AUGUST 2021

THE LOGISTICAL LOWDOWN MONTHLY

Economic Insights for the Logistics Professional

This is an interactive PDF. Hover over a statistic if you would like more detail.
**Not all data is updated monthly, the latest published data is reflected.*

Commentary provided by the "Bowtie Economist," Elliot Eisenberg, Ph.D., internationally acclaimed economist and public speaker who has been featured in Bloomberg, Business Week, Bureau of National Affairs, Forbes, Fortune, and many other publications. Click on the bowties for related posts from the Bowtie Economist's blog, ECON70.com

US MARKET

ECONOMIST INSIGHT

The latest estimate of 2021Q2 GDP growth came in at a slightly disappointing 6.5%. Expectations were high for a stronger Q2, but the economy was hampered just a bit by supply bottlenecks that forced more goods to be imported and continued drawdowns of inventories. The lack of inventory may well persist through the rest of this year and even early into 2022. In terms of trade, as the European economies rebound from Covid-19, our exports should improve. None of this is really bad news, it's just not as spectacular as we had hoped. I expect that we will still see calendar year 2021 close out with growth of near 7%.

6.5%
Gross Domestic Product

$71.2 Billion
U.S. Trade Deficit

5.9%
Unemployment Rate

$277.3 Billion
Import Volumes

$206 Billion
Export Volumes

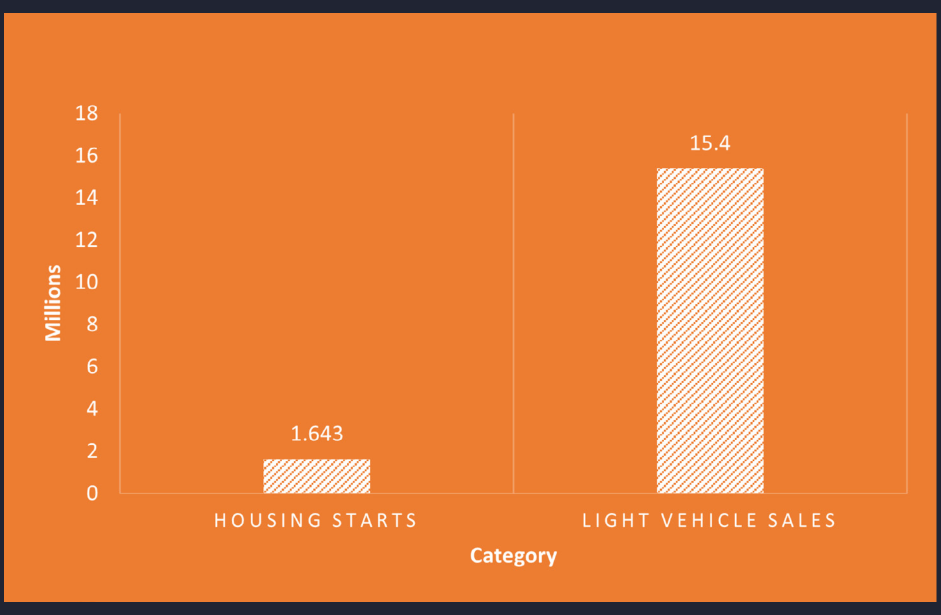
Imports + 1.0%
Exports + 1.2%
Import & Export Price Index

ECONOMIST INSIGHT

Job growth has been solid and will likely noticeably improve in September and beyond as the unemployment top-offs run out and children return to school and daycare, freeing up parents who want to return to the job market. Additionally, eviction and foreclosures will soon end. There has been a slower rate of job acceptance as many workers decided to change employers or careers post-pandemic and that is taking a little while to settle out.

61.6%
Labor Force Partcipation

+0.7%
Leading Economic Index



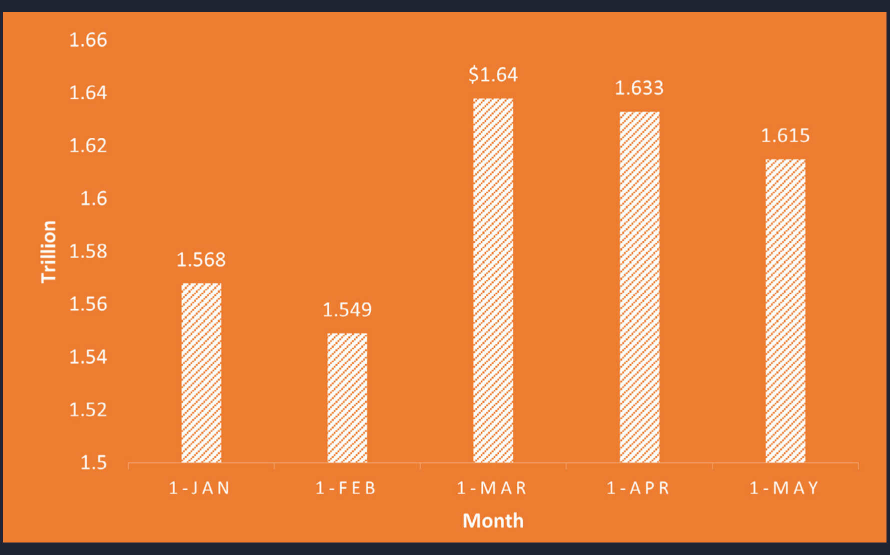
Personal Income
decreased 2.0%

Consumer Confidence
increased to 127.3

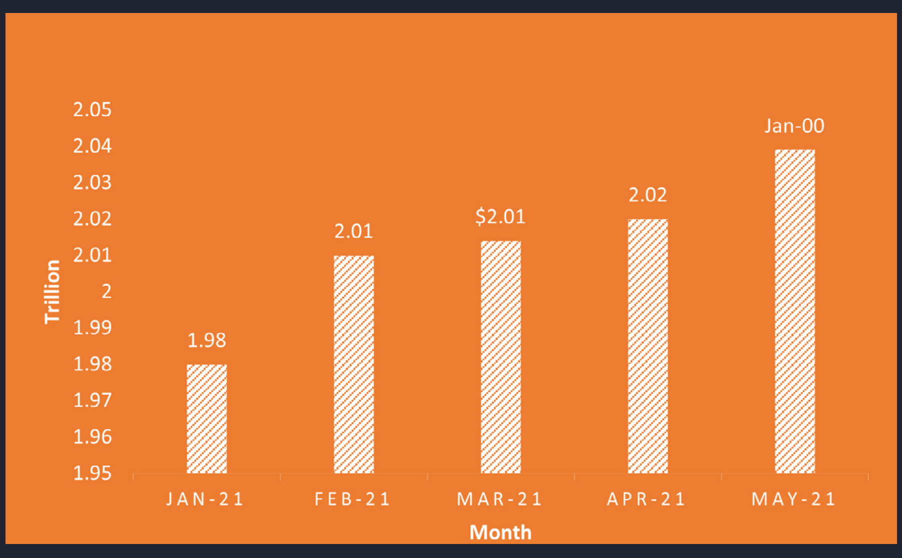
Consumer & Producer Price Index
127.3

ECONOMIST INSIGHT

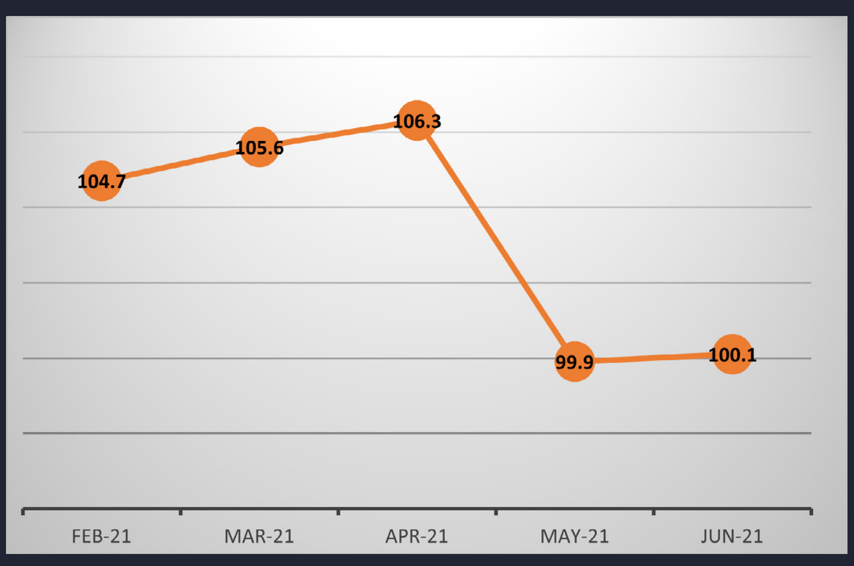
We are probably at peak inflation of around 5% right now. It's important to remember that nearly one-third of the inflation we are seeing now is in just a few areas, namely cars (new cars, used cars and car rentals) and another is hotels and plane tickets, all of which are purely a result of the economy re-opening. Inflation is not visible across the board but is extremely high in few areas. In a normal post-recession cycle, there is a pent-up demand for goods, but this recovery is very different in that the pent-up demand is for services, and it's difficult to maintain inflationary pressures on the back of services, simply because the ability to consume is finite. As a result, this likely slowing of inflationary pressures means the Fed can take it's time to raise rates, and I don't see that happening before 2023 at the earliest.



