

# Monthly Economic Update

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**MAY 2022, FEATURING APRIL NEWS RELEASES**  
**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

Based in part on information and commentary supplied by Federal  
and State government statistical agencies.

# Wisconsin Updates

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Employment

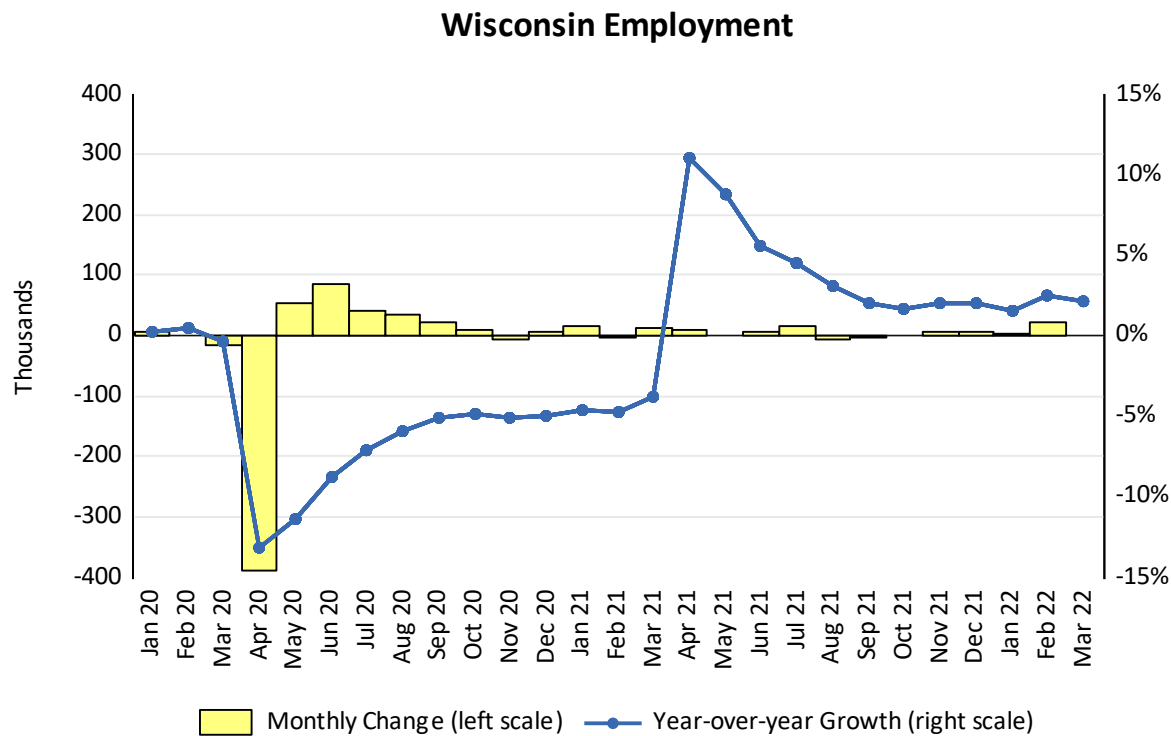
- By Sector

Tax Revenues Through March 2022

Farm Prices

# Wisconsin Added 1,000 Jobs in March

## Unemployment Rate at Record Low



Wisconsin added 1,000 jobs in March, compared to an upwardly revised February level.

Employment is 60,900 (+2.1%) above its year-ago level but remains 68,000 below the pre-pandemic level of 2.996 million.

Accommodation and food services lost 5,500 jobs in March and administrative support & waste management lost 1,900 jobs.

