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## ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

*Editor's note: The delay of some data continues due to the federal government shutdown in late 2025, including leading indicators data. Therefore, the value of the Mississippi Leading Index for February is not included in this month's issue.*

Values of the Mississippi Coincident Index through February were not available at the time of publication due to annual revisions by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

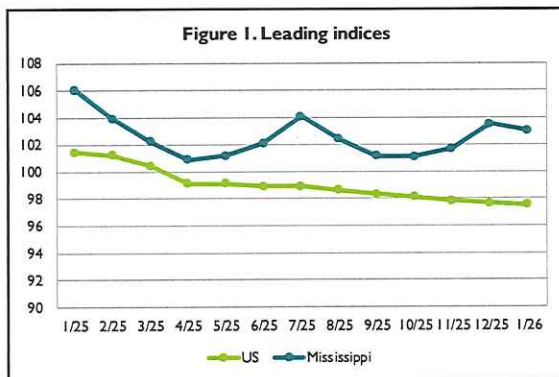
The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reported U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at a seasonally adjusted, annualized rate of 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2025 in its third estimate. This change represents a decrease of 0.2 percentage point from the agency's second estimate. The downward revision to real GDP growth in the fourth quarter was primarily due to a reduction in investment, specifically private inventory investment. Based on the latest estimate of fourth quarter growth, BEA reported U.S. real GDP expanded at a rate of 2.1 percent for all of 2025.

Available indicators data for February were again limited. Initial unemployment claims and consumer expectations were drags on the Mississippi Leading Index while retail spending and income tax withholdings made positive but relatively small contributions. Employment data for January were relatively weak, but thus far no data indicates job losses are outpacing job gains. Most economic data do not yet reflect impacts from the conflict with Iran; the longer the conflict persists and the longer energy prices stay elevated, the larger the negative impacts to the national and state economies.

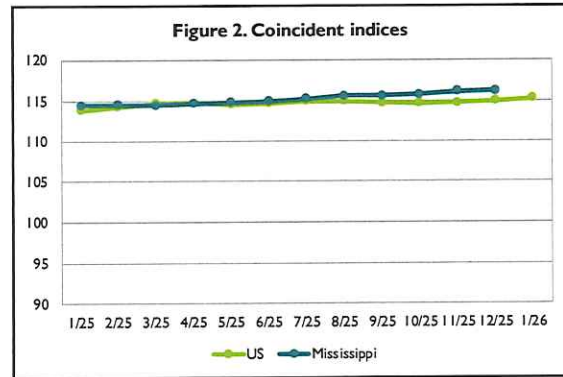
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*Monitoring the state's economy*



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 2017. 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 2017.

## MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDICATORS, FEBRUARY 2025

In February, the number of seasonally-adjusted **initial unemployment** claims in Mississippi surged 28.7 percent to the highest level since March 2025 as seen in Figure 4. The value for the month was up 17.1 percent compared to one year earlier, the first month with a year-over-year increase since April 2025. The number of seasonally-adjusted continued unemployment claims in Mississippi climbed 8.0 percent in February as seen in Figure 16 on page 6. Compared to one year earlier the number of continued unemployment claims in the state for the month was down 1.8 percent. The unemployment rate in Mississippi in January according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics was 3.6 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous month. Compared to one year ago, the rate was 0.3 percentage point lower in January.

After three consecutive monthly increases, the value of the **University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations** (three-month moving average) fell 1.7 percent in March as seen in Figure 5. The value for the month was down 11.2 percent compared to one year earlier. The conflict in the Middle East and the ensuing higher gasoline prices sent both expectations and sentiment lower in the most recent survey. Short-term (one-year) inflation expectations increased in the most recent survey for the first time since July 2025. However, long-term (five-year) inflation expectations moved slightly lower, an indication consumers may believe the surge in gasoline prices will be short-lived.

The value of the **ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity** increased 0.6 percent in March as seen in Figure 6. The value remained above the expansion threshold of 50.0 for the third consecutive month. Compared to one year earlier the value for the month was 7.6 percent higher, the largest year-over-year increase since August 2021. Three of the five components of the Index increased in value in March. The Supplier Deliveries component had the largest increase for the month. The New Orders component had the largest decrease. The value of the prices paid index climbed 7.8 percent in March and is up 19.3 percent in the last two months. Commodities reported up in price in March included aluminum, chemical products, copper, steel, corn, diesel fuel, and natural gas. No commodities were reported down in price in March. Commodities reported in short supply included electrical components, electronic components, rare earth components, memory, and semiconductors.

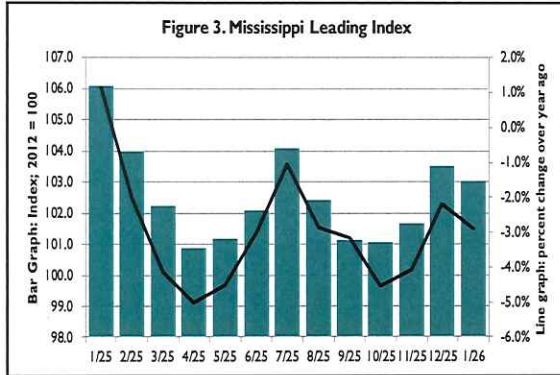
As seen in Figure 7, the value of **U.S. retail sales** rose 0.6 percent in February, its first increase since November. The value of retail sales in February was

3.7 percent higher compared to one year ago. The value of sales excluding automobiles and gasoline was 0.4 percent higher. The largest increase among all segments for the month occurred in Clothing and Accessories. Furniture and Home Furnishings and Food and Beverages had the largest decreases among all segments in February.

