Louisiana Economic Vitals

Thursday, April 2, 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:

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

Direct questions and comments to:

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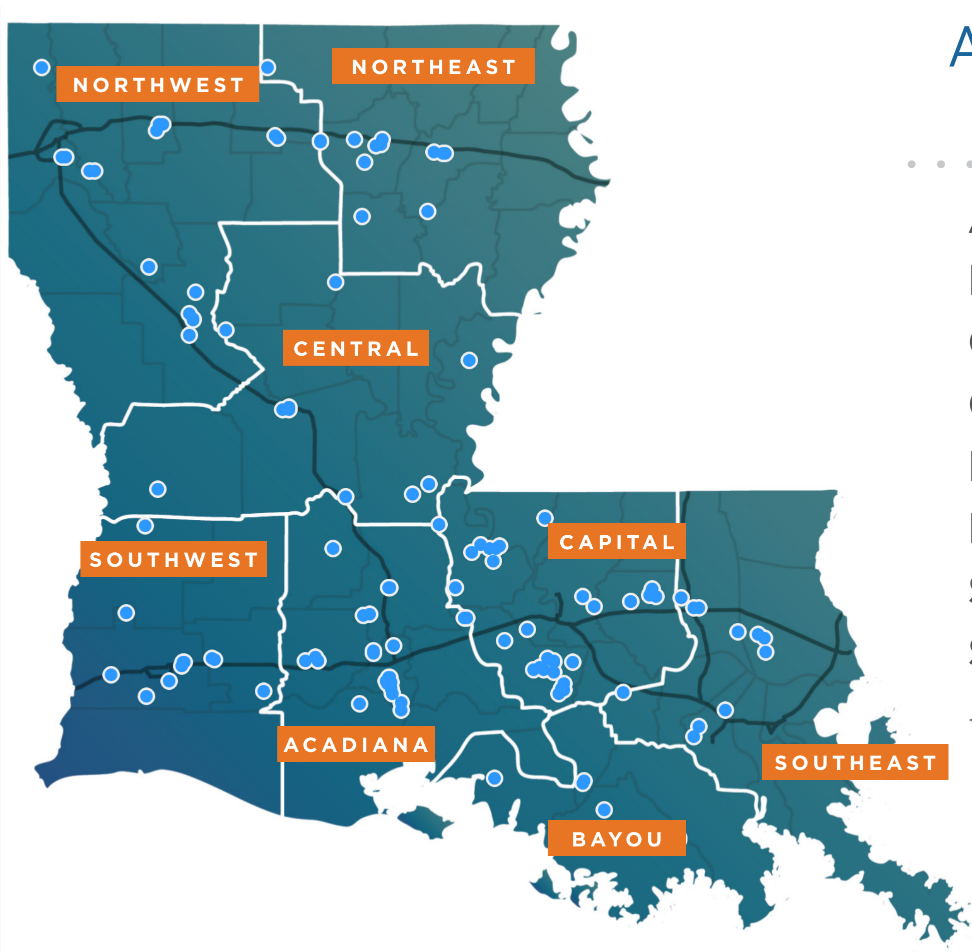
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

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 2, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 175 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $285.1 billion and the potential to create more than 44,555 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 126 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.



Active Certified Sites by Region

Acadiana	24
Bayou	6
Capital	24
Central	9
Northeast	14
Northwest	17
Southeast	18
Southwest	14
TOTAL	126

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

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)

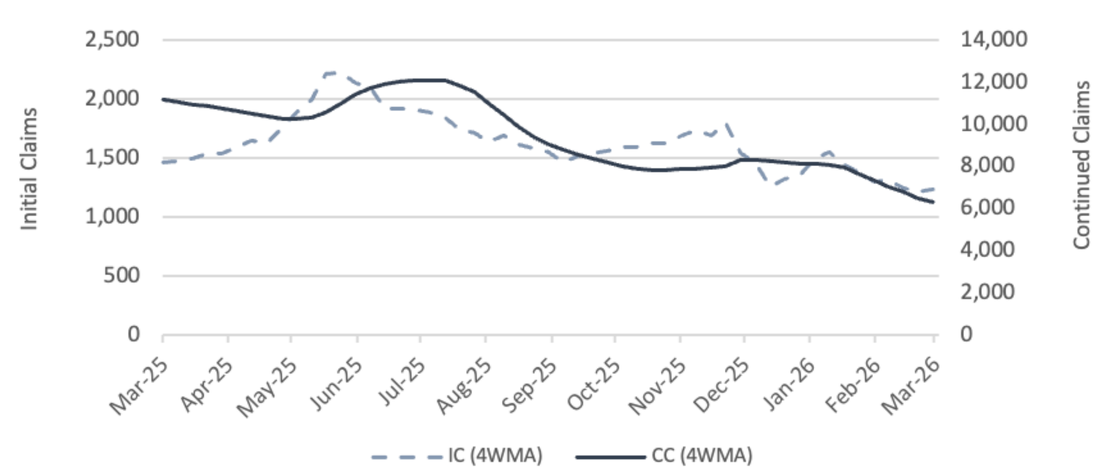
Category	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Job Openings	6,882	7,240	7,242	-4.9%	-5.0%
Hires	4,849	5,347	5,236	-9.3%	-7.4%
Quits	2,974	3,131	3,153	-5.0%	-5.7%
Layoffs and Discharges	1,721	1,660	1,867	3.7%	-7.8%

Note: February 2026 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

Figure 1. Louisiana Initial and Continued Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims - 4-Week Moving Average



