Louisiana Economic Vitals Friday, July 24, 2026

Pictured: The West Closure Complex (WCC), a massive flood control structure located on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway south of New Orleans, Louisiana. It features one of the largest drainage pumping stations in the world, equipped with 11 massive pumps designed to protect against storm surges. The project, completed in 2011, is a central part of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for the area.

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 July 2026 Announcements:

New Public Platform Reveals Economic Expansion Across Northeast Louisiana
July 20th, 2026

Quality Companies Expands Manufacturing Footprint Across Acadiana with Two-Site Investment
July 16th, 2026

Louisiana Dynamism: America's Third Coast Builds the Future
July 14th, 2026

Meta Commits More Than $50 Billion for North Louisiana Project, Becoming One of the Largest Data Centers in History
July 13th, 2026

Louisiana's Moment Became Louisiana Momentum
July 8th, 2026

Pool Products Manufacturer Invests at Least $8 Million for Louisiana Expansion
July 8th, 2026

Louisiana NOW Takes National Stage at the Great American State Fair
July 2nd, 2026

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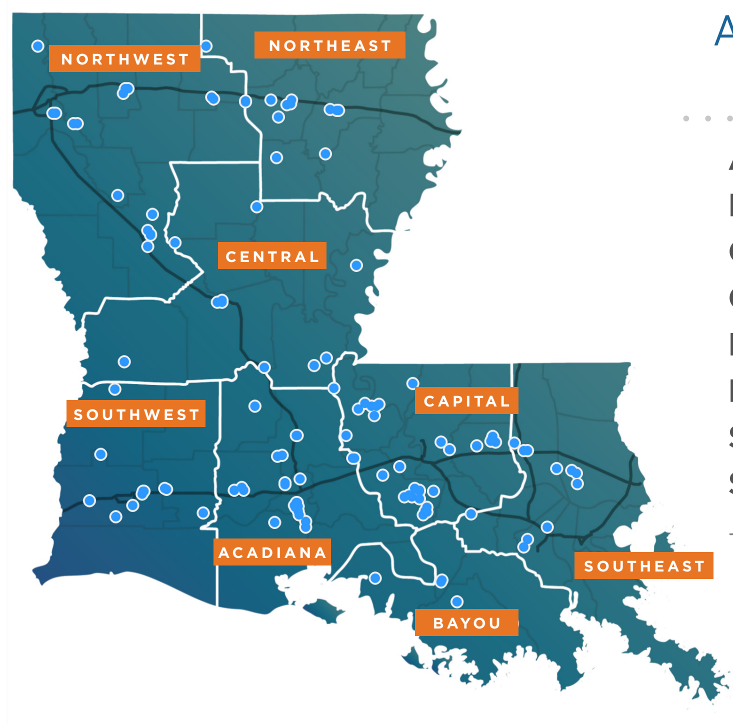
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

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 23, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 186 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $307 billion and the potential to create more than 50,055 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

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1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

Figures 1 through 7 provide an overview of recent employment and wage trends in Louisiana. The first two figures present statewide employment levels, the goods-producing share of employment, and average hourly earnings from June 2024 through June 2026. The remaining figures compare annual average pay in selected parishes between 2024 and 2025, illustrating the magnitude of wage growth in areas experiencing significant economic activity. Note: June 2026 is preliminary

Source: bls.gov

Key Takeaways

- Louisiana's labor market continued to strengthen through June 2026, with both total nonfarm and private employment reaching their highest June levels of the past three years.
- Several parishes recorded substantial gains in annual average pay between 2024 and 2025, highlighting the localized impact of major industrial investment and construction activity.
- The combination of rising employment and accelerating wages suggests Louisiana's labor market remains supported by continued industrial expansion and large-scale capital investment.

