Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, June 26, 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:

Louisiana Sets New National Standard for Responsible Industrial Growth
June 25th, 2026

Louisiana Leads Nation in REDI Sites, Expands Competitive Edge for Next-Generation Investment
June 24th, 2026

21st Annual Shovel Awards: The American Industrial Economy Remade in Real Time
June 18th, 2026

LSU and Hyundai Steel Sign Master Research Agreement to Advance Next-Generation Steelmaking in Louisiana
June 17th, 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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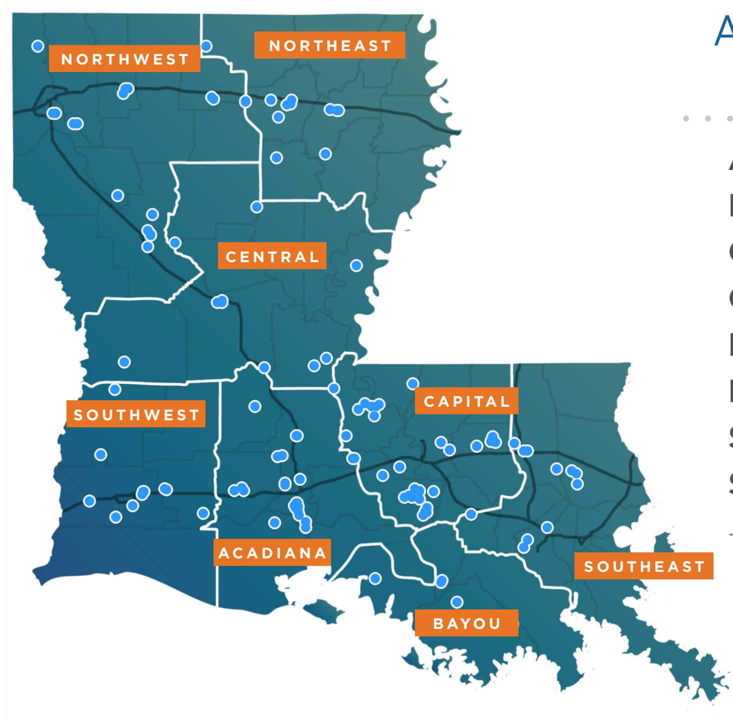
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 104 projects representing over $110.4 billion USD in new investment and more than 15,450 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of June 25, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 210 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $279.8 billion and the potential to create more than 60,465 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 169 industrial sites, with all or portions of 42 sites advancing into active commerce. At full build-out, these projects represent more than $40.2 billion in capital investment, over 7,140 direct new jobs, and more than $468 million in total annual wages statewide. Currently, there are 128 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.



Active Certified Sites by Region

Acadiana	28
Bayou	6
Capital	22
Central	9
Northeast	14
Northwest	17
Southeast	18
Southwest	14
TOTAL	128

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LOUISIANA COMPETES *NOW*

Louisiana honored with 2026 Gold Shovel Award

For the third consecutive year, economic development publication *Area Development* has honored Louisiana with the 2026 Gold Shovel Award. Louisiana's Gold Shovel Award reflects a landmark year of transformative investment, driven by major wins in data infrastructure, automotive manufacturing, clean energy, and advanced industry. Led by Meta's $10 billion data center, Hyundai Motor Group's $5.8 billion manufacturing project, and Woodside Energy's $17.5 billion clean energy investment, the state's project portfolio demonstrates Louisiana's emergence as a premier destination for large-scale economic development.

Louisiana
Gold Shovel Award

for state with population between 3 and 5 million

Company Name	City	Jobs Created	Investment Amount	Industry
Woodside Energy	Lake Charles	500	**$17.5 Billion**	Energy – Oil, Gas
Venture Global	Port Sulphur	275	**$18 Billion**	Energy – Oil, Gas
Hyundai Motor Group *	Donaldsonville	1,300	**$5.8 Billion**	Automotive
CF Industries	Donaldsonville	103	**$2 Billion**	Energy – Oil, Gas
ElementUSA	Gramercy	200	**$850 Million**	Raw Materials, Mining
Atmosclear	Port Allen	75	**$885 Million**	Carbon Capture, Storage
Sarasonic Technologies *	Franklin	1,500	**$300 Million**	Autonomous Vessels & Defense
Neuro.io ^	Terrebonne	1,100	**$100 Million**	Medical Technology
SLB	Shreveport	660	**$30 Million**	Tech, Software
Drone Institute	Lafayette	610	**$340,000**	Tech, Software
Radiance Technologies	Ruston	150	**$371 Million**	Semiconductor, Chips
Aclara	Vinton	140	**$295 Million**	Raw Materials, Mining

* *denotes Manufacturing Project of the Year*
^ *denotes Non-Manufacturing Project of the Year*

Created with Datawrapper

Source: 1012industryreport.com

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1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

Monthly estimates of total employment and unemployment are prepared from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the household survey that is the source of the national unemployment rate. State monthly model-based estimates are controlled in “real time” to sum to national monthly employment and unemployment estimates from the CPS. These models combine current and historical data from the CPS, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, and state unemployment insurance (UI) systems.

Source: bls.gov

Key Takeaways

- Both the labor force and labor force participation rate generally tracked or exceeded year-earlier levels during the first five months of 2026, indicating continued labor force engagement.
- Monthly unemployment and the unemployment rate followed a pattern similar to recent years, with unemployment remaining below approximately 95,000 individuals through May.
- Despite the recent increase in initial claims, the four-week moving average of continued claims has remained consistently below the comparable period a year earlier, indicating that unemployed workers are generally finding employment more quickly than in the previous year.
- Taken together, the labor market continues to exhibit resilience. While the recent rise in initial claims warrants continued monitoring, relatively stable labor force participation, low unemployment, and lower continued claims suggest that labor market conditions remain fundamentally solid.

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Figure 1 displays Louisiana's monthly labor force and labor force participation rate (LFPR) for 2024, 2025, and 2026 through May. Labor force levels are shown as bars using the left axis, while the labor force participation rate is plotted as lines using the right axis, allowing comparison of both labor force size and participation across the three years. Figure 2 presents Louisiana's monthly unemployment levels and unemployment rate (UR) for 2024, 2025, and 2026 through May. Unemployment counts are displayed as bars using the left axis, while the unemployment rate is shown as lines using the right axis, facilitating comparisons of labor market conditions across the three years.

Source: bls.gov

Figure 1. Louisiana Labor Force and LFPR, by Month (Jan 2024 - May 2026)

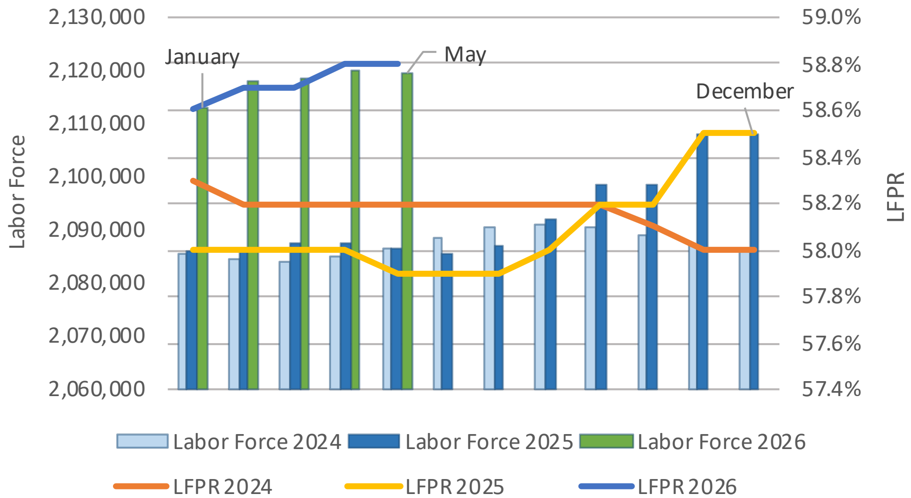
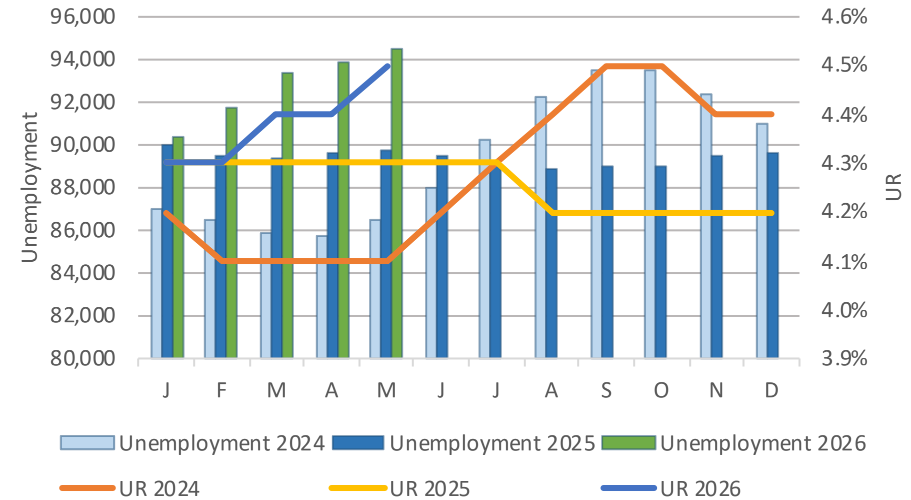


Figure 2. Louisiana Unemployment and UR, by Month (Jan 2024 - May 2026)



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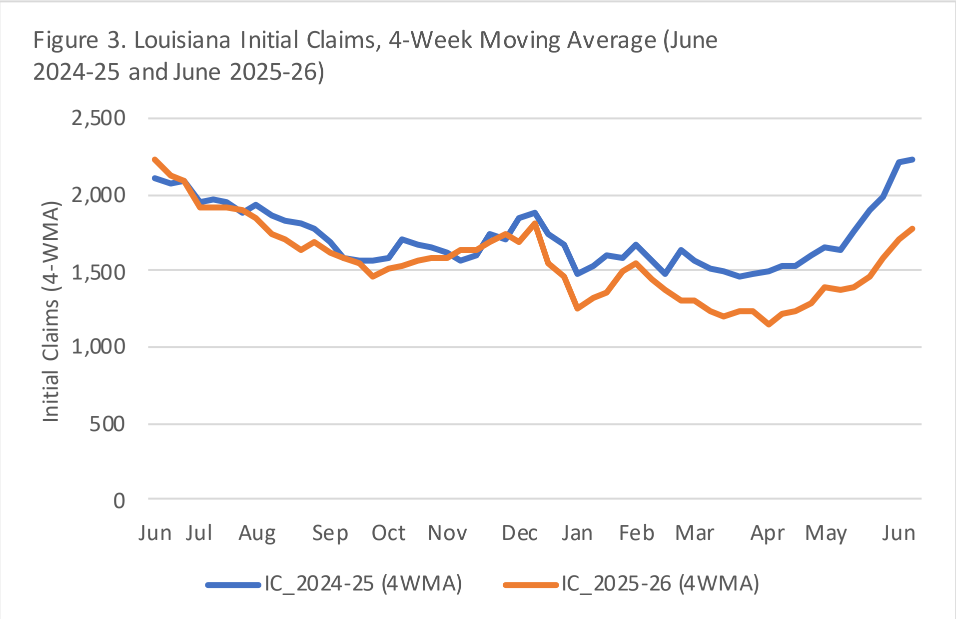
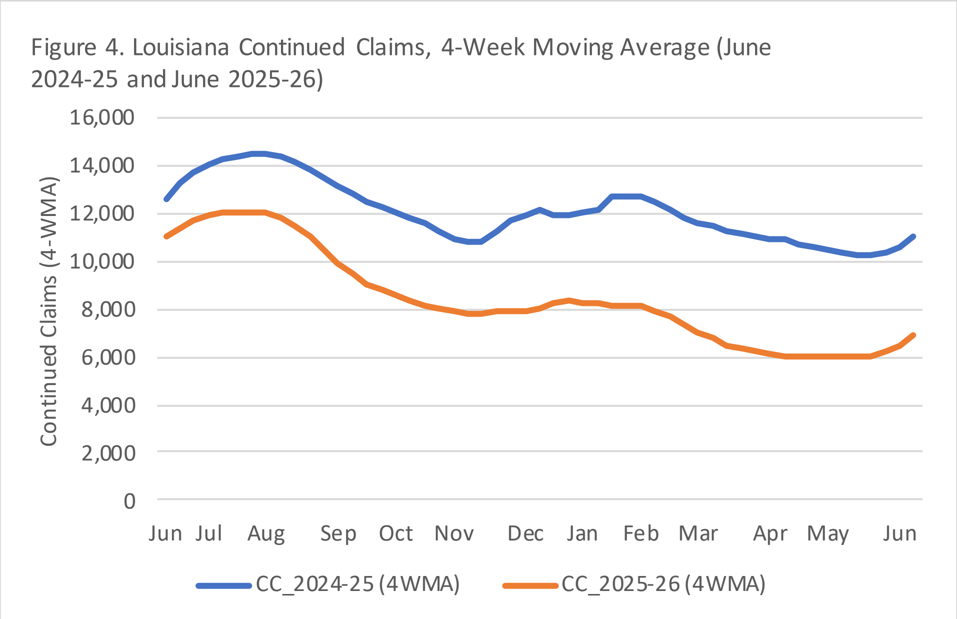
Initial claims represent people in Louisiana who are newly filing for unemployment benefits and are a leading indicator of labor market weakness. Continued claims represent people in the state who are still receiving benefits and they reflect the persistence of unemployment. By plotting the 4-week moving average (Figures 3 and 4), we smooth out week-to-week volatility to better isolate the underlying trend. These figures include initial- and continued claims for June 2025-26 overlaid with June 2024-25 for comparison.

