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.

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.