



## U.S. economy expected to slow

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# THE COURIER

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## Recreational marijuana is legal in 24 states



Marijuana plants at the Buckeye Relief cultivation facility in Eastlake, Ohio. MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

### Is Louisiana one of them?

**Presley Bo Tyler**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

At the federal level, Marijuana is classified as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that marijuana is believed to have no

medical use and a high potential for abuse, says U.S. News & World Report. While recreational marijuana still remains illegal under federal law, 24 U.S. states have legalized its use, with Colorado being the first state to legalize recreational marijuana back in 2012. Although, 48 states in addition to Washington, D.C. and three U.S. territories have legalized the use of marijuana for medical purposes as of June 2025, with Nebraska being the most recent, according to U.S. News & World Report.

### Has Louisiana legalized recreational marijuana?

Recreational marijuana has not been legalized in Louisiana, however, state law does permit the use of cannabis for medical purposes. The first law allowing for the use of medical marijuana in Louisiana passed in 1978, however, only for patients with cancer and glaucoma.

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## Landry appoints leader to save coastline

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry has appointed a new leader charged with preserving what’s left of the state’s rapidly disappearing coast. Michael Hare takes over as executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, which oversees an ambitious 50-year, \$50 billion master plan to preserve and perhaps restore portions of the Louisiana coastline. Hare replaces Glenn Ledet, who Landry recently appointed as his secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Hare has worked in both the government and private sectors related to coastal protection and environmental issues. “Michael has years of experience in coastal restoration, and I am confident that his leadership and commitment to our state make him well-suited to lead CPRA,” Landry said in a statement. Hare said Louisiana’s land loss crisis must be urgently addressed “to protect and sustain our culture and way of life for future generations.” Louisiana has lost about 2,000 square miles of coast during the past century. That rate could accelerate with rising seas levels and more frequent and severe storms pounding the state from the Gulf of America unless Louisiana can stem the tide with effective restoration projects as it also increases levee protection. “We must remain united as a coastal community and maintain our sense of urgency to confront the challenges

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## Unit defending Trump policies loses staff

### Lawyers cite workload for wave of departures

**Andrew Goudswaard**  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Justice Department unit charged with defending against legal challenges to signature Trump administration policies – such as restricting birthright citizenship and slashing funding to Harvard University – has lost nearly two-thirds of its staff, according to a list seen by Reuters. Sixty-nine of the roughly 110 lawyers in the Federal Programs Branch have voluntarily left the unit since President Donald Trump’s election in November 2024 or have announced plans to leave, according to the list compiled by former Justice Department lawyers and re-

viewed by Reuters. The tally has not been previously reported. Using court records and LinkedIn accounts, Reuters was able to verify the departure of all but four names on the list. Reuters spoke to four former lawyers in the unit and three other people familiar with the departures who said some staffers had grown demoralized and exhausted defending an onslaught of lawsuits against Trump’s administration. “Many of these people came to work at Federal Programs to defend aspects of our constitutional system,” said one lawyer who left the unit during Trump’s second term. “How could they participate in the project of tearing it down?” Critics have accused the Trump

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Attorney General Pam Bondi in February threatened disciplinary action against government lawyers who did not vigorously advocate for President Donald Trump’s agenda. KEN CEDENO/REUTERS FILE

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