Monthly Economic Update

MAY 2026, 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

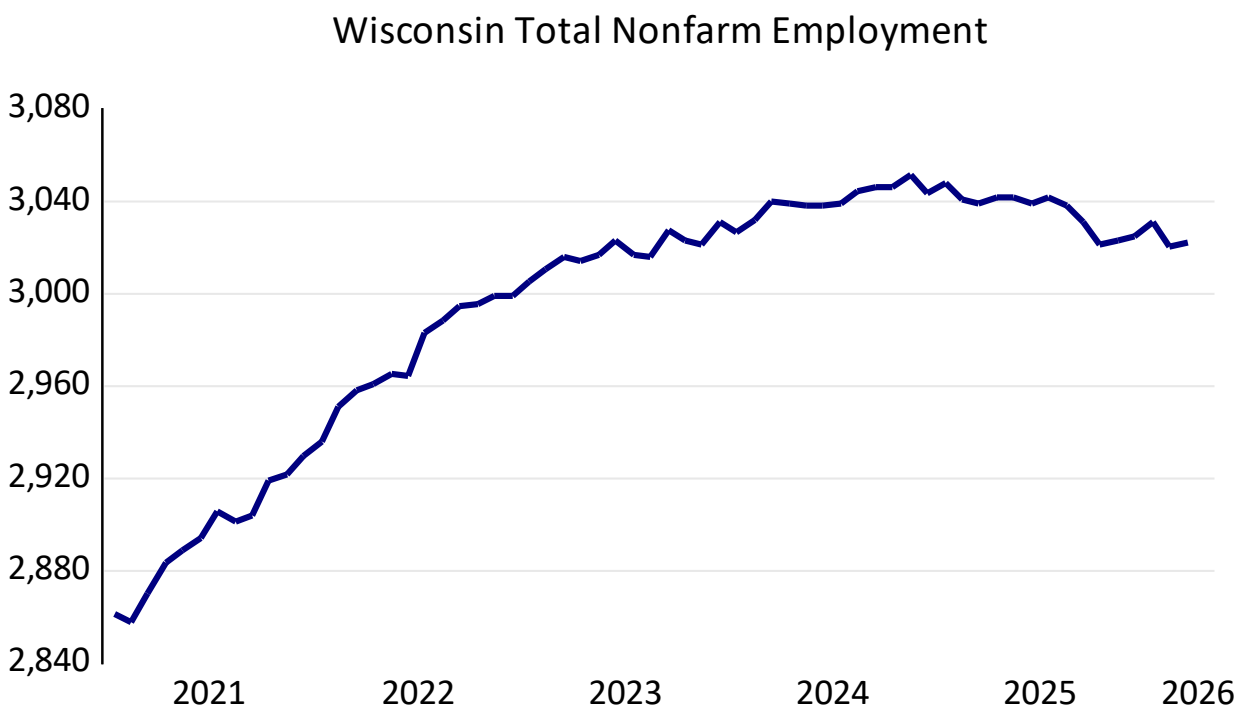
Employment
- Sectors

General Purpose Revenues, FY26 Q3

Wisconsin Real GDP, 2025

WI Employment Up by 1,200 in March

Unemployment Rate Increased to 3.5%



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Wisconsin added 1,200 jobs in March, with 800 in private employment and the remaining 400 in government.

Over the past three months, the average change in employment is a decline of 1,000.

Wisconsin employment has fallen by 17,200 over the past year, a decline of 0.6%. U.S. employment has increased 0.2% over the same period.

The professional and business services sector has added an average of 1,300 jobs over the past three months. Education and health has added an average of 500, as has the construction industry. Leisure and hospitality added an average of 300 jobs.

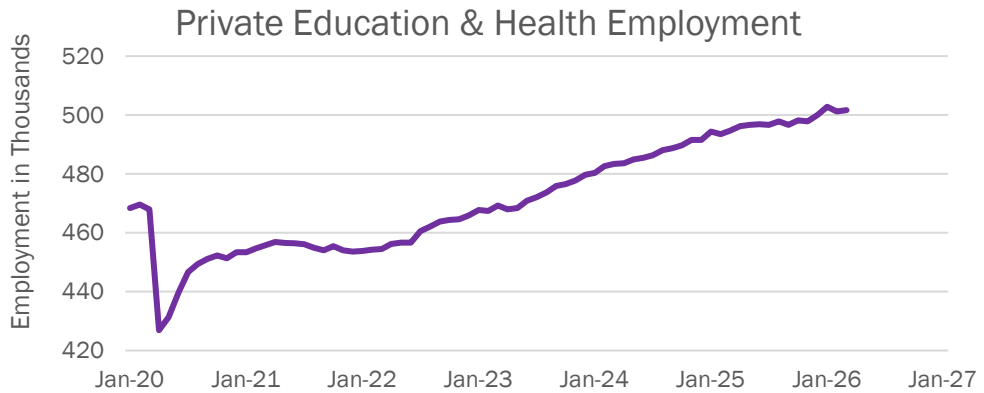
Trade, transportation and utilities has lost an average of 1,600 jobs over the last three months, and government employment is down by 1,200.

The unemployment rate in Wisconsin ticked up to 3.5% in March, from 3.4% in February and 3.2% last year. The U.S. unemployment rate was at 4.3% in March.

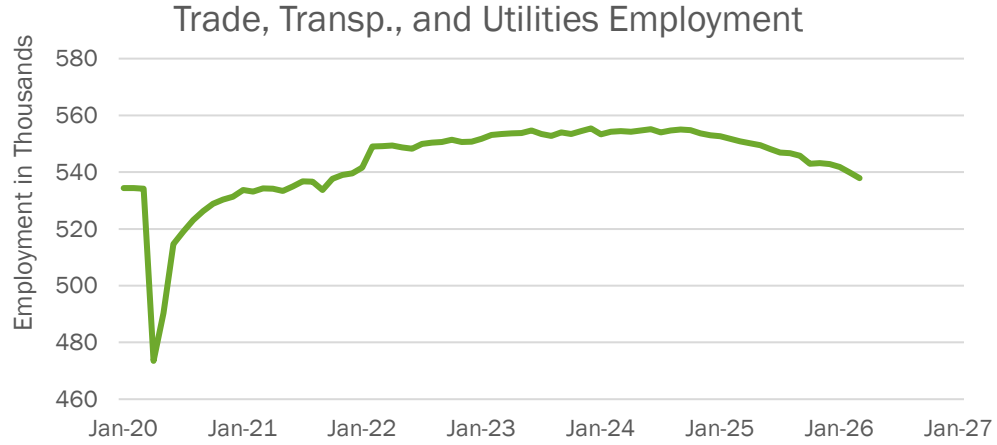
Wisconsin's labor force participation rate remained steady at 64.4% in March, above the U.S. rate of 61.9%.

Wisconsin Employment by Sector



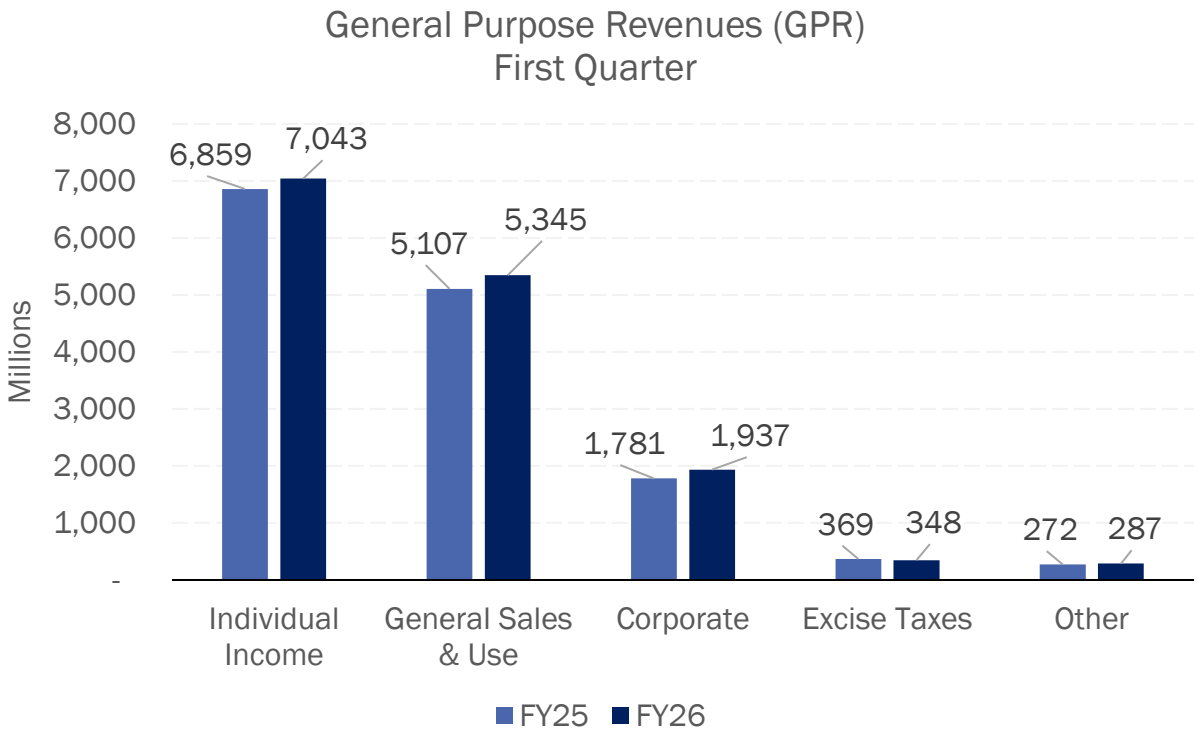






Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Wisconsin's General Purpose Revenues Up 4.0% In the First Three Quarters of FY26



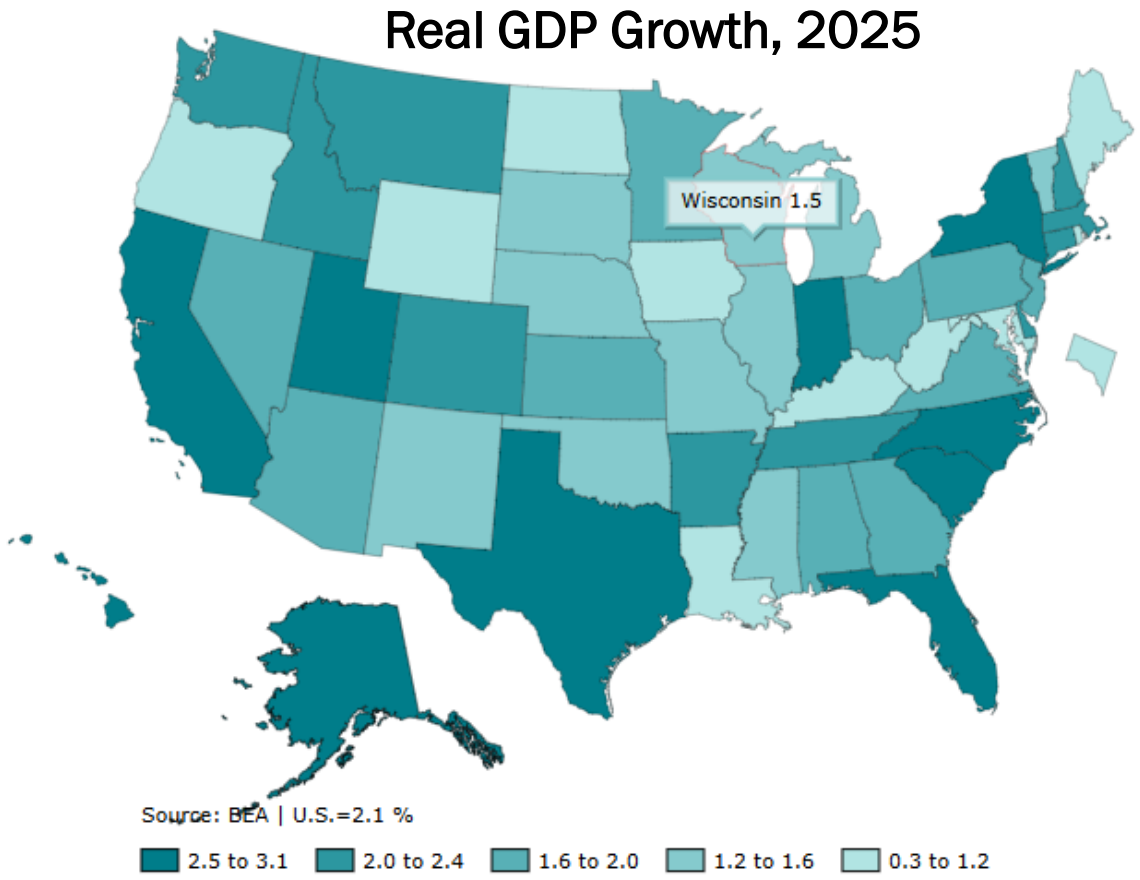
Wisconsin's General Purpose Revenues (GPR) increased 4.0% during the first three quarters of fiscal year (FY) 2026, rising to $15.0 billion.

Individual income taxes, the largest component of GPR, increased 2.7% year-over-year (y/y). Withholding revenues increased 5.9% y/y, and refunds increased 27.8% y/y to $1.8 billion. The increase in refunds was driven by tax cuts included in the state budget.

Sales tax revenues, the state's second-largest revenue source, increased 4.7% y/y, to $5.3 billion.

Corporate tax revenues increased 8.7% y/y, and excise tax revenues are down 5.5% y/y. Other tax types, which includes real estate transfer fees, utilities, and insurance premium taxes, rose 5.6% y/y.

Real GDP Increased 1.5% in Wisconsin in 2025



Wisconsin's real gross domestic product (GDP) increased 1.5% in 2025, down from a 2.1% increase in 2024.

Nationally, real GDP increased 2.1% in 2025.

Wisconsin's growth ranked 35th out of the 50 states.

North Dakota had the weakest growth, up 0.3%, while South Carolina had the fastest growth at 3.1%. All states saw an increase in real GDP.

Real GDP in the Great Lakes Region, which includes Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, increased 1.7%.

Personal income, which is not adjusted for inflation, increased 4.4% in Wisconsin in 2025. Per capita personal income increased 4.1% to $70,570.

U.S. Updates

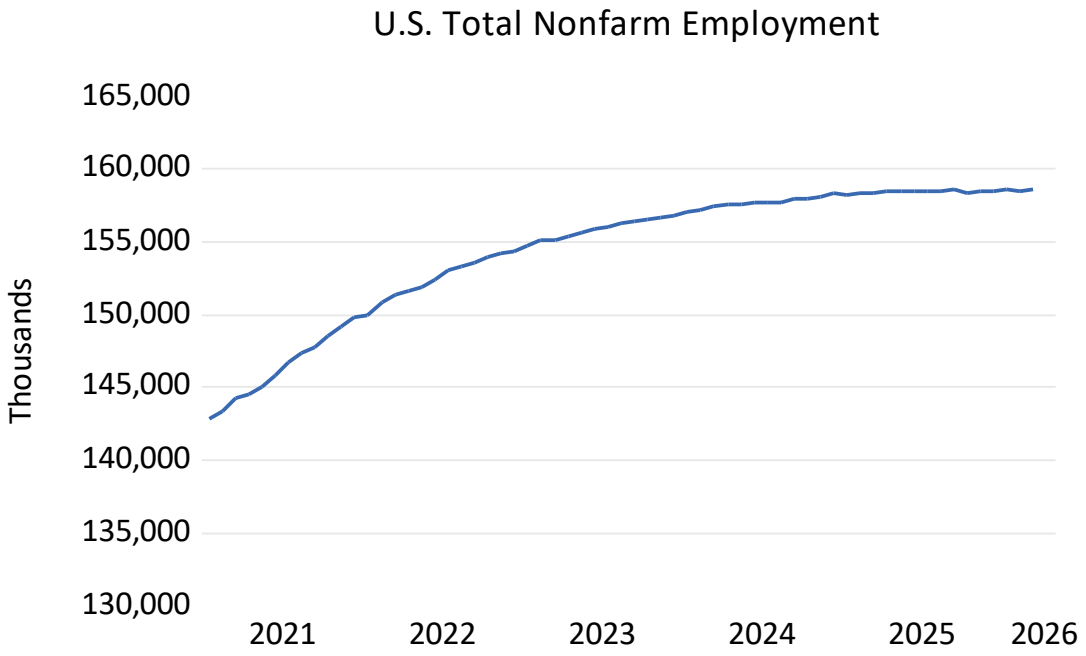
U.S. Employment

Consumer Price Index

Coincident Index

U.S. Employment Rose by 178,000 in March

Unemployment rate dipped to 4.3%



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

U.S. total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 178,000 in March, following a decrease of 133,333 in February. Payroll employment has changed little on net over the prior 12 months. The unemployment rate dipped to 4.3% in March, from 4.4% in February.

Health care added 76,000 jobs in March. Employment in ambulatory health care services rose by 54,000, reflecting an increase of 35,000 in offices of physicians as workers returned from a strike. Employment also increased in hospitals (+15,000).

Employment in construction grew by 26,000 in March but had shown little net change over the prior 12 months.

In March, transportation and warehousing added 21,000 jobs, reflecting a gain in couriers and messengers (+20,000). Employment in transportation and warehousing is down by 139,000 since reaching a peak in February 2025.

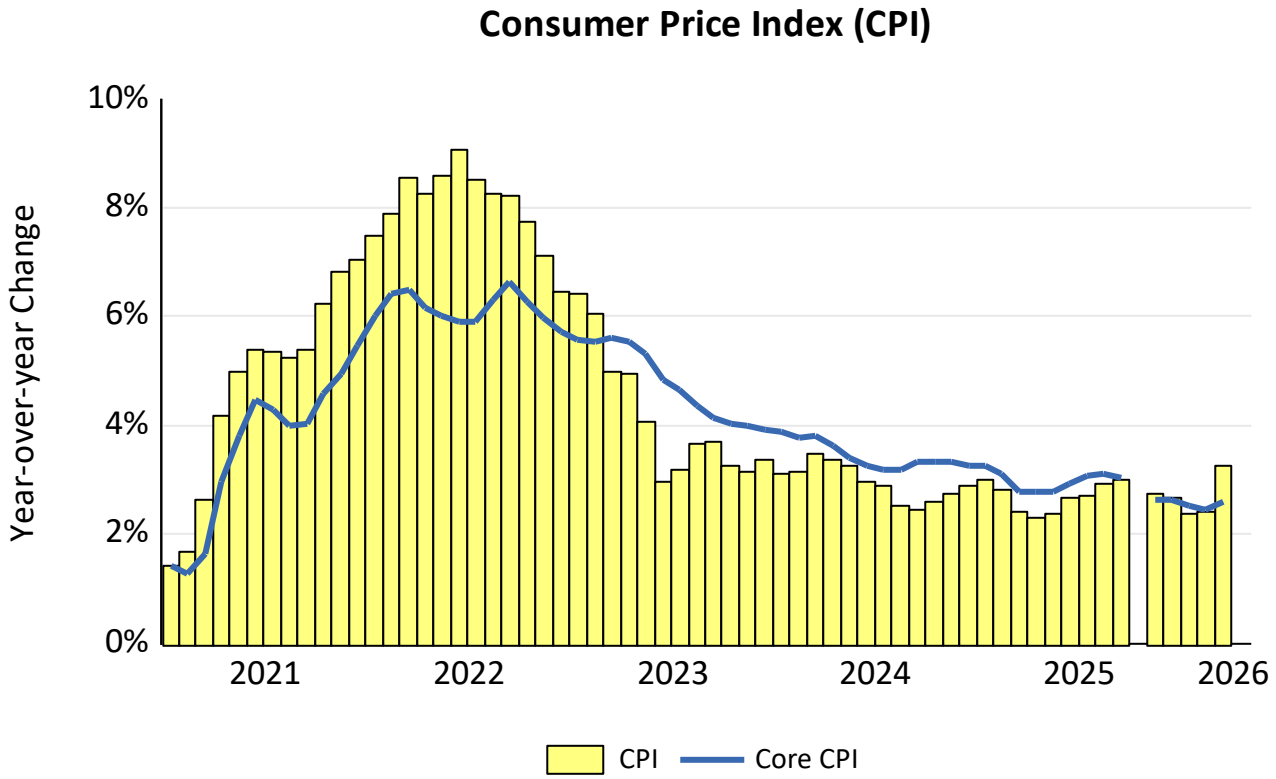
Employment in social assistance continued its upward trend in March (+14,000), primarily in individual and family services (+11,000).

Federal government employment continued to decline in March (-18,000). Since reaching a peak in October 2024, federal government employment is down by 355,000, or 11.8%.

In March, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 9 cents, or 0.2%, to $37.38. Over the year, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.5%. The average workweek for all employees edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.2 hours in March.

The April employment report will be released on Friday May 8th. Expectations are for an increase of 73,000 and the unemployment rate to stay at 4.3%.

March Consumer Prices Jump on Higher Oil Prices



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

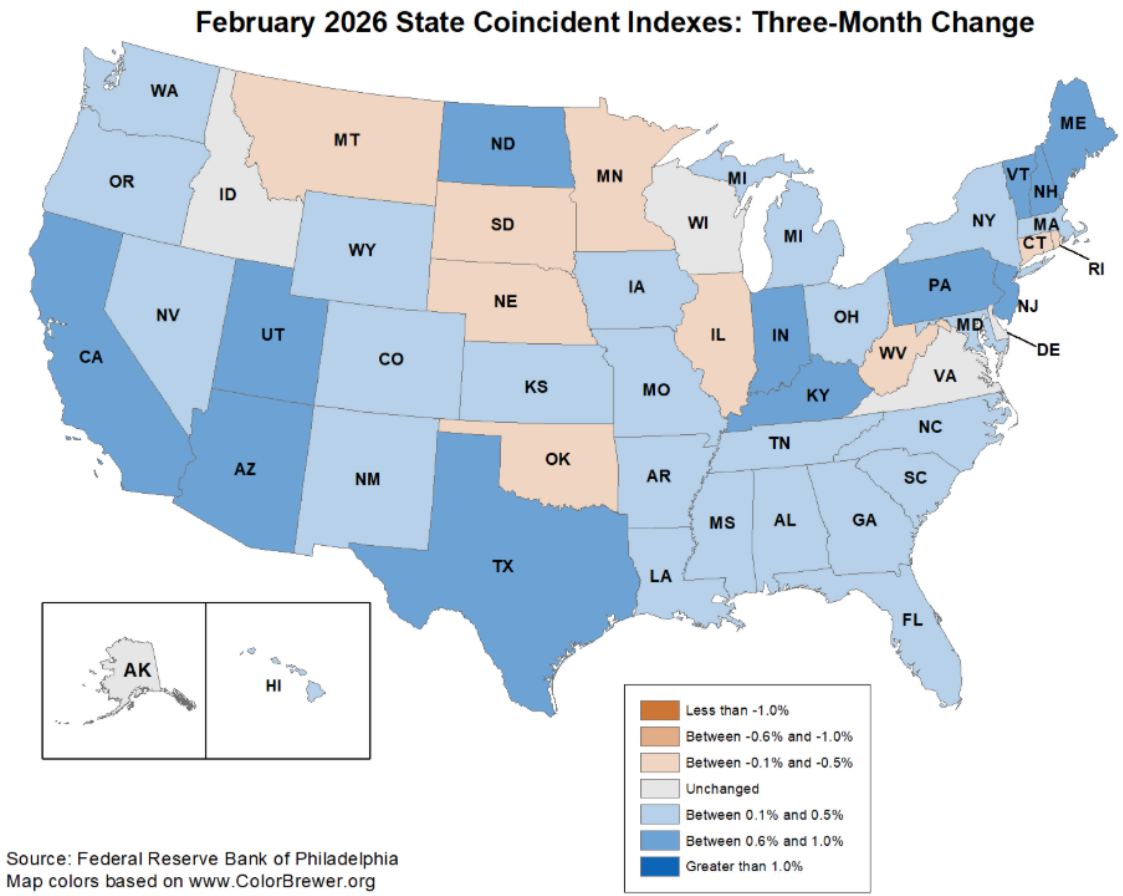
The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.9% on a seasonally adjusted basis in March, after rising 0.3% in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Over the last 12 months, the CPI increased 3.3% before seasonal adjustment.

The index for energy rose 10.9% in March, led by a 21.2% increase in the index for gasoline which accounted for nearly three quarters of the monthly CPI increase. The shelter index also increased in March, rising 0.3%. The index for food was unchanged over the month as the index for food away from home rose 0.2%, while the index for food at home fell 0.2%.

The core index, which exclude food and energy, rose 0.2% in March. Indexes that increased over the month include airline fares, apparel, household furnishings and operations, education, and new vehicles. Conversely, the indexes for medical care, personal care, and used cars and trucks decreased in March.

The CPI rose 3.3% for the 12 months ending March, after a 2.4% increase the prior month. The core index rose 2.6% over the year, following a 2.5% increase over the 12 months ending February. The energy index increased 12.5% for the 12 months ending March, and the food index increased 2.7% over the last year.

Coincident Index Increased in 36 States in February



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Map colors based on www.ColorBrewer.org

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's coincident indexes for the 50 states for the three months ending February 2026 increased in 36 states, decreased in nine states, and remained stable in five, for a three-month diffusion index of 54.

Additionally, in the past month, the indexes increased in 31 states, decreased in 13 states, and remained stable in six, for a one-month diffusion index of 36.

The index for Wisconsin was flat over the past three months and fell 0.2% in February.

The Philadelphia Fed's U.S. index increased 0.5% over the past three months and 0.1% in February.

Four state-level variables are used to construct the indexes: nonfarm payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing by production workers, the unemployment rate, and real wage and salary disbursements.

The trend for each state's index is set to the trend of its gross domestic product (GDP), so long-term growth in the state's index matches long-term growth in its GDP.

Get in Touch

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