Fed Overview/Economic Outlook

Opportunity Finance Network Chicago, IL February 10, 2011

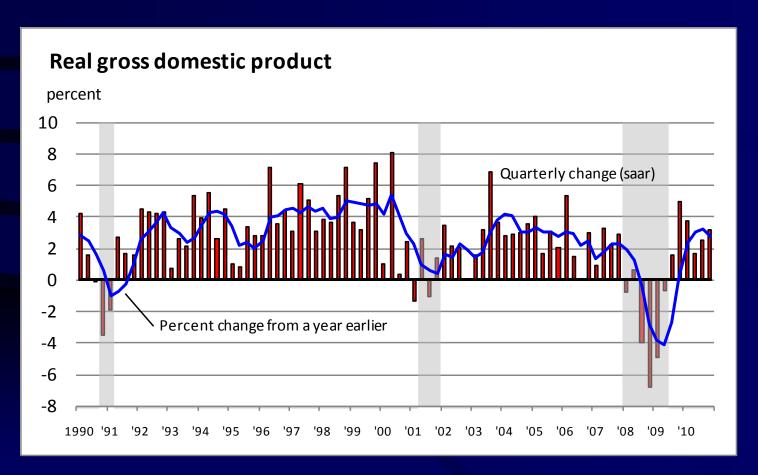


Bill Testa

Vice President and Economic Adviser Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

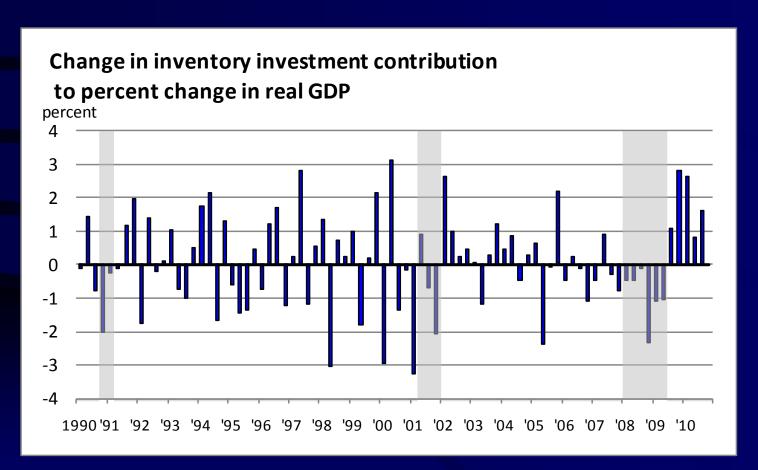


The "Great Recession" ended in June 2009 and the economy expanded by 2.8% over the past year



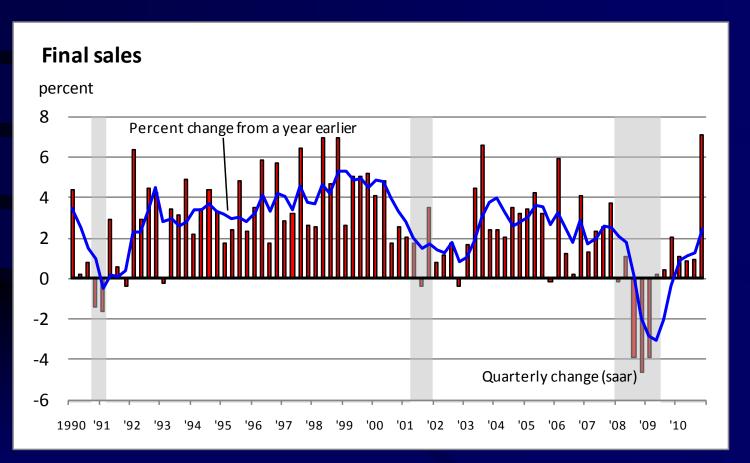


Inventories have contributed substantially to the growth in GDP since the start of the recovery, accounting for 62% of the growth



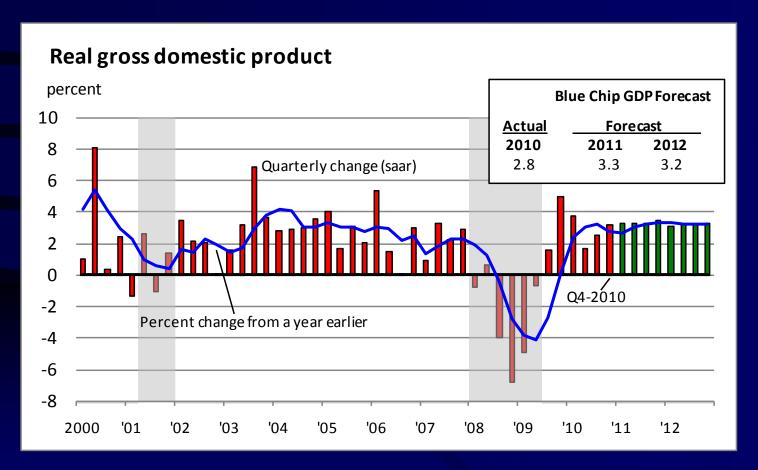


Final sales had been increasing at a slow pace





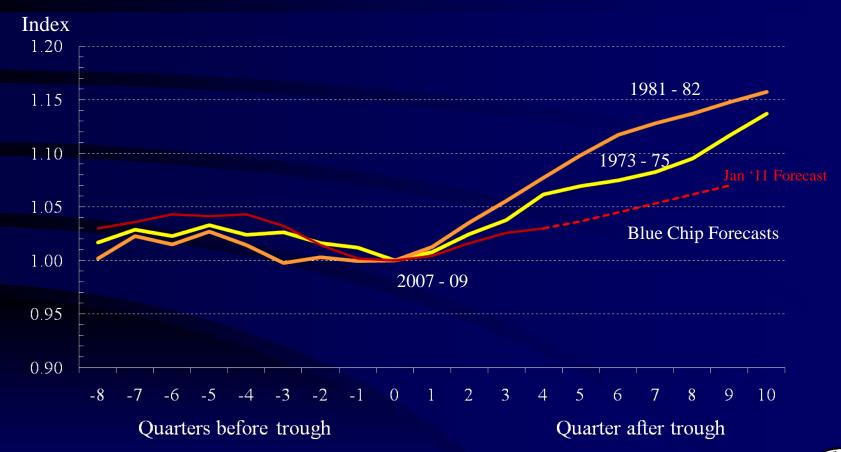
GDP is forecast to grow around trend in 2010 and slightly above trend in 2011





The forecast path for the current recovery remains extremely modest but prospects are improving

GDP Recovery Path, Trough = 100



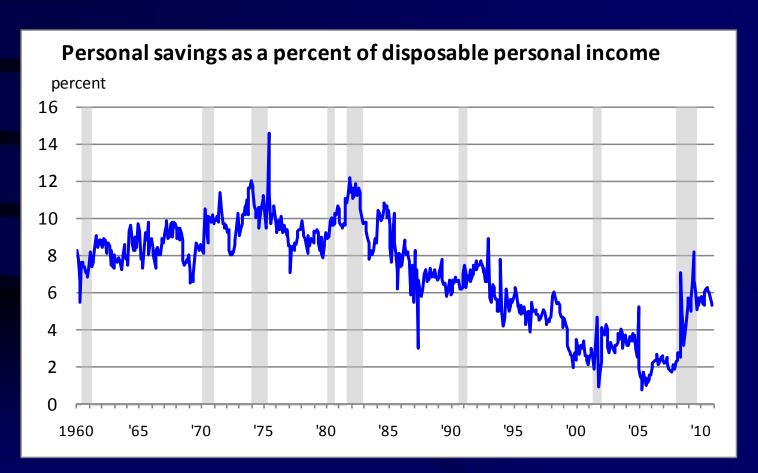


Origins of slow recovery: Wealth Destruction What is your number?



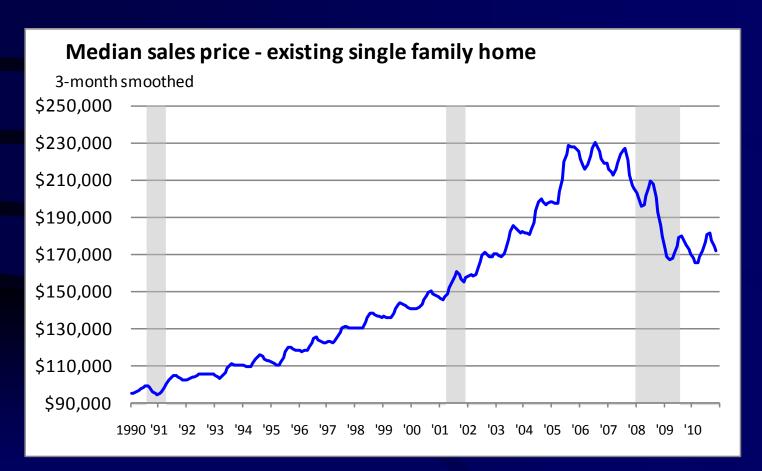


Personal savings rate has increased



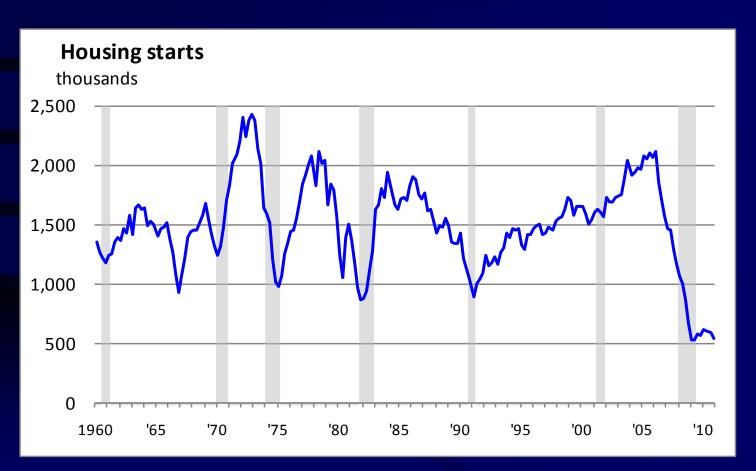


Existing home prices fell by over 25%





Housing starts fell to a post WWII low



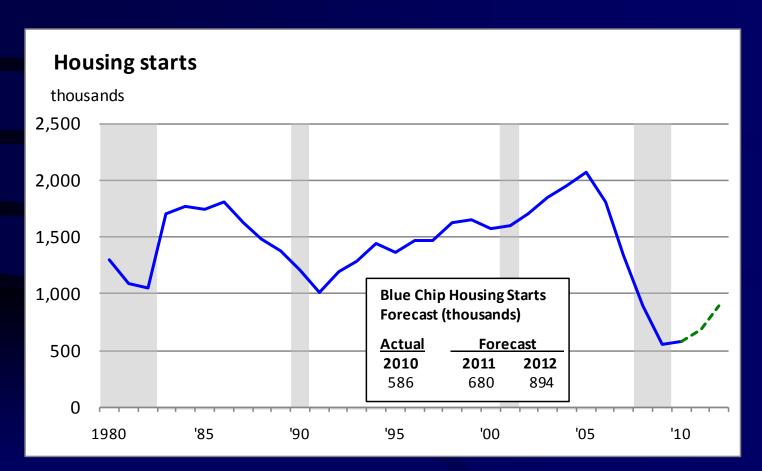


Foreclosure filings are quite high in California, Florida, Nevada and Arizona



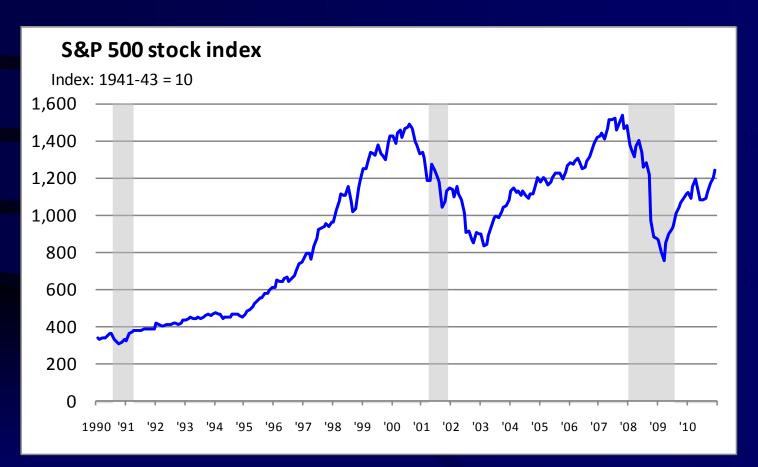


The forecast calls for a very slow recovery in housing



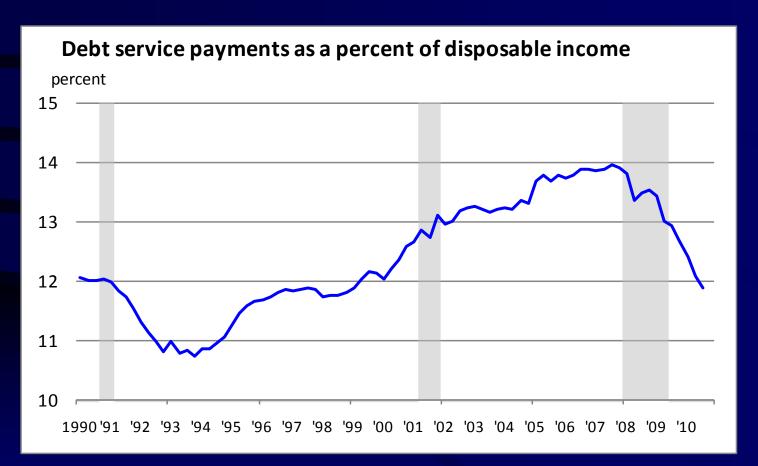


The stock market has improved since March 2009, but remains well below previous levels





Debt service payments have been falling quite sharply

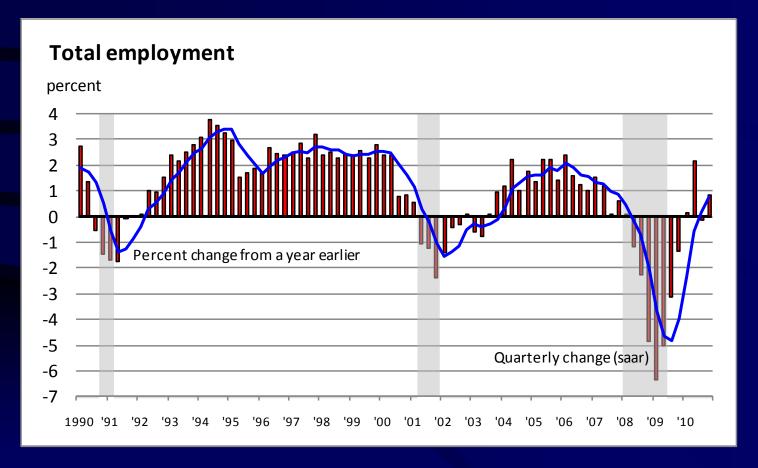




Poor labor market adds to consumers' caution

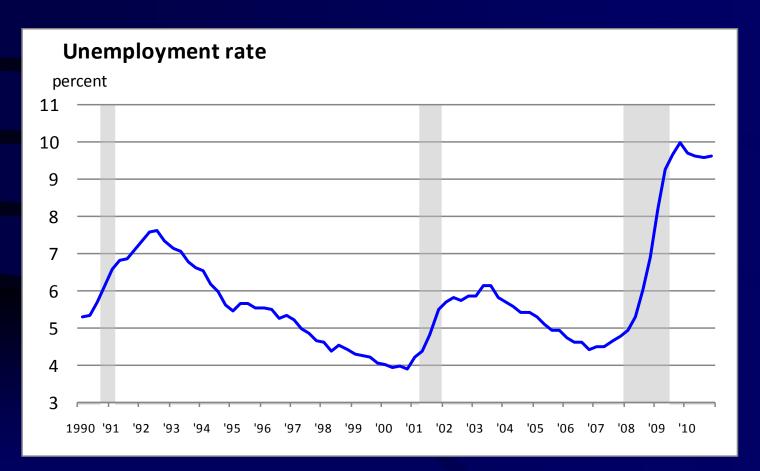


Employment fell by nearly 8.4 million jobs between December 2007 and December 2009, but it began to rise in 2010



