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

December 2024

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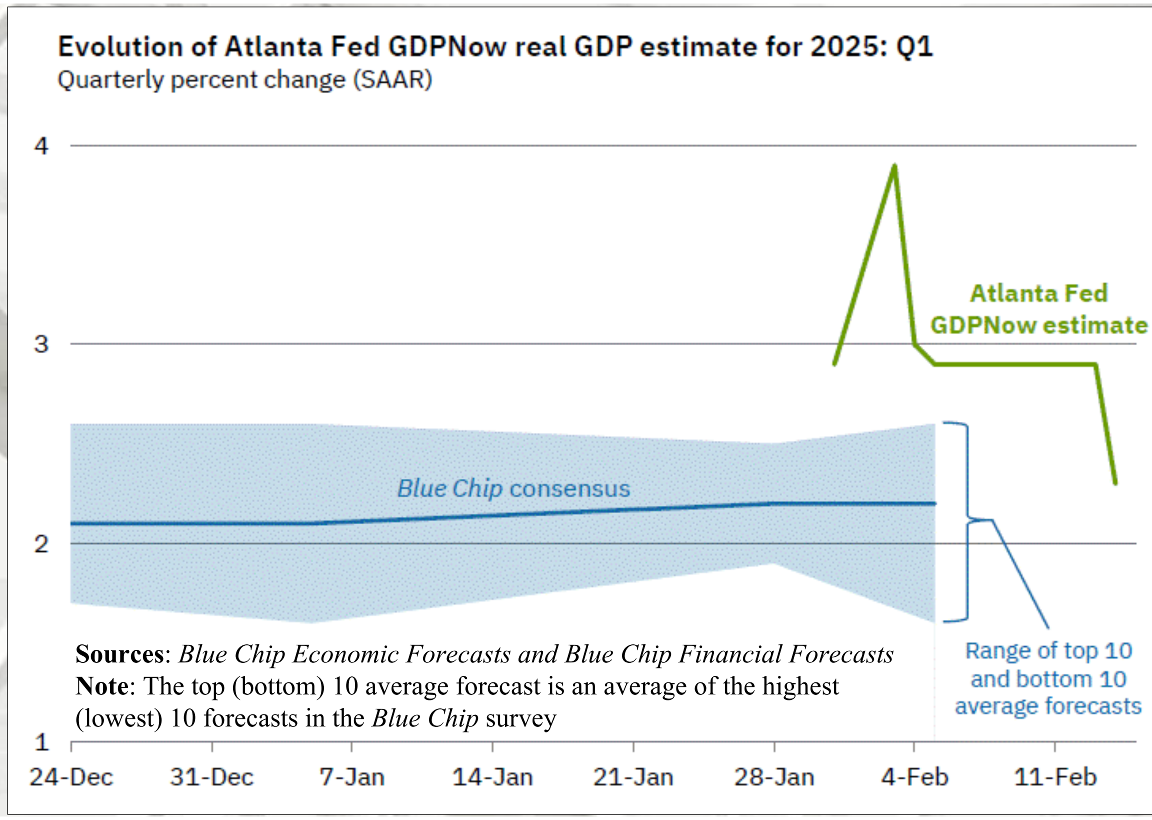
2024 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University VCE-ANR

Table of Contents

U.S. Economic Indicators



Atlanta Fed GDPNow™

Latest estimate: 2.3 percent — February 14, 2025

"The GDPNow model estimate for real GDP growth (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in the first quarter of 2025 is 2.3 percent on February 14, down from 2.9 percent on February 7. After recent releases from the US Census Bureau, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the nowcasts of first-quarter real personal consumption expenditures growth and real gross private domestic investment growth fell from 2.8 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively, to 2.3 percent and 4.9 percent." – Pat Higgins, Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Source: https://www.frbatlanta.org/cqer/research/gdpnow.aspx; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

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

Index Suggests Economic Growth Increased in December

"*The Chicago Fed National Activity Index (CFNAI) increased to +0.15 in December from –0.01 in November. Two of the four broad categories of indicators used to construct the index increased from November, and two categories made positive contributions in December. The index's three-month moving average, CFNAI-MA3, increased to –0.13 in December from –0.26 in November.*

The CFNAI Diffusion Index, which is also a three-month moving average, increased to –0.15 in December from –0.28 in November. Forty-four of the 85 individual indicators made positive contributions to the CFNAI in December, while 41 made negative contributions. Fifty-four indicators improved from November to December, while 30 indicators deteriorated and one was unchanged. Of the indicators that improved, 17 made negative contributions.

- Production-related indicators contributed +0.19 to the CFNAI in December, up from +0.03 in November.
- The sales, orders, and inventories category's contribution to the CFNAI was –0.02 in December, up from –0.05 in November.
- Employment-related indicators contributed +0.01 to the CFNAI in December, unchanged from November.
- The personal consumption and housing category's contribution to the CFNAI was –0.02 in December, down from –0.01 in November." – Thomas Walstrum, Media Relations, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/research/data/cfnai/current-data; 1/27/25

Return to TOC

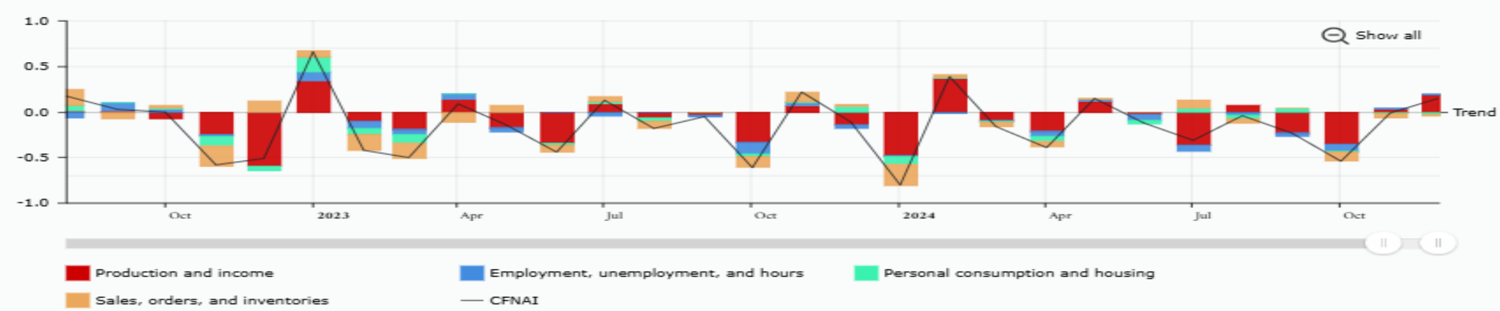
The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago: National Activity Index (CFNAI)

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

	Dec '24	Nov '24	Oct '24	Sep '24	Aug '24	Jul '24	Dec '23
CFNAI							
Current	0.15	−0.01	−0.54	−0.23	−0.04	−0.31	−0.11
Previous	N/A	−0.12	−0.50	−0.30	−0.03	−0.31	−0.10
CFNAI-MA3							
Current	−0.13	−0.26	−0.27	−0.19	−0.16	−0.09	−0.17
Previous	N/A	−0.31	−0.27	−0.21	−0.15	−0.09	−0.16
CFNAI Diffusion							
Current	−0.15	−0.28	−0.32	−0.20	−0.19	−0.05	−0.14
Previous	N/A	−0.31	−0.31	−0.21	−0.19	−0.05	−0.11

Note: Current and Previous values reflect index values as of the January 27, 2025, release and December 23, 2024, release, respectively. NA indicates not applicable.

Chicago Fed National Activity Index (CFNAI)



Note: A zero value for the CFNAI has been associated with the national economy expanding at its historical trend (average) rate of growth; negative values with below-average growth (in standard deviation units); and positive values with above-average growth.

Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/research/data/cfnai/current-data; 1/27/25

Return to TOC

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

Survey Suggests Growth Slowed in January

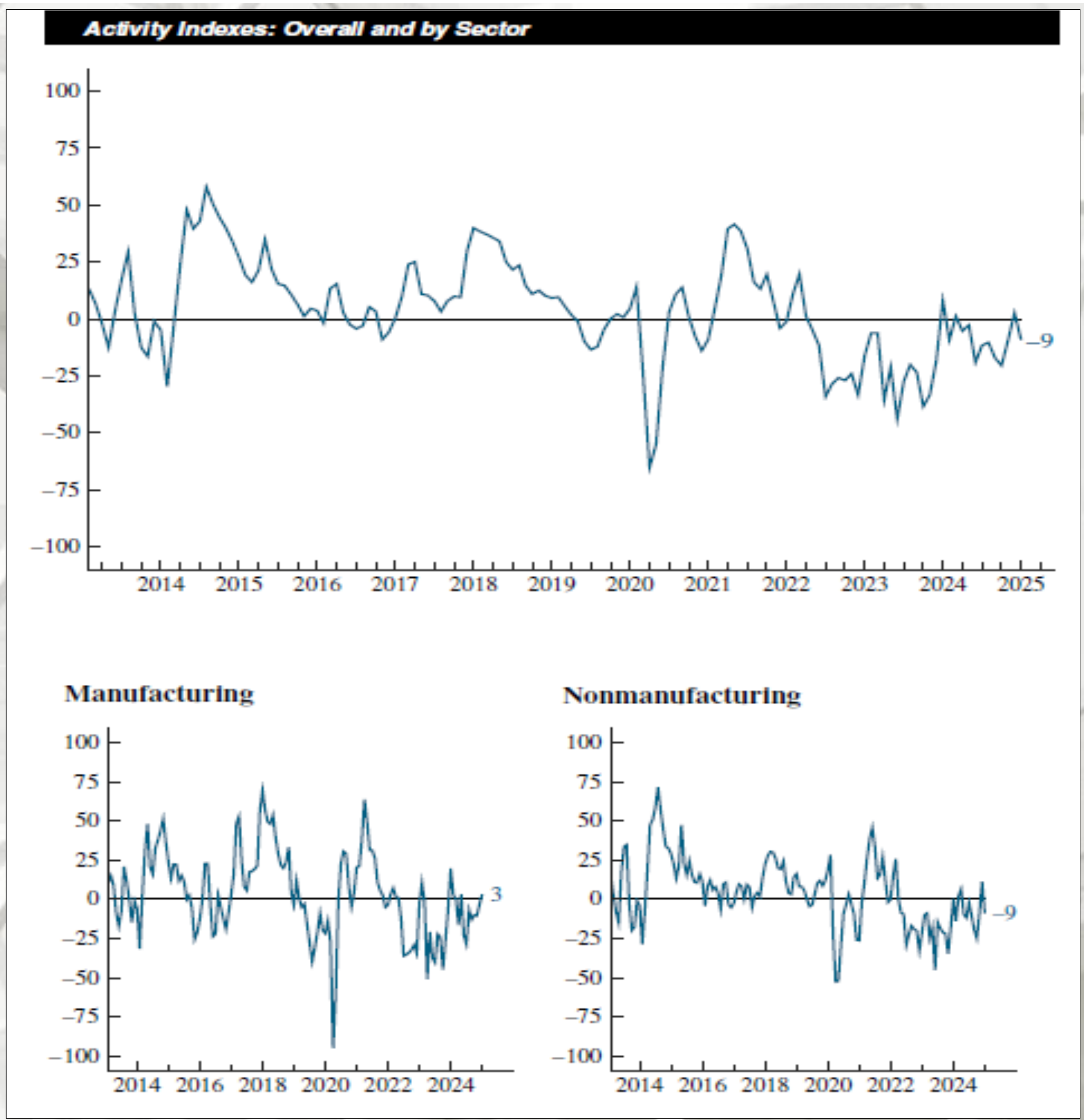
"The *Chicago Fed Survey of Economic Conditions* (CFSEC) Activity Index decreased to –9 in January from +3 in December, suggesting that economic growth was near trend. The CFSEC Manufacturing Activity Index increased to +3 in January from –3 in December, but the CFSEC Nonmanufacturing Activity Index decreased to –9 in January from +11 in the previous month.

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

Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/research/data/cfsec/current-data; 1/23/25

Return to TOC

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



Source: https://www.chicagofed.org/research/data/cfsec/current-data; 1/23/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey

Growth in Texas manufacturing picks up pace in January; outlooks improve further

"Texas factory activity picked up notably in January, according to business executives responding to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey. The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, rose seven points to 12.2.

Other measures of manufacturing activity also moved higher this month. The new orders index rose six points to 7.7, its highest level since April 2022. The capacity utilization and shipments indexes moved up to 5.0 and 8.7, respectively, after near-zero readings in December.

Perceptions of broader business conditions continued to improve in January. The general business activity index jumped 10 points to 14.1, its highest reading since October 2021. The company outlook index increased to 18.7, also a multiyear high. The outlook uncertainty index remained near zero, indicating uncertainty is neither rising nor falling.

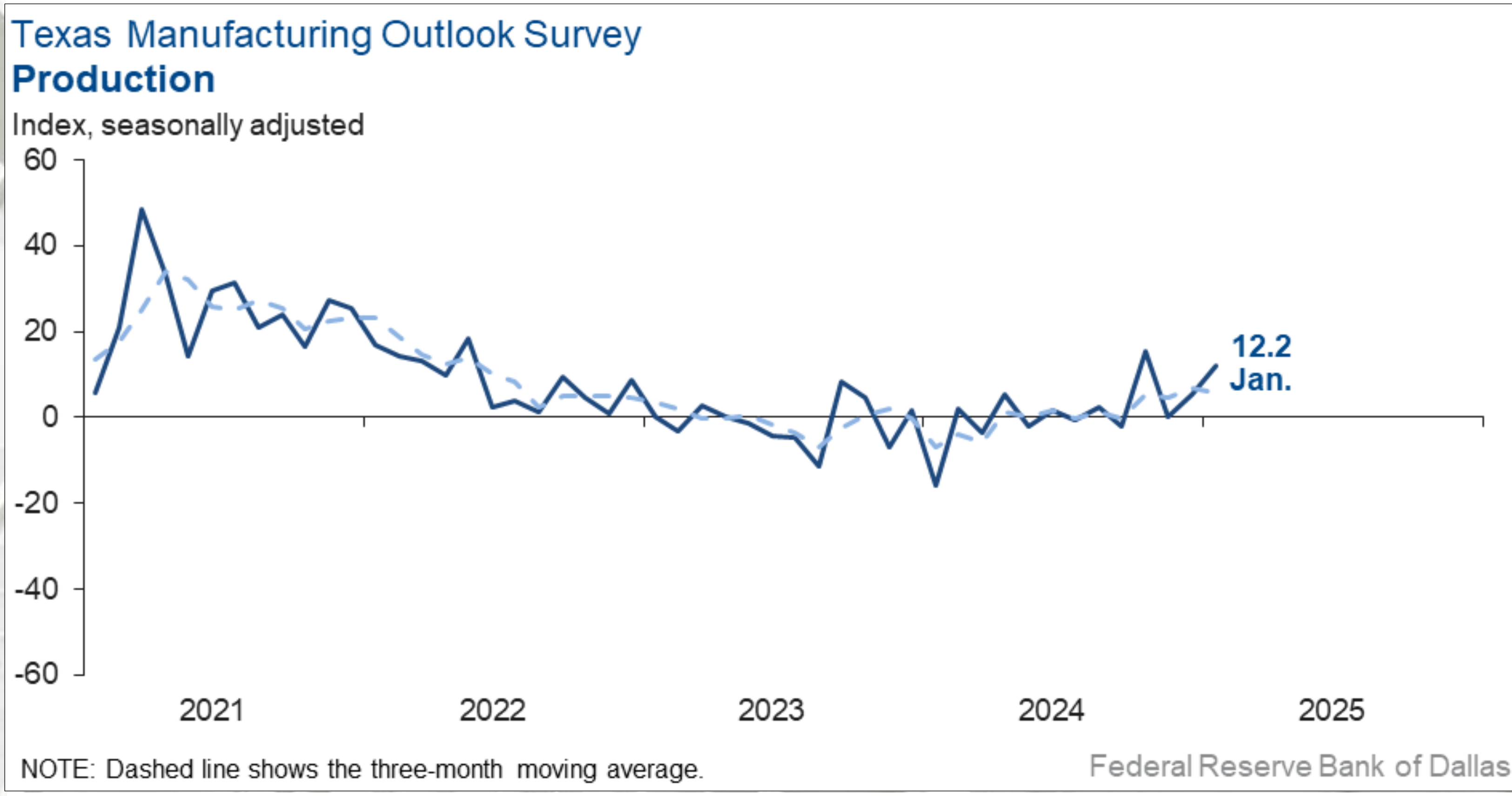
Labor market measures suggested employment and workweek length grew slightly this month. The employment index inched up two points to 2.2. Fourteen percent of firms noted net hiring, while 12 percent noted net layoffs. The hours worked index edged up to 1.9 from -0.5.

Upward pressure on prices and wages increased this month. The raw materials prices index rose five points to 17.5, and the finished goods prices index rose nine points to 6.2. The wages and benefits index ticked up to 20.9." – Emily Kerr, Business Economist, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 1/27/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas



"Expectations are for increased manufacturing activity six months from now. The future production index pushed up to 44.8 from 34.1. The future general business activity index rose to 35.5 from 20.6. Most other indexes of future manufacturing activity also pushed higher this month." – Emily Kerr, Business Economist, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 1/27/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Texas Service Sector Outlook Survey

Growth in Texas service sector activity continues

"Texas service sector activity continued to increase but at a slower pace in January, according to business executives responding to the Texas Service Sector Outlook Survey. The revenue index, a key measure of state service sector conditions, fell eight points to 5.7, a seven-month low and indicative of a below-average pace of growth.

Labor market measures suggested no growth in employment but slightly longer workweeks in January. The employment index fell to -1.4 from 2.3, with the near-zero reading suggestive of no change in employment from last month. The part-time employment index rose five points to 4.5 while the hours-worked index increased to 3.6 from -1.0.

Perceptions of broader business conditions improved in January. The general business activity index remained in positive territory but fell to 7.4 from 10.8, while the company outlook index edged up to 14.8 from 12.0. The outlook uncertainty index increased to 3.0 from 1.6.

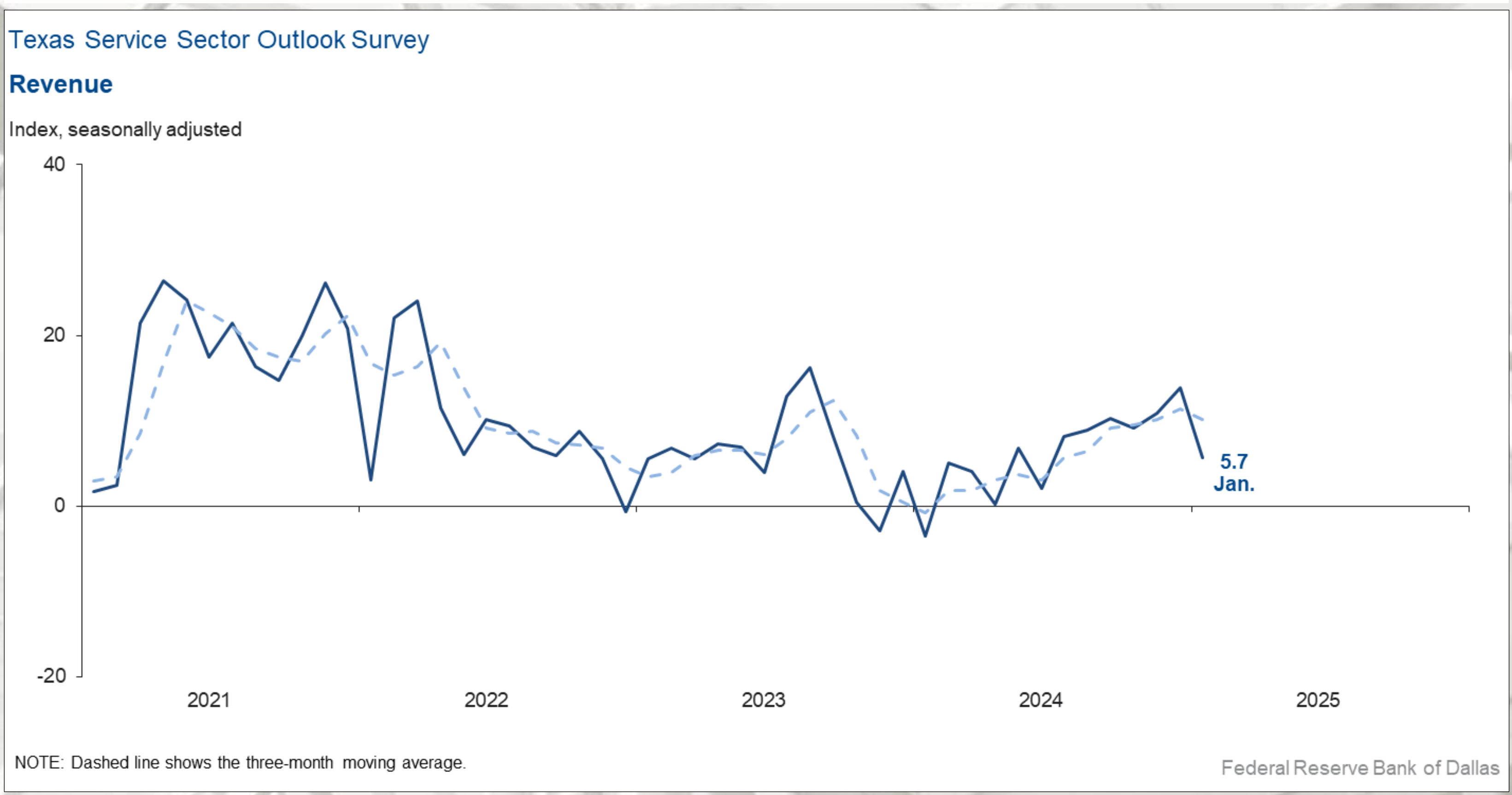
Price pressures increased for the second month in a row while wage pressures held steady in January. The selling prices index increased six points to 13.7, while the input prices index increased four points to 27.4. The wages and benefits index was little changed at 15.7.

Respondents' expectations regarding future business activity continued to reflect optimism in January. The future general business activity index held steady at 31.2, while the future revenue index increased six points to 55.0. Other future service-sector activity indexes such as employment and capital expenditures remained in positive territory, reflecting expectations for sustained growth in the next six months." – Jesus Cañas, Senior Business Economist; The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas



Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Texas Retail Outlook Survey

Texas retail sales fall again

“Retail sales activity contracted in January, according to business executives responding to the Texas Retail Outlook Survey. The sales index, a key measure of state retail activity, fell to -19.0 from 17.2, its lowest since June 2024. Retailers’ inventories grew over the month, with the January index at 11.5, up from 2.2 in December.

