

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC REPORT

SUMMER 2026



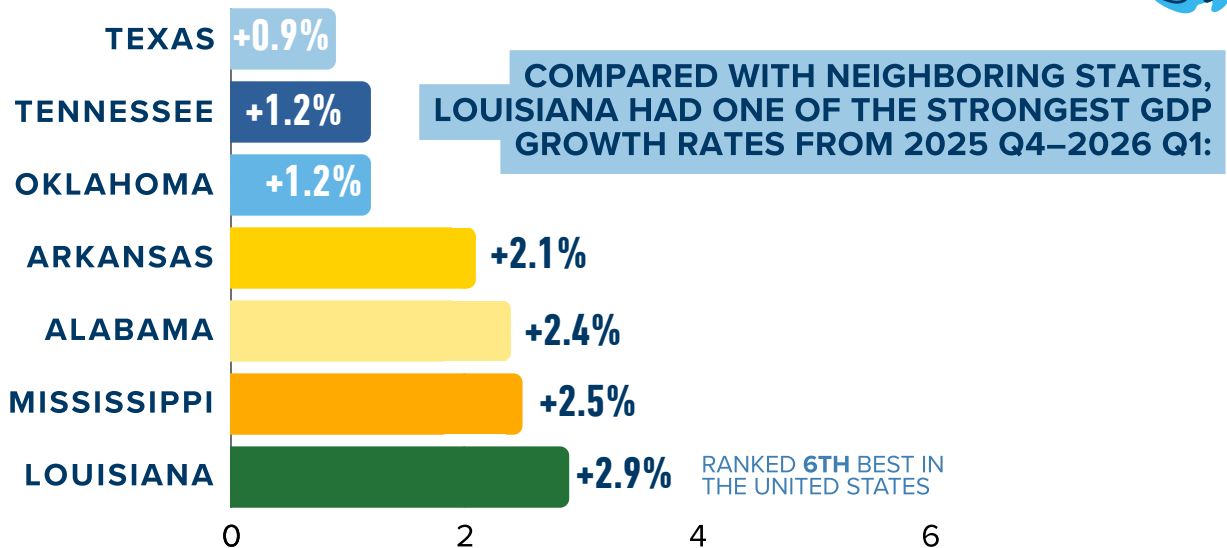
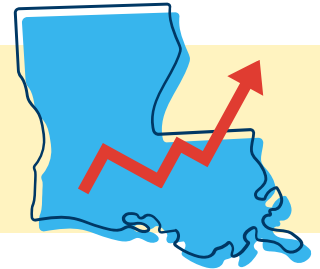
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THE PELICAN INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS LOUISIANA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

Louisiana enters the second half of 2026 with encouraging economic momentum. Output, personal income, jobs, and population have increased in the latest available data. These gains offer evidence that Louisiana can compete for investment and opportunity, but lasting prosperity will require policymakers to build on recent reforms rather than rely on temporary projects, subsidies, or government-directed development.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Louisiana's inflation-adjusted GDP grew at a 2.9% annualized rate from the fourth quarter of 2025 to the first quarter of 2026. That exceeded the 2.1% national rate and growth in most nearby states.

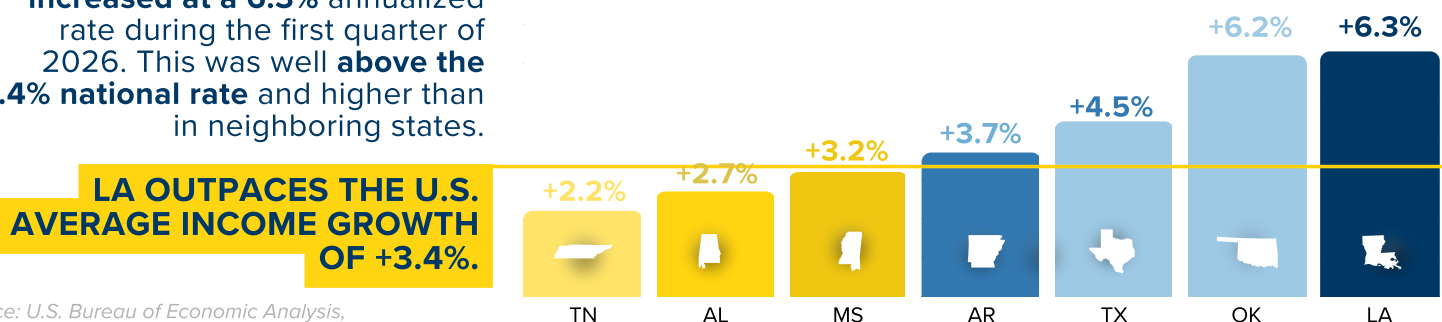


Source: Gross Domestic Product by State and Personal Income by State, 2025 Q4–2026 Q1: <https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2026-06/gdp1q26-3rd.pdf>

PERSONAL INCOME

Louisiana's **personal income** increased at a **6.3%** annualized rate during the first quarter of 2026. This was well **above the 3.4% national rate** and higher than in neighboring states.

COMPARED WITH NEIGHBORING STATES, LOUISIANA'S INCOME GROWTH LED THE WAY:



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Income Growth, 2025 Q4–2026 Q1
<https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2026-06/gdp1q26-3rd.pdf>

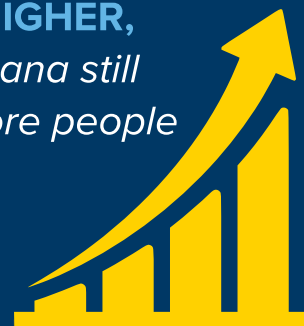


EMPLOYMENT



Louisiana had about **2.01 million** nonfarm payroll jobs in **May 2026**, an increase of roughly **16,700 jobs** from May 2025.

JOB GROWTH HAS EDGED HIGHER, but Louisiana still needs more people working.



CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT INCREASED 5.4%, WHILE MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT ROSE 2.1% OVER THE YEAR. LOUISIANA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 4.5%, SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE 4.3% NATIONAL RATE.

Source: Federal Reserve Economic Data, All Employees: Total Nonfarm in Louisiana <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/graph/?g=1nSye>

POPULATION AND OUTLOOK



LOUISIANA RANKED **44TH** IN NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION FROM 2018 TO 2023, LOSING MORE THAN **110,000 RESIDENTS** AND **\$3.6 BILLION** IN INCOME.

Louisiana's population increased by **20,449 residents** between July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025, reaching **4,618,189**. This was the state's second consecutive annual increase, although Louisiana remained about **39,700 residents** below its 2020 population base.

THE TURNAROUND IS WELCOME, BUT INTERSTATE MIGRATION REMAINS A WARNING SIGN.