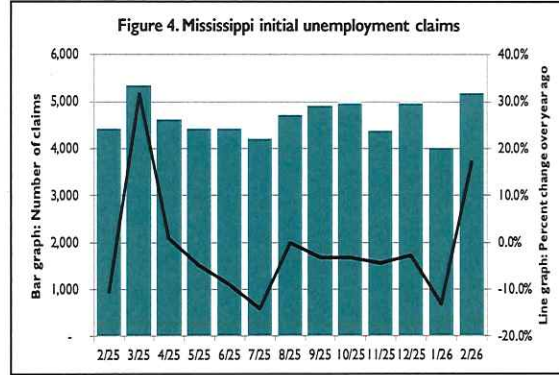
Figure 8 indicates the value of **Mississippi income tax withholdings** (three-month moving average) rose 0.4 percent in February, its first increase since October. Compared to one year earlier, the value of withholdings for the month was down 5.3 percent, the thirteenth consecutive month with a year-over-year decrease. Over the last six months the value of income tax withholdings in Mississippi fell 4.3 percent.

Data for the values of the **Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index** and **Mississippi residential building permits** for February were unavailable at the time of publication.

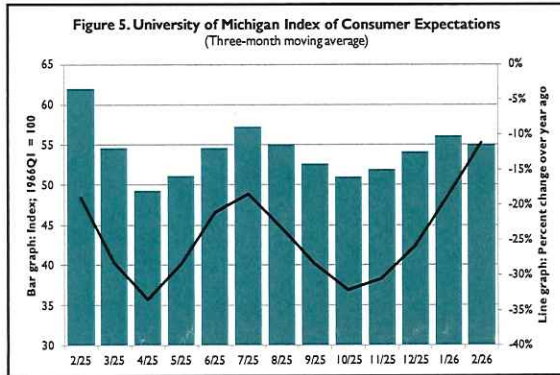
# MISSISSIPPI LEADING INDEX AND COMPONENTS, IN FIGURES



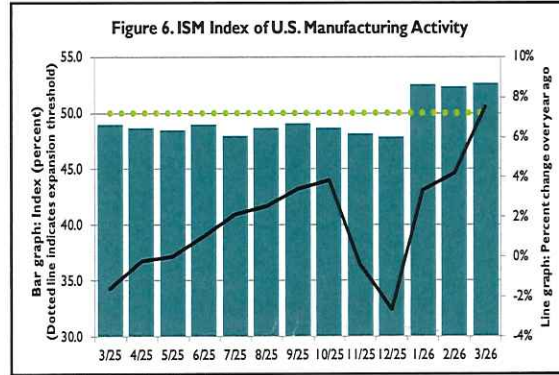
Source: University Research Center



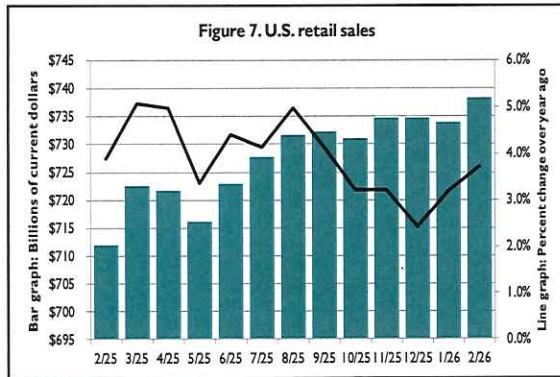
Sources: ETA, U.S. Department of Labor; URC (seasonal adjustment)



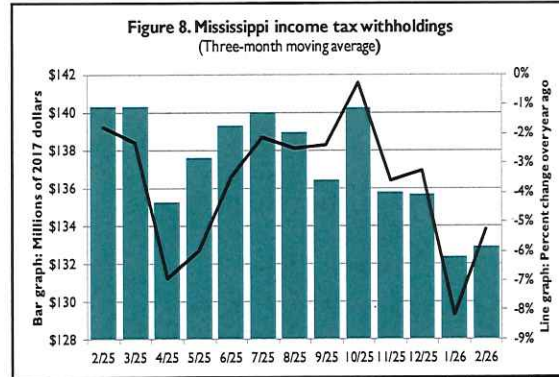
Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers



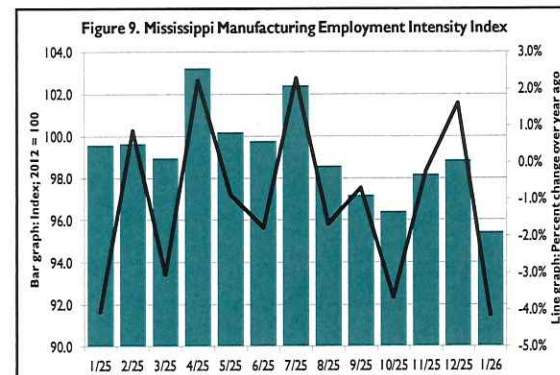
Source: Institute for Supply Management



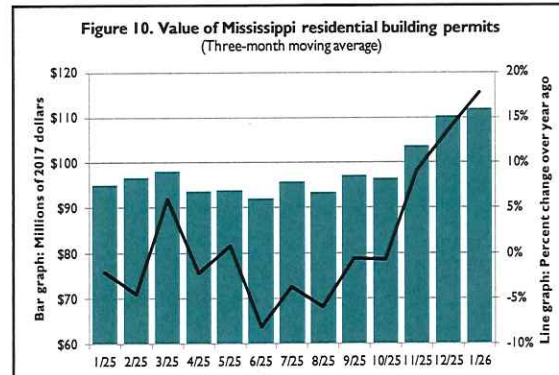
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, seasonally adjusted



Sources: Mississippi Department of Revenue; URC (seasonal adjustment)



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



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census; URC (seasonal adjustment)

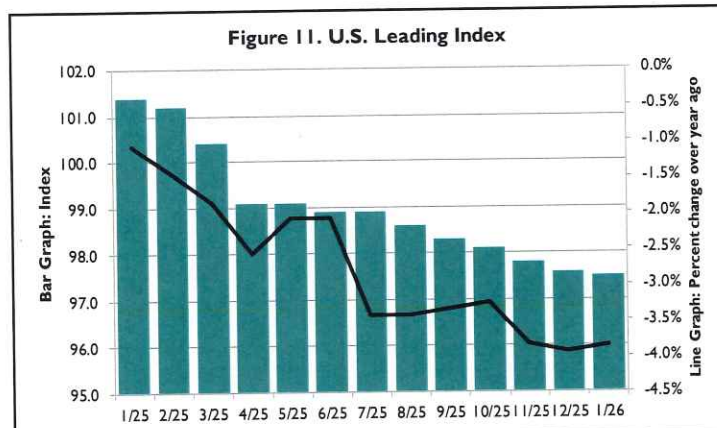
## NATIONAL TRENDS

In January the value of the U.S. Leading Economic Index (LEI) decreased 0.1 percent according to The Conference Board as seen in Figure 11. The value for the month was down 3.7 percent compared to one year ago. Four of the ten components of the LEI made negative contributions in January. The largest negative contribution was made by average consumer expectations for business conditions. Average weekly manufacturing hours made the largest positive contribution. The value of the LEI fell 1.3 percent over the previous six months.

