



ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

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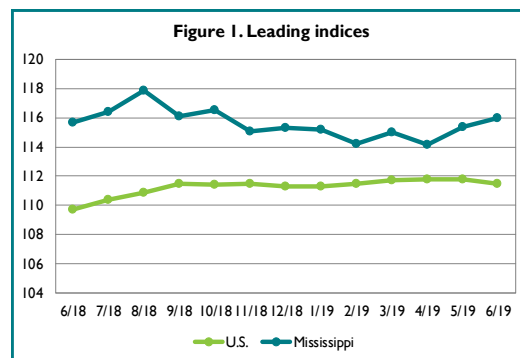
The value of the Mississippi Leading Index (MLI) increased 0.5 percent in June as seen in Figure 1 below. Compared to one year ago the value of the MLI for the month was 0.3 percent higher.

Figure 2 below indicates the value of the Mississippi Coincident Index (MCI) increased 0.2 percent in June. The value for the month was 1.9 percent higher compared to one year ago.

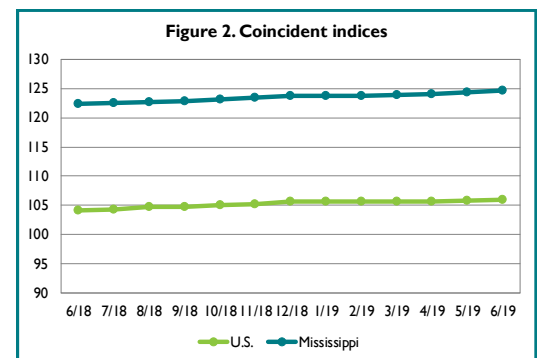
U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) increased 2.1 percent in the second quarter of 2019 according to the initial estimate of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), down from the 3.1 percent growth rate of the first quarter. Nonresidential fixed investment fell from the first quarter while consumer spending increased; however, inventories and net exports, which drove much of the growth

in real GDP in the first quarter, were negative contributors in the second quarter. BEA also reported the U.S. economy has grown at an average annual rate of 2.3 percent since the current expansion began in 2009.

The MLI exhibited some momentum for the first time in 2019 in June, as it rose for the second month in a row. The growth was led by a relatively strong month for the Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index as well as the continued growth in the national measures of retail sales and consumer expectations. Initial unemployment claims also fell for the second month in a row after trending up since late 2018. Employment growth was small but steady in June. As is typically the case, the question remains if the Mississippi economy can sustain the gains into the second half of 2019.



Sources: University Research Center and The Conference Board



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 2004. The index is based on changes in nonfarm employment, the unemployment rate, average manufacturing work-week 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 2004.

Photo credit: "Downtown Holly Springs, Mississippi" by Fredlyfish4 available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holly_Springs_square_2.JPG under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported (CC BY-SA 3.0) License. Full terms at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>.

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS**MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX, JUNE 2019**

Figure 3 indicates the value of the **Mississippi Leading Index of Economic Indicators** (MLI) rose 0.5 percent in June. The MLI increased in value in back-to-back months for the first time since July and August of 2018. Compared to one year ago the value of the MLI was 0.3 percent higher in June. The value of the MLI increased 0.6 percent over the last six months.

In June four of the seven components of the MLI contributed positively, led by the relatively large increase in the value of the Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index. Each component is discussed below in order of largest to smallest contribution.

Figure 4 indicates the value of the **Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index** surged 2.4 percent in June. The increase was also the largest monthly gain since December. Compared to one year ago, the value of the Index was 2.4 percent higher in June, the first year-over-year increase in the value of the Index since January. The June increase in the value was entirely driven by the 2.4 percent increase in the average weekly hours of production employees in the state, as Manufacturing employment in Mississippi was unchanged for the month.

Figure 5 indicates the value of **U.S. retail sales** increased 0.4 percent in June, which following revisions marked the third consecutive month sales rose 0.4 percent and the fourth consecutive monthly increase overall. The value of retail sales was 3.4 percent higher in June compared to one year ago. The decrease in gasoline sales in June held down retail growth for the month, as sales excluding automobiles and gasoline rose 0.7 percent. Sales of motor vehicles and parts saw the largest increase in June and the only other category to decrease for the month was sales of electronics and appliances.

The number of seasonally-adjusted **initial unemployment claims** in Mississippi decreased 6.2 percent in June as Figure 6 indicates. The value for the month was 3.8 percent lower compared to one year ago. In contrast, as seen in Figure 16 on page 6, the value of seasonally-adjusted continued unemployment claims in Mississippi climbed 7.7 percent in June. The number of continued unemployment claims in Mississippi in June compared to one year ago was up 6.7 percent, the first year-over-year increase since October 2016. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in Mississippi in June was 5.0 percent, unchanged from the previous month as Figure 17 on page

6 indicates. Compared to one year ago Mississippi's unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage point higher in June.

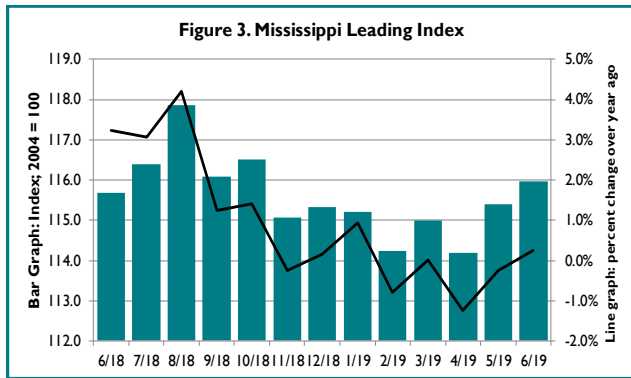
As Figure 7 indicates the value of the **University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations** (three-month moving average) increased in June for the fifth consecutive month. The value of the Index increased 1.1 percent. For the month the value was 4.0 percent higher compared to one year ago. While short-term (one-year) inflation expectations decreased slightly in the most recent survey, long-term (five-year) inflation expectations rose slightly. Both consumer sentiment and expectations remain relatively high, historically speaking.

The value of the **ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity** decreased 1.0 percent in July as seen in Figure 8, its fourth consecutive monthly decline. In July the value of the Index was 12.3 percent lower compared to one year ago. The value of the Index fell to its lowest level since May 2016. The decline was driven by the Production and Employment components as the other three components of the Index increased. The Inventories component rose slightly but remained just under 50.0. For the second month in a row the value of the prices paid index fell in July to its lowest level of the year.

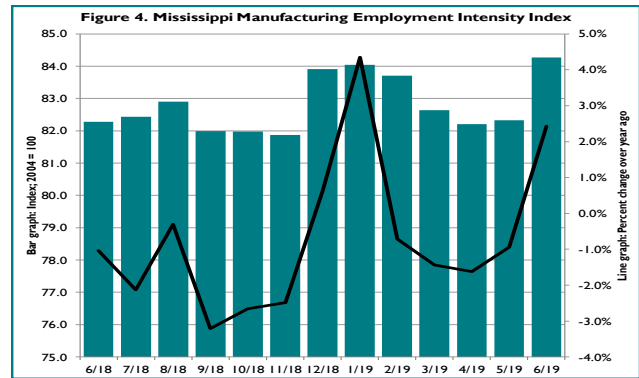
As seen in Figure 9 the value of **Mississippi income tax withholdings** (three-month moving average) declined 0.7 percent in June. The value of withholdings remained 0.5 percent higher for the month compared to one year ago. However, the value of withholdings decreased 0.5 percent over the last six months.

The value of **Mississippi residential building permits** (three-month moving average) fell 4.0 percent in June as seen in Figure 10. Compared to one year ago the value was down 13.6 percent for the month, the largest year-over-year decrease since April 2018. In June the number of units in the state decreased 3.8 percent. For the month the number of units was down 13.5 percent compared to one year ago. The number of privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in the U.S. in June fell 6.1 percent from the revised May rate. The number of units in the U.S. in June was 6.6 percent lower compared to one year ago.

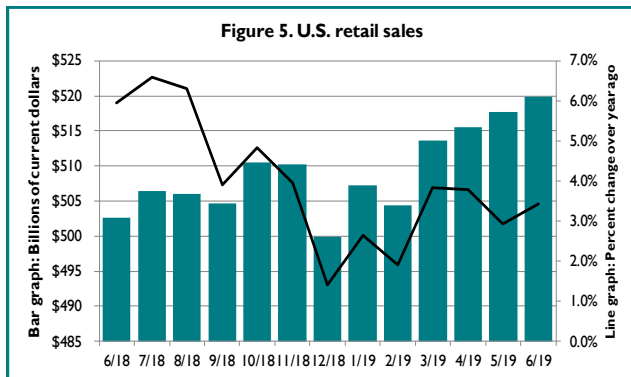
MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX AND COMPONENTS, IN FIGURES



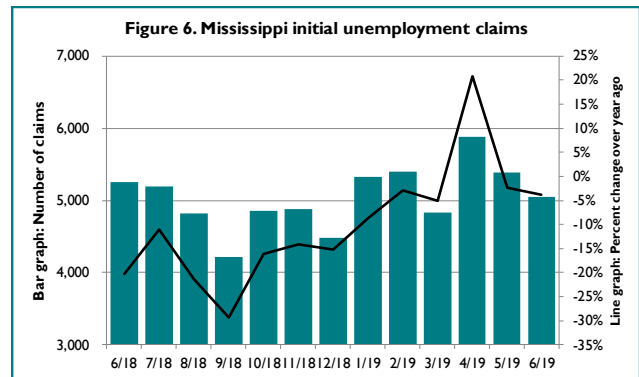
Source: University Research Center



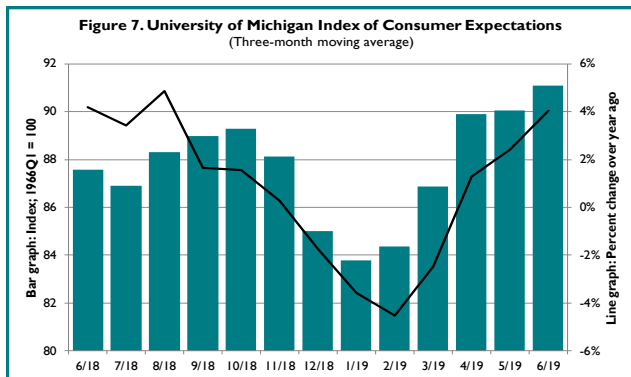
Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



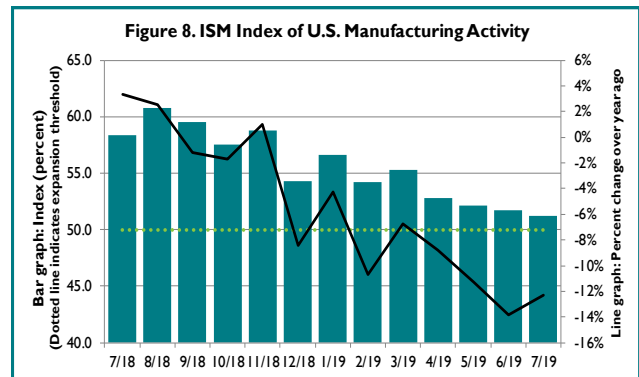
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census



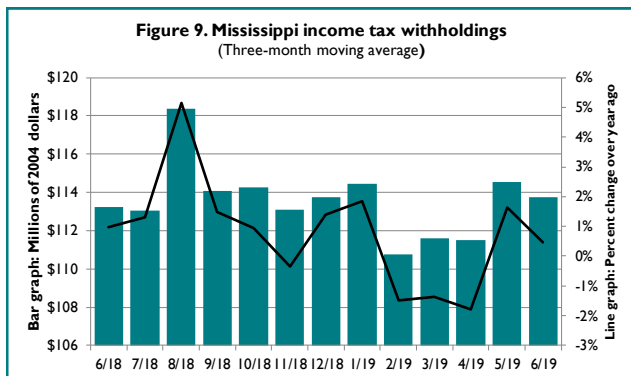
Source: U.S. Department of Labor; seasonally adjusted



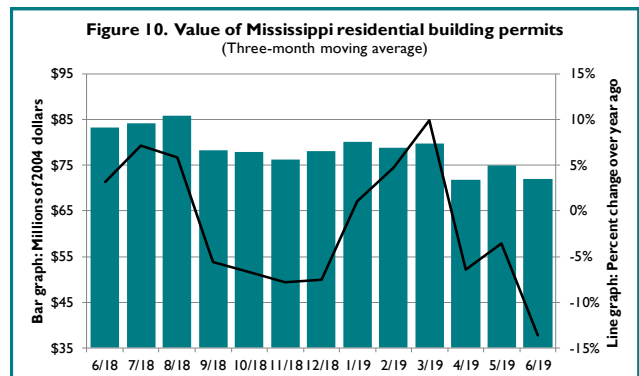
Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers



Source: Institute for Supply Management



Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue; seasonally adjusted



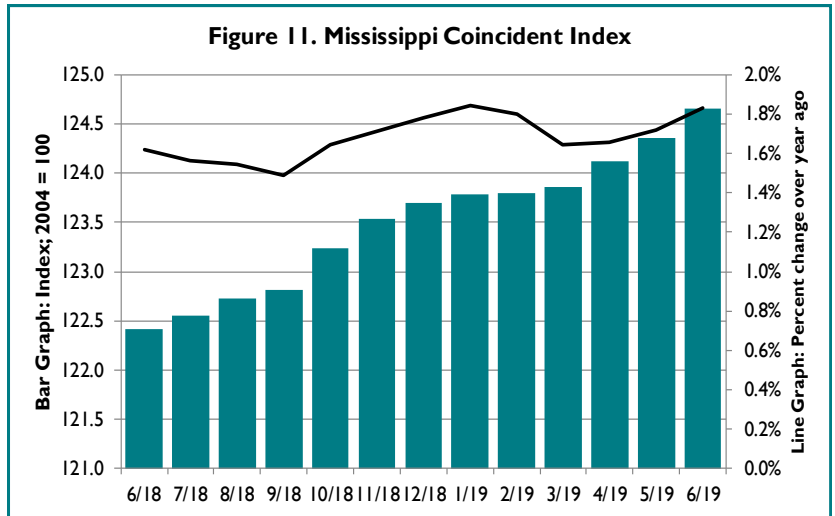
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; seasonally adjusted

