

# Louisiana Economic Vitals Friday, May 1, 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:

[Louisiana Talent Behind Artemis II, Student Success Highlight of April Meeting](#)

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Joint Statement from the Governor and Secretary on LIV Golf Louisiana](#)

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana Lands Major Nuclear Manufacturing Expansion with Turner Industries](#)

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Joint Statement from the Governor and Secretary: Proposed Cleco Transaction](#)

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Davis Timber Company Expands Operations, Building on 40 Years in Louisiana](#)

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

[Woodside Tugboat Contract Boosts Louisiana Spend to More Than \\$1 Billion](#)

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[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

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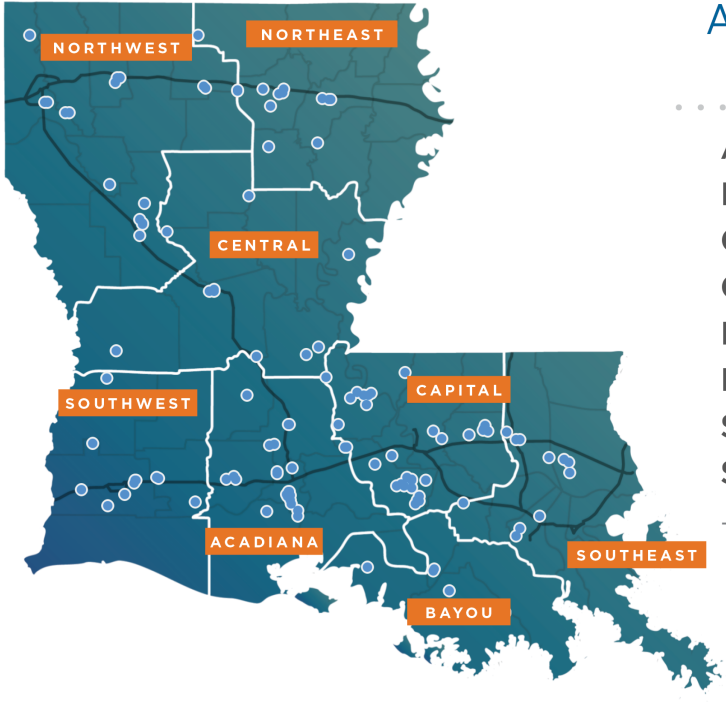
# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 91 projects representing over \$93 billion USD in new investment and more than 13,960 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 \$251.2 billion and the potential to create more than 50,155 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 126 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.



## Active Certified Sites by Region

Acadiana . . . . .	26
Bayou . . . . .	6
Capital . . . . .	22
Central . . . . .	9
Northeast . . . . .	14
Northwest . . . . .	17
Southeast . . . . .	18
Southwest . . . . .	14

TOTAL 126

# LOUISIANA COMPETES NOW

## *Louisiana ranks #3 in nation for new business survival rate*

A new study has ranked Louisiana as one of the best states for first-year business survival.

- The study done by LendingTree found that 19.6% of Louisiana businesses fail within one year, the third-lowest in the nation
- The national average is 22.1% failure

Louisiana's Competitive Position:

- Louisiana trails only Washington and South Carolina for lowest first-year failure rates
- This places the state among the nation's leaders in early-stage business success
- Louisiana performs best in the critical first year

Industry Insight:

- Lower failure rates: agriculture, forestry, accommodation, food services
- Higher failure rates: administrative, waste, and professional/technical services

Bottom Line:

- Louisiana is a strong state to launch a business
- Early survival is a competitive advantage
- Long-term success depends on core business fundamentals

Source: [lendingtree.com](http://lendingtree.com)

# 1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The following figures illustrate Louisiana's labor market at a glance. Labor force participation rates (LFPR)- the percentage of adults in Louisiana's economy who are either employed or who are unemployed and looking for a job - are illustrated monthly in addition to the number of adults in the labor force, the number of adults employed and unemployed, and monthly unemployment rates - the percentage of adults who are in the labor force and thus seeking jobs, but who do not have jobs - for Louisiana. The employment-population ratio for Louisiana - the percentage of the adult population that has a job, indicating how fully the population is engaged in employment - is also illustrated. The data is seasonally adjusted and October 2025 figures are not available due to the lapse in appropriations.

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

## Key Takeaways

- **Engagement in the labor force is improving. Louisiana's labor force has increased consistently from almost 2.10M in September 2025 to about 2.12M by February 2026. At the same time, the labor force participation rate ticked up from 58.2% to 58.7%, signaling more people entering or re-entering the workforce.**
- **Employment grew from almost 2.01M to 2.026M over the period, but unemployment also increased (from 89K to almost 92K), pushing the unemployment rate from 4.2% to 4.3%. This is not weakness, however, it's a growing labor supply outpacing job growth, which is actually a healthy normalization pattern.**
- **Louisiana's labor market is expanding at a controlled pace, with no signs of sharp deterioration or overheating. The employment-population ratio slightly increased from 55.7-percent to 56.2-percent over the period, and the unemployment rate stayed eventually flat at 4.2- to 4.3-percent.**

Figure 1. Louisiana Labor Force Participation Rate, by Month

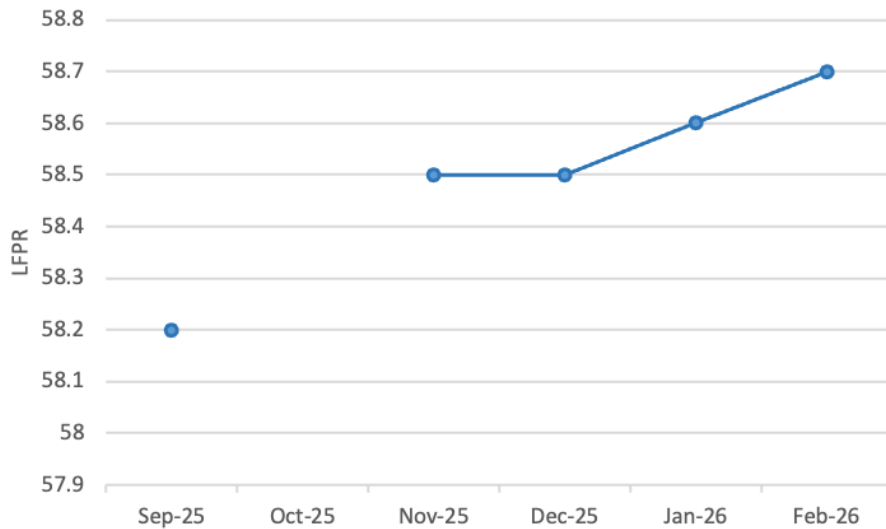


Figure 2. Louisiana Labor Force, by Month

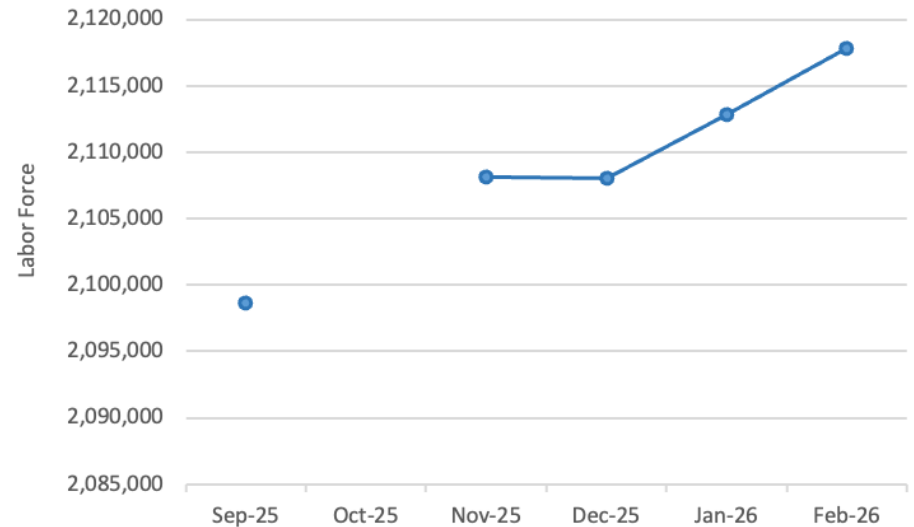


Figure 3. Louisiana Employment, by Month

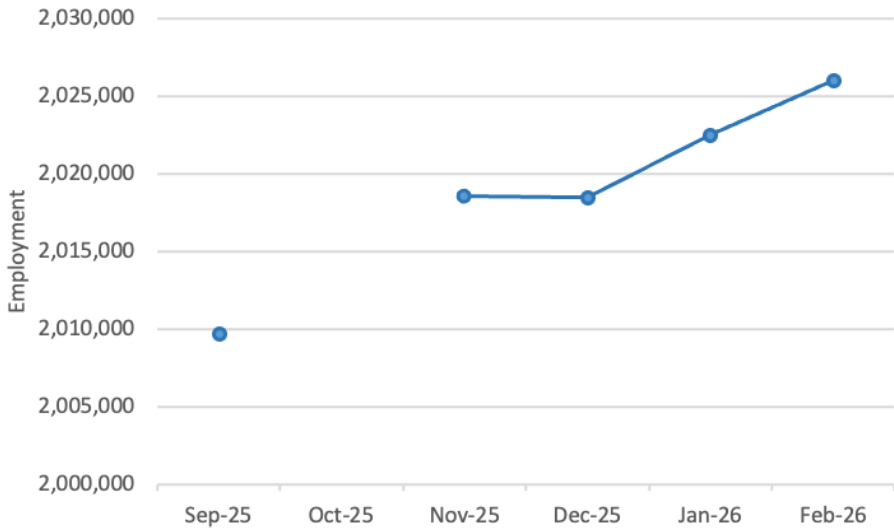


Figure 4. Louisiana Unemployment, by Month

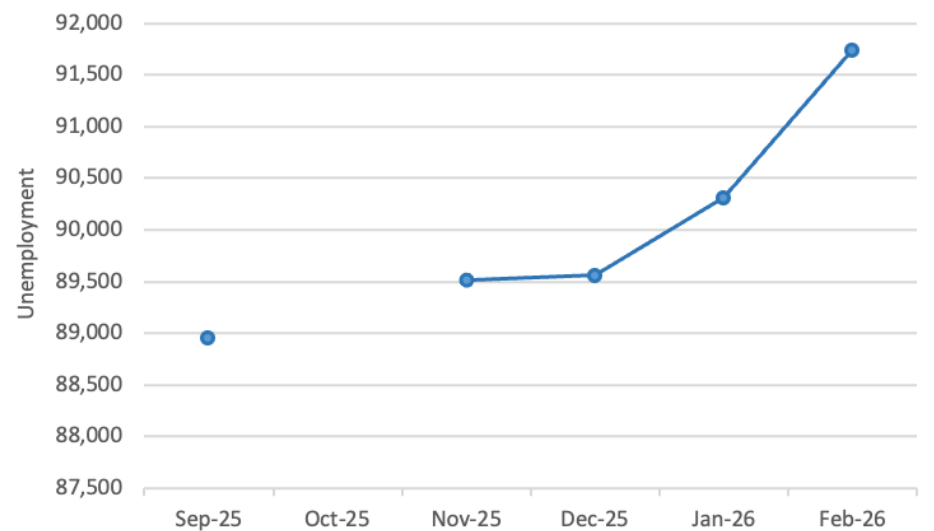


Figure 5. Louisiana Unemployment Rate, by Month

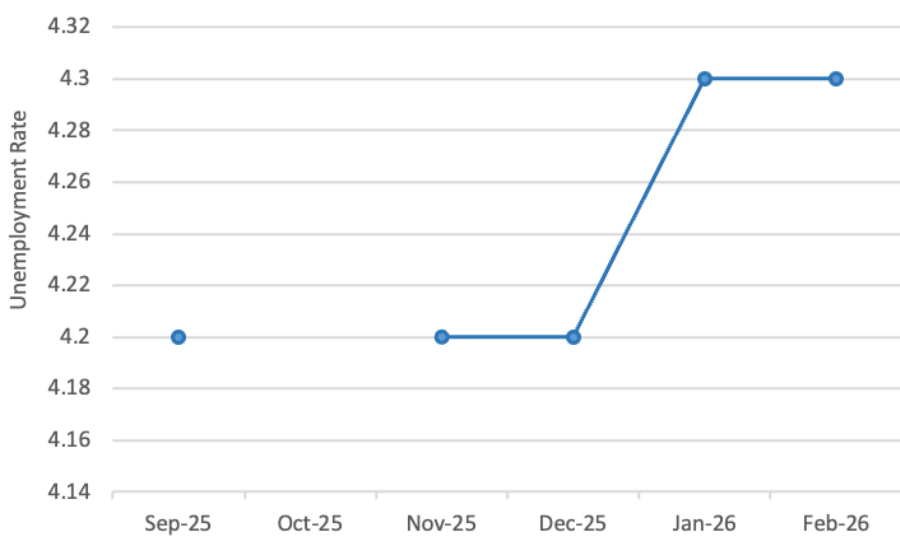
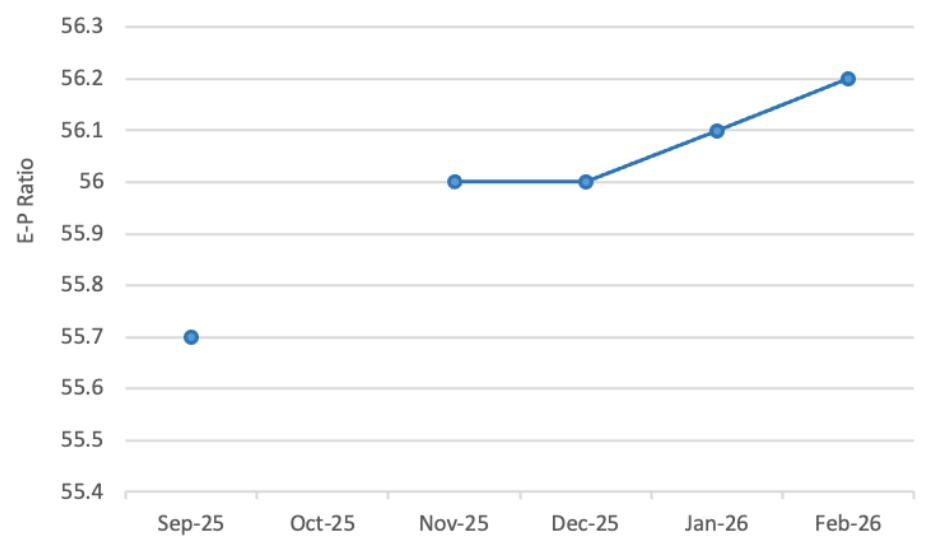


Figure 6. Louisiana Employment-Population Ratio, by Month



## 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)

### Key Takeaways

- Prices remain elevated and sensitive to geopolitical developments, but have avoided extreme swings compared to earlier phases of the conflict, and higher energy prices support Louisiana's oil and gas sector.
- Natural gas trends remain favorable for Louisiana's export strength. Pricing and demand remain relatively solid, especially tied to LNG markets. As a major LNG hub, this supports continued export activity and long-term investment in energy infrastructure for the state.
- Lower or stable construction-related commodities support development. Materials tied to construction (like certain metals or inputs) are not surging the way they were previously.

