Monitoring the State's Economy

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

VOLUME 81, ISSUE 4 APRIL 2023

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ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

n February the value of the Mississippi Leading Index (MLI) rose 0.1 percent as seen in Figure 1. Compared to one year earlier the value of the MLI for the month was down 4.2 percent.

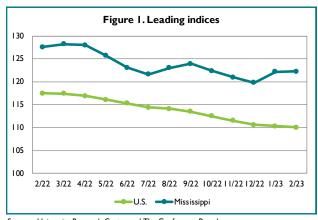
The value of the Mississippi Coincident Index (MCI) increased 0.4 percent in February as Figure 2 indicates. The value for the month was 2.3 percent higher compared to one year ago.

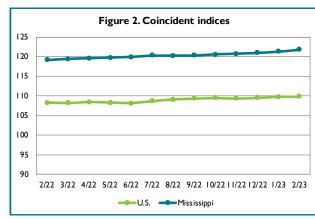
In its third estimate of the change in U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) in the fourth quarter of 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reported an increase of 2.6 percent at a seasonally-adjusted, annualized rate. The third estimate represented a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from BEA's second estimate. Exports and consumer spending were revised down in the third estimate, and these revisions were partially offset by upward revisions to nonresidential and residential fixed investment and state and local government spending. Imports, which reduce the value of GDP, were revised down. The change in U.S. real GDP for all of 2022 remained an increase of 2.1 percent. In February the performance of the MLI was mixed. However, the labor market in Mississippi continued to show strength. The state added jobs for the sixth consecutive month and initial unemployment claims remained below the level of one year ago for the third consecutive month. Building permits in the state also increased for the first time in four months. However, consumers remain concerned about the economy and inflation weighs on their outlook. Employment is expected to weaken in the second half of the year as higher interest rates take their toll, possibly leading to the onset of a mild recession by the end of 2023.

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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.

Sources: University Research Center and The Conference Board

MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX, FEBRUARY 2023

n February the value of the **Mississippi Leading Index of Economic Indicators** (MLI) edged up 0.1 percent as seen in Figure 3. Compared to one year earlier the value of the MLI for the month was 4.2 percent lower, the tenth consecutive month with a year-over-year decrease. The value of the MLI fell 0.7 percent over the last six months.

Despite the increase in the MLI in February, only two of the seven components increased in value. The largest positive contribution for the month was made by building permits, closely followed by initial unemployment claims. Each component is discussed below in order of largest to smallest contribution.

The value of **Mississippi residential** building permits (three-month moving average) rose 6.4 percent in February as seen in Figure 4, the first increase since October. The value for the month was down 38.2 percent compared to one year earlier. The number of units in the state increased 11.0 percent in February, also its first gain since October. Compared to one year earlier the number of units in the state for the month was 13.9 percent lower. The number of privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in the U.S. climbed 15.8 percent in February from the revised January rate. The number of units in the U.S. in February was down 16.5 percent compared to one year earlier.

The number of seasonally-adjusted **initial unemployment claims** in Mississippi fell 15.4 percent in February, the third consecutive monthly decline. The value for the month was down 6.7 percent compared to one year earlier as seen in Figure 5. The number of seasonally-adjusted continued unemployment claims in Mississippi decreased 18.1 percent in February as seen in Figure 16 on page 6, the largest monthly decline since April 2022. Compared to one year earlier the number of continued unemployment claims in the state for the month was 13.2 percent higher. The unemployment rate for Mississippi in February was 3.7 percent as seen in Figure 17 on page 6, a decrease of 0.2 percentage point from January. The rate was 0.3 percentage point lower in February compared to one year earlier.

In February the value of the **Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index** rose 0.6 percent to its highest level since October. As Figure 6 indicates, the value in February was up 1.2 percent compared to one year earlier. Manufacturing employment in the state decreased 0.9 percent in February, but this decline was more than offset by the 1.8 percent increase in the average weekly hours of production employees in Mississippi.

Following three consecutive months of increases, the value of the University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations (three-month moving average) decreased as seen in Figure 7. The value fell 0.4 percent for the month. Compared to one year earlier the value in February was 4.9 percent higher. Persistently high inflation, concerns about recession, and worries about instability in the banking system all likely contributed to the decrease. Short-term (oneyear) inflation expectations moved lower in the most recent survey after an increase the previous month. Long -term (five-year) inflation expectations did not change.

U.S. retail sales fell in value by 0.4 percent in February as seen in Figure

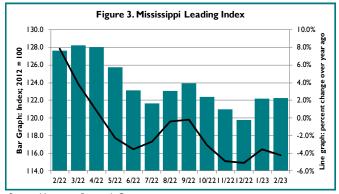
8. The value of sales in January was revised up to an increase of 3.2 percent. Compared to one year earlier the value of retail sales in February was 5.4 percent higher. Sales excluding automobiles and gasoline were unchanged for the month. Most retail sales segments declined in January; the largest decrease occurred in sales of Furniture and Home Furnishings, followed by sales at Food Service and Drinking Places. The largest increase in sales among all segments occurred at Nonstore Retailers.

As seen in Figure 9, the value of the ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity fell in March, the sixth decrease in the last seven months. The value declined 2.9 percent and was below the expansion threshold of 50.0 for the fifth consecutive month. Compared to one year earlier the value for the month was down 18.9 percent. The New Orders component had the largest decrease among all components of the Index. The only component that increased in March was Production. Notably, all five components of the Index were below the expansion value of 50.0 in March. The prices paid index declined in March after two consecutive months of increases.

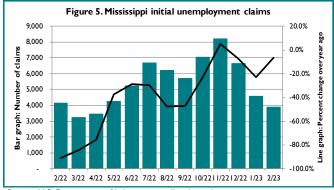
Mississippi income tax withholdings (three-month moving average) fell in value by 1.6 percent in February as seen in Figure 10, the third decline in the last five months. The value of withholdings for the month compared to one year earlier was 4.7 percent lower, the third consecutive month with a year-over-year decrease. Over the last six months the value of income tax withholdings in Mississippi decreased 4.2 percent.

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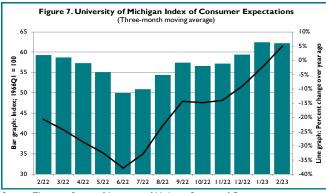
MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX AND COMPONENTS, IN FIGURES



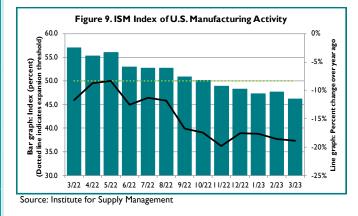
Source: University Research Center



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







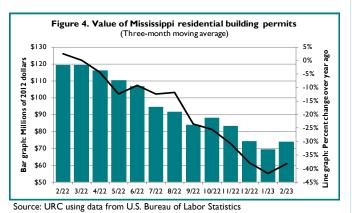
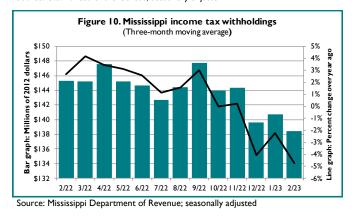


Figure 6. Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index 107.0 9.0% 8.0% 🔓 106.0 ear 7.0% 8 105.0 ver 6.0% н x; 201 nge 5.0% 104.0 cha 4.0% st Inde 103.0 Percent 3.0% gra 2.0% 102.0 graph: I 3ar 1.0% 101.0 Ľi %0.0 100.0 -1.0% 2/22 3/22 4/22 5/22 6/22 7/22 8/22 9/22 10/22 11/22 12/22 1/23 2/23 Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



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



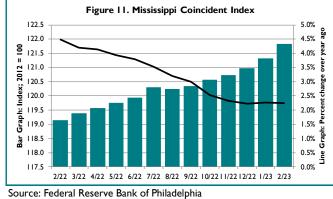
Mississippi's Business

MISSISSIPPI COINCIDENT INDEX, FEBRUARY 2023

n February the value of the Mississippi Coincident Index of Economic Indicators (MCI) rose 0.4 percent as seen in Figure 11. The value of the MCI for the month was 2.3 percent higher compared to one year earlier.

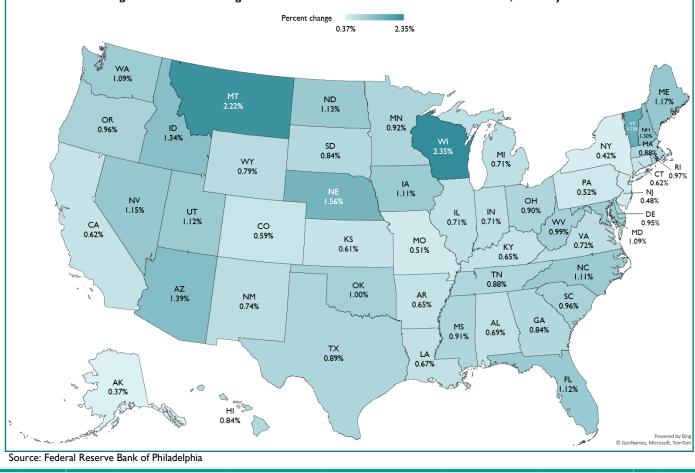
The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia reported the values of the coincident indices increased in all fifty states in February compared to three months earlier as Figure 12 indicates. The largest increase among all states occurred in Wisconsin, where the value rose more than 2.3 percent over the last three months, closely followed by Montana, where the value rose just over 2.2 percent over the last three months. The value increased by 1.0 percent or more in seventeen states in February compared to November. In thirtyone states, including Mississippi, the values of the coincident indices increased between 0.5 percent

and 1.0 percent over the last three months. In New Jersey, New York, and Alaska the values of the coincident indices rose less than 0.5 percent in February compared to November. The smallest increase in



the value of a coincident index occurred in Alaska, where the value rose just under 0.4 percent over the last three months.

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



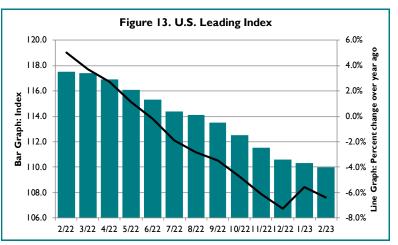
NATIONAL TRENDS

The Conference Board reported the value of the U.S. Leading Economic Index (LEI) decreased 0.3 percent in February, the twelfth consecutive monthly decline. Compared to one year earlier, the value was down 6.4 percent for the month as seen in Figure 13. In February six of the ten components of the LEI made negative contributions. The largest negative contributor was average consumer expectations for future business conditions, while building permits made the largest positive contribution. The value of the LEI fell 3.6 percent over the last six months.

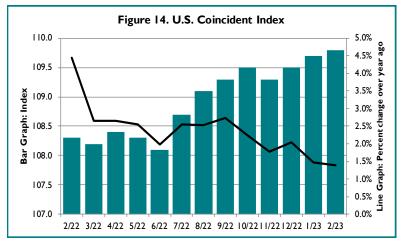
As seen in Figure 14 the value of the U.S. Coincident Economic Index (CEI) increased 0.1 percent in February according to The Conference Board. Compared to one year earlier the value of the CEI for the month was up 1.4 percent. Three of the four components of the CEI made positive contributions in February. The only negative contribution was made by industrial production. Over the last six months the value of the CEI rose 0.6 percent.

Figure 15 indicates the value of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Small Business Optimism Index rose 0.7 percent in January. The value of the Index for the month was down 5.0 percent compared to one year earlier. The largest increase among all components occurred in "expect real sales higher," although the value remained negative. The "expect economy to improve" component also deteriorated from January. Notably, the "plans to raise prices" measure gave back most of its increase from the previous month.

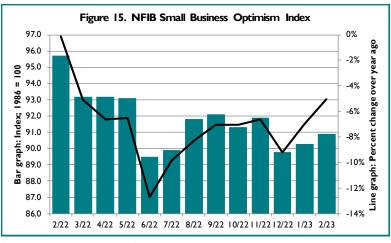
The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) raised the benchmark federal funds rate target by 25 basis points at its March meeting, the ninth increase in the last year. The rate target is now in the range of 4.75 and 5.0 percent. Notably, the FOMC statement following the meeting did not use the phrase "ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate," as in previous statements. The projections released with the statement kept the so-called "terminal rate" in the range of 5.0 to 5.25 percent, which indicates a majority of FOMC members expect one additional increase in the rate target of 25 basis points in 2023.







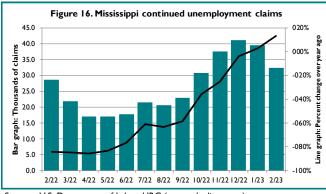
Source: The Conference Board



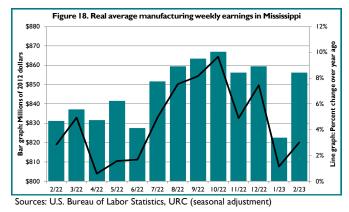
Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses

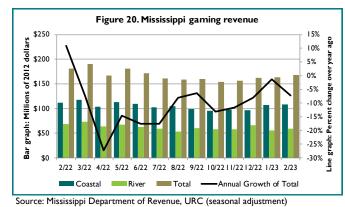
Mississippi's Business

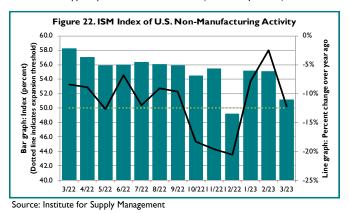
MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INDICATORS, IN FIGURES



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







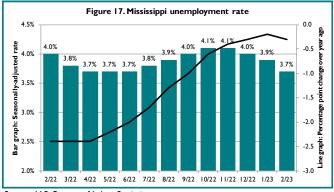
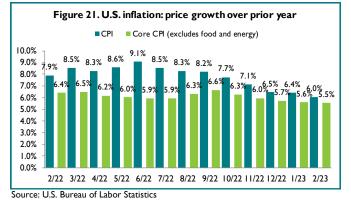
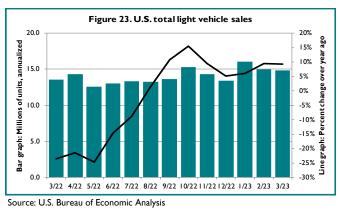


Figure 19. Real average hourly wage for manufacturing in Mississippi \$21.40 8% 7% 8 \$21.20 6% rear - Inc dollars for the formation for the formation of the format 5% over % %
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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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TABLE I. SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicator	February		February		change fron
	2023	2023		January 2023 F	
U.S. Leading Economic Index 2012 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	110.0	110.3	117.5	▼0.3%	▼6.4%
U.S. Coincident Economic Index 2012 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	109.8	109.7	108.3	▲0. 1%	▲ I.4 %
Mississippi Leading Index 2012 = 100. Source: University Research Center	122.3	122.2	127.6	▲0.1%	▼ 4.2% ▲2.3%
Mississippi Coincident Index 2012 = 100. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia	121.8	121.3	9.	▲0.4%	▲2.3%
Mississippi initial unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	3,896	4,605	4,176	▼15.4%	▼6.7%
Value of Mississippi residential building permits Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2007 dollars. Source: Bureau of the Census	73.8	69.4	119.4	▲6.4%	▼38.2%
Mississippi income tax withholdings Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2007 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	138.4	140.7	145.3	▼1.6%	▼4.7%
Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index	104.8	103.9	103.5	▲0.9 %	▲1.2 %
University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations Three-month moving average; index 1966Q1 = 100.	62.2	62.4	59.3	▼0.4%	▲4.9 %
Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers SM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	46.3	47.7	57.1	▼2.9%	▼18.9% ▲5.4%
U.S. retail sales Current dollars, in billions. Source: Bureau of the Census	697.9	700.7	662.2	▼0.4%	▲5.4%
U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)	300.8	299.2	283.7	▲0.6%	▲6.0%
J.S. Core CPI (excludes food and energy) 982-84 = 100. Source: URC using data from Bureau of Labor Statistics	304.0	302.0	288.1	▲0.7 %	▲5.5%
Hississippi unemployment rate Percentage point change. Seasonally-adjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	3.7%	3.9 %	4.0%	▼0.2	▼0.3
Mississippi continued unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	32,484	39,642	28,700	▼18.1%	▲ 3.2%
SM Index of U.S. Non-Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	51.2	55.1	58.3	▼7.1%	▼12.2%
J.S. mortgage rates Percentage point change. Seasonally adjusted; 30-year conventional. Source: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	6.33%	6.37%	3.80%	▼0.04	▲2.53
Mississippi average hourly wage for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2012 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	20.97	20.82	20.61	▲0.7%	▲1.8 %
Mississippi average weekly earnings for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2012 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	856.16	822.51	831.18	▲4.1%	▲3.0%
NFIB Small Business Optimism Index 986 = 100. Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses	90.9	90.3	95.7	▲0.7 %	▼5.0%
J.S. total light vehicle sales Tillions of units seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Jource: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	14.82	15.00	13.56	▼1.2%	▲9.3 %
Gaming revenue	168.21	163.54	181.2	▲2.9%	₹7.2%
Coastal counties	108.29	107.48	112.5	▲0.7 %	▼3.8%
River counties	59.93	56.06	68.7	▲6.9 %	▼12.8%

MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Total nonfarm employment in Mississippi rose by 2,500 jobs in February according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an increase of 0.2 percent. January employment in the state was revised down by 400 jobs. Compared to one year earlier employment in the state in February was higher by 17,600 jobs as seen in Table 2, an increase of 1.5 percent.

