



ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

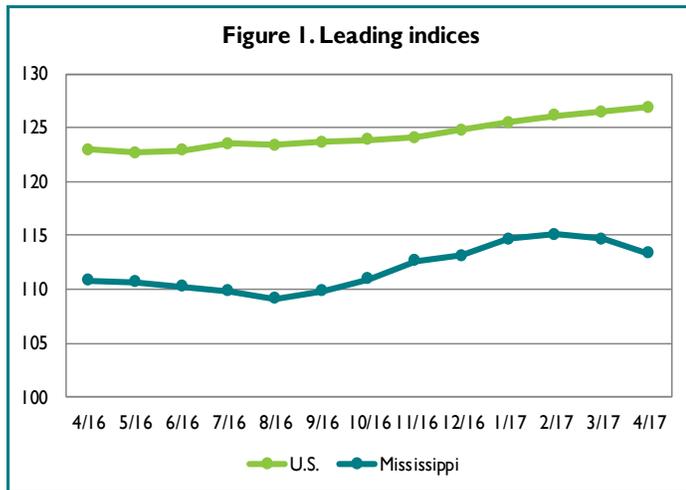
Figure 1 below indicates the value of the Mississippi Leading Index (MLI) experienced its largest monthly decline in over a year in April. The MLI decreased in value by 1.2 percent for the month, its second consecutive monthly decline. Compared to one year ago the value of the MLI was 2.3 percent higher in April.

The Mississippi Coincident Index (MCI) increased 0.2 percent in value in April as seen in Figure 2 below. This value was 2.4 percent higher for the month compared to one year ago.

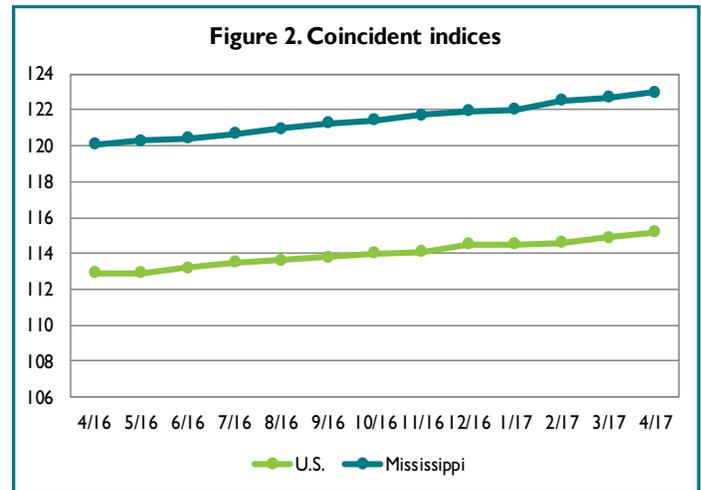
The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reported U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) increased 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2017 in its second estimate. This rate marks a considerable gain from the 0.7 percent increase BEA reported in its initial estimate. Both nonresi-

dential fixed investment and personal consumption expenditures increased more than initially reported, while state and local government spending declined less. Growth slowed from the 2.1 percent increase in real GDP in the fourth quarter of 2016 mainly due to a decline in consumer spending.

The relatively sharp decrease in the Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index sent the MLI lower for the second consecutive month in April. Average weekly hours of production employees fell below forty for the first time in over six years. The surge in building permits appears to have ended for the time being, while employment growth in the state remains relatively flat in 2017. Thus, despite the progress in some segments in recent months, momentum in the Mississippi economy remains elusive near the midpoint of the year.



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 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 2004.

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MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX, APRIL 2017

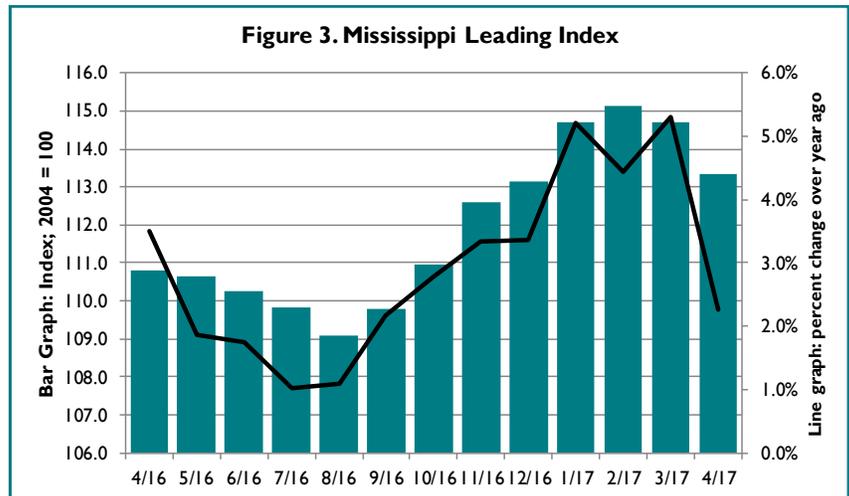
The value of the **Mississippi Leading Index of Economic Indicators (MLI)** decreased for the second consecutive month in April, experiencing its largest monthly decline since March 2016. The value fell 1.2 percent as seen in Figure 3. In April the value of the MLI was 2.3 percent higher compared to one year ago, the smallest year-over-year increase since September 2016. Over the last six months the value of the MLI increased 2.1 percent.

Although the MLI experienced a relatively large decline in April due to the fall in the Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index, four of the seven components increased in value for the month. Each component is discussed below in order of smallest to largest contribution.

The value of the **Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index** fell sharply in April as seen in Figure 4, declining 6.0 percent. The value of the Index fell to its lowest level since April 2013. The value of the Index was down 7.7 percent for the month compared to one year ago. Most of the decline was due to the decrease in average weekly hours of production employees, which fell below forty hours. Manufacturing employment in Mississippi also experienced a relatively small decline in March. The value of the Index decreased 6.5 percent over the last six months.

As seen in Figure 5, the value of **Mississippi residential building permits** (three-month moving average) decreased 4.7 percent in April, the second consecutive monthly decline. However, the value in April remained 28.6 percent higher compared to one year ago. Similarly, the seasonally-adjusted number of units for which building permits were issued (three-month moving average) in Mississippi decreased 10.6 percent in April from the previous month. Compared to one year ago the number of units for the month was 32.5 percent higher. The number of privately-owned housing units in the U.S. authorized by building permits fell 2.5 percent in April from the revised March value. Compared to April 2016 the number of units in the U.S. for the month was 5.7 percent higher.

The value of **Mississippi income tax withholdings** (three-month moving average) edged lower by 0.1 percent in April. The slight decline was the first decrease since December as seen in Figure 6. Compared to one year ago the value was lower by 1.4 percent in April.



Source: University Research Center

However, over the last six months the three-month moving average of withholdings rose 2.8 percent.

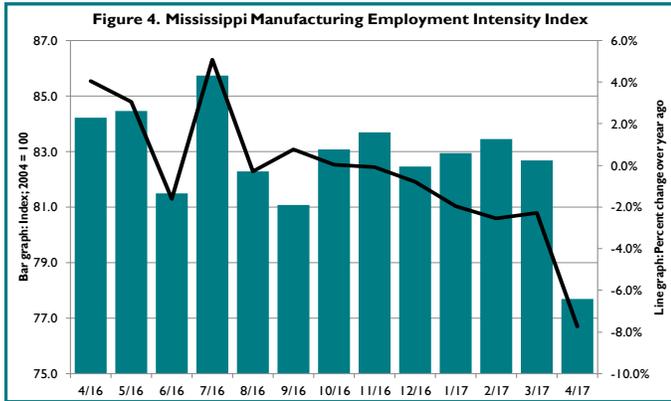
As seen in Figure 7, the value of the **Institute for Supply Management Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity** edged higher by 0.2 percent in May after two consecutive months of declines. The value of the Index was 7.0 percent higher for the month compared to one year ago. Changes in the components were mixed in May, as the largest increase occurred in New Orders. Employment also increased, but both the Production and Supplier Deliveries components declined.

Figure 8 indicates the value of the **University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations** (three-month moving average) increased 0.5 percent in April. However, the Index remained below its post-election high. Compared to one year ago the value of the Index was higher by 7.0 percent in April. The increase was driven in part by an increase in the share of consumers who believe growth in their finances will surpass inflation. One-year expectations of inflation increased slightly in the most recent survey.

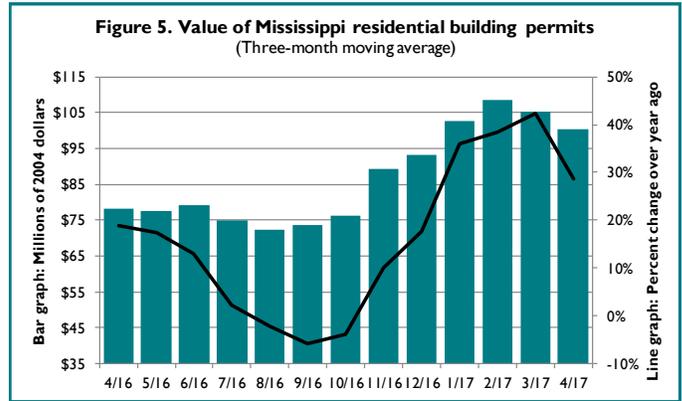
U.S. retail sales rose 0.4 percent in value in April as seen in Figure 9. Moreover, the March value was revised up to reflect a 0.1 percent increase rather than the 0.2 percent decrease previously reported. Compared to one year ago U.S. retail sales were 4.5 percent higher in April. Results were mixed across segments as building materials experienced the largest growth from the previous month. Sales at general merchandisers declined for the third con-

(Continued on page 4)

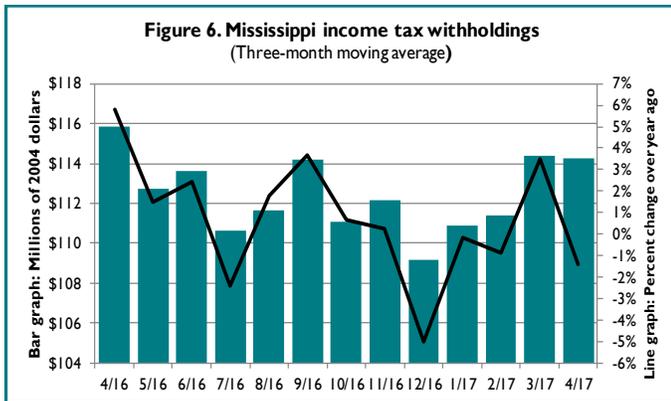
COMPONENTS OF MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX, IN FIGURES



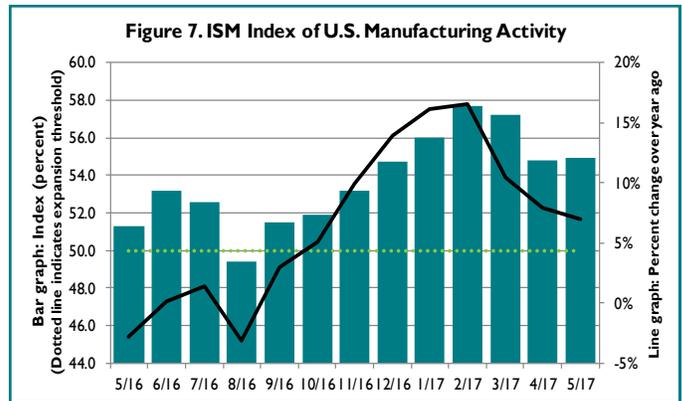
Source: URC using data from Bureau of Labor Statistics



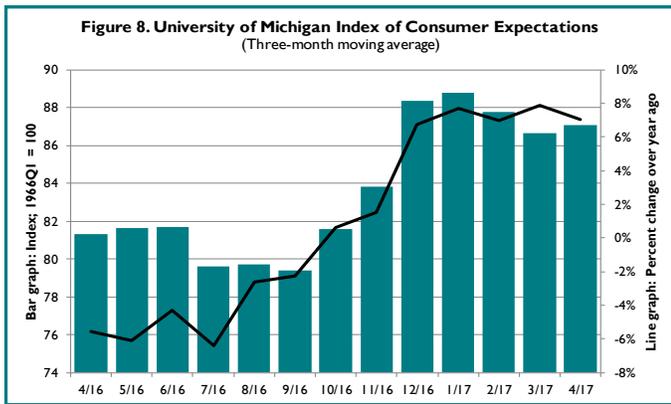
Source: Bureau of the Census; seasonally adjusted



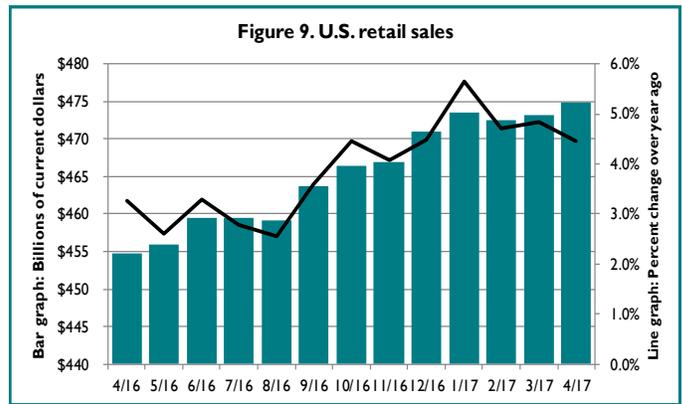
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue; seasonally adjusted



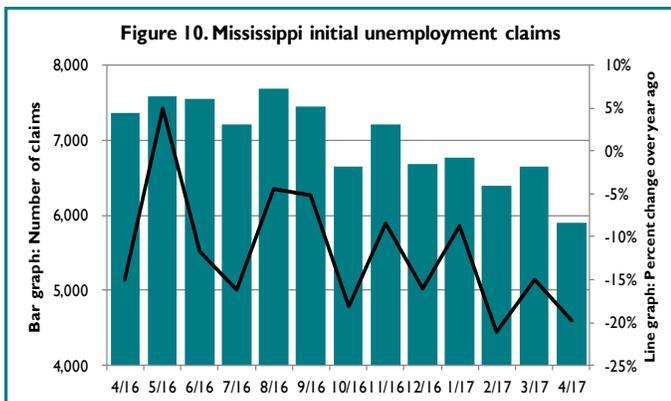
Source: Institute for Supply Management



Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers



Source: Bureau of the Census



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

The value of the Mississippi Leading Index (MLI) fell 1.2 percent in April, its largest one-month decline since March 2016.

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX, APRIL 2017 (CONTINUED)

secutive month. Due to increases in both sectors, sales excluding gasoline and autos were up 0.3 in April over the previous month.

