

Regional Surveys of Business Activity

Maryland Survey of Business Activity

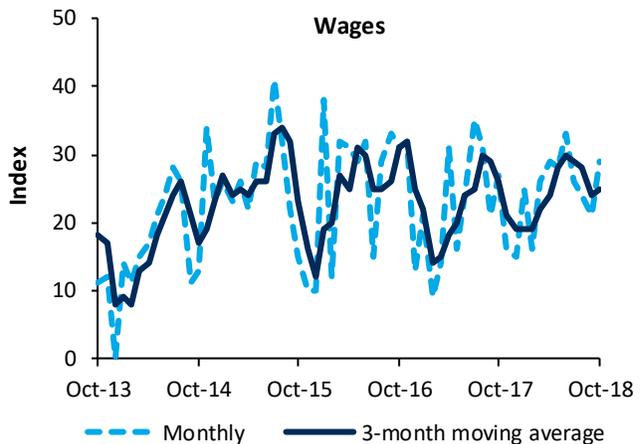
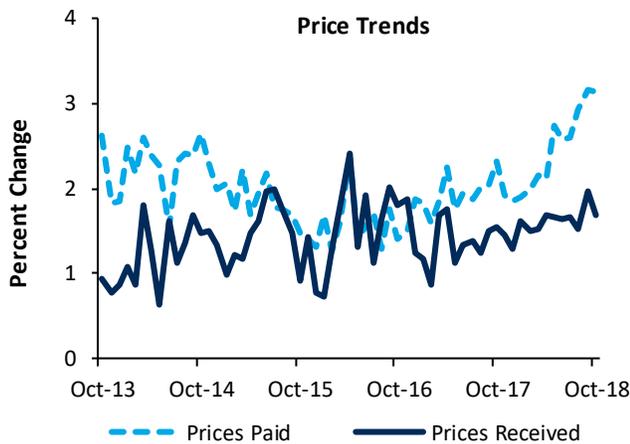
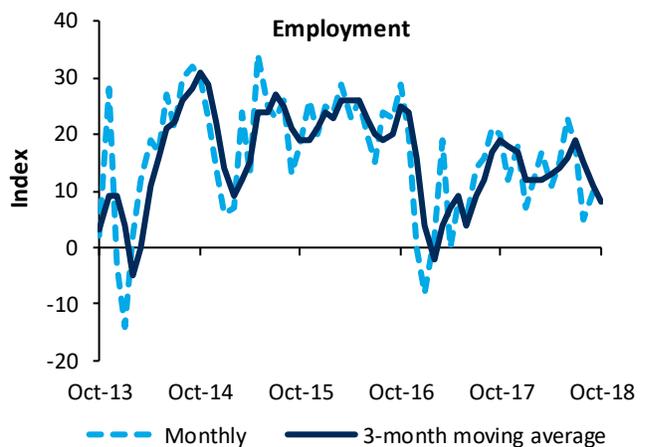
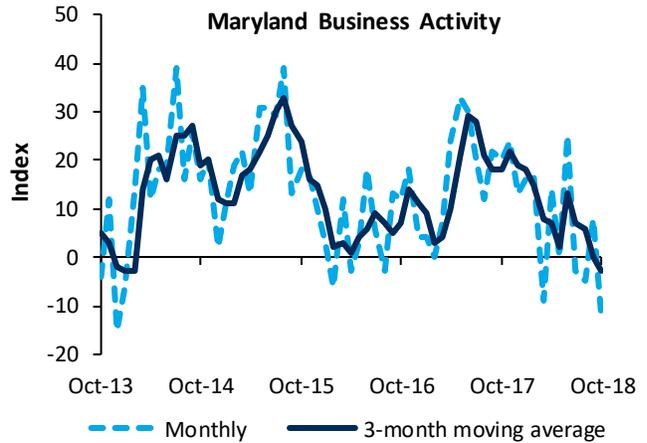
October 25, 2018

Maryland Firms Reported Weak Conditions in October

Maryland firms reported weak conditions in October, according to the results of the latest survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The indexes for both general business conditions and sales dropped into negative territory in October, but respondents expect both to improve in the coming months.

Survey results indicate that employment growth held fairly steady in October. However, firms were not able to find workers with the skills they needed, even as wages continued to grow. Firms reported spending growth in all areas and expect spending to continue grow in the near future.

Both prices paid and prices received continued to grow in October, although at a slower rate. Growth of prices paid remained higher than growth of prices received. However, firms expect growth to slow for prices paid and accelerate for prices received in the next six months.



Regional Surveys of Business Activity

Maryland Survey of Business Activity

October 25, 2018

Business Activity Indexes ¹						
Business Conditions in Maryland	Current Conditions			Expectations ²		
	Oct-18	Sep-18	Aug-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Aug-18
General Business Conditions	-12	8	-5	21	22	13
Sales	-15	0	0	29	25	18
Employment						
Number of Employees	9	10	5	26	19	13
Availability of Skills Needed	-35	-26	-14	-41	-22	-3
Average Workweek	6	3	-5	9	0	2
Wages	29	21	24	59	27	30
Spending						
Business Services Expenditures	15	0	2	9	-6	7
Total Capital Expenditures	9	11	5	32	3	25
Equipment or Software	24	16	8	26	14	22
Price Trends³						
Prices Paid for Inputs	3.14	3.17	2.93	2.88	2.38	2.81
Prices Received for Outputs	1.68	1.96	1.52	2.17	1.75	2.02

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 34 firms.
- ² Expectations refer to the time period six months out from the survey period.
- ³ Price changes are expressed as a percent change, annualized.
- ⁴ All firms surveyed are located within the state of Maryland.

For further information, contact **Roisin McCord** at **804.697.8702** or **Roisin.McCord@rich.frb.org**