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

Table 3. Energy Commodities, Weekly

Commodity	3/27/26	3/20/26	2/27/26	3/28/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	$111.24	$111.40	$71.36	$74.35	-0.1%	55.9%	49.6%
WTI Crude Oil Price	$94.29	$96.07	$65.87	$69.81	-1.9%	43.1%	35.1%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$2.95	$3.11	$3.01	$3.92	-5.1%	-2.0%	-24.7%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$3.81	$3.79	$2.88	$3.04	0.5%	32.3%	25.3%

Table 4. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of April 2, 2026

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,172.81	$11.73	$/Bu	0.3%	-0.1%	1.5%	16.0%
Wheat	$607.96	$6.08	$/Bu	1.5%	0.4%	6.2%	13.3%
Lumber	$604.05	$6.04	$/MBF	-0.3%	1.4%	9.0%	-0.1%
Palm Oil	$4,791.00	$47.91	$/MT	0.5%	3.7%	14.4%	6.7%
Sugar (No. 11)	$15.33	$0.15	$/Lb	0.3%	-3.3%	10.2%	-19.4%
Coffee	$295.39	$2.95	$/Lb	-0.8%	-4.2%	4.1%	-23.7%
Corn	$458.38	$4.58	$/Bu	0.7%	-1.9%	5.6%	0.2%
Rice	$11.25	$0.11	$/CWT	-0.5%	2.51%	6.2%	-14.0%
Orange Juice	$198.96	$1.99	$/Lb	-0.5%	10.7%	9.5%	-14.9%

3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

Louisiana 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 average number of days between when a property is listed and when an offer is accepted in a given month. The national data is plotted as the median days on market until sale.

Included in the South is: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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

Figure 2. Bayou Board of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

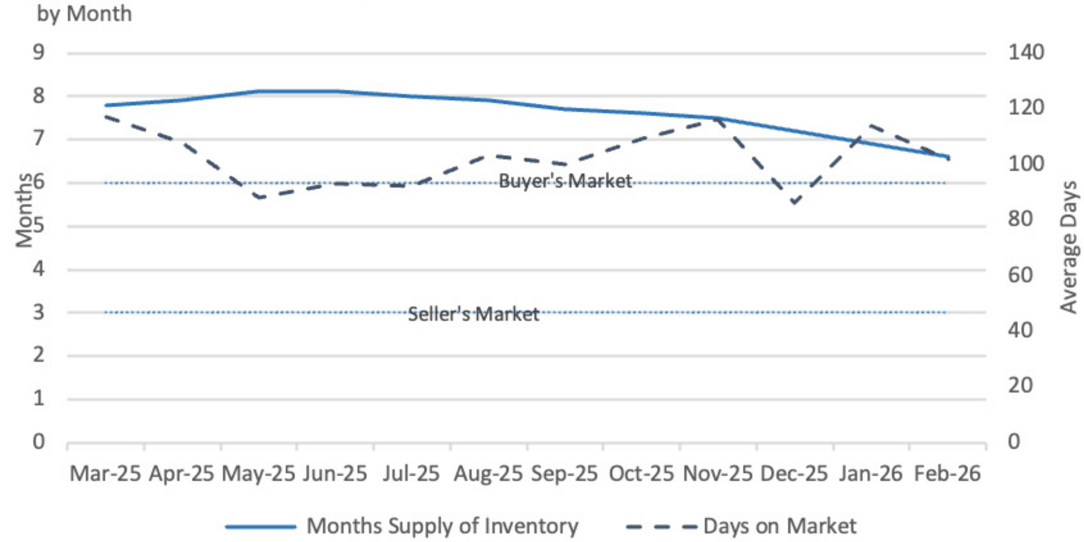


Figure 3. Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

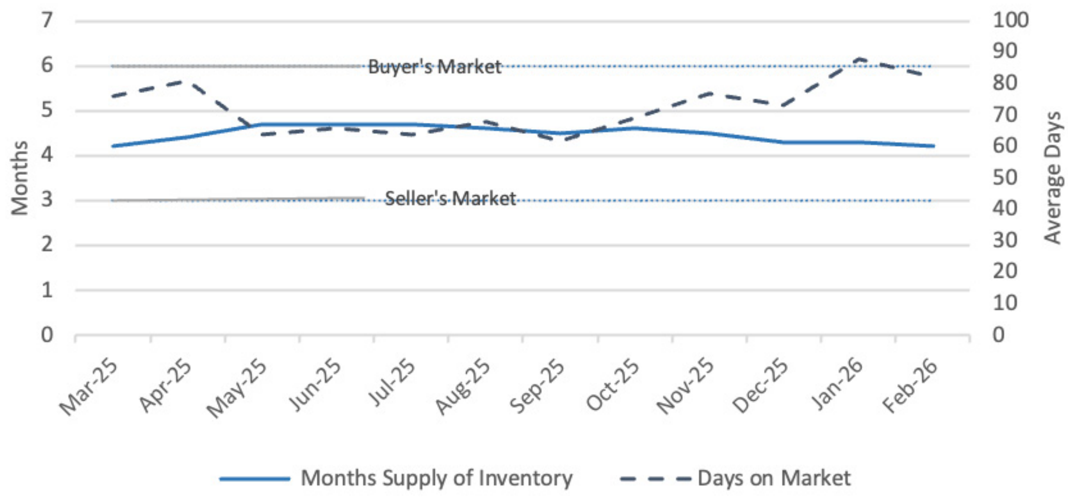


Figure 4. Greater Central Louisiana Realtors® Association, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