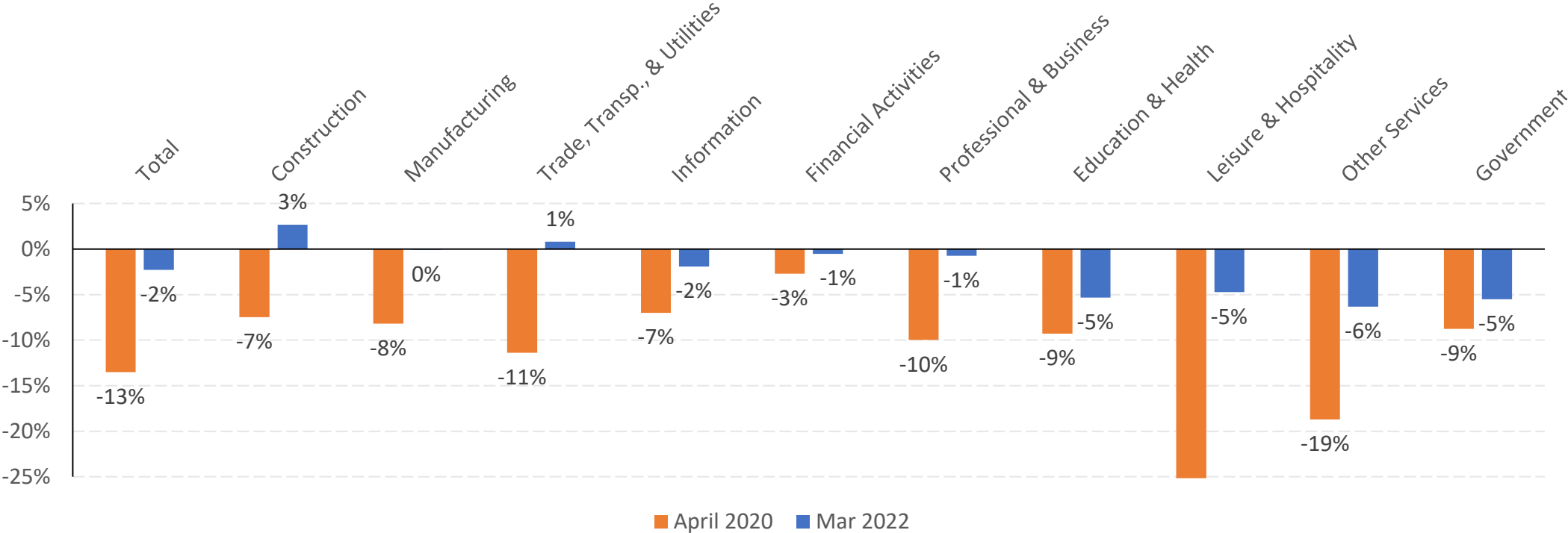
These losses were offset by gains in trade (+1,700), manufacturing (+900), and other services (+1,000).

The unemployment rate reached a record low of 2.8% in March 2022.

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

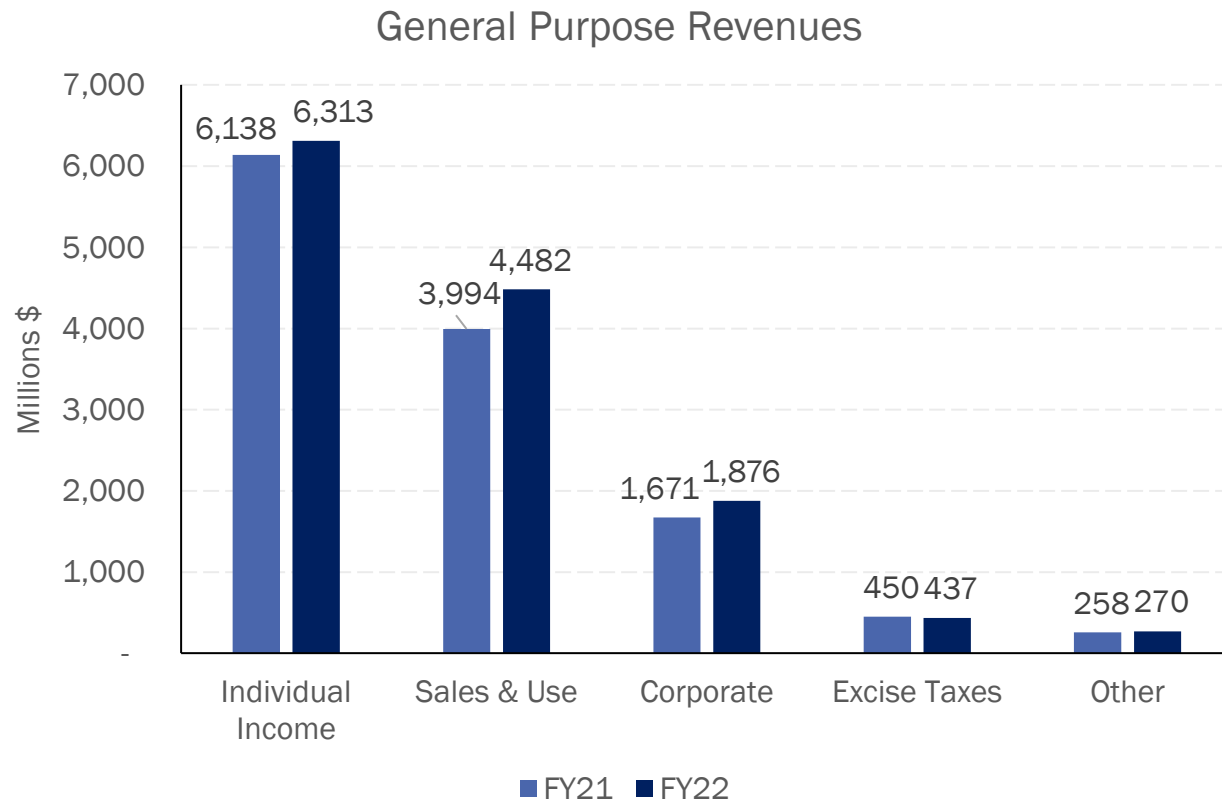
# More Wisconsin Employment Sectors Near or Above Recovery Level

