

# Louisiana Economic Vitals Friday, July 17, 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 JULY 2026 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[Quality Companies Expands Manufacturing Footprint Across Acadiana with Two-Site Investment](#)

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana Dynamism: America's Third Coast Builds the Future](#)

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Meta Commits More Than \\$50 Billion for North Louisiana Project, Becoming One of the Largest Data Centers in History](#)

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[Louisiana's Moment Became Louisiana Momentum](#)

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

[Pool Products Manufacturer Invests at Least \\$8 Million for Louisiana Expansion](#)

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

[Louisiana NOW Takes National Stage at the Great American State Fair](#)

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

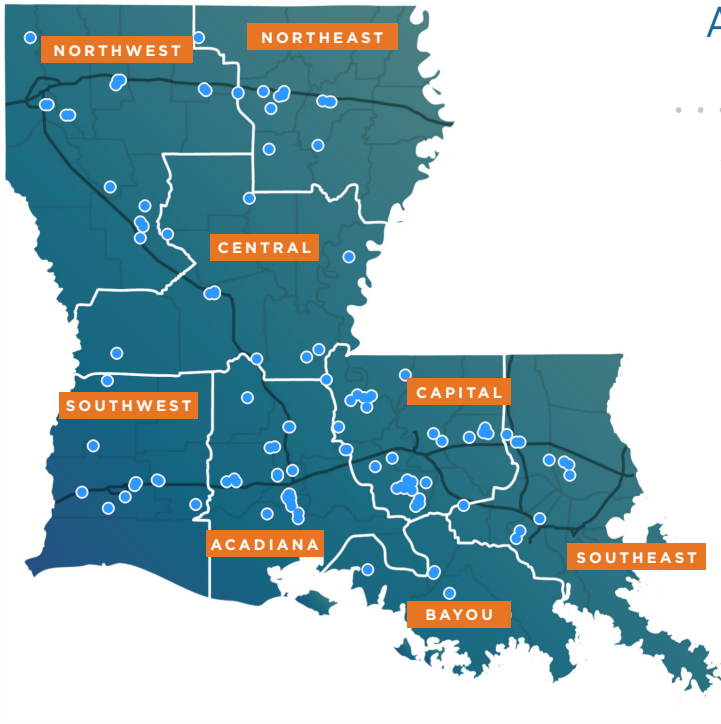
# LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 106 projects representing over \$150.4 billion USD in new investment and more than 16,145 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of July 16, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 190 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding \$206.3 billion and the potential to create more than 56,085 direct new jobs.

## CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 170 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 129 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.



### Active Certified Sites by Region

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Acadiana . . . . .  | 29 |
| Bayou . . . . .     | 6  |
| Capital . . . . .   | 22 |
| Central . . . . .   | 9  |
| Northeast . . . . . | 14 |
| Northwest . . . . . | 17 |
| Southeast . . . . . | 18 |
| Southwest . . . . . | 14 |

TOTAL 129

# 1. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF META'S HYPERION AI DATA CENTER

Construction of Meta's Hyperion AI data center has substantially increased sales and use tax collections in Richland Parish. The figures below illustrate the acceleration in both annual and monthly collections during the construction period. Purchases of construction materials, equipment, and related services have already generated significant increases in local sales and use tax collections, demonstrating the immediate economic impact of one of Louisiana's largest private investments.

Note: In Figure 3, each month's sales and use tax collections are compared with the same month in the prior year. Accordingly, July–December compare 2025 with 2024, while January–June compare 2026 with 2025.

Source: [lataonline.org](https://lataonline.org)

## Key Takeaways

- Richland Parish sales and use tax collections reached a record level in fiscal year 2026, reflecting a sharp acceleration in economic activity during construction of Meta's Hyperion AI data center.
- During FY 2025-26 monthly sales and use tax collections consistently exceeded the prior two fiscal years, with several months generating more than twice the revenue collected one year earlier.
- Strong year-over-year growth persisted throughout the fiscal year, indicating that ongoing construction activity continued to drive elevated local spending and tax collections.
- While these construction-related revenues may be temporary, they illustrate the significant short-term economic impact that large-scale capital investment projects can have on local governments, providing additional resources to support public services and infrastructure during the construction phase.

