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Donald L. Harrison College of Business

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Executive Summary

The economy grew at an average annual rate of 4.3% in the third quarter, 2005. The forecast is for growth to be in the 3.5% range through 2006. Inflation appears under control and the unemployment rate has fallen to 5.0%. The economy appears to be on solid footing at present, and the biggest risks to continuing growth are rising interest rates and further spikes in energy prices.

Southeast Missouri enjoyed a good third quarter as employment rose by about 0.1%. Employment is up about 0.5% from a year ago and a steady climb in employment is expected to continue into 2006. Personal income and retail sales continue to grow with employment.

Southeast Missouri Business Indicators
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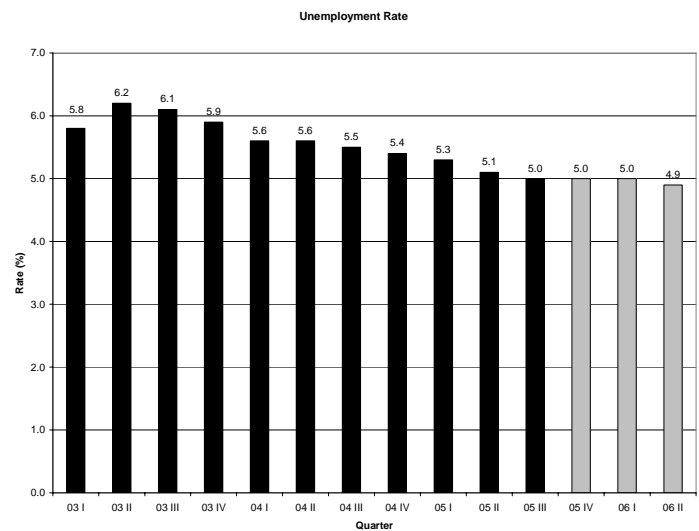
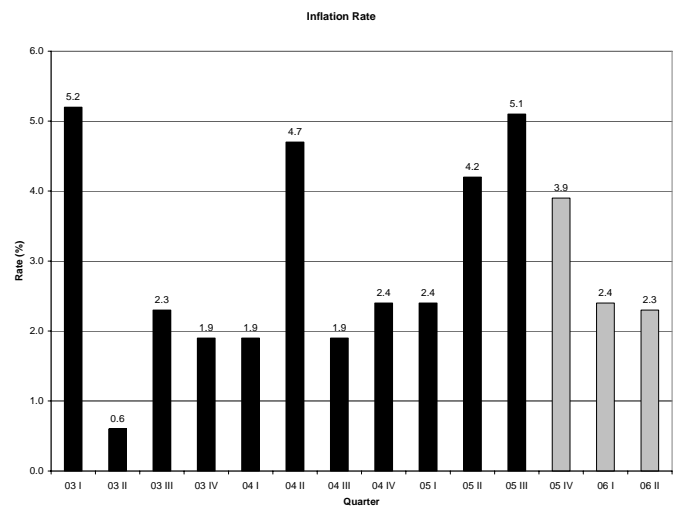
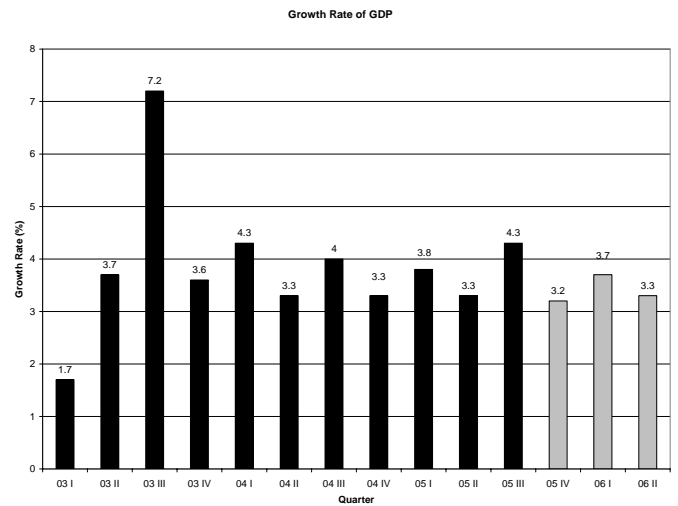
Economy Weathers Storms with Ease

Despite two serious hurricanes and the resulting dislocation, the economy grew at an average annual rate of 4.3% during the third quarter. This is a powerful statement to the underlying strength of the economy right now. Forecasters see some slowing in the fourth quarter (to around 3.2%) and predict a growth rate of Gross Domestic Product of about 3.5% in 2006.

Given the strong performance of the economy, the unemployment rate fell slightly in the third quarter to 5.0% (from 5.1%). Hurricane Katrina caused some temporary slowdown in the rate of hiring for a couple of months, but the November job figures were very positive as the preliminary estimate was that 215,000 new jobs were created. This monthly figure would translate into over 2.5 million new jobs annually, a very respectable amount.

The inflation rate has continued to jump around, basically rising and falling with the price of energy. After rising at an average annual rate of 4.2% in the second quarter of the year, inflation accelerated to 5.1% in the third quarter due almost entirely to higher energy prices. As energy prices have moderated in the fourth quarter (thus far), inflation is likely to fall below the 4% level (average annual rate) and below 3% into the next year. Of course, such inflation forecasts are very tentative and heavily dependent upon energy prices staying "tame."

One has to be encouraged by the continuing improvement in industrial production. While growth has not been quite as strong as originally forecast, the sector has shown some resiliency of late, leading to solid gains over the past several months. The big concern here is the domestic automobile industry. With Ford and GM announcing impending plant closures and corresponding job cuts, industrial production in the U.S. is likely to suffer. It will clearly be some time before we know the full impacts of the steps being taken in Ford and GM, but they will affect a lot of people

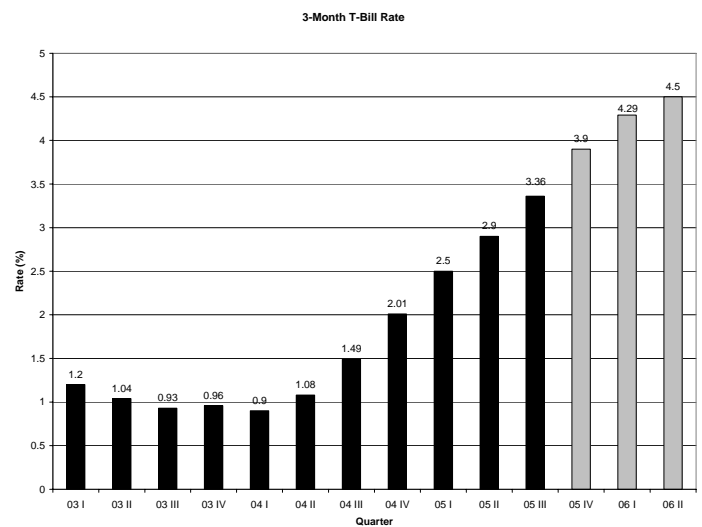
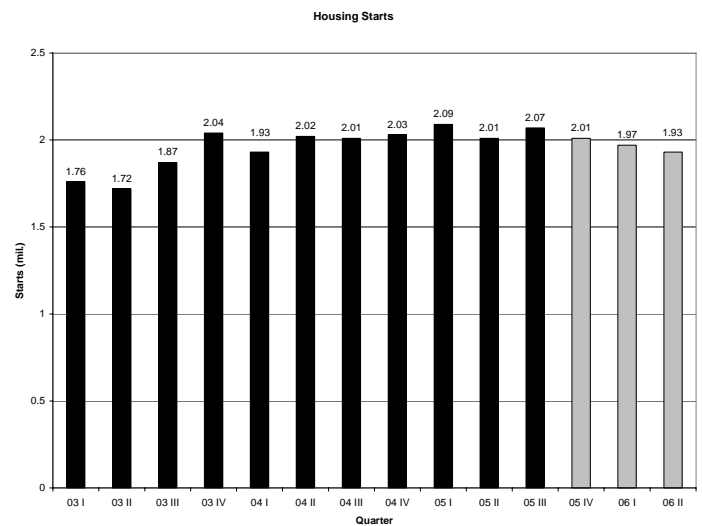
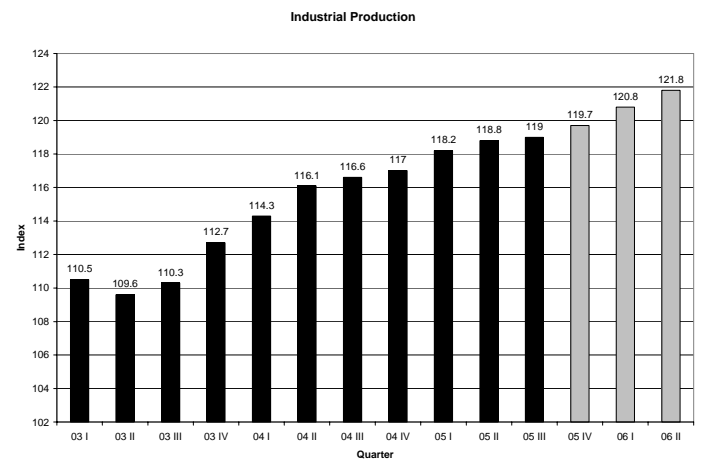


and, at least in the short term, could slightly reduce overall growth in the economy.

