WEEKLY ECONOMIC DIGEST

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June 18, 2013

Retail Sales Picked Up in May

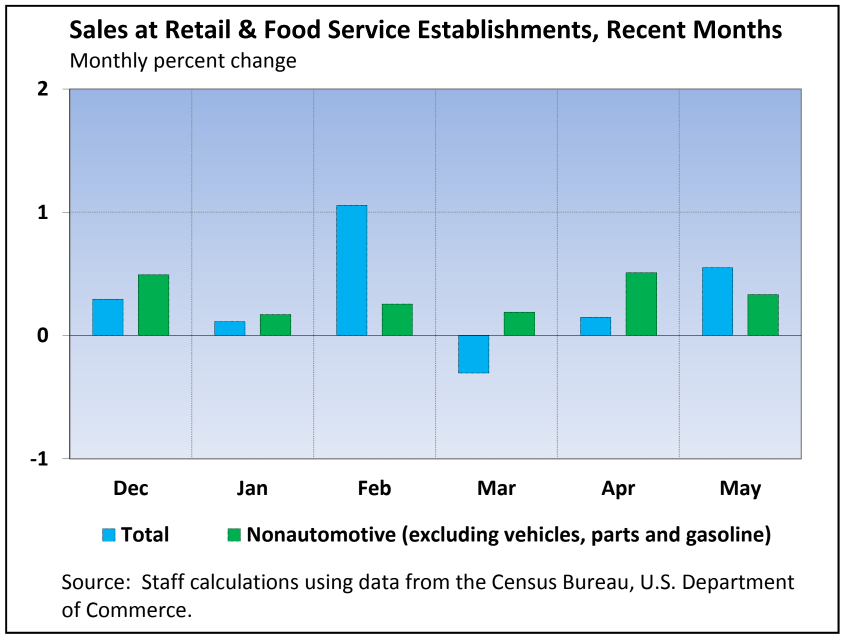
Retail sales exceeded expectations last month

- Sales at retail and food service establishments increased 0.6 percent in May according to the Census Bureau's advance estimates, about twice as much as forecasters had anticipated.

- The May advance in sales followed an increase of only 0.1 percent in April (see chart).

- Motor vehicle and parts retailers reported a 1.8 percent rise in sales, the strongest gain in 6 months, while gasoline sales edged down 0.2 percent.

- Nonautomotive retail sales rose 0.3 percent last month, following a gain of 0.5 percent in April.



- Over the 12 months through May, total retail sales rose by 4.3 percent and nonautomotive sales increased 4.2 percent.

Hiring rose in April while job openings fell

- 4.425 million workers were hired in April, an increase of 4.7 percent over March, according to the latest available survey data from the Labor Department's report on job openings and labor turnover. (That survey is independent of the survey the Department uses to estimate monthly unemployment.)

- Job openings declined 3.0 percent in April, after edging down 0.6 percent in March.

- Private and government employers reported 3.757 million job openings at the end of April.

- On average, there were 3.1 unemployed workers and 5.8 underemployed workers for every job opening in April. Those rates have improved considerably since the depths of the downturn, when there were 6.7 unemployed workers and 11.9 underemployed workers per job opening.

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Weekly Economic Digest

Industrial production was unchanged in May

- Industrial output at the nation's factories, utilities and mines was unchanged in May following a 0.4 percent (revised) decline in April, according to the Federal Reserve Board.

- Factory output rose 0.1 percent last month, following a decline of 0.6 percent over the previous two months.

- Factories continued to operate at 75.8 percent of capacity last month, just under 3 percentage points below the long-run average.

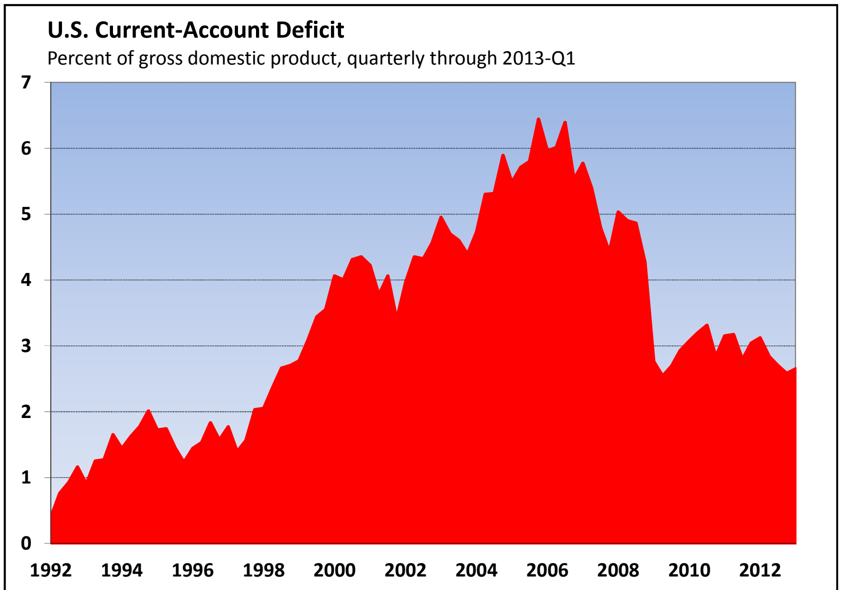
- Production by utilities dropped 1.8 percent last month, following a 3.2 percent decline in April. In most states, spring temperatures have been relatively moderate, tempering energy demands to cool homes and workplaces.

Foreign indebtedness continues to grow at a relatively low rate

- The U.S. current-account deficit—the most comprehensive measure of the change in U.S. indebtedness to the rest of the world—edged up to 2.7 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter.

- Even so, the U.S. current-account deficit remains well below that of recent years as world economies have recovered from the financial crisis and the value of the U.S. dollar has trended down (see chart).

- The current-account balance encompasses the U.S. balance of trade in goods and services as well as international flows of income and transfers.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Week Ahead

DAY	SELECTED UPCOMING DATA RELEASES & EVENTS
Tuesday, June 18	Consumer Price Index (May) New Residential Construction (May)
Wednesday, June 19	Federal Open Market Committee announcement on monetary policy
Thursday, June 20	Sales of Existing Homes (May)