

National Economic Trends



Nominal Vs. Real Wage Growth

Nominal wages, measured by nonfarm compensation per hour, grew at an average annual rate of 5.5 percent between 1947 and 1973 and 6 percent between 1973 and 1996. Yet real wages grew much faster during the earlier period than during the later one. This discrepancy between the growth rates of nominal and real wages underlies current concerns about stagnant standards of living since 1973.

What is the difference between a nominal wage and a real wage? A nominal wage is the compensation received by a worker measured in current dollars. A real wage adjusts the nominal wage by its purchasing power and determines our standards of living. Therefore, nominal wages may increase without a corresponding increase in standards of living, if increases in nominal wages reflect higher prices.

Changes in nominal wages, however, reflect more than changes in prices; they also reflect changes in labor productivity. Economic theory states that the price of the good or service produced and the productivity of labor determine nominal wages. Therefore, growth of nominal wages should depend on changes in the price of goods and services (the inflation rate) and the growth of labor productivity. So an increase in nominal wages may reflect an increase in prices or an increase in labor productivity.

The chart shows the movements of the annual growth rates of nonfarm compensation

per hour, as well as two statistics that measure the two factors determining nominal wages—the GDP chain price index (a measure of overall prices) and nonfarm output per hour (a measure of labor productivity). Consistent with theory, the growth of nonfarm compensation per hour appears to track the sum of the growth rates of the two factors.

The chart also shows the changes in the relative contributions of inflation and labor productivity growth to the rise in nominal wages. Although nominal wages have grown faster since 1973, the composition of their growth since then looks much different than it does prior to 1973. Before 1973, the growth of labor productivity accounted for more than half the growth of nominal wages, but accounted for less than one-fifth of the increase since 1973. So most of the recent growth in wages merely reflects increases in overall prices. Increases in standards of living do not come from higher wages *per se*, but from higher productivity. So while inflation may increase everyone's compensation, it does not increase our standard of living.

—Peter Yoo

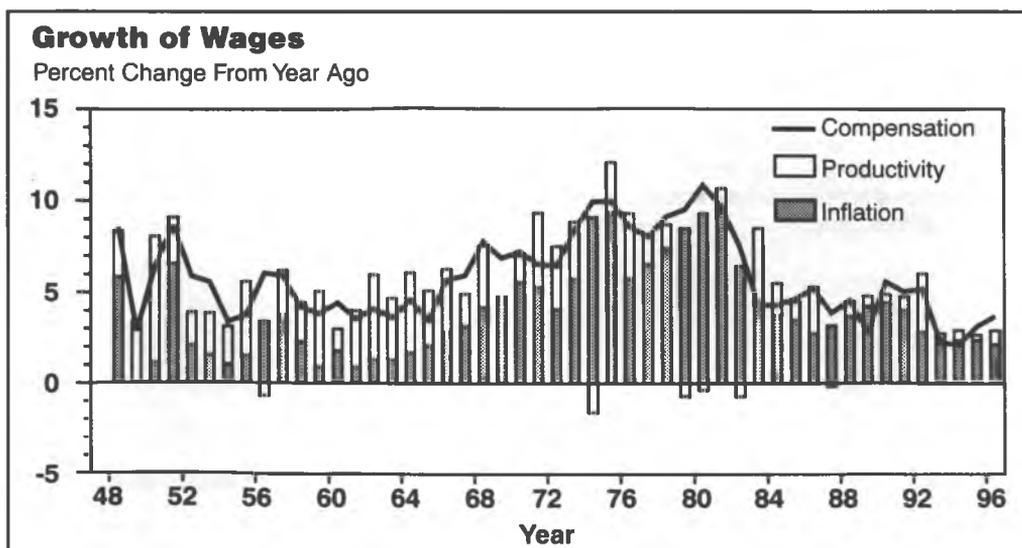


Table of Contents

Page	
3	Economy at a glance
4	Output and growth
7	Interest rates
8	Inflation and prices
10	Labor markets
12	Consumer spending
14	Investment spending
16	Government revenues, spending, and debt
18	International trade
20	Productivity and profits
22	Quick reference tables
27	Notes and sources

NOTE

Data from the national income and product accounts shown in this issue of *National Economic Trends* reflect comprehensive annual revisions by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. These revisions affect data beginning with the first quarter of 1993.

Conventions used in this publication:

1. Charts and tables contain data that was current on August 1, 1997.
2. Shaded areas indicate recessions, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
3. *Percent change* refers to simple percent changes. *Percent change from year ago* refers to the percent change from the same month or quarter in the previous year. The *percent change at annual rate* shows what the growth rate would be over an entire year if the same simple percent change continued for four quarters or twelve months. The percent change at annual rate of X between the previous quarter $t-1$ and the current quarter t is:

$$100 \times \left[\left(\frac{X_t}{X_{t-1}} \right)^4 - 1 \right]$$

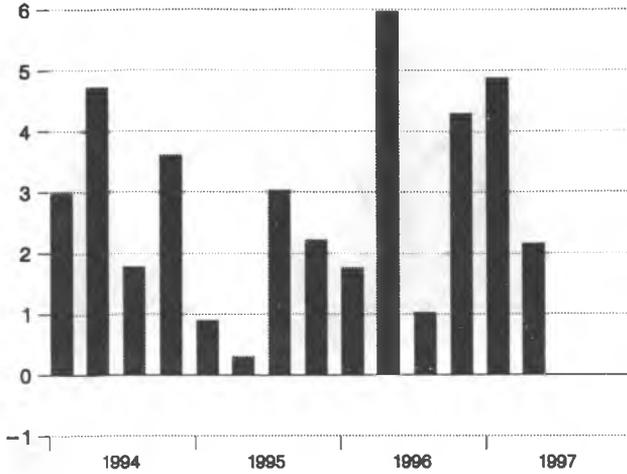
For monthly data replace 4 with 12.

4. All data with significant seasonal patterns are seasonally adjusted, unless labeled NSA.

National Economic Trends is published monthly by the Research Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. For more information on data, please call (314) 444-8573. Single-copy subscriptions are available free of charge by writing to the Public Affairs Office, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Post Office Box 442, St. Louis, MO 63166-0442 or by calling (314) 444-8808 or (314) 444-8809. Information in this publication is also included on the Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) electronic bulletin board at (314) 621-1824 or Internet World Wide Web server at <http://www.stls.frb.org/fred>.

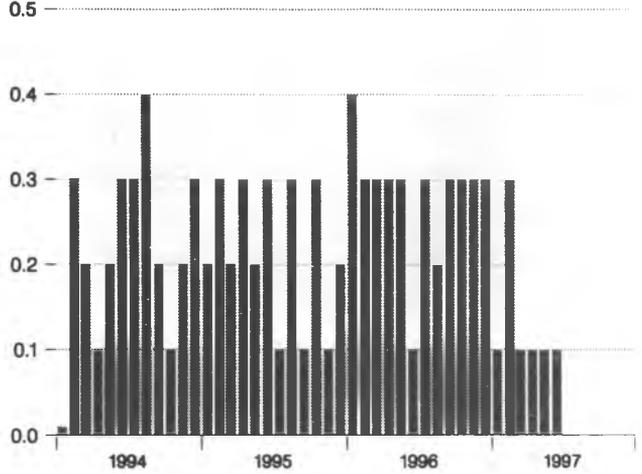
Real GDP Growth

Percent change at annual rate



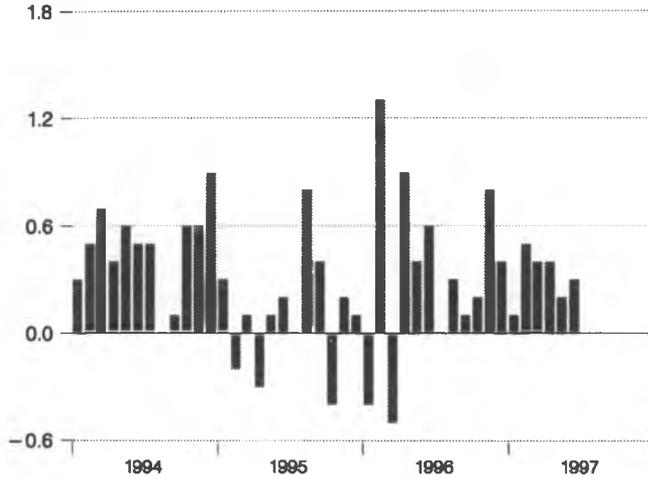
Consumer Price Index

Percent change



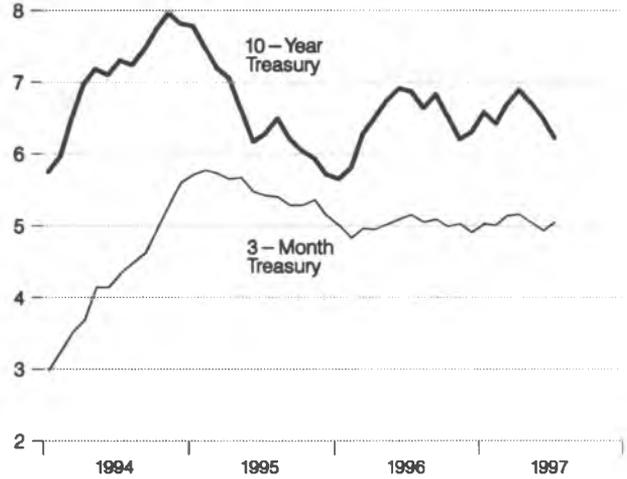
Industrial Production

Percent change



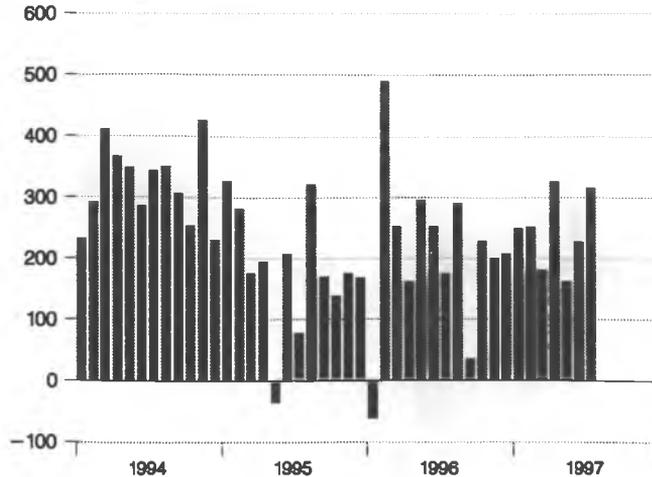
Interest Rates

Percent



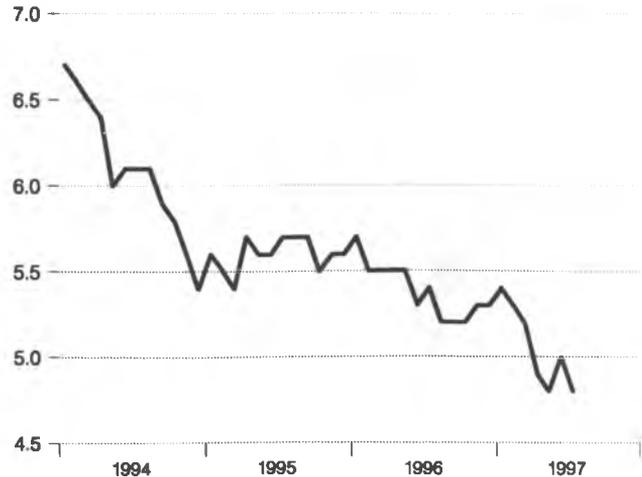
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls

Thousands



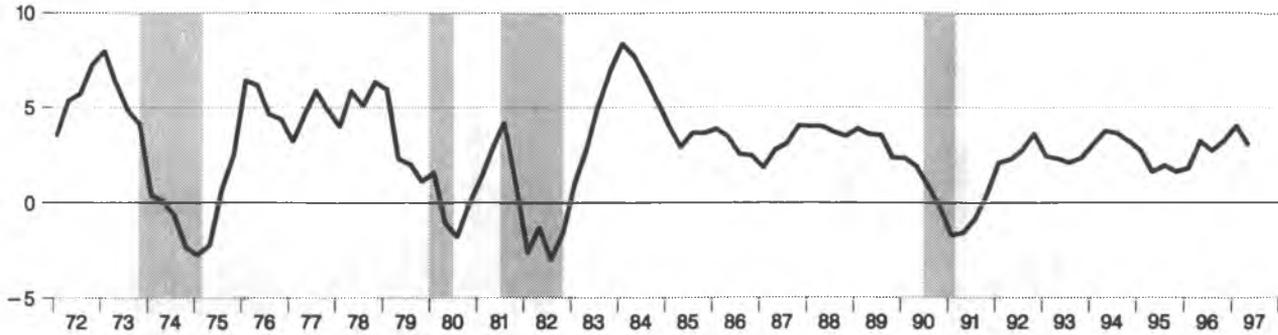
Unemployment Rate

Percent of labor force



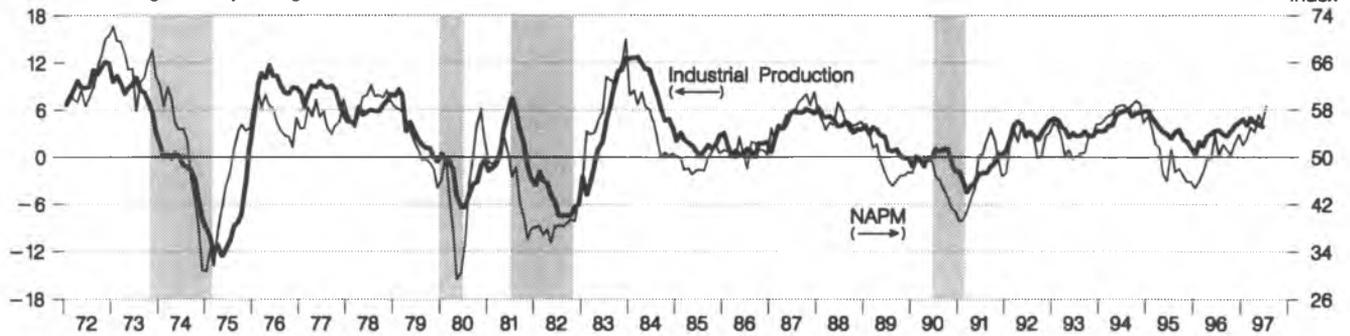
Real Gross Domestic Product

Percent change from year ago



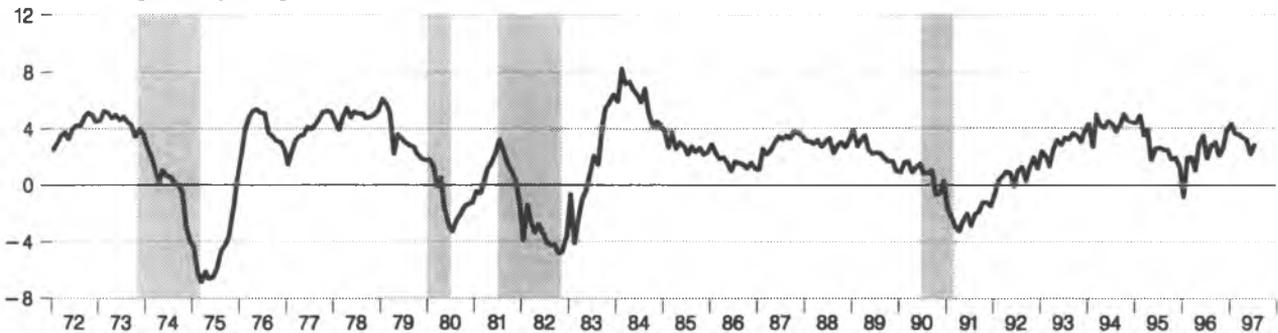
Industrial Production and Purchasing Managers' (NAPM) Indexes

Percent change from year ago



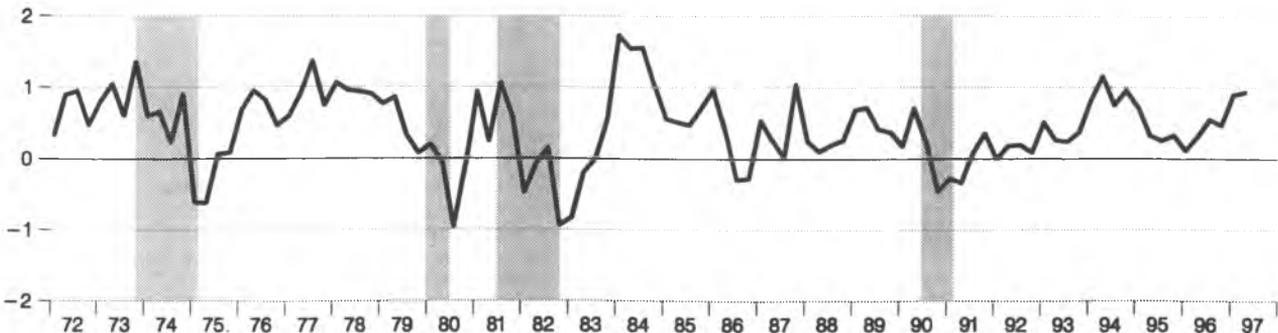
Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours

Percent change from year ago



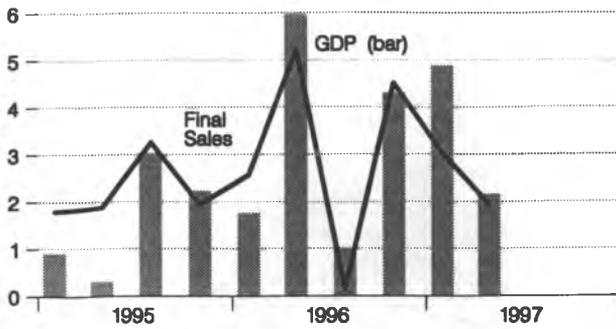
Real Change in Business Inventories

Percent of GDP



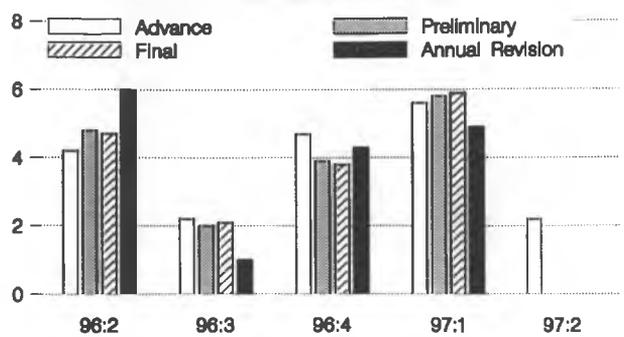
Real Final Sales and GDP

Percent change at annual rate



Real GDP Revisions

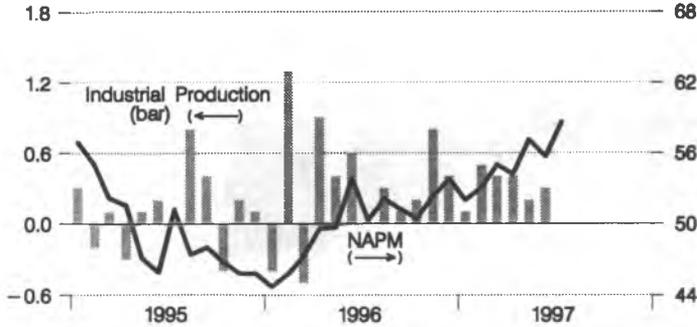
Percent change at annual rate



Industrial Production and NAPM Index

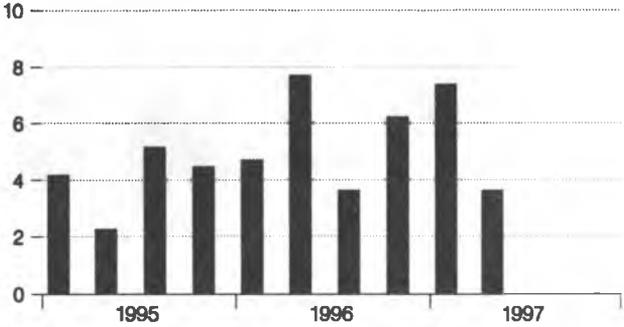
Percent change

Index



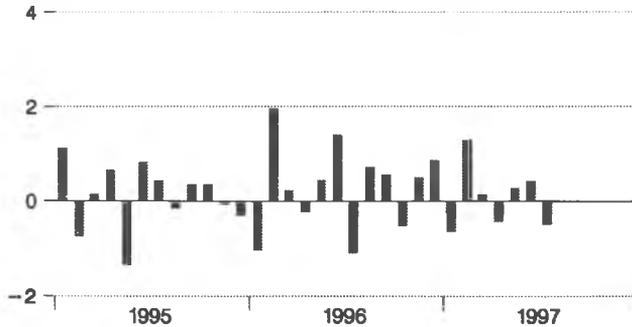
Nominal Gross Domestic Product

Percent change at annual rate



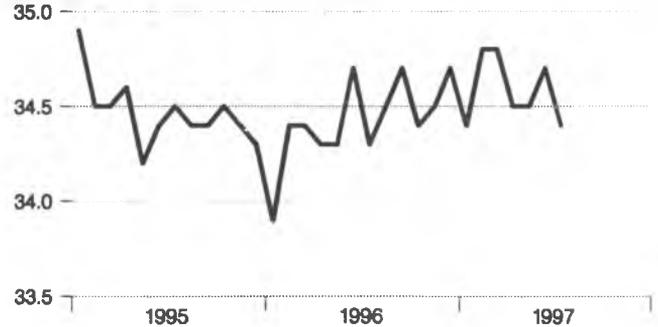
Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours

Percent change



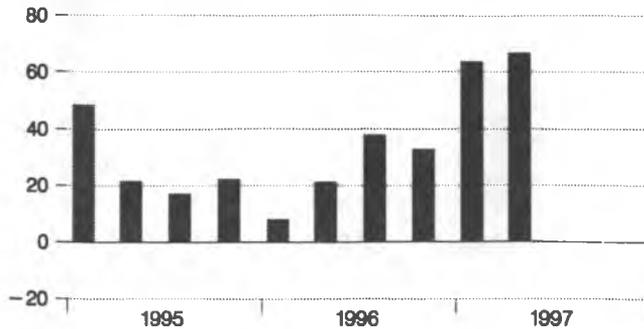
Average Weekly Private Nonfarm Hours

Hours



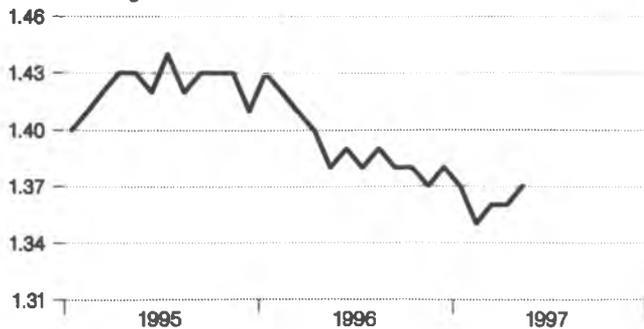
Real Change in Business Inventories

Billions of 1992 dollars



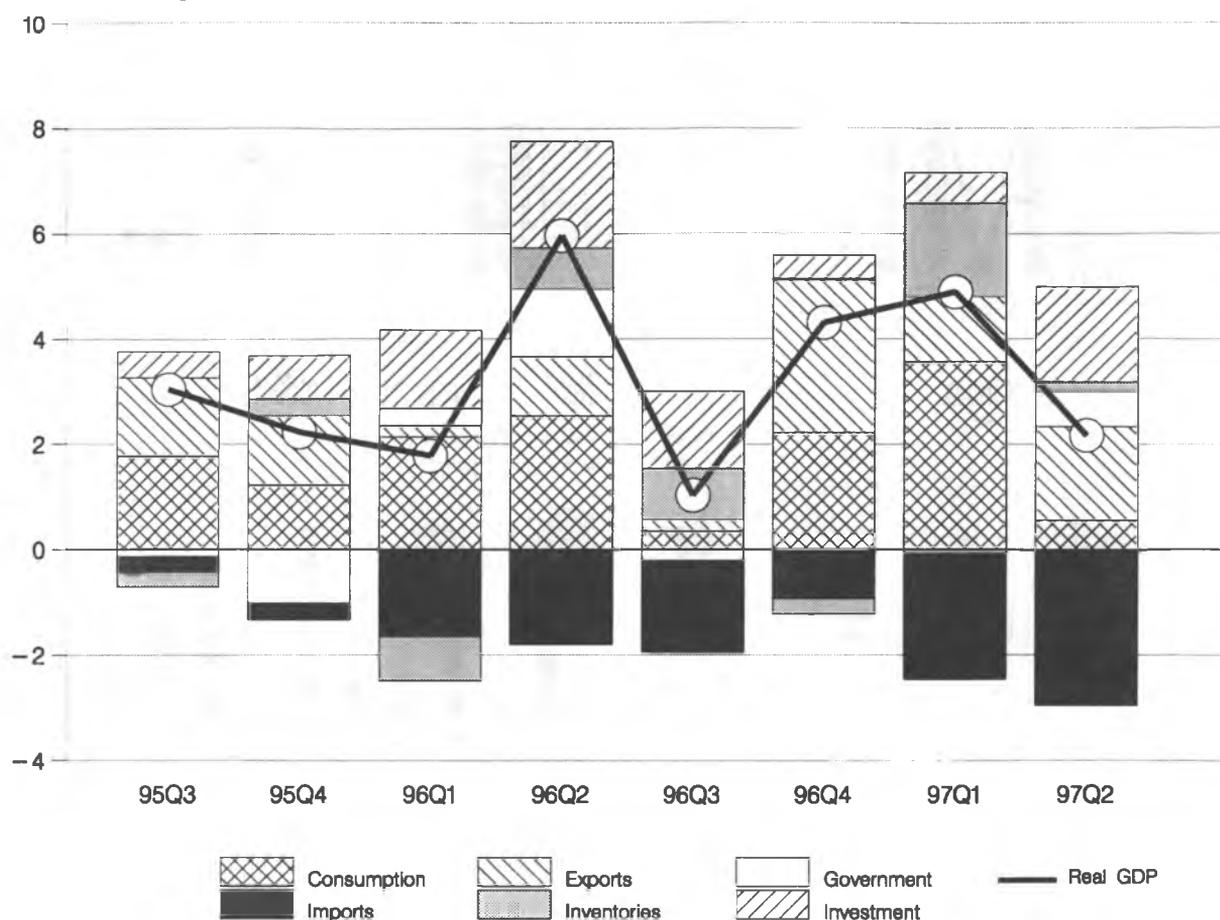
Inventory-Sales Ratio

Manufacturing and trade



Contribution of Components to Real GDP Growth

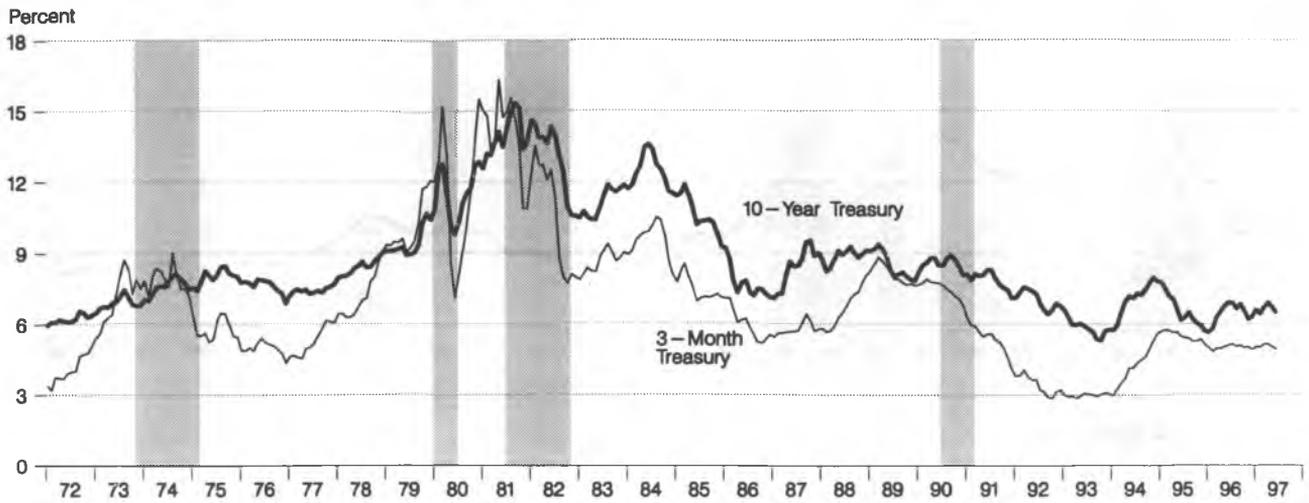
Percent change at annual rate



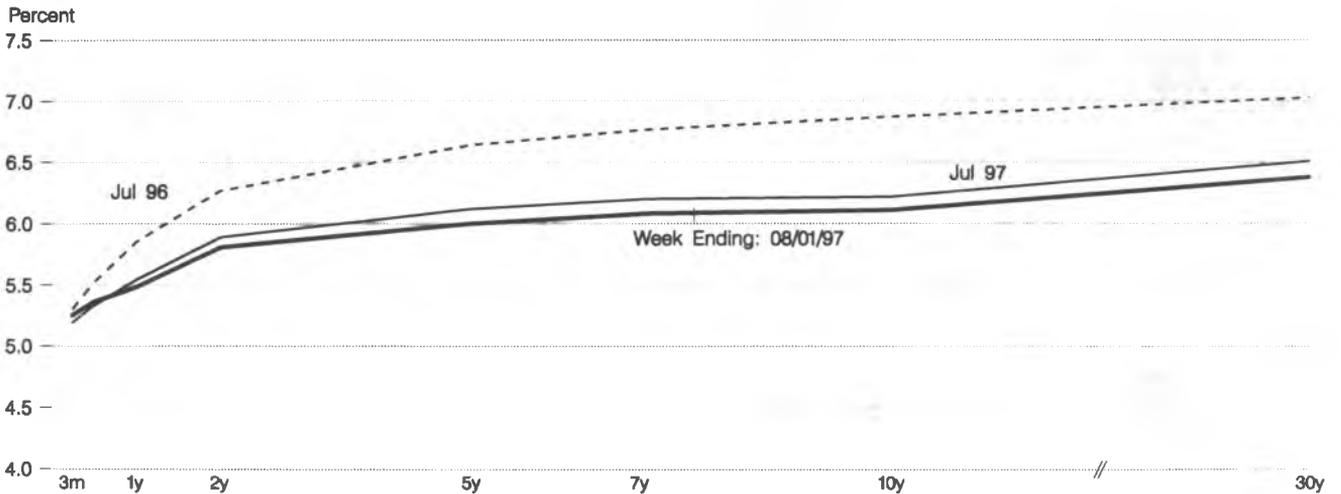
Contributions to Real GDP Growth Rate

	1995		1996				1997	
	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd
Real GDP	3.04	2.23	1.77	5.97	1.03	4.31	4.89	2.16
Final Sales	3.26	1.94	2.56	5.21	0.16	4.49	3.02	1.92
Change in Inventory	-0.27	0.31	-0.83	0.78	0.96	-0.29	1.77	0.17
Consumption	1.76	1.22	2.13	2.53	0.35	2.22	3.56	0.55
Fixed Investment	0.50	0.83	1.49	2.02	1.46	0.45	0.59	1.81
Nonresidential	0.17	0.51	1.19	1.34	1.72	0.66	0.46	1.64
Residential	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.65	-0.18	-0.17	0.13	0.21
Government	-0.14	-1.02	0.32	1.29	-0.21	0.02	-0.07	0.67
Federal	-0.09	-1.23	0.49	0.58	-0.29	-0.35	-0.39	0.52
State and Local	-0.05	0.21	-0.16	0.71	0.09	0.37	0.31	0.15
Net Exports	1.19	1.00	-1.45	-0.69	-1.50	1.93	-1.17	-1.22
Exports	1.50	1.32	0.21	1.13	0.23	2.89	1.24	1.78
Imports	-0.30	-0.31	-1.66	-1.80	-1.73	-0.94	-2.39	-2.96
Residual	0.01	-0.12	0.11	-0.02	-0.09	-0.10	0.20	0.13

