

# Louisiana

## Economic Vitals

### Friday, May 29, 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 MAY 2026 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[Louisiana Launches Rural Tech Catalyst Fund to Advance Rural Health Care Innovation](#)

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

[Central Louisiana Secures \\$3.6 Billion Applied Digital AI Factory Campus](#)

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana Accelerates Industrial Growth at Port of Vinton with FastSites Investment](#)

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

[Shell's Mars Platform Reaches Historic 1 Billion Barrel Milestone in Gulf of America](#)

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Hut 8 Commits \\$16 Million to Expand Water Infrastructure in West Feliciana Parish](#)

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana Surpasses \\$100 Billion in New Investment Following Commonwealth LNG Final Investment Decision](#)

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

[Graduates. Louisiana has a place for you](#)

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

[Spotlight Louisiana Awards Highlight Small Businesses Driving Growth and Innovation](#)

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana Impact Fund Launches cXo Leadership Program to Develop the Next Generation of Louisiana Business Leaders](#)

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

[As Louisiana Grows. So Do Our Businesses](#)

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[American Sugar Refining, Inc. Breaks Ground on First Phase of Modernization Project at Domino® Sugar Chalmette Refinery](#)

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Dr. Christopher Coombs**, Economist, Economic Competitiveness

E: [Christopher.Coombs@la.gov](mailto:Christopher.Coombs@la.gov) T: 225.342.5410



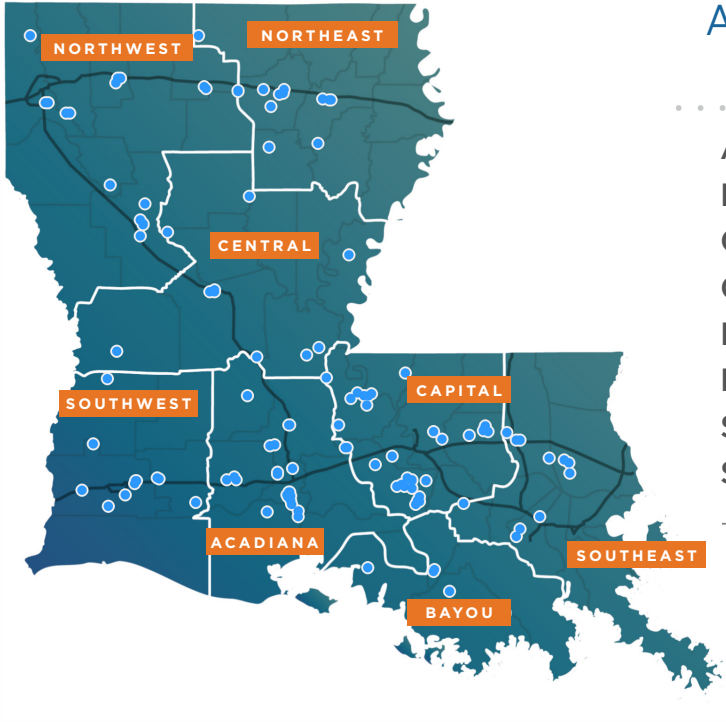
# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 94 projects representing over \$109.9 billion USD in new investment and more than 14,445 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of May 28, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 185 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$333.9 billion and the potential to create more than 52,800 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 39 sites advancing into active commerce. At full build-out, these projects represent more than \$40 billion in capital investment, over 6,600 direct new jobs, and more than \$440 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	26
Bayou	6
Capital	22
Central	9
Northeast	13
Northwest	17
Southeast	18
Southwest	14

TOTAL 125

# 1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces detailed industry estimates of nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings for workers on payrolls. Each month, CES surveys approximately 119,000 businesses and government agencies, representing roughly 622,000 individual worksites.

Table 1 presents total nonfarm employment for Louisiana and selected states for March 2026, April 2026 (preliminary), and April 2025, allowing for both month-over-month and year-over-year comparisons.

Figure 1 displays manufacturing employment trends by state over the past year, indexed to May 2025 = 1.00. The resulting Manufacturing Employment Index illustrates relative employment growth across states over the period.

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

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

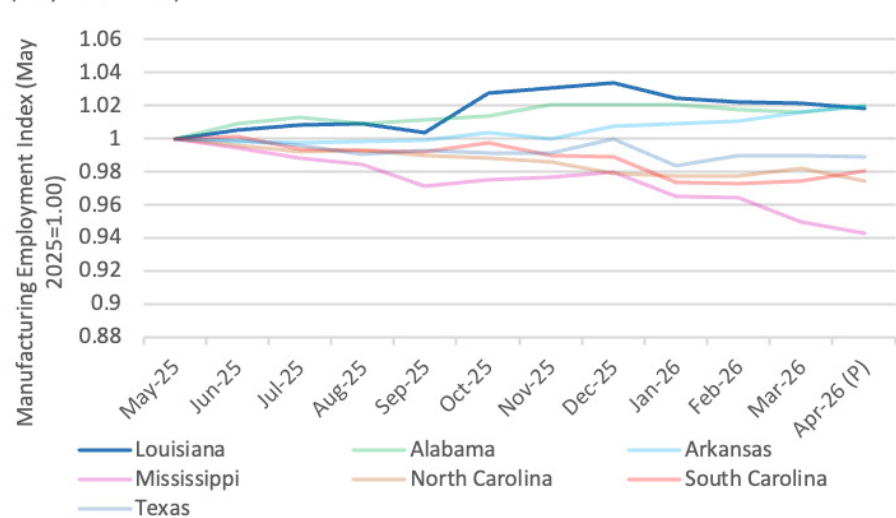
## Key Takeaways

- Louisiana manufacturing employment increased steadily over the past year and outperformed several peer states by April 2026.
- Total nonfarm employment in Louisiana remained relatively stable on a month-over-month basis while showing modest year-over-year growth through April 2026.
- Initial and continued unemployment insurance claims remained near baseline levels during the reporting period, suggesting continued labor market stability despite normal week-to-week fluctuations.

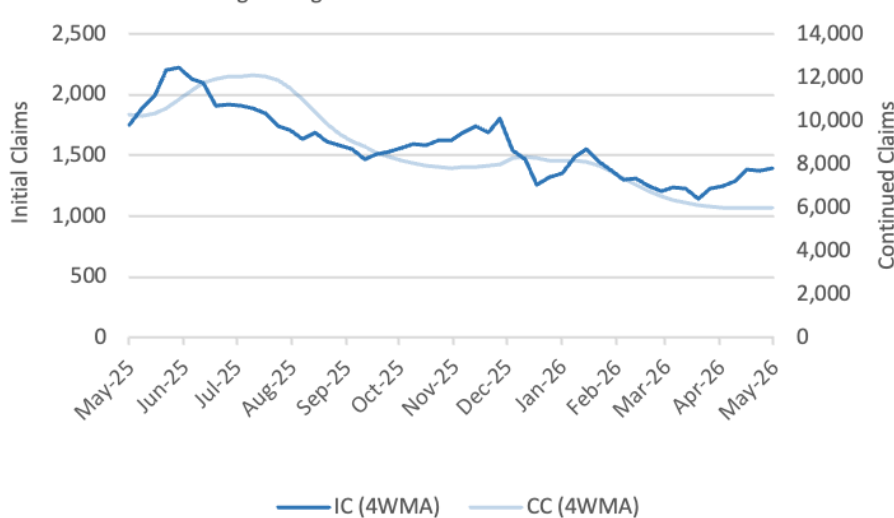
**Table 1. All Employment, Total Nonfarm, by State and Month (in Thousands)**

State	Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	Change	
				MoM	YoY
Alabama	2,211.3	2,198.5	2,198.1	0.6%	0.6%
Arkansas	1,347.4	1,341.6	1,343.9	0.4%	0.3%
Florida	10,070.3	10,011.2	10,074.3	0.6%	0.0%
Georgia	4,990.3	4,976.6	4,993.6	0.3%	-0.1%
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>2,015.1</b>	<b>2,003.4</b>	<b>2,003.6</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Mississippi	1,195.6	1,186.8	1,194.4	0.7%	0.1%
North Carolina	5,101.5	5,062.0	5,056.8	0.8%	0.9%
Oklahoma	1,796.9	1,789.1	1,804.4	0.4%	-0.4%
South Carolina	2,407.0	2,390.0	2,384.5	0.7%	0.9%
Tennessee	3,380.8	3,366.7	3,380.7	0.4%	0.0%
Texas	14,384.5	14,350.5	14,320.4	0.2%	0.4%