The value of seasonally-adjusted **initial unemployment claims** in Mississippi fell 11.3 percent in April as seen in Figure 10. Compared to one year ago this value was 14.9 percent lower. While including some moderate month-to-month increases, the value of initial claims has trended down since September 2016. The value of seasonally-

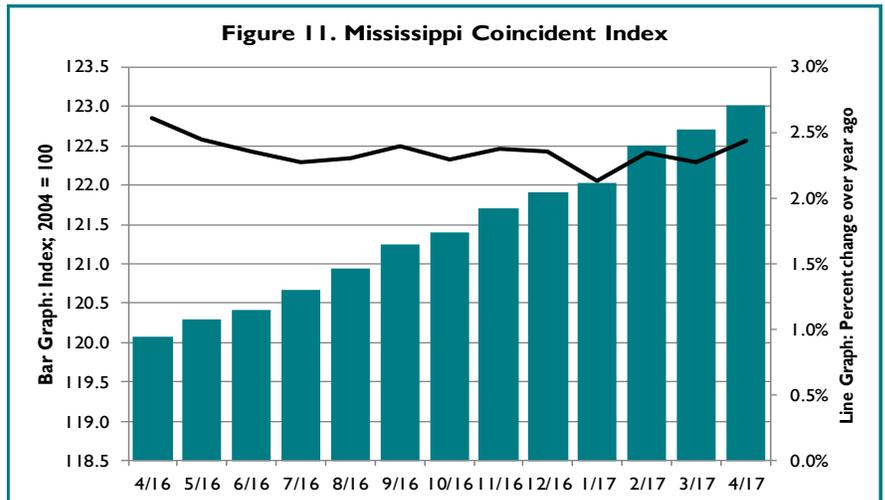
adjusted continued unemployment claims in Mississippi increased 0.7 percent in April as Figure 14 on page 6 indicates. The number of continued claims in Mississippi in April was down 11.4 percent compared to one year ago. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in Mississippi equaled 5.0 percent in April as seen in Figure 15 on page 6. The rate for March was revised up to 5.1 percent. The April rate was lower by 1.0 percentage point compared to one year ago.

MISSISSIPPI COINCIDENT INDEX, APRIL 2017

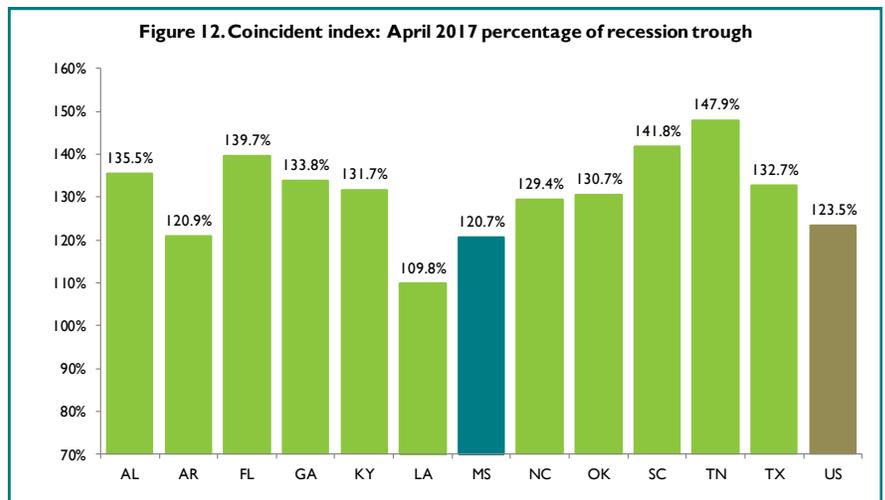
In April the value of the **Mississippi Coincident Index of Economic Indicators (MCI)** rose 0.2 percent according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. As seen in Figure 11, the value of the MCI for the month was 2.4 percent higher compared to one year ago.

Louisiana maintained the smallest increase in the value of its coincident index from its recession trough among southeastern states in April, up only 9.8 percent. The coincident index for Mississippi had the next smallest increase of 20.7 percent, slightly below the 20.9 percent increase in the coincident index for Arkansas. The largest increase in the coincident index from its recession trough among all southeastern states in April was once again for Tennessee, which rose 47.9 percent.

The values of the coincident indices increased in forty-six states in April compared to three months prior as seen in Figure 13 on page 5. The values of the coincident indices increased more than 0.5 percent in forty states, including Mississippi. In six states the value of the coincident indices increased by less than 0.5 percent compared to three months prior. Alaska and Delaware experienced declines in the values of their coincident indices between 0.0 and 0.5 percent in April compared to January. Massachusetts and Connecticut were the only states with coincident indices that declined more than 0.5 percent in April compared to three months prior.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

NATIONAL TRENDS

As seen in Figure 1 on page 1 the value of the U.S. Leading Economic Index (LEI) increased 0.3 percent in April according to The Conference Board. The value of the LEI was 3.2 percent higher for the month compared to one year ago. As in March, eight of the ten components of the LEI made positive contributions and the largest contribution came from the interest rate spread. Over the last six months the value of the LEI increased 2.4 percent.

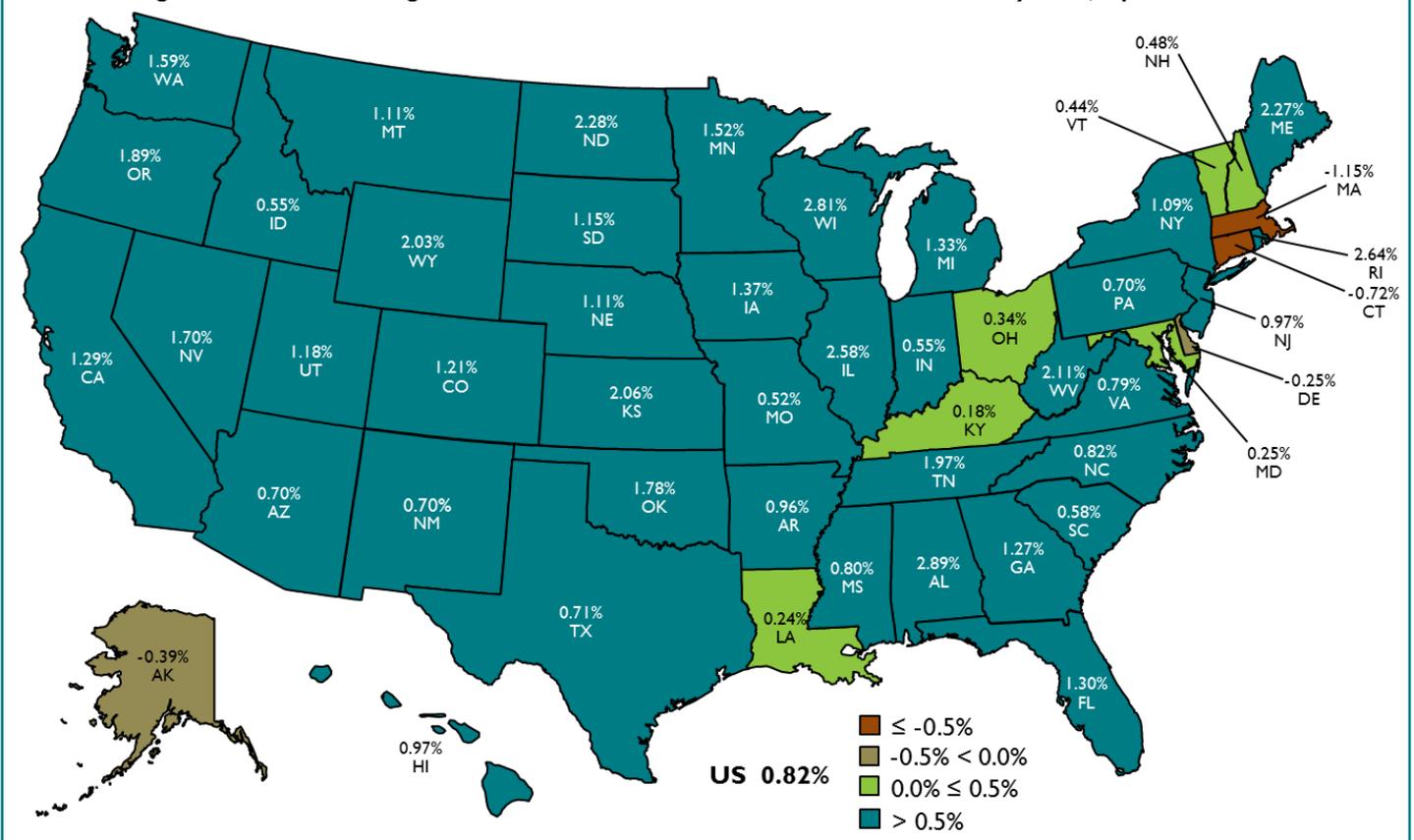
The Conference Board reported the value of the U.S. Coincident Economic Index (CEI) increased 0.2 percent in April as seen in Figure 2 on page 1. Compared to one year ago the value was 2.4 percent higher for the month. All four components of the CEI increased in April as in March and the largest contribution came from industrial production. The value of the CEI rose 1.3 percent over the last six months.

For the third consecutive month the value of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Small Business Optimism Index fell in April. The value declined 0.2

percent from the previous month as seen in Figure 20 on page 6. Compared to one year ago the value of the Index in April remained 11.6 percent higher, however. The largest decline occurred in the “expect economy to improve” component, while the “current job openings” component experienced the largest increase for the month. The share of firms with plans to increase prices fell to its lowest level since October 2016.

Observers widely expect the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will vote to increase the federal funds rate by another 0.25 basis points at its June meeting. Such a move would be consistent with the plans for two additional rate increases in 2017 that the Federal Reserve indicated after its March meeting, its most recent rate increase. However, some uncertainty is emerging about a third rate increase in 2017. If Congress and the President fail to agree to raise the federal debt ceiling, the Federal Reserve could postpone its next rate increase. Moreover, inflation is struggling to maintain the 2.0 percent annual target set by the Fed, another factor that might give the FOMC pause.

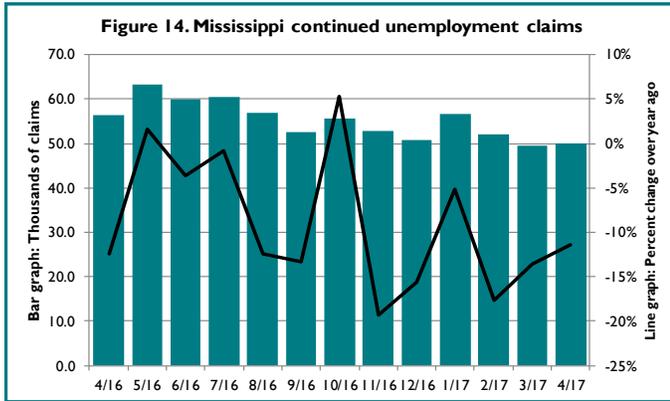
Figure 13. Three-month growth in the coincident index of economic indicators by state, April 2017



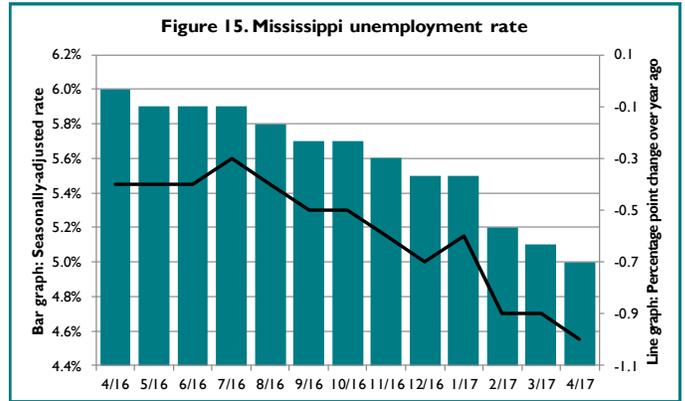
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

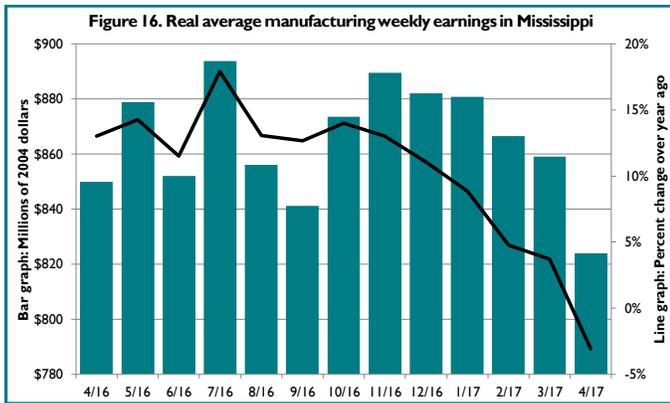
MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INDICATORS, IN FIGURES



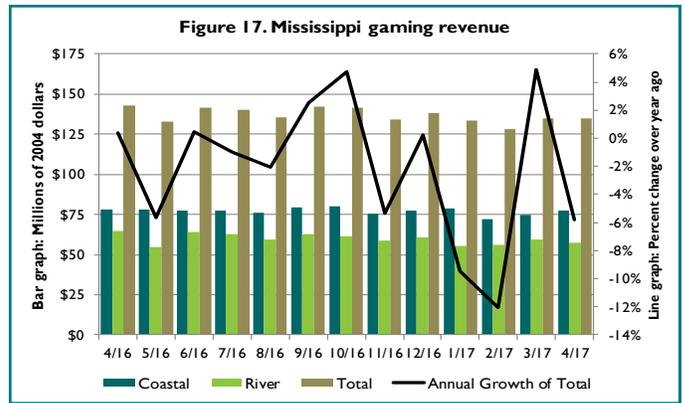
Source: U.S. Department of Labor; seasonally adjusted



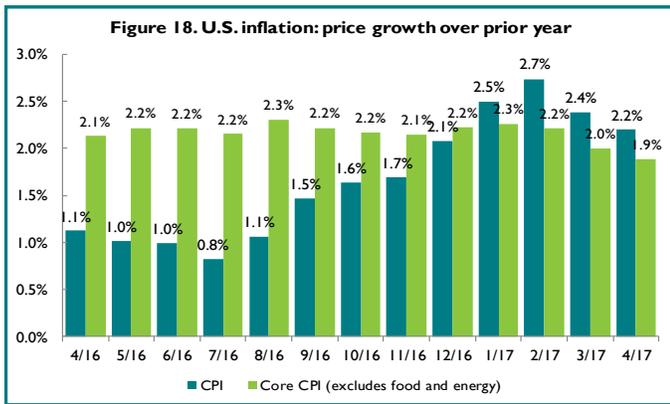
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; seasonally adjusted



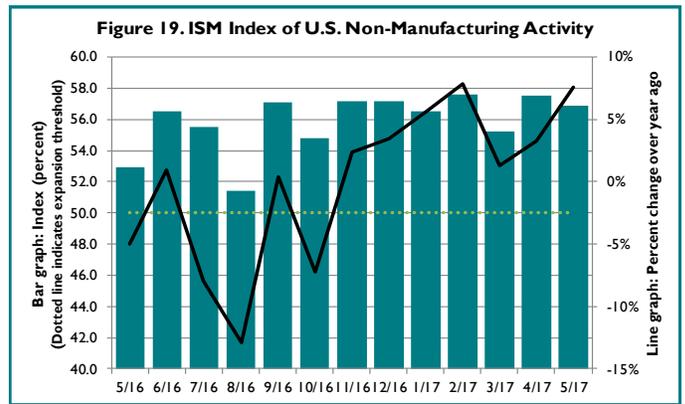
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; non-seasonally adjusted



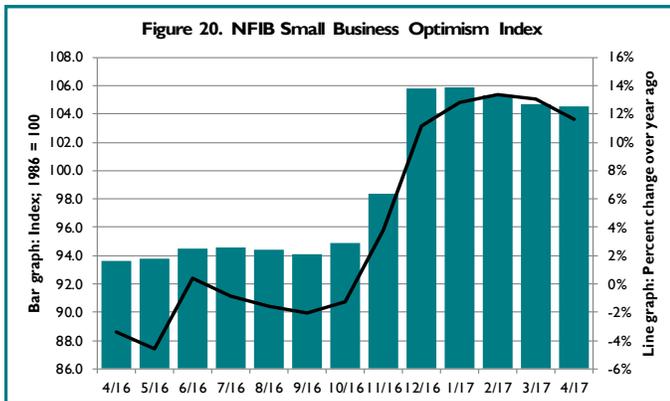
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue; seasonally adjusted



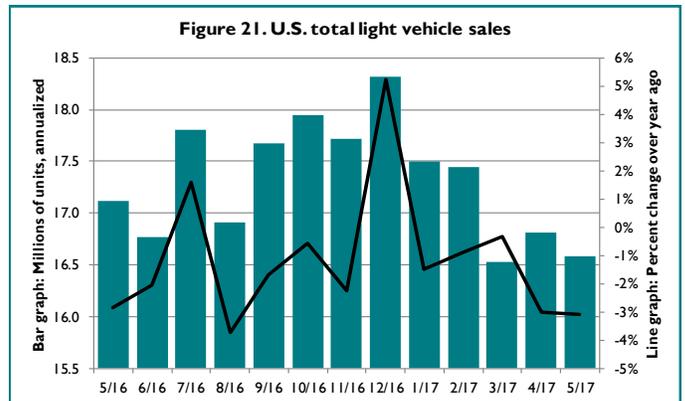
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: Institute for Supply Management



Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses



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

TABLE I. SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicator	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Percent change from	
				March 2017	April 2016
U.S. Leading Economic Index 2004 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	126.9	126.5	123.0	▲0.3%	▲3.2%
U.S. Coincident Economic Index 2004 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	115.2	114.9	112.9	▲0.3%	▲2.0%
Mississippi Leading Index 2004 = 100. Source: University Research Center	113.3	114.7	110.8	▼1.2%	▲2.3%
Mississippi Coincident Index 2004 = 100. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia	123.0	122.7	120.1	▲0.2%	▲2.4%
Mississippi initial unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	5,907	6,658	7,364	▼11.3%	▼19.8%
Value of Mississippi residential building permits Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2004 dollars. Source: Bureau of the Census	100.4	105.4	78.1	▼4.7%	▲28.6%
Mississippi income tax withholdings Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2004 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	114.2	114.4	115.9	▼0.1%	▼1.4%
Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index 2004 = 100. Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	77.7	82.7	84.2	▼6.0%	▼7.7%
University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations Three-month moving average; index 1966Q1 = 100. Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers	87.1	86.7	81.3	▲0.5%	▲7.0%
ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	54.9	54.8	51.3	▲0.2%	▲7.0%
U.S. retail sales Current dollars, in billions. Source: Bureau of the Census	474.9	473.1	454.7	▲0.4%	▲4.5%
U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)	129.5	129.1	126.7	▲0.3%	▲2.2%
U.S. Core CPI (excludes food and energy) 2004 = 100. Source: URC using data from Bureau of Labor Statistics	127.7	127.6	125.4	▲0.1%	▲1.9%
Mississippi unemployment rate Percentage point change. Seasonally-adjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	5.0%	5.1%	6.0%	▼0.1	▼1.0
Mississippi continued unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	49,946	49,584	56,397	▲0.7%	▼11.4%
ISM Index of U.S. Non-Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	56.9	57.5	52.9	▼1.0%	▲7.6%
U.S. mortgage rates Percentage point change. Seasonally adjusted; 30-year conventional. Source: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	4.13%	4.22%	3.66%	▼0.09	▲0.46
Mississippi average hourly wage for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2004 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	20.80	20.62	19.93	▲0.9%	▲4.4%
Mississippi average weekly earnings for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2004 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	823.91	859.08	849.99	▼4.1%	▼3.1%
NFIB Small Business Optimism Index 1986 = 100. Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses	104.5	104.7	93.6	▼0.2%	▲11.6%
U.S. total light vehicle sales Millions of units seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	16.58	16.82	17.11	▼1.4%	▼3.1%
Gaming revenue	134.8	134.8	143.1	◀0.0%	▼5.8%
Coastal counties	77.6	75.1	78.2	▲3.4%	▼0.7%
River counties Seasonally adjusted; millions of 2004 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	57.2	59.7	64.9	▼4.2%	▼11.9%

Economic Indices

Components of the Mississippi Leading Index

Miscellaneous Indicators

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Total nonfarm employment in Mississippi was little changed in April according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nevertheless, the loss of 400 jobs marked the fourth time in the last five months employment in the state declined. In percentage terms employment was essentially unchanged for the month. Compared to one year ago employment in Mississippi was higher by 700 jobs in April, an increase of 0.1 percent.

BEA reported nine states experienced statistically significant increases in total nonfarm employment in April; employment declined in one state. Texas added the most jobs for the month while Nevada experienced the largest percentage increase. Only Indiana experienced a significant decrease in employment in April.

Compared to one year ago twenty-eight states experienced statistically significant increases in employment in April. As in March, California, Texas, and Florida added the most jobs. The largest percentage increase occurred in Nevada, closely followed by Utah. Alaska was the only state that experienced a statistically significant decrease in employment in April compared to one year ago, a decline of 2.1 percent.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities experienced the largest increase in employment among all sectors in the state in April, adding 900 jobs. Arts and Entertainment experienced the largest percentage increase in employment among all industries for the month, a gain of 2.6 percent. The gain was only 300 jobs, however. Accommodation and Food Services lost 2,300 jobs in April, the most among all sectors in the state. The largest percentage decrease in employment for the month occurred in Mining and Logging, as employment fell 2.9 percent. However, this decline was a loss of only 100 jobs.

