



## Japan Reenters the Foreign Exchange Market

On September 15, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) responded to a 15-year high in the yen's value against the dollar by selling an estimated 1.76 to 1.86 trillion yen in the foreign exchange (FX) market. The chart captures the telltale trade volume of an FX intervention (buying and/or selling of assets by a monetary authority to influence exchange rates) and the immediate effect: a 3 percent overnight depreciation of the yen against the dollar. To achieve a prolonged impact, however, Japan will need to demonstrate a strong commitment to continued intervention.

Since the summer of 2007, the yen has gained more than 30 percent against the dollar. Analysts attribute the yen's newfound strength to increased investment demand and, more specifically, a diminished global appetite for risk. During times of high volatility and uncertainty, investors trade higher returns for increased confidence in their investments. Japan's current account surplus and deflationary price trend increase the yen's perception as a "safe haven" currency (i.e., a currency with low risk of rapid depreciation). Abnormally low interest rates in the United States and Europe only further encourage demand for the yen, a currency with traditionally low interest rates and thus a low return on investment.<sup>1</sup>

Japanese FX intervention is not without precedent. From 1999 to 2004 Japan unilaterally sold a combined, and unprecedented, 500 billion dollars of yen in the FX market. Recent research estimates that without these interventions, the yen's value would have been 30 percent higher in March 2004, the date of Japan's last intervention (Fatum, 2010). Both in the past and the present, Japanese monetary authorities turned to intervention when they viewed their economy as fragile (Ito, 2005). A lower-valued yen aids economic recovery by making Japanese goods cheaper internationally, thus stimulating exports.

If Japan is successful, it will rely heavily on the signaling channel, one of two main channels economists believe FX intervention works through. The other, the portfolio balance channel, presumes that (i) investors hold investments of varying degrees of substitutability and (ii) intervention affects asset prices by manipulating their supply. Fatum (2010) finds strong evidence of this channel operating in the immediate impact of past BOJ interventions, but the yen's retracement of its gains since September is linked to growing expectations of further U.S. quantitative easing, also reflecting portfolio balance effects (Neely, 2010). Conversely, the signaling channel informs the market of the direction of future policy

actions. The cautious movement observed in the yen following intervention indicates that investors are accounting for the positive probability of future intervention. Without the full credibility of a coordinated multilateral intervention strategy, however, the yen has already risen to a new 15-year high. Only more intervention will convince markets of Japan's commitment.

—Brett Fawley and Luciana Juvenal

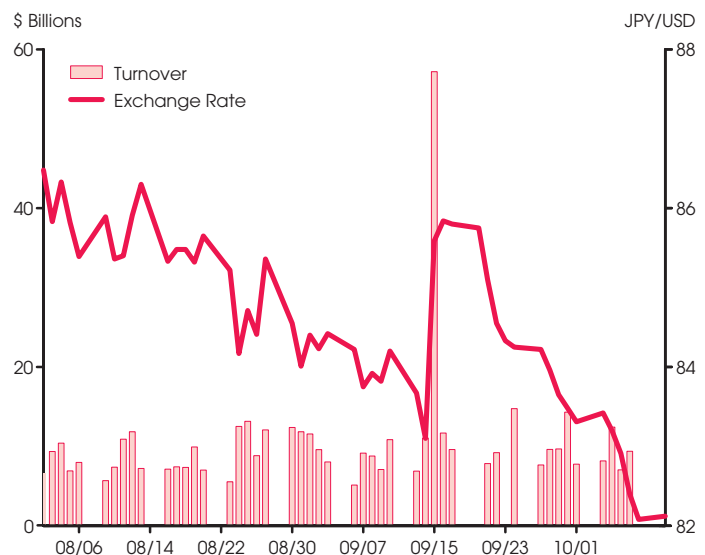
Fatum, Rasmus. "Foreign Exchange Intervention When Interest Rates Are Zero: Does the Portfolio Balance Channel Matter After All?" Working Paper No. 57, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Globalization and Monetary Policy Institute, July 2010; [www.dallasfed.org/institute/wpapers/2010/0057.pdf](http://www.dallasfed.org/institute/wpapers/2010/0057.pdf).

Ito, Takatoshi. "Is Foreign Exchange Intervention Effective? The Japanese Experience in the 1990s," in Paul Mizen, ed., *Monetary History, Exchange Rates and Financial Markets, Essays in Honour of Charles Goodhart*. Volume 2. Cheltenham, UK, Edward Elgar, 2003.

Neely, Christopher. "The Large Scale Asset Purchases Had Large International Effects." Working Paper No. 2010-018A, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, July 2010; <http://research.stlouisfed.org/wp/2010/2010-018.pdf>.

<sup>1</sup> Additionally, China is speculated to be diversifying its large foreign reserve holdings away from the U.S. dollar and toward the yen.

Exchange Rate Movement Around September 15 BOJ Intervention



NOTE: Turnover data are from the Bank for International Settlements and include all trades handled through brokerage companies in the Tokyo exchange market, where the BOJ primarily operates ([www.boj.or.jp/en/type/exp/faqkainy.htm](http://www.boj.or.jp/en/type/exp/faqkainy.htm)). The foreign exchange rate is from Haver Analytics. Dates are for 2010. JPY, Japanese yen; USD, U.S. dollars.

Views expressed do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Federal Reserve System.

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## Conventions used in this publication:

1. Charts and tables contain data that were current through October 2010. Unless otherwise indicated, data are quarterly.
2. The *percent change* refers to the percent change from the same period in the previous year. For example, the percent change in  $x$  between quarter  $t-4$  and the current quarter  $t$  is:  $[(x_t/x_{t-4})-1] \times 100$ .
3. All data with significant seasonal patterns are adjusted accordingly.

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**Real Gross Domestic Product**

Percent change from year ago

	07.3	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2
Canada	2.62	2.54	1.73	0.86	0.40	-0.88	-2.51	-3.18	-3.06	-1.10	2.14	3.41
Euro Area	2.79	2.23	2.06	1.24	0.11	-2.10	-5.18	-4.91	-4.00	-2.02	0.82	1.93
France	2.57	2.16	1.82	0.69	-0.15	-1.97	-3.86	-3.11	-2.65	-0.49	1.16	1.73
Germany	2.66	1.76	2.69	1.65	0.48	-1.97	-6.62	-5.53	-4.44	-1.99	1.95	3.72
Italy	1.51	0.00	0.25	-0.47	-1.77	-3.30	-6.50	-6.17	-4.67	-2.80	0.53	1.30
Japan	1.90	1.78	0.96	-0.17	-1.28	-4.29	-8.67	-5.91	-4.82	-1.38	4.38	2.38
United Kingdom	2.92	2.36	1.89	1.06	-0.41	-2.74	-5.48	-5.99	-5.40	-3.06	-0.28	1.70
United States	2.33	2.32	1.91	1.25	-0.34	-2.77	-3.80	-4.11	-2.74	0.19	2.39	3.00

**Nominal Gross Domestic Product**

Percent change from year ago

	07.3	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2
Canada	5.49	6.28	5.35	6.02	6.51	0.77	-3.81	-6.91	-6.85	-0.51	5.28	6.63
Euro Area	5.33	4.68	4.18	3.39	2.14	-0.00	-3.55	-3.93	-3.20	-1.71	1.19	2.71
France	5.20	4.37	4.35	3.25	2.24	0.94	-2.11	-2.24	-2.50	-1.28	0.69	2.04
Germany	4.75	3.64	3.92	2.72	1.31	-1.01	-5.44	-4.38	-2.82	-0.66	2.93	4.48
Italy	4.29	3.17	2.88	2.86	0.77	-0.77	-3.31	-4.29	-2.55	-1.55	0.53	2.11
Japan	1.18	0.55	-0.15	-1.55	-2.49	-3.81	-8.15	-6.60	-5.51	-4.12	1.77	0.67
United Kingdom	5.37	5.00	4.93	3.71	2.55	0.56	-3.59	-5.23	-4.14	-1.95	2.87	5.81
United States	5.24	4.99	3.91	3.31	2.31	-0.70	-1.95	-3.02	-2.56	0.61	2.82	3.88

**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago

	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
Canada	2.43	1.81	2.35	3.42	1.91	1.26	0.05	-0.87	0.78	1.62	1.40	.
Euro Area	2.89	3.38	3.63	3.85	2.30	0.97	0.17	-0.38	0.43	1.12	1.52	1.71
France	2.54	3.32	3.68	3.63	2.03	0.70	-0.25	-0.45	0.42	1.45	1.84	1.77
Germany	3.06	3.08	3.02	3.26	1.68	0.78	0.25	-0.44	0.34	0.81	1.03	1.18
Italy	2.57	3.30	3.75	4.07	2.89	1.37	0.85	0.12	0.73	1.27	1.56	1.72
Japan	0.53	1.00	1.36	2.14	1.03	-0.12	-0.98	-2.26	-2.04	-1.14	-0.93	.
United Kingdom	2.11	2.41	3.36	4.79	3.89	3.03	2.11	1.46	2.10	3.26	3.44	.
United States	4.01	4.16	4.30	5.27	1.56	-0.16	-0.97	-1.60	1.46	2.42	1.77	1.22

**Employment**

Percent change from year ago

	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
Canada	2.42	2.08	1.89	1.37	0.75	-1.25	-1.79	-1.83	-1.47	0.43	1.74	2.26
Euro Area	1.72	1.49	1.16	0.55	-0.11	-1.26	-1.88	-2.22	-2.09	-1.22	-0.68	.
France	1.70	1.21	0.69	0.09	-0.85	-2.06	-2.17	-2.29	-1.59	-0.48	0.02	.
Germany	1.65	1.63	1.48	1.38	1.08	0.42	0.02	-0.21	-0.29	-0.21	0.18	.
Italy	0.77	0.42	-0.02	-0.90	-1.04	-1.89	-2.47	-2.92	-3.32	-2.53	-2.12	.
Japan	0.25	0.04	-0.38	-0.58	-0.76	-0.81	-2.04	-1.76	-1.88	-1.04	-0.62	.
United Kingdom	0.47	0.79	0.78	0.48	-0.91	-1.75	-2.86	-3.52	-2.76	-2.46	-1.37	.
United States	0.43	0.07	0.09	-0.48	-1.54	-3.19	-3.82	-4.06	-4.02	-2.09	-0.80	-0.10

**Unemployment Rate**

Percent

	07.3	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2
Canada*	6.00	5.97	5.93	6.07	6.13	6.50	7.80	8.40	8.53	8.40	8.23	8.03
Euro Area*	7.47	7.37	7.23	7.40	7.60	8.03	8.80	9.37	9.70	9.87	9.93	10.07
France*	8.20	7.90	7.63	7.63	7.83	8.23	8.97	9.43	9.60	9.80	9.87	9.87
Germany*	8.27	8.00	7.60	7.37	7.13	7.10	7.27	7.63	7.60	7.47	7.27	6.97
Italy*	6.20	6.30	6.53	6.80	6.73	6.93	7.37	7.57	7.97	8.33	8.43	8.53
Japan*	3.77	3.87	3.90	3.97	4.03	4.07	4.47	5.13	5.43	5.23	4.93	5.20
United Kingdom*	5.27	5.10	5.13	5.30	5.83	6.30	7.00	7.67	7.80	7.77	7.87	7.80
United States*	4.63	4.80	4.97	5.30	6.03	6.97	8.17	9.27	9.63	10.03	9.70	9.70

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**Reserve Money**

Percent change from year ago

	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
Canada	4.82	2.88	3.69	2.44	5.39	7.48	12.93	11.67	9.02	10.01	-2.03	.
Japan	0.41	-0.25	0.18	1.14	1.98	6.67	6.19	4.82	5.25	1.95	3.50	5.94
United Kingdom	5.59	6.46	6.00	5.40	6.78	8.16	8.58	8.80	6.94	5.62	5.64	4.78
United States	1.80	1.19	1.19	4.84	67.59	94.19	105.07	95.56	40.66	25.63	15.35	14.68

**Narrow Money**

Percent change from year ago

	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
Canada	7.10	7.43	8.04	7.87	12.36	12.65	12.73	13.95	13.18	13.54	12.95	.
Euro Area	3.89	2.79	1.57	1.47	3.87	7.32	10.33	13.27	12.84	10.38	9.70	.
Japan	0.63	-0.23	-0.47	-0.35	-1.03	0.00	0.37	0.87	1.26	1.03	1.64	.
United Kingdom	6.67	6.70	6.44	5.43	4.60	4.13	3.59	4.46	5.94	5.93	5.59	.
United States	12.56	15.09	16.12	13.54	11.69	12.29	10.24	9.26	6.55	0.88	-1.70	-0.67

**Broad Money**

Percent change from year ago

	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
Canada	6.44	7.35	8.50	8.45	12.50	14.50	14.45	14.37	10.94	7.50	6.38	.
Euro Area	11.61	10.76	10.22	9.71	8.61	6.04	4.18	2.00	-0.63	-0.81	0.10	.
Japan	2.08	2.25	2.17	2.17	1.96	2.23	2.47	2.99	3.10	2.66	2.87	.
United Kingdom	11.87	11.53	10.79	10.89	15.71	16.86	12.13	10.45	5.37	10.42	11.49	.
United States	6.25	6.78	6.72	6.37	8.59	9.79	8.89	7.85	5.06	1.87	1.64	2.53

**Short-Term Interest Rates**

Percent

	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
Canada*	4.79	3.57	3.16	3.29	2.32	1.06	0.57	0.40	0.38	0.39	0.72	1.10
Euro Area	4.73	4.48	4.86	4.98	4.21	2.01	1.31	0.87	0.72	0.66	0.69	0.88
Japan*	0.76	0.75	0.71	0.74	0.78	0.56	0.34	0.27	0.23	0.20	0.16	.
United Kingdom*	6.31	5.69	5.86	5.81	4.60	2.06	1.33	0.82	0.59	0.60	0.65	0.75
United States	5.02	3.23	2.76	3.06	2.82	1.08	0.62	0.30	0.22	0.21	0.42	0.34

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**Long-Term Interest Rates**

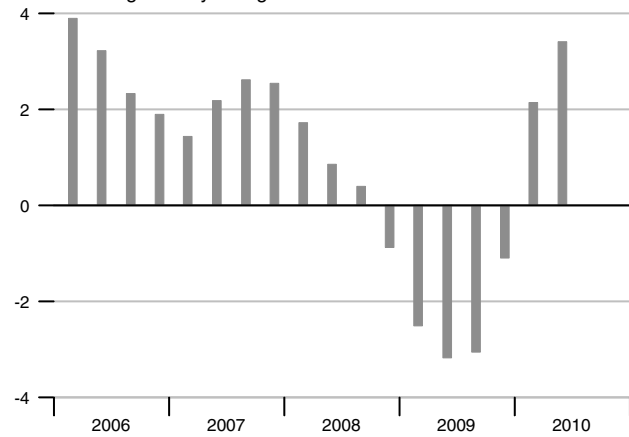
Percent

	07.4	08.1	08.2	08.3	08.4	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4	10.1	10.2	10.3
Canada*	4.17	3.75	3.66	3.62	3.38	2.89	3.20	3.42	3.42	3.48	3.47	3.02
Euro Area	4.34	4.14	4.51	4.57	4.06	3.90	3.98	3.79	3.68	3.71	3.61	.
France*	4.33	4.08	4.47	4.48	3.90	3.64	3.79	3.63	3.53	3.49	3.18	.
Germany*	4.19	3.93	4.25	4.26	3.50	3.07	3.32	3.30	3.19	3.18	2.78	2.42
Italy*	4.53	4.38	4.78	4.90	4.66	4.54	4.46	4.19	4.06	4.03	4.03	3.90
Japan	1.57	1.40	1.62	1.52	1.43	1.28	1.45	1.35	1.32	1.33	1.28	1.05
United Kingdom*	4.79	4.52	4.91	4.78	4.15	3.54	3.58	3.73	3.74	4.06	3.81	3.26
United States	4.59	4.25	4.46	4.38	3.90	3.55	4.05	4.16	4.10	4.32	4.07	3.46

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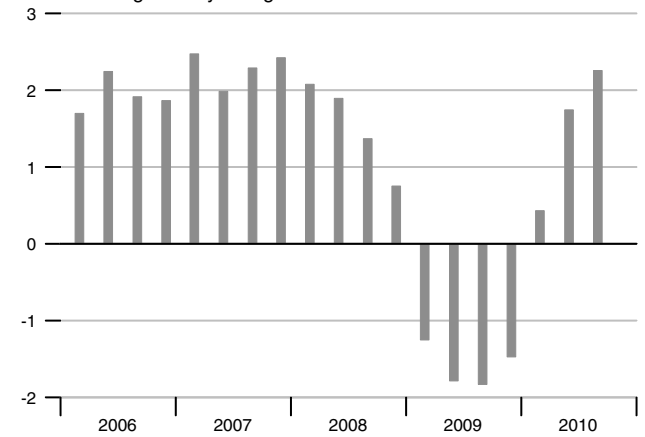
**Real GDP**

Percent change from year ago



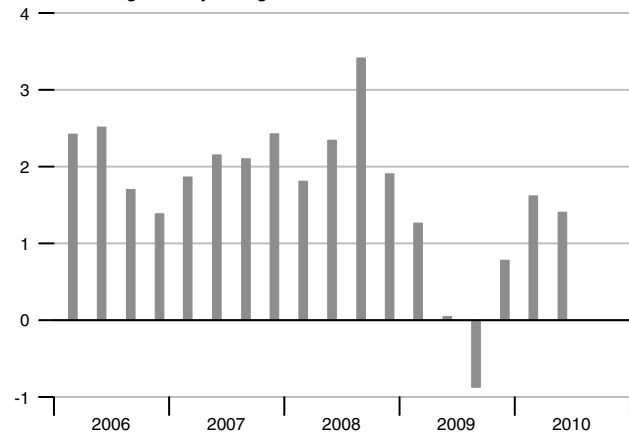
**Employment**

Percent change from year ago



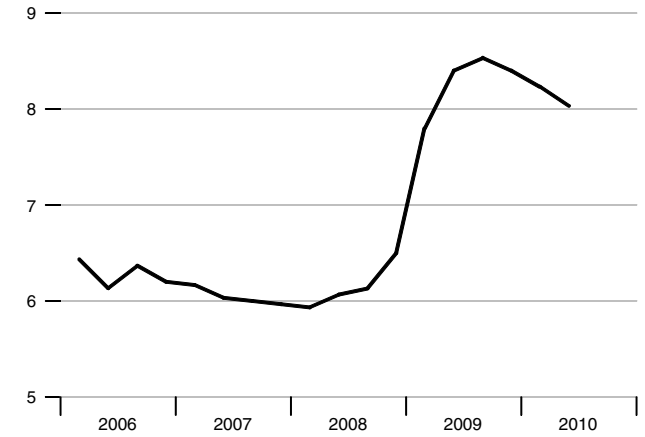
**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago



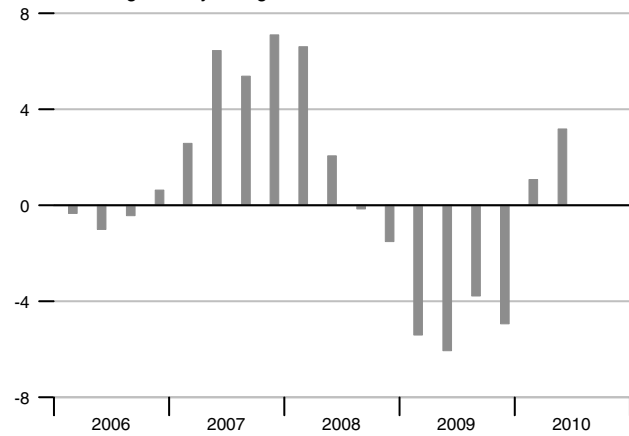
**Unemployment Rate**

Percent



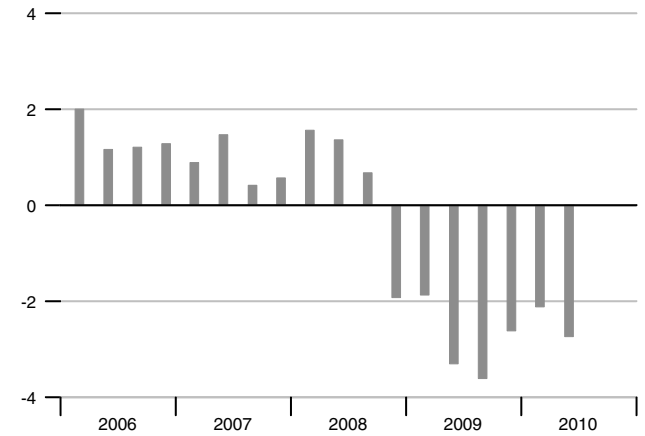
**Real Hourly Earnings**

Percent change from year ago



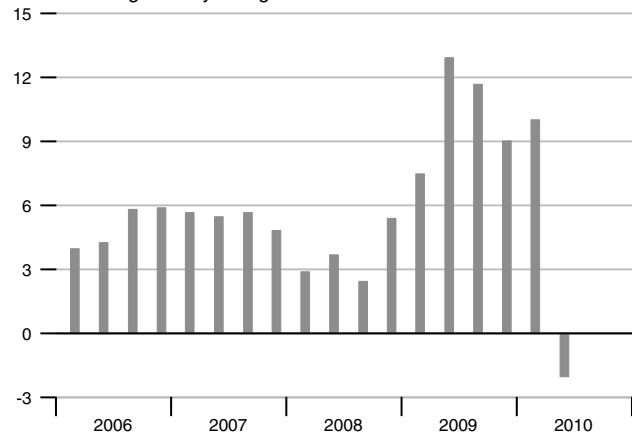
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



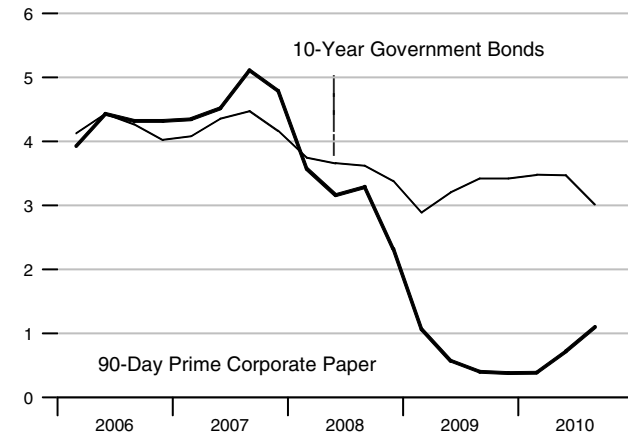
### Reserve Money

Percent change from year ago



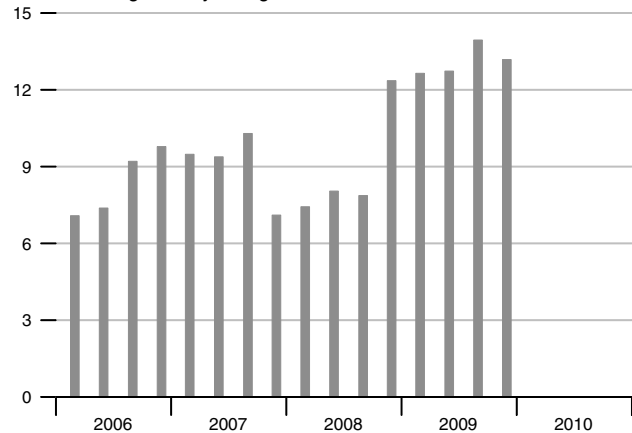
### Interest Rates

Percent



### M1B

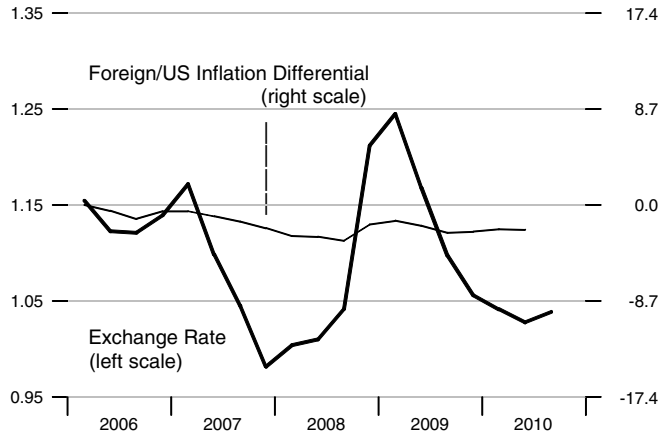
Percent change from year ago



### Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential

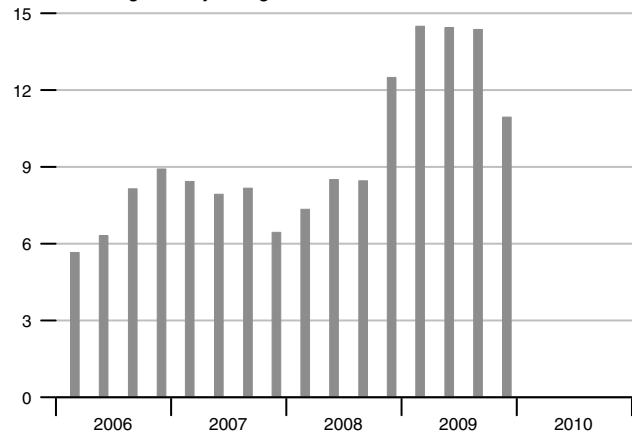
C\$/US\$

Percent



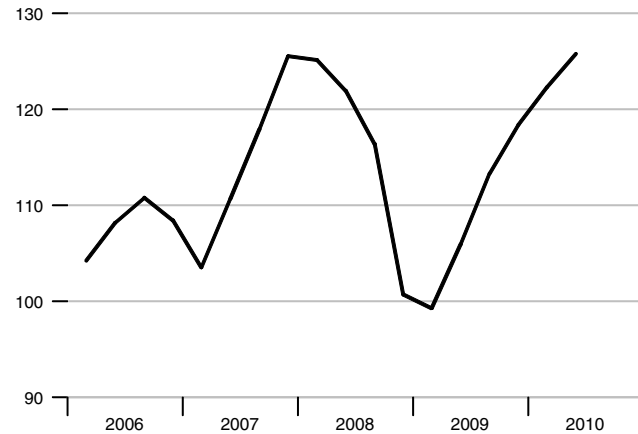
### M2

Percent change from year ago



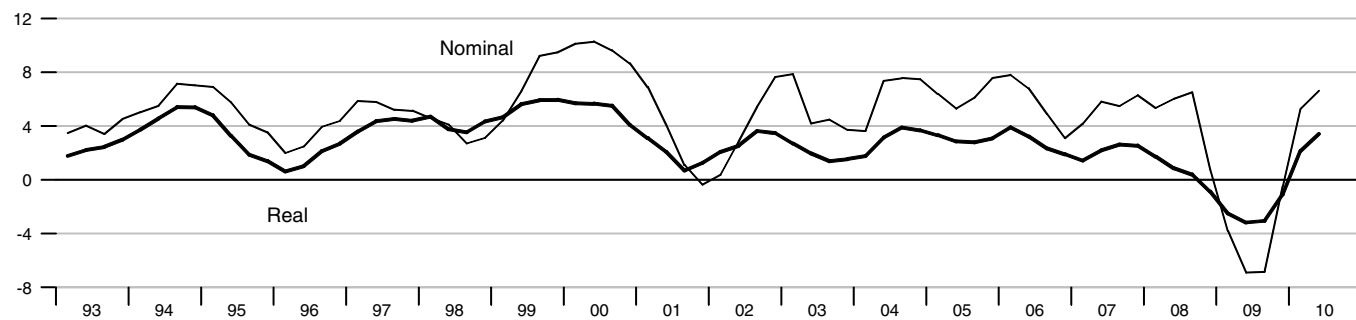
### Real Effective Exchange Rate

Index 2005 = 100



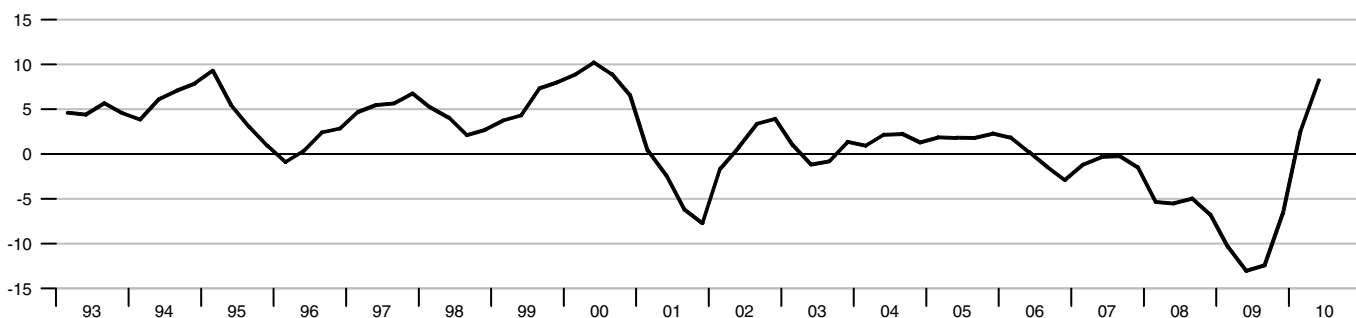
**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



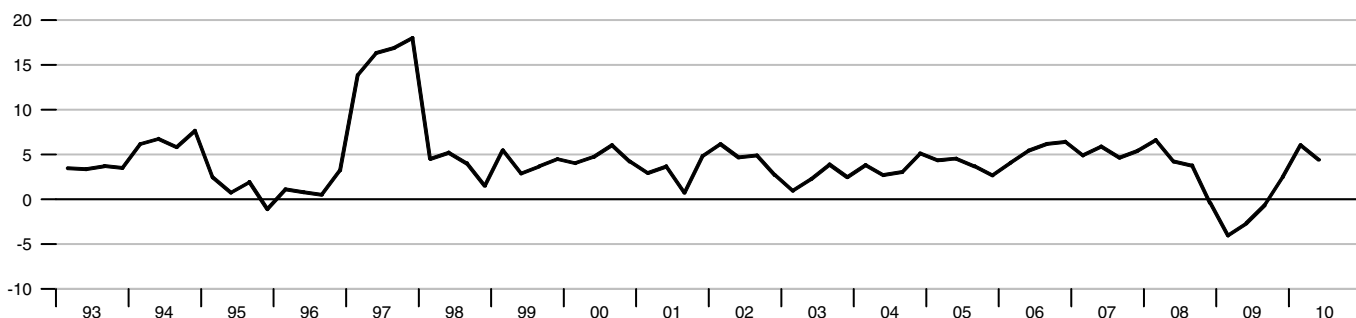
**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