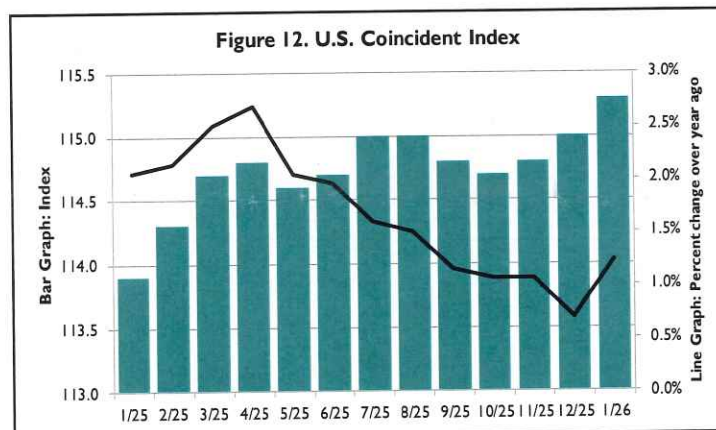
The Conference Board reported the value of the U.S. Coincident Economic Index (CEI) rose 0.3 percent in January as seen in Figure 12. Compared to one year earlier the value of the CEI was up 0.9 percent. All four components of the CEI made positive contributions in January. Industrial production made the largest contribution. Over the previous six months the value of the CEI increased 0.3 percent.

The value of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Small Business Optimism Index fell 0.2 percent in February to its lowest level since last October. As seen in Figure 13, compared to one year earlier the value of the Index was down 1.9 percent. Four of the ten components decreased in February and three were unchanged. The “expect real sales higher” component had the largest decrease while the “earnings trend” component had the largest increase. The “plans to raise prices” index gave back its increase from the previous month.

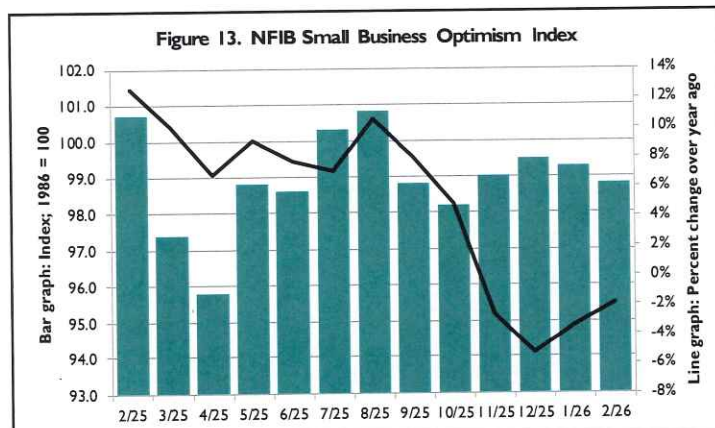
The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) made no changes to the federal funds rate target at its March meeting. This lack of action was not unexpected given the increased uncertainty created by the ongoing conflict in Iran. Because of the potential for higher oil prices to lead to higher inflation, some futures markets currently project the FOMC will make no reductions to the rate target in 2026. However, in its March forecast the firm S&P Global Market Intelligence projects two 25-basis point reductions this year, the first in July and the second in October. Both reductions are projected to occur one month later than in the previous month’s forecast.



Source: The Conference Board

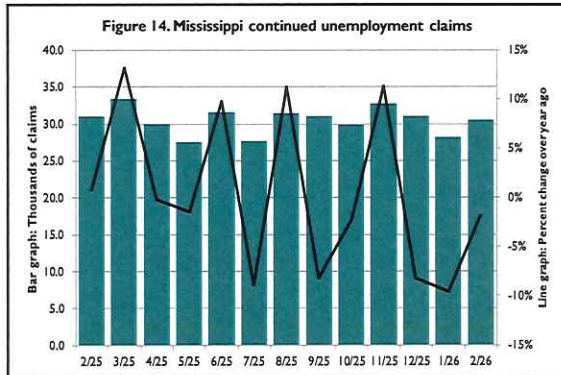


Source: The Conference Board

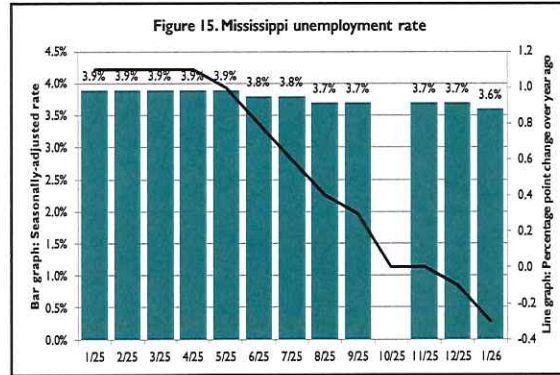


Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses

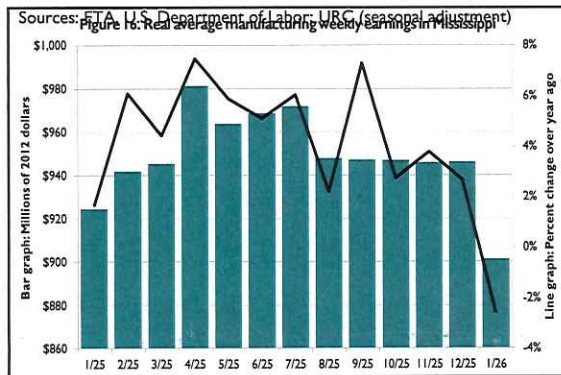
# MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INDICATORS, IN FIGURES



