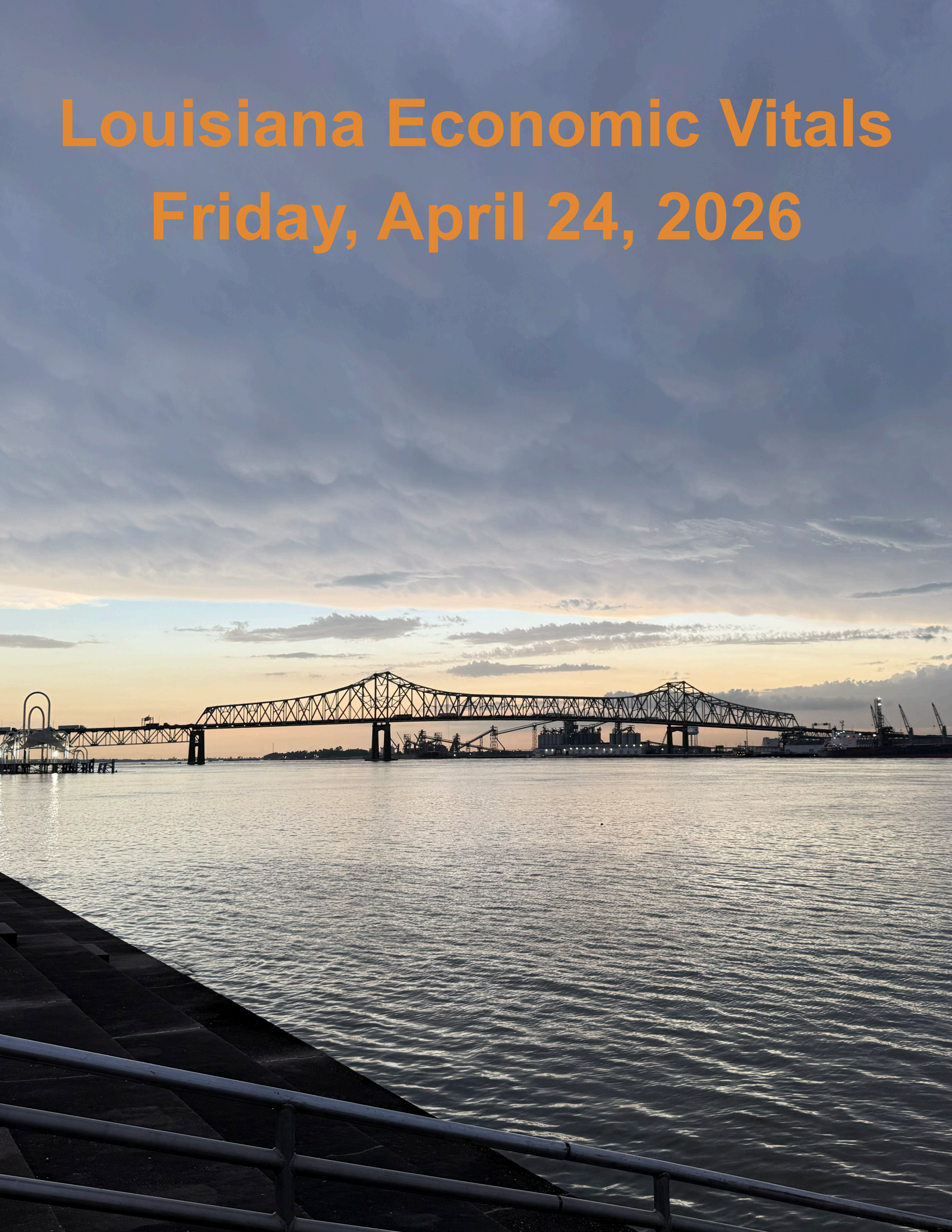


Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, April 24, 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:

[Air Liquide Invests \\$350 Million to Strengthen Louisiana Footprint and Support Hyundai Steel Project](#)
April 22nd, 2026

[Woodside Tugboat Contract Boosts Louisiana Spend to More Than \\$1 Billion](#)
April 17th, 2026

[Textron Systems Expands Louisiana Operations with Multi-Site Investment](#)
April 15th, 2026

[Robots Are Coming...and Louisiana Is Ready.](#)
April 13th, 2026

[New Analysis Projects Louisiana International Terminal to Deliver \\$33 Million in Annual Tax Revenue, Thousands of Jobs, to St. Bernard Parish](#)
April 10th, 2026

[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

Direct questions and comments to:

Dr. Christopher Coombs, Economist, Economic Competitiveness

E: Christopher.Coombs@la.gov T: 225.342.5410

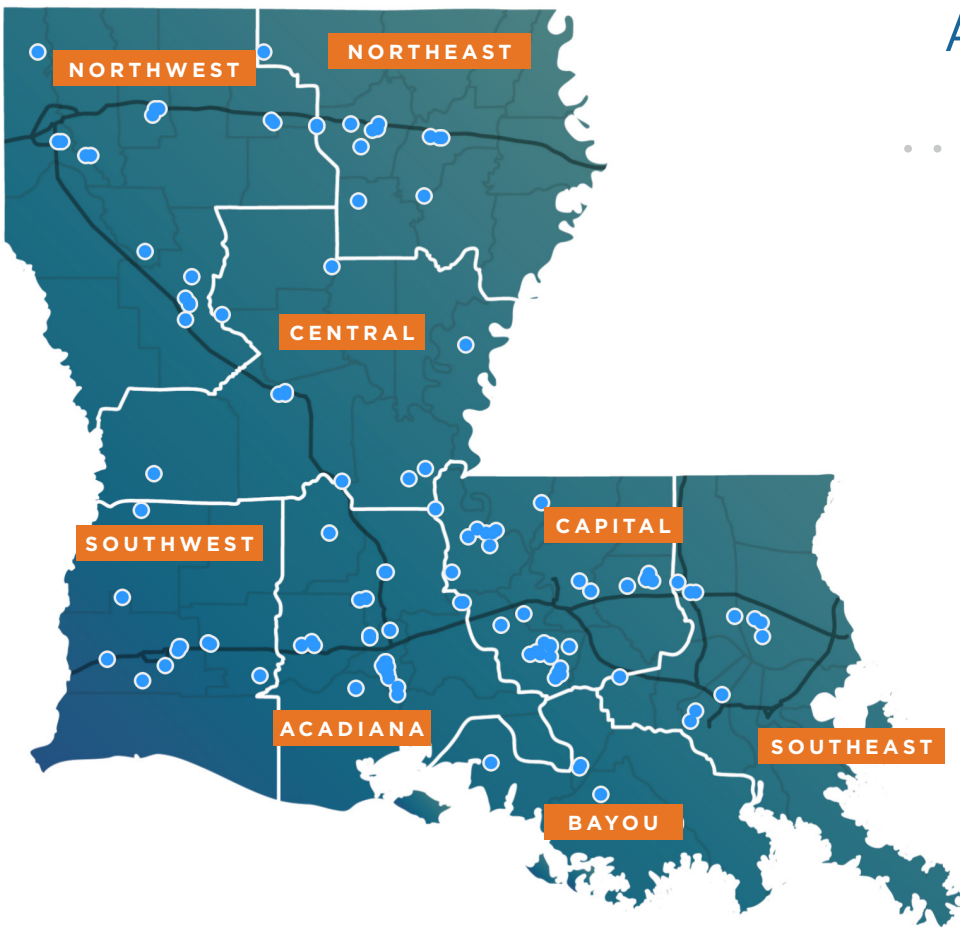
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 88 projects representing over \$93 billion USD in new investment and more than 12,950 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of April 24, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 176 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$247.6 billion and the potential to create more than 48,465 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 167 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 \$423 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

