



NEVADA BUSINESS CONDITIONS

UNLV | LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL
CENTER FOR BUSINESS
AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

April 2024

The second estimate of U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) for 2023Q4 expanded at an annual rate of 3.2 percent, revised downward by 0.1 percent from the advance estimate. The downward revision reflected decreased private inventory investment, which was partly offset by increased state and local government and consumer spending. Overall, the robust growth was mainly driven by consumer and government spending.

Seasonally adjusted U.S. nonfarm employment added a stronger-than-expected 275,000 jobs in February, led by the healthcare, government, and leisure and hospitality sectors. Employment figures for January and December, however, were revised down by a combined 167,000 jobs. The February unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percent to 3.9 percent, the highest since January 2022. Retail sales in January experienced a weak gain of 0.6 percent year-over-year despite a 3.2 percent increase in the consumer price index. The Fed is expected to hold the federal funds rate unchanged in the short run and possibly consider delaying cuts this year with persistent inflation and a strong labor market.

Nevada exhibited generally positive economic signals. Seasonally adjusted statewide employment increased by 900 jobs in January. The unemployment rate in January remained unchanged at 5.3 percent, still the highest unemployment rate among states. Taxable sales in December rose by 2.1 percent year-over-year. Gaming revenue in January increased by 0.5 percent compared to last year.

Clark County displayed mixed economic signals. Seasonally adjusted employment in the Las Vegas metro area added 1,800 jobs in January. The unemployment rate stayed at 5.5 percent in January, remaining the highest among large metro areas. December taxable sales climbed by 1.0 percent year-over-year. Gaming revenue and Harry Reid air passengers in January decreased by 1.1 and 1.0 percent, respectively, from last year. January Las Vegas visitor volume, nonetheless, was up robustly by 3.3 percent year-over-year. January residential permits continued a strong year-over-year gain of 153.9 percent.

Washoe County also showed somewhat favorable economic signals. The Reno-Sparks seasonally adjusted employment lost 900 jobs in January. The unemployment rate, nevertheless, decreased to 4.1 percent. December taxable sales experienced a solid gain of 7.5 percent year-over-year. January air passengers and gaming revenue increased by 0.7 and 35.4 percent, respectively, year-over-year, while visitor volume fell by 2.8 percent over the same period. January's residential permits were up by 22.1 percent year-over-year.

The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or the Nevada System of Higher Education.

