

THE PROVINCE OF SANTA FE'S ECONOMIC DIGEST

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CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS Y SERVICIOS



140 años

Desde 1884

ICA-SFE

Base 1994=100

SEPTEMBER 2024

Level: 162.8

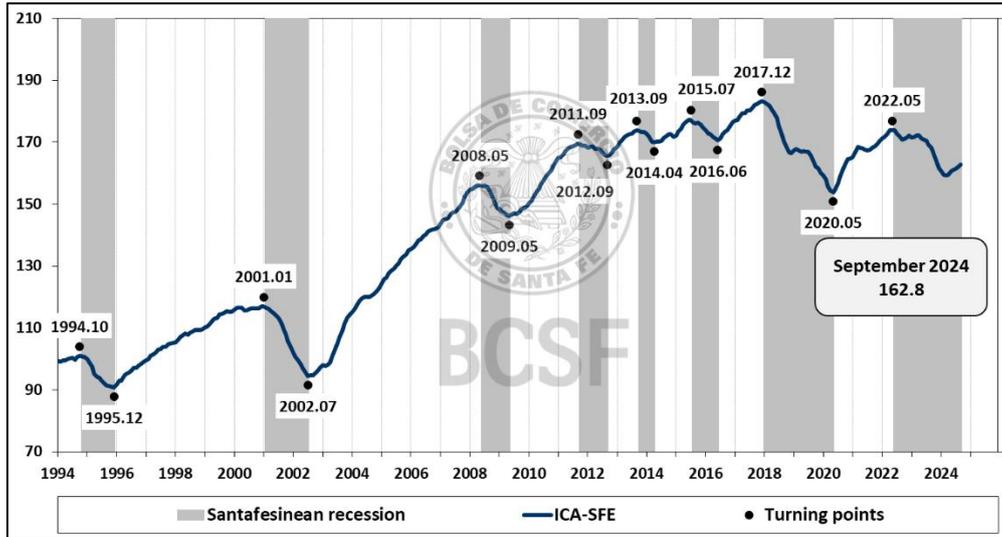
Monthly variation: 0.4%
Inter-year variation: -3.2%

CUMULATIVE JAN-SEPT: 0.7%

Recovery stage gains greater stability

Santa Fe's economic activity accumulates six consecutive months of positive results. However, the recovery process is not equally benefiting all industries and sectors.

Graph 1: Composite Coincident Index for the Province of Santa Fe (ICA-SFE). Base 1994=100.



Source: Research and Services Center, Santa Fe's Chamber of Commerce (Digital Graph | [Go to website](#)).

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What is ICA-SFE for?

ICA-SFE constitutes a monthly indicator used in order to monitor local economy's activity. To this regard, its main purpose is to capture cyclical movements, being able to determine the precise dates in which recessions/expansions begin and end; it also generates information about phase's duration, amplitude and diffusion.

Technically, the indicator is a composite coincident index developed by an agreement with *Universidad Nacional de Tucumán (UNT)* which provides a reliable source of information appropriate to support decision makers of public and private institutions. Methodological information and related papers are available at <https://www.bcsf.com.ar/ces/icasfe.php>

All series are filtered by seasonality and extreme values, using the X-13 ARIMA-SEATS program of the United States Census Bureau. In addition, information is always presented free of inflationary effects. The last twelve-monthly results exposed in this document are based on preliminary information and hence subject to further revisions.

As of publication No 3, Year 17, improvements in data's structure were incorporated in order to gain precision over the industrial production component (see academic document at https://www.bcsf.com.ar/ces/pdf/2022_Cohan-Zanini.pdf)