Retail labor market indicators suggested contracting employment and shorter workweeks this month. The employment index fell ten points to -9.1. The part-time employment index rose to 6.4 from 4.2, and the hours-worked index fell three points to -4.8.

Perceptions of broader business conditions were mixed in January. The general business activity index fell back into negative territory coming in at -4.5, down from 4.8, while the company outlook index held steady at 7.7. Uncertainty about the outlooks increased, with the index rising five points to 5.7.

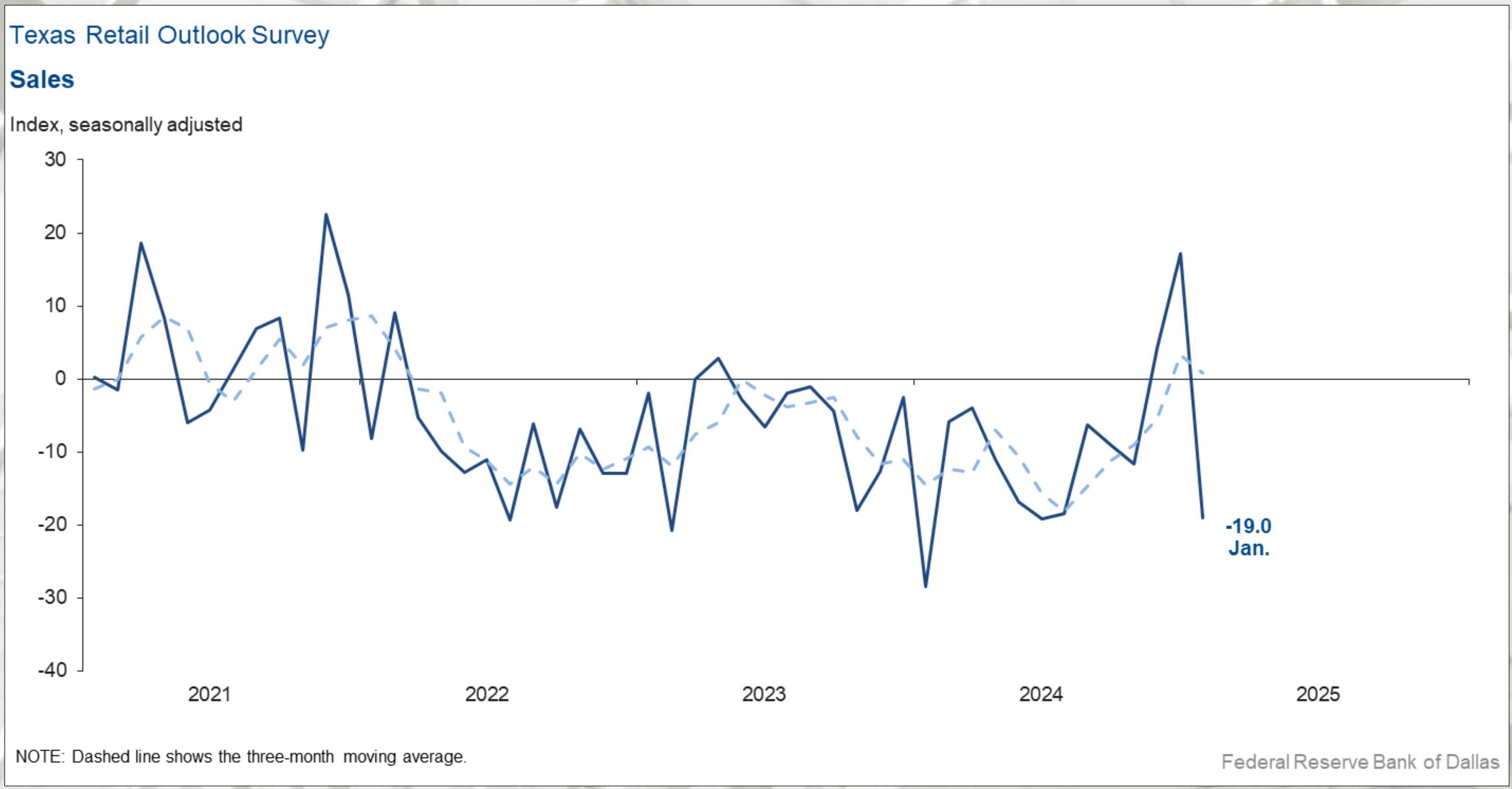
Upward pressure on selling and input prices increased notably, while wage growth held steady in January. The selling price index rose 12 points to 18.5, its highest reading in two years. The input price index shot up 19 points to 32.2. The wages and benefits index was unchanged at 12.2.

Expectations for future business conditions in retail improved in January. The future general business activity index remained positive but fell three points to 19.4, while the future sales index jumped 19.0 points to 51.6. Both the future employment index and the future capital expenditures index remained in positive territory and increased, suggesting improvement in retail activity in the next six months.” – Jesus Cañas, Senior Business Economist; The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas



Source: https://www.dallasfed.org/research/surveys; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

U.S. Economic Indicators

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Tenth District Manufacturing Activity Fell at a Steady Pace in January

Regional factory activity contracted modestly in January. However, capital expenditures remain unchanged from this time last year, and firms expect increases in activity in the next six months.

Factory Activity Fell at a Steady Pace

"Tenth District manufacturing activity fell at a steady pace, but expectations for future activity remained positive (Chart 1). Price indexes picked up slightly this month, but raw materials price growth cooled somewhat from this time last year.

The month-over-month composite index was -5 in January, unchanged from -5 in December and down slightly from -4 in November. The composite index is an average of the production, new orders, employment, supplier delivery time, and raw materials inventory indexes. Both durable and nondurable manufacturing activity declined slightly, with paper manufacturing marking increases and printing manufacturing marking decreases. All month-over-month indexes were negative, except for the employment, prices, and finished goods inventories indexes. Production ticked down from -6 to -9 while new orders increased from -16 to -6." – Megan Williams, Associate Economist and Senior Manager and Chase Farha, Research Associate; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 1/23/25

Return to TOC

U.S. Economic Indicators

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Factory Activity Fell at a Steady Pace

"Most year-over-year indexes were negative, but many picked up from last month, as the composite index increased from -16 to -9. Other than the prices indexes, capital expenditures is the only index with a positive reading, cooling from 5 to 1. The future composite index ticked down from 17 to 15 in January as expectations for future production and new orders growth cooled.

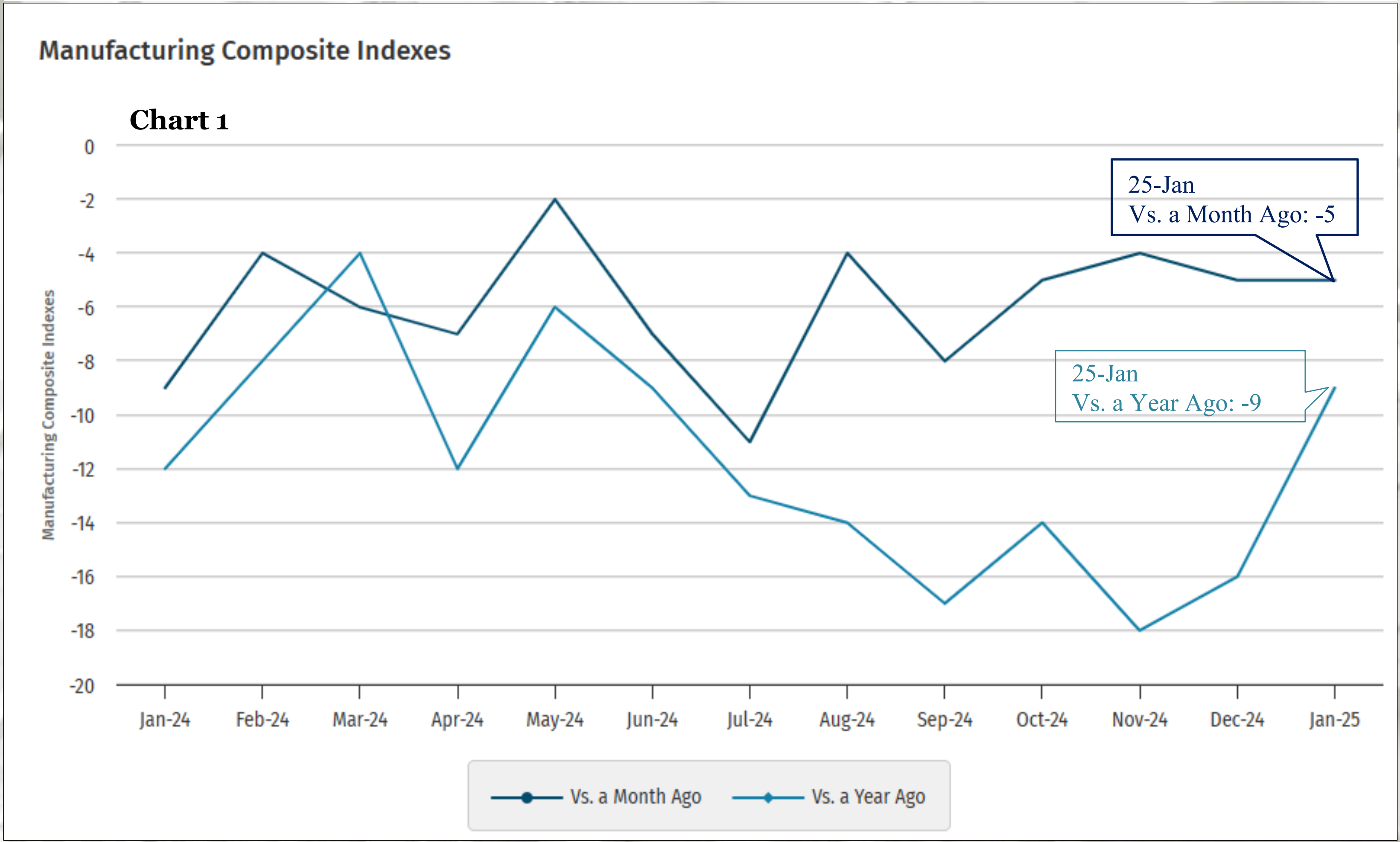
Special Questions

This month contacts were asked special questions about their firms' imports and exports. A majority of firms (55%) sell 1% to 25% of their products or services outside of the U.S., and two-thirds (67%) source 1% to 25% of their inputs from outside the U.S. Additionally, over one-third (36%) of firms do not sell any of their products or services outside the U.S., while only 16% of firms do not source any of their inputs from outside the U.S. Further, a majority of contacts do not anticipate the share of their inputs or products sourced from outside of the U.S. to change in the next year (57%) or in the next 3 years (53%). Nearly a quarter (23%) of firms expect the share to decrease slightly in the next year and next 3 years, 16% of firms expect the share to increase slightly in the next year, and 18% of firms expect it to increase slightly in the next 3 years." – Megan Williams, Associate Economist and Senior Manager and Chase Farha, Research Associate; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 1/23/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City



Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 1/23/25

Return to TOC

U.S. Economic Indicators

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Tenth District Services Activity Fell Modestly in January

Regional services activity declined slightly in January. However, capital expenditures increased moderately, and firms continue to anticipate future growth.

Tenth District Services Activity Fell Modestly

“Tenth District services activity cooled in January, while expectations for future activity remained expansionary (Chart 1). Input and selling price growth increased from last month but cooled slightly from this time last year.

The month-over-month services composite index was -4 in January, down from 4 in December and 8 in November. The composite index is a weighted average of the revenue/sales, employment, and inventory indexes. The decline from last month was driven more by the consumer sector, particularly autos, retail, and tourism. General revenue/sales fell from 5 to -8 this month, while employment was essentially flat with a reading of -1.” – 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; 1/24/25

Return to TOC

U.S. Economic Indicators

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Tenth District Services Activity Fell Modestly

"All year-over-year indexes were positive, except for access to credit. However, the composite index cooled from 24 to 17. Growth eased from this time last year for both the consumer and business services sectors, but the consumer composite index remains higher than the business index with a reading of 25. Capital expenditures continued to increase moderately from a year ago. Expectations for future services activity stayed positive, as firms continue to anticipate increasing revenues and employment levels.

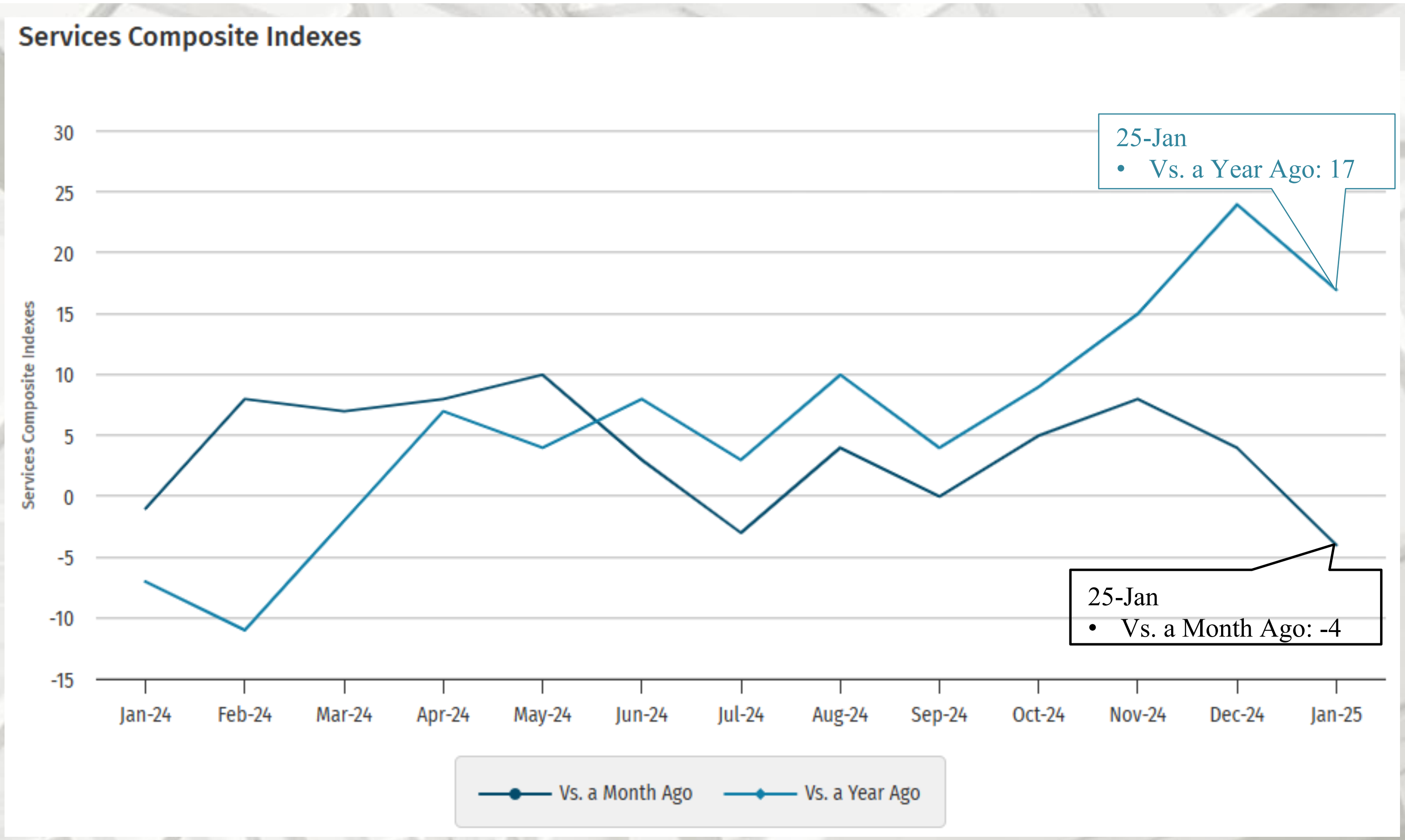
Special Questions

This month contacts were asked about their imports and exports. Most firms (79%) reported that 0% of their services are sold outside of the U.S., while another 16% reported they sell 1% - 25% of their services outside the U.S. However, only 35% of firms reported that 0% of their inputs are sourced from outside the U.S., while 38% reported 1% - 25%, 18% reported 26% - 50%, 6% reported 51% - 75%, and 2% reported 76% - 100%. Most firms (61%) do not anticipate any change in the share of their inputs or products sourced from outside of the U.S. in the next year, while 20% expect the share to decrease slightly in the next year and 13% expect it to increase slightly. Nearly half (47%) of firms do not expect any change in the share in the next 3 years, while 24% (20%) expect it to decrease (increase) slightly, and 6% (3%) expect it to decrease (increase) significantly." – 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; 1/24/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City



Source: https://www.kansascityfed.org; 1/24/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

February 2025 Manufacturing Survey

Activity Picks Up Slightly

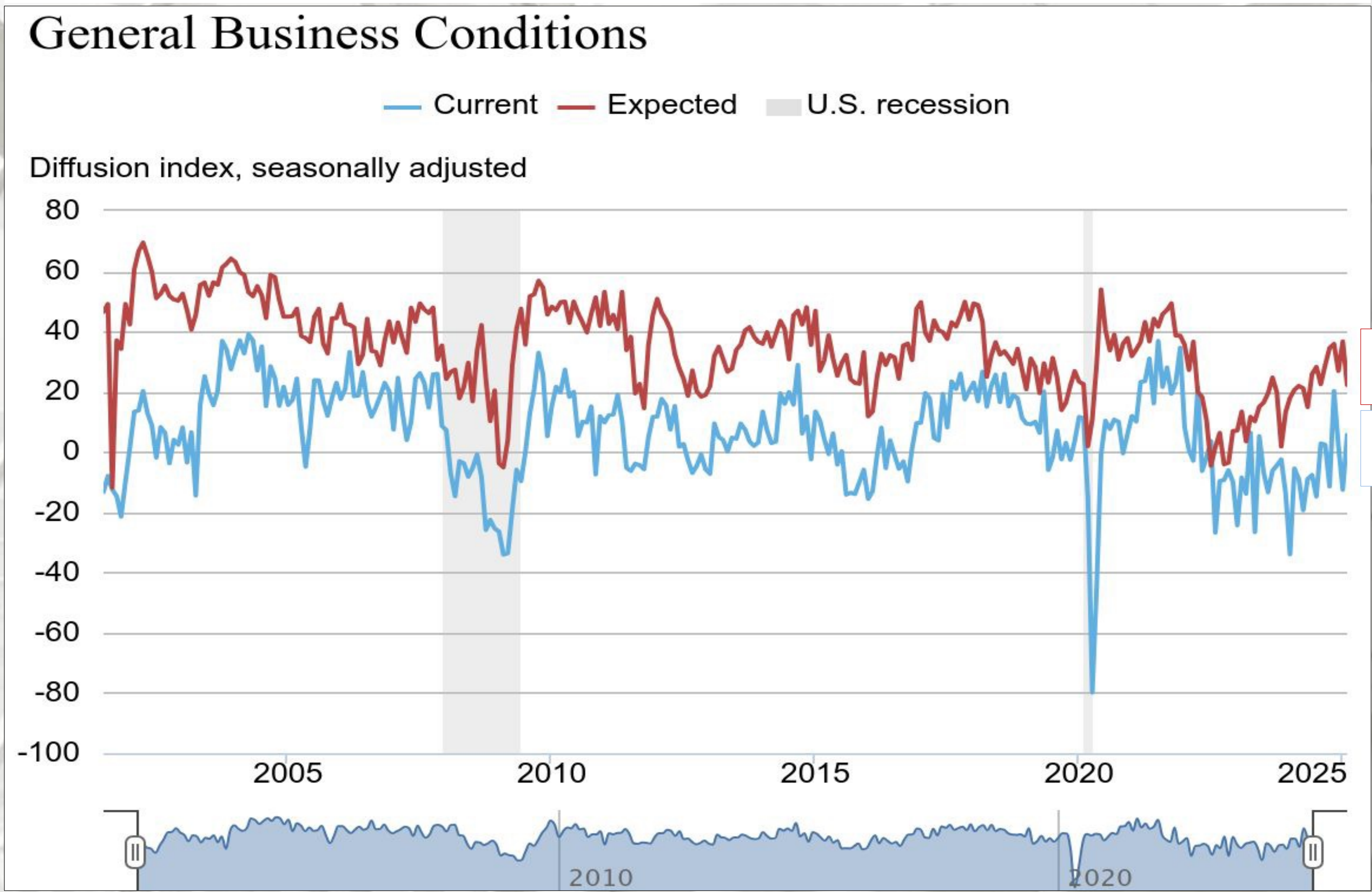
“Business activity edged higher in New York State in February, according to firms responding to the *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index climbed eighteen points to 5.7. New orders and shipments grew moderately. Delivery times were slightly longer, and supply availability was slightly lower. Inventories continued to expand modestly. Employment levels moved lower. Input prices increased at the fastest pace in nearly two years, and selling price increases also ticked up noticeably. Though firms expect conditions to improve over the next six months, optimism about the outlook dropped significantly.

After declining last month, manufacturing activity grew slightly in New York State, according to the February survey. The general business conditions index climbed eighteen points to 5.7. The new orders index rose twenty points to 11.4, suggesting orders increased after declining last month, and the shipments index rose sixteen points to 14.2, indicating that shipments increased. Unfilled orders held steady. The inventories index remained positive at 8.7, a sign that inventories grew. The delivery times index came in at 5.4, suggesting that delivery times were slightly longer, and the supply availability index dipped to -2.2, a sign that supply availability edged slightly lower.” – Jason Bram and Richard Deitz, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/empire/empiresurvey_overview; 2/18/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York



Feb 2025
22.2

Feb 2025
5.7

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/empire/empiresurvey_overview; 2/18/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

February 2025 Manufacturing Survey

Price Increases Pick Up

“The index for number of employees rose eight points, but held near zero at 1.2, suggesting that employment levels were steady. The average workweek index remained negative at -15.1, pointing to a significant decline in hours worked. After dipping last month, price indexes climbed in January, though they remained subdued. The prices paid index increased eight points to 29.1, and the prices received index rose five points to 9.3.