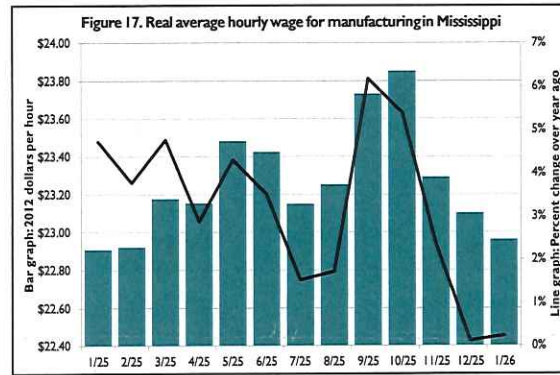
Sources: ETA, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; URC (seasonally adjusted)



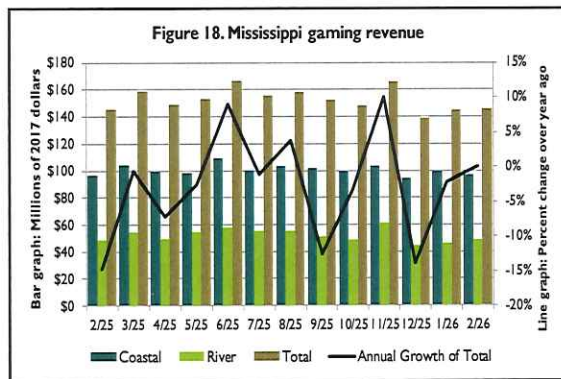
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (seasonally adjusted)



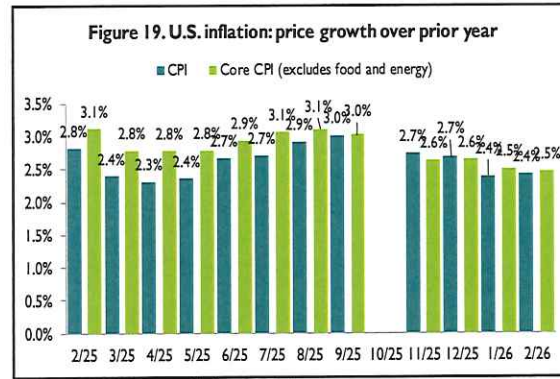
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, URC (seasonal adjustment)



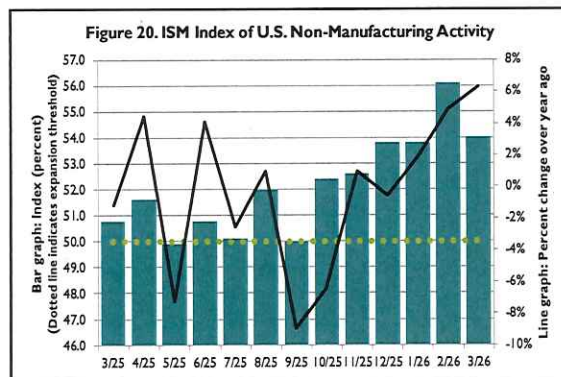
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, URC (seasonal adjustment)



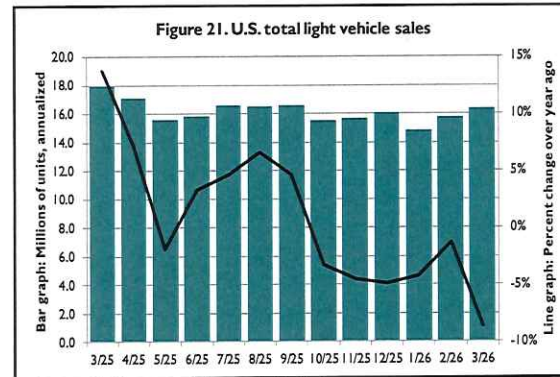
Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue, URC (seasonal adjustment)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: Institute for Supply Management



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Table I. Selected Economic Indicators**

Indicator	February	January	February	Percent change from	
	2026	2026	2025	January 2026	February 2025
<b>U.S. Leading Economic Index</b> 2017 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	N/A	97.5	101.2	N/A	N/A
<b>U.S. Coincident Economic Index</b> 2017 = 100. Source: The Conference Board	N/A	115.4	114.3	N/A	N/A
<b>Mississippi Leading Index</b> 2017 = 100. Source: University Research Center	N/A	103.0	104.0	N/A	N/A
<b>Mississippi Coincident Index</b> 2017 = 100. Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia	N/A	N/A	114.6	N/A	N/A
<b>Mississippi Initial Unemployment Claims</b> Seasonally adjusted. Source: ETA, U.S. Department of Labor.	5,167	4,014	4,414	▲28.7%	▲17.1%
<b>Value of Mississippi residential building permits</b> Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2017 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census	N/A	N/A	95.1	N/A	N/A
<b>Mississippi individual income tax withholdings</b> Three-month moving average; seasonally adjusted; millions of 2017 dollars. Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue	132.9	132.4	140.3	▲0.4%	▼5.3%
<b>Mississippi Manufacturing Employment Intensity Index</b> 2017 = 100. Source: URC using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	N/A	95.4	99.6	N/A	N/A
<b>University of Michigan Index of Consumer Expectations</b> Three-month moving average; 1996Q1 = 100. Source: Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers	55.1	56.1	62.0	▼1.7%	▼11.2%
<b>ISM Index of U.S. Manufacturing Activity</b> Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	52.7	52.4	49.0	▲0.6%	▲7.6%
<b>U.S. Retail Sales</b> Current dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census	738.4	734.0	711.9	▲0.6%	▲3.7%
<b>U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)</b> <b>U.S. Core CPI (excludes food and energy)</b> 1982-84 = 100. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	326.8 333.2	325.3 332.0	317.7 323.8	▲0.5% ▲0.4%	▲2.9% ▲2.9%
<b>Mississippi unemployment rate</b> Percentage point change; seasonally adjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	N/A	3.6%	3.9%	N/A	N/A
<b>Mississippi continued unemployment claims</b> Seasonally adjusted. Source: ETA, U.S. Department of Labor	30,492	28,236	31,061	▲8.0%	▼1.8%
<b>ISM Index of U.S. Non-Manufacturing Activity</b> Advanced one month. Source: Institute for Supply Management	54.0	56.1	50.8	▼3.7%	▲6.3%
<b>U.S. Mortgage Rates</b> Percentage point change; seasonally adjusted; 30-year conventional. Source: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	6.20%	6.30%	7.19%	▼0.10	▼0.99
<b>Mississippi average hourly wage for manufacturing</b> Seasonally adjusted; 2017 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	N/A	22.96	22.92	N/A	N/A
<b>Mississippi average weekly earnings for manufacturing</b> Seasonally adjusted; 2017 dollars. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	N/A	901.11	941.87	N/A	N/A
<b>NFIB Small Business Optimism Index</b> 1986 = 100. Source: National Federation of Independent Businesses	98.8	99.3	100.7	▼0.5%	▼1.9%
<b>U.S. total light vehicle sales</b> Millions of units seasonally adjusted at annual rates. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	16.34	15.76	17.89	▲3.7%	▼8.7%
<b>Gaming revenue</b>	145.26	145.13	145.2	▲0.1%	◀▶0.0%
Coastal counties	96.87	99.16	96.5	▼2.3%	▲0.4%
River counties	48.39	45.97	48.7	▲5.3%	▼0.7%

Economic Indices

Miscellaneous Indicators

## MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) completed its annual benchmark revisions to regional and state employment data this month. BLS reported that Mississippi added 3,217 jobs in 2025, an increase of 0.3 percent. This increase ranked 28th among all states. According to BLS, total nonfarm employment increased in thirty-five states in 2025.

Total nonfarm employment in Mississippi fell by 800 jobs in January according to BLS, a decrease of 0.1 percent. Compared to one year earlier total employment in the state was higher by 1,400 jobs as seen in Table 2, an increase of 0.1 percent.

BLS reported nonfarm employment increased in five states, decreased in the District of Columbia, and was essentially unchanged in forty-five states in January. California added 93,500 jobs, the most among all states, followed by Texas, which added 40,100 jobs, and Illinois, which added 18,000 jobs. Indiana and Iowa also added jobs in January. The largest percentage increase in employment among all states in January was the 0.5 percent gain in California.

Over the last twelve months as of January, employment increased in four states, decreased in Maryland and the District of Columbia, and was essentially unchanged in forty-five states. California added 131,200 jobs, the most among all states, followed by Texas, which added 112,200 jobs, South Carolina, which added 31,500 jobs, and Nevada, which added 30,200 jobs; the state also had the largest percentage increase in employment among all states over the last twelve months of 1.9 percent.

Four sectors in Mississippi added jobs in January. The Trade, Transportation and Utilities sector added 1,100 jobs for the month, the most among all sectors. The Educational Services sector had the largest percentage increase in employment among all sectors of 1.5 percent, a gain of 200 jobs. The Construction sector lost 900 jobs in January, the largest decrease among all sectors and the largest percentage decrease in employment in the state for the month of 1.7 percent. Employment in the Mining and Logging and Government sectors was unchanged in January according to BLS.