Percent Change in Wisconsin Employment Since February 2020



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

# WI Tax Revenues Up 6.9% Through First Three Quarters of FY22



Wisconsin's General Purpose Revenues (GPR) increased 6.9% in the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), from \$12,510 million in FY21 to \$13,377 million in FY22.

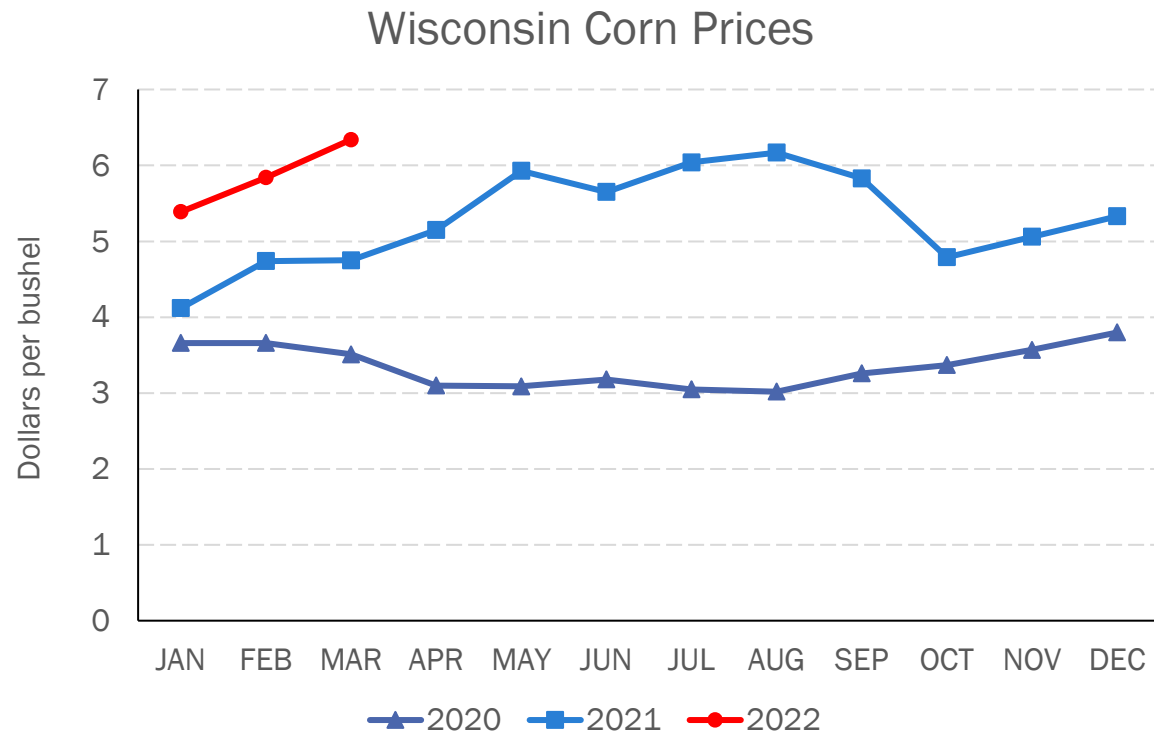
The largest contributor to this \$867 million increase was the state's sales and use tax, which increased 12.2% to \$4,482 million.

