



NEVADA BUSINESS CONDITIONS

UNLV | LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL
CENTER FOR BUSINESS
AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

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The first quarter estimate for the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) for 2024Q1 increased at an annual rate of 1.6 percent. Although the growth rate was somewhat disappointing, the breakdown of the components suggests a robust economy with strong consumer spending. A surge in imports and reduced business inventories negatively contributed to real GDP growth. Increased imports and reduced inventories, however, indicate robust consumer demand for goods and services.

Seasonally adjusted U.S. non-farm payroll increased by 175,000 jobs in April, which fell below the 243,000 market estimate and a decrease from March's 315,000 jobs. Average hourly earnings increased by 0.2 percent, lower than the 0.3 percent market estimate. April's unemployment increased to 3.9 percent from 3.8 percent in March. Overall, the most recent data suggest a slight weakening in the labor market. Retail sales in March increased robustly by 4.3 percent year-over-year. In its May meeting, the Fed announced that it would maintain the federal funds rate unchanged while deciding to slow the pace of balance sheet reductions, which may alleviate any liquidity challenges within the banking system.

Nevada posted strong economic signals. Seasonally adjusted employment added 1,800 jobs in March. The unemployment rate slightly decreased to 5.1 percent from 5.2 percent in the previous month. February taxable sales increased 7.3 percent year-over-year. March gaming revenue, however, saw a decrease of 1.6 percent from last year.

Clark County exhibited predominantly mixed economic growth. Seasonally adjusted employment increased by 1,700 in April. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percent, from 5.4 percent to 5.3; down the same percentage point from a year ago. Taxable sales in February increased 6.0 percent from a year ago, attributed to boosted tourism activities by the Super Bowl and increased convention attendees. March gaming revenue, nonetheless, decreased by 1.5 percent year-over-year. Furthermore, the hotel occupancy rate and average daily room rate plummeted, partly due to a sharp decrease in convention attendance March residential permits

increased significantly by 120.7 percent compared to last year, possibly reflecting anticipation of interest rate reductions.

Washoe County displayed slightly stronger economic growth. Reno-Sparks seasonally adjusted employment experienced a strong increase of 1,700 jobs in March. The unemployment rate edged down by 0.1 percentage point to 4.0 percent from 4.1 percent. Taxable sales surged by 17.3 percent year-over-year. Residential permits in March climbed by 13.5 percent from last 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	2024M03	000s, SA	1576.0	1574.2	1524.8	0.1%	3.4%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M03	%, SA	5.1	5.2	5.1	-0.1%	0.0%	Down Month-Over-Month
Taxable Sales	2024M02	\$billion, NSA	6.902	6.892	6.435	0.1%	7.3%	Up Over Year Ago
Gaming Revenue	2024M03	\$million, NSA	1,290.41	1,342.19	1,312.05	-3.9%	-1.6%	Down From Year Ago
Air Passengers	2024M02	million persons, NSA	4.695	4.701	4.521	-0.1%	3.9%	Up Over Year Ago
Gasoline Sales	2024M02	million gallons, NSA	90.80	93.99	88.70	-3.4%	2.4%	Up Over Year Ago
Clark County								
Employment	2024M03	000s, SA	1149.8	1148.1	1114.5	0.1%	3.2%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M03	%, Smoothed SA	5.3	5.4	5.4	-0.1%	-0.1%	Down Month-Over-Month
Taxable Sales	2024M02	\$billion, NSA	5.091	5.164	4.802	-1.4%	6.0%	Up Over Year Ago
Gaming Revenue	2024M03	\$million, NSA	1,131.53	1,177.12	1,149.33	-3.9%	-1.5%	Down From Year Ago
Residential Permits	2024M03	units permitted	1185	1361	537	-12.9%	120.7%	Up Strongly From Year Ago
Commercial Permits	2023M01	permits, NSA	35	29	43	20.7%	-18.6%	Low and Volatile
Air Passengers	2024M02	million persons, NSA	4.336	4.349	4.176	-0.3%	3.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Gasoline Sales	2024M02	million gallons, NSA	63.22	66.17	61.44	-4.5%	2.9%	Up Over Year Ago
Visitor Volume	2024M02	million persons, NSA	3.547	3.544	3.251	0.1%	9.1%	Up Strongly
Washoe County								
Employment**	2024M03	000s, SA	270.1	268.4	262.6	0.6%	2.9%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M03	%, Smoothed SA	4.0	4.1	3.9	-0.1%	0.1%	Down Month-Over-Month
Taxable Sales	2024M02	\$billion, NSA	1.087	0.958	0.926	13.5%	17.3%	Up Strongly
Gaming Revenue	2024M03	\$million, NSA	76.49	82.76	79.49	-7.6%	-3.8%	Down From Year Ago
Residential Permits	2024M03	units permitted	411	342	362	20.2%	13.5%	Up Strongly
Commercial Permits	2019M01	permits, NSA	40	21	42	90.5%	-4.8%	Low and Volatile
Air Passengers	2024M02	million persons, NSA	0.354	0.347	0.328	2.1%	8.0%	Up Strongly
Gasoline Sales	2024M02	million gallons, NSA	13.34	13.59	13.34	-1.8%	0.0%	Flat Year-Over-Year
Visitor Volume	2024M03	million persons, NSA	0.296	0.273	0.300	8.4%	-1.4%	Down From Year Ago
United States								
Employment	2024M04	million, SA	158.286	158.111	155.484	0.1%	1.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2024M04	%, SA	3.9	3.8	3.4	0.1%	0.5%	Increased
Consumer Price Index	2024M03	82-84=100, SA	312.2	311.1	301.7	0.4%	3.5%	Up Over Year Ago
Core CPI	2024M03	82-84=100, SA	316.7	315.6	305.1	0.4%	3.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Employment Cost Index	2024Q1	05.12=100, SA	166.2	164.4	159.4	1.1%	4.3%	Up Over Year Ago
Productivity Index	2024Q1	2017=100, SA	112.0	111.9	108.9	0.1%	2.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Retail Sales	2024M03	\$billion, SA	707.7	702.7	678.7	0.7%	4.3%	Up Over Year Ago
Auto and Truck Sales	2024M04	million, SA	15.74	15.56	15.68	1.1%	0.4%	Up Slightly From Year Ago
Housing Starts	2024M03	million, SA	1.321	1.549	1.380	-14.7%	-4.3%	Down
Real GDP***	2024Q1	2017\$billion, SA	22768.9	22679.3	22112.3	1.6%	3.0%	Modest Growth
Dollar Exchange Rate	2024M03	97.01=100	121.041	121.416	120.807	-0.3%	0.2%	Up Over Year Ago
Trade Balance	2024M03	\$billion, SA	-69.372	-69.458	-59.578	-0.1%	16.4%	Year-Over-Year Deficit Increase
S and P 500	2024M04	monthly close	5035.69	5254.35	4169.48	-4.2%	20.8%	Down Month-Over-Month
Real Short-term Rate*	2024M04	%, NSA	2.04	2.34	0.22	-0.3%	1.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Treasury Yield Spread*	2024M04	%, NSA	-0.70	-1.03	-1.46	0.3%	0.8%	Up Over 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; McCarran 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.