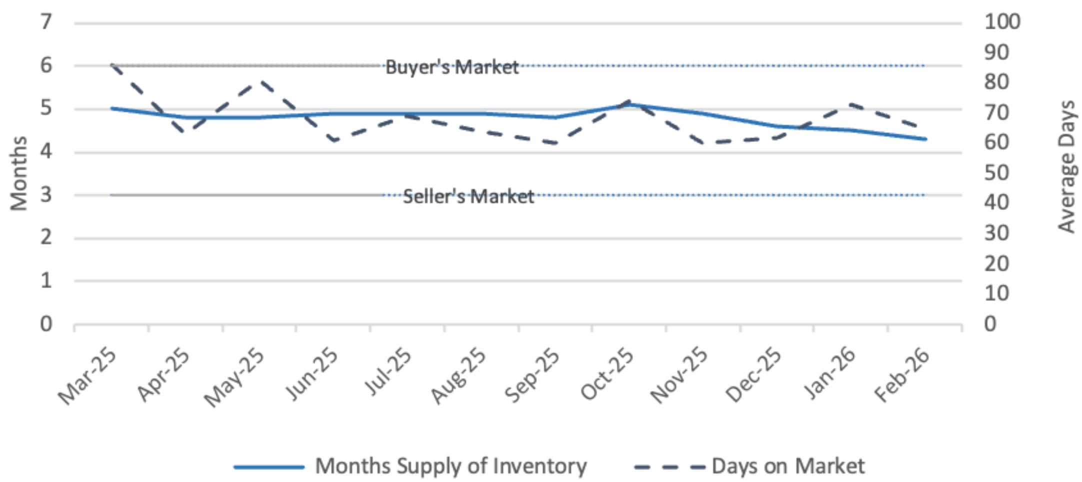


Figure 5. Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

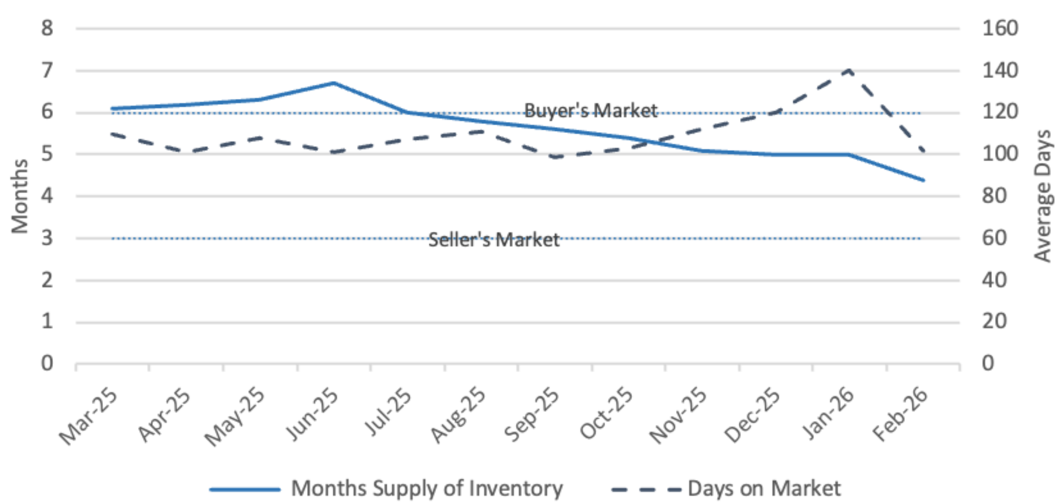


Figure 6. New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

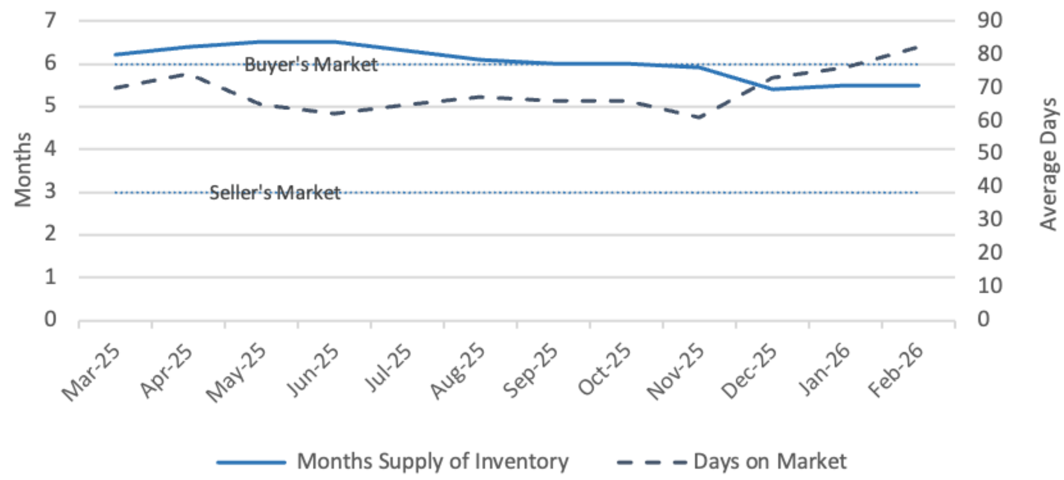


Figure 7. Northeast Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

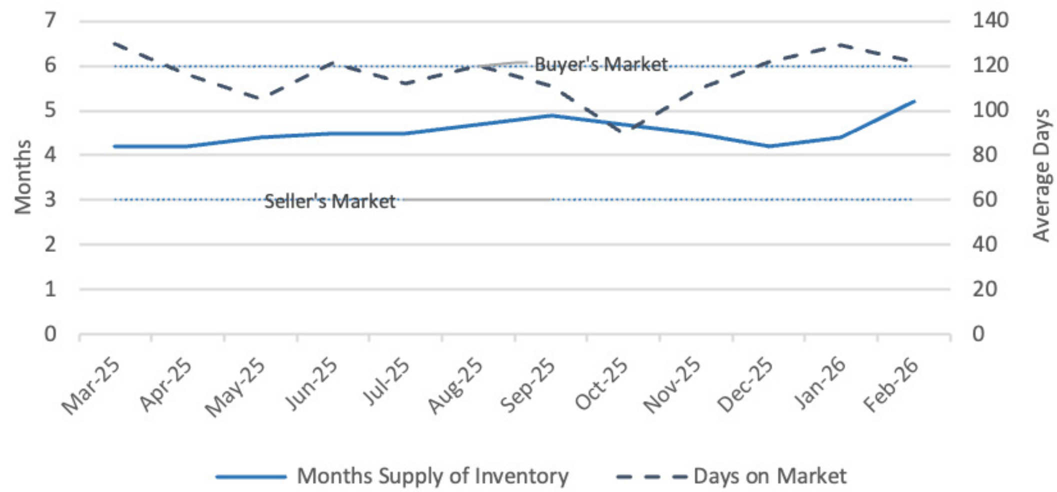


Figure 8. Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

