Job Numbers:

Numbers describing the state of the job market. These numbers are focused on employment and payroll statistics. In particular, this category tracks what percentage of the workforce is currently (un)employed and how many jobs are added/lost.

Market Numbers:

This category contains numbers that describe the state of various “markets” around the globe. For example, numbers describing the state of the S&P 500 would fall into this category, because they track overall market activity in the United States. Other values that could fall into this category include global commodity prices and national debt prices. The stock price of individual companies, currency prices, and energy prices.

Housing:

Numbers describing the state of the housing market including the average cost of a new home, the number of new homes being built, and the volume of home sales during a given period.

Macro Economy:

This category tracks the aggregate size of the economy, and the wealth of its residents. GDP and GDP per capita fall into this category.

Wages:

Metrics that track wages fall into this category. The most common quantity here is inflation adjusted wage growth, but other measures that track shifts in wages (at a national level) should be included here (e.g. the Atlanta Fed’s wage growth tracker figures – although I doubt you’ll see it in any articles).

Prices:

This category includes metrics that track how the prices of goods and the cost of living has shifted over time. For the most part, the metrics in this category are different ways to monitor inflation. Each one takes a different approach to calculating this value, and they generally differ in which goods to based the calculation on (e.g. do this choose to include food or energy costs or not).

Confidence:

These metrics are based on surveys (usually run by universities like UMich) that attempt to measure how people perceive the state of the economy. The most famous such survey is the consumer sentiment survey that asks people how confident they are in the economy through questions that prod at their buying habits.

Retail Sales:

Tracks national level retail sales. This measures how much people are purchasing, and whether the amount people are purchasing is going up or down (at a national level).

Interest Rates:

The rates set by institutions like the federal reserve. These rates determine the cost of borrowing (e.g. getting a home loan).

Currency:

The prices of currencies on the open market, and exchange rates between currencies.

Energy:

Quantities that describe the cost of energy. The prices of a barrel of crude oil, or a cubic meter of LNG both fall into this category. Renewable/green energy prices could also be in this category (e.g. price per kw/h of wind power in the US).