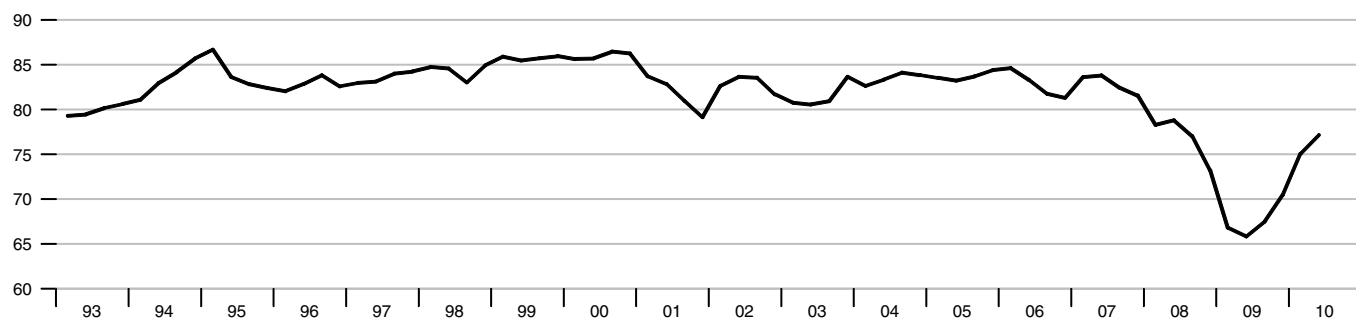
**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



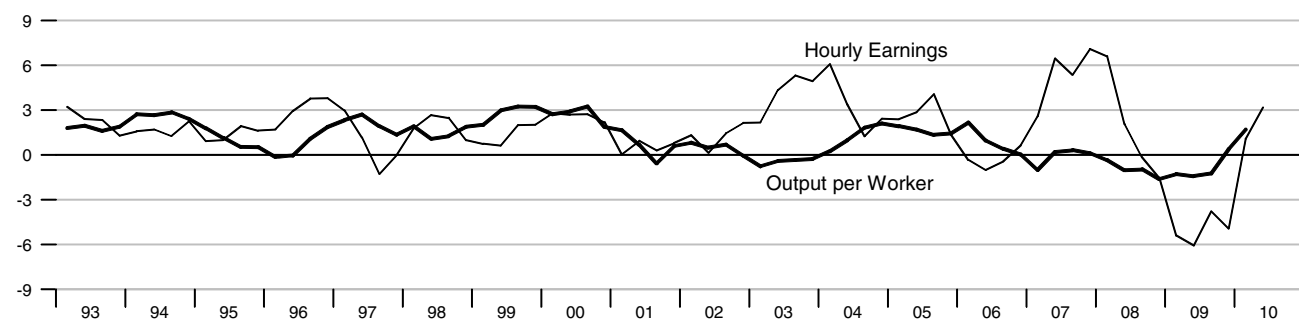
**Capacity Utilization**

Percent



### Real Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker

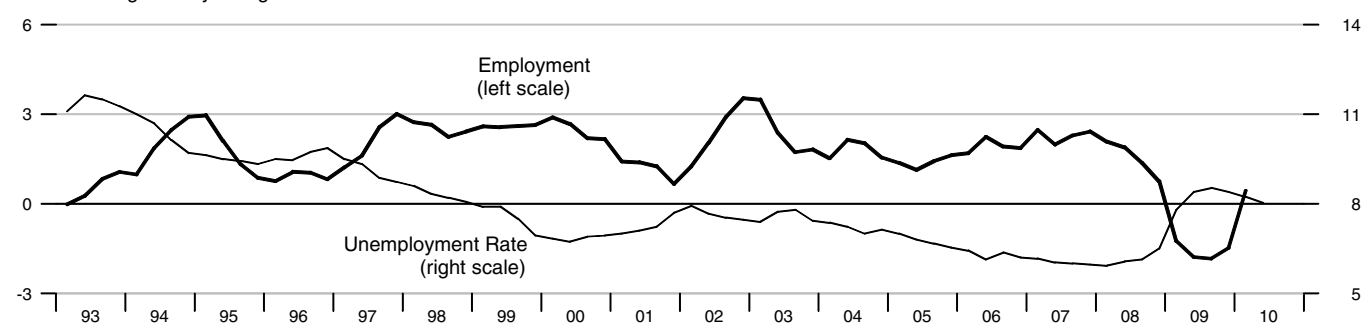
Percent change from year ago



### Labor Force Indicators

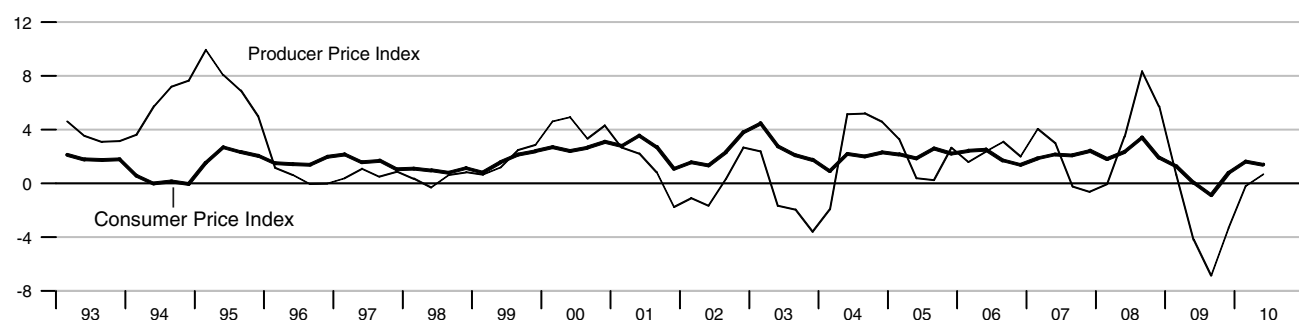
Percent change from year ago

Percent



### Inflation

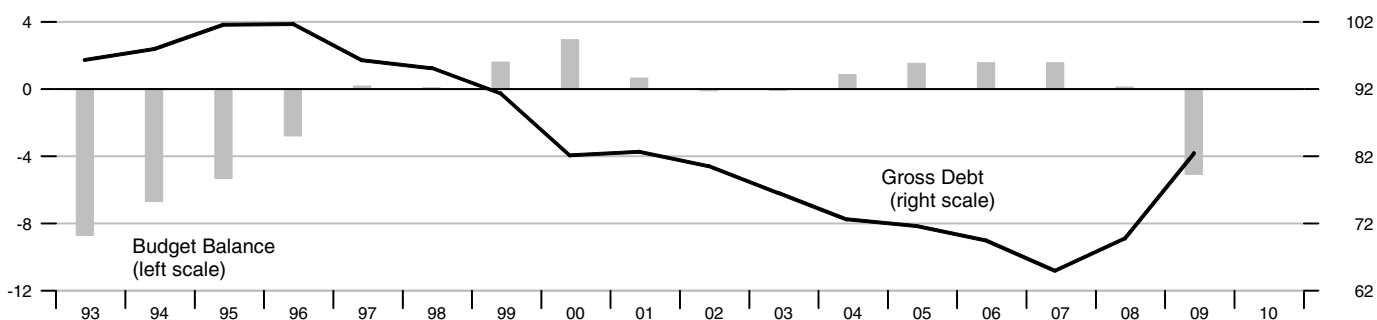
Percent change from year ago



### Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance

Percent of GDP, annual data

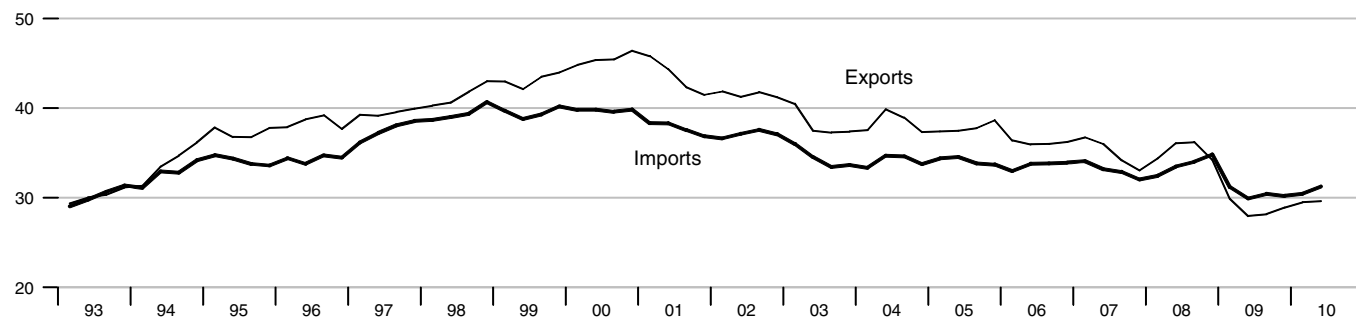
Percent of GDP, annual data





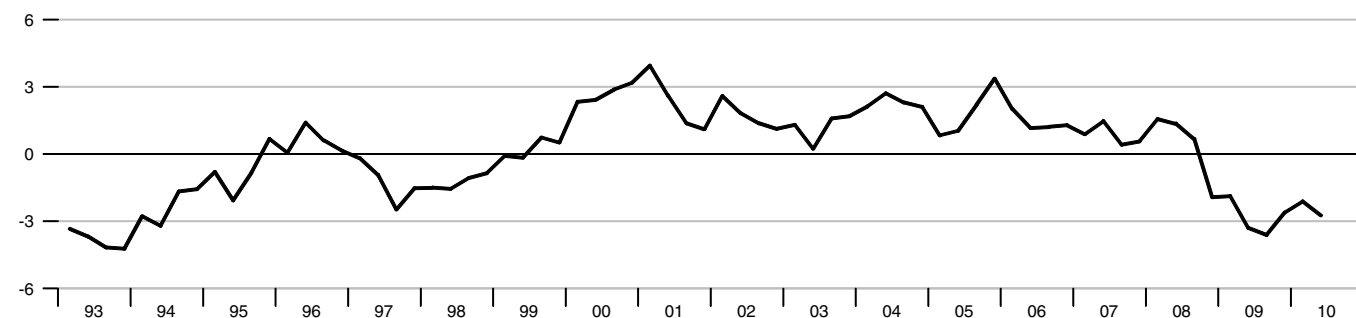
**International Trade - Goods and Services**

Percent of GDP



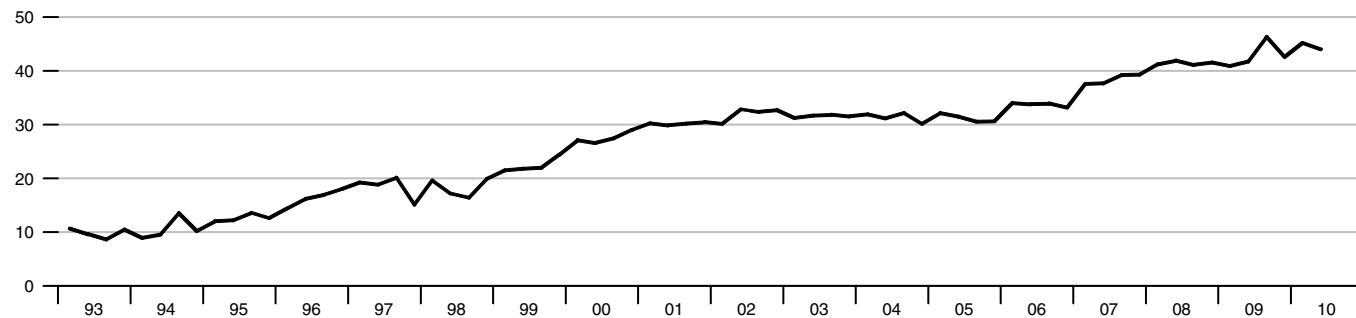
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



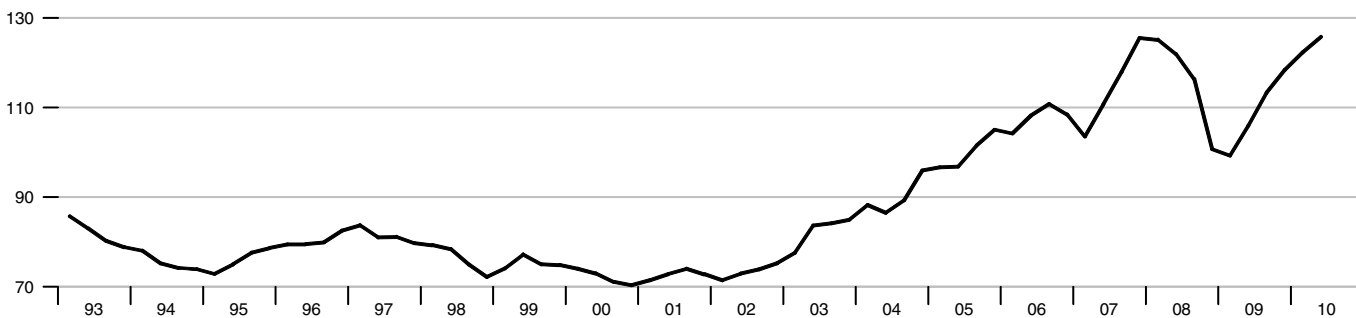
**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

Billions of US\$



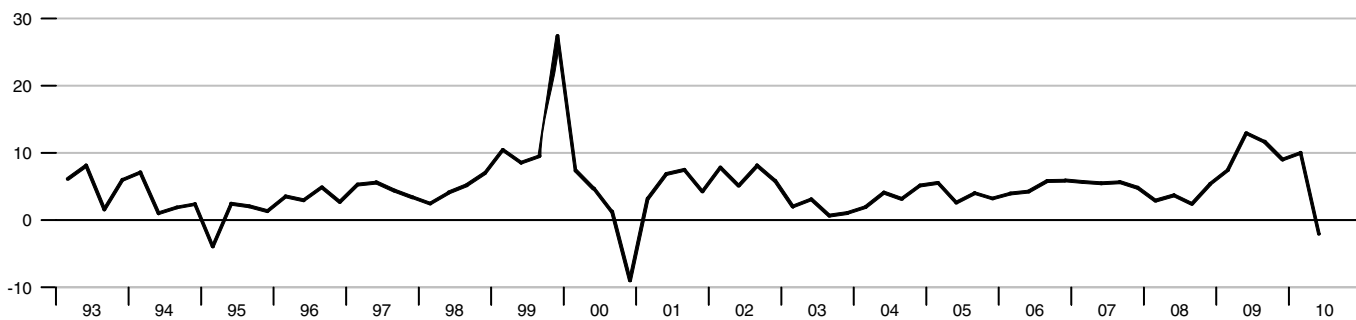
**Real Effective Exchange Rate**

Index 2005 = 100



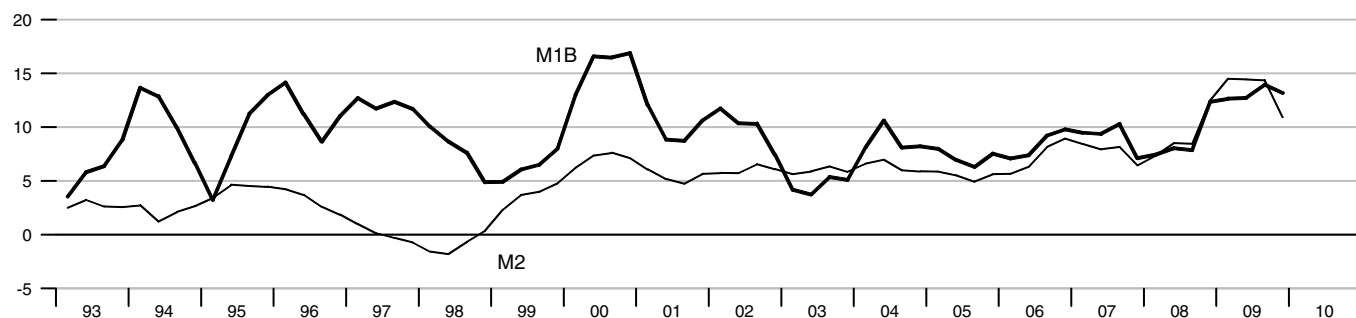
**Reserve Money**

Percent change from year ago



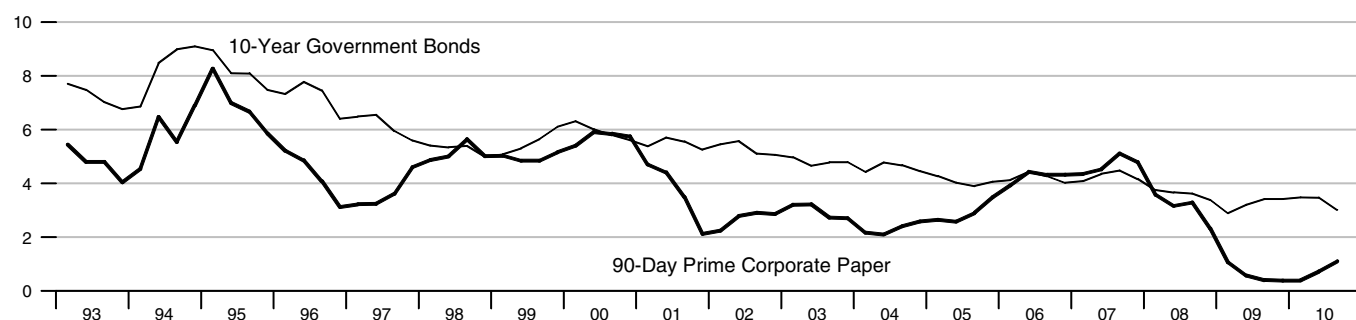
**Monetary Aggregates**

Percent change from year ago



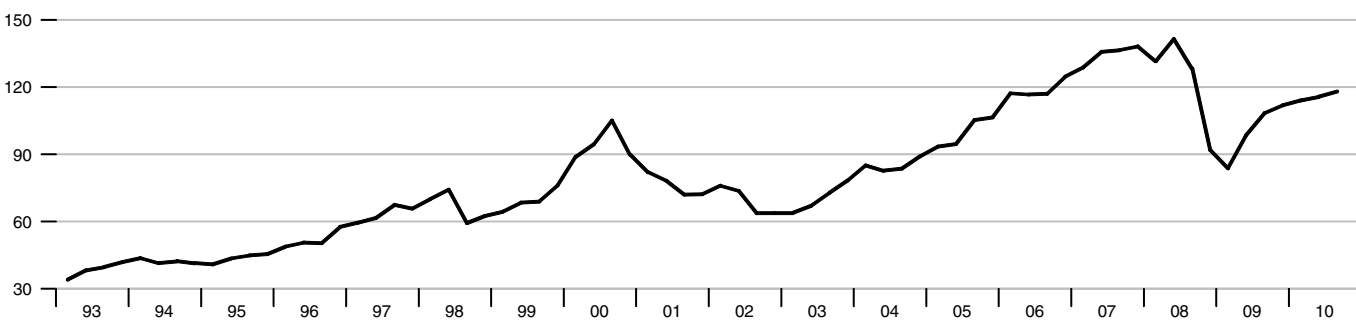
**Interest Rates**

Percent

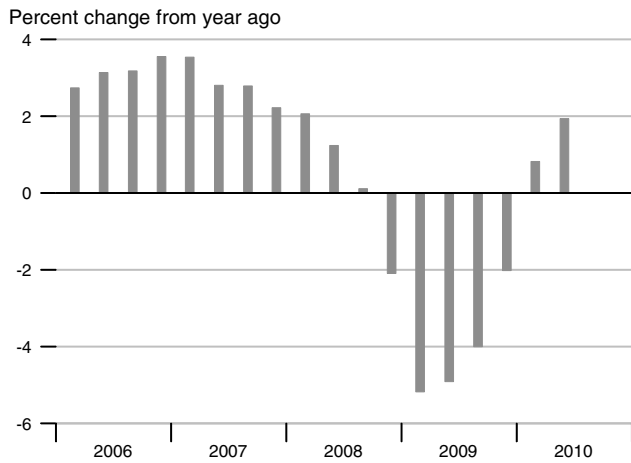


**Stock Exchange Index - Toronto Stock Exchange**

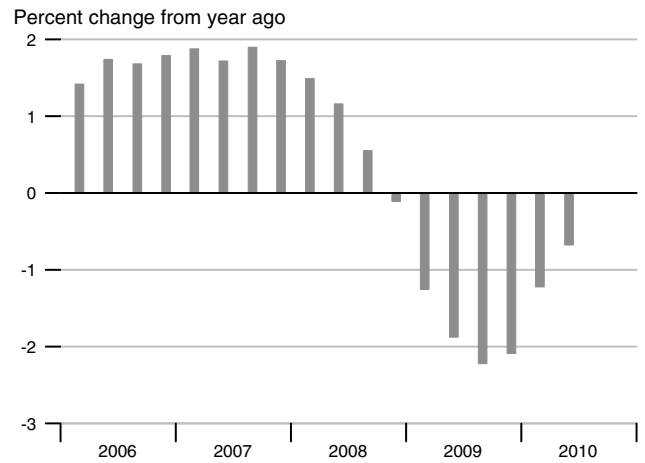
2005 = 100



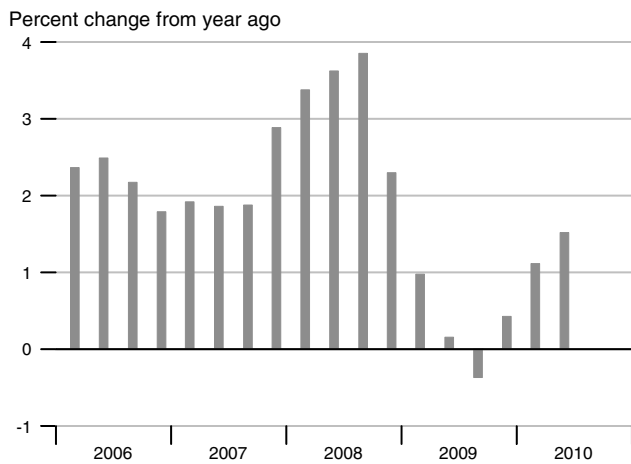
**Real GDP**



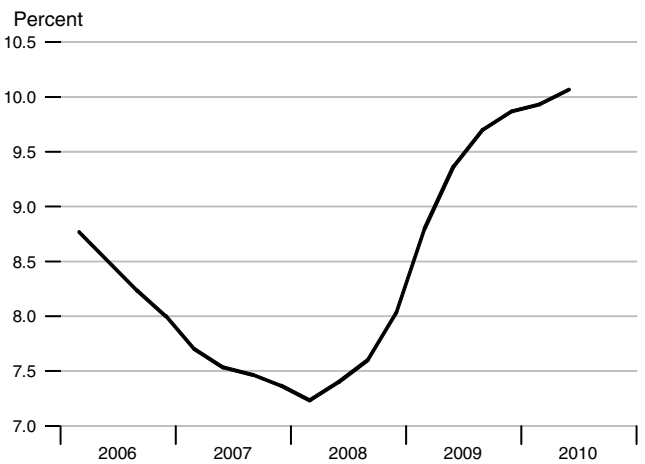
**Employment**



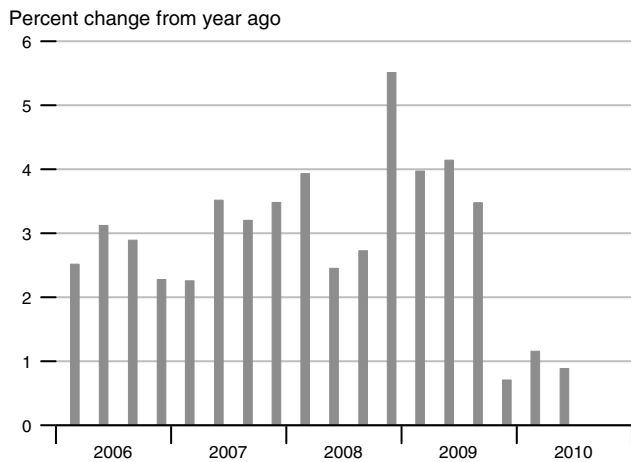
**Consumer Price Index**



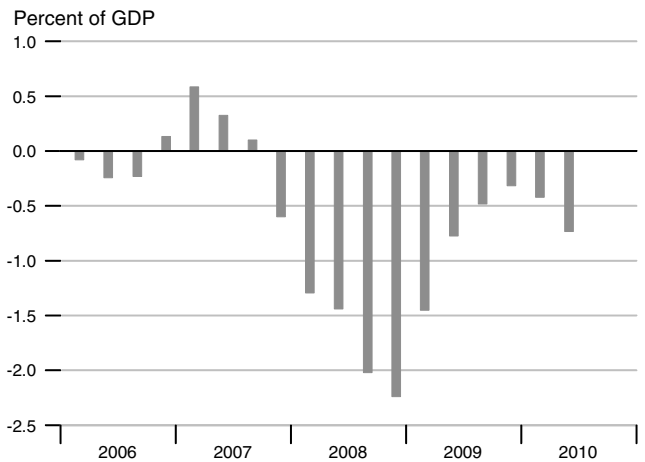
**Unemployment Rate**



**Real Hourly Earnings**

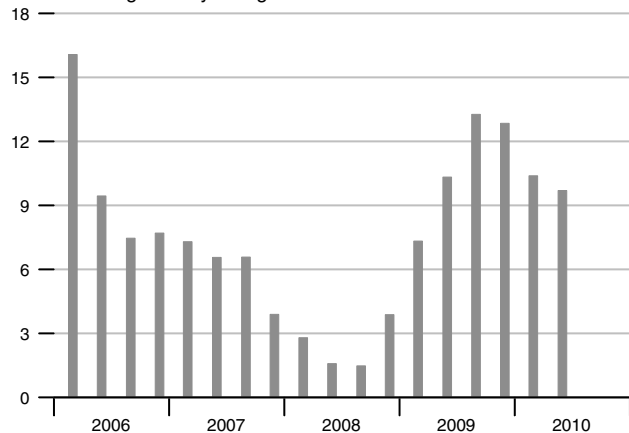


**Current Account Balance**



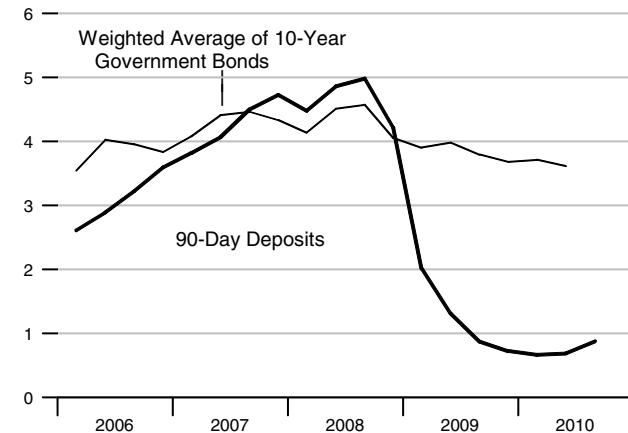
**M1**

Percent change from year ago



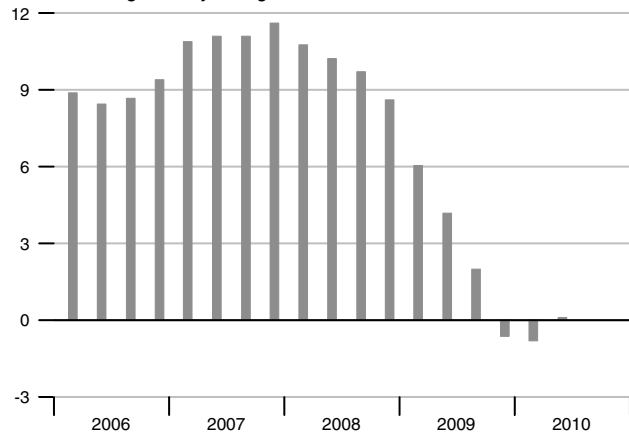
**Interest Rates**

Percent

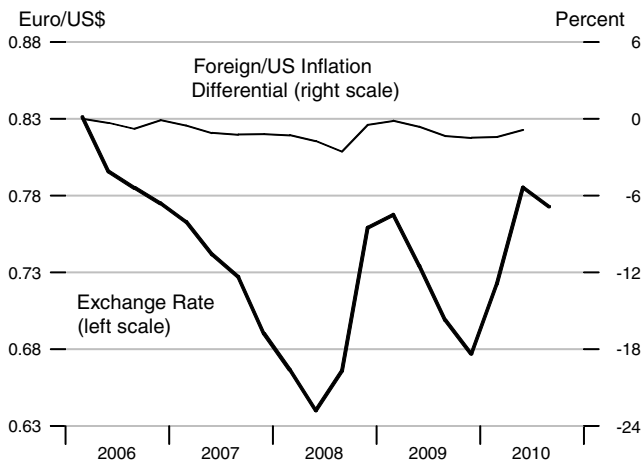


**M3**

Percent change from year ago

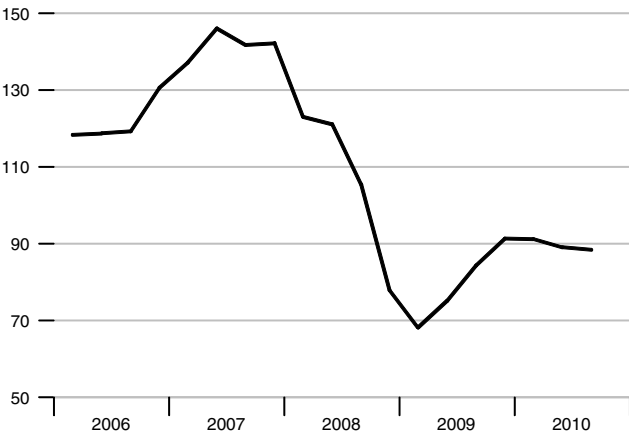


**Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential**



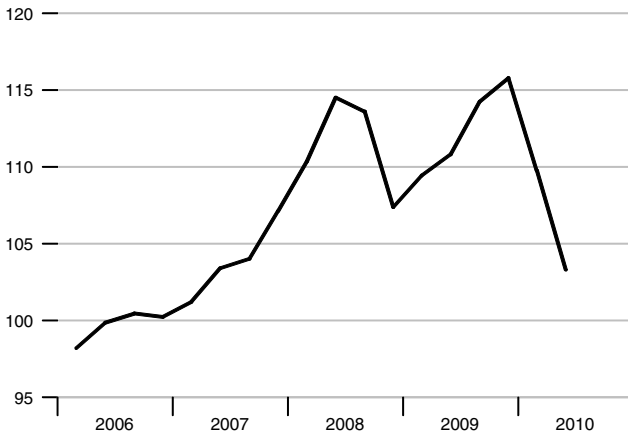
**Stock Exchange Index - Dow Jones EURO STOXX<sup>SM</sup>**

