

# MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

VOLUME 82, ISSUE I JANUARY 2024

A Publication of the University Research Center, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

## ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

In November the value of the Mississippi Leading Index (MLI) decreased 0.2 percent as seen in Figure 1. The value of the MLI for the month was up 0.4 percent compared to one year earlier.

The value of the Mississippi Coincident Index (MCI) fell 0.2 percent in November as Figure 2 indicates. Compared to one year ago the value for the month was 1.2 percent higher.

In its third estimate of the change in U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in the third quarter of 2023, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reported an increase of

4.9 percent at a seasonally-adjusted, annualized rate. The third estimate represents an increase of 0.3 percentage point from BEA's second estimate. The lower estimate resulted from downward revisions to consumer spending and private inventory investment that were partially offset by upward revisions to state and local government spending, nonresidential fixed investment, residential fixed investment, and federal government spending.

The MLI gave back its small gain from the previous month in November, primarily because of softness in the labor

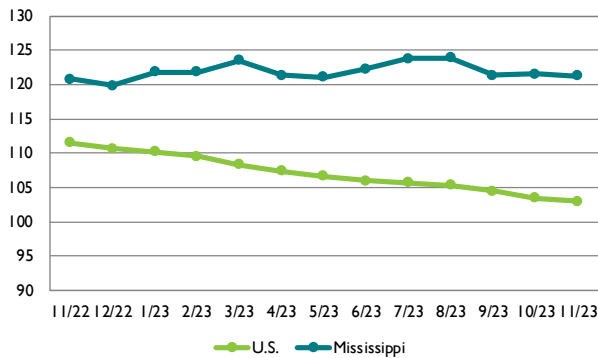
market. The Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index fell as a result of decreases in both manufacturing employment and work week hours. Initial unemployment claims rose for the fourth consecutive month. Employment in the state has fallen in six of the last seven months. Weakness in the labor market is not unexpected as higher interest rates weigh on several sectors, including manufacturing. Consumer spending remains relatively strong and sentiment is improving as inflation continues to recede. Slower growth in the U.S. and state economies is expected in 2024, but not a recession.

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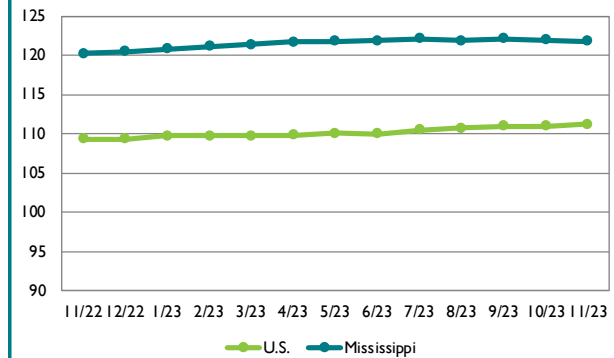
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Figure 1. Leading indices



Sources: University Research Center and The Conference Board

Figure 2. Coincident indices



Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and The Conference Board

**Notes:** The Mississippi Coincident Index is constructed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and re-indexed to 2012. The Index is based on changes in nonfarm employment, the unemployment rate, average manufacturing workweek length, and wage and salary disbursements. The Mississippi Leading Index is constructed by the Mississippi University Research Center. The U.S. Indices are from The Conference Board. All series are indexed to a base year of 2012.

## MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX, NOVEMBER 2023

The value of the **Mississippi Leading Index of Economic Indicators** (MLI) fell slightly in November as it gave back the gain from the previous month. As seen in Figure 3, the value was down 0.2 percent for the month. The value of the MLI in November was up 0.4 percent compared to one year earlier. Over the last six months the value of the MLI increased 0.2 percent.

Three of the seven components of the MLI increased in value in November while four decreased. The largest negative contribution came from the Mississippi Manufacturing Intensity Index. The ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity made the largest positive contribution. Each component is discussed below in order of smallest to largest contribution.

The value of the **Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index** fell 1.4 percent in November as seen in Figure 4. Compared to one year earlier the value for the month was 1.0 percent higher. Both Manufacturing employment in the state and the average weekly hours of production employees fell in November, which resulted in the decrease in the value of the Index.

In November the value of **Mississippi residential building permits** (three-month moving average) decreased 3.0 percent as Figure 5 indicates. Compared to one year earlier the value for the month was 2.3 percent higher. The number of units in the state declined 3.0 percent, the second consecutive monthly decrease. The number of units in the state was up 0.3 percent in November, the first year-over-year increase since August 2022. The number of privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in the U.S.

sank 2.5 percent in November from the revised October rate. The number of units in the U.S. was up 4.1 percent in November compared to one year earlier.

**Mississippi income tax withholdings** (three-month moving average) decreased in value by 0.2 percent in November as seen in Figure 6. Compared to one year earlier the value of withholdings in November was down 6.3 percent. The value of income tax withholdings in Mississippi decreased 1.6 percent over the last six months.

The number of seasonally-adjusted **initial unemployment claims** in Mississippi increased in November for the fourth consecutive month. The value rose 2.36 percent for the month as seen in Figure 7. Nevertheless, compared to one year earlier the value in November was down 9.2 percent. The number of seasonally-adjusted continued unemployment claims in Mississippi rose 3.8 percent in November as seen in Figure 16 on page 6. The number of continued unemployment claims in the state for the month was 22.5 percent higher compared to one year earlier. The unemployment rate in Mississippi was 3.3 percent in November as seen in Figure 17 on page 6, unchanged from the previous month. Compared to one year earlier the rate was 0.8 percentage point lower.

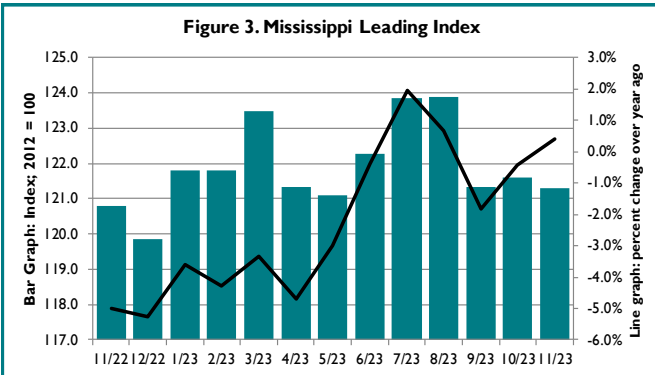
**U.S. retail sales** increased in value by 0.3 percent in November as seen in Figure 8. The October value of sales was revised down to a decrease of 0.2 percent. The value of retail sales in November was 4.1 percent higher compared to one year earlier. Sales excluding automobiles and gasoline in November were 0.6 percent higher. The largest increase in sales among all segments occurred in Food

Service and Drinking Places, followed by Sporting Goods and Hobbies. The largest decrease for the month occurred in sales at Gasoline Stations, its second consecutive monthly decline.

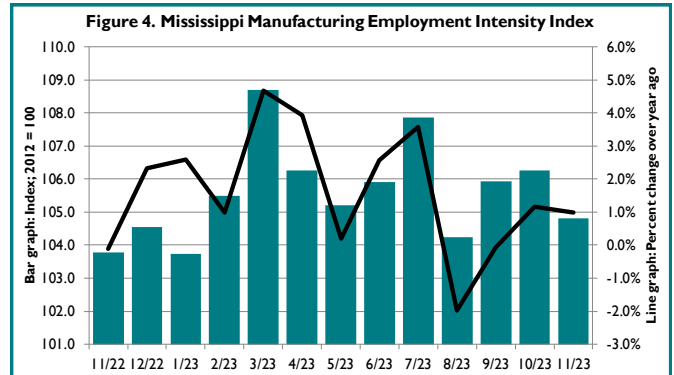
Figure 9 indicates the value of the **University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations** (three-month moving average) increased 0.9 percent in November, its first increase since August. Compared to one year earlier the value in November was up 6.9 percent. The Index appeared to finally reflect the impact of decreases in gasoline prices, which began in the middle of September. Inflation expectations fell sharply from the previous month. Nevertheless, the relatively high prices compared to twenty-four to thirty months ago likely still weigh on consumers and are keeping the Index at a relatively low level.

As seen in Figure 10 the value of the **ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity** rose 1.5 percent in December. Compared to one year earlier the value for the month was down 2.1 percent, the smallest year-over-year decrease since January 2022. The Employment component saw the largest increase in December, while the largest decrease occurred in the New Orders component. The Supplier Deliveries component also increased for the month as only three of eighteen industries reported slower delivery times. The Production component was the only component in expansion territory in December. The prices paid index gave back almost all of its increase from the previous month.

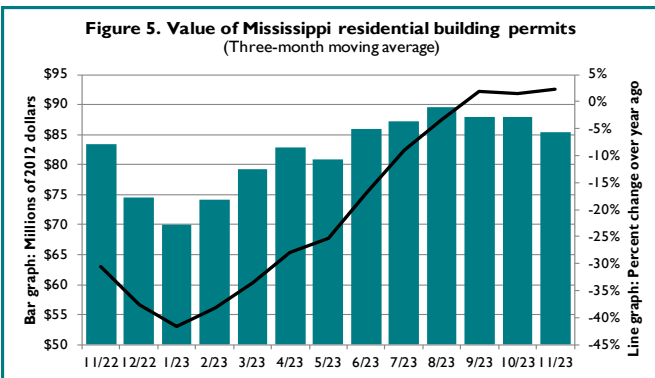
# MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX AND COMPONENTS, IN FIGURES



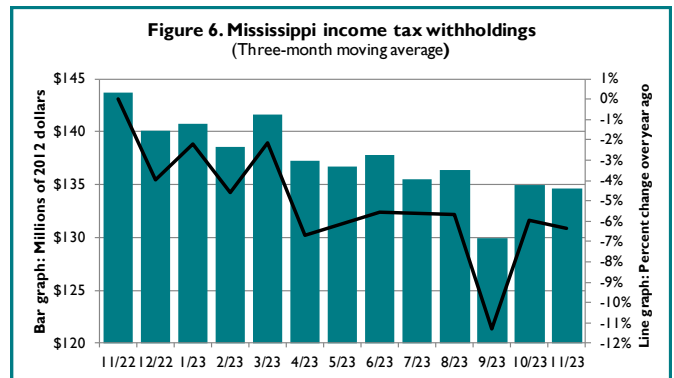
Source: University Research Center



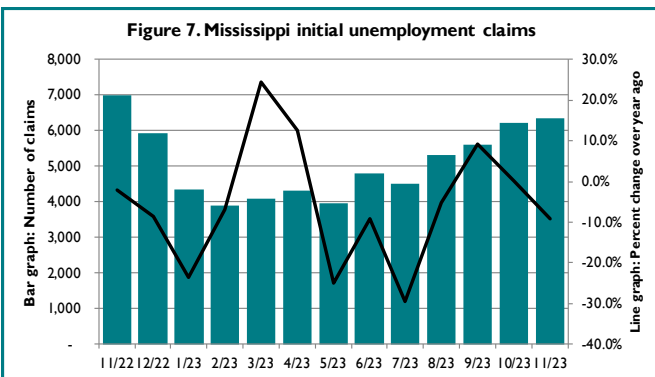
Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



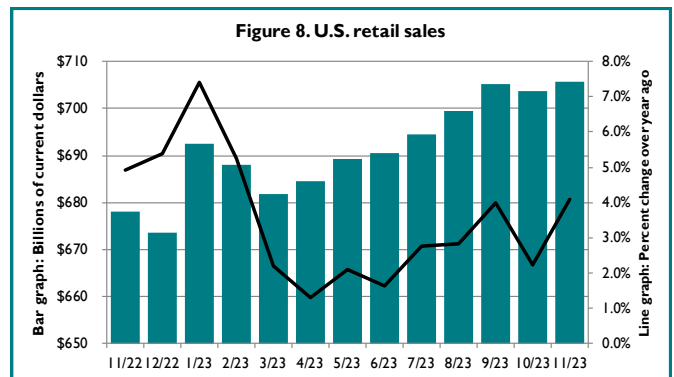
Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



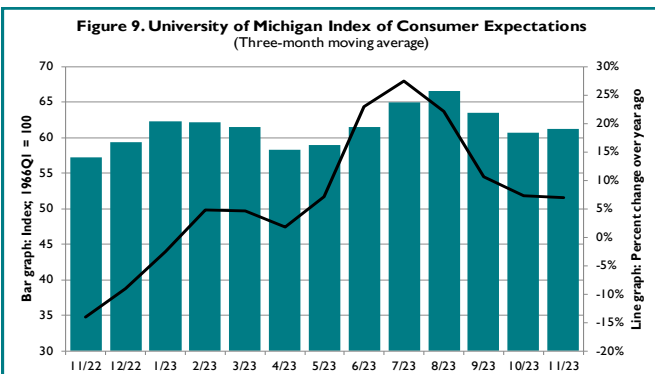
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue; seasonally adjusted



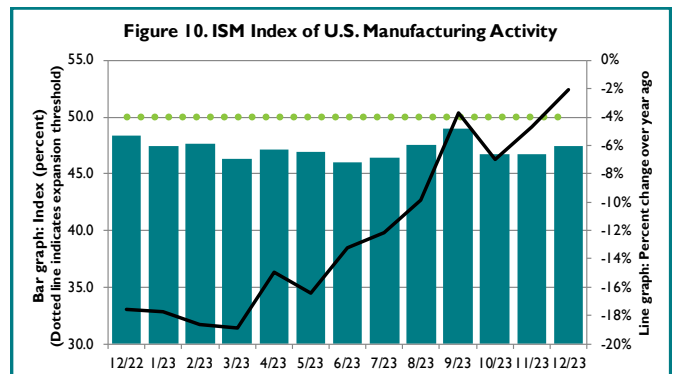
Source: U.S. Department of Labor; seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; seasonally adjusted



Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers



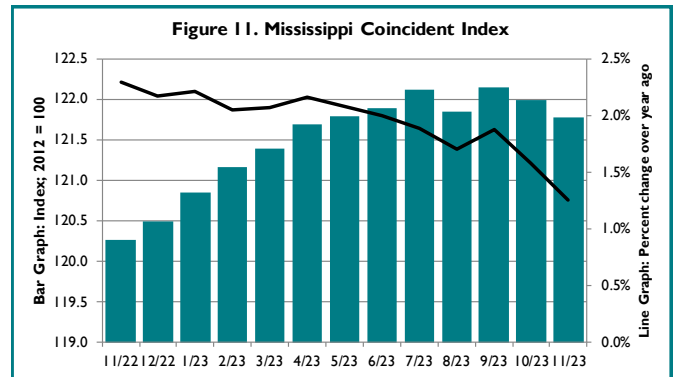
Source: Institute for Supply Management

## MISSISSIPPI COINCIDENT INDEX, NOVEMBER 2023

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia reported the value of the **Mississippi Coincident Index of Economic Indicators (MCI)** decreased 0.2 percent as seen in Figure 11, its third decline in the last four months. Compared to one year earlier the value of the MCI for the month was up 1.2 percent.

The values of the coincident indices increased in twenty-nine states over the past three months according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The value of the coincident index in Nevada increased almost 1.1 percent over the last three months, the largest gain among all states. The value of the coincident

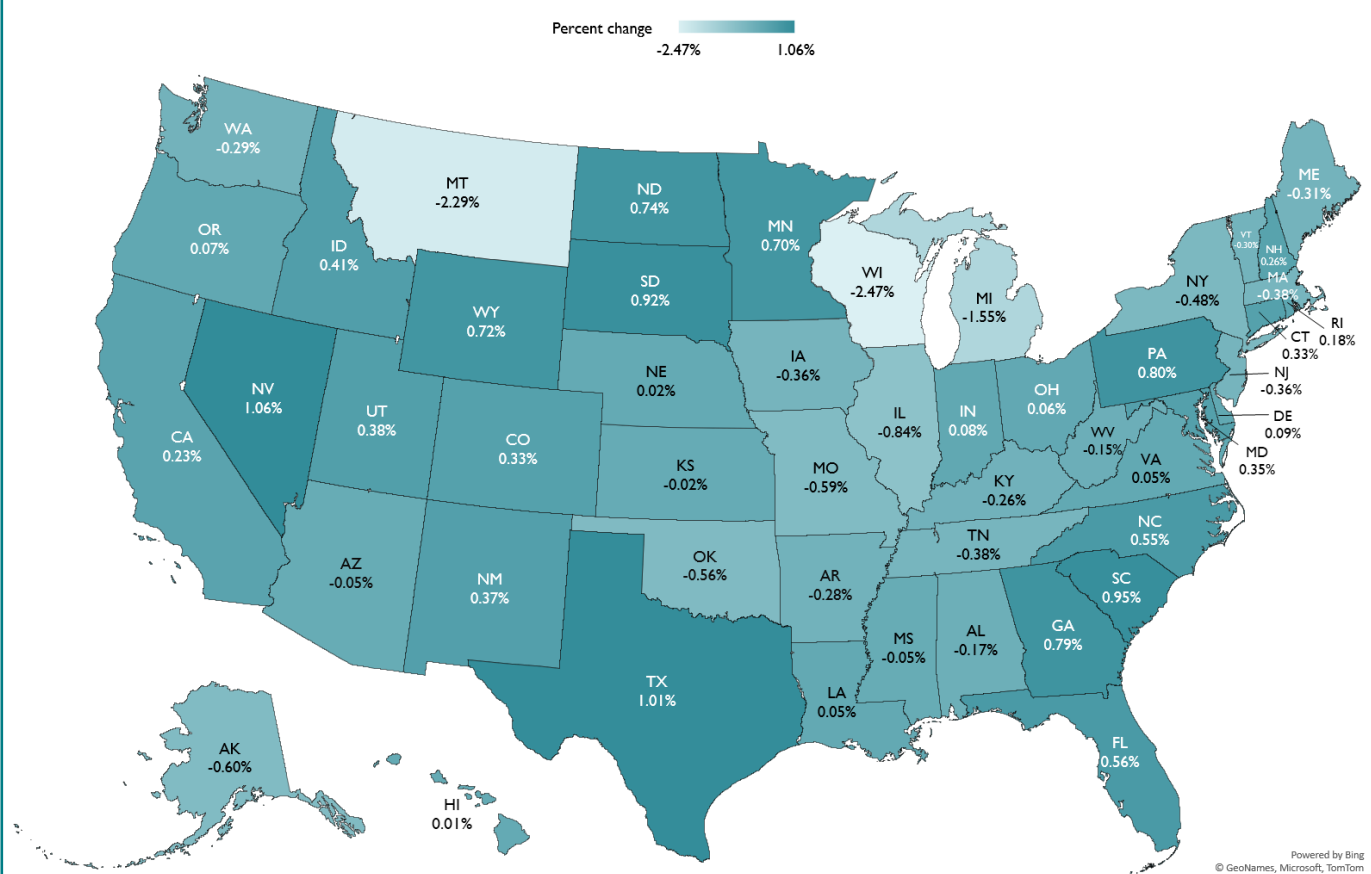
index in Texas also increased just over 1.0 percent over the last three months. In twelve states the values of coincident indices rose 0.5 percent or more in November compared to August. The values of coincident indices increased less than 0.5 percent over the last three months in seventeen states. Mississippi was one of fifteen states where the values of coincident indices decreased between 0.0 and 0.5 percent in No-



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

vember compared to August. In seven states the values of the coincident indices decreased more than 0.5 percent over the last three months. The largest decrease occurred in Wisconsin, where the value fell approximately 2.5 percent.

Figure 12. Three-month growth in the coincident index of economic indicators, November 2023



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

## NATIONAL TRENDS

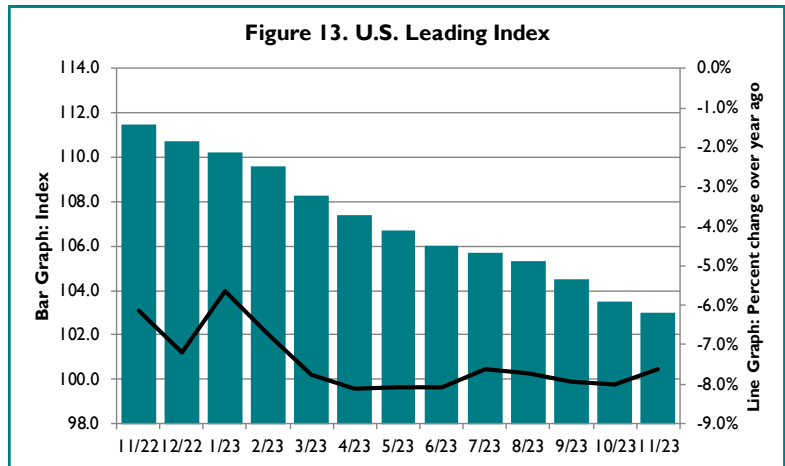
According to The Conference Board the value of the U.S. Leading Economic Index (LEI) decreased 0.5 percent in November as seen in Figure 13. November marked the twentieth consecutive monthly decline. The value was down 7.6 percent compared to one year earlier. Seven of the ten components of the LEI made negative contributions in November. As in the previous month average consumer expectations for business conditions made the largest negative contribution. The largest positive contribution was made by the S&P 500® Index of stock prices. Over the last six months the value of the LEI decreased 3.5 percent.

The value of the U.S. Coincident Economic Index (CEI) rose 0.2 percent in November according to The Conference Board as seen in Figure 14. For the month the value of the CEI was 1.7 percent higher compared to one year earlier. All four components of the CEI made positive contributions in November and personal income less transfers made the largest positive contribution. The value of the CEI increased 1.0 percent over the last six months.

For the fourth consecutive month, the value of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Small Business Optimism Index decreased in November. As seen in Figure 15, the value edged down 0.1 percent. Compared to one year earlier the value of the Index for the month was 1.4 percent lower. The “plans to increase inventories component had the largest decrease. Notably, the “now is a good time to expand” component increased for the second month in a row, as did the net share of respondents with plans to increase prices.