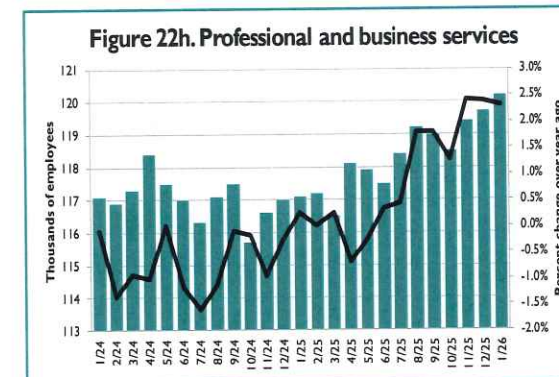
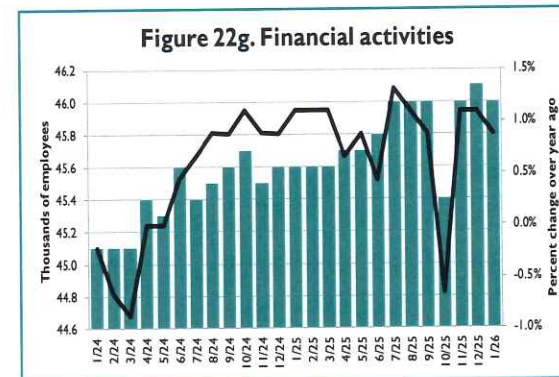
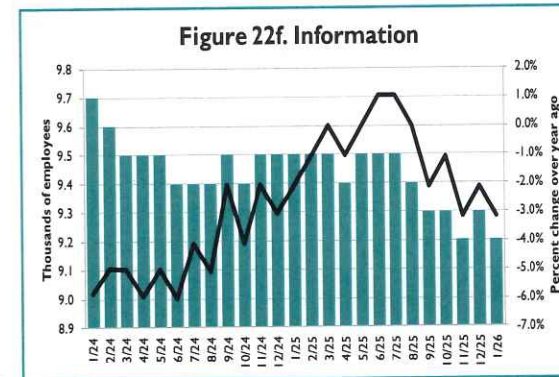
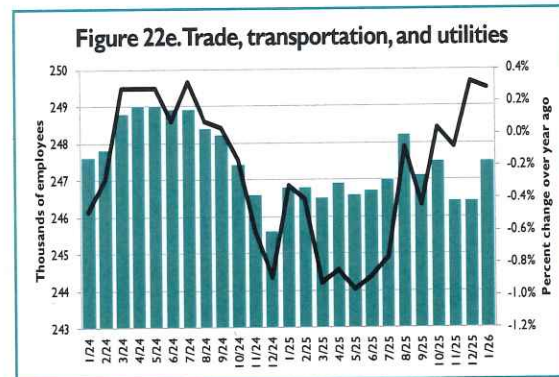
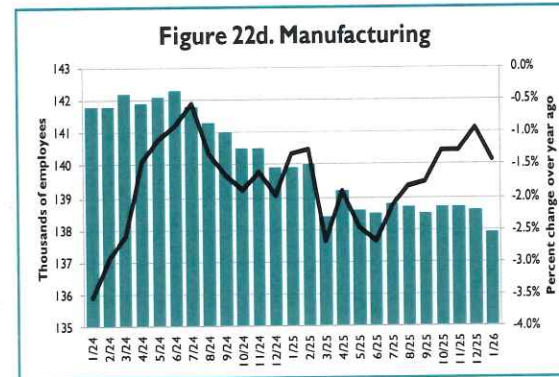
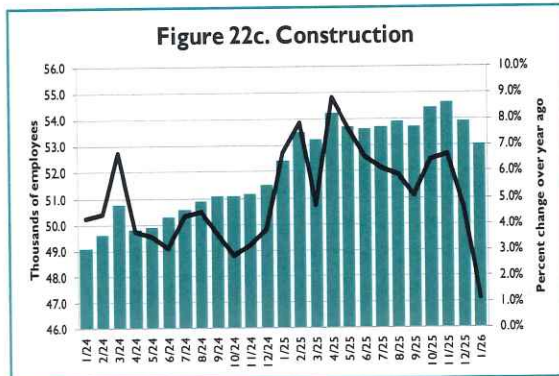
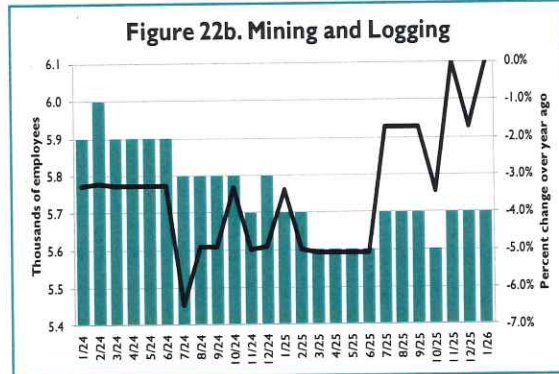
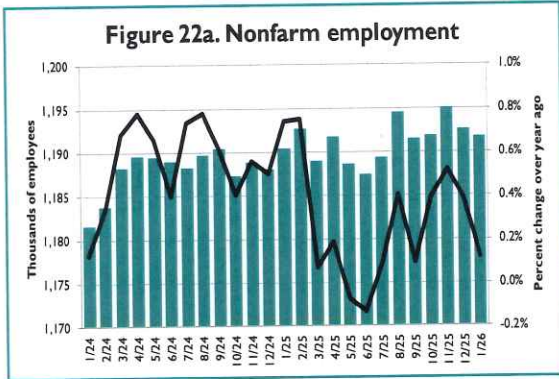
Over the past twelve months as of January, the Professional and Business Services sector added 3,100 jobs, the most among all sectors in the state. The Health Care and Social Assistance sector added 1,300 jobs over the past twelve months, the next largest increase. The largest percentage gain in employment among all sectors in the state over the last twelve months as of January was the 2.6 percent gain in Professional and Business Services. The Government sector lost 2,500 jobs over the last twelve months, the largest decrease among all sectors. Employment in the Information sector fell 3.2 percent over the last twelve months, the largest percentage decrease in employment among all sectors.