Source: LAworks.net





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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

- Agricultural commodity prices were mixed during the week as soybeans, coffee, and rice posted gains, while wheat, lumber, palm oil, corn, and orange juice declined. Most monthly price changes remain modest outside of corn and orange juice, which continues to experience substantial year-over-year price volatility.
- WTI and Brent crude oil prices fell by roughly 12–14 percent over the past week and are about 23–27 percent below their levels one month ago.
- The Iran conflict triggered a sharp increase in energy prices. As shown in Figure 6, crude oil and Gulf Coast gasoline prices rose rapidly following the onset of the conflict, peaking at roughly 50–75 percent above their March 2 levels before moderating in recent weeks.
- Gasoline prices closely tracked movements in crude oil throughout the conflict. The parallel movement of WTI, Brent, and Gulf Coast gasoline indicates that changes in retail fuel markets largely reflected changes in global crude oil prices rather than localized refining or distribution disruptions.

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Table 1. Energy Commodities, Weekly							
					Change		
Commodity	6/19/26	6/12/26	5/22/26	6/20/26	WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	$81.00	$93.76	$110.61	$78.25	-13.6%	-26.8%	3.5%
WTI Crude Oil Price	$81.36	$92.16	$105.32	$74.94	-11.7%	-22.7%	8.6%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$3.12	$3.16	$3.11	$3.08	-1.3%	0.3%	1.3%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$3.77	$3.91	$4.33	$3.10	-3.6%	-12.9%	21.6%

Table 2. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of June 25, 2026							
				Change			
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,127.22	$11.27	$/Bu	1.7%	0.4%	-5.0%	10.2%
Wheat	$590.57	$5.91	$/Bu	0.8%	-2.1%	-7.1%	13.4%
Lumber	$617.53	$6.18	$/MBF	0.1%	-2.4%	5.2%	-0.1%
Palm Oil	$4,557.00	$45.57	$/MT	-1.6%	-0.4%	1.4%	13.6%
Sugar (No. 11)	$14.12	$0.14	$/Lb	0.7%	-0.1%	-2.9%	-9.8%
Coffee	$276.75	$2.77	$/Lb	-0.2%	3.3%	1.0%	-10.1%
Corn	$414.58	$4.15	$/Bu	1.9%	-0.7%	-9.4%	1.2%
Rice	$12.96	$0.13	$/CWT	0.3%	6.2%	-0.3%	-0.6%
Orange Juice	$141.85	$1.42	$/Lb	-3.0%	-11.0%	-19.9%	-38.7%

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Figure 5 displays the daily prices of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil, Brent crude oil, and U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline from February 17 through June 17, 2026. Vertical reference lines denote the onset of the conflict (Day 0) and the 30-, 60-, and 90-day milestones used to illustrate the evolution of energy prices over the first three months following the event.

