



ECONOMIC UPDATE

June 3, 2024

This Week in Focus

Welcome back from recess! Join us tomorrow for a Joint Economic Committee [hearing](#), “Artificial Intelligence and its Potential to Fuel Economic Growth and Improve Governance.” The hearing will take place at 2:30 p.m. in room 216 in the Hart Senate Office Building. Then, on Friday, the JEC Dems will be analyzing the newly released Jobs Day data. The consensus forecast is that 188,000 jobs were added in May—an uptick from the 175,000 jobs added in May and yet more evidence of the strong and stable job growth under President Biden.

JEC Resources

- [How the Renewed Compacts of Free Association Support U.S. Economic, National Security, and Climate Goals](#)
- (EN) – [ICYMI: The Biden Administration Just Took Massive Steps to Protect Workers and the Climate](#)
 - (ES) – [ICYMI: La Administración Biden Acaba de Dar Pasos Enormes Para Proteger A Los Trabajadores y el Clima](#)
- [Protecting Groundwater is Essential for Our Country and Economy](#)

Economic Indicators This Week

Below are a series of economic indicators that will be released later this week, along with the consensus estimates from a group of professional forecasters about what the data point will be once it is reported. Oftentimes, news coverage of these indicators will report whether the final number came in above or below the expectations set by the forecasters’ consensus.

Monday, June 3rd:

- **Construction Spending:** Data from the Census Bureau showed that construction spending [rose](#) 0.1% in April, just below the expected increase of 0.2%.

Tuesday, June 4th:

- **Job Openings:** The consensus forecast for JOLTS predicts that there was a slight decrease in job openings to 8,360k from 8,488k.

Thursday, June 6th:

- **Jobless Claims:** The consensus forecast predicts a slight decrease in jobless claims to 217k from 219k.
- **Productivity and Unit Labor Costs:** The consensus forecast for Q1 GDP revisions predicts a smaller increase in **productivity** to 0.1% from 0.3% and an upward increase in **unit labor costs** to 4.9% from 4.7%.

Friday, June 7th:

- **Employment Situation:** The consensus forecast is for nonfarm payrolls to increase by 188k while the unemployment rate remains at 3.9%. Average hourly earnings are expected to increase by 0.3%.

What You Need to Know

- As pandemic-induced **supply chain shortages** finally end, many of the problems with the global economy revealed by them, such as heavy concentration within the global transportation industry, have gone **unaddressed**.
- A lawsuit filed by the **Department of Labor** accuses Hyundai and two contractors of using **child labor** in an **Alabama** factory.
- Funds from the **Inflation Reduction Act** and **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** to reduce emissions and reduce concentration in the agriculture sector have successfully reached much **smaller farms** than Department of Agriculture programs have in the past.
- A new **Vermont law** holds oil and gas **companies** financially responsible for their in-state **carbon emissions**.
- **Job growth** in **health** care has been responsible for over half of all job gains in the United States over the last 12 months.

What to Watch This Week

Tuesday, June 4th

- **House Energy and Commerce Committee**, [Powering AI: Examining America’s Energy and Technology Future](#) at 10:00 am (EDT).
- **Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee**, [Hearings to examine women's freedoms, focusing on access to abortions across America](#) at 10:00 am (EDT).
- **Joint Economic Committee**, [Hearings to examine artificial intelligence and its potential to fuel economic growth and improve governance](#) at 2:30 pm (EST).
- **Senate Appropriations Committee**, [Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of the Treasury](#) at 2:30 pm (EDT).

Wednesday, June 5th

- **Senate Budget Committee**, [Hearings to examine how climate is already challenging insurance markets](#) at 10:00 am (EDT).
- **Senate Judiciary Committee**, [Hearings to examine strengthening United States economic leadership, focusing on the role of competition in enhancing economic resiliency](#) at 3:00 pm.

What to Read From the Think Tank World

- [The Council of Economic Advisers \(CEA\)](#) analyzed the April 2024 personal income report, finding personal consumption is outperforming pre-pandemic trends.
- [The Center for American Progress \(CAP\)](#) highlighted how fifteen states and Washington, D.C. have passed paid sick time laws, all of which explicitly include “safe leave” that people can use if they are facing domestic, sexual, or other forms of violence.
- [The Institute for Women’s Policy Research \(IWPR\)](#) found the gender gap in retirement income—the sum of pension and Social Security income—was 32.6% even larger than the gender gap in earnings overall.
- [The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](#) released a primer on Social Security, listing the top 10 facts including how it also provides important life insurance and disability insurance protection.

Latest Academic Articles Selected From NBER

The National Bureau of Economic Research, a private research organization, circulates a series of working papers in economics every Monday morning. These offer an early look at the latest academic research findings. These are our selected recommendations from the latest papers out this morning.

- [An Analysis of Pandemic-Era Inflation in 11 Economies](#)
- [Broadband Internet Access, Economic Growth, and Wellbeing](#)
- [Risky Oil: It's All in the Tails](#)
- [Measuring and Predicting “New Work” in the United States: The Role of Local Factors and Global Shocks](#)