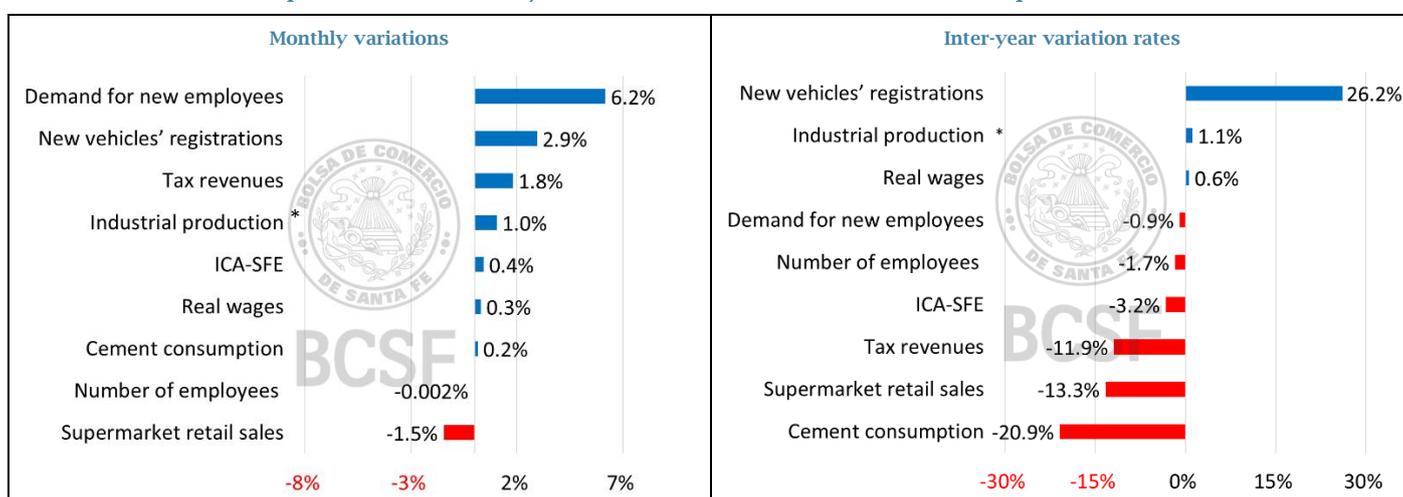
Santa Fe's business cycle indicators

In September 2024, six of eight provincial economic activity representative indicators obtained favorable results. In addition, three of them also showed year-on-year improvements.

After a period of pronounced deterioration, series related to the labor market seem to have at least interrupted their downtrend. First, **demand for new employees**, measured by business expectations to increase personnel in Santa Fe, showed a monthly increase of 6.2% in September, cutting its year-on-year fall to **-0.9%**. Meanwhile, **total employment** (new registrations) in the province of Santa Fe registered a practically null monthly rate, halting its decline observed since November 2023. Compared to September 2023's level, this series stands at **-1.7%**. **Real wages**, related to employees' purchasing power, signaled a slight monthly recovery (0.3%), placing the gauge in positive territory on an interannual comparison (0.6%).

Among indicators related to durable goods' investment, **new vehicles' registrations** experienced a monthly growth of 2.9% in September, keeping up with its year-on-year recovery (26.2%, Sept24/Sept23). However, it should be noted that the series remains well below its maximum levels reached in 2017/18. Moreover, **cement consumption** showed certain increase between August and September (+0.2%); standing **20.9%** below its inter-year benchmark.

Graph 2: Economic activity's indicators for the Province of Santa Fe. September 2024.



Source: Research and Services Center, Santa Fe's Chamber of Commerce.

(*) Latest data available: August 2024. Missing figures were estimated.

Further information: visit the [database](#) and [interactive charts](#).

According to data published in September, retail consumption (**supermarket sales**) adjusted downward. Between August and September, the series contracted by **1.5%**, whereas its year-on-year comparison reached **-13.3%**. It is worth noting that this indicator is constructed with official data from large stores' sales in the province of Santa Fe. In the case of **tax resources**, measured in real terms, the series obtained a monthly improvement of 1.8%, due to increases in both own taxes collection as well as federal funds (national resources sent to Santa Fe). However, the gauge remained **-11.9%** below September 2023's level.

For its part, a monthly increase of 1.0% was estimated for **industrial production**, which means a 1.1% inter-year recovery. The following [section](#) details the behavior of main manufacturing indicators, incorporating additional information from October 2024 when available.

Industrial sector's complementary indicators

Industrial gas consumption, which had been showing recent positive rates, registered a monthly variation of **-4.5%** in September. On an interannual basis, rates returned to negative territory -after 7 consecutive positive figures-, indicating a variation of **-2.0%** (Sept24/ Sept23).

With available data for October 2024, representative series of **consumption of liquid hydrocarbons** experienced a second favorable monthly variation, in this case of 1.9%, mainly pushed by agro-industrial sectors. Nevertheless, it should be noted that this improvement was not strong enough and the series stayed **9.4%** below October 2023's volume.

Soybean and sunflower milling are still showing an outstanding performance. During October 2024, 3.762.020 tons of soybeans and 73.848 tons of sunflowers were sent to Santa Fe's processing plants. After reaching an economic trough in September 2023, this series recorded eleven positive monthly variations, accumulating an increase of 105.0%. These results are associated with a significant liquidation of grains during the past recent months.

Bovine and pig slaughters (in aggregate terms) registered a null monthly variation, but compared to October 2023, the gauge improved 2.6%. In particular, bovine segment maintained a pronounced recovery throughout 2024's second half, although certainly offset by pig segment's decline.