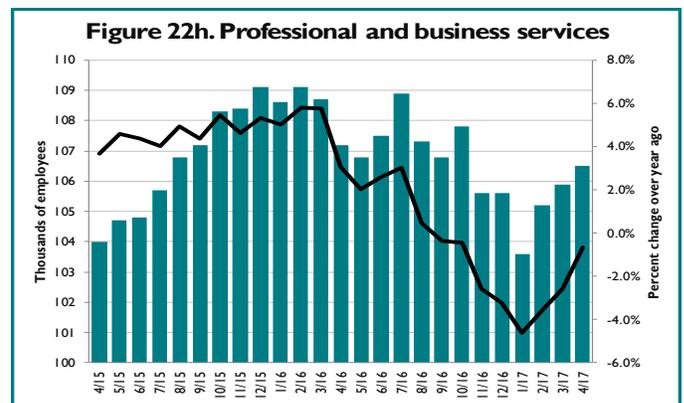
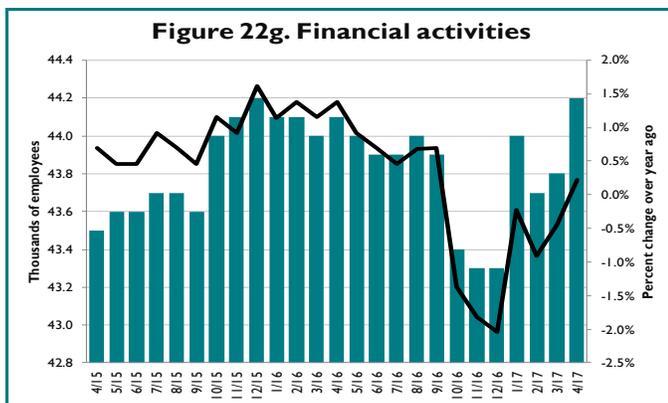
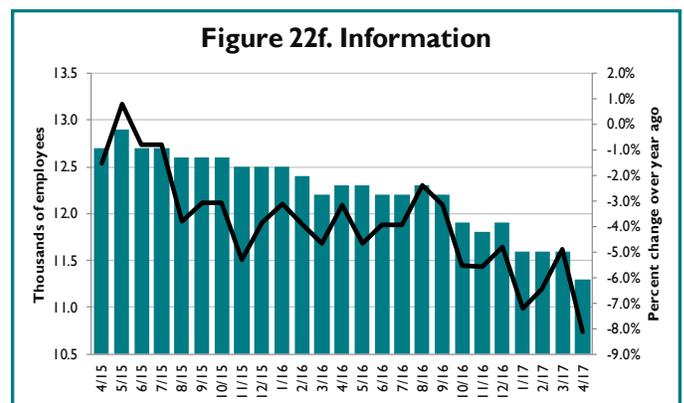
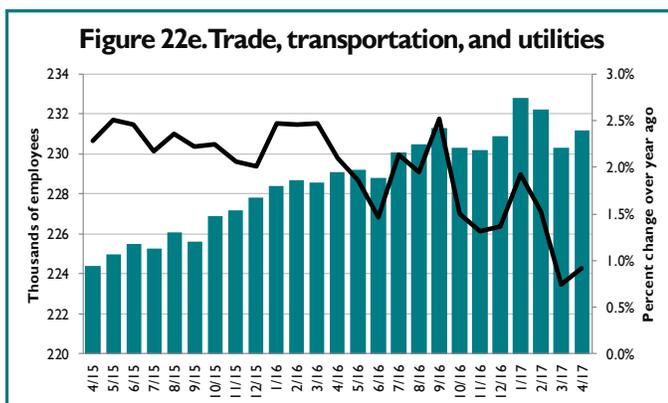
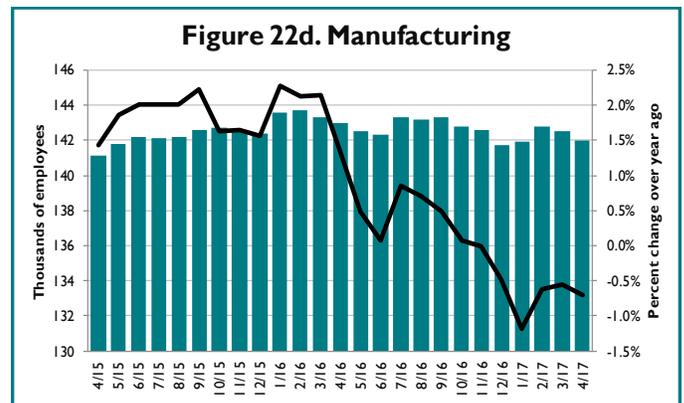
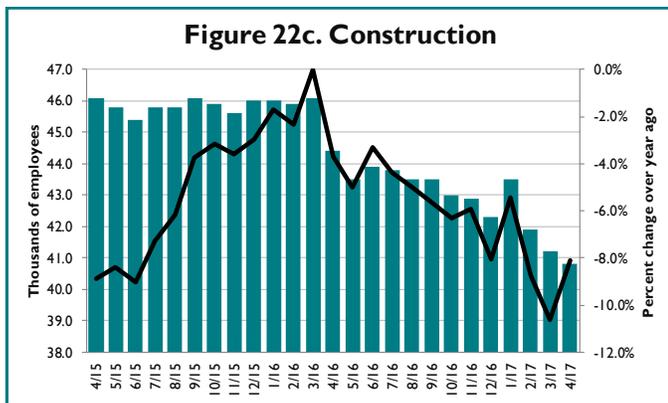
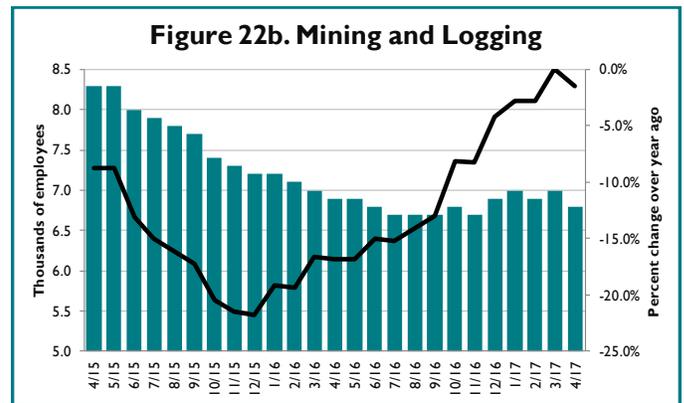
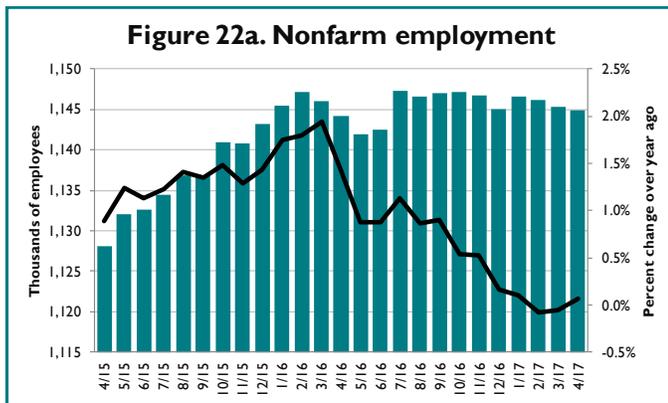
The largest increase in employment in April among all industries in Mississippi compared to one year ago occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance, which added 2,400 jobs. The largest percentage increase occurred in Arts and Entertainment, which rose 4.4 percent over April 2016. Construction experienced the largest absolute decrease in employment among all industries in the state compared to one year ago in April, a loss of 3,600 jobs. Construction and Information were tied for the largest percentage decline among all industries in the state compared to one year ago of 8.1 percent.

Table 2. Change in Mississippi employment by industry, April 2017

	Relative share of total ^a	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Change from March 2017		Change from April 2016	
					Level	Percent	Level	Percent
Total Nonfarm	100.0%	1,144,900	1,145,300	1,144,200	▼400	◀0.0%	▲700	▲0.1%
Mining and Logging	0.6%	6,800	7,000	6,900	▼200	▼2.9%	▼100	▼1.4%
Construction	3.7%	40,800	41,200	44,400	▼400	▼1.0%	▼3,600	▼8.1%
Manufacturing	12.4%	142,000	142,500	143,000	▼500	▼0.4%	▼1,000	▼0.7%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	20.1%	231,200	230,300	229,100	▲900	▲0.4%	▲2,100	▲0.9%
Retail Trade	12.2%	139,500	138,400	140,600	▲1,100	▲0.8%	▼1,100	▼0.8%
Information	1.0%	11,300	11,600	12,300	▼300	▼2.6%	▼1,000	▼8.1%
Financial Activities	3.8%	44,200	43,800	44,100	▲400	▲0.9%	▲100	▲0.2%
Services	36.8%	422,300	423,100	419,400	▼800	▼0.2%	▲2,900	▲0.7%
Professional & Business Services	9.3%	106,500	105,900	107,200	▲600	▲0.6%	▼700	▼0.7%
Educational Services	1.0%	12,200	12,200	11,900	◀0	◀0.0%	▲300	▲2.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	11.3%	130,400	130,400	128,000	◀0	◀0.0%	▲2,400	▲1.9%
Arts & Entertainment	1.0%	11,800	11,500	11,300	▲300	▲2.6%	▲500	▲4.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	10.7%	120,300	122,600	121,000	▼2,300	▼1.9%	▼700	▼0.6%
Other Services	3.5%	41,100	40,500	40,000	▲600	▲1.5%	▲1,100	▲2.8%
Government	21.4%	246,300	245,800	245,000	▲500	▲0.2%	▲1,300	▲0.5%