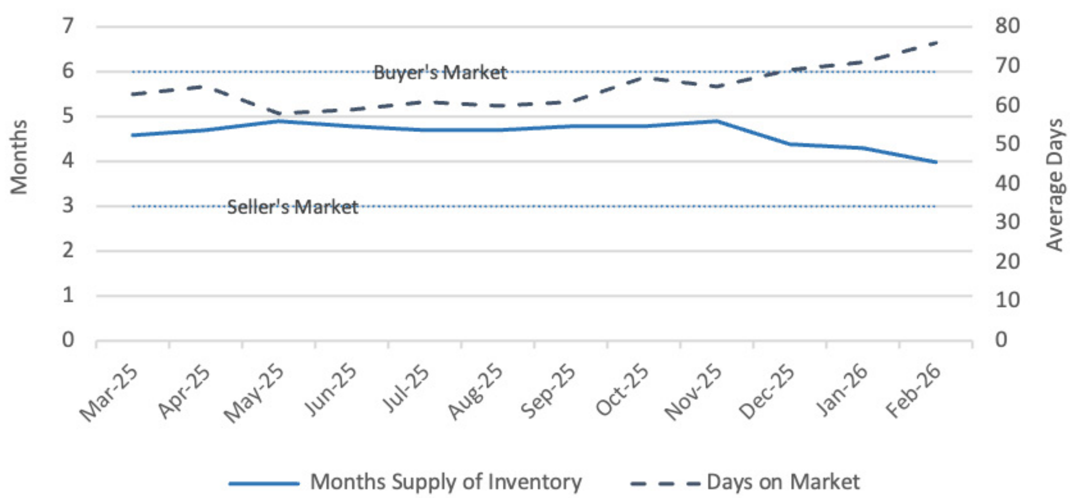


Figure 9. Realtor Association of Acadiana, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

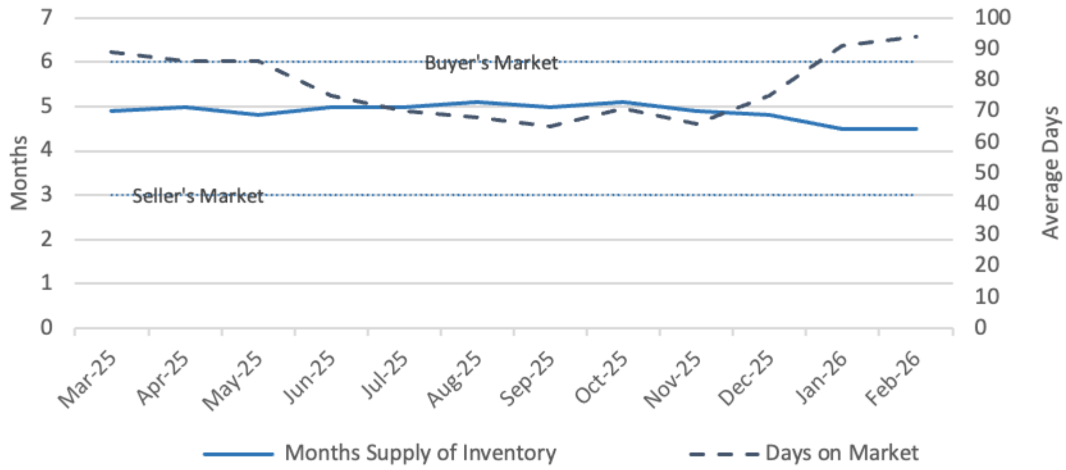


Figure 10. Southwest Louisiana Association of Realtors, Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

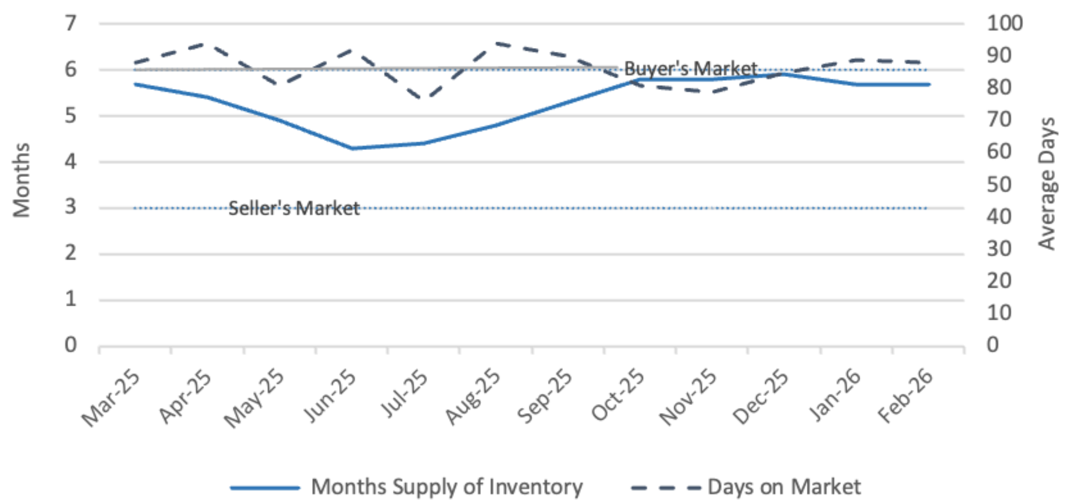


Figure 11. Louisiana Realtors (Louisiana), Months Supply of Inventory and Average Days on Market, by Month

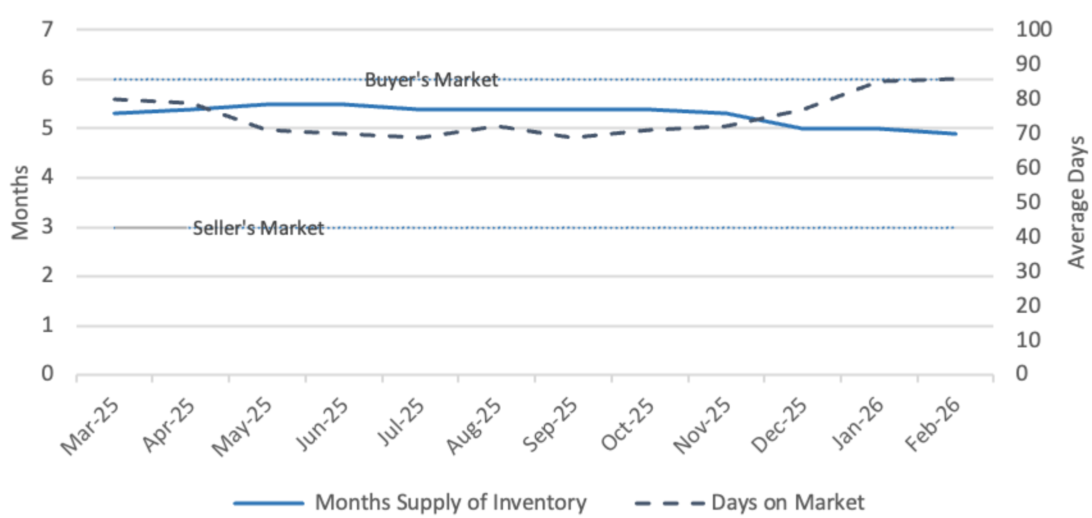
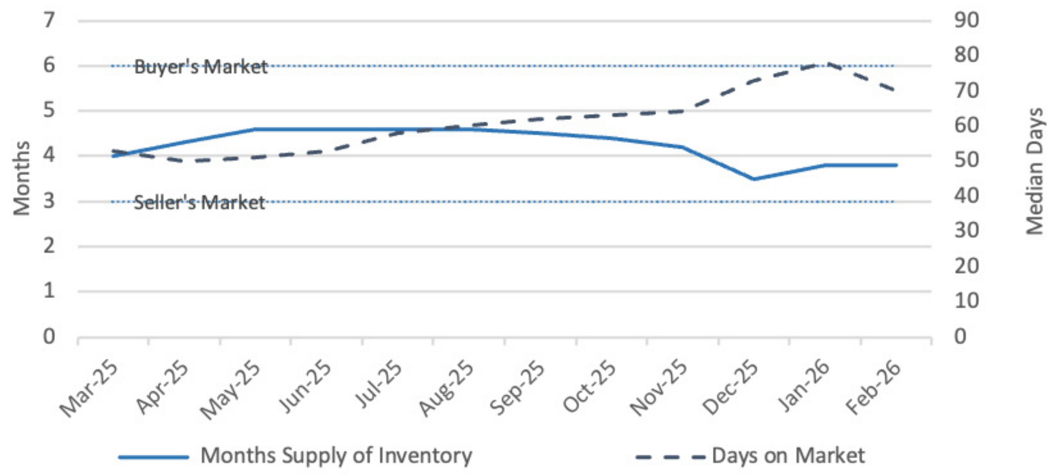


Figure 12. Realtor.com (U.S.), Months Supply of Inventory and Median Days on Market, by Month



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

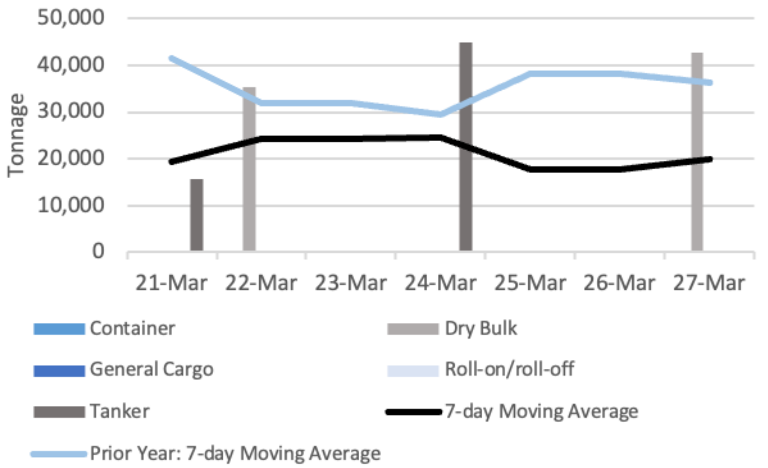


Figure 14. New Orleans Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

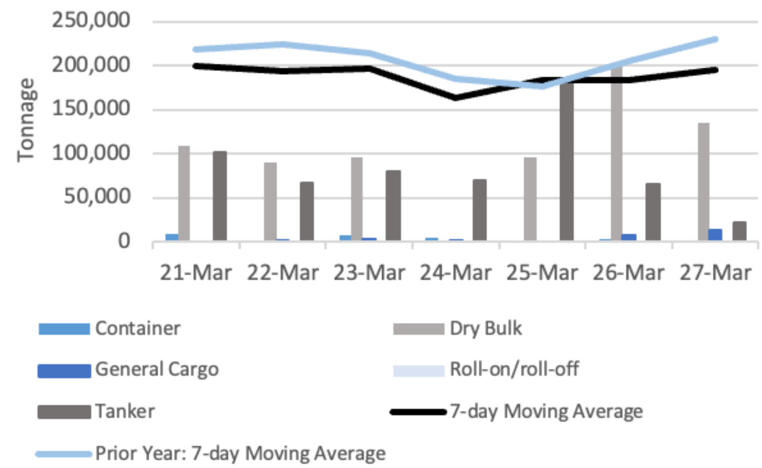


Figure 15. South Louisiana Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

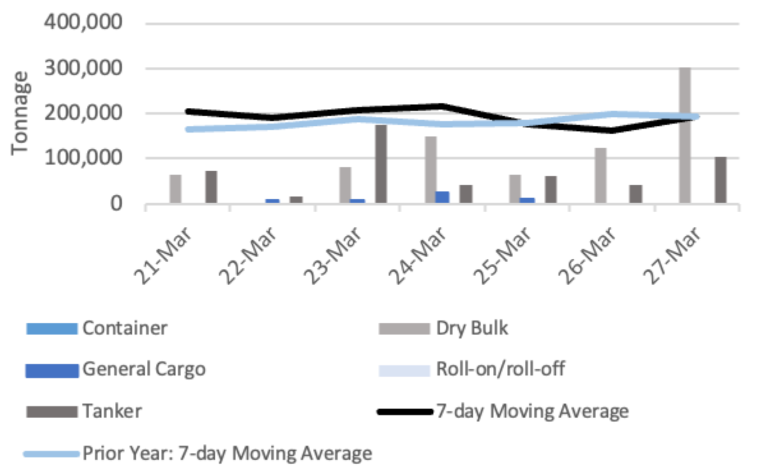


Figure 16. Lake Charles Port Export, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