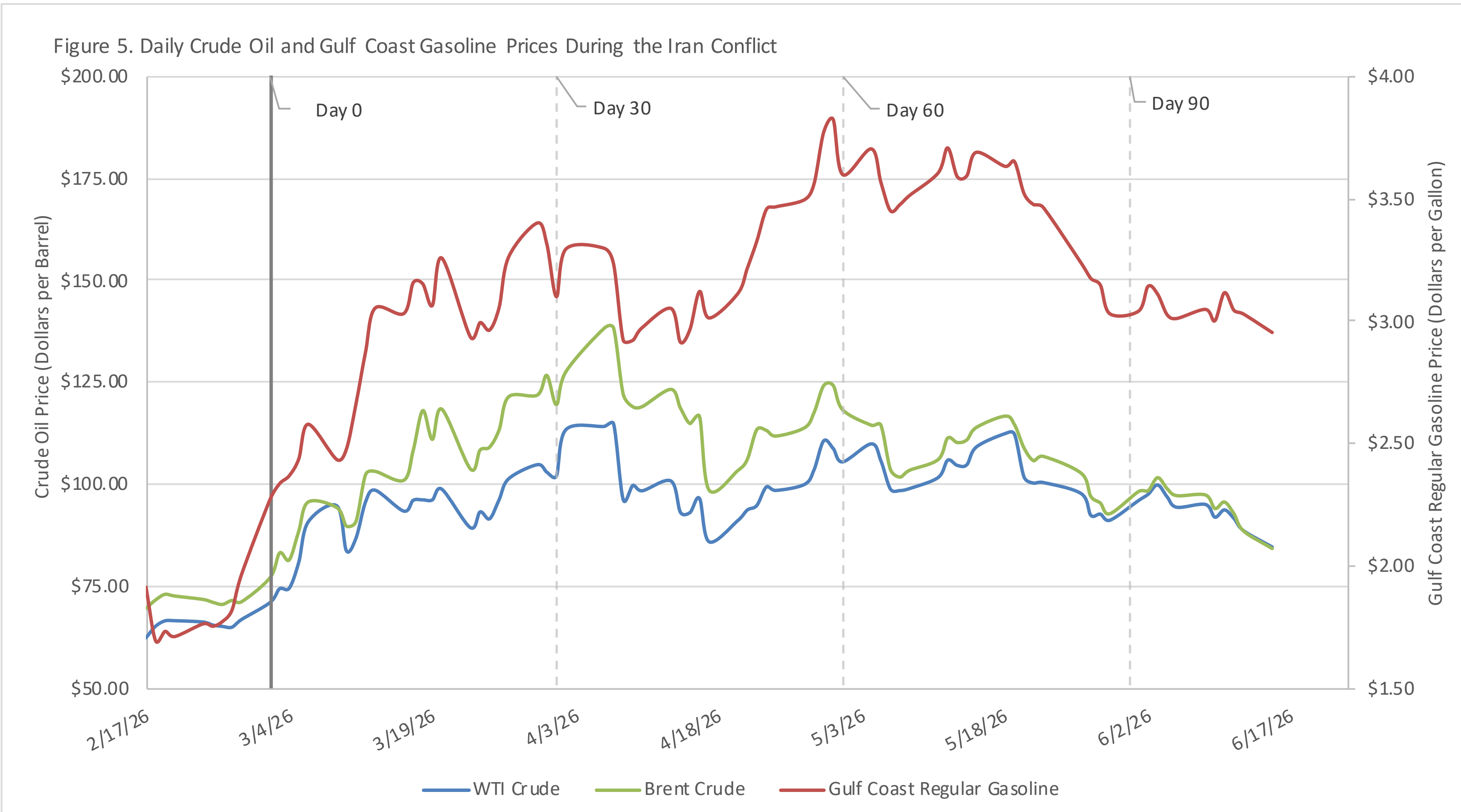

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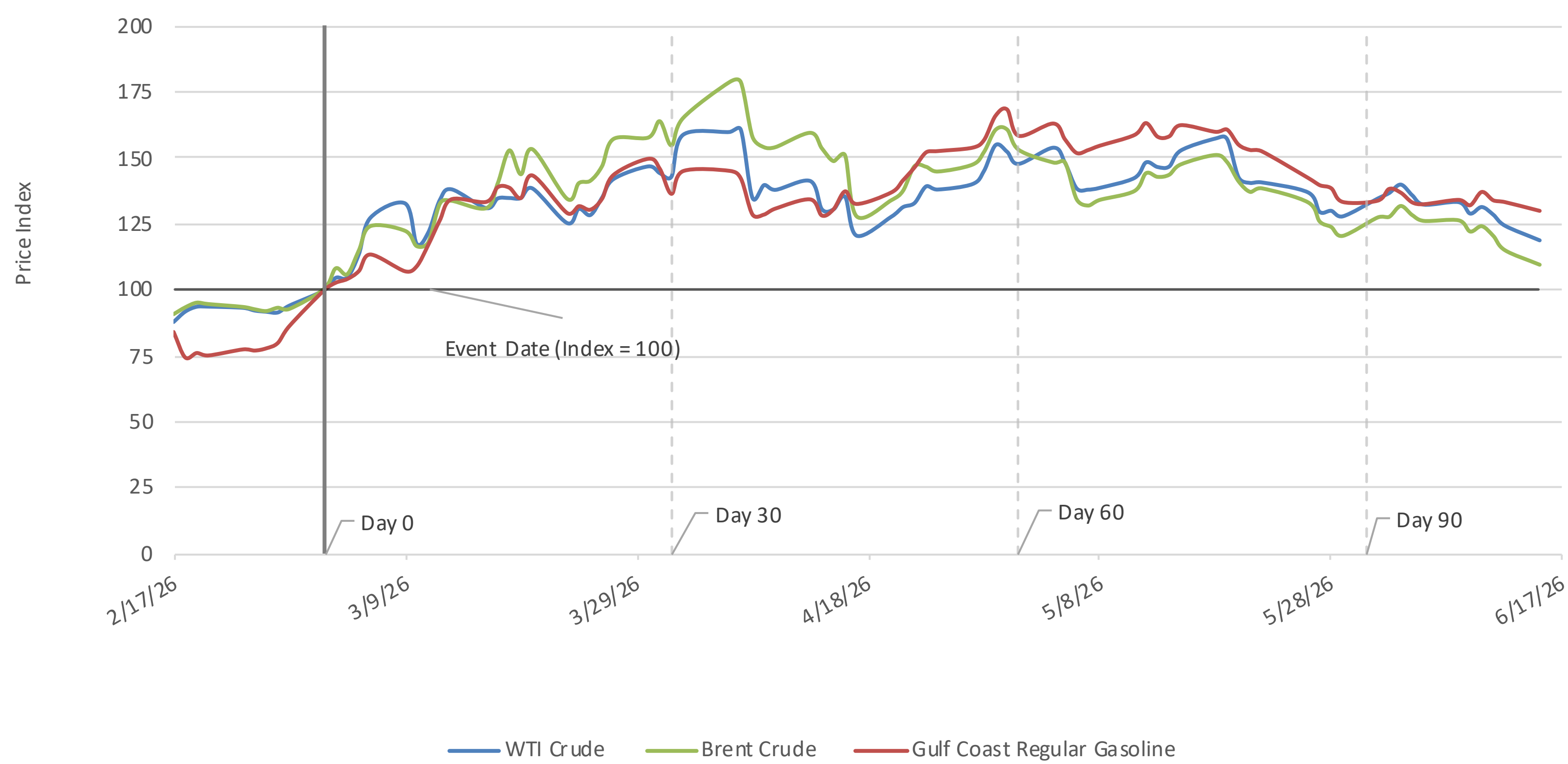
Figure 6 presents the same daily energy price series indexed to their March 2, 2026 values (March 2, 2026 = 100). Indexing each series to a common baseline facilitates comparison of the relative changes in WTI crude oil, Brent crude oil, and U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline prices during the first 90 days following the onset of the conflict.

Figure 6. Energy Price Response to the 2026 Iran Conflict (March 2, 2026 = 100)



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3. U.S. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Table 3 presents a revised (3rd) 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 (2.1-percent) in real GDP from 2025:Q4 to 2026:Q1.

Source: www.bea.gov

Key Takeaways

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annualized rate of 2.1 percent, supported by gains in consumer spending, private investment, exports, and government expenditures.
- Private domestic investment was the largest contributor to first-quarter growth (1.35 percentage points), followed by exports (1.12 percentage points), reflecting continued business investment and stronger foreign demand for U.S. goods and services.
- Always the main driver of the U.S. Economy, consumer spending had a positive yet moderated change.
- Government spending provided additional support for economic activity. Government consumption expenditures and gross investment contributed 0.74 percentage points to GDP growth, helping offset part of the drag from imports.

