



ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

Inside this issue:

Mississippi Leading Index, April 2021	2
Mississippi Coincident Index, April 2021	4
National Trends	5
Mississippi Employment Trends	8
2020 U.S. Census Findings	11

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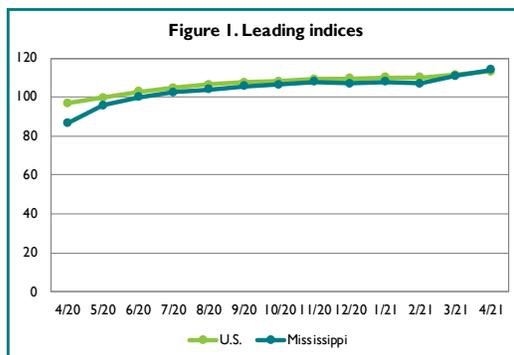
In April the value of the Mississippi Leading Index (MLI) rose 2.7 percent as seen in Figure 1, its second consecutive monthly increase. Compared to one year earlier the value of the MLI for the month was 31.6 percent higher.

Figure 2 indicates the value of the Mississippi Coincident Index (MCI) increased 0.1 percent in April. The value for the month was 9.3 percent higher compared to one year ago.

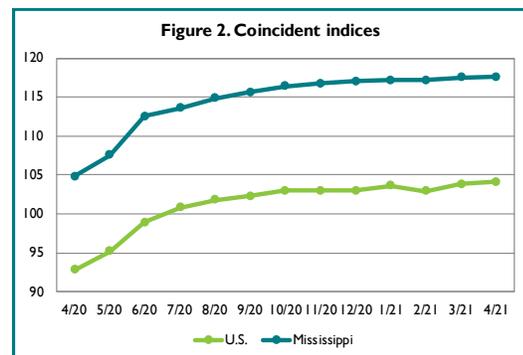
The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reported in its second estimate of the change in U.S. real GDP in the first quarter of 2021 an increase of 6.4 percent at a seasonally-adjusted, annualized rate. This second estimate was unchanged from BEA's initial estimate. In the second estimate, consumer spending and nonresidential and residential fixed investment were all revised up, but these revisions were

offset by downward revisions to exports, private inventory investment, and state and local government spending. In the fourth quarter of 2020 U.S. real GDP increased 4.3 percent.

The MLI experienced another relatively robust month in April as all of its components increased. Income tax withholdings, initial unemployment claims, and the Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index all had strong months. These indicators should denote an economy in recovery. However, both initial and continued claims remain elevated, and through the first four months of 2021 Mississippi has lost over 4,500 jobs. Thus, the labor market in the state still needs to progress for a complete recovery in the state's economy to occur. The Accommodation and Food Services sector in particular remains considerably below its pre-recession level.



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 2007. 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 2007.

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX, APRIL 2021

The value of the **Mississippi Leading Index of Economic Indicators (MLI)** increased 2.8 percent in April. The gain also marked the second consecutive monthly increase for the first time since November 2020. Compared to one year earlier the value of the MLI for April was 31.6 percent higher, the largest year-over-year increase in the value of the Index since December 1983. The value of the MLI increased 7.1 percent over the last six months.

All seven components of the MLI increased in April, which marked the first month in five years all seven increased. The largest contribution for the month came from income tax withholdings, while retail sales made a slightly positive contribution. Each component is discussed below in order of largest to smallest contribution.

The three-month moving average of **Mississippi income tax withholdings** jumped 3.4 percent in value in April as Figure 4 indicates. The value reached its highest level since December 2020. Compared to one year earlier the value of withholdings for the month was up 7.4 percent. The value of income tax withholdings in Mississippi over the last six months rose 1.3 percent.

The number of seasonally-adjusted **initial unemployment claims** in Mississippi fell 25.6 percent in April as Figure 5 indicates. Compared to one year earlier the value for April was down 89.9 percent. The number of seasonally-adjusted continued unemployment claims in Mississippi decreased 24.0 percent in April as Figure 16 on page 6 indicates. The number of continued unemployment claims in Mississippi in April compared to one year earlier was 75.7 percent lower. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in Mississippi was 6.2 percent in April as seen in Figure 17 on page 6, unchanged from the revised March rate. The state's unemployment rate in April was 9.5 percentage points lower compared to one year earlier.

The value of the **Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index** climbed 2.5 percent in April as seen in Figure 6. The Index reached its highest level since March 2020. Compared to one year earlier the value for the month was up 22.6 percent. Although Manufacturing employment in the state fell 0.9 percent in April, the average weekly hours of production employees increased 3.4 percent for the month, which more than offset the decline in jobs.

As seen in Figure 7 in April the value of the **University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations** (three

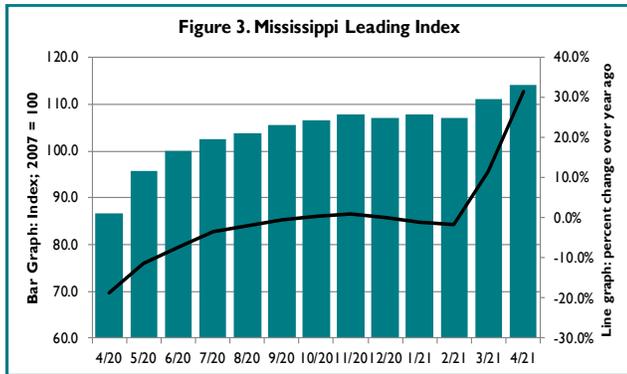
-month moving average) rose 3.5 percent, its fourth consecutive monthly increase. The value for the month was 11.8 percent higher compared to one year earlier, the first year-over-year increase in the Index since February 2020. While savings are relatively high thanks to federal stimulus payments in recent months and mask mandates have eased in much of the country, rising inflation continues to weigh on sentiments. Both short-term (one-year) and long-term (five-year) inflation expectations increased in the most recent survey, led by the run up in gasoline prices in recent weeks.

Figure 8 indicates the value of **Mississippi residential building permits** (three-month moving average) rose 2.6 percent in April, its second consecutive monthly gain. The value for the month was up 10.2 percent compared to one year earlier. The number of units in the state in April increased 2.3 percent, also its second consecutive monthly gain. The number of units in the state for the month was 11.1 percent higher compared to one year earlier. The number of privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in the U.S. was 0.3 percent higher in April compared to the revised March rate. The number of units in the U.S. for the month was up 60.9 percent compared to April 2020.

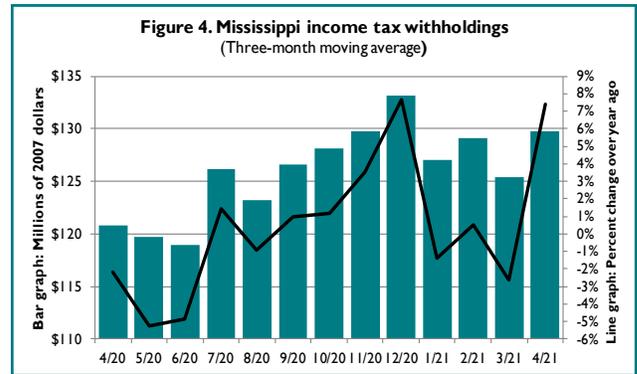
As seen in Figure 9, the value of the **ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity** edged up 0.8 percent in May. The value for the month was 42.0 percent higher compared to one year earlier. Three of the five components of the Index increased in May, led by the Supplier Deliveries component. All of the components were in expansionary territory in May (an index value above 50.0). The prices paid index was slightly lower for the month, but the prices of most commodities including aluminum and copper increased in May and the Index remained at a relatively high level.

The value of **U.S. retail sales** was essentially unchanged in April following the surge that occurred the previous month. As seen in Figure 10, the value for March was revised up to an increase of 10.7 percent. Compared to April 2020, the value of sales for the month was up 51.2 percent. Sales of vehicles rose strongly in April, as sales excluding automobiles and gasoline were down 0.8 percent. Sales at food service and drinking places had the largest increase among all segments. However, sales fell across the majority of retail segments for the month.

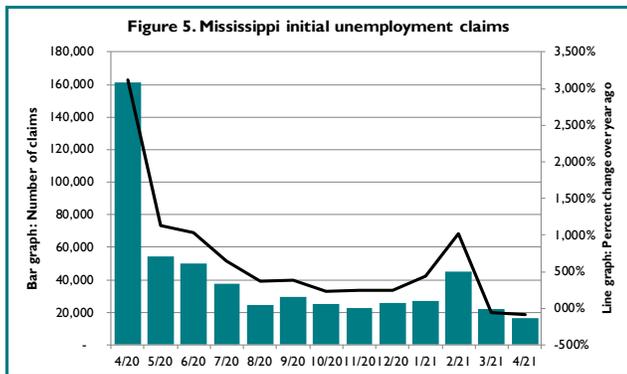
MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX AND COMPONENTS, IN FIGURES



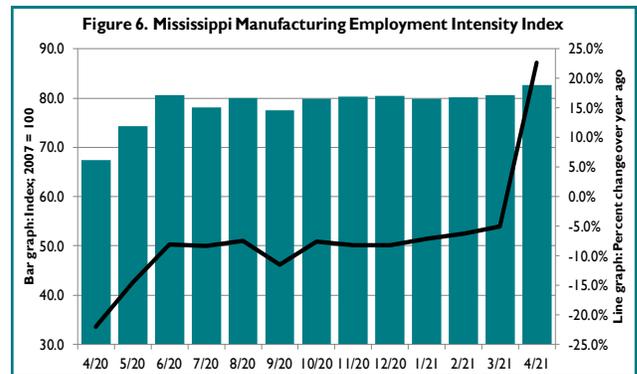
Source: University Research Center



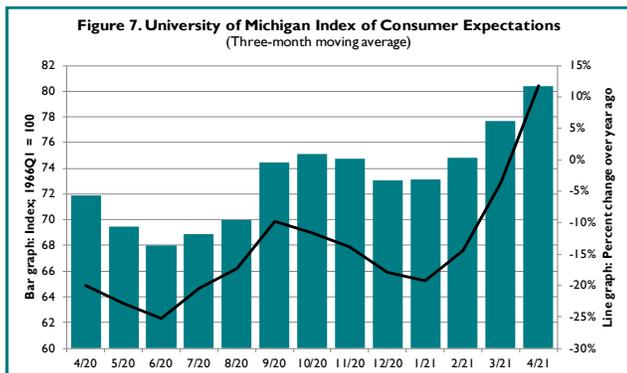
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue; seasonally adjusted



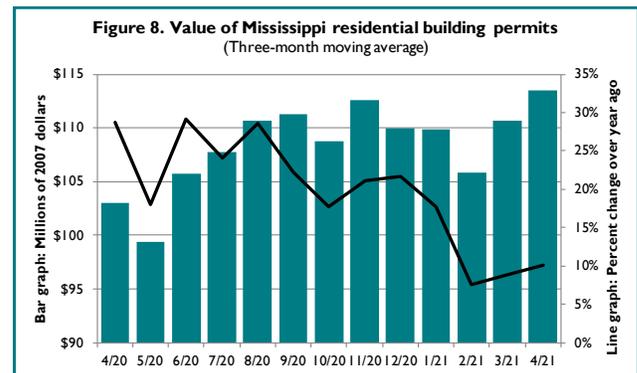
Source: U.S. Department of Labor; seasonally adjusted



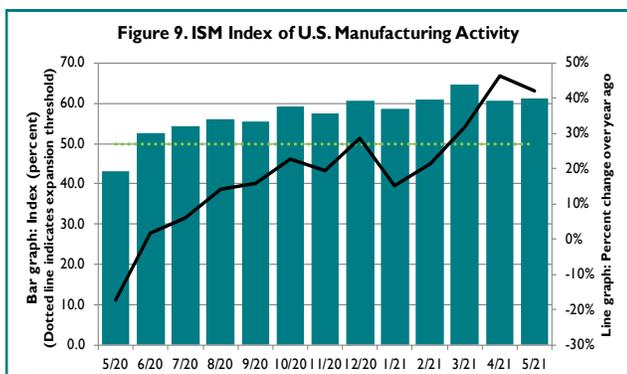
Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



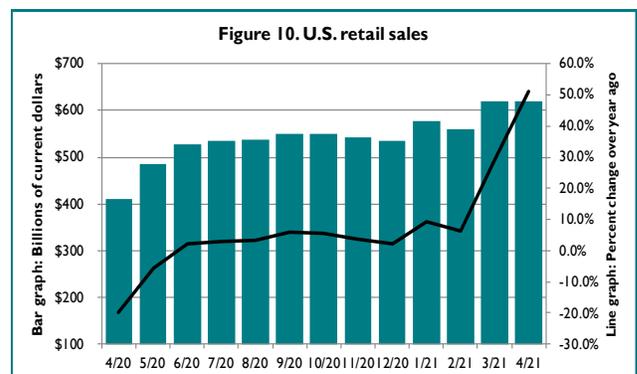
Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers



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



Source: Institute for Supply Management



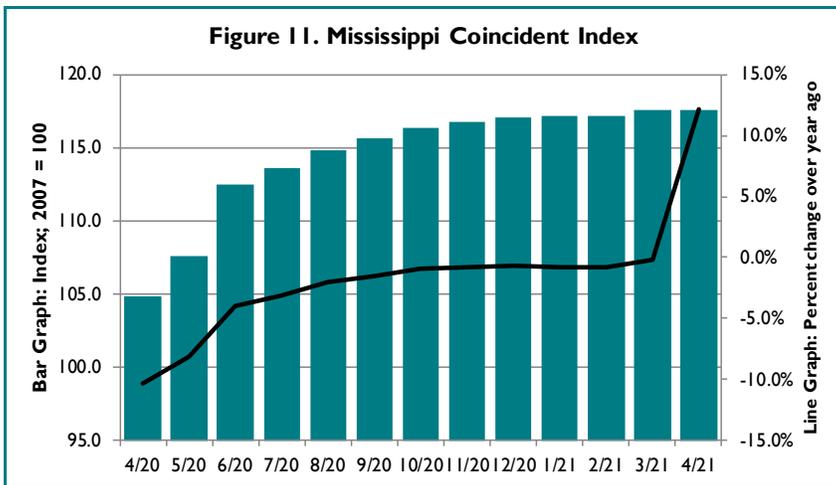
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

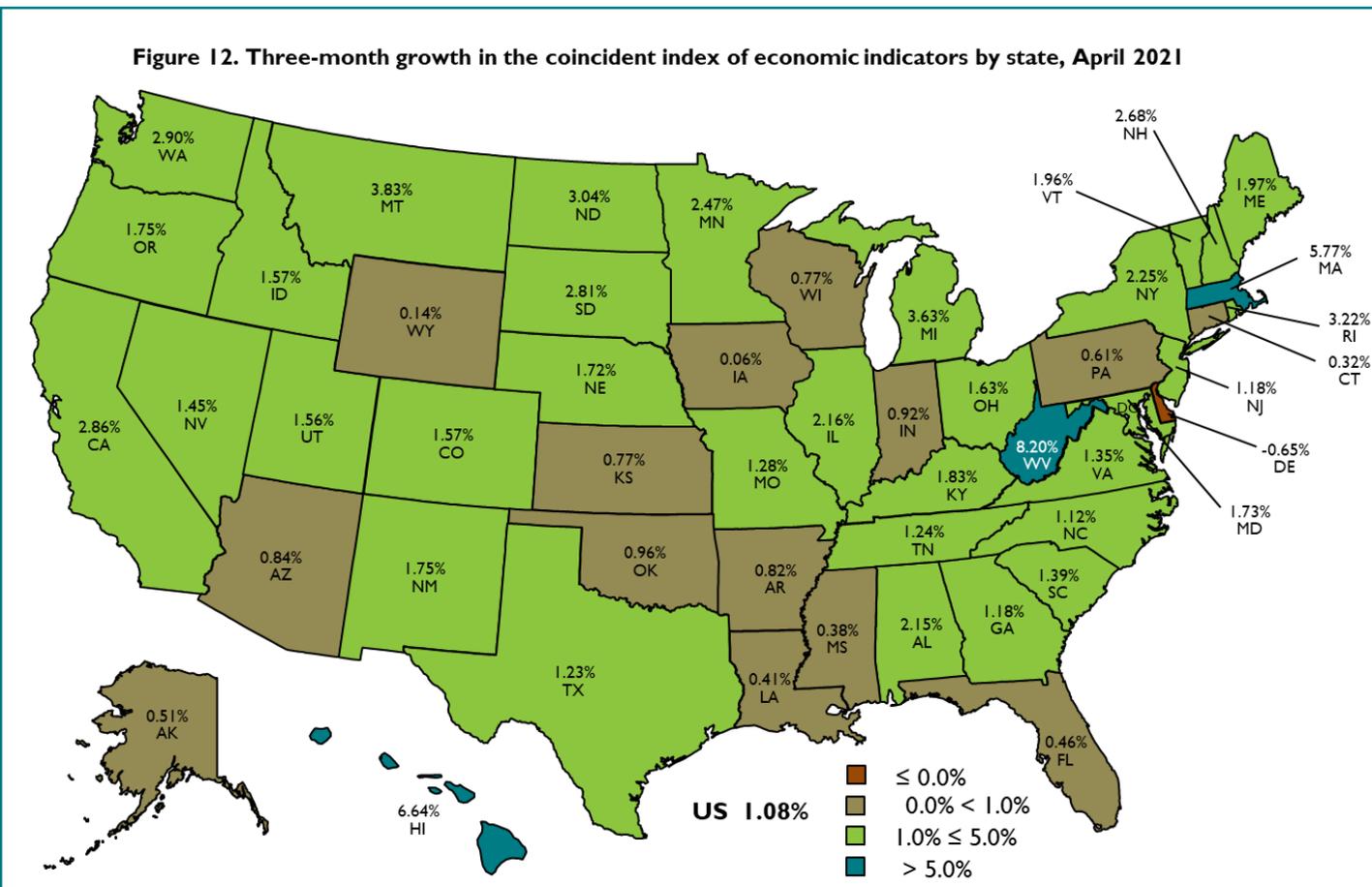
MISSISSIPPI COINCIDENT INDEX, APRIL 2021

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia reported the value of the **Mississippi Coincident Index of Economic Indicators (MCI)** edged up 0.1 percent in April as Figure 11 indicates. The value of the MCI for the month was 9.3 percent higher compared to one year earlier.

As seen in Figure 12 the values of the coincident indices in forty-nine states were higher in April compared to January. The values of the coincident indices increased more than 5.0 percent over the last three months in three states. In West Virginia the value of the coincident index increased 8.2 percent during this period, the largest gain among all states. In thirty-two states the values of the coincident indices were between 1.0 and 5.0 percent higher in April compared to January. In fourteen states including Mississippi the value of the coincident index increased less than 1.0 percent over the last three months. As in March the only state where the value of the coincident index decreased over the last three months was Delaware; the value of its coincident index was down 0.7 percent in April compared to January.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

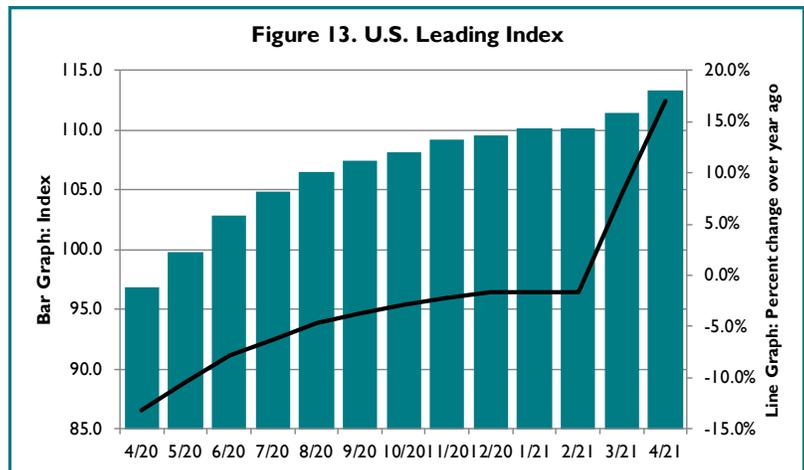
NATIONAL TRENDS

Figure 13 indicates the value of the U.S. Leading Economic Index (LEI) rose 1.6 percent in April according to The Conference Board. The gain was the largest monthly increase in the LEI since July 2020. Compared to one year earlier the value of the LEI for the month was up 17.0 percent. Eight of the ten components of the LEI increased in April and average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance made the largest contribution. The value of the LEI increased 4.7 percent over the last six months.

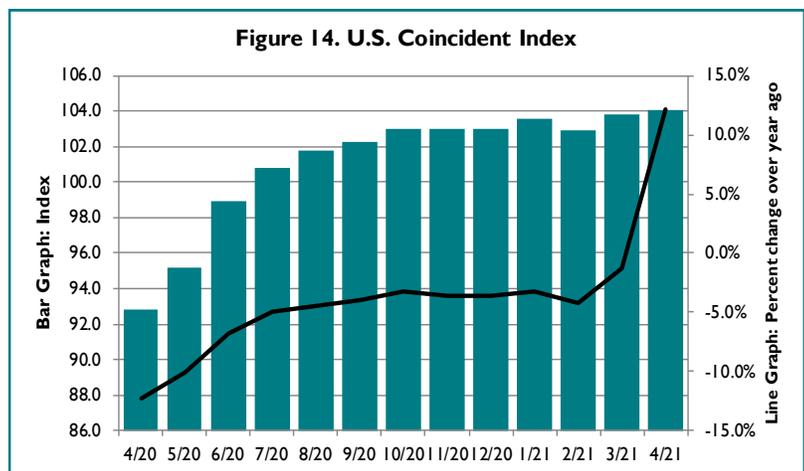
The value of the U.S. Coincident Economic Index (CEI) edged up 0.3 percent in April according to The Conference Board as seen in Figure 14. The value of the CEI for the month was 12.2 percent higher compared to one year earlier, its first year-over-year increase since February 2020. The largest increase among the components was in employees on nonagricultural payrolls; all four components of the CEI made positive contributions in April. In the last six months the value of the CEI rose 1.1 percent.

The value of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Small Business Optimism Index increased 1.6 percent in April as seen in Figure 15, its third consecutive monthly gain. The value of the Index was up 9.8 percent for the month, the largest year-over-year increase since August 2017. Seven of the ten components increased in April and the largest gain was in the “earnings trend” component. Notably, the “expect economy to improve” component fell, likely a reflection of labor shortages and supply chain issues. The “plans to raise prices” and “plans to raise compensation” measures both rose for the month.

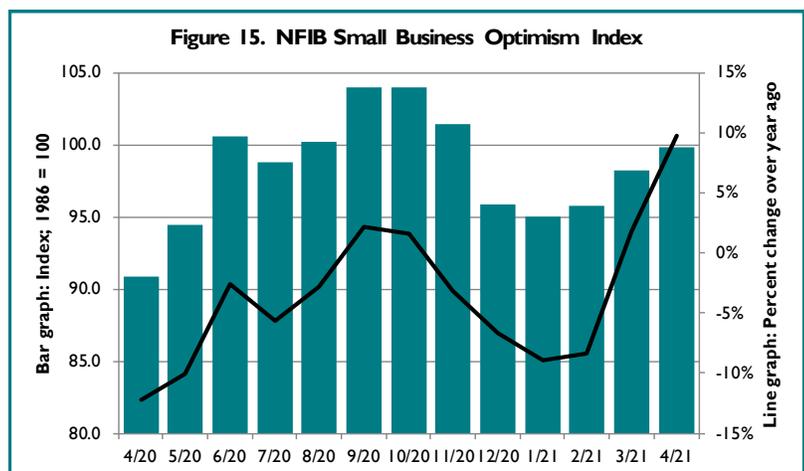
Despite concerns about rising inflation, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is unlikely to adjust the current federal funds rate target at its June meeting. However, in recent public statements some Fed officials have signaled the FOMC may start discussing when to begin reducing the Fed’s monthly purchases of \$120 billion in Treasury and mortgage bonds. The U.S. jobs data for May will be particularly important to the guidance the Fed will issue later this month on unemployment as well as growth and interest rates.



Source: The Conference Board



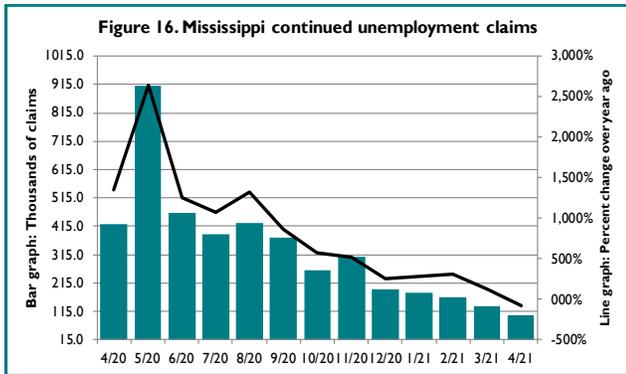
Source: The Conference Board



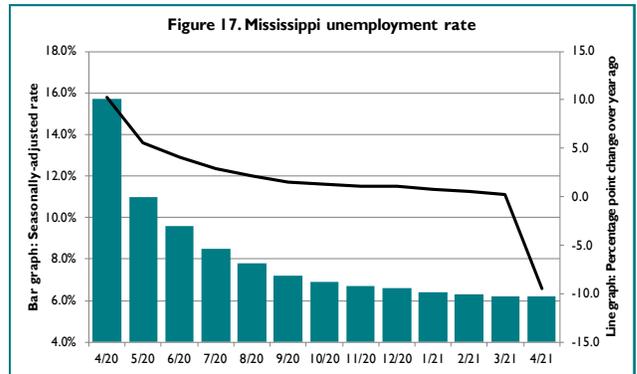
Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

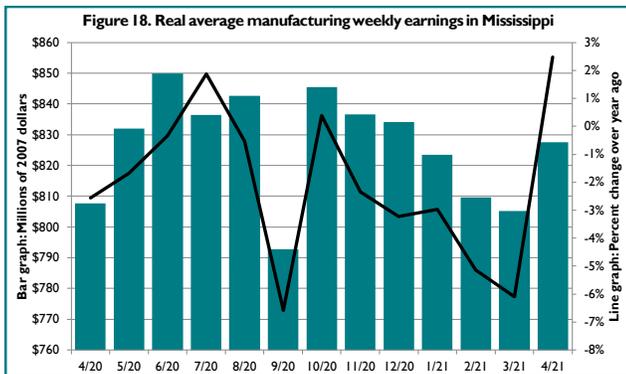
MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INDICATORS, IN FIGURES



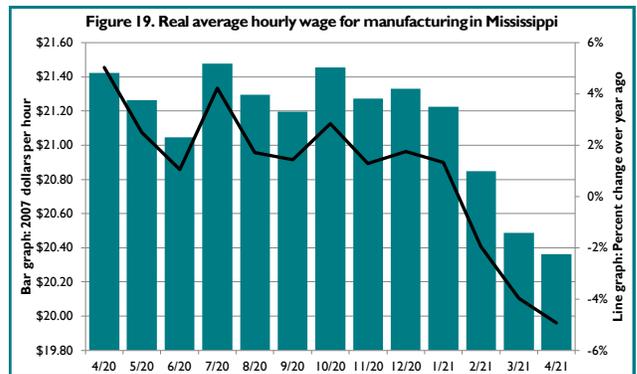
Source: U.S. Department of Labor; seasonally adjusted



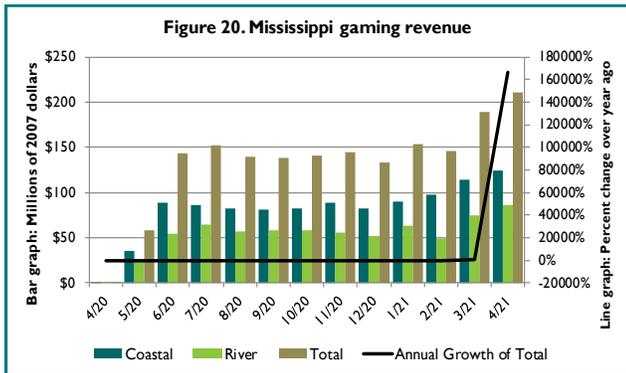
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; seasonally adjusted



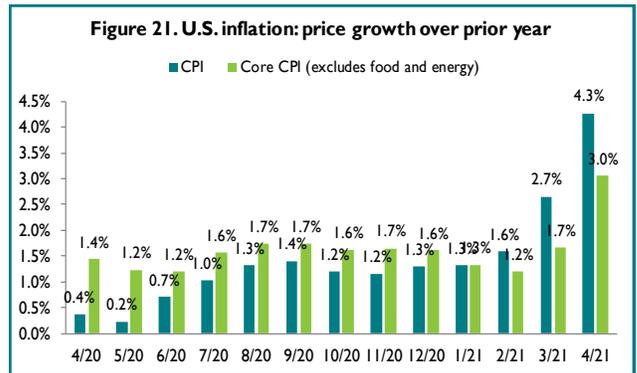
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; non-seasonally adjusted



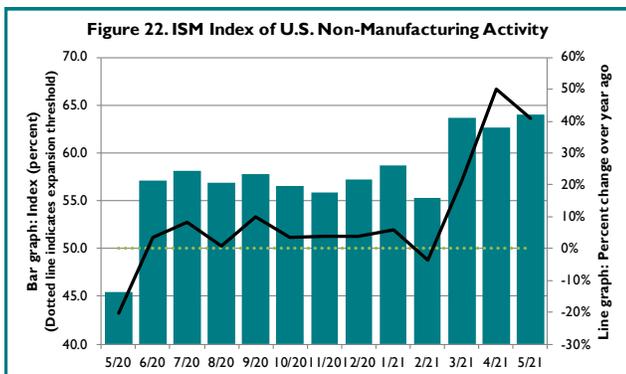
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; seasonally adjusted



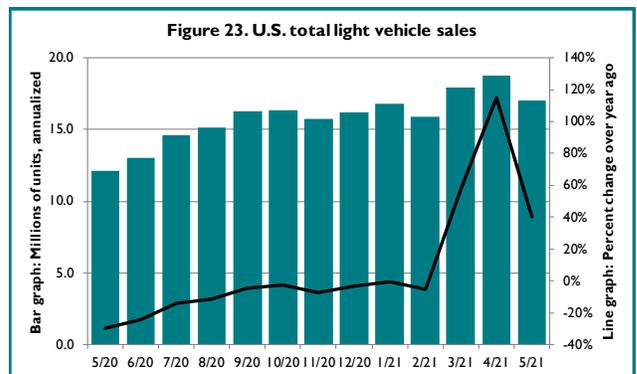
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue; seasonally adjusted