Figure 1. Annual Growth in Richland Parish Sales and Use Tax Collections

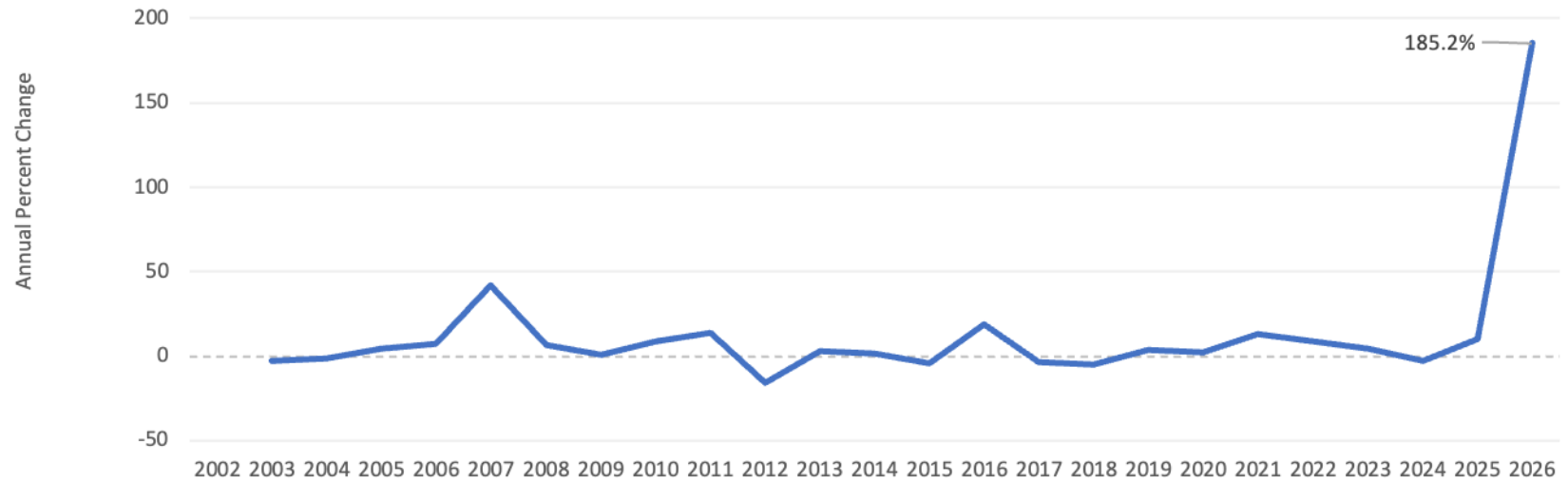


Figure 2. Monthly Richland Parish Sales and Use Tax Collections

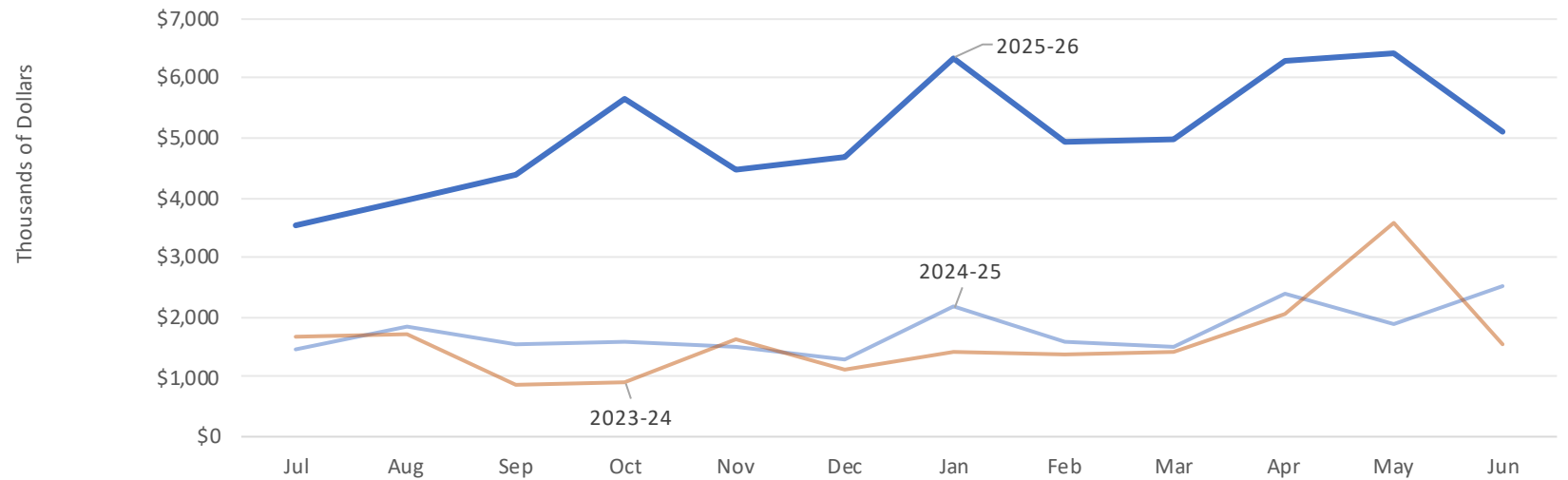
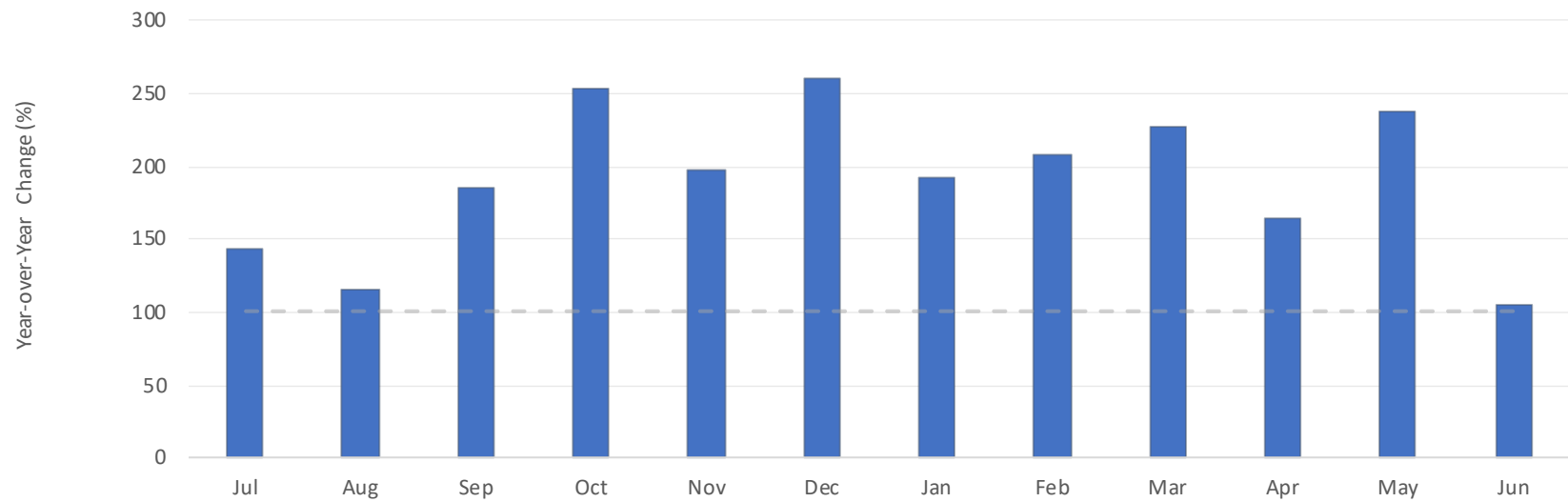