**Table 2 Change in Mississippi employment by industry, January 2026**

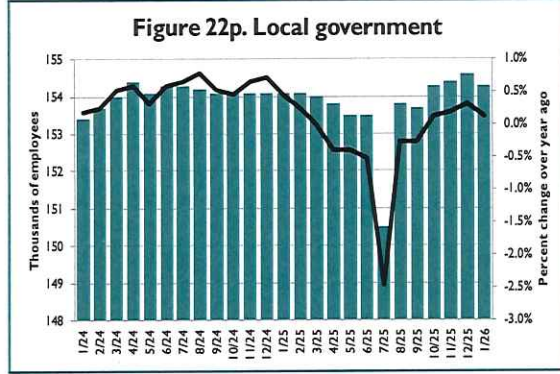
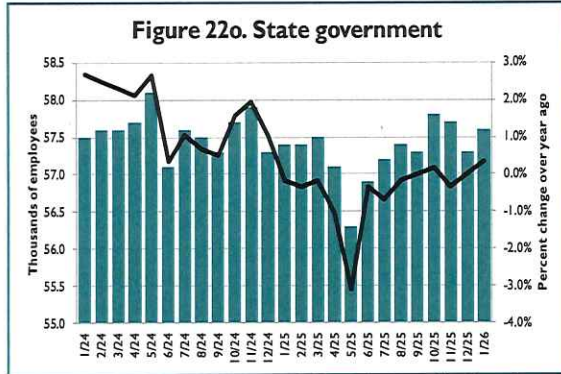
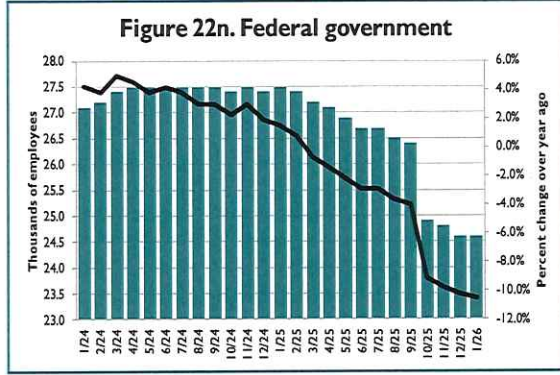
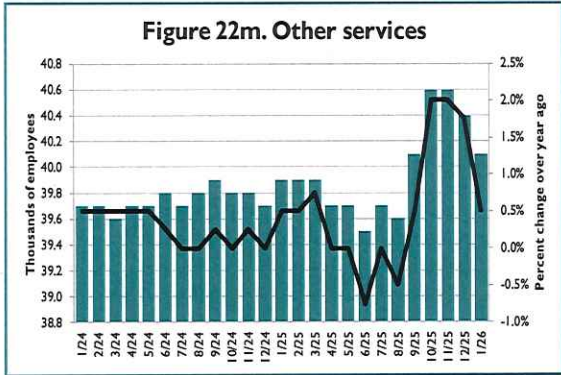
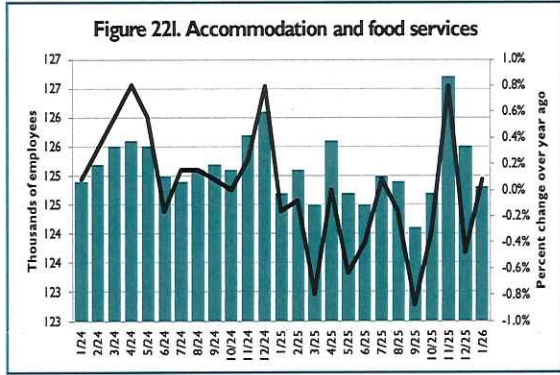
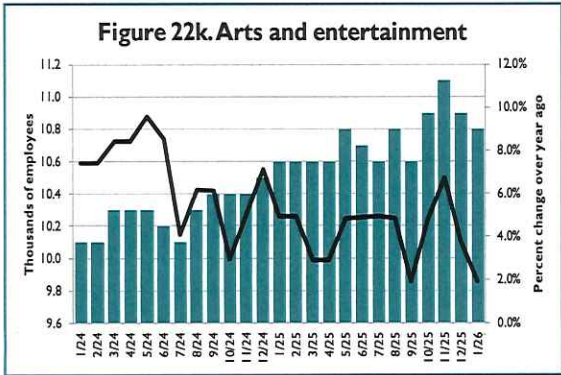
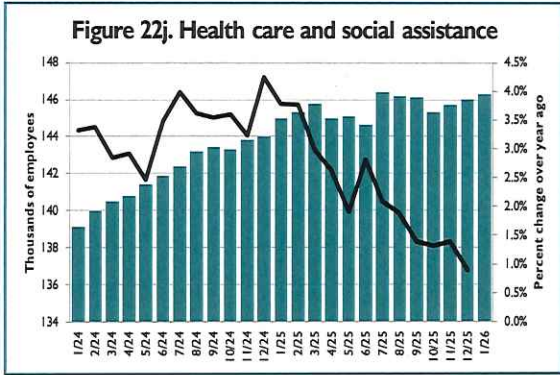
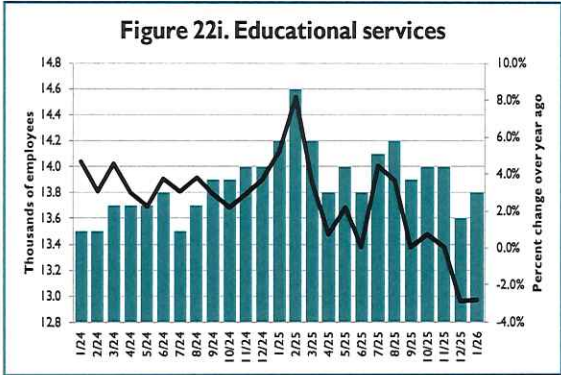
	Relative share of total <sup>a</sup>	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	Change from December 2025		Change from January 2025	
					Level	Percent	Level	Percent
Total Nonfarm	100.0%	1,191,800	1,192,600	1,190,400	▼800	▼0.1%	▲1,400	▲0.1%
Mining and Logging	0.5%	5,700	5,700	5,700	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%
Construction	4.5%	53,000	53,900	52,400	▼900	▼1.7%	▲600	▲1.1%
Manufacturing	11.6%	137,900	138,600	139,900	▼700	▼0.5%	▼2,000	▼1.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.7%	247,500	246,400	246,800	▲1,100	▲0.4%	▲700	▲0.3%
Retail Trade	11.6%	138,200	138,400	138,000	▼200	▼0.1%	▲200	▲0.1%
Information	0.8%	9,200	9,300	9,500	▼100	▼1.1%	▼300	▼3.2%
Financial Activities	3.8%	46,000	46,100	45,600	▼100	▼0.2%	▲400	▲0.9%
Services	38.1%	456,000	456,100	451,500	▼100	◀▶0.0%	▲4,500	▲1.0%
Professional & Business Services	9.9%	120,200	119,700	117,100	▲500	▲0.4%	▲3,100	▲2.6%
Educational Services	1.2%	13,800	13,600	14,200	▲200	▲1.5%	▼400	▼2.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	12.2%	146,300	146,000	145,000	▲300	▲0.2%	▲1,300	▲0.9%
Arts and Entertainment	0.9%	10,800	10,900	10,600	▼100	▼0.9%	▲200	▲1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	10.5%	124,800	125,500	124,700	▼700	▼0.6%	▲100	▲0.1%
Other Services	3.4%	40,100	40,400	39,900	▼300	▼0.7%	▲200	▲0.5%
Government	19.9%	236,500	236,500	239,000	◀▶0	◀▶0.0%	▼2,500	▼1.0%

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

# MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY SECTOR, IN FIGURES



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



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

## CHANGE IN REAL GDP BY STATE IN 2025

In 2025 real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in all fifty states and the District of Columbia according to the latest estimate of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Real GDP for Mississippi increased 1.6 percent in 2025, which ranked thirty-second among all states. The 2025 estimate for the state marked a decline from the 2024 estimate of an increase in real GDP of 3.3 percent. Real GDP for Mississippi grew at a rate of more than 1.0 percent in 2025 for the third consecutive year for the first time since 2008.