Corporate tax revenues increased \$205 million, a 12.3% increase over the FY21 levels.

Individual income tax revenues increased \$175 million, 2.9% higher than FY21. Individual income tax revenues are negatively impacted by lower withholding tax revenues due to the withholding table updates and higher refunds from the tax cuts enacted last summer.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue. For more details, see [Department of Revenue Collections, March Fiscal Year 2022 \(wi.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/revenue/collections/march-fiscal-year-2022).

# Wisconsin Corn Prices Up in 2022



The average price received by farmers for corn during March 2022 in Wisconsin was \$6.34 per bushel according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service - Agricultural Prices report.

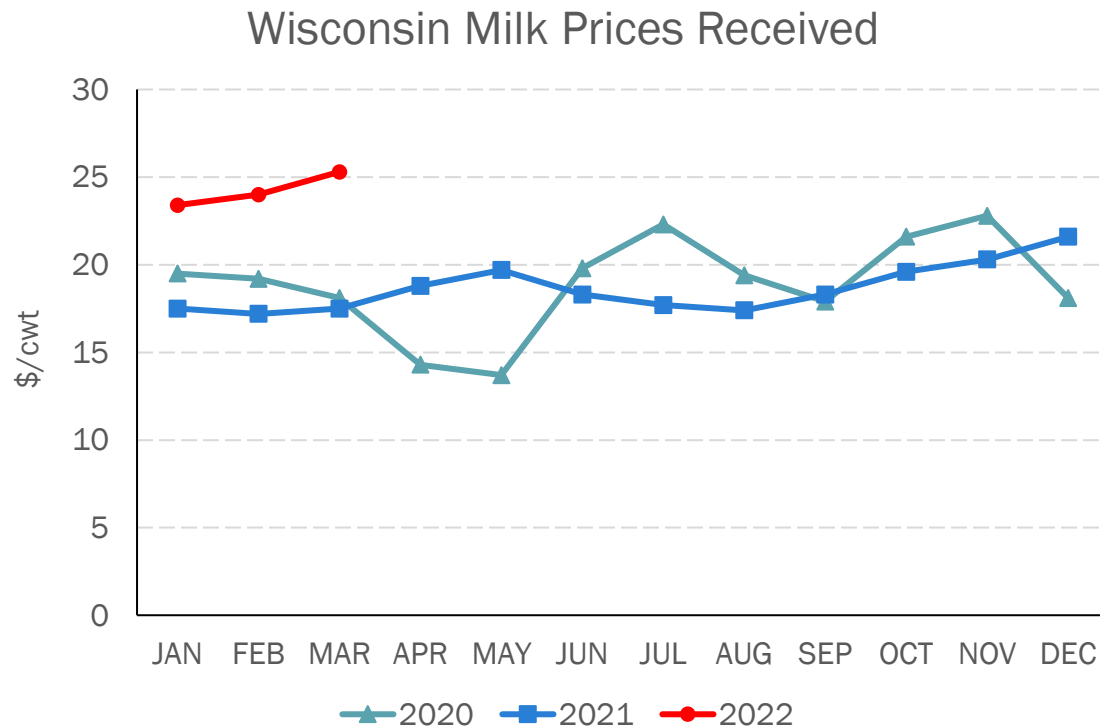
This was 50 cents above the February price and \$1.59 above March 2021.

So far in 2022, prices have averaged \$5.86 per bushel, 29.1% above the same period in 2021 and 62.2% higher than in 2020.

Prices are also higher at the national level. Across the U.S., corn was \$6.56 per bushel in March 2022, 22 cents higher than in Wisconsin and up from \$4.89 per bushel in March 2021.

Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Wisconsin Milk Prices Continued Rising in First Quarter 2022



Milk prices in Wisconsin have also continued to rise. The average price for milk was \$25.30 per cwt in March 2022, \$1.30 above the February price and \$7.60 above March 2021.

First quarter milk prices averaged \$24.23 per cwt in 2022, up 39.3% from the same period in 2021 and up 28.0% from 2020.

Nationally, milk averaged \$25.90 per cwt in March 2022, 60 cents above the Wisconsin average and \$8.60 above March 2021.

Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

# U.S. Updates

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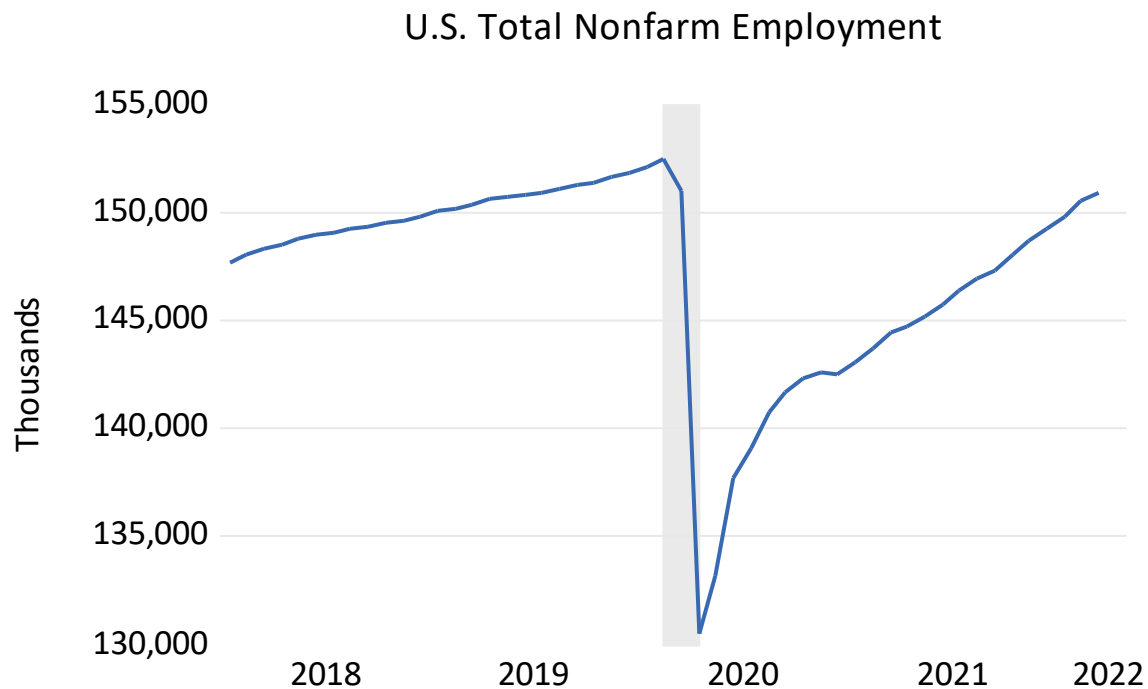
Employment

Inflation (CPI)

Consumer Sentiment



# U.S. Payrolls Expanded by 431,000



U.S. Nonfarm payroll employment rose 431,000 in March. Prior months were revised higher. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage point to 3.6%, and the labor-force participation rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 62.4%.

Since last October, labor-force participation has improved briskly. Improving labor-force participation will allow for broad real expansion and will help limit further increases in rates of inflation.

Private payrolls expanded by 426,000 in March, and the private workweek declined 0.1 hour to 34.6 hours.

