



# Data Digest: Louisiana

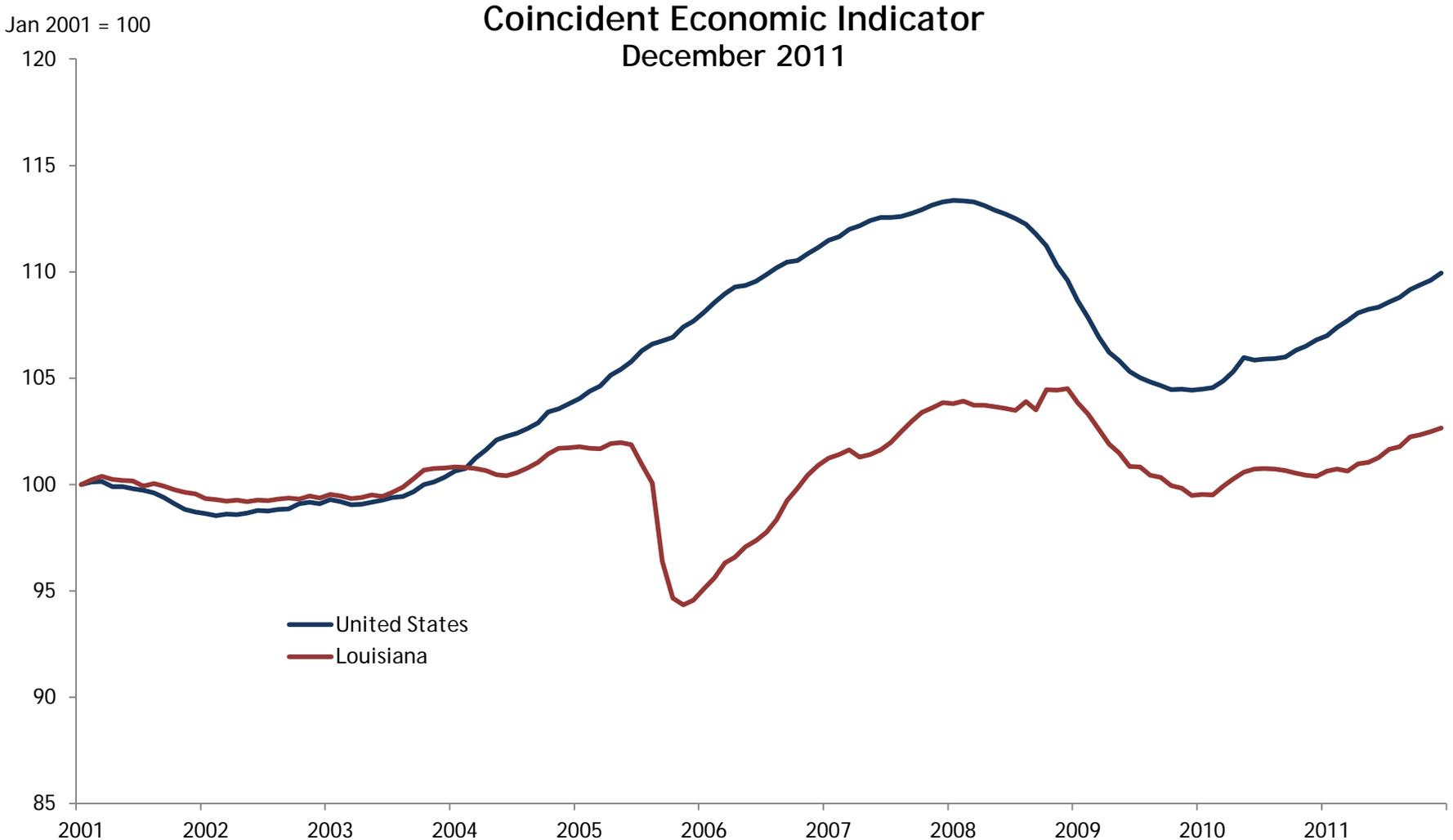
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February 2012



Broad indicators of economic activity in Louisiana and the United States reveal slow but steady gains. The level of activity in Louisiana is approaching prerecession levels.

[About the Coincident Economic Indicator](#)



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

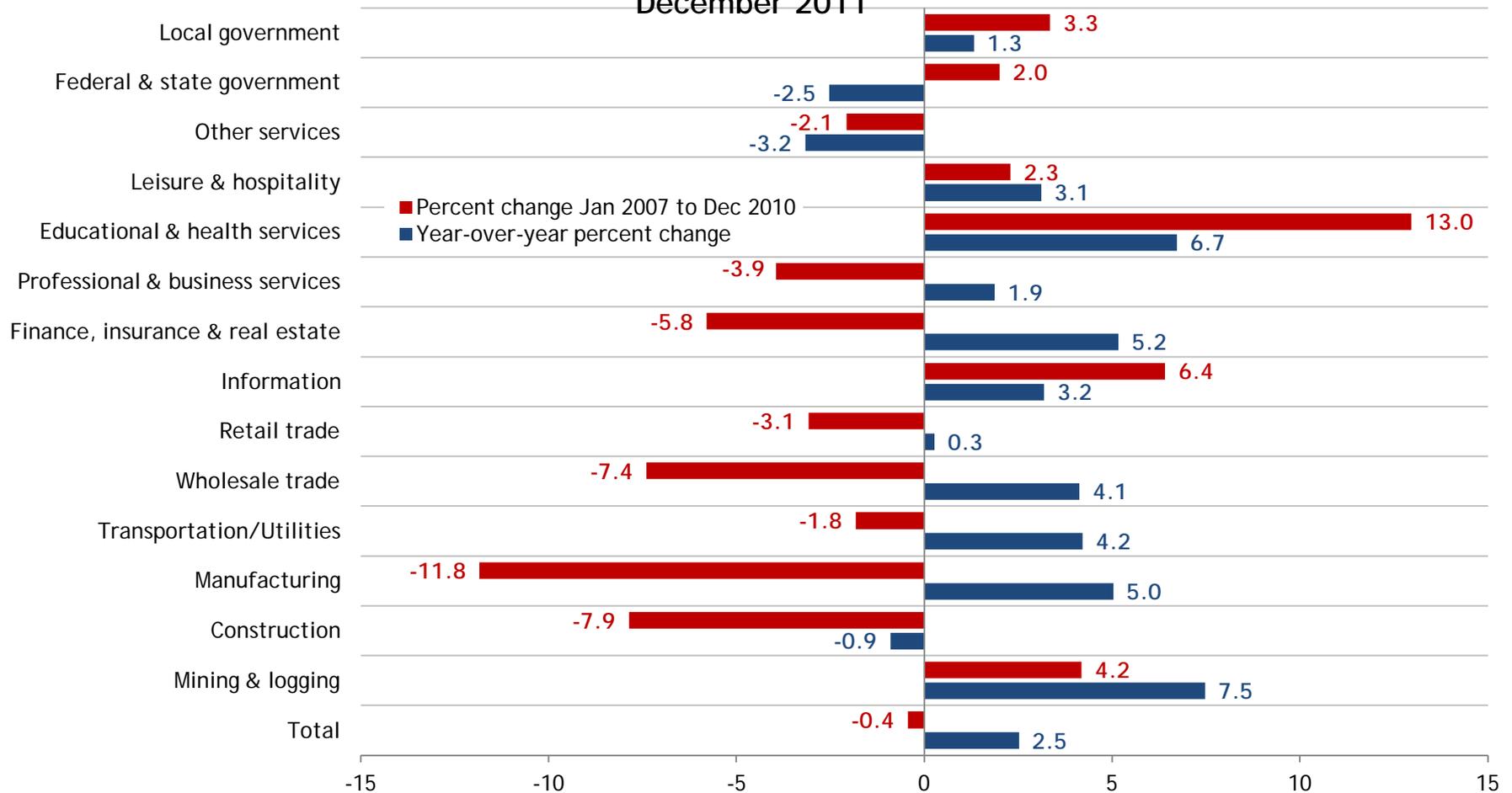
Total employment in Louisiana is up from recession lows. The current level of employment is approaching pre-Hurricane Katrina levels.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics

The state as a whole lost jobs during the downturn but is now posting year-over-year employment gains. Education and health services continues to show consistent job growth. Most other industries have added jobs over the last year, but employment in federal and state government, other services, and construction remains below year-ago levels.

## Employment Loss and Gain by Industry: Louisiana December 2011

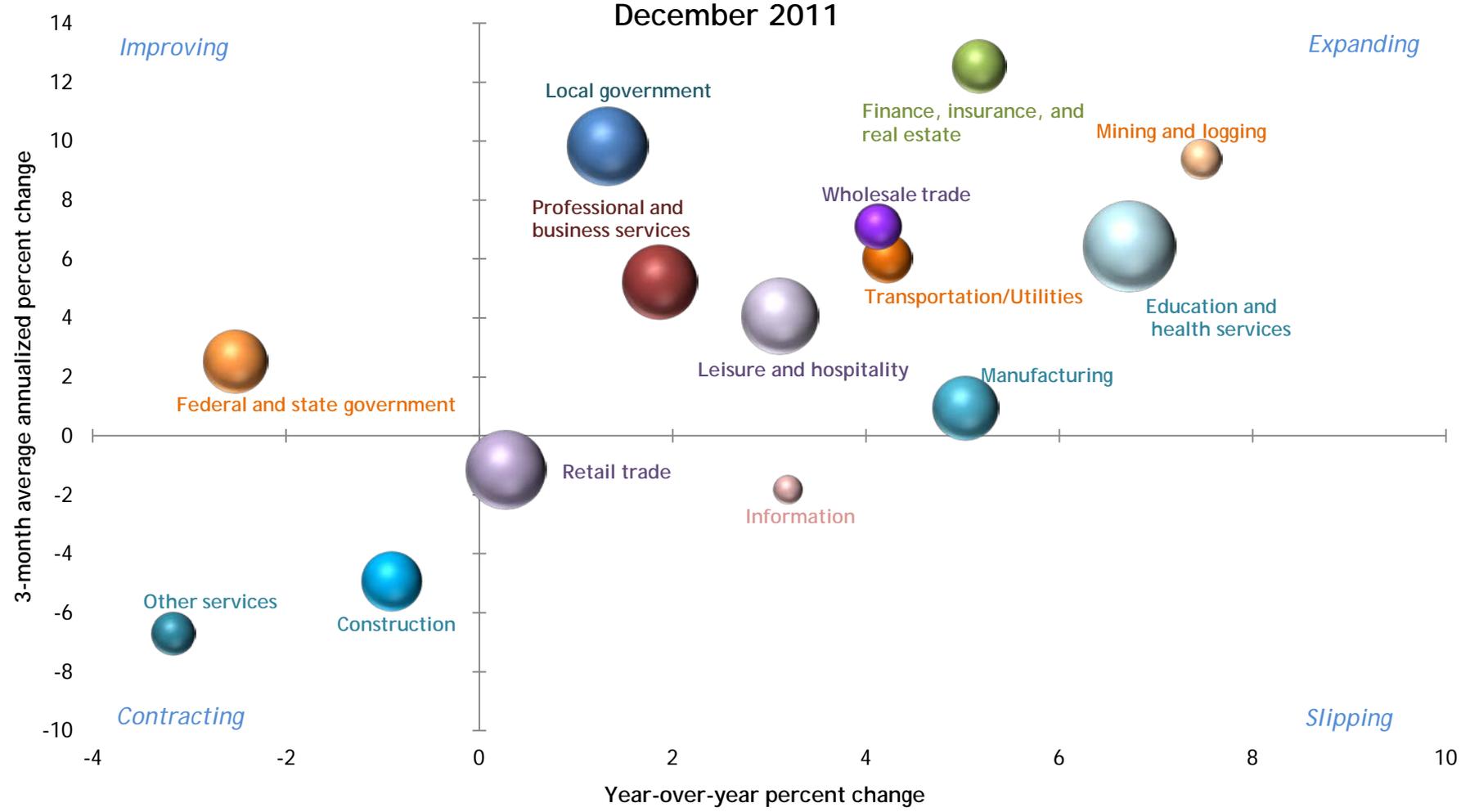


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Most industries indicated expanding employment momentum during December. Federal and state government remained in the “improving” quadrant while retail trade and information were “slipping.” Other services and construction were the only sectors in Louisiana to contract in December.

[About Employment Momentum](#)

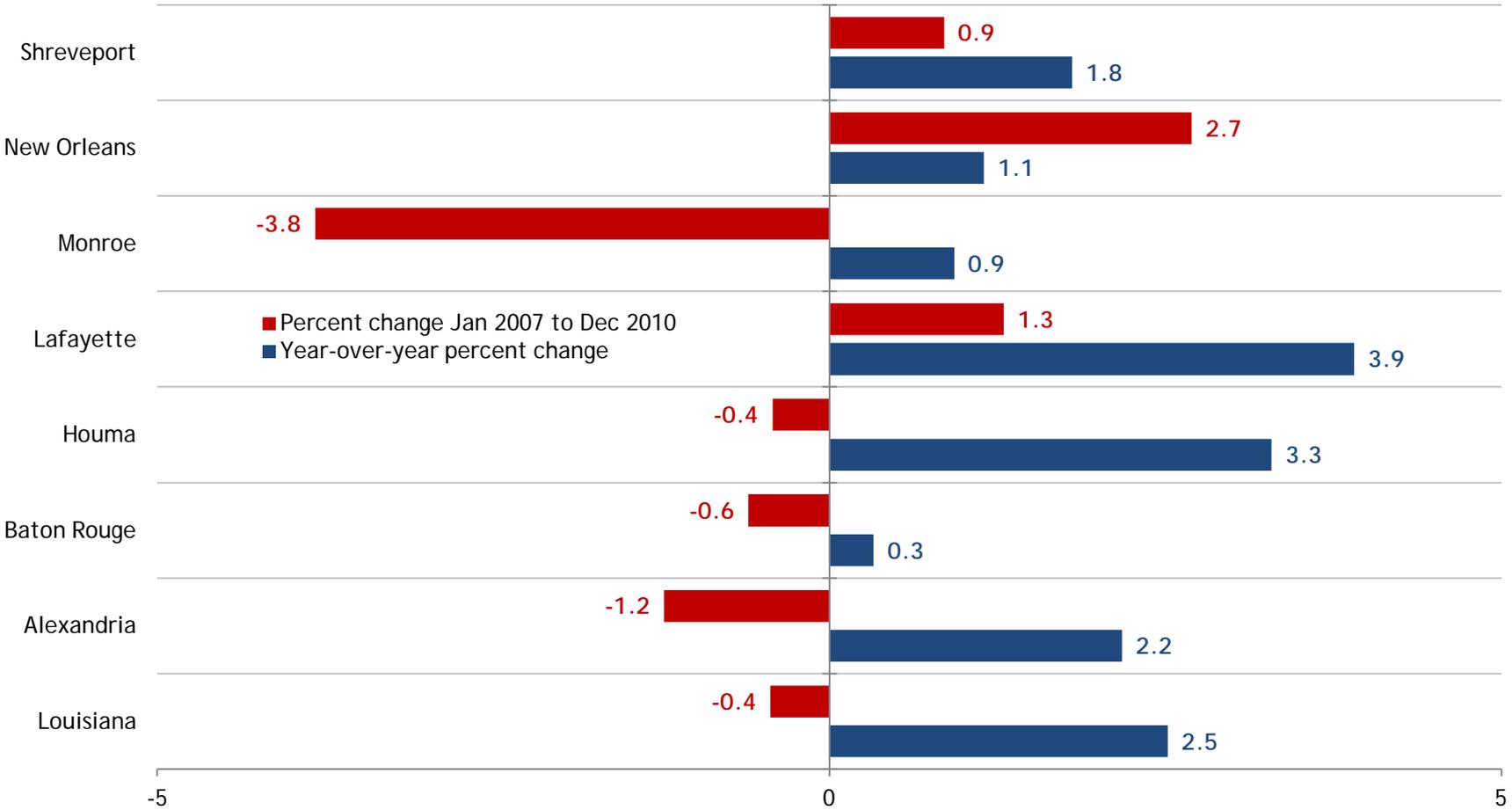
### Employment Momentum by Industry: Louisiana December 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

All Louisiana metro areas have added jobs on a year-over-year basis. Houma and Lafayette have had employment increases of 3.3 and 3.9 percent, respectively, since December 2010.

### Employment Loss and Gain by Metro Area: Louisiana December 2011

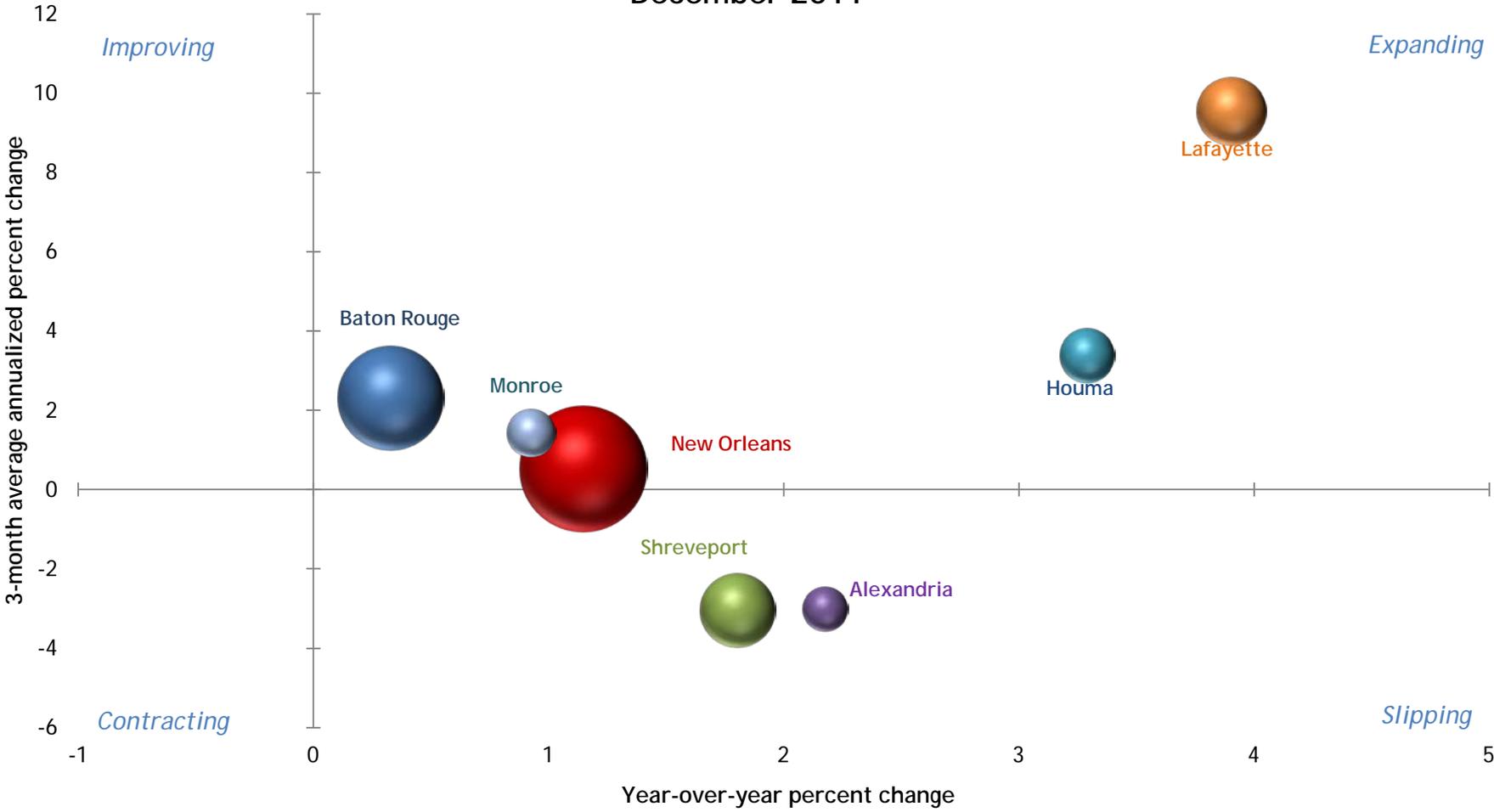


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Employment momentum in Baton Rouge, Houma, Lafayette, Monroe, and New Orleans was in the “expanding” quadrant in December. Alexandria and Shreveport, in the “slipping” quadrant, were somewhat weaker.

[About Employment Momentum](#)

### Employment Momentum by Metro Area: Louisiana December 2011

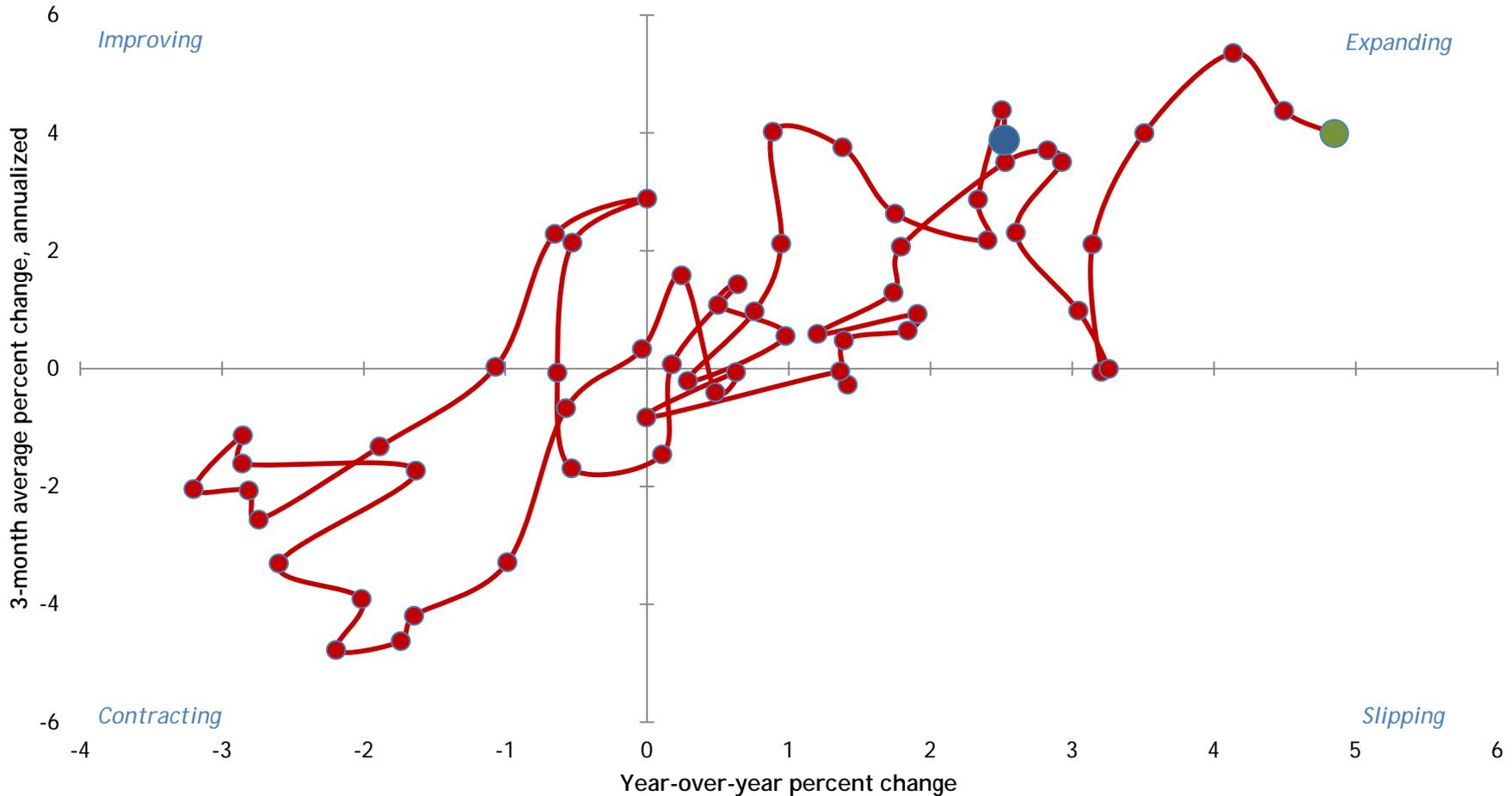


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Louisiana continued to show positive employment momentum in December. After spending all of 2009 and most of 2010 either contracting or improving, Louisiana's employment momentum has been in the "expanding" quadrant each month except March 2011, when it slipped slightly.

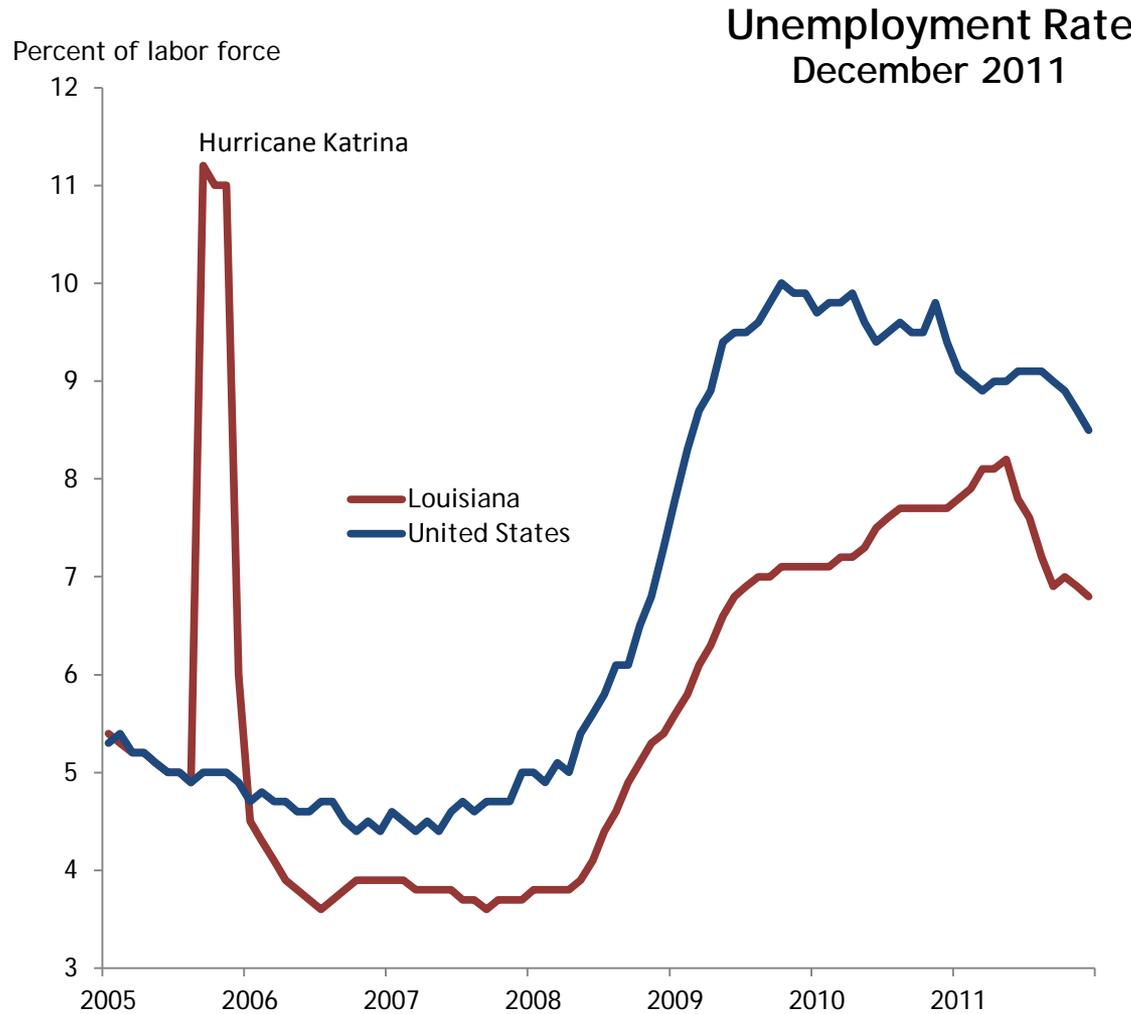
[About Employment Momentum Track](#)

## Employment Momentum Track: Louisiana January 2007–December 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Since recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina in late 2005, Louisiana's unemployment rate has remained well below the U.S. rate. Each of the state's metro areas are below their year-ago rates.

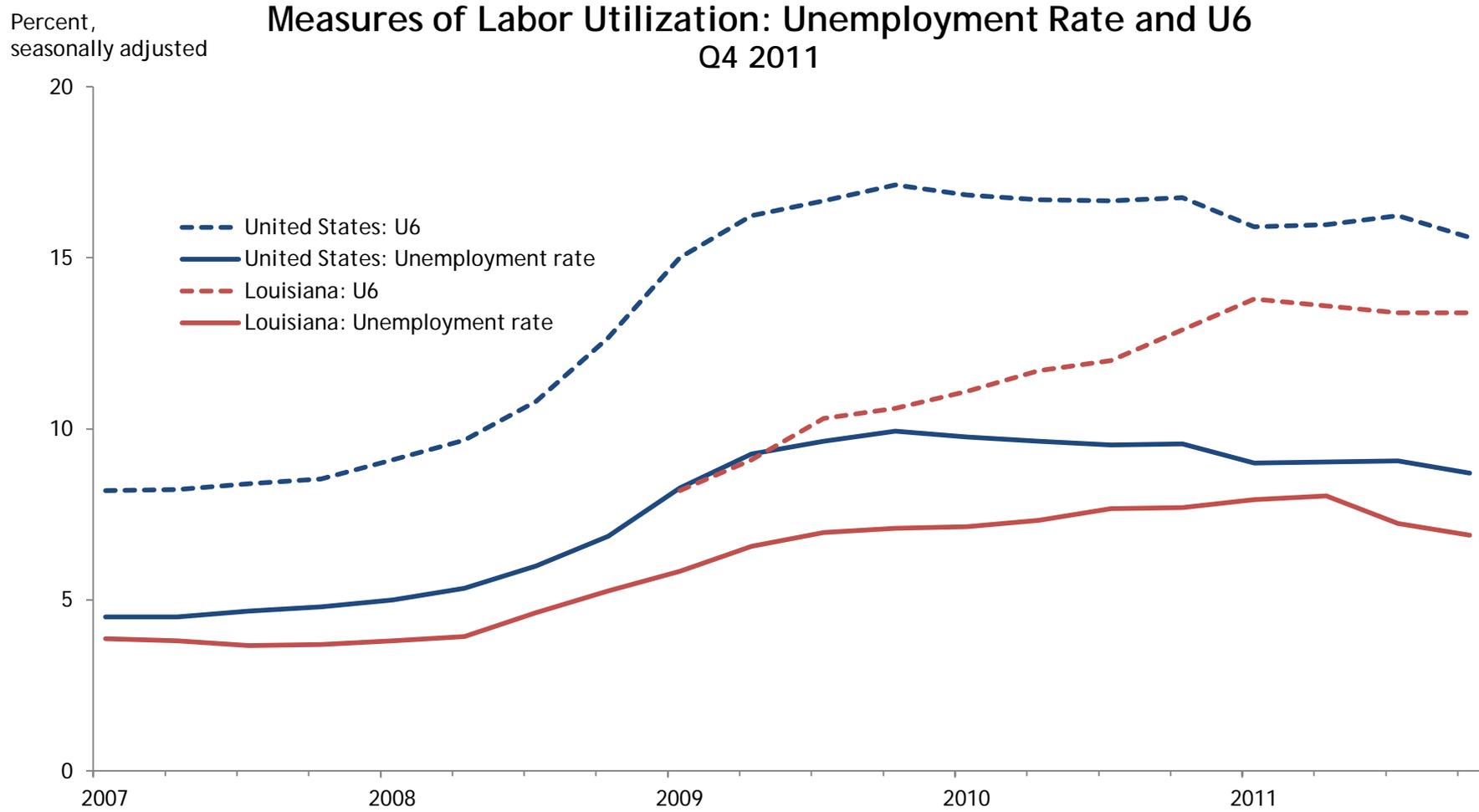


Unemployment Rates			
	Current	Year Ago	Jan 2007
United States	8.5	9.4	4.6
Louisiana	6.8	7.7	3.9
Alexandria	6.2	6.8	4.3
Baton Rouge	6.5	7.2	4.2
Houma	4.3	5.0	3.0
Lafayette	4.6	5.6	3.1
Monroe	6.9	7.6	4.9
New Orleans	6.4	7.0	4.0
Shreveport	5.9	6.5	5.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics

Alternative measures of labor underutilization for Louisiana—namely, the U6 figure—show that 13.4 percent of the state’s labor force is unemployed or underemployed. The U6 for Louisiana remains below comparable U.S. measures.

[About Unemployment Rates](#)

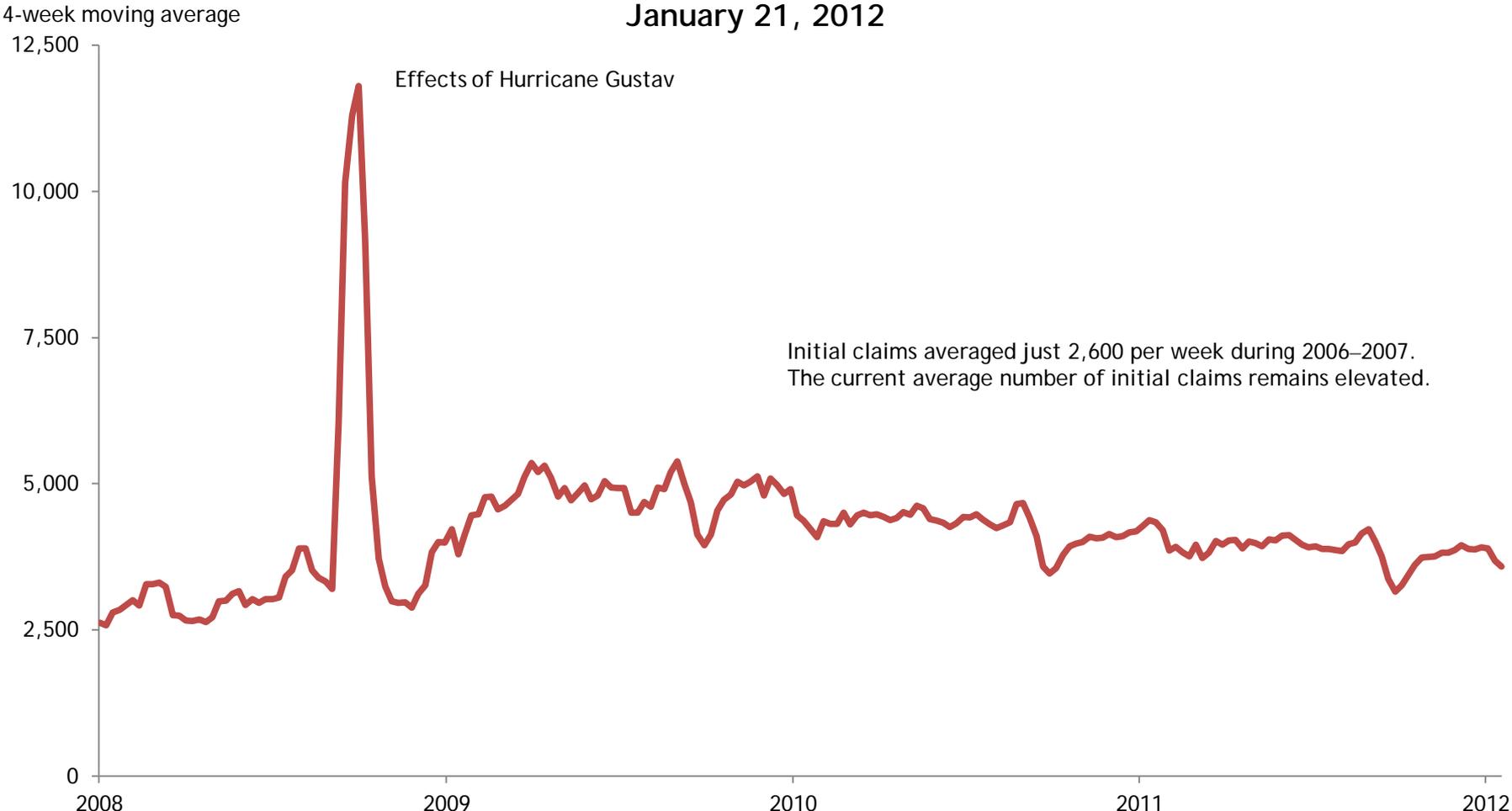


Note: U6=Unemployed + Marginally attached + Part-time economic reasons/Civilian labor force + Marginally attached.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics

Initial claims for unemployment insurance in Louisiana have remained relatively flat since the state began its recovery from the effects of Hurricane Gustav in late 2008.

### Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims: Louisiana January 21, 2012



Source: U.S Department of Labor–Employment and Training Administration, Haver Analytics

Sales tax revenue has recovered from recession lows but the pace has slowed in recent months. In December, tax revenues posted the first year-over-year decline since mid-2010.

Year-to-year change,  
3-month moving average

### Louisiana Sales Tax Revenue December 2011



Source: Louisiana Department of Revenue, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Regional manufacturing activity decelerated in December, according to the Southeast Purchasing Managers Index produced by Kennesaw State University. The Louisiana component increased from last month's reading and remained in expansionary territory, above the Southeast reading of 49.8.

### Southeast Purchasing Managers Index December 2011



The Louisiana component of the SE PMI was 56.3 in December 2011.

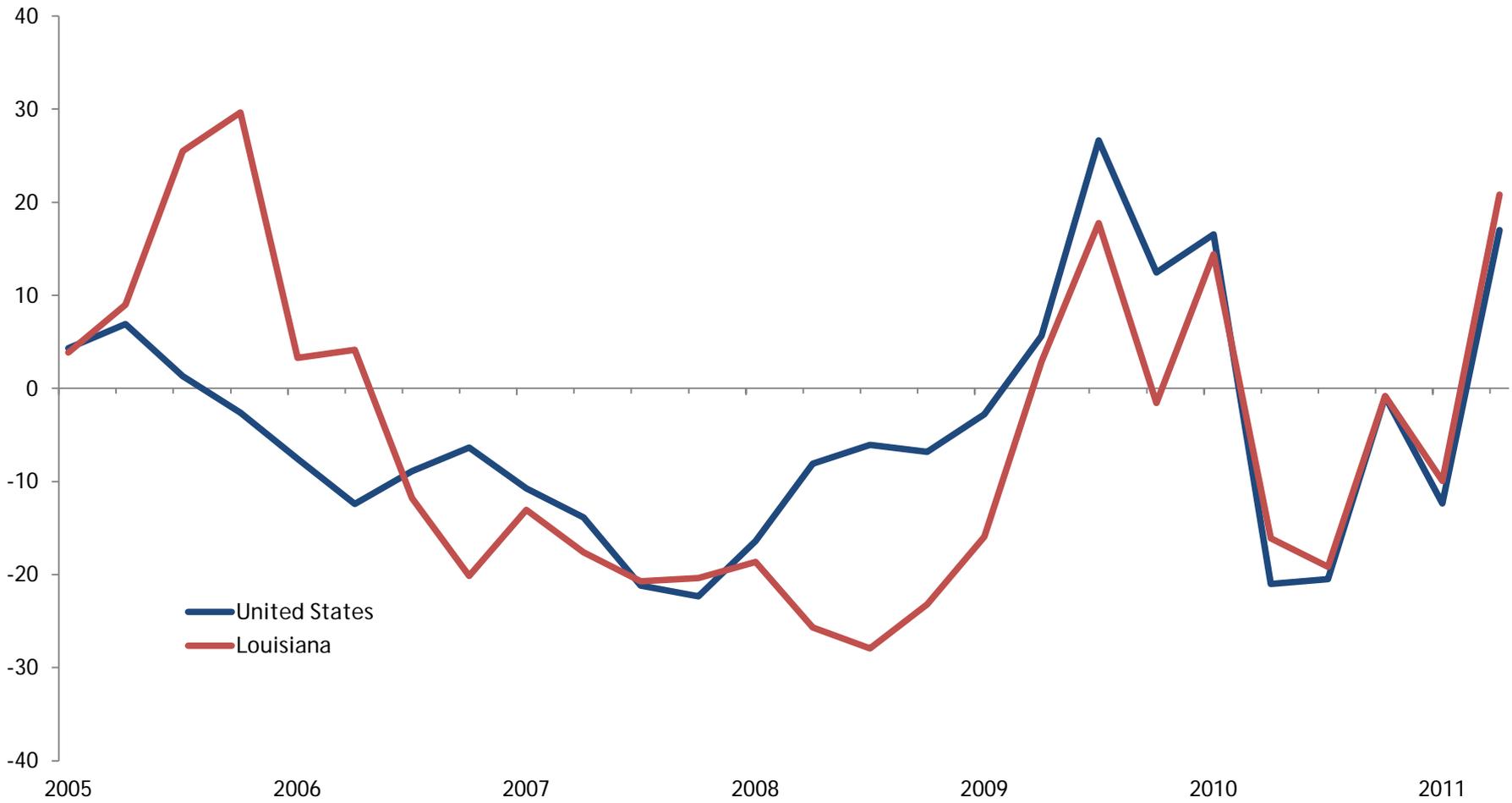
Note: 50+ = Expansion

Source: Kennesaw State University, Coles College of Business Econometric Center

Existing home sales improved during the third quarter after declining in late 2010 and early 2011.

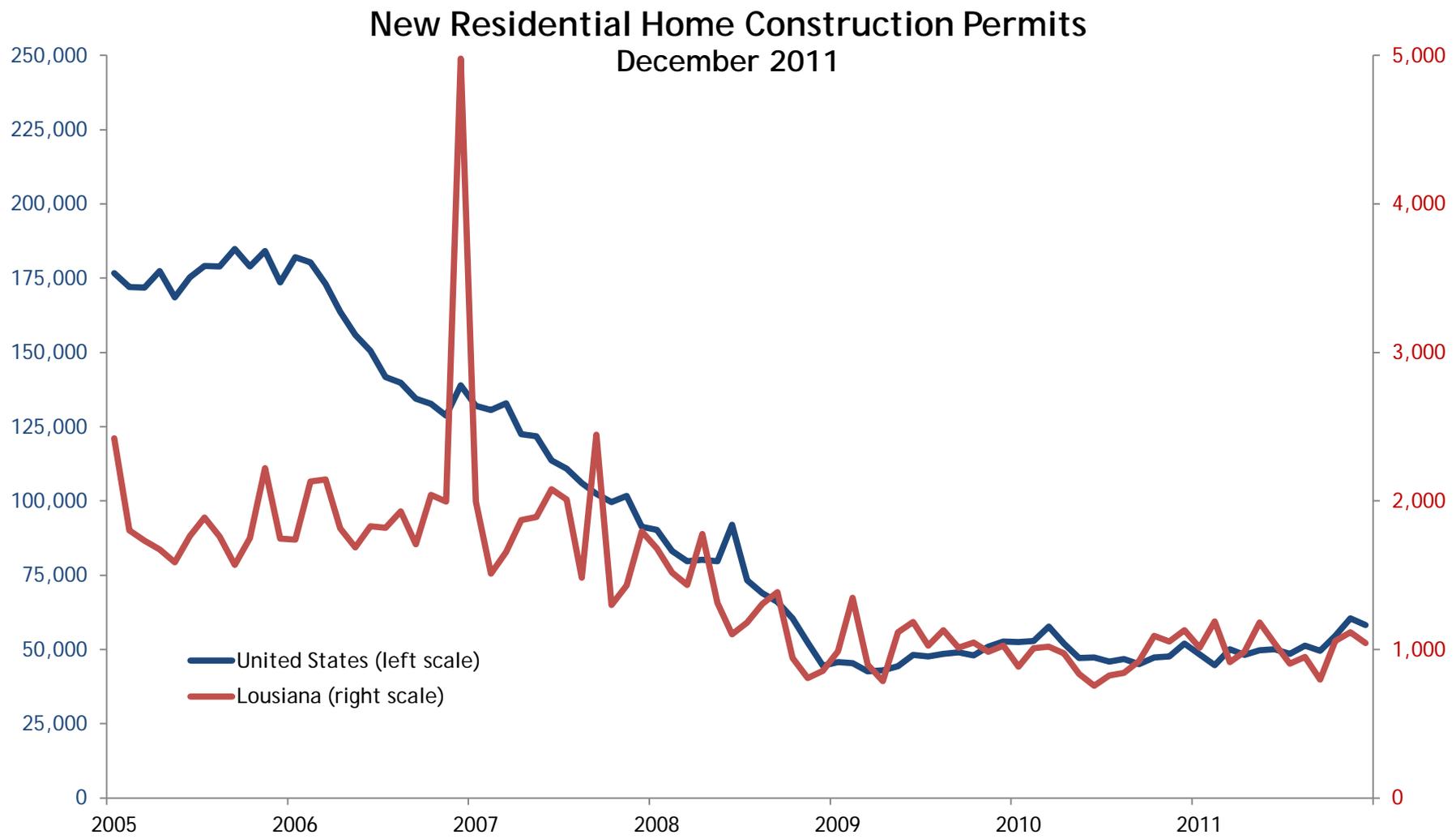
### Existing Home Sales Q3 2011

Year-over-year percent change



Source: National Association of Realtors, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

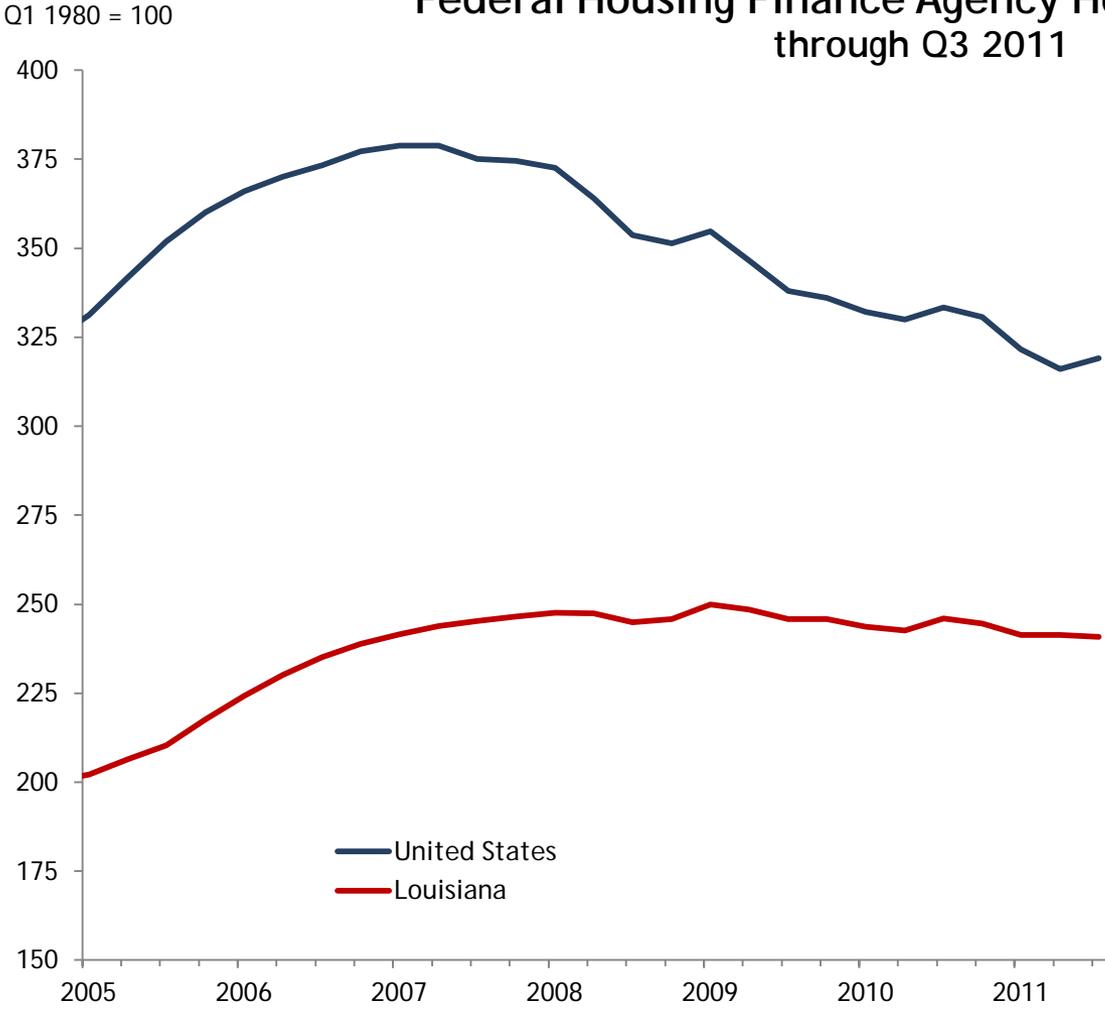
New home construction remains near record lows in Louisiana and the United States as a whole. Both recorded decreases in the number of permits issued during December.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Haver Analytics