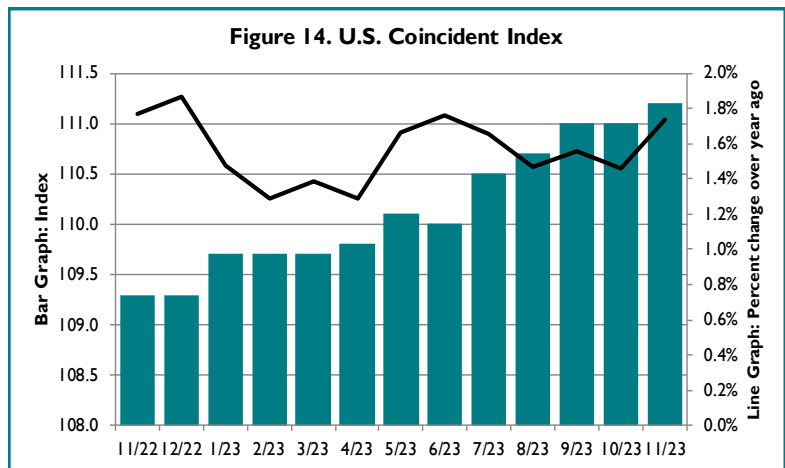
The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) left the federal funds rate target unchanged in December for the fourth consecutive meeting. The unanimous vote kept the target rate in a range between 5.25 and 5.5 percent. Based on the projections of individual members, the FOMC expects to reduce rates three times in 2024. These rate cuts would equal 0.25 basis points each, which means according to the latest projections the target rate will fall to a range of 4.5 to 4.75 percent by the end of 2024.

Figure 13. U.S. Leading Index



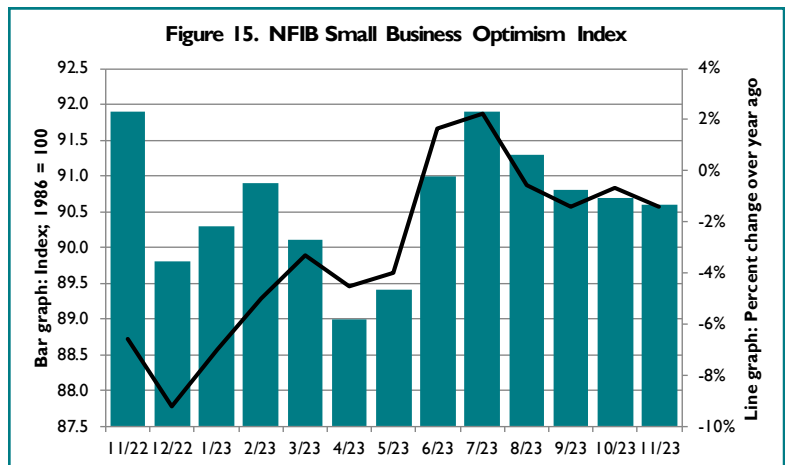
Source: The Conference Board

Figure 14. U.S. Coincident Index



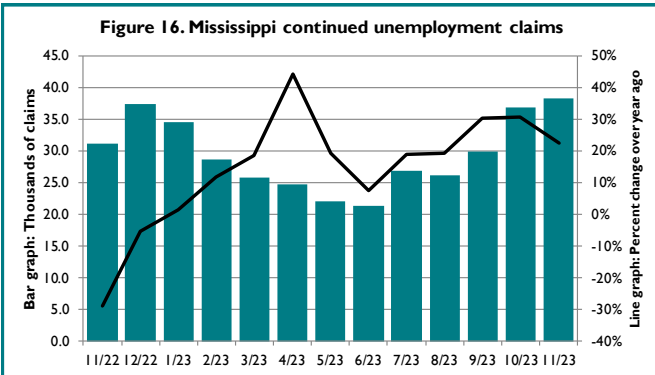
Source: The Conference Board

Figure 15. NFIB Small Business Optimism Index

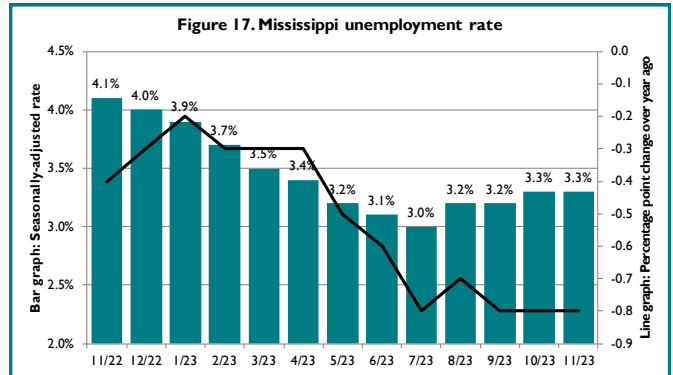


Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses

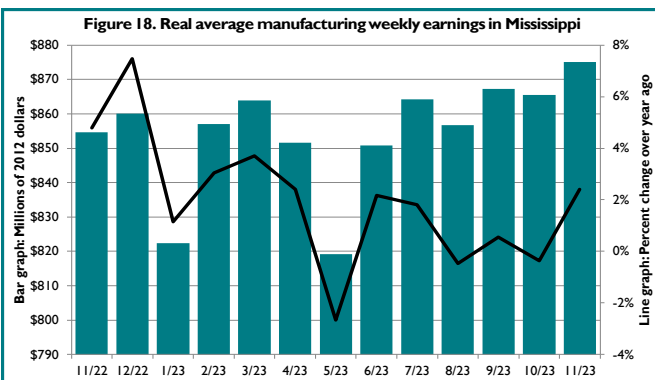
# MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INDICATORS, IN FIGURES



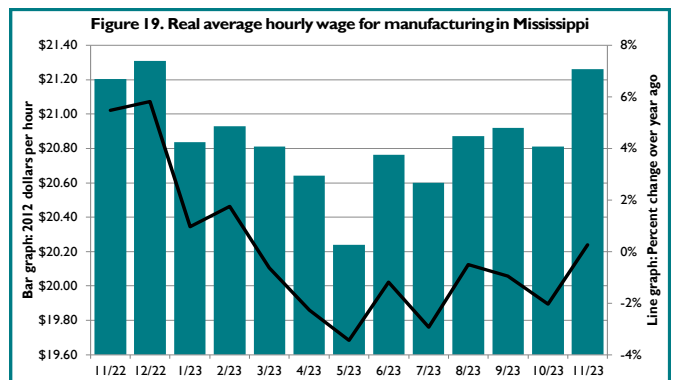
Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, URC (seasonal adjustment)



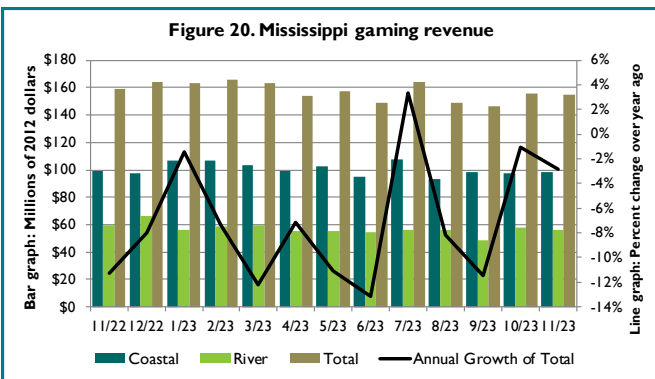
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