Figure 3. Year-over-Year Growth in Monthly Richland Parish Sales and Use Tax Collections



## 2. LOUISIANA ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Canada, Mexico, and the United States have developed highly integrated manufacturing supply chains over the past three decades. The figures below examine monthly exports of U.S.-produced advanced manufacturing-related goods from Louisiana to Canada and Mexico, including industrial chemicals, fertilizers, plastics, machinery, and electrical equipment. Together, these industries provide a timely indicator of Louisiana's participation in North American manufacturing supply chains. The accompanying transportation analysis illustrates the multimodal logistics network supporting these exports.

Note: Advanced Manufacturing Trade includes HS Chapters 28 (Inorganic Chemicals), 29 (Organic Chemicals), 31 (Fertilizers), 38 (Miscellaneous Chemical Products), 39 (Plastics), 84 (Machinery), and 85 (Electrical Machinery). Source: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, North American Transborder Freight Database; author's calculations.

Source: [data.bts.gov](https://data.bts.gov)

### Key Takeaways

- Louisiana's advanced manufacturing exports to Canada and Mexico strengthened during the first half of 2026, reaching approximately \$250 million in April and remaining at elevated levels through May.
- Plastics and organic chemicals accounted for the largest share of exports, underscoring Louisiana's comparative advantage in process manufacturing and industrial materials.
- The export index increased 36 percent from May 2025 to May 2026, signaling stronger demand for Louisiana-produced advanced manufacturing goods across North American markets.
- Rail and truck transportation accounted for nearly 90 percent of shipments, highlighting the importance of Louisiana's multimodal freight network in supporting continental manufacturing supply chains.

Figure 4. Louisiana North American Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Exports by Commodity Group

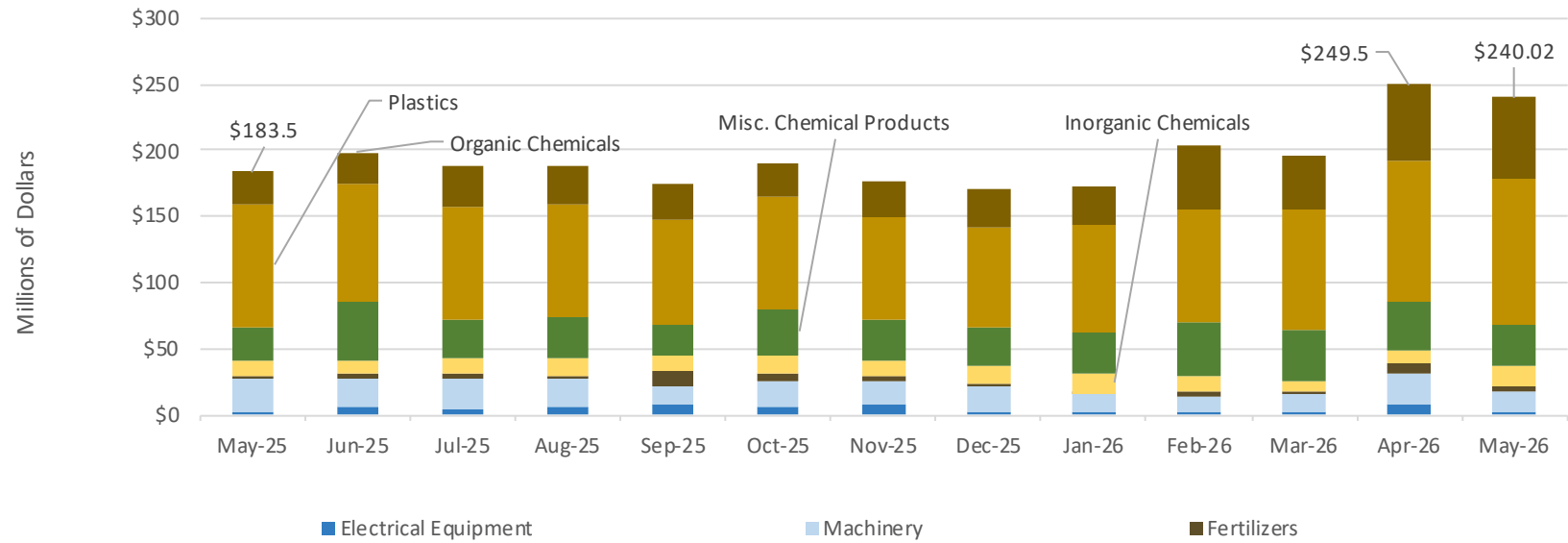


Figure 5. Louisiana North American Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Export Index (May 2025 = 100)

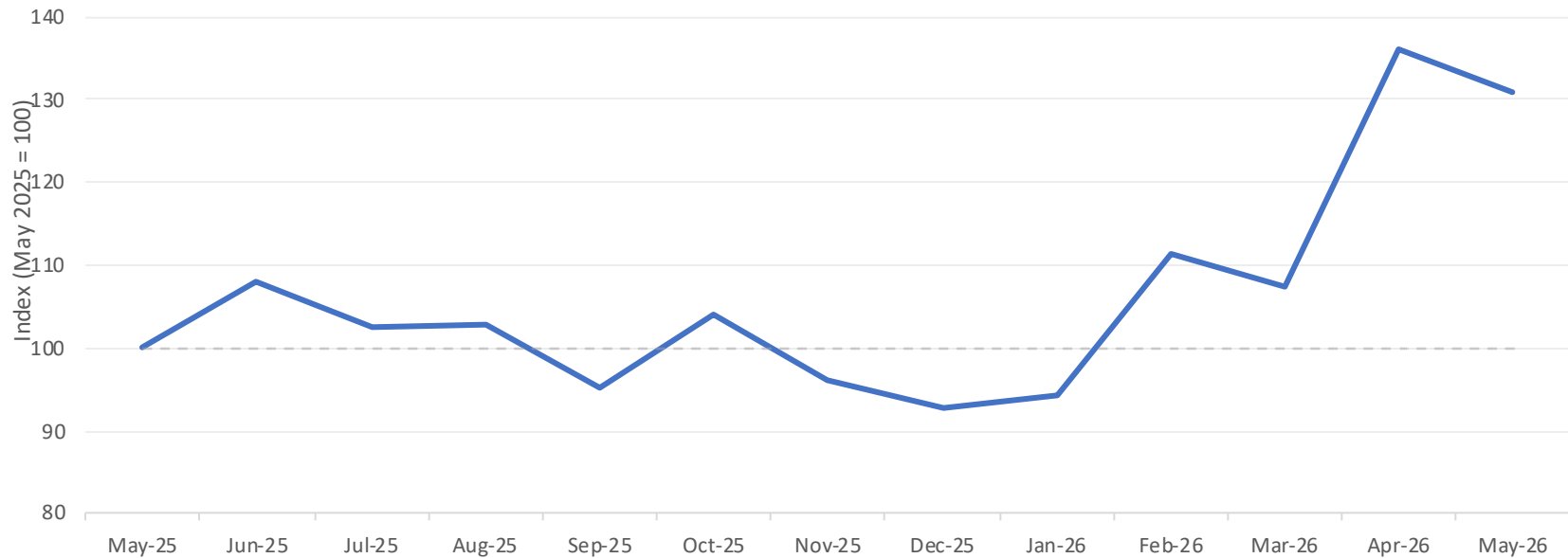
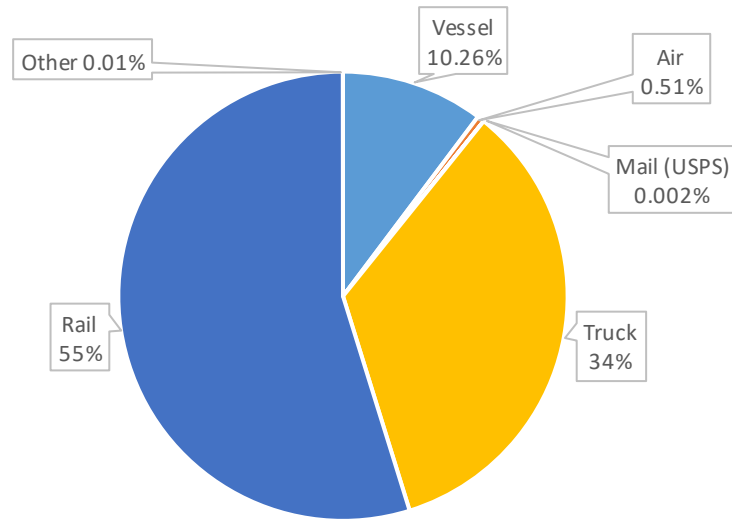


Figure 6. Mode of Transportation (May 2025-May 2026)



### 3. LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

A competitive manufacturing sector depends not only on industrial facilities, but also on a workforce with the technical skills needed to design, operate, maintain, and improve complex production systems. The table below highlights a portfolio of occupations that support Louisiana's advanced manufacturing base, organized into four functional workforce groups. Together, these occupations provide insight into the size, specialization, hiring demand, and earning potential of the technical workforce that underpins Louisiana's comparative advantage in advanced manufacturing.

To better understand the workforce supporting Louisiana's advanced manufacturing sector, occupations were organized into four functional groups: Engineering, Engineering Technology, Industrial Trades, and Process Industries. Together, these occupations represent the core technical talent that designs, operates, maintains, and continuously improves Louisiana's manufacturing base. Note: A Location Quotient greater than 1.0 indicates that an occupation is more concentrated in Louisiana than the national average

Source: [lightcast.io](https://lightcast.io)

#### Key Takeaways

- Louisiana's advanced manufacturing workforce is anchored by more than 50,000 engineers, technicians, skilled trades workers, and process industry operators who support the state's industrial economy.
- Industrial Trades represent the largest workforce group, accounting for nearly 28,600 jobs and more than 3,100 average annual openings, highlighting continued demand for skilled technical talent.
- Louisiana's greatest workforce specialization is found in process industries, where occupations such as Chemical Plant and System Operators (LQ = 14.52) and Petroleum Pump System Operators and Refinery Operators (LQ = 7.77) are concentrated far above the national average.
- Chemical Engineers also demonstrate a strong comparative advantage (LQ = 2.65), reinforcing Louisiana's specialization in process manufacturing rather than traditional discrete manufacturing.
- High wages in engineering and process industry occupations, combined with strong hiring demand across industrial trades, underscore the importance of developing and retaining Louisiana's technical workforce.
- The workforce portfolio reflects Louisiana's comparative advantage in process manufacturing, where specialized engineering, operations, and maintenance occupations support one of the nation's most concentrated industrial ecosystems.

| Table 1. Louisiana Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Portfolio |                                                                     |           |                   |                      |                        |                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Workforce Group                                               | Occupation                                                          | 2026 Jobs | Location Quotient | Avg. Annual Openings | Median Hourly Earnings | Primary Function                                                                                          |
| Engineering                                                   | Chemical Engineers                                                  | 752       | 2.65              | 46                   | \$64.84                | Designs manufacturing processes, facilities, and equipment.                                               |
|                                                               | Electrical Engineers                                                | 1,162     | 0.45              | 94                   | \$59.29                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Industrial Engineers                                                | 1,906     | 0.41              | 190                  | \$58.96                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Mechanical Engineers                                                | 2,105     | 0.54              | 164                  | \$57.29                |                                                                                                           |
| Group Total                                                   |                                                                     | 5,925     |                   | 494                  |                        |                                                                                                           |
| Engineering Technology                                        | Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians | 1,075     | 0.82              | 106                  | \$39.84                | Supports implementation, testing, automation, and process improvement.                                    |
|                                                               | Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians                | 919       | 0.95              | 92                   | \$52.49                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians                | 321       | 0.69              | 31                   | \$49.12                |                                                                                                           |
| Group Total                                                   |                                                                     | 2,315     |                   | 228                  |                        |                                                                                                           |
| Industrial Trades                                             | Industrial Machinery Mechanics                                      | 7,896     | 1.35              | 846                  | \$28.88                | Fabricates, installs, repairs, and maintains industrial equipment and production systems.                 |
|                                                               | Millwrights                                                         | 1,083     | 2.01              | 115                  | \$31.75                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Machinists                                                          | 4,601     | 1.23              | 513                  | \$29.33                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers                            | 14,248    | 2.48              | 1,566                | \$29.57                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators                      | 763       | 0.36              | 90                   | \$23.94                |                                                                                                           |
| Group Total                                                   |                                                                     | 28,591    |                   | 3,130                |                        |                                                                                                           |
| Process Industries                                            | Chemical Plant and System Operators                                 | 3,250     | 14.52             | 341                  | \$48.10                | Operates and monitors continuous industrial production systems, including chemical plants and refineries. |
|                                                               | Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators, and Gaugers    | 3,436     | 7.77              | 354                  | \$51.27                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Plant and System Operators, All Other                               | 335       | 1.72              | 37                   | \$30.11                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                               | Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders                            | 6,427     | 3.59              | 826                  | \$37.77                |                                                                                                           |
| Group Total                                                   |                                                                     | 13,448    |                   | 1,558                |                        |                                                                                                           |

