

☰ TABLE OF CONTENTS	ABOUT USAFACTS	GOVERNMENT FINANCES	POPULATION	IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY	ECONOMY	STANDARD OF LIVING
	WEALTH & SAVINGS	HEALTH	INFRASTRUCTURE	OTHER KEY TOPICS	RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCES & NOTES

Economy facts

Inflation

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) 12-month inflation rate peaked at 9.0% in June 2022, the highest since the early 1980s. It cooled to below 4% from June to December 2023.
- Consumers faced prices in December 2023 that were 20.4% higher for food, 18.7% higher for shelter, and 33.5% higher for energy than in January 2021.
- To combat inflation, the Federal Reserve increased interest rates seven times in 2022 and four times in 2023, reaching a target range of 5.25% to 5.50% by late July 2023.
- The Personal Consumption Expenditures Index (PCE) 12-month inflation rate inched towards the Federal Reserve’s target rate of 2% year-over-year inflation in 2023 and the beginning of 2024.

US trade

- The US trade deficit decreased by 22% from 2022 to 2023, from \$990.3 billion to \$773.4 billion.
- The services trade surplus increased to \$288.2 billion in 2023, reversing a four-year downward trend.
- Canada remained the nation’s top trading partner in 2023, followed by Mexico and China, marking the first time in 20 years that the US imported more from Mexico than China.
- The country’s largest trade deficit was with China, totaling \$253.4 billion.

Economic growth

- In 2023, real GDP (GDP adjusted for inflation) increased 2.5%, which is above the average annual rate of 2.1% from 2000 through 2022.
- From 2022 to 2023, real GDP decreased in one state, Delaware, and increased by more than 5.5% in North Dakota and Texas.
- In 2023, US employers added approximately 3.1 million jobs, indicating growth but at a slower pace than in 2021 and 2022. Florida, Nevada, Texas, and Alaska saw job increases of 3% or more.

Labor market

- The unemployment rate remained steady at 3.6% in 2023, matching the previous year. These were the lowest levels since 1969. Rates varied across states, from a 1.9% low in North Dakota to a 5.1% high in Nevada.
- The 2023 job openings rate averaged 5.7%, or about 9.35 million job openings. This is down 1.1 percentage points from the 2022 peak, but higher than any other year prior to 2021.
- The labor force participation rate was 62.6% in 2023, slightly below the 2019 level. State participation rates varied, with Mississippi at the low end and Utah at the high end.

About the data

What are the primary sources of data on this topic?

- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
- Federal Reserve of St. Louis (FRED) gathers and publishes data from BLS and BEA. USAFacts often accesses economic data through FRED’s website.

What adjustments did USAFacts make to this data?

- Trade balance was adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (not seasonally adjusted).

Other things to know about the data

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis update many economic indicators monthly, including data about inflation, employment, job openings, unemployment, and labor force participation.