

# Louisiana Economic Vitals

## Friday, April 17, 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:**

[Textron Systems Expands Louisiana Operations with Multi-Site Investment](#)

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Robots Are Coming...and Louisiana Is Ready.](#)

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[New Analysis Projects Louisiana International Terminal to Deliver \\$33 Million in Annual Tax Revenue, Thousands of Jobs, to St. Bernard Parish](#)

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Innovation Meets Industry: How Louisiana Is Scaling Ideas Into Impact](#)

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[New Orleans Launches the United States Back to Space with NASA's Artemis Moon Mission](#)

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

### **Direct questions and comments to:**

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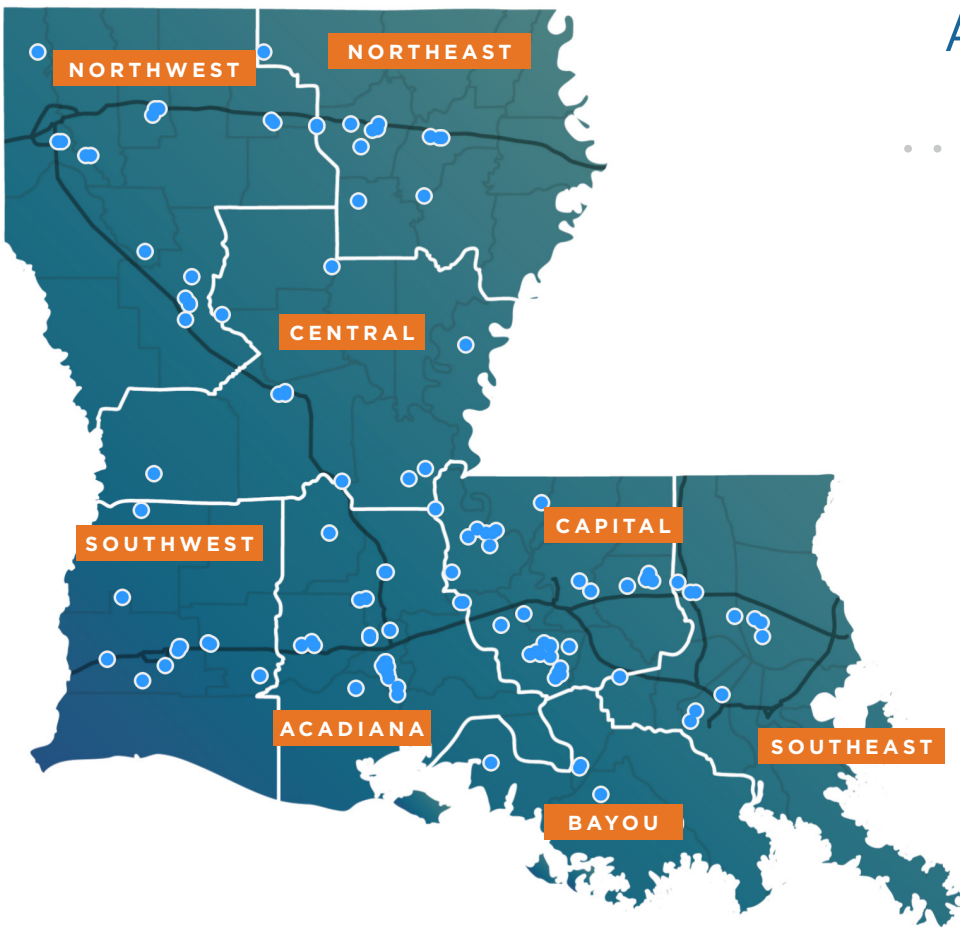
# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 87 projects representing over \$92.7 billion USD in new investment and more than 12,950 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of April 16, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 175 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$242.2 billion and the potential to create more than 44,355 direct new jobs.

# CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 166 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

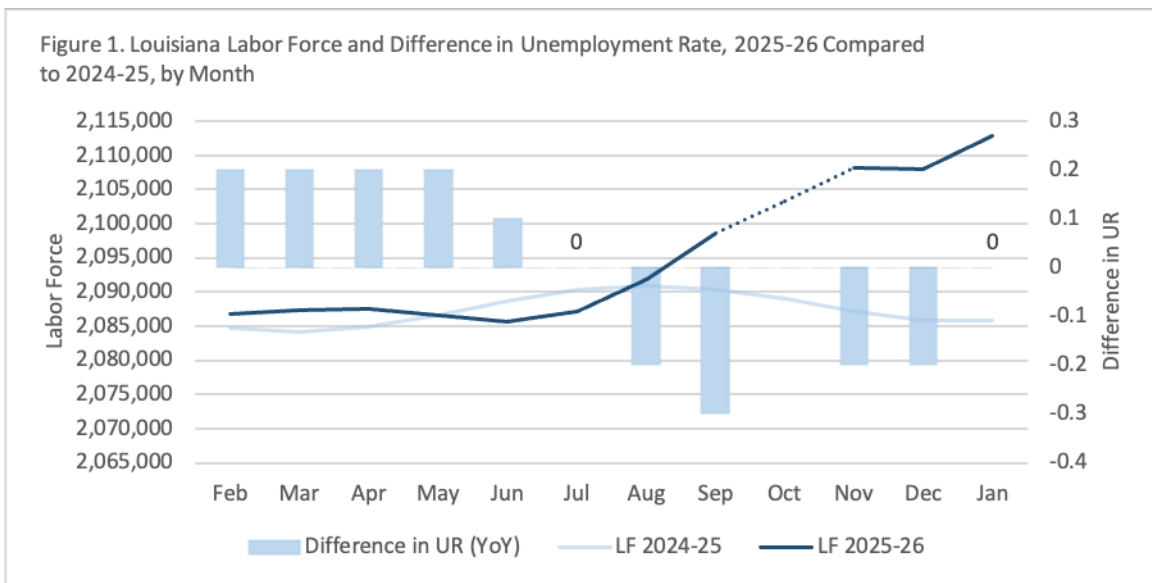
Acadiana . . . . .	24
Bayou . . . . .	6
Capital . . . . .	23
Central . . . . .	9
Northeast . . . . .	14
Northwest . . . . .	17
Southeast . . . . .	18
Southwest . . . . .	14

TOTAL **125**

# 1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

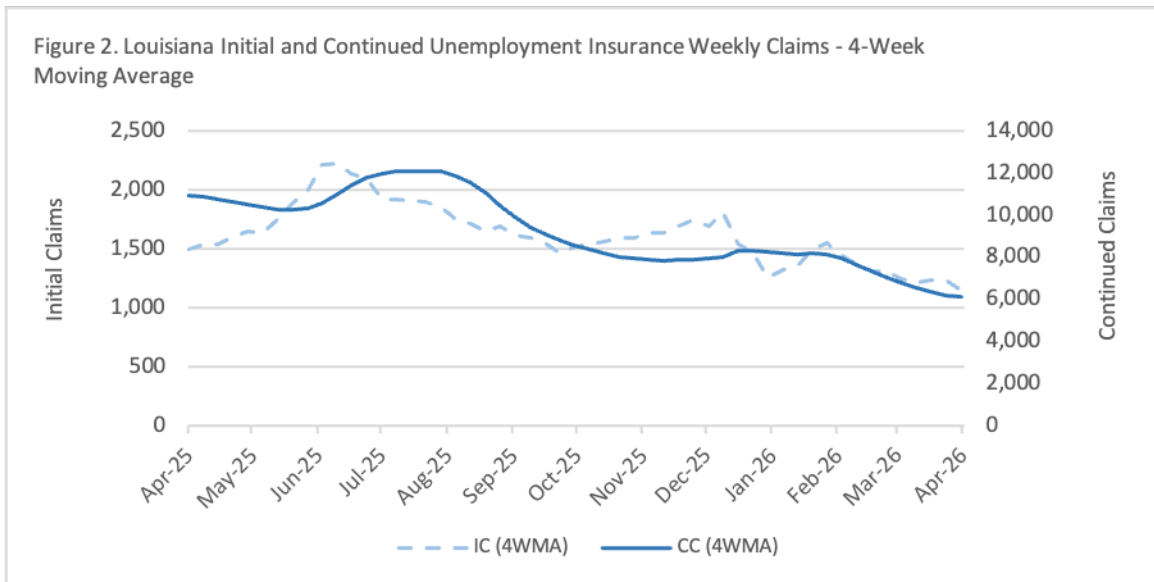
The following figure illustrates the monthly time-series for Louisiana’s labor force for 2025-26 overlaid with the same monthly time-series for 2024-25. Also shown in the figure as a side-by-side column chart is the difference in the monthly unemployment rate between the two samples. If the difference is negative—as in November and December 2025—it indicates that the unemployment rate in November and December 2024 was higher than in those same months of 2025. The improvement in Louisiana’s 2025-26 unemployment rate relative to the prior year coincided with a period of expanding labor force participation — suggesting the gains reflect genuine labor market strengthening. When more people are entering or staying in the labor force and the unemployment rate is falling year-over-year, that is a particularly encouraging combination. Data are seasonally adjusted. January 2026 is preliminary and data in all other months were subject to revision on April 8, 2026. State-level LAUS estimates are model-based and draw on multiple data sources, including the CPS, CES, UI claims, and Census population controls. The time-series modeling smooths short-term noise, resulting in more stable and reliable month-to-month labor force and unemployment indicators, relative to relying on a single source.

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



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: [LWorks.net](http://LWorks.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.

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](http://eia.gov) & [tradingeconomics.com](http://tradingeconomics.com)

Table 1. Energy Commodities, Weekly							
Commodity	4/10/26	4/3/26	3/6/26	4/11/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$124.61	\$123.94	\$96.16	\$66.10	0.5%	29.6%	88.5%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$104.54	\$105.67	\$78.37	\$61.24	-1.1%	33.4%	70.7%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	\$2.85	\$2.90	\$2.99	\$3.67	-1.7%	-4.7%	-22.3%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	\$3.96	\$3.95	\$3.36	\$3.04	0.3%	17.9%	30.3%

Table 2. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of April 16, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,162.11	\$11.62	\$/Bu	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.4%	12.1%
Wheat	\$598.76	\$5.99	\$/Bu	0.8%	4.2%	1.5%	9.1%
Lumber	\$584.00	\$5.84	\$/MBF	0.5%	0.5%	-4.3%	2.0%
Palm Oil	\$4,476.00	\$44.76	\$/MT	0.1%	-3.6%	-0.5%	11.6%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$13.82	\$0.14	\$/Lb	0.9%	-0.7%	-4.4%	-22.8%
Coffee	\$290.65	\$2.91	\$/Lb	-2.6%	0.4%	-1.4%	-22.8%
Corn	\$448.74	\$4.49	\$/Bu	-0.6%	1.1%	-1.2%	-7.0%
Rice	\$10.82	\$0.11	\$/CWT	-0.8%	-0.8%	-4.6%	-19.7%
Orange Juice	\$175.95	\$1.76	\$/Lb	-4.7%	-9.2%	-7.6%	-42.1%

### 3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

Louisiana Realtors® produces monthly reports on local market updates for the state and its regions. The following figures illustrate regional new listings for single-family homes by month for 2025-2026 and overlaid with 2024-25 for a year-over-year comparison. A list of parishes served by each regional entity is also provided.

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, 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

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

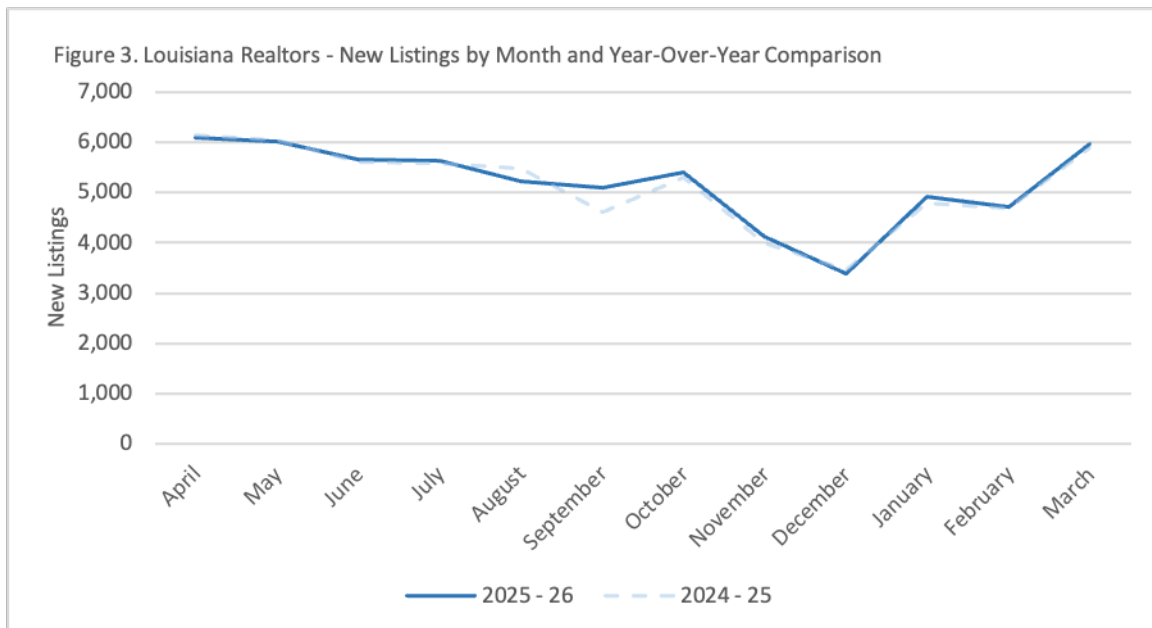


Figure 4. Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

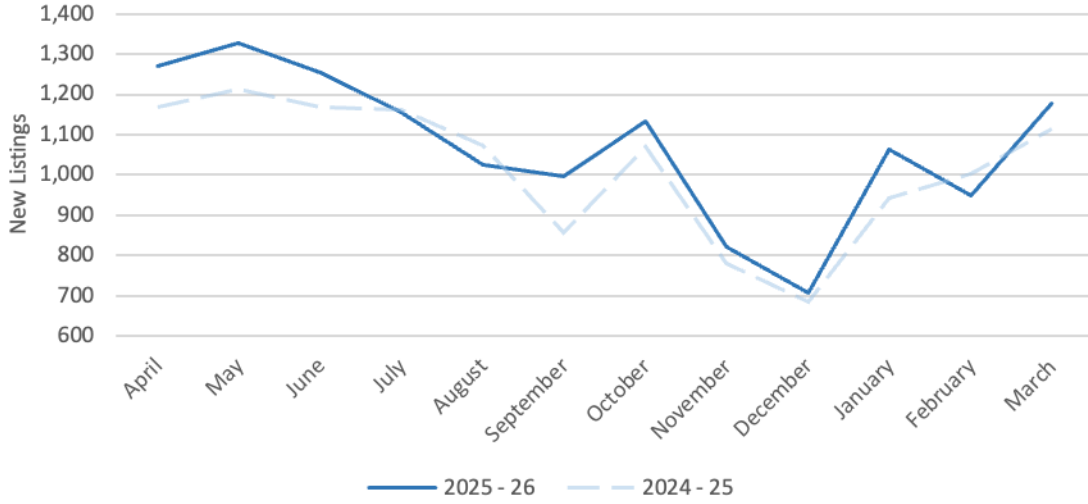


Figure 5. Greater Central Louisiana Realtors Association - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

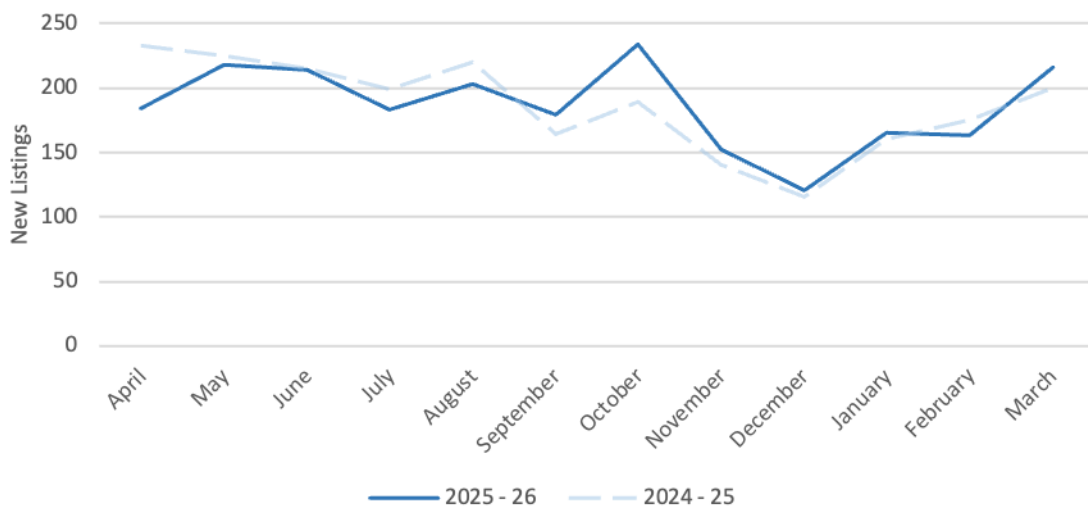


Figure 6. Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

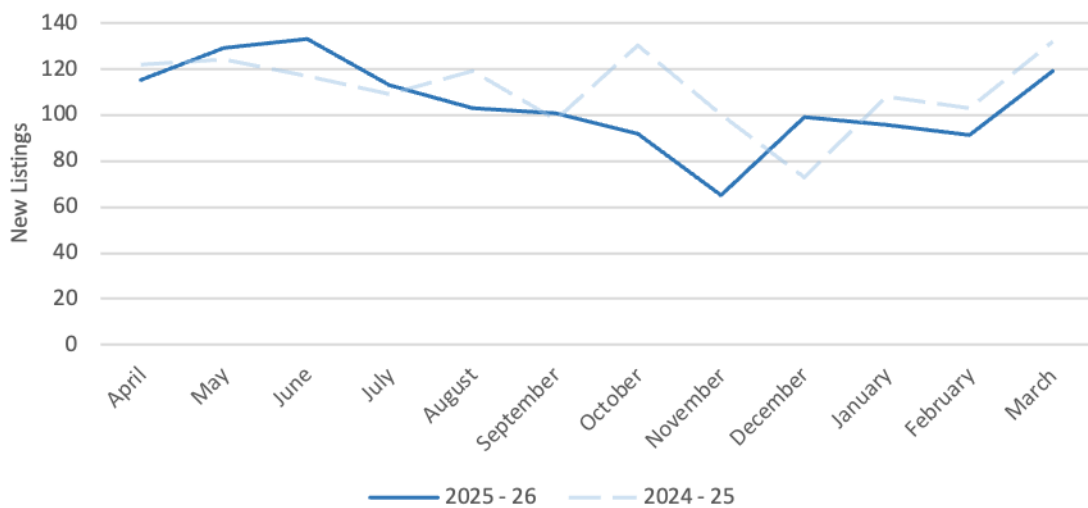


Figure 7. New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

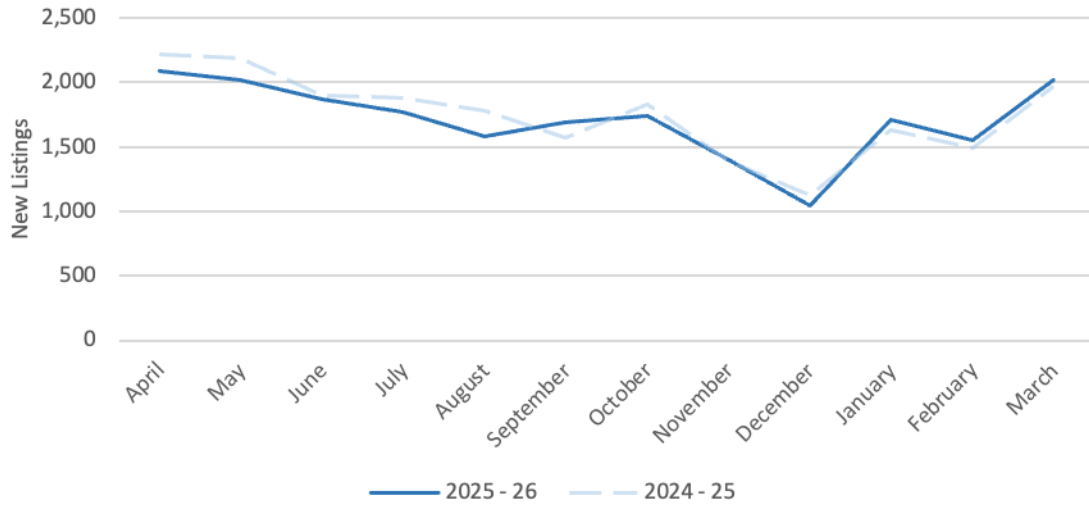


Figure 8. Northeast Realtors of Louisiana - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

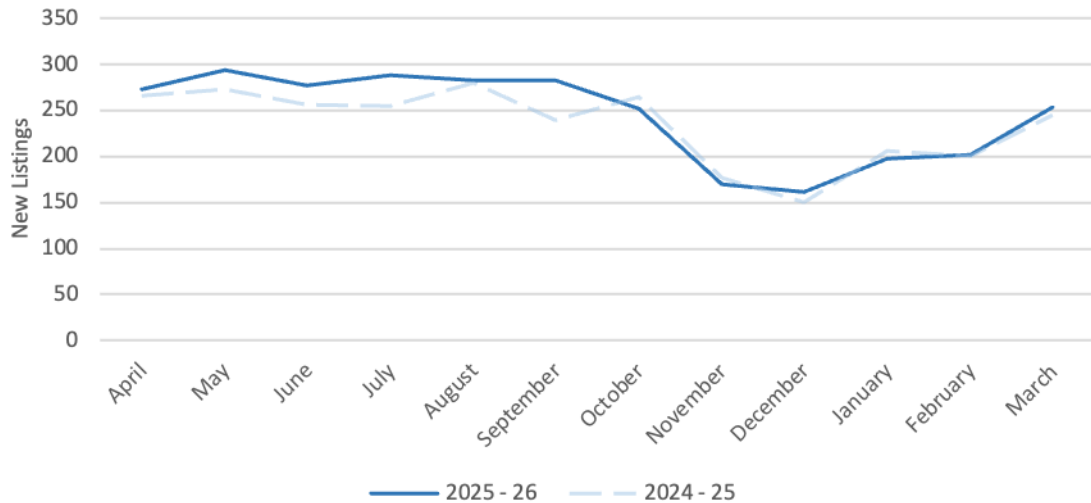


Figure 9. Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

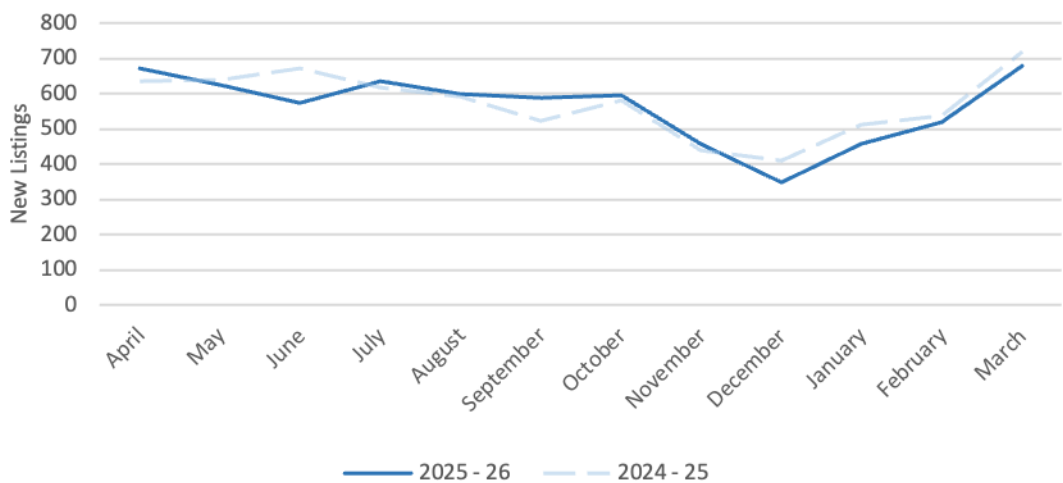


Figure 10. Realtor Association of Acadiana - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

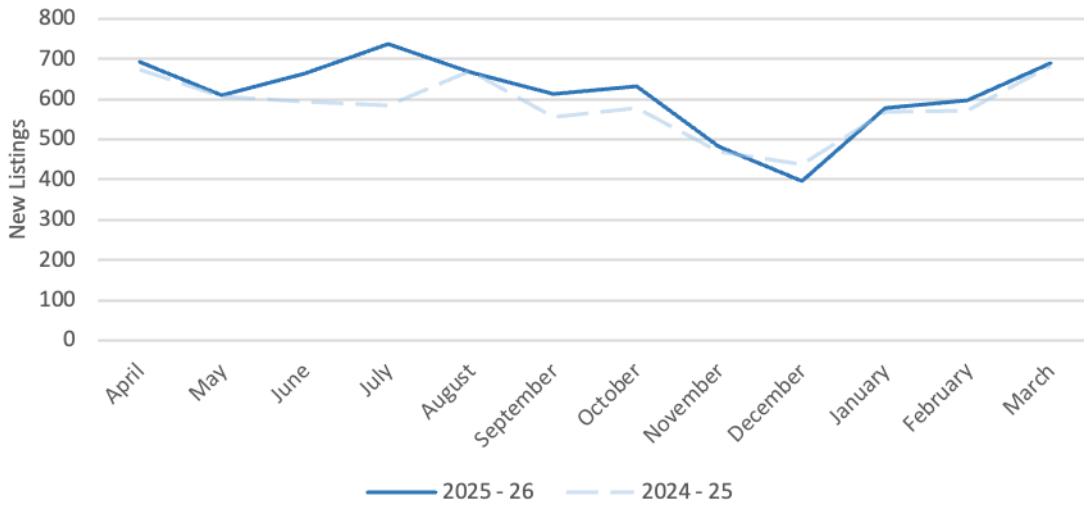


Figure 11. Southwest Louisiana Association of Realtors - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison

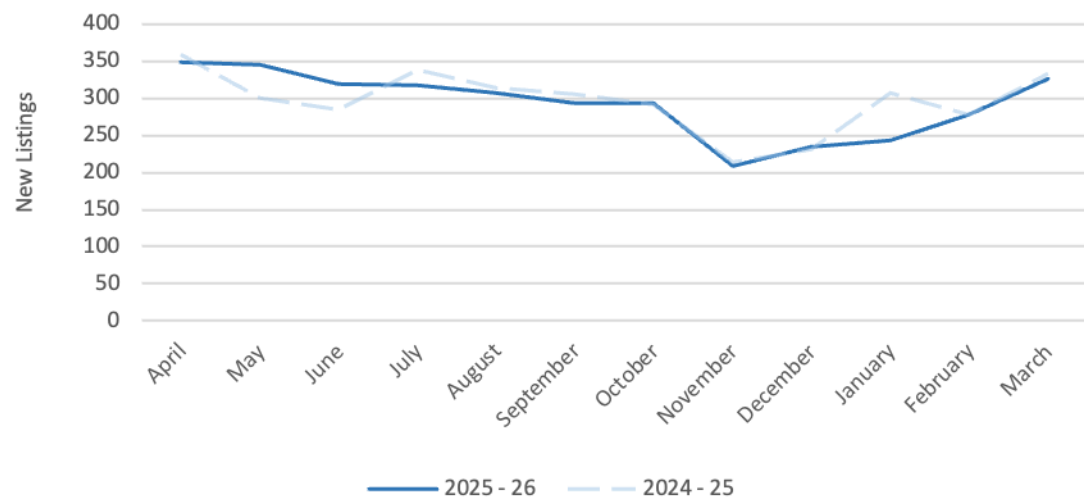
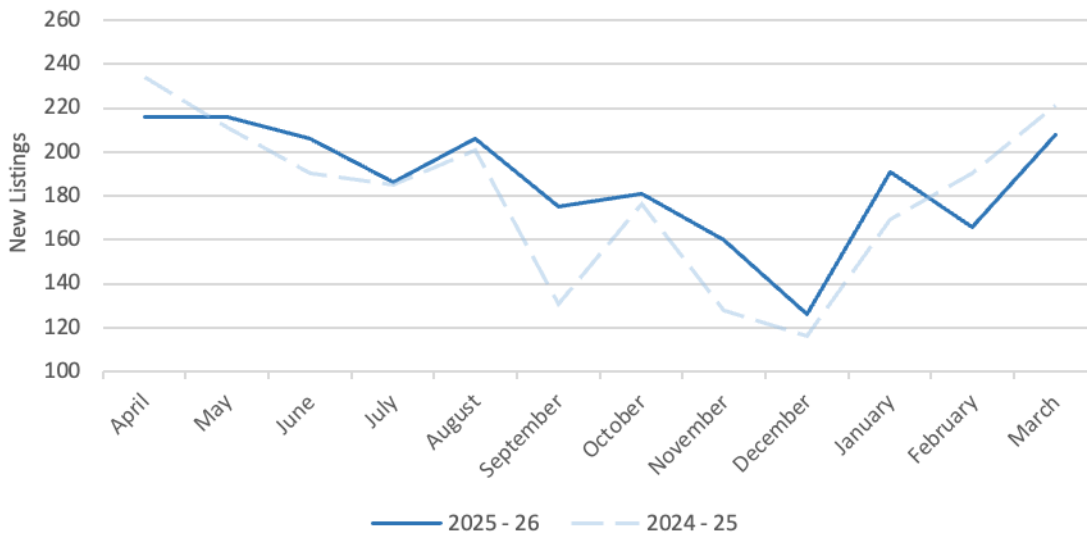


Figure 12. Bayou Board of Realtors - New Listings by Month and Year-Over-Year Comparison



# 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)