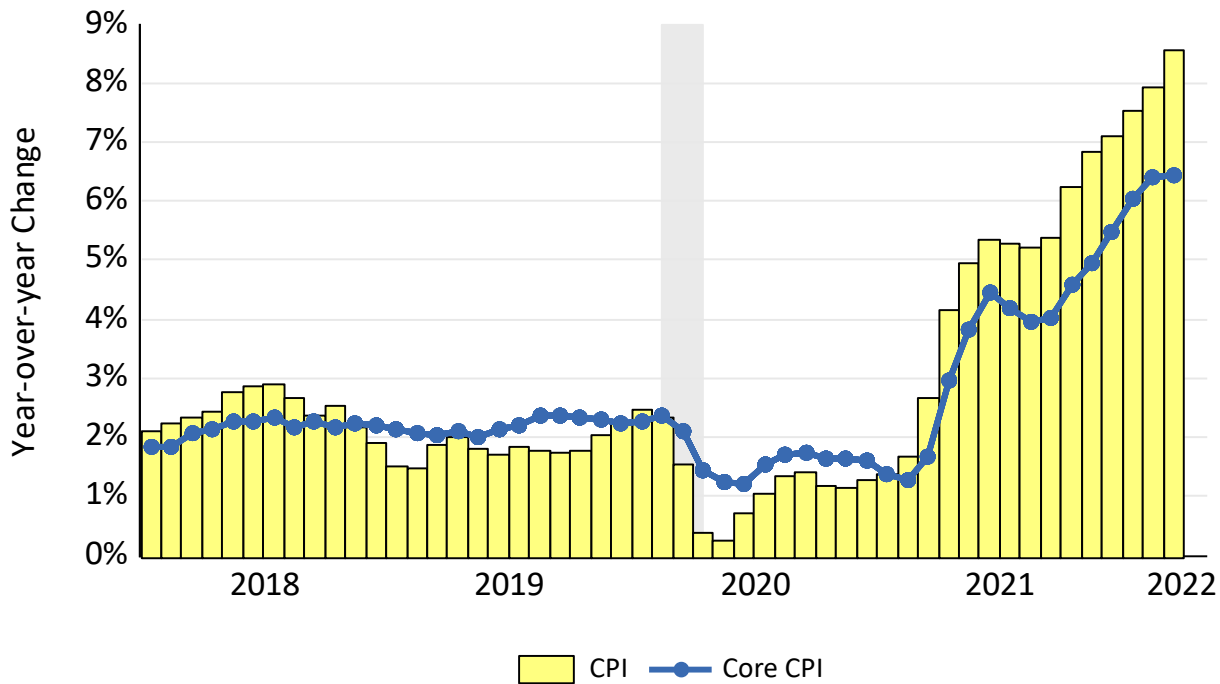
Average hourly earnings rose 0.4% in March, a bit less than expected. Taken together, March readings on private employment, hours, and average hourly earnings imply somewhat less momentum for private wages and salaries heading into the second quarter than previously estimated.

While solid, the increase in payrolls in March was below recent averages. As the recovery matures and GDP slows, average payroll gains will continue to move lower.

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Employment Report.

# U.S. Consumer Prices Increased 8.5%

## Consumer Price Index (CPI)



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.2% in March. The core CPI, which excludes the direct effects of moves in food and energy prices, rose 0.3%. The headline CPI was boosted by price increases for food (1.0%) and energy (11.0%). Gasoline prices increased 18.3% in March.

The 12-month change in the CPI climbed 0.6 percentage point to 8.5%, the highest since December 1981. The 12-month change in the core CPI rose 0.1 percentage point to 6.5%, the highest since August 1982.

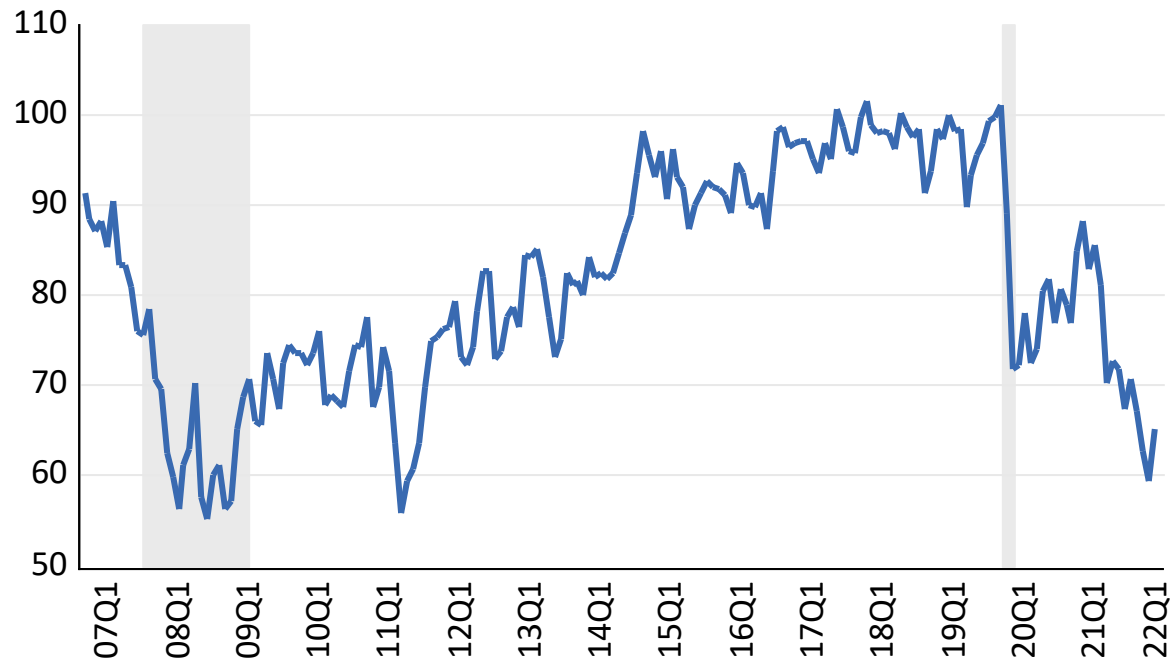
Price pressures in the used-car market appear to be easing. The CPI for used cars and trucks fell 3.8% in March, the second consecutive decline. Compared to the prior year, however, used car prices are up 35.3%.