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

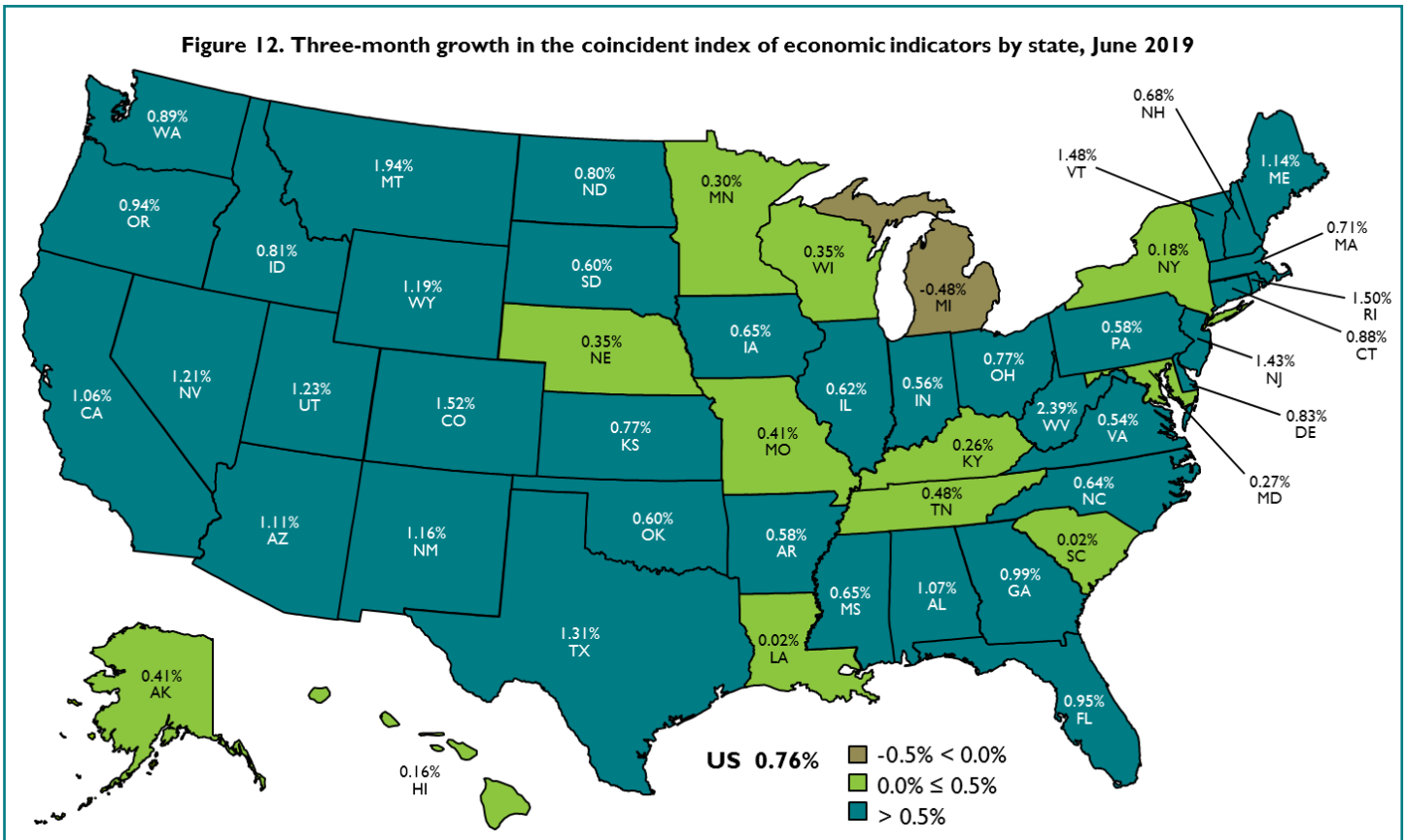
MISSISSIPPI COINCIDENT INDEX, JUNE 2019

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia reported the value of the **Mississippi Coincident Index of Economic Indicators (MCI)** increased 0.2 percent in June as seen in Figure 11. The value of the MCI for the month was up 1.9 percent compared to one year ago.

The values of the coincident indices increased in forty-nine states in June compared to three months prior as seen in Figure 12 below. In twelve states the values of the coincident indices increased by less than 0.5 percent in June compared to March. The values of the coincident indices increased by more than 0.5 percent compared to three months prior in thirty-seven states, including Mississippi. Michigan was the only state where the value of the coincident index decreased, as the value declined between 0.0 and 0.5 percent in June compared to three months prior.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

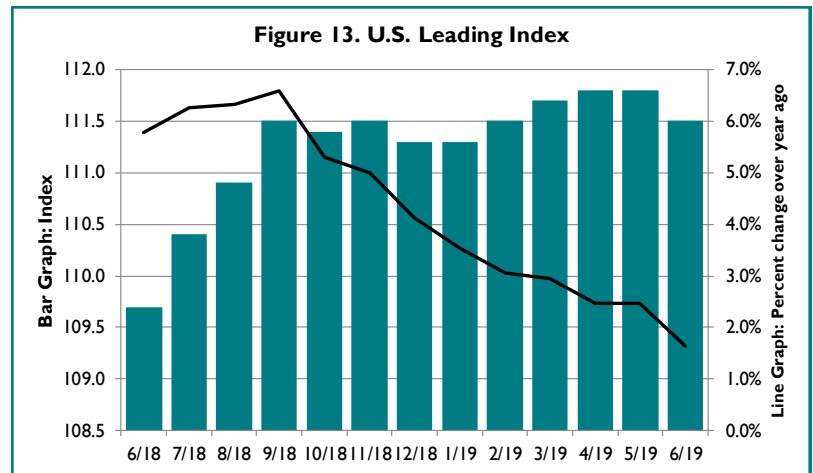
NATIONAL TRENDS

The Conference Board reported the value of the U.S. Leading Economic Index (LEI) fell 0.3 percent in June as seen in Figure 13. Compared to one year ago the value of the LEI was 1.6 percent higher in June. Despite the overall decrease, six of the ten components of the LEI contributed positively and the largest contributor was the Leading Credit Index. Building permits made the largest negative contribution. Over the last six months the value of the LEI increased 0.2 percent.

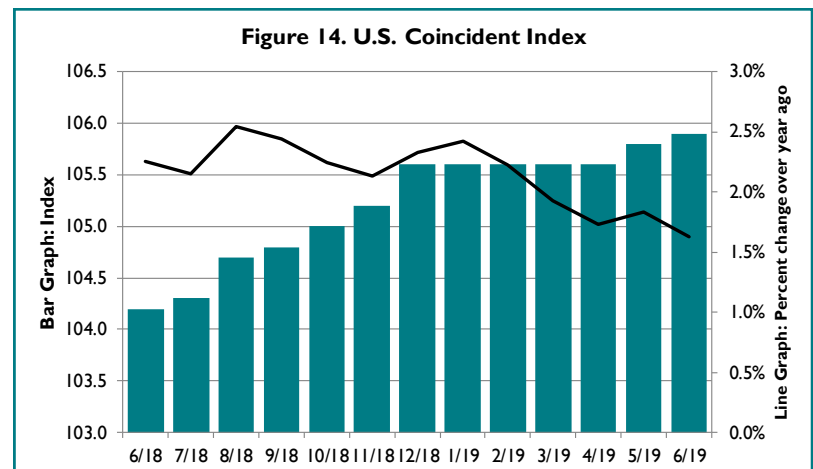
According to The Conference Board the value of the U.S. Coincident Economic Index (CEI) increased 0.1 percent in June as Figure 14 indicates. Compared to one year ago the value of the CEI was 1.6 percent higher in June. The largest contributor to the increase was employees on nonagricultural payrolls as three of the four components of the CEI increased for the month. Industrial production was the negative contributor. The value of the CEI rose 0.2 percent over the last six months.

As seen in Figure 15 the value of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Small Business Optimism Index fell 1.6 percent in June, the first decline since January. The value of the Index remained 3.6 percent lower in June compared to one year ago. Losses were generally widespread and the largest decrease in a component of the Index occurred in “earnings trends.” Continued trade tensions with China and other nations likely pushed small business optimism downward, both directly and indirectly through the difficulties of the U.S. manufacturing sector.

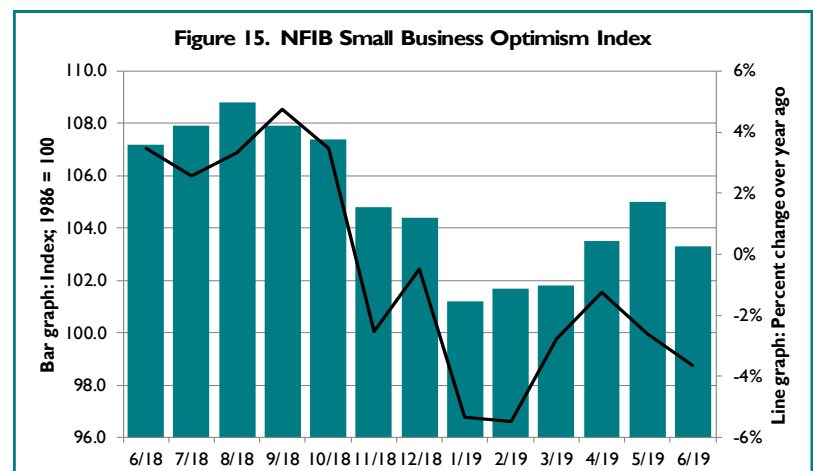
For the first time since 2008, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) reduced the federal funds rate target at its July meeting. The cut of 0.25 basis points set the benchmark rate in the range of 2.00 percent to 2.25 percent. While the move was widely expected, the decision by the FOMC was not unanimous as two members of the committee dissented. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell characterized the decrease as a “mid-cycle adjustment” and stated additional rate reductions were possible. However, at the same time Powell also emphasized the July move was “not the beginning of a long series of rate cuts.”



Source: The Conference Board



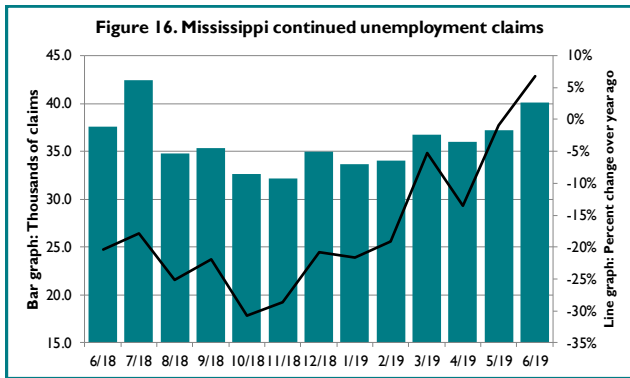
Source: The Conference Board



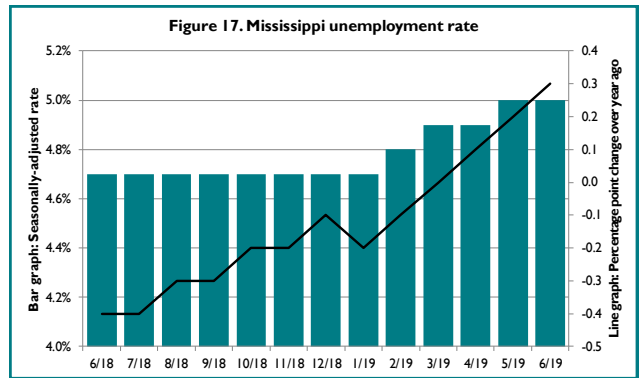
Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

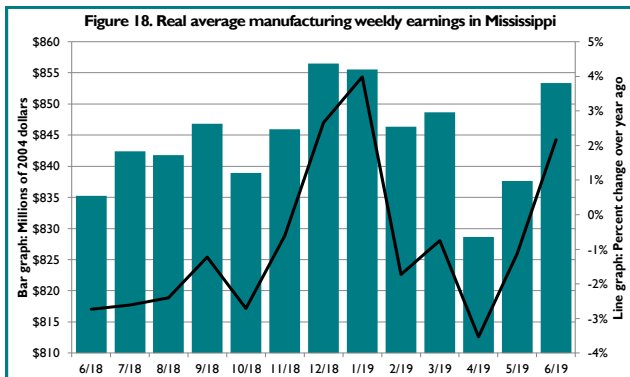
MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INDICATORS, IN FIGURES



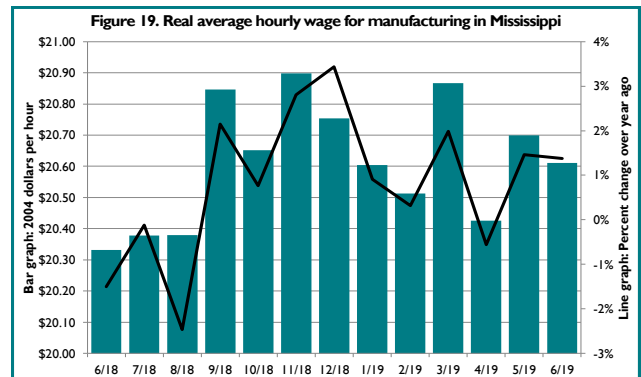
Source: U.S. Department of Labor; seasonally adjusted



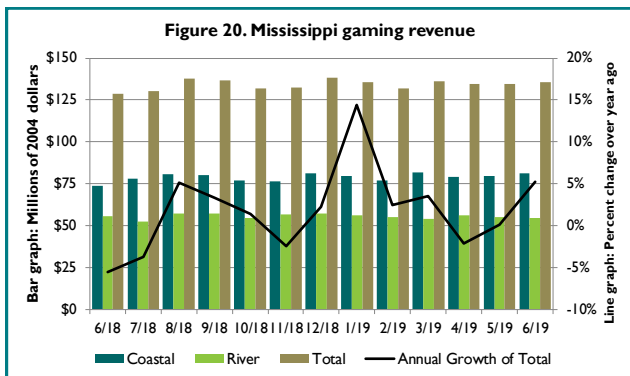
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; seasonally adjusted