Table 1. Energy Commodities, Weekly

Commodity	4/24/26	4/17/26	3/27/26	4/25/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$109.62	\$114.43	\$111.24	\$67.92	-4.2%	-1.5%	61.4%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$95.43	\$93.84	\$94.29	\$63.62	1.7%	1.2%	50.0%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	\$2.70	\$2.77	\$2.95	\$3.00	-2.5%	-8.5%	-10.0%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	\$3.95	\$3.89	\$3.81	\$3.01	1.5%	3.7%	31.2%

**Table 2. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of April 30, 2026**

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measure- ment	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,180.92	\$11.81	\$/Bu	-0.1%	1.8%	0.9%	13.5%
Wheat	\$623.92	\$6.24	\$/Bu	-2.8%	2.2%	1.3%	21.1%
Lumber	\$572.05	\$5.72	\$/MBF	0.4%	-2.0%	-6.0%	3.5%
Palm Oil	\$4,570.00	\$45.70	\$/MT	-0.2%	-0.2%	-5.3%	16.9%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$14.63	\$0.15	\$/Lb	-1.0%	5.3%	-5.8%	-14.8%
Coffee	\$285.09	\$2.85	\$/Lb	-1.8%	-5.0%	-4.4%	-27.5%
Corn	\$463.19	\$4.63	\$/Bu	-0.7%	1.7%	1.2%	-0.2%
Rice	\$10.79	\$0.11	\$/CWT	2.3%	-2.0%	5.1%	-15.7%
Orange Juice	\$184.81	\$1.85	\$/Lb	-0.2%	10.1%	-2.7%	-30.3%

### 3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

The following table presents authorized monthly building permits and value-per-unit for new privately owned single-housing units for Louisiana, the U.S., and selected states. The ratio of each state's value-per-unit to the U.S. is also listed. The data is not seasonally adjusted, January 2026 is preliminary, and December 2025 is revised.

Source: [census.gov/econ](https://census.gov/econ) & [census.gov/construction](https://census.gov/construction)

#### Key Takeaways

- Short-term momentum is positive; Single-family housing units in Louisiana jumped 9.1-percent MoM, and value-per-unit also rose 9.2-percent MoM for the state
- Pricing is improving faster than volume and outperforming past positioning; Value-per-unit is up 7.7-percent YoY, indicating resilience and demand strength.
- Louisiana's value relative to the U.S. also improved YoY by 9.1-percent, showing relative competitiveness.

Table 3. New Privately Owned Single-Housing Units Authorized, by U.S. and Selected States									
Region	Jan-26			Dec-25			Jan-25		
	Single Units	Value-per-unit	Region-to-U.S.-value	Single Units	Value-per-unit	Region-to-U.S.-value	Single Units	Value-per-unit	Region-to-U.S.-value
Louisiana	911	\$281	0.93	835	\$257	0.78	967	\$261	0.84
Alabama	1,366	\$292	0.97	1,162	\$285	0.87	1,263	\$285	0.92
Arkansas	741	\$289	0.96	823	\$305	0.93	790	\$291	0.94
Florida	8,296	\$320	1.06	7,578	\$370	1.13	9,747	\$319	1.03
Georgia	3,158	\$279	0.92	2,924	\$283	0.86	3,618	\$282	0.91
Kentucky	513	\$301	1.00	534	\$280	0.85	575	\$286	0.92
Mississippi	570	\$199	0.66	492	\$219	0.67	528	\$211	0.68
Missouri	666	\$336	1.11	716	\$372	1.13	691	\$359	1.16
North Carolina	4,441	\$301	1.00	4,228	\$310	0.95	4,924	\$298	0.96
Oklahoma	950	\$258	0.86	849	\$313	0.95	977	\$268	0.86
South Carolina	3,051	\$330	1.10	2,829	\$335	1.02	3,244	\$310	1.00
Tennessee	2,146	\$258	0.86	2,199	\$308	0.94	2,359	\$315	1.01
Texas	9,580	\$266	0.88	9,209	\$291	0.89	12,179	\$289	0.93
United States	62,034	\$301	1.00	63,639	\$328	1.00	73,115	\$310	1.00

