# CONGRESSMAN DON BEYER



## The U.S. Economy by the Numbers – January 27, 2021

### Job growth/loss

- Nonfarm employment decreased by **140K** in December, a sign that the recovery is slowing. There are still **9.8 million** fewer jobs than in February.
- Employment in leisure and hospitality remains down by **3.9 million** since February. Retail employment remains **411K** lower than in February.
- If the economy had continued at the prepandemic pace of adding 194K jobs per month, approximately **1.9 million** jobs could have been added from February to December.
- That brings the total jobs gap to approximately **11.8 million** jobs (9.8 million jobs lost plus 1.9 million that likely would have been added if job growth had continued on its pre-pandemic trajectory.)



### New unemployment claims

• DOL reported that over **960K** American workers filed new regular unemployment claims during the week ending Jan. 16. This is nearly three and a half times the number filed in the comparable week in 2020.

### **Gross Domestic Product**

Real GDP grew at annualized rate of 33.4% in Q3 2020, following the worst quarterly decline (31.4%) in U.S. history in Q2. The Bureau of Economic Analysis will release Q4 2020 GDP figures on Thursday, January 28.

#### **Unemployment rate**

- The unemployment rate in December remained at 6.7%. The unemployment rate for women 20 years and over was 6.3% and for men it was 6.4%.
- The unemployment rate for Blacks was 9.9%, almost 4 percentage points higher than the 6.0% rate for Whites.
- The unemployment rate was **5.9%** for Asians and **9.3%** for Hispanics.
- The number of long-term unemployed changed little at **4.0 million**, which is almost 40% of all jobless Americans.
- In December, there were **3.4 million** permanent job losses as opposed to temporary layoffs –an increase of **2.1 million** since February.



### 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 only twice between 1946 and 2019.

### Inflation

- The CPI for all items **rose by 1.3%** over the last 12 months.
- Core PCE, excluding food and energy, **increased by 1.4%** over the past 12 months.

*@*JECDems *Next Update: February 1st, 2021*