



# National Economic Trends



## Give Me Your Skilled....

A previous issue of *National Economic Trends* (January 2001) identified the role of immigration in sustaining the rate of U.S. population growth in the face of a declining birth rate. A related issue is whether changes in immigration policy could help the federal government finance the increase in transfer payments—Social Security and Medicare—that will occur when the baby-boom generation retires.

A recent article suggests that immigration policy could be reformed with this goal in mind.<sup>1</sup> Storesletten (2000) considers the differences between immigrants and the native population and their implications for the projected fiscal burden of the retirement of the baby boomers. His findings suggest that a selective immigration policy—one that would increase the inflow of medium- and high-skilled immigrants of working age—would generate additional tax revenue without a commensurate increase in government spending.

For immigration to have such a beneficial impact, policies that influence the characteristics of individual immigrants ought to receive as much attention as policies that determine the number of immigrants admitted. Currently, on average, immigrants are younger than the native-born. According to the March 2000 Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Census Bureau, 79.0 percent of the foreign-born were between the ages of 18 and 64 years, compared with 59.7 percent of the native population. And 43.6 percent of the foreign-born were between the ages of 25 and 44 years, compared with only 28.6 percent of the native population.

The level of skills and education is also more variable across the foreign-born population than it is across the native population. According to the March 2000 CPS, about 22.2 percent of the foreign-born had less than a 9th grade education, compared with 4.7 percent of the native population. The proportions that hold a bachelor's degree or higher education were much more balanced: 25.8 per-

cent among the foreign-born and 25.6 percent among the native population.

Storesletten finds that an increase in the inflow of low-skilled immigrants alone would not be sufficient to maintain balance in future fiscal budgets. Nor is the average skill level of *current* immigrants high enough to maintain a balanced budget in the long run. Storesletten argues, however, that an increase in the relative inflow of medium- and high-skilled immigrants of working age would enable the government to make promised transfer payments without resorting to tax increases or spending cuts.

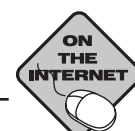
Under current immigration policy, it is not clear whether the average skill level of immigrants has been trending up or down. Studies of the Census and CPS data suggest that the average skill level of new immigrants has been declining since the 1980s relative to the native population. An opposing study, however, disputes this finding—at least with respect to legal immigrants—using data from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.<sup>2</sup> It is clear, however, that current immigration policy does not explicitly aim to achieve a high average skill level among new immigrants.

Designing a selective immigration policy would undoubtedly prove difficult, as many past immigrants count on being able to sponsor family members immigrating to this country, regardless of their skill level. Nevertheless, the United States could follow Canada and Australia in implementing a preference system for potential immigrants that would give some weight to family ties as well as skills. As the political process addresses immigration issues, it is worth considering the potential economic impact of switching from the current, rather passive, system to a skill-based, strategic immigration policy.

—Rubén Hernández-Murillo

<sup>1</sup>Storesletten, Kjetil. "Sustaining Fiscal Policy Through Immigration," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 108 (2), April 2000, pp. 300-23.

<sup>2</sup>Jasso, Guillermina, Mark R. Rosenzweig and James P. Smith. "The Changing Skill of New Immigrants to the United States: Recent Trends and Their Determinants," NBER Working Paper No. 6764, October 1998.



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## ***Conventions used in this publication:***

1. Shaded areas indicate recessions, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
2. *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:

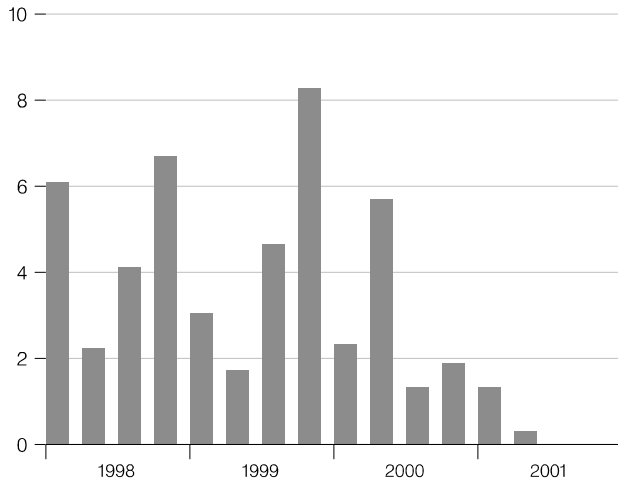
$$100 \times \left[ \left( \frac{X_t}{X_{t-1}} \right)^4 - 1 \right]$$

For monthly data replace 4 with 12.

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

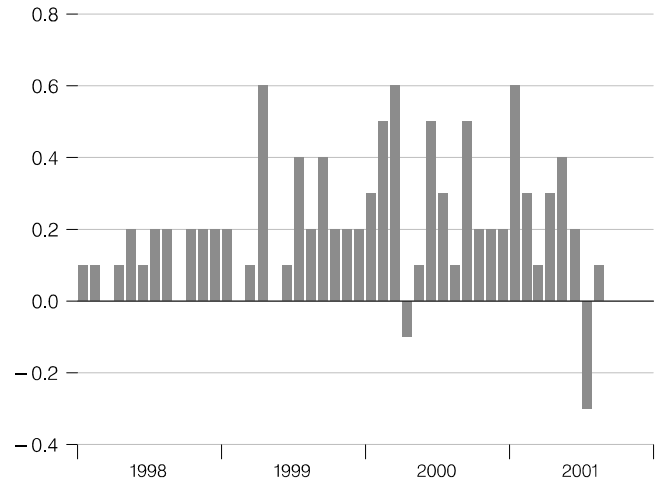
### Real GDP Growth

Percent change at annual rate



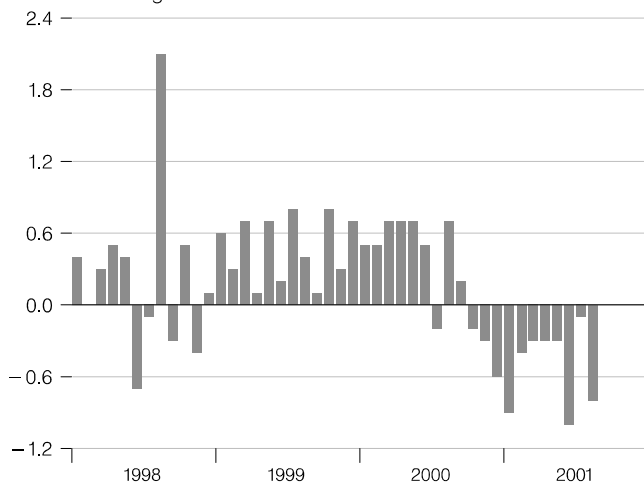
### Consumer Price Index

Percent change



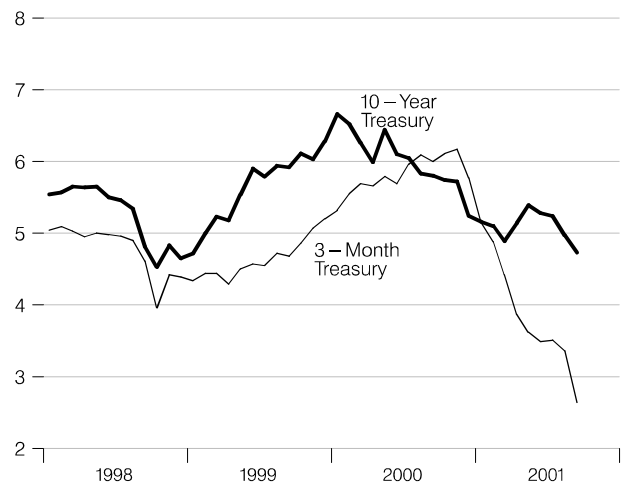
### Industrial Production

Percent change



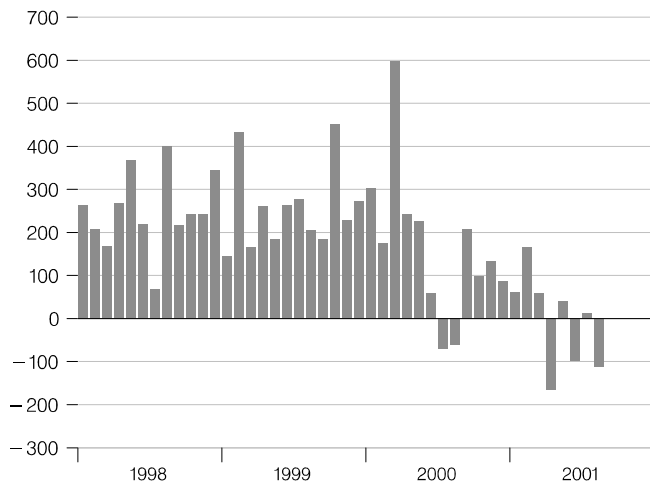
### Interest Rates

Percent



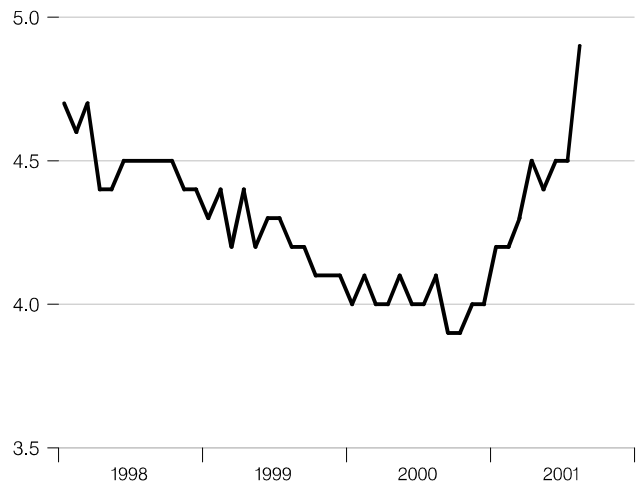
### Change in Nonfarm Payrolls

Thousands



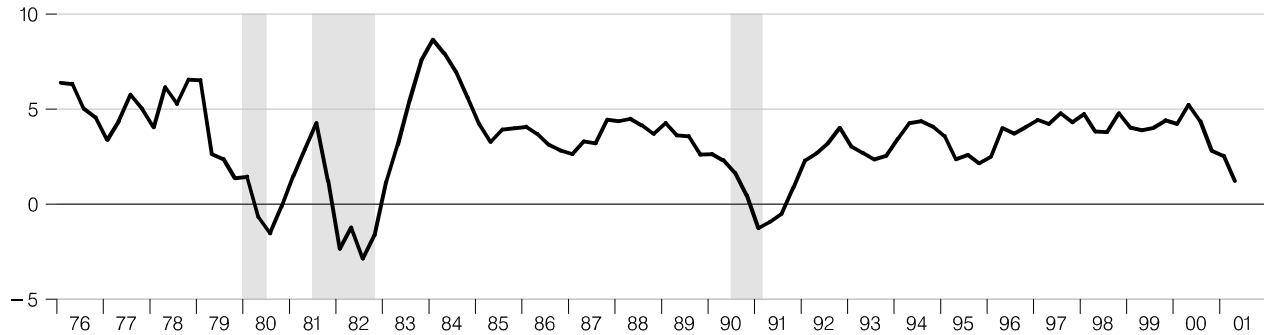
### Unemployment Rate

Percent of labor force



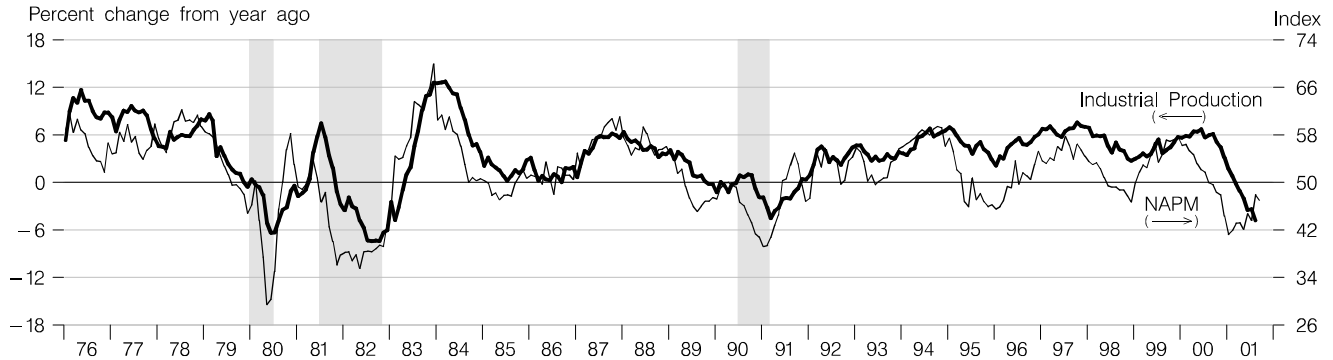
## Real Gross Domestic Product

Percent change from year ago



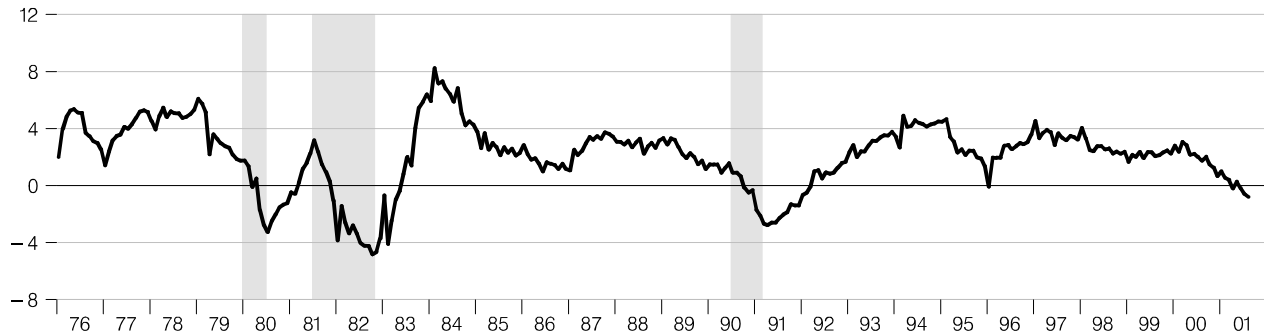
## Industrial Production and Purchasing Managers' (NAPM) Indexes

Percent change from year ago



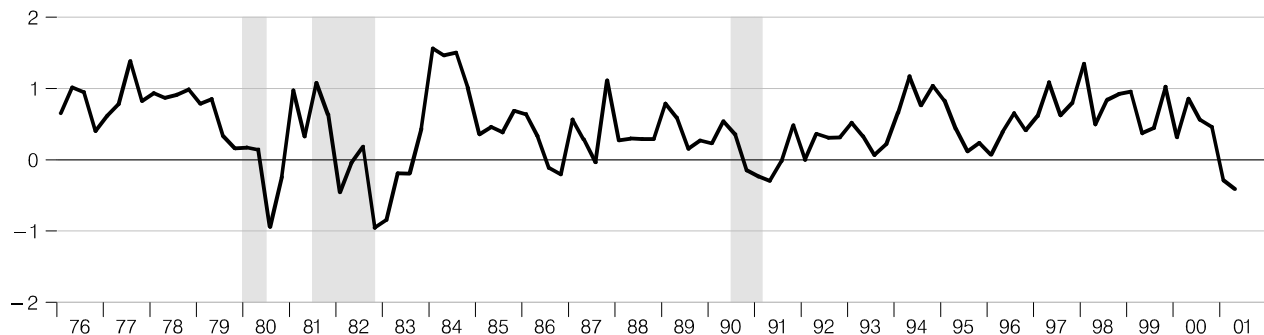
## Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours

Percent change from year ago



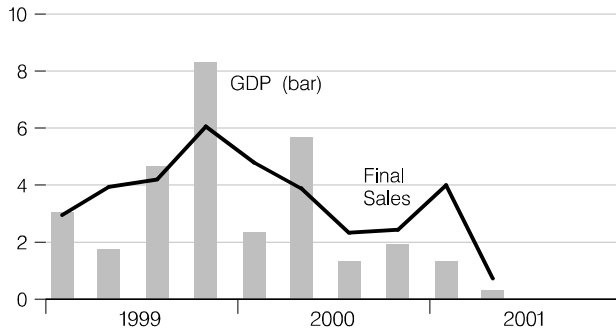
## Real Change in Private Inventories

Percent of GDP

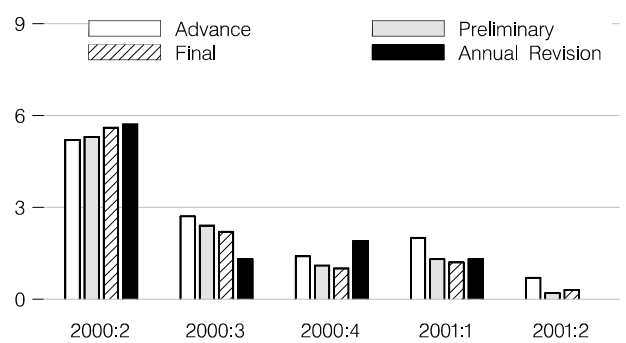


**Real Final Sales and GDP**

Percent change at annual rate

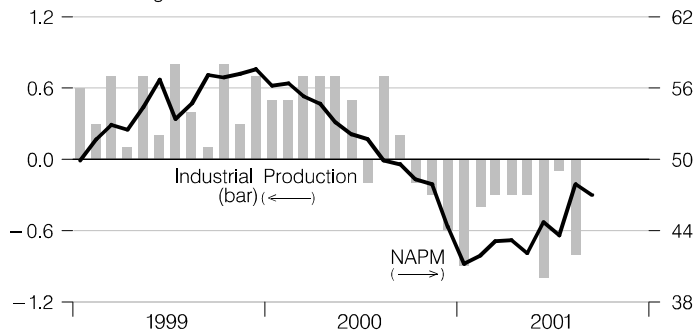
**Real GDP Revisions**

Percent change at annual rate

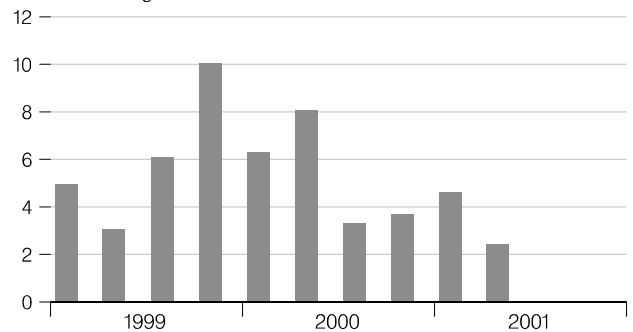
**Industrial Production and NAPM Index**

Percent change

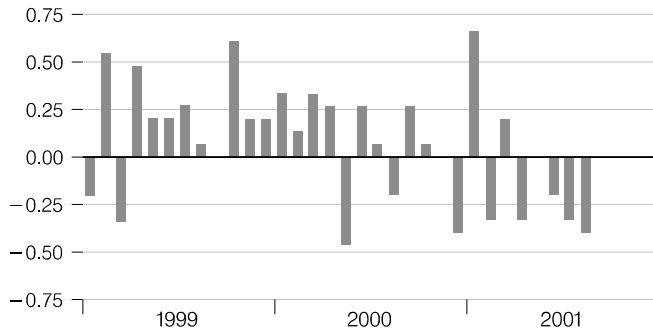
Index

**Nominal Gross Domestic Product**

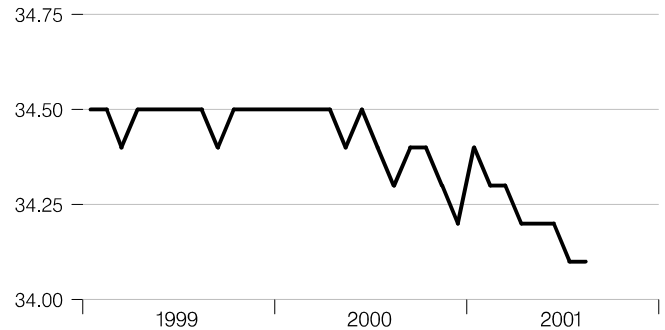
Percent change at annual rate

**Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours**

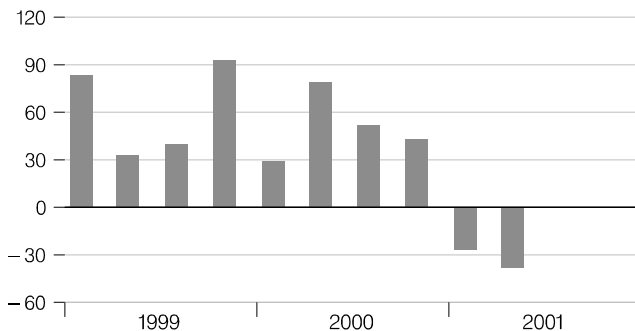
Percent change

**Average Weekly Private Nonfarm Hours**

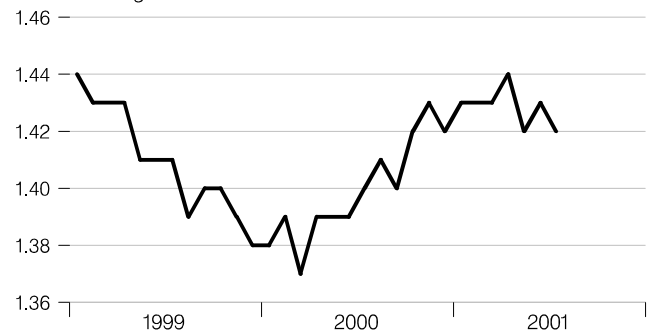
Hours

**Real Change in Private Inventories**

Billions of 1996 dollars

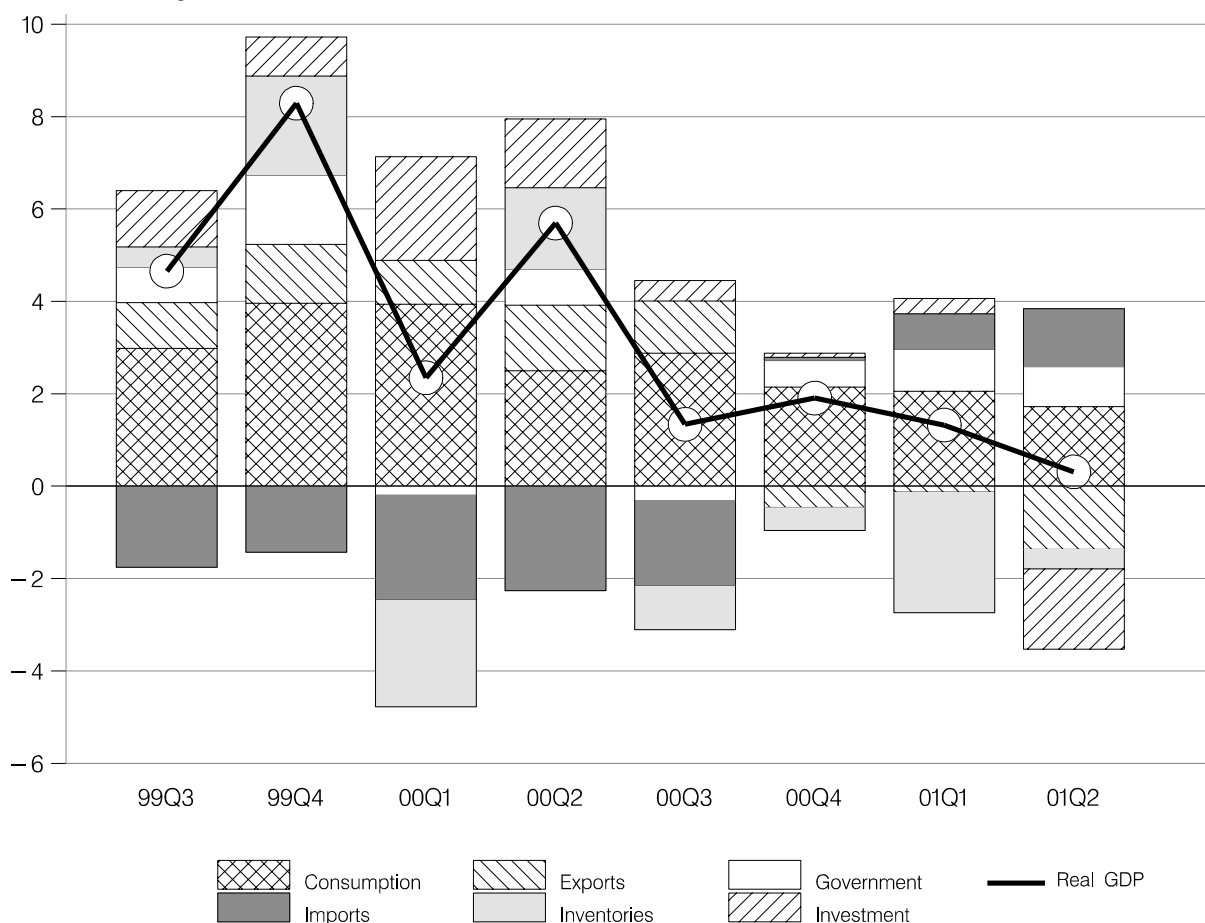
**Inventory-Sales Ratio**

Manufacturing and trade



## Contribution of Components to Real GDP Growth

Percent change at annual rate



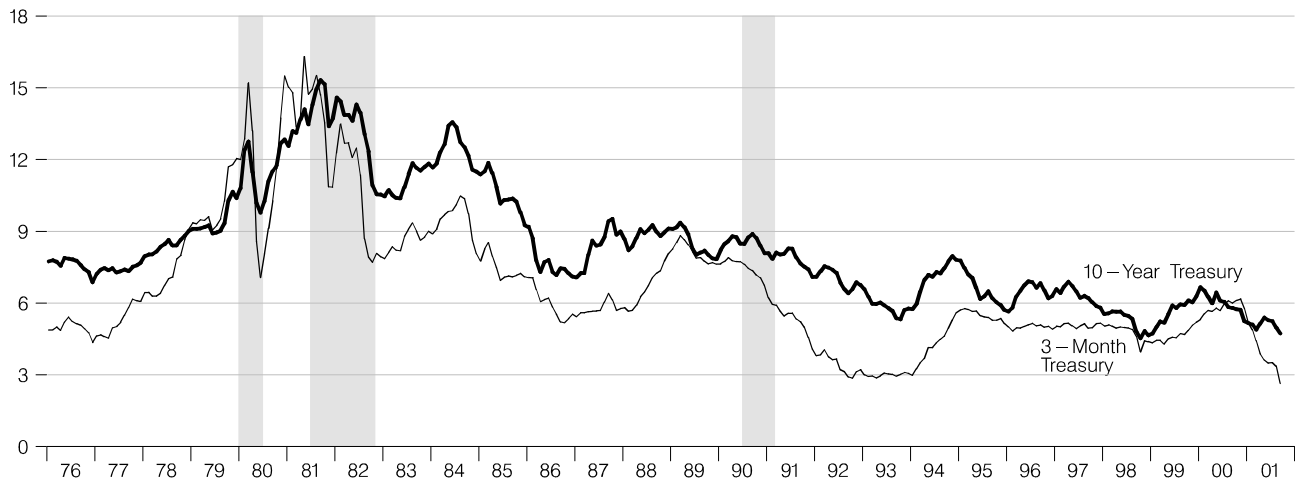
## Contributions to Real GDP Growth Rate

	1999		2000				2001	
	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd
Real GDP	4.65	8.29	2.35	5.69	1.34	1.91	1.32	0.31
Final Sales	4.21	6.14	4.67	3.93	2.29	2.41	3.93	0.73
Change in Inventory	0.44	2.15	-2.32	1.76	-0.95	-0.50	-2.61	-0.42
Consumption	2.98	3.96	3.94	2.50	2.88	2.14	2.05	1.72
Fixed Investment	1.22	0.84	2.24	1.49	0.44	0.09	0.33	-1.74
Nonresidential	1.25	0.76	1.88	1.52	0.91	0.13	-0.02	-1.99
Residential	-0.03	0.08	0.36	-0.03	-0.47	-0.05	0.35	0.25
Government	0.77	1.50	-0.20	0.78	-0.32	0.58	0.92	0.87
Federal	0.43	0.85	-0.84	0.90	-0.66	0.27	0.19	0.11
State and Local	0.34	0.65	0.64	-0.12	0.34	0.31	0.73	0.76
Net Exports	-0.76	-0.15	-1.32	-0.84	-0.70	-0.39	0.63	-0.12
Exports	0.99	1.27	0.95	1.42	1.13	-0.46	-0.13	-1.37
Imports	-1.76	-1.43	-2.26	-2.26	-1.84	0.07	0.76	1.25
Residual	0.18	-0.23	0.53	-0.47	0.22	-0.08	0.39	0.38

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

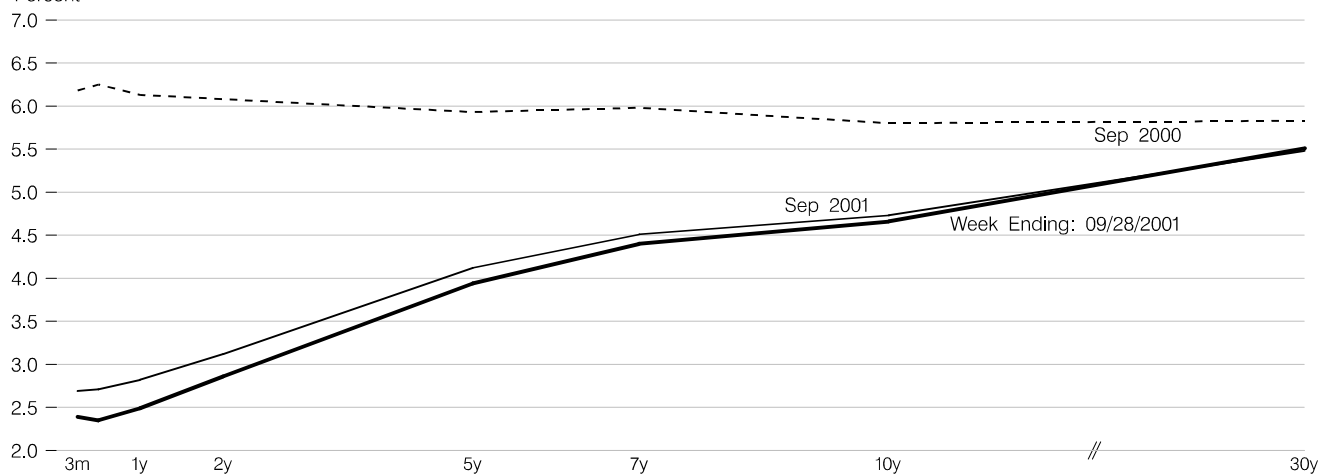
## Interest Rates

Percent



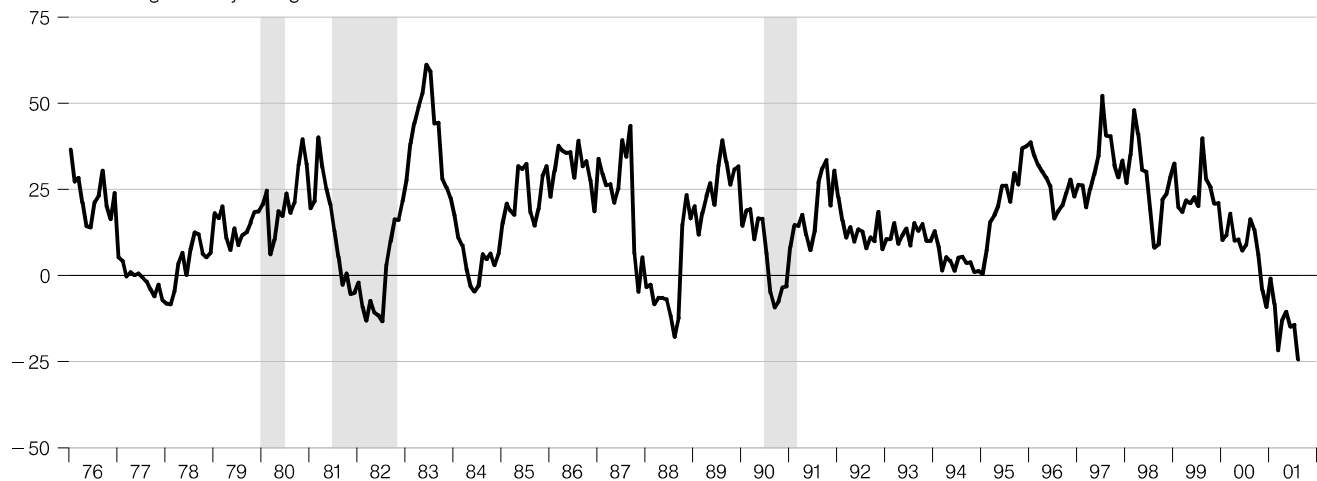
## Treasury Yield Curve

Percent



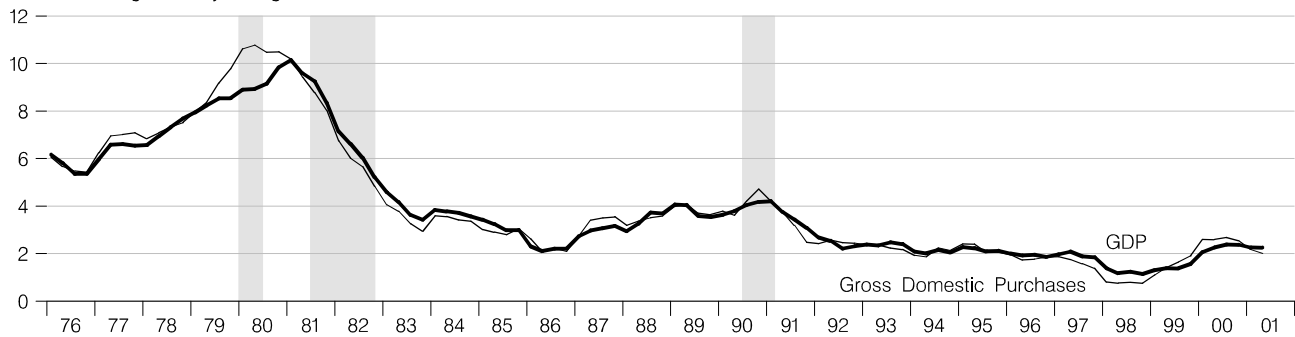
## Standard and Poor's 500 Index with Reinvested Dividends

Percent change from year ago



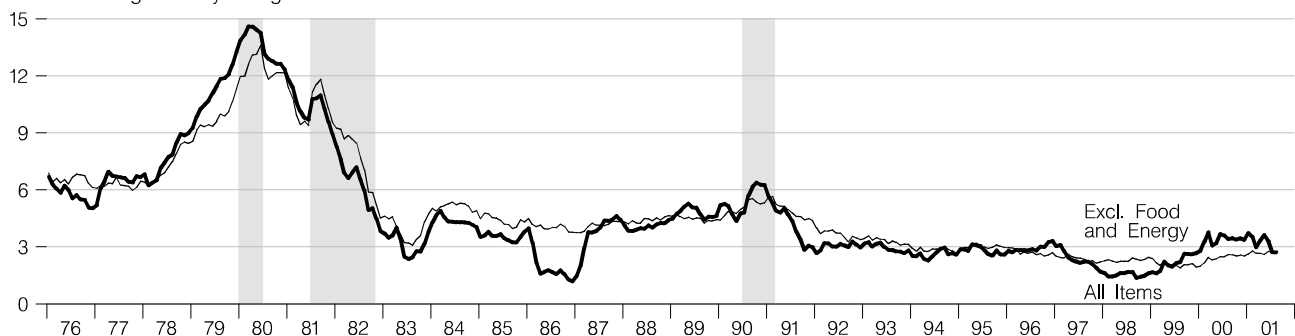
## NIPA Chain Price Indexes

Percent change from year ago



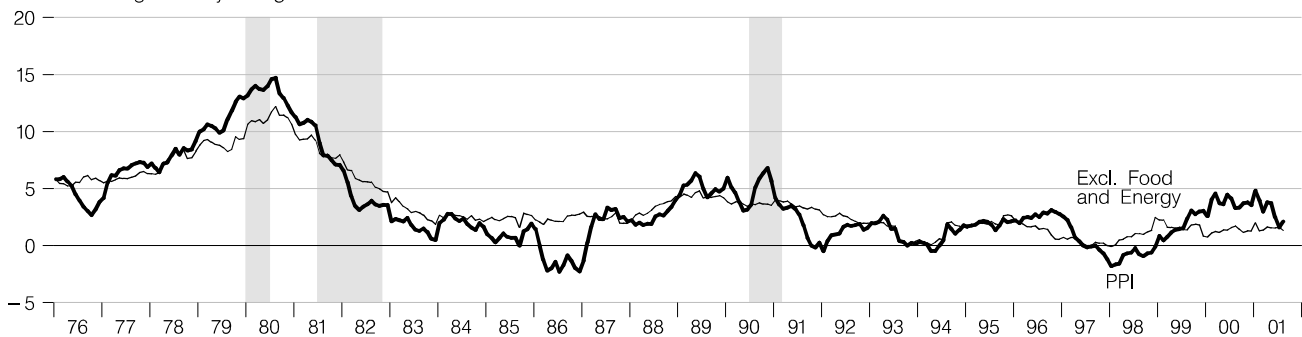
## Consumer Price Index

Percent change from year ago



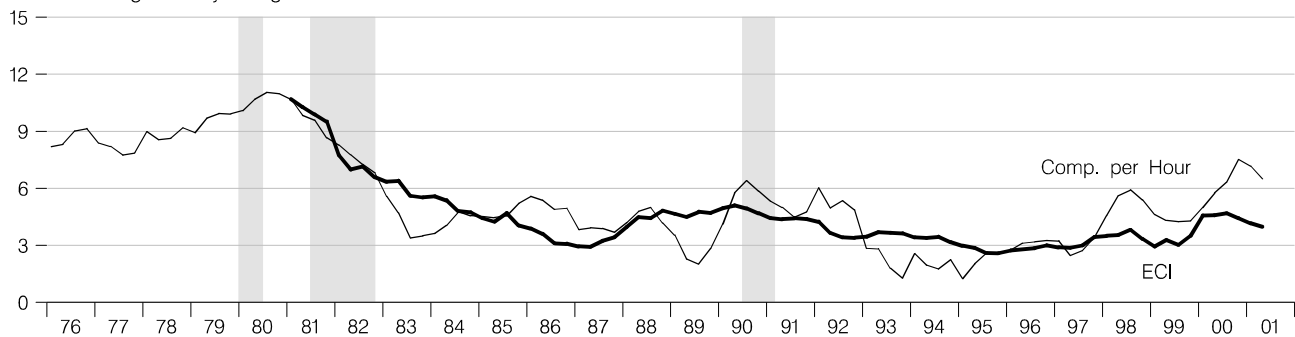
## Producer Price Index, Finished Goods

Percent change from year ago

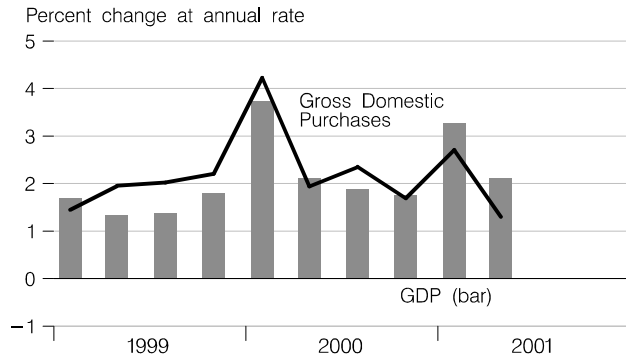
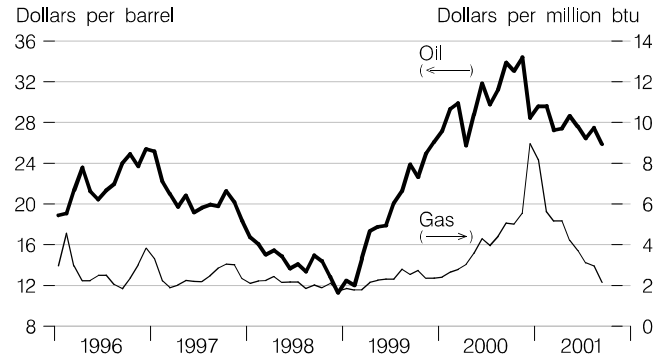
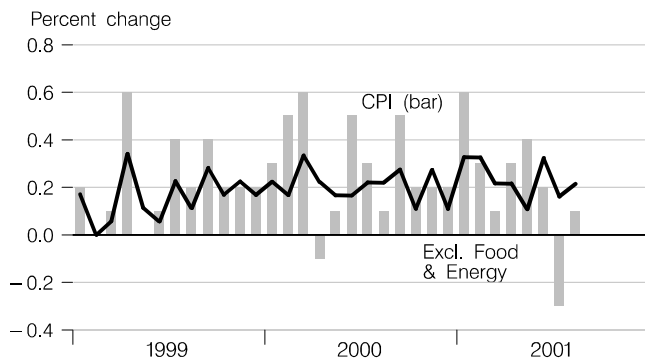
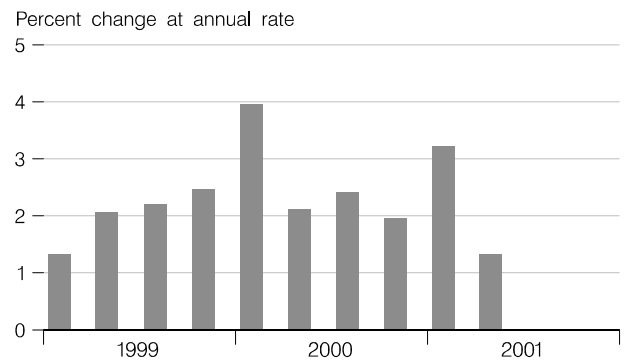
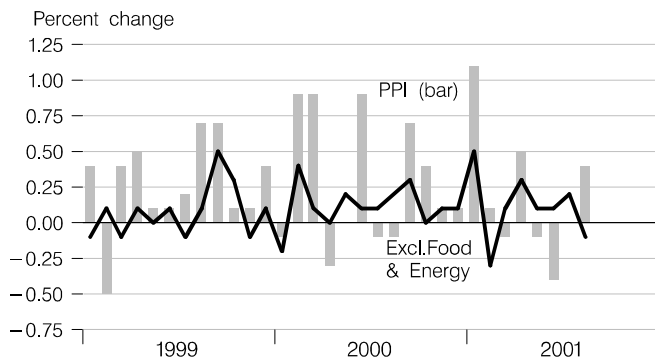
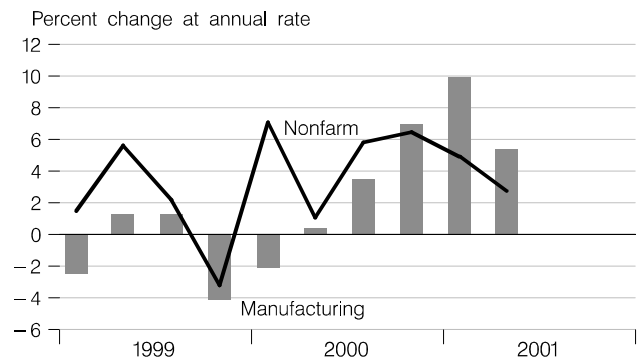
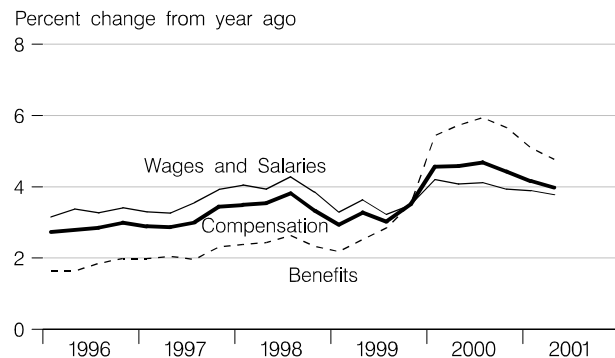
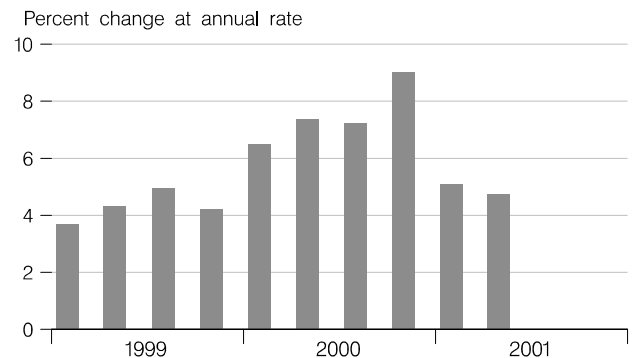


## Employment Cost Index and Compensation per Hour

Percent change from year ago

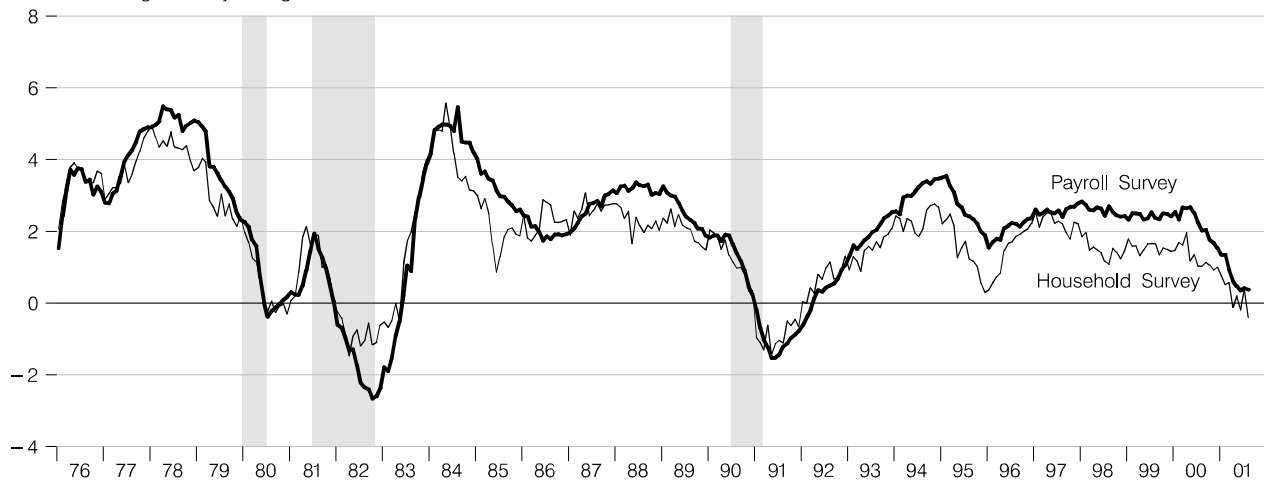




**NIPA Chain Price Indexes****Crude Oil and Natural Gas Prices****Consumer Price Index****Consumption Chain Price Index****Producer Price Index, Finished Goods****Unit Labor Cost****Employment Cost Index****Compensation per Hour**

## Employment

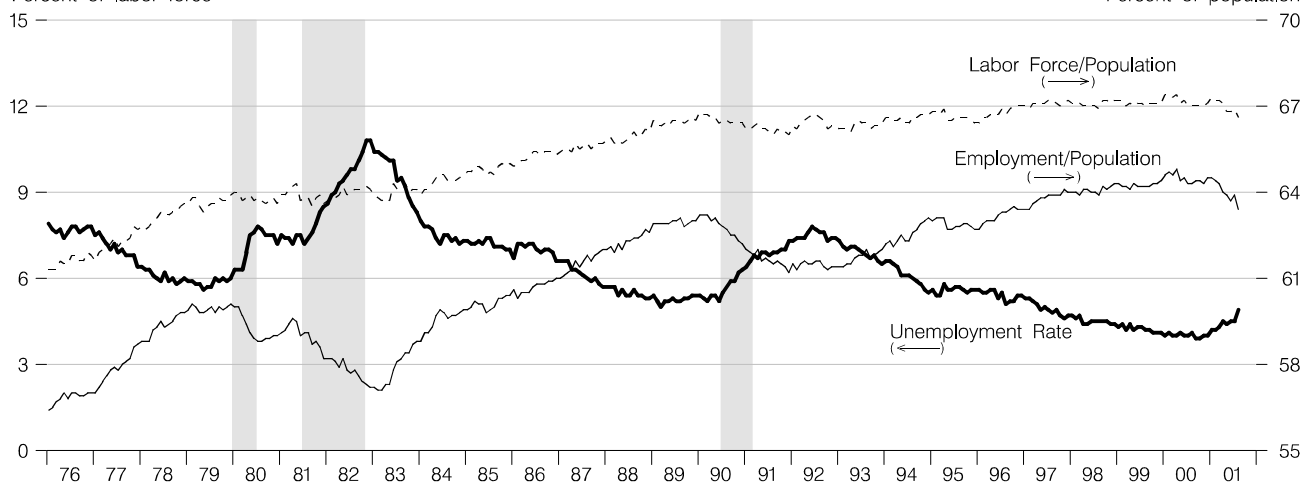
Percent change from year ago



## Unemployment, Labor Force Participation and Employment Rates

Percent of labor force

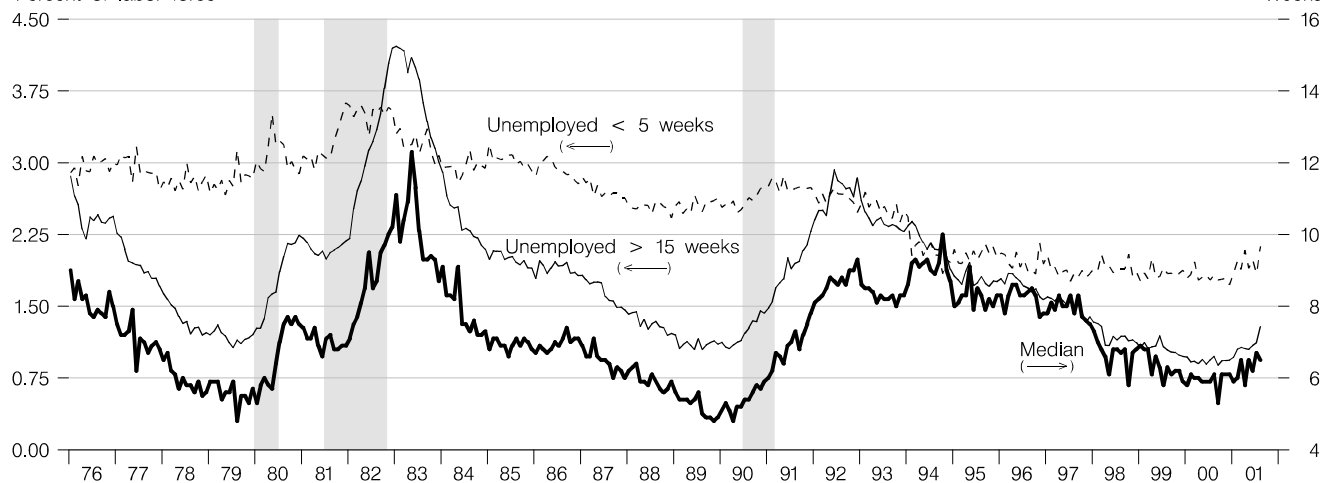
Percent of population

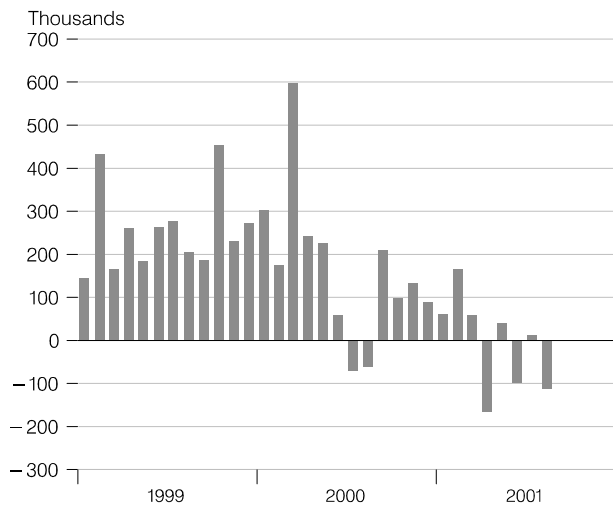
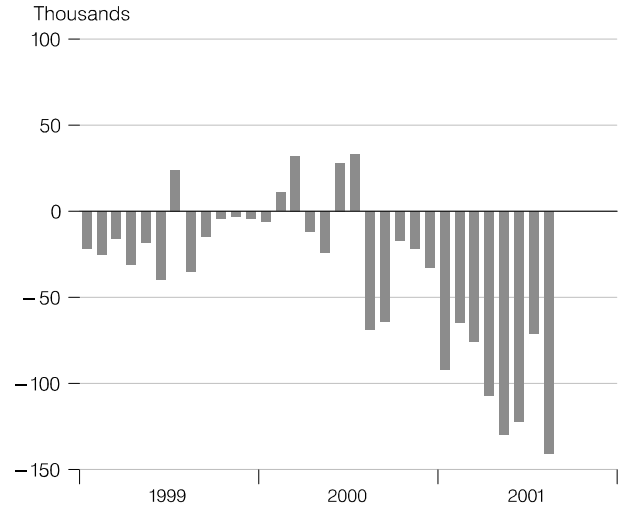
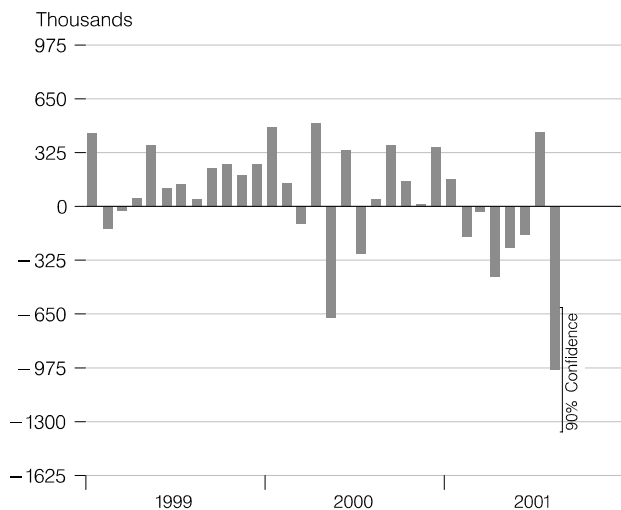
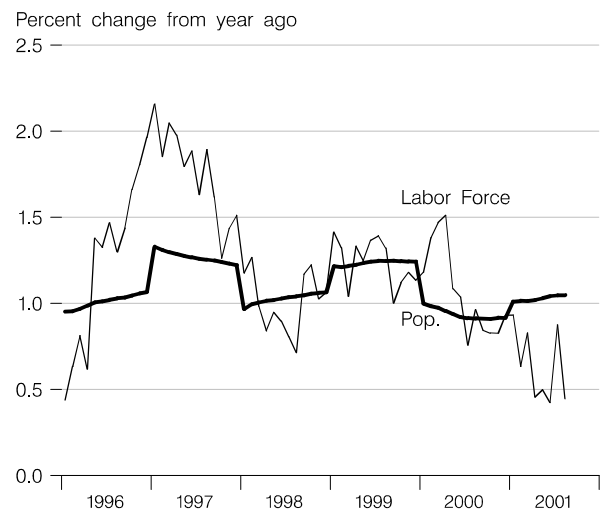
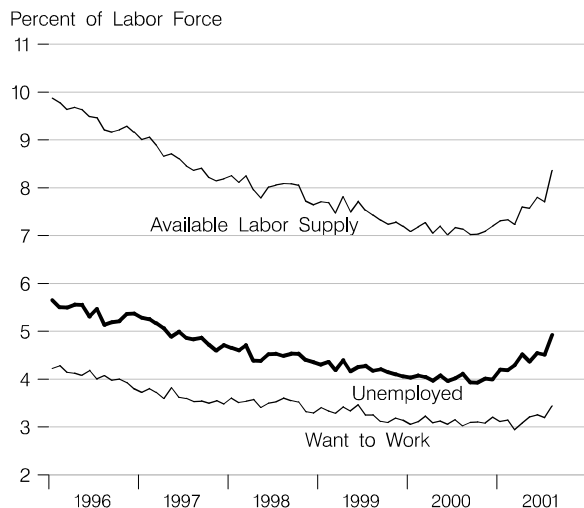
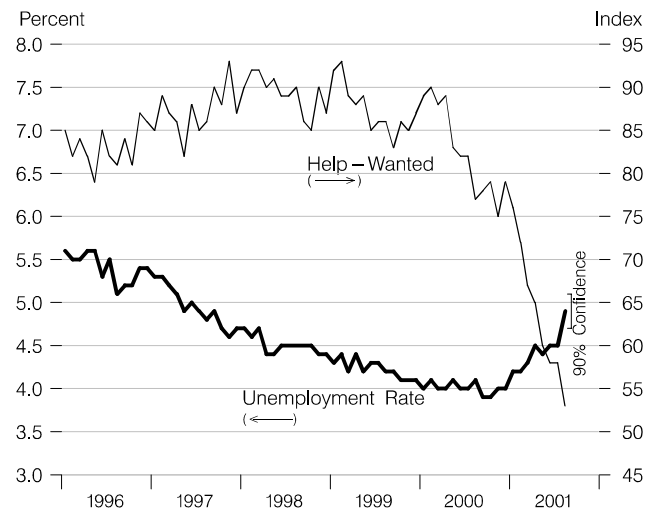


## Duration of Unemployment

Percent of labor force

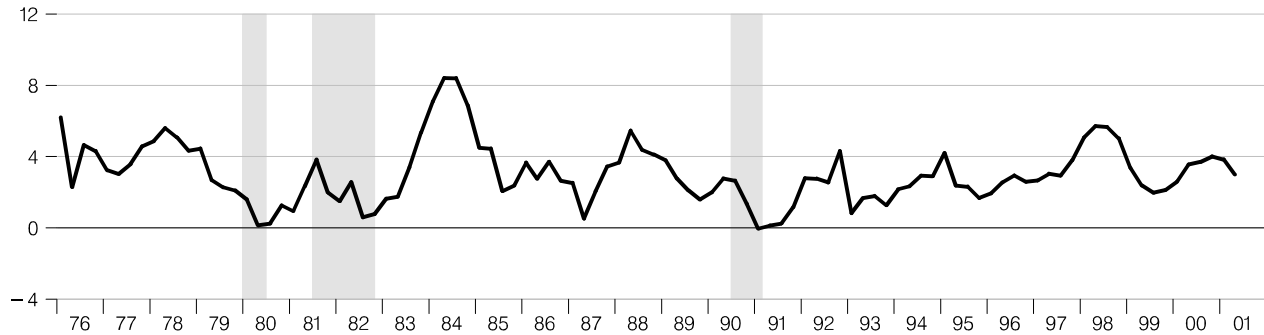
Weeks



**Change in Nonfarm Payrolls****Change in Manufacturing Payrolls****Change in Household Employment****Labor Force and Population****Available Labor Supply and Components****Unemployment Rate and Help-Wanted Advertising Index**

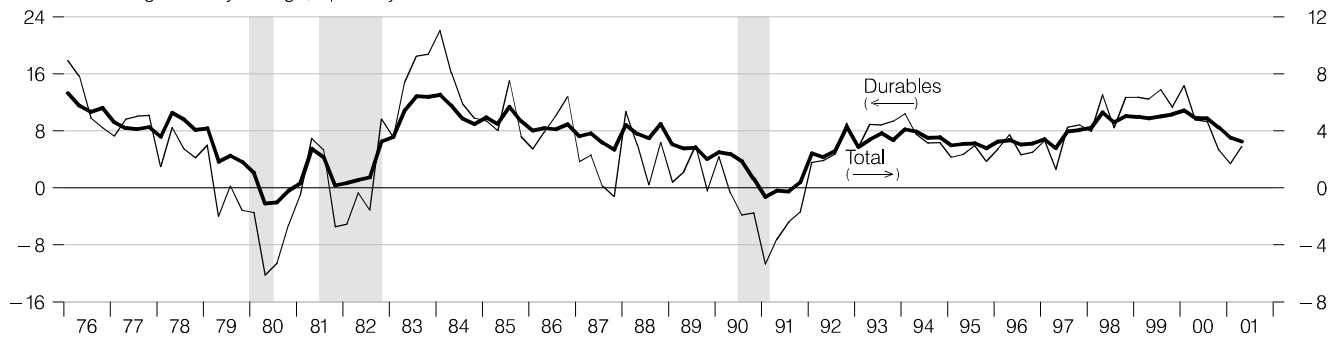
## Real Disposable Personal Income

Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



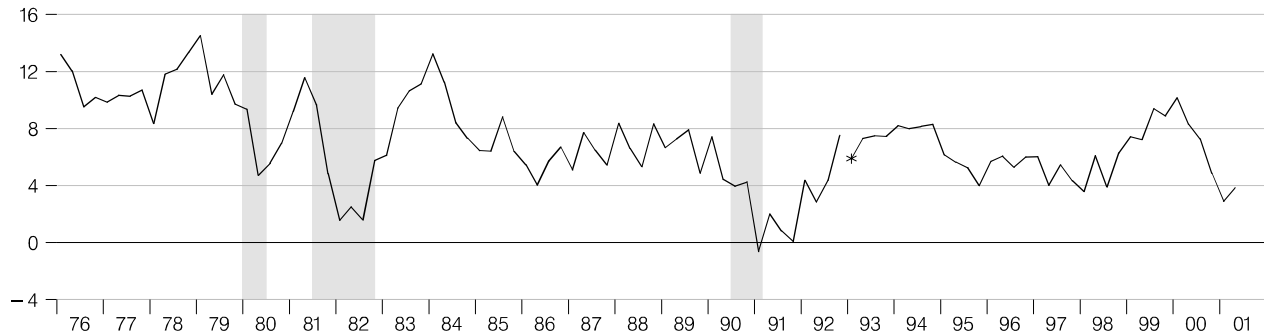
## Real Consumption

Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



## Retail and Food Services Sales

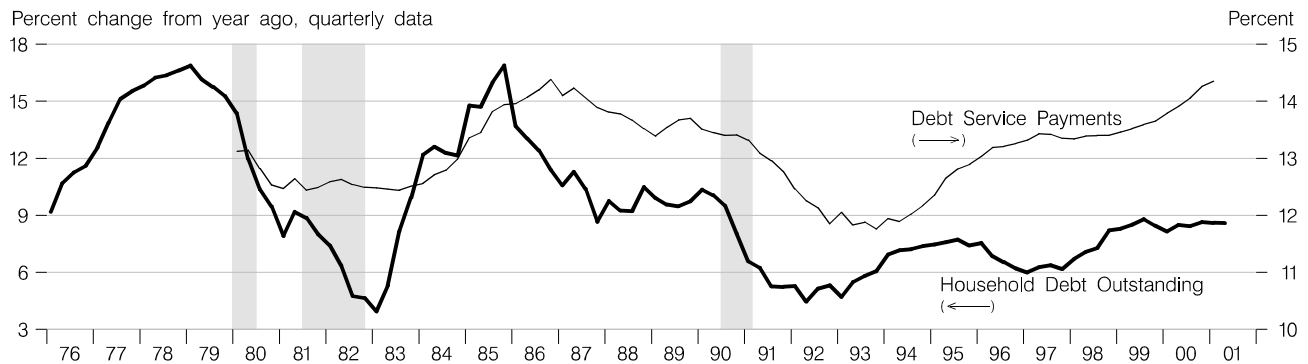
Percent change from year ago, quarterly average

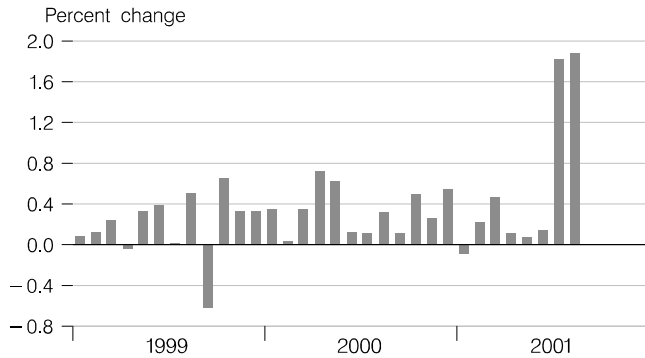
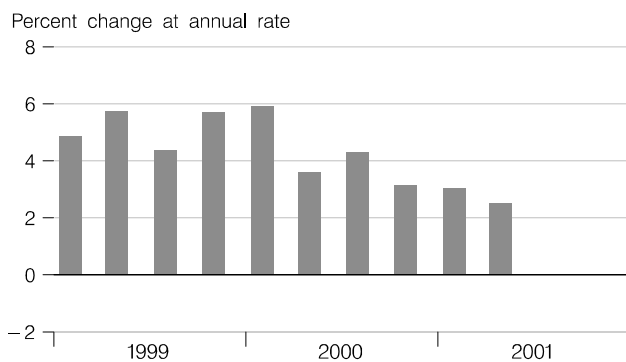
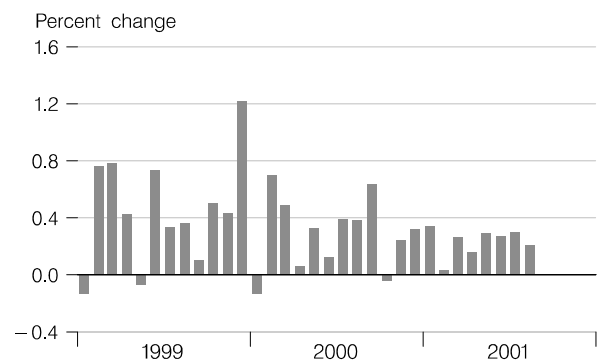
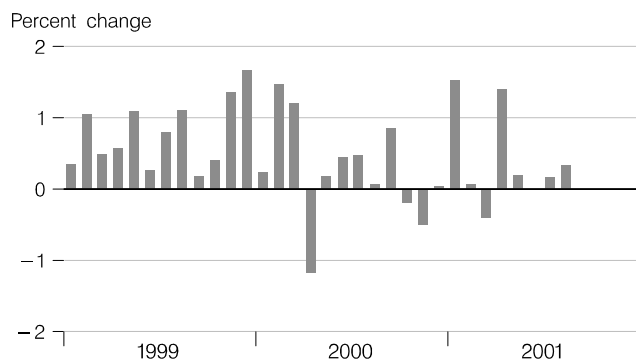
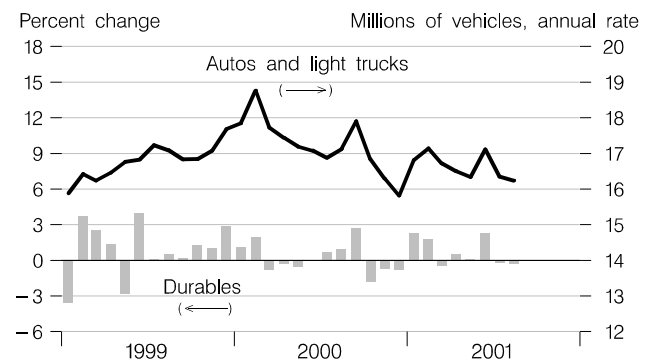
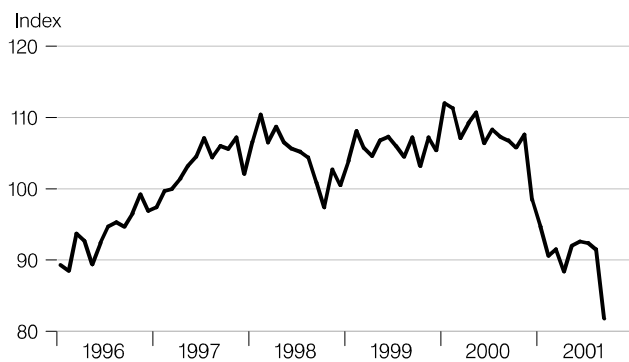
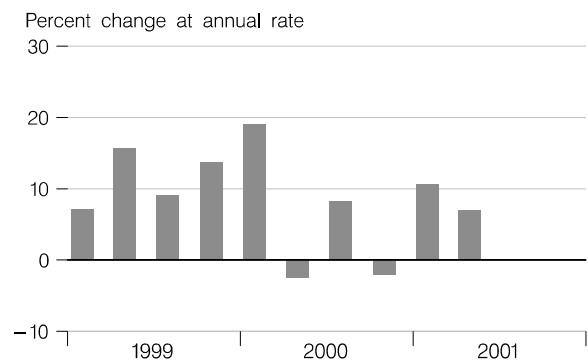


\*Data before January 1992 are not strictly comparable (see End Notes).

## Debt Service Payments as a Percent of Disposable Income and Household Debt Outstanding

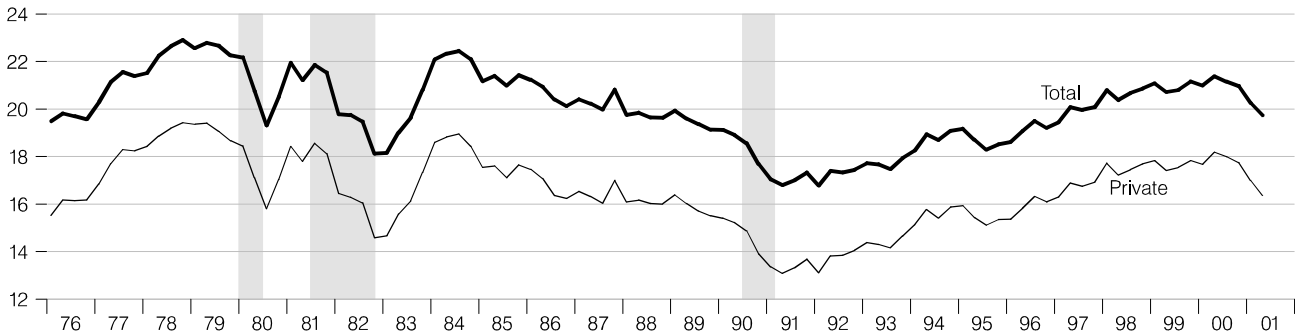
Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



**Real Disposable Personal Income****Personal Saving Rate****Real Consumption****Real Consumption****Retail and Food Services Sales****Real Durables Consumption and Vehicle Sales****Consumer Sentiment (U. of Michigan)****Real Durables Consumption**

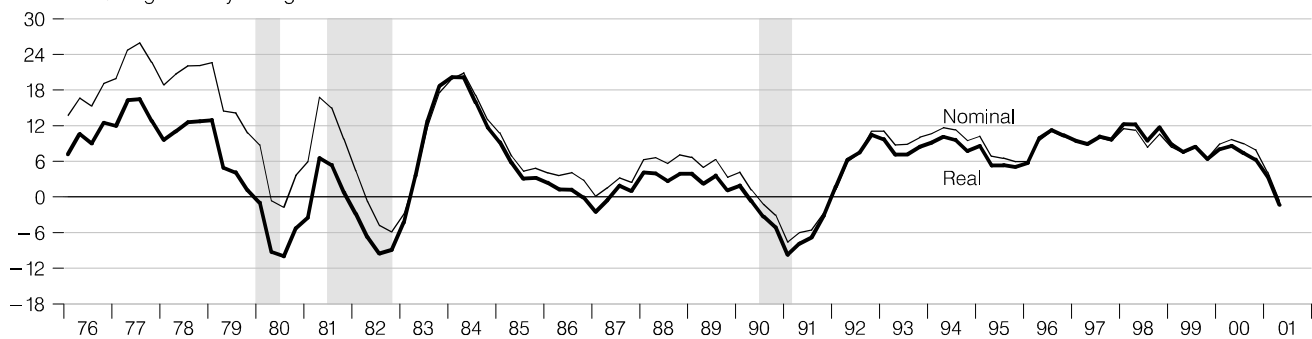
## Investment

Percent of Nominal GDP



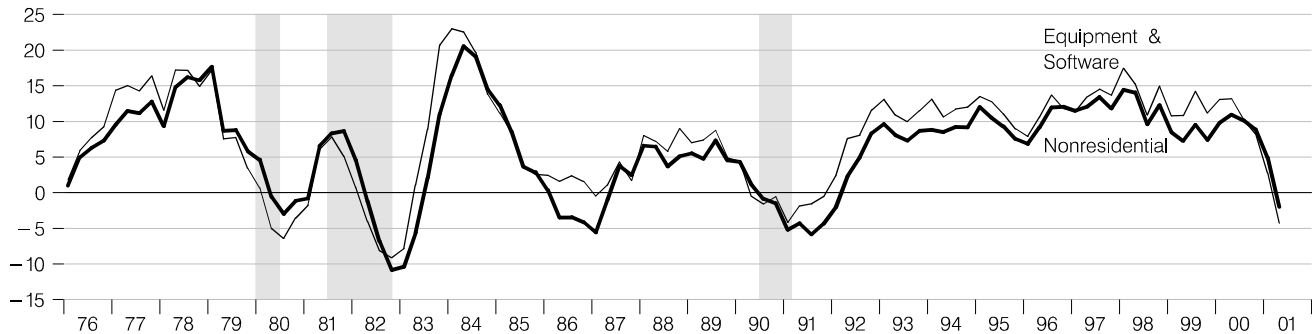
## Private Fixed Investment

Percent change from year ago



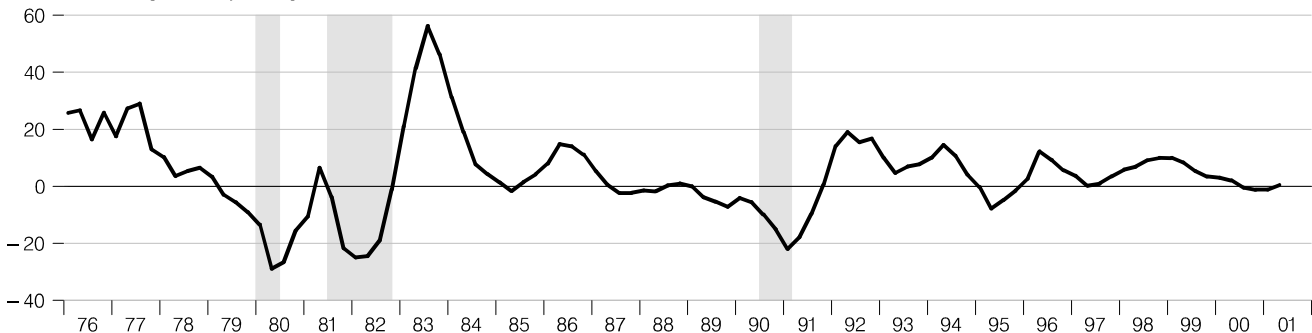
## Real Nonresidential Fixed and Equipment & Software Investment

Percent change from year ago

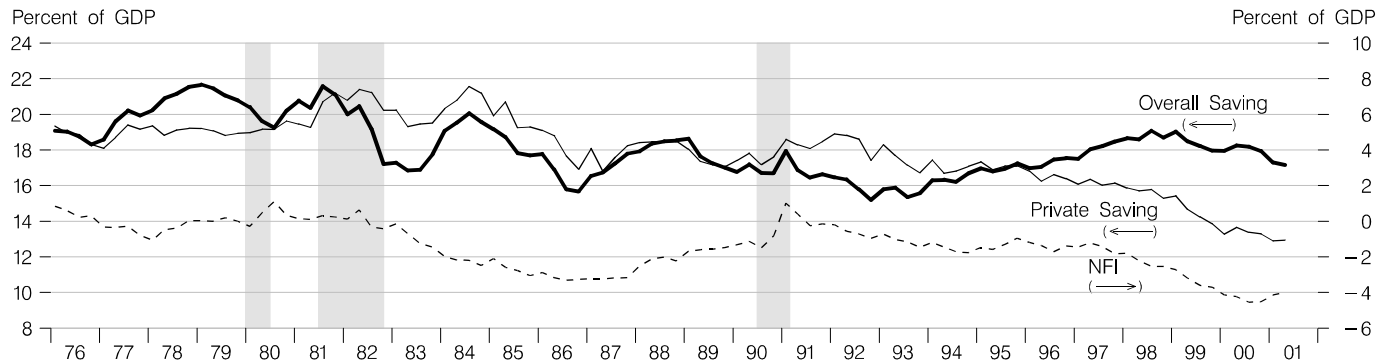


## Real Residential Fixed Investment

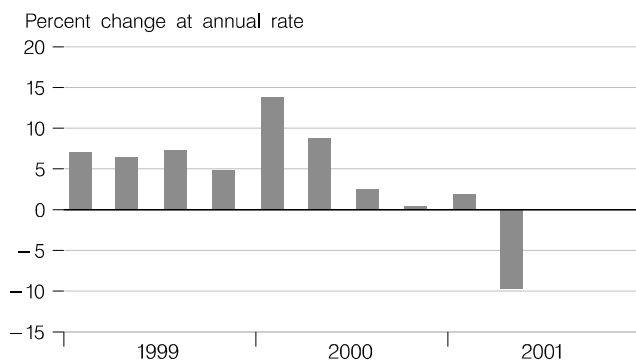
Percent change from year ago



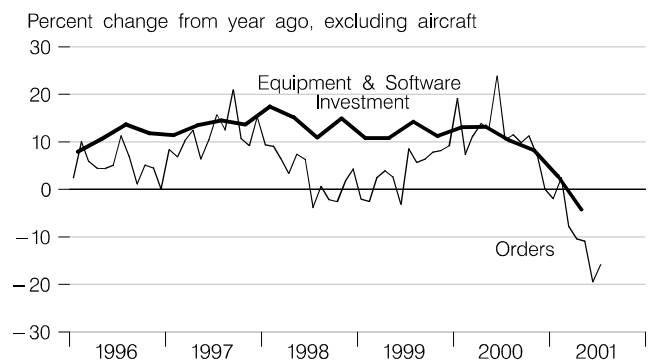
## Gross Saving Rates and Net Foreign Investment



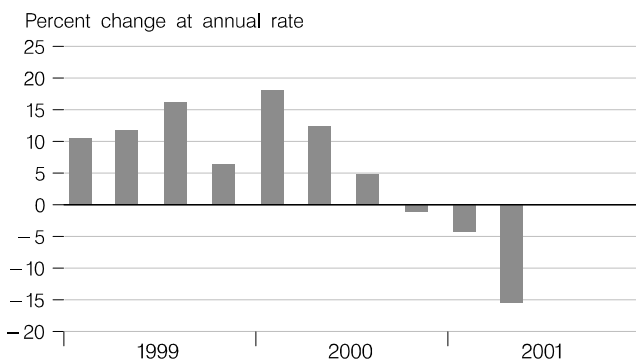
## Real Private Fixed Investment



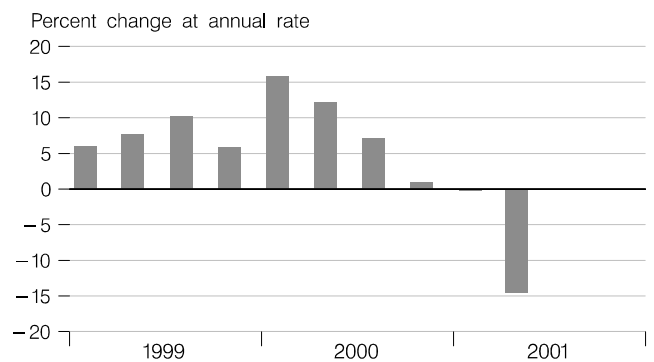
## Nondefense Capital Goods Orders



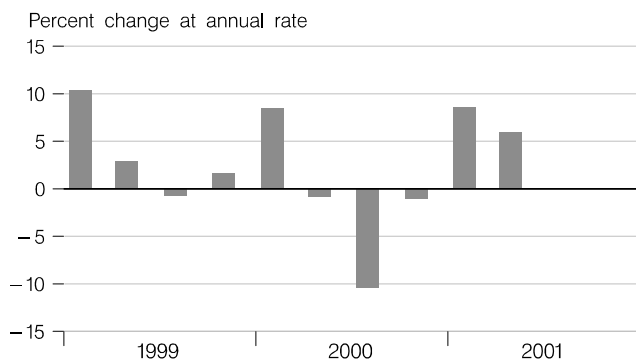
## Real Equipment & Software Investment



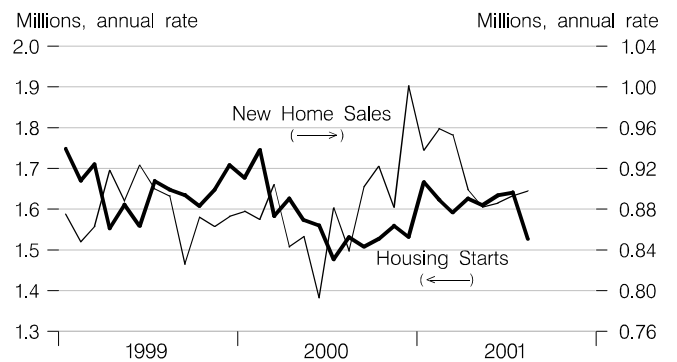
## Real Nonresidential Fixed Investment



## Real Residential Fixed Investment

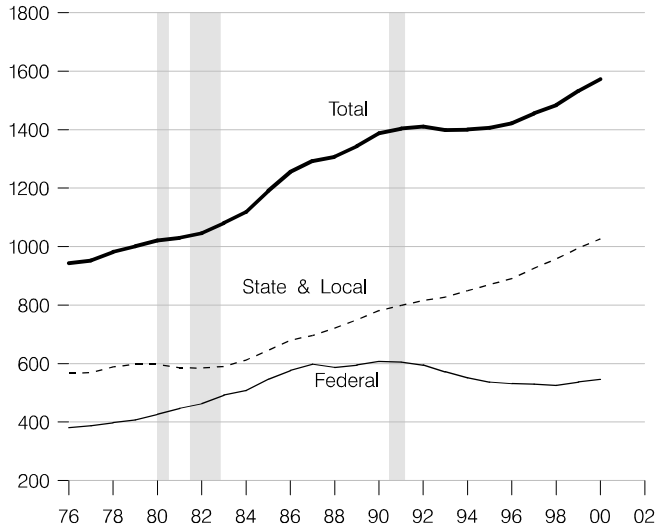


## Housing Starts and New Home Sales

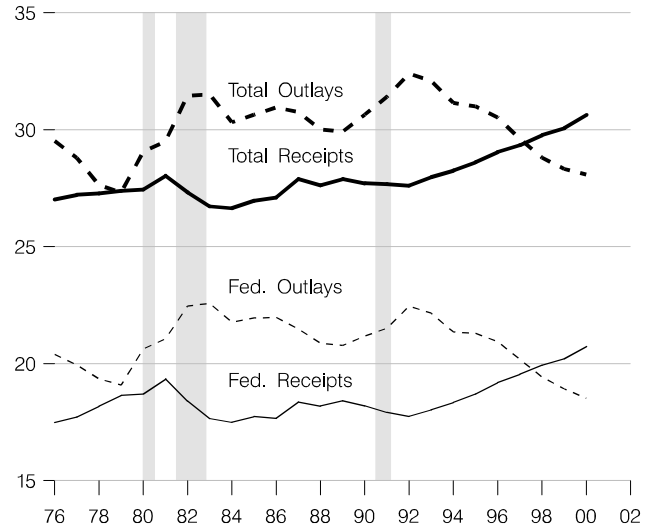


**Govt. Consumption and Investment**

Billions of 1996 dollars

**Government Receipts and Outlays**

Percent of GDP

**Government Budgets**

Billions of dollars

**National Income Accounts**

Calendar Years

	State and Local			Federal		
	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit(-)	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit(-)
1980	316.6	307.8	8.8	522.8	576.6	-53.8
1981	344.4	336.9	7.5	605.6	659.3	-53.7
1982	360.3	362.5	-2.2	599.5	732.1	-132.6
1983	392.1	387.3	4.8	623.9	797.8	-173.9
1984	436.4	412.6	23.8	688.1	856.1	-168.0
1985	469.2	447.0	22.2	747.4	924.6	-177.2
1986	507.9	487.2	20.7	786.4	978.5	-192.1
1987	536.0	523.8	12.2	870.5	1018.4	-147.9
1988	573.7	558.1	15.6	928.9	1066.2	-137.3
1989	618.9	599.6	19.3	1010.3	1140.3	-130.0
1990	663.4	660.8	2.6	1055.7	1228.7	-173.0
1991	716.0	723.8	-7.8	1072.3	1287.6	-215.3
1992	772.2	777.2	-5.0	1121.3	1418.9	-297.6
1993	823.2	821.7	1.5	1197.3	1471.5	-274.2
1994	873.8	865.2	8.6	1293.7	1506.0	-212.3
1995	917.9	902.5	15.4	1383.7	1575.7	-192.0
1996	960.4	939.0	21.4	1499.1	1635.9	-136.8
1997	1011.3	980.3	31.0	1625.5	1678.8	-53.3
1998	1074.4	1033.7	40.7	1749.7	1705.9	43.8
1999	1143.8	1101.7	42.1	1872.8	1753.6	119.2
2000	1222.6	1189.8	32.8	2046.8	1828.3	218.5

**Unified Budget**

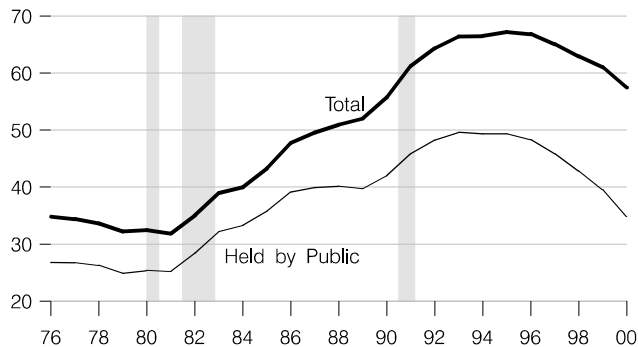
Fiscal Years

	Federal		
	Receipts	Outlays	Surplus or Deficit(-)
1980	517.1	590.9	-73.8
1981	599.3	678.2	-79.0
1982	617.8	745.8	-128.0
1983	600.6	808.4	-207.8
1984	666.5	851.9	-185.4
1985	734.1	946.4	-212.3
1986	769.2	990.5	-221.2
1987	854.4	1004.1	-149.8
1988	909.3	1064.5	-155.2
1989	991.2	1143.7	-152.5
1990	1032.0	1253.2	-221.2
1991	1055.0	1324.4	-269.4
1992	1091.3	1381.7	-290.4
1993	1154.4	1409.5	-255.1
1994	1258.6	1461.9	-203.3
1995	1351.8	1515.8	-164.0
1996	1453.1	1560.6	-107.5
1997	1579.3	1601.3	-22.0
1998	1721.8	1652.6	69.2
1999	1827.5	1702.9	124.6
2000	2025.2	1788.8	236.4

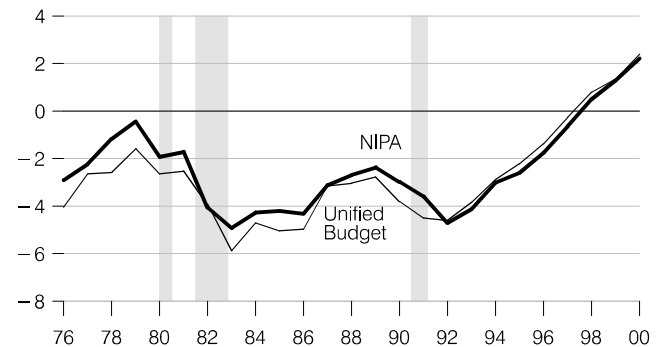


**Federal Debt**

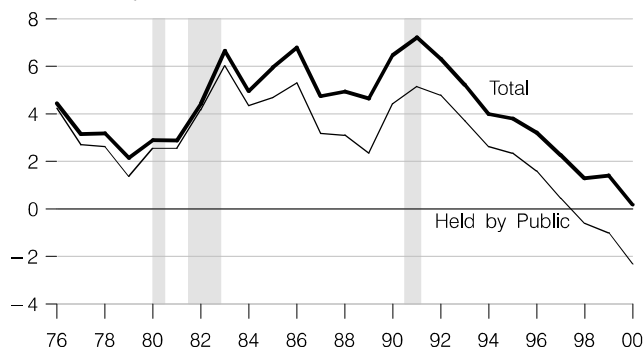
Percent of GDP

**Federal Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)**

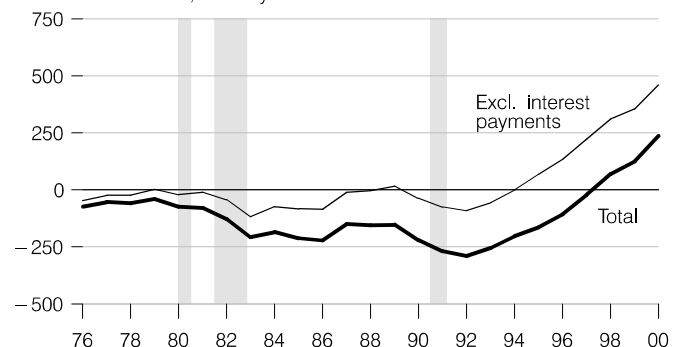
Percent of GDP

**Change in Federal Debt**

Percent of GDP

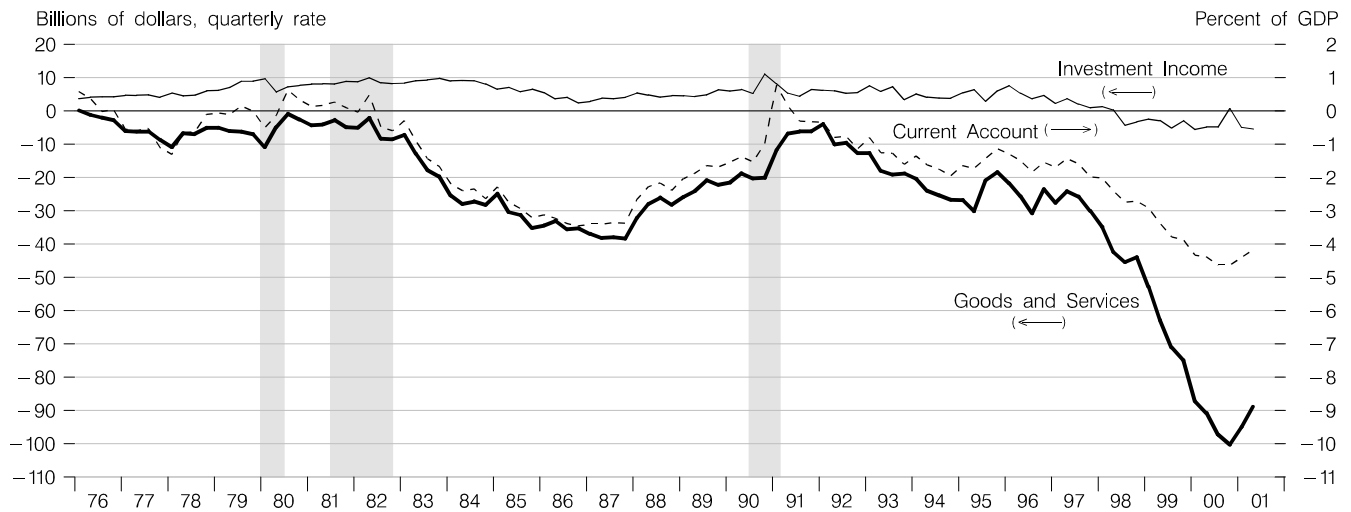
**Federal Surplus (+) / Deficit (-), Unified Basis**

Billions of dollars, fiscal years

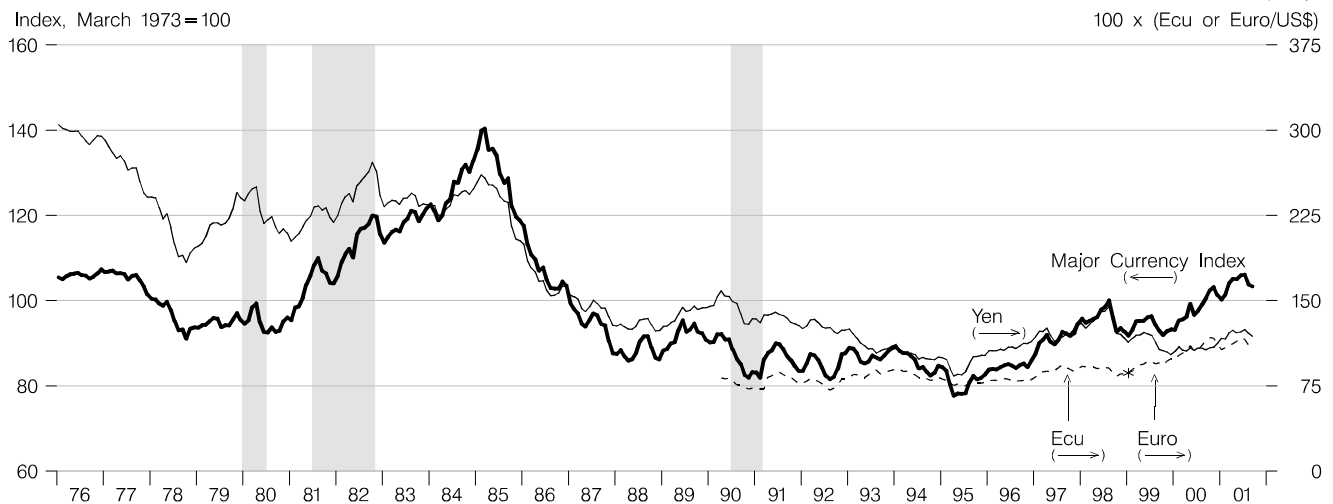
**Federal Government Debt**Billions of dollars, end of month or fiscal year,  
excluding agency-issued debt

		Total Public Debt	Held by Agencies and Trusts	Held by Public		Held by Private Investors	
				Total	Federal Reserve Banks	Total	Foreign and International
1998		5526.2	1765.6	3760.6	446.0	3313.2	1224.2
1999		5656.3	1989.1	3667.2	489.0	3175.4	1281.4
2000		5674.2	2235.7	3438.5	511.4	2936.2	1224.9
1998	March	5542.4	1670.4	3872.1	433.2	3437.5	1250.5
	June	5547.9	1757.6	3790.4	439.8	3349.3	1256.0
	September	5526.2	1765.6	3760.6	446.0	3313.2	1224.2
	December	5614.2	1826.8	3787.4	452.1	3334.0	1278.7
1999	March	5651.6	1857.1	3794.6	465.7	3327.5	1272.3
	June	5638.8	1953.6	3685.2	484.9	3199.2	1258.8
	September	5656.3	1989.1	3667.2	489.0	3175.4	1281.4
	December	5776.1	2060.6	3715.5	478.0	3233.9	1268.7
2000	March	5773.4	2085.4	3688.0	501.7	3182.8	1273.9
	June	5685.9	2190.2	3495.7	505.0	2987.4	1249.1
	September	5674.2	2235.7	3438.5	511.4	2936.2	1224.9
	December	5662.2	2248.7	3413.5	511.7	2880.4	1201.3
2001	March	5773.7	2339.4	3434.4	523.9	2892.9	1196.1
	June	5726.8	2452.6	3274.2	535.1	2722.6	1167.1

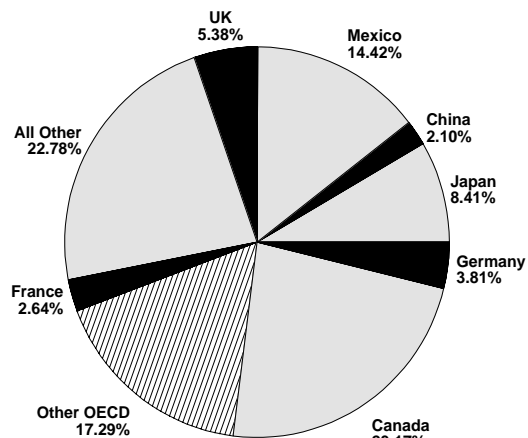
## Current Account, Trade and Investment Income Balances



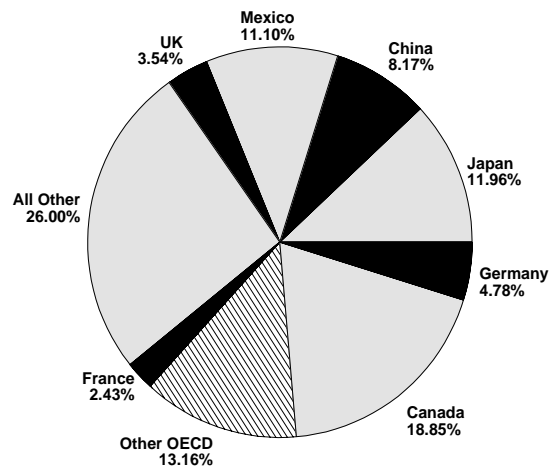
## Exchange Rates

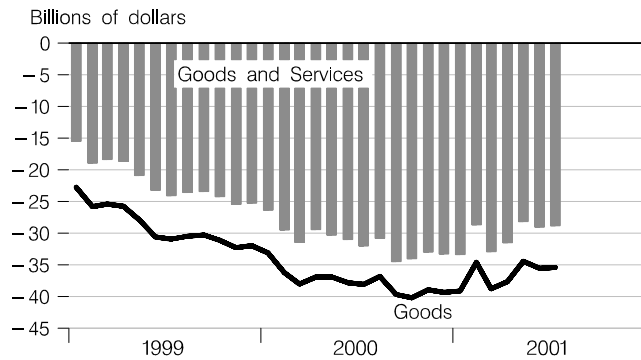
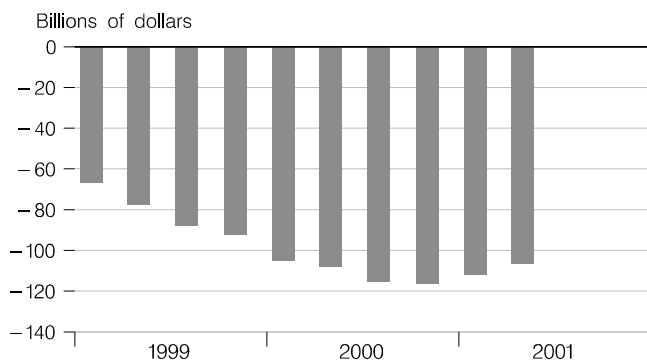
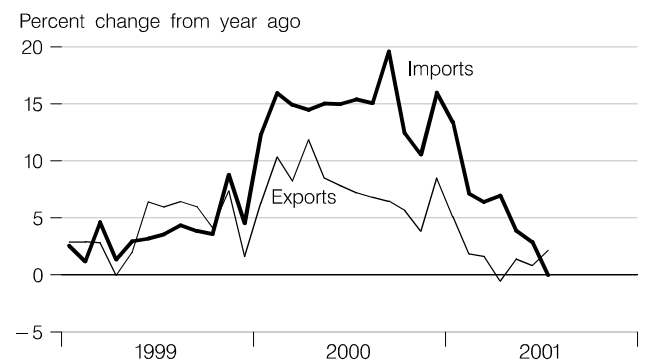


## Goods Export Shares, 2000

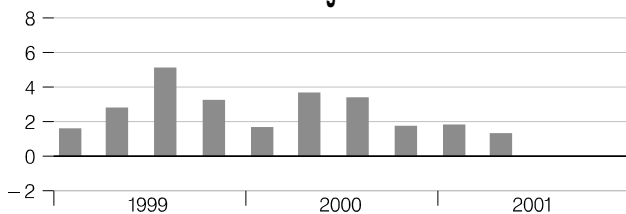
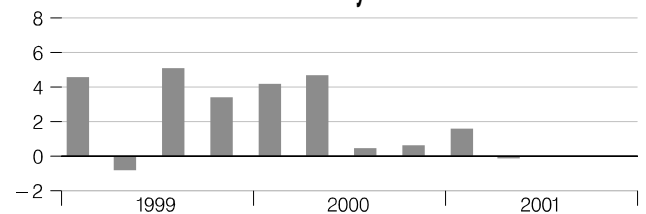
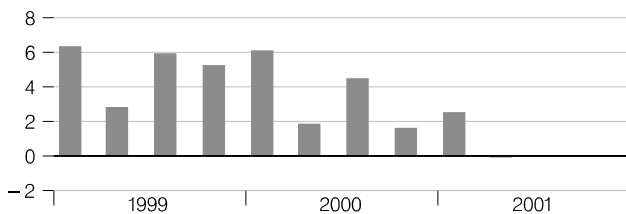
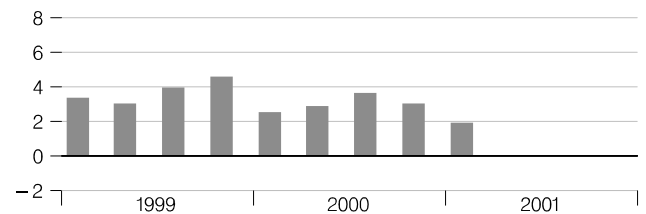
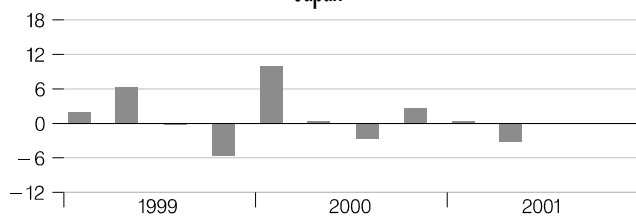
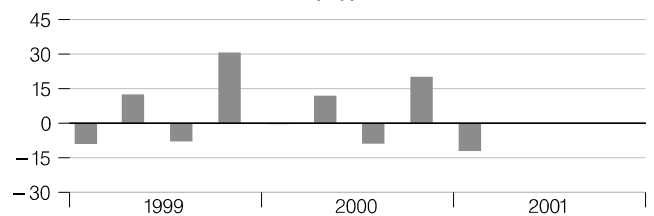


## Goods Import Shares, 2000

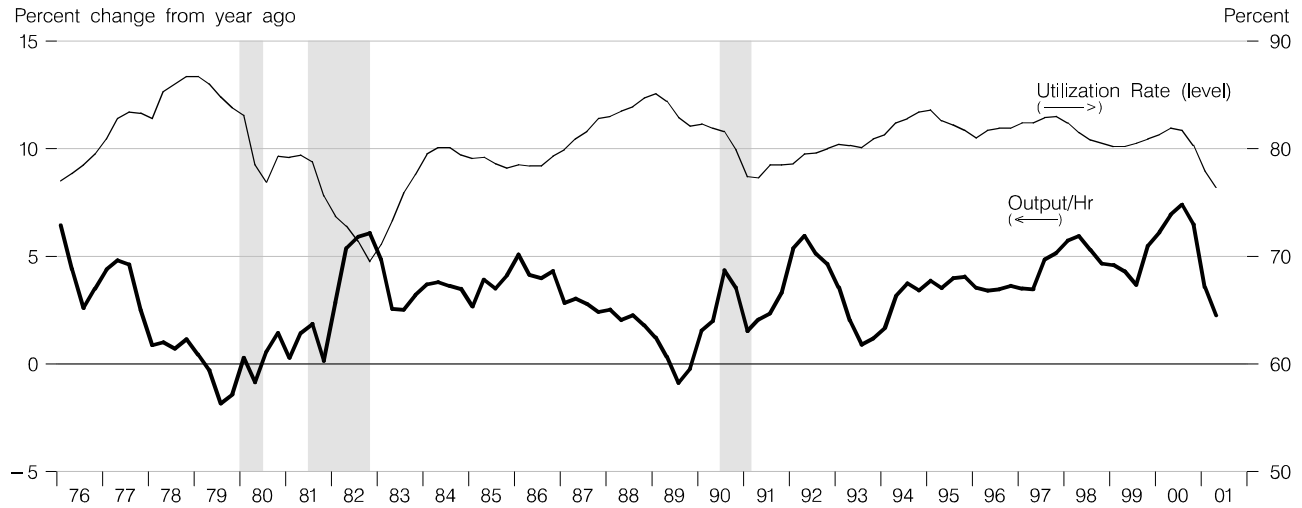


**Trade Balance****Goods Trade****Current Account Balance****Services Trade****Real GDP Growth of Major Trading Partners**

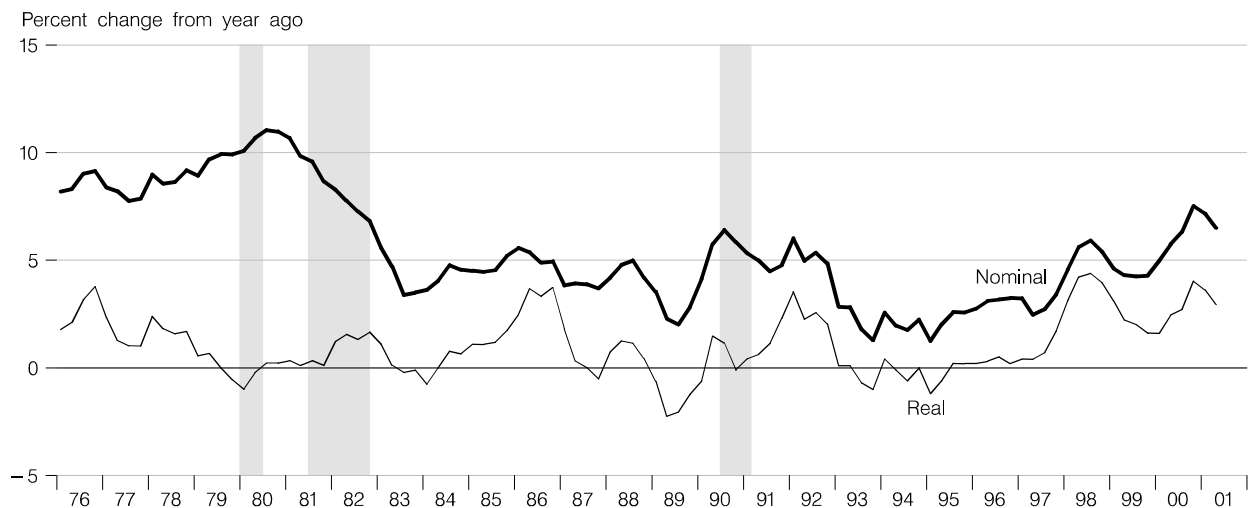
Percent change at annual rate

**United Kingdom****Germany****Canada****France****Japan****Mexico**

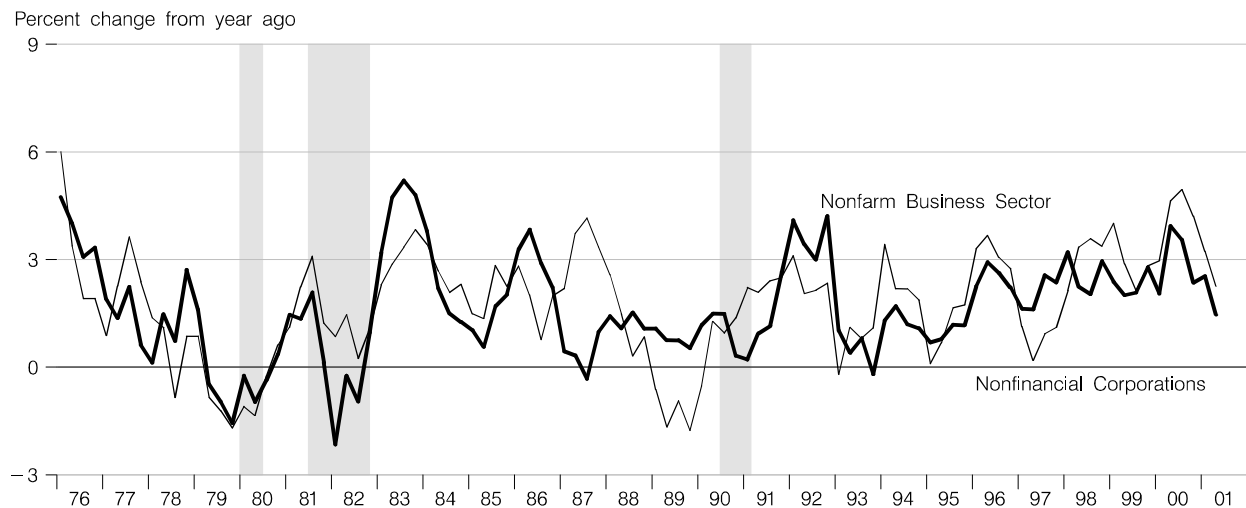
## Output per Hour and Capacity Utilization, Manufacturing

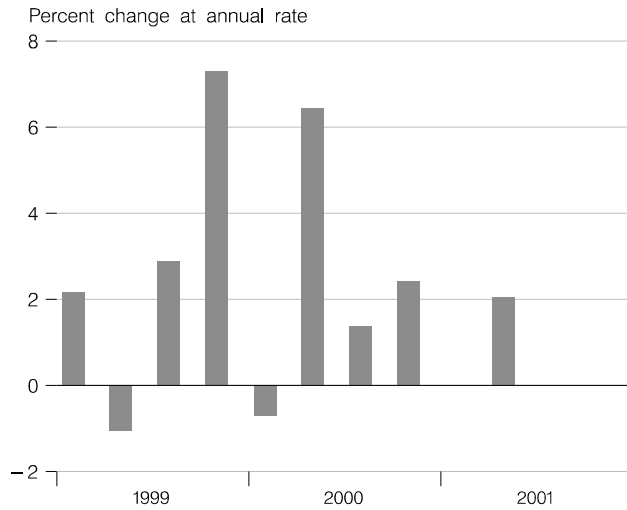
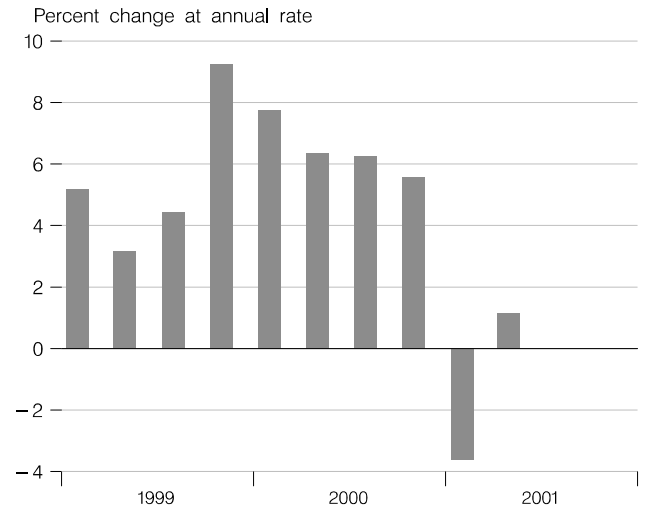
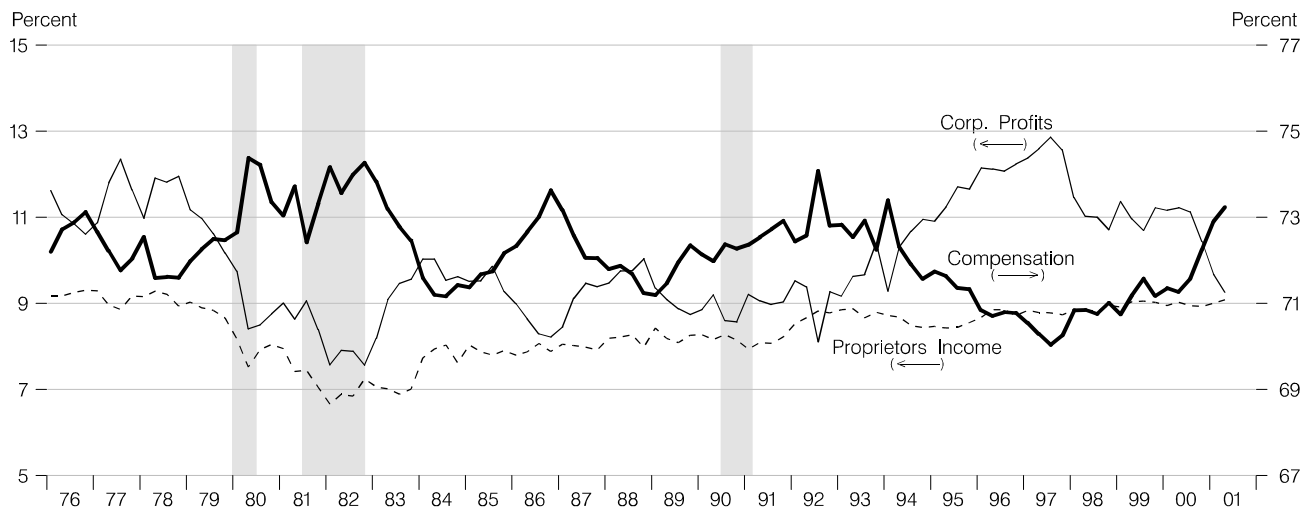
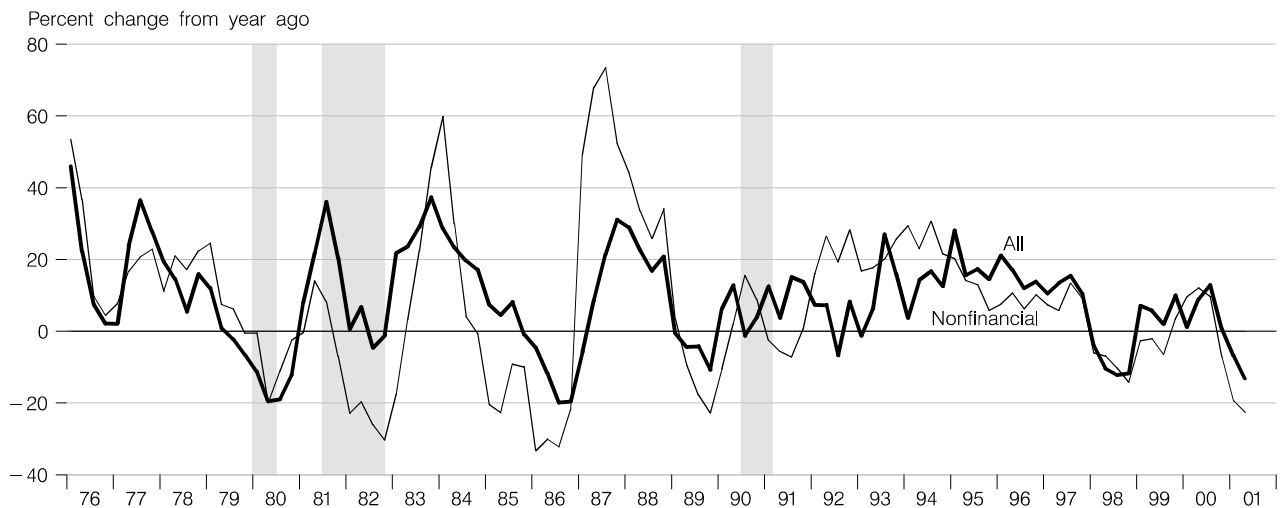


## Nonfarm Compensation per Hour



## Output per Hour, Nonfarm Business and Nonfarm, Nonfinancial Corporations



**Nonfarm Output per Hour****Manufacturing Output per Hour****Selected Component Shares of National Income****Corporate Profits after Tax (with IVA and CCAdj)**

	Nominal GDP			Real GDP			Final Sales			Change in Private Inventories	
	Percent change			Percent change			Percent change			Billions of 1996 \$	
	Billions of \$	Annual rate	Year ago	Billions of 1996 \$	Annual rate	Year ago	Billions of 1996 \$	Annual rate	Year ago	Last qtr	Year/Year ago
1997	8318.4		6.5	8159.450		4.4	8095.204		4.0		63.757
1998	8781.5		5.6	8508.933		4.3	8431.826		4.2		76.727
1999	9268.6		5.5	8856.541		4.1	8792.031		4.3		62.106
2000	9872.9		6.5	9223.994		4.1	9167.025		4.3		50.587
1998 1	8627.8	7.2	6.2	8396.345	6.1	4.7	8286.592	4.0	4.0	113.143	79.722
2	8697.3	3.3	5.0	8442.912	2.2	3.8	8397.191	5.4	4.4	41.975	68.139
3	8816.5	5.6	5.1	8528.466	4.1	3.8	8454.942	2.8	3.6	71.789	73.252
4	8984.5	7.8	6.0	8667.853	6.7	4.8	8588.501	6.5	4.7	79.999	76.727
1999 1	9093.1	4.9	5.4	8733.483	3.1	4.0	8651.156	3.0	4.4	83.378	69.285
2	9161.4	3.0	5.3	8771.221	1.7	3.9	8735.136	3.9	4.0	32.737	66.976
3	9297.4	6.1	5.5	8871.464	4.7	4.0	8825.577	4.2	4.4	39.558	58.918
4	9522.5	10.0	6.0	9049.917	8.3	4.4	8956.256	6.1	4.3	92.749	62.106
2000 1	9668.7	6.3	6.3	9102.499	2.3	4.2	9061.640	4.8	4.7	28.917	48.490
2	9857.6	8.0	7.6	9229.385	5.7	5.2	9148.501	3.9	4.7	78.942	60.042
3	9937.5	3.3	6.9	9260.091	1.3	4.4	9201.271	2.3	4.3	51.725	63.083
4	10027.9	3.7	5.3	9303.923	1.9	2.8	9256.687	2.4	3.4	42.765	50.587
2001 1	10141.7	4.6	4.9	9334.472	1.3	2.5	9347.828	4.0	3.2	-27.113	36.580
2	10202.6	2.4	3.5	9341.739	0.3	1.2	9364.795	0.7	2.4	-38.287	7.273

	Consumption			Durables Consumption			Private Fixed Investment			Nonresidential Fixed Investment		
	Percent change			Percent change			Percent change			Percent change		
	Billions of 1996 \$	Annual rate	Year ago	Billions of 1996 \$	Annual rate	Year ago	Billions of 1996 \$	Annual rate	Year ago	Billions of 1996 \$	Annual rate	Year ago
1997	5423.902		3.6	657.347		6.6	1328.630		9.6	1009.344		12.2
1998	5683.734		4.8	726.658		10.5	1479.986		11.4	1135.921		12.5
1999	5968.444		5.0	817.834		12.5	1595.386		7.8	1228.634		8.2
2000	6257.816		4.8	895.529		9.5	1716.207		7.6	1350.670		9.9
1998 1	5576.260	5.1	4.2	692.530	7.0	8.0	1431.442	18.7	12.2	1099.458	21.6	14.4
2	5660.165	6.2	5.3	719.710	16.6	13.1	1471.449	11.7	12.2	1132.260	12.5	14.1
3	5713.745	3.8	4.6	727.101	4.2	8.4	1485.359	3.8	9.5	1136.578	1.5	9.6
4	5784.661	5.1	5.0	767.283	24.0	12.7	1531.720	13.1	11.7	1175.370	14.4	12.3
1999 1	5853.953	4.9	5.0	780.519	7.1	12.7	1558.242	7.1	8.9	1192.630	6.0	8.5
2	5936.129	5.7	4.9	809.499	15.7	12.5	1582.823	6.5	7.6	1214.882	7.7	7.3
3	6000.026	4.4	5.0	827.161	9.0	13.8	1610.836	7.3	8.4	1244.626	10.2	9.5
4	6083.617	5.7	5.2	854.151	13.7	11.3	1629.669	4.8	6.4	1262.408	5.8	7.4
2000 1	6171.712	5.9	5.4	892.126	19.0	14.3	1683.440	13.9	8.0	1309.449	15.8	9.8
2	6226.286	3.6	4.9	886.460	-2.5	9.5	1719.215	8.8	8.6	1347.656	12.2	10.9
3	6292.122	4.3	4.9	904.104	8.2	9.3	1730.056	2.5	7.4	1371.096	7.1	10.2
4	6341.092	3.1	4.2	899.419	-2.1	5.3	1732.106	0.5	6.3	1374.460	1.0	8.9
2001 1	6388.492	3.0	3.5	922.425	10.6	3.4	1740.340	1.9	3.4	1373.911	-0.2	4.9
2	6428.402	2.5	3.2	938.115	7.0	5.8	1696.380	-9.7	-1.3	1320.925	-14.6	-2.0

	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
1997	101.950		2.0	133.3		3.1	130.4		3.5	140.2		2.1
1998	103.200		1.2	138.0		3.5	135.6		4.0	143.6		2.4
1999	104.660		1.4	142.4		3.2	140.3		3.4	147.6		2.8
2000	107.040		2.3	148.9		4.6	146.0		4.1	156.0		5.7
1998 1	102.760	1.1	1.4	136.2	3.0	3.5	133.7	4.0	4.0	142.2	1.1	2.4
2	103.020	1.0	1.2	137.3	3.3	3.5	134.8	3.3	3.9	143.1	2.6	2.4
3	103.380	1.4	1.2	138.8	4.4	3.8	136.5	5.1	4.3	144.1	2.8	2.6
4	103.660	1.1	1.1	139.7	2.6	3.3	137.5	3.0	3.9	145.1	2.8	2.3
1999 1	104.100	1.7	1.3	140.2	1.4	2.9	138.1	1.8	3.3	145.3	0.6	2.2
2	104.450	1.4	1.4	141.8	4.6	3.3	139.7	4.7	3.6	146.7	3.9	2.5
3	104.810	1.4	1.4	143.0	3.4	3.0	140.9	3.5	3.2	148.2	4.2	2.8
4	105.280	1.8	1.6	144.6	4.6	3.5	142.3	4.0	3.5	150.2	5.5	3.5
2000 1	106.250	3.7	2.1	146.6	5.6	4.6	143.9	4.6	4.2	153.2	8.2	5.4
2	106.810	2.1	2.3	148.3	4.7	4.6	145.4	4.2	4.1	155.1	5.1	5.7
3	107.310	1.9	2.4	149.7	3.8	4.7	146.7	3.6	4.1	157.0	5.0	5.9
4	107.780	1.8	2.4	151.0	3.5	4.4	147.9	3.3	3.9	158.7	4.4	5.7
2001 1	108.650	3.3	2.3	152.7	4.6	4.2	149.5	4.4	3.9	161.0	5.9	5.1
2	109.220	2.1	2.3	154.2	4.0	4.0	150.9	3.8	3.8	162.5	3.8	4.8

	Exports			Imports			Nonfarm Output per Hour			Nonfarm Compensation/Hr		
	Billions of 1996 \$	Percent change		Billions of 1996 \$	Percent change		Index	Percent change		Index	Percent change	
		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago
1997	981.458		12.3	1094.778		13.7	107.5		2.0	113.1		3.0
1998	1002.420		2.1	1223.500		11.8	110.3		2.6	119.2		5.4
1999	1034.852		3.2	1351.721		10.5	112.9		2.4	124.4		4.4
2000	1133.204		9.5	1532.260		13.4	116.2		2.9	132.0		6.1
1998 1	1003.364	0.5	6.7	1184.176	15.9	14.5	109.6	4.5	3.2	116.9	6.8	4.6
2	993.110	-4.0	1.4	1216.171	11.3	12.6	109.7	0.4	2.2	118.5	5.6	5.6
3	987.612	-2.2	-1.7	1228.855	4.2	9.4	110.4	2.6	2.0	120.0	5.2	5.9
4	1025.577	16.3	2.3	1264.818	12.2	10.8	111.6	4.4	3.0	121.2	4.1	5.4
1999 1	1007.560	-6.8	0.4	1290.592	8.4	9.0	112.2	2.2	2.4	122.3	3.7	4.6
2	1018.015	4.2	2.5	1331.390	13.3	9.5	111.9	-1.1	2.0	123.6	4.3	4.3
3	1041.766	9.7	5.5	1375.106	13.8	11.9	112.7	2.9	2.1	125.1	4.9	4.2
4	1072.056	12.1	4.5	1409.808	10.5	11.5	114.7	7.3	2.8	126.4	4.2	4.3
2000 1	1095.457	9.0	8.7	1466.565	17.1	13.6	114.5	-0.7	2.0	128.4	6.5	5.0
2	1130.581	13.5	11.1	1523.380	16.4	14.4	116.3	6.4	3.9	130.7	7.4	5.7
3	1159.306	10.6	11.3	1570.554	13.0	14.2	116.7	1.4	3.5	133.0	7.2	6.3
4	1147.470	-4.0	7.0	1568.541	-0.5	11.3	117.4	2.4	2.4	135.9	9.0	7.5
2001 1	1144.061	-1.2	4.4	1548.585	-5.0	5.6	117.4	0.0	2.5	137.6	5.1	7.2
2	1108.299	-11.9	-2.0	1515.039	-8.4	-0.5	118.0	2.1	1.5	139.2	4.7	6.5

		Household Survey Employment				Nonfarm Payroll Employment				Nonfarm Aggregate Hours			
		<div>Percent change</div>				<div>Percent change</div>				<div>Percent change</div>			
		Thousands	Change	Annual rate	Year ago	Thousands	Change	Annual rate	Year ago	Index	Monthly rate	Annual rate	Year ago
1996		126720	1812		1.5	119589	2402		2.0	136.6			2.4
1997		129572	2852		2.3	122676	3087		2.6	141.4			3.5
1998		131471	1898		1.5	125845	3168		2.6	145.2			2.7
1999		133501	2030		1.5	128901	3056		2.4	148.4			2.2
2000		135215	1714		1.3	131757	2857		2.2	151.4			2.1
1999	1	132923	632	1.9	1.7	127775	801	2.5	2.4	147.0	0.3	1.4	1.9
	2	133192	269	0.8	1.5	128503	727	2.3	2.4	147.9	0.6	2.6	2.2
	3	133627	435	1.3	1.6	129217	715	2.2	2.4	148.7	0.5	2.1	2.2
	4	134263	636	1.9	1.5	130107	890	2.8	2.5	149.9	0.8	3.4	2.3
2000	1	135036	774	2.3	1.6	130984	877	2.7	2.5	151.0	0.7	3.0	2.7
	2	135181	145	0.4	1.5	131854	870	2.7	2.6	151.5	0.3	1.2	2.4
	3	135049	-132	-0.4	1.1	131927	74	0.2	2.1	151.5	0.0	0.2	1.9
	4	135593	544	1.6	1.0	132264	336	1.0	1.7	151.6	0.0	0.2	1.1
2001	1	135865	272	0.8	0.6	132559	295	0.9	1.2	152.0	0.2	1.0	0.6
	2	135130	-735	-2.1	-0.0	132483	-76	-0.2	0.5	151.4	-0.4	-1.5	-0.0
1999	Aug	133565	44	0.4	1.7	129224	206	1.9	2.4	148.7	0.1	0.8	2.1
	Sep	133795	230	2.1	1.3	129410	186	1.7	2.3	148.7	0.0	0.0	2.1
	Oct	134049	254	2.3	1.5	129863	453	4.3	2.5	149.6	0.6	7.5	2.3
	Nov	134241	192	1.7	1.5	130093	230	2.1	2.5	149.9	0.2	2.4	2.5
	Dec	134498	257	2.3	1.4	130365	272	2.5	2.4	150.2	0.2	2.4	2.2
2000	Jan	134976	478	4.3	1.5	130668	303	2.8	2.5	150.7	0.3	4.1	2.8
	Feb	135120	144	1.3	1.7	130843	175	1.6	2.3	150.9	0.1	1.6	2.4
	Mar	135013	-107	-0.9	1.6	131441	598	5.6	2.7	151.4	0.3	4.0	3.1
	Apr	135517	504	4.6	2.0	131683	242	2.2	2.6	151.8	0.3	3.2	2.8
	May	134843	-674	-5.8	1.2	131909	226	2.1	2.7	151.1	-0.5	-5.4	2.2
	Jun	135183	340	3.1	1.3	131969	60	0.5	2.5	151.5	0.3	3.2	2.2
	Jul	134898	-285	-2.5	1.0	131899	-70	-0.6	2.2	151.6	0.1	0.8	2.0
	Aug	134939	41	0.4	1.0	131837	-62	-0.6	2.0	151.3	-0.2	-2.3	1.7
	Sep	135310	371	3.3	1.1	132046	209	1.9	2.0	151.7	0.3	3.2	2.0
	Oct	135464	154	1.4	1.1	132145	99	0.9	1.8	151.8	0.1	0.8	1.5
	Nov	135478	14	0.1	0.9	132279	134	1.2	1.7	151.8	0.0	0.0	1.3
	Dec	135836	358	3.2	1.0	132367	88	0.8	1.5	151.2	-0.4	-4.6	0.7
2001	Jan	135999	163	1.4	0.8	132428	61	0.6	1.3	152.2	0.7	8.2	1.0
	Feb	135815	-184	-1.6	0.5	132595	167	1.5	1.3	151.7	-0.3	-3.9	0.5
	Mar	135780	-35	-0.3	0.6	132654	59	0.5	0.9	152.0	0.2	2.4	0.4
	Apr	135354	-426	-3.7	-0.1	132489	-165	-1.5	0.6	151.5	-0.3	-3.9	-0.2
	May	135103	-251	-2.2	0.2	132530	41	0.4	0.5	151.5	0.0	0.0	0.3
	Jun	134932	-171	-1.5	-0.2	132431	-99	-0.9	0.4	151.2	-0.2	-2.4	-0.2
	Jul	135379	447	4.0	0.4	132444	13	0.1	0.4	150.7	-0.3	-3.9	-0.6
	Aug	134393	-986	-8.4	-0.4	132331	-113	-1.0	0.4	150.1	-0.4	-4.7	-0.8



		Unempl. Rate	Retail and Food Services 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		
1996		5.4	2638.816			5.8	119.556			4.6	5.01	6.44
1997		5.0	2769.378			4.9	127.586			6.7	5.06	6.35
1998		4.5	2906.996			5.0	133.669			4.8	4.78	5.26
1999		4.2	3146.523			8.2	139.203			4.1	4.64	5.64
2000		4.0	3385.506			7.6	146.989			5.6	5.82	6.03
1999	1	4.3	761.800	2.0	8.4	7.4	136.506	1.0	3.9	3.3	4.41	4.98
	2	4.3	777.546	2.1	8.5	7.2	138.137	1.2	4.9	3.8	4.45	5.54
	3	4.2	794.178	2.1	8.8	9.4	140.114	1.4	5.8	4.4	4.65	5.88
	4	4.1	812.999	2.4	9.8	8.9	142.056	1.4	5.7	5.1	5.04	6.14
2000	1	4.0	839.058	3.2	13.5	10.1	144.365	1.6	6.7	5.8	5.52	6.48
	2	4.0	842.109	0.4	1.5	8.3	147.130	1.9	7.9	6.5	5.71	6.18
	3	4.0	851.886	1.2	4.7	7.3	148.406	0.9	3.5	5.9	6.02	5.89
	4	4.0	852.453	0.1	0.3	4.9	148.055	−0.2	−0.9	4.2	6.02	5.57
2001	1	4.2	863.401	1.3	5.2	2.9	145.481	−1.7	−6.8	0.8	4.82	5.05
	2	4.5	874.458	1.3	5.2	3.8	143.854	−1.1	−4.4	−2.2	3.66	5.27
	3										3.17	4.98
1999	Sep	4.2	265.999	0.2	2.1	9.3	140.392	0.1	1.0	4.1	4.68	5.92
	Oct	4.1	267.076	0.4	5.0	8.1	141.481	0.8	9.7	4.4	4.86	6.11
	Nov	4.1	270.712	1.4	17.6	8.8	141.879	0.3	3.4	5.1	5.07	6.03
	Dec	4.1	275.211	1.7	21.9	9.7	142.808	0.7	8.1	5.7	5.20	6.28
2000	Jan	4.0	275.864	0.2	2.9	9.6	143.569	0.5	6.6	5.6	5.32	6.66
	Feb	4.1	279.909	1.5	19.1	10.0	144.291	0.5	6.2	5.9	5.55	6.52
	Mar	4.0	283.285	1.2	15.5	10.8	145.234	0.7	8.1	5.8	5.69	6.26
	Apr	4.0	279.961	−1.2	−13.2	8.9	146.266	0.7	8.9	6.4	5.66	5.99
	May	4.1	280.447	0.2	2.1	7.9	147.228	0.7	8.2	6.4	5.79	6.44
	Jun	4.0	281.701	0.4	5.5	8.1	147.896	0.5	5.6	6.7	5.69	6.10
	Jul	4.0	283.035	0.5	5.8	7.8	147.595	−0.2	−2.4	5.7	5.96	6.05
	Aug	4.1	283.230	0.1	0.8	6.7	148.650	0.7	8.9	6.0	6.09	5.83
	Sep	3.9	285.621	0.8	10.6	7.4	148.973	0.2	2.6	6.1	6.00	5.80
	Oct	3.9	285.070	−0.2	−2.3	6.7	148.660	−0.2	−2.5	5.1	6.11	5.74
	Nov	4.0	283.648	−0.5	−5.8	4.8	148.206	−0.3	−3.6	4.5	6.17	5.72
	Dec	4.0	283.735	0.0	0.4	3.1	147.300	−0.6	−7.1	3.1	5.77	5.24
2001	Jan	4.2	288.054	1.5	19.9	4.4	146.013	−0.9	−10.0	1.7	5.15	5.16
	Feb	4.2	288.245	0.1	0.8	3.0	145.443	−0.4	−4.6	0.8	4.88	5.10
	Mar	4.3	287.102	−0.4	−4.7	1.3	144.987	−0.3	−3.7	−0.2	4.42	4.89
	Apr	4.5	291.116	1.4	18.1	4.0	144.607	−0.3	−3.1	−1.1	3.87	5.14
	May	4.4	291.691	0.2	2.4	4.0	144.227	−0.3	−3.1	−2.0	3.62	5.39
	Jun	4.5	291.651	−0.0	−0.2	3.5	142.727	−1.0	−11.8	−3.5	3.49	5.28
	Jul	4.5	292.128	0.2	2.0	3.2	142.581	−0.1	−1.2	−3.4	3.51	5.24
	Aug	4.9	293.083	0.3	4.0	3.5	141.499	−0.8	−8.7	−4.8	3.36	4.97
	Sep										2.64	4.73

		Consumer Price Index					Consumer Price Index less Food and Energy					Producer Price Index Finished Goods			
		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	
1996		157.0		2.9		165.8			2.7		131.3			2.6	
1997		160.6		2.3		169.7			2.4		131.8			0.4	
1998		163.1		1.5		173.6			2.3		130.7			-0.9	
1999		166.7		2.2		177.2			2.1		133.0			1.8	
2000		172.3		3.4		181.5			2.4		138.0			3.7	
1999	1	164.9	0.4	1.6	1.7	175.9	0.5	1.9	2.2	1.9	131.4	0.3	1.2	0.7	
	2	166.0	0.7	2.9	2.1	176.8	0.5	1.9	2.1	1.9	132.3	0.7	2.8	1.3	
	3	167.2	0.7	2.8	2.3	177.6	0.5	1.9	2.0	1.9	133.6	1.0	4.0	2.3	
	4	168.5	0.8	3.2	2.6	178.7	0.6	2.4	2.0	2.0	134.8	0.9	3.7	2.9	
2000	1	170.3	1.0	4.2	3.3	179.8	0.6	2.6	2.2	2.6	136.3	1.1	4.4	3.7	
	2	171.5	0.7	3.0	3.3	181.0	0.7	2.7	2.4	2.6	137.5	0.9	3.6	3.9	
	3	173.0	0.9	3.5	3.5	182.1	0.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	138.4	0.7	2.6	3.6	
	4	174.3	0.7	2.9	3.4	183.2	0.6	2.4	2.5	2.5	139.8	1.0	4.1	3.7	
2001	1	176.1	1.0	4.2	3.4	184.6	0.8	3.2	2.7	3.2	141.6	1.3	5.3	3.9	
	2	177.4	0.8	3.1	3.4	185.8	0.6	2.6	2.7	2.9	142.1	0.3	1.2	3.3	
1999	Aug	167.1	0.2	2.9	2.2	177.5	0.1	1.4	1.9	1.6	133.6	0.7	8.4	2.4	
	Sep	167.8	0.4	5.1	2.6	178.0	0.3	3.4	2.1	1.8	134.5	0.7	8.4	3.1	
	Oct	168.2	0.2	2.9	2.6	178.3	0.2	2.0	2.1	1.8	134.6	0.1	0.9	2.7	
	Nov	168.5	0.2	2.2	2.6	178.7	0.2	2.7	2.1	1.9	134.7	0.1	0.9	3.0	
	Dec	168.9	0.2	2.9	2.7	179.0	0.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	135.2	0.4	4.5	3.0	
2000	Jan	169.4	0.3	3.6	2.8	179.4	0.2	2.7	2.0	2.7	135.1	-0.1	-0.9	2.6	
	Feb	170.2	0.5	5.8	3.3	179.7	0.2	2.0	2.2	2.4	136.3	0.9	11.2	4.0	
	Mar	171.2	0.6	7.3	3.8	180.3	0.3	4.1	2.4	2.9	137.5	0.9	11.1	4.6	
	Apr	171.1	-0.1	-0.7	3.1	180.7	0.2	2.7	2.3	2.9	137.1	-0.3	-3.4	3.7	
	May	171.3	0.1	1.4	3.2	181.0	0.2	2.0	2.4	2.7	137.1	0.0	0.0	3.6	
	Jun	172.2	0.5	6.5	3.7	181.3	0.2	2.0	2.5	2.6	138.3	0.9	11.0	4.5	
	Jul	172.7	0.3	3.5	3.6	181.7	0.2	2.7	2.5	2.6	138.2	-0.1	-0.9	4.1	
	Aug	172.8	0.1	0.7	3.4	182.1	0.2	2.7	2.6	2.6	138.0	-0.1	-1.7	3.3	
	Sep	173.6	0.5	5.7	3.5	182.6	0.3	3.3	2.6	2.7	139.0	0.7	9.1	3.3	
	Oct	173.9	0.2	2.1	3.4	182.8	0.1	1.3	2.5	2.6	139.6	0.4	5.3	3.7	
	Nov	174.3	0.2	2.8	3.4	183.3	0.3	3.3	2.6	2.6	139.8	0.1	1.7	3.8	
	Dec	174.6	0.2	2.1	3.4	183.5	0.1	1.3	2.5	2.5	140.0	0.1	1.7	3.6	
2001	Jan	175.7	0.6	7.8	3.7	184.1	0.3	4.0	2.6	4.0	141.6	1.1	14.6	4.8	
	Feb	176.2	0.3	3.5	3.5	184.7	0.3	4.0	2.8	4.0	141.7	0.1	0.9	4.0	
	Mar	176.3	0.1	0.7	3.0	185.1	0.2	2.6	2.7	3.5	141.6	-0.1	-0.8	3.0	
	Apr	176.8	0.3	3.5	3.3	185.5	0.2	2.6	2.7	3.3	142.3	0.5	6.1	3.8	
	May	177.5	0.4	4.9	3.6	185.7	0.1	1.3	2.6	2.9	142.2	-0.1	-0.8	3.7	
	Jun	177.9	0.2	2.7	3.3	186.3	0.3	3.9	2.8	3.1	141.7	-0.4	-4.1	2.5	
	Jul	177.4	-0.3	-3.3	2.7	186.6	0.2	1.9	2.7	2.9	140.4	-0.9	-10.5	1.6	
	Aug	177.5	0.1	0.7	2.7	187.0	0.2	2.6	2.7	2.9	140.9	0.4	4.4	2.1	

## Notes

*Pages 4, 5:* **Final sales** is gross domestic product (GDP) minus change in private 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. Real GDP is measured in 1996 dollars. The **Purchasing Managers' Index** is a weighted average of diffusion indexes for new orders, production, supplier deliveries, inventories, and employment. **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:* For information on how to calculate the **contribution** of a component to the overall GDP growth rate, see the October 1999 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*, p. 16. The sign is changed for **imports**.

*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. **Standard and Poor's 500 Index with Reinvested Dividends** shows the total return: capital gains plus dividends.

*Pages 8,9:* **Oil** (West Texas intermediate) and **Natural Gas** (Henry Hub) **prices** are monthly averages of daily spot prices listed in the *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. 90 percent confidence intervals for the unemployment rate ( $\pm 0.2$  percentage points) and change in household survey employment ( $\pm 376,000$ ) measure uncertainty due to sample size. The **available labor supply** is the sum of the unemployed and those persons not in the labor force but who want to work now. The household survey was significantly 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.

*Pages 13:* 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. The comprehensive revision introduced the **equipment & software** component of business investment.

*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 NIPAs. The **unified federal budget surplus/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** are from the NIPAs, except as noted. Since 1977, the federal **fiscal year** starts on October 1. Excluded agency debt was 0.6 percent of federal debt at the end of fiscal 1997. **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. Nonfarm business accounted for about 76 percent of the value of GDP in 1996, while nonfinancial corporations accounted for about 54 percent. **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.

**NOTE:** Measures of retail sales (pp. 12-13), manufacturers' orders, shipments and inventories (p. 15), and the total business inventory-to-sales ratio (p. 5) are now based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Data from January 1992 onward are on a NAICS basis, while data before that are on the old Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. For more information, see <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>

## 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, multifactor productivity

*United States Department of Treasury*

Unified budget receipts, outlays, deficit, debt

*Federal Reserve Board*

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

*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)