

Economic Update, November 16, 2018  
Submitted by Michael Mount

Summary: Tennessee added 59,300 jobs from October 2017 to October 2018 and posted a respectable 3.6 percent increase in state gross domestic product. Gallup [reported](#) that 68 percent of Americans say it is a good time to find a quality job (see chart at bottom). However, inflation outpaced earnings growth, from September to October 2018, for the first time since February 2018.

Census

Thursday, [Sales for Retail and Food Services](#): “U.S. retail and food services sales for October 2018 . . . were \$511.5 billion, an increase of 0.8 percent from the previous month, and 4.6 percent above October 2017.”

Thursday, [Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales](#): “The combined value of distributive trade sales and manufacturers’ shipments for September . . . was estimated at \$1,468.0 billion, up 0.4 percent from August 2018 and was up 6.6 percent from September 2017. Manufacturers’ and trade inventories . . . were estimated at an end-of-month level of \$1,967.5 billion, up 0.3 percent from August 2018 and were up 4.4 percent from September 2017.”

Friday, [Services](#): “Advance U.S. selected services total revenue for the third quarter of 2018 . . . was \$3,938.9 billion, an increase of 2.0 percent from the second quarter of 2018 and up 6.3 percent from the third quarter of 2017.” From the third quarter of 2017 to the third quarter of 2018, information had the largest percentage increase (8.7 percent), while accommodation was the only category to decrease (-2.6 percent).

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Thursday, [Gross Domestic Product by State](#): “Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia in the second quarter of 2018. . . . The percent change in real GDP in the second quarter ranged from 6.0 percent in Texas to 2.5 percent in Delaware.” Tennessee’s increase was 3.6 percent, an increase from 1.8 percent in the first quarter of 2018.

Thursday, [Local Area Personal Income](#): “Personal income increased in 2,787 counties [nationwide], decreased in 318, and was unchanged in 8 in 2017.” For Tennessee, personal income increased in all counties in 2017, and the overall increase for Tennessee was 3.6 percent, up from 2.6 percent in 2016.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Wednesday, [Real Earnings](#): “Real average hourly earnings for all employees decreased 0.1 percent from September to October. . . . This result stems from a 0.2-percent increase in average hourly earnings combined with a 0.3-percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Real average weekly earnings increased 0.1 percent over the month due to the decrease in real average hourly earnings being combined with a 0.3-percent increase in the average workweek.”

Wednesday, [Consumer Price Index](#): The index “increased 0.3 percent in October . . . after rising 0.1 percent in September. . . . Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 2.5 percent.”

Thursday, [US Import and Export Price Indexes](#): “Prices for U.S. imports increased 0.5 percent in October. . . . Higher fuel and nonfuel prices contributed to the October increase. U.S. export prices advanced 0.4 percent in October after recording no change in September.”

Friday, [State Employment and Unemployment](#): “Unemployment rates were lower in October in 6 states, higher in 2 states, and stable in 42 states and the District of Columbia.” Tennessee added 59,300 jobs from October 2017 to October 2018.

Department of Labor

Thursday, [Initial Claims](#): “In the week ending November 10, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 216,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 214,000.”

NFIB

Tuesday, [Small Business Economic Trends](#): “Small business owners delivered another near record month of economic indicators and Optimism in October. The Optimism Index shed a modest 0.5 points. . . . Job creation was solid in October at a net addition of 0.15 workers per firm. . . . Fifty-nine percent reported capital outlays, down 1 point from September.”

Gallup

Friday, [Economic Confidence](#): “Fifty-five percent of Americans rate economic conditions as either excellent or good, while 14% describe them as poor. . . . Meanwhile, 57% say the economy is getting better compared with 36% who say it is getting worse. . . . The new poll also finds 68% of Americans saying it is now ‘a good time to find a quality job,’ tying the record high from last month as well as July.”