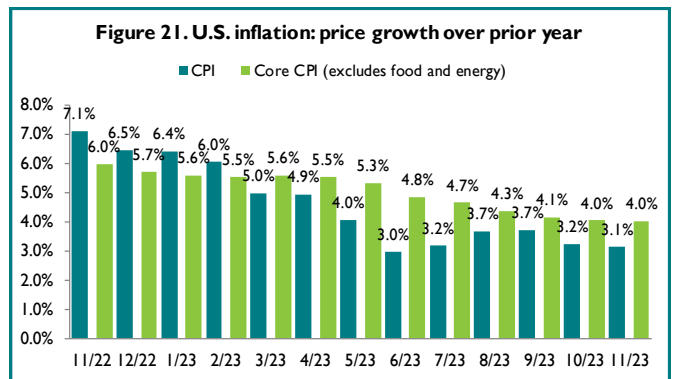
Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, URC (seasonal adjustment)



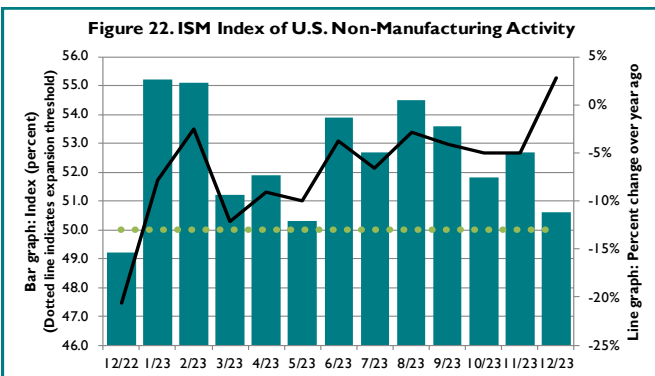
Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, URC (seasonal adjustment)



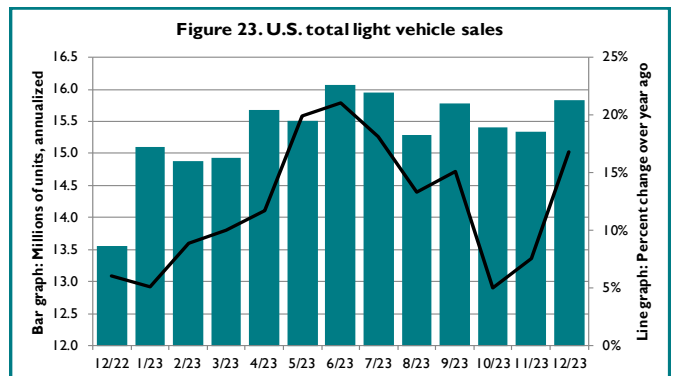
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue, URC (seasonal adjustment)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: Institute for Supply Management



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**TABLE I. SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

Indicator	November	October	November	Percent change from	
	2023	2023	2022	October 2023	November 2022
<b>U.S. Leading Economic Index</b> 2012 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	103.0	103.5	111.5	▼0.5%	▼7.6%
<b>U.S. Coincident Economic Index</b> 2012 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	111.2	111.0	109.3	▲0.2%	▲1.7%
<b>Mississippi Leading Index</b> 2012 = 100. Source: University Research Center	121.3	121.6	120.8	▼0.2%	▲0.4%
<b>Mississippi Coincident Index</b> 2012 = 100. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia	121.8	122.0	120.3	▼0.2%	▲1.2%
<b>Mississippi initial unemployment claims</b> Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	6,358	6,215	7,006	▲2.3%	▼9.2%
<b>Value of Mississippi residential building permits</b> Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2007 dollars. Source: Bureau of the Census	85.3	87.9	83.4	▼3.0%	▲2.3%
<b>Mississippi income tax withholdings</b> Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2007 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	134.6	134.9	143.7	▼0.2%	▼6.3%
<b>Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index</b> 2012 = 100. Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	104.8	106.3	103.8	▼1.4%	▲1.0%
<b>University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations</b> Three-month moving average; index 1966Q1 = 100. Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers	61.2	60.6	57.2	▲0.9%	▲6.9%
<b>ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity</b> Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	47.4	46.7	48.4	▲1.5%	▼2.1%
<b>U.S. retail sales</b> Current dollars, in billions. Source: Bureau of the Census	705.7	703.7	678.0	▲0.3%	▲4.1%
<b>U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)</b>	307.1	307.7	297.7	▼0.2%	▲3.1%
<b>U.S. Core CPI (excludes food and energy)</b> 1982-84 = 100. Source: URC using data from Bureau of Labor Statistics	311.6	311.4	299.6	▲0.1%	▲4.0%
<b>Mississippi unemployment rate</b> Percentage point change. Seasonally-adjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	3.3%	3.3%	4.1%	◀▶0.0	▼0.8
<b>Mississippi continued unemployment claims</b> Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	38,282	36,863	31,245	▲3.8%	▲22.5%
<b>ISM Index of U.S. Non-Manufacturing Activity</b> Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	50.6	52.7	49.2	▼4.0%	▲2.8%
<b>U.S. mortgage rates</b> Percentage point change. Seasonally adjusted; 30-year conventional. Source: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	7.49%	7.49%	6.79%	◀▶0.0%	▲0.69
<b>Mississippi average hourly wage for manufacturing</b> Seasonally adjusted; 2012 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	21.26	20.81	21.20	▲2.2%	▲0.3%
<b>Mississippi average weekly earnings for manufacturing</b> Seasonally adjusted; 2012 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	875.15	865.52	854.59	▲1.1%	▲2.4%
<b>NFIB Small Business Optimism Index</b> 1986 = 100. Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses	90.6	90.7	91.9	▼0.1%	▼1.4%
<b>U.S. total light vehicle sales</b> Millions of units seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	15.83	15.34	13.55	▲3.2%	▲16.8%
<b>Gaming revenue</b>	154.69	155.42	159.3	▼0.5%	▼2.9%
<b>Coastal counties</b>	98.74	97.68	99.6	▲1.1%	▼0.9%
<b>River counties</b>	55.96	57.74	59.6	▼3.1%	▼6.1%
Seasonally adjusted; millions of 2012 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue					

Economic Indices

Components of the Mississippi Leading Index

Miscellaneous Indicators

## MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported employment in Mississippi fell by 3,900 jobs in November, a decrease of 0.3 percent. As seen in Table 2 below, compared to one year earlier total nonfarm employment in the state was lower by 6,800 jobs, a decline of 0.6 percent.. October employment in Mississippi was revised down by 2,100 jobs.

According to BLS total nonfarm employment increased in three states in November and was essentially unchanged in forty-seven states and the District of Columbia. Florida added 30,900 jobs for the month, the most among all states, followed by Alabama, which added 12,800 jobs, and then Maine, where employment rose by 3,800 jobs. Alabama and Maine had the largest percentage increases in employment in November among all states of 0.6 percent.

Employment increased in twenty-eight states over the last twelve months as of October according to BLS and was essentially unchanged in twenty-two states and the District of Columbia. Texas added 407,100 jobs over the past twelve months, the most among all states. Employment increased 3.5 percent in Nevada over the last twelve months, the largest percentage increase in employment among all states.

Employment was little changed in most sectors in Mississippi in November. The Health Care and Social Assistance sector added 300 jobs for the month, the most among all sectors. The Arts and Entertainment sector had the largest percentage increase in employment in November of 1.0 percent, a gain of 100 jobs. The Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector lost 2,000 jobs for the month, the largest decrease in employment among all

sectors, followed by the loss of 1,500 jobs in the Manufacturing sector. Manufacturing also had the largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors in the state in November of -1.0 percent.

