

Submitted by Carly Van Syckle

Summary: Several annual indicators were released this week showing an overall decrease in labor productivity across states and industries and an overall increase in employment in the largest U.S. counties in 2022. Estimates for the first quarter of 2023 displayed an increase in real GDP, current-dollar personal income, and disposable personal income. While initial unemployment claims increased at a national level, they displayed a slight decrease in Tennessee. The Federal Reserve reported that “overall financial well-being declined markedly” from 2021 to 2022. In the housing market, sales of new single-family houses in April showed an increase from the prior month and April 2022 levels.

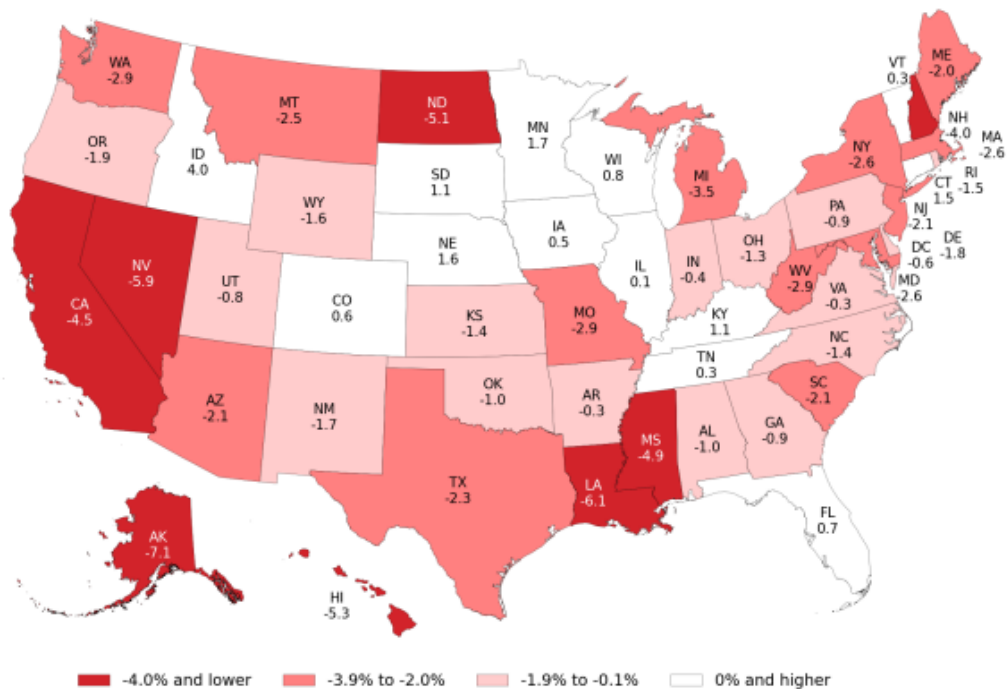
Federal Government Indicators and Reports

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Wednesday, [County Employment and Wages](#): “From December 2021 to December 2022, employment increased in 325 of the 355 largest U.S. counties. . . . In December 2022, national employment increased to 152.3 million, a 2.6-percent increase over the year. . . . In the fourth quarter of 2022, average weekly wages for the nation decreased to \$1,385, a 2.3-percent decrease over the year.”

Thursday, [Productivity by State](#): “Labor productivity in the private nonfarm sector declined in 37 states and the District of Columbia in 2022. . . . Output increased in 43 states and the District. Hours worked increased in 48 states and the District.” Tennessee saw a 0.3 percent growth in labor productivity in 2022 in the private nonfarm sector.

Chart 1. Labor productivity by state, percent change, 2022



Thursday, [Productivity and Costs by Industry](#): “Labor productivity declined 1.2 percent in the wholesale trade and 0.4 percent in retail trade in 2022. . . . Unit labor costs, which reflect the total labor costs required to produce a unit of output, rose in both wholesale trade and retail trade. . . . Annual productivity decreased in retail trade for the first time since 2008.”

Department of Labor

Thursday, [Initial Unemployment Claims](#): “In the week ending May 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 229,000, an increase of 4,000 from the previous week’s revised level.” There were 2,738 initial claims in Tennessee for the week ending May 20, a decrease of 427 from the previous week.

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Thursday, [GDP First Quarter 2023 \(Second Estimate\)](#): “Real gross domestic product increased at an annual rate of 1.3 percent in the first quarter of 2023. . . . Current-dollar personal income increased \$251.3 billion in the first quarter, a downward revision of \$27.6 billion from the previous estimate. . . . Disposable personal income increased \$561.6 billion, or 12.3 percent, in the first quarter, a downward revision of \$9.6 billion from the previous estimate. . . . Personal saving was \$829.2 billion in the first quarter, a downward revision of \$6.1 billion from the previous estimate. . . . Profits from current production (corporate profits with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments) decreased \$151.1 billion in the first quarter, compared with a decrease of \$60.5 billion in the fourth quarter.”

Friday, [Personal Income](#): “Personal income increased \$80.1 billion (0.4 percent at a monthly rate) in April. . . . Disposable personal income increased \$79.4 billion (0.4 percent) and personal consumption expenditures increased \$151.7 billion (0.8 percent).”

Economic Indicators and Confidence

Federal Reserve

Monday, [Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2022](#): “Overall financial well-being declined markedly over the prior year. Seventy-three percent of adults were at least okay financially in 2022, down 5 percentage points from 2021. . . . More adults experienced spending increases than income increases. . . . As an indication of workers’ strong labor market options, one-third of adults received a raise or promotion in 2022 and 13 percent of adults asked for a raise or promotion. . . . Progress toward retirement savings goals declined in 2022. Thirty-one percent of non-retirees thought their retirement savings plan was on track, down from 40 percent in 2021.”

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Thursday, [National Activity Index](#): “Led by improvement in production-related indicators, [the index] rose to +0.07 in April from -0.37 in March.”

Mortgages and Housing Markets

U.S. Census

Tuesday, [New Residential Sales](#): “Sales of new single-family houses in April 2023 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 683,000. . . . This is 4.1 percent above the revised March rate of 656,000 and is 11.8 percent above the April 2022 estimate of 611,000. . . . The median sales price of new houses sold in April 2023 was \$420,800. The average sales price was \$501,000. . . . The seasonally-adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of April was 433,000.”

Mortgage Bankers Association

Wednesday, [Mortgage Applications](#): “Mortgage applications decreased 4.6 percent from one week earlier. . . . The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with conforming loan balances (\$726,200 or less) increased to 6.69 percent from 6.57 percent. . . . The average contract interest rate for 15-year fixed-rate mortgages increased to 6.15 percent from 5.96 percent.”

National Association of Realtors

Thursday, [Pending Home Sales](#): “Pending home sales were unchanged in April. . . . Month over month, contract signings improved in three U.S. regions but dropped in the Northeast. . . . Pending home sales fell in all four regions compared to one year ago.”