

Problem Set 1

Due Wednesday January 15, 4pm

- (1) The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) announced statistics for the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on December 19, 2024. Find the “release” on the BEA website (www.bea.gov). You can find it on their main website (Gross Domestic Product) or under “Current Releases”. You will need to examine more than just the summary page.
 - (a) Which quarter was announced? (e.g., which quarter of which year?)
 - (b) Find the following values, in percent change at annual rates for the latest quarter
 - (i) Real GDP
 - (ii) Real personal consumption expenditure (PCE)
 - (iii) Real nonresidential fixed investment
 - (c) Are these the “Advanced”, “Second” or “Third” estimates?
 - (d) Find the schedule news releases. On which dates will 2024 Quarter IV be released?
 - (i) Advanced estimate
 - (ii) Second estimate
 - (iii) Third estimate
- (2) The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced the Producer Price Index (PPI) for November 2024 on December 12, 2024. Find the release on the BLS website (www.bls.gov). (On right, under “Latest Numbers”, click on “Producer Price Index”.)
 - (a) What was the monthly percentage change in November 2024 in the PPI (Total Final Demand)?
 - (b) The percentage change from one year ago?
 - (c) What was the monthly percentage change in November in goods less food and energy?

- (d) Find the index for pork (we are in NC!). To find this, you will have to examine the sub tables carefully. What was the percent change from November 2023?
 - (e) Again for pork, the seasonally adjusted percent change from October 2024?
- (3) The BLS announced the state unemployment figures for November 2024 on December 20, 2024. Find the announcement and the unemployment rates for each U.S. state (from the BLS webpage, look under Subjects/Unemployment/State & Local Unemployment Rates. The states are listed on the left. Click “read more” to find the state data.)
- (a) Find the unemployment rate in November 2024 in your home state. If your home state is not in the U.S., you can pick one at random, or North Carolina.
 - (b) What does the (P) mean?
- (4) The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is officially charged with making economic and budget projections. Find their most recent (June 2024) projections for U.S. real GDP on their website (www.cbo.gov). Under “Topics” click “Economy”, then under “10-Year Economic Projections”, click “Jun 2024”. This should open up an Excel file.
- (a) Find the Quarterly projections for the percentage change in real GDP for the second, third and fourth quarter of 2024.
 - (b) Comment on the difference between the projection for the third quarter and your answer to question 1 (b) (i) above.
 - (c) Find the Calendar Year projections for the percentage change in real GDP for 2024, 2025, and 2026.