

# ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## CONSUMER SECTOR

Consumer Sentiment 2

## REAL ESTATE

Housing Starts 3

## EMPLOYMENT

Sixth District Payroll Employment Growth 4

Sixth District Unemployment Rates 5

## INFLATION

Consumer Price Index (CPI) 6

Sticky and Flexible CPI 7

JUNE 20, 2012

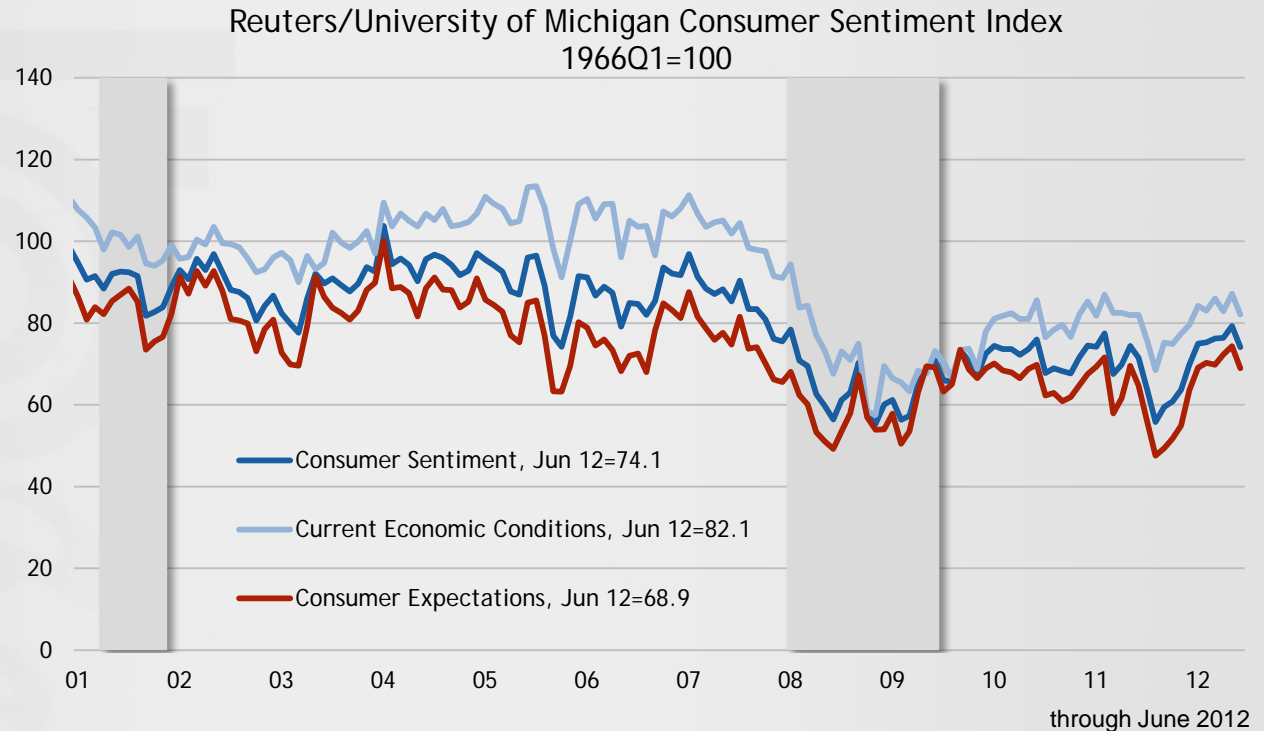


# CONSUMER SECTOR

## SUMMARY

According to preliminary measures from the Reuters/University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Survey, current economic conditions deteriorated slightly from May to June, falling back to April levels. Preliminary measures of the consumer expectations component also declined.

Final measures of consumer sentiment for May were revised up.



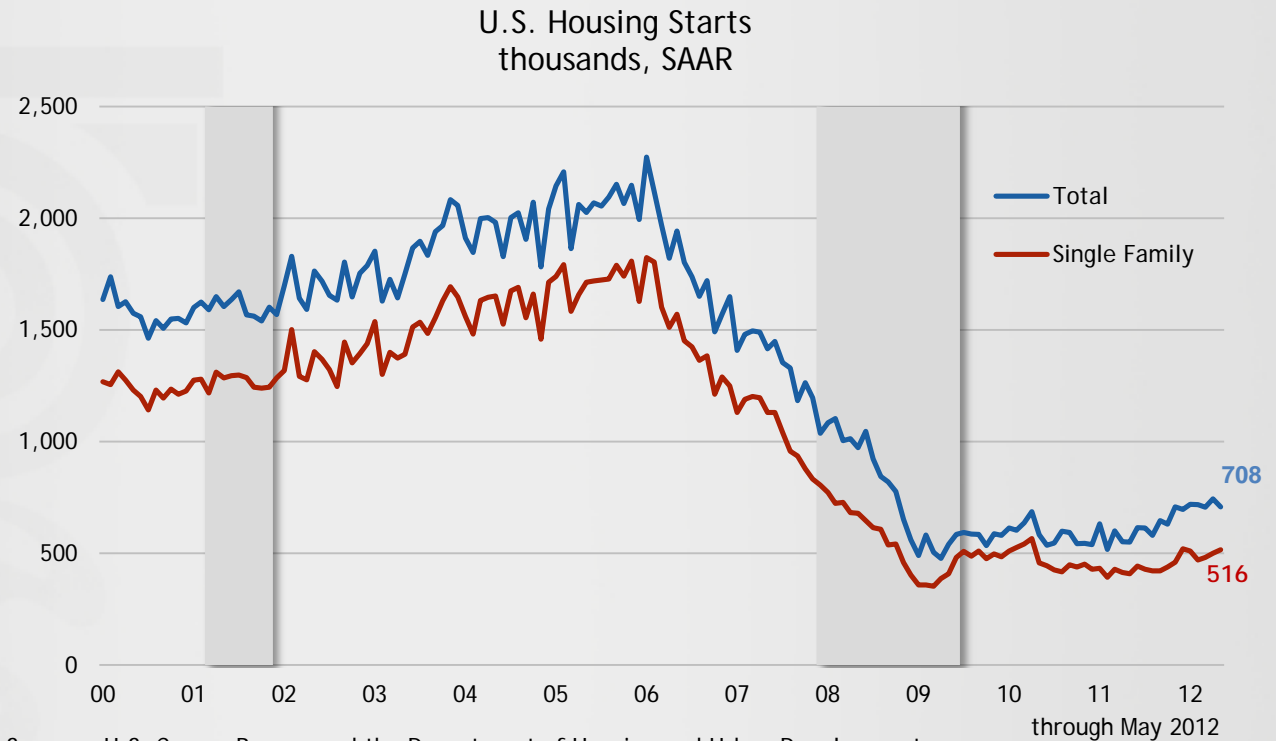
## ADDITIONAL DETAIL

- The overall consumer sentiment measure for May was revised up from 77.8 to 79.3.

# REAL ESTATE

## SUMMARY

The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly reported that total housing starts declined 4.8 percent from April to May while single-family starts increased 3.2 percent over the same period. Total starts increased 28.5 percent on a year-over-year basis while single-family starts increased 26.2 percent.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development

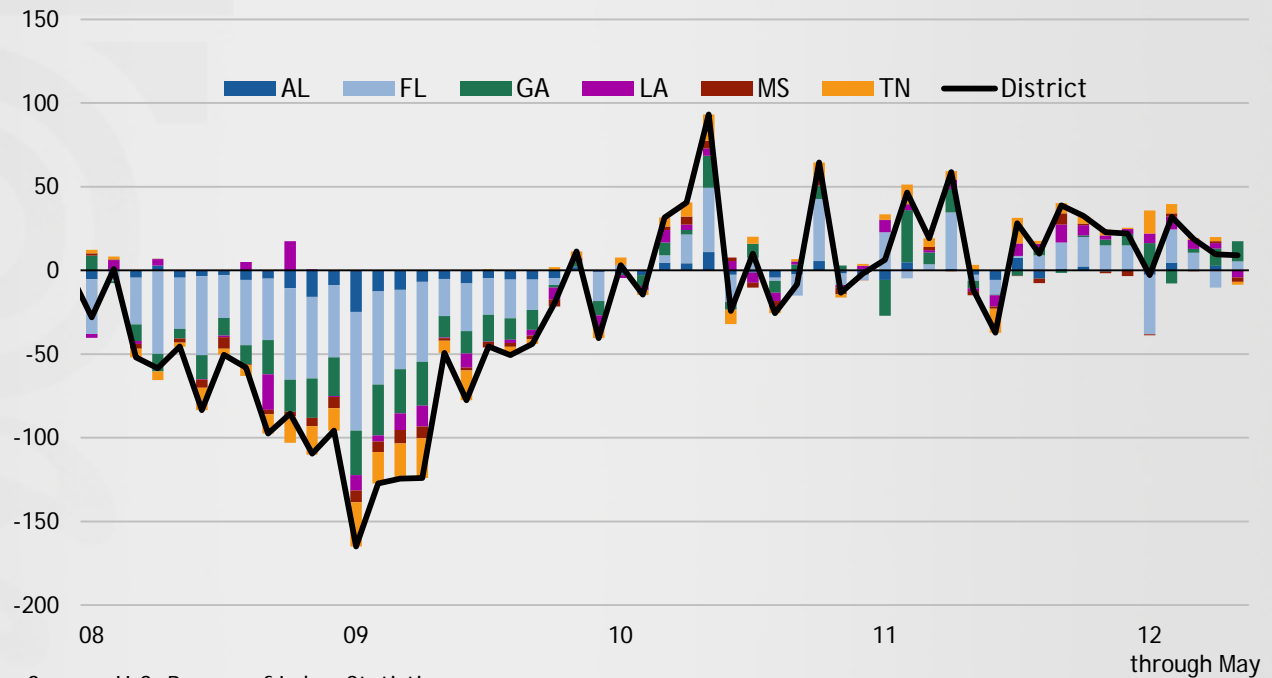
# EMPLOYMENT

## SUMMARY

The Sixth District added 9,000 payrolls in May. This increase followed 9,600 new jobs for the District in April and 18,900 in March.

Georgia drove the monthly payrolls gain for the District as a whole. Half of the District states added payrolls over the month.

Payroll Employment Growth by Sixth District State  
monthly change, thousands



## ADDITIONAL DETAIL

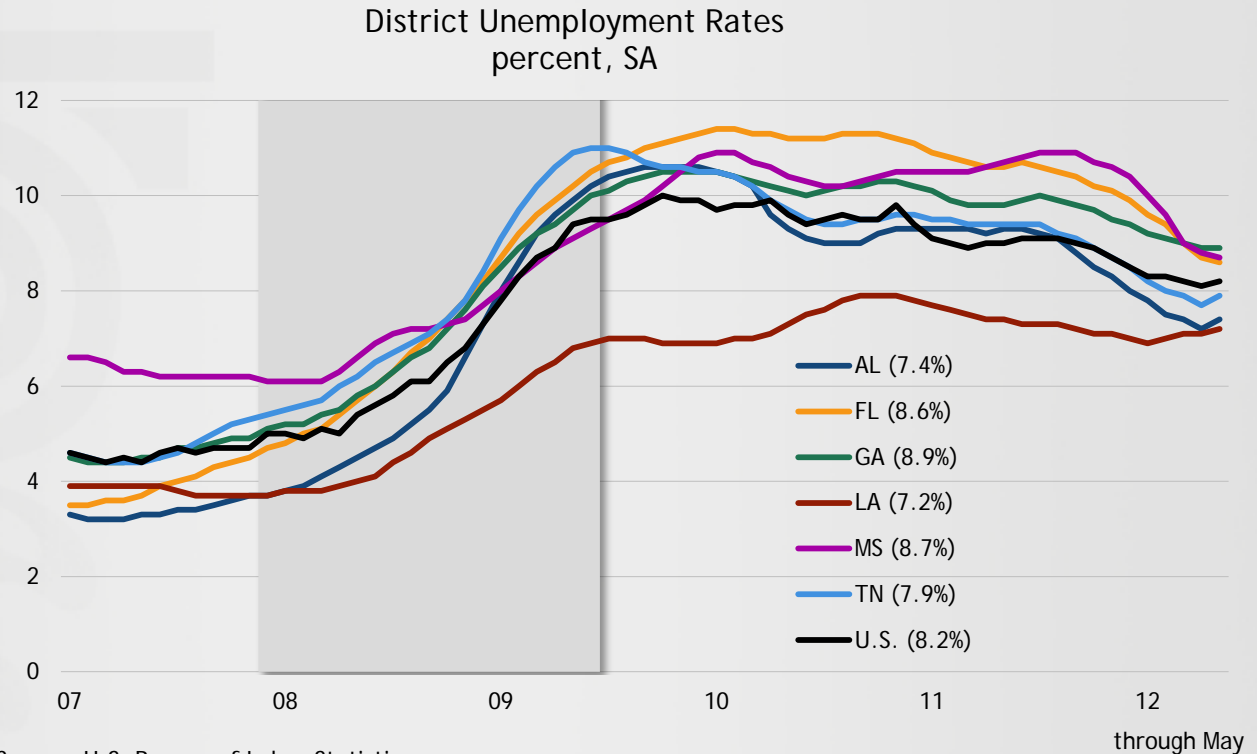
- The net number of payrolls in the Sixth District increased by 9,000 in May. The decomposition is as follows: Alabama (up 200), Florida (up 5,300), Georgia (up 12,000), Louisiana (down 4,200), Mississippi (down 2,600), and Tennessee (down 1,700).

# EMPLOYMENT

## SUMMARY

The unemployment rate for the Sixth District remained at 8.3 percent in May.

Over the month, the rate increased in Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee; decreased in Florida and Mississippi; and went unchanged in Georgia.



## ADDITIONAL DETAIL

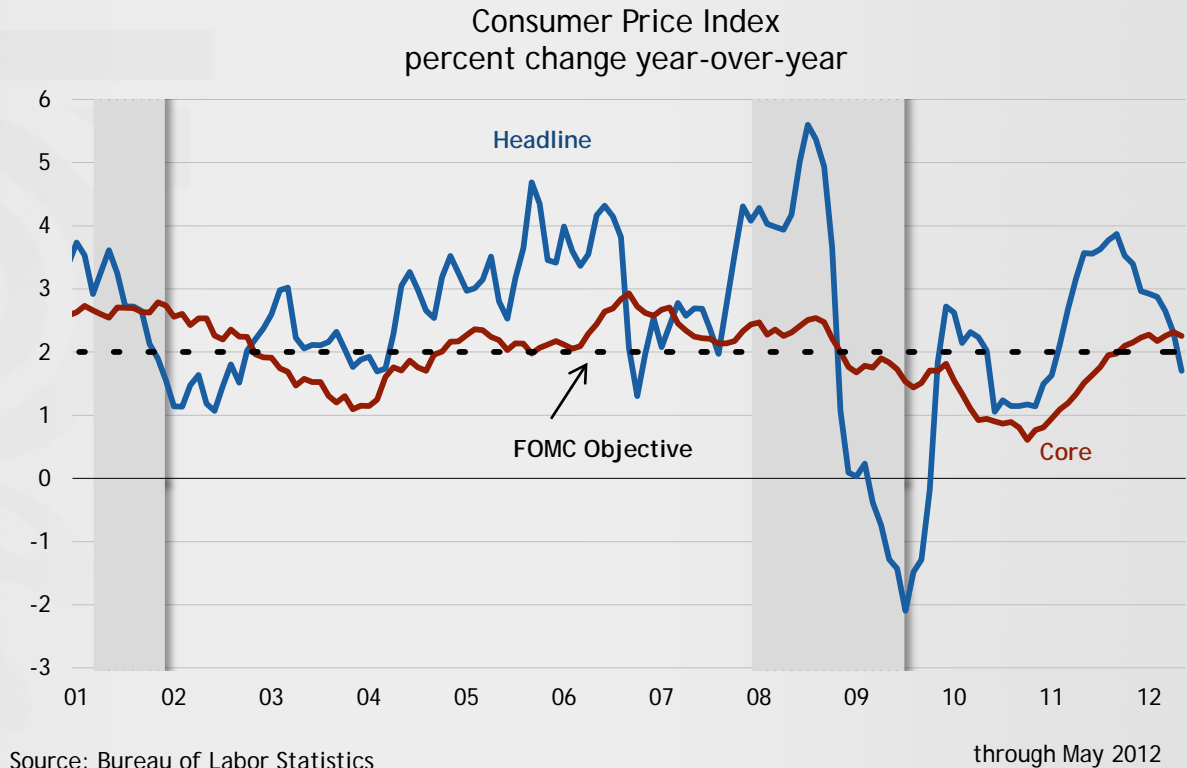
- May's unemployment rates for Sixth District states are Alabama (7.4 percent), Florida (8.6 percent), Georgia (8.9 percent), Louisiana (7.2 percent), Mississippi (8.7 percent), and Tennessee (7.9 percent).
- With the national rate at 8.2 percent in May, this is the closest the District rate has been to the national rate since March 2008.

# INFLATION

## SUMMARY

The headline consumer price index (CPI) declined at a 3.4 percent annualized rate in May, largely due to a 41.1 percent decline in the energy index. Excluding food and energy, core CPI decelerated to 2.5 percent (annualized), after rising 2.9 percent in April.

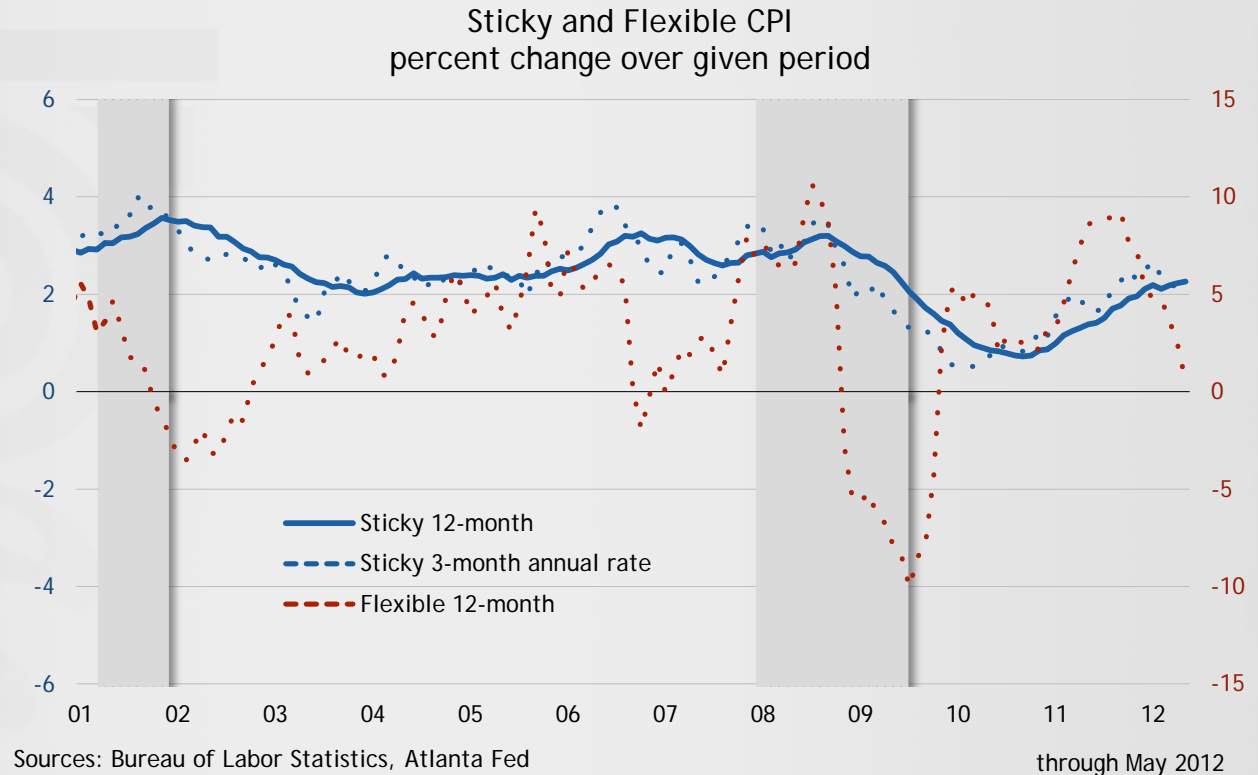
On a 12-month basis, both headline and core CPI moderated in May.



# INFLATION

## SUMMARY

The Atlanta Fed's sticky price CPI measure—the weighted basket of goods consumers purchase that change prices relatively infrequently—rose 2.1 percent (annualized) in May, following 2.4 percent growth in April. The 12-month index rose 2.3 percent, up from 2.2 percent the month before.



## ADDITIONAL DETAIL

- The sticky price index increased 2 percent (annualized) on a core basis (excluding food and energy) in May, and the 12-month index rose 2.2 percent.
- The flexible cut of the CPI—a weighted basket of goods that change price relatively frequently—declined at a 14.5 percent annual rate in May and was up just 0.5 percent from year-earlier levels.