Louisiana
Economic Vitals
Thursday, June 18, 2026

LOUISIANA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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:

LSU and Hyundai Steel Sign Master Research Agreement to Advance Next-Generation Steelmaking in Louisiana
June 16th, 2026

Gulf Coast Tactical Expands New Iberia Operations to Support Next-Generation Maritime Defense
June 16th, 2026

Andritz-Western Pneumatics Expands Ruston Operations with $1.4 Million Investment and New Manufacturing Equipment
June 16th, 2026

The Teachers Getting $50,000 Bonuses Thanks to a Massive Meta Data Center
June 11th, 2026

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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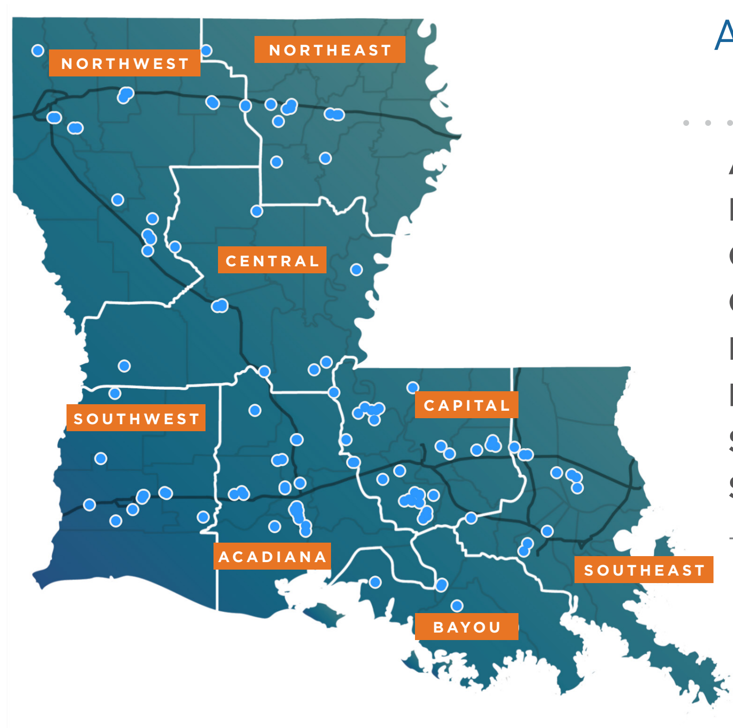
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 101 projects representing over $110.1 billion USD in new investment and more than 15,375 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of June 17, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 208 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $275.5 billion and the potential to create more than 59,310 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 41 sites advancing into active commerce. At full build-out, these projects represent more than $40.2 billion in capital investment, over 6,600 direct new jobs, and more than $440 million in total annual wages statewide. Currently, there are 124 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	17
Southwest	13
TOTAL	124

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1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 430 metropolitan areas and divisions. Each month, CES surveys approximately 119,000 businesses and government agencies, representing 622,000 individual worksites. The following charts show the year-over-year percentage change in Average Hourly Earnings for each month. Each observation compares average hourly earnings in a given month to the same month one year earlier. Also provided is the percentage change in Real Average Hourly Earnings after adjusting for inflation. The figures present this data for the total private, goods-producing, and the private-sector service-providing sectors.

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

Key Takeaways

- Louisiana wage growth accelerated sharply in late 2024 and has remained elevated. Total private-sector AHE growth moved from roughly 0–2% YoY in early 2024 to 5–6% YoY by late 2024 and early 2025.
- Inflation-adjusted wage growth was negative through much of early 2024, but by late 2024, nominal wage gains began consistently outpacing inflation. Total private-sector real wage growth has generally remained above zero since then, indicating improving worker purchasing power.
- Momentum appears to be improving again in goods-producing industries. Not only have wage growth rates become less negative (and recently positive), but the slope of the series has turned upward for several consecutive months.

Figure 1. Louisiana, Average Hour Earnings, Total Private, Change (%, YoY)

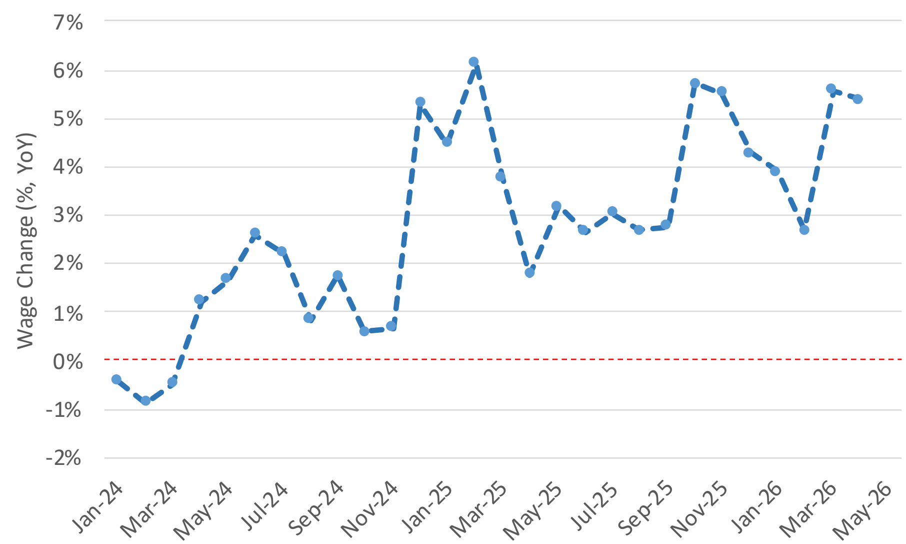

Figure 2. Louisiana, Real Wage Growth, Total Private (%, YoY)

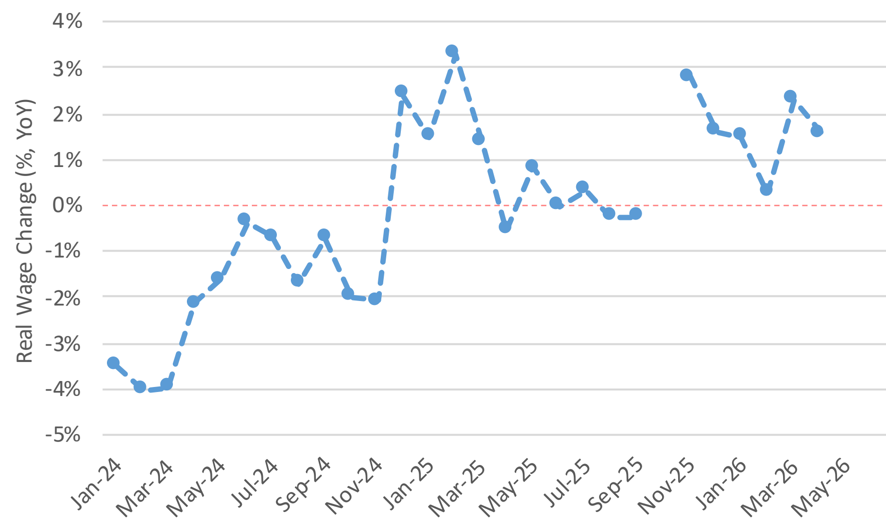

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Figure 3. Louisiana, Average Hourly Earnings, Goods-Producing, Change (%, YoY)