Figure 1. Louisiana Nonfarm Employment and Goods-Producing Share, June 2024–2026

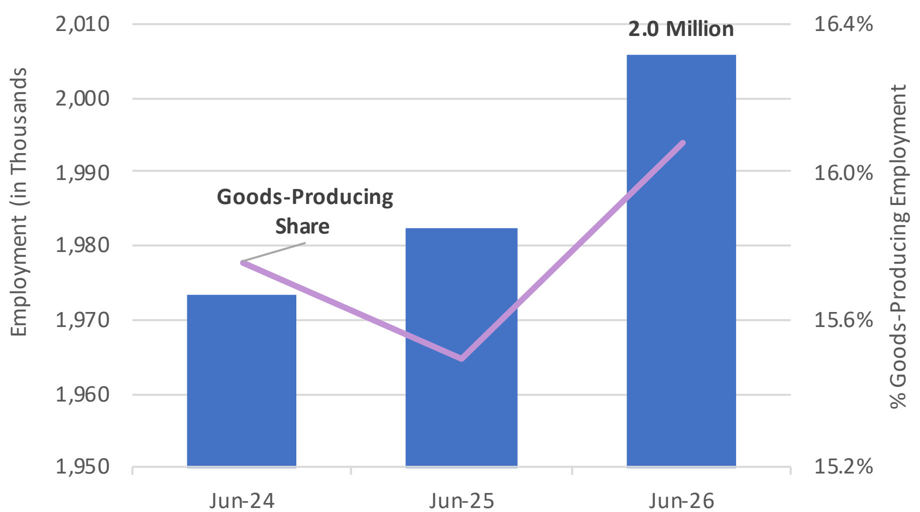
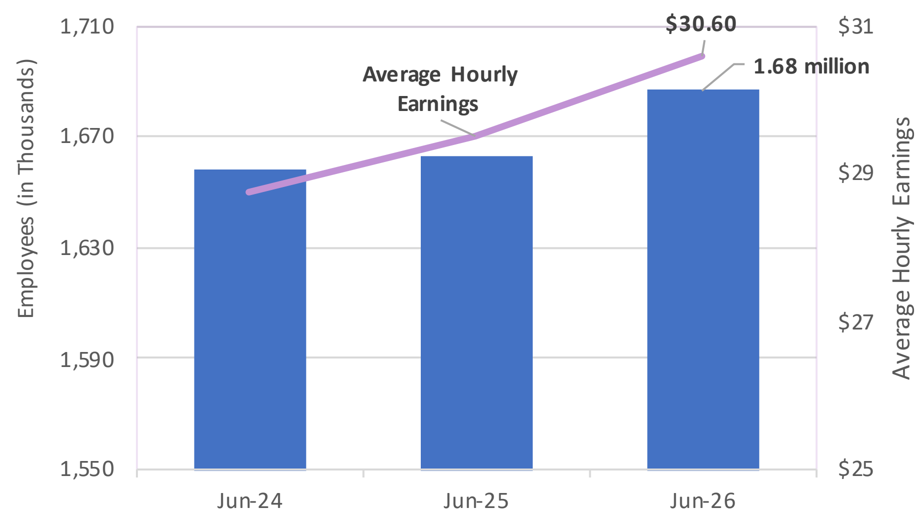


Figure 2. Louisiana Private Employment and Average Hourly Earnings, June 2024–2026



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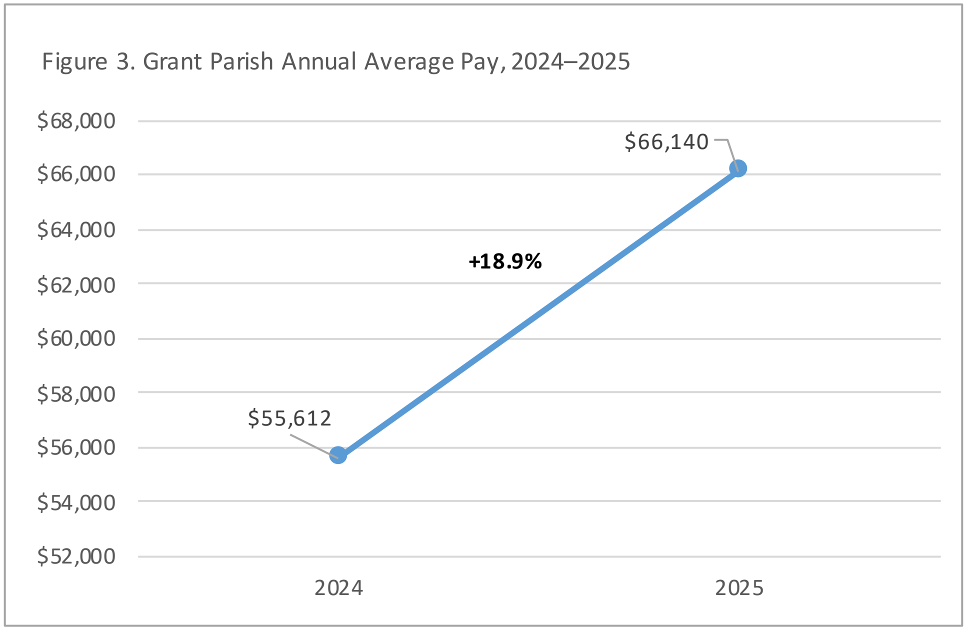

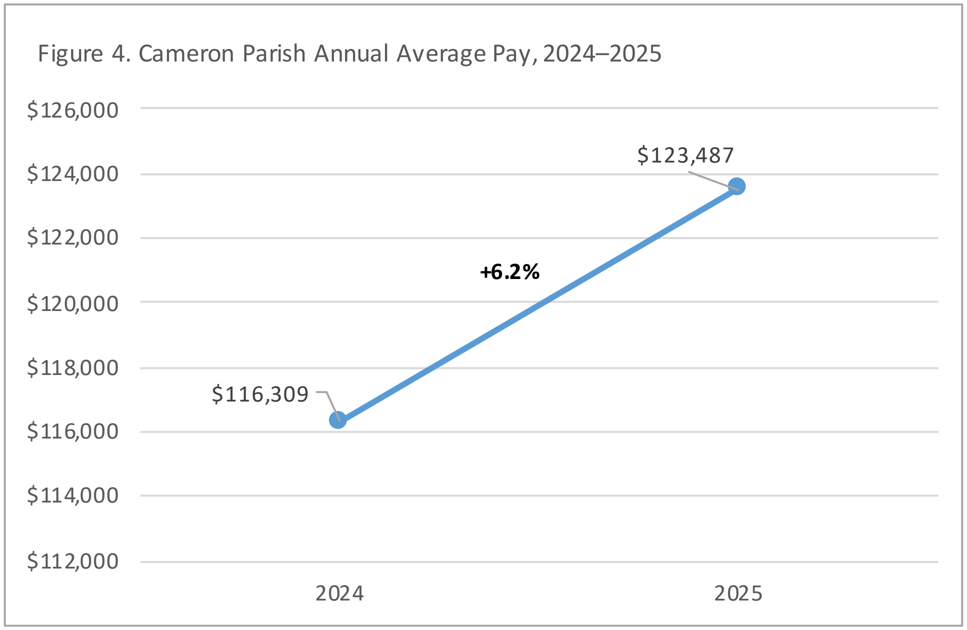

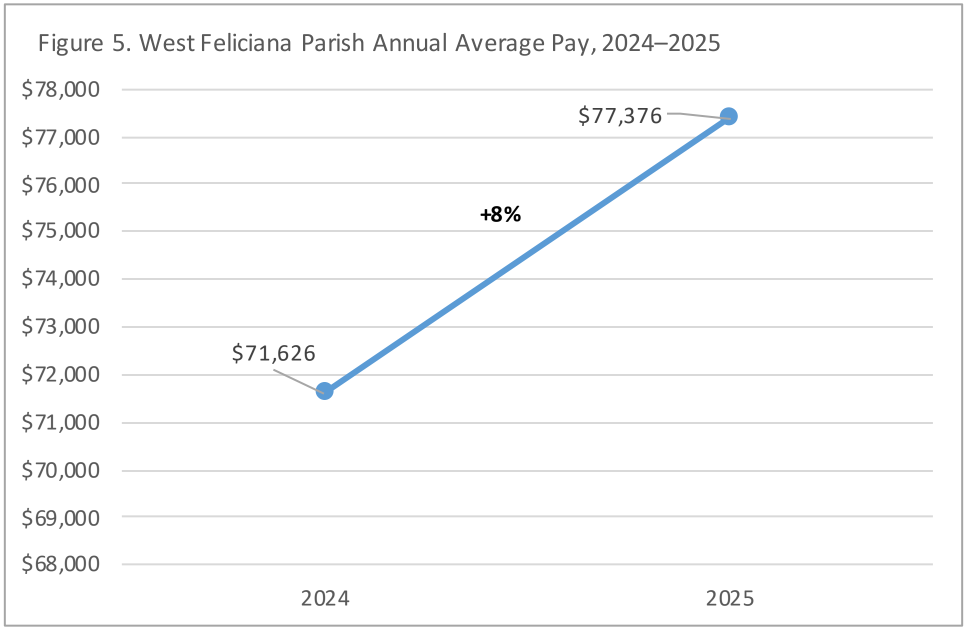

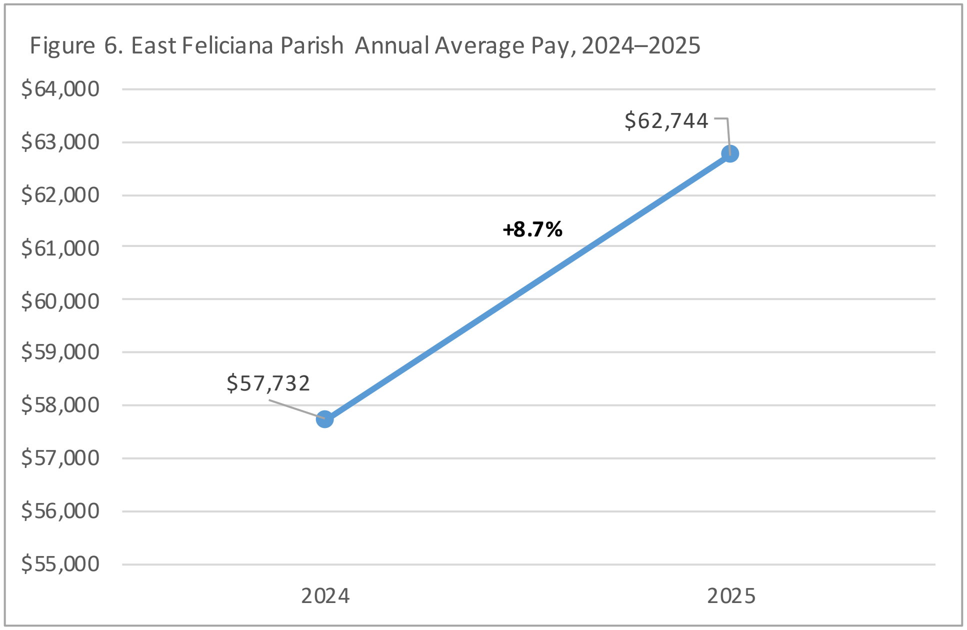

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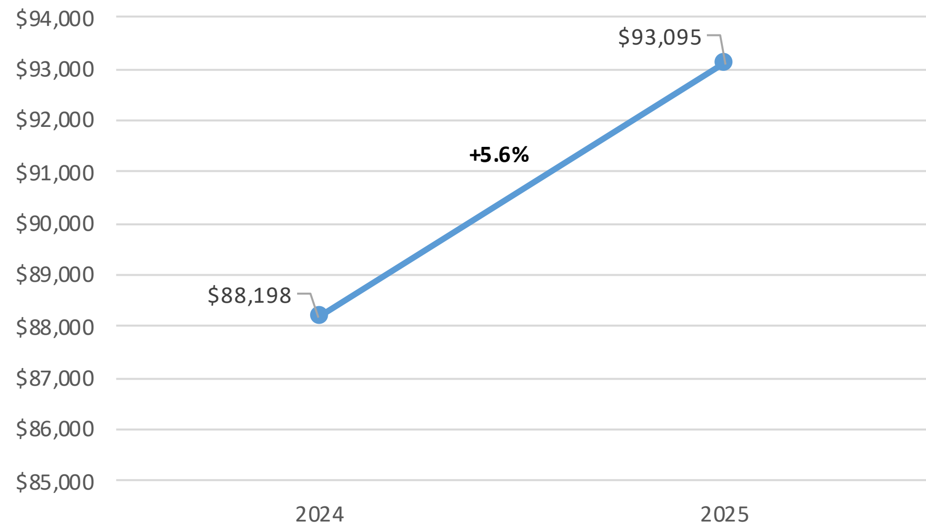
Figure 7. Plaquemines Parish Annual Average Pay, 2024–2025



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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

- Energy prices strengthened further as geopolitical tensions persisted. The charts show the latest upward movement following a period of moderation.
- U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline increased over the week and is above its year-ago level, indicating that elevated crude prices continue to pass through to refined fuel markets.
- Most major agricultural commodities continued to post solid year-over-year gains. Several commodities remained above year-earlier prices, although weekly and daily movements were mixed.
- Orange juice remains the largest year-over-year decliner. Prices are down from a year ago despite a weekly increase, suggesting that the market continues to normalize following last year's supply disruptions.

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Table 1. Energy Commodities, Weekly							
					Change		
Commodity	7/17/26	7/10/26	6/19/26	7/18/25	WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	$82.93	$73.33	$81.00	$70.66	13.1%	2.4%	17.4%
WTI Crude Oil Price	$80.77	$72.26	$81.36	$68.07	11.8%	-0.7%	18.7%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$2.79	$3.09	$3.12	$3.39	-9.7%	-10.6%	-17.7%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$3.86	$3.73	$3.77	$3.02	3.5%	2.4%	27.8%

Table 2. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of July 23, 2026							
				Change			
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,235.00	$12.35	$/Bu	0.2%	3.4%	11.4%	23.0%
Wheat	$694.50	$6.95	$/Bu	-1.6%	2.9%	18.6%	28.3%
Lumber	$656.50	$6.57	$/MBF	-0.4%	3.5%	6.4%	-1.4%
Palm Oil	$4,710.00	$47.10	$/MT	1.9%	3.0%	1.7%	8.8%
Sugar (No. 11)	$14.68	$0.15	$/Lb	-0.4%	1.7%	4.7%	-11.4%
Coffee	$310.75	$3.11	$/Lb	-1.9%	-0.6%	12.1%	1.9%
Corn	$463.25	$4.63	$/Bu	0.3%	4.9%	13.8%	15.3%
Rice	$14.15	$0.14	$/CWT	-1.1%	0.9%	9.5%	12.8%
Orange Juice	$145.50	$1.46	$/Lb	-3.2%	8.7%	-0.5%	-57.1%

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Figure 8 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 20, 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. Daily Crude Oil and Gulf Coast Gasoline Prices During the Iran Conflict

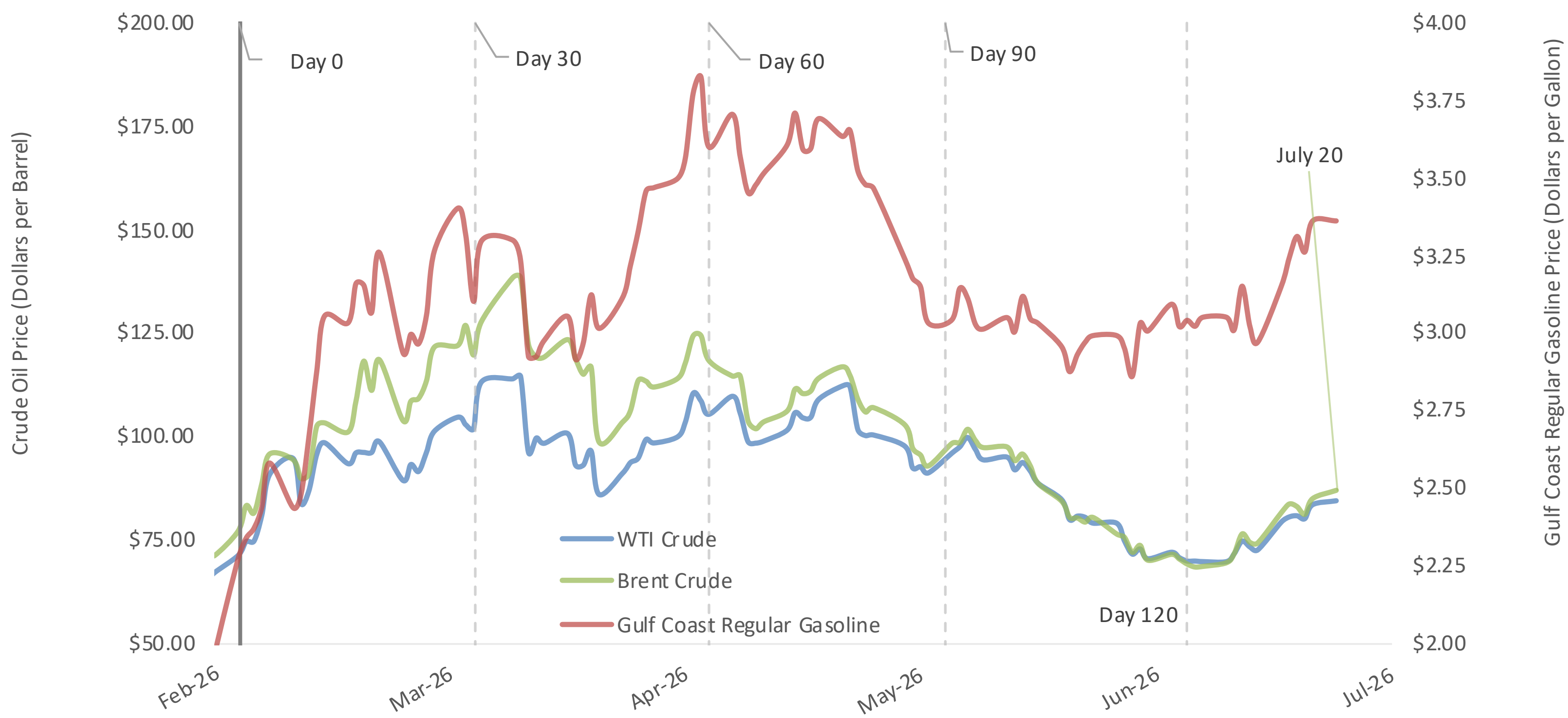

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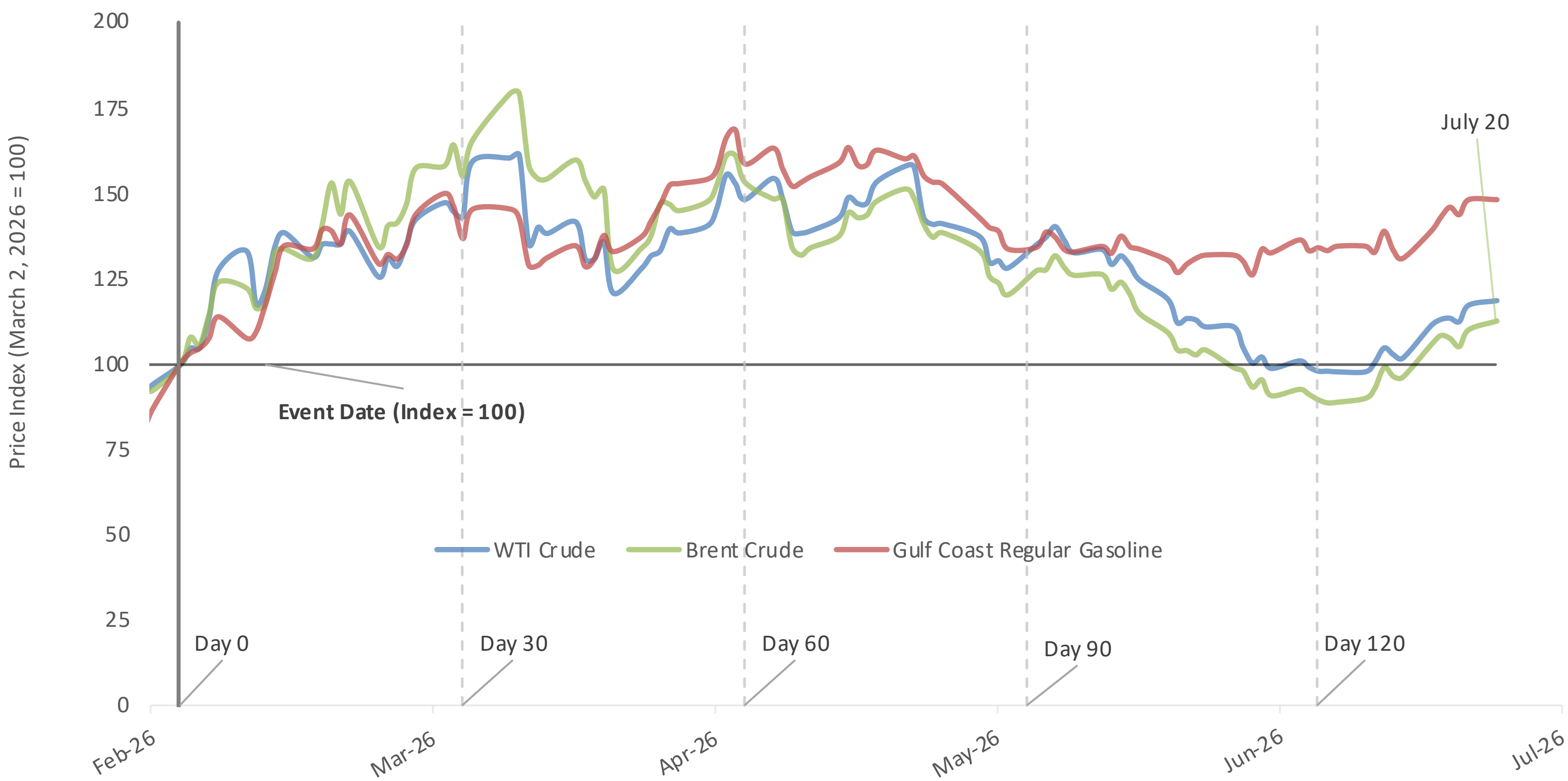
Figure 9 presents the same daily energy price series indexed to their March 2, 2026 values (March 2, 2026 = 100). Indexing each series to a common baseline facilitates comparison of the relative changes in WTI crude oil, Brent crude oil, and U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline prices during the first 120 days following the onset of the conflict.