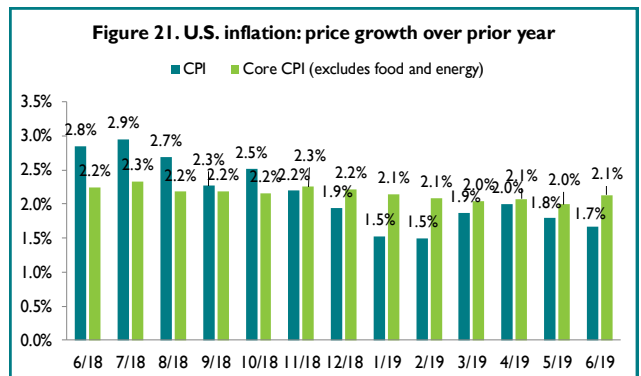
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; non-seasonally adjusted



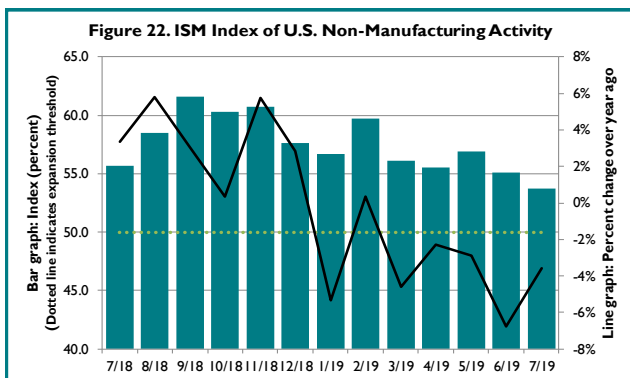
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; seasonally adjusted



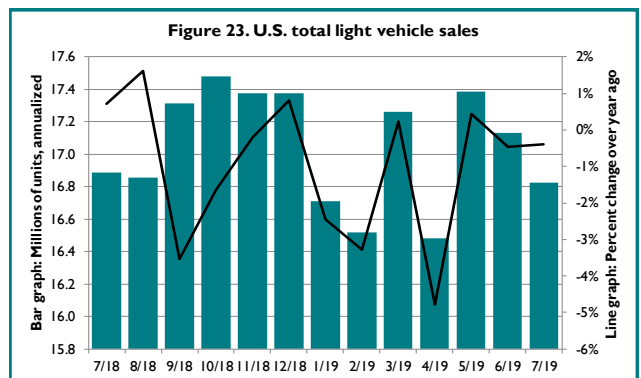
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue; seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: Institute for Supply Management



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis; seasonally adjusted at annual rates

TABLE I. SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicator	June 2019	May 2019	June 2018	Percent change from May 2019 June 2018	
U.S. Leading Economic Index 2004 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	111.5	111.8	109.7	▼0.3%	▲1.6%
U.S. Coincident Economic Index 2004 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	105.9	105.8	104.2	▲0.1%	▲1.6%
Mississippi Leading Index 2004 = 100. Source: University Research Center	116.0	115.4	115.7	▲0.5%	▲0.3%
Mississippi Coincident Index 2004 = 100. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia	124.7	124.4	122.4	▲0.2%	▲1.9%
Mississippi initial unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	5,050	5,386	5,252	▼6.2%	▼3.8%
Value of Mississippi residential building permits Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2004 dollars. Source: Bureau of the Census	72.0	75.0	83.3	▼4.0%	▼13.6%
Mississippi income tax withholdings Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2004 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	113.8	114.5	113.2	▼0.7%	▲0.5%
Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index 2004 = 100. Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	84.3	82.3	82.3	▲2.4%	▲2.4%
University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations Three-month moving average; index 1966Q1 = 100. Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers	91.1	90.1	87.6	▲1.1%	▲4.0%
ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	51.2	51.7	58.4	▼1.0%	▼12.3%
U.S. retail sales Current dollars, in billions. Source: Bureau of the Census	519.9	517.7	502.7	▲0.4%	▲3.4%
U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)	135.1	135.1	132.9	▲0.1%	▲1.7%
U.S. Core CPI (excludes food and energy) 2004 = 100. Source: URC using data from Bureau of Labor Statistics	133.6	133.3	130.9	▲0.3%	▲2.1%
Mississippi unemployment rate Percentage point change. Seasonally-adjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	5.0%	5.0%	4.7%	◀0.0	▲0.3
Mississippi continued unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	40,085	37,222	37,556	▲7.7%	▲6.7%
ISM Index of U.S. Non-Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	53.7	55.1	55.7	▼2.5%	▼3.6%
U.S. mortgage rates Percentage point change. Seasonally adjusted; 30-year conventional. Source: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	3.85%	4.02%	4.61%	▼0.17	▼0.76
Mississippi average hourly wage for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2004 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	20.61	20.38	20.89	▲1.1%	▼1.4%
Mississippi average weekly earnings for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2004 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	853.36	837.65	835.22	▲1.9%	▲2.2%
NFIB Small Business Optimism Index 1986 = 100. Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses	103.3	105.0	107.2	▼1.6%	▼3.6%
U.S. total light vehicle sales Millions of units seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	16.82	17.13	16.89	▼1.8%	▼0.4%
Gaming revenue	135.5	134.7	128.8	▲0.6%	▲5.2%
Coastal counties	81.0	79.7	73.4	▲1.7%	▲10.4%
River counties Seasonally adjusted; millions of 2004 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	54.5	55.0	55.4	▼0.9%	▼1.6%

Economic Indices

Components of the Mississippi Leading Index

Miscellaneous Indicators

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported total nonfarm employment in Mississippi rose by 2,100 jobs in June, a gain of 0.2 percent. As seen in Table 2 below, total employment in the state was 1.2 percent higher for the month compared to one year earlier.

According to BLS total nonfarm employment increased in four states in June: California, Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee. California added 46,200 jobs, the most among all states, while the largest percentage increases in employment of 0.4 percent occurred in both Georgia and Texas.

Employment was higher in twenty-eight states in June compared to one year earlier according to BLS. Texas added 315,600 jobs, the most among all states, closely followed by California, which added 296,100 jobs. In June the largest percentage increase in employment compared to one year earlier occurred in Nevada, where employment rose by 3.3 percent, the state's fifth consecutive month leading the nation in year-over-year growth in jobs. Employment in Arizona rose 2.8 percent in June compared to one year earlier, the next largest increase.

In Mississippi the Professional and Business Services sector added 1,300 jobs in June, the most among all sectors in the state. The next-largest increase in employment

occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance as the sector added 800 jobs for the month. As in May, the largest percentage increase in employment among all sectors in the state in June occurred in Arts and Entertainment, where employment rose 2.0 percent, a gain of 200 jobs. Government lost 900 jobs for the month, the largest decrease in employment among all sectors. Government tied with the Retail Trade subsector for the largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors in June of 0.4 percent. The only other sector to lose jobs for the month was Accommodation and Food Services; however, employment was unchanged in four sectors in June.

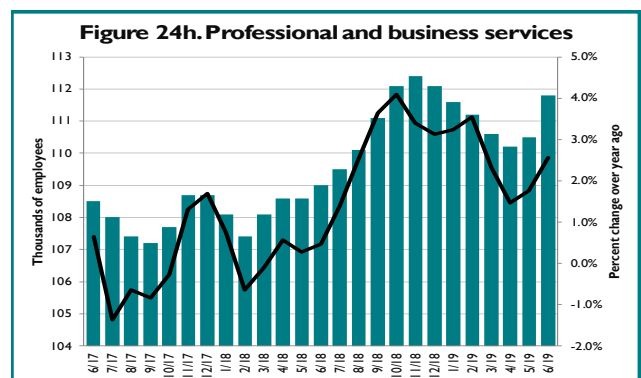
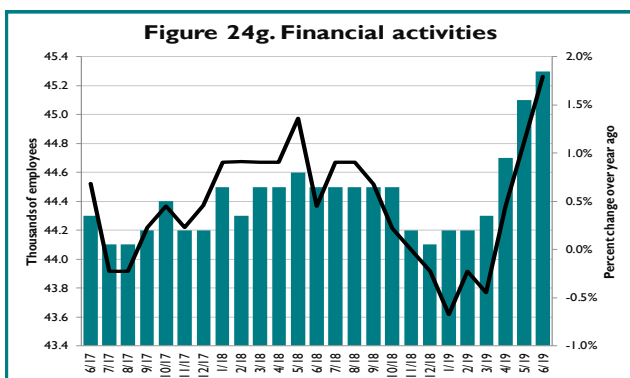
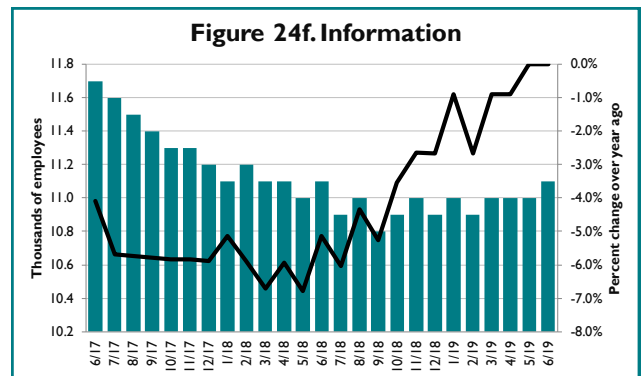
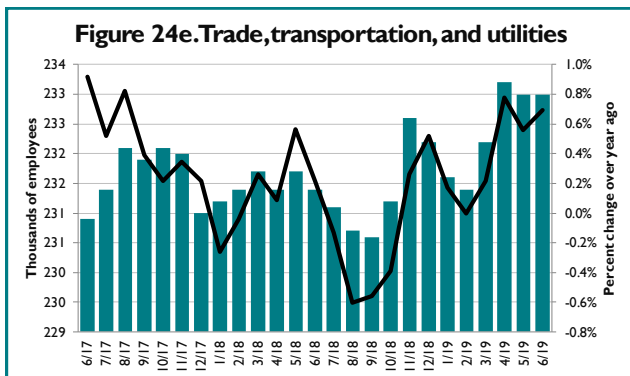
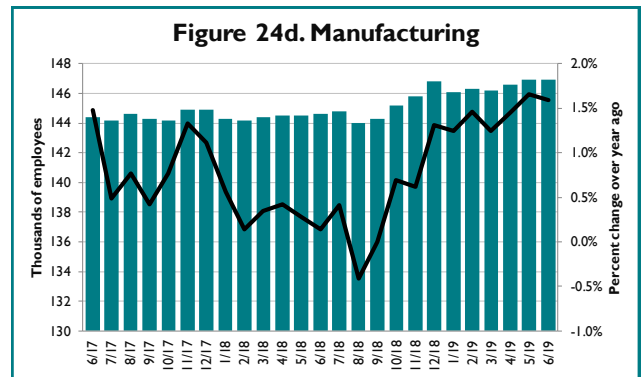
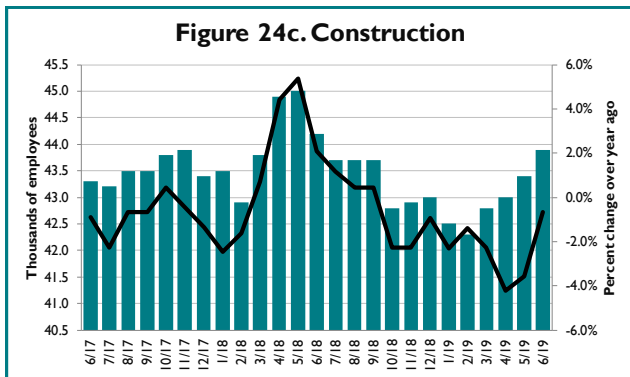
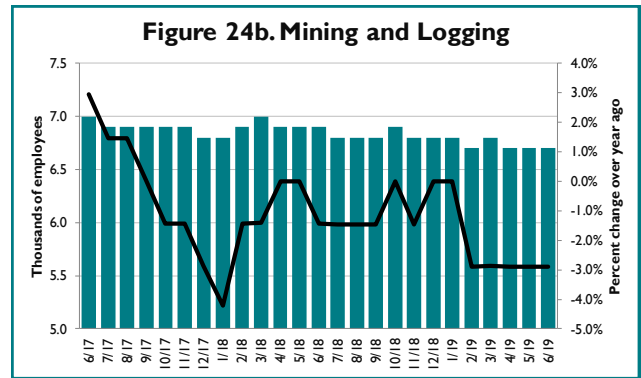
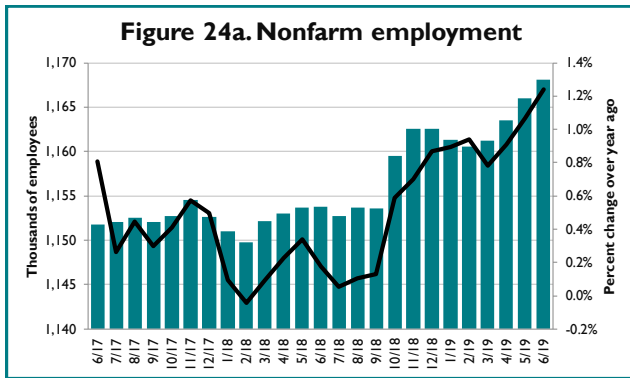
Over the last twelve months Accommodation and Food Services added the most jobs among all sectors in Mississippi as of June, a total of 5,500 jobs. The largest percentage increase in employment among all sectors of 5.2 percent occurred in Arts and Entertainment, a total of 500 jobs. Government lost 800 jobs over the past twelve months, the most among all sectors in the state. The largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors occurred in Mining and Logging, where employment fell by 2.9 percent, a loss of 200 jobs.

Table 2. Change in Mississippi employment by industry, June 2019

	Relative share of total ^a	June 2019	May 2019	June 2018	Change from May 2019		Change from June 2018	
					Level	Percent	Level	Percent
Total Nonfarm	100.0%	1,168,100	1,166,000	1,153,800	▲2,100	▲0.2%	▲14,300	▲1.2%
Mining and Logging	0.6%	6,700	6,700	6,900	◀0	◀0.0%	▼200	▼2.9%
Construction	3.7%	43,900	43,400	44,200	▲500	▲1.2%	▼300	▼0.7%
Manufacturing	12.6%	146,900	146,900	144,600	◀0	◀0.0%	▲2,300	▲1.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.0%	233,000	233,000	231,400	◀0	◀0.0%	▲1,600	▲0.7%
Retail Trade	11.9%	138,300	138,900	138,500	▼600	▼0.4%	▼200	▼0.1%
Information	0.9%	11,100	11,000	11,100	▲100	▲0.9%	◀0	◀0.0%
Financial Activities	3.8%	45,300	45,100	44,500	▲200	▲0.4%	▲800	▲1.8%
Services	37.6%	440,800	438,600	429,900	▲2,200	▲0.5%	▲10,900	▲2.5%
Professional & Business Services	9.6%	111,800	110,500	109,000	▲1,300	▲1.2%	▲2,800	▲2.6%
Educational Services	1.0%	12,100	12,000	12,100	▲100	▲0.8%	◀0	◀0.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.5%	134,900	134,100	132,600	▲800	▲0.6%	▲2,300	▲1.7%
Arts and Entertainment	0.8%	10,200	10,000	9,700	▲200	▲2.0%	▲500	▲5.2%
Accommodation and Food Services	11.0%	130,700	130,900	125,200	▼200	▼0.2%	▲5,500	▲4.4%
Other Services	3.6%	41,100	41,100	41,300	◀0	◀0.0%	▼200	▼0.5%
Government	20.8%	240,400	241,300	241,200	▼900	▼0.4%	▼800	▼0.3%