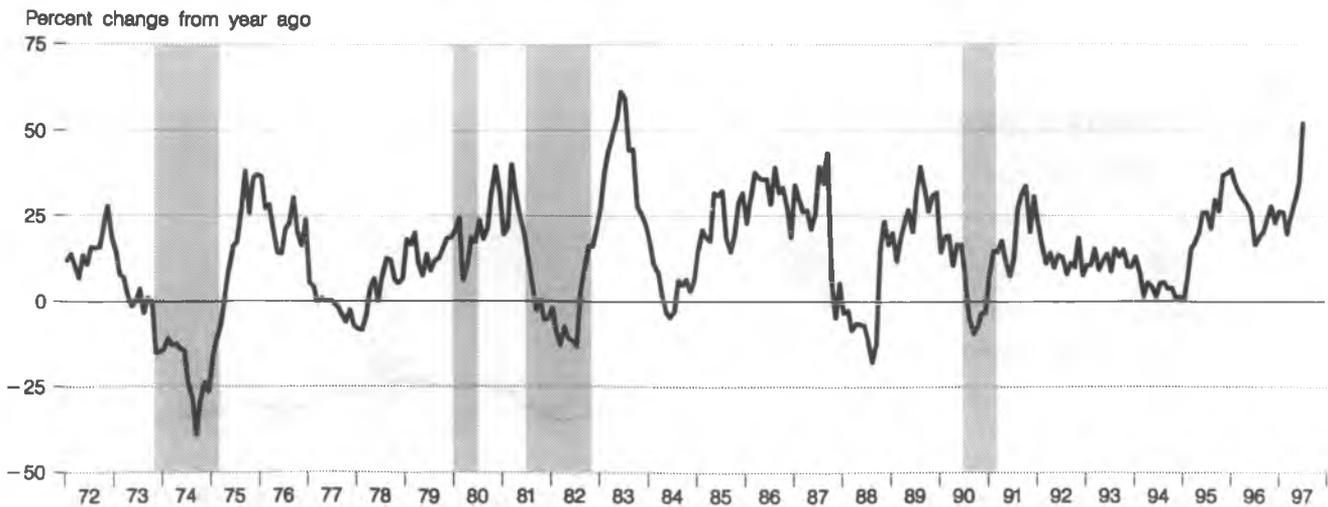
Interest Rates



Treasury Yield Curve

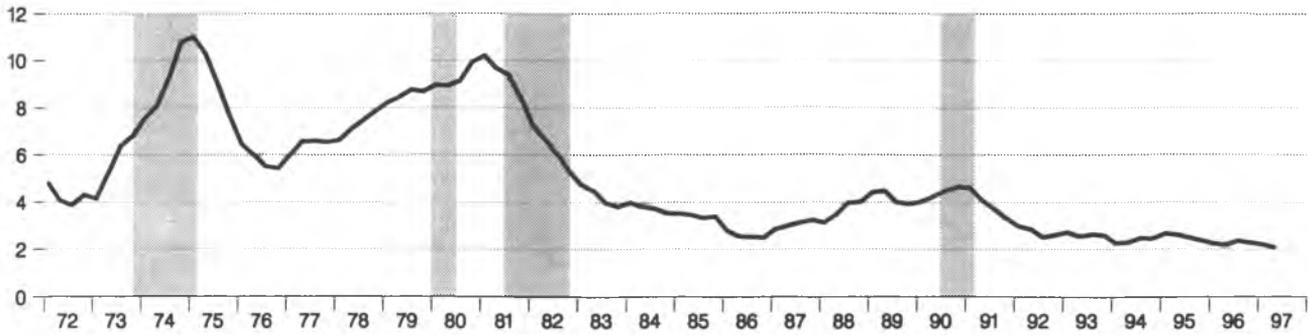


Total Return on Standard and Poor's 500



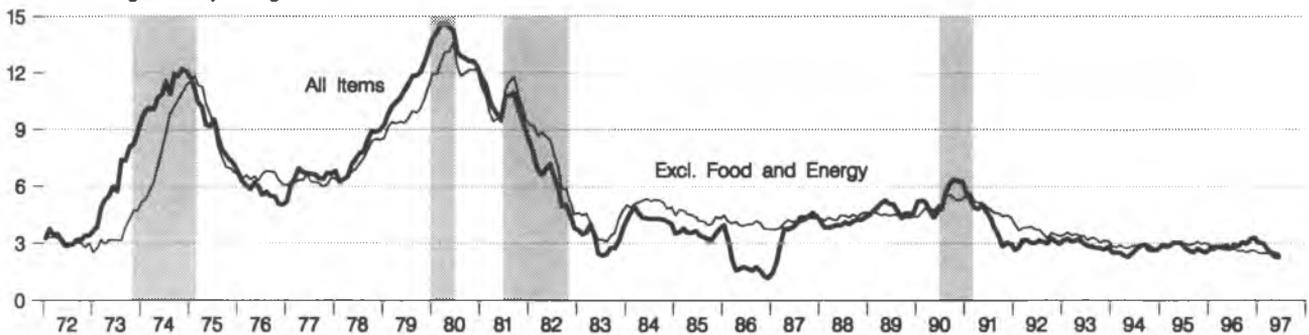
GDP Chain Price Index

Percent change from year ago



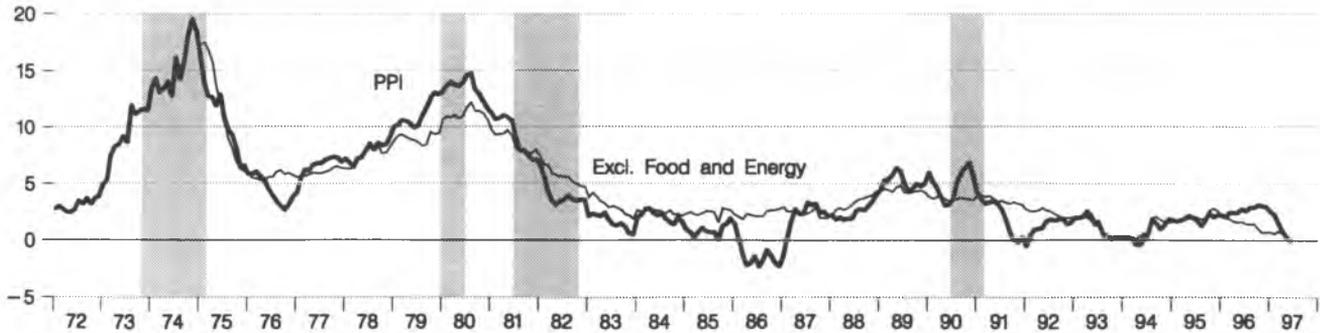
Consumer Price Index

Percent change from year ago



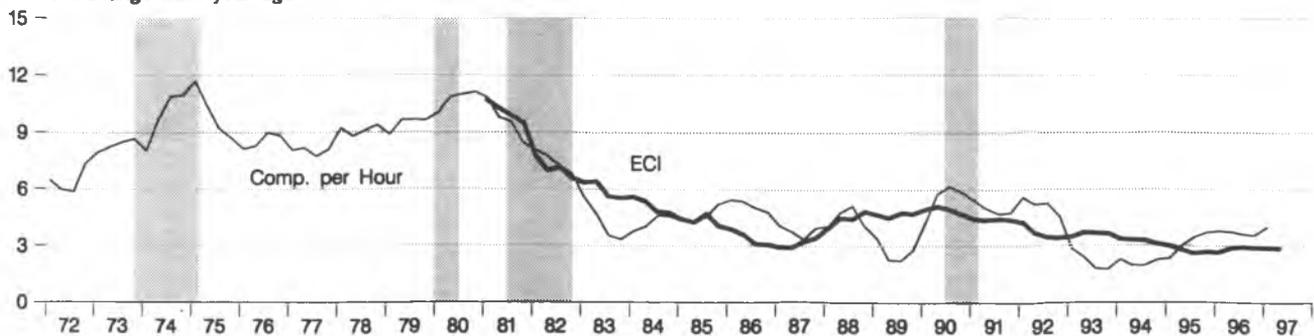
Producer Price Index, Finished Goods

Percent change from year ago



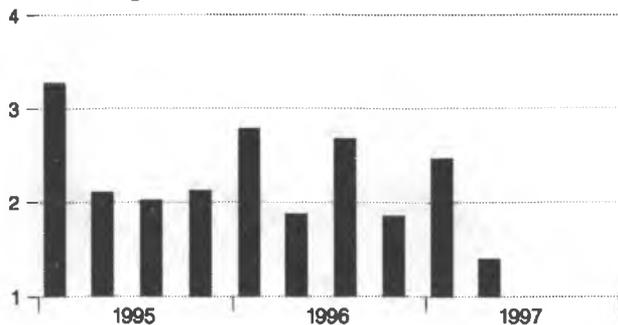
Employment Cost Index and Compensation per Hour