2005 = 100



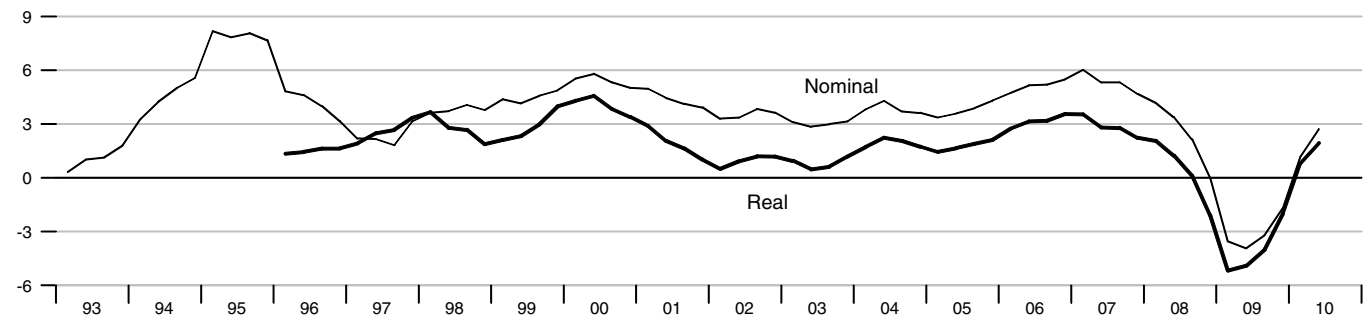
**Real Effective Exchange Rate**

Index 2005 = 100



**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



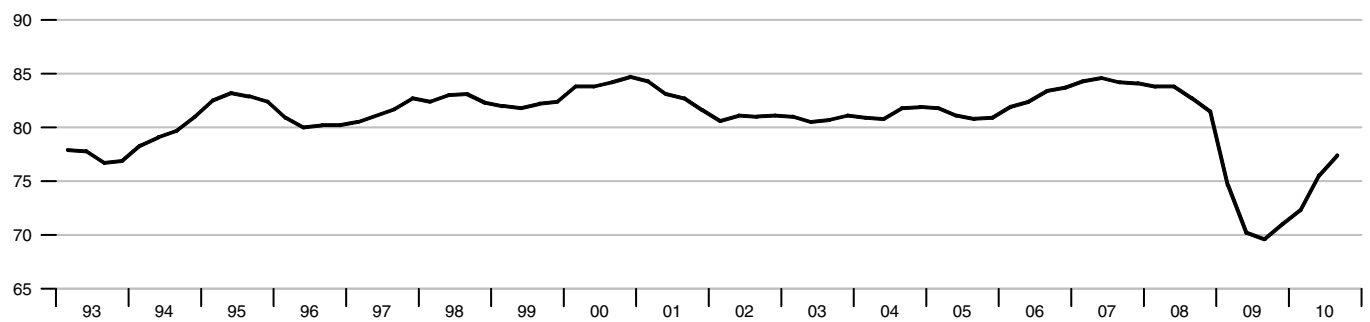
**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



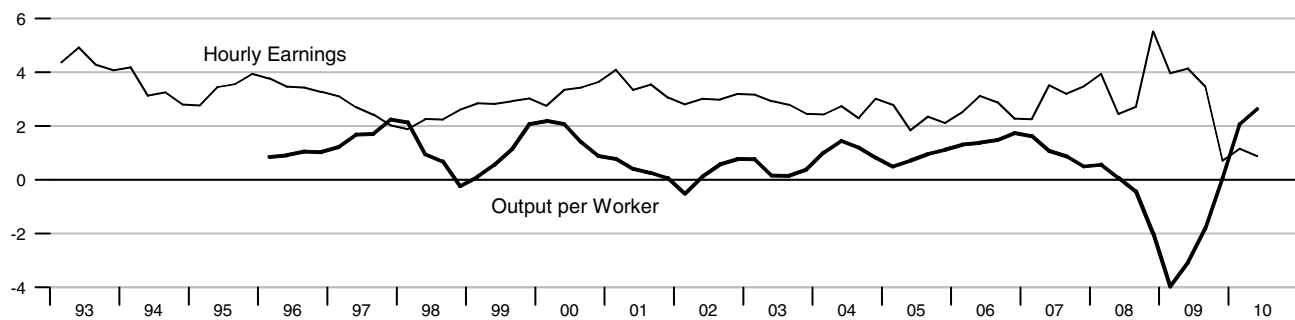
**Capacity Utilization**

Percent



### Real Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker

Percent change from year ago



### Labor Force Indicators

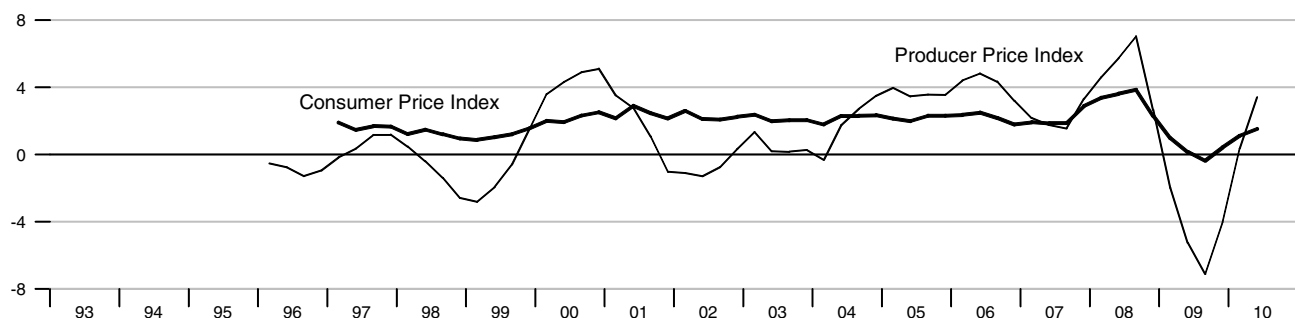
Percent change from year ago

Percent



### Inflation

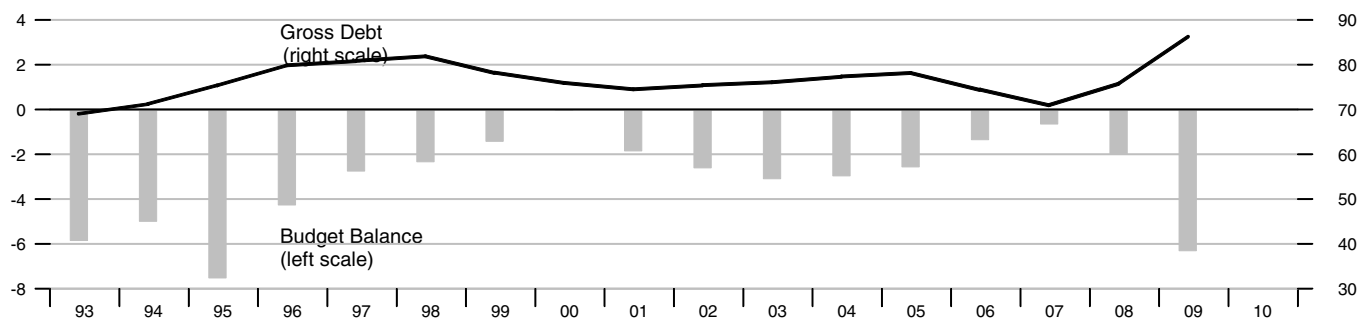
Percent change from year ago



### Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance

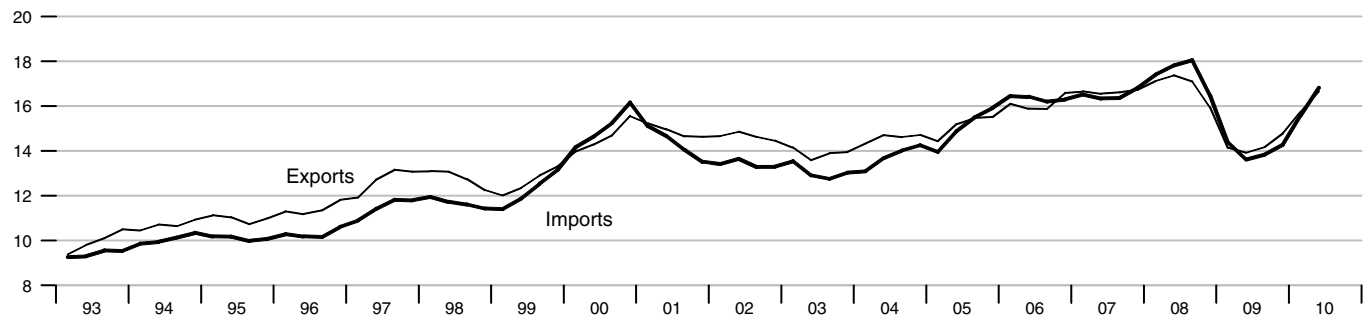
Percent of GDP, annual data

Percent of GDP, annual data



**International Trade - Goods**

Percent of GDP



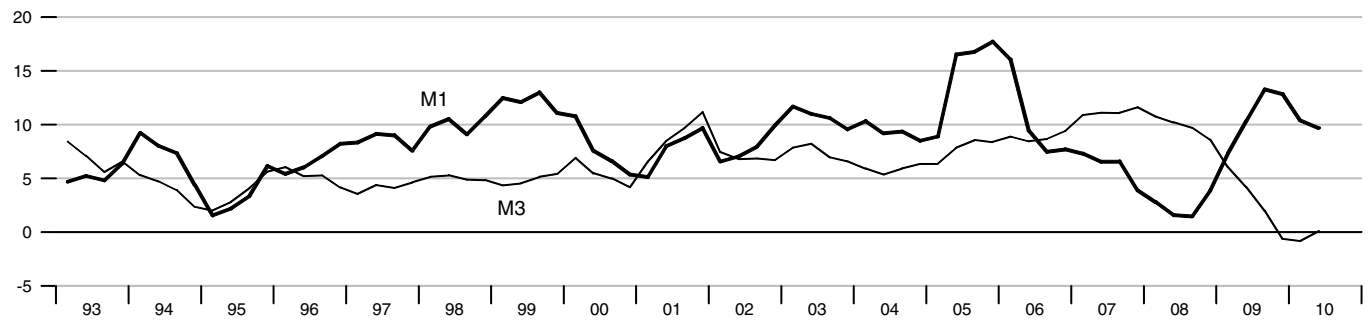
**Real Effective Exchange Rate**

Index 2005 = 100



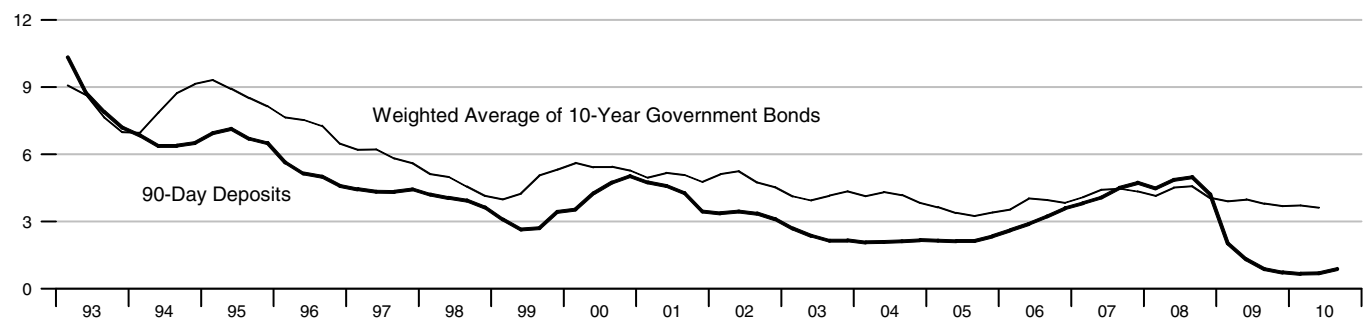
**Monetary Aggregates**

Percent change from year ago



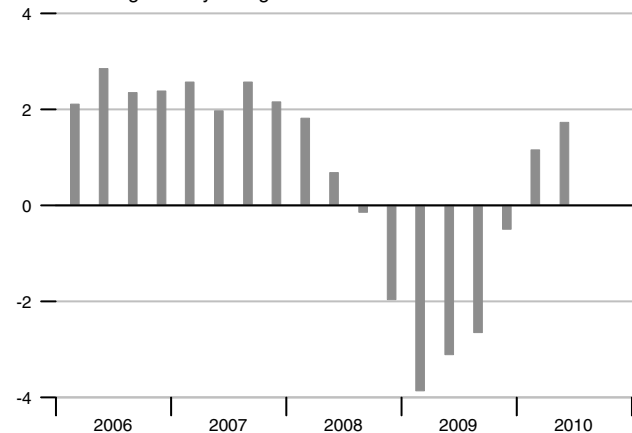
**Interest Rates**

Percent



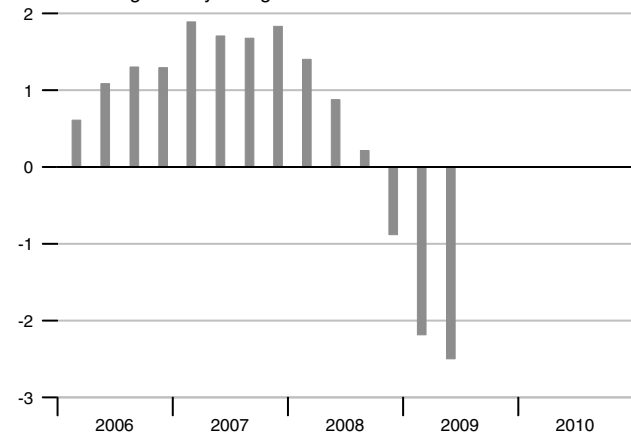
**Real GDP**

Percent change from year ago



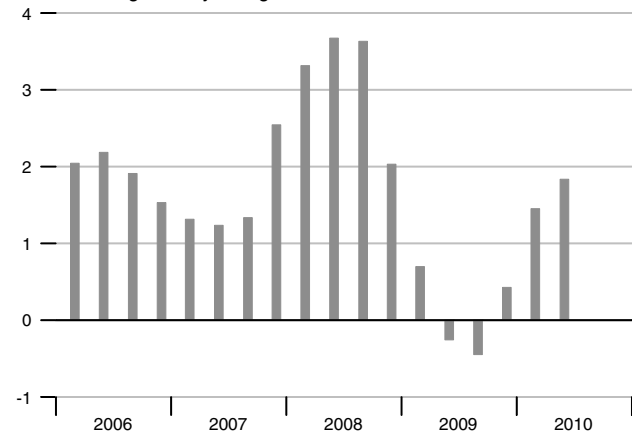
**Employment**

Percent change from year ago



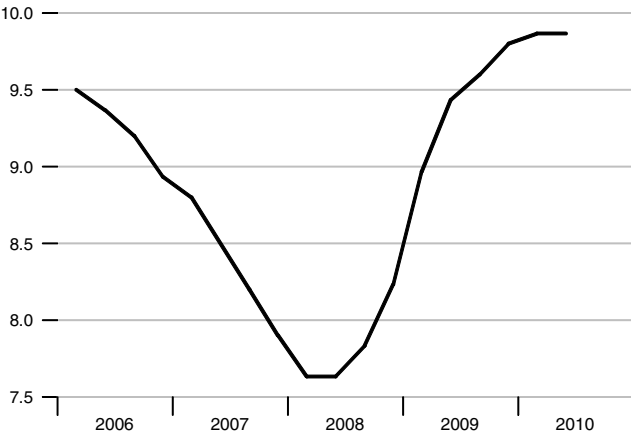
**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago



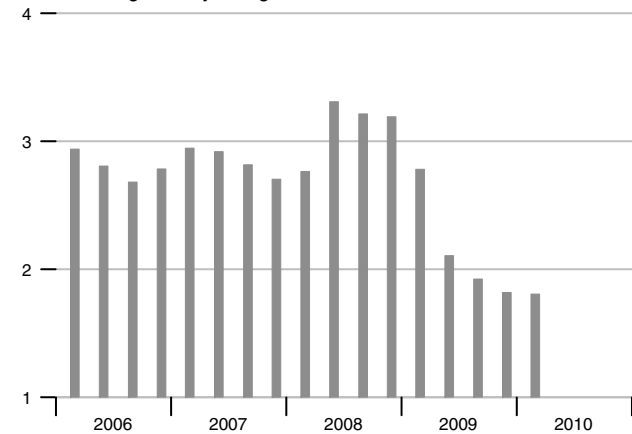
**Unemployment Rate**

Percent



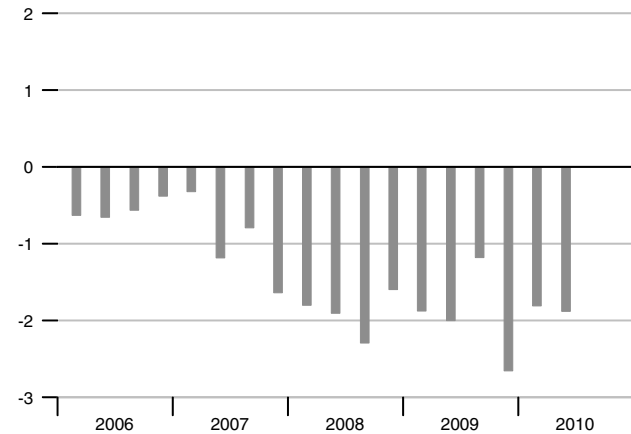
**Real Hourly Earnings**

Percent change from year ago



**Current Account Balance**

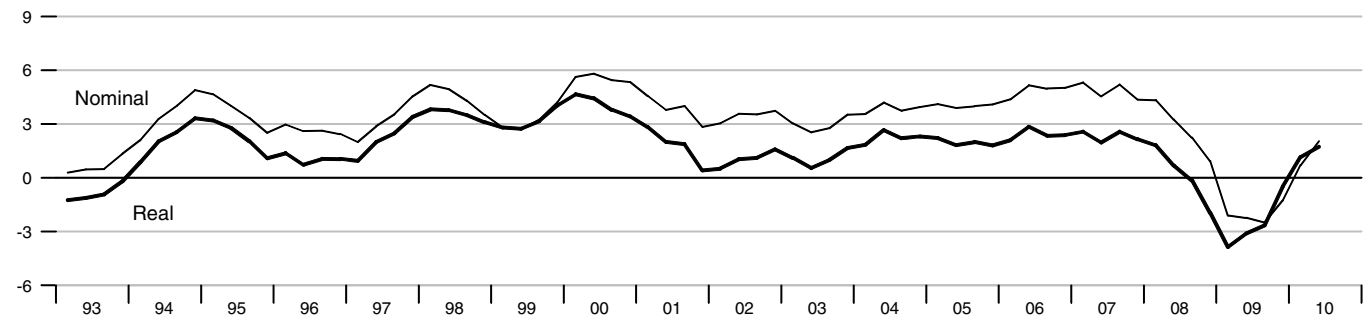
Percent of GDP





**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



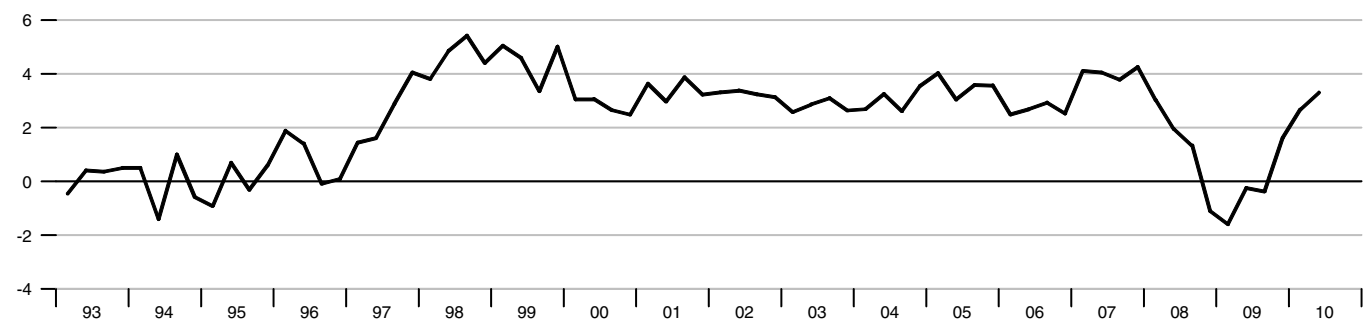
**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



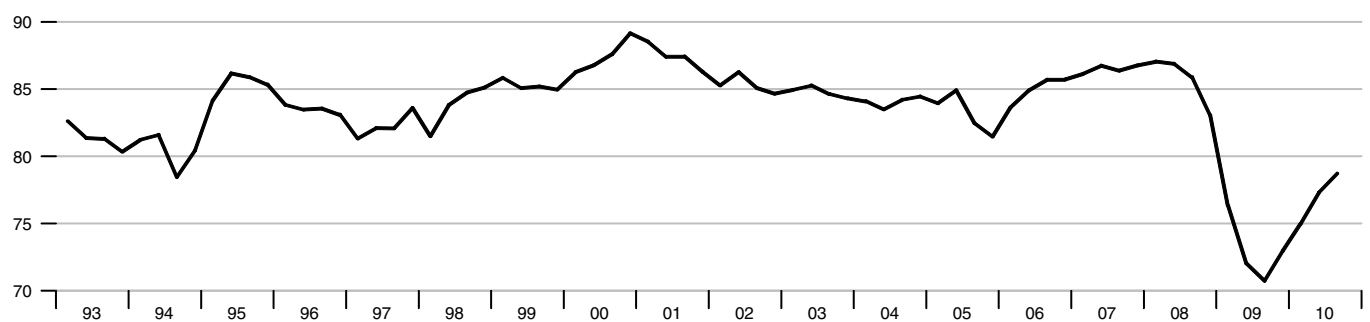
**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



**Capacity Utilization**

Percent



### Real Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker

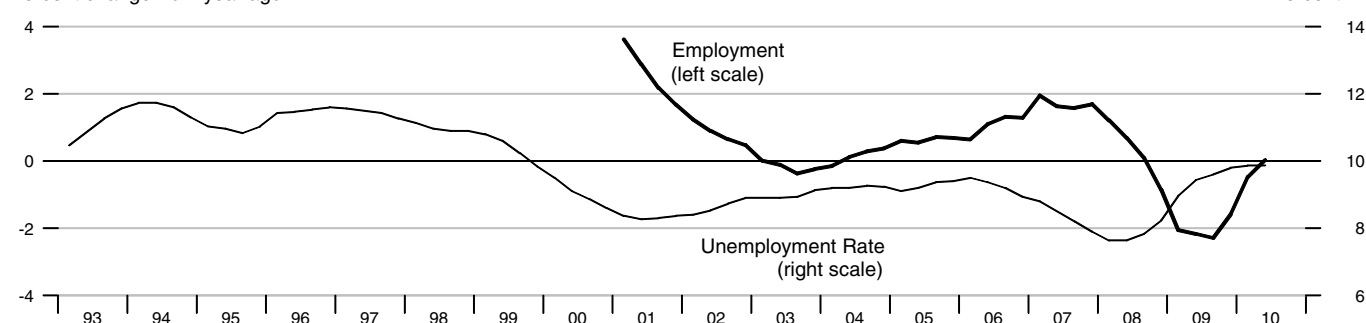
Percent change from year ago



### Labor Force Indicators

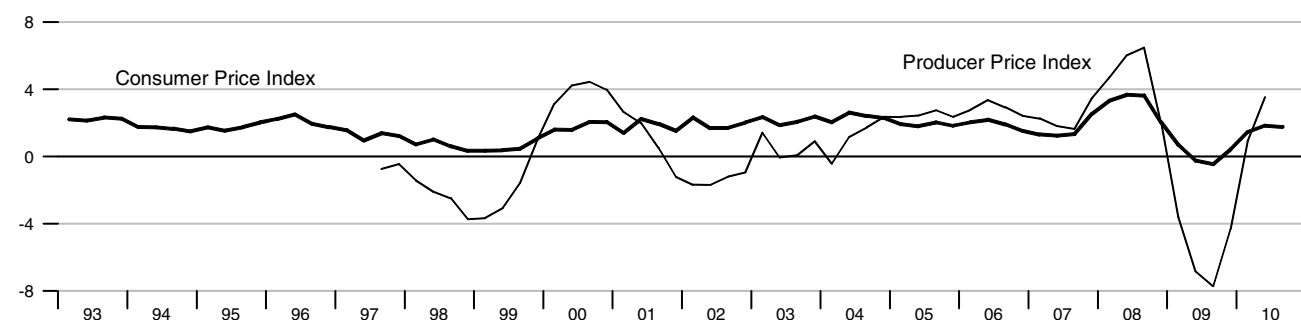
Percent change from year ago

Percent



### Inflation

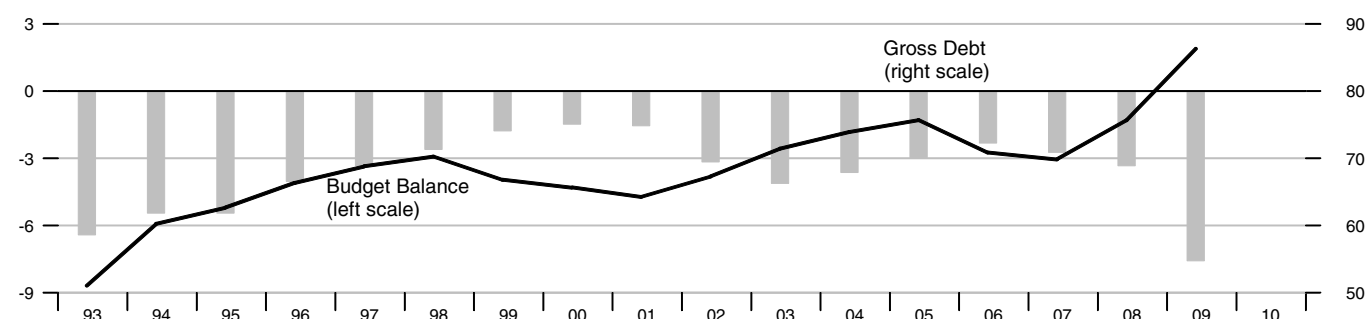
Percent change from year ago



### Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance

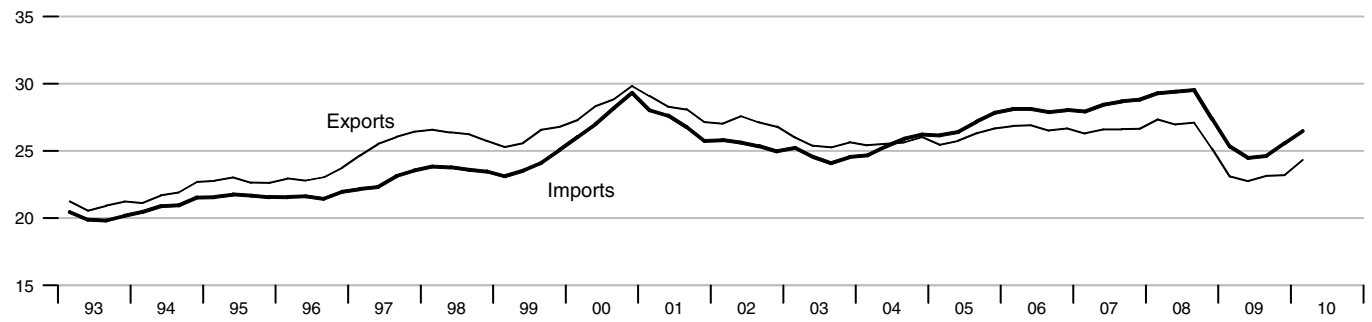
Percent of GDP, annual data

Percent of GDP, annual data



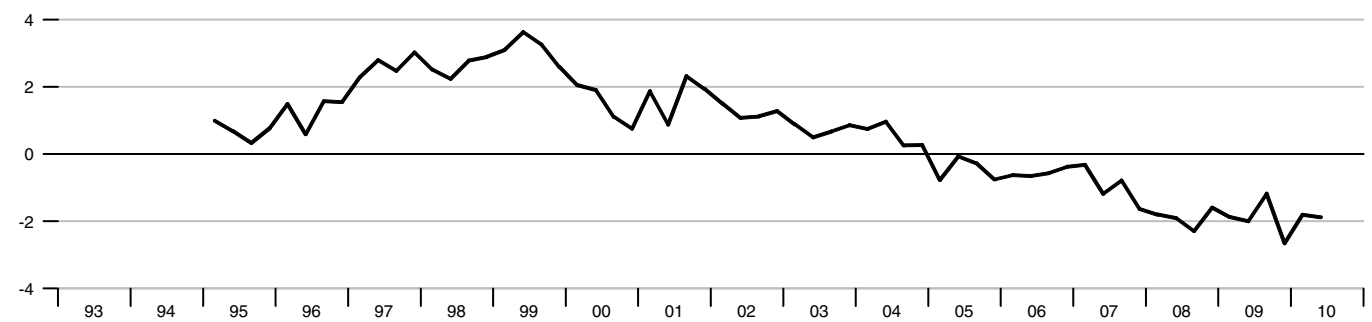
**International Trade - Goods and Services**

Percent of GDP



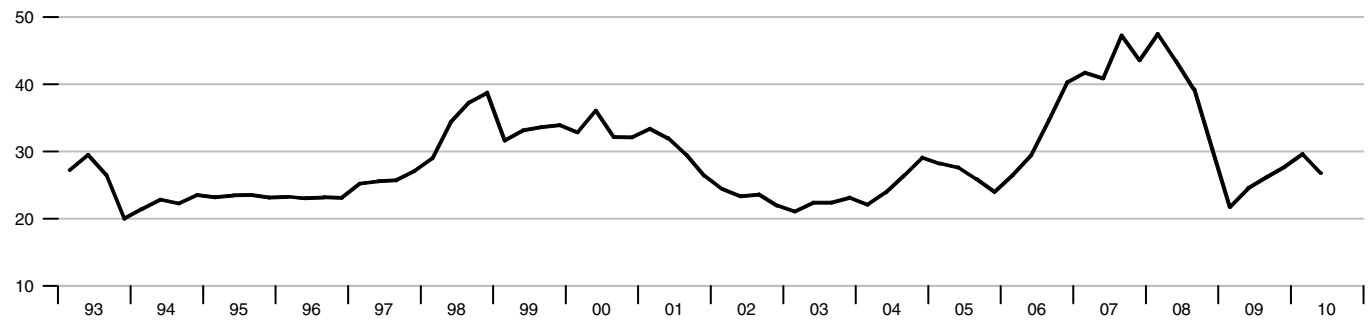
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



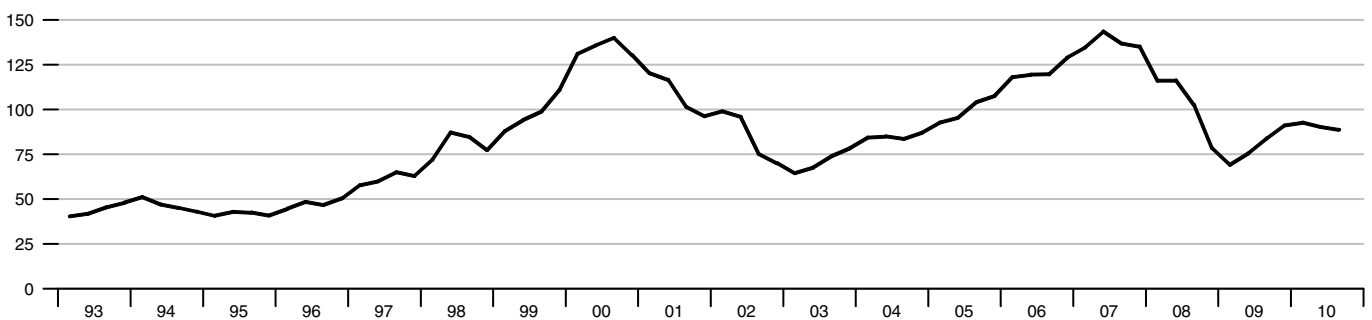
**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

Billions of US\$



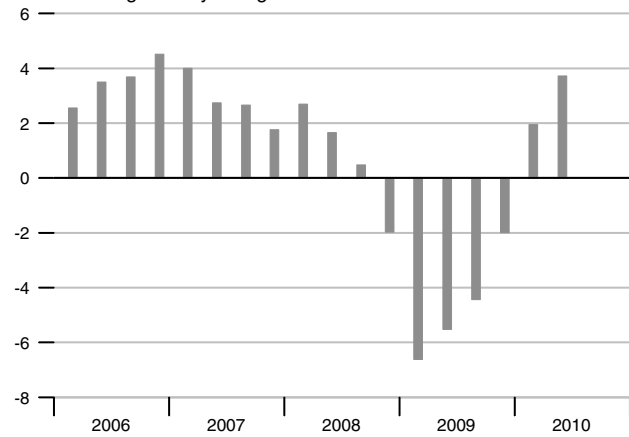
**Stock Exchange Index - SBF 250**

2005 = 100



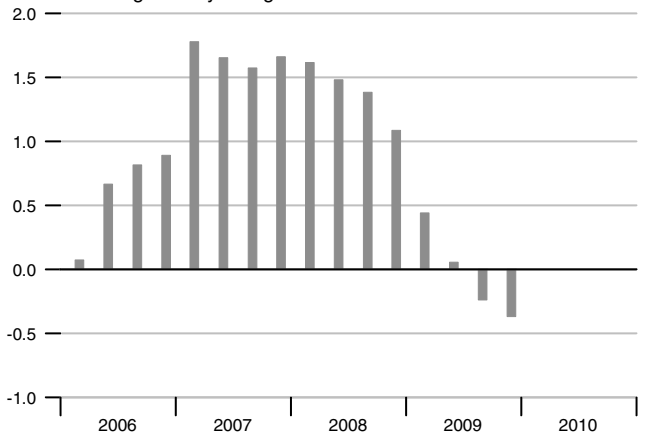
**Real GDP**

Percent change from year ago



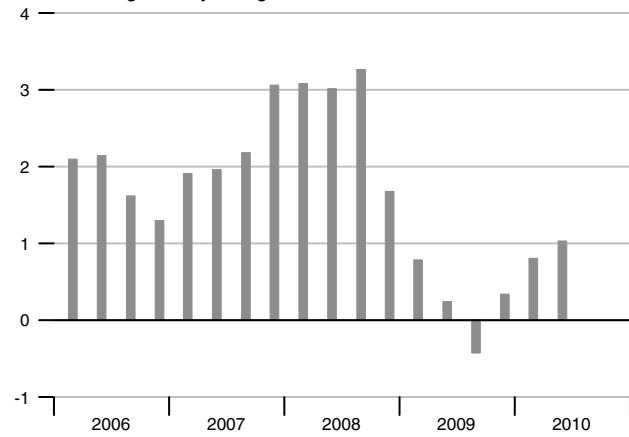
**Employment**

Percent change from year ago



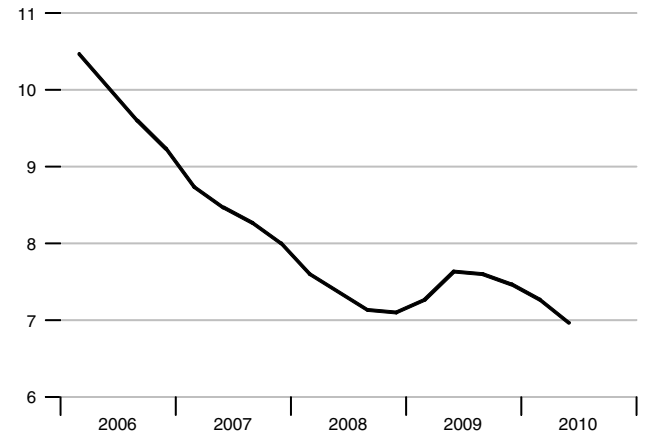
**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago



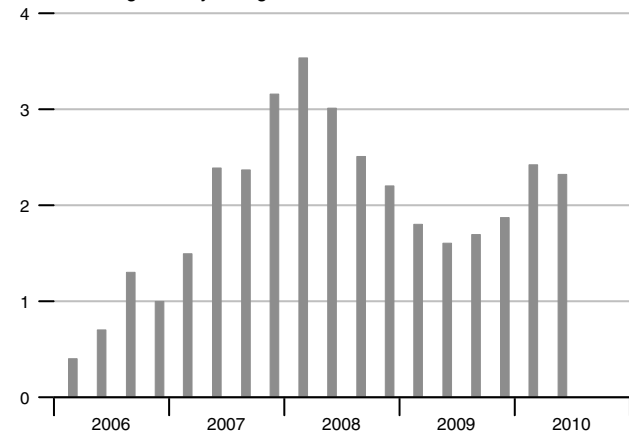
**Unemployment Rate**

Percent



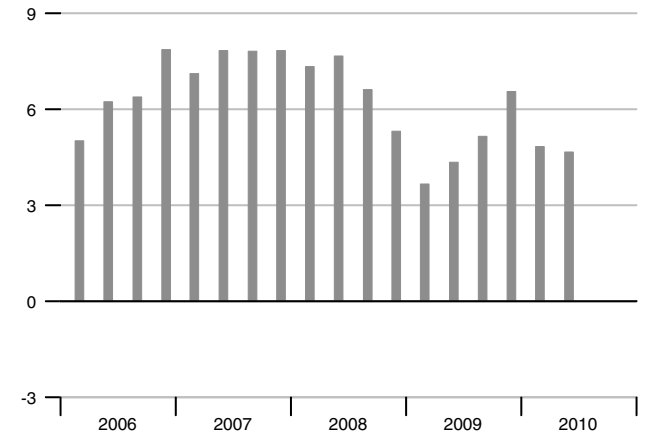
**Real Hourly Earnings**

Percent change from year ago



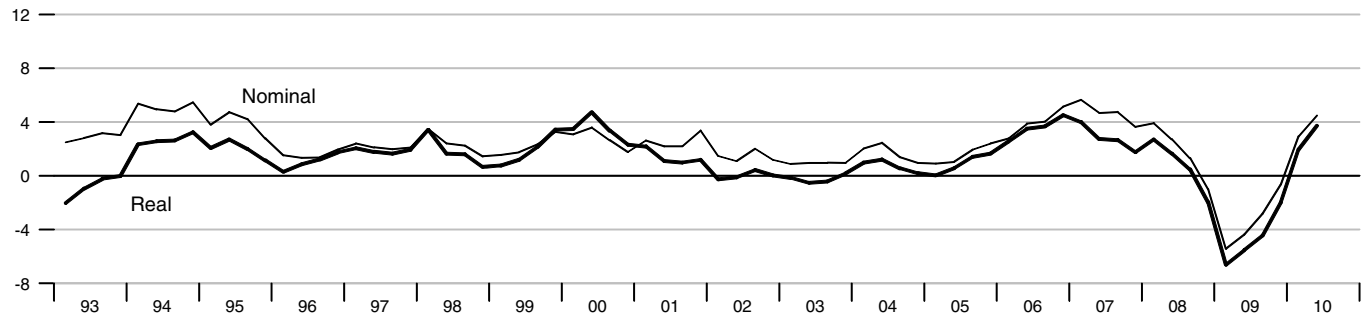
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



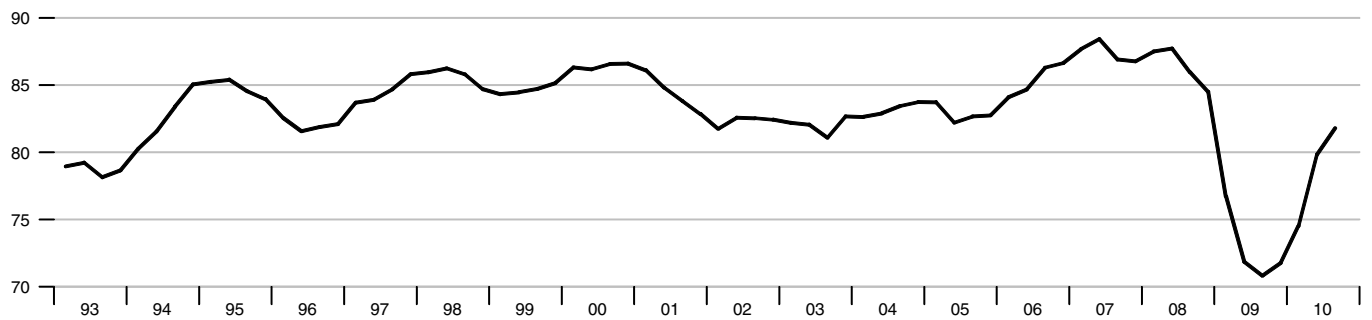
**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



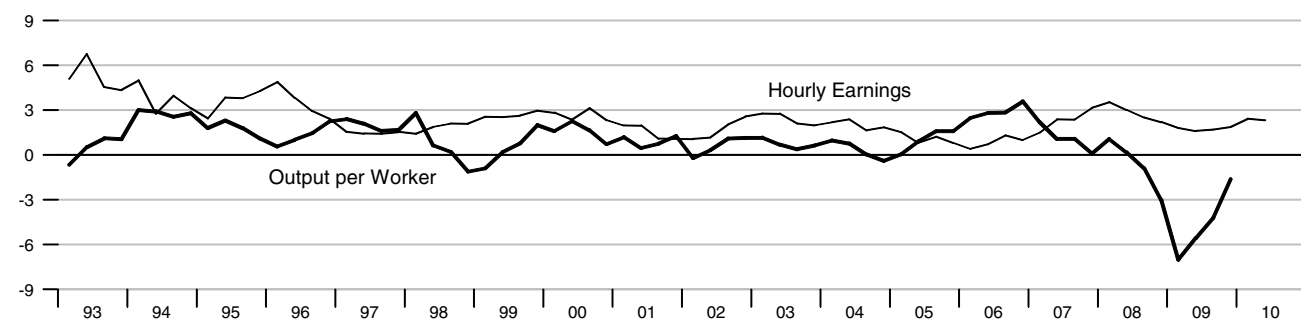
**Capacity Utilization**

Percent



### Real Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker

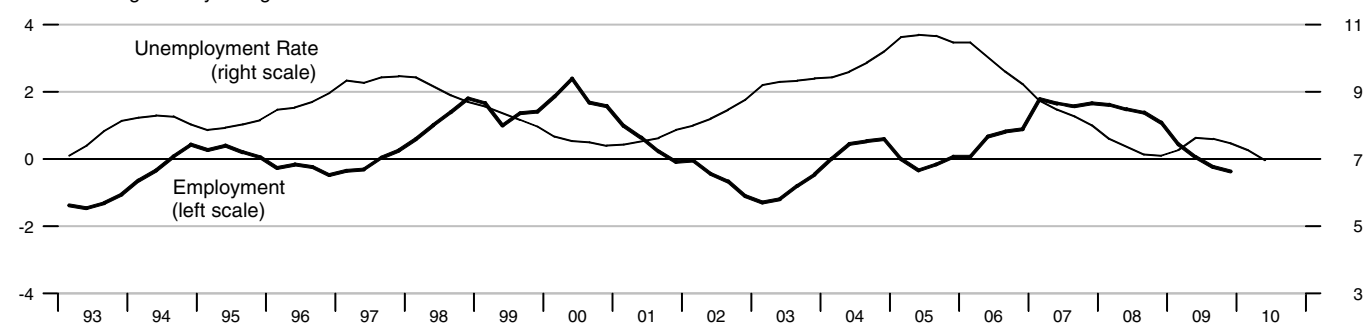
Percent change from year ago



### Labor Force Indicators

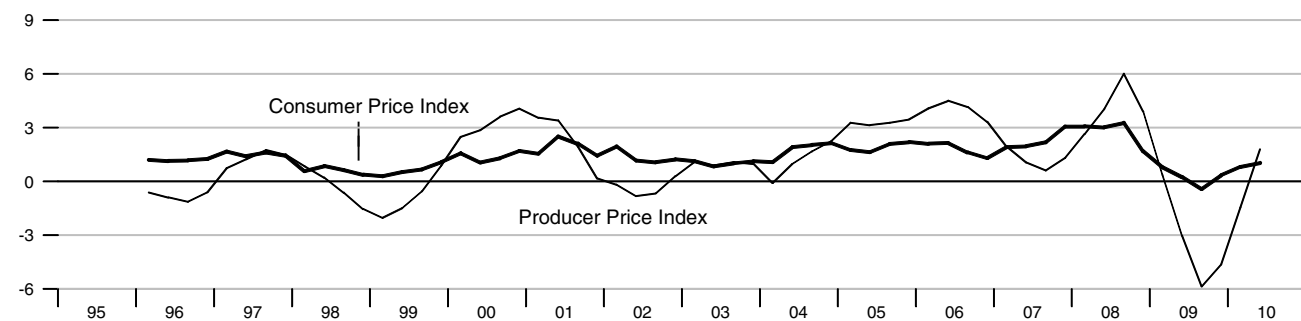
Percent change from year ago

Percent



### Inflation

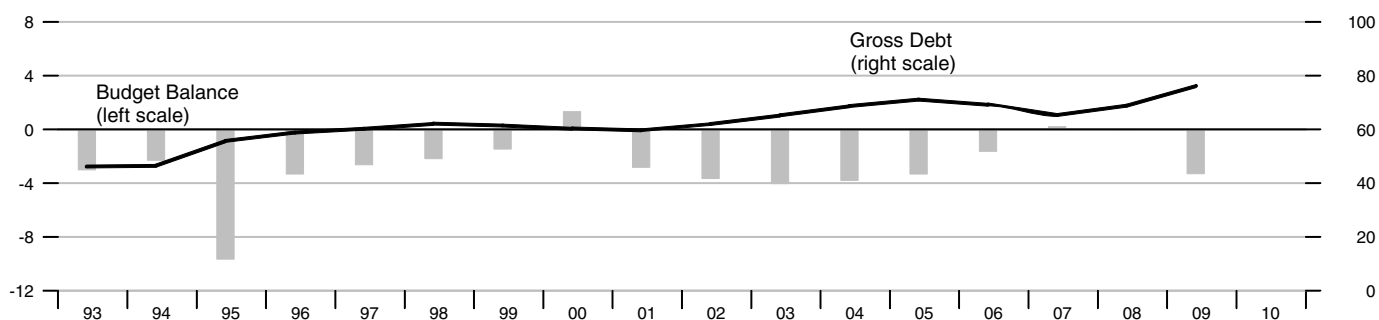
Percent change from year ago



### Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance

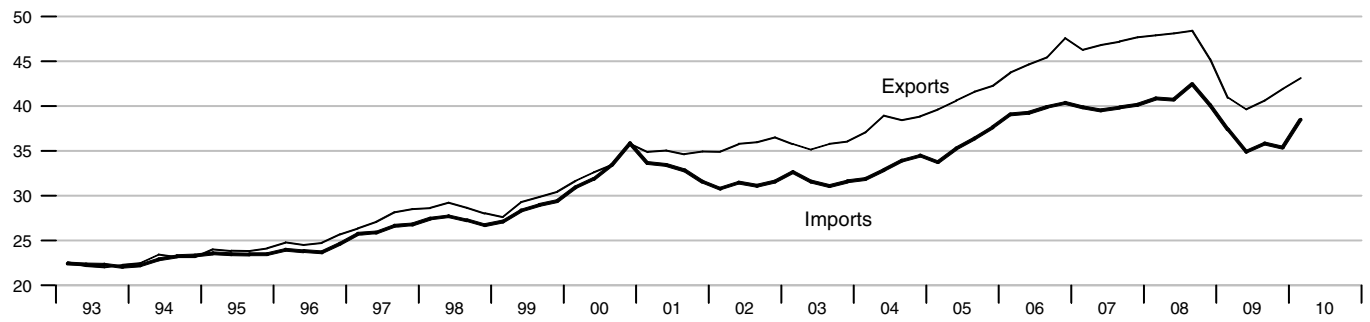
Percent of GDP, annual data

Percent of GDP, annual data



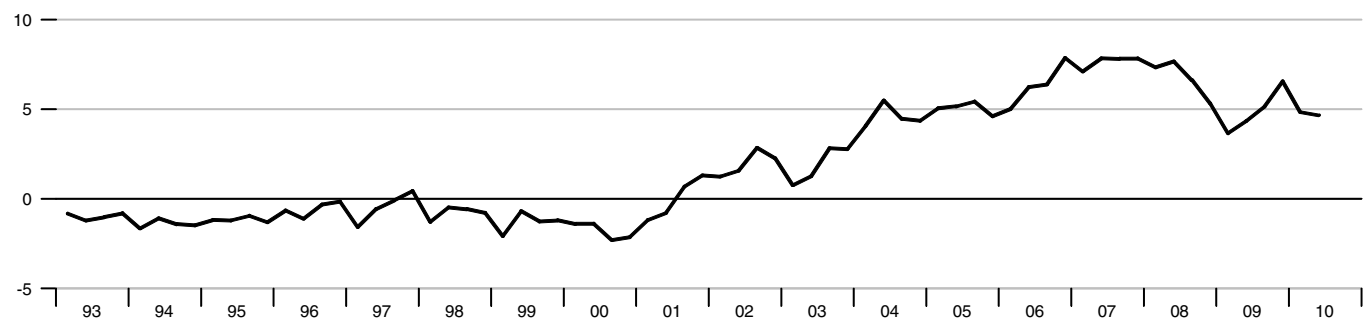
**International Trade - Goods and Services**

Percent of GDP



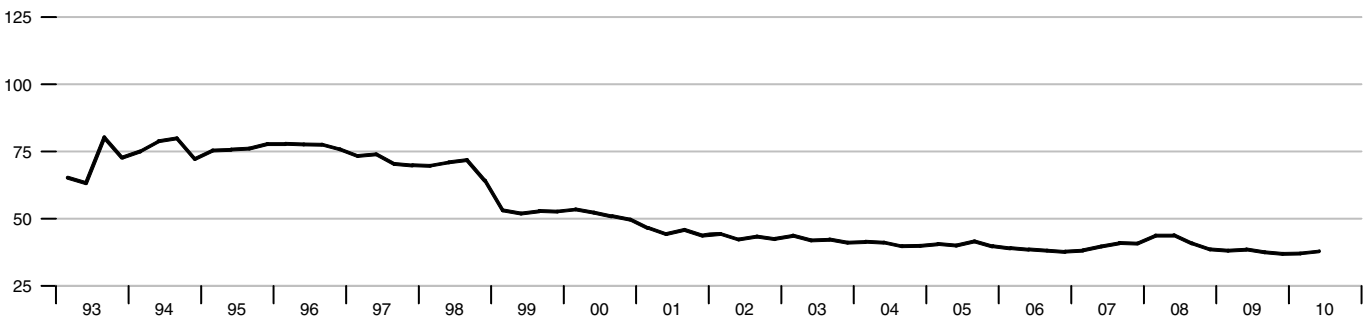
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

Billions of US\$



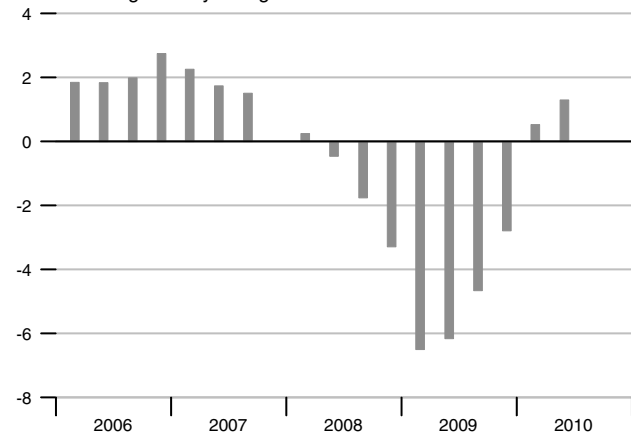
**Stock Exchange Index - CDAX**

2005 = 100



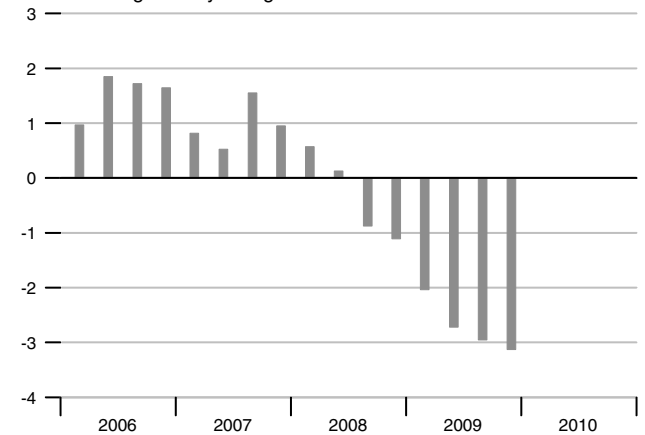
**Real GDP**

Percent change from year ago



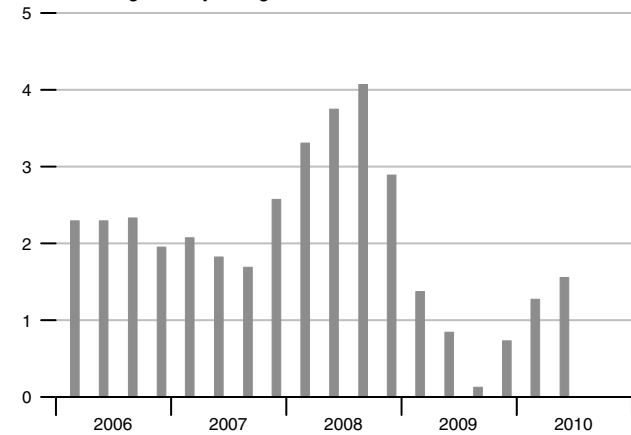
**Employment**

Percent change from year ago



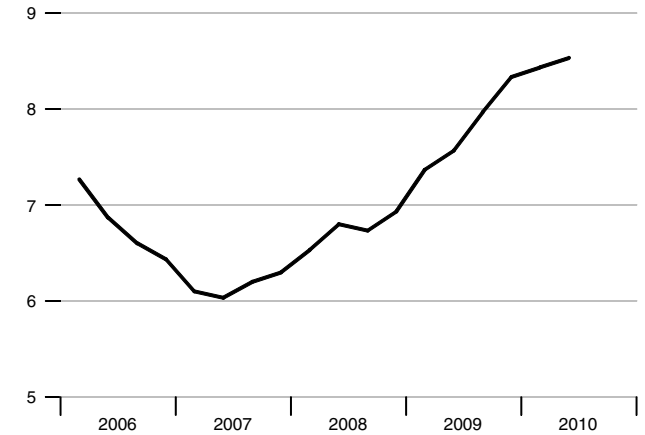
**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago



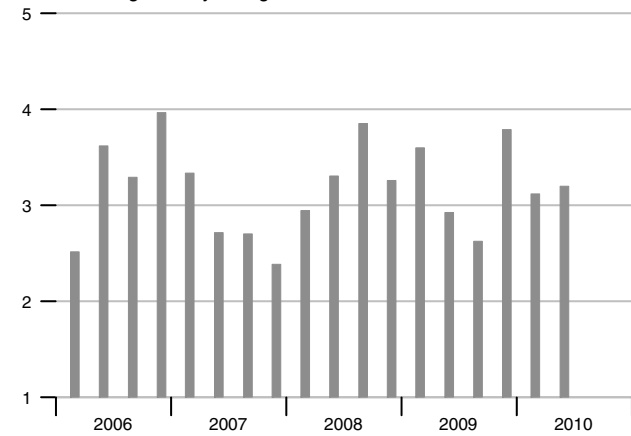
**Unemployment Rate**

Percent



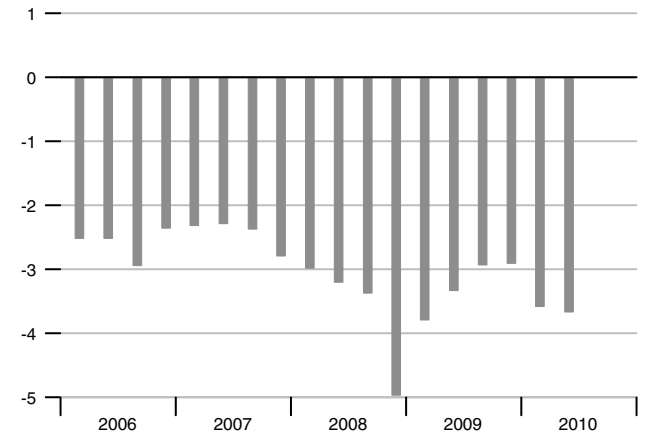
**Real Hourly Earnings**

Percent change from year ago



**Current Account Balance**

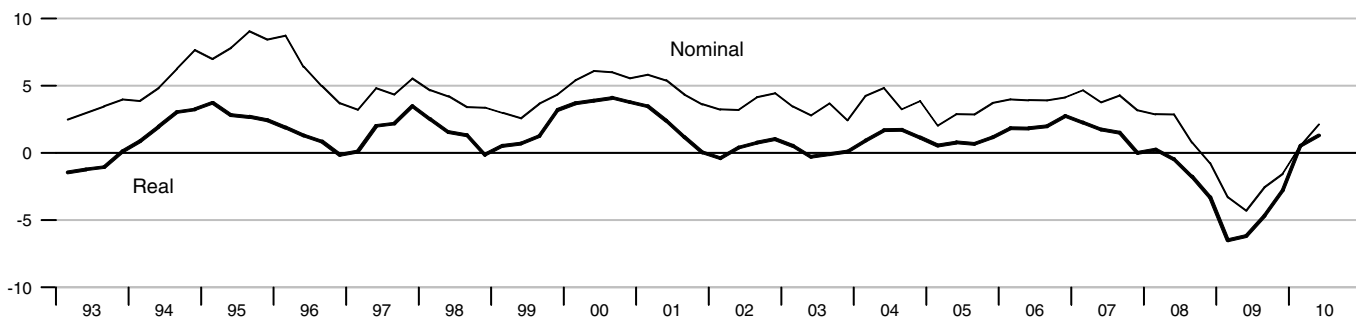
Percent of GDP





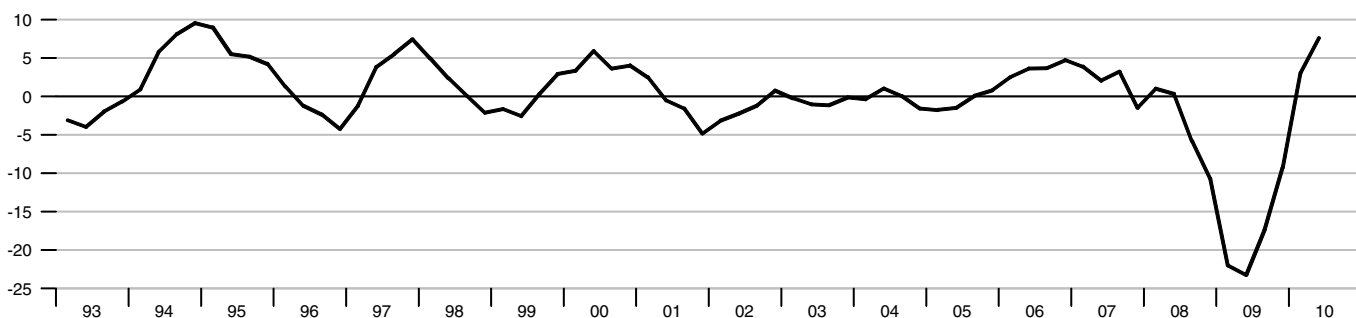
**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



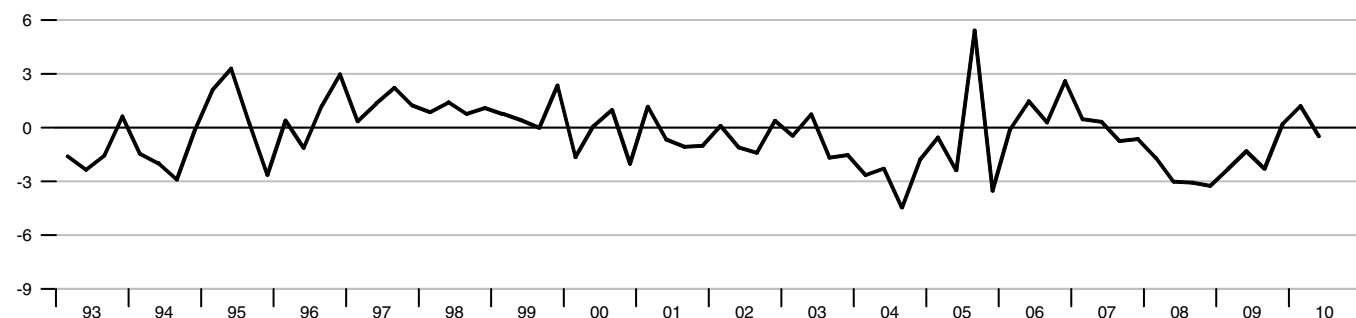
**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



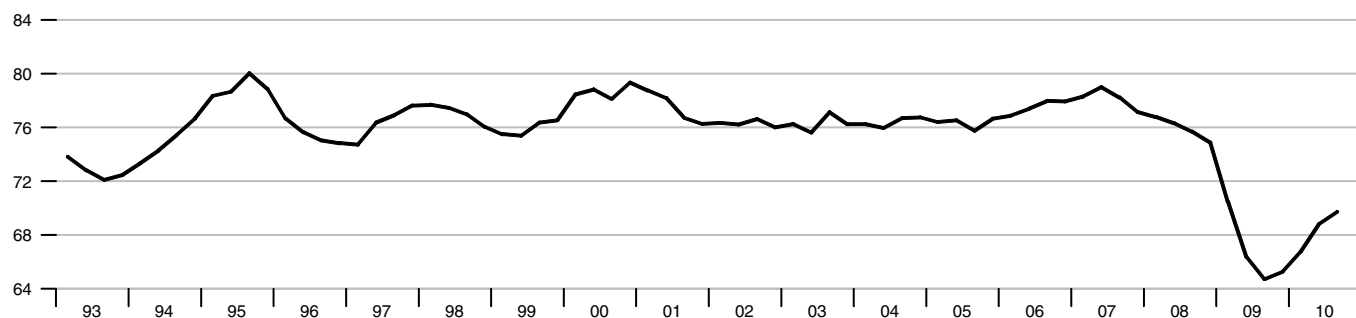
**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



