Louisiana Economic Vitals Friday, June 12, 2026

Pictured: The Saronic Corsair autonomous surface vessel that rescued the Apache crew that was downed in Iran on June 8th. Saronic Technologies now operates and is expanding a major autonomous-vessel shipyard in Franklin, Louisiana, where it plans to scale production of its unmanned maritime platforms.

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 June 2026 Announcements:

[C&C Forest Products Invests Over $21 Million to Rebuild Coushatta Sawmill]
June 11th, 2026

[Faith Technologies Incorporated™ to Power Northeast Louisiana Growth With $80.5 Million Investment]
June 9th, 2026

[State Investment Positions Acadiana Regional Airport for $74 Million Hangar Development and Aviation Exteriors Expansion]
June 8th, 2026

[Louisiana Builds on Hydrogen Innovation with NovaSpark Expansion]
June 4th, 2026

[Integer Technologies Expands at LSU, Building Louisiana's Defense Tech Talent Pipeline]
June 3rd, 2026

[Competing Globally, Growing Locally]
June 2nd, 2026

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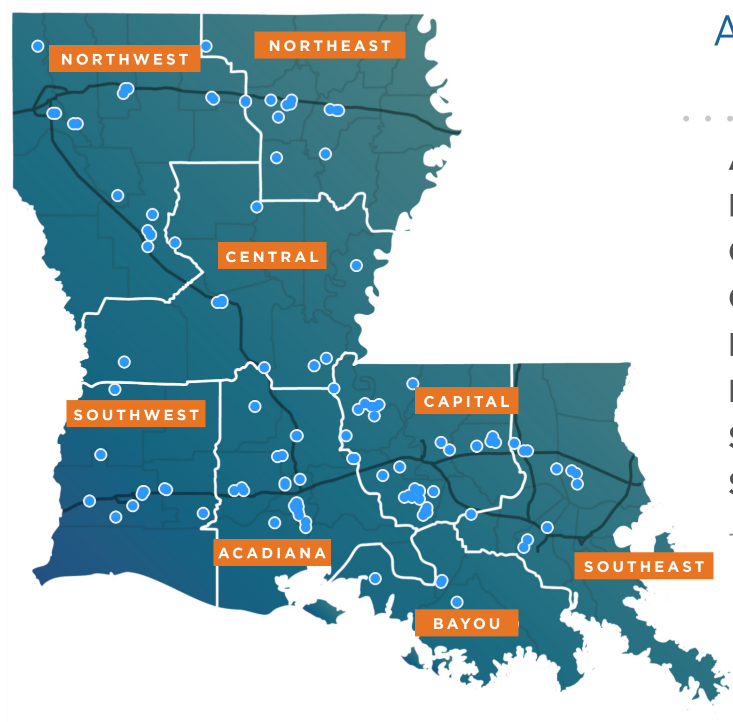
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 99 projects representing over $110.1 billion USD in new investment and more than 15,290 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of June 11, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 176 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $350 billion and the potential to create more than 54,520 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 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

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) program produces estimates of job openings, hires, and separations for all 50 states and the District of Columbia at the total nonfarm level. These estimates are based on a national sample of approximately 21,000 establishments. JOLTS rates are expressed as a percentage of employment, with the exception of the job openings rate, which is calculated as the number of job openings divided by the sum of employment and job openings. Monthly time-series plots of these measures are provided in the figures below.

Figures 1 and 2 include a monthly plot of the job openings-to-unemployed ratio, which is calculated by dividing the number of job openings by the number of unemployed individuals in a given month. This ratio measures the relationship between labor demand (job openings) and labor supply (unemployed workers), providing insight into the degree of tightness or slackness in the labor market.

To provide both historical context and a view of recent labor market conditions, the figures are presented over both long-run and short-run time horizons. The long-run figures illustrate trends across multiple economic cycles, while the short-run figures highlight more recent movements and emerging labor market developments. For additional context, the short-run figures include the long-run average for each series as a benchmark for comparison. Vertical reference lines are included at September 2005 and April 2020 to mark the structural breaks in the data associated with Hurricane Katrina and the COVID-19 pandemic, respectively. These markers provide important context for interpreting changes in the JOLTS series over time.

