

# Economic Outlook

**Multi Chamber Economic Outlook**  
Oakbrook, IL  
February 13, 2015

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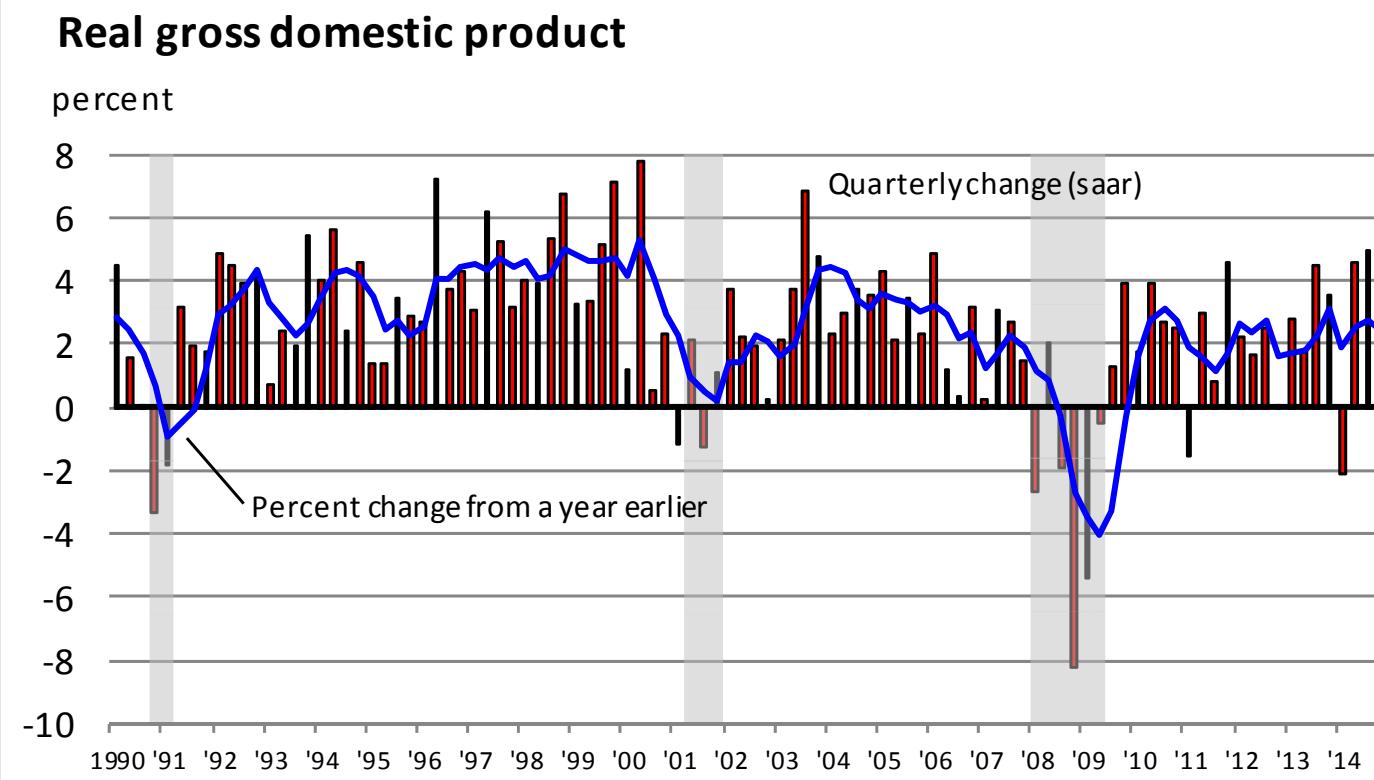


## What I said last year about 2014

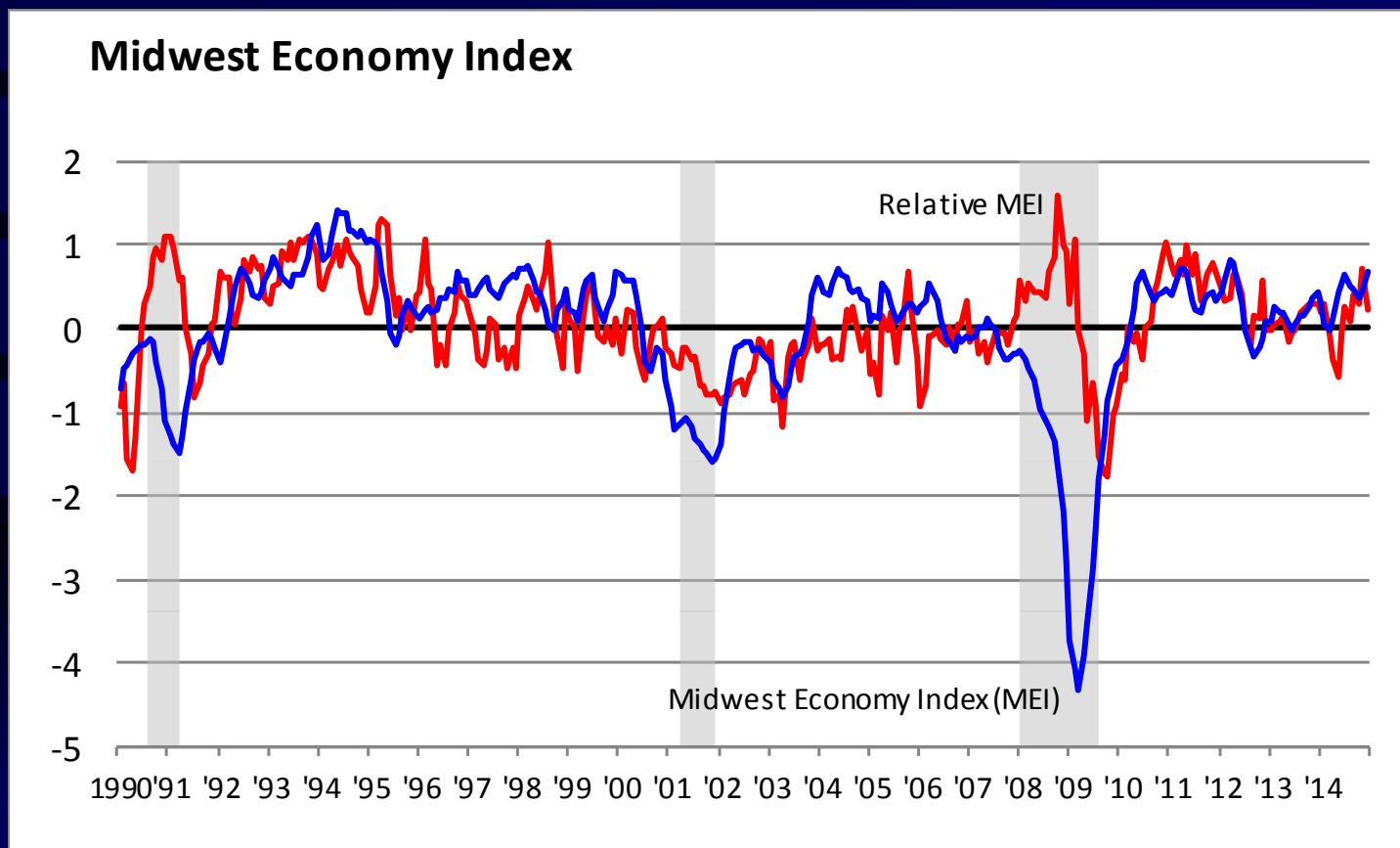
- The outlook is for the U.S. economy to expand at a pace somewhat above trend
- Employment is expected to rise moderately with the unemployment rate edging lower
- Slack in the economy will lead to a relatively contained inflation rate
- Growth in manufacturing output should be somewhat above trend



