

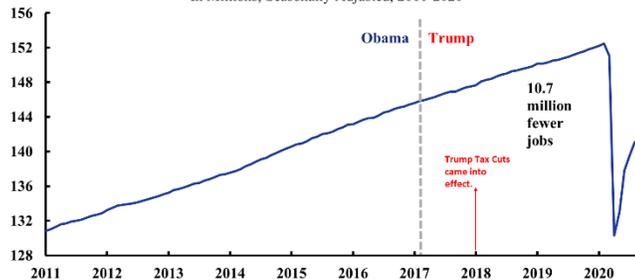


The U.S. Economy by the Numbers – October 27, 2020

Job growth/loss

- Nonfarm jobs increased by **661K** in September but even after these gains there are still **10.7 million** fewer jobs than in February.
- At the September rate of job creation, it would take another **17 months** to return to pre-pandemic employment levels.
- Employment in food services and drinking places remains down by **2.3 million** and retail industry employment is **483K** lower than in February.

U.S. Total Nonfarm Employees
In Millions, Seasonally Adjusted, 2011-2020



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
CONGRESSMAN DON BEYER, VICE CHAIR

New unemployment claims

- DOL reported that almost **757K** American workers filed new unemployment claims during the week ending Oct. 17. This is more than four times the number filed during the comparable week in 2019.

Gross Domestic Product

- Real GDP **decreased** at annualized rate of **31.4%** in Q2 2020, the worst decline in U.S. history.
- Forecasters estimate that the Oct. 29 report on Q3 GDP growth will show a dramatic rebound due to loosening of public health measures designed to contain the coronavirus. However, **GDP would have to increase almost 46%** just to make up for the loss in economic output suffered in Q2.

Wages and income

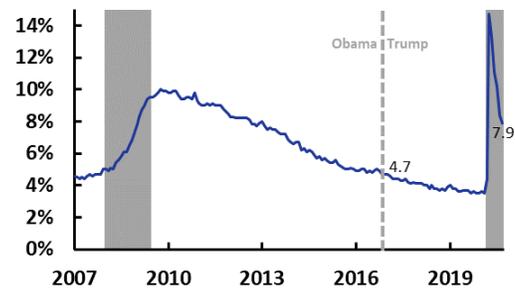
- Median weekly earnings for full-time workers in the second quarter **rose 10.4%** from last year, **10%** higher with inflation taken into account.

Unemployment rate

- BLS reports that the unemployment rate fell to **7.9%** in September, but it remains more than twice as high as the pre-pandemic low.
- This decrease was due in large part to the fact that almost **700K** Americans left the labor force and were no longer counted as unemployed.
- The unemployment rate for Blacks was **12.1%**, almost double the **7.0%** rate for Whites.
- The unemployment rate for Asians was **8.9%** and **10.3%** for Hispanics.
- The number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) grew by **781K**, the largest monthly increase on record. Permanent job losses also increased by **345K** to **3.8 million**.

Unemployment Rate

January 2007 to September 2020



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, using the Civilian Unemployment Rate Ages 16+, Seasonally Adjusted

Federal debt

- CBO forecasts federal debt held by the public will exceed **100%** of GDP in 2021, **107%** of GDP by 2023 and **195%** of GDP by 2050.
- The deficit in 2021 is projected to be **8.6% of GDP**. The deficit as a share of GDP has been larger than that only twice between 1946 and 2019.

Inflation

- Core PCE, excluding food and energy, **increased by around 1.6%** over the past 12 months.