Percent change from year ago



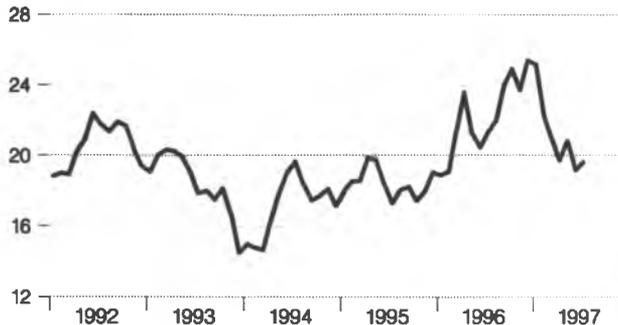
GDP Chain Price Index

Percent change at annual rate



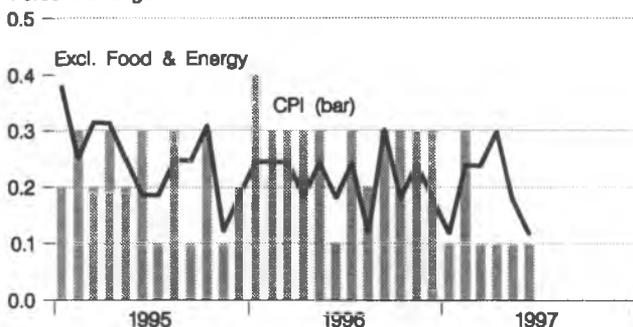
Crude Oil Price

Dollars per barrel



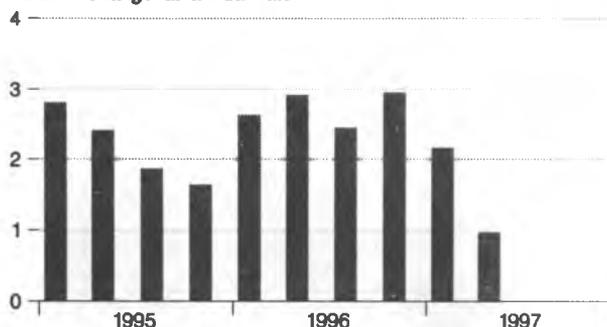
Consumer Price Index

Percent change



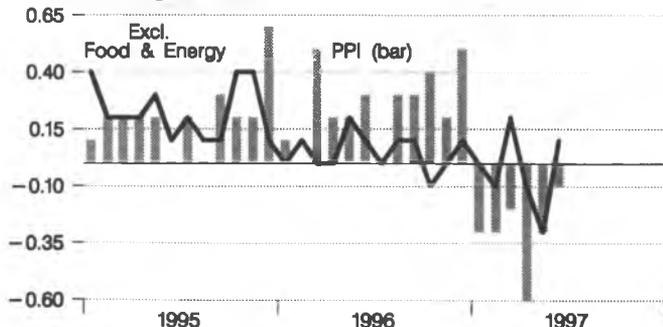
Consumption Chain Price Index

Percent change at annual rate



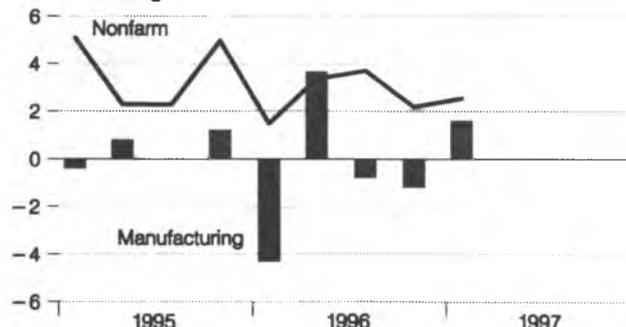
Producer Price Index, Finished Goods

Percent change



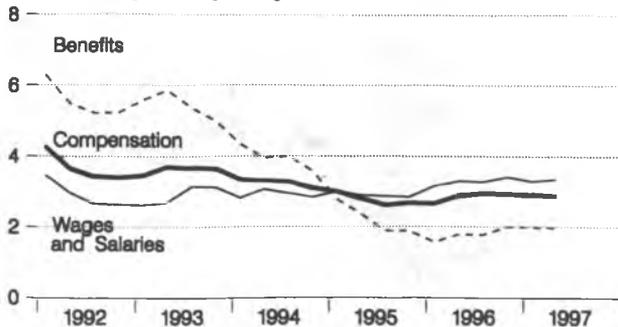
Unit Labor Cost

Percent change at annual rate



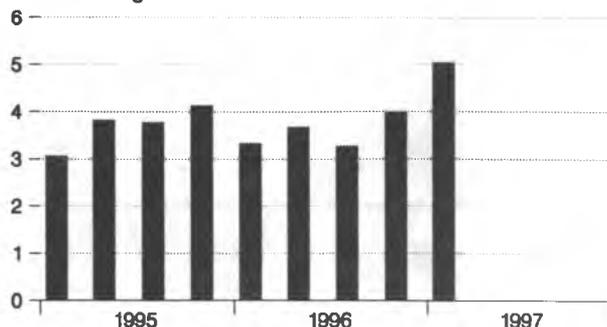
Employment Cost Index

Percent change from year ago



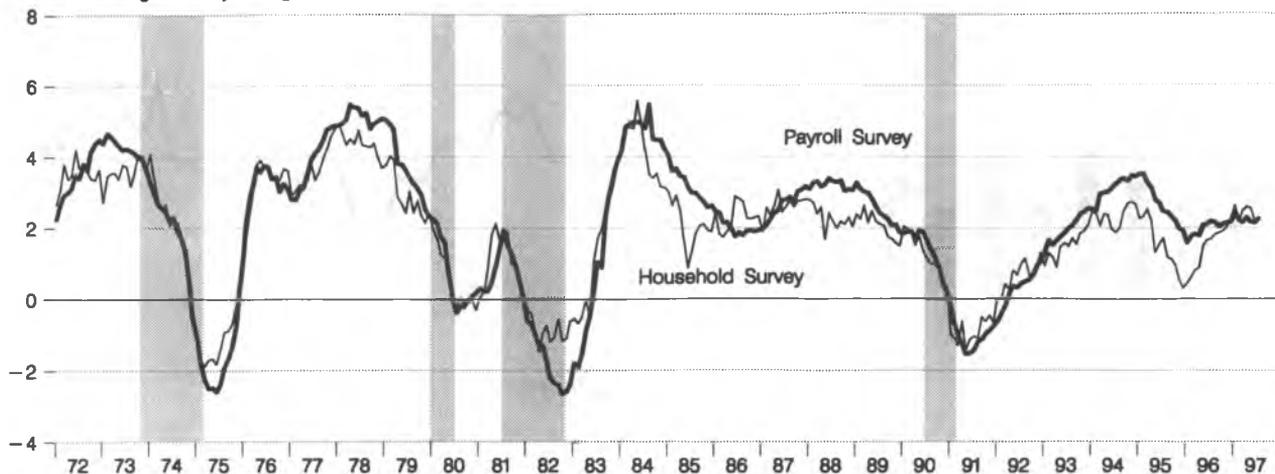
Compensation per Hour

Percent change at annual rate



Employment

Percent change from year ago



Unemployment, Labor Force Participation and Employment Rates

Percent of labor force

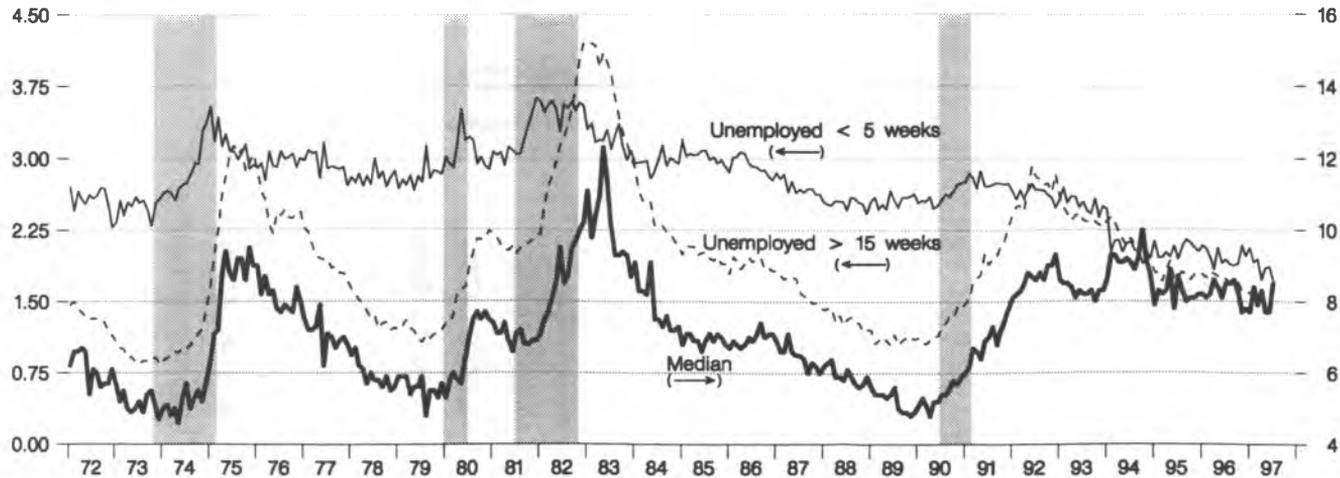
Percent of population



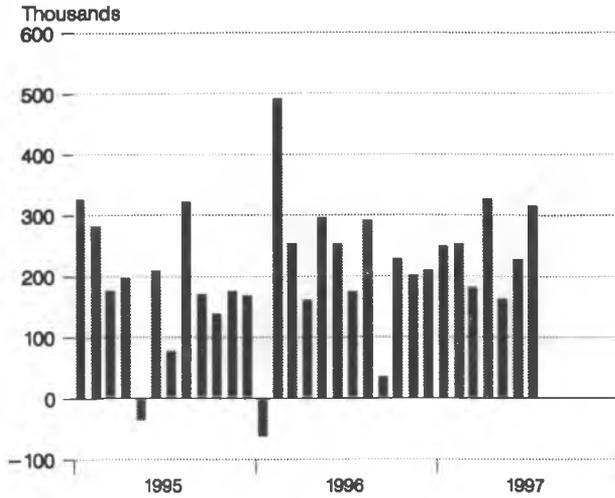
Duration of Unemployment

Percent of labor force

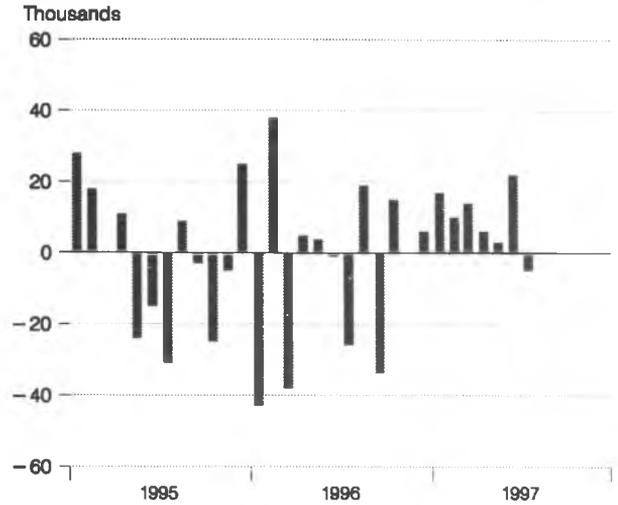
Weeks



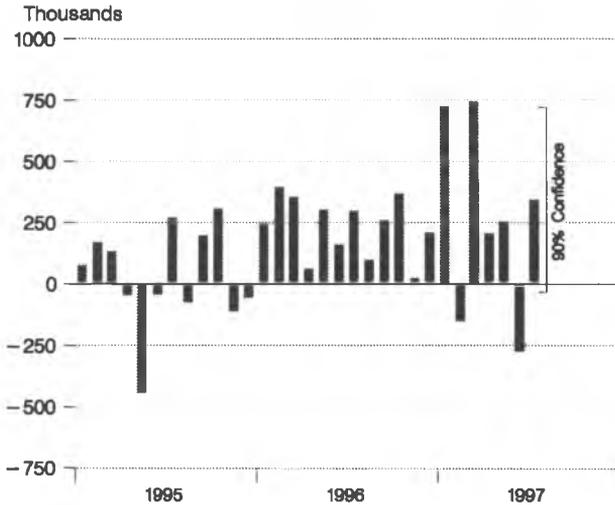
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls



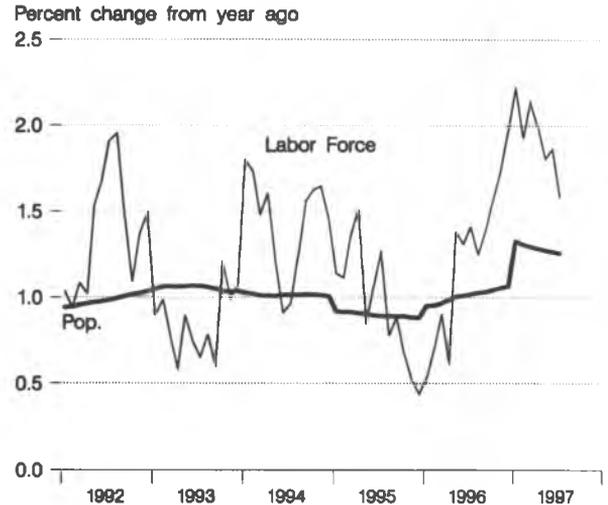
Change in Manufacturing Payrolls



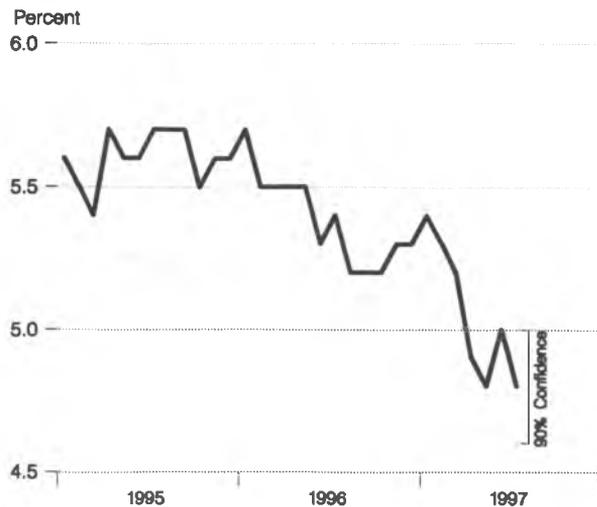
Change in Household Employment



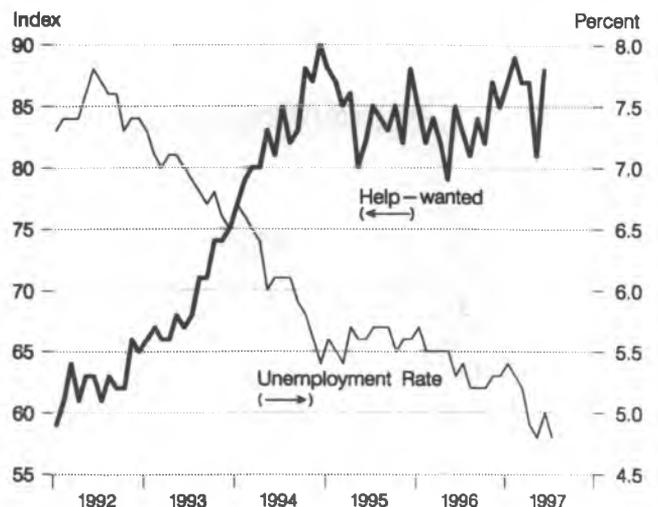
Labor Force and Population



Unemployment Rate

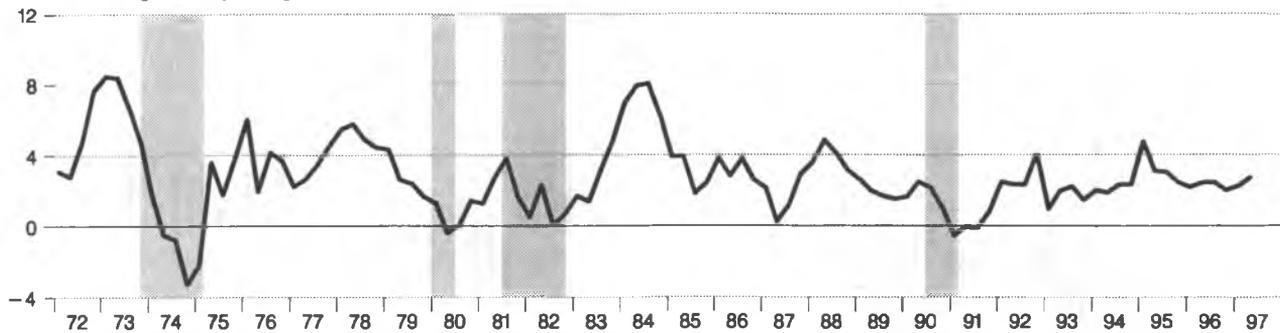


Help-Wanted Advertising



Real Disposable Income

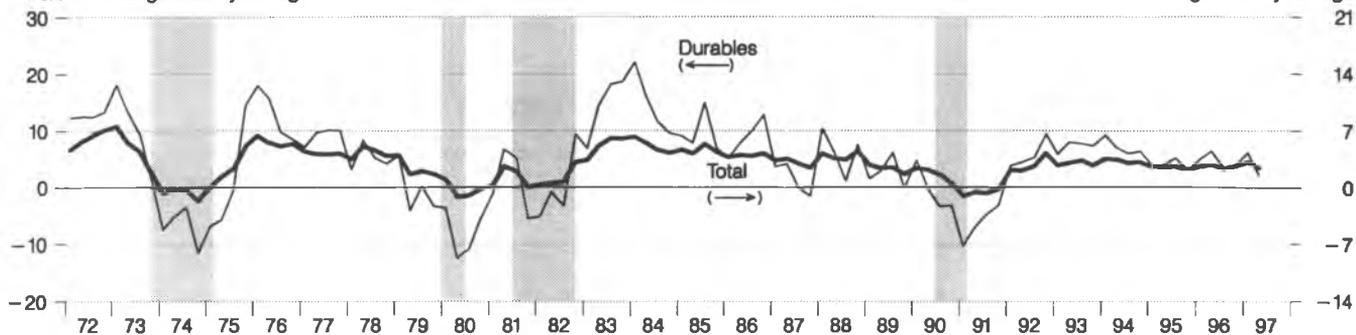
Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



Real Consumption

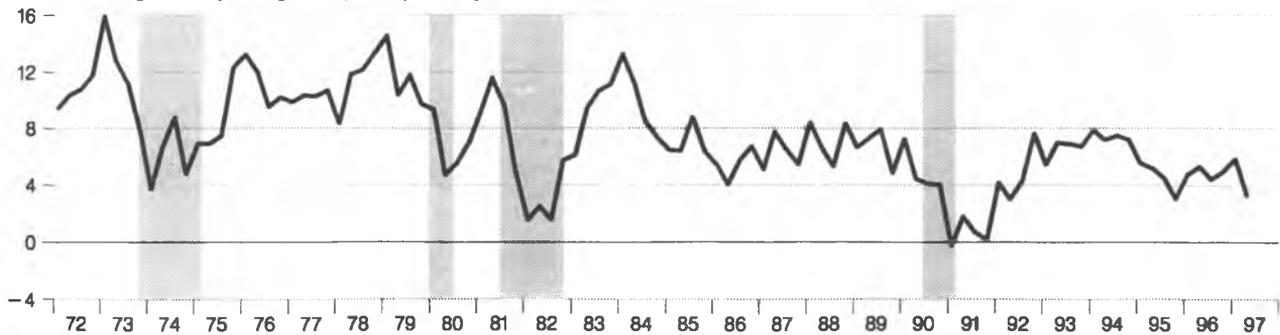
Percent change from year ago

Percent change from year ago



Retail Sales

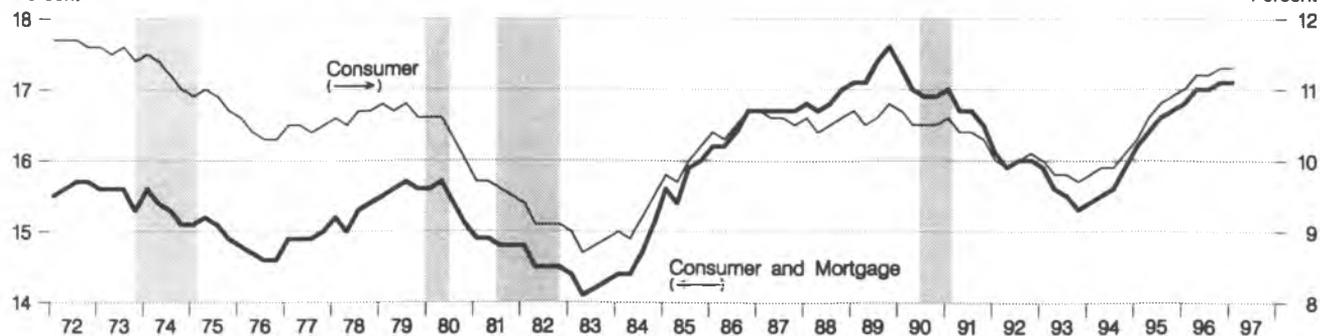
Percent change from year ago of quarterly average



Debt Service as Percent of Disposable Income

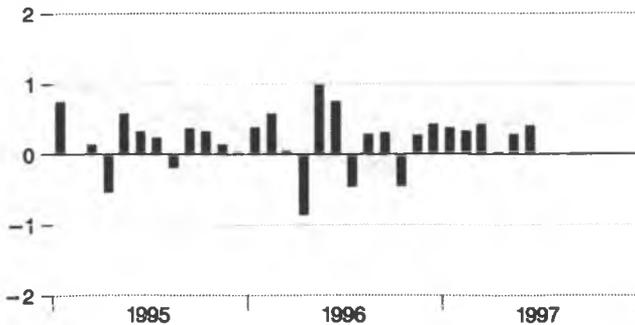
Percent

Percent



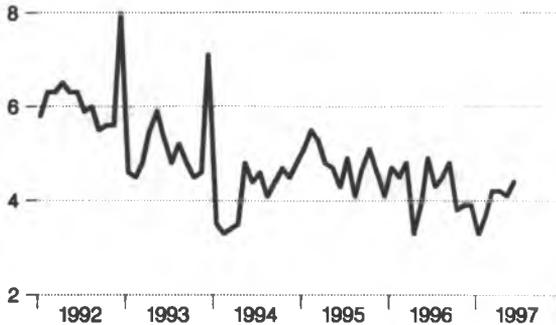
Real Disposable Income

Percent change



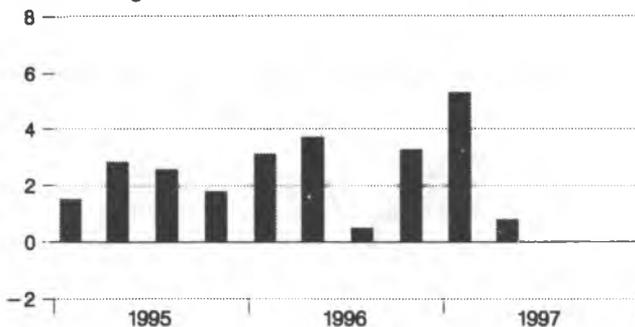
Personal Saving Rate

Percent



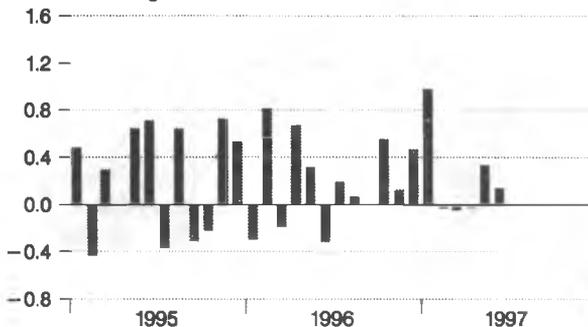
Real Consumption

Percent change



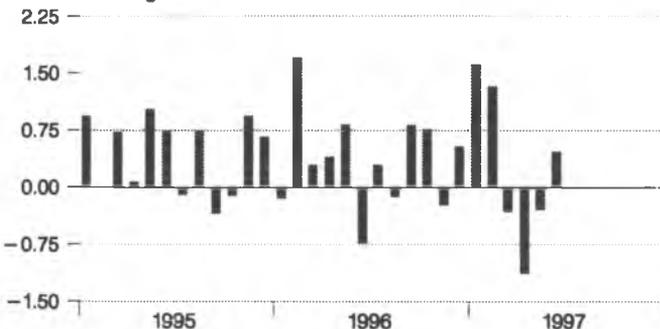
Real Consumption

Percent change



Retail Sales

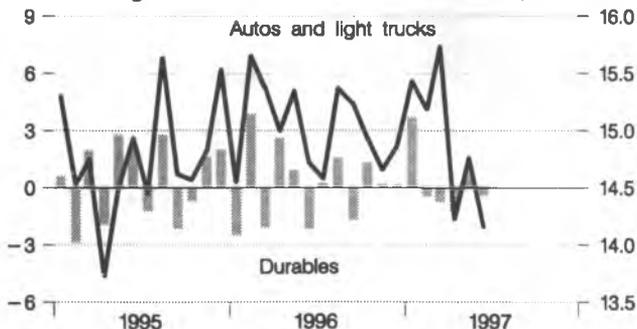
Percent change



Real Durables Consumption and Vehicle Sales

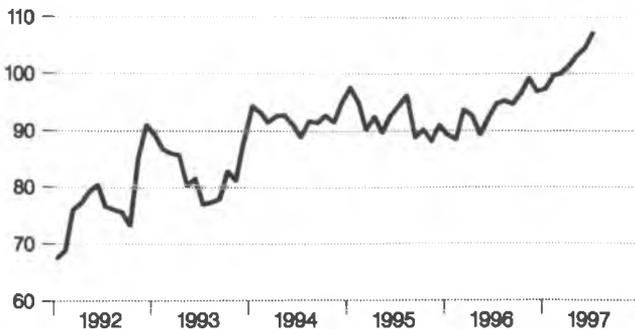
Percent change

Millions of vehicles, annual rate



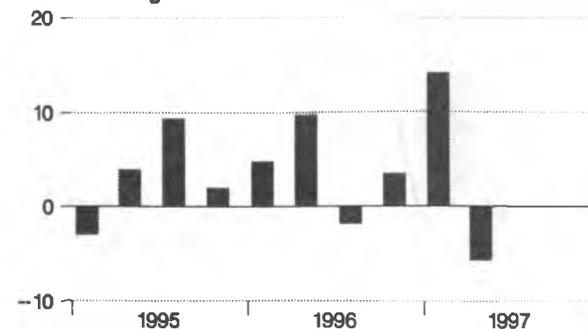
Consumer Sentiment (U. of Michigan)

