

[EconSouth Fourth Quarter 2013](#)

“2013: Another Year of Modest Growth,” by Shalini Patel, economic policy analysis specialist in the Atlanta Fed’s research department

Discussion questions

1. What factors led to increased home prices during 2013? How did sales fare during the year?
2. While consumer spending was still cautious, what related sectors saw increases in 2013?
3. What sector is leading the Southeast’s manufacturing sector resurgence?
4. What is the main factor that is restraining growth in the small business sector? How do most firms expect the workforce to grow in the coming year?
5. What trends were seen in the banking industry as measured by key indicators such as deposit levels, mortgage rates, and bank failures?
6. What factors could lead to an increase in natural gas prices in the near future?
7. How will young people influence the agricultural market in years to come?
8. What changes are expected in the housing market as far as the influence of institutional investors? Which metropolitan statistical area saw the biggest change in the percentage of institutional investors last year in number of sales? Share of sales?
9. What factors did directors say caused a slowing of growth toward the end of 2013? What kind of outlook did they expect for 2014?

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