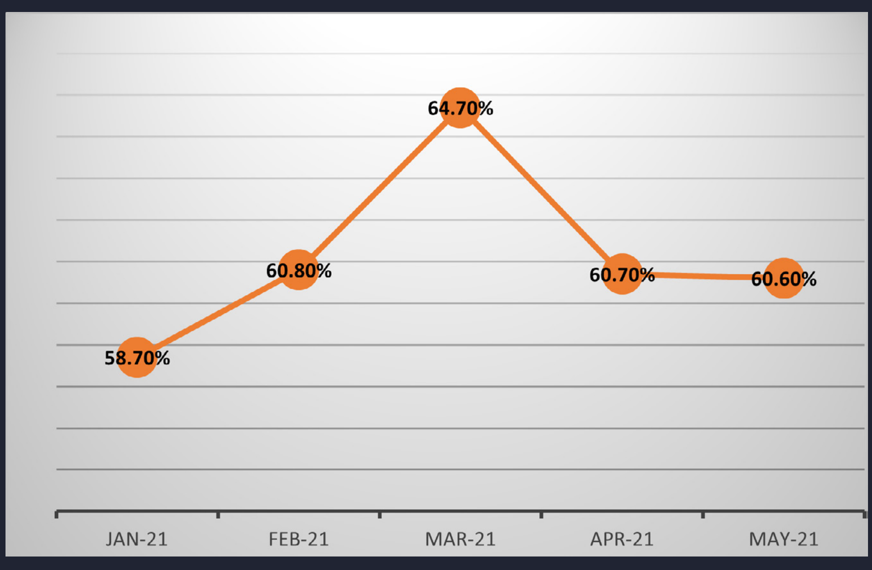
Manufacturing & Trade Sales



Manufacturing & Trade Inventory



Industrial Production & Capacity Utilization Index



Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

AUGUST 2021

THE LOGISTICAL LOWDOWN MONTHLY

Economic Insights for the Logistics Professional

This is an interactive PDF. Hover over a statistic if you would like more detail.
**Not all data is updated monthly, the latest published data is reflected.*

KELLER LOGISTICS GROUP · WWW.KELLERLOGISTICS.COM

Small Business Optimism Index
increased 2.9 points from the previous month

75.0%
Logistics Manager's Index (LMI)

MULTIMODAL

Dow Jones Transportation Index 14,446.56

6,079.77 NASDAQ Transportation Index

DOT Freight Transportation Service Index 137.7

1.231 Cass Freight Index

Shippers Conditions Index -11.3

$108.6 BILLION North American Transborder Freight

U.S. Freight Rail Traffic 1,175,323

TRUCKING

Truck Tonnage Index
For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index was 111.6 in May 2021

Truckload Freight
Decreased 9.2% compared to the previous month

Refrigerated Trucking
11.49 loads per truck

Trucking Conditions Index
Dropped slightly to 15.72

Diesel Prices
$3.34 per gallon

Trucking Employment
1,486.5 employees total

Trucking Earnings and Hours
$26.98/hour

U.S. Trailer Orders
364,000 units

U.S. Truck Orders
11,000 units

WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION

4.5% INDUSTRIAL VACANCY	$7.03/SF WAREHOUSE RENT RATES	110.2 MSF INDUSTRIAL ABSORPTION
1,428.4 Million WAREHOUSE EMPLOYMENT	$22.91 WAREHOUSE AVERAGE WAGE	40.6 WAREHOUSE AVERAGE HOURS

Click Here to Receive the Logistical Lowdown Monthly in Your Inbox

Data courtesy of the Georgia Center of Innovation for Logistics

HEADQUARTERS: 24862 Elliott Road | Defiance, OH 43512 | 866.276.9486 | kellerlogistics.com