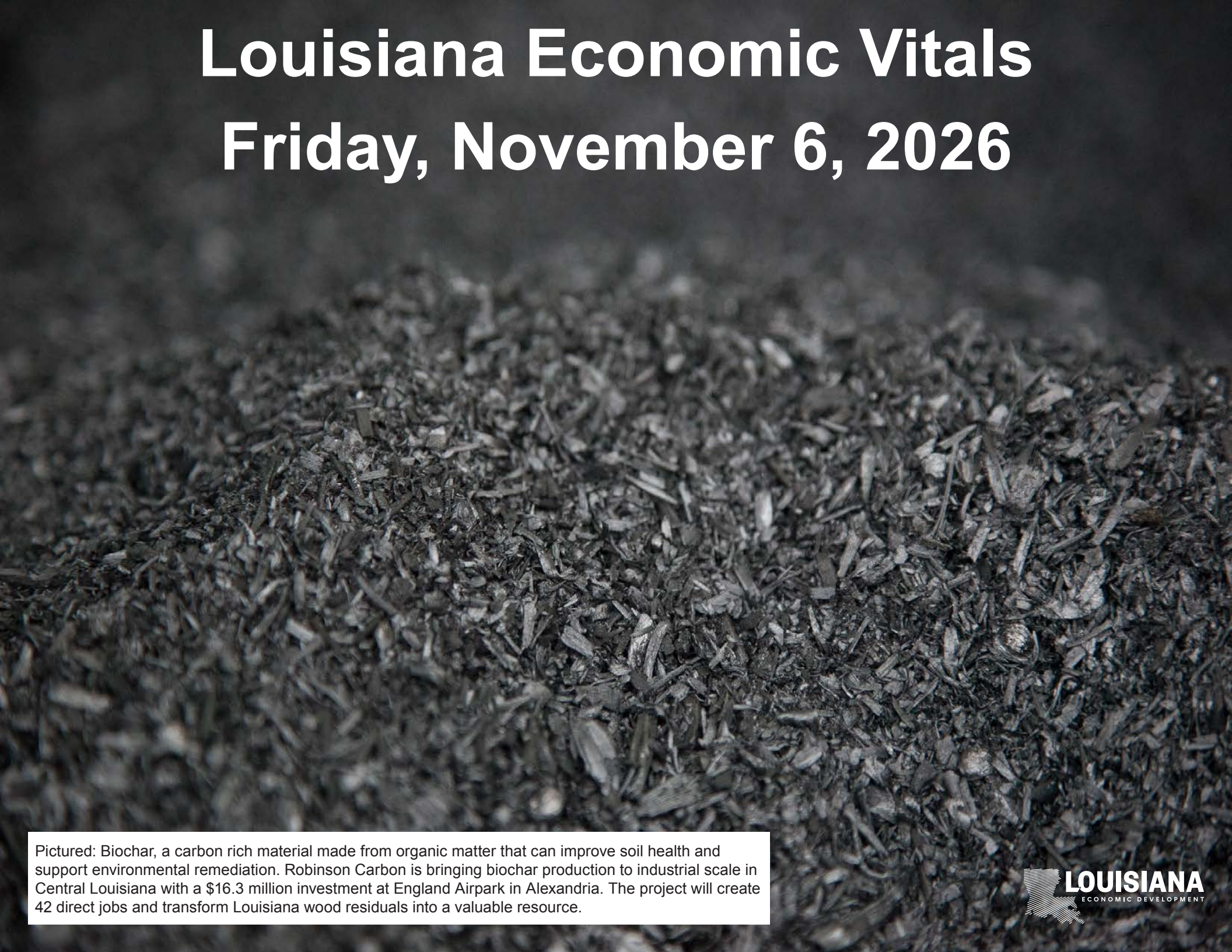
Louisiana Economic Vitals
Friday, November 6, 2026



Pictured: Biochar, a carbon rich material made from organic matter that can improve soil health and support environmental remediation. Robinson Carbon is bringing biochar production to industrial scale in Central Louisiana with a $16.3 million investment at England Airpark in Alexandria. The project will create 42 direct jobs and transform Louisiana wood residuals into a valuable resource.

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 November 2026 Announcements:

Robinson Carbon Takes Biochar Production to Industrial Scale in Central Louisiana
November 4th, 2026

Louisiana Entrepreneurs Signal Confidence, Growth in First Statewide Startup Report
November 2nd, 2026

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

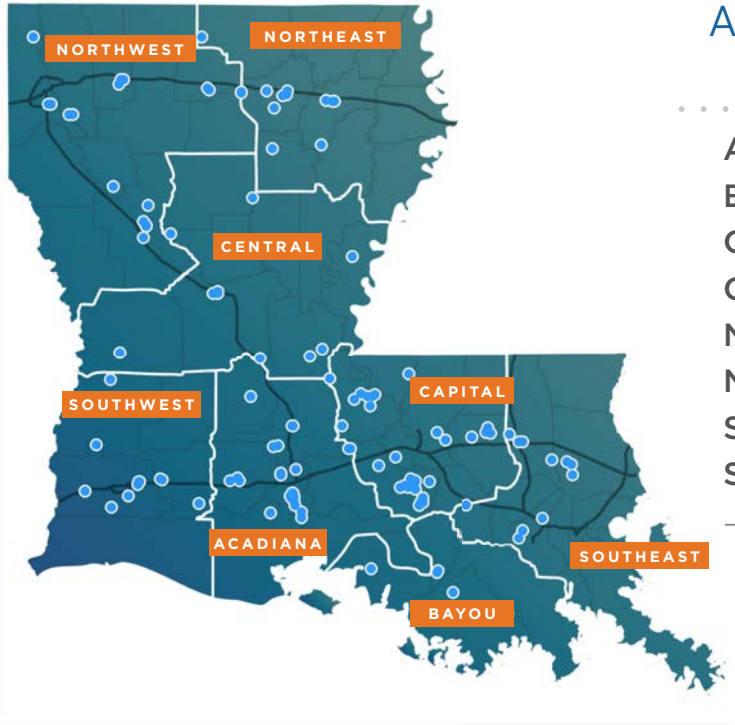
LED PROJECT PIPELINE

Since Governor Landry took office in January 2024, LED has announced 118 projects representing over $258.7 billion USD in new investment and more than 19,830 direct new jobs across Louisiana.