**Figure 1. Manufacturing Employment Trends: Louisiana and Selected States (May 2025 = 100)**



**Figure 2. 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.

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

### Key Takeaways

- Energy prices remained elevated year over year, with Brent and WTI crude oil prices increasing by nearly 70 percent compared with May 2025.
- Natural gas and gasoline prices also recorded strong year-over-year gains, reflecting continued upward pressure across energy commodity markets.
- Agricultural commodity prices showed mixed performance, with soybeans, wheat, and palm oil posting solid year-over-year increases while sugar, coffee, and orange prices declined sharply from year-earlier levels.
- Rice prices recorded the strongest monthly increase among agricultural commodities, rising 22.8 percent from April 2026 levels.
- Lumber and corn prices remained comparatively stable relative to other agricultural commodities, exhibiting only modest year-over-year changes.

**Table 2. Energy Commodities, Weekly**

Commodity	5/22/26	5/15/26	4/24/2026	5/23/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$110.61	\$110.53	\$109.62	\$65.86	0.1%	0.9%	67.9%
WTI Crude Oil Price	\$105.32	\$105.10	\$95.43	\$63.26	0.2%	10.4%	66.5%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	\$3.11	\$2.86	\$2.70	\$3.05	8.7%	15.2%	2.0%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	\$4.33	\$4.33	\$3.95	\$3.03	0.0%	9.6%	42.9%

**Table 3. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of May 28, 2026**

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar (\$)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	\$1,195.75	\$11.98	\$/Bu	0.9%	0.1%	1.1%	13.7%
Wheat	\$624.00	\$6.24	\$/Bu	0.2%	-3.6%	-2.8%	16.9%
Lumber	\$590.00	\$5.90	\$/MBF	0.3%	1.0%	3.3%	0.6%
Palm Oil	\$4,537.00	\$45.37	\$/MT	0.9%	1.8%	-0.9%	15.4%
Sugar (No. 11)	\$13.92	\$0.14	\$/Lb	-1.6%	-6.6%	-5.8%	-18.3%
Coffee	\$273.90	\$2.74	\$/Lb	1.5%	0.2%	-5.8%	-21.3%
Corn	\$456.25	\$4.56	\$/Bu	0.8%	-1.3%	-2.2%	2.1%
Rice	\$12.94	\$0.13	\$/CWT	1.0%	-0.5%	22.8%	-3.1%
Orange Juice	\$167.60	\$1.68	\$/Lb	0.3%	0.6%	-9.1%	-39.0%

# 3. LOUISIANA AIRPORTS ARRIVING PASSENGERS

The following figures present monthly passenger arrivals for selected Louisiana commercial airports during the 2025–26 reporting period compared with the corresponding months of 2024–25. Data are shown for Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) and other selected regional airports across the state.

The figures display monthly passenger arrivals by airport to facilitate year-over-year comparisons and illustrate seasonal variation in passenger traffic over the reporting period. Passenger totals are presented by month for each airport and include comparisons between the current and prior-year periods.

Source: [transtats.bts.gov](http://transtats.bts.gov)

## Key Takeaways

- Passenger arrivals at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport generally tracked prior-year levels, with seasonal travel patterns remaining largely unchanged.
- Regional Louisiana airports, particularly Lafayette and Shreveport, recorded modest year-over-year gains in passenger arrivals during several months of the reporting period.
- Passenger traffic across Louisiana airports continued to demonstrate stable demand despite normal seasonal fluctuations in travel activity.
- Passenger arrivals across most Louisiana airports strengthened during the fall travel season before moderating during the winter months.

Figure 3. Monthly Passenger Arrivals at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, 2024–25 and 2025–26

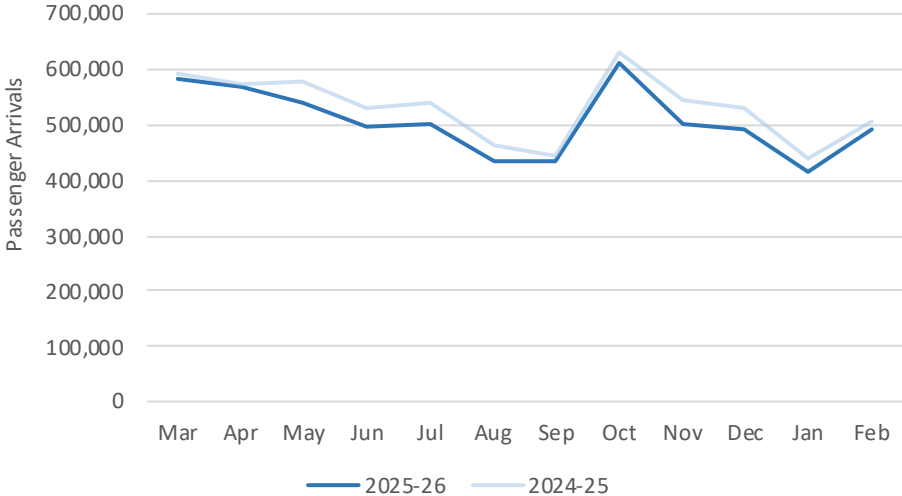


Figure 4. Monthly Passenger Arrivals at Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, 2024–25 and 2025–26

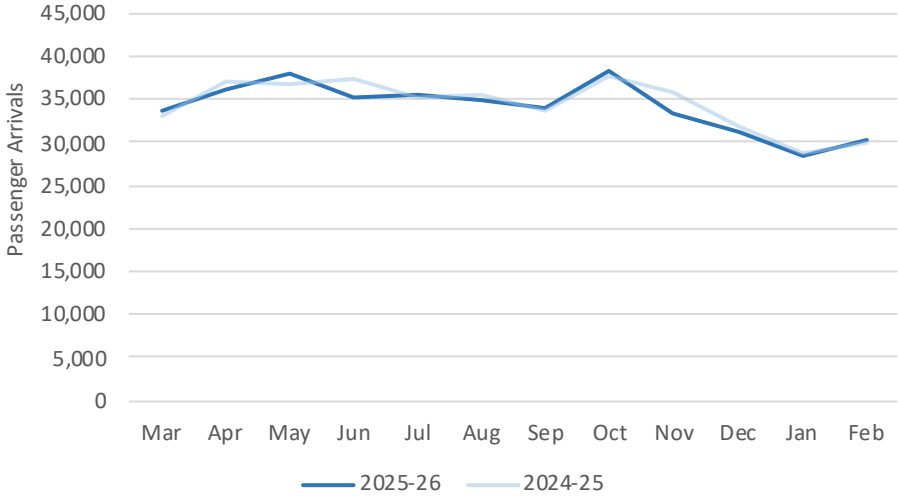


Figure 5. Monthly Passenger Arrivals at Alexandria International Airport, 2024–25 and 2025–26

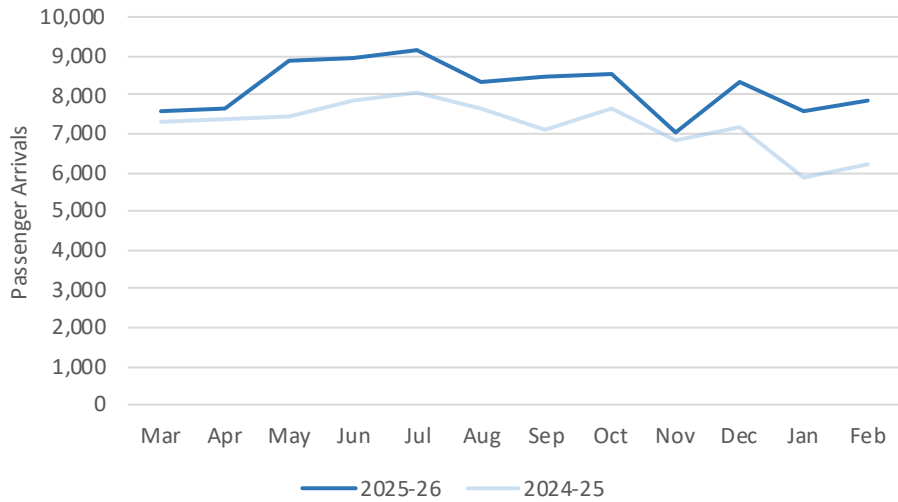


Figure 6. Monthly Passenger Arrivals at Lake Charles Regional Airport, 2024–25 and 2025–26