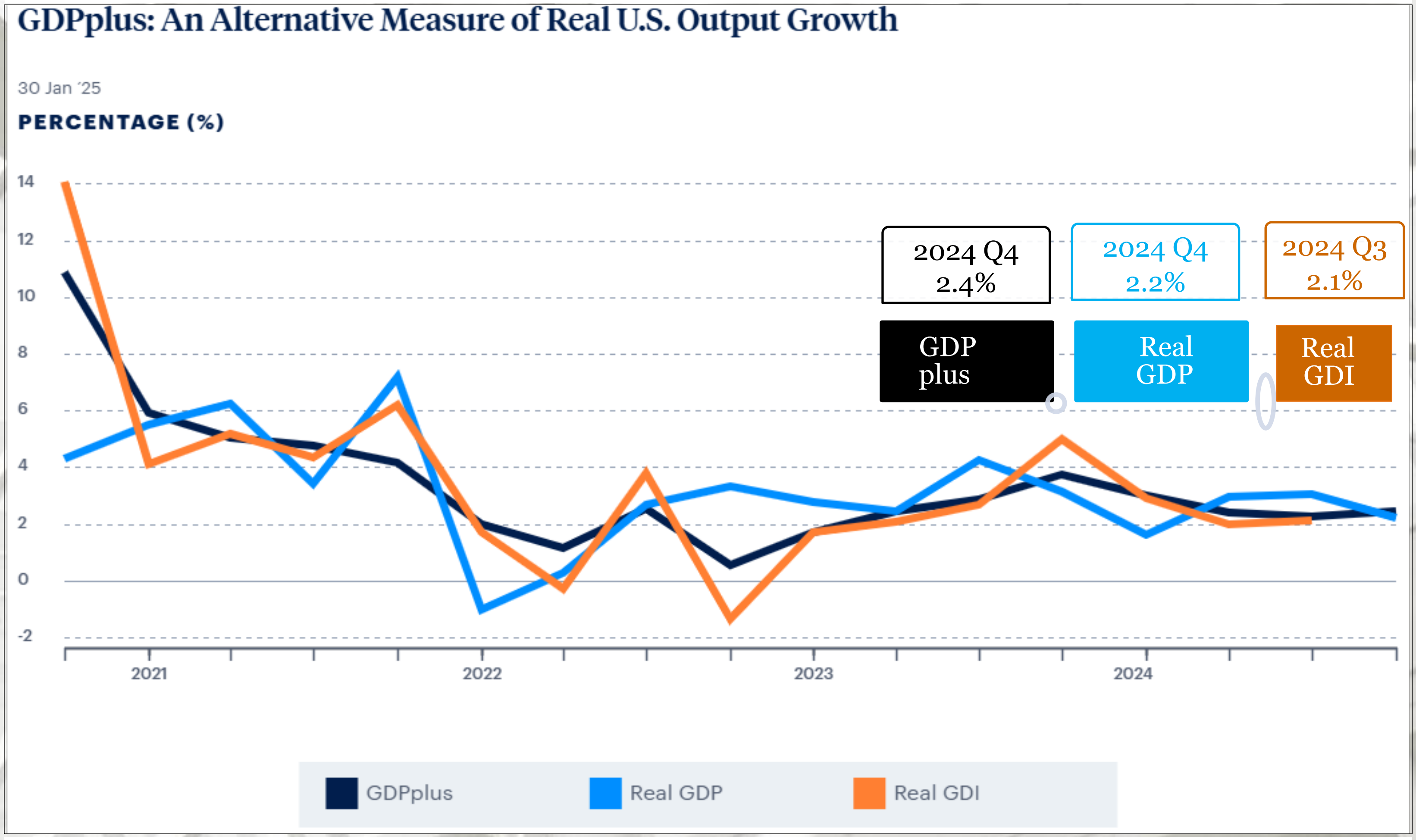
Optimism Falls

Firms expect conditions to improve in the months ahead, but optimism declined noticeably. The index for future business activity fell fifteen points to 22.2. Capital spending plans remained soft. Supply availability is expected to contract somewhat over the next six months.” – Jason Bram and Richard Deitz, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Source: https://www.newyorkfed.org/survey/empire/empiresurvey_overview; 2/18/25

Return to TOC

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; 1/30/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

December 2024 Fifth District Survey of Manufacturing Activity

Manufacturing Activity Remained Soft in January

“Fifth District manufacturing activity remained soft in January, according to the most recent survey from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The composite manufacturing index increased to −4 in January from −10 in December. Of its three component indexes, shipments edged up to −9, new orders increased to −4, and employment rose to 3 from −8.

The local business conditions index fell to -5 in January from 0, while the index for future local business conditions decreased from 40 to 32. The future indexes for shipments and new orders also decreased but remained solidly in positive territory, suggesting that many firms expected improvements in the next six months.

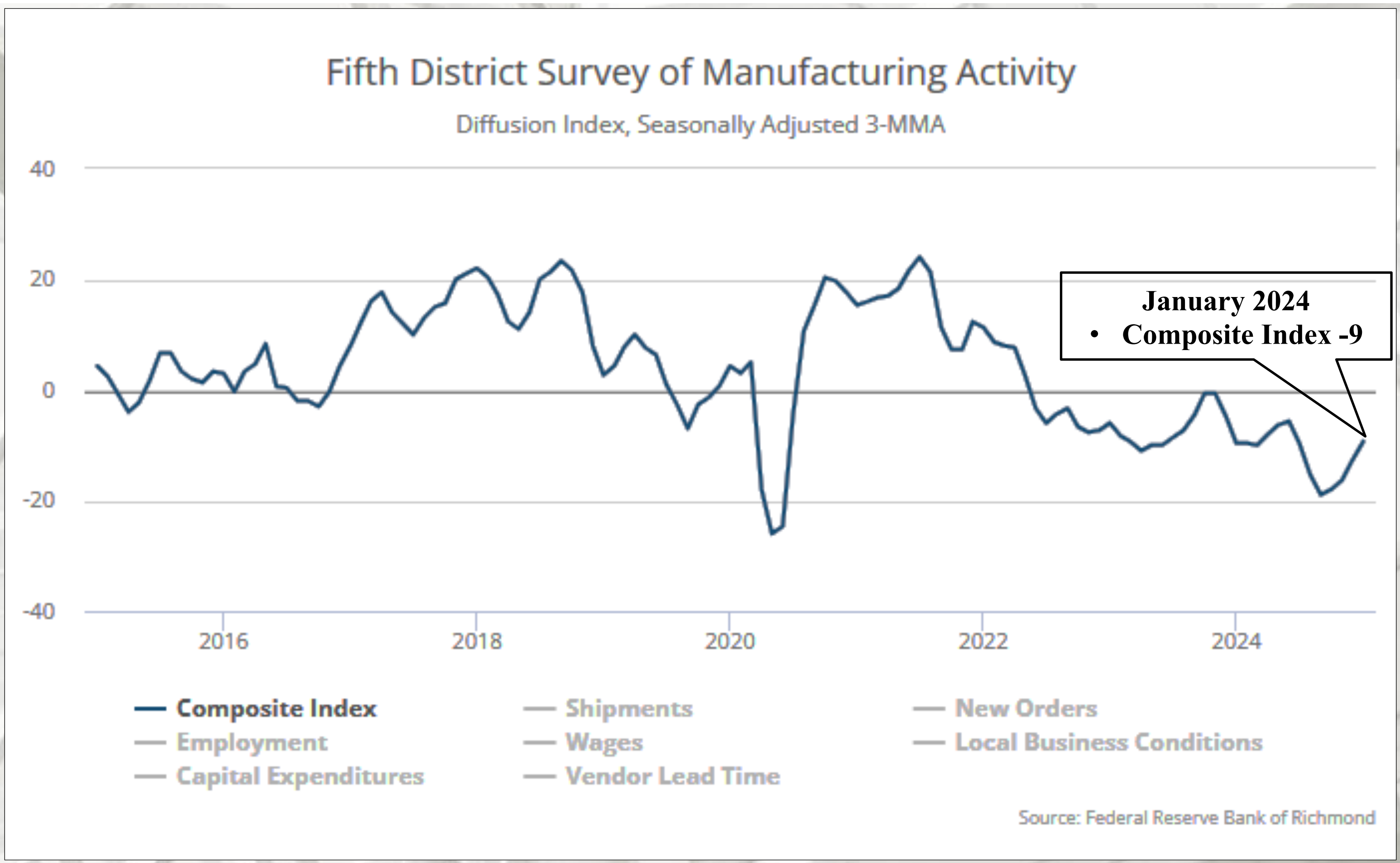
The vendor lead time index was nearly unchanged at 10 in January. A smaller share of firms reported decreasing backlogs in January as the index increased to -5 from -13.

The average growth rates of prices paid and prices received decreased somewhat in January. Firms expected growth in both prices paid and prices received to increase over the next 12 months.” – Jason Kosakow, Research Department, The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/region_communities/regional_data_analysis/surveys/manufacturing; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

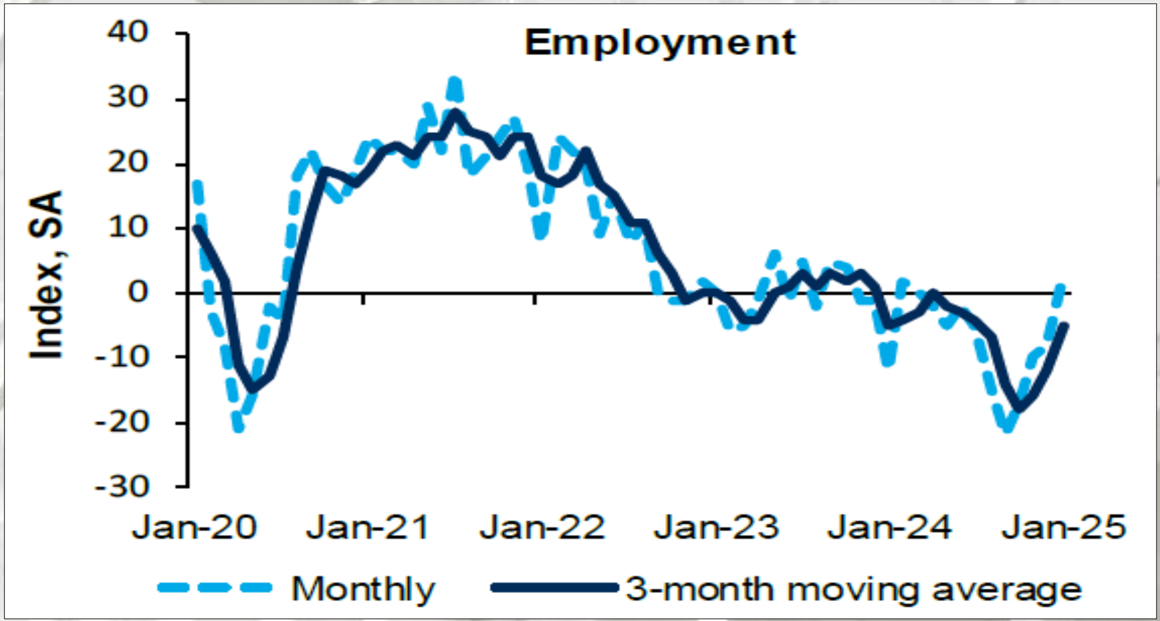
The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond



Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/region_communities/regional_data_analysis/surveys/manufacturing; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

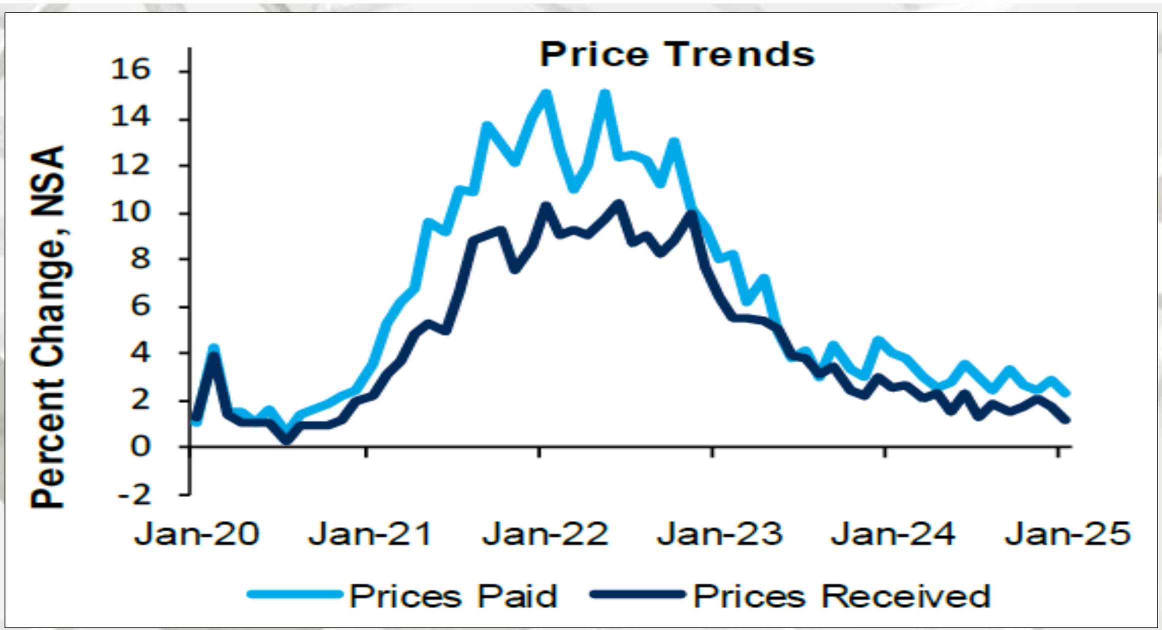
The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

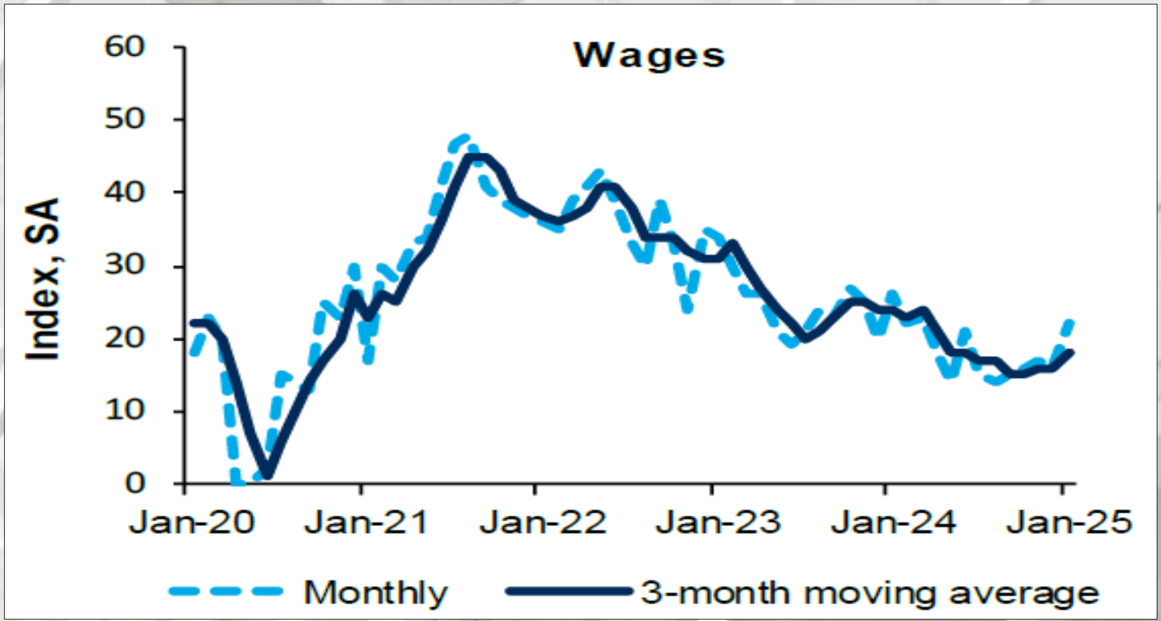


Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/region_communities/regional_data_analysis/surveys/manufacturing; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond





Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/region_communities/regional_data_analysis/surveys/manufacturing; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

December Fifth District Survey of Service Sector Activity

Service Sector Activity Demand Remained Upbeat in January

“Fifth District service sector firms' reports on business activity indicated little change in January, although reports on demand were broadly upbeat, according to the most recent survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The revenues index fell from 23 to 4, while the demand index fell to 17, staying in positive territory in January and higher than the November reading of 14. The indexes for future revenues and demand remained firmly in positive territory, as most firms expressed optimism about the next six months.

The local business conditions index decreased from 14 in December to 7 in January. Firms remained optimistic about future business conditions, as that index registered a reading of 36 in January.

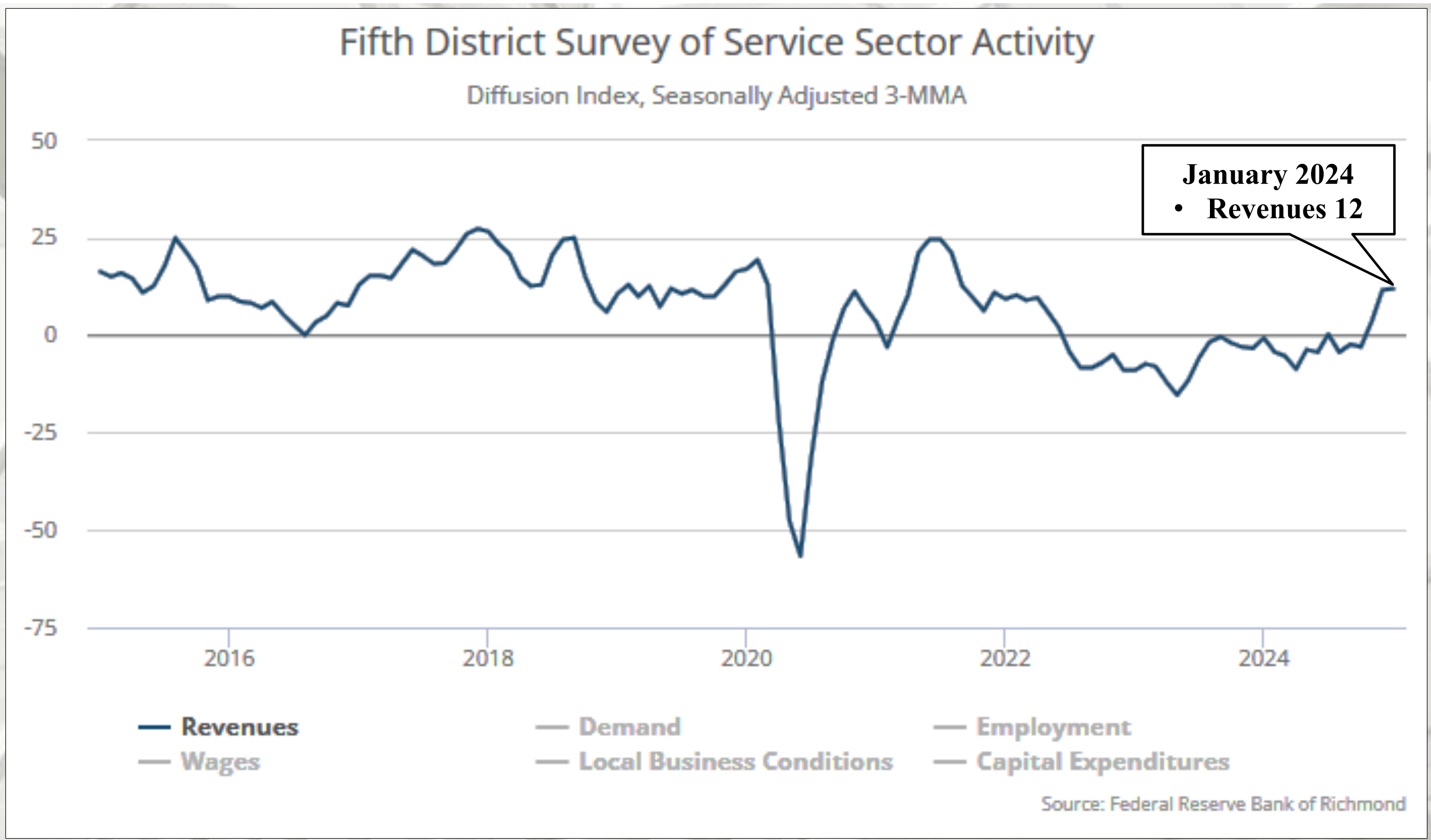
The employment index was flat at 3 in January compared to 2 in December. Over the next six months, firms expected to increase hiring as the forward-looking index registered a reading of 25. Most firms continued to increase wages for employees and expected to increase wages over the next six months.

The average growth rates of prices paid and prices received changed little from December, and firms anticipated little change in price growth in 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; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond



Source: https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/surveys_of_business_conditions/service_sector; 1/28/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators: Global

S&P Global Canada Manufacturing PMI®

"The seasonally adjusted **S&P Global Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index® (PMI®)** recorded 51.6 in January. That was indicative of a modest rate of expansion, and down since December when the PMI registered 52.2. That said, the headline index has now recorded above the crucial 50.0 no-change mark for five months in a row.

Modest expansion of Canadian manufacturing economy

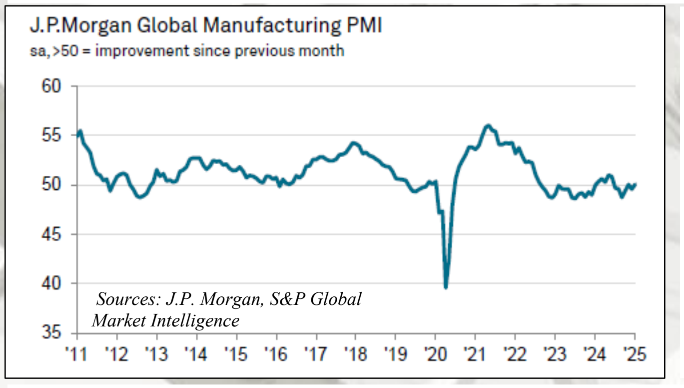
"Operating conditions in Canada's manufacturing economy improved in January, albeit only modestly. Growth rates for both production and new orders both softened, whilst confidence in the outlook sank to its lowest level since last July. Whilst the potential for tariffs on Canadian manufactured goods exported to the United States was reported in some instances to have led to the bringing forward of orders, uncertainty over the scale and extent of tariffs led to hesitation and doubt within the marketplace and amongst manufacturers themselves.

January's survey highlighted the complex impact that possible US tariffs are presently having on the Canadian manufacturing economy. Firms noted that clients in some instances were bringing forward their orders to get ahead of these potential tariffs, and output amongst manufacturers was being raised in response. Firms even took on additional staff to help service additional workloads, and this helped them to keep on top of their current orders.

Output PMI data broken down by sector also highlighted ongoing performance disparities. Growth in the consumer goods industry accelerated to a seven-month high, supported by a solid increase in new orders. Production and new business intakes in the intermediate goods category also moved back into expansion territory following recent declines. Conditions remained weak at investment goods producers, with output and new business both falling for the eighth consecutive month." – Paul Smith, Economics Director, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/3e559927af6b46b68b0cb1c4678a533e; 2/3/25

Private Indicators: Global



J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing 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 50.1 in January, to signal the first (albeit marginal) improvement in operating conditions for seven months. Regional variations remained marked, with business conditions being affected by, among other things, the possibility of US tariffs being imposed during the coming year.