The rise of core inflation last year initially was led by large price increases within core goods such as motor vehicles. More recently, inflation within core services has risen. The 12-month inflation rates for core goods and services as of March were 11.7% and 4.7%, respectively.

A quick rebound in rent inflation has contributed to the rise of services inflation. Twelve-month changes in owners' equivalent rent and rent of primary residence in March were 4.5% and 4.4%, respectively, up sharply from 2.0% and 1.8%, respectively, in April 2021.

# Consumer Sentiment Inched Up to 65.2 in April

Consumer Sentiment - Michigan Survey



Source: University of Michigan, Surveys of Consumers

The University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index rose 5.8 points to 65.2 in the final April reading—rebounding from an 11-year low in March. Sentiment is still down 26% since April 2021, and with the exception of the last two readings, April’s value is lower than anything seen in the past decade.

The sharp upswing in April was driven primarily by improving views on the future. While the present situation index rose 2.2 points to 69.4, the expectations index posted a much larger gain of 8.2 points to 62.5.

Consumer expectations were bolstered by large gains in the year-ahead outlook for the economy (up 21.6%) and personal financial expectations (up 18.3%). A sharp drop in gas price expectations was the main driver behind the improvement in expectations.

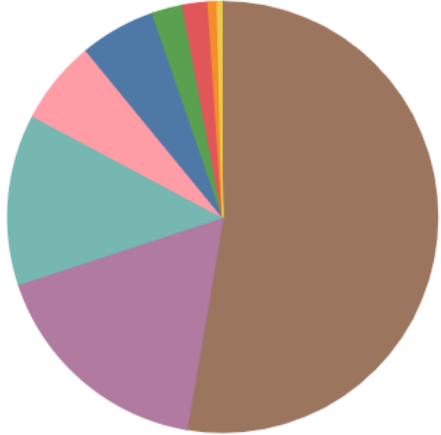
While inflation continues to be the foremost source of drag on sentiment, a moderation in retail gas prices from their March peak has given consumers some relief.

Even as consumer sentiment improved in April, it is too early to mark this as an inflection point. The economic fallout from the war in Ukraine, inflation, and new COVID-19 variants continue to be downside risks to sentiment. On the flip side, the expectation for solid job and wage growth in the coming months should continue to support ongoing growth of consumer spending.

# Explore Our Interactive Data!

City of Stevens Point (Portage) - 2019 Revenues

Revenues	Amount	Share of Total (%)
Total Taxes	\$21,951,221	52.69%
Total Intergovernmental Revenues	\$7,193,571	17.27%
Other Financing Sources	\$5,341,125	12.82%
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	\$2,616,622	6.28%
Intergovernmental Charges for Servic..	\$2,359,902	5.66%
Public Charges For Services	\$956,245	2.30%
Licenses & Permits	\$795,062	1.91%
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	\$280,922	0.67%
Special Assessments	\$164,759	0.40%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$41,659,429</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



- Fines, Forfeits & Penalties
- Intergovernmental Charges for Services
- Licenses & Permits
- Other Financing Sources
- Public Charges For Services
- Special Assessments
- Total Intergovernmental Revenues
- Total Miscellaneous Revenues
- Total Taxes

DOR's Division of Research and Policy's Local Government Dashboard has information on both the expenditures and revenues of municipalities throughout Wisconsin.

To the left is one view of the data. More detail can be found at [Local Government Dashboard | Tableau Public](#)

You can check out our other visualizations on a range of Wisconsin tax and economic data at [DorViz.wi.gov](#).

Questions: [doreconomists@wisconsin.gov](mailto:doreconomists@wisconsin.gov)

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