Key Takeaways

- **Continued claims are trending downward**
 - Louisiana Realtors data shows an average of ~3,472 pending sales vs. ~3,230 last year.
 - That's a meaningful year-over-year lift (~7–8%), which points to stronger underlying housing demand
- **Initial claims have stabilized at lower levels**
 - Several months (April, May, July in particular) show clear outperformance vs. prior year, suggesting sustained buyer activity rather than a short-term bounce.
- **Recent weeks show modest improvement in claims trends**
 - The max monthly pending sales reached 4,355 vs. 3,866 prior year.
 - The market is capable of stronger upside bursts, a good sign heading into peak seasons
- **Labor market conditions appear steady, not volatile**
- **No sharp spikes in claims activity in the latest period.**
- **This kind of pattern typically reflects a stable labor environment, even if growth is modest.**

To address the alignment of the supply of and demand for workers in industrial manufacturing, both current and future, Area Development developed the Manufacturing Talent Pipeline Index, a predictive workforce competitiveness tool. The Index tells manufacturers - and site selectors - where talent is being created, not just counted, where workforce systems are aligned with industrial demand, and where long-term hiring risk is lowest. The following table lists the top 10 rankings for the Index based on 2025 data.

Source: areadevelopment.com

Louisiana ranks 9th in the first edition of this index. This high score reflects:

- **High volume of industry-relevant credentials:** Louisiana consistently produces large numbers of graduates in hands-on, middle-skill fields like process technology, industrial maintenance, and welding.
- **Tight alignment between employers and training programs:** Systems like LED FastStart and LCTCS ensure training is built around real company needs, not generic curricula, so workers are job-ready faster.
- **Proven ability to scale workforce quickly for projects:** Louisiana's workforce infrastructure is designed to respond quickly to new industrial investments, reducing hiring risk and ramp-up time for manufacturers.

Table 1. Manufacturing Talent Pipeline Index				
Rank	State	2025 Skilled Trade & Engineer Openings	2025 Fresh Talent Pool	Talent Pipeline Score
1	Kentucky	401,266	19,213	96
2	Alabama	463,634	9,947	95
3	Wyoming	64,161	2,012	91
4	Arkansas	266,338	6,390	90
5	Kansas	271,392	6,809	87
6	Indiana	695,586	12,987	86
7	Georgia	792,129	19,479	85
8	Oklahoma	324,241	8,557	84
9	Louisiana	362,589	10,040	83
10	Mississippi	239,740	4,803	82

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 do not depend upon the eligibility for or receipt of unemployment insurance benefits.

The following tables include estimates from the March 2026 survey for employment and unemployment in the U.S., and Louisiana, including reasons for and duration of employment. The table comes from CPS microdata, is not seasonally adjusted, and will differ from official LAUS estimates for methodological reasons. For Louisiana, the number of respondents for each category is in parentheses and is not in thousands.

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 1), we smooth out week-to-week volatility to better isolate the underlying trend.

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

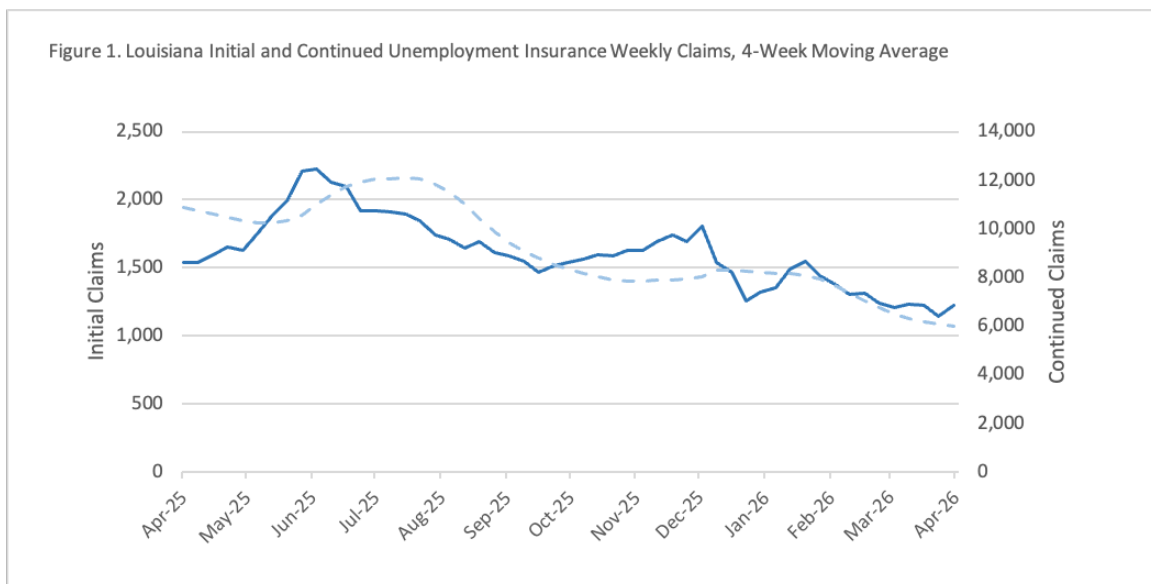


Table 2. CPS Labor Force Estimates for the U.S., 2026:Q1, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in Thousands)

Household Employment Situation	Mar-26	Feb-26	Jan-26	Mar-25	Change		
					Feb-to-Mar	Jan-to-Feb	YoY
Employed	162,764	162,153	161,670	163,412	0.4%	0.3%	-0.4%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%	4.2%	-0.4	0.0%	0.1
Unemployed, by reason							
Job losers and temporary jobs lost to completion	3,626	4,090	4,109	3,552	-11.3%	-0.5%	2.1%
Job leaver	887	870	1,038	858	2.0%	-16.2%	3.4%
Re-entrant	2,215	2,363	2,130	2,155	-6.3%	10.9%	2.8%
New entrant	610	729	664	677	-16.3%	9.8%	-9.9%
Unemployed, by duration				7,242			
Less than 5 weeks	1,838	2,198	2,570	2,085	-16.4%	-14.5%	-11.8%
5 to 14 weeks	2,157	2,540	2,315	2,338	-15.1%	9.7%	-7.7%
15 to 26 weeks	1,422	1,344	1,211	1,220	5.8%	11.0%	16.6%
27 weeks and over	1,919	1,969	1,847	1,599	-2.5%	6.6%	20.0%
Total (Unemployed)	7,337	8,052	7,942	7,242	-8.9%	1.4%	1.3%

Table 3. CPS Labor Force Estimates for Louisiana, 2026:Q1, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in Thousands)