Source: bls.gov

Key Takeaways

- The number of job openings per unemployed worker remained above the long-run average throughout 2024 and 2025 suggesting the demand for workers continues to exceed historical norms.
- Hiring has moderated from the elevated levels observed during the post-pandemic recovery but remains consistent with a functioning labor market.
- The quits rate generally remained close to its long-run average throughout 2024 and 2025, indicating a relatively stable pace of voluntary job changes.
- The layoffs and discharges rate remained below its long-run average for most of 2025. Employers appear to be retaining workers despite slower hiring activity.
- Across all four measures, recent fluctuations have been modest relative to historical volatility. The data suggest Louisiana’s labor market has transitioned from the rapid adjustments of the pandemic recovery period to a more stable environment characterized by steady hiring, moderate worker turnover, and relatively low layoffs.

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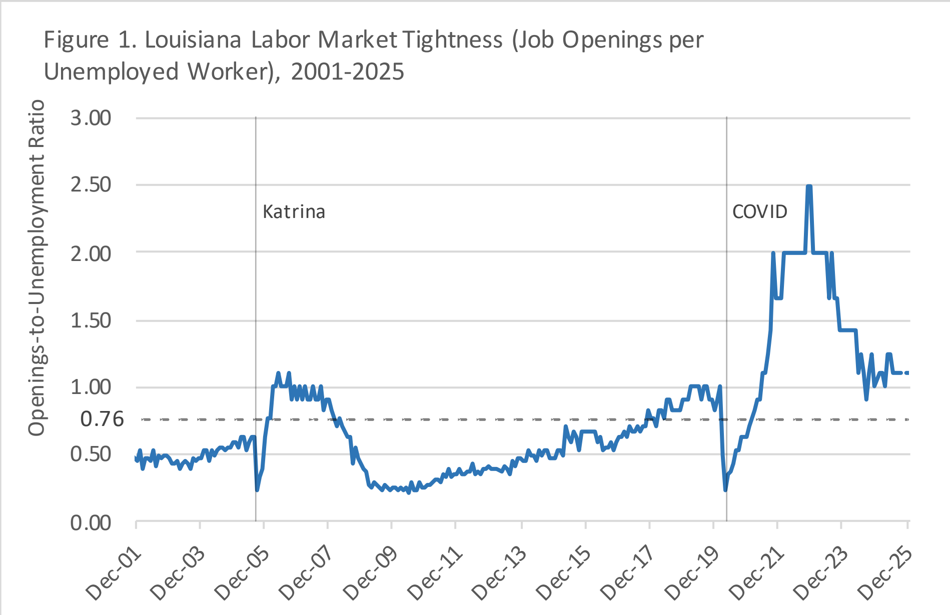

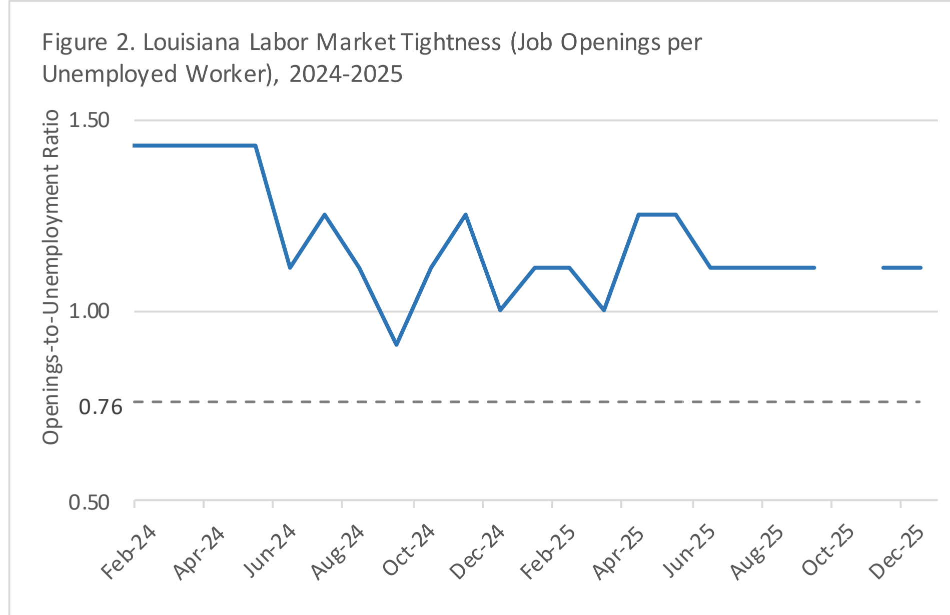

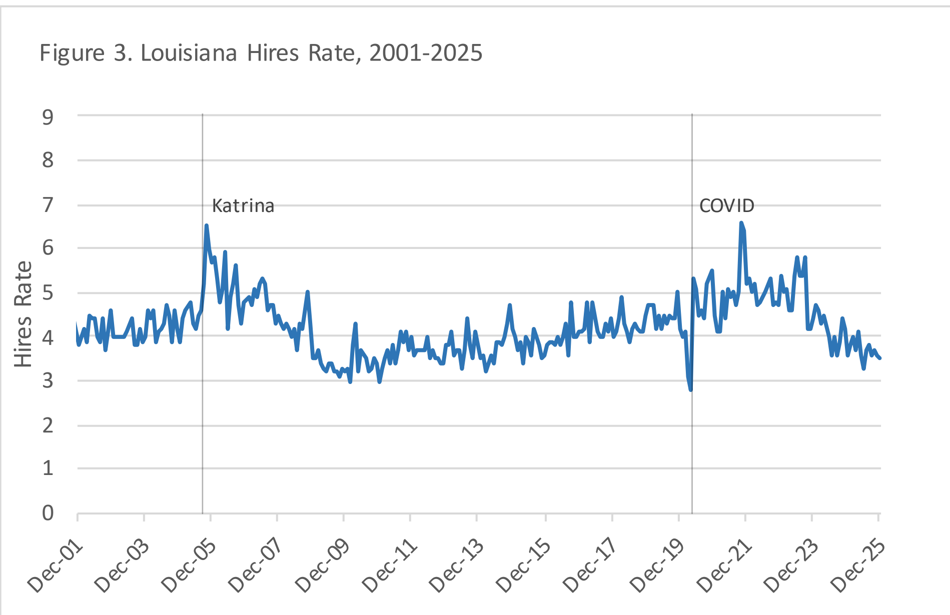

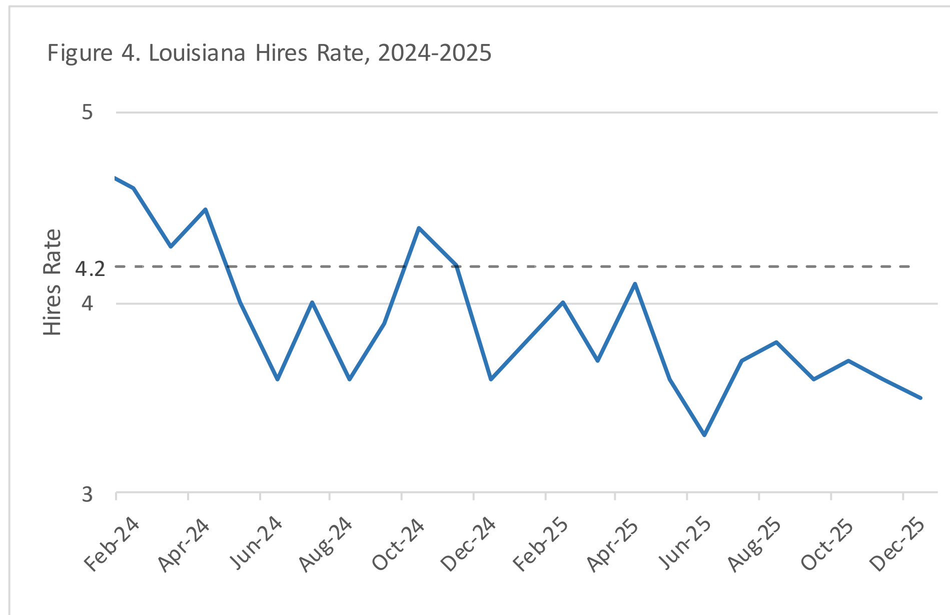

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Figure 5. Louisiana Quits Rate, 2001-2025

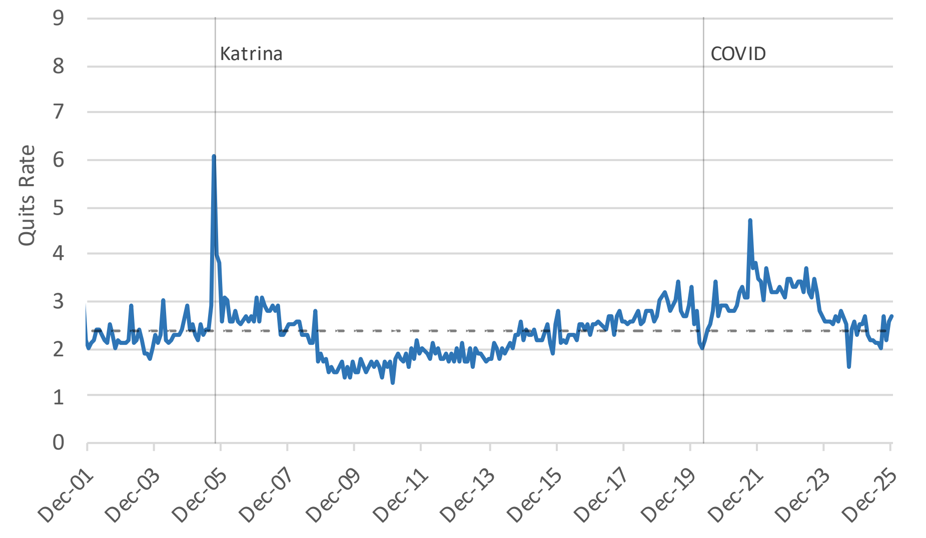


Figure 6. Louisiana Quits Rate, 2024-2025

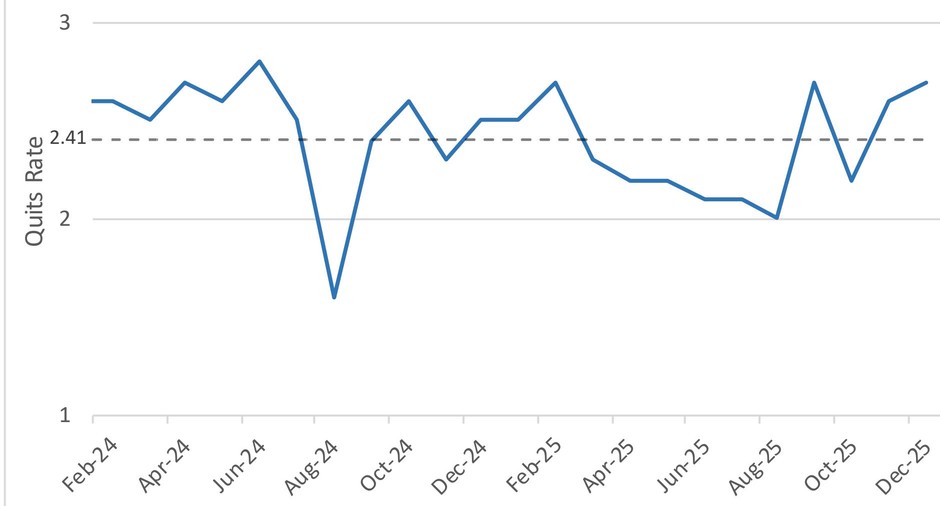


Figure 7. Louisiana Layoffs and Discharges Rate, 2001-2025

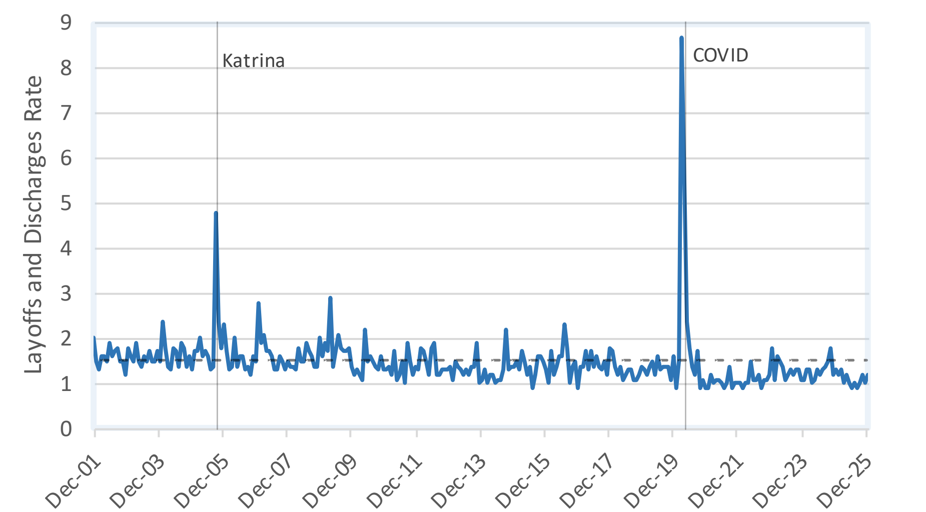
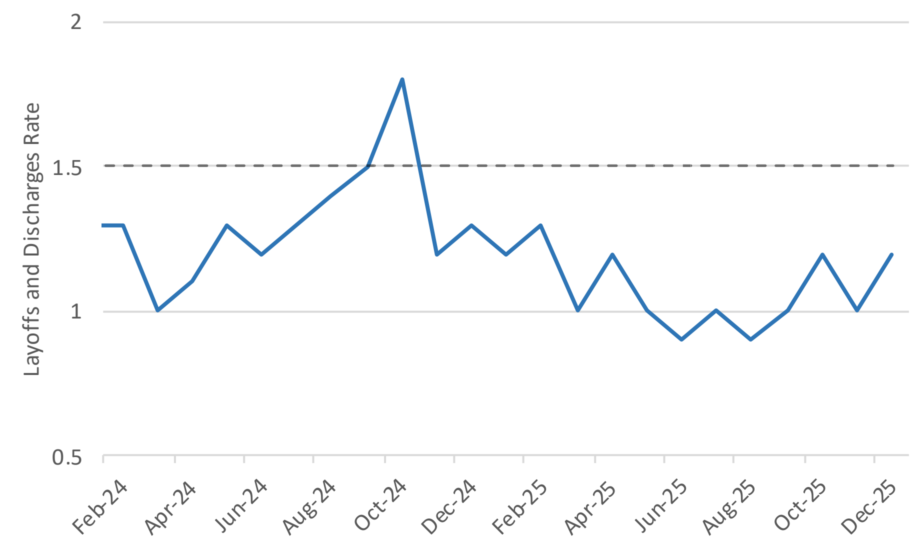


Figure 8. Louisiana Layoffs and Discharges Rate, 2024-2025



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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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 & tradingeconomics.com

Key Takeaways

- Energy prices remain substantially higher than a year ago despite recent declines in crude oil and gasoline prices.
- Agricultural commodity markets are mixed, with most commodities posting monthly declines and little evidence of broad-based price acceleration.
- Rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have contributed to substantially higher crude oil and gasoline prices. While most major agricultural commodities have shown limited upward price pressure in recent months, elevated energy and transportation costs may be contributing to food price inflation through higher production, processing, and distribution costs.