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	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Percent change from March 2021 April 2020		
U.S. Leading Economic Index 2007 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	113.3	111.5	96.8	▲1.6%	▲17.0%	Economic Indices
U.S. Coincident Economic Index 2007 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	104.1	103.8	92.8	▲0.3%	▲12.2%	
Mississippi Leading Index 2007 = 100. Source: University Research Center	114.1	111.1	86.7	▲2.7%	▲31.6%	
Mississippi Coincident Index 2007 =100. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia	117.6	117.5	107.6	▲0.1%	▲9.3%	
Mississippi initial unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	16,229	21,823	161,212	▼25.6%	▼89.9%	Components of the Mississippi Leading Index
Value of Mississippi residential building permits Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2007 dollars. Source: Bureau of the Census	113.5	110.7	103.1	▲2.6%	▲10.2%	
Mississippi income tax withholdings Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2007 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	129.7	125.4	120.8	▲3.4%	▲7.4%	
Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index 2007 =100. Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	82.6	80.6	67.4	▲2.5%	▲22.6%	
University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations Three-month moving average; index 1966Q1 = 100. Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers	80.4	77.7	71.9	▲3.5%	▲11.8%	
ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	61.2	60.7	43.1	▲0.8%	▲42.0%	
U.S. retail sales Current dollars, in billions. Source: Bureau of the Census	619.9	619.8	409.9	◀▶0.0%	▲51.2%	
U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)	128.7	127.7	123.4	▲0.8%	▲4.3%	
U.S. Core CPI (excludes food and energy) 2007 = 100. Source: URC using data from Bureau of Labor Statistics	129.9	128.7	126.0	▲0.9%	▲3.0%	
Mississippi unemployment rate Percentage point change. Seasonally-adjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	6.2%	6.2%	15.7%	◀▶0.0	▼9.5	
Mississippi continued unemployment claims Seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Department of Labor	102,321	134,696	421,871	▼24.0%	▼75.7%	Miscellaneous Indicators
ISM Index of U.S. Non-Manufacturing Activity Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	64.0	62.7	45.4	▲2.1%	▲41.0%	
U.S. mortgage rates Percentage point change. Seasonally adjusted; 30-year conventional. Source: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	3.03%	3.02%	3.28%	▲0.01	▼0.25	
Mississippi average hourly wage for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2007 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	20.36	20.49	21.42	▼0.6%	▼4.9%	
Mississippi average weekly earnings for manufacturing Seasonally adjusted; 2007 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	827.59	805.17	807.64	▲2.8%	▲2.5%	
NFIB Small Business Optimism Index 1986 = 100. Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses	99.8	98.2	90.9	▲1.6%	▲9.8%	
U.S. total light vehicle sales Millions of units seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	16.99	18.77	12.11	▼9.5%	▲40.3%	
Gaming revenue	210.82	189.73	0.1	▲11.1%	▲165,980.4%	
Coastal counties	124.14	114.42	0.1	▲8.5%	▲160,595.2%	
River counties Seasonally adjusted; millions of 2007 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	86.68	75.31	0.0	▲15.1%	▲174,352.7%	

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

As seen in Table 2, total nonfarm employment in Mississippi fell by 1,700 jobs in April according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), a 0.2 percent decrease. March employment in the state was revised up by 300 jobs. Compared to April 2020, total nonfarm employment in Mississippi for the month was higher by 109,300 jobs, a 10.8 percent increase. Nevertheless, total employment in the state decreased by 4,600 jobs through the first four months of 2021.

Employment rose in nine states and the District of Columbia in April, decreased in two states, and was unchanged in thirty-nine states. California added 101,800 jobs, the most among all states, followed by New York, which added 29,200 jobs. The largest percentage gain in employment was the 1.8 percent increase in Hawaii. Michigan lost 19,200 jobs in April, a 0.5 percent decrease, and Alabama lost 12,400 jobs, a decline of 0.6 percent.

Nonfarm employment was higher in all fifty states and the District of Columbia in April compared to one year earlier. The largest increases in employment over the last twelve months occurred in California, which added 1,302,100 jobs, followed by New York, which added 1,029,800 jobs, and Texas, which added 1,007,100 jobs. The largest percentage increase was the 21.1 percent

gain in Michigan, followed by the 17.6 percent increase in Nevada and the 17.1 percent increase in Rhode Island.