Index



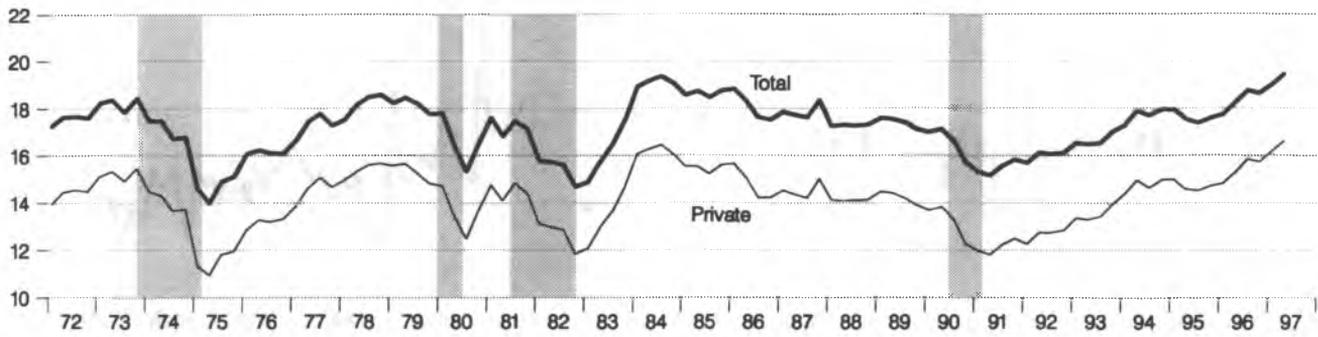
Real Durables Consumption

Percent change



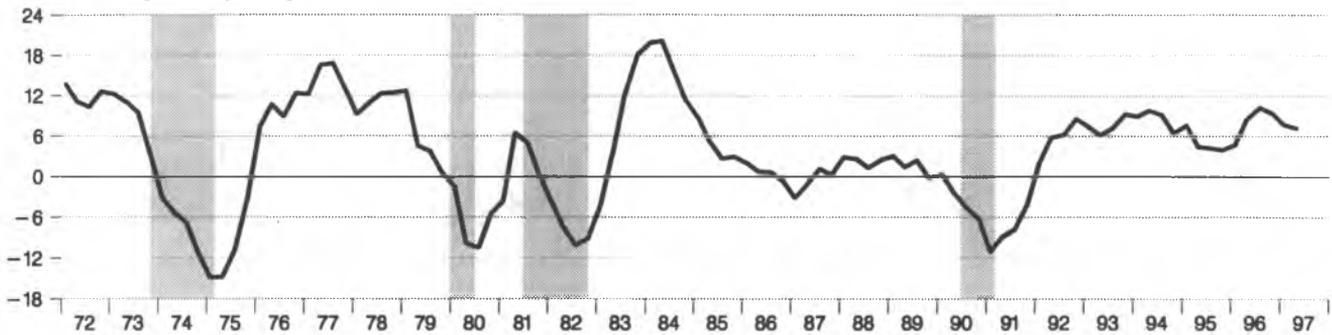
Real Investment

Percent of GDP



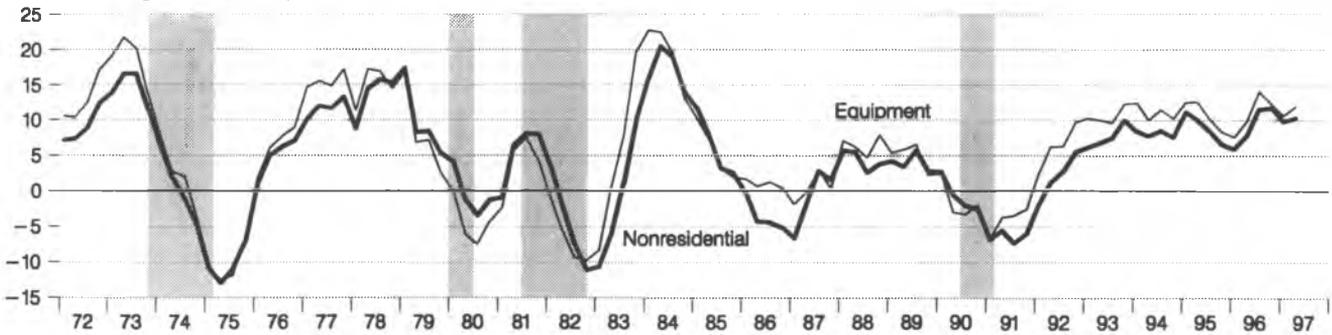
Real Private Fixed Investment

Percent change from year ago



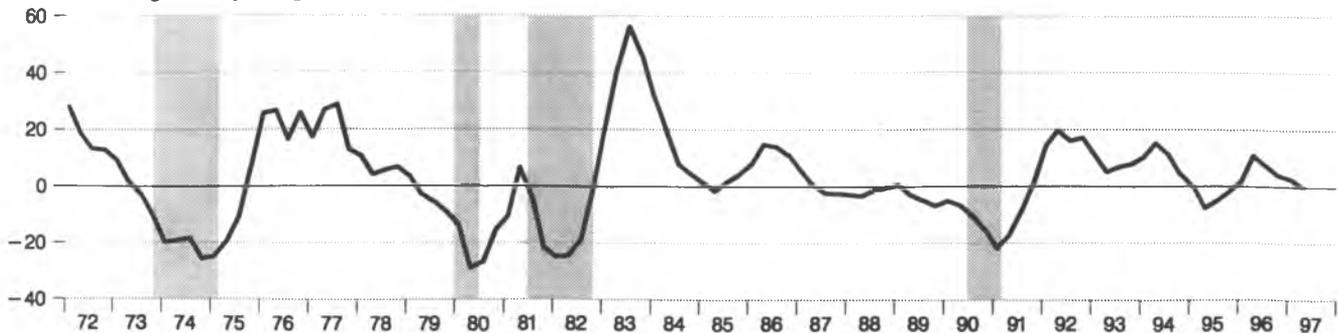
Real Nonresidential and Producers Durable Equipment Investment