Figure 9. Energy Price Response to the 2026 Iran Conflict



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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 tables illustrate state and regional pending home sales, defined as accepted contract offers, for May and June of 2025 and 2026, including year-over-year and month-over-month percentage changes.

Source: louisiana.stats.showingtime.com & nar.realtor

Key Takeaways

- Most Louisiana housing markets remain on a stronger footing than one year ago, with the majority of REALTOR® regions reporting higher pending sales despite mixed month-to-month performance. Northeast Louisiana stands apart as the lone significant outlier and warrants continued monitoring in future reports.
- Pending home sales remained above year-ago levels statewide in June (+6.9%), with six of the eight REALTOR® regions posting year-over-year gains, indicating that buyer demand generally remained resilient across Louisiana.
- The Northwest Louisiana region continued to outperform on both monthly and year-over-year measures, making it the only region to post positive month-over-month growth in both 2025 and 2026.
- Northeast Louisiana was a notable outlier, with pending sales falling nearly 80 percent from both the previous month and a year earlier.

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Louisiana Realtors®

Table 3. Louisiana Realtors®, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
3,891	3,901	3,639	3,846	6.9%	1.4%	-0.3%	-5.4%

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

Table 4. Realtor Association of Acadiana, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
522	438	440	481	18.6%	-8.9%	19.2%	-8.5%

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

Table 5. Bayou Board of Realtors®, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
148	151	120	128	23.3%	18.0%	-2.0%	-6.3%

Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors® - Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana

Table 6. Greater Baton Rouge Realtors®, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
900	871	831	884	8.3%	-1.5%	3.3%	-6.0%

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

Table 7. Greater Central Louisiana Realtors® , Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
145	150	141	147	2.8%	2.0%	-3.3%	-4.1%

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

Table 8. Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
94	80	77	84	22.1%	-4.8%	17.5%	-8.3%

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

Table 9. New Orleans Metropolitan Realtors®, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
1,162	1,184	1,057	1,165	9.9%	1.6%	-1.9%	-9.3%

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

Table 10. Northeast Realtors® of Louisiana, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
42	182	206	202	-79.6%	-9.9%	-76.9%	2.0%

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

Table 11. Northwest Louisiana Realtors®, Pending Home Sales

				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
483	469	449	408	7.6%	15.0%	3.0%	10.0%

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

Table 12. Southwest Louisiana Realtors®, Pending Home Sales

				Percent Change			
Jun-26	May-26	Jun-25	May-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
269	228	200	218	34.5%	4.6%	18.0%	-8.3%

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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
			1 *Metro Employment* [May] *ISM PMI Manufacturing* [June] *Construction Spending* [May]	2 *Employment Situation* [June] *Manufacturing - New Orders* [May]	3	4
5	6 *ISM PMI Services* [June]	7	8 *Wholesale Inventory* [May]	9 *Business Applications* [June]	10	11
12	13 *Federal Budget* [June]	14 *CPI* [June] *Real Earnings* [June] *NFIB Small Business Report* [Feb]	15 *PPI* [June]	16 *NAHB HMI* [July] *Pending Home Sales* [June] *Retail & Food Sales* [June Advance]	17 *U.S. Import & Export PI* [June] *U. of Michigan Sentiment* [July] *Housing Starts* [June] *Industrial Production* [June]	18
19	20	21 *State Employment* [June]	22 *State JOLTS* [Annual 2025]	23	24 *New Residential Sales* [June]	25
26	27 *Durable Goods* [June Advance]	28 *The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index* [July]	29 *Metro Employment* [June]	30 *GDP* [2026:Q2, Advance Estimate]	31 *Employment Cost Index* [2026:Q2]	