CPS Estimates	Mar-26	Feb-26	Jan-26	Mar-25	Change		
					Feb-to-Mar	Jan-to-Feb	YoY
Labor Force							
Employed	1,929.3 (777)	1,934.1 (857)	1,880.6 (806)	1,999.8 (2,218)	-0.2%	2.8%	-3.5%
Unemployed, experienced	86.8 (31)	86 (36)	75.7 (26)	95.9 (95)	1.0%	13.5%	-9.4%
Unemployed, new worker	23.4 (8)	13.4 (5)	10.1 (4)	10.1 (8)	74.6%	33.0%	131.6%
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.9%	4.4%	5.0%	0.5	0.5	0.4
Total (LF)	2,039.5	2,033.5	1,966.4	2,105.8	0.3%	3.4%	-3.1%
Total (Unemployed)	110.2	99.4	85.8	105.9	11.0%	15.8%	4.0%
Reason for Unemployment							
Job loser - on layoff	12.9 (4)	9.2 (5)	17.3 (5)	4.6 (7)	40.9%	-46.9%	183.2%
Other job loser	13.9 (5)	30.4 (11)	29.2 (9)	27.4 (27)	-54.2%	4.1%	-49.2%
Temporary job ended	10.5 (4)	11.8 (5)	3.9 (2)	4.4 (5)	-11.5%	200.7%	135.4%
Job leaver	8.1 (3)	12.4 (6)	7.7 (3)	18.9 (18)	-34.2%	59.5%	-57.0%
Re-entrant	41.4 (15)	22.1 (9)	17.5 (7)	40.5 (38)	86.8%	26.4%	2.1%
New entrant	23.4 (8)	13.4 (5)	10.1 (4)	10.1 (8)	74.7%	33.0%	131.6%
Unemployed, by duration							
Less than 5 weeks	26.8 (8)	30 (14)	35.4 (13)	46 (45)	-10.3%	-15.4%	-41.7%
5 to 14 weeks	34.9 (14)	20.1 (9)	15.9 (6)	30.3 (27)	73.4%	26.5%	15.2%
15 to 26 weeks	4.7 (3)	11.1 (5)	3.1 (1)	4.9 (6)	-57.8%	261.8%	-5.7%
27 weeks and over	43.8 (14)	38.2 (13)	31.4 (10)	24.7 (25)	14.6%	21.7%	77.5%

2. COMMODITIES

Key Takeaways

- **Energy prices are currently elevated due to global supply disruptions tied to the Iran conflict and constraints in the Strait of Hormuz.**
- These elevated prices are supporting revenue conditions for energy producers, though they are driven by temporary geopolitical factors rather than underlying market fundamentals.

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

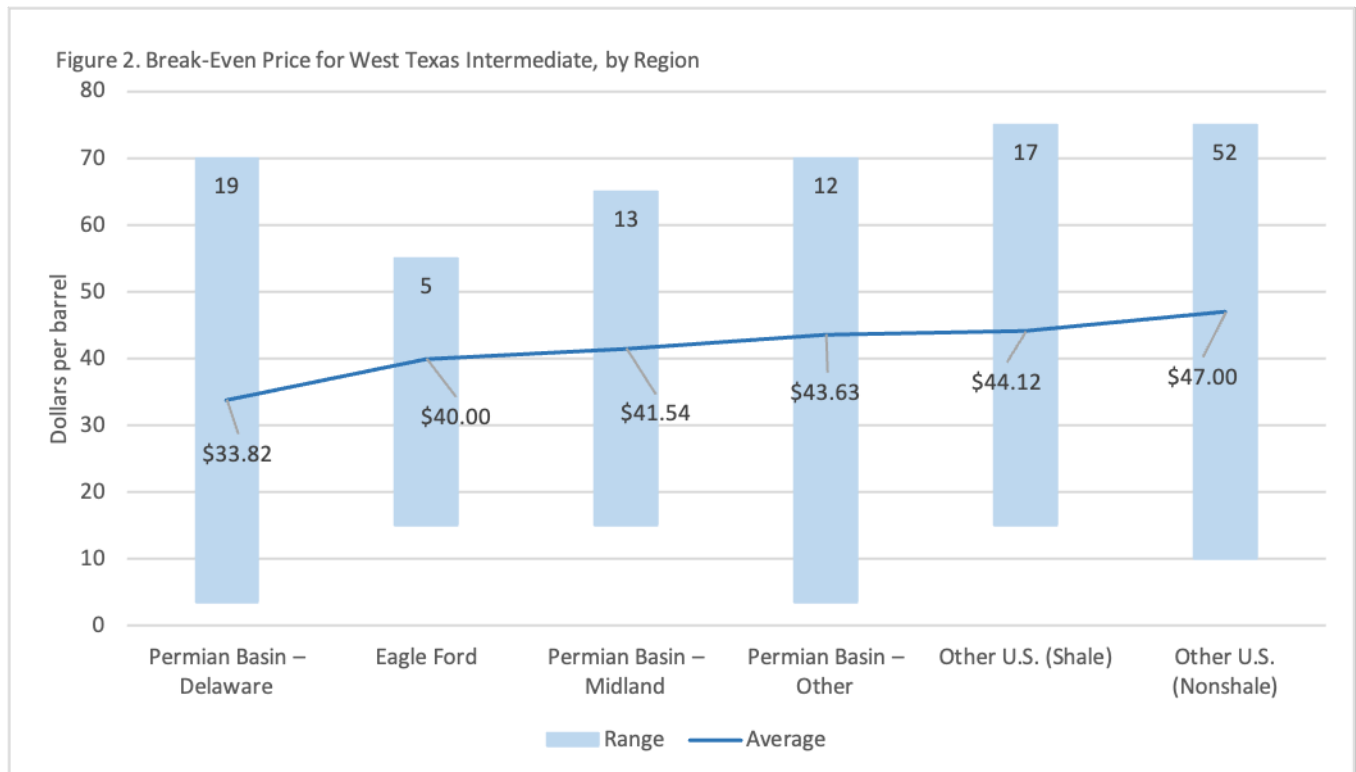
Table 4. Energy Commodities, Weekly							
Commodity	4/17/26	4/10/26	3/20/26	4/18/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$114.43	\$124.61	\$111.40	\$67.76	-8.2%	2.7%	68.9%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$93.84	\$104.54	\$96.07	\$62.92	-10.2%	-2.3%	49.1%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	\$2.77	\$2.85	\$3.11	\$3.26	-2.8%	-10.9%	-15.0%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	\$3.89	\$3.96	\$3.79	\$3.02	-1.8%	2.6%	28.8%

Table 5. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of April 23, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeansx	\$1,161.04	\$11.61	\$/Bu	-0.3%	-0.2%	0.5%	10.3%
Wheat	\$602.27	\$6.02	\$/Bu	0.5%	0.6%	2.0%	13.8%
Lumber	\$582.06	\$5.82	\$/MBF	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.6%	1.0%
Palm Oil	\$4,579.00	\$45.79	\$/MT	-1.1%	2.3%	2.2%	13.5%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$13.84	\$0.14	\$/Lb	0.3%	0.3%	-12.9%	-22.8%
Coffee	\$295.38	\$2.95	\$/Lb	2.2%	1.8%	-7.0%	-27.1%
Corn	\$454.21	\$4.54	\$/Bu	0.1%	1.2%	-1.9%	-4.9%
Rice	\$11.03	\$0.11	\$/CWT	-0.8%	1.6%	0.2%	-16.0%
Orange Juice	\$169.87	\$1.70	\$/Lb	-1.9%	-5.5%	-2.1%	-33.8%

The Dallas Fed conducts a quarterly survey of about 200 oil and gas firms located or headquartered in the Eleventh District— northern Louisiana, Texas, and southern New Mexico—which operate regionally, nationally or internationally. The first quarter survey included special questions such as “*In the top two areas in which your firm is active, what West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil price does your firm need to cover operating expenses for existing wells?*”

The following figure presents the results from this survey. The average price for each region is listed and is the line in the figure, and the number of respondents is at the top of each bar. The bar represents the range of prices quoted by the respondents.

Source: dallasfed.org



Dallas Fed Energy Survey

3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

Key Takeaways

- **Statewide pending sales are running ahead of last year**
 - Louisiana Realtors data shows an average of ~3,472 pending sales vs. ~3,230 last year.
 - That’s a meaningful year-over-year lift (~7–8%), which points to stronger underlying housing demand
- **Consistent YoY gains across multiple months**
 - Several months (April, May, July in particular) show clear outperformance vs. prior year, suggesting sustained buyer activity rather than a short-term bounce.
- **Peak activity levels are higher than last year**
 - The max monthly pending sales reached 4,355 vs. 3,866 prior year.
 - The market is capable of stronger upside bursts, a good sign heading into peak seasons
- **Regional markets showing pockets of strength**
 - Areas like Baton Rouge and Southwest Louisiana show solid volumes and periods of growth.
 - Even where growth isn’t uniform, the pattern is mixed-to-positive rather than broadly negative

Louisiana Realtors® produces monthly reports on local market updates for the state and its regions. The following figures illustrate state and regional pending sales mapped against the Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI) for the U.S. and the South, by month. For Louisiana Realtors®, pending home sales includes accepted contract offers, and for the National Association of Realtors®, pending homes sales is based on signed real estate contracts. A PHSI index of 100 is equal to the average level of contract activity during 2001, the first year to be analyzed. Moreover, 2001 was the first of four consecutive record years for existing home sales and NAR considers 2001 sales are fairly close to the higher level of home sales expected in the coming decade relative to the norms experienced in the mid-1990s. As such, an index of 100 coincides with a historically high level of home sales activity. Note: March 2026 PHSI is preliminary and February 2026 is revised.

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.

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

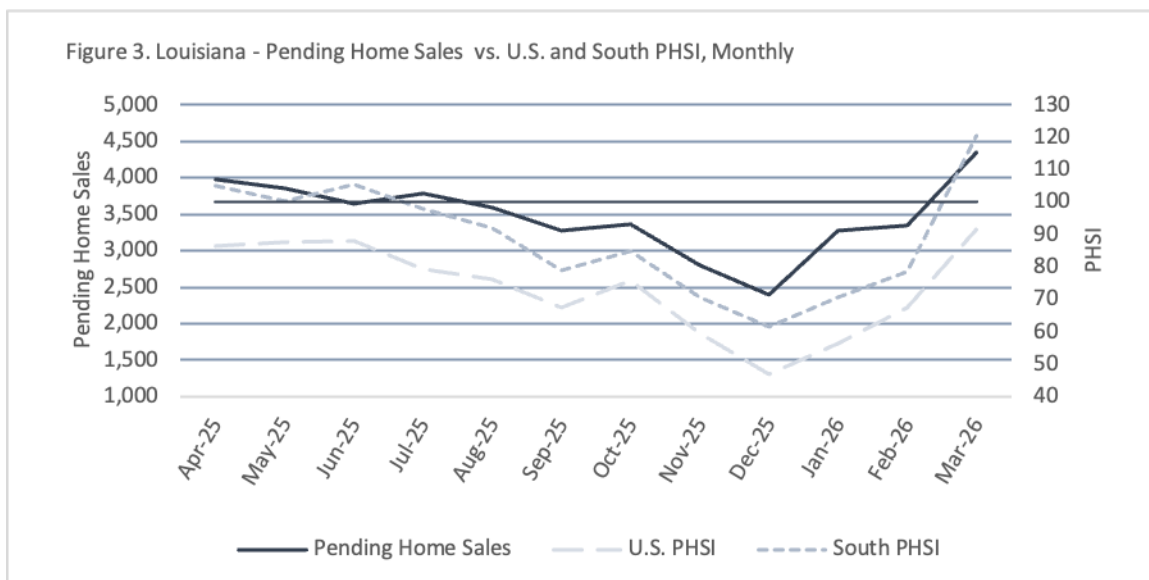
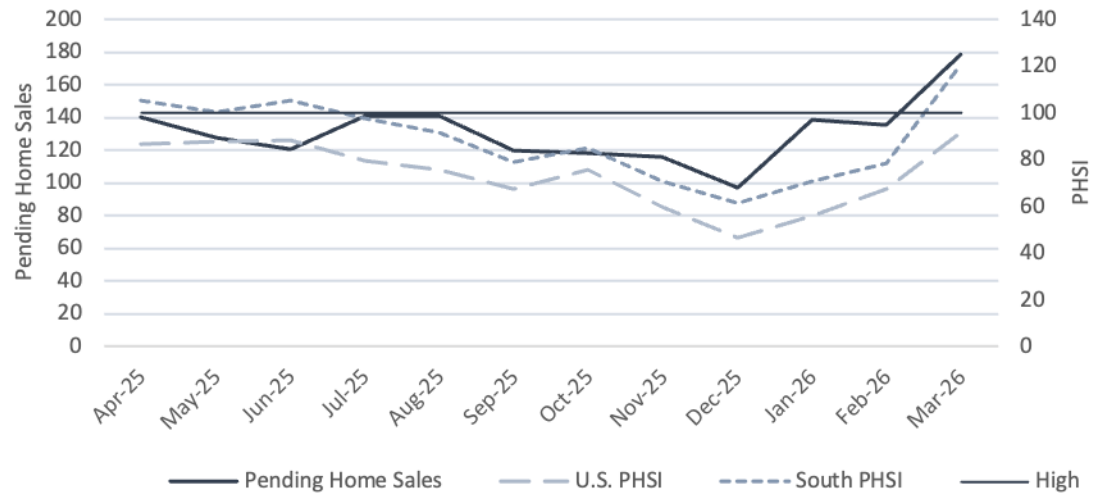
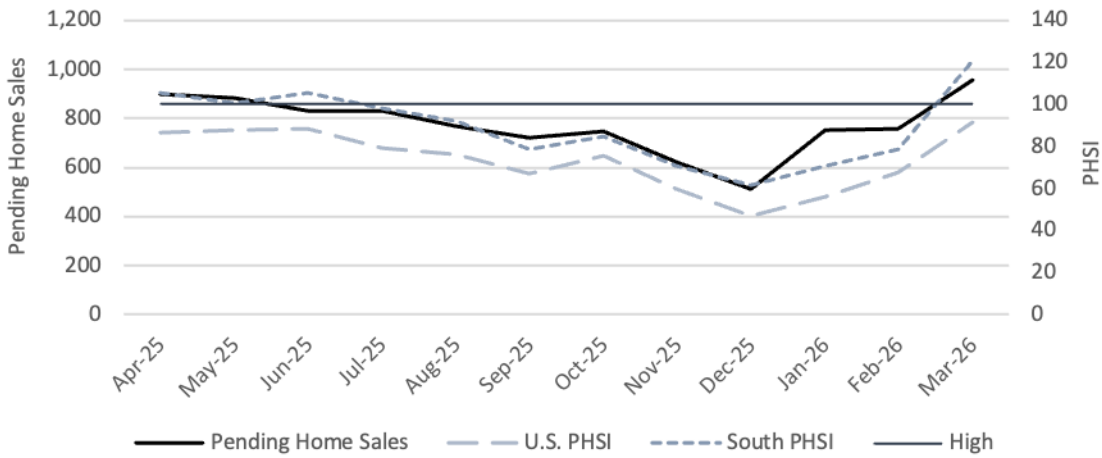


Figure 4. Bayou Board of REALTORS® - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



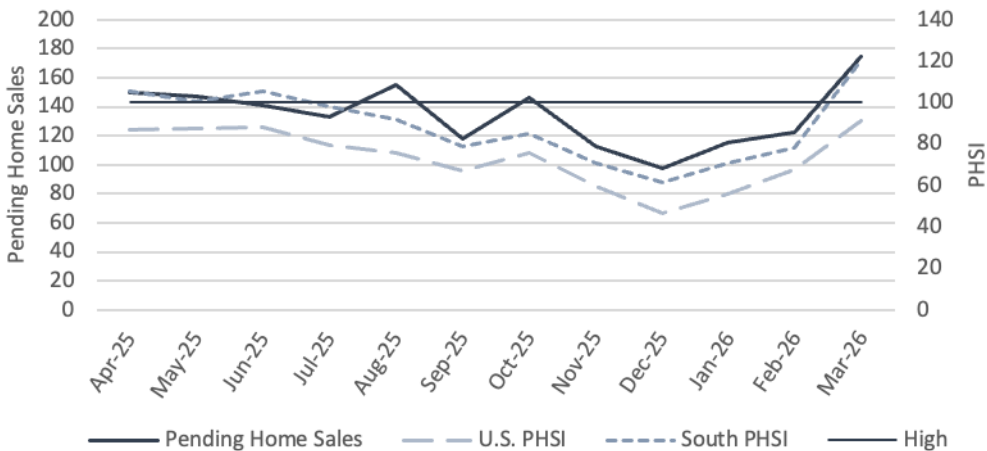
Bayou Board of REALTORS® - Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, Terrebonne

Figure 5. Greater Baton Rouge Association of REALTORS® - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



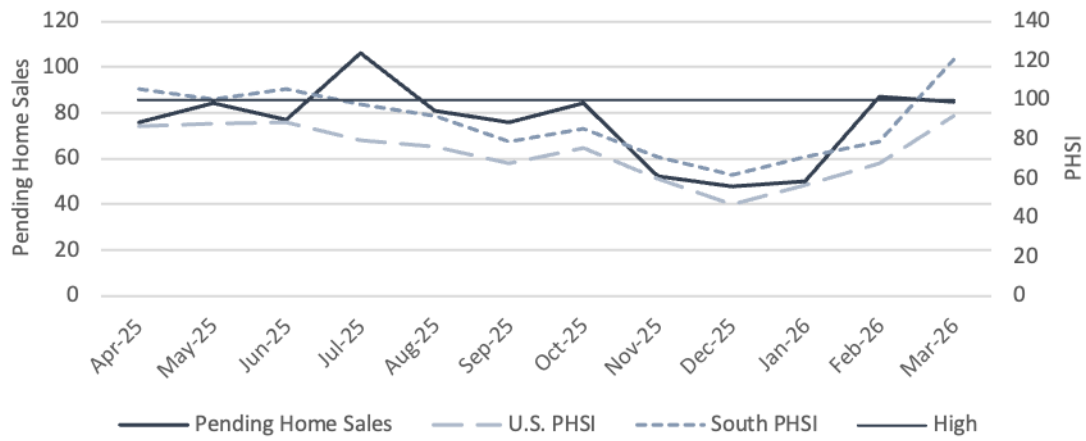
Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors® - Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana

Figure 6. Greater Central Louisiana Realtors® Association - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



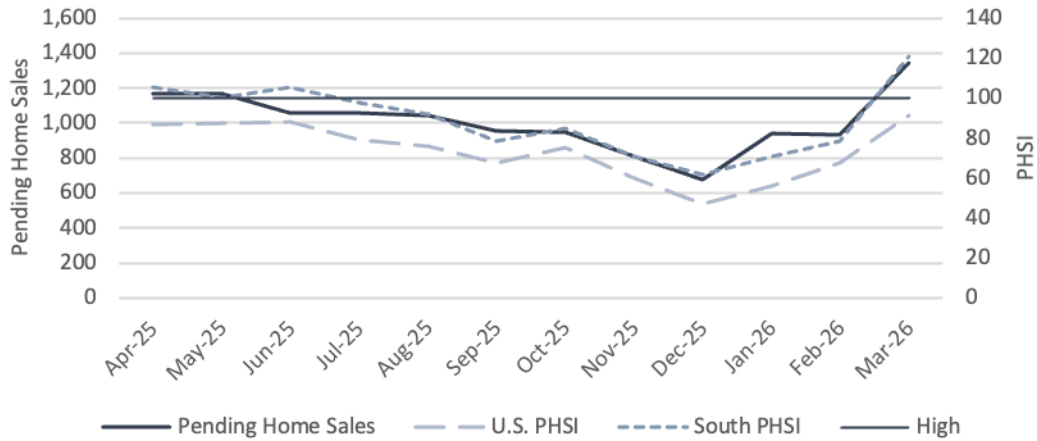
Greater Central Louisiana Realtors® Association - Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Evangeline, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Winn

Figure 7. Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors® - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



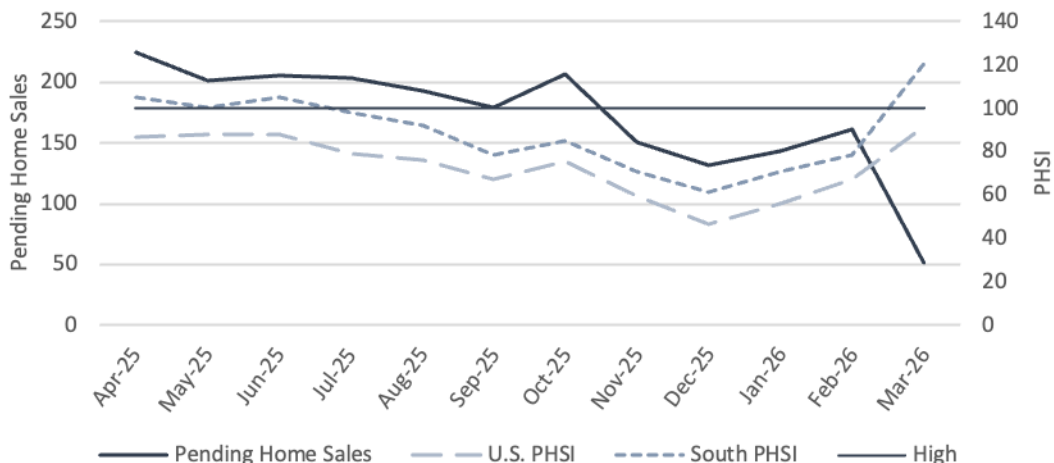
Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors® - Beauregard, Sabine, Vernon

Figure 8. New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors® - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



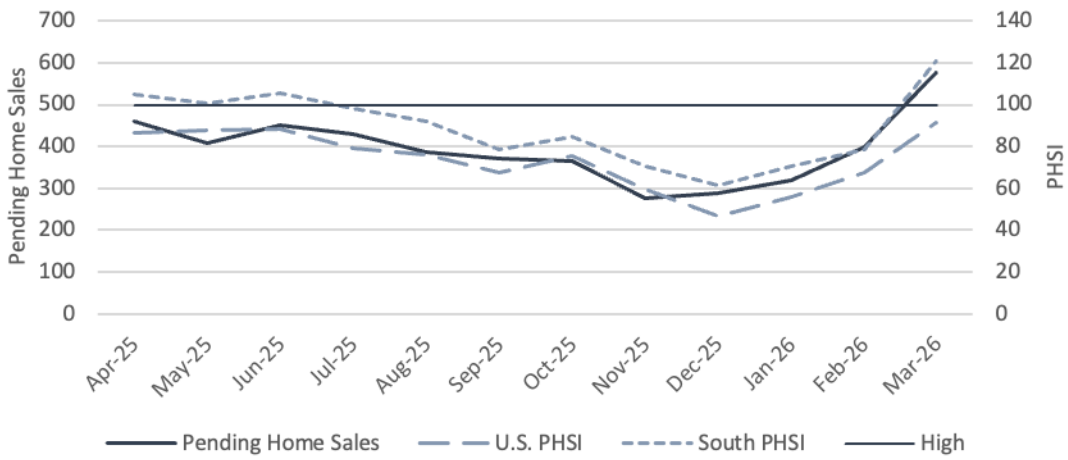
New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors® - Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John

Figure 9. Northeast Realtors® of Louisiana - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



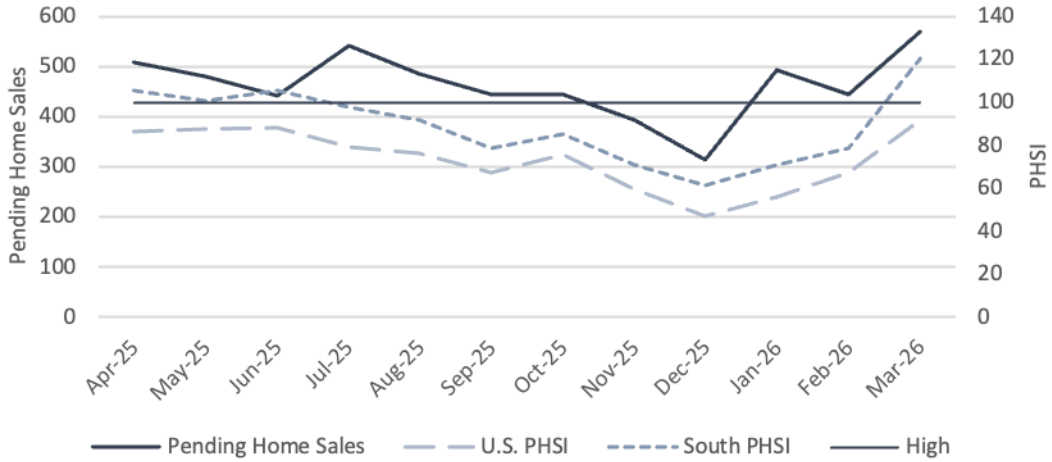
Northeast Realtors® of Louisiana - Caldwell, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

Figure 10. Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors® - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



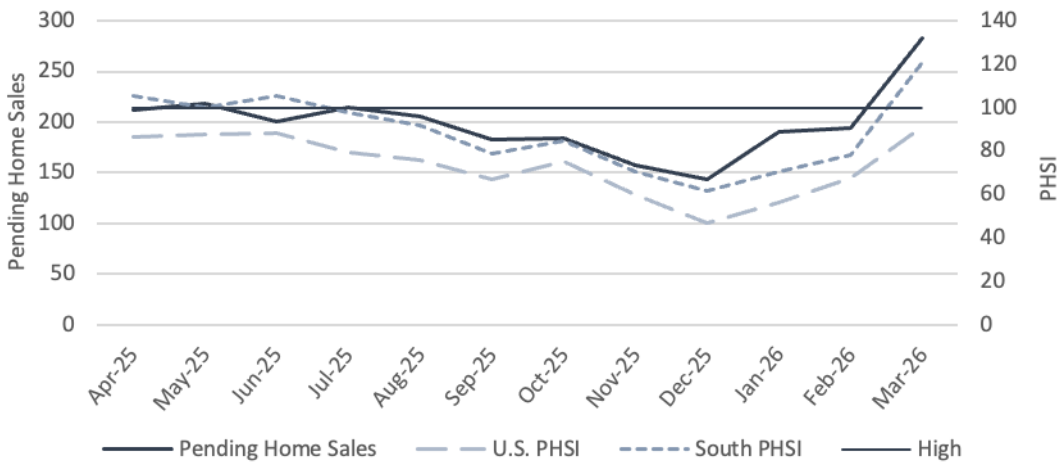
Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors® - Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Webster

Figure 11. Realtor® Association of Acadiana - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



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

Figure 12. Southwest Louisiana Association of Realtors® - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



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

4. PORTS

Key Takeaways

- **Exports remain historically strong despite slight YoY softness**
 - The current 7-day average is still over 105K, which is a high absolute level of throughput.
 - Even though it's modestly below last year, the gap isn't large—suggesting relative stability rather than a drop-off.
 - There are notable spikes mid-week (tanker activity), indicating episodic strength in energy-related exports.
- **Mid-week export surge shows momentum in key commodities:**
 - Large tanker movements on April 13–14 pushed volumes significantly higher.
 - That kind of concentrated activity typically reflects strong demand cycles rather than baseline weakness.
- **Imports showing signs of reactivation**
 - Early week is quiet, but activity picks up by April 14, breaking a flat trend.
 - The moving average begins to lift off zero, which is important—it signals re-engagement in inbound trade flows.
- **Vessel arrivals trending in line with (and occasionally above) last year**
 - While averages are slightly below prior year overall, daily comparisons show multiple days exceeding 2025 levels.
 - This suggests port traffic is competitive with last year on a day-to-day basis, even if averages lag slightly.
- **Operational consistency across the week**
 - No major volatility or collapse in any category—flows are steady and predictable, which is a positive from a logistics and planning standpoint.
 - Stability like this is often a leading indicator of resilience, especially in uncertain trade environments.

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

Exports

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

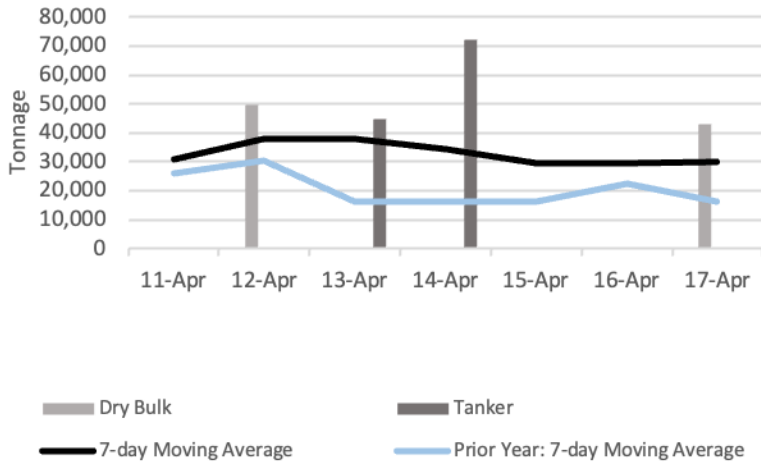


Figure 14. New Orleans Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

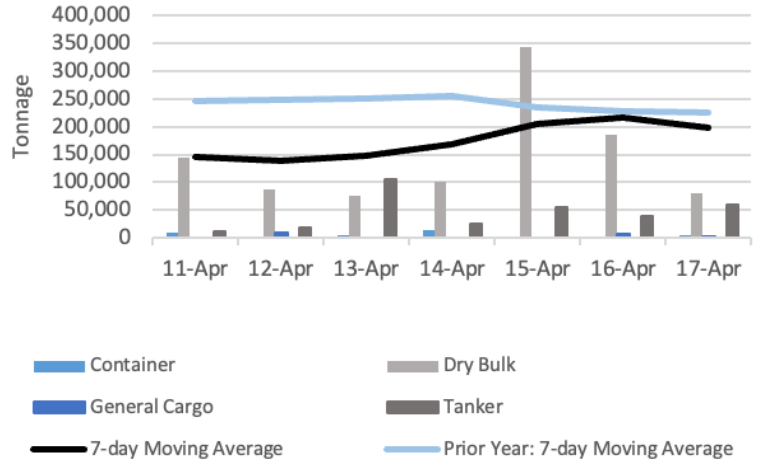


Figure 15. South Louisiana Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

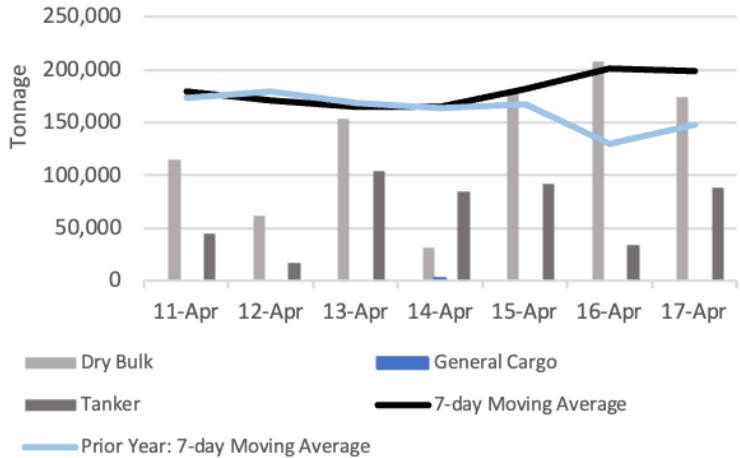


Figure 16. Lake Charles Port Export, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

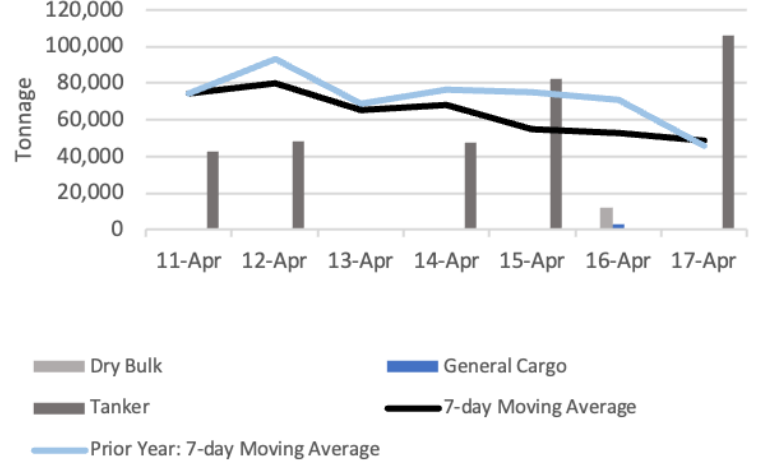
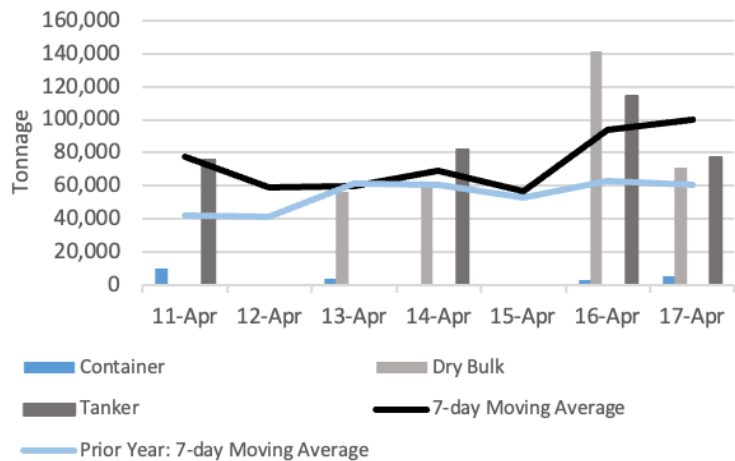


Figure 17. Plaquemines Port Exports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)



Imports

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

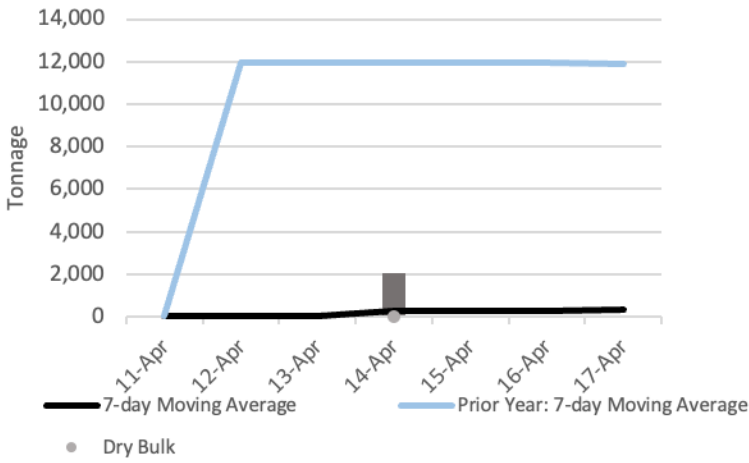


Figure 19. New Orleans Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

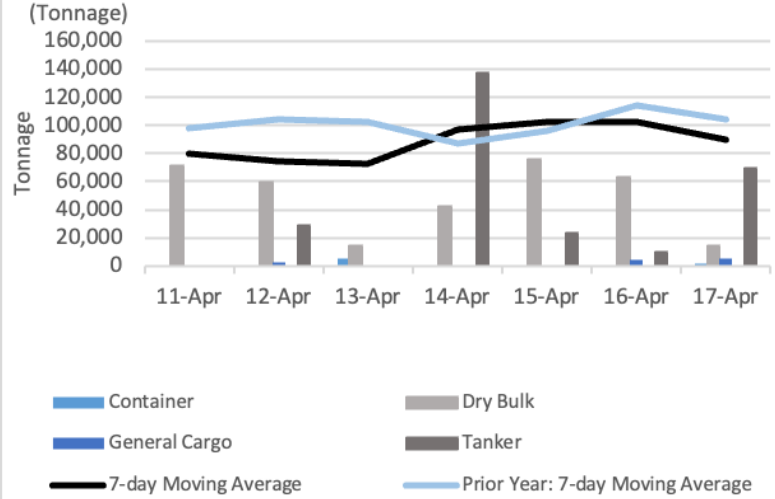


Figure 20. South Louisiana Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

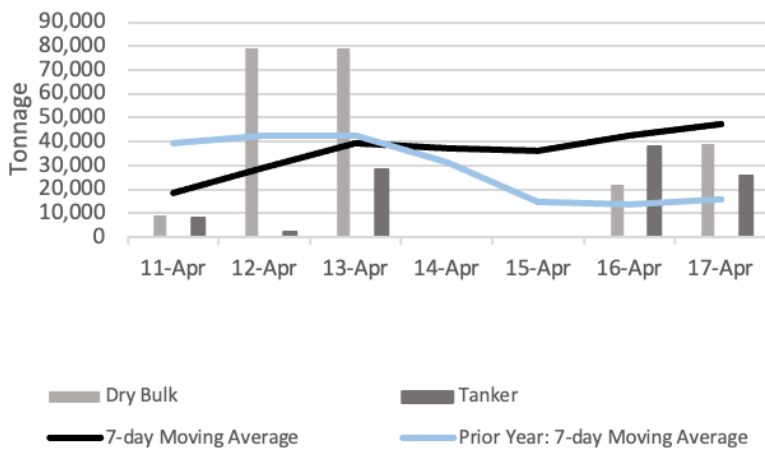


Figure 21. Lake Charles Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)

