



ECONOMIC UPDATE

July 15, 2024

This Week in Focus

Last week, the latest inflation [data](#) showed overall monthly inflation decreased by 0.1% in June—the first time the measure has declined in two years. As JEC Chairman Heinrich [emphasized](#), this is further proof that the Fed should cut interest rates before it jeopardizes the economic progress we’ve seen across the country. Importantly, cutting interest rates will help put money back into the pockets of working families. Also last week, the JEC Dems released a [fact sheet](#) on how abortion restrictions are not only dangerous and costly for women and their reproductive freedom, but also for the U.S. economy and state and local economies.

This Friday the JEC Dems will analyze state employment data for June from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The team will also [update](#) the state-by-state chart and map that highlight key trends in the most recent monthly data for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

JEC Resources

- [Abortion Bans Harm Women’s Reproductive Freedom and Cost Our Economy Billions of Dollars](#)
- [Incomes Are Rising Faster than Prices Throughout the Country](#)
- (EN) [Small Business Growth is Booming Under Democrats, Far Faster than Growth Under Trump](#)
 - (ES) [El Crecimiento de las Pequeñas Empresas Está Aumentando Más con los Demócratas que con Trump](#)
- [Flooding Costs the United States Between \\$179.8 and \\$496.0 Billion Each Year](#)

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.

Tuesday, July 16th:

- **Retail Sales:** The consensus forecast predicts **total sales** fell by **0.2%**.

Wednesday, July 17th:

- **Housing Starts:** **Housing starts** are forecasted to increase to **1,300k** from **1,277k** while **building permits** are expected to rise to **1,395k** from **1,386k**.
- **Industrial Production:** The consensus forecast for Industrial Production predicts **total production** rose by **0.3%** while **manufacturing output** fell by **0.1%**.

Thursday, July 18th:

- **Jobless Claims:** Jobless claims are expected to slightly increase to **230k** from **222k**.

Friday, July 19th:

- **State Employment Data:** The Bureau of Labor Statistics will release employment and unemployment data by state. The JEC Dems will [update](#) the state-by-state chart and map.

What You Need to Know

- **Consumers** buying cheaper products is putting [pressure](#) on **food companies** to **lower prices** and offer more discounts.
- While **women's labor force participation** is at an all-time high, [expectations](#) to handle most **child care** and housework make new responsibilities hard to juggle.
- The number of **undocumented immigrants** who face a hard [retirement](#) **without access** to Social Security and Medicare, despite often having **paid** into those programs, is on the rise.
- The number of **evictions** in cities in the Sun Belt remains [elevated](#) beyond pre-pandemic levels.
- New guidance from the **FTC** warns franchisers not to [charge hidden fees](#) to new franchisees or **limit** their ability to speak to government officials.
- A new **report** from the **American Statistical Association** finds that lower response [rates](#) and budget cuts are threatening the **reliability** of **federal economic data**.

What to Read From the Think Tank World

- The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) released briefs on the potential labor market [impacts](#) of artificial intelligence, [cooling](#) inflation in Q2 2024, and the [implications](#) for distribution and growth when tariffs are used as a major source of revenue.
- [The Tax Policy Center](#) found those making at least \$450,000 would get nearly half the benefit of extending the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- [The Urban Institute](#) analyzed license-exempt home-based child care providers and found only 6% of children at this type of care were paid for by Child Care and Development Fund dollars in an average month in 2019.
- [The Pew Research Center](#) dug into the types of jobs U.S. workers without college degrees held in 2023, finding the top three differ between men (driver/sales workers and truck drivers, construction laborers, and freight and material movers) and women (customer service representatives, nursing and home health aides, and first-line supervisors of sales workers).
- [The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](#) argued closing Medicaid coverage gaps would help diverse groups and reduce inequities as Black and Latino Americans are overrepresented in the coverage gap.

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.

- [The Effect of Postsecondary Educational Institutions on Local Economies: A Bird's-Eye View](#)
- [Transgender Earnings Gaps in the United States: Evidence from Administrative Data](#)
- [Spillovers in Public Benefit Enrollment: How does Expanding Public Health Insurance for Working-Age Adults Affect Future Health Insurance Choices?](#)
- [Learning, Catastrophic Risk and Ambiguity in the Climate Change Era](#)