One sector that also is starting to show some signs of slowing down is housing. While housing starts remained at the 2 million level (average annual rate) in the third quarter, the consensus is that there will be some slowing over the next few quarters. How significant the slowing will be and the magnitude of the subsequent impact on the economy are open to debate; but it should be noted that housing construction has been a big part of economic growth for several years and any significant slowdown will definitely reverberate through the economy.

Finally, interest rates continue their upward climb due to the policy of the Federal Reserve System. Hoping to hold off inflationary pressures, the Fed continues to raise short term rates and economists expect increases will continue, with 3-month Treasury Bills likely to rise to around 4.5% by the middle of 2006.

Given the strength of the economy, there are two major risks to continued economic growth: energy prices and interest rates. So far, the economy has adjusted well to the Fed's gradual tightening of rates. However, if economic forces require even higher rates, the effects are not likely to be so sanguine. Higher energy prices, of course, reduce consumer spending on other goods and services, which can also slow the economy. They can also lead to a decline in consumer confidence, which also leads to lower spending.



Southeast Missouri Economy Looks Good for 2006

Once again, the southeast Missouri economy follows national trends with a solid third quarter performance. Employment in the region is up 0.5% over a year ago, which is close to its long term normal growth rate. Unemployment inched downward in the third quarter to 5.4%, while slightly above the national figure, it is down considerably from 6.3% in the third quarter of 2004.

Some counties continue to have somewhat lower unemployment rates: Cape Girardeau at 4.1%, Butler at 4.9%, Perry at 3.8%, Ste. Genevieve at 5.0%, while other counties still struggle to get their rates down: Dent at 6.0%, Dunklin at 7.0%, Iron at 6.6%, Madison at 6.0%, Mississippi at 6.7%, New Madrid at 7.1%, Pemiscot at 7.8% and Wayne at 6.2%.

Estimates of personal income through the second quarter of 2005 are now available. These estimates are based on employment totals and state personal income (which is only available through the second quarter). For the whole region, personal income now stands at an average annual level of more than \$22 billion. Two counties recently hit the \$1 billion mark: Scott and Butler, while it is estimated that Cape Girardeau has recently passed the \$2 billion mark.

It is estimated that personal income grew by 1.7% in the second quarter, an improvement over the 1% increase in the first quarter. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of personal income growth to a region. Income growth leads to higher retail sales, more revenue for local governments, and a generally healthy economy.

The growth in retail sales in the third quarter of 2005 was outstanding. Using sales tax data, it is estimated that retail sales grew by 6.9% over the third quarter of 2004. This is the best comparison since by looking at comparable quarters, we minimize any seasonal effects. Similarly, if we look at retail sales for the past year through the third quarter of 2005 and compare them to the third quarter of 2004, we get an increase of 3.5%. This is a very healthy

year-over-year gain in retail sales. We always have to be a little cautious when interpreting retail sales gains because quarterly changes could be partially due to the vagaries of the timing of the return of sales tax receipts by the state to counties and cities. But even if some of the receipts were shifted between quarters, the overall gain is so significant that we can be confident that the sales are indicative of very robust spending in southeast Missouri in the third quarter.

In summary, the southeast Missouri has performed well through the first three quarters of 2005 and should end the year on a high note. The outlook for 2006 is similar to the national economy: solid gains with employment up about 0.5% for the year, income growth in the range of 4% to 4.5%, with concomitant gains in retail sales.

Southeast Missouri Summary

	2004 II	2004 III	2004 IV	2005 I	2005 II	2005 III
Bollinger						
Employment	5,715	5,661	5,720	5,575	5,656	5,652
Change (%)	0.6	-0.9	1.0	-2.5	1.5	-0.1
Unemployment (%)	5.5	5.8	5.2	6.2	5.3	5.1
Personal Income	247,584	250,000	256,613	257,991	262,163	
Change (%)		0.9	2.6	0.5	1.6	
Retail Sales	15,055	14,152	13,710	13,949	14,845	16,148
Last 4 Quarters	57,248	56,942	57,127	56,956	56,746	58,652
Butler						
Employment	20,092	19,830	20,155	20,039	20,471	20,458
Change (%)	2.1	-1.3	1.6	-0.6	2.2	-0.1
Unemployment (%)	5.4	5.8	5.2	6.2	5.3	4.9
Personal Income	1,029,853	1,041,273	1,070,250	1,078,448	1,098,189	
Change (%)		1.1	2.8	0.8	1.8	
Retail Sales	138,604	136,673	131,344	136,546	140,119	140,974
Last 4 Quarters	512,243	523,462	532,955	538,077	539,592	548,893
Cape Girardeau						
Employment	37,135	36,787	37,170	36,230	36,753	36,723
Change (%)	0.6	-0.9	1.0	-2.5	1.5	-0.1
Unemployment (%)	4.7	4.9	4.2	4.9	4.5	4.1
Personal Income	1,968,767	1,985,204	2,036,212	2,045,623	2,076,855	
Change (%)		0.8	2.6	0.5	1.5	
Retail Sales	288,017	286,903	280,013	305,110	288,783	305,440
Last 4 Quarters	1,139,353	1,144,832	1,147,567	1,160,313	1,161,079	1,179,346
Carter						
Employment	2,751	2,805	2,801	2,669	2,858	2,909
Change (%)	5.7	2.0	-0.1	-4.7	7.1	1.8
Unemployment (%)	6.3	6.5	6.5	8.3	5.5	5.1
Personal Income	120,531	121,648	124,693	125,628	127,182	
Change (%)		0.9	2.5	0.5	1.5	
Retail Sales	9,701	10,395	8,955	9,122	9,183	11,638
Last 4 Quarters	40,244	38,581	37,529	38,173	37,655	38,898
Crawford						
Employment	10,947	10,748	10,615	10,306	10,767	10,745
Change (%)	4.1	-1.8	-1.2	-2.9	4.5	-0.2
Unemployment (%)	6.1	6.4	6.0	7.8	5.9	5.5
Personal Income	600,521	611,347	620,601	631,622	642,744	
Change (%)		1.8	1.5	1.8	1.7	
Retail Sales	43,960	51,675	45,864	42,287	47,254	53,981
Last 4 Quarters	179,814	181,531	183,210	183,986	187,180	189,386

(Note: Retail Sales and Personal Income are in thousands of dollars.)

	2004 II	2004 III	2004 IV	2005 I	2005 II	2005 III
Dent						
Employment	6,144	5,997	5,930	5,735	6,026	5,936
Change (%)	5.8	-2.4	-1.1	-3.3	5.1	-1.5
Unemployment (%)	6.2	6.7	6.4	7.5	6.2	6.0
Personal Income	306,883	308,366	309,043	311,842	313,563	
Change (%)		0.5	0.2	0.9	0.5	
Retail Sales	33,974	35,278	32,785	34,213	34,827	37,030
Last 4 Quarters	132,513	133,730	134,122	136,250	137,103	138,855
Dunklin						
Employment	13,693	13,301	13,469	13,262	13,471	13,309
Change (%)	0.9	-2.9	1.3	-1.5	1.6	-1.2
Unemployment (%)	7.3	7.9	7.0	8.4	7.3	7.0
Personal Income	741,876	746,153	760,945	764,408	768,231	
Change (%)		0.6	2.0	0.5	0.5	
Retail Sales	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Last 4 Quarters	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Franklin						
Employment	50,135	50,177	50,127	49,268	49,738	50,320
Change (%)	0.6	0.1	-0.1	-1.7	0.9	1.2
Unemployment (%)	5.4	6.3	5.3	7.0	5.5	5.4
Personal Income	2,816,226	2,865,584	2,953,220	2,988,337	3,048,057	
Change (%)		1.7	3.1	1.2	2.0	
Retail Sales	259,162	264,388	246,136	250,684	262,663	283,754
Last 4 Quarters	1,013,951	1,010,400	1,005,425	1,020,550	1,024,051	1,043,237
Gasconade						
Employment	7,269	7,073	7,080	6,916	7,078	7,063
Change (%)	2.8	-2.7	0.1	-2.3	2.3	-0.2
Unemployment (%)	5.7	6.9	5.6	7.1	5.5	5.4
Personal Income	380,691	384,467	392,546	398,507	403,095	
Change (%)		1.0	2.1	1.5	1.1	
Retail Sales	37,076	37,980	37,282	35,822	38,502	41,027
Last 4 Quarters	146,230	144,845	146,291	148,160	149,586	152,633
Iron						
Employment	4,572	4,450	4,429	4,364	4,468	4,430
Change (%)	2.8	-2.7	-0.5	-1.5	2.4	-0.9
Unemployment (%)	8.3	8.6	8.0	9.2	7.3	6.6
Personal Income	220,129	221,963	223,181	224,887	226,574	
Change (%)		0.8	0.5	0.8	0.7	
Retail Sales	16,271	17,386	15,783	22,375	20,757	23,216
Last 4 Quarters	64,261	64,395	64,522	71,815	76,301	82,131

(Note: Retail Sales and Personal Income are in thousands of dollars.)

	2004 II	2004 III	2004 IV	2005 I	2005 II	2005 III
Jefferson						
Employment	109,888	109,980	109,871	108,053	109,018	110,293
Change (%)	0.6	0.1	-0.1	-1.7	0.9	1.2
Unemployment (%)	5.3	5.9	5.2	6.6	5.1	5.1
Personal Income	5,722,689	5,827,036	6,009,574	6,086,129	6,213,387	
Change (%)		1.8	3.1	1.3	2.0	
Retail Sales	495,415	502,346	458,524	484,417	489,638	542,096
Last 4 Quarters	1,907,338	1,910,459	1,905,982	1,940,692	1,934,515	1,974,675
Madison						
Employment	5,464	5,411	5,414	5,337	5,515	5,499
Change (%)	1.3	-1.0	0.1	-1.4	3.3	-0.3
Unemployment (%)	6.3	6.7	6.0	7.4	6.4	6.0
Personal Income	245,115	250,280	259,521	262,970	269,651	
Change (%)		2.1	3.7	1.3	2.4	
Retail Sales	21,249	21,778	20,015	20,118	21,616	22,930
Last 4 Quarters	82,532	83,170	83,099	83,060	83,427	84,679
Mississippi						
Employment	5,722	5,535	5,635	5,524	5,736	5,557
Change (%)	2.9	-3.3	1.8	-2.0	3.8	-3.1
Unemployment (%)	6.9	8.0	7.7	8.0	6.6	6.7
Personal Income	298,040	298,808	304,721	304,413	308,547	
Change (%)		0.3	2.0	-0.1	1.0	
Retail Sales	21,064	23,782	19,150	19,609	20,811	23,732
Last 4 Quarters	81,667	83,679	83,340	83,605	83,352	83,302
New Madrid						
Employment	7,936	7,687	7,743	7,557	7,752	7,476
Change (%)	1.7	-3.2	0.7	-2.4	2.6	-3.6
Unemployment (%)	8.3	9.2	7.4	8.7	7.2	7.1
Personal Income	442,315	447,884	459,826	462,742	470,356	
Change (%)		1.3	2.7	0.6	1.6	
Retail Sales	71,082	73,467	67,493	74,050	72,817	73,415
Last 4 Quarters	281,877	283,171	285,307	286,542	288,217	287,775
Pemiscot						
Employment	7,204	6,936	6,980	6,895	7,076	6,887
Change (%)	0.3	-3.7	0.6	-1.2	2.6	-2.7
Unemployment (%)	9.1	9.5	9.5	9.6	8.2	7.8
Personal Income	454,758	454,226	465,231	468,049	474,858	
Change (%)		-0.1	2.4	0.6	1.4	
Retail Sales	30,610	29,525	29,578	31,477	31,432	33,793
Last 4 Quarters	122,968	121,681	121,982	121,190	122,012	126,280

(Note: Retail Sales and Personal Income are in thousands of dollars.)