Percent change from year ago



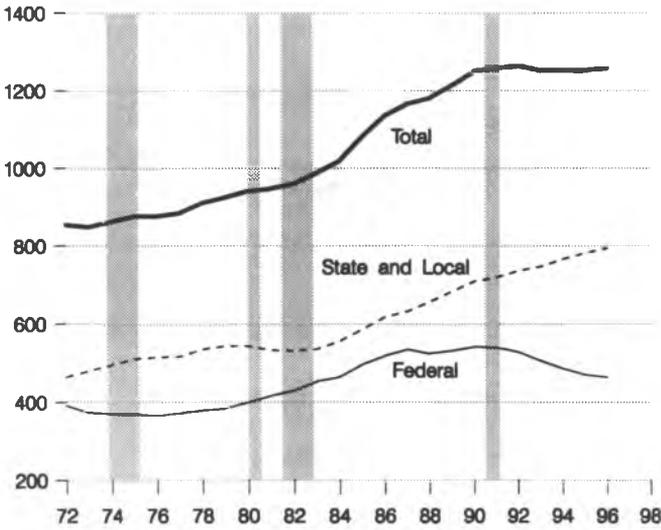
Real Residential Investment

Percent change from year ago



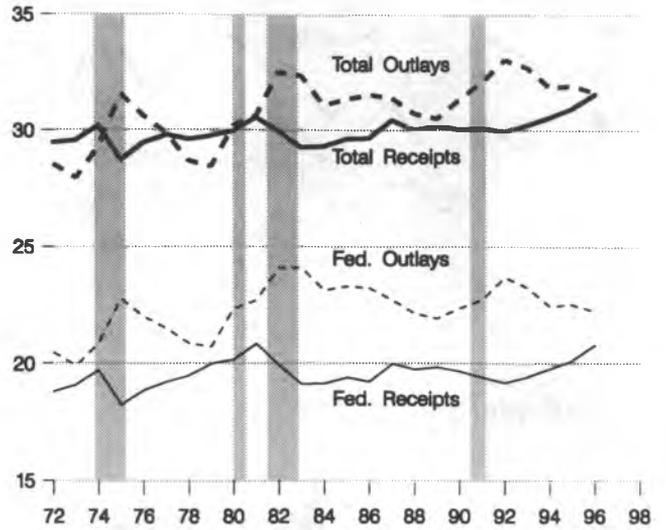
Govt. Consumption and Investment

Billions of 1992 dollars

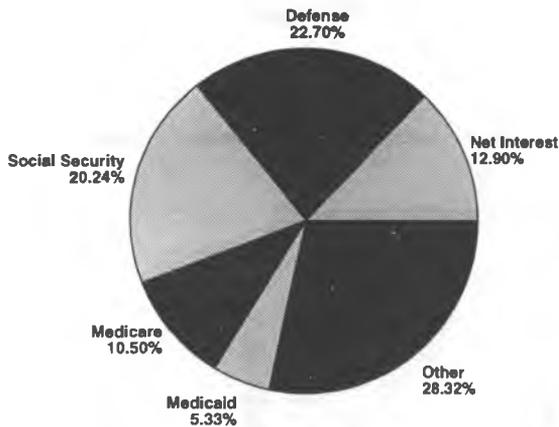


Government Receipts and Outlays

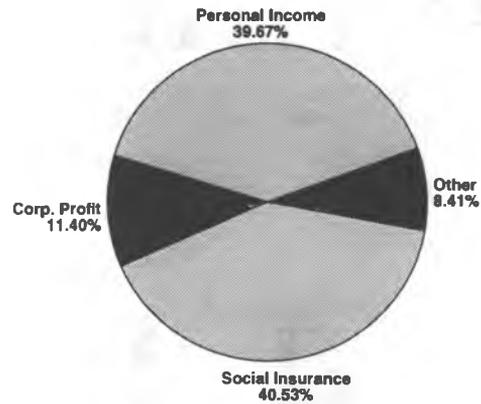
Percent of GDP



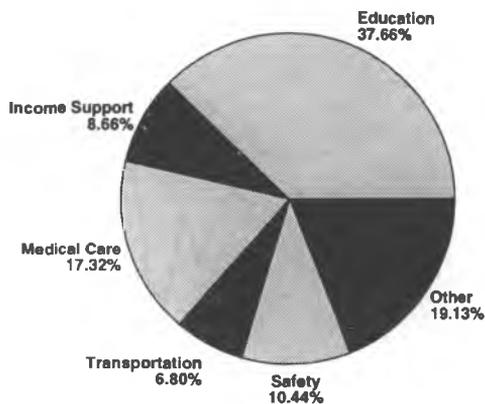
Federal Outlays, 1994



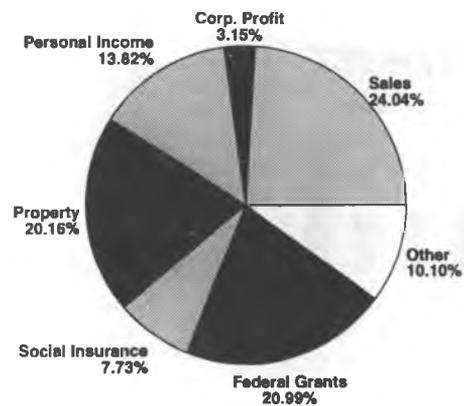
Federal Receipts, 1994



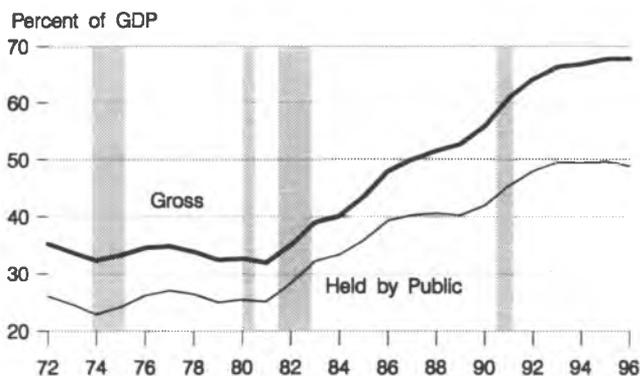
State and Local Outlays, 1994



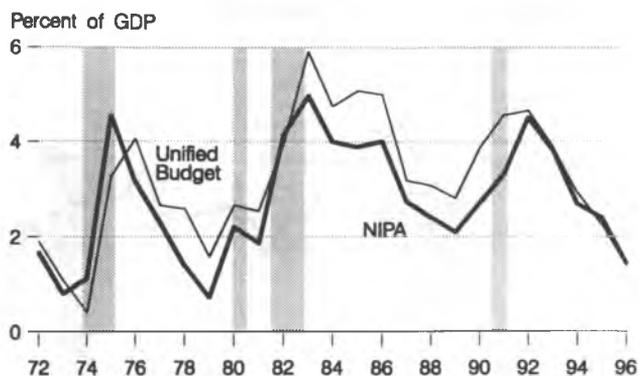
State and Local Receipts, 1994



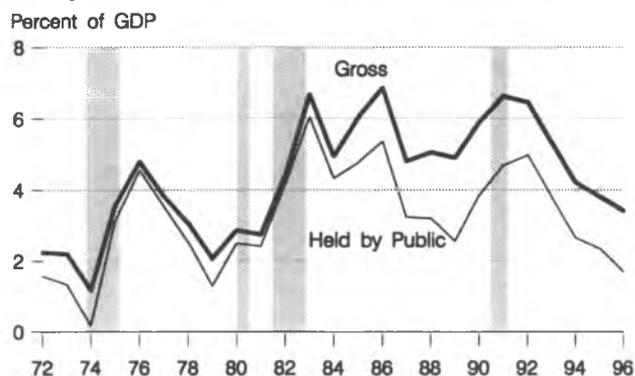
Gross Federal Debt



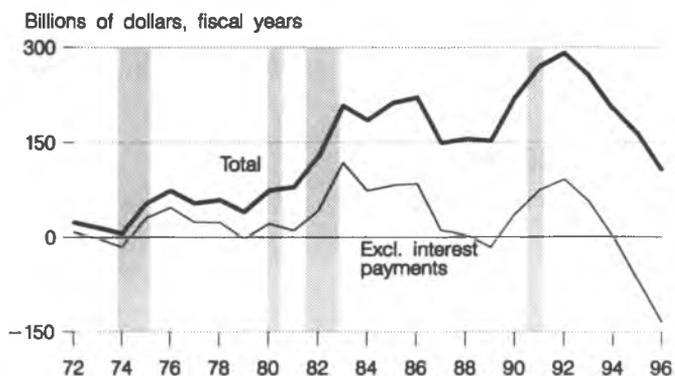
Federal Deficit



Change in Gross Federal Debt



Federal Deficit, Unified Basis



Government Budgets

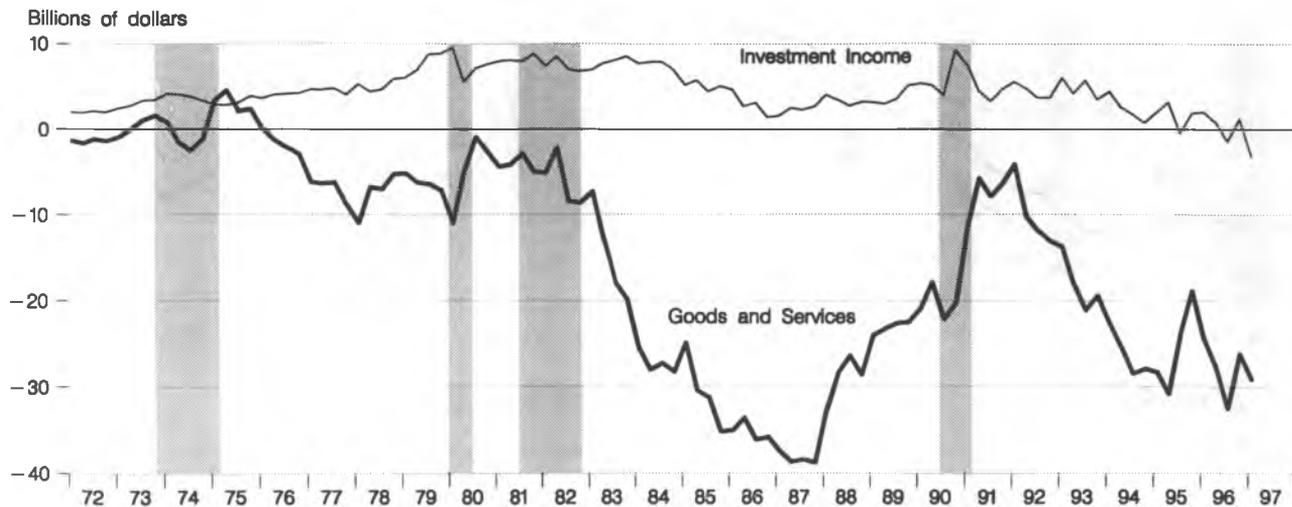
Billions of dollars

National Income Accounts Calendar Years

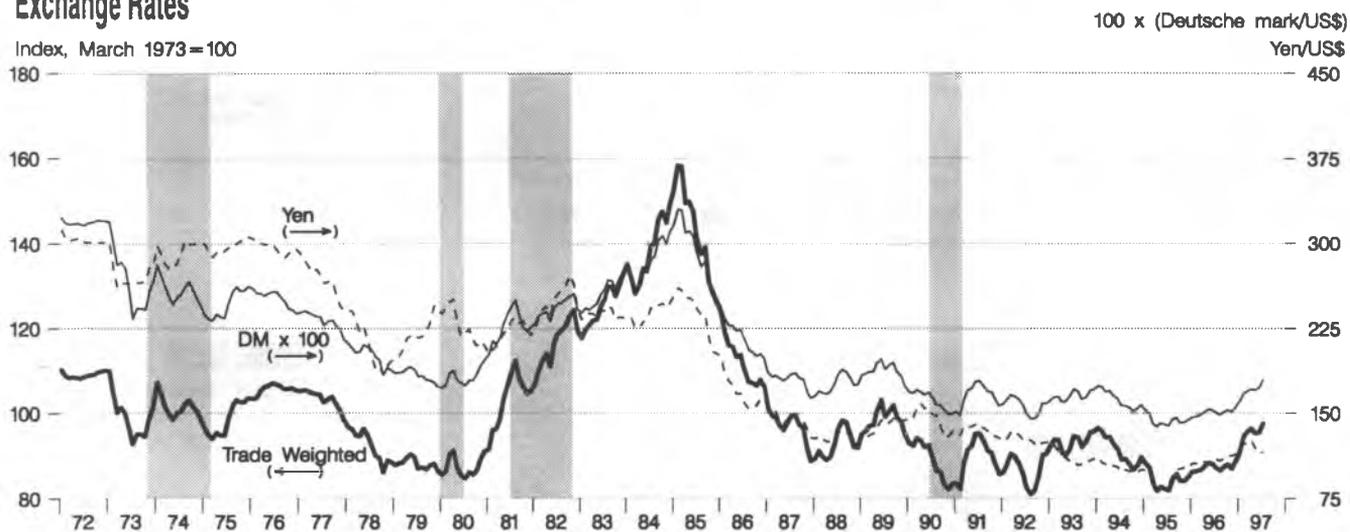
Unified Budget Fiscal Years

	State and Local			Federal			Federal		
	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit(-)	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit(-)	Receipts	Outlays	Surplus or Deficit(-)
1980	361.4	307.0	54.4	561.5	622.5	-61.0	517.1	590.9	-73.8
1981	390.8	335.4	55.4	649.3	707.1	-57.8	599.3	678.2	-79.0
1982	409.0	357.7	51.3	646.4	781.0	-134.6	617.8	745.8	-128.0
1983	443.6	378.8	64.8	671.9	846.3	-174.4	600.6	808.4	-207.8
1984	492.0	405.1	86.9	746.9	902.9	-156.0	666.5	851.8	-185.4
1985	528.7	437.8	90.9	811.3	974.2	-162.9	734.1	946.4	-212.3
1986	570.6	475.7	94.9	850.1	1027.6	-177.5	769.1	990.3	-221.2
1987	594.9	511.1	83.8	937.4	1066.3	-128.9	854.1	1003.9	-149.8
1988	631.4	545.5	85.9	997.2	1118.5	-121.3	909.0	1064.1	-155.2
1989	681.0	585.9	95.1	1079.3	1192.7	-113.4	990.7	1143.2	-152.5
1990	728.9	648.8	80.1	1129.8	1284.5	-154.7	1031.3	1252.5	-221.2
1991	784.2	708.4	75.8	1149.0	1345.0	-196.0	1054.3	1323.6	-269.4
1992	844.3	758.0	86.3	1198.5	1479.4	-280.9	1090.5	1380.9	-290.4
1993	894.4	807.0	87.4	1275.1	1525.7	-250.6	1153.5	1408.7	-255.1
1994	949.2	852.3	96.9	1374.8	1561.4	-186.6	1257.7	1460.8	-203.1
1995	999.0	895.9	103.1	1463.2	1637.6	-174.4	1351.5	1515.4	-163.9
1996	1043.4	938.0	105.4	1587.6	1698.1	-110.5	1452.8	1560.1	-107.3

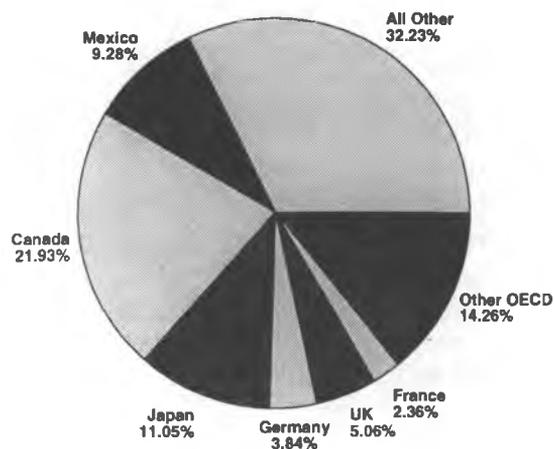
Trade and Investment Income Balances



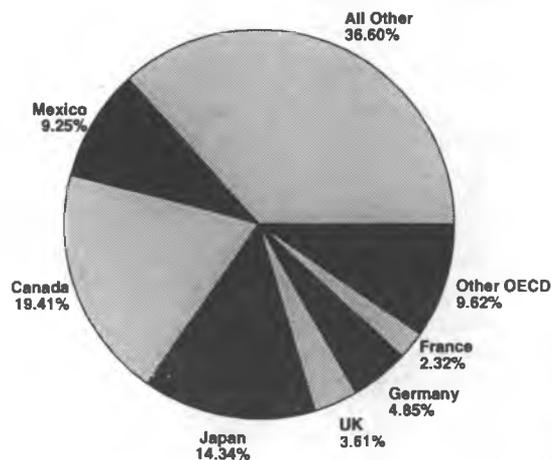
Exchange Rates



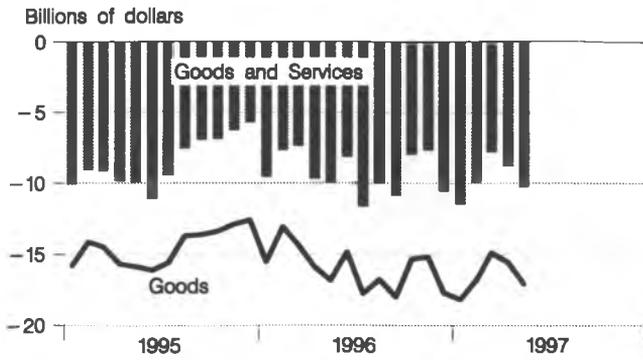
Goods Export Shares, 1996



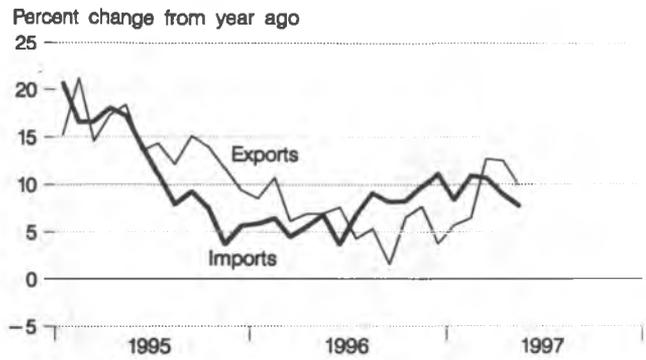
Goods Import Shares, 1996



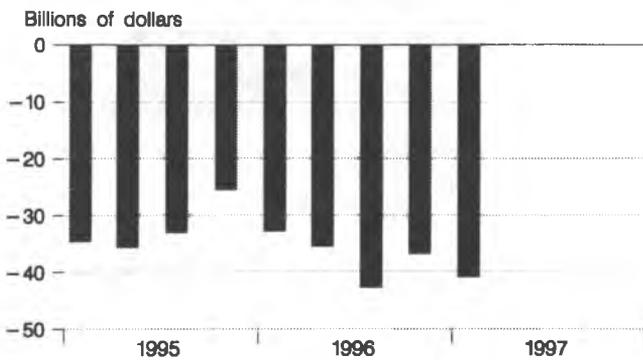
Trade Balance



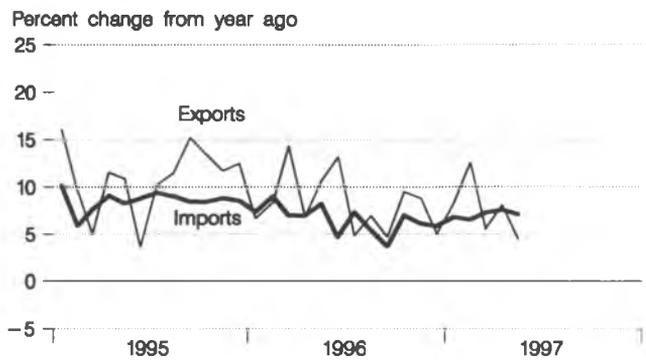
Goods Trade



Current Account Balance



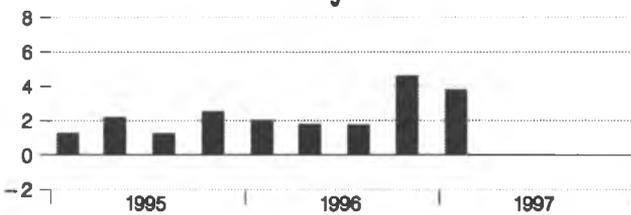
Services Trade



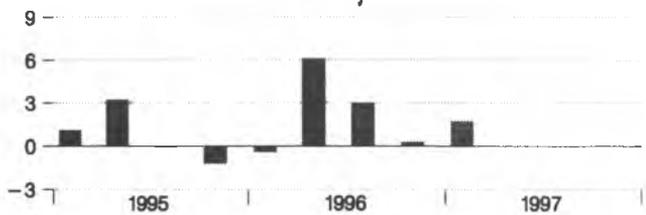
Real GDP Growth of Major Trading Partners

Percent change at annual rate

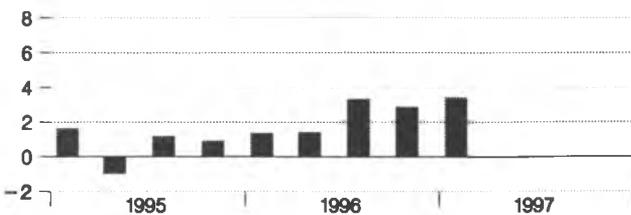
United Kingdom



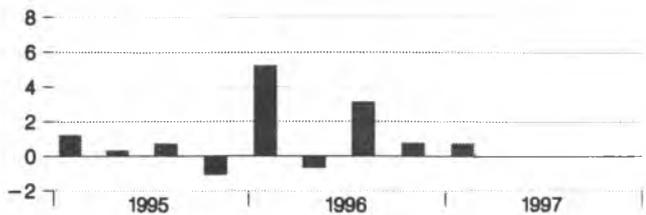
Germany



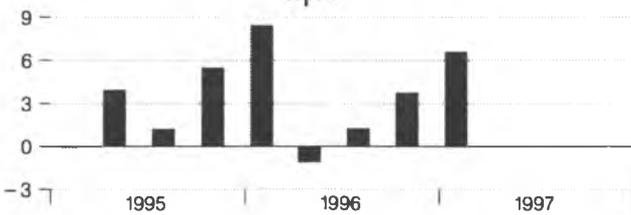
Canada



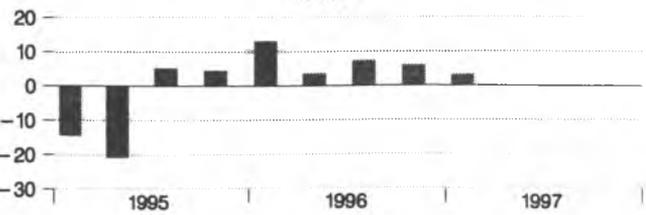
France



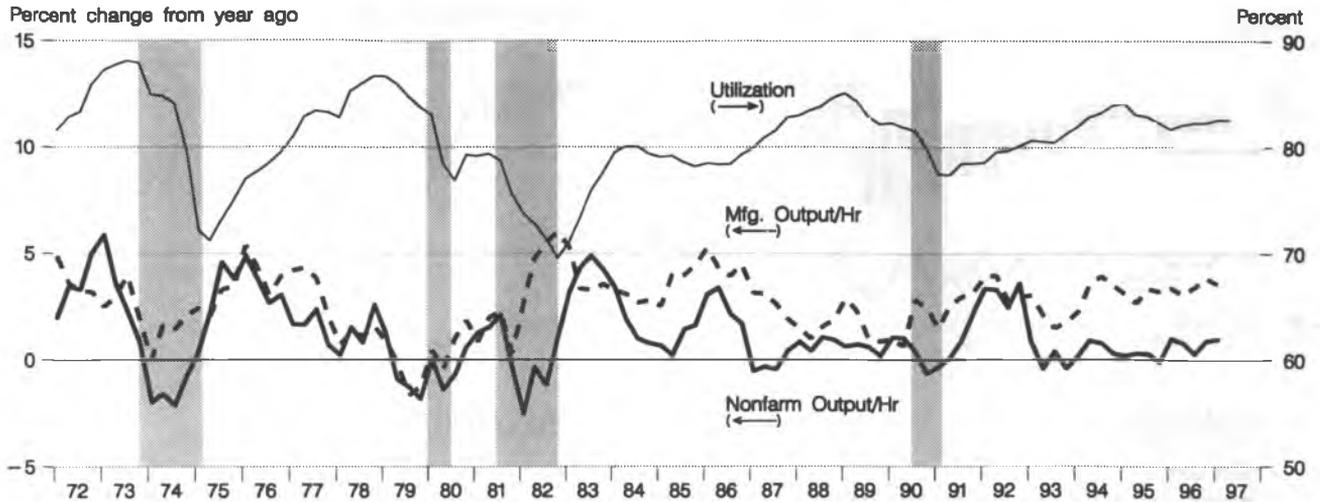
Japan



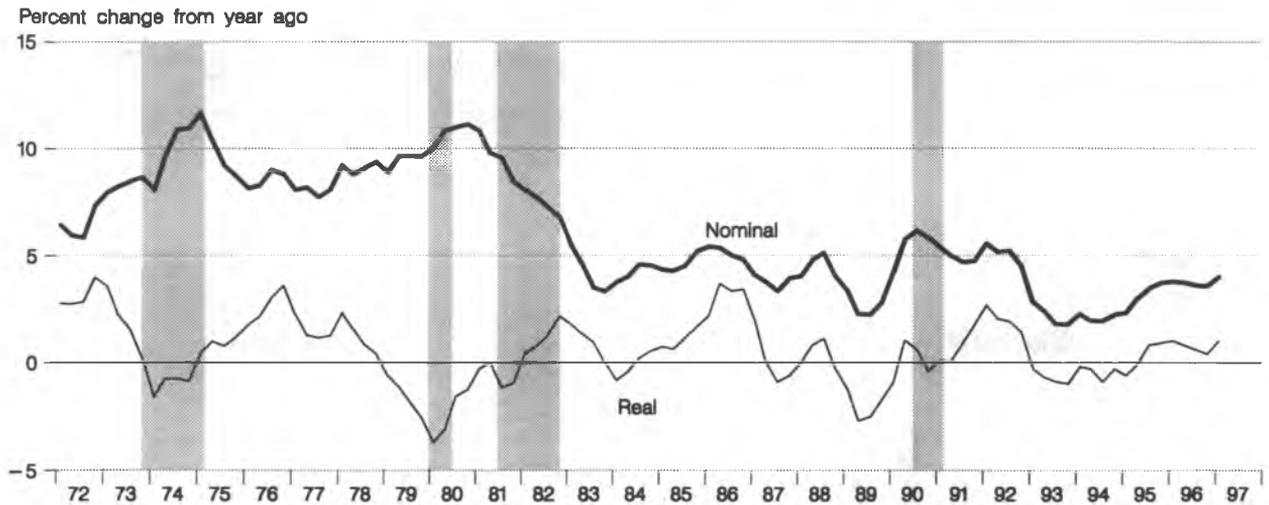
Mexico



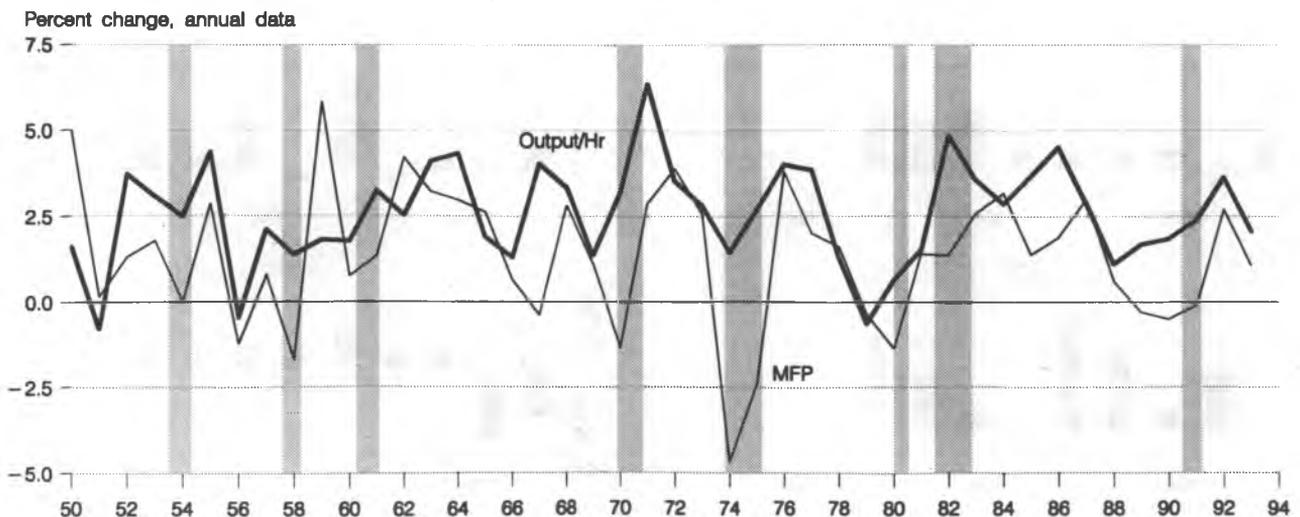
Output per Hour and Manufacturing Capacity Utilization



Nonfarm Compensation per Hour

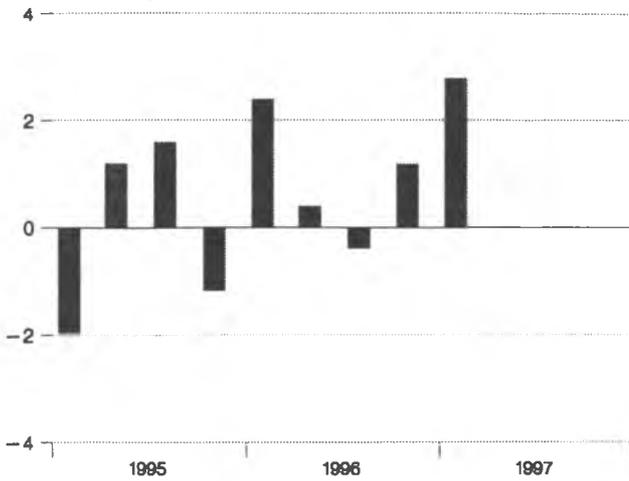


Output per Hour and Multifactor Productivity, Manufacturing



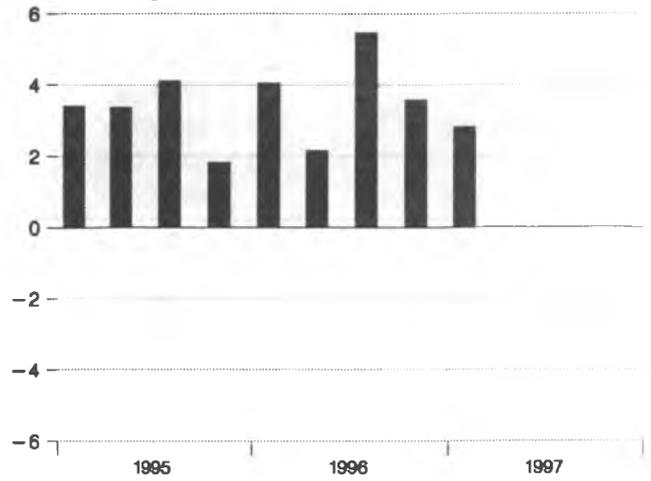
Nonfarm Output per Hour

Percent change at annual rate



Manufacturing Output per Hour

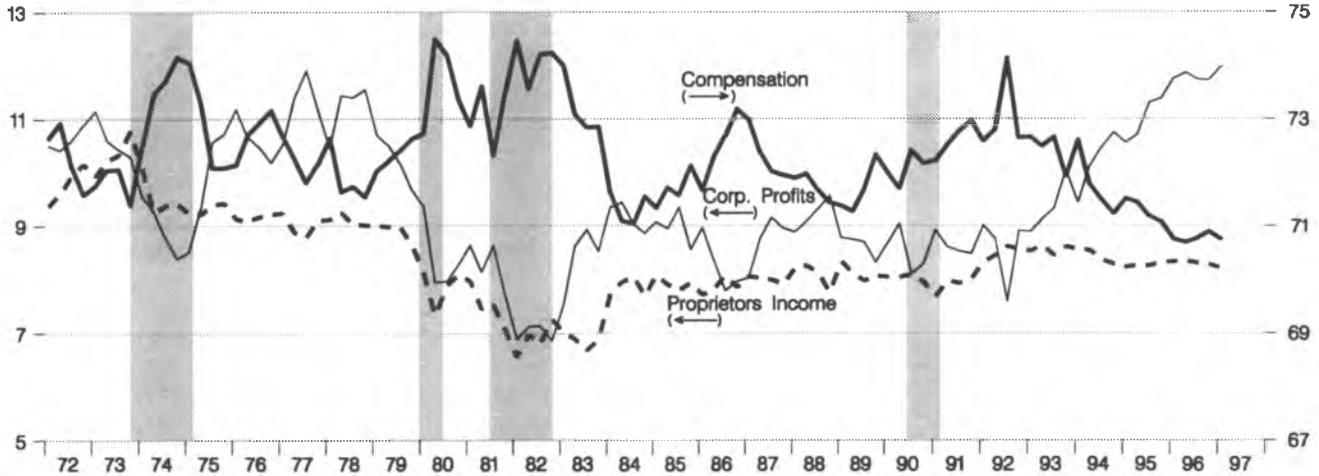
Percent change at annual rate



Selected Component Shares of National Income

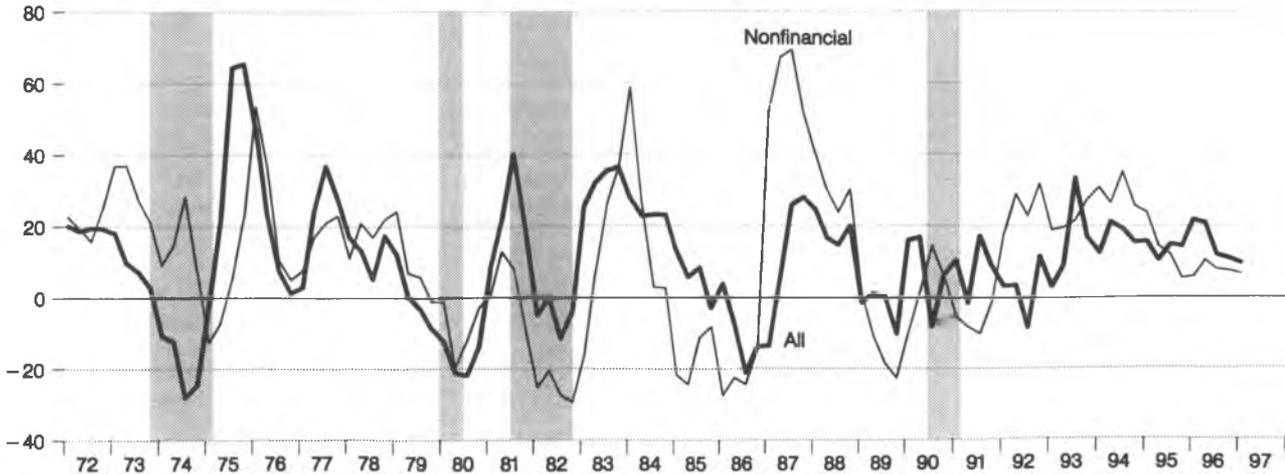
Percent

Percent



Corporate Profits after Tax (with IVA and CCAadj)

Percent change from year ago



	GDP Chain Price Index			Employment Cost Index			ECI: Wages			ECI: Benefits		
	Index	Percent change		Index	Percent change		Index	Percent change		Index	Percent change	
		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago
1992	100.000		2.8	114.3		3.7	111.9		2.9	120.5		5.5
1993	102.643		2.6	118.4		3.6	115.2		2.9	127.0		5.4
1994	105.088		2.4	122.3		3.3	118.5		2.9	132.0		4.0
1995	107.763		2.5	125.6		2.8	121.9		2.9	135.0		2.2
1996	110.224		2.3	129.2		2.8	125.9		3.3	137.4		1.8
1994 1	104.156	2.5	2.3	120.8	3.0	3.3	117.1	2.1	2.8	130.3	4.4	4.3
2	104.736	2.2	2.3	121.8	3.4	3.3	118.1	3.5	3.1	131.5	3.7	4.0
3	105.391	2.5	2.5	122.8	3.3	3.3	119.0	3.1	2.9	132.8	4.0	4.0
4	106.071	2.6	2.5	123.6	2.6	3.1	119.8	2.7	2.8	133.5	2.1	3.6
1995 1	106.933	3.3	2.7	124.4	2.6	3.0	120.6	2.7	3.0	133.9	1.2	2.8
2	107.485	2.1	2.6	125.2	2.6	2.8	121.5	3.0	2.9	134.6	2.1	2.4
3	108.031	2.0	2.5	126.0	2.6	2.6	122.4	3.0	2.9	135.3	2.1	1.9
4	108.603	2.1	2.4	126.9	2.9	2.7	123.2	2.6	2.8	136.0	2.1	1.9
1996 1	109.349	2.8	2.3	127.7	2.5	2.7	124.4	4.0	3.2	136.0	0.0	1.6
2	109.857	1.9	2.2	128.8	3.5	2.9	125.5	3.6	3.3	137.0	3.0	1.8
3	110.588	2.7	2.4	129.7	2.8	2.9	126.4	2.9	3.3	137.7	2.1	1.8
4	111.103	1.9	2.3	130.6	2.8	2.9	127.4	3.2	3.4	138.7	2.9	2.0
1997 1	111.775	2.4	2.2	131.4	2.5	2.9	128.5	3.5	3.3	138.7	0.0	2.0
2	112.173	1.4	2.1	132.5	3.4	2.9	129.7	3.8	3.3	139.7	2.9	2.0
	Exports			Imports			Nonfarm Output per Hour			Nonfarm Compensation/Hr		
	Billions of 1992 \$	Percent change		Billions of 1992 \$	Percent change		Index	Percent change		Index	Percent change	
		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago
1992	639.416		6.6	668.959		7.5	100.0		3.2	100.0		5.2
1993	658.183		2.9	728.409		8.9	100.1		0.1	102.2		2.2
1994	712.399		8.2	817.026		12.2	100.6		0.5	104.3		2.1
1995	791.213		11.1	890.057		8.9	100.8		0.2	107.6		3.2
1996	857.022		8.3	971.469		9.1	101.5		0.7	111.5		3.6
1994 1	676.029	-1.8	4.4	773.638	7.6	10.2	100.3	-1.6	0.2	103.7	2.7	2.3
2	704.131	17.7	6.7	808.022	19.0	11.8	100.5	0.8	0.9	104.0	1.2	2.0
3	722.105	10.6	11.7	833.229	13.1	14.2	100.9	1.6	0.8	104.5	1.9	2.0
4	747.330	14.7	10.0	853.197	9.9	12.3	101.0	0.4	0.3	105.3	3.1	2.2
1995 1	760.368	7.2	12.5	873.861	10.0	13.0	100.5	-2.0	0.2	106.1	3.1	2.3
2	777.447	9.3	10.4	890.284	7.7	10.2	100.8	1.2	0.3	107.1	3.8	3.0
3	802.435	13.5	11.1	895.368	2.3	7.5	101.2	1.6	0.3	108.1	3.8	3.4
4	824.604	11.5	10.3	900.720	2.4	5.6	100.9	-1.2	-0.1	109.2	4.1	3.7
1996 1	828.178	1.7	8.9	928.963	13.1	6.3	101.5	2.4	1.0	110.1	3.3	3.8
2	847.444	9.6	9.0	960.043	14.1	7.8	101.6	0.4	0.8	111.1	3.7	3.7
3	851.382	1.9	6.1	990.240	13.2	10.6	101.5	-0.4	0.3	112.0	3.3	3.6
4	901.071	25.5	9.3	1006.623	6.8	11.8	101.8	1.2	0.9	113.1	4.0	3.6
1997 1	922.652	9.9	11.4	1048.941	17.9	12.9	102.5	2.8	1.0	114.5	5.0	4.0
2	954.117	14.4	12.6	1101.976	21.8	14.8						

National Economic Trends

	Household Survey Employment				Nonfarm Payroll Employment				Nonfarm Aggregate Hours				
	Thousands	Change	Percent change		Thousands	Change	Percent change		Index	Percent change			
			Annual rate	Year ago			Annual rate	Year ago		Monthly rate	Annual rate	Year ago	
1992	118488	775		0.7	108591	336		0.3	121.0			0.7	
1993	120259	1771		1.5	110707	2116		1.9	124.5			2.9	
1994	123067	2808		2.3	114145	3438		3.1	129.8			4.2	
1995	124899	1833		1.5	117195	3051		2.7	133.4			2.8	
1996	126705	1806		1.4	119517	2322		2.0	136.4			2.2	
1995	1	124924	519	1.7	2.4	116482	873	3.1	3.4	133.0	0.8	3.2	4.3
	2	124711	-213	-0.7	1.7	116937	455	1.6	2.9	132.9	-0.1	-0.4	2.7
	3	124820	109	0.4	1.3	117414	478	1.6	2.4	133.6	0.6	2.3	2.5
	4	125142	322	1.0	0.6	117949	534	1.8	2.0	134.2	0.4	1.7	1.7
1996	1	125693	551	1.8	0.6	118471	522	1.8	1.7	134.3	0.1	0.4	1.0
	2	126381	688	2.2	1.3	119248	778	2.7	2.0	136.1	1.3	5.5	2.5
	3	127042	661	2.1	1.8	119898	649	2.2	2.1	137.0	0.7	2.7	2.5
	4	127705	664	2.1	2.0	120452	555	1.9	2.1	138.1	0.8	3.1	2.9
1997	1	128728	1023	3.2	2.4	121138	686	2.3	2.3	139.5	1.0	4.1	3.8
	2	129462	734	2.3	2.4	121856	717	2.4	2.2	140.1	0.4	1.7	2.9
1995	Jul	124804	271	2.6	1.7	117142	78	0.8	2.5	133.6	0.5	5.5	2.6
	Aug	124729	-75	-0.7	1.2	117465	323	3.4	2.4	133.4	-0.1	-1.8	2.5
	Sep	124927	198	1.9	1.1	117636	171	1.8	2.3	133.9	0.4	4.6	2.4
	Oct	125235	308	3.0	1.0	117775	139	1.4	2.2	134.4	0.4	4.6	1.8
	Nov	125124	-111	-1.1	0.5	117951	176	1.8	2.0	134.3	-0.1	-0.9	1.9
	Dec	125068	-56	-0.5	0.3	118120	169	1.7	1.9	133.9	-0.3	-3.5	1.4
1996	Jan	125311	243	2.4	0.4	118058	-62	-0.6	1.6	132.5	-1.0	-11.8	-0.8
	Feb	125706	395	3.8	0.6	118550	492	5.1	1.7	135.1	2.0	26.3	1.9
	Mar	126062	356	3.5	0.8	118804	254	2.6	1.8	135.4	0.2	2.7	2.0
	Apr	126125	63	0.6	0.9	118966	162	1.6	1.8	135.1	-0.2	-2.6	1.0
	May	126428	303	2.9	1.5	119263	297	3.0	2.1	135.7	0.4	5.5	2.9
	Jun	126590	162	1.5	1.7	119516	253	2.6	2.1	137.6	1.4	18.2	3.5
	Jul	126889	299	2.9	1.7	119691	175	1.8	2.2	136.1	-1.1	-12.3	1.9
	Aug	126988	99	0.9	1.8	119983	292	3.0	2.1	137.1	0.7	9.2	2.8
	Sep	127248	260	2.5	1.9	120019	36	0.4	2.0	137.9	0.6	7.2	3.0
	Oct	127617	369	3.5	1.9	120248	229	2.3	2.1	137.2	-0.5	-5.9	2.1
	Nov	127644	27	0.3	2.0	120450	202	2.0	2.1	137.9	0.5	6.3	2.7
	Dec	127855	211	2.0	2.2	120659	209	2.1	2.1	139.1	0.9	11.0	3.9
1997	Jan	128580	725	7.0	2.6	120909	250	2.5	2.4	138.2	-0.6	-7.5	4.3
	Feb	128430	-150	-1.4	2.2	121162	253	2.5	2.2	140.0	1.3	16.8	3.6
	Mar	129175	745	7.2	2.5	121344	182	1.8	2.1	140.2	0.1	1.7	3.5
	Apr	129384	209	2.0	2.6	121671	327	3.3	2.3	139.6	-0.4	-5.0	3.3
	May	129639	255	2.4	2.5	121834	163	1.6	2.2	140.0	0.3	3.5	3.2
	Jun	129364	-275	-2.5	2.2	122062	228	2.3	2.1	140.6	0.4	5.3	2.2
	Jul	129708	344	3.2	2.2	122378	316	3.2	2.2	139.9	-0.5	-5.8	2.8

