Louisiana Economic Vitals

Friday, August 21, 2026

Pictured: General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), whose operations across five Louisiana locations generated an estimated $358 million in statewide economic impact in 2024. The company employs more than 1,500 people in Louisiana, including 850 at its flagship Integrated Technology Center in Bossier City, with many working in high-wage fields such as cloud computing, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and software development. Based on current performance, GDIT is projected to contribute approximately $3.5 billion to Louisiana's economy over the next decade.

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 August 2026 Announcements:

GDIT Extends Partnership in State of Louisiana, Investing to Support Technology Jobs and Strengthen Economy
August 19th, 2026

Amazon Grows Northwest Louisiana Planned Investment to $18 Billion With New Shreveport Campus
August 18th, 2026

Building on 120 Years in Central Louisiana, Coca-Cola UNITED Expands Alexandria Operations
August 11th, 2026

From Farmland to Future Business Hub: McLeod Business Park Receives FastSites Investment
August 5th, 2026

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 109 projects representing over $156.6 billion USD in new investment and more than 16,440 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of August 20, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 225 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $321.1 billion and the potential to create more than 47,250 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 172 industrial sites, with all or portions of 43 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 132 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.

Active Certified Sites by Region

Acadiana	30
Bayou	6
Capital	23
Central	9
Northeast	14
Northwest	18
Southeast	18
Southwest	14
TOTAL	132

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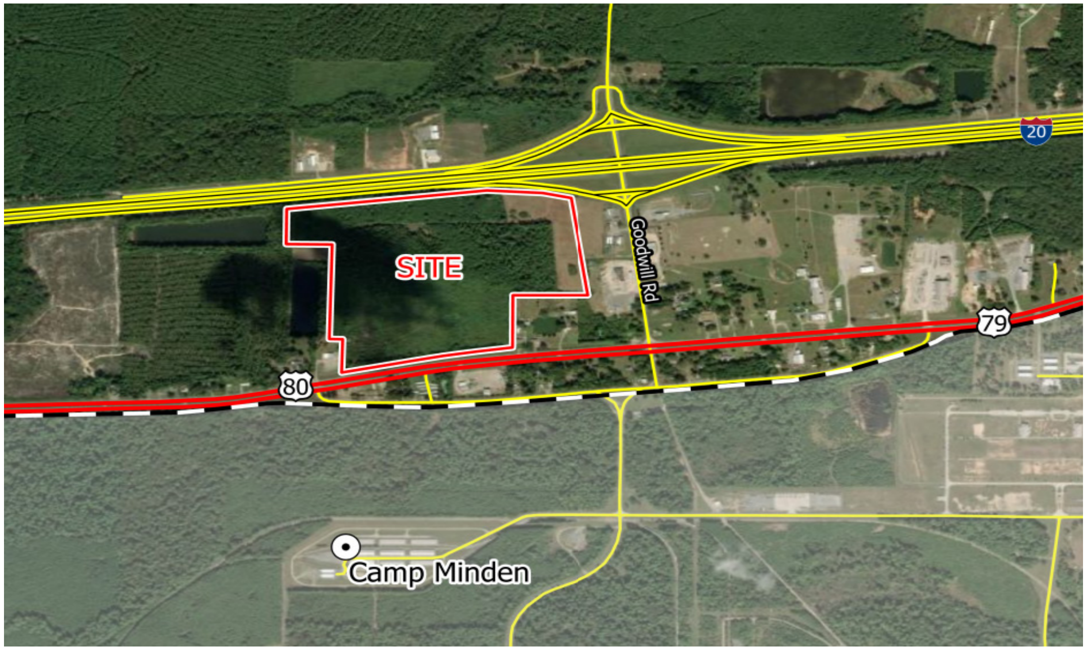
CERTIFIED SITE SPOTLIGHT

Moore Site

Moore Site Earns Louisiana Economic Development Certified Industrial Site Designation, Expanding Development-Ready Industrial Opportunities in North Louisiana

Key Takeaways

- 84-acre Moore Site in Webster Parish earns LED Certified Industrial Site designation.
- Located along I-20, providing strong access to Shreveport-Bossier, Minden and Ruston.
- Positioned to attract advanced manufacturing, logistics and industrial investment.
- LED certification confirms key site due diligence and infrastructure readiness, helping reduce risk and accelerate development.
- Expands North Louisiana's portfolio of development-ready sites, strengthening competitiveness for new investment and jobs.
- Certification reflects collaboration between LED, NLEP and regional partners.



Sources: [Louisiana Site Selection Center](#) & [NLEP](#)

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The charts below show two complementary views of nonfarm employment across Louisiana's metro areas: the upper charts index employment to January 2024 levels to show how employment levels have evolved over time, while the lower charts show BLS's three-month average employment change to illustrate the direction and pace of recent employment changes. Note: July 2026 data are preliminary; June data are revised; data are seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings.

Source: bls.gov

Key Takeaways

- Employment momentum strengthened across much of Louisiana in July, with most metros posting positive three-month average job growth.
- Baton Rouge and Lafayette continue to lead the larger employment gains, while Monroe has maintained a steady upward trend over the past year.
- New Orleans-Metairie has returned to positive job growth after weakening earlier in the year.
- Hammond remains the notable exception, with employment still below its January 2024 level despite recent stabilization.