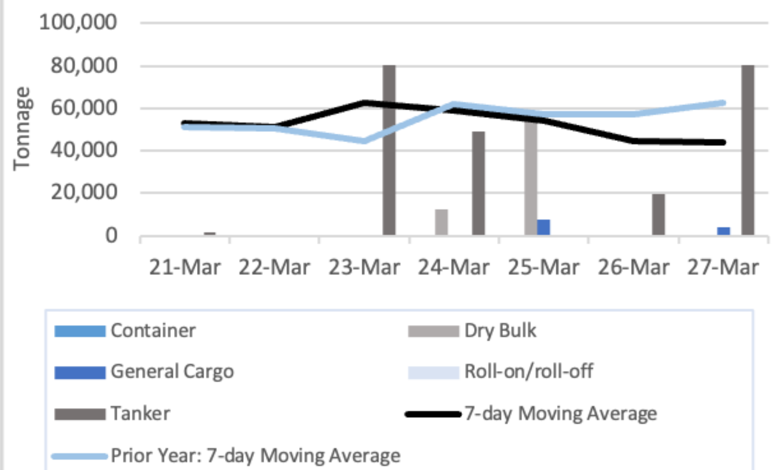


Figure 17. Plaquemines Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

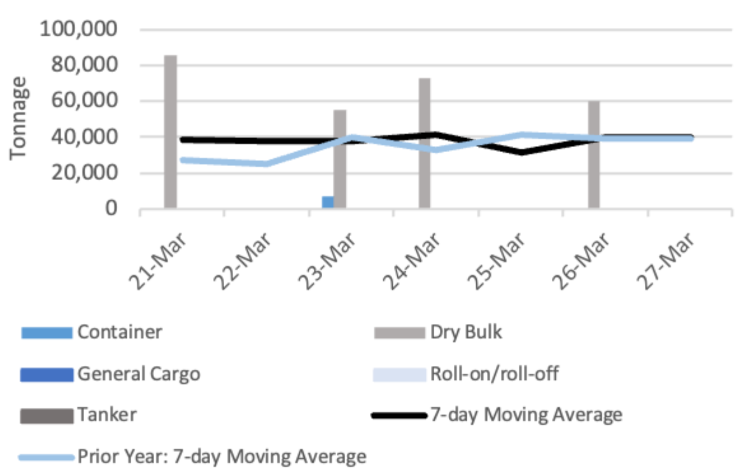


Figure 18. Baton Rouge Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

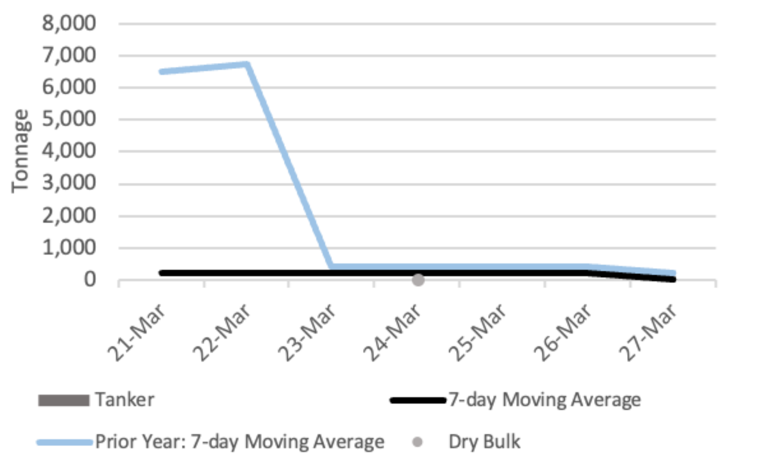


Figure 19. New Orleans Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

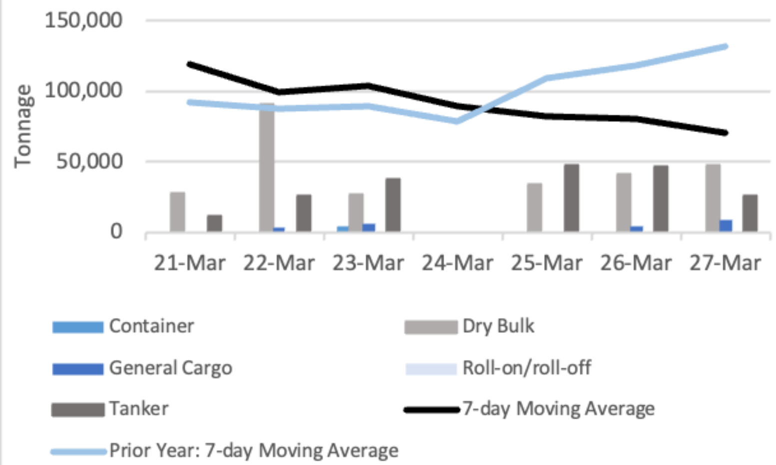


Figure 20. South Louisiana Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

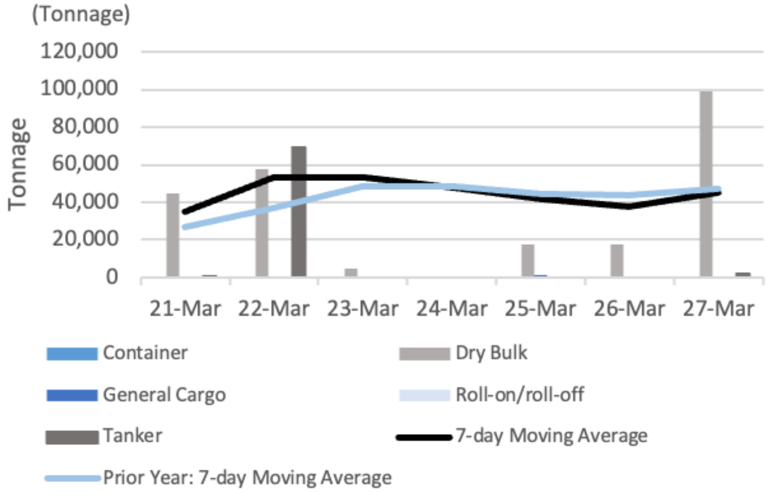


Figure 21. Lake Charles Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

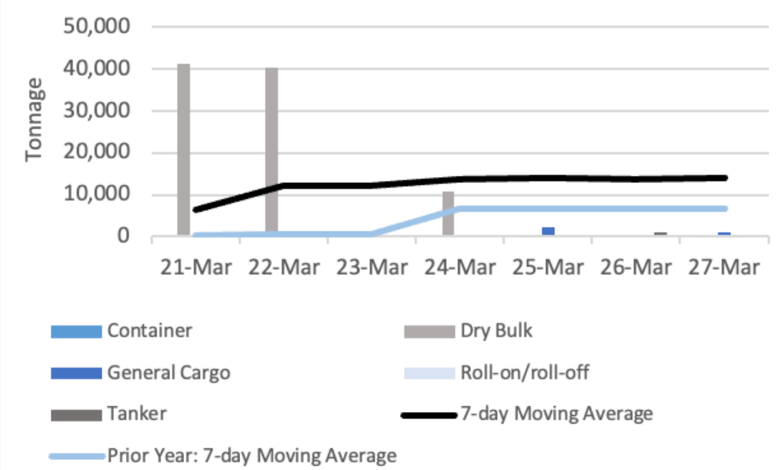


Figure 22. Plaquemines Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