The Health Care and Social Assistance sector in Mississippi added 7,400 jobs over the past twelve months as of November, the most among all sectors. The largest percentage increase in employment among all sectors in the state over the past twelve months occurred in the Arts and Entertainment sector, where employment rose 14.6 percent. The Professional and Business Services sector lost 7,700 jobs over the past twelve months as of November, the largest decrease in employment among all sectors in Mississippi. The largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors in the state over the last twelve months also occurred in this sector, a decline of 6.5 percent.

**Table 2. Change in Mississippi employment by industry, November 2023**

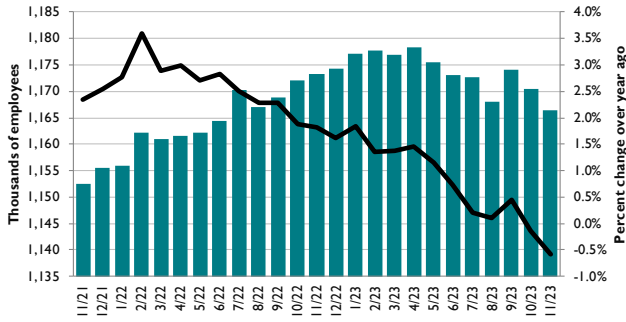
	Relative share of total <sup>a</sup>	November 2023	October 2023	November 2022	Change from October 2023 Level	Change from October 2023 Percent	Change from November 2022 Level	Change from November 2022 Percent
Total Nonfarm	100.0%	1,166,500	1,170,400	1,173,300	▼3,900)	▼0.3%	▼6,800	▼0.6%
Mining and Logging	0.5%	6,000	6,000	6,000	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%
Construction	4.0%	46,000	46,300	46,500	▼300	▼0.6%	▼500	▼1.1%
Manufacturing	12.5%	145,700	147,200	147,400	▼1,500	▼1.0%	▼1,700	▼1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.9%	241,800	243,800	245,500	▼2,000	▼0.8%	▼3,700	▼1.5%
Retail Trade	11.9%	138,300	139,200	139,200	▼900	▼0.6%	▼900	▼0.6%
Information	0.9%	10,100	10,100	10,400	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%	▼300	▼2.9%
Financial Activities	3.8%	44,500	44,600	44,500	▼100	▼0.2%	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%
Services	37.5%	437,700	437,500	439,600	▲200	◀▶0.0%	▼1,900	▼0.4%
Professional & Business Services	9.8%	111,200	111,300	118,900	▼100	▼0.1%	▼7,700	▼6.5%
Educational Services	1.2%	14,600	14,500	13,700	▲100	▲0.7%	▲900	▲6.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.7%	141,400	141,100	134,000	▲300	▲0.2%	▲7,400	▲5.5%
Arts and Entertainment	0.8%	10,200	10,100	8,900	▲100	▲1.0%	▲1,300	▲14.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	10.6%	121,200	121,400	124,700	▼200	▼0.2%	▼3,500	▼2.8%
Other Services	3.3%	39,100	39,100	39,400	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%	▼300	▼0.8%
Government	19.9%	234,700	234,900	233,400	▼200	▼0.1%	▲1,300	▲0.6%

<sup>a</sup>Relative shares are for the most recent twelve-month average. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

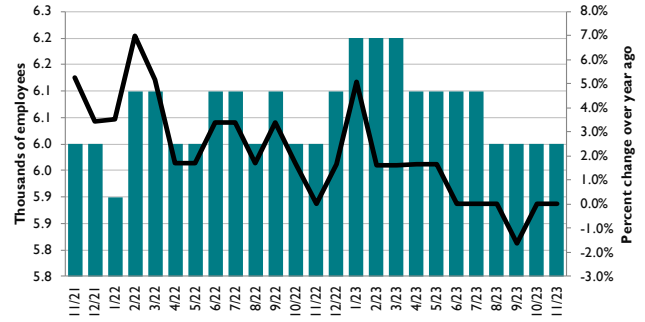


# MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES

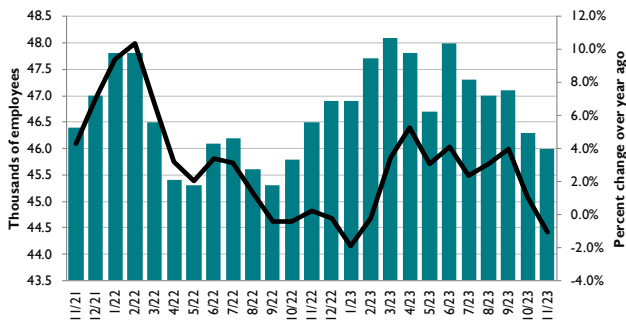
**Figure 24a. Nonfarm employment**



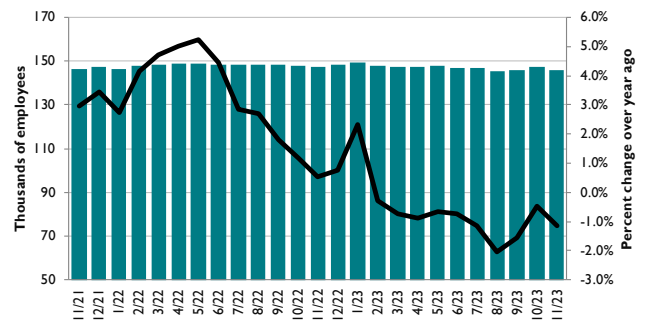
**Figure 24b. Mining and Logging**



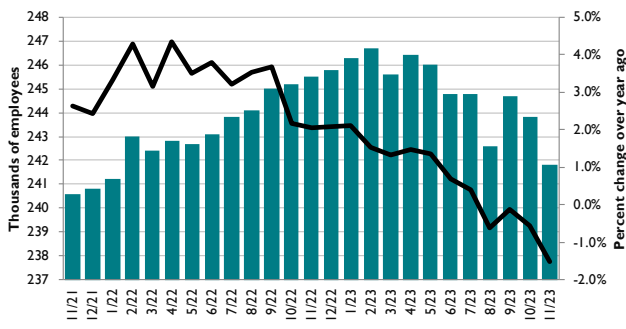
**Figure 24c. Construction**



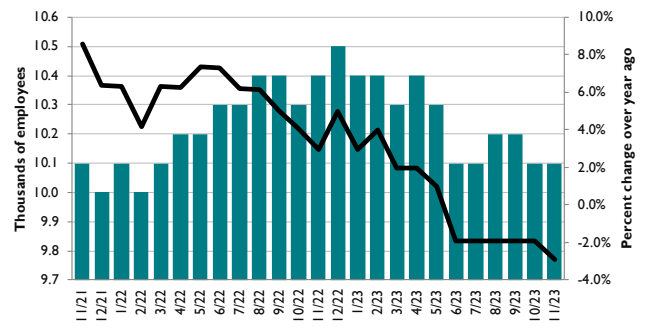
**Figure 24d. Manufacturing**



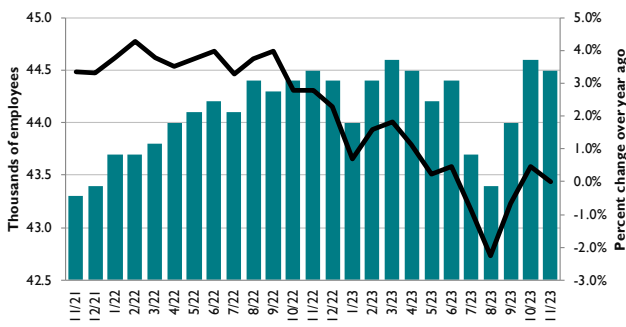
**Figure 24e. Trade, transportation, and utilities**



