

Social Security, Saving, and Wealth Accumulation

Social Security is a publicly run, mandatory retirement program. A number of analysts have suggested that the program be privatized. I discuss here the difference between the current Social Security program and an effectively equivalent private program with respect to wealth accumulation and saving at the individual and national levels.

Under current law, Social Security requires each covered worker to pay into the program 12.4 percent of their taxable income (6.2 percent each from employee and employer). In return, those covered by Social Security receive payments that are determined by several factors, including age at retirement and the amount of payroll tax *contributions* made while working. In an essentially equivalent private program, the government could require each covered worker (and/or the employer) to pay into a private investment account 12.4 percent of their taxable income and prevent workers from accessing these accounts until they retired. In the private program, however, workers would own their accumulated contributions and earnings. That is, workers would accumulate wealth. Individuals would thereby have considerable flexibility. They could be given some discretion on how the funds are invested. Moreover, unlike the one-size-fits-all approach of Social Security, individuals could be given considerable discretion as to how the funds would be disbursed upon retirement. Those who were interested in providing their children with opportunities they never had might decide to work longer and pass all or most of their wealth to their heirs. Alternatively, individuals with relatively short life expectancies might opt to retire at the earliest possible date and/or disburse funds more quickly. In the event of an untimely death, the wealth accumulated in their account could be passed to their heirs or given to philanthropic causes. This flexibility could be particularly important to low- and moderate-income earners who may find it difficult to save beyond what they are required to contribute to Social Security. Private accounts would give these earners a greater opportunity to accumulate wealth that they could use at their discretion, which would provide them opportunities not available under the obligatory Social Security annuity.

Economists have long known that current consumption and investment—at both the individual and national levels—do not depend so much on current income as on permanent income, which is to say, wealth. It is difficult to estimate how much private wealth accumulation would have differed had Social Security been administered privately rather than publicly. However, the Social Security trust fund balance—the accumulated

Social Security tax receipts less Social Security payments plus earnings—at the end of 2004 was \$1.68 trillion, about two-fifths as large as the federal debt held by the public.

Whereas private savings are channeled through financial markets and ultimately lent to individuals, businesses, and governments—state, local, and federal—currently, the Social Security trust funds are not being allocated through competitive financial markets and are not earning a market-determined rate of return. Thus, unlike private saving, Social Security taxes are not directly available to finance private spending and investment.

This year's Social Security tax receipts are used to pay this year's Social Security benefits. In years when tax receipts are greater than benefits paid, Social Security experiences a surplus. If the surplus were used to reduce the national debt, the funds available for private consumption or investment would be essentially the same as under a private system. This has not been the case, however. Since the early 1980s, Social Security has been running a persistent surplus. Instead of reducing the national debt and, thereby, increasing the pool of funds available for private spending, most often Social Security surpluses have been used to fund "on-budget" deficit spending. This practice has had the effect of making the unified budget deficit smaller than would have been the case had Social Security been privately run. In reporting to Congress recently, Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan noted that "[t]he major attraction of personal or private accounts is that they can be constructed to be truly segregated from the unified budget and, therefore, are more likely to induce the federal government to take those actions that would reduce public dissaving and raise national saving."¹ The government would not be able to simply divert Social Security surpluses to cover on-budget deficits. Rather, it would have to compete in financial markets with private investors for private savings.

The extent to which fostering private wealth accumulation and increasing the flow of funds into competitive financial markets would promote economic growth or reduce the incentives for government borrowing (and spending) is difficult to say. Nevertheless, it is clear that the current system diverts funds from competitive financial markets and reduces the control that low- and moderate-income earners have over their retirement funds.

—Daniel L. Thornton

¹Testimony of Chairman Alan Greenspan, *Future of the Social Security Program and Economics of Retirement*, before the Special Committee on Aging, U.S. Senate, March 15, 2005.

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Conventions used in this publication:

1. Shaded areas indicate recessions, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
2. *Percent change* refers to simple percent changes. *Percent change from year ago* refers to the percent change from the same month or quarter during the previous year. *Compounded annual rate of change* shows what the growth rate would be over an entire year if the same simple percent change continued for four quarters or twelve months. The compounded annual rate of change of x between the previous quarter $t-1$ and the current quarter t is: $[(x_t/x_{t-1})^4 - 1] \times 100$. For monthly data replace 4 with 12.
3. All data with significant seasonal patterns are adjusted accordingly, unless labeled NSA.

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Notes

Pages 4, 5: **Final Sales** is gross domestic product (GDP) minus change in private inventories. **Advance, Preliminary, and Final GDP Growth Rates** are released during the first, second, and third months of the following quarter. Changes result from incorporation of more complete information. Real GDP is measured in 2000 dollars. The **ISM** (formerly Purchasing Managers') **Index** is a weighted average of diffusion indexes for new orders, production, supplier deliveries, inventories, and employment. **Aggregate and Average Weekly Hours** are paid hours of production and nonsupervisory employees. The **Inventory-Sales Ratio** uses nominal (current-dollar) inventory and sales data.

Page 6: For information on how to calculate the **Contribution** of a component to the overall GDP growth rate, see the October 1999 issue of the Survey of Current Business, p. 16. The sign is changed for **Imports**.

Page 7: Ten-year **Treasury Yields** are adjusted to constant maturity; three-month yields are secondary market averages. All rates used in the yield curves are adjusted to constant maturity. The 30-year constant maturity series was discontinued by the Treasury Department as of Feb. 18, 2002. **Standard and Poor's 500 Index with Reinvested Dividends** shows the total return: capital gains plus dividends.

Pages 8, 9: **Oil** (West Texas intermediate) and **Natural Gas** (Henry Hub) spot and futures **prices** are listed in the *Wall Street Journal*. Spot prices are monthly averages of daily prices; futures prices are usually taken from the last trading day of the month. **Consumer Price Index** is for all urban consumers. The **Consumption Chain Price Index** is the index associated with the personal consumption expenditures component of GDP. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** covers private nonfarm employers. **ECI Compensation** refers to a fixed sample of jobs, while **Compensation per Hour** covers all workers in the nonfarm business sector in a given quarter. In both cases, compensation is wages and salaries plus benefits.

Pages 10, 11: Effective with the May 2003 **Employment Situation**, the establishment survey data for employment, hours, and earnings have been converted from the 1987 SIC system to the 2002 NAICS system. All published NAICS-based labor series have been revised back to at least 1990. For more information see <http://www.bls.gov/ces/>. **Nonfarm Payroll Employment** is counted in a survey of about 400,000 establishments (Current Employment Survey). It excludes self-employed individuals and workers in private households, but double-counts individuals with more than one job. The **Household Survey** (Current Population Survey) of about 60,000 households provides estimates of civilian employment, unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, and employment-population ratio. **Population** is civilian, noninstitutional, 16 years and over. The 90 percent confidence intervals for the unemployment rate (± 0.2 percentage points) and change in household survey employment ($\pm 290,000$) measure uncertainty due to sample size. Because the household survey was changed in January 1994, data prior to this date are not strictly comparable. The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced several revisions to the Household Survey on Feb. 7, 2003, with the release of the January 2003 data. For more information, see www.bls.gov/cps/.

Page 13: The **Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index** shows changes in a summary measure of consumers' answers to five questions about their current and expected financial situation, expectations about future economic conditions, and attitudes about making large purchases. The survey is based on a representative sample of U.S. households.

Page 15: **Gross Private Saving** is the sum of personal saving, undistributed corporate profits with IVA and CCAAdj (see notes for pp. 18-19), and private wage accruals less disbursements. **Gross Government Saving** is net government saving (surplus/deficit) plus consumption of fixed capital. **Balance on Current Account (NIPA)** is net capital transfer payments to the rest of the world plus net lending or net borrowing (international trade and income flows).

Pages 16, 17: **Government Consumption and Investment** is current expenditures on goods and services, including capital consumption (depreciation) and gross investment, as reported in the NIPAs. The **Unified Federal Budget Surplus/Deficit** differs from **NIPA Basis** in four main ways: (1) NIPA excludes

transactions involving existing assets; (2) NIPA outlays exclude government investment and include consumption of government capital, while unified budget outlays do the reverse; (3) NIPA accounts exclude Puerto Rico and U.S. territories; and (4) various timing issues are handled differently. **Outlays and Receipts** are from the NIPAs, except as noted. Since 1977, the federal **Fiscal Year** starts on October 1. Excluded agency debt was 0.6 percent of federal debt at the end of fiscal 1997. **Federal Debt Held by the Public** includes holdings of the Federal Reserve System and excludes holdings of the social security and other federal trust funds. Federal grants in aid to state and local governments appear in both state and local receipts and federal outlays.

Pages 18, 19: The **Trade Balance** (shown on a balance of payments basis) is the difference between exports and imports of goods (merchandise) and services. It is nearly identical in concept to the **Net Exports** component of GDP, but differs slightly in accounting details. The **Investment Income Balance** equals income received from U.S.-owned assets in other countries minus income paid on foreign-owned assets in the U.S. The investment income balance is nearly identical in concept to the difference between gross national product and gross domestic product, but differs in accounting details. The **Current Account Balance** is the trade balance plus the balance on investment income plus net unilateral transfers to the U.S. from other countries.

Pages 20, 21: **Output per Hour (Y/H)**, **Unit Labor Cost (C/Y)**, and **Compensation per Hour (C/H)** are indexes which approximately obey the following relationship: $\%(Y/H) + \%(C/Y) = \%(C/H)$ with $\%$ meaning percent changes. Unit labor cost is shown on page 9. **Real Compensation per Hour** uses the CPI to adjust for the effects of inflation. Nonfarm business accounted for about 76 percent of the value of GDP in 1996, while nonfinancial corporations accounted for about 54 percent. **Inventory Valuation Adjustments (IVA)** remove the effect of changes in the value of existing inventories from corporate profits and proprietors' income. (This change in value does not correspond to current production and therefore is not part of GDP). **Capital Consumption Adjustments (CCAdj)** increase profits and proprietors' income by the difference between estimates of economic depreciation and depreciation allowed by the tax code. Components of national income not shown are rental income of persons and net interest.

NOTE: Most measures of economic activity are now based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which replaces the 1987 Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system.

Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Dept. of Commerce
 National income and product accounts, international trade and investment data (except by country), auto and light truck sales.

Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce
 Inventory-sales ratios, retail sales, capital goods orders, housing starts, exports and imports by country.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Dept. of Labor
 All employment-related data, employment cost index, consumer and producer price indexes, unit labor cost, output per hour, compensation per hour, multifactor productivity.

United States Department of Treasury
 Unified budget receipts, outlays, deficit, debt.

Federal Reserve Board
 Index of industrial production, treasury yields, exchange rates, capacity utilization, household debt.

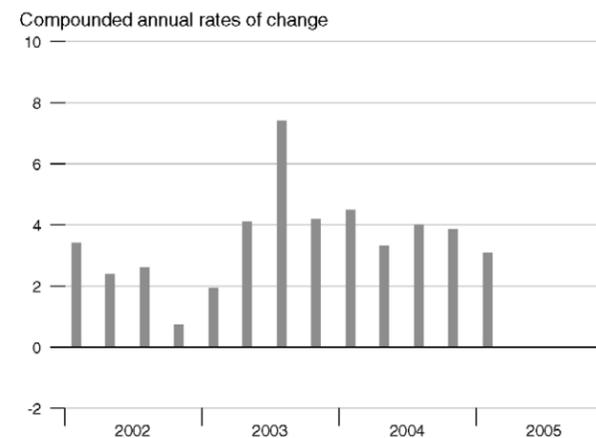
The Survey Research Center, The University of Michigan
 Consumer sentiment index.

The Conference Board
 Help-wanted advertising index.

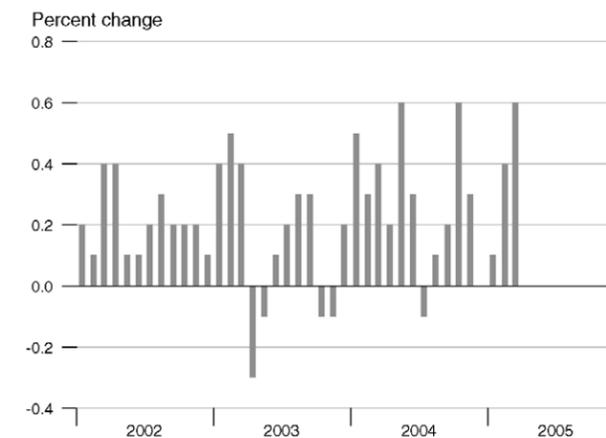
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
 GDP for major trading partners (not available on FRED).

	Consumer Price Index					Consumer Price Index less Food and Energy					Producer Price Index Finished Goods				
	Index	Percent change				Index	Percent change				Index	Percent change			
		Monthly/quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	Year to date		Monthly/quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	Year to date		Monthly/quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	
2000	172.2			3.4		181.3			2.4		138.0			3.9	
2001	177.1			2.8		186.1			2.7		140.7			1.9	
2002	179.8			1.6		190.4			2.3		138.9			-1.3	
2003	184.0			2.3		193.2			1.5		143.3			3.2	
2004	188.9			2.7		196.6			1.8		148.5			3.6	
2003	1	183.2	1.0	4.2	2.9	4.2	192.4	0.3	1.4	1.8	1.4	142.7	2.0	8.4	3.3
	2	183.4	0.1	0.4	2.2	2.3	192.8	0.2	0.8	1.5	1.1	142.2	-0.4	-1.5	2.5
	3	184.4	0.5	2.2	2.2	2.2	193.6	0.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	143.5	0.9	3.8	3.4
	4	184.8	0.2	0.9	1.9	1.9	194.1	0.3	1.0	1.2	1.2	144.9	1.0	4.0	3.6
2004	1	186.6	1.0	3.9	1.8	3.9	195.0	0.5	1.9	1.3	1.9	145.9	0.7	2.8	2.2
	2	188.6	1.1	4.4	2.8	4.2	196.2	0.6	2.6	1.8	2.2	148.0	1.4	5.8	4.1
	3	189.4	0.4	1.6	2.7	3.3	197.1	0.4	1.7	1.8	2.1	148.6	0.4	1.6	3.5
	4	191.0	0.9	3.6	3.4	3.4	198.2	0.6	2.3	2.1	2.1	151.6	2.0	8.3	4.6
2005	1	192.2	0.6	2.4	3.0	2.4	199.5	0.6	2.6	2.3	2.6	152.7	0.7	2.9	4.6
2003	Mar	184.1	0.4	5.4	3.1	5.6	192.5	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.0	144.3	1.2	15.3	3.9
	Apr	183.5	-0.3	-3.8	2.3	3.2	192.5	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.8	142.2	-1.5	-16.1	2.4
	May	183.3	-0.1	-1.3	2.1	2.3	192.9	0.2	2.5	1.5	1.1	141.7	-0.4	-4.1	2.5
	Jun	183.4	0.1	0.7	2.1	2.0	193.0	0.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	142.6	0.6	7.9	2.8
	Jul	183.8	0.2	2.6	2.1	2.1	193.4	0.2	2.5	1.5	1.3	142.8	0.1	1.7	3.0
	Aug	184.4	0.3	4.0	2.2	2.3	193.6	0.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	143.6	0.6	6.9	3.5
	Sep	185.0	0.3	4.0	2.3	2.5	193.7	0.1	0.6	1.2	1.2	144.1	0.3	4.3	3.6
	Oct	184.8	-0.1	-1.3	2.0	2.1	194.0	0.2	1.9	1.3	1.3	144.8	0.5	6.0	3.4
	Nov	184.6	-0.1	-1.3	1.8	1.8	194.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	144.6	-0.1	-1.6	3.4
	Dec	185.0	0.2	2.6	1.9	1.9	194.2	0.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	145.3	0.5	6.0	4.0
2004	Jan	185.9	0.5	6.0	2.0	6.0	194.6	0.2	2.5	1.2	2.5	145.7	0.3	3.4	3.2
	Feb	186.5	0.3	3.9	1.7	5.0	194.9	0.2	1.9	1.2	2.2	145.6	-0.1	-0.8	2.1
	Mar	187.3	0.4	5.3	1.7	5.1	195.5	0.3	3.8	1.6	2.7	146.4	0.5	6.8	1.5
	Apr	187.7	0.2	2.6	2.3	4.4	195.9	0.2	2.5	1.8	2.6	147.4	0.7	8.5	3.7
	May	188.8	0.6	7.3	3.0	5.0	196.2	0.2	1.9	1.7	2.5	148.3	0.6	7.6	4.7
	Jun	189.3	0.3	3.2	3.2	4.7	196.6	0.2	2.5	1.9	2.5	148.2	-0.1	-0.8	3.9
	Jul	189.2	-0.1	-0.6	2.9	3.9	196.8	0.1	1.2	1.8	2.3	148.3	0.1	0.8	3.9
	Aug	189.3	0.1	0.6	2.7	3.5	196.9	0.1	0.6	1.7	2.1	148.5	0.1	1.6	3.4
	Sep	189.6	0.2	1.9	2.5	3.3	197.5	0.3	3.7	2.0	2.3	148.9	0.3	3.3	3.3
	Oct	190.7	0.6	7.2	3.2	3.7	197.9	0.2	2.5	2.0	2.3	151.1	1.5	19.2	4.4
	Nov	191.2	0.3	3.2	3.6	3.7	198.2	0.2	1.8	2.2	2.2	152.1	0.7	8.2	5.2
	Dec	191.2	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.4	198.5	0.2	1.8	2.2	2.2	151.5	-0.4	-4.6	4.3
2005	Jan	191.3	0.1	0.6	2.9	0.6	198.9	0.2	2.4	2.2	2.4	151.9	0.3	3.2	4.3
	Feb	192.0	0.4	4.5	2.9	2.5	199.4	0.3	3.1	2.3	2.8	152.5	0.4	4.8	4.7
	Mar	193.2	0.6	7.8	3.2	4.3	200.1	0.4	4.3	2.4	3.3	153.6	0.7	9.0	4.9

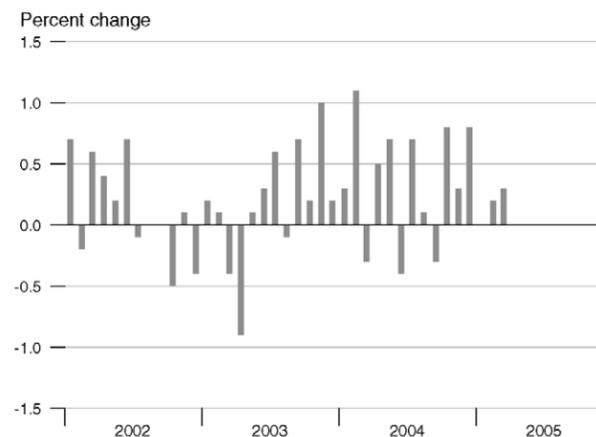
Real GDP Growth



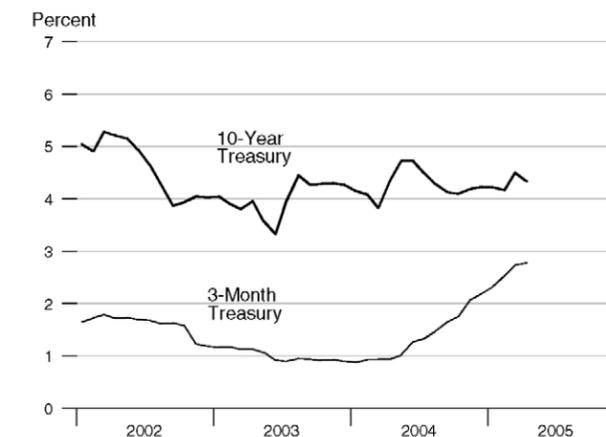
Consumer Price Index



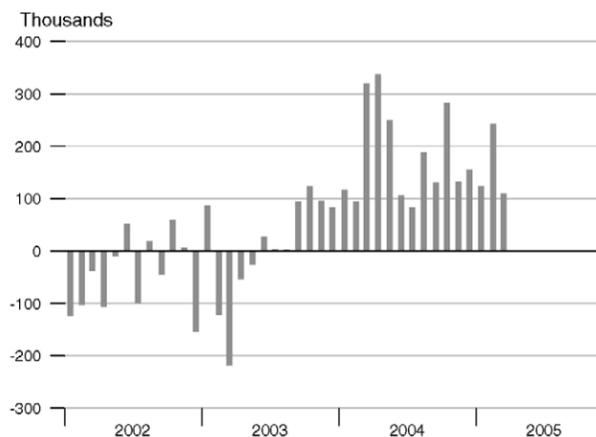
Industrial Production



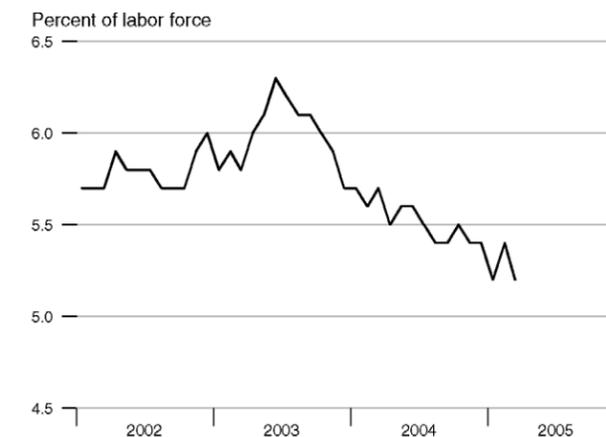
Interest Rates



Change in Nonfarm Payrolls

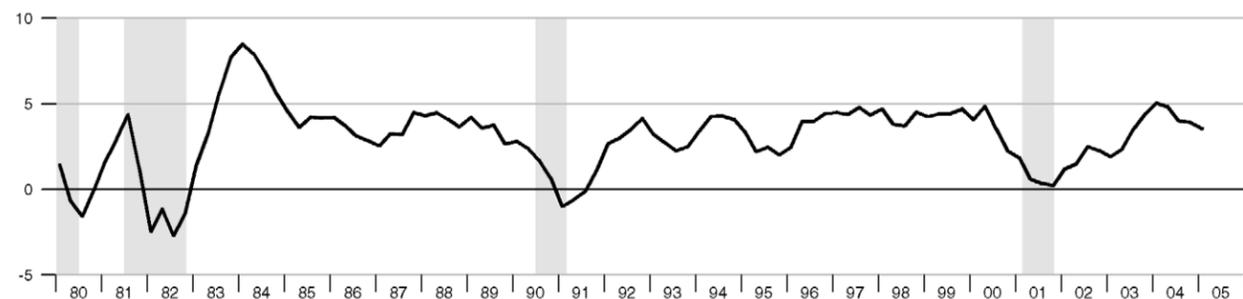


Unemployment Rate



Real Gross Domestic Product

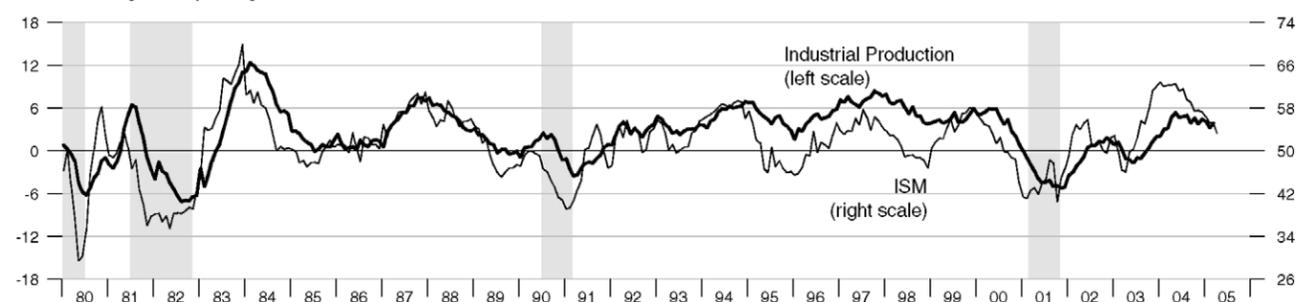
Percent change from year ago



Industrial Production and Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Indexes

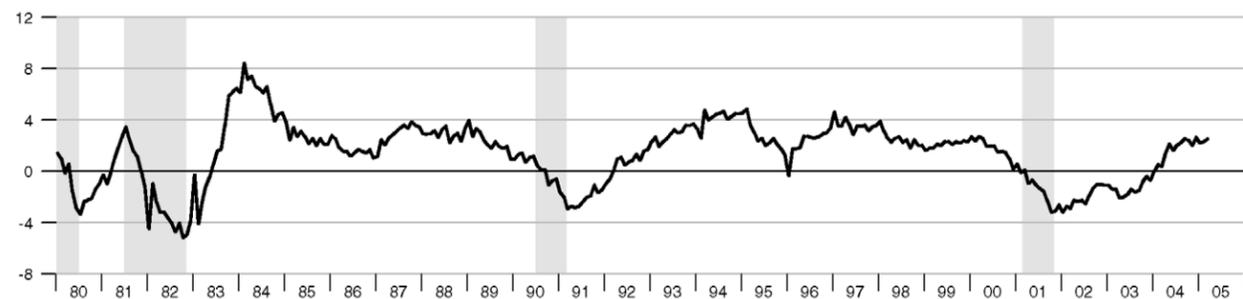
Percent change from year ago

Index



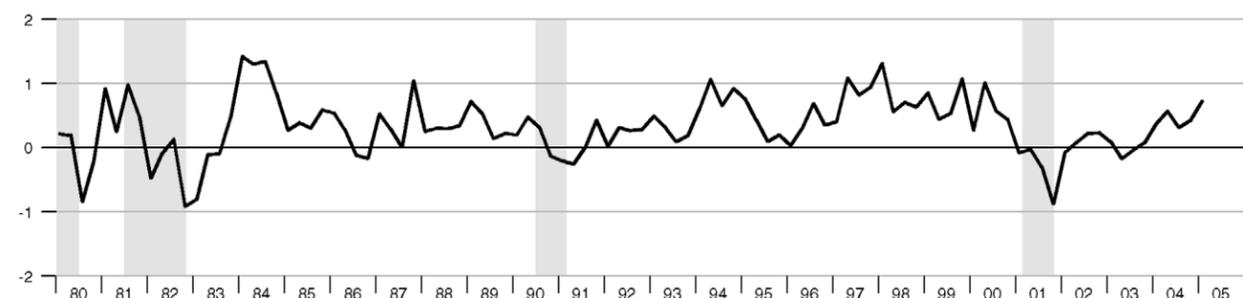
Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours

Percent change from year ago



Real Change in Private Inventories

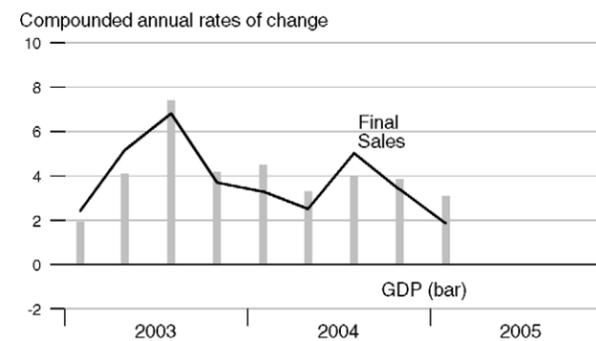
Percent of GDP



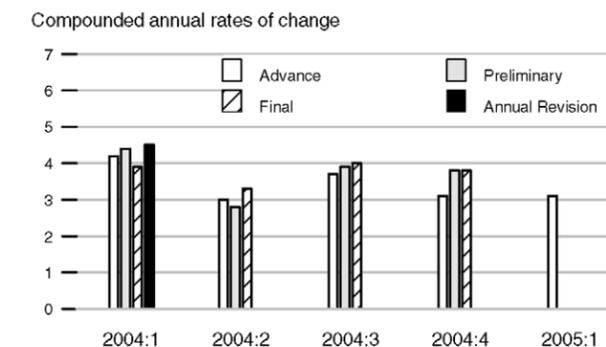
	Unempl. Rate	Retail and Food Services Sales			Industrial Production			Treasury Yields				
		Billions of dollars	Percent change		Index	Percent change		(Percent)				
			Monthly/quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago		Monthly/quarterly	Annual rate	Year ago	3-mo	10-yr	
2000	4.0	3284.226			6.6	115.380			4.3	5.82	6.03	
2001	4.8	3388.094			3.2	111.266			-3.6	3.39	5.02	
2002	5.8	3474.391			2.5	110.959			-0.3	1.60	4.61	
2003	6.0	3623.849			4.3	110.932			-0.0	1.01	4.02	
2004	5.5	3887.628			7.3	115.528			4.1	1.37	4.27	
2003	1	884.854	0.9	3.8	3.3	110.825	-0.2	-0.7	0.8	1.16	3.92	
	2	895.092	1.2	4.7	3.3	109.707	-1.0	-4.0	-1.3	1.04	3.62	
	3	919.020	2.7	11.1	5.0	110.825	1.0	4.1	-0.7	0.93	4.23	
	4	924.883	0.6	2.6	5.5	112.369	1.4	5.7	1.2	0.92	4.29	
2004	1	946.503	2.3	9.7	7.0	113.920	1.4	5.6	2.8	0.92	4.02	
	2	962.689	1.7	7.0	7.6	115.130	1.1	4.3	4.9	1.08	4.60	
	3	977.181	1.5	6.2	6.3	115.893	0.7	2.7	4.6	1.49	4.30	
	4	1001.255	2.5	10.2	8.3	117.168	1.1	4.5	4.3	2.01	4.17	
2005	1	1014.496	1.3	5.4	7.2	118.217	0.9	3.6	3.8	2.54	4.30	
2003	Apr	297.241	0.0	0.0	2.3	109.538	-0.9	-10.5	-1.1	1.13	3.96	
	May	296.481	-0.3	-3.0	3.7	109.640	0.1	1.1	-1.2	1.07	3.57	
	Jun	301.370	1.6	21.7	4.0	109.942	0.3	3.4	-1.7	0.92	3.33	
	Jul	303.921	0.8	10.6	4.1	110.616	0.6	7.6	-1.0	0.90	3.98	
	Aug	308.875	1.6	21.4	5.1	110.528	-0.1	-1.0	-1.0	0.95	4.45	
	Sep	306.224	-0.9	-9.8	5.9	111.331	0.7	9.1	-0.3	0.94	4.27	
	Oct	305.969	-0.1	-1.0	5.3	111.559	0.2	2.5	0.4	0.92	4.29	
	Nov	309.864	1.3	16.4	6.2	112.657	1.0	12.5	1.3	0.93	4.30	
	Dec	309.050	-0.3	-3.1	5.1	112.892	0.2	2.5	2.0	0.90	4.27	
	2004	Jan	311.973	0.9	12.0	5.4	113.223	0.3	3.6	2.1	0.88	4.15
		Feb	313.973	0.6	8.0	7.7	114.426	1.1	13.5	3.1	0.93	4.08
		Mar	320.557	2.1	28.3	7.8	114.110	-0.3	-3.3	3.2	0.94	3.83
Apr		318.330	-0.7	-8.0	7.1	114.736	0.5	6.8	4.7	0.94	4.35	
May		323.040	1.5	19.3	9.0	115.534	0.7	8.7	5.4	1.02	4.72	
Jun		321.319	-0.5	-6.2	6.6	115.120	-0.4	-4.2	4.7	1.27	4.73	
Jul		324.034	0.8	10.6	6.6	115.930	0.7	8.8	4.8	1.33	4.50	
Aug		323.700	-0.1	-1.2	4.8	116.036	0.1	1.1	5.0	1.48	4.28	
Sep		329.447	1.8	23.5	7.6	115.714	-0.3	-3.3	3.9	1.65	4.13	
Oct		332.280	0.9	10.8	8.6	116.649	0.8	10.1	4.6	1.76	4.10	
Nov		332.392	0.0	0.4	7.3	116.948	0.3	3.1	3.8	2.07	4.19	
Dec		336.583	1.3	16.2	8.9	117.908	0.8	10.3	4.4	2.19	4.23	
2005	Jan	336.785	0.1	0.7	8.0	117.948	0.0	0.4	4.2	2.33	4.22	
	Feb	338.412	0.5	6.0	7.8	118.176	0.2	2.3	3.3	2.54	4.17	
	Mar	339.299	0.3	3.2	5.8	118.527	0.3	3.6	3.9	2.74	4.50	
	Apr									2.78	4.34	

	Household Survey Employment				Nonfarm Payroll Employment				Nonfarm Aggregate Hours				
	Thousands	Change	Percent change		Thousands	Change	Percent change		Index	Monthly rate	Percent change		
			Annual rate	Year ago			Annual rate	Year ago			Annual rate	Year ago	
2000	136901	3400		2.5	131792	2800		2.2	103.5			1.8	
2001	136940	40		0.0	131833	41		0.0	102.1			-1.4	
2002	136483	-458		-0.3	130345	-1487		-1.1	100.0			-2.0	
2003	137734	1252		0.9	129999	-347		-0.3	98.6			-1.4	
2004	139248	1513		1.1	131475	1476		1.1	100.3			1.7	
2003	1	137415	773	2.3	130093	-169	-0.5	-0.3	99.0	-0.4	-1.7	-1.3	
	2	137652	237	0.7	129845	-248	-0.8	-0.4	98.3	-0.8	-3.1	-2.0	
	3	137574	-77	-0.2	129890	45	0.1	-0.3	98.3	0.1	0.3	-1.5	
	4	138296	722	2.1	130168	278	0.9	-0.1	98.8	0.5	2.0	-0.6	
2004	1	138408	112	0.3	130541	374	1.2	0.3	99.3	0.5	2.0	0.3	
	2	138883	475	1.4	131325	784	2.4	1.1	100.0	0.6	2.6	1.7	
	3	139608	725	2.1	131731	406	1.2	1.4	100.6	0.6	2.4	2.3	
	4	140092	484	1.4	132302	571	1.7	1.6	101.2	0.6	2.4	2.4	
2005	1	140295	203	0.6	132772	470	1.4	1.7	101.7	0.5	2.0	2.3	
2003	Mar	137451	86	0.8	129907	-218	-2.0	-0.4	98.9	0.0	0.0	-1.4	
	Apr	137628	177	1.6	129853	-54	-0.5	-0.4	98.3	-0.6	-7.0	-2.1	
	May	137552	-76	-0.7	129827	-26	-0.2	-0.4	98.2	-0.1	-1.2	-2.0	
	Jun	137775	223	2.0	129854	27	0.2	-0.4	98.3	0.1	1.2	-1.8	
	Jul	137511	-264	-2.3	129857	3	0.0	-0.3	98.3	0.0	0.0	-1.4	
	Aug	137593	82	0.7	129859	2	0.0	-0.3	98.3	0.0	0.0	-1.6	
	Sep	137619	26	0.2	129953	94	0.9	-0.2	98.4	0.1	1.2	-1.5	
	Oct	138022	403	3.6	130076	123	1.1	-0.2	98.8	0.4	5.0	-0.8	
	Nov	138457	435	3.8	130172	96	0.9	-0.1	99.1	0.3	3.7	-0.4	
	Dec	138409	-48	-0.4	130255	83	0.8	0.1	98.6	-0.5	-5.9	-0.7	
	2004	Jan	138481	72	0.6	130372	117	1.1	0.1	99.3	0.7	8.9	0.0
		Feb	138334	-147	-1.3	130466	94	0.9	0.3	99.4	0.1	1.2	0.5
Mar		138408	74	0.6	130786	320	3.0	0.7	99.3	-0.1	-1.2	0.4	
Apr		138645	237	2.1	131123	337	3.1	1.0	99.7	0.4	4.9	1.4	
May		138846	201	1.8	131373	250	2.3	1.2	100.3	0.6	7.5	2.1	
Jun		139158	312	2.7	131479	106	1.0	1.3	99.9	-0.4	-4.7	1.6	
Jul		139639	481	4.2	131562	83	0.8	1.3	100.3	0.4	4.9	2.0	
Aug		139658	19	0.2	131750	188	1.7	1.5	100.5	0.2	2.4	2.2	
Sep		139527	-131	-1.1	131880	130	1.2	1.5	100.9	0.4	4.9	2.5	
Oct		139827	300	2.6	132162	282	2.6	1.6	101.2	0.3	3.6	2.4	
Nov		140293	466	4.1	132294	132	1.2	1.6	101.1	-0.1	-1.2	2.0	
Dec		140156	-137	-1.2	132449	155	1.4	1.7	101.2	0.1	1.2	2.6	
2005	Jan	140241	85	0.7	132573	124	1.1	1.7	101.5	0.3	3.6	2.2	
	Feb	140144	-97	-0.8	132816	243	2.2	1.8	101.7	0.2	2.4	2.3	
	Mar	140501	357	3.1	132926	110	1.0	1.6	101.8	0.1	1.2	2.5	

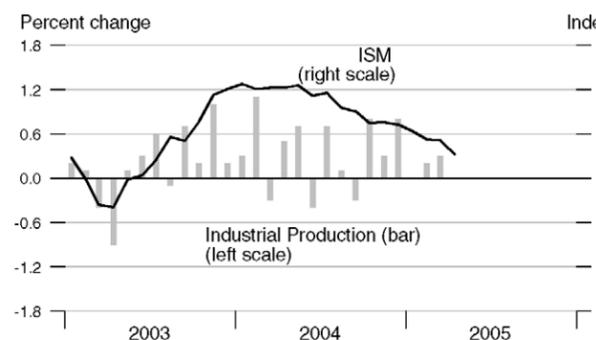
Real Final Sales and GDP



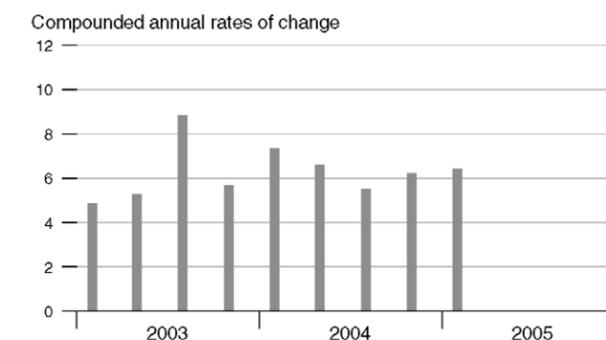
Real GDP Revisions



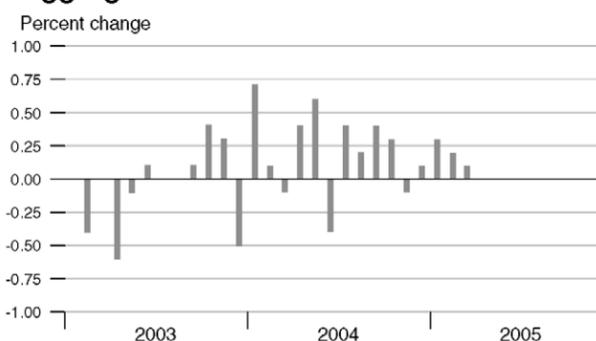
Industrial Production and ISM Index



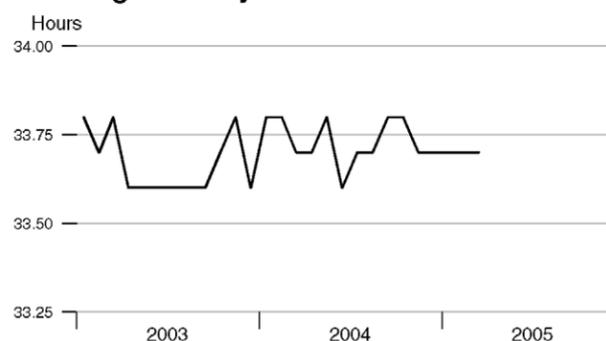
Nominal Gross Domestic Product



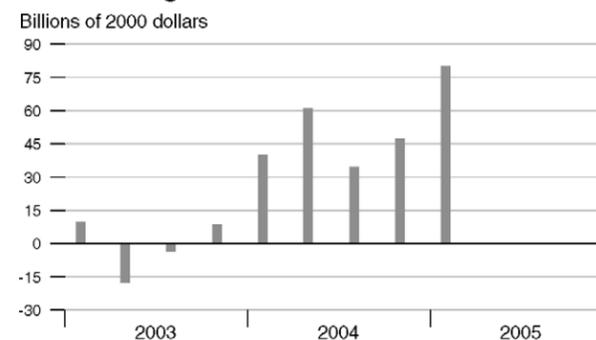
Aggregate Private Nonfarm Hours



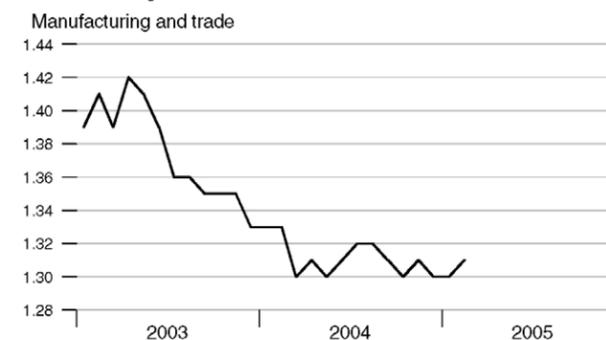
Average Weekly Private Nonfarm Hours



Real Change in Private Inventories

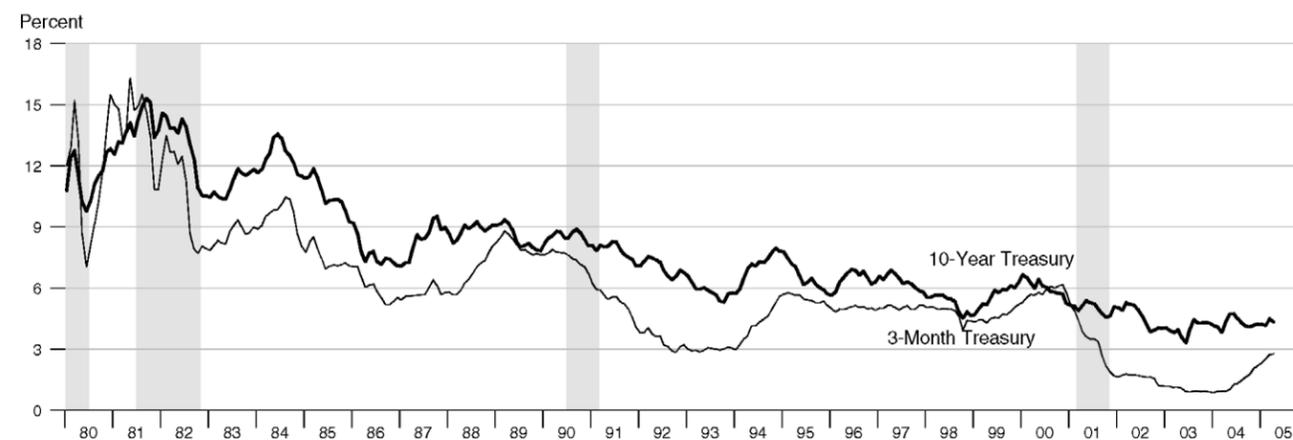


Inventory-Sales Ratio

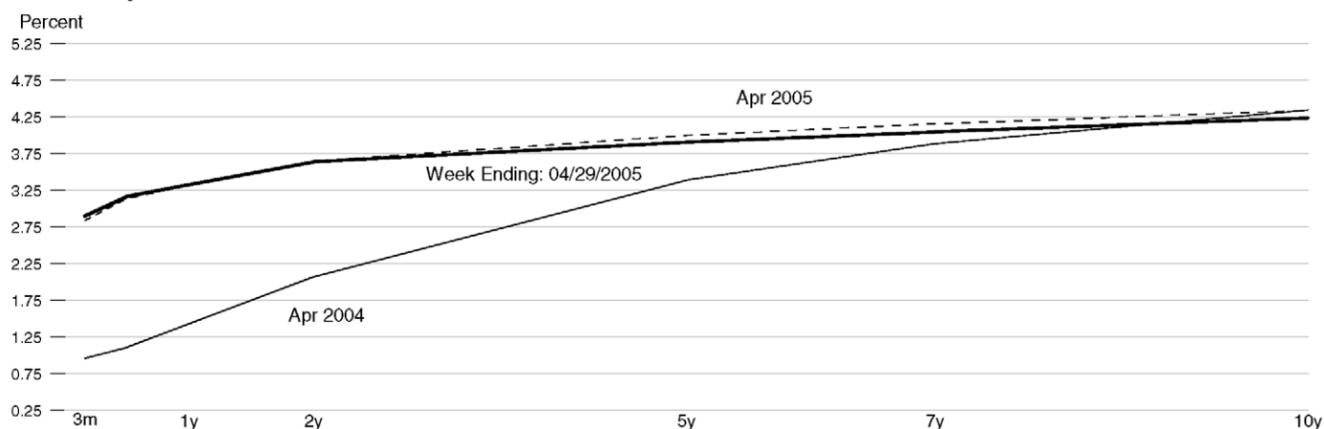


	Nominal GDP			Real GDP			Final Sales			Change in Private Inventories		
	Billions of \$	Percent change		Billions of 2000 \$	Percent change		Billions of 2000 \$	Percent change		Billions of 2000 \$		
		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago	Last qtr	Year/Year ago	
2001	10128.0		3.2	9890.694		0.8	9920.940		1.6		-31.720	
2002	10487.0		3.5	10074.763		1.9	10063.248		1.4		11.736	
2003	11004.0		4.9	10381.347		3.0	10379.878		3.1		-0.753	
2004	11735.0		6.6	10841.885		4.4	10794.576		4.0		45.686	
2002 1	10338.2	4.4	3.2	9993.478	3.4	1.2	10000.391	0.3	1.2	-7.403	-31.630	
2	10445.7	4.2	3.1	10052.576	2.4	1.5	10044.898	1.8	1.4	7.893	-29.042	
3	10546.5	3.9	4.1	10117.270	2.6	2.5	10095.165	2.0	2.0	22.687	-15.886	
4	10617.5	2.7	3.8	10135.922	0.7	2.3	10112.538	0.7	1.2	23.765	11.736	
2003 1	10744.6	4.9	3.9	10184.418	1.9	1.9	10173.346	2.4	1.7	9.585	15.983	
2	10884.0	5.3	4.2	10287.398	4.1	2.3	10302.477	5.2	2.6	-17.629	9.602	
3	11116.7	8.8	5.4	10472.841	7.4	3.5	10473.871	6.8	3.8	-3.524	3.049	
4	11270.9	5.7	6.2	10580.729	4.2	4.4	10569.622	3.7	4.5	8.556	-0.753	
2004 1	11472.6	7.4	6.8	10697.453	4.5	5.0	10655.807	3.3	4.7	40.020	6.856	
2	11657.5	6.6	7.1	10784.726	3.3	4.8	10722.276	2.5	4.1	61.073	26.531	
3	11814.9	5.5	6.3	10891.044	4.0	4.0	10854.725	5.0	3.6	34.502	36.038	
4	11994.8	6.2	6.4	10994.318	3.8	3.9	10945.498	3.4	3.6	47.150	45.686	
2005 1	12182.7	6.4	6.2	11078.155	3.1	3.6	10996.155	1.9	3.2	80.153	55.720	
	Consumption			Durables Consumption			Private Fixed Investment			Nonresidential Fixed Investment		
	Billions of 2000 \$	Percent change		Billions of 2000 \$	Percent change		Billions of 2000 \$	Percent change		Billions of 2000 \$	Percent change	
		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago		Annual rate	Year ago
2001	6910.356		2.5	900.682		4.3	1629.396		-3.0	1180.536		-4.2
2002	7123.388		3.1	959.587		6.5	1548.906		-4.9	1075.625		-8.9
2003	7355.559		3.3	1030.621		7.4	1627.331		5.1	1110.801		3.3
2004	7632.548		3.8	1099.340		6.7	1794.443		10.3	1228.624		10.6
2002 1	7049.659	1.8	2.9	937.779	-8.5	6.6	1559.618	-4.3	-7.1	1099.786	-9.7	-10.9
2	7099.193	2.8	3.3	947.837	4.4	7.8	1545.867	-3.5	-5.8	1072.360	-9.6	-9.9
3	7149.941	2.9	3.6	979.297	14.0	10.6	1546.622	0.2	-4.6	1069.502	-1.1	-8.5
4	7194.623	2.5	2.5	973.443	-2.4	1.5	1543.516	-0.8	-2.1	1060.853	-3.2	-6.0
2003 1	7242.203	2.7	2.7	973.236	-0.1	3.8	1552.700	2.4	-0.4	1060.508	-0.1	-3.6
2	7311.416	3.9	3.0	1019.985	20.6	7.6	1593.382	10.9	3.1	1090.607	11.8	1.7
3	7401.724	5.0	3.5	1059.586	16.5	8.2	1660.574	18.0	7.4	1131.069	15.7	5.8
4	7466.826	3.6	3.8	1069.678	3.9	9.9	1702.683	10.5	10.3	1161.045	11.0	9.4
2004 1	7543.049	4.1	4.2	1075.462	2.2	10.5	1721.437	4.5	10.9	1172.984	4.2	10.6
2	7572.365	1.6	3.6	1074.685	-0.3	5.4	1778.254	13.9	11.6	1207.938	12.5	10.8
3	7667.795	5.1	3.6	1118.258	17.2	5.5	1816.148	8.8	9.4	1245.319	13.0	10.1
4	7746.982	4.2	3.8	1128.954	3.9	5.5	1861.934	10.5	9.4	1288.257	14.5	11.0
2005 1	7814.241	3.5	3.6	1129.006	0.0	5.0	1884.936	5.0	9.5	1303.005	4.7	11.1

Interest Rates



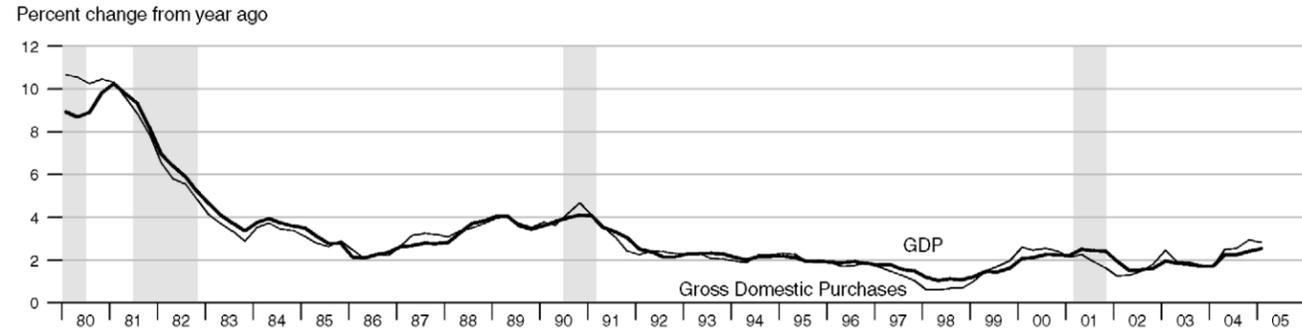
Treasury Yield Curve



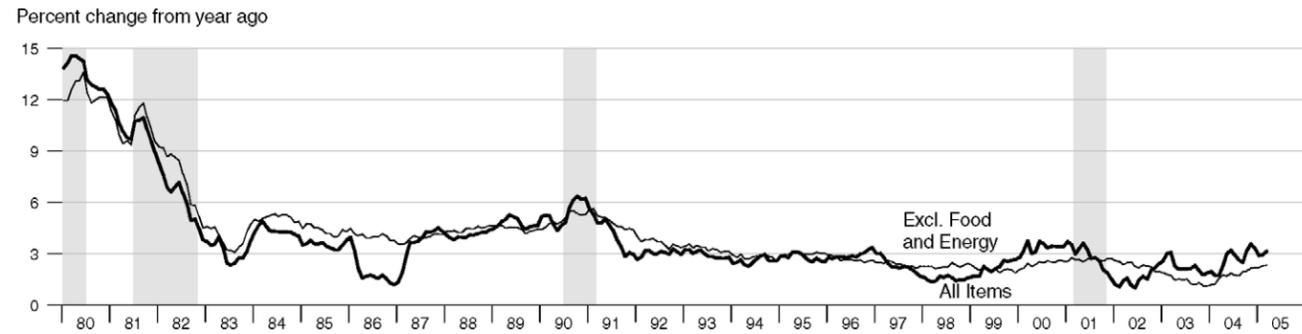
Standard and Poor's 500 Index with Reinvested Dividends



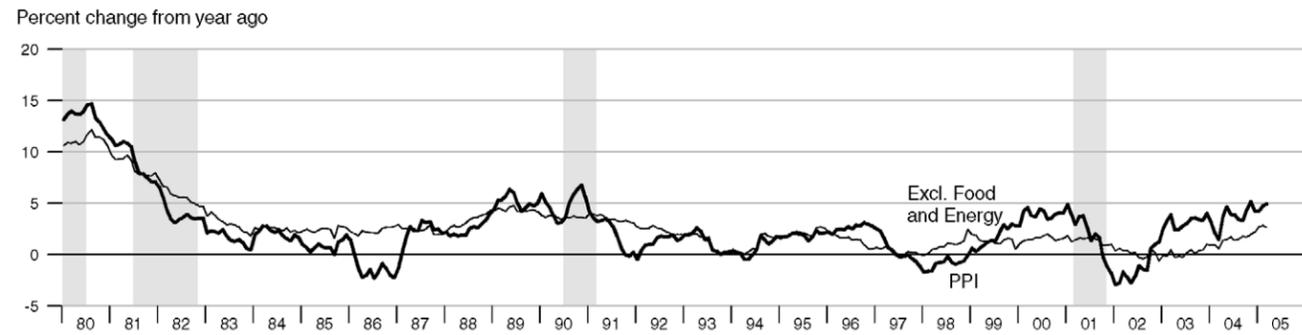
NIPA Chain Price Indexes



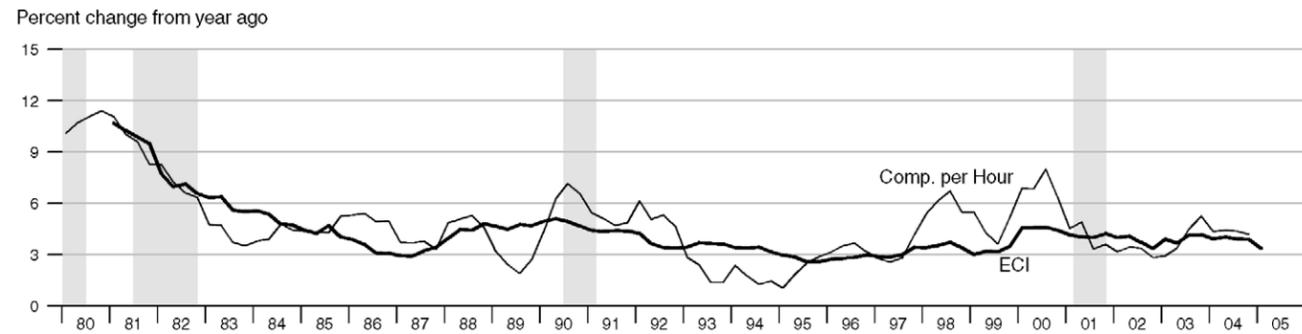
Consumer Price Index



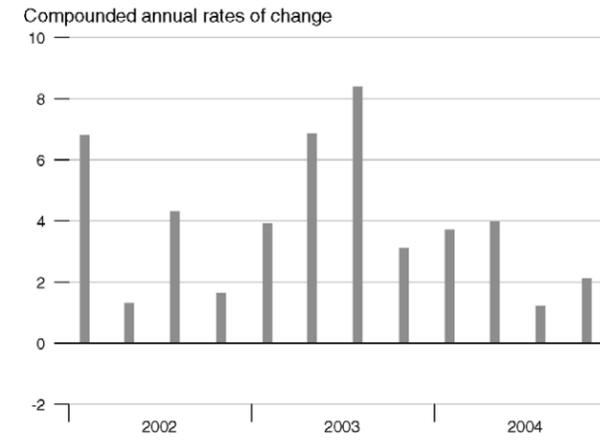
Producer Price Index, Finished Goods



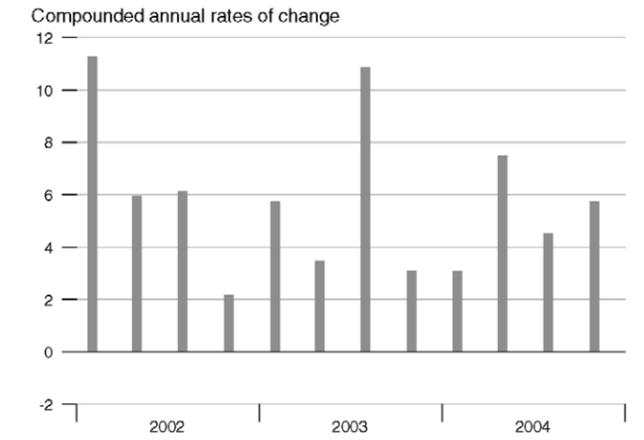
Employment Cost Index and Compensation per Hour



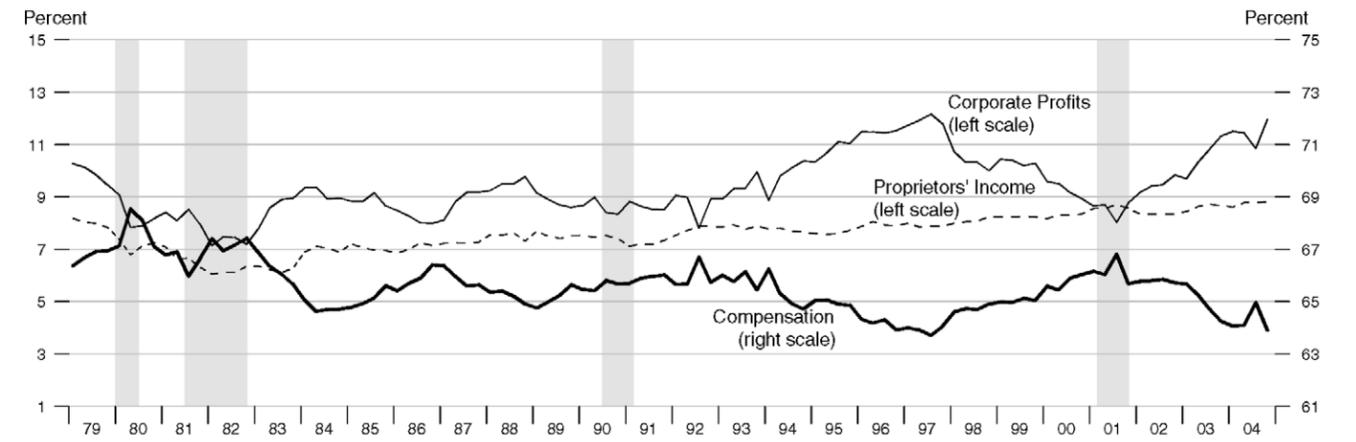
Nonfarm Output per Hour



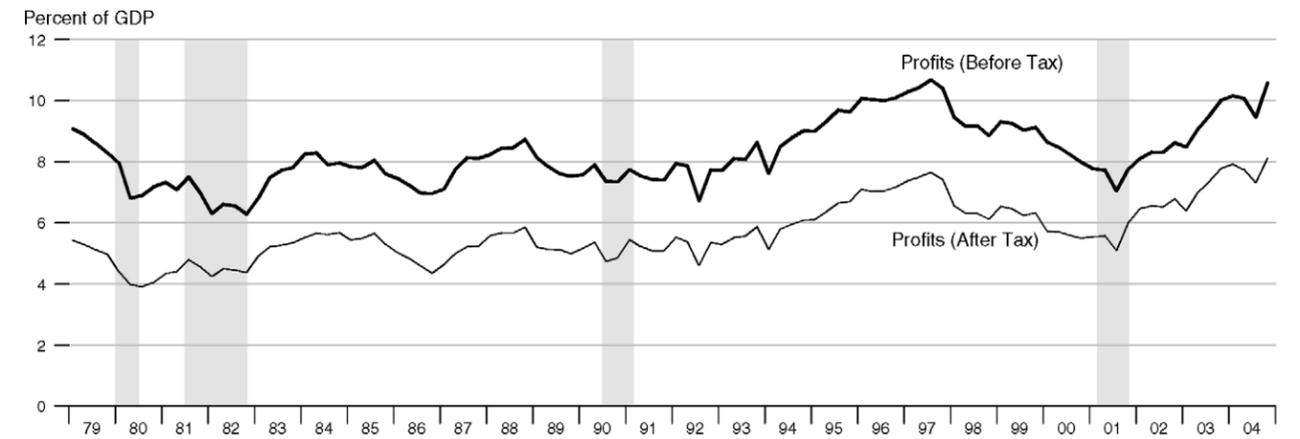
Manufacturing Output per Hour



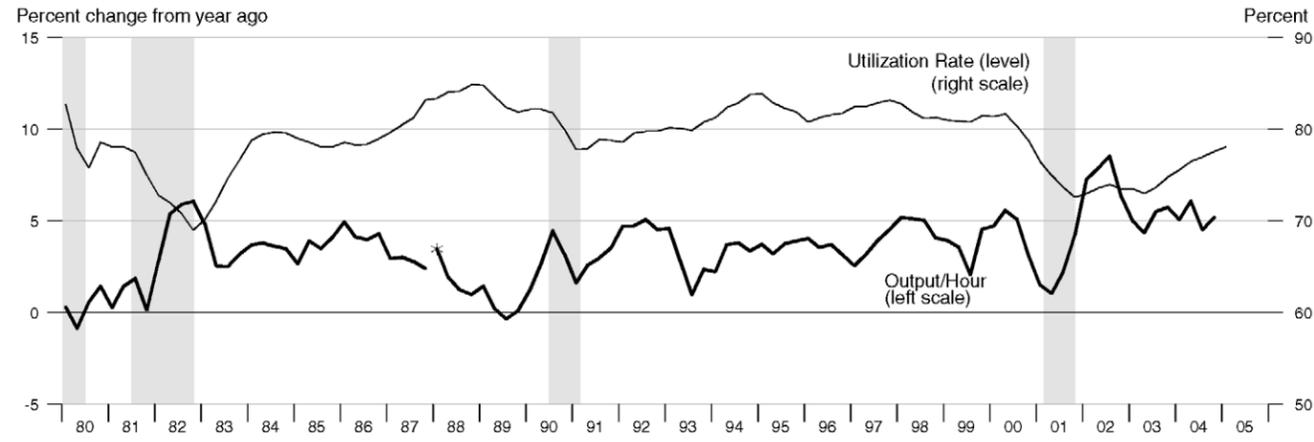
Selected Component Shares of National Income



Corporate Profits

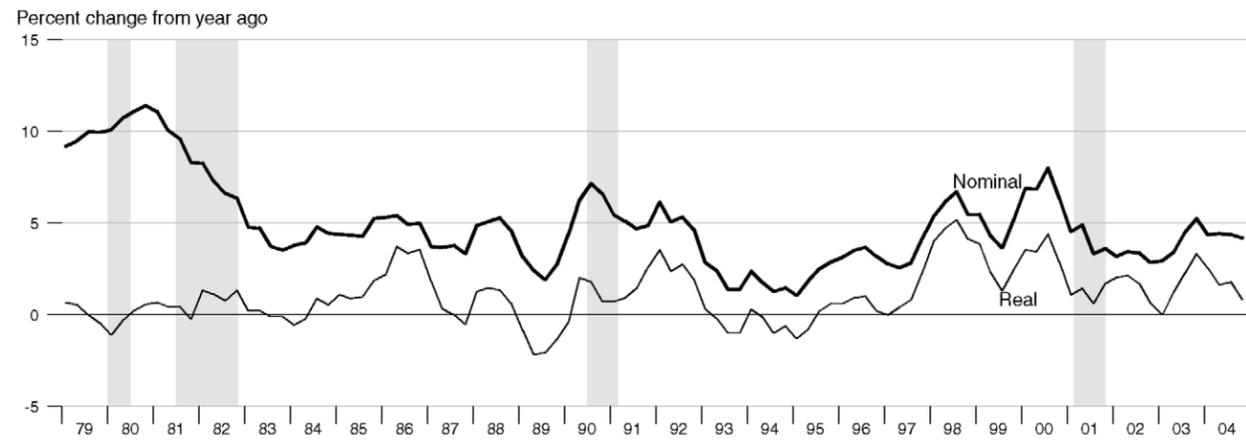


Output per Hour and Capacity Utilization, Manufacturing

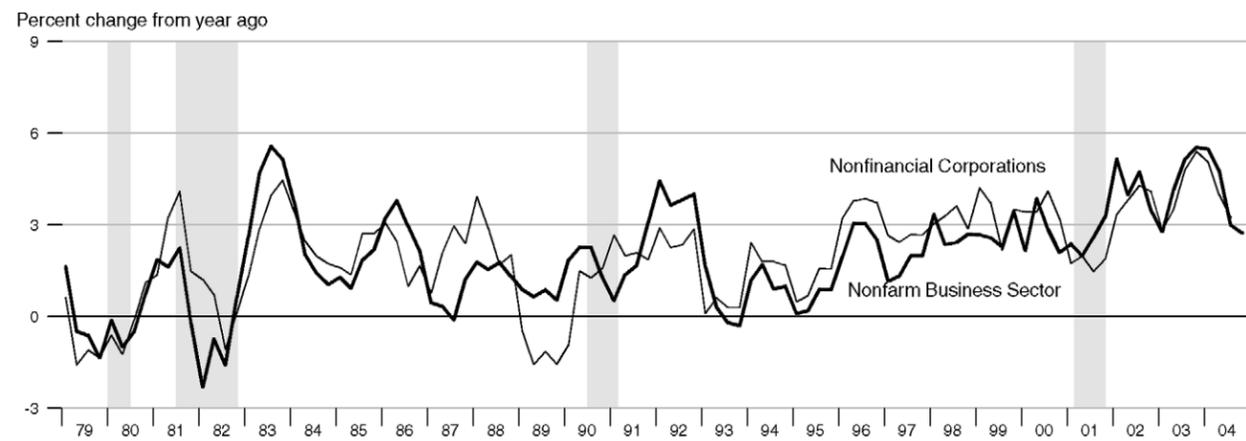


*Data from 1987 to the present are on a NAICS basis; data prior to 1987 are on an SIC basis and are not strictly comparable (see End Note).

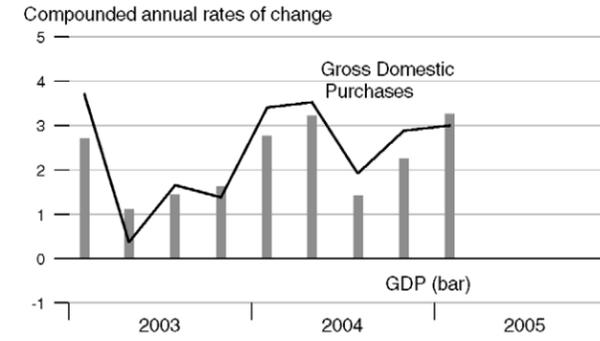
Nonfarm Compensation per Hour



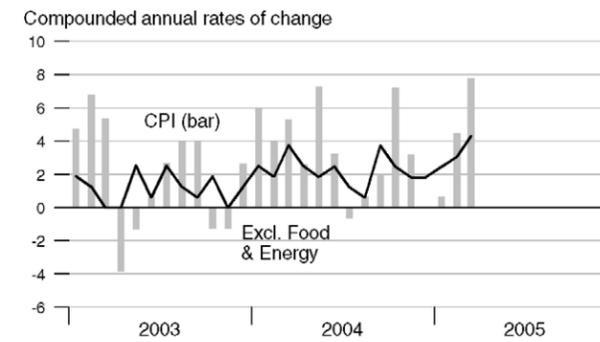
Output per Hour, Nonfarm Business and Nonfinancial Corporations



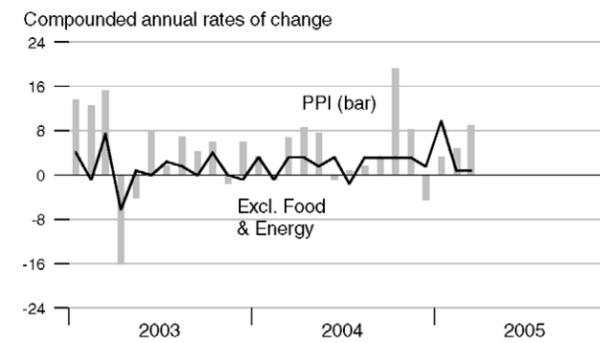
NIPA Chain Price Indexes



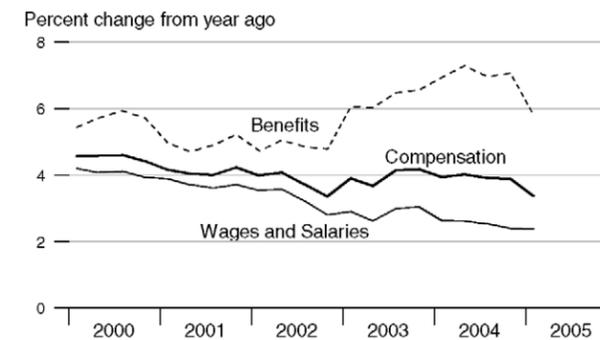
Consumer Price Index



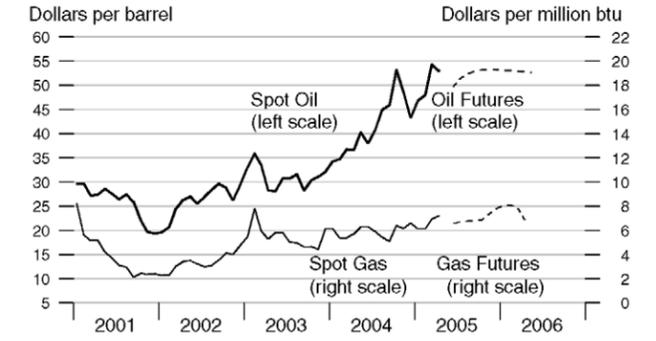
Producer Price Index, Finished Goods



Employment Cost Index

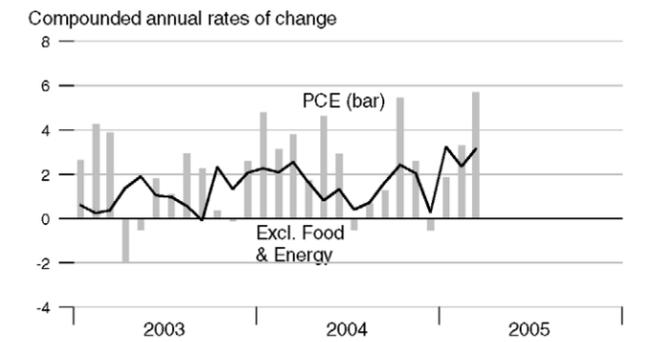


Oil & Natural Gas Prices: Spot & Futures

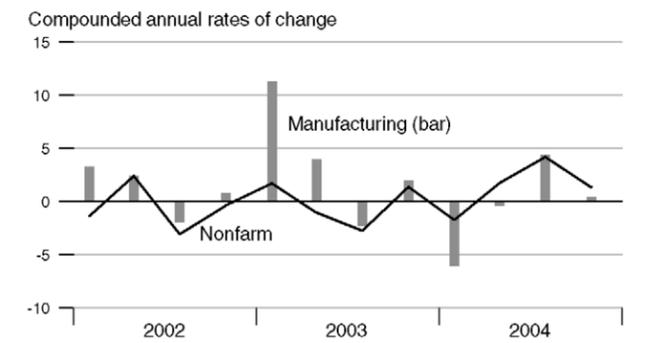


Note: Futures prices as of 04/29/2005.

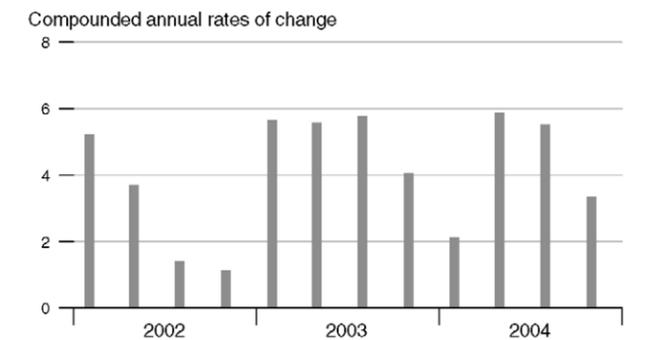
Consumption Chain Price Index



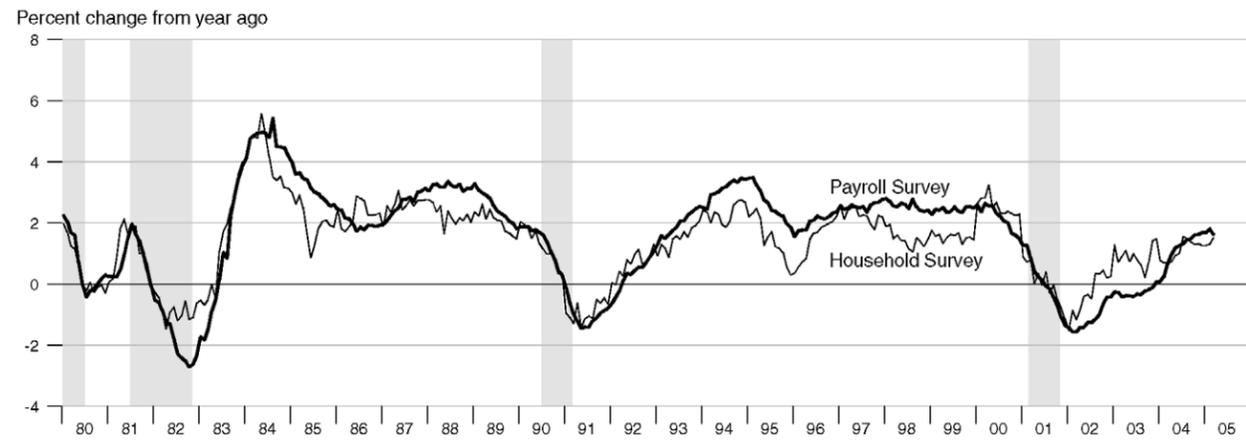
Unit Labor Cost



Compensation per Hour

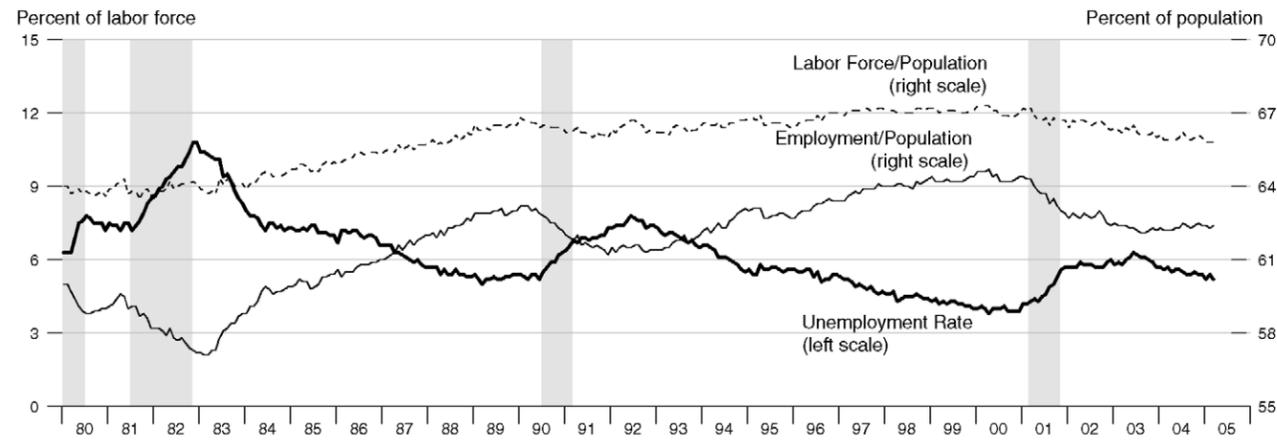


Employment

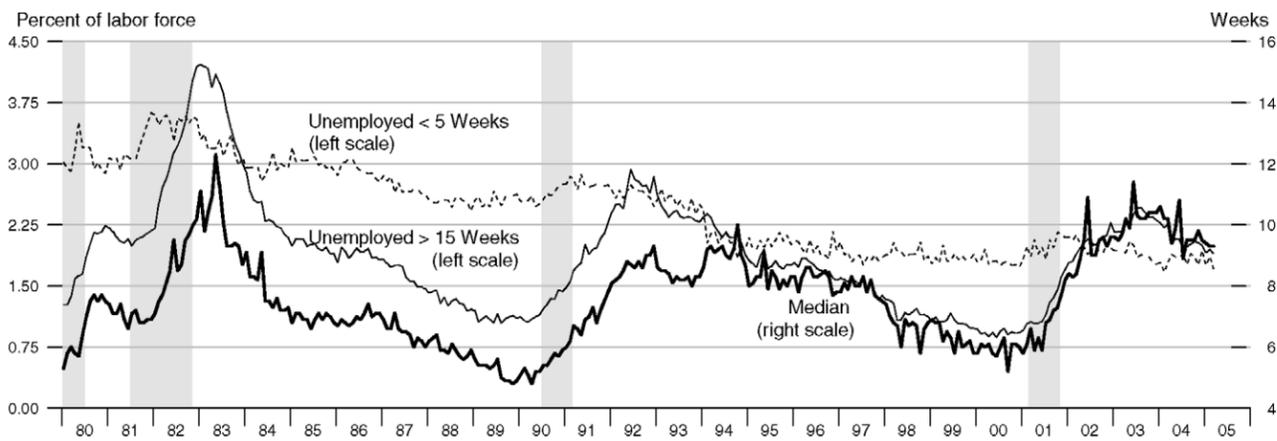


See the Notes section at the end of this publication for the Feb. 7, 2003, revisions to the Household Survey, and the June 6, 2003, revisions to the Establishment Survey.

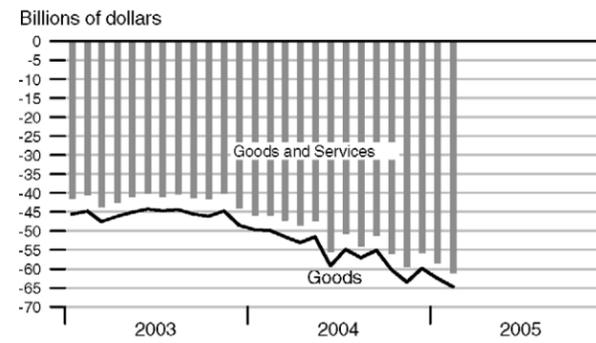
Unemployment, Labor Force Participation, and Employment Rates



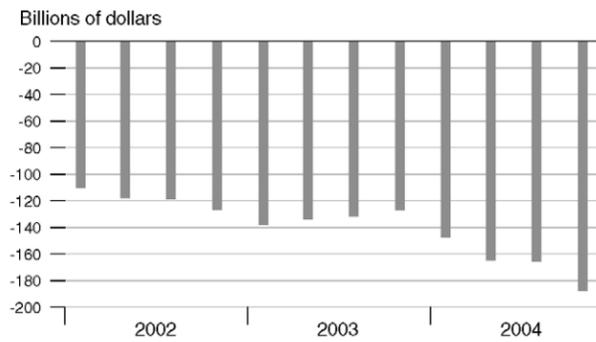
Duration of Unemployment



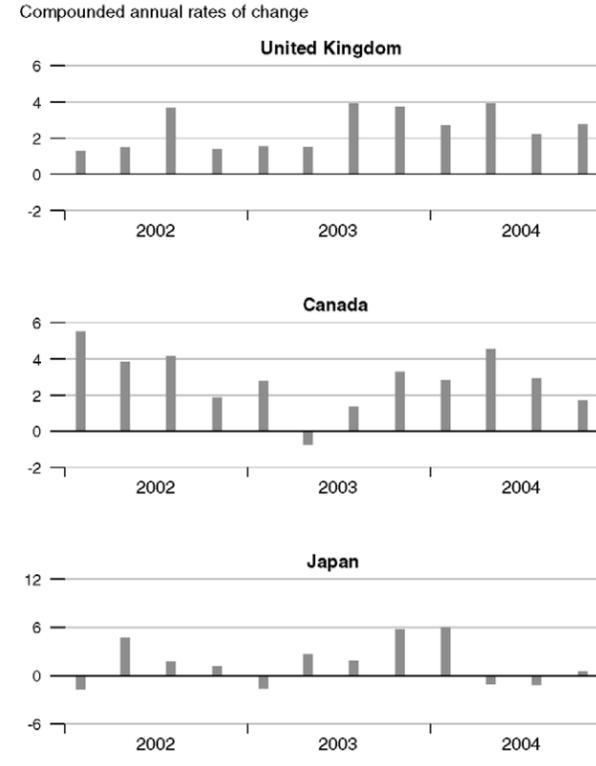
Trade Balance



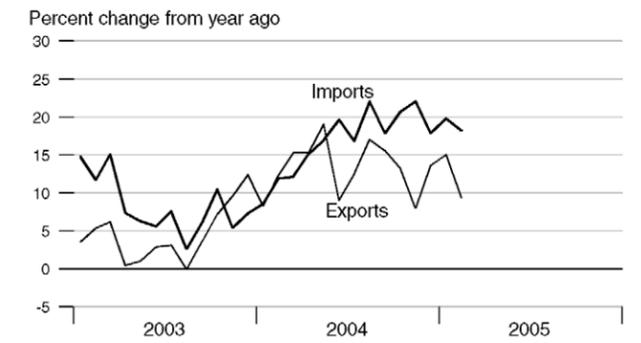
Current Account Balance



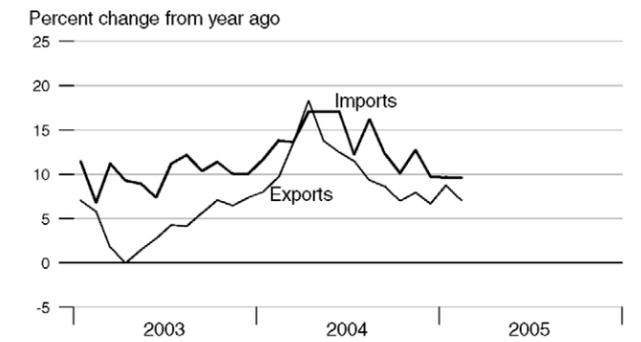
Real GDP Growth of Major Trading Partners



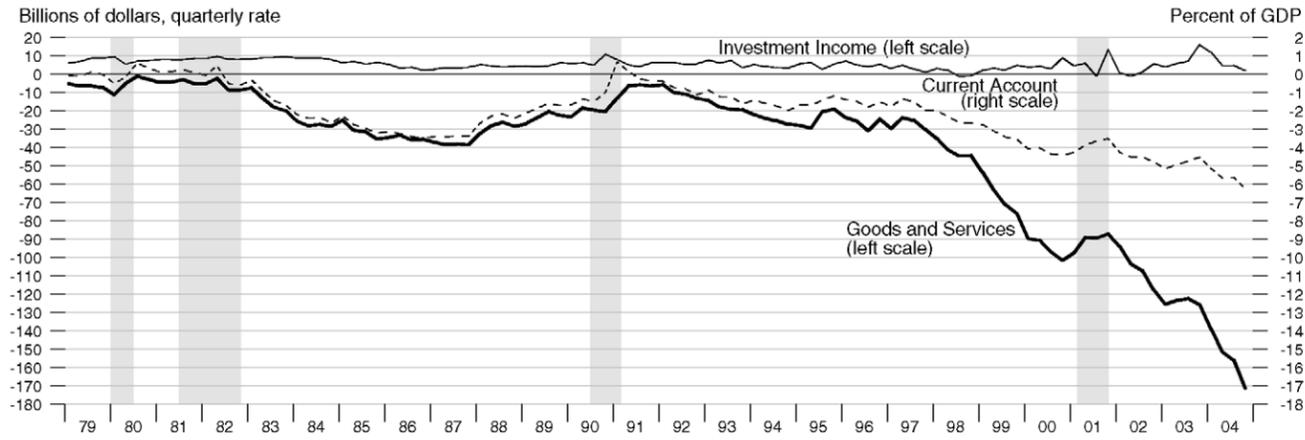
Goods Trade



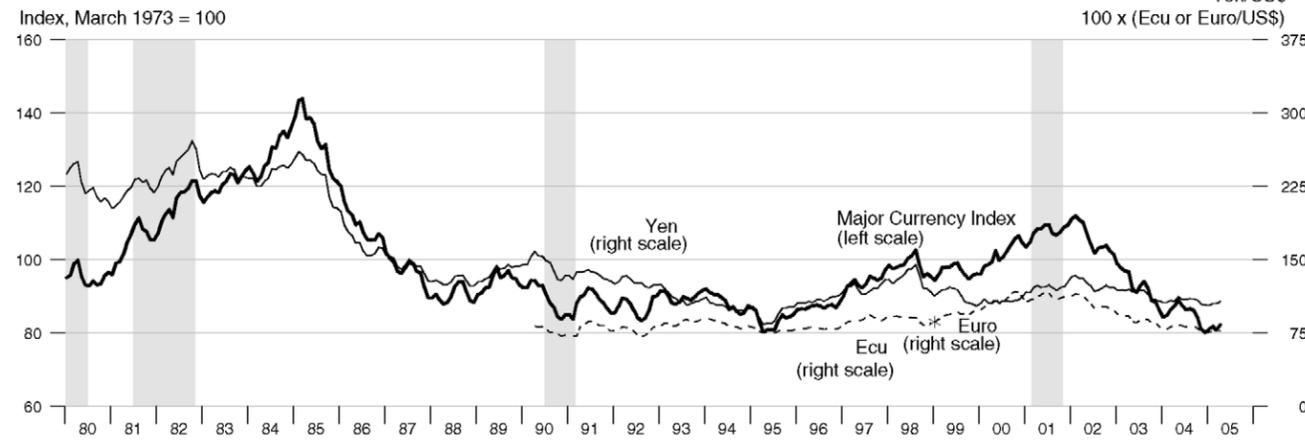
Services Trade



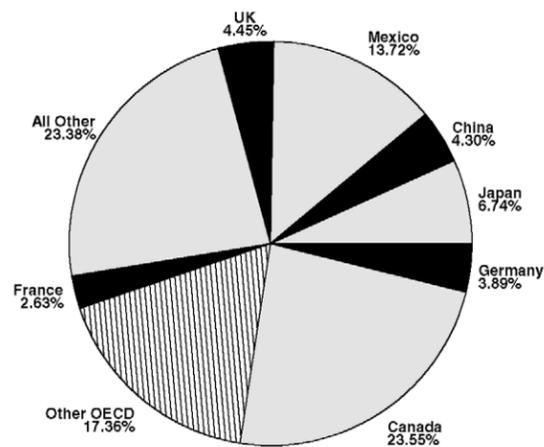
Current Account, Trade and Investment Income Balances



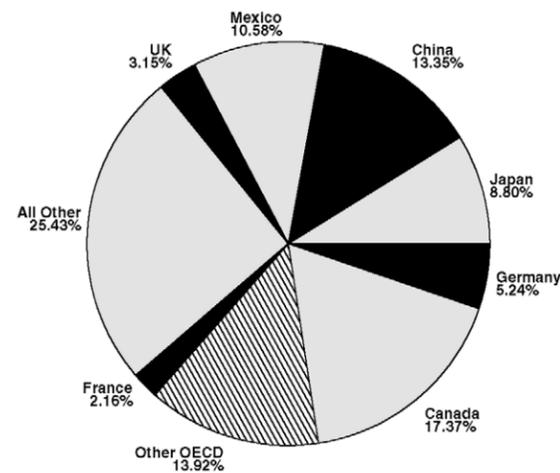
Exchange Rates



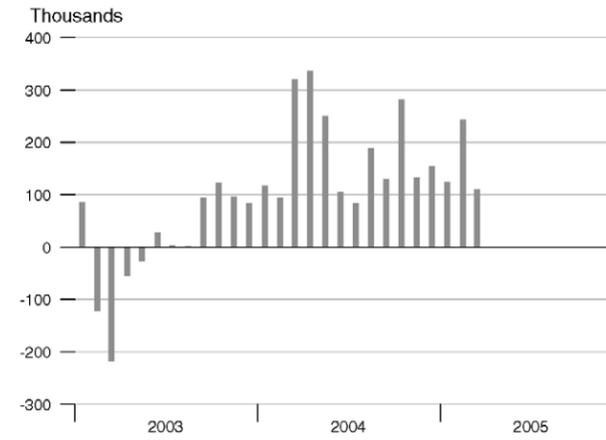
Goods Export Shares, 2004



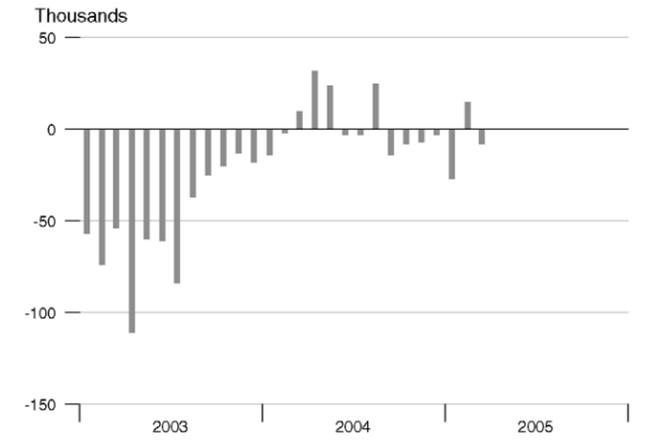
Goods Import Shares, 2004



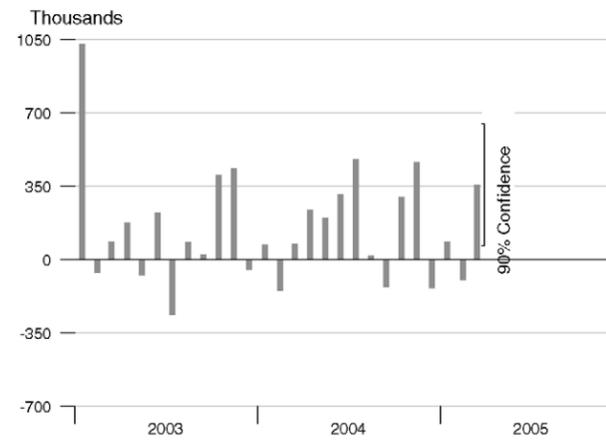
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls



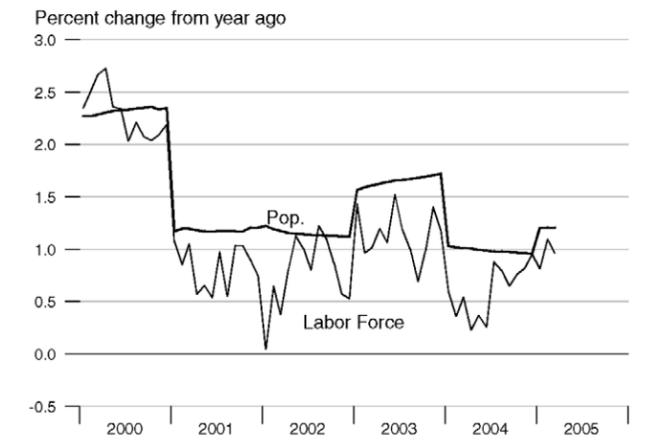
Change in Manufacturing Payrolls



Change in Household Employment



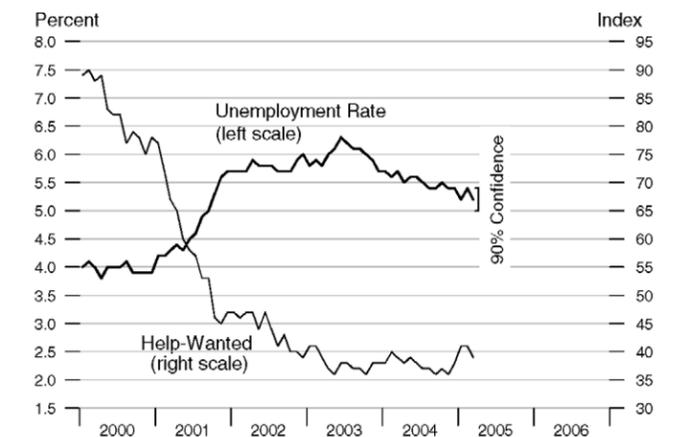
Labor Force and Population



Available Labor Supply and Components

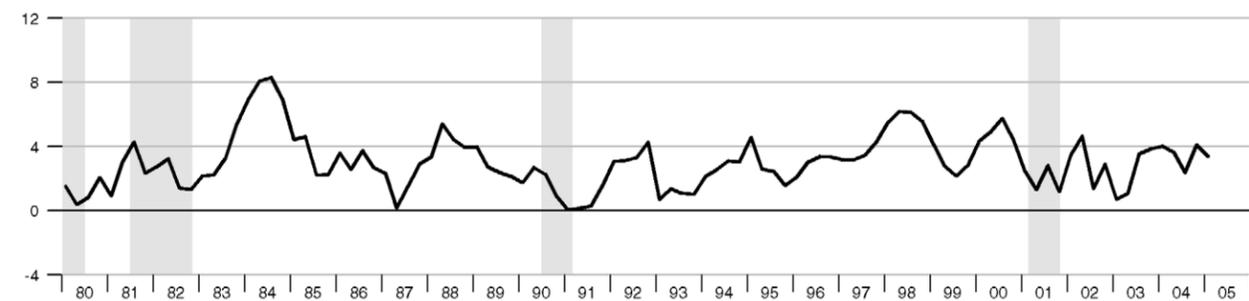


Unemployment Rate & Help-Wanted Index



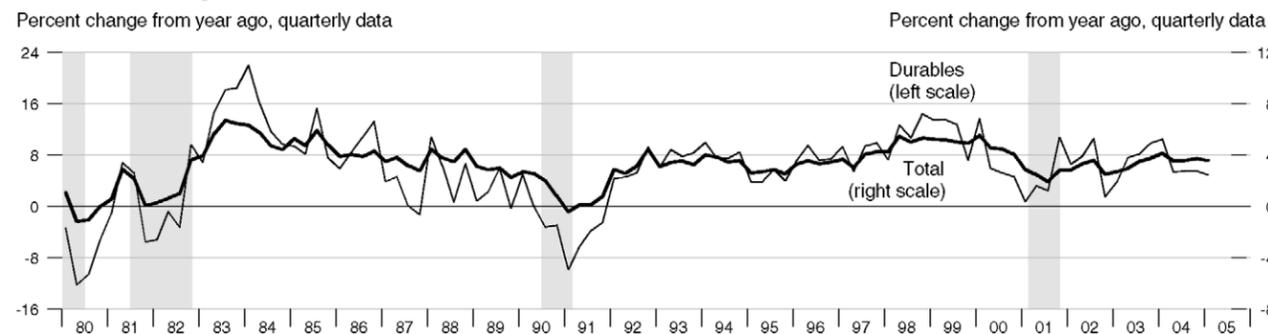
Real Disposable Personal Income

Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



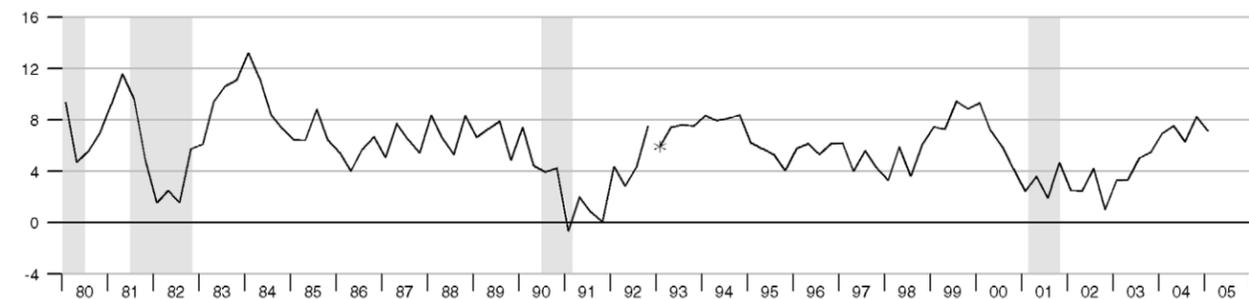
Real Consumption

Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



Retail and Food Services Sales

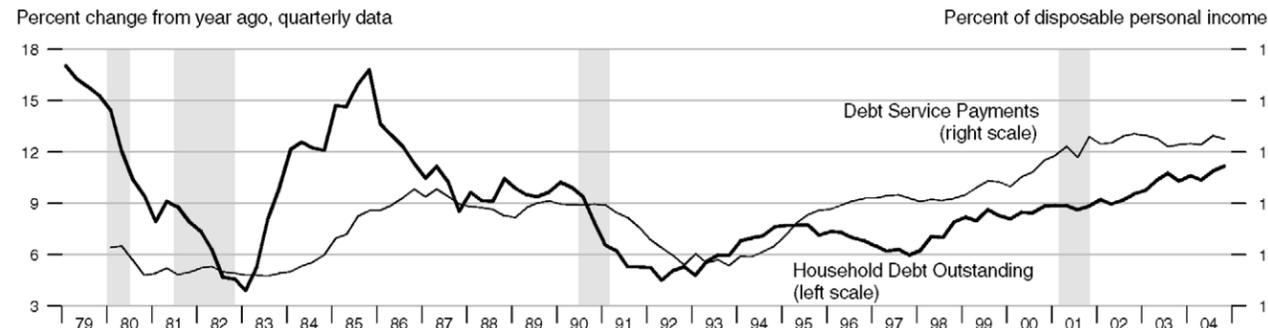
Percent change from year ago, quarterly average



*Data from Jan. 1992 to the present are on a NAICS basis; data prior to Jan. 1992 are on an SIC basis and are not strictly comparable (see End Note).

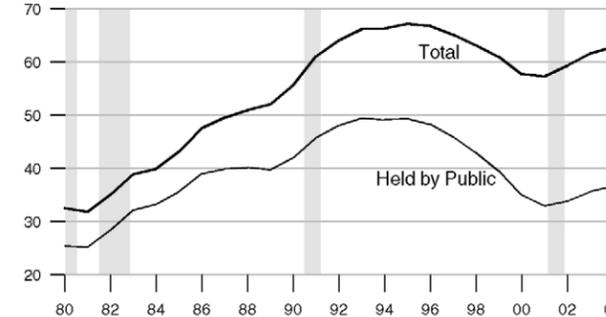
Debt Service Payments and Household Debt Outstanding

Percent change from year ago, quarterly data



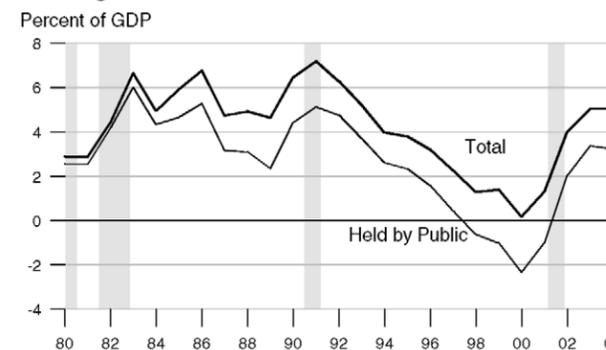
Federal Debt

Percent of GDP



Change in Federal Debt

Percent of GDP



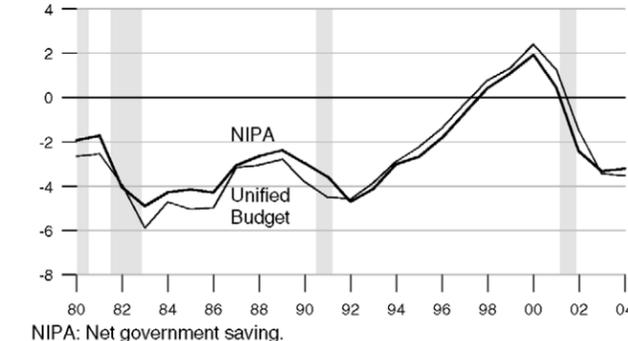
Federal Government Debt

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

		Total Public Debt	Held by Agencies and Trusts	Held by Public		Held by Private Investors	
				Total	Federal Reserve Banks	Total	Foreign and International
2002		6228.2	2675.7	3552.6	604.2	2924.8	1200.8
2003		6783.2	2859.3	3923.9	656.1	3268.0	1455.8
2004		7379.1	3075.7	4303.4	700.3	3607.0	1886.2
2001	March	5773.7	2339.4	3434.4	523.9	2892.8	1029.9
	June	5726.8	2452.6	3274.2	535.1	2722.6	1000.5
	September	5807.5	2468.8	3338.7	534.1	2779.7	1005.5
	December	5943.4	2549.7	3393.8	551.7	2819.5	1051.2
2002	March	6006.0	2562.4	3443.7	575.4	2849.2	1067.1
	June	6126.5	2662.9	3463.5	590.7	2849.8	1135.4
	September	6228.2	2675.7	3552.6	604.2	2924.8	1200.8
	December	6405.7	2758.3	3647.4	629.4	3018.5	1246.8
2003	March	6460.8	2750.0	3710.8	641.5	3069.9	1285.9
	June	6670.1	2853.8	3816.3	652.1	3164.7	1388.8
	September	6783.2	2859.3	3923.9	656.1	3268.0	1455.8
	December	6998.0	2954.5	4044.1	666.7	3377.9	1535.6
2004	March	7131.1	2954.4	4176.7	674.1	3502.8	1680.8
	June	7274.3	3055.6	4218.7	687.4	3531.5	1828.3
	September	7379.1	3075.7	4303.4	700.3	3607.0	1886.2
	December	7596.1	3189.1	4407.1	717.8	3667.1	1942.0

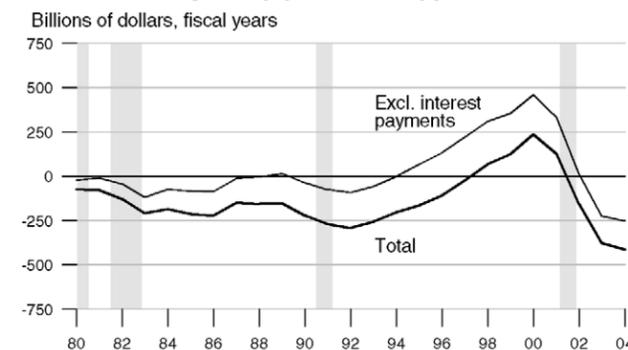
Federal Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)

Percent of GDP

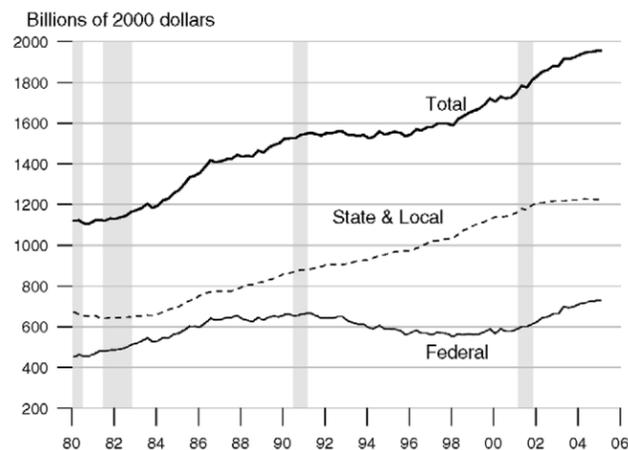


Federal Surplus (+) / Deficit (-), Unified Basis

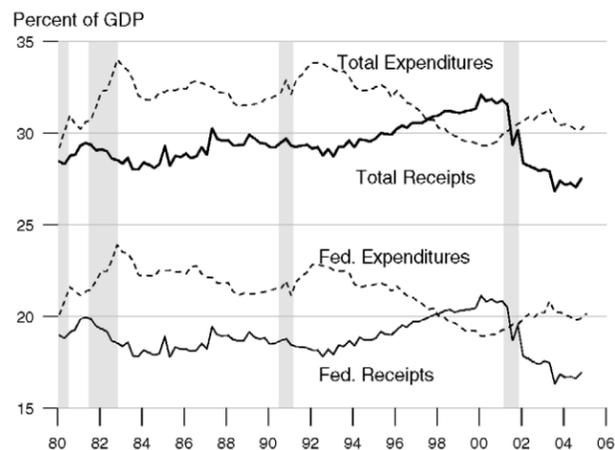
Billions of dollars, fiscal years



Govt. Consumption and Investment



Govt. Current Receipts and Expenditures

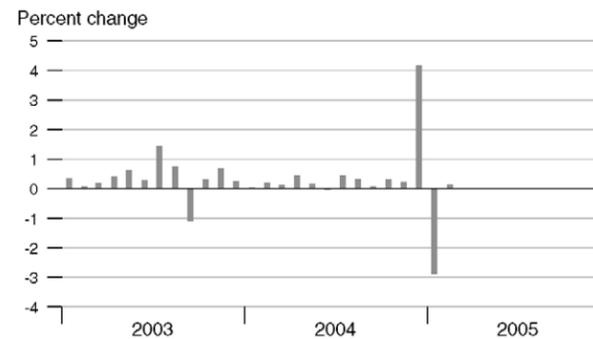


Government Budgets

Billions of dollars

	National Income Accounts Calendar Years			Unified Budget Fiscal Years					
	State and Local	Federal		Federal					
	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit (-)	Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus or Deficit (-)	Receipts	Outlays	Surplus or Deficit (-)
1991	789.2	793.3	-4.1	1101.3	1315.0	-213.7	1055.0	1324.3	-269.3
1992	845.7	845.0	0.7	1147.2	1444.6	-297.4	1091.3	1381.6	-290.3
1993	886.9	886.0	0.9	1222.5	1496.0	-273.5	1154.4	1409.5	-255.1
1994	942.9	932.4	10.5	1320.8	1533.1	-212.3	1258.6	1461.9	-203.2
1995	990.2	978.2	12.0	1406.5	1603.5	-197.0	1351.8	1515.8	-164.0
1996	1043.3	1017.5	25.8	1524.0	1665.8	-141.8	1453.1	1560.5	-107.5
1997	1097.4	1058.3	39.1	1653.1	1708.9	-55.8	1579.3	1601.2	-21.9
1998	1163.2	1111.2	52.0	1773.8	1734.9	38.9	1721.8	1652.6	69.2
1999	1236.7	1186.3	50.4	1891.2	1787.6	103.6	1827.5	1701.9	125.5
2000	1319.5	1269.5	50.0	2053.8	1864.4	189.4	2025.2	1789.1	236.2
2001	1373.0	1368.2	4.8	2016.2	1969.5	46.7	1991.2	1863.0	128.2
2002	1411.9	1436.9	-25.0	1847.3	2101.8	-254.5	1853.2	2011.0	-157.8
2003	1494.9	1498.1	-3.2	1877.0	2241.6	-364.6	1782.3	2159.9	-377.6
2004	1585.3	1567.8	17.5	1965.7	2341.2	-375.5	1880.1	2292.2	-412.1
2003Q1	1437.7	1486.6	-48.9	1888.6	2170.2	-281.6	397.7	542.6	-144.9
2003Q2	1484.6	1490.2	-5.6	1902.5	2266.9	-364.4	527.6	544.2	-16.6
2003Q3	1511.4	1504.9	6.5	1816.4	2249.4	-433.0	429.4	536.9	-107.4
2003Q4	1545.8	1510.5	35.3	1900.6	2279.8	-379.2	440.8	570.9	-130.2
2004Q1	1550.6	1538.8	11.8	1915.3	2306.3	-391.0	409.6	580.8	-171.2
2004Q2	1583.9	1565.7	18.2	1949.1	2329.1	-380.0	549.9	575.7	-25.8
2004Q3	1574.7	1570.2	4.5	1965.8	2340.8	-375.0	479.5	565.2	-85.7
2004Q4	1632.0	1596.4	35.6	2032.5	2388.7	-356.2	487.2	605.2	-118.1
2005Q1		1625.6			2454.4		451.8	628.4	-176.6

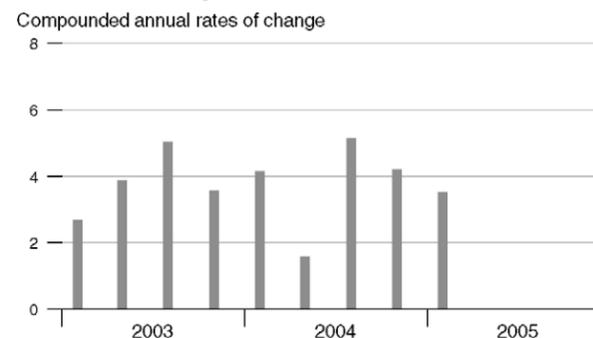
Real Disposable Personal Income



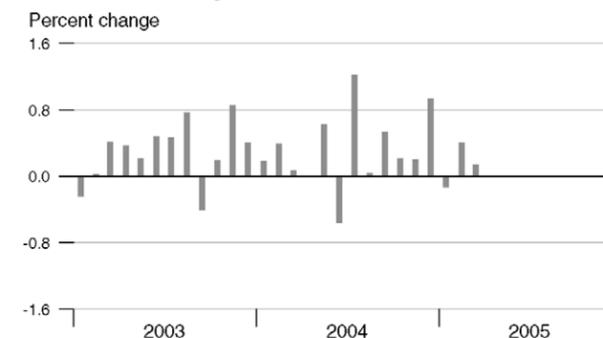
Personal Saving Rate



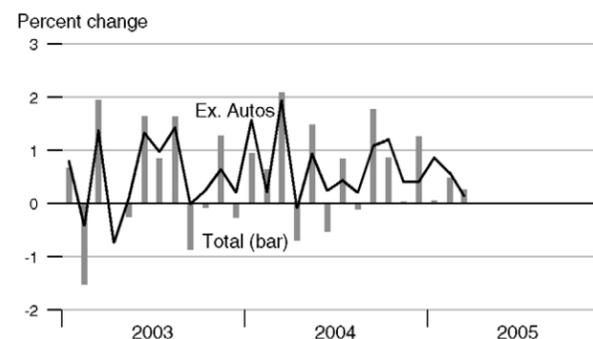
Real Consumption



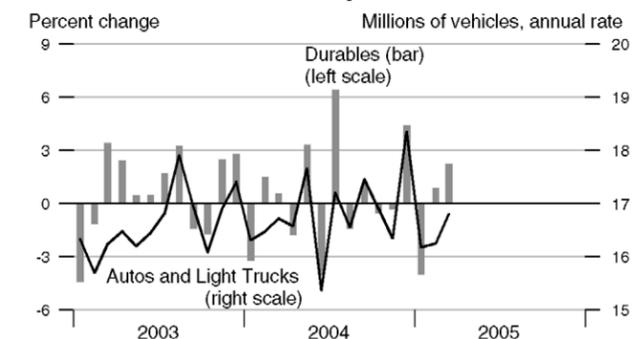
Real Consumption



Retail & Food Services



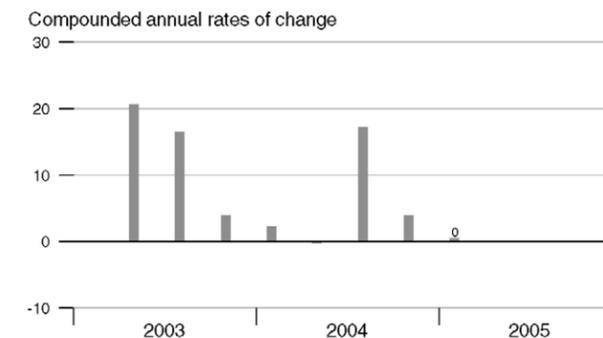
Real Durables Consumption & Vehicle Sales



Consumer Sentiment (U. of Michigan)

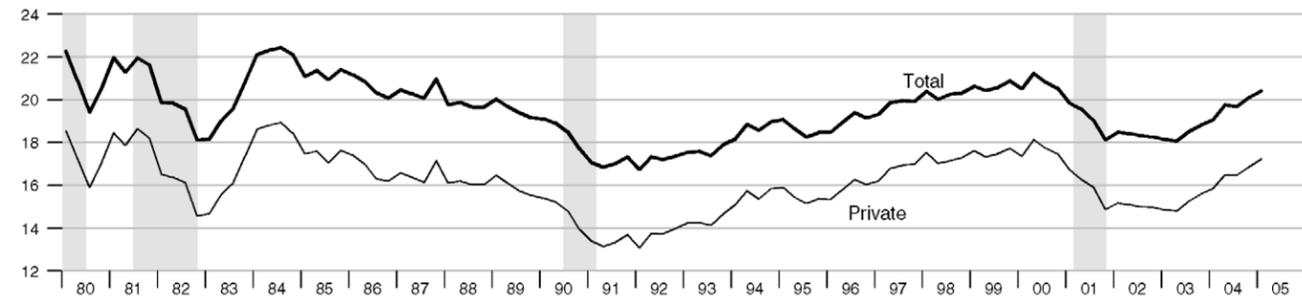


Real Durables Consumption



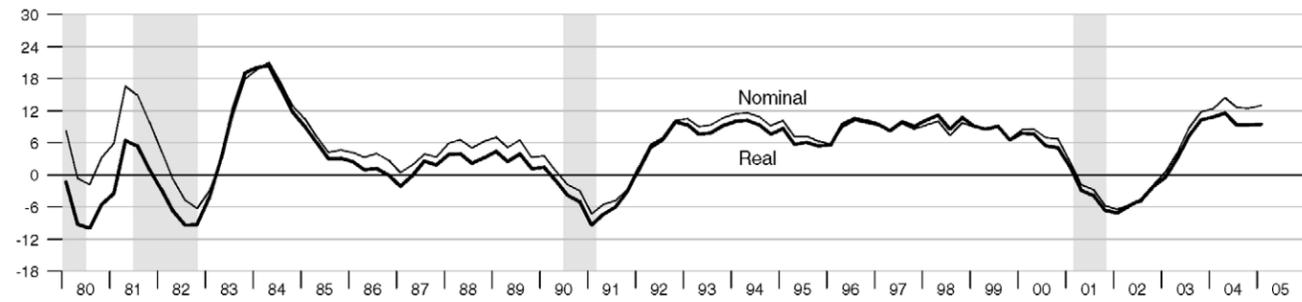
Investment

Percent of nominal GDP



Private Fixed Investment

Percent change from year ago



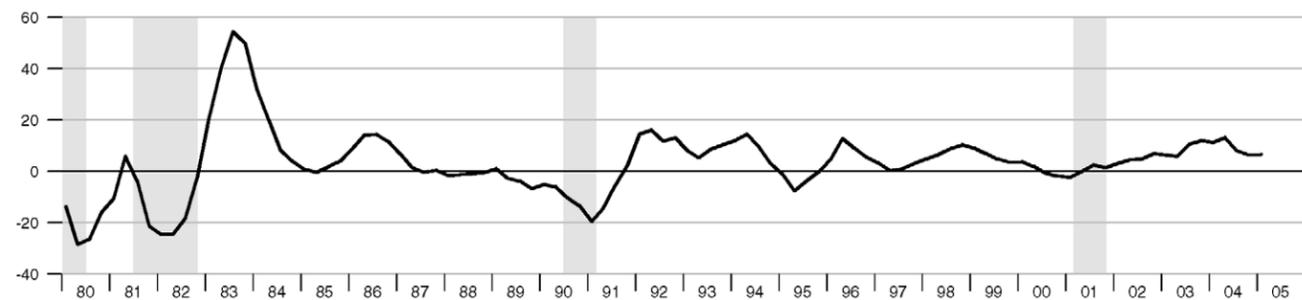
Real Nonresidential Fixed and Equipment & Software Investment

Percent change from year ago



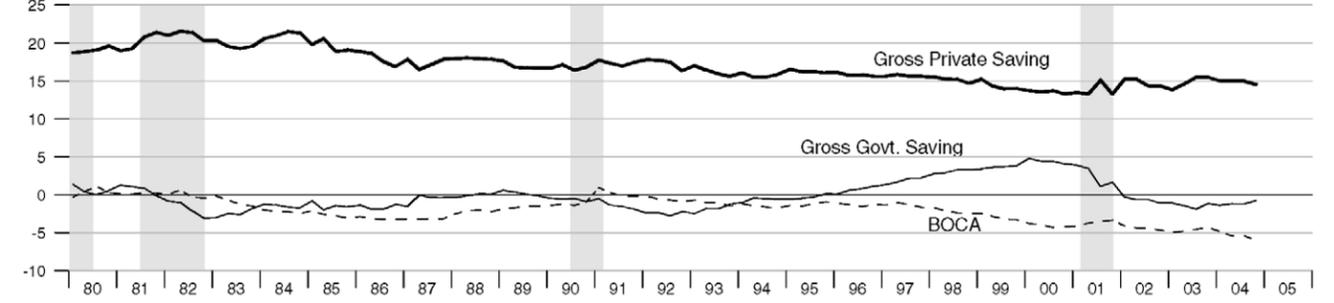
Real Residential Fixed Investment

Percent change from year ago



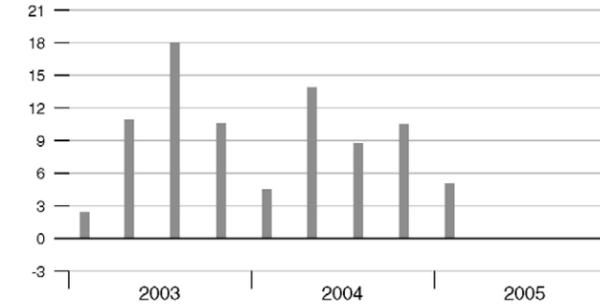
Gross Saving Rates and Balance on Current Account (NIPA)

Percent of GDP



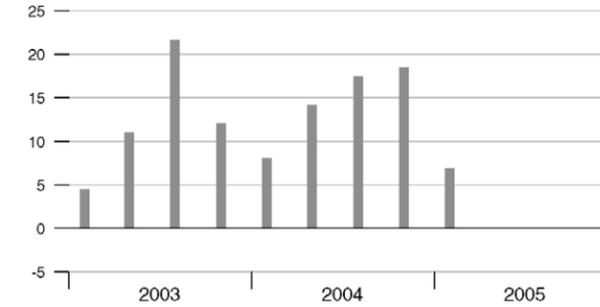
Real Private Fixed Investment

Compounded annual rates of change



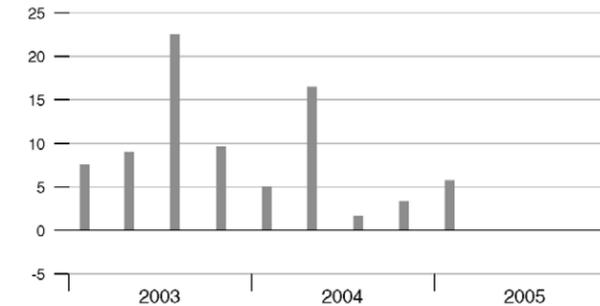
Real Equipment & Software Investment

Compounded annual rates of change



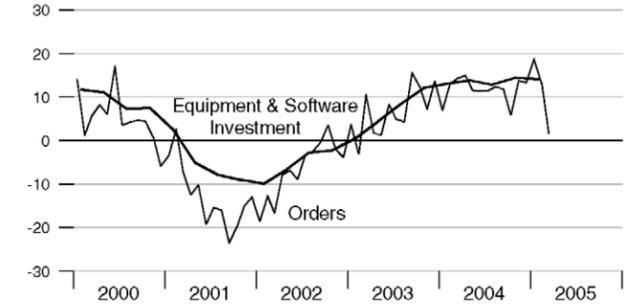
Real Residential Fixed Investment

Compounded annual rates of change



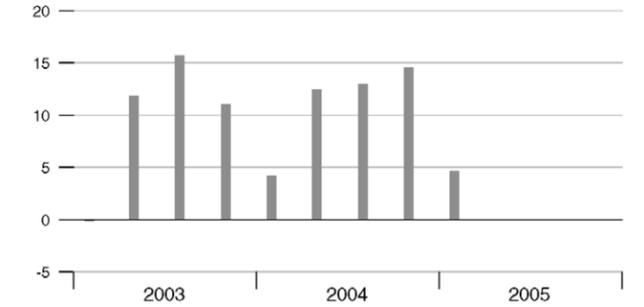
Nondefense Capital Goods Orders

Percent change from year ago, excluding aircraft



Real Nonresidential Fixed Investment

Compounded annual rates of change



Housing Starts and New Home Sales

Millions, annual rate (left scale); Millions, annual rate (right scale)