	2004 II	2004 III	2004 IV	2005 I	2005 II	2005 III
Perry						
Employment	9,763	9,795	9,775	9,546	9,751	9,876
Change (%)	0.4	0.3	-0.2	-2.3	2.1	1.3
Unemployment (%)	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.8	4.2	3.8
Personal Income	435,490	442,062	455,046	459,604	468,912	
Change (%)		1.5	2.9	1.0	2.0	
Retail Sales	57,206	55,522	52,462	54,350	57,439	58,490
Last 4 Quarters	215,924	216,654	216,917	216,720	216,953	222,921
Reynolds						
Employment	2,592	2,425	2,359	2,324	2,517	2,468
Change (%)	11.7	-6.4	-2.7	-1.5	8.3	-1.9
Unemployment (%)	7.6	8.1	8.2	10.0	7.2	6.3
Personal Income	130,924	132,333	135,945	136,694	138,062	
Change (%)		1.1	2.7	0.5	1.0	
Retail Sales	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Last 4 Quarters	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ripley						
Employment	6,067	5,797	5,998	5,945	6,101	5,935
Change (%)	2.2	-4.4	3.5	-0.9	2.6	-2.7
Unemployment (%)	6.1	6.5	5.8	6.7	5.9	5.9
Personal Income	271,921	273,991	281,661	284,433	290,611	
Change (%)		0.8	2.8	0.5	1.6	
Retail Sales	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Last 4 Quarters	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Scott						
Employment	19,479	19,208	19,305	18,949	19,471	19,270
Change (%)	2.4	-1.4	0.5	-1.8	2.8	-1.0
Unemployment (%)	5.9	6.5	6.1	6.5	5.8	5.4
Personal Income	1,014,084	1,024,283	1,050,953	1,056,473	1,074,044	
Change (%)		1.0	2.6	0.5	1.6	
Retail Sales	82,805	86,275	75,029	80,257	80,085	90,290
Last 4 Quarters	316,281	320,856	321,980	325,366	319,646	325,661
Ste. Genevieve						
Employment	8,846	8,789	8,731	8,511	8,704	8,758
Change (%)	2.0	-0.6	-0.7	-2.5	2.3	0.6
Unemployment (%)	5.5	5.7	5.4	6.8	5.5	5.0
Personal Income	436,648	441,254	452,469	454,576	461,791	
Change (%)		1.1	2.5	0.5	1.6	
Retail Sales	34,919	37,354	36,278	33,485	36,710	42,764
Last 4 Quarters	127,162	128,726	131,443	142,036	143,827	149,237

(Note: Retail Sales and Personal Income are in thousands of dollars.)

	2004 II	2004 III	2004 IV	2005 I	2005 II	2005 III
St. Francois						
Employment	25,321	25,940	25,743	25,833	25,544	26,110
Change (%)		2.4	-0.8	0.4	-1.1	2.2
Unemployment (%)	7.0	6.6	7.1	6.8	7.9	5.8
Personal Income	1,306,972	1,325,849	1,365,355	1,379,026	1,406,614	
Change (%)		1.4	3.0	1.0	2.0	
Retail Sales	157,163	162,372	156,296	165,182	166,969	172,120
Last 4 Quarters	619,562	627,460	632,897	640,533	650,339	660,567
Stoddard						
Employment	14,696	14,260	14,627	14,527	14,843	14,670
Change (%)	1.0	-3.0	2.6	-0.7	2.2	-1.2
Unemployment (%)	5.7	6.2	5.9	7.1	5.6	5.4
Personal Income	709,542	716,921	721,344	736,812	744,527	
Change (%)		1.0	0.6	2.1	1.0	
Retail Sales	59,812	59,892	51,188	56,966	62,333	67,914
Last 4 Quarters	228,968	233,854	226,868	228,488	231,009	238,401
Washington						
Employment	9,409	9,417	9,407	9,251	9,334	9,443
Change (%)	0.6	0.1	-0.1	-1.7	0.9	1.2
Unemployment (%)	7.7	8.5	8.6	10.5	8.0	7.9
Personal Income	453,307	459,307	472,011	474,878	482,219	
Change (%)		1.3	2.8	0.6	1.5	
Retail Sales	35,020	36,766	33,720	34,435	35,256	38,932
Last 4 Quarters	137,594	137,825	138,145	139,671	139,907	142,343
Wayne						
Employment	5,273	5,143	5,182	5,056	5,261	5,214
Change (%)	3.3	-2.5	0.8	-2.4	4.0	-0.9
Unemployment (%)	7.1	7.4	7.3	8.5	6.9	6.2
Personal Income	261,615	264,577	267,324	270,365	273,437	
Change (%)		1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	
Retail Sales	21,918	23,562	20,927	20,887	22,080	24,329
Last 4 Quarters	85,361	86,402	86,546	87,295	87,457	88,223
Southeast Missouri						
Employment	396,732	392,855	394,356	387,383	394,486	395,001
Change (%)	1.4	-1.0	0.3	-1.8	1.8	0.1
Unemployment (%)	5.8	6.3	5.7	7.0	5.7	5.4
Personal Income	20,616,751	20,894,816	21,448,285	21,664,097	22,043,579	
Change (%)		1.3	2.6	1.0	1.7	
Retail Sales	1,929,984	1,967,654	1,832,532	1,925,541	1,954,158	2,104,013
Last 4 Quarters	7,498,093	7,532,835	7,543,254	7,654,389	7,678,563	7,816,244

(Note: Retail Sales and Personal Income are in thousands of dollars.)

