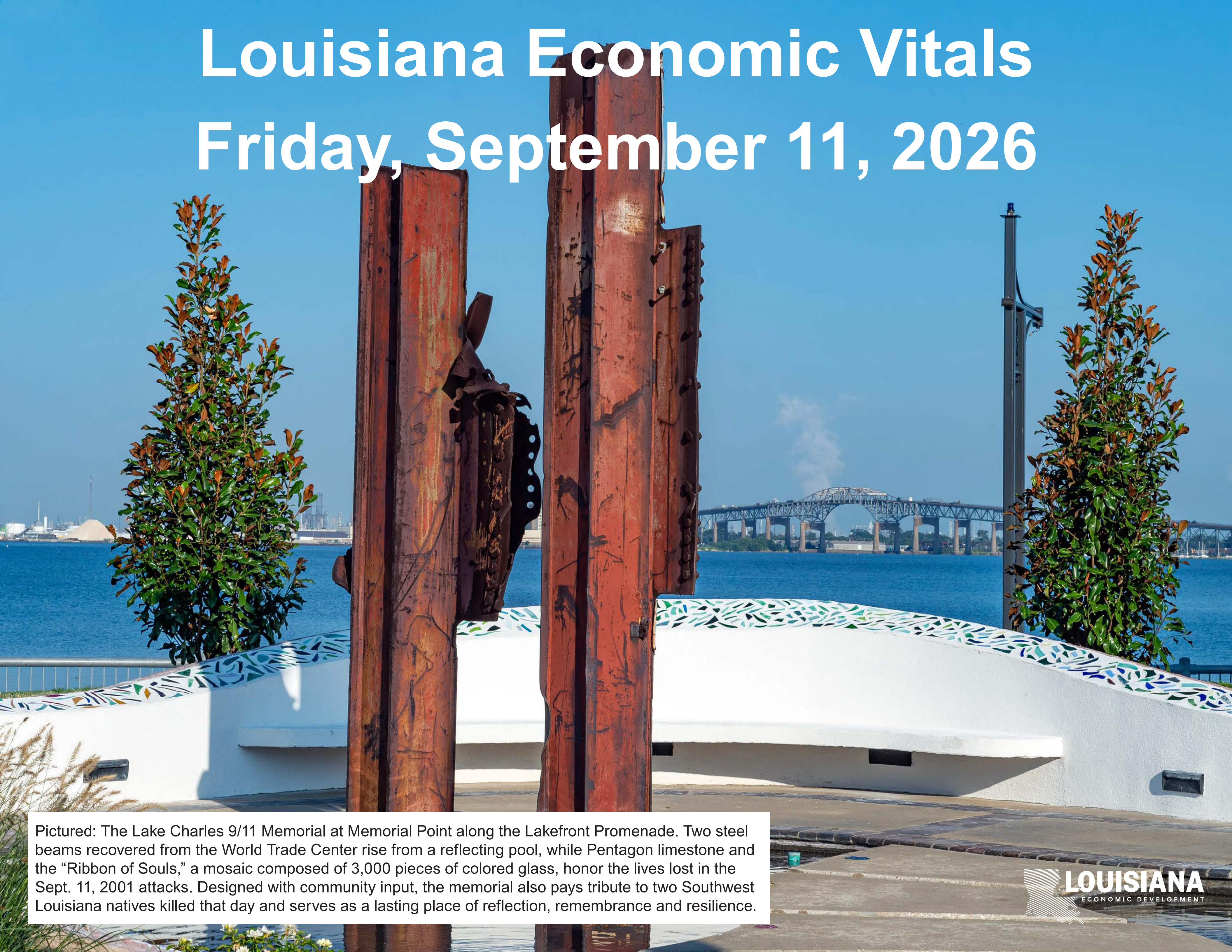
Louisiana Economic Vitals
Friday, September 11, 2026



Pictured: The Lake Charles 9/11 Memorial at Memorial Point along the Lakefront Promenade. Two steel beams recovered from the World Trade Center rise from a reflecting pool, while Pentagon limestone and the “Ribbon of Souls,” a mosaic composed of 3,000 pieces of colored glass, honor the lives lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Designed with community input, the memorial also pays tribute to two Southwest Louisiana natives killed that day and serves as a lasting place of reflection, remembrance and resilience.

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 September 2026 Announcements:

Black Bayou Energy Hub Announces $1.6 Billion Louisiana Expansion Along Growing LNG Corridor
September 10th, 2026

The Next Frontier of American Industry Starts in Louisiana
September 10th, 2026

Louisiana Innovation Expands Award-Winning Film Series with New Shipbuilding Feature
September 10th, 2026

The Northshore's Next Major Business Campus Takes Shape through FastSites
September 9th, 2026

Coastal Machine & Supply Expands as Acadiana's Space Economy Grows
September 2nd, 2026

1,000 Acres, One Critical Connection: Esperanza Business Park Receives $10 Million FastSites Investment
Septemer 1st, 2026

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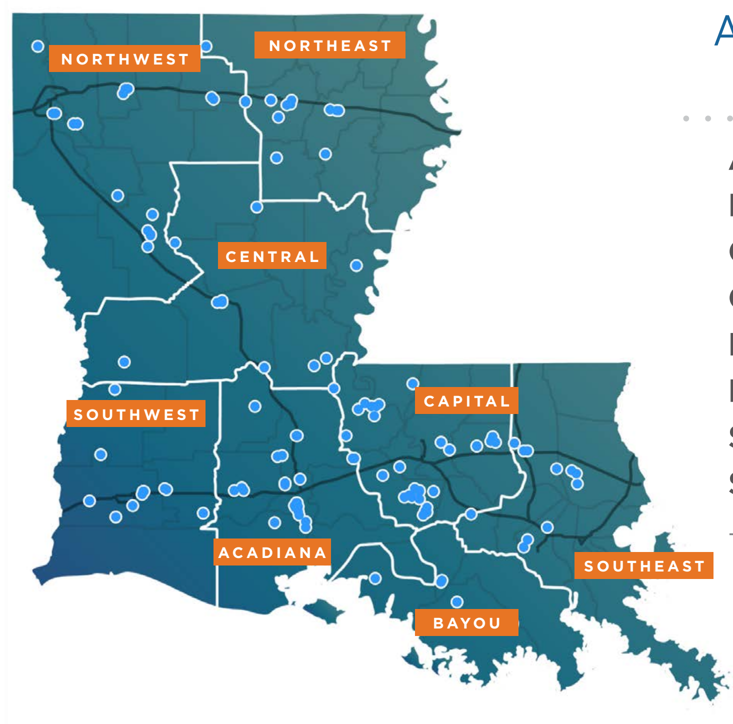
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 112 projects representing over $258.7 billion USD in new investment and more than 19,600 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of September 10, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 234 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $219.6 billion and the potential to create more than 44,715 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 133 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	19
Southwest	14
TOTAL	133

