

Regional Surveys of Business Activity

Carolinas Survey of Business Activity

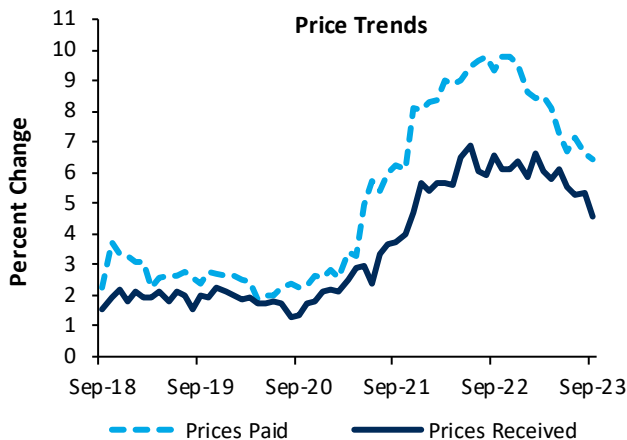
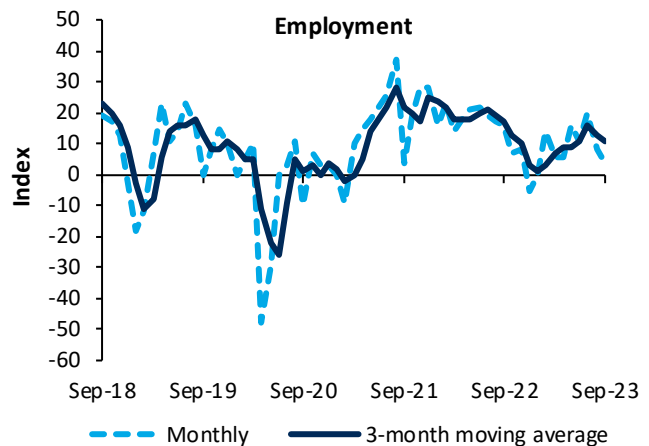
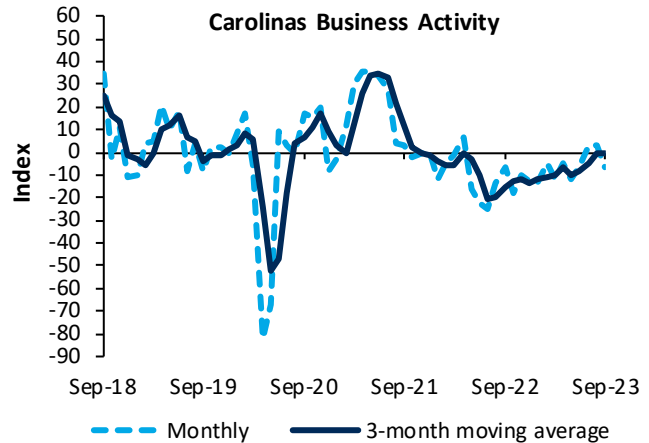
September 28, 2023

Business Activity in the Carolinas Was Relatively Flat in September

Business activity in the Carolinas was relatively flat in September, according to the most recent survey from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Although the general business conditions index fell from 3 in August to -7 in September (and the expectations index fell from 2 to -2), the sales index inched up from 0 in August to 1 in September. Changes in the three spending indexes were mixed, but small.

The employment index fell slightly to 4 in September while the wages index remained elevated, and firms reported improvement in their ability to find workers with the necessary skills. Firms expected wages to continue increasing over the near-term and anticipated some further improvement in their ability to find workers with the desired skills over the next six months.

The average year-over-year growth in prices paid decreased slightly, while growth in prices received decreased somewhat more in September. Firms expect price growth to moderate over the next year.



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Business Activity Indexes ^{1, 4}						
Business Conditions in the Carolinas	Current Conditions			Expectations ²		
	Sep-23	Aug-23	Jul-23	Sep-23	Aug-23	Jul-23
General Business Conditions	-7	3	3	-2	2	1
Sales	1	0	5	14	14	11
Employment						
Number of Employees	4	8	20	15	8	10
Availability of Skills Needed	4	-7	-3	8	4	8
Wages	24	27	20	46	53	39
Spending						
Business Services Expenditures	-2	-2	6	-6	-7	2
Total Capital Expenditures	6	8	-4	8	17	14
Equipment or Software Expenditures	7	4	8	14	8	16
Price Trends³						
Prices Paid for Inputs	6.44	6.65	7.13	4.05	4.30	4.19
Prices Received for Outputs	4.60	5.32	5.27	3.18	3.09	3.25

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 48-96 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