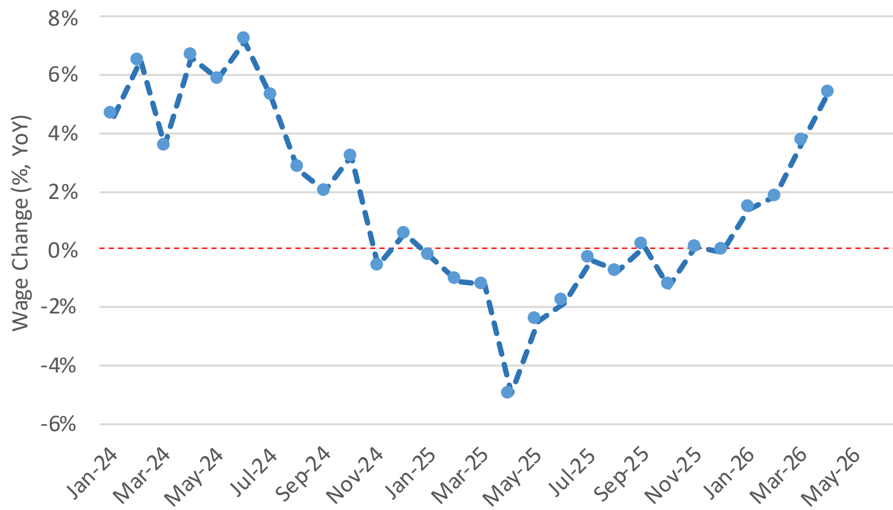


Figure 4. Louisiana, Real Wage Growth, Goods-Producing (%, YoY)

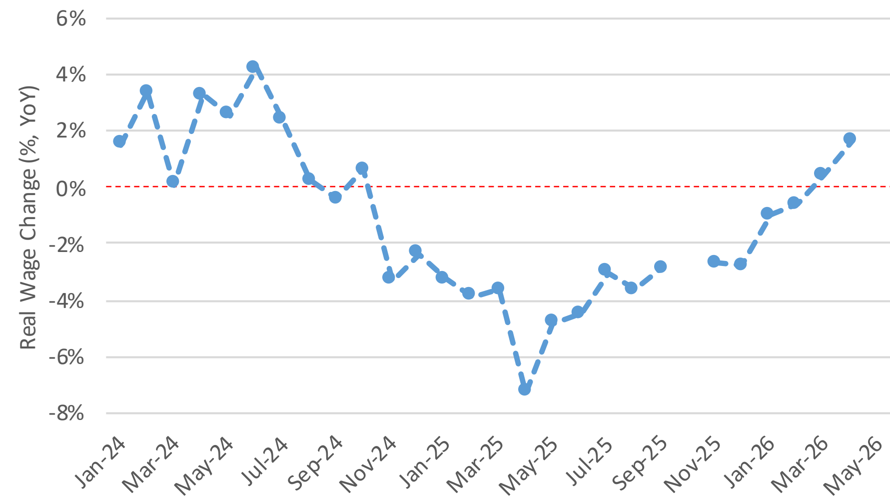


Figure 5. Louisiana, Average Hourly Earnings, Private Service-Providing, Change (%, YoY)

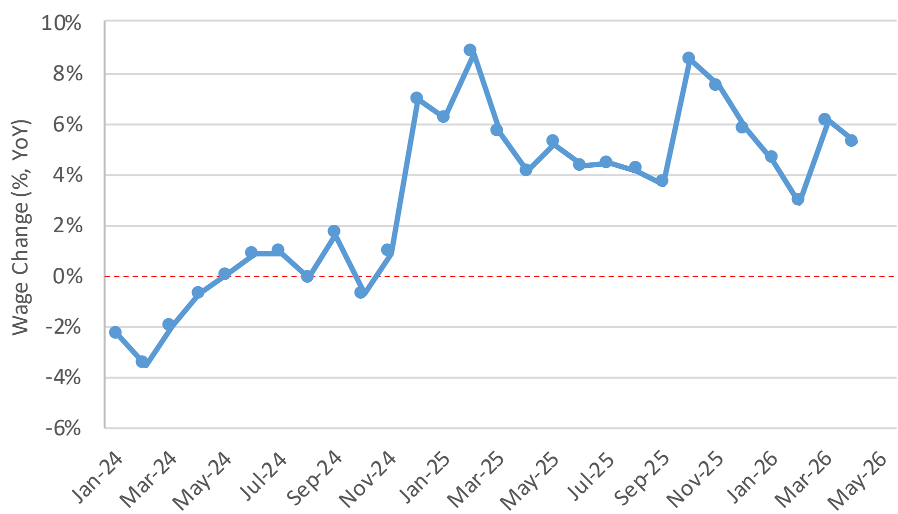
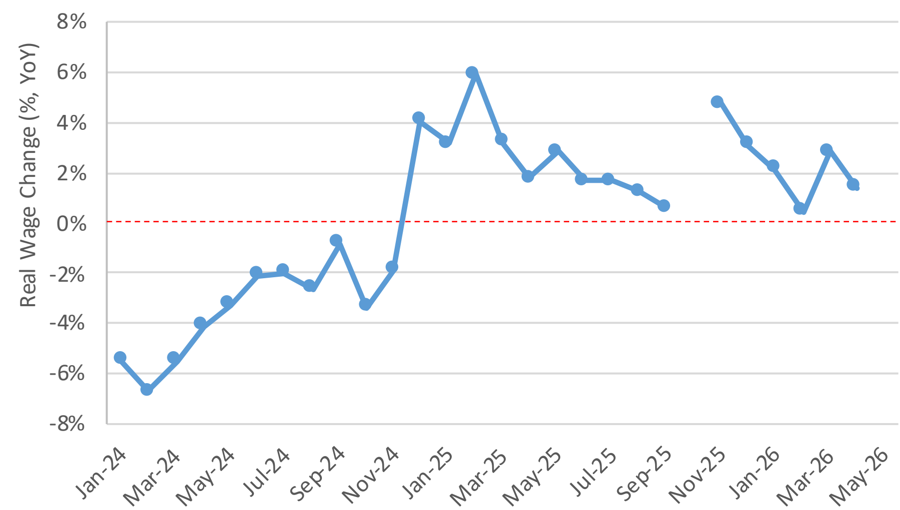


Figure 6. Louisiana, Real Wage Growth, Private Service-Providing (%, YoY)



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2. COMMODITIES

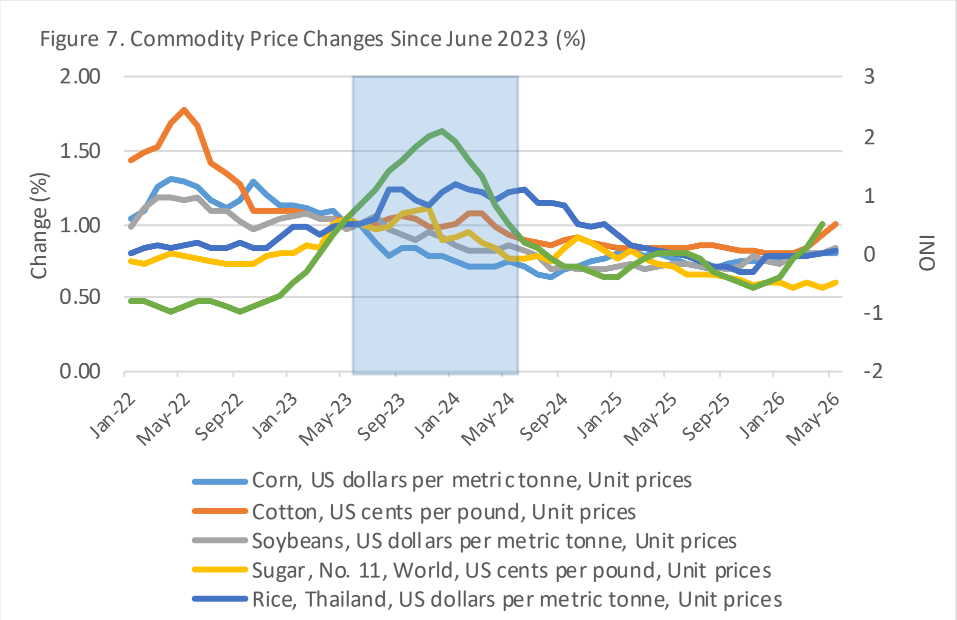
Figures 7 and 8 compare changes in selected agricultural commodity prices relative to their June 2023 levels with the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI). Commodity prices are normalized to June 2023, allowing for direct comparison of price movements across commodities with different units and price levels. The shaded area highlights the period of elevated El Niño conditions.

Figures 9–18 compare individual commodity prices with the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) from January 2022 through May 2026. Commodity prices are shown on the left axis, while the ONI is shown on the right axis.The shaded area represents the El Niño period based on ONI (3-month running mean) ≥ +0.5°C for five or more overlapping seasons, providing context for examining how commodity prices evolved before, during, and after the event.

Source: [NOAA CPC ONI (ERSSTv5)] & [IMF.org]

Key Takeaways

- Since June 2023, cocoa and coffee recorded the largest price increases among the commodities examined, while cotton, corn, soybeans, rice, sugar, and wheat generally experienced more moderate price movements or declines.
- Coffee and cocoa prices increased substantially during and following the El Niño period, consistent with production concerns in major growing regions.
- Corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat generally weakened as the ONI retreated from peak levels, while sugar and rice exhibited comparatively smaller fluctuations.
- Although several commodities exhibited price movements consistent with ENSO-related supply disruptions, the strength and timing of the relationship varied considerably across markets.



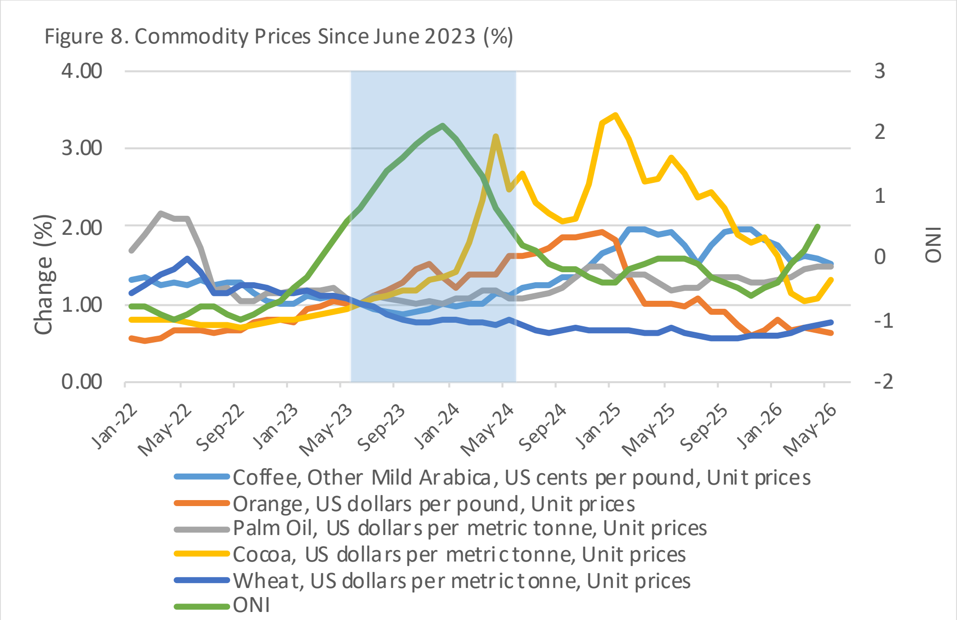


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Figure 9. Corn Prices and the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

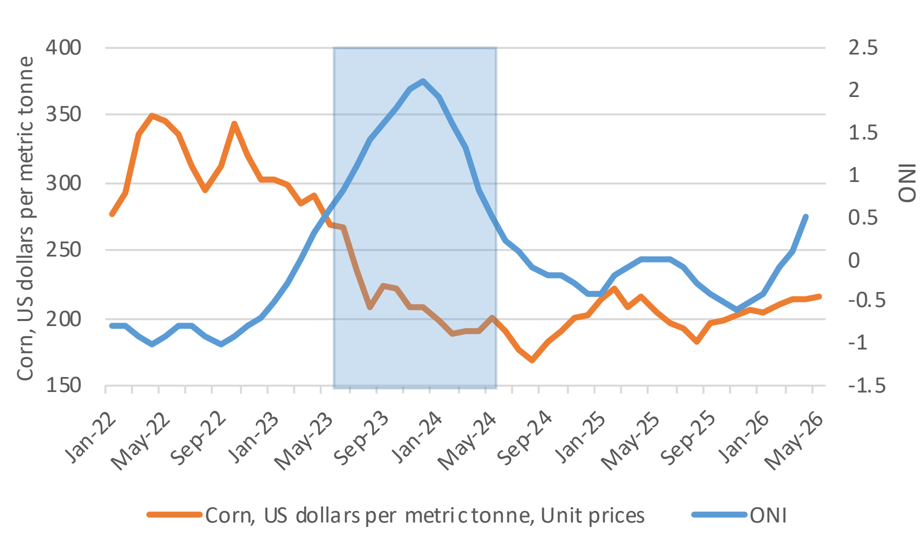

Figure 10. Cotton Prices and the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

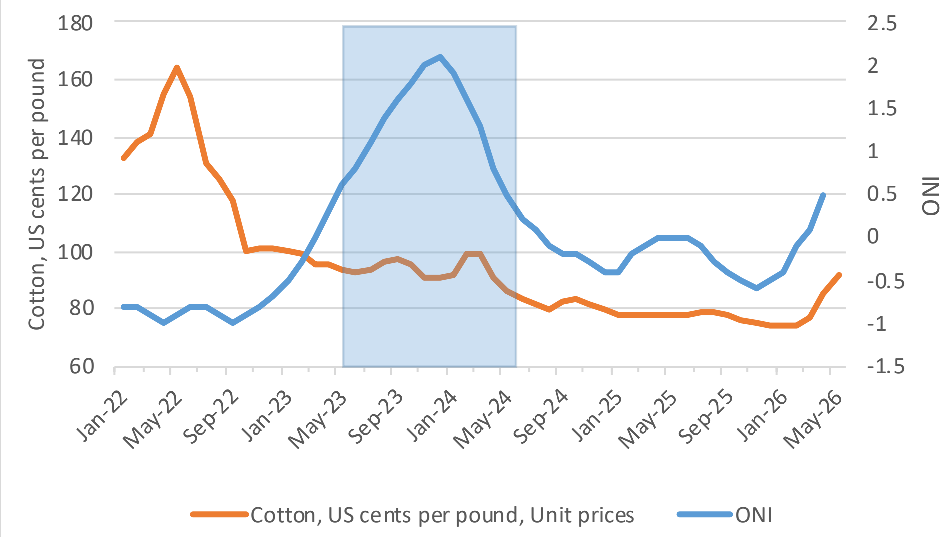

Figure 11. Soybean Prices and the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

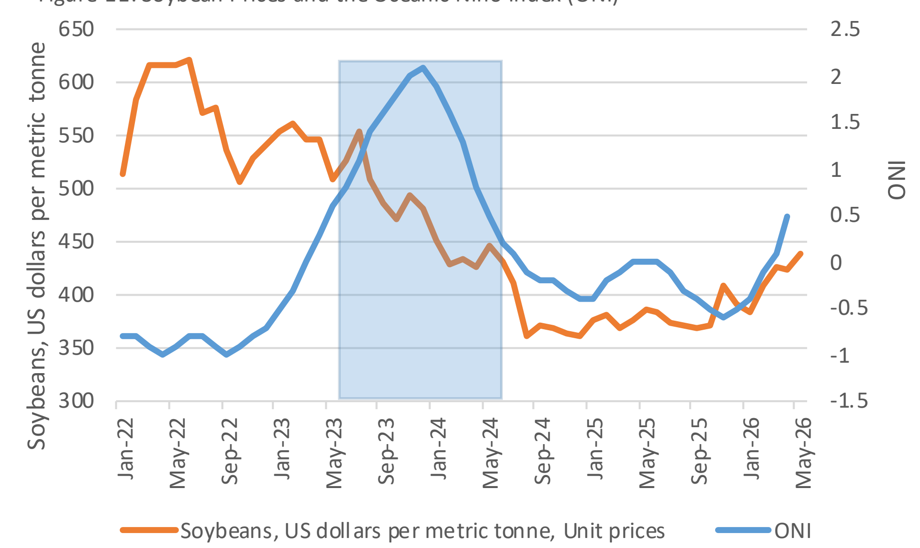

Figure 12. Sugar, No. 11 Prices and the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)Chart Title

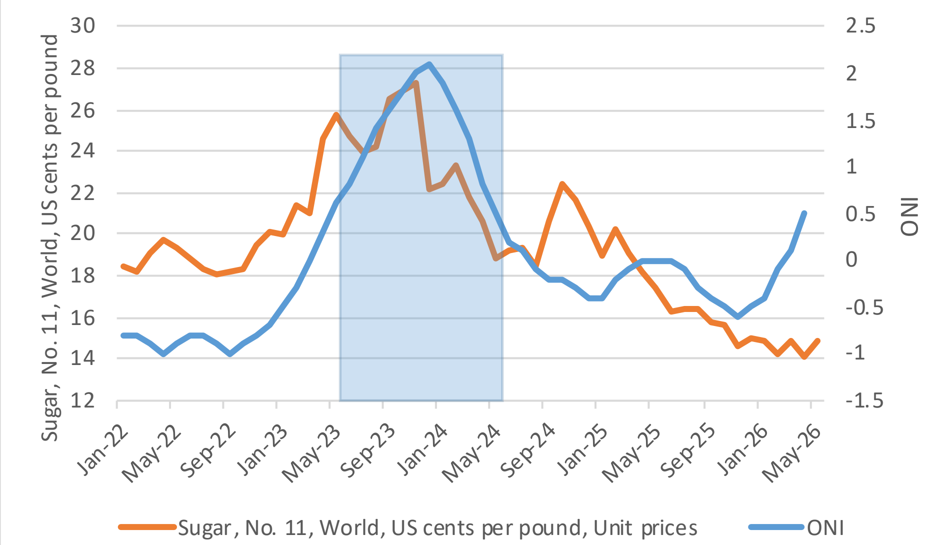

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Figure 13. Rice Prices and the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

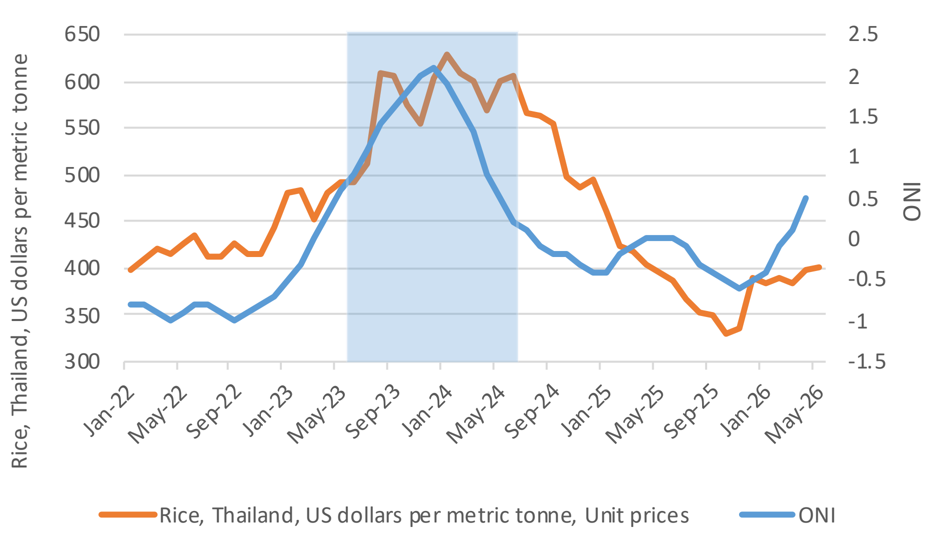


Figure 14. Coffee Prices (Other Mild Arabica) and the Oceanic Niño Index

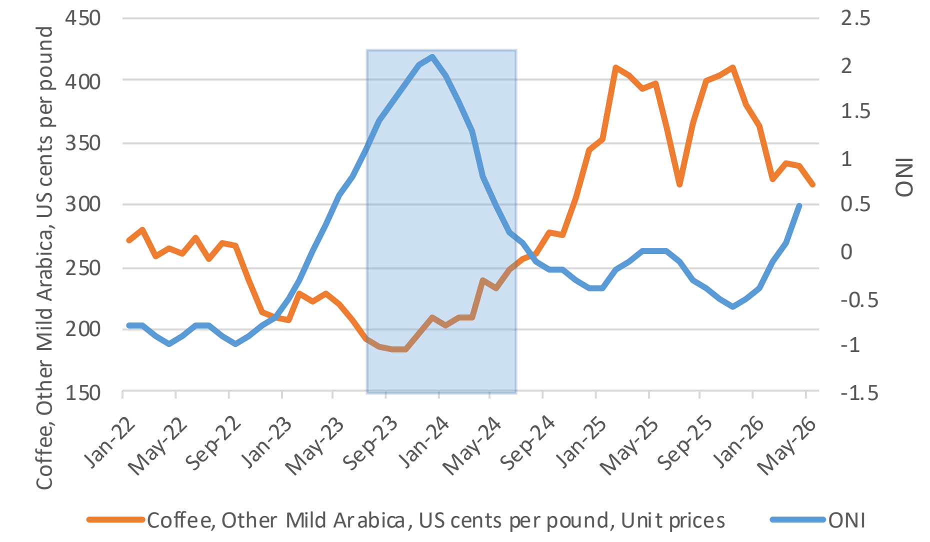


Figure 15. Orange Prices and the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

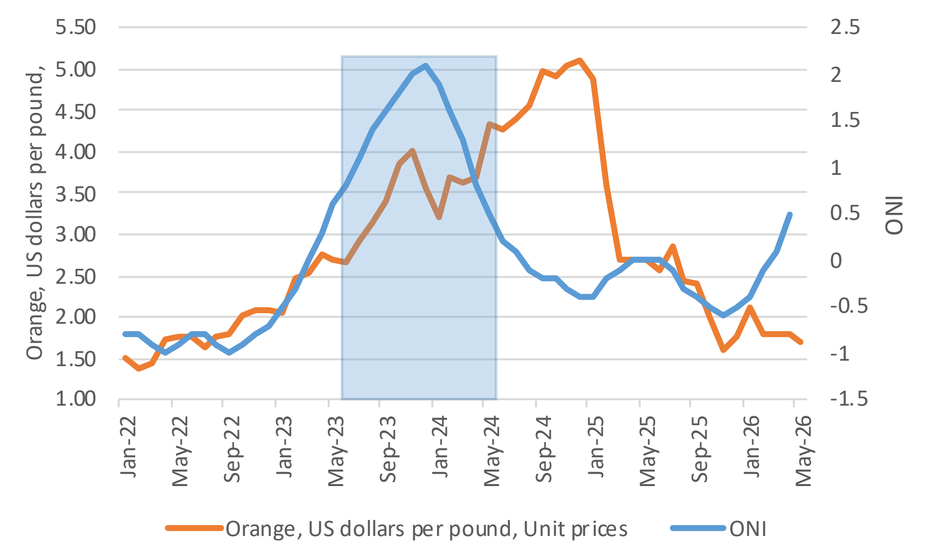
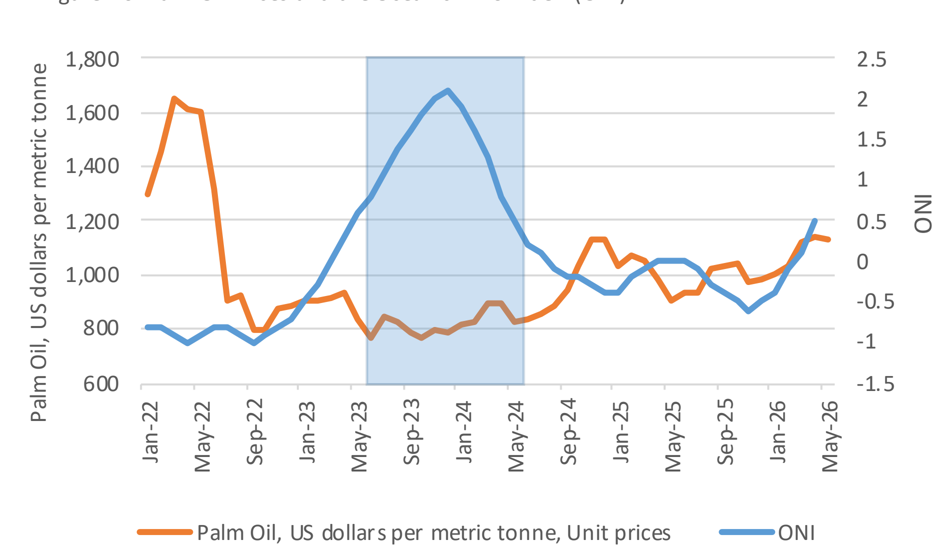


Figure 16. Palm Oil Prices and the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)



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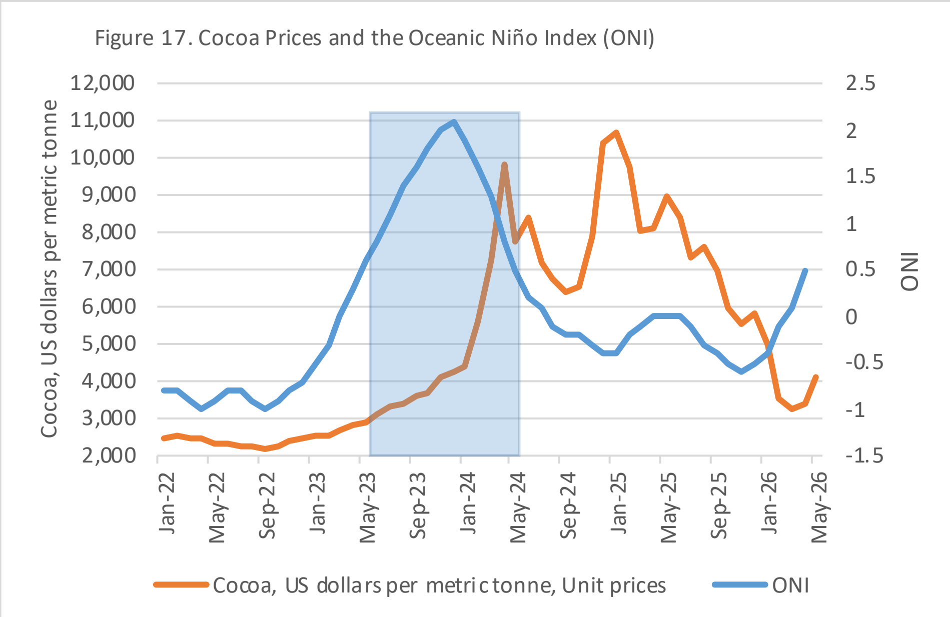

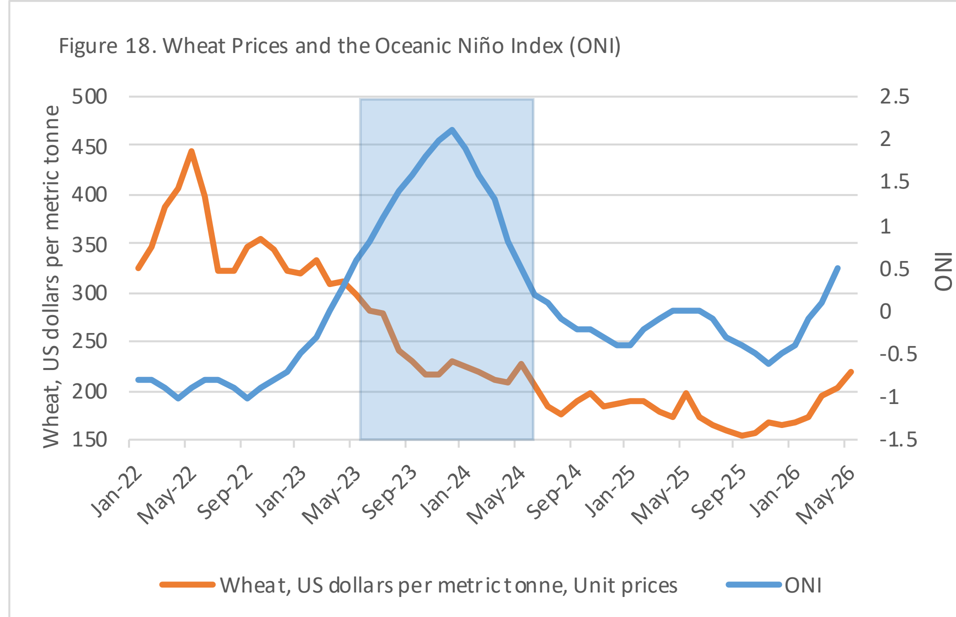

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3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

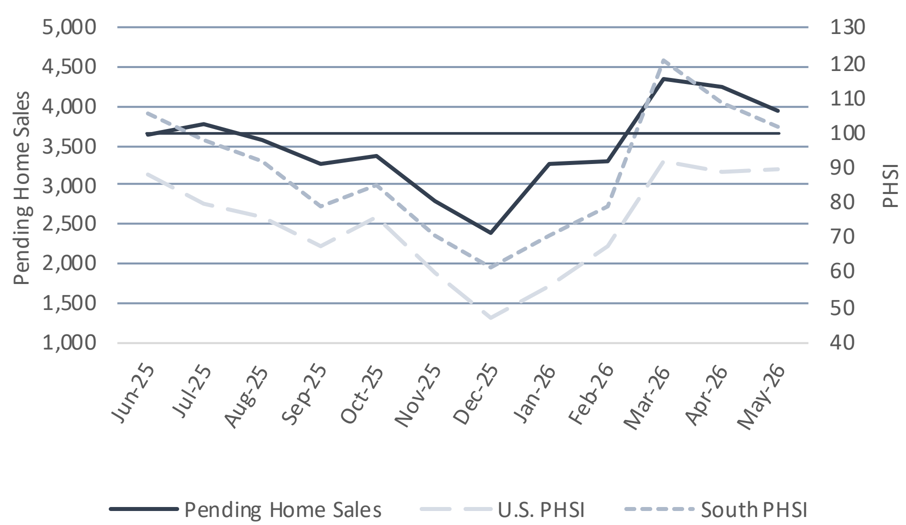
Louisiana Realtors® produces monthly reports on local market updates for the state and its regions. The following figures illustrate state and regional pending sales mapped against the Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI) for the U.S. and the South, by month. For Louisiana Realtors®, pending home sales includes accepted contract offers, and for the National Association of Realtors®, pending homes sales is based on signed real estate contracts. The PHSI base year (2001 = 100) is chosen based on the first of four consecutive years of record-level existing home sales. 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

Key Takeaways

- Louisiana generally tracked the national and regional housing cycle, suggesting Louisiana's housing market remains closely tied to broader mortgage-rate and affordability conditions.
- Louisiana's rebound appears somewhat stronger than the national benchmark. By spring 2026, Louisiana sales had nearly returned to mid-2025 levels despite national housing activity remaining below historical norms. As shown, the slope of the recovery is steeper than the corresponding increase in the U.S. PHSI.
- Baton Rouge and New Orleans experienced strong cyclical rebounds as pending sales rose sharply during early 2026, largely tracking improvements in the South PHSI.

Figure 19. Louisiana - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



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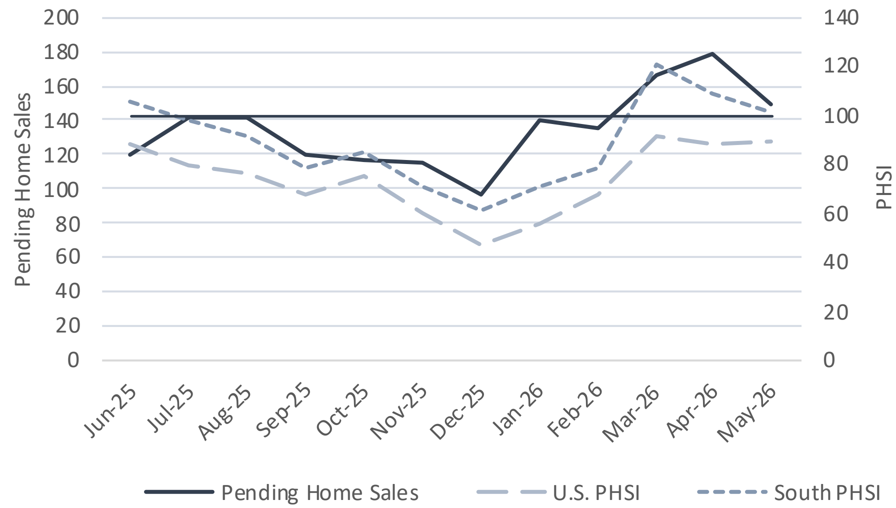
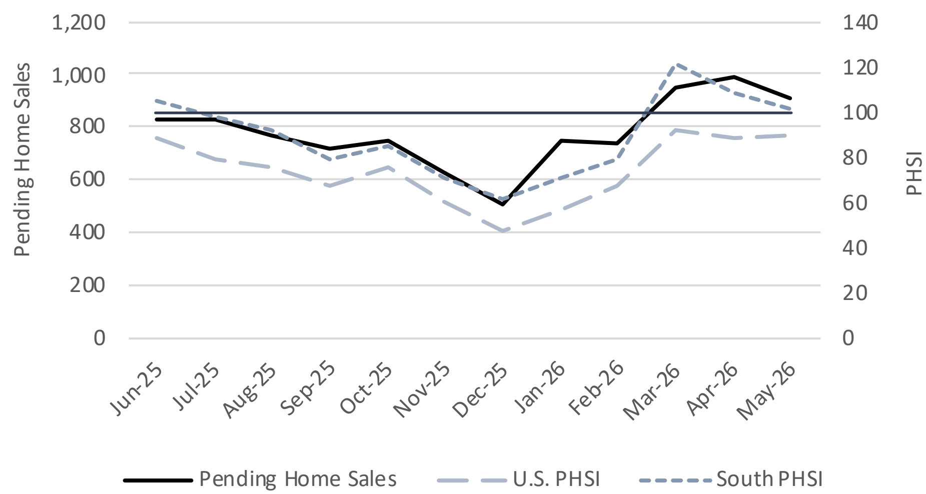
Bayou Board of REALTORS® - Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, Terrebonne

Figure 20. Bayou Board 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 21. Greater Baton Rouge Association of REALTORS® - Pending Home Sales vs. U.S. and South PHSI, Monthly



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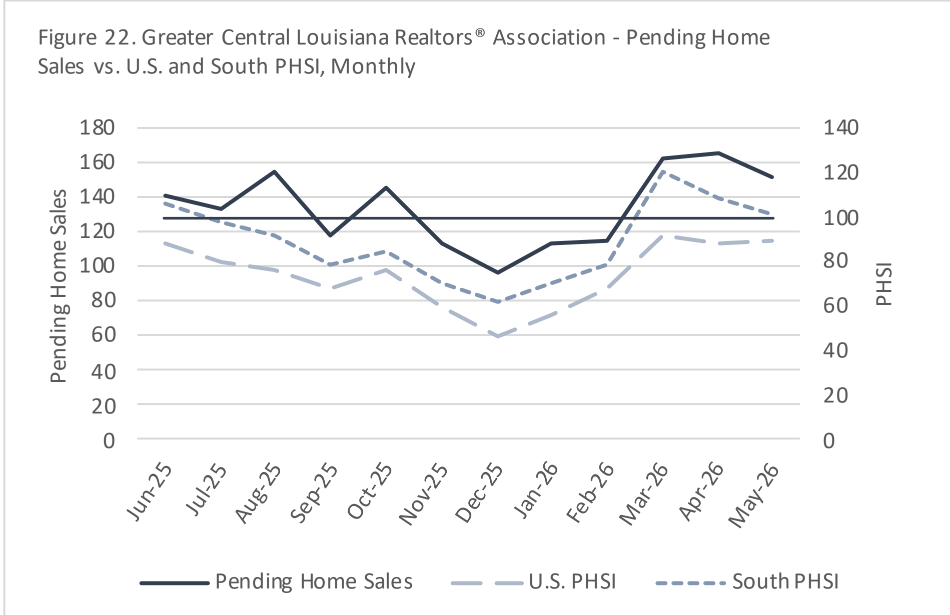
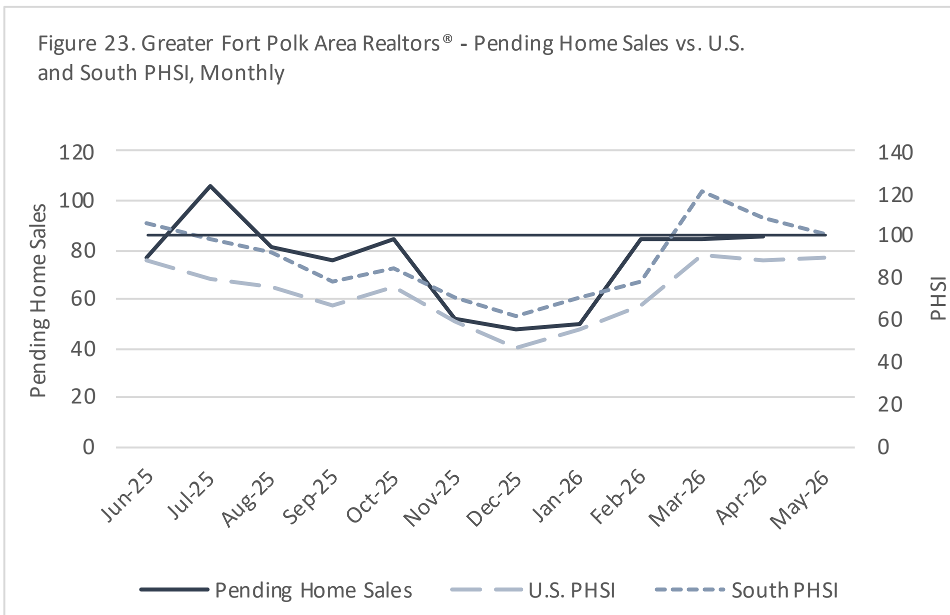
Greater Central Louisiana Realtors® Association - Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Evangeline, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Winn



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



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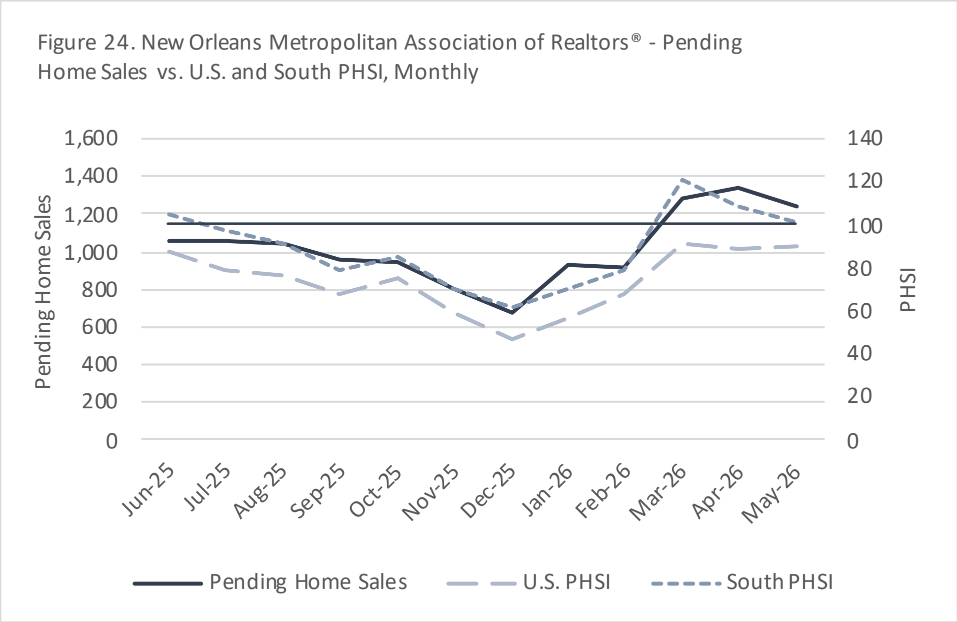
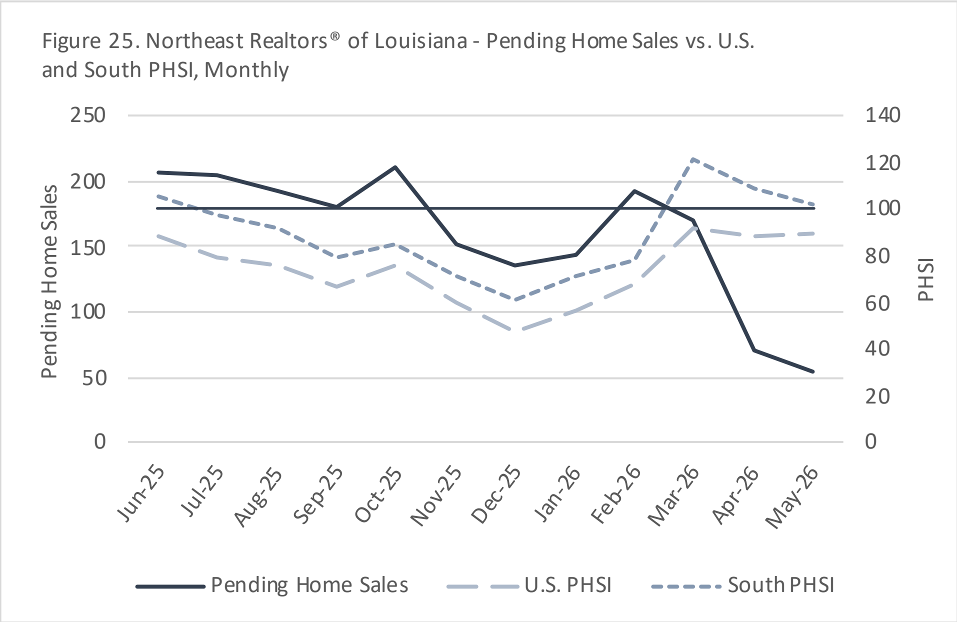
New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors® - Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John