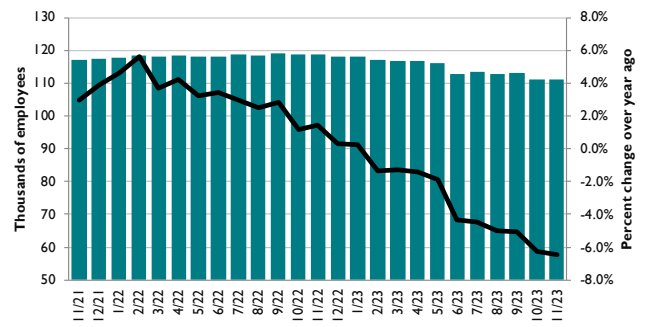
**Figure 24f. Information**



**Figure 24g. Financial activities**

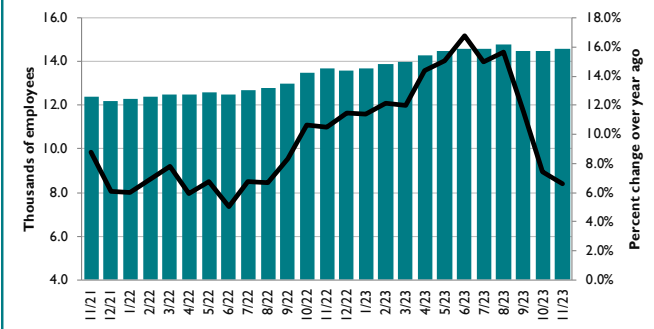


**Figure 24h. Professional and business services**

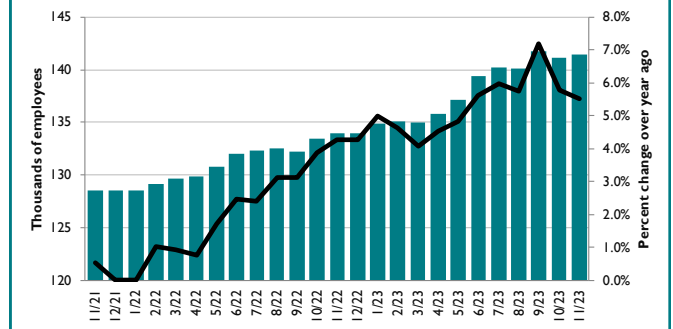


## MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES (CONTINUED)

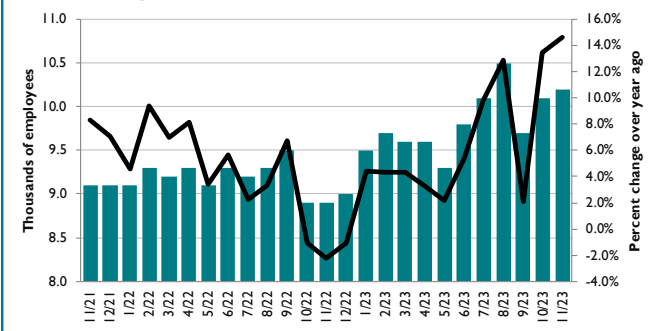
**Figure 24i. Educational services**



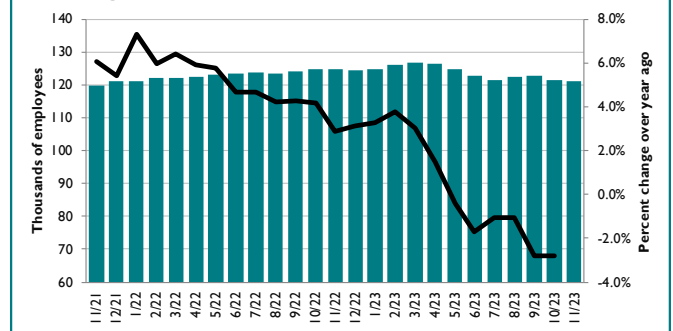
**Figure 24j. Health care and social assistance**



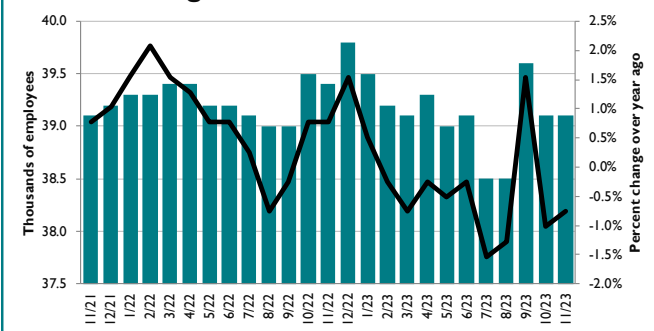
**Figure 24k. Arts and entertainment**



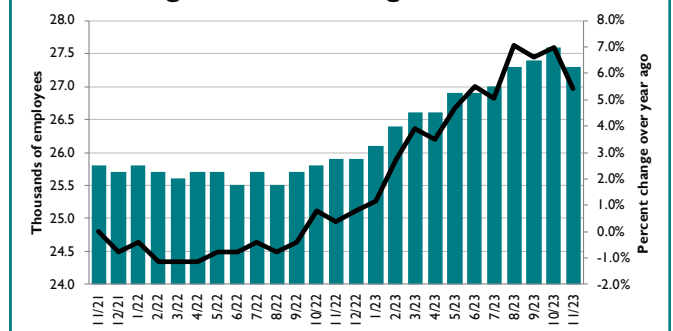
**Figure 24l. Accommodation and food services**



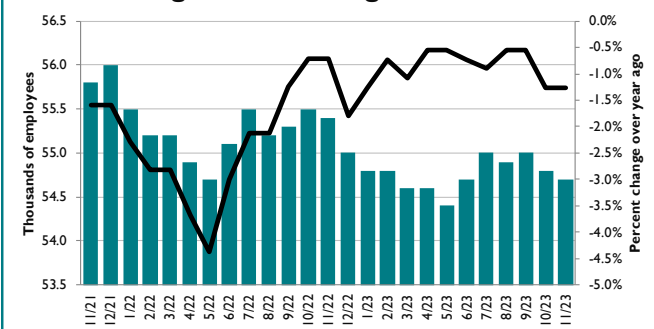
**Figure 24m. Other services**



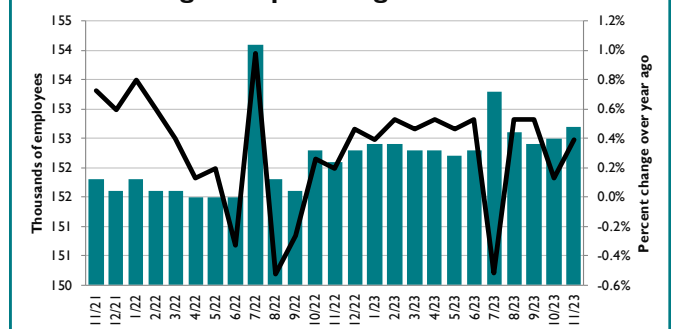
**Figure 24n. Federal government**



**Figure 24o. State government**



**Figure 24p. Local government**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (all figures); seasonally adjusted

## CHANGE IN REAL GDP BY STATE IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023

In late December the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released annualized estimates of the change in real gross domestic product (GDP) by state for the third quarter of 2023. (An annualized estimate is the actual change multiplied by four.) BEA reported real GDP expanded in all fifty states and the District of Columbia in the third quarter. In Mississippi, real GDP expanded at an annualized rate of 0.8 percent in the third quarter, which ranked forty-ninth among all states. The change in Mississippi real GDP in the second quarter of 2023 remained -1.8 percent.

The contributions by sector to the 0.8 percent increase in Mississippi's real GDP in the third quarter of 2023 are listed in Table 3 from largest to smallest. (BEA only includes the changes in major industries in its preliminary estimates.) The Retail Trade sector made the largest positive contribution to real GDP growth among all sectors in the third quarter of 2.09 percentage points. This contribution was more than twice as large as that of any other sector. The Manufacturing sector made the next largest positive contribution of 0.68 percentage point. This contribution was entirely from the Nondurable Goods Manufacturing subsector. The next largest positive contribution of 0.48

percentage point was made by the Health Care and Social Assistance sector. The Information sector made the next largest positive contribution to the change in real GDP in the third quarter of 0.36 percentage point, closely followed by the 0.35 percentage point contribution of the Construction sector. The Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental and Leasing sector and the Government sector made the next largest contributions of 0.24 percentage point each. Three other

sectors made positive contributions of less than 0.20 percentage point each.

The Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sector made the largest negative contribution to real GDP growth in Mississippi in the third quarter of -1.44 percentage points. The second largest negative contribution of -1.01 percentage points was made by the Utilities sector. The Wholesale Trade sector made the next largest negative contribution to real GDP growth in

**Table 3. Contributions to percent change in Mississippi real GDP by sector, third quarter 2023**

Sector	Percentage points
Retail trade	2.09
Manufacturing	0.68
Health care and social assistance	0.48
Information	0.36
Construction	0.35
Government	0.24
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	0.24
Professional, scientific, and technical services	0.17
Management of companies and enterprises	0.07
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.02
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-0.01
Educational services	-0.04
Transportation and warehousing	-0.16
Other services	-0.16
Accommodation and food services	-0.26
Administrative and support and waste management	-0.42
Wholesale trade	-0.46
Utilities	-1.01
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	-1.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

Total may not add due to rounding. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

## CHANGE IN REAL GDP BY STATE IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023 (CONTINUED)

the third quarter of -0.46 percentage point, closely followed by the -0.42 percentage point contribution of the Administrative and Support and Waste Management sector. The Accommodation and Food Services sectors reduced real GDP growth in the third quarter by -0.26 percentage point. Four other sectors made negative contributions of more than -0.2 percentage point.

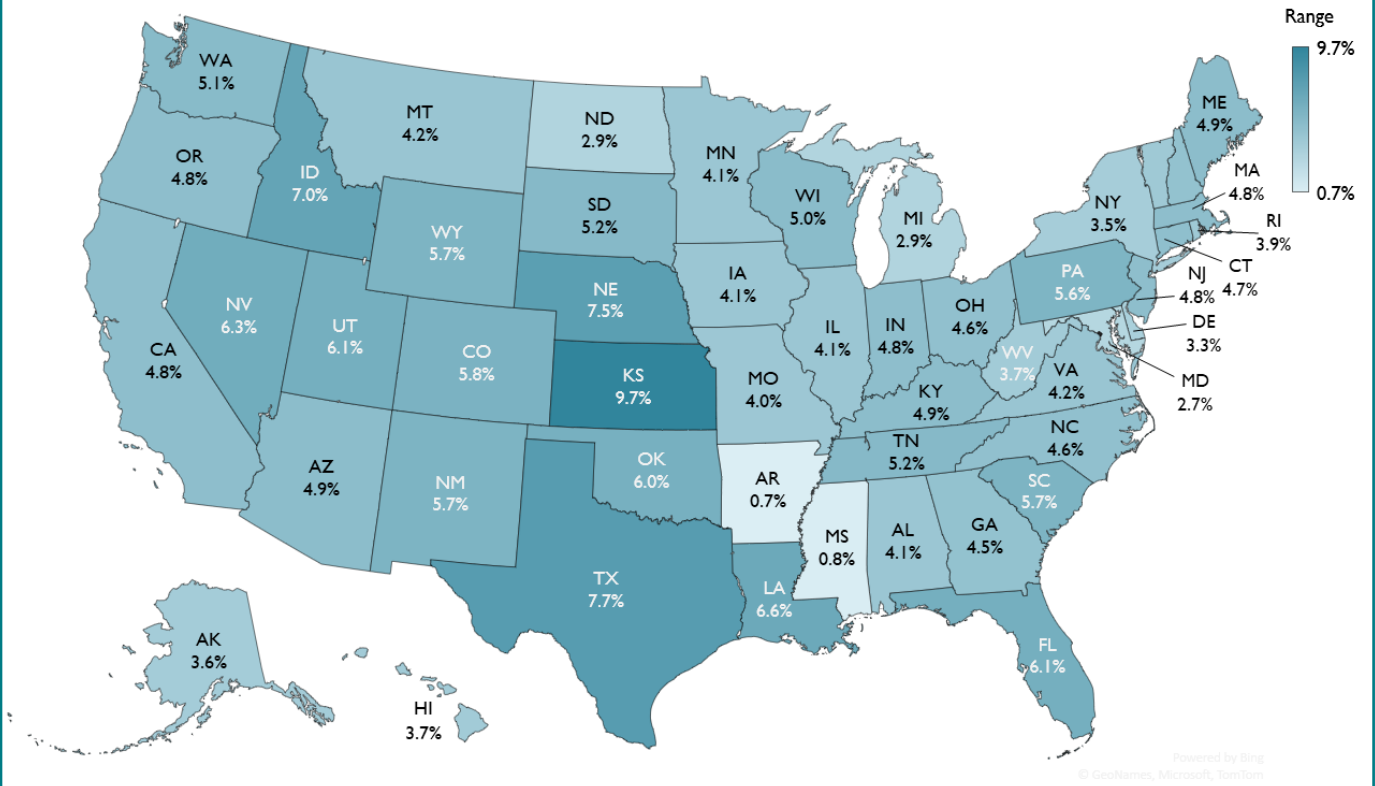
The annualized change in real GDP by state in the third quarter of 2023 as reported by BEA is depicted in Figure 25. Kansas had the largest increase in real GDP among all states in the third quarter at an an-

nualized rate of 9.7 percent. The Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sector was the largest contributor to growth in Kansas, despite decreasing nationally and in thirty-three states. The sector was also the largest contributor to real GDP in all fifty states. The Retail Trade sector was the largest contributor to growth in thirty-nine states including Mississippi, and made positive contributions to real GDP in all fifty states. The Non-durable Goods Manufacturing sector was the leading contributor to

growth in three states including Louisiana; the sector made positive contributions to growth in all fifty states as well.

The smallest increase in real GDP among all states in the third quarter occurred in Arkansas, where real GDP expanded 0.7 percent at an annualized rate that was only 0.1 percentage point less than in Mississippi. Like Mississippi, the leading contributor to real GDP growth in Arkansas was the Retail Trade sector, and the sector that made the largest negative contribution was the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sector.

**Figure 25. Annualized percent change in real GDP by state, 2023Q3**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.