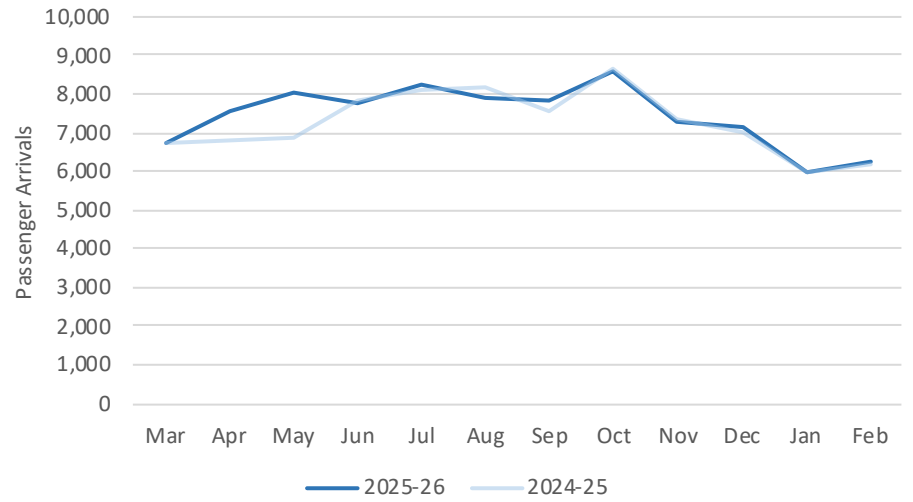


Figure 7. Monthly Passenger Arrivals at Lafayette Regional Airport, 2024–25 and 2025–26

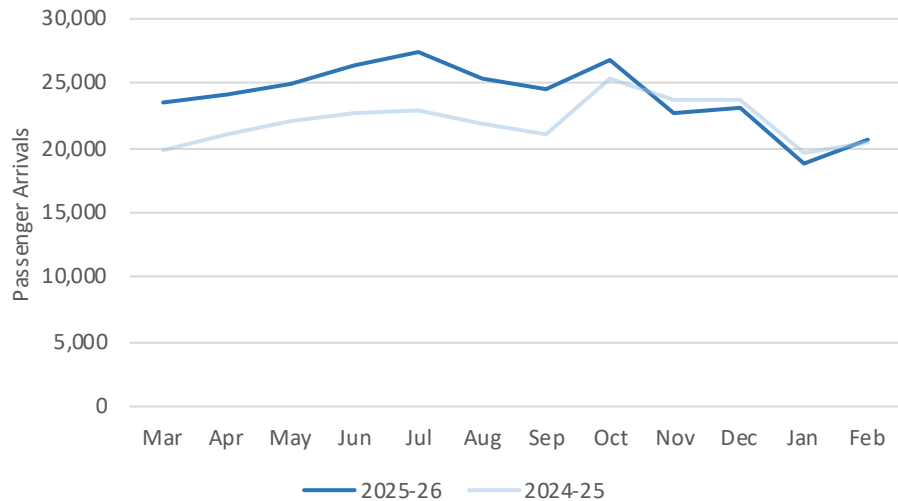
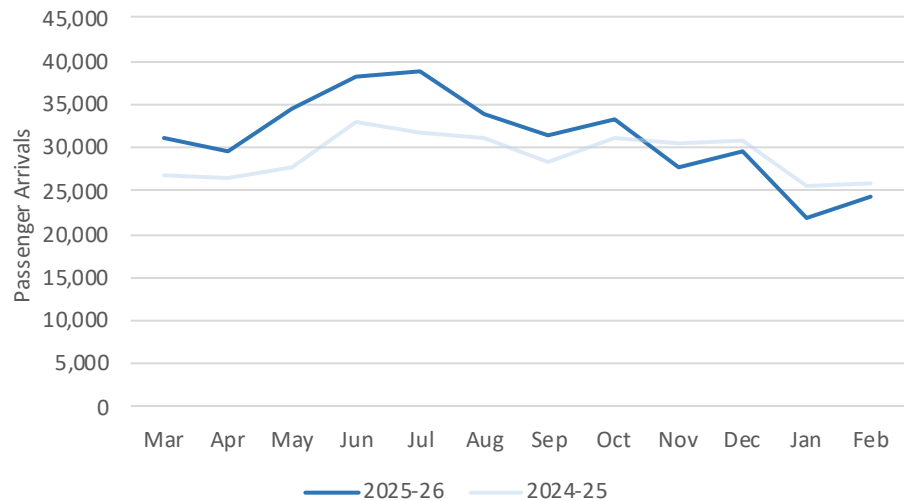


Figure 8. Monthly Passenger Arrivals at Shreveport Regional Airport, 2024–25 and 2025–26



# 4. LOUISIANA INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Census Bureau, through USA Trade Online, produces monthly trade statistics on current and cumulative U.S. export and import data. The following figures show total exports for each Louisiana port where trade is officially reported through Customs. The first three months (Q1) of 2026 are illustrated with the first three months (Q1) of 2025 for a quarter-over-quarter comparison. Exports are measured in total value, in millions of US dollars.

Source: [usatrade.census.gov](https://usatrade.census.gov)

## Key Takeaways

- The Port of New Orleans recorded the largest year-over-year gain, driven by a major spike in export value in March 2026.
- Baton Rouge exports were relatively stable in January and February but increased sharply in March 2026 compared to March 2025.
- Lake Charles export values remained consistently strong, though 2026 levels trailed slightly behind 2025 across all three months.
- Morgan City showed the most volatility, with exports surging significantly in March 2026 after weak performance earlier in the quarter.
- Shreveport-Bossier City exports remained comparatively small but showed steady year-over-year improvement throughout Q1 2026.

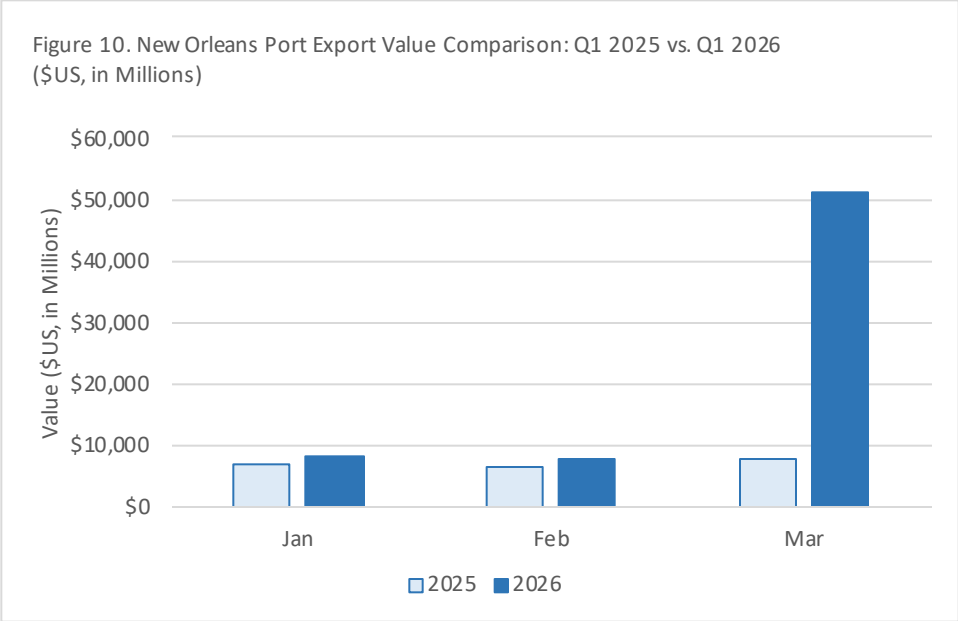
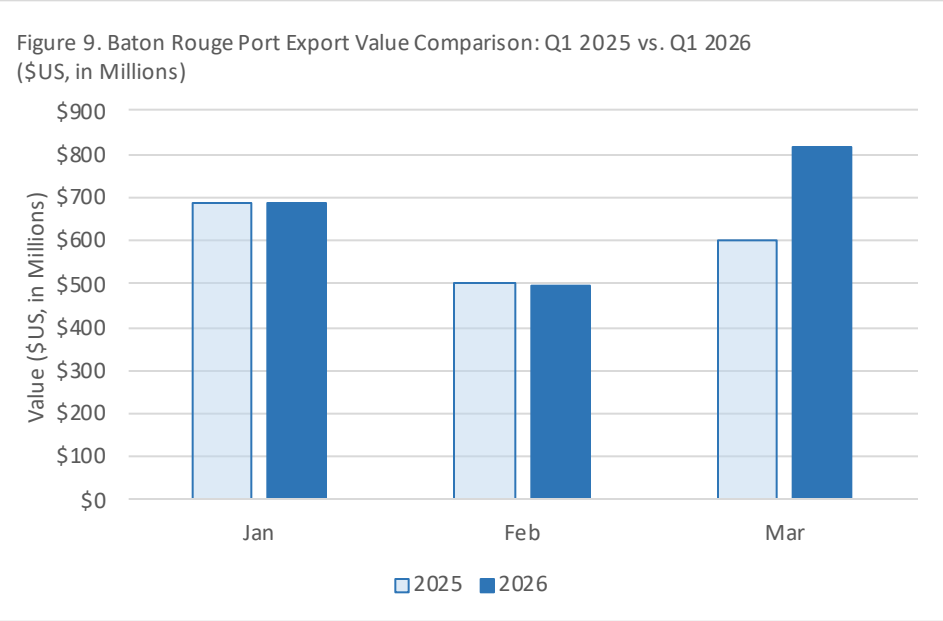