As of November 5, 2026, LED is actively tracking and involved in 269 distinct projects with a combined value exceeding $378.1 billion and the potential to create more than 55,865 direct new jobs.

CERTIFIED SITE PROGRAM

Since the launch of its Certified Sites Program, LED has certified 173 industrial sites, with all or portions of 47 sites advancing into active commerce. At full build-out, these projects represent more than $44.7 billion in capital investment, over 7,160 direct new jobs, and more than $468 million in total annual wages statewide. Currently, there are 130 actively marketed certified sites across every region of Louisiana.



Active Certified Sites by Region

Acadiana	30
Bayou	6
Capital	23
Central	7
Northeast	15
Northwest	18
Southeast	19
Southwest	13
TOTAL	131

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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOUISIANA COMPETES *NOW*

Louisiana Achieves Best Overall Ranking Ever in Tax Foundation's 2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index

Louisiana:

- **Jumped to 23rd overall**, its best performance to date, up from **40th in 2024**.
- **Led the nation in year-over-year ranking improvement**, climbing **9 spots** in the overall rankings.
- Was **one of only four Southeastern states to improve its overall ranking**.
- **Ranked in the top 10 nationally in three categories**: Personal Income Tax (9th), Corporate Income Tax (10th), and Unemployment Insurance Tax (8th).
- **Improved its ranking in every category except Corporate Income Tax**, where Louisiana remained in the **top 10 nationally**.

Louisiana Year Over Year Performance

Category	2027	2026	Movement
Overall Rank	23rd	32nd	**+9**
Corporate Tax Rank	10th	9th	**-1**
Individual Income Tax Rank	9th	12th	**+3**
Property Tax Rank	14th	31st	**+17**
Unemployment Insurance Tax Rank	8th	9th	**+1**
Sales Tax Rank	49th	50th	**+1**

Southeast Comparison - Overall Rank

Category	2027	2026	Movement
Louisiana	**23rd**	**32nd**	**+9**
Florida	4th	4th	0
Texas	5th	7th	+2
Tennessee	8th	8th	0
North Carolina	11th	13th	+2
Georgia	24th	18th	-6
Mississippi	27th	26th	-1
Arkansas	32nd	29st	-3
South Carolina	34th	28th	-6
Alabama	35th	37th	+2

Source: taxfoundation.org

1. LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY

Table 1 summarizes October 2026 U.S. labor market conditions using the establishment (CES) and household (CPS) surveys. October 2025 household survey data are unavailable because CPS data were not collected during the lapse in federal appropriations and cannot be reconstructed retroactively. As a result, year-over-year comparisons are unavailable for the CPS indicators shown in the table.

Sources: bls.gov

Key Takeaways

- **Baton Rouge remains the standout**, adding 13,700 jobs (+3.2%) year over year and remaining 7,100 jobs above January 2026 levels.
- **Lake Charles continues to show strong momentum**, with employment up 2.2% year over year—the second-highest growth rate among Louisiana MSAs. September employment held steady at 107,100.
- **Lafayette remains solid**, adding 3,000 jobs (+1.6%) year over year and 1,400 jobs since June, while holding steady in September.
- **Slidell-Mandeville-Covington also posted strong annual growth**, with employment up 1.7% year over year and holding steady in September.
- **New Orleans employment dipped by 700 jobs in September**, but remains 2,600 jobs above September 2025 and 2,400 above June 2026. The MSA posted the largest June-to-September employment increase in the state.
- **Employment growth remains broad-based across the state**, with 9 of Louisiana's 10 MSAs posting year-over-year gains in September.

Table 1. U.S. Employment and Labor Force Indicators, October 2026, Seasonally Adjusted

