# JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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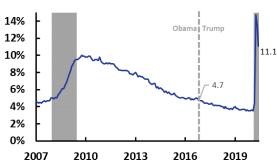
# The U.S. Economy by the Numbers – July 10, 2020

## **Unemployment rate**

- The unemployment rate fell to 11.1% in June, but remains higher than at any point during the Great Recession. It would have been about 1 percentage point higher if some workers had not been misclassified.
- The data were collected the week of June 8-12, before the recent large spike in U.S. coronavirus cases.

# **Unemployment Rate**

January 2007 to June 2020



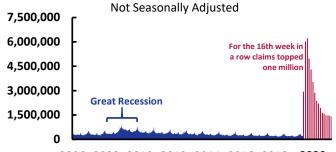
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, using the Civilian Unemployment Rate Ages 16+. Seasonally Adjusted

- The unemployment rate for Whites declined to 10.1%, for Blacks to 15.4% and for Hispanics to 14.5%. The unemployment rate for Asians (13.8%) changed little.
- The unemployment rate for women decreased to 11.2%; higher than the rate for men, which is 10.2%.

## New unemployment claims

 DOL reported 1.4 million new unemployment claims for the week ending July 4, the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive week with an extremely high number of new claims.

# Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance



Note: PUA claims are not included.
Source: Department of Labor

2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020

## **Jobs**

- Nonfarm jobs increased by 4.8 million in June, though the gains were not enough to offset substantial job losses in March and April. Since February, the economy has lost a net 14.7 million jobs.
- Although there were gains in employment in food services and drinking places and in retail, employment in these sectors remains 3.1 million and 1.3 million lower respectively than in February.

#### **Gross Domestic Product**

- Real GDP decreased at annual rate of 4.8% in Q1 2020, the largest decline since the Great Recession.
- CBO projects real GDP will fall by about 6% in 2020.

## Wages and income

- Median weekly earnings for full-time workers in the first quarter rose 5.7% from last year. However, they are only 3.6% higher with inflation taken into account.
- 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.

## 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**

 CBO forecasts the federal deficit will increase by \$2.2 trillion during the 2020 fiscal year and projects the deficit will increase by 0.6 trillion in 2021.

#### Gas prices

 Average gas prices nationwide in early July were \$2.18/gallon due to low oil prices.

#### Interest rates

• In early July, the interest rate on a 10-year Treasury note was **0.67%** and the average mortgage interest rate was **3.03%**.