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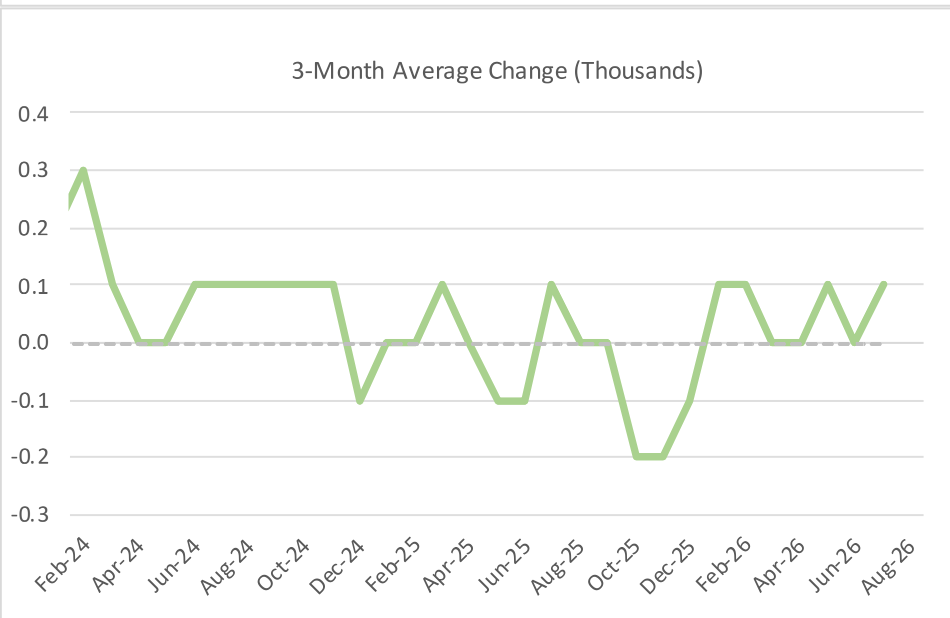
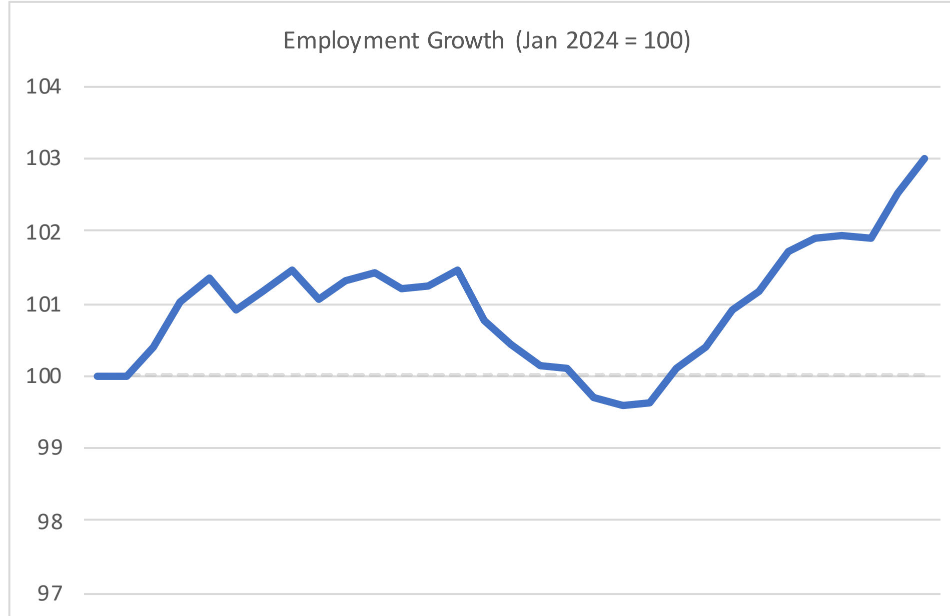
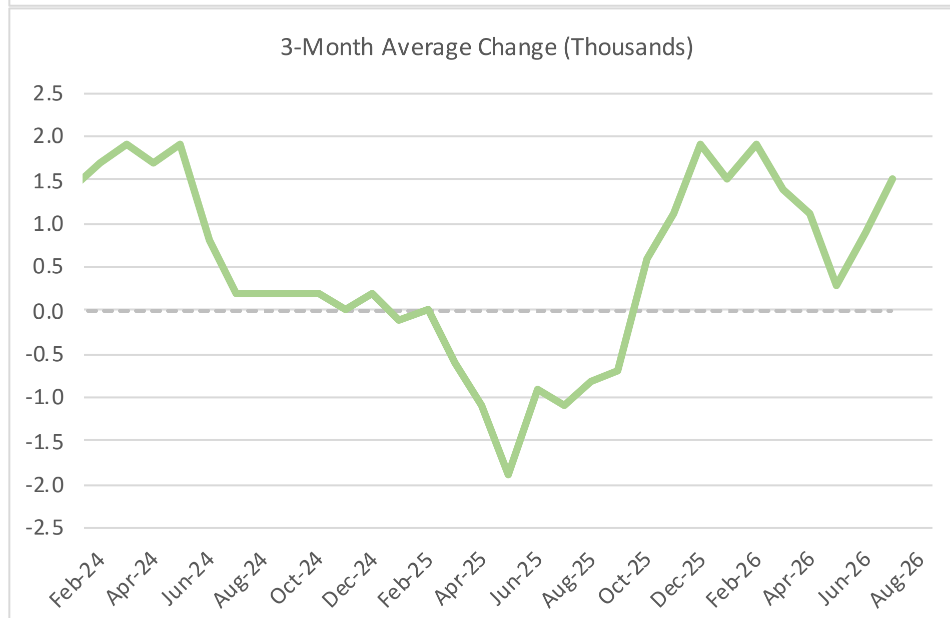
LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alexandria Metro Nonfarm Employment



Baton Rouge Metro Nonfarm Employment





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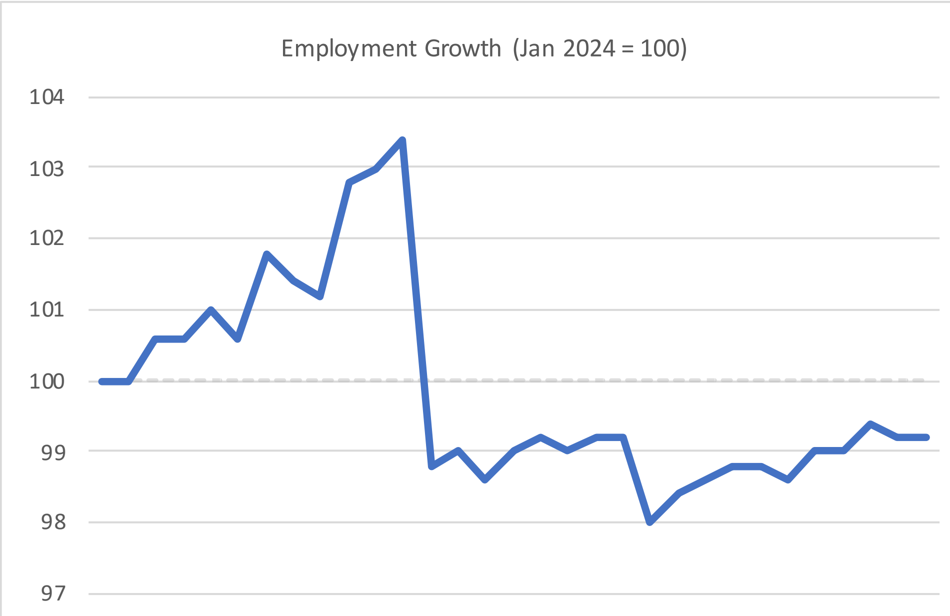
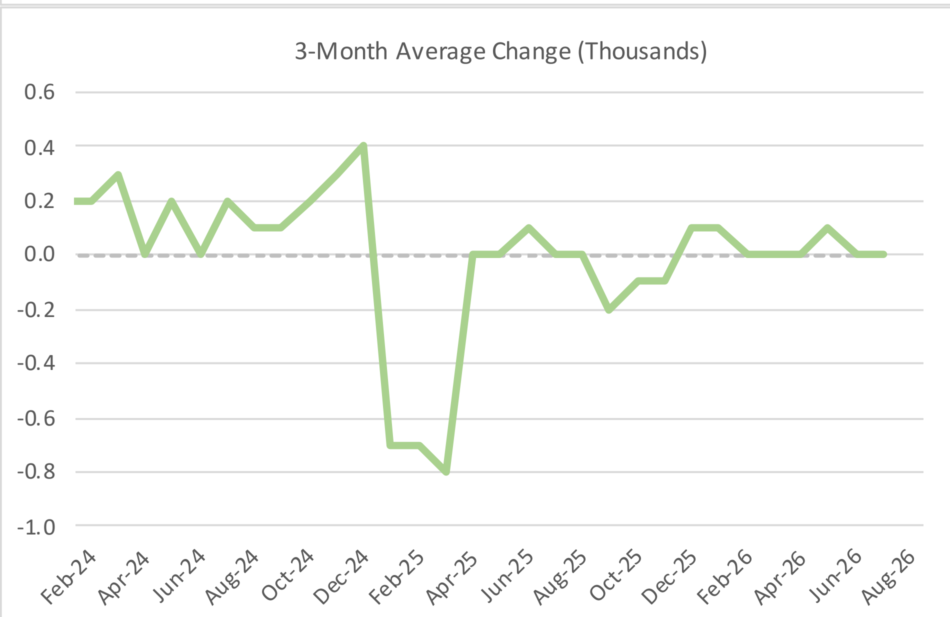
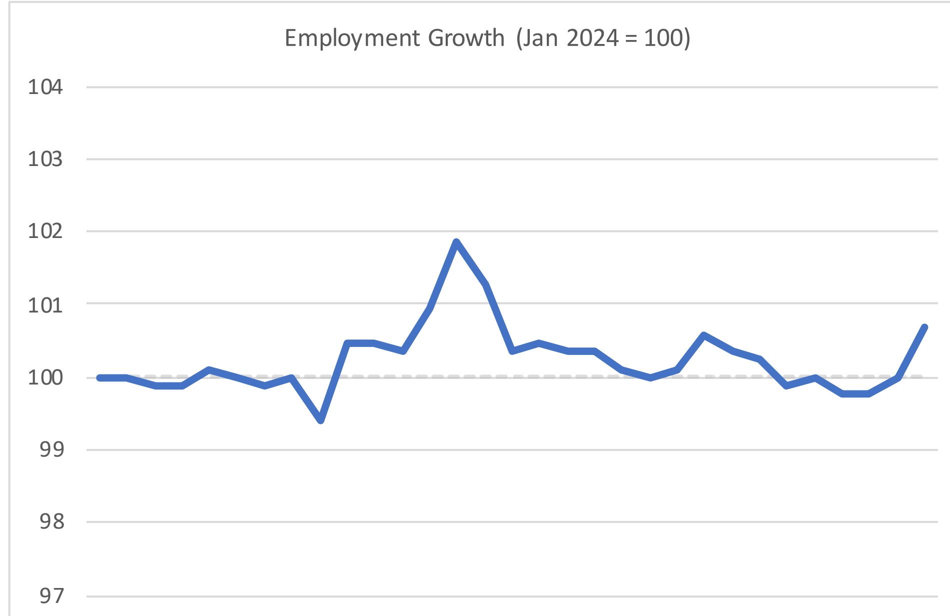
LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

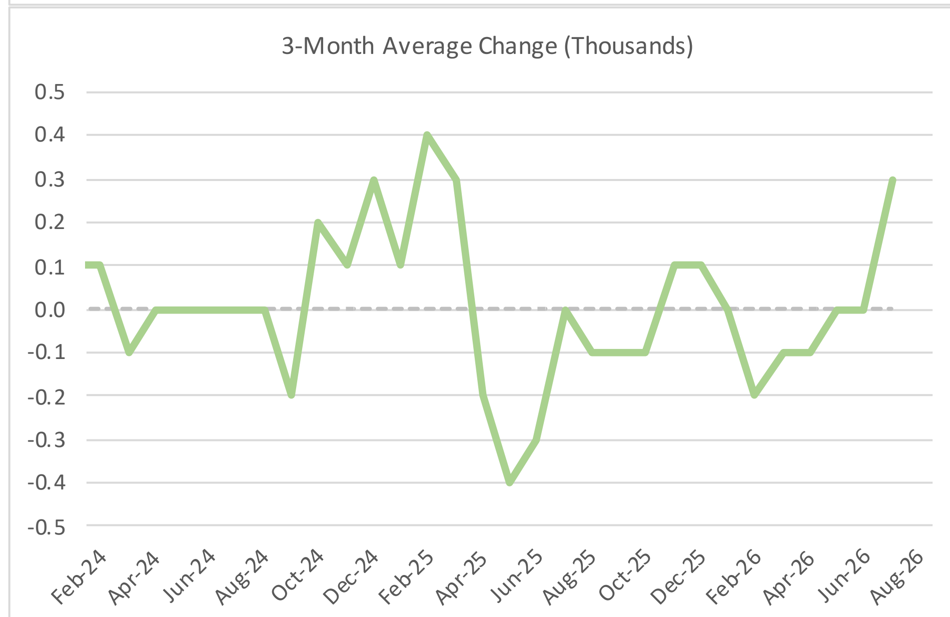
Hammond Metro Nonfarm Employment





Houma Metro Nonfarm Employment





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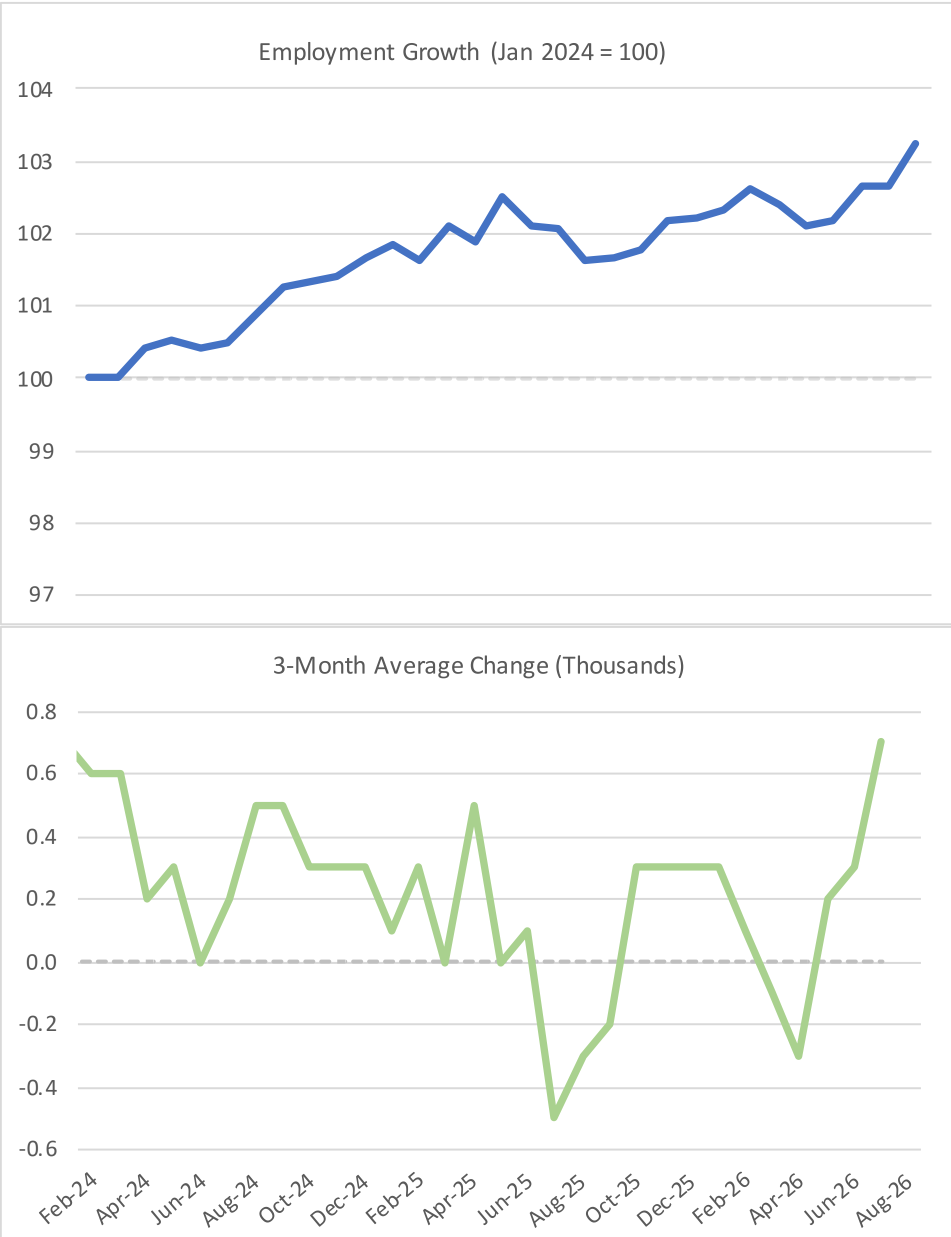
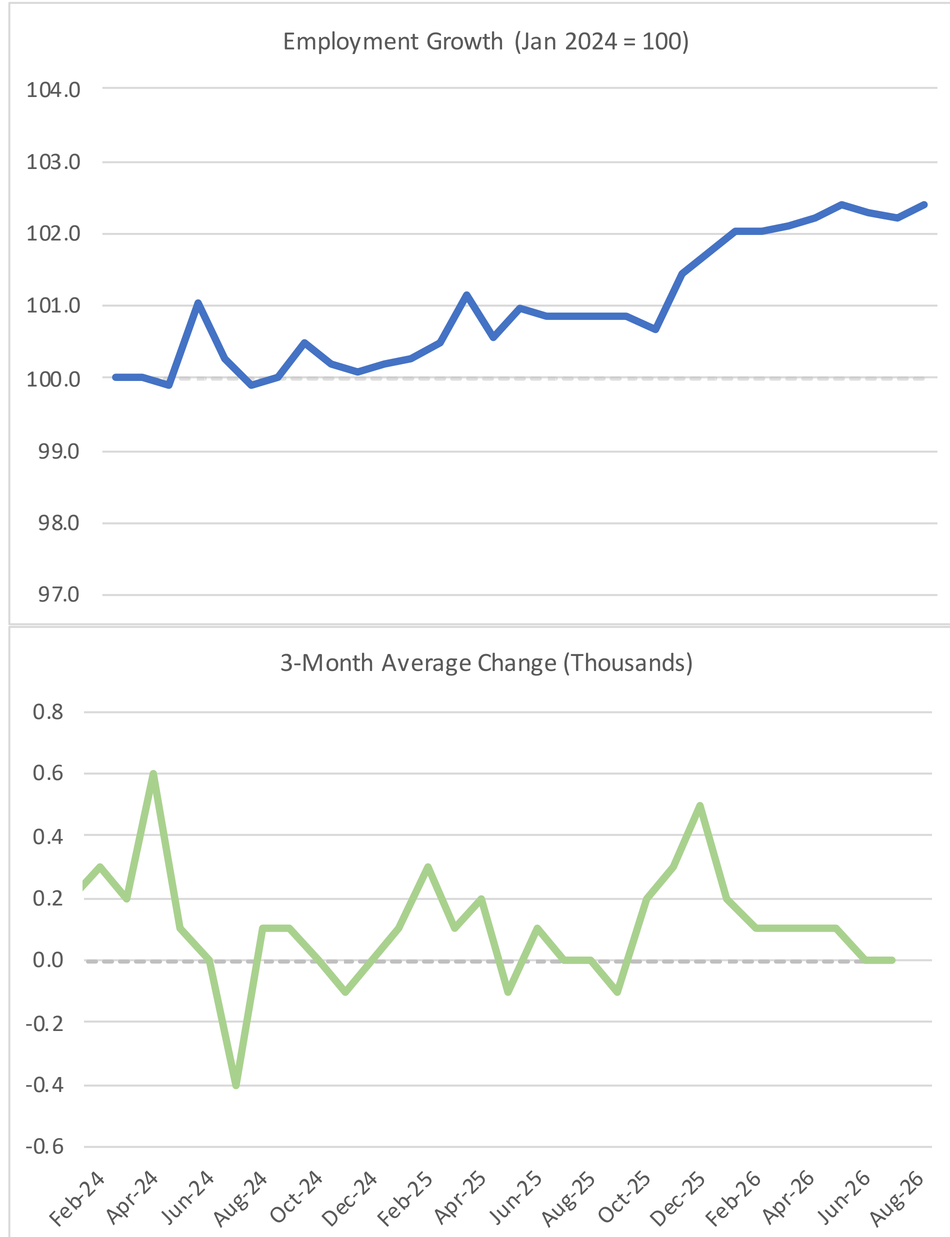
Lafayette Metro Nonfarm Employment



Lake Charles Metro Nonfarm Employment



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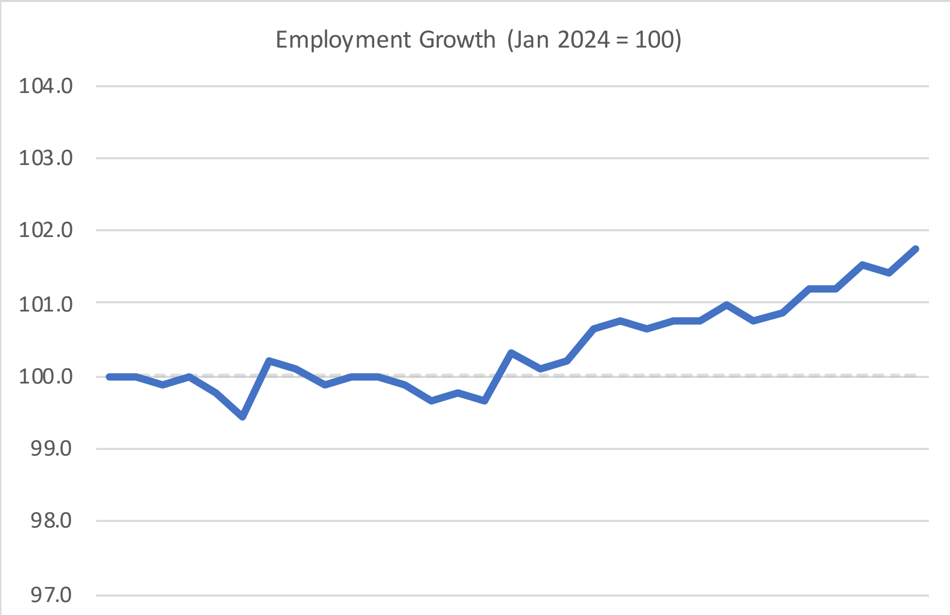
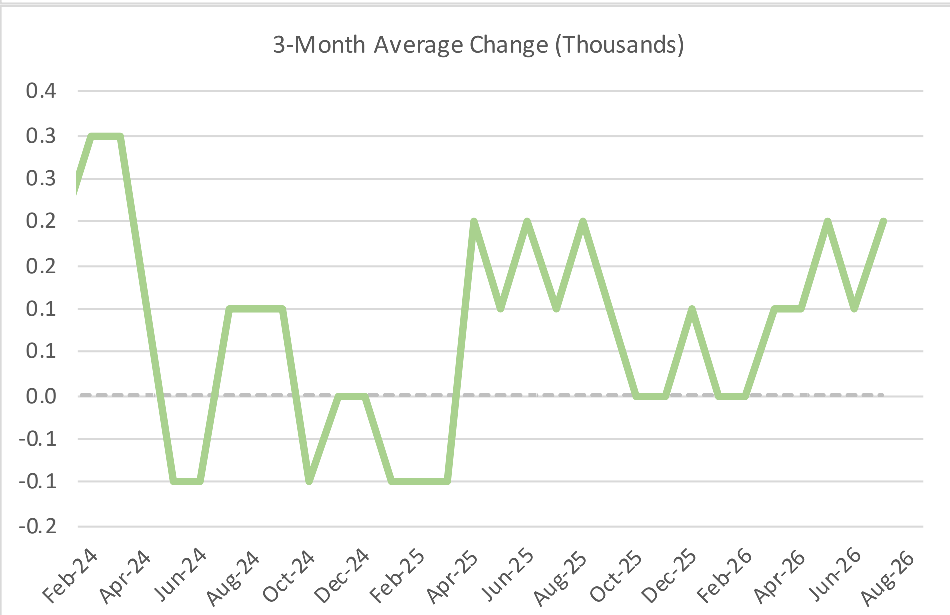
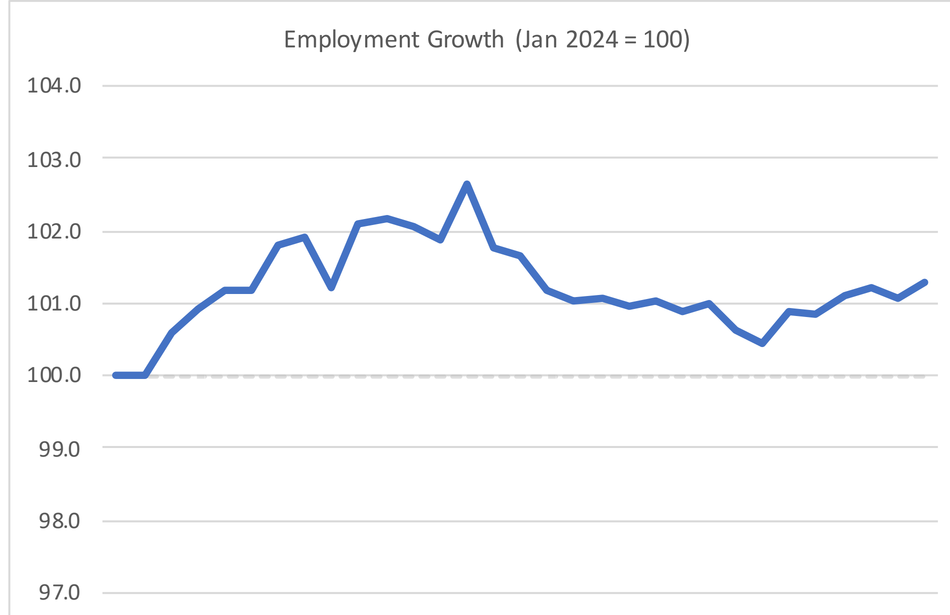
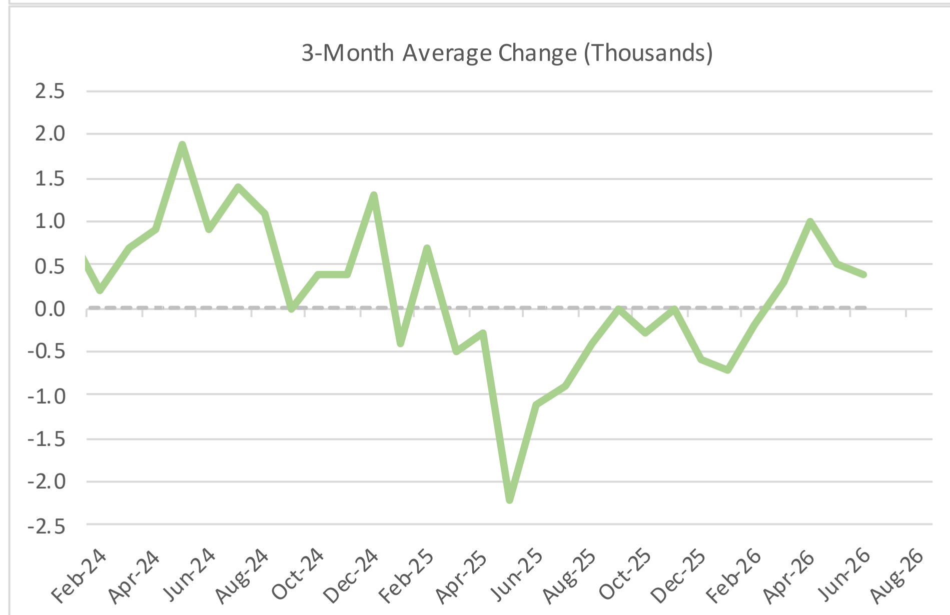
Monroe Metro Nonfarm Employment





