

# Regional Surveys of Business Activity

## Maryland Survey of Business Activity

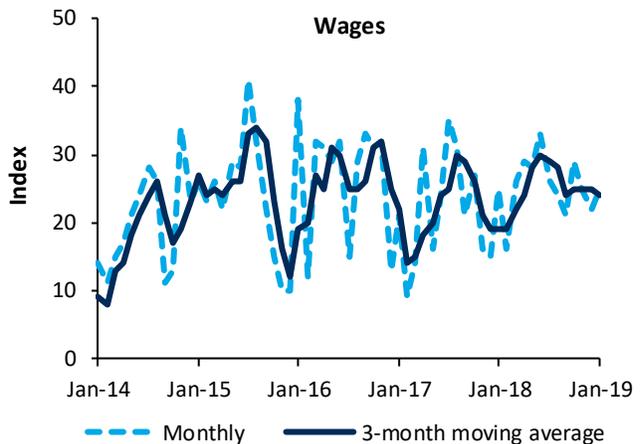
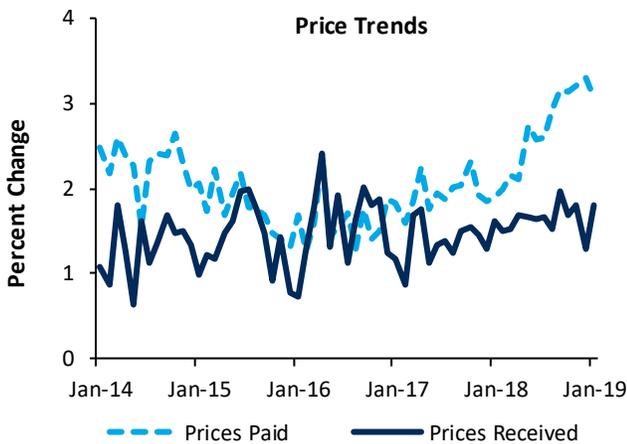
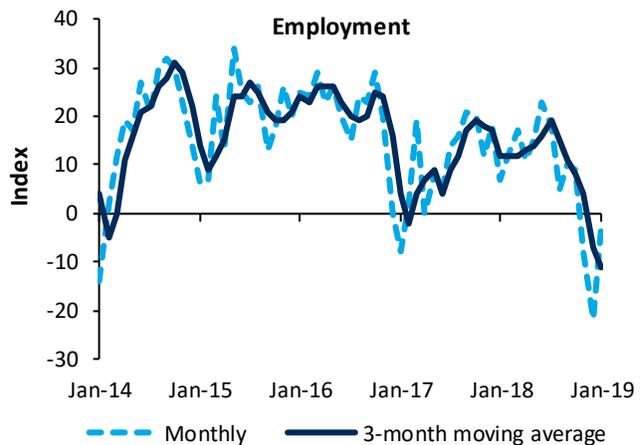
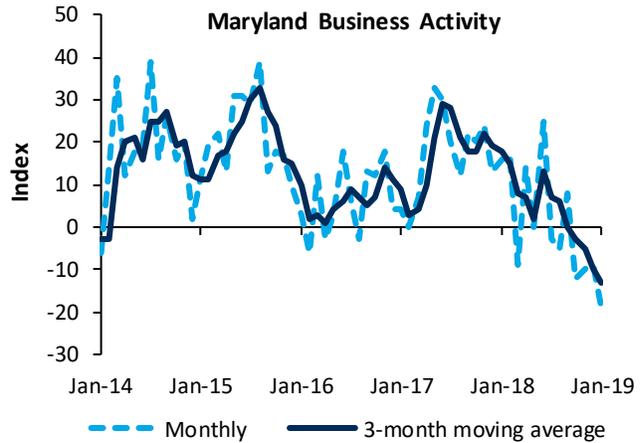
January 24, 2019

### Maryland Business Conditions Weakened in January

Business conditions in Maryland weakened in January, according to the latest survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The index for general business conditions fell from -9 in December to -19 in January, its lowest reading since February 2010. The sales index also remained negative for the fourth consecutive month. However, firms expected both general conditions and sales to rebound in the coming months.

Survey results indicated that employment growth remained soft among Maryland firms in January, as many respondents continued to struggle to find workers with the skills they needed. Firms expected this struggle to continue in the coming months but were optimistic that employment would rise.

Growth in prices paid by Maryland firms slowed in January, but growth in prices received accelerated, narrowing the gap between the two. Survey respondents expected these trends to continue in the coming months.



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Business Activity Indexes <sup>1</sup>						
Business Conditions in Maryland	Current Conditions			Expectations <sup>2</sup>		
	Jan-19	Dec-18	Nov-18	Jan-19	Dec-18	Nov-18
General Business Conditions	-19	-9	-10	6	-3	5
Sales	-8	-9	-13	19	0	13
<b>Employment</b>						
Number of Employees	-3	-22	-8	22	9	27
Availability of Skills Needed	-22	-28	-37	-6	-25	-37
Average Workweek	0	-3	10	6	13	10
Wages	25	22	25	61	59	55
<b>Spending</b>						
Business Services Expenditures	0	3	-5	3	0	2
Total Capital Expenditures	-3	13	-2	25	13	25
Equipment or Software	11	16	18	19	34	30
<b>Price Trends<sup>3</sup></b>						
Prices Paid for Inputs	3.06	3.30	3.20	2.71	2.98	2.86
Prices Received for Outputs	1.81	1.29	1.81	2.35	1.98	2.35

## Technical Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> 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 36 firms.
- <sup>2</sup> Expectations refer to the time period six months out from the survey period.
- <sup>3</sup> Price changes are expressed as a percent change, annualized.
- <sup>4</sup> All firms surveyed are located within the state of Maryland.

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