D&B U.S. Economic Health Tracker
A multi-dimensional view of the U.S. Economy

April 2014

Small Business Health Index

D&B’s Small Business Health Index eroded once again, prompting some additional caution regarding the near-term economic outlook. While weather is a factor, the erosion warrants attention.

Source: D&B Global Data, Insights & Analytics

U.S. Jobs Health

D&B estimates 197,000 new jobs were added to U.S. payrolls in March 2014, with notable gains in construction, business services, and trade/transportation/utilities.

Source: D&B Global Data, Insights & Analytics
The D&B U.S. Economic Health Tracker revealed more mixed signals for U.S. businesses in March 2014. The recent decline in small business health continued after two quarters of remarkable stability. Weather is clearly a factor in the slippage, but the persistent sluggishness warrants close attention as the U.S. expansion moves into the second quarter. Meanwhile, an estimated 197,000 new jobs were created, boosted by strong gains in the construction, business services, and trade/transportation/utilities segments. Finally, overall U.S. business health continued to strengthen in March, registering a 53.1-percent index value, matching February as the highest recorded level since the index began in December 2010. U.S. businesses improved their financial health at the beginning of 2014, based on the weighted average of D&B’s Viability Rating, Delinquency Predictor, and Total Loss Predictor. All told, the mixed signals suggest the recovery for all U.S. businesses will continue in fits and starts.

The Small Business Health Index measures year-over-year small business performance through equally weighted payment patterns and credit use. U.S. Jobs Health combines Small Business Health Index industry data with BLS figures to forecast monthly nonfarm payroll employment. The U.S. Business Health Index provides a year-over-year equally weighted average of D&B’s Viability Score, Delinquency Predictor and Total Loss Predictor. The index ranges from zero (with all businesses recording high levels of risk) to 100% (with all businesses recording low levels of risk). Data available as of Mar. 28, 2014.

To learn more, visit www.dnb.com/tracker