New Orleans-Metairie Metro Nonfarm Employment





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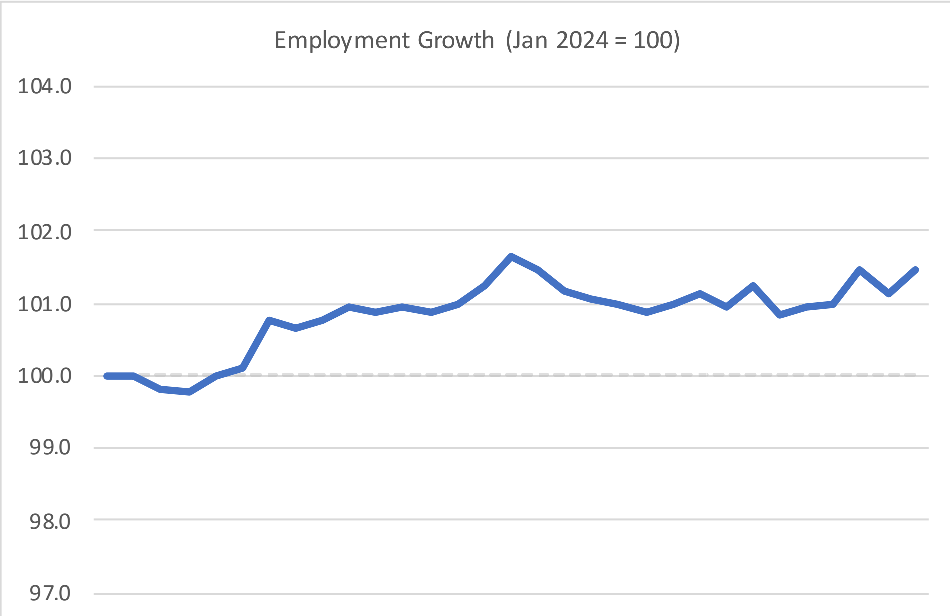
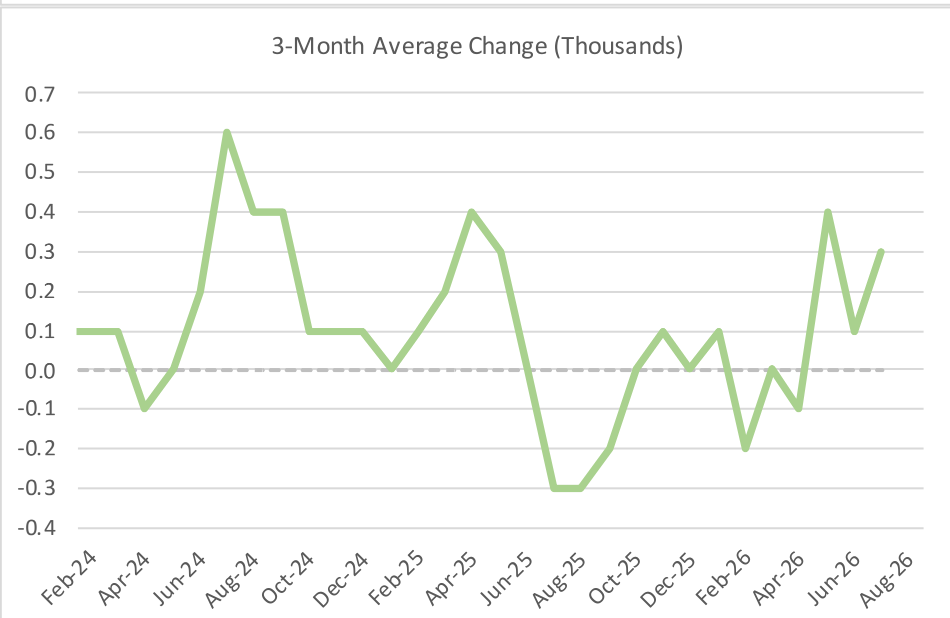
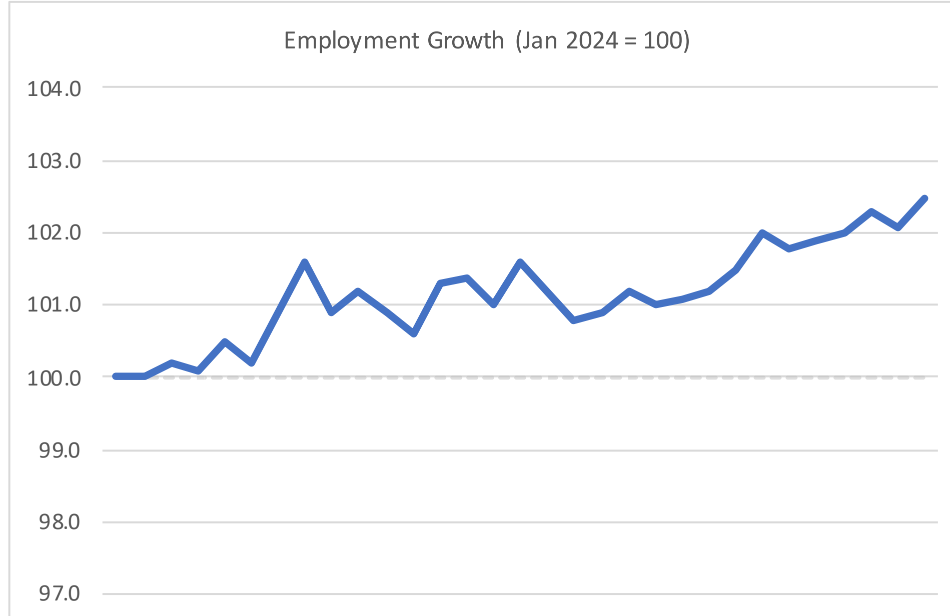
LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

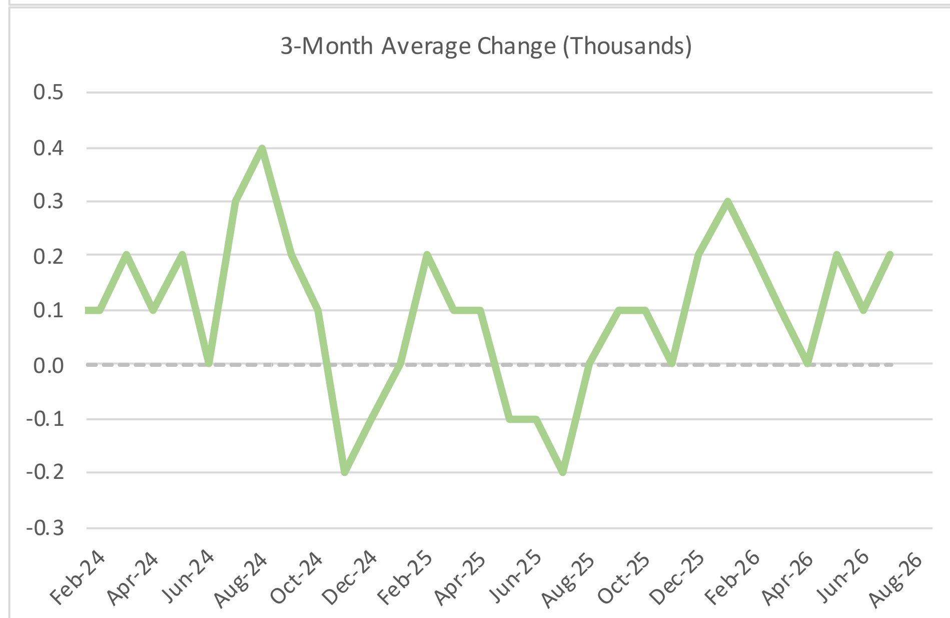
Shreveport-Bossier City Metro Nonfarm Employment





Slidell-Mandeville-Covington Metro Nonfarm Employment





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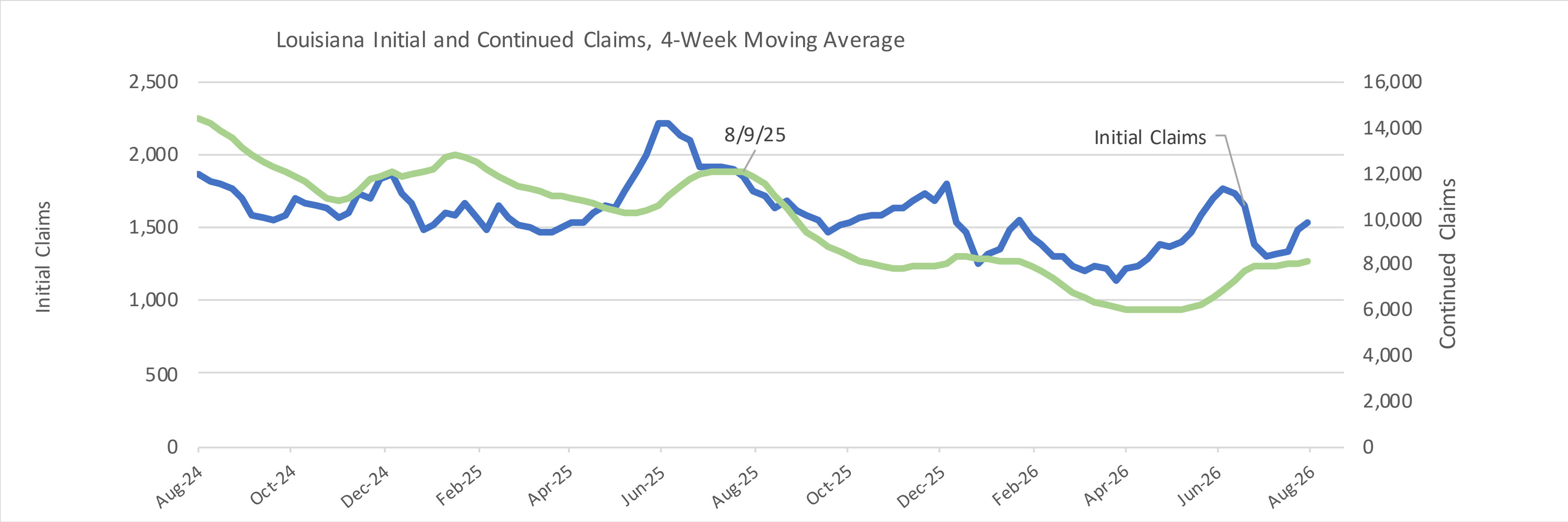
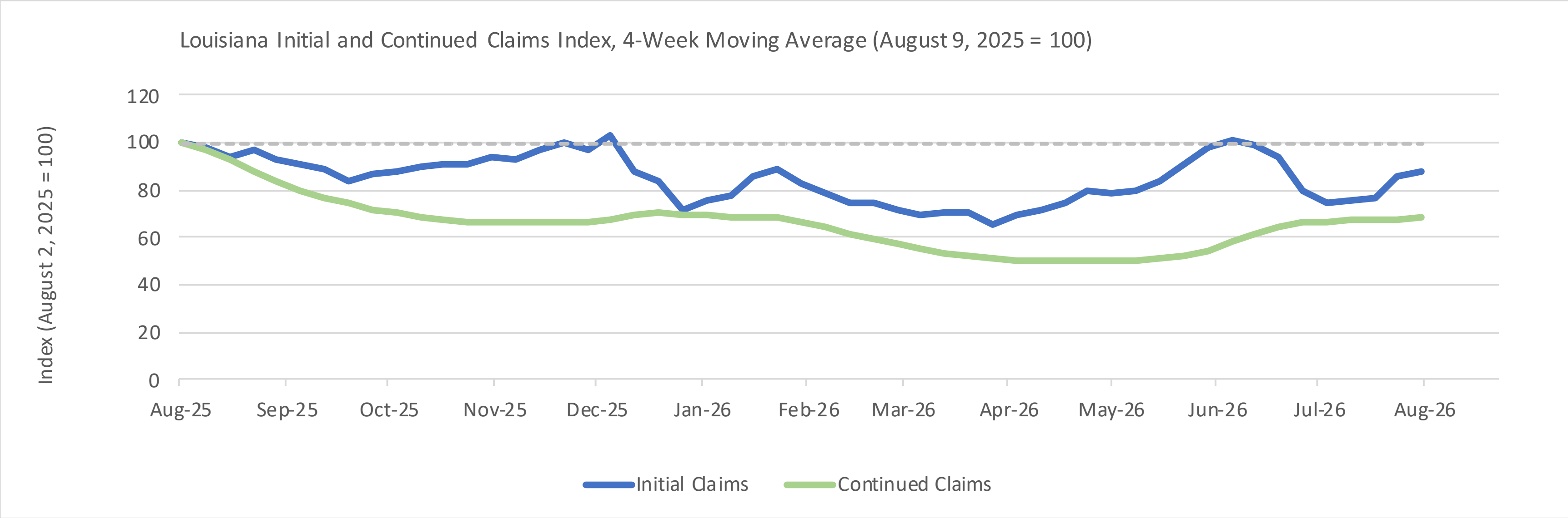
The charts below provide two views of unemployment insurance claims in Louisiana. The first shows four-week moving averages for initial and continued claims, smoothing weekly fluctuations to illustrate changes over time. The second indexes both measures to August 9, 2025, allowing their relative changes over the past year to be compared on a common scale. Source: Louisiana Works, Labor Market Information, UI Claims Data.

Source: laworks.net





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2. COMMODITIES

The following tables (1 & 2) 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.

The following figure 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 August 9, 2026. Vertical reference lines denote the onset of the conflict (Day 0) and the 30-day incremental milestones used to illustrate the evolution of energy prices over the fivemonths following the event.

The following figure 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 period following the onset of the conflict.

Sources: eia.gov & tradingeconomics.com

Key Takeaways

- Energy prices moved sharply higher again.
- Gasoline is increasingly transmitting the oil shock to consumers.
- Agricultural commodities were broadly positive this week (short-term).
- The longer-term agricultural picture is much more mixed.

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Table 1. Energy Commodities, Weekly							
					Change		
Commodity	8/14/26	8/7/26	7/17/26	8/15/25	WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	$92.51	$87.86	$82.93	$67.17	5.3%	11.6%	37.7%
WTI Crude Oil Price	$84.05	$78.94	$80.77	$64.34	6.5%	4.1%	30.6%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$2.79	$2.66	$2.79	$2.94	4.9%	0.0%	-5.1%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$3.92	$3.86	$3.86	$3.02	1.6%	1.6%	29.8%

Table 2. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of August 20, 2026							
				Change			
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,255.80	$12.56	$/Bu	0.2%	5.1%	0.5%	18.5%
Wheat	$685.25	$6.85	$/Bu	0.7%	5.0%	1.1%	35.2%
Lumber	$581.00	$5.81	$/MBF	1.8%	2.1%	-11.0%	-4.9%
Palm Oil	$4,961.00	$49.61	$/MT	1.4%	5.0%	7.6%	11.2%
Sugar (No. 11)	$17.58	$0.18	$/Lb	0.2%	4.6%	18.3%	7.6%
Coffee	$324.99	$3.25	$/Lb	-1.0%	4.4%	1.4%	-13.0%
Corn	$477.95	$4.78	$/Bu	1.1%	6.8%	5.7%	23.6%
Rice	$14.11	$0.14	$/CWT	-0.9%	0.3%	0.2%	21.4%
Orange Juice	$153.04	$1.53	$/Lb	4.0%	8.1%	4.9%	-36.2%

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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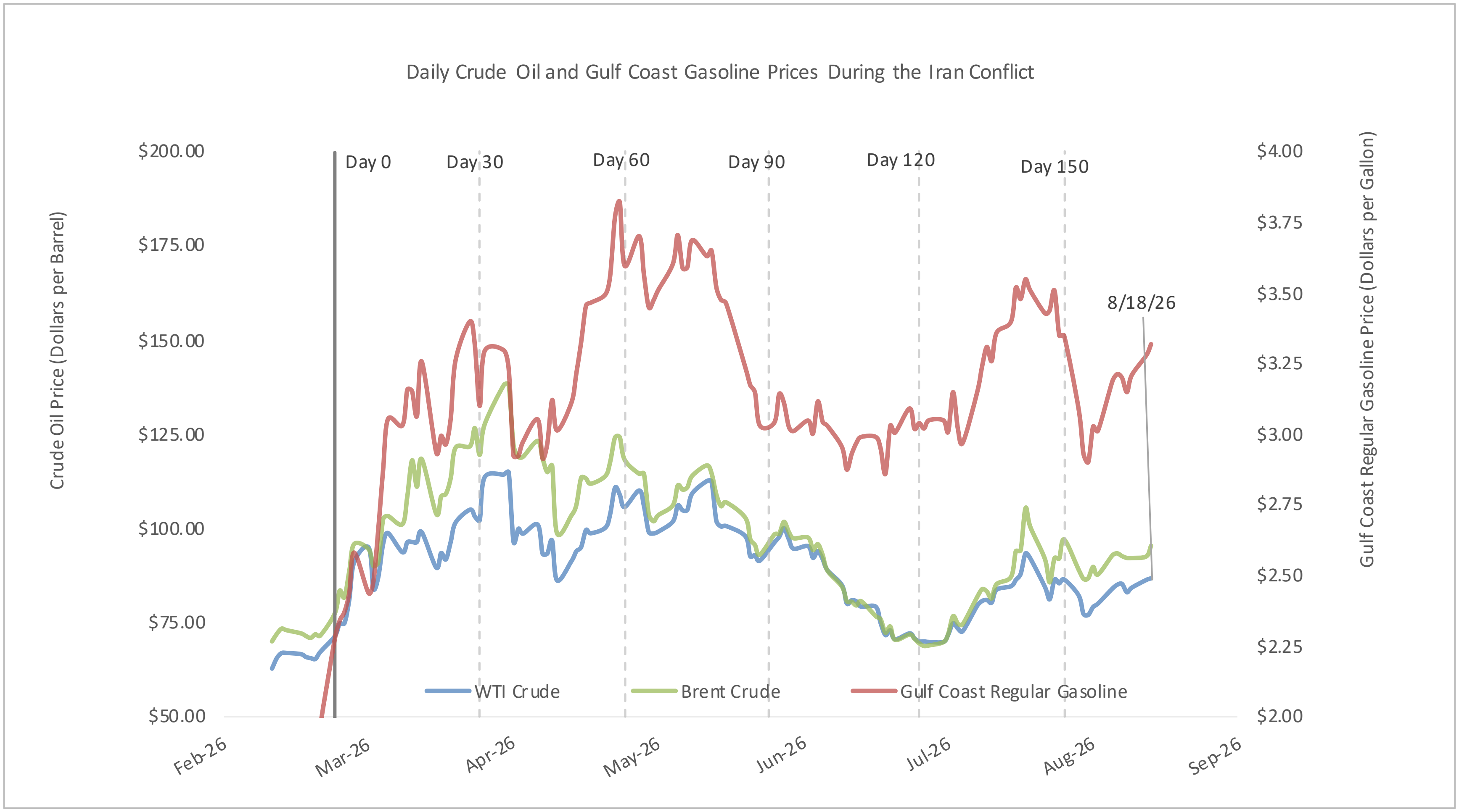

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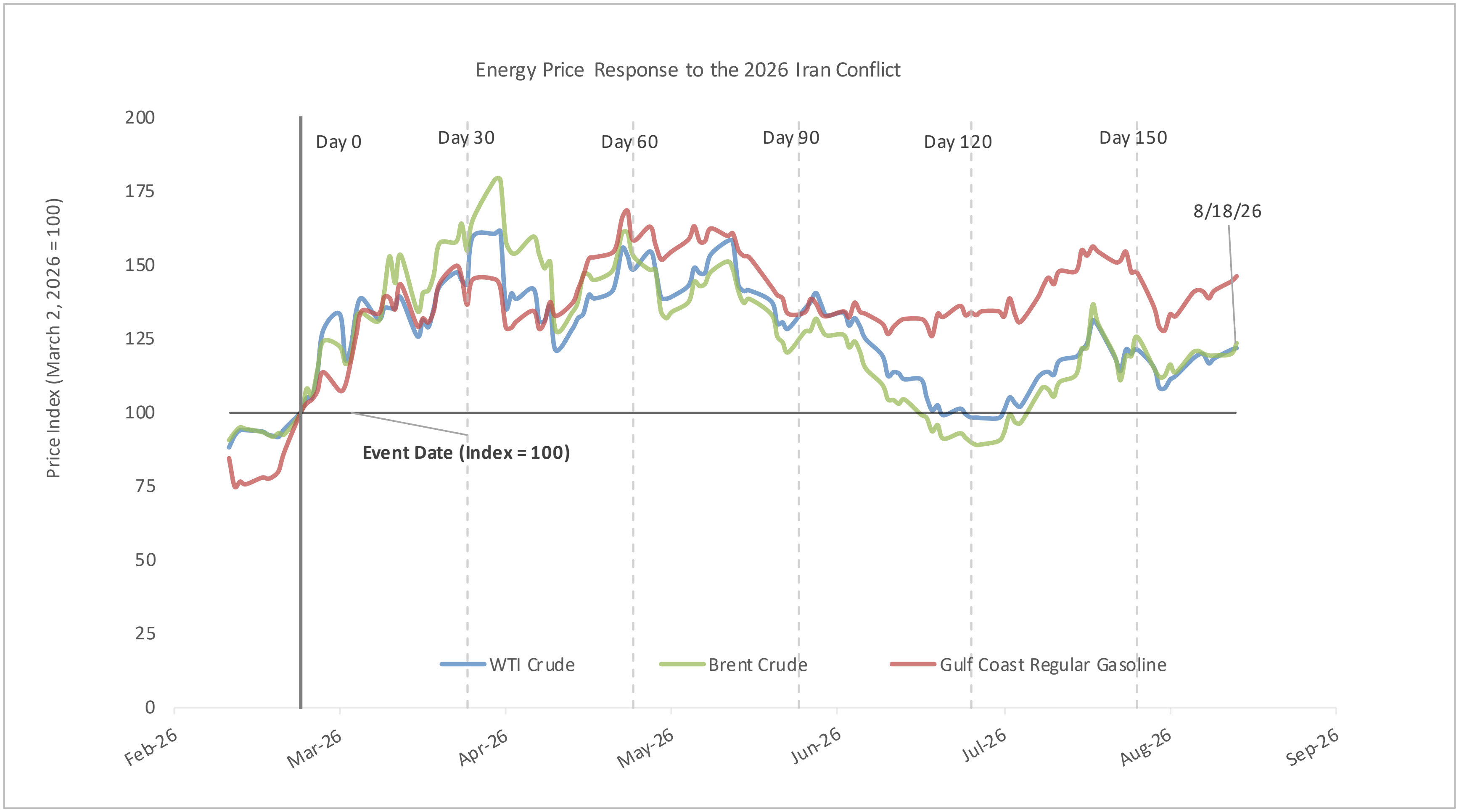

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3. LOUISIANA REAL ESTATE

Louisiana Realtors® produces monthly reports on local market updates for the state and its regions. The following tables illustrate state and regional pending home sales, defined as accepted contract offers, for June and July of 2025 and 2026, including year-over-year and month-over-month percentage changes.

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

Key Takeaways

- Louisiana pending home sales softened in July.
- Greater Central Louisiana and New Orleans posted solid months, while Southwest Louisiana remained strong on an annual basis.
- Louisiana's July decline looks more like cooling than a broad contraction.
- Northeast Louisiana is a major outlier and deserves caution.

Louisiana Realtors®

Table 3. Louisiana Realtors®, Pending Home Sales

				Percent Change			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
3,725	3,830	3,783	3,640	-1.5%	5.2%	-2.7%	3.9%

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

Table 4. Realtor Association of Acadiana, Pending Home Sales

				Percent Change			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
488	505	542	440	-10.0%	14.8%	-3.4%	23.2%

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

Table 5. Bayou Board of Realtors®, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
135	139	141	120	-4.3%	15.8%	-2.9%	17.5%

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			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
843	874	828	831	1.8%	5.2%	-3.5%	-0.4%

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			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
160	137	133	141	20.3%	-2.8%	16.8%	-5.7%

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

Table 8. Greater Fort Polk Area Realtors, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
91	92	106	77	-14.2%	19.5%	-1.1%	37.7%

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
1,160	1,107	1,052	1,057	10.3%	4.7%	4.8%	-0.5%

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			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
45	174	204	206	-77.9%	-15.5%	-74.1%	-1.0%

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

Table 11. Northwest Louisiana Realtors®, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
429	433	427	450	0.5%	-3.8%	-0.9%	-5.1%

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

Table 12. Southwest Louisiana Realtors®, Pending Home Sales							
				Percent Change			
Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jun YoY	May YoY	2026 MoM	2025 MoM
245	250	214	200	14.5%	25.0%	-2.0%	7.0%

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

August

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

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