^aRelative shares are for the most recent twelve-month average. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

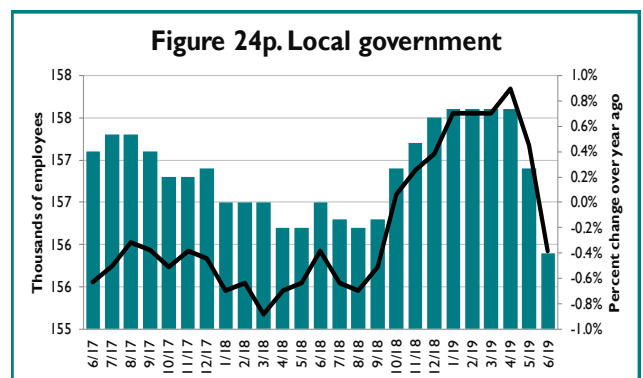
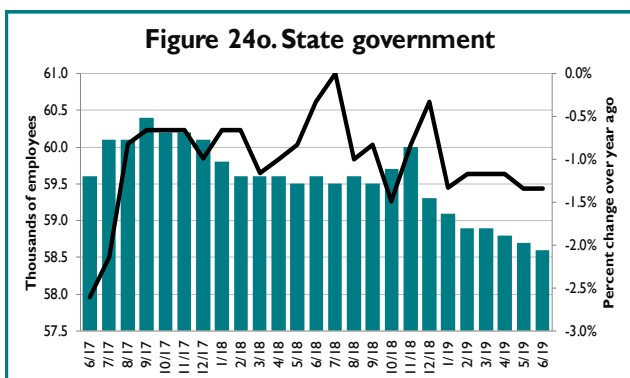
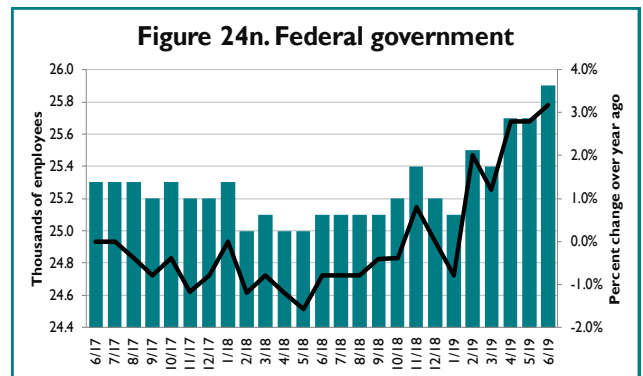
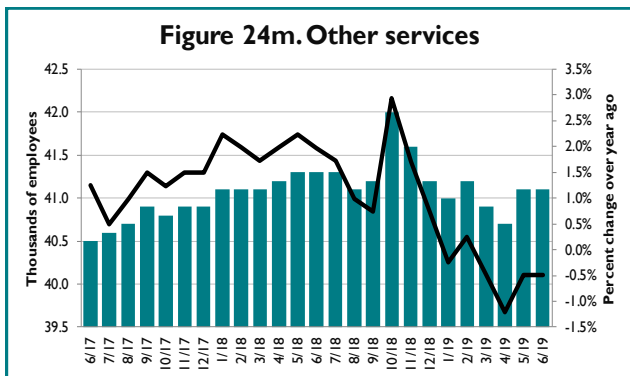
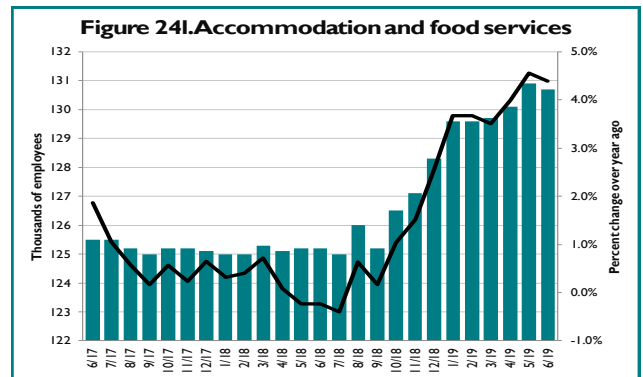
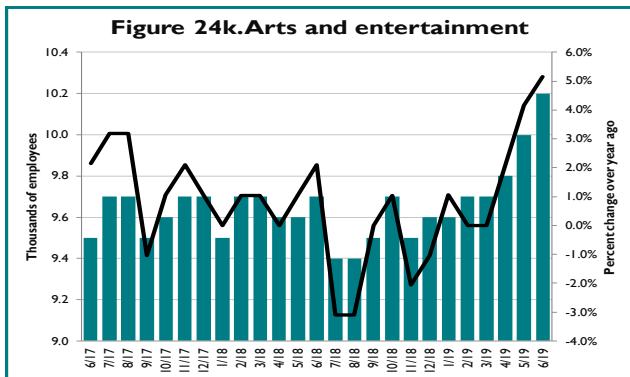
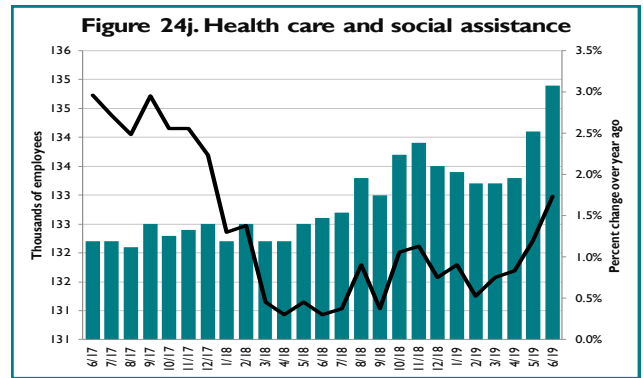
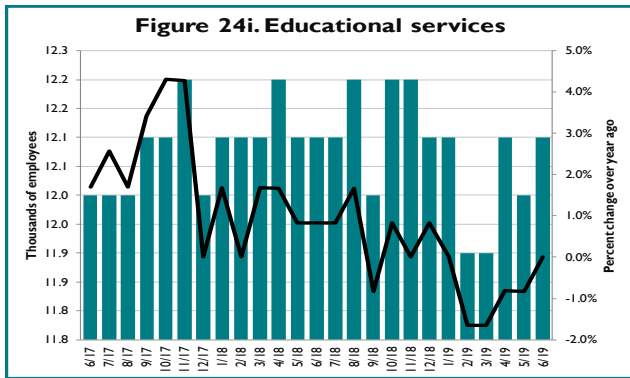
MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES



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

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES (CONTINUED)



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

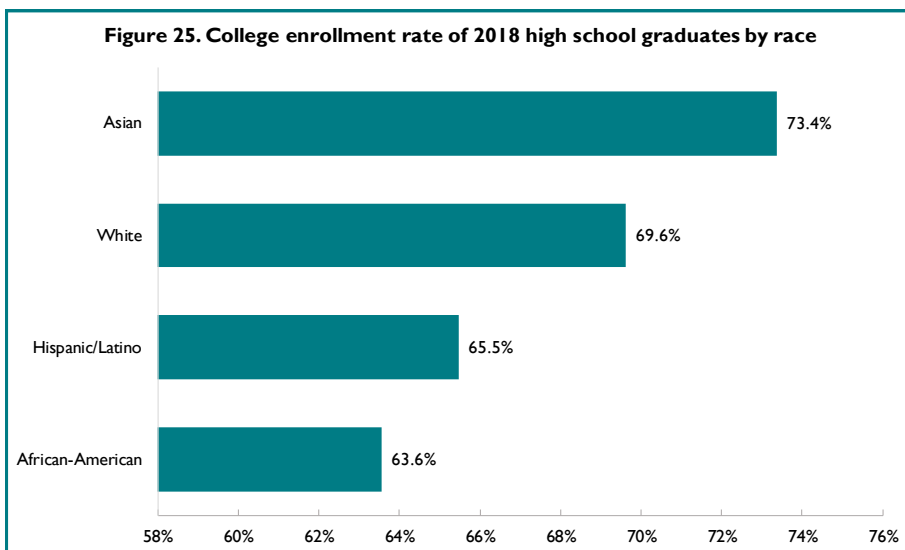
TRENDS AMONG 2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently reported approximately 69.1 percent of the 3.2 million individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated high school between January and October 2018 were enrolled in college as of October. This share is 2.4 percentage point more than in 2017. As in previous years, around 90 percent of 2018 U.S. graduates enrolled in college were full-time students. The labor force participation rate for these students was 36.4 percent, similar to the 36.9 percent rate in 2017. For those 2018 graduates not enrolled in college, the labor force participation rate was 74.0 percent, a rate that was 6.6 percentage point higher for this group than in 2017. Approximately 63.0 percent of 2018 graduates enrolled in college attended four-year colleges and universities and had a labor force participation rate of 31.4 percent. The labor force participation rate for students enrolled in two-year colleges in 2018 was 44.9 percent, a decrease of 13.5 percentage point from the 2017 rate of 58.4 percent.

Figure 25 depicts the percentage of 2018 high school graduates enrolled in college by race. Enrollment rates for all racial groups except Whites were down in 2018 compared to the previous year, likely a reflection of an improved economy and job market. The highest share among all racial groups was the 73.4 percent of Asians who were enrolled in college as of October. This rate was down almost 10 percentage point from 2017 and was 3.8 percentage point higher than the 69.6 percent for Whites, the group with the next highest enrollment rate. The share of White recent graduates attending college surpassed the share of Hispanic/Latino recent graduates for the second year in a row in 2018. Notably, the highest unemployment rate for 2018 graduates enrolled in college among all racial groups was the 9.6 percent rate for Whites, followed by the 8.1 percent for African-Americans and the 6.0 percent for Hispanics/Latinos. However, BLS did not report an unemployment rate for Asians due to a small sample size. Only the unemployment

rate for African-American graduates, which fell 3.1 percentage point, was lower in 2018 than in 2017.

The labor force participation rate for all U.S. individuals ages 16 to 24 not enrolled in high school or college as of October 2018 was 79.1 percent, similar to previous years. For women and men with a bachelor's degree or higher, the rates were between approximately 92 and 93 percent. The labor force participation rate for men with less than a high school diploma not enrolled in school was 63.3 percent, while for women this rate was 54.0 percent, up 8.3 percentage



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

point from 2017. The unemployment rate for all individuals ages 16 to 24 not enrolled in school as of October was 9.1 percent, about the same as in 2017. The unemployment rate for this age group not enrolled in school with less than a high school diploma was 9.2 percent for men and 9.1 percent for women. The unemployment rate for African-Americans ages 16 to 24 not enrolled in school as of October was 15.0 percent, the highest among all racial groups. The next highest unemployment rate among this age group was for Asians at 12.6 percent, followed by Hispanics/Latinos at 9.0 percent. The lowest unemployment rate among 16- to 24-year olds not enrolled in school was for Whites at 7.6 percent. The unemployment rate for Asians ages 16 to 24 not enrolled in school almost doubled from 2017.

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION AND WAGE ACROSS STATES IN 2018

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released annual estimates of occupational employment and wages in 2018 for the U.S., states, and metropolitan areas. The average annual wage in the U.S. across all occupations was approximately \$52,000 in 2018, an increase of 2.6 percent over 2017. The average annual wage in Mississippi was \$39,420, which ranked fiftieth among all states; BLS reported no other state with an average annual wage under \$40,000 in 2018. The highest average annual wage for all states across all occupations in 2018 occurred in Massachusetts at \$63,110. When the average annual wages are adjusted for the cost of living using the most recent (2017) regional price parities produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Mississippi's ranking improves only to forty-ninth, ahead of Hawaii and slightly behind Florida. Massachusetts retains the highest average annual wage across all occupations after adjusting for the cost of living.

The occupation/occupational group estimates reported by BLS include the number employed in each state. In Mississippi BLS reported total employment in 2018 across all occupations equaled 1,123,830, an increase of 4,360 from 2017. The top five occupational groups in Mississippi according to the number of individuals employed in 2018 are listed in Table 3 below and includes the average annual wage for each group. A major occupational group includes a number of generally related occupations. For example, Sales and Related Occupations includes many different jobs ranging from Cashiers to Real Estate Brokers. In 2018 the largest share of Mississippians were employed in Office and Administrative Support occupations, which accounted for almost 15 percent of total employment. This group had a mean annual wage of \$32,480. The top five occupational groups accounted for almost 53 percent of total employment in Mississippi in 2018. Thus, while the average annual wage in the state in 2018 was \$39,420, over half of those employed made around \$35,000 or less per year. The rankings by number of employed in Table 3 are the same as in 2017. The numbers employed in both Office and Administrative Support Occupations and Sales and Related Occupations are essentially identical to the previous year. The number of workers employed in Production Occupations and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations fell slightly in 2018, while the number employed in Transportation and Material Moving Occupations rose by about 3,500 workers. In terms of mean annual wages, the largest increase occurred in Sales and Related Occupations, whose wages rose 2.8 percent. Mean annual wages in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations both increased 2.2 percent in 2018, while in both Office and Administrative Support Occupations and Production Occupations the increase was just under 2.0 percent.

Table 3. Top five occupational groups in Mississippi by number employed, May 2018

Major occupational group	Mean annual wage	Employment	Share of total employment
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	\$32,480	163,150	14.5%
Sales and Related Occupations	\$30,380	115,820	10.3%
Production Occupations	\$35,200	108,810	9.7%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	\$21,130	102,770	9.1%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	\$33,290	99,780	8.9%
Total			52.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics