

Regional Surveys of Business Activity

Maryland Survey of Business Activity

May 31, 2024

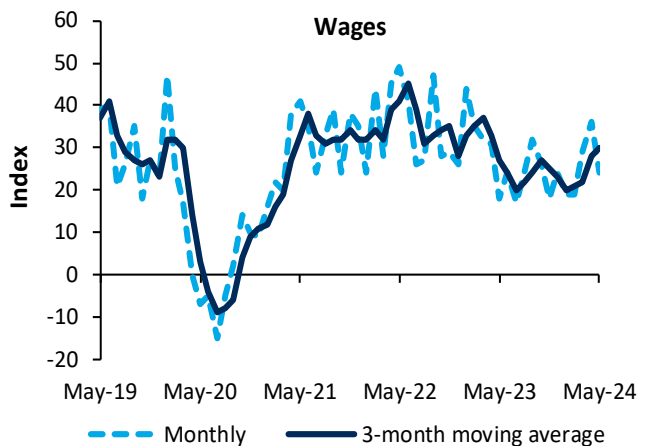
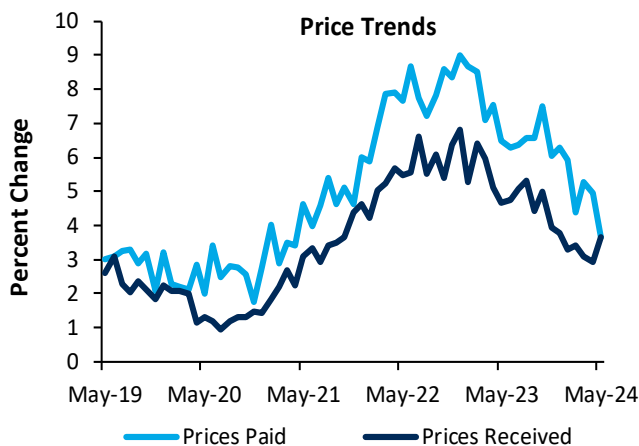
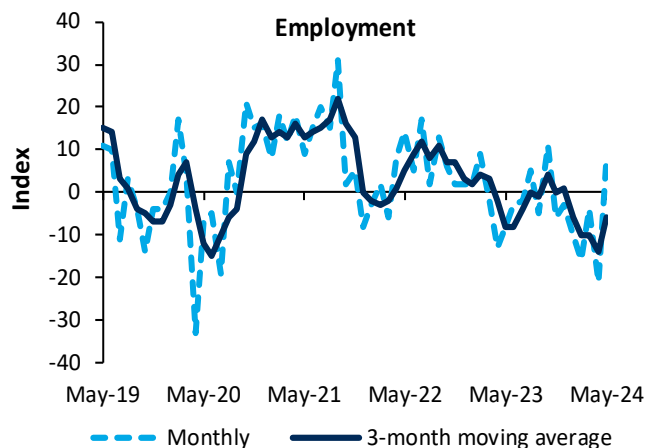
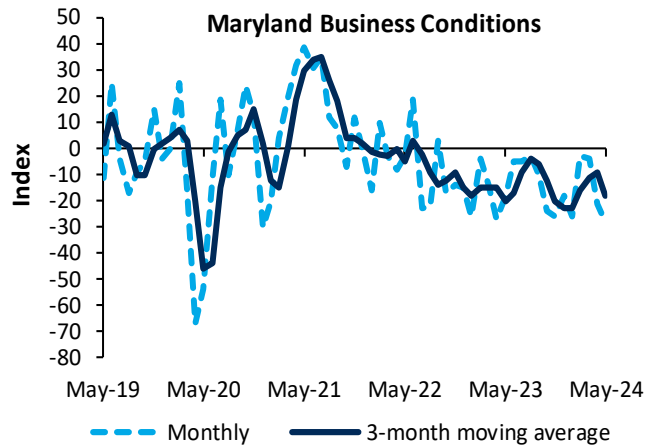
Business Activity in Maryland Deteriorated in May

Maryland firms reported declining business conditions in May, according to the most recent survey from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The general business conditions index decreased from -21 to -28 in May. Meanwhile the current sales index rose notably from -43 in April to -8 in May. The future indexes for business conditions and sales decreased but remained in positive territory, suggesting that, on balance, businesses expect improvements in these areas over the next six months.

Two of the three spending indexes increased in May. The equipment and software spending index rose the most, from -21 to -8.

The employment index increased notably to 8 in May, and firms reported improvement in their ability to find workers with the desired skills. Firms, however, anticipate increased difficulty finding workers with the necessary skills over the coming months. Meanwhile, the wages index remained elevated.

On average, year-over-year growth in prices paid decreased, while growth in prices received increased. Firms expect growth in prices to moderate somewhat over the next 12 months.



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Business Activity Indexes ¹						
Business Conditions in Maryland	Current Conditions			Expectations ²		
	May-24	Apr-24	Mar-24	May-24	Apr-24	Mar-24
General Business Conditions	-28	-21	-4	4	14	8
Sales	-8	-43	-13	16	32	29
Employment						
Number of Employees	8	-21	-4	0	7	0
Availability of Skills Needed	-4	-25	-21	-16	-14	-12
Wages	24	36	29	20	36	33
Spending						
Business Services Expenditures	0	-11	-8	-8	4	-12
Total Capital Expenditures	-20	-18	-17	-8	-4	-17
Equipment or Software	-8	-21	0	4	0	0
Price Trends³						
Prices Paid for Inputs	3.64	4.94	5.28	2.24	2.45	3.57
Prices Received for Outputs	3.66	2.93	3.08	3.64	2.28	2.32

Technical Notes:

- ¹ 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 24-25 firms. All firms surveyed are located within the state of Maryland.
- ² Expectations refer to the time period six months out from the survey period.
- ³ Current price changes are percentages over the last 12 months. Expected price changes are expected changes over the next 12 months.

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