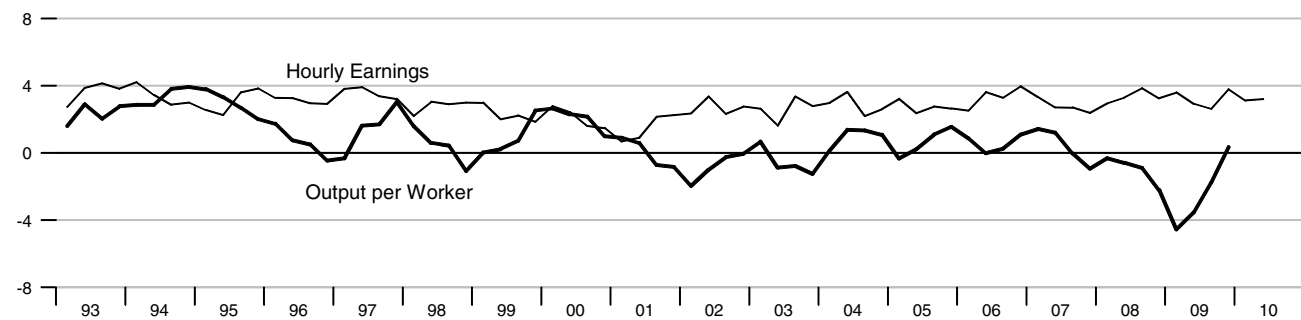
**Capacity Utilization**

Percent



### Real Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker

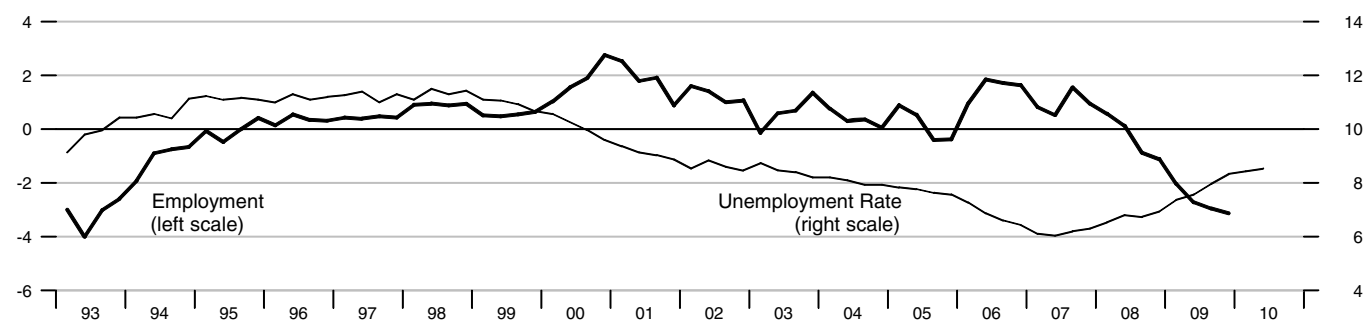
Percent change from year ago



### Labor Force Indicators

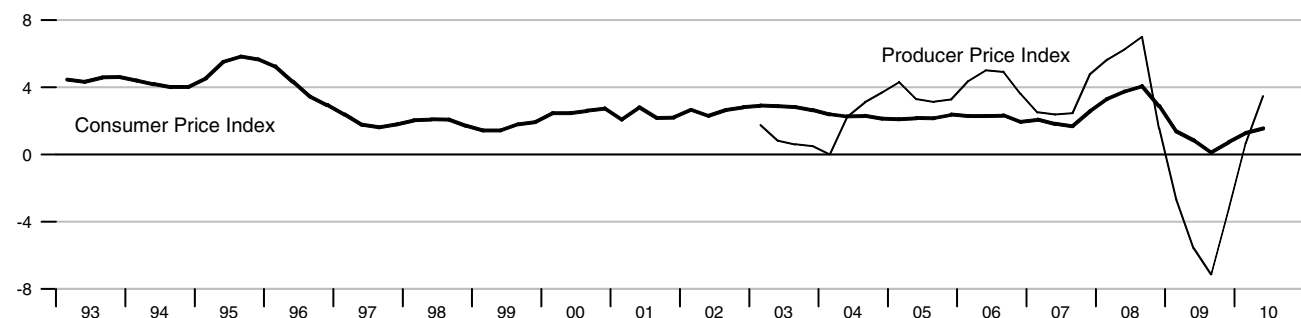
Percent change from year ago

Percent



### Inflation

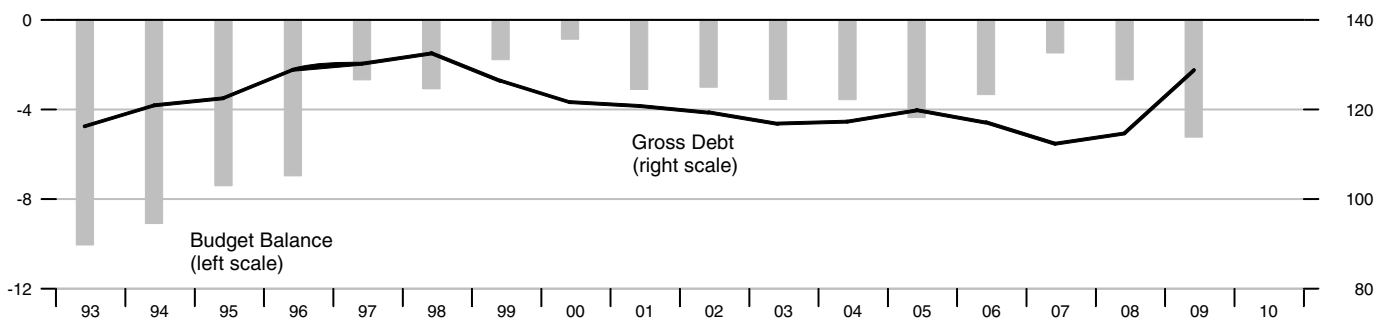
Percent change from year ago



### Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance

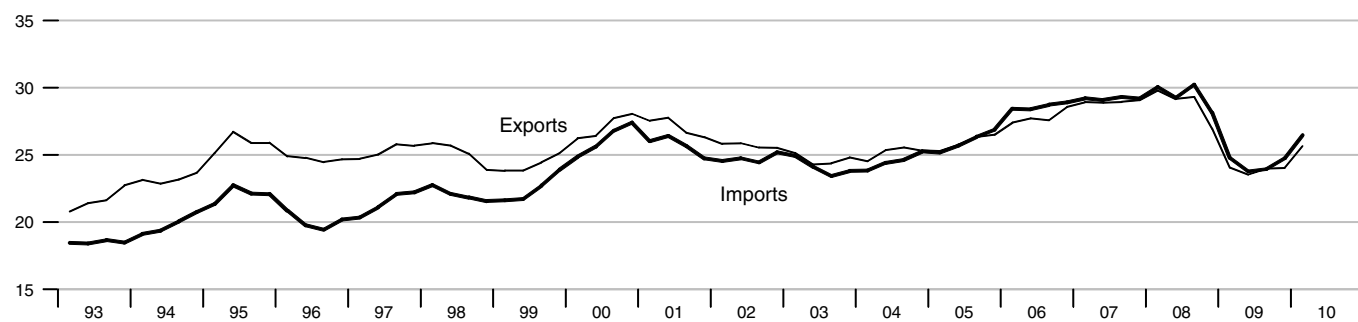
Percent of GDP, annual data

Percent of GDP, annual data



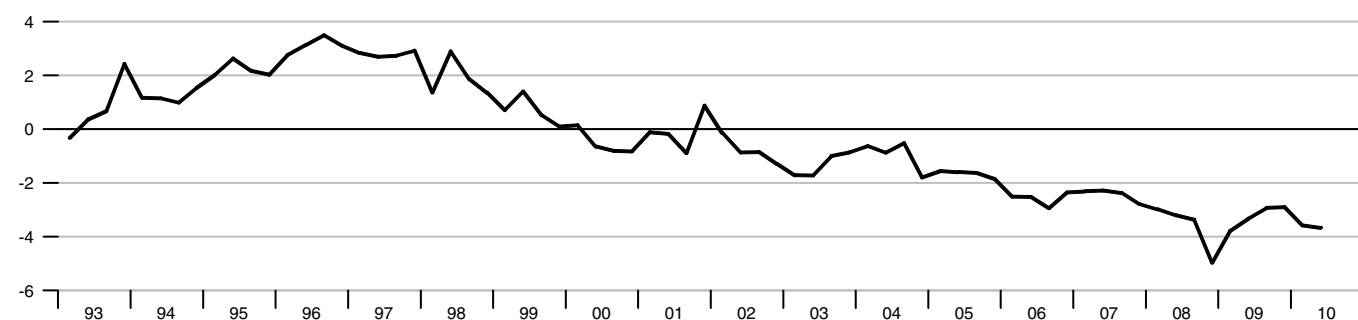
**International Trade - Goods and Services**

Percent of GDP



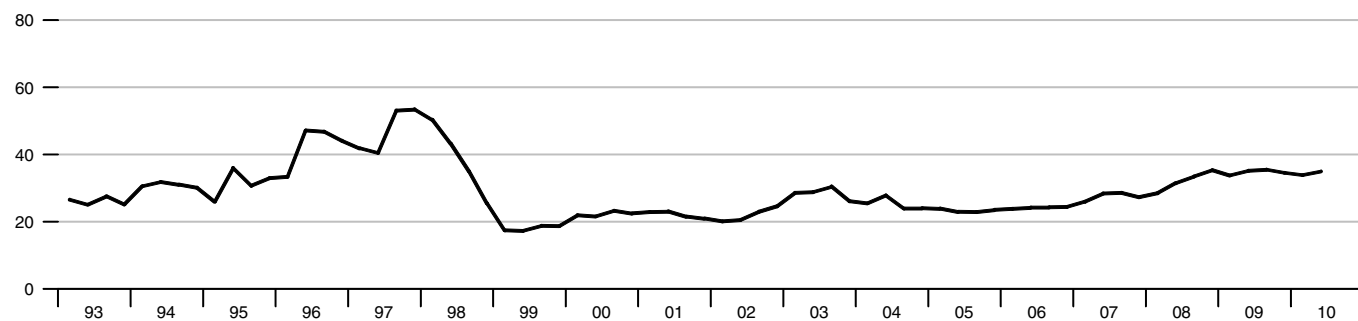
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

Billions of US\$



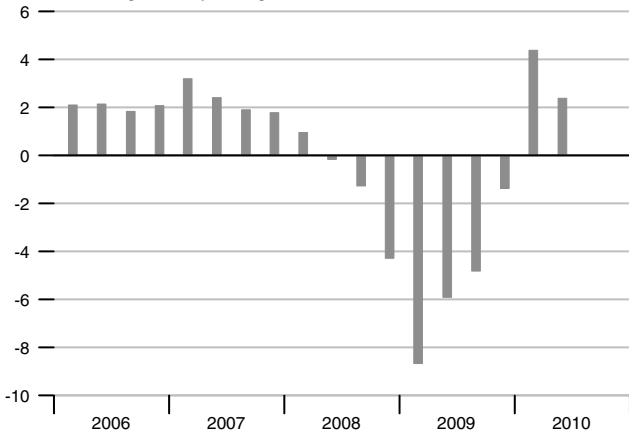
**Stock Exchange Index - Milan Stock Exchange**

2005 = 100



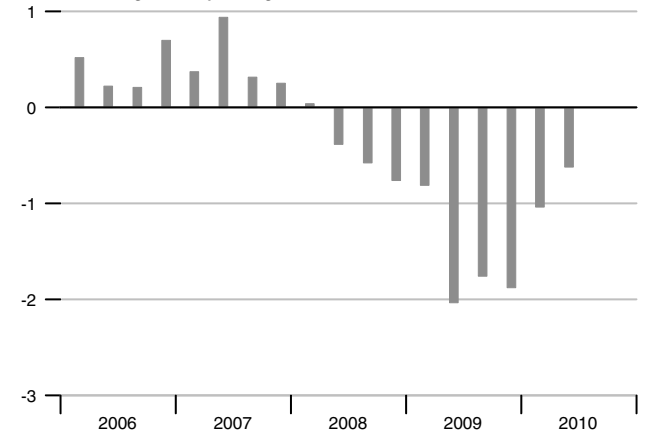
**Real GDP**

Percent change from year ago



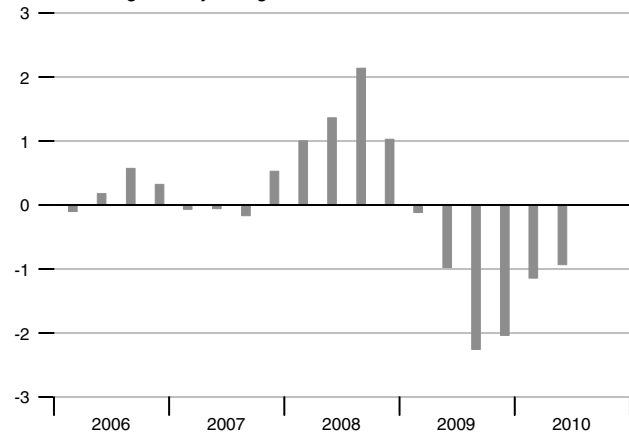
**Employment**

Percent change from year ago



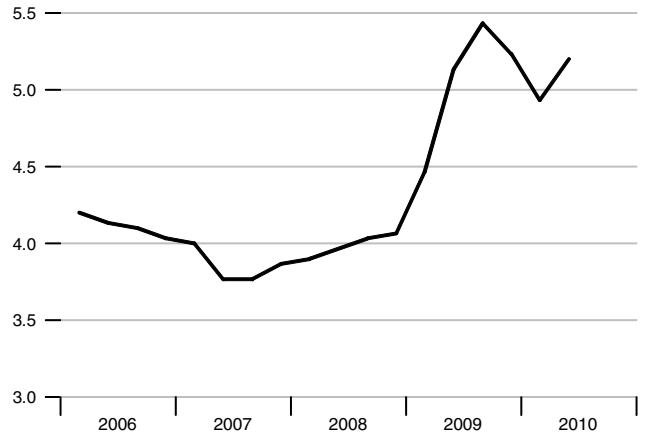
**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago



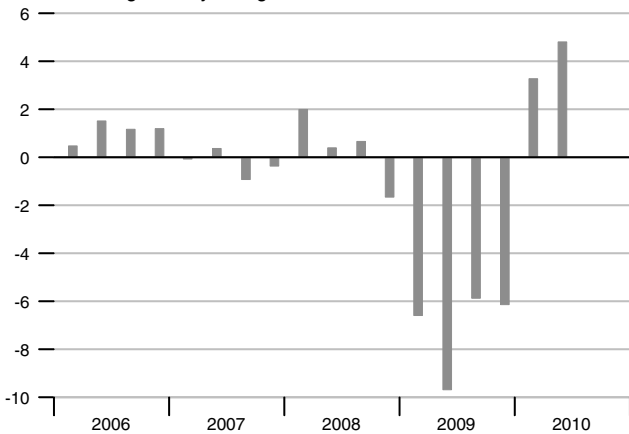
**Unemployment Rate**

Percent



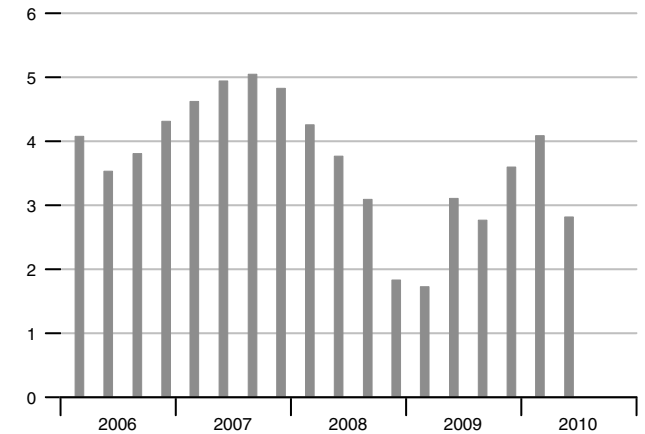
**Real Monthly Earnings**

Percent change from year ago

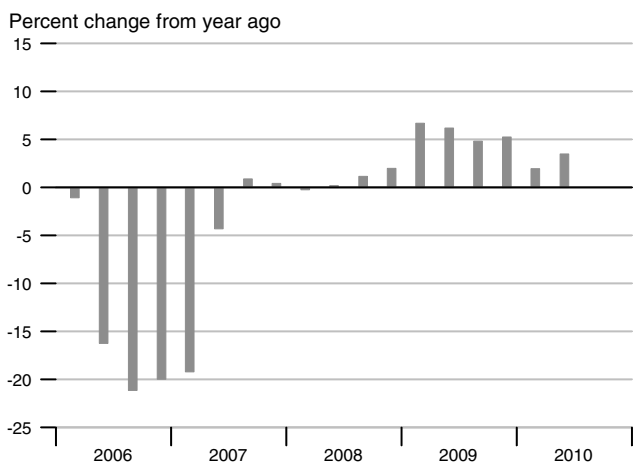


**Current Account Balance**

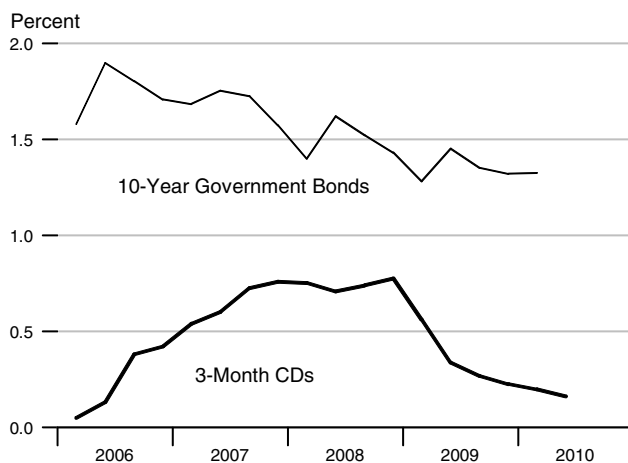
Percent of GDP



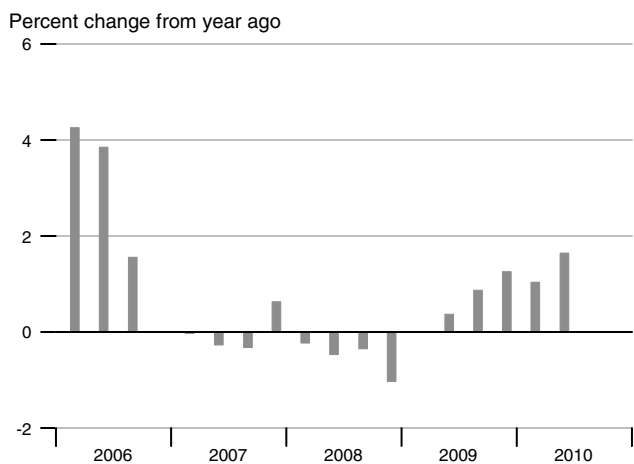
### Adjusted Monetary Base



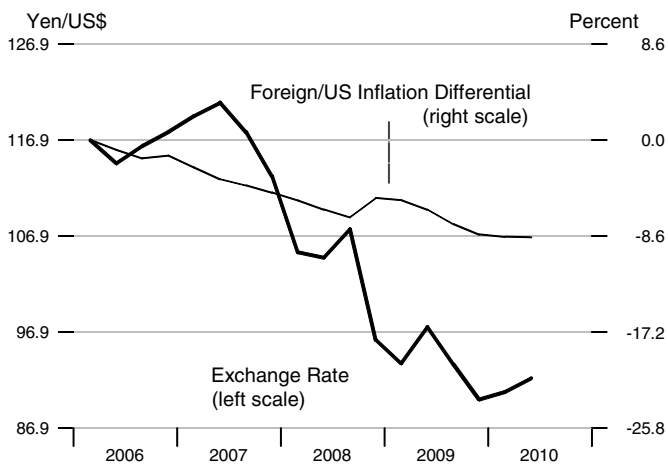
### Interest Rates



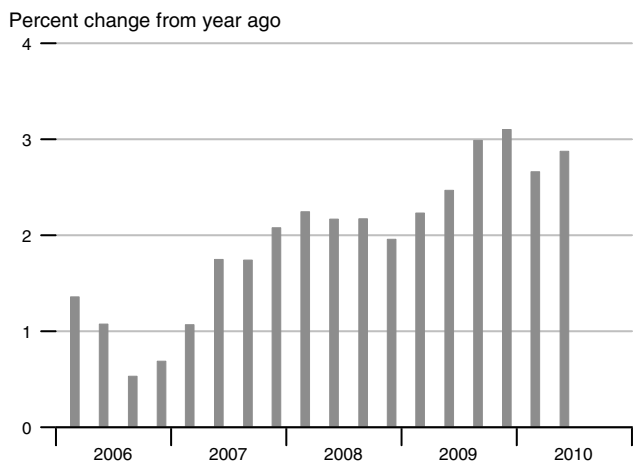
### M1



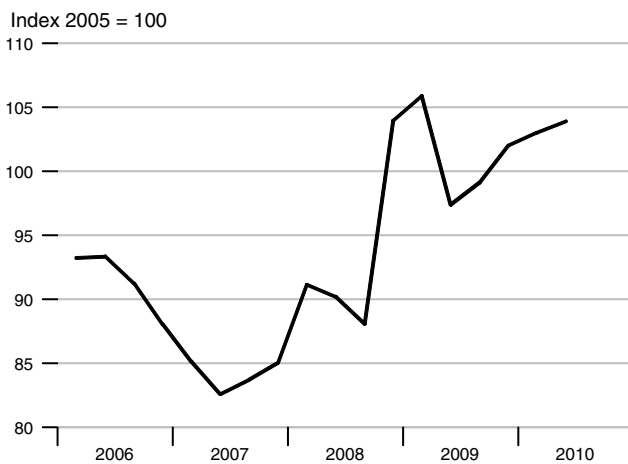
### Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential



### M2

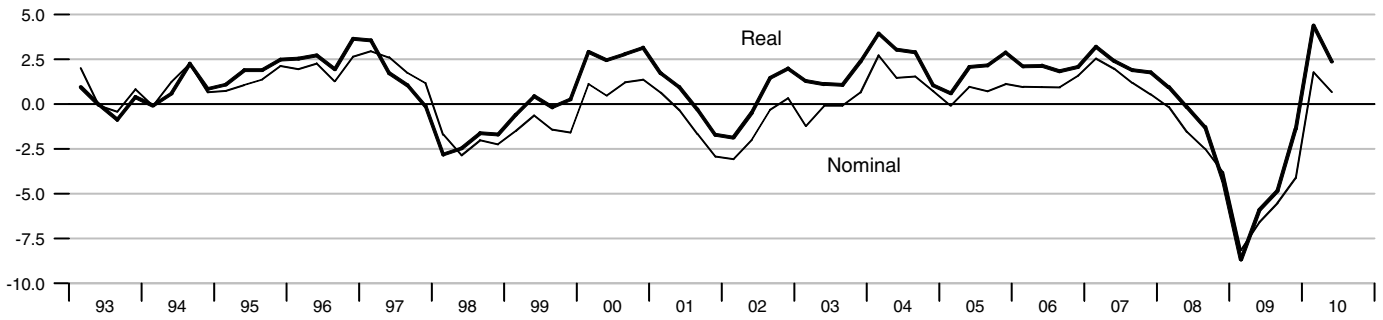


### Real Effective Exchange Rate



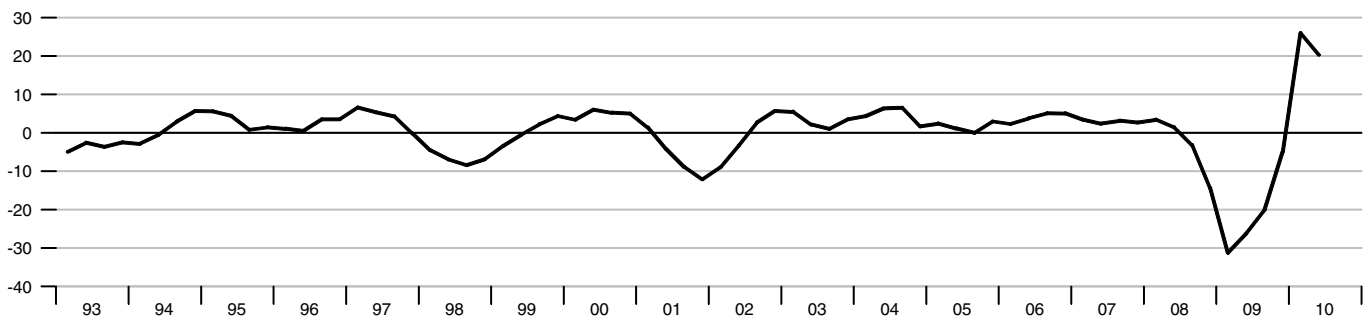
**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



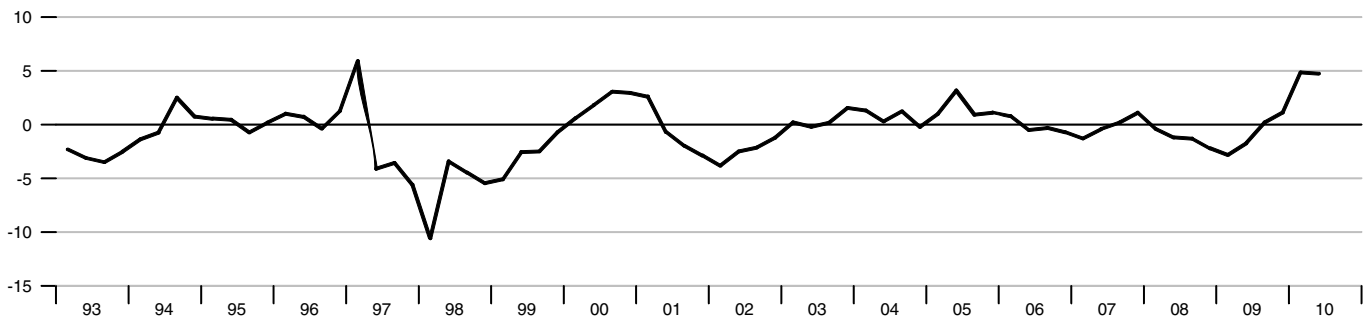
**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



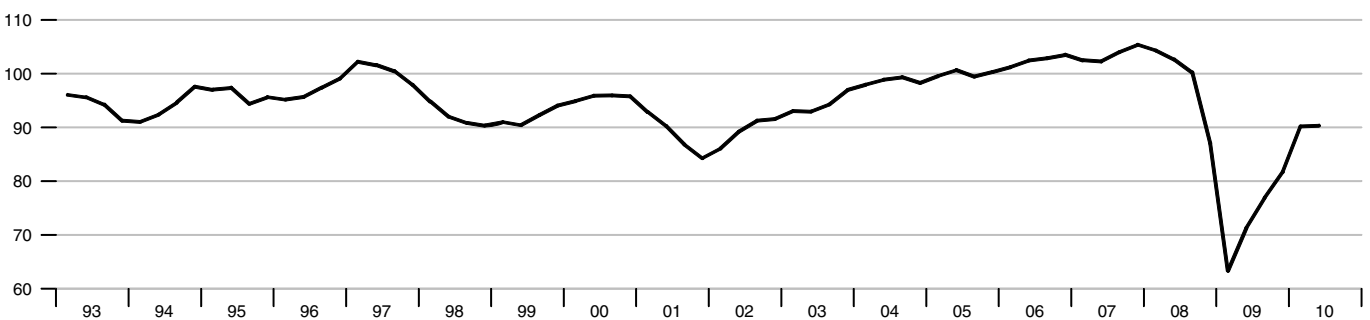
**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



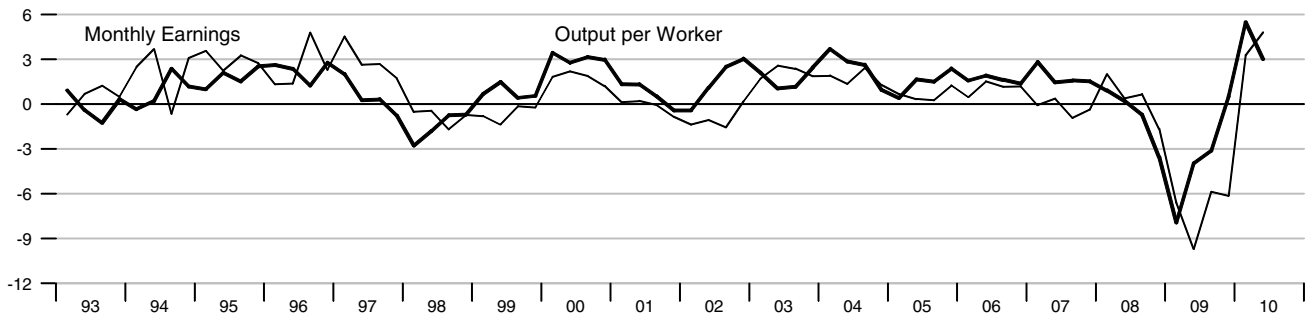
**Capacity Utilization**

2005 = 100



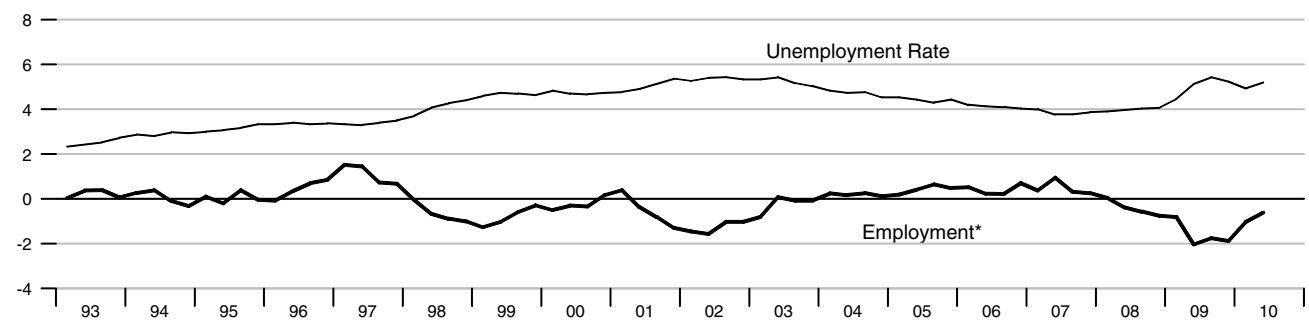
**Real Monthly Earnings and Output per Worker**

Percent change from year ago



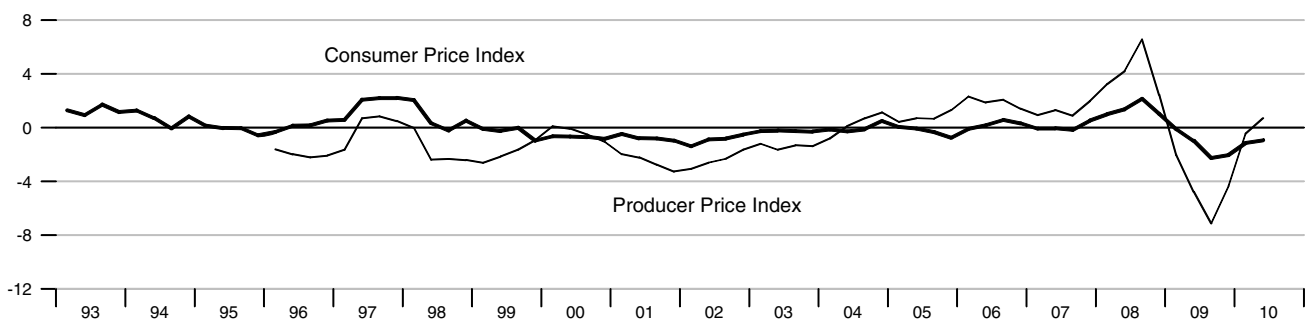
**Labor Force Indicators**

Percent change from year ago\*, Percent



**Inflation**

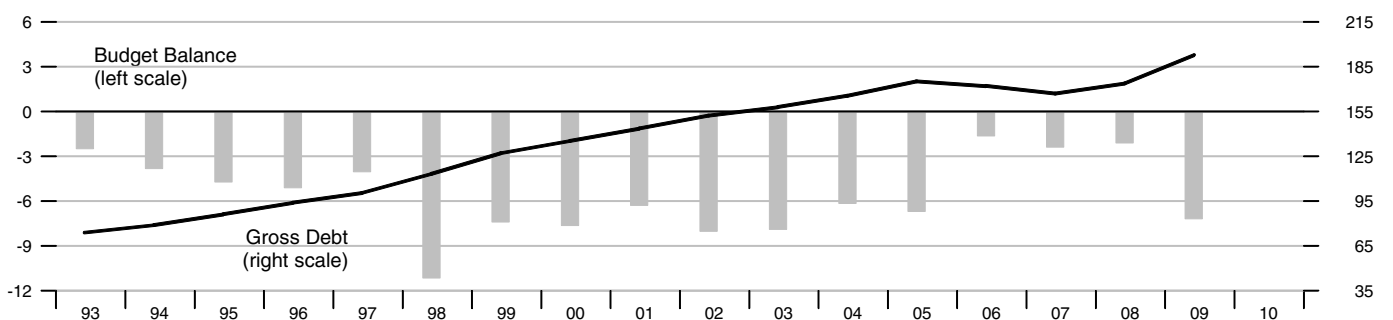
Percent change from year ago



**Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance**

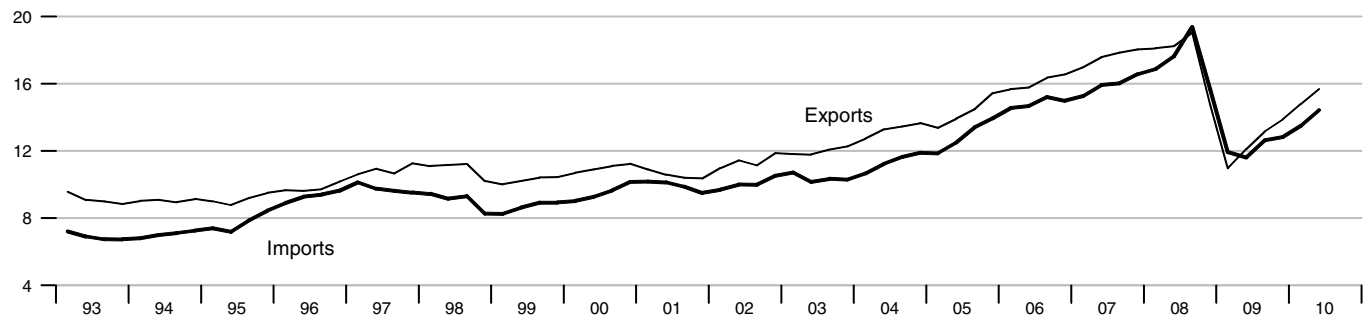
Percent of GDP, annual data

Percent of GDP, annual data



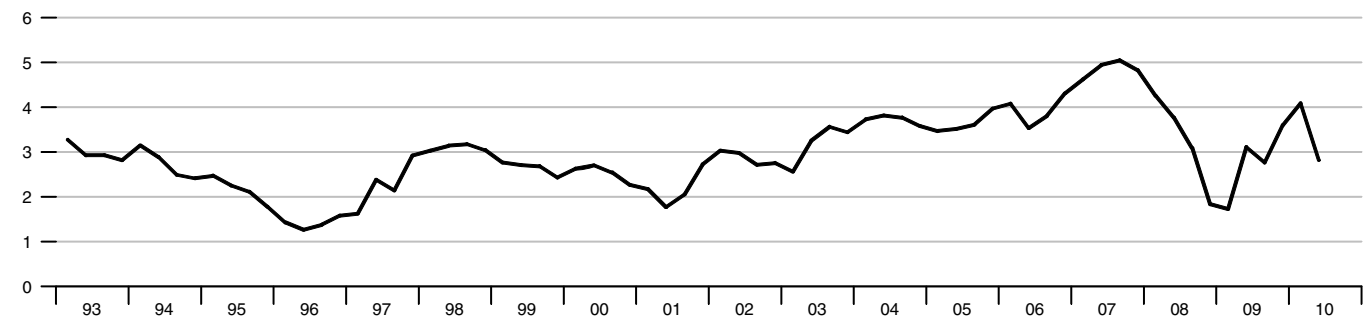
**International Trade - Goods and Services**

Percent of GDP



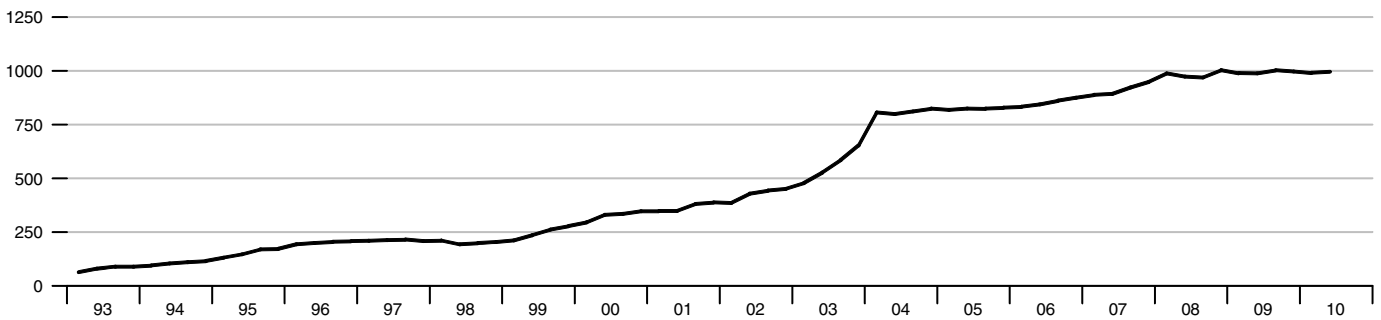
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



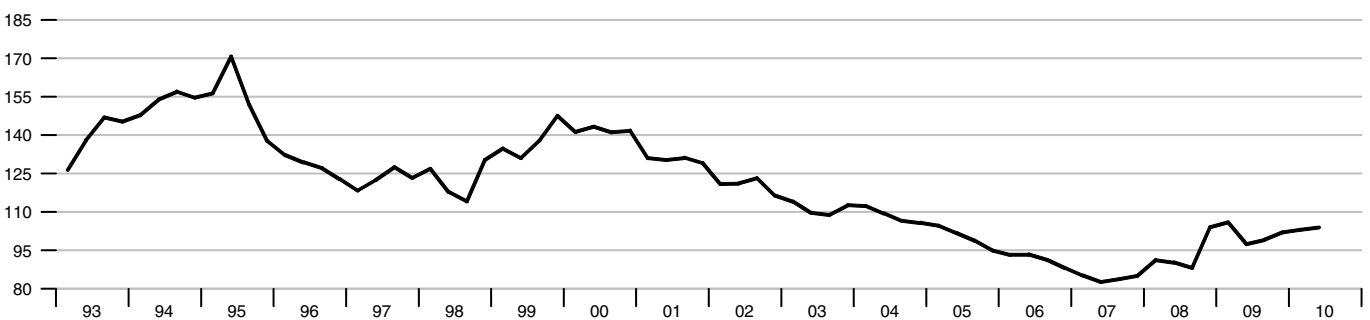
**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

Billions of US\$



**Real Effective Exchange Rate**

Index 2000 = 100





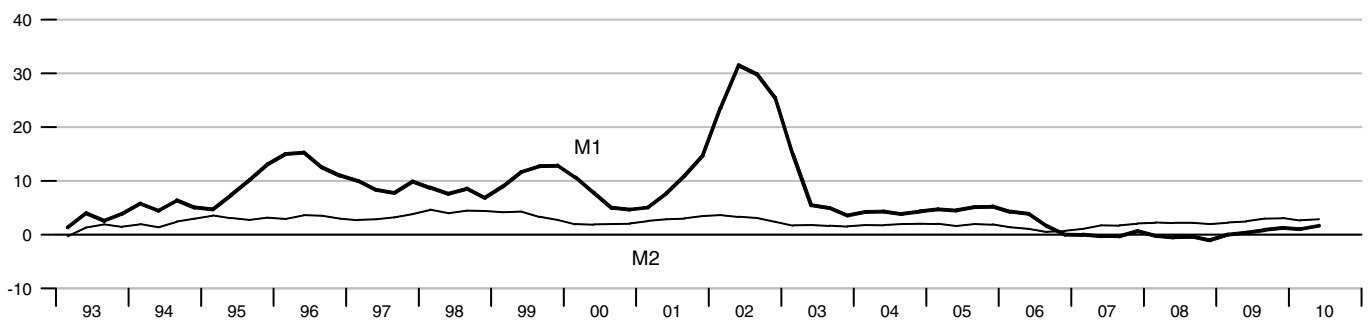
**Adjusted Monetary Base**

Percent change from year ago



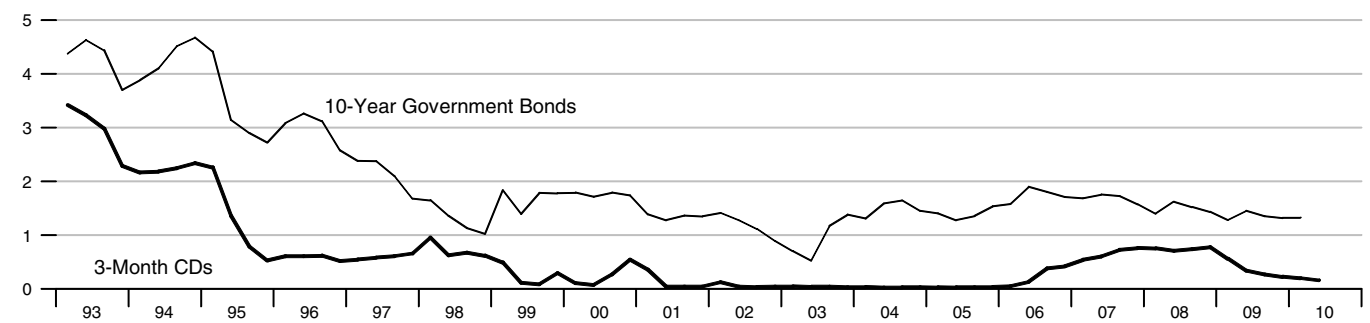
**Monetary Aggregates**

Percent change from year ago



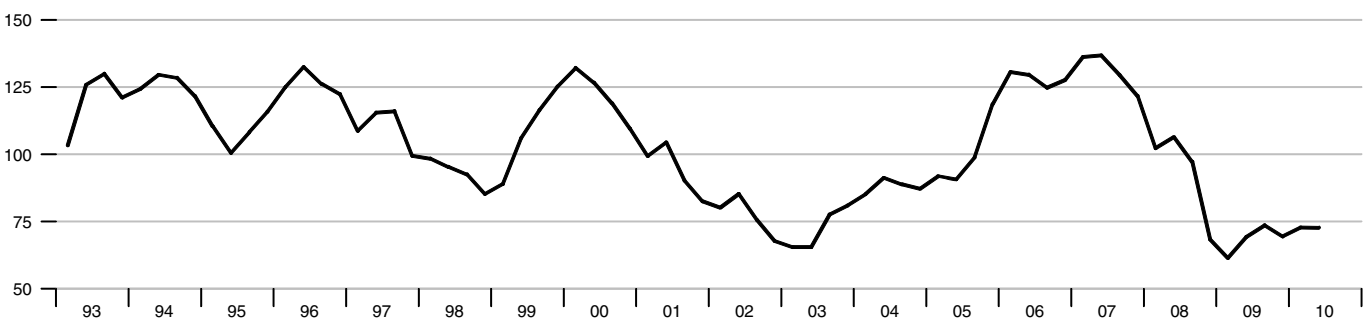
**Interest Rates**

Percent



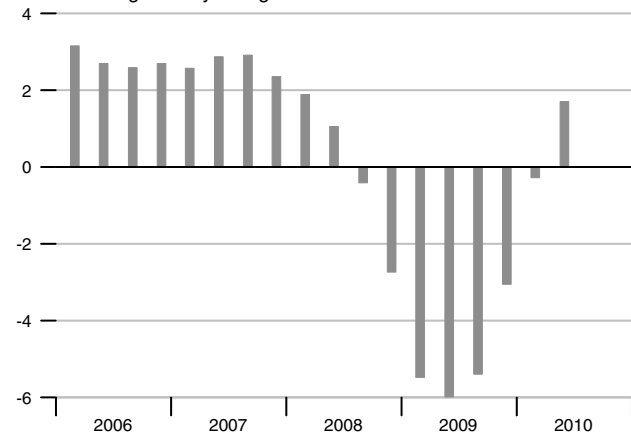
**Stock Exchange Index - Tokyo Stock Exchange**

2005 = 100



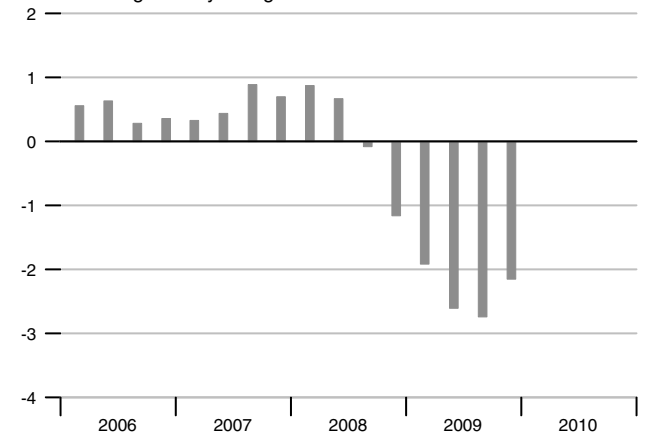
**Real GDP**

Percent change from year ago



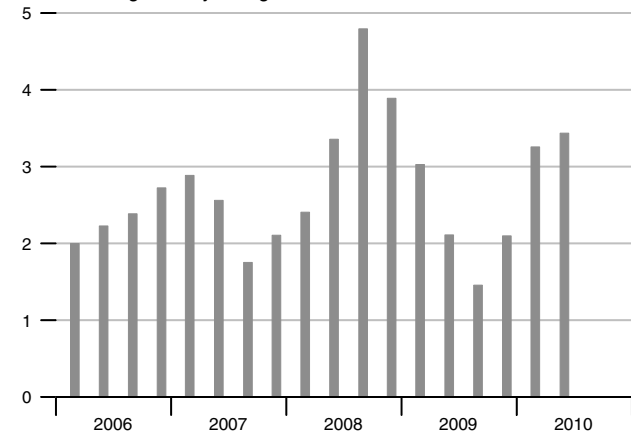
**Employment**

Percent change from year ago



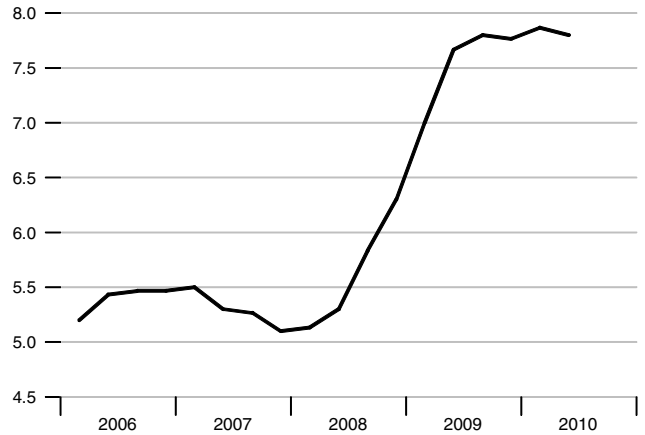
**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago



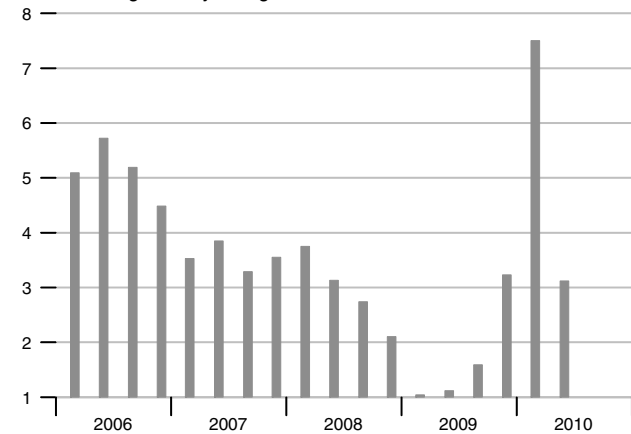
**Unemployment Rate**

Percent



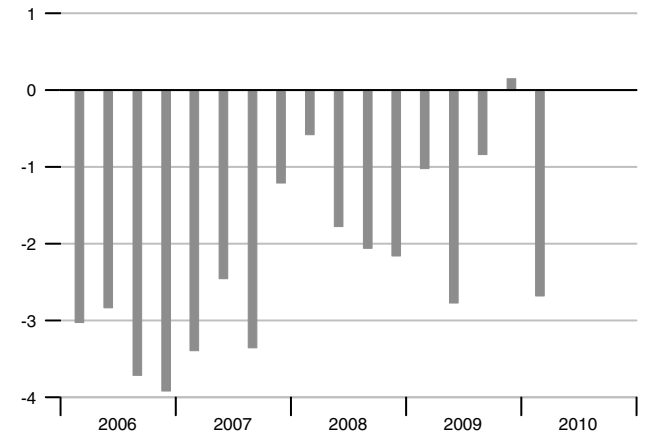
**Real Weekly Earnings**

Percent change from year ago

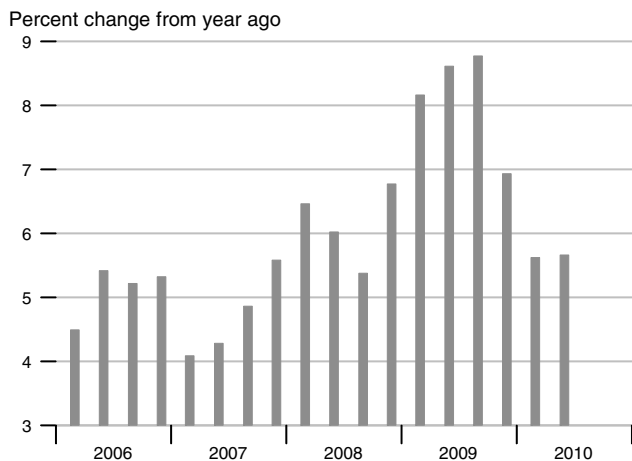


**Current Account Balance**

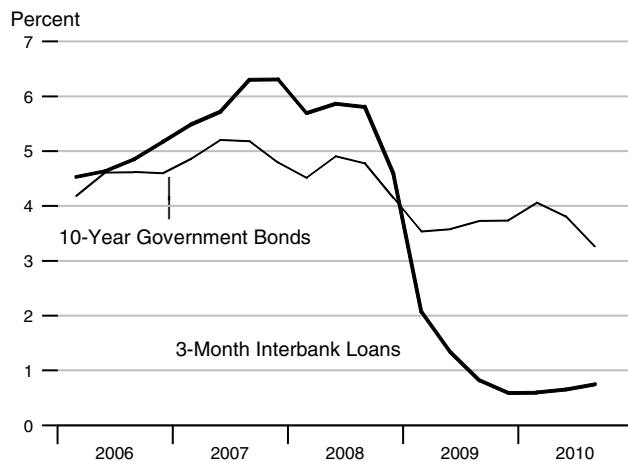
Percent of GDP



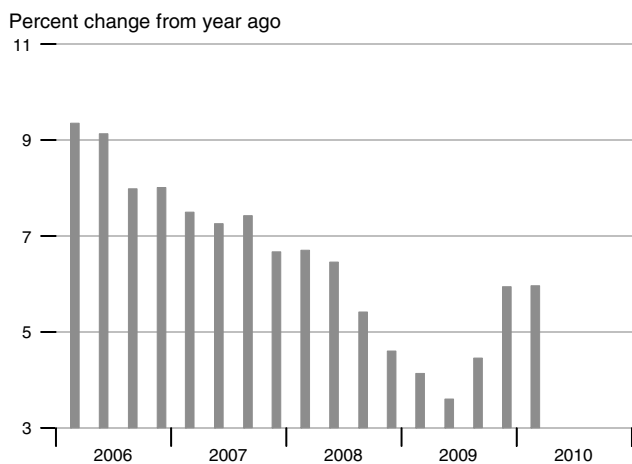
Notes and Coins in Circulation



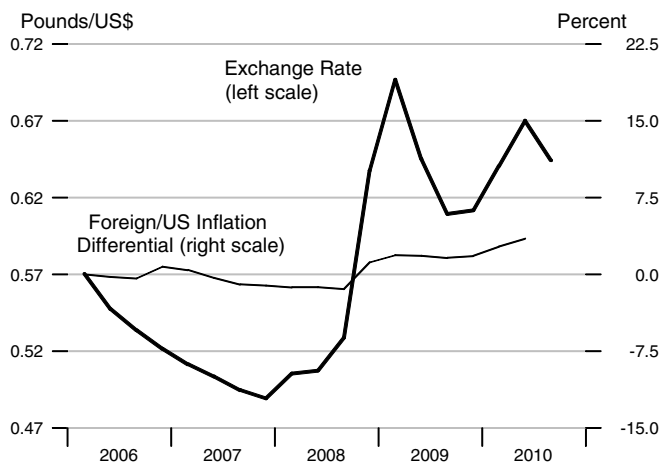
Interest Rates



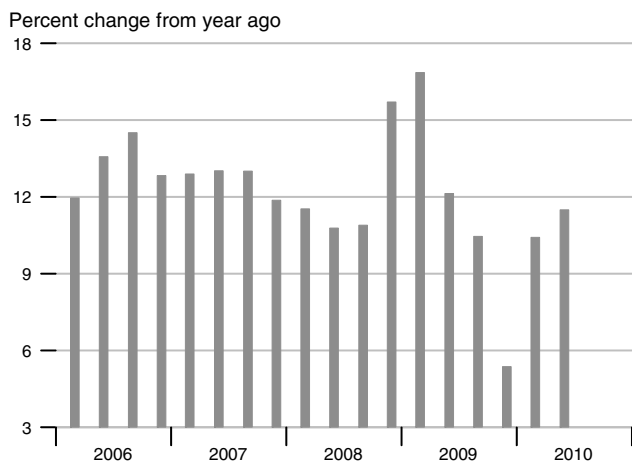
M2



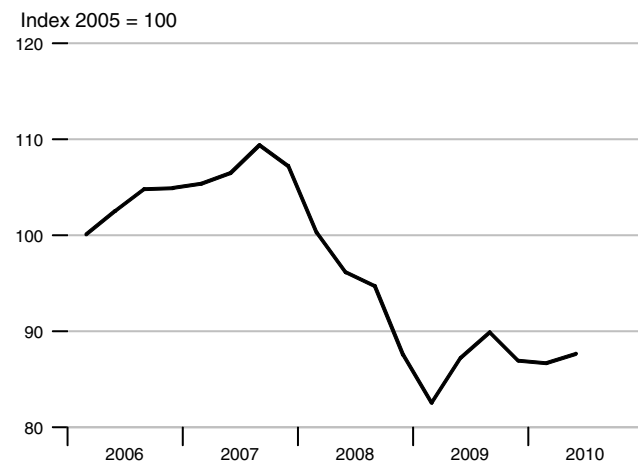
Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential



M4

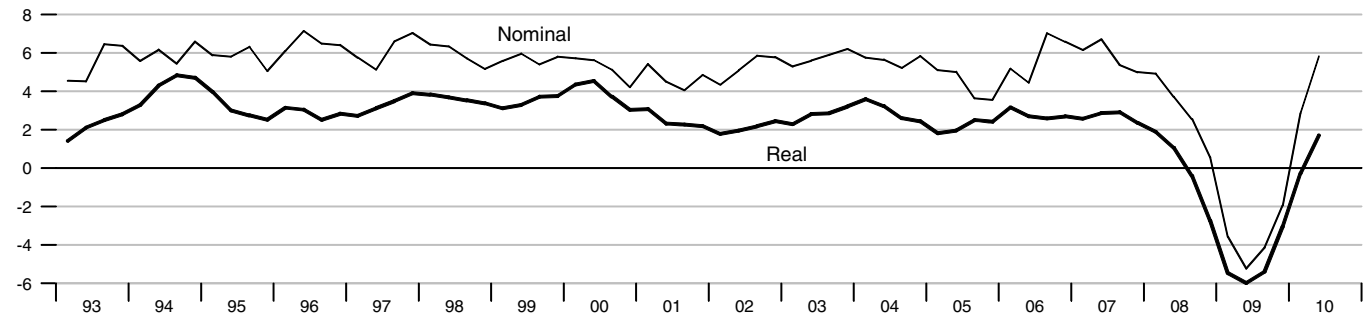


Real Effective Exchange Rate



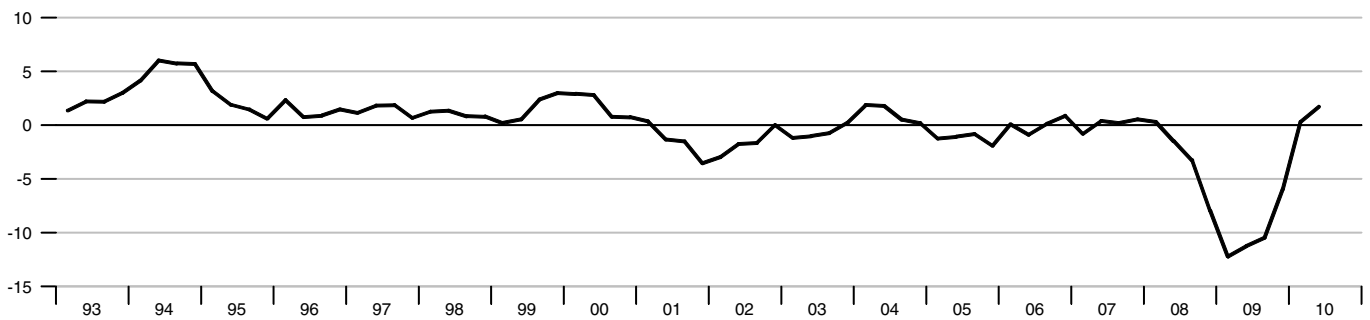
**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



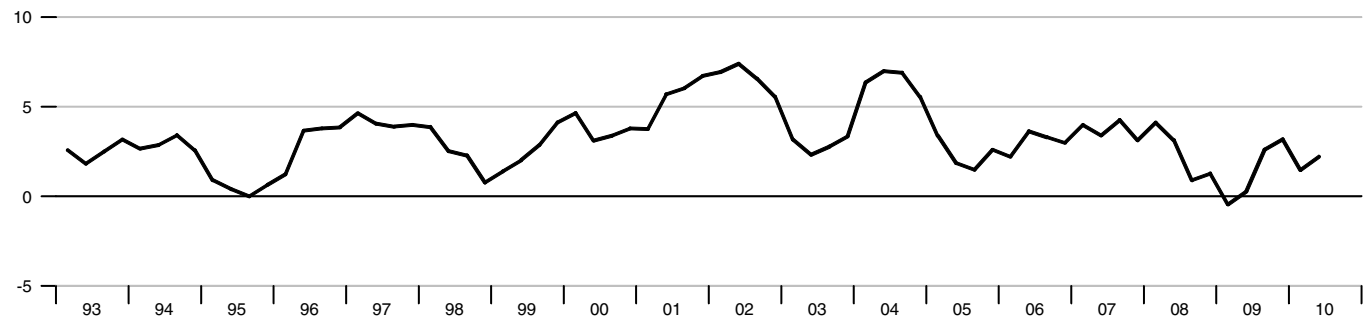
**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



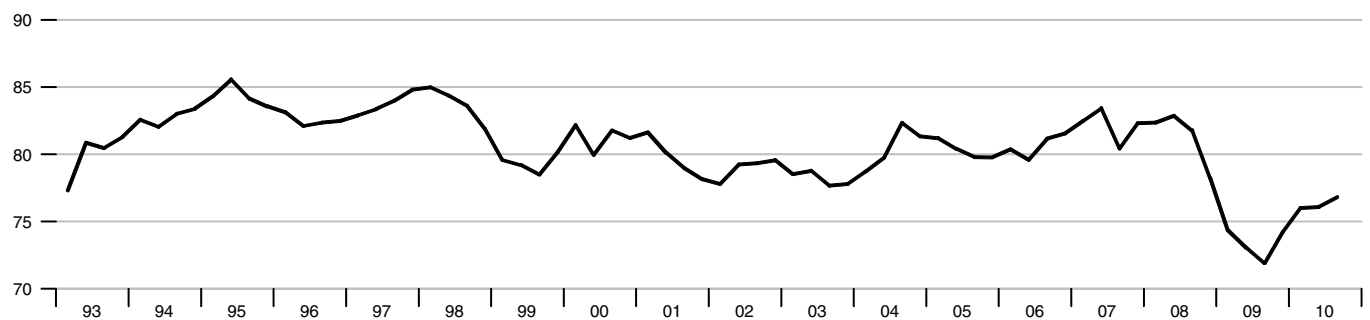
**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