Diary production in the province of Santa Fe (indicative of 11 representative companies) showed a slight positive monthly rate of around 0.2%, within prospects of reactivation at the beginning of next year as some factors are validated: availability of quality pastures supply, profitable prices for primary producers and favorable weather conditions. However, compared to October 2023, its seasonally adjusted variation was **-12.2%**.

Finally, representative series of **agricultural machinery production** in Santa Fe registered a monthly increase of 3.8% in october, and accumulated an interannual growth of around 31.4%.

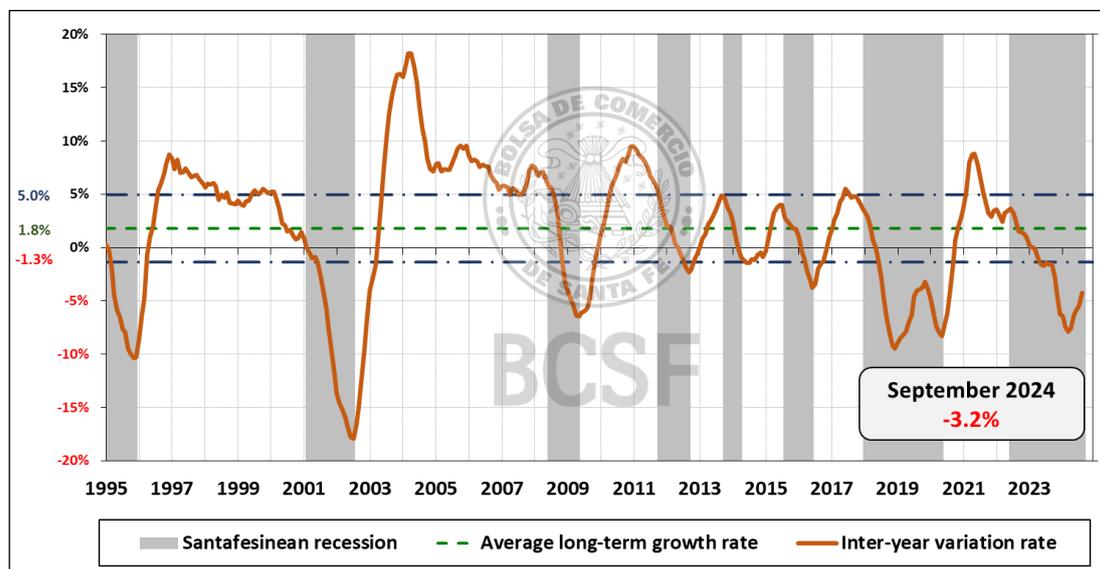
Summary and perspectives

ICA-SFE's [interannual variation](#) rates improved to **-3.2%** in September 2024 (see [Graph 3](#)), remaining below the lower statistical confidence band, built around indicator's long-term growth rate.

In line with national context, between April and September 2024, Santa Fe's economic activity accumulated a total recovery of 2.3%, offsetting recorded decline during the first quarter of year. Within these results, the coincident index reached an analogue level than December 2023's and, if it continues on this path, it could end 2024 with a positive net balance.

To this regard, indicators related to labour market -particularly registered private sector's wages-, indicators related to durable goods investment, and agro-industrial branches contributed favorably during September. On the other hand, retail consumption consolidated downwards, and other productive sectors also continue to face difficulties. In this sense, the recovery process has not yet managed to capture a global contribution from the hole economy, although it is stabilizing across the year.

Graph 3: Monthly ICA-SFE's inter-year variation rates.



Source: Research and Services Center, Santa Fe's Chamber of Commerce (Digital Graph | [Go to website](#)).

Santa Fe's Chamber of Commerce

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Escribano Martín Vigo Lamas

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Executive Director

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Coordinator

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ANNEX: INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS

To complement the digest, we invite you to explore further [interactive graphics](#). This package will allow you to visualize real-time data for most indicators that contribute to Santa Fe's economic activity. By visiting our website, you will find information organized into two main sections:

1. ICA-SFE complementary indicators

This section summarizes the provincial economic cycle evolution and presents projections for the next 12 months.

Phases and turns chronologies

- [Classical approach](#) | Expansions and recessions
- [Growth approach](#) | Accelerations and decelerations
- [Growth rate approach](#)

Projections for the next 12 months

- [Forecasts and confidence bands](#)

Phase change probabilities

- [Markov switching model](#)

2. Economic series of the system

This [section](#) presents complementary information related to Santa Fe's economic cycle project. It includes indicators categorized by thematic axis.

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