Economic Census: 2002

In addition to the decennial census of the population, the United States Bureau of the Census (<http://www.census.gov>) conducts an economic census of businesses every five years. The results of the census are reported by economic sector using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICIS). Economic sectors include construction, manufacturing, agriculture, retail trade, etc. For some of these sectors, information is reported for regions as small as counties. Over the next three pages, we have included information for three major economic sectors: Manufacturing, Retail Trade, and Accommodation and Food Services.

Table 1 presents basic information concerning the manufacturing industry in southeast Missouri. Note that some small counties are not included since they have little or no manufacturing sector (for example, Bollinger County, Carter County). Also note that the information reported is for Cape Girardeau City and not the county. The reason is due to disclosure problems. The Census Bureau will never report information that might disclose data for a particular business. Due to the presence of a large manufacturer in Cape County (Proctor and Gamble), information for the entire County is not available. The very last entry in the table is for the Cape Girardeau Micropolitan Area, which includes Cape Girardeau County, Scott County and Alexander County in Illinois. If we add the all but the last row, we find that there were 947 manufacturing firms in southeast Missouri with 39,554 employees, of which 32,010 were production workers. The average production worker earned \$27,650 per year. The total value added of all manufacturing firms was about \$4.5 billion. These figures, of course, do not include all manufacturing firms (notably Proctor and Gamble as mentioned above). But the data we have indicate that the sector is an important employer in southeast Missouri generating wages to production workers of over \$885 million, and a total payroll (including administrative personnel) of well over a billion dollars.

Table 2 presents information on the retail trade sector in southeast Missouri. The number of firms approached 3,400, with annual sales of over \$7 billion. The total payroll was \$664 million for 37,088 employees. If we divide the payroll by the number of employees, we get \$17,908 as the average earnings in the retail sector. This number may be a bit misleading since some of the employees are likely part-time workers. The Center for Economic & Business Research estimates retail sales from sales tax data from the Missouri Department of Revenue. The Center's estimate for 2002 was \$7.1 billion, very close to the \$7.2 billion total in Table 2. However, due to lack of data, the Center does not make estimates for three counties (Dunklin, Reynolds and Ripley). But the Census Bureau estimates do not include the accommodation and eating sector, while the Center's estimates do. The upshot is if the various adjustments are made (for missing counties and for the missing sector), the estimates of the Bureau and the Center remain close. Some of the counties display estimates that are different between the Center and the Bureau. This is particularly true for New Madrid and Scott Counties. The Census Bureau puts New Madrid's retail sales at quite a bit less and Scott County's estimate at quite a bit more than does the Center. This may have to do with misplacing of some firms by the Bureau. Quite a few large retail stores in Sikeston are actually in New Madrid County and not Scott. It is suspected that the Census Bureau may be placing some of those stores in the wrong county when making its estimates

Table 1. Manufacturing in 2002

Area	Number of Firms	All Employees	Production Workers	Hours (1,000)	Wages (\$1,000)	Value Added (\$1,000)
Butler	56	3,298	2,974	5,295	70,721	226,340
Cape Girard. (City)	54	3,431	2,808	5,950	92,732	1,186,862
Crawford	43	1,521	1,334	2,539	29,424	117,453
Dent	27	692	605	1,082	15,162	58,971
Dunklin	29	942	801	1,622	20,141	114,995
Franklin	217	9,697	7,621	14,419	223,689	1,079,963
Gasconade	39	1,436	1,161	2,183	28,794	105,941
Jefferson	185	4,450	3,391	6,842	109,671	515,671
New Madrid	17	2,431	2,064	3,751	61,735	168,929
Pemiscot	14	838	729	1,424	18,324	49,385
Perry	36	3,001	2,342	4,686	56,485	276,789
Ripley	39	547	341	637	7,442	20,908
Scott	76	2,595	2,118	3,577	56,076	288,150
Ste. Gen.	35	1,581	1,248	2,582	36,327	130,874
St. Francois	57	2,466	1,951	3,730	47,749	168,060
Washington	23	628	522	999	10,623	34,422
Cape Girard. Micropolitan Area	205	8,413	6,869	13,474	197,952	1,711,193

Table 3 presents information for the Accommodation and Food Services industry in southeast Missouri. There were a total of 1,270 such firms in the region in 2002 with total sales of \$661,841,000. If we divide the total sales by the number of firms, we get about \$521,000 as the average sales of firms in the accommodation and food services industry in southeast Missouri. There is quite a bit of variation in this average figure from county to county. For example, for the 9 firms in Bollinger County, the average sales are about \$227,000, while for Cape Girardeau County, the average sales amount to \$710,000. The total number of employees in the sector amounted to 20,936 in 2002. Given the total payroll of \$188,882,000, employees earned an average of about \$9,000 a year. This low figure is no doubt due to the abundance of part-time workers in the sector. Tip income is also an important part of this sector, which is not likely to be reflected in the earnings figures.

For all of these sectors, it should be noted that only firms with payrolls are included. This means that small, family-run businesses are not included, which could be important for retail trade and for the accommodation and food services industry sectors. The result is that the estimates in Tables 2 and 3 are probably a little on the low side due to these exclusions.

Table 2. Retail Sector, 2002

County	No. of Firms	Sales (\$1,000)	Payroll (\$1,000)	Employees
Bollinger	32	53,535	5,236	333
Butler	238	541,264	45,094	2,522
Cape Girardeau	467	1,107,797	107,029	6,015
Carter	24	18,552	1,745	157
Crawford	81	157,824	13,222	697
Dent	66	103,805	9,891	666
Dunklin	168	305,180	26,169	1,567
Franklin	433	1,023,983	97,646	5,198
Gasconade	83	117,751	11,225	650
Iron	53	45,135	4,096	351
Jefferson	516	1,389,609	137,621	6,705
Madison	49	77,318	9,058	502
Mississippi	63	95,318	7,236	443
New Madrid	71	172,182	9,256	595
Pemiscot	81	134,154	11,729	749
Perry	89	195,843	19,372	1,074
Reynolds	25	23,361	1,697	119
Ripley	52	96,309	6,355	434
Scott	241	461,739	44,502	2,528
Ste. Genevieve	61	100,784	8,518	452
St. Francois	236	525,214	50,195	15,955
Stoddard	141	287,334	23,437	1,264
Washington	67	87,180	7,688	510
Wayne	51	70,269	6,169	411
Southeast Missouri	3,388	7,191,470	664,186	37,088

Table 3. Accommodation & Food Services

County	No. of Firms	Sales (\$1000)	Payroll (\$1000)	Employees
Bollinger	9	2,044	434	134
Butler	76	49,600	13,098	1,364
Cape Girardeau	155	110,100	33,163	3,525
Carter	14	4,288	1,111	153
Crawford	49	15,889	4,188	475
Dent	19	6,936	2,021	255
Dunklin	57	19,344	4,973	609
Franklin	167	85,487	24,229	2,578
Gasconade	42	12,465	3,764	452
Iron	16	3,375	887	104
Jefferson	215	144,365	40,959	4,514
Madison	20	6,005	1,619	237
Mississippi	17	8,164	2,204	238
New Madrid	22	5,374	1,276	158
Pemiscot	27	9,765	2,621	309
Perry	39	16,830	4,695	638
Reynolds	12	4,033	1,370	58
Ripley	16	5,106	1,688	214
Scott	85	43,255	12,017	1,270
Ste. Genevieve	24	9,042	2,564	320
St. Francois	105	70,270	20,093	2,223
Stoddard	43	17,652	5,018	573
Washington	15	6,411	1,473	181
Wayne	26	6,041	1,190	128
Southeast Missouri	1,270	661,841	188,882	20,936

Eighth Annual Economics Conference February 2006

As the newsletter went to press, plans for the Eighth Annual Economics Conference were not yet finalized. The Conference will take place during the month of February and will emphasize the role of energy prices in the economy. Every business and household is being forced to cope with higher energy prices: heating for their homes and businesses, gasoline for their cars and trucks, electricity for their lights. Against this backdrop, the Conference will explore the reasons for higher energy costs, how the higher costs are affecting some local businesses, and what is being done by businesses and individuals to try to mitigate the effects of the higher costs. More information about the Conference will be forthcoming in early January.