NEW ENGLAND ECONOMIC UPDATE

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The views expressed here are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston or the Federal Reserve System.
Key Questions

- What are the recent labor market conditions?
- How have home prices changed?
- What is the inflation level?
- How do consumers feel about the economy?
Non-agricultural Employment

Indexed to Pre-Recession Peaks

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, NBER, Haver Analytics
Employment Growth by Industry

Percent Change, April 2017 - April 2018

- Construction: US 3.8%, NE 4.2%
- Professional & Business Services: US 2.6%, NE 2.7%
- Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities: US 2.1%, NE 2.0%
- Manufacturing: US 1.7%, NE 1.8%
- Education & Health: US 1.3%, NE 1.8%
- Wholesale Trade: US 1.2%, NE 1.1%
- Other Services: US 1.1%, NE 1.7%
- Finance: US 0.8%, NE 1.5%
- Leisure & Hospitality: US 0.4%, NE 1.7%
- Government: US -0.3%, NE 0.0%
- Retail Trade: US -0.5%, NE 0.5%
- Information: US -1.4%, NE -0.9%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics
Unemployment Rates

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, NBER, Haver Analytics
Unemployment Rates within New England

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics
Labor Force Participation Rate

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, NBER, Haver Analytics
Note: U-6 includes total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, NBER, Haver Analytics
Housing Price Changes within New England

Percent Change, Q1 2017 – Q1 2018

- United States: 6.9%
- New England: 5.4%
- Rhode Island: 7.0%
- Massachusetts: 6.9%
- Maine: 5.1%
- New Hampshire: 4.6%
- Connecticut: 3.6%
- Vermont: 2.8%

Source: FHFA, Haver Analytics
FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price

Indexed to Pre-recession Peaks

Source: FHFA, Haver Analytics
Components of the Consumer Price Index

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics
Concluding Observations

- Labor markets are generally tight, with Connecticut lagging

- Home prices continue to rise

- Consumer prices in Boston increased above 2% year over year

- Consumer confidence is up
Appendix
State Employment Growth by Industry

Percent Change, April 2017 - April 2018

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Retail Trade
- Wholesale Trade
- Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities
- Information

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics
State Employment Growth by Industry

Percent Change, April 2017 - April 2018

- Financial Activities
- Prof. Services
- Education and Health
- Leisure and Hospitality
- Other Services
- Government

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics