

CHICAGO BUSINESS ACTIVITY INDEX – February 2021

CBAI increased in December

The Chicago Business Activity Index (CBAI) increased to 120.8 in December from 76.5 in November. The increase is mainly attributed to positive manufacturing and construction job growth, and an improvement in expected retail sales.

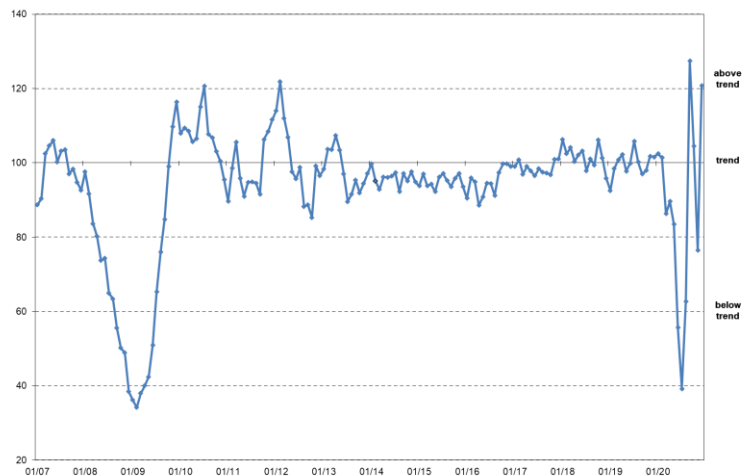
In December, total industrial production rose 1.6 percent. Manufacturing output increased 0.9 percent, but at 105.7 percent of its 2012 average, total industrial production was 3.6 percent lower than it was a year earlier. Capacity utilization for the industrial sector increased 1.1 percentage point to 74.5 percent, a rate that is 5.3 percentage points below its long-run (1972–2019) average. The Chicago Fed reported that the Chicago Fed National Activity Index (CFNAI) moved up to 0.52 in December from 0.31 in November. In the Chicago region, employment in the manufacturing sector increased 0.12 percent and employment in the nonmanufacturing sector decreased 0.53 percent in December. Employment in the construction sector increased 1.24 percent and retail sales are estimated to have increased 1.50 percent during the same period. Total nonfarm payroll employment changed little in January, 2021, and the unemployment rate was decreased to 6.3 percent. Since the CBAI hit its lowest in July, it has been showing high volatility recently. The economic outlook remains uncertain, which means it is difficult to be optimistic about the future economy.

Release Date:
February, 18, 2021

Next Release Date:
March 18, 2021

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Chicago Business Activity Index

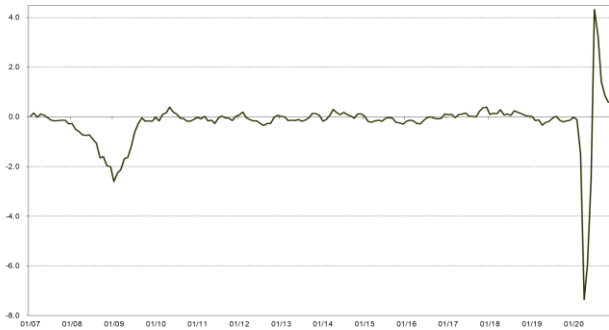


CBAI (Current: 120.8)			
	1 month	3 month	1 year
Historical (ago)	76.5	127.4	101.6
Forecast (ahead)	206.0	70.4	-

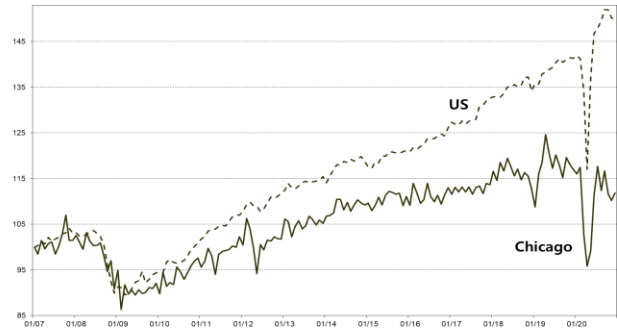
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* January 2007 = 100

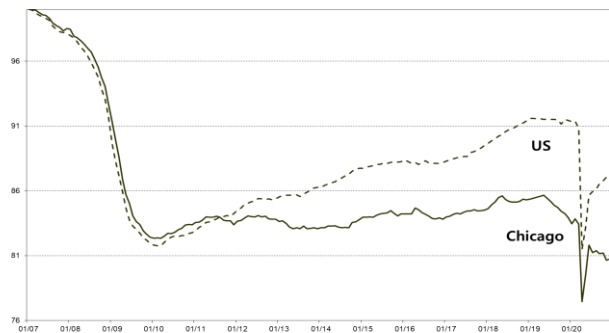
Chicago Fed National Activity Index(CFNAI-MA3)



Retail Sales



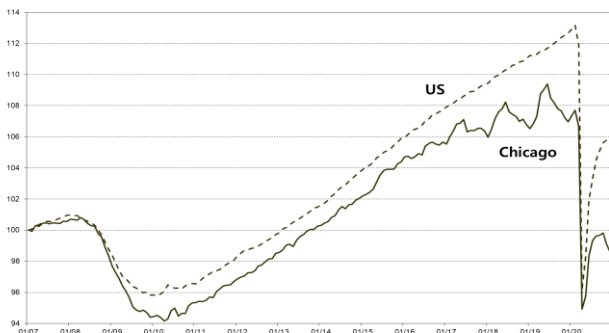
Manufacturing Employment



Construction Employment



Non-manufacturing Employment



Economic Activity: Summary

Months ago	National			Chicago		
	12	3	1	12	3	1
Mfgn	-4.54	0.86	0.25	-3.80	-0.50	0.12
NMfgn	-6.29	0.47	-0.20	-7.82	-1.07	-0.53
Cons	-2.14	1.92	0.57	0.23	3.57	1.24
Retail	6.00	-1.47	-0.27	-4.36	-4.06	1.50

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted.

The Chicago Business Activity Index (CBAI) is a monthly statistic that measures the changes in the business cycle status of the Chicago metropolitan area. The CBAI leads the local business cycle by three-to-four months. REAL's approach to constructing this index, using the principal components regression method, directs attention to the relationship between local and national business cycle.

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