# JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CONGRESSMAN DON BEYER, VICE CHAIR



## The U.S. Economy by the Numbers – August 7, 2020

#### Job growth/loss

- Nonfarm jobs increased by **1.8 million** in July but there is still a net loss of almost **13 million jobs** since February.
- Although there were gains in employment in food services and drinking places, employment in these sectors remains down by 2.6 million from February. Retail industry employment is also 913K lower than in February.

## **New Unemployment Claims**

• DOL reported nearly **1 million** new regular unemployment claims for the week ending August 1 and **656K** claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. The number of claims filed continue to exceed the worst week of the Great Recession.



## **Gross Domestic Product**

- Real GDP **decreased** at annualized rate of **32.9%** in Q2 2020, the worst decline in U.S. history.
- This reflected a sharp drop in personal consumption, including large declines in spending on healthcare, clothing and footwear and declines in investment.

## Wages and Income

- Median weekly earnings for full-time workers in the second quarter rose 10.4% from last year, 10% higher with inflation taken into account.
- The median income of U.S. households is about **\$63K**.

#### The unemployment rate

- BLS reports that the unemployment rate fell to 10.2% in July, but it still remains higher than at any point during the Great Recession. This could have been as much as 1 percentage point higher if some responses had not been misclassified.
- The unemployment rate for Whites declined to 9.2%, for Asians to 12% and for Hispanics to 12.9%. The unemployment rate for Blacks (14.6%) changed little.
- The unemployment rate for women decreased to **10.5%**; however, this remains higher than the unemployment rate for men which is **9.4%**.



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

## 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 budget deficit will rise to \$3.7 trillion in 2020 and projects the federal debt held by the public to be 101% of GDP by the end of the fiscal year.

#### Inflation

• The CPI for all items **rose by over 0.7%** over the last 12 months.

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