Figure 11. Lake Charles Port Export Value Comparison: Q1 2025 vs. Q1 2026 (\$US, in Millions)

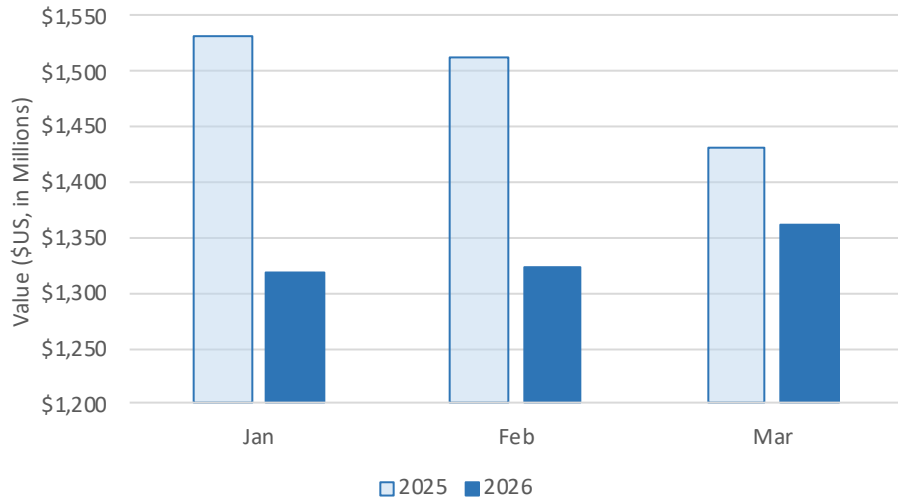


Figure 12. Grammercy Port Export Value Comparison: Q1 2025 vs. Q1 2026 (\$US, in Millions)

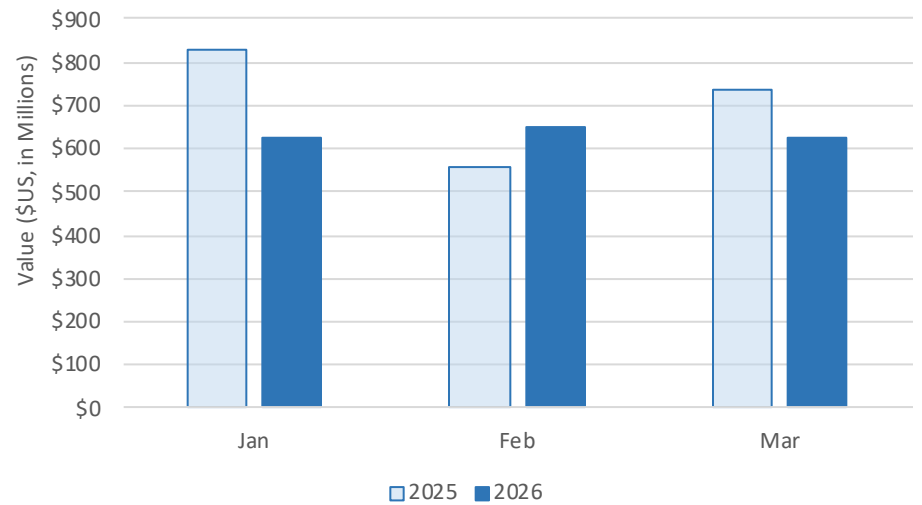


Figure 13. Morgan City Port Export Value Comparison: Q1 2025 vs. Q1 2026 (\$US, in Millions)

