

Regional Surveys of Business Activity

Carolinas Survey of Business Activity

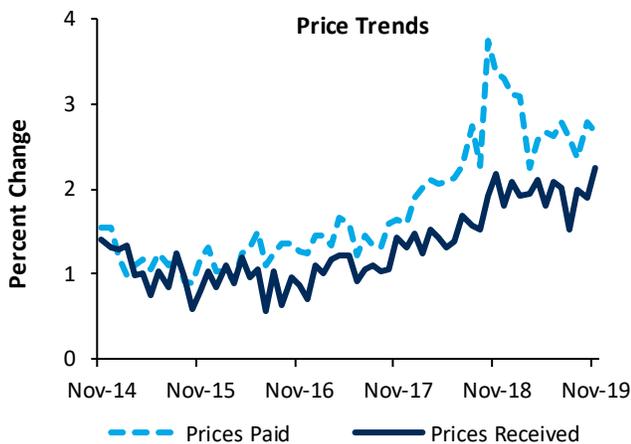
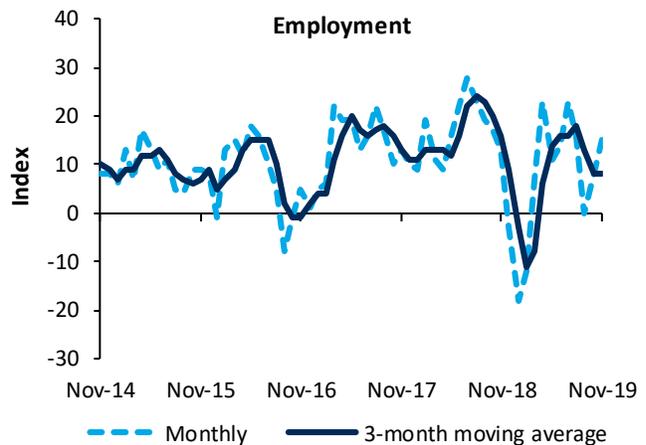
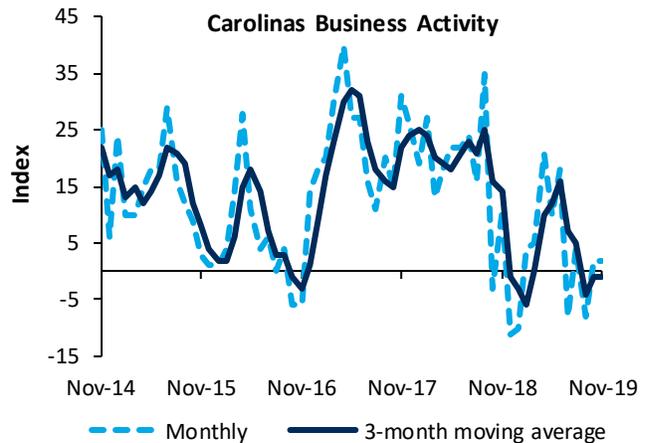
November 29, 2019

Business Activity Was Stable in November

Business activity in the Carolinas held fairly steady in November, according to the results of the most recent survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The indexes for general business conditions and sales were fairly flat at 2 in November, remaining relatively unchanged from their October readings of 2 and 3, respectively. Survey respondents reported continued growth in capital expenditures and expected conditions to improve in the coming months.

Survey results indicated continued growth in employment and wages in November, but firms were still unable to find workers with the necessary skills. They expected this issue to continue in the next six months but anticipated continued growth in employment and wages.

The growth rate of prices paid by firms in the Carolinas fell in November, while that of prices received increased, narrowing the gap between the two. Survey respondents expected growth of both prices paid and prices received to slow in the near future.



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Business Activity Indexes^{1, 4}

Business Conditions in the Carolinas	Current Conditions			Expectations ²		
	Nov-19	Oct-19	Sep-19	Nov-19	Oct-19	Sep-19
General Business Conditions	2	2	-8	10	-5	2
Sales	2	3	-3	26	10	3
Employment						
Number of Employees	15	8	0	23	4	24
Availability of Skills Needed	-15	-16	-11	-16	-13	-21
Average Workweek	-4	8	7	15	0	7
Wages	21	18	27	64	60	55
Spending						
Business Services Expenditures	3	0	8	11	10	13
Total Capital Expenditures	27	25	3	35	38	30
Equipment or Software Expenditures	13	8	13	8	20	23
Price Trends³						
Prices Paid for Inputs	2.68	2.78	2.36	2.37	2.35	2.33
Prices Received for Outputs	2.25	1.90	2.00	1.87	1.57	1.82

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 61 firms.
- Expectations refer to the time period six months out from the survey period.
- Price changes are expressed as a percent change, annualized.
- All firms surveyed are located within the states of North Carolina and South Carolina.

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