

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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The U.S. Economy by the Numbers – December 6, 2019

Economic Growth

- Real GDP growth in Q3 was estimated to be **2.1%**, up from 2.0% in Q2.
- CBO projects annual growth of only **1.9%** from 2019 to 2029, far lower than the **up to 6%** growth that the President had predicted.

Job Creation

- **266K** nonfarm jobs were added in November, up from **156K** in October. The three-month average is **205K**.
- The monthly average in the first 34 months of the Trump administration was about **34K less** than the last 34 months of the Obama administration.

Unemployment

- During the Obama administration, the unemployment rate was more than **cut in half** from its recession peak of **10% to only 4.7%**. It now stands at **3.5%**.

Racial Disparities

- The black unemployment rate (5.5%) is **much higher** than the white unemployment rate (3.2%). The Hispanic rate (4.2%) is also **higher** than the white rate.

Median Annual Income

- The median income of U.S. households is about **\$63K**.
- In 2018, the **top 20%** of households earned more than the rest of the country combined. The top 5% of households earned **over 20%** of aggregate income.

Wage Growth

- Median weekly earnings for full-time workers in the third quarter **rose 3.6%** over the past year, but are **only 1.8%** higher with inflation taken into account.

Minimum Wage

- The minimum wage is **\$7.25 per hour** (\$15,080 per year full-time). That's almost **\$3 less per hour** in today's dollars, accounting for inflation, than at its 1968 peak.

Federal Debt

- The total federal debt has surpassed **\$23 trillion**, with nearly \$17 trillion held by the public. By 2029, the GOP tax law will have added **\$1.9 trillion**.

Trade Deficit

- The trade deficit in goods and services was **\$628 billion** in 2018, up from \$550 billion in 2017. This is due to a trade deficit in goods and a surplus in services.
- The October trade deficit shrank to **\$47.2 billion**, suggesting the Trump administration's trade war with China was reducing trade flows, which is damaging to long-run domestic and global growth. The trade deficit for 2019 is still on track to exceed that for 2018.

Inflation

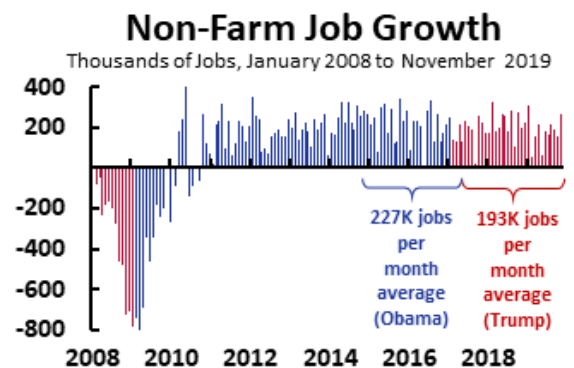
- The CPI for all items **rose 1.8%** over the last year.

Gas Prices

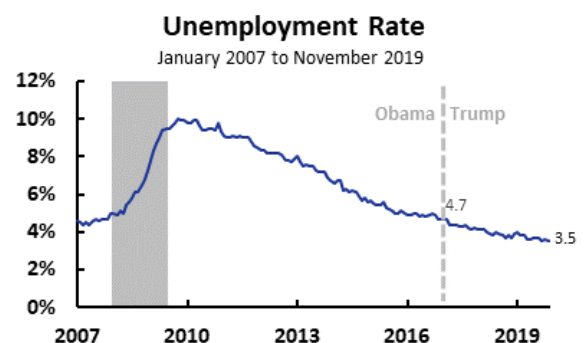
- Average gas prices nationwide in early November were **\$2.58/gallon**.

Interest Rates

- In early December, the interest rate on a 10-year Treasury note was **1.77%**. The average mortgage interest rate was **3.68%**.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Note: Numbers reflect nonfarm job growth. Averages reflect a 34 month period.



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

@JEC Dems

Next Update: January 3rd, 2020