Table 1. Energy Commodities, Weekly

Commodity	6/5/26	5/29/26	5/8/26	6/6/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	$98.95	$97.05	$105.88	$67.18	2.0%	-6.5%	47.3%
WTI Crude Oil Price	$96.87	$93.45	$102.28	$64.06	3.7%	-5.3%	51.2%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$3.03	$3.16	$2.74	$2.84	-4.1%	10.6%	6.7%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$3.99	$4.14	$4.35	$2.99	-3.6%	-8.3%	33.4%

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Table 2. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of June 11, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,112.56	$11.13	$/Bu	-0.9%	-1.5%	-9.3%	6.7%
Wheat	$586.04	$5.86	$/Bu	-0.2%	0.7%	-13.7%	11.3%
Lumber	$619.49	$6.19	$/MBF	-0.1%	2.1%	4.8%	0.3%
Palm Oil	$4,461.00	$44.61	$/MT	-1.7%	-3.0%	-0.5%	16.2%
Sugar (No. 11)	$13.84	$0.14	$/Lb	-0.7%	-3.0%	-7.8%	-14.9%
Coffee	$250.38	$2.50	$/Lb	2.3%	1.3%	-10.6%	-27.7%
Corn	$412.72	$4.13	$/Bu	-1.5%	-2.7%	14.0%	-5.8%
Rice	$12.21	$0.12	$/CWT	-1.0%	-1.5%	-1.4%	-11.1%
Orange Juice	$166.14	$1.66	$/Lb	-0.2%	-1.2%	-13.6%	-39.2%

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3. CPI AND INFLATION

This section examines recent inflation and wage trends using data from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. Table 3 presents selected CPI measures and Average Hourly Earnings (AHE), including monthly and year-over-year changes. Figure 9 compares headline and core inflation using 3-month annualized rates, while Figure 10 examines the major components of core inflation, including Core Goods, Core Services, and Owners' Equivalent Rent (OER). Figure 11 compares Core Services inflation with Average Hourly Earnings growth, and Figure 12 shows the trend in wage growth using a 3-month annualized rate smoothed with a 6-month moving average. Together, these tables and figures provide context for evaluating recent inflation dynamics, the sources of underlying price pressures, and trends in wage growth.

Source: [bls.gov](bls.gov)

Key Takeaways

- Headline inflation accelerated in recent months, but core inflation remained comparatively moderate.
- Underlying inflation pressures continue to be driven primarily by services and housing, while goods inflation remains subdued.
- Wage growth has slowed while services inflation has remained elevated, suggesting that recent inflation pressures are not being accompanied by accelerating labor costs.
- Current inflation conditions suggest persistence in services and housing rather than a broad-based resurgence of inflation.

Table 3. Change in CPI-U, U.S. City Average by Month, Seasonally Adjusted

Consumer Price Index	May-26	Apr-26	May-25	Change MoM	Change YoY
All items	333.98	332.41	320.62	0.5%	4.2%
All Items Less Food and Energy (Core)	336.12	335.42	326.89	0.2%	2.8%
Core Goods	167.58	167.77	165.81	-0.1%	1.1%
Core Services	444.46	443.15	429.91	0.3%	3.4%
Owner's Equivalent Rent of Residences	440.68	439.38	426.53	0.3%	3.3%
Average Hourly Earnings					
AHE	$37.53	$37.41	$36.28	0.3%	3.4%

Note: CPI values are index levels (1982–84=100). Average Hourly Earnings are measured in current dollars.

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Figure 9. CPI Inflation: All Items and Core CPI (3-Month Annualized Rates)

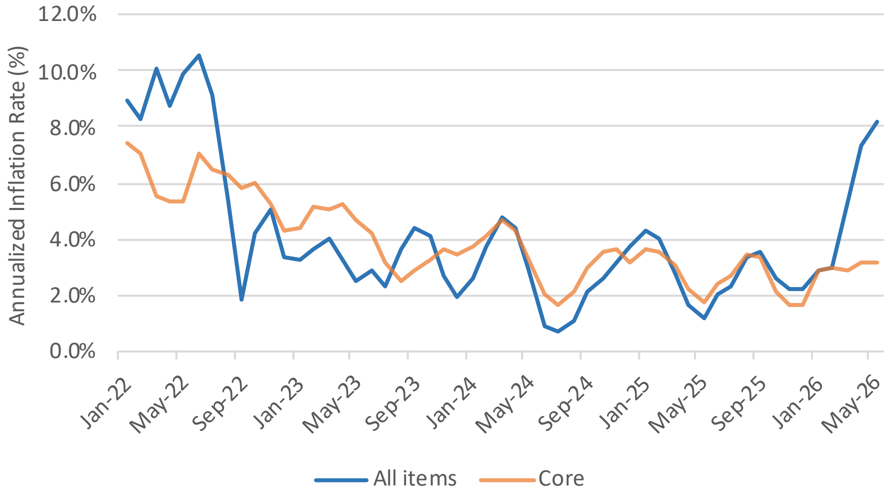


Figure 10. Core Inflation Components: Core Services, Core Goods, and Owners' Equivalent Rent (3-Month Annualized Rates)

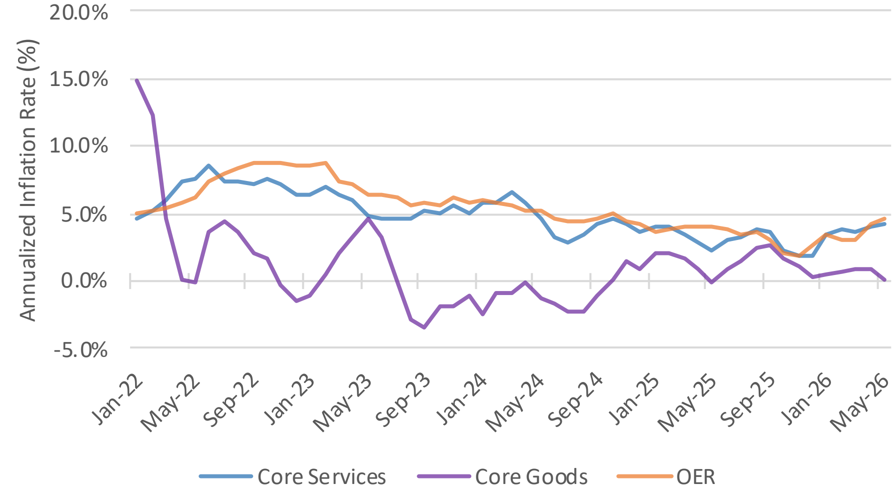


Figure 11. Core Services Inflation and Average Hourly Earnings Growth (3-Month Annualized Rates)

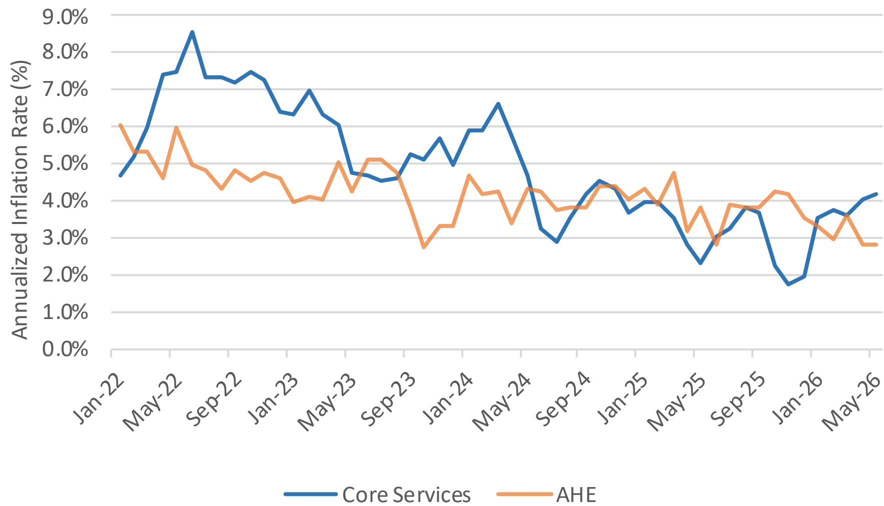
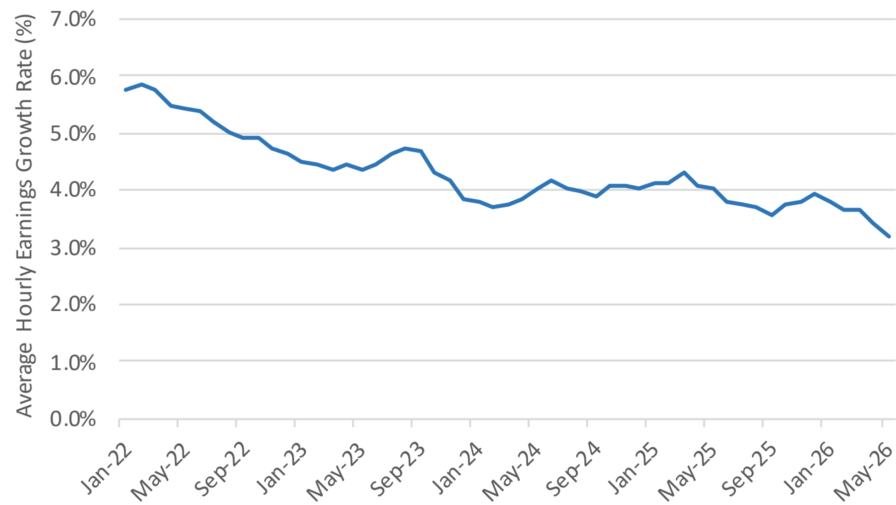


Figure 12. Average Hourly Earnings Growth, 3-Month Annualized Rate (6-Month Moving Average)



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