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

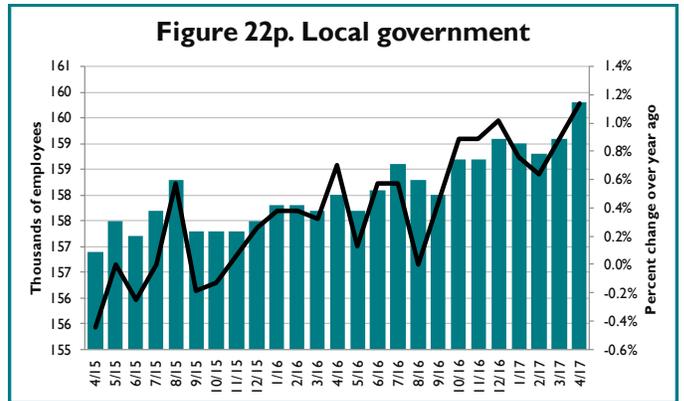
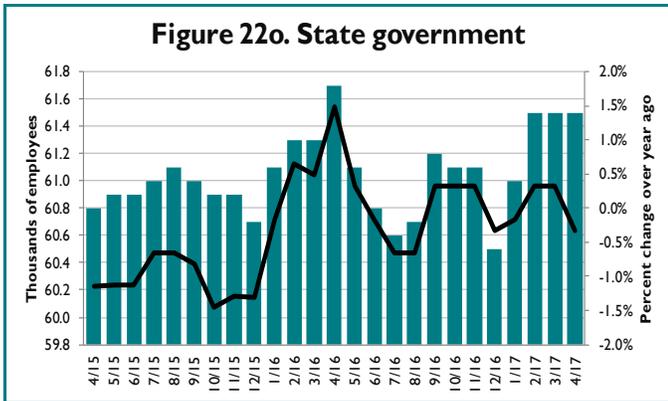
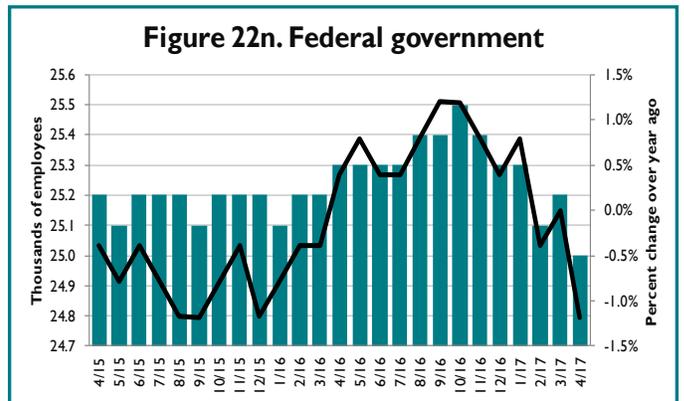
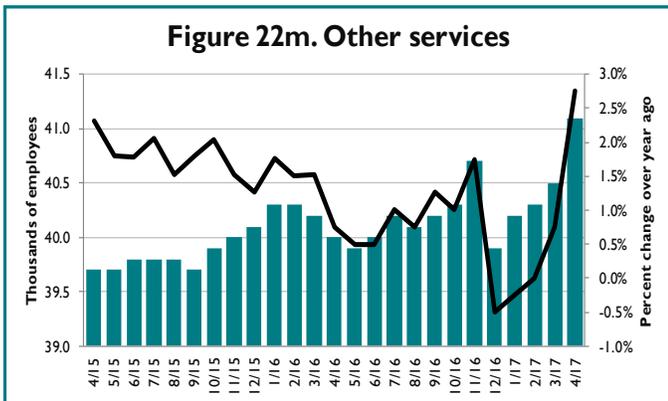
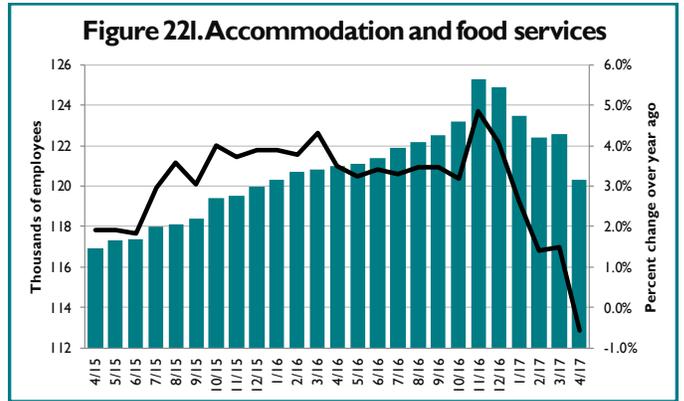
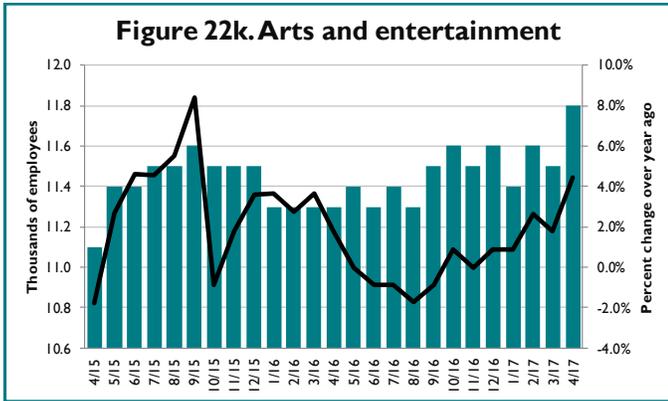
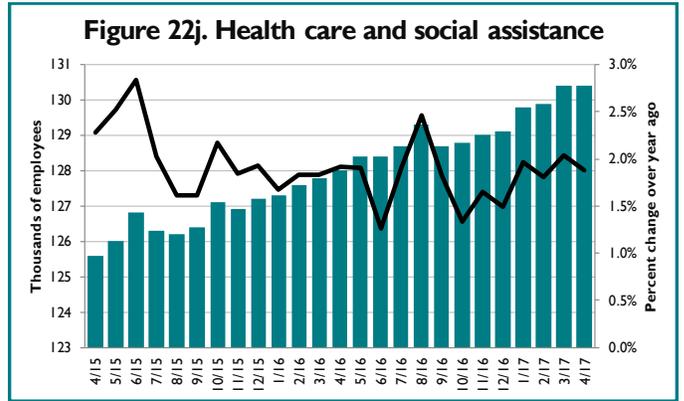
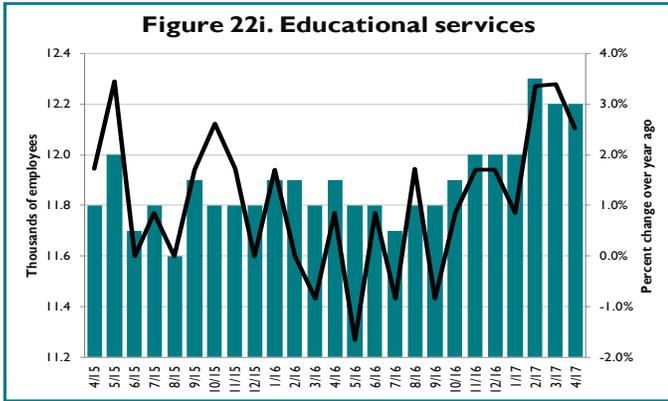
MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES



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 2016 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Trends among 2016 high school graduates are similar to those of the previous year according to a recent release by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Approximately 69.7 percent of the 3.1 million individuals ages 16 to 24 who graduated high school between January and October 2016 were enrolled in college as of October according to BLS. This share is up slightly from the 69.2 percent BLS reported for 2015. According to the most recent data from Mississippi LifeTracks for 2015, 67.6 percent of high school graduates in the state were enrolled in college within sixteen months following graduation. Around 90 percent of 2016 U.S. graduates enrolled in college were full-time students and their labor force participation rate was 38.4 percent. Conversely, among those 2016 graduates not enrolled in college the labor force participation rate was 72.3 percent. Approximately two-thirds of 2016 graduates enrolled in college attended four-year colleges and universities and had a labor force participation rate of 31.5 percent. Students enrolled in two-year colleges, in contrast, had a labor force participation rate of 51.8 percent.

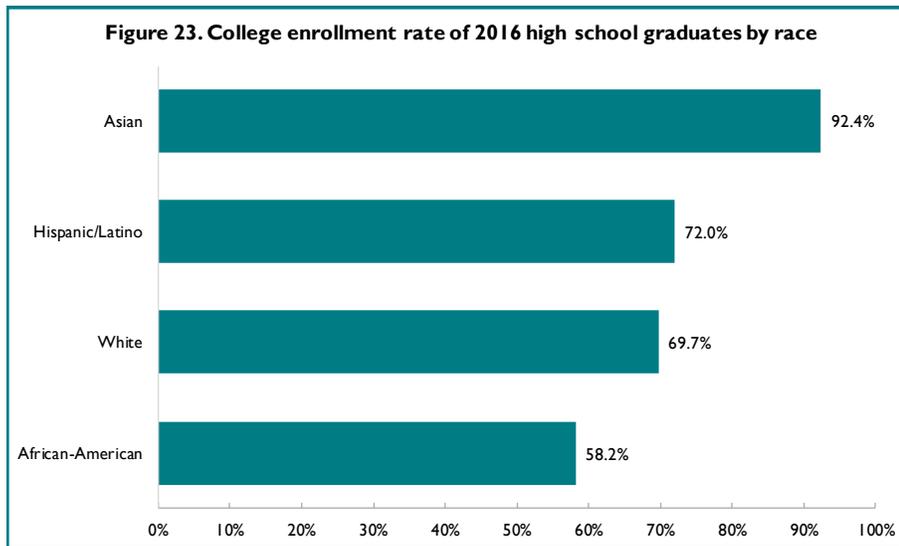


Figure 23 depicts the percentage of 2016 high school graduates enrolled in college by race. Over 92 percent of Asians were enrolled in college as of October, the highest share among all racial groups. This rate was over twenty percentage point higher than the next highest share of 72.0 percent for Hispanics/Latinos. Notably, compared to 2015 the enrollment rates increased for all racial groups except Whites, which declined slightly. The share of recent graduates attending college among Asians increased over nine percentage point in 2016 over 2015. Similarly,

the share of new graduates attending college among African-Americans increased almost four percentage point and the share among Hispanics/Latinos increased just over three percentage point. Unemployment rates for 2016 graduates enrolled in college were highest among Hispanics/Latinos at 9.0 percent, followed by African-Americans at 7.6 percent, and then Asians at a rate of 7.1 percent. The lowest unemployment rate among 2016 graduates enrolled in school by race belonged to Whites at 5.7 percent.

For all U.S. individuals age 16 to 24 not enrolled in high school or college as of October 2016, the labor force participation rate was 79.7 percent, similar to the previous year. For men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher, the rates were approximately 92 to 93 percent. Conversely, for men with less than a high school diploma not enrolled in school the labor force participation rate was 69.6 percent; for women this rate was 47.4 percent. The unemployment rate for all individuals age 16 to 24 as of October was 11.2 percent. However, the unemployment rate for this age group not enrolled in school with less than a high school diploma was 24.0 percent for men and 20.7 percent for women. The unemployment rate by race among all individuals age 16 to 24 not enrolled in school as of October was 20.4 percent for African-Americans, considerably higher than other racial groups. The next highest unemployment rate by race among this age group was for Hispanics/Latinos at 10.5 percent, followed by Whites at 9.4 percent. The lowest unemployment rate by race among 16- to 24-year olds not enrolled in school was for Asians at 7.7 percent.

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION AND WAGE ACROSS STATES

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its annual estimates of occupational employment and wages in 2016 for the U.S., states, and metropolitan areas. Across all occupations, the average annual wage in the U.S. was \$49,630. In Mississippi, the average annual wage in 2016 was \$38,300, which ranked fiftieth among all states. Arkansas, which ranked forty-ninth, was the only other state in 2016 with an average annual wage under \$40,000. The state with the highest average annual wage across all occupations in 2016 was Massachusetts at \$60,840. When the average annual wages are adjusted for the cost of living using the regional price parities produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Mississippi's ranking improves slightly to forty-eighth, ahead of Montana and Hawaii. Massachusetts retains the highest average annual wages across all occupations after adjusting for the cost of living.

In its estimates BLS includes the number employed in each state by occupation/occupational group. Total employment in Mississippi in 2016 across all occupations was listed as 1,117,280. Table 3 below lists the top five occupational groups in Mississippi according to the number of individuals employed in 2016. A major occupational group includes a number of generally related occupations. For example, Production Occupations, listed in Table 3, includes many different jobs ranging from Tool and Die Maker to Furniture Finisher. The average annual wage for each group is included in Table 3. The group employing the largest share of Mississippians in 2016 was Office and Administrative Support, which accounted for just over 14 percent of total employment. The mean annual wage of this group was a little over \$31,000. Table 3 indicates the top five occupation groups accounted for over 52 percent of total employment in Mississippi in 2016. Moreover, the highest average annual wage for any of these groups was just over \$34,000 for Production workers. Thus, although the average annual wage for all occupations in the state was \$38,300, over half of those employed made around \$34,000 or less per year. This breakdown is not dissimilar to other southern states; Alabama and Tennessee, for example, have the same top five occupational groups in a slightly different order with slightly higher annual wages. In fact, many states have similar top five occupational groups in terms of employment. However, states with larger and more diverse economies may have smaller shares of total employment in some of these occupational groups. In Texas, for example, the top five occupational groups accounted for about 51 percent of total employment, but included the Education, Training, and Library occupation group. This group accounted for 6.3 percent of total employment with an annual average wage of almost \$50,000. In Mississippi, this group ranked seventh despite accounting for 6.8 percent of total employment with an average annual wage of about \$43,000. In another difference, the average annual wage of the Sales and Related Occupations group in Texas was just over \$42,000.

Table 3. Top five occupational groups in Mississippi by number employed, May 2016

Major occupational group	Mean annual wage	Employment	Share of total employment
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	\$31,410	161,410	14.4%
Sales and Related Occupations	\$30,190	115,190	10.3%
Production Occupations	\$34,210	109,330	9.8%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	\$20,280	104,700	9.4%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	\$32,160	94,320	8.4%
Total			52.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics