# The Virginia Tech–USDA Forest Service Housing Commentary: Section II
# February 2024


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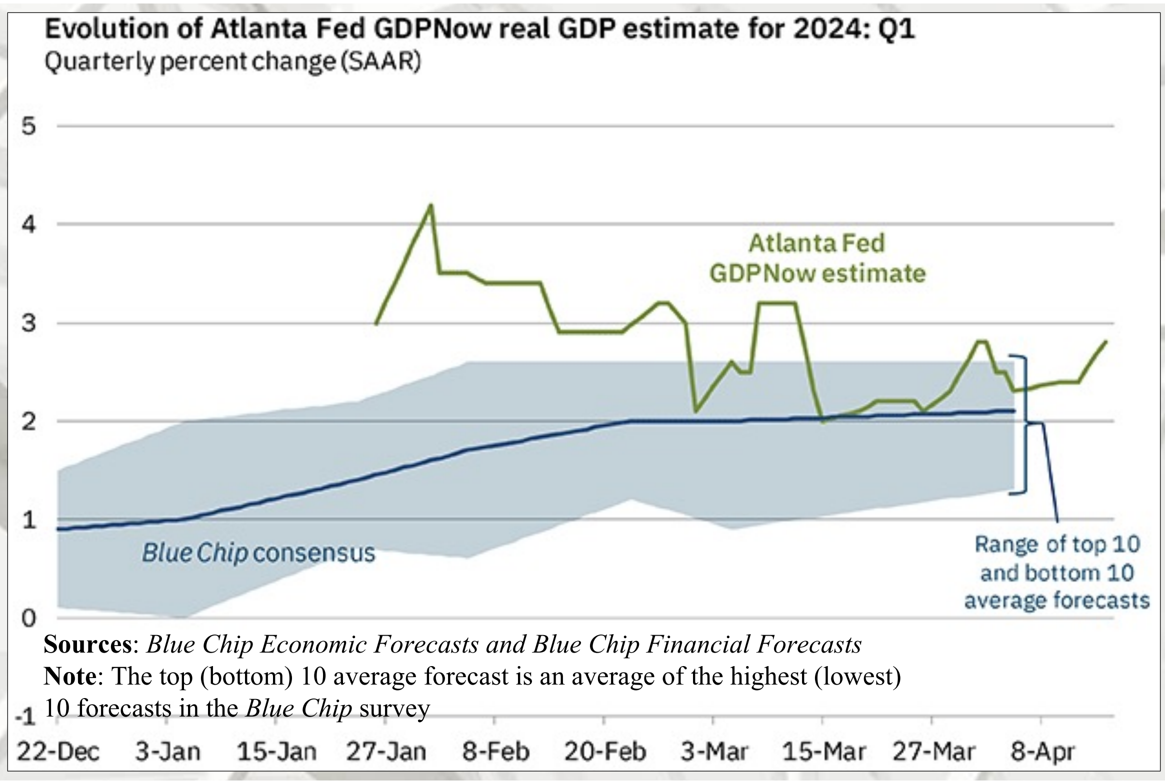
# U.S. Economic Indicators




**Sources**: *Blue Chip Economic Forecasts and Blue Chip Financial Forecasts*
**Note**: The top (bottom) 10 average forecast is an average of the highest (lowest) 10 forecasts in the *Blue Chip* survey

## Atlanta Fed GDPNow™

## Latest estimate: 2.8 percent — April 15, 2024

"The GDPNow model estimate for real GDP growth (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in the first quarter of 2024 is **2.8 percent** on April 15, up from 2.4 percent on April 10. After recent releases from the US Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the US Census Bureau, increases in nowcasts of first-quarter real personal consumption expenditures growth and first-quarter real gross private domestic investment growth from 2.9 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively, to 3.4 percent and 3.4 percent, were slightly offset by a decrease in the nowcast of first-quarter real government spending growth from 2.6 percent to 2.3 percent, while the nowcast of the contribution of the change in real net exports to first-quarter real GDP growth increased from -0.24 percentage points to -0.15 percentage points." – Pat Higgins, Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Source: https://www.frbatlanta.org/cqer/research/gdpnow.aspx; 4/15/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston New England Economic Conditions

## Key Takeaways

- "New England saw robust employment growth in February 2024, adding 9,000 jobs during the month and continuing to exceed its pre-pandemic employment benchmark. Employment in the educational and health services sector was 1.6 percent above its February 2020 level, and with 3.1 percent growth over the past year, the sector has helped lead overall employment growth in the region.
- Unemployment in New England was 3.4 percent in February 2024, which was below the national rate of 3.9 percent but represents a year-over-year increase of 0.2 percentage point. Annual growth in the region in labor force participation and initial claims of unemployment insurance suggests that both labor-force entry and layoffs have contributed to the elevated unemployment rate.
- Year-over-year price growth for February 2024 was slower in New England (2.1 percent) compared with the United States overall (3.2 percent). Price growth in the region was driven by rising shelter, food, transportation, and medical prices, as all other product categories experienced a decline.
- New England house prices increased year-over-year at the highest rates in Rhode Island and Vermont and at the lowest rates in Massachusetts and Maine in the fourth quarter of 2023. In contrast to residential house-price patterns, office rents in the Boston area increased minimally, consistent with an ongoing rise in vacancy rates." – Osborne Jackson and Matthew Sexton; The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Source: https://www.bostonfed.org/publications/new-england-economic-conditions/2024/april.aspx; 4/2/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago: National Activity Index (CFNAI)

## Index Suggests Economic Growth Increased in February

"The Chicago Fed National Activity Index (CFNAI) increased to +0.05 in February from –0.54 in January. All four broad categories of indicators used to construct the index increased from January, and three categories made positive contributions in February. The index's three-month moving average, CFNAI-MA3, decreased to –0.18 in February from –0.11 in January.

The CFNAI Diffusion Index, which is also a three-month moving average, decreased to –0.09 in February from –0.04 in January. Forty-six of the 85 individual indicators made positive contributions to the CFNAI in February, while 39 made negative contributions. Fifty-four indicators improved from January to February, while 30 indicators deteriorated, and one was unchanged. Of the indicators that improved, 17 made negative contributions.

- Production-related indicators contributed +0.02 to the CFNAI in February, up from –0.32 in January.
- The sales, orders, and inventories category's contribution to the CFNAI was +0.02 in February, up from –0.12 in January.
- Employment-related indicators contributed +0.01 to the CFNAI in February, up from –0.02 in January.
- The personal consumption and housing category made a neutral contribution to the CFNAI in February, up from –0.08 in January." – Michael Adleman, Media Relations, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/publications/cfnai/index; 3/26/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago: National Activity Index (CFNAI)

CFNAI, CFNAI-MA3, and CFNAI Diffusion for the Latest Six Months and Year-Ago Month

| | Feb '24 | Jan '24 | Dec '23 | Nov '23 | Oct '23 | Sep '23 | Feb '23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CFNAI** | | | | | | | |
| **Current** | 0.05 | −0.54 | −0.05 | 0.25 | −0.61 | 0.00 | −0.28 |
| **Previous** | N/A | −0.30 | 0.02 | −0.21 | −0.65 | −0.03 | −0.28 |
| **CFNAI-MA3** | | | | | | | |
| **Current** | −0.18 | −0.11 | −0.14 | −0.12 | −0.29 | −0.03 | −0.12 |
| **Previous** | N/A | −0.02 | −0.14 | −0.16 | −0.31 | −0.04 | −0.12 |
| **CFNAI Diffusion** | | | | | | | |
| **Current** | −0.09 | −0.04 | −0.13 | −0.08 | −0.33 | 0.01 | −0.03 |
| **Previous** | N/A | 0.03 | −0.09 | −0.13 | −0.37 | −0.03 | −0.03 |

Note: Current and Previous values reflect index values as of the March 25, 2024, release and February 22, 2024, release, respectively. NA indicates not applicable.

Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/publications/cfnai/index; 3/26/24

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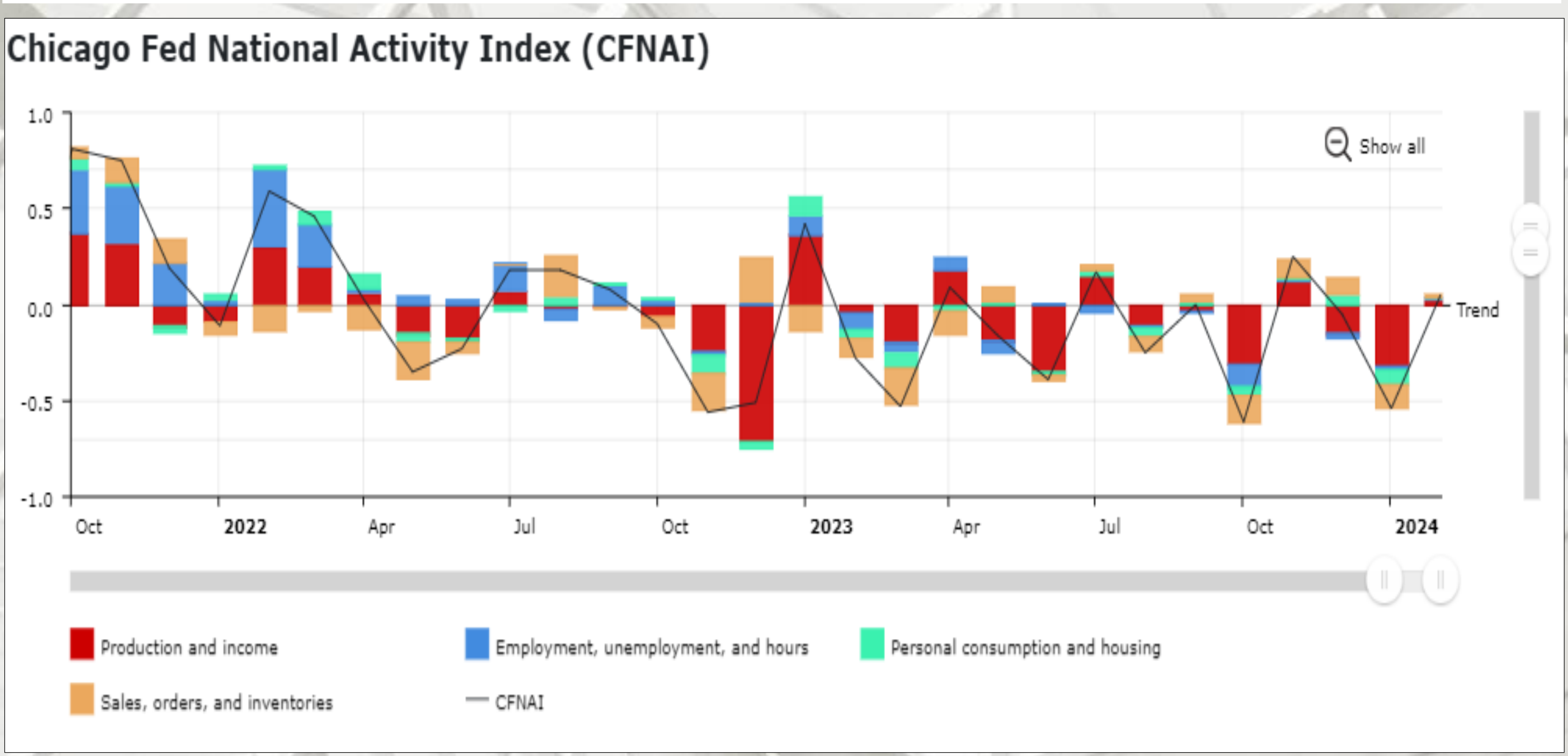
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago: National Activity Index (CFNAI)




Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/publications/cfnai/index; 3/26/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago: Survey of Economic Conditions (CFSEC)

## Survey Suggests Growth Picked Up in March

"The *Chicago Fed Survey of Economic Conditions* (CFSEC) Activity Index increased to –3 in March from –13 in February, suggesting that economic growth was near trend. The CFSEC Manufacturing Activity Index decreased to –6 in March from –3 in February, but the CFSEC Nonmanufacturing Activity Index increased to –2 in March from –16 in the previous month.

- Respondents' outlooks for the U.S. economy for the next 12 months improved, turning optimistic on balance. Thirty-nine percent of respondents expected an increase in economic activity over the next 12 months.
- The pace of current hiring decreased, but respondents' expectations for the pace of hiring over the next 12 months increased. Both hiring indexes remained negative.
- Respondents' expectations for the pace of capital spending over the next 12 months decreased, and the capital spending expectations index remained negative.
- The labor cost pressures index decreased, but the nonlabor cost pressures index increased. The labor cost pressures index moved into negative territory, and the nonlabor cost pressures index remained negative." – Thomas Walstrum, Media Relations, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/research/data/cfsec/current-data; 3/22/24

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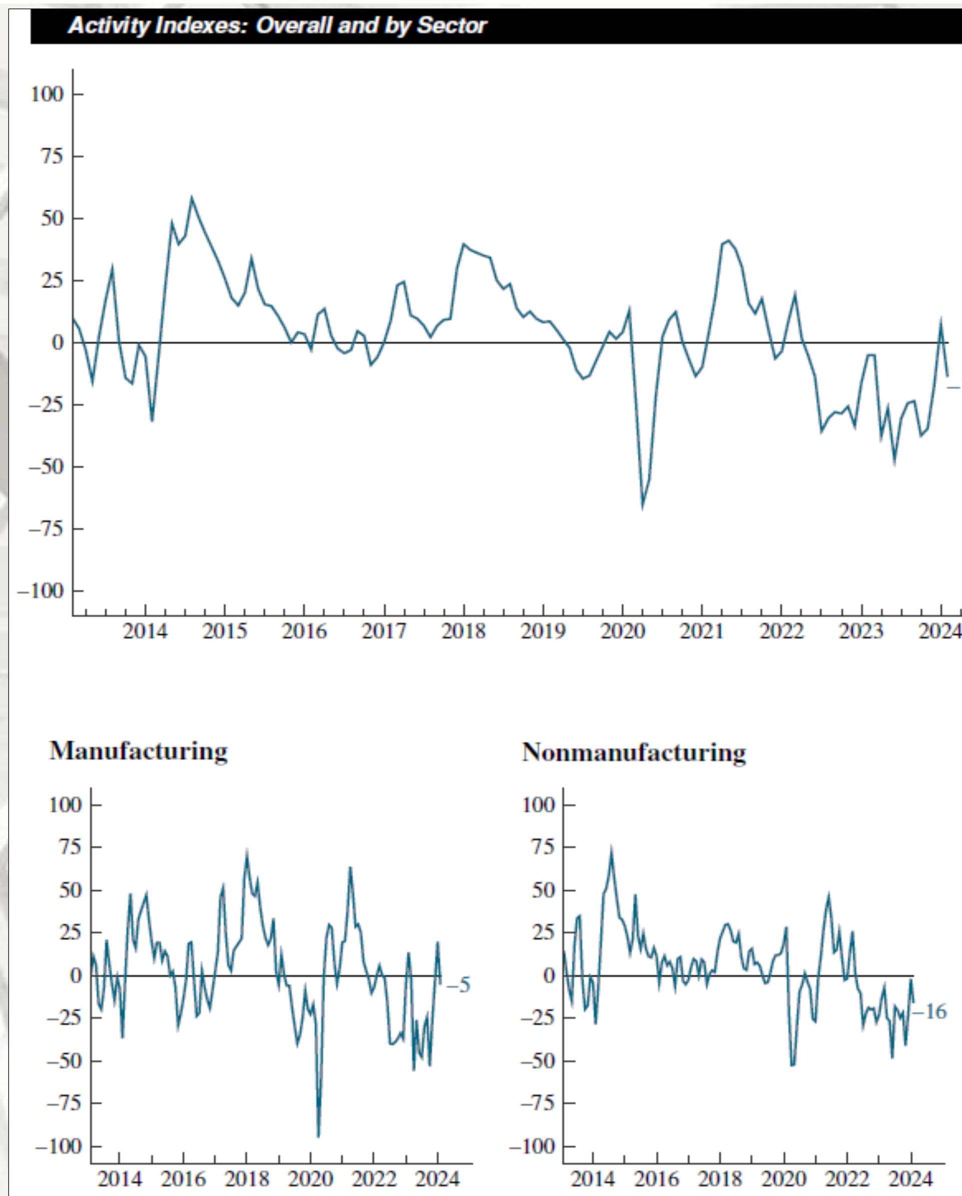
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago: Survey of Economic Conditions (CFSEC)




Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/research/data/cfsec/current-data; 3/22/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

## Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey

### Texas manufacturing activity weakens in March

"Texas factory activity weakened in March after stabilizing in February, according to business executives responding to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey. The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, fell five points to -4.1, a reading that suggests a slight decline in output month over month.

Other measures of manufacturing activity also indicated declines this month. The new orders index – a key measure of demand – dropped 17 points to -11.8 after briefly turning positive last month. The capacity utilization index edged down five points to -5.7, and the shipments index plunged from 0.1 to -15.4.

Perceptions of broader business conditions continued to worsen in March. The general business activity index edged down from -11.3 to -14.4, and the company outlook index slipped from -8.5 to -16.2. The outlook uncertainty index moved up 12 points to 23.0, a six-month high.

Labor market measures suggested slower job growth and shorter workweeks this month. The employment index remained positive for a second month in a row but fell four points to 1.5. Fifteen percent of firms noted net hiring, while 13 percent noted net layoffs. The hours worked index remained negative for a sixth month in a row and held fairly steady at -7.9.

Wage and prices increased this month. The wages and benefits index held steady at a near-average reading of 20.4. The raw materials prices index remained below average but moved up from 15.4 to 21.1. The finished goods prices index climbed to 11.0 after two near-zero readings, suggesting a resumption in selling price growth." – Emily Kerr, Business Economist, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 3/25/24

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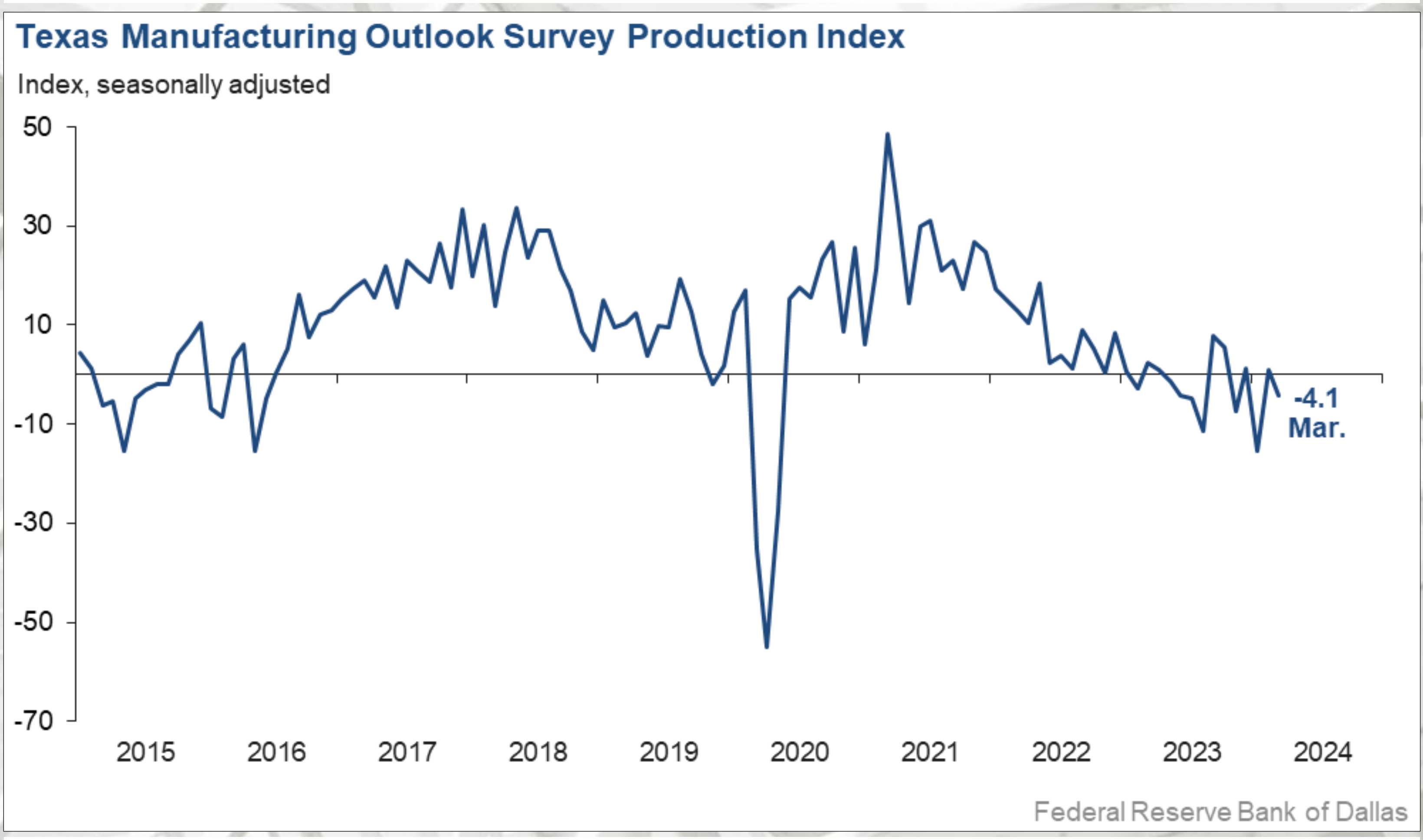
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas




"Expectations regarding future manufacturing activity generally improved in March. The future production index pushed up 10 points to 32.3, and the future general business activity index remained slightly positive, at 1.3. Several other measures of future manufacturing activity edged further positive this month." – Emily Kerr, Business Economist, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 3/25/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

## Texas Service Sector Outlook Survey

### Modest growth continues in Texas service sector

"Texas service sector activity expanded in March, according to business executives responding to the Texas Service Sector Outlook Survey. The revenue index, a key measure of state service sector conditions, held mostly steady at 4.0, indicative of below-average activity growth.

Labor market measures suggested no growth in employment and work weeks. The employment index fell five points to -1.2 in March. The part-time employment index also fell from 2.8 to -1.2, while the hours worked index held steady at 0.7. These near-zero readings suggest flat employment and work hours in March.

Respondents in March continued to perceive worsening broader business conditions. The general business activity index remained negative and fell two points to -5.5. The company outlook index fell from 3.8 to -0.1, with the near-zero figure indicating companies' outlooks did not improve in March. The outlook uncertainty index increased four points to 10.2.

Selling price pressure remained unchanged, while input price pressures eased. Wage growth accelerated slightly in March. The selling price index was unchanged at 7.7 while the input price index fell from 34.3 to 30.4. The wages and benefits index increased four points to 19.5.

Respondents' expectations regarding future business activity continued to reflect optimism in March. The future general business activity index fell but remained in positive territory at 5.4, and the future revenue index held mostly steady at 39.2. Other future service-sector activity indexes such as employment and capital expenditures remained in firmly positive territory, reflecting expectations for continued growth in the next six months." – Amy Jordan, Assistant Economist, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 3/26/24

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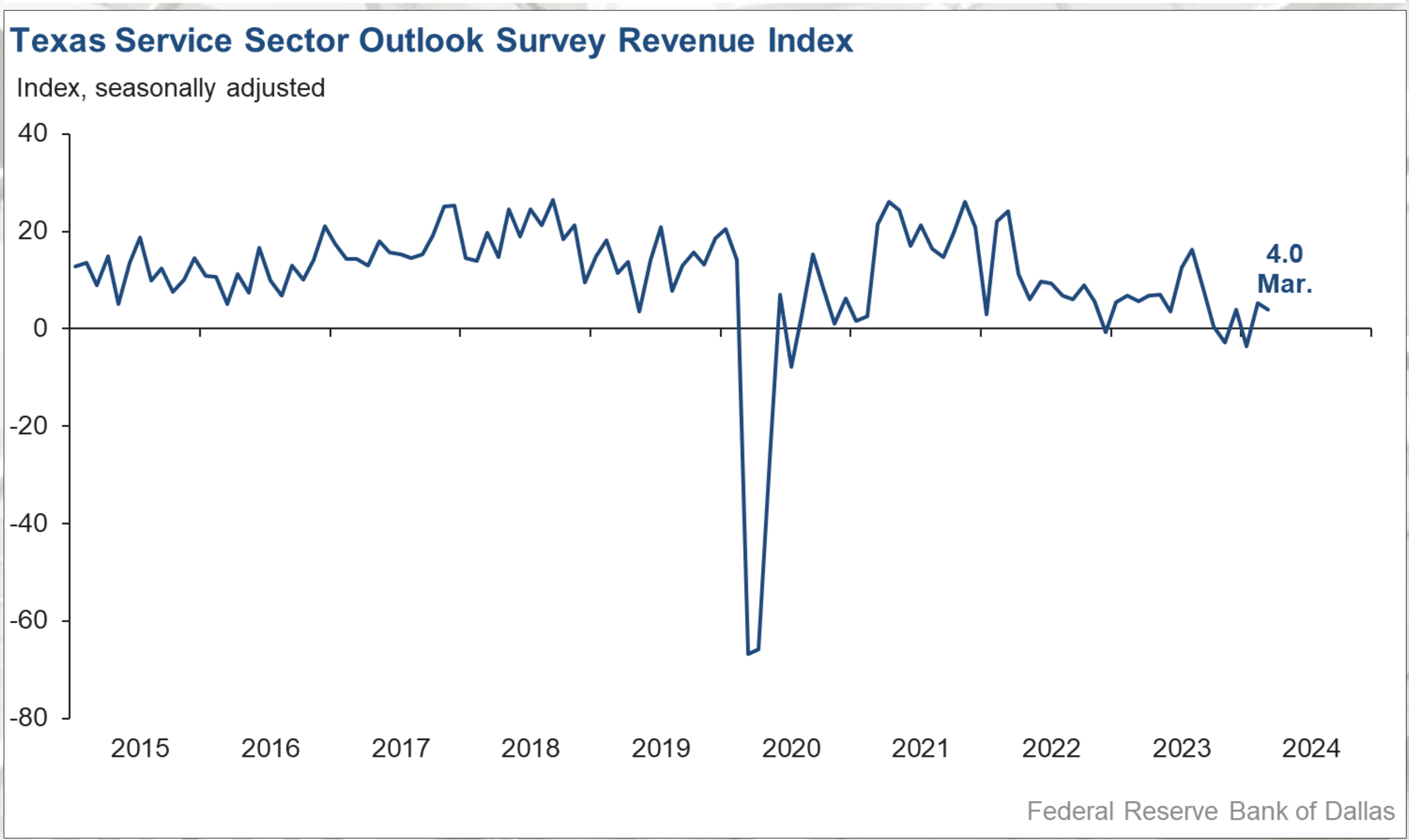
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas




Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 3/26/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

## Texas Retail Outlook Survey

### Texas retail sales fall, but at a slower rate for the second month in a row

"Retail sales activity declined in March, but at a slightly slower pace than last month, according to business executives responding to the Texas Retail Outlook Survey.  The sales index, a key measure of state retail activity, increased from -5.3 to -3.4, indicating retail sales fell at a slower rate than the previous month.  Retailers' inventories grew over the month, with the March index at 16.1.

Retail labor market indicators reflected contraction in employment growth and shorter workweeks in March.  The employment index fell from 2.4 to -5.0, and the part-time employment index fell three points to 1.3.  The hours worked index fell from -4.6 to -6.3.

Retailers continued to perceive a worsening of broader business conditions in March.  The general business activity index increased two points but remained in negative territory at -15.6, while the company outlook index held steady at -4.5.  The outlook uncertainty index increased six points to 15.8.

Input price and wage pressures increased while selling price pressure was unchanged in March.  The input price index increased five points to 27.0 while the selling price index held mostly steady at 4.4.  The wages and benefits index moved up ten points to 22.4.

Expectations for future retail growth improved in March.  The future general business activity index increased from -0.9 to 8.2. The future sales index jumped 25 points to 33.5.  Other indexes of future retail activity such as employment and capital expenditures were positive and increased, reflecting expectations for continued retail sales growth in the next six months." – Amy Jordan, Assistant Economist, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 3/26/24

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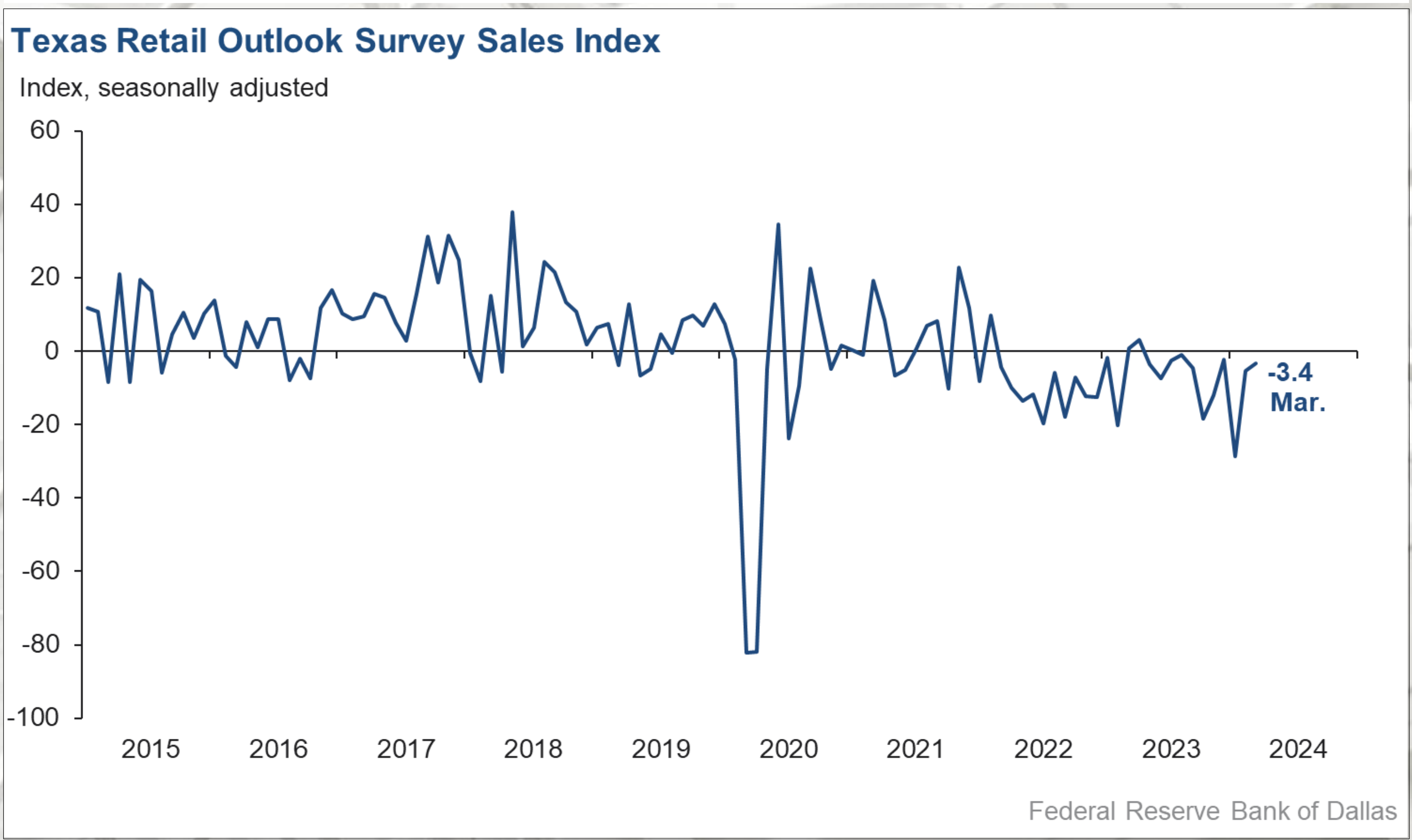
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas




Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 3/26/24

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# U.S. Economic Indicators

## The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

### Tenth District Manufacturing Activity Declined Further in March

Regional factory activity  fell further in March, and expectations for future activity were again steady.  Employment levels expanded modestly even as production and new orders contracted, and over half of firms have given mid-year wage increases recently but fewer plan to this year.

### Factory Activity Declined Further

"Tenth District manufacturing activity declined further in March, and expectations for future activity were again steady.  Prices continued to grow at a similar rate to previous months, with a continued spread between raw materials and finished goods growth. (Chart 1)

The month-over-month composite index was -7 in March, down from -4 in February and up from -9 in January.  The composite index is an average of the production, new orders, employment, supplier delivery time, and raw materials inventory indexes.  Activity for declined modestly for both durable and nondurable goods, with primary metal, electrical equipment, and paper manufacturing driving the decreases.  Production and volume of shipments decreased somewhat, while both new orders and backlogs fell sharply.  Employment levels continued to climb, but the average employee workweek declined from 2 to -11." – Chad Wilkerson, Vice President and Oklahoma City Branch Executive, Chase Farha, and Jannety Mosley; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 3/28/24

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# U.S. Economic Indicators

## The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

### Factory Activity Declined Further

"The year over-year index for factory activity ticked up to -4 from -8.  The pace of decline slowed in the supplier delivery time and raw materials inventory indexes, while volume of shipments and number of employees grew.  The production and capital expenditures indexes both had similar readings to last month.  The future composite index ticked down to 1 from 2 in March, with the production index boosting the composite at a reading of 18 and the raw materials inventory index dragging at -16.

### Special Questions

This month contacts were asked special questions  about labor-saving technology and mid-year wage increases.  42% of firms reported they have or plan to invest in labor-saving/productivity-enhancing technology at a similar pace to the past, 27% have invested at a faster pace, 9% have invested at a slower pace, and 22% have not invested in this technology.  Firms were also asked about plans to give mid-year wage increases.  While 55% of firms gave employees a mid-year increase within the past year, only 40% plan to do so this year." – Chad Wilkerson, Vice President and Oklahoma City Branch Executive, Chase Farha, and Jannety Mosley; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 3/28/24

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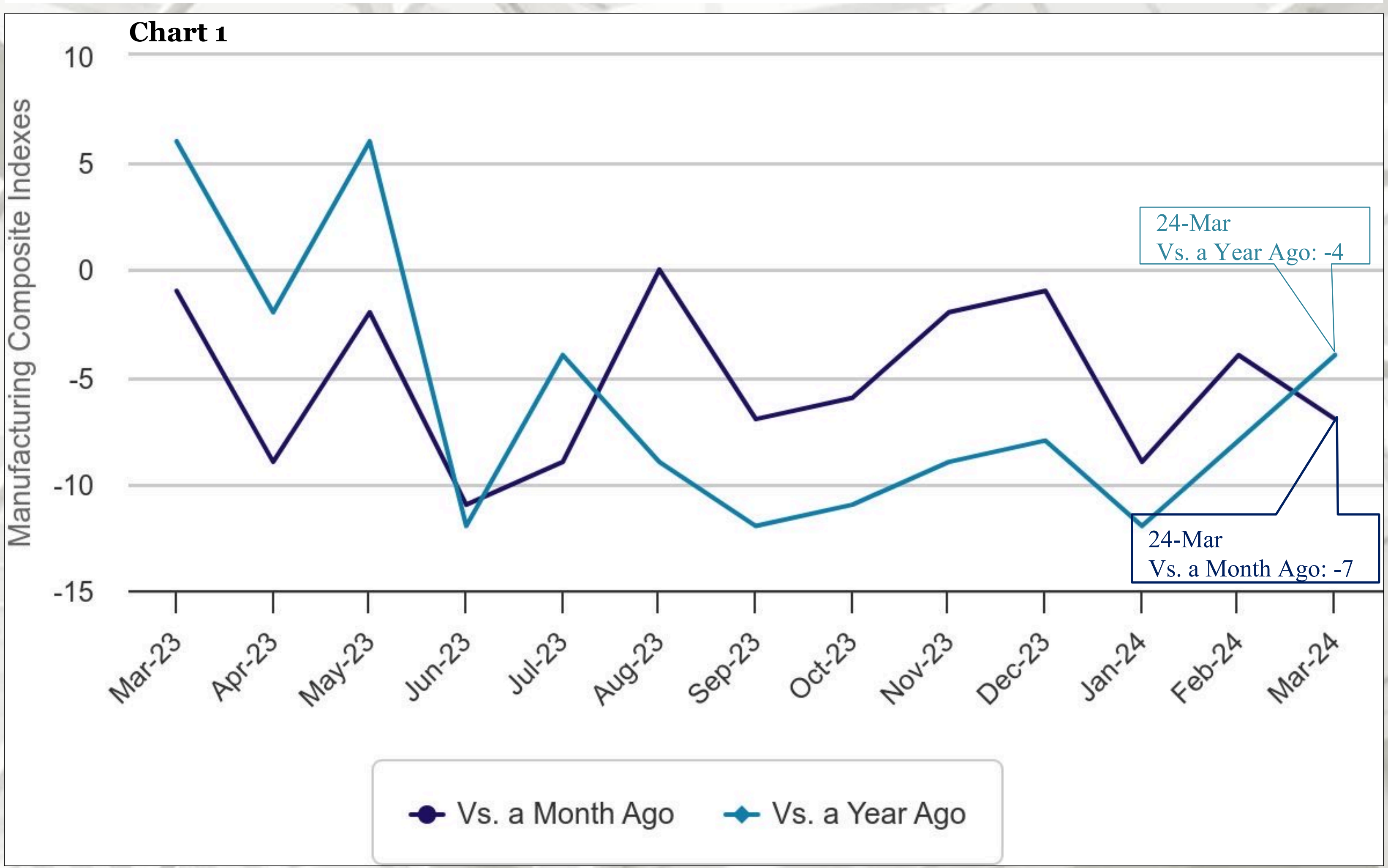
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City




Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 3/28/24

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# U.S. Economic Indicators

## The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

### Tenth District Services Activity Grew Again in March

District services activity increased moderately in March, and expectations for future activity were steady. Sales growth cooled this month, but employment accelerated.

### Business Activity Grew Again

"Tenth District services activity grew again in March, and expectations for the next six months were flat (Chart 1). Input price growth continued to outpace increases in selling prices, but the spread between the two has narrowed.

The month-over-month services composite index was 7 in March, down from 12 in February and up from -2 in January. The composite index is a weighted average of the revenue/sales, employment, and inventory indexes. The growth was driven primarily by increased revenues in professional services, restaurants, and auto dealers. All month-over-month indexes were positive, except for part-time employment and access to credit. General revenue/sales cooled from 20 to 4, but employment increased from 0 to 10 and inventories grew somewhat. The year-over-year composite index was essentially flat at -2. Capital expenditures expanded modestly and access to credit continued to decrease. Expectations for services activity picked up to 1 from -3, as firms anticipate employment to stay steady and sales to grow slightly." – Chad Wilkerson, Vice President and Oklahoma City Branch Executive, Chase Farha, and Jannety Mosley; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 3/29/24

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# U.S. Economic Indicators

## The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

### Business Activity Grew Again

#### Special Questions

"This month contacts were asked special questions about labor-saving technology and mid-year wage increases.  About half of firms have invested or plan to invest in labor-saving/productivity-enhancing technology.  27% have invested at a similar pace to the past, while 18% have invested at a faster pace, 4% at a slower pace, and 51% have not invested.  Contacts were also asked about plans to give mid-year wage increases.  While 51% have given a mid-year increase within the past year, only 32% plan to give a mid-year increase this year." – Chad Wilkerson, Vice President and Oklahoma City Branch Executive, Chase Farha, and Jannety Mosley; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 3/29/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City


Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 3/29/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

## March 2024 Manufacturing Survey

### Activity Continues To Shrink

“Business activity continued to decline in New York State, according to firms responding to the April 2024 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index rose seven points but remained below zero at -14.3. New orders and shipments both declined significantly, and unfilled orders continued to shrink. Delivery times shortened, and inventories edged higher. Labor market conditions remained weak, with employment and hours worked moving lower. The pace of input price increases picked up somewhat, while the pace of selling price increases held steady. Though firms expect conditions to improve over the next six months, optimism remained subdued.

Manufacturing activity continued to contract in New York State, according to the April survey. The general business conditions index rose seven points but remained well below zero at -14.3. The new orders index was little changed at -16.2, and the shipments index fell eight points to -14.4, pointing to an ongoing decline in both orders and shipments. The unfilled orders index held steady at -10.1, a sign that unfilled orders continued to fall. The inventories index moved up sixteen points to 3.4, indicating that inventories edged higher for the first time in several months, and the delivery times index fell to -7.9, suggesting that delivery times shortened.” – Jason Bram and Richard Deitz, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/empire/empiresurvey_overview; 4/15/24

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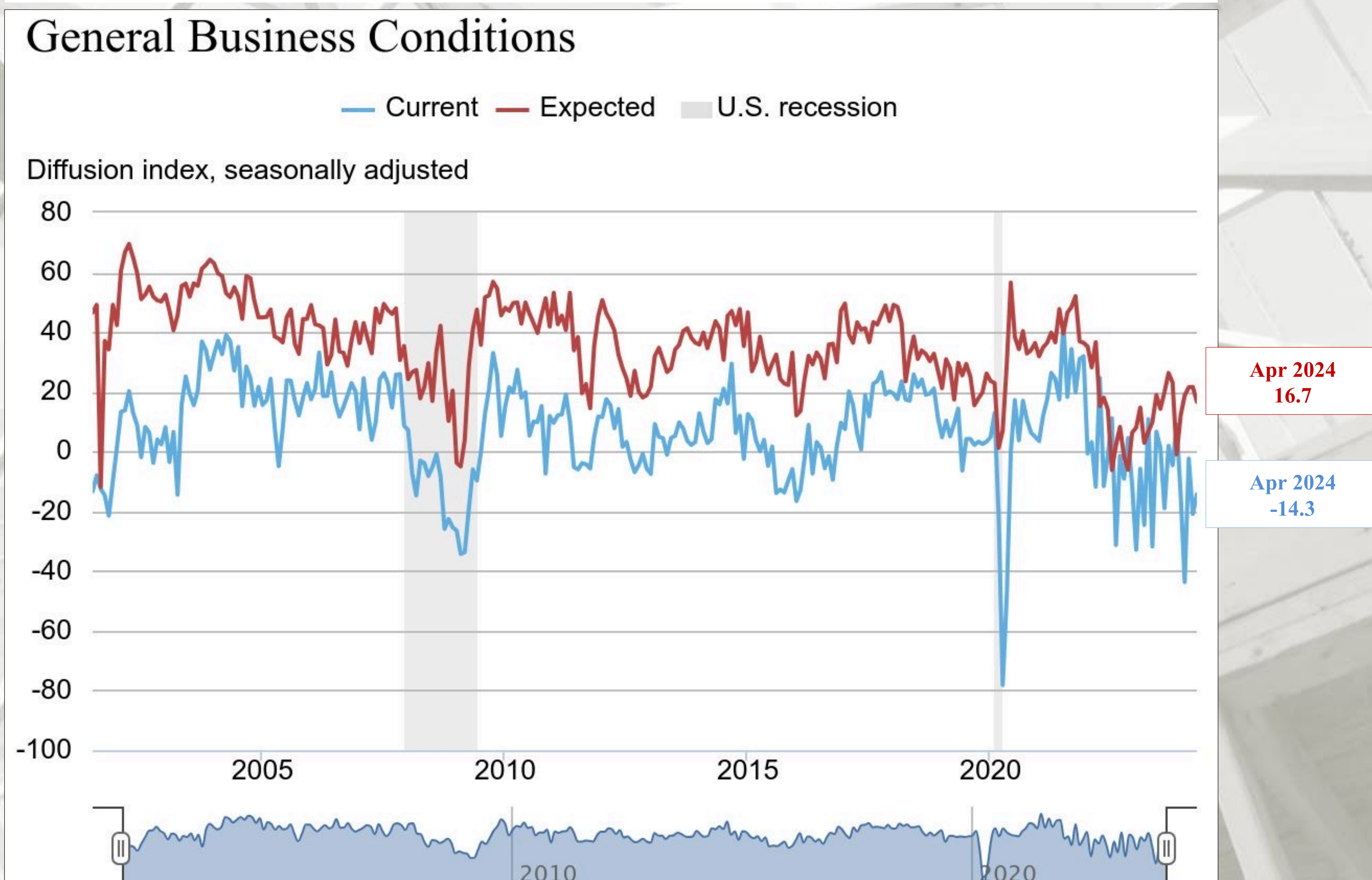
# The Federal Reserve Bank of New York




Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/empire/empiresurvey_overview; 4/15/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

## March 2024 Manufacturing Survey

### Activity Continues To Shrink

### Labor Market Indicators Weaken

“The index for number of employees fell seven points to -5.1, and the average workweek index was little changed at -10.6, pointing to an ongoing decline in employment levels and hours worked. The prices paid index moved up five points to 33.7, indicating that input price increases picked up slightly, and the prices received index held steady at 16.9.

### A Minority Of Firms Expect Conditions To Improve

Optimism about the outlook remained subdued. The index for future business conditions dipped five points to 16.7, with only 37 percent of respondents expecting conditions to improve in the next six months. The outlook for employment growth weakened noticeably. The capital spending index fell to 6.7, suggesting that capital spending plans remained soft.” – Jason Bram and Richard Deitz, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/empire/empiresurvey_overview; 4/15/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

## March 2024 Empire State Business Leaders Survey (Services)

### Activity Steadies

“Activity held steady in the region’s service sector, according to firms responding to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York’s March 2024 *Business Leaders Survey*. The survey’s headline business activity index climbed eight points to 0.6, its highest level in several months. The business climate index was little changed at -26.4, suggesting the business climate remains worse than normal. Employment held steady, and wage increases moderated to a small degree. Input and selling price increases picked up somewhat. Capital spending was flat. Looking ahead, firms remained moderately optimistic about future conditions, with the business climate expected to be better than normal in six months.

After declining for the prior six months, business activity stabilized in the New York-Northern New Jersey region, according to the March survey. The headline business activity index climbed eight points to 0.6. Thirty percent of respondents reported that conditions improved over the month and 30 percent said that conditions worsened. The business climate index edged down two points to -26.4, suggesting that the business climate remains worse than normal.” – Richard Deitz and Jason Bram, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/business_leaders/bls_overview; 3/18/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

## March Empire State Manufacturing Survey (Services)

### Employment Flat

“The employment index held at a level of around zero, signaling that employment levels held steady.  The wages index edged down three points to 43.8, indicating wage increases moderated slightly.  The prices paid index rose five points to 55.1 and the prices received index climbed three points to 27.8, with the two upticks pointing to a modest pickup in the pace of input and selling price increases.  The capital spending index fell to -0.6.

### Conditions Expected To Improve

The index for future business activity was little changed at 29.8, and the index for the future business climate held steady at 13.6, suggesting that firms were fairly optimistic about future conditions.  Employment is expected to increase modestly in the months ahead.” – Richard Deitz and Jason Bram, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/business_leaders/bls_overview; 3/18/24

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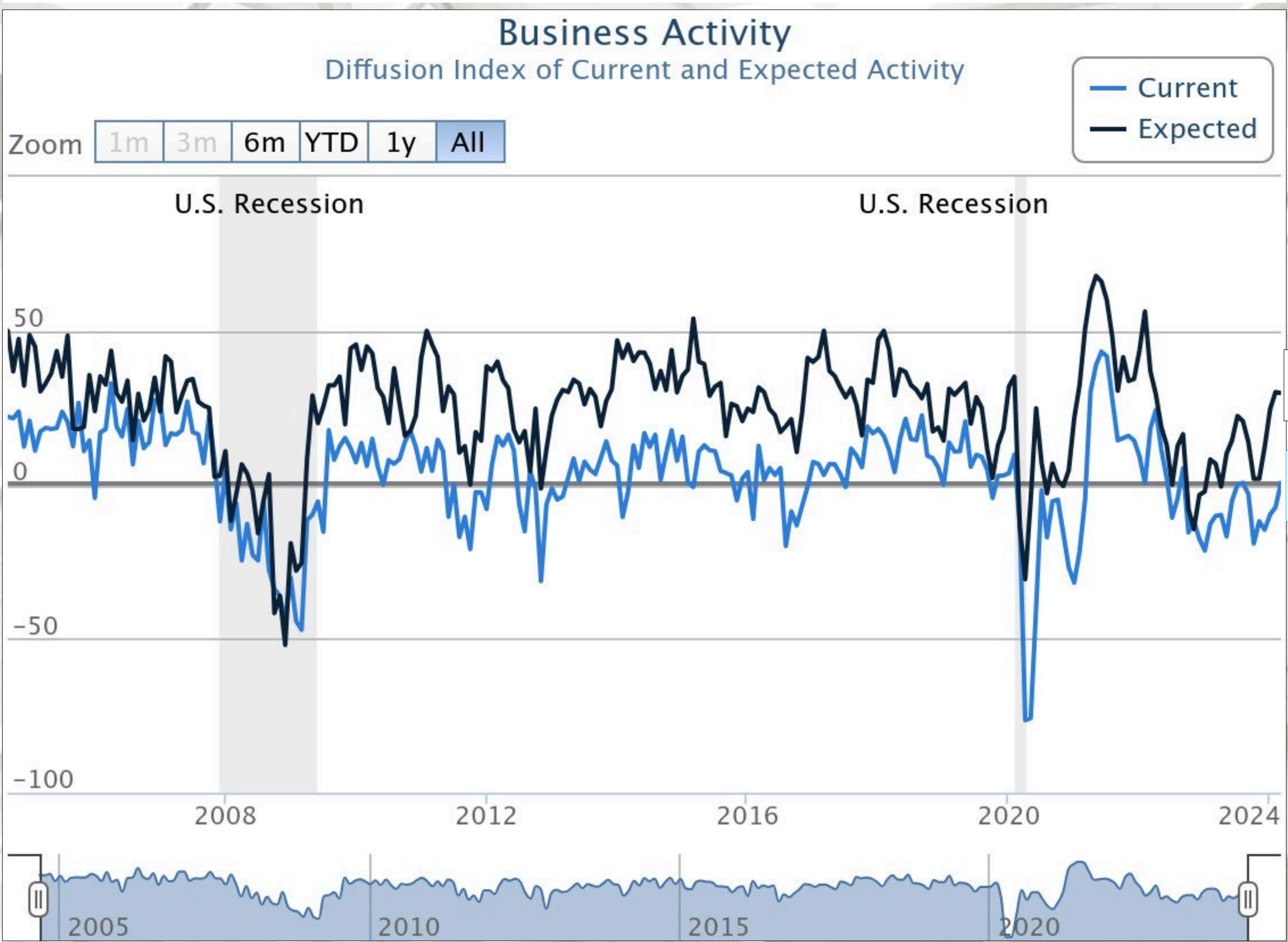
# The Federal Reserve Bank of New York




Mar 2024
29.8

Mar 2024
-0.6

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/business_leaders/bls_overview; 3/18/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## March 2024 Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey

### Current Indicators Remain Below Long-Run Averages

"Manufacturing activity in the region continued to expand overall, according to the firms responding to the March *Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey*. The survey's indicator for general activity edged lower but remained positive, while the index for shipments ticked up and the index for new orders turned positive. The employment index remained negative, continuing to suggest a decline in overall employment levels. Both price indexes fell and remained below their long-run averages. Future activity indicators rose, suggesting more widespread expectations for overall growth over the next six months.

The diffusion index for current general activity edged down 2 points to 3.2 in March, its second consecutive positive reading (see Chart 1). This is only the index's fifth positive reading since May 2022. Nearly 24 percent of the firms reported increases in general activity this month, while 21 percent reported decreases; 52 percent reported no change. The index for new orders turned positive for the first time since October, rising from -5.2 in February to 5.4 in March. The current shipments index ticked up 1 point to 11.4 in March, its highest reading since August 2022.

On balance, the firms continued to report a decline in employment. The employment index rose 1 point to -9.6 in March, its 11th negative reading in the past 13 months. Most firms (80 percent) continued to report no change in employment, while the share of firms reporting decreases (14 percent) exceeded the share reporting increases (4 percent). The average workweek index fell from 1.4 to -0.2." – Elif Sen, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/mbos-2024-03; 3/21/24

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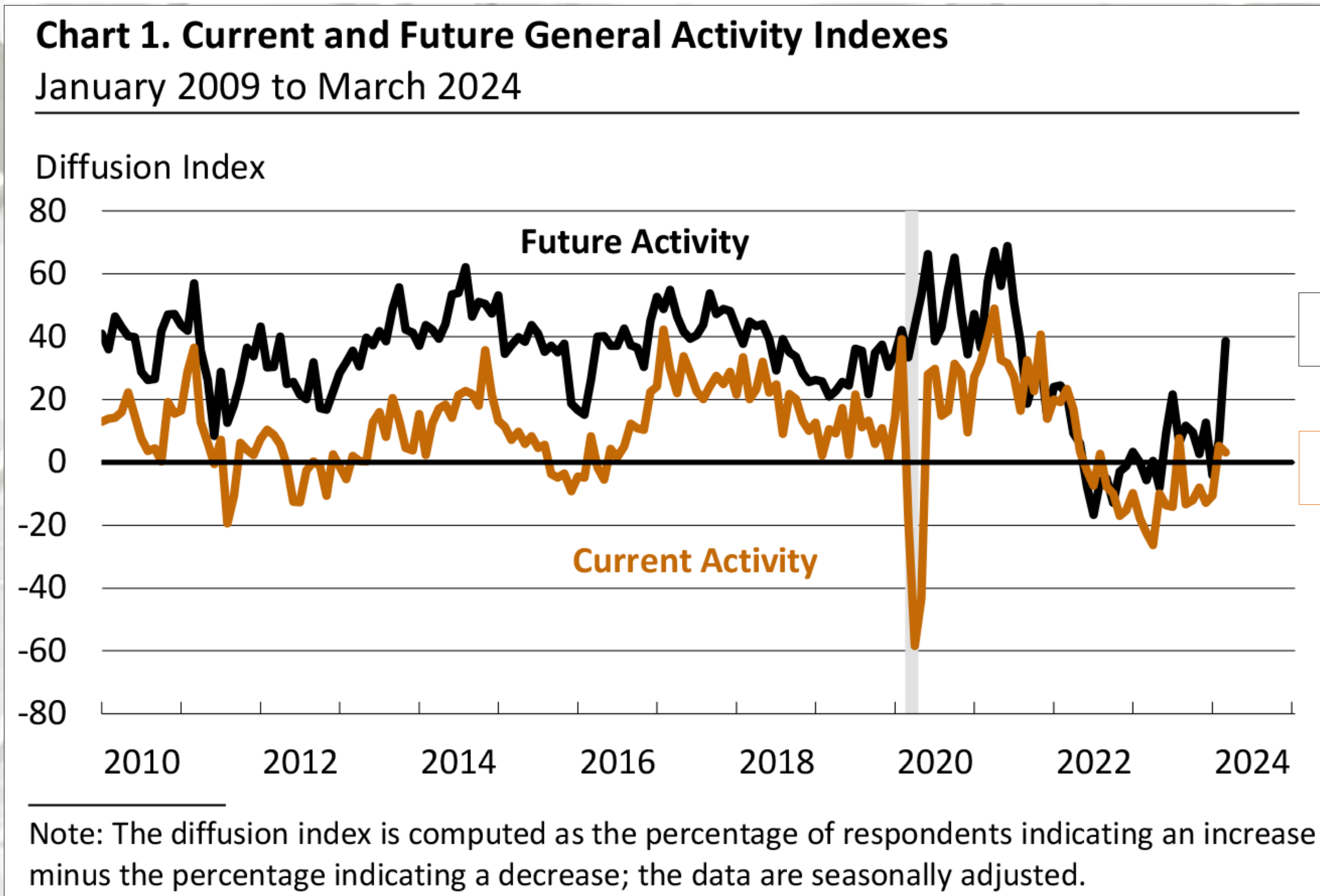
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia




Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/mbos-2024-03; 3/21/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## March 2024 Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey

### Price Indexes Move Lower

“Most firms reported no change in prices, and both price indexes remained below their long-run averages; however, on balance, the firms reported overall increases in prices. The prices paid index dropped 13 points to 3.7 in March, its lowest reading since May 2020. Almost 14 percent of the firms reported increases in input prices (down from 21 percent last month), while 10 percent reported decreases (up from 4 percent); 75 percent reported no change (up from 70 percent). The current prices received index declined 2 points to 4.6. Nearly 12 percent of the firms reported increases in the prices of their own goods, 7 percent reported decreases, and 81 percent reported no change.

### Employment

“The employment index held at a level of around zero, signaling that employment levels held steady. The wages index edged down three points to 43.8, indicating wage increases moderated slightly. The prices paid index rose five points to 55.1 and the prices received index climbed three points to 27.8, with the two upticks pointing to a modest pickup in the pace of input and selling price increases. The capital spending index fell to -0.6.” – Elif Sen, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/mbos-2024-03; 3/21/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## March 2024 Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey

### Firms Report Higher Production, Little Change in Capacity Utilization

In this month's special questions, the firms were asked to estimate their total production growth for the first quarter ending this month compared with the fourth quarter of 2023. A higher share of firms reported an increase in production (41 percent) compared with the share reporting a decrease (27 percent). Regarding firms' capacity utilization for the current quarter and one year ago, the median current capacity utilization rate reported among the responding firms was unchanged at 70 to 80 percent.

Most firms reported labor supply as at least a slight constraint to capacity utilization in the current quarter, and the share of firms reporting it as a moderate or significant constraint (38 percent) edged up from when this question was asked in December (35 percent). Just over half of the firms reported supply chains were not at all a constraint in the current quarter, a similar share to the previous quarter. Looking ahead over the next three months, most firms expect the impacts of various factors to stay the same. However, the share of firms expecting labor supply impacts to improve (12 percent) was lower than when this question was asked in December (20 percent)." – Elif Sen, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/mbos-2024-03; 3/21/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## March 2024 Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey

### Future Indicators Rise

"The diffusion index for future general activity jumped from a reading of 7.2 in February to 38.6 in March, its highest reading since July 2021 (see Chart 1). Half of the firms expect an increase in activity over the next six months, exceeding the 11 percent that expect a decrease; 34 percent expect no change. The future new orders index climbed 26 points to 49.9, and the future shipments index rose 17 points to 43.6. On balance, the firms expect an increase in employment over the next six months, and the future employment index increased from a reading of 4.9 to 5.8. The future prices paid index ticked down to 38.0, while the future prices received index rose 7 points to 37.1. The index for future capital expenditures rose 11 points to 23.6, its highest reading since March 2022.

### Summary

Responses to the March *Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey* suggest an overall increase in regional manufacturing activity this month. The indicator for current activity ticked down but remained positive. The shipments index edged higher, and the new orders index turned positive. On balance, the firms continued to indicate a decline in employment, and the current price indexes suggest overall but less widespread increases in prices. The survey's broad indicators for future activity strengthened, suggesting more widespread expectations for growth over the next six months." – Elif Sen, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/mbos-2024-03; 3/21/24

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## March 2024 Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey

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Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/mbos-2024-03; 3/21/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## March 2024 Nonmanufacturing Business Outlook Survey

### Most Current Indicators Weaken

"Nonmanufacturing activity in the region declined this month, according to the firms responding to the March *Nonmanufacturing Business Outlook Survey*. The index for general activity at the firm level turned negative. The new orders index remained negative, while the sales/revenues index fell to a near-zero reading. The full-time employment index suggests less widespread increases in employment. Both price indexes continued to indicate overall increases in prices. The firms continue to expect growth over the next six months at their own firms and in the region.

The diffusion index for current general activity at the firm level turned negative, falling from a reading of 0.8 in February to -2.3 this month (see Chart 1). This is the index's first negative reading since October. Almost 29 percent of the firms reported decreases, while 26 percent reported increases; 45 percent reported no change in activity. The new orders index remained negative but edged up from -4.7 to -3.9, its 12th negative reading in the past 13 months. More than 26 percent of the firms reported decreases in new orders, while 22 percent reported increases. The sales/revenues index dropped 8 points to 0.2. Similar shares of the firms reported increases (28 percent) and decreases (27 percent) in sales/revenues. The regional activity index fell 10 points to -18.3, its lowest reading since April." – Elif Sen, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/nbos-2024-03; 3/26/24

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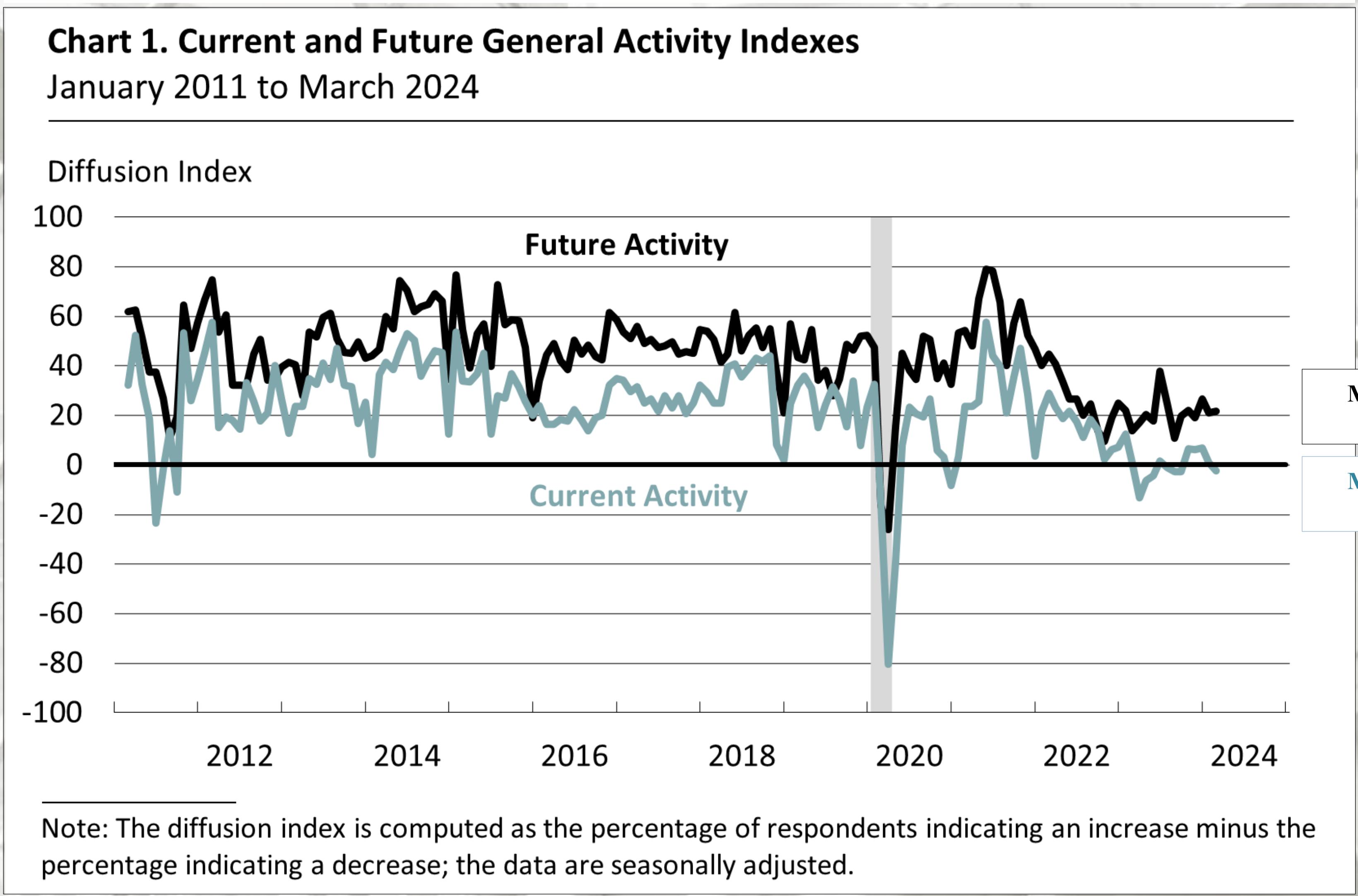
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia




Mar 2024
21.7

Mar 2024
-2.3

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/nbos-2024-03; 3/26/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## March 2024 Nonmanufacturing Business Outlook Survey

### Firms Report Less Widespread Increases in Full-Time Employment

"On balance, the firms reported increases in full-time employment, but the index fell 6 points to 3.5 this month, its lowest reading since June. Almost 23 percent of the firms reported increases, while 19 percent reported decreases; nearly 54 percent of the firms reported no change. The part-time employment index declined from -4.0 to -6.9, its lowest reading since December 2020. Most firms (64 percent) reported steady part-time employment, while the share of firms reporting decreases (14 percent) exceeded the share reporting increases (7 percent). The average workweek index turned positive, rising 6 points to 1.6.

### Price Indexes Near Long-Run Averages

Price indicator readings suggest continued increases in input prices and prices for the firms' own goods and services this month. Both price indexes were near their long-run averages. The prices paid index declined 4 points to 26.6. Over 32 percent of the respondents reported higher input prices, while 6 percent reported decreases; 49 percent reported no change. Regarding prices for the firms' own goods and services, the prices received index rose from 2.0 to 16.3, its highest reading since May. More than 26 percent of the firms reported increases in their own prices, while 10 percent reported decreases; 51 percent reported no change.

### Firms Anticipate Growth

"The future general activity indexes continued to suggest firms expect growth over the next six months. The diffusion index for future general activity at the firm level was little changed at 21.7 (see Chart 1). Almost 45 percent of the firms expect an increase in activity at their firms over the next six months, 23 percent expect decreases, and 28 percent of the firms expect no change. The future regional activity index was also little changed at 10.0." – Elif Sen, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/nbos-2024-03; 3/26/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## March 2024 Nonmanufacturing Business Outlook Survey

### Firms Report Higher Sales/Revenues

"In this month's special questions, the firms were asked to estimate their total sales/revenues growth for the first quarter ending this month compared with the fourth quarter of 2023; they were also asked about factors constraining business operations.  The share of firms reporting expected increases in first-quarter sales/revenues (47 percent) was higher than the share reporting decreases (37 percent).  Nearly 67 percent of the firms reported labor supply as at least a slight constraint on business operations, down from 74 percent in December.  The share of firms indicating financial capital as at least a slight constraint rose in the current quarter, from 53 percent to 61 percent.  Over the next three months, most of the firms expect the impacts of various factors to stay the same.  However, 21 percent of the firms expect labor supply impacts to worsen, up from 15 percent in December.  Conversely, 22 percent of the firms expect financial capital impacts to improve, up from 15 percent in December.

### Summary

Responses to this month's *Nonmanufacturing Business Outlook Survey* suggest a decline in nonmanufacturing activity in the region.  The indicators for firm-level general activity and new orders were negative this month, while the sales/revenues index fell to a near-zero reading.  The full-time employment index suggests overall increases in employment but declined.  The prices paid index declined, while the prices received index rose; both indexes continue to indicate overall price increases.  On balance, the firms continue to expect growth over the next six months." – Elif Sen, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/regional-economic-analysis/nbos-2024-03; 3/26/24

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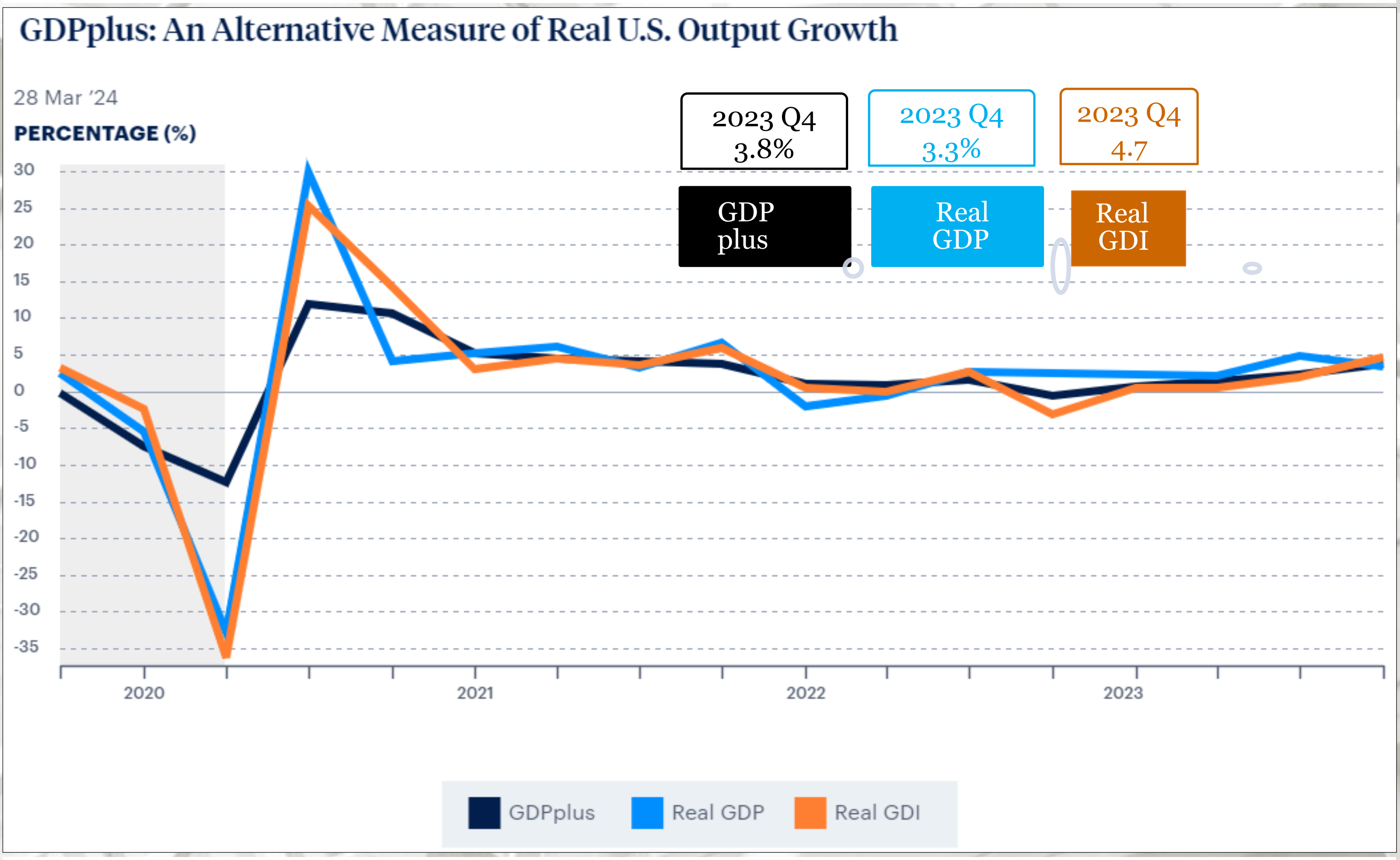
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia: GDPplus




Notes: Shaded areas indicate NBER recessions. The data measure the quarter-over-quarter growth rate in continuously compounded annualized percentage points.

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and NBER via Haver Analytics. Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Source: https://www.philadelphiafed.org/surveys-and-data/real-time-data-research/gdpplus; 3/28/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

## March 2024 Fifth District Survey of Manufacturing Activity

### Manufacturing Activity Slowed in March

"Fifth District manufacturing activity slowed in March, according to the most recent survey from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The composite manufacturing index decreased from −5 in February to −11 in March. Of its three component indexes, shipments remained solidly negative at −14, new orders fell from −5 to −17, and employment fell from 7 to 0.

Firms were split about local business conditions, as the index hovered around 0. The index for future local business conditions, however, increased from 3 in February to 12 in March.

Most firms continued to report declining backlogs as the index remained negative. The vendor lead time index returned to negative territory, decreasing from 4 to −17 in March. The capacity utilization index fell from −4 to −21.

The average growth rate of prices paid and prices received decreased in March. Firms expect both growth rates to moderate further over the next 12 months. " – Jason Kosakow, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/surveys_of_business_conditions/manufacturing; 3/26/24

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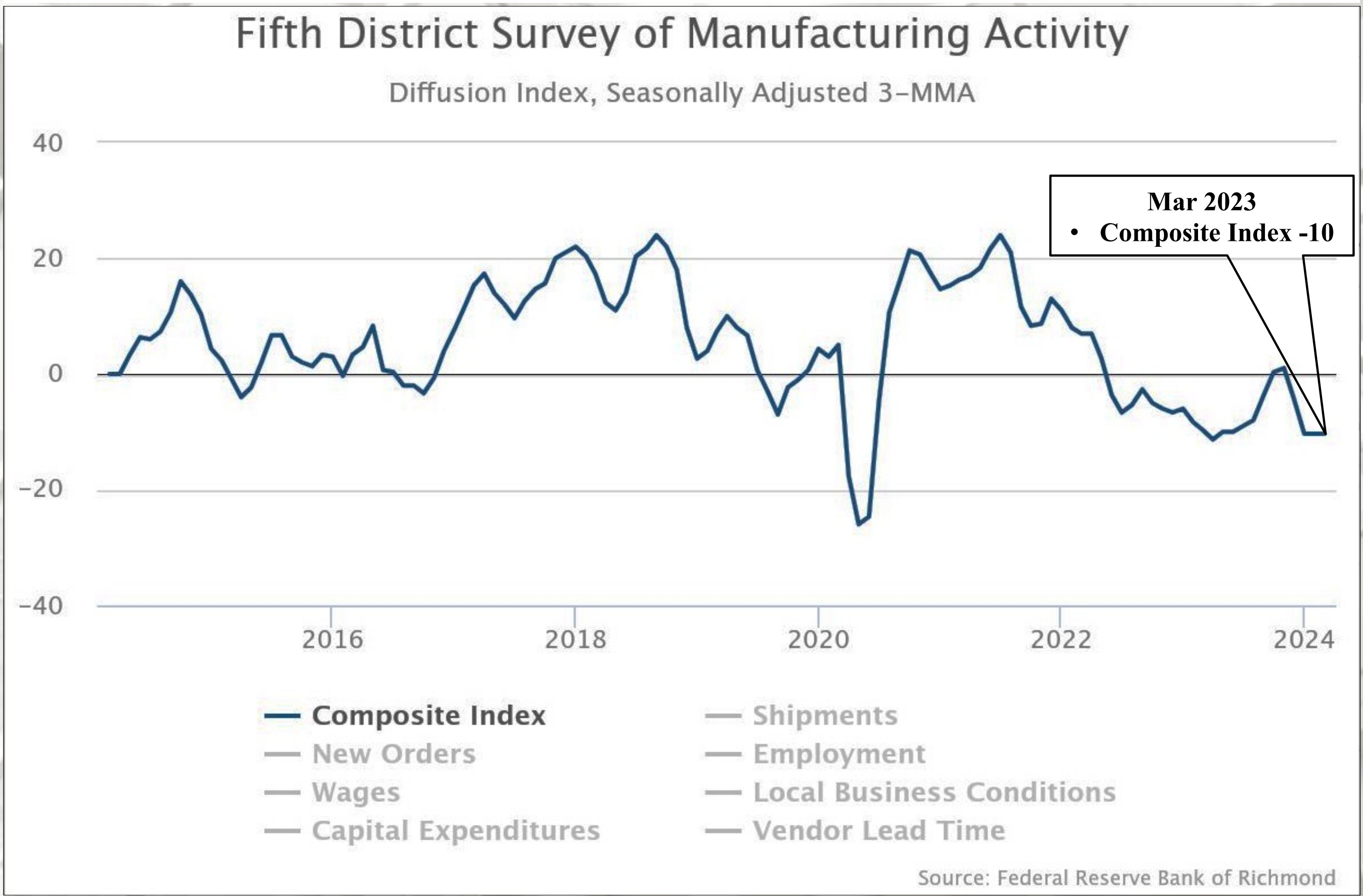
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond




Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/surveys_of_business_conditions/manufacturing; 3/26/24

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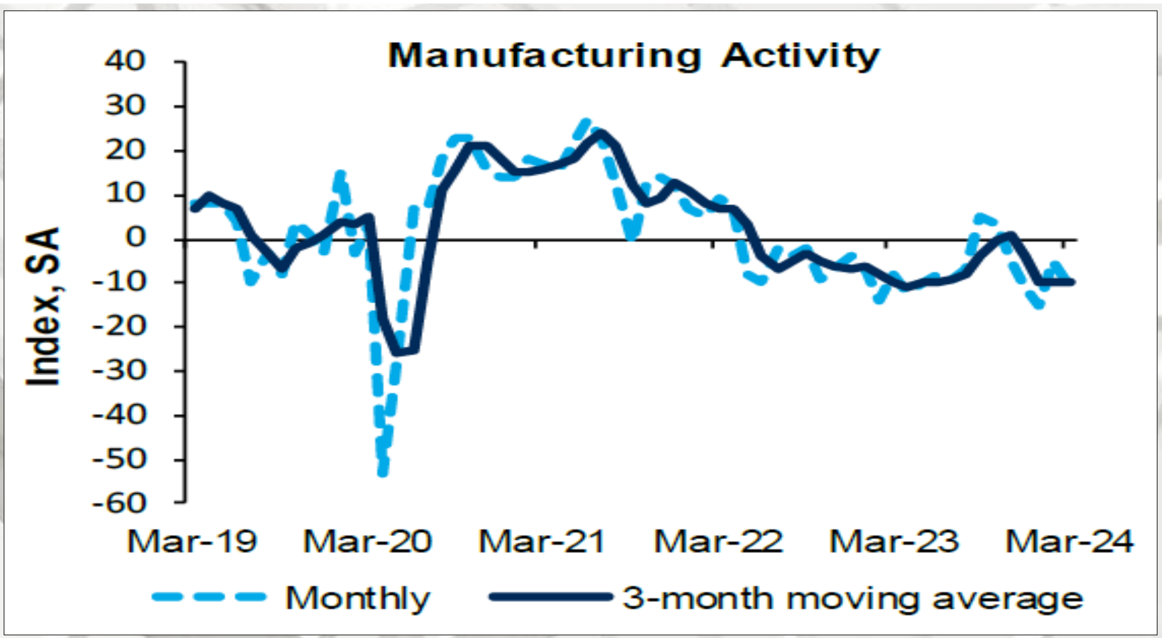
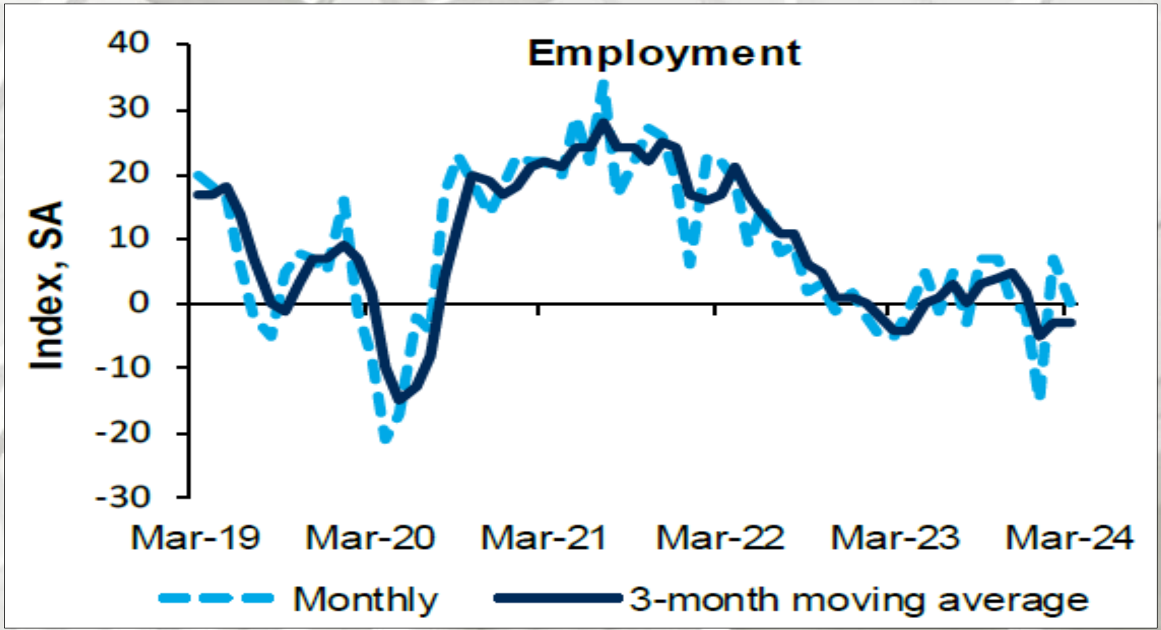
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond




Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/surveys_of_business_conditions/manufacturing; 3/26/24

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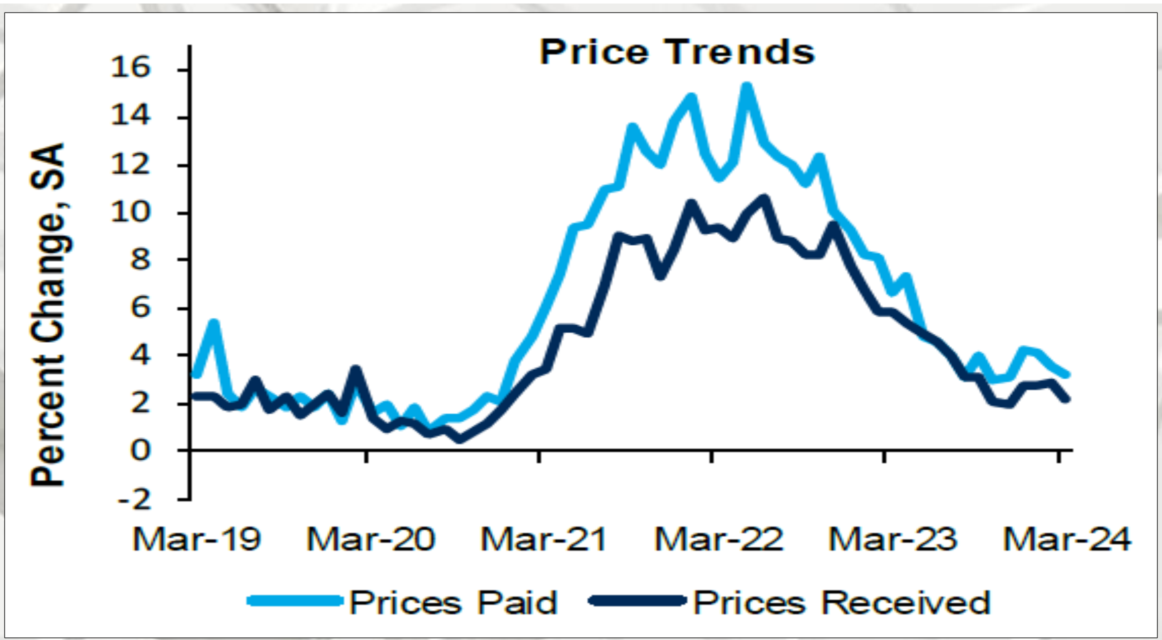
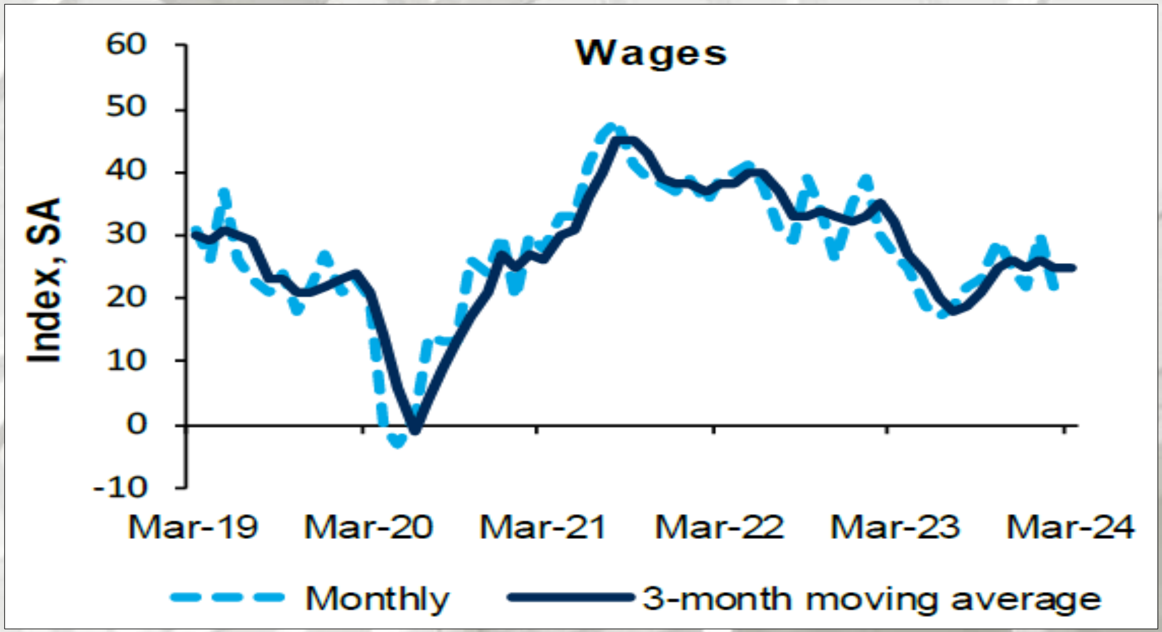
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond




Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/surveys_of_business_conditions/manufacturing; 3/26/24

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# The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

## Fifth District Survey of Service Sector Activity

## Service Sector Activity Remained Soft in March

"Fifth District service sector activity remained relatively soft in March, according to the most recent survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The revenues index increased from −16 to −7, while the demand index decreased from 0 in February to −9 in March. The indexes for future revenues and demand both decreased but remained in positive territory.

Firms' optimism about local business conditions was nearly unchanged, as that index edged down from −7 in February to −8 in March. The index for expected local business conditions decreased into negative territory in March.

The employment index edged up from 4 in February to 6 in March, while firms continued to report wage increases and little change in their ability to find workers with the necessary skills. Over the next six months, most firms expected hiring to remain steady and anticipated little improvement in their ability to find workers with the necessary skills. Most firms plan to continue increasing wages.

The average growth in prices paid decreased in March, while growth in prices received increased somewhat. Firms expect both growth rates to moderate over the coming year." – Jason Kosakow, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/surveys_of_business_conditions/service_sector; 3/26/24

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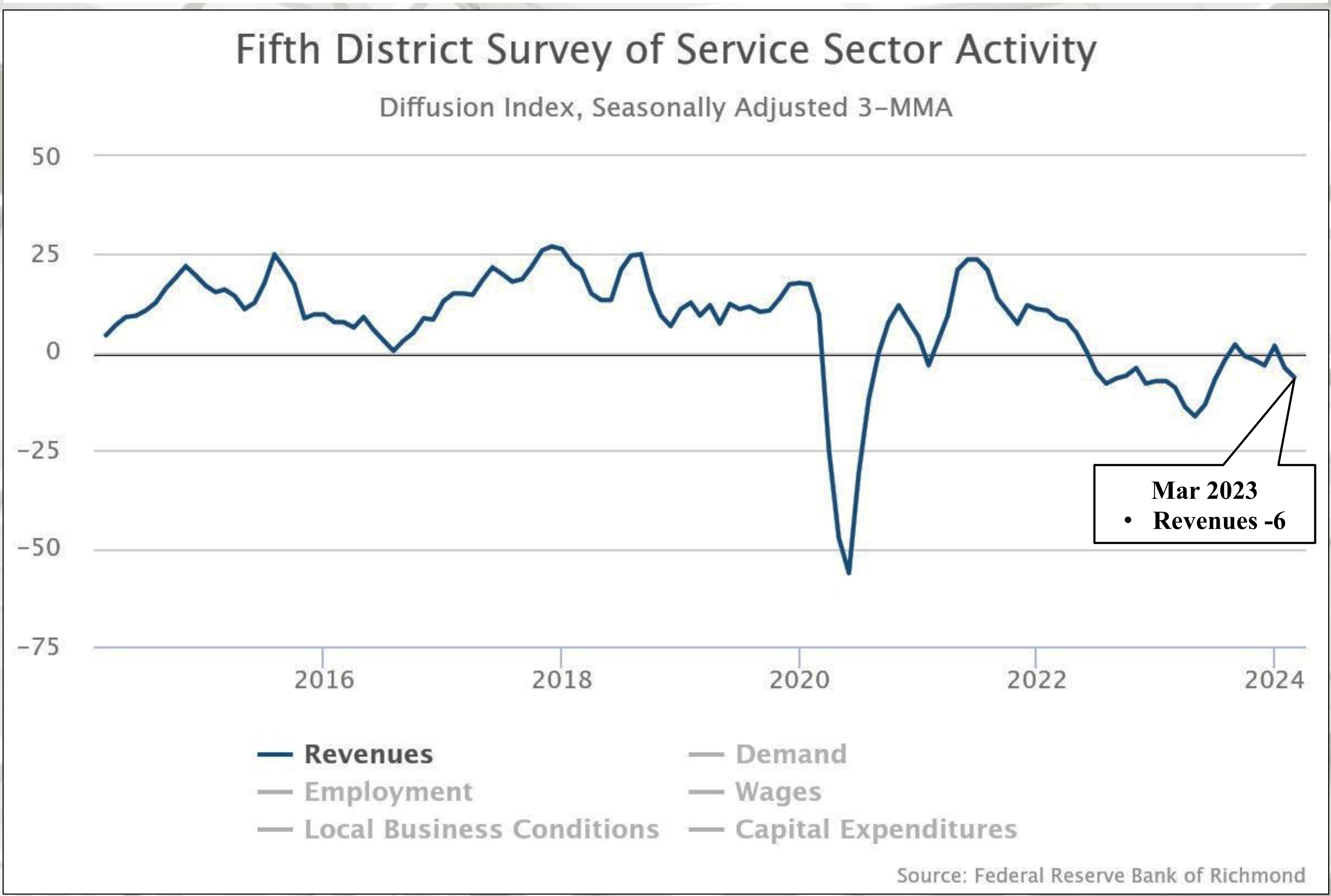
# The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond




Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/surveys_of_business_conditions/service_sector; 3/26/24

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# Private Indicators: Global


### S&P Global Canada Manufacturing PMI®

"The seasonally adjusted **S&P Global Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index® (PMI®)** is a composite single-figure indicator of manufacturing performance derived from indicators for new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases, remained below the crucial 50.0 no-change mark in March for an eleventh successive month to signal another worsening of operating conditions. That said, by posting 49.8, up from 49.7 and an 11-month high, the PMI signalled only a fractional deterioration.

### Manufacturing sector closer to stabilisation in March

"Operating conditions in Canada's manufacturing economy remained subdued in March. Output and new orders both continued to fall, albeit at marginal rates. Firms continued to focus on destocking, whilst reports of supply chain delays led to a firmer increase in input prices. However, confidence in the 12-month outlook improved, leading firms to add to their staffing levels for a second successive month.

Concurrent declines in both output and new orders were signalled, although rates of contraction were marginal. In the case of new work, the fall was the least pronounced in 13 months. Nonetheless, firms continued to report that market demand was subdued, and characterised by client hesitancy against a backdrop of high prices and steep borrowing costs. Sales to key international markets (like the US) were also reported to be lower, evidenced by a seventh successive monthly decline in new export orders during March. …

Canada's manufacturing economy crawled closer to stabilisation in March, with output and new orders recording only marginal falls. However, firms continued to report that market demand remained subdued, with clients hesitant to commit to new work. Manufacturers subsequently remain focused on destocking as they seek to better align their production and inventory requirements. A pickup in input price inflation revealed by the latest survey is a little concerning, although a slow and weaker rate of charge inflation adds to a general feeling that manufacturers continue to operate in a subdued market environment. With interest rates still restrictive, confidence in the outlook equally remains below trend, though firms are nonetheless typically expecting production growth to be recorded in the year ahead."" – Paul Smith, Economics Director, S&P Global

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/13ba9075d8cb4f5d889861a55d4f0853; 4/1/24

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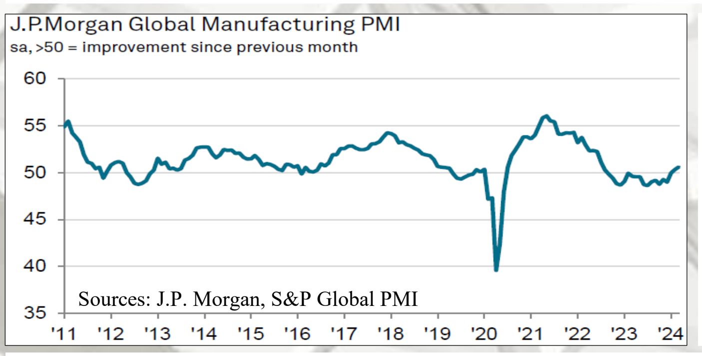
# Private Indicators: Global




## J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI™

"The J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI™ – a composite index produced by J.P. Morgan and S&P Global in association with ISM and IFPSM – posted 50.6 in March, up from 50.3 in February and its highest reading since July 2022. The PMI has now signalled marginal improvements in overall operating conditions in each of the past two months.

## Global manufacturing output growth strengthens as new orders rise and employment stabilizes

"March saw the rate of growth in global manufacturing production accelerate to its fastest since June 2022, as new order inflows strengthened. The upturn in output also broadened by both nation and sector, with expansions seen in the consumer, intermediate and investment goods industries and in 16 of the 32 countries for which data were available.

Three of the PMI sub-indices signalled expansions (new orders, output and employment) in March. In contrast, those tracking trends in supplier lead times and stocks of purchases were more consistent with a deterioration in manufacturing sector performance.

World manufacturing output increased for the third successive month in March, with the rate of growth accelerating to a 21-month high. Underpinning the latest expansion was the fastest growth of new orders since May 2022. The trend in new export business also moved closer to stabilisation, with intakes decreasing at the joint-slowest rate during the current 25-month sequence of contraction (matching the pace registered in June 2022). …

The March surveys point to an upturn in global manufacturing gaining traction, with solid gains in both the output and new orders indexes. The output index advanced 0.7-pt to 51.9, its highest level since June 2022. The recovery also looks to be broadening by both sector and region, with gains seen across the consumer, intermediate and investment goods industries and in most of the major economies covered by the survey. This is also filtering through to the labor market, with the employment index breaking above the 50-mark for the first time in seven months." – Bennett Parrish, Global Economist, J.P. Morgan

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/cce34d901a8e410290f0236acc3481c0; 4/2/24

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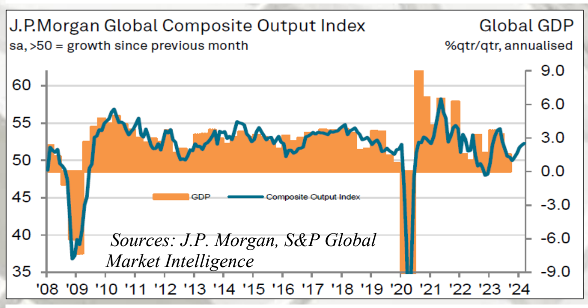
# Private Indicators: Global




## J.P. Morgan Global Composite PMI™

"The J.P. Morgan Global Composite Output Index – produced by J.P. Morgan and S&P Global in association with ISM and IFPSM – rose to a nine-month high of 52.3 in March, up from 52.1 in February. The headline index has signalled expansion for five months in a row with growth accelerating throughout that sequence.

## Growth of global economic activity strengthens in March

March saw a broadening and deepening of the upturn in global economic activity. Output expanded at the quickest pace since June 2023, with growth signalled across the six sub-sectors monitored by the survey and also in an increased number of nations. March saw rates of expansion quicken in both the manufacturing and service sectors. Manufacturing production increased to the greatest extent for 21 months, with growth evenly distributed across the consumer, intermediate and investment goods industries.

Service providers saw business activity rise at the fastest pace since last July. Growth was more varied by sub-sector than in manufacturing, with financial service providers seeing a much steeper upturn in activity than both the business and consumer services categories. Combined manufacturing and service sector output growth strengthened (on average) in both developed and emerging markets during March. Rates of expansion hit nine- and ten-month highs respectively, with the latter outperforming the former for the twenty-second successive month. …

The March PMIs signal a broadening global expansion consistent with ongoing solid growth. The global all industry output PMI advanced another 0.2-pts to 52.3, its highest level since June 2023, with all six of the survey's sub-sector indexes remaining in expansionary territory. Regional activity also looks to be coming into better balance, with another sizable rise in Europe while the US and China remained at reasonably elevated levels. The outlook is also strengthening, with forward-looking indicators for new orders and future output also moving higher on the month." – Bennett Parrish, Global Economist, J.P. Morgan

Source: https://www.pma.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/bdf8a4c573194edfbf968dc2e08ae985; 4/4/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

## Construction Job Openings Increased by 16,000 in February

“The construction industry had 441,000 job openings on the last day of February, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. JOLTS defines a job opening as any unfilled position for which an employer is actively recruiting. Industry job openings increased by 16,000 last month and are up by 32,000 from the same time last year.

“The number of open, unfilled construction positions stood at the second highest level on record at the end of February,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “This occurred despite the fact that contractors hired workers at the fastest rate since March 2023.

“While these dynamics are emblematic of ongoing industrywide labor shortages, contractors also laid workers off at an elevated rate throughout February,” said Basu. “This suggests a schism in which certain construction segments powered by federal funding and incentives continue to generate tremendous demand for labor, while privately financed segments had somewhat slower growth. Despite the moderating effect of high borrowing costs on projects reliant on private funding, fewer than 11% of contractors expect their staffing levels to decrease over the next six months, according to ABC’s Construction Confidence Index.”” – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/construction-job-openings-increased-by-16000-in-february-says-abc; 4/2/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

## Construction Job Openings Increased by 16,000 in February

Construction Industry Job Openings and Labor Turnover Data: February 2024

| | February 2024 | January 2024 | February 2023 | 1-Month Net Change | 12-Month Net Change | 12-Month % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Total*** | | | | | | |
| Job openings | 441,000 | 425,000 | 409,000 | 16,000 | 32,000 | 7.8% |
| Hires | 403,000 | 390,000 | 375,000 | 13,000 | 28,000 | 7.5% |
| Total separations | 375,000 | 353,000 | 341,000 | 22,000 | 34,000 | 10.0% |
| Layoffs & discharges | 214,000 | 187,000 | 171,000 | 27,000 | 43,000 | 25.1% |
| Quits | 152,000 | 151,000 | 154,000 | 1,000 | -2,000 | -1.3% |
| Other separations | 9,000 | 14,000 | 16,000 | -5,000 | -7,000 | -43.8% |
| ***Rate*** | | | | | | |
| Job openings | 5.1% | 5.0% | 4.9% | | | |
| Hires | 4.9% | 4.8% | 4.7% | | | |
| Total separations | 4.6% | 4.3% | 4.3% | | | |
| Layoffs & discharges | 2.6% | 2.3% | 2.1% | | | |
| Quits | 1.9% | 1.9% | 1.9% | | | |
| Other separations | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.2% | | | |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/construction-job-openings-increased-by-16000-in-february-says-abc; 4/2/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

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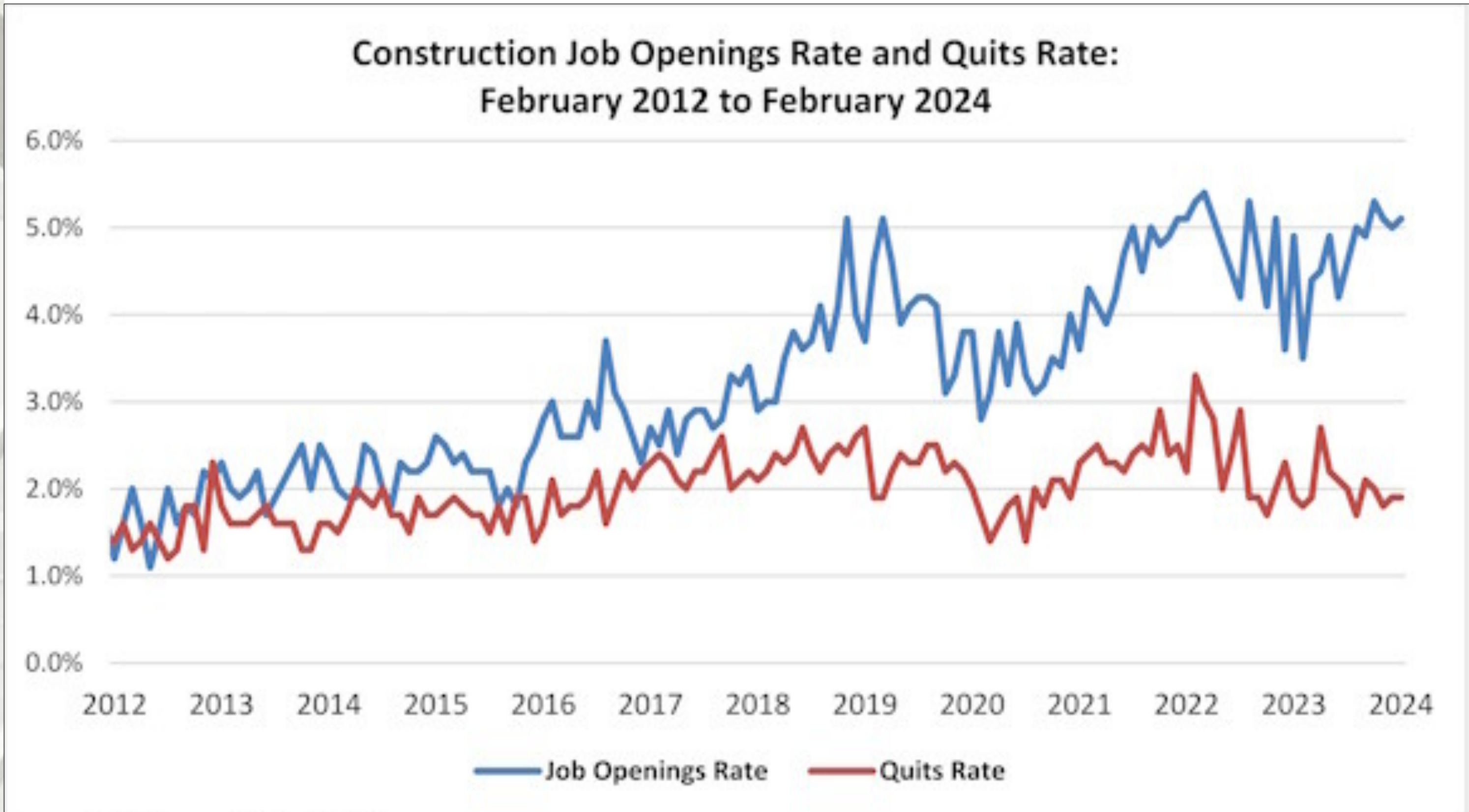


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/construction-job-openings-increased-by-16000-in-february-says-abc; 4/2/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

## Nonresidential Construction Adds Whopping 24,600 Jobs in March

“The construction industry added 39,000 jobs on net in March, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has expanded by 270,000 jobs, an increase of 3.4%.

Nonresidential construction employment increased by 24,600 positions on net, with growth in all three subcategories. Nonresidential specialty trade added the most jobs, increasing by 16,300 positions. Heavy and civil engineering and nonresidential building added 6,000 and 2,300 jobs, respectively.

The construction unemployment rate fell to 5.4% in March. Unemployment across all industries declined from 3.9% in February to 3.8% last month.

“Today’s release was a blockbuster jobs report and indicates that recession is not arriving anytime soon,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “The 39,000 jobs added by the nation’s construction segment was roughly twice the monthly growth observed over the past year. If one focuses purely on nonresidential construction, monthly job growth was nearly 80% faster than the one-year average.” – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-adds-whopping-24600-jobs-in-march; 4/5/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

## Nonresidential Construction Adds Whopping 24,600 Jobs in March

"""Structural transformations in the economy, including replenished domestic supply chains, expanded data center demand and augmented infrastructure, are making it difficult for many project owners to wait for lower construction delivery costs," said Basu. "Despite the effects of worker shortages, still-elevated materials prices, newly emerging supply chain issues and the high cost of project financing, both privately and publicly financed segments produced substantial employment growth in March. This comports with ABC's Construction Confidence Index, which shows that a large share of contractors intend to grow their staffing levels over the next six months.

"As always, the jobs report was not completely positive," said Basu. "Those in search of lower inflation and interest rates will not be comforted by this release. While economywide year-over-year wage growth softened to 4.1% in March, the monthly wage growth figure suggested a pace of compensation growth that will render it difficult for the Federal Reserve to substantially reduce interest rates in 2024. The notion that interest rates will remain higher for longer remains firmly in place, which means that project financing costs will likely be an ongoing issue for construction demand, especially in privately financed segments, for the foreseeable future."'" – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-adds-whopping-24600-jobs-in-march; 4/5/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

## Nonresidential Construction Adds Whopping 24,600 Jobs in March

Construction Employment Statistics: March 2024

| | March 2024 | February 2024 | March 2023 | 1-Month Net Change | 12-Month Net Change | 12-Month % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Employment*** | | | | | | |
| **Construction** | 8,211,000 | 8,172,000 | 7,941,000 | 39,000 | 270,000 | 3.4% |
| Nonresidential | 4,862,600 | 4,838,000 | 4,670,900 | 24,600 | 191,700 | 4.1% |
| Nonresidential building | 914,900 | 912,600 | 870,700 | 2,300 | 44,200 | 5.1% |
| Nonresidential specialty trade contractors | 2,797,000 | 2,780,700 | 2,691,400 | 16,300 | 105,600 | 3.9% |
| Heavy & civil engineering | 1,150,700 | 1,144,700 | 1,108,800 | 6,000 | 41,900 | 3.8% |
| Residential | 3,348,700 | 3,334,300 | 3,269,900 | 14,400 | 78,800 | 2.4% |
| Residential building | 941,100 | 935,600 | 925,500 | 5,500 | 15,600 | 1.7% |
| Residential specialty trade contractors | 2,407,600 | 2,398,700 | 2,344,400 | 8,900 | 63,200 | 2.7% |
| ***Average Hourly Earnings*** | | | | | | |
| All private industries | $34.69 | $34.57 | $33.31 | $0.12 | $1.38 | 4.1% |
| Construction | $37.80 | $37.60 | $35.99 | $0.20 | $1.81 | 5.0% |
| ***Average Weekly Hours*** | | | | | | |
| All private industries | 34.4 | 34.3 | 34.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0% |
| Construction | 39.3 | 38.9 | 38.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.0% |
| ***Unemployment Rate*** | | | | | | |
| All private industries (SA) | 3.8% | 3.9% | 3.5% | -0.1pp | 0.3pp | |
| Construction (NSA) | 5.4% | 7.0% | 5.6% | -1.6pp | -0.2pp | |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Note. SA: Seasonally adjusted. NSA: Not seasonally adjusted

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-adds-whopping-24600-jobs-in-march; 4/5/24

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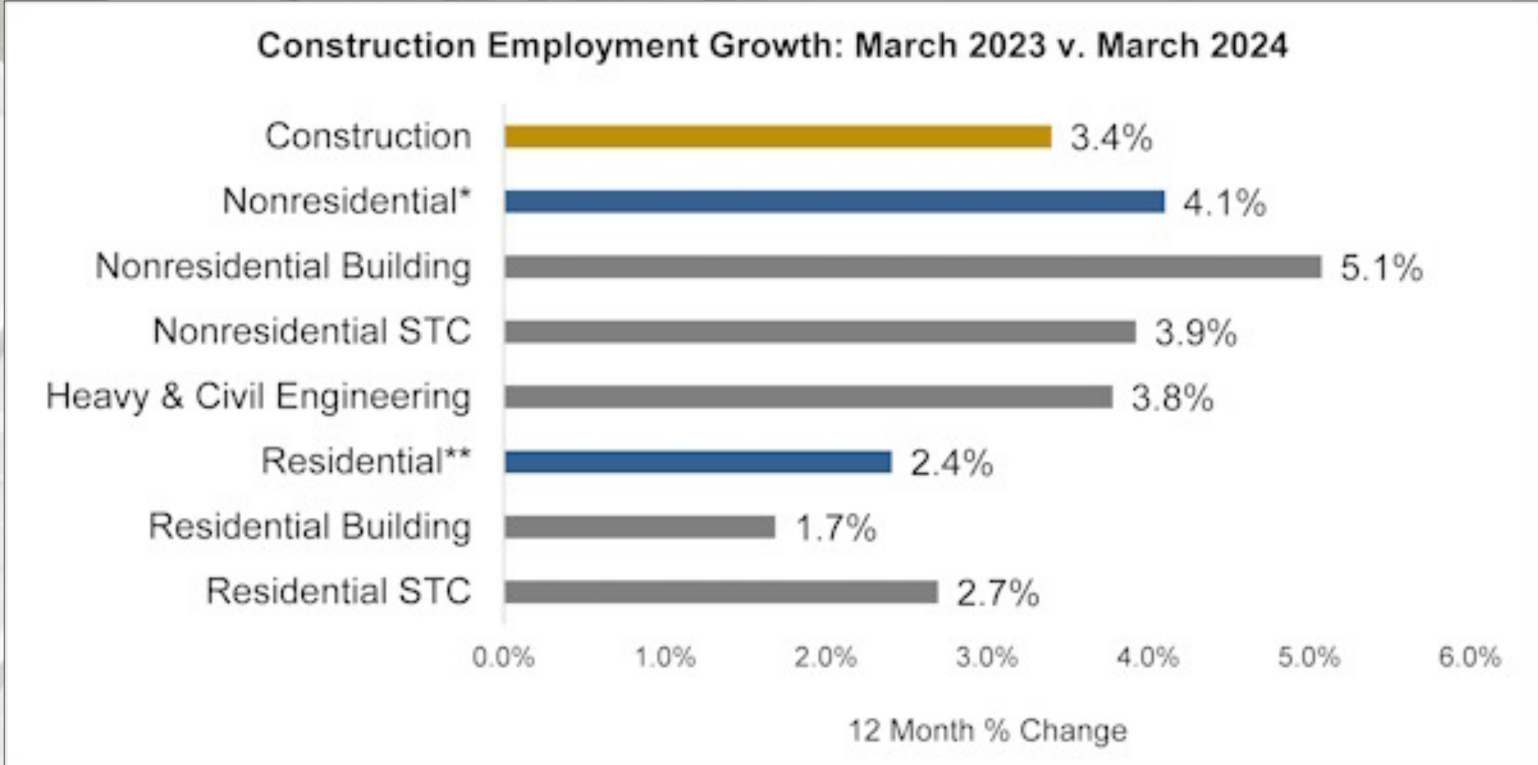
# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

## Nonresidential Construction Adds Whopping 24,600 Jobs in March




Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics *Includes Nonresidential Building, Nonresidential STC, and Heavy and Civil Engineering
**Includes Residential Building and Residential STC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-adds-whopping-24600-jobs-in-march; 4/5/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

## Nonresidential Construction Spending Decreases in 15 Out of 16 Segments in February

“National nonresidential construction spending declined 1.0% in February, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled $1.179 trillion. Spending was down in a monthly basis in 15 of the 16 nonresidential subcategories. Private nonresidential spending fell 0.9%, while public nonresidential construction spending was down 1.2% in February.

“Virtually every nonresidential construction segment experienced a decline in spending in February,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “In certain instances, the monthly decline was sharp, including health care (-2.2%), commercial (-1.9%) and water supply (-1.8%). The optimist will likely shrug off both the January and February nonresidential construction spending declines as merely reflecting winter weather. The pessimist will proclaim this release a wake-up call to contractors and an indication that higher interest rates have finally begun to make their mark.

“As always, interpreting the data is complicated,” said Basu. “While 15 of 16 nonresidential construction segments recorded monthly declines on a seasonally-adjusted basis, all segments have experienced year-over-year growth in spending. In 10 instances, construction spending has increased more than 10%, including 36% growth in the public safety category and 32% in manufacturing. Moreover, ABC’s Construction Confidence Index indicates that contractors remain confident with respect to their sales over the next six months, signaling that the data could improve with the weather.”” – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-decreases-in-15-out-of-16-segments-in-february; 4/1/24

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# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors

Nonresidential Spending Growth, Millions of Dollars, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

| | February 2024 | January 2024 | February 2023 | 1-Month % Change | 12-Month % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Construction | $2,091,511 | $2,096,922 | $1,889,562 | -0.3% | 10.7% |
| Residential | $912,718 | $906,285 | $857,211 | 0.7% | 6.5% |
| Nonresidential | $1,178,793 | $1,190,637 | $1,032,350 | -1.0% | 14.2% |
| Transportation | $66,389 | $65,960 | $62,252 | 0.7% | 6.6% |
| Office | $101,546 | $101,655 | $96,085 | -0.1% | 5.7% |
| Public safety | $15,786 | $15,827 | $11,634 | -0.3% | 35.7% |
| Conservation and development | $11,535 | $11,585 | $10,809 | -0.4% | 6.7% |
| Power | $132,934 | $133,528 | $118,122 | -0.4% | 12.5% |
| Communication | $25,355 | $25,502 | $24,661 | -0.6% | 2.8% |
| Manufacturing | $222,875 | $224,300 | $168,976 | -0.6% | 31.9% |
| Sewage and waste disposal | $43,140 | $43,445 | $38,380 | -0.7% | 12.4% |
| Lodging | $23,398 | $23,704 | $22,754 | -1.3% | 2.8% |
| Amusement and recreation | $34,128 | $34,649 | $29,588 | -1.5% | 15.3% |
| Highway and street | $148,349 | $150,655 | $125,146 | -1.5% | 18.5% |
| Religious | $3,922 | $3,983 | $3,225 | -1.5% | 21.6% |
| Educational | $125,751 | $127,724 | $107,916 | -1.5% | 16.5% |
| Water supply | $28,621 | $29,133 | $24,856 | -1.8% | 15.1% |
| Commercial | $128,585 | $131,041 | $127,585 | -1.9% | 0.8% |
| Health care | $66,479 | $67,948 | $60,362 | -2.2% | 10.1% |
| Private Nonresidential | $716,018 | $722,278 | $636,032 | -0.9% | 12.6% |
| Public Nonresidential | $462,775 | $468,359 | $396,318 | -1.2% | 16.8% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-decreases-in-15-out-of-16-segments-in-february; 4/1/24

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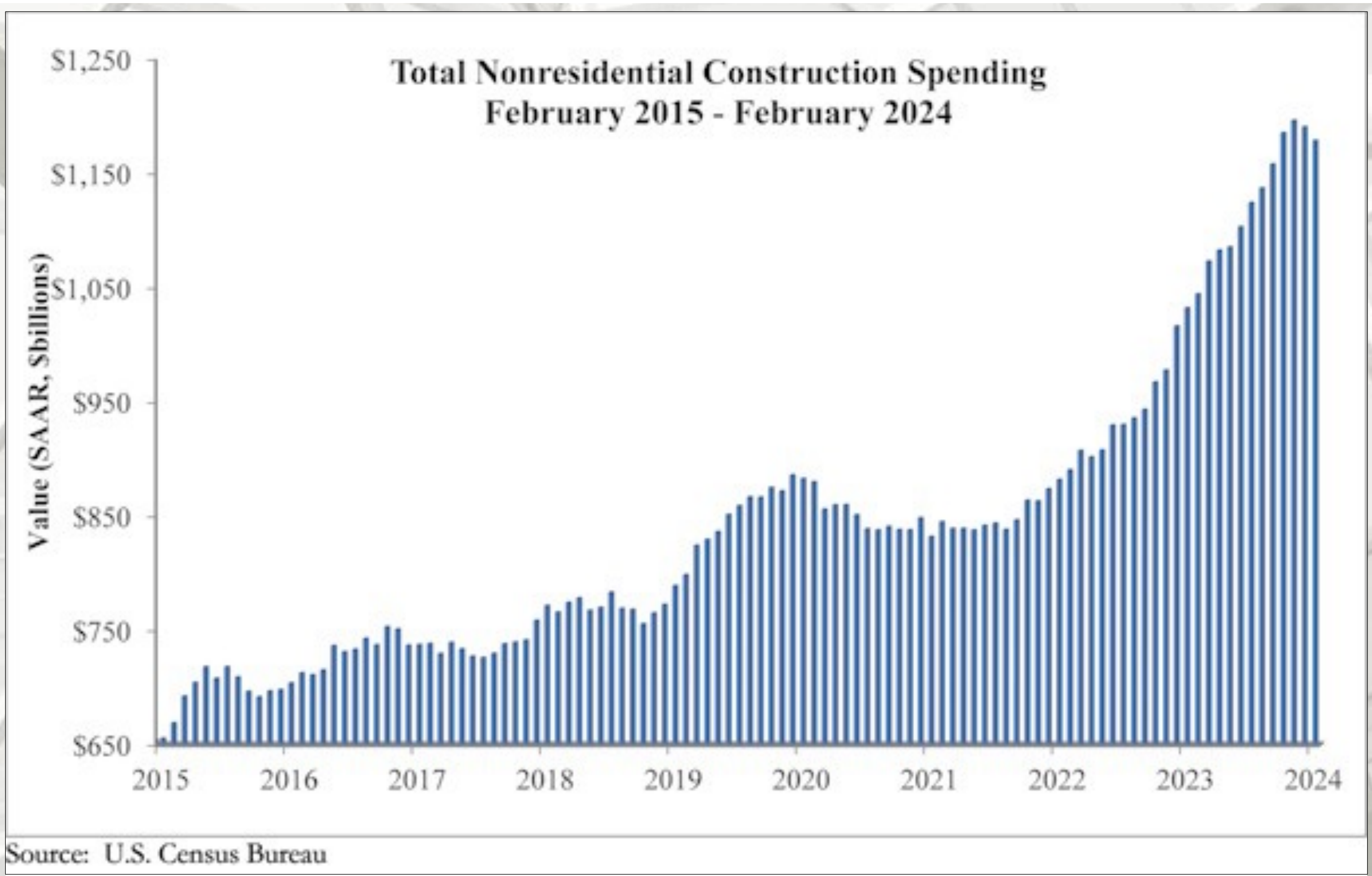
# Private Indicators
# Associated Builders and Contractors




Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-decreases-in-15-out-of-16-segments-in-february; 4/1/24

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# Private Indicators
# American Institute of Architects (AIA) & Deltek

## Architecture Billings Index February 2024

### ABI Reports Moderation in the Slowdown in Business Conditions at Architecture Firms in February

“This is the closest to 50 that the ABI score has been since last July (a score over 50 indicates billings growth) and suggests that the recent slowdown may be receding. In addition, inquiries into new projects grew at their fastest pace since November, and the value of newly signed design contracts increased as well. This is just the fourth time that design contracts have increased in the last year and is a good indicator that work at firms may begin picking up in the coming months. And while the value of new signed design contracts continued to decrease in November, fewer firms reported a decline than in October.” – Katharine Keane, Senior Associate Editor, The American Institute of Architects

“There are indicators this month that business conditions at firms may finally begin to pick up in the coming months. Inquiries into new projects grew at their fastest pace since November, and the value of newly signed design contracts increased at their fastest pace since last summer. Given the moderation of inflation for construction costs and prospects for lower interest rates in the coming months, there are positive signs for future growth.” – Kermit Baker, Chief Economist, AIA

Source: https://www.aia.org/resource-center/abi-february-2024-pace-billings-decline-continues-slow; 3/20/24

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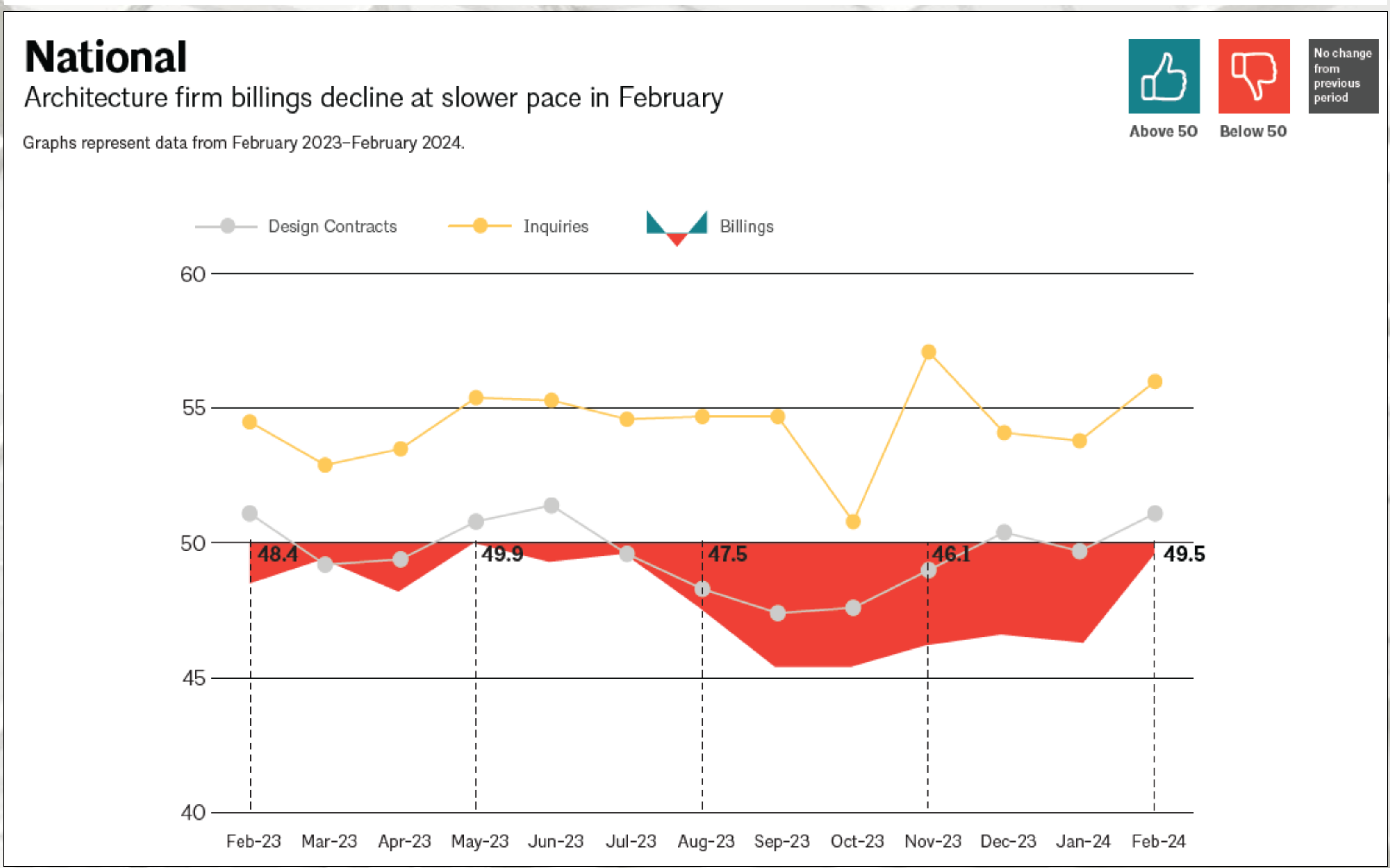
# Private Indicators
# American Institute of Architects (AIA) & Deltek




Source: https://www.aia.org/resource-center/abi-february-2024-pace-billings-decline-continues-slow; 3/20/24

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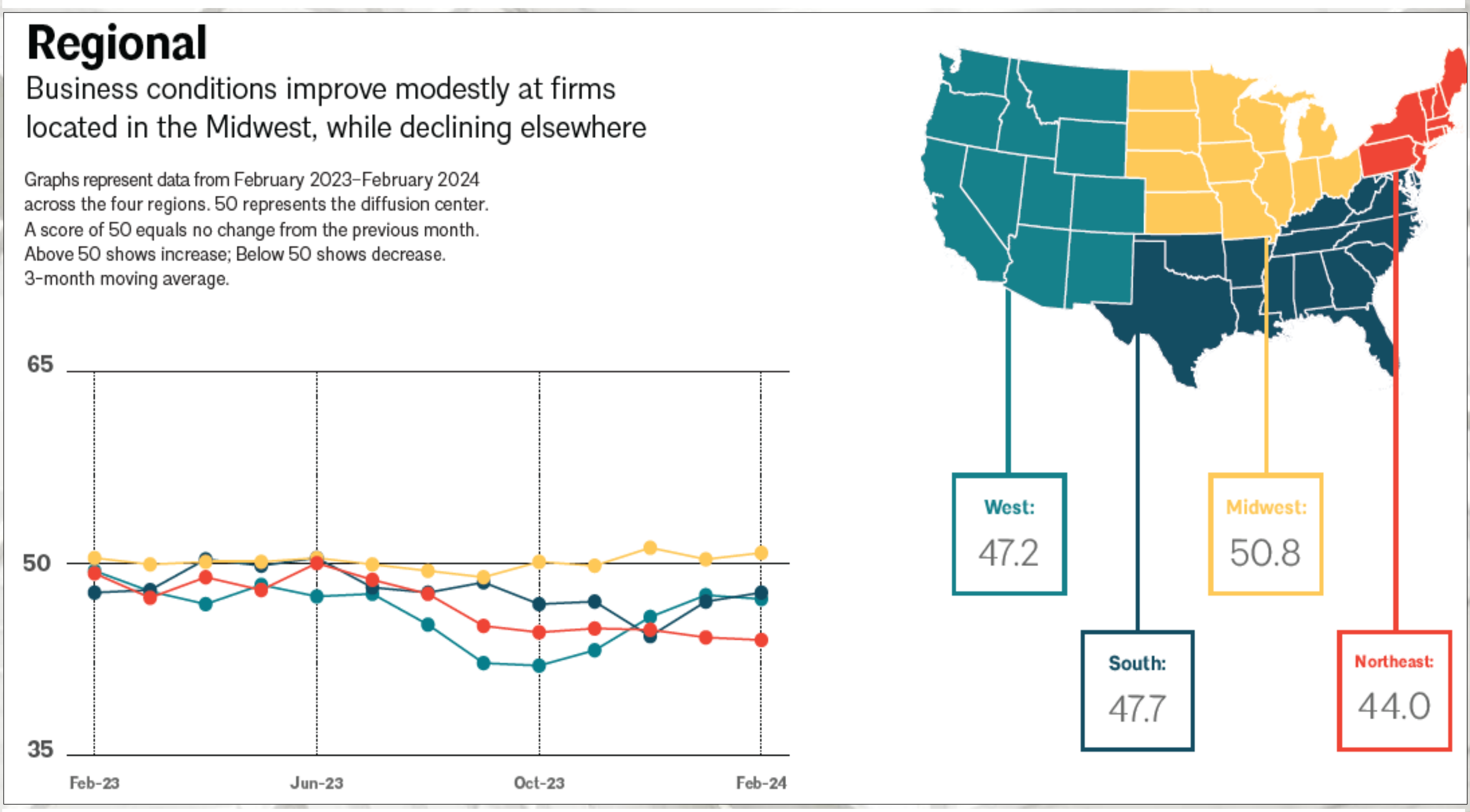
# Private Indicators: AIA & Deltek




## Region

"Business conditions remained generally quite weak across the country in February. Only firms located in the Midwest reported billings growth, while business conditions softened further at firms located in the Northeast. Conditions also remained generally slow at firms located in the West and South. However, firms located in the Midwest have reported growth for the last three months, and for four months out of the last five." – Katharine Keane, Senior Associate Editor, The American Institute of Architects

Source: https://www.aia.org/resource-center/abi-february-2024-pace-billings-decline-continues-slow; 3/20/24

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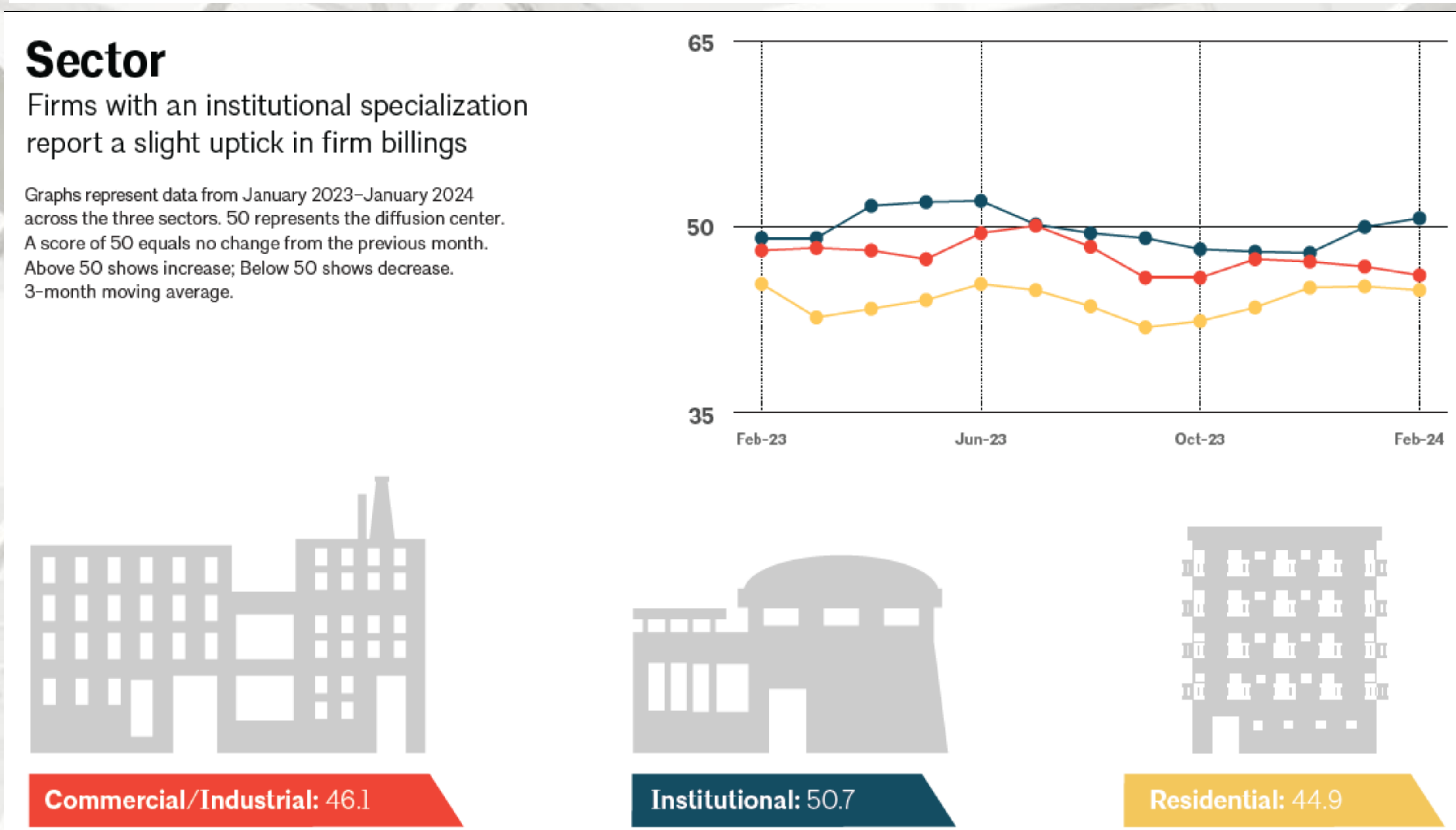
# Private Indicators: AIA & Deltek




**Sector**

"Billings also continued to decline at firms with multifamily residential and commercial/industrial specializations in February, although they increased modestly at firms with an institutional specialization for the first time since last July." – Katharine Keane, Senior Associate Editor, The American Institute of Architects

Source: https://www.aia.org/resource-center/abi-february-2024-pace-billings-decline-continues-slow; 3/20/24

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# Private Indicators

## Dodge Data & Analytics

### Construction Starts Fell 8% in February

**Amidst persistent high interest rates, building starts weaken, while nonbuilding starts show growth.**

“Total construction starts fell 8% in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $1.07 trillion, according to Dodge Construction Network. Nonresidential building starts dropped 16%, while nonbuilding starts lost 3%, and residential starts fell by 2%.

For the 12 months ending February 2024, total construction starts were up 2% from the 12 months ending February 2023. Nonresidential building starts were down 2% while residential starts were 4% lower, and nonbuilding starts up 19% on a 12 month rolling sum basis.

“Construction activity was hit hard by higher rates and more restrictive credit standards”, said Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Construction Network. “Starts struggled over the past several months as the lagged effect of higher rates impacted projects moving forward through the planning process. Additionally, the significant deficit of skilled labor led to further delays – especially in the manufacturing sector. While optimism should prevail in the second half of the year as the Federal Reserve begins to cut rates, some sectors like commercial, will make little headway over the remainder of the year.’”” – Cailey Henderson, Account Manager, 104 West Partners

Source: https://www.construction.com/company-news/construction-starts-fell-8-in-february/; 3/20/23

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# Private Indicators

## Dodge Data & Analytics

“**Nonresidential building starts** fell 16% in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $407 billion. Institutional starts were down 19% during the month due to a large decline in transportation and education buildings. Commercial starts lost 3% due to a sizeable pullback in warehouse starts, while manufacturing starts were off 28%

For the 12 months ending February 2024, nonresidential building starts were 2% lower than the previous 12 months. Manufacturing starts were down 13% and commercial starts were down 8%, while institutional starts were 9% higher for the 12 months ending February 2024.

**The largest nonresidential building projects to break ground in February** were the $1.8 billion Redwood Materials Battery Recycling Facility in Ridgeville, South Carolina, the $1.6 billion LG Chemical Battery Plant in Clarksville, Tennessee, and the $1.2 billion Hollywood Burbank Airport replacement project in Los Angeles, CA.

## Residential

**Residential building starts** lost 2% in February, falling to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $392 billion. Single family starts improved 5% while multifamily starts lost 12%.

For the 12 months ending January 2024, residential starts were 4% lower than the previous 12 months. Single family starts were 2% lower, while multifamily starts were 6% lower on a 12 month rolling sum basis.

**The largest multifamily structures to break ground in February** were the $500 million 400 Lake Shore Drive North Tower in Chicago, Illinois, the $400 million Alia at 888 Ala Moana building in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a $200 million mixed-use development in Gowanus, New York.

**Regionally,** total construction starts in February fell in every region but the South Atlantic.” – Richard Branch, Chief Economist, Dodge Data & Analytics

Source: https://www.construction.com/company-news/construction-starts-fell-8-in-february/; 3/20/23

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# Private Indicators

## MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION STARTS

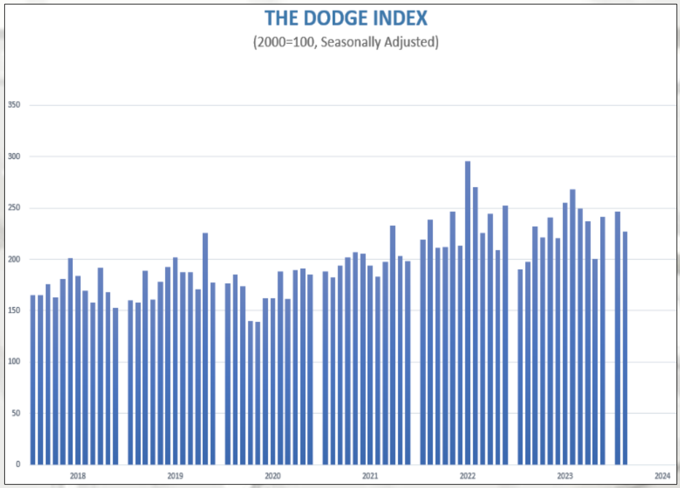
(Millions of Dollars, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate)

| | Feb 2024 | Jan 2024 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nonresidential Building | $406,518 | $483,277 | -16 |
| Residential Building | 392,329 | 398,769 | -2 |
| Nonbuilding Construction | 275,087 | 282,877 | -3 |
| Total Construction | $1,073,934 | $1,164,923 | -8 |

## YEAR-TO-DATE CONSTRUCTION STARTS

Unadjusted Totals, in Millions of Dollars

| | 2 Mos. 2024 | 2 Mos. 2023 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nonresidential Building | $67,624 | $53,586 | 26 |
| Residential Building | 62,378 | 47,247 | 32 |
| Nonbuilding Construction | 42,464 | 35,222 | 21 |
| Total Construction | $172,465 | $136,054 | 27 |




Source: Dodge Data & Analytics

Source: https://www.construction.com/company-news/construction-starts-fell-8-in-february/; 3/20/23

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# Private Indicators


## MNI Chicago

## March 2024 Chicago Report™ – Declines to 41.4

“**The Chicago Business Barometer™**, produced with MNI, declines 2.6 points to 41.4 in March. This is the fourth consecutive monthly decrease, pushing the index further into contractionary territory, and marking the lowest print since May 2023. We also note that this print is 4 points below the 2023 average.

- The barometer’s move lower was driven by a reduction in Order Backlogs, New Orders, Production, and Supplier Deliveries, whilst, a gain in Employment limited the downside move.
- In particular, Order Backlogs contracted 11.4 points to move to similar levels to August 2023 and the third lowest level of the past 15 years. More than 50% of those surveyed saw smaller backlogs.” – Tim Davis, Head of Fixed Income Research, and Amana Hussain, Junior Economic Data Analyst, MNI Indicators

Source: https://chicago.ismworld.org/news-publications/reports/research-survey/; 3/28/24

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# Private Indicators

## March 2024 Chicago Report™ – Declines to 41.4

- “New Orders lessened by 3.4 points to the lowest since September 2023. This was because a number of those surveyed experienced a slow period.
- Supplier Deliveries decreased 1.6 points to the lowest level since October 2023.
- Production moderated by 0.5 points, the fourth consecutive month on month fall resulting in the lowest level since May 2023.
- Employment rebounded from last month’s losses, increasing +6.4 points. However, this is only 0.4 above January’s level. The rise was driven by the greatest proportion of respondents reporting higher employment and the lowest proportion reporting lower employment since November 2023.
- Prices Paid lowered by 2.1 points to the lowest since November 2023, due to organizations being proactive on costs.
- Inventories slipped 3.5 points to the lowest level in two months, as planned restock has been delayed due to raw material availability.” – Tim Davis, Head of Fixed Income Research, and Tim Cooper, Chief Economist, MNI Indicators

Source: https://chicago.ismworld.org/news-publications/reports/research-survey/; 3/28/24

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# Private Indicators

## *The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI)*

### *LEI for the U.S. Inched Up in February*

"**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®** (LEI) for the U.S. increased by 0.1 percent in February 2024 to 102.8 (2016=100), following a 0.4 percent decline in January. Over the six-month period between August 2023 and February 2024, the LEI contracted by 2.6 percent – a smaller decrease than the 3.8 percent decline over the previous six months.

The U.S. LEI rose in February 2024 for the first time since February 2022. Strength in weekly hours worked in manufacturing, stock prices, the Leading Credit Index™, and residential construction drove the LEI's first monthly increase in two years. However, consumers' expectations and the ISM® Index of New Orders have yet to recover, and the six- and twelve-month growth rates of the LEI remain negative. Despite February's increase, the Index still suggests some headwinds to growth going forward. The Conference Board expects annualized US GDP growth to slow over the Q2 to Q3 2024 period, as rising consumer debt and elevated interest rates weigh on consumer spending.

**The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index®** (CEI) for the U.S. rose by 0.2 percent in February 2024 to 112.3 (2016=100), after a 0.1 percent increase in January. The CEI rose 1.1 percent over the six-month period ending February 2024, up from 0.8 percent over the previous six months. The CEI's component indicators – payroll employment, personal income less transfer payments, manufacturing and trade sales, and industrial production – are included among the data used to determine recessions in the US. All four components of the index were positive last month, with personal income less transfer payments and payroll employment having the strongest contributions to the Index.

**The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index®** (LAG) for the U.S. rose by 0.3 percent in February 2024 to 118.8 (2016 = 100), after a 0.3 percent increase in January. The LAG is up by 0.8 percent over the six-month period from August 2023 to February 2024, after recording no growth over the previous six months." – Justyna Zabinska-La Monica, Senior Manager, Business Cycle Indicators, at The Conference Board

Source: https://www.conference-board.org/data/bcicountry.cfm; 3/21/24

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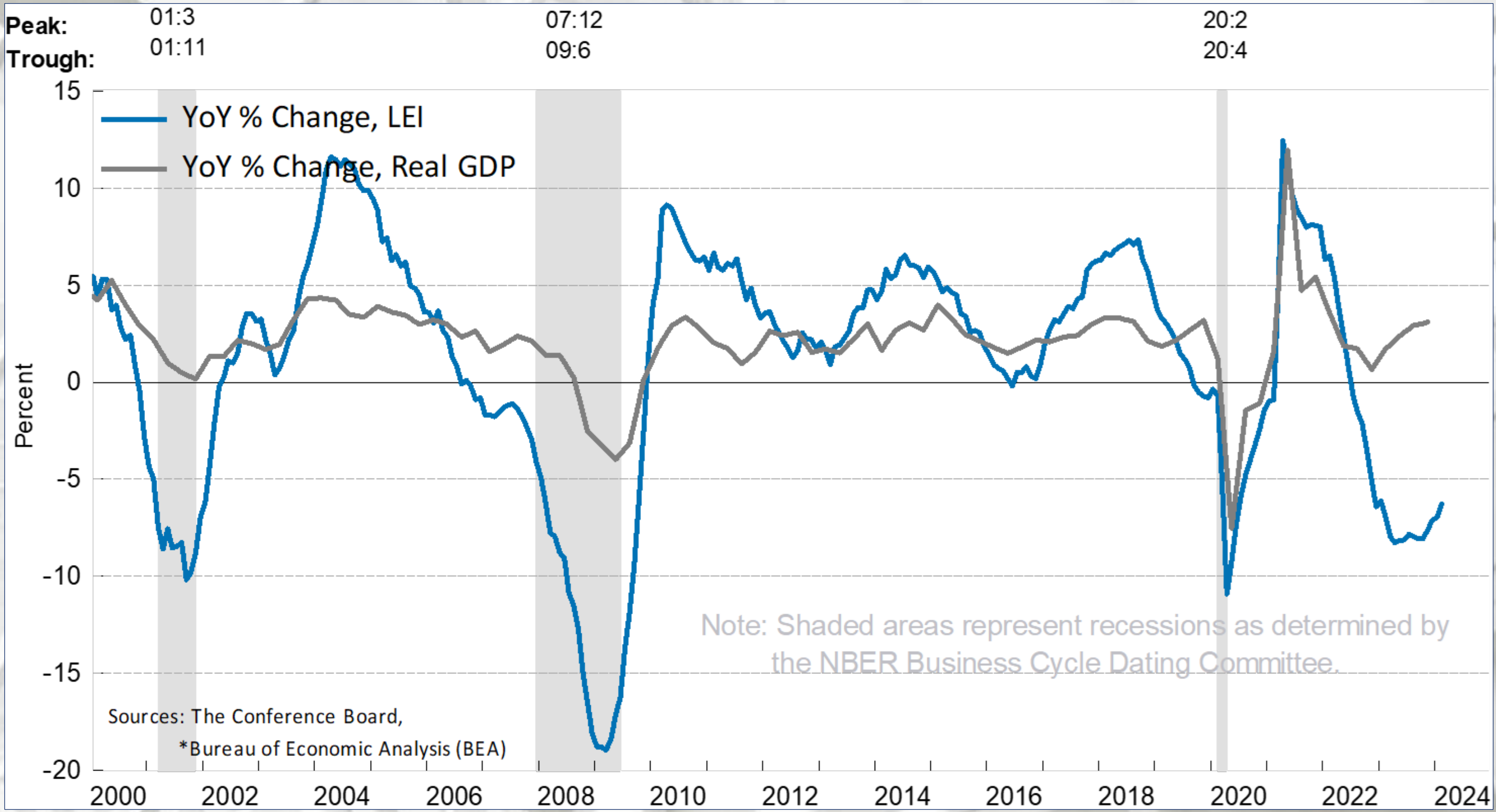
# Private Indicators

***The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S.***

**LEI for the U.S. Inched Up in February**

**The LEI's year-over-year trend remains negative**




Source: https://www.conference-board.org/data/bcicountry.cfm; 3/21/24

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# Private Indicators

## Equipment Leasing and Finance Association's Survey of Economic Activity: Monthly Leasing and Finance Index

### February New Business Volume Up 6% Year-over-year

"The **Equipment Leasing and Finance Association's** (ELFA) **Monthly Leasing and Finance Index (MLFI-25.** The index reports a qualitative assessment of both the prevailing business conditions and expectations for the future as reported by key executives from the $1 trillion equipment finance sector. Overall, confidence in the equipment finance market increased for the third consecutive month to 55.2, up from the February index of 51.7, and the highest level since April 2022." – Amy Vogt, Vice President, Communications and Marketing, ELFA

"Supply chain and demand seemed to have caught up to each other, we are finally seeing equipment ordered and delivered in real time. This has increased the overall activity in the equipment funding space. My biggest concern is the volatility the financial markets, specifically the health of mid-market/regional banks. Historically these institutions have been the backbone of funding in the equipment finance industry, and right now even the deposit-healthy institutions are slowing their lending due to regulatory concerns." – Keith Smith, President, Equipment & Franchise Finance, Star Hill Financial LLC

Source: https://www.elfaonline.org/news-and-publications/press-room/press-releases/details/2024/03/21/equipment-finance-industry-confidence-up-third-consecutive-month-in-march; 3/21/24

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# Private Indicators

## Equipment Leasing and Finance Association's Survey of Economic Activity: Monthly Leasing and Finance Index

### March 2024 Survey Results:
### The overall MCI-EFI is 55.2, an increase from the February index of 51.7.

- "When asked to assess their business conditions over the next four months, 19.4% of the executives responding said they believe business conditions will improve over the next four months, an increase from 10.7% in February.  77.4% believe business conditions will remain the same over the next four months, down from 82.1% the previous month.  3.2% believe business conditions will worsen, a decrease from 7.1% in February.
- 25.8% of the survey respondents believe demand for leases and loans to fund capital expenditures (capex) will increase over the next four months, up from 7.1% in February.  71% believe demand will "remain the same" during the same four-month time period, down from 78.6% the previous month.  3.2% believe demand will decline, a decrease from 14.3% in February.
- 16.1% of the respondents expect more access to capital to fund equipment acquisitions over the next four months, up from 14.3% in February.  74.2% of executives indicate they expect the "same" access to capital to fund business, down from 75% last month.  9.7% expect "less" access to capital, down from 10.7% the previous month.
- When asked, 19.4% of the executives report they expect to hire more employees over the next four months, a decrease from 21.4% in February.  67.7% expect no change in headcount over the next four months, down from 71.4% last month.  12.9% expect to hire fewer employees, up from 7.1% in February." – Amy Vogt, Vice President, Communications and Marketing, ELFA

Source: https://www.elfaonline.org/news-and-publications/press-room/press-releases/details/2024/03/21/equipment-finance-industry-confidence-up-third-consecutive-month-in-march; 3/21/24

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# Private Indicators

## Equipment Leasing and Finance Association’s Survey of Economic Activity: Monthly Leasing and Finance Index

### March 2024 Survey Results:
### The overall MCI-EFI is 55.2, an increase from the February index of 51.7.

- “None of the leadership evaluate the current U.S. economy as “excellent,” down from 3.6% the previous month. 93.6% of the leadership evaluate the current U.S. economy as “fair,” up from 89.3% in February. 6.5% evaluate it as “poor,” down from 7.1% last month.
- 25.8% of the survey respondents believe that U.S. economic conditions will get “better” over the next six months, up from 17.9% in February. 54.8% indicate they believe the U.S. economy will “stay the same” over the next six months, a decrease from 67.9% last month. 19.4% believe economic conditions in the U.S. will worsen over the next six months, an increase from 14.3% the previous month.
- In March, 22.6% of respondents indicate they believe their company will increase spending on business development activities during the next six months, an increase from 21.4% the previous month. 64.5% believe there will be “no change” in business development spending, down from 67.9% in February. 12.9% believe there will be a decrease in spending, up from 10.7% last month.” – Amy Vogt, Vice President, Communications and Marketing, ELFA

Source: https://www.elfaonline.org/news-and-publications/press-room/press-releases/details/2024/03/21/equipment-finance-industry-confidence-up-third-consecutive-month-in-march; 3/21/24

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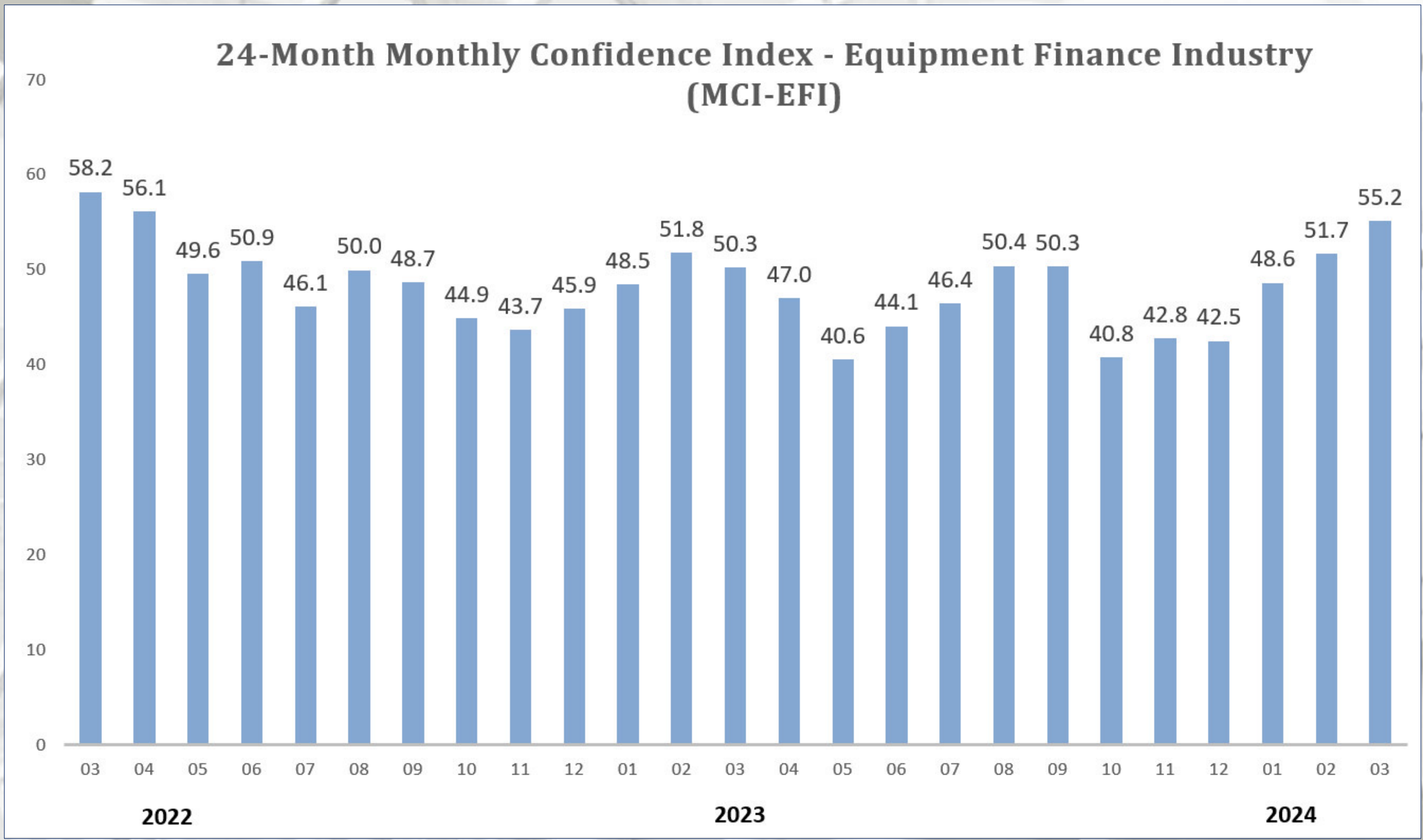
# Private Indicators

## Equipment Leasing and Finance Association's Survey of Economic Activity: Monthly Leasing and Finance Index

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# Private Indicators

## S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI™

### Factory output growth hits 22-month high in March

"The seasonally adjusted S&P Global US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI™) posted was above the 50.0 no-change mark for the third successive month in March, thereby signalling a further monthly strengthening in the health of the sector. That said, at 51.9 the index was down from 52.2 in February, pointing to a slightly less pronounced improvement at the end of the opening quarter of the year.

Signs of improving wider economic conditions and market demand fed through to a further expansion of US manufacturing production in March, with the rate of expansion hitting a 22-month high. The rate of job creation also quickened, but new order growth softened.

Meanwhile, firms generally signalled a preference to draw down inventories amid sufficient holdings and efforts to improve cash flow. Purchasing activity and stocks of both inputs and finished goods were all scaled back following increases in February. On the inflation front, sharper rises in both input costs and output prices were registered.

Manufacturers recorded a solid and accelerated rise in production during March, with the rate of growth the sharpest in almost two years. Respondents mentioned signs of improving demand conditions." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/3637d46f51494523a90059626e11a4dc; 4/1/24

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# Private Indicators

## S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI™

### Factory output growth hits 22-month high in March

“Stronger demand was also evident in data for new orders, which showed an increase for the third month running. The pace of expansion was solid, but softer than that seen in February. Total new orders rose more quickly than new business from abroad, which increased only marginally in March.

Firms remained confident that output will increase over the coming year, thanks to expectations for improving economic conditions, marketing efforts and improving capacity. This confidence in the outlook, allied with recent increases in new orders, encouraged manufacturers to expand their staffing levels in March. Although modest, the pace of job creation was the most pronounced since July last year.

Improved operating capacity and a slower expansion of new orders meant that firms were able to deplete backlogs of work modestly. Outstanding business has now decreased on a monthly basis throughout the past year-and-a-half. While firms took on extra staff at an accelerated pace, they scaled back their purchasing activity in March following a rise in February. Respondents signalled a preference for using existing stocks to help support production rather than purchasing additional inputs.

A desire to draw down stock holdings was evident, with inventories of both purchased items and finished goods decreasing in March after having increased in the previous survey period. Firms indicated that inventory holdings were sufficient to satisfy current requirements, with efforts to improve cash flow also behind the reductions in stocks.” – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/3637d46f51494523a90059626e11a4dc; 4/1/24

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# Private Indicators

## S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI™

### Factory output growth hits 22-month high in March

"Input costs increased sharply, with the rate of inflation ticking up from that seen in February. Higher oil and raw material costs, plus increased transportation rates, reportedly added to cost burdens at the end of the first quarter.

Meanwhile, the impact of rising labor costs was mentioned as a factor pushing up selling prices at a number of manufacturers. As a result, the rate of output price inflation quickened for the fourth month running to a sharp pace that was the fastest in just under a year.

Finally, suppliers' delivery times shortened for the fourteenth time in the past 15 months, albeit only marginally. Quicker deliveries reportedly reflected a continued normalization of supply chains and sufficient stock holdings at vendors." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/3637d46f51494523a90059626e11a4dc; 4/1/24

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# Private Indicators

## S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI™

### Factory output growth hits 22-month high in March

**Comment**

"The final reading of the S&P Global Manufacturing PMI signaled a further encouraging improvement in business conditions in March, adding to signs that the US economy looks to have expanded at a solid pace again in the first quarter.

A key development in recent months has been the broadening-out of the upturn from services to manufacturing, with reviving demand for goods driving the fastest increase in factory production since May 2022. Jobs growth has also picked up as firms boost capacity to meet demand. Rising capex spending has likewise buoyed orders for machinery and equipment, in a further sign of firms gaining confidence in the outlook.

The upturn is, however, being accompanied by some strengthening of pricing power. Average selling prices charged by producers rose at the fastest rate for 11 months in March as factories passed higher costs on to customers, with the rate of inflation running well above the average recorded prior to the pandemic. Most notable was an especially steep rise in prices charged for consumer goods, which rose at a pace not seen for 16 months, underscoring the likely bumpy path in bringing inflation down to the Fed's 2% target." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/3637d46f51494523a90059626e11a4dc; 4/1/24

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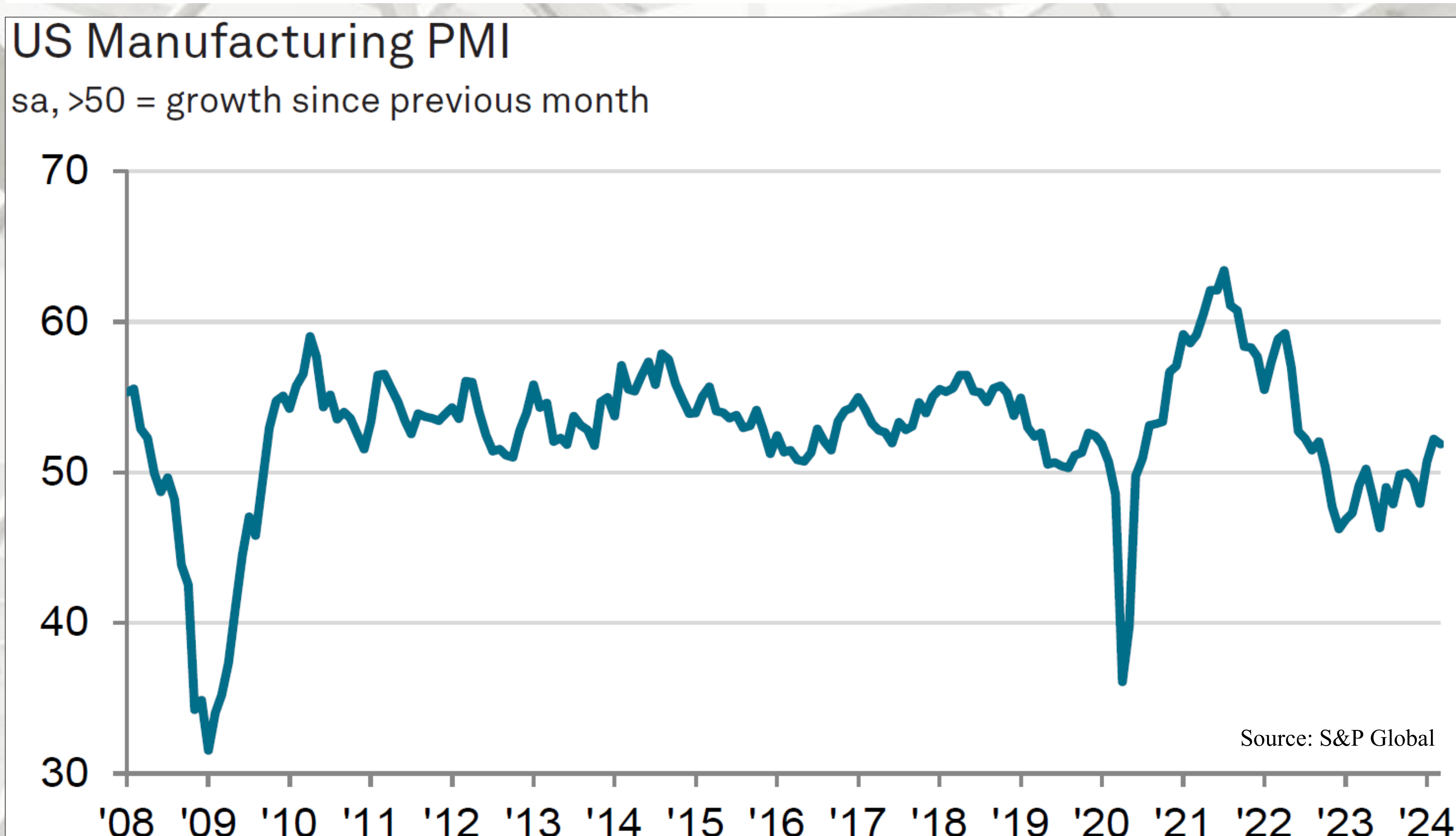
# Private Indicators




Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/3637d46f51494523a90059626e11a4dc; 4/1/24

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# Private Indicators

## S&P Global U.S. Services PMI™

### Growth of activity sustained at end of first quarter

"The seasonally adjusted final S&P Global US Services PMI Business Activity Index ticked down to a three-month low of 51.7 in March from 52.3 in February. That said, the index remained above the 50.0 no-change mark and therefore signalled a rise in business activity for the fourteenth consecutive month.

The US service sector remained in growth territory at the end of the opening quarter of the year as success in securing new business led companies to expand their output. Rates of expansion eased in both cases, however. Firms nevertheless continued to increase their staffing levels amid improved optimism about business prospects in the year ahead.

Both input costs and output prices increased sharply in March, often as a result of rising wages. In fact, the respective rates of inflation quickened to six- and eight-month highs to rise further above pre-pandemic averages.

The rate of growth in new orders also eased in March, to a modest pace that was the slowest since last November. Growth of total new orders was restricted by a second consecutive monthly fall in new business from abroad. The reduction in new export orders was only slight, but the most pronounced since September last year." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/722ebb76ed4d45aca2b7c97838709158; 4/3/23

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# Private Indicators

## S&P Global U.S. Services PMI™

### Growth of activity sustained at end of first quarter

"Those firms that saw total new orders increase often reported that successful advertising campaigns had helped to boost client interest.  Some respondents also indicated that their customers had been more willing to commit to new projects during the month.

Marketing activity is also expected to help generate gains in sales volumes during the year ahead, supporting confidence in the 12-month outlook for business activity.  The prospect of improving economic conditions was also behind the positive outlook as 42% of respondents predicted an increase in activity over the coming year.  Sentiment was slightly stronger than in February.

Softer growth of new orders meant that firms were able to work through outstanding business again in March.  Backlogs of work have now decreased in eight of the past nine months.  The latest fall was modest, but slightly faster than in the previous month.

Service providers continued to expand their staffing levels in response to higher new business volumes, the forty-fifth successive month of job creation.  The latest increase was only slight, however, and the weakest since last November.  Some companies indicated that cost considerations had led them to hold off on hiring.

In fact, higher wages were a key factor behind the latest increase in input costs, according to respondents.  Panellists also reported rises in transportation and material prices.  As a result, input costs increased sharply during the month, with the rate of inflation accelerating to a six-month high.  The latest rise was also sharper than the series average as 23% of companies recorded inflation over the month." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global

Source:  https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/722ebb76ed4d45aca2b7c97838709158; 4/3/23

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# Private Indicators

## S&P Global U.S. Services PMI™

### Growth of activity sustained at end of first quarter

"In turn, the pace of output price inflation also quickened markedly from that seen in February to the fastest since July 2023 as companies passed higher input costs through to their customers. As with input prices, the rise in charges was also faster than the average since the survey began in 2009.

### Comment

The US service sector reported a further rise in business activity in March, adding to signs that the economy enjoyed robust growth in the first quarter. Combined with an acceleration of growth in the manufacturing sector, the latest services PMI data point to GDP having risen at an approximate 2% annualized rate in the first three months of the year.

Confidence in the outlook for the coming year has also lifted higher, which should help to sustain solid growth into the second quarter.

The sustained upturn is being accompanied by renewed upward price pressures, however, with wage growth in particular driving costs higher. Rising raw material and fuel prices are also adding to cost burdens, which is in turn driving average selling prices for goods and services higher at a rate not seen since July of last year. Both manufacturers and services providers alike are seeing intensifying cost and selling price inflation rates, which is likely to feed through to higher consumer price inflation in the near term." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/722ebb76ed4d45aca2b7c97838709158; 4/3/23

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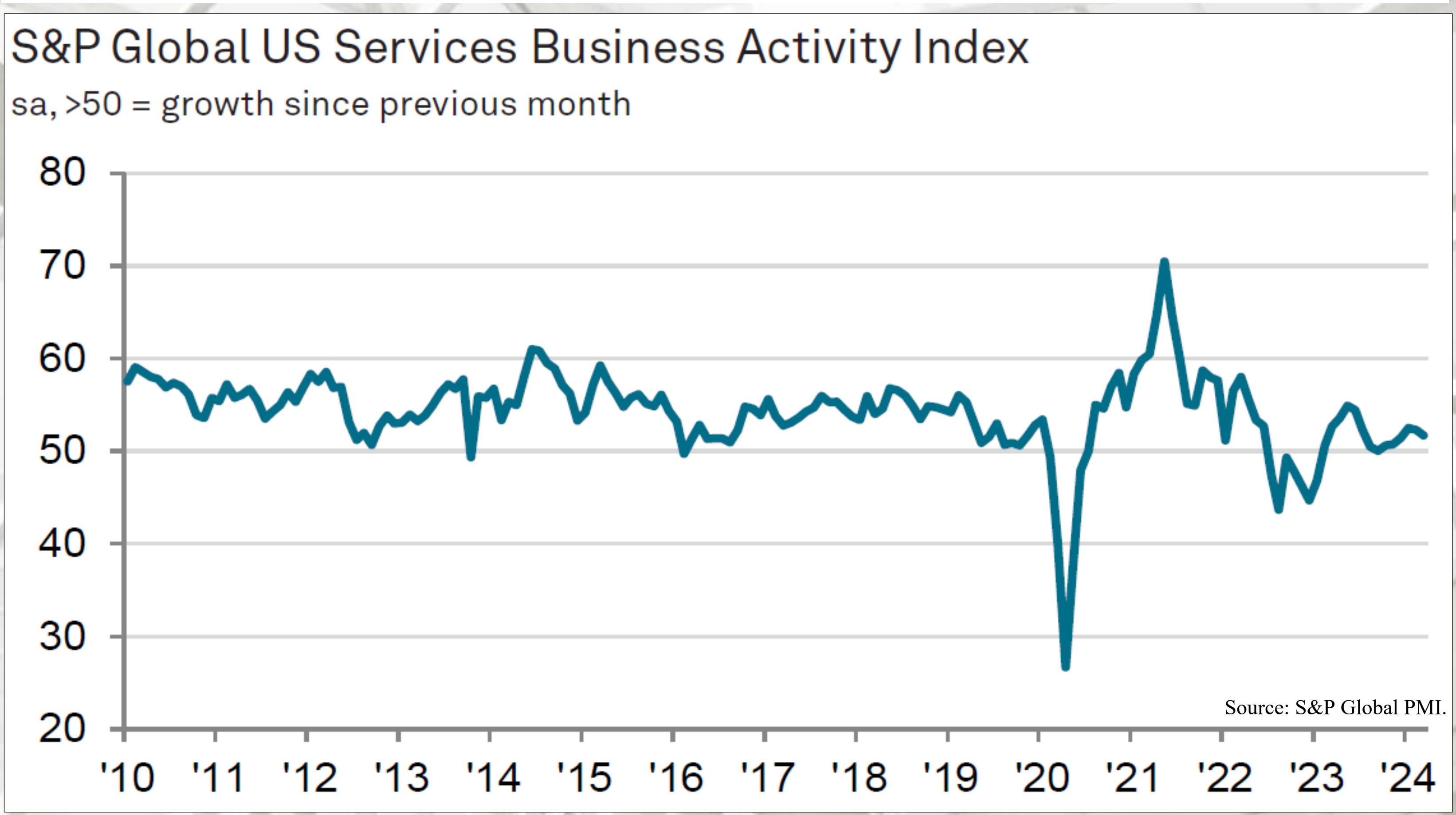
# Private Indicators




Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/722ebb76ed4d45aca2b7c97838709158; 4/3/23

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# Private Indicators

## National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index

### Report for March 2024: Combined Sectors

"The National Association of Credit Management's seasonally adjusted combined Credit Managers' Index (CMI) for February 2024 improved 2.5 points to 54.9 – its highest reading since June 2023. "The CMI seems to be picking up some steam, with a second month of improvement and a breakout of the tight band in which it had been for eight months," said NACM Economist Amy Crews Cutts, Ph.D., CBE.

"All but one factor index improved, which is a sign of balanced improvement. More importantly, we had two unfavorable factors rise above 50 points this month. Despite all this positive news, members continue to indicate a rising number of their accounts are being placed for collections. There is considerable stress in the business sector, but I sense some optimism among CMI Survey respondents that has been missing for quite a while."

"CMI survey respondents this month were quieter than usual and those who did respond with comments were notably more optimistic than in the recent past," said Cutts. "We are certainly far from a strong business economy, given the continued problem of more accounts being placed into collections each month. But seeing improvement in the dollar amount beyond terms index is a huge step forward."" – Andrew Michaels, Editorial Associate, NACM

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 4/9/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index

"""The Fed has indicated three cuts in the Federal funds rate this year, likely 25 basis points each time.  This will still be in the territory of restrictive monetary policy.  You can think of it as if the Fed had applied both feet and braced their back against the brake pedal with the rapid pace of interest rate hikes.  If they follow through with their signaled action it will be as if only one foot is left on the brake, and they no longer have their back into it.  This won't make much difference to struggling businesses in dire need of still-costly loans, but it will perhaps allow the financial market to normalize the yield curve and for capital to flow more freely."

"The manufacturing sector seems to be strengthening faster than the service sector from an account management standpoint" Cutts said.  "With the strength in sales I think this momentum is likely to continue but losing the Port of Baltimore due to the bridge disaster this week could cause some short-term disruption for those companies that rely on the port for either export or import and will undoubtedly raise costs, both monetarily and timewise, for shipping along the east coast."

"The improvement this month in the manufacturing sector CMI is showing signs of turnaround," Cutts said.  "The broad improvement in the indexes for favorable factors into very strong expansion levels is good leading indicator of the sector's strength.  Seeing improvement in the unfavorable factors, especially the dollar amount beyond terms which is now deep in expansion territory, is indicative of better health in the sector overall.  However, I do still worry about the persistence increasing numbers of accounts being placed for collections."""' – Andrew Michaels, Editorial Associate, NACM

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 3/29/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Association of Credit Management –
## Credit Managers' Index

### CMI Combined Sectors Factor Indexes

### Key Findings:

- "The index for unfavorable factors improved by 1.4 to 50.0, ending its contraction streak after eight months.
- The biggest gains were in the indexes for rejection of credit applications (up 3.6 points to 51.5) and the index for dollar amount beyond terms (up 3.5 points to 54.1).
- The index for accounts placed for collection improved by 2.8 points to 45.7 but marked its 22nd month in contraction.
- The index for favorable factors remains solidly in expansion and improved 4.1 points to 62.2, led by an 8.1-point rise in the amount of credit extended index to 64.2 points and a 4.5-point advancement in the sales factor index to 62.1 points." – Andrew Michaels, Editorial Associate, NACM

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 3/29/24

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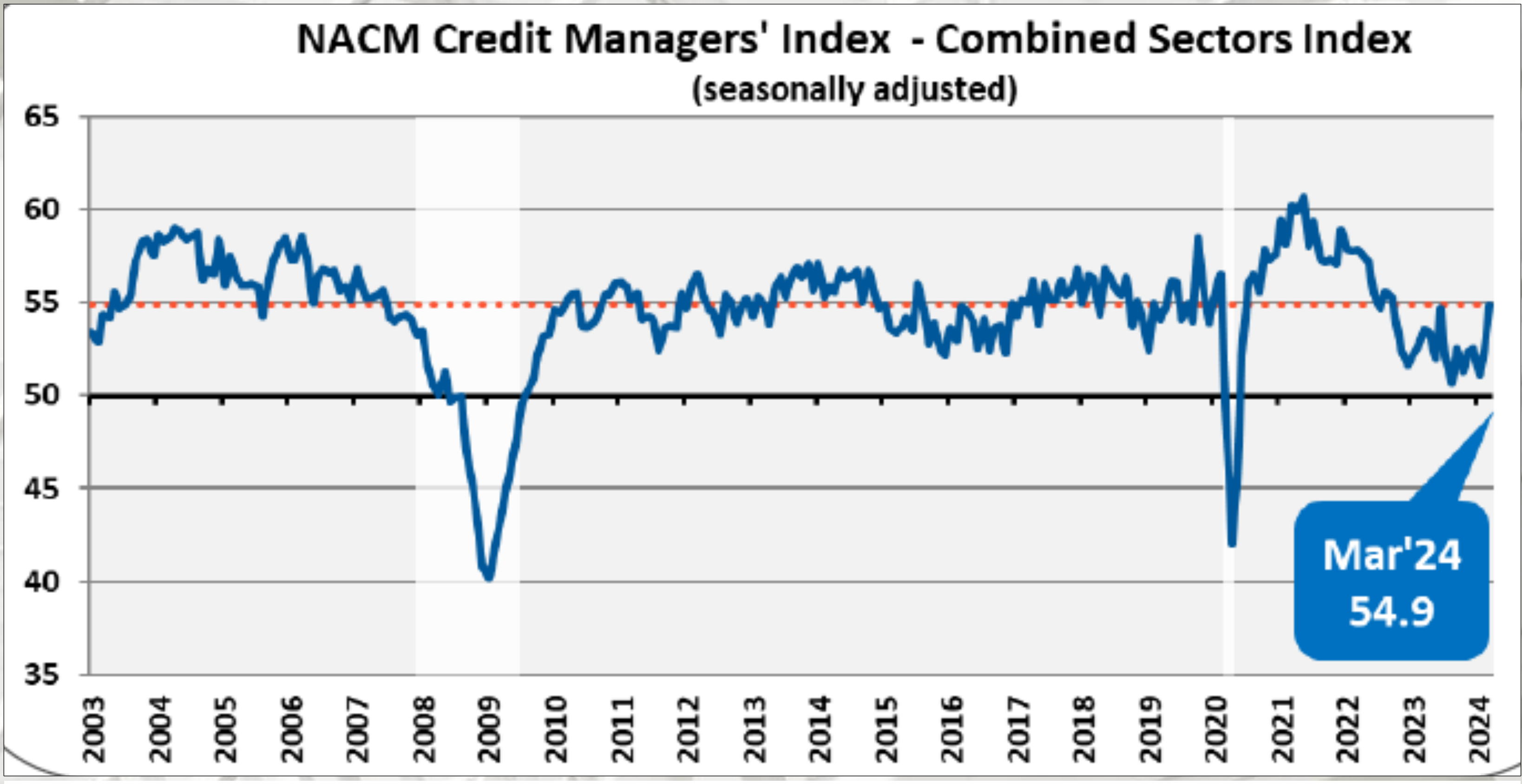
# Private Indicators

## National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index




The CMI is centered on a value of 50, with values greater indicating expansion and values lower indicating economic contraction. All charts contain seasonally adjusted data. Please note that the vertical axes are not scaled identically, and the dotted line represents the most recent value.

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 3/29/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index

| Combined Manufacturing and Service Sectors (seasonally adjusted) | Mar '23 | Apr '23 | May '23 | Jun '23 | Jul '23 | Aug '23 | Sep '23 | Oct '23 | Nov '23 | Dec '23 | Jan '24 | Feb '24 | Mar '24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sales | 56.5 | 58.4 | 53.4 | 61.0 | 54.7 | 49.4 | 58.3 | 52.6 | 55.9 | 53.6 | 52.7 | 57.6 | 62.1 |
| New credit applications | 58.5 | 58.2 | 57.3 | 58.0 | 56.5 | 56.5 | 56.5 | 56.6 | 58.4 | 60.4 | 55.1 | 59.5 | 61.2 |
| Dollar collections | 59.7 | 61.0 | 56.7 | 61.0 | 56.3 | 52.5 | 58.6 | 56.5 | 59.4 | 58.7 | 56.1 | 59.0 | 61.2 |
| Amount of credit extended | 58.0 | 58.4 | 56.0 | 60.5 | 56.7 | 55.2 | 61.5 | 58.7 | 58.3 | 58.1 | 57.9 | 56.1 | 64.2 |
| **Index of favorable factors** | **58.2** | **59.0** | **55.9** | **60.1** | **56.1** | **53.4** | **58.7** | **56.1** | **58.0** | **57.7** | **55.4** | **58.1** | **62.2** |
| Rejections of credit applications | 50.8 | 47.8 | 48.8 | 53.3 | 50.5 | 50.0 | 49.2 | 49.7 | 48.8 | 49.1 | 50.7 | 47.9 | 51.5 |
| Accounts placed for collection | 46.7 | 46.7 | 45.7 | 48.1 | 47.7 | 44.9 | 47.0 | 45.4 | 44.6 | 45.8 | 44.6 | 42.9 | 45.7 |
| Disputes | 50.5 | 49.5 | 48.4 | 51.0 | 49.9 | 49.5 | 47.4 | 48.4 | 49.9 | 49.4 | 48.6 | 48.2 | 49.6 |
| Dollar amount beyond terms | 52.6 | 53.2 | 50.8 | 51.1 | 45.8 | 48.6 | 49.6 | 45.5 | 48.9 | 48.2 | 43.6 | 50.6 | 54.1 |
| Dollar amount of customer deductions | 50.6 | 49.6 | 52.8 | 50.8 | 50.7 | 50.6 | 47.4 | 48.8 | 51.2 | 50.5 | 50.1 | 49.5 | 49.9 |
| Filings for bankruptcies | 51.7 | 51.4 | 49.5 | 52.4 | 52.0 | 49.8 | 50.0 | 50.5 | 47.7 | 51.1 | 51.7 | 52.6 | 49.4 |
| **Index of unfavorable factors** | **50.5** | **49.7** | **49.3** | **51.1** | **49.4** | **48.9** | **48.4** | **48.1** | **48.5** | **49.0** | **48.2** | **48.6** | **50.0** |
| **NACM Combined CMI** | **53.6** | **53.4** | **52.0** | **54.7** | **52.1** | **50.7** | **52.5** | **51.3** | **52.3** | **52.5** | **51.1** | **52.4** | **54.9** |

Note: Seasonal adjustment factors were updated for the February 2024 report, which may affect previously published values.

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 3/29/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) March 2024 Report

### Small Business Optimism Reaches Lowest Level Since 2012

"The NFIB Small Business Optimism Index decreased by 0.9 of a point in March to 88.5, the lowest level since December 2012. This is the 27th consecutive month below the 50-year average of 98. The net percent of owners raising average selling prices rose seven points from February to a net 28% percent seasonally adjusted." – Holly Wade, NFIB

"Small business optimism has reached the lowest level since 2012 as owners continue to manage numerous economic headwinds. Inflation has once again been reported as the top business problem on Main Street and the labor market has only eased slightly." – Bill Dunkelberg, Chief Economist, NFIB

**Key findings include:**

- "The net percent of owners who expect real sales to be higher decreased eight points from February to a net negative 18% (seasonally adjusted).
- Twenty-five percent of owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business (higher input and labor costs), up two points from February." – Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 4/9/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) March 2024 Report

**Key findings include:**

- "Owners' plans to fill open positions continue to slow, with a seasonally adjusted net 11% planning to create new jobs in the next three months, down one point from February and the lowest level since May 2020.
- Seasonally adjusted, a net 38% reported raising compensation, up three points from February's lowest reading since May 2021.

As reported in NFIB's monthly jobs report, 37% (seasonally adjusted) of all owners reported job openings they could not fill in the current period. A net 21% (seasonally adjusted) plan to raise compensation in the next three months, up two points from February. The percent of small business owners reporting labor quality as their top small business operating problem rose two points from February to 18%. Labor cost reported as the single most important problem for business owners decreased by one point to 10%, only three points below the highest reading of 13% reached in December 2021.

Fifty-six percent of owners reported capital outlays in the last six months, up two points from February. Of those making expenditures, 38% reported spending on new equipment, 24% acquired vehicles, and 17% improved or expanded facilities. Ten percent of owners spent money on new fixtures and furniture and 5% acquired new buildings or land for expansion. Twenty percent (seasonally adjusted) plan capital outlays in the next few months." – Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 4/9/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) March 2024 Report

"A net negative 10% of all owners (seasonally adjusted) reported higher nominal sales in the past three months, up three points from February. The net percent of owners expecting higher real sales volumes declined eight points to a net negative 18% (seasonally adjusted).

The net percent of owners reporting inventory gains fell six points to a net negative 7%. Not seasonally adjusted, 12% reported increases in stocks (down one point) and 22% reported reductions (unchanged). A net negative 5% (seasonally adjusted) of owners viewed current inventory stocks as "too low" in March, down one point from February. A net negative 7% (seasonally adjusted) of owners plan inventory investment in the coming months, unchanged from February.

The net percent of owners raising average selling prices rose seven points from February to a net 28% seasonally adjusted. Twenty-five percent of owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business, up two points from last month.

Unadjusted, 13% reported lower average selling prices and 43% reported higher average prices. Price hikes were the most frequent in finance (61% higher, 10% lower), retail (54% higher, 6% lower), construction (51% higher, 4% lower), wholesale (50% higher, 17% lower), and transportation (44% higher, 0% lower). Seasonally adjusted, a net 33% plan price hikes in March."
– Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 4/9/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) March 2024 Report

"The frequency of reports of positive profit trends was a net negative 29% (seasonally adjusted), up two points from February, but still a very poor reading. Among owners reporting lower profits, 29% blamed weaker sales, 17% blamed the rise in the cost of materials, 13% cited usual seasonal change, and 12% cited price change. For owners reporting higher profits, 53% credited sales volumes, 23% cited usual seasonal change, and 12% cited higher selling prices.

Two percent of owners reported that all their borrowing needs were not satisfied. Twenty-seven percent reported all credit needs met and 59% said they were not interested in a loan.

A net 8% reported their last loan was harder to get than in previous attempts. Four percent of owners reported that financing was their top business problem. A net 17% of owners reported paying a higher rate on their most recent loan, up one point from February.

The **NFIB Research Center** has collected Small Business Economic Trends data with quarterly surveys since the fourth quarter of 1973 and monthly surveys since 1986. Survey respondents are randomly drawn from NFIB's membership. The report is released on the second Tuesday of each month. This survey was conducted in March 2024." – Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 4/9/24

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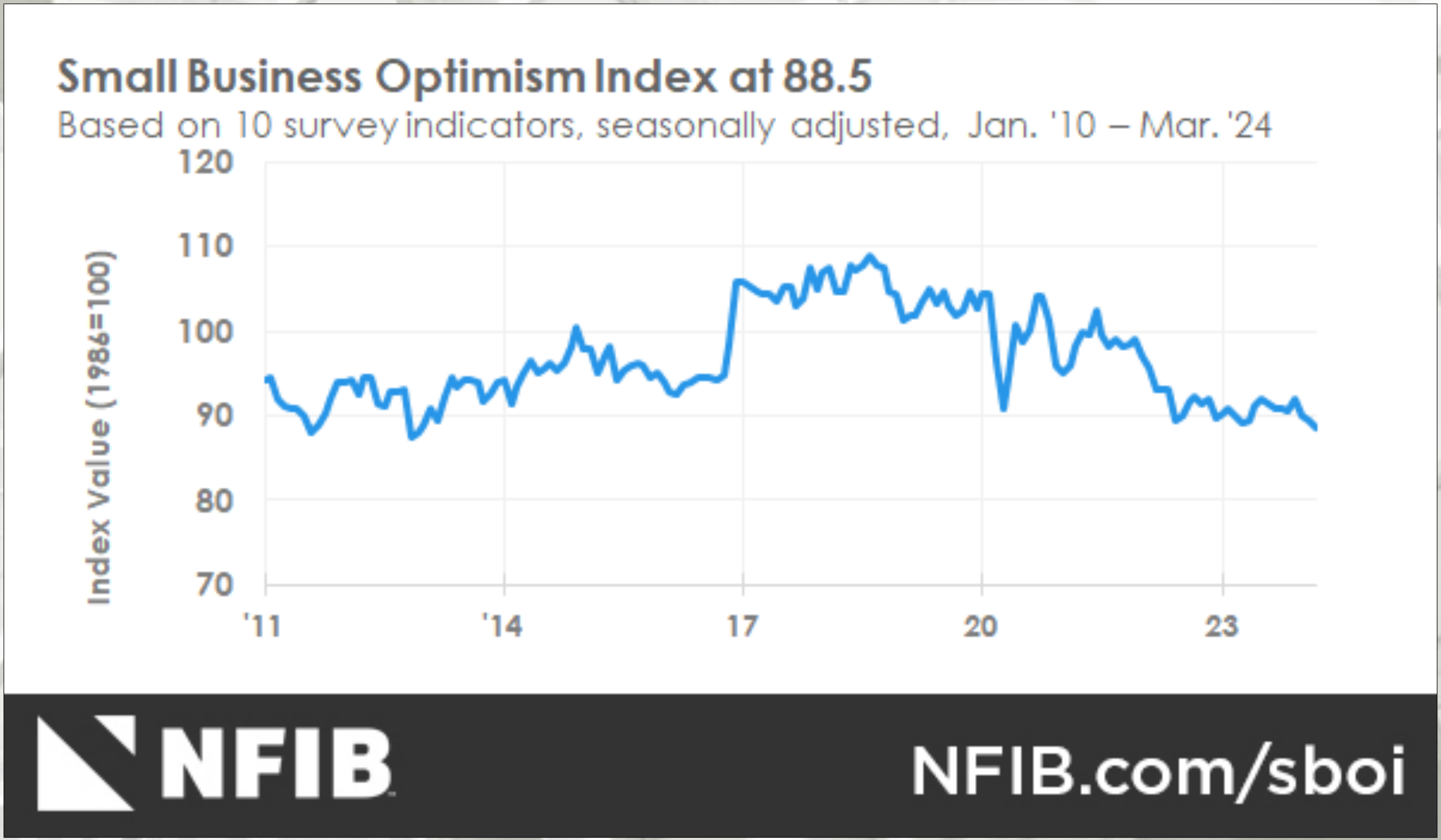
# Private Indicators

## National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
## March 2024 Report




Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 4/9/24

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# Private Indicators

## National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
## March 2024 Report

### Small Business Optimism

| Index Component | Net % | From Last Month |
|---|---|---|
| Plans to Increase Employment | 11% | -1 |
| Plans to Make Capital Outlays | 20% | -1 |
| Plans to Increase Inventories | -7% | 0 |
| Expect Economy to Improve | -36% | 3 |
| Expect Real Sales Higher | -18% | -8 |
| Current Inventory | -5% | -1 |
| Current Job Openings | 37% | 0 |
| Expected Credit Conditions | -8% | -2 |
| Now a Good Time to Expand | 4% | -1 |
| Earnings Trends | -29% | 2 |

NFIB.com/sboi

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 4/9/24

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# Private Indicators

## The Paychex | IHS Markit
## Small Business Employment Watch

### U.S. Small Businesses Continue to Show Moderate Job Growth and Wage Inflation Continues to Moderate

“According to the Paychex Small Business Employment Watch, the Small Business Jobs Index grew 0.18 percentage points in March to 100.85 – the first increase year-to-date – but remained below pre-pandemic levels for the first three months of 2024. Hourly earnings growth for workers at U.S. companies with fewer than 50 employees continued a steady deceleration that began in mid-2022, ending March at 3.27% growth year-over-year.” – Lisa Fleming, Kate Smith, and Tess Flynn, Paychex, Inc.

“An increase in the jobs index coupled with a continued moderation of wage growth reflects a relatively stable macroeconomic environment. A tight job market for qualified workers, reduced access to affordable growth capital, and inflationary pressures continue to be headwinds for small and mid-sized businesses. They continue to manage hours worked to control cost and deal with inflation.

Our clients tell us they are still struggling to find qualified employees and we continue to be committed to providing them with the right HCM technology, tools, and advisory services that will help them attract and retain talent. We’ve also seen that offering affordable benefits like healthcare insurance and retirement plans can help business owners compete for talent.”” – John Gibson, President and CEO, Paychex

Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 4/3/24

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# Private Indicators

## The Paychex | IHS Markit
## Small Business Employment Watch

### Jobs Index and Wage Data Highlights

- "With a national jobs index of 100.85 in March, the pace of small business job growth increased for the first time in 2024. The current national index is 1.01 percentage points below the mark set in March 2023 (101.86).
- Weekly earnings growth 3.05% in March as weekly hours worked remained down slightly year-over-year.
- The Midwest overtook the South as the top-ranked region with four of the top five states for small business job growth being in the Midwest. Indiana led all states with a jobs index of 102.88.
- All regions and every industry except Manufacturing showed positive job growth in March." – Lisa Fleming, Kate Smith, and Tess Flynn, Paychex, Inc.

Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 4/3/24

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# Private Indicators

## The Paychex | IHS Markit
## Small Business Employment Watch


Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 4/3/24

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# Private Indicators

## The Paychex | IHS Markit
## Small Business Employment Watch

### Small Business Wage Data

Hourly Earnings

**$32.24**

12-Month Growth

**3.27% ($1.02)**

### Historical 12-Month Growth Trend


Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 4/3/24

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# Private Indicators

## The Paychex | IHS Markit Regional Jobs Index

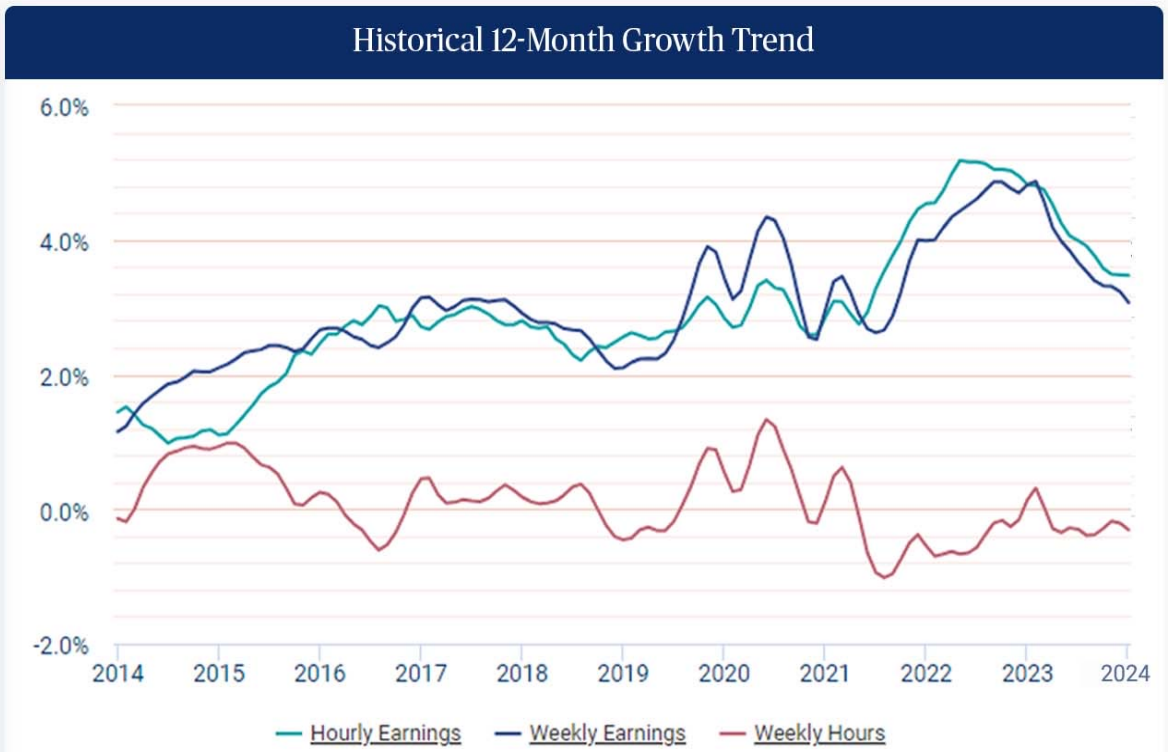
**Small Business Wage Data**

Hourly Earnings

$32.07

12-Month Growth

3.47% (-$1.37)




Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 4/3/24

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# Demographics

## John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC

### *Busting Gen Z Myths – What the Housing Industry Needs to Know*

There are 46 million 18- to 27-year-olds in the US today. Anecdotes about this adult cohort of Gen Z abound, and not all are true. To prepare for Gen Z's journey into home ownership, here are four myths you may need to reconsider.

- **Myth #1:** Gen Z owns more homes than millennials did at their age.
- **Myth #2:** Gen Z simply doesn't care as much about home ownership.
- **Myth #3:** Gen Z doesn't cook.
- **Myth #4:** Gen Z consumers are all early tech adopters.

### Myth #1: Gen Z owns more homes than millennials did at their age.

Recent articles claim that Gen Z is more likely to own homes than millennials were at a similar age. This claim holds true when we look at Gen Zers who have established their own households (what the Census calls "home ownership rate"). Using this metric, they are indeed more likely to own than millennials. Yet, if we examine the entire Gen Z population, including those living with family or roommates, they are less likely to be home owners than millennials at the same stage of life. We call this metric the "real" home ownership rate." – Mikaela Arroyo, Vice President, NHTI and Chief of Staff, John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC

Source: https://jbrec.com/insights/gen-z-and-myths-about-homeownership-for-this-group/; 4/12/24

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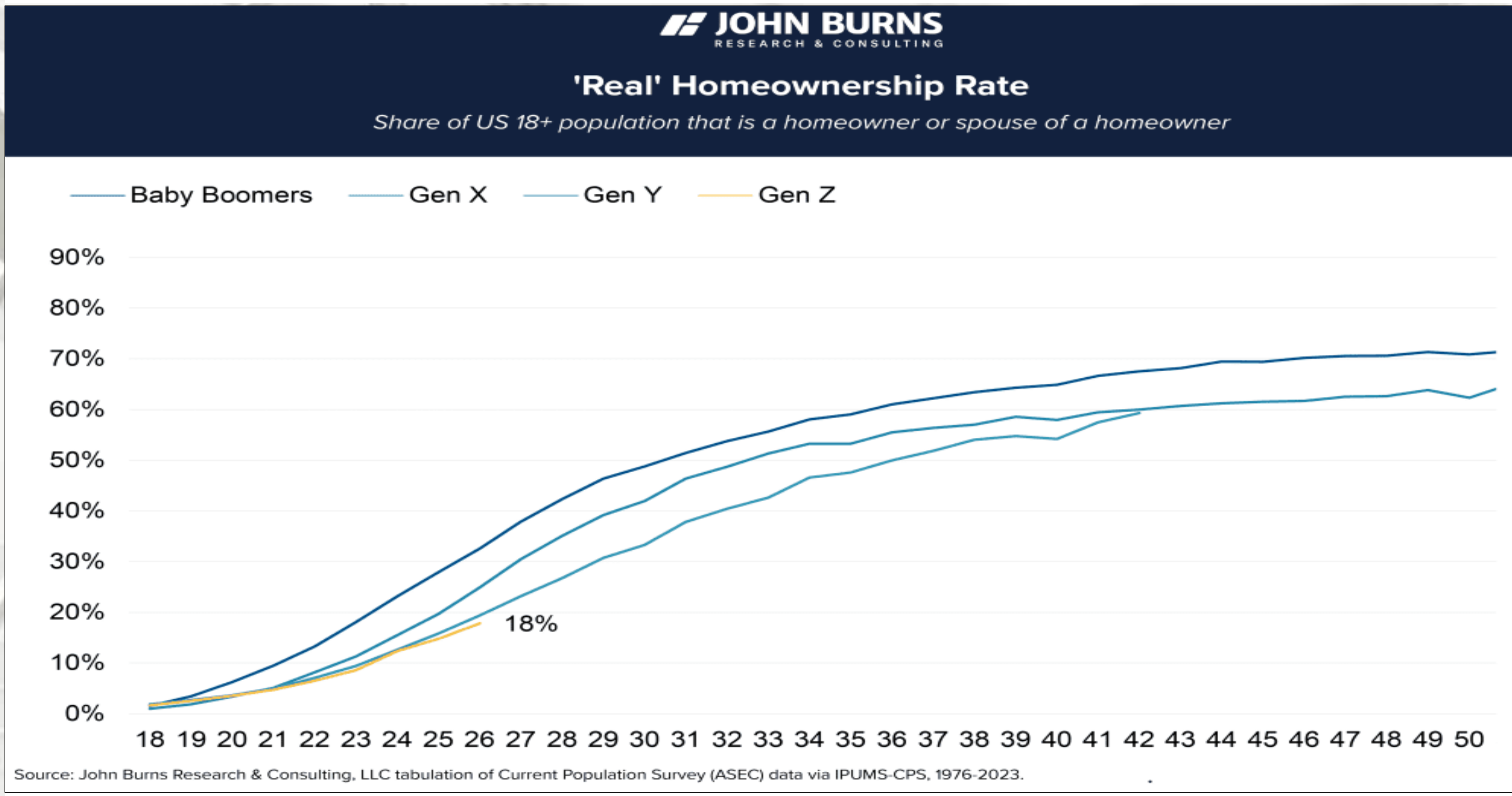
# Demographics




## Myth #2: Gen Z simply doesn't care as much about home ownership.

Our survey results confirm that Gen Z is less likely than other generations to consider home ownership important. However, Gen Z's disinterest in home ownership seems to be a coping mechanism for not being able to afford it rather than a preference shift. When digging into the survey responses, home ownership is clearly still a dream for many. It is simply an unattainable dream that they have deferred because it feels impossible to achieve." – Mikaela Arroyo, Vice President, NHTI and Chief of Staff, John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC

Source: https://jbrec.com/insights/gen-z-and-myths-about-homeownership-for-this-group/; 4/12/24

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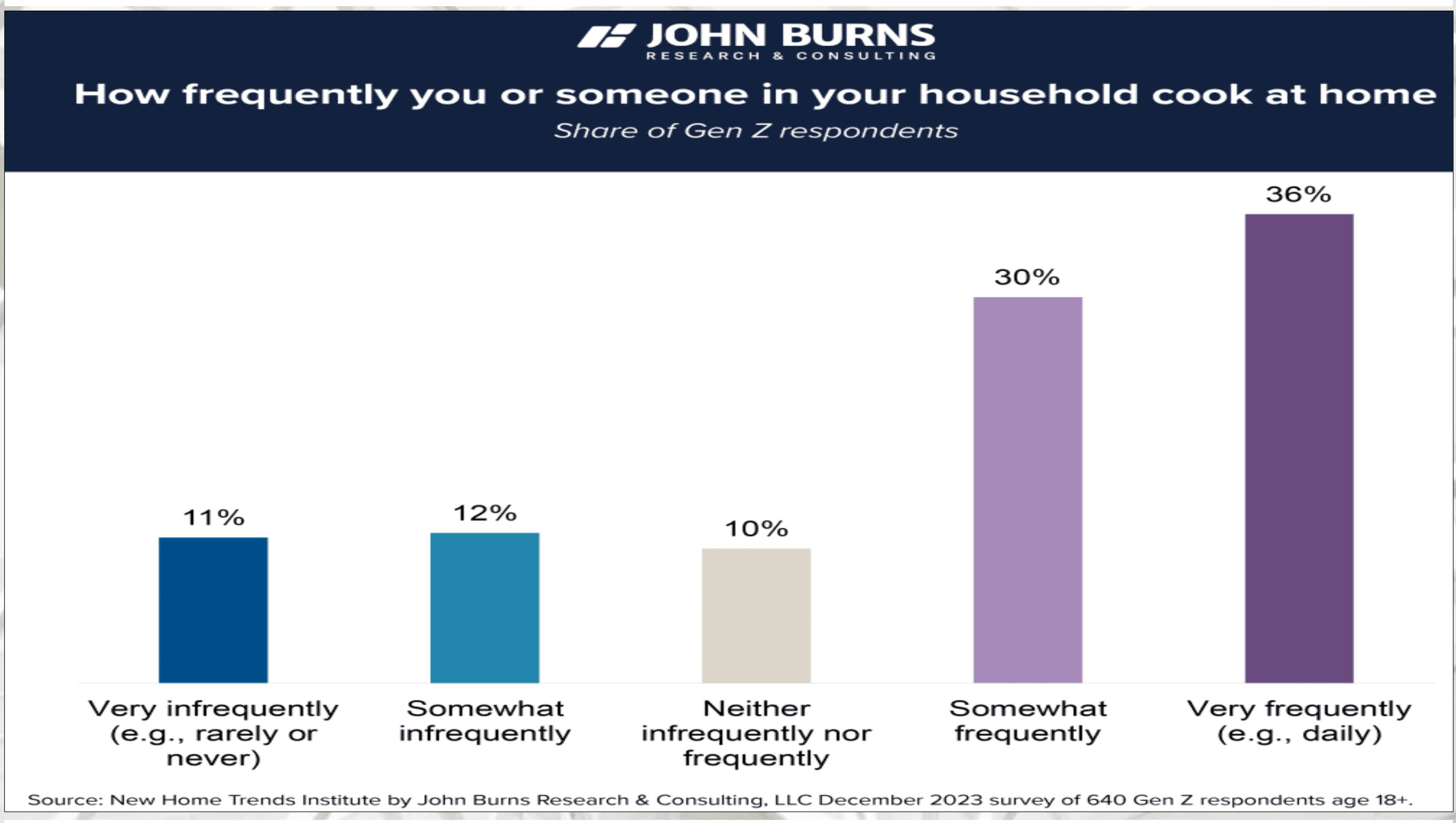
# Demographics




**Myth #3: Gen Z doesn't cook.**

DoorDash has not given us license to cut costs by removing important kitchen elements, like the dishwasher or microwave. Despite the allure of scrolling TikTok, more than half of Gen Z are finding their way back to the kitchen. Our survey results show that 66% of Gen Z consumers cook at home somewhat or very frequently. Only 1 in 10 say cooking at home is a truly rare occurrence. The kitchen does not need to be large, but it will still be prioritized." – Mikaela Arroyo, Vice President, NHTI and Chief of Staff, John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC

Source: https://jbrec.com/insights/gen-z-and-myths-about-homeownership-for-this-group/; 4/12/24

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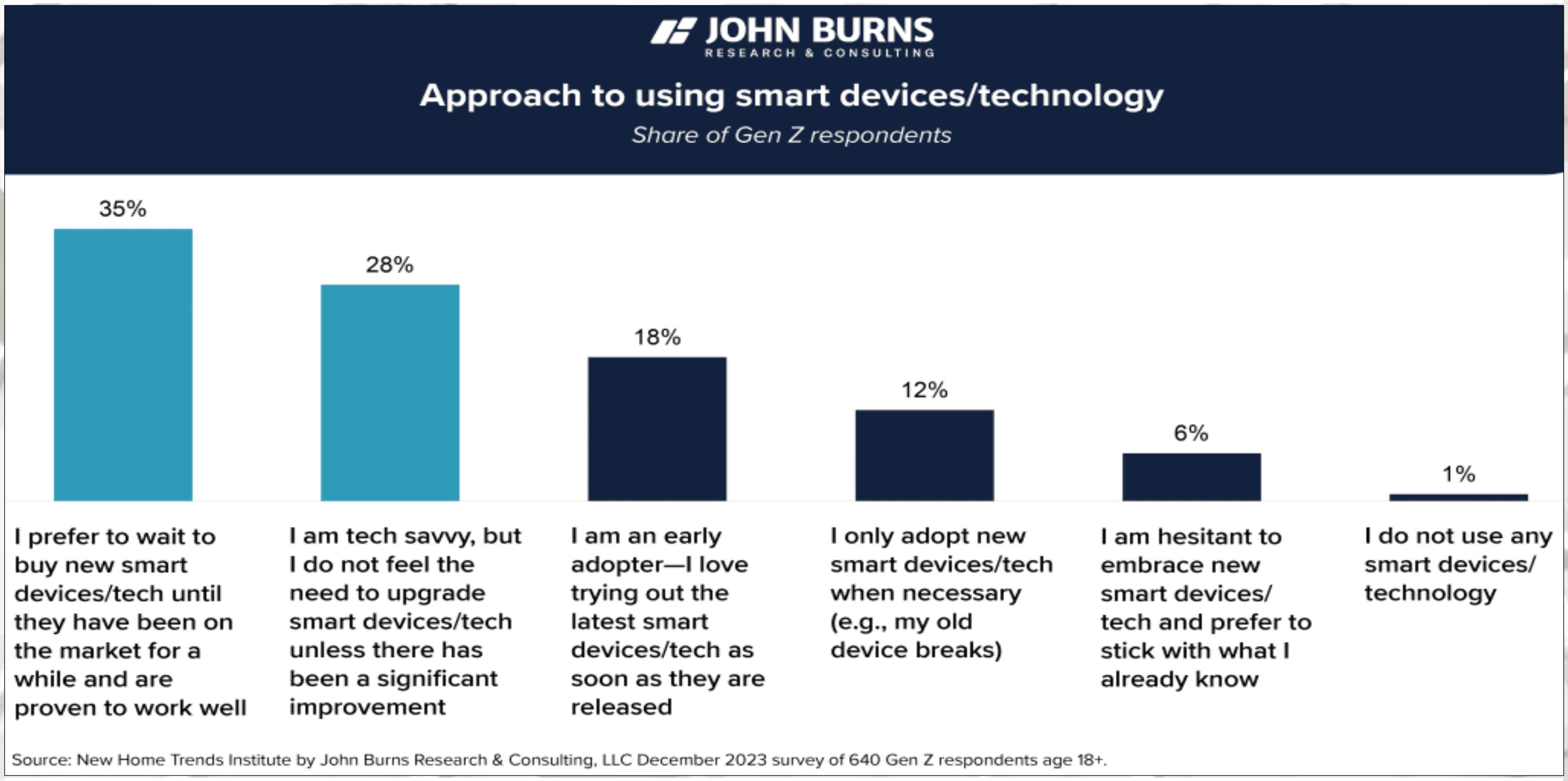
# Demographics




**Myth #4: Gen Z consumers are all early tech adopters.**

It is true that Gen Z is heavily online:

- 45% do more than half of their overall shopping online vs. in-store.
- 48% use social media as their go-to search engine.
- 81% have purchased a product they learned about on social channels.

It is a leap, however, to assume that this translates to an outsized affinity for tech devices. Only 18% consider themselves early adopters who love trying out new devices when released. The largest share prefers to wait until devices are well-proven (35%). Builders should not assume that smart devices will drive purchase decisions for this generation either." – Mikaela Arroyo, Vice President, NHTI and Chief of Staff, John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC

Source: https://jbrec.com/insights/gen-z-and-myths-about-homeownership-for-this-group/; 4/12/24

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# Demographics

## John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC

### *Busting Gen Z Myths – What the Housing Industry Needs to Know*

**So, are there any accurate Gen Z stereotypes?** Yes, our survey confirmed a few. For example, emphasizing sustainable initiatives and features is a smart move, and for about 2 in 5 Gen Z home owners and renters, their parents are helping them out financially. But, as with most stereotypes, there is more to them than meets the eye – which is why we keep digging.

Gen Z may be entering the housing market at a challenging time, but don't let the myths fool you: their housing goals are not that different from those of past generations." – Mikaela Arroyo, Vice President, NHTI and Chief of Staff, John Burns Research and Consulting, LLC

Source: https://jbrec.com/insights/gen-z-and-myths-about-homeownership-for-this-group/; 4/12/24

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# Economics

## U.S. Census Bureau

## *NEW* Business Formation Statistics

## March 2024

### Business Applications

"Business Applications for March 2024, adjusted for seasonal variation, were 435,629, virtually unchanged from February 2024.

### Business Formations

Projected Business Formations (within 4 quarters) for March 2024, adjusted for seasonal variation, were 28,492, a decrease of 0.2 percent compared to February 2024. The projected business formations are forward looking, providing an estimate of the number of new business startups that will appear from the cohort of business applications in a given month. It does not provide an estimate of the total number of business startups that appeared within a specific month. In other words, the Census Bureau is projecting that 28,492 new business startups with payroll tax liabilities will form within 4-quarters of application from all the business applications filed during March 2024. The 0.2 percent decrease indicates that for March 2024 there will be 0.2 percent fewer businesses projected to form within 4-quarters of application, compared to the analogous projections for February 2024." – U.S. Census Bureau

Source: https://www.census.gov/econ/bfs/pdf/bfs_current.pdf; 4/11/24

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# Economics

## U.S. Census Bureau

## *NEW* Business Formation Statistics

## March 2024

### BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

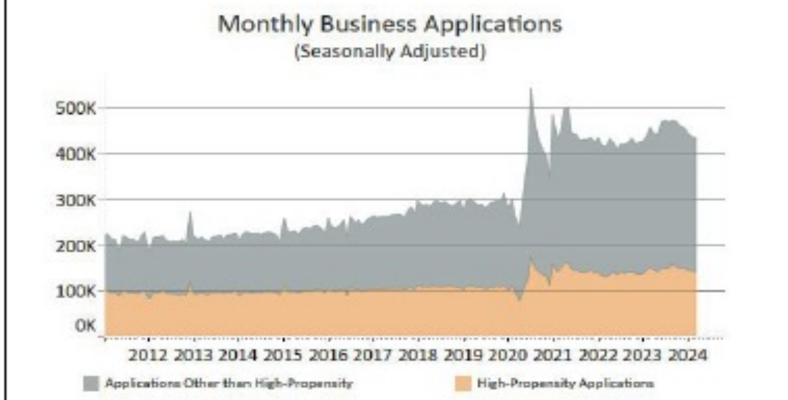
| U.S. Business Applications: | MAR 2024 | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 435,629 | Z* |
| High-Propensity | 140,583 | -1.2%* |
| With Planned Wages | 46,220 | 0.7%* |
| From Corporations | 47,448 | -1.0%* |

Next release: May 09, 2024

(*) Statistical significance is not applicable or not measurable.

Data adjusted for seasonality.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, April 11, 2024




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, April 11, 2024

### Business Applications - At a Glance

| | | US | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | MAR 2024 | 435,629 | 64,355 | 73,434 | 195,341 | 102,499 |
| | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 | Z | Z | +3.1% | -2.9% | +3.9% |
| High-Propensity | MAR 2024 | 140,583 | 23,426 | 22,568 | 59,799 | 34,790 |
| | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 | -1.2% | -0.7% | -1.8% | -2.1% | +0.5% |
| With Planned Wages | MAR 2024 | 46,220 | 6,470 | 8,312 | 19,615 | 11,823 |
| | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 | +0.7% | -1.5% | +0.7% | -1.0% | +5.1% |
| From Corporations | MAR 2024 | 47,448 | 10,792 | 5,915 | 16,300 | 14,441 |
| | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 | -1.0% | Z | -1.2% | -2.5% | Z |

Details may not equal totals due to rounding. Regions defined by Census Bureau Geography Program. Statistical significance is not applicable or not measurable.

Data adjusted for seasonality. Green Percentage changes are greater than zero (+). Red Percentage changes are less than zero (-). Z = absolute value < 0.05.

# Economics

## U.S. Census Bureau

## March 2024

### BUSINESS FORMATIONS

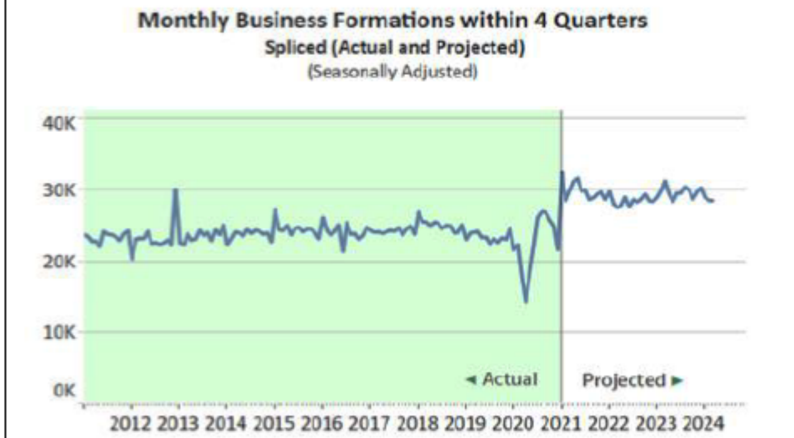
| U.S. Total Projected Business Formations: | MAR 2024 | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| Within 4 Quarters | 28,492 | -0.2%° |
| Within 8 Quarters | 38,340 | -0.8%° |

Next release: May 09, 2024

(°) Statistical significance is not applicable or not measurable.

Spliced - Data adjusted for seasonality.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, April 11, 2024




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, April 11, 2024

**Projected Business Formations - At a Glance**





| | | US | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Within 4 Quarters | MAR 2024 | 28,492 | 4,576 | 4,618 | 11,194 | 8,104 |
| | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 | -0.2% | -2.0% | -0.1% | -0.4% | +1.3% |
| Within 8 Quarters | MAR 2024 | 38,340 | 6,239 | 6,182 | 15,163 | 10,756 |
| | MAR 2024 / FEB 2024 | -0.8% | -1.6% | -0.2% | -2.4% | +1.5% |

Details may not equal totals due to rounding. Regions defined by Census Bureau Geography Program. Statistical significance is not applicable or not measurable.

Data adjusted for seasonality. Green Percentage changes are greater than zero (+). Red Percentage changes are less than zero (-). Z = absolute value < 0.05.

Source: https://www.census.gov/econ/bfs/pdf/bfs_current.pdf; 4/11/24

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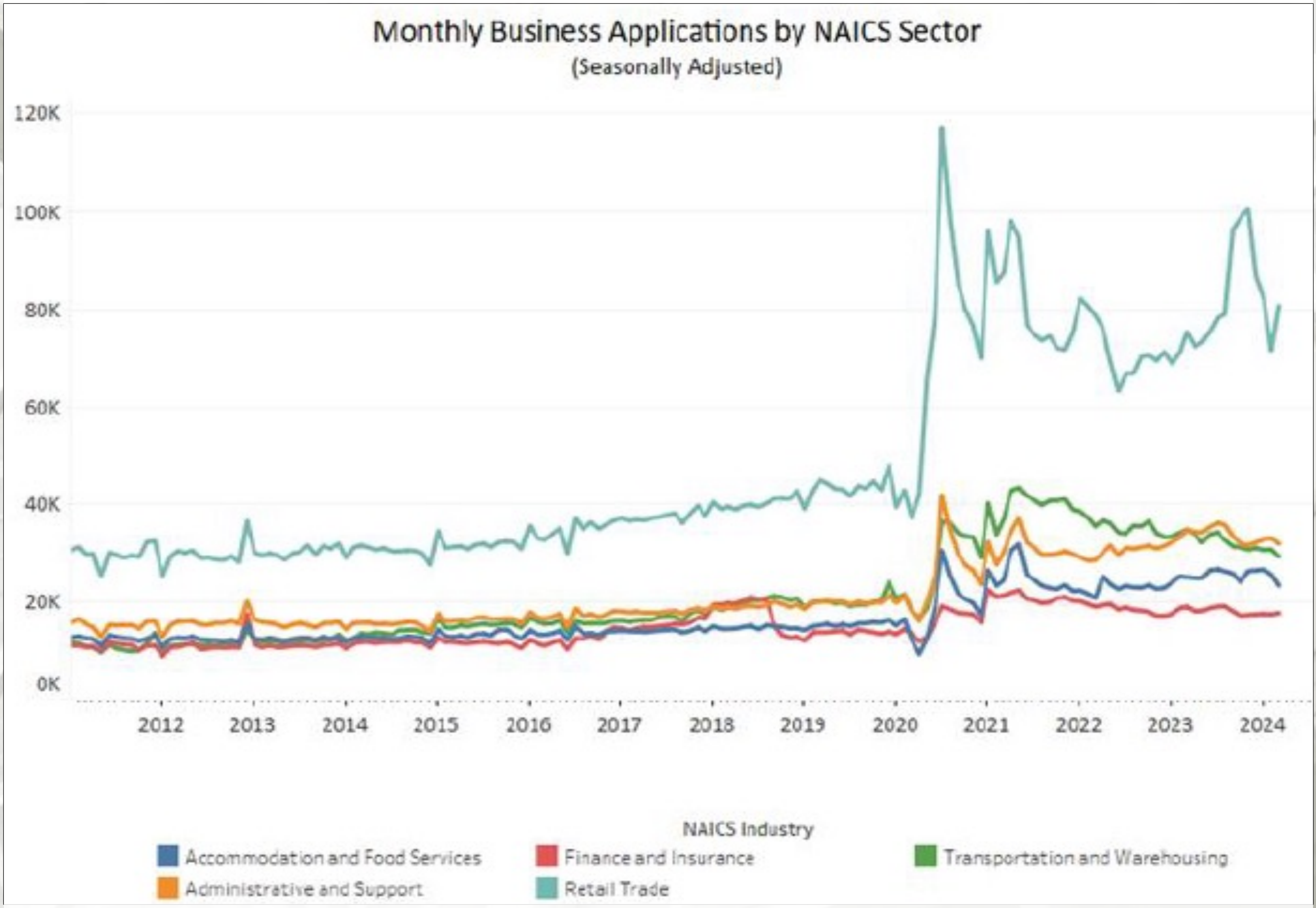
## *NEW* Business Formation Statistics

## March 2024




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, April 11, 2024

Source: https://www.census.gov/econ/bfs/pdf/bfs_current.pdf; 4/11/24

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