Indicator/Action Economics Survey:	Last Actual:	Regions' View:
Fed Funds Rate: Target Range Midpoint *(After the April 28-29 FOMC meeting):* Target Range Mid-point: 3.625 to 3.625 percent Median Target Range Mid-point: 3.625 percent	Range: 3.50% to 3.75% Midpoint: 3.625%	This is a busy week for both economic data releases and central bank meetings with the ECB, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, and the FOMC all convening this week. While none of the central banks are likely to make any changes in their policy rates, it remains to be seen how they may alter their forward guidance to account for the potential impacts of the conflict in the Middle East, particularly with inflation readings already reflecting higher energy prices. For the FOMC, that could mean the post-meeting policy statement acknowledges "two-sided risks" to the path of the Fed funds rate. Either way, in what looks likely to be his final press conference in this role, Chair Powell could strike a somewhat hawkish tone, which would seem fitting in light of the signals expected from this week's reads on the PCE Deflator and the prices paid index from the ISM Manufacturing Index.
April Consumer Confidence Tuesday, 4/28 Range: 85.0 to 91.1 Median: 89.0	Mar = 91.8	Down to 87.6, as higher gasoline prices weigh on consumer moods. The University of Michigan's survey of consumer sentiment fell to an all-time low in April, and while we don't expect the Conference Board's gauge of consumer confidence to follow suit, our forecast would mark the lowest reading since last April. It's worth noting that the University of Michigan survey is more skewed toward overall financial conditions while the Conference Board's survey puts more emphasis on labor market conditions, which could limit the downside for consumer confidence. Either way, low sentiment/confidence readings haven't translated into weaker consumer spending, at least not yet, as strong supports for spending remain in place, one of which is that even with job growth having slowed sharply, growth in aggregate labor earnings continues to outpace inflation. Though having dimmed somewhat, consumers' assessments of labor market conditions have stabilized of late, and this is the component of the April survey that we'll be watching most closely.
March Advance Trade Balance: Goods Wednesday, 4/29 Range: -$93.0 to -$80.2 billion Median: -$86.8 billion	Feb (final) = -$84.6 billion	Widening to -$90.1 billion.
February/March Building Permits Wednesday, 4/29 Range: N/A Median: N/A	Jan = 1.386 million units SAAR	It's a double shot of residential construction data, as Census is combining the data for February and March into one release, which hopefully marks the end of the disruptions in the flow of the residential construction data triggered by last fall's government shutdown. While many are skipping forecasts of the February data and making forecasts of the March data, we won't venture a guess on the latter without seeing the former. Our forecast anticipates total permit issuance rising to an annual rate of 1.416 million units in February. On a not seasonally adjusted basis, we look for total permits of 106,000 units in February, up 5.8 percent from January, larger than the typical February increase but that in part reflects weak permit issuance in January. Though mortgage interest rates fell during February, that likely provided little spark to single family permit issuance. Not only are builders still working down uncomfortably high spec inventories, but the backlog of single family units permitted but not yet started remains substantial. While we haven't made forecasts for March housing permits and starts, one thing to be aware of is that in any given year March is a month in which not seasonally adjusted single family permits and starts typically rise significantly. Our sense is that this March's increases will have been well smaller than is typical for the month, and if we're correct on this point the headline prints for housing permits and starts could fall short of forecasts.
February/March Housing Starts Wednesday, 4/29 Range: N/A Median: N/A	Jan = 1.487 million units SAAR	We look for the February data to show total housing starts falling to an annual rate of 1.354 million units. On a not seasonally adjusted basis, we look for total starts of 99,300 units, down 4.8 percent from January. That decline, however, is totally driven by our expectations that the spike in multi-family starts seen in the January data will be unwound. Our forecast anticipates unadjusted single family starts were up by just over seven percent from January, which would be right in line with the typical February increase. As for the March data, we'll reiterate the point made above, which is that the March seasonal factors are geared toward a hefty increase in single family starts, but we'd be surprised to see anything close to the typical March increase. If we're correct, this sets the stage for a weak headline print on March starts.

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ECONOMIC PREVIEW

REGIONS

Week of April 27, 2026

Indicator/Action Economics Survey:	Last Actual:	Regions' View:
March Durable Goods Orders Wednesday, 4/29 Range: -4.0 to 2.4 percent Median: 0.5 percent	Feb = -1.3%	Up by 2.4 percent. We are looking for nondefense aircraft to support the headline print, with Boeing posting an increase in net orders, albeit from a modest February count, and Airbus seeing net orders surge. As we routinely note, however, the mapping between orders reported by the manufacturers and the dollar volume of orders reported in the Census data isn't always clear or direct, so our forecast of top-line orders may be well off course. As we also routinely note, the most important line item in the monthly reports on durable goods orders is orders for core capital goods, an early indicator of business investment in equipment and machinery as reported in the GDP data. Core capital goods orders have been on quite a heater since the middle of last year, and we don't expect that to have changed in March. One risk, however, is that the impacts of the conflict in the Middle East – spikes in input prices and significant shipping delays – lead firms to put a hold on cap ex plans. We have not yet seen much evidence of that, and any such effects would likely not have appeared in the March data, but this is something to watch going forward.
March Durable Goods Orders: Ex-Trnsp. Wed., 4/29 Range: -0.8 to 2.0 percent Median: 0.4 percent	Feb = +0.9%	We look for ex-transportation orders to be up by 0.6 percent, and we look for core capital goods orders (nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft and parts) to be up by 0.9 percent.
Q1 Real GDP: 1st estimate Thursday, 4/30 Range: 1.0 to 4.1 percent Median: 2.2 percent SAAR	Q4 = +0.5% SAAR	Up at an annualized rate of 2.5 percent, but there's less there than meets the eye as we look for real private domestic demand (total household and business spending adjusted for price changes) to have grown at about half that pace. Recall that, under GDP accounting conventions, the shutdown of the federal government took more than a full percentage point off real GDP growth in Q4 2025, and much of that hit will be made up for in the Q1 2026 data. With much of the spike in nonfarm business inventories seen in Q1 2025 having been drawn down over the course of the year, we expect the GDP data to show a build in inventories in Q1 that will have supported top-line real GDP growth, even if not nearly on the order of Q1 2025. As for private domestic demand, while our forecast anticipates strong growth in business investment in equipment and machinery and intellectual property products, we look for further declines in both residential fixed investment and business investment in structures to act as drags. We look for growth in real consumer spending to be quite a bit slower than was the case in Q4 2025, as the price deflators will pick up on the spike in energy prices and the faster pace of core goods price inflation seen in Q1.
Q1 GDP Price Index: 1st estimate Thursday, 4/30 Range: 2.8 to 4.3 percent Median: 3.9 percent SAAR	Q4 = +3.7% SAAR	Up at an annualized rate of 4.1 percent.
March Personal Income Thursday, 4/30 Range: 0.1 to 0.6 percent Median: 0.3 percent	Feb = -0.1%	Up by 0.3 percent. Despite a sizable increase in private sector payrolls, we look for only a tepid increase in aggregate private sector wage and salary earnings in March thanks to a decline in aggregate hours worked. This is a reminder of how a small change, one-tenth of an hour, in average weekly hours worked can have a profound impact on aggregate private sector wage and salary earnings, far and away the largest single component of personal income. We look for asset-based income to rebound from February's decline triggered by a sizable drop in dividend income, but we nonetheless expect rental income to remain a drag on growth in asset-based income. Perhaps the biggest wild card in the March data will be transfer payments. After a much smaller than typical January increase, transfer payments fell by 0.4 percent in February, dragging total personal income down with them. As far as we can tell, the weakness in transfer payments over the first two months of 2026 reflects declining ACA enrollments and declining Medicaid enrollments and how they are accounted for in the personal income data. While our forecast anticipates that most of the February decline will be made up for in the March data, transfer payments nonetheless loom as a risk to our forecast of March personal income growth. Either way, this is why we routinely stress after-tax income excluding transfer payments as the relevant pool of funds on which to assess the capacity for consumer spending and **Continued on Page Three**:

