

National Economic Trends



Was the Recent Economic Downturn a Recession?

Late last year, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) announced that the U.S. economy entered a recession in March 2001. Some have questioned whether the recent downturn really qualifies as a recession, as by some measures it has been quite mild. For example, the broadest measure of the economy's output, real gross domestic product (GDP), experienced only a modest decline in the current recession. However, given that more timely measures of economic activity are available, the NBER gives relatively little weight to GDP in determining recession dates. Instead, the NBER defines a recession as a "significant decline in activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, visible in industrial production, employment, real income, and wholesale-retail sales."¹ To investigate whether the recent economic downturn meets this definition, I use past recessions as a yardstick.

The table details the significance and length of decline in the four variables included in the NBER recession definition for each recession over the past 40 years. Significance is measured by the percentage decline in each variable from its individual peak to its individual trough. This is computed by finding the lowest point each variable reached during or a year following the recession (called the trough) and subtracting this value from the highest point the variable reached in the past (called the peak).

Beside this statistic, in parentheses, is the time in months between individual peak and trough for each series, a measure of the length of the decline. The statistics for the current recession assume the troughs have been reached for all of these variables.

The table shows that both employment and industrial production have experienced significant and lengthy

declines in the current recession; the magnitudes of the declines are similar to those observed in several past recessions and lasted for 13 and 18 months, respectively, longer than the average of the previous recessions. The employment decline is of particular interest, as the NBER gives extra emphasis to employment movements in determining recession dates. The decline in sales during the current recession has been notably mild relative to previous recessions, dropping less than half as much as in the 1990-91 recession. Nevertheless, such a protracted sales decline has never occurred within any expansion. In the sample period considered here, there have been only three months not related to an NBER recession in which sales had declined 2.4 percent below their prior peak, the level reached in the current recession. In all three cases these episodes lasted just one month, with sales bouncing back above their peak in the following month. By contrast, sales in the current recession remained below their peak for 10 consecutive months before the trough was reached, suggesting the recent sales data have more in common with past recessions than past expansions. Finally, as in the 1960-61 and 1969-70 recessions, personal income experienced no sustained fall during the current recession.

Was the recent economic downturn a recession? This evidence suggests that, when compared with past recessions, this downturn does measure up.

—Jeremy Piger

¹NBER's business-cycle dating procedure, June 7, 2002. <nber.org/cycles/recessions.html>.

Peak-to-Trough Decline in Each Recession: Percent (months)

	1960-61	1969-70	1973-75	1980	1981-82	1990-91	2001-02
Total employment	-2.3 (10)	-1.5 (8)	-2.9 (6)	-1.5 (4)	-3.1 (16)	-1.6 (20)	-1.4 (13)
Industrial production	-9.1 (11)	-7.3 (13)	-16.1 (16)	-7.3 (13)	-10.9 (17)	-5.3 (23)	-7.4 (18)
Real manufacturing and trade sales	NA	-5.8 (13)	-13.8 (16)	-8.8 (15)	-10.2 (12)	-5.2 (5)	-2.4* (10)
Real personal income excluding transfer payments	-1.37 (2)	-1.0 (2)	-5.9 (17)	-2.8 (7)	-1.7 (14)	-2.6 (7)	-0.9 (1)

NOTE: *The maximum decline in sales was actually 4.2 percent, reached in September 2001. However, this reflected the September 11 terrorist attacks and was largely erased the following month. Thus, I report the second largest decline.



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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 during the previous year. *Compounded annual rate of change* 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 compounded annual rate of change of x between the previous quarter $t-1$ and the current quarter t is:

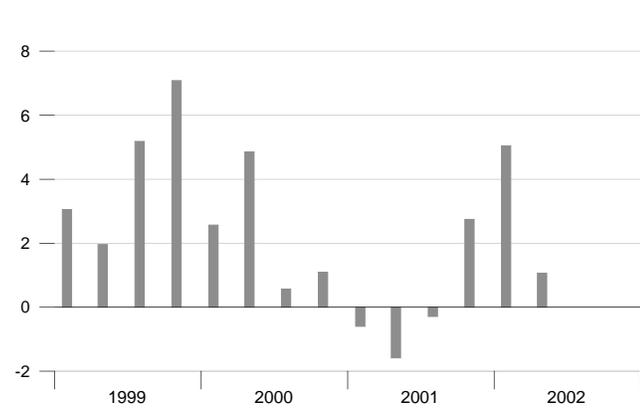
$$100 \times \left[\left(\frac{x_t}{x_{t-1}} \right)^4 - 1 \right]$$

For monthly data replace 4 with 12.

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

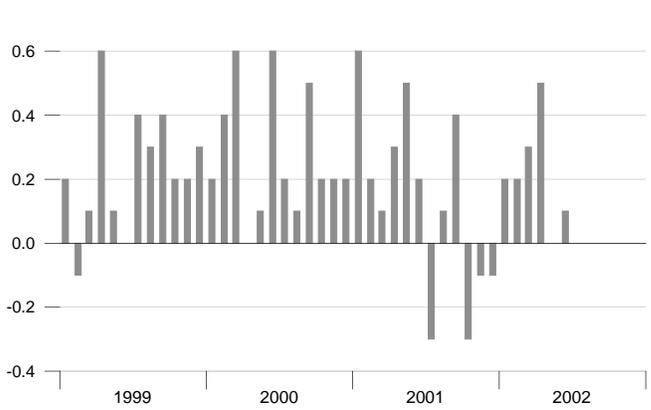
Real GDP Growth

Compounded annual rates of change
10



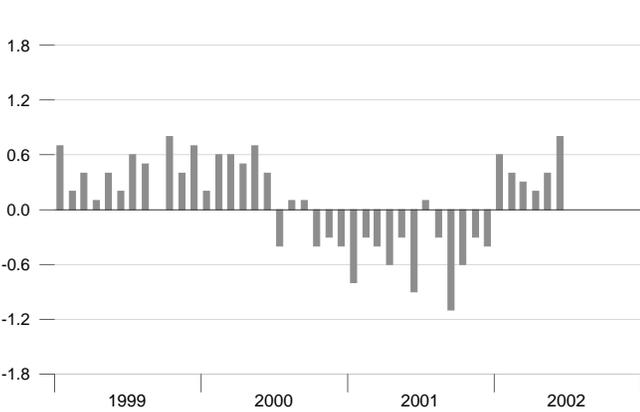
Consumer Price Index

Percent change
0.8



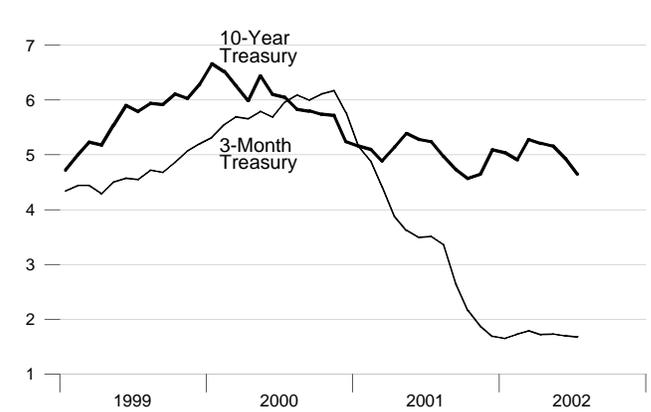
Industrial Production

Percent change
2.4



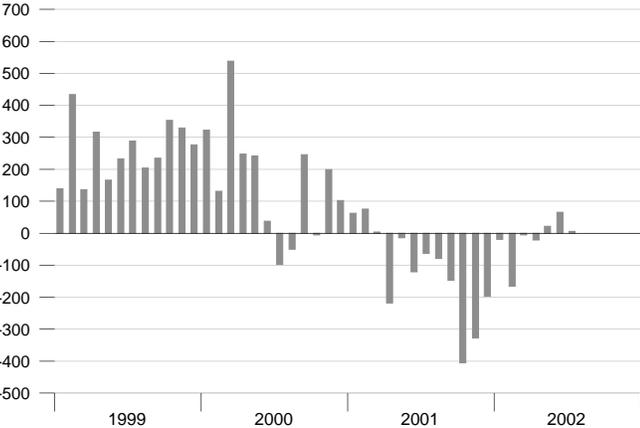
Interest Rates

Percent
8



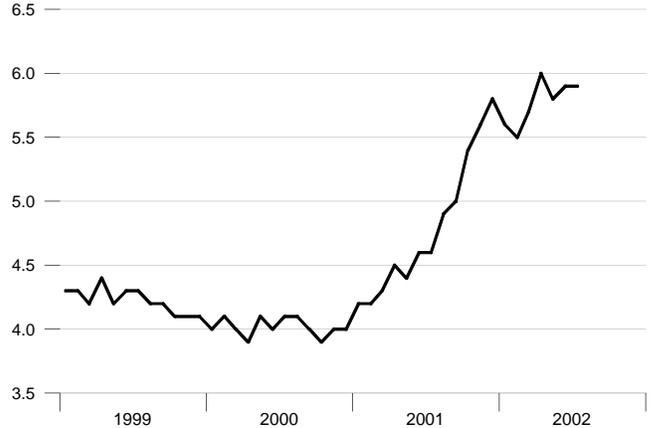
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls

Thousands
700



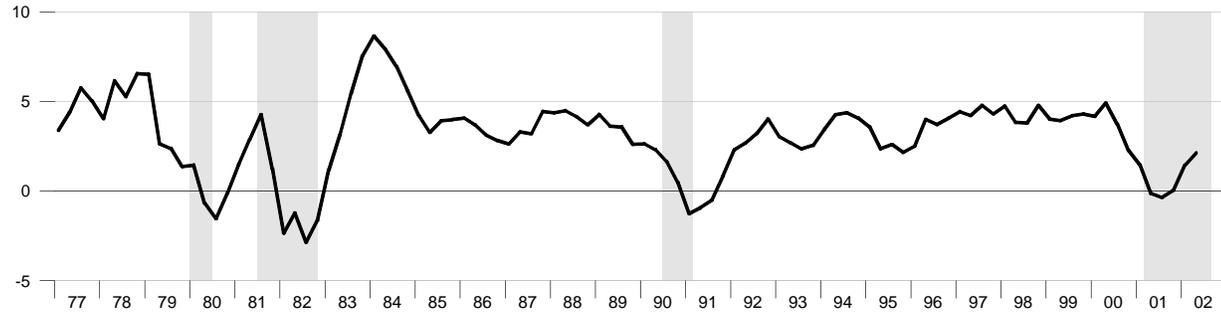
Unemployment Rate

Percent of labor force
6.5



Real Gross Domestic Product

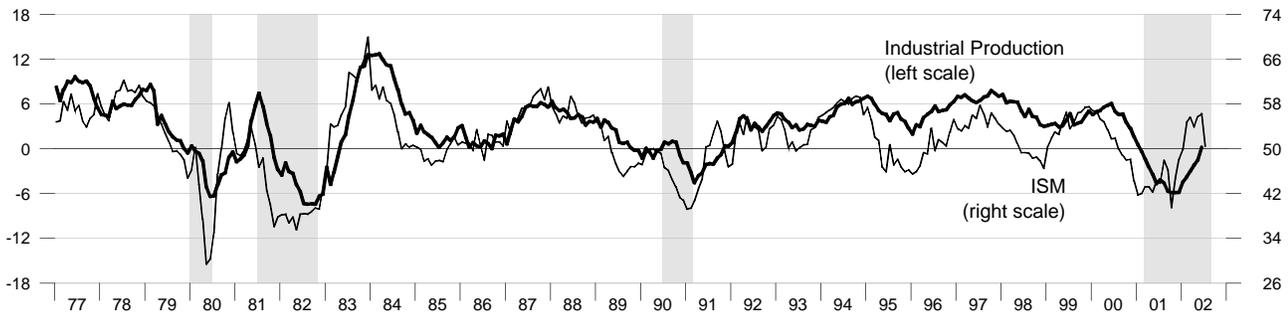
Percent change from year ago



Industrial Production and Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Indexes

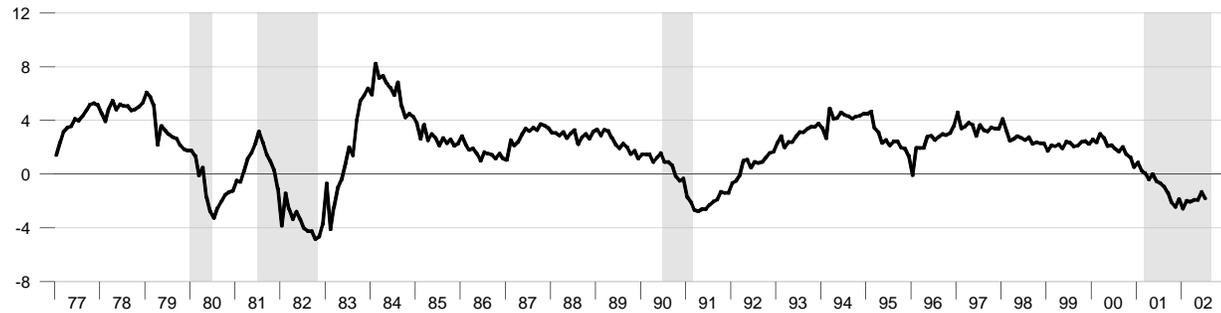
Percent change from year ago

Index



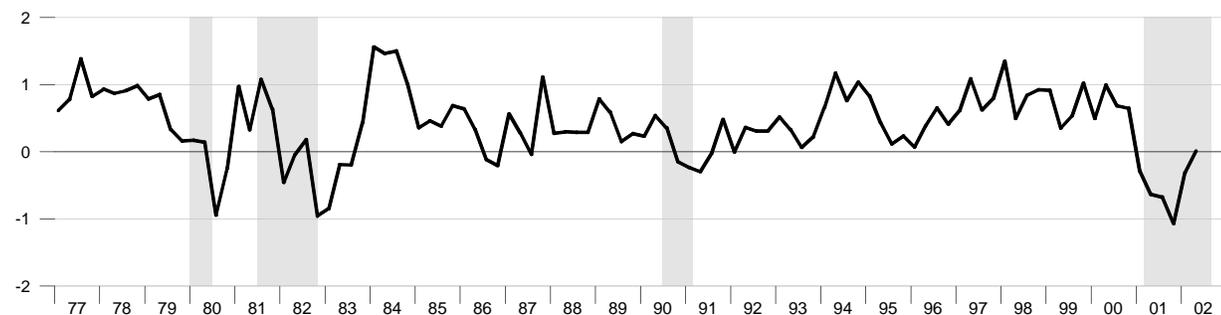
Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours

Percent change from year ago

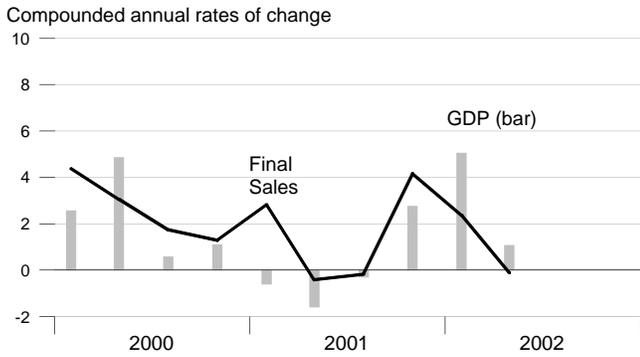


Real Change in Private Inventories

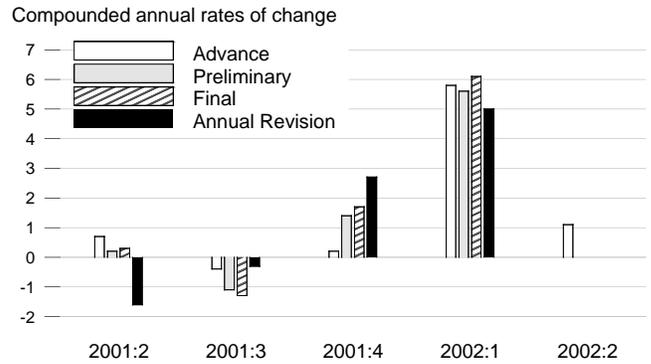
Percent of GDP



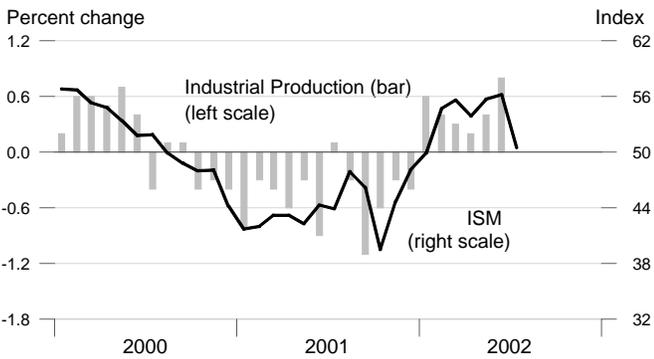
Real Final Sales and GDP



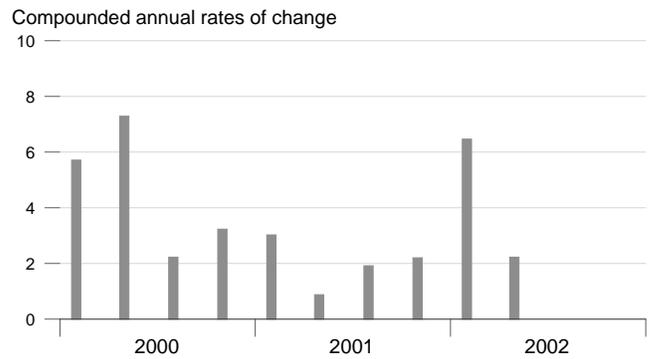
Real GDP Revisions



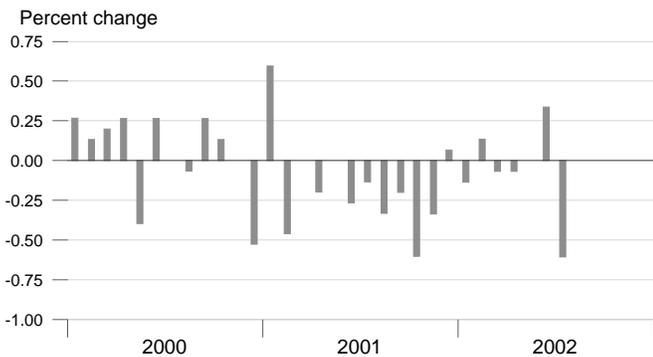
Industrial Production and ISM Index



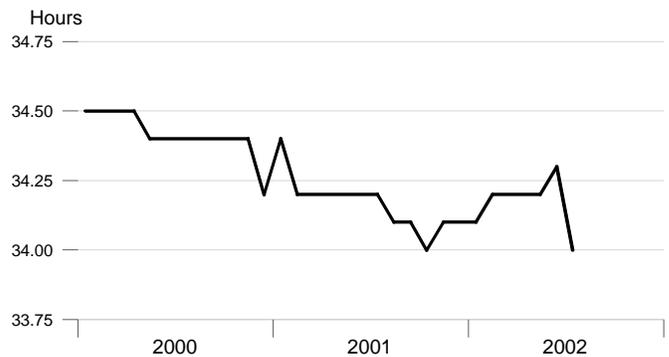
Nominal Gross Domestic Product



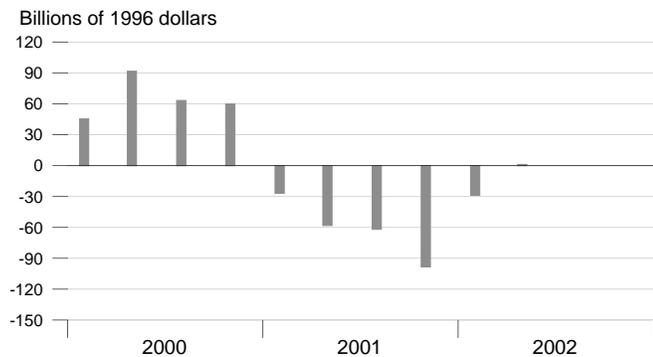
Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours



Average Weekly Private Nonfarm Hours



Real Change in Private Inventories

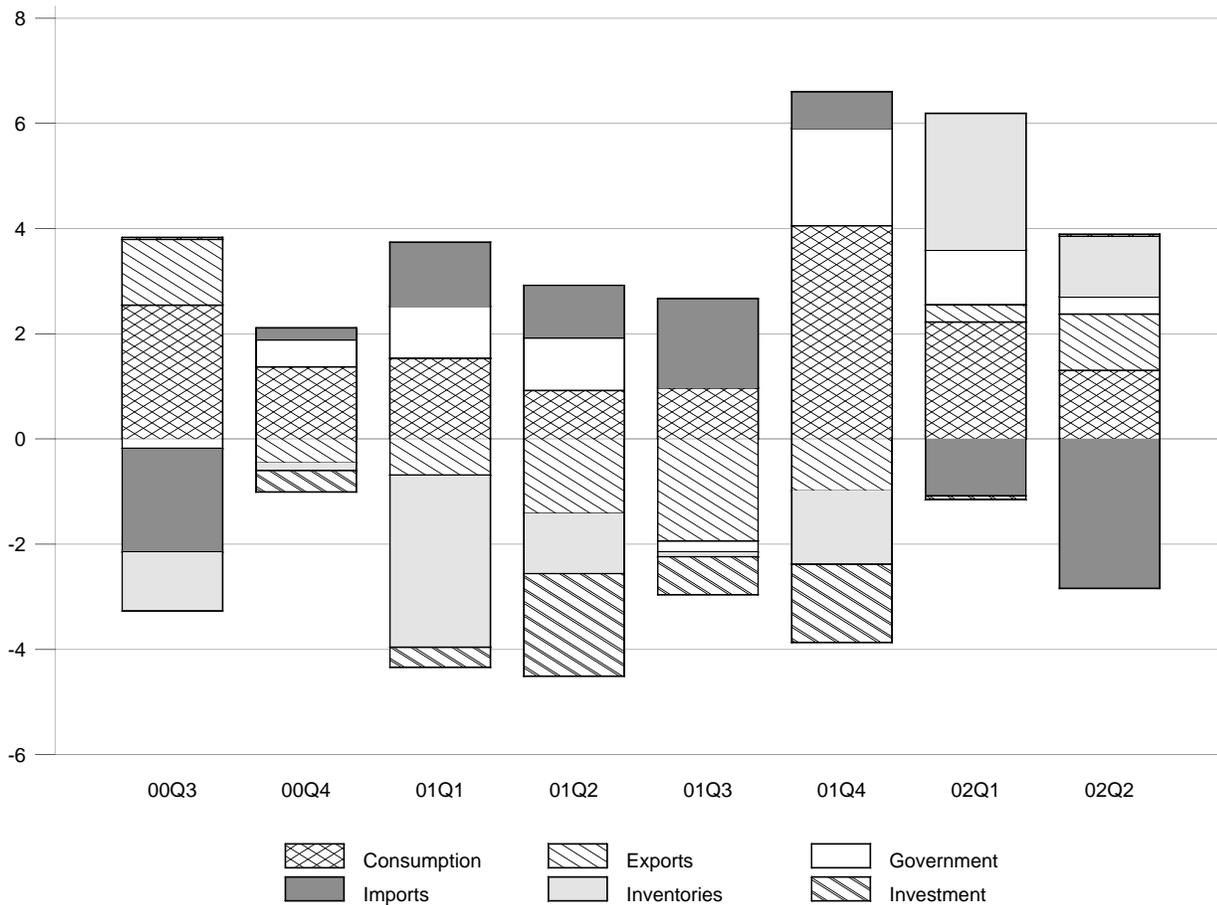


Inventory-Sales Ratio



Contribution of Components to Real GDP Growth

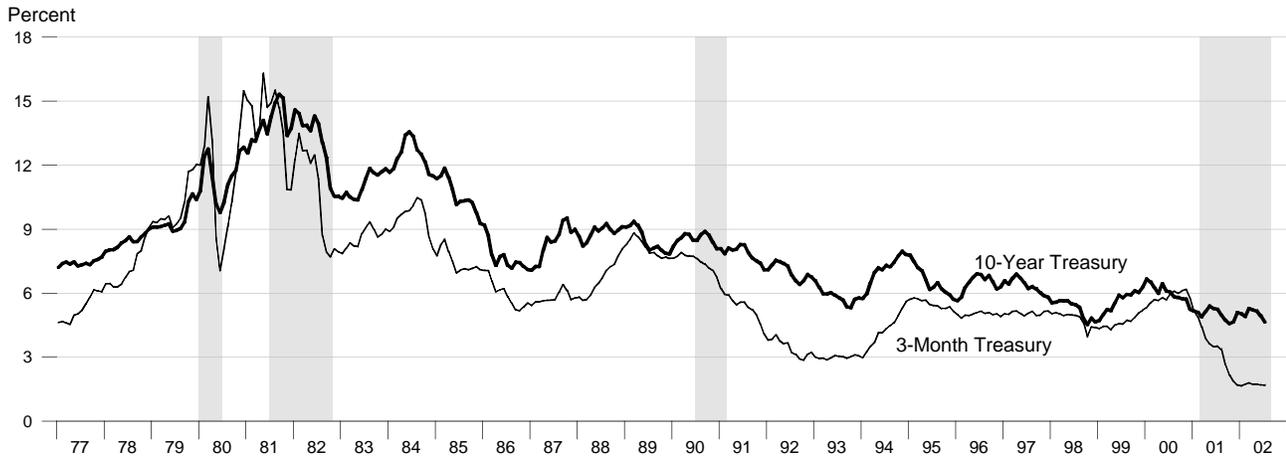
Percentage points at compounded annual rates



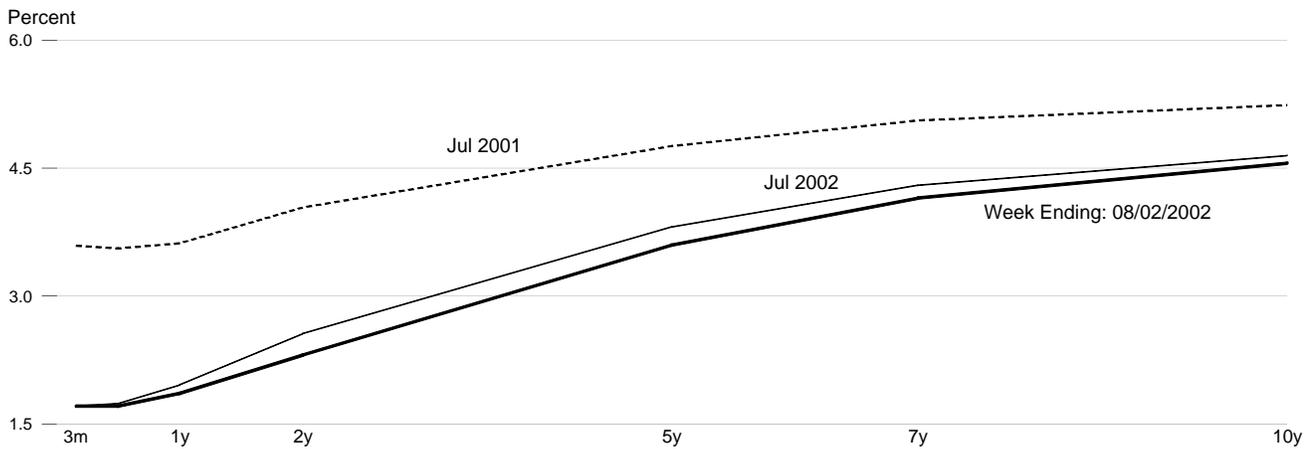
Contributions to Real GDP Growth Rate

	2000		2001				2002	
	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd
Final Sales	1.69	1.23	2.67	-0.45	-0.20	4.13	2.44	-0.09
Change in Inventory	-1.12	-0.14	-3.27	-1.14	-0.09	-1.39	2.60	1.15
Consumption	2.54	1.37	1.53	0.92	0.97	4.05	2.22	1.30
Fixed Investment	0.04	-0.41	-0.38	-1.95	-0.72	-1.49	-0.07	0.04
Nonresidential	0.46	-0.41	-0.71	-1.93	-0.73	-1.33	-0.66	-0.18
Residential	-0.42	0.00	0.34	-0.02	0.02	-0.16	0.60	0.22
Government	-0.18	0.51	0.99	1.00	-0.21	1.85	1.04	0.33
Federal	-0.45	0.12	0.54	0.36	0.07	0.80	0.47	0.47
State and Local	0.28	0.39	0.45	0.64	-0.28	1.05	0.56	-0.14
Net Exports	-0.72	-0.23	0.53	-0.42	-0.24	-0.28	-0.75	-1.77
Exports	1.25	-0.46	-0.69	-1.42	-1.94	-0.99	0.33	1.07
Imports	-1.97	0.23	1.22	1.00	1.70	0.70	-1.08	-2.84
Residual	0.13	0.06	0.45	0.50	0.07	0.42	-0.05	0.34
Real GDP Growth	0.57	1.09	-0.60	-1.59	-0.29	2.74	5.04	1.06