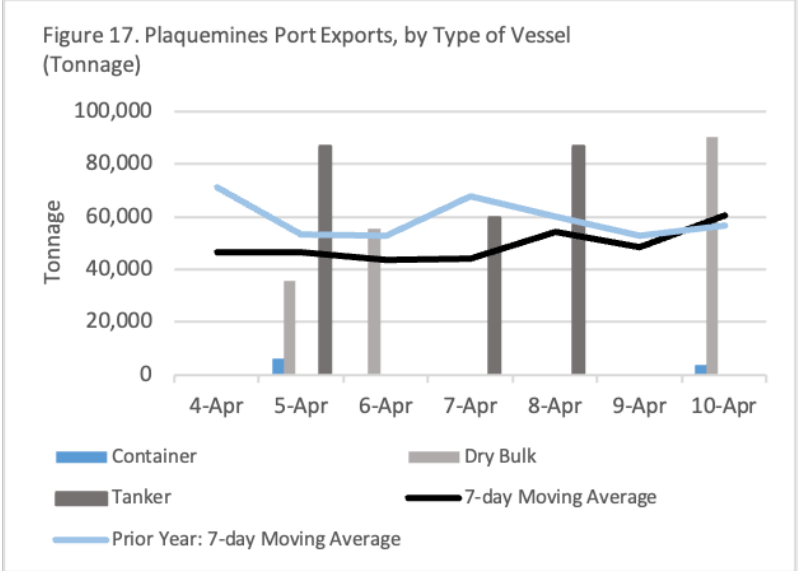
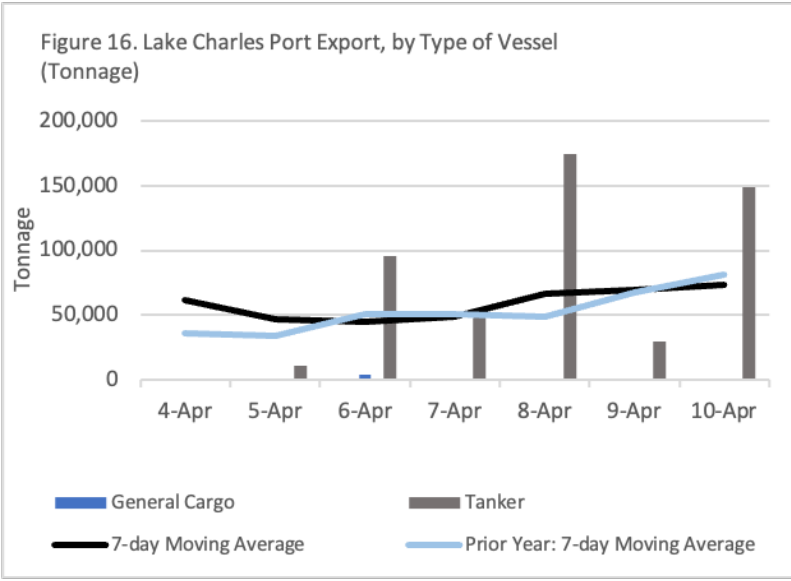
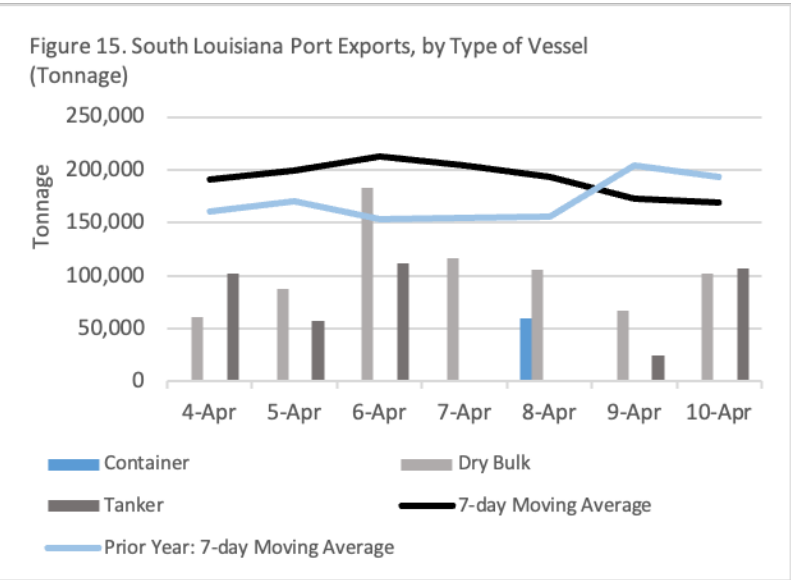
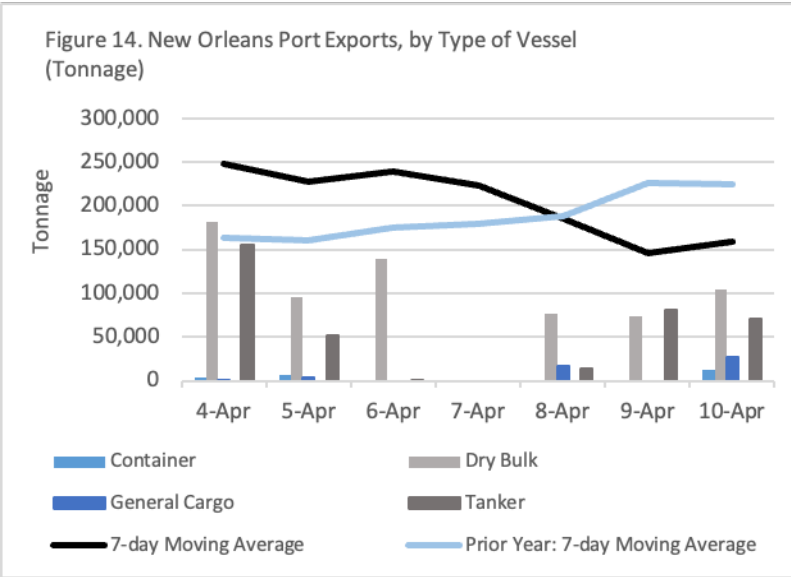
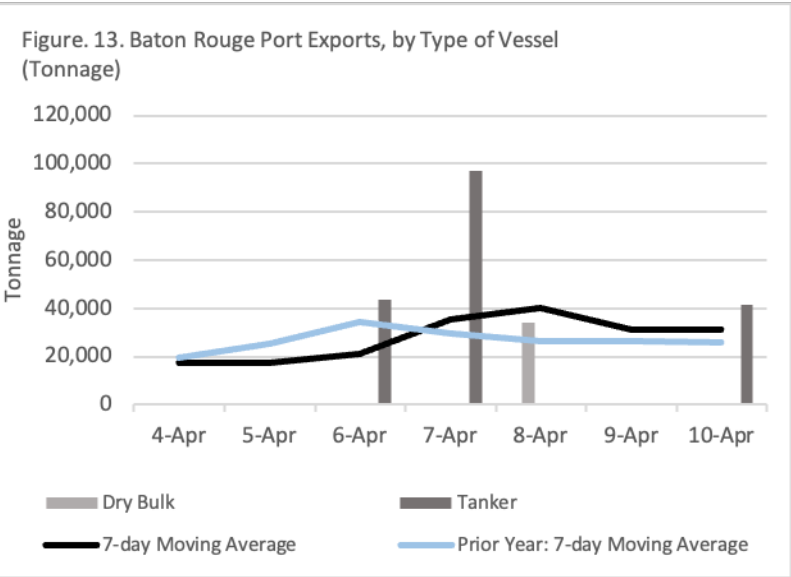