ECONOMIC PREVIEW

REGIONS

Week of April 27, 2026

Indicator/Action Economics Survey:		Last Actual:	Regions' View:
March Personal Income Range: 0.1 to 0.6 percent Median: 0.3 percent	Thursday, 4/30	Feb = -0.1%	**Continued from Page Two**: servicing household debt. A significant portion of transfer payments, such as Medicare and Medicaid, reflect payments to third party service providers rather than actual cash transfers, while cash transfers such as Social Security and Unemployment Insurance benefits are primarily devoted to necessity spending. As such, we see disposable, i.e., after-tax, income excluding transfers as the more useful measure against which to gauge consumers' capacity for spending and servicing debt.
March Personal Spending Range: 0.6 to 1.2 percent Median: 0.9 percent	Thursday, 4/30	Feb = +0.5%	Up by 1.1 percent. As with the retail sales data, we look for the spike in gasoline prices to be a powerful, but by far the sole, support for overall consumer spending in March. An increase in unit sales of new motor vehicles should add to the strength in other components implied by the retail sales data to yield a solid increase in spending on consumer durable goods. We are also looking for a larger increase in services spending than that seen in the February data. Thus far, consumers have largely fended off the blow from higher energy prices thanks to strong supports in the form of larger income tax refunds, growth in labor earnings that continues to outpace inflation, and healthy household balance sheets. Various higher frequency gauges of consumer spending suggest this has continued thus far in April, but the question is how much longer this can remain the case.
March PCE Deflator Range: 0.5 to 1.0 percent Median: 0.7 percent	Thursday, 4/30	Feb = +0.4%	Up by 0.7 percent, which would yield a year-on-year increase of 3.5 percent. We look for the core PCE Deflator to be up by 0.3 percent, which would translate into a year-on-year increase of 3.1 percent, making March the fourth straight month with core PCE inflation at or above three percent despite what has been pronounced deceleration in rent growth. This goes to our argument that inflation pressures were showing few signs of fading even prior to the start of the conflict in the Middle East and are unlikely to go away quietly once the conflict is resolved.
Q1 Employment Cost Index Range: 0.7 to 0.9 percent Median: 0.8 percent	Thursday, 4/30	Q4 = +0.7%	Up by 0.9 percent, with the wages component up by 0.7 percent and the benefits component up by 1.2 percent. The moderation in wage growth, which we expect to be reflected in the ECI, tends to be the main focus of discussions of labor costs, but growth in benefit costs, particularly health care benefits, is showing no signs of slowing down. While firms have pushed some of the increasing costs on to their workers, they are absorbing the bulk of rising health care premiums. This accounts for our above consensus forecast on the increase in the total ECI. On a year-over-year basis, our forecast would leave the total ECI up 3.4 percent, with wage costs up 3.3 percent and benefit costs up 3.5 percent.
April ISM Manufacturing Index Range: 51.0 to 56.0 percent Median: 53.0 percent	Friday, 5/1	Mar = 52.7%	Up to 53.8 percent. While this would mark a fourth straight month of the headline index being on the right side of the 50.0 percent break between contraction and expansion, there are some potential red flags to watch for. Other indicators suggest firms pulling orders forward as a hedge against prolonged disruptions in global supply chains stemming from the conflict in the Middle East, which could bring payback in the form of weaker orders down the line. Any such hedging, however, is immediately rendered less effective by what are already significantly slower supplier delivery times. Note that the ISM's index of supplier delivery times rose to 58.9 percent in March, the highest reading since May 2022, and we look for it to have pushed even higher in April. This matters here since slower delivery times are considered a sign of rising demand and, as such, increases in the index of delivery times push the headline index higher, even if slower delivery times reflect snarled supply chains as opposed to stronger demand. Regardless of how the diffusion indexes of the various components print in the April survey, it could be that the firm level details and comments from survey respondents will be the better guides to interpreting the April results. Additionally, mind the prices paid index, even though it does not enter into the calculation of the headline index. Even prior to the start of the conflict in the Middle East, the prices paid index was signaling persistent and broadly based upward pressure on input prices, and those pressures kicked into a higher gear in March, which saw the highest reading on the prices paid index – 78.3 percent – since June 2022. We'd be surprised if the prices paid index did not push above 80.0 percent in the April survey.

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