## 4. 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

- Crude oil prices remain well above their pre-conflict baseline. As of July 13, WTI crude remained about 39 percent above its March 2 level, while Brent crude was approximately 11 percent higher.
- Retail fuel markets have been slower to fully retrace than crude oil markets. Gulf Coast gasoline prices remained about 6 percent above their pre-conflict level in mid-July, reflecting the lag between crude price movements and refined fuel markets.
- Agricultural commodity performance remained mixed. Wheat, soybeans, corn, and rice posted double-digit gains from a year earlier, while sugar and orange juice continued to record significant year-over-year declines.
- Coffee prices remained volatile despite easing from recent highs. Coffee prices fell nearly 10 percent during the week but remained slightly above year-ago levels, illustrating continued volatility in global agricultural markets.
- Most agricultural commodities strengthened over the past month. Soybeans, wheat, coffee, rice, and orange juice all posted monthly gains, suggesting improving market conditions across several major crops despite short-term daily fluctuations.

**Table 2. Energy Commodities, Weekly**

| Commodity                           | 7/10/26 | 7/3/26  | 6/12/26 | 7/11/25 | Change |        |       |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-------|
|                                     |         |         |         |         | WoW    | MoM    | YoY   |
| Brent Crude Oil Price               | \$73.33 | \$69.70 | \$93.76 | \$71.77 | 5.2%   | -21.8% | 2.2%  |
| WTI Crude Oil Price                 | \$72.26 | \$70.48 | \$92.16 | \$69.15 | 2.5%   | -21.6% | 4.5%  |
| Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price    | \$3.09  | \$3.34  | \$3.16  | \$3.17  | -7.5%  | -2.2%  | -2.5% |
| U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price | \$3.73  | \$3.65  | \$3.91  | \$3.02  | 2.2%   | -4.6%  | 23.5% |

**Table 3. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of July 16, 2026**

| Commodity      | Listed Price | Dollar (\$) | Unit of Measurement | Change |        |         |        |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
|                |              |             |                     | Daily  | Weekly | Monthly | YoY    |
| Soybeans       | \$1,197.69   | \$11.98     | \$/Bu               | -0.4%  | 1.7%   | 5.8%    | 17.2%  |
| Wheat          | \$676.60     | \$6.77      | \$/Bu               | -0.1%  | 9.0%   | 10.2%   | 26.6%  |
| Lumber         | \$627.46     | \$6.27      | \$/MBF              | -0.3%  | 0.3%   | -0.5%   | -5.1%  |
| Palm Oil       | \$4,574.00   | \$45.74     | \$/MT               | 0.1%   | -0.4%  | 0.0%    | 8.6%   |
| Sugar (No. 11) | \$14.41      | \$0.14      | \$/Lb               | -2.9%  | -4.7%  | 0.3%    | -13.9% |
| Coffee         | \$314.10     | \$3.14      | \$/Lb               | -3.9%  | -9.8%  | 15.4%   | 2.1%   |
| Corn           | \$441.96     | \$4.42      | \$/Bu               | -1.2%  | 2.4%   | 5.0%    | 9.9%   |
| Rice           | \$13.77      | \$0.14      | \$/CWT              | -1.3%  | -1.3%  | 15.3%   | 9.9%   |
| Orange Juice   | \$135.71     | \$1.36      | \$/Lb               | -2.3%  | -6.2%  | 12.3%   | -56.7% |

Figure 7 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 July 13, 2026. Vertical reference lines denote the onset of the conflict (Day 0) and the 30-, 60-, 90-, and 120-day milestones used to illustrate the evolution of energy prices over the first four months following the event.