Figure 18. Baton Rouge Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

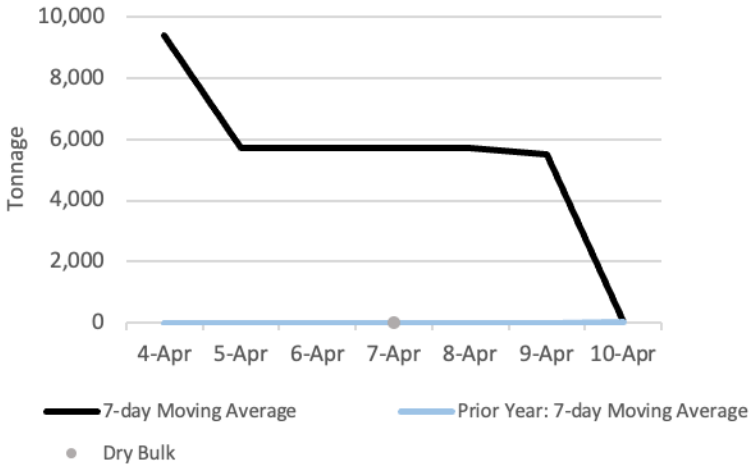


Figure 19. New Orleans Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

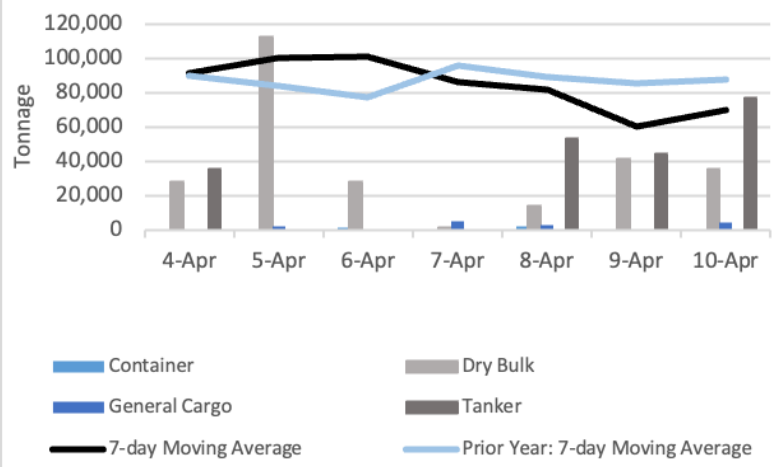


Figure 20. South Louisiana Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

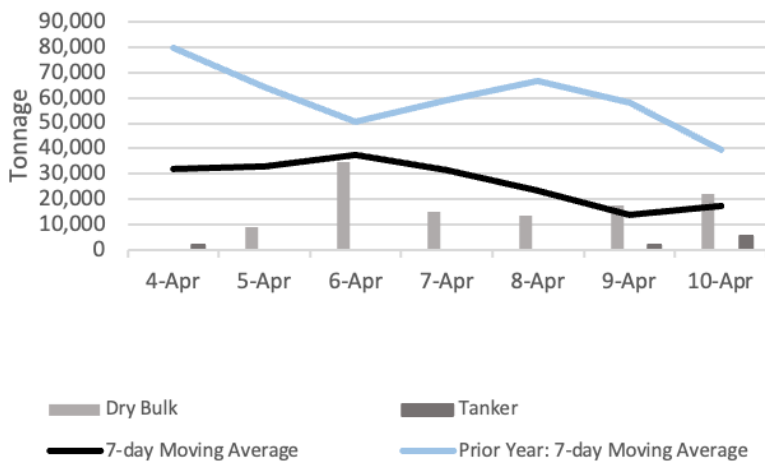


Figure 21. Lake Charles Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

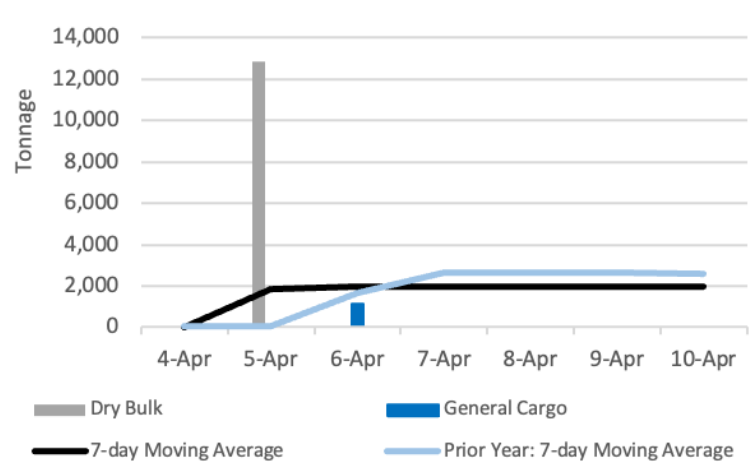


Figure 22. Plaquemines Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

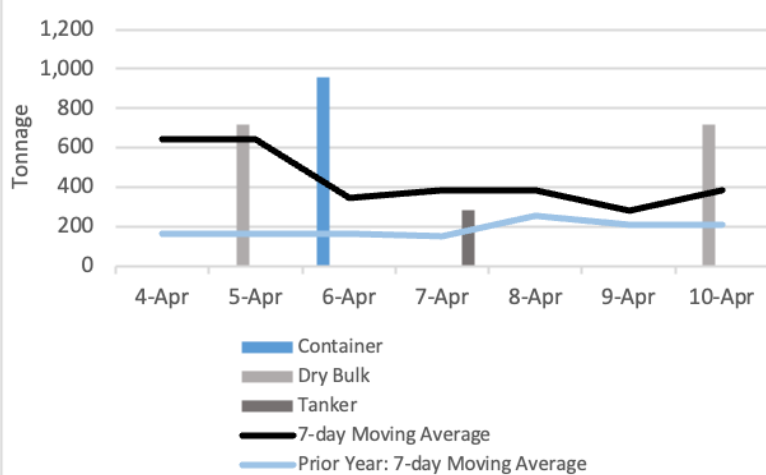


Figure 23. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

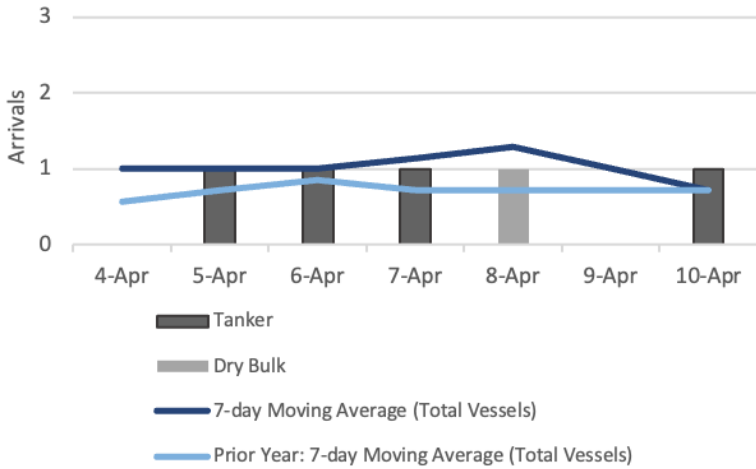


Figure 24. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

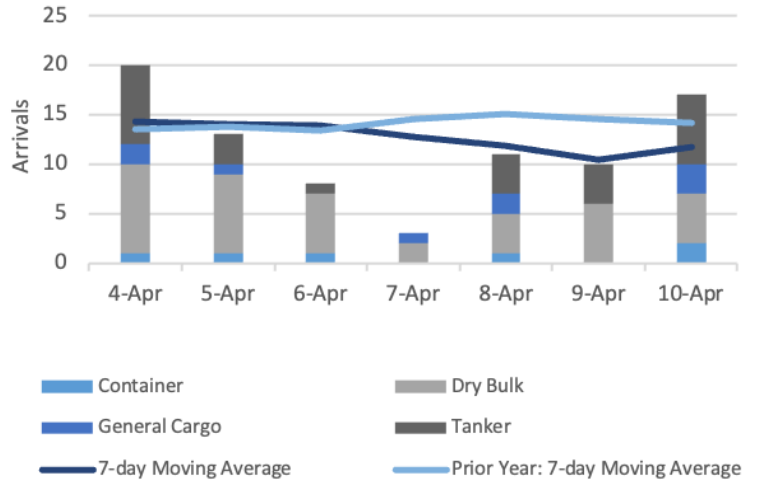


Figure 25. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

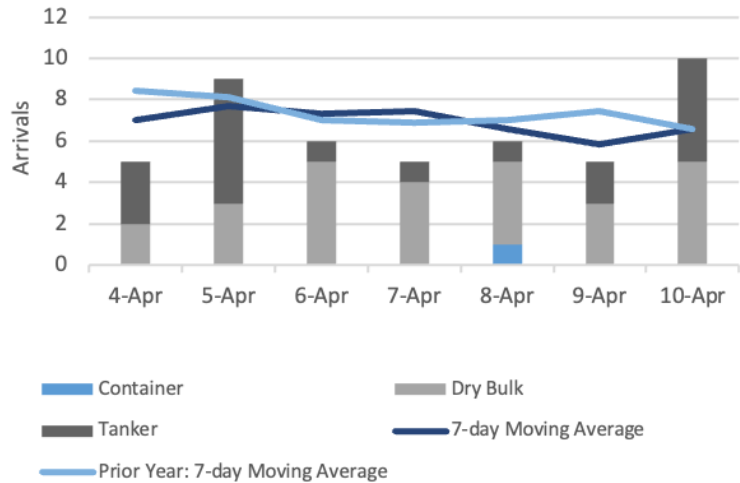


Figure 26. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

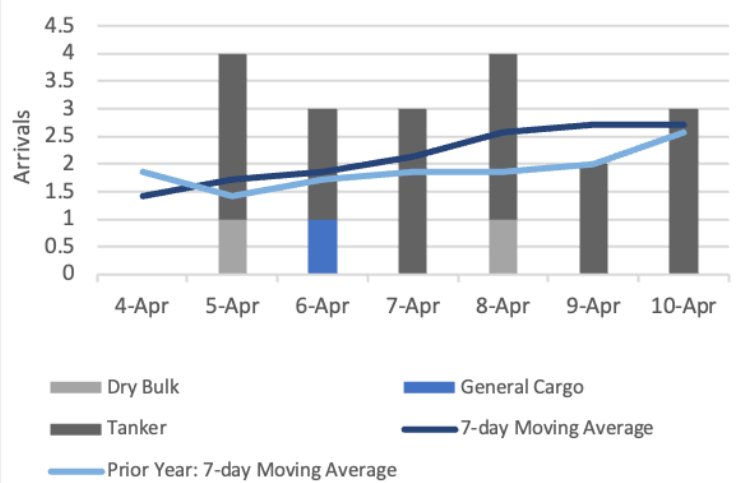
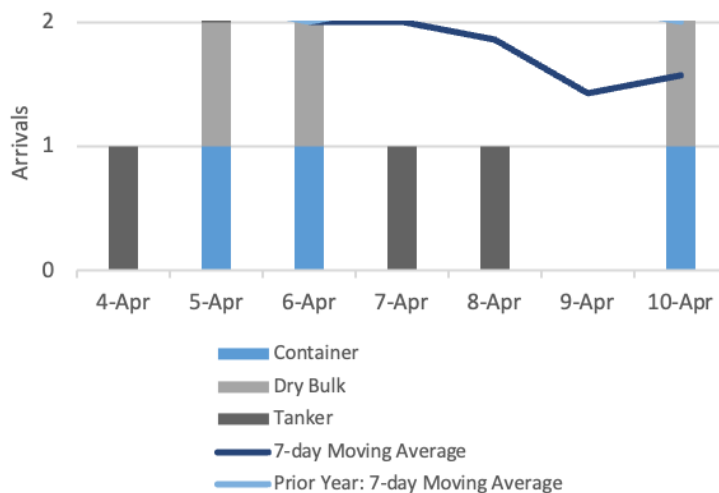


Figure 27. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



## 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 [eia.gov](https://www.eia.gov)

Table 3. Louisiana and U.S. Oil & Gas Rig Counts							
Location	4/10/26	4/3/26	3/13/26	4/11/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Louisiana (Total all areas)	49	41	44	33	19.5%	11.4%	48.5%
North - Land	29	27	27	18	7.4%	7.4%	61.1%
South Inland - Water	2	1	2	2	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
South Inland - Land	4	5	5	4	-20.0%	-20.0%	0.0%
State Offshore	1	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Louisiana Federal Offshore	13	8	10	9	62.5%	30.0%	44.4%
U.S. Total	545	551	553	583	-1.1%	-1.4%	-6.5%

Figure 28 illustrates U.S. exports of crude oil and other petroleum products by month for the period 2025 - 2026 overlaid with U.S. exports of the same products for the periods 2024 - 2025 and 2023 - 2024. Figure 29 illustrates weekly U.S. exports of crude oil and other petroleum products for the first quarter of 2026 (and part of April) overlaid with U.S. exports of the same products for 2025 and 2024 (including all of April). The weekly data is measured in thousands of barrels per day.

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

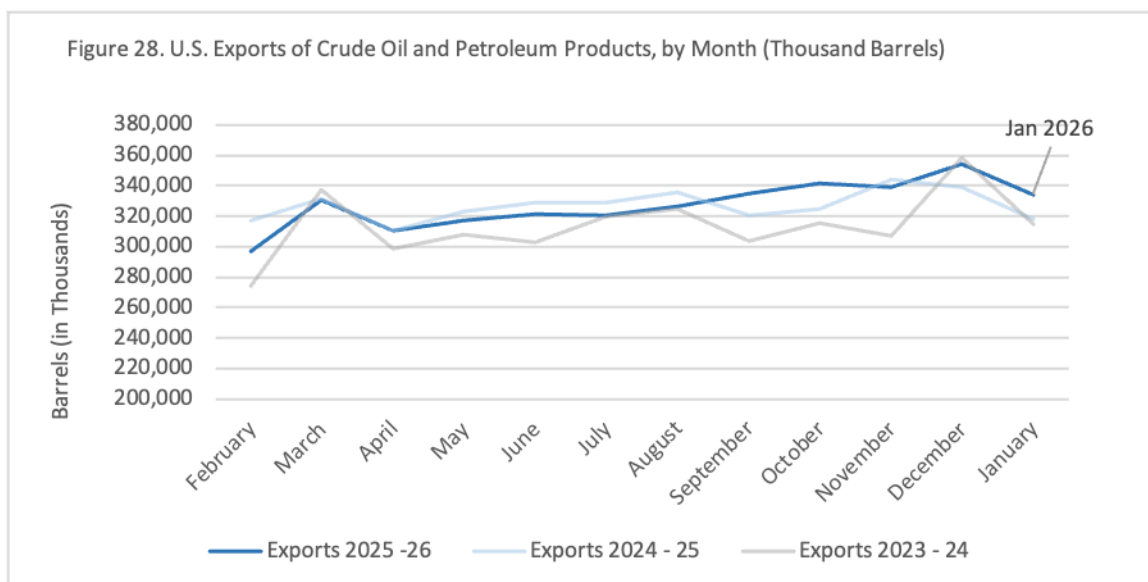


Figure 29. Weekly U.S. Exports of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products, January through April, 2024 - 2026 (Thousands of Barrels Per Day)



# 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
		<a href="#">Consumer Confidence</a> <b>31</b> [Mar]	<a href="#">Manufacturing &amp; Trade Inventory &amp; Sales</a> <b>1</b> [Jan]	<b>2</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Employment</a> <b>3</b> [Mar]	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<a href="#">Durable Goods</a> <b>7</b> [Feb]	<b>8</b>	<a href="#">GDP</a> <b>9</b> [2025:Q4, Third Est.]	<a href="#">CPI</a> <b>10</b> [Mar] <a href="#">Real Earnings</a> [Mar]	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<a href="#">Federal Budget</a> <b>13</b> [Mar]	<a href="#">NFIB Small Business Optimism Index</a> <b>14</b> [Mar] <a href="#">PPI</a> [Mar]	<a href="#">NAHB HMI</a> <b>15</b> [Apr]	<a href="#">Industrial Production</a> <b>16</b> [Mar]	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>		<a href="#">Pending Home Sales</a> <b>20</b> [Mar]	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>26</b>		<a href="#">Consumer Confidence</a> <b>27</b> [Apr]	<a href="#">New Residential Sales</a> <b>28</b> [Jan & Mar] <a href="#">Durable Goods</a> [Mar]	<a href="#">GDP</a> <b>29</b> [2026:Q1 Advanced Est.]	<b>30</b>	