	Unempl. Rate	Retail Sales				Industrial Production				Treasury Yields	
		Billions of dollars	Percent change			Index	Percent change			3-mo	10-yr
			Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago		Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago		
1992	7.5	1944.605			4.8	100.000			3.2	3.43	7.01
1993	6.9	2071.178			6.5	103.366			3.4	3.00	5.86
1994	6.1	2224.913			7.4	108.558			5.0	4.25	7.08
1995	5.6	2326.536			4.6	112.109			3.3	5.49	6.58
1996	5.4	2439.841			4.9	115.198			2.8	5.01	6.44
1995	1	573.137	0.2	0.8	5.6	111.764	1.0	3.9	5.1	5.74	7.48
	2	578.680	1.0	3.9	5.2	111.561	-0.2	-0.7	3.3	5.60	6.62
	3	585.146	1.1	4.5	4.5	112.441	0.8	3.2	3.0	5.37	6.32
	4	589.573	0.8	3.1	3.1	112.671	0.2	0.8	1.8	5.26	5.89
1996	1	600.484	1.9	7.6	4.8	113.128	0.4	1.6	1.2	4.93	5.91
	2	609.357	1.5	6.0	5.3	114.844	1.5	6.2	2.9	5.02	6.72
	3	611.040	0.3	1.1	4.4	115.774	0.8	3.3	3.0	5.10	6.78
	4	618.960	1.3	5.3	5.0	117.048	1.1	4.5	3.9	4.98	6.34
1997	1	635.597	2.7	11.2	5.8	118.326	1.1	4.4	4.6	5.06	6.56
	2	629.544	-1.0	-3.8	3.3	119.576	1.1	4.3	4.1	5.05	6.70
1995	Jul	194.315	-0.1	-1.2	5.3	111.716	-0.0	-0.2	2.4	5.42	6.28
	Aug	195.752	0.7	9.2	4.5	112.603	0.8	10.0	3.1	5.40	6.49
	Sep	195.079	-0.3	-4.0	3.8	113.003	0.4	4.3	3.4	5.28	6.20
	Oct	194.865	-0.1	-1.3	2.3	112.522	-0.4	-5.0	2.3	5.28	6.04
	Nov	196.702	0.9	11.9	3.1	112.704	0.2	2.0	1.9	5.36	5.93
	Dec	198.006	0.7	8.3	3.8	112.788	0.1	0.9	1.1	5.14	5.71
1996	Jan	197.714	-0.1	-1.8	2.6	112.361	-0.4	-4.4	0.4	5.00	5.65
	Feb	201.085	1.7	22.5	6.1	113.782	1.3	16.3	1.9	4.83	5.81
	Mar	201.685	0.3	3.6	5.6	113.241	-0.5	-5.6	1.4	4.96	6.27
	Apr	202.496	0.4	4.9	6.0	114.284	0.9	11.6	2.6	4.95	6.51
	May	204.177	0.8	10.4	5.8	114.782	0.4	5.4	2.9	5.02	6.74
	Jun	202.684	-0.7	-8.4	4.2	115.466	0.6	7.4	3.3	5.09	6.91
	Jul	203.291	0.3	3.7	4.6	115.495	0.0	0.3	3.4	5.15	6.87
	Aug	203.036	-0.1	-1.5	3.7	115.848	0.3	3.7	2.9	5.05	6.64
	Sep	204.713	0.8	10.4	4.9	115.978	0.1	1.4	2.6	5.09	6.83
	Oct	206.277	0.8	9.6	5.9	116.231	0.2	2.6	3.3	4.99	6.53
	Nov	205.789	-0.2	-2.8	4.6	117.216	0.8	10.7	4.0	5.03	6.20
	Dec	206.894	0.5	6.6	4.5	117.697	0.4	5.0	4.4	4.91	6.30
1997	Jan	210.233	1.6	21.2	6.3	117.765	0.1	0.7	4.8	5.03	6.58
	Feb	213.022	1.3	17.1	5.9	118.366	0.5	6.3	4.0	5.01	6.42
	Mar	212.342	-0.3	-3.8	5.3	118.846	0.4	5.0	4.9	5.14	6.69
	Apr	209.934	-1.1	-12.8	3.7	119.302	0.4	4.7	4.4	5.16	6.89
	May	209.311	-0.3	-3.5	2.5	119.539	0.2	2.4	4.1	5.05	6.71
	Jun	210.299	0.5	5.8	3.8	119.886	0.3	3.5	3.8	4.93	6.49
	Jul									5.05	6.22

National Economic Trends

		Consumer Price Index					Consumer Price Index less Food and Energy					Producer Price Index Finished Goods			
		Index	Percent change				Index	Percent change				Index	Percent change		
			Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	Year to date		Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	Year to date		Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago
1992		140.4			3.0		147.5			3.7		123.2			1.2
1993		144.6			3.0		152.4			3.3		124.7			1.2
1994		148.3			2.6		156.7			2.8		125.6			0.7
1995		152.5			2.8		161.4			3.0		127.9			1.9
1996		157.0			2.9		165.8			2.7		131.3			2.6
1995	1	151.0	0.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	159.6	0.8	3.3	3.0	3.3	127.1	0.7	3.0	1.7
	2	152.1	0.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	161.0	0.8	3.4	3.0	3.4	127.6	0.4	1.7	2.0
	3	152.9	0.5	2.1	2.6	2.7	162.0	0.6	2.6	3.0	3.1	128.0	0.3	1.3	1.6
	4	153.9	0.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	163.1	0.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	129.0	0.7	2.9	2.2
1996	1	155.1	0.8	3.3	2.8	3.3	164.2	0.7	2.6	2.9	2.6	129.9	0.7	3.0	2.2
	2	156.4	0.8	3.4	2.8	3.4	165.3	0.6	2.6	2.7	2.6	130.9	0.7	2.9	2.5
	3	157.5	0.7	2.7	3.0	3.1	166.3	0.6	2.5	2.7	2.6	131.6	0.6	2.3	2.8
	4	158.8	0.8	3.3	3.2	3.2	167.4	0.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	132.9	1.0	3.9	3.0
1997	1	159.7	0.6	2.4	2.9	2.4	168.3	0.6	2.2	2.5	2.2	132.7	-0.2	-0.6	2.1
	2	160.1	0.3	1.1	2.4	1.7	169.5	0.7	2.8	2.5	2.5	131.3	-1.0	-4.1	0.3
1995	Jun	152.5	0.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	161.3	0.2	2.3	2.9	3.4	127.7	0.0	0.0	2.0
	Jul	152.6	0.1	0.8	2.8	2.6	161.6	0.2	2.3	3.0	3.3	127.9	0.2	1.9	1.8
	Aug	153.0	0.3	3.2	2.6	2.7	162.0	0.2	3.0	2.9	3.2	127.9	0.0	0.0	1.3
	Sep	153.2	0.1	1.6	2.5	2.6	162.4	0.2	3.0	3.0	3.2	128.3	0.3	3.8	1.8
	Oct	153.7	0.3	4.0	2.7	2.7	162.9	0.3	3.8	3.1	3.3	128.5	0.2	1.9	2.4
	Nov	153.8	0.1	0.8	2.6	2.5	163.1	0.1	1.5	3.0	3.1	128.8	0.2	2.8	2.1
	Dec	154.1	0.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	163.4	0.2	2.2	3.0	3.0	129.6	0.6	7.7	2.2
1996	Jan	154.7	0.4	4.8	2.7	4.8	163.8	0.2	3.0	2.9	3.0	129.7	0.1	0.9	2.2
	Feb	155.1	0.3	3.1	2.7	4.0	164.2	0.2	3.0	2.9	3.0	129.7	0.0	0.0	2.0
	Mar	155.6	0.3	3.9	2.8	4.0	164.6	0.2	3.0	2.8	3.0	130.4	0.5	6.7	2.4
	Apr	156.1	0.3	3.9	2.8	3.9	164.9	0.2	2.2	2.7	2.8	130.6	0.2	1.9	2.4
	May	156.5	0.3	3.1	2.9	3.8	165.3	0.2	3.0	2.7	2.8	130.8	0.2	1.9	2.4
	Jun	156.7	0.1	1.5	2.8	3.4	165.6	0.2	2.2	2.7	2.7	131.2	0.3	3.7	2.7
	Jul	157.1	0.3	3.1	2.9	3.4	166.0	0.2	2.9	2.7	2.7	131.2	0.0	0.0	2.6
	Aug	157.4	0.2	2.3	2.9	3.2	166.2	0.1	1.5	2.6	2.6	131.6	0.3	3.7	2.9
	Sep	157.9	0.3	3.9	3.1	3.3	166.7	0.3	3.7	2.6	2.7	132.0	0.3	3.7	2.9
	Oct	158.3	0.3	3.1	3.0	3.3	167.0	0.2	2.2	2.5	2.6	132.5	0.4	4.6	3.1
	Nov	158.8	0.3	3.9	3.3	3.3	167.4	0.2	2.9	2.6	2.7	132.7	0.2	1.8	3.0
	Dec	159.2	0.3	3.1	3.3	3.3	167.7	0.2	2.2	2.6	2.6	133.4	0.5	6.5	2.9
1997	Jan	159.4	0.1	1.5	3.0	1.5	167.9	0.1	1.4	2.5	1.4	133.0	-0.3	-3.5	2.5
	Feb	159.8	0.3	3.1	3.0	2.3	168.3	0.2	2.9	2.5	2.2	132.6	-0.3	-3.5	2.2
	Mar	159.9	0.1	0.8	2.8	1.8	168.7	0.2	2.9	2.5	2.4	132.4	-0.2	-1.8	1.5
	Apr	160.0	0.1	0.8	2.5	1.5	169.2	0.3	3.6	2.6	2.7	131.6	-0.6	-7.0	0.8
	May	160.1	0.1	0.8	2.3	1.4	169.5	0.2	2.1	2.5	2.6	131.2	-0.3	-3.6	0.3
	Jun	160.3	0.1	1.5	2.3	1.4	169.7	0.1	1.4	2.5	2.4	131.1	-0.1	-0.9	-0.1

Notes

Pages 4, 5: **Final sales** is gross domestic product (GDP) minus change in business inventories. **Advance, preliminary, and final GDP growth rates** are released during the first, second, and third months of the following quarter. Changes result from incorporation of more complete information. The **Purchasing Managers' Index** is a weighted average of diffusion indexes for new orders, production, supplier deliveries, inventories, and employment. The National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM) surveys over 300 firms in 20 manufacturing industries, weighting responses by industry share of GDP. **Aggregate and average weekly hours** are paid hours of production and nonsupervisory employees. The inventory-sales ratio uses nominal (current-dollar) inventory and sales data.

Page 6: The **contribution** of a component X_t to the overall GDP growth rate in quarter t is $100 \times [(1 + (X_t - X_{t-1})/GDP_{t-1})^4 - 1]$. The sign is changed for **imports**. This calculation forces components to add up to the GDP growth rate before compounding and does not exactly match *Survey of Current Business*, Table 8.2. The **residual line** is calculated using the finest level of detail in the table.

Page 7: Ten-year **Treasury yields** are adjusted to constant maturity. Three-month yields are secondary market averages, but all rates used in the yield curves are adjusted to constant maturity. The **total return on the Standard and Poor's 500** is dividends as a percent of the value of the index plus the percent change in the index.

Pages 8,9: **Oil prices** are monthly averages of daily spot prices for West Texas intermediate crude (*Wall Street Journal*). **Consumer price index** is for all urban consumers. The **consumption chain price index** is the index associated with the personal consumption expenditures component of GDP. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** covers private nonfarm employers. **ECI compensation** refers to a fixed sample of jobs, while **compensation per hour** covers all workers in the nonfarm business sector in a given quarter. In both cases, **compensation** is wages and salaries plus benefits.

Pages 10,11: **Nonfarm payroll employment** is counted in a survey of about 390,000 establishments (Current Employment Survey). It excludes self-employed individuals and workers in private households, but double-counts individuals with more than one job. The **household survey** (Current Population Survey) of about 50,000 households provides estimates of civilian employment, unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, and employment-population ratio. **Population** is civilian, noninstitutional, 16 years and over. New population controls introduced in January 1997 affect levels and growth rates of household survey employment, labor force and population. The unemployment rate and other ratios are minimally affected. 90 percent confidence intervals for the unemployment rate (± 0.2 percentage points) and change in household survey employment ($\pm 376,000$) measure uncertainty due to sample size. The household survey was changed in January 1994, so care should be exercised in making short-term comparisons around this date, particularly with the duration data shown on page 10. Other changes in the survey are detailed in Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment and Earnings*, Appendix A.

Pages 12, 13: **Debt service** is an estimate of scheduled interest and principal payments on outstanding debt. The **Michigan consumer sentiment index** shows changes in a summary measure of consumers' answers to five questions about their current and expected financial situation, expectations about future economic conditions, and attitudes about making large purchases. The survey is based on a representative sample of U.S. households.

Pages 14, 15: Overall **gross saving** includes government saving, which is the sum of the government surplus and capital consumption (see notes for pages 16 and 17). **Net foreign investment (NFI)** is U.S. investment abroad minus foreign investment in the U.S. Aside from a statistical discrepancy, NFI also equals the difference between gross domestic investment and saving.

Pages 16, 17: **Government consumption and investment** is current expenditures on goods and services, including capital consumption (depreciation) and gross investment, as reported in the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA). The **unified federal budget deficit** differs from **NIPA basis** in four main ways: (1) NIPA excludes transactions involving existing assets; (2) NIPA outlays exclude government investment and include consumption of government capital, while unified budget outlays do the reverse; (3) NIPA accounts exclude Puerto Rico and U.S. territories; and (4) various timing issues are handled differently. **Outlays and receipts** on these pages are from the NIPAs, except as noted. Since 1977, the federal **fiscal year** starts on October 1. **Federal debt held by the public** includes holdings of the Federal Reserve System and excludes holdings of the social security and other federal trust funds. Federal grants in aid to state and local governments appear in both state and local receipts and federal outlays.

Pages 18, 19: The **trade balance** (shown on a balance of payments basis) is the difference between exports and imports of goods (merchandise) and services. It is nearly identical in concept to the **net exports** component of GDP, but differs slightly in accounting details. The **investment income balance** equals income received from U.S.-owned assets in other countries minus income paid on foreign-owned assets in the U.S. The investment income balance is nearly identical in concept to the difference between gross national product and gross domestic product, but differs in accounting details. The **current account balance** is the trade balance plus the balance on investment income plus net unilateral transfers to the U.S. from other countries.

Pages 20, 21: **Output per hour (Y/H)**, **unit labor cost (C/Y)**, and **compensation per hour (C/H)** are indexes which approximately obey the following relationship: $\%(Y/H) + \%(C/Y) = \%(C/H)$ with $\%()$ meaning percent changes. Unit labor cost is shown on page 9. **Real compensation per hour** uses the CPI to adjust for the effects of inflation. **Multifactor productivity** estimates changes in output that do not correspond to changes in quantities of labor, capital, or intermediate inputs. **Inventory valuation adjustments (IVA)** remove the effect of changes in the value of existing inventories from corporate profits and proprietors' income. (This change in value does not correspond to current production and therefore is not part of GDP). **Capital consumption adjustments (CCAdj)** increase profits and proprietors' income by the difference between estimates of economic depreciation and depreciation allowed by the tax code. Components of national income not shown are rental income of persons and net interest.

Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Dept. of Commerce

National income and product accounts, international trade and investment data (except by country), auto and light truck sales

Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Inventory-sales ratios, retail sales, capital goods orders, housing starts, exports and imports by country

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Dept. of Labor

All employment-related data, employment cost index, consumer and producer price indexes, unit labor cost, output per hour, compensation per hour, total factor productivity

United States Department of Treasury

Unified budget receipts, outlays, deficit

Federal Reserve Board

Index of industrial production, treasury yields, exchange rates, capacity utilization, consumer debt service

The Survey Research Center, The University of Michigan

Consumer sentiment index

The Conference Board

Help-wanted advertising index

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

GDP for major trading partners (not available on FRED)

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Post Office Box 442
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Subscriber:

Please include address label with
subscription inquiries or address changes.