World manufacturing production and new orders move back into expansion territory in January

Three of the five PMI sub-indices – output, new orders and suppliers' delivery times – had positive influences on the headline figure at the start of the year. In contrast, employment and stocks of purchases continued to decline. January saw global manufacturing production nudge back into expansion territory following a mild contraction in December. The main factor underlying increased production volumes was a similar upturn in new orders. …

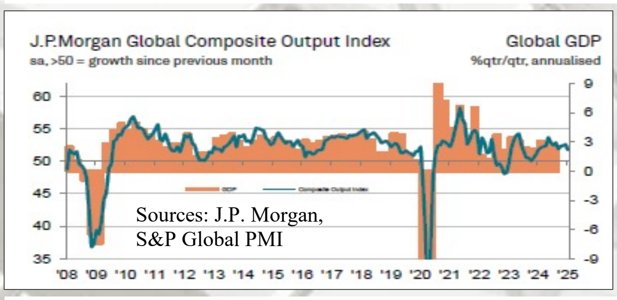
Output PMI data broken down by sector also highlighted ongoing performance disparities. Growth in the consumer goods industry accelerated to a seven-month high, supported by a solid increase in new orders. Production and new business intakes in the intermediate goods category also moved back into expansion territory following recent declines. Conditions remained weak at investment goods producers, with output and new business both falling for the eighth consecutive month.

Global manufacturing new export orders contracted again in January. Although this extended the current downturn to eight months, the rate of decline was the weakest during that sequence. The Asia excluding Japan and mainland China region saw its strongest growth (on average) since May 2024. Rates of contraction eased in China, the US, Japan and the euro area. …" – Bennett Parrish, Global Economist, J.P. Morgan

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/34a2317cc9e84794b62af503a14ceed6; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators: Global



Sources: J.P. Morgan, S&P Global PMI

J.P. Morgan Global Composite 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 – fell to a 12-month low of 51.8 in January, down from 52.6 in December. The headline index has remained above the neutral mark of 50.0 throughout the past two years.

Growth of global economic output and new orders slow at start of 2025

"The start of 2025 saw a mild deceleration in the rate of expansion of global economic output, as the positive impact of a return to growth in the manufacturing sector was offset by an easing in the rate of increase in service sector business activity. The ongoing upturn was reflected in both the labor market and business optimism, with job creation hitting a six-month high and positive sentiment at its highest level since May 2024.

January data signalled that output growth remained stronger in the global service sector, which outperformed its manufacturing counterpart for the twenty-fifth month in a row. That was despite the overall rate of expansion in service sector activity easing to a 13-month low. All three of the service sub-sectors covered by the survey saw weaker rates of increase than in December. Financial services remained the strongest performer, but also saw the sharpest slowdown.

There was positive news on the manufacturing front, with the turn of the year seeing production and new orders both nudge back into expansion territory in January. Output rose in the consumer goods sector at the fastest pace in seven months, returned to (marginal) growth in the intermediate goods category but fell for the eighth month running at investment goods producers.

The J.P.Morgan Global Services PMI Business Activity Index fell to a 13-month low of 52.2 in January, down by 1.6 pts from December's seven-month high of 53.8. New business growth was also slower than in the previous survey month. There was better news on the hiring front, with the rate of job creation the joint-strongest since June 2023." – Bennett Parrish, Global Economist, J.P. Morgan

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/f6a74b2e11a24e6d84eb40a2eea8acfc; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)

ABC's Construction Backlog Indicator Increases, Contractors Remain Confident

"Associated Builders and Contractors reported that its Construction Backlog Indicator increased to 8.4 months in January, according to an ABC member survey conducted Jan. 21 to Feb. 3. The reading is unchanged from January 2024.

View the full Construction Backlog Indicator and Construction Confidence Index data series.

The monthly increase in backlog was concentrated in the Western region, which also exhibited the largest growth in backlog over the past year. The South has the longest backlog of any region despite exhibiting the largest year-over-year decrease.

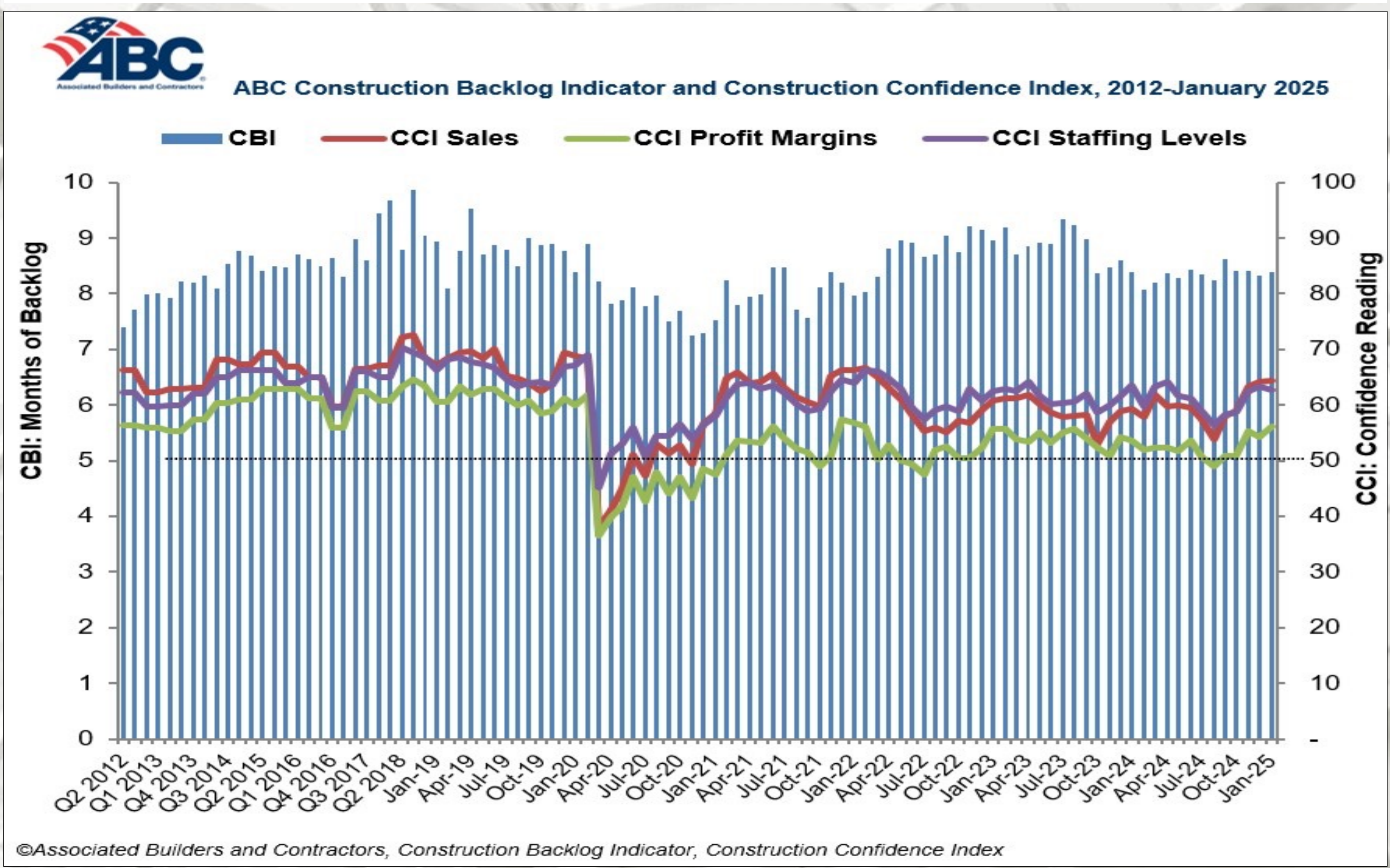
ABC's Construction Confidence Index readings for sales and profit margins improved in January, while the reading for staffing levels declined. The readings for all three components remain above the threshold of 50, indicating expectations for growth over the next six months.

"While backlog has remained within a narrow range over the past year, contractors broadly expect construction activity to pick up over the next six months," said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. "Contractor confidence regarding sales has improved significantly over the past year, with much of that improvement occurring since November's election. The fact that staffing level expectations remain elevated suggests that job openings, which fell sharply during the final months of 2024, should rebound during the first half of 2025."" – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abcs-construction-backlog-indicator-increases-contractors-remain-confident; 2/14/24

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)



Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abcs-construction-backlog-indicator-increases-contractors-remain-confident; 2/14/24

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

Nonresidential Construction Spending Down 0.2% in December; Data Centers and Manufacturing Make Up 94% of Spending Increase in 2024

“National nonresidential construction spending 0.2% in December 2024, 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 $1.241 trillion.

Spending was down on a monthly basis in 9 of the 16 nonresidential subcategories. Private nonresidential spending increased 0.1%, while public nonresidential construction spending was down 0.5% in December.

“Public sector nonresidential spending fell sharply in in the last month of 2024, but that decline was likely a short-term phenomenon as the transition between presidential administrations and cold weather delayed construction work,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “While public sector activity should at least partially rebound in the coming months, high interest rates and an emerging trade war with Canada and Mexico will continue to weigh on many privately financed segments.

“What little private sector nonresidential momentum exists remains concentrated in just two segments,” said Basu. “Data centers, which are part of the office category, and manufacturing accounted for 94% of the increase in total nonresidential construction spending from December 2023 to December 2024. Activity in these segments, and perhaps only these segments, will remain elevated regardless of upward pressure on construction costs.”,”– Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-down-02-in-december-data-centers-and-manufacturing-make-up-94-of-spending-increase-in-2024; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

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

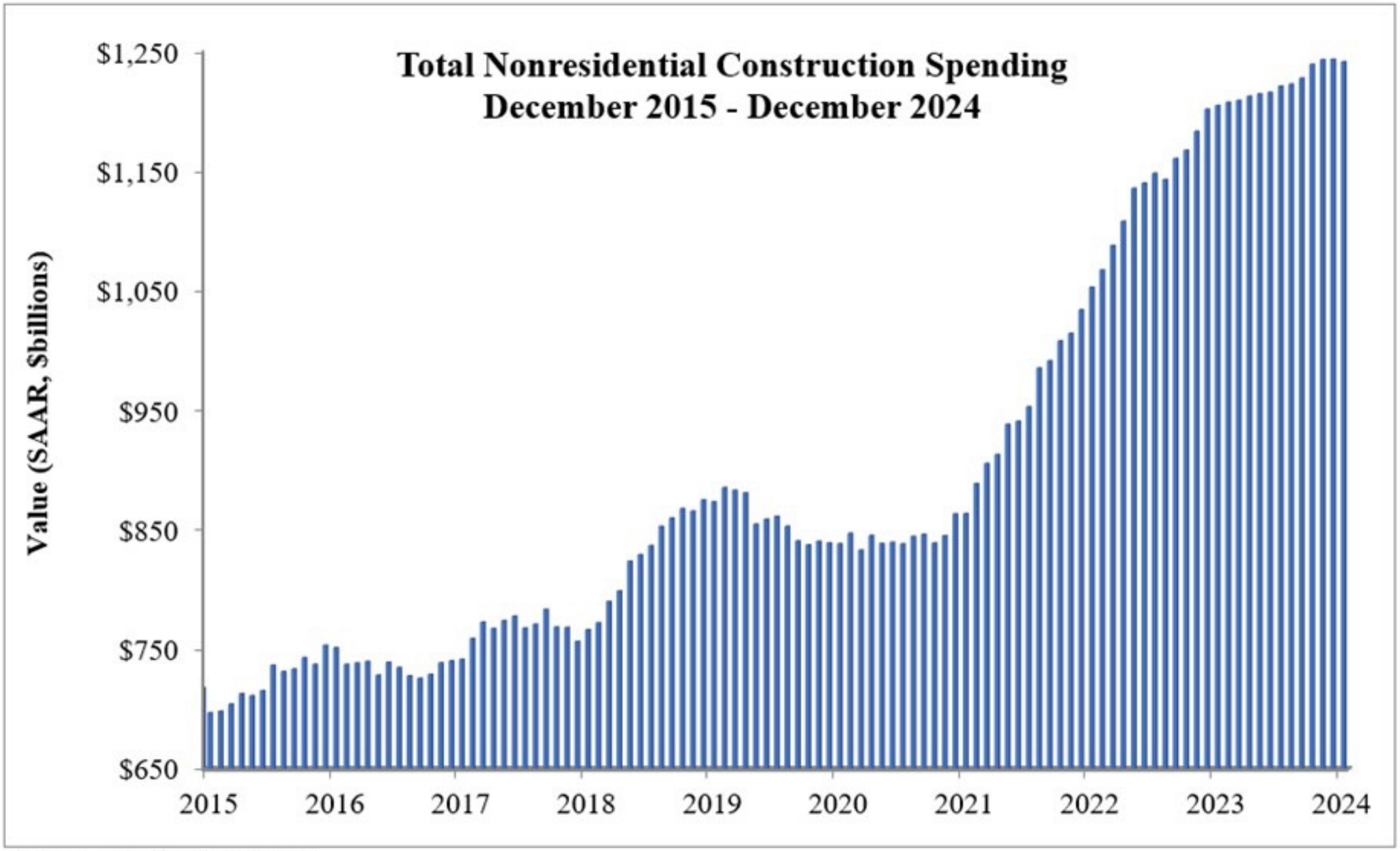
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	1-Month % Change	12-Month % Change
Total Construction	$2,192,173	$2,180,323	$2,101,292	0.5%	4.3%
Residential	$951,525	$937,633	$897,183	1.5%	6.1%
Nonresidential	$1,240,648	$1,242,691	$1,204,109	-0.2%	3.0%
Office	$103,660	$102,703	$100,013	0.9%	3.6%
Highway and street	$144,341	$143,320	$152,050	0.7%	-5.1%
Power	$149,545	$149,313	$144,571	0.2%	3.4%
Communication	$29,044	$29,010	$29,497	0.1%	-1.5%
Manufacturing	$237,160	$237,012	$212,883	0.1%	11.4%
Religious	$4,346	$4,345	$4,555	0.0%	-4.6%
Lodging	$23,261	$23,264	$24,330	0.0%	-4.4%
Amusement and recreation	$41,421	$41,479	$38,082	-0.1%	8.8%
Public safety	$19,203	$19,230	$17,015	-0.1%	12.9%
Commercial	$124,509	$124,869	$132,437	-0.3%	-6.0%
Educational	$134,678	$135,457	$128,934	-0.6%	4.5%
Transportation	$69,089	$69,716	$65,605	-0.9%	5.3%
Health care	$68,068	$68,969	$69,310	-1.3%	-1.8%
Sewage and waste disposal	$46,818	$47,443	$42,419	-1.3%	10.4%
Conservation and development	$11,304	$11,496	$12,112	-1.7%	-6.7%
Water supply	$34,199	$35,065	$30,298	-2.5%	12.9%
Private Nonresidential	$749,046	$748,595	$731,975	0.1%	2.3%
Public Nonresidential	$491,602	$494,096	$472,133	-0.5%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-down-02-in-december-data-centers-and-manufacturing-make-up-94-of-spending-increase-in-2024; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-nonresidential-construction-spending-down-02-in-december-data-centers-and-manufacturing-make-up-94-of-spending-increase-in-2024; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

Construction Hiring Historically Slow in December, Lowest Since April 2020

“The construction industry had 217,000 job openings on the last day of December 2024, 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 decreased by 55,000 last month and are down by 217,000 from the same time last year.

“Construction industry hiring slowed to an unprecedented pace in December,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “The hiring rate fell to 3.6% for the month, the lowest level on record aside from the pandemic-affected month of April 2020. This slowdown is a direct result of diminished demand for labor; industrywide job openings have fallen exactly 50% over the past year.

“Despite these signs of weak demand for labor, both layoffs and quits remain extremely low by historical standards,” said Basu. “It’s possible that the weak demand for construction labor is the effect of cold weather and slowing activity during the transition between presidential administrations. A majority of contractors intend to increase their staffing levels over the next six months, according to ABC’s ABC’s Construction Confidence Index, suggesting that hiring could pick up during the first half of 2025.”” – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-construction-hiring-historically-slow-in-december-lowest-since-april-2020; 2/4//25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

Construction Industry Job Openings and Labor Turnover Data: December 2024

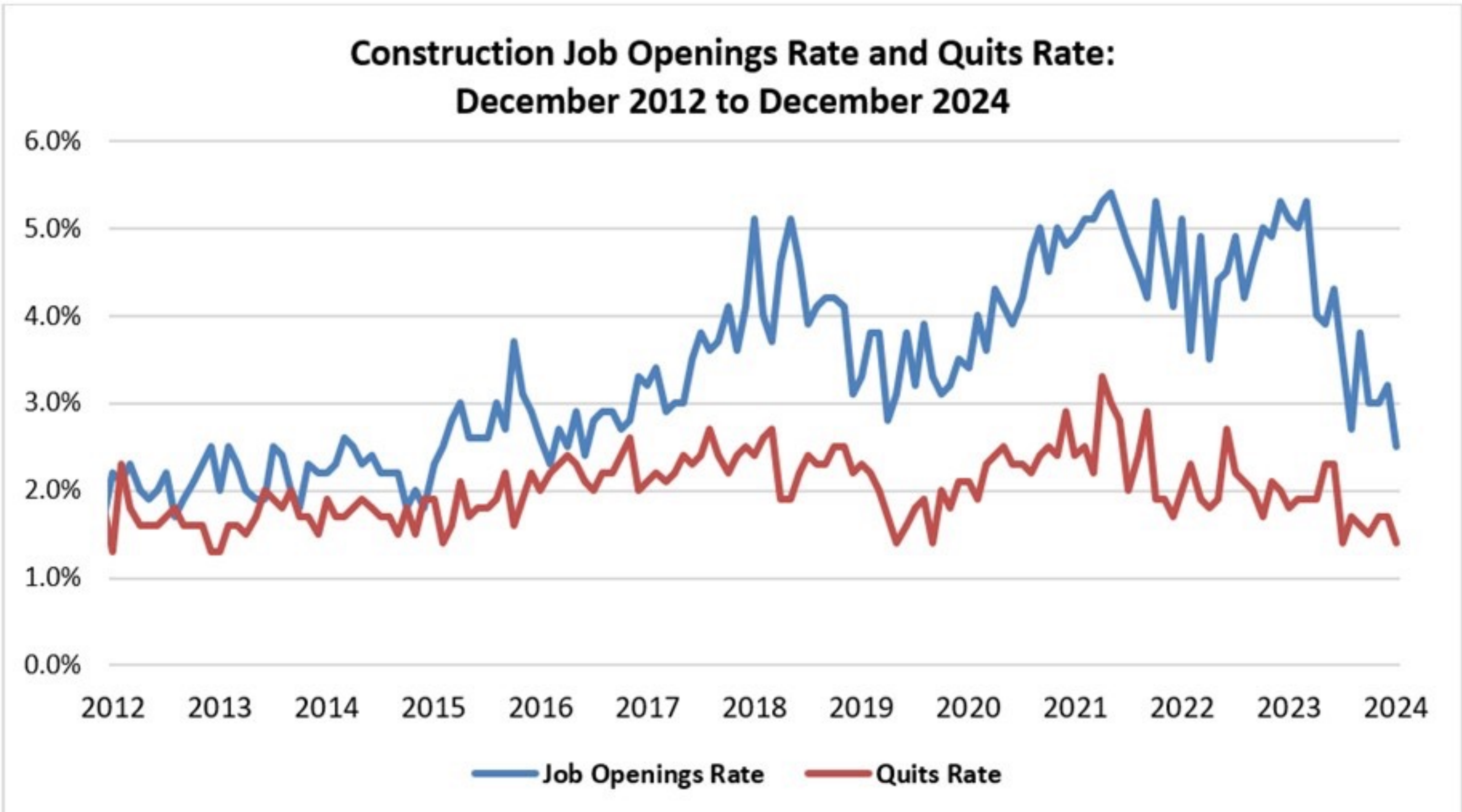
	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	1-Month Net Change	12-Month Net Change	12-Month % Change
Total						
Job openings	217,000	272,000	434,000	-55,000	-217,000	-50.0%
Hires	301,000	325,000	357,000	-24,000	-56,000	-15.7%
Total separations	279,000	315,000	335,000	-36,000	-56,000	-16.7%
Layoffs & discharges	147,000	144,000	173,000	3,000	-26,000	-15.0%
Quits	117,000	143,000	149,000	-26,000	-32,000	-21.5%
Other separations	15,000	28,000	13,000	-13,000	2,000	15.4%
Rate						
Job openings	2.5%	3.2%	5.1%			
Hires	3.6%	3.9%	4.4%			
Total separations	3.4%	3.8%	4.1%			
Layoffs & discharges	1.8%	1.7%	2.1%			
Quits	1.4%	1.7%	1.8%			
Other separations	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%			

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-construction-hiring-historically-slow-in-december-lowest-since-april-2020; 2/4//25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-construction-hiring-historically-slow-in-december-lowest-since-april-2020; 2/4//25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

All But 3 States Had Construction Unemployment Rates Below 10% in December 2024

"The national December 2024 not seasonally adjusted construction unemployment rate was 5.2%, up 0.8% from December 2023, according to a state-by-state analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data released by Associated Builders and Contractors. The analysis found that only six states had lower estimated construction unemployment rates over the same period and 44 states were higher. All but three states (Minnesota, New Jersey and Rhode Island) had construction unemployment rates below 10%.

National NSA payroll construction employment was 191,000 higher than December 2023. As of December 2024, NSA payroll construction employment was 701,000, or 9.2%, above its pre-pandemic peak of 7.6 million.

The construction employment market is holding up relatively well compared to its pre-pandemic level. As of December 2024, 27 states had lower construction unemployment rates compared to December 2019 and 23 states had higher rates." – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-all-but-3-states-had-construction-unemployment-rates-below-10-in-december-2024; 2/10//25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

All But 3 States Had Construction Unemployment Rates Below 10% in December 2024

"“High interest rates, rising labor costs and uncertainty about future materials prices due to tariffs are acting as a drag on new construction plans. Nonetheless, construction employment continues to grow as older projects move forward and some new projects break ground,” said Bernard Markstein, president and chief economist of Markstein Advisors, who conducted the analysis for ABC. “Much depends on the future course of Federal Reserve monetary policy, efforts by the new administration to spur economic activity and the threat of price increases due to tariffs.”

