

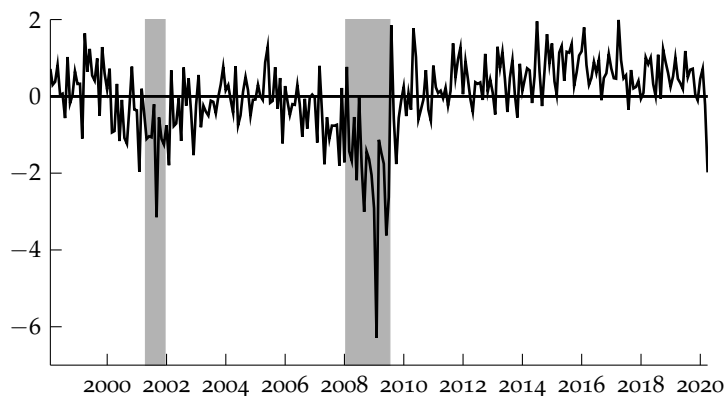
# Detroit Economic Activity Index (DEAI)

March 2020

THE DETROIT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY INDEX (DEAI) was  $-1.98$  in March 2020, down from  $-0.22$  in February. For the first quarter of 2020, the DEAI was  $+0.07$ , down from  $+0.36$  in the previous quarter. Detroit real gross city product (GCP) and real per capita income are projected to have increased 2.7% and 3.5% in 2019, respectively.

The DEAI measures growth in economic activity for the city of Detroit using a mixed-frequency dynamic factor model of [24 Detroit-specific data series](#). An index value greater than zero points to above-trend growth, and conversely, a value less than zero points to below-trend growth. The index is then measured in standard deviation units from trend growth. The model also allows for projections of annual real gross city product and real per capita income.

*Detroit Economic Activity Index*  
(standard deviations from trend)



*Recent values (March 2020)*

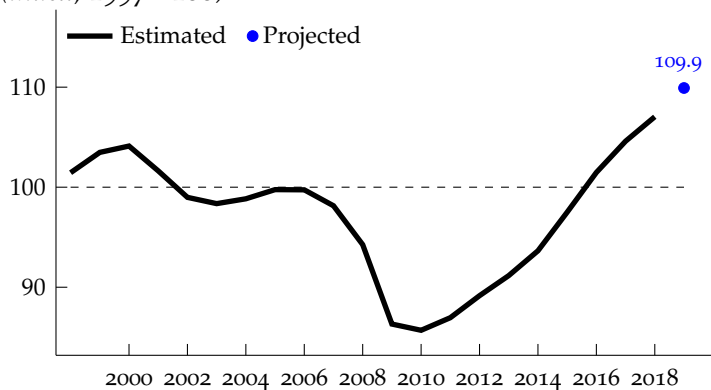
	Monthly	Quarterly	Annual
Mar	-1.98	Q1	+0.07
Feb	-0.22		
Jan	+0.72		
Dec	+0.45	Q4	+0.36
			2019
			+0.85

Note: Quarterly and annual values are "triangle averaged" transformations of the monthly series.

*Recent contributions*

Category	Mar	Feb	Jan	Q1
Income	+0.01	+0.01	+0.01	+0.01
Labor	-1.72	-0.32	+0.80	+0.10
Real estate	+0.08	+0.15	-0.10	+0.04
Trade	-0.35	-0.06	+0.01	-0.08

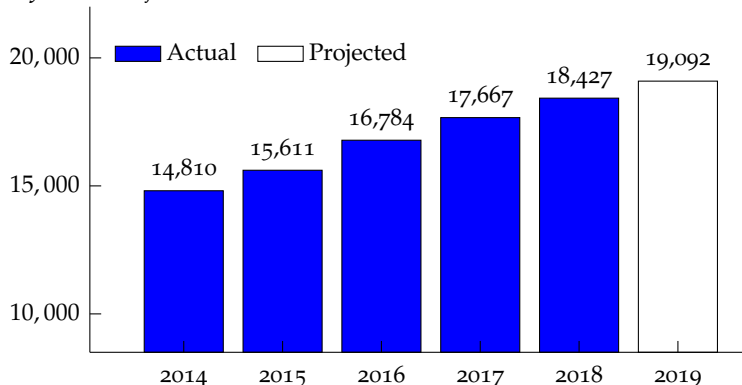
*Detroit real gross city product (GCP)*  
(index, 1997=100)



The index can be decomposed into the contributions from each component data series. We group these series into four categories: income, labor, real estate, and trade. Included in the income category is gross metropolitan product (GMP) for the Detroit–Warren–Dearborn metropolitan statistical area (MSA), which is used in the estimation of Detroit GCP. For additional details, see ["Tracking Detroit's economic recovery after bankruptcy with a new index."](#)

The shaded periods in the first figure correspond to recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. *Actual* real per capita income data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey* 1-year estimates.

*Detroit real per capita income*  
(inflation-adjusted dollars)



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For additional information, contact Paul Traub at [paul.traub@chi.frb.org](mailto:paul.traub@chi.frb.org) or visit [chicagofed.org/deai](http://chicagofed.org/deai).