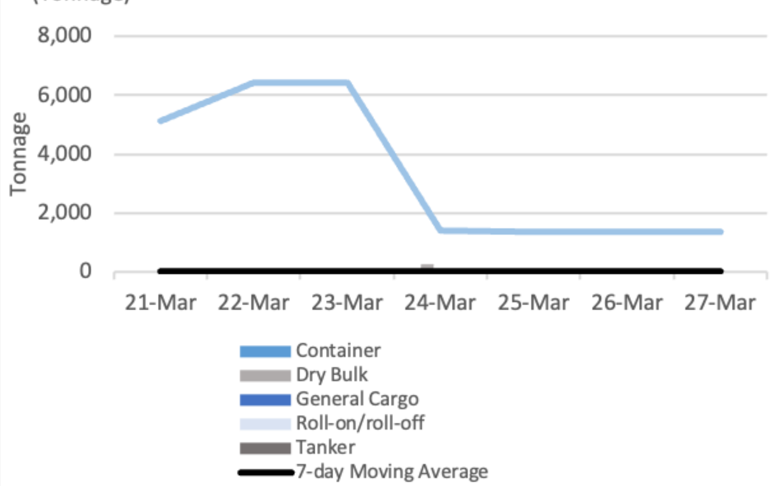


Figure 23. Baton Rouge Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

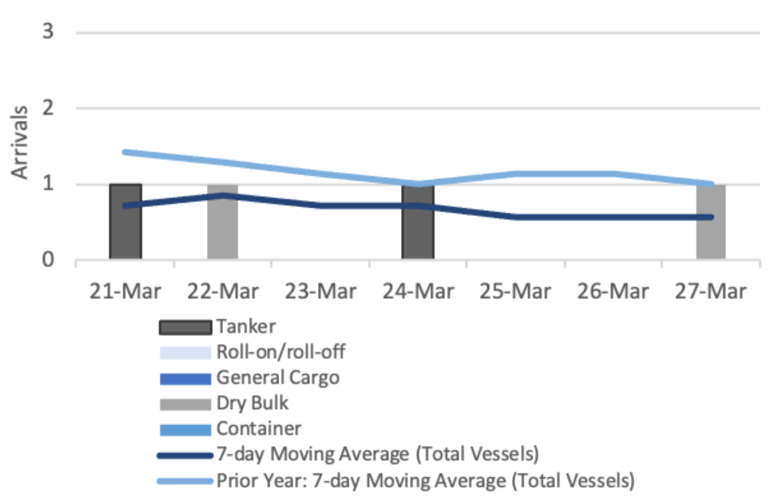


Figure 24. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

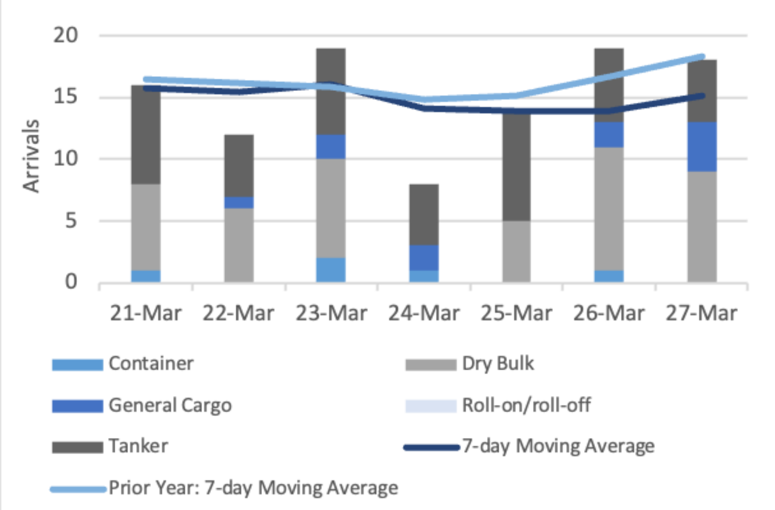


Figure 25. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

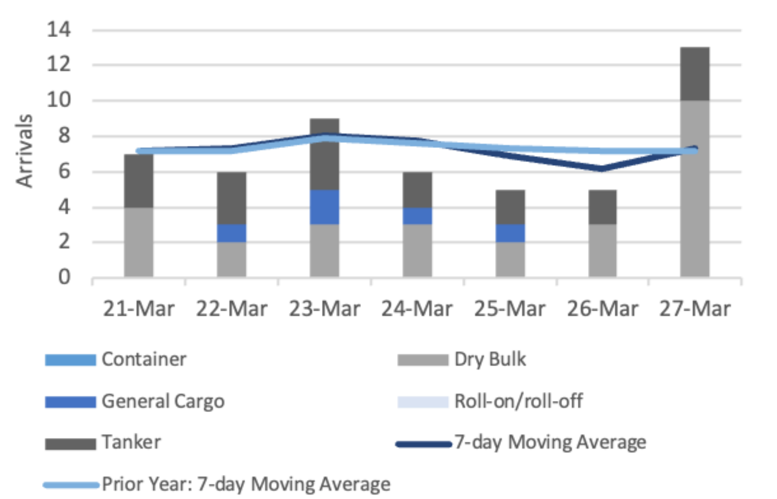


Figure 26. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

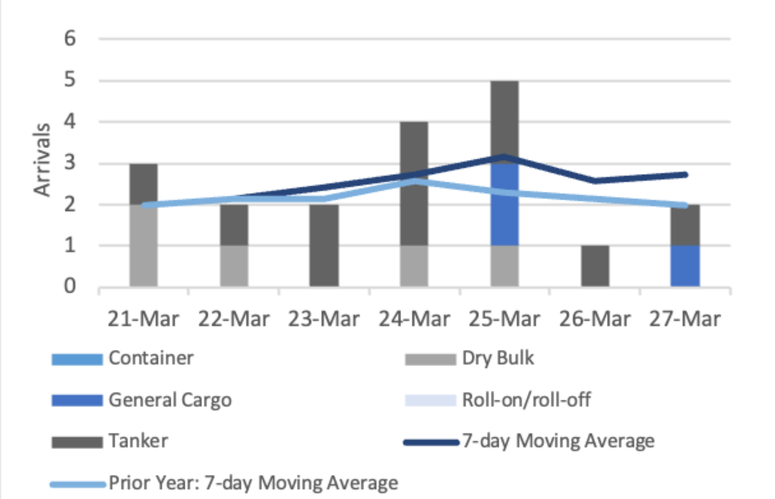
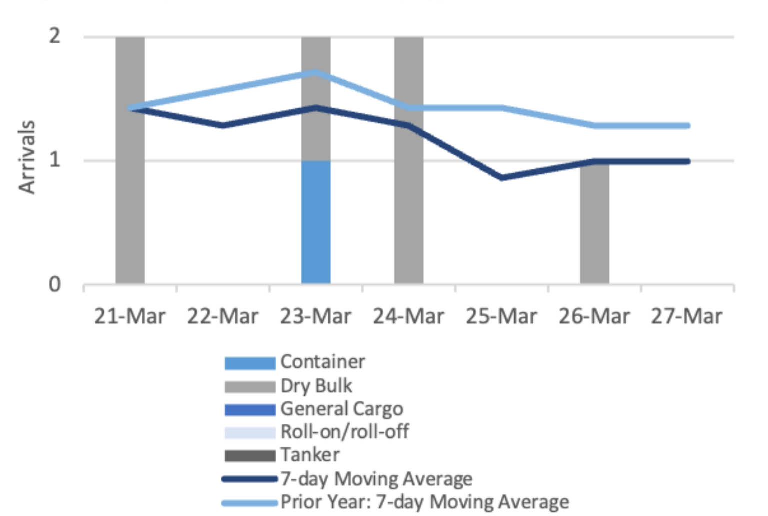


Figure 27. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



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	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		