Recent Month-to-Month Fluctuations

In December, nationally, the NSA construction unemployment rate increased 0.6% from November. Only six states had lower estimated construction unemployment rates than in November. Meanwhile, 41 states had higher rates and three posted the same rate.” – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-all-but-3-states-had-construction-unemployment-rates-below-10-in-december-2024; 2/10//25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

All But 3 States Had Construction Unemployment Rates Below 10% in December 2024

The Top States

Six states with the lowest estimated NSA construction unemployment rates for December were:

Oklahoma, 1.7%
Florida, 2.4%
New Hampshire, 2.7%
Georgia, Hawaii and Oregon (tie), 3.2%

Oklahoma posted its lowest December NSA estimated construction unemployment rate on record. Florida and Oregon had their second-lowest December unemployment rate on record, both behind their low in 2023 (2.1% and 2.7%, respectively). After the 2023 rate of 3%, Hawaii's 3.2% rate was its lowest since the December 2006 rate of 2.6% and its third-lowest rate on record. New Hampshire's 2.7% rate was its third-lowest rate on record." – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-all-but-3-states-had-construction-unemployment-rates-below-10-in-december-2024; 2/10//25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

All But 3 States Had Construction Unemployment Rates Below 10% in December 2024

The Bottom States

The five states with the highest December estimated NSA construction unemployment rates were:

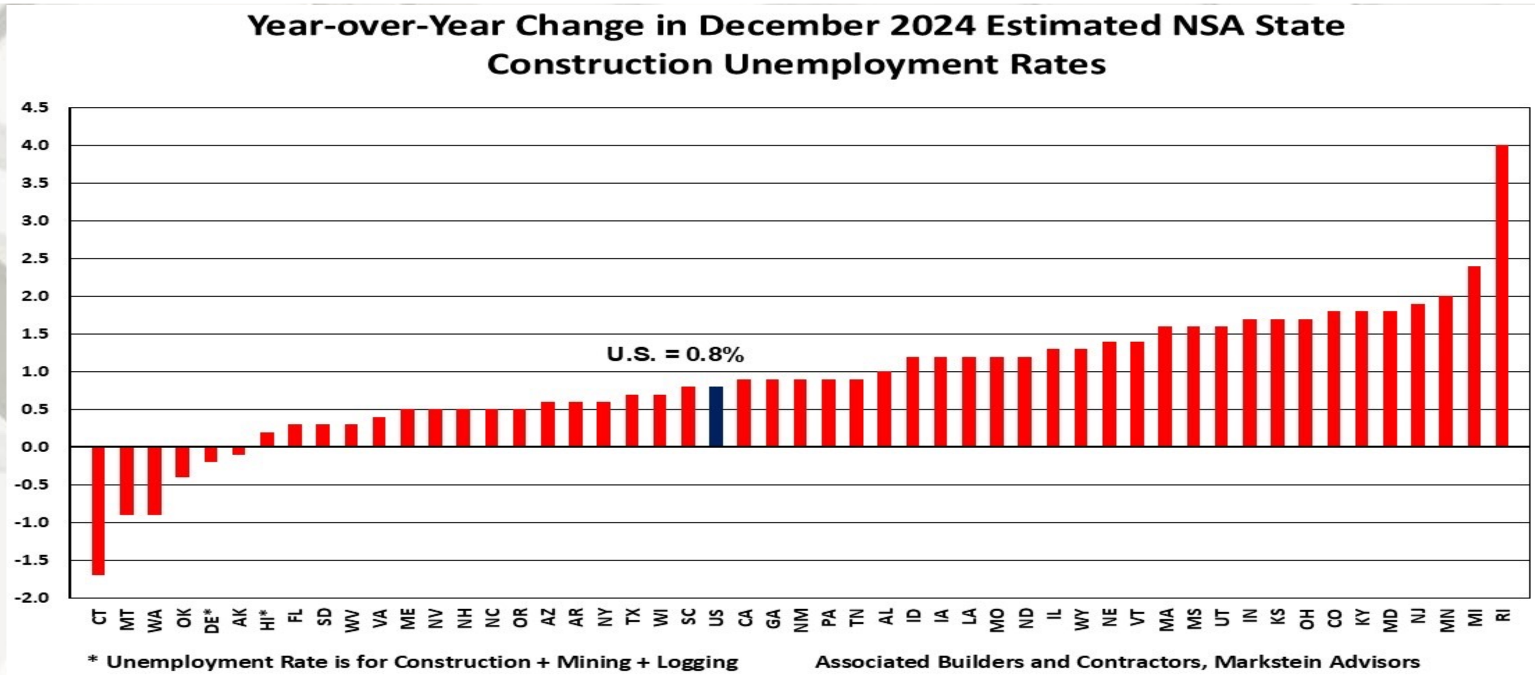
Illinois, 9.0%
Maine, 9.1%
Minnesota and New Jersey (tie), 10.6%
Rhode Island, 16.5%

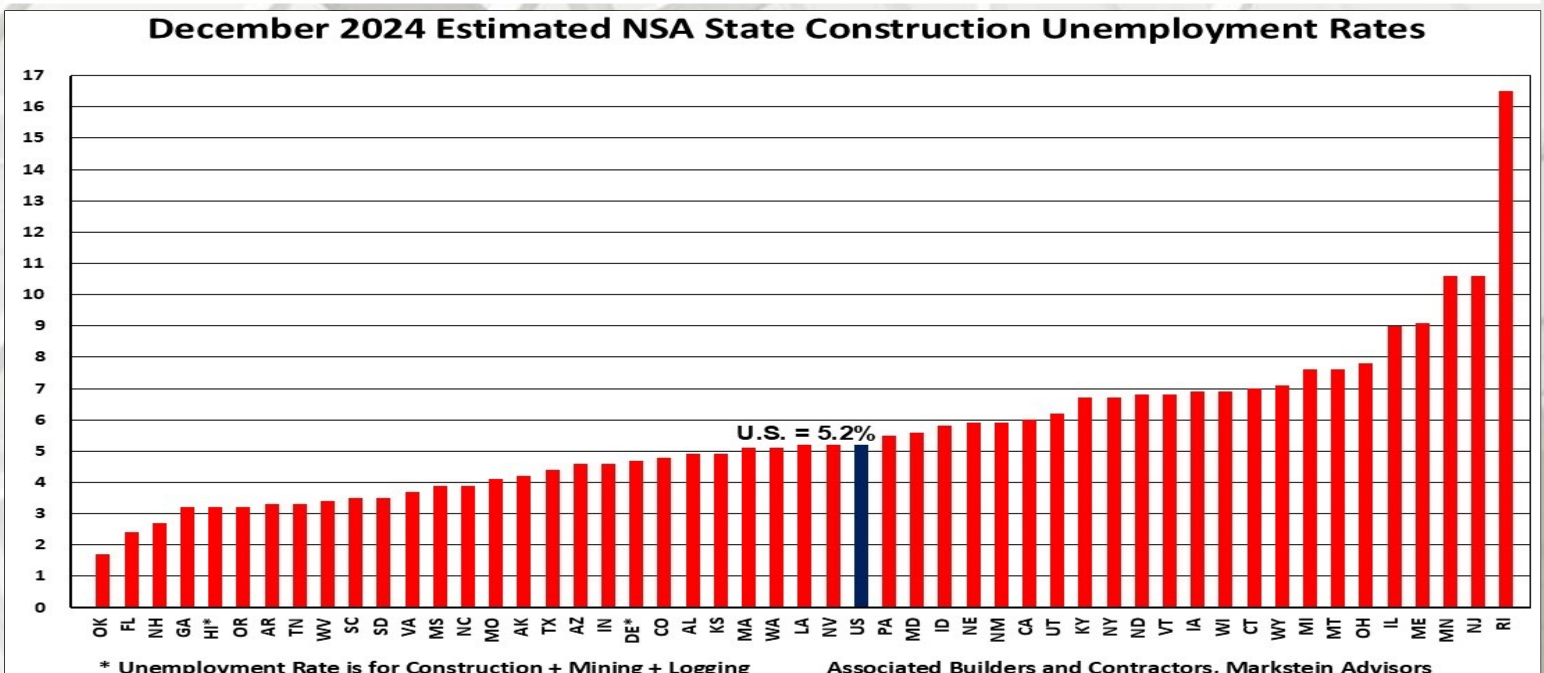
Rhode Island had the largest year-over-year increase in its NSA estimated construction unemployment rate (up 4%) among the states. Minnesota and New Jersey had the third- and fourth-largest year-over-year increase in their rates, respectively (up 2% and 1.9%).” – Erika Walter, Director of Media Relations, ABC

Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-all-but-3-states-had-construction-unemployment-rates-below-10-in-december-2024; 2/10//25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors

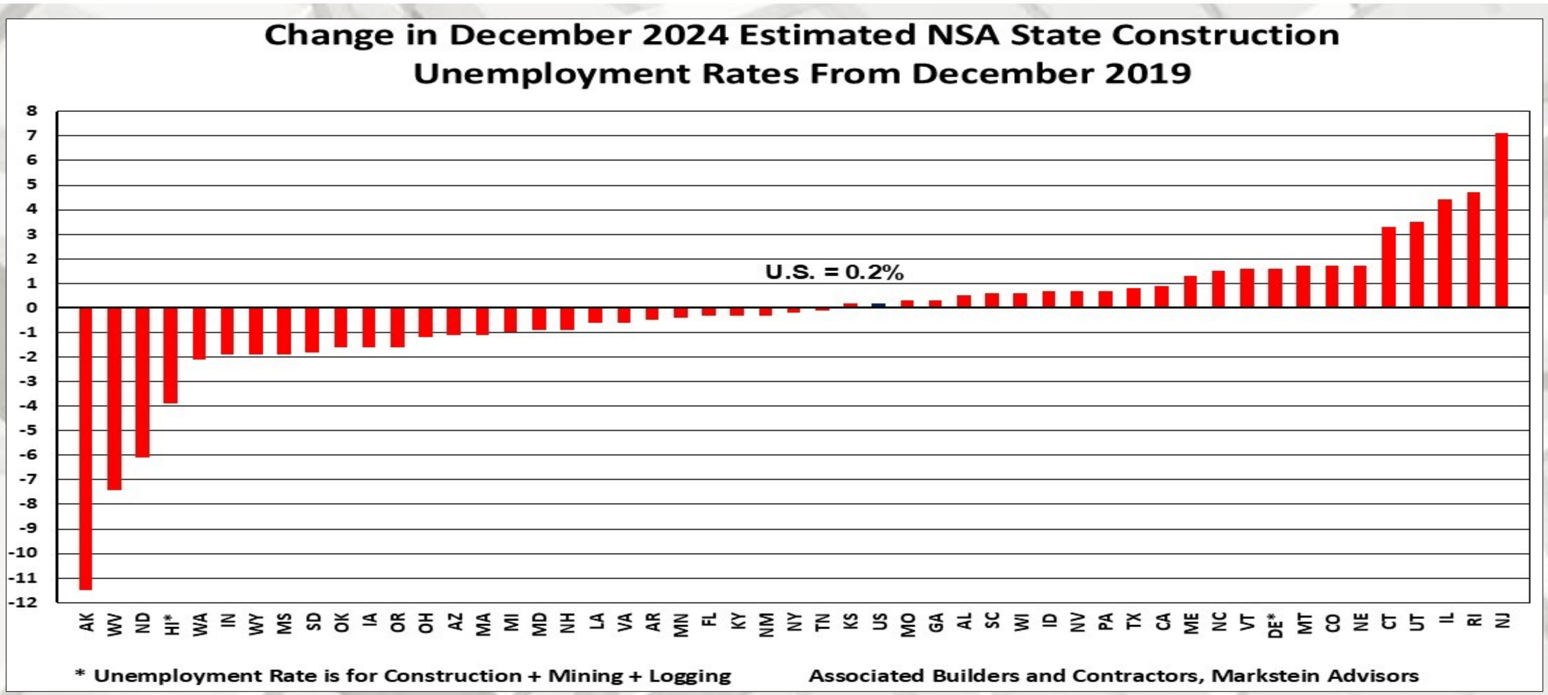


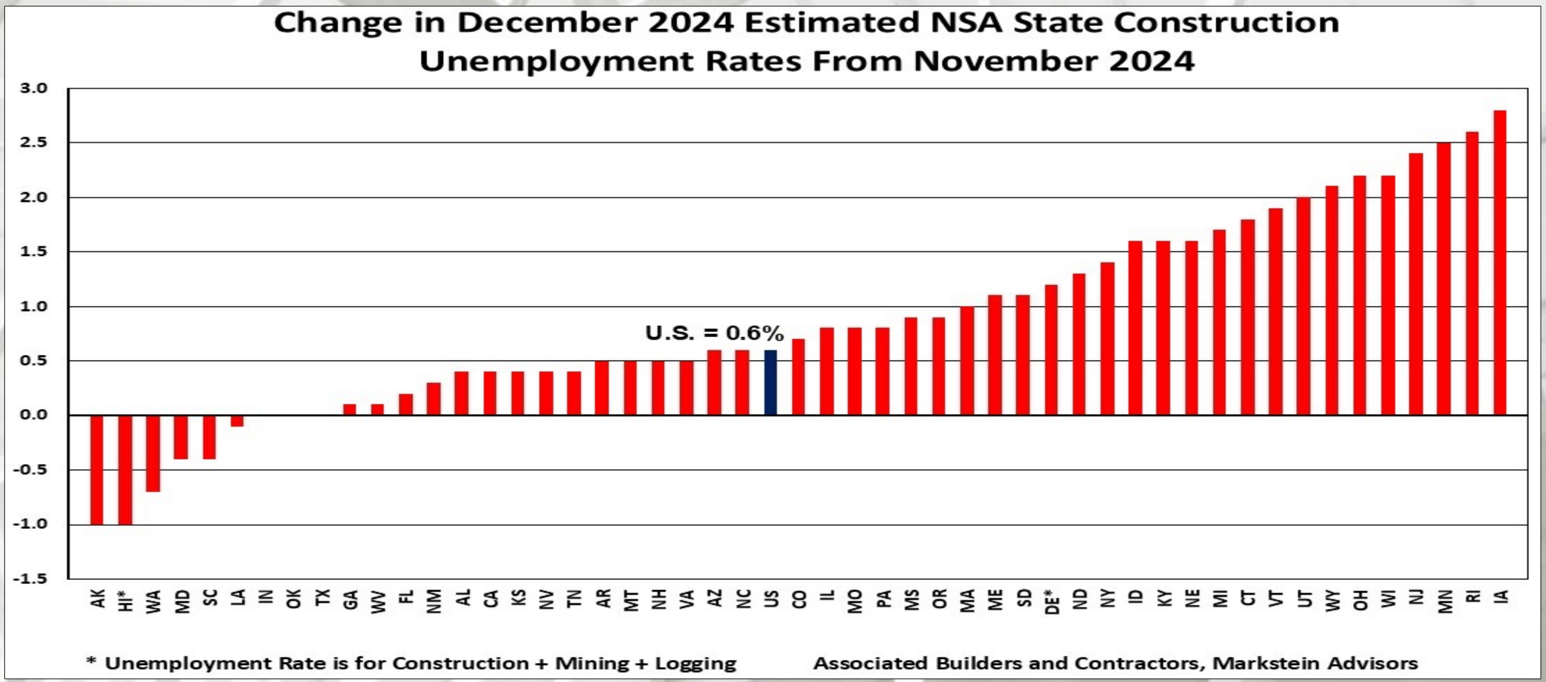


Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-construction-hiring-historically-slow-in-december-lowest-since-april-2020; 2/10/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
Associated Builders and Contractors





Source: https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abc-construction-hiring-historically-slow-in-december-lowest-since-april-2020; 2/10/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators
American Institute of Architects (AIA) & Deltek

Architecture Billings Index December 2024

Business conditions at architecture firms weakened significantly in December, following two months of better conditions.

“Despite the AIA/Deltek Architecture Billings Index (ABI) fell to 44.1 for the month as the share of firms reporting a decline in firm billings increased. Firm billings have now decreased for the majority of firms every month except two since October 2022. While not a full-fledged recession, this period of softness and uncertainty has been challenging for many firms. And prospects for future work remain soft as well. Although inquiries into new projects continued to increase at a relatively slow rate, the value of newly signed design contracts decreased further in December as clients remained hesitant to commit to new work. In one brighter spot, backlogs at firms remained steady and strong at 6.5 months in December, so many firms still have work in the pipeline for now.

“While there were signs that the design cycle was bottoming out in the fourth quarter, the December reading indicated a step back. There remains considerable uncertainty as to the feasibility of many planned construction projects, so the wait-and-see period is extending into 2025.” – Kermit Baker, Chief Economist, AIA

Source: https://live-aia-web.pantheonsite.io/resource-center/abi-december-2024-business-conditions-end-year-weak-note; 1/22/25

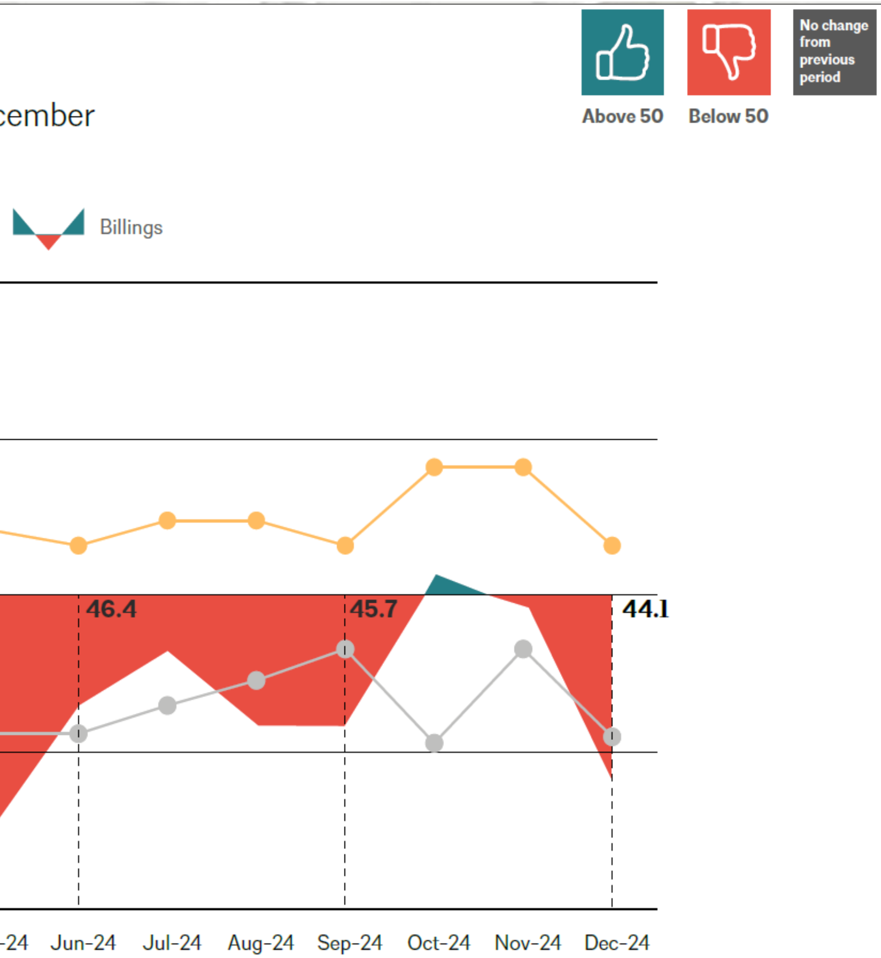
Return to TOC

Private Indicators
American Institute of Architects (AIA) & Deltek

National

Architecture firm billings weaken significantly in December

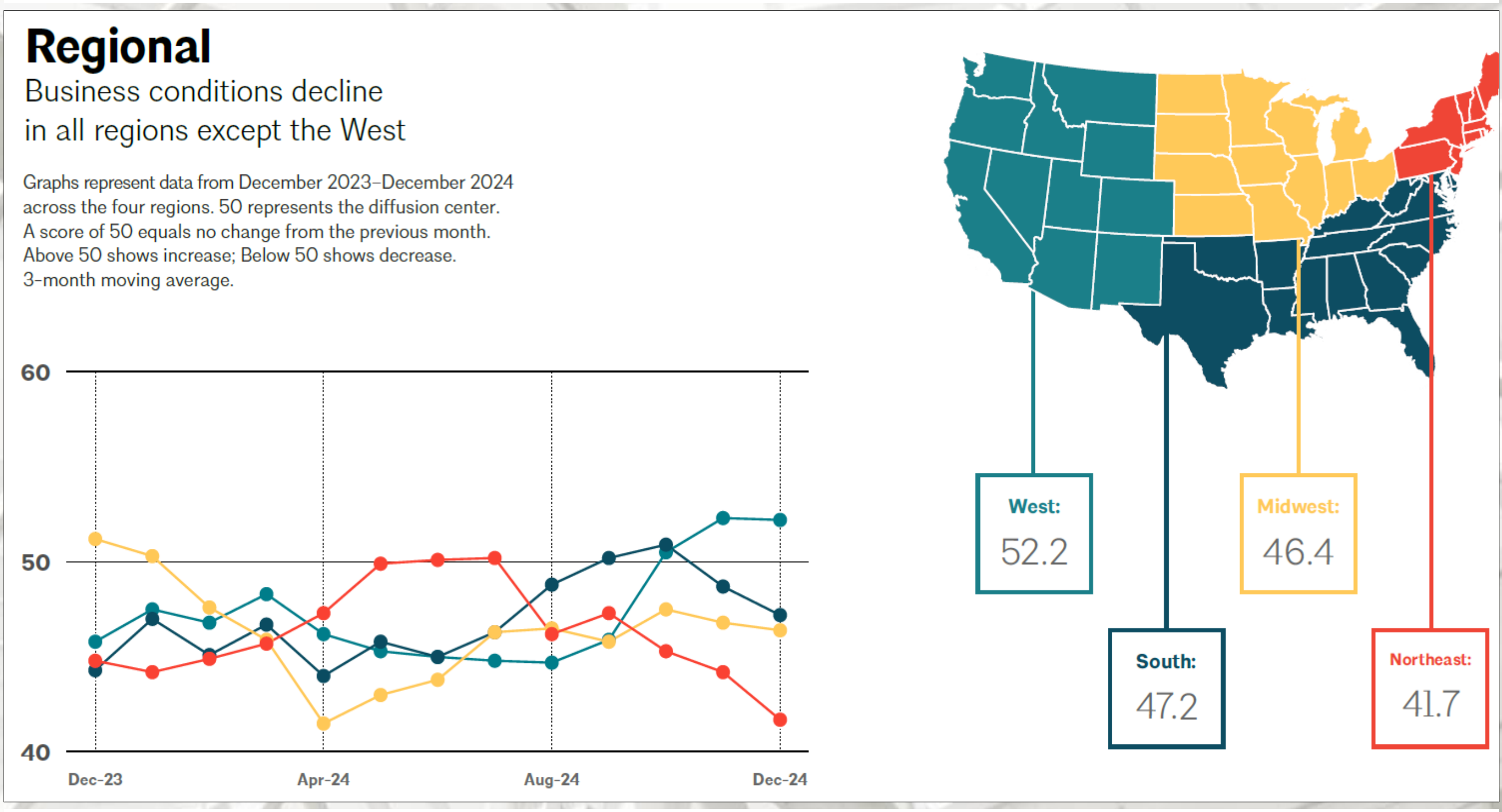
Graphs represent data from December 2023–December 2024.



Source: https://live-aia-web.pantheonsite.io/resource-center/abi-december-2024-business-conditions-end-year-weak-note; 1/22/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators: AIA & Deltek



Region

"Billings also declined at firms of all specializations in December, although firms with an institutional sector are on the cusp of growth and have been for several months. However, business conditions softened further for both firms with multifamily residential and commercial/industrial specializations this month, ending the year on a down note." – Katharine Keane, Senior Associate Editor, The American Institute of Architects

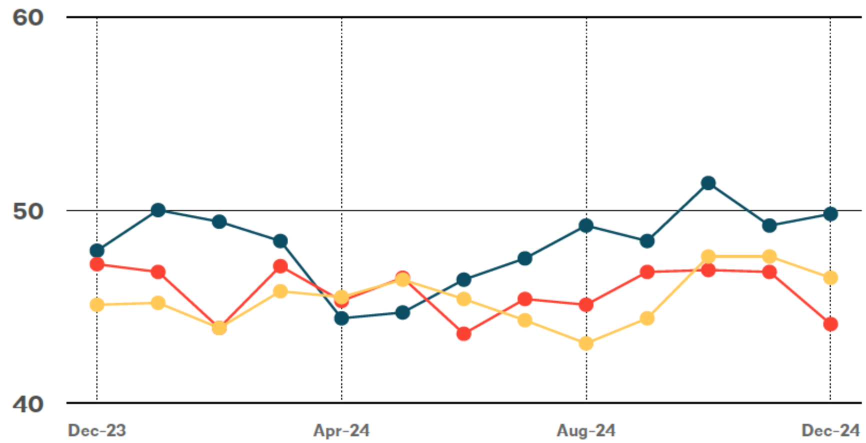
Source: https://live-aia-web.pantheonsite.io/resource-center/abi-december-2024-business-conditions-end-year-weak-note; 1/22/25

Private Indicators: AIA & Deltek

Sector

Billings continue to decline
at all firm specializations

Graphs represent data from December 2023–December 2024 across the three sectors. 50 represents the diffusion center. A score of 50 equals no change from the previous month. Above 50 shows increase; Below 50 shows decrease. 3-month moving average.



Sector

"There was significant improvement in business conditions at firms with a multifamily residential specialization in December as well, where they reported their first increase in billings since August 2022, at the end of the post-pandemic boom. In addition, billings increased for the second consecutive month at firms with an institutional specialization. While billings continued to decline at firms with a commercial/industrial specialization, the pace of the decline slowed significantly." – Katharine Keane, Senior Associate Editor, The American Institute of Architects

Source: https://live-aia-web.pantheonsite.io/resource-center/abi-december-2024-business-conditions-end-year-weak-note; 1/22/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

Dodge Data & Analytics

Construction Starts Decrease 2% in December

Nonbuilding Starts Led This Month's Decline

"Total construction starts decreased 2% in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $1.2 trillion, according to Dodge Construction Network. Nonresidential building starts grew 2%, nonbuilding starts moved 14% lower, while residential building starts grew 4%. On a year-to-date basis through December, total construction starts were up 6% from 2023. Nonresidential starts were up 4%, residential starts were up 7% and nonbuilding starts were up by 7%.

For the 12 months ending December 2024, total construction starts were up 6% from the 12 months ending December 2023. Residential starts were up 7%, nonresidential starts were up 4% and nonbuilding starts rose 7% over the same period.

"Rate cuts prior to December supported some momentum in multifamily and commercial starts over the month," stated Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network. "Sustained labor shortages and elevated materials prices will continue to add risk to the sector, in addition to the concern over tariffs and more strict immigration enforcement. Overall, the strength in the value of projects in planning and further Fed rate cuts should encourage growth in construction in 2025."'" – Amy Roepke, Media Contact, Construction.com

Source: https://www.construction.com/company-news/construction-starts-decrease-2-in-december//; 1/21/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

Dodge Data & Analytics

"**Nonresidential building starts** rose 2% in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $482 billion. Commercial starts were 6% higher during the month thanks to an increase in data center, hotel, and retail starts, while institutional starts fell 3%. Manufacturing starts rose 19% over the month. In 2024, total nonresidential starts were up 4%. Institutional starts were 16% higher, while commercial starts were up 8%, and manufacturing starts were 35% lower on a year-to-date basis through December.

Residential building starts grew 4% in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $397 billion. Single-family starts fell 3%, while multifamily starts were up 24%. In 2024, total residential starts were 7% higher. Single-family starts increased 15%, and multifamily starts were down 7% on a year-to-date basis through December.

The largest multifamily structures to break ground in December were the $510 million St. Regis Residences development in Miami, Florida, the $350 million Reflections Lakeside Resort in Orlando, Florida and the $210 million Ritz-Carlton Residences in The Woodlands, Texas.

Regionally, total construction starts in December rose in Midwest and South Atlantic regions, but fell in the Northeast, South Central, and West regions." – Sarah Martin, Associate Director of Forecasting, Dodge Construction Network

Source: https://www.construction.com/company-news/construction-starts-decrease-2-in-december//; 1//21/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION STARTS
(Millions of Dollars, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate)

	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	% Change
Nonresidential Building	$482,140	$472,349	2
Residential Building	$397,421	$381,714	4
Nonbuilding Construction	$321,786	$373,788	-14
Total Construction	$1,201,347	$1,227,851	-2

YEAR-TO-DATE CONSTRUCTION STARTS
Unadjusted Totals, in Millions of Dollars

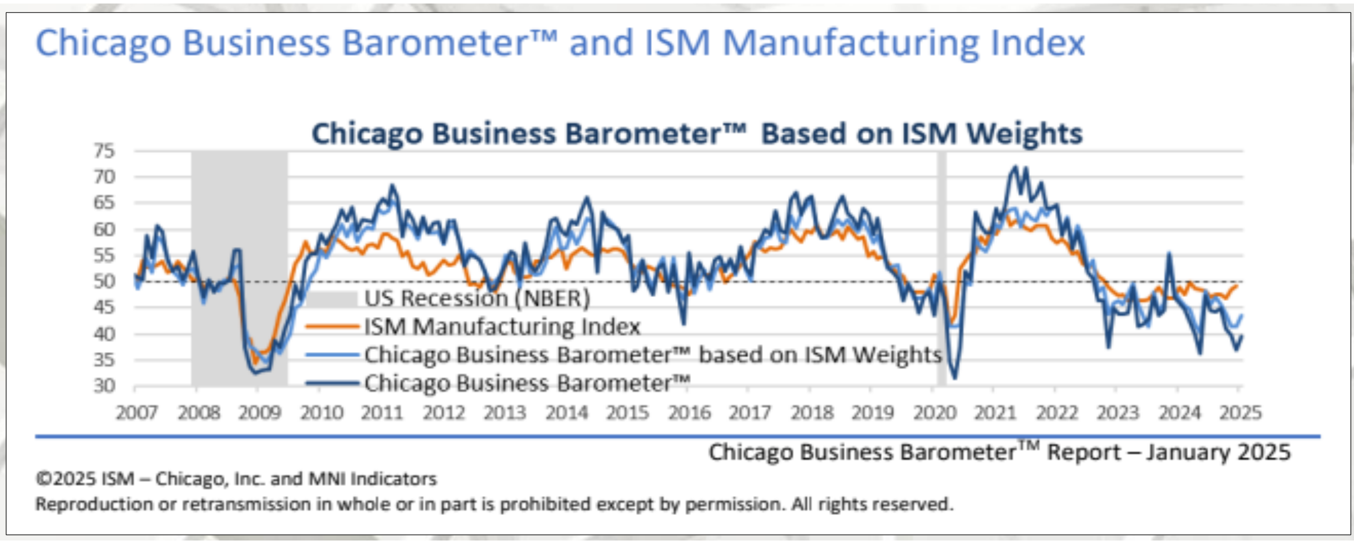
	12 Mos. 2024	12 Mos. 2023	% Change
Nonresidential Building	$434,119	$417,202	4
Residential Building	$389,201	$ 364,384	7
Nonbuilding Construction	$324,349	$302,891	7
Total Construction	$1,147,668	$1,084,477	6

Source: Dodge Data & Analytics

Source: https://www.construction.com/company-news/construction-starts-decrease-2-in-december//; 1//21/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators



MNI Chicago

January 2025 Chicago Report™ – Advances to 39.5 in January

"**The Chicago Business Barometer™**, produced with MNI, increased 2.6 points to 39.5 in January. This is the first increase after three consecutive months of decline, though the index remains below both the level of November 2024 and the 2024 average.

- The rise was driven by increases in New Orders and Production. Falls in Supplier Deliveries, employment and Order Backlogs moderated the increase.
- New Orders rebounded 13.8 points, more than reversing last month's decline. This leaves it the highest since September 2024 and above the 2024 average.
- Production expanded 4.0 points to a similar level to that seen in November." – 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/; 1/31/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

January 2025 Chicago Report™ – Advances to 39.5 in January

- "Supplier Deliveries more than reversed last month's gains falling 13.5 points. The index reached its lowest level since August 2023 and saw its largest monthly fall since February 2008.
- Employment dropped 9.0 points, to the lowest level recorded since June 2020. Two-thirds of respondents reported unchanged employment whilst nearly 30% reported lower levels of employment.
- Order Backlogs edged down 0.8 points.
- Inventories expanded 14.9 points, returning to expansionary levels for the first time since November 2023. This is after four consecutive months of decline. A quarter of respondents reported larger inventories.
- Prices Paid eased 2.7 points, the fourth successive fall and the lowest level since July 2024." – Tim Davis, Head of Fixed Income Research, and Tim Cooper, Chief Economist, MNI Indicators

Source: https://chicago.ismworld.org/news-publications/reports/research-survey/; 1/31/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Decreased in December

"**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®** (LEI) for the U.S. inched down by 0.1% in December 2024 to 101.6 (2016=100), after an upwardly revised increase of 0.4% in November. The LEI declined by 1.3% over the second half of 2024, slightly less than its 1.7% decline over the first half of the last year.

The Index fell slightly in December failing to sustain November's increase. Low consumer confidence about future business conditions, still relatively weak manufacturing orders, an increase in initial claims for unemployment, and a decline in building permits contributed to the decline. Still, half of the 10 components of the index contributed positively in December. Moreover, the LEI's six-month and twelve-month growth rates were less negative, signaling fewer headwinds to US economic activity ahead. Nonetheless, we expect growth momentum to remain strong to start the year and US real GDP to expand by 2.3% in 2025.

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. rose by 0.4% in December 2024 to 114.1 (2016=100), following a 0.2% increase in November. As a result, the CEI increased by 0.9% in the six-month period ending December 2024, slightly higher than its 0.7% growth over the previous six months. The CEI's four 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. They all improved in December, with the largest positive contribution coming from industrial production, which contributed negatively in three out of the past six months. This was followed by personal income less transfer payments, payroll employment, and manufacturing and trade sales.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) for the U.S. increased by 0.1% to 118.5 (2016=100) in December 2024, after an increase of 0.2% in November. However, the LAG's six-month growth rate remained negative at 0.5% over the second half of 2024, a partial reversal from its 0.8% increase over the first half of 2024." – Justyna Zabinska-La Monica, Senior Manager, Business Cycle Indicators, at The Conference Board

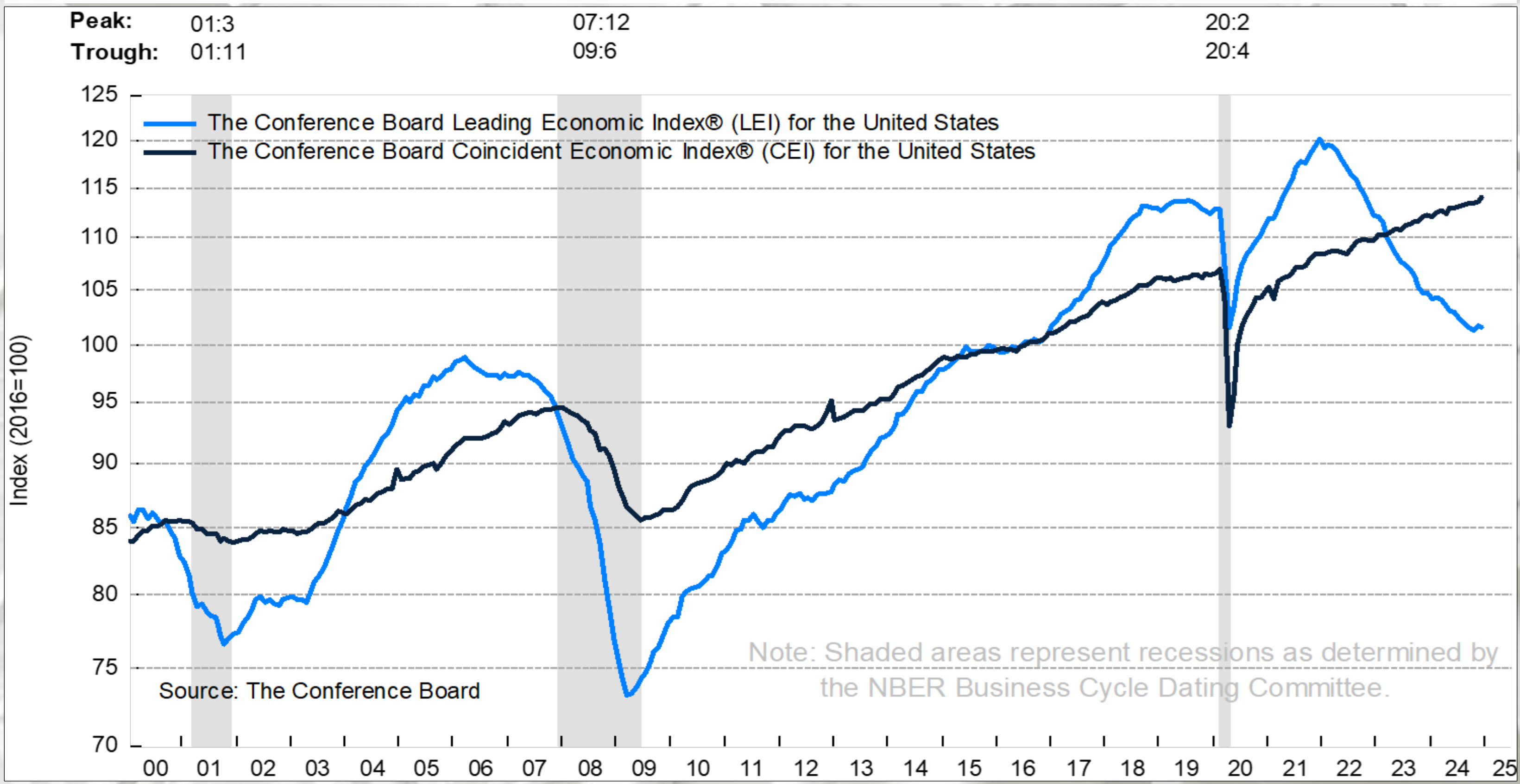
Source: https://www.conference-board.org/data/bcicountry.cfm; 1/22/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Decreased in December

The LEI pulled back slightly in December 2024 after November's upwardly revised gain



Source: https://www.conference-board.org/data/bcicountry.cfm; 1/22/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI™

US manufacturing sector returns to growth and business confidence surges

Renewed increases in output and new orders
Business sentiment up sharply
Sustained job creation

"The seasonally adjusted S&P Global US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI®) moved back above the 50.0 no-change mark for the first time in seven months during January. At 51.2, the PMI was up from 49.4 in December, and pointed to a modest improvement in the health of the sector at the start of the year.

The renewed strengthening of business conditions in large part reflected returns to growth of both new orders and output. New business increased for the first time since June last year amid improving customer demand and greater confidence in the economy. New export orders nonetheless continued to fall in January, albeit marginally.

Although the pace of expansion was modest, the increase represented a marked turnaround from the end of 2024 when output had fallen at a solid pace. The aforementioned rise in new orders had been a factor leading to growth of output, while a number of respondents linked the expansion in production schedules to the start of the Trump presidency." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/67d014eed577400fac0246e9c38b4e51; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI™

US manufacturing sector returns to growth and business confidence surges

“As well as supporting demand in January, the incoming administration also provided a boost to business confidence.

Manufacturing sector optimism jumped sharply from the end of 2024, showing the largest monthly improvement in sentiment since November 2020. Confidence hit a 34-month high as more than half of respondents predicted a rise in manufacturing production over the coming year. A combination of higher new orders and improving business confidence meant that manufacturers increased their staffing levels for the third month running. Moreover, the pace of job creation was the highest since June 2024.

Backlogs of work continued to fall as a recent period of subdued demand meant that spare capacity remained in the sector. That said, the pace of depletion slowed sharply and was the weakest in seven months, reflecting the renewed expansion of new orders.

Although firms continued to scale back their purchasing activity in January, the pace of reduction was the weakest in the current eight-month sequence of decline and only marginal.

Some firms indicated that their current holdings of inputs were sufficient to deal with orders, and showed a desire to draw down on stocks during the month. In fact, inventories of purchases fell markedly, and to the largest extent since August 2023. Stocks of finished goods were also down in January. ” – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/67d014eed577400fac0246e9c38b4e51; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI™

US manufacturing sector returns to growth and business confidence surges

“Suppliers’ delivery times lengthened for the fourth consecutive month, reflecting staff shortages at vendors and extreme weather conditions – both the wildfires in California and unusually freezing conditions elsewhere in the country.

Firms were also faced with a further sharp increase in the cost of inputs, with the pace of inflation unchanged from December.

Manufacturers therefore raised their own selling prices at a marked pace. The rate of factory gate price inflation quickened for the third month running to the fastest since March 2024.

Comment

A new year and a new President has brought new optimism in the US manufacturing sector. Business confidence about prospects for the year ahead has leaped to the highest for nearly three years after one of the largest monthly gains yet recorded by the survey. Over the past decade, only two months during the reopening of the economy from pandemic lockdowns have seen business sentiment improve as markedly as recorded in January.” – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/67d014eed577400fac0246e9c38b4e51; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

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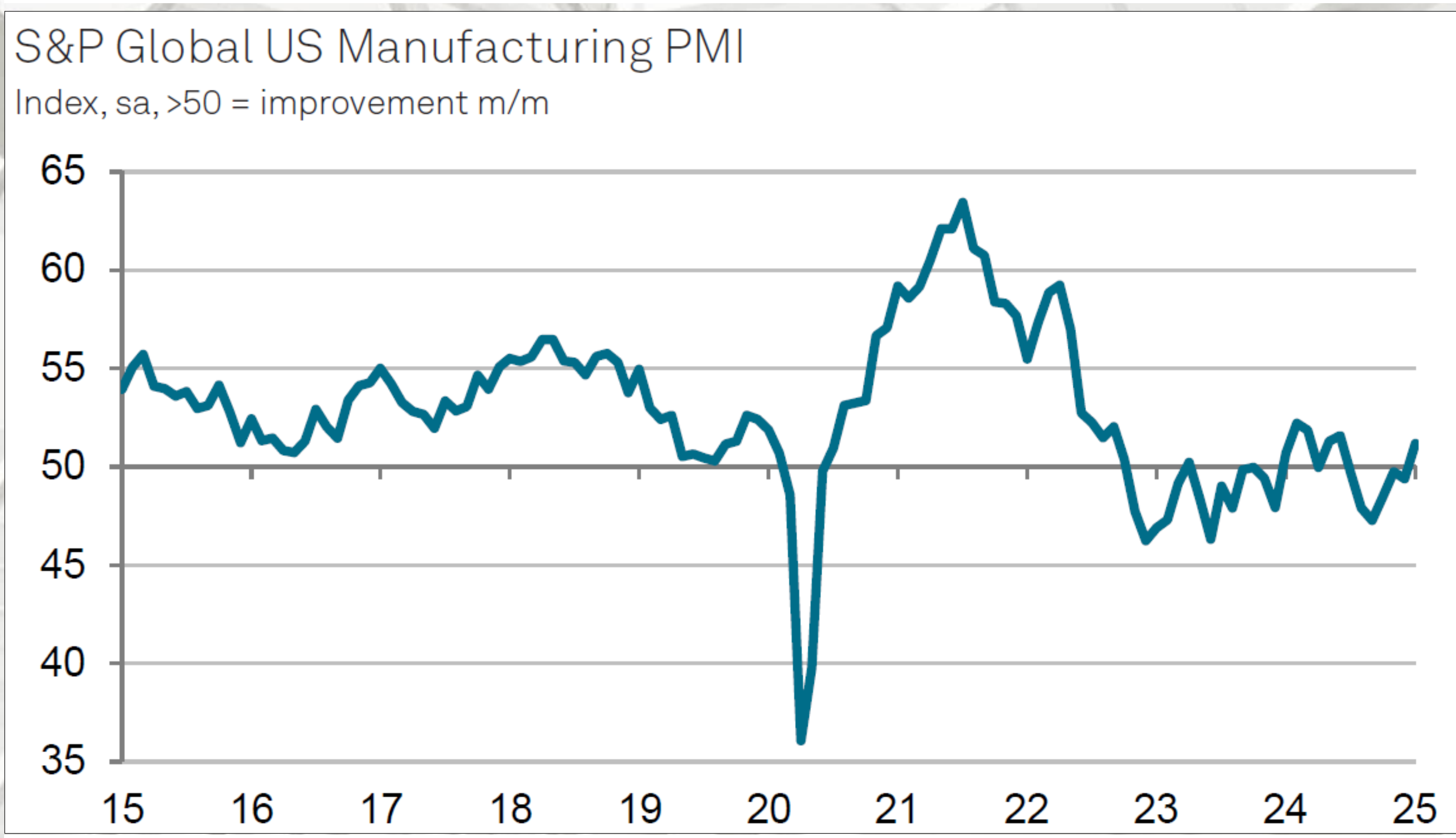
Return to TOC

Private Indicators



Source: S&P Global PMI,. ©2025 S&P Global.

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/67d014eed577400fac0246e9c38b4e51; 2/3/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

S&P Global U.S. Services PMI™

Stronger job creation despite slowdown in output growth at start of 2025

Job creation hits 31-month high
Weaker rises in activity and new business
Inflationary pressures strengthen

“The seasonally adjusted S&P Global US Services PMI® Business Activity Index rose for the second month running in December, posted 52.9 in January, down markedly from 56.8 in December but still signaling a solid monthly expansion in business activity in the service sector. Output has now increased on a monthly basis throughout the past two years, with the latest rise generally reflecting sustained new order growth.

The US service sector remained in growth territory at the start of 2025, despite posting weaker rises in both activity and new orders. Companies expressed confidence in the outlook and took on extra staff to the largest degree in more than two-and-a-half years. Meanwhile, inflationary pressures strengthened.

The pace of output expansion slowed sharply, however, and was the weakest since April 2024. Some panellists reported that the unusually freezing weather conditions seen in parts of the country had been behind the slowdown in growth.” – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/8dd1a114dc9e4a498d0a4fb62fc20b9e; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

S&P Global U.S. Services PMI™

Stronger job creation despite slowdown in output growth at start of 2025

"The securing of new customers and client approval of projects contributed to a ninth consecutive monthly rise in new business. Here too, the pace of expansion eased from December, but remained solid.

The rise in total new business was recorded in spite of a renewed decrease in new export orders, which fell for the first time in seven months. The pace of decline was only marginal, however.

As well as seeing growth of activity ease in January, there was also a slight reduction in business confidence at the start of the year, after optimism hit an 18-month high in December. That said, sentiment remained broadly in line with the series average. More than 42% of respondents predict an increase in activity over the coming year, while only 6% forecast a reduction.

In some cases, confidence was linked to the incoming administration, with economic conditions expected to improve. Marketing activity and increases in new orders were also central to business optimism.

Service providers looked to expand capacity at the start of 2025 and ramped up hiring accordingly. Employment rose for the second month running, with the rate of job creation accelerating to the fastest since June 2022." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/8dd1a114dc9e4a498d0a4fb62fc20b9e; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

S&P Global U.S. Services PMI™

Stronger job creation despite slowdown in output growth at start of 2025

"Despite stronger jobs growth, the recent period of rising new orders meant that capacity pressures remained evident in January. Outstanding business increased for the third consecutive month. The latest rise was slight, but more pronounced than seen in December.

Higher labor costs was the main factor behind a further sharp increase in input prices in January. The rate of inflation reached a three-month high and was broadly in line with the series average. Higher prices for materials and utilities were also recorded.

In line with the picture for input costs, the pace of output price inflation also quickened in January as companies passed through higher cost burdens to customers. The solid increase in charges was the fastest since last September.

Comment

Service sector businesses reported a slowdown at the start of 2025, with activity levels growing at a reduced pace compared to the robust gains seen late last year. Looking at the manufacturing and services PMI surveys together, a 1.6% annualized GDP growth rate is signaled for January. That compares with a 2.4% growth signal for the fourth quarter of 2024, for which official data currently estimates a 2.3% GDP gain." – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/8dd1a114dc9e4a498d0a4fb62fc20b9e; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

S&P Global U.S. Services PMI™

Stronger job creation despite slowdown in output growth at start of 2025

Comment

“However, at least some of this cooling off seems to be related to disruptions caused by unusually adverse weather, hinting that growth in the services sector could revive in February. A marked upturn in hiring further supports the view that robust growth should resume. Manufacturing output also staged a welcome return to growth during the month which, if sustained, should feed through to benefit affiliated services such as transportation and logistics.

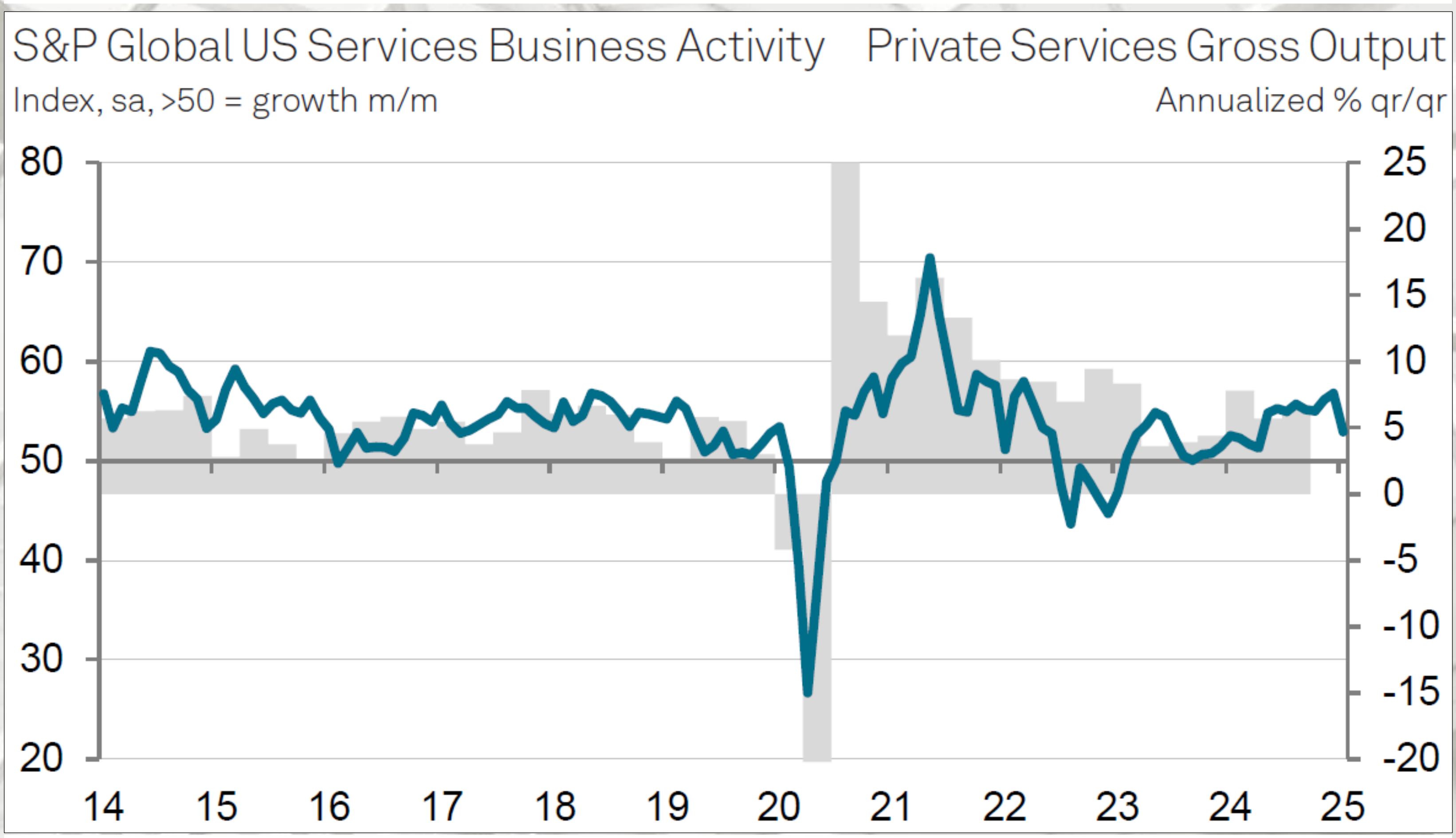
That said, the survey also recorded signs of softer demand conditions, notably where demand is heavily influenced by changing interest rate expectations, such as financial services. Business optimism has also cooled slightly, which is unlikely to have been influenced to the weather, reflecting some pull-back in the buoyant post-election optimism seen in December. It will therefore be interesting to watch the coming month’s data to see if the post-election honeymoon of improved optimism and resurgent demand has started to wane.

Meanwhile, hopes of more rate cuts will be further diminished by the combination of increased hiring, reports of labor supply difficulties, and an upturn in price pressures.” – Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/8dd1a114dc9e4a498d0a4fb62fc20b9e; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators



Source: S&P Global PMI, Bureau of Economic Analysis via S&P Global Market Intelligence. ©2025 S&P Global.

Source: https://www.pmi.spglobal.com/Public/Home/PressRelease/8dd1a114dc9e4a498d0a4fb62fc20b9e; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index

Report for January 2025: Combined Sectors

"The National Association of Credit Management's seasonally adjusted combined Credit Managers' Index (CMI) for January 2025 deteriorated 1.1 points to 53.0. "Although the CMI has deteriorated for the last two months, it remains on the side of expansion. The weaker reading is driven by declines in the amount of credit extended and a rise in the dollar amount going beyond terms. Respondents noted that they are seeing signs of financial stress among their customers and slowing business activity outside of the normal seasonal patterns," said NACM Economist Amy Crews Cutts, Ph.D., CBE.

The Fed paused on monetary policy adjustments during the January meeting of the Fed's Open Market Committee. Since the Fed began lowering the Fed Funds Target Rate in September, they cut the overnight rate by 100 basis points, a full percentage point. But inflation readings have been ticking back up and the financial markets have responded by increasing yields on longer term rates typically used as benchmarks for consumer and business loans like the 10-year Treasury bond."

Cutts continued, "this increase in interest rates makes it more expensive for businesses to expand and extend credit to their customers. When accounts go beyond terms it can have a snowball effect on the supplier who may then be put into financial stress themselves if it affects a large share of their outstanding receivables."" – Andrew Michaels, Editorial Associate, NACM

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index

Key Findings:

- The index for unfavorable factors fell into contraction territory, slipping 1.3 points from last month to 49.8. The Unfavorables have tightly hugged the 50-point threshold line for the past four years.
- The index for accounts placed for collection fell 1.8 points to 47.8 this month, its 29th month in contraction. This means the number of accounts placed for collections has increased every month for more than two years.
- Even after declining 0.8 points, the index for favorable factors remains solidly in expansion territory at 57.9.
- The index for sales recovered 2.5 points after suffering its largest recorded decline outside of the COVID pandemic in the December 2024 survey. The sales index climbed to 56.1.

"Between the fall weather events in the southern states, recent snow and ice storms, and now the wildfires in Los Angeles we have seen significant disruptions for businesses – from logistics to power outages, and worse," said Cutts. "This can create noise in economic data that will take a few months to level out. The underlying trends haven't really changed much in the CMI. For example, for 29 months, the number of accounts placed for collection has been increasing for nonpaying customers, which is worrisome in what appears in the aggregate to be a pretty good economy.''" – Andrew Michaels, Editorial Associate, NACM

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index

CMI Manufacturing versus CMI Service Sectors Indexes

"Among the CMI Manufacturing Sector Factor Indexes, favorable factors improved 0.9 points to 56.8. The Unfavorable Factor Index improved 1.0 points and stands at 51.7.

"For manufacturers, changing tariff policies is worrisome. Importantly, it's the uncertainty and timing. The Trump Administration appears to be using tariffs as a negotiating tool, which could be good for achieving certain policy goals, but makes it hard for a business owner or leader to know what will happen in a week or a month and what the optimal decisions should be for their business."

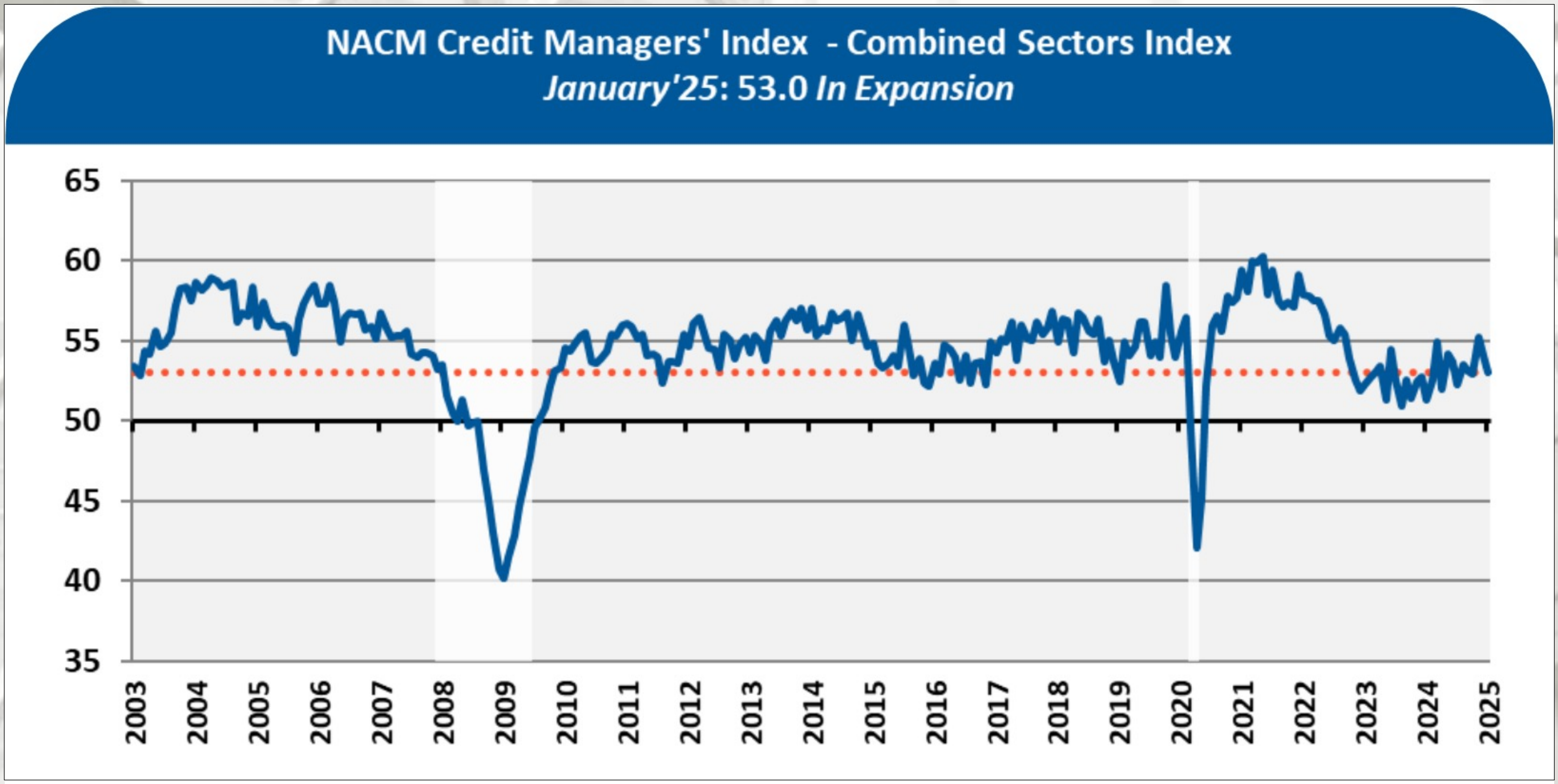
The CMI Service Sector favorable factors index marked a 2.6-point deterioration to 58.9. The sector's unfavorable factors index lost 3.7 points to 47.8 – coming back into contraction after one month in expansion territory. With the exception of the September and December surveys, the unfavorable factors index has been in contraction for 22 of the past 24 months.

"The Service Sector respondents have been indicating widespread weakness in unfavorable credit management factors," said Cutts. "It's great that sales are still robust, but inflation is responsible for part of those gains rather than being an indication of more contracts and expanding units sold.""
– Andrew Michaels, Editorial Associate, NACM

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 2/5/25

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; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Association of Credit Management – Credit Managers' Index

Combined Manufacturing and Service Sectors (seasonally adjusted)	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25
Dollar Sales	53.9	58.8	62.1	57.9	62.2	60.1	55.1	58.5	55.3	55.8	63.4	53.6	56.1
New credit applications	55.1	59.6	61.0	57.7	60.4	58.5	58.2	57.1	55.6	57.5	58.9	59.2	57.2
Dollar collections	56.2	59.2	60.8	55.3	60.0	58.5	55.3	62.0	57.5	58.2	63.4	60.0	61.3
Amount of credit extended	58.0	56.2	64.5	60.9	60.5	59.4	60.8	58.6	57.6	58.2	63.7	62.0	56.8
Index of favorable factors	**55.8**	**58.4**	**62.1**	**57.9**	**60.8**	**59.1**	**57.4**	**59.1**	**56.5**	**57.4**	**62.3**	**58.7**	**57.9**
Rejections of credit applications	50.9	48.0	51.5	49.4	51.0	51.0	49.9	50.5	52.1	50.0	50.6	50.6	50.9
Accounts placed for collection	44.8	42.9	45.9	44.9	45.0	46.1	46.4	45.7	48.9	47.0	47.1	49.6	47.8
Disputes	48.8	48.2	49.6	49.7	49.7	49.2	49.1	49.8	51.0	50.6	52.6	51.5	51.1
Dollar amount beyond terms	43.8	50.8	54.8	43.6	50.7	50.6	46.1	49.7	50.9	49.6	52.6	50.2	46.9
Dollar amount of customer deductions	50.0	49.7	50.1	50.7	51.9	51.5	51.1	51.8	51.3	52.0	51.8	53.0	51.3
Filings for bankruptcies	51.6	52.6	49.6	49.9	50.7	52.4	50.9	51.7	50.9	50.3	48.5	51.5	50.6
Index of unfavorable factors	**48.3**	**48.7**	**50.2**	**48.0**	**49.9**	**50.1**	**48.9**	**49.9**	**50.8**	**49.9**	**50.5**	**51.1**	**49.8**
NACM Combined CMI	**51.3**	**52.6**	**55.0**	**52.0**	**54.2**	**53.7**	**52.3**	**53.5**	**53.1**	**52.9**	**55.3**	**54.1**	**53.0**

Source: https://nacm.org/cmi.html; 2/5/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

January 2025 Report

Small Businesses Remain Optimistic, But Uncertainty Rising on Main Street

"The NFIB Small Business Optimism Index fell by 2.3 points in January to 102.8. This is the third consecutive month above the 51-year average of 98. The Uncertainty Index rose 14 points to 100 – the third highest recorded reading – after two months of decline." – Holly Wade, NFIB

"Overall, small business owners remain optimistic regarding future business conditions, but uncertainty is on the rise. Hiring challenges continue to frustrate Main Street owners as they struggle to find qualified workers to fill their many open positions. Meanwhile, fewer plan capital investments as they prepare for the months ahead." – Bill Dunkelberg, Chief Economist, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

January 2025 Report

Key findings include:

- ✓ The net percent of owners expecting the economy to improve fell five points from December to a net 47% (seasonally adjusted).
- ✓ Eighteen percent of owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business, down two points from December and matching labor quality as the top issue. The last time it was this low was in November 2021.
- ✓ The net percent of owners raising average selling prices fell two points from December to a net 22% (seasonally adjusted).
- ✓ Seasonally adjusted, a net 26% plan price hikes in January, down two points from December.
- ✓ Thirty-five percent (seasonally adjusted) of all owners reported job openings they could not fill in the current period, unchanged from December.
- ✓ Twenty percent (seasonally adjusted) plan capital outlays in the next six months, down seven points from December.
- ✓ A net 3% of owners reported that their last loan was harder to get than in previous attempts (down one point). The last time it was this low was June 2022.
- ✓ A net 0% (seasonally adjusted) of owners plan inventory investment in the coming months, down six points from December's highest reading since December 2021." – Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

January 2025 Report

"As reported in NFIB's monthly jobs report, a seasonally adjusted a seasonally adjusted 35% of all small business owners reported job openings they could not fill in January, unchanged from December. Of the 52% of owners hiring or trying to hire in January, 90% reported few or no qualified applicants for the positions they were trying to fill.

The percent of small business owners reporting labor quality as the single most important problem for business fell one point from December to 18%. Labor costs reported as the single most important problem for business owners fell two points to 9%, four points below the highest reading of 13% reached in December 2021.

Seasonally adjusted, a net 33% reported raising compensation, up four points from December's lowest reading since March 2021. A seasonally adjusted net 20% plan to raise compensation in the next three months, down four points from December.

Fifty-eight percent of owners reported capital outlays in the last six months, up two points from December. Of those making expenditures, 41% reported spending on new equipment, 24% acquired vehicles, and 16% improved or expanded facilities. Twelve percent 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 six months, down seven points from December. This index component had the greatest impact on this month's Index decline." – Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

January 2025 Report

“A net negative 14% of all owners (seasonally adjusted) reported higher nominal sales in the past three months, down one point from December. The net percent of owners expecting higher real sales volumes fell two points from December’s highest reading since January 2020 to a net 20% (seasonally adjusted).

The net percent of owners reporting inventory gains fell six points to a net negative 6%, seasonally adjusted. Not seasonally adjusted, 9% reported increases in stocks and 21% reported reductions.

A net negative 1% (seasonally adjusted) of owners viewed current inventory stocks as “too low” in January, unchanged from December. A net 0% (seasonally adjusted) of owners plan inventory investment in the coming months, down six points from December’s highest reading since December 2021.

The net percent of owners raising average selling prices fell two points from December to a net 22% seasonally adjusted. Eighteen percent of owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business, down two points from December and matching labor quality as the top issue. The last time it was this low was November 2021. Unadjusted, 9% of owners reported lower average selling prices and 30% reported higher average prices.

Price hikes were the most frequent in the finance (47% higher, 6% lower), retail (35% higher, 6% lower), wholesale (34% higher, 4% lower), and professional services (30% higher, 3% lower) sectors. Seasonally adjusted, a net 26% plan price hikes in January.” – Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

January 2025 Report

“The frequency of reports of positive profit trends was a net negative 25% (seasonally adjusted), one point less negative than in December. Among owners reporting lower profits, 34% blamed weaker sales, 17% cited usual seasonal change, 10% blamed the rise in the cost of materials, and 9% cited labor costs. For owners reporting higher profits, 49% credited sales volumes, 24% cited usual seasonal change, and 11% cited higher selling prices.

Three percent of owners reported that all their borrowing needs were not satisfied, up one point from December. Twenty-five percent reported all credit needs met and 62% said they were not interested in a loan. A net 3% reported their last loan was harder to get than in previous attempts. The last time this reading was this low was in June 2022. Three percent of owners reported that financing was their top business problem in January, down one point from December. A net 3% reported paying a higher rate on their most recent loan, up two points from December’s lowest reading since September 2021.

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 January 2025.” – Holly Wade, NFIB

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
January 2025 Report

Small Business Optimism

Index Component	Net %	From Last Month	
Plans to Increase Employment	18%	▼	-1
Plans to Make Capital Outlays	20%	▼	-7
Plans to Increase Inventories	0%	▼	-6
Expect Economy to Improve	47%	▼	-5
Expect Real Sales Higher	20%	▼	-2
Current Inventory	-1%	—	0
Current Job Openings	35%	—	0
Expected Credit Conditions	4%	▼	-2
Now a Good Time to Expand	17%	▼	-3
Earnings Trends	-25%	▲	1

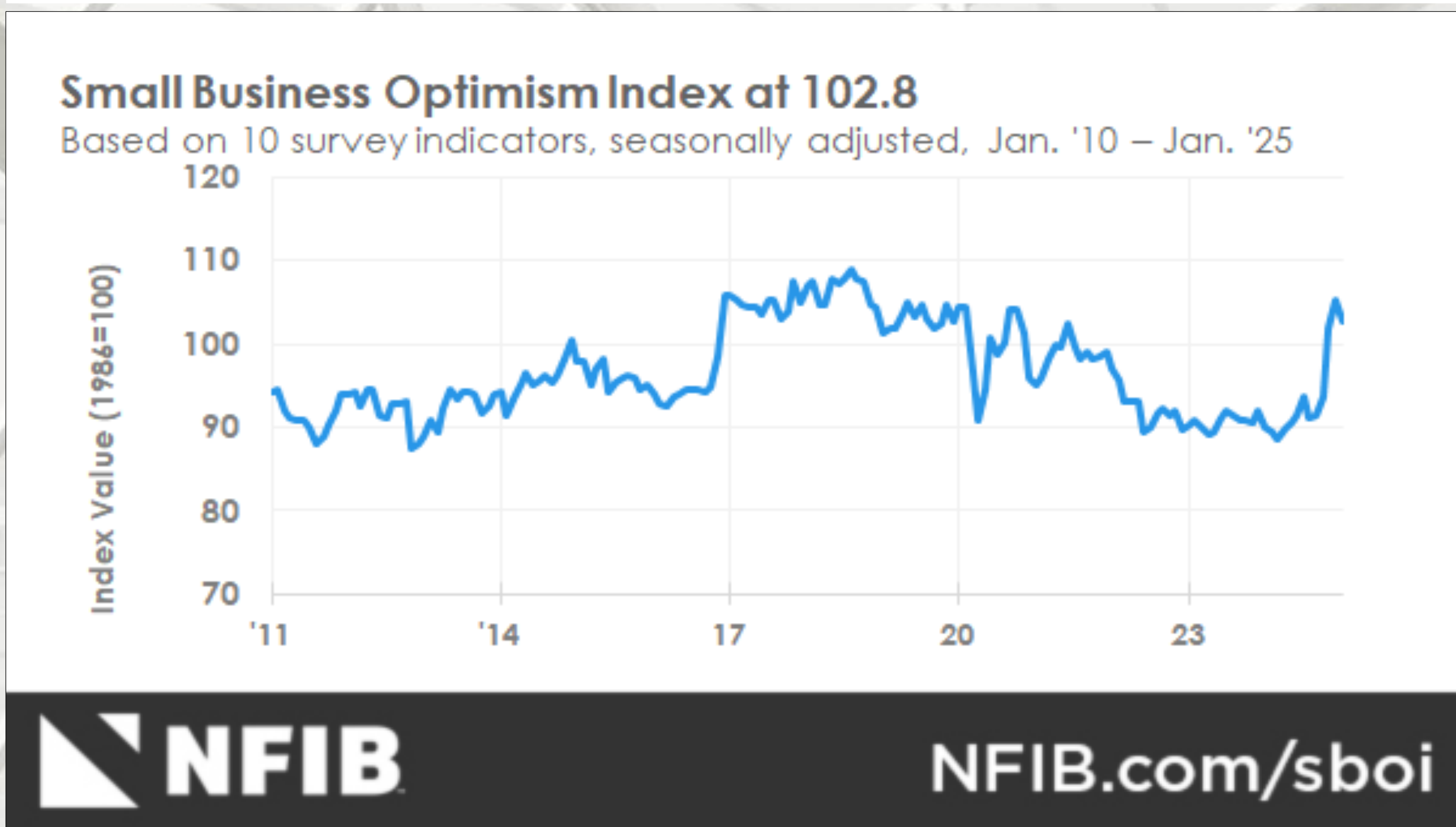
NFIB NFIB.com/sboi

Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) January 2025 Report



Source: http://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends; 2/14/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

The Paychex | IHS Markit Small Business Employment Watch

Job Growth in U.S. Small Businesses Continues the Pace Seen in the Back Half of 2024

Hourly wage growth for workers starts the new year below three percent for first time since 2021

“According to the Paychex Small Business Employment Watch, the pace of job growth in U.S. small businesses with fewer than 50 employees remained slightly below 100 in January, consistent with the last six months of 2024. Meanwhile, hourly earnings growth for workers decelerated to 2.87% in January, marking its first time starting the year below three percent since 2021.” – Lisa Fleming, Kate Smith, and Tess Flynn, Paychex, Inc.

“Small businesses successfully navigated an evolving economic landscape, challenging labor market, and an election in 2024. Last year delivered moderate job growth and continued moderation in wage inflation. Entering 2025, small business owners are more optimistic, but as of January that optimism hasn’t translated into accelerated job growth when compared to the last quarter of 2024.” – John Gibson, President and CEO, Paychex

Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 2/4/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

The Paychex | IHS Markit
Small Business Employment Watch

Job Growth in U.S. Small Businesses Continues the Pace Seen in the Back Half of 2024

Jobs Index and Wage Data Highlights

- "The national small business jobs index was 99.68 in January.
- Hourly earnings growth (2.87%) continued to moderate in January, as one-month annualized growth has been below three percent since May 2024.
- Weekly earnings growth has quickly decelerated in recent months to 2.12% in January 2025, marking its lowest level since January 2019 (2.10%). Similarly, weekly hours worked growth decreased further in January (-0.77%) to its lowest level since October 2021.
- With an index level of 100.23 in January, the Midwest remained the top region for employment growth for the eighth consecutive month. Leading the region, Indiana's index gained 2.02 percentage points (101.67) to reclaim the top rank among states, a position the Hoosier State held for half of 2024.
- Of the four California metros analyzed, Los Angeles was the only area to report its pace of job growth slowing in January, possibly due to the impacts of significant wildfires.
- Education and Health Services (101.72) continued as the top sector for job growth for the eighth consecutive month, while the rate of job growth in the Manufacturing (97.13) industry slowed 1.12 percentage points to its lowest level since March 2021." – Lisa Fleming, Kate Smith, and Tess Flynn, Paychex, Inc.

Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 2/4/25

Return to TOC

Private Indicators

The Paychex | IHS Markit
Small Business Employment Watch

Small Business Jobs Index

Index
99.68

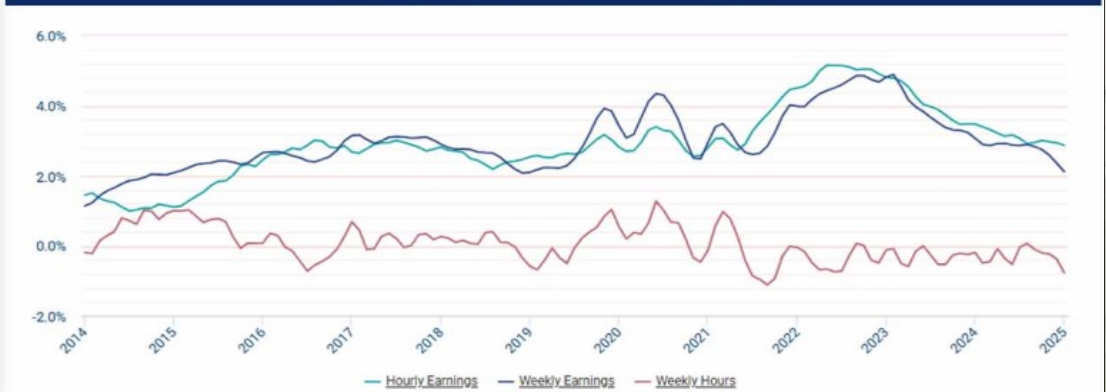
Historical Jobs Index Trend

Small Business Wage Data

Hourly Earnings
$33.04

12-Month Growth
2.87% ($0.92)

Historical 12-Month Growth Trend



Source: https://www.paychex.com/employment-watch; 2/4/25

Return to TOC

Demographics

LendingTree, LLC

Homeownership Gender Gap: Single Women Own More Homes Than Single Men

"Women typically lag behind men in pay. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, women's median weekly earnings are 83.6% of men's.

While research indicates women are generally less well-off financially than men, one key area in which women are likely to fare better than men is homeownership.

A LendingTree analysis of the latest U.S. Census Bureau data finds that single women who live by themselves are more likely than single men who live by themselves to own a home in 47 of 50 states. Our study also finds that single women own about 2.72 million more homes than single men.

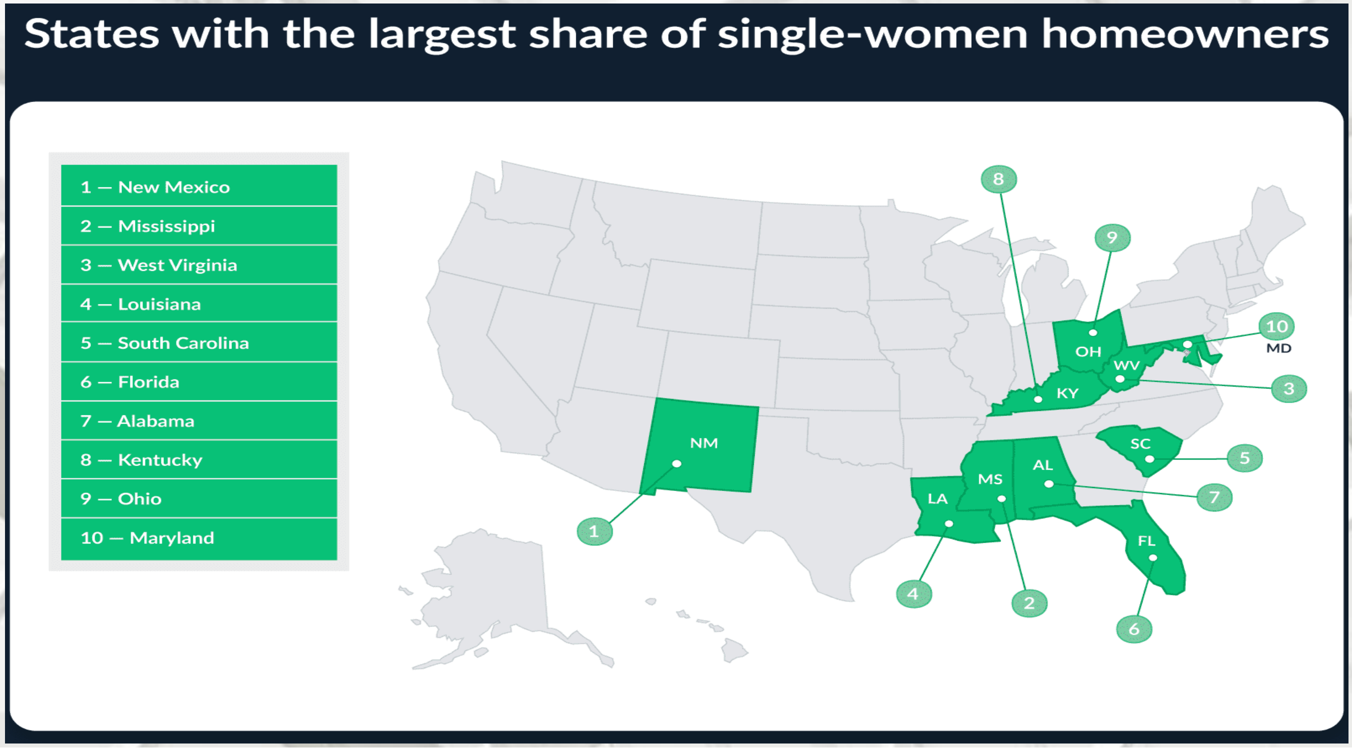
Key findings

- Across the nation's 50 states, single women own 2,719,923 more homes than single men. Single women own 11.14 million homes, while single men own 8.42 million. Put another way, single women own 13.01% of owner-occupied homes, and single men own 9.83%.
- The homeownership gender gap has increased slightly since 2022. Single women owned 10.95 million homes across the U.S. in 2022, while men owned 8.24 million – a difference of 2.71 million. This means 2023's homeownership gender gap is 14,780 housing units larger than 2022's.
- The homeownership gender gap is largest in Delaware and Connecticut. Though neither state boasts the highest homeownership rate for single women, homeownership gender gaps of 5.23 and 5.06 percentage points, respectively, make Delaware and Connecticut the only states where the homeownership gender gap tops five percentage points." – Jacob Channel, Senior Economist and Dan Shepard, Managing Editor; LendingTree

Source: https://www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/single-women-own-more-homes-than-single-men-do/#factors; 2/27/25

Return to TOC

Demographics



LendingTree, LLC

"**Key findings**

- Single women own the largest share of homes in New Mexico, Mississippi and West Virginia. In New Mexico, 15.26% of owner-occupied housing units are owned by women who live by themselves. In Mississippi and West Virginia, that figure is 15.07% and 14.73%, respectively. For comparison, single men own 12.48%, 11.04% and 12.75% of owner-occupied households in the same states.
- The homeownership rate is highest among single men in North Dakota, South Dakota and Alaska. In these states, single men own 13.52%, 13.10% and 12.79% of owner-occupied housing units. In addition to being the states where homeownership rates among single men are highest, they're the only three where single men own more homes than single women. …" – Jacob Channel, Senior Economist and Dan Shepard, Managing Editor; LendingTree

Source: https://www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/single-women-own-more-homes-than-single-men-do/#factors; 2/27/25

Return to TOC

Demographics

LendingTree, LLC

Various factors likely contribute to higher homeownership rates among single women

"Despite the data showing that women generally earn less than men, single women have the homeownership edge. There are a few possible explanations.

Though it's relatively sparse, there's evidence that single women are more willing than single men to make sacrifices to become homeowners.

Further, while women generally earn less than men, that isn't always the case – especially among younger generations. For instance, average earnings among millennial women are higher than those of millennial men in six metros, including Allentown, Pa., and Portland, Maine. And the average earnings for millennial women in major metros such as Providence, R.I., Sacramento, Calif., and Washington, D.C., are less than $2,000 lower than those of millennial men.

Comparable (or even higher) earnings – combined with a greater homeownership desire – could contribute to higher homeownership rates among younger single women. …" – Jacob Channel, Senior Economist and Dan Shepard, Managing Editor; LendingTree

Source: https://www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/single-women-own-more-homes-than-single-men-do/#factors; 2/27/25

Return to TOC

Demographics

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Various factors likely contribute to higher homeownership rates among single women

"But homeownership isn't just a young person's game, and factors outside of individual earnings also contribute to homeownership. Considering that women typically live longer and that there are more widowed women than widowed men, it's likely that some women who are now single homeowners bought that home with the spouse they outlived. This helps to explain why single-women homeowners are typically older than their single-men counterparts, even though the pay gap is wider for older Americans.

With all that said, it's important to note that single women owning more homes than single men doesn't mean they're better off financially. Moreover, while some may assume that higher homeownership rates are indicative that women are likely to disproportionately benefit from things like divorce, the evidence doesn't support this conclusion. On the contrary, women are more likely to face long-term economic struggles after a divorce than men. This highlights how much work is needed to address the economic imbalances among genders." – Jacob Channel, Senior Economist and Dan Shepard, Managing Editor; LendingTree

Source: https://www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/single-women-own-more-homes-than-single-men-do/#factors; 2/27/25

Return to TOC

Economics

U.S. Census Bureau

NEW Business Formation Statistics

January 2025

Business Applications

“Business Applications for January 2025, adjusted for seasonal variation, were 392,496, a decrease of 14.0 percent compared to January 2025.

Business Formations

Projected Business Formations (within 4-quarters) for January 2025, adjusted for seasonal variation, were 24,574, a decrease of 14.3 percent compared to December 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 24,574 new business startups with payroll tax liabilities will form within 4-quarters of application from all the business applications filed during January 2025. The 14.3 percent decrease indicates that for January 2025 there will be 14.3 percent fewer businesses projected to form within 4-quarters of application, compared to the analogous projections for December 2024.” – Economic Indicators Division, Business Formation Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau

Source: https://www.census.gov/econ/bfs/pdf/bfs_current.pdf; 2/12/24

Return to TOC

Economics

U.S. Census Bureau

NEW Business Formation Statistics

January 2025

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

U.S. Business Applications:	JAN 2025	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024
Total	392,496	-14.0%*
High-Propensity	138,605	-11.3%*
With Planned Wages	41,692	-11.1%*
From Corporations	54,437	-8.6%*

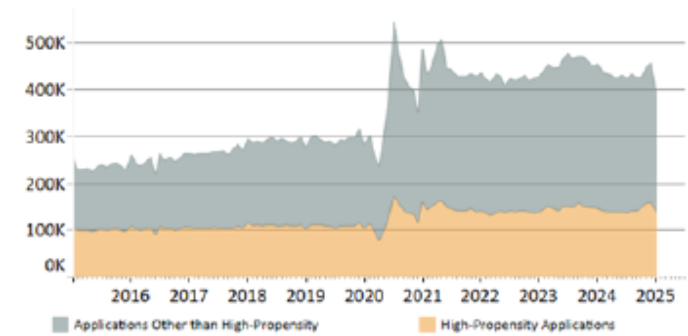
Next release: March 12, 2025

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

Data adjusted for seasonality.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, February 12, 2025

Monthly Business Applications
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, February 12, 2025

Business Applications - At a Glance

		US	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Total	JAN 2025	392,496	57,171	61,626	169,636	104,063
	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024	-14.0%	-13.3%	-16.2%	-14.4%	-12.3%
High-Propensity	JAN 2025	138,605	21,725	19,855	54,733	42,292
	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024	-11.3%	-9.5%	-14.8%	-10.7%	-11.3%
With Planned Wages	JAN 2025	41,692	5,893	7,074	17,505	11,220
	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024	-11.1%	-9.9%	-15.8%	-11.3%	-8.3%
From Corporations	JAN 2025	54,437	10,484	5,176	16,028	22,749
	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024	-8.6%	-3.9%	-16.2%	-6.4%	-10.2%

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; 2/12/24

Return to TOC

Economics

U.S. Census Bureau

January 2025

BUSINESS FORMATIONS

U.S. Total Projected Business Formations:	JAN 2025	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024
Within 4 Quarters	24,574	-14.3%°
Within 8 Quarters	34,257	-13.7%°

Next release: March 12, 2025

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

Spliced - Data adjusted for seasonality.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, February 12, 2025

Monthly Business Formations within 4 Quarters

Spliced (Actual and Projected)

(Seasonally Adjusted)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics, February 12, 2025

Projected Business Formations - At a Glance

		US	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Within 4 Quarters	JAN 2025	24,574	3,877	3,690	8,982	8,025
	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024	-14.3%	-12.8%	-18.6%	-15.8%	-11.1%
Within 8 Quarters	JAN 2025	34,257	5,360	5,057	12,777	11,063
	JAN 2025 / DEC 2024	-13.7%	-12.8%	-17.9%	-15.2%	-10.4%

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.

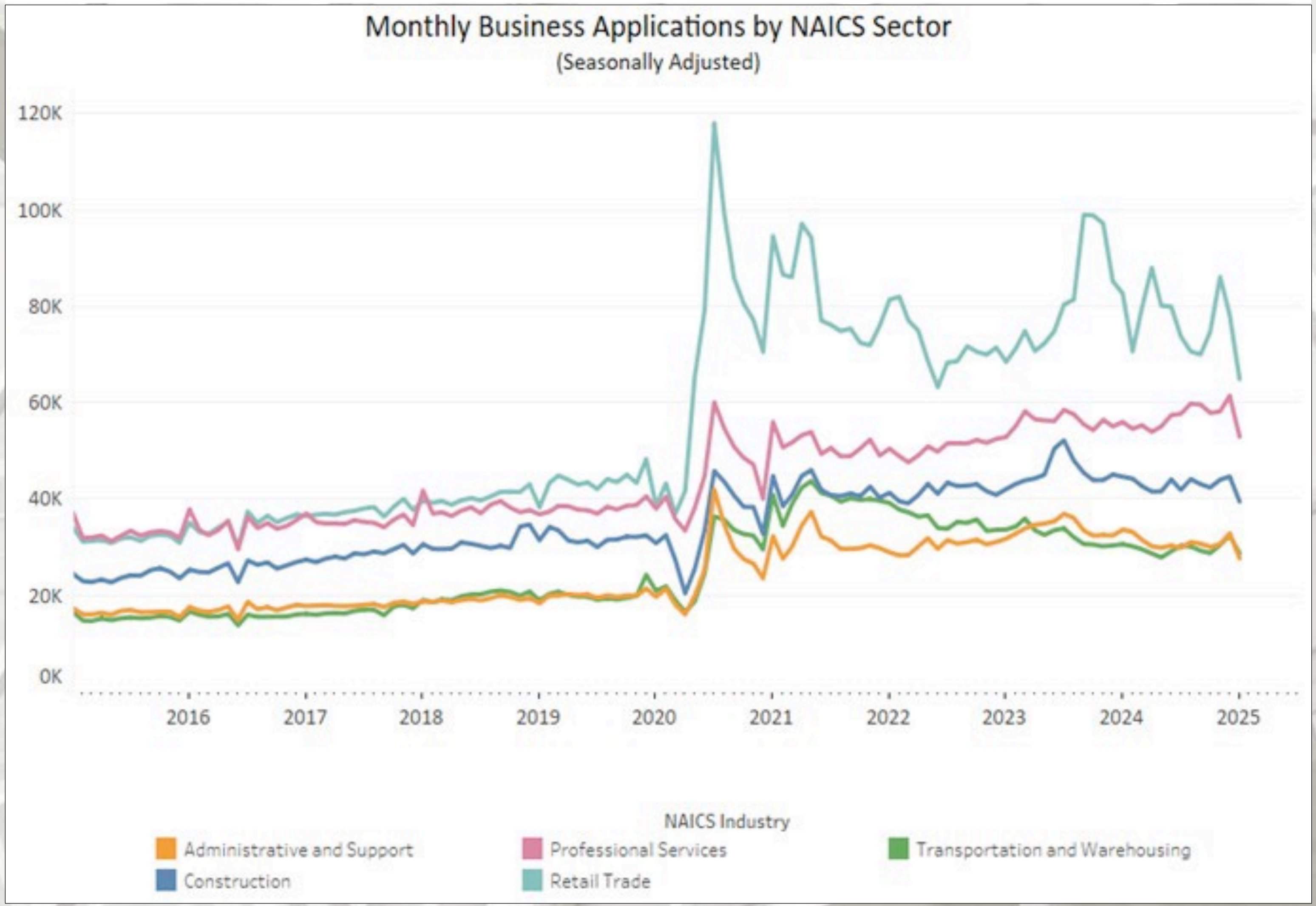
Source: https://www.census.gov/econ/bfs/pdf/bfs_current.pdf; 2/12/24

Return to TOC

Economics

NEW Business Formation Statistics

January 2025



Source: https://www.census.gov/econ/bfs/pdf/bfs_current.pdf; 2/12/24

Return to TOC

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