



The U.S. Economy by the Numbers – January 30, 2020

Economic Growth

- Real GDP growth in Q4 2019 was estimated to be **2.1%**, unchanged from Q3. **GDP growth slowed in 2019 (2.3%)** relative to 2018 (2.9%).
- CBO projects annual growth of only **1.7%** from 2021 to 2030.

Job Creation

- **145K** nonfarm jobs were added in December, down from **256K** in November. The three-month average is **184K**.
- The monthly average in the first 35 months of the Trump administration was about **36K less** than the last 35 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 (5.9%) 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 federal deficit is expected to top \$1 trillion in 2020--\$31 billion more than last year. This deficit is expected to increase. By 2029, the GOP tax law will have added **\$1.9 trillion** to the national debt.

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 November trade deficit shrank to **\$43.1 billion** despite a continuing U.S. manufacturing contraction, due in part to a shale oil boom (boosting U.S. exports) and shrinking imports—a sign of weaker demand.

Inflation

- The CPI for all items **rose 2.3%** over the last year.

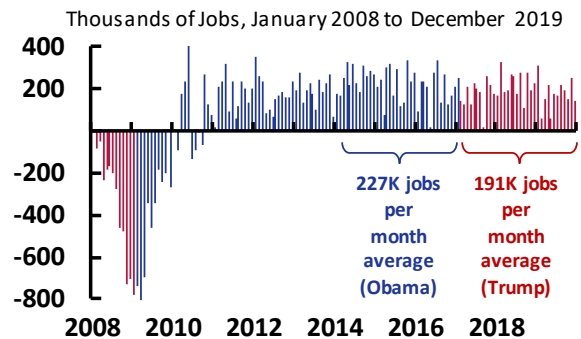
Gas Prices

- Average gas prices nationwide in late January were **\$2.49/gallon**.

Interest Rates

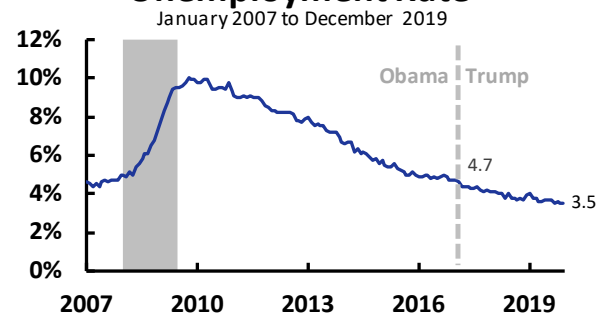
- In late January, the interest rate on a 10-year Treasury note was **1.65%**. The average mortgage interest rate was **3.51%**.

Non-Farm Job Growth



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Note: Numbers reflect nonfarm job growth. Averages reflect a 35 month period.

Unemployment Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, using the Civilian