-2.5%	20.0%

Lightcast Occupation Taxonomy (LOT) identifies roles that are the same across employers, geographies, and languages, regardless of job title, and categorizes these roles into a large taxonomy. Their classification system is composed of more than 1,900 occupations and divided into four distinct levels: Career Areas, Occupation Groups, Occupations, and Specialized Occupations. The data presented below covers March 2025 through March 2026, and includes job postings in Louisiana for the occupation group described as Network and Systems Engineering with Global AI Skills. For these advanced skills, Lighcast's algorithm includes 316 specialized skills including Federated Learning, which is used in machine learning to address the tradeoff between wanting more data for better Artificial Intelligence and needing to protect individual privacy. This is important in research-intensive regulated industries, such as healthcare. Each job posting includes at least one of these advanced skills listed. Overall during this period, there are 538 Unique Postings (776 Total). Multiple postings that list the same job, company, and same region are reduced to one unique posting.

Source: lightcast.io

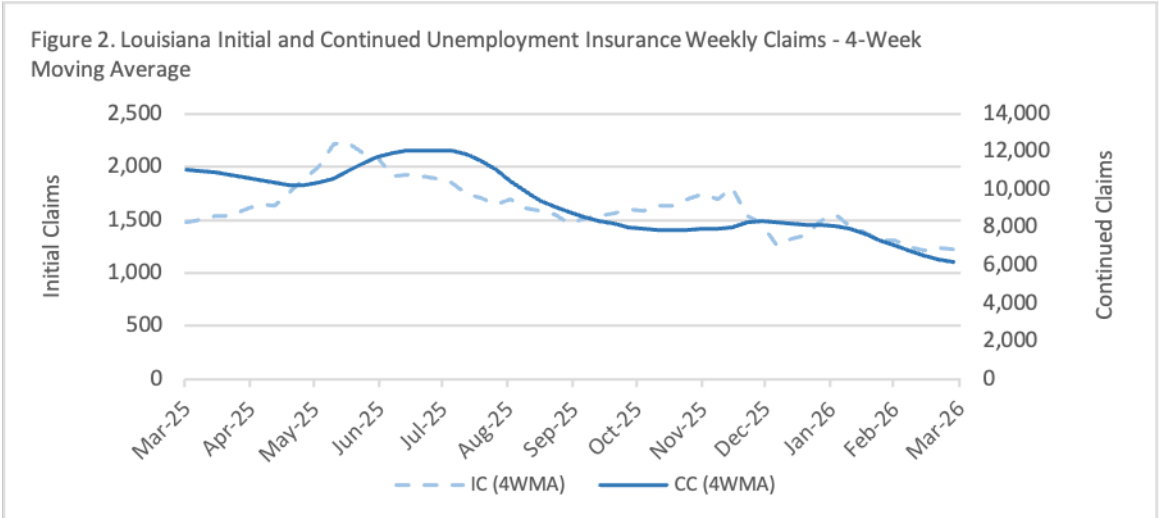
Figure 1. Louisiana, Unique Job Postings, Network and Systems Engineering with Advanced AI Skills, by Month, March 2025 through March 2026



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. By plotting the 4-week moving average (Figure 2), we smooth out week-to-week volatility to better isolate the underlying trend.

Source: laworks.net

Figure 2. Louisiana Initial and Continued Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims - 4-Week Moving Average



The figures below show Initial and Weekly Unemployment Insurance Claims for Q1 2026, with Q1 2025 overlaid for year-over-year comparison.

Figure 3. Louisiana Initial Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims, 2025:Q1 and 2026:Q1 Comparison

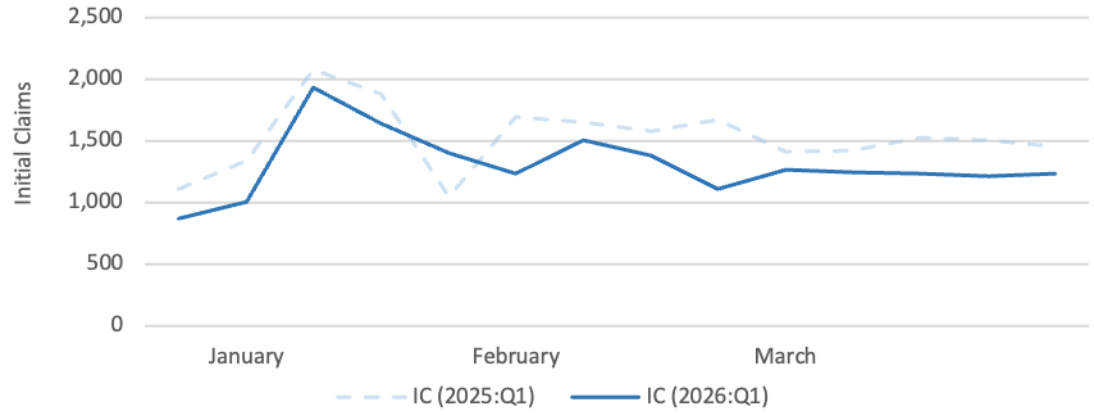
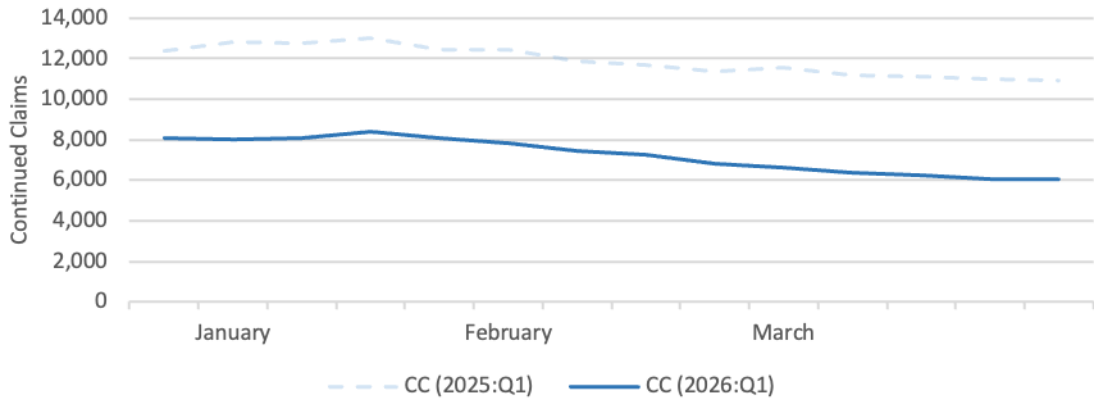


Figure 4. Louisiana Continued Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims, 2025:Q1 and 2026:Q1 Comparison



2. COMMODITIES

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

The spot price is the price for immediate delivery, as agreed right now in the market. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude spot price is for delivery at Cushing, Oklahoma, a pipeline hub. WTI is a light, sweet (low sulfur) crude and is the primary U.S. benchmark. It is landlocked at Cushing. The Brent Crude spot price refers to crude loaded onto tankers at offshore terminals in the North Sea (originally from the Brent oilfield, a blend of several North Sea crudes). Because it is seaborne, it more directly reflects the global market price. The Henry Hub Natural Gas spot price is for natural gas delivered at the Henry Hub pipeline interchange in Louisiana, the largest natural gas trading hub in North America. The U.S. regular conventional gasoline price is the retail price paid at the pump, including taxes, based on a weekly survey of retail stations across the country. It covers regular grade - lowest octane - and does not include reformulated gasoline areas.

Source: eia.gov & tradingeconomics.com

Table 3. Energy Commodities, Weekly

Commodity	4/3/26	3/27/26	3/6/26	4/4/25	Change		
						MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	$123.94	$111.24	$85.28	$74.64	11.4%	45.3%	66.1%
WTI Crude Oil Price	$105.67	$94.29	$78.37	$69.09	12.1%	34.8%	52.9%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$2.90	$2.95	$2.99	$4.07	-1.7%	-3.0%	-28.7%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$3.95	$3.81	$3.36	$3.12	3.7%	17.6%	26.6%

Table 3. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of April 9, 2026

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,166.72	$11.67	$/Bu	0.5%	0.3%	-2.9%	13.4%
Wheat	$582.04	$5.82	$/Bu	0.4%	-2.7%	1.5%	8.2%
Lumber	$583.46	$5.83	$/MBF	-0.9%	-2.2%	-1.6%	1.4%
Palm Oil	$4,643.00	$46.43	$/MT	1.2%	-3.1%	3.3%	10.5%
Sugar (No. 11)	$14.01	$0.14	$/Lb	-1.4%	-6.6%	-2.5%	-22.6%
Coffee	$294.12	$2.94	$/Lb	0.1%	-0.6%	-0.7%	-14.4%
Corn	$447.23	$4.47	$/Bu	0.00%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-7.5%
Rice	$11.03	$0.11	$/CWT	-0.2%	-1.82%	-1.7%	-16.8%
Orange Juice	$201.55	$2.02	$/Lb	-2.4%	1.1%	5.8%	-23.8%

3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

Louisiana Realtors® produces monthly reports on local market updates for the state and its regions, and Realtor.com publishes monthly national data. The following figures illustrate national, state and regional Months of Supply (Months of Inventory), which is calculated by dividing the total number of homes currently for sale at the end of a given month, divided by the average monthly pending sales from the last twelve months. Essentially, it answers: "If no new homes were listed, how long would it take to sell everything currently on the market?" According to the National Association of Realtors standards, 0–3 months of supply indicates a seller's market, 3–6 months is considered neutral, and 6+ months favors buyers. For example, everything else held constant, a Seller's Market is under ~5–6 months: Buyers have to compete more for each home, so sellers don't have to give in to buyer demands as readily. Expect higher prices, multiple offers, and quick sales. A Balanced/Neutral Market is ~6 months: A balanced market typically has around six months of inventory, indicating stability between buyers and sellers. A Buyer's Market is over 6 months: There is an excess supply of homes, giving buyers more negotiating power, potentially leading to longer listing times and downward pressure on prices. Also plotted is the monthly median sale price. Together, these measures help show the relationship between supply tightness and pricing pressure. When Months of Supply drops, expect median prices to rise, and vice versa, holding all other factors constant.

The parishes served by each regional entity are:
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, Bosssier, 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

Source: louisiana.stats.showingtime.com & nar.realtor

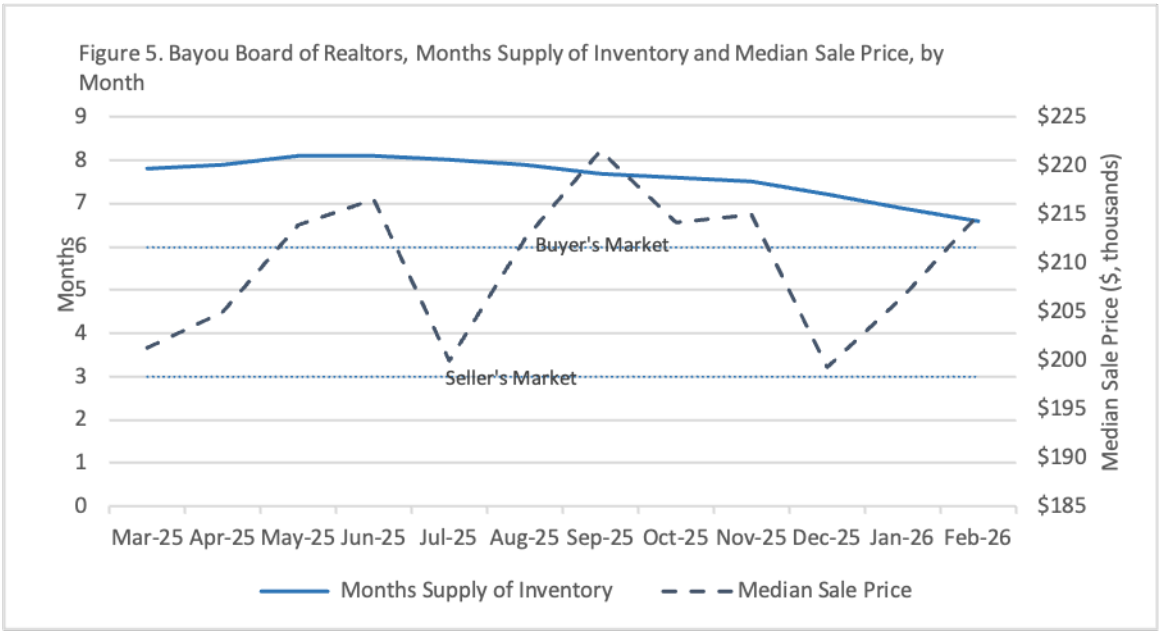


Figure 6. Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

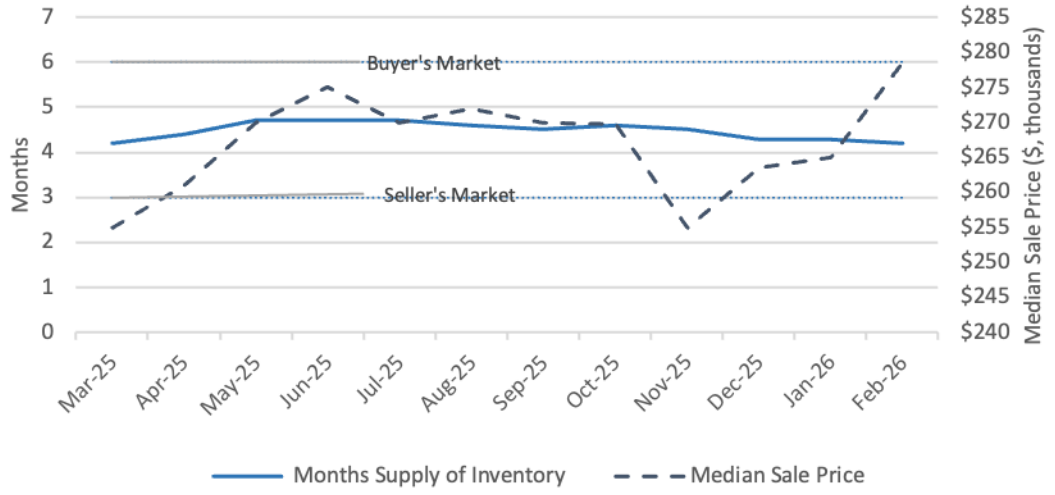


Figure 7. Greater Central Louisiana Realtors® Association, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

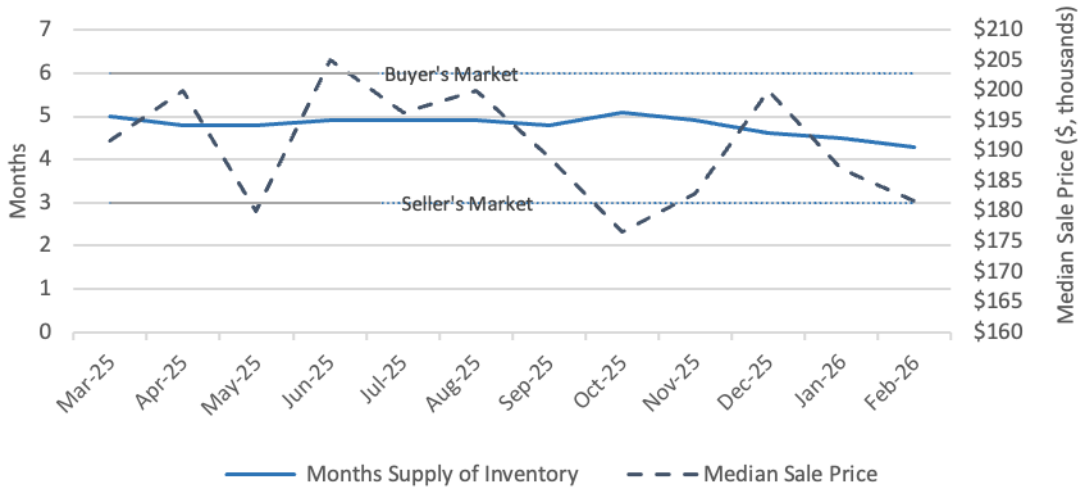


Figure 8. Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

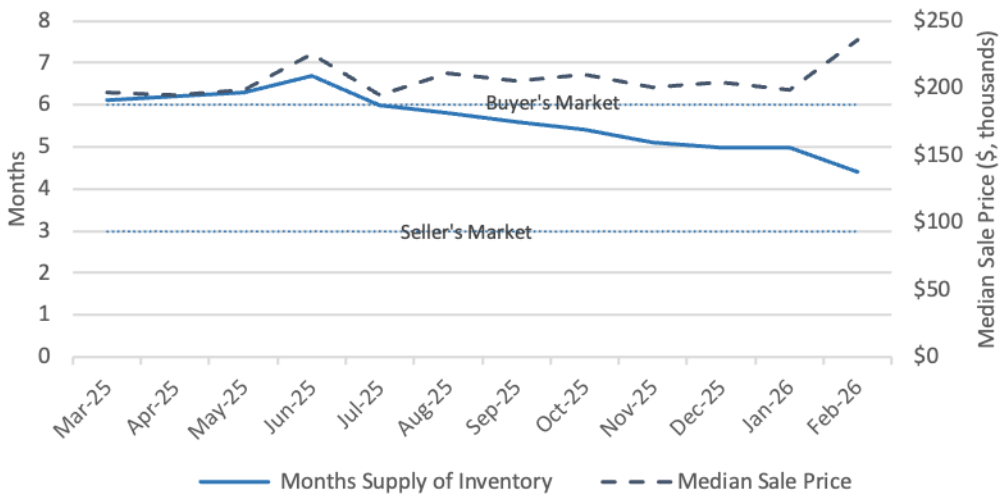


Figure 9. New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

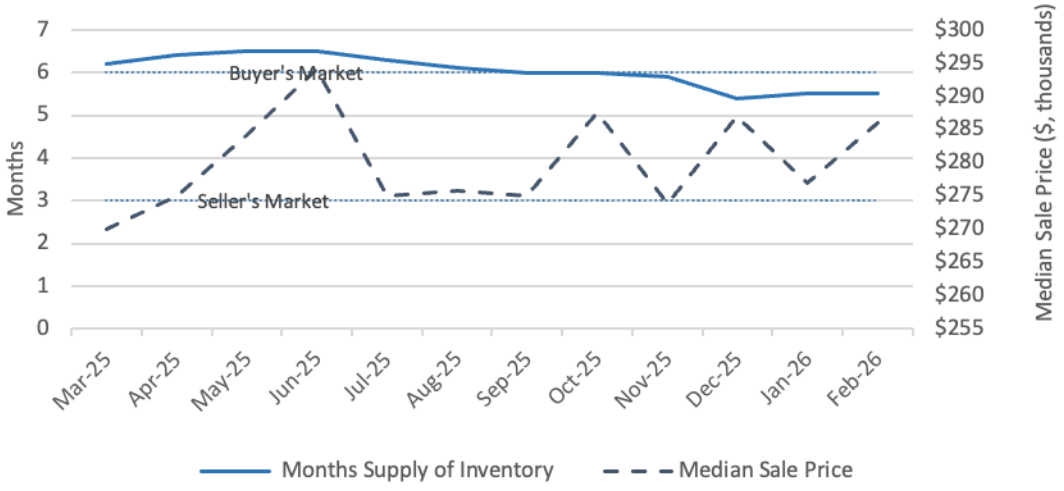


Figure 10. Northeast Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

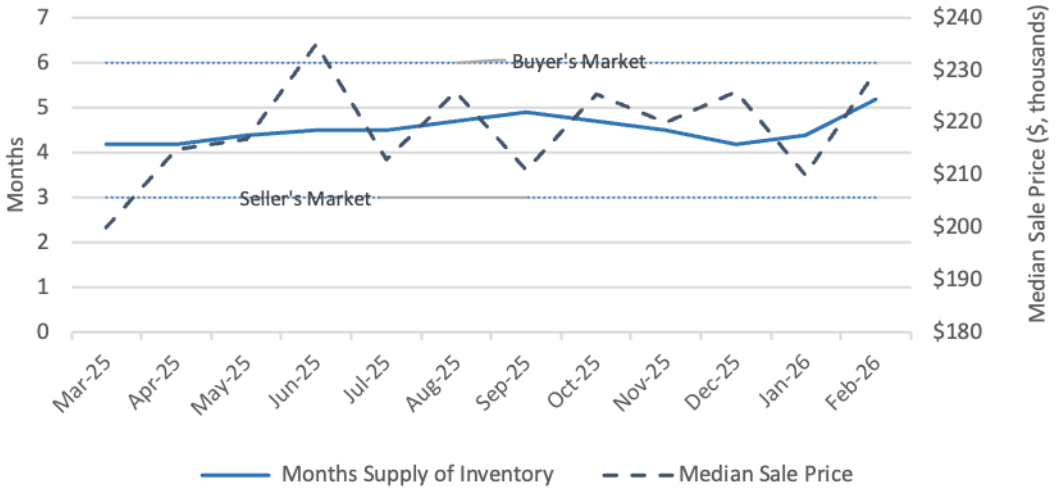


Figure 11. Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

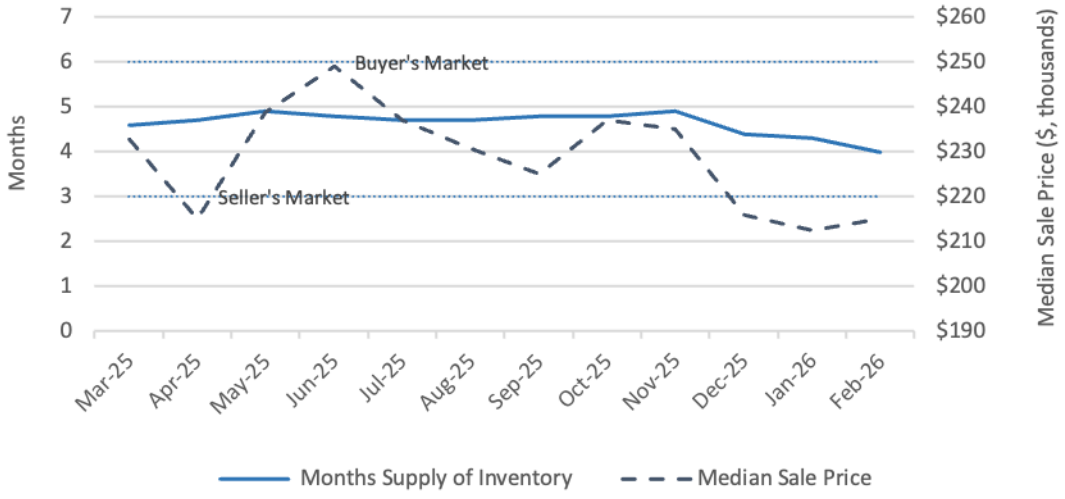


Figure 12. Realtor Association of Acadiana, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