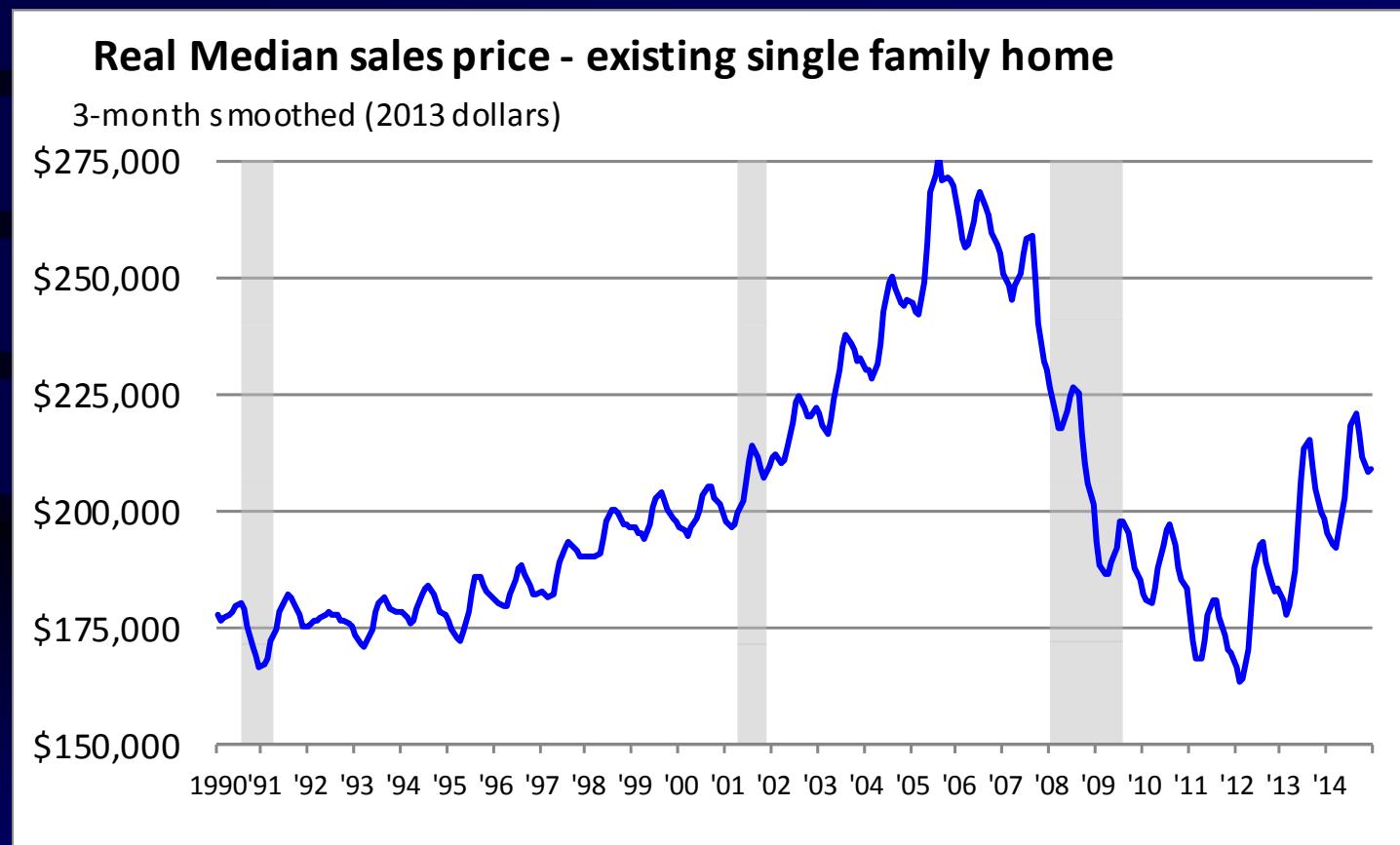
The “Great Recession” ended in June 2009 and  
GDP expanded by 2.5% last year



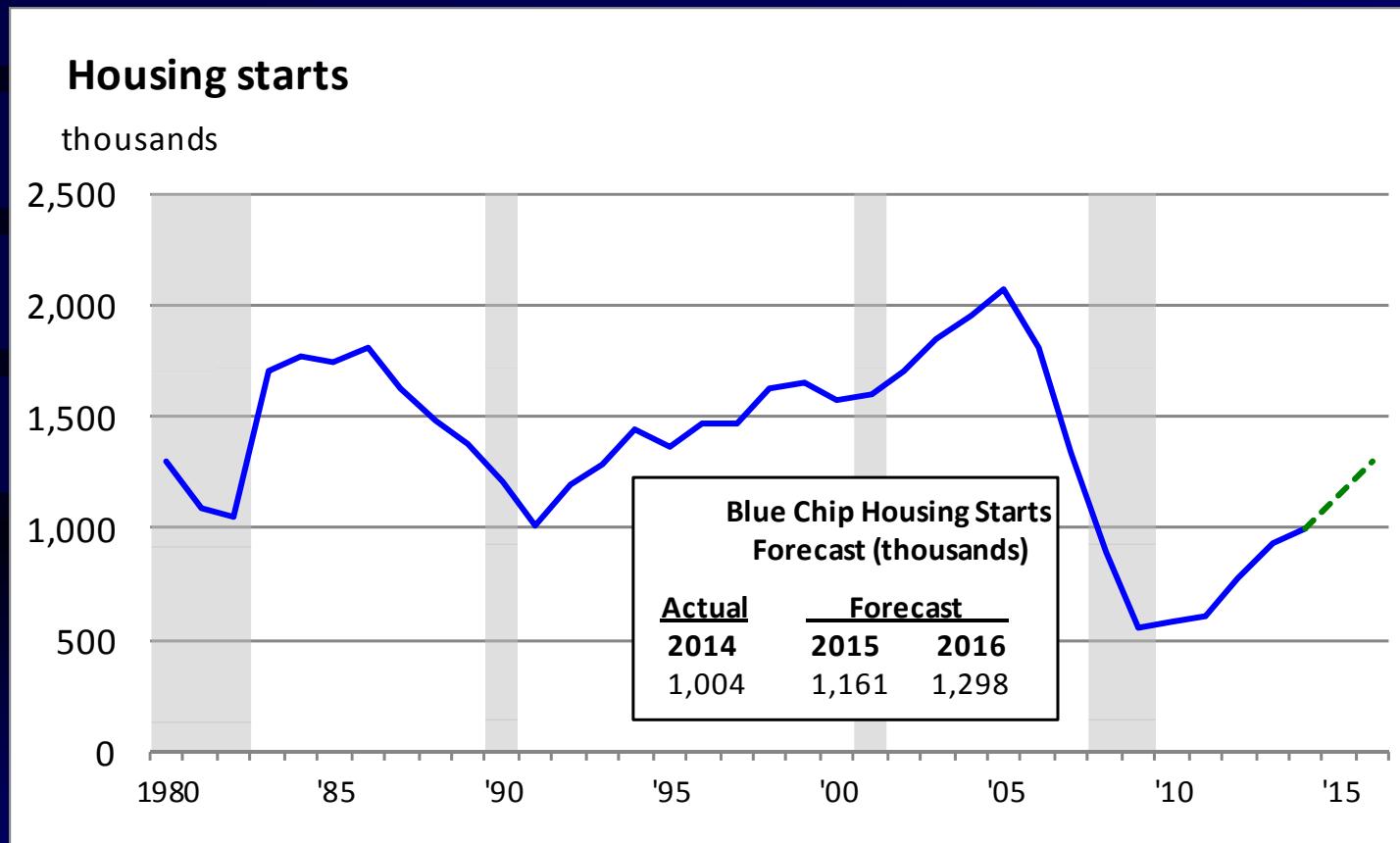
The “Midwest” economy has performed well over the past year



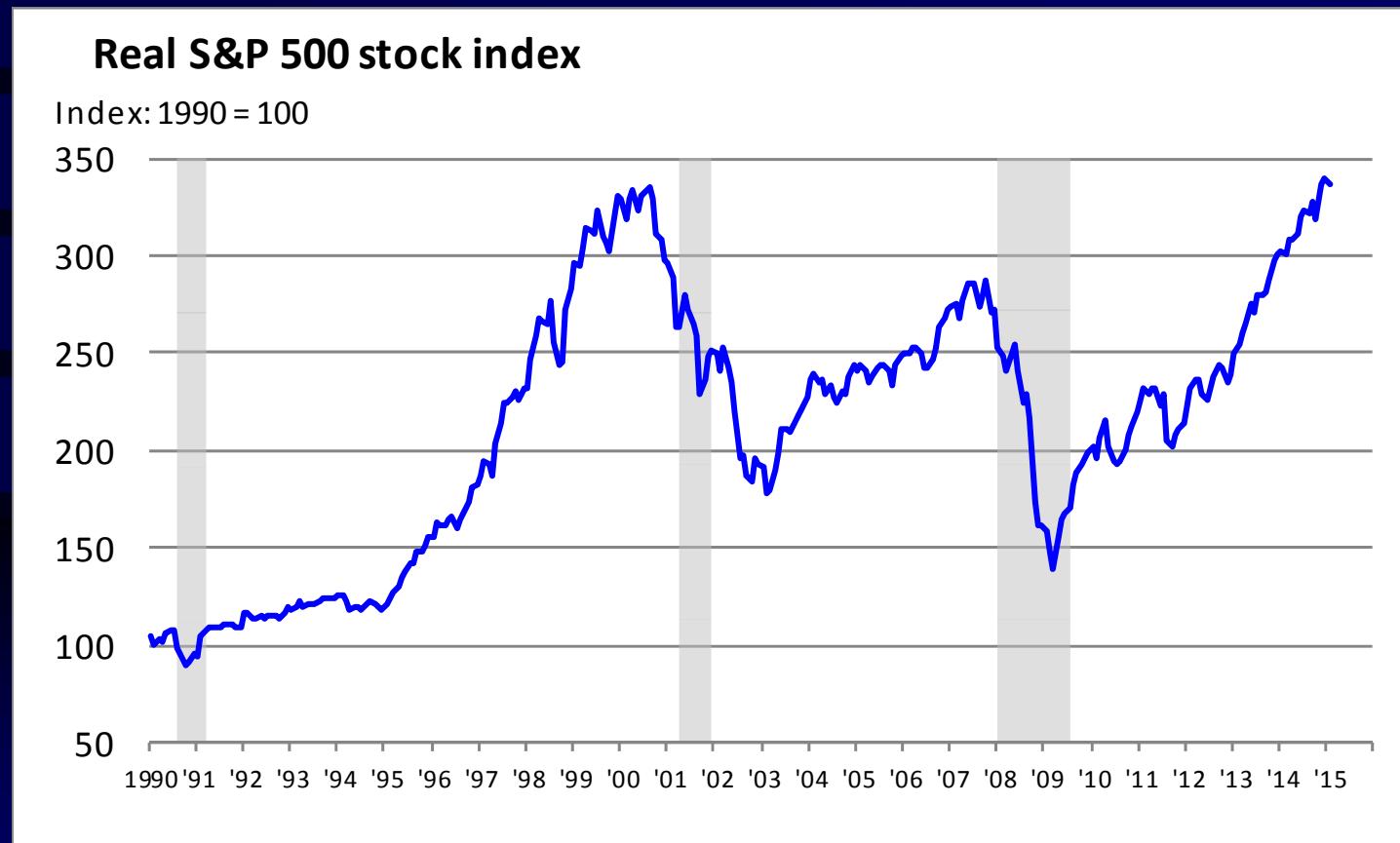
**Real existing home prices fell by 40%, but have begun to rise**



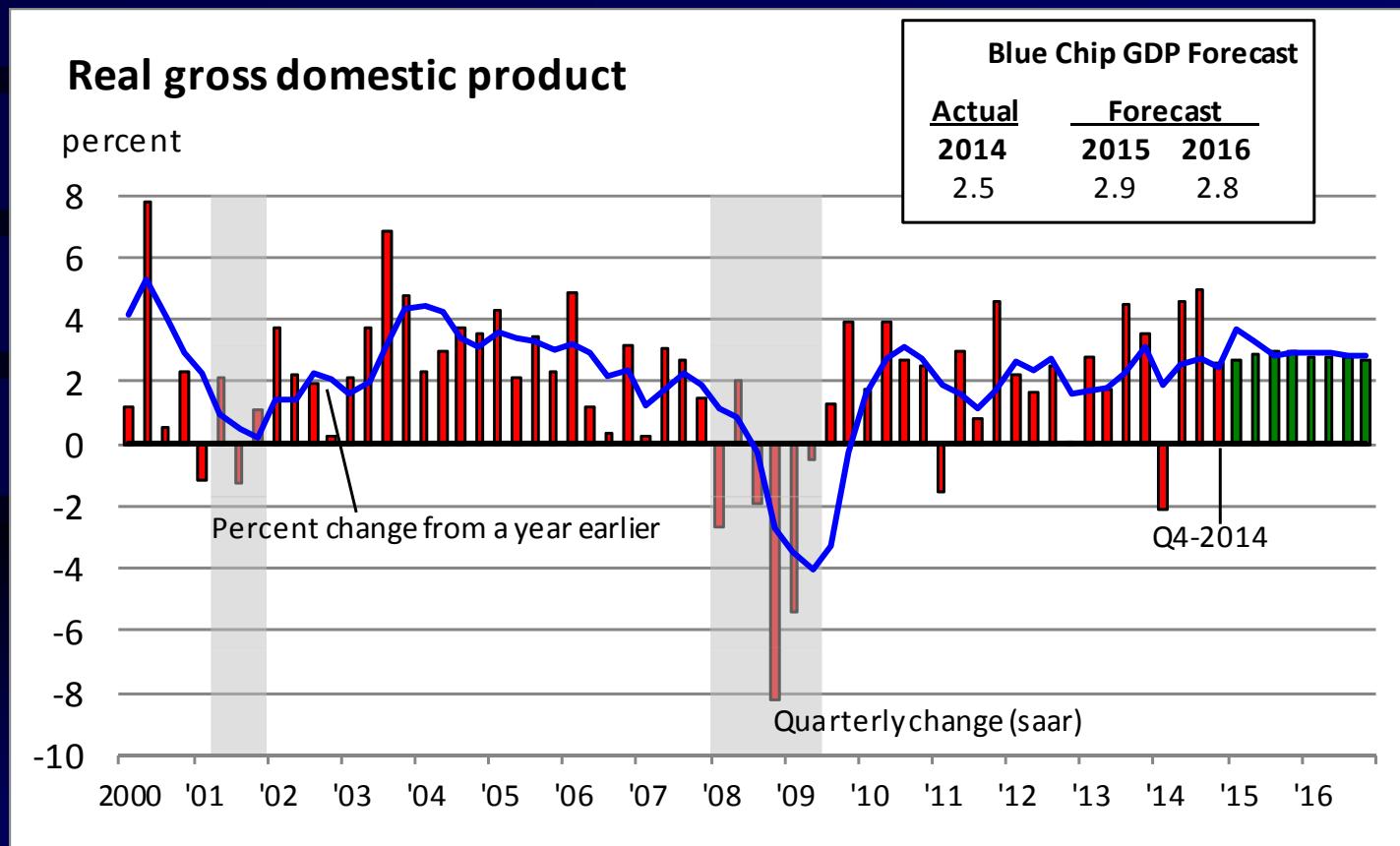
## The forecast calls for a very gradual recovery in housing



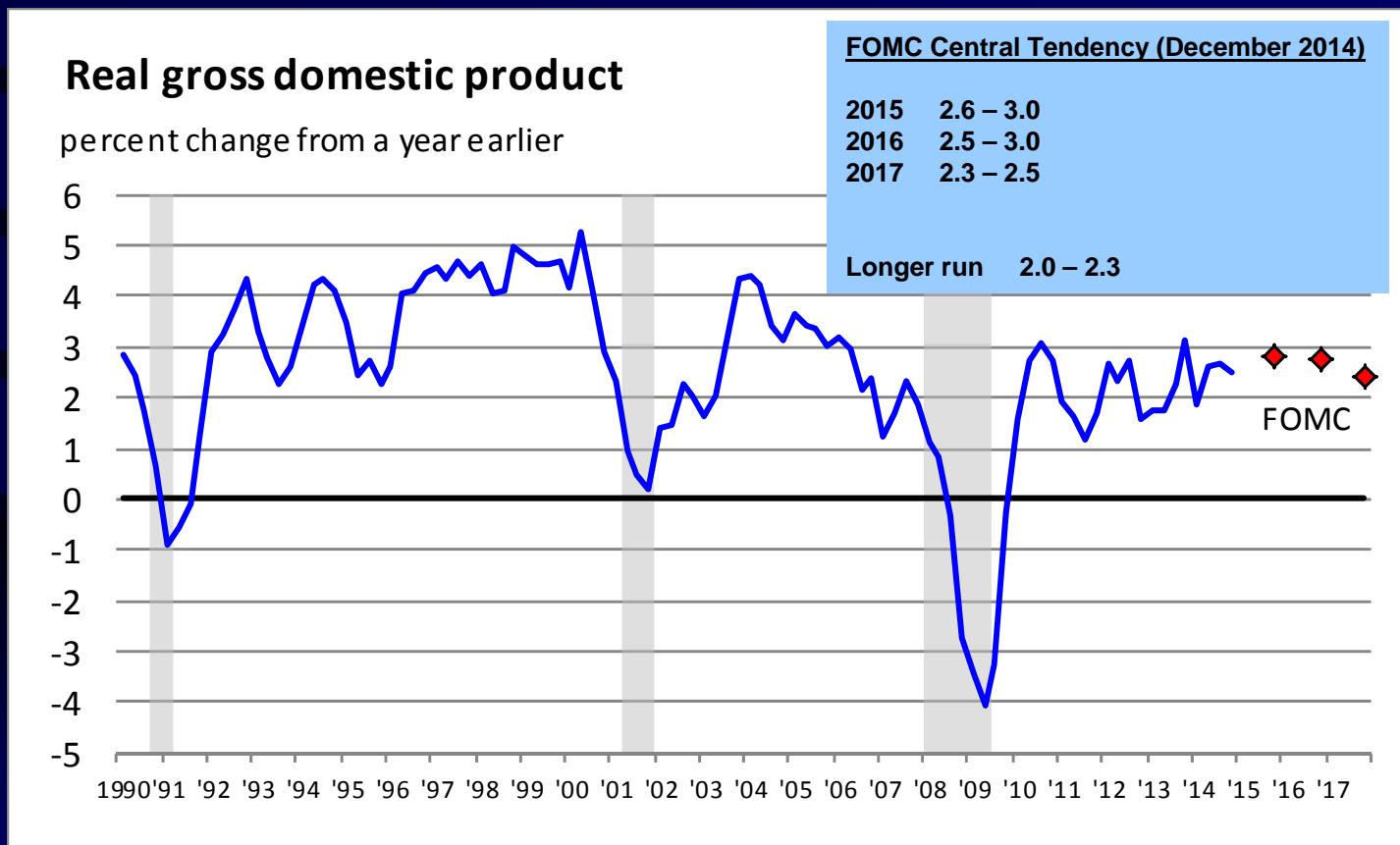
**The stock market has improved since March 2009, and has surpassed its previous peak**



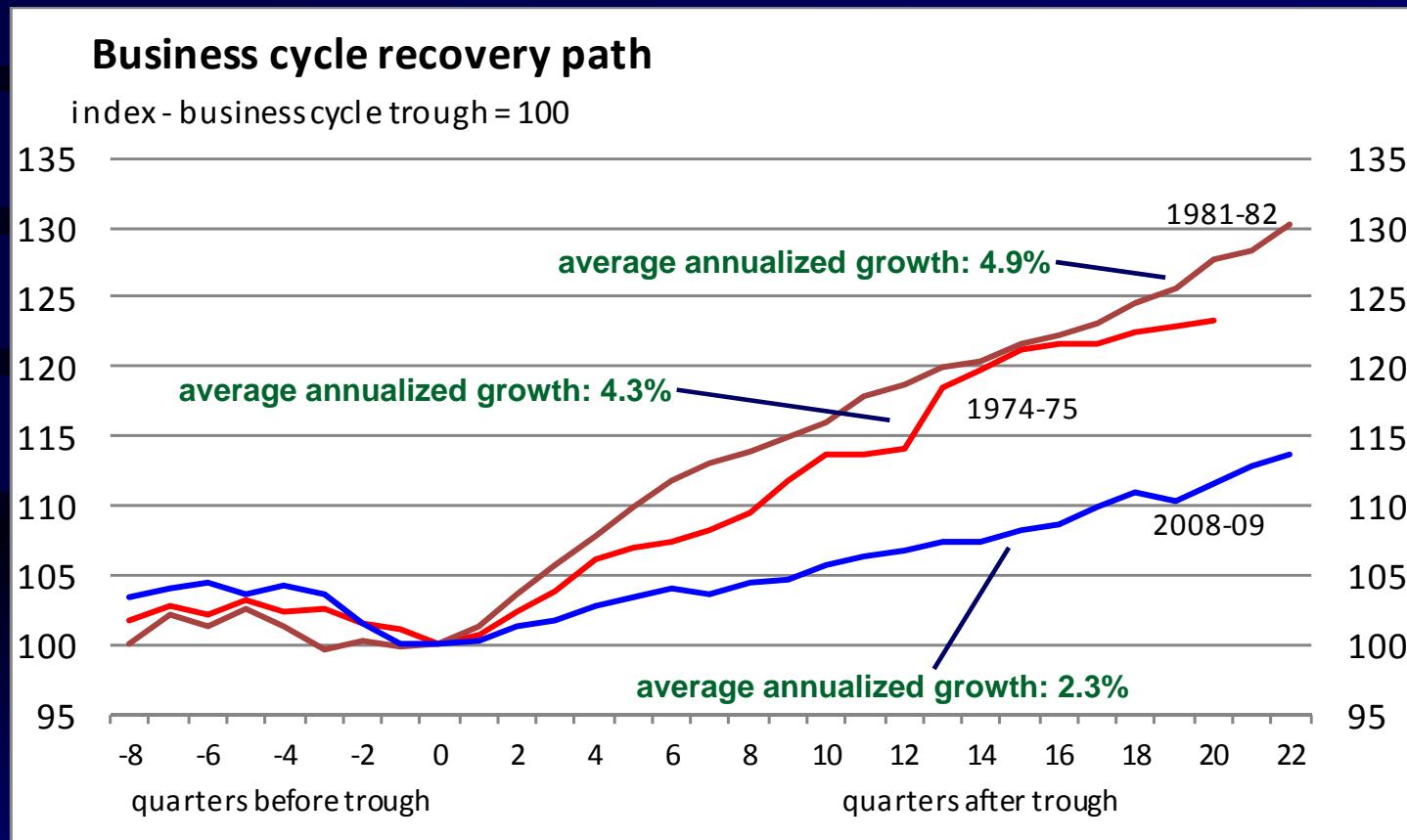
## Blue-Chip is expecting GDP to grow somewhat above trend over the next two years



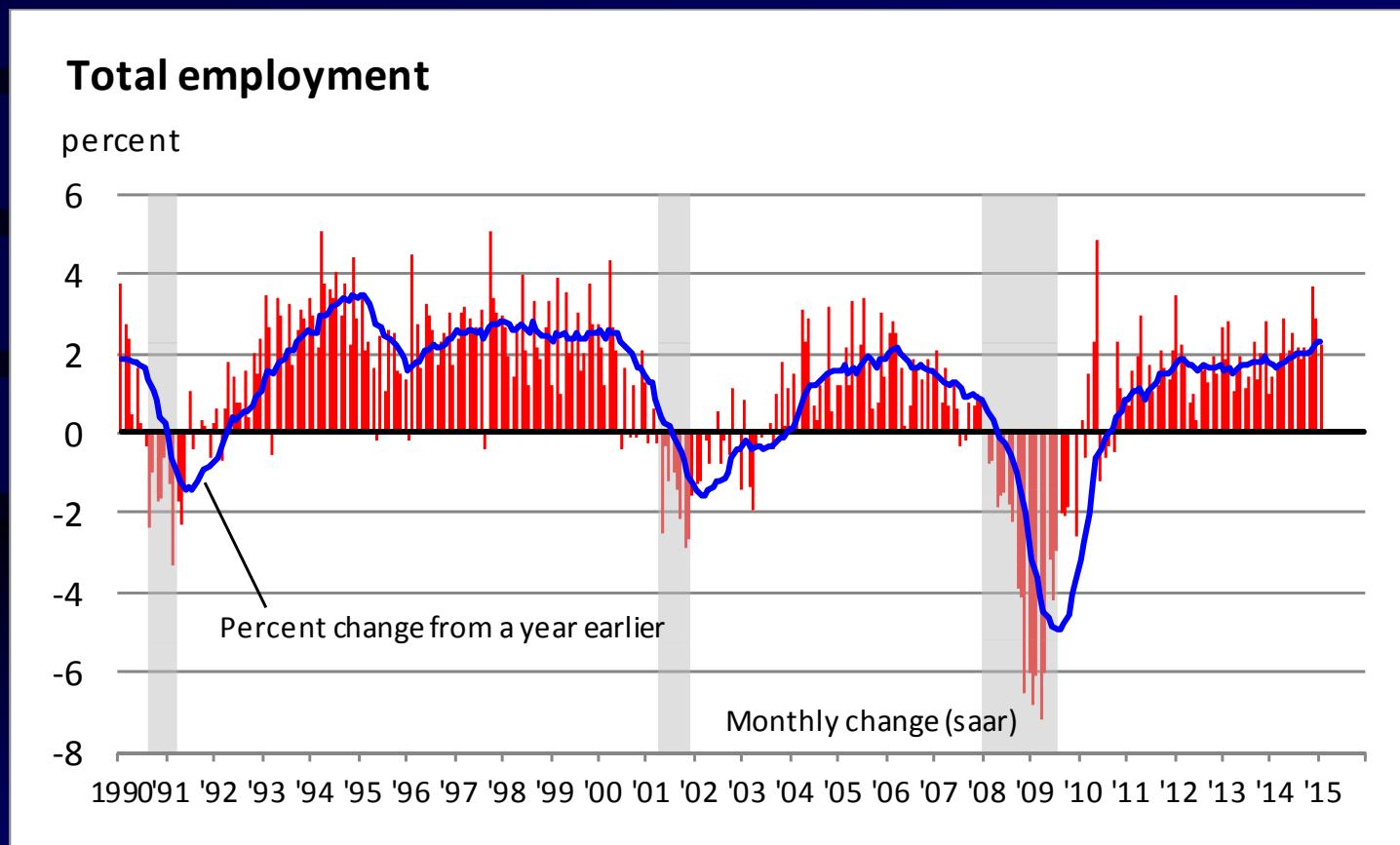
# The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) expects GDP to grow somewhat above trend over the next three years



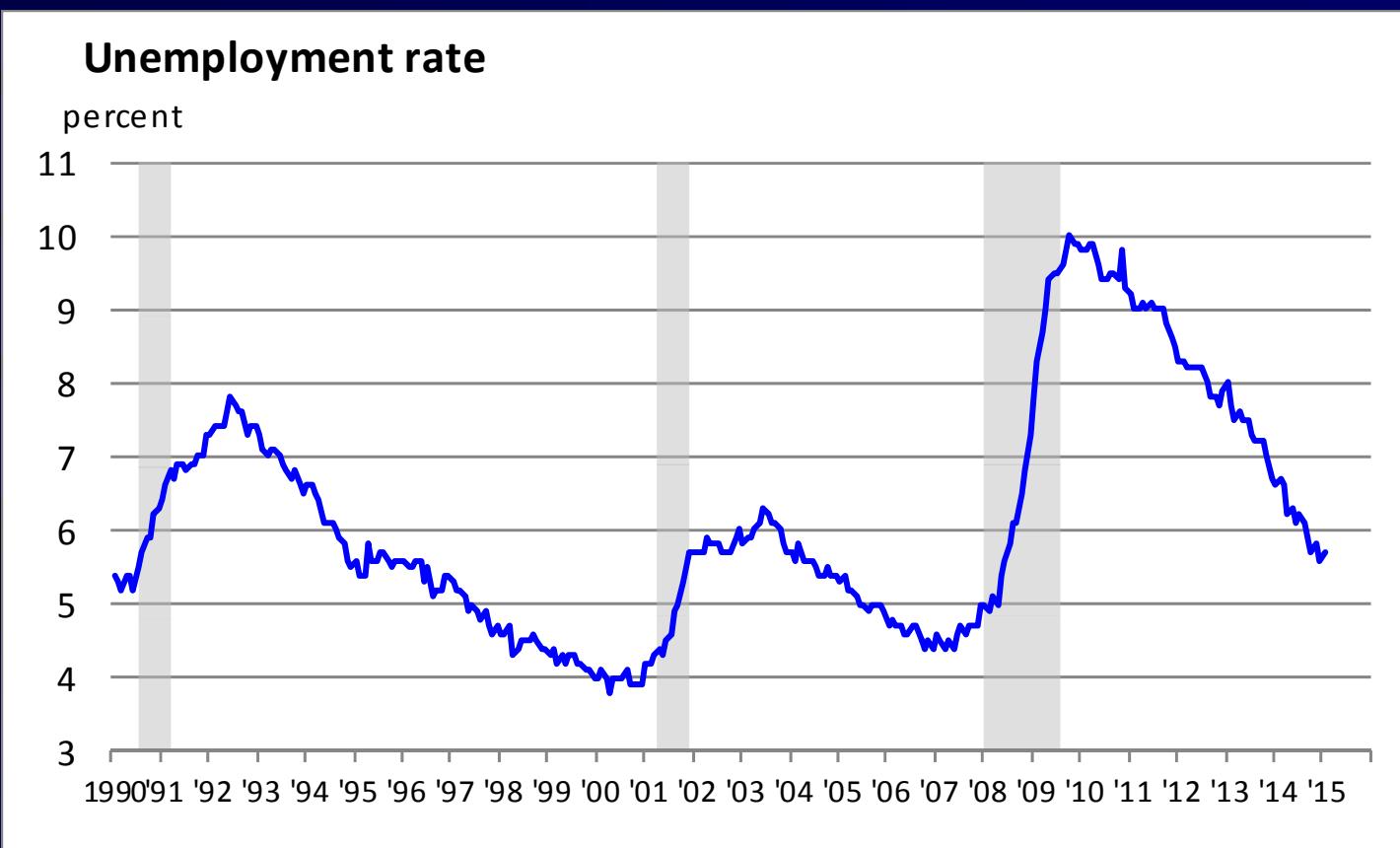
## The path of the current recovery is restrained compared with past deep recession recovery cycles



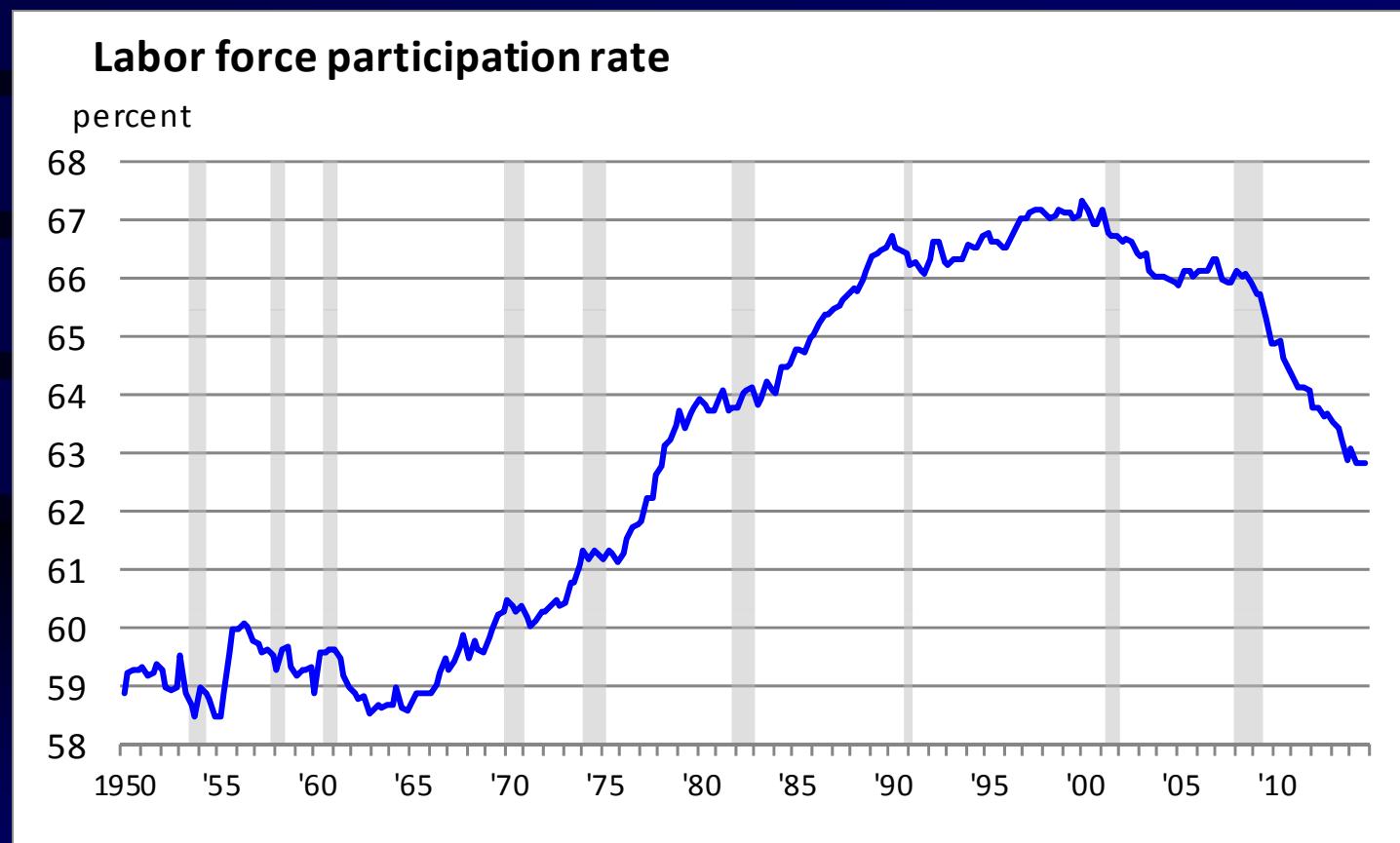
## Employment grew by over 3.2 million jobs over the past 12 months



**After peaking in October 2009,  
the unemployment rate has fallen by  
4.3 percentage points**



**However, the labor force participation rate fell to a level last seen in 1977**



# Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate and Population Share 16 and Older by Age Category, United States, 2007 and 2014

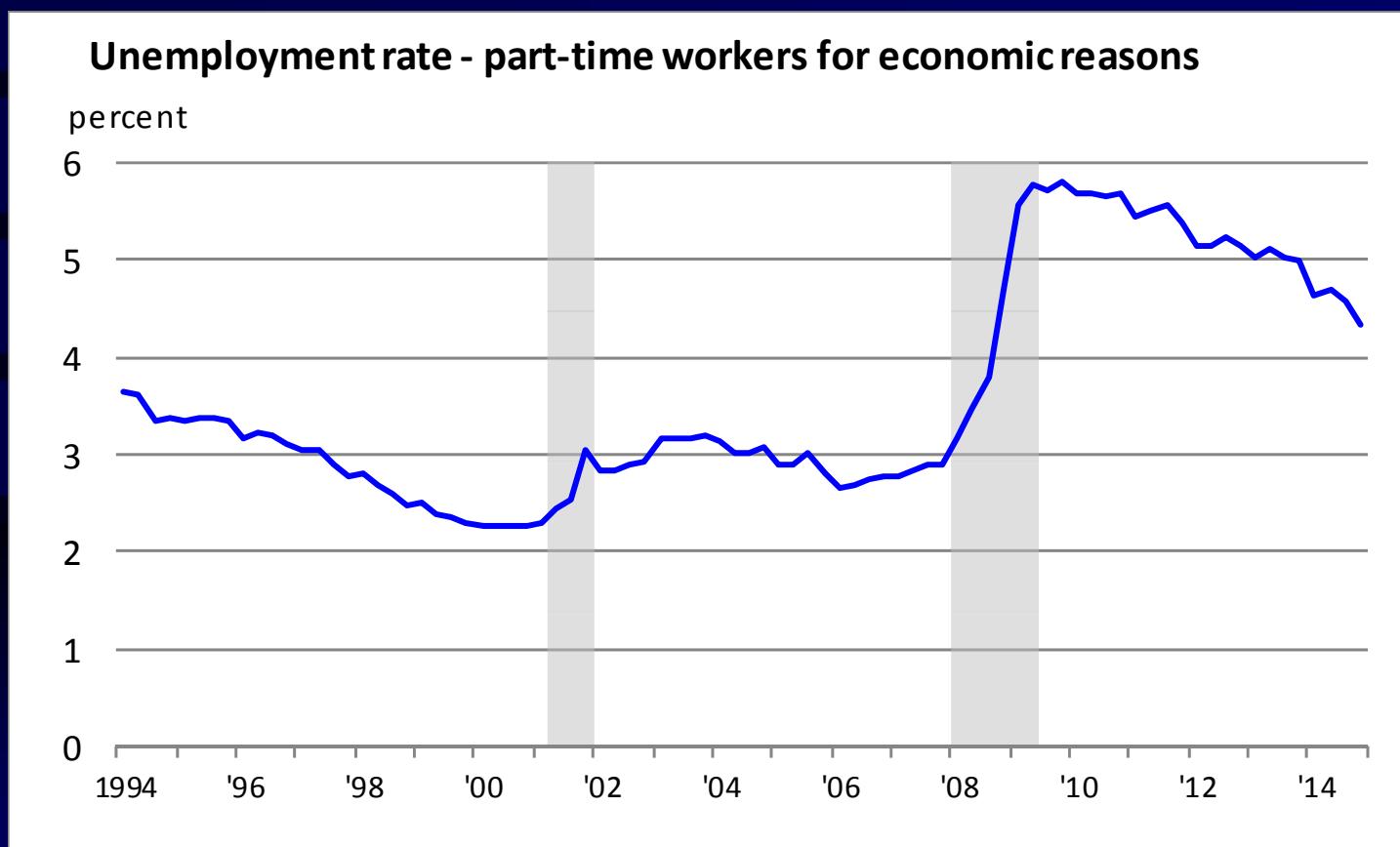
	Labor Force Participation Rate (%)			Population Share (%)		
	2014	2007	Change '07-'14	2014	2007	Change '07-'14
Population						
16 and older	62.9	66.1	-3.2	100.0	100.0	0.0
16 to 24	55.0	59.4	-4.4	15.6	16.1	-0.5
25 to 34	81.2	83.3	-2.1	17.0	17.1	-0.2
35 to 44	82.2	83.8	-1.6	16.0	18.3	-2.3
45 to 54	79.6	82.0	-2.4	17.3	18.8	-1.5
55 to 64	64.1	63.8	0.4	16.0	14.0	2.0
65 plus	18.6	16.0	2.6	18.1	15.6	2.5



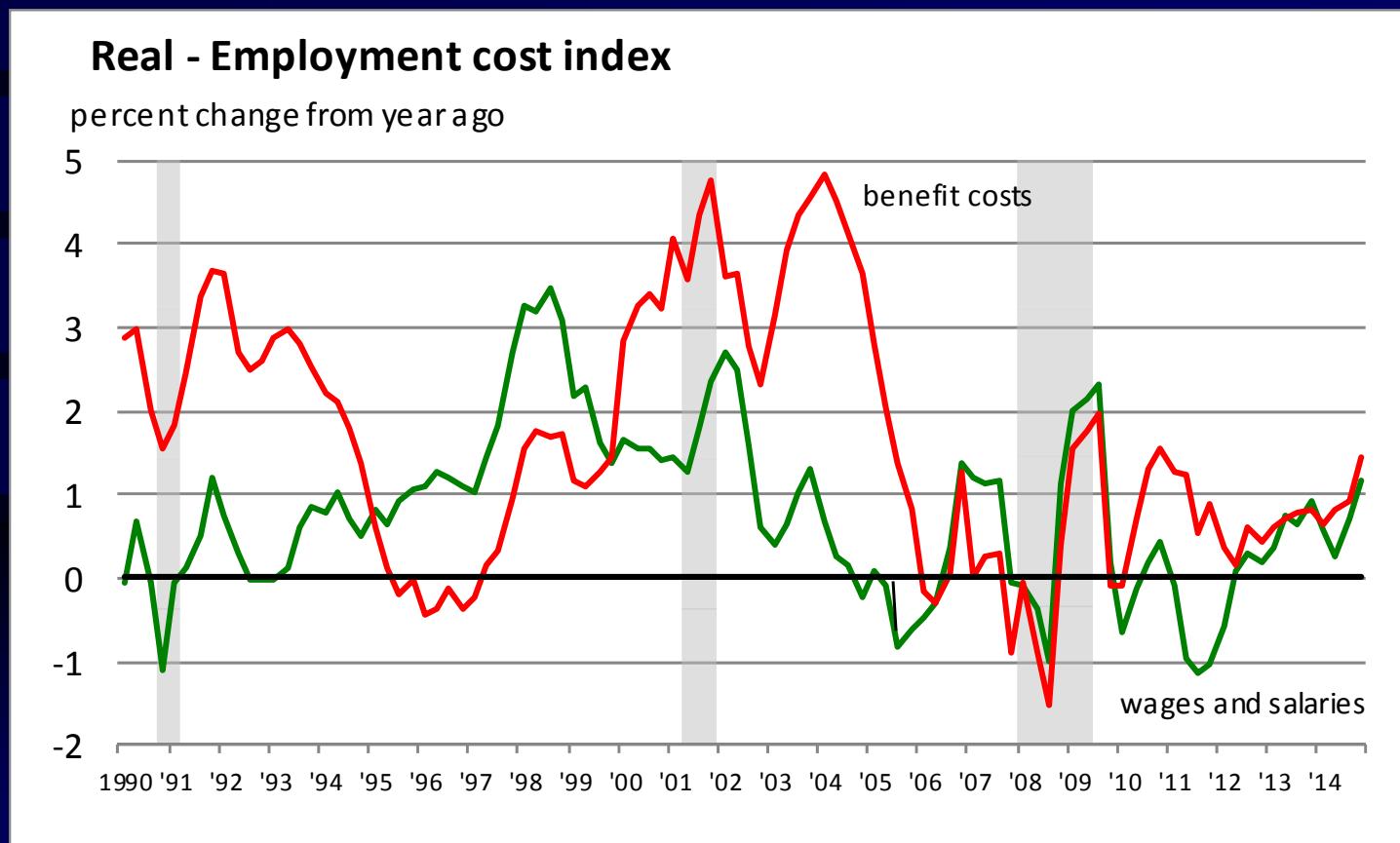
## The share of those unemployed more than 6 months remains significantly high



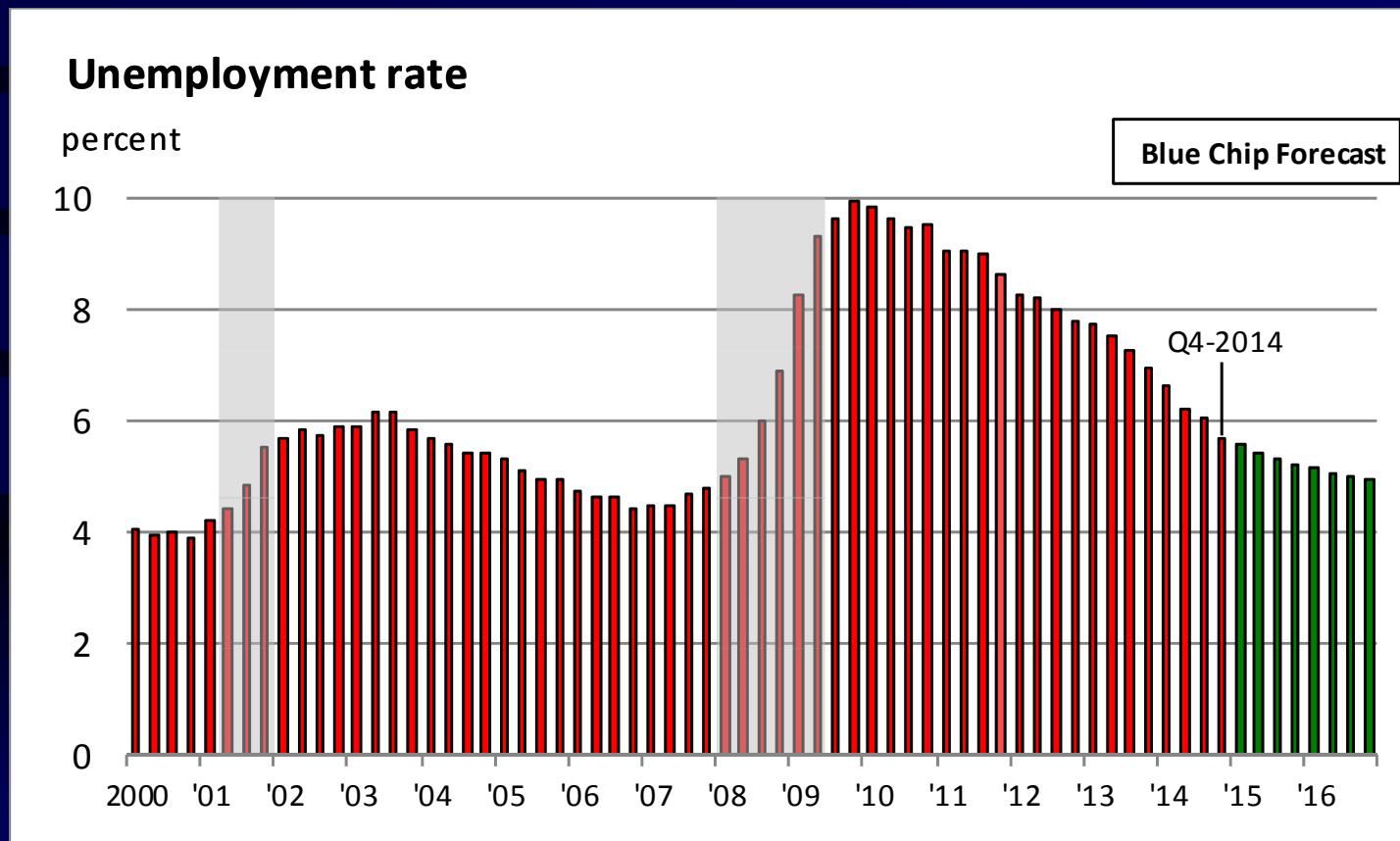
## Employees working part time for economic reasons remains elevated



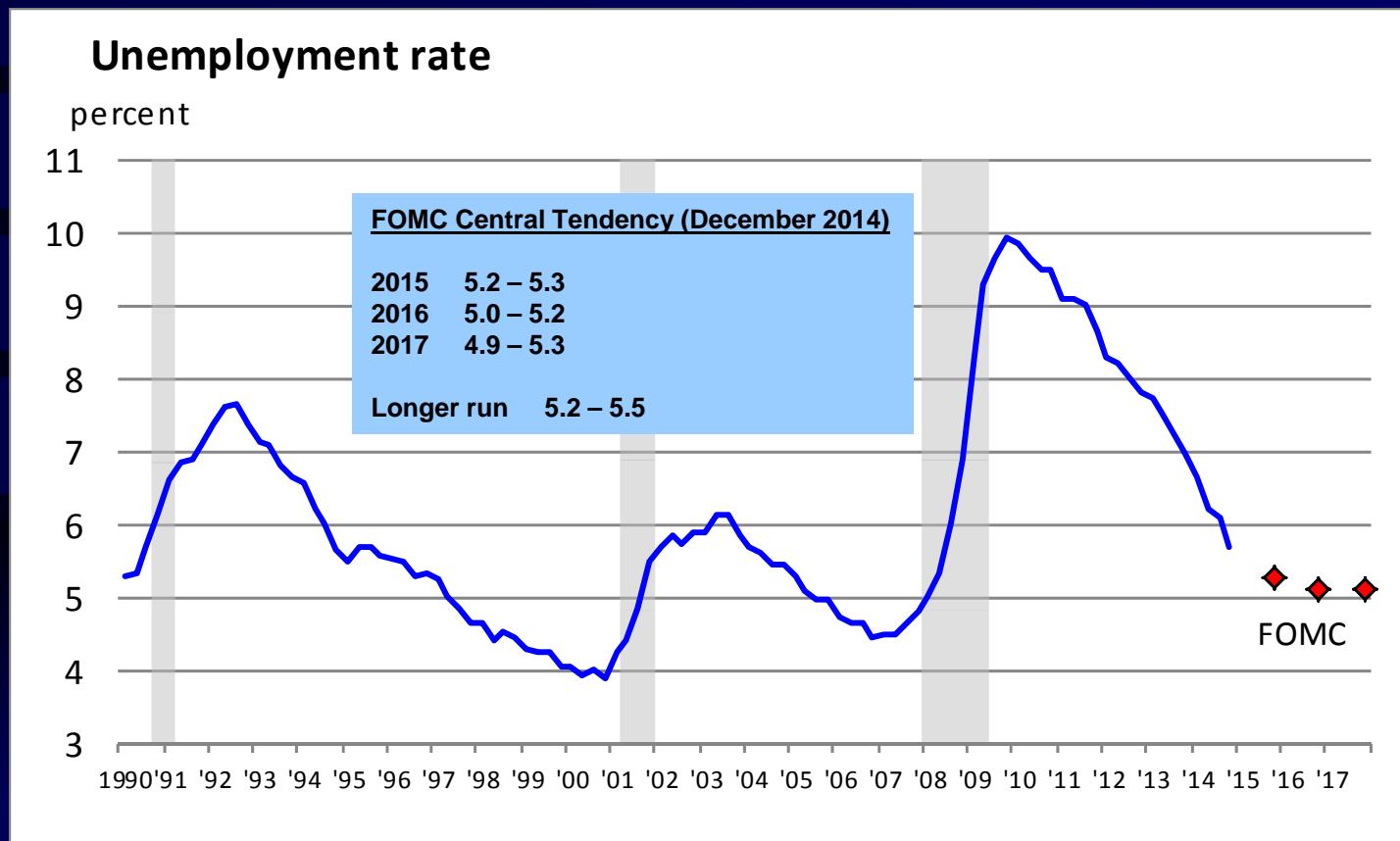
**Wages and benefit costs have increased over the past year, but still remains relatively low**



**The unemployment rate is forecast to edge lower with an additional 2.7 million jobs projected for 2015**



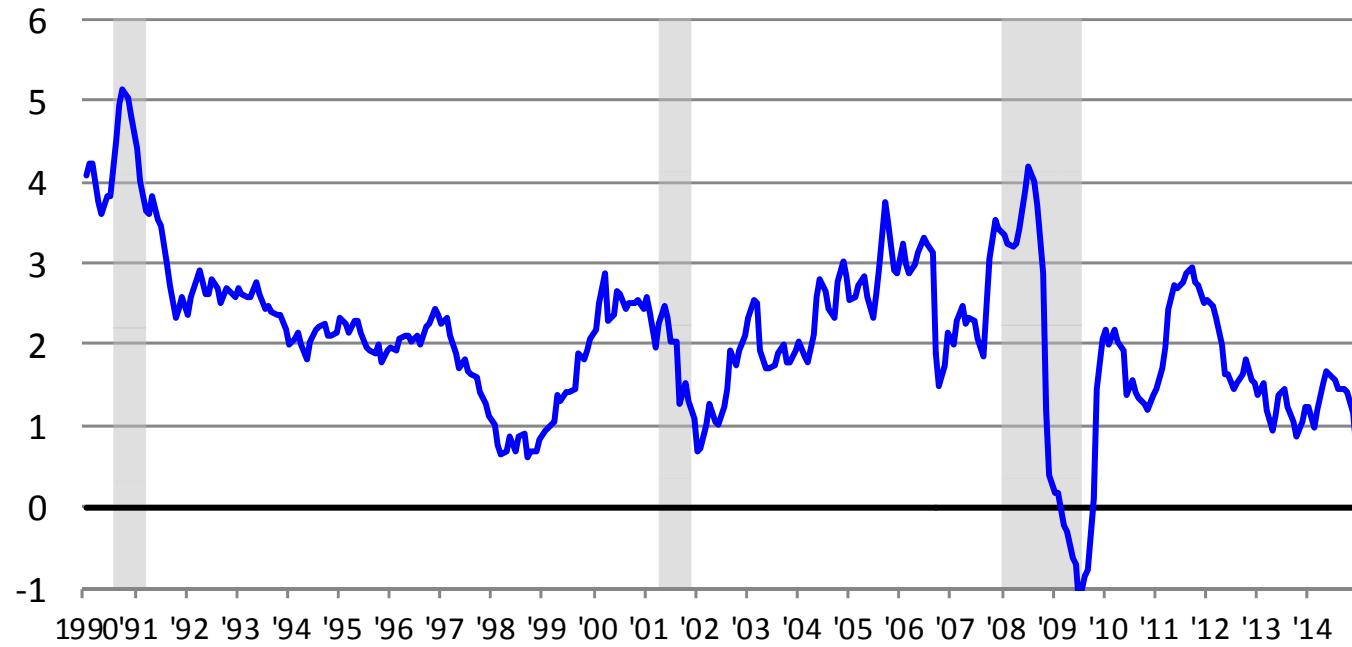
**The FOMC forecasts that the unemployment rate will be at the natural rate at the end of this year**