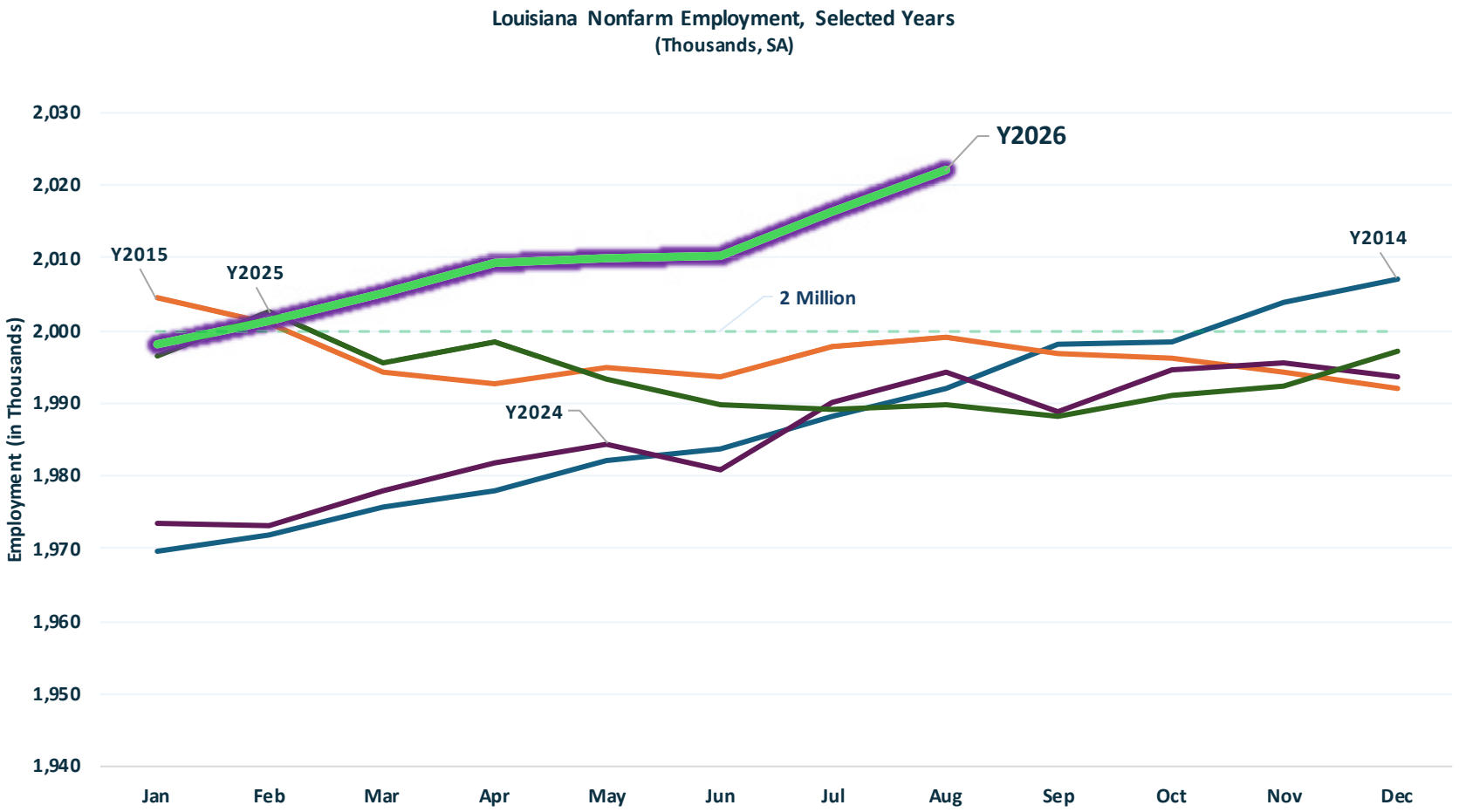
Series	Oct-26	Sep-26		Oct-25	Change	
		Revised	Preliminary		MoM	YoY
CES Payroll Employment	159,293	159,128	159,044	158,408	0.1%	0.6%
CPS Household Employment	163,615	N/A	163,152	N/A	0.3%	N/A
Civilian Labor Force	170,683	N/A	170,262	N/A	0.2%	N/A
LFPR	61.9	N/A	61.8	N/A	+0.1 pp	N/A
Unemployment Rate	4.1	N/A	4.2	N/A	-0.1 pp	N/A

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The figure compares seasonally adjusted monthly Louisiana nonfarm employment in 2026 with selected prior years in which employment approached or exceeded 2 million. Each line represents monthly employment during a calendar year, with the dashed horizontal line marking the 2-million employment threshold. The 2026 series includes data through August, while the comparison years show employment through December.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, The Current Employment Statistics Program and The Current Population Survey