Interest Rates



Treasury Yield Curve

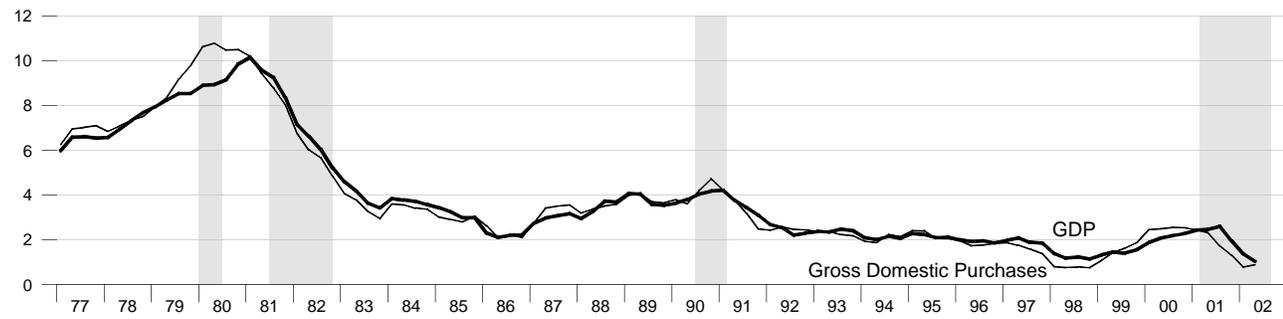


Standard and Poor's 500 Index with Reinvested Dividends



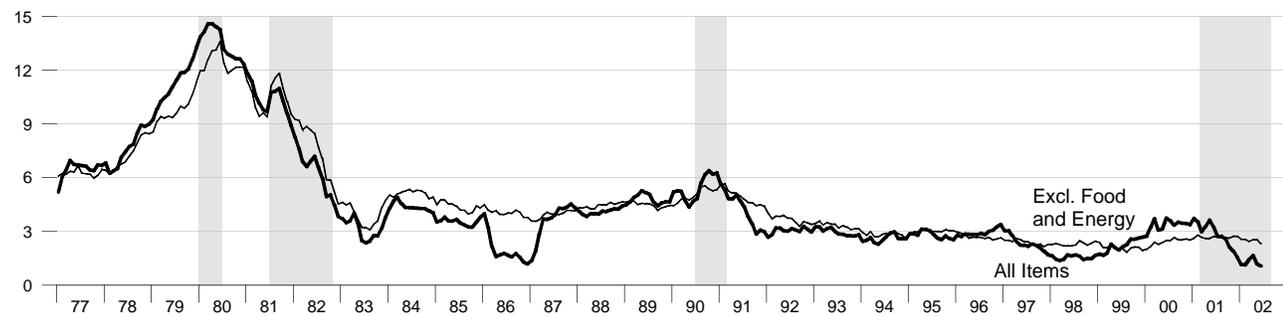
NIPA Chain Price Indexes

Percent change from year ago



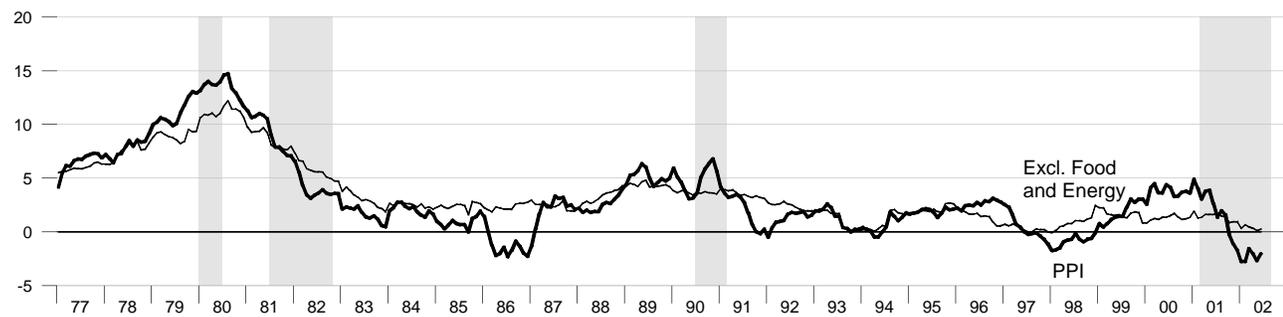
Consumer Price Index

Percent change from year ago



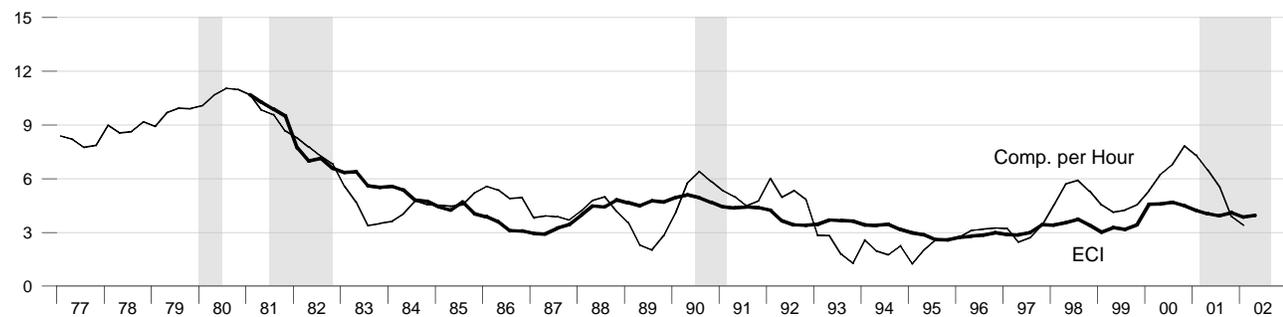
Producer Price Index, Finished Goods

Percent change from year ago

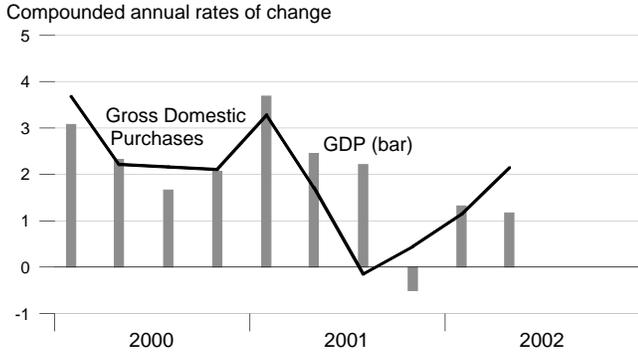


Employment Cost Index and Compensation per Hour

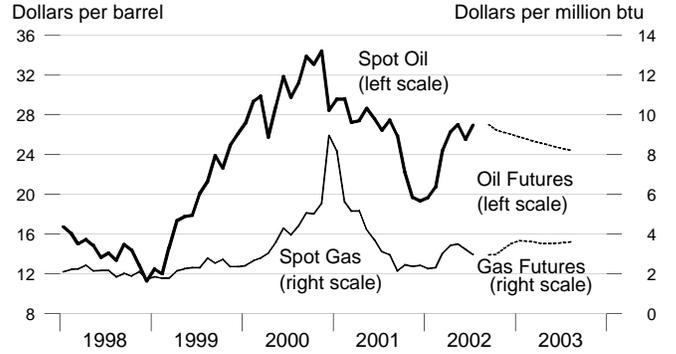
Percent change from year ago



NIPA Chain Price Indexes

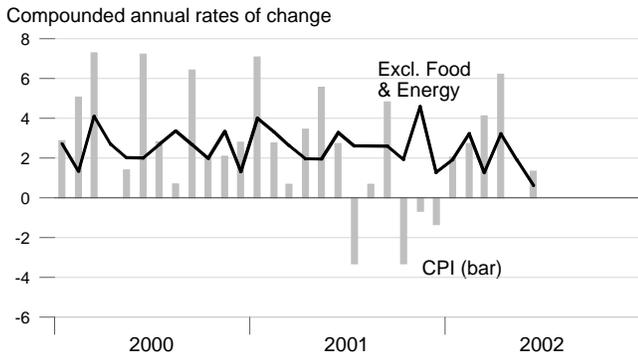


Oil & Natural Gas Prices: Spot & Futures

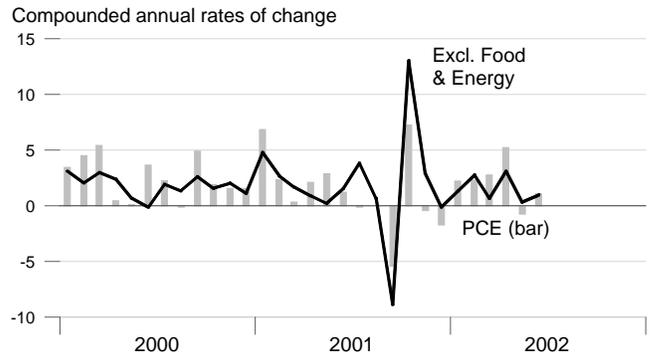


Note: Futures prices as of 07/31/2002

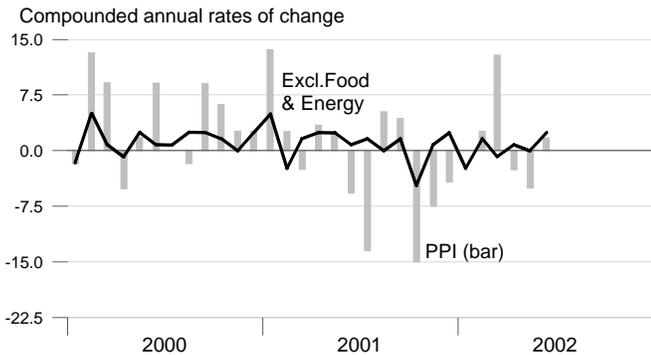
Consumer Price Index



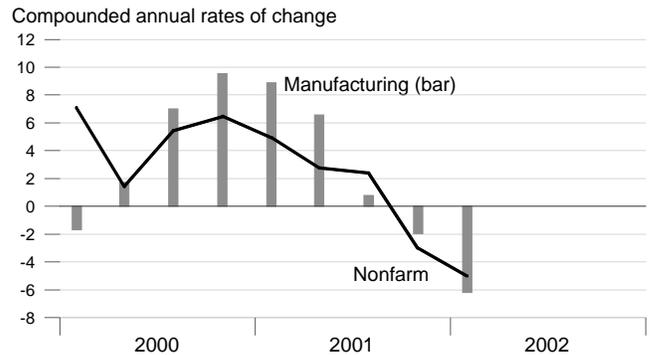
Consumption Chain Price Index



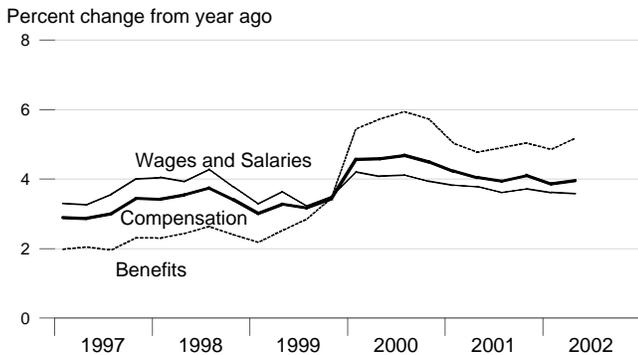
Producer Price Index, Finished Goods



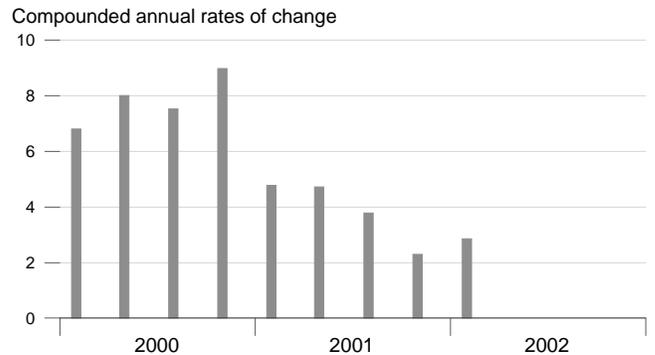
Unit Labor Cost



Employment Cost Index

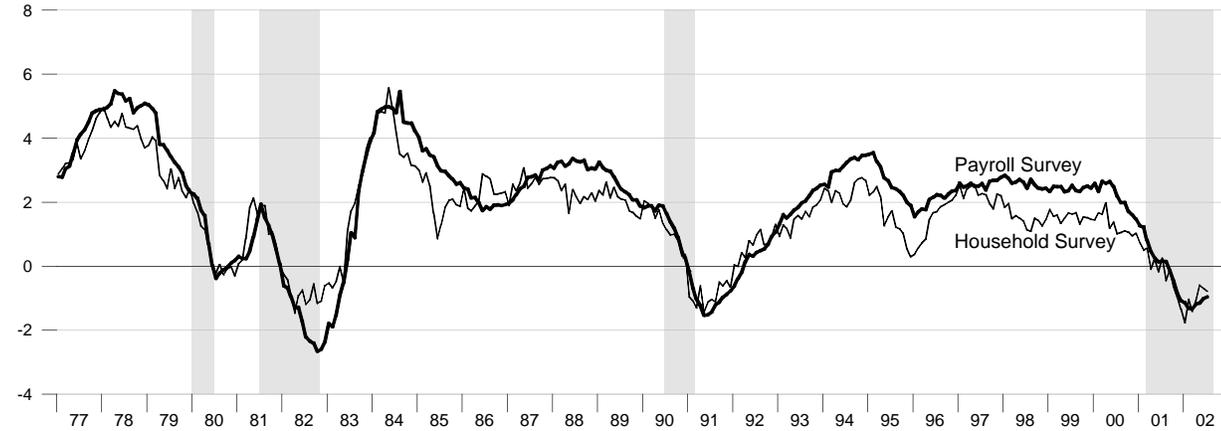


Compensation per Hour



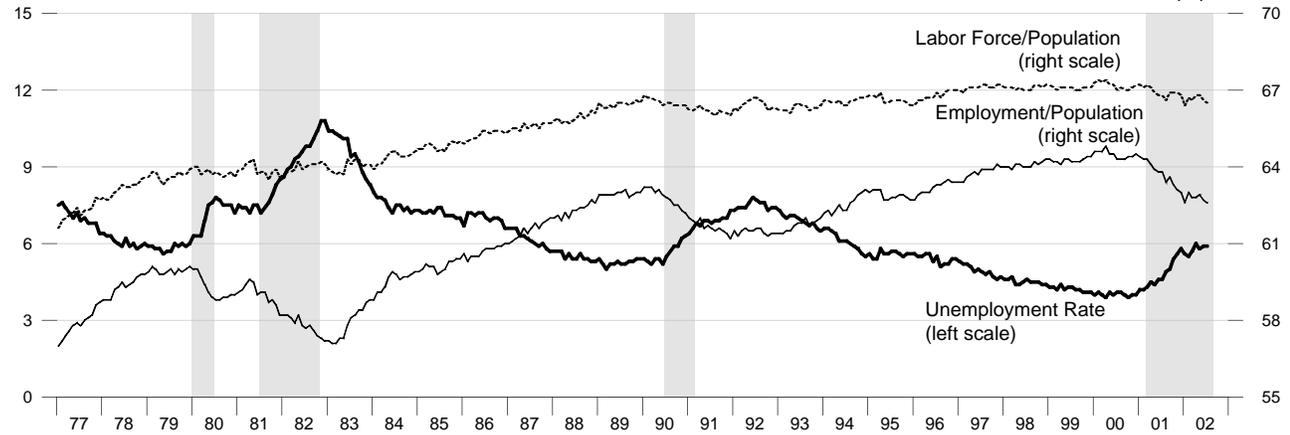
Employment

Percent change from year ago



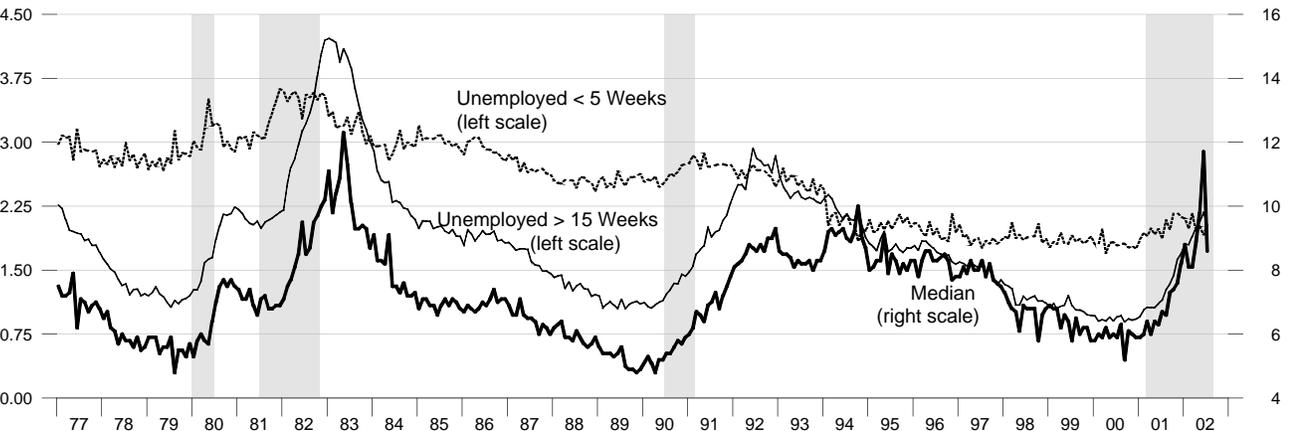
Unemployment, Labor Force Participation, and Employment Rates

Percent of labor force

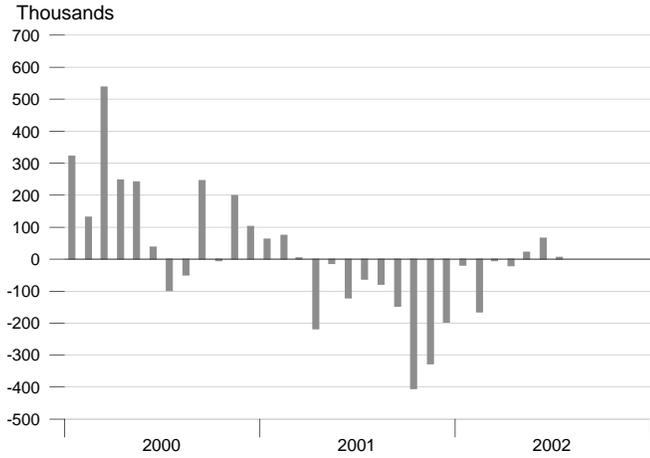


Duration of Unemployment

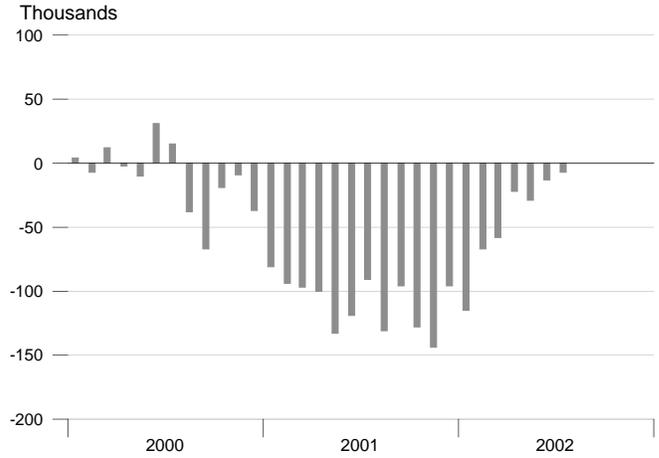
Percent of labor force



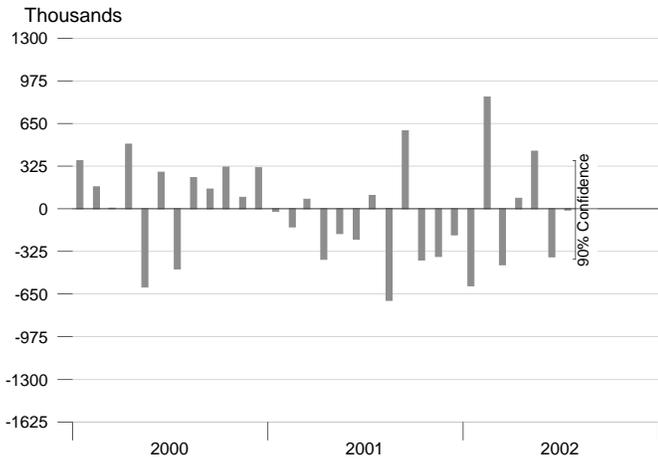
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls



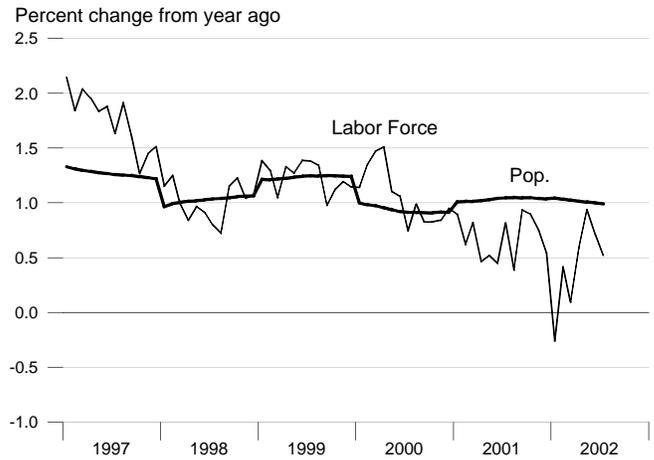
Change in Manufacturing Payrolls



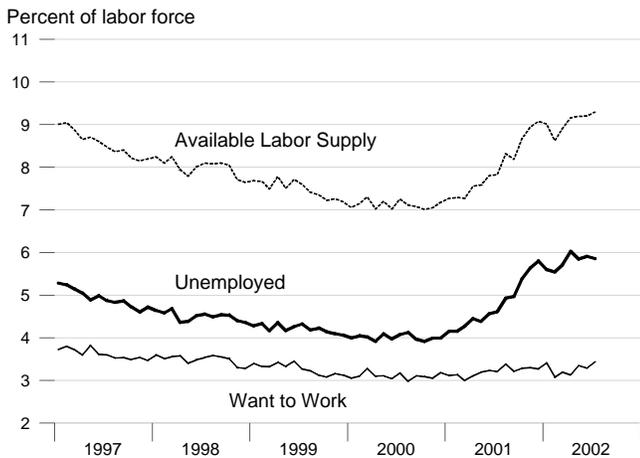
Change in Household Employment



Labor Force and Population



Available Labor Supply and Components

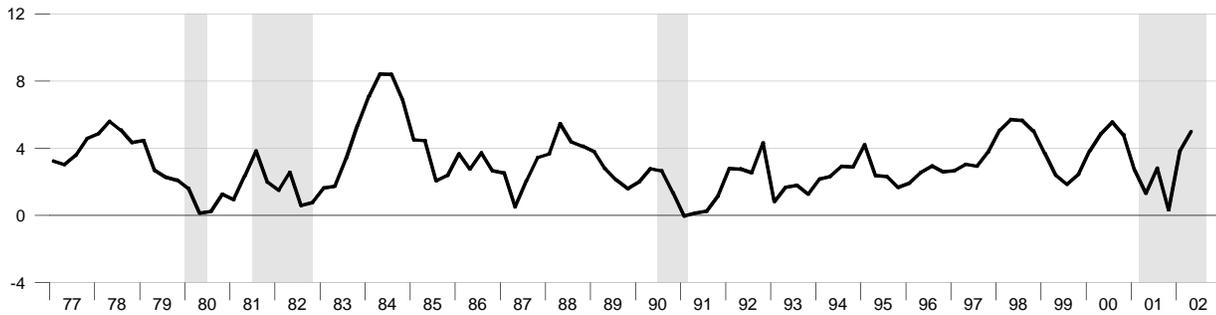


Unemployment Rate & Help-Wanted Index



Real Disposable Personal Income

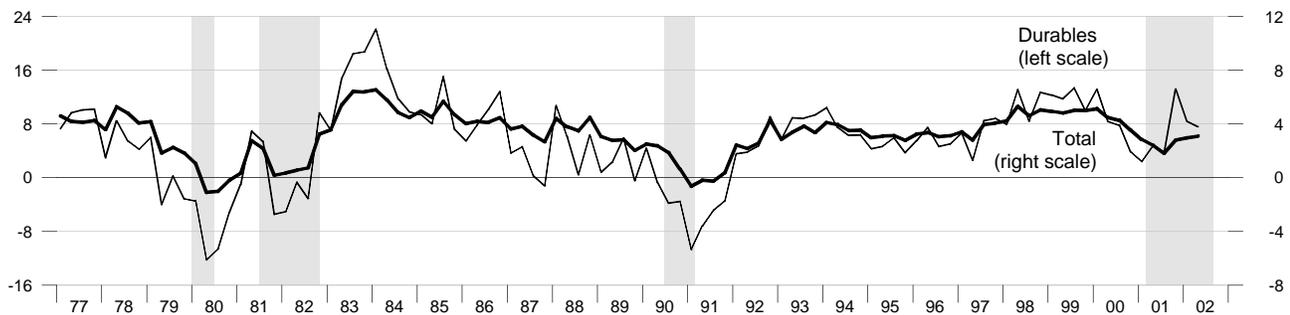
Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



Real Consumption

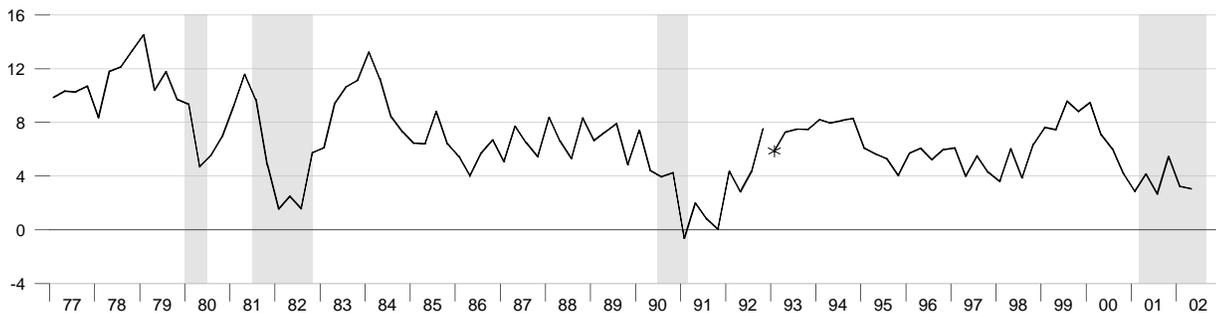
Percent change from year ago, quarterly data

Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



Retail and Food Services Sales

Percent change from year ago, quarterly average

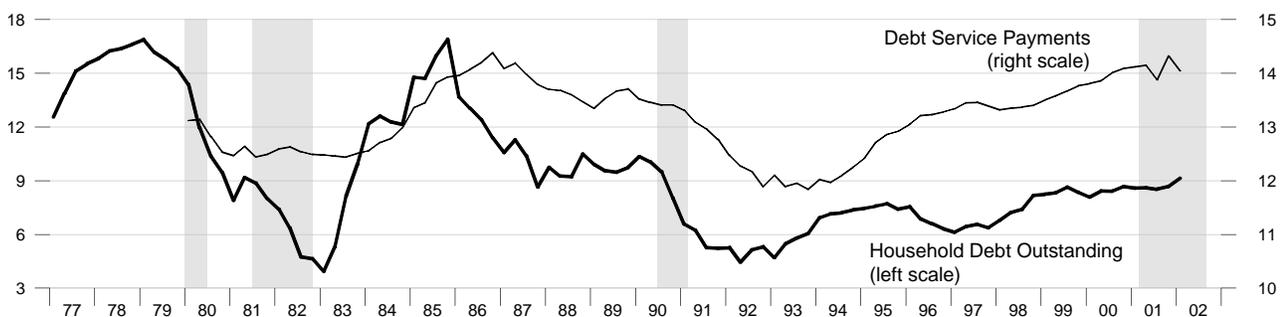


*Data before January 1992 are not strictly comparable (see End Notes).

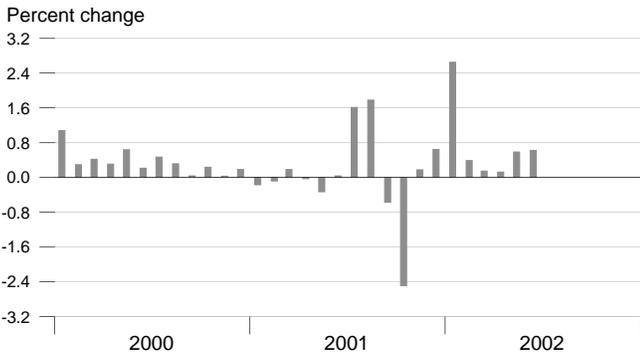
Debt Service Payments and Household Debt Outstanding

Percent change from year ago, quarterly data

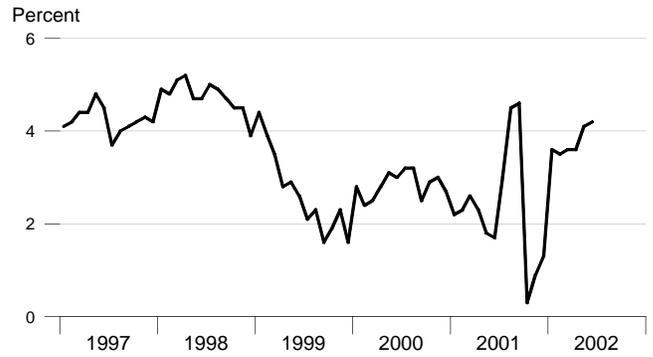
Percent of disposable personal income



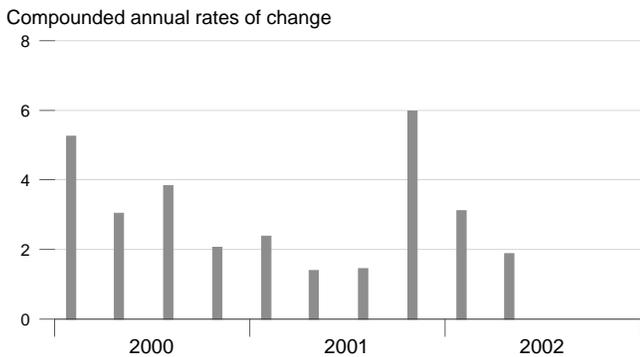
Real Disposable Personal Income



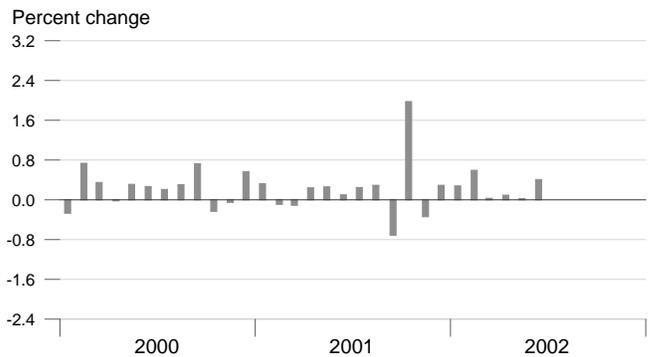
Personal Saving Rate



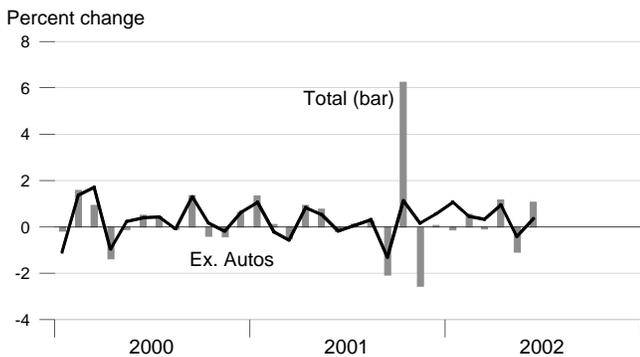
Real Consumption



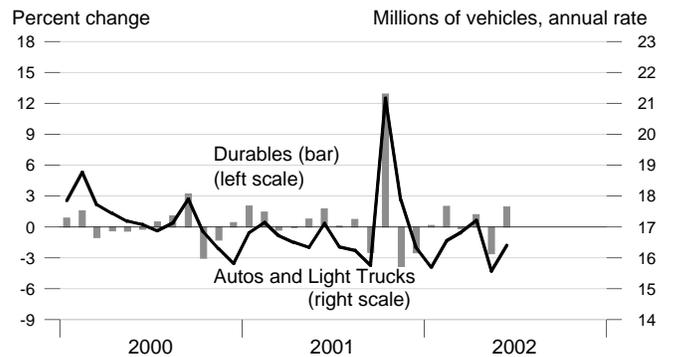
Real Consumption



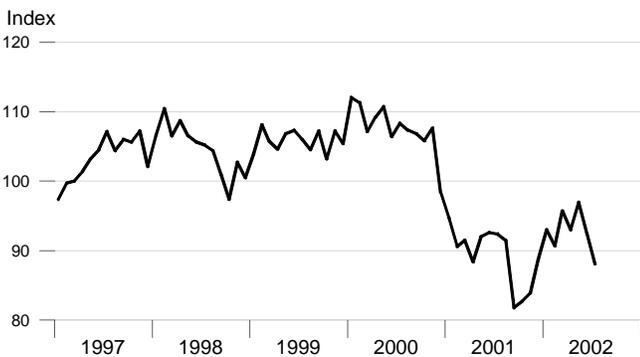
Retail & Food Services



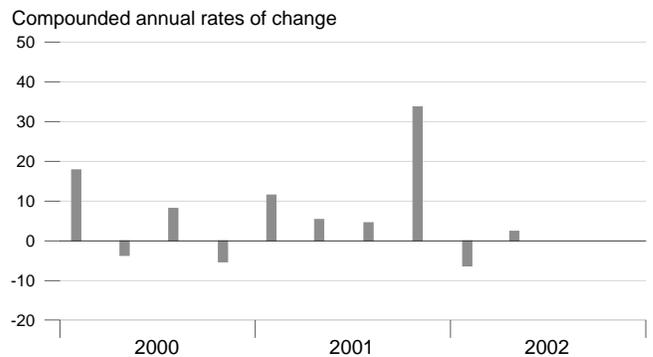
Real Durables Consumption & Vehicle Sales



Consumer Sentiment (U. of Michigan)