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**Table 3. New Privately Owned Single-Housing Units Authorized, by U.S. and Selected States (Continued)**

Region	Change					
	MoM			YoY		
	Single Units	Value-per-unit	Region-to-U.S.-value	Single Units	Value-per-unit	Region-to-U.S.-value
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>-5.8%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>0.09</b>
Alabama	17.6%	2.4%	0.10	8.2%	2.5%	0.05
Arkansas	-10.0%	-5.0%	0.03	-6.2%	-0.5%	0.02
Florida	9.5%	-13.4%	-0.06	-14.9%	0.4%	0.03
Georgia	8.0%	-1.6%	0.06	-12.7%	-1.0%	0.02
Kentucky	-3.9%	7.7%	0.15	-10.8%	5.2%	0.08
Mississippi	15.9%	-9.2%	-0.01	8.0%	-5.3%	-0.02
Missouri	-7.0%	-9.6%	-0.02	-3.6%	-6.5%	-0.04
North Carolina	5.0%	-2.8%	0.05	-9.8%	1.2%	0.04
Oklahoma	11.9%	-17.4%	-0.10	-2.8%	-3.6%	-0.01
South Carolina	7.8%	-1.4%	0.07	-5.9%	6.7%	0.10
Tennessee	-2.4%	-16.2%	-0.08	-9.0%	-17.9%	-0.16
Texas	4.0%	-8.8%	-0.01	-21.3%	-8.0%	-0.05
United States	-2.5%	-8.1%	0.00	-15.2%	-2.8%	0.00

## 4. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR LOUISIANA & THE U.S.

In Table 4, Louisiana’s gross domestic product (in millions of constant 2017 dollars), personal income (current dollars), and personal income per capita (current dollars) for the fourth quarter of 2025 is provided , and Table 5 presents an advanced (1st) estimate of U.S. real gross domestic product for the first quarter in 2026. Figure 7 illustrates the breakdown of GDP components that contribute to the annualized change (2-percent) in real GDP from 2025:Q4 to 2026:Q1.

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

### Key Takeaways

- Louisiana is growing, although at a relatively modest pace. Real GDP for the state grew about 0.06-percent quarter-over-quarter and 1.34-percent year-over-year for 2025
- Even with relatively slower GDP growth, household income is rising at a healthy pace, which signals improving financial conditions for residents. Personal income in Louisiana rose almost 0.8-percent (QoQ) and 3.98-percent (YoY) in 2025 while per capita income also climbed 4-percent annually.
- Nationally, growth remains driven by consumer spending, even as broader economic conditions remain mixed. Business investment is increasing in the short-run and exports are increasing over the last year, although an increase in imports over the last quarter actually takes away from U.S. GDP.

**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 <sup>1</sup> (dollars)	\$16,163.3	\$16,125.0	\$15,545.3	0.2%	4.0%

<sup>1</sup>Per capita personal income is total personal income divided by total quarterly population estimates. Note. Data are seasonally adjusted. 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.

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

Component	2026:Q1	2025:Q4	2025:Q1	QoQ	YoY
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	\$6,043.6	\$6,013.9	\$5,887.1	0.5%	2.7%
Personal Consumption Expenditures	\$4,182.8	\$4,166.3	\$4,086.5	0.4%	2.4%
Gross Private Domestic Investment	\$1,125.3	\$1,102.1	\$1,137.0	2.1%	-1.0%
Net Exports of Goods & Services	(\$266.9)	(\$242.2)	(\$345.2)	10.2%	-22.7%
Exports	\$692.4	\$671.7	\$664.9	3.1%	4.1%
Imports	(\$959.2)	(\$913.9)	(\$1,010.1)	5.0%	-5.0%
Government Consumption Expenditures & Gross Investment	\$999.9	\$989.3	\$998.5	1.1%	0.1%

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 7. Contribution to Percent Change (2.0 Percent) in Real Gross Domestic Product (Percentage Points), Annualized Rate