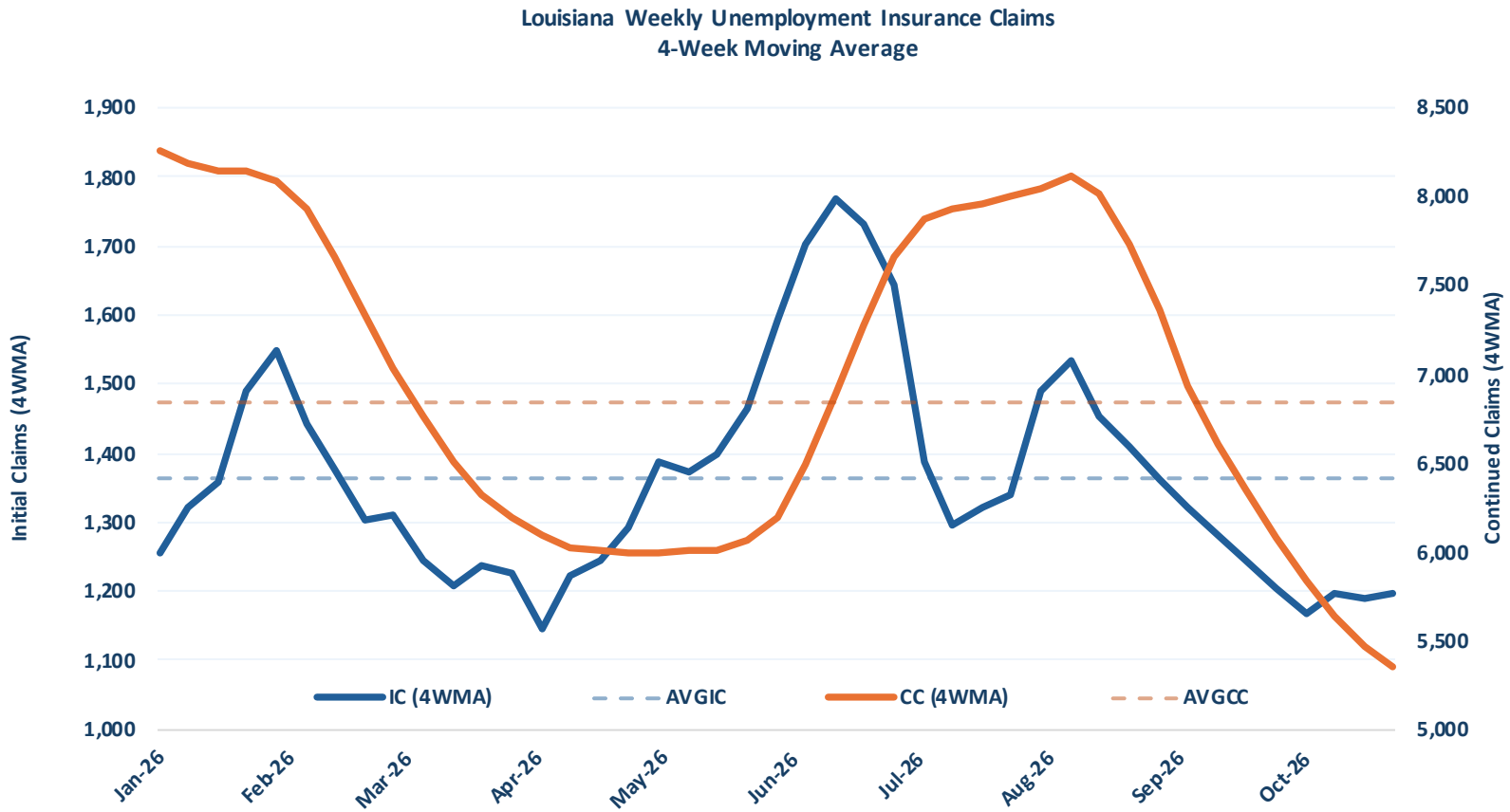


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Initial claims represent new filings for unemployment benefits and are a leading indicator of labor market weakness. Continued claims reflect the persistence of unemployment. If both the initial claims and continued claims are generally falling over a sustained period, that generally signals sustained labor-market strengthening, holding all other economic signals unchanged. The chart below includes plots for the 4-Week Moving Averages of Initial- and Continued Claims for covered workers in addition to the annual-average to date for both series.

Sources: laworks.net



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2. COMMODITIES

The following tables (2 and 3) 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 remain sharply elevated from a year ago despite recent stabilization:** Brent and WTI are up 86.4% and 71.7% YoY, respectively, while both have moved only modestly over the past month.
- **Fuel prices continue to show substantial pass-through from higher energy costs:** Gulf Coast gasoline remains well above its pre-conflict level, while U.S. diesel is roughly 60% above its March 1 baseline, keeping transportation-cost pressures elevated.
- **Natural gas is moving in the opposite direction from oil:** Henry Hub fell 12.3% over the week and 13.1% over the month, leaving prices 22.5% below year-ago levels despite strength elsewhere in energy markets.
- **Agricultural commodity movements remain highly uneven:** rice stands out at +78.2% YoY and +9.2% over the month, while sugar and coffee remain about 30% above year-ago levels despite sizable recent declines.
- **The Iran conflict continues to leave a visible imprint on energy markets, but the effects have diverged:** crude prices have retreated substantially from their September highs, while diesel prices have remained comparatively elevated—suggesting continued pressure on freight and goods-transportation costs.

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Table 2. Energy Commodities, Weekly

Commodity	10/30/26	10/23/26	10/2/26	10/31/25	Change		
					WoW	MoM	YoY
Brent Crude Oil Spot Price	$121.17	$121.02	$120.03	$65.02	0.1%	0.9%	86.4%
WTI Crude Oil Spot Price	$105.59	$107.17	$98.07	$61.49	-1.5%	7.7%	71.7%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price	$2.65	$3.02	$3.05	$3.42	-12.3%	-13.1%	-22.5%
U.S. Regular Conventional Gas Price	$4.00	$4.12	$4.16	$2.90	-3.0%	-3.9%	37.9%