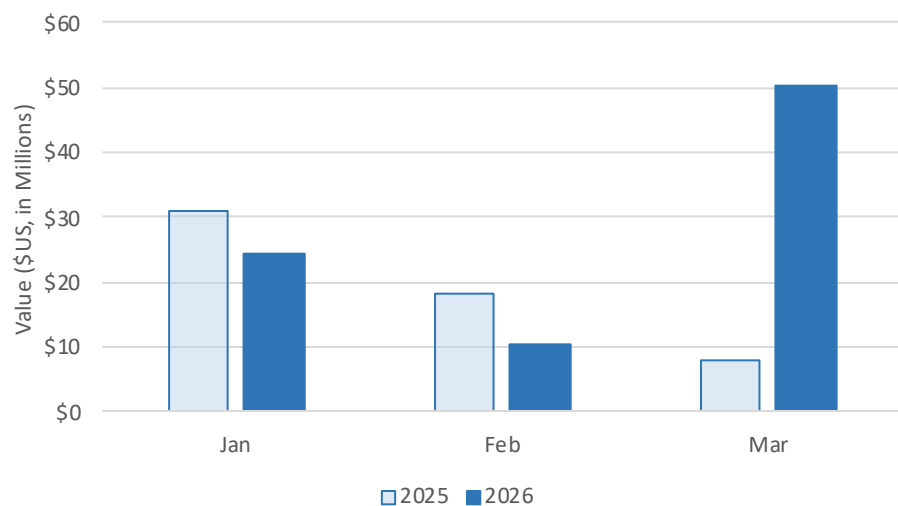
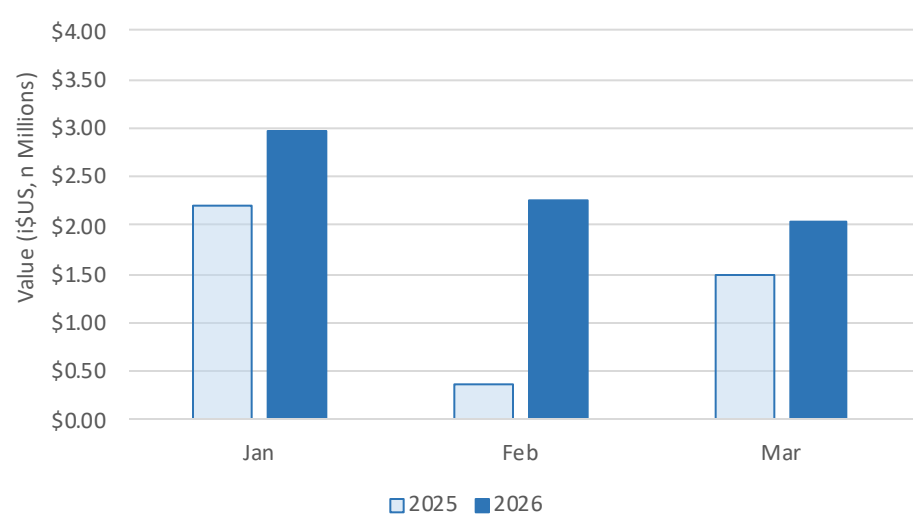


Figure 14. Shreveport-Bossier City Port Export Value Comparison: Q1 2025 vs. Q1 2026 (\$US, in Millions)



# June

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 in addition to state and local data. Links to sources are included.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
1	<a href="#">QCEW</a> [2025: Q4] <a href="#">JOLTS</a> [Apr] <a href="#">ISM PMI Services</a> [May] <a href="#">Construction Spending</a> [Apr]	2	<a href="#">MSA Employment</a> [Apr] <a href="#">Manufacturing - New Orders</a> [Apr]	3	<a href="#">ISM PMI Services</a> [May]	4	<a href="#">National Employment</a> [May]	5	6	7
8	<a href="#">Wholesale Inventories</a> [Apr]	9	<a href="#">Real Earnings</a> [May] <a href="#">Business Applications</a> [May] <a href="#">Federal Budget</a> [May] <a href="#">NFIB Small Business Optimism Index</a> [May]	10	<a href="#">CPI</a> [May] <a href="#">PPI</a> [May]	11	<a href="#">U. of Michigan's Consumer Confidence</a> [Jun]	12	13	14
15	<a href="#">Import/Export Prices</a> [May] <a href="#">Housing Starts</a> [Jun] <a href="#">Industrial Production</a> [May] <a href="#">NAHB HMI</a> [Jun]	16	<a href="#">Retail &amp; Food Services Sales</a> [May Advance] <a href="#">Pending Home Sales</a> [May]	17	18	19	20	21		
22	<a href="#">State Employment</a> [May]	23	<a href="#">The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index</a> [Jun]	24	<a href="#">Durable Goods</a> [May Advance]	25	26	27	28	