Home prices in Louisiana increased over the past five years, while those in the United States declined. Recently, home prices in Louisiana have been flat even as national prices increased somewhat during the third quarter.

### Federal Housing Finance Agency Home Price Index through Q3 2011



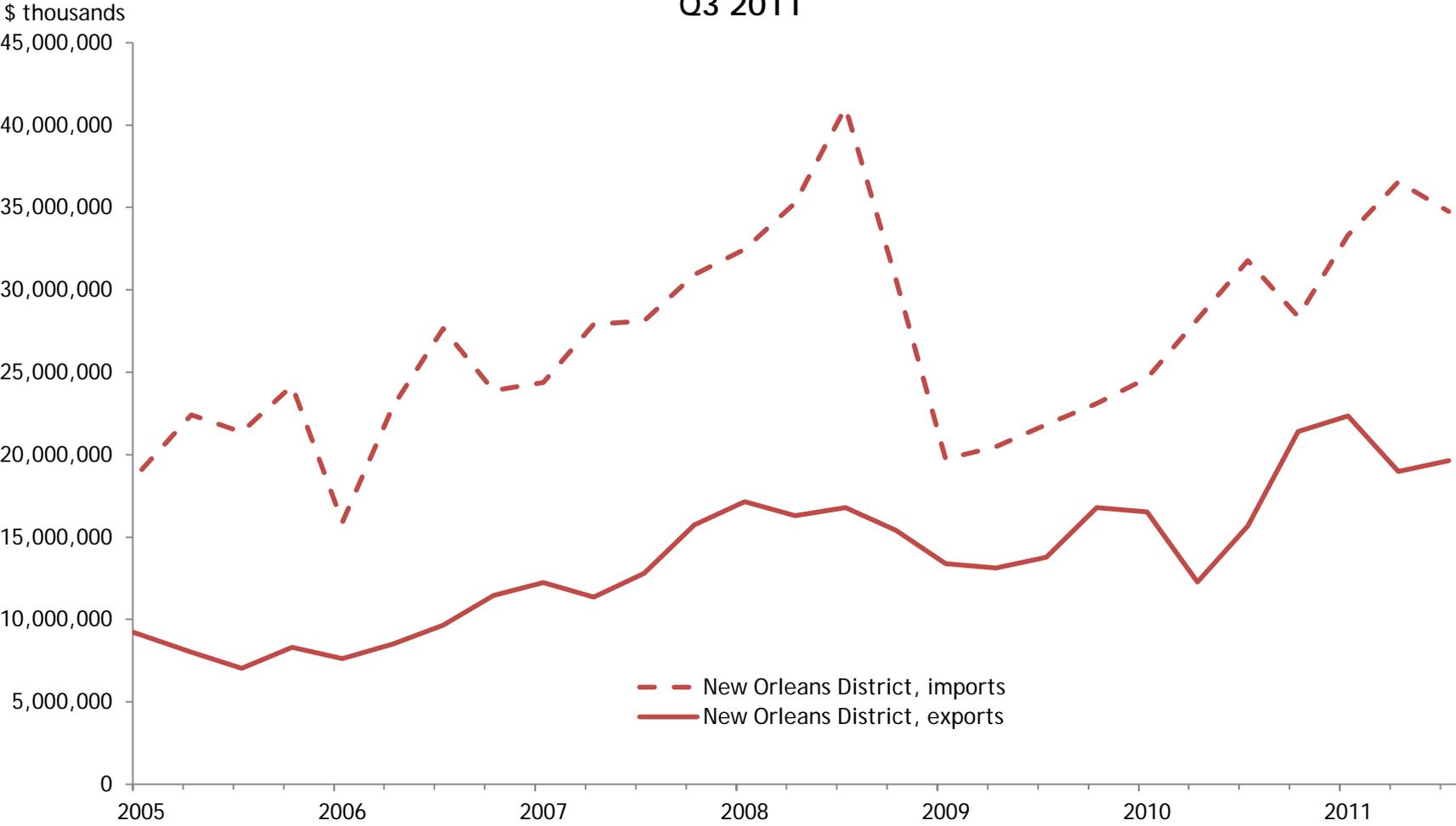
FHFA House Price Index: Q3 2011	1-yr % change	5-yr % change	10-yr % change
USA	-4.3	-14.5	25.5
Louisiana	-2.1	2.4	40.9
Baton Rouge	-1.6	6.2	40.9
New Orleans	-2.3	-6.8	37.2
Shreveport	-0.3	8.7	44.7
Alexandria	-3.2	4.6	34.1
Houma	-1.8	12.3	51.7
Lafayette	-3.2	3.6	43.6
Monroe	-3.0	6.0	29.2

Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency, Haver Analytics

Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency, Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Import and export activity through the New Orleans District port has rebounded from the downturn in early 2009. Import activity declined a bit during the most recent quarter.

### Port Activity Q3 2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Haver Analytics

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For additional sources of information, see our Local Economic Analysis Research Network membership at [www.frbatlanta.org/rein/learn/map/learn\\_members.cfm](http://www.frbatlanta.org/rein/learn/map/learn_members.cfm).