Table 3 lists the contributions by sector to the 1.6 percent increase in the state's real GDP in 2025 in order from largest to smallest. (BEA's preliminary estimates only include the changes in major industries.) The Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental and Leasing sector made the largest contribution to the state's real GDP growth in 2025. The sector added 0.50 percentage point to growth. The next largest contribution came from the Manufacturing sector, which added 0.30 percentage point to real GDP growth. The third largest contribution was made by the Health Care and Social Assistance sector, which added 0.23 percentage point to growth. The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector made the next largest contribution of 0.20 percentage point to real GDP growth. These four sectors together increased Mississippi's real GDP by 1.2 percentage points, more than the positive contributions of all other sectors combined. These

contributions were followed by the 0.17 percentage point added by the Construction sector. The Wholesale Trade sector followed with a positive contribution of 0.10 percentage point. Eight other sectors each made positive contributions to real GDP growth in 2025 of less than 0.10 percentage point. The Utilities sector and the Accommodation and Food Services sector both made the largest negative contribution to Mississippi real GDP in 2025 of -0.08 percentage point each. Three other sectors reduced real GDP for the state by less than 0.05 percentage point.

Figure 23 on page 11 depicts the percentage change in real GDP for all states in 2025. The largest increase in real GDP among all states and the District of Columbia occurred in South Carolina and Florida, where real GDP expanded by 3.1 percent. The third largest increase in real GDP in 2025 was the 2.9 percent increase in New York, closely followed by the 2.8 percent increases in Utah and Alaska. The smallest increase in real GDP among all states and the District of Columbia in 2025 was the 0.3 percent increase in North Dakota.

Nationally, the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing sector was the largest contributor to growth in 2025. The sector made positive contributions to real GDP growth in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, and Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing was the leading contributor to growth in South Carolina and Florida, the states with the largest increases in real GDP in 2025, as well as New York, the state with the third largest increase in real GDP. The Information sector was the second largest contributor to growth nationally in 2025, and the sector made positive contributions to growth in forty-eight states and the District of Columbia. The largest negative contributor to growth nationally in 2025 was the Accommodation and Food Services sector, which subtracted from real GDP growth in forty-two states and the District of Columbia. The Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sector made positive contributions to real GDP growth in seventeen states in 2025, negative contributions to growth

**Table 3. Contributions to percent change in Mississippi real GDP by sector, 2025**

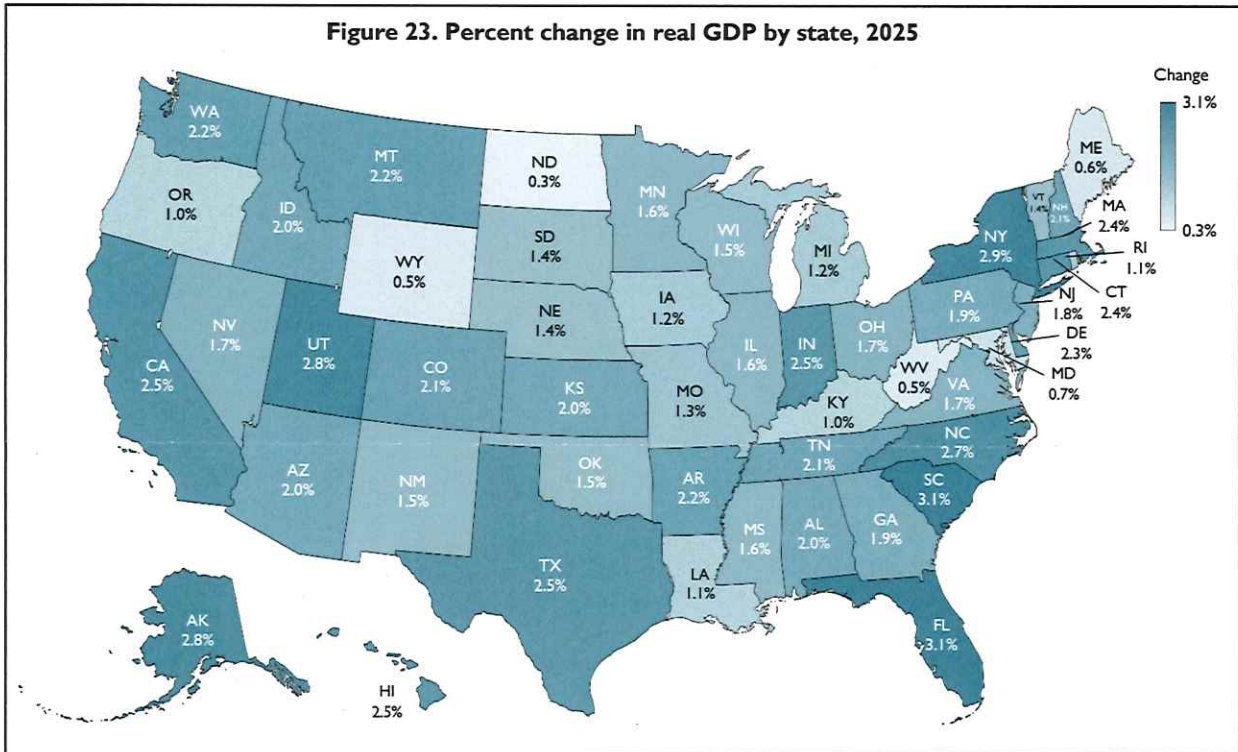
Sector	Percentage points
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	0.50
Manufacturing	0.30
Health care and social assistance	0.23
Professional, scientific, and technical services	0.20
Construction	0.17
Wholesale trade	0.10
Information	0.09
Management of companies and enterprises	0.07
Retail trade	0.07
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	0.03
Administrative and support and waste management	0.03
Educational services	0.02
Transportation and warehousing	0.02
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	0.01
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	-0.03
Government and government enterprises	-0.04
Other services	-0.04
Utilities	-0.08
Accommodation and food services	-0.08

Total may not add due to rounding. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## CHANGE IN REAL GDP BY STATE IN 2025 (CONTINUED)

in thirty-one states including Mississippi, and no contribution in two states and the District of Columbia. Notably, the sector made the largest negative contribution to real GDP growth in North Dakota, the state with the smallest increase in real GDP in 2025.

The GDP data by state reported by BEA should be viewed with a couple of caveats, as is usually the case. The 2025 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. BEA uses spending on final goods and services, investment, and net foreign trade as a basis in its estimates of national GDP, which is the typical textbook calculation of GDP. However, the agency derives state GDP from incomes earned and costs of production.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