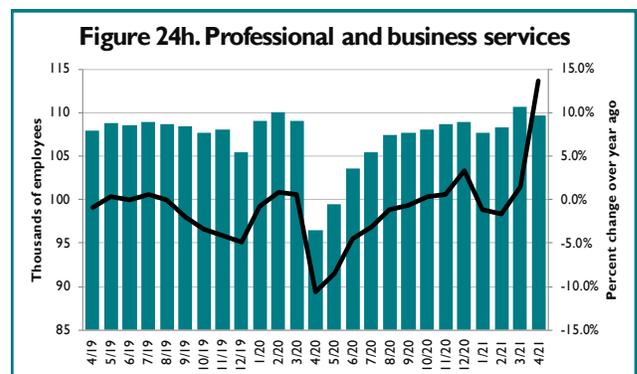
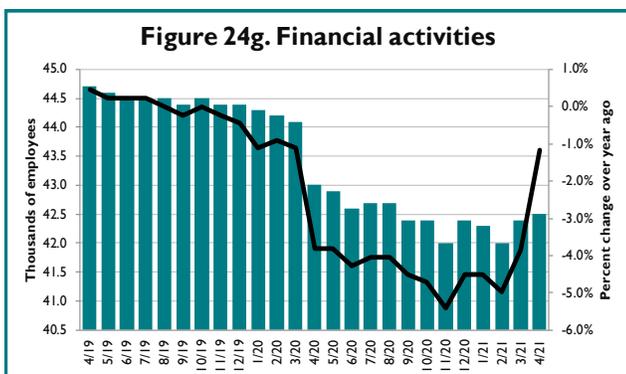
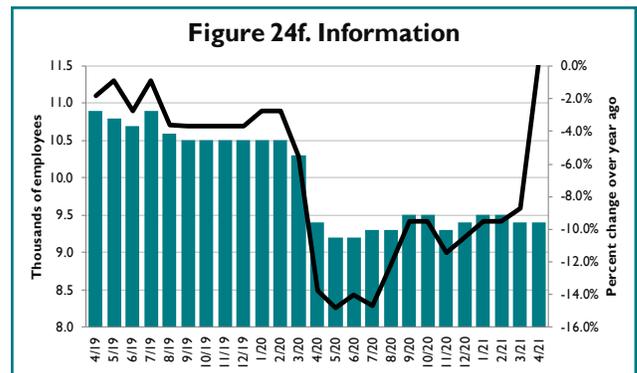
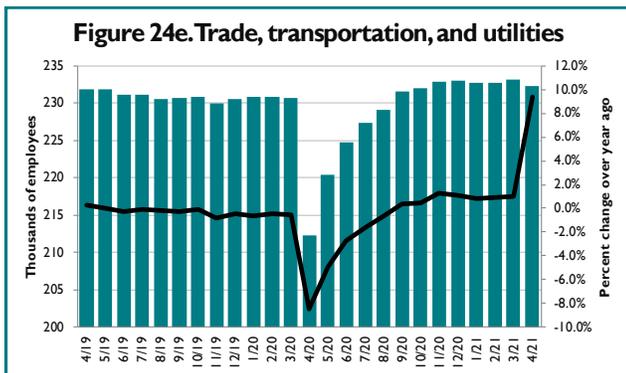
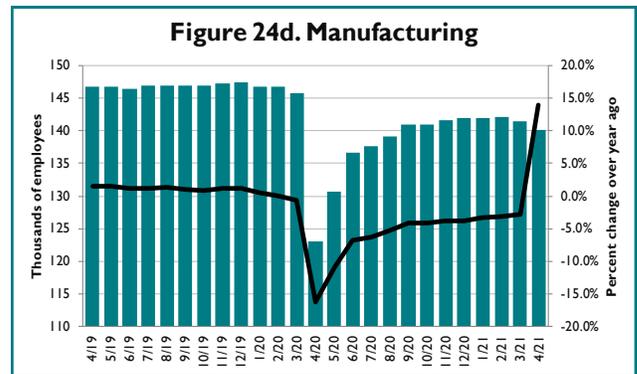
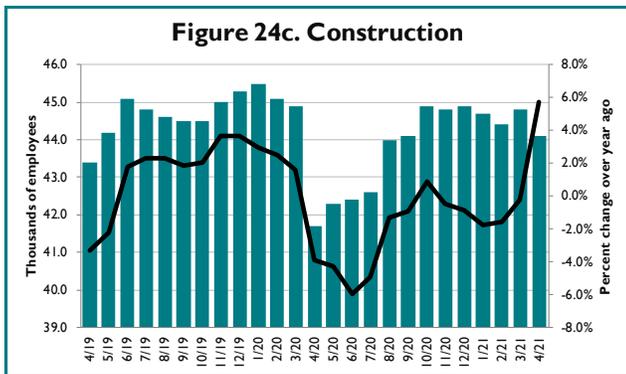
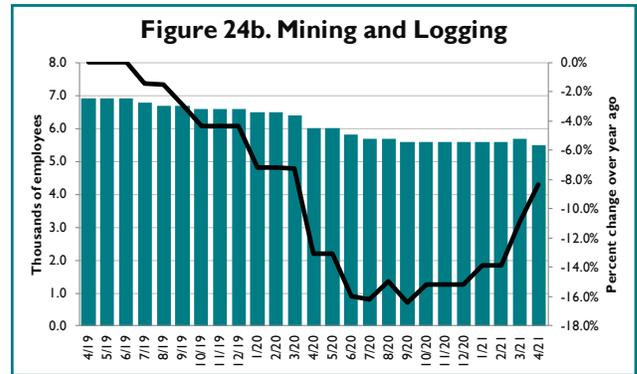
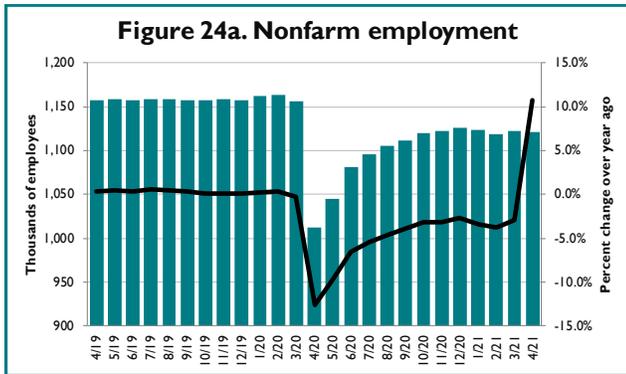
Job gains were mixed across sectors in Mississippi in April. Accommodation and Food Services added 1,100 jobs for the month, the most among all sectors. Employment in Educational Services rose 1.7 percent, the largest percentage increase among all sectors and a gain of 200 jobs. The largest decrease in employment among all sectors in the state for the month was the 1,300 jobs lost in Manufacturing. The largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors in Mississippi in April was the 3.5 percent decline in Mining and Logging, a loss of 200 jobs.

Over the last twelve months the largest increase in employment among all sectors in the state was the 35,800 jobs added in Accommodation and Food Services. The largest percentage increase in employment among all sectors since April 2020 was the 47.4 percent gain in Arts and Entertainment. The only sectors in Mississippi that lost jobs over the last twelve months were Mining and Logging and Financial Activities, as employment fell by 500 jobs in both sectors. The largest percentage decrease was the 8.3 percent decline in Mining and Logging. Employment was unchanged in the Information sector.

Table 2. Change in Mississippi employment by industry, April 2021

	Relative share of total ^a	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Change from March 2021		Change from April 2020	
					Level	Percent	Level	Percent
Total Nonfarm	100.0%	1,121,300	1,123,000	1,012,000	▼1,700	▼0.2%	▲109,300	▲10.8%
Mining and Logging	0.5%	5,500	5,700	6,000	▼200	▼3.5%	▼500	▼8.3%
Construction	4.0%	44,100	44,800	41,700	▼700	▼1.6%	▲2,400	▲5.8%
Manufacturing	12.6%	140,200	141,500	123,000	▼1,300	▼0.9%	▲17,200	▲14.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.7%	232,300	233,100	212,300	▼800	▼0.3%	▲20,000	▲9.4%
Retail Trade	12.0%	132,400	132,700	121,000	▼300	▼0.2%	▲11,400	▲9.4%
Information	0.9%	9,400	9,400	9,400	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%
Financial Activities	3.9%	42,500	42,400	43,000	▲100	▲0.2%	▼500	▼1.2%
Services	36.2%	412,800	412,000	347,000	▲800	▲0.2%	▲65,800	▲19.0%
Professional & Business Services	9.6%	109,700	110,700	96,500	▼1,000	▼0.9%	▲13,200	▲13.7%
Educational Services	1.0%	11,700	11,500	9,600	▲200	▲1.7%	▲2,100	▲21.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.5%	128,400	127,900	122,600	▲500	▲0.4%	▲5,800	▲4.7%
Arts and Entertainment	0.7%	8,400	8,600	5,700	▼200	▼2.3%	▲2,700	▲47.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	9.8%	114,300	113,200	78,500	▲1,100	▲1.0%	▲35,800	▲45.6%
Other Services	3.5%	40,300	40,100	34,100	▲200	▲0.5%	▲6,200	▲18.2%
Government	21.3%	234,500	234,100	229,600	▲400	▲0.2%	▲4,900	▲2.1%

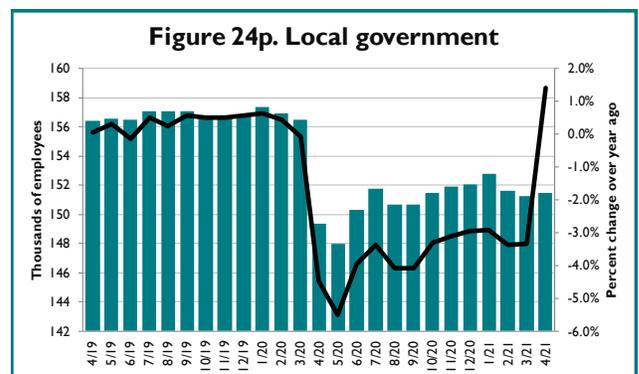
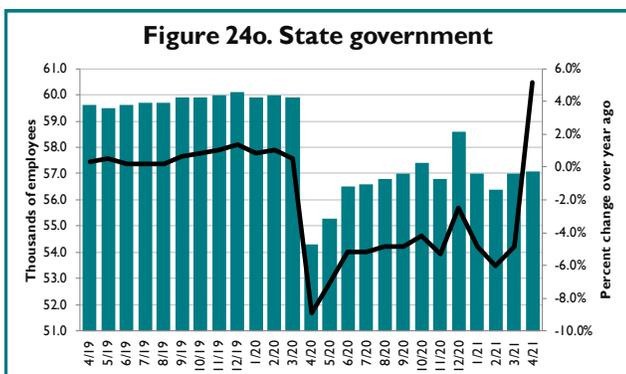
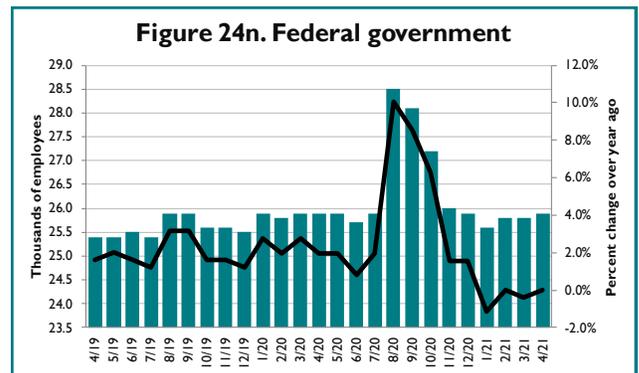
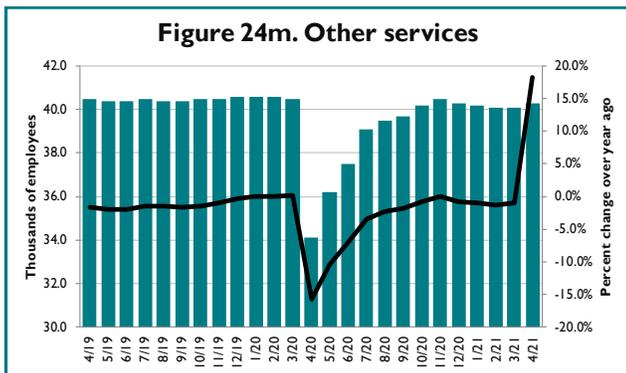
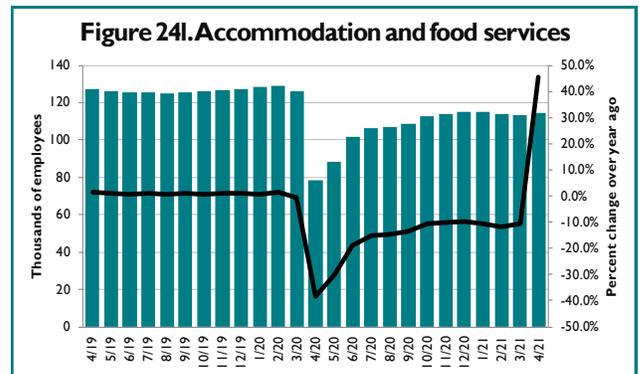
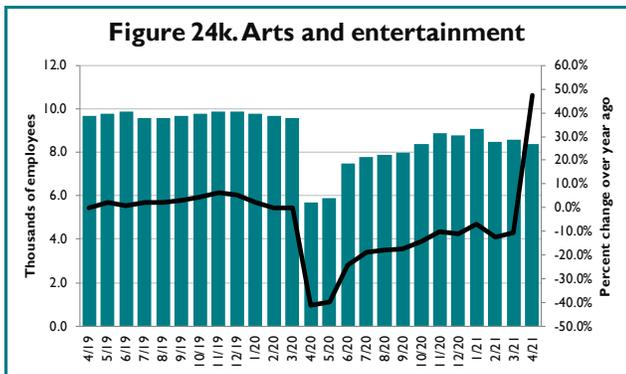
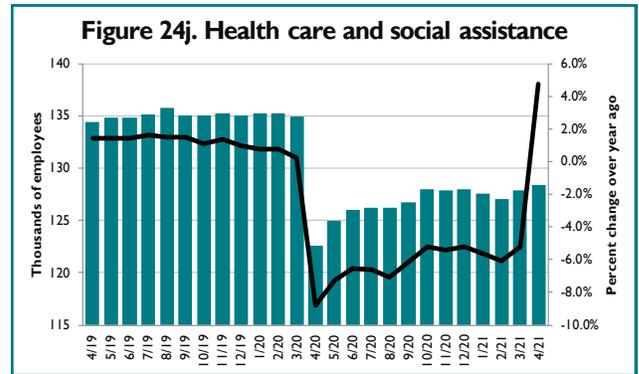
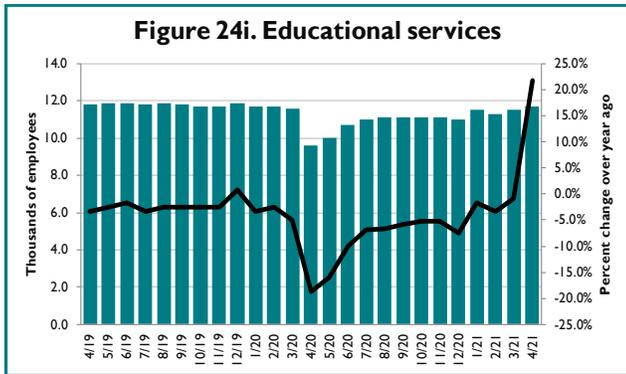
MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES



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

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES (CONTINUED)

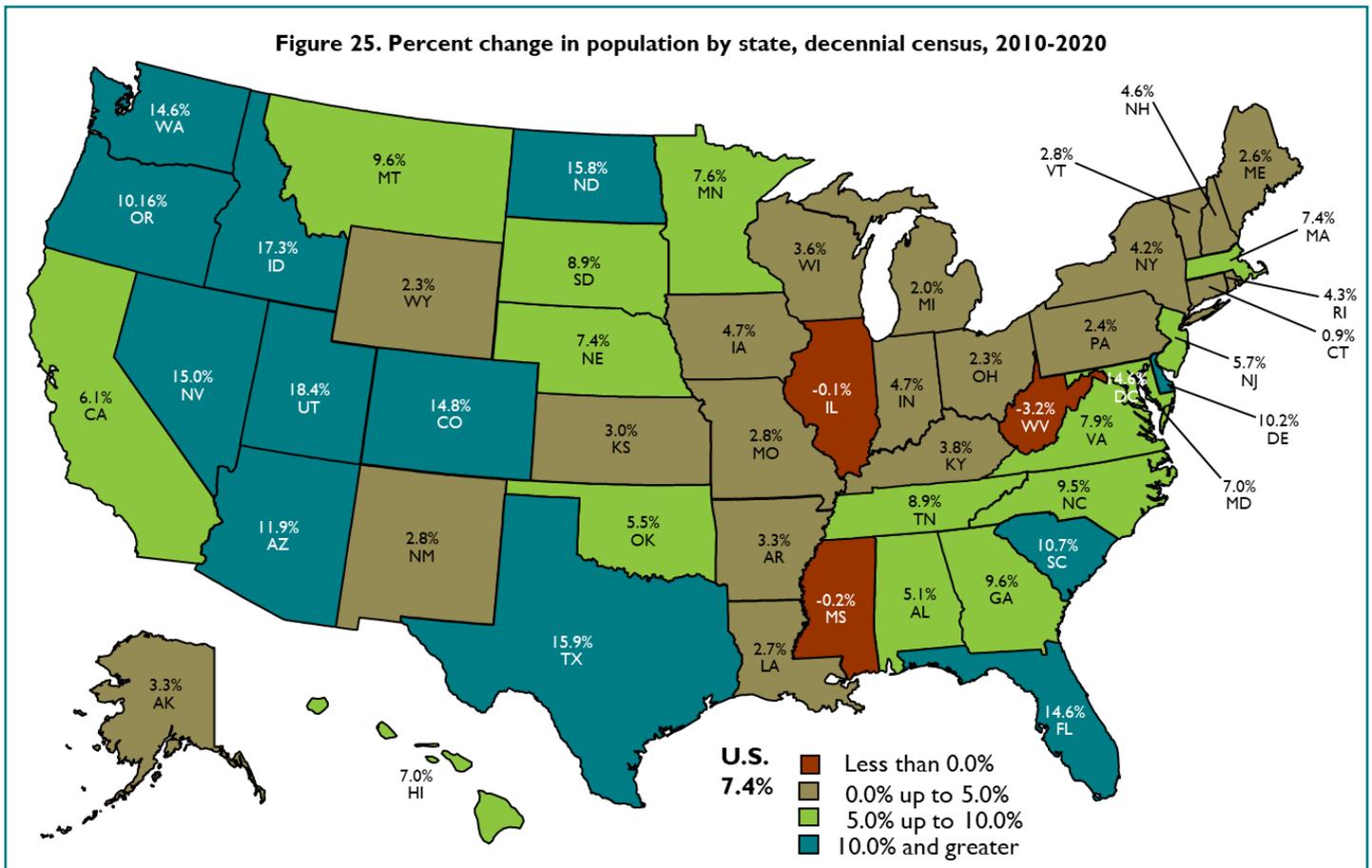


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (all figures); seasonally adjusted

2020 U.S. CENSUS FINDINGS

Population estimates for every state following the 2020 U.S. Census were recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Notably, Mississippi was one of three U.S. states that lost population over the last ten years, along with Illinois and West Virginia. Mississippi lost about 6,000 residents from 2010 to 2020. However, unlike Illinois and West Virginia the state will not lose a Congressional seat, which last occurred following the 2000 U.S. Census.

The U.S. population increased 7.4 percent between 2010 and 2020, adding almost 23 million residents over the period. The growth was the second slowest in the nation’s history, behind only the 1930 to 1940 period that encompassed most of the Great Depression. Figure 25 below depicts the percent change in population over the last decade by state. The largest increase occurred in Utah, where the population grew by 18.4 percent. Texas added about 4 million residents over the period, the most among all states. Additionally, of the twelve states where the population increased by more than 10 percent, nine were located west of the Mississippi River. Delaware, Florida, and South Carolina were the only eastern states with population growth of more than 10 percent. The map typifies the pattern of population shifts in the country for a number of years, which is more population growth in the West and South regions than in the Midwest and Northeast regions. The largest population decrease among all states occurred in West Virginia, where the population fell 3.2 percent, followed by the 0.2 percent decrease in Mississippi and the 0.1 percent decrease in Illinois. West Virginia lost almost 60,000 residents between 2010 and 2020, also the most among all states.



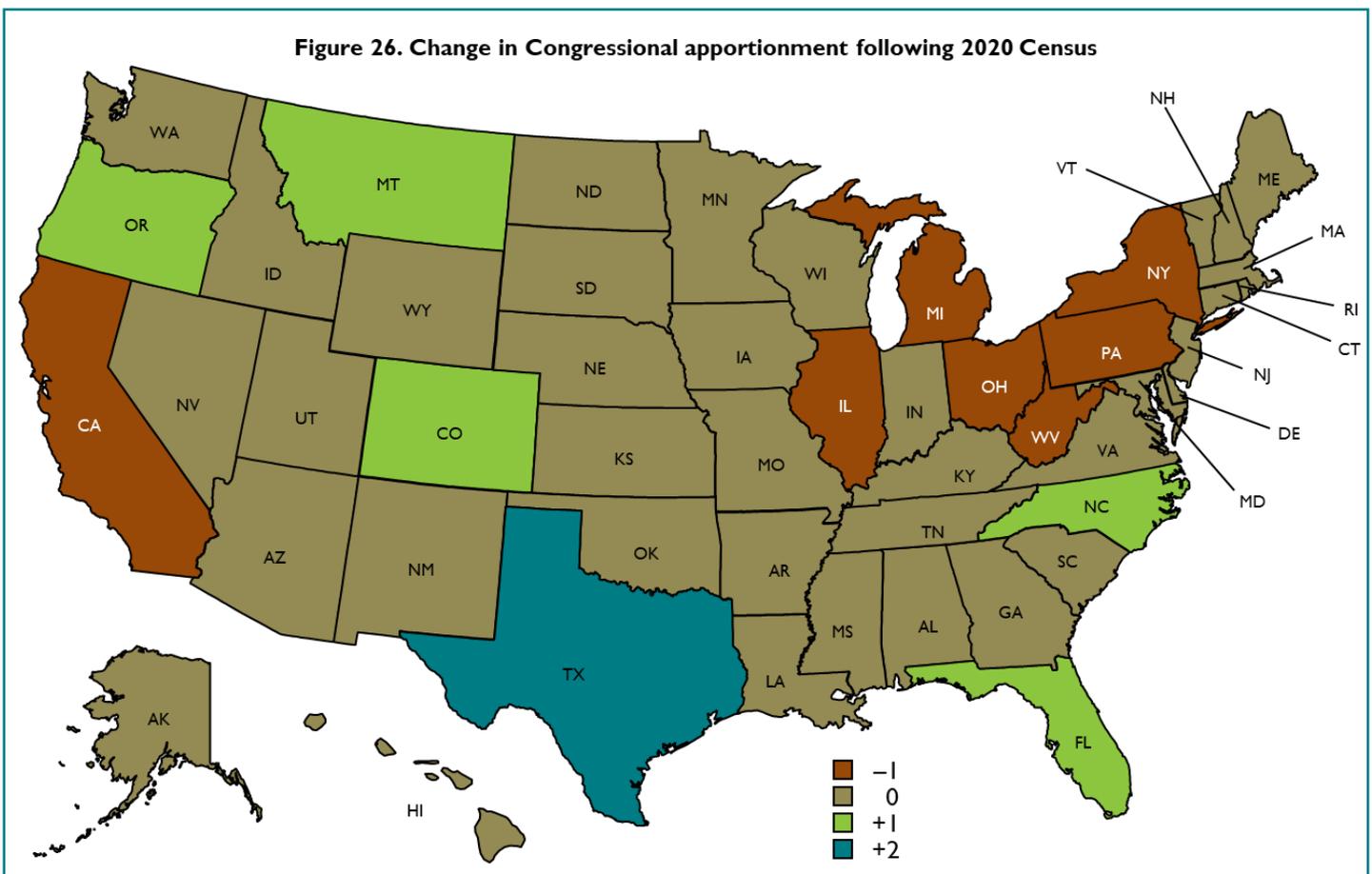
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses 2010-2020

MISSISSIPPI'S BUSINESS

2020 U.S. CENSUS FINDINGS, CONTINUED

As required by the U.S. Constitution, Congress will reapportion seats in the House of Representatives to reflect the changes in population following the 2020 Census. These changes are illustrated in Figure 26 below. The number of representatives will change in a total of thirteen states and these changes should become effective in time for the 2022 mid-term elections. Six states will add seats while seven states each will lose a seat. Texas will add two seats, the most among all states. The other five states highlighted in Figure 26 will add one seat each and include Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon.

Notably, the most populous state, California, will lose a Congressional seat for the first time in its history. The fourth most populous state, New York, will lose a seat as well, as it has lost at least one seat following every Census since 1940. The states of Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Ohio—which rank fifth, sixth, and seventh in terms of population, respectively—each will lose a seat prior to the 2022 elections. The other states that will lose a Congressional seat are Michigan and West Virginia; Michigan has lost six Congressional seats since 1970. As seen in Figure 26, other than California all of the states that lost Congressional representatives are located in the same area of the country, roughly where the Midwest and Northeast regions meet. In contrast, all of the states that gained one or more Congressional representatives are located in the South and West, which illustrates how changes in population can redistribute political power. Texas has added a total of eight seats since the 2000 Census while Florida has added five.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses 2010-2020