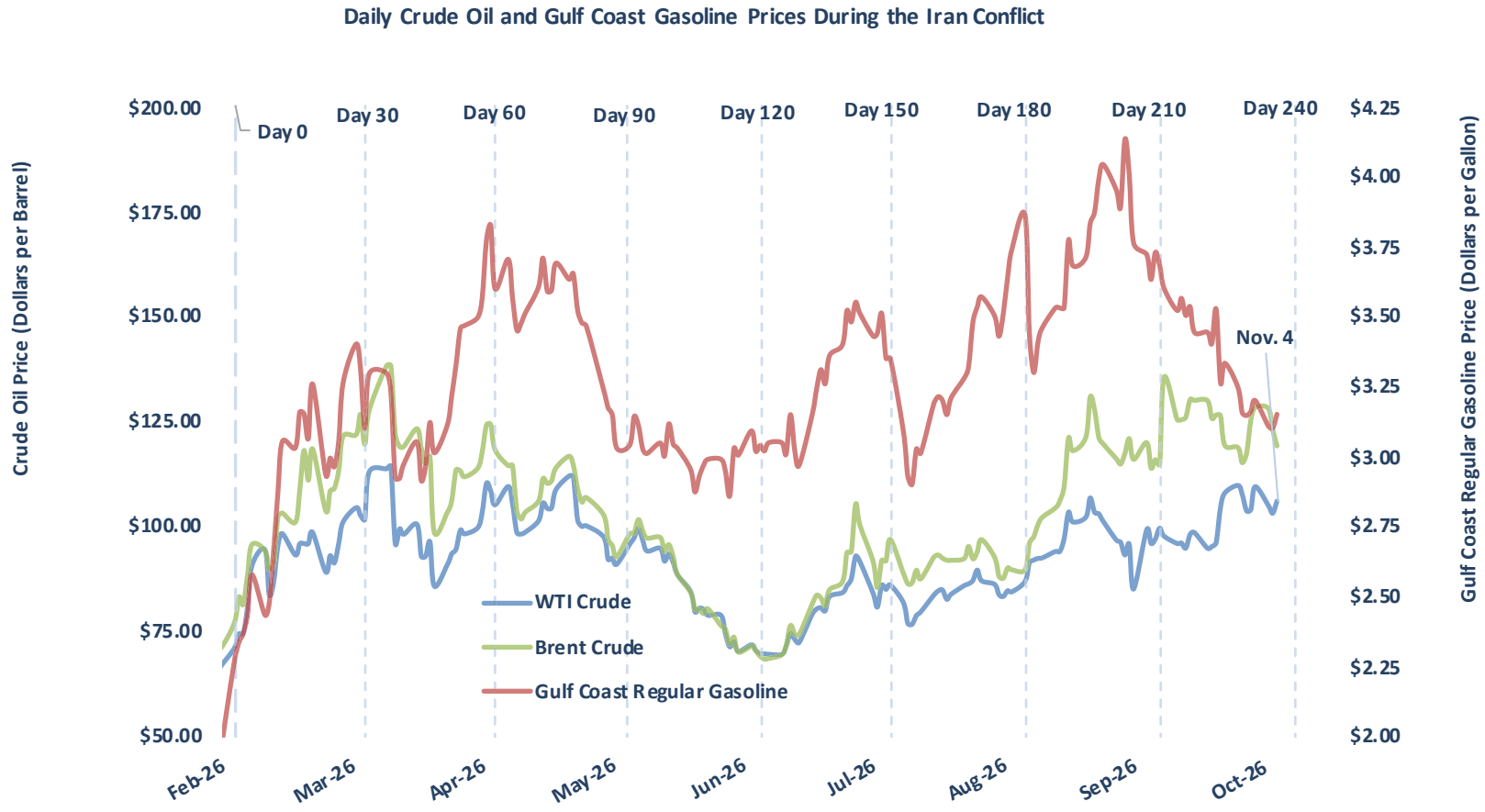
Table 3. Agricultural Commodities, Daily Period of Nov 5, 2026

Commodity	Listed Price	Dollar ($)	Unit of Measurement	Change			
				Daily	Weekly	Monthly	YoY
Soybeans	$1,180.24	$11.80	$/Bu	-1.1%	-3.2%	-9.4%	8.2%
Wheat	$599.84	$6.00	$/Bu	0.3%	-0.6%	-14.8%	12.1%
Lumber	$518.53	$5.19	$/MBF	-0.6%	0.1%	-1.2%	-3.6%
Palm Oil	$4,377.00	$43.77	$/MT	-2.7%	-5.4%	-4.0%	5.5%
Sugar (No. 11)	$18.60	$0.19	$/Lb	0.7%	-4.5%	-10.7%	31.1%
Coffee	$277.57	$2.78	$/Lb	-0.8%	-2.8%	-8.8%	30.0%
Corn	$440.41	$4.40	$/Bu	-0.8%	-2.3%	-13.3%	2.8%
Rice	$17.84	$0.18	$/CWT	1.1%	2.5%	9.2%	78.2%
Orange Juice	$135.98	$1.36	$/Lb	-1.5%	-0.9%	-9.7%	-24.9%

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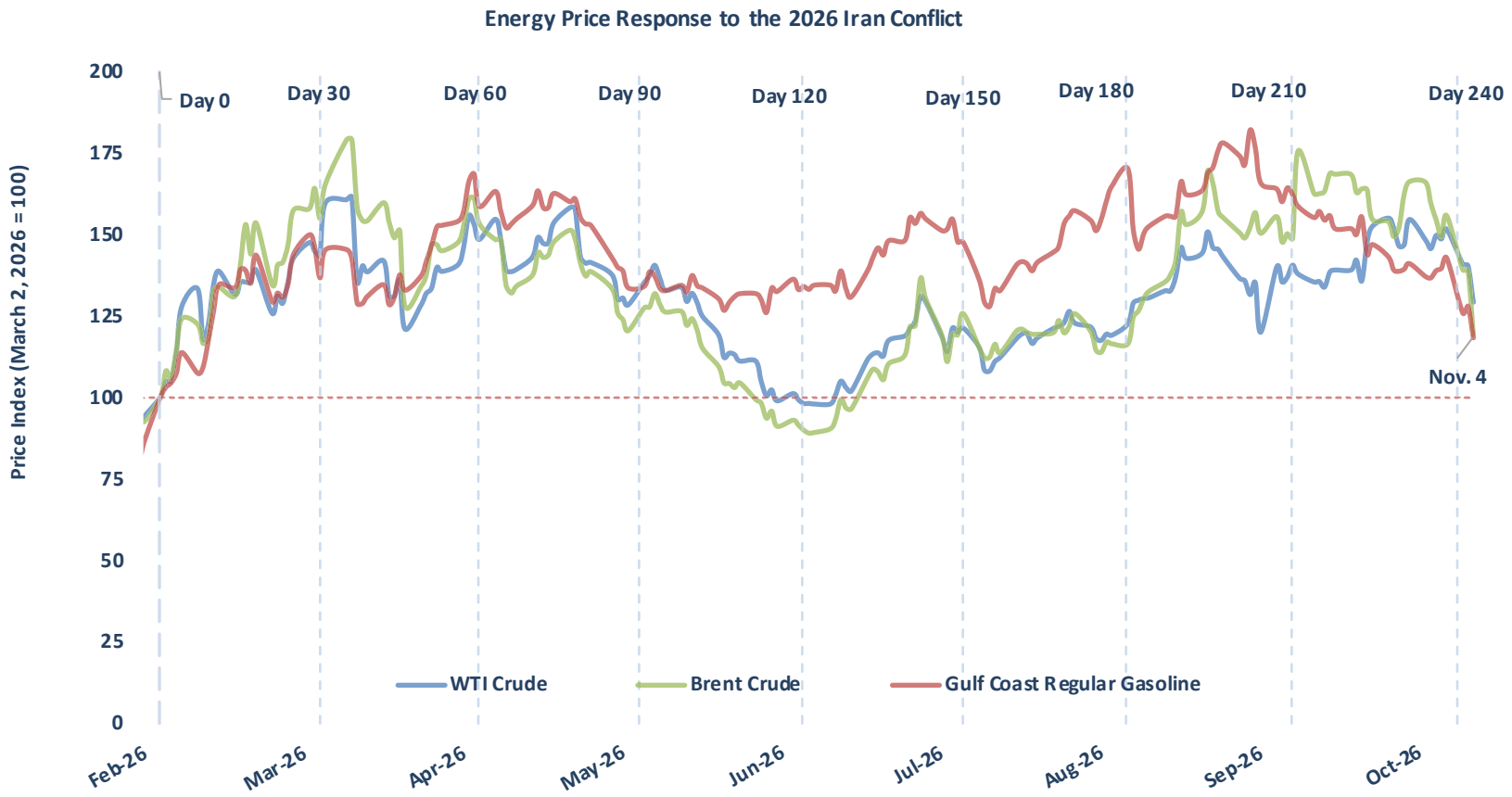
The following figure displays the daily prices of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil, Brent crude oil, and U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline from February 17 through November 4, 2026. Vertical reference lines denote the onset of the conflict (Day 0) and the 30-day incremental milestones used to illustrate the evolution of energy prices over the months following the event.



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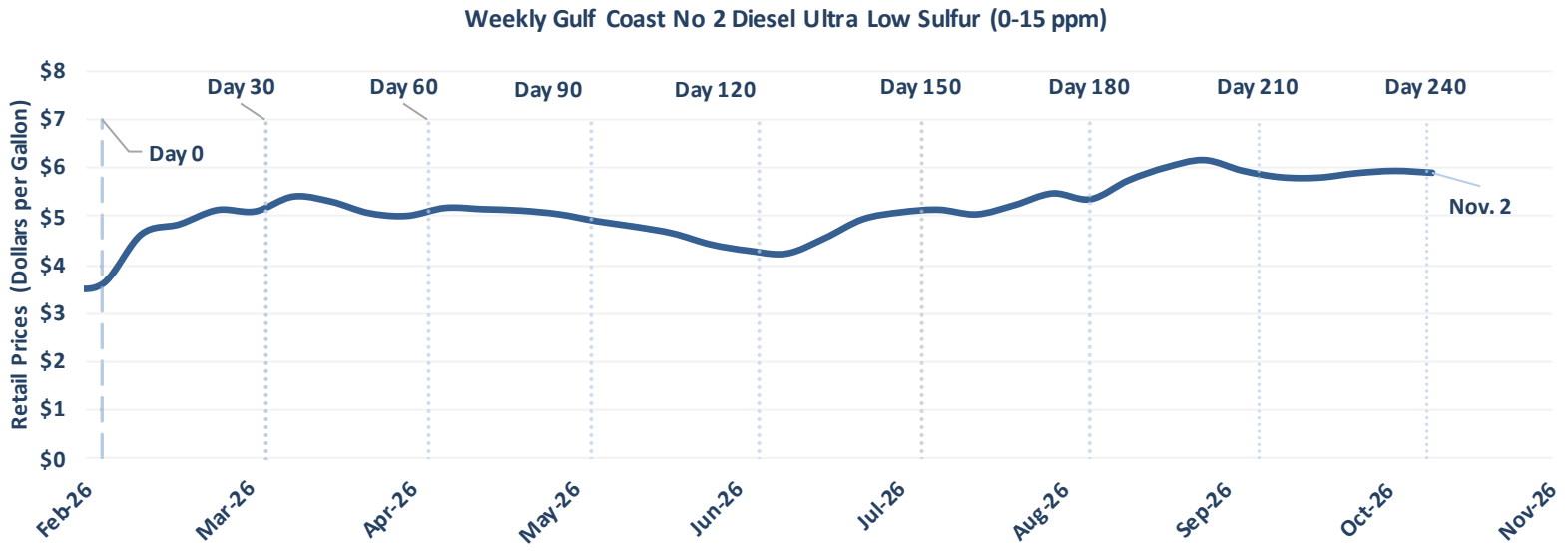
The following figure presents the same daily energy price series indexed to their March 2, 2026 values (March 2, 2026 = 100). Indexing each series to a common baseline facilitates comparison of the relative changes in WTI crude oil, Brent crude oil, and U.S. Gulf Coast regular gasoline prices during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

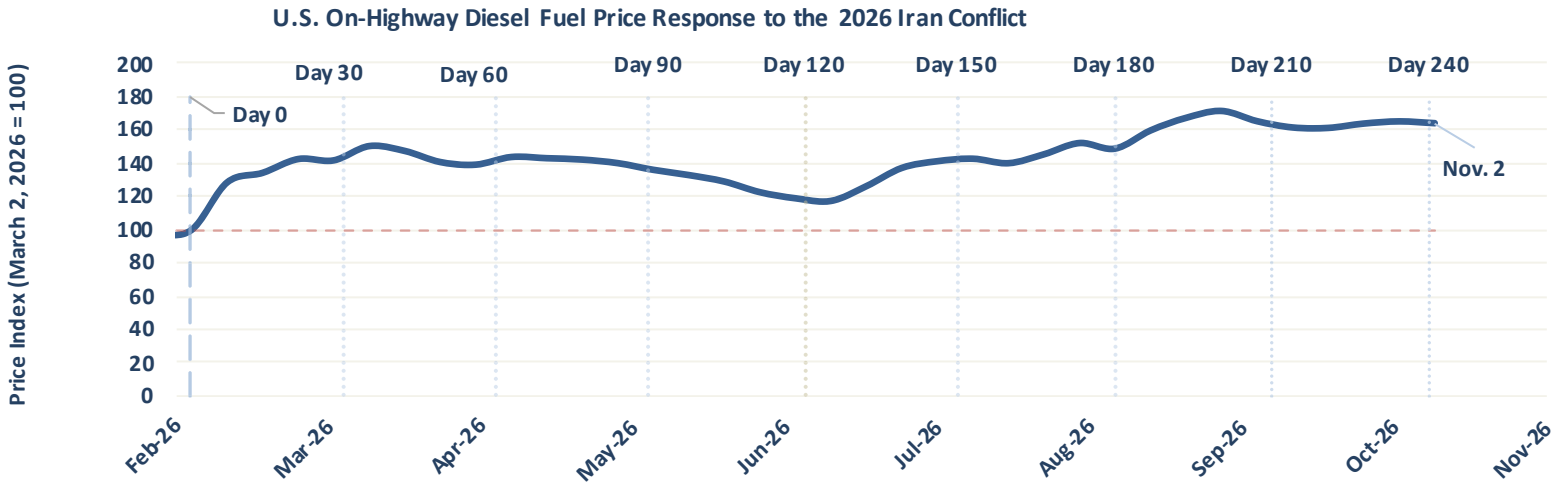


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LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The next two figures track the weekly Gulf Coast retail (on-highway) price of ultra-low-sulfur diesel, a key operating cost for trucking and freight transportation, and also the same series as an index, with the price during the week of March 2, 2026, set equal to 100. The reference lines mark 30-day intervals following the onset of the Iran conflict, allowing the price response to be followed over time.





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3. LOUISIANA OIL AND GAS ACTIVITY

Rig counts provide a timely measure of drilling activity and can offer insight into future oil and gas production, although the relationship also depends on well productivity, completion timing, energy prices, and other market conditions. Rising rig counts generally indicate expanding drilling activity, while declining counts suggest activity is easing. Because several Louisiana categories contain very few rigs, percentage changes should be interpreted alongside the underlying rig-count levels.

The second figure uses a shorter period to focus on recent inflation momentum, comparing quarterly annualized changes in the GDP deflator, gross domestic purchases, PCE, and core PCE price indexes. Together, the measures provide perspectives on prices associated with domestic production, domestic purchases, and consumer spending.

Sources: denr.louisiana.gov & eia.gov

Key Takeaways

- **Louisiana natural gas withdrawals strengthened considerably in 2025–26**, reaching roughly 380,000 MMcf in August—the highest August level among the six periods shown.
- Oil production remains comparatively subdued: 2025–26 production has generally tracked below the prior five periods and finished **August near 1.95 million barrels.**
- **Louisiana drilling activity is improving in the near term,** with the rig count up 17.1% over four weeks, although it remains 4.7% below year-ago levels.
- **The recent increase in Louisiana drilling is concentrated offshore:** federal offshore rigs rose from 7 to 12 over four weeks and are 9.1% above last year.

Table 4. Louisiana and U.S. Oil & Gas Rig Counts

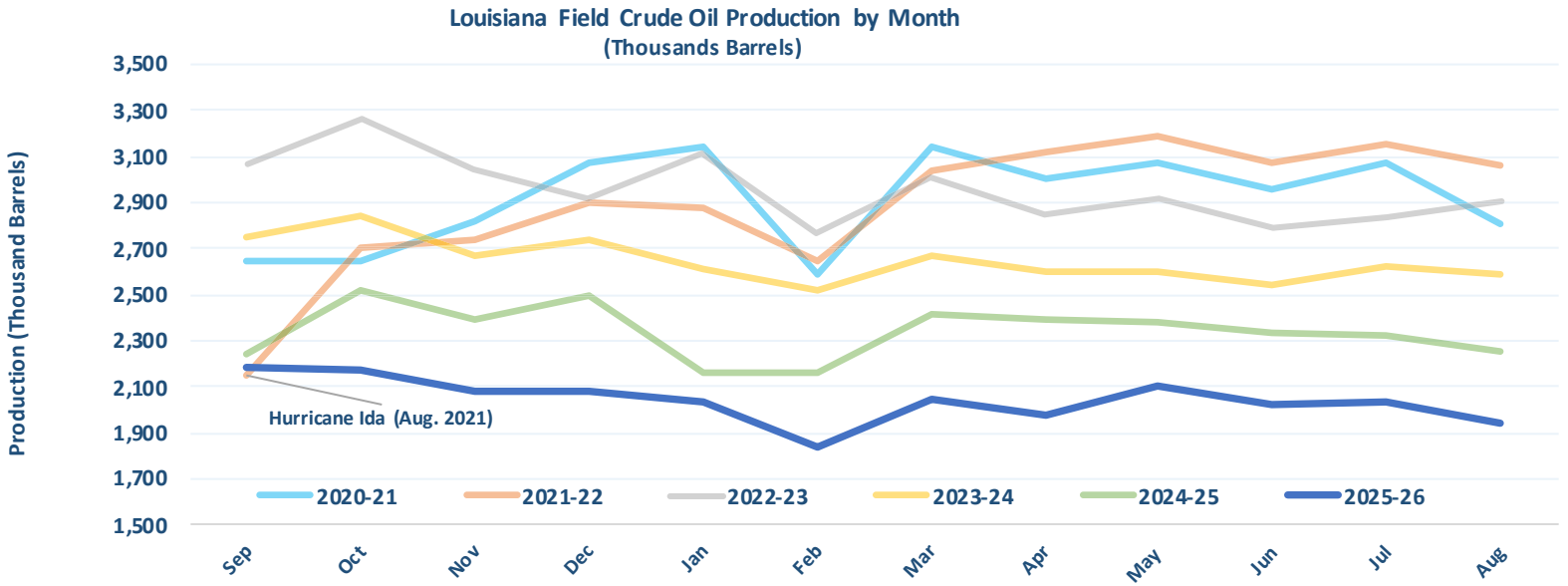
Location	10/23/26	10/2/26	10/31/25	10/31/25	Change		
					WoW	4-Wk	YoY
Louisiana (Total all areas)	41	40	35	43	2.5%	17.1%	-4.7%
North - Land	28	29	27	28	-3.4%	3.7%	0.0%
South Inland - Water	1	0	0	1	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
South Inland - Land	0	0	1	2	N/M	-100.0%	-100.0%
State Offshore	0	0	0	1	N/M	N/M	-100.0%
Louisiana Federal Offshore	12	11	7	11	9.1%	71.4%	9.1%
U.S. Total	603	603	598	546	0.0%	0.8%	10.4%