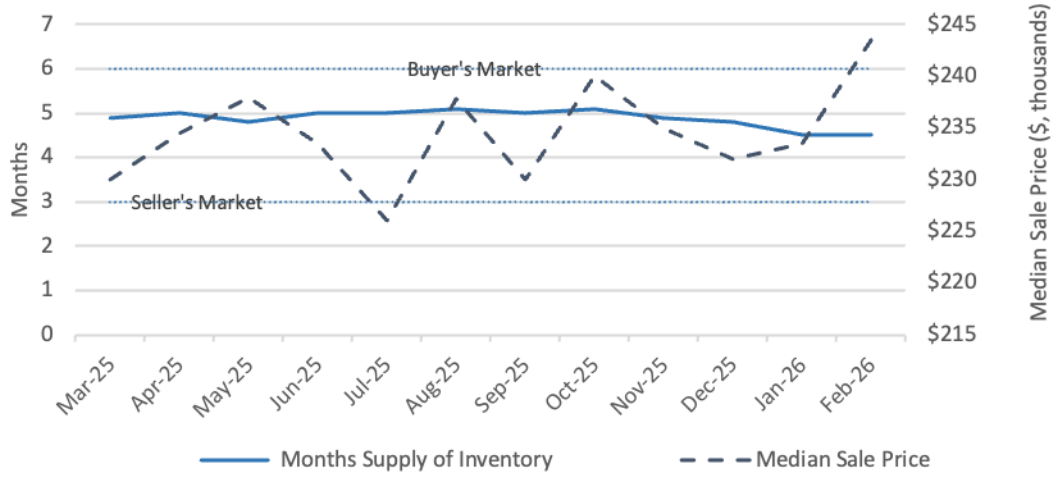


Figure 13. Southwest Louisiana Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

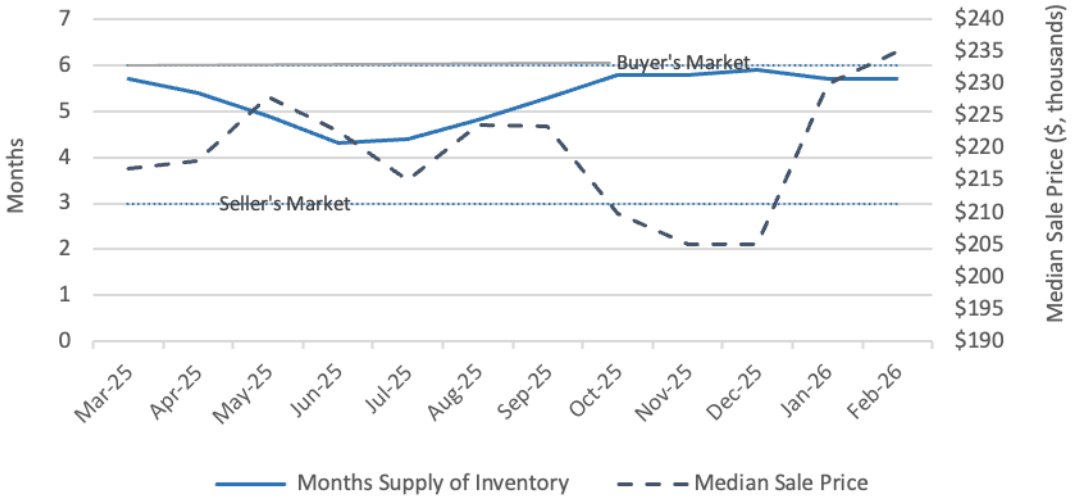


Figure 14. Louisiana Realtors (Louisiana), Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month

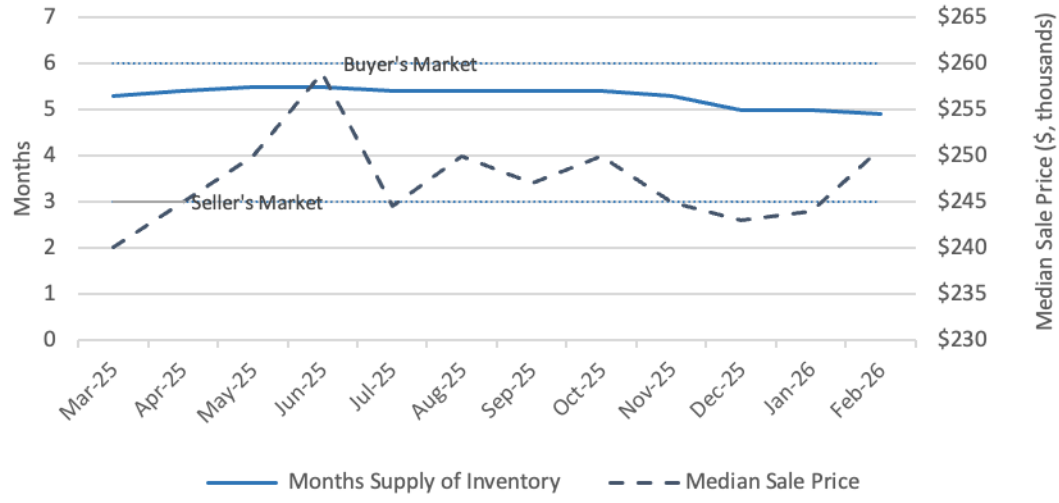
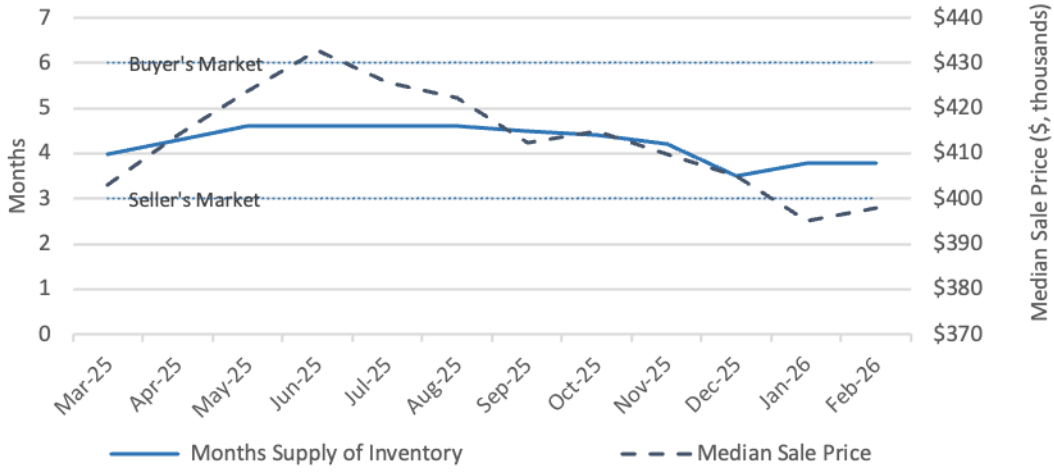


Figure 15. Realtor.com (U.S.), Months Supply of Inventory and Median Sale Price, by Month



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. 16. Baton Rouge Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

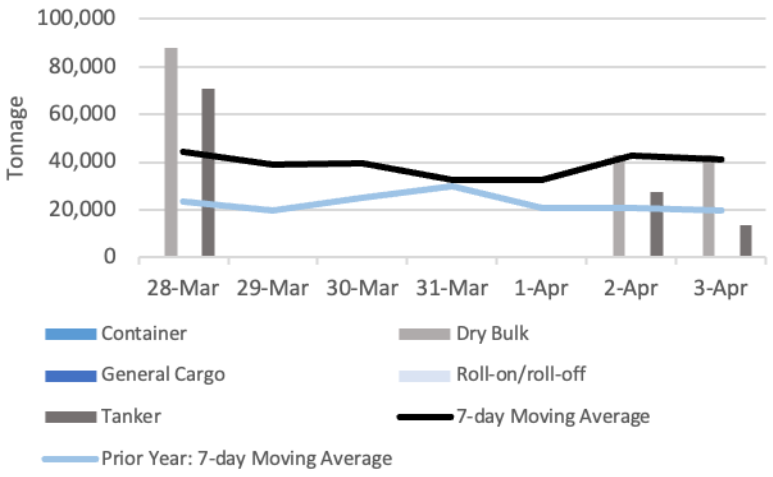


Figure 17. New Orleans Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

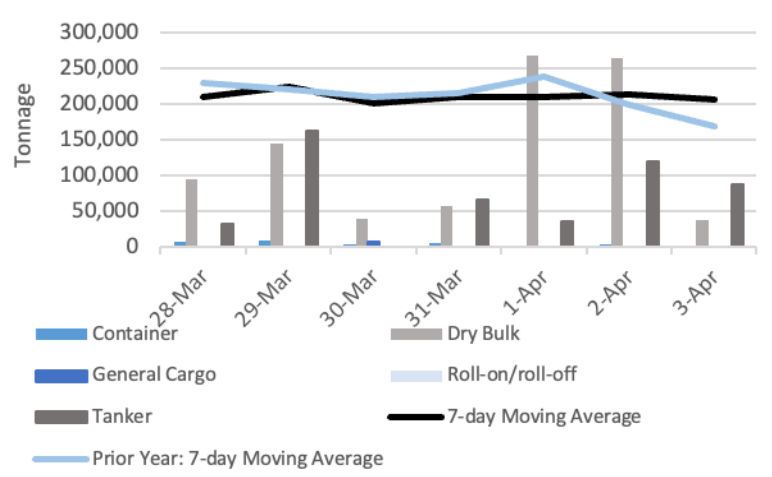


Figure 18. South Louisiana Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

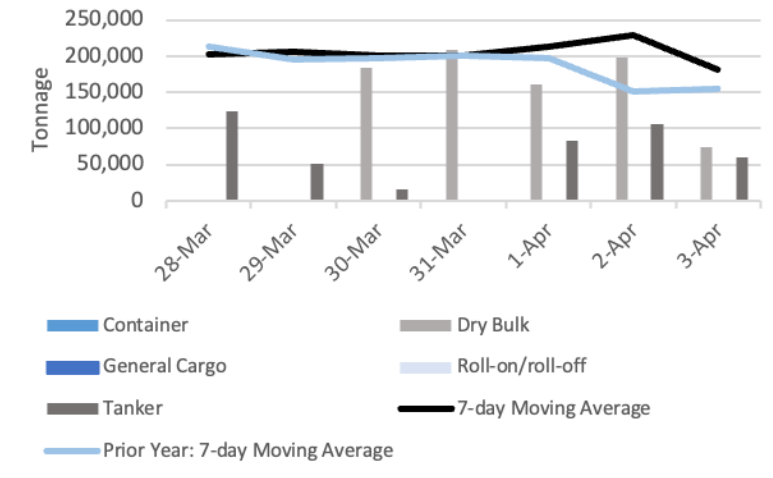


Figure 19. Lake Charles Port Export, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

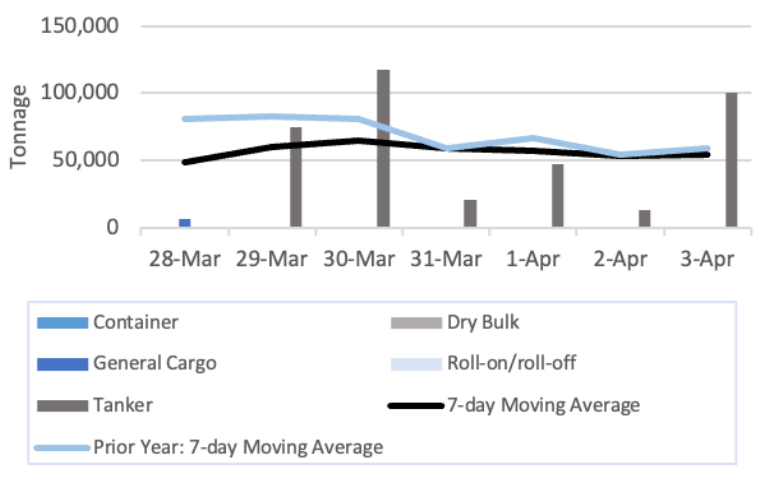


Figure 20. Plaquemines Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

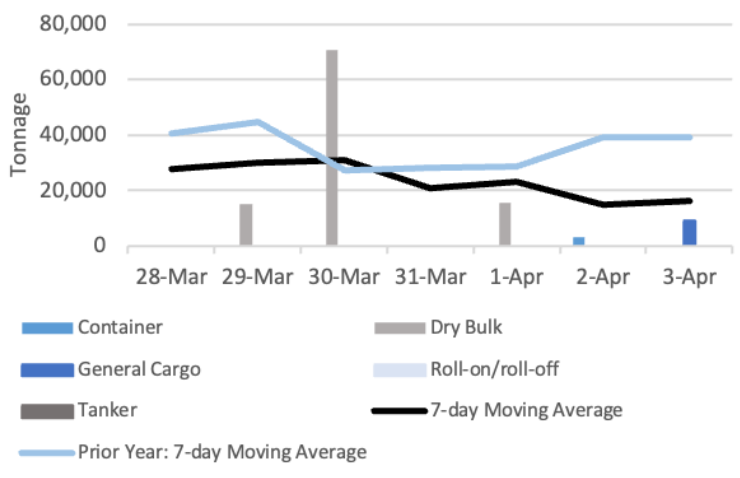


Figure 21. Baton Rouge Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

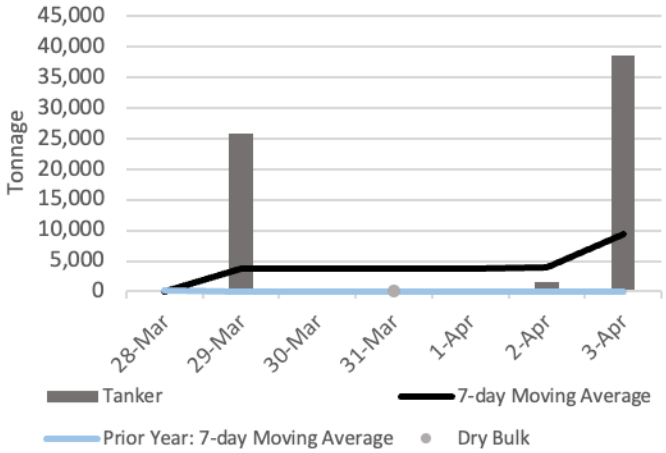


Figure 22. New Orleans Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

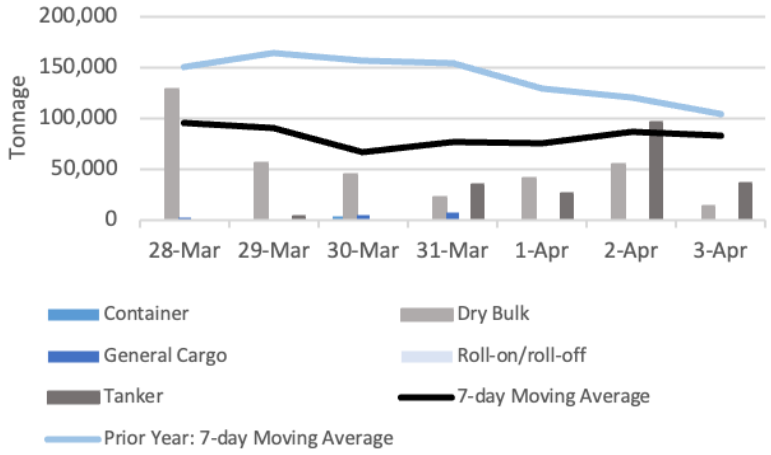


Figure 23. South Louisiana Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

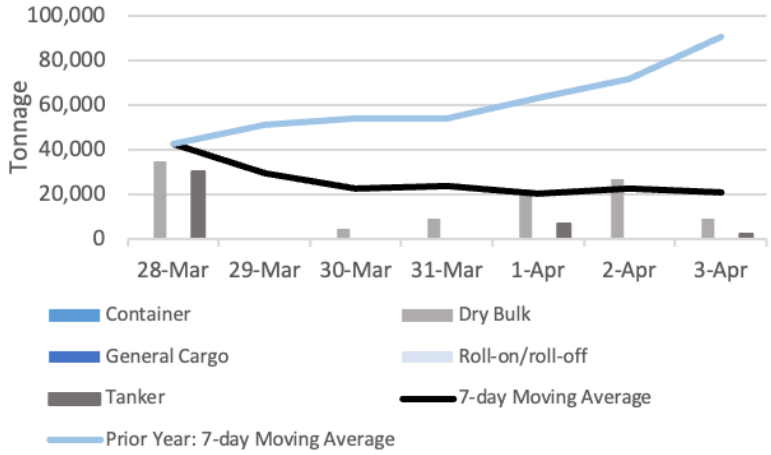


Figure 24. Plaquemines Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

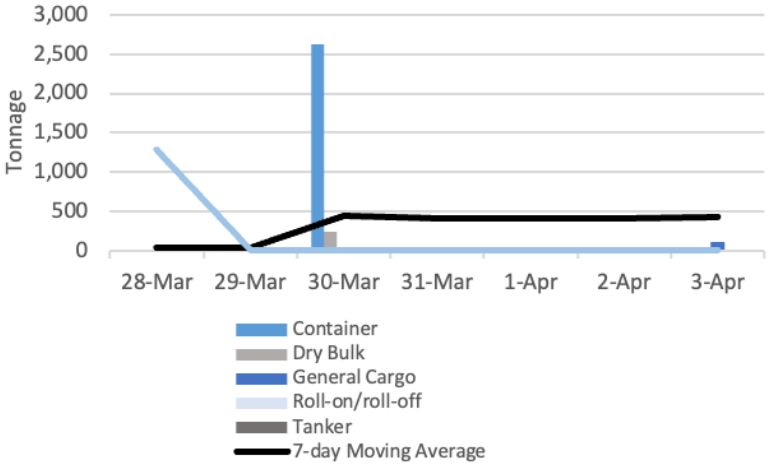


Figure 25. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

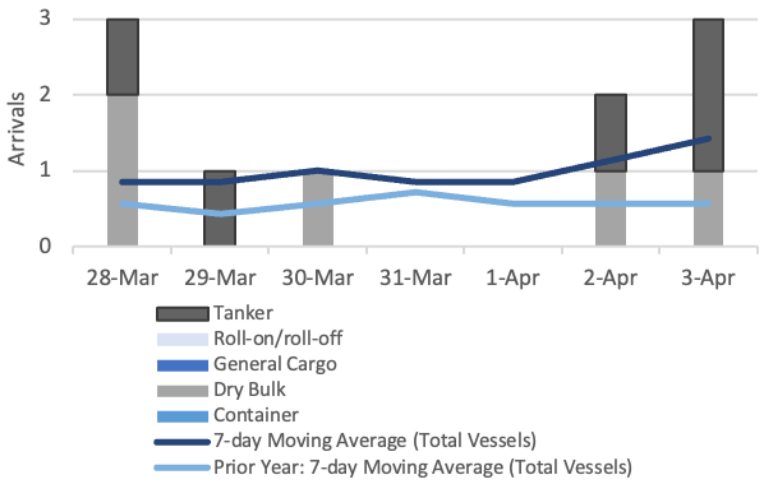


Figure 26. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

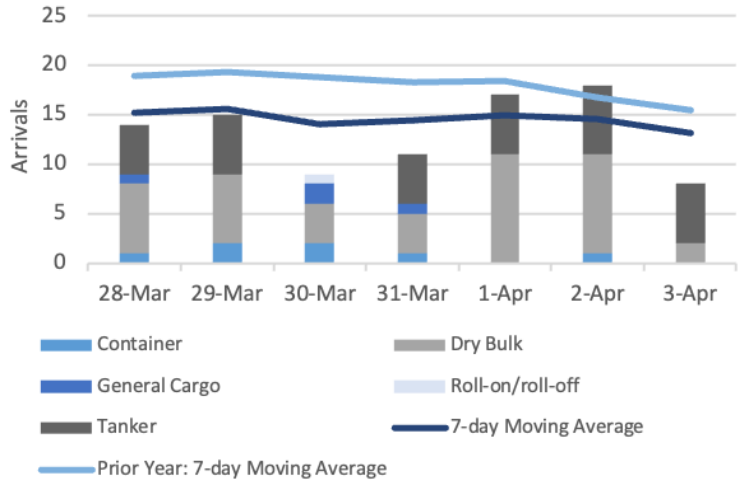


Figure 27. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

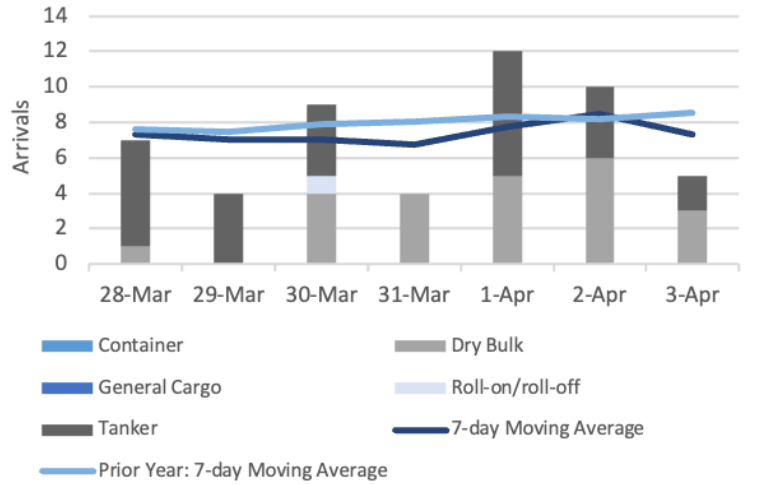


Figure 28. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

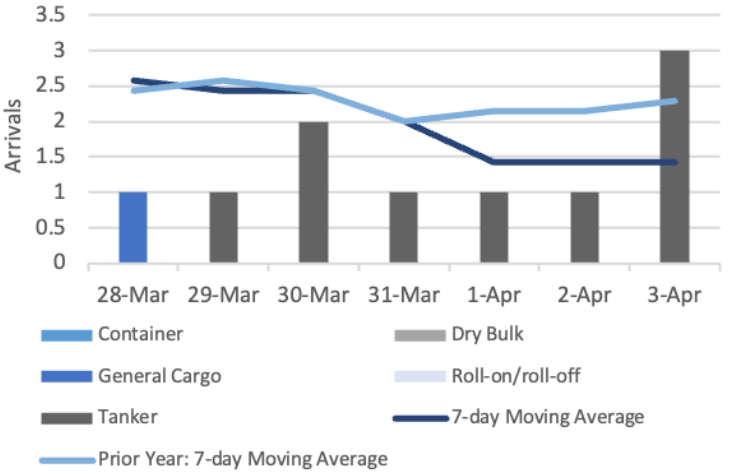
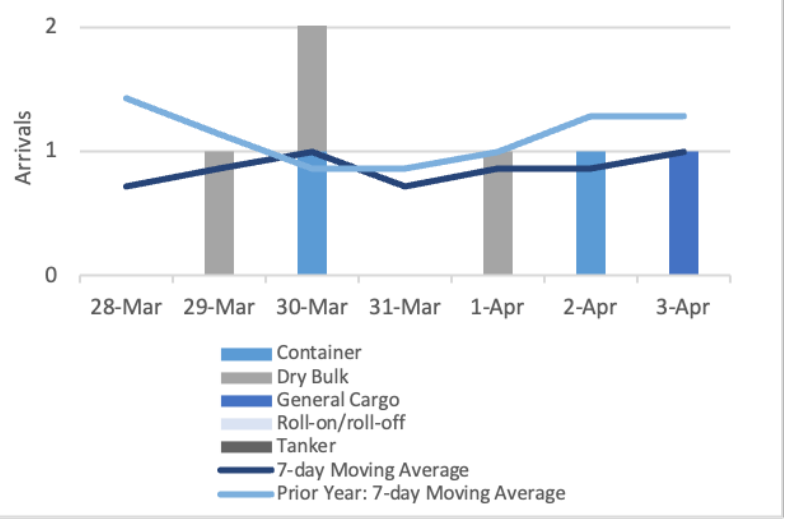


Figure 29. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



5. GDP FOR LOUISIANA AND THE U.S.

The following table presents data for Louisiana's gross domestic product, personal income, and personal income per capita for the fourth quarter of 2025.

Source: bea.gov

Table 4. Louisiana Real Gross Domestic Product and Personal Income, by Quarter

Component	2025:Q4	2025:Q3	2024:Q4	Change	
				QoQ	YoY
Real GDP (millions of 2017 dollars)	$65,451.3	$65,411.2	$64,585.4	0.1%	1.3%
Personal Income (millions of dollars)	$74,634.1	$74,050.6	$71,776.4	0.8%	4.0%
Per Capita Personal Income[1] (dollars)	$16,163.3	$16,125.0	$15,545.3	0.2%	4.0%

Note: [1]Per capita personal income is total personal income divided by total quarterly population estimates. Note. Data are seasonally adjusted. GDP Real GDP is in millions of chained 2017 dollars at quarterly levels. Personal Income are in millions of current dollars at quarterly rates; Personal Income Per Capita are in current dollars.

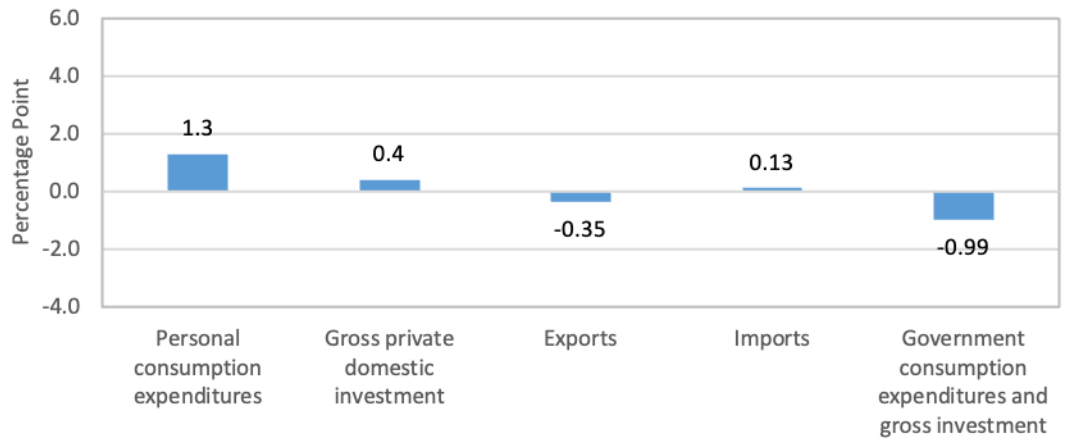
The following table presents a revised estimate for 2025:Q4 U.S. gross domestic product. Real GDP for the U.S. increased at an annual rate of 0.5 percent (0.12 percent quarterly rate increase) in the fourth quarter of 2025 (3rd estimate). The increase in real GDP in the fourth quarter reflected an increase in consumer spending and business investment, which was partly offset by decreases in government spending and exports. Imports, which are a subtraction in the calculation of GDP, slightly decreased.

Table 5. U.S. Real Gross Domestic Product and Major Expenditure Components, by Quarter

Component	2025:Q4	2025:Q3	2024:Q4	Change	
				QoQ	YoY
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	$6,013.9	$6,006.7	$5,896.6	0.1%	2.0%
Personal Consumption Expenditures	$4,166.3	$4,146.5	$4,080.2	0.5%	2.1%
Gross Private Domestic Investment	$1,102.1	$1,095.8	$1,078.9	0.6%	2.1%
Net Exports of Goods and Services	($242.2)	($238.9)	($267.3)	1.4%	-9.4%
Exports	$671.7	$677.2	$664.6	-0.8%	1.1%
Imports	($913.9)	($916.1)	($931.9)	-0.2%	-1.9%
Government Consumption Expenditures & Gross Investment	$989.3	$1,003.8	$1,001.0	-1.4%	-1.2%

Note. Data are seasonally adjusted billions of chained (2017) dollars at quarterly rates; Imports are a subtraction in the calculation of GDP, therefore, an increase results in a negative contribution to GDP and are noted in red.

Figure 30. Contribution to Percent Change (0.5 Percent) in Real Gross Domestic Product (Percentage Points), Annualized Rate



6. 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 March and February 2026, in addition to the annual percentage-change in the basket price, for selected categories.

Source: bls.gov

Table 6. Change in CPI-U, U.S. City Average by Month, Seasonally Adjusted

Category	Mar-26	Feb-26	Change	
			MoM	Since Mar-25[1]
All Items (Headline)	0.9	0.3	0.6	3.3%
All Items Less Food and Energy (Core CPI)	0.2	0.2	0.0	2.6%
Medical Care Services	0.0	0.6	-0.6	3.7%

Note: [1]Not Seasonally Adjusted. October 2025 not available due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations. Base Period: 1982-84=100.

Figure 31 illustrates monthly **Seasonally Adjusted (SA) Core Inflation**, which tracks price changes after removing two things: the predictable seasonal swings that happen every year on a regular calendar schedule, and the costs of food and energy. Food and energy prices are excluded because they tend to be volatile — a drought, a hurricane, or a conflict halfway around the world can cause sharp short-term price spikes that have nothing to do with the broader direction of the economy. Seasonal adjustment then removes expected calendar-driven patterns, like higher gas prices in summer or airfare spikes around the holidays, so that month-to-month comparisons reflect genuine economic movement rather than the time of year. This figure is intended as the signal — it shows where inflation is actually trending - and is illustrated as the monthly percentage change against a monthly target of 0.16-percent.

