

# Regional Surveys of Business Activity

## Carolinas Survey of Business Activity

April 27, 2023

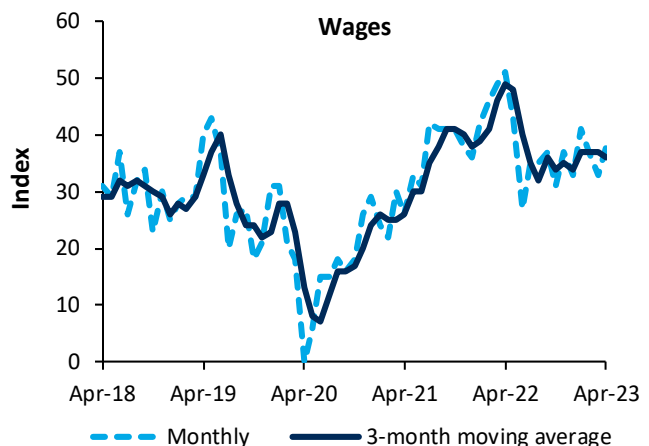
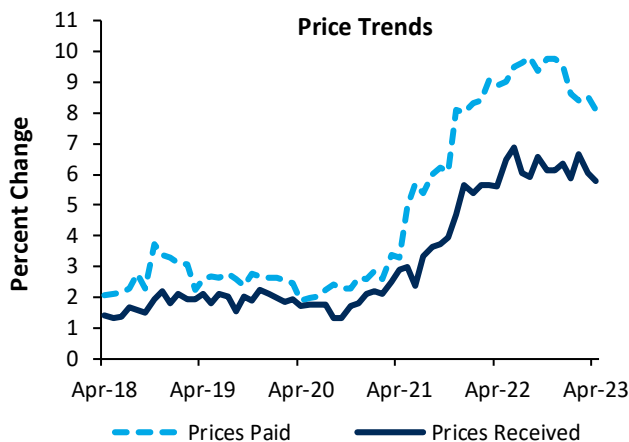
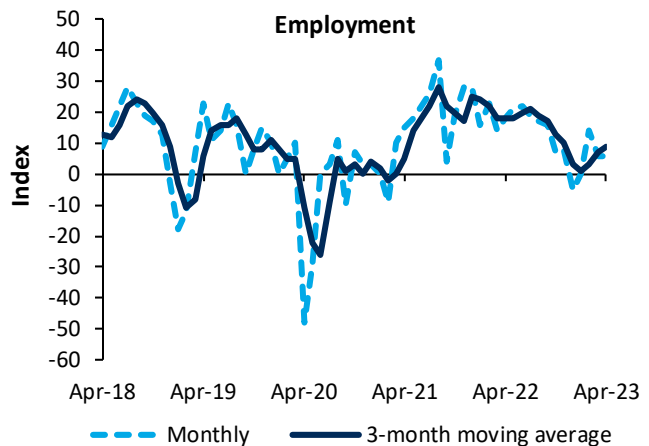
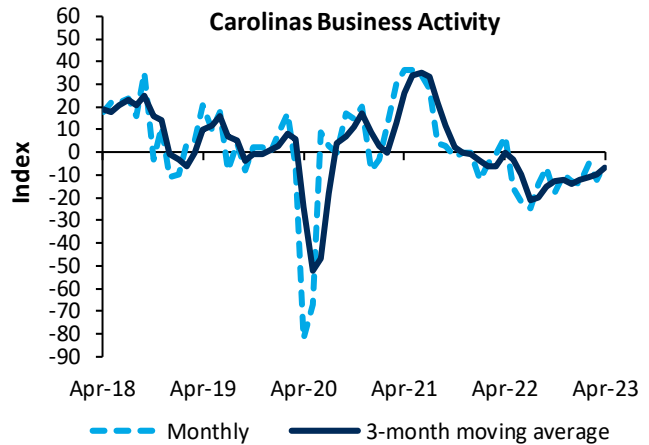
### Business Activity in the Carolinas Improved Modestly in April

Firms in the Carolinas reported modest improvements in business activity in April, according to the most recent survey from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The general business conditions index rose from -12 in March to -5 in April. The corresponding expectations index, however, fell from 6 to 1.

The sales index improved substantially to 14, while the index measuring expected sales fell but remained solidly in positive territory. All three spending indexes fell, but the indexes for total capital expenditures and equipment and software expenditures remained positive.

Survey results suggested that some firms increased employment in April, as the employment index remained unchanged at 6 in April. The wages index increased slightly and remained high. Firms generally expect wages to continue increasing over the near-term and anticipate some improvement in their ability to find workers with the desired skills.

The average year-over-year growth in prices paid and prices received edged downward in April. Firms expect price growth to moderate over the next year.



# Regional Surveys of Business Activity

Carolinas Survey of Business Activity

April 27, 2023

## Business Activity Indexes<sup>1,4</sup>

Business Conditions in the Carolinas	Current Conditions			Expectations <sup>2</sup>		
	Apr-23	Mar-23	Feb-23	Apr-23	Mar-23	Feb-23
General Business Conditions	-5	-12	-5	1	6	2
Sales	14	-6	-3	20	38	17
<b>Employment</b>						
Number of Employees	6	6	14	20	22	29
Availability of Skills Needed	1	2	2	6	9	5
Wages	38	33	37	44	55	52
<b>Spending</b>						
Business Services Expenditures	-10	-2	-3	-7	0	3
Total Capital Expenditures	4	8	4	18	16	14
Equipment or Software Expenditures	3	9	5	6	15	12
<b>Price Trends<sup>3</sup></b>						
Prices Paid for Inputs	8.10	8.53	8.43	4.47	4.63	5.10
Prices Received for Outputs	5.77	6.06	6.66	3.76	3.43	4.28

### Technical Notes:

- Each index equals the percentage of responding firms reporting increase minus the percentage reporting decrease. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Results are based on responses from 51-86 firms.
- Expectations refer to the time period six months out from the survey period.
- Current price changes are percentages over the last 12 months. Expected price changes are expected changes over the next 12 months.
- All firms surveyed are located within the states of North Carolina and South Carolina.

For further information, contact Jason Kosakow at 571.287.0448 or [Jason.Kosakow@rich.frb.org](mailto:Jason.Kosakow@rich.frb.org)