BLS reported total nonfarm employment increased in six states in February and was essentially unchanged in forty-four states and the District of Columbia. Texas added 58,200 jobs for the month, the most among all states. The largest percentage increases in employment occurred in Hawaii and Utah, where in both states employment rose 0.6 percent for the month.

Employment increased in forty-six states over the last twelve months and was essentially unchanged in four states and the District of Columbia according to BLS. Texas added 611,400 jobs over the past twelve months, the largest increase among all states. The largest percentage increase in employment among all states over the last twelve months occurred in Nevada, where employment rose 5.1 percent.

The largest increase in employment among all sectors in Mississippi in February occurred in Accommodation and Food Services, which added 1,200 jobs for the month. The largest percentage increase in employment among all sectors was the 5.1 percent increase in Arts and Entertainment, an addition of 200 jobs. The largest decrease in employment among all sectors in the state in February occurred in Manufacturing, which lost 1,400 jobs. The largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors in the state in February also occurred in

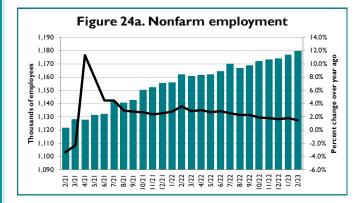
Manufacturing, a decline of 0.9 percent.

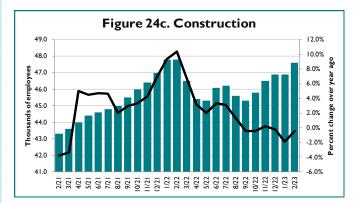
The Health Care and Social Assistance sector added 6,400 jobs over the last twelve months as of February, the most among all sectors in Mississippi. The largest percentage increase in employment among all sectors in the state over the last twelve months occurred in the Educational Services sector, where employment rose 12.1 percent. The largest decrease in employment among all sectors in Mississippi over the last twelve months occurred in the Professional and Business Services sector, which lost 1,000 jobs. This sector also had the largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors in the state over the last twelve months of 0.8 percent. The only other sector that lost jobs over the last twelve months was Other Services, which shed 100 jobs, a decrease of 0.3 percent.

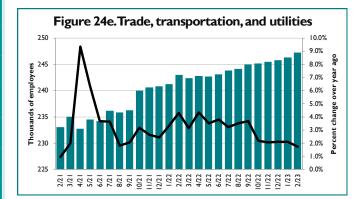
	Relative share of total ^a	February 2023	January 2023	February 2022		ge from ry 2023 Percent	Februa	ge from ary 2022 Percent
Total Nonfarm	100.0%	1,179,700	1,177,200	1,162,100	▲2,500	▲0.2%	▲ 17,600	▲ 1.5%
Mining and Logging	0.5%	6,300	6,200	6,100	▲100	▲ 1.6%	▲200	▲3.3%
Construction	4.0%	47,600	46,900	47,800	▲700	▲ 1.5%	▼200	▼0.4%
Manufacturing	12.7%	148,200	149,600	148,100	▼ I,400	▼0.9%	▲100	▲0.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.9%	247,200	246,300	243,000	▲ 900	▲ 0.4%	▲4,200	▲ 1.7%
Retail Trade	11.9%	139,900	139,200	139,900	▲700	▲0.5%	∢ ►0	∢ ▶0.0%
Information	0.9%	10,400	10,400	10,000	∢ ►0	∢ ► 0.0%	▲ 400	▲ 4.0%
Financial Activities	3.8%	44,500	44,000	43,700	▲ 500	▲ 1.1%	▲800	▲ I.8%
Services	37.3%	442,000	440,500	430,900	▲ 1,500	▲ 0.3%	▲11,100	▲2.6%
Professional & Business Services	10.1%	117,600	118,000	118,600	▼400	▼0.3%	▼1,000	▼0.8%
Educational Services	1.1%	13,900	13,700	12,400	▲200	▲ 1.5%	▲ 1,500	▲12.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.3%	135,500	134,900	129,100	▲600	▲ 0.4%	▲6,400	▲ 5.0%
Arts and Entertainment	0.8%	9,700	9,500	9,300	▲200	▲2.1%	▲ 400	▲ 4.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	10.6%	126,100	124,900	122,200	▲ 1,200	▲ 1.0%	▲ 3,900	▲ 3.2%
Other Services	3.4%	39,200	39,500	39,300	▼300	▼0.8%	▼100	▼0.3%
Government	19.9%	233,500	233,300	232,500	▲200	▲0.1%	▲ 1,000	▲ 0.4%
^a Relative shares are for the most recent twelve-month a	average. Source: U	.S. Bureau of Labo	r Statistics, Currer	nt Employment Sta	tistics			

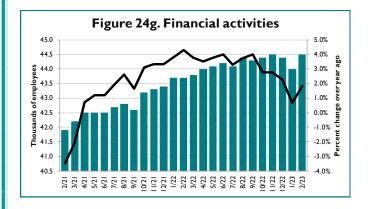
Table 2. Change in Mississippi employment by industry, February 2023

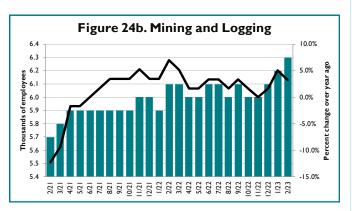
MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES

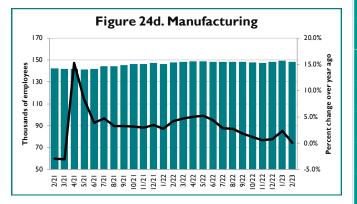


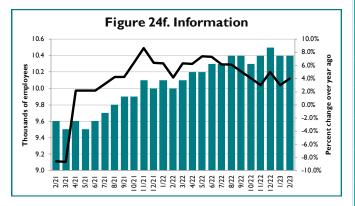


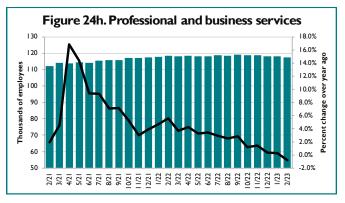






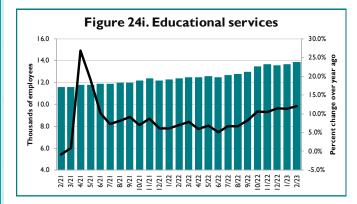


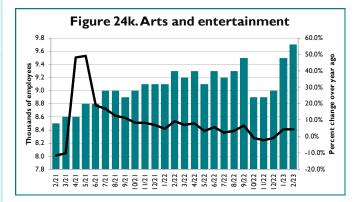


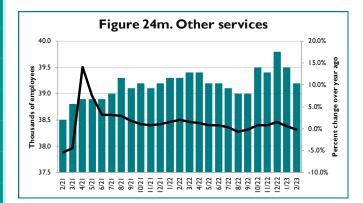


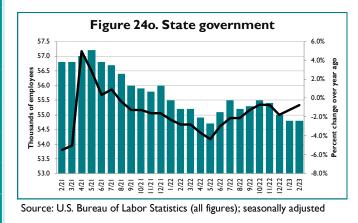
Mississippi's Business

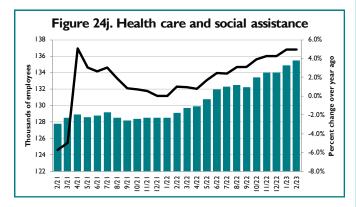
MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES (CONTINUED)

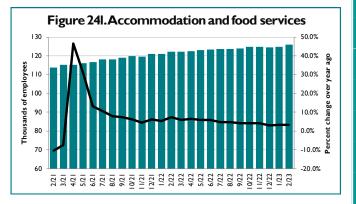


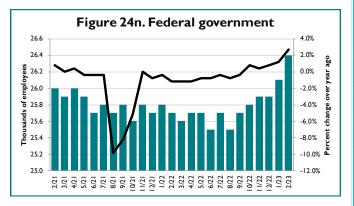


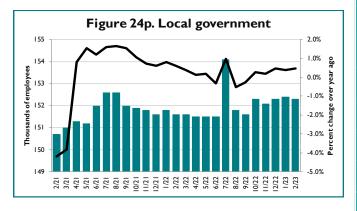












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CHANGE IN MISSISSIPPI REAL GDP IN 2022

R eal gross domestic product (GDP) increased in forty-two states and the District of Columbia in 2022 according to the latest estimate of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Real GDP for Mississippi increased 0.2 percent in 2022, which ranked forty-second among all states. The 2022 estimate for the state was down from the 3.8 percent increase in real GDP in 2021.

Table 3 below lists the contributions by sector to the 0.2 percent increase in the state's real GDP in 2022 from largest to smallest. (BEA's preliminary estimates only include the changes in major industries.) The largest contribution to real GDP growth in Mississippi in 2022 came from the Accommodation and Food Services sector. which increased real GDP by 0.29 percentage point. This contribution was closely followed by the 0.26 percentage point added by Information and the 0.24 percentage point added by Manufacturing. Together these three sectors increased the state's real GDP by 0.79 percentage point, more than the positive contributions of all other sectors combined. The Administrative and Support and Waste Management sector, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sector, and the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector added 0.14, 0.13, and 0.13 percentage points, respectively, to Mississippi real GDP in 2022. Four other sectors each made positive contributions of less than 0.1 percentage point.

The largest negative contribution to Mississippi real GDP in 2022 came from the Construction sector, which subtracted 0.24 percentage point. This contribution was closely followed by the 0.22 percentage point subtracted by the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental and Leasing sector and the 0.21 percentage point subtracted by the Transportation and Warehousing sector. The next smallest contribu-

Table 3. Contributions to percent change in Mississippi real GDP by sector, 2021-2022

Sector	Percentage point
Accommodation and food services	0.29
Information	0.26
Manufacturing	0.24
Administrative and support and waste management	0.14
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	0.13
Professional, scientific, and technical services	0.13
Utilities	0.09
Educational services	0.02
Government and government enterprises	0.02
Management of companies and enterprises	0.02
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-0.01
Health care and social assistance	-0.01
Other services	-0.05
Wholesale trade	-0.12
Mining	-0.14
Retail trade	-0.15
Transportation and warehousing	-0.21
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	-0.22
Construction	-0.24
Total	0.2%
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

tion came from the Retail Trade sector, which subtracted 0.15 percentage point, followed by Mining, which subtracted 0.14 percentage point, and Wholesale Trade, which subtracted 0.12 percentage point. Three other sectors reduced real GDP for the state by less than 0.1 percentage point.

Figure 25 on page 12 depicts the percentage change in real GDP for all states in 2022. The largest increase in real GDP among all states and the District of Columbia occurred in Idaho, where real GDP expanded by 4.9 percent in 2022.

CHANGE IN MISSISSIPPI REAL GDP IN 2022 (CONTINUED)

The next largest increase occurred in neighboring Tennessee, where real GDP grew 4.3 percent. The third largest increase in real GDP was the 4.0 percent growth in Florida. The change in real GDP was negative in six states in 2022. The largest decrease occurred in Alaska, where real GDP contracted 2.4 percent. Notably, the energy sector is a substantial part of the economies in five of the six states that experienced contractions in real GDP in 2022. Real GDP was unchanged in Maryland and New Hampshire.

The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector made positive contributions to real GDP in forty-nine states and the District of Columbia in 2022 and was the leading contributor in thirteen states and the District of Columbia. The Information sector made a positive contribution to real GDP growth in forty-seven states and the District of Columbia and was the leading contributor to the increase in eight states. In twenty-eight states the Mining sector made negative contributions to real GDP growth in 2022. The sector was the leading contributor to the decrease in real GDP in Alaska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming.

The GDP data by state reported by BEA should be viewed with a cou-

ple of caveats as is usually the case. The 2022 data represent preliminary estimates and are calculated from a more limited set of data than the final estimate that will appear one year from now. BEA also uses a different methodology to compute state-level GDP than it employs in its calculations of U.S. GDP. In its estimates of national GDP, BEA uses spending on final goods and services, investment, and net foreign trade as a basis, the typical textbook calculation of GDP. However, the agency derives state GDP from incomes earned and costs of production.