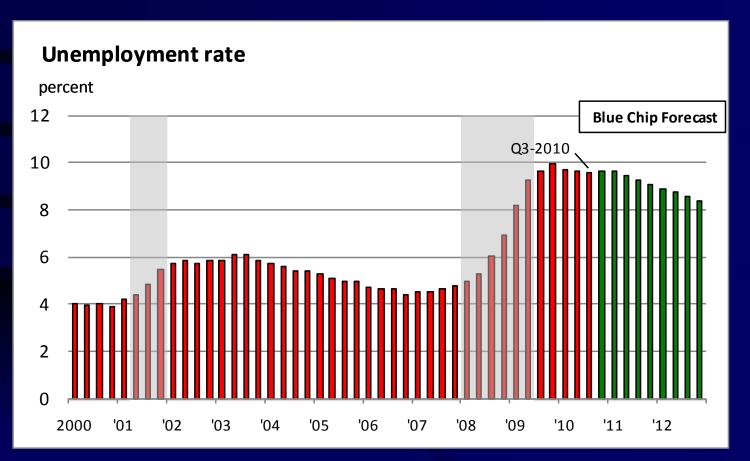


The unemployment rate only edged lower during 2010





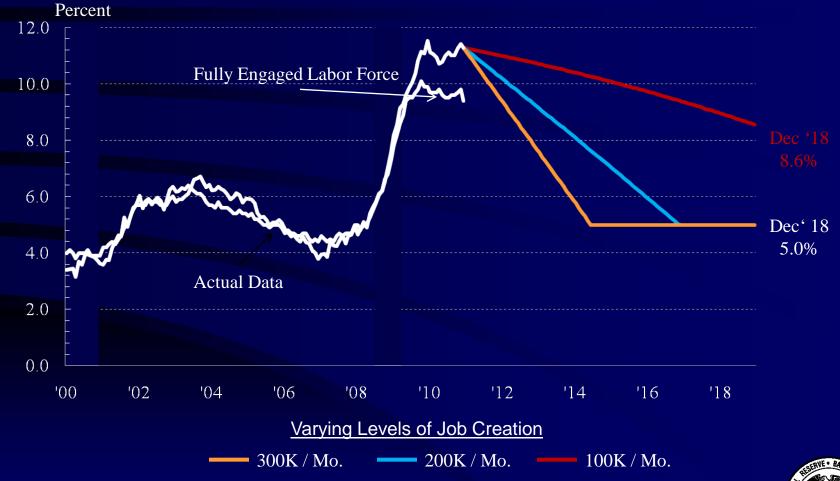
The unemployment rate is forecast to edge lower





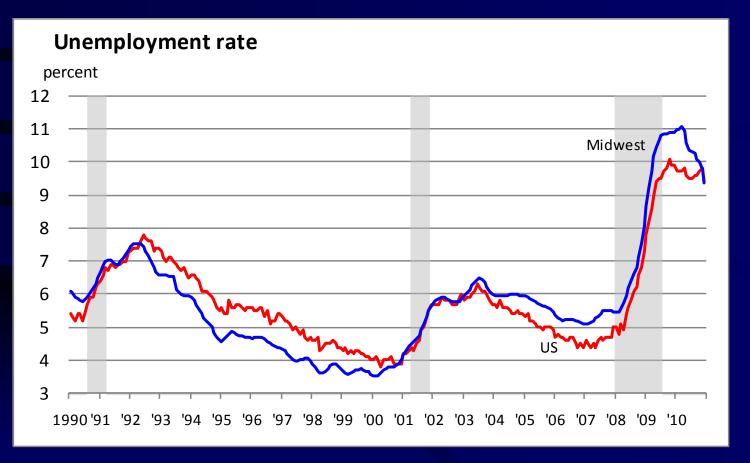
If the labor force were fully engaged at 66 percent participation rate the unemployment rate would currently be 12.3%

U.S. Unemployment Rate





For first time since December 2002, the unemployment rate in the Midwest matches the nation



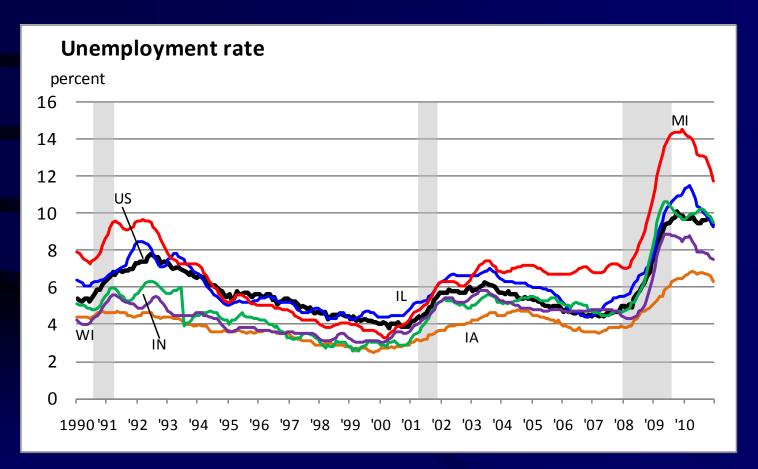


Industrial output in manufacturing fell quite sharply during the recession, but has risen strongly over he past eighteen months, averaging 7.8% and has recovered 56.6% of the loss during the recession