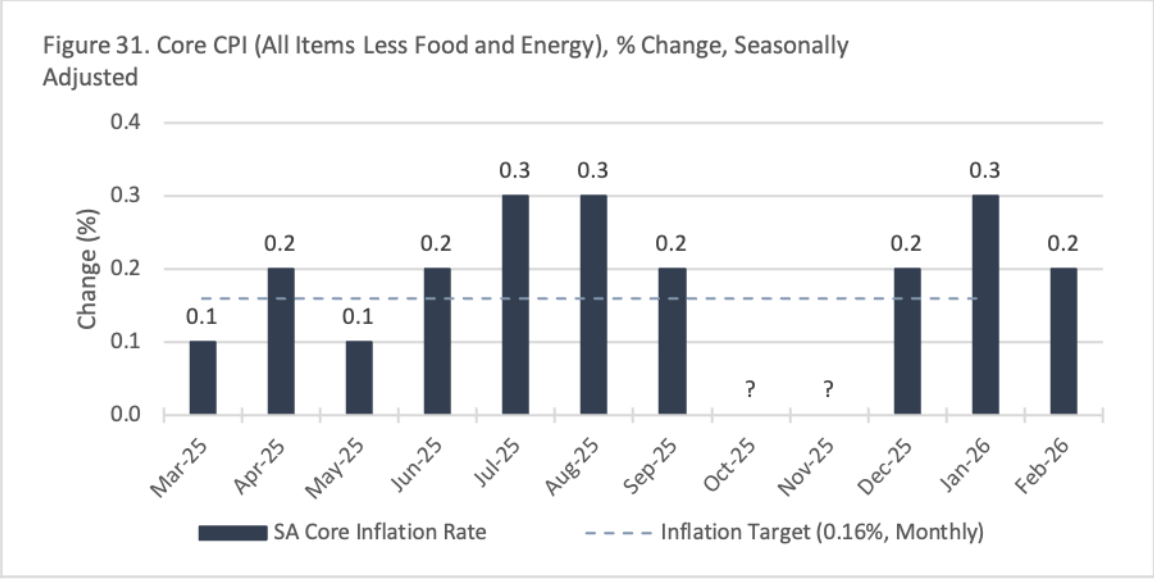


Figure 32 illustrates monthly **Non-Seasonally Adjusted (NSA) Headline Inflation**, a reflection of what consumers actually paid for a broad basket of goods and services, including food and energy, without any adjustments. This is the number closest to lived experience — if gas and groceries were more expensive this month, that shows up here. This figure is intended as the reality check.

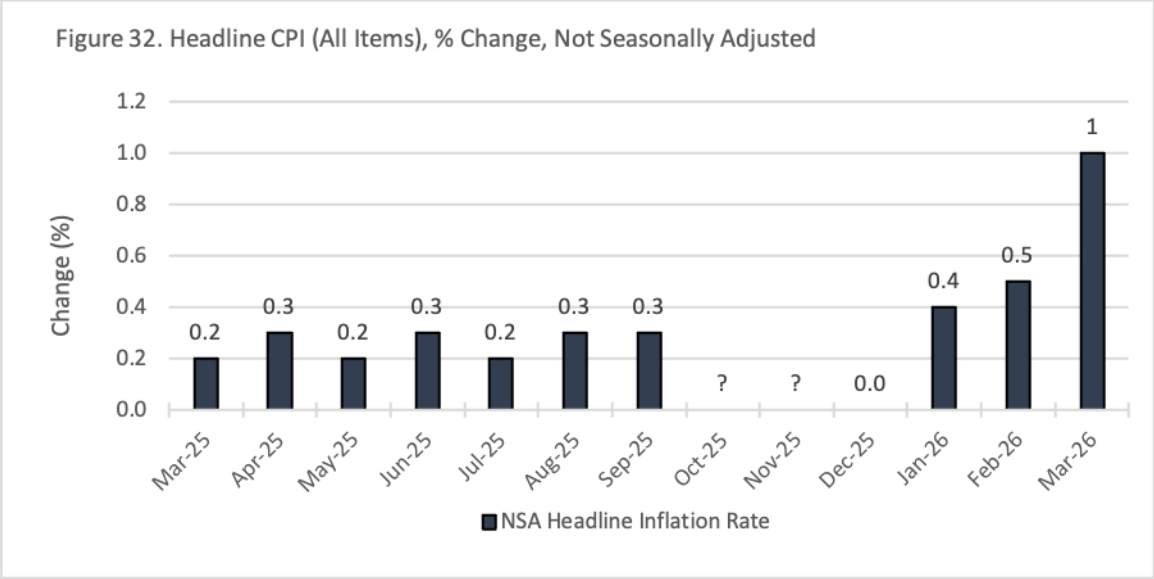
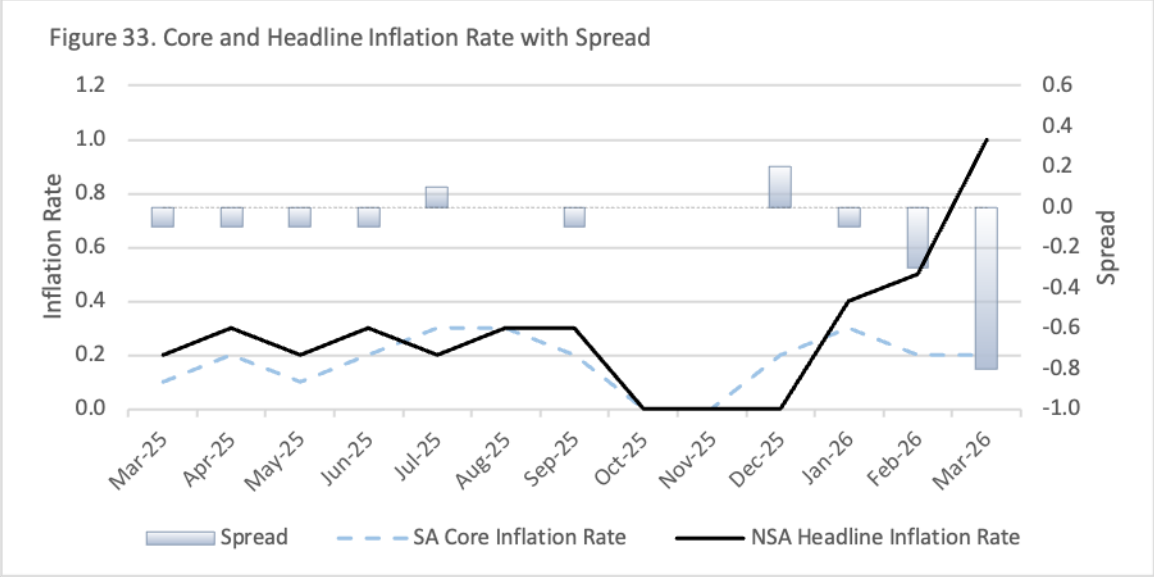


Figure 33 puts these complementary figures together to address the signals and what households and businesses may experience. When the two figures diverge, the **Spread** (SA Core minus NSA Headline) is usually explained by one or both of the following — seasonal price patterns typical for that time of year, or unusual movement in food and energy costs. If SA core inflation is moderating while NSA headline remains elevated, that is generally a sign that the underlying trend is improving even if consumers are still feeling pressure at the pump or grocery store. If both are moving in the same direction, that suggests broader, more persistent price pressure across the economy.



April 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.

The April calendar will be revised when dates for additional data are announced.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		31 *Consumer Confidence* [Mar]	1 *Manufacturing & Trade Inventory & Sales* [Jan]	2	3 *U.S. Employment* [Mar]	4
5	6	7 *Durable Goods* [Feb]	8	9 *GDP* [2025:Q4, Third Est.]	10 *CPI* [Mar] *Real Earnings* [Mar]	11
12	13 *Federal Budget* [Mar]	14 *NFIB Small Business Optimism Index* [Mar] *PPI* [Mar]	15 *NAHB HMI* [Apr]	16 *Industrial Production* [Mar]	17	18
19	20	21 *Pending Home Sales* [Mar]	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 *Consumer Confidence* [Apr]	29 *New Residential Sales* [Jan & Mar] *Durable Goods* [Mar]	30 *GDP* [2026:Q1 Advanced Est.]		