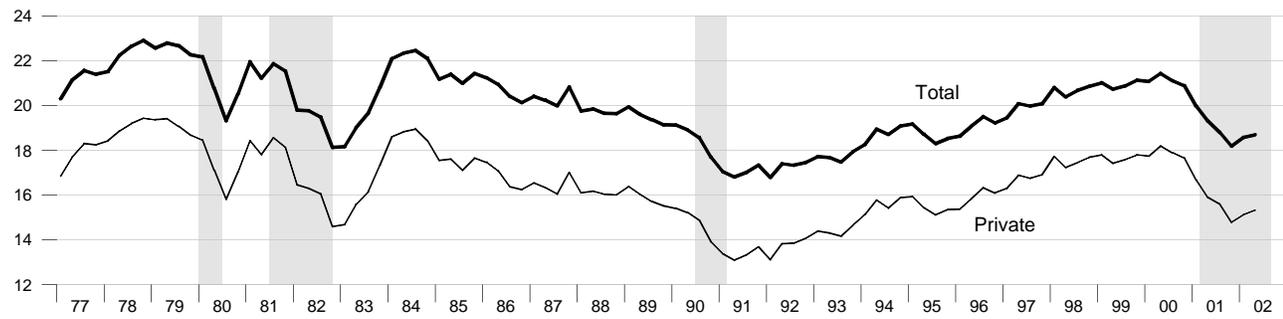


Real Durables Consumption



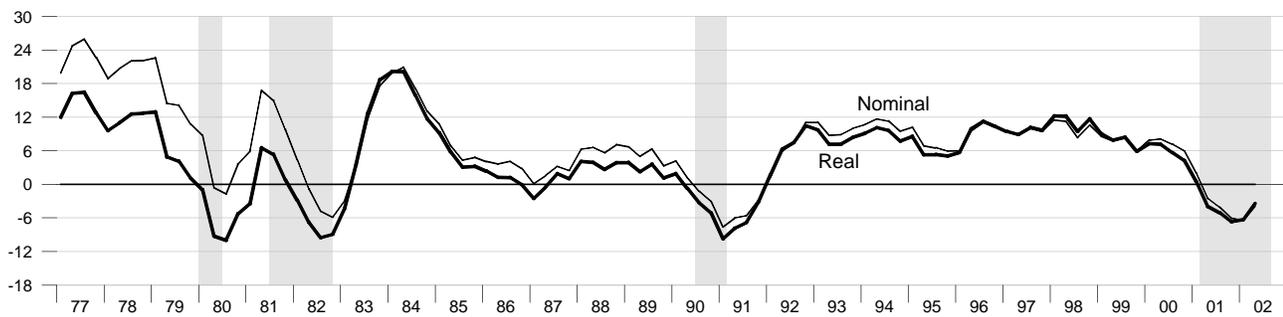
Investment

Percent of nominal GDP



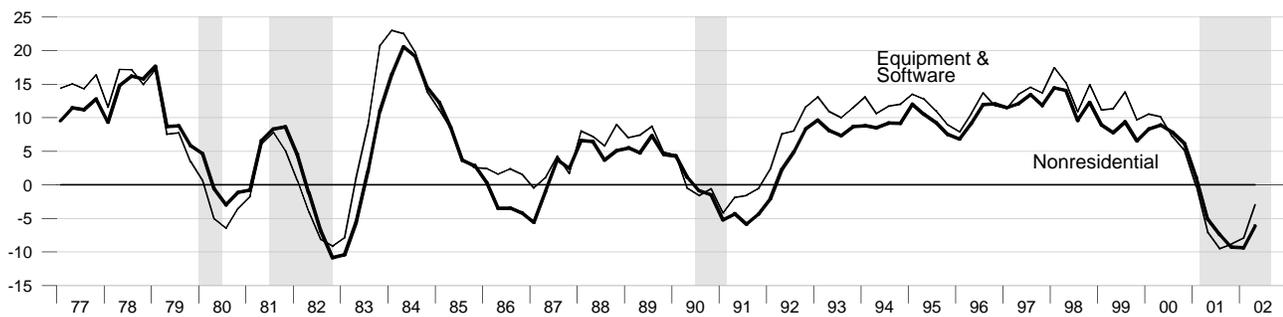
Private Fixed Investment

Percent change from year ago



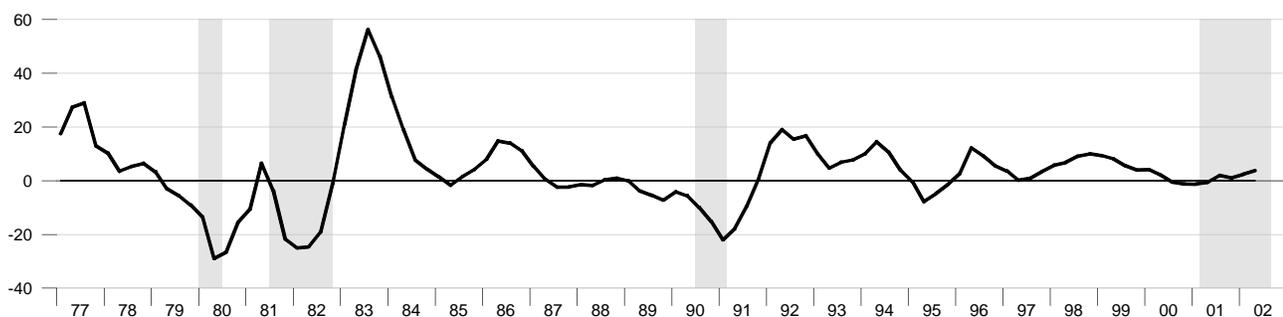
Real Nonresidential Fixed and Equipment & Software Investment

Percent change from year ago

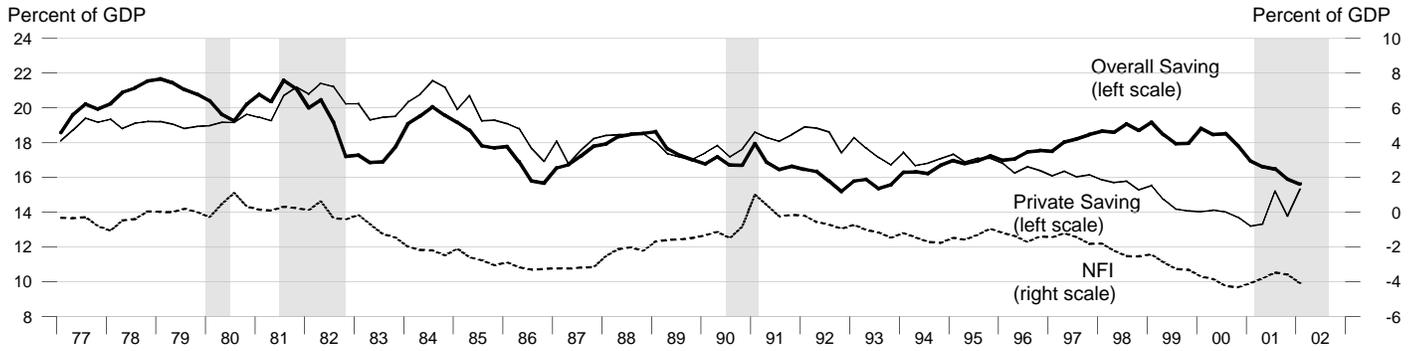


Real Residential Fixed Investment

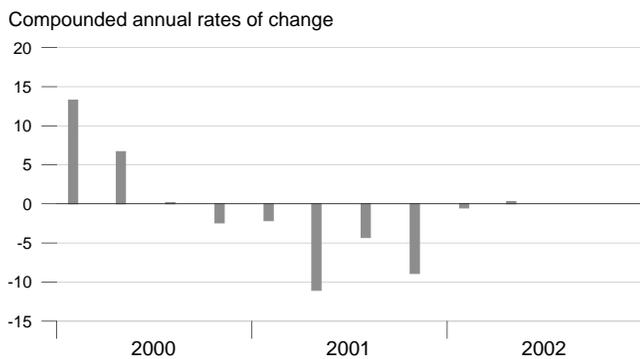
Percent change from year ago



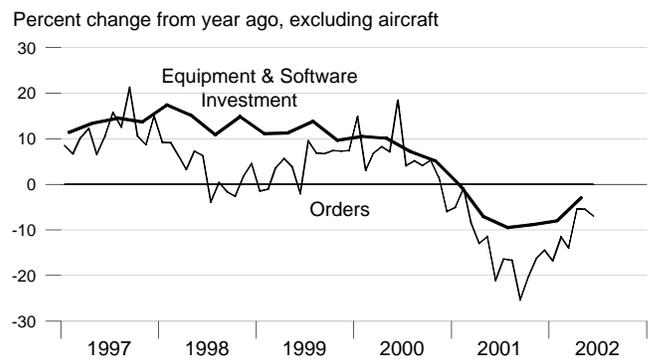
Gross Saving Rates and Net Foreign Investment



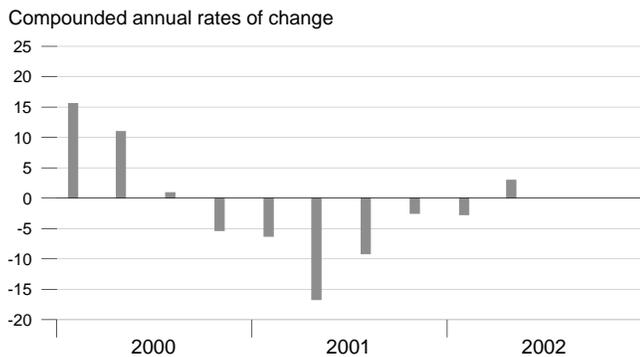
Real Private Fixed Investment



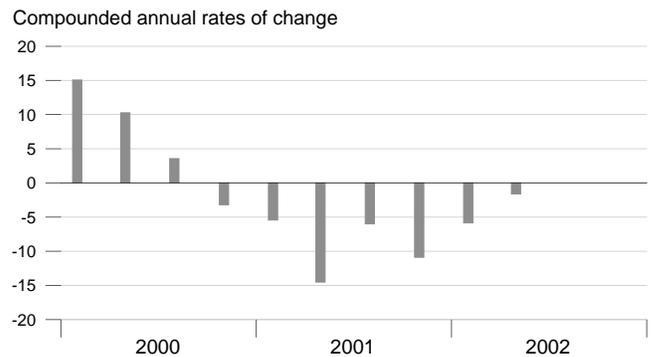
Nondefense Capital Goods Orders



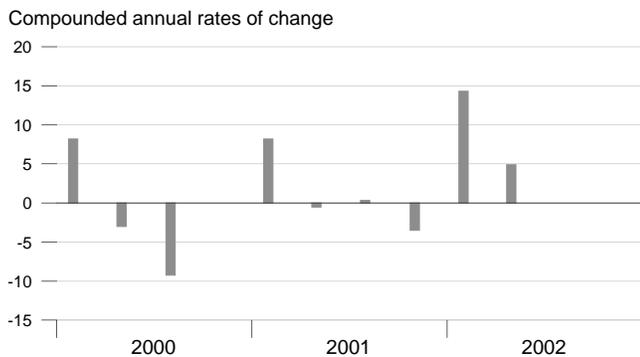
Real Equipment & Software Investment



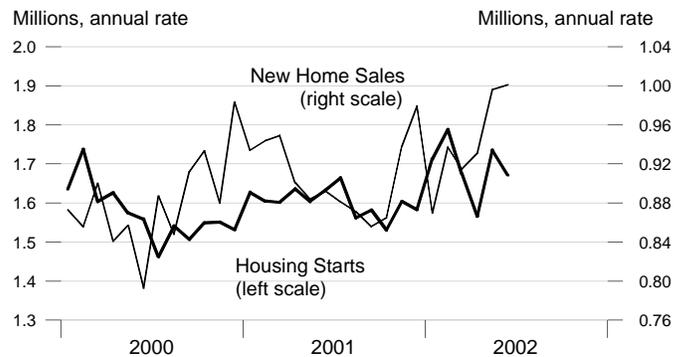
Real Nonresidential Fixed Investment



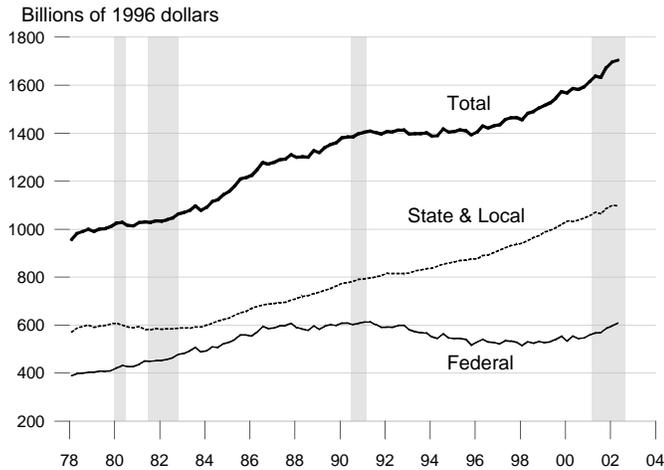
Real Residential Fixed Investment



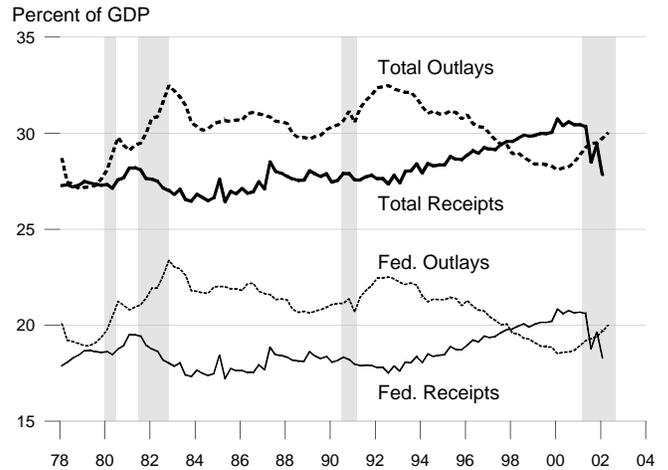
Housing Starts and New Home Sales



Govt. Consumption and Investment



Government Receipts and Outlays



Government Budgets

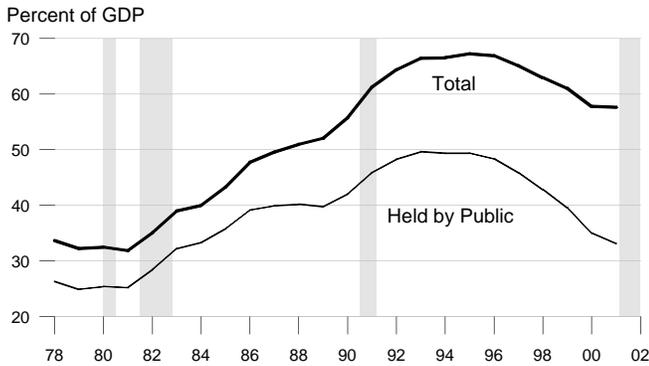
Billions of dollars

National Income Accounts Calendar Years

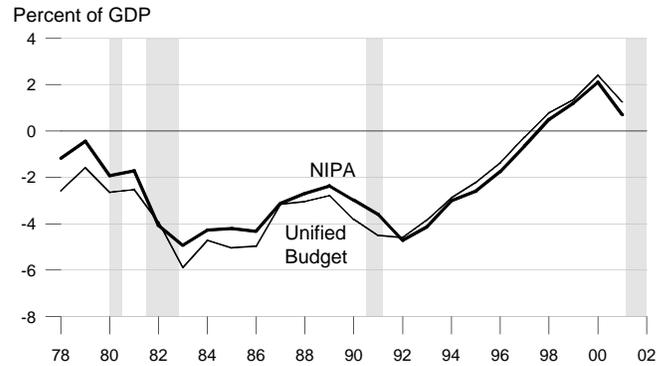
Unified Budget Fiscal Years

	State and Local			Federal			Federal		
	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit (-)	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit (-)	Receipts	Outlays	Surplus or Deficit (-)
1991	716.0	723.8	-7.8	1072.3	1287.6	-215.3	1055.0	1324.4	-269.4
1992	772.2	777.2	-5.0	1121.3	1418.9	-297.6	1091.3	1381.7	-290.4
1993	823.2	821.7	1.5	1197.3	1471.5	-274.2	1154.4	1409.5	-255.1
1994	873.8	865.2	8.6	1293.7	1506.0	-212.3	1258.6	1461.9	-203.3
1995	917.9	902.5	15.4	1383.7	1575.7	-192.0	1351.8	1515.8	-164.0
1996	960.4	939.0	21.4	1499.1	1635.9	-136.8	1453.1	1560.6	-107.5
1997	1011.3	980.3	31.0	1625.5	1678.8	-53.3	1579.3	1601.3	-22.0
1998	1074.4	1033.7	40.7	1749.7	1705.9	43.8	1721.8	1652.6	69.2
1999	1144.1	1105.8	38.3	1867.2	1755.3	111.9	1827.5	1701.9	125.5
2000	1214.2	1196.2	18.0	2033.9	1827.1	206.8	2025.2	1788.8	236.4
2001	1261.3	1292.6	-31.3	2008.4	1936.4	72.0	1991.0	1863.9	127.1
1999Q3	1151.4	1117.6	33.8	1876.3	1758.9	117.4	448.7	418.6	30.1
1999Q4	1179.1	1139.5	39.6	1922.4	1793.6	128.8	443.6	463.9	-20.3
2000Q1	1195.9	1163.2	32.7	2009.6	1786.4	223.2	433.7	448.7	-15.0
2000Q2	1204.7	1184.5	20.2	2022.9	1825.7	197.2	656.0	444.3	211.8
2000Q3	1225.4	1206.2	19.2	2049.1	1835.9	213.2	491.7	431.3	60.4
2000Q4	1230.8	1231.0	-0.2	2054.1	1860.3	193.8	462.0	464.3	-2.3
2001Q1	1247.3	1263.8	-16.5	2072.9	1899.1	173.8	459.8	482.2	-22.5
2001Q2	1261.1	1293.4	-32.3	2072.3	1927.8	144.5	660.3	466.5	193.7
2001Q3	1253.6	1299.8	-46.2	1896.0	1947.7	-51.7	409.0	450.9	-41.9
2001Q4	1283.2	1313.3	-30.1	1992.3	1971.0	21.3	466.3	503.4	-37.1
2002Q1	1277.4	1329.1	-51.7	1887.0	2030.5	-143.5	412.6	509.2	-96.6
2002Q2	.	1348.3	.	.	2073.6	.	522.6	506.9	15.6