	Date	Units	Data			Growth		Comments
			Latest	Previous	Year Ago	Recent	Year Ago	
Nevada								
Employment	2024M01	000s, SA	1572.7	1571.8	1515.6	0.1%	3.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M01	%, SA	5.3	5.3	5.2	0.0%	0.1%	Flat Month-Over-Month
Taxable Sales	2023M12	\$billion, NSA	8.415	7.552	8.243	11.4%	2.1%	Up Over Year Ago
Gaming Revenue	2024M01	\$million, NSA	1,279.42	1,432.63	1,272.96	-10.7%	0.5%	Up Slightly From Year Ago
Air Passengers	2024M01	million persons, NSA	4.704	5.186	4.741	-9.3%	-0.8%	Down From Year Ago
Gasoline Sales	2023M12	million gallons, NSA	98.55	97.09	98.34	1.5%	0.2%	Up Slightly From Year Ago
Clark County								
Employment	2024M01	000s, SA	1147.9	1146.1	1107.6	0.2%	3.6%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M01	%, Smoothed SA	5.5	5.5	5.8	0.0%	-0.3%	Flat Month-Over-Month
Taxable Sales	2023M12	\$billion, NSA	6.208	5.511	6.149	12.7%	1.0%	Up Over Year Ago
Gaming Revenue	2024M01	\$million, NSA	1,117.52	1,269.78	1,129.71	-12.0%	-1.1%	Down From Year Ago
Residential Permits	2024M01	units permitted	1135	1283	447	-11.5%	153.9%	Up Strongly From Year Ago
Commercial Permits	2023M01	permits, NSA	35	29	43	20.7%	-18.6%	Low and Volatile
Air Passengers	2024M01	million persons, NSA	4.347	4.818	4.390	-9.8%	-1.0%	Down From Year Ago
Gasoline Sales	2023M12	million gallons, NSA	68.14	66.34	67.56	2.7%	0.9%	Up Over Year Ago
Visitor Volume	2023M12	million persons, NSA	3.536	3.456	3.474	2.3%	1.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Washoe County								
Employment**	2024M01	000s, SA	269.3	270.2	261.0	-0.3%	3.2%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M01	%, Smoothed SA	4.1	4.3	3.8	-0.2%	0.3%	Up Over Year Ago
Taxable Sales**	2023M12	\$billion, NSA	1.356	1.186	1.261	14.3%	7.5%	Up Strongly
Gaming Revenue	2024M01	\$million, NSA	87.67	80.35	64.73	9.1%	35.4%	Up Strongly
Residential Permits	2024M01	units permitted	320	337	262	-5.0%	22.1%	Up Over Year Ago
Commercial Permits	2019M01	permits, NSA	40	21	42	90.5%	-4.8%	Low and Volatile
Air Passengers	2024M01	million persons, NSA	0.347	0.357	0.344	-2.8%	0.7%	Up Over Year Ago
Gasoline Sales**	2023M12	million gallons, NSA	14.65	14.39	14.34	1.8%	2.2%	Up Over Year Ago
Visitor Volume	2024M01	million persons, NSA	0.245	0.275	0.252	-10.9%	-2.8%	Down From Year Ago
United States								
Employment	2024M02	million, SA	157.808	157.533	155.060	0.2%	1.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M02	%, SA	3.9	3.7	3.6	0.2%	0.3%	Increased
Consumer Price Index	2024M02	82-84=100, SA	311.1	309.7	301.5	0.4%	3.2%	Up Over Year Ago
Core CPI	2024M02	82-84=100, SA	315.6	314.4	304.1	0.4%	3.8%	Up Strongly
Employment Cost Index	2023Q4	05.12=100, SA	164.3	162.8	157.6	0.9%	4.3%	Up Strongly
Productivity Index	2023Q4	2017=100, SA	112.2	111.3	109.4	0.8%	2.6%	Up Over Year Ago
Retail Sales	2024M01	\$billion, SA	700.3	706.2	695.8	-0.8%	0.6%	Up Over Year Ago
Auto and Truck Sales	2024M01	million, SA	14.98	16.12	15.11	-7.1%	-0.9%	Down From Year Ago
Housing Starts	2024M01	million, SA	1.331	1.562	1.340	-14.8%	-0.7%	Down From Year Ago
Real GDP***	2023Q4	2017\$billion, SA	22669.0	22490.7	21990.0	3.2%	3.1%	Strong Growth
Dollar Exchange Rate	2024M02	06.01=100, NSA	121.416	120.577	120.337	0.7%	0.9%	Up Over Year Ago
Trade Balance	2024M01	\$billion, SA	-67.434	-64.168	-70.296	5.1%	-4.1%	Year-Over-Year Deficit Decrease
S and P 500	2024M02	monthly close, NSA	5096.27	4845.65	3970.15	5.2%	28.4%	Up Strongly
Real Short-term Rate*	2024M02	%, NSA	2.24	2.32	0.45	-0.1%	1.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Treasury Yield Spread*	2024M02	%, NSA	-1.03	-1.16	-0.90	0.1%	-0.1%	Down From Year Ago

Note: NSA = Not Seasonally Adjusted, SA = Seasonally Adjusted

*Growth data represent change in the percentage rate

**Reflects the Reno-Sparks MSA which includes Washoe and Storey Counties

***Recent growth is an annualized rate

Sources: Nevada Department of Taxation; Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation; UNR Bureau of Business and Economic Research; UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research; Harry Reid International Airport; Reno/Tahoe International Airport; Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority; U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Federal Reserve System.