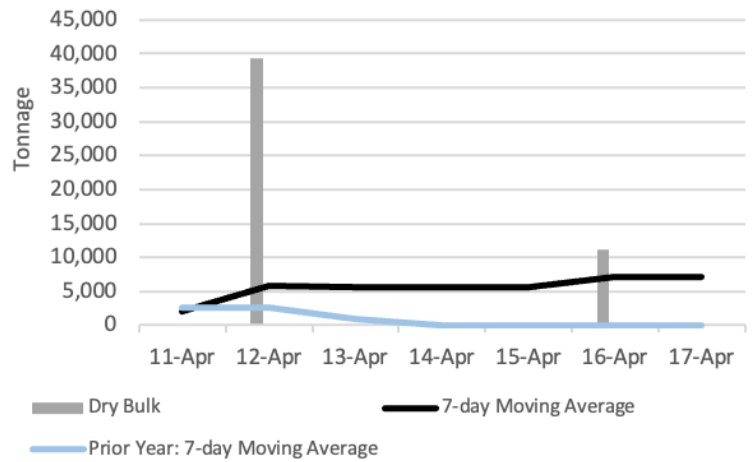
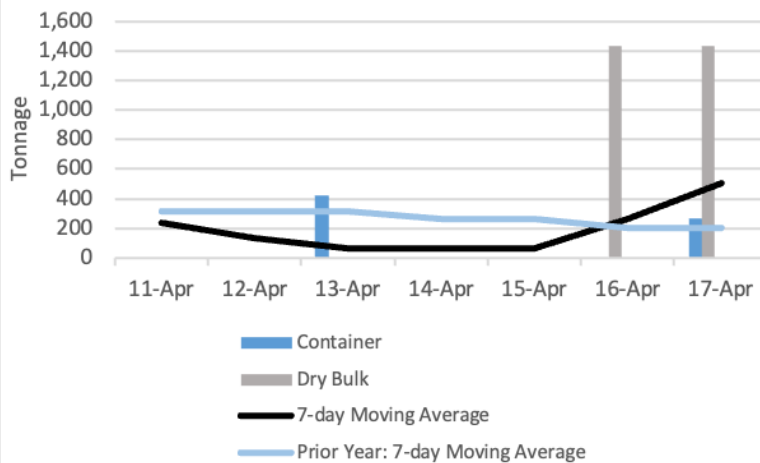


Figure 22. Plaquemines Port Imports, by Type of Vessel (Tonnage)



Vessel Arrivals

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

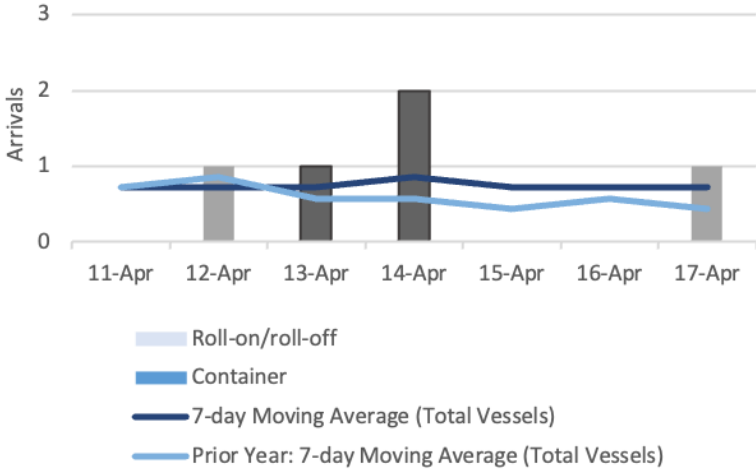


Figure 24. New Orleans Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

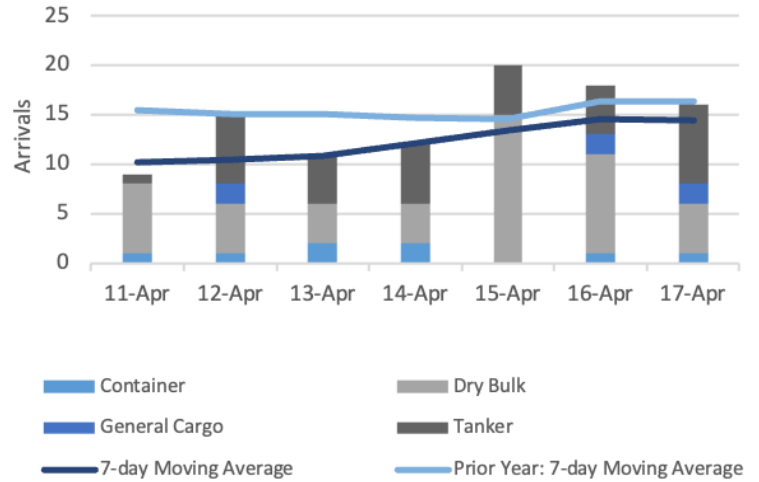


Figure 25. South Louisiana Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

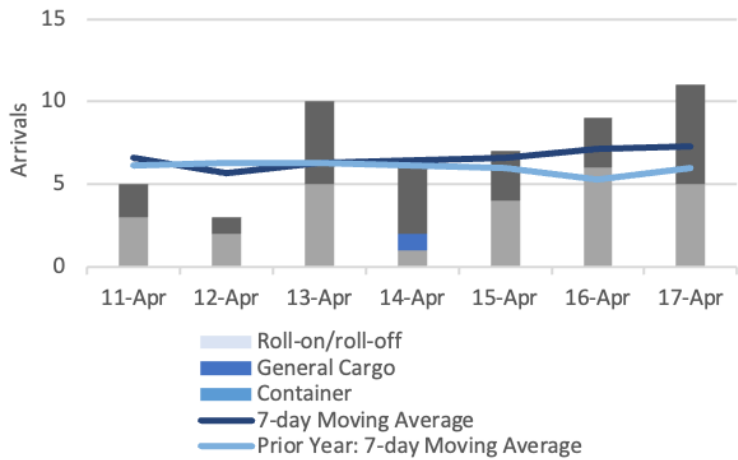


Figure 26. Lake Charles Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel

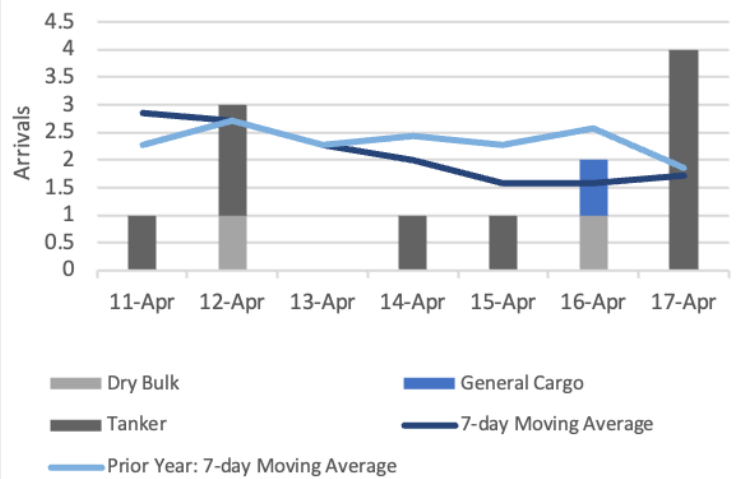
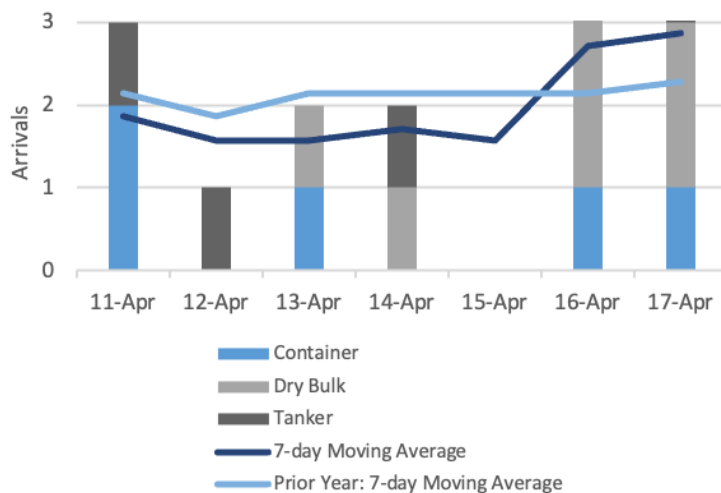


Figure 27. Plaquemines Port Arrivals, by Type of Vessel



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