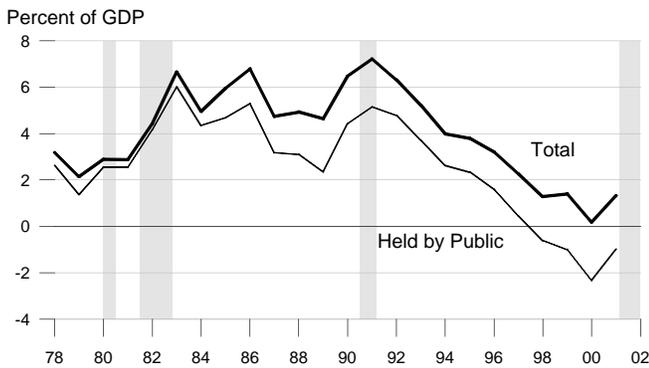
Federal Debt



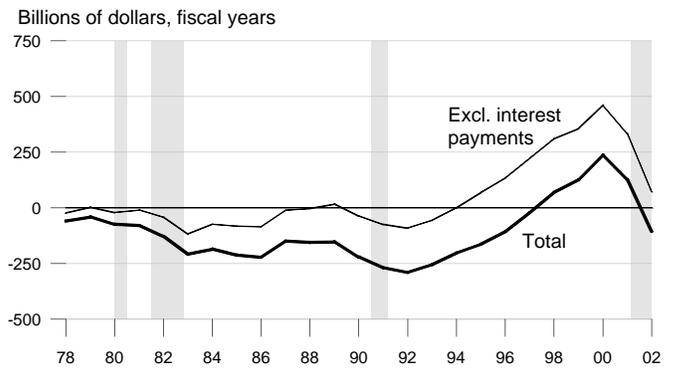
Federal Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)



Change in Federal Debt



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

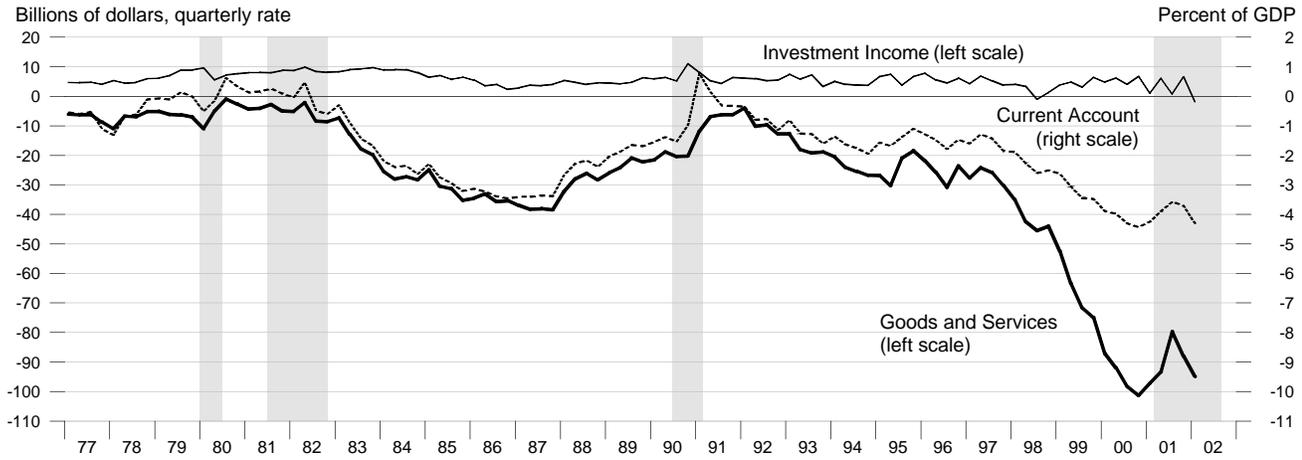


Federal Government Debt

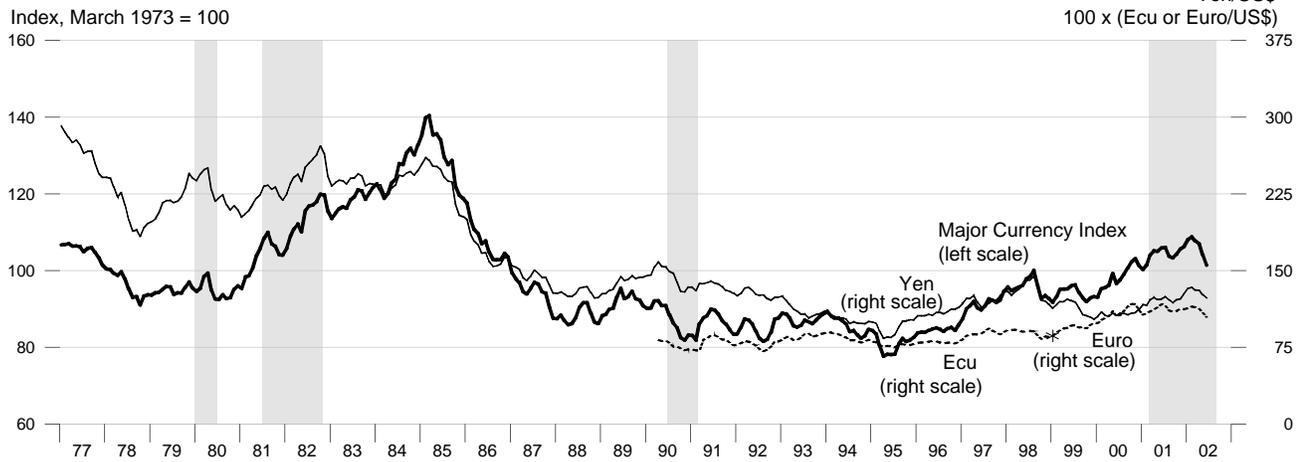
Billions of dollars, end of month or fiscal year
Excludes Agency-issued debt

		Total Public Debt	Held by Agencies and Trusts	Held by Public		Held by Private Investors	
				Total	Federal Reserve Banks	Total	Foreign and International
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
2001		5807.5	2468.8	3338.7	534.1	2779.7	1170.1
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	1196.8
	June	5726.8	2452.6	3274.2	535.1	2722.6	1167.4
	September	5807.5	2468.8	3338.7	534.1	2779.7	1170.1
	December	5943.4	2549.7	3393.8	551.7	2819.5	1218.1
2002	March	6006.0	2562.4	3443.7	575.4	2849.5	1214.1

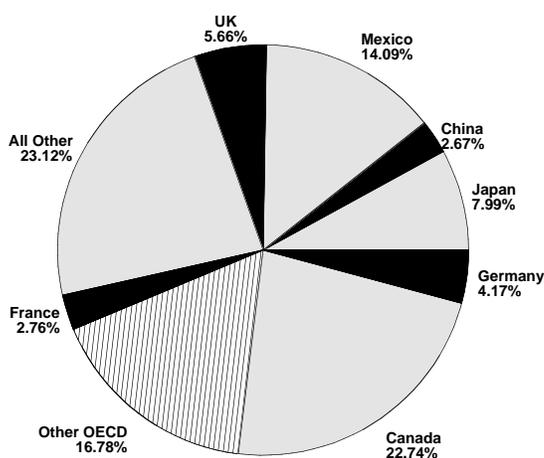
Current Account, Trade and Investment Income Balances



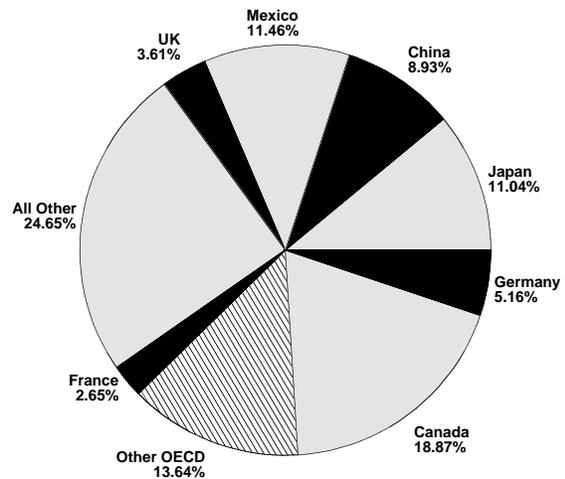
Exchange Rates



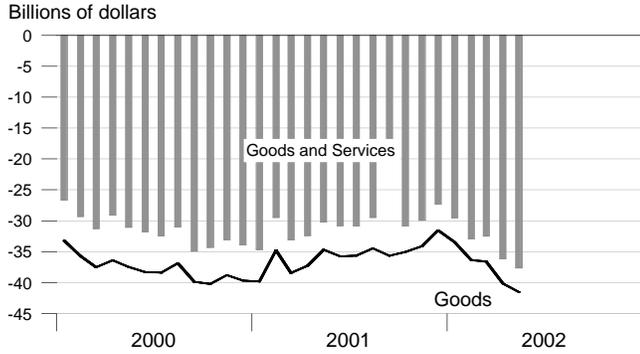
Goods Export Shares, 2001



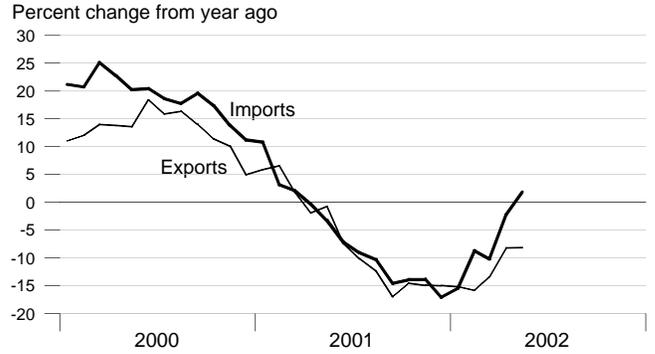
Goods Import Shares, 2001



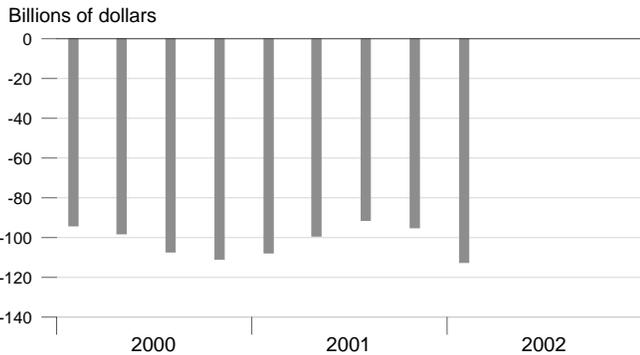
Trade Balance



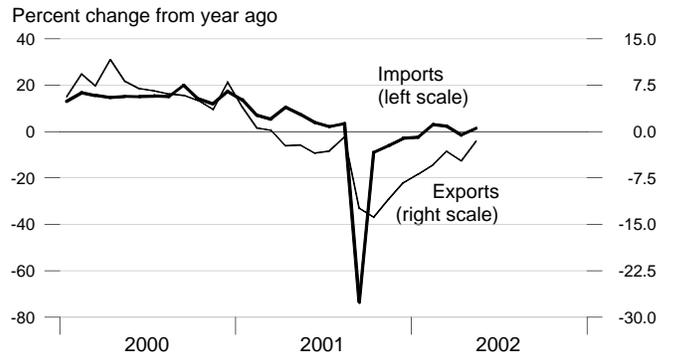
Goods Trade



Current Account Balance



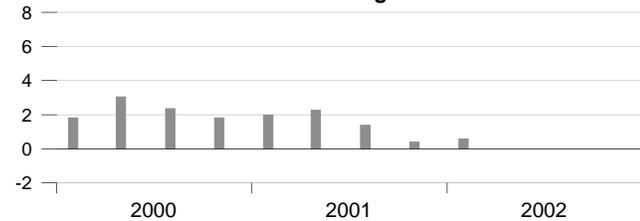
Services Trade



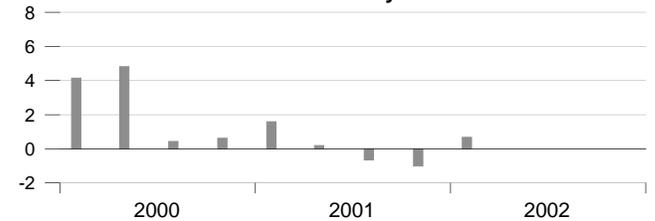
Real GDP Growth of Major Trading Partners