Table 3. U.S. Real Gross Domestic Product and Major Expenditure Components, 2026:Q1 (Revised, 3rd Estimate)

Component	2026:Q1	2025:Q4	2025:Q1	Change	
				QoQ	YoY
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	$6,045.1	$6,013.9	$5,887.1	0.5%	2.7%
Personal Consumption Expenditures	$4,171.9	$4,166.3	$4,086.5	0.1%	2.1%
Gross Private Domestic Investment	$1,123.2	$1,102.1	$1,137.0	1.9%	-1.2%
Net Exports of Goods and Services	($250.5)	($242.2)	($345.2)	3.4%	-27.4%
Exports	$689.3	$671.7	$664.9	2.6%	3.7%
Imports	($939.7)	($913.9)	($1,010.1)	2.8%	-7.0%
Government Consumption Expenditures and Gross Investment	$1,000.1	$989.3	$998.5	1.1%	0.2%

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.

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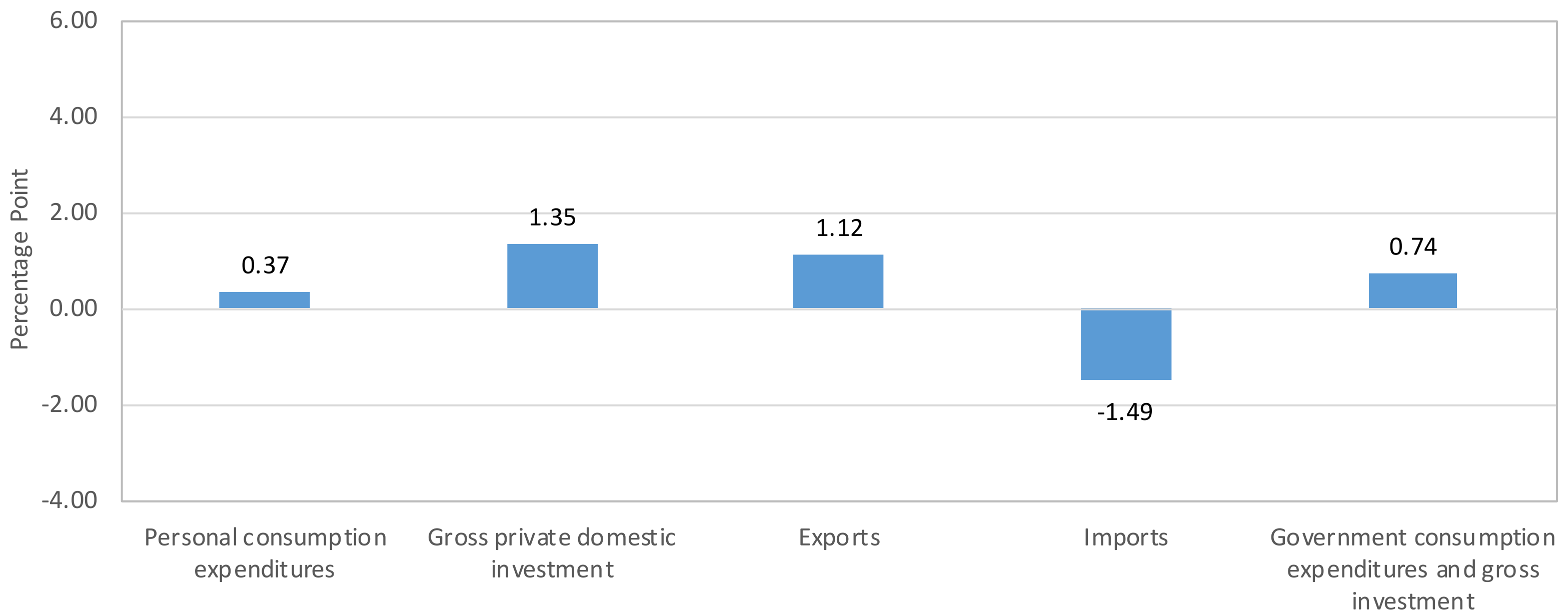
Figure 7. Contribution to Real GDP Growth by Major Expenditure Component, 2026:Q1 (Percentage Points, Annualized Rate)



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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				