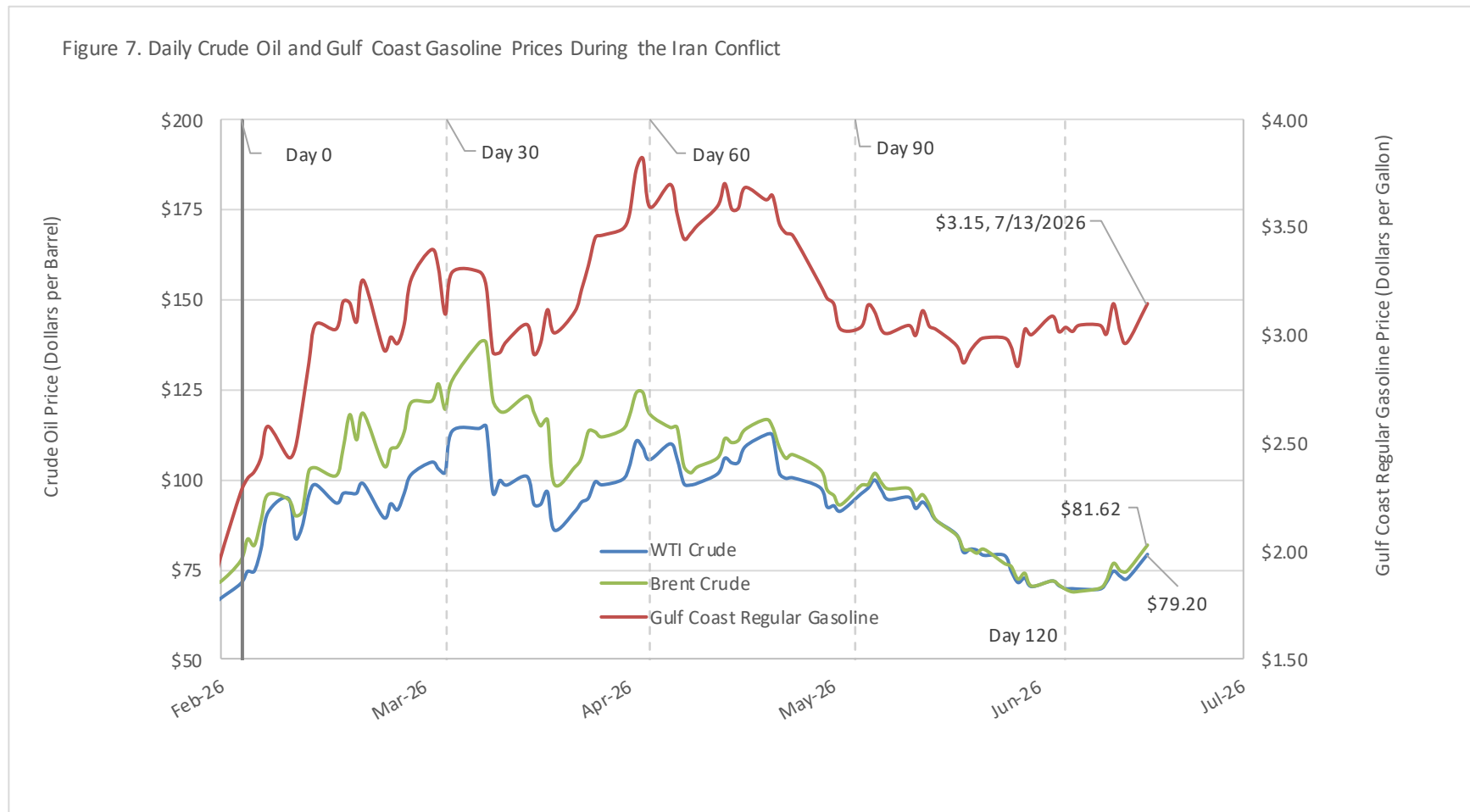
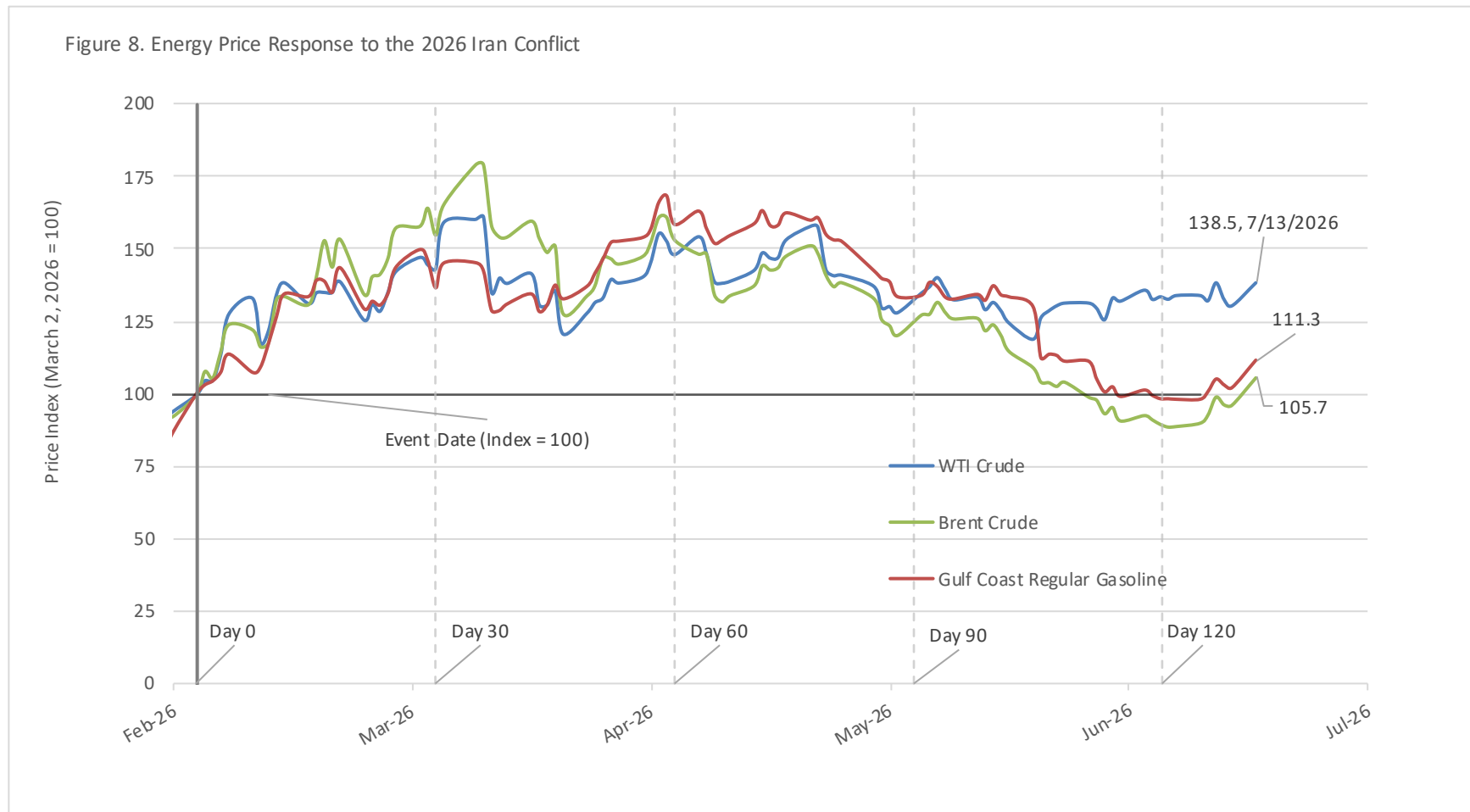


Figure 8 presents the same daily energy price series indexed to their March 2, 2026 values (March 2, 2026 = 100). Indexing each series to a common baseline facilitates comparison of the relative changes in WTI crude oil, Brent crude oil, and U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline prices during the first 120 days following the onset of the conflict.



# July

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

| Sunday | Monday                                          | Tuesday                                                                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                                                                                      | Thursday                                                                                                                                              | Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Saturday |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|        |                                                 |                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">Metro Employment</a><br>[May]<br><a href="#">ISM PMI Manufacturing</a><br>[June]<br><a href="#">Construction Spending</a><br>[May] | <a href="#">Employment Situation</a><br>[June]<br><a href="#">Manufacturing - New Orders</a><br>[May]                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |
| 5      | <a href="#">ISM PMI Services</a><br>[June]      | 6                                                                                                                                     | <a href="#">Wholesale Inventory</a><br>[May]                                                                                                   | <a href="#">Business Applications</a><br>[June]                                                                                                       | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 11       |
| 12     | <a href="#">Federal Budget</a><br>[June]        | 13<br><a href="#">CPI</a><br>[June]<br><a href="#">Real Earnings</a><br>[June]<br><a href="#">NFIB Small Business Report</a><br>[Feb] | 14<br><a href="#">PPI</a><br>[June]                                                                                                            | 15<br><a href="#">NAHB HMI</a><br>[July]<br><a href="#">Pending Home Sales</a><br>[June]<br><a href="#">Retail &amp; Food Sales</a><br>[June Advance] | 16<br><a href="#">U.S. Import &amp; Export PI</a><br>[June]<br><a href="#">U. of Michigan Sentiment</a><br>[July]<br><a href="#">Housing Starts</a><br>[June]<br><a href="#">Industrial Production</a><br>[June] | 18       |
| 19     |                                                 | 20<br><a href="#">State Employment</a><br>[June]                                                                                      | 21<br><a href="#">State JOLTS</a><br>[Annual 2025]                                                                                             | 22                                                                                                                                                    | 23<br><a href="#">New Residential Sales</a><br>[June]                                                                                                                                                            | 25       |
| 26     | <a href="#">Durable Goods</a><br>[June Advance] | 27<br><a href="#">The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index</a><br>[July]                                                      | 28<br><a href="#">Metro Employment</a><br>[June]                                                                                               | 29<br><a href="#">GDP</a><br>[2026:Q2, Advance Estimate]                                                                                              | 30<br><a href="#">Employment Cost Index</a><br>[2026:Q2]                                                                                                                                                         | 31       |