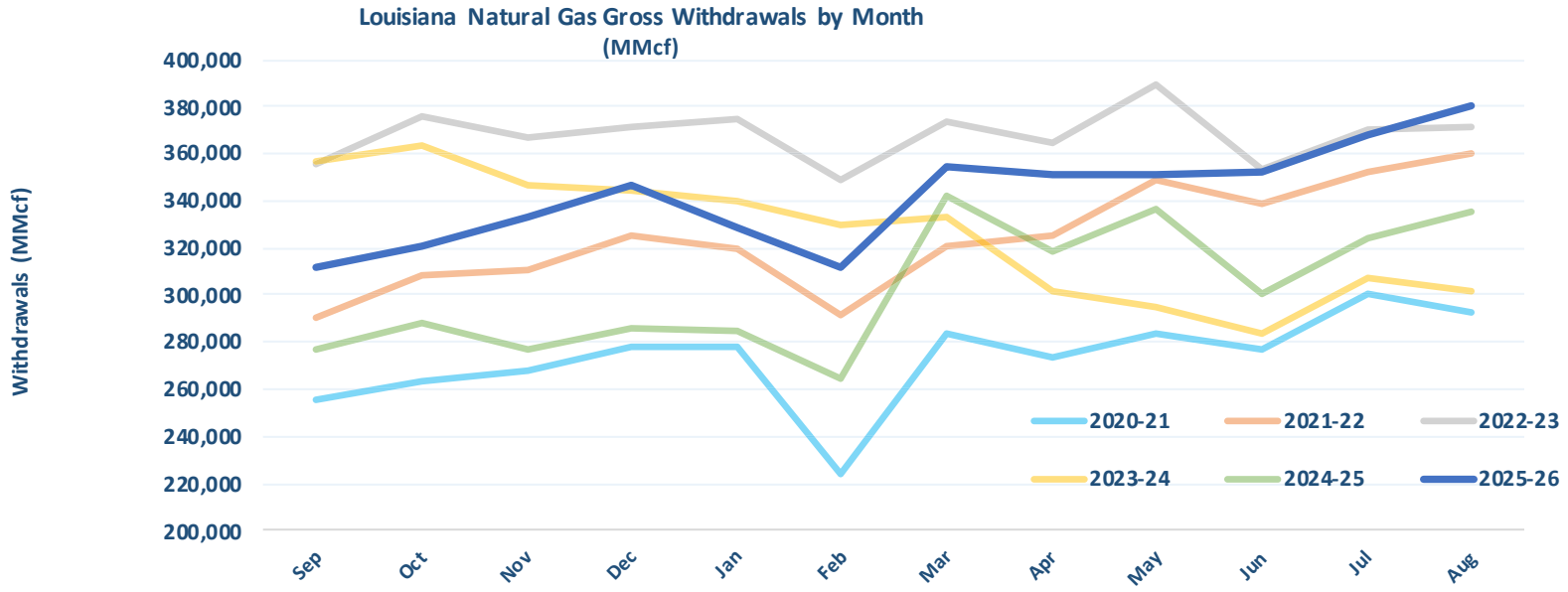
Note: N/M indicates that a percentage change is not meaningful because the comparison-period rig count was zero.

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November 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 November calendar will be updated as new release dates are announced.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ISM PMI Manufacturing [October] ISM PMI Services [October]	3	4	5	6 Employment Situation [October]	7
8	9	10 CPI [October] Real Earnings [October]	11 Federal Budget [October] Louisiana Labor Market Briefings [12:00 PM]	12	13 PPI [September]	14
15	16	17 U.S. Import & Export PI [October] NAHB HMI [November]	18 Pending Home Sales [September] Outdoor Recreation Economic Statistics, U.S. and States, 2025	19	20 State Employment & Unemployment [October]	21
22	23	24 The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index [November]	25 GDP (2nd Estimate) [2026:Q3] Peronsal Income [October]	26 **Thanksgiving Day** **[U.S. Markets Closed]**	27	28
29	30	1	2 Metro Area Employment and Unemployment [October] GDP by County and Personal Income by County, 2025]			