



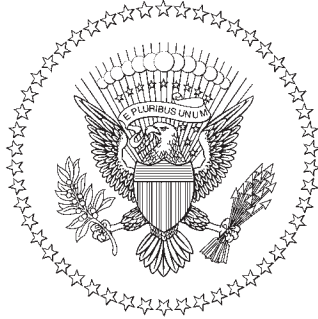
# **ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS  
MARCH 2024**

**TOGETHER WITH THE  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS**



ECONOMIC  
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**Economic Report  
of the  
President**





## Economic Report of the President

March 21, 2024

To the Congress of the United States:

When I was elected President, a pandemic was raging and our economy was reeling, and trickle-down economics had undermined our nation's growth long-term. I was determined to rebuild from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down, because when the middle class does well, we all do well. We can give everyone a fair shot and leave no one behind. Our plan has brought transformational progress.

In the near term, my Administration moved quickly to help hard-working families and businesses make it through the pandemic, with a historic rescue plan that vaccinated the nation, delivered immediate economic relief to people in need, and sent funding to states and cities to keep essential services going. We worked with the private sector and labor unions to ease bottlenecks and shortages in our supply chains, getting goods flowing again and making our economy more resilient for the future. Today, America is in the midst of the strongest recovery of any advanced economy in the world.

Along the way, we've achieved one of the most successful legislative records in generations, bringing new opportunities to communities of all sizes nationwide. We're tackling years of underinvestment in public infrastructure, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, making sure the future is made in America by American workers. We're making the biggest investment in American infrastructure in generations, including over \$400 billion for 46,000 projects in 4,500 communities to date. These projects are rebuilding the nation's roads, bridges, railroads, ports, airports, public transit, water systems, high-speed internet, and more, in every part of the country. We're also making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in history—advancing breakthroughs in clean technology, boosting energy independence, lowering electricity costs for hardworking families, and revitalizing fence-line communities smothered by a legacy of pollution. At the same time, we're working with the private sector to strengthen America's semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries as well, empowering workers and small businesses to share in the benefits.

Already, my Investing in America agenda has attracted \$650 billion in private investment from companies that are building factories here in America. We've ignited a manufacturing boom, a semiconductor boom, a



battery boom, an electric-vehicle boom, and more. My agenda is creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, so folks never have to leave their hometowns to find work they can raise a family on. Today, America once again has the strongest economy in the world. A record 15 million jobs have been created on my watch, giving 15 million more Americans the dignity and peace of mind that comes with a steady paycheck. The unemployment rate has been below 4 percent for the longest stretch in over 50 years, and we've seen the lowest unemployment rate for Black Americans on record. Economic growth is strong. Wages are rising faster than prices. Inflation is down by two-thirds. We have more to do, but folks are starting to feel the results. Real income and household wealth are higher now than they were before the pandemic, and consumer sentiment has surged more in recent months than any time in decades. Americans have filed a record 16 million new business applications since I took office, and each one of them is an act of hope.

Importantly, we're paying for many of these historic investments by making our tax system fairer. We've cut the deficit by \$1 trillion since I took office, one of the biggest reductions in history, and I've signed legislation to cut it by \$1 trillion more over the next 10 years, in part by raising the corporate minimum tax to 15 percent and making the wealthy and big corporations start paying their fair share.

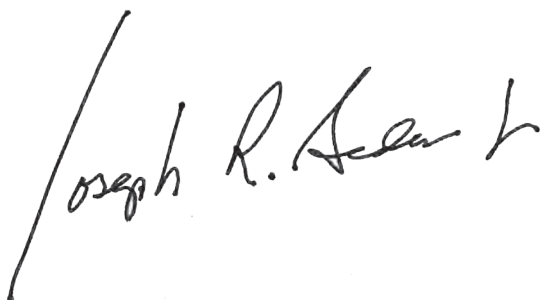
It's clear that we're making tremendous progress for the American people, but we have more to do to finish the job. My Administration is going to keep fighting to lower costs for hardworking families, on everything from prescription drugs, to housing, childcare, and student loans. Folks in Washington have tried to reduce prescription drug costs for decades; our historic Inflation Reduction Act is getting it done. It for example caps the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400; and starting next year, no senior on Medicare will pay more than \$2,000 a year in total out-of-pocket drug costs, even for expensive medications that can cost many times more. It also protects and expands the Affordable Care Act; as a result, more Americans have health insurance today than ever.

We're also making real gains in expanding access to housing: More families own homes today than did before the pandemic, rents are easing, and a record of around 1.7 million housing units are under construction nationwide. We'll keep working to lower housing costs and boost supply, by expanding rental assistance; speeding builders' access to federal financing to build more affordable homes; and reducing mortgage payments for first-time homebuyers. Meanwhile, we're standing up for workers and consumers, and cracking down on unfair hidden "junk fees" that companies like airlines, banks, and insurers slip onto people's bills.

At the same time, we're working to get every child in America the strong start they need to thrive. The American Rescue Plan expanded the

Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty nearly in half in 2021. We'll keep fighting to restore it, and to guarantee the vast majority of American families access to high-quality childcare for no more than \$10 a day. Our rescue plan also made the biggest investment in public education in American history; today, we're pushing to further boost funding to schools in need, to expand tutoring and afterschool programs, and to ease teacher shortages. I'm keeping my promise to ease the crushing burden of student debt as well. Despite legal challenges, we've canceled \$138 billion in student loans for nearly 3.9 million Americans, including more than 750,000 teachers, nurses, firefighters, social workers, and other public servants. Such widespread debt cancellation is freeing people to finally consider buying a home, having a child, or starting the small business they always dreamed of. In all, our agenda is making the promise of America real for many millions more Americans than ever before.

The story of America is one of progress and resilience, of always moving forward and never giving up. It is a story unique among nations – we are the only country that has emerged from every crisis stronger than we went in. That is what's happening across America today. There is still work to do, but I've never been more optimistic about our future. We are the United States of America, and there is nothing beyond our capacity when we do it together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph R. Biden Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" that extends upwards and to the left.





**The Annual Report  
of the  
Council of Economic Advisers**





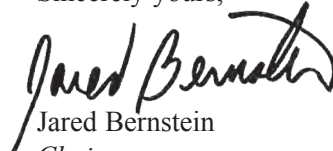
## Letter of Transmittal

Council of Economic Advisers  
Washington, March 21, 2024


Mr. President:

The Council of Economic Advisers herewith submits its 2024 *Annual Report* in accordance with the Employment Act of 1946, as amended by the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978.

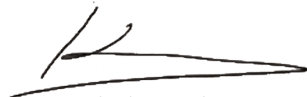
Sincerely yours,



Jared Bernstein  
*Chair*



Heather Boushey  
*Member*



C. Kirabo Jackson  
*Member*





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## Chapter 1

# The Benefits of Full Employment

*This chapter is dedicated to Dr. William Spriggs and his lifelong efforts to promote economic justice for all. It is hoped that the chapter reflects his view: “Full employment should mean full employment for all; not some.”* (Spriggs 2015)

This chapter discusses the economic effects of tight labor markets—loosely speaking, when jobs are plentiful relative to searchers—on working families and the macroeconomy. This topic is of great consequence for working Americans, and thus also for the worker-centered policies of the Biden-Harris Administration. The chapter draws attention to three economic periods characterized by tight labor markets: the late 1990s, the late 2010s, and the most recent period, starting in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The chapter first describes the concept of “full employment,” and then considers an economic framework rooted in firm market power, known as monopsony power (Manning 2003). An immediate consequence of this framework is the critical role of tight labor markets in improving workers’ bargaining position for higher wages and better jobs. The monopsony framework also helps to lay the foundation for understanding the deep and important benefits of full employment, particularly for groups often left behind when labor markets are slack.

This chapter’s central findings also highlight the benefits of full employment for labor market outcomes—such as unemployment, labor force participation, wages, and other measures—across demographic groups that are often economically vulnerable. In particular, the CEA finds that demographic groups (e.g., as determined by education, race, and sex) with higher average

unemployment rates relative to other groups see larger declines in unemployment rates during expansions. Relatedly, groups with lower average labor force participation see relatively larger increases in their participation rates during expansions than do those with higher participation rates. The implication of these results is that strong labor markets lead to a convergence in critical labor market outcomes across groups, a finding echoed by Cajner and others (2017) and Aaronson and others (2019). The converse is also true: economic downturns and slack labor markets are particularly harmful for relatively less advantaged groups.

This chapter also highlights several striking findings related to tight labor markets and traditionally disadvantaged demographic groups. First, racial gaps in labor market outcomes shrink in tight labor markets. In the most recent periods of full employment—just before the COVID-19 pandemic and in the last two years—the unemployment and employment gaps between Black and white men each fell to the lowest level on record. Second, economically vulnerable groups (e.g., the relatively less educated) are more likely to switch jobs when the unemployment rate is low, enabling them to climb the job ladder when jobs are plentiful. Third, workers who face a work-limiting disability are more likely to obtain jobs in particularly strong labor markets. Fourth, wages and earnings tend to be flat during periods of weak or stagnant labor markets but grow when the economy experiences a tight job market, such as in the late 1990s, the late 2010s, and the post-COVID years. Fifth, wages and annual earnings converge during tight labor markets, as previously demonstrated with unemployment and participation rate convergence; the effect appears in a remarkable narrowing of the ratio of wages between the 90th and 10th percentiles and 90th and 50th percentiles since 2015.

Because of the depth of these benefits, the chapter next considers which policy choices can help attain and maintain a full-employment labor market, highlighting two crucial pillars of effective macroeconomic stabilization

policy that can work toward this goal: (1) data-driven monetary policy and (2) temporary fiscal policy. Both can be used to ameliorate negative shocks to economic growth and output gaps. The chapter also considers a potential cost of full employment: higher inflation than would otherwise occur. Here, the CEA's analysis finds little evidence to suggest that persistently tight labor markets are necessarily costly in inflationary terms; indeed, the period before COVID-19 featured historically low unemployment with quiescent inflation. Many previous episodes of full employment did not clearly correlate with high inflation (though some early ones did, recent periods did not). And though strong labor demand played a role in the excess inflation of 2021–22, much of it was clearly due to nondemand, non-labor market factors, including the pandemic and its impact on supply chains.

The chapter concludes with a review of the period since June 2022, when total personal consumption expenditures price inflation peaked at 7.1 percent. From the perspective of the Phillips curve model, decreasing inflation comes at the cost of increasing unemployment, a decrease in inflation expectations, or favorable supply shocks. Since June 2022, the U.S. economy has experienced a substantial degree of disinflation, with relatively little sacrifice in the form of labor market deterioration. This suggests that recent inflation has largely been driven by factors other than the low unemployment rate. The most likely explanation, since longer-term inflation expectations remained anchored, is a resolution of supply disruptions—both in production and labor supply—caused by COVID-19 and the recovery from it. This explanation is supported by a recent CEA analysis showing that supply-side variables, both alone and interacting with demand, explain most of the disinflation over the past few years ([CEA 2023a](#)).

It is, of course, always possible that further disinflation will require more declines in economic activity than have occurred thus far. But the disinflation that has occurred to date has very clearly not been accompanied by a

sacrificing of the tight labor market conditions that deliver critical benefits to American households.

## What Is Full Employment, and Why Does It Matter?

Full employment is neither a new concept nor the sole purview of economists. Societal discussions of full employment predate economics as a discipline.<sup>1</sup> In simple terms, full employment describes an economy in which workers able and willing to work can obtain the jobs and hours they want. Modern economics has generally defined full employment by citing the theoretical concept of the lowest unemployment rate consistent with stable inflation, which is referred to as  $u^*$  (“u-star”), the natural rate of unemployment, or the nonaccelerating inflationary rate of unemployment (termed NAIRU).<sup>2</sup> (See box 1-1.)

Regardless of the specific model or definition, if unemployment is at  $u^*$ , the labor force is at full capacity, such that the number of workers needed (labor demand) roughly matches the number willing to work at the wages offered (labor supply). The value of  $u^*$  is necessarily above zero, as, even at full employment, so-called frictional unemployment exists, in which some job seekers (i.e., the unemployed) are between jobs while others may have wage demands that employers are unwilling to pay.

A separate and economically important way of conceptualizing  $u^*$  is to note that when unemployment is at its natural rate, additional demand for workers is more likely to generate inflation than boost real incomes. This conception of  $u^*$  returns to the trade-off embodied in the Phillips curve, as discussed above—specifically, the negative relationship between

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, the British *Historical Register* (1731, 187): “The more distinct the Employment is, the better, for many Inconveniencies have attended one Manufacture interfering with another; besides, there will be an Intercourse of Trade created by one Part of the Kingdom supplying the other with their distinct Manufactures; this will give full Employment to the whole Kingdom, and a universal Cheerfulness to every Body: For the Poor are never happier, nor their Minds easier, than when they have full Employment; and when they are employed, Riches are diffused over the Nation.”

<sup>2</sup> This definition replaces employment with unemployment, primarily because individuals have many reasons for choosing to forgo work and attend school, retire, take care of family, etc. Full employment is a case in which demand is sufficient to provide employment to those who want to work. Of course, the unemployment rate itself may not be the only, or most inclusive, measure of labor market tightness, as addressed in box 1-1. Further, the government could enact many policies to boost incentives for individuals to join the labor force (some of which are highlighted in box 1-4 below), which might change the equilibrium rate of employment, although not necessarily the natural rate of unemployment.

### Box 1-1. Alternative Measures of Labor Market Tightness

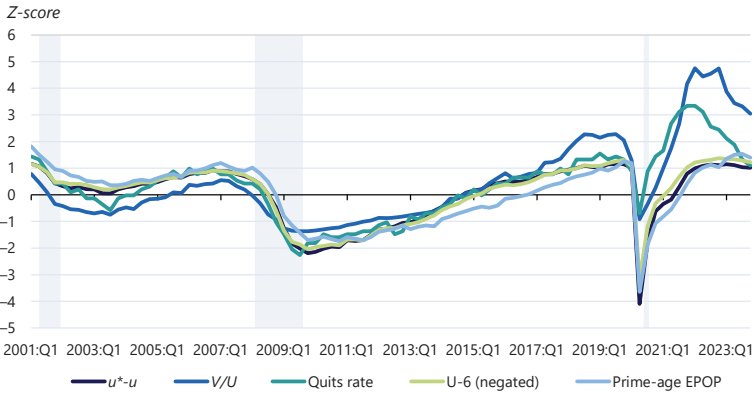
One working definition of full employment is the unemployment rate that is consistent with stable inflation. But the unemployment rate has notable downsides as a yardstick of labor market slack when set against the definition: it ignores workers who are out of the labor force, workers who are underemployed, and job openings that are unfilled—among other potential downsides.

While this chapter relies on the unemployment rate and the Congressional Budget Office’s estimate of the natural rate of unemployment, this box considers four common alternative measures of labor market slack: (1) the ratio of vacancies to unemployment ( $V/U$ ); (2) U-6, a broader measure of unemployment that incorporates some non-participants and some part-time workers; (3) the prime-age employment-to-population ratio; and (4) the quits rate.

A number of features make the ratio of vacancies to unemployment,  $V/U$ , appealing. First, in a large class of models of unemployment (Pissarides 2000), the degree of tightness in the labor market is measured via this ratio. Second, as a counterpart to the supply of workers who want jobs,  $V/U$  directly accounts for vacancies, a measure of the unmet demand for workers (Elsby, Michaels, and Ratner 2015). When there are more job openings than unemployed, the labor market is considered tight, since firms will have more difficulty recruiting and workers will have an easier time finding a job.  $V/U$  is strongly correlated with the unemployment rate, and researchers have found that it has a lower forecast error than the unemployment gap when predicting core personal consumption expenditures and wage inflation (Barnichon and Shapiro 2022). (Of course, there are critiques of vacancies as a measure of unmet labor demand, as well. For example, Davis, Faberman, and Haltiwanger 2013 show that recruiting intensity by firms is itself cyclical.) Further, Benigno and Eggertsson (2023) suggest that the unemployment-inflation relationship becomes nonlinear after  $V/U$  goes above 1, leading to accelerating prices when the labor market gets tight.

Both U-6 and the prime-age employment-to-population ratio are measures that expand the definition of job searchers beyond the unemployed. Focusing only on the unemployed assumes that those who are outside the labor force have a negligible job finding rate. However, when disaggregating into more granular groups, individuals who are out of the labor force but want a job are just as likely to transition to employment as the long-term unemployed. And even some nonparticipants who say they do not want a job transition to employment (Kudlyak 2017). Therefore, the unemployment rate could understate the true available labor supply (Hornstein, Kudlyak, and Lange 2014).

**Figure 1-i. Measures of Labor Market Tightness**



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Congressional Budget Office (CBO); CEA calculations.  
 Note: EPOP = employment-to-population ratio.  $u$  = unemployment rate.  $u^*$  = CBO's natural rate of unemployment. U-6 rate includes marginally attached individuals and those working part time for economic reasons.  $V/U$  = job openings divided by unemployment. Z-scores were calculated using the sample mean and standard deviations of each measure from 2001 to 2019. Gray bars indicate recessions.  
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U-6 starts with the standard unemployment rate as a base, but it also includes so-called marginally attached individuals and workers who are part time for economic reasons. Individuals are considered marginally attached if they would accept a job if offered one and have looked for work in the last year but not in the last four weeks. Workers are considered part time for economic reasons if they report working less than 35 hours per week due to slack work, unfavorable business conditions, an inability to find full-time work, seasonal declines in demand, or other economic reasons.

The prime-age employment-to-population ratio (PAEPOP) further includes all nonparticipants as potential job searchers. Focusing on those who are prime age (i.e., 25–54) excludes the effects of population aging and abstracts from school-going and retirement years. Researchers find that, compared with unemployment, the PAEPOP is equally predictive of core personal consumption expenditures inflation and is potentially a better predictor of real wage growth (Furman and Powell 2021).

One additional measure of labor market tightness is the quits rate, which counts the number of employed individuals who have voluntarily left their job (excluding retirements and transfers) in a month as a percentage of employment. The quits rate is a good indicator of the strength of a labor market, as an elevated number of employed individuals voluntarily leave their jobs if they believe they can find a better job (Gittleman 2022; Yellen 2014; CEA 2022). Researchers also find that the quits rate and job-to-job switching behavior is a better predictor of

wage growth and inflation than the unemployment rate (Karahan et al. 2017; Moscarini and Postel-Vinay 2017; Furman and Powell 2021). Faccini and Melosi (2023) found that elevated quits were directly linked to increases in the inflation rate in 2021.

Figure 1-i plots all four alternative measures, along with the unemployment gap, after normalizing each measure by its mean from 2001 to 2019 (inverting when necessary) and dividing by its standard deviation to make them comparable. All five measures track each other relatively well during the period before the COVID-19 pandemic, although the V/U ratio did indicate a slightly tighter labor market before COVID-19.

Both during and after the pandemic, both V/U and the quits rate diverge from the movements in the other three series. The two measures have suggested a notably tighter labor market since 2021 than the unemployment rate itself. The evolution of the two variables is precisely why policymakers have become focused on movements in the Beveridge curve and wage pressures in the labor market.

unemployment and inflation that has been at the center of macroeconomic models for decades.<sup>3</sup>

### *Estimates of the Natural Rate of Unemployment*

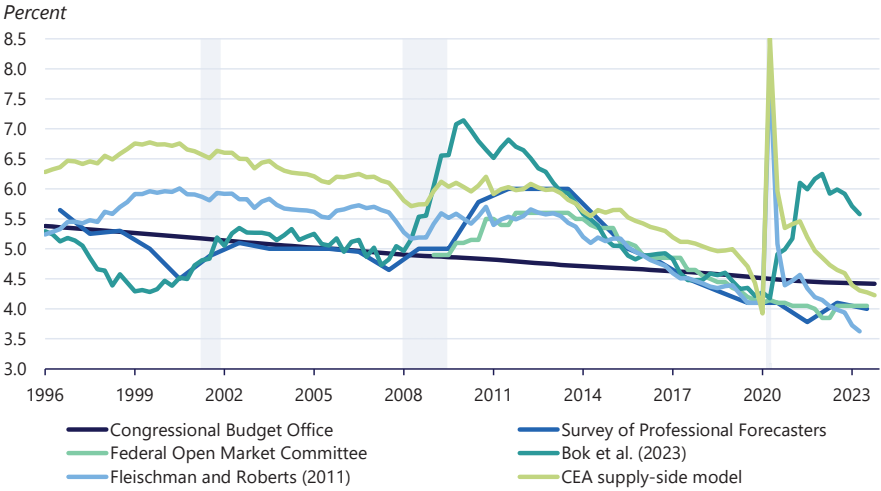
Although the historical record confirms a negative correlation between unemployment and inflation in general (Crump et al. 2019), a number of both theoretical and empirical problems render  $u^*$  impractical for policy purposes. First,  $u^*$  is unobservable, meaning it must be estimated, which can only be done in the context of a particular model, and typically with wide margins of error (see chapter 1 of the 2016 *Economic Report of the President*, CEA 2016a). Figures 1-1 and 1-2 offer two perspectives on the issue. Figure 1-1 compares current estimates of the natural rate from multiple organizations—the Congressional Budget Office’s (CBO’s) reports, various Federal Reserve System estimates, the CEA’s analyses, and those of professional forecasters. Clearly, estimates of  $u^*$  vary considerably over time and across estimators; the range of estimates spanned nearly 2 percentage points at its maximum at the height of the global financial crisis and exceeded 2 percentage points in the post-COVID period. However, even in the relatively calm period before COVID-19, the estimates varied by nearly a full percentage point.

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<sup>3</sup> For example, a very simple reduced-form Phillips curve implies a  $u^*$  derived from this regression:  $\pi_t - \pi^* = \alpha + \beta u_t + \epsilon_t$ , where  $\pi_t$  is inflation and  $u_t$  is the unemployment rate. Setting  $\pi_t = \pi^*$  (typically 2 percent) defines  $u_t^*$  as  $-\alpha/\beta$ .



**Figure 1-1. Estimates of the Natural Rate of Unemployment**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Congressional Budget Office; Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; Federal Reserve Board of Governors; Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; Bok et al. (2023); Fleischman and Roberts (2011); CEA calculations.

Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.

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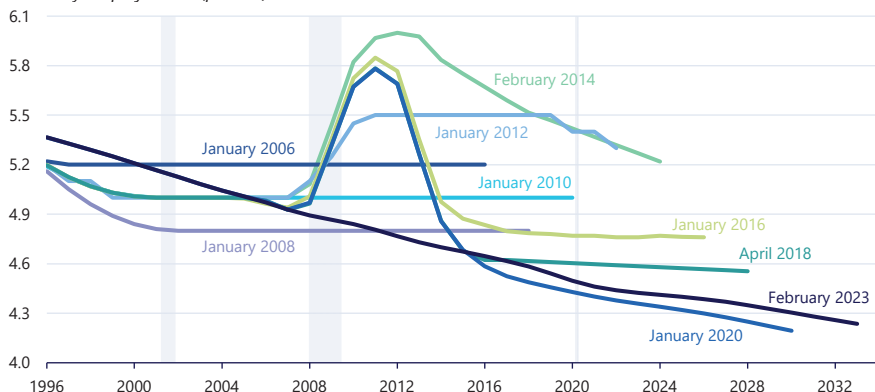
Second, the particular model underlying an estimate of the natural rate of unemployment is crucial. For example, some estimates are considered “long-run” estimates, which can be thought of as the unemployment rate toward which the economy would tend in the absence of shocks. Short-run shocks, such as those that impede matching workers and jobs in the labor market or that temporarily raise unemployment (or inflation), can raise the short-run natural rate, as they likely did after the global financial crisis and COVID-19. In figure 1-1, the natural rates presented reflect a combination of concepts. The CBO’s estimate is akin to a long-run rate, while the Survey of Professional Forecasters’ estimate is likely a combination of concepts across the different analysts who respond to the survey.<sup>4</sup> Bok and others (2023) present a number of measures, including one based on a Phillips curve concept of the stable inflation rate of unemployment, making it akin to a short-run approach.

Related to the distinction between the time horizon and model underlying any estimate of  $u^*$ , figure 1-2 offers another perspective on the difficulty of precisely estimating the value. The figure presents several vintages of CBO forecasts of the natural rate starting in the mid-1990s. As is apparent, the estimates are subject to large revisions over time. This is partly because the CBO has itself changed the definition of the natural rate over time,

<sup>4</sup> For a detailed discussion of the differences, see Bok et al. (2023).

**Figure 1-2. The CBO's Estimates of the Natural Rate of Unemployment, 1996–2033**

*CBO 10-year projections (percent)*



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Congressional Budget Office (CBO); CEA calculations.

Note: The natural unemployment rates shown are annual averages of quarterly projections by the Congressional Budget Office. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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settling recently on a long-term concept, whereas previously the agency distinguished short- and long-run rates.

Regardless of the reason, any entity's estimate of  $u^*$  in a given year may change dramatically if unemployment surprisingly falls below the estimated  $u^*$  for a sustained period, as it did in the pre-COVID era of low unemployment. The CBO's estimate of  $u^*$  for 2019, for example, fell when it updated its estimates from 2016 to 2018 and then again in 2020. Finally, as figures 1-1 and 1-2 show,  $u^*$  is not a constant. Its movements are generated by changes in the macroeconomy, workers' demographics, and fiscal and monetary policy changes. For example, the CBO's estimate of  $u^*$  was revised up at the onset of the global financial crisis (as were many other estimates); but as unemployment decreased in the latter stages of the recovery from the crisis, the CBO's estimate of  $u^*$  repeatedly moved down. There is good reason that the economist James Galbraith quipped, in a critique of  $u^*$ , "It's not only invisible; it moves" (Galbraith 2001).

Another key limitation of using  $u^*$  as a policy goal is that it embeds variation in labor market outcomes across groups. This variation in structural labor market outcomes may be undesirable for society. As the CEA explores in some detail, there is considerable structural variation in unemployment levels (and other labor market indicators) between demographic groups in the labor market. Black male workers, for example, historically (starting in 1976, when the data became available) have unemployment rates averaging 7 percentage points above the rate white men face. The differences cannot be explained in full by other observable characteristics (e.g., differences in education), suggesting that discrimination may be a factor in

the persistent differential. Therefore, were policymakers simply to aim for historical estimates of  $u^*$ , which have been consistent with large racial gaps, they risk embedding permanent disadvantages in groups that have long been left behind.

For all its shortcomings, the CEA still views  $u^*$  as a useful concept, as long as analysts understand that it cannot accurately be pinned down to a specific rate, especially in real time, and that it leaves out critical dynamics at play in the U.S. economy and labor market. Today, most economists would agree that 5 percent is above  $u^*$ , at least over a long enough period to allow acute short-run shocks to be worn away, and 3 percent is likely below it. Indeed, before the pandemic, the jobless rate was in the range of 3.5 to 4 percent and did not create inflationary pressures. During the current recovery, rates in this range have been maintained while inflation has fallen. In other words, recent history shows that unemployment rates between 3.5 and 4 percent can be consistent with sustainable inflation in the long run and allow the U.S. economy to enjoy the benefits of full employment.

The recent postpandemic period of tight labor markets and elevated inflation raises two questions: (1) Has  $u^*$  increased structurally, so that the pursuit of maintaining tight labor markets engenders greater overheating and inflationary risks than in prior cycles? Or (2) is pandemic economics a special case, and thus, outside its unusual effects, can the U.S. labor market still flourish with low unemployment not necessarily accompanied by high inflation?

To explain the importance of engaging in this section's  $u^*$  target practice, the next section gives a brief theoretical framework to delineate the interaction of labor markets at full employment and the empirical findings that the CEA presents in this chapter.

### ***A Monopsonistic Labor Market***

A brief summary of a basic labor market model helps ground an understanding of imperfect labor markets, in which employers wield some degree of wage-setting power, and which economists typically call monopsony power. In contrast, the textbook version of a perfect labor market envisions identical firms that are unable to set wages below the market level, lest they lose all workers to other employers, a case in which employers face a perfectly elastic labor supply curve. One implication of the perfect competition model is that wage discrimination and worker exploitation do not persist because competing firms can attract workers with better working conditions and pay. Discriminating firms with poorer labor standards must either improve or go out of business.

In reality, with monopsony power, firms are able to use their relative strength in the hiring market to set wages to some degree. (For a summary

of the empirical literature, see [Ashenfelter et al. 2022](#).) Whereas a pure monopsony would feature only one employer in a given market, the real world is of course more complicated and closer to a model that features both monopsony and competition ([Manning 2003, 2021](#); [Yeh, Macaluso, and Hershbein 2022](#); [CEA 2016b, 2022](#)).

There are many plausible mechanisms that can lead to monopsonistic competition—for example, search frictions that delay job matching, employer concentration, job heterogeneity, and institutional or legal constraints like noncompete agreements ([Burdett and Mortensen 1998](#); [Manning 2021](#); [CEA 2016b](#); [Card et al. 2018](#); [Berger, Herkenhoff, and Mongey 2022](#); [U.S. Department of the Treasury 2022](#)). The most commonly proposed source of monopsony power is the presence of search frictions, which impede the process whereby workers match with suitable employers. A canonical search model of monopsony power follows [Burdett and Mortensen \(1998\)](#), in which firms post wages to attract workers. A critical implication of the model is that the labor supply curve faced by the firms is upward sloping: higher wages reduce attrition, improve the ability to hire, and increase employment. This model is in stark contrast to the perfectly competitive model, in which firms are wage takers and face perfectly elastic labor supply curves.

Crucial for the analysis here is that the degree of labor market power a firm can wield is intimately related to the relative prevalence of available jobs and workers. In a tight labor market, monopsony power is reduced because workers’ outside options improve as the likelihood of finding an alternative or better job rises. The ability of workers to switch to new jobs, or to quit and quickly find new jobs, allows them to raise their threat point with firms in wage negotiations. Relatedly, firms face elevated attrition rates and more difficulty recruiting workers. The improved bargaining position of workers helps to raise labor’s share of income, as discussed in box 1-2.

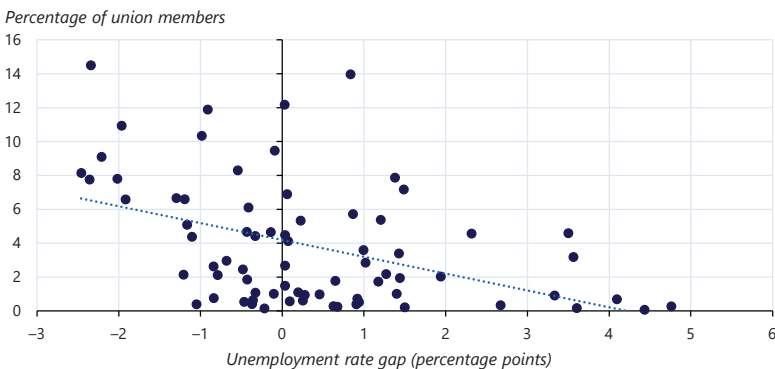
One important implication of an economic setting in which employers wield market power when competing for employees is that screening or discriminating against workers based on gender, race, disabilities, or other characteristics—for example, by changing hiring practices or weeding out résumés based on workers’ characteristics—becomes a less economically feasible option when the job market is very tight. To do so risks failing to meet demand for the product or service that the employer sells, thereby reducing potential profitability and falling behind (nondiscriminatory) competitors. Informally, employer discrimination in tight labor markets risks “leaving money on the table.” Thus, the economic framework of monopsonistic competition suggests that—and [CEA research documents extensively](#)—tighter labor markets are salutary for addressing persistent racial, gender, and other labor market gaps between advantaged and less advantaged groups.

## Box 1-2. Workers' Bargaining Power and Full Employment

One consequence of tight labor markets, where jobs are plentiful relative to searchers, is that workers' bargaining power improves. The reasoning is intuitive: workers' bargaining power is in part derived from the range of options available in the labor market. In strong labor markets, it is relatively easy to find jobs, and the job offers available are more likely to include elevated wages or expanded opportunities. (See the evidence given below on wages and occupational upgrading.) For a more detailed discussion, see Stansbury and Summers (2020).

Another way that workers can exert bargaining power is through unionization and union activity. Figure 1-ii shows that the share of union members that engage in a work stoppage (y axis) increases when the gap between the unemployment rate and the CBO's natural rate decreases (x axis). The figure is striking in light of the surge in union activity in recent years. In the two years before the COVID-19 pandemic, about 450,000 workers engaged in work stoppages per year, highlighted by the educator strikes in 2018–19 (BLS 2024). The strike activity in these years was higher than had been registered since the mid-1980s. And in 2023, there was once again a notable wave of strikes, the most prominent of which occurred among workers who belong to the United Auto Workers union at the Big 3 auto plants. Of course, work stoppages are only one example of union activity, which is easy to measure and thus lends itself to this analysis; other examples of union activity by workers include filing for

Figure 1-ii. Share of Union Workers Involved in Work Stoppages, 1949–2022



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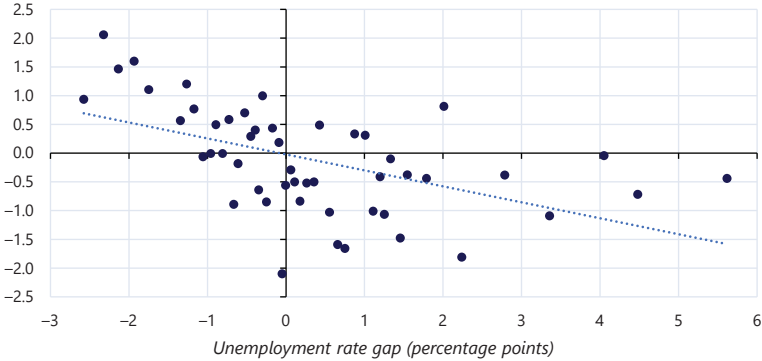
Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Congressional Budget Office (CBO); Freeman (1998); Department of the Treasury (2023); CEA calculations.

Note: Dotted line is the line of best fit for the graphed series. The unemployment rate gap indicates the gap between the unemployment rate and the CBO's estimate of the natural rate of unemployment.

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**Figure 1-iii. Change in the Labor Share and the Unemployment Rate Gap, 1948–2023**

*Four-quarter log change in labor's share of income*



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Congressional Budget Office (CBO); CEA calculations.

Note: Dotted line is the line of best fit for the graphed series. The unemployment rate gap indicates the gap between the unemployment rate and the CBO's estimate of the natural rate of unemployment. Labor's share is for the nonfinancial corporate business sector.

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union elections and negotiating for fair contracts, which have important effects on the working conditions of those covered by union contracts.

The result of forces that raise bargaining power is that a larger slice of the economic pie goes to workers (both union and nonunion) as the economy achieves full employment. One measure of the size of the slice is what economists call labor's share of income, or, roughly speaking, the share of total income that accrues to workers in the form of compensation. Figure 1-iii shows that a higher labor's share (y axis) is associated with lower unemployment rate gaps (x axis).

Although the theoretical models provide a qualitative framework for defining full employment, the CEA's analysis shows that full employment is clearly associated with labor market conditions that are tight enough to provide workers with meaningful bargaining power. Such power is evident in the empirical results presented in the next section on the benefits of full employment.

## Evidence on the Benefits of Full Employment

This section provides a set of stylized facts on the benefits that strong labor markets and full employment provide to workers, especially those who belong to groups that are typically less attached to the labor market and are less well compensated than other groups.

### *Long-Run Trends in Labor Market Outcomes*

Long-run trends in unemployment and employment rates, disaggregated by race and ethnic groups, paint a striking picture of the beneficial effect of strong labor markets on these outcomes—a note highlighted by Spriggs (2017). In this chapter, CEA researchers extend the methodology used by Cajner and others (2017), who estimate gaps in the unemployment rate and employment-to-population ratios across selected demographic groups that are unexplained after controlling for age, geographic region, marital status, and education.<sup>5</sup> Figure 1-3 plots the unexplained portion of the unemployment rate for Black men minus white men and Black women minus white women using a common decomposition method.<sup>6</sup> Panel B of the figure shows Hispanic men minus white men and Hispanic women minus white women.<sup>7</sup>

There are several notable features of the differences in unemployment rates across groups that cannot be explained by observable characteristics. First, even after accounting for differences in explanatory variables, the unemployment rates of Black men and women are considerably higher than those of white men and women. However, the unexplained gaps have been shrinking since the early 1980s. Second, weak labor markets are particularly detrimental for economically vulnerable groups; during the global financial crisis, the unexplained gap in unemployment rates between Black and white men rose by about 2 percentage points, while the gap between Black and white women increased by 1.5 percentage points. Further, the unexplained unemployment rate gaps were persistently higher for the less advantaged groups after the recession: it took nearly 10 years for the Black male

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<sup>5</sup> This work follows Cajner et al. (2017) in estimating Oaxaca-Blinder decompositions for each year of data starting in 1976 and reporting the unexplained portion of the difference in labor market outcomes (i.e., the portion not due to differences in the means of the explanatory variables). While age and gender are obvious choices for exogenous factors that are important in shaping employment and unemployment, Cajner et al. discuss the merits of controlling for variables that are outcomes of choices, such as education. For example, if certain groups face structural barriers to education, then controlling for education may understate the differences in labor market outcomes due to discrimination faced by the group.

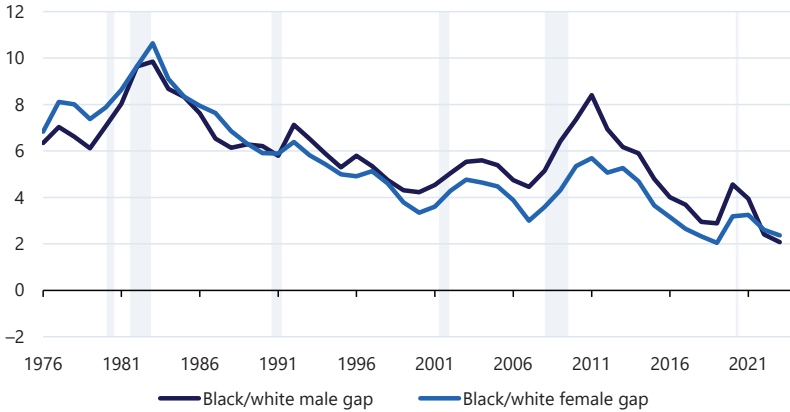
<sup>6</sup> This chapter follows Cajner et al. (2017), who focus on the absolute difference in labor market outcomes across groups rather than the ratios of labor market outcomes.

<sup>7</sup> It is important to note that the demographic groups shown here are not meant to be exhaustive of the groups that are economically vulnerable; indeed, within the relatively coarse groups presented, there is substantial heterogeneity in labor market outcomes and general socioeconomic well-being.

**Figure 1-3. Racial Gaps in the Unemployment Rate**

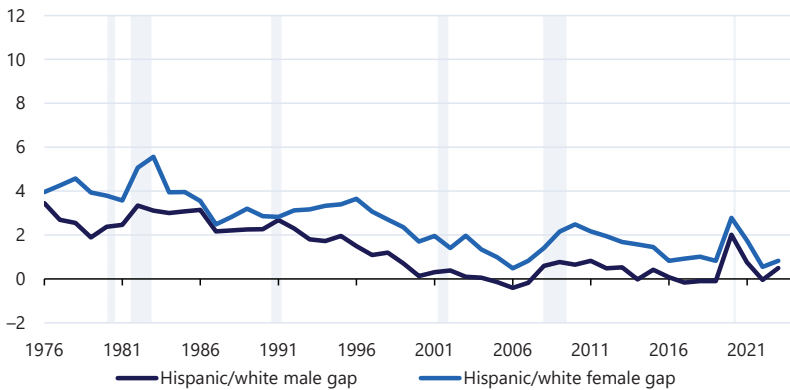
**A. Black versus white**

Percentage points of labor force



**B. Hispanic versus white**

Percentage points of labor force



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Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: White and Black populations are non-Hispanic. Estimated using methodology from Cajner et al. (2017).

Gray bars indicate recessions.

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unemployment rate to recover relative to the white male unemployment rate. Nonetheless, it did recover, and when the labor market approached perhaps the tightest periods covered by the CEA data, in 2018–19 and 2022–23, the unemployment rate for Black men was as close to that for white men as has been on record.

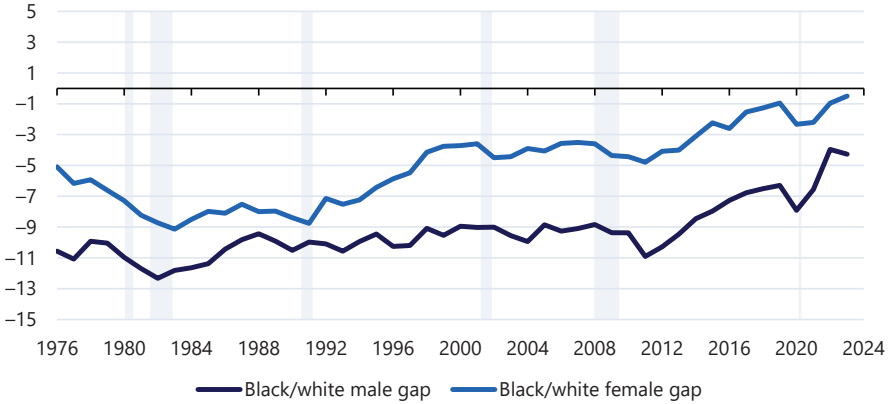
Figure 1-4 presents unexplained gaps in employment-population ratios using the same controls and comparing the same demographic groups as shown in figure 1-3. Employment-population ratios are determined by the unemployment rate and labor force participation, which together help summarize labor market outcomes across groups. While the cyclicity of



## Figure 1-4. Racial Gaps in the Employment-Population Ratio

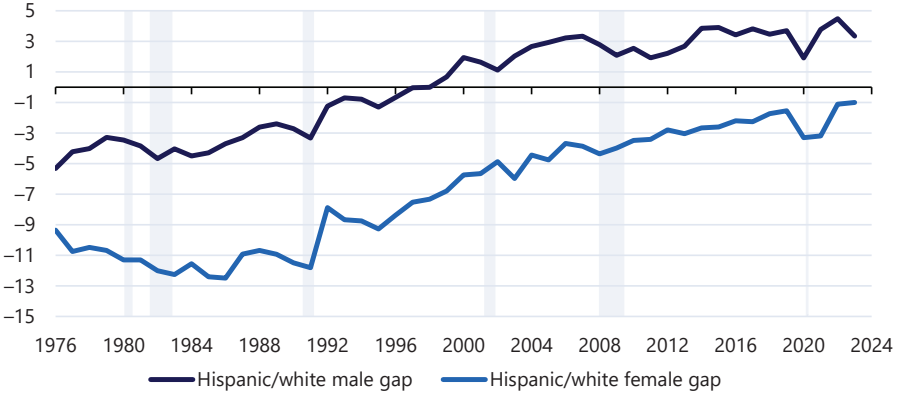
### A. Black versus white

Percentage points of population



### B. Hispanic versus white

Percentage points of population



### Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: White and Black populations are non-Hispanic. Estimated using methodology from Cajner et al. (2017). Gray bars indicate recessions.

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employment-population ratios is less pronounced, in part due to long-running trend changes in labor force participation, the figures show that strong labor markets are critical in closing the gaps in labor market outcomes between groups. For example, the gap between Black and white women narrowed substantially in the full employment labor market of the late 1990s. After the 2000 recession occurred, and the labor market remained weak until well into recovery from the global financial crisis, there was a lack of relative improvement for both Black men and women relative to white men and women. When the labor market reached full employment in 2015–19,

the gap closed substantially, and it continued to do so after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because the analysis controls for characteristics that partially determine labor market outcomes, such as age, their interpretation hinges on the source of the unexplained gaps shown in figure 1-4. One determinant is clearly racial prejudice, which has long been a determinant of labor market and other economic outcomes (Charles and Guryan 2008; Lang and Lehmann 2012). Why would tight labor markets reduce racial discrimination in employment?<sup>8</sup> First, it does so because workers can more easily find alternative and better jobs, and they can leave for better opportunities when they experience discrimination. Second, tight labor markets increase the cost of discriminatory behavior, making it less economically feasible. If the subset of employers that discriminates by race can find, despite their prejudices, the workers they need to maximize profitability, it is relatively costless to do so, especially since they may not suffer the legal or reputational harm from engaging in discriminatory behavior. But if the labor market is tight enough that discrimination is costly and leads to lost profits, employers may be less likely to discriminate and more likely to remove hiring barriers that exclude qualified workers. This dynamic is at least part of the reason why strong labor markets are salutary for narrowing racial gaps in the labor market.

## **A Rising Tide Lifts Some Boats More Than Others: Cyclical Variation Across Groups**

The CEA's analysis shows that in the United States, economically vulnerable demographic groups—those that, on average, experience worse labor market outcomes—are the same groups that benefit most from full employment. This examination starts by following a methodology similar to that developed by Wolfers (2019) to estimate the relationship between lower aggregate unemployment rates and the labor market outcomes of a broad swath of demographic groups.

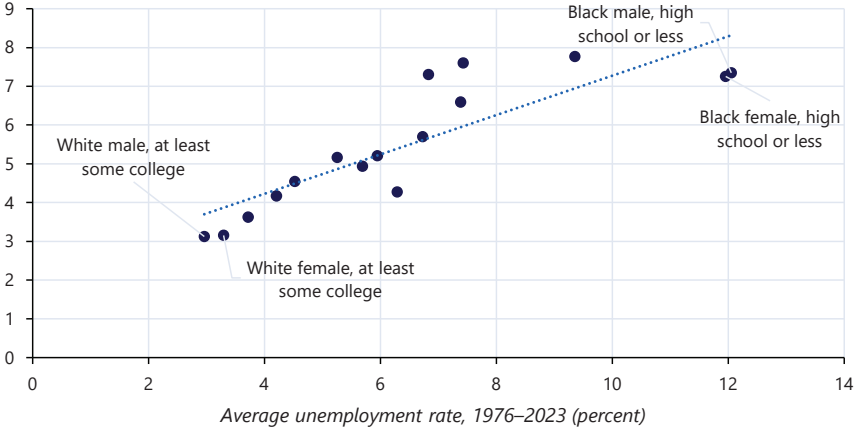
First, the CEA splits the prime-age population into 16 groups defined by four race/ethnicity categories (Black non-Hispanic, white non-Hispanic, other non-Hispanic groups, and Hispanic), sex, and two education groups (a high school degree or less, and some college or more). Second, the CEA calculates the cyclical responsiveness of unemployment for each group across all business cycles after 1976, when granular microdata became available. Cyclical responsiveness is defined as the average increase (or decrease) in

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<sup>8</sup> While employment discrimination against protected classes is illegal, racial gaps in the labor market persist. Strong antidiscrimination enforcement by agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs are important for creating the long-term structural changes in employment practices that will prevent such discrimination.

### Figure 1-5. The Cyclicity of Unemployment versus Average Unemployment

Change in unemployment rate over expansions and recessions (percentage points)



Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: Dotted line is the line of best fit for the graphed series. Sample restricted to prime age (25–54) individuals. White and Black populations are non-Hispanic.

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the unemployment rate from the peak (trough) of a business cycle to the respective trough (peak), with dates defined by the business cycle minimum and maximum of the aggregate unemployment rate gap. Third, the CEA calculated the average unemployment rate for each group over the whole period, 1976–2023.

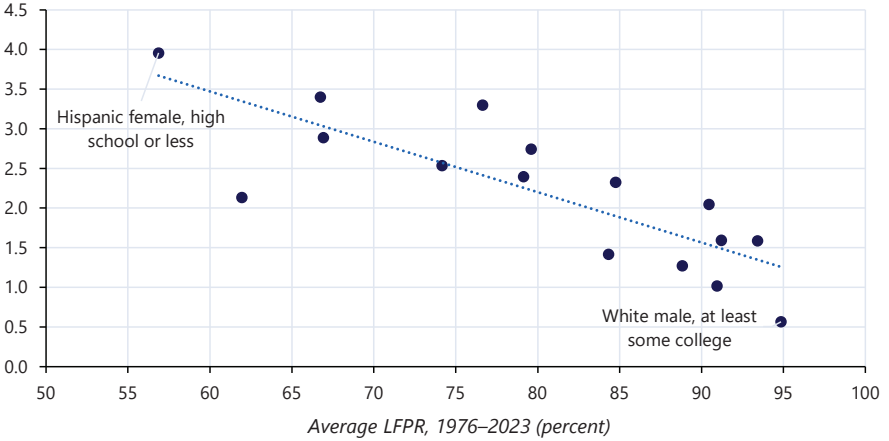
Figure 1-5 shows the average group-specific unemployment rate on the x axis and average cyclical responsiveness of the unemployment rate on the y axis, along with the regression line relating the two.

This picture shows a remarkably strong relationship—and not a mechanical one or one that need occur—between the group-average unemployment rate (higher x-axis value) and the degree to which the group’s unemployment rate changes over the business cycle. For example, the top-right point of figure 1-5 gives the cyclical sensitivity for prime-age Black non-Hispanic men with an education of high school or less. The group’s average unemployment rate is a staggering 12 percent, and this rate changes by about 7 percentage points over the average business cycle. Further, the regression line shows that if a group has a 1-percentage-point higher average unemployment rate, its unemployment rate is expected to change by about 0.5 percentage point more over the business cycle.

Figure 1-6 replaces the unemployment rate with the labor force participation rate (LFPR), which also shows clearly that less advantaged groups

### Figure 1-6. The Cyclicity of the LFPR versus Average LFPR

Change in LFPR over expansions and recessions (percentage points)



Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: LFPR = labor force participation rate. Dotted line is the line of best fit for the graphed series. Sample restricted to prime age (25-54) individuals. White and Black populations are non-Hispanic.

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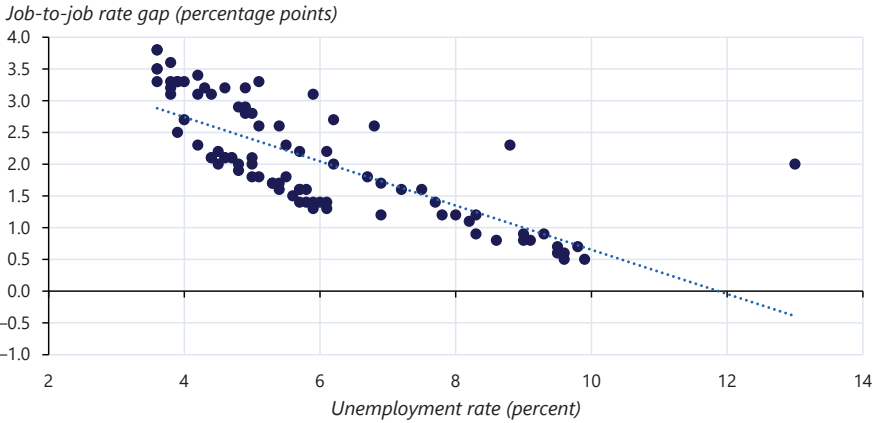
benefit more from strong labor markets.<sup>9</sup> The groups with a relatively low average LFPR (moving to the left on the x axis in the figure) experience relatively larger increases in the LFPR over the business cycle than other groups.

In addition to unemployment rates falling, and LFPR rising, workers from less advantaged groups have more success climbing the job ladder than they otherwise would in a weaker job market. The ability to change jobs, find better matches, and bargain for higher wages and benefits are all crucial features of an economy that provides long-lasting opportunities for workers (Topel and Ward 1992; Bjelland et al. 2011; Haltiwanger et al. 2018; Bosler and Petrosky-Nadeau 2016). Figure 1-7 shows that the ability of economically vulnerable groups to reap the benefits of moving up the job ladder is greater when the economy is at full employment than when it is not. The analysis focuses on differences between demographic groups in job-to-job switching rates—that is, the rate at which a worker takes a job at

<sup>9</sup> There are likely two reasons why the relationship is not as precise for the LFPR. First, there are persistent long-term trends in the LFPR that are not controlled for and that may make it difficult to infer the cycle from the trend (CEA 2014; Aaronson et al. 2014). Second, the cyclicity of the LFPR is typically more muted than for the unemployment rate and likely has more complicated lag structures (Cajner, Coglianese, and Montes 2021).

**Figure 1-7. The Cyclicity of Job-to-Job Rate Gaps, by Race and Education**

**A. By Race (Black—white)**



**B. By Education (High School—Some College or More)**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Census Bureau; CEA calculations.

Note: Dotted line is the line of best fit for the graphed series. White and Black populations are non-Hispanic.

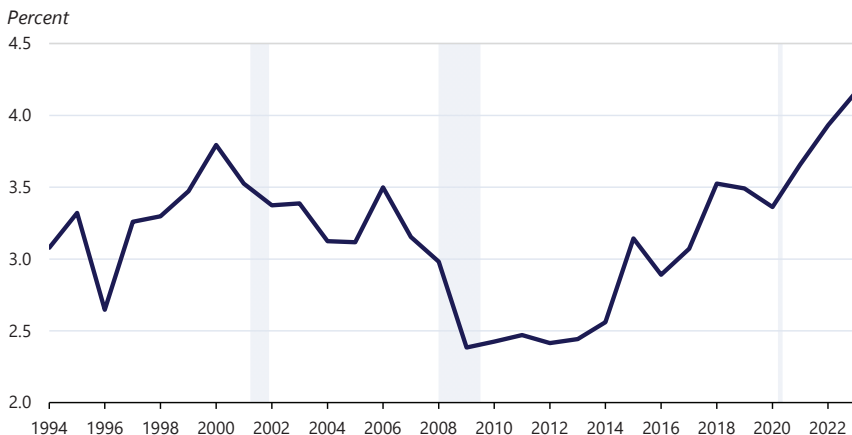
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a different employer in a quarter—as produced by the Census’s Longitudinal Employer-Household Data.<sup>10</sup>

Panel A of figure 1-7 represents the difference in job-to-job transition rates of Black workers relative to white workers. For example, from 2000:Q3 through 2022:Q3, the average job-to-job switching rate for Black workers was 6.8 percent and was 4.7 percent for white workers, an average

<sup>10</sup> The Census measure analyzed by the CEA is defined as, roughly, the number of workers whose job is with one employer in quarter  $t$  and another employer in  $t + 1$ . Workers are included if they spend one quarter or less unemployed between jobs at different employers. That number of job-to-job switches is divided by the average number of jobs in both quarters  $t$  and  $t + 1$ . For additional information, see Census (2023).

**Figure 1-8. Monthly Transition Rate of the Disabled from Nonparticipation to Employment**



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Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: Graph shows the annual average share of prime age (25–54) individuals with self-reported disabilities who report not being in the labor force in month  $t$  and employed in month  $t+1$ . Gray bars indicate recessions.

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gap of 2.1 percentage points. However, when the unemployment rate was below 4 percent in 2019, that gap increased to 3.4 percentage points. Meanwhile, when the unemployment rate was above 9 percent in 2010, the gap shrank to 0.7 percentage point. This cyclical pattern manifests in the downward-sloping regression line in panel A of figure 1-7.

Panel B of figure 1-7 echoes these findings for education groups, showing the difference in the job-to-job switching rate of those with only a high school degree relative to those with a college degree or more. The regression line is again downward sloping, indicating that strong labor markets benefit the job ladder prospects of the less educated relative to the more educated. Box 1-3 sheds additional light on the importance of cyclical upgrading for average wages, and box 1-1 above further discusses a related measure—the quits rate—as an alternative measure of labor market tightness.

Another important example of the kinds of workers who benefit directly from full employment are those with work-limiting disabilities. Figure 1-8 gives the rate at which prime-age workers who report a work-limiting disability move from nonparticipation to employment, calculated from longitudinally matched Current Population Survey data; the rate rises substantially when unemployment falls. Once such workers find jobs, they accumulate experience and can switch to better jobs. This dynamic process can lead to long-lasting benefits for these workers and their families, as well as for the overall productive capacity of the economy (Yellen 2016).

### Box 1-3. Occupational Upgrading

Tight labor markets tend to boost average wage levels, and the CEA's analysis presented in this chapter shows that workers take advantage of strong labor markets to switch jobs. This box shows that these two dynamics are related: during tight labor markets, workers climb the occupational job ladder and move into jobs associated with higher pay.

To evaluate occupational advancement, the CEA uses an occupational index that takes the median wage in 2018 and 2019 according to detailed occupation and follows the share of the workforce in each occupation both backward and forward in time. To measure the occupational wage level in 2018 and 2019, the CEA takes the median of the hourly wage in the Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group by occupation (using IPUMS's harmonized 2010 definitions). More formally, the index is calculated from parameters  $b_0$  and  $b_1$  in this ordinary-least-squares regression:  $W_{it} = b_0 + b_1t + BX_{it} + e_{it}$ , where the sample uses individual-level Current Population Survey data and includes each individual in the labor force at time  $t$  in harmonized occupation  $i$ ;  $W_{it}$  is the median wage of occupation  $i$  as of 2018–19, while  $X_{it}$  is a vector of demographic controls.

In panel A of figure 1-iv, the index is estimated with controls for sex, age, and birth cohort. It shows that while occupational advancement is indeed cyclical, it has shown steady progress over the last four decades. The index shown in panel B further controls for education. An important interpretative distinction between education and the other controls is that education is likely sensitive to economic conditions: Educational attainment may in part be countercyclical if individuals choose to enroll in educational programs when the labor market is weak.

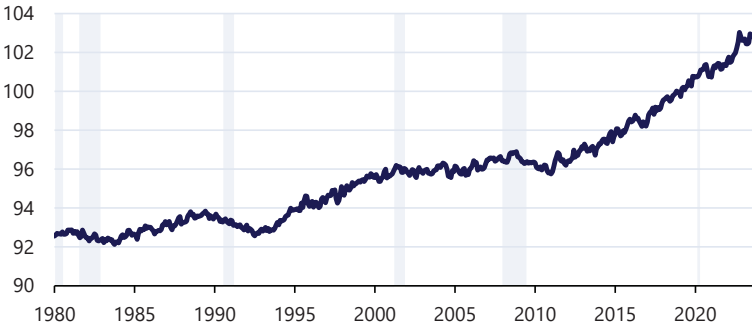
Over the last 40 years, average educational attainment has risen in the United States. In fact, the flatness of the line in panel B of figure 1-iv relative to the clear upward slope of the line in panel A suggests that education has been a key driver of occupational advancement since 1980: As workers have become increasingly likely to graduate from high school and earn a college degree, they have been able to move into higher-paying occupations.

In addition, the results suggest that the recessions of the early 1980s, and also in 2001 and 2008, represented a significant occupational decline among American workers that did not immediately recover (again, holding education constant). In contrast, during the tight labor markets of the late 1990s and from 2014 to 2019, occupational advancement began to accelerate again, then accelerated further during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the roughly 10 years starting in 2014, workers made up for the earlier 30 years of losses in occupational advancement. By 2023, workers were on average in higher-paying jobs than at any point since 1980, even when controlling for education. This result suggests that

## Figure 1-iv. Occupational Advancement Index

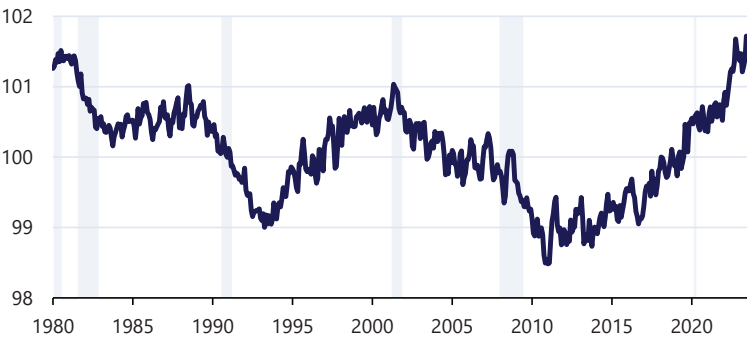
### A. Age–Sex Controls

Index: 2018–19 = 100



### B. Age–Sex–Education Controls

Index: 2018–19 = 100



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Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: Both series include cohort controls. Gray bars indicate recessions.

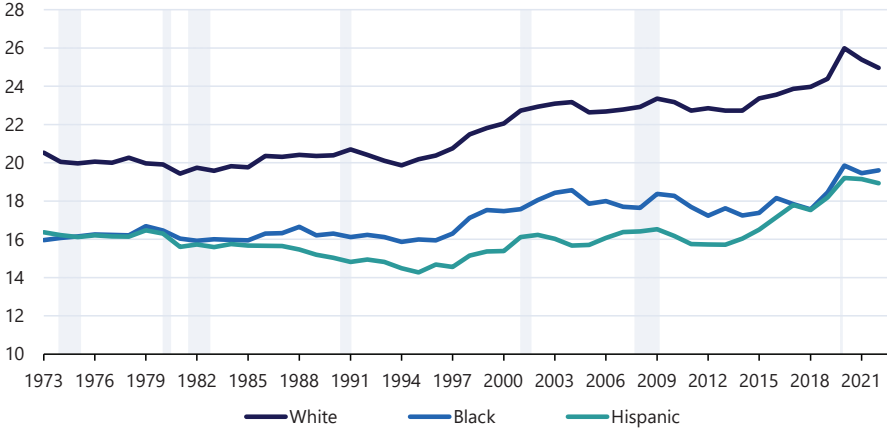
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strong labor markets act through channels other than education and can help workers catch up on the occupational ladder when prior recessions have pushed them down.



**Figure 1-9. Median Real Wages, by Race and Ethnicity**

2022 dollars



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Economic Policy Institute's State of Working America Data Library.

Note: White and Black populations are non-Hispanic. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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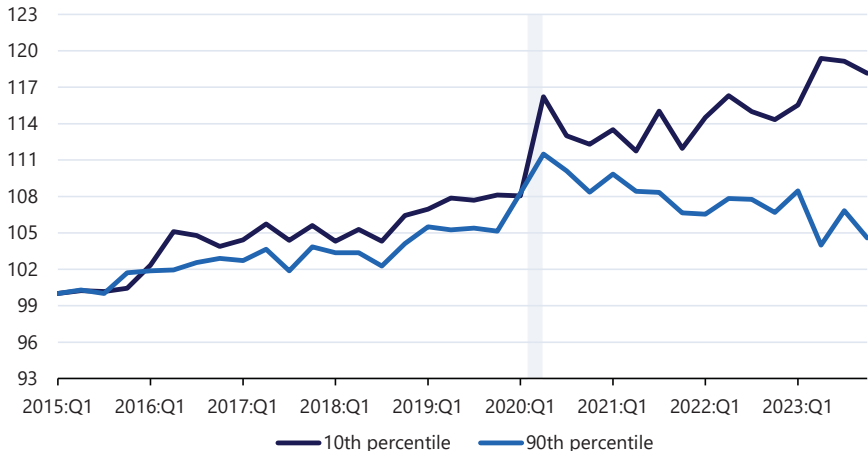
### *Full Employment's Effect on Wages and Household Incomes*

The strong bargaining power afforded by tight labor markets raises not only employment rates but also wages and incomes for less advantaged groups. Figure 1-9 shows the median real wages of white non-Hispanic, Black non-Hispanic, and Hispanic workers since 1973. In the figure, real wages are stagnant over long stretches, aside from the periods of sustained growth during the tight labor markets in the late 1990s, late 2010s, and the immediate period following the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>11</sup> Indeed, in the 23 years from 1973 up to 1996, when the CBO estimates the labor market began the prolonged period of full employment in the late 1990s, the unemployment rate was only below the natural rate in about 27 percent of quarters; in those years, white and Black median wages were roughly flat, whereas Hispanic wages fell by about 10 percent. From 1996 through the end of the data in 2023, the unemployment rate was below the natural rate in 47 percent of quarters, and wage growth performed better, rising 22, 23, and 29 percent at the median for, respectively, white, Black, and Hispanic workers.

<sup>11</sup> The composition of the workforce is known to have important implications for the dynamics of wages, especially during business cycles when the lowest-paid workers typically lose jobs sooner than more highly paid workers. This introduces an upward cyclical bias that can make the decline in wages during recessions less pronounced than it otherwise might be (Solon, Barsky, and Parker 1994; Daly and Hobijn 2017). This composition effect had a large impact on the wage data shown in figures 1-9 and 1-10, especially during the COVID recession, and is one reason why wages appeared to rise sharply at the onset of that downturn (CEA 2021).

## Figure 1-10. Hourly Wage Compression, Pre- and Post-COVID

Index: 2015:Q1 = 100



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Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: Estimated using methodology from Autor, Dube, and McGrew (2023). Gray bars indicate recessions. 2024 Economic Report of the President

Figure 1-10 also shows that real wages converged during the recent tight labor markets, especially at the low end of the income distribution. In figure 1-10, the CEA replicates the recent work of Autor, Dube, and McGrew (2023), who estimate wage convergence in the periods before and after COVID-19, adjusting for demographic differences due to age, labor market experience, race and ethnicity, region, and nativity.<sup>12</sup> Demographic controls were especially important during the peak of the COVID-induced recession due to the enormous shifts that occurred in the workforce.

Figure 1-10 shows the remarkable compression of wages in the labor market both before and after the pandemic, which were both periods of full employment. The 10th-percentile wage grew about 3 percentage points more than that of the 90th percentile in the pre-COVID period, from 2015:Q1 to 2019:Q4; in the period after COVID, starting at the business cycle trough in 2020:Q2 and going through 2023:Q4, real wages grew by about 7 percentage points more at the bottom of the distribution than at the top. While there are surely factors other than the strong labor market driving the post-COVID wage compression—for example, the shift to remote work likely has held down wage growth among higher-wage workers (Barrero et al. 2022)—the

<sup>12</sup> Autor, Dube, and McGrew (2023) implement a Dinardo-Fortin-Lemieux (1996) reweighting procedure, which allows for the comparison of wages at different points of the distribution under the assumption that the distribution of individual characteristics is fixed at a base year—in this case, immediately before the pandemic.

**Table 1-1. Wage Compression in the Pre- and Post-COVID Labor Markets***Percent change in ratio over period*

Ratio	2015:Q1–2019:Q4	2020:Q2–2023:Q4
90th percentile / 10th percentile	–3	–8
90th percentile / 50th percentile	–3	–2
50th percentile / 10th percentile	0	–5

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Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: This table shows the ratio of wages at the indicated percentiles. Estimated using methodology from Autor, Dube, and McGrew (2023).

*2024 Economic Report of the President***Table 1-2. Predicted Changes in Real Household Incomes over Selected Business Cycles**

Type of Household	Percentile	1992–2000		2006–09		2009–19	
		Expansion		Recession		Expansion	
		Predicted Percent Change in Real Income	Percent of Actual Real Income	Predicted Percent Change in Real Income	Percent of Actual Real Income	Predicted Percent Change in Real Income	Percent of Actual Real Income
All	10th	7	52	–11	63	12	43
	25th	4	27	–6	47	7	28
Black	10th	7	41	–12	64	13	29
	25th	6	14	–10	146	11	45
Single mothers	10th	8	44	–13	53	14	–145
	25th	6	14	–9	135	10	65

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Sources: Current Population Survey; Congressional Budget Office; CEA calculations.

Note: Estimated using methodology from Bernstein and Bentele (2019).

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compression of wages occurred alongside the strongest stretch in the U.S. labor market since the mid-1960s.

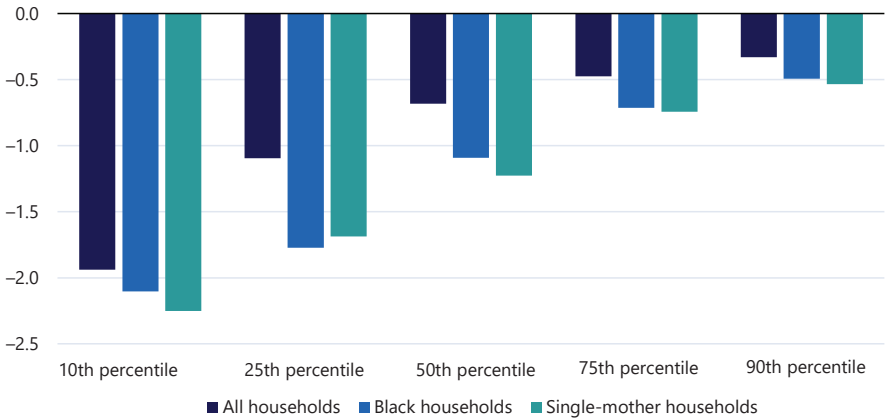
Table 1-1 records the changes in standard wage inequality ratios over the two periods. The data reinforce the remarkable compression of wages, especially between the top and bottom earners, as measured by the 90/10 wage ratio.

Following the methodology of Bernstein and Bentele (2019), figure 1-11 shows the effect on real annual earnings (equal to annual hours worked times hourly wages) of a 1-point increase in the aggregate unemployment rate relative to the CBO’s at five quantiles of the earnings distribution for the overall population, Black households, and households headed by single mothers.<sup>13</sup> The relationship between labor market slack and incomes is larger for low and middle earners than for high earners across all groups; further, incomes respond more for low-income Black households, and those headed by single mothers.

<sup>13</sup> In particular, figure 1-11 plots the coefficients from group-specific regressions of the log real annual earnings from the Annual Social and Economic Supplements to CPS data on the CBO unemployment rate gap.

**Figure 1-11. Effects of a Looser Labor Market on Household Income**

*Change in annual earnings (percent)*



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Sources: Current Population Survey (CPS); Congressional Budget Office (CBO); CEA calculations.

Note: Estimated using methodology from Bernstein and Bentele (2019) with data from the 1977–2023 CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplements. Each bar shows the expected change in household income associated with a 1-percentage-point increase in the CBO’s estimate of the unemployment rate gap.

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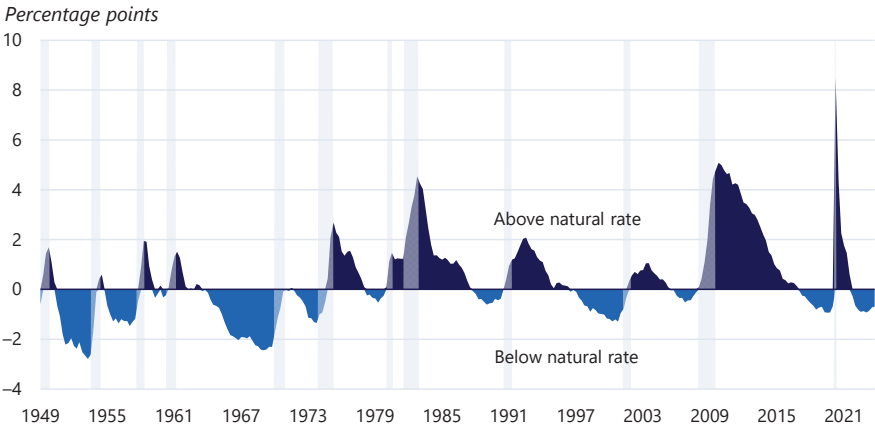
The lighter blue bars in figure 1-11 show the coefficients for Black households, which are larger in magnitude at each point of the distribution than those of the overall population (navy bars); however, the biggest difference for Black households relative to the population is at the 25th percentile. The same gradient is apparent among households headed by a single mother, a group typically faced with lower wages and that is less attached to the labor market than many other groups (Miller and Tedeschi 2019).

What do the coefficients mean in terms of real wage and income growth? Table 1-2 shows, in the first column for each period, the predicted percent change in real income based on the CEA’s simple model for various groups during periods when the labor market tightened and slackened. The second column of each period reports the predicted income change (from the first column) as a share of the actual income changes experienced by the relevant group. The results show that a large share of income gains and losses are associated with aggregate labor market performance, reinforcing the view that a strong economy is crucial to the well-being of economically vulnerable groups.

## Getting to and Staying at Full Employment

As the section above shows, the benefits of a persistently tight labor market, especially for groups that are often left behind in periods of slack, are deep and economically meaningful. But while recent U.S. economic history has

**Figure 1-12. The Congressional Budget Office’s Estimate of the Unemployment Rate Gap**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Congressional Budget Office; CEA calculations.

Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.

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featured several periods at or near full employment, the longer sweep of post–World War II history is less encouraging. Figure 1-12 shows the quarters when  $u > u^*$  in dark blue and quarters when  $u < u^*$  in light blue, using the CBO’s measure of  $u^*$ . The figure shows that over the first half of post-war history, from 1949 to 1981, the U.S. labor market spent 64 percent of quarters with the unemployment rate below the natural rate; however, over the second half of the period, starting in 1982, the United States achieved full employment in 38 percent of quarters. Moreover, in the first half, when the unemployment rate was below the CBO’s natural rate, the gap between the unemployment rate and CBO’s natural rate averaged  $-1.2$  percentage points; in the second half, it averaged only  $-0.6$  percentage point when it was below the natural rate.

Aside from missing out on the benefits laid out in this chapter, another cost of not being at full employment is what economists call hysteresis, meaning lasting or structural damage to the economy’s supply side, which lowers its potential growth rate (Yellen 2016). The economy’s growth rate is broadly a function of the growth in the workforce’s size and the growth in the productivity of this workforce (CEA 2023b). If, for example, potential workers stay out of the workforce due to weak labor demand, they risk sacrificing the productivity-enhancing experience and skills associated with steady workforce attachment. One influential analysis by Reifschneider, Wascher, and Wilcox (2013) frames the problem as the “endogeneity of supply with respect to demand,” meaning that labor supply is influenced by labor demand. One channel through which this operates is when weak labor

demand reduces potential labor supply if workers who experience long-term unemployment spells lose skills and, therefore, become persistently less employable. Another channel through which this operates is that less employment requires less capital investment, which can, in turn, reduce the supply of productive capital in the economy.

In the context of this chapter, the implication is that extended periods of unemployment exceeding  $u^*$  can generate persistently damaging hysteresis. While there is not much evidence for the notion that extended periods of tight labor markets can lead to reverse hysteresis (i.e., improvements in the economy's potential growth rate), the dynamic is certainly plausible (Yellen 2016). If, as this chapter has shown, full employment pulls workers into the labor market who might otherwise be left behind, the positive effects of reverse hysteresis might be realized. Full employment could also have positive effects on other supply-side fundamentals, such as productivity.

The benefits of full employment raise the question of which policy choices help lead to it and what trade-offs the choices involve. The inflation/unemployment trade-off embedded in the Phillips curve framework has long dominated the policy discussion and, as Baker and Bernstein (2013) show, was one reason for the long periods of slack shown in figure 1-12. In recent years, however, more economists have recognized the measurement challenges in  $u^*$  (see the uncertainty embedded in figure 1-1), leading policymakers, including those with the Federal Reserve, to become more “data driven” and rely less over time on point estimates of  $u^*$  (Staiger, Stock, and Watson 1997; Powell 2018).

More specifically, a data-driven argument surfaced that, because analysts could not identify  $u^*$  reliably enough to steer fiscal and monetary policy, and the price Phillips curve was viewed as relatively flat, economic policymakers could allow labor markets to tighten with a low risk of substantial inflationary consequences (Powell 2018). Findings like those shown above regarding the equalizing benefits of tight labor markets, including pulling in new workers from the sidelines (which also dampens inflationary pressures), further strengthened the argument (Bernstein and Bentele 2019; Cajner, Coglianese, and Montes 2021).

The full employment experiences of the late 1990s and the period before the pandemic showed the logic of the position through data on critical variables, such as jobs, the LFPR, wages, racial gaps in the labor market, and more. During those periods, both unemployment and inflation remained relatively low, representing a favorable trade-off on behalf of economically vulnerable groups without salient inflationary risks. And indeed, as figure 1-2 shows, during the tight labor market before the pandemic, estimates of the natural rate continued to be revised down over time, rewarding the Federal Reserve's data-dependent approach.

**Table 1-3. Inflation and Labor Market Outcomes Since Total PCE Peak**

Outcome	June 2022 (percent)	December 2023 (percent)	Change (percentage points)
Total PCE, yearly	7.1	2.6	-4.5
Total PCE, three-month annualized	7.4	0.5	-6.9
Core PCE, yearly	5.2	2.9	-2.3
Core PCE, three-month annualized	5.1	1.5	-3.6
Unemployment rate	3.6	3.7	0.1
Black unemployment rate	5.8	5.2	-0.6
LFPR	62.2	62.5	0.3
Black LFPR	62.2	63.4	1.2
Nonfarm payrolls <sup>a</sup>	152,348	157,347	3.3

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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: PCE = Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index; LFPR = labor force participation rate. Unemployment rates and LFPRs are adjusted for the 2023 population control revisions.

<sup>a</sup> Nonfarm payrolls are in thousands and nonfarm payroll change is in percent.

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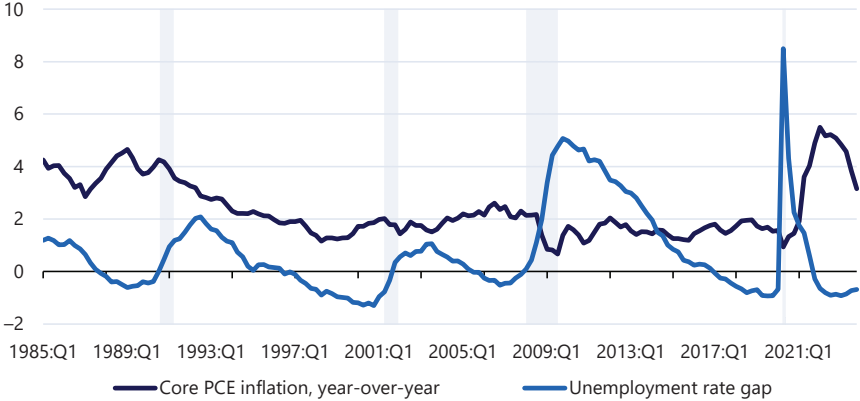
The past several years have challenged this pattern. When the pandemic began and the economy shut down, the unemployment rate soared to almost 15 percent and inflation turned negative. Then, as the economy reopened, lifted by historically strong fiscal and monetary support, unemployment fell sharply while inflation rose to a 40-year high in the summer of 2022. Such movements are associated with a steep price Phillips curve, rather than a flat one. As stated previously in this chapter, the period raises two questions: (1) Has  $u^*$  increased structurally, so that the pursuit of maintaining tight labor markets engenders greater overheating and inflationary risks than in prior cycles? Or (2) is pandemic economics a special case, and thus, outside its unusual effects, can the U.S. labor market still flourish with low unemployment not necessarily accompanied by high inflation?

The CEA pursued the same question in the 2023 *Economic Report of the President*, wherein, based on the evidence available, the researchers concluded that “the combination and interaction of numerous factors exacerbated the elevated inflation. Although it is difficult to determine the relative importance of each factor, the pandemic, and responses to it, had substantial effects on both the supply and demand sides of the economy. Specific factors of note include pandemic-induced supply disruptions, shifts in consumer demand, the accumulation of excess savings, and stimulative fiscal and monetary support throughout 2020 and 2021” (CEA 2023b, 52).

Given the developments over the year since the previous assessment, the CEA has found more evidence that supply factors played a key role in both inflation’s rise and its subsequent decline. Consider that if full employment were the main cause of the increase in inflation, the subsequent disinflation the economy has experienced should have brought about a substantial slackening of the labor market. However, the low magnitude of the

**Figure 1-13. Core PCE Price Inflation and Unemployment Rate Gap**

Percent (core PCE), percentage points (unemployment rate gap)



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Congressional Budget Office (CBO); CEA calculations. Note: PCE = Personal Consumption Expenditures. Core PCE inflation is year-over-year percentage change. The unemployment rate gap indicates the gap between the unemployment rate and the CBO's estimate of the natural rate of unemployment. Gray bars indicate recessions. *2024 Economic Report of the President*

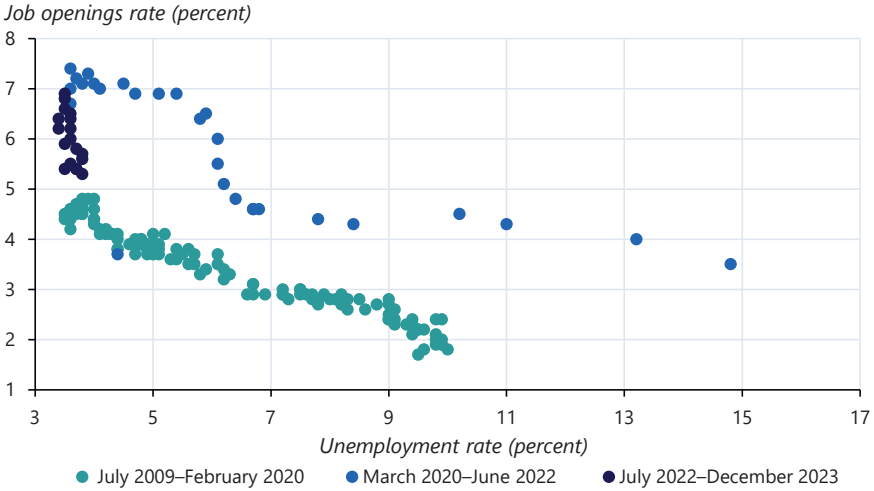
so-called sacrifice ratio—the amount of increased unemployment or reduced economic activity required to lower inflation—during the recent disinflation since the peak in June 2022 suggests otherwise. Table 1-3 shows the decline in personal consumption expenditures inflation—total and core, which excludes volatile food and energy prices—along with the changes in various labor market variables (also see figure 1-13). Over the period covered, which includes the most recent data available at publication time, the disinflation has required little sacrifice in terms of labor market slack or job loss.

This phenomenon is mirrored in the evolution of job openings and unemployment, which have been analyzed via the Beveridge curve, as shown in figure 1-14, with the job openings rate on the y axis and the unemployment rate on the x axis. The Beveridge curve has become a common tool for analyzing shifts in the unemployment rate, allowing analysts to parse changes in unemployment vis-à-vis job openings to determine if changes in unemployment are more of a structural or cyclical nature (Daly et al. 2011; Elsby, Michaels, and Ratner 2015; Barlevy et al. 2023). An outward shift in the curve (i.e., a rise in unemployment for a given level of job openings) indicates a likely deterioration in the ability of workers to find available jobs, one of the factors economists use to infer  $u^*$ .

Figure 1-14 shows three distinct periods, the first after the global financial crisis up to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second in the pandemic-induced recession and recovery through June 2022 (the peak of personal



**Figure 1-14. The Beveridge Curve, Pre- and Post-COVID**



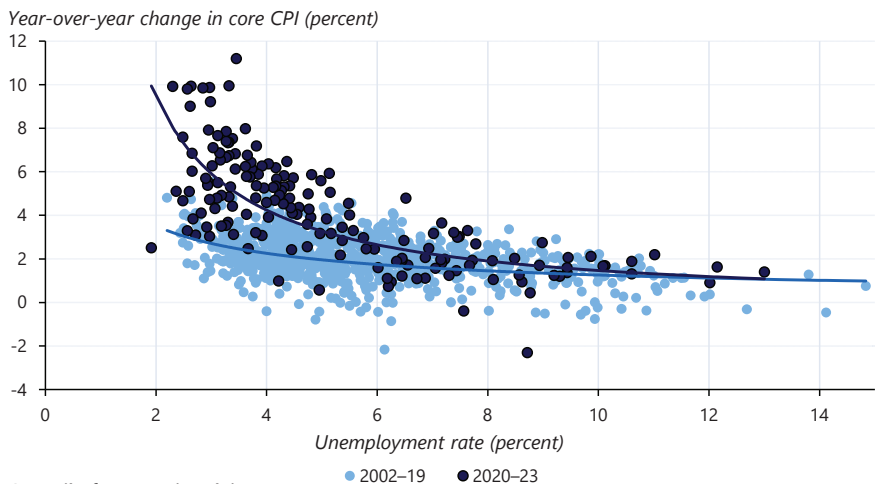
**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.  
*2024 Economic Report of the President*

consumption expenditures inflation), and the third from July 2022 to December 2023, coinciding with the start of the period of disinflation covered in table 1-3. Since June 2022, the job opening rate has fallen sharply, by over 20 percent, while the unemployment rate has only edged up; this is in sharp contrast to the typically close negative relationship between vacancies and unemployment (Elsby, Michaels, and Ratner 2015; Figura and Waller 2022; Blanchard, Domash, and Summers 2022).

One interpretation of the recent decline in vacancies without a commensurate increase in unemployment is an improvement in what the economics literature describes as the efficiency of the matching process between workers and available jobs, or “matching efficiency.” This interpretation would imply a period of deteriorated matching efficiency—the blue locus of points during the recovery from COVID through June 2022—potentially resulting from a rise in labor market churn, including a large increase in worker quits, caused by disruptions resulting from COVID (Barlevy et al. 2023). Thus, one possibility is that the recent improvement in matching efficiency, which reduced job openings for a roughly constant unemployment rate, may reflect post-COVID renormalization. Another potential explanation, one put forth by Figura and Waller (2022), is that, in theory, the Beveridge curve ought to be especially steep at high openings and low unemployment rates. The reason is that as the number of vacancies rises relative to the number unemployed—that is, moving to the upper left of the Beveridge curve diagram—it becomes increasingly hard to fill open jobs; thus, firms

**Figure 1-15. Phillips Curve, Pre- and Post-COVID, MSA-Level Data**



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

Note: MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area. CPI = Consumer Price Index. Core CPI includes all items less food and energy. Data are semiannual and not seasonally adjusted. Fitted lines are predictions from log-log specification regressions. The lighter blue fitted line is estimated over the pre-COVID period, and the dark navy line is estimated starting in 2020.

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must post increasingly more vacancies to fill each open position, thereby reducing unemployment only a small amount for all the additional vacancies. Consequently, Figura's and Waller's view was that the job openings rate could fall without a large increase in job losses or unemployment as the economy slid down a steep Beveridge curve.

Ultimately, the underlying reasons why job openings have come down substantially with little sacrifice in terms of higher unemployment may not be known for many years. This limits analysts' ability to answer the crucial question: Will matching efficiency continue to improve, *or* has the labor market reached a flatter portion of the Beveridge curve and will any further reduction in openings require an increase in unemployment? In other words, it remains to be seen whether the labor market can benefit from further normalization, putting reduced pressure on wages and prices, without a substantial deterioration of job and income prospects for Americans.

While these economic conditions have supported low-sacrifice-ratio dynamics thus far, the current inflationary episode is not over. The key question for staying at full employment then becomes: Can inflation continue to decline without a large rise in unemployment? Figure 1-15 offers some perspective, showing the price Phillips curve both before COVID and since the pandemic, with year-over-year core Consumer Price Index inflation on the y axis and the unemployment rate on the x axis for an available set of

21 metropolitan statistical areas (or, roughly speaking, major cities).<sup>14</sup> The Phillips curve steepened considerably during the COVID era, as can be seen by comparing the light blue pre-COVID line with the dark blue line. (See also Barlevy et al. 2023.) The recent disinflation with little unemployment sacrifice has likely been due in part to a movement back down the steeper Phillips curve.

Because the normalization of inflation is a work in progress, analysts cannot, at this time, conclude which sacrifice ratio the American economy will ultimately face, though the evidence thus far supports a relatively low one. Either way, the fact remains that, based on the benefits of full employment labor markets and costs of slack, especially to economically vulnerable groups, fiscal and monetary policymakers should use expansionary macroeconomic policy to achieve and stay at full employment in periods of slack, while maintaining a data-driven view in terms of reacting to inflationary pressures. Regarding fiscal policy, an appropriately timed and targeted fiscal stimulus is a crucial pillar of economic policy to close the output gap in periods of recession or in response to negative shocks to growth. As demonstrated here, the other pillar is data-driven monetary policy that takes into account both the numerous benefits attending a tight labor market and the uncertainty surrounding  $u^*$  in the context of fulfilling the Federal Reserve's dual mandate of full employment and stable prices. However, while macroeconomic stabilization policy can help achieve full employment for some groups, other groups will undoubtedly be left behind where these policy remedies are ill suited to address structural disadvantages. Box 1-4 considers potential policy levers.

## Conclusion

Analysts of the United States economy have learned many critical macroeconomic lessons in recent decades. One such lesson is that the difficulty of estimating the lowest unemployment rate consistent with stable inflation makes it challenging for policymakers to bring about periods of full employment. These lessons have, however, reinforced the importance of policymakers following a data-driven approach to evaluating the supply and demand forces that shape the tightness of the labor market. Further, while analysts cannot reliably identify  $u^*$ , the evidence does suggest that (1) unemployment below 4 percent helps facilitate the many benefits of full employment, and (2) outside large supply/demand shocks of the type that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, low unemployment can be consistent with low and stable inflation.

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<sup>14</sup> McLeay and Tenreyro (2019) and Hazell et al. (2022) show that regional variation in inflation and unemployment can identify dynamics that national data fail to pick up.

### Box 1-4. Policies Targeting Structural Labor Market Slack

This chapter focuses largely on cyclical labor market slack and urges the use of fiscal and monetary policies to attain and maintain full employment in the labor market. But disaggregated labor market data focusing on economically vulnerable populations reveal that many people suffer not just from cyclical unemployment but also from structural unemployment. A simple way to understand this distinction is to note that for workers facing structural barriers, even at full employment, their unemployment rate will be elevated.

As the CEA’s analysis has shown, full employment helps less advantaged groups in both absolute terms (e.g., reduced unemployment and elevated real earnings) and relative terms (stronger gains compared with others). However, other policies are needed to help some workers overcome structural barriers that are somewhat invariant to labor market cycles.

*Affordable childcare.* While the tight labor market in the current cycle has facilitated historic workforce gains by women, including those with children, the absence of affordable childcare is a structural barrier that suppresses the ability of those with childcare responsibilities to fully participate in strong labor markets. The link between affordable childcare, which is demonstrably underprovided in America (U.S. Department of the Treasury 2021), and employment has been well researched; this work is summarized in chapter 4 of the 2023 *Economic Report of the President* (CEA 2023b, 132). This literature review finds the availability of affordable care has “large, positive effects on maternal employment. . . . Several studies of programs in other countries—specifically Canada, Germany, and Norway—also confirm the responsiveness of mothers’ employment to [childcare] expansions.” Mothers most affected by the enhanced availability of care tend to be “relatively disadvantaged (i.e., single mothers and those with lower levels of education).” Finally, the research finds that “policies that expand access to [care] can boost [working mothers’] productivity in the workplace by allowing them to get additional education or job training and increasing the likelihood they will work full time.” The Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to affordable childcare takes seriously the distributional and macroeconomic consequences of affordable childcare. A recent CEA analysis shows that the American Rescue Plan’s historic investment in the childcare industry succeeded in slowing cost growth for families, stabilizing employment and increasing wages for childcare workers, and increasing maternal labor force participation (CEA 2023c).

*Antidiscrimination.* As discussed in the text of this chapter, full employment makes it more expensive for employers to racially discriminate; but history has clearly shown that tight labor markets are far from

sufficient in preventing discrimination (Kline, Rose, and Walters 2022). For example, even in periods when the overall unemployment rate is below 4 percent, the unemployment rate for Black workers averaged 6.1 percent. Some argue that because highly educated groups have lower unemployment, the differential is due to Black workers' lower levels of education, on average. But figure 1-3 shows that even after controlling for education, Black workers face higher unemployment rates than white workers.

The research evidence shows that at certain periods in U.S. history, antidiscrimination policies have helped to partially overcome structural barriers. In the 1960s, legislation was passed targeting gender and racial labor market discrimination. Various studies show that these new laws first exposed and then helped ameliorate extensive workplace discrimination, which partially blocked the cyclical benefits of full employment for discriminated groups (Tomaskovic-Devey et al. 2006; Kurtulus 2016; Sanchez Cumming 2021). (The Equal Pay Act of 1963 prohibited unequal pay based on gender for equal work, and the 1964 Civil Rights Act—Title VII—prohibited workplace discrimination by race, gender, and other protected classes, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 prohibited employment discrimination against older workers. Notably, enforcement mechanisms were initially limited—e.g., employers accused of discriminatory practices could be investigated but not sued; Sanchez Cumming 2021. Later, in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed, which extended the protections of Civil Rights Act of 1964 to those with disabilities.)

It is, however, well documented that the track record of the programs implementing these policies is uneven, and evidence shows that their effectiveness waned beginning in the 1980s, in part due to a lack of funding and commitment to their cause by government sponsors and agencies. Sanchez Cumming (2021, 7) points out that the Reagan Administration actively tried to repeal an Executive Order enforcing equity in workplace practices by government contractors. Though the administration failed in the repeal effort, Sanchez Cumming writes that “there was a decline in the number of sanctions issued for noncompliance, fewer firms were required to adopt affirmative action plans, and compliance reviews rarely found that women workers or workers of color were unfairly underrepresented in contractors' workforces.” Even as antidiscrimination laws and U.S. institutions advocating for labor market equity led to important progress toward fairer and more equitable labor market outcomes, employment discrimination today continues to be a pervasive feature of the U.S. economy. Insufficient funding and vulnerability to political whims often prevent a robust enforcement effort from further ameliorating discrimination in the labor market. Indeed, the relative lack of progress has led some racial justice advocates to call for

more ambitious and direct programs to counter the effects of structural, systemic racism, most notably guaranteed jobs programs. Paul, Darity, and Hamilton (2018, 5), for example, argue on behalf of a “federal job guarantee [that] would provide a job, at non-poverty wages, for all citizens above the age of 18 that sought one.”

*Affordable housing in robust economic areas.* Chapter 4 of this Report documents the lack of affordable housing in America, which, in the context of full employment, serves to amplify the spatial mismatch between where low-income households can afford to live and places with robust labor demand. As an Urban Institute (2019) analysis puts it, “This spatial mismatch between regional employment clusters and potential worker populations limits access to jobs.” Important research by Ganong and Shoag (2017) documents how the problem has worsened over time as affordable housing in places with strong labor demand has become increasingly scarce. Their work documents a sharp decline in “income convergence” across places and ties it both to housing costs and, as emphasized in chapter 4 of this Report, restrictions on land use.

*Other structural barriers.* While childcare, housing, and discrimination are among the most salient structural barriers to full employment, other frictions also exist. Increased industrial concentration, whereby powerful firms dominate single industries, can suppress job creation and quality through anticompetitive effects, thereby reducing structural demand even during strong cycles. Because unemployment and education levels are negatively correlated, individuals without access to higher education face structural barriers to labor market opportunities. There are also structural disincentives to elevated labor supply in the tax code, including the “marriage tax penalty” (i.e., filing jointly means incurring a larger tax bill than filing separately) and the phasing out of schedules for government benefits that raise the marginal tax rate of an extra hour of work.

Finally, two recent developments are worth noting. First, the significant rise in working from home has the potential to reduce a structural barrier to work for caretakers and others (e.g., those with long commutes). Some recent evidence from Hansen and others (2023) suggests that more than 10 percent of jobs may allow for the option, though it is too soon to tell whether the trend will persist.

Second, an important recent analysis by Hobijn and Şahin (2021) of labor market flow data finds that it can take longer to return to full employment after a labor market shock when the shock causes people to leave the labor force. That is, the research finds that when workers leave the labor force, it can lengthen the amount of time it takes to return to full capacity in the labor market. This finding argues for policies, such as those more common in European economies, that keep people connected to work during a downturn, versus the emphasis in the United States on

unemployment insurance for those separated from work due to layoffs. In fact, the United States has a policy known as short-time compensation (informally called “work sharing”), administered by the unemployment insurance system, which can be used to help keep people at work during periods of weak demand by reducing their hours and using the system’s funds to partially make up the lost earnings. Of course, it is possible that an economic shock could lead to structural changes such that a fulsome recovery would be facilitated by workers moving to different jobs in different sectors, so each downturn could require its own analysis regarding the policy choice to encourage work sharing. To the extent that work sharing can lessen the time it takes the job market to return to full employment, its use is consistent with reaping the benefits documented in this chapter.

In addition, the CEA’s research finds that tight labor markets provide benefits across a large swath of the population. Groups with higher average unemployment rates see larger declines in unemployment during full employment labor markets than groups with relatively low unemployment rates. Groups with less attachment to the labor force on average also see a relatively larger increase in participation rates when the unemployment rate falls. Relatedly, racial gaps in labor market outcomes narrow in tight labor markets. In the most recent period of full employment just before COVID-19 and in the last year, the gaps between Black and white men in unemployment and employment have fallen to the lowest rates on record. Economically vulnerable groups—for example, the comparatively less educated—are more able to switch jobs when the unemployment rate is low and climb the job ladder when jobs are plentiful. Workers who face a work-limiting disability are also brought in from the sidelines and obtain jobs more often in particularly strong labor markets. As this chapter has shown, these labor market benefits translate into higher wages and income, particularly for workers who are more likely to be left behind in slack labor markets.

While wages and earnings tend to be flat in periods of weak or stagnant labor markets, they grow when the economy experiences a tight period, as in the late 1990s, late 2010s, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a wage convergence across groups and percentiles, just as there is in unemployment and employment rates. Indeed, there has been a remarkable decline in wage inequality since 2015, a time that has featured two periods of full employment.

Given the importance of full employment for racial equity, inequality, workers' empowerment, and the Biden-Harris Administration's fundamental goal of ensuring that workers have the bargaining power they need to claim their fair share of the growing economy, it is clear that maintaining tight labor markets must be an integral policy goal of American administrations. Many economists have recognized that labor markets do not necessarily settle into full employment and have reevaluated the importance of policies that actively promote full employment conditions. And every time this has occurred, the benefits of full employment have blossomed. Economists and policymakers must therefore use the policy tools at their disposal to get to and stay at full employment.







## Chapter 2

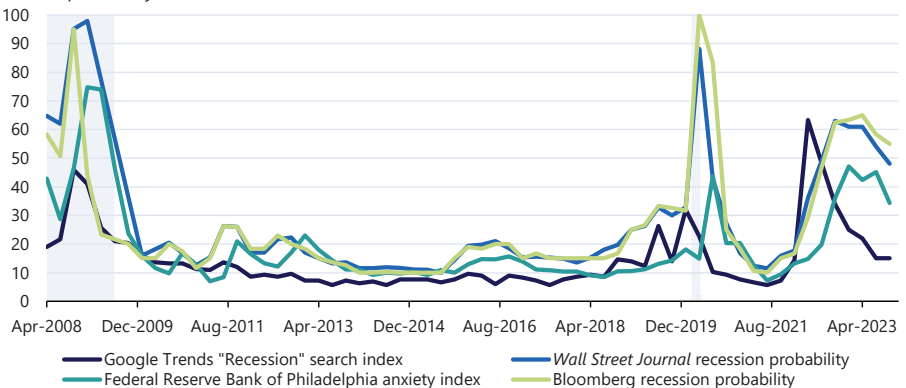
# The Year in Review and the Years Ahead

At the start of 2023, many macroeconomic forecasters expected the United States' economy to dip into a recession later that year (figure 2-1). They also predicted that 2023 would be characterized by an anemic growth rate. The economy was instead surprisingly resilient, as measured by indicators including real gross domestic product (GDP), the unemployment rate, real personal consumption expenditures, real disposable personal income, and real private nonresidential investment (figure 2-2). This resilience was especially notable for coinciding with slowing inflation.

Trends—including fiscal drag, rising interest rates, and mounting geopolitical risks—had been perceived as major economic headwinds, informing these pessimistic forecasts. Additional fundamentals—such as a low saving rate and lackluster consumer sentiment—risked exacerbating reduced

**Figure 2-1. Recession Probability Indicators, 2008–23**

Percent probability or index: June 2022 = 100



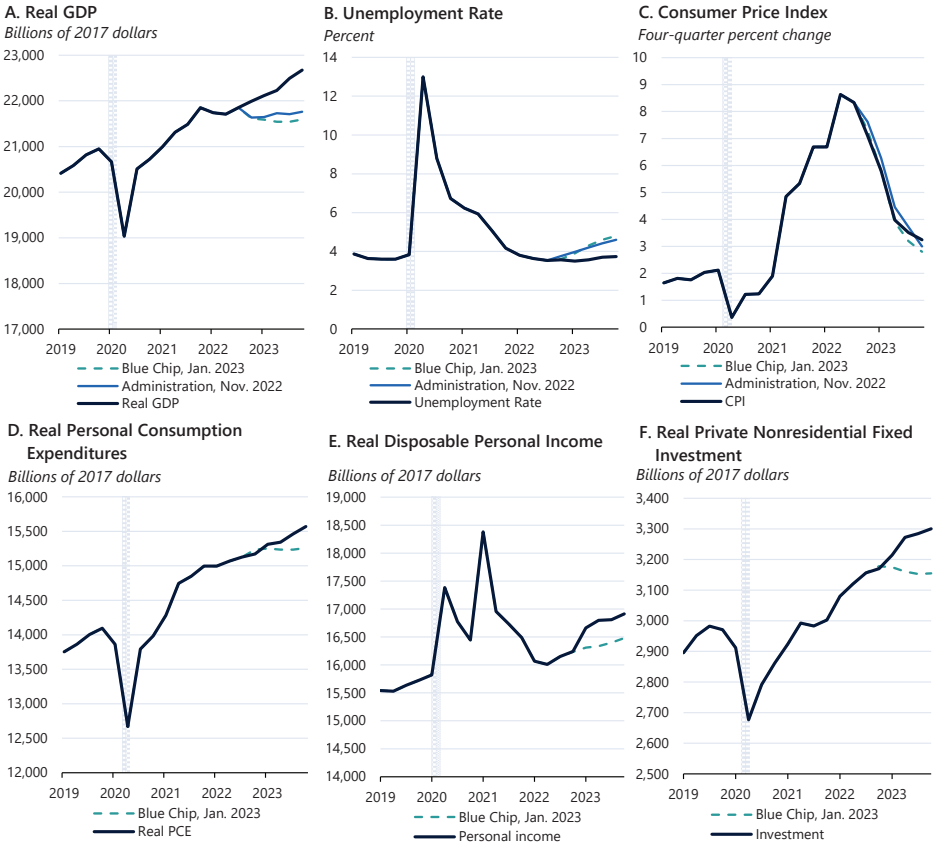
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Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; *Wall Street Journal*; Google; Bloomberg; CEA calculations.

Note: Gray bars indicate recessions. Google Trends data are indexed relative to their peak month, June 2022, and are data from January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2023, downloaded on January 11, 2024. Data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia indicate Q2 of the given year. Anxiety index represents the probability of a decline in real GDP for the subsequent quarter.

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**Figure 2-2. Selected U.S. Economic Measures, 2019–23**



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Sources: Blue Chip Economic Indicators; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.  
 Note: CPI = Consumer Price Index. All values are seasonally adjusted. Years indicate Q1 of the corresponding year. Administration forecast was finalized in November 2022 but published in the 2023 *Economic Report of the President* and the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. Gray bars indicate recessions.  
 2024 *Economic Report of the President*

aggregate demand, rising unemployment, and cutbacks in consumer spending.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the spring 2023 banking crisis raised concerns about diminished credit availability and, in tandem with rising interest rates and fading fiscal support, reinforced worries of a coming recession—the so-called hard-landing scenario. A yield curve inversion in late 2022 and early

<sup>1</sup> A saving rate below the desired long-run rate may force consumers to curb spending if incomes do not rise. The effects of net worth—otherwise neglected in this argument—are reviewed in box 2-1 later in this chapter.

2023 was consistent with these forecasts, signaling that financial markets may have also been anticipating a recession.<sup>2</sup>

The U.S. economy not only defied these 2023 forecasts but it even progressed at a significant pace.<sup>3</sup> In retrospect, the economy's marked slowdown in 2022 appears to have reflected temporary supply constraints after the strong rebound in 2021, rather than an impending recession. The level of real GDP in 2023 even exceeded some forecasts from before the COVID-19 pandemic—including those of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)—and was boosted in part by strong continued consumer spending and a revival in manufacturing structures investment (CBO n.d.). State and local purchases also grew at a robust pace of 4.5 percent in 2023.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, sound household balance sheets in recent years and a strong labor market have allowed U.S. consumers to increase their spending at a pace closely resembling the average pace in prior expansions.<sup>5</sup> In 2023, the unemployment rate edged up slightly from near-record lows, but remained below 4 percent for the entire year. Labor force participation rates also increased from 2022 to 2023, both in the aggregate and for men, women, and across most age and racial groups. Meanwhile, progress in lowering inflation was substantial. From 2022 to 2023, headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation decreased by 2 percentage points and core CPI inflation, which excludes the more volatile categories of energy and food, decreased by 3 percentage points. Declining inflation during a period of accelerating real activity reinforces the hypothesis that the resolution of supply issues—both supply chains and labor supply—has played an important role in reshaping the economy away from the perceived trends that influenced 2023 forecasts. These developments in

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<sup>2</sup> The yield curve is said to be “inverted” when shorter-term interest rates (e.g., the federal funds rate) exceed longer-term rates (e.g., the 10-year Treasury rate). While these inversions are infrequent, they often precede recessions.

<sup>3</sup> See table 2-1 later in this chapter.

<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise stated, the yearly growth rate is calculated on a Q4/Q4 basis.

<sup>5</sup> See box 2-1 later in this chapter.

2023—a resilient labor market and strong activity coupled with declining inflation—are consistent with a “soft landing” scenario.

But challenges remain. Elevated real interest rates compared with earlier during the pandemic—against the backdrop of a labor market that appears to have rebalanced—could reduce investment in rate-sensitive sectors. In addition, the impact of geopolitical conflicts on markets and supply chains remains uncertain. To the extent that consumer attitudes respond to price levels rather than, or in addition to, inflation, consumer sentiment could remain weaker than economic data would predict, since prices are unlikely to broadly decline outright. However, recent real wage gains could potentially help support both confidence and consumer spending.

This chapter begins with a review of the economy in 2023. It first examines the acceleration in real GDP and its sources, and then surveys major labor market developments, highlighting their consistency with the “soft landing” scenario. Next, the chapter describes recent progress in disinflation. It then describes developments in financial markets, exploring both potential upside and downside risks. Finally, the chapter reviews the forecast underpinning the President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and summarizes the near-term and long-term outlooks.

## **The Year in Review: The Continuing Recovery**

This section describes the continued postpandemic recovery in 2023 and the easing of supply chain bottlenecks, explores the state of demand and supply rebalancing in the labor market, and provides updates on the progress of disinflation over the past year.

### ***Output in 2023: A Return to Normal Growth***

Real GDP accelerated to a pace of 3.1 percent over the four quarters of 2023, somewhat above the average growth of about 2.4 percent in the expansion period before the COVID-19 pandemic, and higher than the anemic 0.7 percent pace in 2022:Q4. Table 2-1 disaggregates real GDP growth into its major components.

**Table 2-1. Real GDP Growth and Its Components, 2023:Q4**

Component	Q4/Q4 Growth (percent)	Contribution to Q4/Q4 GDP Growth (percentage points)	Contribution to Q4/Q4 GDP Growth, Average from 2010 to 2019 (percentage points)
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Total	3.1	3.1	2.4
Consumer spending	2.6	1.8	1.6
Goods	3.5	0.8	0.8
Durables	6.1	0.5	0.4
Motor vehicles and parts	4.1	0.1	0.1
Nondurables	2.2	0.3	0.3
Services	2.2	1.0	0.8
Investment	1.8	0.3	0.9
Business fixed investment	3.1	0.5	0.9
Nonresidential investment	4.1	0.6	0.7
Structures	14.8	0.4	0.1
Equipment	-0.1	0.0	0.4
Intellectual property	2.6	0.1	0.3
Residential investment	-0.1	0.0	0.1
Change in private inventories	-	-0.2	0.1
Net exports	-	0.3	-0.1
Exports	2.1	0.2	0.4
Imports	-0.2	0.0	-0.6
Government	4.3	0.7	0.0
Federal	4.0	0.3	0.0
Defense	3.3	0.1	0.0
Nondefense	4.7	0.1	0.0
State and local	4.5	0.5	0.0

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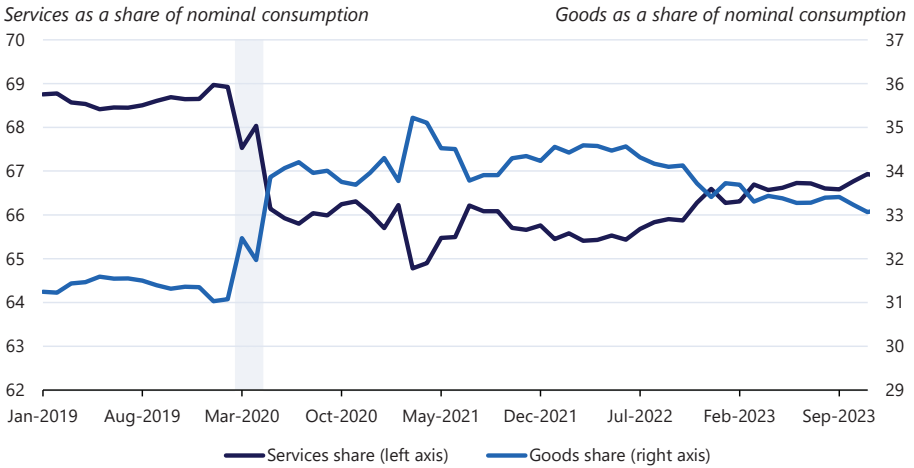
Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: GDP = gross domestic product. Column 2 lists the contribution of each component to the annual rate of growth of real GDP. These may not precisely sum to totals because of approximations to the formulas used in the National Income and Product Accounts. Column 3 lists the average GDP growth and contribution for the time period listed.

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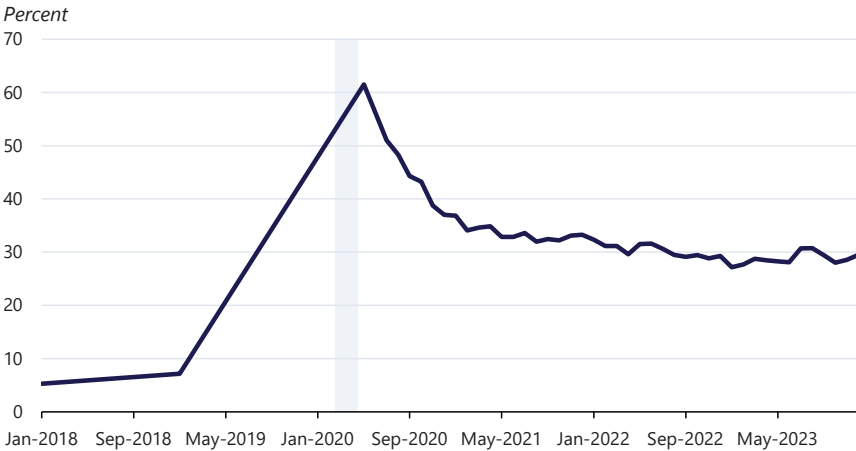
*Consumer spending.* Resilience in consumer spending (personal consumption expenditures, or PCE) largely accounts for the increase in real GDP growth over the past year. Spending growth increased across all major subcategories of consumption. Goods PCE, which has run ahead of its pre-pandemic trend since the third quarter of 2020, grew 3.5 percent in 2023 after declining in 2022. And while both durable and nondurable consumption grew, the former (including notable growth in motor vehicles) is responsible for the lion’s share of the growth in goods consumption. Real services PCE also grew in 2023, at a rate similar to its growth in 2022. Figure 2-3 illustrates how the shares of services and goods consumption as a portion

**Figure 2-3. Goods' and Services' Shares of Personal Consumption**



**Council of Economic Advisers**  
 Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.  
 Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.  
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**Figure 2-4. Share of U.S. Employees Working from Home**



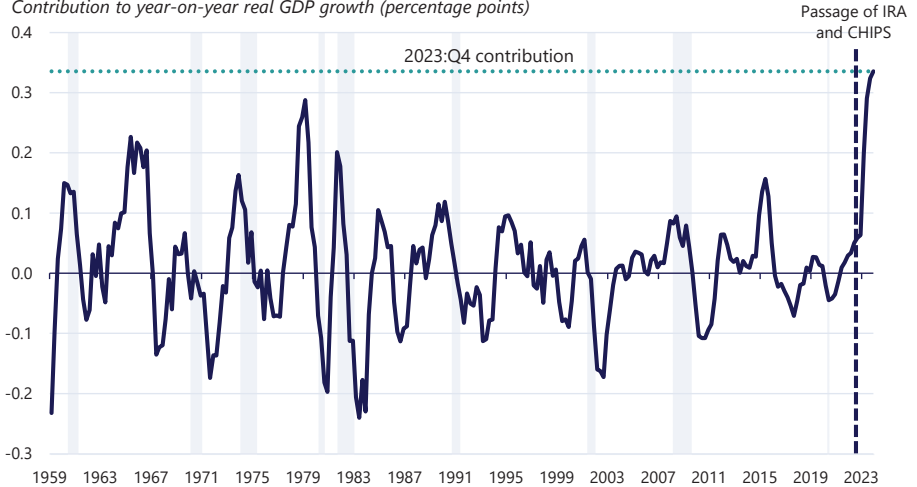
**Council of Economic Advisers**  
 Source: Barrero, Bloom, and Davis (2023).  
 Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.  
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of total consumption have been sluggishly reverting to their prepandemic trends. Future years' data will indicate whether a structural, long-lasting shift in consumer preferences is under way.

One factor that may help explain such a pattern is the sustained increase in remote work since 2020 (figure 2-4). People working from home

**Figure 2-5. Real Private Fixed Investment in Manufacturing Structures, 1959–2023**

Contribution to year-on-year real GDP growth (percentage points)



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: IRA = Inflation Reduction Act; CHIPS = Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors—or the CHIPS and Science Act.

Gray bars indicate recessions.

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may tend to spend more on goods (e.g., groceries and home improvement) than on services (including restaurants and transportation).

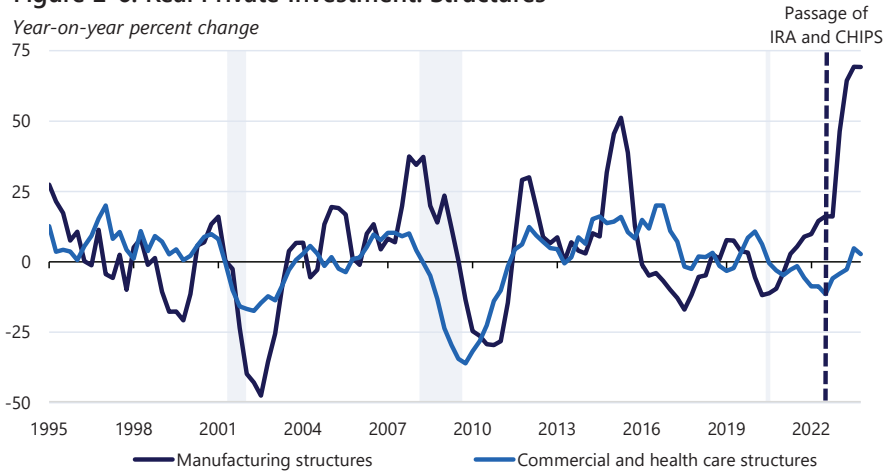
*Investment.* Real private fixed investment increased 3.1 percent during the four quarters of 2023, a growth rate slower than the norm for the period before the COVID-19 pandemic. Residential investment continued to be a drag on GDP, as high mortgage rates and the short supply of single-family homes weighed on the housing market (see chapter 4 of this *Report*).

In contrast, investment in nonresidential structures boomed last year, increasing 14.8 percent, the fastest clip seen since 2014. A combination of factors likely drove this outcome. First, the shift to goods consumption during the pandemic caused businesses to both rethink their supply chains and consider expanding domestic production capacity. Meanwhile, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the CHIPS and Science Act have strongly incentivized domestic investment in clean energy manufacturing (White House 2022, n.d.). Figure 2-5 demonstrates that the surge in nonresidential investment is concentrated in manufacturing structures; manufacturing structures' contribution to GDP growth last year neared the highest level on record. Investment in other nonresidential structures, especially in offices and commercial structures (figure 2-6), has yet to recover to norms from before the pandemic, and changes to working arrangements may yet prove long-lasting, rebalancing the market more permanently (see figure 2-4). And while investment in equipment and intellectual property decelerated in



**Figure 2-6. Real Private Investment: Structures**

Year-on-year percent change



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Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Note: IRA = Inflation Reduction Act; CHIPS = Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors—or the CHIPS and Science Act. All values are chained. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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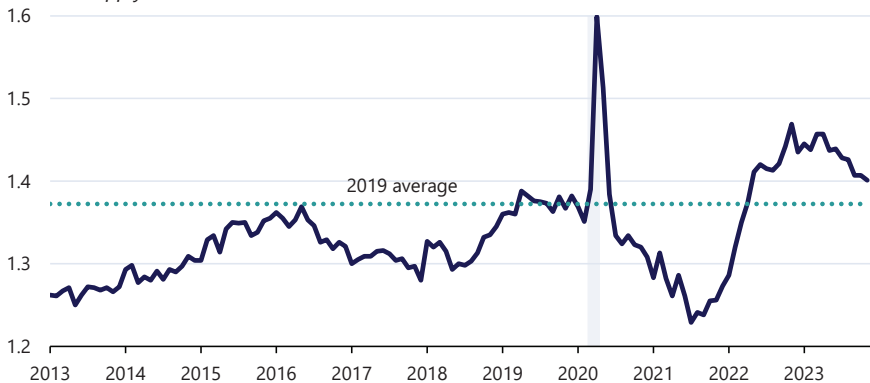
2023, this slowdown may be attributable to firms redirecting their resources toward manufacturing structures. Investment in equipment and intangibles is likely to pick up over subsequent years, as newly built manufacturing facilities require the installation of new equipment.

Finally, inventory investment continued to suppress GDP growth in 2023. In the pandemic's immediate aftermath, inventory investment's contribution to GDP growth climbed to highs not seen since the Korean War, as firms scrambled to adapt to the shift of consumption from services to goods. However, some sectors suffered from a bullwhip effect as consumption patterns rebalanced toward services in 2022. With inventory-sales ratios above desired levels, pressures mounted to bring business inventories back in line with demand. This phenomenon has been particularly acute in the merchant wholesale trade sector, in which the inventory-sales ratio currently sits at 1.43 months' supply, a historically high figure that is well above the 2019 average of 1.37 (figure 2-7). The rebalancing of inventories with sales still appeared to be in progress last year.

*Imports and exports.* As the world economy abruptly closed in 2020, the pandemic-induced recession injected turbulence into the contribution of net exports to real GDP growth. However, large swings in this category appear to be behind us, similar to the normalization of inventory investment. In 2023, net exports contributed 0.3 percentage point to GDP growth on a four-quarter basis; the large positive contributions in the first and last quarters were only partially offset by contributions moving closer to the normal prepandemic rate of expansion in the middle of the year (see chapter 5).

## Figure 2-7. Ratio of Real Inventories to Sales: Merchant Wholesale Trade, 2013–23

Months' supply



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Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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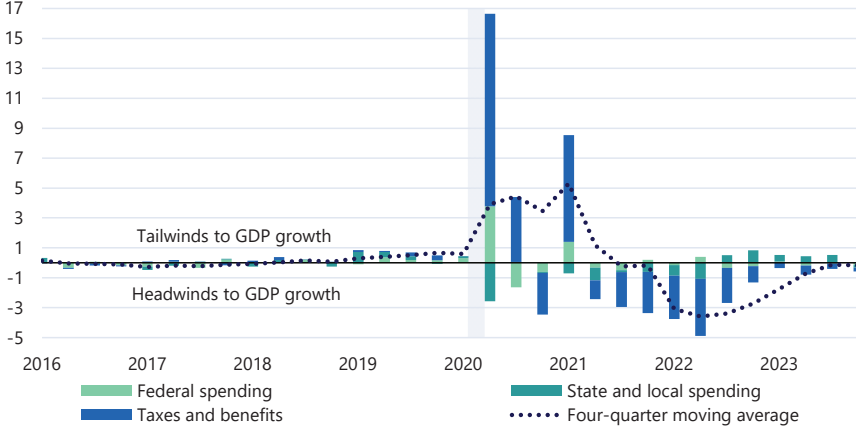
*Government spending.* The Federal Government's real purchases in 2023 (expenditures and gross investment) contributed a quarter percentage point more to GDP growth than they had in 2022. Defense and nondefense expenditures each contributed about equally to GDP growth. Real State and local government purchases accelerated in 2023, as these governments took advantage of strong budget positions to increase employment (figure 2-8). The Fiscal Impact Measure (FIM) index—which captures the overall effects of Federal, State, and local fiscal policy on GDP growth—suggests that the large fiscal drag, which had suppressed growth in recent years due primarily to the roll-off of pandemic emergency aid, was no longer a drag on GDP growth by the end of 2023 (figure 2-8).<sup>6</sup>

*Private domestic final purchases.* Private domestic final purchases (PDFP) are a measure of GDP that includes only consumption and fixed investment, removing more volatile components like inventory investment, government purchases, and net exports. PDFP accelerated from a pace of about 0.8 percent during the four quarters of 2022 to 2.7 percent in 2023. Most of this boost in PDFP is due to consumer expenditures and nonresidential investment, whereas residential investment—among the sectors that is most sensitive to higher interest rates—was a slight drag on growth. PDFP growth can better summarize economic momentum and better predict future GDP growth than GDP itself (CEA 2015), and this relationship may be even more salient in today's economic climate. The contributions to GDP from

<sup>6</sup> The FIM measures the contributions of overall fiscal legislation to GDP growth. It considers Federal, State, and local purchases, including taxes and transfers (Asdourian et al. 2024).

## Figure 2-8. Fiscal Impulse by Source

Percentage-point contributions to quarterly SAAR of real GDP growth



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Source: Brookings Institution.

Note: GDP = gross domestic product; SAAR = seasonally adjusted annual rate. Fiscal policy includes Federal, State, and local programs. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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those measures excluded from PDFP, such as inventory investment and net exports, have proven especially volatile due to pandemic-induced shocks and supply chain disruptions (figure 2-9). As a result, those components of GDP growth have become noisier and provide a less meaningful signal about the economy’s underlying momentum.

### *The Gradual Rebalancing of Demand and Supply in the Labor Market*

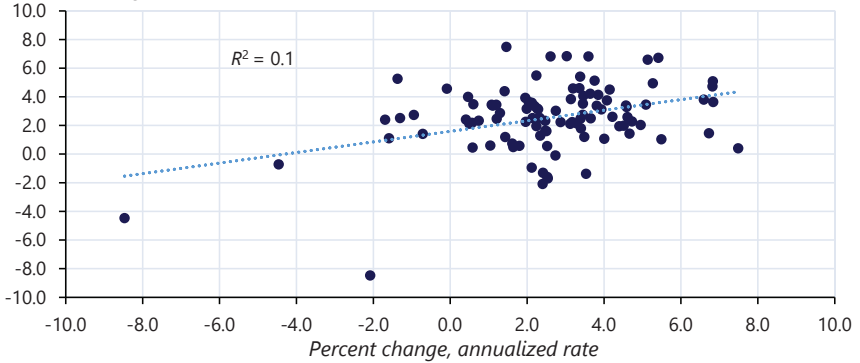
The labor market gradually eased over the course of 2023. The unemployment rate averaged 3.6 percent for the year, close to the annual lows observed just before the pandemic, and payroll employment grew 255,000 per month on average, well above the break-even pace needed to absorb labor force growth while also maintaining the unemployment rate.<sup>7</sup> The average quarterly job growth pace slowed down a bit more at the end of the year to a three-month pace of about 227,000 jobs per month, still a robust pace but significantly lower than the average monthly pace of 377,000 jobs created in 2022 (figure 2-10). This slowdown was expected; employment in most sectors is now higher than it was in February 2020—the date of the last prepandemic labor report—and in some sectors was even above the level implied by extrapolating from prepandemic trends. In fact, employment

<sup>7</sup> The CEA estimates the break-even pace to be between 80,000 and 100,000 jobs a month, depending on immigration and the rate of the trend in labor force participation, among other factors. Consistent with the robust and persistent pace of job growth, the unemployment rate in 2023 was the lowest on record since 1969.

## Figure 2-9. Real GDP Compared with Lagged Real GDP and PDFF

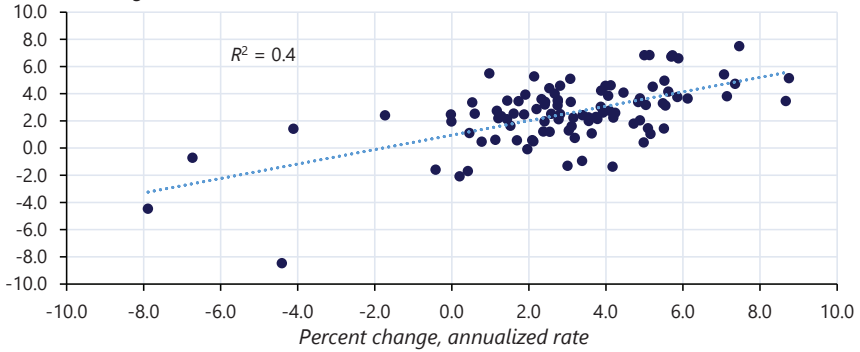
### A. Real GDP and Lagged Real GDP, 1995 to 2019

Percent change, annualized rate



### B. Real GDP and Lagged Real PDFF, 1995 to 2019

Percent change, annualized rate



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Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

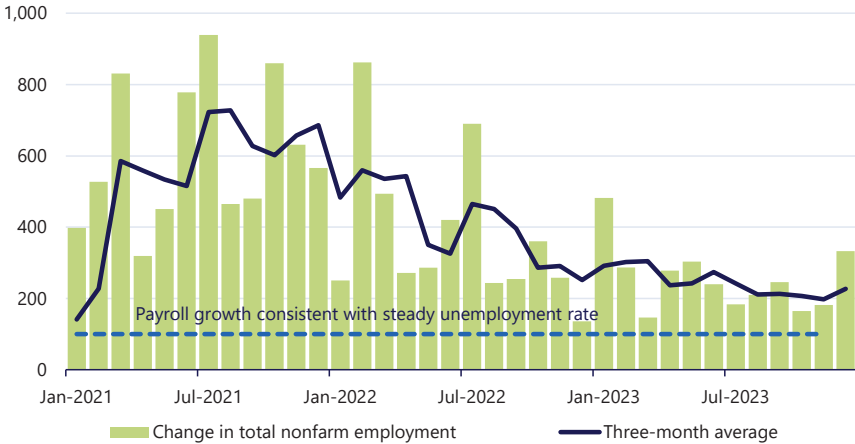
Note: GDP = gross domestic product; PDFF = private domestic final purchases. Data are quarterly. Real GDP is on the y axis. In panel A, one-quarter lagged real GDP is on the x axis. In panel B, one-quarter lagged real PDFF is on the x axis.

growth in 2023 can be mostly attributed to a handful of sectors in which the rebalancing of the labor market is still in progress. As of December 2023, the level of employment in the leisure and hospitality, education and health services, and government sectors remain below February 2020 levels; however, payroll gains in these sectors in 2023 were above their respective 2019 averages.

Several additional indicators suggest that the labor market has slowed and that the gradual rebalancing between labor supply and labor demand may be nearly complete. After peaking in 2022, both the hires rate and the

**Figure 2-10. Monthly Change in Nonfarm Employment**

Thousands



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

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quits rate have declined to 2019 levels (figure 2-11).<sup>8</sup> The quits rate is an especially meaningful gauge of wage pressures and the scarcity of workers; its decline suggests that workers are less confident than they were during the pandemic recovery that higher-paying jobs await them elsewhere (Moscarini and Postel-Vinay 2017).

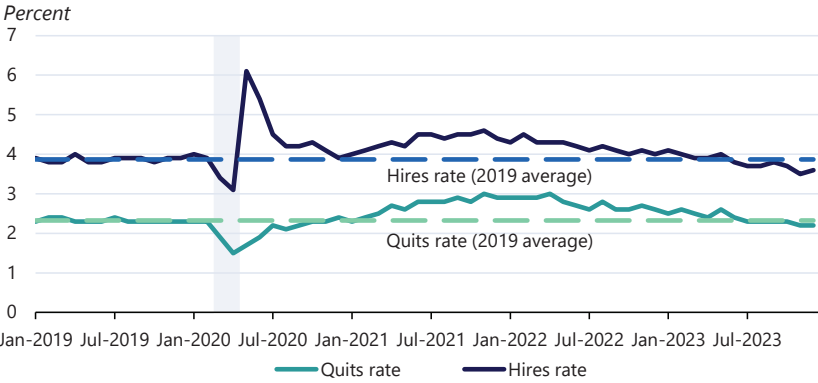
The salary gap between those staying in one job and otherwise comparable workers who switch jobs decreased in 2023 after having increased significantly during the pandemic-induced recession and its associated recovery (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta 2024). This metric is consistent with the narrative suggested by the quits rate, that the labor market has slowed, though the job openings rate remains well above 2019 levels (figure 2-11, panel B).

There are nevertheless reasons to doubt the job openings rate’s ability to measure tightness, and the same can be said for measures that incorporate job openings, such as the gap between available jobs and available workers or the number of job openings per unemployed worker. As a comparison of the two panels of figure 2-11 demonstrate, the job openings rate may be

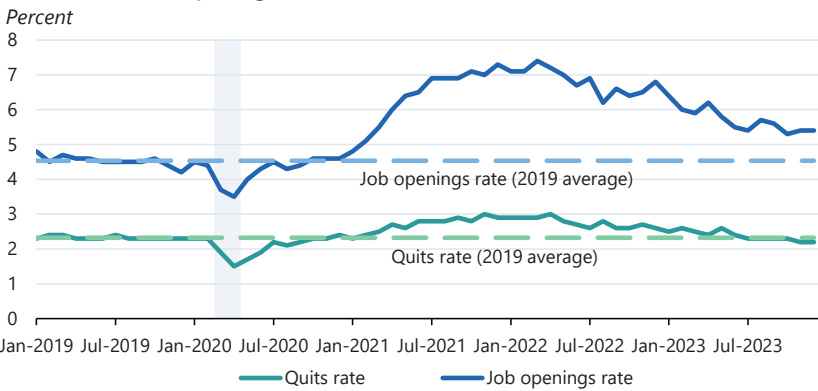
<sup>8</sup> While the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey’s (JOLTS; BLS 2024) quits rate reached an all-time high of 3 percent in the spring of 2022, the survey dates only to the early 2000s. To offer some comparison with earlier job markets, particularly the robust labor markets of the 1970s, the closest historical analog is the discontinued Manufacturing Labor Turnover Survey (MLTS), which was conducted through the early 1980s, though it covered only the manufacturing sector. The comparison suggests that the labor market in the manufacturing sector was as tight in 2022 as it had been in the 1970s: Per JOLTS, the quits rate in the manufacturing sector reached 2.7 percent in March 2022, similar to its peak of 2.8 percent in 1973 per the MLTS.

**Figure 2-11. Quits, Hires, and Job Openings Rates**

**A. Quits and Hires Rates**



**B. Quits and Job Openings Rates**



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey); CEA calculations.

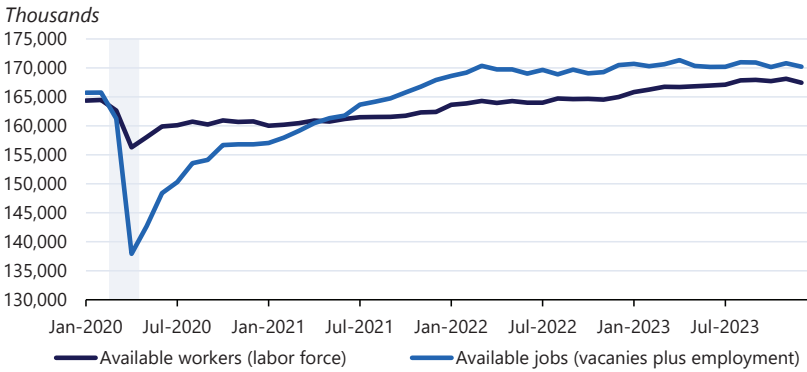
Note: The quits rate is defined as the number of quits as a percentage of employment. The hires rate is defined as hires as a percentage of employment. The job openings rate is defined as job openings as a percentage of employment and job openings. Data are seasonally adjusted. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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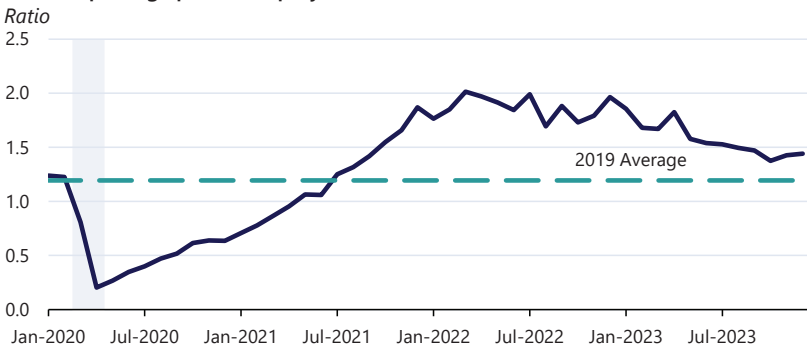
generally more sensitive to business cycles than either the hires or the quits rate—and that relationship has been especially strong since the pandemic. For example, job openings may be nonlinear with regard to tightness; firms may be more likely to post external vacancies for different jobs when they are starved for labor than when labor markets are more normal. As a consequence, elevated levels of job openings may (as shown in figure 2-12) exaggerate the true state of market tightness. If job openings soon catch up with quits and hires, they may fall quite rapidly in the near future. As shown in figure 2-13, panel B, the adjustment of job openings with the implied common cyclical component from quits and hires or by alternative methods (Mongey and Horwich 2023; Elsby et al. 2015; Cheremukhin and Restrepo-Echavarria 2024) suggests that market tightness is back to normal

**Figure 2-12. Measures of Labor Market Tightness**

**A. Jobs versus Available Workers**



**B. Job Openings per Unemployed Person**



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey); CEA calculations.

Note: Unemployed persons are over age 16 years. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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prepandemic levels and that the current position of the labor market is back on the prepandemic Beveridge curve (the relationship between job openings and the unemployment rate). These adjustments imply that standard Beveridge curve calculations shown in figure 2-13, panel A, may overstate the further progress to come in the labor market’s rebalancing (as implied, e.g., by [Figura and Waller 2022](#)).

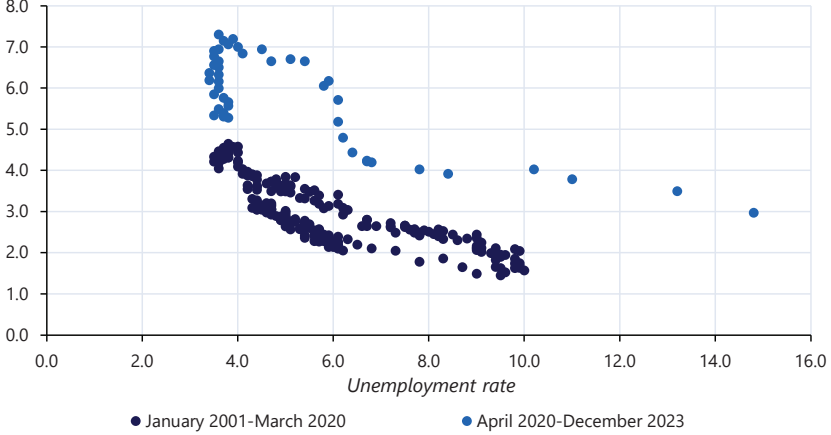
Meanwhile, both layoffs and the number of job losers who were laid off have been essentially flat in 2023 (figure 2-14). These indicators tend to rise rapidly at the onset of recessions, and their relative quiet supports the view that the U.S. economy is returning to more normal, sustainable conditions while avoiding a recession. Initial claims for unemployment insurance, another often-cited leading indicator of recessions, remained flat in 2023.

Finally, the labor supply appears to have firmed up: the labor force participation rate of prime-age civilians—those between the age of 25 and

**Figure 2-13. Beveridge Curves**

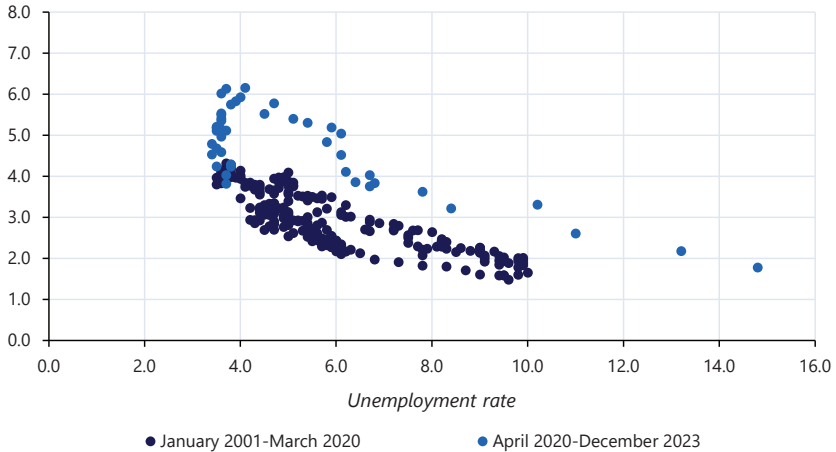
**A. Standard Beveridge Curve**

*Job openings rate*



**B. Beveridge Curve with Adjusted Vacancies**

*Job openings rate*



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey); CEA calculations.

Note: The job openings rate is defined as job openings as a percentage of employment and job openings. In panel B, the modified Beveridge curve using vacancy rates is adjusted to reflect long-term labor market relationships. Data are monthly and seasonally adjusted.

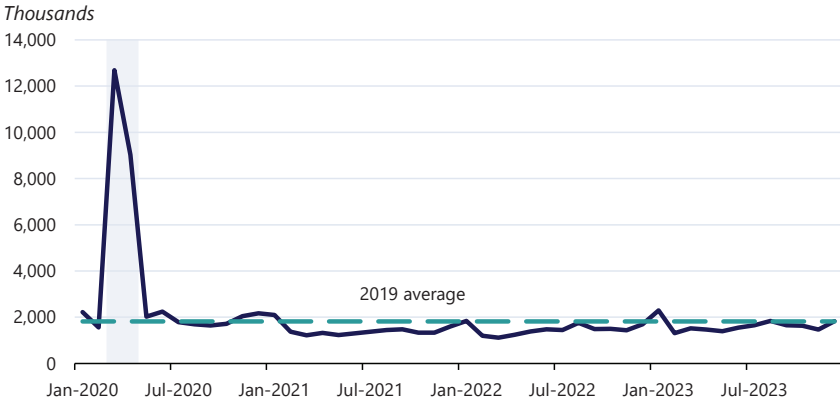
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54 years—is close to a 20-year high, and the participation rate for prime-age women exceeded its all-time high this year (figure 2-15). Employers’ allowances of more flexible work schedules during and since the COVID-19 pandemic—including the rise in work-from-home arrangements—may also have contributed to record labor force participation among prime-age

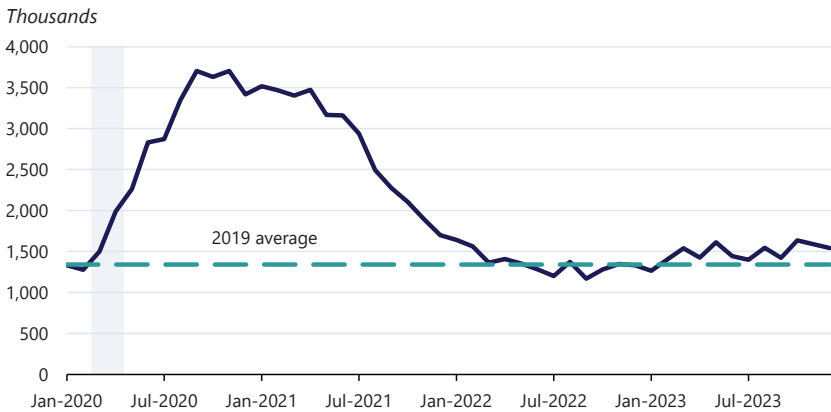


**Figure 2-14. Measures of Employment Separation**

**A. Layoffs and Discharges**



**B. Job Losers on Permanent Layoffs**



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey); Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.

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women.<sup>9</sup> It is likely that increasing access to affordable childcare, a key policy goal of the Biden-Harris Administration, would be associated with further improvements in the labor supply (CEA 2023a).<sup>10</sup>

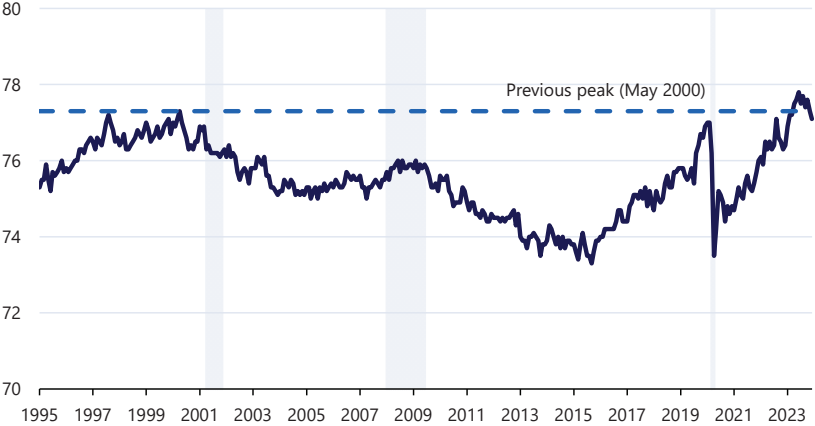
These positive developments in labor force participation rates are especially remarkable given the backdrop of a downward, long-run trend in the labor force as a result of the aging U.S. population. Labor force

<sup>9</sup> Survey evidence suggests that, on average, women place a higher value on flexible work arrangements relative to men. See Aksoy et al. (2022) and Mas and Pallais (2017).

<sup>10</sup> Research by Francine Blau and her colleagues suggests that a meaningful portion of the growing gap in the labor force participation rate of prime-age women between the United States and other advanced nations can be explained by weak U.S. family policies (Blau and Kahn 2013).

**Figure 2-15. Women’s Prime Age (25–54) Labor Force Participation**

Percentage of population



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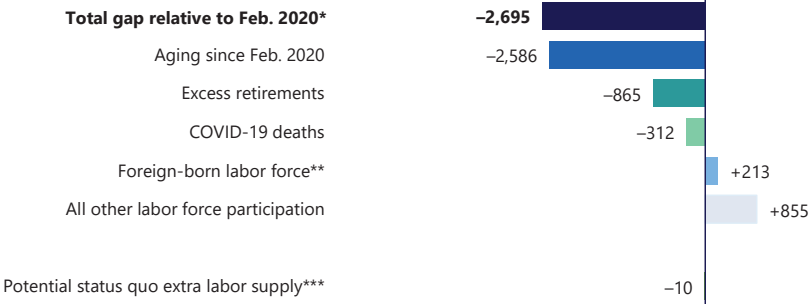
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: All values are seasonally adjusted. Data are monthly. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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**Figure 2-16. Factors Affecting the Size of the Labor Force, February 2020–October 2023**

Thousands of workers



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

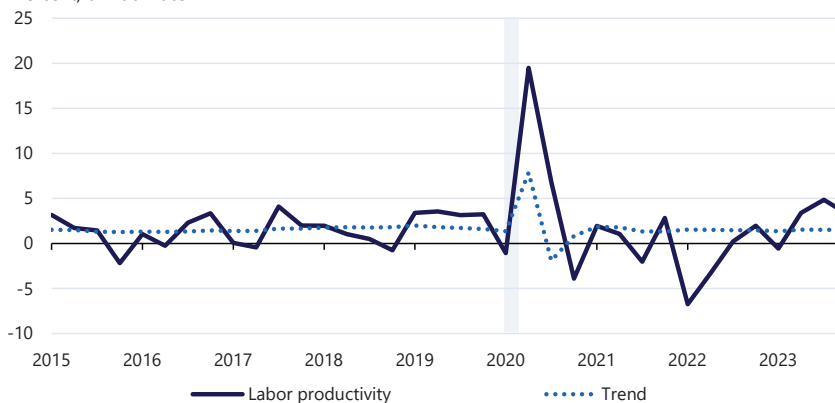
Note: \* = Adjusted for annual population controls. \*\* = Relative to 2012–18 trend. \*\*\* = Sum of factors less aging, immigration, and COVID-19 deaths.

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participation for civilians age 65 years and above has steeply declined in the postpandemic economy. While increased retirements have been expected due to population aging, they have substantially exceeded expectations since the onset of the pandemic. According to the CEA’s calculations, excess retirements subtracted almost 900,000 workers from the labor market in 2023 (figure 2-16).

**Figure 2-17. Business Sector Productivity and Trend**

Percent, annual rate



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Federal Reserve Board; CEA calculations.

Note: The trend is estimated with a modified version of the FRB/US supply-side component, which adds demographic controls. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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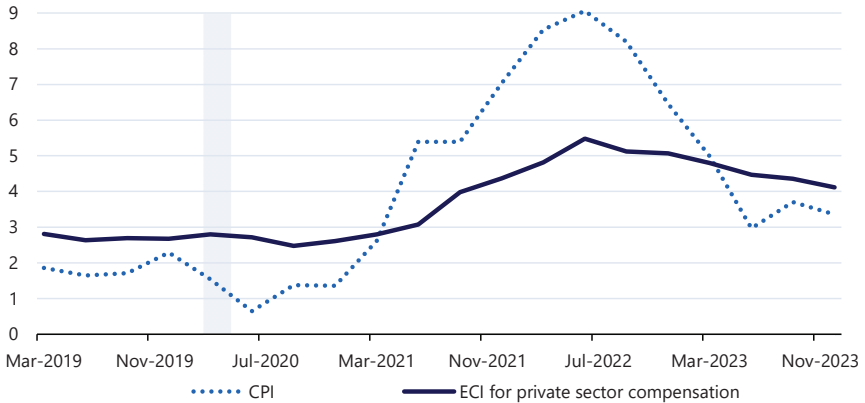
The slowdown in labor markets and the acceleration of real GDP imply that labor productivity (figure 2-17) rebounded in 2023 after a decline in 2022.<sup>11</sup> Productivity has displayed its typical cyclicity in recent years, and now closely approximates its prepandemic trend, a result of businesses catching up to desired hiring levels. Despite this, the future path of productivity is uncertain. One potential upside risk to productivity growth is artificial intelligence; whether developments in artificial intelligence will ignite a similar acceleration in productivity as the information technology revolution induced in the late 1990s remains to be seen (see chapter 7).

All the available metrics of nominal wage inflation—such as the Employment Cost Index, average hourly earnings, unit labor costs, and the Atlanta Fed’s wage tracker—show that nominal wage growth has moderated over the last year (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta 2024). A strong labor market has nevertheless fostered progress on real labor compensation. Compensation growth, as measured by the Employment Cost Index—which includes both benefits and salaries and which controls for compositional effects—has been outpacing inflation since 2022:Q4 (figure 2-18), implying that workers’ purchasing power has improved over the last year. Moreover, real average hourly earnings—an alternative, more timely measure of wages and salaries, albeit one more susceptible to compositional effects—have more than caught up with inflation and are now above prepandemic levels, especially for the 80 percent of the workforce in production and nonsupervisory occupations. Moderate wage growth above the inflation rate is an

<sup>11</sup> Labor productivity is measured as output per hour in the business sector.

**Figure 2-18. Private Sector Compensation Growth and Inflation**

Year-on-year percent change



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

Note: CPI = Consumer Price Index; ECI = Employment Cost Index. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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important factor in providing continued support for aggregate consumer spending as excess savings are gradually depleted. Of particular importance for overall purchasing power, the pace of wage growth among the lowest quartile of the wage distribution exceeded inflation in 2023.<sup>12</sup>

### *Inflation in 2023*

After peaking in the summer of 2022, inflation trended downward through the end of 2023. Disinflation in the food, energy, and goods sectors is largely responsible for this reversal (figure 2-19). Inflation in the services sector—which is largely influenced by wages, the most important cost in services production—has been retreating more slowly, in step with the gradual moderation of wage inflation.

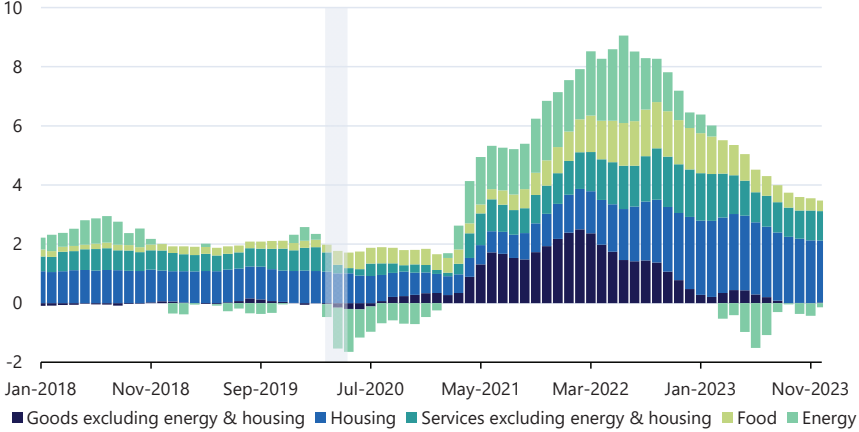
Housing inflation appears to have played an outsized role in keeping inflation above target in 2023. Rental contracts are renewed only infrequently, and are therefore slower to adjust to rental price pressures (which include building maintenance and labor costs, utilities, and general costs of living). However, data on newly signed contracts, such as the Zillow rent index and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' New Tenant Rent Index, all showed a decline in the last two quarters of 2023, suggesting that housing inflation should lessen over the coming quarters (figure 2-20).

Outside forecasters expected that core inflation would recede more quickly in 2023, an expectation consistent with their forecasts of weak real

<sup>12</sup> Consumers in the lowest quartile of the wage distribution tend to have a higher marginal propensity to consume.

### Figure 2-19. Contributions to Headline CPI Inflation

Percentage-point contribution to 12-month change



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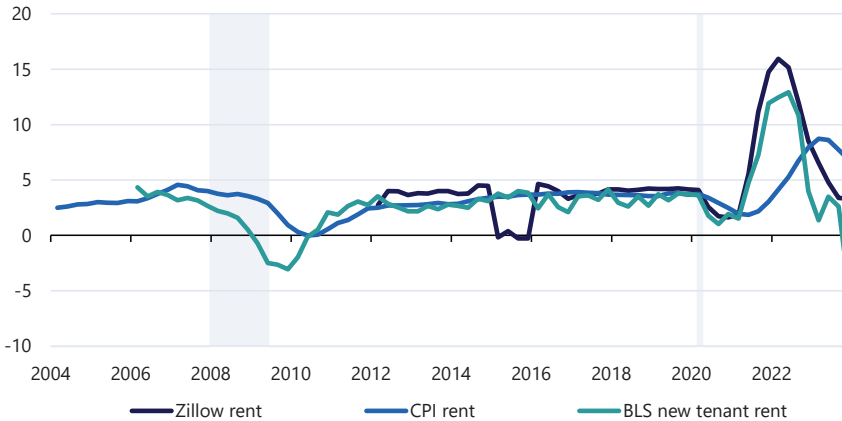
Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

Note: CPI = Consumer Price Index. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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### Figure 2-20. Selected Measures of Rent Growth

Four-quarter percentage change



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland; Zillow.

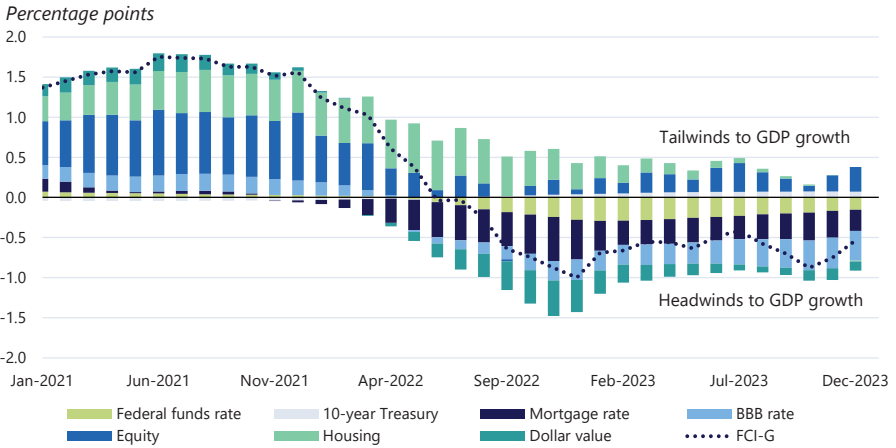
Note: CPI = Consumer Price Index. BLS = Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data are quarterly. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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economic activity and a high unemployment rate (see figure 2-2, panel B).<sup>13</sup> But in contrast to these expectations—and to the economies of the 1970s and 1980s—progress on reestablishing price stability for the U.S. consumer has

<sup>13</sup> Some commentators were skeptical that any progress in the fight against inflation would happen without sharp increases in the unemployment rate. On this point, also see chapter 1 of this Report.

**Figure 2-21. Contributions to GDP Growth, per the Federal Reserve’s Financial Conditions Impulse on Growth (FCI-G)**



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Sources: Federal Reserve Board; CEA calculations.

Note: BBB = Better Business Bureau. Data are from FCI-G (baseline), and inverted such that the figure is read as a fiscal impact measure.

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thus far been achieved without substantial increases to unemployment rates or a slowdown in growth. Several causes can be ascribed to the decline in inflation, the most prominent of which are tighter monetary policy, progress in the resolution of supply bottlenecks, and lower import prices.

The tightening of monetary policy restrains aggregate demand by inducing higher interest rates, which typically cool the housing market and demand for durable goods, both of which are sensitive to interest rates. Higher interest rates may also cause a decline in the stock market, further reducing consumption through a wealth effect. According to the Federal Reserve Board’s Financial Conditions Index Impulse on Growth (FCI-G)—a measure that captures the overall effects of financial markets on real GDP growth—monetary policy and its effects on financial markets created a headwind to economic growth in the middle months of 2022.<sup>14</sup> However, according to the FCI-G, neither housing prices nor the stock market curbed GDP growth in 2023 (see figure 2-21 and box 2-1).

A second factor contributing to disinflation—one that accords more closely with the acceleration in real GDP—is progress in the resolution of supply bottlenecks. While supply bottlenecks are difficult to measure precisely—a likely reason why some forecasters had downplayed the role of their resolution in reducing inflation and instead forecasted weak real

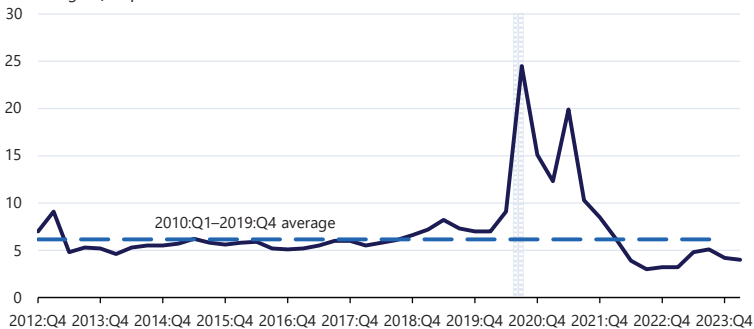
<sup>14</sup> The FCI-G measures how financial conditions, including asset prices, house prices, and interest rates—all of which are also affected by monetary policy—have the potential to affect the real economy (Ajello et al. 2023).

## Box 2-1. Strong Balance Sheets Supported Household Consumption in 2023

At the outset of 2023, forecasters anticipated that high mortgage rates, a historically low saving rate, and lackluster consumer sentiment would exert a notable deceleration in consumer spending. Moreover, lower-income households' excess savings—presumed to have fueled consumption early in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic—were thought to be depleted by the end of 2022. Many observers have therefore been surprised by consumer resilience in the face of such strong headwinds (figure 2-i).

**Figure 2-i. The Saving Rate**

*Percentage of disposable income*



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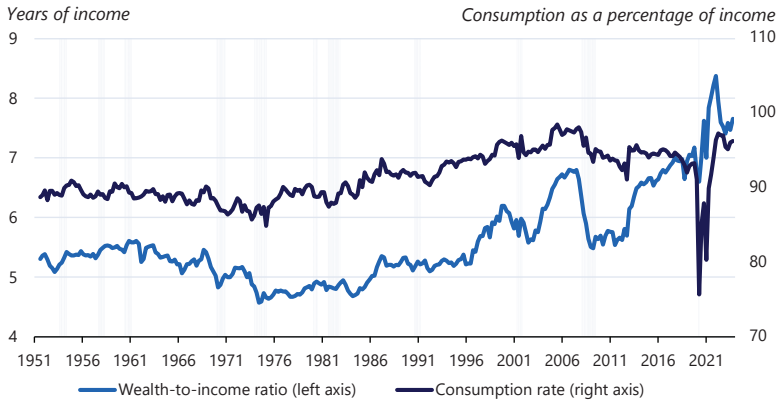
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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Several factors likely contributed to last year's acceleration in consumption, including low unemployment, strong job growth, and rising real wages. But an especially important factor was the resilience of household balance sheets. Household liquid assets, defined as the real value held in currency and deposits—including money market funds shares—stayed above its prepandemic trend in 2023. Net worth relative to income—which includes all liquid, financial, and housing household assets—also ended the year higher than its level before the pandemic (figure 2-ii). In particular, housing wealth held up well in 2023. Despite high mortgage rates, undersupply in the housing market has so far supported house prices. Traditionally, housing wealth supports middle-class homeowners' consumption. These consumers are able either to extract resources from their homes in the form of home equity lines—a channel likely dampened by the recent rise in interest rates—or to lower their saving rate, capitalizing on the perceived high present discounted value of their homes. Finally, high interest rates did not substantially dent the

**Figure 2-ii. Wealth-to-Income Ratio versus Consumption Rate**



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Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Federal Reserve Board; CEA calculations.

Note: The 2023:Q4 value is estimated by the CEA. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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stock market's performance in 2023, which appears to be relevant in gauging the support of consumption from wealthy consumers.

economic activity—the few available measures suggest substantial progress. For instance, the share of manufacturing plants reporting insufficient labor has decreased significantly from its peak in 2022, a pattern that likely reflects the improvement in the labor supply, especially among prime-age workers, as documented above.<sup>15</sup> Meanwhile, the Institute for Supply Management's supplier delivery index and the New York Federal Reserve Bank's Global Supply Chain Pressure Index (GSCPI) each indicate a decline in supply chain pressures over the past year (figure 2-22).<sup>16</sup>

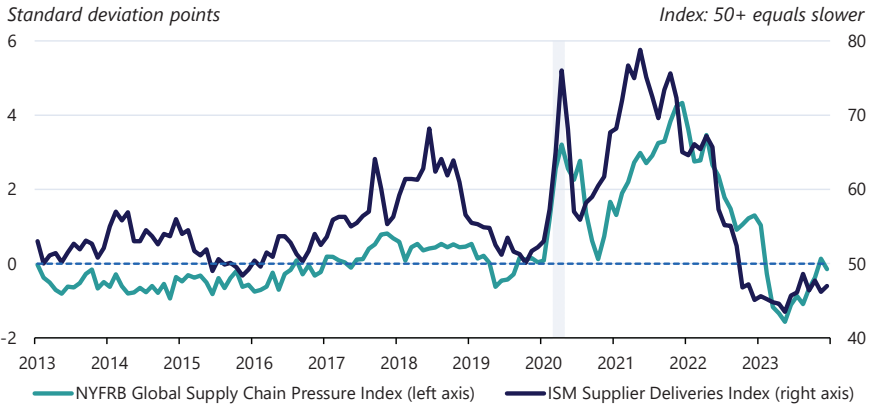
Core import prices—another cost driver, and a third potential explanation for the recent decline in inflation—have also receded. Import prices are themselves driven by many different factors, including foreign demand, foreign inflation, global supply chain pressures, and the relative strength of the dollar. Over the course of 2023, nonpetroleum import prices fell 1.6 percent, which put downward pressure on the cost of many inputs for domestic production.

<sup>15</sup> These data are from the Quarterly Survey of Plant Capacity (U.S. Census Bureau n.d.).

<sup>16</sup> The Institute for Supply Management's index gauges changes in supplier delivery times. A measure below 50 implies that deliveries are moving faster, and that supply chain pressures are easing. The GSCPI summarizes several supply chain indicators, including an index of supplier deliveries.



**Figure 2-22. Indicators of Supply Chain Pressure**



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Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of New York (NYFRB); Institute for Supply Management (ISM).  
Note: A value above 50 for the Supplier Deliveries Index indicates slower deliveries. The NYFRB Global Supply Chain Pressure Index is normalized such that zero indicates the series average value with positive/negative showing how many standard deviations above/below the average the point is. The data are not seasonally adjusted. Gray bars indicate recessions.  
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The factors that contributed in 2023 to the diminishing effects of inflation can also be evaluated within the framework of the Phillips curve. Augmented with proxies for supply shocks and the interaction of demand and supply bottlenecks, the Phillips curve succinctly captures inflation’s rise in the COVID-19 pandemic years leading into 2023, as well as its subsequent decline, during which there was no labor market or aggregate demand deterioration (CEA 2023b). Consider a Phillips curve that includes (1) relative import prices as a cost-push factor, (2) the New York Federal Reserve Bank’s GSCPI as a measure of supply chain pressures, and (3) an interaction term between the GSCPI with slack (proxied by the CBO’s unemployment gap measure)—all of which are meant to capture the demand-induced bottlenecks at a time of supply chain disruptions.<sup>17</sup> Inflation expectations are proxied by the Survey of Professional Forecasters’ long-run PCE inflation expectations. Figure 2-23 shows that the model ascribes the majority of the increase in inflation from 2018 to 2022 to supply chain disruptions and most of the subsequent decline to the unsnarling of supply chains and the resolution of demand bottlenecks. Notably, the role of slack, in isolation, is minimal in explaining the recent evolution of inflation.

Long-term inflation expectations had been steady for decades when inflation began to rise in 2021, and these expectations remained low even as inflation started its climb. Figure 2-24 plots two of the most commonly tracked measures of inflation expectations: the median expected annual price percent change over the next 12 months, and the median expected

<sup>17</sup> The Phillips curve used in these calculations builds from Yellen (2015).

## Figure 2-23. Change in Core PCE Inflation

Percentage points, annual averages of quarterly annualized rate

	2018–22	2022–23*
Expectations	+0.4	-0.1
Import prices	-0.1	-0.4
Slack	-0.0	+0.0
Slack–supply chain interaction	+0.9	-0.6
Supply chains	+1.6	-0.5
Residual	+0.3	+0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>+3.0</b>	<b>-1.4</b>

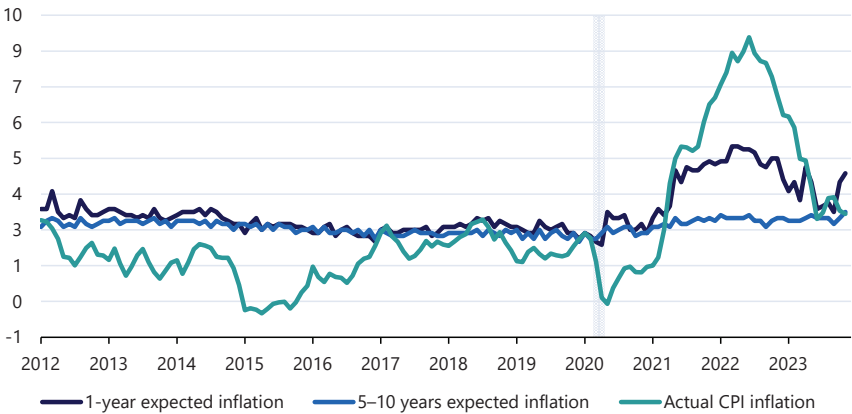
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Sources: Yellen (2015); Bureau of Economic Analysis; Congressional Budget Office; Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

Note: \* = First three quarters of 2023 only. PCE = Personal Consumer Expenditures price index. *2024 Economic Report of the President*

## Figure 2-24. Actual and Expected Inflation, 2012–23

12-month percent change



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Sources: University of Michigan; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: CPI = Consumer Price Index. Data are monthly. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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average annual price percent change over the next 5 to 10 years, from the University of Michigan’s monthly survey of households. Both measures peaked during 2022 and declined through the end of 2023. Long-term inflation expectations in particular were reassuringly stable, indicating that although households expected elevated inflation in the short run, they did not expect inflationary conditions to last (box 2-2).

## Box 2-2. Consumer Attitudes and Economic Data

Consumer perceptions about the economy, as measured by surveys, can be useful indicators of how the general public experiences macroeconomic developments. Two of the most prominent monthly indices measuring consumer attitudes are “Consumer Confidence,” published by the Conference Board, and “Consumer Sentiment,” published by the University of Michigan. As figure 2-iii illustrates, these two measures broadly co-move over time. Both plunged when the pandemic hit, and both remain below their respective prepandemic levels.

Figure 2-iii. Indicators of Consumer Attitudes

Index: 2019 = 100



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Sources: University of Michigan; Conference Board; CEA calculations.

Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.

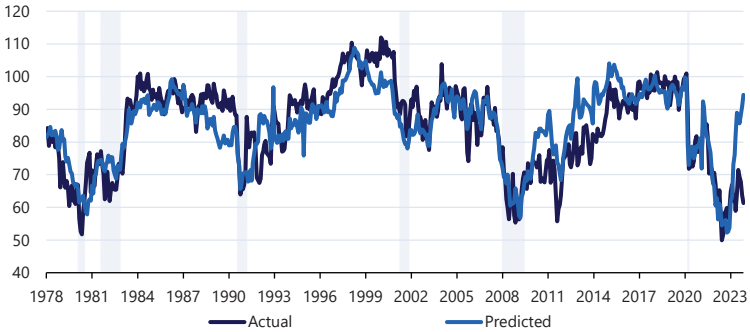
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Historically, consumer attitudes have closely tracked a handful of key economic aggregates, especially the unemployment rate, income growth, inflation, the stock market’s performance, and housing prices. An ordinary-least-squares regression, estimated from 1978 through mid-2022 and controlling for both population demographics and the spread of COVID-19, suggests that changes in these five measures explained most of the variation in consumer sentiment, even during the extraordinary depths of the pandemic (figure 2-iv). However, since mid-2022—around the time headline inflation peaked on a 12-month basis—a large gap has opened between actual and predicted sentiment.

This gap—already a historic anomaly—is particularly notable since sentiment has often been a leading indicator of economic health; it may either be signaling future weakness unanticipated by other measures, or that the pandemic shifted the relationship between the economy and consumer sentiment. (For example, the Conference Board includes both consumer confidence and consumer sentiment in its composite

**Figure 2-iv. University of Michigan Sentiment, Actual and Predicted**

Index: 1966:Q1 = 100



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Sources: University of Michigan; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Predicted ordinary least squares of University of Michigan microdata are estimates from January 1978 to June 2022 using year-over-year percent change in the Standard & Poor's 500; real disposable personal income per household (split into wage and nonwage); housing prices; Personal Consumption Expenditures price indexes for food, energy, core goods, and core services; and the year-over-year differences in the unemployment rate and log total COVID-19 cases. Estimates also include fixed effects by sex, age, education, birth cohort, Census region, month in survey sample, and calendar month. Data are as of November 2023. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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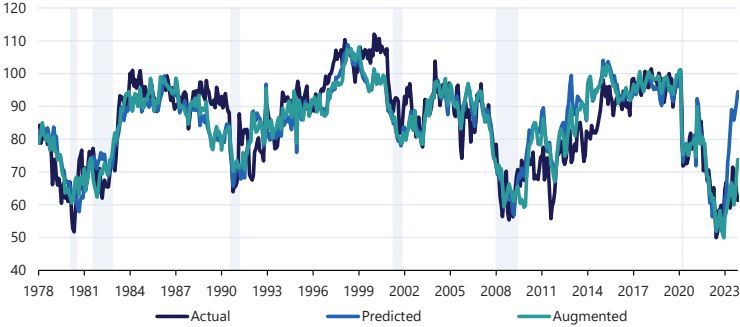
index of leading indicators for the United States; see [Conference Board 2024](#).) This chapter already discusses the possible near-term upside and downside risks to the economy. On the possibility that sui generis factors have altered the link between sentiment and the economy, several hypotheses require further attention.

*Price changes (inflation) versus price levels.* Consumer attitudes may be sensitive to both high price changes (inflation) and high price levels—products whose prices remain higher than consumers expect, even after prices stop rising. This hypothesis implies that simple models that only include inflation could mechanically overstate the improvement in sentiment attributable to disinflation. That is, after a period of high inflation, consumers may have a lingering distaste for the resulting high level of prices that an inflation-only model would struggle to capture.

A straightforward, though hardly dispositive, test of the price level hypothesis is to allow explicit terms for changes in inflation to enter the regression model asymmetrically, such that declines in inflation affect sentiment differently than rises in inflation. (Simply adding price levels to a regression presents a statistical challenge, because price levels are almost always nonstationary and thus can lead to spurious regression results. The change in the price level, inflation, is already included in the base model.) If this hypothesis were true, one would expect disinflation to affect sentiment positively to a lesser extent than rising inflation affects sentiment negatively, since falling but still-positive inflation implies that the price level remains high. Augmenting the simple regression model with these terms, the CEA finds exactly that: for energy, food, and core

**Figure 2-v. University of Michigan Sentiment: Actual, Predicted, and Augmented**

Index: 1966:Q1 = 100



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Sources: University of Michigan; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Predicted ordinary least squares of University of Michigan microdata are estimates from January 1978 to June 2022 using year-over-year percent change in the Standard & Poor's 500; real disposable personal income per household (split into wage and nonwage); housing prices; Personal Consumption Expenditures price indexes for food, energy, core goods, and core services; and the year-over-year differences in the unemployment rate and log total COVID-19 cases. Estimates also include fixed effects by sex, age, education, birth cohort, Census region, month in survey sample, and calendar month. Augmented model includes change in inflation and an asymmetry term. Data are as of November 2023. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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goods, a decline in inflation has less of an initial effect on sentiment than does a rise in inflation of the same magnitude. As figure 2-v shows, the augmented model's in-sample predictions are not substantially different from those of the baseline model, but its out-of-sample predictions for the period since June 2022 are far superior, suggesting that price levels matter for sentiment.

*Broader, COVID-19-related shifts.* An analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Herbstman and Brave 2023) finds that relationships between economic variables and sentiment broadly pivoted during the pandemic. This shift was especially true of labor market variables; growth in earnings and employment affected sentiment less positively during the pandemic than before. (Note that one key difference between the Consumer Sentiment and Consumer Confidence estimates is their sensitivity to labor market conditions; see Hirsch 2012. The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence index explicitly incorporates labor market experiences and expectations into its composite, whereas the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment index does not use specific labor market questions in its measure.)

One plausible hypothesis is that the pandemic experience, including the government's fiscal responses to the virus's impact on American life, affected sentiment in ways not fully captured by conventional economic metrics. The government provided unusually strong fiscal support to families in 2020 and 2021, when the pandemic's effects were felt the most, and the rise and fall in unemployment during the pandemic was overwhelmingly and unprecedentedly driven by temporarily furloughed workers, many of whom reclaimed their positions when lockdowns

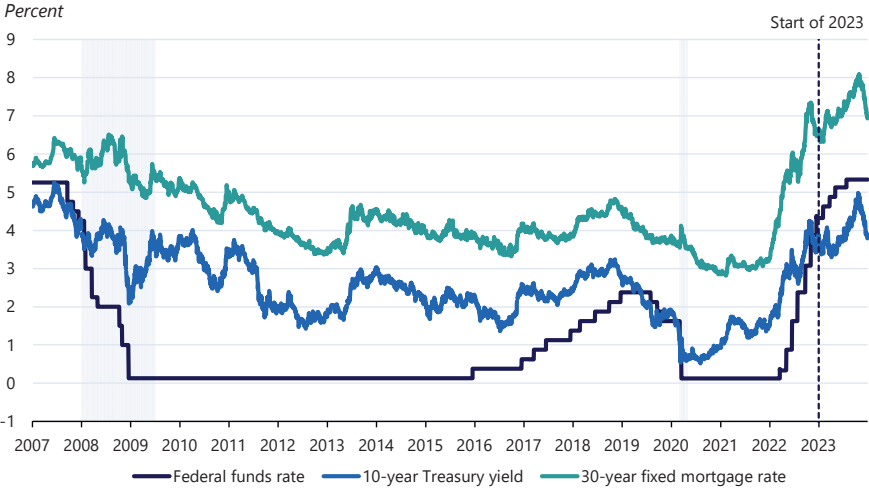
ended. Either mechanism might explain why pandemic-era rises in the unemployment rate had less of a negative effect on sentiment than would be expected from prior cycles.

*Other factors.* Observers have suggested various other candidates to explain the gap between economic indicators and consumer sentiment. For instance, heightened political partisanship, and the evolving tendency for consumers to base their survey responses on political rather than economic factors, may be being factored into the indices at a rate not previously seen (Hartman 2022). Meanwhile, social media has become a far more common source of news, for younger Americans especially, and has been shown to disproportionately elevate negative and often false information—making a gap between reliable indicators and sentiment more plausible (e.g., O’Kane 2023). The shortage of affordable housing, the subject of chapter 4 of this Report, is another potential factor generating negative sentiment, particularly among younger families for which homeownership is often out of reach. And as certain pandemic-era supports have expired, real disposable income has fallen for families who had been beneficiaries of those transfers—a final potential factor behind the large residual.

## Financial Markets in 2023

Markets had an eventful 2023, highlighted by at least three consequential developments. First, risk-free interest rates—especially those with long horizons, such as the benchmark 10-year Treasury note—climbed to levels not seen since leading up to the global financial crisis, before reversing most of the increase toward the end of the year. Even with little net change over the year, long-maturity, risk-free rates remained high relative to the past 10 years, a trend that has resulted in higher borrowing costs for businesses, consumers, and the government. Second, and relatedly, the high-profile failure of a few banks affected lenders’ willingness to extend credit and exerted upward pressure on the cost of borrowing relative to the risk-free rate of interest, further tightening credit conditions. However, most of these effects were short-lived, due in part to a rapid and effective policy response. Third, the component in interest rates that nets out inflation effects—the real rate of interest—rose markedly in 2023. The real policy rate remained high, though much of the increase in long-maturity real rates reversed toward the end of the year, and rates across maturities remained high relative to the post-financial crisis period. Understanding the drivers of real rate movements is important for assessing the durability of recent economic trends.

**Figure 2-25. Selected Nominal U.S. Interest Rates**



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Sources: Federal Reserve Board; Bloomberg.

Note: The 30-year fixed mortgage rate is the average U.S. 30-year fixed mortgage products rate from Bankrate.com via Bloomberg. Federal funds rate corresponds to the midpoint of the federal funds target rate range. Gray bars indicate recessions.

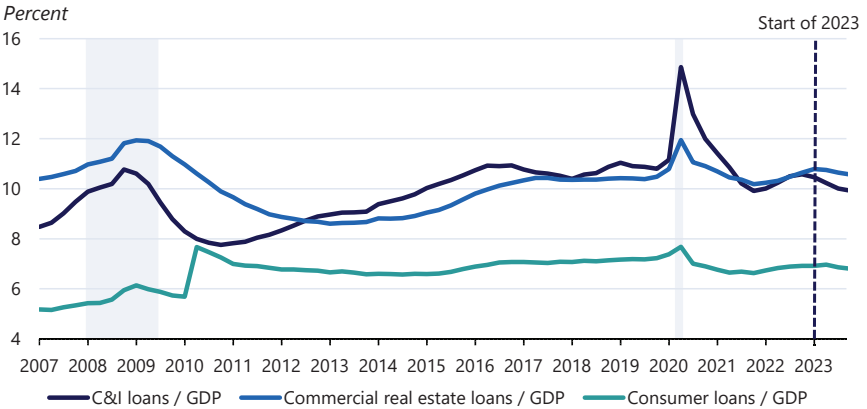
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### *The Rise in Long-Term Rates*

Key interest rates—including the federal funds rate, the 10-year Treasury rate, and the 30-year fixed mortgage rate—all rose during most of 2023. After peaking in October, long-maturity rates declined, reversing much of the earlier rise; but the policy rate remained at its highest level since 2001 (figure 2-25). Long-maturity yields were atypically low in the sustained period of zero-rate monetary policy from the end of 2008 through the end of 2015, and then again from 2020 to 2022. The 10-year yield was below 2.2 percent when policy tightening began in March 2022; since then, the overnight policy rate has risen over 5 percentage points, and long-maturity Treasury yields have risen as high as 5 percent on an intraday basis—the largest policy rate increase and the largest 10-year Treasury yield increase per tightening cycle since the 1980s. By the end of the year, the 10-year Treasury yield had fallen below 4 percent, while the overnight federal funds target rate remained above 5 percent, with a cumulative 1-percentage-point increase during 2023.

As a benchmark for riskier rates, long-maturity Treasury yields are the basis for rates that are important for businesses and consumers, such as corporate bond yields and the 30-year fixed mortgage rate. The national average 30-year fixed rate for conforming mortgage loans rose more than the 10-year

**Figure 2-26. Outstanding Loan Amounts Relative to GDP**



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Source: Federal Reserve Board; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: C&I = commercial and industrial; GDP = gross domestic product. Loan amounts are for all commercial banks from the Federal Reserve's H.8 release. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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Treasury yield,<sup>18</sup> as illustrated by the teal line in figure 2-25, peaking above 8 percent, before falling to about 7 percent at the end of 2023. Meanwhile, the quantity of outstanding commercial loans declined relative to the rate of GDP growth (figure 2-26). While banks tightened standards for loans to businesses and households early in 2023, the decline in borrowing was also partly driven by lower demand in a higher-rate environment (figure 2-27).

The effect of a higher-rate environment on asset prices can have large implications for the broader economy. A sharp rise in rates produces steep unrealized (or “mark-to-market”) losses for fixed-rate security holders. From March 16, 2022—when the Federal Reserve began to hike its policy rate—until March 8, 2023, the 10-year Treasury yield rose nearly 2 percentage points. As higher rates on newly issued securities drove down the price of extant securities with lower fixed rates, the holders of securities with lower fixed rates, including banks, experienced large mark-to-market losses, as illustrated in figure 2-28. For example, consider a bank with 10-year Treasury holdings originally worth \$50 billion, purchased in March 2022, when the 10-year rate was 2 percent. By March 2023, the value of the bank’s Treasury securities would have fallen by about \$8 billion. These dynamics tipped various banks, including Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, into insolvency.

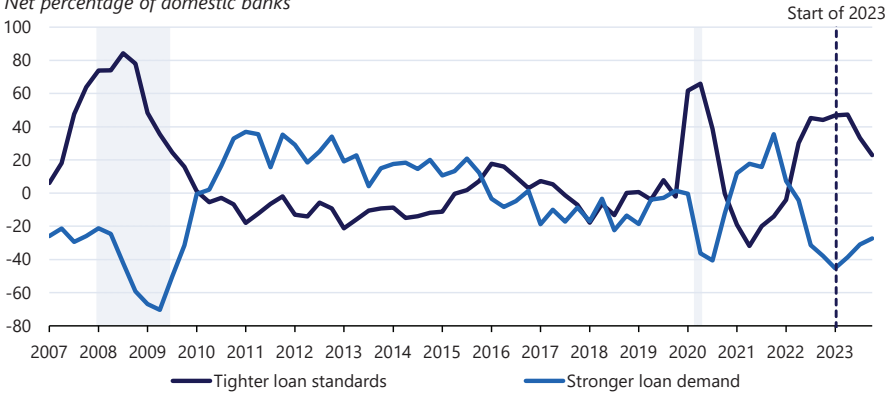
One of the main channels through which banking stress reaches the real economy is constrained credit. Credit conditions initially tightened and

<sup>18</sup> Conforming mortgage loans are insurable by the Federal housing agencies. In order to “conform,” a loan must meet the quality terms and conditions (e.g., a minimum credit score for a borrower and a maximum amount borrowed) set forth by the U.S. Federal Housing Finance Authority.



**Figure 2-27. Credit Conditions for Business Loans**

*Net percentage of domestic banks*



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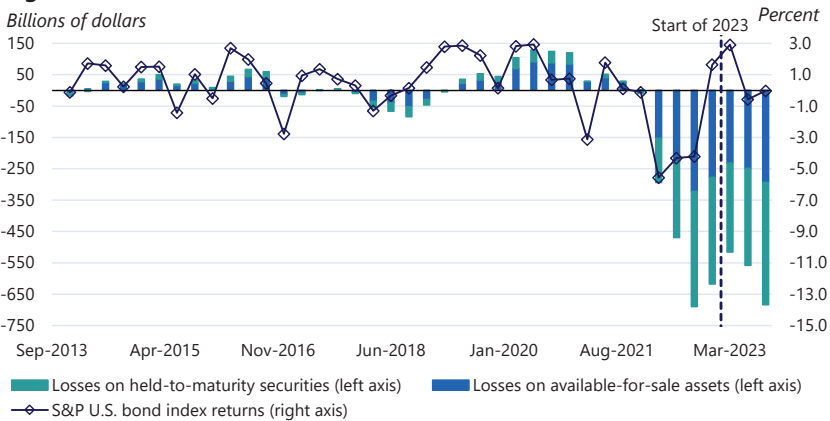
Source: Federal Reserve Board.

Note: This figure shows the net percentage of domestic banks that are tightening standards for or are increasing demand for business loans, weighted by banks' outstanding loan balances from the Federal Reserve's Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey on Bank Lending Practices. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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**Figure 2-28. Bond Returns and Unrealized Gains/Losses**

*Billions of dollars*



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Sources: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); Standard & Poor's (S&P).

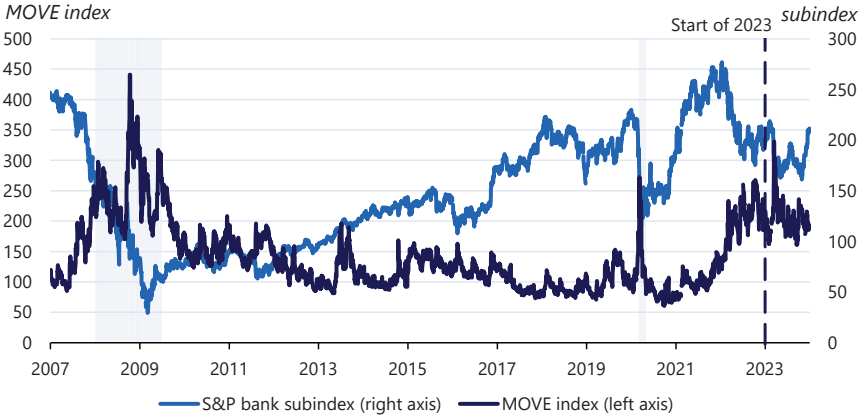
Note: Unrealized losses are from the FDIC 2023:Q3 quarterly banking profile, table 7. Data are quarterly.

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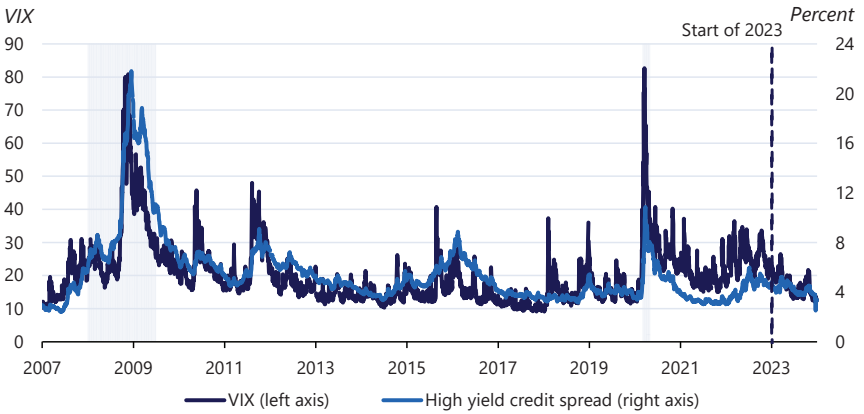
asset volatility rose as bank shares—shown in blue in figure 2-29, panel A—sharply underperformed the broader market. Amid the bank failures, the 10-year Treasury yield fell by more than half a percentage point as investors fled to safety, and the MOVE index (the Merrill Lynch Option Volatility Estimate index), a popular measure of expected future Treasury market volatility, spiked to its highest point since the pandemic-induced financial market turmoil in March 2020. The navy line in figure 2-29, panel A,

**Figure 2-29. Treasury Volatility and Market Conditions**

**A. MOVE Treasury Volatility Index and Bank Subindex**



**B. Market Credit Conditions**



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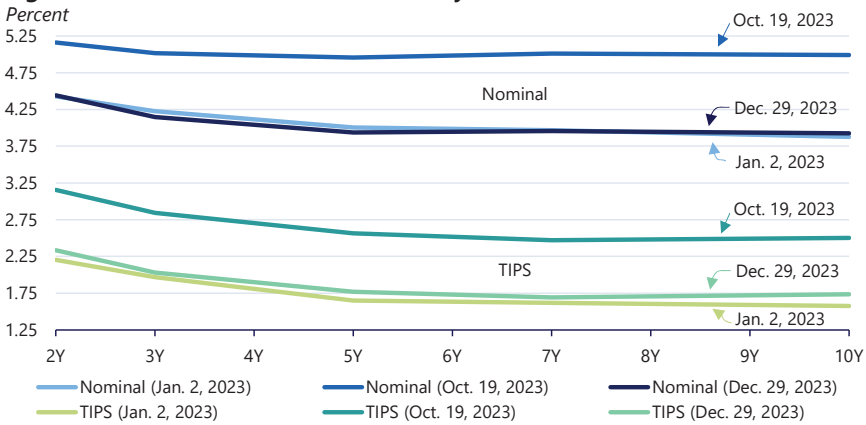
Sources: Bank of America; Bloomberg.

Note: The MOVE index is published by the Intercontinental Exchange. The index measures the implied yield volatility of a basket of one-month options on 2-year, 5-year, 10-year, and 30-year Treasury securities. The bank share price subindex is for the level 2 banks industry group of the Standard and Poor's (S&P) 500 index. The VIX is published by the Chicago Board of Options Exchange. The index measures the implied volatility of a basket of one-month options on the S&P 500 equity market price index. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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illustrates the strong negative relationship between the measure of Treasury yield volatility and bank share prices, underscoring the importance of interest rate movements for the health of banks' balance sheets. The Federal Reserve rapidly introduced a new lending facility in 2023—the Bank Term Funding Program—which is aimed at alleviating pressure for banks to sell high-quality, fixed-income securities at a loss, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve, and Treasury—in consultation with the President—stepped in with a comprehensive guarantee for customers' deposits in Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, an action that

**Figure 2-30. Nominal and TIPS Treasury Yield Curves**



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Source: Bloomberg.

Note: TIPS = Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities. The figure shows real and nominal yield curves and their changes over the year.

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stemmed financial contagion. By the year’s end, the tightening started to reverse course. Credit spreads narrowed, and, as shown by the VIX, implied volatility on equities declined (figure 2-29, panel B), which was also consistent with persistently robust data on economic activity.

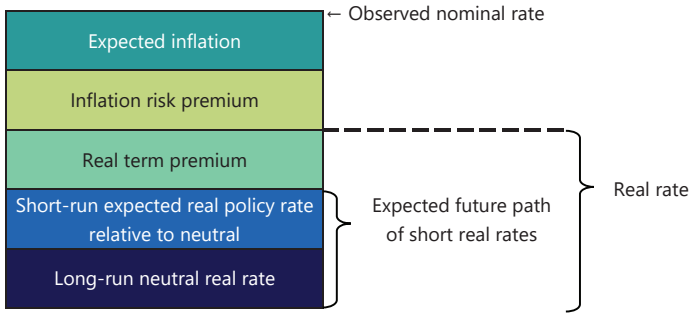
***Real Rates as the Driver of Higher Long-Term Rates***

Long-maturity real yields, as proxied by Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS), rose and then declined, roughly in tandem with nominal Treasury yields during 2023 (figure 2-30), indicating that inflation expectations likely changed little and that most of the nominal yield change was attributable to the real component in rates.<sup>19</sup>

The causes behind changes in real rates are often uncertain, and 2023 proved to be no exception—with particular uncertainty about why rates rose so sharply but then declined. Figure 2-31 illustrates real term rates as a component of nominal rates. Suggested explanations for the initial, sharp increase in real rates include tighter monetary policy; a higher expected neutral real rate (the theoretical interest rate that neither stimulates nor slows the economy); and the difference in return demanded by investors to hold long-maturity securities relative to short-maturity ones, also referred

<sup>19</sup> Strictly speaking, the nominal minus TIPS yield spread only measures the inflation compensation to investors, which is also affected by differential liquidity of TIPS relative to nominal securities and the risk premium that investors may price for inflation, and so is not a direct measure of inflation expectations. Estimates of these effects from the model of D’Amico, Kim, and Wei (2018) show that break-even rates underestimated expected inflation by about 10 basis points, on average, during 2023.

**Figure 2-31. Components of Nominal Rates**



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 Source: CEA analysis.  
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to as the “term premium.” However, these factors fail to fully explain why long-maturity, risk-free real rate increases largely reversed in the latter part of the year, making it difficult to forecast how these rates will evolve in the future. Identifying the drivers of rate movements is difficult because concepts such as the neutral rate and term premia are not directly observable in asset prices. Surveys and term structure models can be used to estimate the various components that constitute nominal and real interest rates (Kim and Wright 2005; D’Amico, Kim, and Wei 2018).

### *A Higher Expected Path for the Real Policy Rate*

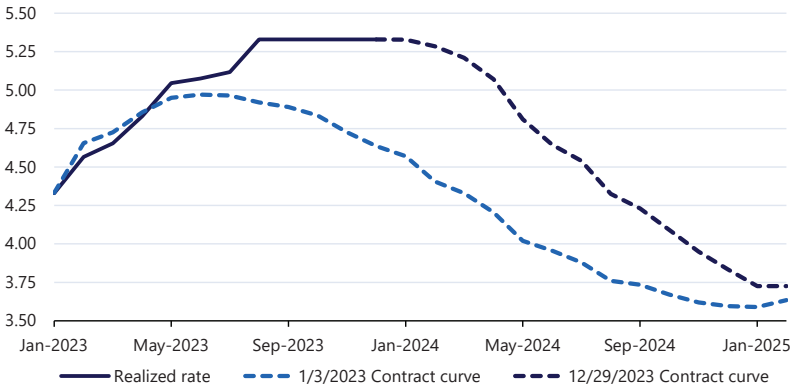
As the Federal Reserve increased its target rate in 2022 and 2023, estimates of the expected path of near-term policy unsurprisingly shifted from below neutral—stimulative—to above neutral—restrictive. As the nominal policy rate rose to its highest level since 2001, the estimated real policy rate reached its highest level since the global financial crisis and also became restrictive for the first time in the postcrisis period.

Expectations for increasingly tight monetary policy over most of 2023 (figure 2-32, panel A) resulted in part from a series of economic data releases that showed marked labor market resilience and buoyant consumption, which surprised forecasters throughout the year. Figure 2-32, panel B, shows the total and average changes in the 10-year Treasury yield, clustered around major data releases: nonfarm payrolls, unemployment insurance claims, consumer confidence, and core CPI inflation. It incorporates both positive and negative changes in the 10-year yield, and it filters out days of Federal Open Market Committee meetings or other major nondata events with a market impact. Jobless claims, which are released weekly, showed the largest cumulative contribution to rising 10-year Treasury yields in 2023—the dark green bar in the figure—while the monthly inflation data

**Figure 2-32. Federal Funds Rate and Federal Funds Futures Rates**

**A. Realized Policy Rate and Shift in Expected Policy Rate**

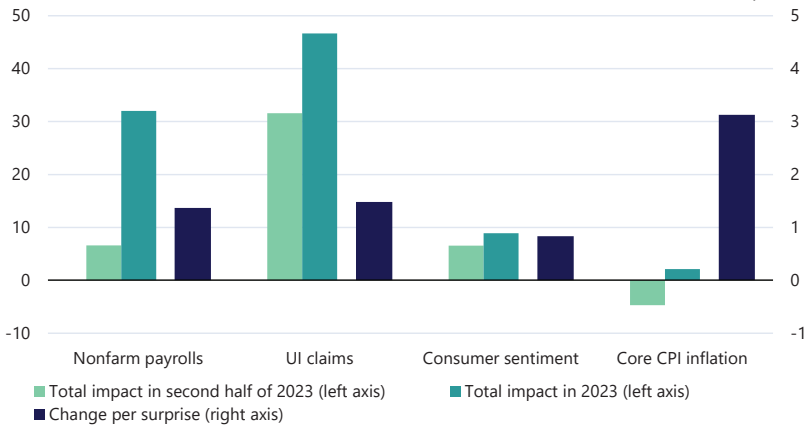
Percent



**B. Change in the 10-Year Yield Around Data Release Surprises**

Basis points

Basis points



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Sources: Bloomberg; CEA calculations.

Note: UI = unemployment insurance; CPI = Consumer Price Index. In panel A, expectations are derived from federal funds futures contracts as of 12/29/2023 and 1/3/2023. Realized rates are monthly averages of the daily federal funds effective rate. In panel B, data release surprises are classified as any time the data differ from expectations. Change per surprise is a predicted value, measured in standard deviations from the median of surveyed expectations.

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demonstrated the largest impact per surprise.<sup>20</sup> The difference between the light and dark green bars gives the impact over the first half of the year alone. The estimates show that the unexpected part of payroll releases had

<sup>20</sup> The estimates given here are from an event study regression of the change in 10-year Treasury yields in a 1-day window, as given in economic data releases on the surprise component of the news. The 1-day window starts with the closing price on the date before the announcement and ends with the closing price on the announcement date. The surprise component is the difference between the realized outcome and the median Bloomberg survey expectation, scaled by the standard deviation of submitted survey expectations.

a disproportionate impact on rising yields during the first half of the year, whereas jobless claims contributed relatively more in the latter half of 2023, even with the sharp drop in yields toward the end of the year.

In mid-December 2023, the Federal Open Market Committee released a statement and forecast on markets that was widely interpreted as signaling that, barring any data surprises, policy tightening had peaked and the next move would be a policy rate cut (Federal Reserve 2023a; Federal Reserve, Federal Open Market Committee 2023). Figure 2-32, panel A, provides a snapshot of the market-implied, expected short-run path of the federal funds rate, showing the upward trajectory of the target policy rate during 2023 (solid navy line in the figure) and the expected path of the target rate as captured at the end of the year (dashed navy line). Despite the end-of-year shift to expected easing, the anticipated path of the policy rate remained higher than it had been at the start of 2023 (dashed blue line).

### *The Term Premium*

The rising Treasury term premium further drove term rates higher during 2023. Conceptually, the real term premium is the component of the long-maturity, risk-free real rate that is not explained by the expected future path of short-maturity real rates (figure 2-31). The 10-year Treasury term premium was largely negative from 2019 to 2021, according to most estimates, before rising to be occasionally positive amid the growing interest rate environment, a pattern that persisted during 2023.

Several types of risks could have supported the term premium in 2023. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall, though the relationship is not one-for-one. The pricing of duration risk recognizes that the longer the maturity of the bond (all else remaining equal), the larger the price decline per percentage-point increase in the interest rate. The risk of capital loss for an investor needing to sell a bond before maturity motivates them to demand a higher term premium. A possible contributor to a higher real term premium is greater near-term uncertainty about medium- to long-maturity real rates, which could stem from investor uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's future policy rate. Heightened expected rate volatility, as policy expectations rapidly shift, could amplify the pricing of duration risk in bond term premia. The MOVE index—as noted above, a measure of expected future Treasury rate volatility (figure 2-29, panel A)—rose along with rates across maturities and term premium estimates starting in late 2021. In March 2023, the MOVE index temporarily spiked to its highest level since the peak of the financial crisis in 2008 amid interest rate risk-related banking stresses. The index ended the year within the range it has been since 2021, which is still relatively high compared with the post-financial crisis period.

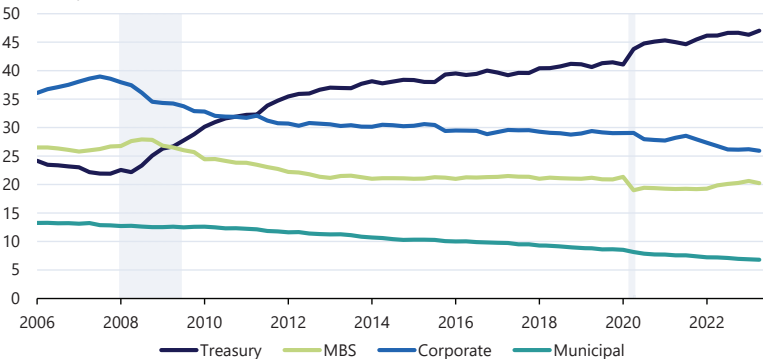
## Potential Risks for the Outlook

Before long-maturity, real risk-free rates later declined—particularly compared with the negative real rates for the 2 years before the start of policy tightening—the dramatic shift to a real risk-free return above 2 percent produced some expected outcomes and posed some challenges and potential risks. Structural changes in markets and the economy may have changed the ways that firms and individuals respond to higher rates since the United States was last in a similar rate environment, about 15 years ago. Additionally, the speed at which organizations can now adjust to shocks adds an additional degree of uncertainty to the outlook.

**Figure 2-33. U.S. Debt by Type and Holder**

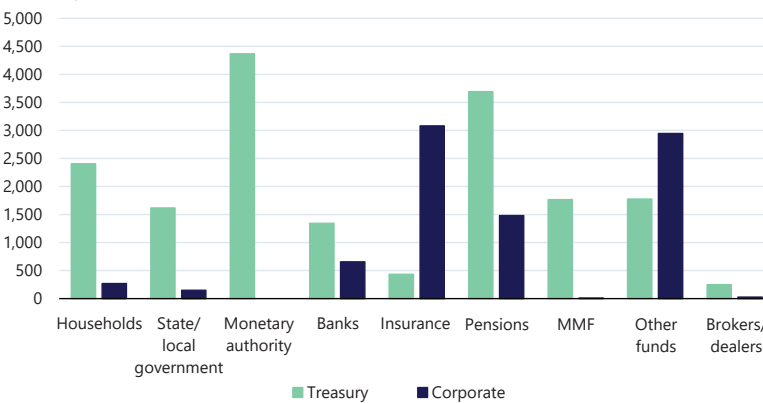
**A. U.S. Debt Shares Outstanding Net of Federal Reserve Holdings**

Percent of total debt



**B. Domestic Holders of Treasury and Corporate Debt as of 2023:Q3**

Billions of dollars



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Source: Federal Reserve Board.

Note: MBS = mortgage-backed securities. MMF = money market fund. Data are from the Federal Reserve's financial accounts. Only large categories of U.S. holders are shown. The "other funds" category includes mutual funds, closed-end funds and exchange-traded funds. Household category includes non-profit holdings. Corporate bond holdings include foreign bonds. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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Treasury debt has constituted the largest portion of U.S.-issued debt since overtaking corporate debt in 2011, as illustrated in figure 2-33, panel A. Pension funds, other investment funds, and insurers are among the top holders of the two largest debt categories: Treasury and corporate securities, as illustrated in figure 2-33, panel B. Depending on the structure of the fund, the possibility of losses or rapid investor redemptions could subject some of these entities to a quickly changing risk profile. Those with relatively short-maturity holdings, such as money market funds holding primarily Treasury bills, will be less exposed as the prices of longer-duration securities are more sensitive to changes in interest rates. Although banks are not the top holders of Treasury securities, concentrated holdings could still pose risks, especially for less-diversified financial institutions such as small and regional banks.

Higher real interest rates increase the risk of adverse events for leveraged entities, whether public or private. According to the most recent data filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, hedge funds' holdings of debt securities reached a historic high, constituting more than one-third of their total assets ([Federal Reserve 2023b](#)). Mark-to-market losses are not realized losses, but market volatility or an interruption of income could force asset liquidations at a loss that spirals into a credit event. The banking stresses of this past March served as a reminder of these risks—and the importance of vigilance in periods of transition.

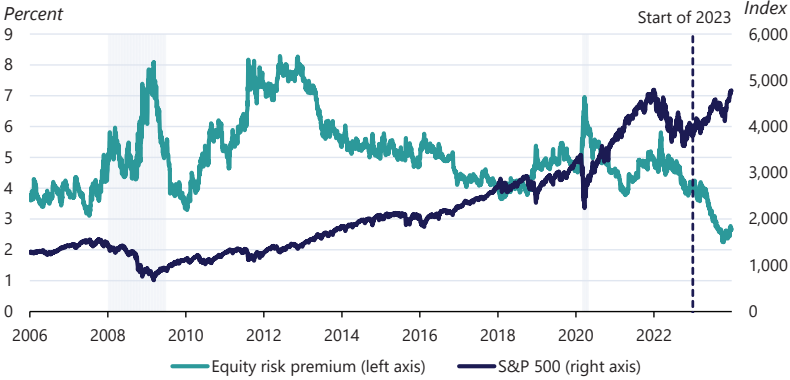
Higher real rates also increase the risk of adverse movements in future stock prices, as share valuations adjust to higher competing real returns. When real risk-free rates are negative, investors can earn a positive real return only by investing in riskier assets than Treasury debt, such as stocks. Over the past 10 years, the average real risk-free rate has been about 0.3 percent, providing a low hurdle rate for equities. By the end of 2023, the real risk-free rate was above 1.5 percent (figure 2-34, panel B), substantially increasing the minimum real return that investors would require from riskier assets.

The Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 equity index rose about 25 percent in 2023 (figure 2-34, panel A), and the average price-to-earnings ratio per share for S&P 500 companies rose slightly more. Price gains were therefore attributable to higher share valuations rather than improved earnings, on average. The inverse of the price-to-earnings ratio, the earnings-to-price ratio, is a common proxy for the expected equity return. The intuition is that earnings will either be paid out to the investor in dividends or will be reinvested to boost future growth ([Campbell and Shiller 2001](#)). The return that remains after subtracting the real risk-free rate is called the equity risk premium. The average equity risk premium for the S&P 500 index, using the 10-year TIPS yield as a proxy for the real rate, ended the year at about 2.65 percent, far below its 10-year average, much of which was attributable to the



**Figure 2-34. Equity Risk Premium**

**A. Equity Risk Premium and the S&P 500 Index**



**B. Equity Risk Premium and 10-Year TIPS Yield**



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Source: Bloomberg.

Note: S&P = Standard & Poor's; TIPS = Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities. Equity risk premium is a measure of the average equity yield minus the real risk-free rate. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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sharp rise in the real rate, as shown in figure 2-34, panel B. The figure also illustrates how, in 2023, the estimated equity risk premium fell below its level from just before the 2008 financial crisis. A sharp correction in equity valuation, implying a higher earnings-to-price ratio, could dent consumption and potentially destabilize markets. However, a more modest and gradual decrease could bring the equity risk premium back in line with historic values relatively seamlessly.

Higher rates naturally raise the Treasury's debt-servicing costs for new issuances, regardless of the component in yields that is responsible for the increase. However, the implications of higher rates for future debt and GDP, which can make higher debt-servicing costs more or less sustainable, depends on the primary drivers of rising rates. For example, an expected rise in the neutral real rate—perhaps prompted by faster trend productivity

growth—could reflect factors that would also boost GDP, and thus potentially moderate the debt-to-GDP ratio, all else remaining equal. However, a higher term premium—which weighs on investments without any expected offsetting productivity gain—is an unambiguous net drag on economic activity.

## The Forecast for the Years Ahead

The Biden-Harris Administration finalized the latest version of its official economic forecast on November 9, 2023, with data available through November 3. The forecast provides the Administration’s projections of key economic variables over the next 11 years, from 2024 to 2034, as illustrated in table 2-2. Because more 2023 data have become available during the interval between when this forecast was finalized and the publication of this *Report*, the official forecast discussed in this chapter may differ from current estimates for 2023. Indeed, since the forecast was finalized, inflation has fallen slightly more than expected and interest rates have declined, while employment and economic activity have remained robust—suggesting that, if the forecast were finalized today, it would likely show lower interest rates, with continued progress on inflation, growth, and employment. This overall forecast is a critical input to the President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget,

**Table 2-2. Economic Projections, 2022–34**

Year	Percent Change (Q4-to-Q4)			Level (percent)			
	Real GDP	Inflation Measures		Unemployment Rate		Interest Rates	
		GDP Price Index	CPI	Annual	Q4	3-Month T-Bills	10-Year T-Notes
Actual							
2022	0.7	6.4	7.1	3.6	3.6	2.0	3.0
2023	3.1	2.6	3.2	3.6	3.8	5.1	4.0
Forecast							
2023	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.8	5.1	4.1
2024	1.3	2.3	2.5	4.0	4.1	5.1	4.4
2025	2.0	2.1	2.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
2026	2.0	2.1	2.3	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.9
2027	2.0	2.1	2.3	3.9	3.8	3.1	3.8
2028	2.0	2.1	2.3	3.8	3.8	2.9	3.8
2029	2.1	2.1	2.3	3.8	3.8	2.8	3.7
2030	2.2	2.1	2.3	3.8	3.8	2.8	3.7
2031	2.2	2.1	2.3	3.8	3.8	2.7	3.7
2032	2.2	2.1	2.3	3.8	3.8	2.7	3.7
2033	2.2	2.1	2.3	3.8	3.8	2.7	3.7
2034	2.2	2.1	2.3	3.8	3.8	2.7	3.7

**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Department of the Treasury; Office of Management and Budget; CEA calculations.

Note: The forecast is based on data available as of November 3, 2023; actual data for 2023 arrived later. The interest rate on 3-month (91-day) Treasury bills is measured on a secondary-market discount basis.

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informing many Federal agencies' budget projections and forecasted tax revenues.

All economic forecasts are subject to considerable uncertainties that affect the range of potential outcomes. As the forecast was finalized, prominent sources of uncertainty included supply chain disruptions, progress on disinflation, rising interest rates, and geopolitical issues that risked spillover effects on the global trade of essential commodities. In a change from recent years' forecasts, the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer expected to be a major impediment to economic growth. Vaccinations, increasing immunity, and new treatments have combined to stabilize fatalities, which averaged 206 per day during 2023, down from daily averages of 1,255 and 670 during 2021 and 2022, respectively (CDC n.d.).

In the first full forecast year, 2024, real GDP is expected to grow at 1.3 percent, lower than the potential rate, as interest rates remain high and inflation recedes. Starting in 2025, the President's policies on infrastructure, care, human capital, and immigration reform are expected to increase the growth rate of both potential and actual GDP. During the budget window's final five years, beginning in 2030, the forecast accounts for the decreasing downward pull on the labor force participation rate stemming from the baby boom generation's retirements. Because of the boost from the President's policies, together with the diminishing downward demographic pull, potential GDP growth is expected to be stronger relative to the period 2006–23.

The inverse relationship between the change in the unemployment rate and the growth rate is known as Okun's Law.<sup>21</sup> Figure 2-35 shows the four-quarter change in the unemployment rate against the five-quarter change in real output. This relationship accounts for 83 percent of the variance in the unemployment rate from 2006 through 2022.<sup>22</sup> The rate of real potential output growth is estimated as the rate of real GDP growth consistent with a stable unemployment rate—represented where the regression line crosses the x axis, at 1.73 percent, with a standard deviation of  $\pm 0.2$  percentage point.

The consensus view of potential real GDP growth during the next 11 years is similar to this backward-looking, Okun's Law–based estimate (figure 2-35). Expected year over year growth averages 1.8 percent in the Blue Chip panel's latest survey of private professional forecasters' long-term expectations in October 2023. The Administration's forecasted pace for

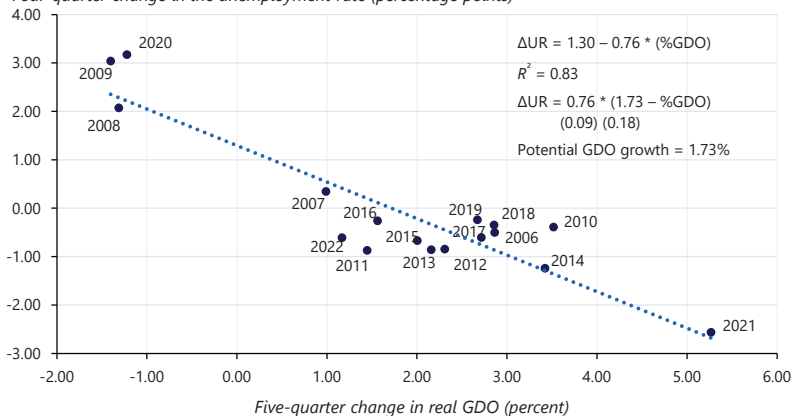
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<sup>21</sup> Former CEA Chairman Arthur Okun proposed what came to be known as Okun's Law in 1962 (Okun 1962). When GDP grows faster than its potential rate, the unemployment rate falls, and when real output grows more slowly than its potential rate, the unemployment rate rises. In its simple first-difference specification, Okun's Law takes the form  $\Delta UR = \beta(y^* - y)$ , where  $\Delta UR$  is the change in the unemployment rate, and  $y^*$  and  $y$  are the rates of potential real GDP growth and of actual real GDP growth, respectively.  $\beta$  and  $y^*$  are estimated coefficients, where  $\beta$  should be between 0 and 1, and  $y^*$  is the estimated rate of potential real GDP growth.

<sup>22</sup> Complete data for 2023 were not available when this *Report* went to press.

**Figure 2-35. Estimation of Potential Output Growth by Okun's Law, 2006–22**

*Four-quarter change in the unemployment rate (percentage points)*



Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: GDP = gross domestic product; GDI = gross domestic income; GDO = gross domestic output. GDO is the average of GDP and GDI. The x axis plots five-quarter average growth of GDO through Q4 of each year, with Q4 of year  $t$  and Q4 of year  $t-1$  each receiving 1/8 weights while Q1, Q2, and Q3 receive 1/4 weights.

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long-term real GDP growth exceeds the consensus pace, largely because, as is common practice in Administration forecasts, it anticipates the effects of growth-inducing policies in the budget that have not yet been enacted, and possibly because the Blue Chip forecast does not anticipate the diminishing downward pull of baby boomers' retirements.

### *The Near Term*

The Biden-Harris Administration expects lower-than-potential output in 2024, reflecting ongoing fiscal consolidation and the legacy of tight monetary policy. Real GDP growth during the four quarters of 2024 is expected to be 1.3 percent, slightly slower than the 1.7 percent potential estimate extrapolated from Okun's Law, and the unemployment rate is expected to edge up to 4.1 percent by Q4. Compared with the October 2023 Blue Chip consensus forecast (the latest available when the Administration finalized its forecast) of 0.9 percent real GDP growth, and a 4.3 percent consensus unemployment rate by the year end, the Administration's forecast was slightly optimistic. In comparison, however, with the February 2024 Blue Chip forecast, the latest as this *Report* goes to press, in which real GDP was revised up and the unemployment rate was revised down, the Administration's forecast is closer to the latest consensus.

CPI inflation is projected to fall further, from an expected 3.4 percent during the four quarters of 2023 to 2.5 percent during 2024. CPI inflation tends to run higher than PCE inflation; thus, a 2.5 percent CPI inflation rate is roughly consistent with a 2.2 percent PCE inflation rate. Inflation, as

measured by the price index for GDP, meanwhile, is expected to fall from a forecasted 3.0 percent rate during 2023 to 2.3 percent during 2024.

As inflation descends back to the target, the unemployment rate drifts up slightly, reaching a peak of 4.1 percent in 2024:Q4. The unemployment rate is then expected to edge lower, eventually falling—by 2027:Q4—to 3.8 percent, the rate that the Administration considers to be consistent with stable inflation in the long term.

Yields on 10-year Treasury notes rose about 1 percentage point from May 2023—when the previous (Mid-Session Review) Administration forecast was finalized—to early November 2023, when the fall forecast was finalized—even though, as discussed above, long-term rates retraced much of that increase by the end of 2023. The Administration has therefore substantially increased its near-term (2024) forecast of two interest rates—those for the 91-day Treasury bill (T-bill) and for the 10-year Treasury note. These interest rates are expected to average 5.1 and 4.4 percent, respectively, in 2024, representing a decline from their October 2023 levels, a bit less of a decline than that projected by the Blue Chip consensus panel in October. The implicit forecast from the October futures market was similar to the Administration’s forecast of T-bill rates in 2024, but the futures market implicitly forecasted higher yields on 10-year Treasury notes. The Administration expects these interest rates to slowly decline over the first five forecast years, eventually plateauing at 2.7 percent for the T-bill and 3.7 percent for the 10-year Treasury note, rates that are slightly higher than the Blue Chip consensus of 2.6 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively, but are substantially lower than what was reflected in October 2023 values from market futures.

Although the Administration has substantially increased its forecast of output growth in 2023 relative to the Mid-Session Review, the effect on real GDP is partly offset by downward revisions to expected growth in 2024 and 2025. After adjusting for the September 2023 benchmark revision to the National Income and Product Accounts, the level of real GDP has been upwardly revised (relative to the Mid-Session Review) by about 1 percent from 2025 and thereafter.<sup>23</sup>

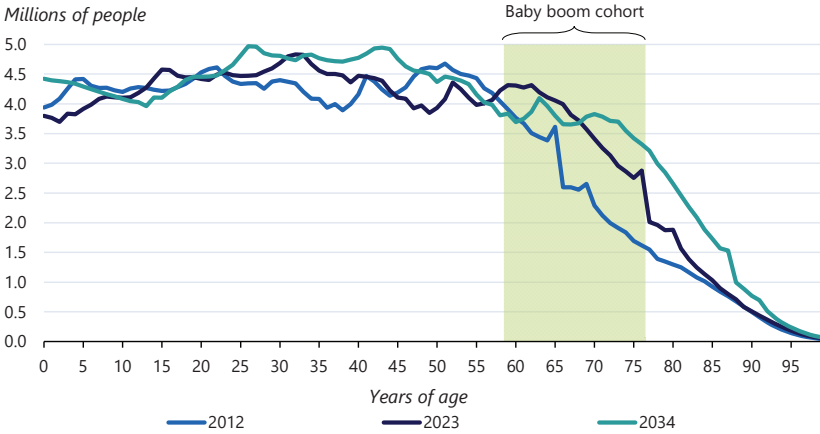
### *The Long Term*

In contrast to the near-term outlook, the Biden-Harris Administration’s long-term forecast for real GDP growth exceeds the Blue Chip consensus forecast by an average of 0.3 percentage point a year during the 10 years between 2025 and 2034. As is the common practice in the Administration’s forecasts, the forecast assumes that the President’s proposed economic

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<sup>23</sup> Because the benchmark adjustment to real GDP has affected levels and growth rates since 2012, the calculations here cumulate growth rates only since 2022:Q4.

**Figure 2-36. The Evolution of the U.S. Population’s Age Composition**



Council of Economic Advisers

Source: Social Security Administration.

Note: The U.S. Social Security population differs slightly from the U.S. civilian noninstitutional population.

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policies—including a range of programs to enhance human capital formation, provide childcare, and reform immigration policy—will be enacted, modestly boosting the average annual rate of potential real GDP growth during the period 2030–34.

Demographics affect the long-term forecast in several ways (figure 2-36). The Administration recognizes that the baby boom cohort’s retirements are likely to wane during the last seven years of the budget window (2028–34), easing the downward pressure on labor force participation. This pressure began in 2008, when the oldest baby boomers (those born in 1946) first reached the Social Security early retirement age of 62, and this downward pressure for continued declines in the participation rate will have been almost halved by 2028, when the youngest members of the cohort turn 66. During the past five years, this demographic force has lowered the growth of the labor force participation rate and potential real GDP growth by about 0.4 percentage point a year; but during the period 2029–34, the downward force is expected to lessen to only about 0.2 percentage point a year—an improvement of 0.2 percentage point (chapter 3 provides an in-depth analysis of these demographic trends).

The supply-side components of long-run growth are shown in table 2-3, over both history and forecast.<sup>24</sup> The civilian, noninstitutional population age 16 years and above is expected to grow by an average annual rate

<sup>24</sup> Because many components of these growth rates are erratic in the short run, table 2-3 documents historical growth rates for long intervals from business-cycle peak to business-cycle peak. The exception is column 5, the interval between the last business-cycle peak, for 2019:Q4 through 2023:Q3 (the last available quarter when this forecast was finalized).

**Table 2-3. Supply-Side Components of Actual and Potential Real Output Growth, 1953–2034**

Component	Growth Rate (percentage points)					
	1953:Q2 to 2019:Q4	1990:Q3 to 2001:Q1	2001:Q1 to 2007:Q4	2007:Q4 to 2019:Q4	2019:Q4 to 2023:Q3	2023:Q3 to 2034:Q4
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1 Civilian noninstitutional population, age 16+	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.7
2 Labor force participation rate	0.1	0.1	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
3 Employed share of the labor force	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
4 Average weekly hours (nonfarm business)	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	0.0
5 Output per hour (productivity, nonfarm business)	2.1	2.4	2.4	1.5	1.3	1.7
6 Output per worker differential: GDO vs. nonfarm	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.4	0.4	-0.2
7 Sum: Actual real GDO	3.0	3.5	2.4	1.8	1.8	2.0

**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget; CEA calculations.

Note: GDP = gross domestic product. Gross domestic output (GDO) is the average of GDP and gross domestic income. Real GDO and real nonfarm business output are measured as the average of income- and product-side measures. The output-per-worker differential (row 6) is the difference between output-per-worker growth in the economy as a whole (GDO divided by household employment), and output-per-worker growth in the nonfarm business sector. All contributions are in percentage points at an annual rate. The forecast jumps off from data available on November 3, 2023. The total may not add up due to rounding. The periods 1953:Q2, 1990:Q3, 2001:Q1, 2007:Q4, and 2019:Q4 are all quarterly business-cycle peaks. Population, labor force, and household employment have been adjusted for discontinuities in the population series.

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of 0.7 percent from 2023 to 2034, which is below the average 1.0 percent annual growth rate from 2007 to 2019.<sup>25</sup> Much of this expected growth is likely to result from immigration.<sup>26</sup>

The demographic factors weighing on the labor force participation rate’s continued decline will be largely offset over the projection period by the Administration’s human capital and childcare policy proposals. The workweek is, meanwhile, projected to stabilize after a long period of decline driven by the entry of women into the workforce and the declining share of manufacturing in total employment. These factors are less likely to dominate the path of the workweek than in past years.

The employed share of the labor force is projected to remain close to its current level, and therefore makes no net contribution over the forecast horizon. Productivity growth (measured as output per hour) is projected to grow at an average 1.7 percent a year over the 11-year forecast interval, somewhat more slowly than its 2.1 percent long-term average but faster than the 1.5 percent growth rate during the 2007–19 business cycle. Finally, the output per worker differential—the difference between the output per person for the economy as a whole and the output per person in the nonfarm business sector—is expected to be negative, which largely is a consequence of the national income accounting convention that productivity does not grow in the government or household sectors. Although the differential is therefore most often negative over long periods, it is projected here to be less negative in the projection period than over the other long periods given

<sup>25</sup> The civilian, noninstitutional population excludes individuals who are incarcerated or are living in mental health facilities or homes for seniors, or who are on active duty in the Armed Forces. Projected population growth rates are sourced from demographers at the Social Security Administration (2023a).

<sup>26</sup> See the forecast from the Office of the Social Security Actuary at the Social Security Administration (2023b).

in the table, because of the projected declining share of government in total output.

The real GDP forecast represents the sum of three primary layers: (1) a baseline projection, developed through an Okun's Law analysis; (2) an adjustment to this baseline to accommodate the labor force participation rate differing during the forecast interval from its behavior during the estimation interval; and (3) an increase to potential GDP growth to reflect the effects of the Administration's pro-growth policies. When the baseline projection of 1.7 percent potential growth, the 0.2-percentage-point adjustment due to the baby boom cohort's retirements slowing, and the 0.3-percentage-point increase attributable to pro-growth Administration policies are summed, this results in the Administration's projected 2.2 percent a year real GDP growth rate during the budget window's final five years.







## Chapter 3

# Population, Aging, and the Economy

Death rates in the United States have declined over the past century, leading Americans to live longer, healthier lives, on average, than ever before. Birthrates have declined, as well, though less steadily and with a short-lived increase in the mid-20th century.

Declining birthrates and death rates arose in the context of expansions in educational and labor market opportunities, progress toward gender equity, and technological advancements in medicine and public health. Today, they imply a slowing of U.S. population growth that is unprecedented in the country's history.

The impact of this and the other demographic trends that are the subject of this chapter will have important effects on our Nation and our economy. They form the backdrop for how the subjects of other chapters in this *Report*—such as the labor market, artificial intelligence, climate, and housing—will play out. How these changes affect Americans will depend on the Nation's institutions and policy environment. Some demographic trends call for immediate responses. Increases in drug overdose deaths and worsening maternal mortality are urgent issues that demand decisive action. Other demographic patterns—like the decline in U.S. fertility to historically low levels and the growth of seniors' share of the population—are important to understand to help the Nation anticipate, plan for, and manage the changes.

An aging population implies fiscal challenges for social safety net programs—like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security—as the working share of the population declines. Low fertility also implies that immigration policy will play an increasingly important role in shaping the growth and

composition of the U.S. population and labor force. Without positive net migration, the U.S. population is projected to begin shrinking by about 2040 (U.N. DESA 2022a; CBO 2024).

This chapter begins by describing fertility and mortality trends and their causes. Some trends, like the acute spike in deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, are short-lived. Others, like the trend toward smaller families and childlessness in American households, are likely to persist due to diffuse and slow-moving social, political, and economic changes. The persistent trends imply that the U.S. population will continue to age, and the chapter discusses what the aging U.S. population will mean for the U.S. labor force, consumer demand patterns, productivity, saving and borrowing, the care economy, and the fiscal future.

## **Declining Fertility in the 21st Century**

The United States has experienced a sharp decline in birthrates since 2009. This decline mirrors trends among other advanced economies in recent decades. A trend toward smaller families has been widespread among Americans, with U.S. women from varied backgrounds and demographic groups choosing to have fewer children and waiting until later in life to have them than at any other time in the country’s history (Aragão et al. 2023; Smock and Schwartz 2020). This section describes these trends and their economic causes in order to better anticipate whether these patterns are temporary or likely to persist over the coming decades. A key theme of this section is that the widespread, long-run declines in U.S. birthrates—and birthrates worldwide—are rooted in improvements in living standards, wages, and opportunities.

### ***U.S. Fertility Since the Global Financial Crisis***

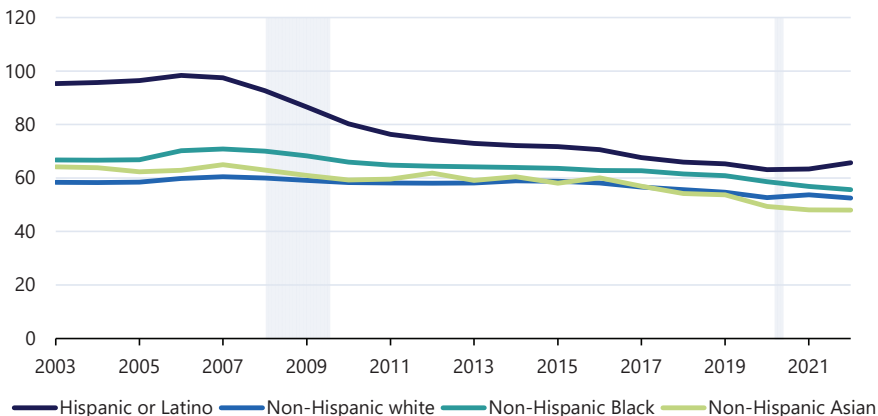
Declining U.S. fertility is not new, but rather the continuation of a long-run trend that accelerated after the global financial crisis (Bailey and Hershbein 2018).<sup>1</sup> An intuitive summary measure of fertility is the total fertility rate (TFR), which describes the number of children a woman would have if she followed the age-specific childbearing patterns in her country at a given point in time. For example, a TFR of 2.0 would indicate that over a lifetime,

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<sup>1</sup> “Fertility” in this chapter refers to measured birthrates. It is separate from the medical concept of “infertility.”

**Figure 3-1. Fertility Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2003–22**

Annual births per 1,000 women



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WONDER.

Note: Annual births per 1,000 women age 15–44 years in the given year. Race and Hispanic origin refer to the mother. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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a woman following the typical patterns of birth in her place and time would have two children. Any TFR below 2.0 is known as “subreplacement,” meaning that the population would eventually shrink in the absence of migration.<sup>2</sup>

The U.S. TFR fell from 2.12 in 2007 to 1.67 in 2022 (Hamilton, Martin, and Ventura 2009; Hamilton, Martin, and Osterman 2022). The decrease after the global financial crisis was driven more by a decline in the number of families with any children than by shrinking family sizes among those with some children (Kearney, Levine, and Pardue 2022). The pattern coincides with broad societal changes in marriage and childbearing norms (Parker and Minkin 2023).

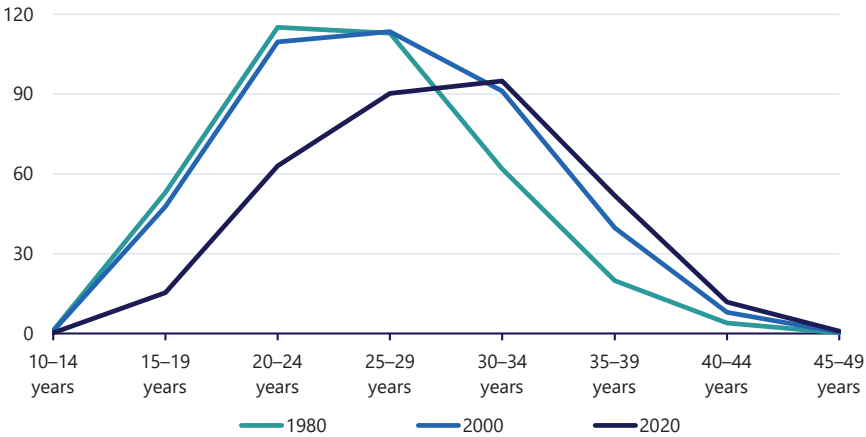
The decline in fertility has been across all groups defined by race, ethnicity, and nativity. However, before the global financial crisis, some demographic groups differed significantly in fertility rates. In 2007, fertility rates among Hispanic women were about 40 percent higher than those of Black, non-Hispanic women and about 60 percent higher than those of white, non-Hispanic women. By 2019, the rates had largely converged (see figure 3-1).

Figure 3-2 shows that women today are more likely to delay childbearing than their predecessors. The figure plots age-specific fertility rates (i.e.,

<sup>2</sup> “Replacement-level fertility” is slightly above 2.0 and varies across time and place. It accounts for naturally occurring sex ratio imbalances at birth and the fact that not all people will survive through their childbearing years. In all places and times, fertility below 2.0 is subreplacement.

**Figure 3-2. Age-Specific Fertility Rates Over Time**

*Annual births per 1,000 women*



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Source: National Center for Health Statistics.

Note: National births per 1,000 women for each age group. In the periods plotted, all States are represented.

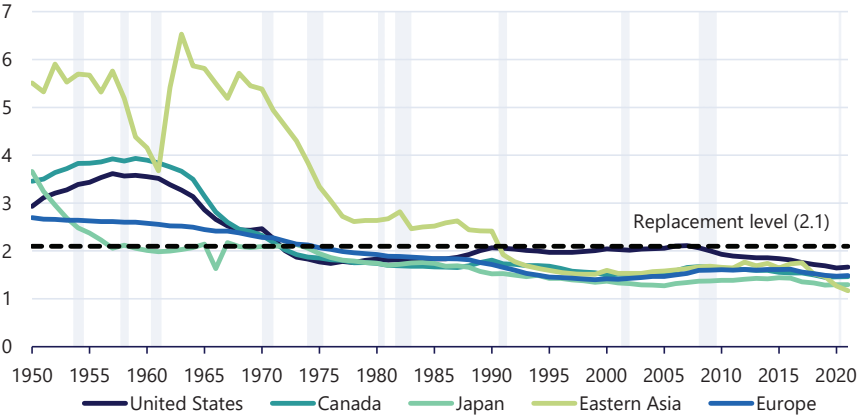
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annual births per thousand women observed in each age group), indicating how the childbearing age profile has shifted rightward over the past several decades. As recently as 2006–11, age-specific fertility was highest in the 25–29 age group (Erbabian, Osorio, and Paulson 2022). As of the latest data from 2022, the rates are highest among women age 30–34. Overall, figure 3-2 implies both fewer births and an older average maternal age when giving birth in 2020, relative to past decades.

Figure 3-2 shows that fertility among women in their late 30s and 40s has been climbing for the past four decades. With improved access to contraception and the growth of assisted reproductive technology (ART)—a blanket term referring to medical procedures designed to help achieve a pregnancy (CDC 2019a)—more women are having children at later ages. The growth of and access to ART help women and families achieve their desired number of children, including later in life. In 2020, more than 74,000 (2 percent) of the roughly 3.6 million infants born in the United States were conceived with ART (CDC 2022). The number of healthy women who froze their eggs, an approach to delaying childbearing, rose from roughly 7,000 in 2016 to about 12,000 in 2020, a more than 70 percent increase (Kolata 2022). Based on growing ART use in other advanced economies (Chambers et al. 2021; Lazzari, Gray, and Chambers 2021), this technology is likely to play an increasingly important role in the United States, enabling some women to achieve their desired families at older ages and helping some

**Figure 3-3. Total Fertility Rate in the United States and Other High-Income Countries and Regions, 1950–2021**

*Annual live births per woman*



Council of Economic Advisers

Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects 2022*.

Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.

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young women delay childbearing with greater assurance of eventual successful pregnancies.

### *Low Fertility: A Global Trend*

Though the recent downturn in birthrates since the global financial crisis has attracted significant attention, U.S. fertility has declined over a much longer span. Figure 3-3 plots TFR for the United States, Canada, Japan, Eastern Asia, and Europe. The figure shows that the rate has decreased in the United States, from roughly 3.6 in 1960, near the peak of the U.S. baby boom, to about 1.7 in 2021 (U.N. DESA 2022a).

The U.S. trend is in line with global fertility rate declines. In the mid-20th century, global TFR was 4.9. The global average has decreased to 2.3 children per woman in 2021 (U.N. DESA 2022a). Two-thirds of the global population is estimated to now live in a country with below-replacement fertility (Spears 2023), and the world population is projected to begin shrinking this century (Spears et al. 2023; U.N. DESA 2022a). The overall global fertility rate masks large variations across countries in both their current levels and transition paths, with the advanced European and East Asian economies displaying lower fertility than average.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The social, political, and economic implications of China’s low fertility have garnered significant attention, particularly in 2023, when its total population was surpassed by India’s (U.N. DESA 2023). But low fertility is a global phenomenon, and today even India’s fertility is below replacement level (Spears 2023).

The experiences of other advanced economies offer clues to the United States' potential demographic future. In Europe, TFR declined from 2.7 in 1950 to 1.5 in 2021 (U.N. DESA 2022a). Since late in the 20th century, some of the world's lowest fertility rates have been found in major Asian economies. China, South Korea, and Japan—countries with diverse economic, policy, and social environments—are all characterized by low fertility rates today. Japan, with a TFR of 1.3, has been below replacement level for decades, along with Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Thailand, and others.

Other countries' historical experiences are evidence that low fertility rates do not automatically rebound. The average fertility rate in Europe slowly declined in the second half of the 20th century. More recent trends suggest that the United States is also converging toward the general pattern of subreplacement fertility typical in high-income countries. Although 2021 U.S. fertility rates remained above those of European and East Asian countries, the global demographic trend suggests that U.S. rates may continue to decline in coming decades (PWI 2023).

### *Opportunity Cost*

Decisions over whether and when to be a parent and what type of family to build are deeply personal and complex. Among adults without children who reported that they probably will not ever have children, survey evidence from Pew reveals diverse, multilayered explanations for not wanting children, some based on difficulties or constraints. Respondents listed financial reasons, medical reasons, concerns over the state of the world, and concerns over climate change (Brown 2021). (See box 3-1 for a discussion of how slowing U.S. population growth relates to current climate challenges.) Respondents who were already parents offered similar reasons, along with age, for not wanting more children. Yet the most common answer given in both groups was that these adults simply did not *want* to have children (or to have more children).

Economic analysis, even if it cannot capture the full texture of these decisions, can be helpful in understanding some of the underlying forces driving fertility trends. Decisions about having children are, after all, in part economic. Research suggests that birthrates are mostly pro-cyclical, rising in economic expansions and declining during downturns. But temporary economic conditions like recessions primarily affect *when* women have children, rather than how many they have over their lifetime or *if* they have them at all (Sobotka, Skirbekk, and Philipov 2011). Similarly, although media and popular sources suggest that children's direct costs explain falling birthrates (e.g., Picchi 2022; Hill 2021), researchers have found that rising costs for housing and childcare, while certainly having an impact on

### Box 3-1. Climate and Population Growth

The past century has been a period of rapid growth in productivity, living standards, and population size in the United States and globally. It has also been a period of unprecedented increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from fossil fuel combustion, agriculture, and land use changes. The economics of reducing greenhouse gas emissions are more fully discussed in chapter 6 of this *Report*. This box focuses narrowly on how policy can decouple population size from environmental harm and explains why slowing population growth is no reason to relent on policy efforts aimed at reducing GHG emissions and climate harms.

The elasticity of emissions with respect to population size (i.e., how much emissions increase for each additional person) has never been constant, in part because it interacts critically with environmental policies, which are continuously changing the relationship between population size, prosperity, and environmental harm. For example, the Montreal Protocol, which was joined by the United States and 45 other countries in 1987, has dramatically reduced U.S. chlorofluorocarbon emissions that had been depleting the protective stratospheric ozone layer (EPA 2007). Similarly, the U.S. Acid Rain Program—a part of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act—reduced U.S. sulfur dioxide emissions by 94 percent from 1990 to 2021. As of 2022, the emissions, which had contributed to air pollution and acid rain, were at their lowest point ever (EPA 2022). These successes demonstrate that when the United States and other governments choose to confront environmental challenges, a choice the Biden-Harris Administration has explicitly made, policy can significantly reduce linkages between population and environmental degradation.

The slowing and eventual reversal of global population growth that analysts forecast (Spears 2023) does not relieve the United States of the urgent need for environmental policy actions. While slowing population growth implies decreased emissions relative to a higher-fertility counterfactual, the demographic change is not large enough in magnitude to substitute for decisive policy action on GHGs (Kuruc et al. 2023).

Because of policy action today, led by the Biden-Harris Administration, the emissions elasticity with respect to population will continue to shrink in coming decades. The Inflation Reduction Act, which was signed into law by President Biden in 2022, is the most ambitious investment in combating the climate crisis to date. Together with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 and other enacted policies, it will help to lower U.S. GHG emissions to an estimated 40 percent below their 2005 level by 2030 (DOE 2022). These and other climate-focused Administration initiatives will fundamentally alter how Americans and U.S. economic activity affect the environment. A child born today is expected to live through 2100. The carbon footprint of that lifetime will be influenced by energy, transportation, agriculture, and land-use policy choices made now.



families, cannot account for the decline in fertility rates in the United States (Kearney, Levine, and Pardue 2022).

Researchers have long sought to understand the economic determinants of fertility. Canonical work by Gary Becker (1960) understood individuals' or families' demand for children as weighing the personal satisfaction that children bring parents against the time and monetary opportunity costs of parenting. Becker's insights remain relevant today, although the conceptual framework of opportunity costs is not sufficiently precise to make quantitative predictions about how particular changes in educational opportunities or wage rates will affect a country's TFR. Nonetheless, this understanding is consistent with birthrates falling over time in places where real income has risen relatively quickly (PWI 2023). Rising real income makes the cost of inputs like food and shelter more affordable in dollar terms (i.e., an income effect), while making parenting overall less affordable in terms of the opportunity cost of raising children (i.e., a substitution effect). The two effects push fertility decisions in opposite directions. Desired and realized family sizes declining over the last half century suggests that the substitution effect has dominated.

In the United States, young women's labor market expectations have been transformed dramatically over the last 50 years as part of a revolution in college and professional degree attainment, labor force participation, and the rising age of first marriage (Goldin 2004). In concert with these significant social and economic improvements, desires and decisions on childbearing have evolved. Women in their 20s and mid-30s are frequently in crucial career development periods, which drives up fertility's opportunity cost (Goldin and Mitchell 2017). Box 3-2 discusses the relationship between reproductive autonomy and female labor force participation, and box 3-3 discusses abortion access.

The expansion of opportunities over the past 50 years, including opportunities to combine and balance career and family, is a significant social and economic achievement. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to improving options for working parents. The Administration has repeatedly called on Congress to create and fund a national comprehensive paid family and medical leave program, which would support parents' bonding with a new child by easing the financial pressure to immediately return to work after a birth or adoption.

Enhancing access to high-quality, affordable childcare is another channel through which policymakers can support working parents and caregivers, particularly women (Herbst 2022; Morrissey 2017). The Biden-Harris Administration's efforts and investments in supporting childcare have been comprehensive. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Administration allocated a historic \$24 billion to the childcare industry through the American Rescue Plan. A previous analysis by the CEA documented that these

### **Box 3-2. Reproductive Autonomy and Labor Market Participation**

In 1968, only about 30 percent of women age 20 to 21 years said they expected to be working by age 35. By 1975, this share approximately doubled, to about 65 percent (Goldin 2004). The ability to choose whether and when to have a child is essential for women’s ability to fully participate in the market economy. It is thus no coincidence that the period of rapidly increasing female labor force participation a half century ago corresponds to a period of rapidly improving reproductive health care options, especially hormonal birth control and the constitutional right to choose under *Roe v. Wade*.

A large body of research finds access to reproductive health care has benefits reaching into the labor market and beyond. These include reduced teenage pregnancies, delayed marriage, and improved educational attainment (Goldin and Katz 2002; Bailey 2006; Guldi 2008; Hock 2007; Bailey, Hershbein, and Miller 2012; Boonstra 2014; Myers 2017).

The Biden-Harris Administration believes reproductive rights are critical to maintaining the social, political, and economic progress of the past decades. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), by requiring most plans to cover contraception with no patient cost sharing, significantly advanced access to contraception (HHS 2022). The Administration has built on the ACA’s foundation, including by introducing enhanced subsidies for purchasing marketplace coverage in the Inflation Reduction Act and strengthening the contraception coverage provisions of the ACA (White House 2023f).

### **Box 3-3. Abortion Access and Fertility After *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization***

Access to reproductive health care is critical for women’s health and has the potential to affect demographic change. In its 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, which in 1973 had recognized a constitutional right to choose. The *Dobbs* decision enabled States to enact new restrictions on abortion and newly enforce existing restrictions, including outright bans (Nash and Guarnieri 2022). Other States passed legislation to protect and advance access to reproductive health care, and voters in several States have voted in defense of reproductive rights through ballot initiatives.

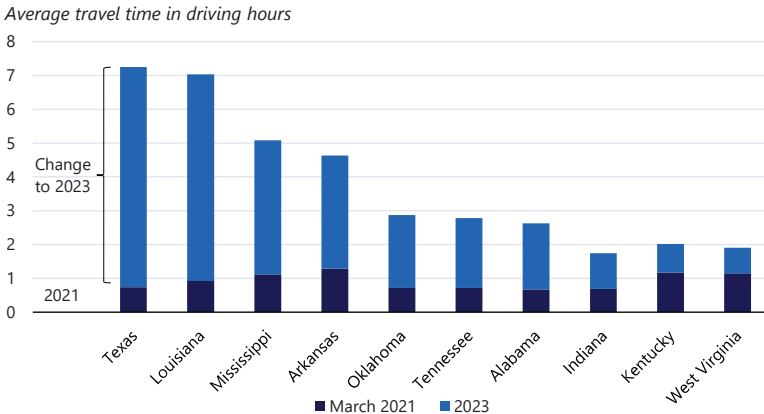
More than one in three women of reproductive age (15–44) live in a State with an abortion ban (Shepard, Roubein, and Kitchener

2022; Myers et al. 2023). Although these laws vary by State, millions of women currently live in a State with a total ban; other States may allow access to abortion in very limited circumstances, such as when a woman’s health is at risk or when the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. In these and other States with abortion restrictions, health clinics that provide contraception and other essential health services have shuttered, eliminating critical points of care, including for other forms of reproductive health care (McCann and Walker 2023; Nash and Guarnieri 2022). State bans are also influencing medical professionals’ geographic decisions over residency and practice plans (Edwards 2023; Woodcock et al. 2023), adding to the potential for shortages in the obstetrics and gynecology workforce in these States.

Because State abortion bans have eliminated or severely restricted access to abortion in many States, many women have been forced to travel across State lines to get the care they need. Figure 3-i shows the average travel time faced by women seeking abortion care from certain restrictive States, based on data from Myers and others (2023). The figure compares access from March 2022, which was before the *Dobbs* decision was issued, to September 2023. Because a large contiguous block of southern States has abortion bans in effect, travel times to the nearest provider have more than tripled in several southern States (this figure does not account for any potential international travel).

Appreciating the historic linkage between access to reproductive health care and economic opportunities, family formation, and fertility patterns since the 1970s (Myers 2017; Goldin and Katz 2002), it is

**Figure 3-i. Changes in Travel Time to Nearest Provider, 2021–23**



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Sources: Abortion Access Dashboard; CEA calculations.

Note: Driving times have been weighted by the reproductive-age female population. This figure does not account for potential international travel.

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important to understand what effects the *Dobbs* decision could have on these outcomes. Research has shown that when women are denied an abortion, that denial has serious consequences for their well-being and results in adverse financial circumstances and family outcomes (Foster et al. 2018; Foster 2021; Miller, Wherry, and Foster 2023). For women who have been able to access abortion care since *Dobbs*, there may have been added economic, social, and personal costs due to longer travel, stress, delay, expense, and time away from work (Lindo and Pineda-Torres 2020). Finally, abortion restrictions also pose significant risks for maternal health, including the health of women who experience miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies, or other pregnancy complications and may be denied or receive delayed care—ultimately threatening their health and lives (Howard and Sneed 2023; Sellers and Nirappil 2022).

To address the devastating consequences that the *Dobbs* decision has had on women across the country, the President has called on Congress to pass a Federal law restoring the protections of *Roe v. Wade* (White House 2022c). In the meantime, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken executive action to protect access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care. In the wake of *Dobbs*, the President issued two Executive Orders and a Presidential Memorandum directing a comprehensive slate of actions to protect access to reproductive health care services, including access to emergency medical care and medication abortion. In June 2023, the President issued a third Executive Order to strengthen access to high-quality, affordable contraception, a critical aspect of reproductive health care (White House 2023g). The Administration remains fully committed to implementing these directives and defending reproductive rights.

While the effects of the *Dobbs* decision on the health and well-being of women are clear, the loss of abortion access resulting from the decision may ultimately have only a small effect on birthrates. The Congressional Budget Office estimates a roughly 1 percent increase in birthrates annually as a result of the new legal landscape (CBO 2023a). The relatively small impact on aggregate birthrates is in part due to anticipated changes in patterns of sexual behavior, contraception use, and how people access abortion care. Early research analyzing the effects of the *Dobbs* decision suggests that roughly three-fourths to four-fifths of people seeking abortions in the first half of 2023 were able to obtain them, despite bans (Dench, Pineda-Torres, and Myers 2023). In the aggregate, early data suggest that U.S. abortions were above pre-*Dobbs* levels one year after the decision (WeCount 2023), despite the added hardships and barriers to care erected in States where abortions are banned.

funds stabilized employment for childcare workers, reduced out-of-pocket expenses for families paying for care, and helped hundreds of thousands of mothers enter the workforce or return to work (CEA 2023a). In the President’s Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, he called for \$400 billion over 10 years to dramatically expand access to childcare for families with young children, while increasing childcare workers’ pay. Under the President’s plan, most families would pay no more than \$10 per day for childcare. In April 2023, the President also signed a historic Executive Order directing his Administration to expand access to affordable, high-quality care and provide increased support for care workers and family caregivers through existing Federal programs (White House 2023a).

## Mortality: Uneven Progress in the 21st Century

Mortality rates are critical determinants of the population’s age structure, and thus have an impact on aggregate economic outcomes. But more importantly, longevity is intrinsically valuable. To quote Cutler, Deaton, and Lleras-Muney (2006, 97): “The pleasures of life are worth nothing if one is not alive to experience them.”

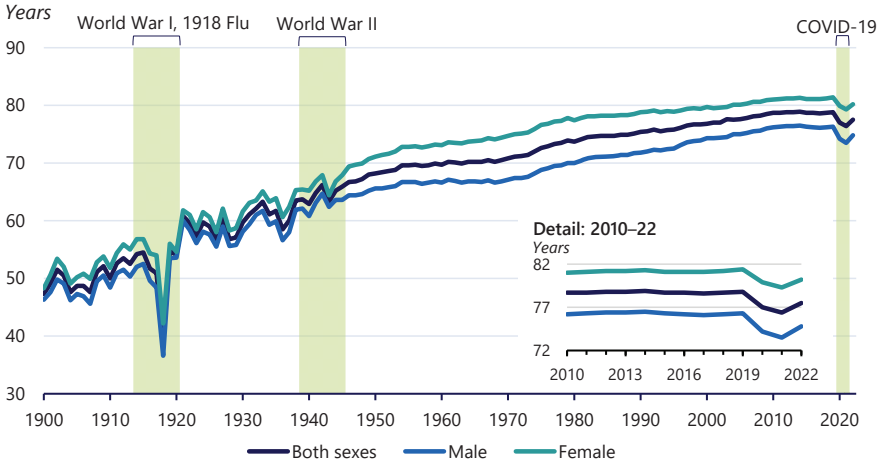
U.S. life expectancy has increased by nearly 30 years since the turn of the 20th century.<sup>4</sup> The escape from premature death to longer, healthier lives is an accomplishment built on improvements in knowledge, nutrition, sanitation, and public health infrastructure (e.g., childhood vaccinations), as well as advances in medical science targeting chronic disease (Deaton 2014). Senior Americans are living longer than in past decades, and infant or childhood death, which was commonplace in the United States a century ago, is now a rare tragedy. Figure 3-4 charts this progress.<sup>5</sup>

Although the long arc of progress is clear, longevity improvements have stalled in recent years. Over the decade before the COVID-19 pandemic, life expectancy was essentially flat, as shown in the figure 3-4 detail. The stall does not reflect an upper biological limit on longevity. Life expectancies in other advanced economies have continued to increase above the U.S. level (Schwandt et al. 2021; Heuveline 2023). The patterns of U.S. mortality over the past decade are nuanced. Young and middle-age U.S. adults have experienced mortality setbacks due to increases in deaths from external causes, including guns, vehicle accidents, and drug overdoses. Gun deaths among children have risen and are now the leading cause of death among children

<sup>4</sup> For a given population, life expectancy captures how long members of a hypothetical cohort would live on average if its members were exposed to the population’s mortality risks over their lifetimes.

<sup>5</sup> Figure 3-4 shows that the annual variability in life expectancy declined after the 1940s. Reductions in parasitic and infectious diseases, the introduction of commercially available penicillin, and the distribution of the first civilian flu vaccines in the United States were all likely contributors. But a change in how life expectancy data were calculated beginning in 1948 is responsible for some of the declining variance and renders pre and post comparisons difficult (Smith and Bradshaw 2006).

**Figure 3-4. Life Expectancy at Birth, 1900–2022**



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Source: National Center for Health Statistics.

Note: The data for 2022 are provisional.

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and teenagers 1 to 19 years of age (CDC 2023a). Meanwhile, seniors and infants have experienced continuing, gradual mortality improvements. The net effect of these forces, among others, was essentially unchanged male and female life expectancy for several years before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

U.S. mortality trends are driven by three broad cause-of-death categories: infectious disease, external causes, and chronic illness.<sup>6</sup> All three categories are amenable to public interventions that can help improve longevity, though each requires different policy responses.

### *Infectious Disease: The Importance of Vaccinations*

For much of the past century, deaths from infectious disease have declined. Influenza and pneumonia deaths per capita have decreased nearly 80 percent since 1950. Infant and child mortality rates from infectious disease have been especially responsive to public policy, driven down by childhood vaccinations and other public health infrastructure improvements, including in sanitation, water filtration and chlorination, and public education on infant care and hygiene (Cutler and Miller 2005; Cutler, Deaton, and Lleras-Muney 2006; Bhatia, Krieger, and Subramanian 2019). (See box 3-4.)

COVID-19 caused a major setback in infectious disease mortality. Total U.S. deaths increased by 19 percent from 2019 to 2020 when the

<sup>6</sup> External causes of death, per the definition from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), include unintentional injury, poisoning (including overdose), and complications of medical or surgical care (CDC 2019b).

pandemic began, causing life expectancy to fall abruptly (Sabo and Johnson 2022). Life expectancy fell for a second year, from 77.0 in 2020 to 76.4 in 2021, before rebounding to 77.5 in 2022 (Xu et al. 2022; Arias et al. 2023).

The United States' experience in responding to COVID-19 illustrates the role policy and public health authorities play in controlling infectious disease. Upon taking office, the Biden-Harris Administration immediately accelerated and improved vaccine distribution planning, resulting in the largest adult vaccination program in U.S. history and leading to 270 million individuals receiving a COVID-19 vaccine by May 2023. Federal efforts also helped distribute 750 million free COVID-19 tests by shipping them directly to 80 million households (HHS 2023a).

After the Biden-Harris Administration's successful vaccine and booster rollout, COVID-19 deaths slowed dramatically. Today, the public health emergency seems to be exiting its acute phase. COVID-19 hospitalizations were down 91 percent from January 2021 to May 2023, and deaths were down 95 percent over the same period (HHS 2023a). At the pandemic's peak, weekly COVID-19-related deaths reached almost 26,000. As of September 2023, this number was about 1,400 (CDC 2023b).

Progress has also continued against other sources of infectious disease mortality. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a highly contagious virus that causes illness and up to 10,000 deaths annually in the United States, primarily among infants and seniors (CDC 2023c). In May 2023, the Food and Drug Administration approved the world's first RSV vaccine. It approved a second vaccine later the same month. These advances promise continued mortality reductions for infants and senior citizens, including by protecting infants with vaccines administered to mothers during the in-utero period (Fleming-Dutra et al. 2023).

Unfortunately, vaccination, one of the most potent tools available to combat infectious disease, has become politically polarized and surrounded by misinformation. Vaccine skepticism is also a headwind to continued improvement in infant and child well-being. Although 88 percent of Americans maintain confidence in the net benefits of child vaccinations for measles, mumps, and rubella (Funk et al. 2023), there are worrying signs. In a poll assessing support for mandatory measles, mumps, and rubella vaccinations among schoolchildren, the trend was essentially flat at high levels in recent years for Democratic and Democratic-leaning respondents but down from 79 to 57 percent between October 2019 and March 2023 for Republican and Republican-leaning respondents (Funk et al. 2023).

Continuing long-run improvements in the health of American families will require maintaining public health priorities like the Biden-Harris Administration's emphasis on childhood and senior vaccinations. Today, the Administration continues ongoing, cross-agency efforts to combat misinformation, offering vaccine education and outreach efforts in rural

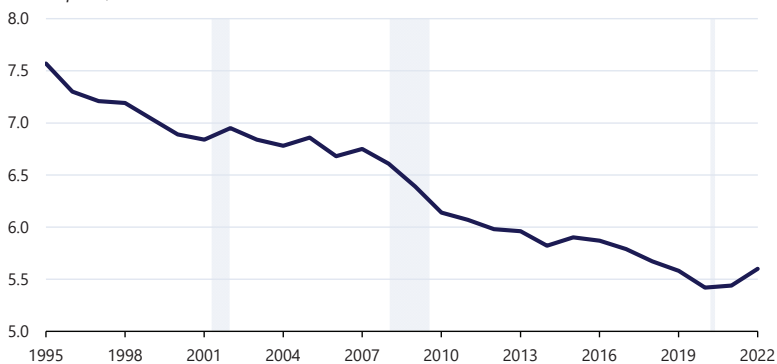
### Box 3-4. Infant and Maternal Mortality

The story of early life mortality in the United States is one of continual, if uneven, progress. Infant mortality—the number of deaths in the first 12 months of life occurring for every 1,000 live births—has declined since the late 19th century (Lee 2007). In the early 1900s, the infant mortality rate was 100 (CDC 1999), meaning that 1 out of 10 children died in their first year of life. By 2021, the most recent year for which complete data are available, the rate had declined nearly 95 percent, to 5.4 (Ely and Driscoll 2023). Broadening the scope to early child mortality beyond infancy reveals a similar pattern: At the turn of the 20th century, more than 20 percent of U.S. children did not live to age 5, while today the share is less than 1 percent (Gapminder 2022). Figure 3-ii charts infant mortality since the mid-1990s, showing that the 2022 rate was 19 percent lower than it was two decades earlier (Ely and Driscoll 2023).

U.S. infant mortality has demonstrated a steady decline over the past decades and, despite a rise from 5.44 to 5.60 between 2021 and 2022, remains near its historic low. It is still unclear what role the COVID-19 public health emergency has played in the recent uptick. Yet the United States lags behind other advanced economies on this metric (Bronstein, Wingate, and Brisendine 2018). The United States has the sixth-highest infant mortality rate among countries that belong to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD 2021). In 1999, before the COVID-19 pandemic’s health care disruptions and social upheavals, the U.S. infant mortality rate was 5.58 (Ely and Driscoll 2023). Other advanced economies had infant mortality rates

**Figure 3-ii. U.S. Infant Mortality Rate, 1995–2022**

*Deaths per 1,000 births*



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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Note: The death rate is deaths per 1,000 live births. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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that were substantially lower; for example, 1.9 in Japan and 3.7 in the United Kingdom (OECD 2021).

The United States performs similarly poorly in international comparisons of maternal mortality (i.e., deaths of pregnant and postpartum women for every 100,000 births). Maternal mortality accounted for about 1,200 U.S. deaths in 2021, compared with about 100,000 overdoses and 700,000 heart disease deaths during the same year. The rate nearly doubled from 2018 to 2021, going from roughly 17 to 33 deaths per 100,000 live births, though the contribution of COVID-19 to this trend is yet unclear (Hoyert and Miniño 2023). (Maternal mortality statistics from earlier years are not directly comparable due to a data coding change; see NVSR 2020. Previously reported increases in maternal mortality over the period 2002–18 were an artifact of new coding practices that were slowly diffusing across States, rather than reflective of an actual worsening of mortality in consistently applied calculations; see Joseph et al. 2021.)

What explains the relatively poor outcomes for babies and mothers in the United States? Researchers have noted that cross-country differences in birthweight and gestational age account for a significant share of the infant mortality gap (Chen, Oster, and Williams 2016). Because infant health indicators like birthweight are often indicative of mothers' well-being during gestation, the results point to the importance of maternal health.

Black women have alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality, two to three times the rate of white women, and have experienced the largest increase in the rate in the past several years (Hoyert and Miniño 2023). Poverty contributes to both infant and maternal mortality (Turner, Danesh, and Moran 2020; Kennedy-Moulton et al. 2023), but, critically, differences in infant and maternal health across racial and ethnic groups cannot be explained simply by differential poverty incidence. Elevated mortality among U.S. Black women and their infants is greater than can be accounted for by income (Kennedy-Moulton et al. 2023). Research suggests that a combination of higher likelihood of preexisting conditions, higher likelihood of adverse pregnancy outcomes, and racial bias/discrimination all contribute to higher Black maternal mortality (Lister et al. 2019).

Recognizing the importance of maternal health, and the gaps in our understanding of women's health more broadly, the Biden-Harris Administration released a blueprint for addressing maternal mortality and reducing these disparities in 2022 (White House 2022d).

Progress on maternal health and closing racial mortality gaps is possible. Black Americans experienced significant mortality improvements across age, sex, and cause-of-death categories during the two decades beginning in 1990, especially in low-income areas (Schwandt

et al. 2021). This progress shrank the Black/white mortality gap even as white mortality also improved. Improved access to health care is critical, and the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to improving maternal health and expanding insurance coverage. The American Rescue Plan, which was signed into law by President Biden, established a new State option to extend Medicaid coverage for low-income postpartum women from 60 days after childbirth to one year (White House 2021). As of December 2023, 41 States and D.C. have implemented the one-year postpartum coverage extension, and extensions are pending in several other States (KFF 2024).

communities (HHS 2021; White House 2022a). The Administration has also worked to reduce financial barriers to vaccines, including via the Inflation Reduction Act's provision to remove cost sharing among Medicare Part D and Medicaid beneficiaries for all adult vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### *External Causes: Setbacks in Midlife Mortality*

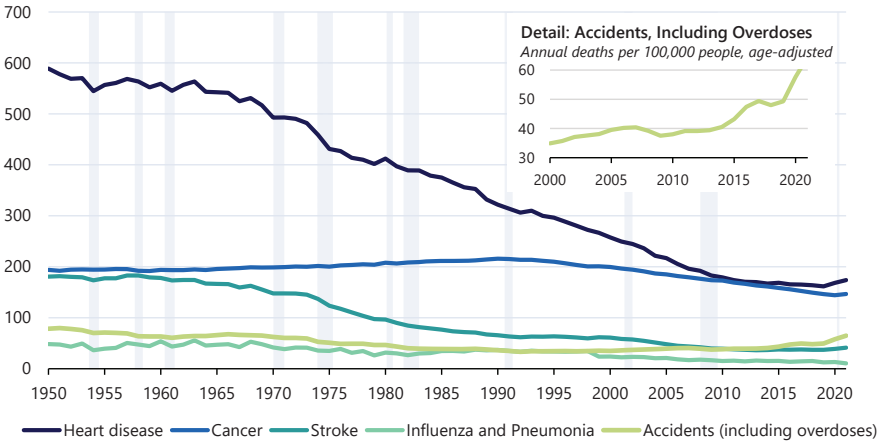
Whereas infectious disease disproportionately affects the very young and old, deaths from external causes disproportionately affect older children and middle-aged adults. This contrast highlights the difficulty in telling a simple, singular story of mortality trends in America. Today, rates of death from external causes—which include motor vehicle accidents, homicides, suicides, and drug overdoses—are rising for young and middle-aged people in the United States. Drug overdose deaths have risen in recent years to become the largest category within the external cause group (Lawrence et al. 2023; CDC WONDER n.d.). In 2021, drug overdoses were the leading cause of death for Americans between age 25 and 44 and the fourth leading cause for those between 45 and 64, after cancer, heart disease, and COVID-19 (CDC WONDER n.d.).

Figure 3-5 charts changes in mortality across all age groups due to accidents and overdoses, along with other leading causes of death. External causes, which have received significant attention due in part to pioneering work by Case and Deaton (2015), are the largest category of deaths among individuals between age 1 and 44. The rising trend in overdoses and accidental deaths apparent in figure 3-5 is a matter for serious public concern.

Research has found that the history of widespread legal opioid prescription is driving the present U.S. overdose epidemic (Cutler and Glaeser 2021). The increase in opioid deaths in the mid-1990s was linked to aggressive promotional targeting of OxyContin by pharmaceutical companies to

**Figure 3-5. Selected Leading Causes of Death, 1950–2021**

*Annual deaths per 100,000 people, age-adjusted*



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Sources: National Center for Health Statistics; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WONDER.

Note: Accidents refer to all "unintentional injuries," which include accidental overdoses. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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States with less prescription oversight and more prescribers than their peers (Alpert et al. 2022; Arteaga and Barone 2023). Researchers further found that competition for patients among health care professionals led to looser opioid prescriptions (Currie, Li, and Schnell 2023).<sup>7</sup>

Even as State and Federal policymakers began to recognize opioids' harm and address their overprescription and abuse, demand for opioids remained strong because of the group of people already suffering from addiction. The demand fueled an increased supply of prescription opioid substitutes—first heroine, and later fentanyl (Giltner et al. 2022; Alpert, Powell, and Pacula 2018). And the shift in supply to more dangerous illegal opioids accelerated fatal overdose rates (Lancet 2022).

The Biden-Harris Administration's National Drug Control Strategy makes saving lives the Administration's "North Star" (White House 2022b). Several medicines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are effective in treating opioid use disorder. Seeking and receiving treatment, including Medication Assisted Treatment, is associated with significantly improved outcomes (Mancher and Leshner 2019). Promoting widespread availability of treatment and helping individuals successfully navigate into treatment is a critical component of the Administration's strategy. Further, in March 2023, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first

<sup>7</sup> One paper finds that physicians with stricter prescribing standards become more careful about prescribing opioids when diversion—the possibility of misuse either by a patient or a different unintended user—is a risk (Schnell 2022). These findings suggest an important role of physicians with more lax prescribing standards.

over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray, which has been shown to be a critical tool for preventing fatal opioid overdoses (HHS 2023b). In August 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced \$450 million in new funding to tackle opioid-related overdose deaths (White House 2023b); more than \$80 million will help rural communities respond to overdose risks (HHS 2023c).

### *Chronic Disease: Progress Through Innovation and Health Care Access*

Chronic disease still claims the most American lives each year. While external causes of death matter most before age 45, most deaths occur after 45, when chronic disease dominates as the leading cause. Historically, progress against chronic disease has depended on advances in medical innovation and health insurance coverage that makes effective treatment accessible.

Heart disease deaths declined in the second half of the 20th century (see figure 3-5). Health behavior trends, particularly reductions in smoking, played an important role (Cutler, Glaeser, and Rosen 2009; CDC 2014; DeCicca and McLeod 2008; Evans, Farrelly, and Montgomery 1996). Innovation also led to new medicines to control hypertension and cholesterol and new treatments like stents and bypass surgeries. Longer lives from fewer heart disease deaths were initially accompanied by a slow rise in cancer deaths. Cancer death rates peaked in 1991, both as a consequence of smoking trends (ACS 2023) and because declines in heart disease allowed people to survive longer, exposing them to additional cancer risk (Honore and Lleras-Muney 2006). Since the 1990s, cancer deaths have declined. Still, the disease remains the second leading cause of death for people age 65 and above across all race and ethnicity groups and for both men and women.

Progress on chronic disease mortality has been positive, though slow and uneven, in the past decade. Overall mortality and life expectancy above age 65 improved from 2010 to 2019, before the COVID-19 public health emergency. Further progress is possible, and the Biden-Harris Administration has led several initiatives aimed at addressing chronic disease. President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative affirms the critical work of continuing progress against cancer, including expanding access to and technology for screenings, building on the successful human papillomavirus vaccine to prevent cancers before they start, and strategically allocating Federal funds. The Cancer Moonshot also expands the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's program to expedite patents for cancer treatment innovations (White House 2023c).

In November 2023, President Biden established the first-ever White House Initiative on Women's Health Research (White House 2023d) to address the consequences of the historic underfunding of research on women's health, especially for communities that have been historically

excluded from research, including women of color and women with disabilities (White House 2023e). The initiative will address midlife health and chronic conditions connected to aging, among other areas. Decades of research based on men has led to significant research gaps in women's health compared with men's, masking differences that can be critical for women's health outcomes—for example, because women and men experience different heart attack symptoms, traditional diagnostic tools geared toward men can lead to misdiagnoses for women (Mehta et al. 2016).

Medical treatment can only benefit those who receive it, which highlights the importance of health insurance coverage for progress on morbidity and mortality. There is now a large body of research evidence that health insurance expansions in general—and the specific health insurance expansions created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and supported by the Biden-Harris Administration—have improved health and saved lives. Earlier Medicaid expansions were found to reduce infant and child mortality (Currie and Gruber 1996; Goodman-Bacon 2018), and researchers have shown that the ACA's expansions of Medicaid and Marketplace coverage have reduced adult mortality (Goldin, Lurie, and McCubbin 2021; Miller, Johnson, and Wherry 2019). Further, a wider body of work has documented improvements, resulting from the ACA, in health care access and utilization; self-reported physical and mental health; chronic disease; and maternal and neonatal health (Guth, Garfield, and Rudowitz 2020; Soni, Wherry, and Simon 2020).

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring health care access through expanded insurance coverage. In early 2023, the share of individuals with no health insurance coverage fell to an all-time low of 7.7 percent (HHS 2023d). Today, Insurance Marketplace enrollment is at an all-time high, thanks in part to the Inflation Reduction Act's enhanced subsidies for purchasing coverage.

## **Aging and the Economy**

Birth, death, and net migration patterns determine a population's age structure. Today, the U.S. population is aging; the age profile of the population is shifting toward relatively fewer younger people and more seniors than in past decades. Aging societies present challenges, including in terms of funding social insurance systems, meeting seniors' social and infrastructure needs, and adapting to a reduced labor force as a share of the overall population.

The United States is not alone in facing these challenges. Societies around the world are aging because of low fertility rates (World Economic Forum 2022). During the rapid population growth characterizing most of the 20th century, most advanced economies' population age distributions

were bottom heavy, featuring a large share of young people and tapering at increasingly old ages. The demographic transition to low fertility and mortality implies that the United States now faces an age distribution more heavily tilted toward older ages. The result is an age “pillar,” rather than the “pyramid” of the past. Figure 3-6 shows the near-term aging challenge the United States faces. Whereas the over-65 population was 12 percent of the total in 2000, it is expected to account for 21 percent in 2040.

### *Confronting Sustained Low Fertility*

All forecasts contain uncertainty, which can compound for population projections extending several generations into the future.<sup>8</sup> Yet, over time frames of 10 to 20 years, population projections can be made relatively precisely.<sup>9</sup> Unforeseen social and economic changes may affect long-term desired family sizes and mortality rates, but the most likely near future for the United States is one of sustained low fertility and an aging population, similar to what is shown in figure 3-6.

Population forecasters do not anticipate a significant rebound in fertility rates, with the U.N. World Population Prospects’ medium projection estimating U.S. TFR holding at 1.71 by the end of the century (U.N. DESA 2022b), about equal to the 2022 rate. Similarly, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects no substantial rebound to above-replacement fertility. It projects that fertility rates through the middle of the century will level off at 1.7 (CBO 2024). The Census projects fertility to decline further, slowly converging to 1.52 over the next 100 years (Census 2023a). While the United Nations, CBO, and Census differ in the details of their assumptions and methodologies, they all imply a 2040 population pillar like the one shown in figure 3-6.

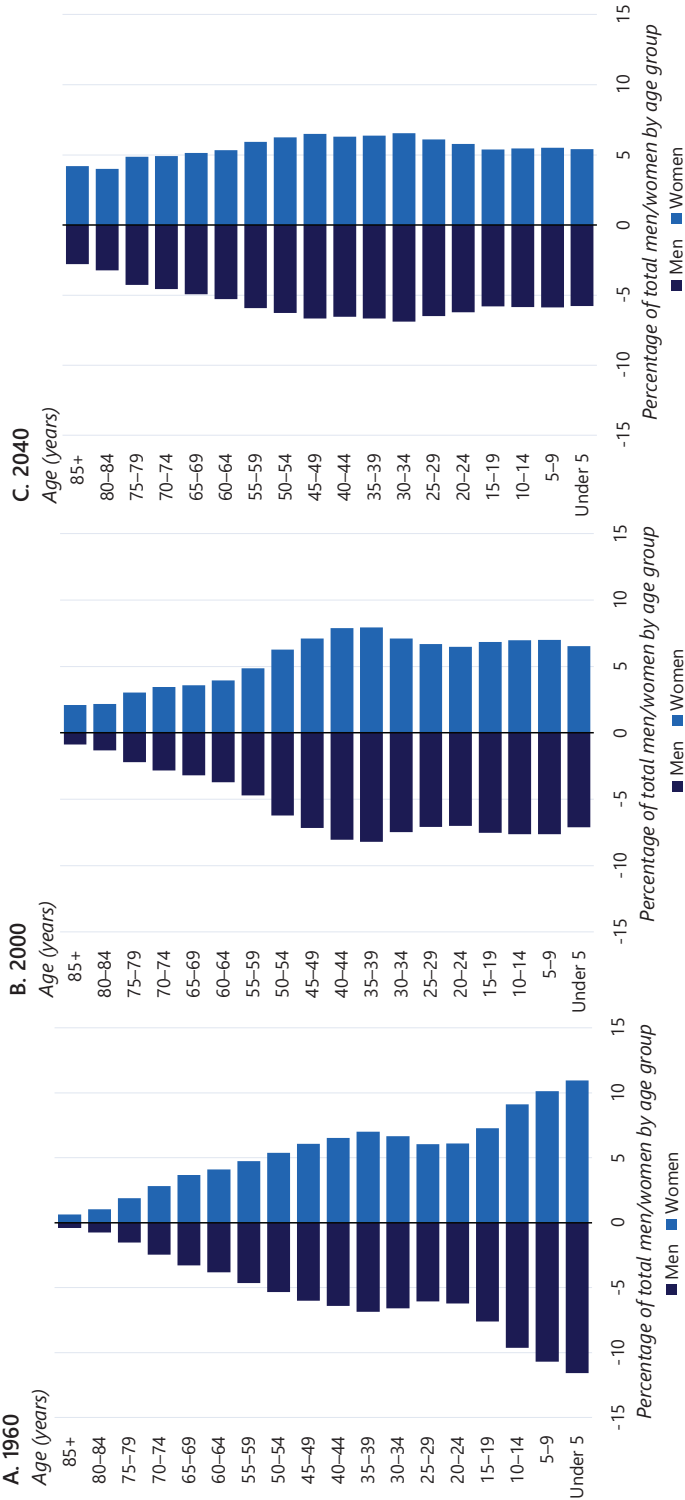
There are several convergent reasons to plan for the possibility of sustained low fertility embodied in these projections. First, the phenomenon of low fertility is partially rooted in social and economic progress, including improved educational and labor market opportunities. The direct costs and opportunity costs of childbearing and parenting are likely to persist. Second, the projections for the U.S. to remain below replacement are consistent with earlier fertility trends in Europe and East Asia. Finally, in recent years, U.S. fertility projections have tended to be revised downward, not upward, over

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<sup>8</sup> For example, technological breakthroughs in geriatric medicine could extend longevity beyond current projections and further invert the age pyramid.

<sup>9</sup> Over time frames of 10 to 20 years, the already-existing population tends to determine population forecast outcomes in predictable ways. For example, there is little room for error in projecting the number of people 50 years of age a decade from now, based on the population of those 40 today, given the already-low mortality rates in the relevant age interval. The U.N. population projections used in this chapter have been shown to be relatively precise (Ritchie 2023) over these forecasting time frames.

**Figure 3-6. U.S. Age Distributions for Men and Women**



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Sources: Census Bureau; Congressional Budget Office; CEA calculations.  
 Note: Data for 2040 are from long-term demographic projections.  
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time. For example, in 2012 the United Nations projected that long-run U.S. TFR would converge to 2.0, but updated this to 1.7 in 2022 ([U.N. DESA 2012, 2022a](#)). The CBO's 2019 demographic outlook placed long-run TFR at 1.9 but updated this to 1.7 in its 2024 outlook ([CBO 2019, 2024](#)). The Census's 2017 projection included a national convergence to a TFR of 2.0, but updated this to 1.5 in 2023 ([Census 2018, 2023a](#)). For these reasons, below-replacement fertility in the United States may persist, as it has in most of the world's advanced economies. Policy deliberations and decisions should be made with these dynamics in mind.

### *A Role for Immigration in Filling Workforce Gaps*

One immediate implication of the changing age distribution is a slowdown in U.S. labor force growth. The size of the labor force is consequential along a number of dimensions. Because labor force growth and productivity growth are components of the economy's capacity growth rate, a labor force that is growing more slowly implies slower overall growth.<sup>10</sup> The labor force also constitutes a large part of the tax base supporting U.S. entitlement programs. Between 2023 and 2052, the population age 25 to 54 is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 0.2 percent, well below its 1 percent growth between 1980 and 2021. This rate is also below the senior population's projected 1.2 percent growth between 2023 and 2052 ([CBO 2022](#)).

Historically, immigration has contributed to smaller occupational and geographic labor force gaps. The foreign-born population in the United States is responsive to local employment shocks and differential employment growth across labor markets ([Blau and Mackie 2017](#)), driven by immigrants' relatively high geographic mobility ([Basso and Peri 2020](#)). Since the COVID-19 pandemic, foreign-born workers have been critical across industries, particularly food services and agriculture ([CEA 2023b](#)). They also help fill essential positions that are often not filled by local workers due to skill mismatch, among other issues ([Hooper 2023](#)), and they facilitate labor market participation among high-skilled native U.S. women by starting new companies, creating new jobs, and lowering the price of market-provided household services ([Azoulay et al. 2022; Cortés 2023](#)).

Patterns of recent immigration and U.S. fertility have combined such that recent labor force growth has been—and anticipated future growth will be—substantially attributable to foreign-born workers. Between 2000 and 2017, 43 percent of U.S. labor force growth was attributable to immigrants ([Basso and Peri 2020](#)). Immigrants contribute to the U.S. labor force beyond the proportion of their total numbers because they are more likely to be of

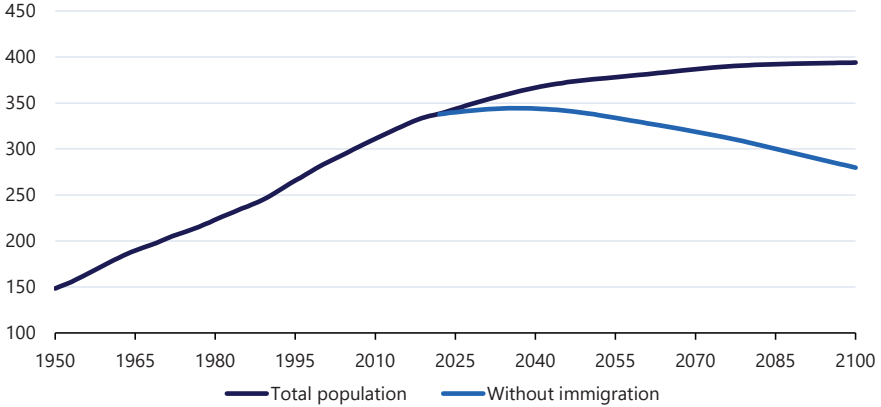
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<sup>10</sup> For a fixed productivity growth path, a slower-growing labor force implies lower per capita GDP growth if the labor force declines as a fraction of the population. In other words, what matters for GDP per capita is the number of workers per capita, a metric that is declining in an aging population (see figure 3-8).



**Figure 3-7. Total Population through 2100**

*U.S. population, millions*



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: United Nations World Population Projections (2022), medium variant.

Note: The medium variant estimation was used to compute immigration population projections.

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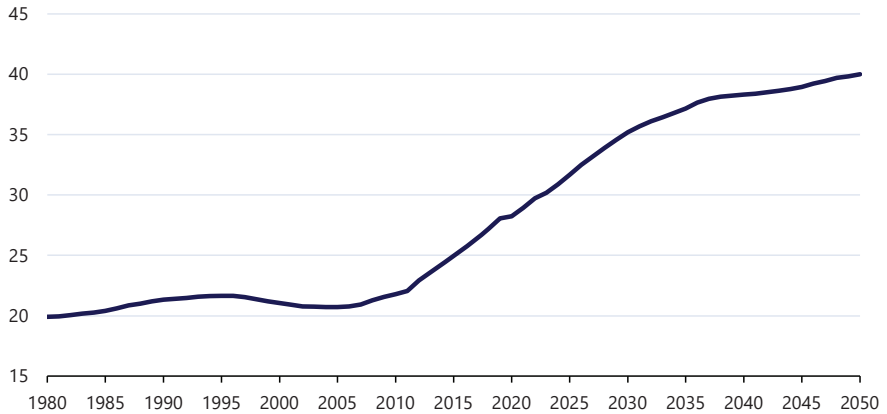
working age and have full-time jobs than their U.S.-born peers. In 2016, 78 percent of immigrants were between 18 and 64 years of age; meanwhile, 59 percent of individuals born in the United States were in that age group (Vespa, Medina, and Armstrong 2020).

Figure 3-7 shows the projected U.S. population with and without net migration through the end of the century. The population would begin shrinking within 14 to 16 years in the absence of immigration—in 2038, based on U.N. projections (pictured); and in 2040, per CBO projections (CBO 2024). If immigration follows the pattern of past decades, the U.S. population would reach nearly 400 million at the end of the century.

Overall, immigration generates important net benefits for the U.S. economy, including through positive effects on productivity, entrepreneurship, and scientific innovation (Hunt and Gauthier-Loiselle 2010; Peri 2012; Prato 2022; Azoulay et al. 2022). Nonetheless, immigration’s costs and benefits can be distributed unequally among stakeholders and regions (Hooper 2023). Although most studies have found that the wage effects of immigrants on natives are small and on either side of zero, immigration may place downward pressure on the wages of some low-paid workers (Butcher and Card 1991; Borjas 2003; Card 2009; Peri and Sparber 2009; Ottaviano and Peri 2012). While the country as a whole benefits from the economic activity and productivity boost immigration provides, local areas with recently arrived immigrants or immigrants with relatively lower educational attainment are likely to face immediate fiscal costs due to lower tax revenue generated per capita and additional draws on public services, especially

**Figure 3-8. U.S. Old Age Dependency Ratio through 2050**

*Number of seniors age 65+ for every 100 people age 20–64*



Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Census Bureau; Congressional Budget Office; CEA calculations.

Note: The dependency ratio is calculated as the number of people age 65 years and over for every 100 people age 20–64. *2024 Economic Report of the President*

K-12 education (Edelberg and Watson 2023; Blau and Mackie 2017). The Biden-Harris Administration recently took steps to extend the Temporary Protected Status of Venezuelan migrants and accelerate work authorization processing. This policy ensures that migrants can build sustainable lives and enter the formal work sector, where they can contribute to State and local income tax bases.

### ***The Old Age Dependency Ratio: A Race Between Aging and Productivity Growth***

An aging population increases pressure on Federal deficits and debts (Sheiner 2018). As people age and retire, they shift from contributing to government revenue via taxes paid on labor income to receiving Social Security and Medicare benefits. The lifecycle patterns and the country’s evolving age structure complicate issues of fair resource allocation across generations. At the birth-cohort level, Social Security retirement support pays out roughly the amount each generation contributes, though progressive redistribution occurs within generations (Steuerle, Carasso, and Cohen 2004; Steuerle and Smith 2023). Through Medicare, individuals receive significantly more on average over a lifetime than they pay in via taxes (Sabelhaus 2023; Steuerle and Smith 2023), largely because medical technologies and treatments improve rapidly over time, raising the standard of care and real spending.

Figure 3-8 depicts one of the central forces governing the relationship between the population’s age structure and benefit program financing. The old age dependency ratio, defined here as the number of individuals age

65 years and over for each 100 people age 20–64, has increased rapidly in recent years with the baby boom generation’s ongoing retirement.<sup>11</sup> Between 2024 and 2050, this ratio will increase by 30 percent. After that, it will likely continue to increase, though more slowly, nearly doubling between 2024 and the end of the century.

The extent of the fiscal challenge posed by the old age dependency ratio depends not only on the share of working age people in the labor force but also on workers’ productivity. Labor productivity is measured by the economic output generated for each hour worked. It grows over time with human capital improvements, labor-augmenting physical capital, and technological progress, making society wealthier per capita.

How will changes in the U.S. old age dependency ratio likely compare with changes in productivity growth? Many observers have noted a recent slowdown in productivity growth (e.g., [Syverson 2017](#); [Dieppe 2020](#)), and some evidence suggests that an aging population decreases the pace of productivity gains ([Maestas, Mullen, and Powell 2016](#)), including by reducing startup activity ([Karahan, Pugsley, and Şahin 2019](#)). Yet even modest productivity growth could outpace the dependency ratio’s growth. For example, labor productivity in the nonfarm business sector in 2023 was 1.5 times its value in 2000 ([BLS 2023a](#)), meaning that an hour of labor today produces 50 percent more output than an hour of labor in 2000. This implies an annualized 1.8 percent rate of real growth over this period. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that labor productivity growth will be slightly lower, at 1.7 percent, from 2020 to 2030 ([BLS 2021](#)). Either growth rate would dramatically outpace the 30 percent old age dependency ratio increase expected by 2050, an annualized change of 0.8 percent. Thus, even very modest labor productivity growth acts as an important countervailing force to concerns about dependency ratios.<sup>12</sup> Box 3-5 discusses the role of human capital investments in productivity growth.

Economic growth theory suggests that unprecedented U.S. and global population decline may also have important scale effects. The historical timing of global population growth (over humanity’s long history) corresponds closely with per capita productivity growth. Growth theorists consider the link important: “Virtually all theories of economic growth predict a positive

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<sup>11</sup> This standard definition of the old age dependency ratio uses available binned age data. It is meant to proxy, rather than exactly describe, average working lifetimes. For example, it ignores that the normal retirement age for persons born in 1960 and later is 67 and that age 20 is an imprecise marker for when full-time labor force participation may begin.

<sup>12</sup> Nonetheless, a doubling of labor productivity would not imply that the tax revenue associated with a single worker could support twice as many seniors. That is in part because living standards and the costs of maintaining seniors also increase over time. For example, initial Social Security benefits are wage-indexed to reflect the general rise in the standard of living that occurred during an individual’s lifetime ([SSA 2023a](#)). Thus, real initial Social Security benefits increase over time as productivity rises.

relationship between population size and productivity” (Peters 2022, 1). Specialization, trade, and the nonrival nature of innovation and knowledge all imply channels running from larger populations to higher per capita living standards (Jones and Romer 2010). A key concept linking larger populations and rising per capita living standards is the production of nonrival goods (Romer 2018; Jones 2019), which are unique, in that one person’s use of them does not deplete the amount available to others. Such goods include knowledge, like germ theory and calculus, and practical inventions, such as water chlorination, internet communication protocols, and modified RNA vaccines (the first of which were approved and deployed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic). The total stock of knowledge and ideas therefore equals the per capita stock, and a world with a declining population may miss out on some critical innovations that make everyone better off (Jones 2022).

Declining population numbers also affect the intrafamily burden of care work. Aging populations need care, and the burden often falls on family members. Low fertility implies that a decreasing number of children and grandchildren can participate in the intergenerational compact of family care. For example, if the United States held at its present TFR of 1.66 indefinitely, then an average of 0.7 grandchildren would be born for every grandparent in the long run. This would be a different future of care than the past generations of Americans have experienced, on average. Technological advances, including artificial intelligence, may someday ease the strain, but the human burden of care remains an unsolved problem today (see box 3-6).

### *Aging and the Fiscal Outlook*

Social Security and Medicare are the two main Federal assistance programs for seniors in the United States, though Medicaid plays an increasingly important role in long-term care as the payer for 6 in 10 nursing home residents (CBPP 2020). Entitlement programs are projected to be an important driver of long-term increases in fiscal outlays over the next three decades, accounting for more than 40 percent of noninterest spending in 2053, up from less than 30 percent in 2023 (CBO 2023b).

Today, Social Security provides income support to roughly one-fifth of the population, or 67 million beneficiaries. By 2050, about one-quarter of the population is expected to receive benefits, boosting Social Security spending to 6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), up from 5.2 percent currently (SSA 2023b).

As a growing share of the population transitions from the labor force to retirement, total Medicare costs will also rise. Roughly one-third of the projected increase in health care program expenditures as a share of GDP through 2053 will be attributable to the population’s aging (CBO 2023b).

### **Box 3-5. Investing in Productivity through Human Capital**

As the ratio of workers to the overall population declines due to age structure changes in the United States, the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to policies that accelerate productivity growth, facilitating more real output despite fewer workers. Investing in human capital via health and educational inputs during childhood is one of the clearest paths to increased productivity.

Research documents that educational investments in children and young people raise productivity and contribute to aggregate economic growth (Valero 2021; Hanushek and Wößmann 2010). High-quality childcare has also been shown to be important for outcomes such as school readiness, cognitive skill development, and employment and earnings in later life (Deming 2009; Duncan and Magnuson 2013; Campbell et al. 2014; Gray-Lobe, Pathak, and Walters 2022). Similarly, research has shown that providing health care to children through Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program has a positive impact on human capital and confers long-term benefits (Cohodes et al. 2016; Brown, Kowalski, and Lurie 2020; Miller and Wherry 2019; Goodman-Bacon 2021; Arenberg, Neller, and Stripling 2020). Early investments in human capital tend to compound, meaning that individuals who benefit from early investments gain more from later investment than they would have otherwise (Cunha and Heckman 2007; Johnson and Jackson 2019).

Consistent with these findings, a comparative analysis of public programs shows that policies directly investing in children at young ages—including via childcare, K-12 education, health care, and housing—offer the highest return on public investment (Hendren and Sprung-Keyser 2020). These policies tend to increase employment and earnings later in life, increasing tax revenue and/or decreasing government transfers. For example, even setting aside the direct benefits of Medicaid to its beneficiaries, Medicaid expansions to children often more than pay for themselves, affecting beneficiary productivity enough to net returns in excess of the initial program cost. Analysts estimate that Medicaid generates up to \$2 in discounted future tax revenue for each \$1 spent expanding the program to more children (Ash et al. 2023).

Given the productivity returns, investments in children are often a win-win. The Child Tax Credit is a critical direct investment. The failure of Congress to respond to the President’s call to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit for 2022 caused 3 million children to fall into poverty in 2022 (CEA 2023c). As the United States increasingly relies on improved labor productivity in the face of an aging population, disinvestments in children are a costly policy error.

### Box 3-6. Long-Term Care

Demand for long-term care will be increasingly important as the U.S. population ages. Today, a mix of paid caregivers in long-term facilities and in-home and community-based services—as well as informal unpaid caregivers, who are often family members, friends, and neighbors—provide the country’s senior care (Osterman 2017). The care workforce is composed of more than 37.1 million unpaid (BLS 2023b) and 4.7 million paid providers (PHI 2022), with women constituting the majority (BLS 2022). In 2021, family caregivers’ unpaid economic contributions were valued at \$600 billion (Reinhard et al. 2023).

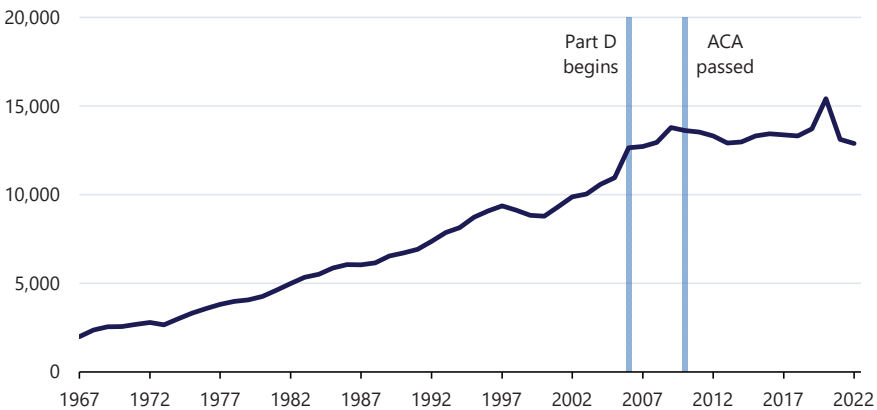
Addressing the needs of the senior population and younger family members supporting them requires providing better access to affordable institutional care and continuing to expand home and community-based services to best accommodate individual preferences.

As the primary payer for long-term care services, Medicaid has an important role to play. Home- and community-based services have grown from making up less than 20 percent of Medicaid’s long term care spending in 1995 to more than 50 percent today (Grabowski 2021). As of 2020, roughly 75 percent of the 5.6 million Medicaid long-term care enrollees used services under the home- and community-based services model (Chidambaram and Burns 2023). The Biden-Harris Administration has championed expanding home-based options in proposed budgets and Executive Orders. The Administration has also made historic investments in improving long-term care quality and standards (White House 2023a).

Long-term care improvements matter not only for seniors and their loved ones but also for the labor market. Increasing formal care access and affordability either in an individual’s home or a nursing facility helps alleviate the burden on unpaid caregivers and improves labor market participation (AARP 2020; Schmitz and Westphal 2017). With increased access to formal home-based care, adult children of parents in need are less likely to drop out of the labor force and more likely to work full time over longer periods than they otherwise would (Shen 2023; Coe, Goda, and Van Houtven 2023). One study finds that for every three daughters with a senior parent receiving formal home-based care through Medicaid, the substitution to formal care causes one daughter to work full time who would not have otherwise (Shen 2023). As long-term care demand rises, the Federal Government must therefore continue investing in caregiving to improve the senior population’s well-being and maintain a strong overall labor force.

### Figure 3-9. Annual Medicare Spending per Beneficiary

2021 dollars



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Sources: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 2023 Medicare Trustees Report; CEA calculations.

Note: ACA = Affordable Care Act. Per-beneficiary spending is calculated as total expenditures divided by total enrollment, including Parts A, B, C, and D. Deflated using CPI-U.

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Medicare, with 86 percent of its recipients being at least 65 years of age, is projected to account for more than 60 percent of Federal health expenditures in 2053. Demographic changes will exacerbate budget deficits and the projected depletion of the Medicare and combined Social Security Trust Funds beginning 2031 and 2034, respectively (CMS 2023a; SSA 2023c).<sup>13</sup> The trust fund calculations, however, rely on assumptions using current laws. Outside observers have suggested altering program structures in terms of revenues or benefits (e.g., Lee and Edwards 2002; Sheiner 2018). The Affordable Care Act of 2010 made such an adjustment via the Additional Medicare Tax on high earners, and the President’s 2024 budget proposed to increase taxes on earned and unearned income above \$400,000 as part of a package to further extend Medicare’s solvency (IRS 2024; U.S. Department of the Treasury 2023).

Against this backdrop, Medicare’s slower-than-expected spending in the past decade has been a fiscal bright spot. The growth rate in real Medicare spending per beneficiary declined from 6.6 percent between 1987 and 2005 to 2.2 percent between 2013 and 2019 (CBO 2023c). Figure 3-9 plots how Medicare spending per beneficiary has evolved over the past several decades.

Several phenomena have contributed to the slowdown in Medicare cost growth: lower-than-expected growth in prescription drug expenditures,

<sup>13</sup> The combined Social Security Trust Fund refers to the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

due to both generic drug entry after exclusivity expiration and the introduction of fewer new drugs (CBO 2023c); declines in hospitalizations for acute cardiovascular events, due in part to more effective medications (Cutler et al. 2019); a slowdown in the diffusion and adoption of expensive new health care technologies (Smith, Newhouse, and Cuckler 2022); and the influence of the ACA (Buntin et al. 2022). In particular, the ACA’s payment reforms for Medicare providers and private Medicare Advantage insurers were an important source of savings (White, Cubanski, and Neuman 2014; CEA 2016).

One way to understand the massive importance of this slowdown in cost growth is to consider the difference in future outlays between a scenario in which per capita Medicare spending is held at a projected real GDP per capita growth rate of 1.6 percent,<sup>14</sup> and a scenario in which per capita Medicare spending resumes its 1980–2005 growth trend (a 3.5 percent annualized growth rate). The difference in trajectory, combined with the Medicare-supported population growing to 87 million by 2050, would add up to a difference of about \$14 trillion (in 2021 dollars) between 2024 and 2050 (CMS 2023b).

Real per capita Medicare spending growth has stalled, but this is unlikely to persist indefinitely. As medical technology advances, Americans will expect Medicare to cover expensive new treatments and cures that extend and improve life. Past growth in treatments and cures has been dramatic. For example, in 1960, when real per capita U.S. health care spending was less than 10 percent of what it is today (NHEA 2023), no doctor had ever performed an angioplasty to clear a blocked artery, administered combination chemotherapy to treat cancer, or been able to prescribe a biologic drug or synthetic insulin. The improvements since then have reduced mortality and allowed people with serious chronic conditions to live flourishing lives. The coming decades will likely bring similar breakthroughs, and society must plan for ways to pay for them.

The Inflation Reduction Act is placing and will continue to place downward pressure on the drug component of Medicare spending. It requires drug companies to pay back Medicare if they raise prices faster than inflation. And beginning in 2026, Medicare will pay reduced negotiated prices for some drugs for the first time in the program’s history. This is an important advance, as the United States has historically paid twice as much as other advanced economies for the same pharmaceutical products (Mulcahy et al. 2022).<sup>15</sup> Figure 3-10 compares drug prices in the United States and other

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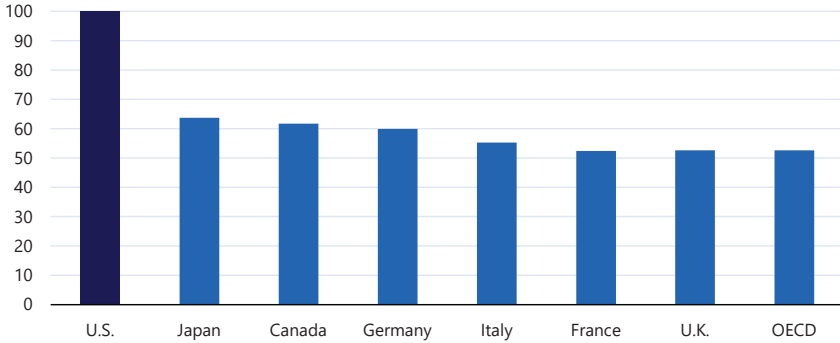
<sup>14</sup> The projected real GDP per capita growth rate is based on a longer-term projection of the real GDP growth rate from CBO and population projections from the Census (CBO 2023b; Census 2023b).

<sup>15</sup> The U.S. drug prices shown in figure 3-10 reflect estimates of net prices, subtracting estimated average rebates.



**Figure 3-10. Global Prescription Drug Prices, U.S. Net Price Adjustment, 2018**

*Country-specific prescription drug prices versus U.S. drug prices; index: United States = 100*



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Sources: Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services; IQVIA MIDAS; CEA calculations.

Note: OECD = Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Here, “OECD” means 32 OECD comparison countries combined. U.S. prices are set to 100. Only some prescriptions sold in each country contribute to bilateral comparisons. In this figure, U.S. drug prices reflect estimates of net prices, subtracting estimated average rebates.

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countries. The IRA-authorized negotiation process will use the United States’ leverage as an important customer to get concessions on price—just as other nations have long done, and as the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense have done for years (GAO 2013). The list of drugs subject to price negotiations will expand in the future, driving overall Medicare drug spending down and narrowing the gap between U.S. drug prices and those in other advanced economies.

***Planning for the Demographic Future***

Rates of birth, death, and migration will govern the demographic future of the United States, with wide-ranging effects (see box 3-7). Acute mortality crises, including the opioid epidemic and COVID-19, are amenable to policy solutions, and life expectancy improvements overall will depend on public health initiatives, medical innovation, and support for public and private insurance coverage. Future improvements in health and longevity are likely to move along two axes: (1) addressing the rise in deaths due to external causes, particularly drug overdoses; and (2) investing in the fight against chronic disease.

Policy has little direct relationship with birthrates (Brainerd 2014; Sobotka, Matysiak and Brzozowska 2019). Because low fertility has its origins in improved opportunities, especially among women, it is likely to persist indefinitely. Readiness for the coming demographic changes will require attention and planning—including realistic assessments of the likely speed of these changes and of the potential role of immigration in dampening this

new demographic transition. Now is the time for U.S. policymakers to seriously confront the implications of shifting population patterns and to plan responsibly.

### **Box 3-7. Consumption and Investment in an Aging Society**

As the U.S. population skews older, aggregate consumption patterns change. Nonhousing expenditures—such as transportation, clothing, and food purchased away from home—largely follow a hump-shaped pattern over the life cycle; they are lowest during early entry into the labor force (under 25 years of age), highest during peak working age (from 45 to 54), and decline upon retirement (over 65) (Foster 2015). Health care consumption, including hospitalizations and prescription drug use, increases dramatically with age (Hales et al. 2019).

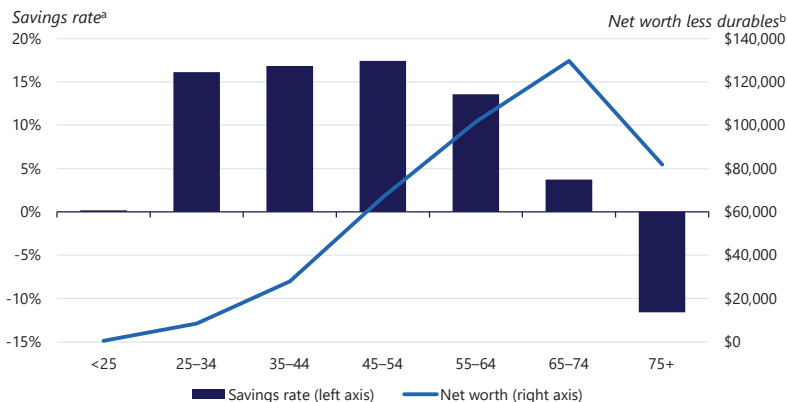
Aging has upstream effects on the labor market, as employment shifts across economic sectors to accommodate demand changes. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the health care and social assistance sector will add 2.1 million jobs over the next 10 years, growing faster than any other sector (BLS 2023c). Health care support occupations are projected to account for one out of every six new jobs during the coming decade.

The shifting age distribution also affects aggregate spending, borrowing, and saving. The canonical life-cycle hypothesis model predicts that people consider their expected income stream and desired consumption and make informed decisions to smooth lifetime consumption (Modigliani and Brumberg 1954). The smoothing choices are typically characterized by demand for borrowing at young ages and saving for retirement during middle age. These behaviors imply that as people age, their wealth tends to increase, even excluding the equity of durable goods like housing and vehicles. Wealth balances typically decline only at the highest ages, suggesting that the overall aging of the U.S. population has likely increased the aggregate supply of loanable funds.

The cross-sectional expenditure data shown in figure 3-iii confirm this expectation. In 2022, the rate of saving for consumers under 25 was essentially zero, on average, according to the Consumer Expenditure Survey. The rate was higher for middle-aged Americans, peaking at 17.4 percent for those age 45 to 54, and negative for older Americans, reaching -12 percent for people 75 and above. Research suggests that the movement of baby boomers into their prime saving years increased the aggregate saving rate by about 2 percentage points in the period 1980–90 (Dyner, Edelberg, and Palumbo 2009).

Because of its impact on rates of saving and aggregate loanable funds, demographic change can also influence real interest rates, putting downward pressure on the natural interest rate as aging cohorts save for

**Figure 3-iii. Savings Rates and Wealth in 2022, by Age Group**



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Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

<sup>a</sup> The savings rate = 1 - Total Expenditures / After-Tax Income in the CEX.

<sup>b</sup> Median net worth of families with heads in each age range, less housing equity and net vehicle equity (total vehicle value less total vehicle loan balances).

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retirement. In a steady state, cohorts moving through their life cycles would have no time-varying impact. However, the baby boom generation is disproportionately large, and the United States is transitioning to increasingly low fertility rates and long lives after retirement, changes that will affect aggregate outcomes. Carvalho, Ferrero, and Nechio (2017) argue that life-expectancy increases leading to increased savings have, in particular, driven down real interest rates. Gagnon, Johannsen, and Lopez-Salido (2016) estimate that demographic factors are responsible for a 1.25-percentage-point decline in real interest rates in the United States since 1980. An inflection point exists where the savings rate declines and wealth begins shrinking, but as figure 3-iii shows, the declines tend to occur well past age 65. Although the last of the baby boomers will soon enter the negative-saving life-cycle period, the process that places upward pressure on interest rates will unfold gradually. Retirees consume only a fraction of their total savings each year, with the bulk carried forward and reinvested. This implies the current downward pressure on natural interest rates may therefore persist for an extended period.



## Chapter 4

# Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing: Economic Insights and Federal Policy Solutions

The Biden-Harris Administration believes that every American should have access to safe and affordable housing (White House 2023a). Where people live determines their available housing quality and amenities, such as labor market access, transportation options, schools, protection from crime, environmental quality, and social networks—all of which affect their quality of life and intergenerational economic mobility (Chetty and Hendren 2018). However, the housing supply has failed to keep up with demand over the last several decades, leading to a nationwide shortage of 1.5 to 3.8 million homes and driving up the cost of housing (Calanog, Metcalfe, and Fagan 2023; Khater, Kiefer, and Yanamandra 2021; Lee, Kemp, and Reina 2022). As a result, 45 percent of renters are now cost-burdened, meaning that they spend 30 percent or more of their family income on rent, more than twice the share who were cost-burdened in 1960 (Ruggles et al. 2023).

Economic analyses of housing markets identify at least two frictions restricting supply: (1) land-use regulations and zoning restrictions that limit what can be built, and (2) rising input costs associated with construction (Khater, Keifer, and Yanamandra 2021). While some land-use regulations can be a reasonable part of community planning—for example, keeping factories away from schools or ensuring that parks are situated near residential areas—many other building regulations—for example, limiting housing density and building heights, or imposing minimum lot sizes or parking requirements—can create artificial barriers that hinder growth and drive

up the cost of housing. These policies arise naturally from a local decision-making process that is influenced by homeowners, who prefer higher home prices, and account for the local costs of increased housing, such as more congestion, but they fail to account for any regional or national benefits. This classic market failure negatively affects individuals in neighboring communities and potential new residents.

The costs of these housing restrictions reach across neighborhoods. Housing shortages can lead to inefficiently low levels of labor mobility and human capital investment, affecting both individual well-being and the macroeconomy. Research shows that relaxing local land-use regulations increases migration, allowing workers to relocate from low- to high-productivity regions, and boosts aggregate output (Peri 2012; Moretti 2012). Moreover, homeownership is a wealth-building tool with a long tradition in the United States, and restrictive housing policies are an important factor explaining class and racial gaps in wealth and economic outcomes (Rothstein 2017). Increasing the housing supply, especially when combined with policies that directly support the production of affordable rental and ownership units, can increase access and equity for groups with few financial resources, increase overall wealth, and reduce disparities across groups (Carroll and Cohen-Kristiansen 2021).

This chapter focuses on the major causes and consequences of the United States' long-standing shortage of housing—and especially affordable housing—as well as Federal policy's ability to alleviate these issues. While there are policy levers at all levels of government, this chapter focuses on Federal policy. For example, public funds could be tied to zoning reforms and used to reduce financing constraints for affordable housing developments, and workforce training could increase the supply of labor used to construct housing. The first section illustrates the magnitude and trends in the housing supply shortage over the last six decades. The second and third sections discuss the causes and consequences of housing shortages. The fourth

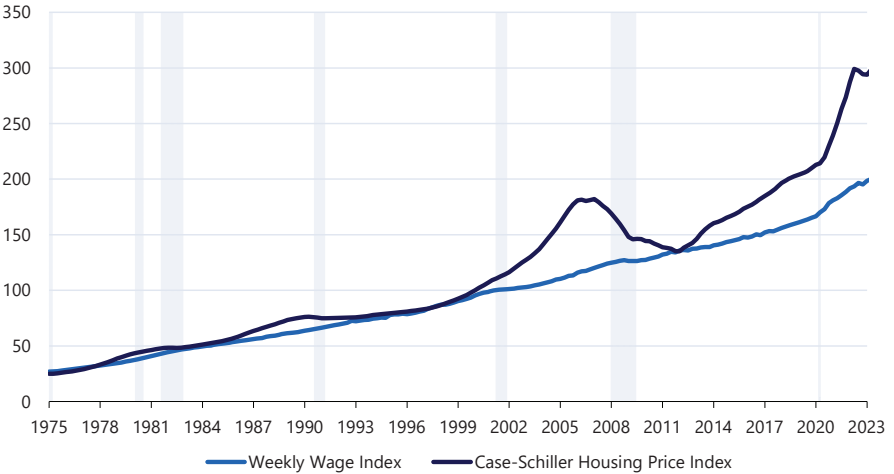
section highlights several areas where Federal policy can equitably boost the housing supply and alleviate rising housing unaffordability.

## Magnitude and Trends

Housing costs are demanding a growing share of household budgets in the United States. At the same time, the U.S. housing market faces a long-run supply shortage.

**Figure 4-1. Housing Price Index versus Wage Index, 1975–2023**

*Index: 2000:Q1 = 100*



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages); CEA calculations.

Note: Weekly Wage Index has been smoothed using a 4-quarter moving average. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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## Unaffordable Housing

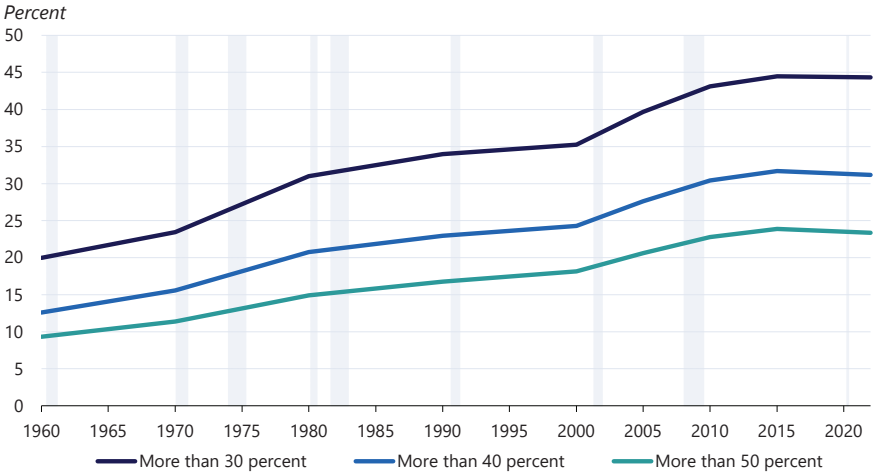
Figure 4-1 shows that housing price increases have outpaced wage growth in the last 20 years. Between 2000 and the early 2020s, housing prices tripled while household income doubled; in other words, the price of housing rose by 50 percent more than household income in the last 20 years.<sup>1</sup> Of course, increased spending on housing could be a rational consumption choice. Some people will choose to spend more on housing in exchange for lower nonhousing consumption because they prefer better housing amenities, like

<sup>1</sup> Figure 4-1 reports changes in the housing price index. To provide additional context for the level of rental expenses during this period: the median rent in 1960, 1980, 2000, and 2020 was, respectively, \$544, \$692, \$867, and \$1,086, measured in 2022 dollars; and the 25th percentile of rent in 1960, 1980, 2000, and 2020 was \$445, \$479, \$595, and \$735.

a nicer location or a newer structure. But the steadily rising financial burden of housing over many decades suggests that for many families, expensive housing is not a proactive choice but rather a trend they are increasingly forced to accept.

The share of households burdened by housing expenses has risen steadily over the last 60 years. A common benchmark for describing rent-burdened households is the income share spent on housing (i.e., rent/mortgage, utilities, and other housing needs) (Cromwell 2022).<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines families as rent-burdened if this share exceeds 30 percent;<sup>3</sup> and severely rent-burdened if households spend more than half their income on housing. Figure 4-2 shows the share of renter households that spend more than 30 percent, 40 percent, and 50 percent of their income on rent. For each measure, the share has more than doubled since the 1960s. Today, nearly 45 percent of renters are rent-burdened and nearly 24 percent of renters are severely rent-burdened.

**Figure 4-2. Renter Households That Spent More Than 30 Percent of Family Income on Rent, 1960–2022**



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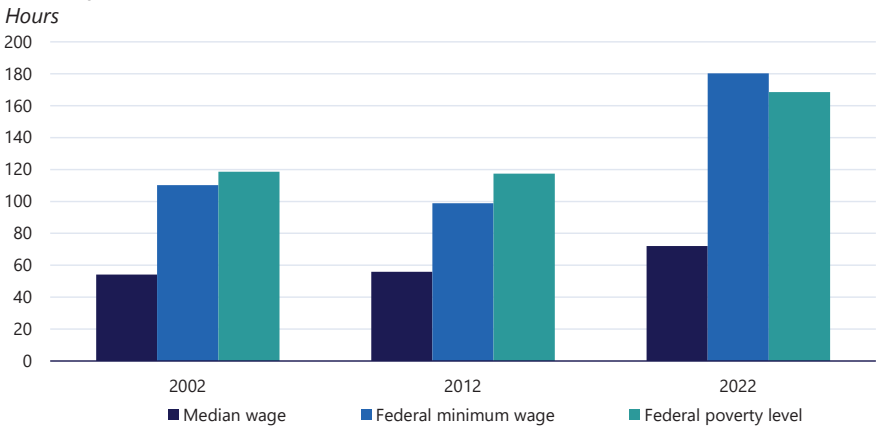
Sources: Census Bureau (American Community Survey); CEA calculations.  
 Note: The data for years after 2000 are averaged in 5-year bins. Gray bars indicate recessions.  
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<sup>2</sup> Owners are typically excluded from the cost-burdened analysis because monthly mortgage payments that reduce the principal are a transfer to savings.

<sup>3</sup> This benchmark is based on public housing rent limits, which originated with the Brooke Amendment in 1969 and were last updated in the 1980s.

The financial burden of housing can also be illustrated by the number of work hours required to pay for housing. Figure 4-3 reports the minimum monthly work hours required to pay for monthly median rental rate housing in 2002, 2012, and 2022. Estimates are shown separately for households earning the median wage, the Federal minimum wage, and the wages that put someone at 100 percent of the Federal poverty level for single-adult households with no children.<sup>4</sup> Median wage earners had to work nearly 55 hours to pay for monthly housing costs in 2002, or more than one week per month based on a 40-hour work week; this number grew to more than 70 hours in 2022, or slightly less than two weeks of work. Households earning the Federal minimum wage had to work 110 hours to pay for housing in 2002, or nearly three quarters of the monthly hours worked by full-time workers. This number increased to 180 hours in 2022, suggesting that more than a full month of minimum-wage work is now required to pay for median rental-rate housing. In other words, median rental-rate housing has become increasingly out-of-reach for low-wage workers, and even median-wage

**Figure 4-3. Minimum Monthly Hours of Work Needed to Pay for Median Monthly Rent**



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Census Bureau; Department of Labor; CEA calculations.

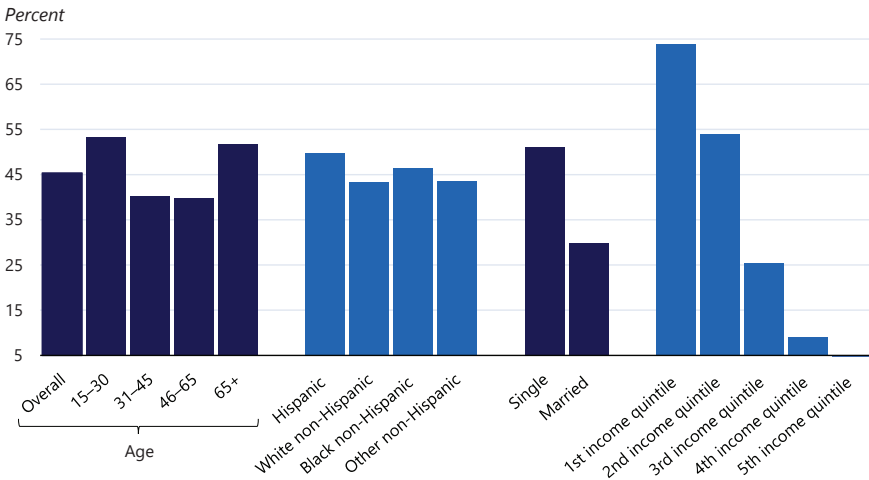
Note: Real median rent in 2002, 2012, and 2022, respectively: \$923, \$914, and \$1306. The Federal poverty level is the poverty level for a single individual with no children. Effective July 2009, the Federal minimum wage was raised to \$7.25. Unlike in 2002 or 2012, the Federal minimum wage led to income below the Federal poverty level in 2022.

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<sup>4</sup> The minimum number of hours of work required to pay for median monthly rent is calculated as median monthly rent divided by hourly wage for workers that earn the median monthly earnings, the Federal minimum wage, or 100 percent of the Federal poverty level. For workers earning the median monthly earnings or 100 percent of the Federal poverty level, monthly earnings are converted to hourly earnings by assuming a that an employee works 160 hours per month, a typical full-time schedule.



**Figure 4-4. Share of Households That Are Rent-Burdened by Household Head Characteristics, 2022**



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Sources: Census Bureau (American Community Survey); CEA calculations.

Note: A household is defined as rent burdened if the share of family income spent on rent is more than 30 percent.

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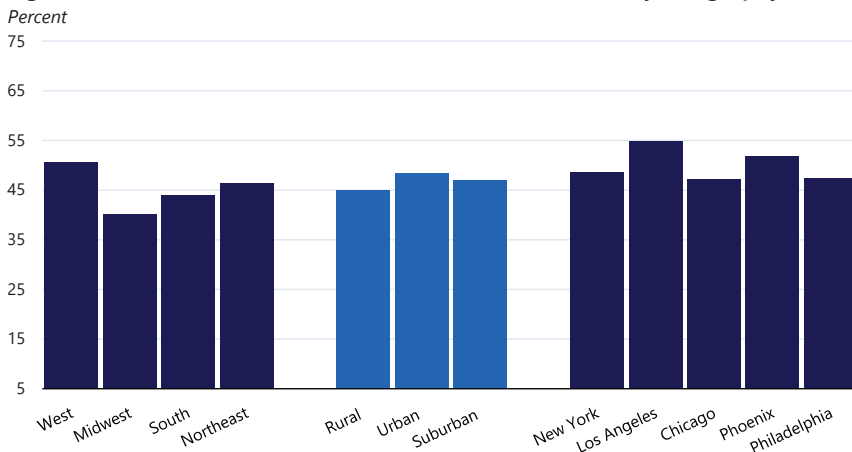
workers must devote a considerable share of their monthly earnings toward housing expenses. Many households have little disposable income after paying for housing.

Figure 4-4 reports the share of rent-burdened households by age, race and ethnicity, marital status, and income in 2022. Younger households are more likely to be rent-burdened than older households, Hispanic households are more likely to be rent-burdened than non-Hispanic households, single households are almost twice as likely to be rent-burdened as married households, and 74 percent of households in the bottom quintile of the income distribution are rent burdened. Additionally, figure 4-5 reports the share of rent-burdened households by geographic region and population density, as well as for households in the largest U.S. cities. While some variation emerges based on demographic and geographic characteristics, a large fraction of households across the entire country are rent burdened. Rent-burdened households are not just located in urban centers or in coastal States: 45 percent of rural households are rent-burdened, as are 44 and 40 percent of households in the South and Midwest, respectively.

### *The Housing Supply Shortage*

Years of insufficient new construction relative to household formation have led to a housing supply shortage (Khater, Keifer, and Yanamandra 2021). Estimates of the stock of the total housing shortage range from 1.5 million (Calanog, Metcalfe, and Fagan 2023) to 3.8 million (Khater, Keifer, and

**Figure 4-5. Share of Households That Are Rent-Burdened by Geography, 2022**



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Sources: Census Bureau (American Community Survey); CEA calculations.

Note: A household is defined as rent-burdened if the share of family income spent on rent is more than 30 percent. The cities chosen for the graph are among the largest six cities in the U.S. by population as of 2022. Houston is not shown here as it is not recorded in the 2022 American Community Survey data.

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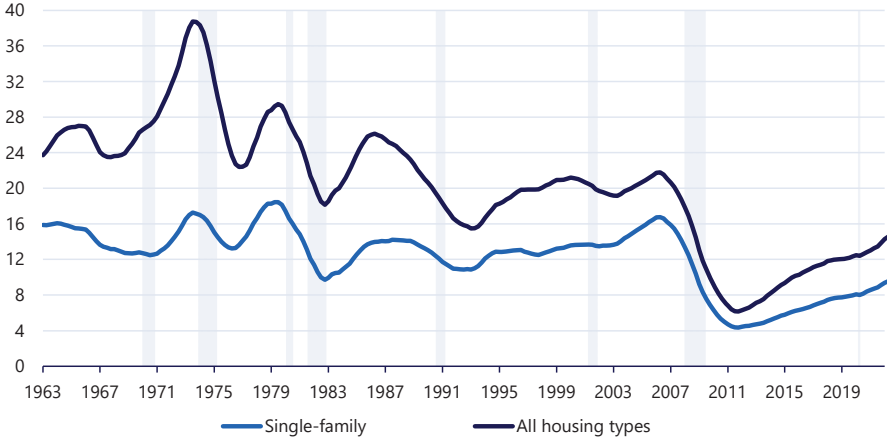
Yanamandra 2021), and the annual flow of the shortage of units under construction is estimated to be 100,000 (Parrott and Zandi 2021).

Increased housing demand is driven by a growing economy and a growing population. In recent decades, however, housing production has fallen dramatically. As figure 4-6 shows, quarterly housing starts per 1,000 people (shown in navy blue) fell from 22–40 units between 1963 and 1980 to 15–21 units between 1990 and 2005. Figure 4-6 also shows quarterly single-family housing starts in light blue. Single-family housing starts were relatively flat between 1963 and 2005 (averaging 10–18 units per 1,000 people). All types of housing starts fell sharply after the global financial crisis and have not yet recovered to pre-2007 levels.

A decline in new housing construction has been concurrent with the reduced availability of relatively small “starter homes” and low-cost rental units. As illustrated in figure 4-7, the fraction of all new single-family homes under 1,400 square feet declined from nearly 40 percent in the early 1970s to about 7 percent in the early 2020s. Moreover, the supply of low-cost rental units, measured as the share of rental units with contract rent below the maximum amount affordable for households in the lowest quintile of the income distribution, fell from 26.7 percent in 2011 to 17.1 percent in 2021 after adjusting for inflation. This is equivalent to the loss of 3.9 million affordable units in the last decade (Joint Center for Housing Studies 2023).

**Figure 4-6. U.S. Housing Production, 1963–2022**

*Housing starts per 1,000 people*



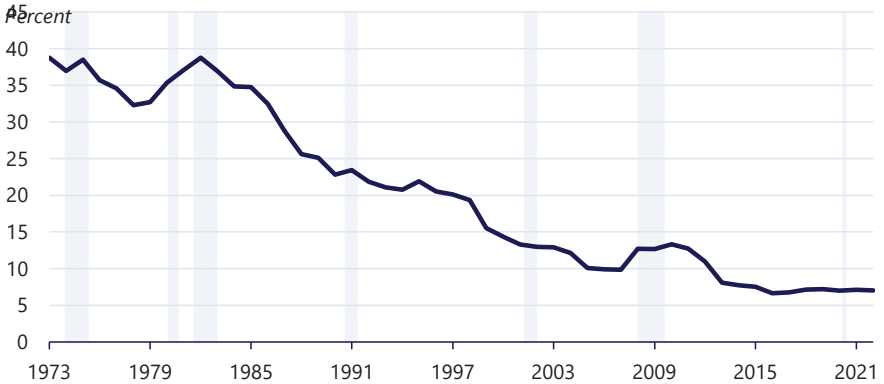
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Sources: Census Bureau; CEA calculations.

Note: The quarterly data are smoothed using a 3-year moving average. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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**Figure 4-7. Share of New Single-Family Homes under 1,400 Square Feet, 1973–2022**



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Sources: Census Bureau; CEA calculations.

Note: The data shows the share of completed new single family homes that are under 1,400 square feet. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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## Causes of Housing Supply Shortages

The incentives of several key stakeholders inform economic models of housing markets that predict a constrained housing supply. First, homeowners typically seek to maximize their home’s value. Second, local governments

have an incentive to raise public funds to maximize the welfare of their constituents—among other things—which is generally linked to land value through property taxation. Third, developers and landowners seek to maximize their profit from economic development of residential and commercial real estate. These incentives jointly determine land value within a community through zoning and land-use regulations, which generally enrich insiders (i.e., existing property owners) at the expense of outsiders (i.e., renters and would-be property owners) (Fischel 2001).

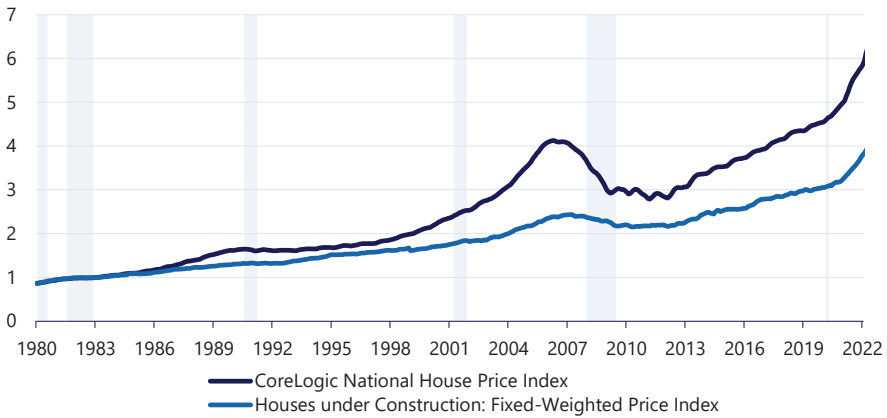
Economic models make several predictions about how stakeholder incentives influence changes to land-use regulations, the housing supply, and housing prices (Ortalo-Magne and Prat 2014; Hilber and Robert-Nicoud 2013; Glaeser, Gyourko, and Saks 2005). Locations with more homeowners than renters have stricter housing supply regulations than their counterparts, and the regulations tighten as homeowners' political influence grows (Fang, Stewart, and Tyndall 2023). Regulations reduce the price elasticity of the housing supply; in other words, the supply of housing is less responsive to market prices in markets with more regulation.

Research consistently finds that increasingly stringent zoning restrictions lead to lower housing construction and a lower price elasticity of the housing supply, while decreasingly stringent zoning restrictions lead to higher housing construction costs and a higher price elasticity of the housing supply (Baum-Snow 2023; Gyourko and Molloy 2015; Stacy et al. 2023; Landis and Reina 2021). The relationship between zoning restrictiveness and housing prices is more nuanced: tighter zoning restrictions lead to more expensive housing, often by requiring new homes to be larger and occupy larger lots (Gyourko and McCulloch 2023). More relaxed zoning restrictions lead to a higher supply of smaller, lower-cost housing, and, in at least some instances, can lead to lower prices and rents or slower growth in rents among existing housing (Crump et al. 2020; Been, Ellen, and O'Regan 2023; Baum-Snow 2023; Greenaway-McGrevy 2023).

Broadly, local decision-making processes lead to at least two cascading housing market failures. The first is of negative externalities, which predict too much land-use regulation relative to the social optimum because homeowners, developers, and local governments do not account for the welfare cost of these regulations for individuals in neighboring communities or would-be residents. The excessive regulations lead to an incomplete housing market, where the private sector does not create enough supply to meet demand. Corrective policy at the State or Federal level can help bridge the gap between housing supply and demand.

**Figure 4-8. Housing Prices and Construction Costs, 1980–2022**

*Inflation-adjusted index*



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Sources: Census Bureau; CoreLogic; CEA calculations.

Note: Both price indices are adjusted for inflation using the Personal Consumption Expenditures price index (core services excluding housing), reindexed to 1982 = 100. The data are not seasonally adjusted. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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***The Wedge Between Price and Construction Cost: Land Value***

The causes and consequences of housing supply shortages in the United States can be understood within the context of the housing market’s pricing efficiency, or the relationship between price and cost. As shown in figure 4-8, physical construction costs have quadrupled since the 1980s, accelerated by an increase in labor and material costs (Khater, Keifer, and Yanamandra 2021; CBRE 2022), while construction sector productivity has fallen (Goolsbee and Syverson 2023). Also seen in figure 4-8, housing prices have increased more quickly than construction costs. Between 1980 and the early 2020s, housing prices grew by over sixfold, or about 50 percent more than the fourfold increase in construction costs. Economists attribute the growing gap between housing prices and physical construction costs in the U.S. housing market to land prices, which largely reflect the impact of restrictive land-use regulations (Gyourko and Molloy 2015).

***Zoning and Land-Use Regulations: Effects on the Housing Supply***

Exclusionary zoning policies are a subset of local land-use regulations that can constrain the housing supply and thus decrease affordability. Examples include prohibitions on multifamily homes, height limits, minimum lot sizes, square footage minimums, and parking requirements—each of which functions to constrain housing and population density. Researchers estimate that loosening land-use restrictions would lead to a small but significant

increase in the metropolitan housing supply over the next decade (Stacy et al. 2023).

Some zoning laws date back to the late 1800s, when city planners were concerned about fire hazards, access to light and outdoor air, or proximity to industry (Fischel 2004). While some zoning laws were intended to improve the quality of life for poor and vulnerable families, others were designed to discriminate against minority groups and raise property prices in suburban and urban neighborhoods (Rigsby 2016; Mangin 2014). Some of the first zoning laws appeared in about 1917, when the Supreme Court banned explicit race-based segregation in zoning ordinances in *Buchanan v. Warley* (Rothstein 2017). Scholars have shown that certain zoning practices enabled cities to continue race-based segregation (Gray 2022; Kahlenberg 2023). Box 4-1 provides additional detail on the history of zoning laws and their effects on racial and ethnic minorities.

Single-family zoning is imposed on most residentially zoned land across the country and constitutes 70 percent of all U.S. residential zoning (Frank 2021). Minimum lot size requirements force developers to build homes on larger lots than the market would otherwise provide (Gyourko, Hartley, and Krimmel 2019; Furth and Gray 2019). For example, 81 percent of Connecticut land requires a minimum of 1 acre lots (Bronin 2023). Research finds that doubling minimum lot sizes increases sale prices by 14 percent and rents by 6 percent, while intensifying residential segregation (Song 2021). Recent zoning changes allowing multifamily housing in Boston and Minneapolis–Saint Paul has led to increased housing supply, desegregation, and increased shares of Black and Hispanic residents (Resseger 2022; Furth and Webster 2022).

Another important land-use regulation concerns minimum parking requirements, which dictate a minimum number of off-street spaces per housing unit or business. However, studies have shown the requirements often exceed what is needed to meet demand, leading to large shares of land devoted to parking lots. For example, 30 percent of downtown Detroit is dedicated to parking, compared with 12 percent in Los Angeles and 4 percent in Chicago (Sorens 2023; Chester et al. 2015; Kaufmann 2023). Parking requirements impose space requirements beyond lot sizes, reducing the housing supply and increasing the cost of housing (WGI 2021). Research has found that parking requirements in Los Angeles reduce the number of units in apartment buildings by 13 percent (Shoup 2014). A Seattle reform that reduced parking requirements was found to be associated with developers building 40 percent less parking than would have been required before the reform, resulting in 18,000 fewer parking spaces and saving an estimated \$537 million in construction costs, ultimately leading to lower-priced housing (Gabbe, Pierce, and Clowers 2020).

### Box 4-1. A Brief History of Exclusionary Zoning Laws in the United States

Some of the earliest zoning ordinances were enacted in the mid to late 1800s to isolate nuisance land use, such as by slaughterhouses, from residential areas. Under the guise of further resident protection, however, other ordinances were implemented that isolated racial and ethnic minorities. For example, the historic “Chinese laundry” regulations allowed many white proprietors to be licensed while excluding Chinese business owners (Howells 2022).

In 1910, Baltimore enacted one of the first zoning laws that explicitly segregated neighborhoods by suggesting that the ordinances protected the public. The Supreme Court’s 1917 *Buchanan v. Warley* decision struck down explicitly racist zoning laws (Howells 2022).

In the wake of *Buchanan v. Warley*, communities began implicitly segregating by race with new forms of zoning. Single-family zoning in Berkeley, California, in early 1910s attempted to prohibit “Negroes and Asiatics” from living in certain areas, and the strategy began to spread across the country (Barber 2019). Single-family zoning also prohibited apartment buildings and other types of affordable housing, leading to increased class segregation (Gray 2022). Saint Louis introduced zoning designed to preserve homes in areas unaffordable to most Black families in 1919, and the city often changed areas’ zoning designations from residential to industrial once numerous Black families moved in (Rothstein 2014). Similarly, Seattle’s 1923 zoning laws changed many areas with a large number of Black or Chinese American families from residential to commercial (Twinam 2018). The Supreme Court upheld various zoning restrictions, including against multifamily housing, in *Euclid v. Ambler* (Supreme Court 1926), furthering class-based discrimination. The new zoning rules restricted new housing levels and made prices unaffordable for low income and most nonwhite households (CEA 2021).

In the 1920s, the Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover, published “A Zoning Primer,” which encouraged States to allow municipalities to adopt exclusionary zoning (Gries 1922). The 1923 Standard State Zoning Enabling Act provided model legislation that States could pass to give municipalities zoning power; eventually, all States gave municipalities the right to determine local zoning regulations (Flint 2022). The number of cities with zoning rules increased by 1,246 additional municipalities between 1916 and 1936 (Fischel 2004).

The 1970s saw a second wave of zoning in response to (1) the 1968 Fair Housing Act, which attempted to clamp down on discrimination by race and other factors, as communities responded by increasing economically discriminatory zoning; and (2) the growing importance of real estate within household financial portfolios. By the 2000s, more than 30,000 local governments in the United States had their own zoning

rules (Kahlenberg 2023). In recent decades, America’s neighborhoods have continued to be segregated by race and income (Loh, Coes, and Buthe 2020).

One analysis found that 40 percent of Manhattan buildings could not be built today because they do not conform to zoning codes (Bui, Chaban, and White 2016). Dense city centers would be almost impossible to build with modern minimum parking requirements, and many new developments are only approved after receiving special permits or variances to circumvent zoning rules (Bui, Chaban, and White 2016; Gray 2022). Other factors restricting the housing supply include mandatory public hearings, fees and exactions, environmental review, design standards, lot configuration requirements, building size regulations, rising insurance costs, and occupancy rules (Bronin 2023). Each regulation restricts what developers can build, increases time-to-construction and structure costs, and leads many would-be housing projects to be financially infeasible.

### *Additional Constraints*

New multifamily housing development, whether for renter- or owner-occupied units, is a complex, long-run capital investment process that is highly sensitive to the macroeconomic environment. The projects involve various development costs, including (1) physical construction (“hard”) costs, (2) project design and development (“soft”) costs, and (3) land costs. Developers draw project financing from a combination of debt and equity that require different rates of return from completed projects, imposing minimum profitability thresholds and tying private development to interest rate fluctuations. At the same time, most revenue for multifamily rental development comes from rent charged to tenants, which is related to local land-use regulations. Box 4-2 describes the calculus behind financing housing development projects—this calculus is sometimes referred to as “penciling the deal.”

Demographic shifts in the American population affect both housing supply and demand. For example, a sharp increase in life expectancy during the last century—combined with the aging of the baby boom generation—has increased the demand for housing among older Americans (*Berkeley Economic Review* 2019). In addition, to the extent that homeowners choose not to move as they age, this will tend to reduce the rate of repeat sales for the current stock of homes, reducing the supply of available homes. Changes in fertility and international immigration have also affected housing demand.



## Box 4-2. Penciling the Deal: The Math Behind Developing Rental Housing with LIHTC

New multifamily development projects are characterized by large upfront costs and long-run investment returns. Most of the revenue generated by housing developments comes from rent charged to tenants, as determined by local market conditions. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) enables developers to meet these upfront costs and charge less rent, making units affordable for 30 years after construction.

Developers balance future revenue streams against development and financing costs to determine whether a property is worth constructing; in other words, whether the deal “pencils out” (Garcia 2019). Development costs can be grouped into three categories: (1) hard physical construction costs, including labor and materials; (2) soft costs (e.g., fees, financing, consulting, taxes, title, and insurance); and (3) land acquisition costs, including those associated with closing (e.g., environmental studies and resolving zoning issues). While local market conditions vary across the United States, land costs generally comprise 10–20 percent of total costs, soft costs comprise 20–30 percent, and hard costs comprise 60–70 percent. Local land-use regulations, such as zoning restrictions, parking requirements, and density restrictions, can all increase development costs (Urban Institute 2016; Hoyt and Schuetz 2020).

To finance projects, developers obtain funding from debt and equity. Debt typically comprises most of the funding, with loan-to-cost ratios of 50 to 75 percent (Urban Institute 2016; Garcia 2019; RCN Capital n.d.). Historically, interest rates have fluctuated between 4 and 8 percent. Equity, mostly from private investors, fills the gap between debt and project costs. Housing development equity is a relatively risky investment class due to the time required for projects to generate revenue. At a high level, equity investors compare the return on cost—the ratio of the project’s first year net operating income to its costs—with local capitalization rates. Local capitalization rates capture the average rates of return on alternative housing projects and typically range between 3 and 6 percent. According to one analysis, differences of 1 to 1.5 percent between the return on cost and capitalization rates would incentivize private investment (Garcia 2019; JPMorgan Chase 2022).

For example, on a \$20 million project, the building could be financed with \$13 million in loans—which require \$780,000 in debt service payments, assuming a 6 percent interest rate—and \$7 million in private equity, which require \$455,000 in returns to be attractive based on typical market capitalization rates. Assuming a per-unit rent that equals the nationwide median, the structure can have, at most, 136 units; this structure could generate a 6.5 percent capitalization rate in 10 years. These units would be affordable for a tenant who earns the

median income in 2022 (\$74,755), but they would be unaffordable for low-income households. For example, households in the bottom 20th percentile of the income distribution can spend, at most, \$765 in monthly rent in order to not be considered cost-burdened, about half the nationwide median monthly rent (\$1,300). Developers can privately choose to designate some units as affordable by charging below-market-rate rent, but to maintain profitability, they must raise rent on the remaining units.

Affordable housing can reduce the net operating income of a housing development project and threaten its viability. The LIHTC offers an incentive to construct affordable housing by providing tax credit equity in exchange for affordable unit construction. Among other requirements, projects must meet one of three income tests to be eligible:

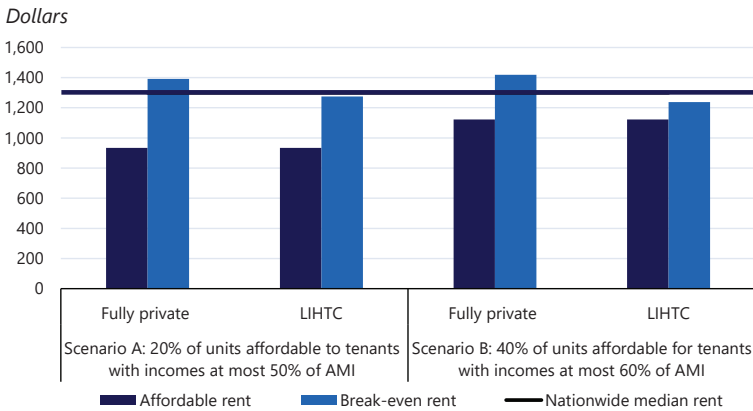
- A. At least 20 percent of the units are occupied by tenants with an income of 50 percent or less of area median income (AMI), adjusted for family size.
- B. At least 40 percent of the units are occupied by tenants with an income of 60 percent or less of AMI, adjusted for family size.
- C. At least 40 percent of the units are occupied by tenants with income averaging no more than 60 percent of AMI, and no units are occupied by tenants with income greater than 80 percent of AMI, adjusted for family size.

The LIHTC provides a 10-year stream of annual credits based on a housing project's construction costs equal to either 30 or 70 percent of the present value of the qualified basis, depending on whether the project was approved for the competitive or noncompetitive allocation (Tax Policy Center n.d.). The LIHTC is one of the few tax programs that allows for credits to be bought and sold on a secondary market. In particular, developers can sell their tax credits to investors who are better able to take advantage of the LIHTC and other project-related tax benefits to reduce their tax liability. Credits are typically sold by developers at a discount, which fluctuated between \$0.85 and \$0.90 on the \$1 as of 2021, to reflect the time-value of money (Kimura 2022). The tax equity investors typically take a passive role, receiving the benefits but not participating in day-to-day decision-making.

In the case of the \$20 million building, if 20 percent of the units are set aside for low-income tenants, as specified by income test A above, and the LIHTC credits were awarded competitively, the LIHTC program can provide \$1.4 million in equity, assuming that investors are willing to purchase credits at a discount of \$0.85 on \$1. With this tax equity, only \$5.6 million in private equity is needed, which will require 7 percent fewer returns from rent to cover financing costs.

Figure 4-i compares the per-unit rent in the affordable and remaining units with and without the LIHTC and under two scenarios: (1) 20 percent of units affordable at 50 percent of the nationwide median

**Figure 4-i. Rent Comparisons Under Different Funding Scenarios**



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Sources: Census Bureau (2022); CEA calculations.

Note: LIHTC = Low Income Housing Tax Credit; AMI = Area Median Income. The figure illustrates calculations for a \$20 million hypothetical building.

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income; and (2) 40 percent of units affordable at 60 percent of the nationwide median. As shown, the LIHTC program allows developers to allocate units to low-income renters without cross-subsidizing via increased rent on the remaining units. If developers instead choose to fund affordable units privately, for example, in order to satisfy an inclusionary zoning requirement, the building’s remaining units would need to be rented at above the market rate, as characterized in figure 4-i, based on the nationwide median rent for illustrative purposes, for the developer to break even on costs. This funding scenario, however, introduces additional risk as the developer would have no guarantee of demand for the above-market-rate units.

Researchers estimate that the combined effect of changes in life expectancy, international immigration, urbanization, and fertility can account for 41 percent of the observed housing price increase from 1970 to 2010 and forecast an additional increase of 5 to 19 percent in housing prices through 2050 (Gong and Yao 2022). Likewise, research finds that a 1-percentage-point increase in the current birthrate would increase housing prices by 4 to 5 percent in 25 to 30 years (Francke and Korevaar 2022). Moreover, foreign-born household heads are projected to be the primary source of new housing demand by 2040 (Nguyen 2015).

## **Housing Supply Shortages: Consequences for Welfare, Economic Mobility, and Aggregate Output**

Even in functional housing markets, income variation across households implies that low-income households face higher housing cost burdens than those with a higher income. When land-use restrictions drive supply constraints, growing housing demand in cities and neighborhoods leads to more expensive housing, rather than new housing development (Baum-Snow 2023). The resulting housing shortages manifest as lower vacancy rates and higher prices and rents relative to wage growth. As the gap widens between market prices and production costs, more households experience housing insecurity, which negatively affects individual welfare and economic mobility (Been et al. 2011; Taylor 2018).

### ***Neighborhood Choice, Individual Welfare, and Economic Mobility***

Prices affect not only the type of housing in which individuals choose to live, but also where they live. The latter decision is tied to a bundle of local amenities, including access to jobs and transportation, schools, exposure to crime, environmental quality, health care access, and social networks. Importantly, neighborhood choice shapes children’s long-run educational and economic outcomes, and neighborhood environment affects adult health and well-being (Chetty and Hendren 2018; Chyn and Katz 2021).

Property taxes typically fund public schools; the greater the tax base per capita, the more funds are available for education. Children from high-income households tend to live in expensive neighborhoods and, therefore, have access to higher quality schools. Housing near high-scoring public schools costs on average 2.4 times more, or nearly \$11,000 more per year, than housing near low-scoring schools (Rothwell 2012). Few affordable housing options exist near high-quality schools (DiSalvo and Yu 2023), which reduces the number of low-income, as well as Black and Hispanic, students attending them, and exacerbates intergenerational inequality (Ihlanfeldt 2019). Black and Hispanic students attending more segregated schools are less likely to graduate from high school and attend college than their peers attending less segregated schools, and they are less likely to work and more likely to have low earnings as adults (Gould Ellen, De la Roca, and Steil 2015).

Economic models, such as that developed by Tiebout (1956), suggest that beyond valuing neighborhoods for their schools, households “vote with their feet” and choose neighborhoods that best match their preferences. However, because housing markets are incomplete and affordable houses are often not available in neighborhoods with high-quality amenities,

rising housing prices push low-income households toward areas with few amenities.

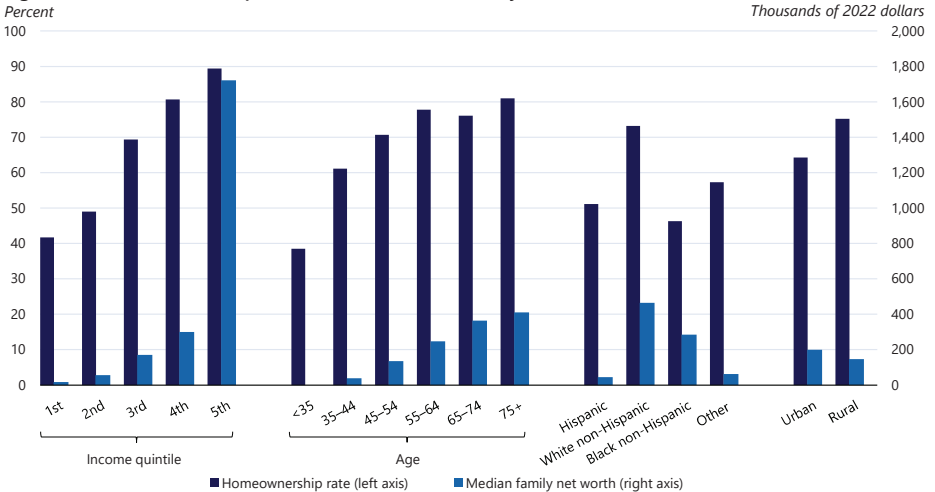
Housing supply constraints can affect demographic shifts in the American population. For instance, young adults primarily demand entry-level and lower-priced housing. As a result, shortages in the entry-level market sector are felt most by young adults. Research has shown household formation rates decreased in recent years as a result of increased housing prices: a 1 percent increase in housing prices decreases household formation by almost 5 percent for young adults (Kiefer, Atreya, and Yanamandra 2018). Consistent with this finding, homeownership rates have been declining over time for young adults (Goodman, Choi, and Zhu 2023).

**Wealth Accumulation**

Homeownership has long been a common path to wealth accumulation in the United States, with returns being especially high for those who can afford expensive homes (Wolff 2022). As a result, housing supply restrictions have implications for wealth accumulation (La Cava 2016). Figure 4-9 reports homeownership rates and median net family worth by income, age, race and ethnicity, and geography. Generally, patterns in homeownership rates according to these characteristics are correlated with wealth patterns. Higher-income, older, and white non-Hispanic households are more likely to own their homes and have accumulated more wealth than other groups.

Intergenerational wealth transfers interact with homeownership. For example, individuals are about 8 percentage points more likely to become

**Figure 4-9. Homeownership Rate and Median Net Family Worth, 2022**



Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Survey of Consumer Finances; Census Bureau; CEA calculations.

Note: The values for the fifth income quintile are calculated by averaging over data reported for 80-89.9 and 90-100 income quintiles. 2024 Economic Report of the President

homeowners if their parents are homeowners rather than nonhomeowners (Choi, Zhu, and Goodman 2018). Because housing is the main source of wealth for most households, disparities in homeownership rates and valuations across groups are likely to lead to differences in wealth accumulation (figure 4-9). In particular, generations of discrimination in the housing market have created a substantial racial wealth gap in America; one paper estimates that, on average, Black Americans had 17 cents for every \$1 in wealth white Americans had in 2019 (Derenoncourt et al. 2023). Many researchers show that these trends are likely to be perpetuated into the future (Derenoncourt et al. 2023; Aaronson, Hartley, and Mazumder 2023). Black and Hispanic homeowners also face an assessment bias in the value of their homes, creating further household wealth disparities by race and ethnicity (Avenancio-Leon and Howard 2022).

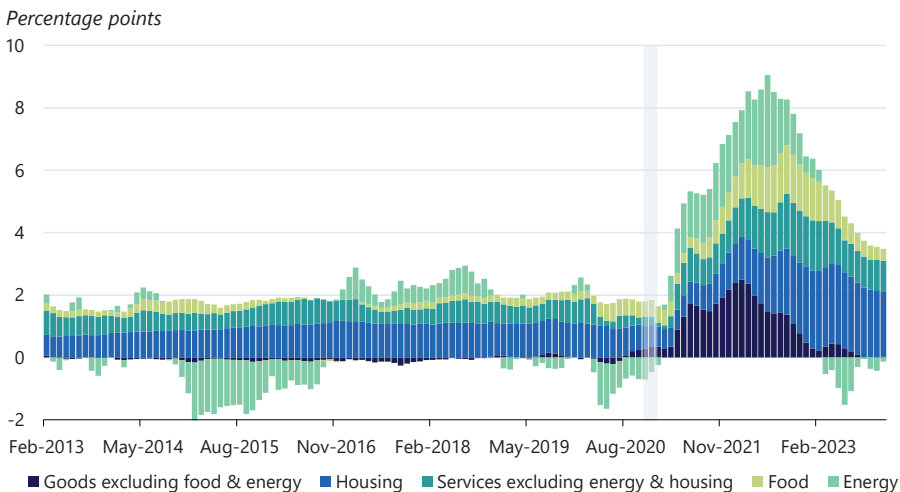
### *Income Shocks, Housing Instability, and Homelessness*

Homeownership and home values affect households' ability to withstand income shocks. Black and Hispanic households were disproportionately affected by the foreclosure crisis after the global financial crisis and the financial hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic (Reid et al. 2016; Bayer et al. 2016; Gerardi et al. 2021; Cornelissen and Pack 2023; Hermann et al. 2023). Foreclosures cause sustained housing instability and make future homeownership difficult, in addition to inflicting other forms of financial distress (Diamond, Guren, and Tan 2020).

While homeowners benefit from rising housing costs in their own neighborhood, the 35 percent of households who rent their home do not (Ruggles et al. 2023), and low-income residents who do not own their home face the threat of eviction. Eviction orders, which are increasingly likely after earnings declines and employment losses, increase homelessness and further reduce future earnings, durable consumption, and credit access (Collinson et al. 2023). Children are at the greatest risk for eviction, and extensive research suggests they are substantially and lastingly harmed by housing instability (Graetz et al. 2023). Finally, housing stability, quality, safety, and affordability are all associated with improved health outcomes (Taylor 2018).

Evidence suggests that regional variation in housing costs and availability explains regional variation in homelessness (Aldern and Colburn 2022). Counter to intuition, poverty rates are lower in places with higher rates of homelessness (Aldern and Colburn 2022). Homelessness is strongly correlated with median rent at the city or county level; one study shows that a \$100 increase in median rent is associated with a 15 percent rise in homelessness in metropolitan areas (Byrne et al. 2016). Moreover, evidence suggests that higher homelessness rates are not associated with higher

**Figure 4-10. Components of Year-on-Year Headline CPI Inflation, 2013–23**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.

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incidence of mental health issues, substance abuse, or generosity of the local safety net (Aldern and Colburn 2022). A statewide California study finds that 75 percent of homeless residents remain in the county where they last had housing (Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative 2023).

### *Implications for Inflation and Aggregate Growth*

A constricted housing supply across regions creates migration frictions that can lead to a geographic labor misallocation (Ganong and Shoag 2017). All else being equal, workers should migrate from low to high productivity cities until productivity, and therefore wages, equalizes across cities. If high-productivity cities also have a constrained housing supply, fewer workers can respond to productivity and wage incentives. Recent evidence suggests that many workers might not move to places with higher wages because higher housing costs completely offset any increase in wages (Card, Rothstein, and Yi 2023).

Housing supply restrictions also exacerbate inflation. When measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), inflation reflects changes over time in the price paid for a market basket of consumer goods and services, including food, energy, and housing. Housing expenses—the single largest basket component—have accounted for at least 25 percent of the CPI basket since 1993. Figure 4-10 depicts a decade of inflation trends, including a decomposition of the market basket’s core components. As the level of housing

prices has increased, the contribution of housing to CPI has increased simultaneously (CEA 2023a). High housing inflation partially reflects a shift in housing demand—for example, increased working from home—paired with an already-constrained housing supply (Mischke et al. 2023). Housing inflation has steadily declined since the spring 2023 peak, and as a result, annual inflation declined to 3.4 percent at the end of 2023.

## **Federal Policy’s Role**

The three prominent frictions related to long-run housing supply shortages and affordability issues are (1) locally determined land-use regulations, which lead to exclusionary zoning; (2) financing and other construction costs that increase the cost of producing housing; and (3) the spatial mismatch of workers and jobs, which reduces aggregate output. These three costs motivate multiple Federal policy solutions.

Although much of housing supply policy is local, the Federal Government can affect national priorities through various mechanisms. For example, the government can help address long-standing implicit and explicit discriminatory zoning practices. To this end, the Federal Government can align its agency resources and policy priorities to promote zoning reforms that reduce barriers that limit what can be built. Likewise, the Federal purse can be used to advance existing agency priorities and launch new initiatives to alleviate housing supply constraints, increase the production of affordable units, and address the Nation’s growing affordability challenges.

A central goal of the Biden-Harris Administration is an economy in which every American has access to a safe and affordable home. On one hand, demand-side policies, including direct subsidies to cost-burdened households, can help address acute affordability issues. Box 4-3 describes several important examples. On the other hand, supply-side policies that directly boost housing construction are an integral part of the solution.

### ***Zoning Reforms: Expanding the Housing Supply and Increasing Affordability***

Local zoning and land-use restrictions are a long-standing, fundamental hurdle for increasing the housing supply. Under these restrictions, housing supply shortages have become increasingly salient, with a growing share of household budgets dedicated to housing. Reducing barriers to the housing supply can lead to several benefits: increased housing production, economic growth, job creation, reduced class and racial segregation, and increased climate resiliency through reduced sprawl and commuting times. Fortunately, momentum is building for zoning reforms, and numerous policy changes have been enacted at the State and local levels. Examples, detailed in box



### Box 4-3. Assistance for Housing Demand

Even in a functioning housing market with abundant supply, many low-income families still struggle to afford housing. Federal policies can help families close the gap between housing expenditures and personal financial resources. The Federal Government can provide financial assistance to individuals directly and also enact policies to decrease the price of housing.

The Federal Government uses several assistance programs to help low-income families access affordable housing, including Project-Based Rental Assistance, Public Housing, and housing vouchers. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, administered by HUD in partnership with local public housing agencies, is one of the largest Federal housing programs (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities 2017). The program generally caps families' housing costs at 30 percent of their income, helping 2.3 million low-income households annually, while also reducing evictions and homelessness (HUD 2023d, 2023i). Almost three-quarters of families receiving housing vouchers have children (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities 2017). Households using vouchers were once young relative to the general population but have steadily become older (Reina and Aiken 2022). Many voucher households live in high-poverty and low-opportunity areas, where vouchers are more often accepted; however, only about one in four voucher-eligible households actually receive and use a voucher, due to the lack of program funding (Gould Ellen 2018). When families use vouchers to move to low poverty neighborhoods, children's long-run outcomes improve in the form of higher college attendance rates and adult earnings (Chetty, Hendren, and Katz 2016).

Recognizing that funding limitations constrain the number of households able to receive rental assistance, President Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget proposed expanding rental assistance to well over 200,000 additional households through \$2.4 billion in additional funding for the voucher program, as well as \$22 billion in mandatory funding to provide guaranteed housing to extremely low income veterans and youth transitioning out of foster care (White House 2023c; HUD 2024b).

Federal financial assistance to families in the form of cash, tax credits, and in-kind benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (known as SNAP) can help alleviate some of the financial burden of housing. For instance, the temporarily expanded 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) helped families maintain stable housing by alleviating other financial burdens (CEA 2023b; Pilkauskas, Michelmore, and Kovski 2023).

The Rural Housing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers direct and guaranteed loans to help low-income rural residents buy and maintain housing. In 2022, USDA's Single Family

Housing Direct Loan Program obligated \$1.3 billion to underwrite and service mortgages for low-income families that often face credit constraints. Additionally, USDA obligated \$13.1 billion in mortgage loan guarantees to help provide moderate- to low-income rural residents an opportunity to realize the dream of homeownership (USDA 2024).

In a housing market with sufficient supply, demand-side assistance can be very effective. However, in a housing market with a constrained supply, these policies may lead to increased rent prices for some rental units, possibly directing some of the benefits to landlords and property owners rather than renters (Diamond, McQuade, and Qian 2018).

4-4, include initiatives allowing construction of multifamily housing in areas previously zoned for single-family homes, expanding homeowners' right to construct and rent out accessory dwelling units, and abolishing minimum parking requirements (Greene and González-Hermoso 2019; Parking Reform Network n.d.). Federal policy could build on these successes to help cities and States continue their reforms.

Federal dollars can create incentives for State and local policymakers to meet housing policy goals. For instance, the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) program sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will award \$85 million in competitive grants to communities with plans to remove barriers to affordable housing and production in 2024 (HUD 2023b). In addition, President Biden has called for \$20 billion to create a first-of-its-kind fund that will award planning and housing capital grants to State and local jurisdictions to expand the housing supply and lower housing costs for lower- and middle-income households (as described in the forthcoming Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, per the U.S. Department of the Treasury). Further, HUD's 2023 publication *Policy & Practice* collects and disseminates evidence-based insights drawn from State and local housing policy initiatives. HUD also recently announced \$4 million in grant funding to support research studying zoning and land-use reforms, and a \$350,000 award through the Research Partnerships program to support the development of the "National Zoning Atlas" to "close data gaps that limit our understanding of the relationship between zoning and segregation, affordability, and other outcomes of interest" (HUD 2023j, 2023g). HUD has further reinforced the 1968 Fair Housing Act's goal of "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" with a rule that would require recipients of HUD funding to work to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, eliminate disparities in opportunities, and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination (HUD 2023a).

#### Box 4-4. State and Local Zoning: Recent Steps

Zoning is one of the most significant regulatory powers of local government, and research shows reform can unlock economic growth and opportunity (Flint 2022). Zoning reforms that are likely to increase housing supply include allowing more multifamily housing to be built (especially near public transportation hubs), legalizing accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and eliminating minimum parking requirements, minimum lot sizes, minimum square feet requirements, and density restrictions. None of these reforms prevent new single-family home construction; rather, the changes prevent municipalities from requiring only single-family homes.

Some steps taken in recent years include:

- Buffalo became the first major U.S. city to abolish minimum parking requirements in 2017 (Poon 2017). Recently, more cities have followed suit, including Anchorage, San Jose, and Gainesville. Other cities, such as San Diego, made incremental steps in the same direction by eliminating parking requirements near public transit (Wamsley 2024; Khouri 2022).
- Minneapolis banned single-family exclusive zoning in 2018, and Charlotte enacted a similar policy in 2021 (Grabar 2018; Brasuell 2021). At the State level, Oregon, California, and Washington enacted such policies in 2018, 2021, and 2023, respectively (Garcia et al. 2022; Gutman 2023).
- California has enacted multiple policies intended to grow housing supply in recent years. The State has legalized ADUs statewide, allowed duplexes and lot splits in single-family zones, and allowed mixed-income, multifamily housing in all residential areas (Skelton 2021; Gray 2022). At the same time, California has eliminated minimum parking requirements at transit stations statewide (Khouri 2022). California has also set up a Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, whereby local jurisdictions must produce housing and land use plans to comply with State housing targets (California Department of Housing and Community Development 2023).
- Connecticut has enacted significant policy changes, requiring its cities and towns to “affirmatively further fair housing” in their zoning, promote diverse housing options, legalize ADUs, and cap minimum parking requirements (Flint 2022).
- Montana enacted several changes in 2023 aimed at making housing more affordable and reducing sprawl into rural and agricultural areas (State of Montana Governor’s Office 2023). These pro-housing changes include allowing duplexes, ADUs, and apartment-style housing, while also speeding up permitting approvals (Dietrich 2023).

- In 2022, Maine passed legislation to allow ADUs and duplexes in residential zones, and legalized quadplexes in “designated growth areas” (SMPDC 2023).
- In Massachusetts, a program known as MBTA Communities, signed in 2021, requires cities and towns to allow multifamily housing near transit stations, with a minimum density of 15 units per acre (Commonwealth of Massachusetts 2023). Fairfax County, Virginia, is taking similar steps, such as easing height and density restrictions near transit stations (Merchant 2016).
- Vermont legalized duplexes in all residential neighborhoods, as well as triplexes and quadplexes in all areas served by municipal sewer and water infrastructure in 2023 (Brasuell 2023).

In addition to HUD’s efforts, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) manages several large grant programs that improve transportation connections, including connections to affordable housing and funding for land-use reform. For example, the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program offers grant funding for capital construction, community planning, and regional partnerships that prioritize disadvantaged communities, improve access to daily needs, foster equitable development, and reconnect communities (DOT 2023). The Areas of Persistent Poverty Program awards competitive grants to finance projects including those that improve transit facilities, technologies, and transit service in areas of persistent poverty or in historically disadvantaged communities (FTA 2023). In addition, the Economic Development Administration has updated its guidance to emphasize efficient land use as part of the agency’s grantmaking authority (White House 2023a). Many of these efforts are connected with the Administration’s Housing Supply Action Plan, which provides incentives for local zoning reforms by tying these reforms to Federal grant process scoring (White House 2022). Together, these policies prioritize and direct Federal spending toward increasing the housing supply and affordability, especially in locations close to public transportation.

### ***Reducing Supply Constraints with Federal Taxes and Other Subsidies***

Addressing home affordability requires both short-term and long-term solutions. To unlock supply and increase access in the short run, the Biden-Harris Administration has called for a series of new policies designed to lower costs for homeowners and homebuyers. This includes a temporary mortgage payment relief tax credit for first-time homebuyers, which can increase access to homeownership during this period of historically high

mortgage interest rates (as described in the forthcoming Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, per the U.S. Department of the Treasury). It includes down payment assistance to first-generation homebuyers, which can increase access for families that have not benefited from the generational wealth accumulation associated with homeownership (HUD 2024a). Further, it includes a temporary tax credit targeting low- and middle-income homeowners who sell their starter homes, which can unlock inventory in the starter-home market that is currently facing an acute supply shortage (as described in the forthcoming Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, per the U.S. Department of the Treasury). Finally, to reduce the value gap between rehabilitation costs and postconstruction home values for single-family homes in distressed neighborhoods, it includes new funding to subsidize rehabilitation expenses (White House 2023d). These funds can increase the likelihood that homes are rehabilitated before sale, making it easier to attract homebuyers and boosting revitalization efforts in these neighborhoods.

To address supply issues in the long run requires making progress on both cost and access. However, these policies take time to show progress. President Biden has called for a new Project-Based Rental Assistance Program to fund long-term contracts with private owners to rent new affordable units to America's neediest families (White House 2023c). The Federal Government has also directly reduced the cost of building affordable housing by subsidizing construction expenses through the tax code.

The largest construction subsidy, the LIHTC, has funded one in five of all new multifamily units since 1987 and has created more than 3.5 million affordable rental units (HUD 2023e). The LIHTC awards developers a stream of Federal tax credits over a 10-year period after a project is placed in service. In exchange, developers must designate a subset of units as rent restricted for low-income households. Box 4-2 provides additional details on the LIHTC, including how it helps close the gap between profitability and the investment returns required for investors to fund the project.

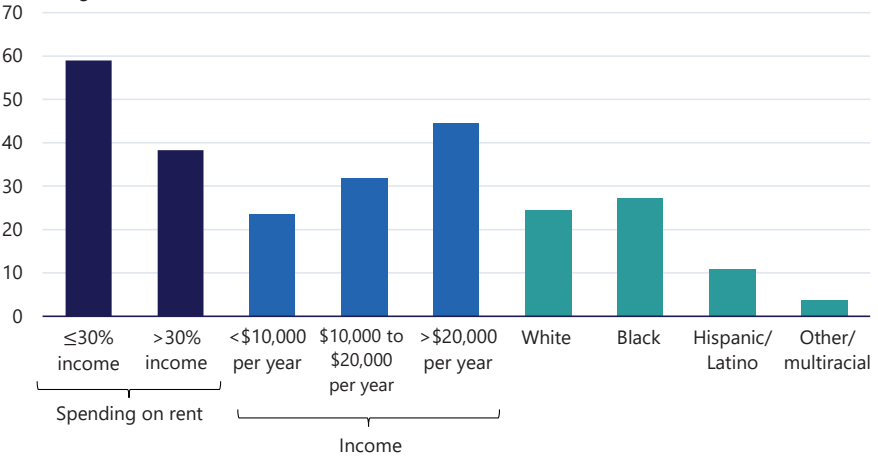
Figure 4-11 shows the financial characteristics of LIHTC unit tenants in 2021. LIHTC provides housing for households with very low incomes: 24 percent had an annual income below \$10,000, and 56 percent had an income below \$20,000. The program benefits a diverse group of households: roughly one-quarter are white, another quarter are Black, and one-tenth self-identify as Hispanic/Latino. The statistics suggest that the LIHTC program effectively targets vulnerable families.<sup>5</sup> Still, nearly 40 percent of tenants spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent (HUD 2021).

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<sup>5</sup> While HUD collects demographic information describing households residing in each LIHTC property, these data are incomplete because a universal list of buildings placed in service that received LIHTC is not publicly available. Improving the collection of these data would permit HUD to more completely portray the scope of the LIHTC portfolio and its residents.

**Figure 4-11. Financial Characteristics of LIHTC Unit Tenants, 2021**

Percentage of households in LIHTC units



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; CEA calculations.

Note: LIHTC = Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The "other/multiracial category" includes those reporting race as Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, other, and multiple races. The shares within each category do not sum to 100 percent due to missing or unreported data.

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LIHTC-funded developments make an impact on both families and neighborhoods, according to multiple studies of the program’s benefits (Baum-Snow and Marion 2009; Eriksen and Rosenthal 2010). Evidence from Chicago demonstrates that LIHTC-assisted developments have positive spillover effects on local property values (Voith et al. 2022). Home price appreciation contributes to wealth accumulation for neighborhood residents and increases funding for public services, but it can also make localities inaccessible for financially disadvantaged families. At the same time, LIHTC-assisted developments are associated with reductions in violent crime through neighborhood revitalization (Freedman and Owens 2011). One study estimates that the program’s aggregate welfare benefits in low-income areas are \$116 million via property value appreciation, declines in crime, and the inflow of racially diverse individuals (Diamond and McQuade 2019). Further, access to affordable housing via LIHTC units gives families and their children the stability required for regular health care access and is associated with decreased rates of child abuse and neglect (Gensheimer et al. 2022; Shanahan et al. 2022).

However, there is also evidence that new LIHTC projects may increase owner turnover rates and crowd out private rental construction (Baum-Snow and Marion 2009; Eriksen and Rosenthal 2010). Still, the Administration believes the program can help improve housing affordability and supply,

and President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget calls for roughly \$30 billion to expand and enhance the program. The President’s 2022 Housing Supply Action Plan called for LIHTC reforms, including a now-finalized Treasury rule allowing developers to average incomes across some, rather than all, households in a given property to incentivize more mixed-income developments (White House 2022; Internal Revenue Service 2022).

The Historic Tax Credit subsidizes the rehabilitation of historic properties, including those that result in a new or renovated housing supply.<sup>6</sup> Since its inception in 1976, the program has rehabilitated more than 300,000 housing units and has created 343,000 new housing units, 192,000 of which are low- and moderate-income units (U.S. Department of the Interior 2022). In Fiscal Year 2021, the National Park Service certified 1,063 historic rehabilitation projects to revitalize abandoned and underutilized buildings; nearly 80 percent of them were located in economically distressed areas (U.S. Department of the Interior 2021). The National Park Service has also shown that Historic Tax Credit-related rehabilitation projects provide a better return on investment than equal investments in new construction (U.S. Department of the Interior 2020).

Federal housing tax subsidies can help achieve long-term housing supply goals and affect the U.S. economy’s climate impact. Buildings account for 29 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (Leung 2018). Estimates suggest that rehabilitated structures produce 50–75 percent fewer carbon emissions than new construction (Gupta, Martinez, and Nieuwerburgh 2023). The Inflation Reduction Act has committed \$9 billion in tax credits, rebates, workforce training, and funding opportunities to transform existing homes into green homes and construct new, environmentally friendly residential spaces (Martin 2022). Currently, the commercial real estate market, with high office vacancy rates and rising loan delinquencies, is in a position to be transformed into usable and financially prudent residential spaces (Sorokin 2023; DBRS Morningstar 2023; White House 2023b).

In addition to tax subsidies, the Federal Government provides several block grants to State and local jurisdictions to assist in affordable housing development. HUD’s Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) can support the acquisition and rehabilitation of housing for low- and moderate-income individuals. In Fiscal Year 2022, the CDBG State and local grantees allocated more than \$920 million to housing activities, including public housing modernization and single- and multifamily home rehabilitation (HUD 2022). Recently, HUD issued additional guidance on how to make use of CDBG funds to further develop “decent, accessible, equitable, and affordable housing,” providing specific ways that grantees can best make use of CDBG funds (HUD 2023h). HUD also administers the

<sup>6</sup> The Historic Tax Credit is a colloquial name for the Rehabilitation Tax Credit, which was made available under section 47 of the Internal Revenue Code.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the largest Federal block grant program that provides funding exclusively to increase access to an adequate, affordable housing supply for low-income households (CRS 2021). Since 1992, HOME appropriations have cumulatively totaled nearly \$45 billion, with annual appropriations ranging between about \$1 billion and \$2 billion. The funds have supported completion of more than 1.3 million affordable housing units (HUD 2023c).

### ***Expanding Manufactured Home Delivery and Financing to Address Rural Housing Constraints***

Manufactured housing costs 45 percent less to build per square foot than site-built housing due to efficient production technologies that take advantage of economies of scale (Freddie Mac n.d.). Manufactured homes, which are required to comply with HUD-promulgated Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, are energy efficient, safe, and designed to withstand natural disasters, inclement weather, and fires (Freddie Mac 2022; Code of Federal Regulations 2023). As a result, they may help provide affordable housing units and alleviate supply constraints, especially in rural communities.

Manufactured housing has a higher share of total owner- and renter-occupied housing in rural communities than in more densely populated areas (Layton 2023). However, efforts to expand the manufactured housing supply face hurdles driven by land-use regulations. Although the HUD-promulgated manufactured housing building code preempts State and local design and construction code, local land-use regulations often restrict the placement of manufactured homes, either implicitly or explicitly (HUD 2023f). For example, some jurisdictions have zoning requirements that limit manufactured housing to specific zoning districts, and other jurisdictions may have minimum home size requirements that preclude manufactured housing (Freddie Mac 2022). In addition, minimum lot size and parking regulations increase land costs and price manufactured homeowners out of the market. Federal efforts to encourage the adoption of improved State and local zoning policies could serve as a financial incentive to promote these kinds of reforms as well.

Barriers to manufactured home financing dampen demand. The traditional government-sponsored mortgage enterprises, specifically Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, cannot purchase and guarantee loans for manufactured homes because their owners do not typically own the land on which they sit. Instead, owners must take out a so-called chattel loan, which, relative to a mortgage, has higher interest rates, shorter repayment periods, and fewer consumer finance protections (CFPB 2021). These loans can be prohibitively costly for low-income families (Goodman and Ganesh 2018). In light



of this, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have identified the financing of manufactured and rural housing among the activities targeted by their 2022–24 Duty to Serve Plans, including the plan to begin purchasing loans titled as personal property in 2024 and to increase the purchase of loans titled as real property (FHFA 2022).<sup>7</sup>

## Conclusion

Housing shortages and unaffordability have risen over the last 60 years, in large part because of local land-use policies that restrict housing density and what can be built. These effects are felt most by low-income and vulnerable families, which are increasingly priced out of the housing market. Because many amenities are bundled with housing and neighborhoods, housing supply shortages inhibit economic mobility for millions of Americans. Investing in the housing supply and producing affordable units opens the door for upward mobility and increases overall economic growth.

Persistent market failures in the housing market create a role for government. Demand-side assistance can help households facing affordability constraints. In addition, the Federal Government has encouraged efforts to increase supply-side policies that incentivize local zoning reform, reduce exclusionary zoning via grants and other spending, and directly subsidize affordable unit construction through programs like LIHTC. While the efforts have made a difference, the housing market still faces an acute supply shortage and declining affordability. Ultimately, meaningful change will require State and local governments to reevaluate the land-use regulations that reduce the housing supply.

Fortunately, local, State, and Federal policies can boost the housing supply through incentivized changes to zoning policies, tax credits that subsidize construction costs for affordable units, and other block grants that prioritize affordable unit construction. By taking further steps to address the country’s housing supply shortage, the United States will be richer, our citizens will be more financially stable, and our environment will be greener.

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<sup>7</sup> The Safety and Soundness Act provides that the “Government-Sponsored Entities” have a “duty to serve underserved markets,” specifying that the enterprises “shall provide leadership to the market in developing loan products and flexible underwriting guidelines” to improve access and equity in the mortgage financing market.



## Chapter 5

# International Trade and Investment Flows

After a period of rapid globalization during the 1990s and early 2000s, global goods trade and financial flows showed signs of plateauing in the decade after the global financial crisis due to a combination of factors, including sluggish recoveries after the crisis and diminished opportunities to further disperse production across borders. Still, the global economy remains inextricably linked—even in the face of large economic shocks and rising geopolitical tensions—with the U.S. economy continuing to play a leading role. The United States is the world’s second-largest trading country, with more than \$7 trillion in combined goods and services exports and imports in 2022, and it remains both the largest source of and destination for foreign direct investment (USTR 2022a; OECD 2023a).

There are well-documented gains from trade and cross-border investment flows. The benefits of global integration include lower inflation, a greater variety of goods and services, more innovation, higher productivity, good jobs for American workers in exporting sectors, foreign direct investment in U.S. industries, and a higher likelihood of achieving our climate goals (Bernstein 2023). However, policymakers must continue to pay careful attention to negative effects associated with global integration and some trade policies. First and foremost, global integration can disproportionately affect certain groups of workers and communities through employment and earnings losses when facing rising import competition. These distributional effects are further complicated by differing commercial standards and practices, with some countries using unfair labor practices (e.g., forced or child labor) or environmentally-degrading manufacturing techniques that are not fully captured in prices and create an unfair and uneven global production

landscape that can distort and stymie competition. To mitigate the negative consequences of trade and investment flows for both workers and communities, international policies (e.g., trade agreements and economic frameworks) can seek to promote high-level standards (e.g., fair labor practices), and domestic policies (e.g., social safety nets and education or reskilling programs) can be adapted to focus needed resources on workers who are adversely affected by global integration.

By reorienting trade and foreign investment policy to center on workers, the Biden-Harris Administration's policy agenda continues to define and elevate the standards by which trade and foreign investment are conducted, and it serves as a mechanism for achieving broader economic goals. These goals include confronting unfair trade practices, elevating labor and environmental standards ([USTR 2022b](#)), and building cooperative and beneficial economic relationships with U.S. partner countries ([CEA 2023a](#)). For example, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework is an innovative economic framework that promotes inclusive growth by advancing higher economic standards, building supply chain resiliency, facilitating and capturing the economic opportunities that relate to addressing climate change, fighting corruption, supporting efficient tax administration, and promoting high-standard labor commitments. Another example is the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement's Rapid Response Labor Mechanism, which promotes the right of free association and collective bargaining rights by workers ([USTR 2023a](#)). Since 2021, this mechanism has been used to protect labor rights at multiple different facilities, and thus it has had an impact on thousands of workers in Mexico ([U.S. Department of Labor 2023](#); [USTR 2023a](#)).

While the longer-term outlook for U.S. trade and investment flows remains uncertain, early signs of important shifts have begun materializing. Supply chains are being rewired in patterns consistent with near-shoring and friend-shoring. Trade in many services sectors has proved resilient to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and is growing. Foreign investors are contributing

to a historic ramping up of domestic manufacturing in critical sectors, including advanced technologies and clean energy. In particular, a disproportionate number of announced foreign investments in clean energy projects are being located in regions of the country that experienced more pronounced losses in manufacturing employment in the 1990s and early 2000s.

After describing the evolution of global integration over the past three decades, this chapter surveys signs that, though still robust, goods trade integration has slowed for many economies since the global financial crisis. It then explores how the U.S. trade and investment landscapes have changed in recent years, and it investigates the centrality of global value chains for understanding shifts in trade and investment that are consistent with near-shoring and friend-shoring. Finally, it discusses trade and foreign investment's costs and benefits for U.S. workers, consumers, and communities—highlighting how the Biden-Harris Administration's economic and trade frameworks and partnerships harness global integration's benefits while mitigating its costs.

## **Long-Term Trends in Trade and Foreign Investment**

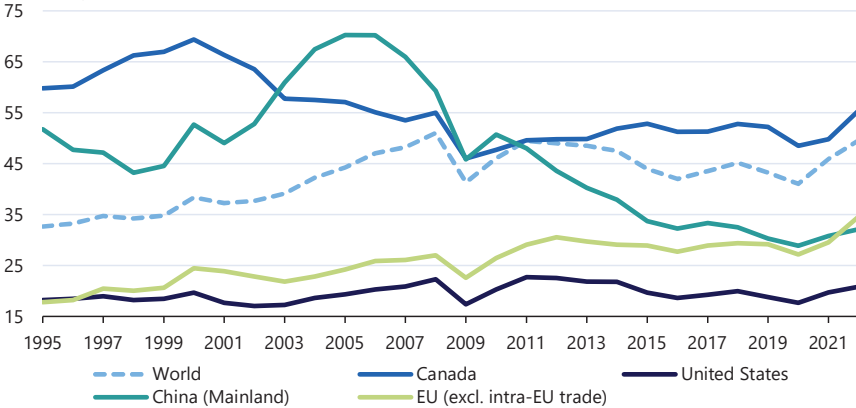
The liberalization of goods trade and cross-border financial markets—a trend sometimes characterized as “hyperglobalization” (Rodrik 2011)—was a defining economic story of the 1990s and early 2000s.<sup>1</sup> However, it largely stagnated after the global financial crisis and, while 2021 and 2022 saw a rebound, global goods trade integration remained below its 2008 peak and may level off once again as goods consumption normalizes in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The cessation of hyperglobalization has given

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<sup>1</sup> Major liberalization episodes include the integration of former Soviet countries in the early 1990s with the rest of the global economy, the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995, and China's accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001 (Aiyar et al. 2023).

**Figure 5-1. Trade in Goods as a Percent of GDP, 1995–2022**

Percentage of GDP



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: International Monetary Fund; CEA calculations.

Note: Data were only available through 2022. EU trade excludes trade between EU countries, which includes all countries that were members as of 2022. The data for 1995 and 1996 are from the former Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union. 2024 Economic Report of the President

way to what some have termed “slowbalization” (*Economist* 2021; Nathan, Galbraith, and Grimberg 2022).<sup>2</sup>

***Global Integration Slowed After the Global Financial Crisis, Following Earlier Decades of Rapid Growth***

Global goods trade integration—the total value of goods exports and imports as a share of gross domestic product (GDP)—rose steadily, from 33 to 51 percent, between 1995 and 2008 (figure 5-1).<sup>3</sup> Figure 5-1 also shows that the extent and timing of the slowdown in goods trade integration differs across economies, and the future outlook remains considerably uncertain. China’s decline in goods trade integration since 2006—an outsized 38-percentage-point drop—is the primary driver for the observed slowing in global goods trade integration, and reflects the country’s shift away from importing intermediate inputs and in favor of domestic sources for its production

<sup>2</sup> There is a notable exception—trade in commercial services excluding travel and transportation (e.g., business services and telecommunications) grew much faster than goods between 1990 to 2023 and shows no sign of slowing (Baldwin 2022). This continuing rise in cross-border digital activity has been associated with the idea of “newbalization,” indicating the changing nature of globalization with a slowdown in flows of tangible goods while intangible flows (e.g., of digital services and cross-border data) accelerate (Nathan, Galbraith, and Grimberg 2022). Meanwhile, measuring trade incorporating information on both freight and distance traveled compared with value shows an increasing trend in global trade, in part reflecting the growing importance of commodities like critical minerals (which weigh more than comparable manufactured products like toys) and can only be sourced from distant locations (Ganapati and Wong 2023; Zumbun 2023).

<sup>3</sup> The economics literature describes the share of trade relative to GDP as trade openness.

processes (Constantinescu, Mattoo, and Ruta 2018). Canada's peak goods trade integration in 2000 likewise preceded many other economies' turning points. While the European Union (excluding intrabloc trade) also experienced a dip after the global financial crisis, unlike comparable economies, the slowdown in its goods trade integration has not been as marked and has not yet reached a discernible peak.<sup>4</sup>

The United States' trend line of overall goods trade integration differs from the other economies shown in figure 5-1 in two respects. First, during the steady increase of goods trade integration in the 1990s and early 2000s, U.S. trade integration remained well below the world average and that of most other major economies. Second, the United States' decline in goods trade integration since the global financial crisis has been far smaller than China's decline. Given that U.S. goods trade integration remains below global averages and that of peer economies, figure 5-1 suggests there may be additional scope to increase America's trade with the global economy. As this chapter discusses, the United States' goods trade integration has generated benefits for American workers and consumers, as well as for U.S. growth; however, it has also created important vulnerabilities. These trade-offs underline the strong role for policy to minimize adverse distributional consequences and maximize the benefits (e.g., supply chain resiliency and lower prices) from greater trade openness, as discussed in more depth later in this chapter.

The discussion above of trade in goods is just one dimension of global integration. Cross-border financial flows—which include flows in securities (e.g., stocks and bonds) and in foreign direct investment (FDI), referring to a firm or individual's investment in a commercial interest in another country—are another key mechanism of global integration (Loungani and Razin 2001; OECD 2024).<sup>5</sup> Unlike cross-border securities flows, which tend to be highly volatile, FDI typically signals longer-term and often more productive investment, and it can take the form of expanding or acquiring an existing foreign-owned company or starting a new enterprise in a foreign country.

Global FDI flows as a share of GDP have also exhibited signs of slowing across many economies since the global financial crisis (figure 5-2).<sup>6</sup>

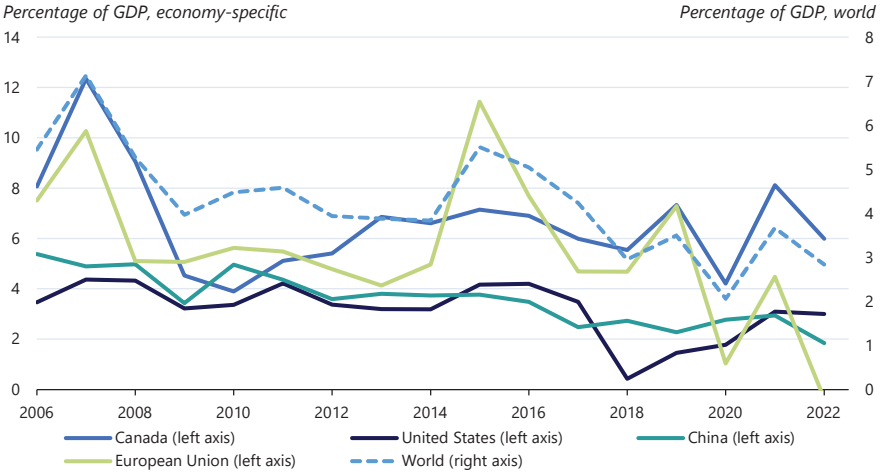
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<sup>4</sup> Including intra-EU trade, the EU's global goods integration is far higher, at roughly 85 percent of GDP in 2022 (vs. 35 percent excluding intra-EU trade), given that almost 60 percent of total EU cross-border trade on average is between countries within the bloc.

<sup>5</sup> Another channel for global integration is immigration (the cross-border movement of people), which is beyond the scope of this chapter. Other forms of cross-border financial flows include remittances and financial transactions (e.g., development aid transfers).

<sup>6</sup> FDI flows are reported based on the geographic location of the investor, meaning that a foreign entity's investment in a U.S. firm counts as an inflow to the United States even if (on net) the entity removed more money from the country than it put into the country that year. In the event that transactions that decrease a foreign entity's investment in a U.S. firm outweigh transactions that increase the entity's investments, the FDI inflow would be recorded as negative to the United States.

**Figure 5-2. Total Foreign Direct Investment Flows as a Percentage of GDP, 2006–22**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; CEA calculations.

Note: This figure shows the sum of inflows and outflows of foreign direct investment relative to gross domestic product (GDP) for selected economies.

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While the United States has experienced a muted recovery since 2018, total FDI flows remain below levels seen immediately before the crisis. But as the lynchpin of the global financial system, the United States is still highly financially integrated with the global economy according to several metrics, including FDI (Bertaut, von Beschwitz, and Curcuro 2023; OECD 2023b).

The slowing integration trends through 2020 have been widespread, making an impact on countries at diverse stages of development and often facing different economic shocks (figures 5-1 and 5-2). Both cyclical factors (high-frequency developments often associated with business cycles, e.g., temporary declines in demand) and secular factors (structural, slower-moving phenomena, e.g., technological change) help to explain these trends.

Cyclical factors include sluggish recoveries since the global financial crisis in advanced economies that have weighed on global aggregate demand, and the impact of the crisis on the financial and corporate sectors, which were compelled to address vulnerabilities in their balance sheets by deleveraging and rebuilding capital buffers (Aiyar et al. 2023). And just as some economies reached their pre-2008 unemployment levels roughly a decade later, a new set of cyclical shocks surfaced—including the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s further invasion of Ukraine—each of which had an adverse impact on global financial conditions and complicated trade flows.

Secular factors include a slowdown in production fragmentation, or the unbundling of tasks across borders, also known as global value chains

(GVCs) (Timmer et al. 2016). Because multinationals play a central role in both trade integration and FDI (Qiang, Liu, and Steenbergen 2021), a reduction in the pace of GVC creation helps explain the stagnation shown by both measures. Other secular factors include China’s slowdown in growth and decline in share of trade relative to GDP; in the 21st century, China’s annual GDP growth rate reached a high in 2007, roughly coinciding with a peak in the country’s trade integration, and has since been persistently lower. Ongoing geopolitical tensions and rising national security concerns have also resulted in an increase in trade sanctions, with the highest share of global trade affected by sanctions since at least 1950 (WTO 2023a).

The combination of factors described above are generating important shifts in the extent and intensity of interlinkages with cross-border supply chains—known as GVC participation—and sourcing. Two GVC participation measures signal these shifts, some of which began with the global financial crisis and have accelerated in recent years (WTO 2021). First, the extent of China’s and the United States’ use of imported inputs for the production of their exports has declined since the global financial crisis (see figure 5-3, panel A).<sup>7</sup>

Second, the United States’ and European Union’s shares of content in other countries’ domestic final demand dropped across many of the selected economies between 2009 and 2019; in contrast, China’s content in these countries’ domestic final demand increased (figure 5-3, panel B).<sup>8</sup> For example, the share of U.S. value added in Mexico’s domestic final demand fell by 4 percentage points between 2009 and 2019, and in contrast, China’s share increased by 7 percentage points. And while the share of U.S. value added in India’s domestic final demand increased by 1 percentage point between 2009 and 2019, China’s share of value added increased by 6 percentage points over the same period. The shares of U.S. and European Union value added in China’s domestic final demand remained unchanged over this period.

Putting the two sets of findings together suggests that U.S. exports had a lower value share of foreign-produced components in 2019 compared with 2009, while other countries became more dependent on China as a source of inputs in their domestic consumption. Lower cross-border connectedness may risk reducing the gains from trade and FDI for the U.S. economy.

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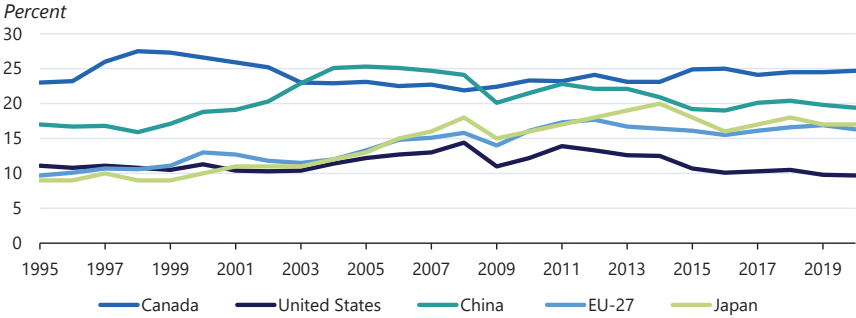
<sup>7</sup> The measure of foreign value-added content of overall exports is also called “backward GVC participation” (WTO 2022).

<sup>8</sup> The share of foreign value added in countries’ domestic final demand reflects how much value added in goods and services purchased in other countries’ domestic markets originates from abroad and shows a “domestic economy’s relative connectedness to production in other countries and regions—independent of whether or not there are direct imports from foreign (upstream) industries” (OECD 2021). Indicators of forward GVC participation that measure domestic value added sent to other countries as a share of overall exports paint a more sanguine picture but do not offset the multitude of indicators pointing to a generalized slowdown in GVC participation (OECD 2023c).

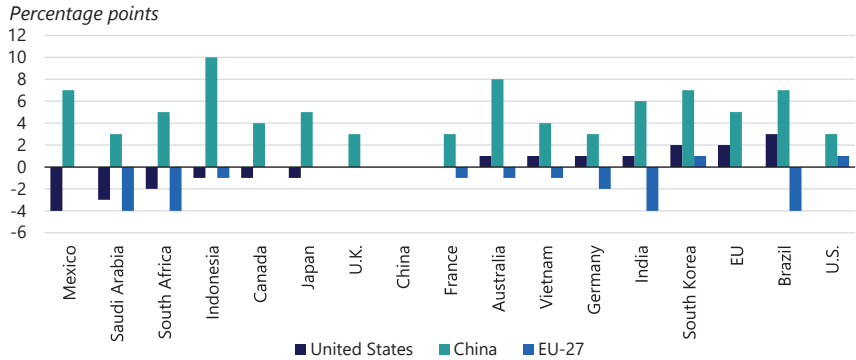


**Figure 5-3. Indicators of Global Value Chain Participation**

**A. Foreign Content in Countries' Exports as a Share of Total Exports, 1995–2020**



**B. Change in Share of Foreign Value Added in Domestic Final Demand, 2009–19**

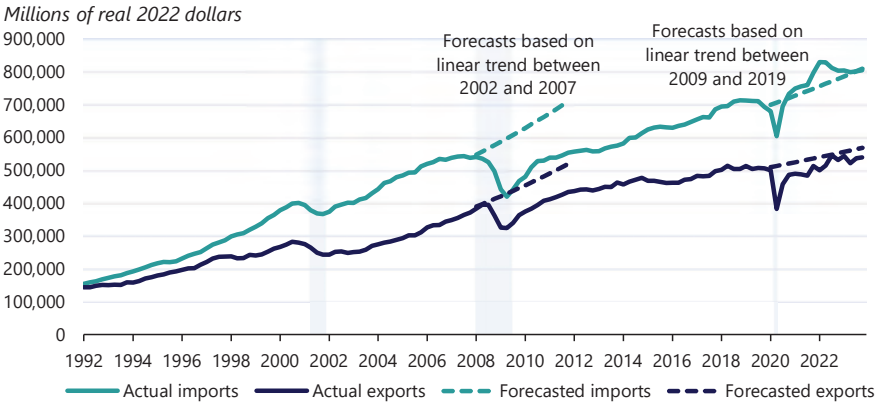


**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; CEA calculations.  
 Note: In panel A, the underlying indicator represents the import content of a country's gross exports and is a measure of global value chain integration. In panel B, the underlying indicator represents the amount of foreign value added (from the United States, China, and the EU-27, respectively) reflected in domestic final goods or services demand in various countries as a share of total foreign value added in countries' domestic final demand; the figure shows changes in the share from 2009 to 2019.  
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The complexity of the current international environment for global trade and FDI flows points to considerable uncertainty for the future outlook. Despite supply chain pressures during the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. goods trade proved resilient and supply chains had begun to normalize (CEA 2023b); U.S. consumption also remained strong in 2023 (see chapter 2 of this Report). Together with policy actions that are also promoting shifts in supply chains, these factors may boost global integration. But at the same time, the ongoing pandemic recovery may be masking the impact of secular headwinds, and still-developing shifts in supply chains may introduce new obstacles (e.g., higher costs) to greater integration.

**Figure 5-4. Real Quarterly Trade in Goods, Actual versus Forecasted, 1992–2023**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Actuals were deflated to 2022 dollars using import/export price indexes. Post-2007:Q4 forecast based on linear trend in each series from 2002:Q1 to 2007:Q4; post-2019:Q4 forecast based on linear trend in each series from 2009:Q3 to 2019:Q4. Trade data are on a balance of payments basis. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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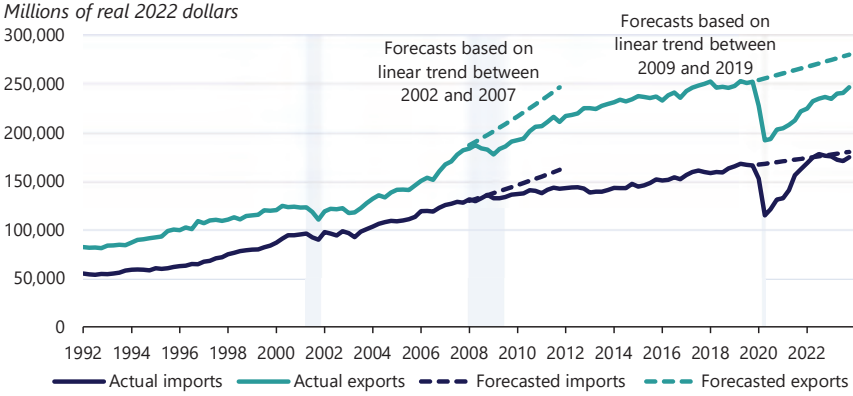
***U.S. Trade Growth Tracks Global Trends: Signs of a Recent Slowdown and Recovery***

U.S. trade growth has broadly tracked global trade growth over the past three decades (WTO 2023b). Between 1993 and 2023, U.S. trade in goods and services grew at an average annual rate of 4.4 percent, which was faster than the average annual rate of 2.4 percent growth for the U.S. economy.<sup>9</sup>

As with broader economic activity, U.S. trade flows are often broken out into two major categories: goods trade and services trade. Goods trade includes the importing or exporting of tangible products (e.g., automobiles and cell phones), while services trade includes the importing or exporting of intangible products (e.g., tourism and insurance). Demand for goods and services is driven by different forces, as exemplified by pandemic-induced shutdowns and work-from-home mandates that led to increased demand for household goods and a sharp decline in demand for such services as dining-in restaurants and international travel (CEA 2023a). Historically, services trade has been less sensitive than goods trade to macroeconomic shocks. Real trade flows underscore this point. Figures 5-4 and 5-5 compare actual trade flows (in goods and services, respectively) with alternative paths, forecasting continued growth at pre-global financial crisis linear trend rates after the start of the crisis and at 2009–19 linear trend rates after the start of the pandemic. The negative demand shock during and after the crisis depressed

<sup>9</sup> The real GDP growth rate for 2023 was calculated as the simple average of the annualized real growth rate over the period 2023:Q1–2023:Q3.

**Figure 5-5. Real Quarterly Trade in Services, Actual versus Forecasted, 1992–2023**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Actuals were deflated to 2022 dollars using import/export price indexes. Post-2007:Q4 forecast based on linear trend in each series from 2002:Q1 to 2007:Q4; post-2019:Q4 forecast based on linear trend in each series from 2009:Q3 to 2019:Q4. Trade data are on a balance of payments basis. Gray bars indicate recessions.

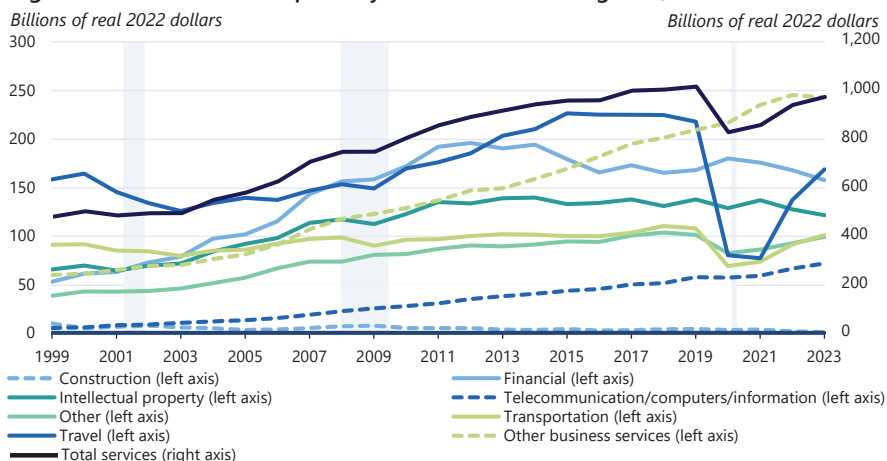
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both goods and services trade flows; however, the impact was more muted for services trade flows. The slowdown in U.S. goods trade growth (particularly in goods imports) was therefore a key driver of the plateauing in overall U.S. trade flows after the crisis.

Unlike during the global financial crisis, trade in both goods and services collapsed in 2020 due to mobility restrictions motivated by public health precautions that drove supply chain disruptions and brought global travel to a sudden halt (OECD 2022; IMF 2022). After the pandemic, goods trade flows recovered rapidly, especially for U.S. imports, which soon rose above the trend forecasted before the pandemic and returned to this trend in late 2023. U.S. goods exports recovered more slowly, but are near their forecasted trend. These recovery paths offer reason for cautious optimism that in 2024, both goods exports and imports will remain in line with their trends before the pandemic (figure 5-4).

The outlook for services—namely, services exports—is more uncertain (for a definition of services, see BEA 2023a). Services imports (including American travel abroad) recovered to their growth trend before the pandemic by early 2022 but slowed in the early part of 2023 and are near their long-term trend (figure 5-5). Services exports have not yet returned to their long-term trend. However, there are reasons for optimism. Services exports exhibited positive growth throughout 2023 and, on a monthly basis, reached a historic high in November 2023 (U.S. Census Bureau 2023). And services export sectors—including the financial sector, telecommunications, computer and information services, and intellectual property (e.g., patent and

**Figure 5-6. U.S. Services Exports by Broad Product Categories, 1999–2023**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Dashed lines indicate types of services that did not experience declines during recessions. "Other" includes maintenance and repairs, insurance, personal/cultural/recreational services, and government goods and services. Trade data are on a balance of payments basis. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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trademark licensing), and other business services (including services related to research and development, computer and data processing, engineering, and services that cover management of construction projects)—were largely unaffected by the pandemic (figure 5-6). This is important because these collectively represent high-value-added activities in which the United States continues to maintain a comparative advantage (Baccini, Osgood, and Weymouth 2019).

Within services, telecommunications, computer and information services, and other business services have grown steadily and were especially resilient during the three recessions between 1999 and 2023. Two factors explain this resiliency. First, services trade is often governed by long-term contracts that are not easily changed without long lag times. Second, services trade represents an extreme form of highly agile, “just in time” production: inventories do not present obstacles in the event of a shock, and resources can be redirected quickly toward other goals (Miroudot 2022).

Travel (foreign spending on travel to the United States) and transportation (revenues from airplanes and ocean carriers for transporting freight and passengers) exports accounted for most of the pandemic-era drop; travel has yet to recover to its level before the pandemic. Travel advisories and health restrictions exacerbated these weaknesses, suggesting that lifting these

restrictions can play a role in helping travel exports recover at a faster pace.<sup>10</sup> Transportation exports are closely linked to the exporting of merchandise freight (BEA 2018), and goods exports recovered more slowly than goods imports—dragging the recovery of transportation services exports after the pandemic. Transportation services exports also include revenue from transporting passengers and are, as a result, closely linked to commercial and business travel. While both sectors are improving as travel restrictions loosen, business travel has recovered more slowly, with large businesses having to cut back on travel—motivated in part by an interest in reducing carbon emissions (Georgiadis et al. 2023).

The United States' sluggish trade growth in 2023 mirrors global developments. From a cyclical perspective, the slowdown in U.S. goods imports may be partly attributable to the postpandemic normalization toward services consumption (including nontradable services like restaurants and tradable services like travel), away from goods consumption (U.S. Department of the Treasury 2023; CEA 2023a, chap. 2). Higher U.S. interest rates and associated borrowing costs are also likely to affect goods imports negatively, since durable goods such as cars, home furnishings, and capital goods are often purchased using borrowed funds (Romei 2023). Both goods and services exports are negatively affected by slower growth in foreign markets like Europe and China and by higher interest rates, which together are leading to lower external demand for U.S. exports. From a secular perspective, the slowdown in trade could also reflect longer-term factors, including compositional changes in GVCs. The near-term outlook for overall U.S. trade growth remains uncertain, in light of the many factors at play.

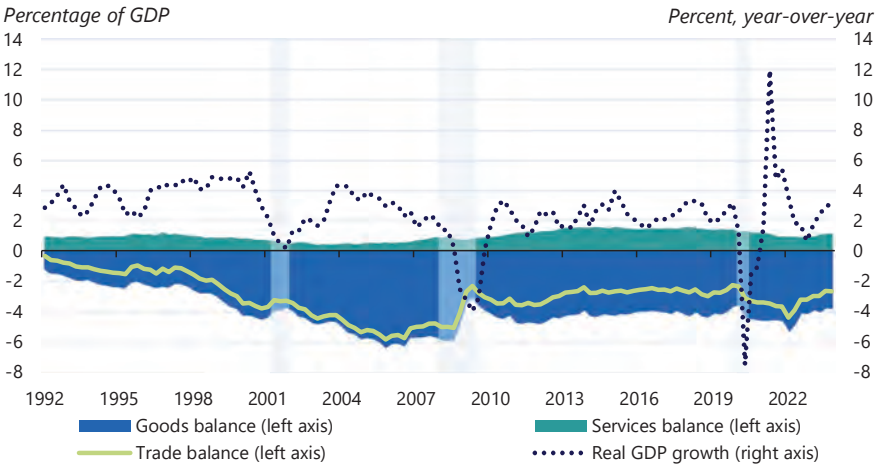
### *U.S. Trade Deficits Are Driven by Aggregate Saving and Investment Patterns*

A country's overall trade balance is the difference in value between its imports and exports. A country that imports more than it exports runs a trade deficit, while a country that exports more than it imports runs a trade surplus. The United States is a net exporter of services and a net importer of goods. Because the magnitude of its goods deficit far outweighs that of its services surplus, overall, the United States has run a trade deficit since the early 1990s (figure 5-7). In 2022, the annual value of the U.S. goods trade deficit reached an all-time high and expanded as a percentage of GDP, and

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<sup>10</sup> For example, while flights between the United States and China—a major source of U.S. tourist arrivals—were slated to increase from 48 a week to 70 a week beginning in November 2023, these figures remain well below the 340 flights a week that connected the countries before the pandemic (Bloomberg 2023). Still, developments suggest continued expansion in services exports as pandemic-era travel policies ease further; e.g., China lifted its ban on group travel to the United States in August 2023, which will allow large-scale tour groups to once again visit the United States (Cheng 2023).

**Figure 5-7. U.S. Trade Balances and Real Growth, 1992–2023**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Trade data are on a balance of payments (BOP) basis. Real GDP is seasonally adjusted at an annualized rate. Gray bars indicate recessions.

the U.S. services trade surplus contracted as a percentage of GDP. These trends started to reverse more recently, with the 2023 U.S. annual trade deficit contracting by nearly 19 percent compared with 2022.

Trade deficits can elicit negative attention if the presumption is that the GDP accounting identity (where negative net exports—exports minus imports—are subtracted from GDP) describes the totality of the relationship between trade and growth. Trade deficits are also sometimes associated with import competition, which has historically generated concentrated employment losses for certain groups of workers. However, the connections between trade deficits, economic growth, and employment are closely tied to broader macroeconomic conditions. For example, when an economy is operating at full employment, a rising trade deficit can be a pressure-release valve, providing needed supplies of imported goods and services that help prevent overheating (Baker 2014). Moreover, imports complement domestic spending on American goods and services, so that their negative accounting impact on GDP is partially offset by the domestic value added generated,

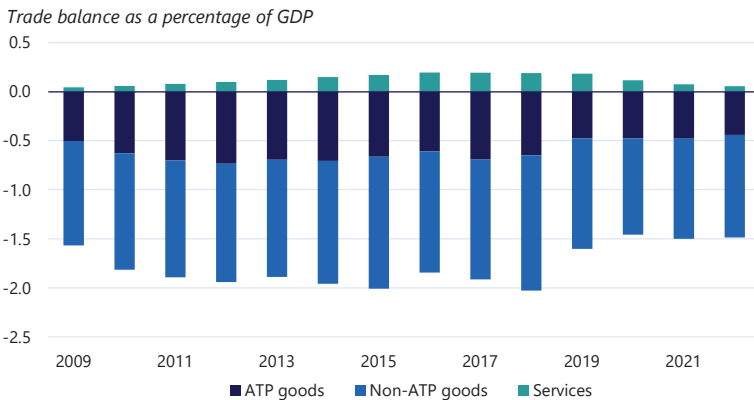
### Box 5-1. Trade Balances and Capital Flows—Fundamental Drivers

*Overall trade balances.* The fundamental drivers of a country's overall trade balance are its relative saving and investment rates—both public and private (Ghosh and Ramakrishnan 2024). Countries with lower domestic saving than domestic investment (likely as a result of low domestic saving rates, high domestic investment rates due to attractive economic opportunities, or a combination of the two) tend to run trade deficits and accompanying current account deficits (where the current account balance is defined as the trade balance plus net foreign investment income plus net transfer payments from foreign income sources like worker remittances and foreign aid). The trade balance typically accounts for the bulk of the current account balance and is highly correlated with it, so, for expositional simplicity, we focus on the trade balance. Trade deficits are necessarily matched by capital and financial account surpluses (the net inflows of foreign lending necessary to finance the trade deficit)—as is the case with the United States.

There are several schools of thought on what drives the United States' trade deficit. One emphasizes a supply-side view, where much of the onus for the United States' capital and financial account surplus and trade deficit can be placed on other countries' *excess supply of savings* or foreign saving gluts (Bernanke 2005; Pettis 2017; Klein and Pettis 2020). Under this framing, the United States absorbs disproportionately large inflows of capital from countries where saving rates are relatively high. This can occur due to both government policies (e.g., large foreign reserve acquisitions, exchange rate management to influence currency values, and suppression of consumption to boost internal savings) and myriad other factors (including weak social safety nets or demographics) (Devadas and Loayza 2018). When saving is too high relative to investment, this can result in weak demand for imports and capital outflows to other countries, potentially causing distortive financial bubbles in recipient countries (McBride and Chatzky 2019). By emphasizing foreign influences on domestic trade balances, this view downplays the impact of domestic saving and investment. Under this model, excess saving flowing from one country to another would tend to lower the receiving country's interest rate and appreciate its currency, leading to lower saving, higher investment, and a larger trade deficit.

A second school of thought emphasizes a demand-side view (e.g., Knight and Scacciavillani 1998). According to this theory, countries can have *excess demand for saving* due to their outsized productive investment opportunities compared with available domestic saving. Needed inflows are imported via net sales of assets to foreigners (e.g., sales of Treasuries and securities and FDI inflows). These large net capital inflows allow for a level of consumption and investment that

**Figure 5-i. U.S.–China Trade Deficit, 2009–22**



Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Census Bureau; CEA calculations.

Note: ATP = advanced technology products. Trade data are on a balance of payments basis.

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could not otherwise occur; with access to these foreign countries' excess savings, domestic households, firms, and government all benefit by incurring lower borrowing costs. Over time, such investments can yield strong returns and higher productivity—allowing them to service their accumulated debts and potentially generating trade surpluses (Obstfeld and Rogoff 1996).

Of course, together with other explanations—for example, Caballero, Farhi, and Gourinchas (2017) on safe asset shortages—the excess savings and excess demand views may all play a role and interact in ways that can be problematic in some cases, particularly if excess foreign funding supports excess demand that fuels unproductive, distortionary investment. An oft-cited example is the U.S. housing bubble of the early 2000s, when excess foreign saving helped inflate a real estate bubble that crashed with devastating and lasting consequences (Jørgensen 2023).

*Bilateral trade balances.* A country's overall deficit is the sum of its bilateral balances, of which some generally will be negative and some positive. While the overall balance reflects the macroeconomic factors that determine saving and investment, bilateral imbalances can reflect a comparative advantage—with systematic heterogeneity across different goods and services (IMF 2019). As an example, figure 5-i divides the U.S.–China deficit into services and two broad product-group categories: advanced technology product (ATP) goods and non-ATP goods. ATP goods include products that embody advanced technologies in biotechnology, life science, opto-electronics, information and communications,



electronics, flexible manufacturing, advanced materials, aerospace, weapons, and nuclear technology (Abbott et al. 1989). Two-thirds of the ratio between the goods trade deficit and GDP is driven by trade in non-ATP goods, and the United States has a long-standing, albeit small, surplus with China in services—highlighting the role of comparative advantage in determining the U.S.-China bilateral deficit, with the United States showing relative advantage in technology-intensive production technologies and services sectors compared with China. China has a comparative advantage in non-ATP goods.

along with downward pressure on inflation.<sup>11</sup> Trade, including via higher imports, can also boost the productivity of importing firms and the broader economy by supporting higher growth (CEA 2015a). Data support this view; the U.S. trade deficit tends to be countercyclical and is largest during periods of strong GDP growth because the same drivers of increased domestic demand (including savings and investment rates) also tend to fuel increased import demand (CEA 2015b). Box 5-1 discusses these fundamental drivers and the trade-offs from running large deficits, including how excessive foreign savings flowing into a country can fuel unproductive, distortionary investments over time (Bernanke 2005).

## The United States Leads in Global FDI Flows

The United States is the largest source of and destination for FDI flows globally.<sup>12</sup> Over 20 percent of both U.S. FDI inflows and outflows in 2022 were targeted at cross-border manufacturing investments (OECD 2023b; BEA 2023b). In addition to providing another source of financing for domestic investments, FDI tends to increase wages and productivity in target firms (Hale and Xu 2016) and can also generate positive spillovers

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<sup>11</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic offers an instructive anecdote. Imports surged during lockdowns, allowing consumption of goods to increase and help buoy the recovery (Higgins and Klitgaard 2021). A large share of final expenditures on imported goods is generated domestically, as shown by Hale et al. (2019): “Nearly half of the amount we spend on imported goods stays in the United States to pay for the local component of the retail price of these goods. . . . Almost half of the total expenditures on imports is embedded in the production of U.S. goods and services that use imported intermediate inputs. Taking all of these factors into account, import content in total [personal consumption expenditures] was just over 10% in 2017. The high share of local content means that imports generate a number of transportation and retail jobs that might or might not be as numerous if these goods were produced in the United States.”

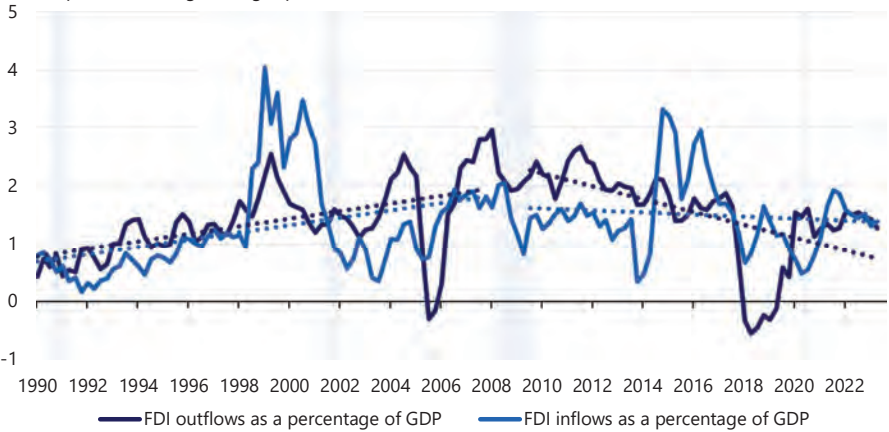
<sup>12</sup> Global comparison based on data from the first half of 2023 (OECD 2023b).

across U.S. firms within an industry (Keller and Yeaple 2009).<sup>13</sup> Reflecting long-standing trends, the large majority of U.S. FDI flows are either destined for or originate from the country’s closest trading partners. For example, in 2022, Canada and countries in Europe accounted for 79 percent of inward U.S. FDI flows and 65 percent of outward U.S. FDI flows (BEA 2023c).

FDI flows are less volatile across time than cross-border securities flows, but they still tend to fluctuate (Lipseý 2000). In order to smooth out some of the volatility, figure 5-8 shows the three-quarter moving average of quarterly U.S. FDI-to-GDP inflows and outflows, as well as linear trend lines for each series before and after the global financial crisis. The smoothed series still shows sizable fluctuations in FDI flows, often dur-

**Figure 5-8. U.S. FDI Flows as a Percentage of GDP, 1990:Q1–2023:Q2**

*Three-quarter moving average (percent)*



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Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: FDI = foreign direct investment. The moving average is centered on each quarter. Gray bars indicate recessions. Linear trend lines (dotted lines) are based on periods before and after the global financial crisis.

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ing nonrecessionary periods, which reflect the acyclicity of FDI flows in

<sup>13</sup> FDI often correlates with the arrival not only of technological advances but also other intangible assets, including novel managerial approaches and production processes, technical know-how, and lessons from learning-by-doing in a cross-border setting (Branstetter 2006). FDI can also promote trade through creating new cross-border commercial connections, and FDI’s effects on productivity can result in increased domestic and global competitiveness for a firm and its peers. But absorptive capacity, including an educated workforce and sufficient research and development investment, is needed for a country to reap the benefits of FDI (Blomström, Kokko, and Mucchielli 2003). Evidence from the United States signals that horizontal productivity spillovers across firms in an industry tend to be strongest in high-tech industries and for firms most distant from the productivity frontier. These effects accounted for between 8 to 19 percent of U.S. manufacturing productivity growth during the late 1980s and early 1990s (Keller and Yeaple 2009).

advanced markets (BIS 2017). Explanations for such fluctuations are often unique to each episode and flow type. For example, the decline in U.S. FDI outflows in 2018 has been attributed to a dramatic reduction in reinvested earnings (retained profits) abroad due to a regulatory change in the tax treatment of offshore profits.<sup>14</sup> During that same year, a large portion of the decline in U.S. FDI inflows was attributed to the reincorporation of a single technology solutions provider—Broadcom; changes to the ownership structure reclassified the firm’s U.S. affiliate as a U.S.-headquartered company, making its associated transactions no longer cross-border (Tabova 2020).

Taking a longer view, U.S. FDI outflows have broadly been on a downward path since the global financial crisis due to many of the same cyclical and secular headwinds that have had an impact on trade flows (see the linear trends shown in figure 5-8) (UNCTAD 2023). Since 2022, they have largely leveled off as a share of GDP. FDI inflows as a share of GDP fell 19 percent from 2021 to 2022—more than double the median post-global financial crisis year-on-year declines but smaller than the large declines in the early 2000s and mid-2010s.<sup>15</sup> The 2022 drop was primarily driven by a fall in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, as tighter global financial conditions and uncertainty in financial markets caused borrowing costs to increase (UNCTAD 2023).

Aggregate flows mask the different types of foreign investment transactions, including those that expand an economy’s production capacity through new facilities or expanded existing facilities. Capacity-expanding FDI flows into manufacturing have, for instance, partially offset aggregate weak FDI trends, both globally and in the United States.<sup>16</sup>

The United States was the largest destination for capacity-expanding FDI in 2022 (UNCTAD 2023). FDI expenditures in new U.S. establishments and expansions of existing facilities were concentrated in manufacturing, which represented almost two-thirds of total new FDI first-year expenditures in 2022 (BEA 2023d).<sup>17</sup> This concentration of new FDI investments in

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<sup>14</sup> As noted by Tabova (2020), “For most of the period prior to 2018, reinvested earnings accounted for the majority of [flows of U.S. direct investment abroad, USDIA]. The drop in USDIA in 2018 is driven by the drop in reinvested earnings as a result of the 2017 [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act] that eliminated the tax incentive to keep earnings abroad and led to U.S. companies repatriating a large part of their accumulated earnings abroad.”

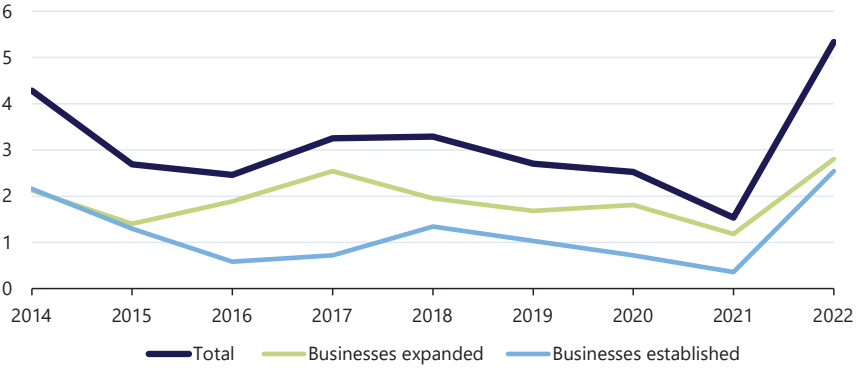
<sup>15</sup> After the global financial crisis, and measuring year-on-year percentage changes at a quarterly frequency, FDI outflows to GDP declined at a median rate of –2.3 percent and FDI inflows to GDP declined at a rate of –7.9 percent.

<sup>16</sup> According to UNCTAD (2023), capacity-expanding FDI announcements grew by 64 percent year on year, to \$1.2 trillion globally in 2022, rising by 37 percent in advanced markets and more than doubling in developing countries.

<sup>17</sup> The Bureau of Economic Analysis’s (2023d) survey of new FDI in the United States identifies capacity-expanding transactions that create new U.S. establishments and the building of new physical facilities by existing U.S. affiliates of foreign-owned firms, as well as other transactions from foreign investors for new acquisitions of U.S. businesses.

**Figure 5-9. Real FDI in U.S. Manufacturing New Establishments and Expansions, 2014–22**

*Billions of 2022 dollars*



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Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis; Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

Note: Series were deflated using the Producer Price Index: Total Manufacturing (2022 = 100). New FDI refers to transactions that create new U.S. establishments and the building of new facilities by existing U.S. affiliates of foreign-owned firms. First-year expenditures include expenditures in the year in which the transaction occurred.

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manufacturing deviates from earlier years; the manufacturing sector’s average share of capacity-expanding FDI spending from 2014 to 2021 was less than one-third. FDI flows in new U.S. manufacturing production capacity increased 247 percent from 2021 to 2022, reaching \$5.3 billion and reversing a multiyear downward trend that began in 2019 (figure 5-9).<sup>18</sup>

These new foreign investments in manufacturing projects in the United States are concentrated in strategically important sectors, including advanced technologies and clean energy; foreign investments in computer and electronic products (including semiconductor manufacturing) were among the largest, at \$1.8 billion of capacity-expanding FDI flows in 2022 (BEA 2023d).<sup>19</sup> There has also been a sizable number of announced FDI

<sup>18</sup> In 2022, expenditures outperformed the average from before the pandemic (2014–19) by a factor of 1.7.

<sup>19</sup> Looking at more speculative planned investment expenditures, the increase in capacity-expanding FDI in the computer and electronics sector is striking, rising from \$17 million in 2021 to \$54 billion in 2022 in real terms and representing roughly two-thirds of 2022’s planned capacity-expanding manufacturing FDI.

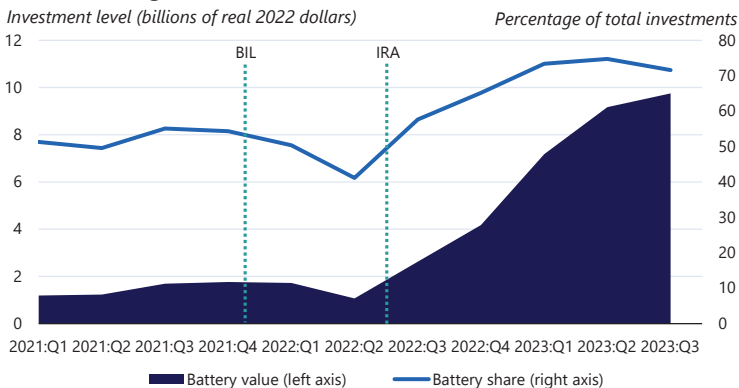
## Box 5-2. The U.S. High-Capacity Battery Supply Chain and the Complementary Role of Domestic and Trade Policies

Battery supply chains in the United States illustrate the importance of international trade partnerships in complementing domestic legislation to achieve clean energy goals. The high-capacity battery supply chain is characterized by five main value chains: (1) raw material production, (2) material refinement and processing, (3) material manufacturing and cell fabrication, (4) battery pack and end-use product manufacturing, and (5) battery end of life and recycling (White House 2021b).

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) offers critical support to clean energy industries, particularly the high-capacity battery value chain for electric vehicles and energy storage. The Advanced Manufacturing Production Tax Credit (45X) and Advanced Energy Project Investment Tax Credit (48C) can allay almost a third of capital investment faced by battery manufacturers (Mehdi and Morenhout 2023). In 2023, under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Department of Energy allocated \$1.9 billion to build and expand commercial-scale facilities to extract and process battery materials (e.g., lithium and graphite) and produce components (U.S. Department of Energy 2023).

Provision of tax credits under the IRA and public funding under BIL are designed to “crowd in” private sector investments (Boushey 2023). Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the U.S. economy received a total of \$213 billion in new investments in the clean energy

**Figure 5-ii. Battery Investments as a Share of Total Actual Manufacturing Investments, 2021–23**



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Sources: Clean Investment Monitor; CEA calculations.

Note: BIL = Bipartisan Infrastructure Law; IRA = Inflation Reduction Act.

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**Table 5-i. Percentage of Imports to the United States in the High-Capacity Battery Supply Chain by Top Partner Countries**

Year	China (percent)	South Korea (percent)	Japan (percent)	Canada (percent)
2021	25.3	11.6	16.1	18.6
2022	33.9	14.7	14.2	12.4
2023	37.4	17.8	13.6	10.2

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Sources: Trade Data Monitor; CEA calculations.

Note: This table displays the percentage share of imported products in the high-capacity battery supply chain from the top four partner countries. The "battery supply chain" is defined by the set of 10-digit HS codes identified as inputs and lithium-ion batteries and parts by the Department of Commerce (2023). The top-four country ranking is based on 2022 import values.

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**Table 5-ii. Percentage of Imports by Raw Materials and Lithium-Ion Battery Parts by Top Sources, 2021–23**

Imports	China (percent)	South Korea (percent)	Japan (percent)	Canada (percent)
Raw Materials	8.0%	33.8%	47.1%	98.1%
Lithium-Ion Batteries and Parts	92.0%	66.2%	52.9%	1.9%

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Sources: Trade Data Monitor; CEA calculations.

Note: This table displays the percentage share of imported products in the high-capacity battery supply chain from the top four partner countries. The "battery supply chain" is defined by the set of 10-digit HS codes identified as inputs and lithium-ion batteries and parts by the Department of Commerce (2023). The top-four country ranking is based on 2022 import values.

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**Table 5-iii. Ford Motor Company's Investment Announcements in High-Capacity Battery Materials, 2022–23**

Materials Being Supplied	Material Supplier (Country)	Arrangement
Nickel	Vale (Indonesia) and Zhejiang	Joint venture
	Huayou Cobalt (China);	
	BHP Nickel West (Australia)	Agreement
Lithium	loneer (United States);	Agreement
	Lake Resources (Argentina)	Agreement

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Source: Reuters.

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sector, representing a 37 percent increase from the prior year (Bermel et al. 2023). Within manufacturing, actual investments in batteries accounted for the largest share—72 percent—of total manufacturing investments in 2023:Q3 (figure 5-ii).

The most critical metals for producing lithium-ion batteries are lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, and graphite (Tracy 2022). Access to these metals and related battery materials is fundamental to building a flourishing U.S. battery supply chain. Globally, China controls most of the market for mining and processing of critical battery materials (International Energy Agency 2022). China's share of imports to the United States of products in the battery supply chain has been steadily increasing since 2021 (table 5-i).

Among the top source countries, most battery supply chain imports from China and South Korea are of lithium-ion batteries and parts, most battery supply chain imports from Canada are of raw materials, and

battery supply chain imports from Japan are more evenly distributed between battery components and raw materials (table 5-ii). Company announcements also provide tangible insights into planned domestic and international investments to secure battery raw materials from miners and refiners (table 5-iii). For example, Ford Motor Company has recently entered into various arrangements to secure battery raw materials, as table 5-iii shows.

In the long run, a suite of bilateral agreements and frameworks to promote climate goals between the United States and partner countries are expected to pave the way to achieve diversification of sources for critical minerals. The U.S.-Japan Critical Minerals Agreement enables the countries to develop and strengthen critical minerals supply chains using best practices in labor and environmental standards (USTR 2023f); the Australia–United States Climate, Critical Minerals, and Clean Energy Transformation Compact is designed to coordinate on several issues vital to clean energy and critical minerals supply chains (White House 2023a); and the Minerals Security Partnership, with 13 countries, targets financial and diplomatic support for projects along the minerals supply chain (U.S. Department of State n.d.)

investments in clean energy in recent years (Bermel et al. 2023).<sup>20</sup> While these projects are in earlier stages of planning or implementation than the FDI projects discussed above, and therefore are more speculative, foreign investors nevertheless account for one-third of all clean energy announcements. Of \$154 billion in announcements over the period 2021:Q1–2023:Q2, \$51 billion in announcements stems from companies with headquarters abroad. South Korean and Japanese firms account for some of the largest announcements in clean energy (including electric vehicles and batteries), while Canadian firms plan to invest in critical minerals projects. Box 5-2 highlights the complementary roles of international and domestic policies in promoting a more resilient battery supply chain, including through FDI investments.

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<sup>20</sup> This is based on the Clean Investment Monitor (2024), a joint project of Rhodium Group and the Massachusetts Institute for Technology’s Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research. The data set includes detailed metadata for manufacturing, utility-scale energy, and industrial facilities. All included facilities have investments during the time horizon 2021:Q1–2023:Q2. Investments fall into one of four camps: announced (excluding announcements of “intent,” without specifying a particular location and committing resources); under construction or postconstruction but not yet operating; operating or offline but planned to return to operation; and canceled, retired, or offline, with no plans to return to operation. Joint ventures, investments in utilities, and canceled investments were dropped.

The near-term outlook for FDI inflows remains uncertain. While the Biden-Harris Administration’s industrial strategy is attracting foreign investment in capacity-expanding manufacturing projects in strategic sectors like clean energy and advanced technology, inflationary pressures in partner countries have led to higher interest rates and tightening global financial conditions (IMF 2023). Global economic conditions will continue shaping the flows of cross-border mergers and acquisitions—a major component of FDI flows.

## The Rise of Global Value Chains and Early Signs of Reallocation

Global value chains are essential for understanding several important trends: How trade and FDI have changed since the 1990s, the recent attention on promoting supply chain resilience through greater supplier diversification, and multinational corporations’ central role in concentrating production. GVCs allow for the production of a single good to take place across several countries, and for firms to specialize in the assembly of specific intermediate goods according to their comparative advantage (World Bank 2020). In 2009, for example, a Boeing plant in Everett, Washington, assembled Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner from parts sourced from around the world: The wings were sourced from Japan, the horizontal stabilizers from Italy, the wingtips from South Korea, and the engines from the United Kingdom (Shenhar et al. 2016). Each country added value to the production of the aircraft along the chain.

Two key developments allowed GVCs to gain such prominence in global trade: the wave of trade liberalization (including decreases in tariff rates), which was led by the United States and other major economies in the 1990s and early 2000s (Brainard 2001; Aiyar and Ilyina 2023); and the reduced costs of coordinating across distant locations, which were driven by the information and communications technology revolution (Baldwin 2016). Lower communication costs also facilitated the transfer of knowledge both within and across firm boundaries, and allowed firms to locate production facilities away from their headquarters—even across national borders (Fort 2017). Firms have taken advantage of these changes—and also of advances in transportation technologies—to unbundle their production processes into tasks performed at different locations, leveraging varying factor costs to achieve greater efficiencies.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> However, benefits of offshoring in lower production costs may be offset by higher coordination costs (Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg 2008). For example, the Boeing Company cited complexities coordinating across its global supply chain for delays in developing the 787 Dreamliner (Peterson 2011).



Multinational firms—themselves fueled by the information and communications revolution—have been particularly adept at taking advantage of cross-border input cost differentials. By establishing foreign affiliates through FDI, these firms can mediate trade with both foreign subsidiaries (within-firm trade) and unaffiliated firms (arm’s-length trade) within GVCs (OECD 2018). Multinational firms accounted for, respectively, 65 percent and 60 percent of U.S. goods exports and imports on average between 1997 and 2017 (Kamal, McCloskey, and Ouyang 2022).<sup>22</sup> And within-firm trade accounts for a large share of multinationals’ total trade flows: In 2022, one-third (33.7 percent) of U.S. exports and almost half (46.6 percent) of U.S. imports by value were between multinational parent firms and their affiliates or related parties (U.S. Census Bureau 2022).<sup>23</sup> The growth of trade within multinational firms (i.e., flows between parents and affiliates) underscores the highly fragmented nature of production.<sup>24</sup>

Global supply chains’ prevalence in U.S. production can also be observed in the high share of intermediate goods or imported input trade in the United States (figure 5-10).<sup>25</sup> Industrial supplies (e.g., lumber and steelmaking materials) and capital goods (e.g., drilling equipment)—typically, inputs into final goods—are highly positively correlated with GVC trade and accounted on average for over half of imports between 1992 and 2022 (Hummels, Ishii, and Yi 2001; Baldwin and López-González 2014). The import share of industrial materials grew more than that of any other product group between 1992 through the onset of the global financial crisis in 2008, showcasing how multinationals’ FDI and the establishment of GVC linkages can support greater trade flows.

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<sup>22</sup> Multinationals are major contributors to the U.S. economy, especially in the manufacturing sector, accounting for 70 percent of all domestic manufacturing employment, more than 50 percent of all nonresidential capital expenditures, and more than 80 percent of all the industrial research and development performed in the United States that underpins innovative output (Foley, Hines, and Wessel 2021, chap. 1).

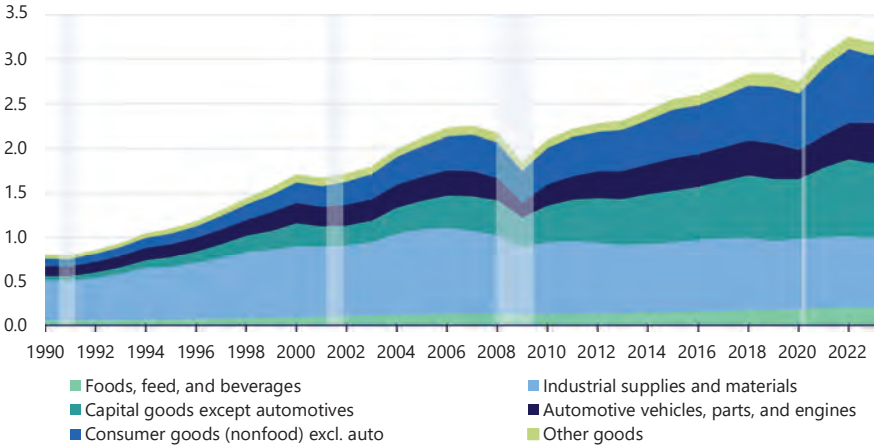
<sup>23</sup> “Exports: Title 15 of USC Chapter 9, Section 301” of the Foreign Trade Regulations defines a related party transaction as one “involving trade between a U.S. principal party in interest and an ultimate consignee where either party owns directly or indirectly 10 percent or more of the other party.” “Imports: Title 19 of USC Chapter 4, Section 1401a (g)(1)” of the Tariff Act of 1930 defines related persons as including “any person directly or indirectly owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote, 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of any organization and such organization.” (See <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-19/chapter-I/part-152>.)

<sup>24</sup> Two-way, related-party trade—where the multinational parent or affiliate sends partially finished goods for processing, after which they are shipped back—is one possible indication of production fragmentation. Other arrangements, however, including those in which the affiliate ships finished goods to the parent without any shipments from the parent—or vice versa—are also possible (Ramondo, Rappoport, and Ruhl 2016).

<sup>25</sup> End use is a commodity classification system that identifies merchandise based on principal use rather than the physical characteristics of the merchandise (U.S. Census Bureau 2012). A complete list is available at [census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/codes/enduse/imeumstr.txt](https://census.gov/foreign-trade/reference/codes/enduse/imeumstr.txt). The Bureau of Economic Analysis developed the concept of end use demand for balance of payments purposes.

**Figure 5-10. U.S. Goods Imports by End Use, 1990–2023**

Trillions of 2022 dollars



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.

Note: Trade data are on a Census basis. Deflated using industry-specific import price indexes. Gray bars indicate recessions. *2024 Economic Report of the President*

The fact that GVC participation appears to have slowed since the global financial crisis is also reflected in the intermediate trade data. The imported share of U.S. industrial supplies and materials declined from 43 percent in 2008 to 25 percent in 2022—a decline inextricably linked to stagnation in post-global financial crisis trade flows (figure 5-10). Decreased cross-border investment, due to an extended deleveraging process, translated into less investment in establishing new GVC linkages. And while the economics literature shows that higher FDI flows are associated with stronger “backward,” or upstream, GVC linkages (Fernandes, Kee, and Winkler 2020), there are still positive signs of the United States’ participation in downstream or forward value chains. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD 2023c) measure of U.S. domestic value added in foreign countries’ exports, the United States’ forward value-added contributions as a share of foreign countries’ gross exports increased from 24 percent in 2008 to 27 percent in 2020. Together with other indicators, these patterns indicate a slowdown in GVC participation but not a wholesale retreat.

**Early Evidence of Supplier Reallocation in 2023**

While GVCs offer many benefits, successive economic shocks in recent years, including those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s further invasion of Ukraine, illustrate their vulnerability. Supply chain bottlenecks can generate substantial economic disruptions, especially when

firms concentrate reliance on a single producer (Baldwin and Freeman 2022; CEA 2022, chap. 6). And in the past three decades, the manufacturing of intermediate goods has become highly geographically concentrated. In 1995, China was the top industrial input supplier to about 5 percent of U.S. manufacturing sectors; by 2018, that share had climbed to over 60 percent (Baldwin, Freeman, and Theodorakopoulos 2023).

Concentration of suppliers can lead to effects that can be felt both domestically and abroad. The recent global semiconductor shortage, for instance, exacerbated a nearly 30 percent decline in U.S. motor vehicle assemblies between January and September 2021, and the average American auto worker lost more than 2 work hours per week as a result—tantamount to a 6 percent weekly pay cut (Bernstein 2023). Meanwhile, pandemic-related supply chain disruptions exacerbated higher prices in the United States (Santacreu and LaBelle 2022) and had negative effects on real GDP (Bonadio et al. 2020). Along with increased onshoring, diversification to include multiple locations and suppliers, especially for critical nodes in supply chains, can increase the resilience of the production chain and minimize exposure to economic and security risks (Iakovou and White 2020; Shih 2020; IMF 2022).<sup>26</sup>

Some early evidence suggests that this sort of supplier diversification is already under way in the United States. While the European Union, Mexico, Canada, and China remain the United States' top trading partners for both exports and imports, the composition of U.S. trade vis-à-vis each of these partners has shifted (figure 5-11). Between 2017 and 2023, China's share of U.S. imports declined by almost 8 percentage points, from 21.6 percent to 13.9 percent. By the beginning of 2023, Mexico had become the United States' top trading partner—having increased its share of U.S. imports by 2 percentage points since 2017—and U.S. import shares from South Korea, Canada, Germany, and Vietnam have also increased.

With respect to advanced technology products (ATP)—which include semiconductors—the share of U.S. imports from China has decreased by almost 14 percentage points (figure 5-12).<sup>27</sup> Vietnam experienced the largest increase in ATP import shares, followed by Taiwan, Ireland, and Germany.

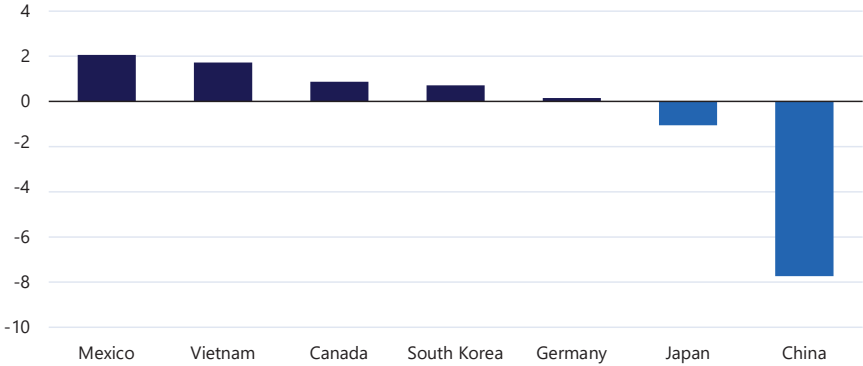
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<sup>26</sup> Diversification through onshoring should similarly guard against concentrated reliance on a small set of domestic suppliers. For example, the United States relies almost exclusively on domestic sources for its infant formula. When a domestic U.S. infant formula facility was temporarily closed in 2022, domestic supply declined dramatically. Policymakers navigated this crisis by taking various actions to facilitate formula imports by a factor of 17 (WTO 2023a). Nonetheless, supplier diversification may not achieve supply chain resiliency if shocks are global and are correlated across locations (Goldberg and Reed 2023).

<sup>27</sup> ATP include products that embody advanced technologies in biotechnology, life science, optoelectronics, information and communications, electronics, flexible manufacturing, advanced materials, aerospace, weapons, and nuclear technology (Abbott et al. 1989).

**Figure 5-11. Percentage Change in U.S. Import Share, by Country, 2017–23**

*Change in import share (percentage points)*



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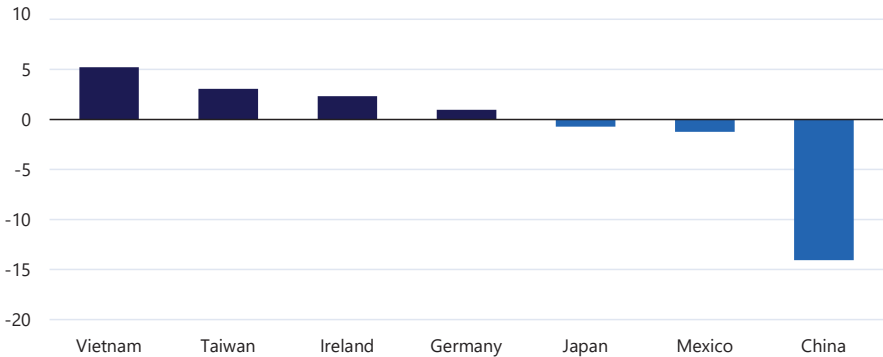
Sources: Trade Data Monitor; CEA calculations.

Note: These changes were calculated using nominal import values between 2017 and 2023. These countries were selected based on having the highest import shares in 2023 and largest changes in import shares between 2017 and 2023.

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**Figure 5-12. Percentage Change in U.S. Import Share of Advanced Technology Products, by Country, 2017–23**

*Change in import share (percentage points)*



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Sources: Trade Data Monitor; CEA calculations.

Note: Advanced Technology Products (ATP) definition from U.S. Census Bureau. Calculated using nominal ATP import values between 2017 and 2023. These countries were selected based on having the highest ATP import shares in 2023 and largest changes in ATP import shares between 2017 and 2023.

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These compositional changes took place both in response to U.S. trade policy and longer-term factors in China, including rising unit labor costs (Yang, Zhu, and Ren 2023) and declining FDI (Bloomberg 2023). Mexico’s and Canada’s gains in overall U.S. market share are consistent with patterns of near-shoring, while the other countries gaining share are also trusted partners—consistent with notions of friend-shoring. The marked increase in Vietnam’s share of ATP imports, for instance, is consistent with

the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’s goals, including to promote resiliency in semiconductor supply chains (White House 2023b). These reallocations have also broadly been larger in industries that faced higher U.S. import tariffs on goods sourced from China (Freund et al. 2023).

Recent shifts should however be interpreted with caution, for several reasons. First, reallocation may result in increasing costs in the form of higher import prices from alternative locations, at least in the short term. Since 2017, U.S. import prices from Vietnam, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore have increased in sectors that faced a decline in the U.S. share of imports from China (Alfaro and Chor 2023). Second, while diversification in import sources is under way, U.S. supply chains still remain closely, albeit indirectly, linked with China. Countries that have gained the most U.S. market share between 2017 and 2022 are also deeply engaged in supply chains with China (Freund et al. 2023).<sup>28</sup> These ongoing engagements suggest that global value chains have lengthened to include several Asian economies, particularly when linking China and the United States (Qiu, Shin, and Zhang 2023). Some of these dynamics may reflect underlying fundamentals (including rising labor costs and policy uncertainty), but they may also reflect a higher likelihood of increased transshipments and circumvention of U.S. trade restrictions (Hancock 2023).

## The Costs and Benefits of Global Integration for Workers, Consumers, and Communities

Classical trade models highlight how trade can improve aggregate economic efficiency but also lead to a redistribution of income across factors of production in a manner that can increase inequality. Aggregate welfare gains arise from comparative advantage, specialization, and trade across countries based on advantaged goods and services. In any given country, increased specialization leads to a relative increase in labor demand and wages for workers in advantaged sectors over those in less-advantaged sectors.<sup>29</sup> Foreign direct investment, including through multinationals, can also shape wage inequality through higher relative demand for more specialized labor—including demand for college-educated workers or labor demand that evidences a skill bias (Feenstra and Hanson 1997; Hale and Xu 2016). In short, the presence of unambiguous overall welfare gains from

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<sup>28</sup> The members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework received about one-third of their imports from and sent about a fifth of their exports to China in 2021 (Dahlman and Lovely 2023). This framework includes these countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

<sup>29</sup> The factor-based Heckscher-Ohlin model provides one example. However, other models, like the Specific Factors model, also generate winners and losers among workers based on factors of production that are specific (or fixed) to export or import sectors.

global integration does not imply that everyone will benefit from these gains equally—some workers will explicitly lose. Therefore, trade and investment policies should facilitate maximizing the benefits of robust trade and foreign investment flows while concurrently mitigating integration’s negative effects, in conjunction with domestic redistribution policies.

### *Global Integration and Inequality*

The evidence for the impact of increased U.S. trade and foreign investment flows on inequality reveals a complex set of patterns. Shifts in U.S. labor demand based on increased specialization and the associated diversification of production processes (e.g., via offshoring) have generated distributional consequences, particularly for domestic manufacturing employment. Between 1993 and 2011, total nonfarm employment increased by roughly 21 million workers; however, manufacturing employment declined by almost 30 percent, or 5 million workers (BLS 2023a, 2023b). To understand the decline in manufacturing employment, two primary factors have been examined empirically: The trade-based view identifies import competition leading to labor-intensive industries moving abroad, while the technology-based view identifies innovations in production techniques—including automation—that reduced or changed the nature of labor demand (e.g., shifting from demand for production workers to college-educated service workers). Disentangling the potential explanations requires overcoming acute empirical challenges, since these forces are often complementary and reinforce one another (Fort, Pierce, and Schott 2018). While the literature suggests that both factors played a role (e.g., Galle and Lorentzen 2021), this subsection highlights causal results from the trade-based explanation.

Part of the steep decline in U.S. manufacturing employment since 2000 has been linked to the sharp rise in Chinese import competition—a dynamic referred to as the “China shock” (Autor, Dorn, and Hanson 2013).<sup>30</sup> While there remains an active debate on the share of U.S. manufacturing job losses that can be ascribed to increased Chinese imports, there is a broader

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<sup>30</sup> Close to a fifth (16 percent) of the decline in manufacturing employment between 2000 and 2007 has been attributed to the rise in import competition from China (Caliendo, Dvorkin, and Parro 2019). Firms that reorganized activities away from the production of machinery, electronics, or transportation equipment and toward wholesale, professional services (including research and development), and management drove almost a third of the negative manufacturing employment decline between 1990 and 2015 (Bloom et al. 2019). Several factors have been analyzed to understand the surge in U.S. imports from China during this period, including the United States granting China permanent normal trade relations in 2000, China’s accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, reduced trade and investment policy uncertainty associated with these policy actions, and China’s own trade and domestic reforms (e.g., tariff reductions and privatizations) (Lincicome and Anand 2023).

consensus on its unequal distributional employment implications.<sup>31</sup> The shock grew during the 2000s and plateaued in 2010; however, its adverse local employment effects persisted through the next decade (Autor, Dorn, and Hanson 2021). Critically, the decline in manufacturing employment was not evenly distributed across workers or space. On one hand, losses were concentrated in geographic areas that were more reliant on import-competing industries and where workers had lower levels of formal educational attainment—especially the South and Midwest (Autor, Dorn, and Hanson 2013). On the other hand, regions with higher levels of formal educational attainment experienced employment gains during this period—largely localized in services sectors (Bloom et al. 2019).<sup>32</sup> These dynamics comport with long-term shifts that occurred within U.S. manufacturing firms: greater outsourcing via participation in GVCs and increased automation that led to a reorientation away from physical production processes toward the provision of intellectual services (e.g., research and development, design, and logistical services) (Fort, Pierce, and Schott 2018).

Import competition from China was also accompanied by a substantial fall in U.S. consumer prices, with disproportionate benefits accruing to low- and middle-income households because they have higher shares of tradable goods like food and apparel in their consumption baskets (Fajgelbaum and Khandelwal 2016; Russ, Shambaugh, and Furman 2017). Causal estimates suggest that a 1-percentage-point increase in Chinese import penetration led to a decline in consumer price inflation of 1 to 2 percentage points—largely reflecting indirect pro-competitive cost effects, where greater foreign competition induces domestic firms to lower markups and thus further drives down prices (Jaravel and Sager 2019).<sup>33</sup> Considering the modeled impact of increased Chinese import penetration across U.S. geographic regions, Galle, Rodríguez-Clare, and Yi (2023) find that almost 90 percent of the U.S. population saw an increase in purchasing power, with those regions that saw

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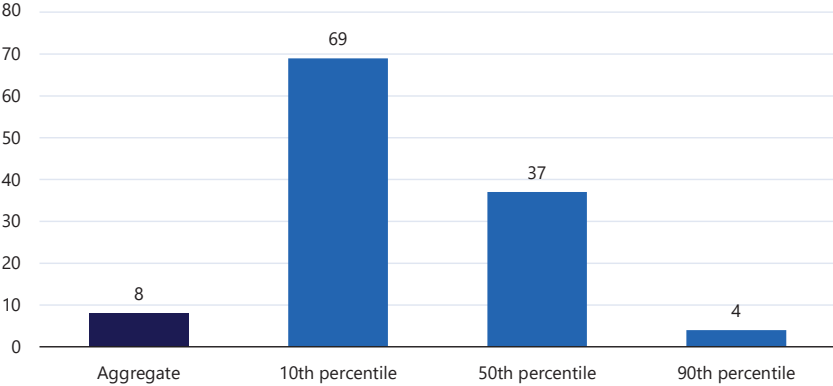
<sup>31</sup> For examples of studies that find smaller effects of the China shock on U.S. manufacturing employment than Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2013), see Jakubik and Stolzenburg (2020) and De Chaisemartin and Lei (2023). Studies that also incorporate downstream supply chain effects in addition to direct competition effects have found positive local employment effects of the China shock (Wang et al. 2018); Antràs, Fort, and Tintelnot (2017) find that firms that increased their use of Chinese imported intermediates also simultaneously increased their sourcing of domestic inputs and increased their production.

<sup>32</sup> Formal educational attainment is defined as the percentage of the total population with a college degree in 1990, using the Decennial Census. Manufacturing workers who transitioned to the services sectors associated with lower educational attainment (e.g., retail) have been found to have experienced nominal earnings declines (Pierce, Schott, and Tello-Trillo 2023).

<sup>33</sup> These results have been corroborated in the broader trade literature (e.g., Bai and Stumpner 2019; Amiti et al. 2020).

**Figure 5-13. Pro-Poor Bias in Gains from Trade in the United States (Percent Welfare Gain)**

*Absolute welfare changes relative to autarky*



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Source: Fajgelbaum and Khandelwal (2016, table V).

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purchasing power losses being spatially correlated with regions that also saw a loss in manufacturing employment from the China shock.<sup>34</sup>

The results, showing that trade with China has benefited most Americans' purchasing power, are consistent with a larger body of evidence on the benefits from trade with all countries—again, with disproportionate benefits accruing to lower-income households.<sup>35</sup> For example, the average U.S. household has been shown to gain 8 percent in purchasing power from trade compared with a counterfactual autarky (Fajgelbaum and Khandelwal 2016).<sup>36</sup> However, the lowest-income U.S. households gain the most, at 69 percent (figure 5-13).

Recent trends in foreign direct investment may contribute to boosting manufacturing activity and reducing inequality, including for communities disproportionately affected by the China shock. Figure 5-14 maps historical manufacturing employment changes across commuting zones over the period 1990–2007. Areas that incurred higher job losses are indicated in darker shades of gray. The bubbles are sized to correspond to the magnitude of announced clean energy projects since 2021 and are colored to indicate the investor's headquarters country. Areas that experienced larger historical

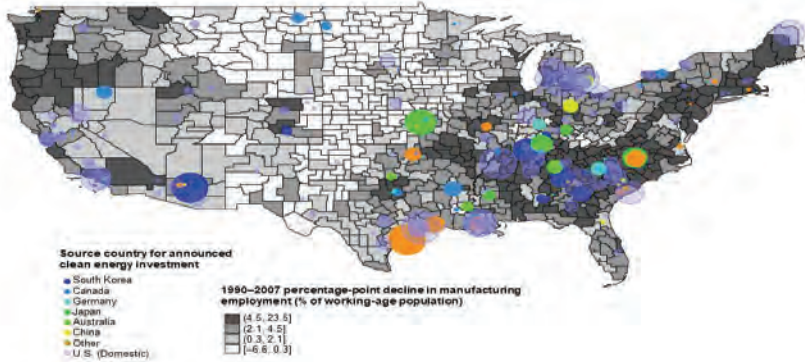
<sup>34</sup> The authors find that the worst-affected areas experienced average losses as large as four times the average overall gain in purchasing power.

<sup>35</sup> There is also a literature documenting welfare increases due to greater access to varieties of goods through trade (e.g., Broda and Weinstein 2006; Melitz and Trefler 2012).

<sup>36</sup> The authors develop a general equilibrium model that considers the distributional effects of international trade on the cost of living (the expenditure channel). Distributional effects through workers' earnings (the earnings channel) are not explicitly modeled to enable a focus on unequal gains through the expenditure channel only.



**Figure 5-14. FDI in Clean Energy Projects between 2021:Q1 and 2023:Q2, by Investor Headquarter Country, and Decline in Manufacturing Employment between 1990 and 2007 (Percentage of Working-Age Population)**



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Sources: Clean Investment Monitor; Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2013); CEA calculations.

Note: Darker gray regions represent areas that incurred higher historical job losses. Bubbles—representing announced clean energy projects between 2021:Q1 to 2023:Q2—are sized according to the magnitude of the project and colored to indicate the country in which investors’ headquarters are located. Regions are defined as commuting zones (USDA).

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losses in manufacturing employment have attracted a higher concentration (both in number and size) of announced clean energy FDI projects.

Figure 5-15 illustrates the statistically significant correlations between commuting zones with larger historical manufacturing employment losses and the number and value of clean energy FDI projects announced since 2021. These relationships hold when the data set is expanded to include all announced clean energy projects, suggesting that domestic clean energy projects are likewise disproportionately locating in vulnerable communities, which is consistent with early evidence from Van Nostrand and Ashenfarb (2023).<sup>37</sup> The key drivers of location choice and whether these investments will improve labor market and socioeconomic outcomes in these geographies remain high-priority topics for future research.

**Trading Firms and Job Creation**

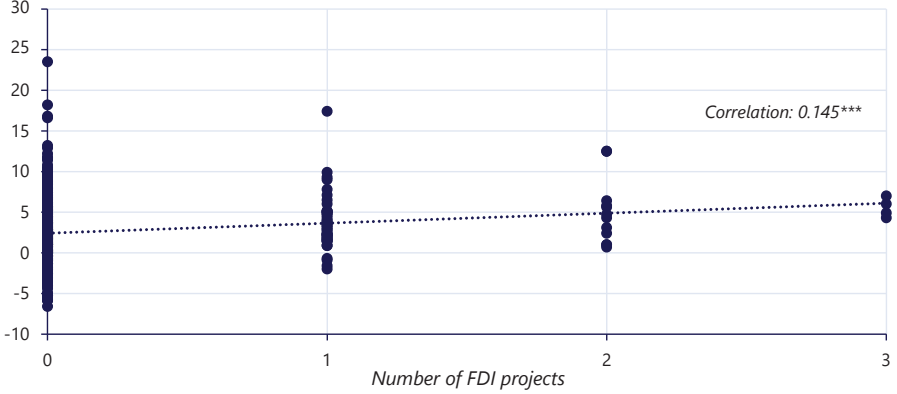
GVCs have created strong interconnections between exporting and importing—which are often performed by the same firms. Among goods traders, averaged over the period 1992–2021, firms that both export and import goods account for a plurality of total U.S. private sector employment (36 percent), followed by firms that only export goods (8 percent) and firms that only import goods (6 percent) (figure 5-16). The majority of employment at goods traders is by large firms (defined as those employing 500 or more

<sup>37</sup> For all projects (both FDI and domestic), the correlations between the number and value of projects with historical manufacturing employment declines are both significant at the 1 percent level.

**Figure 5-15. Correlations Between Historical Declines in Manufacturing Employment between 1990 and 2007 and the Total Number and Value of Recently Announced Clean Energy Projects between 2021:Q1 and 2023:Q2**

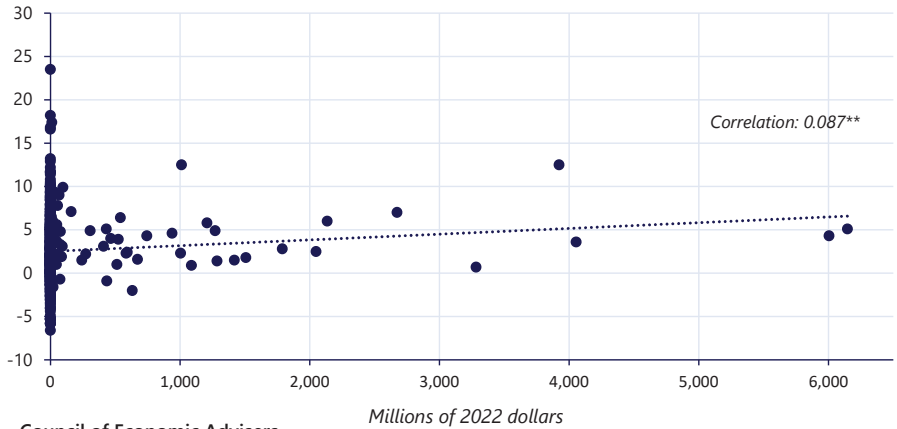
**A. Decline in Manufacturing Employment and Number of FDI Projects**

*Percentage-point decline*



**B. Decline in Manufacturing Employment and Total Value of FDI Projects**

*Percentage-point decline*



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Sources: Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2013); Clean Investment Monitor; CEA calculations.

Note: The decline in manufacturing employment from 1990 to 2007 is calculated as a percentage of the working-age population for 722 commuting zones. Projects are classified as foreign direct investment (FDI) if the associated company headquarters could be traced to a foreign country. Only projects announced between 2021:Q1 and 2023:Q2 are included. Stars denote statistical significance at the 5 percent (\*\*) and 1 percent (\*\*\*) levels or lower.

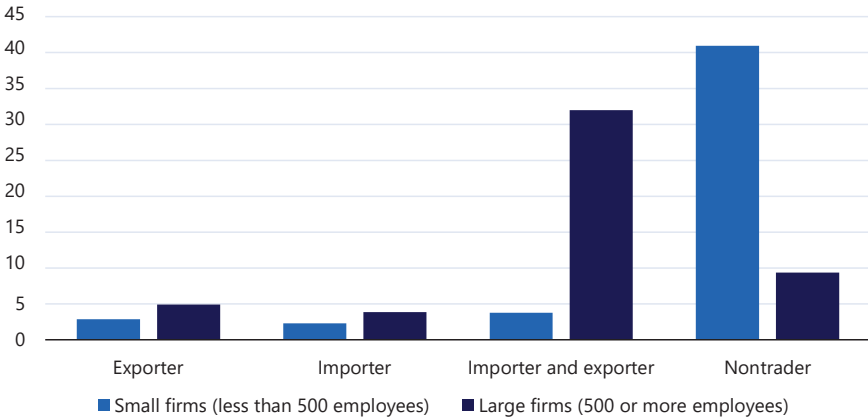
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workers); in contrast, the majority of employment at nontraders is by small firms (those employing fewer than 500 workers). Nevertheless, small firms directly engaged in the goods trade account for almost 10 percent of national employment.

About 1.3 million small firms were estimated to be exporting goods in 2021—with the potential for almost an equal number of additional small

**Figure 5-16. Goods Trader and Employment by Firm Size, 1992–2021 Average**

*Percentage of employment*



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Sources: Census Bureau; CEA calculations.

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businesses to begin exporting based on the tradability of the industries in which they operate (U.S. Small Business Administration 2023a, 2023b). Increased opportunities to export may accrue disproportionately to smaller regions in the United States. While large metropolitan areas (including New York City and Los Angeles) account for large volumes of U.S. exports, the most export-intensive regions (with the highest shares of exports to regional GDP) include relatively less populous cities like Wichita, Detroit, Youngstown, and Houston (Parilla and Muro 2017).

Goods traders’ contribution to net job creation has grown over recent years: During the 2001–7 period, goods traders accounted for only 10 percent of total net job creation; but between 2008 and 2019, that figure rose to 60 percent. Overall, goods traders were responsible for almost 40 percent of net job creation in the U.S. economy between 1992 and 2019 (Handley, Kamal, and Ouyang 2021).<sup>38</sup> These statistics underscore the changing nature of the U.S. production landscape, where both exports and imports support domestic jobs.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Handley, Kamal, and Ouyang (2021) document that vast majority of goods-traders’ contribution to net job creation is driven by the opening of new establishments, particularly, in services-providing sectors like wholesale, retail, business and professional services. These patterns hint at the complementarity between manufacturing and services activities as well as the sectoral diversity in job creation tied to trade participation.

<sup>39</sup> See Fort (2023) for an in-depth discussion of U.S. firms’ organization of goods production across firm and country boundaries.

## Mitigating the Challenges of Global Integration

The classical Ricardian trade model—that the concept of comparative advantage allows all countries to access goods produced by the most efficient and lowest-cost producers, increase their aggregate consumption, and ultimately benefit from trade, even if a single country produces all goods more efficiently in absolute terms—is based on several assumptions that may not hold in the real world (Ricardo 1817). One such assumption is that workers are frictionlessly mobile between sectors. When the costs of transitioning to sectors where a country has a relative cost advantage are high, domestic producers in import-competing sectors lose out—as do their workers—even if overall consumption rises. Meanwhile, the classical Ricardian model conceives of comparative advantage only with respect to monetary costs. American workers and consumers may place a high value on the consumption of foreign goods that adhere to high environmental and labor standards, but adherence to such standards is not well captured by cost signals. To make trade fair and beneficial for all, trade and foreign investment policies need to explicitly consider distributional, environmental, and labor rights in their design.

The Biden-Harris Administration’s approach to trade and investment partnerships centers on promoting middle-class prosperity, reducing inequality, addressing climate risks, and advancing fair competition (USTR 2023b). It aims to raise labor standards, adopt sustainable environmental practices, bolster supply chain resilience, and minimize national security risks through more U.S.-based production in certain sectors while concurrently supporting ongoing robust trade and investment flows with U.S. partners. This approach encompasses a combination of economic frameworks and regional partnerships:

- *United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) Rapid Response Labor Mechanism*: The USMCA modernized the North American Free Trade Agreement and includes new labor obligations, such as the innovative rapid response mechanism, which provides for expedited enforcement of workers’ rights of free association and collective bargaining at the facility level (USTR 2023a). Since 2021, the United States has invoked the mechanism 18 times to seek Mexico’s review at 17 different facilities.<sup>40</sup> As a result, the United States has achieved improved outcomes for thousands of Mexican workers—millions of dollars have been paid to workers, more workers are represented by independent unions, there have been more free and fair union elections, and unions have successfully negotiated for higher wages and improved policies at facilities.<sup>41</sup> These developments are

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<sup>40</sup> We thank USTR colleagues for sharing the rapid response mechanism’s statistics that are current through December 20, 2023.

<sup>41</sup> Based on review of all USMCA cases (U.S. Department of Labor 2023).

consistent with studies finding that labor-related cooperation provisions specific to trade union rights in the context of preferential trade agreements improve compliance with requirements for enforcing collective labor rights (Sari, Raess, and Kucera 2016).

- *Indo-Pacific Economic Framework* (IPEF): This is an economic framework between the United States and 13 member countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam (USTR n.d.–a). IPEF comprises four pillars: trade, supply chains, a clean economy (including clean energy, decarbonization, and infrastructure), and a fair economy (including tax and anticorruption). The trade pillar aims to enhance resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity through a variety of provisions, including high-standard labor and environment commitments (USTR n.d.–b). The supply chains pillar aims to build resilient supply chains through multiple initiatives, including the development of criteria for critical sectors, the promotion of supply chain diversification, and establishing channels for information sharing and crisis response mechanisms (U.S. Department of Commerce 2022). The clean economy pillar aims to further the climate goals articulated under the Paris Agreement through a variety of cooperative actions, including sharing best practices on the commercialization and deployment of clean energy technologies and mobilizing private sector investment in emission-reducing projects (U.S. Department of Commerce 2023a). The fair economy pillar aims to strengthen domestic legal frameworks to accelerate progress on various international standards related to reducing corruption and bribery and promoting efficient tax administration (U.S. Department of Commerce 2023b). Collectively, these pillars promote inclusive growth by advancing higher economic standards, building supply chain resiliency, addressing climate change, fighting corruption, and promoting high-standard labor commitments.

- *U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade*: The first agreement under this trade initiative covers areas of customs administration and trade facilitation aimed at reducing red tape for U.S. exporters. These include good regulatory practices and domestic services regulation, such as streamlining licenses for firms seeking to operate abroad and promoting fair competition opportunities. Anticorruption provisions address issues including money laundering, and denial of entry for foreign public officials who have committed specified corruption offenses. They also promote cross-border trade and investment, information sharing, and exchanging best practices in finance and other areas for small and medium-sized enterprises (USTR 2023c). A second round of negotiations commenced in August 2023, focusing on agriculture, labor, and the environment (USTR 2023d).

- *U.S.-Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership* (STIP): STIP is an initiative to pursue high-standard commitments in selected areas

(including agriculture, anticorruption, digital trade, the environment and climate change action, regulatory practices, endorsing workers' rights and protections, and trade facilitation and customs procedures, among other focus areas) intended to increase investment; promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth; benefit workers, consumers, and businesses (including small and medium-sized enterprises); and promote African regional economic integration (USTR 2022c, 2023e).

- *Regional partnerships*: The Administration has focused on building closer partnerships with regions across continents. Two examples, spanning Europe and Africa, are highlighted here:

- U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council*: This council includes two working groups focused on securing supply chains and addressing global trade challenges (White House 2021a). One group, which focuses on secure supply chains, aims to advance resilience and security in supply chains and create coordination mechanisms to avoid disruptions (U.S. Department of Commerce 2023c). The other group, which focuses on global trade challenges, aims to address issues of nonmarket economic policies and practices, promote the development of emerging technologies by avoiding new and unnecessary product and service barriers, promote and protect labor rights, and address other trade and environment issues (USTR 2021).

- African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)*: AGOA is a unilateral U.S. trade preference program that provides duty-free access to the U.S. market for certain exports from countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that meet AGOA's eligibility criteria. Thirty-two countries currently qualify in 2024 (USTR n.d.-c). Eligibility encourages countries to make continual progress on economic benchmarks (e.g., having a market-based economy); political benchmarks (e.g., the rule of law, political pluralism, and anticorruption efforts); poverty reduction (e.g., via job creation in exporting sectors); and the protection of labor rights (e.g., prohibitions against child labor and protections of the rights to organize and bargain collectively). Countries must also not engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or activities that undermine U.S. national security or provide support for acts of international terrorism (USTR 2022d).

## Conclusion

The decades-long trend of steady increases in global trade and foreign direct investment plateaued after the global financial crisis. Nonetheless, the United States remains the world's second-largest trader after China, and the largest country with respect to FDI flows. U.S. trade and foreign investment patterns in 2022 and 2023 reflect a combination of cyclical and secular factors, in addition to the Biden-Harris Administration's policy agenda—all of which are interacting in novel ways to show signs of positive developments

(including an increase in U.S. supply chain resilience and increasing FDI inflows into the U.S. manufacturing sector), along with reasons for caution (including services exports remaining below trends before the pandemic).

While the future outlook for U.S. trade and investment flows remains uncertain, the Administration is continuing to pursue a worker-centered trade agenda by reviewing trade policies for their impact on, and consequences for, American workers. This policy approach also aims to harness the benefits of trade while reversing the jobs and earnings displacements that beset too many American communities for decades. These ongoing actions are helping to rebuild these communities, not by walling off international trade but by leveraging its benefits while managing its costs for American workers.



## Chapter 6

# Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition

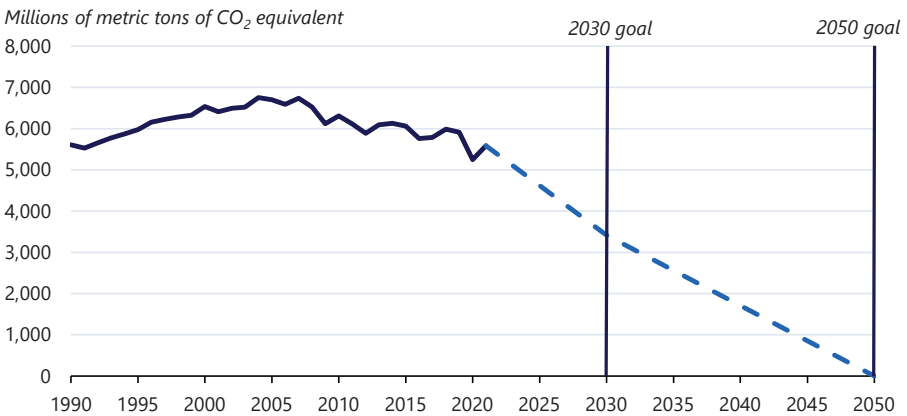
The clean energy transition is under way. Its end goal is an innovative, cutting-edge U.S. economy powered by cheap, reliable, and secure clean energy sources and technologies. In this future, various aspects of the economy—the electricity that powers it, the cars and planes that move people and goods, the products and foods we consume—will be provided without the harm of air pollution and climate change. The production of clean energy will also create new sources of economic growth, employment, and prosperity, furthering American competitiveness throughout the 21st century to meet global demand for clean energy technologies.

Contrast this future with the Nation’s past reliance on fossil fuels, a dependence that has come at significant costs. The use of fossil fuels—responsible for 68 percent of total historical human-induced carbon dioxide emissions—has given rise to climate change ([Friedlingstein et al. 2020](#)). The global average temperature has already risen more than 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since the preindustrial period, and is projected to reach 2.4 to 5 degrees Celsius (4.3 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100 if no further action is taken ([Kriegler et al. 2017](#); [IEA 2023a](#)).

The cost of inaction is high, with damage from climate change already starting to mount. In 2023, the United States experienced an unprecedented 28 weather- and climate-related disasters with losses of at least \$1 billion each ([NOAA 2024](#)). Some insurers are starting to pull out of home insurance markets due to the high costs of covering climate-related disasters ([CEA 2023a](#)). Additional warming is expected to further damage human health, productivity, living standards, and food security, driving mass migration and



**Figure 6-1. U.S. Net Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions, with Emissions Reduction Goals**



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Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; CEA calculations.

Note: Dotted segments represent pathways to achieving 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction goals. The measure "millions of metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent" scales each gas by its global warming potential relative to CO<sub>2</sub>.

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worsening social and political instability, among other social and economic outcomes, and inequities therein (Carleton et al. 2022; Burke, Hsiang, and Miguel 2015; Schlenker and Roberts 2009; Hsiang et al. 2013, 2023; Marvel et al. 2023). This is further compounded by the harmful health consequences of local air pollution due to continued burning of fossil fuels (Lelieveld et al. 2019). To avoid these costs, policymakers must induce a rapid energy transition from fossil fuels to clean energy sources.

Decarbonizing the U.S. economy is an immense undertaking. A combination of private and public investments triggered by Federal, State, and local climate policies are already moving in this direction (CEA 2023a; White House 2022; OMB 2023; California Legislature 2023; NYC Department of Buildings 2023). Between 2005 and 2021, U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions fell by 17 percent, as shown in figure 6-1 (UNFCCC 2023), a remarkable annualized rate for a major industrial economy during a period of economic growth (OECD 2023).<sup>1</sup> Yet this pace is still not fast enough

<sup>1</sup> GHG emissions also fell across the European Union during this period, but under a regulated declining cap on emissions (UNFCCC 2024b; European Environment Agency 2023).

to meet Paris Agreement commitments seeking to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius ([UNFCCC 2024a](#)). To achieve the midway goal of a 50 percent emissions reduction relative to 2005, the United States must lower its annual emissions by 6 percent on average between 2021 and 2030, and must further accelerate emissions reductions after 2030.<sup>2</sup>

Achieving decarbonization rapidly enough to avoid growing physical damage from climate change will require deploying commercially available clean energy technologies—like solar and wind power, electric vehicles, and heat pumps—at even faster rates ([IEA 2023b](#)). To reach net zero emissions by 2050, the United States will need to act across all sectors of the economy. For example, the United States may need to double its share of electricity generated by non-carbon-emitting sources to roughly 75 percent by 2030 ([National Academies 2021](#)). Furthermore, more than half of global emissions reductions by 2050 will need to come from technologies that are yet to be invented or commercialized ([IEA 2023b](#)).

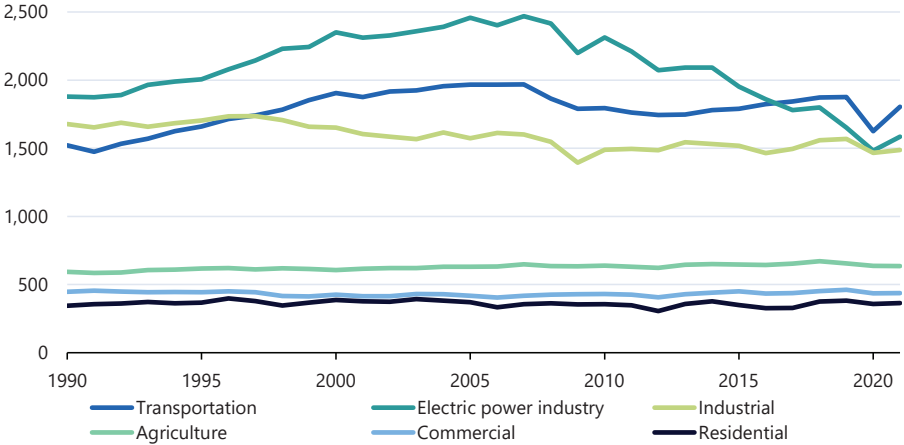
Faster decarbonization can be achieved in part by accelerating two complementary recent developments. First, the electricity sector needs to shift away from fossil fuels. Much of recent U.S. GHG reduction comes from the electricity sector (dark teal line, figure 6-2). A large share of emissions reductions in the electricity sector to date have been the result of displacing coal-fired generation with clean energy and natural gas (figure 6-3). The electricity sector must now accelerate its transition from using fossil fuels, including natural gas, to clean energy. At the same time, given a cleaner source of electricity, a shift toward electrification in other sectors—such as the transportation, industrial, commercial, and residential sectors—would be an effective way to help lower emissions across the economy. Both tasks are long-term shifts in the type of energy that powers the U.S. economy.

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<sup>2</sup>This CEA calculation assumes a constant-percentage annual GHG emissions decline between observed 2021 U.S. GHG emissions and the Administration’s 2030 U.S. GHG emissions target.

**Figure 6-2. U.S. Emissions per Sector, 1990–2021**

Millions of metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent



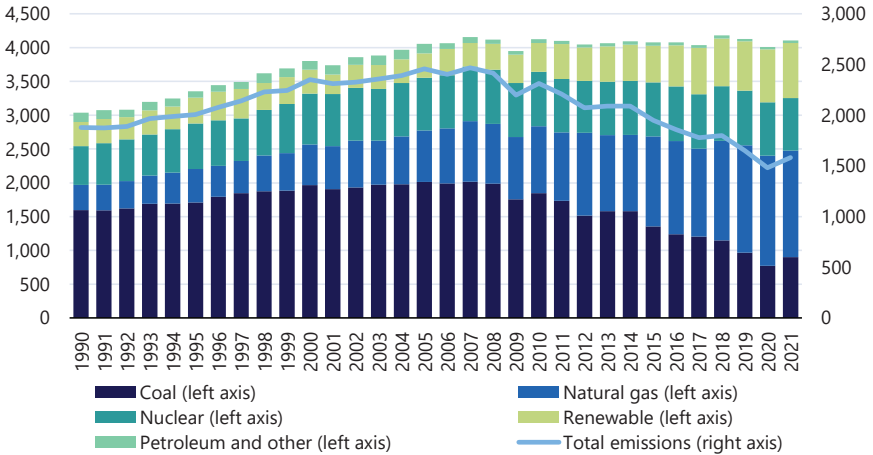
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Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2023).

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**Figure 6-3. U.S. Electricity Generation by Energy Source, 1990–2021**

Electric power generated (billion KWh) Total emissions from electric power industry (millions of metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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Economists characterize such broad transitions as structural change: long-term evolutions in an economy's composition, whether through inputs or outputs, from an established set of economic activities to a set of emerging ones. Structural change underlies many major moments in economic development; past examples include the transition from agriculture to manufacturing during the Industrial Revolution and the more recent shift from manufacturing to services in advanced economies. The clean energy transition—moving an economy primarily based on fossil fuels to one powered by clean energy sources and technologies—can also be viewed through this lens.

The structural change perspective provides a foundation for understanding the forces that will determine the direction, pace, and endpoint in the transition from one energy system to another. It also offers a lens for identifying the specific investments needed for accelerating the transition from an energy system based on fossil fuels to one based on clean energy. For example, in the electricity sector, the decline in capital costs for clean energy has increasingly made it competitive with fossil-based electricity, yet some new electricity capacity still uses natural gas ([Lazard 2023](#); [EIA 2023a](#)). This is in part because some types of clean electricity, such as solar, require complementary technologies, like batteries, to be available during all parts of the day. A structural change perspective highlights how the transition can be accelerated through complementary investments in battery storage, along with lowering siting and transmission costs, enabling renewable energy to better substitute for fossil fuels by supplying electricity throughout the day.

Also embedded in a structural change perspective is the notion of path dependence. Fossil fuels dominate today's market not only because they have historically been cheaper, due in part to Federal policies and subsidies implemented in the past, but also because they have accumulated historical economic advantages that are difficult for emerging clean energy technologies to surmount. However, this path dependence cuts both ways. Policies

that provide a sufficient push for clean energy technologies to overcome fossil fuels' historically accumulated advantage can alter the need for future government intervention. That is, putting the economy on a clean energy path will make it easier to achieve long-term decarbonization. As that happens, policy interventions need not be permanent: Once an economy has built up sufficient economic advantage in clean energy, private market incentives can sustain the clean energy transition.

By considering a subset of clean energy sources and technologies—including wind, solar, electric vehicles (EVs), and batteries—through the economics of structural change, this chapter provides a framework for understanding the clean energy transition and the policies that can accelerate it.<sup>3</sup> However, this framework, like any, is not comprehensive, and does not address every element of the Biden-Harris Administration's whole-of-government approach to climate policy. It is also an incomplete account of the benefits of the clean energy transition, such as avoiding climate damage, lowering air pollution and energy prices, creating high-quality jobs, and fostering economic competitiveness. Instead, the narrower task of this chapter is to offer an economic lens for understanding the path toward the clean energy transition and how it can be achieved.

The chapter's first section provides an overview of structural change and how economists have applied the framework to explain important moments in economic development. It then provides a taxonomy of the various factors that can push or pull against structural change and thus determine the direction, rate, and end point of long-term transitions. The section then discusses market failures and economic frictions under which government intervention may be needed when the direction and pace of market-driven structural change are not in line with society's goals.

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<sup>3</sup> This framework also applies to nuclear, hydropower, and technologies such as carbon capture and storage and direct air capture that lower net GHG emissions.

The second section applies the structural change framework to the clean energy transition, discussing various ways in which the transition represents a distinct case of structural change—and the ensuing set of unique challenges and opportunities. The push-and-pull factors discussed in the first section are then mapped onto specific issues in the clean energy transition.

The third section describes how specific policies enacted by the Biden-Harris Administration are strategically targeting these push-and-pull factors to accelerate the clean energy transition. These and other efforts can build a U.S. clean energy economy that benefits workers and communities, avoiding the worst economic consequences of climate inaction.

## **The Economics of Structural Change**

This section introduces structural change as a broad economic concept and delineates the various push-and-pull forces that determine the direction and speed of structural change. Market failures and other economic frictions may inhibit the socially optimal direction and rate of structural change, justifying government intervention. The structural change lens shows how policy interventions, if successful, need not be permanent; once properly directed, an economy has the momentum to carry forward that transition on its own.

### ***What Is Structural Change?***

The transition to a net zero economy requires structural change. Structural change refers to long-term (as opposed to short-term, cyclical) changes in the composition of an economy, from an established activity to an emerging one. Of particular interest are the direction and the pace of this change, as well as the final composition of the economy. Embedded in a structural change perspective is the notion of path dependence: that historical economic dependence continues to exert influence today (Nelson and Winter 1985). Once the process of structural change begins, it can gather momentum on its own without much further impetus.

History is rich with examples of structural change, many of which were considered important turning points in economic development. For instance, structural change in the allocation of labor from agricultural to industrial activity characterized the Industrial Revolution (Nurkse 1952; Rao 1952; Lewis 1954; Ranis and Fei 1961). Similarly, much attention has been given to the shift in labor shares from industrial to service-oriented activities

during the latter half of the 20th century (Autor, Levy, and Murnane 2003; Acemoglu and Autor 2011).

Redirection of capital—both physical and financial—also characterizes major historical transitions. During World War II, economies around the world redirected domestic production from consumer durables—such as automobiles and home appliances—to tanks, airplanes, and artillery. From February 1942 until the end of the war, U.S. commercial auto production ceased, and auto assembly lines were repurposed to produce 80 percent of U.S. tanks and more than half of all aircraft engines (Gropman 1996). From 1940 to 1943, U.S. national defense gross investment rose from \$13.2 billion to \$517.9 billion (in 2022 dollars), representing an enormous financial reallocation.<sup>4</sup> Such redirection of resources transformed the trajectory of U.S. innovation for decades thereafter (see box 6-1).

These and other historical examples have led to a rich intellectual tradition in economics examining the drivers and consequences of structural change (Johnston 1970; McMillan and Rodrik 2011; Autor, Dorn, and Hanson 2013; Herrendorf, Rogerson, and Valentinyi 2014). Unlike more static frameworks, this literature focuses on transitional dynamics and their drivers. In doing so, it builds on macroeconomic models, but with an added focus on understanding the composition of an economy and how it changes.

### *Determinants of Structural Change*

The structural change framework focuses on understanding the forces that shape—or reshape—the composition of an economy, whether through inputs, outputs, or both. These forces can push or pull against structural change, the balance of which determines the direction, speed, and end point of an economy’s transition from an established activity to an emerging one. This section details such push-and-pull forces.

*Productivity spillovers* arise under many circumstances. Spillovers within a sector can occur at the individual level in the form of learning-by-doing (Arrow 1962; Lucas 1988) or at the sectoral level through technological or knowledge spillovers (Romer 1990; Acemoglu 2002; Acemoglu et al. 2012). Regardless of the mechanism, productivity spillovers within a sector favor the established economic activity and allow that advantage to strengthen over time, making the emerging economic activity increasingly unlikely to replace the established activity. Spillovers across sectors can, however, accelerate structural change, particularly when knowledge and technologies developed for an established sector can be applied to an emerging sector (Bloom, Schankerman, and Van Reenen 2013). Government-supported research efforts during the World War II mobilization effort, for example, had spillovers onto postwar innovation that enabled the

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<sup>4</sup> This is from CEA calculations using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

### Box 6-1. World War II and Technological Change

The U.S. government has played a critical role in enabling past periods of rapid technological change, including during World War II, when the Federal Government established the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD), an expansion of the then-recently created National Research Defense Committee and a predecessor to the National Science Foundation. This new office would eventually invest more than \$9 billion (in 2022 dollars) in research and development (R&D) between 1940 and 1945 to develop innovations in radar technology, military weapons, and pharmaceuticals, among other sectors. Unlike previous models of public investment in R&D, the OSRD's novel approach channeled investments to hubs of applied research while facilitating partnerships and collaborations between public, private, and academic researchers (Gross and Sampat 2023a). Despite its brief existence, the OSRD bent the path of U.S. technical innovation for decades to follow, as a potential template for the clean energy transition.

Many of the technological advancements generated by OSRD support had direct civilian applications despite originally being intended for military use. For example, while penicillin cells were discovered in 1928, neither industry nor government had pursued their use as an antibiotic until the OSRD began investigating them for military applications in the early 1940s. After demonstrating its success in the military, the government released penicillin for commercial use in 1945 (Quinn 2013).

Recent evidence on the large-scale shock to research activity during World War II from the OSRD program suggests that public investment can have a sustained, long-term impact on subsequent innovation. Technology hubs that received the greatest R&D investment from the program during World War II realized 40–50 percent more patent-based innovation activity per year by 1970 (Gross and Sampat 2023a). World War II-era Federal investment in industrial activity and the ensuing mobilization also led to a sectoral shift in the composition of manufacturing activity toward industries like lumber, chemicals, rubber, stone, metals, machinery, and transportation equipment (Jaworski 2017).

These effects on future innovation were primarily driven by spillovers and agglomeration economies, in which co-located firms mutually benefit from the sharing of ideas, infrastructure, and other assets (Duranton and Puga 2004). Gross and Sampat (2023a) find that these effects were approximately double in clusters centered on a highly ranked university. That firms and other research institutions (including government labs) later located in these hubs also suggests spillover benefits from regionalized innovation activity. Roughly 40 years after World War II, industrial clusters that received the OSRD's R&D investment saw 90 percent higher employment in those manufacturing



industries as well as additional manufacturing business formation (Gross and Sampat 2023a).

The research demands necessitated by World War II are similar in scope to those required to address climate change. Gross and Sampat (2023b) argue that unlike the Manhattan Project or the Apollo Program—which were focused on singular technological goals for singular customers—World War II demanded a portfolio-based approach to technological innovations for a variety of end users. In this regard, the authors note a parallel between the R&D investment approach of the OSRD and the scope of today’s energy transition needs. But while the challenges are similar in scope, the broad-based structural transformation necessary to address climate change may require investment at an even greater scale.

development of information technologies and biomedical advances (see box 6-1).

An economy’s composition may reflect *relative input prices* between established and emerging inputs. These include both the price of the input itself and any complementary capital, land, or other material inputs associated with the input of interest. Relative adoption tilts toward the input with lower contemporaneous prices. But in the presence of within-sector productivity spillovers, that tilt may be muted. For a new input, technology, or sector to become dominant, lower relative contemporaneous prices may not fully overcome the productivity advantage the established activity has built up over time. For example, high efficiencies in some forms of fossil fuel use from decades of experience would lead to lower adoption of renewables even if electricity from renewables were cheaper today than from fossil fuels.

*Factor mobility* can also accelerate structural change. Factor mobility refers to the ease with which factors of production—labor, capital equipment, or materials—can be allocated across different economic activities. For example, when workers in established sectors have skills that are attractive in emerging sectors, these workers can switch jobs across sectors—and relocate geographically if moving costs are low—without acquiring much additional education or retraining. Likewise, capital that can be redeployed readily across established and emerging sectors—for example, if a factory can shift from being powered by fossil fuels to clean energy—can help accelerate structural change. But when factors of production cannot be easily reallocated, the rate of structural change may be slow.

Structural change is often shaped by the degree of *substitutability* between existing technologies and those replacing them. Emerging economic activity must compete for consumers with existing activity. When an emerging sector’s output perfectly substitutes for that of an established sector, consumers will more readily adopt goods from the new sector (Acemoglu 2002). However, when the new product is not a direct substitute, complementary investments are necessary to ensure the new good has similar—if not better—attributes than the established good. For example, complementary investments in battery storage alongside clean energy sources for electricity will enable electricity supplied from clean sources at all hours of the day, as is currently provided by the established electricity generation mix (IRENA 2019).

New goods can also offer *quality or attribute improvements* that induce added demand. In many sectors, the adoption of new product categories is hastened in part by consumer demand for improved attributes, new use cases, or simply novelty.

### ***Market Failures and Policy Implications***

Policymakers and the public may in some cases decide that structural change is occurring in the wrong direction or too slowly. This is justified in the presence of canonical market failures. Externalities, for instance—whereby economic activity imposes costs and benefits onto others without consequences for the actor generating the activity—can lead markets to underprovide a public good (e.g., innovation) or overprovide a public bad (e.g., pollution or GHG emissions). Sector-level economies of scale that require coordination across complementary inputs may also prevent emerging sectors from overcoming the initial hurdle of competing with established sectors.

Policymakers can address these market failures with familiar economic policy tools, including input and output taxes designed to “internalize” the externality, along with subsidies and public research-and-development (R&D) investments. But government interventions differ in one fundamental way when structural change dynamics are at play: They can create lasting change via path dependence. As such, to the extent that these interventions are successful, they need not be permanent. Provided that an intervention is sufficiently large to redirect an economy toward a more socially desirable composition, the intervention may no longer be needed once enough momentum has been built (Acemoglu 2002; Acemoglu et al. 2012, 2016; Meng 2023).

Structural change’s key implication—the ability to use policy interventions to permanently alter the direction of change toward a different composition of the economy—may be attractive from a political economy perspective. But because path dependence cuts both ways, it also places

added importance on well-targeted policy interventions that direct the economy toward an efficient use of cost-effective inputs. Policies that promote costly technologies may lead to a locking in of those technologies, making a future redirection toward more cost-effective alternatives harder to accomplish. The momentum inherent in economies undergoing structural change amplifies the importance of correctly promoting cost-effective technologies.

## **Structural Change and the Clean Energy Transition**

The structural change framework and the push-and-pull forces articulated in the first section provide a lens to understand opportunities and challenges for accelerating the clean energy transition. Energy is an essential input for nearly every form of economic activity, and it has undergone various transitions over the past few centuries. As society invents new technologies, energy sources—and the form energy takes—change. Before the Industrial Revolution, labor—both human and animal—was the primary energy input for the production of goods and services. The Industrial Revolution unleashed a new and disembodied source of energy: fossil fuels. And the introduction of steam-powered, and then electricity-powered energy brought a transition in how the economy utilized fossil fuels (Devine 1982).

To lay out how the clean energy transition can be viewed through a structural change lens, this section examines the various push-and-pull forces that can accelerate or delay the clean energy transition. While these forces are explored in isolation, policies must target these economic forces simultaneously to achieve the required speed and scale of an economy-wide clean energy transition, as discussed in the third section.

### ***The Costs of Fossil Fuels***

Fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas—provide energy through combustion, and in doing so release air pollutants, toxins, and climate-damaging greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane. In 2021, 92 percent of U.S. anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could be attributed to the combustion of fossil fuels (EIA 2023b).

Understanding the economic challenges of transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy sources begins with understanding how fossil fuels came to be dominant and deeply embedded in the global and U.S. economies. Because energy is central to both national and economic security, fossil fuel providers benefited from government subsidies to secure strategic geopolitical alliances beginning in the late 19th century. U.S. government support, itself the result of political lobbying, aided fossil fuels in becoming the primary sources of American energy (Victor 2009) (see box 6-2). This is not a uniquely American phenomenon: Fossil fuels became a relatively

cheap source of energy globally in part because they have been heavily subsidized.

In addition to government support, the technical characteristics of fossil fuels and their availability further shaped the energy system that emerged in the global economy. Fossil fuels are abundant, energy-dense, and found in many parts of the world. They are also transportable carriers of energy: A piece of coal can be mined in one location and shipped elsewhere to readily meet that location's energy demand, leading to global markets for many fossil fuels and associated infrastructure as well as competitive price pressures. Additional technical qualities aid fossil fuels' competitiveness even when they are not the final energy carrier. For instance, use of some fossil fuels, like natural gas, can be readily ramped up and down for electricity generation, helping balance aggregate electricity supply and demand nearly instantaneously ([EIA 2012](#)).

### *Clean Energy Opportunities and Challenges*

Fossil fuels are not the only energy source, and they are far from the most abundant one; sunlight and wind are freely available around the planet. Aside from their critical role in mitigating GHG emissions and air pollution, clean energy technologies have many economic and national security benefits. Because they do not rely on costly fuel inputs, these technologies have

#### **Box 6-2. Fossil Fuel Subsidies**

A key challenge for the clean energy transition is the cost competitiveness of renewable energy sources compared with the fossil fuel sources they are replacing—a challenge made particularly difficult because the U.S. government has long subsidized fossil fuel production. These subsidies have largely been enacted through the tax code. Since the introduction of the modern Federal income tax in 1913, fossil fuel producers have received unique deductions, effectively shifting risk and losses from oil and gas producers to taxpayers.

The largest fossil fuel subsidies focus on defraying the risks of investment for producers. One major provision involves the deduction of intangible drilling costs—which include wages and preparatory work conducted to drill an oil well—amounting to 60–80 percent of total drilling costs, according to one estimate. Oil producers may deduct 70 percent of these costs immediately, rather than over the lifetime of the well, as is common with standard business expenditures ([CRFB 2013](#)). Also subsidized are the costs to explore new wells, despite novel technologies that significantly reduce the risks of drilling unprofitable or nonproducing wells. As recently as 2004, the Federal Government

introduced new tax instruments to support investment in drilling capacity (U.S. Congress 2004).

Production is also subsidized, for instance, in the form of a percentage depletion. Independent oil producers are permitted to write off 15 percent of gross income on the first 1,000 barrels they produce a day, and this deduction rises to 25 percent for marginal wells during periods of low prices. Because this deduction is based on gross income, its value can exceed the total value of the producer's investment in the well (CRS 2021). While these provisions target independent producers (those without integrated refining capacity), this represents over 80 percent of U.S. crude oil production (Golding and Kilian 2022).

While estimates vary, one valuation assesses the total producer benefit from the Federal Government's fossil fuel subsidies at \$62 billion, on average, annually (Kotchen 2021). This benefit substantially incentivizes production and the entry of new fossil fuel producers at the margin, particularly when oil prices are low, and the subsidies' total contributions to domestic production are estimated to be substantial (Erickson et al. 2017). Over the past 20 years, these subsidies have fueled the development of unconventional projects through the shale boom, with potential benefits to oil producers of up to \$4 a barrel (Erickson and Achakulwisut 2021). One study estimates that at oil prices of \$50 per barrel, fossil fuel subsidies could be responsible for up to 20 percent of U.S. crude oil production through 2050, while contributing 6 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Erickson et al. 2017).

These subsidies to fossil fuels, both direct and indirect, have greatly promoted domestic production of natural gas and oil for more than a century. Their scope and longevity demonstrate both the Federal Government's ability to support energy production and the extent to which the oil and gas sectors have benefited from such support. As the country looks to accelerate the adoption of nonemitting energy sources, fossil fuel subsidies are also an obstacle to a rapid clean energy transition. As such, President Biden has repeatedly urged Congress to remove these subsidies, most recently in his 2024 budget proposal, in order to recover billions for taxpayers while winding down policy interventions that slow the clean energy transition (OMB 2023).

near-zero marginal costs of generation and can, in the long run with continued technological advances, lower energy prices. Due to its cost advantages, solar is already the fastest growing source of energy in the United States and in the world (EIA 2024a; IEA 2023c). Clean energy technologies can also reduce volatility in energy markets and enhance energy security (Cox, Beshilas, and Hotchkiss 2019). Studies have also shown clean energy to be

more resilient than fossil fuels in the event of a natural disaster ([Chang 2023](#); [Esposito 2021](#)).

And yet, despite the benefits of clean energy and the need to transition away from fossil fuels to address climate change, many parts of the world have been slow in adopting clean energy technologies that produce energy from these abundant and free resources—or have not adopted them at all ([IRENA 2023](#)). In some cases, this may be because clean energy technologies require inputs that are costly or exhibit low mobility. In other settings, complementary technologies are needed for clean energy to serve as a better substitute for fossil fuels. To understand what may accelerate or delay the clean energy transition, this section maps the push-and-pull forces—productivity spillovers, input prices, factor mobility, and substitutability—articulated abstractly in the chapter’s first section, onto specific features of the clean energy transition.

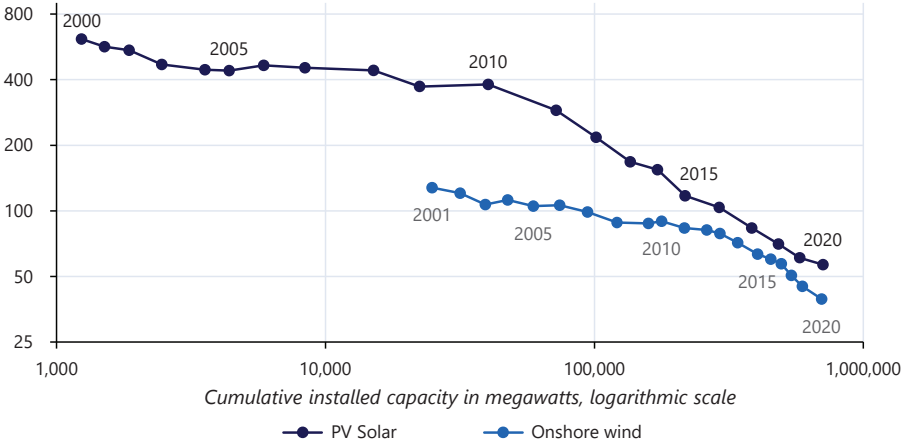
*Productivity spillovers and declining capital cost curves.* Technologies tend to become cheaper as experience with their production increases, consistent with the presence of productivity spillovers. This dynamic likely characterizes the clean energy sector. Despite high initial costs, increased manufacturing capacity and deployment of clean energy technologies have been associated with lowering costs as a result of learning and investments in process innovation ([Nemet 2019](#)).

The role of path dependence in productivity spillovers and declining capital cost curves can be illustrated through the history of clean energy technologies over the past century. In a number of cases, despite having near-zero marginal costs, high capital costs—alongside ongoing government subsidies for fossil fuels—made clean energy more expensive than energy derived from fossil fuels. For example, while in the early 20th century, electric wind turbines were common across rural America, in the two decades after President Roosevelt’s rural electrification programs brought cheaper fossil-fuel-based electricity to rural areas, every American wind power company went out of business ([Pasqualetti, Righter, and Gipe 2004](#)). Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, first developed in the 1950s to power space satellites, were unable to compete commercially for decades, and were restricted to niche applications such as calculators and solar-powered radios ([Nemet 2019](#)). Electric vehicles enjoyed an early boom around the turn of the 20th century, after the discovery of electromagnetism and the invention of the rechargeable battery allowed them to capture 38 percent of the (albeit very small) U.S. automotive market. However, advances in the combustion engine and the growing cost-competitiveness of fossil fuels—a result partially of public subsidies—quickly led to the dominance of internal combustion engine vehicles ([Guarnieri 2012](#)).

In the future, as clean energy technologies develop and disseminate, costs are likely to decline as a result of economies of scale and

**Figure 6-4. Capital Cost Curves for PV Solar and Onshore Wind, 2000–2020**

2020 dollars per megawatt-hour, logarithmic scale



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Sources: International Renewable Energy Agency (2023); Nemet (2019).

Note: Logarithmic scale shows the relationship between a 50 percent drop in capital costs and a 1,000 percent increase in installed capacity.

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learning-by-doing. Economies of scale will move clean technologies down the average cost curve while learning-by-doing will shift down the average cost curve itself as productivity increases. Together, these forces should lead to lower costs at higher levels of output. However, if new technologies cannot compete with existing energy technologies, they will be unable to advance to mass production and experience the cost declines associated with scale economies and learning effects (Hart 2020). This could result from a lack of policies to spur demand, the competitiveness of established technologies, or some combination of both. Indeed, as shown in figure 6-4, it was not until the start of this century that clean energy’s capital costs began declining dramatically, coinciding with when many governments around the world began supporting its deployment (Nemet 2019).

*Land, transmission, and supply chain costs.* Capital costs of clean energy for electricity have fallen dramatically over recent decades and are now often lower than those of fossil fuels (Lazard 2023). These cost advantages notwithstanding, there are other inputs incurred when changing from a fossil-fuel-based to a clean-energy-based system. Electricity from renewable energy has different land use requirements, necessitates investments in transmission infrastructure, and relies on different raw materials than fossil-fuel-based electricity. This implies that the total input cost of clean energy relative to fossil fuels may still not be low enough for markets on their own to deliver a structural transition.

Clean energy electricity generation can be more land-intensive than fossil fuel generation, even after accounting for land used in fossil fuel extraction and distribution (Gross 2020; Van Zalk and Behrens 2018). Utility-scale solar and land-based wind power generation requires large quantities of contiguous land. By one estimate, the capacity necessary to complete the U.S. net zero transition with current technologies could take over 250,000 square miles, roughly the area of Texas (Nature Conservancy 2023). While some of this renewable capacity can be installed on existing land uses—as in the case of rooftop solar—replacing the fossil-fuel-based energy system will likely require repurposing land specifically for clean energy. Siting, the process of picking locations for projects, can also incur political risks. Local interest groups have sued and taken political action against renewable projects, with opposition rising rapidly in recent years, raising the cost of installation (Bryce 2023; Brooks and Liscow 2023).

Siting clean energy installations on cheaper land away from population centers can mitigate these concerns, but may prompt an additional cost: the need to transmit renewable energy generation to load centers. Current transmission regulations also create an externality: The cost of adding a marginal transmission line is often borne by the marginal generator connecting onto the grid—even though the extra transmission line benefits all connected generators (Sankaran, Parmar, and Collison 2021). One recent analysis argues that inadequacies in the current U.S. transmission system—which in some parts of the country fails to connect regions with high solar and wind potential—may lower renewable energy adoption by 65 percent by 2030 (Jenkins et al. 2022). And for planned renewable generation that can connect to existing transmission lines, the average wait time for grid connection is currently 3.5 years (RMI 2022).

Clean energy technologies require different inputs than do fossil fuel technologies, which may be less raw-material-intensive in the construction of generation facilities but require ongoing fuel supplies (IEA 2023b). Wind generation uses over 5 metric tons of zinc per new megawatt of generation capacity, while solar PV uses about 4 metric tons of rare earth metals. By contrast, a new megawatt of natural gas generation capacity uses only about 1 metric ton of metal. Similarly, EV production requires over six times the critical minerals compared with what is needed for producing internal combustion engines, owing primarily to the large quantities of graphite, cobalt, nickel, and lithium used in batteries, though that difference will narrow as battery recycling programs ramp up (IEA 2023b; Riofrancos et al. 2023). Global supply chains can drive down input costs for clean energy technologies, but that may require government intervention. While the United States is currently developing domestic capacity in this area, mining these materials and transporting them requires, in some cases, creating new supply chains and forming new trade relationships (IEA 2023b).



*Labor mobility.* The clean energy transition will require a shift in the labor market, with workers leaving fossil fuel jobs and entering clean energy jobs. The extent to which labor is mobile across locations and sectors will play an important role in the clean energy transition. These frictions are not unique to the clean energy transition; they affect any process of structural change.

The clean energy sector will require more highly skilled workers (IEA 2022). Globally, about 45 percent of energy workers were in occupations requiring tertiary education as of 2019, compared with only about one-quarter across the U.S. economy. In 2022, more than 80 percent of U.S. clean energy employers reported at least “some difficulty” finding qualified workers (DOE 2023a), compared with about 75 percent of firms across the economy (Manpower Group 2022). In an industry survey, 89 percent of U.S. solar companies reported difficulties finding skilled labor, citing competition, small applicant pools, and applicants’ lack of training, experience, and technical skills (IREC 2022). Demand for workers in clean energy sectors continues to increase (DOE 2023a). Indeed, in some sectors, such as transportation, manufacturing clean energy technologies may be more labor-intensive than manufacturing fossil-fuel-based counterparts (Cotterman, Fuchs, and Whitefoot 2022), but that may not apply in all cases.

Geographic immobility may also slow transitions from fossil fuel to clean energy jobs (Lim, Aklin, and Frank 2023). While some fossil fuel and clean energy skills overlap (IEA 2022), fossil fuel and clean energy jobs are often not in the same places. For instance, approximately one-third of recently laid-off coal miners in Appalachia—some of them third-generation employees—have not moved since job displacement, despite the lack of clean energy job opportunities nearby (Greenspon and Raimi 2022; Weber 2020).

This clean energy labor demand presents an economic opportunity, but also requires overcoming skill mismatch with the current workforce. Some of this demand may be met by workers currently employed in fossil fuel sectors. But so long as these workers are able to find employment more generally in an economy as large as the United States’, a one-to-one match between fossil and clean industries’ labor pools may not be needed (Curtis, O’Kane, and Park 2023). The likelihood of working at a clean firm conditional on having worked for a fossil fuel firm in the previous year was extremely low as of 2019, suggesting an important potential role for workforce development programs and place-based incentives (Colmer, Lyubich, and Voorheis 2023).

Finally, fossil fuel extraction also has local fiscal effects (Raimi et al. 2023). Excise and royalty taxes on fossil fuel extraction provide a major source of local tax revenue, supporting employment in local schools, hospitals, and other public services. An important consideration is whether and

how revenue from local fossil fuel taxes can be replaced by proceeds from investments in clean energy or other industrial sectors.

*Substitutability.* Electricity from clean energy sources like wind and solar is not available at all times of the day, unlike electricity from fossil fuels. This variability of renewable energy can be solved through complementary investments in battery storage and other solutions—including nuclear and hydropower—which makes electricity from clean energy a better substitute for electricity from fossil fuels. For example, to make clean energy dispatchable at all hours of the day, battery storage can be deployed in a manner that incentivizes batteries to be charged when renewables are abundant and discharged when they are not.

Likewise, electric vehicle range—though it is improving rapidly—can present a barrier to EV adoption. To date, most EVs have a lesser range than cars powered by internal combustion engines. Recent surveys show that the majority of EV owners have a second, nonelectric vehicle—and drive that second vehicle more ([Davis 2023](#)). As a result, actual EV usage is less than half of what State regulators typically assume ([Burlig et al. 2021](#)). While there remain challenges for the substitution of EVs for internal combustion engine vehicles, solutions already exist and more are emerging. These include carmakers installing larger battery packs, improvements in battery technology, and progress on the building out of a robust EV charging network, which is currently under way.

In the extreme case of no substitutability between energy technologies, demand can fail to materialize. Solar PV cells present an early case study of missing demand. When silicon solar cells were first developed by Bell Labs in 1954, they were too expensive for many commercial applications. The U.S. government long remained their main buyer for use in satellites and defense applications ([Nemet 2019](#)). Today, hydrogen as an energy feedstock faces similar challenges in industrial settings, where some existing equipment and processes for using fossil fuels cannot be used for hydrogen. Complementary capital investments will be needed to generate demand for hydrogen as an energy feedstock ([CEA 2023b](#)).

### ***Financing the Speed and Scale of the Clean Energy Transition***

While past structural changes have tended to move on their own timelines, the biggest challenges for the clean energy transition are the required speed and scale. As noted above, global temperatures are already rising and the economic damage is growing. The United States and other countries need to decarbonize across their economies through the rapid deployment of existing clean energy technologies and investments in new technological solutions.

The energy transition has significant financing needs that require accelerating private sector investments. Private investments in clean energy

technologies have grown in recent years (White House 2023). However, as a result of impediments common to structural change, they can be riskier and less profitable than alternative investments. Removing such obstacles to rapid structural change in the energy sector can accelerate the pace at which financial markets fund the energy transition on their own. Conceptually, this financing issue is not distinct from other challenges for the clean energy transition discussed above; rather, it is a consequence of many of these impediments existing simultaneously.

On the supply side, novel clean energy technologies can have difficulty accessing traditional capital markets relative to other industries because of greater perceived credit risk (Armitage, Bakhtian, and Jaffe 2023). Novel technologies may experience large cost uncertainties as a result of construction timing and delays, uncertainty about future revenue streams, and manufacturing cost overruns due to a lack of production experience. Traditional financial institutions may also have less capacity to assess risk for nascent technologies, making them reluctant to underwrite projects (IEA 2021c).

Clean energy projects confront an additional set of challenges: They must demonstrate initial commercial viability before being widely adopted. Early-stage financiers are often unable or unwilling to provide the substantial initial capital this demonstration requires (Ghosh and Nanda 2010). Financing risks can further limit early-stage investment. Nanda, Younge, and Fleming (2015) document how energy projects' financing needs and profiles are riskier and more capital-intensive than those in other high-growth industries, such as software and information technology. Potential early-stage investors may refrain from investing in clean energy companies if they anticipate that the technology will likely not receive mid-stage financing in the "valley of death," whereby market demand is insufficient for large-scale deployment (Nanda and Rhodes-Kropf 2016).

Demand-side factors can also slow financing for the energy transition. For example, investors in venture-financed energy start-ups have historically realized fewer exit opportunities compared with those in industries like biotechnology, semiconductors, and information technology, where established markets exist for start-up firms even before they have demonstrated commercial viability for their products (Ghosh and Nanda 2010). Energy companies and utilities have in the past often been reluctant to acquire start-ups with unproven technologies (Nanda, Younge, and Fleming 2015). Even as venture capital investment in clean energy has increased over time (CTVC 2023), venture capital firms may remain hesitant to invest in capital-intensive energy projects when the exit opportunities are limited in the short run, because such investments may require repeated capital injections over long periods of time to see a product through to market (Van den Heuvel and Popp 2022; Fontana and Nanda 2023). Creating a more favorable exit

environment for start-ups can help mobilize private sector investment in these sectors.

In the transition to a new energy system, uncertainty about the broader market for clean energy can inhibit private sector investment, creating an opportunity for the public sector to send a durable demand signal. Lerner and Nanda (2020) argue that understanding market demand is an important prerequisite for early-stage companies to succeed. According to the authors, software and service-based businesses have shorter development timelines, and technological advancements allow these types of companies to ascertain market demand faster. Compared with software- and service-based businesses, clean energy companies may have more difficulty forecasting or demonstrating the demand certainty that would make them attractive to investors.

In summary, the balance of the economic push-and-pull forces affecting the clean energy transition today may limit private sector investment from reaching the necessary scale required to meet decarbonization goals, even as progress has been made. The next section turns to the role that government can play in catalyzing a faster transition to the net zero economy.

## **The Role of the Public Sector**

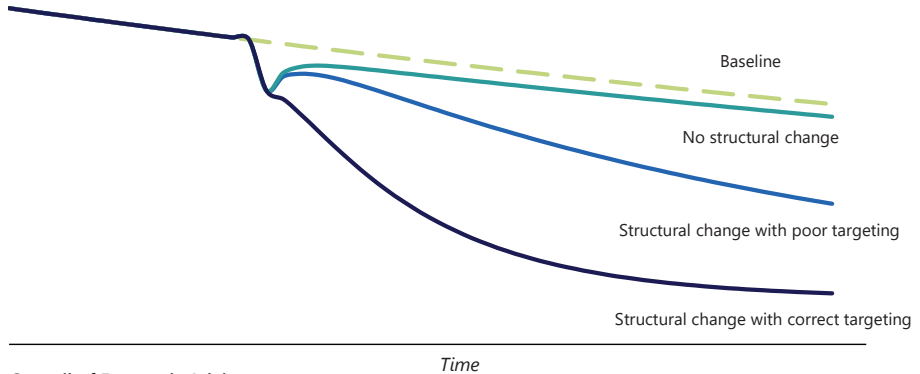
Due to the market failures and economic frictions discussed in the first section, government intervention is necessary to reach net zero emissions. Governments have long made investments in developing clean energy technologies, though not always with the intent of reducing GHG emissions. In the 1970s, large-scale public investments in wind and solar R&D, which came about primarily in reaction to shortages and high prices in the oil market, were major forays into this space (Pirani 2018; CRS 2018; Nahm 2021). Since then, governments around the world have amplified support for clean energy, increasingly to accelerate the transition to a net zero economy.

Government intervention is critical to solving classic market failures, such as pollution and knowledge externalities. When it comes to structural change, such interventions are fundamentally about changing the direction and pace of transitions. Because economic incentives do not yet fully encourage replacing the existing, fossil-fuel-based energy system with one based on clean energy, government intervention can alter such incentives. But importantly, from a structural change lens, those interventions need not be permanent; once sufficient momentum builds in favor of the clean energy transition, the private sector could continue the transition, even without continued government involvement (see box 6-3).

Figure 6-5 illustrates this argument. Emissions in the absence of a policy intervention are shown as the dashed green line, declining—as in the case of recent U.S. GHG emissions—albeit not fast enough to meet net

**Figure 6-5. Schematic: GHG Emissions with and without Structural Change Dynamics**

*Greenhouse gas emissions*



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Source: CEA calculations.

Note: GHG = greenhouse gas. In the absence of structural change dynamics, a temporary policy intervention would lower GHG emissions but not their growth rate (solid teal line) relative to the no-policy trajectory (dashed green baseline). In the presence of structural change, a temporary policy would lower the growth rate of GHG emissions. The added decline in GHG emissions is faster when the policy correctly targets technologies (solid dark navy line) than when targeting is poor (solid lighter blue line).

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zero goals. Consider first an economy without structural change dynamics. A temporary policy intervention lowers the level of GHG emissions over time but not the growth rate, as illustrated by the solid teal line. As a consequence, emissions continue changing at the same pace as before the policy. For such an economy, achieving net zero emissions requires permanent policy intervention. This trajectory contrasts with an economy featuring structural change dynamics, as shown by the solid blue lines in the figure. A policy under this scenario can permanently lower emissions' growth rate by building path dependence into clean energy sources, generating momentum that maintains the clean energy transition even after the policy is lifted. That is, under structural change, long-term decarbonization can be achieved with policy interventions that eventually allow private market incentives to sustain the clean energy transition without continued government intervention.

The rate at which emissions decline depends on how well the policy targets cost-effective technologies and GHG reduction options that can compete with fossil-fuel-based technologies to become self-sustaining. Policies that target poorly (the solid light blue line in the figure) may lead to lock-in of more costly technologies, ultimately making the economy's redirection toward the adoption of clean energy technologies more difficult and expensive than with better targeting (solid navy line).

This path dependence can emerge from economic conditions, but can also have political origins. A growing literature has documented that climate policies can help strengthen economic and consumer interest groups

### **Box 6-3. The Public Sector’s Role in Accelerating Structural Change: The Case of South Korea**

The transformation of South Korea’s heavy and chemical industries (HCI) sector since the 1970s is an example of export-led structural change. After the devastation of the Korean War of the early 1950s, South Korea turned to a broad export-based economic strategy in the 1960s and early 1970s, giving preferential trade policy treatment to any exporting firm. In 1973, in response to defense concerns, the South Korean government restricted this policy to HCI firms, providing extensive loan subsidies from domestic financial institutions. The state additionally instituted performance standards for subsidy recipients, relying on export targets and eschewing financial indicators of firm performance. Although this policy system was short-lived, lasting only until 1979, it had a sharp effect on South Korean industrial production in the decades that followed (Lane 2022).

This sector-specific public intervention resulted in a steep increase in the productivity of HCI firms, both during the 1973–79 period of direct industrial strategy and afterward (Lane 2022). The share of HCI exports remained above pre-1973 levels well after 1979, and remains above those levels today (Lane 2022; Choi and Levchenko 2021; OEC 2023). Major present-day South Korean exports—such as Samsung semiconductors and Hyundai cars—were first produced between 1973 and 1979, and production grew sharply through the 1980s.

Government policies during this period helped spur structural change, which had previously stalled due to frictions and market failures. Before the intervention, South Korea’s HCI sector suffered from a financing problem: Western financial institutions were reluctant to provide loans to Korean plants (Amsden 1992). The South Korean government spurred investment with subsidized loans that resemble the investment tax credits underlying modern clean energy investment. And because local demand was not sufficient to sustain growth in the targeted industries, the South Korean government then supported exports, allowing cheaper capital and privileged regulatory status for exporting firms. The government’s last intervention was to build human capital—essential due to the complexity of HCI manufacturing—by developing and promoting an extensive engineering education pipeline (Amsden 1992).

The success of South Korea’s HCI sector can be linked to the country’s industrial strategy during this period. The government’s temporary intervention was sufficient to shift the direction of investment and establish comparative advantage over the long term in a previously undistinguished industry. Today, many of the component industries of the HCI drive, such as motor vehicles and shipbuilding, remain pillars of the South Korean economy. The program’s success suggests that public intervention can be critical to overcoming obstacles to rapid structural change.

that make policies more difficult to reverse. For instance, policies that yield widespread economic benefits, such as by creating new industrial sectors and sources of employment, can be politically costly to reverse and therefore are more likely to stay in place across administrations (Meckling and Nahm 2021; Meckling et al. 2015). Conversely, the absence of policy certainty will lead to underinvestment if potential entrants become unsure of the subsidies or taxes they may encounter years down the road (Noailly, Nowzohour, and van den Heuvel 2022). Studies have documented that frequent expirations of renewable energy production and investment tax credits—as well as short-term extensions—have a negative impact on the development of a domestic wind industry (Lewis and Wiser 2007; DOE 2022a).

Finally, public sector interventions work best when governments directly support desired outcomes rather than require firms to adopt specific processes or market behaviors (Rodrik 2014). For example, to increase renewable energy adoption in the power sector, government interventions would ideally either subsidize renewable energy or tax fossil fuel emissions—without mandating where, how, or what type of renewable energy is built, as in the case of technology-neutral tax credits. Furthermore, to meet research and development goals—which may otherwise face private financing challenges—governments could invest in well-diversified portfolios covering large suites of potential new technologies rather than pick a handful of firms and products, anticipating that some technologies may ultimately fail while others succeed. These interventions can provide certainty to the private sector while allowing flexibility for new innovations. They can help mitigate the potential effects of incomplete information, particularly during a transition to emerging technologies, and address the difficulty of acquiring accurate information in the face of rent-seeking by firms.

In order to accelerate the clean energy transition, the supply- and demand-side policies highlighted below take account of these considerations. These interventions must also be coordinated because they are part of a broader, multipolicy approach that simultaneously enhances the push forces and removes the pull forces behind the clean energy transition.

### ***Supply-Side Policies***

*Enhancing productivity spillovers.* Government can induce the creation of new technologies. Basic research can lead to breakthrough technologies that generate high economic returns (National Research Council 2001), but because private returns are significantly smaller than public returns, private investors tend to underinvest in basic research (Lucking, Bloom, and Van Reenen 2020). This pattern is particularly pronounced in the energy sector, where the private sector has historically underinvested in basic R&D (Nemet and Kammen 2007).

The U.S. government has therefore long supported basic research, and remains the world’s largest funder of energy research ([IEA 2023d](#); [Sandalow et al. 2022](#)). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)—enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), along with the 2020 Energy Act (Public Law 116-260, div. Z)—more than triples the Department of Energy’s annual funding for energy programs and includes a significant expansion of funds for R&D ([DOE 2022b](#)). Such public investments in research will yield global knowledge and productivity spillovers that can accelerate the energy transition ([Berkes, Manysheva, and Mestieri 2022](#)). Nonetheless, current public investments in energy R&D still fall short of the levels required to meet climate targets, given that key technologies needed to reduce costs and decarbonize industrial sectors have yet to become commercialized (see box 6-4). Current U.S. public energy R&D spending remains below the amount spent in the aftermath of the oil crises of the 1970s ([Gallagher and Anadon 2022](#)).

*Lowering capital, land, and transmission costs.* Certain clean energy technologies, like solar PV cells, have already seen significant declines in capital costs. However, newer technologies—such as grid-scale battery storage, hydrogen electrolyzers, carbon capture and storage, direct air capture, and advanced modular nuclear reactors—still face high capital costs ([DOE 2023c](#)).

Public sector interventions, including loan guarantees, can lower capital costs for clean energy technologies. The Department of Energy’s Clean Energy Financing Program, which provides loan guarantees for innovative clean energy technologies—and which was recently scaled up under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 (Public Law 117-169)—is an example of such a public sector intervention. Such programs can lower the future cost of renewable technologies through learning-by-doing ([Arkolakis and Walsh 2023](#)) and by encouraging complementary private investments required to achieve the net zero economy ([Heintz 2010](#); [Juhász, Lane, and Rodrik 2023](#)). Loan guarantees can lower the risks inherent in financing clean energy projects, thereby increasing the availability of capital ([Bachas, Kim, and Yannelis 2021](#); [CRS 2012](#)). They can also provide an information signal to private financiers to further de-risk projects and “crowd in” private capital—shortening the time frame by which clean energy technologies become bankable ([DOE 2023e](#)). One analysis of the Department of Energy’s early-stage grants to high-tech clean energy start-up firms finds a positive effect on future financing from the private sector ([Howell 2017](#)). Another study finds that young firms in Germany that received public investment were more likely to access bank loans, and that this effect was particularly pronounced in sectors that were “information-opaque” ([Hottenrott, Lins, and Lutz 2017](#)).



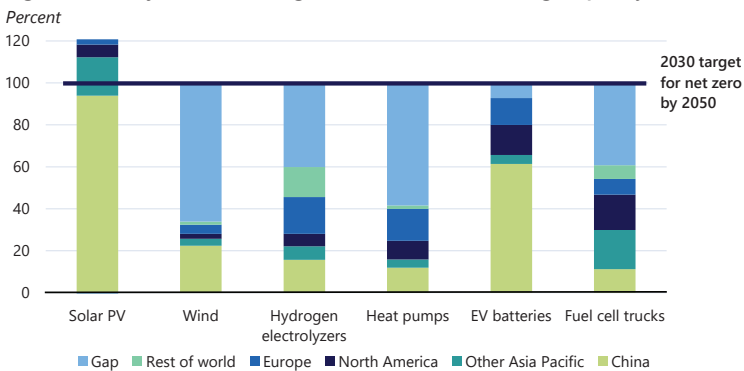
### Box 6-4. The Need for Global Climate Collaboration

Solving climate change is an inherently global challenge, for which the United States’ clean energy transition is only one part of the solution. The world will avoid dangerous climate change only if other countries also undertake similar structural transformations. In 2022, the United States accounted for 14 percent of global GHG emissions; China’s share was 31 percent. Collectively, major powers have the potential to substantially curb emissions: The United States, China, the EU-27, Brazil, Russia, and India together accounted for more than 60 percent of global emissions in 2022 (Friedlingstein 2023).

U.S. investments in clean energy technologies could drive down global production costs (Way et al. 2022; Larsen et al. 2023) and encourage innovation worldwide (Berkes, Manyшева, and Mestieri 2022). But even accounting for these investments and their global spillovers, the world is projected to fall short of the manufacturing and deployment capacity necessary to meet global climate goals. For example, while the world is expected to develop sufficient or near-sufficient manufacturing capacity for EV batteries and solar modules by 2030 to stay on track for global net zero emissions by 2050 (IEA 2021a), global manufacturing capacity of wind turbines, heat pumps, and other key technologies is likely lagging behind the necessary pace to meet decarbonization goals (figure 6-i).

There is an urgent need for other governments to join the United States in rapidly accelerating their clean energy transitions. In the United States and elsewhere, strategic public sector intervention to remove impediments to structural change in the energy transition can generate the necessary buy-in from the private sector to yield clean energy technologies that will be cheaper than their carbon-emitting counterparts.

**Figure 6-i. Projected and Target Global Manufacturing Capacity, 2030**



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Sources: International Energy Agency; CEA calculations.

Note: “Manufacturing capacity” refers to the maximum rated output of facilities for producing a given technology, as distinguished from the capacity of the technologies themselves once deployed. Capacity is stated on an annual basis for the final product.

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However, lowered capital costs for clean technologies may be insufficient if other input costs remain high. The land requirements of some clean energy technologies imply added costs—and often this demand occurs in agriculturally productive areas ([van de Ven et al. 2021](#)). Governments can help navigate this trade-off, especially in the case of wind farms. Each turbine has a relatively small footprint ([Denholm et al. 2009](#)), and incentivizing the use of arable space between wind turbines for agriculture dramatically lessens a wind farm’s land requirements. Likewise, policies can encourage solar co-location with agriculture. While growing crops under solar PV is still a nascent practice, tax breaks and direct subsidies could scale it up ([Boyd 2023](#)), potentially through the resources provided by the IRA for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Energy for America Program.

High land prices can also be mitigated by building renewable energy generation away from agriculturally productive areas. But these locations tend to be far from population centers where electricity demand is highest, and new renewables projects are limited by the transmission capacity of the section of the grid to which they are connected. Expanding transmission is therefore an important complement to building new clean energy generation capacity. New transmission is needed both within and across regions of the country ([DOE 2023d](#)). The BIL allocates \$2.5 billion to specific projects to this end. Absent such investment in transmission as well as in distribution, increased electrification will strain the existing grid.

*Increasing labor mobility.* Governments can play a central role in removing labor market frictions that could otherwise impede the clean energy transition ([CEA 2021](#)). Initiatives that address both skill needs and mismatch in the labor market, along with geographic immobility, are particularly necessary to accelerate the energy transition.

Workforce development programs are needed to train the next generation of workers in the clean energy sector and to retrain workers transitioning from the fossil fuel industry. Government initiatives that standardize education to include training on clean energy technologies are critically important—particularly for multicraft work like rooftop solar installation, which requires knowledge of carpentry, roofing, metal work, electrical, and information technology ([IREC 2023](#)). Programs that create pathways between education, training, entry-level jobs, and long-term careers are necessary to ensure long-term job quality and retention. Recent Federal policies reflect the importance of establishing a pipeline from apprenticeships to entry-level jobs. The IRA, for instance, introduced a bonus adder on top of a wide range of tax credits in the power, manufacturing, and transportation sectors for eligible firms that provide prevailing wages and employ qualified apprentices for certain construction, alteration, and repair work. Moreover, the creation of new apprenticeship programs provides an opportunity to accelerate economic growth by ensuring that workers—and in particular

women—who have been historically underrepresented in the energy sector have access to the jobs of the future. Women represent less than 20 percent of employed workers in both the clean and fossil fuel sectors (Colmer, Lyubich, and Voorheis 2023).

Government interventions in retraining programs can support workers currently in the fossil fuel sector, retraining them for either the clean energy sector or other industries (Katz et al. 2022; Hanson 2023). Hyman (2022) provides evidence that deliberately targeting labor immobility during market disruptions can increase the likelihood that workers will switch industries—and improve workers’ outcomes. In the context of the clean energy transition, estimates for the costs of retraining programs vary (Louie and Pearce 2016), but may be minor relative to the overall costs of the transition (Vanatta et al. 2022).

Government programs addressing geographic immobility can complement workforce development programs. Such programs can provide funding to construct clean energy manufacturing facilities close to their fossil-fuel-based counterparts, or provide moving allowances to help workers relocate (Vanatta et al. 2022; Pollin and Callaci 2016). The Department of Energy, for instance, announced \$15.5 billion in funding for the conversion of existing automotive manufacturing facilities to support the EV supply chain (DOE 2023b). Policies can also support communities where local tax revenues have historically depended on fossil fuel industries (International Renewable Energy Age 2023).

### ***Demand-Side Policies***

*Boosting demand over longer horizons.* Because private investors are reluctant to fund the commercialization of new energy technologies, government interventions can create a long-term demand signal. Such interventions can prevent novel clean energy technologies from being stranded in the “valley of death” (Nemet 2019).

Production and investment tax credits for clean energy installations can boost demand for these technologies. The United States has employed some form of a production tax credit since 1992 to generate demand for a wide variety of renewable energy technologies, all without favoring specific firms (CRS 2020). Under the IRA, production and investment tax credits for clean energy will be technology-neutral by 2025—production of any type of energy with sufficiently low emissions will receive the same tax breaks. Both subsidies are available without a total tax expenditure limit until 2032, or when U.S. GHG emissions from electricity reach a certain threshold, creating a durable market signal incentivizing the use of renewable energy for electricity.

Such policies have proven effective in mobilizing private sector financing in other contexts. One paper finds that such demand-side policies shore up durable market demand and help mobilize private sector investments—particularly venture capital—toward clean energy innovation ([van den Heuvel and Popp 2022](#)). And in the pharmaceutical industry, demand-side policies (also known as “demand-pull” policies) have helped to mobilize biomedical R&D when market incentives to do so are weak ([Glennerster and Kremer 2000](#); [Global Trade Funding n.d.](#)). Likewise, advance market commitments have enabled greater production of pharmaceutical products—such as vaccines—in markets without mature market demand ([Kremer, Levin, and Snyder 2020](#); [Berndt et al. 2006](#)).

*Improving substitutability.* In the power sector, battery storage technologies provide one avenue for alleviating variability concerns and making renewable energy a better substitute for fossil fuels. Grid-connected battery storage is rapidly increasing in the United States. In 2023, the United States deployed 16 gigawatts (GW) of grid-connected battery capacity, with another 15 GW planned for 2024 ([EIA 2024b](#)). To meet net zero goals, the United States needs about 131 GW of grid-scale storage by 2050, according to models ([Narich et al. 2021](#)). Policies encouraging additional deployment are likely to lower costs further ([NREL 2023](#)). These policies include investment tax credits for battery adoption and production tax credits for battery manufacturing—both of which are provided under the IRA.

Batteries installed on electricity grids should be charged when wholesale electricity prices are low and discharged when these prices rise. Assuming the marginal electricity generator uses renewable energy when prices are low and fossil fuels when prices are high, tax incentives for batteries will result in reduced GHG emissions by replacing electricity from fossil fuels with electricity from renewables. If low electricity prices instead coincide with deriving marginal electricity from fossil fuels, battery incentives could lead to increased GHG emissions ([Hittinger and Azevedo 2015](#); [Pimm et al. 2019](#); [Beuse et al. 2021](#)). Policies that tie investment tax credits for batteries only to grids with a positive within-day correlation between wholesale prices and marginal emissions would ensure that battery expansion coincides with GHG reductions.

Better substitutability between clean energy and fossil fuels also ensures that clean energy subsidies deliver both lower electricity prices and GHG reductions. This is because clean energy subsidies have composition and scale effects ([Baumol and Oates 1988](#)). They make clean energy cheaper relative to fossil fuels, tilting the composition of electricity toward clean energy and lowering GHG emissions, all else remaining equal. Clean energy subsidies also increase the overall scale of electricity consumption by making electricity cheaper, increasing all energy inputs, including fossil fuels, and thus possibly GHG emissions, all else remaining equal ([Casey, Jeon,](#)

and Traeger 2023). When clean energy and fossil fuels are better substitutes, as with greater battery deployment, the composition effect dominates over the scale effect and clean energy subsidies both reduce emissions and lower electricity prices (Hassler et al. 2020; Casey, Jeon, and Traeger 2023).

Likewise, policies that make EVs more substitutable with internal combustion engines—either by improving range or increasing charging convenience—can accelerate their adoption. The IRA’s production tax credit for battery manufacturing is aimed at driving down the cost of production, which can improve range. The investment tax credit for household adoption of battery storage under the IRA and the \$7.5 billion allocated for building a national high-speed EV charger network under the BIL are designed to increase charging convenience.

### *Coordinating Supply and Demand*

The necessary scale and speed of the clean energy transition requires coordinating supply and demand policies. Demand for clean energy technologies often requires complementary and simultaneous supply-side investments in different technologies and supporting infrastructure. As noted above, EVs are dependent on a charging infrastructure. Some consumers are reluctant to invest in EVs before an adequately convenient supply of chargers is installed, while investments in chargers are unprofitable before consumers collectively purchase a sufficient fleet of EVs (Li et al. 2017). Prior research has suggested that supply-side investments—such as subsidies for the EV charging infrastructure—should be developed in tandem with direct EV subsidies (Cole et al. 2023; Rapson and Muehlegger 2022; Dimanchev et al. 2023).

Similar network effects and coordination problems exist in the switch to new fuels, like clean hydrogen, which require investments in the technologies for both production and demand (Armitage, Bakhtian, and Jaffe 2023). In addition to retrofitting facilities to use hydrogen as a feedstock, midstream infrastructure, including pipelines and storage, will be essential for maturing the clean hydrogen industry—in addition to investments in the technology used for hydrogen production (U.S. Department of Energy 2023c). The current short-term availability of infrastructure to transport, store, and distribute hydrogen is often cited as a constraint on industry growth, especially given the challenges of co-locating production and end use (Zacarias and Nakano 2023).

The public sector can play a significant coordinating role, incentivizing demand while ensuring adequate supply to establish new markets. When future demand is uncertain, firms may find investing in the necessary production technology or infrastructure more challenging, in part because financing is more difficult to obtain under such conditions. However, in the

absence of adequate supply, investments in technologies and infrastructure to create demand are often also difficult to justify. Policy interventions can resolve such coordination challenges. For example, offtake contracts—to purchase an agreed-upon quantity at a price often determined ahead of production—are often a prerequisite for project financing. Loan underwriters therefore commonly ask to see offtake contracts before approving debt financing (*Global Trade Funding n.d.*). The Department of Energy is currently establishing a demand-side support program that provides offtake certainty—through contracts with, for instance, hydrogen producers and buyers—for projects in the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program funded by the BIL (*U.S. Department of Energy 2023*).

## Conclusion

Decarbonizing the global economy—in addition to mitigating the effects of climate change—provides new economic opportunities. The shift to clean energy can lower energy prices, offer greater energy security, reduce volatility in energy markets, mitigate local air pollution, and create new sources of employment in emerging sectors. Switching to clean energy also offers a generational opportunity for the United States to further its economic competitiveness in the innovative sectors of the 21st century. This chapter has explained in detail how to achieve these objectives through structural change, presenting an economic framework for understanding the factors that can accelerate the clean energy transition. It has further highlighted specific government interventions that can remove obstacles to the transition and create opportunities for the private sector to drive new sources of green growth.

The Biden-Harris Administration is strategically targeting these high-return investments. On the supply side, examples of this approach include the Department of Energy’s expanded funding for energy programs and R&D through the BIL, which serves to accelerate innovation spillovers and drive down capital costs for emerging technologies where private sector investments are still insufficient. Similarly, the IRA includes loan guarantees for innovative clean energy technologies to mitigate risk for clean energy projects and to unlock new private financing. Both the BIL and the IRA support the construction of new clean energy manufacturing facilities in communities with preexisting fossil fuel industry presence, thereby reducing labor market frictions by helping workers transition to the clean energy sector (*U.S. Department of the Treasury 2023*).

On the demand side, the IRA, among many other of its provisions, employs tax credits for renewable energy installation and for household adoption of electric vehicles, renewable energy generation, and heat pumps. The duration of these tax credits boosts demand for clean energy

technologies over longer time horizons sufficient for enabling scale economies and learning-by-doing. Battery incentives under the IRA can also accelerate the clean energy transition in the power sector by making renewable energy sources less variable and thus a better substitute for fossil fuels. By simultaneously pursuing these interventions, the clean energy agenda of the Biden-Harris Administration is jointly addressing the supply- and demand-side challenges needed to ensure a rapid clean energy transition.

Although the scale and urgency of the clean energy transition present unique challenges, this transition ultimately shares many features with prior government- and market-led transformations. In the process of reaching net zero emissions, both governments and private actors will need to grapple with how to transform an economy powered by fossil fuels to one powered by clean energy. A structural change framework helps illuminate how to achieve this shift, through targeted government investments that lower the cost of clean energy and their complementary inputs and technologies, as well as through programs that enable the transition to help both workers and their communities. Such successful interventions could pay large dividends for decades to come, putting the U.S. economy on a path toward a future where energy is clean, cheap, reliable, and secure.



## Chapter 7

# An Economic Framework for Understanding Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) systems touch the lives of virtually every American. They range from simple systems like text autocorrect to complex algorithms capable of setting prices, driving cars, and writing essays. In recent years, AI systems have advanced rapidly as recent developments in computing, data availability, and machine learning models have simultaneously come together to produce rapid improvements. Still, much remains unknown. Agrawal, Gans, and Goldfarb (2022) suggest that AI is in “the between times,” where society has begun to see the technology’s potential but has not come close to fully realizing it. While AI’s capabilities will depend in part on the technology itself, its effects will be shaped by economic, regulatory, and social pressures. How society deploys this technology and what technology-specific guardrails are implemented will be critical factors in determining both the breadth and magnitude of its effects.

Economic incentives play a central role in how decisions are made. An economic framework, combined with a basic understanding of AI technology, allows us to make predictions about when, how, and why AI may be adopted. While such a framework can also tell us what broader effects AI adoption may have, applying economic insights to an evolving and proliferating technology like AI is especially challenging. However, it is also especially valuable, because decisions made at the onset of a new technology have a greater influence on its eventual impact. This chapter begins with a basic discussion of the technology and then examines how the inputs to AI have changed, with a particular focus on the concept of diminishing returns and the key role of data in AI systems. Next, it examines the economic incentives



for AI development and adoption, including on macroeconomic outcomes like productivity. The chapter's third section adapts standard economic models to explore AI's potential effects on labor markets across the earnings distribution, demographic groups, industries, and geographic areas, updating previous work with new data and augmenting it with a novel analysis based on not only exposure to AI but also the complexity of each task. Finally, the fourth section examines important economic issues for upcoming policy choices related to the law and regulations, competition issues, and social outcomes (e.g., how technology interacts with existing inequalities like racial discrimination).

## Toward “Intelligent” Automation

Since Adam Smith's first observations about how machinery allowed for the division of labor, economists have studied the economic effects of technology (Smith 1776). Many technologies—like Smith's example of specialization by workers in a pin factory—enable more output from the same inputs. Some technologies, however, enable an increase in capital to reduce labor. Economists call this class of technologies automation (Brozen 1957; Zeira 1998; Acemoglu and Restrepo 2018).<sup>1</sup> This definition of automation is broader than factory machines and computers, and includes technologies that have been in place for centuries. For example, according to this definition, a windmill set up to grind wheat would be a kind of automation. These kinds of technologies can have broad effects—including on prices, wages, input usage, and output—which in turn may resonate throughout the economy.<sup>2</sup> As discussed later in the chapter, a wide range of potential uses of AI entail this kind of capital-for-labor substitution, making it an automation technology.

To understand the incentives for AI's development and adoption, it is necessary to have a basic common understanding of the technology. The field of AI is broad and changing quickly. What follows is a stylized representation of basic concepts that may not be applicable to every circumstance.

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<sup>1</sup> In some cases, automation technologies simply replace existing labor. In most cases, however, automation technologies allow for greater output than before, and in some cases, they may allow for the creation of products that would never be economically viable to create by hand.

<sup>2</sup> While this definition's emphasis on the word “substitution” might suggest that automation technologies invariably reduce employment, this need not be the case. Because automation technologies make certain production steps faster and cheaper, they can increase overall demand for both the product being made and related products. Additionally, labor is generally required to create and maintain such technologies.

Although definitions of AI vary across fields and purposes, AI systems are generally understood to take in data and,<sup>3</sup> through statistical or computational techniques, make predictions.<sup>4</sup> Some have called them “prediction machines” (Agrawal, Gans, and Goldfarb 2018). In many cases, predictions are used to inform recommendations or determine how other components of the system will act. For example, AI systems have been developed to solve challenging scientific problems, and they are widely used to set prices and rank job candidates. In other cases, as with some generative AI models, these predictions themselves are simply aggregated to form an output.<sup>5</sup> In this context, predictions are far broader than forecasting the future, and can indeed be about practically anything for which reliable data can be obtained.

The ability to make predictions often allows improved decision-making, even in the face of uncertainty. As a result, AI systems can automate more tasks than prior technologies and improve the work quality of existing processes. For example, stamping machines automate the creation of certain kinds of metal parts, but automated systems may have struggled to handle situations where the production process had inherent variation, like harvesting produce. Today, an AI-augmented system might use sensor data to predict when fruit is ripe and how to detach it, allowing that production process to be further automated (Zhou et al. 2022). Likewise, autocorrect systems are an example of how AI increases the quality of work. Originally, these systems relied on lists of often-mistyped words and their correct spelling. When the software detected misspellings, it suggested a correction. Advanced autocorrect systems using AI employ dictionaries, information about what all users tend to type, and data from individual users’ past typing activities to predict what they intend to type (Lewis-Kraus 2014). As a result, the systems detect not only misspellings but also incorrect words.

Figure 7-1 portrays a stylized diagram of how AI systems interact with traditional automation in order to emphasize key ideas relevant to the economic discussion.<sup>6</sup> During training, an algorithm is applied to data

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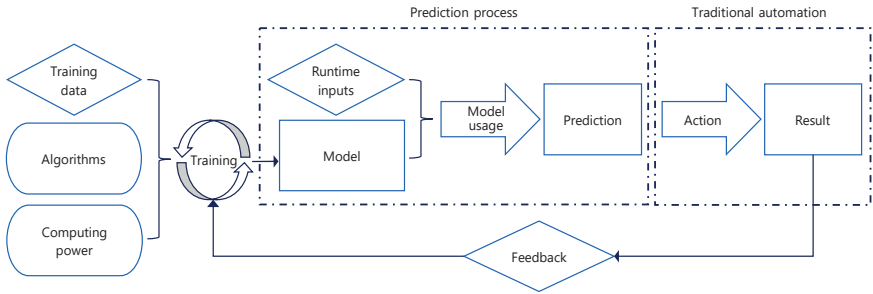
<sup>3</sup> In this context, data can refer to any machine-readable information and is not limited to the kinds of datasets that economists might be most familiar with. It can potentially include digitally encoded text, images, sound, video, information on real-time human input, simulation feedback, and many other categories of information.

<sup>4</sup> For example, Executive Order 14110 (2023) defines AI systems as those that “use machine- and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or action.” It defines an AI model as something that “implements AI technology and uses computational, statistical, or machine-learning techniques to produce outputs from a given set of inputs.”

<sup>5</sup> Executive Order 14110 (2023) defines generative AI as “the class of AI models that emulate the structure and characteristics of input data in order to generate derived synthetic content. This can include images, videos, audio, text, and other digital content.”

<sup>6</sup> Of particular note, figure 7-1 emphasizes the role of data in AI, though in many cases it might be more accurate to more generally refer to inputs.

**Figure 7-1. A Stylized Diagram of How AI Extends Automation with Prediction**



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using computing power.<sup>7</sup> In some instances, this training process can be quite complex and involve many iterations; often, it includes validation and testing steps, which are not shown in the figure. The training process produces a model, which is combined with data at the time it is used to create a prediction. Such predictions, however, are rarely useful until they are applied in some way. In typical AI systems, one or more predictions are used to take actions automatically. For example, a large language model might make many predictions about individual words based upon a user’s request, and then the system aggregates them into one output to display. The same kind of model in a different context, such as customer service, might not only respond to the user but also issue a refund. Finally, the results may be evaluated to create feedback to help further refine the model in the future, and some systems learn continuously to further improve performance and prevent degradation.

As figure 7-1 illustrates, AI systems can integrate multiple sources of data, often at different points and for different purposes. For example, in the diagram, data may enter the system at the training, runtime, and feedback stages. In some cases, human input can be an important part of development as well (Amershi et al. 2014; Mosqueira-Rey et al. 2022; Ouyang et al. 2022).<sup>8</sup> AI’s reliance on data raises unique economic issues, including ones related to competition and transparency. These issues are discussed in more detail later in the chapter.

Figure 7-1 also illustrates that having the requisite algorithm, data, and computational power to make predictions is a necessary but not sufficient condition for AI-based automation. For example, even after a model

<sup>7</sup> Some types of AI systems—for example, systems that rely on coded rules rather than machine learning—may not make use of training data (e.g., Taddy 2019).

<sup>8</sup> In some cases, a large amount of human input has been important in fine-tuning models to ensure acceptable performance, and serious concerns have been raised about the pay and working conditions of those workers (Perrigo 2023; Bartholomew 2023).

is developed for self-driving cars, it may not be deployed in older cars that lack the sophisticated sensors necessary to collect the requisite data while being driven. Similarly, practical limitations on actions may limit the scope of AI deployment. For example, many tasks involving flexible materials have proven very difficult for robots to handle ([Billard and Kragic 2019](#)). AI systems may ameliorate these problems, but such physical limitations may continue to prevent the automation of tasks even where the system has sufficient predictive power. Finally, in some cases, translating prediction into action may require making decisions that we are unwilling or unable to fully delegate to AI due to ethical or other concerns ([Agrawal, Gans, and Goldfarb 2018](#)).

### *Prediction Is Improving but Faces Constraints*

In general, prediction quality can be thought of as the output of an economic production function. Developers choose an option from a variety of different algorithms, each of which can be optimized subject to the developer's constraints, such as development time, data availability, or budget for computational resources. Economists represent these kinds of situations where agents are maximizing an objective subject to restrictions as constrained optimization problems ([Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green 1995](#)). Typically, in a constrained optimization setting, not all constraints are equally binding, and some may not be binding at all. As an extreme example, a complete lack of data on a problem could render a lack of computational resources irrelevant. Of course, these constraints are constantly changing as new data become available, as computational resources become cheaper, and as research develops more efficient algorithms and other innovations.<sup>9</sup> The relationship between design and development choices (e.g., algorithms, data, and computational resources) and prediction quality is thus complex and varies from situation to situation. In part because of the complex interactions of these constraints, predictions about AI's future capabilities have often been wrong ([Armstrong, Sotala, and Ó hÉigeartaigh 2014](#)).

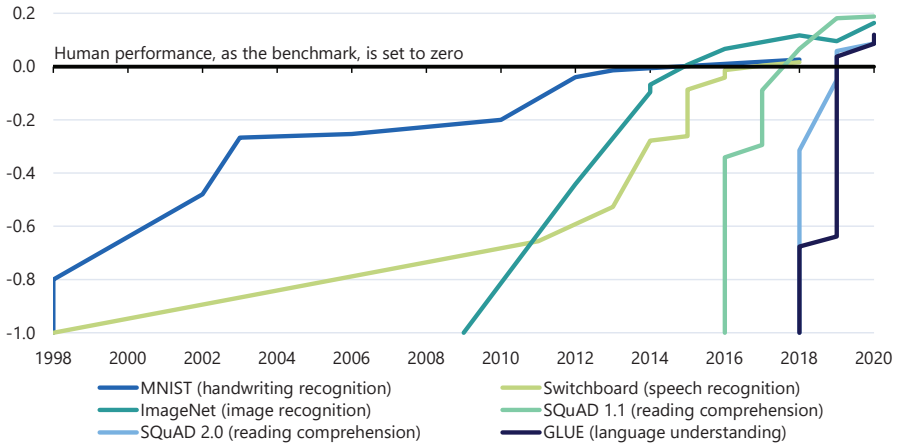
It is potentially more informative to look at how AI performs various tasks. Figure 7-2 shows the performance of the best available AI model in each year on a number of benchmarks, rescaled to compare with human performance on the same test. Comparing AI's performance with human performance in this way is potentially useful for understanding if and when AI systems may be deployed as a substitute for labor, although researchers have raised serious concerns about these kinds of benchmarks, both in the way they aggregate performance (e.g., [Burnell et al. 2023](#)) and in the way

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<sup>9</sup> Research can also alter these constraints in other ways. For example, a great deal of work in both machine learning and econometrics is done to find ways to compensate for data limitations, often at the cost of increased computational requirements.

## Figure 7-2. AI Capabilities Over Time and Across Tasks

Test scores of AI relative to human performance



### Council of Economic Advisers

Sources: Adapted from Hutson (2022), based on Kiela et al. (2021); CEA calculations.

Note: MNIST = Modified National Institute of Standards and Technology; SQuAD = Stanford Question Answering Dataset; GLUE = General Language Understanding Evaluation. Benchmark performance is scaled so that -1 is initial performance and 0 is human performance.

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selected metrics may create the fictitious appearance of sudden large performance improvements (Schaeffer, Miranda, and Koyejo 2023).

Figure 7-2 shows that AI systems have approached human performance at very different rates across the various benchmarks. In some cases, the progress of AI was significantly influenced by data availability (e.g., Xiong et al. 2016; Sharifani and Amini 2023). Because of the way in which they naturally produce and share digital information, the Internet and smartphones have been important data sources. Similarly, small, cheap sensors have dramatically changed data availability in industrial and maintenance operations. These complementary technologies have been especially important in creating the volume of data necessary to train modern AI systems, and especially foundation models.

In most economic optimization problems, the marginal value of an input (data, computational resources, etc.) tends to decrease as more of it is used, as measured by the amount of output in quantity, quality, or otherwise. In other words, adding more of something may help the situation, but it takes more and more of that resource to generate the same increase in benefits as before. As a simple example, hiring workers to work in an empty factory may rapidly improve production, but over time the workers will begin to get in each other's way. This phenomenon is widely observed in economics, including in returns to capital, income growth across countries, and even research activity (Solow 1956; Mankiw, Romer, and Weil 1992; Kortum

1997; Bloom et al. 2020). In extreme cases, more of an input can make the problem worse. One such example, in software engineering, is given in *The Mythical Man-Month* (Brooks 1975).

Many AI models have also exhibited evidence of diminishing returns (Hestness et al. 2017; Kaplan et al. 2020; Zhai et al. 2022). While in some cases it is possible to improve the performance effect of an input (e.g., via new data-pruning methods; see Sorscher et al. 2022), these techniques typically do not change the underlying diminishing relationship (Muennighoff et al. 2023).

Just because the marginal value of each additional input tends to fall does not imply that performance is fundamentally limited. Adding more of every input—if they are available—can continue to produce substantial gains, as can finding new kinds of inputs (e.g., new kinds of data). And large enough changes in inputs may shift which class of algorithms or models perform best. For example, large language models became viable when sufficient data and computational resources became available, in turn spurring researchers to develop further technical innovations like transformer-based architecture or more specialized hardware (Vaswani et al. 2017; Bommasani et al. 2021; Dally, Keckler, and Kirk 2021). But the speed of continued progress is likely to be heavily dependent on the rate at which we continue to produce new innovations rather than simply by virtue of ever-increasing computational or data resources (Jones 2022; Philippon 2022).

### ***Garbage In, Garbage Out***

Data are key informational inputs into AI systems, and they are central to the way AI performs. AI systems make informed predictions because they use the correlations embedded in data. Many different changes have contributed to improvements in AI systems, including improvements in algorithms and increased availability of computational resources. Nonetheless, developers of AI-based prediction models continue to grapple with many of the same data-related challenges that statisticians and econometricians have faced for decades.<sup>10</sup> To understand AI technology as a whole, it is helpful to understand the unique role that data and data-related constraints play.

The scale and quality of available data directly affect the performance of AI, but a large quantity of data alone is not sufficient. Prediction models typically perform well in situations that look much like the data they are trained on. In contrast, rare or novel circumstances where the past is a poor guide to the future make prediction more challenging, as do data limitations

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<sup>10</sup> These fields are very much related. Economists borrowed a large number of techniques from statisticians in the early days of econometrics; and in the late 1990s and early 2000s, many computer scientists adopted statistics and econometric techniques like Bayesian updating. While it can be challenging to collaborate because these different fields approach problems in different ways and have very different jargon, past collaborations have yielded substantial improvements.

that might not immediately be apparent. In situations with poor or incomplete data, models may be simultaneously highly confident and wrong in their predictions (e.g., [DeVries and Taylor 2018](#)). For example, concerns arise when input data are systematically biased. An AI system that is trained without accounting for the bias is nearly certain to reproduce it. Many current facial recognition applications face this problem, and an overreliance on AI facial recognition technology could exacerbate discrimination (e.g., [Najibi 2020](#); [Buolamwini and Gebru 2018](#); [Raji et al. 2020a](#)). (See box 7-1.) Additionally, in some instances, people may intentionally feed an AI system manipulated data so as to undermine its function ([Shan et al. 2023](#)). Such attacks can be more difficult to detect and reverse than more traditional methods of interference. After training is completed, isolating and removing the impact of poor-quality data can prove challenging and expensive, and may be only partially successful.<sup>11</sup> For all these reasons, curation of data is generally important for AI systems, just as it is for most technology firms.<sup>12</sup>

Data are unlike natural resources, such as iron or copper; they are often drawn from users. User data include things such as the words they publish in books or on social media, as well as records of the things they do, typically captured by now ubiquitous electronic devices. AI enables predictions to be individualized in ways that rules-based algorithmic approaches do not. Such personalization can allow firms to create customized products or recommendations, and these tailored products can benefit consumers. However, AI can also be used in ways that harm consumers through price discrimination, by suggesting products or services sold by the AI company that may not best meet a consumer's needs, or through the exploitation of behavioral biases (e.g., [Gautier, Ittoo, and Cleynenbreugel 2020](#); [Engler 2021](#)). Many social media companies, for example, design their products to maximize engagement rather than entertainment or education, even when such engagement can be harmful (e.g., [Luca 2015](#); [Braghieri, Levy, and Makarin 2022](#)). As consumers learn about AI-related targeting, they may abandon products or change their behavior, undermining the technology's value (e.g., [Garbarino and Maxwell 2010](#); [Nunan and Di Domenico 2022](#)).

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<sup>11</sup> Researchers continue to make progress on so-called unlearning methods to address the issue of unwanted data, though many approaches have been shown to have limited performance in practice ([Kuramanji et al. 2023](#); [Zhang et al. 2024](#)). The implications of successful unlearning are also relevant for issues such as individual privacy protection ([Neel and Chang 2023](#)).

<sup>12</sup> In many cases, data have scaled up more quickly than firms' ability to curate them. While AI-powered curation may improve the situation, AI systems may also make the situation worse. For example, while some AI systems may help firms decide which content to publish, other AI systems may increase the volume of proposed content requiring review ([Edwards 2023](#)).

### Box 7-1. AI and Equity/Discrimination

Many artificial intelligence applications use data generated by humans to predict how individuals will behave. While these data can give AI considerable power and utility, they also allow it to replicate many of humanity's worst biases. The capacity of AI to lead to discrimination—whether inadvertently or intentionally—poses new challenges for enforcement of existing anti-discrimination policies.

Economists have shown that discriminatory behavior can have many sources. Even in the absence of any intentional prejudgment (what economists call prejudice), discrimination based on statistical inference can be harmful (e.g., [Lang and Spitzer 2020](#)). Users of predictive algorithms have already faced this problem, including hiring managers who found they were favoring male candidates ([Dastin 2018](#)), potential employers who advertised job posts less heavily to women ([Lambrecht and Tucker 2019](#)), and health care systems that favored white patients over Black patients in predicting care needs ([Obermeyer et al. 2019](#)), among many other examples. These effects may arise from the biases of AI model developers, or inadvertently from previously unrecognized patterns in the data. The lack of transparency in sophisticated AI algorithms may compound the issue (e.g., [Chesterman 2021](#); [Hutson 2021](#)). Even if AI providers remove obviously biased or prejudicial content from their training data, discrimination based on subtle statistical patterns is still likely ([Barocas and Selbst 2016](#)).

An additional challenge is ill intent among the users of AI models. AI's opaque methods could provide cover for prejudiced entities to use AI in numerous discriminatory ways, such as firms combining AI with surveillance to predict, deter, and punish union organizing activity, or landlords using AI to discriminate against potential tenants based on their predicted demographics. Evidence suggests that illegal behavior is already widespread in these contexts ([McNicholas et al. 2019](#); [Christensen and Timmins 2023](#)), and users will likely adopt AI tools to continue their discriminatory practices and obfuscate their intent.

AI-abetted discrimination could harm individuals in the labor market, in housing markets, in financial transactions, and anywhere else predictive algorithms are used. Often, discrimination may only be observable through sophisticated analysis of AI methods and outputs. Regulatory measures to help identify discrimination in critical markets are necessary. The Biden-Harris Administration's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights emphasizes the importance of protection from algorithmic discrimination, and its recent Executive Order has identified key agencies within the Federal Government to develop the tools and issue guidance or regulations needed to combat it ([White House 2022, 2023a](#)).

Nonetheless, widespread AI adoption means that identifying and rooting out discrimination will remain an ongoing process. Researchers



who study the auditing of AI algorithms generally conclude that a multifaceted approach is necessary, including a clear identification of objectives and metrics, transparency about the audit process, and a proactive consideration of how auditability can be incorporated into AI models in multiple stages (Guszcza et al. 2018; Raji et al. 2020b; Mökander et al. 2021; Costanza-Chock, Raji, and Buolamwini 2022). Explicit methods to identify discriminatory capabilities and strengthen AI guardrails are also likely to be a key component of a comprehensive antidiscrimination strategy (e.g., Ganguli et al. 2022). Some of these methods may themselves use AI, since predictive algorithms may be useful in detection of discrimination (e.g., Kleinberg et al. 2018). Reducing discrimination may also involve encouraging some forms of AI adoption. For example, algorithmic decision-making has been observed to reduce disparities in some lending contexts (Bartlett et al. 2022).

## From the Technological Frontier to Reality

There are a number of different ways to measure the economic impact of a technology. How widely is it deployed? How does the production process change for existing products and services? What new products and services are created, and what old products and services decline or disappear? Of particular interest to economists and policymakers is the idea of productivity, the notion that we can do more with the same resources. Recent evidence suggests that large productivity increases driven by AI are possible in some specific contexts (e.g., Brynjolfsson, Li, and Raymond 2023).<sup>13</sup> And though such forecasts are notoriously challenging, economic analysts have already begun to update their forecasts to account for the potential of more rapid growth brought about by AI (e.g., Goldman Sachs 2023; Chui et al. 2023). A more fulsome answer to all these questions requires understanding not only AI's theoretical capabilities but also how AI systems might be used.

### *Adoption Is Difficult and Invariably Lags the Technological Frontier*

Before a new technology can have real-world effects, it needs to be adopted by individuals and businesses. This process is costly and difficult, and thus the scale of adoption largely depends on weighing these costs against the potential benefits. AI has been an active area of computational research since the 1950s (Newell 1983), and many types of AI have been widely deployed (e.g., Maslej et al. 2023). At the same time, in many industries AI

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<sup>13</sup> Precise measurement of productivity within firm environments can be challenging, but studies in controlled settings also suggest the potential for sizable productivity improvements in other contexts (e.g., Peng et al. 2023; Noy and Zhang 2023).

adoption has been low and has skewed heavily toward large and young firms (Acemoglu et al. 2022). In addition, some impressive advances in AI have been very recent, and it takes time for firms to observe progress and adapt.

Furthermore, technologies are rarely adopted at an even rate. Instead, early adoption is slow, as users and firms work through the challenges. It then proceeds more quickly as these challenges are overcome and economies of scale drive down costs (Hall and Khan 2003). Adoption can lag invention by decades, and differences in the surrounding circumstances can substantially change adoption timelines. For example, more than 90 percent of American households had microwaves within 30 years of their invention (Roser, Ritchie, and Mathieu 2023). In contrast, it was more than 100 years before flush toilets reached the same 90 percent threshold. Because the devices depended on running water, adoption was delayed until people had indoor plumbing.

Early adoptions of a technology often happen where it is least complicated to deploy. One of the earliest commercial AI success stories was in identifying credit card fraud. In this case, data were widely available, the key task clearly depended on prediction, the action to be taken was straightforward, and the costs and benefits of prediction quality could be readily quantified (Ryman-Tubb, Krause, and Garn 2018; Agrawal, Gans, and Goldfarb 2022). Similarly, in recent years, AI systems aimed at improving customer service have developed rapidly because the data were previously being collected, the functionality could easily be added to existing software, and customer service involves many low-complexity tasks (Xu et al. 2020; Brynjolfsson, Li, and Raymond 2023; Chui et al. 2023). These kinds of early projects using a technology have positive spillover effects for the technology as a whole, both because they are proof that the technology can be effective in a real-world setting and because they create valuable human capital—in the form of knowledge about how to adapt business practices to use the technology. The markets for AI are already adapting, with investment and start-up activity both increasing in recent years (Maslej et al. 2023). Businesses specializing in cloud computing and AI deployment have also since emerged, lowering costs and expanding adoption.

With AI, there are a variety of additional potential impediments to adoption—consider five. First, even when data are available to train an AI system, there may be additional data-related constraints on adoption. Many firms may not yet collect the necessary data for certain AI implementations, and they may face substantial challenges in beginning to do so. In other cases, systems do not receive feedback sufficient to judge the quality of their own predictions after they have been made. Finally, even when the data exist, legal restrictions like copyright may prevent their use.<sup>14</sup> Until these

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<sup>14</sup> Copyright and other related issues are discussed in more detail later in this chapter.

data-related constraints on adoption are resolved, firms may have difficulty implementing AI. This likely explains some of the uneven adoption across industries and firms, as large firms are more able to invest in data collection and incumbent firms may not yet have completed their digital transformation (Verhoef et al. 2021).

Second, because predictions can be wrong, AI systems introduce an additional kind of risk. Risk is often a major factor in technology adoption; when stakes are high, risk-averse firms may be less willing to make needed investments or use inputs with uncertain returns (Roosen and Hennessy 2003; Whalley 2011).<sup>15</sup> Often, the distribution of potential payoffs for business decisions is not just uncertain but also ambiguous, in that firms do not know the potential set of outcomes and their probabilities. Ambiguity makes prediction more difficult, and research has shown the condition has a range of effects on firms' willingness to develop or adopt new technologies (Knight 1921; Beauchêne 2019). Risk and ambiguity related to liability assignment is a prominent example discussed later in the chapter.

Third, many potential AI applications exhibit network effects, in which the use of the technology by one party increases its value to others. One way in which these network effects can arise is by increasing the amount of feedback data from users, which in turn increases the quality of predictions for everyone (Gregory et al. 2021). Adoption can also lead to network effects by reducing coordination costs, such as vehicular communications systems that simplify the set of predictions that autonomous cars would need to make if they were widely adopted (Arena and Pau 2019).

Fourth, integrating AI systems with humans has unique challenges related to incentives, job design, and communication. For example, some processes may work best when AI systems handle routine decision-making, like highway driving, and humans handle unusual situations, like construction zones. But without guardrails, the human may be tempted to leave too much to the AI system or may accidentally fail to intervene (e.g., fall asleep at the wheel) (Athey, Bryan, and Gans 2020; Herrmann and Pfeiffer 2023).

Fifth and finally, permanent or indefinite limits to AI's adoption are possible for many reasons, including those unrelated to the technology. Institutional quality issues, coordination problems, and financial frictions can all delay or halt technological adoption (e.g., Parente and Prescott 1994; Foster and Rosenzweig 2010).

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<sup>15</sup> Some scholars have argued that the fields of AI and machine learning have a serious problem with reproducibility because of the complexity and nuances of the problems, which may provide a further incentive for firms to delay adoption (Kapoor and Narayanan 2023).

## *AI Has the Potential to Be Even More Transformative in the Future*

In the past, many innovations' biggest effects came from enabling people to structure entire productive processes differently and from spurring complementary inventions, not from performing individual tasks at a lower cost (David 1990; Brynjolfsson, Hui, and Liu 2019; Agrawal, Gans, and Goldfarb 2022). Consider the migration of factories from steam power to electricity. Steam power required vertical factories oriented around shafts used to power machines. Even when electricity became less expensive than steam power, adoption remained slow and unsteady because replacing the machines was capital intensive for only a modest ongoing benefit. In the long run, the largest gains from electricity were not from direct cost savings, but rather arose because firms were no longer required to locate their factories next to steam plants or design them vertically (Du Boff 1967). Realizing these gains, however, required building entirely new factories and power plants, and developing complementary technologies, all of which required even more capital and time. Similarly, the widespread adoption of automobiles and subsequent construction of the interstate highway system did not just increase the number of car trips consumers took; it changed where people lived (Biggs 1983; Eschner 2017).

AI is a general-purpose technology (GPT), like electricity and computers (Brynjolfsson, Rock, and Syverson 2021). Key hallmarks of these technologies are that they improve over time and lead to complementary inventions (Bresnahan and Trajtenberg 1995). Because of these similarities, the effects of AI are also likely to be larger and more wide-reaching than the initial use cases would suggest. While some services have been redesigned on the basis of AI, and some new technologies have been built with AI from the ground up, many systems and processes that could be redesigned to take advantage of AI have not yet been updated (McElheran et al. 2023). Firms that invest in AI are showing signs of increased product innovation, but they do not yet show evidence of process innovations that might arise from a more thorough restructuring of their operations (Babina et al. 2024).

In addition, AI technology continues to evolve in transformative ways. For example, many recent developments in AI have come not from increasingly specialized models but rather from foundation models, which are trained on very large volumes of data and are adaptable to many different tasks (Bommasani et al. 2021). This stands in seeming contrast to one of the earliest and best-known ideas in economics: that gains from specialization are a fundamental force behind economic growth (Smith

1776; Ricardo 1817).<sup>16</sup> However, a further investigation suggests that the rise of broad foundation models is consistent with the same forces that yield specialization in other contexts. Gains from specialization are bounded not only by the size of markets but also by training costs, transaction costs, the need for workers to synchronize, and other frictional forces in the economy (Becker and Murphy 1994; Bolton and Dewatripont 1994; Costinot 2009). The degree of specialization ultimately depends on how these costs compare with the potential benefits: if costs are high, then relatively little specialization is likely to occur. In the case of AI-induced automation, coordination costs between computer systems are often low compared with coordination costs between humans, especially as the scale increases. However, training costs for foundational AI models are currently high, which likely limits overall specialization. One way to reduce such costs is to train models on targeted subsets of data (e.g., Kaddour et al. 2023), but many such applications may not yet make economic sense. Another approach is to fine-tune models in specialized ways after their initial training (Min et al. 2023).

This approach is widely used, but research is ongoing as to how effective this method is compared with or in concert with specialization at the training stage (e.g., Kumar et al. 2022). In addition, as discussed earlier in the chapter, some systems continue fine-tuning after deployment, though updating models over time may cause them to behave in unpredictable ways (e.g., Chen et al. 2022; Chen, Zaharia, and Zou 2023). Finally, specialization may be integrated in more limited ways—for example, through multi-tiered production processes with generalized and specialized components (Garicano 2000; Ling et al. 2023). The outcomes from ongoing AI research in these areas may have large implications for future AI adoption, market structure, and competition; later in this chapter, there is further discussion of AI market structure and competition. Alternatively, decreases in computational costs or other methodological improvements may make specialized generative models more economically viable over time (e.g., Leffer 2023).

Finally, AI may also drive changes outside the markets where it is directly employed. In some areas, AI may allow automation of a wide variety of tasks that might not have historically been regarded as prediction-centered. For example, farmers can make conditions more hospitable for bees to increase plant pollination, and researchers are attempting to create AI-powered robotic pollinators for this purpose (Cherney 2021). Conversely, just as automobiles undermined the buggy whip industry (Levitt 2004) and smartphones have decreased demand for printed maps, technology can make

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<sup>16</sup> Subsequent research has identified specific economic mechanisms that encourage specialization, such as differences in inputs or skill endowments, gains from human capital deepening, and consumer tastes for variety (Krugman 1981; Ohlin and Heckscher 1991; Becker and Murphy 1992). Similarly, AI researchers have identified cross-country patterns of comparative advantage as one reason AI might be specialized (Mishra et al. 2023).

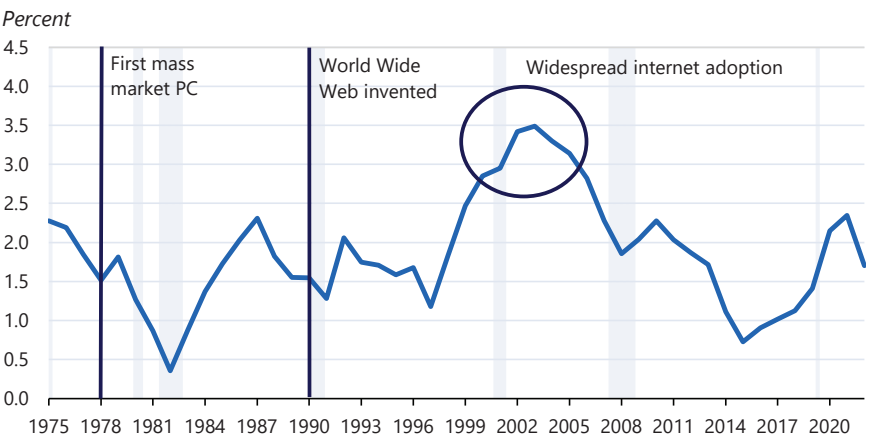
products obsolete. In this case, AI may partially or entirely eliminate the need for products that exist primarily due to insufficient prediction capabilities. For example, many stores and warehouses carry substantial inventories because they are unable to predict what customers will demand. If improved prediction capabilities can substantially reduce the need for such storage, there may be substantial reductions in the necessary land and infrastructure. In short, AI may increase consumption of some products and decrease consumption of others. This same dynamic, complementing in some places while substituting in others, is also important in the labor market, and is further explored later in the chapter.

***When Will We Know the Future Has Arrived?***

The scale and scope of AI’s effects on the economy will be influenced by the development and adoption issues discussed earlier in the chapter. But even after invention and adoption, there can be substantial delays before a technology’s effects are captured in macroeconomic statistics like productivity. Thus, there is still considerable uncertainty—not only about when the future effects of AI will be felt but also when economic statistics will reflect them.

In 1987, the Nobel Prize–winning economist Robert Solow said that computers were everywhere except in the productivity statistics. As figure 7-3 shows, faster productivity growth actually did appear in the data, just not until roughly two decades later, during a period of widespread Internet adoption. Thus, it is uncertain whether the productivity increase was simply delayed or whether the invention of a complementary technology was a

**Figure 7-3. Nonfarm Labor Productivity Growth, 1975–2010 (5-year moving average)**



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 Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.  
 Note: Gray bars indicate recessions.  
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necessary prerequisite. Productivity also eventually returned to its earlier trend, which suggests that it was more of a level shift than a structural growth shift. Consistent with past experience, current productivity statistics do not suggest an immediate uplift in productivity resulting from AI.

Some have argued that instead of a delayed effect, this pattern is the result of a measurement issue common to general-purpose technologies (Brynjolfsson, Rock, and Syverson 2021). These technologies initially require large investments, particularly in intangible and thus unmeasurable assets like new business practices and employee knowledge. Investments in a new technology may also crowd out other productive work or other potential productivity-increasing investments. As a result, there may be a considerable period when expenditures are measured but benefits are not.

Ultimately, the evidence is inconclusive. It may be a while before the full effects of AI are felt, and even longer before we can confidently observe it in economic statistics. Moreover, a productivity boom is not guaranteed. The current excitement over generative AI may fade if developers and users discover that its drawbacks are insurmountable, if few new data are available to power improvements, or if it turns out to be difficult to monetize the technology. Furthermore, how deeply AI becomes integrated into the economy depends not only on technological progress but also on institutional and regulatory issues. These topics are discussed more fully later in this chapter. (See box 7-2.)

### **Box 7-2. Government Applications of AI**

One way that AI can increase productivity and improve individuals' well-being is by using it to improve the Federal Government. Numerous administrative and regulatory processes could benefit from the adoption of AI. The recent Executive Order directs agencies throughout the government to identify and implement beneficial uses (White House 2023a). The order also encourages agencies to take steps to attract and retain the AI talent necessary for adoption to take place.

Prediction, evaluation, and routine content generation are core components of many government processes. Often, these tasks are performed via labor-intensive methods, and AI could make these operations more efficient by automating their most routine components. Applications for government benefits are one such example. Most applications for benefits do not involve fraud, and many can be processed with little human labor. However, application reviews must be thorough enough to detect and disincentivize fraudulent activity, and so considerable human labor is used. Thoughtful application of AI could improve

fraud detection in two ways, by detecting fraud directly, and by filtering and processing clearly non-fraudulent applications so that employees can more effectively target their fraud-detection efforts.

Government AI adoption will look different than private sector adoption because of the unique challenges the government faces. For example, private firms are often not required to protect privacy and confidentiality to the same extent as the Federal government (e.g., [GAO 2018](#)). Performance standards that would be acceptable in a commercial environment may be insufficient for sophisticated or sensitive government applications. In addition, many government activities simply have no private sector analog. Commercial solutions and private sector innovation will undoubtedly play a role in government AI adoption, but the government may only realize the full benefits of AI by tailoring applications to suit its unique needs.

Another reason to encourage government AI adoption is that positive externalities are likely to result. Government innovations have a long history of being repurposed to benefit other sectors of the economy. Many current AI applications are only possible because of technologies like GPS that arose from government research and development. Private sector AI innovation has been rapid in recent years, but numerous limitations remain. The government is well positioned to be a leader in developing solutions to outstanding problems precisely because it faces so many unique situations.

Institutions such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) have long embodied a model of mission-focused innovation to considerable success (e.g., [Bonvillian 2018](#)). Similar research agencies are found throughout the government and are already engaged in targeted AI research. However, potential AI applications are dispersed throughout many organizations, and spillovers between agencies tackling similar problems are likely. New interagency councils along with existing cross-government programs such as the U.S. Digital Service are an initial step to ensuring that knowledge sharing within the government remains a priority.

Government adoption of AI is not without risk. For example, automating too many processes too quickly could result in a lack of accountability and access to key services, in addition to public sector job losses. But with these risks comes the opportunity for the government to lead by example. Adoption that is done thoughtfully, with input from current workers and other stakeholders, will lead to better outcomes and allow the government to develop the key institutional knowledge necessary to create good policy ([Kochan et al. 2023](#)).



## AI and the Labor Market

What does AI's ability to undertake tasks previously performed by humans mean for labor and the labor market? On net, will AI complement workers, yielding increased jobs, productivity, and prosperity? Or will prediction models substitute for human labor, yielding a world where fewer people are needed to work, but also where fewer people can contribute to the economy while also earning a living?

Although AI is a comparatively new technology, the notion of “technological unemployment” is hundreds of years old. Numerous 18th- and 19th-century economists hypothesized that technology would displace workers by substituting for their labor (Mokyr, Vickers, and Ziebarth 2015). During the Great Depression, John Maynard Keynes predicted that within a century, individuals would work no more than 15 hours a week, and that the innate desire to work would lead to many workers performing small tasks so they could remain at least nominally employed (Keynes 1930).<sup>17</sup>

Figure 7-4 shows that so far, these predictions have not proven true. Prime-age labor participation remains near long-term highs, matched only by a brief period in the late 1990s. The average prime-age worker has worked close to 40 hours a week for decades. Some have noted that increased life spans have reduced overall time spent working over the life cycle, and that working conditions have improved considerably (e.g., Zilibotti 2007). Nonetheless, while Keynes accurately predicted massive average income increases, he failed to recognize how ever-increasing demand for consumer goods and other forces would keep people from working fewer hours.<sup>18</sup>

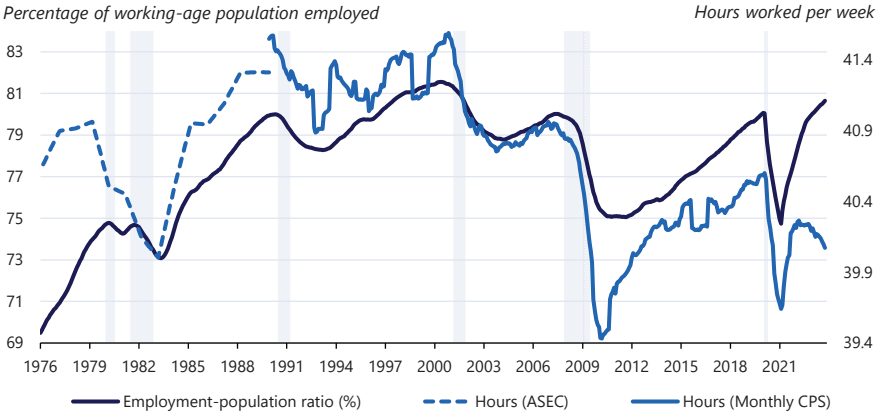
This historical evidence suggests that caution is warranted in making predictions about technology's impact on the future of the labor force. Moreover, mistaken predictions in this area have not been random: They have overwhelmingly incorrectly predicted substitution instead of complementarity (Autor 2015). To be fair, the adaptations of workers and firms to technological change and increased wealth are difficult to foresee.

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<sup>17</sup> CEOs and Nobel laureates have recently made nearly identical predictions about AI shortening the work week (Taub and Levitt 2023; Rees 2023).

<sup>18</sup> Economists have highlighted many features of the economy that may discourage workers from reducing their hours despite higher average incomes over time. Relative product quality or status comparisons may lead consumer demand to track higher purchasing power (e.g., Frank 2008). Increased wage inequality may be associated with an increase in the return to additional hours of work (e.g., Freeman 2008). Performance-related compensation systems and increased competitive pressures may make hours reductions more costly (Freeman 2008). Increasing income volatility may lead individuals to increase their labor supply as insurance against future economic shocks (Heathcote, Storesletten, and Violante 2010). Changes to work attributes may have made time spent at work more pleasant, and individuals may value the social or intellectual components of work (e.g., Cowen 2017). Nonetheless, recent empirical evidence from inheritances and lottery winners in the United States suggests that the work-reducing impact of greater wealth is substantial, and is stronger among individuals with higher incomes (Brown, Coile, and Weisbenner 2010; Golosov et al. 2021).

**Figure 7-4. Employment-Population Ratio and Weekly Work Hours, 1976–2022**



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Sources: Current Population Survey; Bureau of Labor Statistics; CEA calculations.

Note: CPS = Current Population Survey; ASEC = CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplements. Working-age population refers to the population between the age of 25 and 54 years. The employment-population ratio is a 12-month moving average. ASEC hours are a measure of hours worked in the last week. Monthly CPS hours are a measure of hours worked in the last week from the basic monthly CPS. Gray bars indicate recessions.

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Still, technological change has greatly affected workers over time through their occupations, the tasks they perform, and the payment they receive. Economic frameworks characterize the forces behind these prior effects, and in doing so they also provide suggestive evidence of the impact that AI may have in the future.

In the next subsection, the CEA considers several leading frameworks used by economists to study the impact of technological change in recent decades. Although data limitations make it difficult to attribute this impact to individual technologies, predictions from these frameworks align with the observed patterns of economic change stemming from the widespread adoption of general-purpose technologies like computers and the Internet.<sup>19</sup> A common theme among these frameworks is that technologies make an impact on different groups of workers differently, in large part because they perform different tasks. The ability of AI to perform additional tasks may mean that its effects will differ from the effects of automation in the past.

<sup>19</sup> Technologies tend to be adopted in the circumstances where they are especially valuable, and multiple technologies tend to be in use simultaneously; these features make isolating a single technology's effects difficult or impossible in most circumstances without further assumptions. In one well-known example, researchers found that they could not empirically distinguish the purported large effects of the computer from the effects of the pencil (DiNardo and Pischke 1997). In limited cases, researchers can exploit exogenous variation in adoption brought about by other policies to help isolate the impact of a specific technology. For example, this approach has been used to suggest that broadband Internet adoption complements workers performing abstract tasks, and substitutes for workers performing routine tasks (Akerman, Gaarder, and Mogstad 2015).

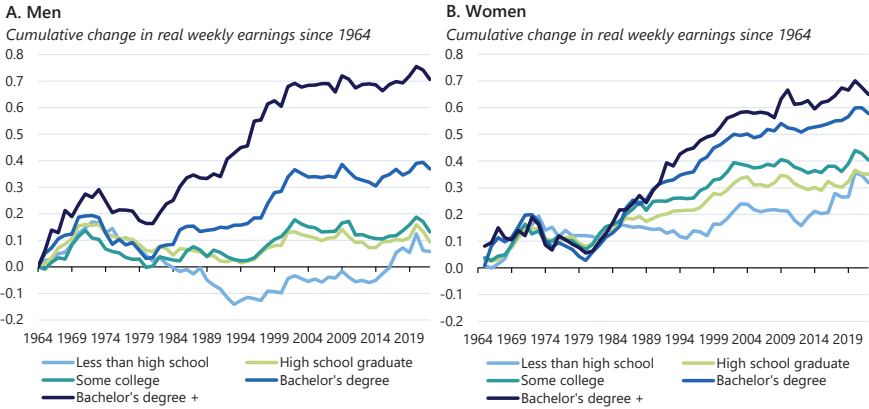
In response to this concern, the CEA uses information about the current task content of occupations to provide suggestive evidence about the occupations and workers that may be affected by AI in the future. As noted throughout, the analysis presented has similarities to other analyses found in the recent literature. The CEA’s measure of occupational AI exposure is closely related to and extends the recent analysis by the Pew Research Center (Kochhar 2023), and many of its conclusions are similar. However, all predictions of the future are inherently speculative, because they are based on the models and data that exist today. The assumptions that go into this analysis may later prove to be erroneous. And many open questions cannot yet be answered, or cannot be answered with the available data. The particular concern of data limitations is discussed later in the chapter.

### *Modeling the Effect of Technological Change on Labor Markets*

Though technological changes are often complex, a simple framework can often explain their effects on employment and earnings. The model of skill-biased technological change (SBTC) is one influential example. This model is based on the notion that technology increases the relative demand for highly educated workers over time (generally proxied by a college education). The SBTC model conceives of “skill” very narrowly, and it abstracts away from other features of labor markets such as unemployment. The benefit of these simplifications is that they allow the model to succinctly describe the relationship between technological change and wage patterns: When the relative demand for highly educated labor grows more quickly than the relative supply of labor from highly educated workers, the relative wages of these workers rise compared with those of workers without college degrees. This model suggests that the growing college wage premium over the past several decades is a result of demand for educated workers increasing faster than their supply. Skill-biased technological change is sometimes characterized as a race between education and technology; the more technological change outpaces the supply of educated workers, the more workers’ wages rise (Goldin and Katz 2007).

Figure 7-5 demonstrates this point; inflation-adjusted weekly earnings for working-age men and women with graduate degrees have risen more than 60 percent since 1964, while earnings for workers with less education have increased more slowly. In fact, 75 percent of the rise in earnings inequality from 1980 to 2000, measured as the log of hourly wage variance, can be explained by the increase in the college wage premium alone (Autor, Goldin, and Katz 2020). Figure 7-5 also shows that a model of ever-increasing demand for highly educated labor is incomplete; the flatness of the college premium over the last two decades, especially for men, and the comparatively rapid wage growth among those who did not receive a

**Figure 7-5. Cumulative Changes in Real Weekly Earnings by Education for Men and Women**



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Sources: Current Population Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: Data are cleaned and analyzed following Autor (2019). Full-time, full-year workers between the age of 18 and 64 are used and education categories are harmonized using the procedures described by Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2008). All earnings are deflated by the chain-weighted (implicit) price deflator for personal consumption expenditures.

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high school degree over the past decade, do not align with a purely demand-driven SBTC explanation.

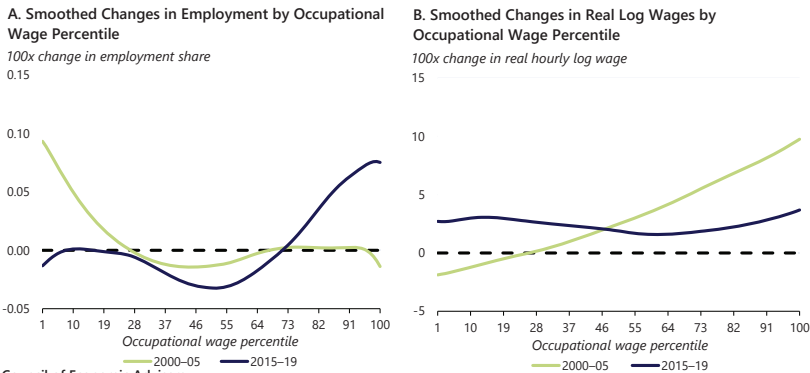
The SBTC framework is hampered by two limitations: (1) it conceives of “skill” as a one-dimensional attribute, typically proxied by education, and (2) it does not explain why technological change increases the relative demand for educated workers. As an example of the first limitation, the SBTC framework would classify workers in occupations like stenographers, typists, and paralegals similarly, based on their average level of educational attainment. However, following personal computer adoption, paralegals saw both earnings and employment rise (i.e., demand for the job increased), while typists and stenographers saw their employment dwindle. In contrast, many occupations that require manual labor (e.g., roofers) perform their work much as they have for decades, with relatively stable employment and modest real earnings growth in recent years. These distinctions are especially salient when considering AI’s predictive and generative capabilities; jobs that rely on predictions or routine generation are more readily affected by AI than others that do not involve these tasks.

To overcome the limitations of the SBTC model, researchers have suggested an alternative framework that uses a richer notion of workers’ characteristics, categorizing workers by the task composition of their occupations (Autor, Levy, and Murnane 2003). Such models typically divide tasks along two characteristic dimensions: whether they are routine or nonroutine and whether they are manual or analytic. Technological change has led to the automation of many routine tasks. Workers who performed these tasks have seen their employment and earnings opportunities decline.

Workers performing nonroutine manual tasks have been less affected by recent technological changes, while those performing nonroutine analytic tasks have been made more productive, as technology complements their work. Because the workers performing nonroutine tasks are often at the extremes of the earnings distribution, while workers performing routine tasks are often in the middle, the model suggests that technology can cause labor market polarization.

Research finds evidence of U-shaped job polarization in employment and earnings, particularly for the 1980–2005 period (Autor and Dorn 2013).<sup>20</sup> Evidence also suggests that polarization happens inconsistently over short periods, with employment and earnings growth often concentrated on one side or another of the occupational wage distribution (e.g., Mishel, Shierholz, and Schmitt 2013). Figure 7-6 shows that during the period of peak productivity growth in the early 2000s, most employment growth was near the bottom of the occupational wage distribution, even as real earnings declined among that same group. In contrast, more recent data from 2015 to 2019 show quite different growth patterns.<sup>21</sup> Nearly all growth in employment shares occurred in the top quintile of occupations, and real earnings growth was broad based, though slightly stronger among low-earning occupations than others.

**Figure 7-6. Smoothed Changes in Employment and Earnings Across Occupational Wage Distribution**



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Sources: American Community Survey; CEA calculations.

Note: Following Autor and Dorn (2013), occupations are ranked by initial mean wage and are grouped into percentiles weighted by aggregate hours. Analysis uses full-time, full-year workers between the age of 18 and 64.

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<sup>20</sup> While this pattern is often attributed to computerization, other research has suggested that the pattern may have begun even earlier, and that it could be linked to a broader shift from manufacturing to services employment (Bárány and Siegel 2018).

<sup>21</sup> The CEA ends its analysis of employment and earnings changes across the occupational distribution in 2019 because of the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in more recent data.

Both periods show employment share reductions at the middle of the earnings distribution, aligning with a core task-based model prediction. The patterns also suggest a nuanced interpretation of the SBTC model. The rapid adoption of computers and information technology in the early 2000s appears to have increased demand for workers in high-wage occupations more rapidly than their available supply could adjust. The pattern of strong demand for high-wage workers has continued; but in recent years, the supply of workers to these occupations has also grown more rapidly. The proportion of the population age 25 years and above who have completed at least four years of college increased by 12 percentage points from 2000 to 2022, from 26 to 38 percent (Census 2023). Even as job polarization has pushed workers into occupations at the earnings distribution extremes over some periods, relative supply's ability to catch up with relative demand in recent years has enabled increasingly stable earnings growth across the earnings distribution. The patterns also suggest that if AI continues or intensifies the trend of strong demand growth for high-wage workers, then continued rapid supply growth will be necessary to sustain broad-based earnings gains.<sup>22</sup>

Modification and additions to this task-based framework have recognized that occupations and tasks are not static. In 2018, more than 60 percent of employment was in jobs that did not exist in 1940 (Autor et al. 2022). New work tends to be concentrated in cities and in occupations with higher average levels of education (Lin 2011; Autor et al. 2022). As new technologies emerge, workers begin performing entirely new tasks, gaining a comparative advantage by complementing the technology. Some tasks cease to be performed by humans, but the new tasks can keep people employed even in the face of rapid technological change. Instead of a race between education and technology, the “new task formation” framework characterizes the labor market as a race between human and machine (Acemoglu and Restrepo 2018).

The new task formation framework is especially promising for understanding AI and other recent technological shifts. For example, the framework is robust enough to explain why few people now work as telephone operators, while data scientist and wind turbine service technician are among the occupations projected to grow fastest in coming years (Price 2019; BLS 2023). It also explains why the share of total income going to workers has declined in some recent periods of technological change but has

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<sup>22</sup> Conversely, AI could make training workers easier in ways that moderate this pattern. For example, Brynjolfsson, Li, and Raymond (2023) find that the largest productivity gains in their context came from improvements among novice or less skilled workers. It may be that in this context, current AI systems are most useful for training such workers. Furthermore, it may be that an AI system trained on data from existing workers is simply unable to do better than the best of those existing workers.

risen at others: Technology automates and creates new tasks simultaneously (Acemoglu and Restrepo 2019).

### *Occupation-Specific Effects of AI*

The technological change literature discussed above generally concludes that technology affects workers through a mix of complementarity and substitution. Some workers typically benefit from technological change, either because the evolving technology provides new labor market opportunities for them or because it enhances their productivity in their current job. Conversely, some are harmed, typically due to job displacement. Predicting the impact on a given occupation requires identifying whether it is exposed to AI via its particular mix of activities, and also whether, on net, AI complements or substitutes for human performance of those activities.

Researchers have made several attempts to identify and explore the occupations AI is most likely to affect. Surveying individuals about what they expect is one approach. A second approach is to classify occupations by task or activity content (e.g., Frey and Osborne 2017; Felten, Raj, and Seamans 2021; Brynjolfsson, Mitchell, and Rock 2018; Kochhar 2023; Ellingrud et al. 2023). Other researchers have compared the results of this approach to an AI system's predictions of what its own impact will be (Eloundou et al. 2023). Each approach is limited in its ability to measure and predict AI's impact on future economic activity. For example, the occupational content measures used by these papers are generally retrospective and are not necessarily based on actual exposure to deployed AI. No single measure should be considered definitive.

The CEA begins its analysis by considering the specific activities performed in each occupation, and the importance of these activities for the occupation. The Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration collects this information as part of its O\*NET (n.d.) database. The CEA follows the Pew Research Center (Kochhar 2023) in identifying 16 work activities with high exposure to AI. CEA researchers then construct a measure of these activities' relative importance compared to all other work activities.<sup>23</sup> The measure is then used to identify a subset of occupations in which AI-exposed activities are particularly central to the performance of the work. Workers in such occupations are plausibly the

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<sup>23</sup> Although the CEA identifies the same AI-exposed work activities as Pew, the relative importance measure used by the CEA differs slightly. In particular, it relies on normalizing the importance scales for each activity across occupations, then measuring relative importance as the difference between the average normalized importance of AI-exposed activities and all other activities. Following Pew, the top 25 percent of occupations according to the measure are identified as AI-exposed. Among these occupations, AI-exposed work activities are at least 0.25 standard deviation more important to the performance of the occupation than the average for other activities.

ones most likely to be affected by AI, whether positively through complementarity, or negatively through substitution or displacement.<sup>24</sup>

To explore the potential for complementarity versus substitution, the CEA also considers a key feature of automation: Labor-substitution is easiest and cheapest in situations where complexity and difficulty are low. Working with AI in a complementary fashion may be more effective in complicated and challenging jobs.<sup>25</sup> The CEA captures the distinction by using responses to a separate O\*NET question about the degree of difficulty or complexity at which each work activity must be performed for each job. Survey respondents are asked to indicate the level of activity performance requirements for their job, and are provided reference anchors that characterize the difficulty and complexity associated with different levels.<sup>26</sup> CEA researchers then divide the set of AI-exposed occupations into two groups based on whether their performance requirements for AI-exposed activities are above or below the average across all occupations. Although this measure is coarse, it reflects the underlying relationship between the difficulty of an activity and its ability to be fully automated.

These measures of occupation-level exposure and potential for substitution allow the CEA to study AI's potential effects across the earnings distribution, demographic groups, industries, and geographic regions. The CEA's analysis examines the occupations most likely to be exposed to AI in comparison with all other occupations. However, there are important differences within high and low exposure and activity performance categories from which this analysis abstracts, and the results are contingent on the exposure threshold chosen.<sup>27</sup> As such, while this approach provides some important insights about who is more or less likely to be affected, it does not tell us how widespread these effects will be on the labor market as a whole.

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<sup>24</sup> In addition to affecting levels of employment and earnings, AI could affect job quality in numerous ways. The potential for occupations to experience these changes is also likely correlated with the exposure measure presented here.

<sup>25</sup> Task or activity complexity has been shown to complicate decision-making and increase its information demands, which may determine automation possibilities (e.g., [Byström and Järvelin 1995](#); [Sintchenko and Coiera 2003](#)). Recent research has also suggested that task complexity plays a role in whether AI is adopted for activities such as customer service and medical decision-making ([Fan et al. 2020](#); [Xu et al. 2020](#)). Other recent research on AI exposure has suggested that potential complementarity can be measured using other O\*NET information on work contexts and job zones ([Pizzinelli et al. 2023](#)).

<sup>26</sup> The O\*NET questionnaire asks respondents to report the activity performance level needed to perform their job on a 7-point scale, with benchmarks at the low end, midpoint, and high end. For example, in the AI-exposed activity “Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance,” “Review forms for completeness” scores a 1, “Evaluate a complicated insurance claim for compliance with policy terms” receives a 4, and “Make a ruling in court on a complicated motion” scores a 6. See [Peterson et al. \(1995\)](#) for further details on the survey design.

<sup>27</sup> The percentage of employees who are exposed to AI directly depends on the threshold chosen. However, the CEA's analysis suggests that the economic and demographic distribution of effects is relatively insensitive to that choice.

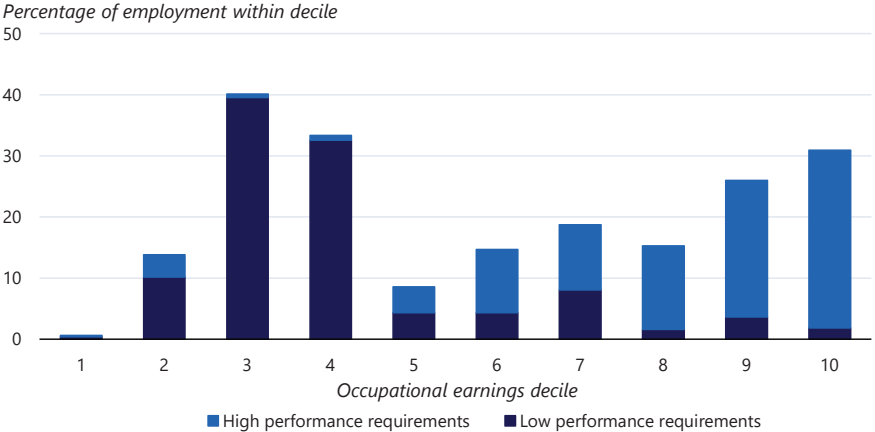


With this caveat in mind, figure 7-7 groups occupations into deciles based on the average earnings of workers, and then reports the percentage of workers within each decile who are employed in AI-exposed occupations. Similar to the task-based model’s predictions, employment exposure is not monotonic. The most significant AI exposure levels correspond to occupations in the lower-middle portion of the earnings distribution, in the third and fourth deciles. However, more than a quarter of workers in the top two deciles are employed in AI-exposed occupations as well.

The addition of information about the required level of activity performance adds additional context regarding possible complementarity or substitution. Although AI-exposed activities are relatively central to each examined job, individuals in high-earning occupations are more likely to be required to perform AI-exposed activities at a higher level of complexity or difficulty than those in low-earning jobs. Because implementing AI as a human substitute is more costly and/or challenging for complex and difficult tasks, the analysis implies that AI may more quickly be able to substitute for employment in the lower-middle portion of the earnings distribution. To the extent that workers in some occupations can work in conjunction with AI to raise their productivity, the analysis provides suggestive evidence that such occupations may already have higher-than-average wages.

In figure 7-8, CEA researchers examine AI exposure across demographic groups. Previous research has suggested that AI exposure increases with education, that it is least concentrated among young workers, and that

**Figure 7-7. Employment in High-AI-Exposed Occupations by Earnings Decile**



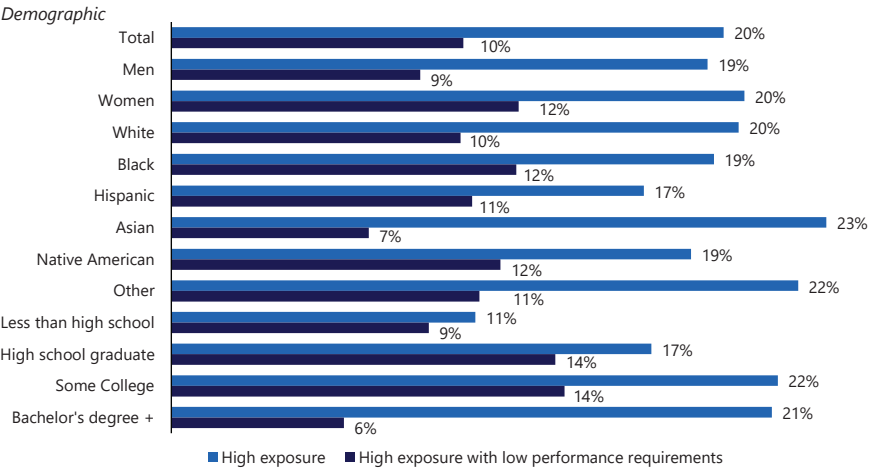
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Sources: American Community Survey; Department of Labor; Pew Research Center; CEA calculations.  
 Note: Deciles are calculated using mean occupational earnings of workers who are full-time, full-year workers age 16 plus. Performance requirements are captured using the O\*NET data measuring degree of difficulty or complexity at which a high-AI-exposed work activity is performed within an occupation. High (low) indicates an average degree of difficulty above (below) the median.  
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it is somewhat more prevalent among women, as well as among white and Asian workers (Kochhar 2023). Using its own occupation-level exposure metric, the CEA largely replicates these findings. As in figure 7-7, the CEA considers how AI-exposed workers whose jobs have lower performance requirements differ from AI-exposed workers as a whole. This analysis suggests that the demographic characteristics of workers negatively affected by AI may be somewhat different from those of individuals simply exposed to AI. For example, many high school graduates lacking four-year degrees have jobs that are highly AI exposed and that have relatively low performance requirements. A similar fraction of college graduates are exposed to AI, but their performance requirements are higher on average, and so they may be less at risk of displacement. Similarly, while women are only slightly more exposed to AI than men, they are more likely to have high exposure with low performance requirements, suggesting that women may be at higher risk of displacement.

The findings shown in figures 7-7 and 7-8 suggest that AI may be a skill-biased technology, increasing relative demand for workers with high levels of education in high-earning occupations. They also suggest that AI could exacerbate aggregate income inequality if it substitutes for employment in lower-wage jobs and complements higher-wage jobs. The possibility of increased inequality from AI has been widely discussed among economists studying the topic (e.g., [Korinek and Stiglitz 2018](#); [Furman and Seamans 2019](#); [Acemoglu 2021](#)). However, such an interpretation of the

**Figure 7-8. Share of Workers in High-AI-Exposure Occupations by Demographic**



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Sources: American Community Survey; Department of Labor; Pew Research Center; CEA calculations.

Note: Analysis uses full-time, full-year workers age 16 plus. Performance requirements are captured using the O\*NET data measuring degree of difficulty or complexity at which a high-AI-exposed work activity is performed within an occupation. Low indicates an average degree of difficulty below the median.

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evidence presented here should be made cautiously. As the historical analysis given earlier in the chapter demonstrates, supply-and-demand forces both play a role in determining patterns of wages and employment. Nonetheless, the possibility of increased inequality resulting from AI adoption may inform policy responses.

More generally, the economic and demographic breakdowns of figures 7-7 and 7-8 suggest possible effects, but they simplify a complex reality. For example, figure 7-8 does not imply that the 10 percent of workers who have high AI exposure and low performance requirements will inevitably lose their jobs. Rather, the measures shown identify the occupations and workers who perform the tasks that are most likely to change as a result of AI. The implications for jobs and workers may be quite nuanced.

For example, most jobs remain a collection of tasks of which only a portion can be automated. AI may allow humans to focus on other tasks, fundamentally changing their jobs without reducing the use of their labor. For example, if AI eventually allows school buses to drive themselves, children may still need someone on the bus to watch them, ensure they behave, and ensure they enter and exit safely. In other words, AI-led automation might fundamentally change the school bus driver's job, but it is unlikely to eliminate the job. Similarly, airplanes still have pilots, despite autopilot systems having automated some of their tasks for more than a century (Chialastri 2012).

Additionally, even among workers within an occupation, the extent of automation may be highly context dependent. Different AI models may be deployed in different situations, tailored to unique goals in ways that allow them to succeed at different tasks. An AI model that can replace human performance of tasks in some contexts might require extensive human assistance in others, or it may not be economically viable to adopt (e.g., [Svanberg et al. 2024](#)).

More broadly, there are reasons to believe that integrating humans and AI may often prove more effective than using either alone. Having multiple approaches to prediction and problem solving often produces better results than any one approach on its own. Diversity of thought can improve human decision-making ([Post et al. 2015](#)), and prediction techniques may benefit by combining multiple different machine learning approaches ([Webb and Zheng 2004](#); [Dong et al. 2020](#); [Naik et al. 2023](#)). Emerging research suggests that this principle extends to the combination of human and AI approaches as well ([Zirar, Ali, and Islam 2023](#); [Hitsuwari et al. 2023](#)).

Finally, these measures of AI exposure are based on the tasks that future AI systems are believed to be well suited to perform. As AI technology develops, it may change in ways that lead it to automate a different set of tasks than existing measures foresee.

A more precise understanding of how AI affects specific occupations, industries, demographic groups, and geographic regions will be critical for constructing appropriate policy responses. Researchers continue to develop and refine their frameworks to predict the potential effects of AI. As evidence of AI's effects emerges, these frameworks will evolve to incorporate the new information. At the same time, the limitations of available data and testable frameworks will continue to constrain researchers' quest for understanding.

### *Evidence for AI's Effects*

Economists have already begun measuring AI's adoption, and they are looking for signs of its impact on the labor market. Although uncertainty remains, some patterns have emerged. First, AI adoption is driven by larger and more productive firms. While the percentage of businesses adopting or integrating AI directly is still small, these firms employ a sizable share of workers (Acemoglu et al. 2022; Kochhar 2023). Note that survey measures of technology usage are likely to provide an underestimate of AI's ongoing impact on firms; whether businesses adopt AI directly or not, many of the products and services they purchase and use implement AI. For example, online advertising platforms, navigation systems, and recommendation systems all commonly implement AI and have been widely adopted.

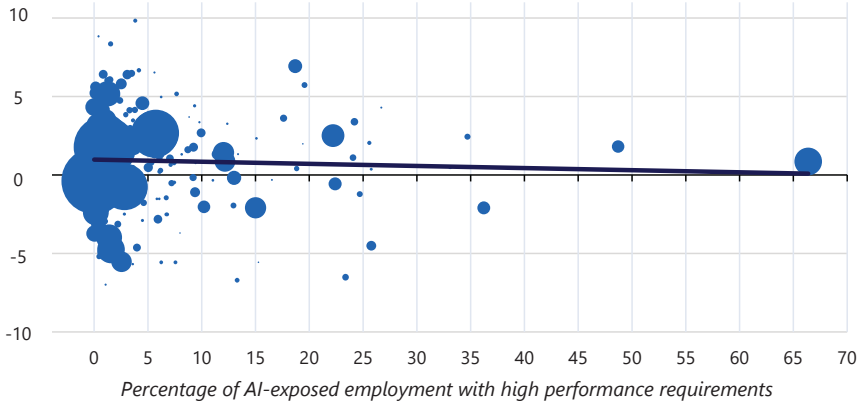
Limited evidence also suggests AI's impact on labor market decision-making. For example, commuting zones with greater industrial robot adoption in the 1990s and 2000s saw reduced employment and wage growth, and these effects can be distinguished from the simultaneous impact of import competition (Acemoglu and Restrepo 2020). Though robots are only one form of automation, and not all robots use AI extensively, predicting a robot's surroundings and interactions with others is often critical to its use. Businesses with task structures exposed to AI showed a rapid increase in AI-related job vacancy postings through the 2010s, but they simultaneously reduced hiring of non-AI-related positions, which could indicate the substitution of AI for human labor (Acemoglu et al. 2020). Evidence from Dutch employers suggests that workers whose jobs are displaced by automation are less likely to be working and more likely to retire than their peers (Bessen et al. 2023). Collectively, these papers suggest that a mix of complementarity to and substitution from AI is likely already happening.

Using the occupation-level exposure measure discussed earlier in this chapter, the CEA is also able to identify what percentage of workers in each industry are most likely to be exposed to AI, and whether these workers have high or low performance requirements that could be associated with complementarity or substitution. The two panels of figure 7-9 plot these measures against recent changes in employment growth relative to the long

## Figure 7-9. Industry AI Exposure versus Payroll Employment Growth Relative to Long-Run Trends

### A. AI-Exposed Employment with High Performance Requirements

*Difference in growth rate of payroll employment from 2023 to annualized rate between 2007 and 2019 (percentage points)*



### B. AI-Exposed Employment with Low Performance Requirements

*Difference in growth rate of payroll employment from 2023 to annualized rate between 2007 and 2019 (percentage points)*



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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics); Pew Research Center; CEA calculations. Note: Occupations are matched to the most detailed industry data available in the Current Employment Statistics. Point sizes are proportional to industry employment and linear predictions are weighted by industry employment. These outliers are not shown: 213, support activities for mining; 313, textile mills; 3132, fabric mills; 3361, motor vehicle manufacturing; and 3212, veneer, plywood and engineered wood product manufacturing.

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run trend from 2007 to 2019. The figure demonstrates three things: (1) most industries and most workers still have relatively low exposure; (2) employment in AI-exposed occupations is dispersed across industries, with only a handful of small industries having most of their employment in highly exposed occupations; and (3) relatively little evidence of heterogeneity

by performance requirements has emerged. In particular, the similarity of the relationship plotted in the two panels suggests that neither large-scale complementarity to nor substitution from AI is taking place. Industries with a high share of exposed employment saw slightly less rapid employment growth in 2023 relative to long-run patterns, but thus far AI exposure has little explanatory power.

## Preparing Institutions for AI

Productivity gains make society richer by allowing it to do more with fewer resources. The new economic activity permitted by AI can, in principle, provide the potential for everyone to be better off than they were before. However, a world where AI increases everyone's living standards is not guaranteed. Institutions and regulatory environments have important effects on the ways that technologies are developed and deployed, and on how their effects are felt. Just as strong but flexible institutions were necessary for the Industrial Revolution (e.g., [Mokyr 2008](#)), and as poor institutions still limit development in much of the world (e.g., [Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson 2005](#)), so too will details of the U.S. institutional environment dictate both how widely AI is adopted and who benefits from it.

The Federal Government's role goes beyond ensuring that the gains brought about by AI are widely shared. It must also ensure that the costs to harmed individuals are addressed. To the extent that AI may displace some employees, evidence shows that workers are likely to experience significant negative effects. These effects may be sizable even if the labor market remains strong and despite the fact that most workers eventually find new jobs ([Davis and von Wachter 2011](#)). However, AI's potential harm is broader than its impact on affected workers. Loss of consumer privacy, reduced market competition, and increased inequality are all potential consequences of AI that the government can help manage (e.g., [Acemoglu 2021](#)). The potential use of AI by malicious actors is also a concern—and one reason the Biden-Harris Administration has begun taking specific steps to develop best practices and secure the nation's infrastructure ([White House 2023a](#)).

Many new technologies affect only a single market or a few products. AI has applications touching most industries and markets, likely including some that do not yet exist. Also, the inputs to many AI models include data generated from vast swaths of economic activity. Outlining every way in which the institutional environment affects AI is therefore impossible. Still, it is worth considering the broad economic forces at issue and some of the ways the economy's institutions must be reexamined to ensure they can manage an economy in which AI is a fundamental feature.

## *Ownership, Liability, and Regulation*

The usefulness of AI arises from its ability to make predictions, automate tasks, or generate outputs that humans value. However, these same characteristics that make AI systems useful often raise important questions about both intellectual property rights and liability. This has been true of AI systems in the past, and the rapid rise of generative AI systems has expanded the scope of issues. For example, a number of recent copyright infringement lawsuits have challenged AI companies' argument that generative AI systems can be trained on copyrighted materials under fair use provisions (Appel, Neelbauer, and Schweidel 2023; CRS 2023a; Sag 2023; Setty 2023; Oremus and Izadi 2024). Similarly, creators have contested the training of AI systems on their creative works, and celebrities have contested the use of AI to replicate their likenesses from their personal traits (Kadrey et al. v. Meta Platforms 2023; Horton 2023; Kahveci 2023). Furthermore, scholars have begun to weigh numerous AI-related challenges to the boundaries of liability law, such as generative AI systems that could produce defamatory speech, self-driving cars that could harm pedestrians, or AI systems that could be used to commit crimes (Brown 2023; Gless, Silverman, and Weigend 2016; King et al. 2020). The way these issues are resolved will alter incentives for content creators, platforms, and end users. Thus, the decisions that regulators and the legal system make will be a critical element in determining whether and how AI is adopted and deployed (e.g., Brodsky 2016; Sobel 2017), and may have an impact on competition as well (e.g., Tirole 2023; Volokh 2023). An economic framing of ownership and liability provides key insights for regulators in adapting to the challenges presented by AI.

In a strict legal sense, ownership of AI inputs and systems is generally not in question.<sup>28</sup> However, the contemporary economic conception of ownership is considerably broader. Rather than focusing on the absolute rights of owners to possess an asset themselves, economists emphasize that the value of ownership derives from the capabilities it provides: the ability to select the use of an asset, to prohibit its use by others, and to form contracts around this use (e.g., Alchian 1965; Barzel and Allen 2023).<sup>29</sup> Regulations and legal constraints place limits on ownership, either by limiting what owners can do or by limiting what owners can prevent others from doing. For the

<sup>28</sup> Regarding AI outputs, courts have considered cases in which an individual applied for patent or copyright protections for AI outputs, and have generally ruled that such ownership rights are not available to outputs generated by AI without human involvement (e.g., Thaler v. Vidal 2022; Thaler v. Perlmutter 2023).

<sup>29</sup> Extensive legal scholarship has also considered the nature of ownership, and is characterized by multiple competing approaches. Economic thought has played a role in outlining the benefits and drawbacks to each approach, although many economically salient features of ownership are not strictly dependent on the legal theory applied (e.g., Coase 1960; Honoré 1961; Bell and Parchomovsky 2005; Merrill and Smith 2011; Smith 2012; and Medema 2020).

same reason, ownership rights and liability assignments are only economically meaningful to the extent that they can be enforced (e.g., Calabresi and Melamed 1972).

The incentives created by ownership rights have very broad economic effects. For example, the incentives of ownership are fundamental to determining how and why firms form, and to how product markets and financial markets are structured (e.g., Grossman and Hart 1986; Aghion and Bolton 1992). Similarly, the ability to profit from new technologies is critical not only for their development but also for economic growth as a whole (e.g., Aghion and Howitt 1992). Even in cases where strict legal ownership is not in question, regulatory choices that change the incentives around ownership may have sizable effects on overall market competition, as well as on the path of technology development itself. With AI in particular, the incentives of ownership will shape developers' decisions to invest in advancing AI's technological frontier, companies' decisions to deploy or commercialize AI applications, and many other consequential decisions.

A particularly economically important capability of owners is that they can form contracts related to the assets they own. Through these contracts, the owners of assets can assign many or most of their specific rights and responsibilities to others to reduce economic inefficiencies. Consider, for example, an out-of-town landlord who contracts with a local management company to find tenants and fix things that break. In some cases, clear assignment of property rights and contracts are sufficient for markets to achieve economic efficiency (Coase 1960). However, transaction costs, uncertainty, private information, and other common features of the economy can cause contract mechanisms to break down (e.g., Medema 2020). Writing contracts that efficiently address all situations may be too costly to be practicable. Moreover, unexpected or unplanned situations may also arise for which writing contracts is impossible. Because the owner remains the residual claimant (Fama and Jensen 1983), they bear both the positive and negative consequences that may result. In these circumstances, contracts are said to be incomplete, and market mechanisms may fail to achieve efficient outcomes. Owners adapt to some market failures by forming firms, or by merging or otherwise integrating to mitigate the problem (Williamson 1971; Grossman and Hart 1986). Integrations can be beneficial when they address market failures, but they also have the potential to undermine competition (e.g., Broussard 2009). In many other cases, only government regulations are capable of alleviating market failures.

The potential for incomplete contracts and associated issues related to AI is high, for several reasons. First, the technology is developing rapidly. Many specific ways in which AI will be used are still uncertain, as are the consequences of those uses. Moreover, many of the most useful AI applications must make predictions in novel environments with limited relevant



training data. In such situations, even thoughtfully developed AI models are prone to unanticipated behavior. The existence of this possibility can cause potentially serious market failures (Hart 2009). Second, data inputs often originate from user activity, so negotiating directly with each user could lead to high transaction costs. A similar concern exists regarding AI models that are trained on copyrighted works from many different authors (e.g., Samuelson 2023). Also, AI providers often have considerable private information about how their models operate, which can be used to tilt contracts away from economic efficiency and in providers' favor and can prevent agreements from being reached at all (Kennan and Wilson 1993; McKelvey and Page 1999). For these and other reasons, the markets for AI technology are especially susceptible to failure, so laws or regulations that address those failures are needed to strike an economically efficient balance between AI's benefits and costs.

A related incomplete contracts issue arises because AI-created work may not be subject to copyright or other intellectual property protection (e.g., Thaler v. Vidal 2022; Thaler v. Perlmutter 2023). Intellectual property rights narrow the residual, and the lack of such rights means that restrictions on the use of AI outputs will be largely driven by contract law. When laws do not otherwise assign ownership of an asset, then the government becomes the de facto residual claimant, setting rules that manage its use and bearing responsibility for the consequences. Efficient management of common assets is often possible, although it poses unique challenges (Ostrom 1990; Frischmann, Marciano, and Ramello 2019).

Another way in which laws and regulations create incentives is through the assignment of liability. Often, liability is determined separately from ownership. However, the two concepts are linked because ownership often conveys some forms of liability, because liability is commonly transferred or constrained through contracts, and because the economic incentives of liability assignments depend on their ability to be enforced. A lengthy literature in law and economics considers the economic foundations of liability law (Calabresi 2008; Landes and Posner 1987; Shavell 2004). Major concepts from this literature—such as the economic benefit of assigning liability to the “cheapest cost avoider” to disincentivize harm efficiently—have proven influential in recent legal decisions related to digital technologies (e.g., Sharkey 2022).

When laws and regulations have an impact on ownership rights or potential liability, they often strike a delicate balance between multiple incentives. For example, when patent laws assign ownership rights, they balance the incentive to create and benefit from one's creation against the incentive to adopt and benefit from previous creations (Scotchmer 1991). Other intellectual property laws, like copyright and trademark laws, balance similar incentives. And libel laws balance the potential benefits of

information dissemination against the costs of harmful misinformation (Dalvi and Refalo 2008). As technology evolves, the nature of these incentive forces can change as well, so regulations may need to be updated to establish a new balance.

Interpretations of laws have adapted substantially to accommodate the extensive technological changes of the past. For example, interpretations of the “fair use” doctrine in copyright law have depended on the technology available at the time; in recent decades, this doctrine has been interpreted to look at how transformative the new use is in order to accommodate new technologies like Internet search (Gordon 1982; Netanel 2011; Authors Guild v. Google 2015). Similarly, the interpretation of tort law has evolved repeatedly to accommodate technological changes, such as the rise of mechanized transportation and factory production (Gifford 2018). Although such adaptations may be encouraging, the ways in which existing laws and regulations can be adapted to AI is, in many cases, still an open question.

Even in cases where existing laws or regulations can adapt, there may also be other economic benefits from a proactive approach. For example, defining explicit liability rules before the situation arises can improve economic efficiency by reducing uncertainty about how liability will be assigned, narrowing the residual and creating incentives as it does so. One such case may be the liability issues related to autonomous AI systems whose actions unexpectedly harm someone (e.g., Gifford 2018; Diamantis, Cochran, and Dam 2023). Likewise, enacting more specific regulations about AI liability may also reduce the costliness of enforcement, which can improve economic incentives (Mookherjee and Png 1992). Other regulations, such as regulations that encourage increased transparency in AI systems, could also ease enforcement of liability law and improve incentives (e.g., Llorca et al. 2023).

Scholars have already identified a few specific policies as potential targets for reform. For example, in recent years some researchers have suggested adjusting or limiting patent protection to incentivize innovation more effectively (Boldrin and Levine 2013; Bloom, Van Reenen, and Williams 2019). Others have argued that the inability to patent AI-generated inventions will weaken innovation incentives (e.g., Dornis 2020). Recent empirical evidence has generally found that patenting does encourage start-up success and later innovation, but not necessarily in all markets (Gaulé 2018; Farre-Mensa, Hegde, and Ljungqvist 2019; Sampat and Williams 2019). This suggests that the limits to patentability associated with AI could be a substantial concern for innovation in some fields. Conversely, there is less evidence of a problem with AI innovation itself. Although thousands of AI-related patents are filed each year (Miric, Jia, and Huang 2022), private companies have released the algorithms used by multiple popular large-language-model AI frameworks as freely distributed open source software.

The companies' competitive strategies are often multifaceted, but they frequently appear to rely more heavily on their access to data, their ability to integrate AI into other products, or positive network effects from adoption than on the exclusive rights patent protection can provide (Heaven 2023; Boudreau, Jeppesen, and Miric 2022).

Additionally, existing regulation of Internet activity delineates between the creators of content and the platforms and providers who serve that content to consumers. Under current law, providers are shielded from liability in most circumstances for content they serve but do not create, while they are also given latitude to moderate the content (e.g., CRS 2024). Online generative AI services blur the conceptual distinctions underpinning this law. When a generative AI summarizes an article and posts it online instead of a human, is the AI a content creator? If so, are AI algorithm operators themselves liable for harm like defamation that may originate in the initial article? Holding operators liable for such uses of their technology could greatly limit generative AI adoption, even in places where it is beneficial (Perault 2023). Conversely, the link between AI data inputs and outputs is often opaque; in such situations, if AI systems operators are not held liable, then enforcement of liability against other parties may be impracticable (Bambauer and Surdeanu 2023).

In summary, many of AI's most profound potential effects are closely linked to the ways in which it tests existing delineations of ownership rights and liability. Economics has a long history of demonstrating just how important those choices about ownership rights and liability can be. As policymakers and courts consider their options for addressing AI-related issues, they will benefit from taking these economic forces into account.

### ***Competition and Market Structure***

Competition creates incentives that increase economic welfare and, as President Biden has stressed, lower costs. It pushes firms to lower prices, raise wages, and create higher-quality products (the combination of lower prices and higher wages suggests that competition can reduce economic rents that occur amid insufficient competition). And although its relationship with innovation is complicated, competition generally encourages innovation at the technological frontier (Aghion et al. 2005; Bloom, Van Reenen, and Williams 2019). In markets without robust competition, firms have the ability to increase their own profits or advance their other interests at the expense of others by raising prices, reducing production, or strategically underinvesting in quality, customer service, or innovation. Because lower competition is typically associated with higher profits, firms may be incentivized to merge, to foreclose rivals, or to take other actions in order to undermine competition. Mergers and some types of conduct that reduce

competition are illegal under antitrust laws, but the government also shapes markets and influences competition through regulation and its own conduct as a market participant.

As last year's *Economic Report of the President* discussed, the economics of competition are particularly complex in digital markets (CEA 2023). AI is widely used in many of these digital markets, including to set prices in platform markets, to optimize content on social media, and to optimize inventory levels. However, because of their widespread and growing adoption, AI systems are also present in many markets outside digital platforms.

In all these cases, the addition of AI can have positive or negative effects on competition. In many cases, it can create better products and lower costs. In some cases, the adoption of AI systems can also increase competition by making it easier for new firms to enter or by lowering switching costs. For example, AI-powered machine translation can reduce language barriers, allowing greater international competition (Brynjolfsson, Hui, and Liu 2019). Similarly, AI can alleviate other barriers by making it easier to convert computer code from one language to another, or enter into software development (e.g., Roziere et al. 2020; Weisz et al. 2022; Peng et al. 2023). Conversely, AI integrations might inappropriately reduce competition by increasing the barriers to switching providers and thus locking in customers who use their services. Data or integration methods locked to proprietary AI models, for example, can create such barriers.

AI can also be used as a tool for either tacit or explicit collusion that can harm competition. AI systems may make it less costly for firms to closely track and respond to the behavior of rivals or facilitate sharing competitively sensitive information to which competing firms otherwise would not be privy, factors that make it easier to sustain collusion (Tirole 1988). They may also make it simpler for firms to engage in complex multimarket interactions that also can facilitate collusion (Bernheim and Whinston 1990). Recent research suggests that these pricing algorithms may actually learn collusion as the optimal outcome of their profit-maximizing algorithm (Calvano et al. 2020; Johnson and Sokol 2020; Abada and Lambin 2023).

“Learning by doing” is an economically important process in many markets (e.g., Arrow 1962; Thompson 2010), and it has particularly important implications for competition in many AI markets. On one hand, such learning improves the product, creating positive network effects that can, in turn, attract more users and lead to a virtuous cycle that benefits consumers (Gregory et al. 2021). On the other hand, the same network effects that can create product improvements can also drive smaller firms out of the market, leaving a market with only a handful of dominant players. And, in the long run, such network effects may also dampen future innovation and competition by raising barriers to entry. Even entrants that have better or

more efficient underlying technology may struggle to attract users if they lack the data to appropriately tailor their products (Werden 2001; Farrell and Klemperer 2007). Finally, some AI systems automate feedback loops to continuously improve, in effect automating the learning-by-doing process. Such automation likely strengthens network effects, in turn increasing potential consequences, both positive and negative.

In addition to AI's effects on other markets, competition between AI providers will be important for AI's deployment and ultimate impact. In some markets, entry costs are relatively modest, data are widely available, and network effects are not too strong. In such markets, competition may be robust and involve many small providers. Similarly, some AI systems will be developed internally by firms that do not specialize in the technology, but who use it to support their overall business. Multitiered integrations are also likely, such as for systems in which general-purpose models interface with other, more specialized add-on tools.<sup>30</sup> In other cases, however, some combination of high entry costs, data availability, and network effects may drive markets toward having only a small number of players. Markets for generative AI products, which require huge amounts of data and computing power to train, may be particularly prone to this issue, with some even suggesting that such markets may naturally trend toward monopoly (Narechania 2022). There is an inherent economic trade-off between the cost of entry and the benefits of increased competition, but appropriate government policy can help ensure that a monopoly outcome is not a foregone conclusion.

Competition inside a market is also affected by competition in adjacent markets. For example, even if there are many aluminum can suppliers, competition may be weak if there is only one supplier of the aluminum itself. In this way, supply chains are only as competitive as their least competitive link, a so-called competitive bottleneck. Firms may also participate in multiple markets through vertical integration or exclusive contracting. In such situations, firms may use a dominant position in one market to undermine competition in another (Ordoover, Saloner, and Salop 1990; Moresi and Schwartz 2021). Furthermore, self-preferencing by vertically integrated firms can result in inferior technologies being adopted even in the long run (Katz and Shapiro 1986).

Scholars have suggested that all these concerns may be particularly acute in digital platforms and AI markets (Athey and Scott Morton 2022; Vipra and Korinek 2023). For example, many AI-related products have been built by organizations with ties to existing large technology firms that themselves are increasingly vertically integrated across the AI stack. Similarly, some inputs necessary to create AI systems are controlled by a small number

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<sup>30</sup> For example, several foundation model providers have released libraries that allow their services to be easily integrated into other software, including other AI models (e.g., Anthropic 2024; OpenAI 2024).

of companies, raising concerns about the potential for competitive bottlenecks. For example, the design, production, and equipment used to produce the specialty chips needed to power AI computing are each controlled by a handful of firms, as is the provision of cloud computing (Narechania and Sitaraman 2023).

AI policy will have a large role in ensuring healthy and competitive markets, protecting consumers of AI outputs, workers who use AI systems, and other market participants. Competition-aware policy can avoid inadvertently increasing barriers to entry while ensuring that some providers are not unduly favored over others. Antitrust enforcement will play a critical role, but so too will other government policies.

Broadly, ex ante regulation or other policies can improve efficiency relative to ex post antitrust enforcement by offering certainty to businesses and avoiding costly ex-post remedies (Ottaviani and Wickelgren 2011). At the same time, such ex ante policies could backfire if poorly conceived or executed. Developing standards in an open and transparent manner can avoid inadvertently favoring a market's incumbents or making it difficult for smaller firms to comply or enter.

Similarly, freely available and portable data may encourage a competitive landscape and ensure that gains from data are widely distributed. Market participants often have an incentive to maintain proprietary data. Data can be copied at low cost, and productive improvements from data may be easily replicated, so firms are likely to compete away gains from publicly available sources. However, reliance on proprietary data could cause fragmented AI markets to emerge. If each firm can access only a small portion of the available data, AI systems may not function as well as they otherwise could. This has been an ongoing problem in pharmaceutical research (Schneider et al. 2020) and is increasingly an issue on the Internet, where content and user data are often locked into proprietary tools and applications. Increased availability of public data, such as that produced by the Federal Government, may encourage more competition. Restrictions on what data may remain proprietary and appropriate regulations on how AI companies can use the data collected from their users may do the same.

Additionally, policies that encourage portability and interoperability can reduce barriers to competition (Brown 2020). Market providers generally have an incentive to reduce customer switching, and systems that encourage locking in may be developed to gain an anticompetitive advantage. Interoperability requirements make switching providers easier, reducing firms' ability to gain an advantage through lock-in. In labor markets, firm strategies—such as noncompete agreements, training repayment agreements, and other methods—can tie workers to specific firms; however, these tactics could also limit competition in markets for AI skills. The sophisticated skills needed to develop and work with AI systems can only

be put to best use throughout the economy if workers can transition freely in competitive labor markets, and so policies that reduce labor market barriers could improve competition in markets for AI itself.

Finally, sharing competitively sensitive information through AI systems can undermine competition and pose risks to firms under existing antitrust laws. Government efforts to educate firms about these risks and to promote sound antitrust compliance policies can reduce the possibility that AI technologies will be used to lessen competition.

In summary, the policies needed to encourage competition go well beyond the traditional tools of merger or monopolization analysis. Competition will be affected by the choices the Federal Government makes to regulate AI and its markets. The correct approach requires consideration of the sophisticated ways in which individual markets interact with the technological landscape and learning lessons from past instances in which new technologies were not regulated to promote competition at the outset. The Biden-Harris Administration has released new competition guidance encouraging the Federal Government's agencies to consider these issues in their analyses of regulations ([OMB 2023a](#)), and the Office of Management and Budget ([OMB 2023b](#)) has encouraged agencies to consider competition in their use and procurement of AI tools. This holistic framing may be particularly important as the role of AI in the economy grows. (See box 7-3.)

### ***Labor Market Institutions***

AI has real potential to transform the labor market. The empirical case for permanent market displacement is limited, but the transition to an economy that thoroughly incorporates AI could displace many workers from their existing jobs, create many new types of jobs, and affect the work of others dramatically. What labor market features will be most important to protecting workers in the transition, and what features will help ensure they are prepared to use AI?

In part, policies that reduce AI's disruptive effects on labor markets are the same ones that encourage efficient and responsible AI investment. Encouraging innovation, reducing regulatory uncertainty, and supporting needed human capital investment are all important goals of AI policy. Responsible stewardship of the economy as a whole is also important, as the negative effects on workers of job displacement are considerably magnified by weak economic conditions ([Davis and von Wachter 2011](#)).

In practice, the negative effects of technological and regulatory change are often quite concentrated on specific industries, occupations, and geographic regions. The experience of trade liberalization has shown that negative effects of job displacement can persist for many years and spill over to local economies ([Autor, Dorn, and Hanson 2013, 2021](#)). Many policy

### Box 7-3. What Can Voluntary AI Agreements Accomplish?

The Biden-Harris Administration announced voluntary agreements covering cybersecurity, algorithmic discrimination, output watermarking, and other issues with seven leading artificial intelligence companies in July 2023; the agreement now covers fifteen companies (White House 2023b). The agreements were a step toward creating the first AI-specific guidelines and guardrails at a critical time. They demonstrated not only the industry participants' interest and willingness to work toward the common good, but also their belief that it is possible to make progress through open dialogue, unilateral action, and social norms. Still, the agreements are unlikely to be a long-term solution.

Meaningful voluntary commitments are rare in the private sector. If taking an action is in a firm's unilateral interest, no commitment is necessary. If the action is not in the firm's unilateral best interest, the company will have an incentive to avoid making such a commitment.

The features that make agreements meaningful can also provide the incentive to change course later. For example, the existence of a voluntary agreement can create opportunities for new entrants. These new firms may decline to make the commitment and may use that flexibility to out-compete committed firms (Brau and Carraro 1999). Existing firms may respond to competition by dropping out of an agreement or abandoning its limiting principles.

The recent voluntary agreement covers major players in generative AI. These markets feature many barriers to entry (Federal Trade Commission 2023), making them a relatively favorable environment for voluntary agreements to form and be sustained. Other AI market segments that lack similar barriers may be less amenable to voluntary cooperation.

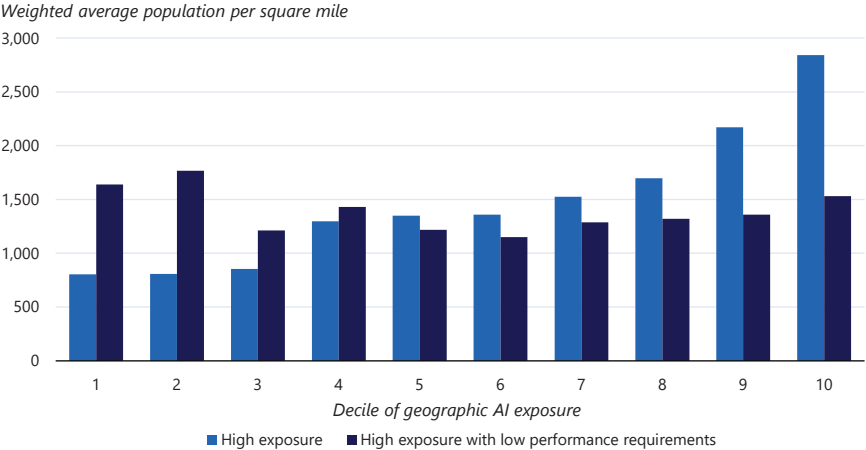
options for addressing AI substitution are similar to those suggested in the context of past economic shocks.

Recent trade shocks have predominantly affected people in areas that became subject to new import competition. Analogously, AI's effects are likely to be felt most acutely in places where AI-exposed workers live. The CEA has mapped its occupation-level measure of AI exposure to workers' places of residence, showing where exposure is most likely to have localized effects. As figure 7-10 indicates, in the most AI-exposed regions, the average worker's neighborhood is more than three times as dense as it is in the least exposed regions. However, the story is somewhat different for workers whose jobs have low performance requirements. Both the most exposed and least exposed areas to this type of work are relatively dense, and less dense areas are often in the middle of the exposure distribution.



The evidence suggests that AI’s effects are likely to be felt most strongly in urban areas. This finding is consistent with other recent research demonstrating that a preponderance of innovation, along with a large fraction of new work, occurs in cities (Lin 2011; Gruber, Johnson, and Moretti 2023). Conversely, to the extent that exposure with a low average level of required activity performance captures the possibility of job substitution, the evidence suggests that only a subset of urban areas may experience negative effects from widespread job displacement. Prior research suggests one likely reason for the pattern: Occupational segregation is high, and overall economic residential segregation has increased over time (Florida and Mellander 2015; Bischoff and Reardon 2013). While some workers in urban areas may become more productive as a result of AI, others could be displaced, and the two sets of workers may live in different neighborhoods, with differing implications for policy. And although greater job access in dense urban labor markets may make it relatively easy for workers to weather economic disruptions, evidence also suggests that at the local level, the effect of competing with many displaced individuals can outweigh the effect of increased nearby opportunities (Haller and Heuermann 2020). In short, although evidence about geographically concentrated AI exposure is limited, there is reason to believe that targeted place-based policies could play a useful role, much as they play a role in other contexts such as clean energy transitions (CEA 2022).

**Figure 7-10. Average Population Density by Decile of Geographic AI Exposure**



**Council of Economic Advisers**

Sources: American Community Survey; Department of Labor; Pew Research Center; CEA calculations.  
 Note: Average density is the population-weighted geometric mean density of each workers’ census tract of residence. Geographic units are public-use microdata areas. Average population per square mile is the population-weighted geometric mean density of Census tracts in each unit. Analysis uses full-time, full-year workers age 16 plus. Performance requirements are captured using the O\*NET data measuring degree of difficulty or complexity at which a high AI-exposed work activity is performed within an occupation. Low indicates an average degree of difficulty below the median.  
 2024 Economic Report of the President

Individual firms will play a major role in training their employees to work with AI, particularly in cases where firms use customized systems or adopt foundation models in unique ways. However, government can help ensure that the training benefits workers. Economists distinguish general human capital, which can be put to broad productive use, and firm-specific human capital, which is not portable. Because many AI models are purpose-built for a particular firm's needs, many of the skills workers need to use the models will likely be firm-specific or learned on the job. Economic theory has shown that firm-specific human capital gives employers labor market power over their employees and can allow them to keep wages low (Acemoglu and Pischke 1998). In contrast, because general human capital is portable, it gives employers no additional market power, and firms have a lower incentive to invest in it.

The Biden-Harris Administration has made record investments to encourage general human capital training through registered apprenticeships—and recently proposed to further expand and modernize the National Apprenticeship System (White House 2023c; DOL 2023b). Registered apprenticeships provide firms with resources to invest in workers' skills and provide opportunities for workers to learn on the job with a mentor while getting paid. They also establish standards to ensure the resulting human capital is portable and of high quality. Firms propose and register an apprenticeship program in an approved occupation; the set of apprenticeable occupations already includes many that are likely to work with AI technologies. Through increased flexibility, improved processes, and better data collection, the proposed improvements to the Registered Apprenticeship System would help to ensure that workers can develop the skills they need to work with AI.

Unions can also help develop workers' skills and protect their livelihoods. Unions counteract the effects of employers' labor market power and have been shown to yield increased worker training (Booth and Chatterji 1998; Green, Machin, and Wilkinson 1999). More generally, giving workers a voice in how AI is used may help ensure that they benefit from its use. Collective bargaining has empowered workers to secure protections related to the use of AI, such as the protections for screenwriters and actors secured in their respective union contracts (WGAW 2023; SAG-AFTRA 2023). The engagement of frontline workers on the development of AI could also have beneficial effects on the successful deployment of these systems (Kochan et al. 2023). Unions can also have many other economic effects, including positive effects on compensation for workers, as well as effects on firm incentives to substitute capital for labor and to engage in research and development (e.g., Hirsch 2004; Knepper 2020; U.S. Department of the Treasury 2023). The net effect of these incentives on AI adoption is unclear

and is likely to depend on the particular structure of unionized industries (Haucap and Wey 2004).

The Federal Government can help ensure workers displaced by AI are prepared to take their next steps in the economy both indirectly and directly through Federal investment and programs. One critical indirect mechanism that exists to ensure smooth labor transitions is the unemployment insurance program. Unemployment insurance keeps workers economically stable, and it encourages them to find new employment rather than leave the labor force. Finding new, high-quality jobs for displaced workers may take time, and a flexible unemployment insurance system allows workers to search for higher-paying and better jobs (Chetty 2008; Schmieder, von Wachter, and Bender 2012; Nekoei and Weber 2017).

The government can also help workers transition to new careers directly by combining unemployment insurance with explicit training and reemployment services. This approach is currently embodied by the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Grants program (DOL 2023c). It has also been used to assist workers losing their jobs to foreign competition via the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program, which has expired for new beneficiaries.<sup>31</sup> Recent research using worker-level administrative data suggests that displaced workers who are approved for TAA increase their cumulative earnings by tens of thousands of dollars in the years following the program (Hyman 2022). This research also finds suggestive evidence that the skills learned from TAA may depreciate over time, an area of concern as AI technology rapidly evolves. Policymakers could build upon lessons learned from TAA to revitalize and expand a program for displaced workers that accommodates AI-related displacement as a way to ensure that workers remain in the labor force and are able to work productively with AI. (See box 7-4.)

### *Measuring AI and Its Effects*

A common thread among the various questions and policies outlined above is that they require observability. If the government cannot observe the ways and extents to which AI is being used, it may be difficult to enforce existing laws and to target and implement new regulations. Similarly, the government is constrained in its ability to assist workers who are displaced by AI if it cannot observe who these workers are. Policies that improve observability or increase data collection may have a high impact if they allow the government to identify AI adoption when it occurs, distinguish AI-generated outputs from human-generated ones, and measure more precisely the economic effects of AI.

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<sup>31</sup> See CRS (2023b). The TAA program's termination provisions took effect in July 2022 after Congress declined to renew funding for the program.

### Box 7-4. Should AI Be Taxed?

Artificial intelligence has the capacity to increase productivity, but it may do so while displacing many workers from their current jobs or exacerbating inequality. Technology industry leaders, the European Parliament, and others have therefore suggested taxing the use of AI and related technologies. They argue that an AI tax could fund training for displaced workers and potentially reduce overall inequality (Quartz 2017; European Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs 2017; Abbott and Bogenschneider 2018).

Economists generally consider the proposed AI tax analogously to other taxes on capital as a production factor. Because some capital is durable, deciding whether to invest in it may impact productivity and growth in the future. Correspondingly, a tax that disincentivizes capital investment has the potential to be especially costly. The concern is especially salient for general purpose technologies like AI, as one of their functions is to increase existing capital's reusability (Aghion, Howitt, and Violante 2002). A lengthy literature has considered the optimal rate of capital taxation for balancing economic growth against other features of the economy and of existing tax policy (e.g., Diamond and Saez 2011; Saez and Stantcheva 2018). Rich frameworks that incorporate borrowing constraints, uncertainty, and other real-world features typically find that the optimal way to fund fiscal policy is through a mix of taxes, including on capital.

Economists have recently considered how an additional tax on AI adoption could affect both impacted workers and overall economic well-being. The effective U.S. capital taxation rate has declined in recent years, which some have argued could encourage excessive negative employment impacts through automation (Acemoglu, Manera, and Restrepo 2020). However, these researchers also argue that setting appropriate capital and labor tax rates may sufficiently ensure that excessive automation does not occur, as increased AI-specific tax rates only serve a purpose if it is infeasible to alter these broader capital tax rates. Other recent research considers technology's declining cost trend and its differential effect on present versus future workers. These papers find that taxing AI in excess of other capital can be beneficial in the short run but not in the long run (Guerreiro, Rebelo, and Teles 2022; Thuemmel 2022).

How might taxation affect AI-related innovation itself? Evidence from historical patent data suggests that inventors respond to taxation-based incentives, both in how much they innovate and in where they do so (Akcigit et al. 2021). Software-related patents, including for AI technology, comprise roughly half of those issued today, and this patenting activity is particularly geographically clustered (Chattergoon and Kerr 2021). Taxes on AI adoption and innovation may therefore have implications for overall growth, place-based policies, and other initiatives.

Observing AI adoption and measuring its effects is inherently challenging. This is in part because firms that adopt AI do so in many ways. They may have service contracts with large technology providers, make use of purchased or open source tools with proprietary data, engage in in-house model development, or purchase inputs for which AI is only one component. AI models may be large, in the sense of containing many parameters and being trained on large volumes of data, or they may be small. And, the potential negative effects of AI may be closely linked to the model's actions, or they may be further afield in upstream or downstream markets. Nonetheless, the Federal Government is taking and has taken steps to improve observability of AI adoption.

To address certain risks to safety and security, the recent Executive Order identifies reporting thresholds for very large AI models based on the number of arithmetic operations used to train them ([White House 2023a](#)). These thresholds may be well suited to identify providers in certain segments of the AI market in the future, such as large language models. Identifying such providers may be sufficient to identify and address some kinds of AI-related risks. At the same time, substantively all effects from AI adoption so far—including negative effects, such as discrimination—have been associated with models that did not meet these thresholds (e.g., [Brown et al. 2020](#)). More generally, in many economic contexts, there is little reason to believe that the potential for negative effects from an AI model is proportional to its underlying scale. So, although arithmetic reporting thresholds have value, and additional thresholds could be implemented in the future, other approaches are also necessary to address the wide range of AI-related risks.

The Executive Order also directs agencies to consider methods of identifying AI-generated outputs such as watermarking and content detection. These approaches could help observe and measure some types of AI usage. If watermarking requirements are sufficient to identify the origins of an AI output, then harmful outputs can also be traced back to their creators. However, the practical uses of watermarking are likely limited to generative AI outputs that are widely distributed. Many other uses of AI in economic activity are not directly observable outside the firms where they occur. Also, enforcement of watermarking requirements may be difficult unless the generative AI models used to produce these outputs have already been identified, or an alternative method of content detection is successfully implemented.

A complementary approach may be to identify the workers and other parties who are most likely to be affected by AI. Surveys of firms already collect some information about AI adoption ([Zolas et al. 2020](#)), and data from administrative processes are used to produce many other economic statistics that could be useful. However, current gaps in data collection

significantly limit some uses of these data. For example, occupation is a key dimension along which exposure to AI is likely to have a labor market impact, so policies that target vulnerable or displaced workers based on their occupation could play an important role in the overall policy responses to AI.<sup>32</sup> However, linking workers with their occupations consistently is challenging. Surveys that include occupation are subject to substantial measurement error, and programs such as unemployment insurance often have difficulty collecting this information in a standardized way (Fisher and Houseworth 2013; DOL 2023a). Furthermore, even the best sources of administrative data on workers in the United States do not include information on their occupations. Additional administrative processes or enhanced surveys may address gaps in government data collection, making it easier to implement policies that effectively target and assist affected workers.

## Conclusions and Open Questions

AI has the potential to increase economic well-being. Like many previous technologies, it will do so by transforming the economy in both expected and unexpected ways. Economic theory demonstrates that the changes have the capacity to benefit everyone, but recent empirical evidence shows that broad-based benefits are not guaranteed. Sensible policies to encourage responsible innovation, protect consumers, empower workers, encourage competition, and help affected workers adjust are critical.

Many open questions remain, and the Biden-Harris Administration is working continuously to seek answers to these questions and incorporate the lessons it learns into its regulatory and policy responses. In 2022, the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy released its Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, which highlights five principles covering many of the most pressing concerns about AI (White House 2022). Agencies throughout the Federal Government are taking steps to implement the blueprint's recommendations. The National AI Advisory Committee, launched in May 2022, has engaged leaders from industry and academia to consider major policy questions and make recommendations (NAIAC 2023). The National Institute of Standards and Technology has launched the U.S. AI Safety Institute to enable collaboration on safety and security standards (NIST 2023). And the President's Executive Order 14110 has identified key government agencies and bodies to oversee and advise on numerous other AI-related issues. The order directs the identified organizations to study AI-related needs and make recommendations for additional tools required to address them (White House 2023a).

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<sup>32</sup> For example, policies that target specific occupations could in many cases reduce the administrative burden and practical difficulty of demonstrating displacement.

The future path of technological change is always uncertain, but the Biden-Harris Administration is working to ensure that the Nation's institutions and policies are prepared for the changes that AI will bring. As AI's role in the economy grows, the Federal Government will need to continually evaluate its institutional framework. Only by thinking broadly about AI and its effects can society balance the technology's potential for harm against its many possible benefits.



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## Chapter 5

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Appendix A

**Report to the President  
on the Activities of the  
Council of Economic Advisers  
during 2023**





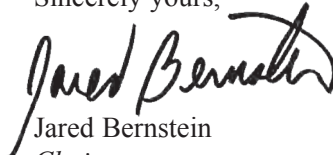
## Letter of Transmittal

Council of Economic Advisers  
Washington, December 31, 2023


Mr. President:

The Council of Economic Advisers submits this report on its activities during calendar year 2023 in accordance with the requirements of Congress, as set forth by Section 10(d) of the Employment Act of 1946, as amended by the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978.


Sincerely yours,



Jared Bernstein  
*Chair*



Heather Boushey  
*Member*



C. Kirabo Jackson  
*Member*



## Council Members and Their Dates of Service

Name	Position	Oath of office date	Separation date
Edwin G. Nourse	Chairman	August 9, 1946	November 1, 1949
Leon H. Keyserling	Vice Chairman	August 9, 1946	
	Acting Chairman	November 2, 1949	
	Chairman	May 10, 1950	January 20, 1953
John D. Clark	Member	August 9, 1946	
	Vice Chairman	May 10, 1950	February 11, 1953
Roy Blough	Member	June 29, 1950	August 20, 1952
Robert C. Turner	Member	September 8, 1952	January 20, 1953
Arthur F. Burns	Chairman	March 19, 1953	December 1, 1956
Neil H. Jacoby	Member	September 15, 1953	February 9, 1955
Walter W. Stewart	Member	December 2, 1953	April 29, 1955
Raymond J. Saulnier	Member	April 4, 1955	
	Chairman	December 3, 1956	January 20, 1961
Joseph S. Davis	Member	May 2, 1955	October 31, 1958
Paul W. McCracken	Member	December 3, 1956	January 31, 1959
Karl Brandt	Member	November 1, 1958	January 20, 1961
Henry C. Wallich	Member	May 7, 1959	January 20, 1961
Walter W. Heller	Chairman	January 29, 1961	November 15, 1964
James Tobin	Member	January 29, 1961	July 31, 1962
Kermit Gordon	Member	January 29, 1961	December 27, 1962
Gardner Ackley	Member	August 3, 1962	
	Chairman	November 16, 1964	February 15, 1968
John P. Lewis	Member	May 17, 1963	August 31, 1964
Otto Eckstein	Member	September 2, 1964	February 1, 1966
Arthur M. Okun	Member	November 16, 1964	
	Chairman	February 15, 1968	January 20, 1969
James S. Duesenberry	Member	February 2, 1966	June 30, 1968
Merton J. Peck	Member	February 15, 1968	January 20, 1969
Warren L. Smith	Member	July 1, 1968	January 20, 1969
Paul W. McCracken	Chairman	February 4, 1969	December 31, 1971
Hendrik S. Houthakker	Member	February 4, 1969	July 15, 1971
Herbert Stein	Member	February 4, 1969	
	Chairman	January 1, 1972	August 31, 1974
Ezra Solomon	Member	September 9, 1971	March 26, 1973
Marina v.N. Whitman	Member	March 13, 1972	August 15, 1973
Gary L. Seevers	Member	July 23, 1973	April 15, 1975
William J. Fellner	Member	October 31, 1973	February 25, 1975
Alan Greenspan	Chairman	September 4, 1974	January 20, 1977
Paul W. MacAvoy	Member	June 13, 1975	November 15, 1976
Burton G. Malkiel	Member	July 22, 1975	January 20, 1977
Charles L. Schultze	Chairman	January 22, 1977	January 20, 1981
William D. Nordhaus	Member	March 18, 1977	February 4, 1979
Lyle E. Gramley	Member	March 18, 1977	May 27, 1980
George C. Eads	Member	June 6, 1979	January 20, 1981
Stephen M. Goldfeld	Member	August 20, 1980	January 20, 1981
Murray L. Weidenbaum	Chairman	February 27, 1981	August 25, 1982
William A. Niskanen	Member	June 12, 1981	March 30, 1985
Jerry L. Jordan	Member	July 14, 1981	July 31, 1982

## Council Members and Their Dates of Service

Name	Position	Oath of office date	Separation date
Martin Feldstein	Chairman	October 14, 1982	July 10, 1984
William Poole	Member	December 10, 1982	January 20, 1985
Beryl W. Sprinkel	Chairman	April 18, 1985	January 20, 1989
Thomas Gale Moore	Member	July 1, 1985	May 1, 1989
Michael L. Mussa	Member	August 18, 1986	September 19, 1988
Michael J. Boskin	Chairman	February 2, 1989	January 12, 1993
John B. Taylor	Member	June 9, 1989	August 2, 1991
Richard L. Schmalensee	Member	October 3, 1989	June 21, 1991
David F. Bradford	Member	November 13, 1991	January 20, 1993
Paul Wonnacott	Member	November 13, 1991	January 20, 1993
Laura D'Andrea Tyson	Chair	February 5, 1993	April 22, 1995
Alan S. Blinder	Member	July 27, 1993	June 26, 1994
Joseph E. Stiglitz	Member	July 27, 1993	
	Chairman	June 28, 1995	February 10, 1997
Martin N. Baily	Member	June 30, 1995	August 30, 1996
Alicia H. Munnell	Member	January 29, 1996	August 1, 1997
Janet L. Yellen	Chair	February 18, 1997	August 3, 1999
Jeffrey A. Frankel	Member	April 23, 1997	March 2, 1999
Rebecca M. Blank	Member	October 22, 1998	July 9, 1999
Martin N. Baily	Chairman	August 12, 1999	January 19, 2001
Robert Z. Lawrence	Member	August 12, 1999	January 12, 2001
Kathryn L. Shaw	Member	May 31, 2000	January 19, 2001
R. Glenn Hubbard	Chairman	May 11, 2001	February 28, 2003
Mark B. McClellan	Member	July 25, 2001	November 13, 2002
Randall S. Kroszner	Member	November 30, 2001	July 1, 2003
N. Gregory Mankiw	Chairman	May 29, 2003	February 18, 2005
Kristin J. Forbes	Member	November 21, 2003	June 3, 2005
Harvey S. Rosen	Member	November 21, 2003	
	Chairman	February 23, 2005	June 10, 2005
Ben S. Bernanke	Chairman	June 21, 2005	January 31, 2006
Katherine Baicker	Member	November 18, 2005	July 11, 2007
Matthew J. Slaughter	Member	November 18, 2005	March 1, 2007
Edward P. Lazear	Chairman	February 27, 2006	January 20, 2009
Donald B. Marron	Member	July 17, 2008	January 20, 2009
Christina D. Romer	Chair	January 29, 2009	September 3, 2010
Austan D. Goolsbee	Member	March 11, 2009	
	Chairman	September 10, 2010	August 5, 2011
Cecilia Elena Rouse	Member	March 11, 2009	February 28, 2011
Katharine G. Abraham	Member	April 19, 2011	April 19, 2013
Carl Shapiro	Member	April 19, 2011	May 4, 2012
Alan B. Krueger	Chairman	November 7, 2011	August 2, 2013
James H. Stock	Member	February 7, 2013	May 19, 2014
Jason Furman	Chairman	August 4, 2013	January 20, 2017
Betsey Stevenson	Member	August 6, 2013	August 7, 2015
Maurice Obstfeld	Member	July 21, 2014	August 28, 2015
Sandra E. Black	Member	August 10, 2015	January 20, 2017
Jay C. Shambaugh	Member	August 31, 2015	January 20, 2017

## Council Members and Their Dates of Service

Name	Position	Oath of office date	Separation date
Kevin A. Hassett	Chairman	September 13, 2017	June 30, 2019
Richard V. Burkhauser	Member	September 28, 2017	May 18, 2019
Tomas J. Philipson	Member	August 31, 2017	
	Acting Chairman	July 1, 2019	
	Vice Chairman	July 24, 2019	June 22, 2020
Tyler B. Goodspeed	Member	May 22, 2019	
	Acting Chairman	June 23, 2020	
	Vice Chairman	June 23, 2020	January 6, 2021
Cecilia Elena Rouse	Chair	March 2, 2021	April 1, 2023
Jared Bernstein	Member	January 20, 2021	
	Chair	June 13, 2023	
Heather Boushey	Member	January 20, 2021	
C. Kirabo Jackson	Member	August 28, 2023	



# **Report to the President on the Activities of the Council of Economic Advisers during 2023**

Established by the Employment Act of 1946, the Council of Economic Advisers is charged with advising the President on economic policy based on data, research, and evidence. The Council is composed of three members: a Chair, who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate; and two members, who are appointed by the President. Along with a team of economists, they analyze and interpret economic developments and formulate and recommend economic policies that advance the interests of the American people.

## **The Chair of the Council**

Jared Bernstein was confirmed by the Senate on June 13, 2023, as the 31st Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. In this role, he serves as President Biden’s Chief Economist and as a Member of the Cabinet. Before his appointment as Chair, Dr. Bernstein served as a CEA Member from the beginning of the Biden-Harris Administration.

Chair Bernstein has held a variety of posts in economic policy and research. In policy, he was Chief Economist and Economic Adviser to then–Vice President Biden from 2009 to 2011 and served as Deputy Chief Economist at the Department of Labor during the Clinton Administration. In research, Dr. Bernstein was a Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities from 2011 to 2020 and spent 16 years in senior roles at the Economic Policy Institute. An expert on labor markets and macroeconomics, Dr. Bernstein’s research focuses on income inequality, mobility, employment and earnings, international trade, and the living standards of the middle class. He received a BA from the Manhattan School of Music; an MA from the Hunter School of Social Work; and an MA and PhD from Columbia University.

## **The Members of the Council**

Heather Boushey was appointed to the Council by the President on January 20, 2021. Before assuming this position, Dr. Boushey cofounded the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, where she was President and CEO

from 2013 to 2020. She previously served as Chief Economist for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s 2016 transition team and as an economist at the Center for American Progress, the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, the Center for Economic and Policy Research, and the Economic Policy Institute. She received a BA from Hampshire College and a PhD in economics from The New School for Social Research.

C. Kirabo Jackson was appointed to the Council by the President on August 28, 2023. Dr. Jackson is on leave from Northwestern University, where he is the Abraham Harris Professor of Education and Social Policy, a Professor of Economics, and a Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research. Dr. Jackson is also on leave as editor-in-chief for the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. Dr. Jackson’s research focuses on the economics of education, labor economics, and social policy issues. He received a BA from Yale University, an MA from Harvard University, and a PhD in economics from Harvard University.

## **Areas of Activity**

A central function of the Council is to advise the President on all economic issues and developments, including preparing frequent memos for the President, the Vice President, and White House senior staff on key economic data releases and policy issues. The Council works closely with officials at various government entities—including the National Economic Council, the Domestic Policy Council, the Office of Management and Budget, and administrative agencies—to engage in discussions on numerous policy matters. The Council, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of Management and Budget are responsible for producing the economic forecasts that underlie the Administration’s Budget proposals. Finally, the Council is a leading participant in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), historically chairing the Economic Policy Committee and participating in OECD working meetings. The Council produces economic analysis that is presented in blog posts, issue briefs, white papers, and public speeches. Under Chair Bernstein’s leadership, the CEA has increased the frequency of its blog posts, with a particular focus on the analysis and interpretation of economic data releases.

## **Blog Posts**

- “A New Wage Measure for Core Non-Housing Services,” a blog presenting a CEA-constructed wage measure specific to NHS industries that can address limitations of other prominent wage measures (February 2023).

- “The Employment Situation in [Month]” a series of blogs analyzing the monthly Employment Report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (February, March, June, July, August, September, October 2023).
- “How Junk Fees Distort Competition,” a blog identifying specific junk fees and the challenges they pose to consumers and competition broadly (March 2023).
- “The Labor Supply Rebound from the Pandemic,” a blog on the return of “missing workers” to the labor market following the pandemic and the rebound in immigration flows (April 2023).
- “An Update on Housing Inflation in the Consumer Price Index,” a blog analyzing the rise in housing inflation and its contribution to CPI inflation (April 2023).
- “Investing in America Means Investing in America’s Small Businesses,” a blog on how the Administration’s policies support small businesses (May 2023).
- “The DAME Tax: Making Cryptominers Pay for Costs They Impose on Others,” a blog on how the proposed DAME tax can make cryptominers pay for costs imposed on local communities and the environment (May 2023).
- “The Potential Economic Impacts of Various Debt Ceiling Scenarios,” a blog outlining the potential economic consequences if the U.S. government were to default on its obligations (May 2023).
- “The Signal and the Noise: Trend Job Gains Reveal Transition to Steady Growth,” a blog highlighting robust but decelerating job gains and a normalization of labor supply back to prepandemic levels (May 2023).
- “The Signal and the Noise, Part II: CPI Inflation,” a blog analyzing total and core CPI inflation based on 3-month annualized changes (May 2023).
- “This Mother’s Day, More Moms Back at Work, but Care Challenges Remain,” a blog on postpandemic maternal employment recovery and how the Administration’s policies supporting parents and caregivers can boost mothers’ labor supply (May 2023).
- “Wage Sensitivity in Non-Housing Services Inflation,” a blog presenting a more disaggregated analysis of wage sensitivity in NHS inflation (May 2023).

- “Unsnarled Supply Chains Appear to Help Ease Goods Inflation,” a blog analyzing the normalization of supply chains and cooling of core goods inflation (June 2023).
- “Comments on the May 2023 Consumer Price Index Report,” a blog analyzing total and core CPI inflation in May 2023 (June 2023).
- “Grocery Inflation is Finally Showing Signs of Cooling,” a blog outlining facts about grocery prices and inflation (June 2023).
- “On Anniversary of Equal Pay Act, Signs of Progress and Remaining Challenges for Women in the Labor Market,” a blog on the progress in educational attainment, employment, and pay since the enactment of the Equal Pay Act and remaining gender gaps in employment (June 2023).
- “Apples to Äpfel: Recent Inflation Trends in the G7,” a blog analyzing harmonized inflation data for G7 countries (June 2023).
- “The June Consumer Price Index: Disinflation, Deflation, and Buying Power in the U.S. Economy,” a blog on how the U.S. economy experienced falling inflation and real wage growth in June 2023 (July 2023).
- “Improving Access, Affordability, and Quality in the Early Care and Education (ECE) Market,” a blog on the lack of affordable quality care for young children and policy solutions that can expand the availability and affordability of high-quality early childhood education (July 2023).
- “Labor Market Indicators Are Historically Strong After Adjusting for Population Aging,” a blog outlining facts about the strength of labor supply and demand after accounting for the effects of aging (July 2023).
- “The Advance Estimate of Second Quarter Real GDP,” a blog analyzing the advance estimate of second-quarter real GDP (July 2023).
- “The July Consumer Price Index: It’s All About That Base (Effect),” a blog about measuring CPI inflation over various timespans (August 2023).
- “Chain Reaction: ‘Immaculate’ Disinflation and the Role of Easing Supply Chains,” a blog on how supply chain normalization contributed to falling inflation despite low unemployment (August 2023).
- “New Student Loan Repayment Plan Benefits Borrowers Beyond Lower Monthly Payments,” a blog on the benefits of SAVE over previous income-driven repayment plans for Federal student loan borrowers (August 2023).

- “Early Signs That Bidenomics is Attracting New Foreign Investment in U.S. Manufacturing,” a blog on increases in foreign direct investment in U.S. manufacturing (August 2023).
- “What to Expect: The 2022 Census Poverty, Income, and Health Insurance Reports,” a blog outlining the CEA’s expectations and important context for the Census Bureau’s release of the 2022 income, poverty, and health insurance reports (September 2023).
- “The 2022 Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Reports,” a blog on key findings from the Census Bureau’s reports on poverty, income, and health insurance for 2022 (September 2023).
- “Chronic Absenteeism and Disrupted Learning Require an All-Hands-on-Deck Approach,” a blog on the importance of improving student engagement and addressing chronic absenteeism exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (September 2023).
- “The August 2023 Consumer Price Index,” a blog analyzing CPI inflation in August 2023 (September 2023).
- “Crosswalk Talk: What’s the difference between the PCE and the CPI?,” a blog on how and why the PCE and CPI differ (September 2023).
- “An Update on Non-Housing Services Inflation: Progress in Wage-Sensitive Prices,” a blog on easing in the wage-sensitive part of NHS inflation and an update on housing inflation (September 2023).
- “Federal Revenues After the 2017 Tax Cuts,” a blog on the effect of lower tax revenues on the 2023 deficit and deficits dating back to the enactment of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (October 2023).
- “Union Deterrence and Recent NLRB Action,” a blog on the NLRB’s decision in Cemex Construction Materials Pacific, LLC, and its relation to economic forces influencing unionization (October 2023).
- “Four Facts About Hispanic Achievements in the U.S. Economy,” a blog highlighting recent economic achievements of the Hispanic community in the United States in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (October 2023).
- “Commercial-to-residential Conversion: Addressing Office Vacancies,” a blog assessing the benefits and challenges of transforming excess office space into housing in high-demand markets (October 2023).
- “As the U.S. Consumer Goes, So Goes the U.S. Economy,” a blog highlighting the importance of consumption and the strong labor market for economic growth (October 2023).



- “The Retirement Security Rule—Strengthening Protections for Americans Saving for Retirement,” a blog outlining a new rule proposed by the Department of Labor to close loopholes and ensure the financial advice Americans get for retirement is in their best interest (October 2023).
- “The Power of Empowering Workers: Reducing Racial Employment and Unemployment Gaps,” a blog on the role of tight labor markets in reducing racial labor market inequality (November 2023).
- “American Rescue Plan’s Child Care Stabilization Funds Stabilized the Industry While Helping Mothers Return to Work,” a blog outlining the effect of the ARP stabilization funds on child care prices, child care worker employment and wages, and maternal labor force participation (November 2023).
- “The Anti-Poverty and Income-Boosting Impacts of the Enhanced CTC,” a blog on the effects of the 2021 expansion of the Child Tax Credit and subsequent expiration (November 2023).
- “The Global Clean Energy Manufacturing Gap,” a blog on how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act will support global manufacturing of clean energy technologies (November 2023).
- “Disinflation Explanation: Supply, Demand, and their Interaction,” a blog decomposing inflation to highlight the central role of unsnarled supply chains (November 2023).
- “Go with the Flow: Getting Beneath the Surface of the Jobs Report,” a blog about some of the dynamics underlying the topline numbers of the November jobs report (December 2023).
- “Disinflation Explanation, Part 2: Contribution Analysis,” a blog decomposing core inflation into goods, housing, and non-housing services (December 2023).
- “Ten Charts That Explain the U.S. Economy in 2023,” a blog on how the performance of the U.S. economy exceeded expectations in 2023 (December 2023).
- “A Progress Report on Climate-Energy-Macro Modeling,” a blog on how the CEA has worked with other Federal agencies to make progress on quantifying climate risk within the President’s Budget (December 2023).

## Issue Briefs, Speeches, and White Papers

- “The U.S. Economy: Where It’s Been and Where It’s Going,” a speech given by Chair Jared Bernstein at the Brookings Institution (February 8, 2023).
- “Methodologies and Considerations for Integrating the Physical and Transition Risks of Climate Change into Macroeconomic Forecasting for the President’s Budget,” a white paper, cowritten with OMB, outlining considerations for quantifying the macroeconomic effects of climate change and more fully integrating them into future Budget forecasts (March 2023).
- “How President Biden’s Invest in America Agenda Has Laid the Foundation for Decades of Strong, Stable, and Sustained, Equitable Growth,” a speech given by CEA Member Heather Boushey at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (May 31, 2023).
- “The Economics of Demand-Side Support for the Department of Energy’s Clean Hydrogen Hubs,” an issue brief on the importance of demand-side support for expanding clean hydrogen capacity (July 2023).
- “Protecting Competition Through Updated Merger Guidelines,” an issue brief on how the draft of the updated Merger Guidelines from the United States’ primary antitrust enforcement authorities reflects the current economic evidence and the realities of the market (July 2023).
- “Remarks by Chair Jared Bernstein at the Economic Policy Institute,” a speech about the Biden-Harris Administration’s approach to international trade (September 28, 2023), a white paper.
- “Did Stabilization Funds Help Mothers Get Back to Work After the COVID-19 Recession?” a white paper on the effect of the American Rescue Plan child care funding on maternal labor supply, cost growth for families, and wages for child care workers (November 2023).
- “Supply Chain Resilience,” an issue brief on progress making supply chains more resilient and ongoing efforts to prepare for future economic shocks (November 2023).
- “‘Weathering the Storm’: Federal Efforts Helped Bolster U.S. Education Standing Among Peer Nations,” an issue brief on the Federal government’s policy response to test score declines due to COVID-19, successful interventions, and remaining challenges (December 2023).

## Public Information

The Economic Report of the President, together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers, is an important vehicle for presenting the Administration's domestic and international economic policies. It is available for purchase through the Government Publishing Office, and is viewable at no cost at [www.gpo.gov/erp](http://www.gpo.gov/erp). All the Council's written materials noted above, including this *Report*, can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov/cea](http://www.whitehouse.gov/cea). All links provided in this *Report* are active as of the date of publication.

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Appendix B

**Statistical Tables Relating to Income,  
Employment, and Production**



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## General Notes

Detail in these tables may not add to totals due to rounding.

Because of the formula used for calculating real gross domestic product (GDP), the chained (2017) dollar estimates for the detailed components do not add to the chained-dollar value of GDP or to any intermediate aggregate. The Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis) no longer publishes chained-dollar estimates prior to 2007, except for selected series.

Because of the method used for seasonal adjustment, the sum or average of seasonally adjusted monthly values generally will not equal annual totals based on unadjusted values.

Unless otherwise noted, all dollar figures are in current dollars.

Symbols used:

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary.

... Not available (also, not applicable).

NSA Not seasonally adjusted.

Data in these tables reflect revisions made by source agencies through February 8, 2024.

Excel versions of these tables are available at [www.gpo.gov/erp](http://www.gpo.gov/erp).

## National Income or Expenditure

**TABLE B–1. Percent changes in real gross domestic product, 1973–2023**

[Percent change, fourth quarter over fourth quarter; quarterly changes at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Gross domestic product	Personal consumption expenditures			Gross private domestic investment							Change in private inventories
		Total	Goods	Services	Total	Fixed investment					Residential	
						Total	Nonresidential			Residential		
							Total	Structures	Equipment			
1973	4.0	1.8	0.4	3.2	10.2	3.5	10.6	7.9	13.5	5.1	-10.5	
1974	-1.9	-1.6	-5.6	2.4	-10.4	-9.9	-3.9	-6.4	-3.7	1.6	-24.6	
1975	2.6	5.1	6.1	4.1	-9.8	-2.6	-5.9	-8.1	-6.7	2.8	7.8	
1976	4.3	5.4	6.4	4.5	15.2	12.1	7.8	3.8	9.0	11.8	23.8	
1977	5.0	4.2	4.9	3.7	14.9	12.1	11.9	5.7	17.2	4.8	12.6	
1978	6.7	4.0	3.5	4.4	14.3	13.1	16.0	21.7	14.5	10.3	6.8	
1979	1.3	1.7	.3	2.9	-3.4	1.1	5.5	8.8	2.7	9.4	-9.1	
1980	.0	.0	-2.5	2.2	-7.2	-4.8	-9	2.7	-4.4	4.7	-15.3	
1981	1.3	.1	-2	.3	6.7	1.5	9.0	14.1	4.6	12.1	-22.0	
1982	-1.4	3.5	3.6	3.4	-17.3	-8.0	-9.5	-13.5	-10.0	3.4	-1.7	
1983	7.9	6.6	8.3	5.3	31.3	18.3	10.4	-3.9	19.9	13.0	49.7	
1984	5.6	4.3	5.3	3.6	14.2	11.3	13.9	15.7	13.4	12.6	3.7	
1985	4.2	4.8	4.6	5.0	1.9	3.7	3.2	3.3	1.7	7.7	5.2	
1986	2.9	4.4	6.5	3.0	-4.1	.6	-3.2	-14.3	.8	5.4	11.8	
1987	4.5	2.8	.4	4.5	9.8	1.5	2.2	4.9	.1	4.2	-5	
1988	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.7	-5	3.7	5.1	-3.3	8.2	9.8	.1	
1989	2.7	2.4	1.8	2.7	.7	1.5	4.5	3.3	2.5	11.3	-6.5	
1990	.6	.8	-1.6	2.3	-6.5	-4.2	-9	-3.2	-2.7	6.2	-13.6	
1991	1.7	.8	-8	2.0	2.1	-1.9	-3.4	-12.8	-3.2	7.2	2.9	
1992	4.4	4.9	5.3	4.7	7.7	8.7	7.1	1.0	11.3	4.8	13.6	
1993	2.6	3.3	4.4	2.7	7.6	8.4	7.6	.2	13.1	2.9	10.6	
1994	4.1	3.8	5.5	2.8	11.5	6.6	8.5	1.6	12.5	5.8	1.6	
1995	2.2	2.8	2.3	3.0	.8	5.5	7.4	4.7	8.1	8.3	.1	
1996	4.4	3.4	4.8	2.7	11.2	9.9	11.3	10.9	11.1	12.1	5.6	
1997	4.5	4.5	5.3	4.0	11.4	8.3	9.7	4.4	10.7	12.4	4.0	
1998	4.9	5.6	8.1	4.3	9.7	11.5	11.6	4.3	14.8	11.5	11.3	
1999	4.8	5.2	6.6	4.5	8.5	7.2	8.4	-1	9.5	13.3	3.5	
2000	2.9	4.3	4.0	4.5	4.4	5.9	8.5	10.8	8.5	6.6	-1.5	
2001	.2	2.5	4.9	1.3	-11.1	-4.7	-6.8	-10.6	-7.7	-2.1	2.0	
2002	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.1	4.4	-1.5	-5.1	-15.7	-3.7	.9	8.1	
2003	4.3	3.8	6.6	2.3	8.7	8.6	6.8	1.9	9.6	5.8	12.7	
2004	3.4	3.8	4.3	3.6	8.0	6.5	6.5	.3	9.8	5.7	6.6	
2005	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.7	6.1	5.8	6.1	1.5	8.7	5.1	5.2	
2006	2.6	3.2	4.6	2.5	-1.4	.0	8.1	9.0	7.1	9.3	-15.2	
2007	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.0	-2.0	-1.1	7.3	17.7	3.9	4.0	-21.2	
2008	-2.5	-1.5	-6.8	1.2	-15.3	-11.1	-7.0	-9	-15.9	.9	-24.7	
2009	.1	-2	.6	-6	-9.0	-10.5	-10.3	-27.1	-8.4	3.8	-11.5	
2010	2.8	2.8	4.3	2.1	12.0	6.2	9.0	-3.4	22.6	1.6	-5.7	
2011	1.5	1.0	.9	1.0	10.5	9.2	10.1	9.0	12.7	7.2	5.3	
2012	1.6	1.5	2.4	1.1	3.9	7.3	5.7	4.1	7.8	3.7	15.4	
2013	3.0	2.2	3.9	1.4	10.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.1	7.5	
2014	2.7	3.5	5.3	2.6	5.8	7.8	7.7	9.6	6.4	8.2	8.1	
2015	2.1	2.6	4.0	1.9	3.5	2.6	.9	-5.6	2.0	4.3	9.7	
2016	2.2	2.5	3.7	1.9	2.3	3.5	3.3	3.7	-9	9.0	4.5	
2017	3.0	3.1	5.4	2.0	4.9	5.5	5.6	-4	7.5	7.2	5.1	
2018	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	4.7	3.3	5.6	3.5	3.3	9.9	-4.1	
2019	3.2	2.6	3.8	2.0	1.3	2.9	3.1	6.4	-2.1	7.3	2.2	
2020	-1.1	-8	8.8	-5.1	2.1	.7	-3.7	-14.9	-3.7	3.4	15.9	
2021	5.4	7.2	6.6	7.6	7.9	3.8	4.9	-9	1.4	11.6	.4	
2022	.7	1.2	.6	2.1	-2.4	-8	5.6	.8	5.3	8.3	-17.4	
2023 P	3.1	2.6	3.5	2.2	1.8	3.1	4.1	14.8	-1	2.6	.0	
2020: I	-5.3	-6.4	-2.1	-8.4	-9.9	-3.3	-7.7	-5.2	-20.5	6.2	14.1	
II	-28.0	-30.2	-8.6	-38.7	-46.4	-28.2	-28.6	-40.0	-38.0	-9.5	-26.7	
III	34.8	40.5	51.7	35.1	98.9	28.3	18.3	-8.9	50.8	7.9	66.1	
IV	4.2	5.6	3.2	6.8	13.2	15.2	10.5	1.5	15.6	10.4	30.1	
2021: I	5.2	8.9	16.5	5.1	-3.3	9.3	8.9	7.8	2.0	16.9	9.8	
II	6.2	13.6	14.7	13.0	-5.4	5.9	9.7	1.0	10.5	13.6	-4.4	
III	3.3	2.8	-8.5	9.3	16.1	-1.6	-1.3	-4.1	-8.0	7.1	-2.7	
IV	7.0	3.0	5.6	3.2	27.9	1.9	2.7	7.7	1.9	9.1	-5	
2022: I	-2.0	.0	-1.2	.6	6.2	7.2	10.7	-1.2	16.8	11.4	-1.8	
II	-6	2.0	-3	3.2	-10.6	-2	5.3	-5	4.9	8.7	-14.1	
III	2.7	1.6	-7	2.8	-7.6	-4.3	4.7	-1.3	5.6	7.1	-26.4	
IV	2.6	1.2	.0	1.8	3.4	-5.4	1.7	6.5	-5.0	6.1	-24.9	
2023: I	2.2	3.8	5.1	3.1	-9.0	3.1	5.7	30.3	-4.1	3.8	-5.3	
II	2.1	.8	.5	1.0	5.2	5.2	7.4	16.1	7.7	2.7	-2.2	
III	4.9	3.1	4.9	2.2	10.0	2.6	1.4	11.2	-4.4	1.8	6.7	
IV P	3.3	2.8	3.8	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.9	3.2	1.0	2.1	1.1	

See next page for continuation of table.

TABLE B-1. Percent changes in real gross domestic product, 1973–2023—Continued

(Percent change, fourth quarter over fourth quarter; quarterly changes at seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Year or quarter	Net exports of goods and services			Government consumption expenditures and gross investment					Final sales of domestic product	Gross domestic purchases <sup>1</sup>	Final sales to private domestic purchasers <sup>2</sup>	Gross domestic income (GDI) <sup>3</sup>	Average of GDP and GDI
	Net exports	Exports	Imports	Total	Federal			State and local					
					Total	National defense	Non-defense						
1973		18.4	-0.5	-0.3	-3.6	-5.0	-0.3	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.2	3.8	3.9
1974		3.1	-1.0	3.0	3.7	1.2	9.5	2.4	-1.7	-2.3	-3.5	-2.9	-2.4
1975		1.5	-5.6	3.0	.8	.5	1.4	4.9	3.9	2.0	3.4	2.7	2.6
1976		4.3	19.2	-1.3	-1.0	-2.1	1.3	-1.6	3.8	5.4	6.7	3.8	4.1
1977		-1.4	5.7	1.9	2.3	.1	6.8	1.7	4.5	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.5
1978		18.8	9.9	4.4	3.5	2.9	4.8	5.2	6.4	6.0	6.1	5.4	6.0
1979		10.5	.9	.9	1.2	2.4	-1.1	.7	2.2	.5	1.5	.8	1.0
1980		3.9	-9.3	.3	4.0	3.7	4.6	-2.9	.5	-1.4	-1.2	1.3	.6
1981		.7	6.2	2.5	6.0	7.9	2.0	-7	.3	1.8	.4	1.2	1.2
1982		-12.2	-3.9	2.6	4.5	7.3	-1.6	.8	.4	-.7	.8	-1.2	-1.3
1983		5.5	24.6	1.9	2.7	6.5	-6.6	1.1	6.0	9.5	9.1	6.6	7.3
1984		9.1	18.9	6.3	7.1	5.6	11.5	5.4	5.0	6.5	5.9	6.7	6.1
1985		1.5	5.6	6.1	6.7	8.2	2.8	5.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	3.4	3.8
1986		10.6	7.9	4.7	5.3	4.7	6.8	4.1	3.9	2.9	3.5	2.7	2.8
1987		12.8	6.3	3.0	3.6	5.3	-1.0	2.4	3.0	4.1	2.5	5.5	5.0
1988		14.0	3.8	1.4	-1.4	-.8	-3.0	4.1	4.6	3.0	4.4	4.7	4.2
1989		10.2	2.6	2.5	.5	-1.3	5.8	4.3	2.9	2.1	2.2	1.0	1.9
1990		7.4	-2	2.6	1.5	.0	5.4	3.6	1.0	-.1	-.3	1.0	.8
1991		9.2	5.7	.0	-2.3	-4.9	4.3	1.9	.5	.9	.3	.7	.9
1992		4.5	6.5	1.3	1.6	-.4	6.2	1.1	4.5	4.6	5.6	3.9	4.1
1993		4.4	9.9	-.7	-4.5	-5.4	-2.5	2.2	2.7	3.2	4.3	3.0	2.8
1994		10.8	12.2	.0	-4.2	-6.7	1.1	3.1	3.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2
1995		9.4	4.8	-.6	-4.8	-5.0	-4.3	2.2	3.0	1.8	3.3	2.9	2.6
1996		10.1	11.1	2.6	1.1	.3	2.6	3.6	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6
1997		8.3	14.2	1.7	.2	-.8	1.9	2.7	3.9	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.0
1998		2.6	11.0	2.8	-.3	-2.4	3.3	4.6	5.2	5.9	6.9	4.9	4.9
1999		6.2	12.4	3.9	3.3	3.8	2.4	4.2	4.6	5.6	5.7	4.4	4.6
2000		6.0	11.1	.5	-1.9	-3.3	.4	1.8	3.2	3.7	4.7	3.6	3.3
2001		-12.2	-7.6	4.9	5.5	4.7	6.8	4.6	1.5	.4	.9	-.4	-.1
2002		4.0	9.6	3.8	8.1	8.1	8.2	1.5	.9	2.7	1.3	3.2	2.6
2003		7.2	5.9	1.8	6.6	9.0	2.6	-.8	4.3	4.2	4.8	2.7	3.5
2004		7.2	10.9	.8	2.6	2.8	2.3	-.2	3.1	4.0	4.4	3.8	3.6
2005		7.4	6.1	.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	.2	2.9	3.0	3.4	4.1	3.6
2006		9.9	4.0	1.9	2.4	3.1	1.3	1.6	2.9	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.6
2007		9.2	1.6	2.3	3.6	3.9	3.1	1.5	2.3	1.3	1.3	-.3	.9
2008		-2.0	-5.4	2.6	6.4	7.4	4.5	.3	-1.8	-3.1	-3.5	-2.6	-2.6
2009		1.3	-5.2	3.1	6.2	4.9	8.9	1.0	-.2	-.8	-.1	.6	.4
2010		10.4	11.3	-1.5	1.8	1.3	2.7	-3.7	2.0	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.0
2011		4.8	3.3	-3.4	-3.6	-.3	-3.5	-3.2	1.3	1.4	2.4	2.0	1.8
2012		2.9	.5	-2.1	-2.6	-4.7	1.2	-1.7	2.0	1.2	2.6	2.8	2.2
2013		5.2	2.9	-2.3	-6.0	-6.4	-5.4	.2	2.4	2.7	3.1	1.3	2.1
2014		2.4	6.5	.3	-1.0	-3.4	2.8	1.1	3.0	3.3	4.3	4.1	3.4
2015		-1.5	3.3	2.6	1.4	-.2	3.8	3.3	2.0	2.7	2.6	1.4	1.8
2016		1.4	2.2	1.5	.2	-.5	1.2	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.7	1.3	1.7
2017		.3	5.8	1.0	1.4	2.1	.4	.8	3.1	3.0	3.6	3.0	3.0
2018		6.1	3.0	1.9	3.5	4.5	2.1	.9	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.8	2.4
2019		.8	-1.9	4.7	3.9	4.3	3.2	5.2	3.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.9
2020		-9.7	.1	1.1	4.5	3.2	6.4	-.9	-1.3	.0	-.5	.2	-.4
2021		6.7	11.1	-.2	.6	-5.0	8.6	-.6	4.7	6.1	6.5	4.4	4.9
2022		4.3	2.1	.8	-.1	.2	-.6	1.3	1.0	.5	.8	.0	.3
2023 <sup>p</sup>		2.1	-.2	4.3	4.0	3.3	4.7	4.5	3.4	2.8	2.7	.....	.....
2020: I		-15.4	-13.0	4.4	5.2	3.9	7.1	4.0	-.2	-5.2	-5.8	-.2	-3.9
2020: II		-61.5	-53.6	8.6	31.8	.9	90.1	-3.6	-24.4	-27.5	-29.8	-30.5	-29.3
2020: III		62.0	88.6	-6.1	-12.3	-.4	-25.8	-2.0	25.1	38.1	37.9	28.9	31.8
2020: IV		25.8	32.0	-1.9	-1.9	8.7	-15.1	-1.9	4.5	5.5	7.5	15.3	9.6
2021: I		.9	8.0	5.7	18.1	-7.1	63.4	-1.3	7.6	6.1	8.9	3.1	4.2
2021: II		2.0	7.7	-4.3	-8.9	-4.7	-13.9	-1.4	8.3	6.9	11.9	4.6	5.4
2021: III		1.5	8.5	-1.5	-6.8	-3.2	-11.4	2.0	.3	4.2	1.9	3.6	3.4
2021: IV		24.2	20.6	-.3	2.1	-4.8	11.8	-1.6	2.6	7.1	3.6	6.2	6.6
2022: I		-4.6	14.7	-2.9	-6.9	-6.9	-6.9	-.4	-1.9	.6	1.5	.5	-.8
2022: II		10.6	4.1	-1.9	-3.9	.9	-9.8	-.8	1.5	-1.1	1.5	.0	-.3
2022: III		16.2	-4.8	2.9	1.2	-.3	3.3	3.8	3.4	-.1	.3	2.7	2.7
2022: IV		-3.5	-4.3	5.3	9.8	7.7	12.6	2.8	1.0	2.2	-.2	-3.0	-.3
2023: I		6.8	1.3	4.8	5.2	1.9	9.5	4.6	4.6	1.6	3.6	.5	1.4
2023: II		-9.3	-7.6	3.3	1.1	2.3	-.4	4.7	2.1	2.0	1.7	.5	1.3
2023: III		5.4	4.2	5.8	7.1	8.4	5.5	5.0	3.6	4.7	3.0	1.5	3.2
2023: IV <sup>p</sup>		6.3	1.9	3.3	2.5	.9	4.6	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.6	.....	.....

<sup>1</sup> Gross domestic product (GDP) less exports of goods and services plus imports of goods and services.

<sup>2</sup> Personal consumption expenditures plus gross private fixed investment.

<sup>3</sup> Gross domestic income is deflated by the implicit price deflator for GDP.

Note: Percent changes based on unrounded GDP quantity indexes.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).

TABLE B-2. Contributions to percent change in real gross domestic product, 1973–2023

[Percentage points, except as noted; annual average to annual average, quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Personal consumption expenditures				Gross private domestic investment							Change in private inventories
	Gross domestic product (percent change)	Total	Goods	Services	Total	Fixed investment					Residential	
						Total	Nonresidential			Residential		
							Total	Structures	Equipment			
1973	5.6	2.97	1.52	1.45	1.95	1.47	1.51	0.30	1.12	0.08	-0.04	0.48
1974	-5	-5.0	-1.08	58	-1.24	-98	-1.10	-08	14	05	-1.08	-26
1975	-2	1.36	20	1.16	-2.91	-1.68	-1.13	-42	-73	01	-54	-1.24
1976	5.4	3.41	2.03	1.38	2.91	1.54	66	09	39	18	88	1.37
1977	4.6	2.59	1.26	1.33	2.47	2.23	1.26	15	1.01	11	97	2.4
1978	5.5	2.68	1.19	1.49	2.22	2.10	1.72	52	1.08	12	38	1.2
1979	3.2	1.44	45	99	.72	1.11	1.34	.51	.62	20	-22	-40
1980	-3	-19	-72	53	-2.07	-1.18	.00	.26	-35	09	-1.19	-89
1981	2.5	.85	.33	.52	1.64	.50	.87	.39	.28	21	-37	1.13
1982	-1.8	.88	19	69	-2.46	-1.16	-43	-09	-47	12	-1.38	-1.31
1983	4.6	3.51	1.69	1.82	1.60	1.32	-06	-56	.32	17	1.38	28
1984	7.2	3.30	1.91	1.39	4.73	2.83	2.18	.58	1.29	30	.65	1.90
1985	4.2	3.20	1.38	1.83	-01	1.02	.91	.31	.39	21	.11	-1.03
1986	3.5	2.58	1.45	1.13	.03	.34	-24	-49	.08	17	.58	-31
1987	3.5	2.14	47	1.67	.53	.11	.01	-11	.03	10	.10	41
1988	4.2	2.65	.96	1.69	.45	.59	.63	.02	.43	18	-05	-1.3
1989	3.7	1.86	.64	1.21	.72	.55	.71	.07	.35	29	-16	1.17
1990	1.9	1.28	.16	1.12	-45	-25	.14	.05	-14	22	-38	-21
1991	-1	.12	-49	.61	-1.09	-84	-48	-38	-28	18	-35	-26
1992	3.5	2.36	.76	1.60	1.11	.83	.33	-18	.34	17	.49	28
1993	2.7	2.24	.99	1.26	1.24	1.17	.84	-01	.73	12	.32	07
1994	4.0	2.51	1.26	1.26	1.90	1.29	.91	.05	.75	11	.38	61
1995	2.7	1.91	.71	1.20	.55	.99	1.15	.16	.78	20	-15	-42
1996	3.8	2.26	1.06	1.20	1.49	1.48	1.13	.15	.65	33	.35	0.44
1997	4.4	2.45	1.12	1.33	2.01	1.49	1.38	.21	.76	41	.11	52
1998	4.5	3.42	1.54	1.88	1.76	1.82	1.44	.16	.91	37	.38	-07
1999	4.8	3.49	1.83	1.66	1.62	1.65	1.36	.01	.89	45	.29	-03
2000	4.1	3.29	1.23	2.06	1.31	1.34	1.31	.24	.71	36	.03	-03
2001	1.0	1.63	.72	.92	-1.11	-27	-31	-04	-31	04	.04	-84
2002	1.7	1.70	.92	.78	-16	-64	-94	-56	-35	-03	.29	.49
2003	2.8	2.13	1.15	.98	.76	.77	.30	-09	.26	14	.47	-02
2004	3.8	2.54	1.21	1.34	1.64	1.23	.67	.00	.49	18	.57	40
2005	3.5	2.38	.98	1.40	1.26	1.33	.92	.06	.60	26	.41	-07
2006	2.8	1.95	.87	1.08	.60	.50	1.00	.22	.57	21	-5.0	.10
2007	2.0	1.63	.65	.98	-49	-24	.89	.42	.25	23	-1.13	-25
2008	.1	.10	-71	.81	-1.52	-1.05	.08	.23	-29	14	-1.14	-47
2009	-2.6	-88	-70	-18	-3.49	-2.69	-1.95	-71	-1.21	-02	-74	-80
2010	2.7	1.31	.62	.68	1.84	.44	.52	-50	.91	11	-08	1.40
2011	1.6	1.16	.49	.68	.95	1.00	.08	.69	.24	00	-05	0.0
2012	2.3	.94	.48	.46	1.65	1.48	1.16	.35	.62	20	.31	1.17
2013	2.1	1.18	.76	.42	1.19	.96	.61	.03	.33	25	.34	24
2014	2.5	1.91	.96	.95	1.09	1.20	1.07	.33	.48	26	.13	-11
2015	2.9	2.27	1.08	1.19	1.08	.78	.44	.01	.24	20	.34	.30
2016	1.8	1.65	.78	.87	-02	.50	.25	-10	-05	40	.25	-52
2017	2.5	1.79	.88	.90	.77	.77	.61	.08	.22	31	.16	.00
2018	3.0	1.86	.84	1.01	1.02	.90	.93	.17	.35	41	-03	.12
2019	2.5	1.35	.63	.71	.55	.48	.51	.08	.06	37	-04	.08
2020	-2.2	-1.69	1.02	-2.70	-85	-37	-66	-30	-58	22	.28	-48
2021	5.8	5.59	2.51	3.08	1.52	1.25	.78	-09	.33	54	.47	26
2022	1.9	1.72	.07	1.65	.86	.24	.68	-06	.26	48	-44	.62
2023 <sup>P</sup>	2.5	1.49	.47	1.02	-21	.09	.58	.36	-01	23	-49	-31
2020: I	-5.3	-4.34	-44	-3.90	-1.87	-57	-1.09	-16	-1.23	31	.52	-1.30
II	-28.0	-21.51	-1.59	-19.92	-9.29	-5.28	-4.12	-1.47	-2.16	-49	-1.16	-4.01
III	34.8	24.93	10.23	14.70	13.52	5.04	2.69	-27	2.50	46	2.35	8.48
IV	4.2	3.63	.71	2.92	2.36	2.55	1.35	.03	.79	53	1.20	-18
2021: I	5.2	5.70	3.52	2.18	-46	1.63	1.18	.19	.15	85	.44	-2.08
II	6.2	8.73	3.24	5.49	-84	1.05	1.27	.02	.55	70	-22	-1.89
III	3.3	1.89	-2.10	3.99	2.71	-28	-15	-12	-40	37	-13	2.99
IV	7.0	2.71	1.26	1.45	4.63	.35	.37	-21	.11	47	-02	4.28
2022: I	-2.0	-03	-30	.27	1.16	1.23	1.32	-03	.77	58	-09	-07
II	-6	1.32	-09	1.41	-2.10	-05	.68	-01	.25	45	-73	-2.05
III	2.7	1.05	-18	1.23	-1.45	-79	.62	-03	.28	37	-1.41	-.66
IV	2.6	.79	-01	.80	.62	-99	.24	.17	-26	32	-1.23	1.61
2023: I	2.2	2.54	1.14	1.40	-1.69	.53	.76	.77	-21	20	-22	-2.22
II	2.1	.55	.11	.44	.90	.90	.98	.46	.38	15	-09	.00
III	4.9	2.11	1.09	1.02	1.74	.46	.21	.33	-22	10	.26	1.27
IV <sup>P</sup>	3.3	1.91	.85	1.06	.38	.31	.26	.10	.05	.11	.04	.07

See next page for continuation of table.

TABLE B-2. Contributions to percent change in real gross domestic product, 1973-2023—Continued

[Percentage points, except as noted; annual average to annual average, quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Net exports of goods and services						Government consumption expenditures and gross investment					Final sales of domestic product	
	Net exports	Exports			Imports			Total	Federal				State and local
		Total	Goods	Services	Total	Goods	Services		Total	National defense	Non-defense		
1973	0.80	1.08	1.05	0.02	-0.28	-0.33	0.05	-0.07	-0.39	-0.40	0.01	0.32	5.16
1974	.73	.56	.49	.08	.17	.17	.00	.47	.06	-.07	.14	.41	-.28
1975	.86	-.05	-.14	.09	.91	.85	.06	.49	.05	-.07	.13	.43	1.03
1976	-1.05	.36	.34	.02	-1.41	-1.31	-1.10	.12	.01	-.04	.06	.10	4.01
1977	-.70	.19	.12	.07	-.89	-.82	-.07	.26	.21	.06	.15	.05	4.38
1978	.05	.80	.64	.17	-.76	-.66	-.10	.60	.23	.04	.19	.37	5.42
1979	.64	.80	.69	.11	-.16	-.13	-.02	.36	.20	.15	.05	.16	3.56
1980	1.64	.95	.88	.07	.69	.66	.03	.36	.38	.22	.16	-.02	.63
1981	-.15	.12	-.05	.17	-.26	-.18	-.09	.20	.43	.40	.03	-.23	1.41
1982	-.59	-.71	-.63	-.08	.12	.20	-.08	.37	.35	.47	-.11	.01	-.50
1983	-1.32	-.22	-.21	.00	-1.10	-.98	-.12	.79	.65	.51	-.14	.14	4.31
1984	-.54	.61	.41	.20	-2.16	-1.78	-.38	.74	.33	.38	-.04	.41	5.34
1985	-.39	.24	.20	.05	-.63	-.50	-.13	1.37	.78	.62	-.16	.59	5.20
1986	-.29	.53	.27	.25	-.82	-.80	-.02	1.14	.61	.52	.09	.53	3.77
1987	-.17	.77	.62	.15	-.60	-.39	-.21	.62	.38	.38	.01	.24	3.04
1988	.81	1.23	.99	.24	-.41	-.35	-.07	.26	-.15	-.04	-.12	.42	4.31
1989	.51	.97	.72	.26	-.46	-.37	-.09	.58	.15	-.02	.18	.43	3.50
1990	.40	.78	.56	.22	-.37	-.25	-.13	.65	.20	.02	.18	.45	2.09
1991	.62	.61	.45	.16	.01	-.04	.05	.25	.01	-.06	.07	.24	-.15
1992	-.04	.66	.52	.14	-.70	-.76	.05	.10	-.15	-.31	.16	.25	3.24
1993	-.56	.31	.22	.09	-.87	-.82	-.05	-.17	-.32	-.32	.00	.15	2.68
1994	-.41	.84	.65	.19	-1.25	-1.15	-1.10	.02	-.31	-.28	-.02	.32	3.41
1995	-.12	1.02	.83	.19	-.90	-.84	-.06	.10	-.21	-.21	.00	.31	3.13
1996	-.15	.86	.68	.18	-1.01	-.91	-1.10	.18	-.21	-.08	-.11	.27	3.76
1997	-.31	1.26	1.10	.16	-1.57	-1.40	-1.17	.30	-.06	-.13	.07	.36	3.92
1998	-1.14	.26	.17	.08	-1.39	-1.18	-.21	.44	-.06	-.09	.03	.50	4.55
1999	-.90	.52	.32	.20	-1.42	-1.31	-1.11	.59	.12	.06	.06	.47	4.82
2000	-.85	.86	.72	.13	-1.71	-1.45	-.26	.33	.02	-.04	.06	.31	4.11
2001	-.24	-.59	-.49	-1.10	.35	.39	-.04	.67	.24	.13	.12	.43	1.80
2002	-.67	-.19	-.24	.05	-.48	-.41	-.07	.83	.47	.30	.18	.35	1.21
2003	-.49	-.19	.19	.01	-.68	-.67	-.01	.40	.45	.35	.10	-.06	2.81
2004	-.63	.88	.58	.30	-1.51	-1.28	-.22	.30	.31	.26	.05	-.02	3.45
2005	-.30	.67	.52	.15	-.98	-.88	-.09	.14	.15	.11	.04	.00	3.55
2006	-.06	.95	.71	.24	-1.01	-.81	-.20	.30	.17	.07	.10	.13	2.68
2007	.52	.94	.53	.41	-.42	-.27	-.15	.34	.14	.13	.01	.20	2.26
2008	1.04	.67	.48	.19	.37	.47	-.10	.49	.46	.33	.14	.03	.58
2009	1.07	-1.00	-1.00	.00	2.07	2.10	-.03	.72	.48	.29	.20	.24	-1.78
2010	-.43	1.40	1.13	.28	-1.83	-1.73	-1.10	-.02	.34	.16	.18	-.36	1.30
2011	.12	.90	.65	.26	-.79	-.74	-.05	-.67	-.43	-.12	-.12	-.44	1.61
2012	.12	.54	.37	.17	-.42	-.38	-.04	-.42	-.16	-.18	.02	-.26	2.12
2013	.20	.41	.27	.13	-.20	-.28	.07	-.46	-.43	-.33	-1.10	-.03	1.88
2014	-.31	.52	.41	.12	-.84	-.75	-.09	-.16	-.18	-.18	.00	.02	2.64
2015	-.77	.04	-.03	.07	-.81	-.74	-.07	.37	.00	-.09	.09	.36	2.65
2016	-.16	.06	.05	.01	-.22	-.14	-.08	.35	.04	-.02	.06	.31	2.34
2017	-.20	.49	.32	.17	-.69	-.53	-.16	.10	.03	.04	-.01	.07	2.46
2018	-.26	.35	.34	.01	-.60	-.62	.02	.35	.22	.13	.09	.12	2.85
2019	-.12	.06	.01	.05	-.18	-.07	-.11	.68	.25	.21	.04	.43	2.39
2020	-.24	-1.52	-.75	-.77	1.28	.67	.61	.56	.40	.11	.29	.16	-1.74
2021	-1.25	.66	.53	.13	-1.91	-1.60	-.31	-.05	.10	-.08	.17	-.15	5.54
2022	-.48	.76	.44	.33	-1.24	-.82	-.42	-.16	-.19	-.11	-.08	.03	1.31
2023 <sup>P</sup>	.58	.32	.21	.11	.26	.21	.05	.68	.27	.12	.14	.42	2.84
2020: I	.09	-1.81	-.27	-1.53	1.89	1.10	.79	.78	.34	.15	.19	.44	-4.04
II	1.00	-8.78	-6.58	-2.20	9.78	7.07	2.71	1.78	2.07	.07	2.00	-.29	-24.01
III	-2.58	5.06	4.90	.16	-7.65	-7.21	-.44	-1.03	-.89	.01	-.90	-.14	26.36
IV	-1.44	2.31	1.65	.65	-3.74	-3.06	-.68	-.35	-.13	.34	-.47	-.22	4.39
2021: I	-1.04	.06	-.02	.08	-1.10	-1.02	-.08	1.04	1.19	-.30	1.49	-.15	7.33
II	-.87	.20	-.03	.24	-1.07	-.51	-.56	-.80	-.65	-.19	-.46	-.15	8.11
III	-1.03	.16	-.13	.29	-1.19	-.20	-.99	-.26	-.48	-.12	-.36	.22	-.31
IV	-.34	2.42	1.83	.59	-2.76	-2.38	-.38	-.04	.13	-.18	.31	-.17	2.68
2022: I	-2.59	-.50	-.69	.18	-2.08	-1.72	-.36	-.52	-.47	-.26	-.21	-.04	-1.90
II	.56	1.19	.73	.46	-.63	-.28	-.35	-.34	-.26	.03	-.29	-.08	1.49
III	2.58	1.80	1.63	.17	.77	.98	-.21	.49	.07	-.01	.08	.41	3.32
IV	.26	-.41	-.52	.11	.66	.55	.11	.90	.59	.27	.32	.31	.95
2023: I	.58	.76	.89	-.13	-.18	-.22	.04	.82	.33	.07	.26	.49	4.47
II	.04	-1.09	-1.31	.22	1.13	.78	.35	.57	.07	.08	-.01	.50	2.06
III	.03	.59	.55	.04	-.56	-.64	.08	.99	.45	.30	.15	.53	3.59
IV <sup>P</sup>	.43	.68	.34	.34	-.25	-.08	-.17	.56	.16	.03	.13	.40	3.21

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).







TABLE B-4. Percentage shares of gross domestic product, 1973–2023

[Percent of nominal GDP]

Year or quarter	Gross domestic product (percent)	Personal consumption expenditures			Gross private domestic investment							Change in private inventories
		Total	Goods	Services	Total	Fixed investment					Residential	
						Total	Nonresidential			Residential		
							Total	Structures	Equipment			
1973	100.0	59.6	29.2	30.4	18.7	17.6	12.1	3.9	6.7	1.6	5.5	1.1
1974	100.0	60.2	29.2	31.0	17.8	16.9	12.4	4.0	6.8	1.7	4.5	-.9
1975	100.0	61.2	29.2	32.0	15.3	15.6	11.7	3.6	6.4	1.7	4.0	-.4
1976	100.0	61.3	29.2	32.1	17.3	16.3	11.7	3.5	6.5	1.7	4.6	-.9
1977	100.0	61.2	28.8	32.4	19.1	18.0	12.4	3.6	7.1	1.7	5.5	1.1
1978	100.0	60.5	28.2	32.3	20.3	19.2	13.4	4.0	7.7	1.7	5.9	1.1
1979	100.0	60.3	28.1	32.3	20.5	19.9	14.2	4.5	7.9	1.8	5.6	-.7
1980	100.0	61.3	28.0	33.3	18.6	18.8	14.2	4.8	7.6	1.9	4.5	-.2
1981	100.0	60.3	27.1	33.2	19.7	18.8	14.7	5.2	7.5	2.0	4.0	-.9
1982	100.0	61.9	26.9	35.0	17.4	17.8	14.5	5.3	7.0	2.2	3.3	-.4
1983	100.0	62.8	26.8	36.0	17.5	17.7	13.3	4.2	6.8	2.2	4.4	-.2
1984	100.0	61.7	26.3	35.4	20.3	18.7	14.0	4.4	7.2	2.4	4.7	1.6
1985	100.0	62.5	26.2	36.3	19.1	18.6	14.0	4.5	7.1	2.4	4.6	.5
1986	100.0	63.0	26.1	36.9	18.5	18.4	13.3	3.9	6.9	2.5	5.1	-.1
1987	100.0	63.4	25.9	37.5	18.4	17.8	12.7	3.6	6.6	2.5	5.1	.6
1988	100.0	63.6	25.5	38.1	17.9	17.5	12.6	3.5	6.6	2.5	4.9	.4
1989	100.0	63.4	25.2	38.2	17.7	17.2	12.7	3.4	6.6	2.7	4.5	.5
1990	100.0	63.9	25.0	38.9	16.7	16.4	12.4	3.4	6.2	2.8	4.0	.2
1991	100.0	64.0	24.3	39.7	15.3	15.3	11.8	3.0	5.9	2.9	3.6	.0
1992	100.0	64.4	24.0	40.4	15.5	15.3	11.4	2.6	5.9	2.9	3.9	.3
1993	100.0	64.9	23.9	41.0	16.1	15.8	11.7	2.6	6.2	2.9	4.2	-.3
1994	100.0	64.8	24.0	40.8	17.2	16.4	11.9	2.6	6.5	2.8	4.4	.9
1995	100.0	65.0	23.8	41.2	17.2	16.8	12.6	2.7	6.9	3.0	4.2	.4
1996	100.0	65.0	23.8	41.2	17.7	17.4	12.9	2.8	7.0	3.1	4.4	.4
1997	100.0	64.5	23.4	41.2	18.6	17.8	13.4	2.9	7.1	3.4	4.4	.8
1998	100.0	64.9	23.3	41.6	19.2	18.5	13.8	3.0	7.3	3.5	4.6	.7
1999	100.0	65.2	23.7	41.5	19.6	19.0	14.2	3.0	7.4	3.8	4.8	.6
2000	100.0	66.0	23.9	42.1	19.9	19.4	14.6	3.1	7.5	4.0	4.7	.5
2001	100.0	66.8	23.9	43.0	18.3	18.6	13.8	3.2	6.7	3.9	4.8	-.4
2002	100.0	67.2	23.8	43.5	17.7	17.5	12.4	2.6	6.0	3.7	5.1	.2
2003	100.0	67.6	23.8	43.8	17.7	17.6	12.0	2.5	5.9	3.7	5.6	.1
2004	100.0	67.4	23.8	43.6	18.7	18.1	12.0	2.5	5.9	3.6	6.1	.5
2005	100.0	67.3	23.6	43.6	19.4	19.0	12.4	2.7	6.1	3.6	6.6	.4
2006	100.0	67.2	23.4	43.7	19.6	19.1	13.0	3.1	6.2	3.7	6.1	.5
2007	100.0	67.3	23.3	44.1	18.5	18.2	13.5	3.5	6.2	3.8	4.8	-.2
2008	100.0	68.0	22.8	45.3	16.8	17.0	13.5	3.9	5.7	3.9	3.5	-.2
2009	100.0	68.3	22.0	46.4	13.3	14.4	11.7	3.1	4.6	3.9	2.7	-1.0
2010	100.0	68.2	22.0	46.1	14.4	14.0	11.5	2.5	5.2	3.8	2.5	.4
2011	100.0	68.6	22.6	46.0	15.0	14.7	12.2	2.6	5.6	4.0	2.4	.3
2012	100.0	68.0	22.4	45.6	16.1	15.7	13.0	2.9	6.1	4.0	2.7	.4
2013	100.0	67.5	22.2	45.3	16.8	16.2	13.2	2.9	6.1	4.1	3.0	.6
2014	100.0	67.4	22.1	45.4	17.5	17.0	13.8	3.3	6.3	4.2	3.2	.5
2015	100.0	67.2	21.6	45.6	18.0	17.2	13.7	3.2	6.3	4.3	3.5	.8
2016	100.0	67.7	21.4	46.2	17.4	17.2	13.4	3.0	6.0	4.5	3.8	.2
2017	100.0	67.8	21.5	46.3	17.7	17.5	13.6	3.0	5.9	4.6	3.9	.2
2018	100.0	67.5	21.4	46.1	18.0	17.8	13.8	3.1	5.9	4.8	3.9	.3
2019	100.0	67.0	21.0	45.9	18.1	17.8	13.9	3.2	5.8	5.0	3.8	.3
2020	100.0	66.6	22.1	44.5	17.6	17.8	13.5	2.9	5.2	5.3	4.3	-.2
2021	100.0	68.0	23.3	44.7	17.9	17.8	13.0	2.6	5.0	5.4	4.8	.0
2022	100.0	68.0	23.3	44.7	18.5	17.9	13.3	2.7	5.2	5.5	4.5	.6
2023 <sup>P</sup>	100.0	67.9	22.6	45.2	17.7	17.5	13.6	3.1	5.1	5.5	3.9	.2
2020: I	100.0	66.7	21.0	45.7	17.5	17.7	13.6	3.2	5.3	5.2	4.0	-.2
II	100.0	66.1	22.1	44.1	16.3	17.8	13.7	3.1	5.1	5.6	4.1	-1.5
III	100.0	66.8	22.7	44.0	18.0	17.5	13.2	2.7	5.2	5.2	4.4	.4
IV	100.0	66.9	22.6	44.3	18.3	18.0	13.3	2.7	5.3	5.3	4.7	.4
2021: I	100.0	67.3	23.2	44.1	17.8	18.0	13.2	2.7	5.2	5.4	4.8	-.2
II	100.0	68.5	23.8	44.7	17.2	17.9	13.2	2.7	5.1	5.4	4.8	-.7
III	100.0	68.3	23.1	45.2	17.7	17.8	13.0	2.6	5.0	5.4	4.8	.0
IV	100.0	67.8	23.3	44.6	18.6	17.6	12.8	2.6	4.9	5.3	4.8	1.0
2022: I	100.0	68.0	23.5	44.6	19.0	18.1	13.2	2.7	5.1	5.4	4.9	1.0
II	100.0	68.2	23.5	44.6	18.6	18.1	13.3	2.7	5.2	5.5	4.8	.5
III	100.0	68.0	23.3	44.8	18.2	17.9	13.4	2.7	5.2	5.5	4.4	.3
IV	100.0	67.8	22.9	44.9	18.2	17.5	13.4	2.8	5.1	5.5	4.1	.7
2023: I	100.0	68.1	22.9	45.3	17.6	17.5	13.6	3.0	5.1	5.5	4.0	.1
II	100.0	68.1	22.7	45.4	17.7	17.6	13.7	3.1	5.1	5.5	3.9	.1
III	100.0	67.7	22.6	45.1	17.8	17.4	13.5	3.1	5.0	5.4	3.9	.4
IV <sup>P</sup>	100.0	67.6	22.4	45.2	17.8	17.4	13.5	3.1	5.0	5.4	3.9	.4

See next page for continuation of table.

TABLE B-4. Percentage shares of gross domestic product, 1973–2023—*Continued*  
 [Percent of nominal GDP]

Year or quarter	Net exports of goods and services							Government consumption expenditures and gross investment				
	Net exports	Exports			Imports			Total	Federal			State and local
		Total	Goods	Services	Total	Goods	Services		Total	National defense	Non-defense	
1973	0.3	6.7	5.3	1.4	6.4	5.0	1.4	21.4	10.3	7.2	3.1	11.1
1974	-1	8.2	6.7	1.5	8.2	6.8	1.5	22.1	10.3	7.1	3.2	11.8
1975	-9	8.2	6.7	1.6	7.3	5.9	1.4	22.6	10.3	7.0	3.3	12.3
1976	-1	8.0	6.5	1.5	8.1	6.7	1.4	21.6	9.9	6.7	3.2	11.7
1977	-1.1	7.7	6.2	1.5	8.8	7.3	1.4	20.9	9.6	6.5	3.2	11.2
1978	-1.1	7.9	6.4	1.6	9.0	7.5	1.5	20.3	9.3	6.2	3.1	10.9
1979	-9	8.8	7.1	1.6	9.6	8.1	1.5	20.0	9.2	6.1	3.0	10.8
1980	-5	9.8	8.1	1.8	10.3	8.7	1.6	20.6	9.6	6.4	3.2	11.0
1981	-4	9.5	7.6	1.9	9.9	8.4	1.6	20.4	9.8	6.7	3.1	10.6
1982	-6	8.5	6.7	1.8	9.1	7.5	1.6	21.3	10.4	7.3	3.1	10.9
1983	-1.4	7.6	5.9	1.7	9.0	7.5	1.5	21.1	10.5	7.5	3.0	10.6
1984	-2.5	7.5	5.7	1.8	10.0	8.3	1.7	20.5	10.2	7.4	2.8	10.3
1985	-2.6	7.0	5.2	1.7	9.6	7.9	1.7	21.0	10.4	7.6	2.8	10.5
1986	-2.9	7.0	5.1	2.0	9.9	8.1	1.8	21.3	10.5	7.7	2.8	10.8
1987	-3.0	7.5	5.5	2.0	10.5	8.5	1.9	21.2	10.4	7.7	2.7	10.9
1988	-2.1	8.5	6.3	2.1	10.6	8.6	1.9	20.6	9.8	7.3	2.5	10.8
1989	-1.5	8.9	6.6	2.3	10.5	8.6	1.9	20.4	9.5	6.9	2.5	11.0
1990	-1.3	9.3	6.8	2.5	10.6	8.5	2.0	20.8	9.4	6.8	2.6	11.3
1991	-5	9.7	7.0	2.7	10.1	8.1	2.0	21.1	9.5	6.7	2.7	11.6
1992	-5	9.7	7.0	2.7	10.2	8.4	1.9	20.6	9.0	6.2	2.8	11.6
1993	-1.0	9.5	6.8	2.7	10.5	8.6	1.9	19.9	8.5	5.7	2.7	11.4
1994	-1.3	9.9	7.1	2.8	11.2	9.3	1.9	19.2	7.9	5.2	2.6	11.4
1995	-1.2	10.6	7.8	2.9	11.8	9.9	1.9	19.0	7.5	4.9	2.6	11.4
1996	-1.2	10.7	7.8	3.0	11.9	10.0	1.9	18.5	7.2	4.7	2.5	11.3
1997	-1.2	11.1	8.2	3.0	12.3	10.3	2.0	18.0	6.8	4.3	2.5	11.2
1998	-1.8	10.5	7.6	2.9	12.3	10.3	2.0	17.8	6.5	4.1	2.4	11.3
1999	-2.7	10.3	7.4	2.9	13.0	10.9	2.1	17.9	6.3	4.0	2.4	11.5
2000	-3.7	10.7	7.8	2.9	14.4	12.2	2.2	17.8	6.2	3.8	2.3	11.6
2001	-3.6	9.7	7.0	2.7	13.3	11.1	2.1	18.4	6.3	3.9	2.4	12.1
2002	-4.0	9.1	6.5	2.7	13.2	11.0	2.2	19.1	6.8	4.2	2.6	12.3
2003	-4.6	9.0	6.4	2.6	13.6	11.3	2.3	19.3	7.2	4.5	2.7	12.1
2004	-5.2	8.6	6.8	2.9	14.8	12.4	2.4	19.1	7.3	4.7	2.6	11.8
2005	-5.7	10.0	7.1	2.9	15.7	13.2	2.4	19.0	7.3	4.7	2.6	11.7
2006	-5.7	10.6	7.6	3.1	16.3	13.8	2.6	19.0	7.2	4.6	2.6	11.7
2007	-5.1	11.5	8.0	3.5	16.5	13.8	2.7	19.3	7.3	4.7	2.6	12.0
2008	-5.0	12.4	8.7	3.7	17.4	14.5	2.9	20.2	7.8	5.1	2.7	12.4
2009	-2.9	10.9	7.3	3.6	13.8	11.0	2.9	21.2	8.4	5.4	3.0	12.8
2010	-3.5	12.3	8.5	3.9	15.9	12.9	2.9	21.0	8.6	5.5	3.1	12.3
2011	-3.7	13.6	9.4	4.2	17.3	14.3	3.0	20.2	8.3	5.3	3.0	11.8
2012	-3.4	13.6	9.4	4.2	17.0	14.1	2.9	19.3	7.9	5.0	2.9	11.4
2013	-2.8	13.6	9.3	4.3	16.4	13.6	2.8	18.6	7.3	4.5	2.7	11.3
2014	-2.9	13.5	9.2	4.3	16.4	13.6	2.8	18.0	6.9	4.2	2.7	11.1
2015	-2.9	12.4	8.2	4.2	15.3	12.5	2.8	17.7	6.7	4.0	2.7	11.0
2016	-2.7	11.9	7.7	4.2	14.6	11.8	2.8	17.6	6.6	3.9	2.7	11.0
2017	-2.8	12.2	7.9	4.3	14.9	12.1	2.9	17.3	6.5	3.8	2.6	10.9
2018	-2.9	12.3	8.1	4.2	15.2	12.4	2.8	17.4	6.5	3.8	2.7	10.9
2019	-2.7	11.8	7.6	4.2	14.5	11.7	2.8	17.6	6.6	4.0	2.7	11.0
2020	-2.9	10.1	6.7	3.4	13.0	10.8	2.2	18.7	7.1	4.1	3.0	11.6
2021	-3.6	10.8	7.4	3.4	14.4	12.0	2.4	17.8	6.8	3.8	2.9	11.0
2022	-3.8	11.6	8.0	3.6	15.4	12.7	2.7	17.3	6.4	3.6	2.7	10.9
2023 <sup>P</sup>	-2.9	11.1	7.4	3.7	14.0	11.4	2.6	17.3	6.5	3.6	2.8	10.9
2020: I	-2.4	11.1	7.4	3.8	13.5	11.0	2.6	18.2	6.7	4.0	2.7	11.4
2020: II	-2.7	9.1	5.7	3.4	11.8	9.7	2.1	20.2	7.9	4.4	3.5	12.3
2020: III	-3.2	9.7	6.5	3.2	12.9	10.9	2.0	18.5	7.1	4.1	3.0	11.4
2020: IV	-3.5	10.3	7.0	3.3	13.7	11.6	2.2	18.2	7.0	4.1	2.8	11.3
2021: I	-3.5	10.5	7.2	3.4	14.0	11.9	2.2	18.3	7.1	4.0	3.1	11.2
2021: II	-3.6	10.7	7.4	3.4	14.3	12.0	2.3	17.9	6.8	3.9	3.0	11.0
2021: III	-3.7	10.8	7.4	3.4	14.5	12.0	2.5	17.6	6.6	3.8	2.8	11.0
2021: IV	-3.7	11.2	7.7	3.5	14.9	12.3	2.6	17.3	6.5	3.6	2.9	10.8
2022: I	-4.4	11.3	7.8	3.5	15.7	13.0	2.7	17.3	6.4	3.6	2.8	10.9
2022: II	-4.0	11.9	8.3	3.6	15.9	13.2	2.7	17.3	6.3	3.6	2.7	11.0
2022: III	-3.4	11.9	8.2	3.6	15.3	12.5	2.8	17.2	6.3	3.6	2.7	10.9
2022: IV	-3.3	11.4	7.8	3.7	14.7	12.0	2.8	17.3	6.4	3.6	2.8	10.9
2023: I	-3.1	11.4	7.8	3.6	14.5	11.8	2.7	17.3	6.5	3.6	2.8	10.9
2023: II	-3.0	10.9	7.3	3.7	13.9	11.3	2.6	17.3	6.4	3.6	2.8	10.8
2023: III	-2.8	11.0	7.3	3.6	13.8	11.3	2.5	17.4	6.5	3.7	2.8	10.9
2023: IV <sup>P</sup>	-2.8	10.9	7.3	3.7	13.7	11.2	2.6	17.4	6.5	3.7	2.9	10.9

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).

TABLE B-5. Chain-type price indexes for gross domestic product, 1973–2023

[Index numbers, 2017=100, except as noted; quarterly data seasonally adjusted]

Year or quarter	Gross domestic product	Personal consumption expenditures			Gross private domestic investment						
		Total	Goods	Services	Total	Fixed investment				Residential	
						Total	Nonresidential				
							Total	Structures	Equipment		Intel-lectual property products
1973	23.340	22.455	37.970	16.389	32.770	31.635	40.595	13.393	67.811	42.618	15.854
1974	25.434	24.793	42.709	17.778	36.038	34.764	44.542	15.244	72.897	46.596	17.492
1975	27.796	26.860	46.159	19.302	40.356	38.984	50.410	17.065	84.000	50.336	19.109
1976	29.327	28.333	47.966	20.641	42.587	41.233	53.187	17.901	89.157	52.561	20.347
1977	31.148	30.176	50.526	22.203	45.725	44.397	56.710	19.454	94.635	54.868	22.425
1978	33.339	32.276	53.626	23.910	49.431	48.111	60.502	21.332	99.891	57.725	25.179
1979	36.104	35.143	58.698	25.915	53.867	52.434	65.368	23.811	106.353	61.562	28.023
1980	39.375	38.928	65.271	28.610	58.908	57.325	72.024	26.024	115.715	66.316	31.045
1981	43.092	42.415	70.120	31.541	64.404	62.589	77.902	29.603	124.182	71.265	33.557
1982	45.756	44.771	72.031	34.017	67.817	66.105	82.329	31.939	129.288	75.312	35.356
1983	47.545	46.676	73.331	36.106	68.025	66.357	82.193	31.125	129.659	78.125	36.193
1984	49.262	48.439	74.718	37.985	68.758	67.004	82.453	31.397	128.600	80.315	37.265
1985	50.620	50.128	75.917	39.843	69.609	67.980	83.305	32.144	128.600	81.651	38.289
1986	51.850	51.219	75.562	41.480	71.174	69.644	84.766	32.760	131.163	82.286	39.978
1987	53.126	52.802	77.992	42.726	72.656	71.061	85.734	33.286	132.038	83.761	41.707
1988	55.002	54.865	80.048	44.769	74.483	73.044	87.893	34.698	133.864	86.381	43.159
1989	57.159	57.261	83.128	46.880	76.382	74.928	89.937	36.057	136.423	87.494	44.570
1990	59.307	59.775	86.532	49.029	77.978	76.565	91.867	37.222	139.212	88.404	45.597
1991	61.303	61.774	88.647	50.946	79.300	77.906	93.606	37.896	141.570	90.535	46.190
1992	62.701	63.420	89.717	52.758	79.300	77.949	93.300	37.905	141.355	89.634	46.759
1993	64.189	65.000	90.496	54.582	80.240	78.886	93.500	39.016	139.703	90.261	48.663
1994	65.557	66.356	91.417	56.066	81.437	80.099	94.238	40.394	139.454	90.732	50.424
1995	66.933	67.754	92.271	57.632	82.748	81.430	95.176	42.143	137.927	93.406	52.227
1996	68.156	69.203	93.285	59.214	82.700	81.498	94.599	43.214	134.799	93.818	53.348
1997	69.337	70.407	93.177	60.883	82.748	81.640	94.070	44.864	131.083	94.326	54.634
1998	70.102	70.967	91.777	62.172	82.140	81.196	92.594	46.915	125.201	93.868	56.075
1999	71.084	72.001	92.258	63.409	82.218	81.333	91.666	48.357	120.368	95.383	58.176
2000	72.709	73.822	94.089	65.210	83.296	82.486	92.068	50.252	117.751	98.100	60.758
2001	74.385	75.302	94.018	67.292	84.006	83.206	91.698	52.884	114.281	97.969	63.642
2002	75.500	76.291	93.122	69.033	84.281	83.453	91.219	55.088	111.883	96.657	65.218
2003	77.012	77.894	93.003	71.336	84.973	84.183	90.517	57.057	108.990	95.926	68.308
2004	79.069	79.827	94.311	73.528	85.455	86.642	91.409	61.282	108.078	95.613	73.102
2005	81.537	82.127	96.203	75.998	90.993	90.223	93.780	68.841	107.827	96.232	78.338
2006	84.074	84.440	97.494	78.750	94.194	93.428	96.066	77.037	106.758	97.372	82.914
2007	86.352	86.607	98.576	81.388	95.615	94.857	97.621	81.581	106.377	98.571	84.010
2008	87.977	89.170	101.524	83.783	96.400	95.658	99.131	85.751	105.708	100.125	82.828
2009	88.557	88.921	99.084	84.432	95.297	94.494	98.488	84.186	106.354	98.877	79.930
2010	89.618	90.514	100.533	86.077	93.688	93.026	96.695	83.502	102.543	98.593	79.643
2011	91.466	92.804	104.325	87.742	94.598	93.991	97.756	86.244	102.518	99.807	80.236
2012	93.176	94.534	105.620	89.646	95.797	95.241	99.130	90.209	103.088	100.292	81.006
2013	94.786	95.781	105.049	91.659	96.678	96.160	99.229	91.474	102.857	99.948	85.055
2014	96.436	97.121	104.542	93.795	98.331	97.922	100.170	96.213	102.124	100.326	89.986
2015	97.277	97.299	101.350	95.462	98.728	98.582	100.345	97.719	101.498	100.626	92.454
2016	98.208	98.284	99.710	97.629	98.549	98.550	99.380	97.668	100.206	99.453	95.699
2017	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000
2018	102.290	102.047	100.811	102.626	101.539	101.568	100.427	101.174	99.921	100.582	105.840
2019	104.008	103.513	100.427	104.972	102.966	103.014	101.457	105.258	99.980	100.882	108.656
2020	105.407	104.635	99.646	107.054	104.190	104.292	102.092	106.811	99.502	102.208	112.280
2021	110.220	109.001	104.572	111.103	107.750	108.162	103.458	110.459	100.066	103.235	124.606
2022	117.996	116.043	113.548	117.066	116.056	116.754	109.624	126.692	106.238	104.977	141.785
2023 P	122.272	120.370	114.877	122.982	119.593	120.822	113.614	134.201	110.905	106.884	145.916
2020: I	105.042	104.416	100.178	106.443	103.550	103.580	101.723	107.281	99.778	100.723	110.354
II	104.661	103.962	98.701	106.520	103.676	103.970	102.143	106.864	99.798	102.032	110.646
III	105.593	104.819	99.694	107.306	104.435	104.490	102.104	106.723	99.425	102.377	113.152
IV	106.330	105.343	100.009	107.949	105.098	105.128	102.399	106.378	99.007	103.701	114.967
2021: I	107.731	106.578	101.367	109.118	105.784	105.893	102.380	106.584	99.744	102.756	118.315
II	109.332	108.208	103.467	110.480	106.596	106.931	102.436	108.207	98.909	102.913	122.618
III	110.957	109.705	105.394	111.738	108.192	108.780	103.564	110.578	100.088	103.385	126.940
IV	112.858	111.514	108.062	113.076	110.429	111.043	105.451	116.466	101.525	103.885	130.551
2022: I	115.182	113.590	111.150	114.595	113.058	113.617	107.151	120.339	103.590	104.294	136.190
II	117.704	115.577	113.794	116.220	115.531	116.210	109.088	124.904	105.650	104.999	141.165
III	118.980	116.905	114.613	117.818	117.412	118.075	110.693	129.662	107.087	105.453	144.034
IV	120.115	118.098	114.637	119.631	118.225	119.114	111.566	131.864	108.625	105.164	145.752
2023: I	121.264	119.309	114.838	121.377	119.168	120.358	113.299	134.161	110.715	106.332	144.813
II	121.789	120.044	114.905	122.468	119.135	120.344	113.355	134.464	110.396	106.616	144.990
III	122.792	120.814	115.157	123.513	119.643	120.864	113.602	133.668	111.025	106.991	146.195
IV P	123.244	121.312	114.609	124.572	120.424	121.722	114.199	134.512	111.485	107.596	148.167

See next page for continuation of table.



TABLE B-6. Gross value added by sector, 1973-2023

(Billions of dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Year or quarter	Gross domestic product	Business <sup>1</sup>			Households and institutions			General government <sup>3</sup>			Addendum: Gross housing value added
		Total	Nonfarm <sup>1</sup>	Farm	Total	Households	Nonprofit institutions serving households <sup>2</sup>	Total	Federal	State and local	
1973	1,425.4	1,094.0	1,047.2	46.8	124.6	78.5	46.1	206.8	96.4	110.4	101.4
1974	1,545.2	1,182.8	1,138.5	44.2	137.2	85.5	51.7	225.3	102.5	122.8	110.4
1975	1,684.9	1,284.8	1,239.2	45.6	151.6	93.7	58.0	248.4	110.5	138.0	121.3
1976	1,873.4	1,443.3	1,400.2	43.0	164.9	101.7	63.2	285.3	117.3	148.0	130.9
1977	2,081.8	1,616.2	1,572.7	43.5	179.9	110.7	69.2	285.7	125.2	160.6	144.2
1978	2,351.6	1,838.2	1,787.5	50.7	202.1	124.8	77.3	311.3	135.8	175.5	160.2
1979	2,627.3	2,062.8	2,002.7	60.1	226.3	139.5	86.9	338.2	145.4	192.8	177.7
1980	2,857.3	2,225.8	2,174.4	51.4	258.2	158.8	99.3	373.4	159.8	213.5	204.0
1981	3,207.0	2,502.0	2,437.0	65.0	291.6	179.2	112.4	413.5	178.3	235.2	231.6
1982	3,343.8	2,568.6	2,508.2	60.4	323.8	198.2	125.6	451.4	195.7	255.6	258.6
1983	3,634.0	2,801.9	2,757.0	44.9	352.5	213.6	138.9	479.7	207.1	272.6	280.6
1984	4,037.6	3,136.7	3,072.6	64.2	383.8	230.9	152.8	517.1	225.3	291.9	303.1
1985	4,339.0	3,369.6	3,305.9	63.7	411.8	248.2	163.6	557.5	240.0	317.6	333.8
1986	4,579.6	3,539.3	3,479.4	59.9	447.0	268.4	178.6	593.3	250.6	342.7	364.5
1987	4,855.2	3,735.2	3,673.2	62.0	489.5	289.8	199.7	630.4	261.0	369.4	392.1
1988	5,236.4	4,019.3	3,957.9	61.4	539.8	316.4	223.4	677.4	278.5	398.8	424.2
1989	5,641.6	4,326.7	4,252.8	73.9	586.0	341.4	244.6	728.8	292.8	436.1	452.7
1990	5,963.1	4,542.0	4,464.2	77.8	636.3	367.6	268.8	784.9	306.7	478.2	487.0
1991	6,158.1	4,645.0	4,574.7	70.4	677.3	386.6	290.7	835.8	323.5	512.2	515.3
1992	6,520.3	4,920.2	4,840.4	79.9	720.3	407.1	313.2	879.8	329.6	550.2	545.2
1993	6,858.6	5,177.4	5,106.2	71.3	772.8	437.6	335.1	908.3	331.5	576.9	578.4
1994	7,287.2	5,523.7	5,440.1	83.6	824.7	472.7	352.0	938.8	332.6	606.2	619.6
1995	7,639.7	5,795.1	5,726.7	68.4	877.8	506.9	370.9	966.9	333.0	633.9	662.6
1996	8,073.1	6,159.5	6,066.9	92.6	923.2	534.6	388.7	990.3	331.8	658.6	695.0
1997	8,577.6	6,578.8	6,490.6	88.1	975.9	565.7	410.2	1,022.9	333.5	689.3	731.9
1998	9,062.8	6,959.2	6,879.2	80.0	1,040.6	601.6	439.0	1,063.0	336.8	726.2	774.8
1999	9,631.2	7,401.8	7,330.2	71.7	1,111.2	644.0	467.2	1,118.1	345.0	773.1	825.1
2000	10,251.0	7,875.9	7,799.3	76.7	1,190.7	692.3	498.4	1,184.3	360.3	824.0	880.6
2001	10,581.9	8,057.7	7,978.6	79.0	1,271.7	748.9	522.8	1,252.6	370.3	882.3	947.7
2002	10,929.1	8,256.0	8,181.0	75.1	1,344.7	781.6	563.0	1,328.4	397.8	930.6	983.5
2003	11,456.5	8,642.9	8,550.4	92.4	1,408.8	814.1	594.6	1,404.8	434.7	970.1	1,014.8
2004	12,217.2	9,249.3	9,128.4	120.9	1,489.2	862.6	626.6	1,478.7	459.4	1,019.3	1,074.1
2005	13,039.2	9,911.0	9,804.7	106.3	1,572.8	922.3	650.5	1,555.4	488.4	1,067.0	1,149.7
2006	13,815.6	10,524.7	10,426.4	98.3	1,658.9	976.2	682.8	1,631.9	509.9	1,122.1	1,203.4
2007	14,474.2	10,957.8	10,880.0	117.9	1,749.5	1,035.9	713.6	1,726.9	535.7	1,191.2	1,273.3
2008	14,769.9	11,061.8	10,943.0	118.8	1,806.9	1,125.2	761.7	1,821.2	569.1	1,252.1	1,388.7
2009	14,478.1	10,659.6	10,557.1	102.5	1,934.9	1,136.8	798.2	1,883.5	603.0	1,280.5	1,415.5
2010	15,049.0	11,137.8	11,020.8	117.0	2,016.0	1,150.7	814.3	1,946.1	640.0	1,303.1	1,443.9
2011	15,599.7	11,614.9	11,463.7	151.1	2,012.0	1,164.0	848.0	1,972.9	659.8	1,313.1	1,471.0
2012	16,254.0	12,206.4	12,057.7	148.8	2,058.4	1,168.8	889.6	1,989.1	663.7	1,325.5	1,493.6
2013	16,880.7	12,723.8	12,539.3	184.5	2,117.2	1,203.0	914.2	2,039.7	658.6	1,381.1	1,534.5
2014	17,608.1	13,340.5	13,173.5	167.1	2,177.9	1,230.6	947.3	2,089.7	667.9	1,421.8	1,574.4
2015	18,295.0	13,900.9	13,754.7	146.3	2,251.0	1,260.3	990.6	2,143.1	674.6	1,468.5	1,618.6
2016	18,804.9	14,282.7	14,152.4	130.3	2,334.3	1,304.1	1,030.3	2,187.9	686.8	1,501.1	1,675.4
2017	19,612.1	14,941.9	14,803.1	138.7	2,423.2	1,359.3	1,063.9	2,247.0	702.1	1,544.9	1,734.0
2018	20,656.5	15,776.7	15,639.9	136.8	2,539.1	1,423.3	1,115.7	2,340.8	729.7	1,611.0	1,814.9
2019	21,521.4	16,450.1	16,329.6	120.5	2,655.9	1,484.4	1,171.5	2,415.4	753.4	1,662.0	1,900.4
2020	21,323.0	16,047.6	15,930.6	117.0	2,778.3	1,560.8	1,217.5	2,497.0	787.4	1,709.6	1,981.0
2021	23,594.0	18,088.8	17,907.8	180.9	2,916.0	1,643.8	1,272.2	2,589.3	823.0	1,766.3	2,089.9
2022	25,744.1	19,875.2	19,651.7	223.5	3,165.8	1,793.5	1,372.3	2,703.1	864.5	1,838.6	2,262.7
2023 <sup>P</sup>	27,356.4	21,048.6	20,844.0	204.7	3,446.9	1,975.9	1,470.9	2,860.9	915.1	1,945.8	2,487.3
2020: I	21,706.5	16,447.2	16,319.0	128.3	2,761.7	1,537.1	1,224.6	2,497.6	770.5	1,727.1	1,954.1
2020: II	19,913.1	14,709.3	14,620.9	88.4	2,737.1	1,553.6	1,183.6	2,466.7	782.2	1,684.5	1,970.8
2020: III	21,647.6	16,352.6	16,238.0	114.5	2,786.3	1,570.4	1,215.9	2,508.8	796.7	1,712.1	1,990.6
2020: IV	22,024.5	16,681.2	16,544.5	136.7	2,828.2	1,582.2	1,246.0	2,515.1	800.4	1,714.8	2,008.6
2021: I	22,600.2	17,226.5	17,074.1	152.4	2,835.2	1,595.4	1,239.8	2,538.5	809.4	1,729.1	2,031.3
2021: II	23,292.4	17,836.8	17,645.4	191.4	2,884.5	1,632.2	1,252.4	2,571.0	819.8	1,751.2	2,076.5
2021: III	23,829.0	18,270.3	18,073.9	196.4	2,943.6	1,657.8	1,285.8	2,615.1	826.7	1,788.4	2,107.9
2021: IV	24,654.6	19,021.5	18,838.0	183.5	3,000.6	1,689.7	1,311.0	2,632.4	835.9	1,796.5	2,144.1
2022: I	25,029.1	19,313.5	19,108.7	204.8	3,057.2	1,726.8	1,330.4	2,658.4	849.2	1,809.2	2,184.4
2022: II	25,544.3	19,737.3	19,509.9	227.4	3,124.5	1,770.0	1,354.5	2,682.5	858.6	1,823.9	2,232.9
2022: III	25,994.6	20,065.4	19,837.0	228.4	3,210.7	1,816.7	1,394.0	2,718.5	870.0	1,848.5	2,289.0
2022: IV	26,408.4	20,384.7	20,151.2	233.5	3,270.6	1,860.3	1,410.3	2,753.1	880.4	1,872.7	2,344.4
2023: I	26,813.6	20,658.0	20,435.6	222.3	3,357.2	1,916.7	1,440.5	2,798.5	893.4	1,905.0	2,414.1
2023: II	27,063.0	20,813.7	20,606.1	207.6	3,419.8	1,958.9	1,460.7	2,829.7	905.5	1,924.2	2,466.3
2023: III	27,610.1	21,248.6	21,049.3	199.3	3,477.4	1,997.6	1,479.8	2,884.1	922.5	1,961.6	2,513.5
2023: IV <sup>P</sup>	27,938.8	21,474.2	21,284.9	189.3	3,533.2	2,030.5	1,502.7	2,931.4	938.9	1,992.5	2,555.3

<sup>1</sup> Gross domestic business value added equals gross domestic product excluding gross value added of households and institutions and of general government. Nonfarm value added equals gross domestic business value added excluding gross farm value added.

<sup>2</sup> Equals compensation of employees of nonprofit institutions, the rental value of nonresidential fixed assets owned and used by nonprofit institutions serving households, and rental income of persons for tenant-occupied housing owned by nonprofit institutions.

<sup>3</sup> Equals compensation of general government employees plus general government consumption of fixed capital.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).

TABLE B-7. Real gross value added by sector, 1973-2023

[Billions of chained (2017) dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Gross domestic product	Business <sup>1</sup>			Households and institutions			General government <sup>3</sup>			Addendum: Gross housing value added
		Total	Nonfarm <sup>1</sup>	Farm	Total	Households	Nonprofit institutions serving households <sup>2</sup>	Total	Federal	State and local	
1973	6,106.4	4,093.6	4,072.1	36.6	839.7	494.6	341.5	1,373.1	511.0	848.3	643.1
1974	6,073.4	4,031.2	4,011.2	35.8	873.9	516.7	353.2	1,400.0	511.1	879.2	674.6
1975	6,060.9	3,992.9	3,945.4	42.6	904.3	531.5	369.0	1,421.0	509.4	905.9	696.2
1976	6,387.4	4,262.7	4,227.8	40.7	916.0	538.4	373.8	1,433.1	510.6	917.9	703.1
1977	6,682.8	4,506.8	4,470.2	42.9	923.2	538.3	381.6	1,448.1	512.7	932.2	713.2
1978	7,052.7	4,794.2	4,770.3	40.8	957.8	564.2	389.4	1,475.7	519.5	954.1	738.8
1979	7,276.0	4,964.5	4,932.3	44.5	984.4	575.7	404.9	1,492.2	520.6	971.5	753.1
1980	7,257.3	4,919.7	4,890.7	43.1	1,014.0	592.1	418.2	1,514.4	529.0	985.1	779.7
1981	7,441.5	5,063.2	5,002.0	57.1	1,033.5	598.6	431.7	1,525.1	537.9	994.9	795.0
1982	7,307.3	4,917.8	4,848.9	59.8	1,064.8	606.7	456.5	1,543.2	547.8	991.6	813.5
1983	7,642.3	5,178.5	5,150.1	41.0	1,108.7	630.4	476.9	1,556.5	561.6	987.7	845.0
1984	8,195.3	5,637.8	5,585.3	55.1	1,134.2	642.3	491.0	1,579.4	576.2	993.9	861.2
1985	8,537.0	5,900.7	5,831.8	65.0	1,153.9	656.9	495.5	1,627.1	594.6	1,022.5	896.8
1986	8,832.6	6,115.1	6,051.8	62.5	1,190.0	670.0	519.6	1,670.9	608.9	1,052.3	921.2
1987	9,137.7	6,334.2	6,271.3	63.1	1,234.6	687.0	548.5	1,712.2	628.1	1,073.2	942.6
1988	9,519.4	6,605.5	6,556.6	56.3	1,298.0	715.5	584.6	1,760.2	640.2	1,110.9	973.7
1989	9,869.0	6,858.3	6,796.9	64.4	1,350.7	737.7	616.2	1,803.3	650.0	1,144.2	994.1
1990	10,055.1	6,968.2	6,899.1	69.1	1,394.0	752.0	646.9	1,848.3	661.3	1,178.4	1,014.0
1991	10,044.2	6,925.7	6,856.1	69.3	1,422.6	763.6	664.6	1,867.1	665.0	1,193.9	1,034.7
1992	10,398.0	7,218.9	7,134.5	80.2	1,458.6	780.9	683.8	1,875.1	654.2	1,214.3	1,059.9
1993	10,684.2	7,424.8	7,354.4	71.2	1,533.7	818.8	721.6	1,879.6	643.3	1,243.0	1,097.9
1994	11,114.6	7,782.8	7,693.2	85.9	1,585.5	860.3	730.1	1,881.4	625.5	1,252.5	1,144.8
1995	11,413.0	8,022.0	7,957.5	68.4	1,632.7	890.1	747.0	1,884.2	605.5	1,277.3	1,185.6
1996	11,843.6	8,394.4	8,315.0	79.5	1,665.2	908.3	761.4	1,887.8	591.1	1,297.1	1,206.1
1997	12,370.3	8,835.1	8,744.4	88.6	1,716.4	934.1	787.4	1,902.2	581.4	1,322.7	1,235.1
1998	12,924.9	9,321.2	9,234.3	86.7	1,738.7	958.3	783.9	1,923.0	575.1	1,350.9	1,264.0
1999	13,543.8	9,859.2	9,771.4	88.2	1,779.1	989.0	792.6	1,939.8	570.4	1,373.2	1,299.7
2000	14,096.0	10,301.6	10,198.8	103.0	1,847.6	1,032.8	816.8	1,971.2	573.4	1,402.2	1,344.3
2001	14,230.7	10,363.5	10,266.6	97.2	1,893.5	1,070.7	823.7	2,005.7	575.0	1,435.6	1,386.9
2002	14,472.7	10,540.7	10,439.8	101.1	1,920.8	1,076.3	846.3	2,043.9	585.2	1,463.8	1,385.5
2003	14,877.3	10,873.0	10,763.5	109.7	1,961.9	1,107.7	855.5	2,069.7	601.0	1,473.2	1,409.2
2004	15,449.8	11,350.4	11,228.2	121.5	2,034.1	1,148.5	887.0	2,084.2	609.7	1,478.6	1,459.1
2005	15,988.0	11,796.2	11,667.5	127.9	2,101.3	1,202.8	898.9	2,103.0	617.5	1,489.3	1,528.8
2006	16,433.1	12,182.9	12,056.6	125.1	2,135.6	1,234.6	900.8	2,120.3	622.2	1,502.0	1,558.9
2007	16,762.4	12,441.8	12,330.8	110.3	2,174.4	1,264.1	909.8	2,150.3	630.8	1,523.5	1,589.1
2008	16,781.5	12,332.0	12,221.0	110.1	2,269.8	1,333.7	935.0	2,194.9	654.2	1,543.9	1,672.1
2009	16,349.1	11,882.3	11,754.4	126.8	2,256.0	1,307.7	947.8	2,234.8	686.9	1,549.8	1,655.4
2010	16,789.8	12,264.0	12,139.2	123.3	2,301.5	1,335.3	965.6	2,245.5	710.0	1,536.1	1,700.6
2011	17,052.4	12,507.6	12,389.8	118.0	2,328.3	1,335.3	992.8	2,235.3	716.7	1,518.6	1,710.8
2012	17,442.8	12,911.8	12,803.2	112.4	2,327.9	1,315.4	1,012.5	2,215.2	716.1	1,498.8	1,702.4
2013	17,812.2	13,267.3	13,139.5	126.5	2,351.5	1,330.7	1,020.8	2,201.6	704.6	1,497.0	1,715.7
2014	18,261.7	13,709.7	13,586.7	124.5	2,356.9	1,333.2	1,023.8	2,198.7	699.9	1,498.8	1,715.5
2015	18,799.6	14,222.0	14,087.6	134.8	2,371.9	1,330.9	1,041.0	2,206.4	695.9	1,510.4	1,718.4
2016	19,141.7	14,515.7	14,372.3	143.9	2,397.3	1,341.3	1,056.0	2,228.8	700.1	1,528.7	1,727.4
2017	19,612.1	14,941.9	14,803.1	138.7	2,423.2	1,359.3	1,063.9	2,247.0	702.1	1,544.9	1,734.0
2018	20,193.9	15,456.6	15,312.5	144.1	2,472.1	1,379.5	1,092.6	2,265.6	706.9	1,558.7	1,756.9
2019	20,692.1	15,896.1	15,764.5	130.0	2,504.6	1,393.0	1,111.7	2,292.7	715.3	1,577.4	1,776.6
2020	20,234.1	15,455.1	15,323.9	130.2	2,506.8	1,422.4	1,084.6	2,269.6	735.9	1,534.3	1,799.6
2021	21,407.7	16,574.7	16,432.7	141.1	2,561.6	1,468.1	1,094.2	2,279.7	744.8	1,535.7	1,861.4
2022	21,822.0	16,894.7	16,770.0	128.6	2,629.3	1,519.5	1,111.0	2,306.3	743.5	1,563.3	1,907.5
2023 <sup>P</sup>	22,375.3	17,336.2	17,202.0	136.0	2,692.8	1,554.8	1,139.2	2,355.0	753.5	1,602.0	1,944.8
2020: I	20,665.6	15,817.8	15,685.3	131.2	2,537.0	1,411.0	1,125.9	2,309.3	726.8	1,582.4	1,787.7
II	19,034.8	14,318.0	14,199.5	117.0	2,460.7	1,417.9	1,043.5	2,240.0	733.8	1,507.1	1,792.7
III	20,511.8	15,737.5	15,602.3	134.6	2,504.1	1,426.5	1,077.9	2,272.9	742.9	1,530.7	1,802.7
IV	20,724.1	15,947.3	15,808.5	138.1	2,525.3	1,434.2	1,091.2	2,256.4	740.3	1,516.9	1,815.2
2021: I	20,990.5	16,206.9	16,061.2	144.3	2,531.2	1,441.4	1,090.2	2,259.6	742.8	1,517.7	1,829.9
II	21,309.5	16,489.6	16,346.9	141.4	2,558.1	1,465.5	1,093.3	2,270.1	745.4	1,525.7	1,859.7
III	21,483.1	16,623.9	16,484.4	138.8	2,571.8	1,477.5	1,095.1	2,295.1	745.3	1,550.4	1,873.5
IV	21,847.6	16,978.5	16,838.5	139.7	2,585.1	1,487.9	1,098.2	2,294.0	745.8	1,548.9	1,882.4
2022: I	21,738.9	16,848.4	16,717.1	132.8	2,601.6	1,501.2	1,101.5	2,297.5	744.2	1,553.9	1,892.4
II	21,708.2	16,794.5	16,670.3	127.9	2,622.9	1,516.5	1,107.7	2,298.8	741.6	1,557.8	1,904.5
III	21,851.1	16,907.8	16,787.1	126.1	2,641.5	1,527.7	1,115.0	2,309.8	743.3	1,567.1	1,914.4
IV	21,990.0	17,028.0	16,905.3	127.7	2,651.1	1,532.6	1,119.8	2,319.0	744.9	1,574.6	1,918.8
2023: I	22,112.3	17,116.3	16,980.8	136.9	2,669.0	1,540.8	1,129.4	2,335.0	747.5	1,588.0	1,928.1
II	22,225.4	17,200.5	17,063.6	138.1	2,686.7	1,552.1	1,135.8	2,346.1	751.0	1,595.6	1,941.9
III	22,490.7	17,437.7	17,303.9	135.9	2,700.2	1,560.8	1,140.7	2,361.8	755.7	1,606.6	1,951.7
IV <sup>P</sup>	22,672.9	17,590.2	17,459.9	133.2	2,715.1	1,565.7	1,150.7	2,377.1	759.9	1,617.7	1,957.5

<sup>1</sup> Gross domestic business value added equals gross domestic product excluding gross value added of households and institutions and of general government. Nonfarm value added equals gross domestic business value added excluding gross farm value added.

<sup>2</sup> Equals compensation of employees of nonprofit institutions, the rental value of nonresidential fixed assets owned and used by nonprofit institutions serving households, and rental income of persons for tenant-occupied housing owned by nonprofit institutions.

<sup>3</sup> Equals compensation of general government employees plus general government consumption of fixed capital.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).



TABLE B–8. Gross domestic product (GDP) by industry, value added, in current dollars and as a percentage of GDP, 2017–2023

[Billions of dollars; except as noted]

Year	Gross domestic product	Private industries									
		Total private industries	Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing			Utilities	Wholesale trade	Retail trade
						Total manufacturing	Durable goods	Non-durable goods			
Value added											
2017 .....	19,612.1	17,156.3	176.8	267.3	840.2	2,109.7	1,178.3	931.4	313.7	1,176.1	1,178.9
2018 .....	20,656.5	18,097.8	177.1	313.5	889.1	2,261.8	1,232.5	1,029.3	320.4	1,222.1	1,223.6
2019 .....	21,521.4	18,889.1	162.0	293.9	952.8	2,267.7	1,262.2	1,005.5	331.2	1,295.9	1,277.3
2020 .....	21,323.0	18,612.2	160.8	201.6	951.8	2,148.1	1,199.7	948.5	344.8	1,299.9	1,335.6
2021 .....	23,594.0	20,784.8	225.7	332.0	1,014.3	2,366.5	1,270.3	1,096.2	386.7	1,415.6	1,534.9
2022 .....	25,744.1	22,807.5	270.8	457.4	1,090.1	2,649.7	1,406.9	1,242.8	438.2	1,546.8	1,621.0
2020: I .....	21,706.5	18,978.7	172.3	241.1	962.7	2,215.7	1,238.3	977.4	327.7	1,321.4	1,289.1
II .....	19,913.1	17,244.5	128.5	146.5	910.5	1,972.4	1,081.6	890.8	339.9	1,188.2	1,232.7
III .....	21,647.6	18,935.3	159.0	195.0	959.2	2,190.4	1,235.1	955.3	356.3	1,343.8	1,427.8
IV .....	22,024.5	19,290.4	183.3	223.6	974.8	2,214.1	1,243.7	970.4	355.2	1,346.3	1,392.8
2021: I .....	22,600.2	19,844.5	196.8	278.9	997.3	2,265.4	1,247.9	1,017.5	382.7	1,368.7	1,481.1
II .....	23,292.4	20,503.0	234.6	309.1	1,006.9	2,320.7	1,260.0	1,060.7	371.5	1,404.0	1,549.3
III .....	23,829.0	20,992.3	241.1	340.7	1,011.7	2,369.1	1,253.4	1,115.7	387.1	1,424.0	1,522.2
IV .....	24,654.6	21,799.6	230.2	399.4	1,041.4	2,510.7	1,319.7	1,190.9	405.6	1,465.8	1,587.1
2022: I .....	25,029.1	22,141.8	251.8	419.5	1,062.8	2,564.8	1,356.7	1,208.2	392.3	1,519.3	1,577.4
II .....	25,544.3	22,630.1	273.2	504.0	1,066.2	2,635.3	1,385.1	1,250.2	451.3	1,537.9	1,600.9
III .....	25,994.6	23,041.1	276.0	484.4	1,093.1	2,658.5	1,422.2	1,236.3	462.0	1,554.4	1,629.6
IV .....	26,408.4	23,417.0	282.2	421.9	1,138.4	2,740.1	1,463.5	1,276.7	447.2	1,575.7	1,676.2
2023: I .....	26,813.6	23,772.8	271.1	382.5	1,161.2	2,729.0	1,470.9	1,258.1	442.2	1,592.9	1,704.5
II .....	27,063.0	23,988.8	256.4	357.7	1,180.7	2,750.8	1,513.7	1,237.1	437.7	1,596.6	1,715.1
III .....	27,610.1	24,477.4	247.4	389.4	1,219.7	2,853.1	1,547.1	1,306.0	437.6	1,624.4	1,759.2
Percent											
2017 .....	100.0	87.5	0.9	1.4	4.3	10.8	6.0	4.7	1.6	6.0	6.0
2018 .....	100.0	87.6	.9	1.5	4.3	10.9	6.0	5.0	1.6	5.9	5.9
2019 .....	100.0	87.8	.8	1.4	4.4	10.5	5.9	4.7	1.5	6.0	5.9
2020 .....	100.0	87.3	.8	.9	4.5	10.1	5.6	4.4	1.6	6.1	6.3
2021 .....	100.0	88.1	1.0	1.4	4.3	10.0	5.4	4.6	1.6	6.0	6.5
2022 .....	100.0	88.6	1.1	1.8	4.2	10.3	5.5	4.8	1.7	6.0	6.3
2020: I .....	100.0	87.4	.8	1.1	4.4	10.2	5.7	4.5	1.5	6.1	5.9
II .....	100.0	86.6	.6	.7	4.6	9.9	5.4	4.5	1.7	6.0	6.2
III .....	100.0	87.5	.7	.9	4.4	10.1	5.7	4.4	1.6	6.2	6.6
IV .....	100.0	87.6	.8	1.0	4.4	10.1	5.6	4.4	1.6	6.1	6.3
2021: I .....	100.0	87.8	.9	1.2	4.4	10.0	5.5	4.5	1.7	6.1	6.6
II .....	100.0	88.0	1.0	1.3	4.3	10.0	5.4	4.6	1.6	6.0	6.7
III .....	100.0	88.1	1.0	1.4	4.2	9.9	5.3	4.7	1.6	6.0	6.4
IV .....	100.0	88.4	.9	1.6	4.2	10.2	5.4	4.8	1.6	5.9	6.4
2022: I .....	100.0	88.5	1.0	1.7	4.2	10.2	5.4	4.8	1.6	6.1	6.3
II .....	100.0	88.6	1.1	2.0	4.2	10.3	5.4	4.9	1.8	6.0	6.3
III .....	100.0	88.6	1.1	1.9	4.2	10.2	5.5	4.8	1.8	6.0	6.3
IV .....	100.0	88.7	1.1	1.6	4.3	10.4	5.5	4.8	1.7	6.0	6.3
2023: I .....	100.0	88.7	1.0	1.4	4.3	10.2	5.5	4.7	1.6	5.9	6.4
II .....	100.0	88.6	.9	1.3	4.4	10.2	5.6	4.6	1.6	5.9	6.3
III .....	100.0	88.7	.9	1.4	4.4	10.3	5.6	4.7	1.6	5.9	6.4

<sup>1</sup> Consists of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing.

<sup>2</sup> Consists of utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing; information; finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing; professional and business services; educational services, health care, and social assistance; arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services; and other services, except government.

Note: Data shown in shown in Tables B–8 and B–9 are consistent with the 2023 annual revision of the industry accounts released in September 2023. For details see *Survey of Current Business*, November 2023. Data for earlier years will be released in 2024.

See next page for continuation of table.

TABLE B-8. Gross domestic product (GDP) by industry, value added, in current dollars and as a percentage of GDP, 2017–2023—Continued

[Billions of dollars; except as noted]

Year	Private industries—Continued							Government	Private goods-producing industries <sup>1</sup>	Private services-producing industries <sup>2</sup>
	Transportation and warehousing	Information	Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	Professional and business services	Educational services, health care, and social assistance	Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	Other services, except government			
	Value added									
2017 .....	635.5	1,010.0	4,033.0	2,433.6	1,716.9	831.2	433.2	2,455.8	3,394.1	13,762.2
2018 .....	677.3	1,041.5	4,258.2	2,589.1	1,792.0	874.6	457.7	2,558.8	3,641.5	14,456.3
2019 .....	708.5	1,141.5	4,446.5	2,727.9	1,883.8	922.2	477.7	2,632.3	3,676.4	15,212.7
2020 .....	637.4	1,177.7	4,606.5	2,725.8	1,875.2	894.2	452.9	2,710.7	3,462.3	15,149.9
2021 .....	776.2	1,318.7	4,972.4	3,030.6	2,019.3	904.2	487.8	2,809.2	3,938.4	16,846.4
2022 .....	920.5	1,392.8	5,329.9	3,314.3	2,149.8	1,081.6	544.4	2,936.6	4,468.1	18,339.4
2020: I .....	708.6	1,160.1	4,544.2	2,766.0	1,917.2	871.0	481.5	2,727.8	3,591.8	15,386.9
II .....	566.9	1,130.9	4,498.1	2,574.3	1,678.1	481.3	396.1	2,668.7	3,158.0	14,086.5
III .....	625.7	1,194.8	4,640.6	2,737.5	1,937.6	701.3	466.3	2,712.3	3,503.6	15,431.7
IV .....	648.6	1,224.9	4,743.1	2,825.3	1,968.0	723.2	467.5	2,734.1	3,595.8	15,694.7
2021: I .....	698.3	1,259.5	4,798.9	2,909.1	1,977.0	767.5	463.5	2,755.7	3,738.4	16,106.1
II .....	751.6	1,306.8	4,916.1	2,975.5	1,994.8	880.2	482.0	2,789.4	3,871.2	16,631.7
III .....	801.3	1,331.6	5,011.4	3,064.6	2,029.7	960.3	497.6	2,836.7	3,962.6	17,029.7
IV .....	853.8	1,377.2	5,163.3	3,173.0	2,075.6	1,008.6	508.0	2,855.0	4,181.6	17,617.9
2022: I .....	880.5	1,365.1	5,239.1	3,242.0	2,096.9	1,010.1	520.1	2,887.3	4,299.1	17,842.7
II .....	910.6	1,376.7	5,291.6	3,275.5	2,114.8	1,061.3	530.7	2,914.2	4,478.7	18,151.4
III .....	940.4	1,400.7	5,361.6	3,346.9	2,171.4	1,109.8	552.5	2,953.5	4,511.9	18,529.1
IV .....	950.6	1,428.6	5,427.2	3,393.0	2,216.1	1,145.3	574.5	2,991.4	4,582.6	18,834.4
2023: I .....	967.6	1,440.2	5,537.9	3,462.5	2,290.5	1,205.9	585.0	3,040.8	4,543.8	19,229.1
II .....	976.7	1,456.6	5,588.6	3,526.5	2,330.7	1,222.0	592.7	3,074.2	4,545.6	19,443.3
III .....	962.7	1,496.5	5,711.1	3,570.2	2,368.7	1,238.2	599.3	3,132.7	4,709.6	19,767.8
	Industry value added as a percentage of GDP (percent)									
2017 .....	3.2	5.1	20.6	12.4	8.8	4.2	2.2	12.5	17.3	70.2
2018 .....	3.3	5.0	20.6	12.5	8.7	4.2	2.2	12.4	17.6	70.0
2019 .....	3.3	5.3	20.7	12.7	8.8	4.3	2.2	12.2	17.1	70.7
2020 .....	3.0	5.5	21.6	12.8	8.8	3.3	2.1	12.7	16.2	71.0
2021 .....	3.3	5.6	21.1	12.8	8.6	3.8	2.1	11.9	16.7	71.4
2022 .....	3.6	5.4	20.7	12.9	8.4	4.2	2.1	11.4	17.4	71.2
2020: I .....	3.3	5.3	20.9	12.7	8.8	4.0	2.2	12.6	16.5	70.9
II .....	2.8	5.7	22.6	12.9	8.4	2.4	2.0	13.4	15.9	70.7
III .....	2.9	5.5	21.4	12.6	9.0	3.2	2.2	12.5	16.2	71.3
IV .....	2.9	5.6	21.5	12.8	8.9	3.3	2.1	12.4	16.3	71.3
2021: I .....	3.1	5.6	21.2	12.9	8.7	3.4	2.1	12.2	16.5	71.3
II .....	3.2	5.6	21.1	12.8	8.6	3.8	2.1	12.0	16.6	71.4
III .....	3.4	5.6	21.0	12.9	8.5	4.0	2.1	11.9	16.6	71.5
IV .....	3.5	5.6	20.9	12.9	8.4	4.1	2.1	11.6	17.0	71.5
2022: I .....	3.5	5.5	20.9	13.0	8.4	4.0	2.1	11.5	17.2	71.3
II .....	3.6	5.4	20.7	12.8	8.3	4.2	2.1	11.4	17.5	71.1
III .....	3.6	5.4	20.6	12.9	8.4	4.3	2.1	11.4	17.4	71.3
IV .....	3.6	5.4	20.6	12.8	8.4	4.3	2.2	11.3	17.4	71.3
2023: I .....	3.6	5.4	20.7	12.9	8.5	4.5	2.2	11.3	16.9	71.7
II .....	3.6	5.4	20.7	13.0	8.6	4.5	2.2	11.4	16.8	71.8
III .....	3.5	5.4	20.7	12.9	8.6	4.5	2.2	11.3	17.1	71.6

Note (cont'd): Value added is the contribution of each private industry and of government to GDP. Value added is equal to an industry's gross output minus its intermediate inputs. Current-dollar value added is calculated as the sum of distributions by an industry to its labor and capital, which are derived from the components of gross domestic income.

Value added industry data shown in Tables B-8 and B-9 are based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).

TABLE B-9. Real gross domestic product by industry, value added, and percent changes, 2017-2023

Year	Gross domestic product	Private industries									
		Total private industries	Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing			Utilities	Wholesale trade	Retail trade
						Total manufacturing	Durable goods	Non-durable goods			
Chain-type quantity indexes for value added (2017=100)											
2017 .....	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000
2018 .....	102.967	103.238	104.108	103.633	102.801	104.897	104.189	105.774	98.584	100.829	103.490
2019 .....	105.507	106.059	96.782	117.696	104.978	105.385	105.355	105.423	99.748	101.300	106.306
2020 .....	103.171	103.530	98.201	114.323	101.936	100.822	99.444	102.602	105.937	102.041	104.759
2021 .....	109.156	110.219	103.903	100.814	105.699	106.557	106.046	107.322	100.922	101.418	105.281
2022 .....	111.268	112.397	96.165	91.765	98.518	107.965	110.074	105.793	101.492	97.507	100.283
2020: I .....	105.371	105.727	98.851	121.961	103.170	103.001	102.881	103.114	104.142	103.737	105.201
II .....	97.057	96.779	88.888	113.727	97.103	92.551	89.329	96.742	105.378	95.431	98.341
III .....	104.587	105.197	101.101	112.018	102.884	103.218	102.074	104.675	108.021	104.780	108.981
IV .....	105.670	106.417	103.965	109.586	104.589	104.520	103.492	105.878	106.207	104.218	106.513
2021: I .....	107.029	107.955	105.952	107.578	106.163	105.041	104.781	105.488	99.100	103.372	111.335
II .....	108.655	109.727	103.885	101.234	108.064	105.757	105.656	106.052	100.426	102.735	105.850
III .....	109.540	110.533	102.511	99.126	105.708	105.749	104.932	106.886	101.931	99.493	101.284
IV .....	111.399	112.664	103.462	95.317	102.861	109.683	108.814	110.862	102.233	100.073	102.656
2022: I .....	110.844	111.969	98.964	89.840	103.714	109.065	109.314	108.943	99.315	98.730	97.952
II .....	110.688	111.741	95.267	85.885	99.212	107.232	109.908	104.449	103.354	96.459	98.384
III .....	111.417	112.558	94.458	91.422	95.583	107.450	110.027	104.756	99.476	97.246	100.785
IV .....	112.125	113.320	95.971	99.915	95.563	108.113	111.048	105.023	103.824	97.592	104.011
2023: I .....	112.748	113.983	102.048	102.758	96.332	105.565	109.726	101.145	103.019	97.018	106.870
II .....	113.325	114.607	102.954	109.533	97.630	107.234	111.435	102.772	116.033	95.721	106.119
III .....	114.677	116.079	101.389	112.715	101.272	109.630	112.531	106.637	107.194	95.120	111.841
Percent change from year earlier; quarterly changes at seasonally adjusted annual rates											
2018 .....	3.0	3.2	4.1	3.6	2.8	4.9	4.2	5.8	-1.4	0.8	3.5
2019 .....	2.5	2.7	-7.0	13.6	2.1	.5	1.1	-3	1.2	.5	2.7
2020 .....	-2.2	-2.4	1.5	-2.9	-2.9	-4.3	-5.6	-2.7	6.2	.7	-1.5
2021 .....	5.8	6.5	5.8	-11.8	3.7	5.7	6.6	4.6	-4.7	-6	.5
2022 .....	1.9	2.0	-7.4	-9.0	-6.8	1.3	3.8	-1.4	.6	-3.9	-4.7
2020: I .....	-5.3	-6.0	9.4	15.6	-6.7	-9.7	-8.6	-11.2	-7.3	-5.9	-8.5
II .....	-28.0	-29.8	-34.6	-24.4	-21.5	-34.8	-43.2	-22.5	4.8	-28.4	-23.6
III .....	34.8	39.6	67.4	-5.9	26.0	54.7	70.5	37.1	10.4	45.3	50.8
IV .....	4.2	4.7	11.8	-8.4	6.8	5.1	5.7	4.7	-6.5	-2.1	-8.8
2021: I .....	5.2	5.9	7.9	-7.1	6.2	2.0	5.1	-1.5	-24.2	-3.2	19.4
II .....	6.2	6.7	-8.3	-21.6	7.4	2.8	3.4	2.2	5.5	-2.4	-18.3
III .....	3.3	3.0	-4.5	-8.1	-8.4	.0	-2.7	3.2	6.1	-12.0	-16.2
IV .....	7.0	7.9	3.8	-14.5	-10.3	15.7	15.6	15.7	1.2	2.4	5.5
2022: I .....	-2.0	-2.4	-16.3	-21.1	3.4	-2.2	1.9	-6.7	-10.9	-5.3	-17.1
II .....	-6	-8	-14.1	-16.5	-16.3	-6.6	2.2	-15.5	17.3	-8.9	1.8
III .....	2.7	3.0	-3.4	28.4	-13.8	.8	4	1.2	-14.2	3.3	10.1
IV .....	2.6	2.7	6.6	42.7	-1	2.5	3.8	1.0	18.7	1.4	13.4
2023: I .....	2.2	2.4	27.8	11.9	3.3	-9.1	-4.7	-14.0	-3.1	-2.3	11.5
II .....	2.1	2.2	3.6	29.1	5.5	6.5	6.4	6.6	60.9	-5.2	-2.8
III .....	4.9	5.2	-5.9	12.1	15.8	9.2	4.0	15.9	-27.2	-2.5	23.4

<sup>1</sup> Consists of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing.

<sup>2</sup> Consists of utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing; information; finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing; professional and business services; educational services, health care, and social assistance; arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services; and other services, except government.

See next page for continuation of table.

TABLE B-9. Real gross domestic product by industry, value added, and percent changes, 2017–2023—Continued

Year	Private industries—Continued							Government	Private goods-producing industries <sup>1</sup>	Private services-producing industries <sup>2</sup>
	Transportation and warehousing	Information	Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	Professional and business services	Educational services, health care, and social assistance	Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	Other services, except government			
Chain-type quantity indexes for value added (2017=100)										
2017 .....	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000
2018 .....	103.487	105.547	101.493	106.203	102.806	101.915	103.209	101.110	104.232	102.991
2019 .....	103.640	116.516	103.512	111.370	106.047	104.086	103.659	101.762	105.851	106.107
2020 .....	95.067	120.902	104.578	110.728	102.947	76.533	93.998	100.356	102.044	103.883
2021 .....	107.887	138.662	110.326	123.294	107.877	96.004	97.166	101.193	106.006	111.223
2022 .....	110.040	149.058	112.816	132.503	112.014	106.369	100.245	102.842	103.622	114.566
2020: I .....	103.686	117.862	103.500	112.607	106.215	96.381	101.202	102.741	104.212	106.087
II .....	84.533	116.503	102.651	104.691	92.320	53.287	82.470	98.532	95.031	97.192
III .....	95.098	123.601	105.199	111.245	105.967	77.530	96.473	100.044	103.846	105.519
IV .....	96.951	125.641	106.964	114.368	107.288	78.932	95.847	100.107	105.087	106.733
2021: I .....	104.058	130.233	107.796	117.718	106.083	83.885	93.590	100.115	105.821	108.459
II .....	106.615	136.943	109.524	121.308	107.153	95.743	97.063	100.679	106.185	110.566
III .....	109.413	140.722	110.765	125.159	108.327	101.187	98.895	101.981	105.370	111.765
IV .....	111.461	146.750	113.219	128.993	109.944	103.201	99.114	101.999	106.649	114.104
2022: I .....	109.287	145.890	113.368	130.262	110.579	101.932	99.377	102.453	105.562	113.508
II .....	109.150	147.130	113.198	131.335	111.155	106.652	99.896	102.790	102.628	113.998
III .....	110.744	150.183	112.852	133.506	112.839	108.882	100.811	102.894	102.466	115.081
IV .....	110.981	153.027	111.847	134.908	113.482	108.011	100.896	103.243	103.831	115.676
2023: I .....	112.599	154.669	111.931	135.306	116.463	111.192	100.258	103.596	103.201	116.685
II .....	114.716	155.531	111.895	136.015	116.880	109.882	98.762	103.854	105.135	116.963
III .....	115.844	160.923	113.009	136.999	117.793	109.752	97.446	104.379	107.727	118.142
Percent change from year earlier; quarterly changes at seasonally adjusted annual rates										
2018 .....	3.5	5.5	1.5	6.2	2.8	1.9	3.2	1.1	4.2	3.0
2019 .....	.1	10.4	2.0	4.9	3.2	2.1	.4	.6	1.6	3.0
2020 .....	-8.3	3.8	1.0	-6	-2.9	-26.5	-9.3	-1.4	-3.6	-2.1
2021 .....	13.5	14.7	5.5	11.3	4.8	25.4	3.4	.8	3.9	7.1
2022 .....	2.0	7.5	2.3	7.5	3.8	10.8	3.2	1.6	-2.2	3.0
2020: I .....	-2.5	-6.1	-6.6	-5	-3.1	-30.4	-14.3	-5	-6.6	-5.9
II .....	-55.8	-4.5	-3.2	-25.3	-42.9	-90.7	-55.9	-15.4	-30.9	-29.6
III .....	60.2	26.7	10.3	27.5	73.6	348.1	87.3	6.3	4.6	38.9
IV .....	8.0	6.8	6.9	11.7	5.1	7.4	-2.6	.3	42.6	4.7
2021: I .....	32.7	15.4	3.1	12.2	-4.4	27.6	-9.1	.0	2.8	6.6
II .....	10.2	22.3	6.6	12.8	4.1	69.7	15.7	2.3	1.4	8.0
III .....	10.9	11.5	4.6	13.3	4.5	24.8	7.8	5.3	-3.0	4.4
IV .....	7.7	18.3	9.2	12.8	6.1	8.2	.9	.1	9.2	8.6
2022: I .....	-7.6	-2.3	.5	4.0	2.3	-4.8	1.1	1.8	-4.0	-2.1
II .....	-5	3.4	-6	3.3	2.1	19.8	2.1	1.3	-10.7	1.7
III .....	6.0	8.6	-1.2	6.8	6.2	8.6	3.7	.4	-6	3.9
IV .....	.9	7.8	-3.5	4.3	2.3	-3.2	.3	1.4	5.4	2.1
2023: I .....	6.0	4.4	.3	1.2	10.9	12.3	-2.5	1.4	-2.4	3.5
II .....	7.7	2.2	-1	2.1	1.4	-4.6	-5.8	1.0	7.7	1.0
III .....	4.0	14.6	4.0	2.9	3.2	-5	-5.2	2.0	10.2	4.1

Note: Data are based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

See Note, Table B-8.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).



TABLE B-11. Real personal consumption expenditures, 2007–2023

[Billions of chained (2017) dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Personal consumption expenditures	Goods					Services					Addendum: Personal consumption expenditures excluding food and energy <sup>2</sup>	
		Total	Durable		Nondurable			Total	Household consumption expenditures				
			Total <sup>1</sup>	Motor vehicles and parts	Total <sup>1</sup>	Food and beverages purchased for off-premises consumption	Gasoline and other energy goods		Total <sup>1</sup>	Housing and utilities	Health care		Financial services and insurance
2007	11,253.9	3,415.7	985.4	424.3	2,434.5	869.7	314.1	7,838.5	7,571.1	2,193.9	1,754.0	1,013.6	9,829.5
2008	11,270.7	3,312.7	928.8	370.4	2,396.1	855.1	301.7	7,981.2	7,669.9	2,255.7	1,797.0	1,038.2	9,883.2
2009	11,123.6	3,209.4	871.9	344.2	2,356.4	849.3	303.5	7,948.6	7,624.8	2,263.0	1,836.4	1,028.0	9,735.4
2010	11,335.6	3,300.2	920.6	357.5	2,393.5	862.0	302.0	8,065.3	7,730.8	2,314.8	1,864.5	1,026.5	9,929.6
2011	11,528.5	3,372.3	967.5	367.5	2,414.6	863.3	295.0	8,183.9	7,833.3	2,323.8	1,893.1	1,053.2	10,137.8
2012	11,686.1	3,444.2	1,025.3	393.8	2,424.9	870.7	291.0	8,265.3	7,882.6	2,318.8	1,927.6	1,040.2	10,303.5
2013	11,889.9	3,562.3	1,087.9	415.2	2,478.6	887.0	298.8	8,341.9	7,956.1	2,343.2	1,945.6	1,037.2	10,474.9
2014	12,226.4	3,717.7	1,168.2	443.6	2,552.3	910.3	302.0	8,516.3	8,131.1	2,341.5	2,008.2	1,047.9	10,785.1
2015	12,638.8	3,902.5	1,257.7	481.3	2,646.3	931.4	318.8	8,738.9	8,355.1	2,336.7	2,114.2	1,073.6	11,159.9
2016	12,949.0	4,044.7	1,325.5	498.1	2,719.9	968.3	323.8	8,904.9	8,507.0	2,347.0	2,196.3	1,046.5	11,429.3
2017	13,230.6	4,212.2	1,415.9	529.4	2,796.3	1,010.4	324.0	9,078.4	8,682.0	2,350.2	2,245.3	1,073.2	11,730.3
2018	13,654.9	4,378.7	1,509.5	549.9	2,869.8	1,039.0	323.0	9,276.6	8,861.3	2,385.0	2,301.8	1,073.4	12,049.5
2019	13,928.3	4,509.9	1,558.9	540.6	2,951.8	1,065.7	321.6	9,420.1	9,018.3	2,404.6	2,381.9	1,048.4	12,301.7
2020	13,577.0	4,729.9	1,683.1	533.5	3,049.6	1,140.7	277.5	8,867.6	8,406.7	2,454.1	2,215.6	1,050.4	11,920.2
2021	14,718.2	5,265.9	1,964.9	613.4	3,307.5	1,190.5	311.1	9,483.4	9,079.0	2,521.4	2,405.2	1,049.7	12,975.9
2022	15,090.8	5,281.5	1,960.0	572.6	3,327.5	1,167.8	311.1	9,836.1	9,413.1	2,549.1	2,479.3	1,031.4	13,364.8
2023 <sup>P</sup>	15,421.9	5,390.4	2,043.6	601.9	3,356.5	1,151.6	317.9	10,059.5	9,657.7	2,559.0	2,610.2	1,045.6	13,719.8
2020: I	13,862.3	4,551.8	1,531.7	488.7	3,019.0	1,140.5	296.5	9,313.6	8,849.4	2,417.4	2,321.2	1,050.8	12,200.6
II	12,668.7	4,450.2	1,530.9	481.1	2,919.8	1,135.0	245.4	8,240.0	7,735.6	2,450.2	1,956.5	1,039.9	11,941.5
III	13,793.9	4,939.2	1,822.1	581.0	3,122.8	1,145.7	288.7	8,884.4	8,444.0	2,466.6	2,252.5	1,048.6	12,117.0
IV	13,982.9	4,978.3	1,847.5	583.2	3,136.7	1,141.8	279.4	9,032.2	8,597.8	2,482.3	2,332.0	1,062.1	12,321.6
2021: I	14,282.6	5,171.7	1,966.7	641.0	3,212.9	1,176.9	287.7	9,144.9	8,727.4	2,509.8	2,327.2	1,059.1	12,570.6
II	14,745.6	5,351.8	2,033.6	664.0	3,325.9	1,195.1	313.8	9,429.6	9,035.3	2,517.6	2,398.8	1,048.8	12,997.2
III	14,848.8	5,234.3	1,904.3	568.5	3,335.0	1,194.3	321.4	9,641.1	9,243.1	2,531.5	2,435.5	1,044.7	13,089.8
IV	14,995.6	5,305.6	1,955.0	580.1	3,356.3	1,195.8	321.6	9,717.9	9,310.4	2,526.6	2,459.3	1,045.9	13,246.1
2022: I	14,995.2	5,289.7	1,962.3	580.3	3,333.4	1,185.9	311.5	9,733.0	9,314.8	2,547.9	2,454.9	1,033.2	13,246.6
II	15,069.2	5,285.3	1,957.8	571.2	3,333.4	1,171.5	313.1	9,810.8	9,382.4	2,549.4	2,455.0	1,026.4	13,333.6
III	15,127.4	5,275.7	1,962.3	566.5	3,319.7	1,158.8	309.3	9,878.2	9,449.4	2,544.5	2,484.4	1,033.2	13,419.3
IV	15,171.4	5,275.2	1,957.5	572.5	3,323.7	1,155.0	310.6	9,922.3	9,505.9	2,554.7	2,523.0	1,032.8	13,459.4
2023: I	15,312.9	5,341.0	2,022.5	614.1	3,327.8	1,145.8	313.0	9,998.9	9,597.0	2,545.8	2,584.0	1,037.3	13,625.6
II	15,343.6	5,347.3	2,020.9	599.6	3,335.4	1,148.5	319.8	10,023.1	9,622.9	2,550.0	2,600.0	1,048.7	13,647.6
III	15,461.4	5,411.3	2,053.9	597.8	3,367.3	1,153.9	319.0	10,078.7	9,675.8	2,568.7	2,617.5	1,052.2	13,748.5
IV <sup>P</sup>	15,569.8	5,462.1	2,077.1	596.1	3,395.4	1,158.3	319.6	10,137.4	9,735.2	2,571.3	2,639.3	1,044.3	13,857.2

<sup>1</sup> Includes other items not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Food consists of food and beverages purchased for off-premises consumption; food services, which include purchased meals and beverages, are not classified as food.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).



TABLE B–13. Real private fixed investment by type, 2007–2023

[Billions of chained (2017) dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Private fixed investment	Nonresidential										Residential			
		Total nonresidential	Structures	Equipment						Intellectual property products			Structures		
				Total <sup>2</sup>	Information processing equipment		Industrial equipment	Transportation equipment	Total <sup>2</sup>	Software	Research and development <sup>3</sup>	Total residential <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>2</sup>	Single family	
					Total	Computers and peripheral equipment <sup>1</sup>									Other
2007	2,782.2	1,996.1	625.5	839.9	204.5	72.2	134.2	219.6	212.9	552.7	173.3	316.0	821.9	818.3	356.6
2008	2,620.6	2,008.3	666.0	799.7	215.6	77.9	140.1	210.5	166.9	573.7	187.4	325.3	623.0	617.7	224.0
2009	2,201.6	1,716.4	541.4	630.2	204.8	79.2	128.9	164.4	78.1	570.8	193.1	317.3	487.9	482.1	132.4
2010	2,269.9	1,794.3	454.8	757.8	239.2	91.9	151.1	164.2	152.4	586.4	200.4	318.5	472.8	465.8	143.8
2011	2,432.5	1,951.3	469.0	859.6	250.8	91.8	162.1	197.0	195.8	622.9	222.3	331.8	472.2	464.1	137.2
2012	2,678.0	2,137.1	531.5	953.9	274.0	101.1	176.4	213.5	231.8	653.8	246.7	334.5	533.3	525.3	166.0
2013	2,842.0	2,238.6	537.3	1,006.5	293.9	100.6	195.5	212.8	257.7	695.0	264.3	357.7	601.1	582.1	203.6
2014	3,052.6	2,421.1	597.2	1,086.0	312.9	100.4	213.7	223.5	287.4	739.1	286.1	377.0	626.8	616.2	216.1
2015	3,193.6	2,498.9	598.2	1,127.2	336.7	100.4	236.7	225.7	318.7	774.0	304.6	390.3	693.2	681.1	240.8
2016	3,286.9	2,544.8	579.7	1,117.5	356.1	99.7	256.5	224.9	302.6	847.6	340.5	424.5	742.2	728.6	253.2
2017	3,435.0	2,661.1	594.9	1,160.0	386.0	105.8	280.2	237.3	299.9	906.2	382.9	437.5	773.9	758.9	270.2
2018	3,611.7	2,844.3	629.2	1,228.6	416.8	119.6	297.1	248.7	318.3	986.5	433.9	464.3	788.5	753.4	277.7
2019	3,708.5	2,950.1	644.8	1,241.7	429.2	121.3	307.8	253.2	304.6	1,063.5	466.5	507.4	761.3	746.1	260.1
2020	3,630.1	2,810.6	583.4	1,116.3	432.2	132.1	299.5	230.8	220.0	1,111.0	509.8	517.6	816.2	800.4	276.1
2021	3,887.3	2,975.5	564.8	1,187.4	473.8	147.2	325.8	245.9	225.7	1,226.6	581.9	565.5	903.8	886.6	338.3
2022	3,939.3	3,131.6	552.9	1,249.2	509.9	156.5	352.7	254.8	228.2	1,338.7	660.2	597.7	822.6	805.9	310.6
2023 <sup>p</sup>	3,960.4	3,268.0	623.2	1,247.5	484.4	143.1	341.3	252.4	263.5	1,396.7	718.9	602.9	734.5	717.3	258.9
2020: I	3,708.2	2,912.0	647.7	1,147.7	401.2	114.1	287.0	237.5	264.7	1,114.3	502.2	522.6	796.8	781.4	276.5
II	3,414.0	2,676.9	570.1	1,018.5	419.9	132.9	286.2	219.3	168.1	1,086.8	501.0	502.5	737.3	722.1	250.4
III	3,633.6	2,791.6	556.9	1,128.7	449.4	138.1	310.7	229.7	214.2	1,107.6	509.1	517.5	837.0	820.3	265.8
IV	3,764.7	2,862.0	559.0	1,170.4	458.4	143.4	314.2	236.6	233.2	1,135.2	527.1	527.7	893.9	877.8	311.7
2021: I	3,849.1	2,923.9	569.5	1,176.2	468.6	149.4	318.2	235.2	229.8	1,180.5	558.2	545.2	915.0	897.5	333.9
II	3,904.3	2,992.4	570.9	1,205.9	468.7	143.9	324.1	245.4	253.1	1,218.9	577.8	563.5	904.7	886.9	339.5
III	3,888.8	2,982.8	565.0	1,181.0	463.0	142.3	320.1	249.5	226.3	1,239.9	589.3	571.0	898.4	881.6	342.4
IV	3,907.1	3,002.7	553.8	1,186.5	494.8	153.0	341.0	253.5	193.8	1,267.1	602.3	582.2	897.3	880.5	337.3
2022: I	3,976.0	3,080.0	552.1	1,233.5	520.2	163.9	355.1	259.0	196.0	1,301.8	634.0	588.5	893.1	876.3	345.5
II	3,974.0	3,120.0	551.4	1,248.5	511.1	155.1	355.5	255.3	222.5	1,329.1	648.4	598.3	859.9	843.0	337.5
III	3,930.9	3,156.3	549.7	1,265.5	517.4	160.8	355.8	251.4	242.1	1,351.9	668.1	601.0	796.3	779.5	296.8
IV	3,876.5	3,170.0	558.4	1,249.5	490.7	146.1	344.6	253.6	252.1	1,372.1	690.4	602.8	741.2	724.8	262.7
2023: I	3,905.9	3,214.5	596.6	1,236.4	489.6	142.7	347.1	256.0	243.8	1,384.9	702.2	604.9	731.1	714.2	248.7
II	3,955.9	3,272.7	619.3	1,259.6	482.0	144.3	337.5	252.7	276.7	1,394.0	712.1	605.1	727.1	710.0	249.5
III	3,981.3	3,284.5	635.9	1,245.5	473.3	136.8	336.8	249.2	275.5	1,400.4	724.9	601.7	738.9	721.5	265.0
IV <sup>p</sup>	3,998.5	3,300.3	641.0	1,248.5	492.7	148.6	343.9	251.5	257.9	1,407.7	736.2	599.9	740.8	723.2	272.4

<sup>1</sup> Because computers exhibit rapid changes in prices relative to other prices in the economy, the chained-dollar estimates should not be used to measure the component's relative importance or its contribution to the growth rate of more aggregate series. The quantity index for computers can be used to accurately measure the real growth rate of this series. For information on this component, see *Survey of Current Business* Table 5.3.1 (for growth rates), Table 5.3.2 (for contributions), and Table 5.3.3 (for quantity indexes).

<sup>2</sup> Includes other items not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup> Research and development investment includes expenditures for software.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).





TABLE B-15. Real exports and imports of goods and services, 2007–2023

[Billions of chained (2017) dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Exports of goods and services					Imports of goods and services						
	Total	Goods <sup>1</sup>			Services <sup>1</sup>	Total	Goods <sup>1</sup>				Services <sup>1</sup>	
		Total	Durable goods	Non-durable goods			Non-agricultural goods	Total	Durable goods	Non-durable goods		Non-petroleum goods
2007	1,745.5	1,146.7	764.1	382.9	1,040.1	595.2	2,376.4	1,927.5	1,050.8	866.7	1,602.4	446.7
2008	1,846.6	1,214.0	801.1	413.0	1,101.0	628.5	2,325.4	1,864.5	1,017.4	837.3	1,550.6	463.5
2009	1,693.1	1,070.0	666.5	402.6	960.6	628.3	2,031.8	1,576.0	811.2	760.6	1,284.3	468.2
2010	1,907.3	1,232.4	786.3	445.1	1,111.0	675.6	2,295.3	1,818.3	1,002.3	802.9	1,526.0	485.1
2011	2,044.2	1,324.5	861.8	463.3	1,204.9	719.7	2,405.8	1,918.6	1,096.9	808.8	1,638.7	493.1
2012	2,126.3	1,376.9	905.0	474.0	1,256.4	749.6	2,464.7	1,969.5	1,186.2	776.0	1,729.5	500.4
2013	2,190.3	1,417.3	924.9	493.5	1,295.3	773.5	2,494.6	2,009.0	1,242.0	763.1	1,795.5	487.7
2014	2,275.8	1,480.6	963.5	517.9	1,348.8	794.3	2,623.4	2,120.8	1,352.1	769.3	1,929.5	503.4
2015	2,283.1	1,475.7	942.5	532.6	1,341.3	807.5	2,759.5	2,243.5	1,442.2	802.7	2,052.5	515.8
2016	2,293.9	1,485.2	937.7	552.3	1,343.6	808.7	2,799.7	2,268.4	1,459.7	810.0	2,069.6	531.4
2017	2,388.3	1,546.7	962.5	584.1	1,402.8	841.6	2,931.6	2,369.9	1,562.3	807.6	2,172.5	561.7
2018	2,456.4	1,612.1	996.5	615.4	1,467.7	844.2	3,050.0	2,491.6	1,650.9	841.0	2,305.0	558.4
2019	2,469.0	1,614.9	974.2	639.5	1,471.6	854.0	3,086.5	2,505.4	1,656.3	849.1	2,332.2	580.9
2020	2,144.8	1,452.6	819.7	633.6	1,301.9	694.3	2,808.3	2,358.0	1,534.6	822.9	2,209.7	453.4
2021	2,280.9	1,563.2	917.3	647.9	1,421.8	720.6	3,214.7	2,701.8	1,808.4	895.2	2,542.5	516.6
2022	2,439.6	1,653.3	963.0	691.1	1,517.6	790.0	3,490.6	2,886.2	1,954.8	936.7	2,735.4	607.0
2023 <sup>P</sup>	2,505.7	1,695.6	991.4	704.5	1,570.6	813.4	3,431.3	2,837.7	1,931.1	912.2	2,677.3	597.1
2020: I	2,371.4	1,598.4	933.7	663.0	1,456.0	774.9	2,933.5	2,397.6	1,558.5	838.7	2,232.2	535.6
II	1,868.2	1,212.8	637.6	581.1	1,072.9	653.4	2,421.1	2,024.4	1,239.8	785.4	1,890.4	398.9
III	2,107.6	1,454.0	828.1	624.7	1,296.0	657.8	2,837.2	2,420.9	1,598.8	820.5	2,276.7	421.8
IV	2,232.1	1,545.1	879.3	665.5	1,382.6	691.3	3,041.2	2,589.2	1,741.6	847.0	2,439.3	457.3
2021: I	2,237.0	1,544.5	898.6	646.7	1,391.2	695.9	3,100.0	2,643.5	1,773.7	870.7	2,491.2	462.0
II	2,248.1	1,542.7	920.3	626.1	1,407.0	708.2	3,158.1	2,670.2	1,792.9	879.4	2,511.0	492.2
III	2,256.4	1,535.7	912.3	627.2	1,406.7	723.5	3,223.0	2,680.1	1,783.8	897.6	2,515.0	545.4
IV	2,382.0	1,629.9	937.8	691.7	1,482.1	754.8	3,377.6	2,813.7	1,883.4	933.0	2,652.7	566.7
2022: I	2,354.1	1,593.0	939.0	657.9	1,454.6	764.8	3,495.2	2,910.4	1,971.3	944.9	2,762.1	587.6
II	2,414.1	1,628.4	952.0	678.3	1,483.3	790.0	3,530.3	2,925.6	1,983.8	947.6	2,782.9	607.5
III	2,506.2	1,709.7	983.8	723.7	1,576.0	799.6	3,487.4	2,870.3	1,957.2	920.8	2,715.4	619.5
IV	2,484.1	1,682.0	977.4	704.5	1,556.8	805.6	3,449.6	2,838.6	1,907.0	933.7	2,681.3	613.4
2023: I	2,525.4	1,730.5	995.4	733.2	1,600.4	798.5	3,460.5	2,851.6	1,924.4	930.7	2,686.9	611.5
II	2,464.7	1,656.8	978.1	680.3	1,537.5	810.7	3,392.9	2,804.3	1,916.8	894.2	2,651.5	591.8
III	2,497.3	1,687.7	1,005.5	685.0	1,567.0	812.8	3,428.0	2,844.7	1,939.6	911.2	2,685.0	587.6
IV <sup>P</sup>	2,535.6	1,707.2	986.4	719.7	1,577.3	831.5	3,443.8	2,850.1	1,943.5	912.8	2,686.0	597.4

<sup>1</sup> Certain goods, primarily military equipment purchased and sold by the Federal Government, are included in services. Repairs and alterations of equipment are also included in services.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).



TABLE B-16. Sources of personal income, 1973–2023—Continued

(Billions of dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Year or quarter	Personal income receipts on assets			Personal current transfer receipts							Less: Contributions for government social insurance, domestic	
	Total	Personal interest income	Personal dividend income	Total	Government social benefits to persons					Other current transfer receipts, from business (net)		
					Total <sup>1</sup>	Social security <sup>2</sup>	Medicare <sup>3</sup>	Medicaid	Unemployment insurance			Other
1973	155.4	125.5	29.9	112.6	108.6	50.7	10.2	9.6	4.6	23.3	3.9	75.5
1974	180.6	147.4	33.2	133.3	128.6	57.6	12.7	11.2	7.0	28.4	4.7	85.2
1975	201.0	168.0	32.9	170.0	163.1	65.9	15.6	13.9	18.1	35.7	6.8	89.3
1976	220.0	181.0	39.0	184.3	177.6	74.5	18.8	15.5	16.4	38.7	6.7	101.3
1977	251.6	206.9	44.7	194.6	189.5	83.2	22.1	16.7	13.1	40.9	5.1	113.1
1978	285.8	235.1	50.7	209.9	203.4	91.4	25.5	18.6	9.4	44.9	6.5	131.3
1979	327.1	269.5	57.7	235.6	227.3	102.6	29.9	21.1	9.7	49.9	8.2	152.7
1980	397.7	333.5	64.2	280.1	271.5	118.6	36.2	23.9	16.1	62.1	8.6	166.2
1981	483.9	414.2	69.7	319.0	307.8	138.6	43.5	27.7	15.9	66.3	11.2	195.7
1982	554.9	481.8	73.1	355.5	343.1	153.7	50.9	30.2	25.2	66.8	12.4	208.9
1983	600.2	518.2	82.0	384.3	370.5	164.4	57.8	33.9	26.4	71.5	13.8	226.0
1984	676.7	590.9	85.8	400.6	380.9	173.0	64.7	36.6	16.0	74.3	19.7	257.5
1985	724.3	630.5	93.8	425.4	403.1	183.3	69.7	39.7	15.9	78.0	22.3	281.4
1986	766.3	663.1	103.1	451.6	428.6	193.6	75.3	43.6	16.5	83.0	22.9	303.4
1987	776.3	674.3	102.0	468.1	447.9	201.0	81.6	47.8	14.6	86.4	20.2	323.1
1988	848.0	720.1	128.0	497.5	476.9	213.9	86.3	53.0	13.3	93.6	20.6	361.5
1989	959.7	802.3	157.5	544.2	521.1	227.4	98.2	60.8	14.4	103.1	23.2	385.2
1990	1,004.8	835.1	169.7	596.9	574.7	244.1	107.6	73.1	18.2	113.9	22.2	410.1
1991	1,008.7	827.7	181.0	668.1	650.5	264.2	117.5	96.9	26.8	127.0	17.6	430.2
1992	995.4	806.2	189.3	748.0	731.8	281.8	132.6	116.2	39.6	142.9	16.3	455.0
1993	1,001.9	796.8	205.1	793.0	778.9	297.9	146.8	130.1	34.8	150.0	14.1	477.4
1994	1,043.6	806.3	237.3	829.0	815.7	312.2	164.4	139.4	23.9	156.1	13.3	508.2
1995	1,128.5	869.4	259.2	883.5	864.7	327.7	181.2	149.6	21.7	164.0	18.7	532.8
1996	1,188.8	886.4	302.4	929.2	906.3	342.0	194.9	158.2	22.3	167.6	22.9	555.1
1997	1,266.5	928.8	337.8	954.9	935.4	356.6	206.9	163.1	20.1	166.4	19.4	587.2
1998	1,352.5	994.0	358.4	983.9	957.9	369.2	205.6	170.2	19.7	170.0	26.0	624.7
1999	1,336.2	987.7	348.5	1,026.2	992.2	379.9	208.7	184.6	20.5	174.4	34.0	661.3
2000	1,455.6	1,069.3	386.4	1,087.3	1,044.9	401.4	219.1	199.5	20.7	179.1	42.4	705.8
2001	1,461.9	1,087.5	374.4	1,192.6	1,145.8	425.1	242.6	227.3	31.9	192.4	46.8	733.2
2002	1,402.6	1,001.2	401.5	1,285.2	1,251.0	446.9	259.7	250.0	53.5	211.3	34.2	751.5
2003	1,435.6	1,004.4	431.2	1,347.3	1,321.0	463.5	276.7	264.5	53.2	231.2	26.3	779.3
2004	1,498.7	939.3	559.4	1,421.2	1,404.5	485.5	304.4	289.8	36.4	254.3	16.8	829.2
2005	1,636.4	1,081.3	555.0	1,516.7	1,490.9	512.7	332.1	304.4	31.8	273.5	25.8	873.3
2006	1,899.0	1,215.4	683.6	1,613.8	1,593.0	544.1	399.1	293.1	30.4	281.5	20.8	922.5
2007	2,105.3	1,325.2	780.1	1,728.1	1,697.3	575.7	428.2	324.2	32.7	294.9	30.8	961.4
2008	2,151.5	1,345.8	805.7	1,955.1	1,919.3	605.5	461.6	338.3	51.1	417.7	35.8	988.4
2009	1,838.5	1,272.8	565.6	2,146.7	2,107.7	664.5	493.0	369.6	131.2	398.0	39.0	964.3
2010	1,747.7	1,211.1	536.6	2,325.2	2,281.4	690.2	513.4	396.9	138.9	484.2	43.7	983.7
2011	1,906.5	1,216.1	690.4	2,358.7	2,310.1	713.3	535.6	406.0	107.2	484.8	48.5	916.7
2012	2,103.6	1,271.8	831.7	2,363.0	2,322.6	762.1	554.7	417.5	83.6	434.4	40.4	950.5
2013	1,983.2	1,201.6	781.6	2,424.3	2,385.9	799.0	572.8	440.0	62.5	432.5	38.4	1,104.3
2014	2,177.4	1,260.4	917.0	2,541.6	2,498.6	834.6	600.0	490.9	35.5	453.5	42.9	1,153.6
2015	2,344.6	1,347.7	996.9	2,685.4	2,635.1	871.8	634.9	535.9	32.5	467.0	50.3	1,204.7
2016	2,415.4	1,388.0	1,027.4	2,777.0	2,717.3	896.5	662.1	562.8	32.0	467.1	59.7	1,238.8
2017	2,611.0	1,466.7	1,144.3	2,855.7	2,807.4	926.1	691.8	573.7	30.2	474.2	48.3	1,298.9
2018	2,789.4	1,554.5	1,234.9	2,976.3	2,926.0	972.4	733.6	589.8	27.6	482.9	50.3	1,361.7
2019	2,949.9	1,603.4	1,346.5	3,144.3	3,088.5	1,030.7	787.2	614.0	27.5	498.1	55.8	1,424.6
2020	2,913.7	1,510.3	1,403.5	4,229.9	4,182.7	1,077.9	816.8	657.6	529.5	955.5	47.2	1,449.3
2021	3,214.7	1,515.5	1,699.2	4,641.9	4,554.1	1,114.6	874.5	735.5	324.0	1,350.5	87.7	1,558.0
2022	3,432.0	1,627.5	1,804.5	4,002.1	3,903.0	1,211.5	926.1	814.4	22.3	758.2	99.1	1,701.7
2023 <sup>P</sup>	3,613.8	1,772.7	1,841.1	4,097.8	3,993.5	1,357.4	944.4	881.7	22.0	615.1	104.3	1,803.6
2020: I	2,926.1	1,547.9	1,378.2	3,217.5	3,174.3	1,068.2	798.4	606.4	40.9	519.3	43.2	1,468.1
2020: II	2,869.8	1,505.9	1,363.9	5,510.1	5,464.2	1,075.1	811.1	654.6	951.4	1,827.4	46.0	1,397.6
2020: III	2,865.0	1,493.0	1,372.0	4,403.2	4,358.2	1,080.3	823.1	690.8	802.3	814.5	45.0	1,447.1
2020: IV	2,994.0	1,494.2	1,499.8	3,788.9	3,734.2	1,088.2	834.5	678.6	323.5	660.7	54.8	1,484.3
2021: I	3,079.2	1,506.5	1,572.7	6,063.8	5,993.5	1,105.7	849.4	705.0	583.5	2,600.1	70.4	1,500.6
2021: II	3,198.3	1,518.9	1,679.4	4,402.7	4,311.8	1,109.6	865.6	745.7	451.8	987.6	90.9	1,536.5
2021: III	3,262.6	1,514.0	1,748.7	4,144.6	4,050.6	1,116.8	882.6	749.2	226.8	920.1	94.0	1,574.0
2021: IV	3,318.6	1,522.6	1,795.9	3,956.3	3,860.6	1,126.3	900.3	746.1	33.9	894.2	95.7	1,620.9
2022: I	3,342.2	1,550.9	1,791.3	3,960.6	3,863.6	1,198.7	918.2	791.4	26.2	763.6	96.9	1,663.2
2022: II	3,407.0	1,604.7	1,802.4	3,992.4	3,890.5	1,207.0	924.7	818.7	21.4	748.6	101.9	1,684.7
2022: III	3,453.4	1,647.6	1,805.8	3,981.8	3,882.9	1,214.5	927.2	819.0	19.6	729.9	98.9	1,726.1
2022: IV	3,525.4	1,706.7	1,818.7	4,073.7	3,974.9	1,225.8	934.2	828.4	22.1	790.7	98.8	1,732.8
2023: I	3,577.0	1,744.3	1,832.7	4,102.4	4,001.5	1,340.0	938.1	871.5	22.0	657.1	100.9	1,773.9
2023: II	3,602.6	1,754.8	1,847.8	4,120.1	4,017.3	1,353.8	941.9	911.4	22.3	615.4	102.8	1,794.0
2023: III	3,606.5	1,776.4	1,830.2	4,093.7	3,987.8	1,361.3	946.3	880.6	21.0	605.7	105.9	1,814.1
2023: IV <sup>P</sup>	3,669.1	1,815.5	1,853.6	4,074.9	3,967.3	1,374.4	951.3	863.3	22.7	582.0	107.5	1,832.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes Veterans' benefits, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Includes old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits that are distributed from the federal old-age and survivors insurance trust fund and the disability insurance trust fund.

<sup>3</sup> Includes hospital and supplementary medical insurance benefits that are distributed from the federal hospital insurance trust fund and the supplementary medical insurance trust fund.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).

TABLE B-17. Disposition of personal income, 1973-2023

[Billions of dollars, except as noted; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Personal income	Less: Personal current taxes	Equals: Disposable personal income	Less: Personal outlays				Equals: Personal saving	Percent of disposable personal income <sup>2</sup>		
				Total	Personal consumption expenditures	Personal interest payments <sup>1</sup>	Personal current transfer payments		Personal outlays		Personal saving
									Total	Personal consumption expenditures	
1973	1,140.8	132.4	1,008.4	872.6	849.6	19.6	3.4	135.8	86.5	84.3	13.5
1974	1,251.8	151.0	1,100.8	954.5	930.2	20.9	3.4	146.3	86.7	84.5	13.3
1975	1,369.4	147.6	1,221.8	1,057.8	1,030.5	23.4	3.8	164.0	86.6	84.3	13.4
1976	1,502.6	172.7	1,330.0	1,175.6	1,147.7	23.5	4.4	154.4	88.4	86.3	11.6
1977	1,659.2	197.9	1,461.4	1,305.4	1,274.0	26.6	4.8	155.9	89.3	87.2	10.7
1978	1,863.7	229.6	1,634.1	1,459.0	1,422.3	31.3	5.4	175.1	89.3	87.0	10.7
1979	2,082.7	268.9	1,813.8	1,627.0	1,585.4	35.6	6.0	186.8	89.7	87.4	10.3
1980	2,324.5	299.5	2,024.9	1,800.1	1,750.7	42.5	6.9	224.9	88.9	86.5	11.1
1981	2,603.2	345.8	2,257.4	1,993.9	1,934.0	48.4	11.5	263.6	88.3	85.7	11.7
1982	2,789.5	354.7	2,434.7	2,143.5	2,071.3	58.5	13.8	291.2	88.0	85.1	12.0
1983	2,981.7	352.9	2,628.8	2,364.2	2,281.6	67.4	15.1	264.7	89.9	86.8	10.1
1984	3,288.7	377.9	2,910.8	2,584.5	2,492.3	75.0	17.1	326.3	88.8	85.6	11.2
1985	3,522.9	417.8	3,105.1	2,822.1	2,712.8	90.6	18.8	282.9	90.9	87.4	9.1
1986	3,731.2	437.8	3,293.4	3,004.7	2,886.3	97.3	21.1	288.7	91.2	87.6	8.8
1987	3,946.8	489.6	3,457.2	3,196.6	3,076.3	97.1	23.2	260.6	92.5	89.0	7.5
1988	4,280.0	505.9	3,774.1	3,457.0	3,330.0	101.3	25.6	317.1	91.6	88.2	8.4
1989	4,621.0	567.7	4,053.3	3,717.9	3,576.8	113.1	28.0	335.4	91.7	88.2	8.3
1990	4,913.3	594.7	4,318.6	3,958.0	3,809.0	118.3	30.6	360.6	91.7	88.2	8.4
1991	5,089.9	588.9	4,501.0	4,100.0	3,943.4	119.9	36.7	401.0	91.1	87.6	8.9
1992	5,417.5	612.8	4,804.7	4,354.2	4,197.6	116.1	40.5	450.5	90.6	87.4	9.4
1993	5,652.9	648.8	5,004.1	4,611.5	4,452.0	113.9	45.6	392.6	92.2	89.0	7.8
1994	5,940.9	693.1	5,247.8	4,890.6	4,721.0	119.9	49.8	357.2	93.2	90.0	6.8
1995	6,283.4	748.4	5,535.0	5,155.9	4,962.6	140.4	52.9	379.0	93.2	89.7	6.8
1996	6,666.2	837.1	5,829.1	5,459.2	5,244.6	157.0	57.6	369.9	93.7	90.0	6.3
1997	7,074.0	931.8	6,142.2	5,770.4	5,536.8	169.7	63.9	371.8	93.9	90.1	6.1
1998	7,588.4	1,032.4	6,555.9	6,131.3	5,877.2	184.6	69.5	424.6	93.5	89.6	6.5
1999	7,978.6	1,111.9	6,866.7	6,509.9	6,283.8	190.8	76.3	315.8	95.4	91.5	4.6
2000	8,621.3	1,236.3	7,385.0	7,068.1	6,767.2	217.7	83.2	316.8	95.7	91.6	4.3
2001	8,993.1	1,239.0	7,754.1	7,390.9	7,073.8	225.6	91.5	363.2	95.3	91.2	4.7
2002	9,150.0	1,052.2	8,097.9	7,646.3	7,348.9	200.6	96.7	451.6	94.4	90.8	5.6
2003	9,481.8	1,003.5	8,478.2	8,038.3	7,740.7	196.5	101.1	439.9	94.8	91.3	5.2
2004	10,015.9	1,048.7	8,967.1	8,550.1	8,232.0	207.3	110.9	417.0	95.3	91.8	4.7
2005	10,546.1	1,212.5	9,333.6	9,124.5	8,769.1	237.3	118.1	209.2	97.8	94.0	2.8
2006	11,302.0	1,357.0	9,945.0	9,669.1	9,277.2	266.9	124.9	276.0	97.2	93.3	2.2
2007	11,932.1	1,492.5	10,439.6	10,176.2	9,746.6	291.2	138.4	263.4	97.5	93.4	2.5
2008	12,425.7	1,507.5	10,918.2	10,466.7	10,050.1	272.0	144.6	451.5	95.9	92.0	4.1
2009	12,065.7	1,152.4	10,913.3	10,288.4	9,891.2	252.8	144.3	624.9	94.3	90.6	5.7
2010	12,556.6	1,237.6	11,319.0	10,647.6	10,260.3	242.3	140.3	671.4	94.1	90.6	5.9
2011	13,309.6	1,453.7	11,855.9	11,079.6	10,698.9	229.9	150.8	776.3	93.5	90.2	6.5
2012	13,917.8	1,509.5	12,408.3	11,431.8	11,047.4	229.6	154.8	976.5	92.1	89.0	7.9
2013	14,088.8	1,677.5	12,391.2	11,775.5	11,388.2	229.5	157.8	615.7	95.0	91.9	5.0
2014	14,784.1	1,785.7	12,998.4	12,286.4	11,874.5	243.7	168.2	712.0	94.5	91.4	5.5
2015	15,473.7	1,940.9	13,532.9	12,742.3	12,297.4	263.5	181.4	790.6	94.2	90.9	5.8
2016	15,887.7	1,958.8	13,928.9	13,182.7	12,726.8	272.8	183.1	746.2	94.6	91.4	5.4
2017	16,662.8	2,048.8	14,613.9	13,772.3	13,290.6	290.4	191.3	841.6	94.2	90.9	5.8
2018	17,528.2	2,074.2	15,454.0	14,457.4	13,934.4	321.3	201.6	996.7	93.6	90.2	6.4
2019	18,356.2	2,199.3	16,157.0	14,966.1	14,417.6	340.8	207.6	1,190.9	92.6	89.2	7.4
2020	19,629.0	2,256.5	17,372.5	14,694.0	14,206.2	285.8	202.0	2,678.6	84.6	81.8	15.4
2021	21,407.7	2,743.3	18,664.4	16,543.9	16,043.0	273.6	227.3	2,120.5	88.6	86.0	11.4
2022	21,840.8	3,138.3	18,702.5	18,079.7	17,511.7	326.1	241.8	622.8	96.7	93.6	3.3
2023 <sup>P</sup>	22,966.3	2,748.4	20,217.9	19,306.4	18,564.0	497.2	245.1	911.5	95.5	91.8	4.5
2020: I	18,774.8	2,255.9	16,518.9	15,014.5	14,473.1	341.2	200.2	1,504.4	90.9	87.6	9.1
2020: II	20,183.0	2,111.9	18,071.1	13,647.4	13,168.9	275.8	202.7	4,423.7	75.5	72.9	24.5
2020: III	19,843.5	2,263.3	17,580.2	14,925.8	14,456.2	273.0	196.6	2,654.4	84.9	82.2	15.1
2020: IV	19,714.7	2,394.7	17,320.0	15,188.1	14,726.7	253.1	208.3	2,131.9	87.7	85.0	12.3
2021: I	22,162.2	2,577.6	19,584.6	15,694.9	15,217.7	259.7	217.5	3,889.7	80.1	77.7	19.9
2021: II	21,046.1	2,703.9	18,342.2	16,453.5	15,950.9	278.6	224.0	1,888.6	89.7	87.0	10.3
2021: III	21,138.3	2,789.9	18,348.5	16,796.3	16,285.1	280.1	231.1	1,552.1	91.5	88.8	8.5
2021: IV	21,284.0	2,901.6	18,382.4	17,230.8	16,718.2	275.9	236.7	1,151.6	93.7	90.9	6.3
2022: I	21,410.5	3,162.8	18,247.8	17,544.0	17,030.6	275.0	238.7	703.7	96.1	93.3	3.9
2022: II	21,659.7	3,157.8	18,501.9	17,949.5	17,415.1	291.8	242.6	552.4	97.0	94.1	3.0
2022: III	22,018.8	3,137.0	18,881.7	18,269.1	17,684.2	342.4	242.5	612.6	96.8	93.7	3.2
2022: IV	22,274.1	3,095.7	19,178.4	18,556.0	17,917.0	395.3	243.7	622.4	96.8	93.4	3.2
2023: I	22,643.9	2,763.7	19,880.2	18,932.0	18,269.6	419.8	242.9	948.2	95.2	91.9	4.8
2023: II	22,868.0	2,703.8	20,164.2	19,136.6	18,419.0	474.7	242.9	1,027.6	94.9	91.3	5.1
2023: III	23,064.2	2,756.5	20,307.7	19,456.5	18,679.5	530.6	246.4	851.2	95.8	92.0	4.2
2023: IV <sup>P</sup>	23,289.0	2,769.6	20,519.4	19,700.5	18,888.1	563.8	248.6	818.9	96.0	92.0	4.0

<sup>1</sup> Consists of nonmortgage interest paid by households.

<sup>2</sup> Percents based on data in millions of dollars.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).



TABLE B-19. Gross saving and investment, 1973-2023

(Billions of dollars, except as noted; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Year or quarter	Gross saving										
	Total gross saving	Net saving							Consumption of fixed capital		
		Total net saving	Net private saving			Net government saving			Total	Private	Government
			Total	Personal saving	Undistributed corporate profits <sup>1</sup>	Total	Federal	State and local			
1973	335.3	156.6	189.3	135.8	53.5	-32.7	-38.3	5.6	178.7	131.5	47.2
1974	349.2	142.3	186.0	146.3	39.7	-43.7	-41.3	-2.3	206.9	153.2	53.7
1975	348.1	109.6	218.3	164.0	54.3	-108.6	-97.9	-10.7	238.5	178.8	59.7
1976	399.3	139.1	224.4	154.4	70.0	-85.3	-80.9	-4.4	260.2	196.5	63.7
1977	459.4	169.6	242.5	155.9	86.6	-72.9	-73.4	.5	289.8	221.1	68.7
1978	548.0	220.8	278.0	175.1	102.9	-57.2	-62.0	4.9	327.2	252.1	75.1
1979	613.6	239.7	288.3	186.8	101.5	-48.6	-47.4	-1.2	373.9	290.7	83.1
1980	630.3	201.9	296.5	224.9	71.6	-94.7	-88.8	-5.9	428.4	335.0	93.5
1981	744.2	257.0	355.3	263.6	91.7	-98.2	-88.1	-10.2	487.2	381.9	105.3
1982	726.0	189.1	379.2	291.2	88.0	-190.1	-167.4	-22.8	537.0	420.4	116.6
1983	716.8	154.2	379.8	264.7	115.1	-225.6	-207.2	-18.4	562.6	438.8	123.8
1984	861.8	283.4	480.1	326.3	153.8	-196.7	-196.5	-2	598.4	463.5	134.9
1985	861.2	241.0	442.7	282.9	159.7	-201.7	-199.2	-2.4	640.1	496.4	143.7
1986	864.7	179.4	399.3	288.7	110.6	-219.9	-215.9	-4.0	685.3	531.6	153.7
1987	949.1	218.7	398.8	260.6	138.2	-180.1	-165.7	-14.4	730.4	566.3	164.1
1988	1,076.8	292.3	463.6	317.1	146.5	-171.3	-160.0	-11.3	784.5	607.9	176.6
1989	1,110.0	271.7	450.4	335.4	115.0	-178.7	-159.4	-19.3	838.3	649.6	188.6
1990	1,113.6	225.0	464.6	360.6	104.0	-239.5	-203.3	-36.3	888.5	688.4	200.1
1991	1,153.6	221.2	529.8	401.0	128.8	-308.5	-248.4	-60.1	932.4	721.5	210.9
1992	1,148.0	187.8	593.4	450.5	142.9	-405.6	-334.5	-71.1	960.2	742.9	217.4
1993	1,163.9	160.4	546.6	392.6	154.0	-386.2	-313.5	-72.6	1,003.5	778.2	225.3
1994	1,295.8	240.2	560.1	357.2	202.9	-319.9	-255.6	-64.2	1,055.6	822.5	233.1
1995	1,427.2	304.8	617.7	379.0	238.7	-312.9	-242.1	-70.8	1,122.4	880.7	241.7
1996	1,580.0	404.7	638.3	369.9	268.3	-233.6	-179.4	-54.2	1,175.3	929.1	246.2
1997	1,781.9	542.5	676.9	371.8	305.2	-134.4	-92.0	-42.4	1,239.3	987.8	251.6
1998	1,931.7	622.0	651.3	424.6	226.7	-29.3	1.4	-30.7	1,309.7	1,052.2	257.6
1999	2,008.2	609.3	578.9	315.8	264.0	29.5	69.1	-39.7	1,398.9	1,132.2	266.7
2000	2,126.2	614.9	496.7	316.8	179.9	118.2	159.7	-41.5	1,511.2	1,231.5	279.7
2001	2,072.0	472.5	573.3	363.2	214.1	-104.7	15.0	-119.8	1,599.5	1,311.7	287.8
2002	2,000.3	342.3	793.8	451.6	342.2	-451.4	-267.8	-183.6	1,658.0	1,361.8	296.2
2003	1,987.8	268.7	848.2	439.9	408.3	-579.4	-397.4	-182.0	1,719.1	1,412.0	307.1
2004	2,157.8	336.0	879.2	417.0	462.2	-543.3	-393.5	-149.8	1,821.8	1,497.1	324.7
2005	2,353.8	382.8	780.2	209.2	571.0	-397.4	-293.8	-103.7	1,971.1	1,622.6	348.4
2006	2,642.3	518.2	826.1	276.0	550.1	-307.9	-221.9	-86.0	2,124.2	1,751.8	372.3
2007	2,511.9	259.1	649.2	263.4	385.7	-390.0	-259.7	-130.4	2,252.8	1,852.4	400.3
2008	2,211.8	-147.2	699.8	451.5	248.3	-847.0	-624.9	-222.1	2,359.0	1,931.9	427.0
2009	1,997.7	-373.5	1,211.9	624.9	587.0	-1,585.5	-1,243.2	-342.3	2,371.3	1,928.5	442.8
2010	2,300.7	-89.6	1,537.7	671.4	866.2	-1,627.3	-1,318.4	-309.0	2,390.4	1,933.2	457.2
2011	2,533.1	58.8	1,570.0	776.3	793.7	-1,511.2	-1,234.1	-277.0	2,474.4	1,997.2	477.2
2012	2,972.4	396.9	1,754.4	976.5	777.8	-1,357.5	-1,072.7	-284.8	2,575.5	2,061.9	493.6
2013	3,118.8	437.2	1,337.1	615.7	721.4	-899.9	-633.9	-266.0	2,881.6	2,176.6	505.0
2014	3,446.2	626.5	1,458.0	712.0	746.0	-831.6	-594.0	-237.6	2,819.7	2,301.4	518.3
2015	3,587.8	664.9	1,438.9	790.6	648.3	-774.0	-557.4	-216.6	2,922.9	2,397.9	525.1
2016	3,473.7	465.6	1,375.1	746.2	628.9	-909.5	-667.3	-242.2	3,008.1	2,475.6	532.5
2017	3,703.2	554.2	1,515.9	841.6	674.2	-961.6	-736.8	-224.8	3,149.0	2,599.1	549.9
2018	3,950.8	638.2	1,744.5	996.7	747.8	-1,106.2	-906.4	-199.9	3,312.6	2,737.3	575.3
2019	4,176.5	696.7	1,947.0	1,190.9	756.1	-1,250.3	-1,044.4	-205.9	3,479.8	2,881.8	598.0
2020	3,936.9	311.3	3,257.6	2,678.6	579.1	-2,946.3	-2,894.4	-51.9	3,625.5	3,007.7	617.8
2021	4,200.7	327.4	2,823.9	2,120.5	703.4	-2,496.6	-2,739.9	243.4	3,873.3	3,214.3	659.0
2022	4,699.9	400.0	1,401.8	622.8	779.0	-1,001.9	-1,062.2	60.4	4,299.9	3,577.6	722.3
2023 <sup>P</sup>				911.5					4,584.5	3,820.8	763.7
2020: I	4,281.4	711.3	2,038.1	1,504.4	533.7	-1,326.8	-1,070.4	-256.5	3,570.1	2,961.3	608.8
II	3,443.6	-159.6	4,755.2	4,423.7	331.6	-4,914.8	-5,286.3	371.5	3,603.2	2,989.8	613.3
III	3,693.1	52.7	3,561.7	2,654.4	907.3	-3,508.9	-3,316.9	-192.1	3,640.3	3,019.7	620.7
IV	4,329.5	640.9	2,675.6	2,131.9	543.7	-2,034.7	-1,904.3	-130.4	3,688.6	3,060.0	628.5
2021: I	4,198.1	461.7	4,631.9	3,889.7	742.2	-4,170.2	-4,048.0	-122.2	3,736.4	3,097.9	638.4
II	4,001.9	182.9	2,695.3	1,888.6	806.7	-2,512.4	-3,270.7	758.3	3,819.0	3,166.8	652.2
III	4,137.0	220.3	2,226.8	1,552.1	674.7	-2,006.5	-2,189.4	182.9	3,916.6	3,251.9	664.8
IV	4,465.8	444.5	1,741.6	1,151.6	590.0	-1,297.2	-1,451.6	154.4	4,021.4	3,340.8	680.6
2022: I	4,612.7	471.8	1,268.8	703.7	565.1	-797.0	-974.4	177.4	4,140.9	3,442.9	698.0
II	4,738.0	477.8	1,344.3	552.4	791.9	-866.5	-960.5	93.9	4,260.2	3,542.8	717.4
III	4,827.4	459.2	1,511.6	612.6	869.0	-1,052.3	-1,072.7	20.4	4,368.2	3,636.4	731.8
IV	4,621.4	191.1	1,482.7	622.4	880.2	-1,291.6	-1,241.2	-50.4	4,430.3	3,688.2	742.1
2023: I	4,466.9	-40.5	1,696.6	948.2	748.4	-1,737.1	-1,673.7	-63.4	4,507.4	3,753.3	754.1
II	4,480.2	-76.9	1,773.6	1,027.6	746.0	-1,850.4	-1,665.7	-184.7	4,557.0	3,797.3	759.7
III	4,433.8	-177.7	1,711.6	851.2	860.3	-1,889.2	-1,676.0	-213.2	4,611.5	3,844.5	766.9
IV <sup>P</sup>				818.9					4,662.3	3,888.2	774.1

<sup>1</sup> With inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments.

See next page for continuation of table.





TABLE B–20. Median money income (in 2022 dollars) and poverty status of families and people, by race, 2014–2022

Race, Hispanic origin, and year	Families <sup>1</sup>						People below poverty level <sup>2</sup>		Median money income (in 2022 dollars) of people 15 years old and over with income <sup>3</sup>			
	Number (mil-lions)	Median money income (in 2022 dol-lars) <sup>3</sup>	Below poverty level <sup>2</sup>				Number (mil-lions)	Percent	Males		Females	
			Total		Female householder, no husband present							
			Number (mil-lions)	Percent	Number (mil-lions)	Percent						
									All people	Year-round full-time workers	All people	Year-round full-time workers
<b>TOTAL (all races)<sup>4</sup></b>												
2014	81.7	\$80,600	9.5	11.6	4.8	30.6	46.7	14.8	\$43,910	\$62,240	\$26,900	\$49,350
2015	82.2	85,580	8.6	10.4	4.4	29.2	43.1	13.5	44,960	63,240	28,770	50,540
2016	82.9	87,240	8.1	9.8	4.1	26.6	40.6	12.7	46,640	64,160	29,870	51,830
2017	83.1	89,540	7.8	9.3	4.0	25.7	39.7	12.3	47,630	65,840	30,050	52,330
2017 <sup>5</sup>	83.5	89,770	7.8	9.3	4.0	26.2	39.6	12.3	47,630	65,440	30,540	53,040
2018	83.5	90,900	7.5	9.0	3.7	24.9	38.2	11.8	48,100	66,140	31,300	54,780
2019	83.7	97,970	6.6	7.8	3.3	22.2	34.0	10.5	50,470	69,340	33,490	57,100
2020 <sup>6</sup>	83.7	95,080	7.3	8.7	3.6	23.5	37.6	11.5	48,130	73,200	33,150	59,300
2021	84.3	95,530	7.4	8.8	3.6	23.0	37.9	11.6	49,520	68,730	33,360	57,130
2022	84.4	92,750	7.4	8.8	3.5	23.0	37.9	11.5	48,450	66,180	32,790	55,560
<b>WHITE, non-Hispanic<sup>7</sup></b>												
2014	53.8	92,730	3.9	7.3	1.7	23.7	19.7	10.1	49,680	71,020	29,040	53,510
2015	53.8	97,480	3.5	6.4	1.6	21.7	17.8	9.1	51,090	73,540	31,020	55,310
2016	54.1	98,470	3.4	6.3	1.6	21.1	17.3	8.8	52,070	73,430	31,790	56,770
2017	53.9	101,200	3.2	6.0	1.4	19.8	17.0	8.7	54,050	73,600	31,970	57,730
2017 <sup>5</sup>	54.2	102,500	3.2	5.9	1.4	20.2	16.6	8.5	54,470	73,480	32,790	59,620
2018	54.2	103,400	3.2	5.8	1.4	19.7	15.7	8.1	55,270	75,460	34,060	58,600
2019	54.3	110,600	2.7	5.0	1.1	17.1	14.2	7.3	57,590	80,070	35,690	61,200
2020 <sup>6</sup>	53.5	109,900	3.1	5.8	1.3	18.8	16.0	8.2	56,570	81,480	35,500	64,560
2021	53.5	109,900	3.0	5.6	1.2	17.3	15.8	8.1	55,470	78,340	35,200	62,330
2022	53.0	103,400	3.2	6.1	1.3	18.9	16.7	8.6	52,720	75,640	35,180	60,550
<b>BLACK<sup>7</sup></b>												
2014	9.9	52,200	2.3	22.9	1.6	37.2	10.8	26.2	32,140	49,950	25,360	42,730
2015	9.8	55,420	2.1	21.1	1.5	33.9	10.0	24.1	33,170	50,490	26,160	44,320
2016	10.0	59,230	1.9	19.0	1.3	31.6	9.2	22.0	35,560	50,370	27,400	44,800
2017	10.0	59,660	1.8	18.2	1.3	30.8	9.0	21.2	35,510	51,530	27,870	44,280
2017 <sup>5</sup>	10.0	59,720	1.9	18.9	1.4	31.9	9.2	21.7	34,640	50,020	28,210	45,470
2018	9.8	61,380	1.7	17.7	1.2	29.4	8.9	20.8	35,970	52,700	29,430	46,480
2019	10.0	66,650	1.6	16.3	1.1	27.3	8.1	18.8	35,610	53,240	30,780	47,830
2020 <sup>6</sup>	10.2	64,900	1.7	16.8	1.2	28.2	8.6	19.6	35,250	58,000	30,130	51,910
2021	10.3	64,200	1.8	17.4	1.3	29.3	8.6	19.5	36,550	55,140	30,710	51,950
2022	10.4	66,760	1.5	14.3	1.0	24.5	7.6	17.1	37,300	52,400	32,370	50,520
<b>ASIAN<sup>7</sup></b>												
2014	4.5	100,100	4	8.9	.1	18.9	2.1	12.0	49,470	72,940	30,710	58,720
2015	4.7	110,000	4	8.0	.1	16.2	2.1	11.4	52,900	78,370	32,120	60,670
2016	4.7	112,200	3	7.2	.1	19.4	1.9	10.1	55,900	80,670	32,120	61,650
2017	4.9	109,400	4	7.8	.1	15.5	2.0	10.0	57,590	83,500	33,320	61,580
2017 <sup>5</sup>	4.9	111,700	4	7.4	.1	16.3	1.9	9.7	58,000	83,260	32,550	63,260
2018	5.1	117,000	4	7.6	.1	19.6	2.0	10.1	59,860	82,940	36,050	67,100
2019	5.1	127,800	3	5.7	.1	14.4	1.5	7.3	61,140	89,240	36,560	68,650
2020 <sup>6</sup>	5.2	123,600	3	6.4	.1	15.4	1.6	8.1	58,410	100,200	36,350	81,060
2021	5.3	127,700	4	7.1	.1	14.7	1.9	9.3	61,120	92,950	36,950	74,220
2022	5.5	126,200	3	6.3	.1	15.0	1.9	8.6	61,120	90,800	40,640	71,430
<b>HISPANIC (any race)<sup>7</sup></b>												
2014	12.5	54,570	2.7	21.5	1.3	37.9	13.1	23.6	32,270	42,470	21,270	37,290
2015	12.8	57,290	2.5	19.6	1.2	35.5	12.1	21.4	34,030	43,550	22,880	38,320
2016	13.0	61,320	2.3	17.3	1.1	32.7	11.1	19.4	36,610	45,810	23,880	38,440
2017	13.2	63,220	2.2	16.3	1.1	32.7	10.8	18.3	36,190	47,050	23,950	38,250
2017 <sup>5</sup>	13.3	63,200	2.2	16.4	1.1	33.4	10.8	18.3	35,950	45,450	24,190	38,740
2018	13.3	63,680	2.1	15.5	1.0	30.8	10.5	17.6	36,310	46,650	25,070	40,650
2019	13.2	69,400	1.8	13.9	.9	26.8	9.5	15.7	36,770	47,830	26,680	42,030
2020 <sup>6</sup>	13.7	67,700	2.0	14.8	1.0	28.6	10.5	17.0	36,160	51,680	25,820	45,440
2021	14.1	67,180	2.1	15.0	1.0	28.2	10.7	17.1	39,180	50,000	27,310	43,750
2022	14.2	67,880	2.2	15.2	1.0	29.6	10.8	16.9	37,260	48,430	26,800	41,810

<sup>1</sup> The term "family" refers to a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together. Every family must include a reference person.

<sup>2</sup> Poverty thresholds are updated each year to reflect changes in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U).

<sup>3</sup> Adjusted by the chained consumer price index for all urban consumers (C-CPI-U).

<sup>4</sup> Data for American Indians and Alaska natives, native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting two or more races are included in the total but not shown separately.

<sup>5</sup> Reflects implementation of an updated data processing system.

<sup>6</sup> Reflects implementation of Census 2020-based population controls comparable to succeeding years.

<sup>7</sup> The CPS allows respondents to choose more than one race. Data shown are for "white alone, non-Hispanic," "black alone," and "Asian alone" race categories. ("Black" is also "black or African American.") Family race and Hispanic origin are based on the reference person.

Note: For details see *Income and Poverty in the United States* in publication Series P-60 on the CPS ASEC.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census).

TABLE B–21. Real farm income, 1957–2024

[Billions of chained (2024) dollars]

Year	Income of farm operators from farming <sup>1</sup>							Production expenses	Net farm income
	Gross farm income						Direct Federal Government payments		
	Total	Value of agricultural sector production				Farm-related income <sup>4</sup>			
		Total	Crops <sup>2,3</sup>	Animals and animal products <sup>3</sup>					
1957	294.8	286.1	115.7	153.9	16.6	8.6	200.8	93.9	
1958	322.6	313.6	124.3	172.0	17.2	9.0	213.5	109.0	
1959	309.6	304.1	120.7	164.9	18.5	5.6	222.1	87.5	
1960	311.1	305.4	126.3	160.2	18.9	5.7	220.7	90.4	
1961	323.4	311.5	126.2	165.8	19.5	11.9	228.1	95.4	
1962	333.7	320.0	131.3	188.8	19.8	13.8	238.6	95.1	
1963	337.9	327.7	139.7	164.4	20.6	13.2	246.2	91.7	
1964	324.7	308.0	129.5	157.1	21.3	16.7	244.2	80.5	
1965	350.9	332.3	143.4	167.3	21.6	18.6	253.6	97.2	
1966	370.0	346.0	134.3	189.6	22.1	24.0	267.7	102.4	
1967	360.0	338.0	136.9	178.1	23.0	21.9	272.0	87.9	
1968	354.3	330.7	129.3	178.4	23.0	23.7	270.1	84.2	
1969	367.5	342.7	128.2	191.0	23.5	24.7	274.3	93.1	
1970	364.0	341.0	127.0	190.4	23.6	23.0	275.1	88.9	
1971	365.8	347.3	138.0	185.3	24.1	18.5	277.4	88.4	
1972	401.6	379.2	146.5	208.3	24.4	22.4	291.8	109.8	
1973	529.4	515.4	230.4	258.8	26.2	14.0	345.5	183.9	
1974	482.5	479.9	241.4	210.3	28.2	2.6	348.6	133.9	
1975	451.9	448.3	226.5	193.2	28.6	3.6	337.2	114.6	
1976	438.4	435.2	206.0	198.6	30.6	3.1	352.4	85.9	
1977	436.2	428.9	205.1	189.8	34.0	7.3	356.5	79.7	
1978	481.3	468.9	212.1	220.5	37.3	11.4	386.8	94.4	
1979	521.5	516.7	230.6	246.3	39.8	4.8	426.6	94.9	
1980	473.6	469.5	204.2	223.1	42.2	4.1	422.4	51.2	
1981	482.1	476.5	228.7	204.1	43.7	5.6	404.2	77.9	
1982	448.1	438.6	196.0	192.5	50.1	9.5	383.0	65.1	
1983	404.2	379.8	149.4	184.0	46.4	24.4	366.7	37.5	
1984	425.9	404.6	197.1	182.6	24.8	21.4	360.1	65.9	
1985	395.9	377.0	181.0	169.6	26.4	18.9	325.8	70.1	
1986	376.1	347.7	152.5	170.4	24.7	28.5	301.2	75.0	
1987	396.0	356.6	151.6	178.1	26.9	39.4	306.6	89.4	
1988	404.1	371.2	157.3	178.6	35.3	32.9	314.1	90.0	
1989	418.7	394.9	178.1	182.4	34.4	43.8	317.1	101.6	
1990	416.6	397.0	175.2	189.6	32.1	19.6	319.2	97.4	
1991	391.3	374.6	165.4	177.8	31.4	16.7	309.3	82.0	
1992	399.5	381.3	177.4	173.6	30.3	18.3	299.6	100.0	
1993	399.0	372.9	160.9	179.0	33.0	26.1	308.0	90.9	
1994	411.8	398.8	191.5	171.0	34.3	15.0	311.6	100.2	
1995	393.5	379.9	179.0	163.8	37.1	13.6	319.2	74.2	
1996	432.2	418.7	212.0	188.7	38.0	13.5	324.2	108.0	
1997	428.8	415.3	202.7	173.5	39.1	13.5	336.4	92.4	
1998	414.4	392.4	182.0	167.8	42.6	22.1	330.5	84.0	
1999	412.8	375.0	163.0	167.3	44.7	37.8	329.0	83.8	
2000	415.2	375.3	163.1	170.2	42.0	39.9	328.1	87.1	
2001	419.6	382.0	159.6	178.6	43.8	37.7	327.5	92.2	
2002	381.5	360.9	162.0	154.6	44.3	20.5	316.7	64.8	
2003	419.6	392.8	176.1	170.3	46.4	26.8	320.7	98.9	
2004	465.8	445.3	197.7	196.3	51.3	20.5	327.7	138.1	
2005	457.3	419.9	175.2	193.8	50.9	37.4	336.6	120.7	
2006	431.1	407.7	176.4	177.3	54.0	23.5	345.8	85.3	
2007	491.2	474.0	218.6	200.2	55.2	17.2	389.9	101.3	
2008	517.5	500.1	246.7	197.9	55.5	17.4	406.8	110.7	
2009	474.7	457.6	232.2	168.7	56.7	17.2	387.0	87.7	
2010	496.9	479.6	234.3	195.5	49.9	17.3	389.4	107.5	
2011	574.1	559.9	272.2	223.6	64.1	14.2	419.1	155.1	
2012	602.9	586.7	285.4	226.7	76.6	14.3	473.7	129.2	
2013	637.9	623.4	308.1	238.7	76.7	14.5	474.9	163.0	
2014	626.0	613.3	267.2	277.6	68.5	12.7	506.5	119.5	
2015	566.0	552.1	236.7	249.3	66.2	13.9	461.2	104.9	
2016	524.4	507.8	240.8	210.4	56.7	16.5	445.1	79.3	
2017	531.4	517.0	234.7	221.0	61.3	14.4	437.6	93.8	
2018	518.9	502.2	227.2	216.6	58.4	16.7	419.0	100.0	
2019	514.5	487.6	214.0	210.4	63.2	27.0	417.7	96.8	
2020	537.2	483.2	226.1	195.2	61.9	54.0	423.4	113.8	
2021	582.9	553.5	274.0	220.1	59.4	29.4	421.6	161.3	
2022	650.0	633.5	283.6	270.6	79.3	16.5	453.6	196.4	
2023 <sup>p</sup>	607.1	594.6	266.9	248.2	79.6	12.4	447.8	159.2	
2024 <sup>p</sup>	571.2	560.9	242.6	239.7	78.6	10.2	455.1	116.1	

<sup>1</sup> The GDP chain-type price index is used to convert the current-dollar statistics to 2024=100 equivalents.

<sup>2</sup> Crop receipts include proceeds received from commodities placed under Commodity Credit Corporation loans.

<sup>3</sup> The value of production equates to the sum of cash receipts, home consumption, and the value of the change in inventories.

<sup>4</sup> Includes income from forest products sold, the gross imputed rental value of farm dwellings, machine hire and custom work, and other sources of farm income such as commodity insurance indemnities.

Note: Data for 2023 and 2024 are forecasts.

Source: Department of Agriculture (Economic Research Service).

## Labor Market Indicators

**TABLE B-22. Civilian labor force, 1929-2023**  
 [Monthly data seasonally adjusted, except as noted]

Year or month	Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>1</sup>	Civilian labor force					Not in labor force	Civilian labor force participation rate <sup>2</sup>	Civilian employment/population ratio <sup>3</sup>	Unemployment rate, civilian workers <sup>4</sup>
		Total	Employment			Unemployment				
			Total	Agricultural	Non-agricultural					
		Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over					Percent			
1929		49,180	47,630	10,450	37,180	1,550				3.2
1930		49,820	45,480	10,340	35,140	4,340				8.7
1931		50,420	42,400	10,290	32,110	8,020				15.9
1932		51,000	38,940	10,170	28,770	12,060				23.6
1933		51,590	38,760	10,090	28,670	12,830				24.9
1934		52,230	40,890	9,900	30,990	11,340				21.7
1935		52,870	42,260	10,110	32,150	10,610				20.1
1936		53,440	44,410	10,000	34,410	9,030				16.9
1937		54,000	46,300	9,820	36,480	7,700				14.3
1938		54,610	44,220	9,690	34,530	10,390				19.0
1939		55,230	45,750	9,610	36,140	9,480				17.2
1940	99,840	55,640	47,520	9,540	37,980	8,120	44,200	55.7	47.6	14.6
1941	99,900	55,910	50,350	9,100	41,250	5,660	43,990	56.0	50.4	9.9
1942	98,640	56,410	53,750	9,250	44,500	2,660	42,230	57.2	54.5	4.7
1943	94,640	55,540	54,470	9,080	45,390	1,070	39,100	58.7	57.6	1.9
1944	93,220	54,630	53,960	8,950	45,010	670	38,590	58.6	57.9	1.2
1945	94,090	53,860	52,820	8,580	44,240	1,040	40,230	57.2	56.1	1.9
1946	103,070	57,520	55,250	8,320	46,930	2,270	45,550	55.8	53.6	3.9
1947	106,018	60,168	57,812	8,256	49,557	2,356	45,850	56.8	54.5	3.9
		Thousands of persons 16 years of age and over								
1947	101,827	59,350	57,038	7,890	49,148	2,311	42,477	58.3	56.0	3.9
1948	103,068	60,621	58,343	7,629	50,714	2,276	42,447	58.8	56.6	3.8
1949	103,994	61,286	57,651	7,658	49,993	3,637	42,708	58.9	55.4	5.9
1950	104,995	62,208	58,918	7,160	51,758	3,288	42,787	59.2	56.1	5.3
1951	104,621	62,017	59,961	6,726	53,235	2,055	42,604	59.2	57.3	3.3
1952	105,231	62,138	60,250	6,500	53,749	1,883	43,093	59.0	57.3	3.0
1953	107,056	63,015	61,179	6,260	54,919	1,834	44,041	58.9	57.1	2.9
1954	108,321	63,643	60,109	6,205	53,904	3,532	44,678	58.8	55.5	5.5
1955	109,683	65,023	62,170	6,450	55,722	2,852	44,660	59.3	56.7	4.4
1956	110,954	66,552	63,799	6,283	57,514	2,750	44,402	60.0	57.5	4.1
1957	112,265	66,929	64,071	5,947	58,123	2,859	45,336	59.6	57.1	4.3
1958	113,727	67,639	63,036	5,586	57,450	4,602	46,088	59.5	55.4	6.8
1959	115,329	68,369	64,630	5,565	59,065	3,740	46,960	59.3	56.0	5.5
1960	117,245	69,628	65,778	5,458	60,318	3,852	47,617	59.4	56.1	5.5
1961	118,771	70,459	65,746	5,200	60,546	4,714	48,312	59.3	55.4	6.7
1962	120,153	70,614	66,702	4,944	61,759	3,911	49,539	58.8	55.5	5.5
1963	122,416	71,833	67,762	4,687	63,076	4,070	50,583	58.7	55.4	5.7
1964	124,485	73,091	69,305	4,523	64,782	3,786	51,394	58.7	55.7	5.2
1965	126,513	74,455	71,088	4,361	66,726	3,366	52,058	58.9	56.2	4.5
1966	128,058	75,770	72,895	3,979	68,915	2,875	52,288	59.2	56.9	3.8
1967	129,874	77,347	74,372	3,844	70,527	2,975	52,527	59.6	57.3	3.8
1968	132,028	78,737	75,920	3,817	72,103	2,817	53,291	59.6	57.5	3.6
1969	134,335	80,734	77,902	3,606	74,296	2,832	53,602	60.1	58.0	3.5
1970	137,085	82,771	78,678	3,463	75,215	4,093	54,315	60.4	57.4	4.9
1971	140,216	84,382	79,367	3,394	75,972	5,016	55,834	60.2	56.6	5.9
1972	144,126	87,034	82,153	3,484	78,669	4,882	57,091	60.4	57.0	5.6
1973	147,096	89,429	85,084	3,470	81,594	4,365	57,667	60.8	57.8	4.9
1974	150,120	91,949	86,794	3,515	83,279	5,156	58,171	61.3	57.8	5.6
1975	153,153	93,775	85,846	3,408	82,438	7,929	59,377	61.2	56.1	8.5
1976	156,150	96,158	88,752	3,331	85,421	7,406	59,991	61.6	56.8	7.7
1977	159,033	99,009	92,017	3,283	88,734	6,991	60,025	62.3	57.9	7.1
1978	161,910	102,251	96,048	3,387	92,661	6,202	59,659	63.2	59.3	6.1
1979	164,863	104,962	98,824	3,347	95,477	6,137	59,900	63.7	59.9	5.8
1980	167,745	106,940	99,303	3,364	95,938	7,637	60,806	63.8	59.2	7.1
1981	170,130	108,670	100,397	3,368	97,030	8,273	61,460	63.9	59.0	7.6
1982	172,271	110,204	99,526	3,401	96,125	10,678	62,067	64.0	57.8	9.7
1983	174,215	111,550	100,834	3,383	97,450	10,717	62,665	64.0	57.9	9.6
1984	176,383	113,544	105,005	3,321	101,685	8,539	62,839	64.4	59.5	7.5
1985	178,206	115,461	107,150	3,179	103,971	8,312	62,744	64.8	60.1	7.2
1986	180,587	117,834	109,597	3,163	106,434	8,237	62,752	65.3	60.7	7.0
1987	182,753	119,865	112,440	3,208	109,232	7,425	62,888	65.6	61.5	6.2
1988	184,613	121,669	114,968	3,169	111,800	6,701	62,944	65.9	62.3	5.5
1989	186,393	123,869	117,342	3,199	114,142	6,528	62,523	66.5	63.0	5.3

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted.

<sup>2</sup> Civilian labor force as percent of civilian noninstitutional population.

<sup>3</sup> Civilian employment as percent of civilian noninstitutional population.

<sup>4</sup> Unemployed as percent of civilian labor force.

See next page for continuation of table.

TABLE B-22. Civilian labor force, 1929-2023—Continued

(Monthly data seasonally adjusted, except as noted)

Year or month	Civilian noninstitutional population <sup>1</sup>	Civilian labor force					Not in labor force	Civilian labor force participation rate <sup>2</sup>	Civilian employment/population ratio <sup>3</sup>	Unemployment rate, civilian workers <sup>4</sup>
		Total	Employment			Unemployment				
			Total	Agricultural	Non-agricultural					
Thousands of persons 16 years of age and over							Percent			
1990	189,164	125,840	118,793	3,223	115,570	7,047	63,324	66.5	62.8	5.6
1991	190,925	126,346	117,718	3,269	114,449	8,628	64,578	66.2	61.7	6.8
1992	192,805	128,105	118,492	3,247	115,245	9,613	64,700	66.4	61.5	7.5
1993	194,838	129,200	120,259	3,115	117,144	8,940	65,638	66.3	61.7	6.9
1994	196,814	131,056	123,060	3,409	119,651	7,996	65,758	66.6	62.5	6.1
1995	198,584	132,304	124,900	3,440	121,460	7,404	66,280	66.6	62.9	5.6
1996	200,591	133,943	126,708	3,443	123,264	7,236	66,647	66.8	63.2	5.4
1997	203,133	136,297	129,558	3,399	126,159	6,739	66,837	67.1	63.8	4.9
1998	205,220	137,673	131,463	3,378	128,085	6,210	67,547	67.1	64.1	4.5
1999	207,753	139,368	133,488	3,281	130,207	5,880	68,385	67.1	64.3	4.2
2000 <sup>5</sup>	212,577	142,583	136,891	2,464	134,427	5,692	69,994	67.1	64.4	4.0
2001	215,092	143,734	136,933	2,299	134,635	6,801	71,359	66.8	63.7	4.7
2002	217,570	144,863	136,485	2,311	134,174	8,378	72,707	66.6	62.7	5.8
2003	221,168	146,510	137,736	2,275	135,461	8,774	74,658	66.2	62.3	6.0
2004	223,357	147,401	139,252	2,232	137,020	8,149	75,956	66.0	62.3	5.5
2005	226,062	149,320	141,730	2,197	139,532	7,591	76,762	66.0	62.7	5.1
2006	228,815	151,428	144,427	2,206	142,221	7,001	77,387	66.2	63.1	4.6
2007	231,867	153,124	146,047	2,095	143,952	7,078	78,743	66.0	63.0	4.6
2008	233,788	154,287	145,362	2,168	143,194	8,924	79,501	66.0	62.2	5.8
2009	235,801	154,142	139,877	2,103	137,775	14,265	81,659	65.4	59.3	9.3
2010	237,830	153,889	139,064	2,206	136,858	14,825	83,941	64.7	58.5	9.6
2011	239,618	153,617	139,869	2,254	137,615	13,747	86,001	64.1	58.4	8.9
2012	243,284	154,975	142,469	2,186	140,283	12,506	88,310	63.7	58.6	8.1
2013	245,679	155,389	143,929	2,130	141,799	11,460	90,290	63.2	58.6	7.4
2014	247,947	155,922	146,305	2,237	144,068	9,617	92,025	62.9	59.0	6.2
2015	250,801	157,130	148,834	2,422	146,411	8,296	93,671	62.7	59.3	5.3
2016	253,538	159,187	151,436	2,460	148,976	7,751	94,351	62.8	59.7	4.9
2017	255,079	160,320	153,337	2,454	150,883	6,982	94,759	62.9	60.1	4.4
2018	257,791	162,075	155,761	2,425	153,336	6,314	95,716	62.9	60.4	3.9
2019	259,175	163,539	157,538	2,425	155,113	6,001	95,636	63.1	60.8	3.7
2020	260,329	160,742	147,795	2,349	145,446	12,947	99,587	61.7	56.8	8.1
2021	261,445	161,204	152,581	2,291	150,290	8,623	100,241	61.7	58.4	5.3
2022	263,973	164,287	158,291	2,290	156,001	5,996	99,686	62.2	60.0	3.6
2023	266,942	167,116	161,037	2,264	158,772	6,080	99,826	62.6	60.3	3.6
2022: Jan	263,202	163,615	157,066	2,329	154,477	6,549	99,587	62.2	59.7	4.0
Feb	263,324	163,807	157,528	2,357	154,974	6,279	99,517	62.2	59.8	3.8
Mar	263,444	164,212	158,219	2,379	155,564	5,993	99,232	62.3	60.1	3.6
Apr	263,559	163,922	157,888	2,332	155,514	6,034	99,637	62.2	59.9	3.7
May	263,679	164,280	158,314	2,335	156,048	5,966	99,399	62.3	60.0	3.6
June	263,835	164,100	158,116	2,288	156,037	5,994	99,735	62.2	59.9	3.6
July	264,012	164,065	158,282	2,413	156,028	5,783	99,946	62.1	60.0	3.5
Aug	264,184	164,741	158,758	2,163	156,741	5,983	99,443	62.4	60.1	3.6
Sept	264,356	164,649	158,894	2,165	156,811	5,755	99,707	62.3	60.1	3.5
Oct	264,535	164,679	158,729	2,214	156,626	5,950	99,656	62.3	60.0	3.6
Nov	264,708	164,441	158,485	2,219	156,258	5,956	100,267	62.1	59.9	3.6
Dec	264,844	164,998	159,300	2,317	156,970	5,698	99,846	62.3	60.1	3.5
2023: Jan	265,962	165,871	160,152	2,249	157,663	5,719	100,090	62.4	60.2	3.4
Feb	266,112	166,263	160,301	2,343	157,797	5,962	99,849	62.5	60.2	3.6
Mar	266,272	166,690	160,824	2,223	158,332	5,866	99,582	62.6	60.4	3.5
Apr	266,443	166,678	160,962	2,295	158,615	5,715	99,766	62.6	60.4	3.4
May	266,618	166,823	160,707	2,293	158,491	6,117	99,795	62.6	60.3	3.7
June	266,801	167,000	161,004	2,299	158,886	5,997	99,801	62.6	60.3	3.6
July	267,002	167,113	161,209	2,251	159,089	5,904	99,889	62.6	60.4	3.5
Aug	267,213	167,840	161,500	2,279	159,275	6,340	99,374	62.8	60.4	3.8
Sept	267,428	167,897	161,550	2,286	159,306	6,347	99,531	62.8	60.4	3.8
Oct	267,642	167,723	161,280	2,201	159,166	6,443	99,919	62.7	60.3	3.8
Nov	267,822	168,127	161,866	2,262	159,578	6,262	99,695	62.8	60.4	3.7
Dec	267,991	167,451	161,183	2,205	158,993	6,268	100,540	62.5	60.1	3.7

<sup>5</sup> Beginning in 2000, data for agricultural employment are for agricultural and related industries; data for this series and for nonagricultural employment are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. Because of independent seasonal adjustment for these two series, monthly data will not add to total civilian employment.

Note: Labor force data in Tables B-22 through B-28 are based on household interviews and usually relate to the calendar week that includes the 12th of the month. Historical comparability is affected by revisions to population controls, changes in occupational and industry classification, and other changes to the survey. In recent years, updated population controls have been introduced annually with the release of January data, so data are not strictly comparable with earlier periods. Particularly notable changes were introduced for data in the years 1953, 1960, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1978, 1980, 1990, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2008 and 2012. For definitions of terms, area samples used, historical comparability of the data, comparability with other series, etc., see *Employment and Earnings* or concepts and methodology of the CPS at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#concepts>.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).











TABLE B-27. Civilian unemployment rate, 1978–2023

[Percent <sup>1</sup>; monthly data seasonally adjusted]

Year or month	All civilian workers	By sex and age			By race or ethnicity <sup>2</sup>				U-6 measure of labor underutilization <sup>3</sup>	By educational attainment (25 years & over)			
		Men 20 years and over	Women 20 years and over	Both sexes 16–19	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity		Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college	Some college or associate degree	Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>4</sup>
1978	6.1	4.3	6.0	16.4	5.2	12.8	9.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1979	5.8	4.2	5.7	16.1	5.1	12.3	8.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1980	7.1	5.9	6.4	17.8	6.3	14.3	10.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1981	7.6	6.3	6.8	19.6	6.7	15.6	10.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1982	9.7	8.8	8.3	23.2	8.6	18.9	13.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1983	9.6	8.9	8.1	22.4	8.4	19.5	13.7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1984	7.5	6.6	6.8	18.9	6.5	15.9	10.7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1985	7.2	6.2	6.6	18.6	6.2	15.1	10.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1986	7.0	6.1	6.2	18.3	6.0	14.5	10.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1987	6.2	5.4	5.4	16.9	5.3	13.0	8.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1988	5.5	4.8	4.9	15.3	4.7	11.7	8.2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1989	5.3	4.5	4.7	15.0	4.5	11.4	8.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1990	5.6	5.0	4.9	15.5	4.8	11.4	8.2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1991	6.8	6.4	5.7	18.7	6.1	12.5	10.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
1992	7.5	7.1	6.3	20.1	6.6	14.2	11.6	.....	11.5	6.8	5.6	3.2	
1993	6.9	6.4	5.9	19.0	6.1	13.0	10.8	.....	10.8	6.3	5.2	2.9	
1994	6.1	5.4	5.4	17.6	5.3	11.5	9.9	10.9	9.8	5.4	4.5	2.6	
1995	5.6	4.8	4.9	17.3	4.9	10.4	9.3	10.1	9.0	4.8	4.0	2.4	
1996	5.4	4.6	4.8	16.7	4.7	10.5	8.9	9.7	8.7	4.7	3.7	2.2	
1997	4.9	4.2	4.4	16.0	4.2	10.0	7.7	8.9	8.1	4.3	3.3	2.0	
1998	4.5	3.7	4.1	14.6	3.9	8.9	7.2	8.0	7.1	4.0	3.0	1.8	
1999	4.2	3.5	3.8	13.9	3.7	8.0	6.4	7.4	6.7	3.5	2.8	1.8	
2000	4.0	3.3	3.6	13.1	3.5	7.6	3.6	5.7	7.0	6.3	3.4	2.7	
2001	4.7	4.2	4.1	14.7	4.2	8.6	4.5	6.6	8.1	7.2	4.2	3.3	
2002	5.8	5.3	5.1	16.5	5.1	10.2	5.9	7.5	9.6	8.4	5.3	4.5	
2003	6.0	5.6	5.1	17.5	5.2	10.8	6.0	7.7	10.1	8.8	5.5	4.8	
2004	5.5	5.0	4.9	17.0	4.8	10.4	4.4	7.0	9.6	8.5	5.0	4.2	
2005	5.1	4.4	4.6	16.6	4.4	10.0	4.0	6.0	8.9	7.6	4.7	3.9	
2006	4.6	4.0	4.1	15.4	4.0	8.9	3.0	5.2	8.2	6.8	4.3	3.6	
2007	4.6	4.1	4.0	15.7	4.1	8.3	3.2	5.6	8.3	7.1	4.4	3.6	
2008	5.8	5.4	4.9	18.7	5.2	10.1	4.0	7.6	10.5	9.0	5.7	4.6	
2009	9.3	9.6	7.5	24.3	8.5	14.8	7.3	12.1	16.2	14.6	9.7	8.0	
2010	9.6	9.8	8.0	25.9	8.7	16.0	7.5	12.5	16.7	14.9	10.3	8.4	
2011	8.9	8.7	7.9	24.4	7.9	15.8	7.0	11.5	15.9	14.1	9.4	8.0	
2012	8.1	7.5	7.3	24.0	7.2	13.8	5.9	10.3	14.7	12.4	8.3	7.1	
2013	7.4	7.0	6.5	22.9	6.5	13.1	5.2	9.1	13.8	11.0	7.5	6.4	
2014	6.2	5.7	5.6	19.6	5.3	11.3	5.0	7.4	12.0	9.0	6.0	5.4	
2015	5.3	4.9	4.8	16.9	4.6	9.6	3.8	6.6	10.4	8.0	5.4	4.5	
2016	4.9	4.5	4.4	15.7	4.3	8.4	3.6	5.8	9.6	7.4	5.2	4.1	
2017	4.4	4.0	4.0	14.0	3.8	7.5	3.4	5.1	8.5	6.5	4.6	3.8	
2018	3.9	3.6	3.5	12.9	3.5	6.5	3.0	4.7	7.7	5.6	4.1	3.3	
2019	3.7	3.4	3.3	12.7	3.3	6.1	2.7	4.3	7.2	5.4	3.7	3.0	
2020	8.1	7.4	8.0	17.9	7.3	11.4	8.7	10.4	13.6	11.7	9.0	7.8	
2021	5.3	5.2	5.0	11.7	4.7	8.6	5.0	6.8	9.4	8.3	6.2	5.1	
2022	3.6	3.4	3.3	10.8	3.2	6.1	2.8	4.3	6.9	5.5	4.0	3.1	
2023	3.6	3.5	3.2	11.2	3.3	5.5	3.0	4.6	6.9	5.6	3.9	3.0	
2022: Jan	4.0	3.8	3.6	11.2	3.4	7.0	3.6	4.7	7.2	6.3	4.6	3.5	
Feb	3.8	3.5	3.7	10.2	3.3	6.6	2.9	4.3	7.2	4.4	4.4	3.7	
Mar	3.6	3.4	3.4	10.3	3.2	6.4	2.7	4.2	7.0	5.3	4.0	3.1	
Apr	3.7	3.5	3.3	10.6	3.3	6.1	3.0	4.2	7.1	5.4	3.8	3.1	
May	3.6	3.4	3.4	10.5	3.2	6.2	2.4	4.4	7.1	5.2	3.7	3.3	
June	3.6	3.4	3.3	10.9	3.3	5.8	2.9	4.3	6.7	5.7	3.6	3.1	
July	3.5	3.3	3.1	11.2	3.1	5.9	2.7	4.0	6.8	5.9	3.6	2.8	
Aug	3.6	3.5	3.2	10.2	3.2	6.4	2.8	4.5	7.0	6.2	4.4	2.9	
Sept	3.5	3.3	3.1	11.4	3.0	5.8	2.5	3.9	6.7	5.6	3.7	2.9	
Oct	3.6	3.3	3.4	10.6	3.2	5.8	3.0	4.2	6.7	6.2	4.0	3.0	
Nov	3.6	3.3	3.3	11.3	3.2	5.6	2.6	4.0	6.7	4.3	3.9	3.2	
Dec	3.5	3.1	3.2	10.5	3.0	5.7	2.4	4.2	6.5	5.0	3.6	3.0	
2023: Jan	3.4	3.2	3.1	10.5	3.1	5.4	2.9	4.7	6.7	4.5	3.8	2.9	
Feb	3.6	3.3	3.3	11.1	3.2	5.7	3.4	5.4	6.8	5.8	3.6	3.3	
Mar	3.5	3.4	3.2	9.9	3.2	5.1	2.8	4.6	6.7	4.8	4.0	3.0	
Apr	3.4	3.3	3.1	9.3	3.1	4.8	2.8	4.4	6.6	5.4	3.9	2.9	
May	3.7	3.5	3.3	10.3	3.3	5.7	3.0	4.1	6.8	5.7	3.9	3.2	
June	3.6	3.4	3.1	11.2	3.1	6.0	3.1	4.2	6.9	6.0	3.9	3.0	
July	3.5	3.4	3.1	11.3	3.1	5.7	2.3	4.4	6.7	5.3	3.3	3.1	
Aug	3.8	3.7	3.2	12.3	3.4	5.3	3.2	4.9	7.1	5.4	3.9	3.1	
Sept	3.8	3.8	3.1	11.8	3.4	5.7	2.9	4.6	7.0	5.5	4.1	3.0	
Oct	3.8	3.7	3.2	13.1	3.5	5.8	3.1	4.8	7.2	5.8	4.0	3.1	
Nov	3.7	3.7	3.1	11.4	3.3	5.8	3.5	4.6	7.0	6.3	4.1	2.8	
Dec	3.7	3.5	3.3	11.9	3.5	5.2	3.1	5.0	7.1	6.0	4.2	3.1	

<sup>1</sup> Unemployed as percent of civilian labor force in group specified.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 1, Table B-23.

<sup>3</sup> Total unemployed, plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force.

<sup>4</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

Note: Data relate to persons 16 years of age and over, except as noted.

See Note, Table B-22.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).





TABLE B-29. Employees on nonagricultural payrolls, by major industry, 1978-2023—Continued

(Thousands of jobs; monthly data seasonally adjusted)

Year or month	Private industries—Continued						Government			
	Private service-providing industries—Continued						Total	Federal	State	Local
	Information	Financial activities	Professional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services				
1978	2,287	4,599	6,997	6,427	6,411	2,505	15,812	2,893	3,474	9,446
1979	2,375	4,843	7,339	6,768	6,631	2,637	16,068	2,894	3,541	9,633
1980	2,361	5,025	7,571	7,077	6,721	2,755	16,375	3,000	3,610	9,765
1981	2,362	5,163	7,809	7,364	6,840	2,865	16,180	2,922	3,640	9,619
1982	2,317	5,209	7,875	7,526	6,874	2,924	15,982	2,884	3,640	9,458
1983	2,253	5,334	8,065	7,781	7,078	3,021	16,011	2,915	3,662	9,434
1984	2,398	5,553	8,493	8,211	7,489	3,186	16,159	2,943	3,734	9,482
1985	2,437	5,815	8,900	8,679	7,869	3,366	16,533	3,014	3,832	9,687
1986	2,445	6,128	9,241	9,086	8,156	3,523	16,838	3,044	3,893	9,901
1987	2,507	6,385	9,639	9,543	8,446	3,699	17,156	3,089	3,967	10,100
1988	2,585	6,500	10,121	10,096	8,778	3,907	17,540	3,124	4,076	10,339
1989	2,622	6,562	10,588	10,652	9,062	4,116	17,927	3,136	4,182	10,609
1990	2,688	6,614	10,882	11,024	9,288	4,261	18,415	3,196	4,305	10,914
1991	2,678	6,561	10,750	11,556	9,256	4,249	18,545	3,110	4,355	11,081
1992	2,641	6,559	11,007	11,948	9,437	4,240	18,787	3,111	4,408	11,267
1993	2,668	6,742	11,534	12,362	9,732	4,350	18,989	3,063	4,488	11,438
1994	2,738	6,910	12,216	12,872	10,100	4,428	19,275	3,018	4,576	11,682
1995	2,844	6,866	12,889	13,360	10,501	4,572	19,432	2,949	4,635	11,849
1996	2,940	7,018	13,510	13,761	10,777	4,690	19,539	2,877	4,602	12,056
1997	3,084	7,255	14,386	14,185	11,018	4,825	19,664	2,806	4,586	12,276
1998	3,218	7,566	15,200	14,570	11,232	4,976	19,909	2,772	4,612	12,525
1999	3,419	7,753	16,013	14,939	11,543	5,087	20,307	2,769	4,709	12,829
2000	3,630	7,783	16,725	15,252	11,862	5,168	20,790	2,865	4,786	13,139
2001	3,629	7,900	16,537	15,814	12,036	5,258	21,118	2,764	4,905	13,449
2002	3,395	7,956	16,041	16,398	11,986	5,372	21,513	2,766	5,029	13,718
2003	3,188	8,078	16,057	16,835	12,173	5,401	21,583	2,761	5,002	13,820
2004	3,118	8,105	16,470	17,230	12,493	5,409	21,621	2,730	4,982	13,909
2005	3,061	8,197	17,034	17,676	12,816	5,395	21,804	2,732	5,032	14,041
2006	3,038	8,367	17,652	18,154	13,110	5,438	21,974	2,732	5,075	14,167
2007	3,032	8,348	18,034	18,676	13,427	5,494	22,218	2,734	5,122	14,362
2008	2,984	8,206	17,830	19,228	13,436	5,515	22,509	2,762	5,177	14,571
2009	2,804	7,838	16,674	19,630	13,077	5,367	22,555	2,832	5,169	14,554
2010	2,707	7,695	16,824	19,975	13,049	5,330	22,490	2,977	5,137	14,376
2011	2,674	7,697	17,433	20,318	13,353	5,360	22,086	2,859	5,078	14,150
2012	2,676	7,783	18,037	20,769	13,768	5,430	21,920	2,820	5,055	14,045
2013	2,706	7,886	18,623	21,086	14,254	5,483	21,853	2,769	5,046	14,037
2014	2,726	7,977	19,174	21,439	14,696	5,567	21,882	2,733	5,050	14,098
2015	2,750	8,123	19,747	22,029	15,160	5,622	22,029	2,757	5,077	14,195
2016	2,794	8,287	20,168	22,639	15,660	5,691	22,224	2,795	5,110	14,319
2017	2,814	8,451	20,563	23,188	16,051	5,770	22,350	2,805	5,165	14,379
2018	2,839	8,590	21,008	23,638	16,295	5,831	22,455	2,800	5,173	14,481
2019	2,864	8,754	21,334	24,163	16,586	5,891	22,613	2,831	5,206	14,576
2020	2,721	8,704	20,376	23,275	13,148	5,329	21,986	2,930	5,135	13,921
2021	2,856	8,806	21,386	23,652	14,151	5,457	21,973	2,886	5,156	13,931
2022	3,063	9,062	22,537	24,336	15,827	5,694	22,191	2,867	5,114	14,213
2023 <sup>P</sup>	3,027	9,197	22,839	25,342	16,593	5,826	22,781	2,925	5,300	14,552
2022: Jan	2,987	8,935	22,176	23,883	15,328	5,602	22,056	2,878	5,094	14,084
Feb	2,991	8,983	22,303	23,996	15,444	5,649	22,053	2,871	5,083	14,099
Mar	3,022	9,002	22,450	24,053	15,523	5,677	22,052	2,869	5,065	14,118
Apr	3,034	9,038	22,425	24,107	15,611	5,667	22,085	2,865	5,080	14,140
May	3,060	9,051	22,454	24,179	15,670	5,670	22,113	2,864	5,096	14,153
June	3,083	9,058	22,522	24,265	15,760	5,677	22,115	2,851	5,103	14,161
July	3,089	9,073	22,614	24,400	15,910	5,707	22,265	2,864	5,139	14,272
Aug	3,089	9,089	22,637	24,469	15,973	5,711	22,264	2,859	5,139	14,266
Sept	3,098	9,095	22,678	24,542	16,055	5,727	22,271	2,863	5,148	14,260
Oct	3,095	9,123	22,726	24,637	16,150	5,739	22,301	2,871	5,143	14,287
Nov	3,108	9,134	22,726	24,726	16,205	5,758	22,364	2,875	5,161	14,328
Dec	3,095	9,145	22,733	24,773	16,255	5,769	22,367	2,876	5,131	14,360
2023: Jan	3,067	9,145	22,771	24,906	16,345	5,784	22,490	2,882	5,206	14,402
Feb	3,049	9,146	22,779	24,968	16,412	5,784	22,551	2,892	5,229	14,430
Mar	3,054	9,150	22,797	25,030	16,447	5,795	22,606	2,900	5,249	14,457
Apr	3,053	9,179	22,827	25,109	16,489	5,799	22,653	2,908	5,263	14,482
May	3,050	9,192	22,876	25,200	16,528	5,809	22,702	2,914	5,280	14,508
June	3,043	9,201	22,883	25,277	16,588	5,821	22,757	2,920	5,301	14,536
July	3,015	9,219	22,866	25,386	16,629	5,830	22,793	2,928	5,319	14,564
Aug	2,997	9,223	22,865	25,479	16,681	5,846	22,853	2,939	5,301	14,585
Sept	3,008	9,223	22,864	25,560	16,708	5,855	22,903	2,945	5,346	14,612
Oct	2,982	9,223	22,859	25,637	16,765	5,854	22,970	2,953	5,375	14,642
Nov	2,999	9,227	22,869	25,747	16,775	5,864	23,000	2,952	5,383	14,665
Dec <sup>P</sup>	3,017	9,240	22,904	25,831	16,813	5,863	23,055	2,957	5,398	14,700

Note (cont'd): employed when they are not at work because of industrial disputes, bad weather, etc., even if they are not paid for the time off, which are based on a sample of the working-age population, and which count persons only once—as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. In the data shown here, persons who work at more than one job are counted each time they appear on a payroll.

Establishment data for employment, hours, and earnings are classified based on the 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

For further description and details see *Employment and Earnings*.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).



TABLE B-31. Employment cost index, private industry, 2006-2023

Year and month	Total private			Goods-producing			Service-providing <sup>1</sup>			Manufacturing		
	Total compensation	Wages and salaries	Benefits <sup>2</sup>	Total compensation	Wages and salaries	Benefits <sup>2</sup>	Total compensation	Wages and salaries	Benefits <sup>2</sup>	Total compensation	Wages and salaries	Benefits <sup>2</sup>
Indexes on NAICS basis, December 2005=100; not seasonally adjusted												
December:												
2006	103.2	103.2	103.1	102.5	102.9	101.7	103.4	103.3	103.7	101.8	102.3	100.8
2007	106.3	106.6	105.6	105.0	106.0	103.2	106.7	106.8	106.6	103.8	104.9	101.7
2008	108.9	109.4	107.7	107.5	109.0	104.7	109.4	109.6	108.9	105.9	107.7	102.5
2009	110.2	110.8	108.7	108.6	110.0	105.8	110.8	111.1	109.9	107.0	108.9	103.6
2010	112.5	112.8	111.9	111.1	111.6	110.1	113.0	113.1	112.6	110.0	110.7	108.8
2011	115.0	114.6	115.9	113.8	113.5	114.4	115.3	114.9	116.4	113.1	112.7	113.9
2012	117.1	116.6	118.2	115.6	115.4	116.0	117.6	117.0	119.1	114.9	114.8	115.0
2013	119.4	119.0	120.5	117.7	117.6	118.0	120.0	119.4	121.5	117.0	117.2	116.6
2014	122.2	121.6	123.5	120.3	120.1	120.7	122.8	122.1	124.6	119.8	119.8	119.8
2015	124.5	124.2	125.1	123.2	123.2	123.1	124.9	124.5	125.9	122.8	123.0	122.5
2016	127.2	127.1	127.3	125.8	126.2	124.9	127.7	127.4	128.3	125.5	126.2	124.3
2017	130.5	130.6	130.2	128.9	129.3	128.0	131.0	131.0	131.2	128.9	129.3	128.0
2018	134.4	134.7	133.6	131.9	133.0	129.6	135.2	135.2	135.1	131.6	132.9	129.1
2019	138.0	138.7	136.2	135.8	137.5	132.5	138.7	139.1	137.6	135.3	137.1	131.9
2020	141.6	142.6	139.1	138.9	141.0	134.9	142.4	143.1	140.6	138.5	140.7	134.3
2021	147.8	149.7	143.2	144.0	146.6	138.7	148.9	150.5	144.8	143.5	146.4	138.2
2022	155.3	157.4	150.1	150.6	153.9	143.9	156.6	158.3	152.3	150.3	153.9	143.5
2023	161.6	164.1	155.5	156.3	160.2	148.6	163.1	165.2	157.9	155.8	159.7	148.3
2023: Mar	157.4	159.5	152.4	152.5	156.0	145.4	158.8	160.4	154.8	152.3	156.0	145.1
June	159.2	161.3	154.0	154.1	157.7	146.9	160.6	162.3	156.5	153.7	157.5	146.6
Sept	160.6	162.9	155.0	155.1	158.6	147.9	162.1	164.0	157.4	154.6	158.4	147.4
Dec	161.6	164.1	155.5	156.3	160.2	148.6	163.1	165.2	157.9	155.8	159.7	148.3
Indexes on NAICS basis, December 2005=100; seasonally adjusted												
2022: Mar	150.1	151.8	146.0	146.2	148.5	141.5	151.2	152.6	147.6	146.2	148.7	141.5
June	152.1	154.0	147.9	147.9	150.5	142.7	153.4	154.9	149.7	147.8	150.5	142.6
Sept	153.8	155.8	149.2	149.3	152.3	143.3	155.1	156.7	151.3	149.2	152.4	143.0
Dec	155.5	157.6	150.6	150.7	154.0	144.2	156.8	158.5	152.7	150.6	154.1	143.8
2023: Mar	157.3	159.5	152.3	152.6	156.3	145.2	158.7	160.3	154.6	152.2	156.0	144.9
June	158.9	161.1	153.7	153.7	157.3	146.5	160.3	162.1	156.2	153.6	157.4	146.3
Sept	160.5	162.8	155.0	155.0	158.6	147.9	161.9	163.8	157.4	154.6	158.4	147.5
Dec	161.9	164.3	156.0	156.5	160.3	149.0	163.3	165.4	158.4	156.1	160.0	148.6
Percent change from 12 months earlier, not seasonally adjusted												
December:												
2006	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.5	2.9	1.7	3.4	3.3	3.7	1.8	2.3	0.8
2007	3.0	3.3	2.4	2.4	3.0	1.5	3.2	3.4	2.8	2.0	2.5	.9
2008	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	1.5	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.7	.8
2009	1.2	1.3	.9	1.0	.9	1.1	1.3	1.4	.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
2010	2.1	1.8	2.9	2.3	1.5	4.1	2.0	1.8	2.5	2.8	1.7	5.0
2011	2.2	1.6	3.6	2.4	1.7	3.9	2.0	1.6	3.4	2.8	1.8	4.7
2012	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.4	2.0	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.9	1.0
2013	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.4
2014	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.7
2015	1.9	2.1	1.3	2.4	2.6	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.0	2.5	2.7	2.3
2016	2.2	2.3	1.8	2.1	2.4	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.6	1.5
2017	2.6	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.3	2.7	2.5	3.0
2018	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.3	2.9	1.3	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.1	2.8	.9
2019	2.7	3.0	1.9	3.0	3.4	2.2	2.6	2.9	1.9	2.8	3.2	2.2
2020	2.6	2.8	2.1	2.3	2.5	1.8	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.6	1.8
2021	4.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	4.0	2.8	4.6	5.2	3.0	3.6	4.1	2.9
2022	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.6	5.0	3.7	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.7	5.1	3.8
2023	4.1	4.3	3.6	3.8	4.1	3.3	4.2	4.4	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.3
2023: Mar	4.8	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.2	2.5	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.9	2.4
June	4.5	4.6	3.9	4.0	4.6	2.7	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.9	4.5	2.7
Sept	4.3	4.5	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.2	4.4	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.2
Dec	4.1	4.3	3.6	3.8	4.1	3.3	4.2	4.4	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.3
Percent change from 3 months earlier, seasonally adjusted												
2022: Mar	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.2
June	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.2	.8
Sept	1.1	1.2	.9	.9	1.2	.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	.9	1.3	.3
Dec	1.1	1.2	.9	.9	1.1	.6	1.1	1.1	.9	.9	1.1	.6
2023: Mar	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.5	.7	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	.8
June	1.0	1.0	.9	.7	.6	.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	.9	.9	1.0
Sept	1.0	1.1	.8	.8	.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	.8	.7	.6	.8
Dec	.9	.9	.6	1.0	1.1	.7	1.0	.9	1.0	.6	1.0	.7

<sup>1</sup> On Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) basis, data are for service-producing industries.

<sup>2</sup> Employer costs for employee benefits.

Note: Changes effective with the release of March 2006 data (in April 2006) include changing industry classification to NAICS from SIC and rebasing data to December 2005=100. Historical SIC data are available through December 2005.

Data exclude farm and household workers.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).



TABLE B-33. Changes in productivity and related data, business and nonfarm business sectors, 1973-2023

(Percent change from preceding period; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Year or quarter	Labor productivity (output per hour)		Output <sup>1</sup>		Hours of all persons <sup>2</sup>		Compensation per hour <sup>3</sup>		Real compensation per hour <sup>4</sup>		Unit labor costs		Value-added output price deflator <sup>5</sup>	
	Business sector	Nonfarm business sector	Business sector	Nonfarm business sector	Business sector	Nonfarm business sector	Business sector	Nonfarm business sector	Business sector	Nonfarm business sector	Business sector	Nonfarm business sector	Business sector	Nonfarm business sector
1973	3.0	3.1	6.9	7.2	3.8	4.1	7.9	7.6	1.6	1.3	4.8	4.4	5.2	3.6
1974	-1.7	-1.7	-1.5	-1.5	.2	.2	9.3	9.4	-1.6	-1.5	11.2	11.3	9.8	10.4
1975	3.5	2.7	-9	-1.6	-4.3	-4.2	10.6	10.4	1.4	1.2	6.9	7.6	9.7	10.7
1976	3.3	3.5	6.8	7.2	3.3	3.6	8.0	7.8	2.1	1.9	4.5	4.2	5.2	5.5
1977	1.8	1.7	5.7	5.7	3.8	3.9	8.0	8.2	1.4	1.6	6.1	6.4	5.9	6.2
1978	1.2	1.4	6.4	6.7	5.1	5.2	8.4	8.6	1.3	1.5	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.5
1979	.1	-2	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.6	9.7	9.5	.2	.0	9.5	9.7	8.4	8.4
1980	.0	.0	-9	-8	-9	-8	10.7	10.7	-5	-4	10.7	10.8	8.9	9.5
1981	2.1	1.5	2.9	2.3	.8	.8	9.4	9.6	.0	.1	7.1	8.0	9.2	9.6
1982	-6	-8	-2.9	-3.1	-2.3	-2.3	7.4	7.3	1.3	1.2	8.0	8.2	5.7	6.2
1983	3.4	4.1	5.3	6.2	1.8	2.0	4.4	4.5	.1	.2	1.0	.3	3.6	3.5
1984	2.9	2.2	8.9	8.5	5.8	6.1	4.4	4.3	.3	.1	1.5	2.0	2.8	2.8
1985	2.3	1.7	4.7	4.4	2.3	2.6	5.1	4.9	1.7	1.4	2.7	3.1	2.6	3.1
1986	2.8	3.0	3.6	3.8	.8	.8	5.6	5.8	3.9	4.0	2.8	2.7	1.4	1.4
1987	.5	.5	3.6	3.6	3.0	3.1	3.7	3.8	.3	.4	3.2	3.2	1.9	1.9
1988	1.5	1.6	4.3	4.5	2.7	2.9	5.3	5.1	1.6	1.4	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.1
1989	1.1	.9	3.8	3.7	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.9	-1.3	-1.4	1.8	2.0	3.7	3.7
1990	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.5	-.4	-.2	6.2	6.0	1.2	1.0	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.4
1991	1.6	1.6	-6	-6	-2.2	-2.2	4.6	4.7	.9	1.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1
1992	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.1	-.4	-.4	6.1	6.2	3.6	3.6	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.7
1993	-.1	-.1	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.0	1.5	1.2	-1.0	-1.3	1.4	1.1	2.3	2.3
1994	.6	.7	4.8	4.6	4.2	3.9	.7	1.0	-1.3	-1.1	.2	.3	1.8	1.9
1995	.7	1.1	3.1	3.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	.0	.1	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.8
1996	2.4	2.1	4.6	4.5	2.2	2.3	3.6	3.4	.9	.8	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.4
1997	2.2	1.9	5.2	5.2	3.0	3.2	4.0	3.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.7
1998	3.4	3.4	5.5	5.6	2.0	2.2	5.9	5.8	4.5	4.4	2.4	2.4	.3	.4
1999	4.1	3.9	5.8	5.8	1.6	1.8	4.8	4.6	2.7	2.5	.7	.7	.6	.7
2000	3.1	3.0	4.5	4.4	1.3	1.3	6.9	7.0	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.9	1.8	1.9
2001	2.6	2.6	.6	.7	-2.0	-1.9	4.6	4.3	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6
2002	4.2	4.3	1.7	1.7	-2.4	-2.5	2.2	2.3	.6	.7	-1.9	-1.9	.7	.8
2003	3.8	3.7	3.2	3.1	-.7	-.6	3.8	3.7	1.5	1.4	-.1	.0	1.5	1.4
2004	3.1	3.0	4.4	4.3	1.2	1.3	4.7	4.6	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.3
2005	2.2	2.2	3.9	3.9	1.7	1.7	3.6	3.6	.2	.2	1.4	1.4	3.1	3.4
2006	1.0	1.0	3.3	3.3	2.2	2.3	3.9	3.8	.6	.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9
2007	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.3	.6	.7	4.5	4.3	1.6	1.4	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.0
2008	1.5	1.6	-.9	-.9	-2.3	-2.4	3.1	3.2	-.7	-.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
2009	4.0	3.9	-3.6	-3.8	-7.4	-7.4	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.6	-2.7	-2.5	.0	.3
2010	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.3	-.1	-.1	1.8	1.8	.1	.2	-1.5	-1.5	1.2	1.1
2011	-.3	-.2	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.3	1.9	1.9	-1.3	-1.2	2.1	2.1	2.3	1.9
2012	.7	.7	3.2	3.3	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	.4	.3	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.8
2013	1.1	.8	2.8	2.6	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.3	-.1	-.2	.3	.4	1.4	1.3
2014	.7	.9	3.3	3.4	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	.8	.9	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.6
2015	1.3	1.4	3.7	3.7	2.4	2.2	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.9	1.6	1.7	.4	.7
2016	.7	.7	2.1	2.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	.0	.0	.6	.6	.7	.9
2017	1.3	1.3	2.9	3.0	1.6	1.7	3.5	3.4	1.3	1.3	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.6
2018	1.5	1.4	3.4	3.4	1.9	2.0	3.4	3.4	.9	.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1
2019	2.2	2.3	2.8	3.0	.7	.7	3.9	3.9	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4
2020	5.1	5.2	-2.8	-2.8	-7.5	-7.6	8.1	8.2	6.6	6.7	2.9	2.9	.3	.4
2021	1.8	1.7	7.2	7.2	5.3	5.5	4.9	4.9	.1	.0	3.1	3.1	5.1	4.8
2022	-1.8	-1.9	1.9	2.1	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.7	-4.0	-4.1	5.7	5.6	7.8	7.5
2023 <sup>P</sup>	1.3	1.2	2.6	2.6	1.3	1.3	4.2	4.2	.1	.1	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.4
2020: I	-1.1	-1.2	-7.2	-7.3	-6.2	-6.2	10.1	10.3	8.6	8.7	11.3	11.6	.6	.5
II	19.5	20.7	-32.9	-32.8	-43.8	-44.4	24.3	25.1	28.8	29.6	4.0	3.6	-4.7	-4.1
III	6.8	5.7	46.0	45.8	36.7	38.0	-5.2	-6.0	-9.5	-10.3	-11.2	-11.1	4.7	4.4
IV	-3.9	-3.4	5.4	5.4	9.7	9.1	9.6	10.4	6.7	7.5	14.1	14.3	2.7	2.3
2021: I	1.9	1.6	6.7	6.5	4.6	4.9	-.3	-.4	-4.5	-4.6	-2.2	-2.0	6.6	6.5
II	1.1	.8	7.2	7.3	6.0	6.4	7.3	7.0	-.6	-.8	6.2	6.1	7.3	6.3
III	-2.0	-2.4	3.3	3.4	5.4	5.9	6.1	5.6	-.5	-.9	8.3	8.2	6.6	6.4
IV	2.8	2.8	8.8	8.9	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.0	-2.4	-2.6	3.2	3.1	8.0	8.4
2022: I	-6.7	-6.3	-3.0	-2.8	4.0	3.7	.9	1.1	-7.7	-7.5	8.2	8.0	9.6	9.0
II	-3.4	-3.6	-1.3	-1.1	2.1	2.6	1.9	1.5	-7.2	-7.6	5.4	5.3	10.5	9.9
III	.2	.4	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.4	6.9	7.1	1.3	1.4	6.7	6.6	4.0	3.9
IV	2.0	1.6	2.9	2.8	.9	1.3	-.1	-.5	-4.1	-4.5	-2.0	-2.0	3.5	3.5
2023: I	-.6	-.8	2.1	1.8	2.7	2.6	6.5	6.5	2.7	2.7	7.1	7.4	3.3	3.9
II	3.4	3.6	2.0	2.0	-1.4	-1.5	5.8	6.2	3.1	3.4	2.4	2.6	1.1	1.4
III	4.8	4.9	5.6	5.8	.7	.9	3.9	3.8	.3	.2	-.9	-.1	2.8	3.0
IV <sup>P</sup>	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.7	.2	.4	4.0	3.7	1.2	.9	.6	.5	.7	.9

<sup>1</sup> Output refers to real gross domestic product in the sector.

<sup>2</sup> Hours at work of all persons engaged in the sector. See footnote 2, Table B-32.

<sup>3</sup> Wages and salaries of employees plus employers' contributions for social insurance and private benefit plans. Also includes an estimate of wages, salaries, and supplemental payments for the self-employed.

<sup>4</sup> Hourly compensation divided by a consumer price index. See footnote 4, Table B-32.

<sup>5</sup> Current dollar output divided by the output index.

Note: Percent changes are calculated using index numbers to three decimal places and may differ slightly from percent changes based on indexes in Table B-32, which are rounded to one decimal place.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).



## Production and Business Activity

**TABLE B-34. Industrial production indexes, major industry divisions, 1978–2023**  
[2017=100, except as noted; monthly data seasonally adjusted]

Year or month	Total industrial production <sup>1</sup>		Manufacturing					Mining	Utilities
	Index, 2017=100	Percent change from year earlier <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>1</sup>	Percent change from year earlier <sup>2</sup>	Durable	Nondurable	Other (non-NAICS) <sup>1</sup>		
1978	50.1	5.5	48.5	6.1	30.9	75.6	159.7	89.0	55.7
1979	51.6	3.0	50.0	3.1	32.4	76.1	163.0	91.8	56.9
1980	50.3	-2.6	48.2	-3.6	31.0	73.8	168.6	93.5	57.3
1981	51.0	1.3	48.7	1.0	31.3	74.4	172.7	96.1	58.1
1982	48.3	-5.2	46.0	-5.5	28.6	73.3	174.7	91.4	56.1
1983	49.6	2.7	48.2	4.8	30.0	76.8	179.7	86.5	56.5
1984	54.1	8.9	52.9	9.8	34.3	80.3	188.0	92.1	59.9
1985	54.7	1.2	53.8	1.6	35.0	80.7	195.4	90.4	61.4
1986	55.3	1.0	55.0	2.2	35.6	83.0	199.4	89.8	61.9
1987	58.2	5.2	58.1	5.7	37.7	87.5	210.8	84.7	64.9
1988	61.2	5.2	61.2	5.3	40.5	90.4	209.8	86.9	68.9
1989	61.7	.9	61.7	.8	41.0	91.0	206.9	86.0	71.0
1990	62.3	1.0	62.2	.8	41.1	92.5	204.4	87.1	72.4
1991	61.4	-1.5	61.0	-1.9	39.9	92.1	196.1	85.3	74.2
1992	63.2	2.9	63.3	3.7	41.9	94.6	192.1	83.7	74.2
1993	65.3	3.3	65.5	3.5	44.3	95.9	193.4	83.5	76.7
1994	68.7	5.3	69.4	5.9	48.1	99.2	191.7	85.0	78.3
1995	71.9	4.6	72.9	5.1	52.1	101.0	191.7	84.9	81.1
1996	75.2	4.5	76.5	4.9	56.8	101.3	189.9	86.5	83.4
1997	80.6	7.2	82.9	8.4	63.6	105.1	205.9	88.1	83.2
1998	85.3	5.9	88.5	6.7	70.3	106.7	218.2	86.5	85.5
1999	89.0	4.4	93.0	5.1	76.3	107.4	224.5	82.1	88.1
2000	92.5	3.9	96.8	4.1	81.8	107.9	223.9	83.9	90.7
2001	89.7	-3.0	93.3	-3.6	78.6	104.8	209.3	84.1	90.3
2002	90.0	.3	93.7	.5	78.9	106.0	202.3	80.2	93.0
2003	91.1	1.3	95.0	1.3	81.0	106.2	196.5	80.3	94.5
2004	93.6	2.7	97.9	3.1	84.9	107.9	197.4	80.3	95.9
2005	96.7	3.4	101.9	4.1	89.9	110.6	196.8	79.3	98.0
2006	98.9	2.3	104.6	2.6	94.2	111.2	194.5	81.2	97.7
2007	101.5	2.6	107.5	2.8	98.9	112.5	183.4	81.9	100.8
2008	97.9	-3.5	102.3	-4.8	95.5	105.8	167.4	83.0	100.4
2009	86.8	-11.4	88.3	-13.8	77.7	97.7	140.0	78.7	97.5
2010	91.6	5.5	93.5	5.9	86.2	99.8	129.4	82.5	101.2
2011	94.5	3.1	96.2	2.9	91.5	100.0	123.4	87.7	100.8
2012	97.4	3.1	98.7	2.6	96.6	100.0	116.3	94.7	98.5
2013	99.3	2.0	99.6	.9	98.7	100.0	110.6	100.6	100.7
2014	102.3	3.0	100.8	1.1	101.5	99.3	109.2	111.3	102.0
2015	100.9	-1.4	100.2	-5	100.4	99.7	105.2	104.6	101.2
2016	98.7	-2.2	99.4	-8	98.4	100.5	102.5	91.5	100.8
2017	100.0	1.3	100.0	.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2018	103.2	3.2	101.3	1.3	103.1	99.6	96.7	113.3	104.9
2019	102.4	-.7	99.3	-2.0	100.2	98.7	92.5	120.8	104.0
2020	95.1	-7.2	92.8	-6.6	91.2	94.9	85.3	102.9	101.0
2021	99.2	4.4	97.4	5.0	96.8	98.5	87.4	106.1	103.0
2022	102.6	3.4	100.0	2.7	101.0	100.0	83.8	113.4	106.2
2023 <sup>P</sup>	102.8	.2	99.4	-6	101.2	98.7	81.2	119.0	104.3
2022: Jan	101.0	2.3	98.7	1.5	98.8	99.4	85.5	108.3	108.5
Feb	101.7	6.6	99.8	6.9	100.0	100.5	86.0	107.9	106.8
Mar	102.5	4.4	100.6	4.6	100.9	101.2	87.8	110.6	104.6
Apr	102.8	4.6	100.8	4.6	101.6	100.8	86.1	111.1	106.1
May	102.8	3.7	100.4	3.1	101.2	100.5	83.7	112.3	107.0
June	102.7	3.2	100.0	2.7	100.8	100.2	82.1	113.9	106.7
July	103.1	3.0	100.2	1.9	101.5	100.0	80.7	115.5	106.9
Aug	103.2	3.1	100.4	2.4	101.6	100.3	80.3	115.8	106.0
Sept	103.5	4.5	100.6	3.6	102.0	100.3	82.3	117.2	104.9
Oct	103.4	3.1	100.8	2.4	102.2	100.3	84.0	117.4	102.4
Nov	103.1	1.9	100.0	.7	101.1	99.9	83.5	116.6	105.8
Dec	101.5	.6	97.9	-1.3	99.8	96.9	83.9	114.3	109.2
2023: Jan	102.5	1.5	99.5	.9	100.8	99.1	86.2	118.7	101.3
Feb	102.6	.9	99.9	.1	101.0	99.6	86.6	117.5	100.5
Mar	102.7	.2	99.1	-1.6	100.0	99.1	83.9	118.0	106.8
Apr	103.2	.3	99.9	-.8	101.6	99.4	79.3	118.7	104.3
May	102.9	.1	99.8	-.6	101.8	98.9	78.9	118.4	103.7
June	102.3	-.4	99.1	-.9	101.2	98.1	79.3	119.1	102.0
July	103.2	.1	99.5	-.7	102.0	98.0	79.7	120.0	107.0
Aug	103.2	.0	99.5	-.9	101.7	98.5	79.1	119.3	107.7
Sept <sup>P</sup>	103.3	-.2	99.6	-1.0	101.9	98.6	79.0	120.3	106.7
Oct <sup>P</sup>	102.5	-.9	98.8	-1.9	100.2	98.4	80.8	119.2	105.7
Nov <sup>P</sup>	102.4	-.6	99.0	-1.0	101.3	97.9	80.4	118.1	105.0
Dec <sup>P</sup>	102.5	1.0	99.1	1.2	100.8	98.5	79.5	119.2	103.9

<sup>1</sup> Total industry and total manufacturing series include manufacturing as defined in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) plus those industries—logging and newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishing—that have traditionally been considered to be manufacturing and included in the industrial sector.

<sup>2</sup> Percent changes based on unrounded indexes.

Note: Data based on NAICS; see footnote 1.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TABLE B–35. Capacity utilization rates, 1978–2023

[Percent <sup>1</sup>; monthly data seasonally adjusted]

Year or month	Total industry <sup>2</sup>	Manufacturing				Mining	Utilities	Stage-of-process		
		Total <sup>2</sup>	Durable goods	Nondurable goods	Other (non-NAICS) <sup>2</sup>			Crude	Primary and semi-finished	Finished
1978.....	85.1	84.4	83.8	85.3	85.1	89.6	87.2	88.6	86.2	82.3
1979.....	85.0	84.0	83.9	83.9	85.6	91.1	87.2	89.9	85.9	81.6
1980.....	80.7	78.7	77.5	79.7	86.8	91.3	85.5	89.3	78.9	79.2
1981.....	79.6	77.0	75.3	78.9	87.5	90.9	84.4	89.3	77.4	77.5
1982.....	73.6	70.9	66.5	76.4	87.4	84.1	80.0	82.3	70.6	73.1
1983.....	75.0	73.5	68.9	79.4	87.9	79.9	79.3	80.0	74.6	73.0
1984.....	80.5	79.4	77.0	82.1	89.5	86.0	81.9	85.9	81.2	77.2
1985.....	79.3	78.1	75.8	80.5	90.3	84.7	81.8	84.1	79.8	76.6
1986.....	78.6	78.4	75.4	81.8	88.7	76.6	80.9	78.5	79.7	77.1
1987.....	81.2	81.0	77.6	84.8	90.5	80.3	83.5	82.9	82.8	78.7
1988.....	84.3	84.0	81.9	86.2	88.5	84.1	86.8	86.4	85.8	81.7
1989.....	83.7	83.2	81.7	85.0	85.5	85.1	86.8	86.8	84.6	81.7
1990.....	82.4	81.5	79.2	84.2	83.7	86.9	86.6	88.0	82.5	80.6
1991.....	80.0	78.6	75.5	82.3	80.8	85.4	87.8	85.6	79.9	78.5
1992.....	80.7	79.7	77.3	82.7	80.2	85.3	86.4	86.0	81.4	78.5
1993.....	81.6	80.5	78.8	82.7	81.4	85.8	88.2	85.9	83.2	78.6
1994.....	83.5	82.8	81.6	84.6	81.4	86.8	88.3	87.9	86.2	79.3
1995.....	83.9	83.1	82.1	84.5	82.3	87.7	89.4	89.0	86.3	79.7
1996.....	83.3	82.1	81.4	83.1	80.6	90.5	90.8	89.1	85.4	79.3
1997.....	84.1	83.0	82.3	83.7	85.5	91.8	90.1	90.4	85.9	80.4
1998.....	82.9	81.7	80.9	82.2	86.8	89.3	92.6	87.0	84.2	80.4
1999.....	81.9	80.6	80.5	80.0	87.1	86.2	94.2	86.1	84.4	78.1
2000.....	81.6	79.9	80.0	78.9	87.5	90.5	94.3	88.6	84.1	77.0
2001.....	76.2	73.9	71.8	75.6	82.9	89.8	90.1	85.5	77.5	72.6
2002.....	75.0	73.1	70.2	76.0	81.5	85.9	87.6	83.2	77.6	70.5
2003.....	76.1	74.1	71.3	76.9	81.5	87.7	85.7	85.0	78.4	71.4
2004.....	78.2	76.6	74.2	78.9	82.4	88.2	84.4	86.6	80.4	73.4
2005.....	80.2	78.6	76.6	80.6	82.1	88.5	85.0	86.7	82.0	75.8
2006.....	80.6	78.9	77.7	80.2	79.5	90.1	83.6	88.2	81.5	76.4
2007.....	80.8	79.0	78.5	79.8	76.9	89.4	85.8	88.7	81.1	77.3
2008.....	77.8	74.7	74.6	74.4	78.4	90.0	84.2	87.7	76.9	73.8
2009.....	68.4	65.2	61.3	69.7	66.5	80.8	80.5	78.4	65.5	67.8
2010.....	73.3	70.2	68.6	72.9	62.3	84.2	82.9	83.6	71.4	70.9
2011.....	76.0	73.1	72.6	74.6	63.2	86.4	81.4	85.1	74.1	73.2
2012.....	76.8	74.3	75.2	74.3	62.1	87.8	78.4	85.9	74.5	74.4
2013.....	77.1	74.4	75.3	74.5	62.4	86.8	80.0	85.8	75.7	73.5
2014.....	78.7	75.7	77.1	75.0	65.1	89.4	80.8	87.6	77.3	74.8
2015.....	77.1	76.1	76.6	76.4	66.5	80.7	80.0	79.6	77.4	75.7
2016.....	75.4	75.4	74.9	76.5	68.2	71.5	78.9	74.1	76.7	74.4
2017.....	76.6	76.3	76.1	77.1	70.3	77.9	77.3	78.4	77.3	75.1
2018.....	79.7	78.3	78.6	78.3	71.3	87.4	80.6	85.9	80.0	76.5
2019.....	78.6	77.1	76.7	77.9	72.1	87.4	79.1	85.7	78.7	75.5
2020.....	72.8	72.6	69.6	76.2	70.4	71.9	75.1	73.7	73.4	71.8
2021.....	77.6	77.1	74.1	80.5	75.9	82.5	74.9	82.8	77.4	75.4
2022.....	80.3	79.2	78.8	81.7	77.1	89.7	75.2	88.5	79.0	77.5
2023 <sup>P</sup> .....	79.3	77.8	75.7	79.9	78.7	93.2	71.5	91.0	76.8	76.4
2022: Jan.....	79.4	78.4	75.7	81.3	76.6	86.6	77.8	86.5	79.0	76.4
Feb.....	79.9	79.3	76.6	82.2	77.4	86.2	76.5	86.5	79.7	76.9
Mar.....	80.5	79.9	77.2	82.8	79.4	88.2	74.7	88.1	79.7	77.6
Apr.....	80.7	79.9	77.6	82.5	78.3	88.4	75.5	88.1	79.8	77.9
May.....	80.6	79.6	77.2	82.2	76.4	89.1	76.0	88.5	79.7	77.5
June.....	80.5	79.2	76.8	81.9	75.3	90.1	75.6	89.3	79.0	77.5
July.....	80.7	79.3	77.2	81.7	74.4	91.2	75.5	89.9	79.2	77.6
Aug.....	80.7	79.4	77.2	81.9	74.4	91.2	74.7	89.7	78.9	78.0
Sept.....	80.8	79.5	77.3	81.9	76.6	92.1	73.7	90.2	79.0	77.9
Oct.....	80.6	79.5	77.4	81.8	78.5	92.1	71.8	89.9	78.4	78.2
Nov.....	80.3	78.9	76.4	81.5	78.5	91.3	74.0	89.1	78.6	77.4
Dec.....	78.9	77.1	75.3	79.0	79.1	89.4	76.1	86.5	77.4	76.5
2023: Jan.....	79.6	78.3	75.9	80.7	81.7	92.8	70.4	89.8	76.8	77.7
Feb.....	79.5	78.5	75.9	81.0	82.4	91.9	69.6	90.1	76.8	77.3
Mar.....	79.5	77.8	75.1	80.5	80.2	92.3	73.8	90.4	77.3	76.4
Apr.....	79.8	78.4	76.2	80.8	76.1	92.8	71.8	90.3	77.1	77.6
May.....	79.5	78.2	76.3	80.3	76.1	92.6	71.2	90.5	76.9	77.1
June.....	78.9	77.6	75.7	79.5	76.9	93.3	69.9	90.9	76.3	76.1
July.....	79.5	77.8	76.2	79.3	77.5	94.0	73.1	91.4	77.1	76.6
Aug.....	79.5	77.7	75.9	79.6	77.3	93.6	73.4	91.3	77.2	76.4
Sept <sup>P</sup> .....	79.5	77.7	75.9	79.6	77.5	94.4	72.5	92.1	77.2	76.0
Oct <sup>P</sup> .....	78.7	77.0	74.6	79.4	79.6	93.7	71.6	91.5	76.6	75.1
Nov <sup>P</sup> .....	78.6	77.1	75.3	78.9	79.5	92.9	70.9	91.1	76.4	75.2
Dec <sup>P</sup> .....	78.6	77.1	74.8	79.3	79.0	93.8	70.0	91.9	76.0	75.2

<sup>1</sup> Output as percent of capacity.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 1 and Note, Table B–34.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TABLE B–36. New private housing units started, authorized, and completed and houses sold, 1978–2023

(Thousands; monthly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Year or month	New housing units started				New housing units authorized <sup>1</sup>				New housing units completed	New houses sold
	Type of structure				Type of structure					
	Total	1 unit	2 to 4 units <sup>2</sup>	5 units or more	Total	1 unit	2 to 4 units	5 units or more		
1978	2,020.3	1,433.3	125.1	462.0	1,800.5	1,182.6	130.6	487.3	1,867.5	817
1979	1,745.1	1,194.1	122.0	429.0	1,551.8	981.5	125.4	444.8	1,870.8	709
1980	1,292.2	852.2	109.5	330.5	1,190.6	710.4	114.5	365.7	1,501.6	545
1981	1,084.2	705.4	91.2	287.7	985.5	564.3	101.8	319.4	1,285.7	436
1982	1,062.2	662.6	80.1	319.6	1,000.5	546.4	88.3	365.8	1,005.5	412
1983	1,703.0	1,067.6	113.5	522.0	1,605.2	901.5	133.7	570.1	1,390.3	623
1984	1,749.5	1,084.2	121.4	543.9	1,681.8	922.4	142.6	618.8	1,652.2	639
1985	1,741.8	1,072.4	93.5	576.0	1,733.3	956.6	120.1	656.6	1,703.3	688
1986	1,805.4	1,179.4	84.0	542.0	1,769.4	1,077.6	108.4	583.5	1,756.4	750
1987	1,620.5	1,146.4	65.1	408.7	1,534.8	1,024.4	89.3	421.1	1,668.8	671
1988	1,488.1	1,081.3	58.7	348.0	1,455.6	993.8	75.7	386.1	1,529.8	676
1989	1,376.1	1,003.3	55.3	317.6	1,338.4	931.7	66.9	339.8	1,422.8	650
1990	1,192.7	894.8	37.6	260.4	1,110.8	793.9	54.3	262.6	1,308.0	534
1991	1,013.9	840.4	35.6	137.9	948.8	753.5	43.1	152.1	1,090.8	509
1992	1,199.7	1,029.9	30.9	139.0	1,094.9	910.7	45.8	188.4	1,157.5	610
1993	1,287.6	1,125.7	29.4	132.6	1,199.1	986.5	52.4	130.2	1,192.7	666
1994	1,457.0	1,198.4	35.2	223.5	1,371.6	1,068.5	62.2	241.0	1,346.9	670
1995	1,354.1	1,076.2	33.8	244.1	1,332.5	997.3	63.8	271.5	1,312.6	667
1996	1,476.8	1,160.9	45.3	270.8	1,425.6	1,069.5	65.8	290.3	1,412.9	757
1997	1,474.0	1,133.7	44.5	295.8	1,441.1	1,062.4	68.4	310.3	1,400.5	804
1998	1,616.9	1,271.4	42.6	302.9	1,612.3	1,187.6	69.2	355.5	1,474.2	886
1999	1,640.9	1,302.4	31.9	306.6	1,663.5	1,246.7	65.8	351.1	1,604.9	880
2000	1,568.7	1,230.9	38.7	299.1	1,592.3	1,198.1	64.9	329.3	1,573.7	877
2001	1,602.7	1,273.3	36.6	292.8	1,636.7	1,235.6	66.0	335.2	1,570.8	908
2002	1,704.9	1,358.6	38.5	307.9	1,747.7	1,332.6	73.7	341.4	1,648.4	973
2003	1,847.7	1,499.0	33.5	315.2	1,889.2	1,460.9	82.5	345.8	1,678.7	1,086
2004	1,955.8	1,610.5	42.3	303.0	2,070.1	1,613.4	90.4	366.2	1,841.9	1,203
2005	2,068.3	1,715.8	41.1	311.4	2,155.3	1,682.0	84.0	389.3	1,931.4	1,283
2006	1,800.9	1,465.4	42.7	292.8	1,838.9	1,378.2	76.6	384.1	1,979.4	1,051
2007	1,355.0	1,046.0	31.7	277.3	1,398.4	979.9	59.6	359.0	1,502.8	776
2008	905.5	622.0	17.5	266.0	905.4	575.6	34.4	295.4	1,119.7	485
2009	554.0	445.1	11.6	97.3	583.0	441.1	20.7	121.1	794.4	375
2010	586.9	471.2	11.4	104.3	604.6	447.3	22.0	135.3	651.7	323
2011	608.8	430.6	10.9	167.3	624.1	418.5	21.6	184.0	584.9	306
2012	780.6	535.3	11.4	233.9	829.7	518.7	25.9	285.1	649.2	368
2013	924.9	617.6	13.6	293.7	990.8	620.8	29.0	341.1	764.4	429
2014	1,003.3	647.9	13.7	341.7	1,052.1	640.3	29.9	382.0	883.8	437
2015	1,111.8	714.5	11.5	385.8	1,182.6	696.0	32.1	454.5	968.2	501
2016	1,173.8	781.5	11.5	380.8	1,206.6	750.8	34.8	421.1	1,059.7	561
2017	1,203.0	848.9	11.4	342.7	1,282.0	820.0	37.2	424.8	1,152.9	613
2018	1,249.9	875.8	13.9	360.3	1,328.8	855.3	39.7	433.8	1,184.9	617
2019	1,290.0	887.7	13.4	388.9	1,386.0	862.1	42.6	481.4	1,255.1	683
2020	1,379.6	990.5	12.3	376.8	1,471.1	979.4	47.2	444.5	1,286.9	822
2021	1,601.0	1,127.2	11.7	462.1	1,737.0	1,115.4	52.9	568.8	1,341.0	771
2022	1,552.6	1,005.2	16.4	531.0	1,665.1	975.6	54.8	634.7	1,390.5	641
2023 <sup>P</sup>	1,413.1	944.5	13.1	455.5	1,470.6	909.2	52.8	508.6	1,452.5	668
2022: Jan	1,669	1,157	.....	502	1,898	1,242	57	599	1,256	810
Feb	1,771	1,211	.....	528	1,817	1,199	55	563	1,371	773
Mar	1,713	1,179	.....	519	1,877	1,135	57	685	1,356	707
Apr	1,803	1,176	.....	614	1,795	1,085	58	652	1,361	611
May	1,543	1,067	.....	447	1,708	1,033	60	615	1,446	636
June	1,561	1,010	.....	543	1,701	948	55	698	1,392	563
July	1,371	898	.....	458	1,658	918	56	684	1,396	543
Aug	1,505	919	.....	566	1,586	885	51	650	1,355	538
Sept	1,463	887	.....	559	1,588	865	52	671	1,438	567
Oct	1,432	858	.....	560	1,555	850	55	650	1,348	577
Nov	1,427	804	.....	609	1,402	795	54	553	1,543	582
Dec	1,357	887	.....	461	1,409	748	49	612	1,390	636
2023: Jan	1,340	823	.....	506	1,354	748	54	552	1,377	649
Feb	1,436	835	.....	588	1,482	796	48	638	1,577	625
Mar	1,380	843	.....	515	1,437	829	52	556	1,528	640
Apr	1,348	847	.....	489	1,417	856	58	503	1,416	679
May	1,583	1,012	.....	563	1,496	902	54	540	1,534	710
June	1,418	930	.....	473	1,441	924	52	465	1,492	683
July	1,451	988	.....	454	1,443	930	47	466	1,334	728
Aug	1,305	948	.....	350	1,541	948	59	534	1,370	654
Sept	1,356	966	.....	376	1,471	963	49	459	1,459	698
Oct <sup>P</sup>	1,376	974	.....	384	1,498	969	48	481	1,375	676
Nov <sup>P</sup>	1,525	1,124	.....	388	1,467	977	47	443	1,448	615
Dec <sup>P</sup>	1,460	1,027	.....	417	1,493	999	49	445	1,574	664

<sup>1</sup> Authorized by issuance of local and building permits in permit-issuing places; beginning with 2023, annually updated universe of approximately 20,000 places; 20,100 for 2014–2022; 19,300 for 2004–2013; 19,000 for 1994–2003; 17,000 for 1984–93; and 16,000 for 1978–83.

<sup>2</sup> Monthly data do not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.

Note: One-unit estimates prior to 1999, for new housing units started and completed and for new houses sold, include an upward adjustment of 3.3 percent to account for structures in permit-issuing areas that did not have permit authorization.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census).



## Prices

### TABLE B-38. Changes in consumer price indexes, 1981-2023

[For all urban consumers; percent change]

Year or month	All items	All items less food and energy					Food			Energy <sup>4</sup>		C-CPI-U <sup>5</sup>
		Total <sup>1</sup>	Shelter <sup>2</sup>	Medical care <sup>3</sup>	Apparel	New vehicles	Total <sup>1</sup>	At home	Away from home	Total <sup>1,3</sup>	Gasoline	
December to December, NSA												
1981 .....	8.9	9.5	9.9	12.5	3.5	6.8	4.3	2.9	7.1	11.9	9.4	.....
1982 .....	3.8	4.5	2.4	11.0	1.6	1.4	3.1	2.3	5.1	1.3	-6.7	.....
1983 .....	3.8	4.8	4.7	6.4	2.9	3.3	2.7	1.8	4.1	-5	-1.6	.....
1984 .....	3.9	4.7	5.2	6.1	2.0	2.5	3.8	3.6	4.2	2	-2.5	.....
1985 .....	3.8	4.3	6.0	6.8	2.8	3.6	2.6	2.0	3.8	1.8	3.0	.....
1986 .....	1.1	3.8	4.6	7.7	.9	5.6	3.8	3.7	4.3	-19.7	-30.7	.....
1987 .....	4.4	4.2	4.8	5.8	4.8	1.8	3.5	3.5	3.7	8.2	18.6	.....
1988 .....	4.4	4.7	4.5	6.9	4.7	2.2	5.2	5.6	4.4	5	-1.8	.....
1989 .....	4.6	4.4	4.9	8.5	1.0	2.4	5.6	6.2	4.6	5.1	6.5	.....
1990 .....	6.1	5.2	5.2	9.6	5.1	2.0	5.3	5.8	4.5	18.1	36.8	.....
1991 .....	3.1	4.4	3.9	7.9	3.4	3.2	1.9	1.3	2.9	-7.4	-16.2	.....
1992 .....	2.9	3.3	2.9	6.6	1.4	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	2.0	2.0	.....
1993 .....	2.7	3.2	3.0	5.4	.9	3.3	2.9	3.5	1.9	-1.4	-5.9	.....
1994 .....	2.7	2.6	3.0	4.9	-1.6	3.3	2.9	3.5	1.9	2.2	6.4	.....
1995 .....	2.5	3.0	3.5	3.9	.1	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	-1.3	-4.2	.....
1996 .....	3.3	2.6	2.9	3.0	-2	1.8	4.3	4.9	3.1	8.6	12.4	.....
1997 .....	1.7	2.2	3.4	2.8	1.0	-9	1.5	1.0	2.6	-3.4	-6.1	.....
1998 .....	1.6	2.4	3.3	3.4	-7	.0	2.3	2.1	2.5	-8.8	-15.4	.....
1999 .....	2.7	1.9	2.5	3.7	-5	-3	1.9	1.7	2.3	13.4	30.1	.....
2000 .....	3.4	2.6	3.4	4.2	-1.8	.0	2.8	2.9	2.4	14.2	13.9	2.6
2001 .....	1.6	2.7	4.2	4.7	-3.2	-1	2.8	2.6	3.0	-13.0	-24.9	1.3
2002 .....	2.4	1.9	3.1	5.0	-1.8	-2.0	1.5	.8	2.3	10.7	24.8	2.0
2003 .....	1.9	1.1	2.2	3.7	-2.1	-1.8	3.6	4.5	2.3	6.9	6.8	1.7
2004 .....	3.3	2.2	2.7	4.2	-2	.6	2.7	2.4	3.0	16.6	26.1	3.2
2005 .....	3.4	2.2	2.6	4.3	-1.1	-4	2.3	1.7	3.2	17.1	16.1	2.9
2006 .....	2.5	2.6	4.2	3.6	.9	-9	2.1	1.4	3.2	2.9	6.4	2.3
2007 .....	4.1	2.4	3.1	5.2	-3	-3	4.9	5.6	4.0	17.4	29.6	3.7
2008 .....	.1	1.8	1.9	2.6	-1.0	-3.2	5.9	6.6	5.0	-21.3	-43.1	.2
2009 .....	2.7	1.8	.3	3.4	1.9	4.9	-5	-2.4	1.9	18.2	53.5	2.5
2010 .....	1.5	.8	.4	3.3	-1.1	-2	1.5	1.7	1.3	7.7	13.8	1.3
2011 .....	3.0	2.2	1.9	3.5	4.6	3.2	4.7	6.0	2.9	6.6	9.9	2.9
2012 .....	1.7	1.9	2.2	3.2	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.3	2.5	5	1.7	1.5
2013 .....	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.0	.6	.4	1.1	.4	2.1	5	-1.0	1.3
2014 .....	.8	1.6	2.9	3.0	-2.0	.5	3.4	3.7	3.0	-10.6	-21.0	.5
2015 .....	.7	2.1	3.2	2.6	-9	.2	.8	-4	2.6	-12.6	-19.7	.4
2016 .....	2.1	2.2	3.6	4.1	-1	.3	-2	-2.0	2.3	5.4	9.1	1.8
2017 .....	2.1	1.8	3.2	1.8	-1.6	-5	1.6	.9	2.5	6.9	10.7	1.7
2018 .....	1.9	2.2	3.2	2.0	-1	-3	1.6	.6	2.8	-3	-2.1	1.5
2019 .....	2.3	2.3	3.2	4.6	-1.2	.1	1.8	.7	3.1	3.4	7.9	1.8
2020 .....	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.8	-3.9	2.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	-7.0	-15.2	1.5
2021 .....	7.0	5.5	4.1	2.2	5.8	11.8	6.3	6.5	6.0	29.3	49.6	6.5
2022 .....	6.5	5.7	7.5	4.0	2.9	5.9	10.4	11.8	8.3	7.3	-1.5	6.4
2023 .....	3.4	3.9	6.2	.5	1.0	1.0	2.7	1.3	5.2	-2.0	-1.9	3.0
Change from year earlier, NSA												
2022: Jan .....	7.5	6.0	4.4	2.5	5.3	12.2	7.0	7.4	6.4	27.0	40.0	6.8
Feb .....	7.9	6.4	4.7	2.4	6.6	12.4	7.9	8.6	6.8	25.6	38.0	7.3
Mar .....	8.5	6.5	5.0	2.9	6.8	12.5	8.8	10.0	6.9	32.0	48.0	8.1
Apr .....	8.3	6.2	5.1	3.2	5.4	13.2	9.4	10.8	7.2	30.3	43.6	7.9
May .....	8.6	6.0	5.5	3.7	5.0	12.6	10.1	11.9	7.4	34.6	48.7	8.3
June .....	9.1	5.9	5.6	4.5	5.2	11.4	10.4	12.2	7.7	41.6	59.9	8.7
July .....	8.5	5.9	5.7	4.8	5.1	10.4	10.9	13.1	7.6	32.9	44.0	8.1
Aug .....	8.3	6.3	6.2	5.4	5.1	10.1	11.4	13.5	8.0	23.8	25.6	7.9
Sept .....	8.2	6.6	6.6	6.0	5.5	9.4	11.2	13.0	8.5	19.8	18.2	7.9
Oct .....	7.7	6.3	6.9	5.0	4.1	8.4	10.9	12.4	8.6	17.6	17.5	7.6
Nov .....	7.1	6.0	7.1	4.2	3.6	7.2	10.6	12.0	8.5	13.1	10.1	7.0
Dec .....	6.5	5.7	7.5	4.0	2.9	5.9	10.4	11.8	8.3	7.3	-1.5	6.4
2023: Jan .....	6.4	5.6	7.9	3.1	3.1	5.8	10.1	11.3	8.2	8.7	1.5	6.4
Feb .....	6.0	5.5	8.1	2.3	3.3	5.8	9.5	10.2	8.4	5.2	-2.0	6.0
Mar .....	5.0	5.6	8.2	1.5	3.3	6.1	8.5	8.4	8.8	-6.4	-17.4	4.8
Apr .....	4.9	5.5	8.1	1.1	3.6	5.4	7.7	7.1	8.6	-5.1	-12.2	4.7
May .....	4.0	5.3	8.0	.7	3.5	4.7	6.7	5.8	8.3	-11.7	-19.7	3.7
June .....	3.0	4.8	7.8	.1	3.1	4.1	5.7	4.7	7.7	-16.7	-26.5	2.9
July .....	3.2	4.7	7.7	-5	3.2	3.5	4.9	3.6	7.1	-12.5	-19.9	3.0
Aug .....	3.7	4.3	7.3	-1.0	3.1	2.9	4.3	3.0	6.5	-3.6	-3.3	3.6
Sept .....	3.7	4.1	7.2	-1.4	2.3	2.5	3.7	2.4	6.0	-5	3.0	3.5
Oct .....	3.2	4.0	6.7	-8	2.6	1.9	3.3	2.1	5.4	-4.5	-5.3	3.0
Nov .....	3.1	4.0	6.5	-2	1.1	1.3	2.9	1.7	5.3	-5.4	-8.9	2.8
Dec .....	3.4	3.9	6.2	.5	1.0	1.0	2.7	1.3	5.2	-2.0	-1.9	3.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes other items not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Data beginning with 1983 incorporate a rental equivalence measure for homeowners' costs.

<sup>3</sup> Commodities and services.

<sup>4</sup> Household energy—electricity, utility (piped) gas service, fuel oil, etc.—and motor fuel.

<sup>5</sup> Chained consumer price index (C-CPI-U) introduced in 2002. Reflects the effect of substitution that consumers make across item categories in response to changes in relative prices. Data for 2023 are subject to revision.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).



# Money Stock, Credit, and Finance

**TABLE B-40. Money stock and debt measures, 1986-2023**  
 [Averages of daily figures, except debt end-of-period basis; billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Year and month	M1	M2	Debt	Percent change		
	Sum of currency, demand deposits, travelers checks, and other checkable deposits; includes savings deposits beginning May 2020 <sup>1</sup>	M1 plus savings deposits, retail MMMF balances, and small time deposits <sup>2</sup>	Debt of domestic nonfinancial sectors <sup>3</sup>	From year or 6 months earlier <sup>4</sup>		From previous period <sup>5</sup>
				M1	M2	Debt
December:						
1986	724.7	2,728.0	8,227.1	16.9	9.5	12.0
1987	750.2	2,826.4	8,974.8	3.5	3.6	9.0
1988	786.7	2,988.2	9,797.4	4.9	5.7	9.2
1989	792.9	3,152.5	10,549.7	.8	5.5	7.5
1990	824.7	3,271.8	11,268.6	4.0	3.8	6.6
1991	897.0	3,372.2	11,799.2	8.8	3.1	4.7
1992	1,024.9	3,424.7	12,351.8	14.3	1.6	4.7
1993	1,129.6	3,474.5	13,080.3	10.2	1.5	5.8
1994	1,150.7	3,486.4	13,775.8	1.9	.3	5.3
1995	1,127.5	3,629.5	14,469.2	-2.0	4.1	4.9
1996	1,081.3	3,818.6	15,237.6	-4.1	5.2	5.3
1997	1,072.3	4,032.9	16,117.6	-8	5.6	5.8
1998	1,095.0	4,375.2	17,256.3	2.1	8.5	7.1
1999	1,122.2	4,638.0	18,437.0	2.5	6.0	6.7
2000	1,088.6	4,925.0	19,295.6	-3.0	6.2	4.7
2001	1,183.2	5,433.8	20,402.8	8.7	10.3	5.8
2002	1,220.2	5,772.0	21,780.5	3.1	6.2	6.8
2003	1,306.2	6,067.3	23,516.0	7.0	5.1	7.8
2004	1,376.0	6,418.3	26,446.1	5.3	5.8	9.1
2005	1,374.3	6,681.9	28,770.7	-1	4.1	8.8
2006	1,366.6	7,071.6	31,227.7	-6	5.8	8.5
2007	1,373.4	7,471.6	33,733.9	.5	5.7	8.1
2008	1,601.7	8,192.1	35,568.7	16.6	9.6	5.8
2009	1,692.8	8,496.0	36,542.8	5.7	3.7	3.6
2010	1,836.7	8,801.8	37,920.5	8.5	3.6	4.2
2011	2,165.7	9,660.1	39,184.5	17.9	9.8	3.7
2012	2,460.7	10,459.7	40,834.7	13.6	8.3	4.7
2013	2,674.2	11,035.0	42,481.6	8.7	5.5	4.3
2014	2,947.3	11,684.9	44,074.0	10.2	5.9	3.8
2015	3,100.0	12,346.8	45,892.0	5.2	5.7	4.5
2016	3,345.6	13,213.4	47,857.5	7.9	7.0	4.4
2017	3,618.8	13,857.9	50,020.0	8.2	4.9	4.3
2018	3,773.0	14,362.7	52,698.7	4.3	3.6	4.7
2019	4,021.2	15,320.7	55,148.2	6.6	6.7	4.7
2020	17,827.5	19,114.6	61,948.1	.....	24.8	12.3
2021	20,494.7	21,549.3	66,426.4	15.0	12.7	6.3
2022	19,820.9	21,358.3	70,235.4	-3.3	-9	5.7
2023 <sup>p</sup>	18,101.4	20,865.2	.....	-8.7	-2.3	.....
2022: Jan	20,506.3	21,562.3	.....	10.0	8.7	.....
Feb	20,533.7	21,570.7	.....	8.1	6.9	.....
Mar	20,664.5	21,697.8	67,806.1	8.0	7.0	8.3
Apr	20,650.7	21,677.2	.....	6.1	5.3	.....
May	20,638.8	21,665.5	.....	3.8	3.3	.....
June	20,607.5	21,666.1	68,873.3	1.1	1.1	6.2
July	20,588.5	21,703.5	.....	.8	1.3	.....
Aug	20,479.7	21,659.6	.....	-5	.8	.....
Sept	20,280.9	21,525.1	69,653.3	-3.7	-1.6	4.5
Oct	20,099.2	21,433.2	.....	-5.3	-2.3	.....
Nov	19,964.9	21,399.3	.....	-6.5	-2.5	.....
Dec	19,820.9	21,358.3	70,235.4	-7.6	-2.8	3.2
2023: Jan	19,555.0	21,221.7	.....	-10.0	-4.4	.....
Feb	19,312.3	21,099.8	.....	-11.4	-5.2	.....
Mar	18,938.4	20,876.0	70,897.9	-13.2	-6.0	3.8
Apr	18,591.7	20,705.4	.....	-15.0	-6.8	.....
May	18,560.1	20,820.8	.....	-14.1	-5.4	.....
June	18,490.3	20,854.5	.....	-13.4	-4.7	6.3
July	18,428.1	20,863.8	72,008.4	-11.5	-3.4	.....
Aug	18,303.5	20,825.6	.....	-10.4	-2.6	.....
Sept	18,171.7	20,755.4	72,950.3	-8.1	-1.2	5.2
Oct	18,080.9	20,725.7	.....	-5.5	.2	.....
Nov	18,045.9	20,767.5	.....	-5.5	-5	.....
Dec <sup>p</sup>	18,101.4	20,865.2	.....	-4.2	.1	.....

<sup>1</sup> Beginning May 2020, M1 includes savings deposits. Prior to May 2020, savings deposits were not included in M1. See the H.6 statistical release for additional details.

<sup>2</sup> Money market mutual fund (MMMF). Savings deposits include money market deposit accounts.

<sup>3</sup> Consists of outstanding debt securities and loans of the U.S. Government, State and local governments, and private nonfinancial sectors. Quarterly data shown in last month of quarter. End-of-year data are for fourth quarter.

<sup>4</sup> Annual changes are from December to December; monthly changes are from six months earlier at an annual rate.

<sup>5</sup> Debt growth of domestic nonfinancial sectors is the seasonally adjusted borrowing flow divided by the seasonally adjusted level of debt outstanding in the previous period. Annual changes are from fourth quarter to fourth quarter; quarterly changes are from previous quarter at an annual rate.

Note: For further information on the composition of M1 and M2, see the H.6 release.

For further information on the debt of domestic nonfinancial sectors and the derivation of debt growth, see the Z.1 release.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TABLE B-41. Consumer credit outstanding, 1973–2023

[Amount outstanding (end of month); millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted]

Year and month	Total consumer credit <sup>1</sup>	Revolving	Nonrevolving <sup>2</sup>
December:			
1973 .....	190,086.31	11,342.22	178,744.09
1974 .....	198,917.84	13,241.26	185,676.58
1975 .....	204,002.00	14,495.27	189,506.73
1976 .....	225,721.59	16,489.05	209,232.54
1977 .....	260,562.70	37,414.82	223,147.88
1978 .....	306,100.39	45,690.95	260,409.43
1979 .....	348,589.11	53,596.43	294,992.67
1980 .....	351,920.05	54,970.05	296,950.00
1981 .....	371,301.44	60,928.00	310,373.44
1982 .....	389,848.74	66,348.30	323,500.44
1983 .....	437,068.86	79,027.25	358,041.61
1984 .....	517,278.98	100,385.63	416,893.35
1985 .....	599,711.23	124,465.80	475,245.43
1986 .....	654,750.24	141,068.15	513,682.08
1987 .....	686,318.77	160,853.91	525,464.86
1988 <sup>3</sup> .....	731,917.76	184,593.12	547,324.64
1989 .....	794,612.18	211,229.83	583,382.34
1990 .....	808,230.57	238,642.62	569,587.95
1991 .....	798,028.97	263,768.55	534,260.42
1992 .....	806,118.69	278,449.67	527,669.02
1993 .....	865,650.58	309,908.02	555,742.56
1994 .....	937,301.74	365,569.56	631,732.19
1995 .....	1,140,744.36	443,920.09	696,824.27
1996 .....	1,253,437.09	507,516.57	745,920.52
1997 .....	1,324,757.33	540,005.56	784,751.77
1998 .....	1,420,996.44	581,414.78	839,581.66
1999 .....	1,531,105.96	610,696.47	920,409.49
2000 .....	1,716,969.72	682,646.37	1,034,323.35
2001 .....	1,867,852.87	714,840.73	1,153,012.14
2002 .....	1,972,112.21	750,947.45	1,221,164.76
2003 .....	2,077,360.69	768,258.31	1,309,102.38
2004 .....	2,192,246.17	799,552.18	1,392,693.99
2005 <sup>3</sup> .....	2,290,928.13	829,518.36	1,461,409.78
2006 .....	2,456,715.70	923,876.78	1,532,838.92
2007 .....	2,609,476.53	1,001,625.30	1,607,851.24
2008 .....	2,643,788.96	1,003,997.04	1,639,791.92
2009 .....	2,555,016.64	916,076.63	1,638,940.01
2010 <sup>3</sup> .....	2,646,811.26	839,102.67	1,807,708.59
2011 .....	2,756,224.86	840,164.23	1,916,060.63
2012 .....	2,912,905.02	839,980.84	2,072,924.18
2013 .....	3,090,467.78	854,138.80	2,236,328.97
2014 .....	3,309,539.85	887,381.64	2,422,158.21
2015 <sup>3</sup> .....	3,400,223.22	898,082.65	2,502,140.57
2016 .....	3,636,435.66	960,095.49	2,676,340.17
2017 .....	3,830,751.67	1,016,806.67	2,813,944.99
2018 .....	4,007,041.89	1,053,847.41	2,953,194.48
2019 .....	4,192,191.46	1,091,988.96	3,100,202.51
2020 .....	4,184,852.57	974,594.50	3,210,258.07
2021 .....	4,548,536.16	1,053,530.37	3,495,005.79
2022 .....	4,894,041.43	1,212,609.01	3,681,432.42
2023 <sup>p</sup> .....	5,010,283.93	1,314,257.94	3,696,025.99
2022: Jan .....	4,566,065.30	1,062,787.67	3,503,277.63
Feb .....	4,597,746.03	1,073,831.20	3,523,914.83
Mar .....	4,636,412.84	1,096,869.15	3,539,543.69
Apr .....	4,664,763.21	1,110,667.40	3,554,095.81
May .....	4,691,513.61	1,120,280.55	3,571,233.07
June .....	4,724,939.85	1,134,712.94	3,590,226.91
July .....	4,751,620.76	1,146,992.41	3,604,628.35
Aug .....	4,779,192.82	1,161,976.38	3,617,216.45
Sept .....	4,806,780.51	1,171,508.15	3,635,272.36
Oct .....	4,842,165.47	1,185,503.87	3,656,661.60
Nov .....	4,875,038.31	1,201,084.07	3,673,954.24
Dec .....	4,894,041.43	1,212,609.01	3,681,432.42
2023: Jan .....	4,916,136.59	1,223,019.11	3,693,117.48
Feb .....	4,927,157.05	1,226,382.86	3,700,774.19
Mar .....	4,945,936.43	1,240,096.61	3,705,839.82
Apr .....	4,960,313.58	1,253,588.47	3,706,725.11
May .....	4,959,445.40	1,261,508.31	3,697,937.09
June .....	4,971,610.20	1,260,463.51	3,711,146.69
July .....	4,983,110.63	1,271,047.38	3,712,063.25
Aug .....	4,967,955.59	1,287,912.61	3,680,042.98
Sept .....	4,978,098.20	1,292,228.39	3,685,869.81
Oct .....	4,985,242.91	1,295,284.52	3,689,958.39
Nov .....	5,008,723.24	1,313,216.67	3,695,506.57
Dec <sup>p</sup> .....	5,010,283.93	1,314,257.94	3,696,025.99

<sup>1</sup> Covers most short- and intermediate-term credit extended to individuals. Credit secured by real estate is excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Includes automobile loans and all other loans not included in revolving credit, such as loans for mobile homes, education, boats, trailers, or vacations.

These loans may be secured or unsecured. Beginning with 1977, includes student loans extended by the Federal Government and by SLM Holding Corporation.

<sup>3</sup> Data newly available result in breaks in these series between the prior period and subsequent months.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.



TABLE B-42. Bond yields and interest rates, 1953-2023

(Percent per annum)

Year	U.S. Treasury securities					Corporate bonds (Moody's)		High-grade municipal bonds (Standard & Poor's)	Home mortgage yields <sup>4</sup>	Prime rate charged by banks <sup>5</sup>	Discount window (Federal Reserve Bank of New York) <sup>5, 6</sup>		Federal funds rate <sup>7</sup>
	Bills (at auction) <sup>1</sup>		Constant maturities <sup>2</sup>			Aaa <sup>3</sup>	Baa				Primary credit	Adjustment credit	
	3-month	6-month	3-year	10-year	30-year								
1953	1.931		2.47	2.85		3.20	3.74	2.72		3.17		1.99	
1954	.953		1.63	2.40		2.90	3.51	2.37		3.05		1.60	
1955	1.753		2.47	2.82		3.06	3.53	2.53		3.16		1.89	1.79
1956	2.658		3.19	3.18		3.36	3.88	2.93		3.77		2.77	2.73
1957	3.267		3.98	3.65		3.89	4.71	3.60		4.20		3.12	3.11
1958	1.839		2.84	3.32		3.79	4.73	3.56		3.83		2.15	1.57
1959	3.405	3.832	4.46	4.33		4.38	5.05	3.95		4.48		3.36	3.31
1960	2.93	3.25	3.98	4.12		4.41	5.19	3.73		4.82		3.53	3.21
1961	2.38	2.61	3.54	3.88		4.35	5.08	3.46		4.50		3.00	1.95
1962	2.78	2.91	3.47	3.95		4.33	5.02	3.18		4.50		3.00	2.71
1963	3.16	3.25	3.67	4.00		4.26	4.86	3.23		4.50		3.23	3.18
1964	3.56	3.69	4.03	4.19		4.40	4.83	3.22		4.50		3.55	3.50
1965	3.95	4.05	4.22	4.28		4.49	4.87	3.27		4.54		4.04	4.07
1966	4.88	5.08	5.23	4.93		5.13	5.67	3.82		5.63		4.50	5.11
1967	4.32	4.63	5.03	5.07		5.51	6.23	3.98		5.63		4.19	4.22
1968	5.34	5.47	5.68	5.64		6.18	6.94	4.51		6.31		5.17	5.66
1969	6.68	6.85	7.02	6.67		7.03	7.81	5.81		7.96		5.87	8.21
1970	6.43	6.53	7.29	7.35		8.04	9.11	6.51		7.91		5.95	7.17
1971	4.35	4.51	5.66	6.16		7.39	8.56	5.70	7.54	5.73		4.88	4.67
1972	4.07	4.47	5.72	6.21		7.21	8.16	5.27	7.38	5.25		4.50	4.44
1973	7.04	7.18	6.96	6.85		7.44	8.24	5.18	8.04	8.03		6.45	8.74
1974	7.89	7.93	7.84	7.56		8.57	9.50	6.09	9.19	10.81		7.83	10.51
1975	5.84	6.12	7.50	7.99		8.83	10.61	6.89	9.05	7.86		6.25	5.82
1976	4.99	5.27	6.77	7.61		8.43	9.75	6.49	8.87	6.84		5.50	5.05
1977	5.27	5.52	6.68	7.42	7.75	8.02	8.97	5.56	8.85	6.83		5.46	5.94
1978	7.22	7.58	8.29	8.41	8.49	8.73	9.49	5.90	9.64	9.06		7.46	7.54
1979	10.05	10.02	9.70	9.43	9.28	9.63	10.69	6.39	11.20	12.67		10.29	11.20
1980	11.51	11.37	11.51	11.43	11.27	11.94	13.67	8.51	13.74	15.26		11.77	13.35
1981	14.03	13.78	14.46	13.92	13.45	14.17	16.04	11.23	16.63	18.87		13.42	16.39
1982	10.69	11.08	12.93	13.01	12.76	13.79	16.11	11.57	16.04	14.85		11.01	12.24
1983	8.63	8.75	10.45	11.10	11.18	12.04	13.55	9.47	13.24	10.79		8.50	9.09
1984	9.53	9.77	11.92	12.46	12.41	12.71	14.19	10.15	13.88	12.04		8.80	10.23
1985	7.47	7.64	9.64	10.62	10.79	11.37	12.72	9.18	12.43	9.93		7.69	8.10
1986	5.98	6.03	7.06	7.67	7.78	9.02	10.39	7.38	10.19	8.33		6.32	6.80
1987	5.82	6.05	7.68	8.39	8.59	9.38	10.58	7.73	10.21	8.21		5.66	6.66
1988	6.69	6.92	8.26	8.85	8.96	9.71	10.83	7.76	10.34	9.32		6.20	7.57
1989	8.12	8.04	8.55	8.49	8.45	9.26	10.18	7.24	10.32	10.87		6.93	9.21
1990	7.51	7.47	8.26	8.55	8.61	9.32	10.36	7.25	10.13	10.01		6.98	8.10
1991	5.42	5.49	6.82	7.86	8.14	8.77	9.80	6.89	9.25	8.46		5.45	5.69
1992	3.45	3.57	5.30	7.01	7.67	8.14	8.98	6.41	8.39	6.25		3.25	3.52
1993	3.02	3.14	4.44	5.87	6.59	7.22	7.93	5.63	7.31	6.00		3.00	3.02
1994	4.29	4.66	6.27	7.09	7.37	7.96	8.62	6.19	8.38	7.15		3.60	4.21
1995	5.51	5.59	6.25	6.67	6.88	7.59	8.20	5.95	7.93	8.83		5.21	5.83
1996	5.02	5.09	5.99	6.44	6.71	7.37	8.05	5.75	7.81	8.27		5.02	5.30
1997	5.07	5.18	6.10	6.35	6.61	7.26	7.86	5.55	7.60	8.44		5.00	5.46
1998	4.81	4.85	5.14	5.26	5.58	6.53	7.22	5.12	6.94	8.35		4.92	5.35
1999	4.66	4.76	5.49	5.65	5.87	7.04	7.87	5.43	7.44	8.00		4.62	4.97
2000	5.85	5.92	6.22	6.03	5.94	7.62	8.36	5.77	8.05	9.23		5.73	6.24
2001	3.44	3.39	4.09	5.02	5.49	7.08	7.95	5.19	6.97	6.91		3.40	3.88
2002	1.62	1.69	3.10	4.61	5.43	6.49	7.80	5.05	6.54	4.67		1.17	1.67
2003	1.01	1.06	2.10	4.01		5.67	6.77	4.73	5.83	4.12	2.12		1.13
2004	1.38	1.57	2.78	4.27		5.63	6.39	4.63	5.84	4.34	2.34		1.35
2005	3.16	3.40	3.93	4.29		5.24	6.06	4.29	5.87	6.19	4.19		3.22
2006	4.73	4.80	4.77	4.80	4.91	5.59	6.48	4.42	6.41	7.96	5.96		4.97
2007	4.41	4.48	4.35	4.63	4.84	5.56	6.48	4.42	6.34	8.05	5.86		5.02
2008	1.48	1.71	2.24	3.66	4.28	5.63	7.45	4.80	6.03	5.09	2.39		1.92
2009	.16	.29	1.43	3.26	4.08	5.31	7.30	4.64	5.04	3.25	.50		.16
2010	.14	.20	1.11	3.22	4.25	4.94	6.04	4.16	4.69	3.25	.72		.18
2011	.06	.10	.75	2.78	3.91	4.64	5.66	4.29	4.45	3.25	.75		.10
2012	.09	.13	.38	1.80	2.92	3.67	4.94	3.14	3.66	3.25	.75		.14
2013	.06	.09	.54	2.35	3.45	4.24	5.10	3.96	3.98	3.25	.75		.11
2014	.03	.06	.90	2.54	3.34	4.16	4.85	3.78	4.17	3.25	.75		.09
2015	.06	.17	1.02	2.14	2.84	3.89	5.00	3.48	3.85	3.26	.75		.13
2016	.33	.46	1.00	1.84	2.59	3.67	4.72	3.07	3.65	3.51	1.01		.39
2017	.94	1.05	1.58	2.33	2.89	3.74	4.44	3.36	3.99	4.10	1.60		1.00
2018	1.94	2.10	2.63	2.91	3.11	3.33	4.80	3.53	4.54	4.91	2.41		1.83
2019	2.08	2.07	1.94	2.14	2.58	3.39	4.38	3.38	3.94	5.28	2.78		2.16
2020	.38	.39	.42	.89	1.56	2.48	3.60	2.41	3.11	3.54	.64		.37
2021	.04	.06	.46	1.45	2.06	2.70	3.39	2.00	2.96	3.25	.25		.08
2022	2.04	2.44	3.05	2.95	3.11	4.07	5.07	3.85	5.34	4.86	1.86		1.69
2023	5.08	5.08	4.30	3.96	4.09	4.81	5.86	4.31	6.81	8.20	5.20		5.03

<sup>1</sup> High bill rate at auction, issue date within period, bank-discount basis. On or after October 28, 1998, data are stop yields from uniform-price auctions. Before that date, they are weighted average yields from multiple-price auctions.

See next page for continuation of table.

TABLE B-42. Bond yields and interest rates, 1953-2023—Continued

(Percent per annum)

Year and month	U.S. Treasury securities					Corporate bonds (Moody's)		High-grade municipal bonds (Standard & Poor's)	Home mortgage yields <sup>4</sup>	Prime rate charged by banks <sup>5</sup>	Discount window (Federal Reserve Bank of New York) <sup>3, 6</sup>			Federal funds rate <sup>7</sup>
	Bills (at auction) <sup>1</sup>		Constant maturities <sup>2</sup>			Aaa <sup>3</sup>	Baa				Primary credit	Adjustment credit		
	3-month	6-month	3-year	10-year	30-year								High-low	
2019: Jan	2.41	2.47	2.52	2.71	3.04	3.93	5.12	3.61	4.46	5.50-5.50	3.00-3.00		2.40	
Feb	2.40	2.45	2.48	2.68	3.02	3.79	4.95	3.57	4.37	5.50-5.50	3.00-3.00		2.40	
Mar	2.41	2.45	2.37	2.57	2.98	3.77	4.84	3.43	4.27	5.50-5.50	3.00-3.00		2.41	
Apr	2.38	2.39	2.31	2.53	2.94	3.69	4.70	3.27	4.14	5.50-5.50	3.00-3.00		2.42	
May	2.35	2.36	2.16	2.40	2.82	3.67	4.63	3.11	4.07	5.50-5.50	3.00-3.00		2.39	
June	2.20	2.14	1.78	2.07	2.57	3.42	4.46	2.87	3.80	5.50-5.50	3.00-3.00		2.38	
July	2.13	2.03	1.80	2.06	2.57	3.29	4.28	3.32	3.77	5.50-5.50	3.00-3.00		2.40	
Aug	1.97	1.91	1.51	1.63	2.12	2.98	3.87	3.61	3.62	5.25-5.25	2.75-2.75		2.13	
Sept	1.93	1.85	1.59	1.70	2.16	3.03	3.91	3.57	3.61	5.25-5.00	2.75-2.50		2.04	
Oct	1.68	1.66	1.53	1.71	2.19	3.01	3.93	3.67	3.69	5.00-4.75	2.50-2.25		1.83	
Nov	1.55	1.55	1.61	1.81	2.28	3.06	3.94	3.26	3.70	4.75-4.75	2.50-2.25		1.55	
Dec	1.54	1.55	1.63	1.86	2.30	3.01	3.88	3.26	3.72	4.75-4.75	2.25-2.25		1.55	
2020: Jan	1.53	1.53	1.52	1.76	2.22	2.94	3.77	3.00	3.62	4.75-4.75	2.25-2.25		1.55	
Feb	1.54	1.50	1.31	1.50	1.97	2.78	3.61	2.66	3.47	4.75-4.75	2.25-2.25		1.58	
Mar	.46	.45	.50	.87	1.46	3.02	4.29	3.07	3.45	4.75-3.25	2.25-0.25		.65	
Apr	.15	.17	.28	.66	1.27	2.43	4.13	2.86	3.31	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.05	
May	.12	.15	.22	.67	1.38	2.49	3.95	2.69	3.23	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.05	
June	.16	.18	.22	.73	1.49	2.41	3.65	2.69	3.16	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
July	.13	.15	.17	.62	1.31	2.14	3.31	1.75	3.02	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
Aug	.10	.12	.16	.65	1.36	2.25	3.27	1.88	2.94	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.10	
Sept	.11	.12	.16	.68	1.42	2.31	3.36	2.10	2.89	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
Oct	.10	.11	.19	.79	1.57	2.35	3.44	2.15	2.83	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
Nov	.09	.10	.22	.87	1.62	2.30	3.30	2.10	2.77	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
Dec	.09	.09	.19	.93	1.67	2.26	3.16	1.97	2.68	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
2021: Jan	.09	.09	.20	1.08	1.82	2.45	3.24	1.61	2.74	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
Feb	.04	.06	.21	1.26	2.04	2.70	3.42	1.13	2.81	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
Mar	.03	.05	.32	1.61	2.34	3.04	3.74	1.74	3.08	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.07	
Apr	.02	.04	.35	1.64	2.30	2.90	3.60	1.84	3.06	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.07	
May	.02	.03	.32	1.62	2.32	2.96	3.62	1.63	2.96	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.06	
June	.03	.04	.39	1.52	2.16	2.79	3.44	2.16	2.98	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
July	.05	.05	.40	1.32	1.94	2.57	3.24	2.22	2.87	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.10	
Aug	.06	.05	.42	1.28	1.92	2.55	3.24	2.39	2.84	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
Sept	.04	.05	.47	1.37	1.94	2.53	3.23	2.30	2.90	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.09	
Oct	.05	.06	.67	1.58	2.06	2.68	3.35	2.43	3.07	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
Nov	.05	.07	.82	1.56	1.94	2.62	3.28	2.30	3.07	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
Dec	.06	.14	.95	1.47	1.85	2.65	3.30	2.24	3.10	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
2022: Jan	.14	.31	1.25	1.76	2.10	2.93	3.58	2.47	3.45	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
Feb	.34	.64	1.65	1.93	2.25	3.25	3.97	2.78	3.76	3.25-3.25	0.25-0.25		.08	
Mar	.46	.82	2.09	2.13	2.41	3.43	4.29	3.22	4.17	3.50-3.25	0.50-0.25		.20	
Apr	.80	1.24	2.72	2.75	2.81	3.76	4.66	3.74	4.98	3.50-3.50	1.00-0.50		.33	
May	.98	1.46	2.79	2.90	3.07	4.13	5.12	4.06	5.23	4.00-3.50	1.00-0.50		.77	
June	1.48	2.07	3.15	3.14	3.25	4.24	5.27	4.01	5.52	4.75-4.00	1.75-1.00		1.21	
July	2.24	2.75	3.03	2.90	3.10	4.06	5.21	3.96	5.41	5.50-4.75	2.50-1.75		1.68	
Aug	2.61	3.01	3.23	2.90	3.13	4.07	5.15	3.99	5.22	5.50-5.50	2.50-2.50		2.33	
Sept	3.09	3.53	3.88	3.52	3.56	4.59	5.69	4.53	6.11	6.25-5.50	3.25-2.50		2.56	
Oct	3.67	4.13	4.38	3.98	4.04	5.10	6.26	4.70	6.90	6.25-6.25	3.25-3.25		3.08	
Nov	4.14	4.47	4.34	3.89	4.00	4.90	6.07	4.52	6.81	7.00-6.25	4.00-3.25		3.78	
Dec	4.29	4.58	4.05	3.62	3.66	4.43	5.59	4.19	6.36	7.50-7.00	4.50-4.00		4.10	
2023: Jan	4.53	4.68	3.91	3.53	3.66	4.40	5.50	4.03	6.27	7.50-7.50	4.50-4.50		4.33	
Feb	4.65	4.80	4.23	3.75	3.80	4.56	5.59	4.18	6.26	7.75-7.50	4.75-4.50		4.57	
Mar	4.72	4.78	4.09	3.66	3.77	4.60	5.71	4.19	6.54	8.00-7.75	5.00-4.75		4.65	
Apr	4.98	4.80	3.76	3.46	3.68	4.47	5.53	4.06	6.34	8.00-8.00	5.00-5.00		4.83	
May	5.14	4.99	3.82	3.57	3.86	4.67	5.77	4.20	6.43	8.25-8.00	5.25-5.00		5.06	
June	5.20	5.22	4.27	3.75	3.87	4.65	5.75	4.14	6.71	8.25-8.25	5.25-5.25		5.08	
July	5.25	5.26	4.47	3.90	3.96	4.66	5.74	4.19	6.84	8.50-8.25	5.50-5.25		5.12	
Aug	5.30	5.29	4.59	4.17	4.28	4.95	6.02	4.43	7.07	8.50-8.50	5.50-5.50		5.33	
Sept	5.32	5.30	4.74	4.38	4.47	5.13	6.16	4.58	7.20	8.50-8.50	5.50-5.50		5.33	
Oct	5.33	5.33	4.89	4.80	4.95	5.61	6.63	4.99	7.62	8.50-8.50	5.50-5.50		5.33	
Nov	5.29	5.26	4.64	4.50	4.66	5.28	6.29	4.62	7.44	8.50-8.50	5.50-5.50		5.33	
Dec	5.26	5.15	4.19	4.02	4.14	4.74	5.64	4.09	6.82	8.50-8.50	5.50-5.50		5.33	

<sup>2</sup> Yields on the more actively traded issues adjusted to constant maturities by the Department of the Treasury. The 30-year Treasury constant maturity series was discontinued on February 18, 2002, and reintroduced on February 9, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Beginning with December 7, 2001, data for corporate Aaa series are industrial bonds only.

<sup>4</sup> Contract interest rate on commitments for 30-year first-lien prime conventional conforming home purchase mortgage with a loan-to-value of 80 percent.

<sup>5</sup> For monthly data, high and low for the period.

<sup>6</sup> Primary credit replaced adjustment credit as the Federal Reserve's principal discount window lending program effective January 9, 2003.

<sup>7</sup> Beginning March 1, 2016, the daily effective federal funds rate is a volume-weighted median of transaction-level data collected from depository institutions in the Report of Selected Money Market Rates (FR 2420). Between July 21, 1975 and February 29, 2016, the daily effective rate was a volume-weighted mean of rates on brokered trades. Prior to that, the daily effective rate was the rate considered most representative of the day's transactions, usually the one at which most transactions occurred.

Sources: Department of the Treasury, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Moody's Investors Service, Bloomberg, and Standard & Poor's.



TABLE B-44. Mortgage debt outstanding by holder, 1963–2023

(Billions of dollars)

End of year or quarter	Total	Major financial institutions			Other holders		
		Total	Depository Institutions <sup>1,2</sup>	Life insurance companies	Federal and related agencies <sup>3</sup>	Mortgage pools or trusts <sup>4</sup>	Individuals and others
1963	279.3	214.6	164.1	50.5	11.3	0.5	52.9
1964	307.0	238.8	183.6	55.2	11.6	.6	56.0
1965	334.5	262.4	202.4	60.0	12.7	.9	58.6
1966	358.5	279.5	214.8	64.6	16.2	1.3	61.5
1967	382.1	296.4	228.9	67.5	18.9	2.0	64.7
1968	411.4	317.3	247.3	70.0	22.6	2.5	69.0
1969	439.9	336.6	264.6	72.0	27.9	3.2	72.2
1970	468.4	352.9	278.5	74.4	33.6	4.8	78.2
1971	517.9	389.2	313.7	75.5	36.8	9.5	82.3
1972	589.8	443.8	366.8	76.9	40.1	14.4	91.5
1973	666.5	500.7	419.4	81.4	46.6	18.0	101.1
1974	728.4	539.3	453.1	86.2	60.7	21.5	106.9
1975	785.6	576.1	486.9	89.2	72.6	28.5	108.4
1976	870.5	640.7	549.1	91.6	76.0	40.7	113.2
1977	999.2	735.3	638.4	96.8	83.7	56.8	123.4
1978	1,150.7	837.5	731.3	106.2	100.2	70.4	142.7
1979	1,317.0	928.6	810.2	118.4	121.2	94.8	172.4
1980	1,457.8	988.0	857.0	131.1	142.9	114.0	213.0
1981	1,579.5	1,034.1	896.4	137.7	160.4	129.0	256.0
1982	1,661.3	1,019.6	877.6	142.0	176.9	178.5	286.3
1983	1,850.6	1,108.4	957.4	151.0	188.5	244.8	309.0
1984	2,092.0	1,248.2	1,091.5	156.7	201.6	300.0	342.2
1985	2,368.5	1,368.7	1,196.9	171.8	213.0	392.4	394.4
1986	2,655.6	1,463.3	1,289.5	193.8	202.1	509.5	420.6
1987	2,954.3	1,631.5	1,419.1	212.4	188.5	700.8	433.4
1988	3,271.9	1,797.8	1,564.9	232.9	192.5	785.7	495.9
1989	3,523.6	1,897.4	1,643.2	254.2	197.8	922.2	506.1
1990	3,779.5	1,918.8	1,651.0	267.9	239.0	1,085.9	535.7
1991	3,930.7	1,846.2	1,586.7	259.5	266.0	1,269.6	549.0
1992	4,040.8	1,770.5	1,528.5	242.0	286.1	1,440.0	544.3
1993	4,171.5	1,784.2	1,560.4	223.9	311.9	1,561.1	514.2
1994	4,336.3	1,832.5	1,616.7	215.8	307.8	1,696.9	499.1
1995	4,522.1	1,904.1	1,691.0	213.1	303.9	1,812.0	502.0
1996	4,802.8	1,984.6	1,776.2	208.5	291.9	1,988.1	537.1
1997	5,115.9	2,084.9	1,877.9	207.0	284.4	2,166.5	580.1
1998	5,603.2	2,195.1	1,981.3	213.8	291.5	2,487.1	629.5
1999	6,209.6	2,394.6	2,163.6	231.0	319.6	2,832.3	663.1
2000	6,766.6	2,619.2	2,383.1	236.2	339.9	3,097.5	710.1
2001	7,450.1	2,791.0	2,547.9	243.1	372.0	3,532.4	754.7
2002	8,358.7	3,089.5	2,839.3	250.1	432.3	3,978.4	858.6
2003	9,364.8	3,387.5	3,126.4	261.2	694.1	4,330.3	952.9
2004	10,646.7	3,926.5	3,653.0	273.5	703.2	4,834.5	1,182.5
2005	12,112.9	4,396.5	4,110.8	285.7	665.4	5,710.0	1,341.1
2006	13,525.5	4,784.0	4,479.8	304.1	687.5	6,629.5	1,424.7
2007	14,609.6	5,065.7	4,738.6	327.1	725.2	7,434.4	1,384.3
2008	14,690.0	5,055.6	4,711.8	343.8	791.3	7,592.7	1,250.4
2009	14,445.4	4,795.0	4,467.6	327.4	800.5	7,649.8	1,200.1
2010	13,893.0	4,590.9	4,271.8	319.2	5,121.9	3,108.4	1,071.8
2011	13,567.7	4,452.5	4,117.9	334.6	5,031.7	3,034.3	1,049.2
2012	13,331.3	4,439.4	4,092.5	346.9	4,933.7	2,947.6	1,010.5
2013	13,344.5	4,413.3	4,047.0	366.3	4,992.3	2,773.5	1,165.5
2014	13,486.8	4,547.4	4,159.2	388.2	4,987.0	2,742.7	1,209.8
2015	13,883.3	4,804.4	4,373.7	430.7	5,036.4	2,793.6	1,248.9
2016	14,333.6	5,096.7	4,631.3	465.5	5,146.8	2,826.6	1,263.4
2017	14,911.6	5,308.1	4,801.5	506.7	5,313.4	2,971.5	1,318.5
2018	15,463.8	5,487.6	4,919.5	568.1	5,456.9	3,143.7	1,375.6
2019	16,034.7	5,709.5	5,090.4	619.2	5,634.5	3,255.3	1,435.4
2020	16,788.2	5,775.7	5,131.0	644.7	6,269.6	3,261.6	1,481.3
2021	18,312.2	5,975.9	5,285.0	690.9	7,057.2	3,391.0	1,888.1
2022	19,585.3	6,575.6	5,818.5	757.1	7,491.5	3,587.9	1,929.7
2022: I	18,577.5	6,066.9	5,354.6	712.3	7,245.1	3,437.9	1,827.5
2022: II	18,995.3	6,272.6	5,541.4	731.2	7,344.2	3,497.2	1,881.3
2022: III	19,319.7	6,444.0	5,700.7	743.3	7,417.3	3,553.6	1,904.8
2022: IV	19,585.3	6,575.6	5,818.5	757.1	7,491.5	3,587.9	1,929.7
2023: I	19,727.1	6,655.7	5,887.0	768.7	7,491.6	3,630.2	1,949.5
2023: II	19,884.7	6,720.5	5,938.5	782.0	7,526.9	3,677.6	1,959.6
2023: III <sup>P</sup>	20,033.5	6,776.2	5,982.2	793.9	7,574.4	3,708.8	1,602.5

<sup>1</sup> Includes savings banks and savings and loan associations. Data reported by Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation—insured institutions include loans in process for 1987 and exclude loans in process beginning with 1988.

<sup>2</sup> Includes loans held by nondepository trust companies but not loans held by bank trust departments.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA or Ginnie Mae), Federal Housing Administration, Veterans Administration, Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Resolution Trust Corporation (through 1995), and in earlier years Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Homeowners Loan Corporation, Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, and Public Housing Administration. Also includes U.S.-sponsored agencies such as Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA or Fannie Mae), Federal Land Banks, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC or Freddie Mac), Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac, beginning 1994), Federal Home Loan Banks (beginning 1997), and mortgage pass-through securities issued or guaranteed by GNMA, FHLMC, FNMA, FmHA, or Farmer Mac. Other U.S. agencies (amounts small or current separate data not readily available) included with "individuals and others."

<sup>4</sup> Includes private mortgage pools.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, based on data from various Government and private organizations.



TABLE B-46. Federal receipts, outlays, surplus or deficit, and debt, as percent of gross domestic product, fiscal years 1954-2025

[Percent; fiscal years]

Fiscal year or period	Receipts	Outlays		Surplus or deficit (-)	Federal debt (end of period)	
		Total	National defense		Gross Federal	Held by public
1954	18.0	18.3	12.7	-0.3	70.0	58.0
1955	16.1	16.8	10.5	-7	67.5	55.8
1956	17.0	16.1	9.7	.9	62.2	50.7
1957	17.3	16.5	9.8	.7	58.8	47.3
1958	16.8	17.4	9.9	-6	59.1	47.8
1959	15.7	18.3	9.7	-2.5	57.0	46.5
1960	17.3	17.3	9.0	.1	54.4	44.3
1961	17.3	17.9	9.1	-6	53.5	43.6
1962	17.0	18.2	8.9	-1.2	51.7	42.3
1963	17.2	18.0	8.6	-8	50.2	41.1
1964	17.0	17.9	8.3	-9	47.6	38.8
1965	16.5	16.7	7.1	-2	45.4	36.8
1966	16.8	17.2	7.4	-5	42.1	33.8
1967	17.8	18.8	8.5	-1.0	40.7	31.9
1968	17.0	19.8	9.1	-2.8	41.1	32.3
1969	19.1	18.7	8.4	.3	37.3	28.4
1970	18.4	18.7	7.8	-3	36.4	27.1
1971	16.8	18.8	7.1	-2.1	36.6	27.1
1972	17.0	19.0	6.5	-1.9	35.8	26.5
1973	17.1	18.2	5.7	-1.1	34.5	25.2
1974	17.8	18.2	5.4	-4	32.6	23.2
1975	17.4	20.7	5.4	-3.3	33.7	24.6
1976	16.7	20.8	5.0	-4.1	35.2	26.7
Transition quarter	17.2	20.3	4.7	-3.1	34.1	26.3
1977	17.6	20.2	4.8	-2.7	34.9	27.1
1978	17.6	20.2	4.6	-2.6	34.2	26.7
1979	18.1	19.6	4.5	-1.6	32.3	25.0
1980	18.5	21.2	4.8	-2.6	32.6	25.5
1981	19.1	21.6	5.0	-2.5	31.8	25.2
1982	18.6	22.5	5.6	-3.9	34.3	27.9
1983	17.0	22.9	5.9	-5.9	38.8	32.2
1984	16.9	21.6	5.8	-4.7	39.6	33.1
1985	17.2	22.2	5.9	-5.0	42.6	35.3
1986	17.0	21.9	6.0	-4.9	46.8	38.5
1987	17.9	21.1	5.9	-3.1	49.2	39.6
1988	17.7	20.7	5.7	-3.0	50.6	39.9
1989	17.8	20.6	5.5	-2.7	51.6	39.4
1990	17.5	21.2	5.1	-3.7	54.4	40.9
1991	17.3	21.7	4.5	-4.4	59.1	44.1
1992	17.0	21.5	4.6	-4.5	62.4	46.8
1993	17.0	20.8	4.3	-3.8	64.2	47.9
1994	17.5	20.4	3.9	-2.8	64.7	47.8
1995	17.9	20.0	3.6	-2.2	65.1	47.7
1996	18.3	19.6	3.3	-1.4	65.2	47.0
1997	18.7	18.9	3.2	-3	63.5	44.6
1998	19.3	18.5	3.0	.8	61.3	41.7
1999	19.3	18.0	2.9	1.3	59.1	38.3
2000	20.0	17.7	2.9	2.3	55.6	33.7
2001	18.9	17.7	2.9	1.2	54.8	31.5
2002	17.1	18.6	3.2	-1.5	57.2	32.7
2003	15.8	19.2	3.6	-3.3	59.9	34.7
2004	15.6	19.1	3.8	-3.4	61.1	35.7
2005	16.8	19.3	3.9	-2.5	61.6	35.8
2006	17.6	19.5	3.8	-1.8	62.0	35.4
2007	18.0	19.1	3.9	-1.1	62.6	35.2
2008	17.1	20.2	4.2	-3.1	67.5	39.2
2009	14.5	24.3	4.6	-9.8	82.1	52.2
2010	14.5	23.2	4.7	-8.7	90.9	60.6
2011	14.9	23.3	4.6	-8.4	95.5	65.5
2012	15.2	21.9	4.2	-6.7	99.6	70.0
2013	16.6	20.7	3.8	-4.1	100.2	71.8
2014	17.3	20.1	3.5	-2.8	102.1	73.3
2015	17.9	20.3	3.2	-2.4	99.8	72.2
2016	17.5	20.7	3.2	-3.1	104.8	76.0
2017	17.1	20.6	3.1	-3.4	104.3	75.7
2018	16.3	20.1	3.1	-3.8	105.0	77.1
2019	16.3	20.9	3.2	-4.6	106.6	79.0
2020	16.1	30.8	3.4	-14.7	126.3	98.7
2021	17.6	29.7	3.3	-12.1	123.8	97.2
2022	19.4	24.8	3.0	-5.4	121.9	95.8
2023	16.5	22.7	3.0	-6.3	122.3	97.2
2024 (estimates)	18.0	24.6	3.2	-6.6	124.3	99.6
2025 (estimates)	18.7	24.8	3.2	-6.1	126.4	102.2

Note: See Note, Table B-45.

Sources: Department of the Treasury and Office of Management and Budget.



TABLE B–48. Federal receipts, outlays, surplus or deficit, and debt, fiscal years 2020–2025

(Millions of dollars; fiscal years)

Description	Actual				Estimates	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>RECEIPTS, OUTLAYS, AND SURPLUS OR DEFICIT</b>						
Total:						
Receipts .....	3,421,164	4,047,111	4,897,339	4,440,947	5,081,546	5,484,948
Outlays .....	6,553,620	6,822,461	6,273,259	6,134,672	6,940,904	7,265,963
Surplus or deficit (–) .....	–3,132,456	–2,775,350	–1,375,920	–1,693,725	–1,859,358	–1,781,015
On-budget:						
Receipts .....	2,455,736	3,094,788	3,831,364	3,247,192	3,841,506	4,200,568
Outlays .....	5,598,038	5,818,614	5,192,104	4,913,572	5,629,034	5,869,973
Surplus or deficit (–) .....	–3,142,302	–2,723,826	–1,360,740	–1,666,380	–1,787,528	–1,669,405
Off-budget:						
Receipts .....	965,428	952,323	1,065,975	1,193,755	1,240,040	1,284,380
Outlays .....	955,582	1,003,847	1,081,155	1,221,100	1,311,870	1,395,990
Surplus or deficit (–) .....	9,846	–51,524	–15,180	–27,345	–71,830	–111,610
<b>OUTSTANDING DEBT, END OF PERIOD</b>						
Gross Federal debt .....	26,902,455	28,385,562	30,838,586	32,988,990	35,107,906	37,096,435
Held by Federal Government accounts .....	5,885,786	6,101,522	6,585,141	6,753,388	6,951,721	7,112,662
Held by the public .....	21,016,669	22,284,040	24,253,445	26,235,602	28,156,185	29,983,773
Federal Reserve System .....	4,445,477	5,433,156	5,634,940	4,952,914	.....	.....
Other .....	16,571,192	16,850,884	18,618,505	21,282,688	.....	.....
<b>RECEIPTS BY SOURCE</b>						
Total: On-budget and off-budget .....	3,421,164	4,047,111	4,897,339	4,440,947	5,081,546	5,484,948
Individual income taxes .....	1,608,663	2,044,377	2,632,146	2,176,481	2,503,366	2,679,224
Corporation income taxes .....	211,845	371,831	424,865	419,584	612,781	668,080
Social insurance and retirement receipts .....	1,309,955	1,314,088	1,483,527	1,614,456	1,720,543	1,896,817
On-budget .....	344,527	361,765	417,552	420,701	480,503	612,437
Off-budget .....	965,428	952,323	1,065,975	1,193,755	1,240,040	1,284,380
Excise taxes .....	86,780	75,274	87,728	75,802	99,715	109,896
Estate and gift taxes .....	17,624	27,140	32,550	33,668	29,035	32,623
Customs duties and fees .....	68,551	79,985	99,908	80,338	81,384	60,671
Miscellaneous receipts .....	117,746	134,416	136,615	40,618	34,722	37,637
Deposits of earnings by Federal Reserve System .....	81,880	5,433,156	106,674	581	.....	.....
All other .....	35,866	34,362	29,941	40,037	34,722	37,637
<b>OUTLAYS BY FUNCTION</b>						
Total: On-budget and off-budget .....	6,553,620	6,822,461	6,273,259	6,134,672	6,940,904	7,265,963
National defense .....	724,588	753,897	765,649	820,263	907,728	926,763
International affairs .....	67,722	46,951	71,873	69,313	69,830	66,484
General science, space, and technology .....	34,022	35,534	37,404	41,276	43,784	43,831
Energy .....	7,083	5,977	–9,132	–406	27,109	39,136
Natural resources and environment .....	42,450	44,151	41,384	47,387	93,980	73,192
Agriculture .....	47,298	47,398	33,065	33,651	39,460	33,713
Commerce and housing credit .....	572,071	307,847	–19,075	100,765	57,993	13,485
On-budget .....	574,474	310,581	–18,658	94,996	56,850	13,061
Off-budget .....	–2,403	–2,734	–417	5,769	1,143	424
Transportation .....	145,623	154,291	131,024	126,417	144,683	150,180
Community and regional development .....	81,878	44,655	69,963	86,553	124,845	60,795
Education, training, employment, and social services .....	237,754	298,406	677,305	–2,189	292,207	187,707
Health .....	747,582	796,450	914,081	888,555	858,013	888,926
Medicare .....	776,225	696,458	755,094	847,544	847,442	946,011
Income security .....	1,263,639	1,647,729	866,097	774,655	760,507	936,828
Social security .....	1,095,816	1,134,586	1,218,663	1,354,317	1,457,998	1,549,737
On-budget .....	39,893	34,862	48,524	50,800	55,931	60,883
Off-budget .....	1,055,923	1,099,724	1,170,139	1,303,517	1,402,067	1,488,854
Veterans benefits and services .....	218,655	234,282	274,404	301,600	346,332	370,124
Administration of justice .....	71,997	71,430	71,323	80,432	89,905	87,352
General government .....	180,109	273,941	133,214	38,199	42,673	51,027
Net interest .....	345,470	352,338	475,887	658,267	888,597	965,470
On-budget .....	424,274	425,591	543,625	724,774	956,824	1,034,525
Off-budget .....	–78,804	–73,253	–67,738	–66,507	–68,227	–69,055
Allowances .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	–7,328	24,513
Undistributed offsetting receipts .....	–106,362	–123,860	–234,964	–131,927	–144,854	–149,311
On-budget .....	–87,228	–103,970	–214,135	–110,248	–121,741	–125,078
Off-budget .....	–19,134	–19,890	–20,829	–21,679	–23,113	–24,233

Note: See Note, Table B–45.

Sources: Department of the Treasury and Office of Management and Budget.



TABLE B-49. Federal and State and local government current receipts and expenditures, national income and product accounts (NIPA) basis, 1973-2023

(Billions of dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Year or quarter	Total government			Federal Government			State and local government			Addendum: Grants-in-aid to State and local governments
	Current receipts	Current expenditures	Net government saving (NIPA)	Current receipts	Current expenditures	Net Federal Government saving (NIPA)	Current receipts	Current expenditures	Net State and local government saving (NIPA)	
1973	388.8	421.5	-32.7	249.2	287.6	-38.3	173.0	167.4	5.6	33.5
1974	430.2	473.9	-43.7	278.5	319.8	-41.3	186.6	189.0	-2.3	34.9
1975	441.2	549.9	-108.6	276.8	374.8	-97.9	208.0	218.7	-10.7	43.6
1976	505.7	591.0	-85.3	322.6	403.5	-80.9	232.2	236.6	-4.4	49.1
1977	567.4	640.3	-72.9	363.9	437.3	-73.4	258.3	257.8	.5	54.8
1978	646.1	703.3	-57.2	423.8	485.9	-62.0	285.8	280.9	4.9	63.5
1979	729.3	777.9	-48.6	487.0	534.4	-47.4	306.3	307.5	-1.2	64.0
1980	799.9	894.6	-94.7	533.7	622.5	-88.8	335.9	341.8	-5.9	69.7
1981	919.1	1,017.4	-98.2	621.1	709.1	-88.1	367.5	377.6	-10.2	69.4
1982	940.9	1,131.0	-190.1	618.7	786.0	-167.4	388.5	411.3	-22.8	66.3
1983	1,002.1	1,227.7	-225.6	644.8	851.9	-207.2	425.3	443.7	-18.4	67.9
1984	1,115.0	1,311.7	-196.7	711.2	907.7	-196.5	476.1	476.3	-.2	72.3
1985	1,217.0	1,418.7	-201.7	775.7	975.0	-199.2	517.5	519.9	-2.4	76.2
1986	1,292.9	1,512.8	-219.9	817.9	1,033.8	-215.9	557.4	561.3	-4.0	82.4
1987	1,406.6	1,586.7	-180.1	899.5	1,065.2	-165.7	585.5	599.9	-14.4	78.4
1988	1,507.1	1,678.3	-171.3	962.4	1,122.4	-160.0	630.4	641.7	-11.3	85.7
1989	1,632.0	1,810.7	-178.7	1,042.5	1,201.8	-159.4	681.4	700.7	-19.3	91.8
1990	1,713.3	1,952.9	-239.5	1,087.6	1,290.9	-203.3	730.0	766.3	-36.3	104.4
1991	1,763.6	2,072.2	-308.5	1,107.8	1,356.2	-248.4	779.8	840.0	-60.1	124.0
1992	1,848.6	2,254.2	-405.6	1,154.4	1,488.9	-334.5	836.0	907.0	-71.1	141.7
1993	1,953.1	2,339.3	-386.2	1,231.0	1,544.6	-313.5	877.8	950.1	-72.6	155.7
1994	2,097.3	2,417.2	-319.9	1,329.3	1,585.0	-255.6	934.8	994.0	-64.2	168.8
1995	2,223.5	2,536.5	-312.9	1,417.4	1,659.5	-242.1	980.6	1,051.4	-70.8	174.5
1996	2,388.2	2,621.8	-233.6	1,516.7	1,715.7	-179.4	1,033.3	1,087.5	-54.2	181.5
1997	2,565.5	2,699.9	-134.4	1,667.4	1,759.4	-92.0	1,086.2	1,128.7	-42.4	188.1
1998	2,738.0	2,767.4	-29.3	1,789.8	1,788.4	1.4	1,149.0	1,179.7	-30.7	200.8
1999	2,908.9	2,879.5	29.5	1,906.0	1,836.8	69.1	1,222.1	1,261.8	-39.7	219.2
2000	3,138.2	3,019.9	118.2	2,067.8	1,908.1	159.7	1,303.5	1,345.0	-41.5	233.1
2001	3,124.4	3,229.2	-104.7	2,032.4	2,017.3	15.0	1,353.3	1,473.1	-119.8	261.3
2002	2,968.3	3,419.8	-451.4	1,870.9	2,138.7	-267.8	1,386.2	1,569.8	-183.6	288.7
2003	3,044.6	3,624.0	-579.4	1,896.1	2,293.5	-397.4	1,470.2	1,652.2	-182.0	321.7
2004	3,274.1	3,817.4	-543.3	2,028.1	2,421.6	-393.5	1,578.4	1,728.2	-149.8	332.5
2005	3,677.8	4,075.3	-397.4	2,304.7	2,598.5	-293.8	1,716.6	1,820.3	-103.7	343.3
2006	4,012.2	4,320.1	-307.9	2,538.8	2,760.7	-221.9	1,814.4	1,900.4	-86.0	341.0
2007	4,209.6	4,599.6	-390.0	2,668.3	2,928.0	-259.7	1,900.4	2,030.7	-130.4	359.1
2008	4,125.0	4,972.0	-847.0	2,582.1	3,207.0	-624.9	1,914.1	2,136.2	-222.1	371.2
2009	3,698.5	5,284.0	-1,585.5	2,242.1	3,485.2	-1,243.2	1,914.6	2,256.9	-342.3	458.1
2010	3,932.7	5,560.0	-1,627.3	2,446.3	3,764.6	-1,318.4	1,991.7	2,300.6	-309.0	505.2
2011	4,128.3	5,639.5	-1,511.2	2,573.6	3,807.8	-1,234.1	2,027.2	2,304.2	-277.0	472.5
2012	4,309.6	5,667.1	-1,357.5	2,700.8	3,773.5	-1,072.7	2,053.3	2,338.1	-284.8	444.4
2013	4,829.6	5,729.5	-899.9	3,136.3	3,770.3	-633.9	2,143.4	2,409.4	-266.0	450.1
2014	5,054.1	5,885.7	-831.6	3,294.4	3,888.4	-594.0	2,254.7	2,492.3	-237.6	495.0
2015	5,285.5	6,059.5	-774.0	3,448.4	4,005.8	-557.4	2,370.2	2,586.8	-216.6	533.1
2016	5,329.2	6,238.7	-909.5	3,460.7	4,128.0	-667.3	2,425.3	2,667.4	-242.2	556.7
2017	5,456.9	6,418.5	-961.6	3,503.7	4,240.5	-736.8	2,513.5	2,738.4	-224.8	560.4
2018	5,643.7	6,749.9	-1,106.2	3,583.1	4,489.5	-906.4	2,643.2	2,843.0	-199.9	582.6
2019	5,884.0	7,134.3	-1,250.3	3,704.2	4,748.6	-1,044.4	2,788.8	2,994.7	-205.9	609.0
2020	5,974.5	8,920.8	-2,946.3	3,775.2	6,669.6	-2,894.4	3,078.0	3,129.9	-51.9	878.8
2021	6,856.3	9,352.9	-2,496.6	4,388.6	7,128.6	-2,739.9	3,577.9	3,334.6	243.4	1,110.3
2022	7,689.8	8,691.7	-1,001.9	4,976.3	6,038.5	-1,062.2	3,662.4	3,602.1	60.4	948.9
2023 <sup>P</sup>	.....	9,207.5	.....	.....	6,375.8	.....	.....	3,776.3	.....	944.5
2020: I	5,991.0	7,317.8	-1,326.8	3,799.8	4,870.1	-1,070.4	2,829.4	3,085.8	-256.5	638.2
II	5,636.3	10,551.1	-4,914.8	3,543.7	8,830.0	-5,286.3	3,481.2	3,109.8	371.5	1,388.6
III	6,032.6	9,541.5	-3,508.9	3,798.0	7,114.8	-3,316.9	2,971.6	3,163.7	-192.1	737.0
IV	6,238.0	8,272.6	-2,034.7	3,959.3	5,863.6	-1,904.3	3,029.9	3,160.3	-130.4	751.3
2021: I	6,457.8	10,628.0	-4,170.2	4,123.3	8,171.3	-4,048.0	3,116.3	3,238.5	-122.2	781.8
II	6,770.8	9,283.2	-2,512.4	4,333.0	7,603.7	-3,270.7	4,083.7	3,325.4	758.3	1,645.9
III	6,946.3	8,952.8	-2,006.5	4,470.7	6,660.1	-2,189.4	3,560.1	3,377.2	182.9	1,084.4
IV	7,250.2	8,547.4	-1,297.2	4,627.6	6,079.1	-1,451.6	3,551.6	3,397.2	154.4	929.0
2022: I	7,671.7	8,468.7	-797.0	4,954.1	5,928.4	-974.4	3,655.1	3,477.7	177.4	937.5
II	7,743.0	8,609.6	-866.5	5,025.0	5,985.5	-960.5	3,679.8	3,585.8	93.9	961.8
III	7,685.4	8,737.7	-1,052.3	4,991.7	6,064.4	-1,072.7	3,643.9	3,623.5	20.4	950.2
IV	7,659.2	8,950.8	-1,291.6	4,934.5	6,175.7	-1,241.2	3,670.9	3,721.3	-50.4	946.2
2023: I	7,346.8	9,083.9	-1,737.1	4,651.1	6,324.8	-1,673.7	3,670.3	3,733.7	-63.4	974.6
II	7,290.8	9,141.3	-1,850.4	4,680.6	6,346.3	-1,665.7	3,584.3	3,769.0	-184.7	974.1
III	7,393.5	9,282.8	-1,889.2	4,724.4	6,400.4	-1,676.0	3,587.6	3,800.8	-213.2	918.5
IV <sup>P</sup>	.....	9,322.2	.....	.....	6,431.7	.....	.....	3,801.5	.....	911.0

Note: Federal grants-in-aid to State and local governments are reflected in Federal current expenditures and State and local current receipts. Total government current receipts and expenditures have been adjusted to eliminate this duplication.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).







## Corporate Profits and Finance

**TABLE B-53. Corporate profits with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments, 1973-2023**

[Billions of dollars; quarterly data at seasonally adjusted annual rates]

Year or quarter	Corporate profits with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments	Taxes on corporate income	Corporate profits after tax with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments		
			Total	Net dividends	Undistributed profits with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments
1973	133.4	45.6	87.8	34.2	53.5
1974	125.7	47.2	78.5	38.8	39.7
1975	138.9	46.3	92.6	38.3	54.3
1976	174.3	59.4	114.9	44.9	70.0
1977	205.8	68.5	137.3	50.7	86.6
1978	238.6	77.9	160.7	57.8	102.9
1979	249.2	80.7	168.5	67.0	101.5
1980	223.1	75.5	147.6	76.0	71.6
1981	245.9	70.3	175.6	83.9	91.7
1982	227.8	51.3	176.5	88.5	88.0
1983	277.9	66.4	211.5	96.4	115.1
1984	337.3	81.5	255.8	102.0	153.8
1985	353.1	81.6	271.5	111.7	159.7
1986	323.6	91.9	231.7	121.1	110.6
1987	370.8	112.7	258.1	119.9	138.2
1988	416.2	124.3	292.0	145.5	146.5
1989	418.7	124.4	294.3	179.3	115.0
1990	419.3	121.8	297.5	193.6	104.0
1991	448.7	117.8	330.9	202.1	128.8
1992	481.3	131.9	349.4	206.5	142.9
1993	530.7	155.0	375.7	221.7	154.0
1994	634.1	172.7	461.4	258.6	202.9
1995	716.7	194.4	522.2	283.5	238.7
1996	803.6	211.4	592.2	323.9	268.3
1997	889.9	224.8	665.1	359.9	305.2
1998	835.2	221.8	613.4	386.6	226.7
1999	866.8	227.4	639.4	375.4	264.0
2000	826.4	233.4	593.0	413.1	179.9
2001	787.2	170.1	617.0	402.9	214.1
2002	930.4	160.7	769.7	427.5	342.2
2003	1,077.1	213.8	863.3	455.0	408.3
2004	1,320.5	278.5	1,042.0	579.8	462.2
2005	1,530.0	379.7	1,150.3	579.3	571.0
2006	1,696.1	430.1	1,266.0	715.8	550.1
2007	1,595.8	391.8	1,204.0	818.3	385.7
2008	1,345.6	255.9	1,089.7	841.4	248.3
2009	1,425.7	203.9	1,221.7	634.7	587.0
2010	1,774.5	272.3	1,502.2	636.0	866.2
2011	1,862.4	280.8	1,581.7	788.0	793.7
2012	2,057.7	334.6	1,723.1	945.3	777.8
2013	2,081.1	362.4	1,718.7	997.3	721.4
2014	2,212.8	406.9	1,805.9	1,059.9	746.0
2015	2,173.1	396.1	1,777.0	1,128.7	648.3
2016	2,144.3	376.0	1,768.3	1,139.4	628.9
2017	2,225.2	297.2	1,928.1	1,253.9	674.2
2018	2,365.2	297.4	2,067.7	1,319.9	747.8
2019	2,470.3	297.4	2,172.9	1,416.8	756.1
2020	2,383.3	307.5	2,075.8	1,496.7	579.1
2021	2,922.8	404.6	2,518.1	1,814.7	703.4
2022	3,208.7	542.4	2,666.3	1,887.3	779.0
2023 <sup>P</sup>				1,849.2	
2020: I	2,262.4	268.6	1,993.8	1,460.1	533.7
II	2,061.1	276.2	1,785.0	1,453.4	331.6
III	2,725.8	339.0	2,386.8	1,479.6	907.3
IV	2,483.7	346.2	2,137.6	1,593.9	543.7
2021: I	2,752.8	351.8	2,401.0	1,658.8	742.2
II	2,988.5	392.2	2,596.3	1,789.6	806.7
III	2,959.0	405.7	2,553.3	1,878.6	674.7
IV	2,990.6	468.7	2,521.9	1,931.9	590.0
2022: I	3,027.1	529.1	2,497.9	1,932.9	565.1
II	3,260.0	547.4	2,712.6	1,920.7	791.9
III	3,299.3	544.7	2,754.6	1,855.6	899.0
IV	3,248.4	548.3	2,700.1	1,839.8	860.2
2023: I	3,165.1	576.5	2,588.6	1,840.2	748.4
II	3,172.1	570.3	2,601.8	1,855.8	746.0
III	3,280.7	582.8	2,697.9	1,837.6	860.3
IV <sup>P</sup>				1,863.1	

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).



TABLE B-55. Historical stock prices and yields, 1949-2003

End of year	Common stock prices (end of period) <sup>1</sup>						Common stock yields (Standard & Poor's) (percent) <sup>5</sup>				
	New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) indexes <sup>2</sup>					Dow Jones industrial average <sup>2</sup>	Standard & Poor's composite index (1941-43=10) <sup>2</sup>	Nasdaq composite index (Feb. 5, 1971=100) <sup>2</sup>	Dividend- price ratio <sup>6</sup>	Earnings- price ratio <sup>7</sup>	
	Composite (Dec. 31, 2002=5,000) <sup>3</sup>	December 31, 1965-50									
		Composite	Industrial	Transportation	Utility <sup>4</sup>						Finance
1949						200.52	16.76	6.59	15.48		
1950						235.42	20.41	6.57	13.99		
1951						269.23	23.77	6.13	11.82		
1952						291.90	26.57	5.80	9.47		
1953		13.60				280.90	24.81	5.80	10.26		
1954		19.40				404.39	35.98	4.95	8.57		
1955		23.71				468.40	45.48	4.08	7.95		
1956		24.35				499.47	46.67	4.09	7.55		
1957		21.11				435.69	39.99	4.35	7.89		
1958		28.85				563.65	55.21	3.97	6.23		
1959		32.15				679.36	59.89	3.23	5.78		
1960		30.94				615.89	58.11	3.47	5.90		
1961		38.93				731.14	71.55	2.98	4.62		
1962		33.81				652.10	63.10	3.37	5.82		
1963		39.92				762.95	75.02	3.17	5.50		
1964		45.65				874.13	84.75	3.01	5.32		
1965	528.69	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	969.26	92.43	3.00	5.59		
1966	462.28	43.72	43.13	47.56	90.38	44.91	785.69	80.33	3.40	6.63	
1967	569.18	53.83	56.59	49.66	86.76	53.80	905.11	96.47	3.20	5.73	
1968	622.79	58.90	61.69	56.27	91.64	76.48	943.75	103.86	3.07	5.67	
1969	544.86	51.53	54.74	37.85	77.54	67.87	800.36	92.06	3.24	6.08	
1970	531.12	50.23	52.91	35.70	81.64	64.34	838.92	92.15	3.83	6.45	
1971	596.68	56.43	60.53	49.56	78.78	73.83	890.20	102.09	3.14	5.41	
1972	681.79	64.48	70.33	47.69	84.34	83.34	1,020.02	118.05	2.84	5.50	
1973	547.93	51.82	56.60	37.53	68.66	64.51	850.86	97.55	3.06	7.12	
1974	382.03	36.13	39.15	26.36	53.30	39.84	616.24	68.56	4.47	11.59	
1975	503.73	47.64	52.73	32.98	66.94	45.20	852.41	90.19	4.31	9.15	
1976	612.01	57.88	63.36	42.57	82.54	59.23	1,004.65	107.46	3.77	8.90	
1977	555.12	52.50	56.43	40.50	81.08	53.85	831.17	95.10	4.62	10.79	
1978	566.96	53.62	58.87	41.58	75.38	55.01	805.01	96.11	5.28	12.03	
1979	655.04	61.95	70.24	50.64	73.80	63.45	838.74	107.94	5.47	13.46	
1980	823.27	77.86	91.52	76.19	76.90	70.83	963.99	135.76	5.26	12.66	
1981	751.90	71.11	80.89	66.85	80.10	73.68	875.00	122.55	195.84	5.20	11.96
1982	856.79	81.03	93.02	73.63	86.94	85.00	1,046.54	140.64	232.41	5.81	11.60
1983	1,006.41	95.18	111.35	98.09	92.48	94.32	1,258.64	164.93	278.60	4.40	8.03
1984	1,013.91	96.38	110.58	90.61	103.14	97.63	1,211.57	167.24	247.35	4.64	10.02
1985	1,285.66	121.59	139.27	113.97	126.38	131.29	1,546.87	211.28	324.93	4.25	8.12
1986	1,465.31	138.59	160.11	117.65	147.54	140.05	1,895.95	242.17	348.83	3.49	6.09
1987	1,461.61	138.23	167.04	118.57	134.62	114.57	1,938.83	247.08	330.47	3.08	5.48
1988	1,652.25	156.26	189.42	146.60	149.38	128.19	2,168.57	277.72	381.38	3.64	8.01
1989	2,062.30	195.04	232.76	178.33	204.00	156.15	2,753.20	353.40	454.82	3.45	7.42
1990	1,908.45	180.49	223.60	141.49	182.60	122.06	2,633.66	330.22	373.84	3.61	6.47
1991	2,426.04	229.44	285.82	201.87	204.26	172.68	3,168.83	417.09	586.34	3.24	4.79
1992	2,539.92	240.21	294.39	214.72	209.66	200.83	3,301.11	435.71	676.95	2.99	4.22
1993	2,739.44	258.08	315.26	270.48	229.92	216.82	3,754.09	466.45	776.80	2.78	4.86
1994	2,653.37	250.94	318.10	222.46	198.41	195.80	3,834.44	459.27	751.96	2.82	5.43
1995	3,484.15	329.51	413.29	301.96	252.90	274.25	5,117.12	615.93	1,052.13	2.56	6.09
1996	4,148.07	392.30	494.38	352.30	259.91	351.17	6,448.27	740.74	1,291.03	2.19	5.24
1997	5,405.19	511.19	630.38	466.25	335.19	495.96	7,908.25	970.43	1,570.35	1.77	4.57
1998	6,299.94	595.81	743.65	482.38	445.94	521.42	9,181.43	1,229.23	2,192.69	1.49	3.46
1999	6,876.10	650.30	828.21	466.70	511.15	516.61	11,497.12	1,469.25	4,069.31	1.25	3.17
2000	6,945.57	656.87	803.29	462.76	440.54	646.95	10,786.85	1,320.28	2,470.52	1.15	3.63
2001	6,236.39	589.80	735.71	438.81	329.84	593.69	10,021.50	1,148.08	1,950.40	1.32	2.95
2002	5,000.00	472.87	583.95	395.81	233.08	510.46	8,341.63	879.82	1,335.51	1.61	2.92
2003	6,440.30	572.56	735.50	519.58	265.58	655.12	10,453.92	1,111.92	2,003.37	1.77	3.84

<sup>1</sup> End of period.

<sup>2</sup> Includes stocks as follows: for NYSE, all stocks listed; for Dow Jones industrial average, 30 stocks; for Standard & Poor's (S&P) composite index, 500 stocks; and for Nasdaq composite index, over 5,000.

<sup>3</sup> The NYSE relaunched the composite index on January 9, 2003, incorporating new definitions, methodology, and base value. (The composite index based on December 31, 1965-50 was discontinued.) Subset indexes on financial, energy, and health care were released by the NYSE on January 8, 2004 (see Table B-56). NYSE indexes shown in this table for industrials, utilities, transportation, and finance were discontinued.

<sup>4</sup> Effective April 1993, the NYSE doubled the value of the utility index to facilitate trading of options and futures on the index. Indexes prior to 1993 reflect the doubling.

<sup>5</sup> Based on 500 stocks in the S&P composite index.

<sup>6</sup> Aggregate cash dividends (based on latest known annual rate) divided by aggregate market value based on Wednesday closing prices. Monthly data are averages of weekly figures; annual data are averages of monthly figures.

<sup>7</sup> Quarterly data are ratio of earnings (after taxes) for four quarters ending with particular quarter-to-price index for last day of that quarter. Annual data are averages of quarterly ratios.

Sources: New York Stock Exchange, Dow Jones & Co., Inc., Standard & Poor's, and Nasdaq Stock Market.

TABLE B-56. Common stock prices and yields, 2000-2023

End of year or month	Common stock prices (end of period) <sup>1</sup>					Common stock yields (Standard & Poor's) (percent) <sup>4</sup>			
	New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) indexes (December 31, 2012=5,000) <sup>2,3</sup>				Dow Jones industrial average <sup>2</sup>	Standard & Poor's composite index (1941-43=10) <sup>2</sup>	Nasdaq composite index (Feb. 5, 1971=100) <sup>2</sup>	Dividend-price ratio <sup>5</sup>	Earnings-price ratio <sup>6</sup>
	Composite	Financial	Energy	Health care					
2000	6,945.57				10,786.85	1,320.28	2,470.52	1.15	3.63
2001	6,236.39				10,021.50	1,148.08	1,950.40	1.32	2.95
2002	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	8,341.63	879.82	1,335.51	1.61	2.92
2003	6,440.30	6,676.42	6,321.05	5,925.97	10,453.92	1,111.92	2,003.37	1.77	3.84
2004	7,250.06	7,493.92	7,934.49	6,119.07	10,783.01	1,211.92	2,175.44	1.72	4.89
2005	7,753.95	7,996.94	10,109.61	6,458.20	10,717.50	1,248.29	2,205.32	1.83	5.36
2006	9,139.02	9,552.22	11,967.88	6,958.64	12,463.15	1,418.30	2,415.29	1.87	5.78
2007	9,740.32	8,300.68	15,283.81	7,170.42	13,264.82	1,468.36	2,652.28	1.86	5.29
2008	5,757.05	3,848.42	9,434.01	5,340.73	8,776.39	903.25	1,577.03	2.37	3.54
2009	7,184.96	4,721.02	11,415.03	6,427.27	10,428.05	1,115.10	2,269.15	2.40	1.86
2010	7,964.02	4,958.62	12,520.29	6,501.53	11,577.51	1,257.64	2,652.87	1.98	6.04
2011	7,477.03	4,062.88	12,409.61	7,045.61	12,217.56	1,257.60	2,605.15	2.05	6.77
2012	8,443.51	5,114.54	12,606.06	7,904.06	13,104.14	1,426.19	3,019.51	2.24	7.24
2013	10,400.33	6,353.68	14,557.54	10,245.31	16,576.66	1,848.36	4,176.59	2.10	5.57
2014	10,639.24	6,707.16	12,533.54	11,967.04	17,823.07	2,058.90	4,736.05	2.04	5.25
2015	10,143.42	6,305.68	9,343.81	12,385.19	17,425.03	2,043.94	5,007.41	2.10	4.59
2016	11,056.89	6,961.56	11,503.76	11,907.20	19,762.60	2,238.63	5,383.12	2.19	4.17
2017	12,806.84	8,235.89	11,470.58	14,220.58	24,719.22	2,673.61	6,903.39	1.97	4.22
2018	11,374.39	6,969.48	9,341.44	15,158.38	23,327.46	2,506.85	6,635.28	1.90	4.66
2019	13,913.03	8,700.11	10,037.30	18,070.10	28,538.44	3,230.78	8,972.60	1.93	4.53
2020	14,524.80	8,292.85	6,502.78	20,045.67	30,606.48	3,756.07	12,888.28	1.89	3.28
2021	17,164.13	10,175.36	9,146.18	24,345.65	36,338.30	4,766.18	15,644.97	1.38	3.79
2022	15,184.31	8,668.77	13,051.89	23,439.84	33,147.25	3,839.50	10,466.48	1.57	4.79
2023	16,852.89	9,881.78	13,259.54	24,167.14	37,689.54	4,769.83	15,011.35	1.62	.....
2021: Jan	14,397.20	8,072.62	6,733.84	20,208.09	29,982.62	3,714.24	13,070.69	1.55	.....
Feb	15,010.47	8,853.18	7,774.59	19,760.30	30,932.37	3,811.15	13,192.35	1.49	.....
Mar	15,601.74	9,240.02	7,995.97	20,388.89	32,981.55	3,972.89	13,246.87	1.48	3.23
Apr	16,219.33	9,773.10	8,005.80	21,141.32	33,874.85	4,181.17	13,562.68	1.39	.....
May	16,555.66	10,112.15	8,440.17	21,494.66	34,529.45	4,204.11	13,748.74	1.38	.....
June	16,555.35	9,889.35	8,787.30	21,796.88	34,502.51	4,297.50	14,503.95	1.37	3.69
July	16,602.29	9,923.19	8,163.13	22,679.73	34,935.47	4,395.26	14,672.68	1.34	.....
Aug	16,806.44	10,162.18	8,052.76	23,180.04	35,360.73	4,522.68	15,259.24	1.32	.....
Sept	16,144.92	9,934.02	8,784.79	21,846.16	33,843.92	4,307.54	14,448.58	1.33	4.07
Oct	17,016.41	10,455.70	9,460.44	23,131.46	35,819.56	4,605.38	15,498.39	1.33	.....
Nov	16,318.97	9,756.72	8,829.04	22,267.26	34,483.72	4,567.00	15,537.69	1.29	.....
Dec	17,164.13	10,175.36	9,146.18	24,345.65	36,338.30	4,766.18	15,644.97	1.29	4.15
2022: Jan	16,659.78	10,200.96	10,648.50	22,894.30	35,131.86	4,515.55	14,239.88	1.33	.....
Feb	16,313.89	9,875.64	11,142.11	22,757.28	33,892.60	4,373.94	13,751.40	1.38	.....
Mar	16,670.91	9,971.24	12,065.19	23,828.90	34,678.35	4,530.41	14,220.52	1.41	4.37
Apr	15,615.25	9,139.65	11,791.27	22,944.86	32,977.21	4,131.93	12,334.64	1.42	.....
May	15,827.05	9,297.74	13,336.34	23,217.06	32,990.12	4,132.15	12,081.39	1.55	.....
June	14,487.64	8,313.35	11,252.27	22,640.69	30,775.43	3,785.38	11,028.74	1.64	5.08
July	15,327.71	8,901.55	12,171.38	23,258.76	32,845.13	4,130.29	12,390.69	1.64	.....
Aug	14,801.25	8,563.40	12,304.08	21,713.32	31,510.43	3,955.00	11,816.20	1.56	.....
Sept	13,472.18	7,747.27	11,004.62	20,936.54	28,725.51	3,585.62	10,575.62	1.71	5.22
Oct	14,747.03	8,481.92	13,240.72	22,560.24	32,732.95	3,871.98	10,988.15	1.78	.....
Nov	15,780.02	9,083.61	13,551.07	23,695.65	34,589.77	4,080.11	11,468.00	1.70	.....
Dec	15,184.31	8,668.77	13,051.89	23,439.84	33,147.25	3,839.50	10,466.48	1.72	4.50
2023: Jan	16,036.39	9,432.80	13,434.64	23,027.98	34,086.04	4,076.60	11,584.55	1.71	.....
Feb	15,428.97	9,139.29	12,724.58	22,041.91	32,656.70	3,970.15	11,455.54	1.67	.....
Mar	15,374.91	8,494.23	12,455.61	22,550.28	33,274.15	4,109.31	12,221.91	1.73	4.26
Apr	15,545.88	8,699.82	12,895.29	23,395.71	34,098.16	4,169.48	12,226.58	1.67	.....
May	14,887.14	8,346.55	11,635.80	22,397.48	32,908.27	4,179.83	12,935.29	1.67	.....
June	15,875.91	8,907.96	12,504.78	23,378.02	34,407.60	4,450.38	13,787.92	1.59	4.07
July	16,427.29	9,305.43	13,328.62	23,604.11	35,559.53	4,588.96	14,346.02	1.54	.....
Aug	16,000.37	8,988.61	13,467.87	23,602.11	34,721.91	4,507.66	14,034.97	1.55	.....
Sept	15,398.21	8,688.91	13,852.13	22,951.48	33,507.50	4,288.05	13,219.32	1.57	4.30
Oct	14,919.20	8,332.44	13,275.28	22,337.96	33,052.87	4,193.80	12,851.24	1.52	.....
Nov	16,088.84	9,258.87	13,250.97	23,464.37	35,950.89	4,567.80	14,226.22	1.66	.....
Dec	16,852.89	9,881.78	13,259.54	24,167.14	37,689.54	4,769.83	15,011.35	1.50	.....

<sup>1</sup> End of year or month.

<sup>2</sup> Includes stocks as follows: for NYSE, all stocks listed (in 2023, over 2,270); for Dow Jones industrial average, 30 stocks; for Standard & Poor's (S&P) composite index, 500 stocks; and for Nasdaq composite index, in 2023, about 3,400.

<sup>3</sup> The NYSE relaunched the composite index on January 9, 2003, incorporating new definitions, methodology, and base value. Subset indexes on financial, energy, and health care were released by the NYSE on January 8, 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Based on 500 stocks in the S&P composite index.

<sup>5</sup> Aggregate cash dividends (based on latest known annual rate) divided by aggregate market value based on Wednesday closing prices. Monthly data are averages of weekly figures, annual data are averages of monthly figures.

<sup>6</sup> Quarterly data are ratio of earnings (after taxes) for four quarters ending with particular quarter-to-price index for last day of that quarter. Annual data are averages of quarterly ratios.

Sources: New York Stock Exchange, Dow Jones & Co., Inc., Standard & Poor's, and Nasdaq Stock Market.









TABLE B–59. U.S. international trade in goods and services by area and country, 2000–2022

[Millions of dollars]

Item	2000	2005	2010	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>EXPORTS</b>									
Total, all countries .....	1,082,963	1,291,503	1,872,320	2,280,778	2,542,462	2,546,276	2,160,147	2,567,027	3,018,455
Europe .....	298,654	366,823	510,936	608,049	705,063	735,529	633,089	723,624	905,721
Euro area <sup>1</sup> .....	174,591	214,207	292,815	350,143	403,641	433,677	377,779	430,361	536,122
France .....	30,821	35,241	45,279	50,074	58,237	60,012	42,890	46,996	68,638
Germany .....	45,379	55,246	75,023	81,184	93,262	96,758	87,700	97,587	113,715
Italy .....	16,665	18,556	22,787	24,628	32,506	33,279	25,767	28,184	37,079
United Kingdom .....	73,995	83,456	104,891	126,762	145,472	147,130	120,202	130,030	158,939
Canada .....	204,237	246,291	307,571	341,365	368,991	362,297	309,637	367,303	428,569
Latin America and Other Western Hemisphere .....	228,633	259,832	416,623	551,389	594,182	584,967	476,315	611,067	723,404
Brazil .....	22,112	21,574	53,767	58,667	65,834	66,965	49,381	61,910	75,436
Mexico .....	127,581	141,856	187,487	267,794	299,176	289,849	236,067	308,267	362,485
Venezuela .....	9,476	9,395	15,918	14,212	9,160	3,623	2,264	3,108	3,788
Asia and Pacific .....	301,451	342,228	523,350	633,923	731,554	716,470	628,631	739,670	816,983
China .....	21,862	50,685	113,576	163,329	180,179	167,475	166,311	191,988	197,279
India .....	6,731	13,294	29,243	38,838	55,830	58,012	43,335	58,299	73,067
Japan .....	101,554	93,383	104,991	106,619	122,537	124,628	102,244	112,016	119,883
Korea, Republic of .....	35,106	37,867	56,700	66,254	80,779	80,967	69,150	85,981	95,963
Singapore .....	24,557	26,657	39,743	43,049	57,043	54,105	53,098	67,090	80,525
Taiwan .....	30,603	29,104	36,896	39,016	41,921	42,910	39,821	47,285	55,317
Middle East .....	28,617	48,702	70,477	102,159	98,238	102,183	76,038	82,334	94,212
Africa .....	17,203	22,891	40,278	41,229	41,534	41,748	33,066	38,706	45,165
<b>IMPORTS</b>									
Total, all countries .....	1,452,650	2,008,045	2,375,407	2,771,554	3,121,057	3,105,670	2,813,028	3,408,600	3,969,643
Europe .....	359,220	493,562	566,372	704,961	808,185	854,846	775,372	907,414	1,024,237
Euro area <sup>1</sup> .....	216,802	304,574	341,235	444,164	506,596	537,579	464,254	550,986	641,690
France .....	41,344	47,725	56,562	66,202	72,413	78,324	57,237	69,154	85,198
Germany .....	75,710	110,075	114,861	158,863	160,095	163,947	146,272	169,612	199,569
Italy .....	31,593	39,767	37,778	53,782	66,247	69,467	53,980	67,039	80,250
United Kingdom .....	70,962	84,200	96,034	115,152	124,396	128,550	105,137	119,218	138,868
Canada .....	253,312	319,543	310,341	334,249	362,898	363,420	308,904	401,731	490,672
Latin America and Other Western Hemisphere .....	255,760	362,652	468,190	528,383	588,303	597,459	509,551	625,700	756,420
Brazil .....	15,340	26,401	30,094	35,155	36,620	37,469	27,936	36,484	45,421
Mexico .....	148,493	188,385	248,694	327,768	378,266	393,822	346,420	417,046	501,545
Venezuela .....	19,192	34,662	33,394	16,215	13,475	2,144	317	435	555
Asia and Pacific .....	507,527	682,521	841,359	1,091,819	1,226,094	1,180,349	1,140,484	1,358,107	1,545,480
China .....	103,340	251,791	377,619	498,697	558,324	469,514	448,654	526,133	563,635
India .....	12,480	23,426	44,940	69,771	83,990	87,528	77,484	102,422	118,844
Japan .....	164,972	162,613	147,983	164,737	178,614	181,022	152,768	167,355	190,567
Korea, Republic of .....	45,726	51,175	59,293	82,529	85,328	89,204	86,516	108,853	131,527
Singapore .....	21,837	19,241	23,668	25,232	35,798	37,219	39,925	38,891	41,811
Taiwan .....	44,272	40,690	41,740	47,629	53,221	61,676	66,764	86,983	105,517
Middle East .....	44,500	81,361	95,038	79,353	88,661	70,169	49,502	69,191	98,675
Africa .....	31,076	69,516	93,001	32,713	45,382	39,343	29,159	44,984	52,378
<b>BALANCE (excess of exports +)</b>									
Total, all countries .....	-369,686	-716,542	-503,087	-490,776	-578,594	-559,395	-652,881	-841,573	-951,188
Europe .....	-60,566	-126,739	-55,436	-96,911	-103,121	-119,317	-142,284	-183,790	-118,516
Euro area <sup>1</sup> .....	-42,211	-90,367	-48,420	-94,021	-102,538	-104,082	-86,475	-120,625	-105,567
France .....	-10,523	-12,484	-11,284	-16,128	-14,175	-18,312	-14,347	-22,159	-16,560
Germany .....	-30,330	-54,830	-39,838	-77,679	-66,832	-67,188	-58,572	-72,025	-76,854
Italy .....	-14,927	-21,211	-14,991	-29,154	-33,742	-36,188	-28,214	-38,855	-43,171
United Kingdom .....	3,033	-744	8,856	11,611	21,077	18,580	15,065	10,812	20,071
Canada .....	-49,075	-73,252	-2,770	7,116	6,094	-1,123	733	-34,428	-62,102
Latin America and Other Western Hemisphere .....	-27,127	-102,820	-51,567	23,005	5,879	-12,492	-33,236	-14,633	-33,015
Brazil .....	6,772	-4,827	23,672	23,512	29,214	29,496	21,445	25,426	30,016
Mexico .....	-20,912	-46,528	-61,207	-59,974	-79,090	-103,973	-110,353	-108,779	-139,060
Venezuela .....	-9,716	-25,266	-17,476	-2,003	-4,315	1,479	1,948	2,673	3,234
Asia and Pacific .....	-206,076	-340,293	-318,009	-457,897	-494,541	-463,879	-511,853	-618,438	-728,497
China .....	-81,478	-201,106	-264,042	-336,368	-377,728	-302,039	-282,343	-334,145	-366,356
India .....	-5,749	-10,132	-15,697	-30,933	-28,160	-29,516	-34,149	-44,124	-45,776
Japan .....	-63,418	-69,230	-43,002	-58,118	-56,077	-56,395	-50,525	-55,339	-70,183
Korea, Republic of .....	-10,620	-13,308	-2,593	-16,275	-4,549	-8,238	-17,366	-22,871	-35,564
Singapore .....	2,720	7,415	16,075	17,817	21,245	16,887	13,174	28,198	38,714
Taiwan .....	-13,668	-11,586	-4,843	-8,612	-11,300	-18,766	-26,943	-39,698	-50,200
Middle East .....	-15,883	-32,659	-24,561	22,806	9,577	32,014	26,536	13,143	-4,464
Africa .....	-13,872	-46,625	-52,723	8,516	-3,848	2,405	3,907	-6,278	-7,214

<sup>1</sup> Euro area consists of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Greece (beginning in 2001), Slovenia (2007), Cyprus and Malta (2008), Slovakia (2009), Estonia (2011), Latvia (2014), and Lithuania (2015).

Note: Data are on a balance of payments basis. For further details, and additional data by country, see *Survey of Current Business*, October 2023.

Source: Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).

TABLE B-60. Foreign exchange rates, 2003-2023

(Foreign currency units per U.S. dollar, except as noted; certified noon buying rates in New York)

Period	Australia (dollar) <sup>1</sup>	Brazil (real)	Canada (dollar)	China, P.R. (yuan)	EMU Members (euro) <sup>1,2</sup>	India (rupee)	Japan (yen)	Mexico (peso)	South Korea (won)	Sweden (krona)	Switzerland (franc)	United Kingdom (pound) <sup>1</sup>
March 1973	1.4129		0.9967	2.2401		7.55	261.90	0.013	398.85	4.4294	3.2171	2.4724
2003	6524	3.0750	1.4008	8.2772	1.1321	46.59	115.94	10.793	1,192.08	8.0787	1.3450	1.6347
2004	7365	2.9262	1.3017	8.2768	1.2438	45.26	108.15	11.290	1,145.24	7.3480	1.2428	1.8330
2005	7627	2.4352	1.2115	8.1936	1.2449	44.00	110.11	10.894	1,023.75	7.4710	1.2459	1.8204
2006	7535	2.1738	1.1340	7.9723	1.2563	45.19	116.31	10.906	954.32	7.3718	1.2532	1.8434
2007	8391	1.9461	1.0734	7.6058	1.3711	41.18	117.76	10.928	928.97	6.7550	1.1999	2.0020
2008	8537	1.8326	1.0660	6.9477	1.4726	43.39	103.39	11.143	1,098.71	6.5846	1.0816	1.8545
2009	7927	1.9976	1.1412	6.8307	1.3935	48.33	93.68	13.498	1,274.63	7.6539	1.0860	1.5661
2010	9200	1.7600	1.0298	6.7896	1.3261	45.65	87.78	12.624	1,155.74	7.2053	1.0432	1.5452
2011	1.0332	1.6723	9887	6.4630	1.3931	46.58	79.70	12.427	1,106.94	6.4878	8862	1.6043
2012	1.0359	1.9535	9995	6.3093	1.2859	53.37	79.82	13.154	1,126.16	6.7721	9377	1.5853
2013	9683	2.1570	1.0300	6.1478	1.3281	58.51	97.60	12.758	1,094.67	6.5124	9269	1.5642
2014	9034	2.3512	1.1043	6.1620	1.3297	61.00	105.74	13.302	1,052.29	6.8576	9147	1.6484
2015	7522	3.3360	1.2791	6.2827	1.1096	64.11	121.05	15.874	1,130.96	8.4350	9628	1.5284
2016	7445	3.4839	1.3243	6.6400	1.1072	67.16	108.66	16.667	1,153.34	8.5541	9848	1.3555
2017	7671	3.1910	1.2984	6.7569	1.1301	65.07	112.10	18.884	1,129.04	8.5430	9842	1.2890
2018	7481	3.6513	1.2957	6.6090	1.1817	68.37	110.40	19.218	1,099.29	8.6945	9784	1.3363
2019	6952	3.9440	1.3269	6.9081	1.1194	70.38	109.02	19.247	1,165.80	9.4604	9937	1.2768
2020	6899	5.1587	1.3422	6.9042	1.1410	74.14	106.78	21.546	1,180.56	9.2167	9389	1.2829
2021	7515	5.3958	1.2533	6.4508	1.1830	73.94	109.84	20.284	1,144.89	8.5812	9144	1.3764
2022	6951	5.1605	1.3014	6.7290	1.0534	78.58	131.46	20.121	1,291.78	10.1177	9550	1.2371
2023	6644	4.9946	1.3494	7.0809	1.0817	82.57	140.50	17.733	1,306.76	10.6089	8984	1.2440
2022: I	7249	5.2230	1.2664	6.3478	1.1216	75.24	116.36	20.506	1,205.18	9.3467	9241	1.3407
II	7144	4.9213	1.2764	6.6084	1.0646	77.19	129.73	20.053	1,260.46	9.8436	9652	1.2564
III	6833	5.2455	1.3062	6.8520	1.0066	79.78	138.35	20.234	1,341.11	10.5562	9666	1.1767
IV	6574	5.2550	1.3577	7.1120	1.0218	82.15	141.36	19.681	1,359.38	10.7252	9636	1.1754
2023: I	6833	5.1948	1.3529	6.8423	1.0730	82.20	132.44	18.653	1,276.34	10.4426	9251	1.2153
II	6681	4.9515	1.3430	7.0130	1.0888	82.17	137.35	17.689	1,315.68	10.5291	8988	1.2519
III	6548	4.8811	1.3410	7.2445	1.0884	82.69	144.53	17.055	1,313.19	10.8059	8832	1.2863
IV	6513	4.9529	1.3613	7.2247	1.0761	83.24	147.78	17.546	1,321.85	10.6571	8864	1.2419
Trade-weighted value of the U.S. dollar												
Nominal						Real <sup>6</sup>						
Broad index (January 2006=100) <sup>3</sup>			Advanced foreign economies index (January 2006=100) <sup>4</sup>		Emerging market economies index (January 2006=100) <sup>5</sup>	Broad index (January 2006=100) <sup>3</sup>			Advanced foreign economies index (January 2006=100) <sup>4</sup>		Emerging market economies index (January 2006=100) <sup>5</sup>	
2003												
2004												
2005												
2006	98.6005		97.6833		99.8103	96.9338		98.3159		99.7478		
2007	93.8100		92.0715		96.1170	94.2683		93.6198		95.1198		
2008	90.8801		88.4517		94.1271	90.9823		90.8430		91.2054		
2009	96.7509		92.8232		101.9953	95.3395		94.7210		96.1151		
2010	93.0541		90.1336		97.1416	90.8030		92.0390		89.6131		
2011	88.7767		84.8522		93.9916	86.3053		87.3412		85.2971		
2012	91.6361		88.0233		96.5231	88.5160		90.8670		86.1915		
2013	92.7611		90.6492		96.0312	88.7300		93.8602		83.8223		
2014	95.5876		93.4349		98.9391	90.7209		97.0250		84.7803		
2015	108.1696		108.1483		109.5239	101.1900		111.8303		91.5824		
2016	113.0665		109.3636		118.1858	105.4089		114.0184		97.3945		
2017	112.8101		108.9520		118.0903	104.8580		114.1623		96.2857		
2018	112.0032		106.4902		119.0076	104.0881		112.2297		96.4624		
2019	115.7334		110.2673		122.7186	107.1969		116.7231		98.3728		
2020	117.7809		109.0631		128.3959	108.7706		116.4080		101.4856		
2021	113.1162		104.5205		123.5588	106.2920		114.1761		98.8303		
2022	120.7044		115.0954		128.0962	115.0710		126.9564		104.3963		
2023	120.4892		115.4193		127.3109	114.4805		126.5345		103.6775		
2022: I	115.4998		108.3814		124.4032	110.2394		119.8544		101.3795		
II	118.9632		113.4850		126.1849	113.6720		125.6333		102.9509		
III	123.5362		118.7559		130.1054	117.7619		131.0839		105.9199		
IV	124.8215		119.7419		131.7159	118.6105		131.2541		107.3028		
2023: I	120.3423		115.5038		126.9249	114.5533		126.7079		103.6723		
II	119.5897		114.5662		126.3512	113.7468		125.5258		103.1637		
III	120.2048		115.0455		127.1142	114.0425		125.9395		103.3658		
IV	121.8611		116.6005		128.8976	115.5794		127.9649		104.5082		

<sup>1</sup> U.S. dollars per foreign currency unit.

<sup>2</sup> European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) members consists of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Greece (beginning in 2001), Slovenia (2007), Cyprus and Malta (2008), Slovakia (2009), Estonia (2011), Latvia (2014), Lithuania (2015), and Croatia (2023).

<sup>3</sup> Weighted average of the foreign exchange value of the U.S. dollar against the currencies of a broad group of major U.S. trading partners.

<sup>4</sup> Subset of the broad index. Consists of currencies of the Euro area, Australia, Canada, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

<sup>5</sup> Subset of the broad index currencies that are emerging market economies. For details, see *Revisions to the Federal Reserve Dollar Indexes*, January 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Adjusted for changes in consumer price indexes for the United States and other countries.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TABLE B–61. Growth rates in real gross domestic product by area and country, 2005–2024  
[Percent change]

Area and country	2005–2014 annual average	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 <sup>1</sup>	2024 <sup>1</sup>
World .....	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.8	3.6	2.8	-2.8	6.3	3.5	3.1	3.1
Advanced economies .....	1.5	2.3	1.8	2.5	2.3	1.7	-4.2	5.6	2.6	1.6	1.5
<i>Of which:</i>											
United States .....	1.6	2.7	1.7	2.2	2.9	2.3	-2.8	5.9	1.9	2.5	2.1
Euro area <sup>2</sup> .....	0.8	2.0	1.9	2.6	1.8	1.6	-6.1	5.6	3.4	5	9
Germany .....	1.4	1.5	2.2	2.7	1.0	1.1	-3.8	3.2	1.8	-3	5
France .....	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.5	1.8	1.9	-7.7	6.4	2.5	8	1.0
Italy .....	-0.5	.8	1.3	1.7	.9	.5	-9.0	7.0	3.7	7	7
Spain .....	0.5	3.8	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.0	-11.2	6.4	5.8	2.4	1.5
Japan .....	0.5	1.6	.8	1.7	.6	-.4	-4.2	2.2	1.0	1.9	.9
United Kingdom .....	1.3	2.4	2.2	2.4	1.7	1.6	-11.0	7.6	4.3	5	6
Canada .....	1.9	.7	1.0	3.0	2.8	1.9	-5.1	5.0	3.8	1.1	1.4
Other advanced economies .....	3.2	2.3	2.6	3.1	2.8	2.0	-1.6	5.7	2.7	1.7	2.1
Emerging market and developing economies .....	6.0	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.6	3.6	-1.8	6.9	4.1	4.1	4.1
<i>Regional groups:</i>											
Emerging and Developing Asia .....	8.3	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.4	5.2	-5	7.5	4.5	5.4	5.2
China .....	10.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.0	2.2	8.4	3.0	5.2	4.6
India <sup>3</sup> .....	7.7	8.0	8.3	6.8	6.5	3.9	-5.8	9.1	7.2	6.7	6.5
ASEAN-5 <sup>4</sup> .....	5.2	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.0	4.3	-4.4	4.0	5.5	4.2	4.7
Emerging and Developing Europe .....	3.7	1.0	1.8	4.2	3.6	2.5	-1.6	7.3	1.2	2.7	2.8
Russia .....	3.4	-2.0	.2	1.8	2.8	2.2	-2.7	5.6	-1.2	3.0	2.6
Latin America and the Caribbean .....	3.4	.3	-8	1.3	1.1	.2	-7.0	7.3	4.2	2.5	1.9
Brazil .....	3.5	-3.5	-3.3	1.3	1.8	1.2	-3.3	5.0	3.0	3.1	1.7
Mexico .....	1.8	2.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	-3	-8.7	5.8	3.9	3.4	2.7
Middle East and Central Asia .....	4.5	3.0	4.3	2.5	2.8	1.6	-2.6	4.3	5.5	2.0	2.9
Saudi Arabia .....	4.2	4.7	2.4	-1	2.8	.8	-4.3	3.9	8.7	-1.1	2.7
Sub-Saharan Africa .....	5.5	3.2	1.5	3.0	3.3	3.2	-1.6	4.7	4.0	3.3	3.8
Nigeria .....	6.9	2.7	-1.6	.8	1.9	2.2	-1.8	3.6	3.3	2.8	3.0
South Africa .....	3.0	1.3	.7	1.2	1.6	.3	-6.0	4.7	1.9	6	1.0

<sup>1</sup> All figures are forecasts as published by the International Monetary Fund. For the United States, advance estimates by the Department of Commerce show that real GDP rose 2.5 percent in 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Euro area consists of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Greece (beginning in 2001), Slovenia (2007), Cyprus and Malta (2008), Slovakia (2009), Estonia (2011), Latvia (2014), Lithuania (2015), and Croatia (2023).

<sup>3</sup> Data and forecasts are presented on a fiscal year basis and output growth is based on GDP at market prices.

<sup>4</sup> Consists of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Note: For details on data shown in this table, see *World Economic Outlook*, October 2023, and *World Economic Outlook Update*, January 2024, published by the International Monetary Fund.

Sources: International Monetary Fund and Department of Commerce (Bureau of Economic Analysis).



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