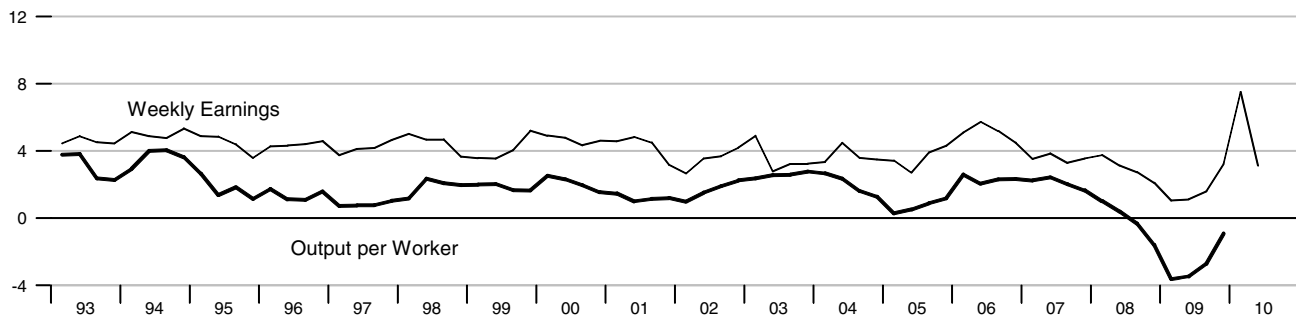
**Capacity Utilization**

Percent



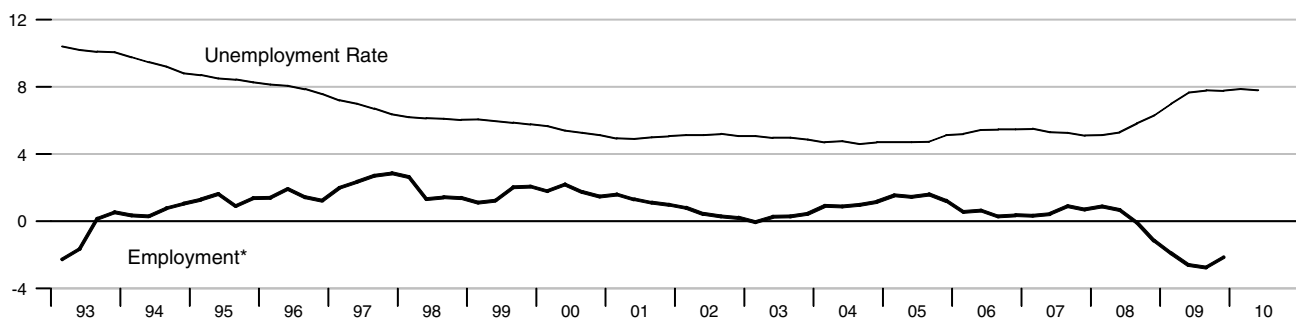
### Real Weekly Earnings and Output per Worker

Percent change from year ago



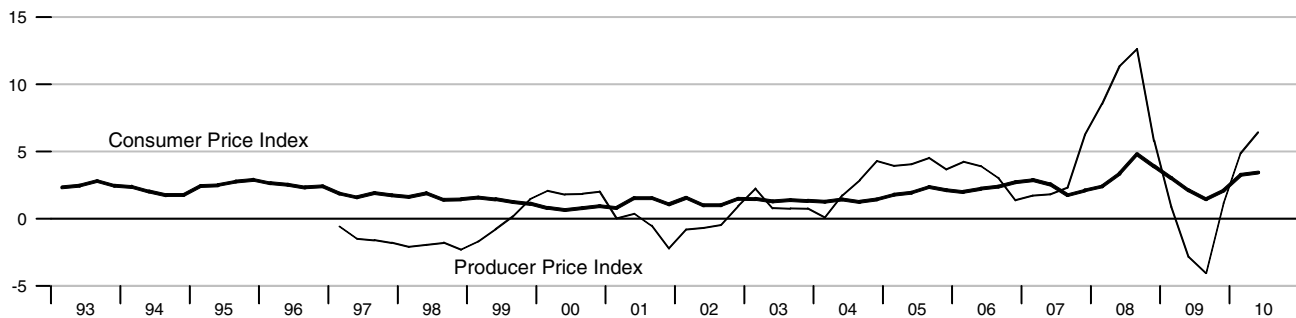
### Labor Force Indicators

Percent change from year ago\*, Percent



### Inflation

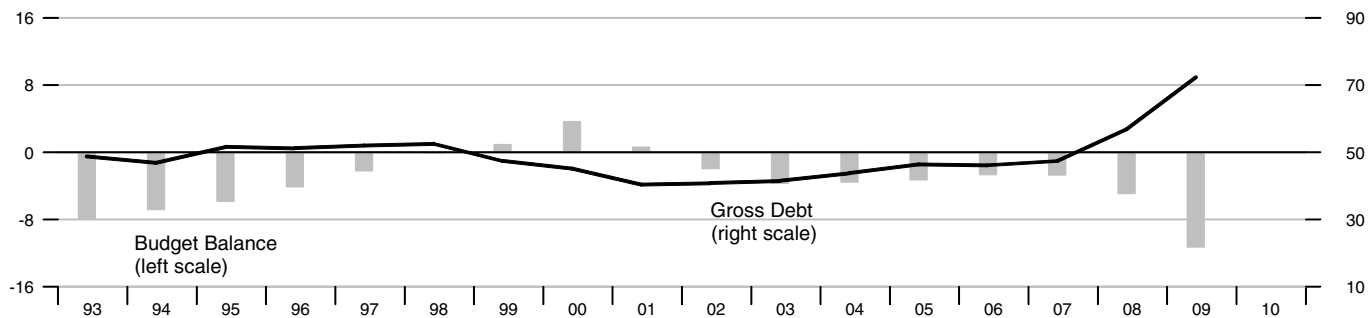
Percent change from year ago



### Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance

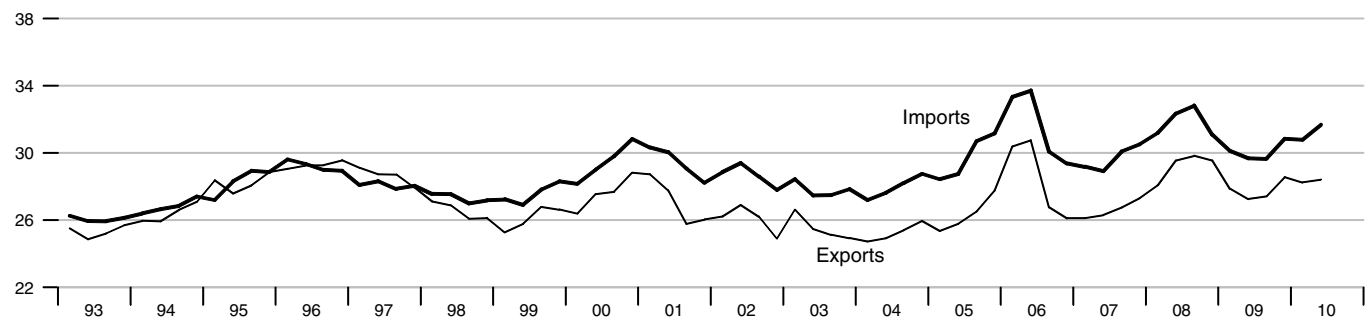
Percent of GDP, annual data

Percent of GDP, annual data



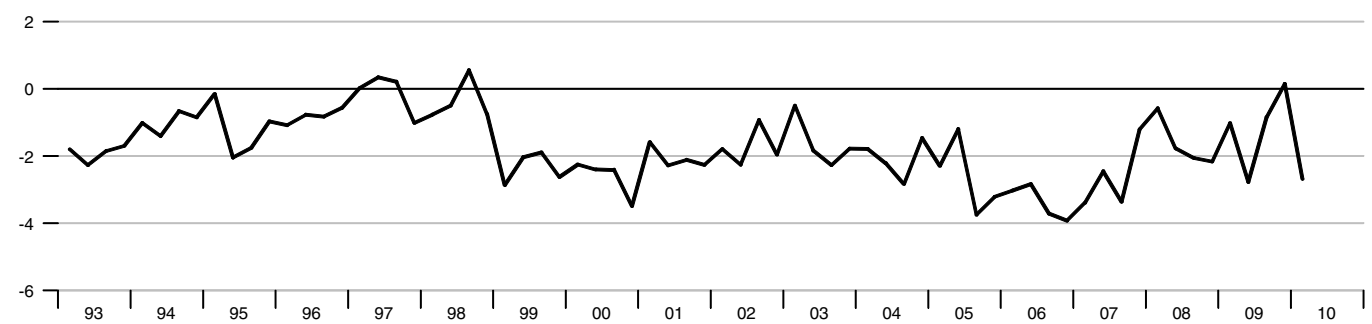
**International Trade - Goods and Services**

Percent of GDP



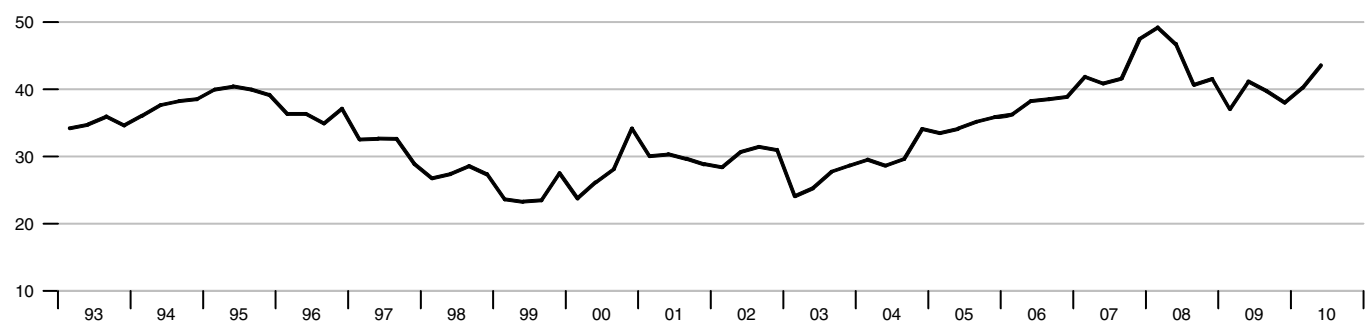
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



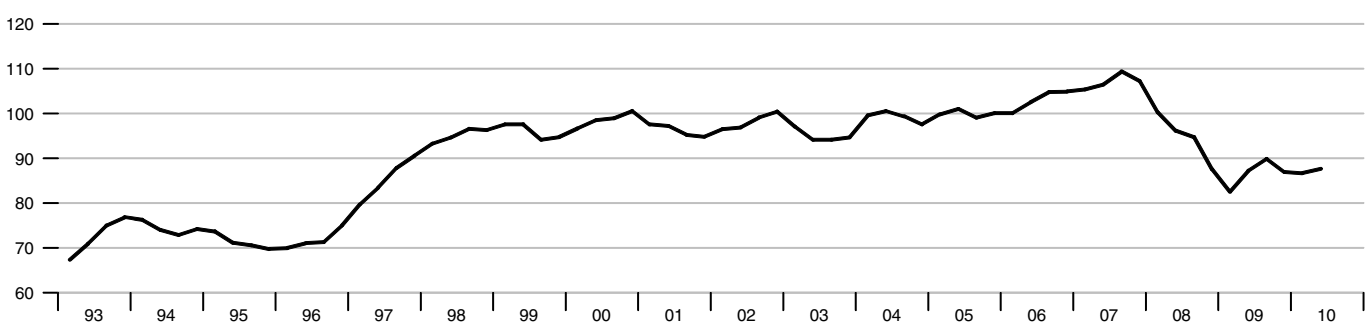
**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

Billions of US\$



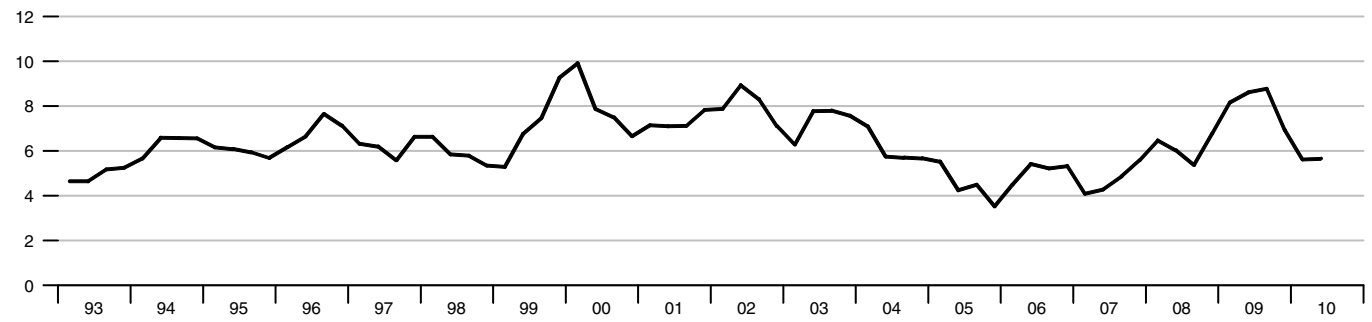
**Real Effective Exchange Rate**

Index 2005 = 100



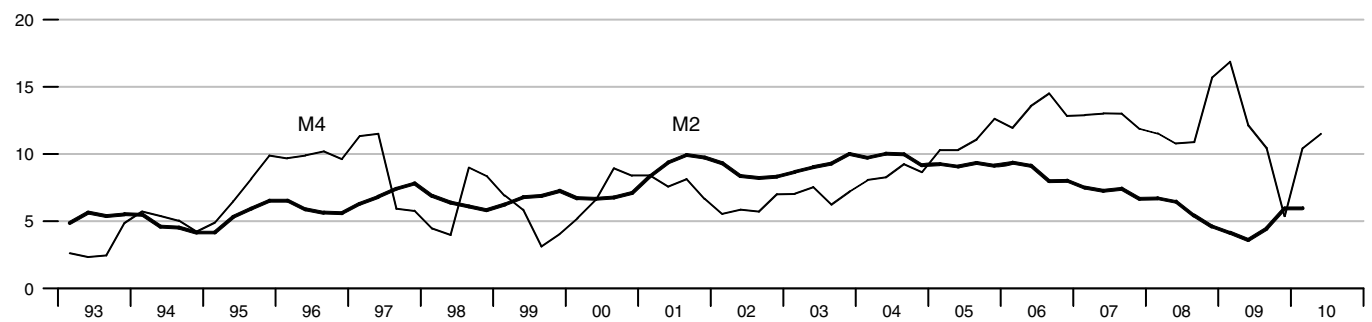
**Notes and Coins in Circulation**

Percent change from year ago



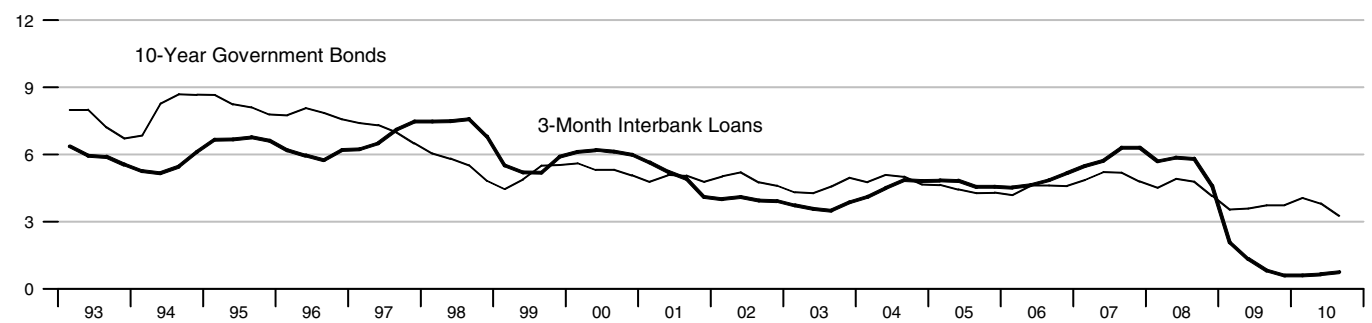
**Monetary Aggregates**

Percent change from year ago



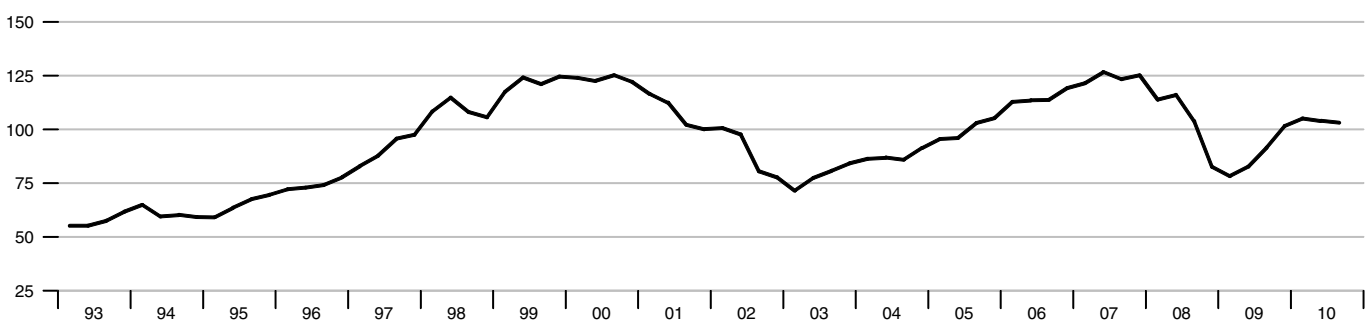
**Interest Rates**

Percent



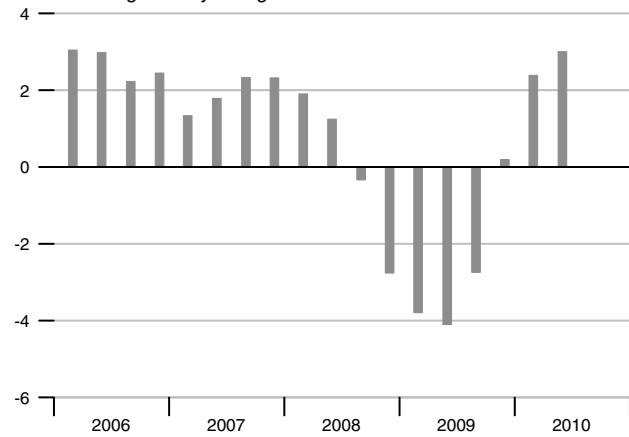
**Stock Exchange Index - Financial Times Stock Exchange**

2005 = 100



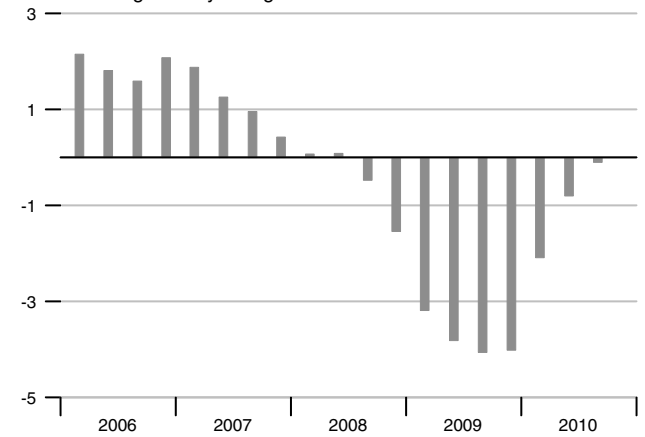
**Real GDP**

Percent change from year ago



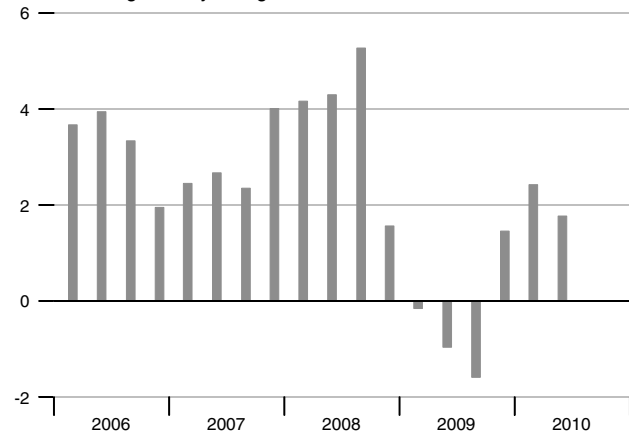
**Employment**

Percent change from year ago



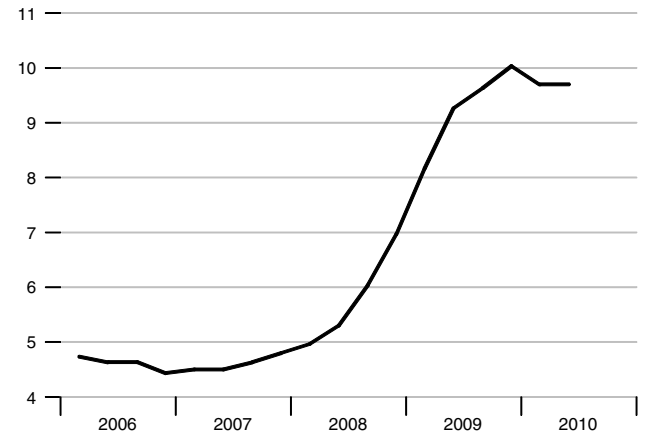
**Consumer Price Index**

Percent change from year ago



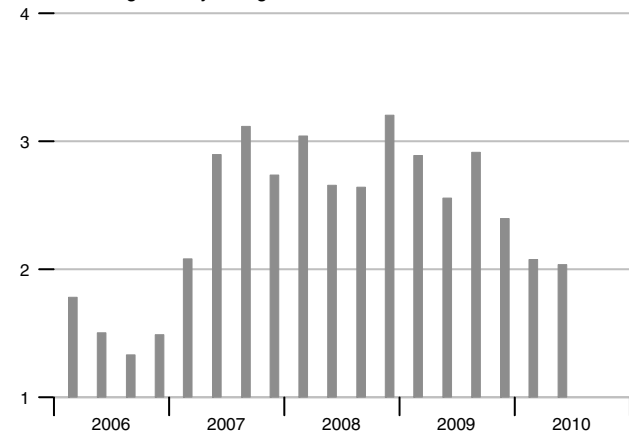
**Unemployment Rate**

Percent



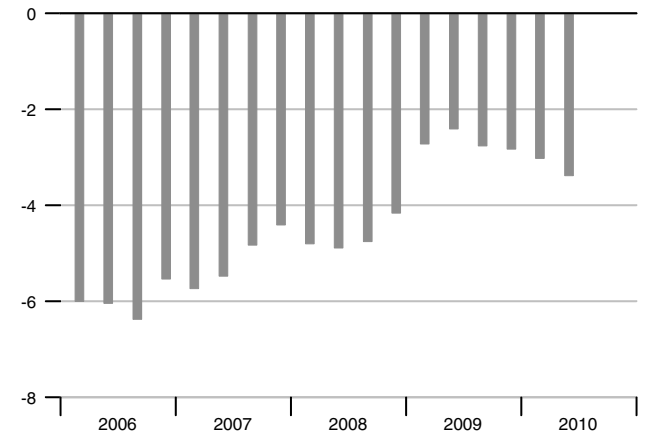
**Real Hourly Earnings**

Percent change from year ago



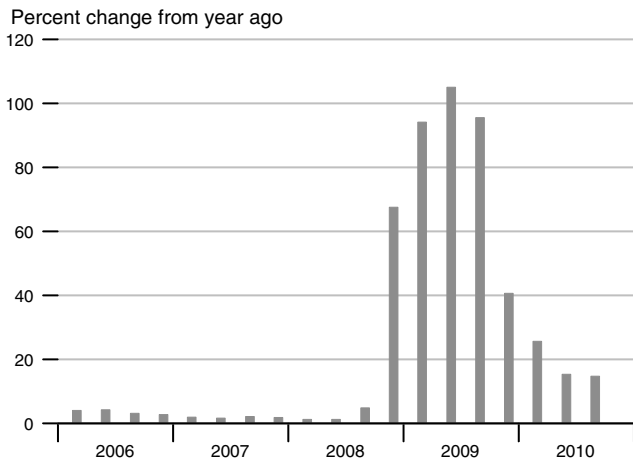
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP

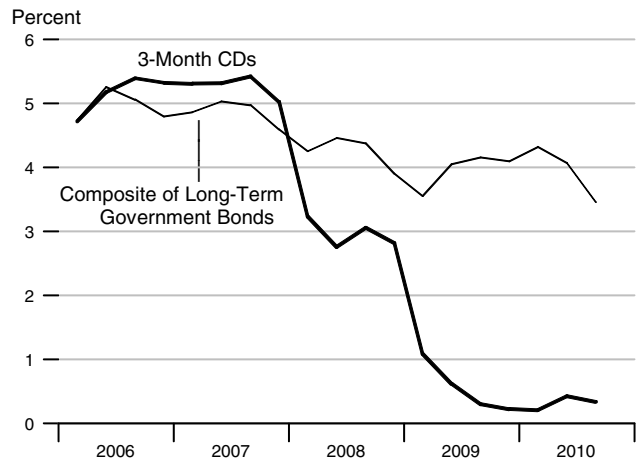




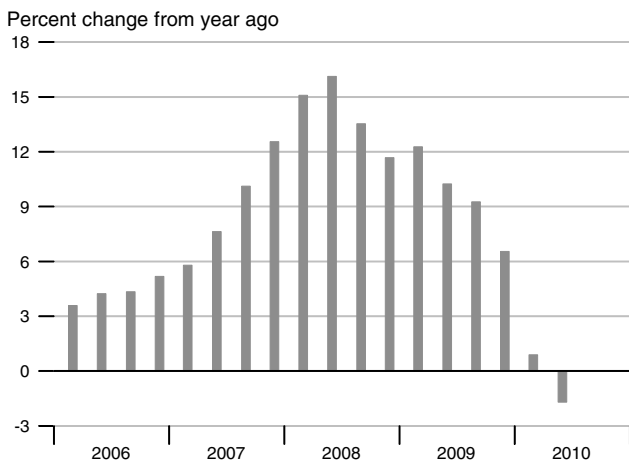
**Adjusted Monetary Base**



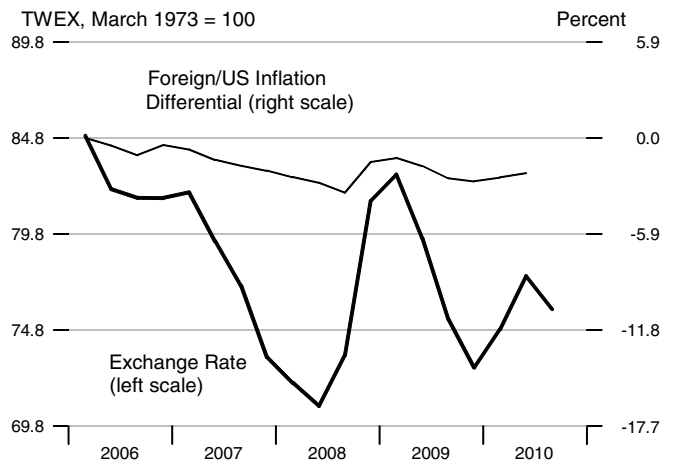
**Interest Rates**



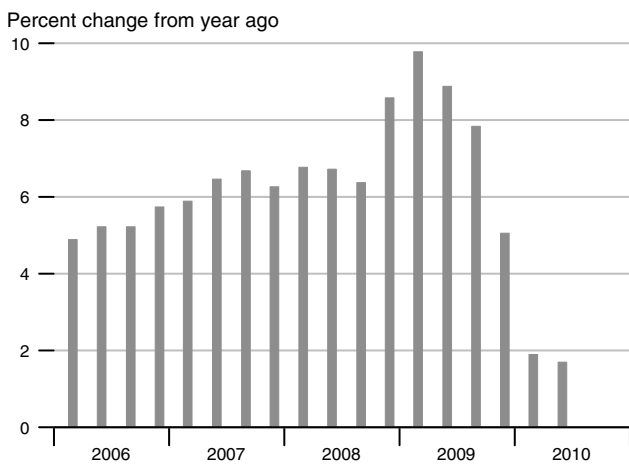
**MZM**



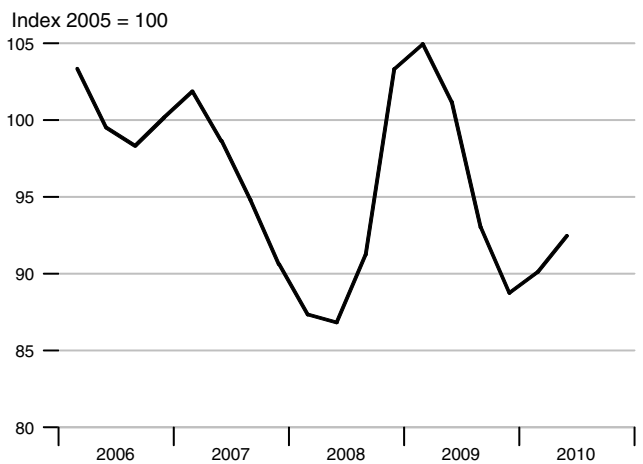
**Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential**



**M2**

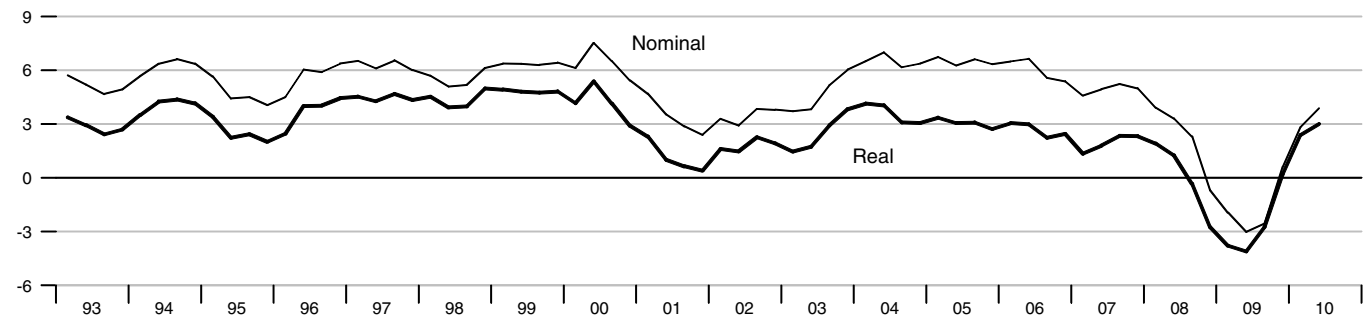


**Real Effective Exchange Rate**



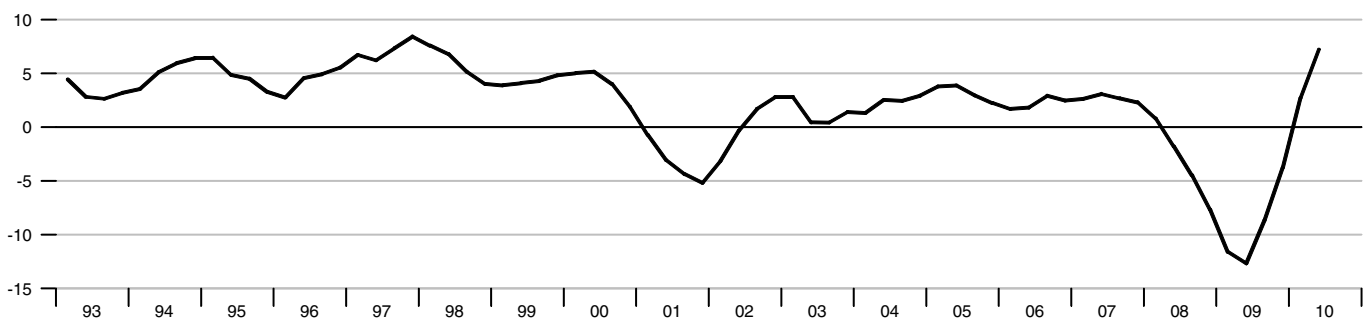
**GDP**

Percent change from year ago



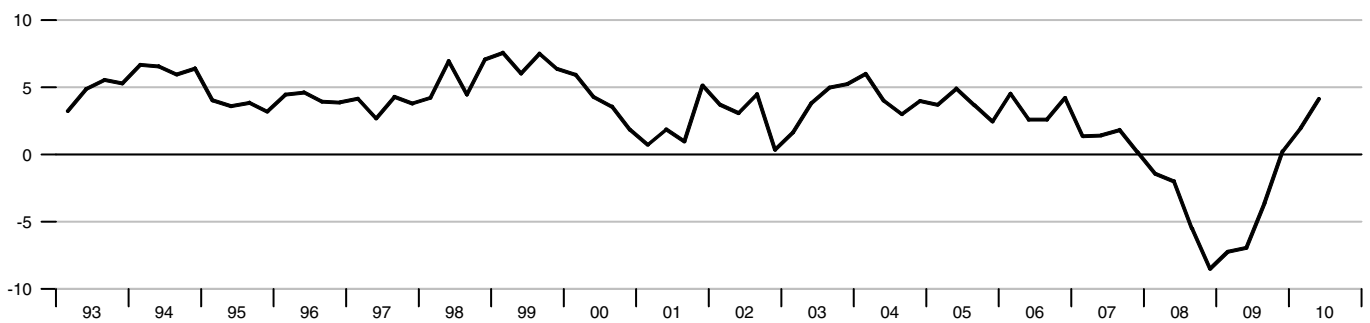
**Industrial Production**

Percent change from year ago



**Retail Sales**

Percent change from year ago



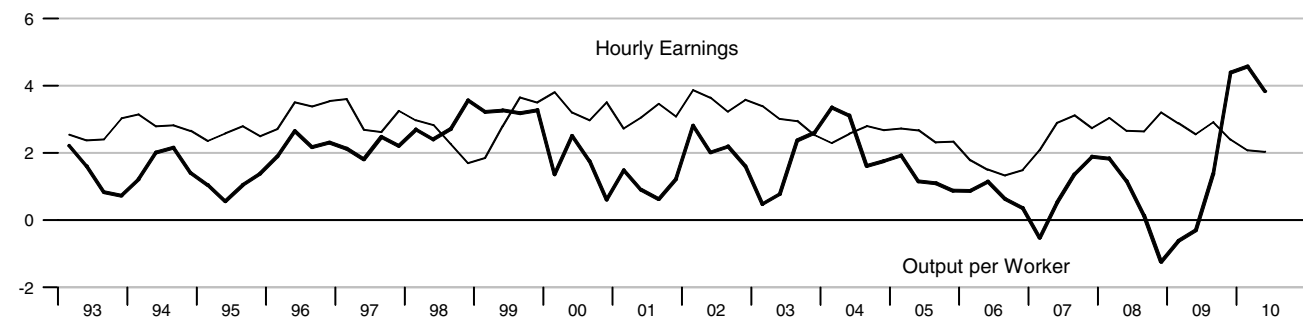
**Capacity Utilization**

Percent



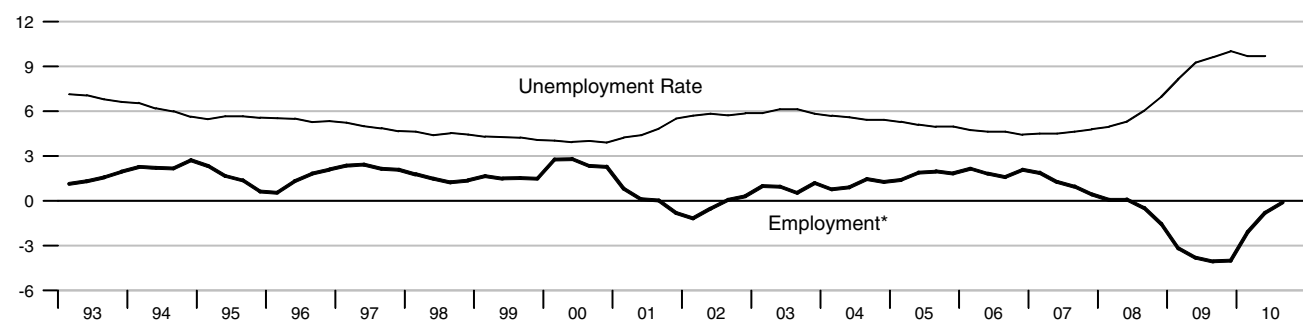
### Real Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker

Percent change from year ago



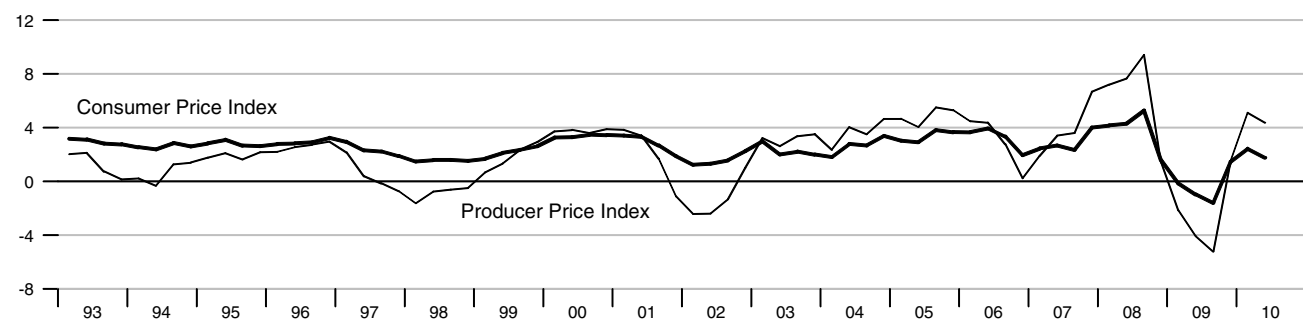
### Labor Force Indicators

Percent change from year ago\*, Percent



### Inflation

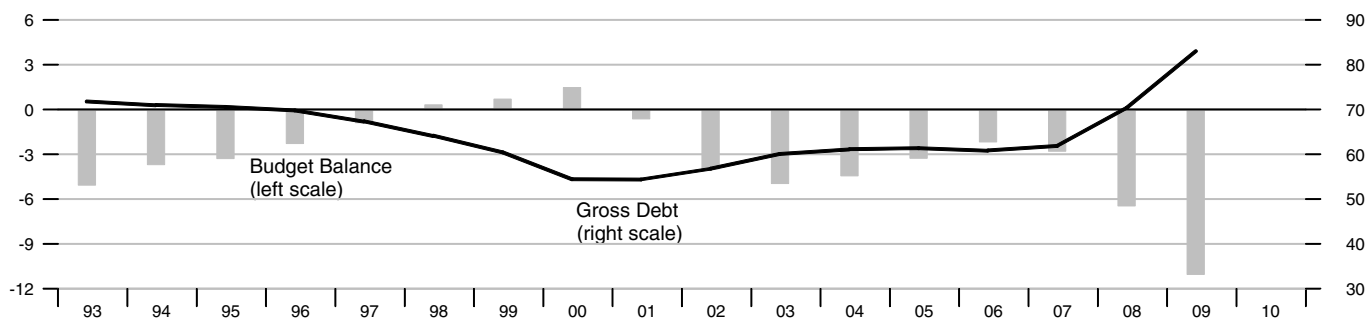
Percent change from year ago



### Gross Government Debt and Budget Balance

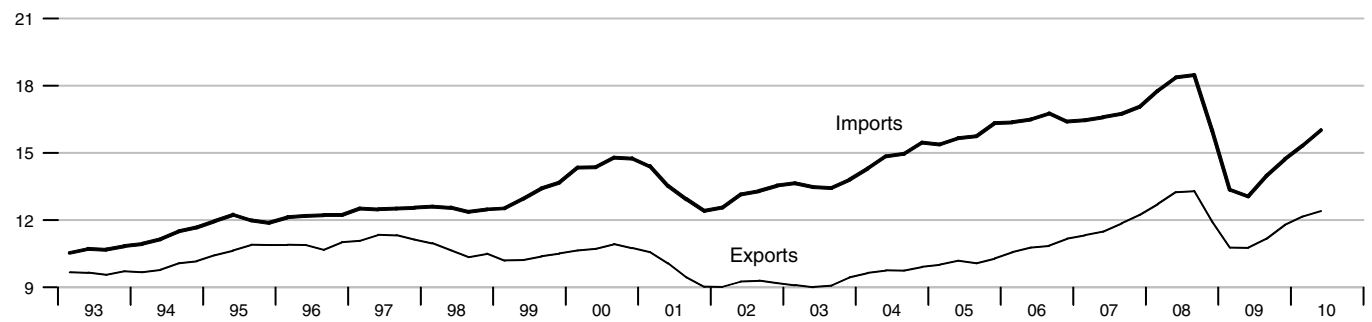
Percent of GDP, annual data

Percent of GDP, annual data



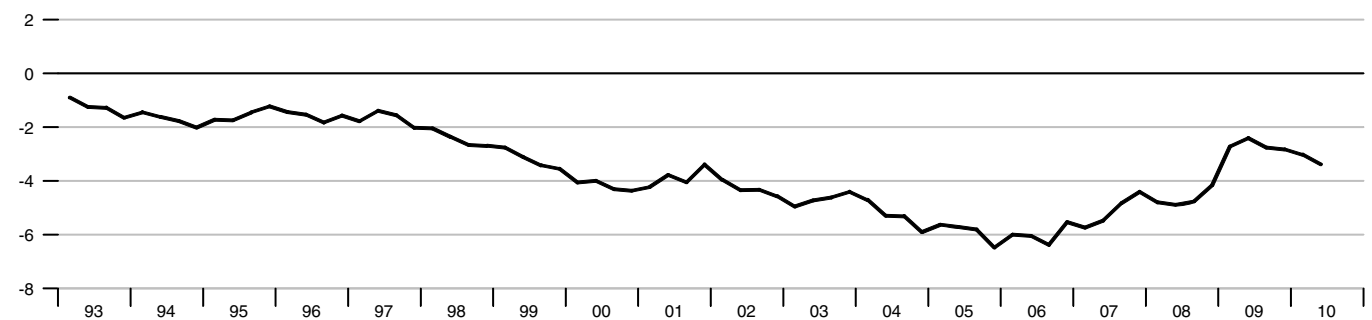
**International Trade - Goods and Services**

Percent of GDP



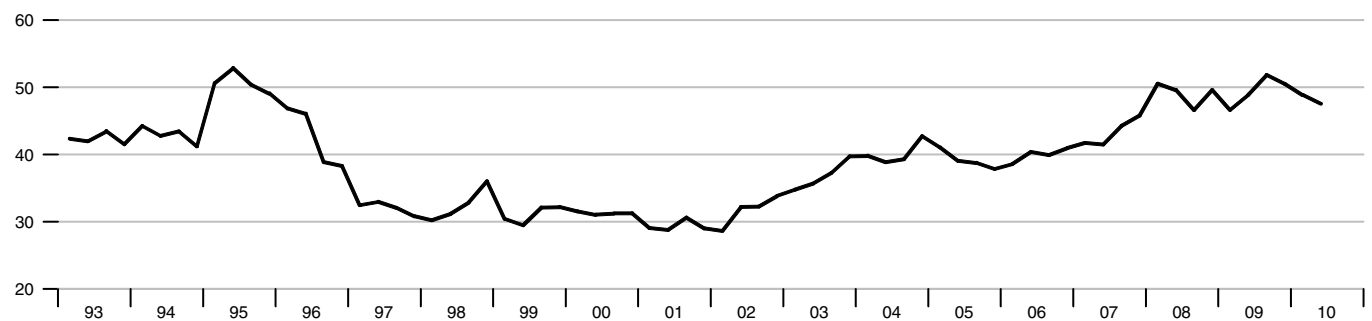
**Current Account Balance**

Percent of GDP



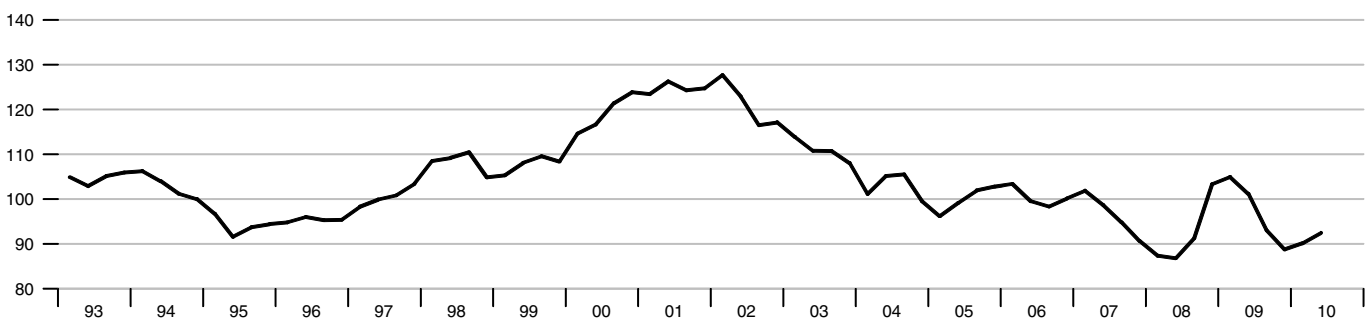
**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

Billions of US\$



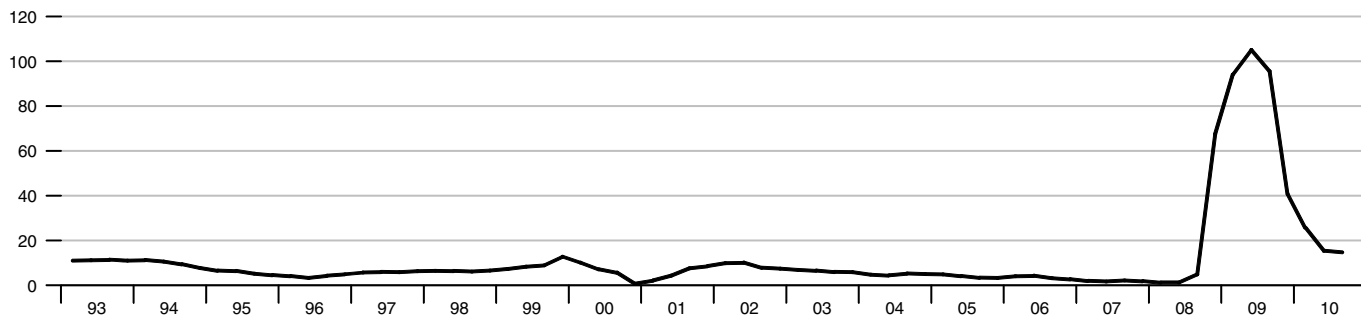
**Real Effective Exchange Rate**

Index 2005 = 100



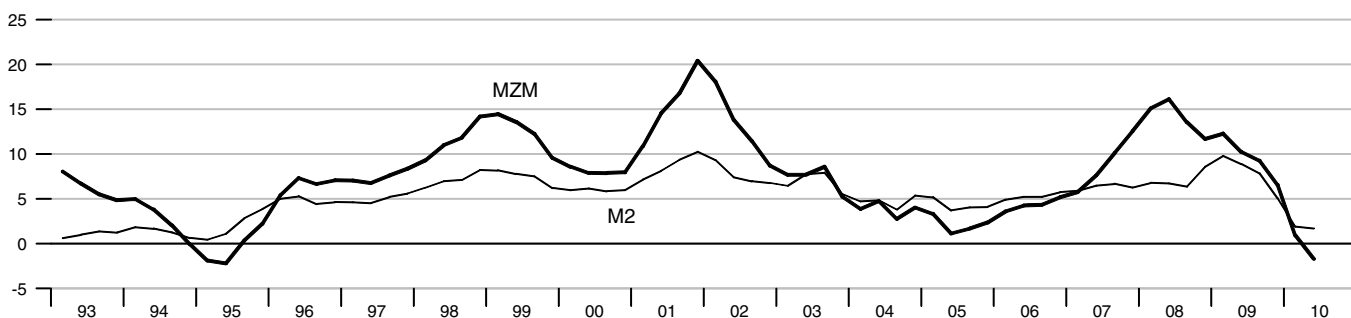
### Adjusted Monetary Base

Percent change from year ago



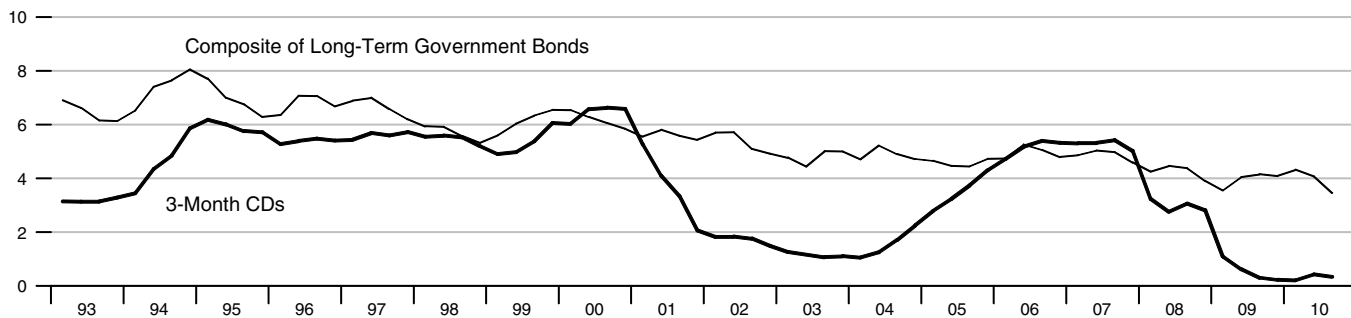
### Monetary Aggregates

Percent change from year ago



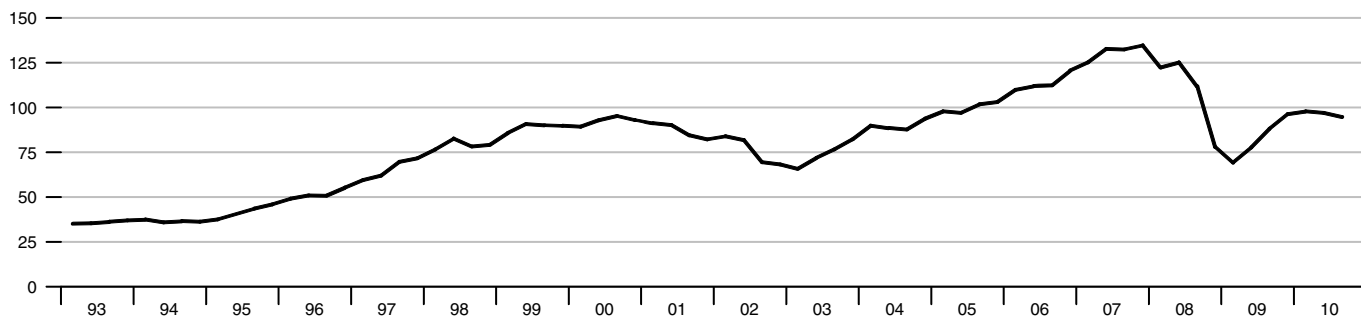
### Interest Rates

Percent



### Stock Exchange Index - New York Stock Exchange

2005 = 100



## Notes

**Euro-Area Data:** Euro-area countries are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Spain. Data series are break adjusted and include all euro area countries for the full sample, with these exceptions: Series for interest rates are not break adjusted.

Euro-area interest rates prior to December 1998 are calculated on the basis of national government yields weighted by GDP. Starting in 1999, short-term rates are euro interbank offered rates. Long-term rates are calculated on the basis of national government bond yields weighted by the nominal outstanding amounts of government bonds in each maturity band.

The euro/dollar exchange rate used in the chart on page 12 is a synthetic rate prior to January 1999. This is constructed by calculating a weighted average of the exchange rates of the euro-area countries, excluding Greece and Luxembourg, against the dollar. The weights are based on 1997 GDP shares.

**German Data:** As a result of reunification, data for all of Germany are now incorporated in the statistical series. The starting periods for unified German data are listed below. Care should be exercised when interpreting the data around these break periods.

Third quarter 1992: capacity utilization.

First quarter 1993: stock exchange index.

Third quarter 1993: employment.

First quarter 1995: hourly earnings.

**Capacity Utilization** covers the manufacturing sector for Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the euro area; manufacturing excluding food, beverage, and tobacco for Germany; and mining and manufacturing for Italy.

**Consumer Price Index** is for all items. The current index is based on goods and services consumed by all individuals for Canada; all multi-person households excluding those mainly engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries for Japan; all households except pensioners dependent on state pension and high income households for the United Kingdom; and all urban households for the United States. Data for the euro area, France, Germany, and Italy are based on the harmonized index of consumer prices.

**Current Account Balance** is the sum of merchandise and service exports and income receipts on domestic assets abroad minus the sum of merchandise and service imports and income payments from foreign assets in the domestic economy plus net unilateral transfers.

**Real Earnings** are based on hourly earnings in manufacturing for Canada, Germany, the United States, and the euro area; hourly earnings in manufacturing excluding construction for France, hourly earnings in industry for Italy; monthly earnings in manufacturing for Japan; and weekly earnings in manufacturing for the United Kingdom.

German real earnings data prior to 2007 are not strictly comparable with the new figures: Before 2007, gross hourly earnings covered full-time wage earners only. Since the first quarter of 2007, the data refer to the index of gross hourly earnings (excluding extra payments) of full-time wage earners and salaried employees.

The **Exchange Rate** for all countries except the United States is expressed as units of local currency per U.S. dollar. For the United States the trade-weighted exchange rate, **TWEX**, is used. This is a weighted average of the exchange value of the U.S. dollar relative to the major international currencies—the euro, Canadian dollar, Japanese yen, British pound, Swiss franc, Australian dollar, and Swedish kronor. Prior to 1999, the currencies of the euro-area countries (with the exception of Greece) are used instead of the euro.

**Real Effective Exchange Rate** uses normalized unit labor costs in manufacturing. The weighting scheme used to construct the rates, for all except the euro area, is based on disaggregated data for trade among 21 industrial countries in manufactured goods for 2005. For the euro area the weights relate to the trade of the euro area with the other countries. The weights reflect the relative importance of a country's trading partners in its direct bilateral trade relations and competition in third markets. Normalized unit labor costs in manufacturing are calculated by dividing an index of actual hourly compensation per worker by a five-year moving average index of output per man-hour.

**Employment** data refer to civilian employment for Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States; industrial employment for France; and total employment for the euro area and the United Kingdom.

**Foreign Exchange Reserve** data are end of period. The dollar value of reserves may fluctuate as a result of changes in reserve holdings and/or changes in the value of the currencies held vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar.

**Government Budget Balance** is the difference between general government current receipts and total outlays. Total outlays consist of current expenditures and net capital expenditures. **Gross Government Debt** incorporates all financial liabilities of the general government sector. The general government sector consolidates the accounts of the central, state, local, and social security sectors.

**Cumulative Inflation Differential** is the cumulative change in the foreign consumer price index (CPI) over the change in the U.S. CPI, in percentage terms. The base period for the cumulative rate of change is taken to be the first period of the chart. For example, if the base period is 2002:Q1, then the cumulative inflation differential for Japan for 2006:Q3 is as follows:

$$\text{inflation differential} = 100 \cdot \left( \frac{P_{2006Q3}^J / P_{2006Q3}^{US}}{P_{2002Q1}^J / P_{2002Q1}^{US}} - 1 \right)$$

where  $P_{2006Q3}^J$  is the Japanese CPI in the third quarter of 2006. For the U.S. chart on page 41, foreign CPI is calculated as the weighted average of the CPIs of countries whose currencies are used in the major currency trade-weighted exchange rate index. Starting in 1999, the euro-area harmonized consumer price index is used for the euro area. Prior to 1999, the price levels for the individual euro area countries (excluding Greece and Luxembourg) are used. The cumulative inflation differential is shown because the theory of purchasing power parity states that exchange rate changes should be systematically positively related to this variable.

**Industrial Production** measures the change in the volume of output in the mining, manufacturing, oil, electricity, gas, and water industries.

The **Short-Term Interest Rate** table on page 4 uses the relevant 3-month interest rate shown in the country pages.

The **Long-Term Interest Rate** table on page 4 uses the government bond rate. The government bond rate is a composite of yields on federal government bonds with maturities of more than 10 years for the United States; 10-year benchmark bonds for France; 7- to 15-year public sector bonds for Germany; 15- to 20-year government bonds through 1990 and 10-year government bonds starting in 1991 for Italy; and 10-year government bonds for Canada, the euro area, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The **Reserve Money** table on page 4 refers to the adjusted monetary base for Japan and the United States; monetary base for Canada; and M0 for the United Kingdom. **Reserve Money** is currency in circulation, deposits of the deposit money banks, and demand deposits of other residents (with the exception of the central government) with the monetary authority.

### Adjusted Monetary Base

Japan: currency in circulation and current deposits at the Bank of Japan.

United States: the sum of currency in circulation outside Federal Reserve banks and the U.S. Treasury, deposits of depository financial institutions at Federal Reserve banks, and an adjustment for the effects of changes in statutory reserve requirements on the quantity of base money held by depositories.

### Notes and Coins in Circulation

United Kingdom: After reforming the rules governing bank reserves, the Bank of England discontinued its M0 series in May 2006 because the data would not be comparable to previous data. *IET* now presents a related series, "Notes and Coins in Circulation," in place of M0. The Bank of England directs interested parties to "Publication of narrow money data: the implication of money market reform" in its Autumn 2005 *Quarterly Bulletin* (<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/quarterlybulletin/qb050304.pdf>).

### M1

Japan: cash, currency in circulation, and deposit money.

Euro area: currency in circulation and overnight deposits.

**M1B**

Canada: currency outside banks, chartered bank checkable deposits, less inter-bank checkable deposits.

**MZM**

United States: currency in circulation, travelers' checks, total publicly-held checkable deposits minus cash items in the process of collection and Federal Reserve float, savings deposits, shares in retail money market mutual funds (funds with initial investments of less than \$50,000), net of retirement accounts, and institutional money market mutual funds.

**M2**

Canada: currency outside banks, chartered bank demand and notice deposits, chartered bank personal term deposits, adjustments to M2 (continuity adjustments and inter-bank demand and notice deposits).

United Kingdom: currency in circulation and sterling retail deposits with the U.K. banks and building societies.

United States: MZM less institutional money market mutual funds plus small denomination (less than \$100,000) time deposits.

**M2 + CDs**

Japan: M1 plus private deposits, public deposits less demand deposits, and certificates of deposit.

**M3**

Euro area: M1 plus deposits with a maturity up to 2 years, deposits redeemable at notice up to 3 months, repurchase agreements, money market funds, and debt securities up to 2 years.

**M4**

United Kingdom: M2 plus wholesale deposits with the U.K. banks and building societies.

**Output Per Worker** is the ratio of real GDP to employment.

**Producer Price Index** covers manufacturing for Canada and the United Kingdom; and total industry for Japan and the United States. Data for the euro area, France, Germany, and Italy are based on the harmonized index of total industry excluding construction.

**Retail Sales** are based on a volume index. The percent change in retail sales for the United States is based on the Standard Industrial Classification system through 1992 and the North American Industrial Classification System from 1993 on.

**Stock Exchange Index** refers to all share prices except for the United Kingdom, which excludes financial firms.

**Unemployment Rate** is the standardized unemployment rate. It is the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed. The unemployed are all persons of working age who are without work, readily available for work, and actively seeking work. The standardized rate may differ from the national unemployment rate calculations.

## Sources

**Abbreviations**

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (BOG)  
 Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce (BEA)  
 Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (BLS)  
 International Monetary Fund, *International Financial Statistics* (IMF)  
 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development,  
*Economic Outlook* (OECD1)  
*Main Economic Indicators* (OECD2)  
*National Accounts Quarterly* (OECD3)

**Canada**

Bank of Canada: M1B and M2.

BOG: exchange rate.

IMF: foreign exchange reserves, merchandise and service trade, real effective exchange rate, and reserve money.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: capacity utilization, consumer price index, current account balance, GDP, hourly earnings, industrial production, interest rates, producer price index, retail sales, stock exchange index, and unemployment rate.

Statistics Canada: employment.

**Euro Area**

European Central Bank: current account balance and employment.

Eurostat: capacity utilization, consumer price index, GDP, interest rates, merchandise trade, producer price index, and retail sales.

Haver Analytics: synthetic euro exchange rate.

IMF: real effective exchange rate.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: hourly earnings, industrial production, M1, M3, stock exchange index, and unemployment.

**France**

BOG: exchange rate.

Eurostat: capacity utilization, consumer price index, and producer price index.

IMF: foreign exchange reserves, merchandise and service trade, and real effective exchange rate.

Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques: employment.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: current account balance, GDP, hourly earnings, industrial production, retail sales, interest rates, stock exchange index, and unemployment.

**Germany**

BOG: exchange rate.

Bundesanstalt Fur Arbeit: employment.

Eurostat: capacity utilization, consumer price index, and producer price index.

IMF: foreign exchange reserves, merchandise and service trade, and real effective exchange rate.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: current account balance, GDP, hourly earnings, industrial production, M1, M3, retail sales, interest rates, stock exchange index, and unemployment.

**Italy**

BOG: exchange rate.

Eurostat: capacity utilization, consumer price index, and producer price index.

IMF: foreign exchange reserves, merchandise and service trade, and real effective exchange rate.

Instituto Nazionale di Statistica: employment.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: current account balance, GDP, hourly earnings, industrial production, long-term interest rates, retail sales, stock exchange index, and unemployment.

**Japan**

Bank of Japan: adjusted monetary base and long-term interest rate.

BOG: exchange rate.

IMF: foreign exchange reserves, merchandise and service trade, and real effective exchange rate.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: capacity utilization, consumer price index, current account balance, employment, GDP, hourly earnings, industrial production, M1, M2, producer price index, retail sales, short-term interest rate, stock exchange index, and unemployment.

**United Kingdom**

Bank of England: M2.

BOG: exchange rate.

IMF: foreign exchange reserves, merchandise and service trade, and real effective exchange rate.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: capacity utilization, consumer price index, current account balance, GDP, industrial production, interest rates, M4, producer price index, retail sales, stock exchange index, unemployment, and weekly earnings.

U.K. Office for National Statistics: employment and Notes and Coins in Circulation.

**United States**

BOG: capacity utilization, exchange rate, industrial production index, M2, and interest rates.

BEA: GDP, current account balance, merchandise and service trade, and retail sales.

BLS: employment, consumer price index, and producer price index.

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: adjusted monetary base and MZM.

IMF: foreign exchange reserves and real effective exchange rate.

OECD1: gross government debt and budget balance.

OECD2: hourly earnings, stock exchange index, and unemployment.