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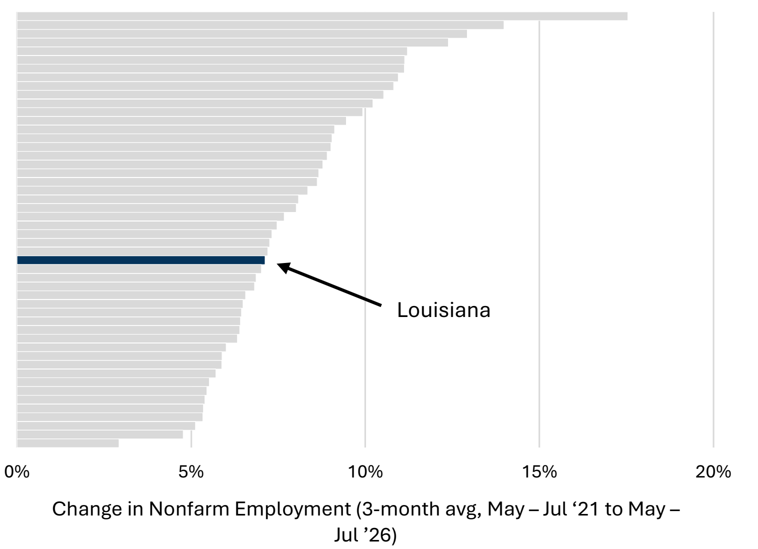
LOUISIANA COMPETES *NOW*

LOUISIANA JOB GROWTH IN THE LAST YEAR RANKS 4TH NATIONWIDE

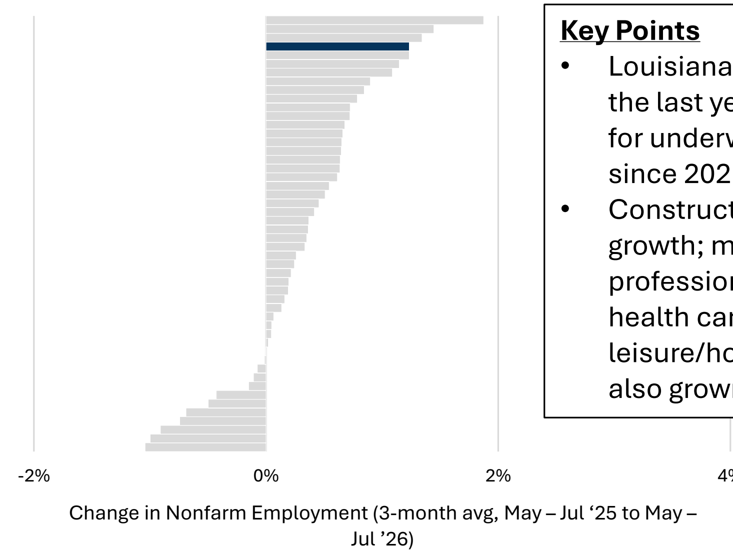
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT UP ~7% IN LOUISIANA SINCE 2021, HOVERING NEAR THE US MIDPOINT

State Employment Growth, ‘21 – ‘26



LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT GROWTH RANKS 4TH NATIONWIDE IN THE LAST YEAR

State Employment Growth, ‘25 – ‘26



Key Points

- Louisiana’s job growth in the last year has made up for underwhelming growth since 2021
- Construction has driven growth; manufacturing, professional services, health care, and leisure/hospitality have also grown

Source: Louisiana Works, Office of Research & Statistics; Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics (CES)
Note: July 2026 figures are preliminary; data are not seasonally adjusted

LAWORKS.NET

Source: laworks.net

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1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

The following charts track changes in Louisiana private-sector employment and average weekly earnings from August 2025 through July 2026. Each measure is indexed to August 2025, with values above 100 indicating growth from the baseline month and values below 100 indicating a decline.

The first chart in each series shows the total private sector, while the remaining three highlight the industries with the strongest year-over-year growth in the latest month. Accordingly, these charts illustrate the recent trajectories of the current growth leaders rather than the highest-growth industries in each individual month.

Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted, earnings are not adjusted for inflation, and July 2026 data are preliminary. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - State and Metro Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings.

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

Key Takeaways

- Construction was Louisiana's clear employment-growth leader, consistent with the state's data center expansion and elevated project activity.
- Private-sector employment increased modestly overall, with manufacturing and professional and business services also ending well above their August 2025 levels.
- Average weekly earnings grew faster than employment, led by financial services and leisure and hospitality.
- Manufacturing employment and earnings both remained above baseline despite easing from their recent peaks.

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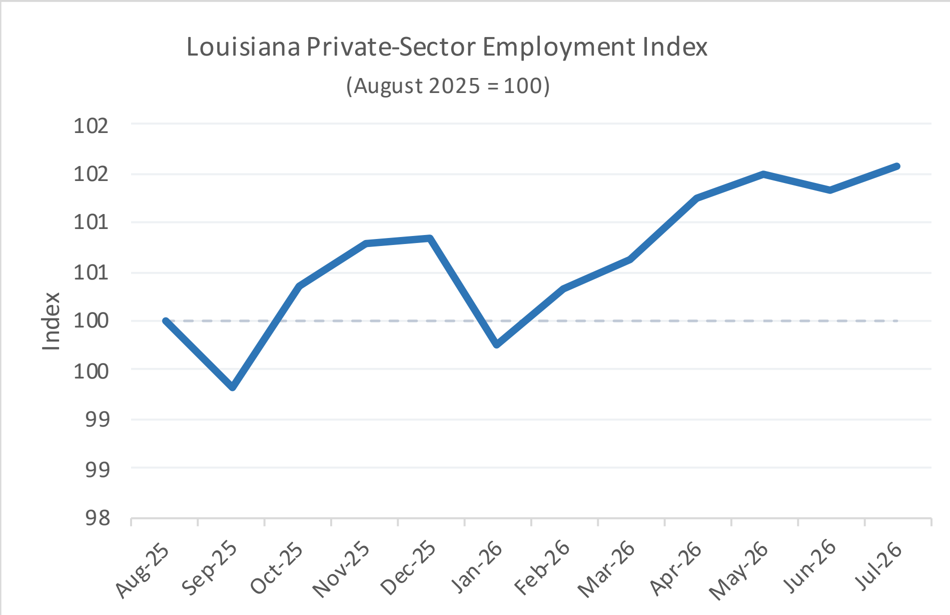

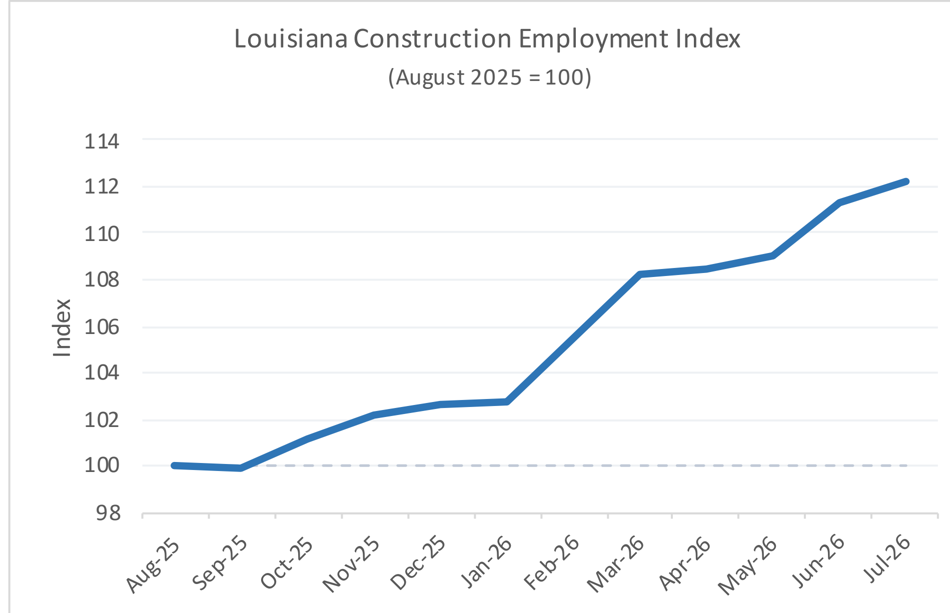

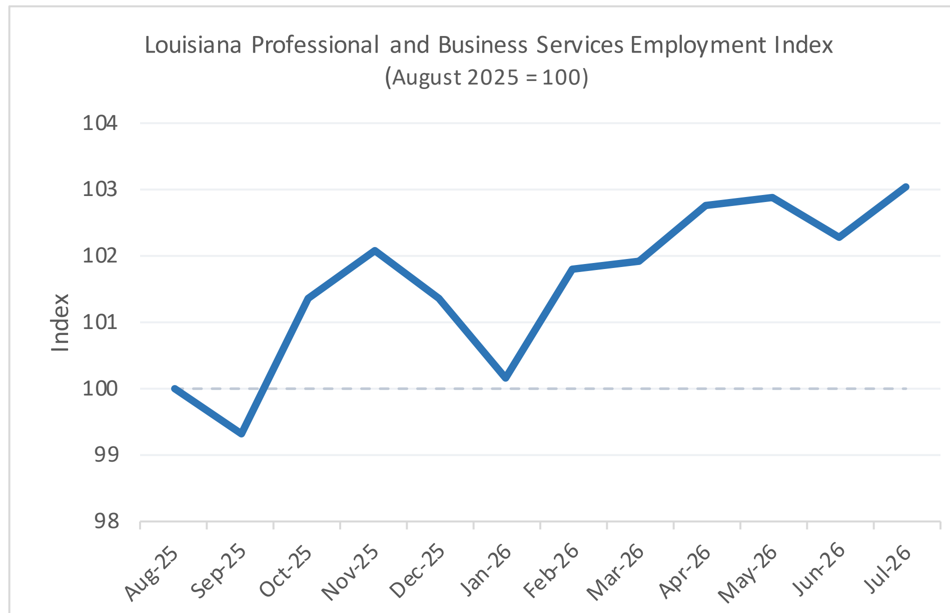

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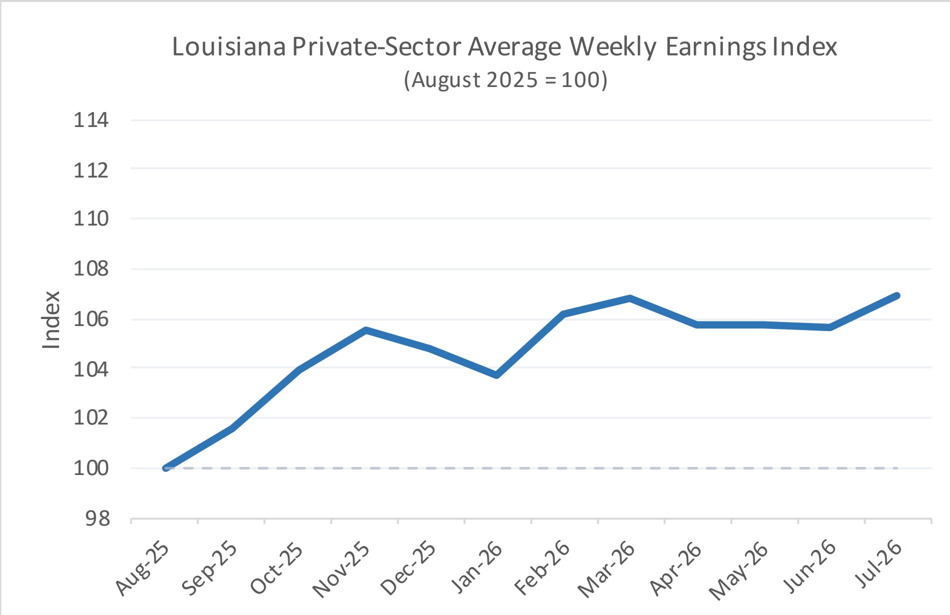

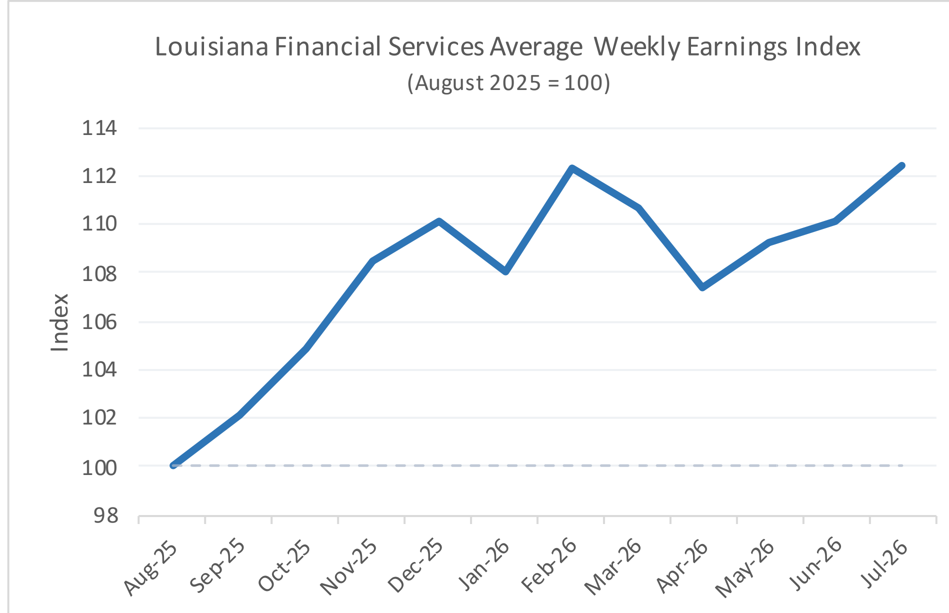

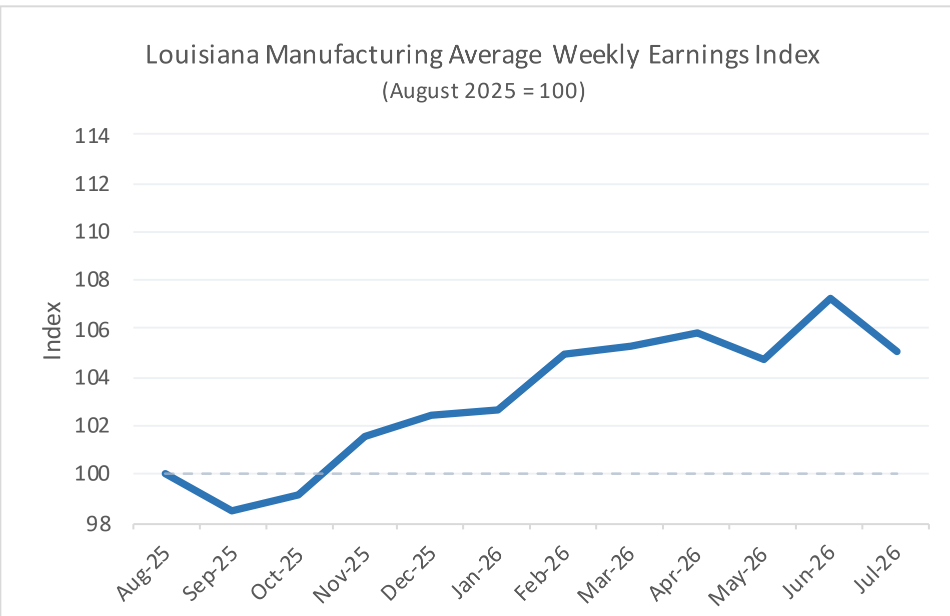

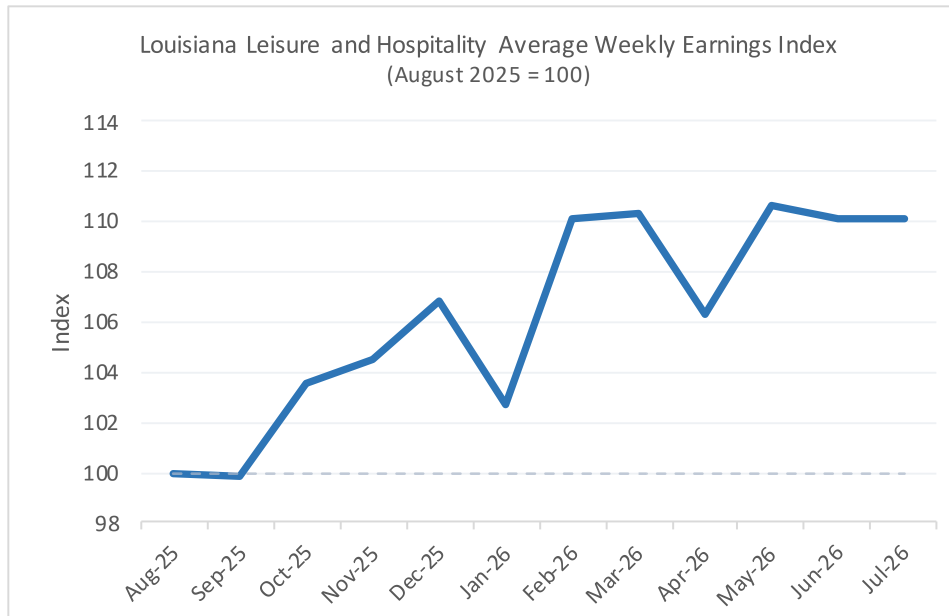

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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.

Sources: eia.gov & tradingeconomics.com

Key Takeaways

- Oil prices strengthened further, with Brent nearing $100 per barrel for the week and both major benchmarks more than 40% above year-ago levels.
- Energy prices remained elevated amid the Iran conflict, with Gulf Coast gasoline experiencing the largest and most sustained increase.
- Agricultural commodity prices generally rose over the past month, led by corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, and sugar.
- Natural gas prices increased recently but remained slightly below their year-ago level.

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Table 1. Energy Commodities, Weekly							
Commodity	9/4/26	8/28/26	8/7/26	9/5/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Price	$99.09	$89.73	$87.86	$66.85	10.4%	12.8%	48.2%
WTI Crude Oil Price	$91.18	$84.62	$78.94	$64.09	7.8%	15.5%	42.3%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$2.91	$2.81	$2.66	$2.97	3.6%	9.4%	-2.0%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$4.00	$3.92	$3.86	$3.07	2.0%	3.6%	30.3%

Table 2. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of September 10, 2026							
Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,318.25	$13.18	$/Bu	1.8%	0.9%	14.5%	27.6%
Wheat	$713.00	$7.13	$/Bu	0.3%	-3.1%	13.1%	36.7%
Lumber	$578.50	$5.79	$/MBF	-0.1%	0.8%	-0.4%	1.2%
Palm Oil	$4,885.00	$48.85	$/MT	-1.6%	-0.4%	2.9%	9.7%
Sugar (No. 11)	$18.76	$0.19	$/Lb	2.0%	3.8%	12.1%	18.6%
Coffee	$289.95	$2.90	$/Lb	-0.7%	-1.8%	-8.2%	-27.5%
Corn	$512.75	$5.13	$/Bu	1.0%	-0.5%	17.4%	22.2%
Rice	$15.62	$0.16	$/CWT	0.2%	2.5%	12.2%	34.0%
Orange Juice	$146.20	$1.46	$/Lb	-0.1%	-6.1%	5.0%	-39.7%

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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 September 1, 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.

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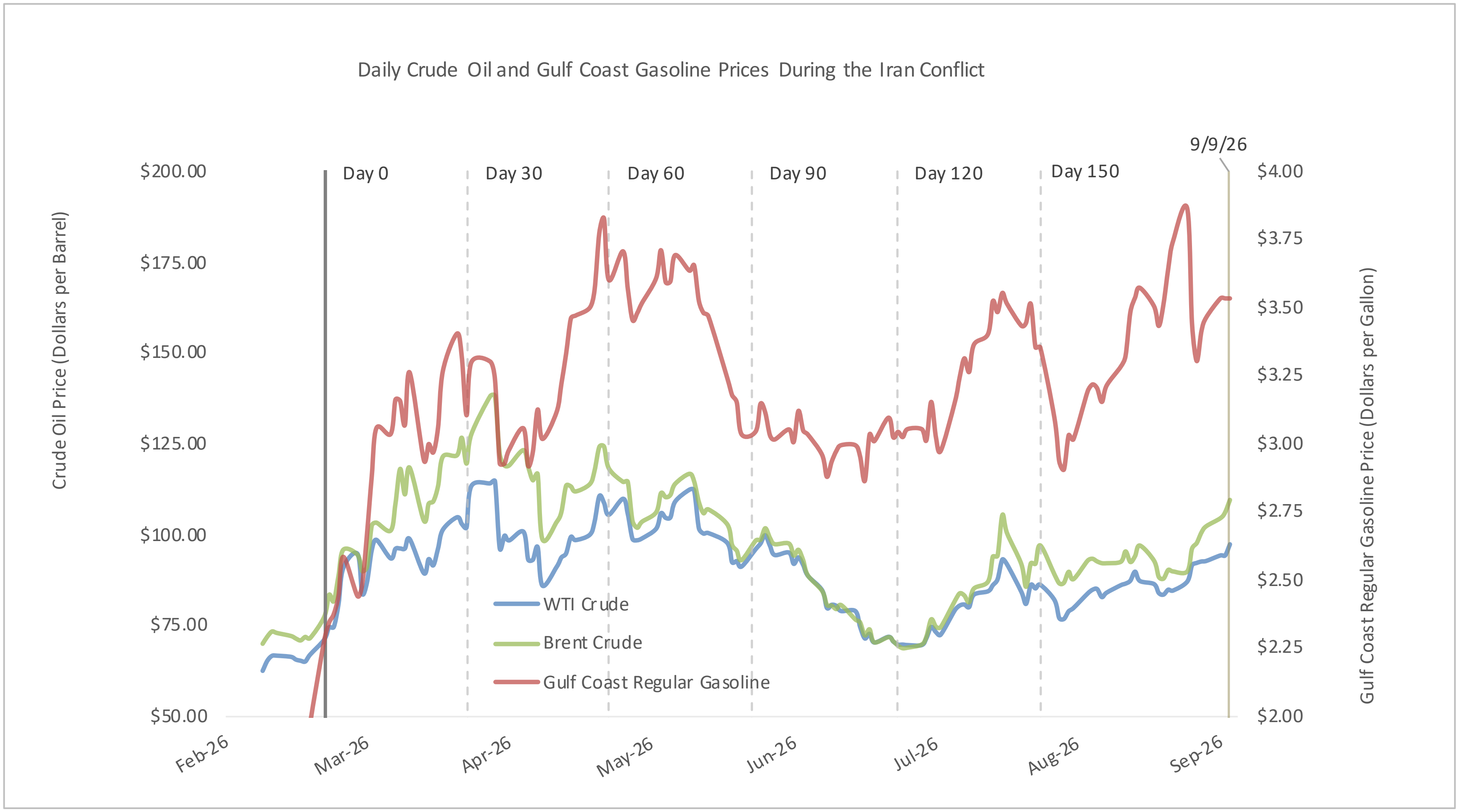

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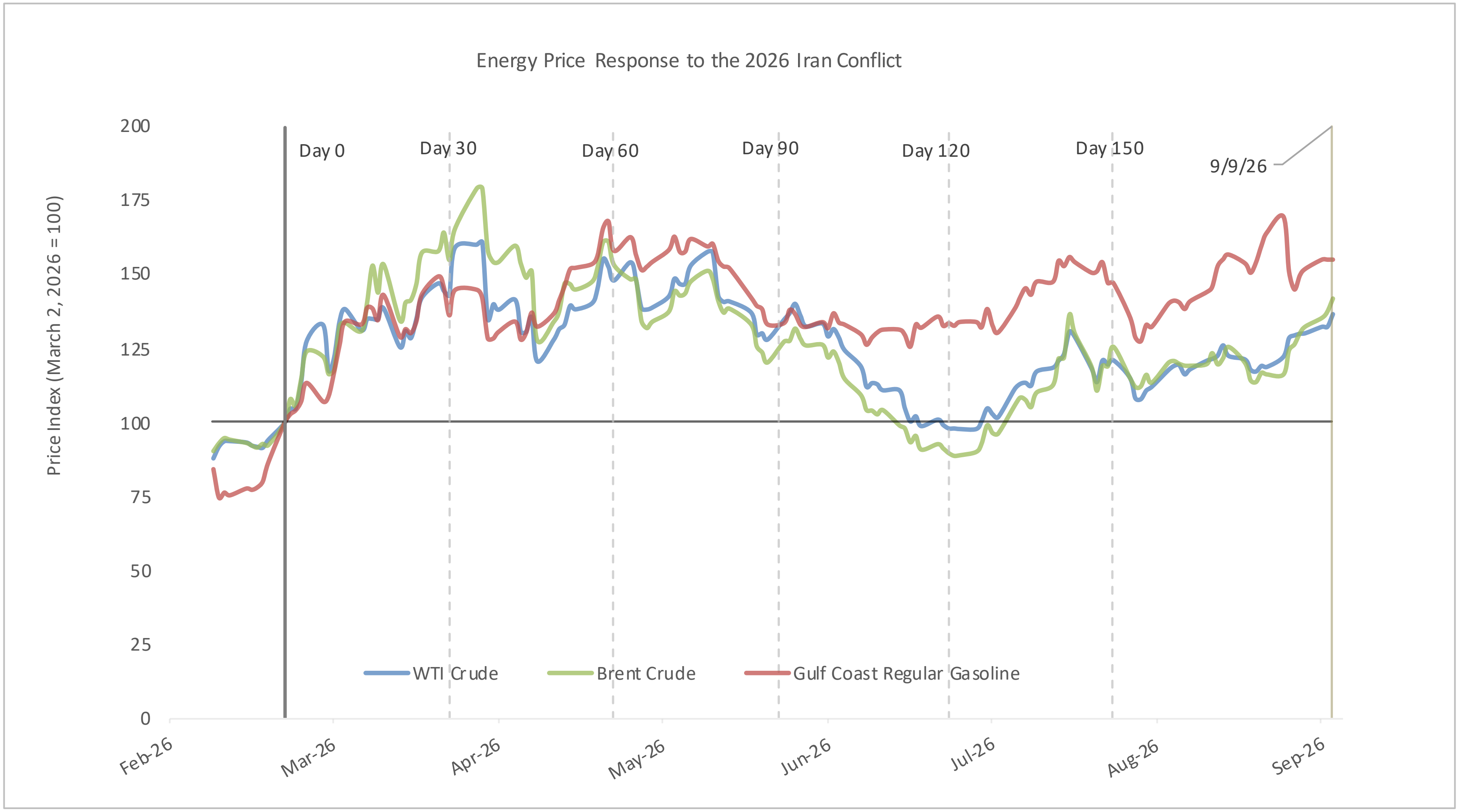
The following figure presents the same daily energy price series indexed to their March 2, 2026 values (March 2, 2026 = 100). Indexing each series to a common baseline facilitates comparison of the relative changes in WTI crude oil, Brent crude oil, and U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline prices during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



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3. PPI AND CPI

The charts below compare headline and core inflation using both 12-month and 3-month annualized changes in the Producer Price Index (PPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) . The 12-month change compares each index with the same month one year earlier, providing a relatively stable measure of the broader inflation trend. The 3-month annualized change measures price growth over the most recent three months and compounds that pace over a full year, providing a timelier indication of whether inflation is accelerating or slowing. The annualized measure describes recent momentum and should not be interpreted as a forecast.

Note: Core CPI excludes food and energy. Three-month changes are seasonally adjusted and expressed at an annualized rate. October 2025 CPI data were not collected because of the lapse in appropriations. Lighter line segments connect available observations and do not represent October estimates.

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

Key Takeaways

- Short-term inflation momentum has cooled broadly, with every 3-month annualized measure finishing below its corresponding 12-month rate.
- Consumer inflation has slowed across headline, core, food-at-home, and medical-care prices, although the recent paths have not been uniformly downward.
- Producer-price pressures remain stronger than consumer-price pressures over the past year, but their recent momentum has declined sharply from the spring.
- The divergence between the two measures shows that earlier price increases continue to influence 12-month inflation even as the latest three-month period points to substantially slower growth.

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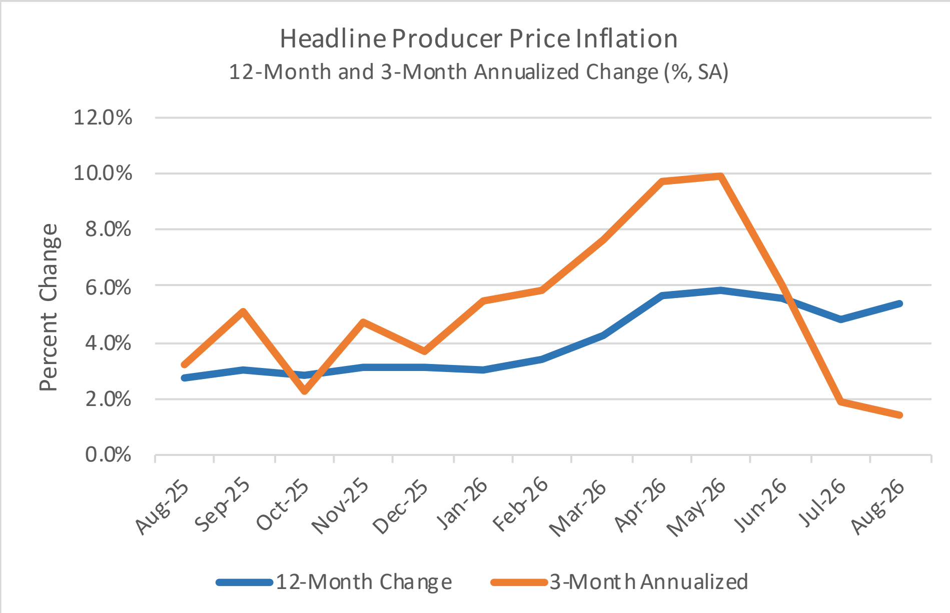

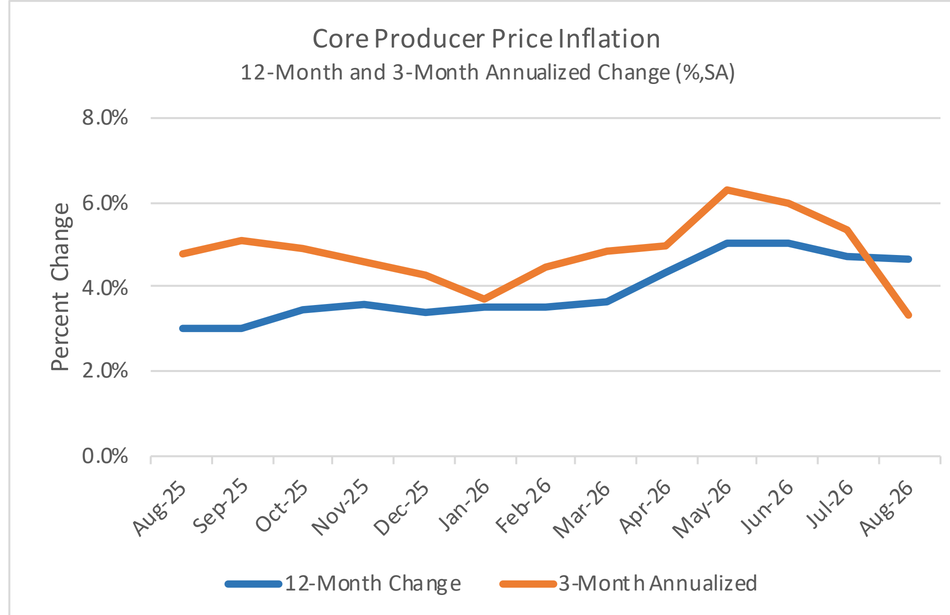

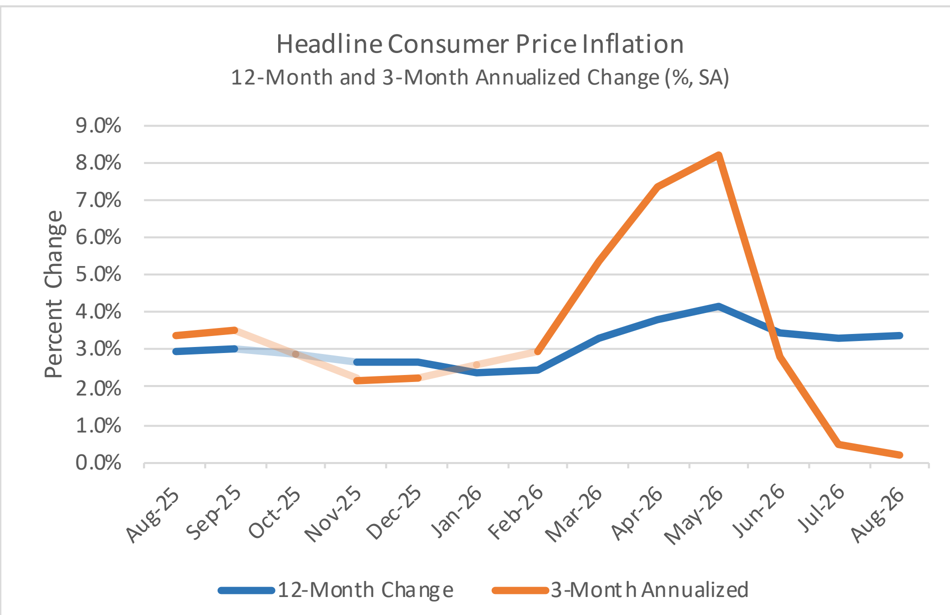

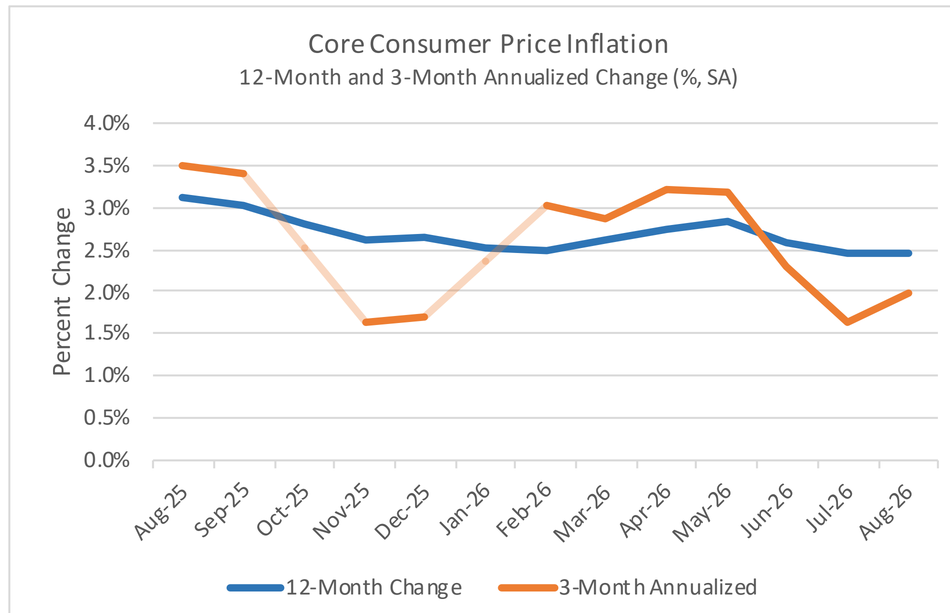

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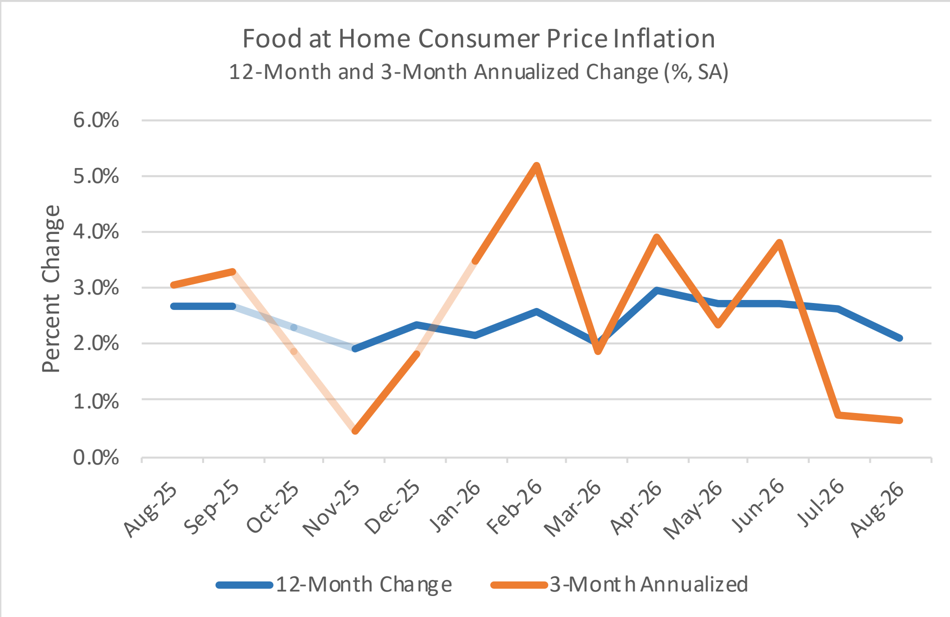

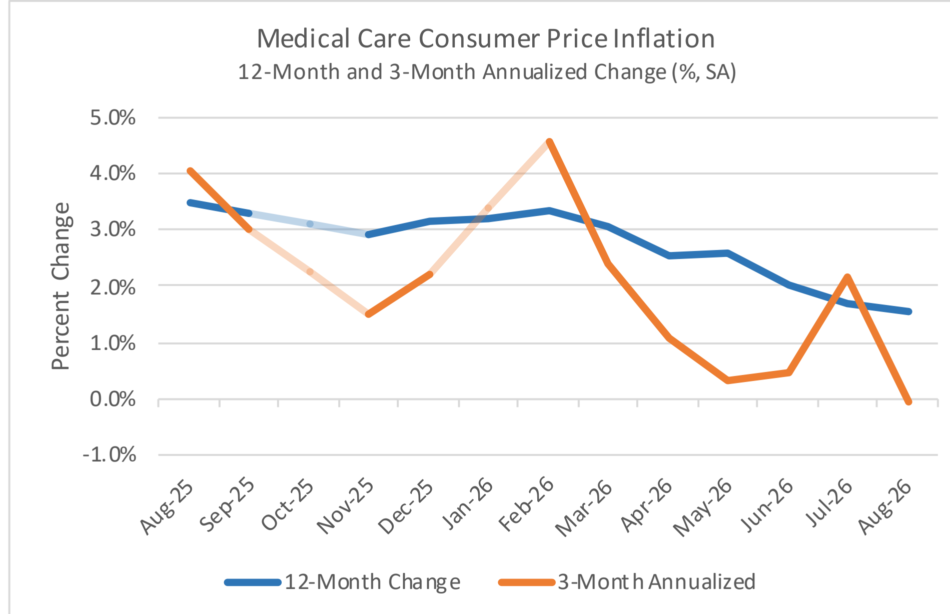

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September

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 *Metro Employment Situation* *[July]* *Manufacturing - New Orders* *[July]*	3 *Construction Spending* *[July]*	4 *Employment Situation* *[August]*	5
6	7 *ISM PMI Manufacturing* *[August]*	8 *NFIB Small Business Report* *[August]*	9 *ISM PMI Services* *[August]*	10 *Wholesale Inventory* *[July]* *Pending Home Sales* *[August]* *PPI* *[August]*	11 *CPI* *[August]* *Federal Budget* *[August]* *Business Applications* *[August]* *Real Earnings* *[August]*	12
13	14	15	16 *Retail & Food Sales* *[July; August Advance]* *U.S. Import & Export PI* *[August]*	17 *Housing Starts* *[August]*	18 *State Employment* *[August]* *Industrial Production* *[July]*	19
20	21 *NAHB HMI* *[September]*	22	23	24 *New Residential Sales* *[August]* *Business Applications* *[August Revised]*	25 *Manufacturing - New Orders* *[August Advance]*	26
27	28	29 *The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index* *[September]*	30 *GDP, State GDP, and State Personal Income* *[2026:Q2, 3rd Est) State PCE, 2025]* *Metro Employment Situation* *[August]*			