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



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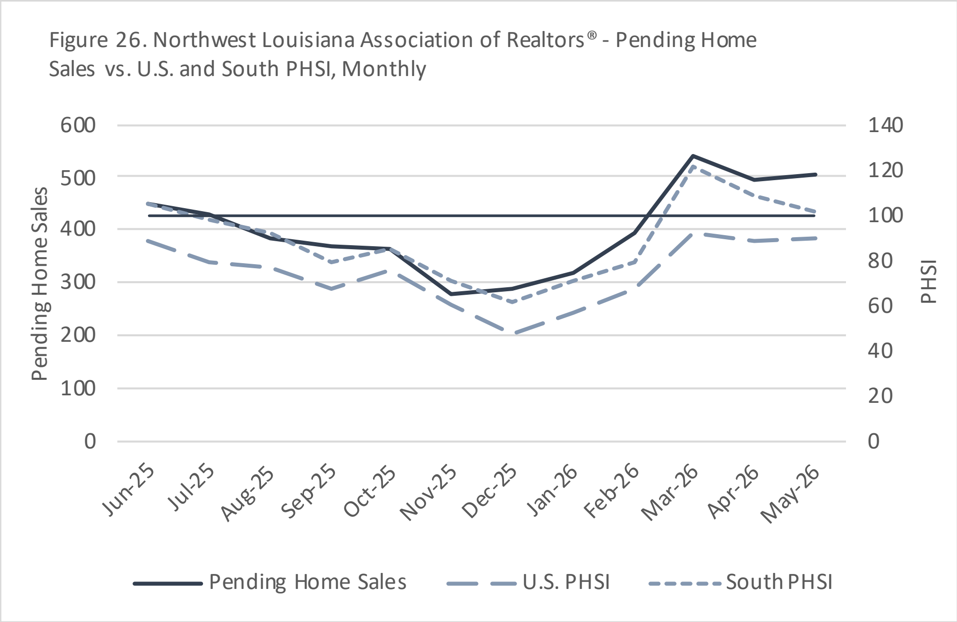
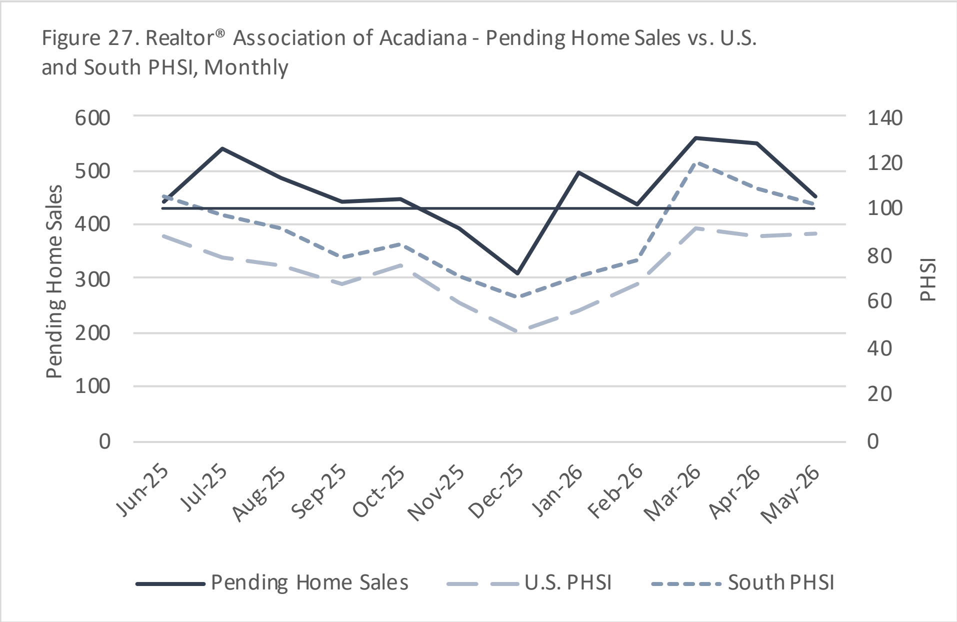
Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors® - Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Webster



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



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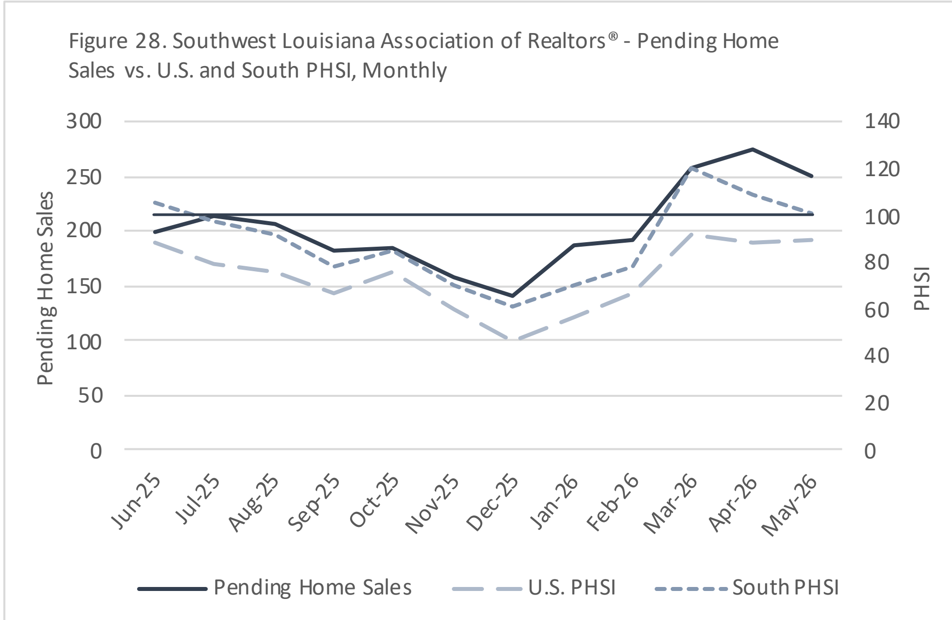
Southwest Louisiana Association of Realtors® - Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis



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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	29	30				