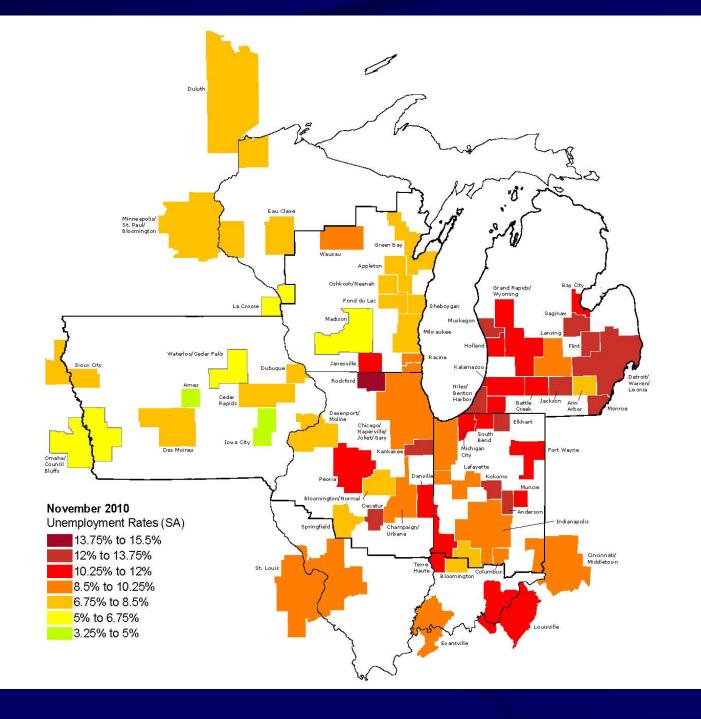




Michigan is tied with California for having the second highest state unemployment rates in the nation

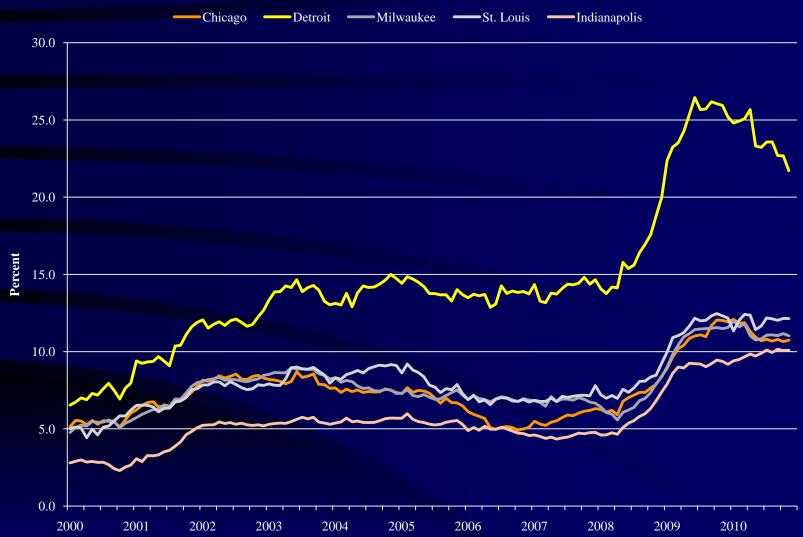








Central City Unemployment Rates (SA)



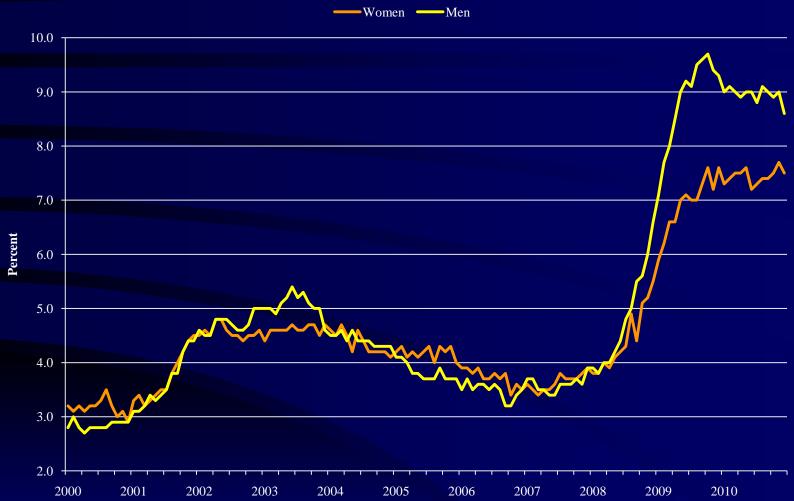


Unemployment Rate: 25 years and over (SA)





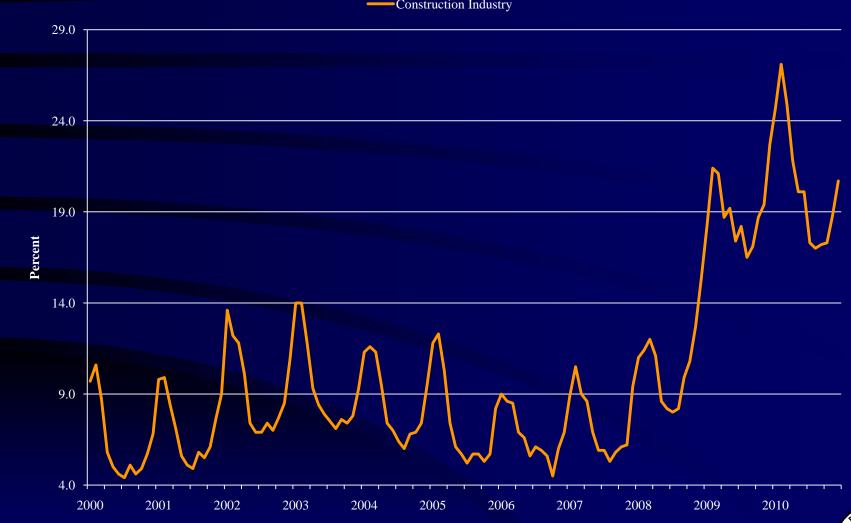
Unemployment Rate by Gender: 25 years and over (SA)



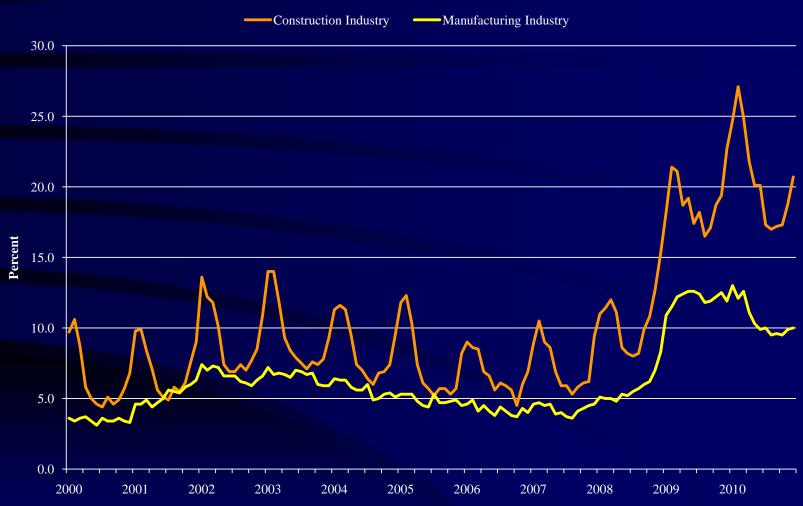


Unemployment Rate: Wage/Salary Workers

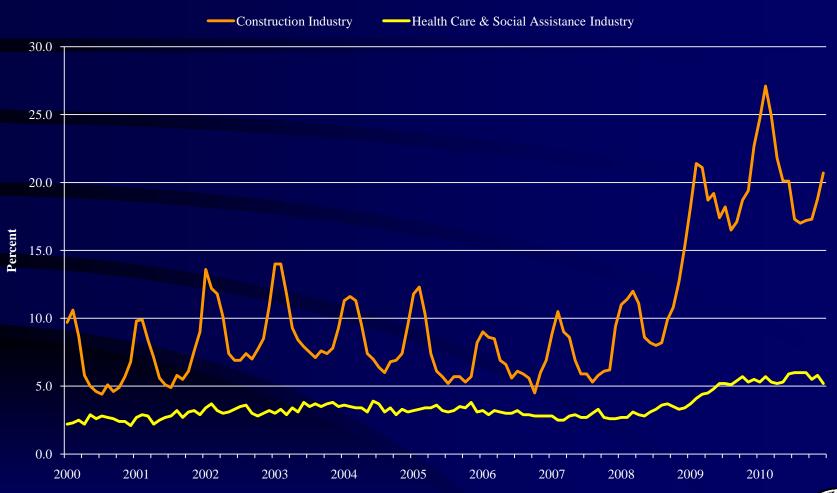




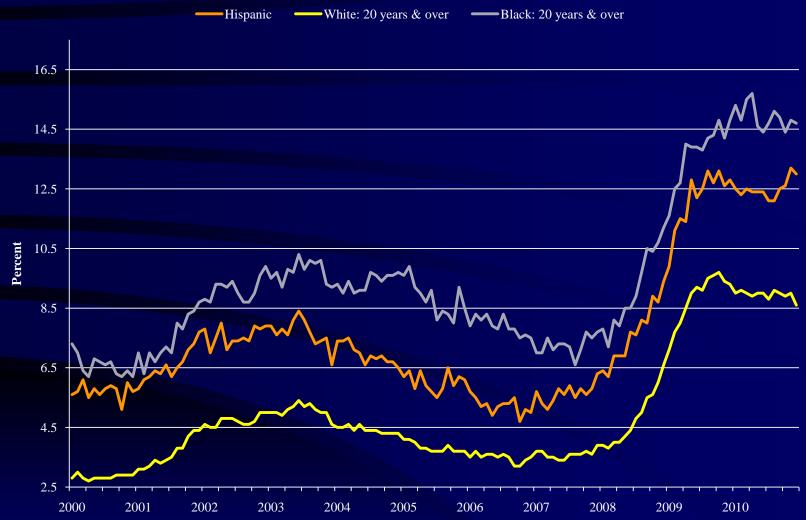
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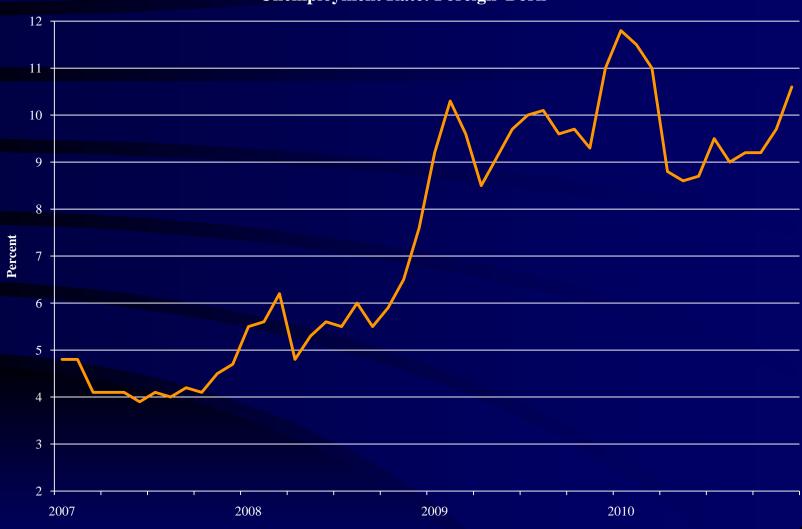


Unemployment Rate by Race (SA)





Unemployment Rate: Foreign Born



Summary

- The outlook is for the U.S. economy to expand at a solid pace this year
- Employment is expected to rise moderately in 2011
 with the unemployment rate edging lower through the year
- Slackness in the economy will lead to a relatively low inflation rate
- Manufacturing is forecast to have another solid year in 2011



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Summary

- The outlook is for the U.S. economy to expand at a solid pace this year and next year
- Employment is expected to rise moderately over the next two years with the unemployment rate edging lower
- Slackness in the economy will lead to a relatively contained inflation rate
- Manufacturing is forecast to have grow at a solid pace in 2011 and 2012
- Auto sales are anticipated to continue improving at a moderate pace
- The housing market should edge higher



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