Compounded annual rates of change

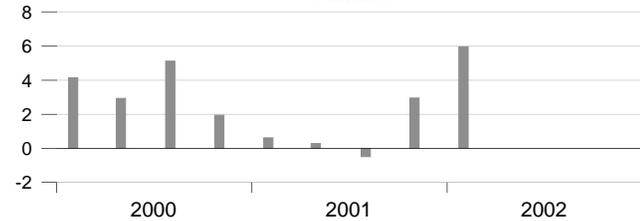
United Kingdom



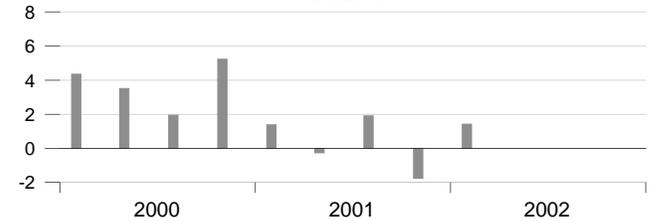
Germany



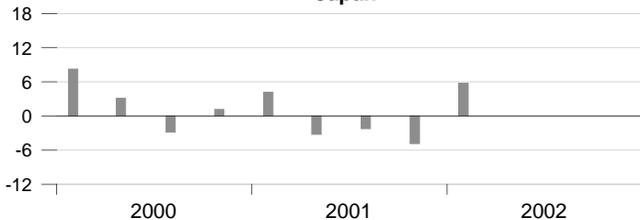
Canada



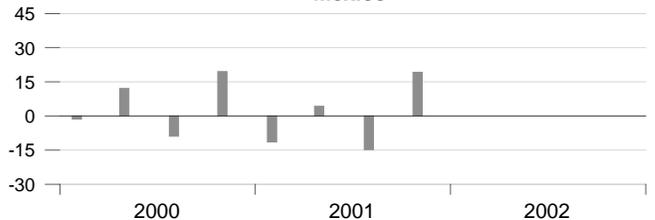
France



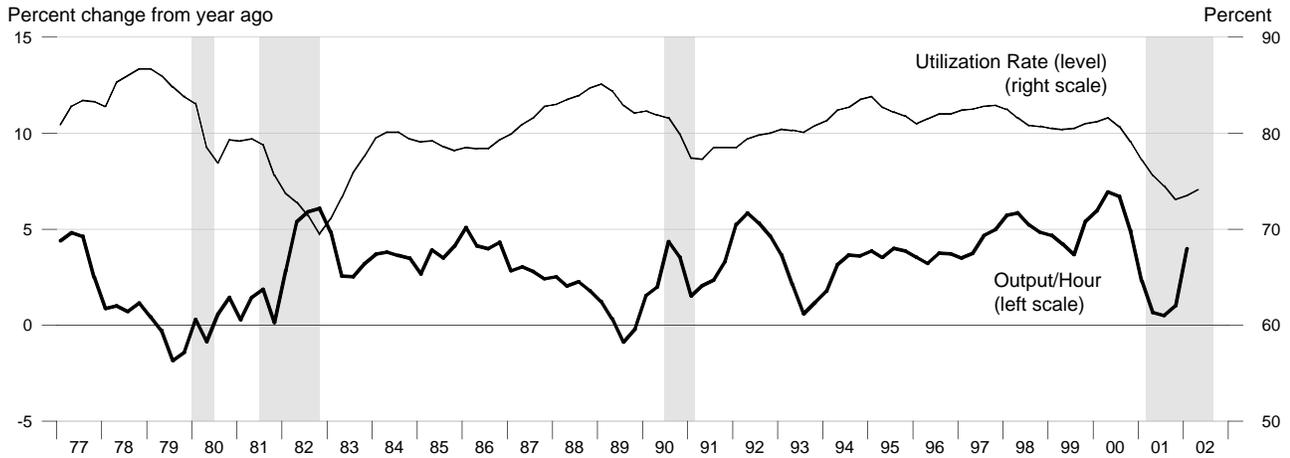
Japan



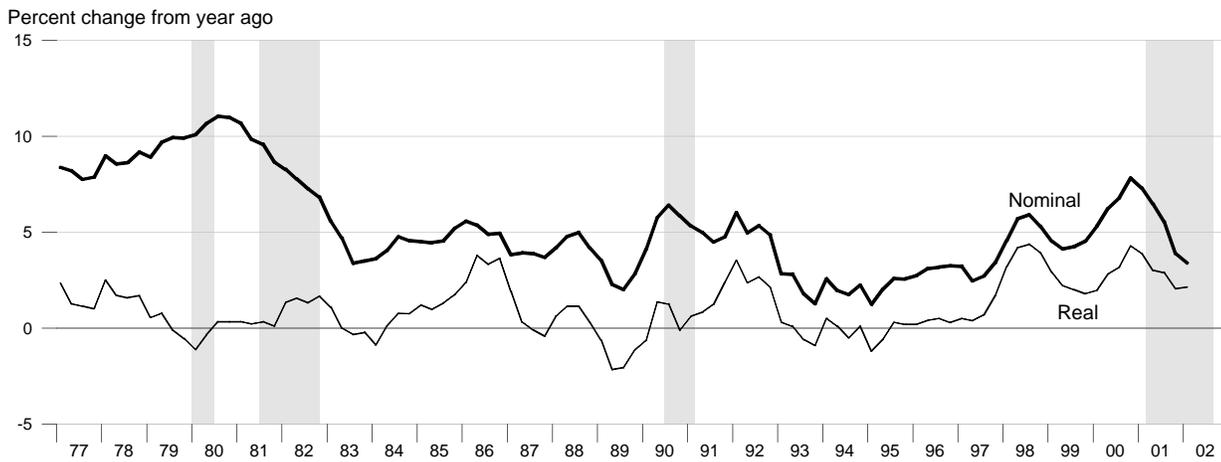
Mexico



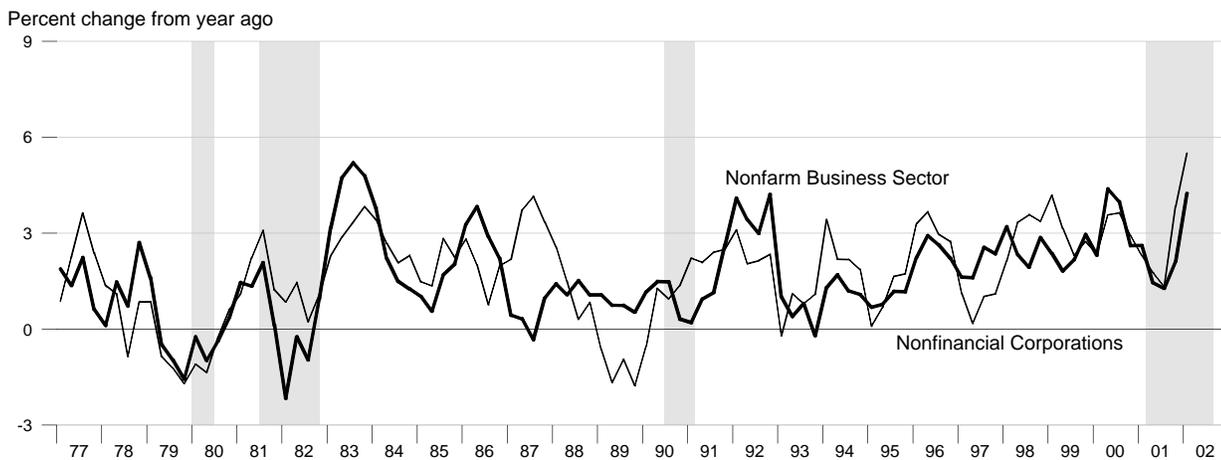
Output per Hour and Capacity Utilization, Manufacturing



Nonfarm Compensation per Hour

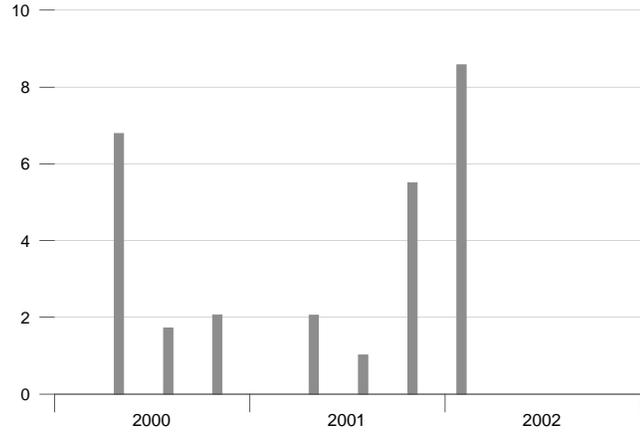


Output per Hour, Nonfarm Business and Nonfarm, Nonfinancial Corporations



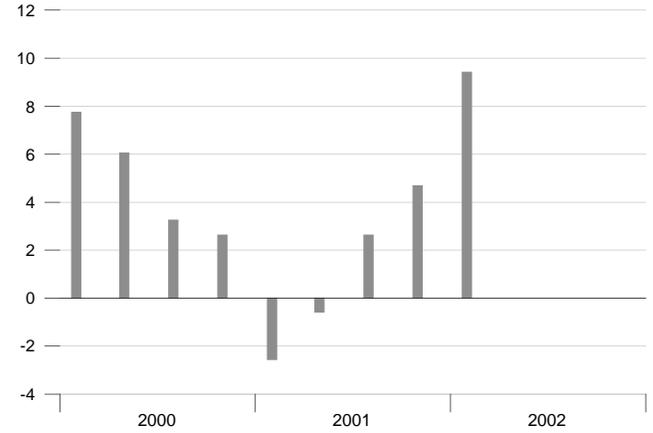
Nonfarm Output per Hour

Compounded annual rates of change



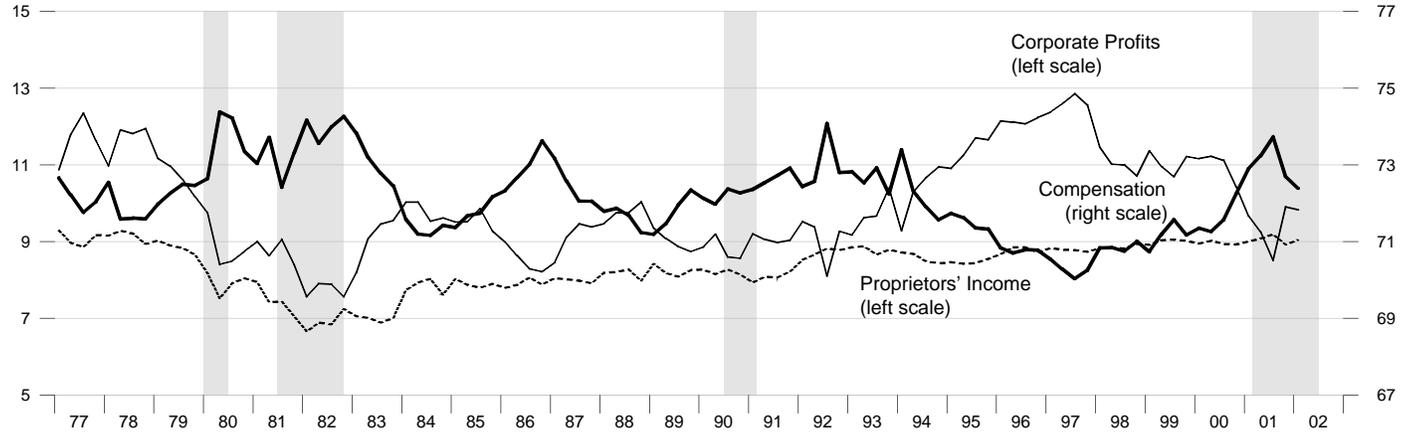
Manufacturing Output per Hour

Compounded annual rates of change



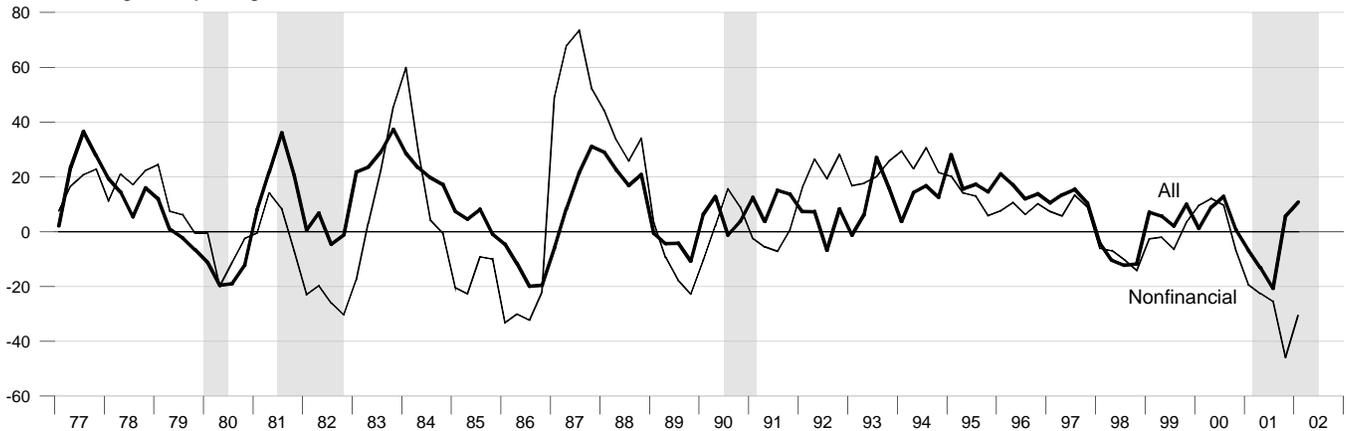
Selected Component Shares of National Income

Percent



Corporate Profits after Tax (with IVA and CCAdj)

Percent change from year ago



	GDP Chain Price Index			Employment Cost Index			ECI: Wages			ECI: Benefits			
	Index	<u>Percent change</u>		Index	<u>Percent change</u>		Index	<u>Percent change</u>		Index	<u>Percent change</u>		
		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago	
1998	103.200		1.2	138.0		3.5	135.6		4.0	143.6		2.4	
1999	104.690		1.4	142.4		3.2	140.3		3.4	147.6		2.8	
2000	106.890		2.1	149.0		4.6	146.0		4.1	156.0		5.7	
2001	109.420		2.4	155.0		4.1	151.4		3.7	163.7		4.9	
1999	1	104.120	1.8	1.3	140.2	1.1	3.0	138.1	1.8	3.3	145.2	0.0	2.2
	2	104.520	1.5	1.5	141.8	4.6	3.3	139.7	4.7	3.6	146.7	4.2	2.5
	3	104.840	1.2	1.4	143.1	3.7	3.2	140.9	3.5	3.2	148.2	4.2	2.8
	4	105.280	1.7	1.6	144.6	4.3	3.4	142.3	4.0	3.5	150.2	5.5	3.4
2000	1	106.080	3.1	1.9	146.6	5.6	4.6	143.9	4.6	4.2	153.1	7.9	5.4
	2	106.690	2.3	2.1	148.3	4.7	4.6	145.4	4.2	4.1	155.1	5.3	5.7
	3	107.130	1.7	2.2	149.8	4.1	4.7	146.7	3.6	4.1	157.0	5.0	5.9
	4	107.680	2.1	2.3	151.1	3.5	4.5	147.9	3.3	3.9	158.8	4.7	5.7
2001	1	108.660	3.7	2.4	152.8	4.6	4.2	149.4	4.1	3.8	160.8	5.1	5.0
	2	109.320	2.5	2.5	154.3	4.0	4.0	150.9	4.1	3.8	162.5	4.3	4.8
	3	109.920	2.2	2.6	155.7	3.7	3.9	152.0	2.9	3.6	164.7	5.5	4.9
	4	109.780	-0.5	2.0	157.3	4.2	4.1	153.4	3.7	3.7	166.8	5.2	5.0
2002	1	110.140	1.3	1.4	158.7	3.6	3.9	154.8	3.7	3.6	168.6	4.4	4.9
	2	110.460	1.2	1.0	160.4	4.4	4.0	156.3	3.9	3.6	170.9	5.6	5.2
		Exports			Imports			Nonfarm Output per Hour			Nonfarm Compensation per Hour		
		<u>Percent change</u>		Billions of 1996 \$	<u>Percent change</u>		Index	<u>Percent change</u>		Index	<u>Percent change</u>		
		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago	
1998		1002.420		2.1	1223.500		11.8	110.3		2.6	119.2		5.4
1999		1036.329		3.4	1356.816		10.9	112.9		2.4	124.4		4.4
2000		1137.199		9.7	1535.958		13.2	116.6		3.3	132.5		6.5
2001		1076.121		-5.4	1492.010		-2.9	118.8		1.9	140.1		5.7
1999	1	1007.490	-6.9	0.4	1290.659	8.4	9.0	112.2	2.5	2.4	122.2	3.7	4.5
	2	1018.076	4.3	2.5	1337.698	15.4	10.0	111.8	-1.4	1.8	123.5	4.3	4.1
	3	1044.100	10.6	5.7	1383.736	14.5	12.6	112.7	3.3	2.2	125.1	5.3	4.2
	4	1075.631	12.6	4.9	1415.153	9.4	11.9	114.8	7.7	3.0	126.6	4.9	4.5
2000	1	1095.781	7.7	8.8	1464.619	14.7	13.5	114.8	0.0	2.3	128.7	6.8	5.3
	2	1133.877	14.6	11.4	1528.465	18.6	14.3	116.7	6.8	4.4	131.2	8.0	6.2
	3	1165.469	11.6	11.6	1578.615	13.8	14.1	117.2	1.7	4.0	133.6	7.5	6.8
	4	1153.668	-4.0	7.3	1572.152	-1.6	11.1	117.8	2.1	2.6	136.5	9.0	7.8
2001	1	1135.809	-6.0	3.7	1540.311	-7.9	5.2	117.8	0.0	2.6	138.1	4.8	7.3
	2	1098.832	-12.4	-3.1	1513.594	-6.8	-1.0	118.4	2.1	1.5	139.7	4.7	6.5
	3	1048.017	-17.3	-10.1	1466.988	-11.8	-7.1	118.7	1.0	1.3	141.0	3.8	5.5
	4	1021.827	-9.6	-11.4	1447.158	-5.3	-8.0	120.3	5.5	2.1	141.8	2.3	3.9
2002	1	1030.560	3.5	-9.3	1477.140	8.5	-4.1	122.8	8.6	4.2	142.8	2.9	3.4
	2	1059.503	11.7	-3.6	1557.051	23.5	2.9						

		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
1997		129572	2852		2.3	122671	3082		2.6	141.4			3.5
1998		131472	1900		1.5	125851	3180		2.6	145.2			2.7
1999		133503	2031		1.5	128904	3053		2.4	148.4			2.2
2000		135219	1716		1.3	131719	2814		2.2	151.3			2.0
2001		135043	-176		-0.1	131925	207		0.2	150.2			-0.8
2000	1	134995	703	2.1	1.6	130995	882	2.7	2.5	150.9	0.6	2.5	2.7
	2	135246	251	0.7	1.5	131819	824	2.5	2.6	151.3	0.3	1.1	2.3
	3	134987	-259	-0.8	1.1	131876	57	0.2	2.1	151.5	0.1	0.4	1.9
	4	135649	662	2.0	1.0	132185	309	0.9	1.6	151.6	0.1	0.4	1.1
2001	1	135804	155	0.5	0.6	132433	249	0.8	1.1	151.5	-0.1	-0.3	0.4
	2	135221	-583	-1.7	-0.0	132193	-240	-0.7	0.3	150.9	-0.4	-1.7	-0.3
	3	134839	-381	-1.1	-0.1	131943	-250	-0.8	0.1	150.0	-0.6	-2.4	-1.0
	4	134308	-532	-1.6	-1.0	131130	-813	-2.4	-0.8	148.4	-1.0	-4.1	-2.1
2002	1	133894	-414	-1.2	-1.4	130759	-371	-1.1	-1.3	148.2	-0.1	-0.5	-2.2
	2	134149	255	0.8	-0.8	130717	-43	-0.1	-1.1	148.3	0.0	0.2	-1.7
2000	Jul	134777	-458	-4.0	1.0	131827	-98	-0.9	2.2	151.4	0.0	0.0	1.9
	Aug	135016	239	2.1	1.0	131777	-50	-0.5	2.0	151.3	-0.1	-0.8	1.7
	Sep	135167	151	1.4	1.1	132023	246	2.3	2.0	151.7	0.3	3.2	2.0
	Oct	135485	318	2.9	1.1	132018	-5	-0.0	1.7	151.9	0.1	1.6	1.5
	Nov	135573	88	0.8	0.9	132217	199	1.8	1.6	151.9	0.0	0.0	1.3
	Dec	135888	315	2.8	1.0	132319	102	0.9	1.5	151.1	-0.5	-6.1	0.5
2001	Jan	135870	-18	-0.2	0.7	132382	63	0.6	1.3	152.0	0.6	7.4	0.9
	Feb	135734	-136	-1.2	0.5	132457	75	0.7	1.2	151.3	-0.5	-5.4	0.3
	Mar	135808	74	0.7	0.6	132461	4	0.0	0.8	151.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
	Apr	135424	-384	-3.3	-0.1	132243	-218	-2.0	0.5	151.0	-0.2	-2.4	-0.4
	May	135235	-189	-1.7	0.2	132229	-14	-0.1	0.3	151.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Jun	135003	-232	-2.0	-0.2	132108	-121	-1.1	0.1	150.6	-0.3	-3.1	-0.5
	Jul	135106	103	0.9	0.2	132045	-63	-0.6	0.2	150.4	-0.1	-1.6	-0.7
	Aug	134408	-698	-6.0	-0.5	131966	-79	-0.7	0.1	149.9	-0.3	-3.9	-0.9
	Sep	135004	596	5.5	-0.1	131819	-147	-1.3	-0.2	149.6	-0.2	-2.4	-1.4
	Oct	134615	-389	-3.4	-0.6	131414	-405	-3.6	-0.5	148.7	-0.6	-7.0	-2.1
	Nov	134253	-362	-3.2	-1.0	131087	-327	-2.9	-0.9	148.2	-0.3	-4.0	-2.4
	Dec	134055	-198	-1.8	-1.3	130890	-197	-1.8	-1.1	148.3	0.1	0.8	-1.9
2002	Jan	133468	-587	-5.1	-1.8	130871	-19	-0.2	-1.1	148.1	-0.1	-1.6	-2.6
	Feb	134319	851	7.9	-1.0	130706	-165	-1.5	-1.3	148.3	0.1	1.6	-2.0
	Mar	133894	-425	-3.7	-1.4	130701	-5	-0.0	-1.3	148.2	-0.1	-0.8	-2.0
	Apr	133976	82	0.7	-1.1	130680	-21	-0.2	-1.2	148.1	-0.1	-0.8	-1.9
	May	134417	441	4.0	-0.6	130702	22	0.2	-1.2	148.1	0.0	0.0	-1.9
	Jun	134053	-364	-3.2	-0.7	130768	66	0.6	-1.0	148.6	0.3	4.1	-1.3
	Jul	134045	-8	-0.1	-0.8	130774	6	0.1	-1.0	147.7	-0.6	-7.0	-1.8

		Unempl. Rate	Retail and Food Services Sales				Industrial Production				Treasury Yields	
			Billions of dollars	Percent change		Index	Percent change		Year ago	3-mo Percent	10-yr Percent	
			Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago		Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate				Year ago
1997		4.9	2769.532			5.0	127.944			6.9	5.06	6.35
1998		4.5	2907.356			5.0	134.504			5.1	4.78	5.26
1999		4.2	3151.004			8.4	139.447			3.7	4.64	5.64
2000		4.0	3360.754			6.7	145.732			4.5	5.82	6.03
2001		4.8	3488.131			3.8	140.392			-3.7	3.39	5.02
2000	1	4.0	835.780	2.8	11.7	9.5	144.033	1.4	5.8	4.9	5.52	6.48
	2	4.0	834.314	-0.2	-0.7	7.1	146.480	1.7	7.0	5.8	5.71	6.18
	3	4.1	843.734	1.1	4.6	6.1	146.686	0.1	0.6	4.8	6.02	5.89
	4	4.0	846.926	0.4	1.5	4.2	145.730	-0.7	-2.6	2.6	6.02	5.57
2001	1	4.2	859.776	1.5	6.2	2.9	143.457	-1.6	-6.1	-0.4	4.82	5.05
	2	4.5	868.919	1.1	4.3	4.1	141.309	-1.5	-5.9	-3.5	3.66	5.27
	3	4.8	866.398	-0.3	-1.2	2.7	139.606	-1.2	-4.7	-4.8	3.17	4.98
	4	5.6	893.038	3.1	12.9	5.4	137.197	-1.7	-6.7	-5.9	1.91	4.77
2002	1	5.6	887.519	-0.6	-2.4	3.2	138.090	0.7	2.6	-3.7	1.72	5.08
	2	5.9	895.546	0.9	3.7	3.1	139.638	1.1	4.6	-1.2	1.72	5.10
2000	Jul	4.1	280.178	0.5	5.6	6.4	146.532	-0.4	-5.2	5.0	5.96	6.05
	Aug	4.1	279.891	-0.1	-1.2	5.4	146.700	0.1	1.4	4.6	6.09	5.83
	Sep	4.0	283.665	1.3	17.4	6.4	146.826	0.1	1.0	4.7	6.00	5.80
	Oct	3.9	282.524	-0.4	-4.7	5.7	146.266	-0.4	-4.5	3.5	6.11	5.74
	Nov	4.0	281.316	-0.4	-5.0	4.0	145.789	-0.3	-3.8	2.7	6.17	5.72
	Dec	4.0	283.086	0.6	7.8	2.8	145.135	-0.4	-5.3	1.6	5.77	5.24
2001	Jan	4.2	286.878	1.3	17.3	4.4	143.934	-0.8	-9.5	0.5	5.15	5.16
	Feb	4.2	287.182	0.1	1.3	2.9	143.509	-0.3	-3.5	-0.4	4.88	5.10
	Mar	4.3	285.716	-0.5	-6.0	1.4	142.928	-0.4	-4.8	-1.3	4.42	4.89
	Apr	4.5	288.366	0.9	11.7	3.8	142.007	-0.6	-7.5	-2.5	3.87	5.14
	May	4.4	290.567	0.8	9.6	4.7	141.595	-0.3	-3.4	-3.4	3.62	5.39
	Jun	4.6	289.986	-0.2	-2.4	4.0	140.326	-0.9	-10.2	-4.7	3.49	5.28
	Jul	4.6	290.319	0.1	1.4	3.6	140.402	0.1	0.7	-4.2	3.51	5.24
	Aug	4.9	291.073	0.3	3.2	4.0	139.954	-0.3	-3.8	-4.6	3.36	4.97
	Sep	5.0	285.006	-2.1	-22.3	0.5	138.461	-1.1	-12.1	-5.7	2.64	4.73
	Oct	5.4	302.770	6.2	106.6	7.2	137.670	-0.6	-6.6	-5.9	2.16	4.57
	Nov	5.6	295.036	-2.6	-26.7	4.9	137.240	-0.3	-3.7	-5.9	1.87	4.65
	Dec	5.8	295.232	0.1	0.8	4.3	136.682	-0.4	-4.8	-5.8	1.69	5.09
2002	Jan	5.6	294.852	-0.1	-1.5	2.8	137.557	0.6	8.0	-4.4	1.65	5.04
	Feb	5.5	296.468	0.5	6.8	3.2	138.125	0.4	5.1	-3.8	1.73	4.91
	Mar	5.7	296.199	-0.1	-1.1	3.7	138.589	0.3	4.1	-3.0	1.79	5.28
	Apr	6.0	299.642	1.2	14.9	3.9	138.880	0.2	2.5	-2.2	1.72	5.21
	May	5.8	296.372	-1.1	-12.3	2.0	139.465	0.4	5.2	-1.5	1.73	5.16
	Jun	5.9	299.532	1.1	13.6	3.3	140.570	0.8	9.9	0.2	1.70	4.93
	Jul	5.9									1.68	4.65

		Consumer Price Index					Consumer Price Index less Food and Energy					Producer Price Index Finished Goods			
		Percent change					Percent change					Percent change			
		Index	Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	Year to date	Index	Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	Year to date	Index	Monthly/ quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago
1997		160.5			2.3		169.5			2.4		131.8			0.4
1998		163.0			1.5		173.4			2.3		130.7			-0.9
1999		166.6			2.2		177.0			2.1		133.0			1.8
2000		172.2			3.4		181.3			2.4		138.0			3.7
2001		177.1			2.8		186.1			2.7		140.7			2.0
2000	1	170.1	1.0	3.9	3.2	3.9	179.5	0.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	136.4	1.1	4.4	3.7
	2	171.5	0.8	3.3	3.3	3.6	180.7	0.6	2.6	2.4	2.5	137.4	0.7	3.0	3.9
	3	173.0	0.9	3.5	3.5	3.6	181.9	0.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	138.3	0.7	2.7	3.6
	4	174.2	0.7	3.0	3.4	3.4	183.0	0.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	139.9	1.2	4.7	3.7
2001	1	175.9	1.0	3.9	3.4	3.9	184.4	0.7	3.0	2.7	3.0	141.8	1.4	5.5	4.0
	2	177.3	0.8	3.1	3.4	3.5	185.5	0.6	2.4	2.6	2.7	142.1	0.2	0.8	3.4
	3	177.6	0.2	0.8	2.7	2.6	186.7	0.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	140.6	-1.1	-4.2	1.6
	4	177.5	-0.1	-0.3	1.9	1.9	187.9	0.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	138.4	-1.5	-5.9	-1.0
2002	1	178.1	0.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	189.0	0.6	2.3	2.5	2.3	138.5	0.0	0.1	-2.4
	2	179.6	0.8	3.4	1.3	2.4	190.0	0.5	2.2	2.5	2.2	138.9	0.3	1.2	-2.3
2000	Jun	172.2	0.6	7.2	3.7	3.9	181.0	0.2	2.0	2.5	2.5	138.1	0.7	9.1	4.4
	Jul	172.6	0.2	2.8	3.6	3.8	181.4	0.2	2.7	2.5	2.5	138.1	0.0	0.0	4.1
	Aug	172.7	0.1	0.7	3.4	3.4	181.9	0.3	3.4	2.7	2.6	137.9	-0.1	-1.7	3.3
	Sep	173.6	0.5	6.4	3.5	3.7	182.3	0.2	2.7	2.5	2.6	138.9	0.7	9.1	3.3
	Oct	173.9	0.2	2.1	3.5	3.6	182.6	0.2	2.0	2.5	2.6	139.6	0.5	6.2	3.7
	Nov	174.2	0.2	2.1	3.4	3.4	183.1	0.3	3.3	2.6	2.6	139.9	0.2	2.6	3.8
	Dec	174.6	0.2	2.8	3.4	3.4	183.3	0.1	1.3	2.5	2.5	140.2	0.2	2.6	3.6
	Jan	175.6	0.6	7.1	3.7	7.1	183.9	0.3	4.0	2.6	4.0	141.7	1.1	13.6	4.9
2001	Feb	176.0	0.2	2.8	3.5	4.9	184.4	0.3	3.3	2.8	3.7	142.0	0.2	2.6	4.0
	Mar	176.1	0.1	0.7	3.0	3.5	184.8	0.2	2.6	2.7	3.3	141.7	-0.2	-2.5	3.1
	Apr	176.6	0.3	3.5	3.3	3.5	185.1	0.2	2.0	2.6	3.0	142.1	0.3	3.4	3.8
	May	177.4	0.5	5.6	3.6	3.9	185.4	0.2	2.0	2.6	2.8	142.4	0.2	2.6	3.9
	Jun	177.8	0.2	2.7	3.3	3.7	185.9	0.3	3.3	2.7	2.9	141.7	-0.5	-5.7	2.6
	Jul	177.3	-0.3	-3.3	2.7	2.7	186.3	0.2	2.6	2.7	2.8	140.0	-1.2	-13.5	1.4
	Aug	177.4	0.1	0.7	2.7	2.4	186.7	0.2	2.6	2.6	2.8	140.6	0.4	5.3	2.0
	Sep	178.1	0.4	4.8	2.6	2.7	187.1	0.2	2.6	2.6	2.8	141.1	0.4	4.4	1.6
	Oct	177.6	-0.3	-3.3	2.1	2.1	187.4	0.2	1.9	2.6	2.7	139.2	-1.3	-15.0	-0.3
	Nov	177.5	-0.1	-0.7	1.9	1.8	188.1	0.4	4.6	2.7	2.9	138.3	-0.6	-7.5	-1.1
	Dec	177.3	-0.1	-1.3	1.5	1.5	188.3	0.1	1.3	2.7	2.7	137.8	-0.4	-4.3	-1.7
	2002	Jan	177.6	0.2	2.0	1.1	2.0	188.6	0.2	1.9	2.6	1.9	137.8	0.0	0.0
Feb		178.0	0.2	2.7	1.1	2.4	189.1	0.3	3.2	2.5	2.6	138.1	0.2	2.6	-2.7
Mar		178.6	0.3	4.1	1.4	3.0	189.3	0.1	1.3	2.4	2.1	139.5	1.0	12.9	-1.6
Apr		179.5	0.5	6.2	1.6	3.8	189.8	0.3	3.2	2.5	2.4	139.2	-0.2	-2.6	-2.0
May		179.5	0.0	0.0	1.2	3.0	190.1	0.2	1.9	2.5	2.3	138.6	-0.4	-5.1	-2.7
Jun		179.7	0.1	1.3	1.1	2.7	190.2	0.1	0.6	2.3	2.0	138.8	0.1	1.7	-2.0

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 **ISM** (formerly 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. All rates used in the yield curves are adjusted to constant maturity. The 30-year constant maturity series was discontinued by the Treasury Department as of Feb. 18, 2002. **Standard & 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) spot and futures **prices** are listed in the *Wall Street Journal*. Spot prices are monthly averages of daily prices; futures prices are usually taken from the last trading day of the month. **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. The 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 **available labor supply** is the sum of the unemployed and those persons not in the labor force but who want to work now. Because the household survey was changed in January 1994, data prior to this date are not strictly comparable.

Page 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 pp. 16-17). **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 based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Before January 1992, data 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)