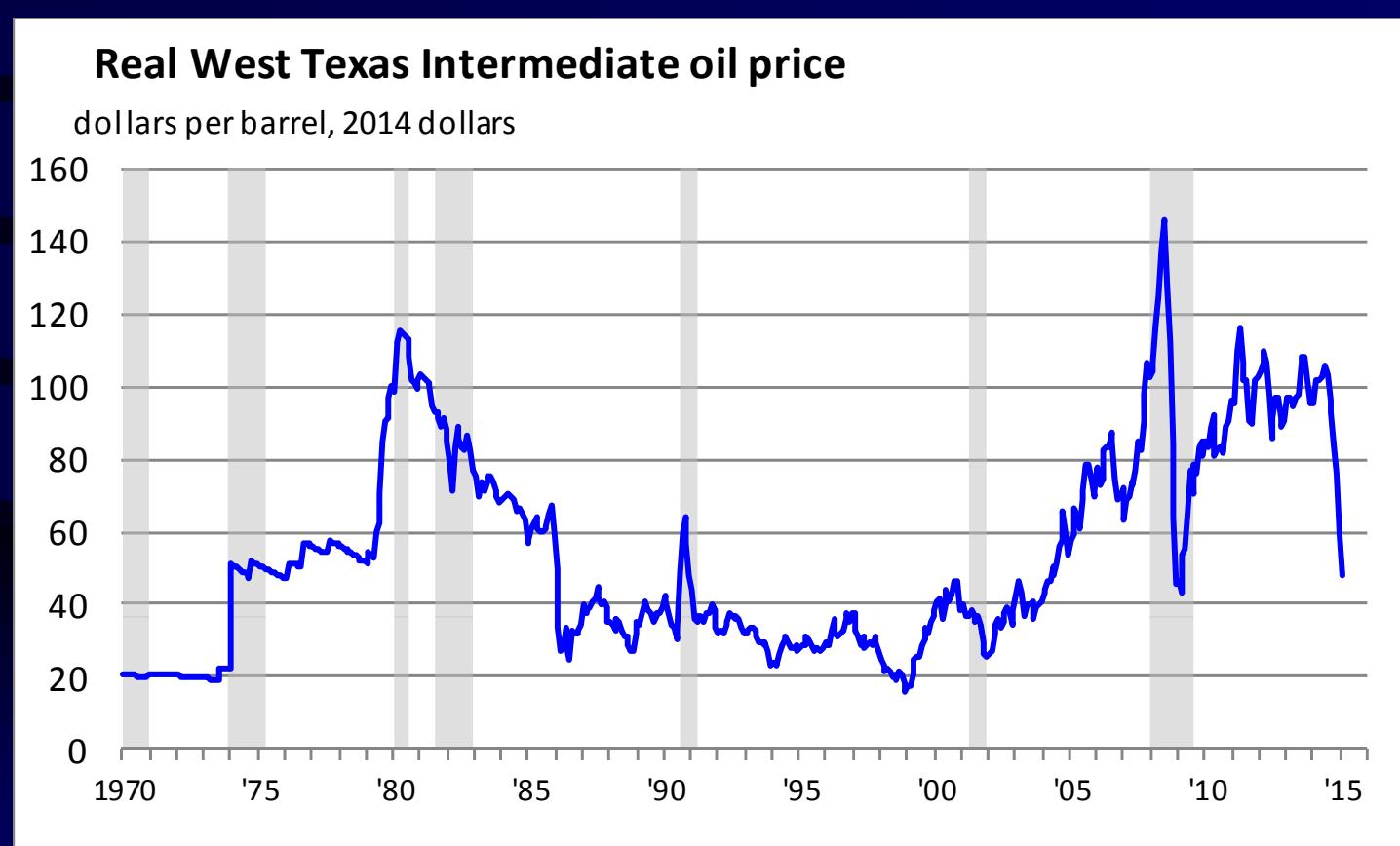
## Inflation is declining

### Personal consumption expenditure - chain price index

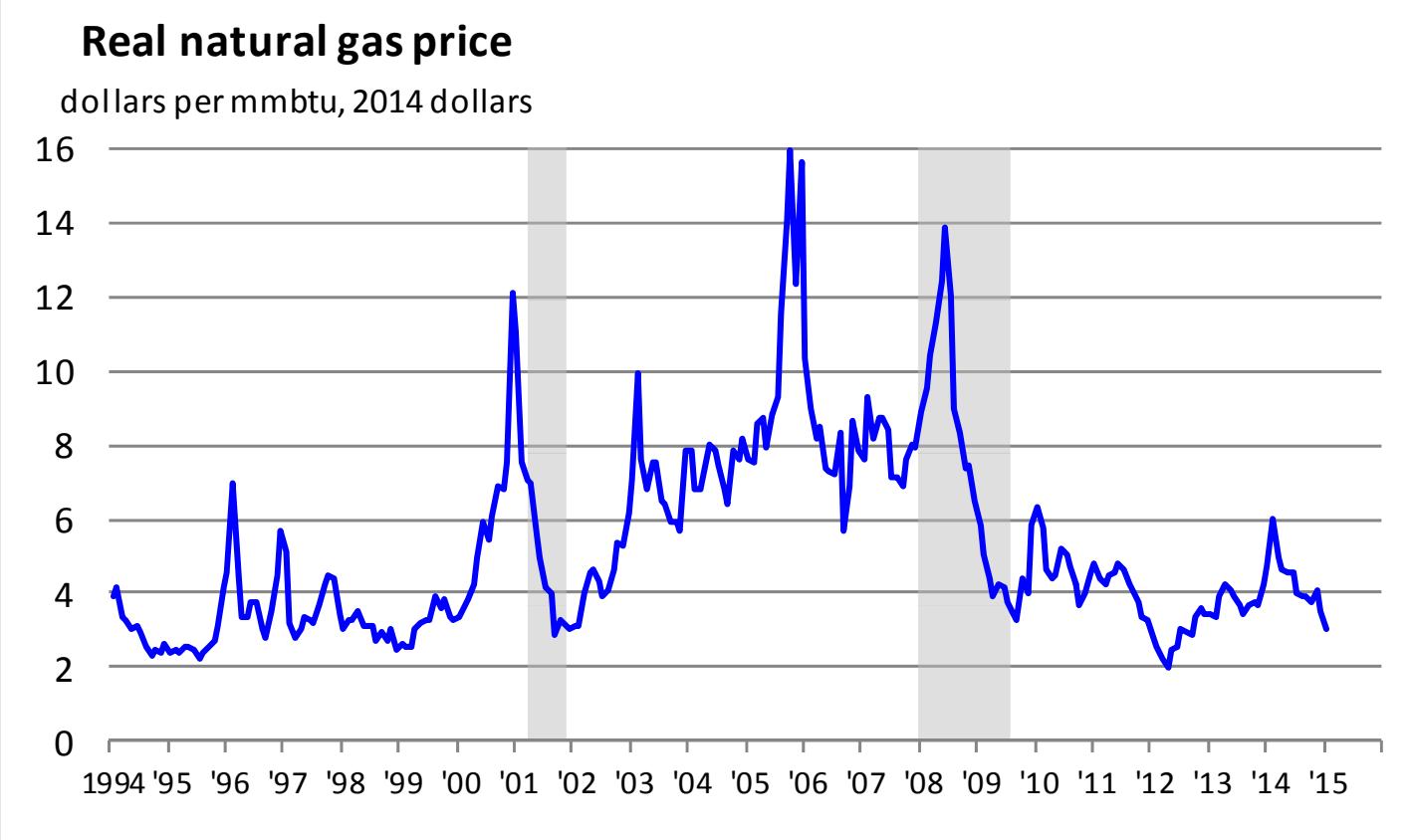
percent change from a year earlier



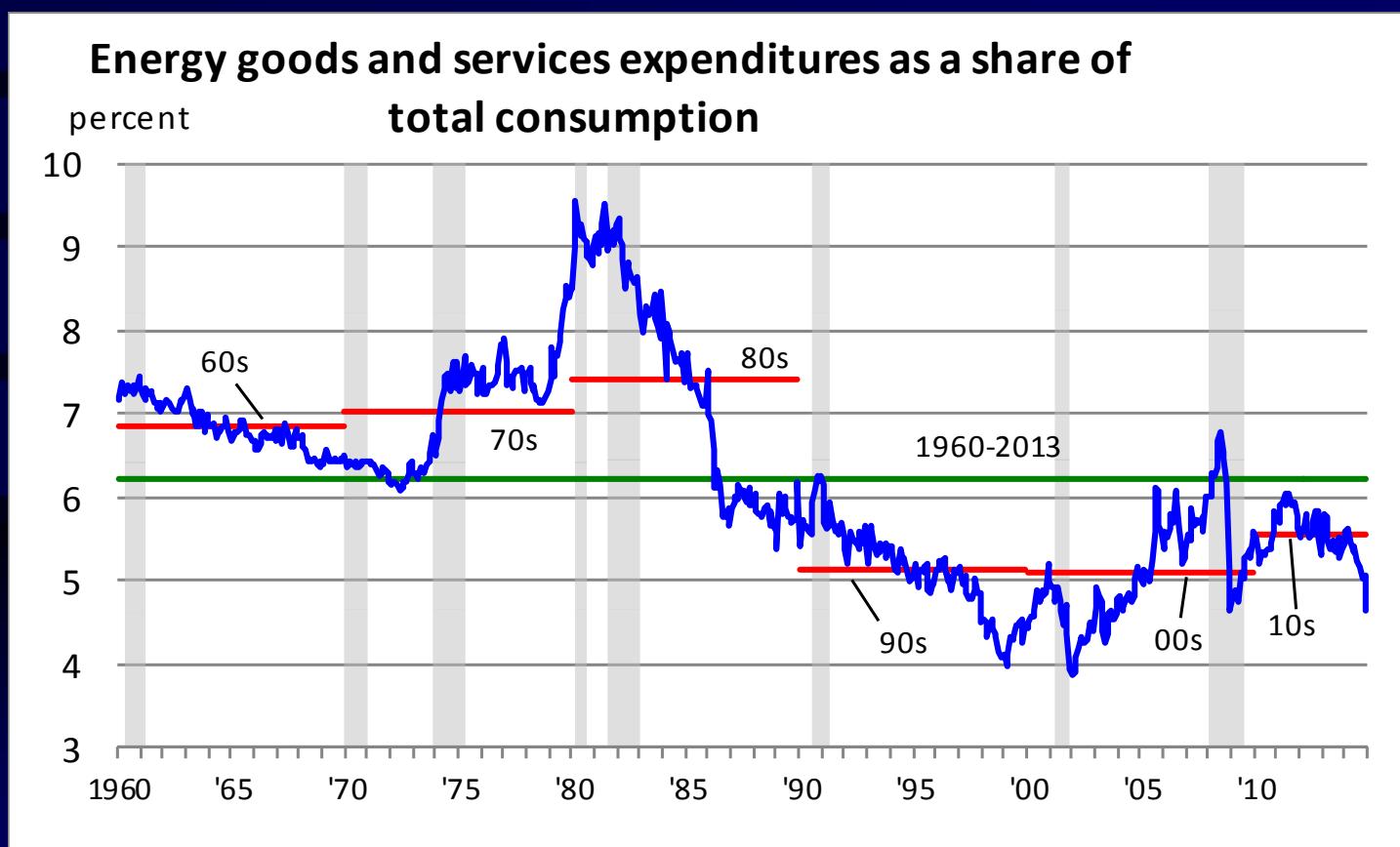
**In large part due to the collapse of energy prices**



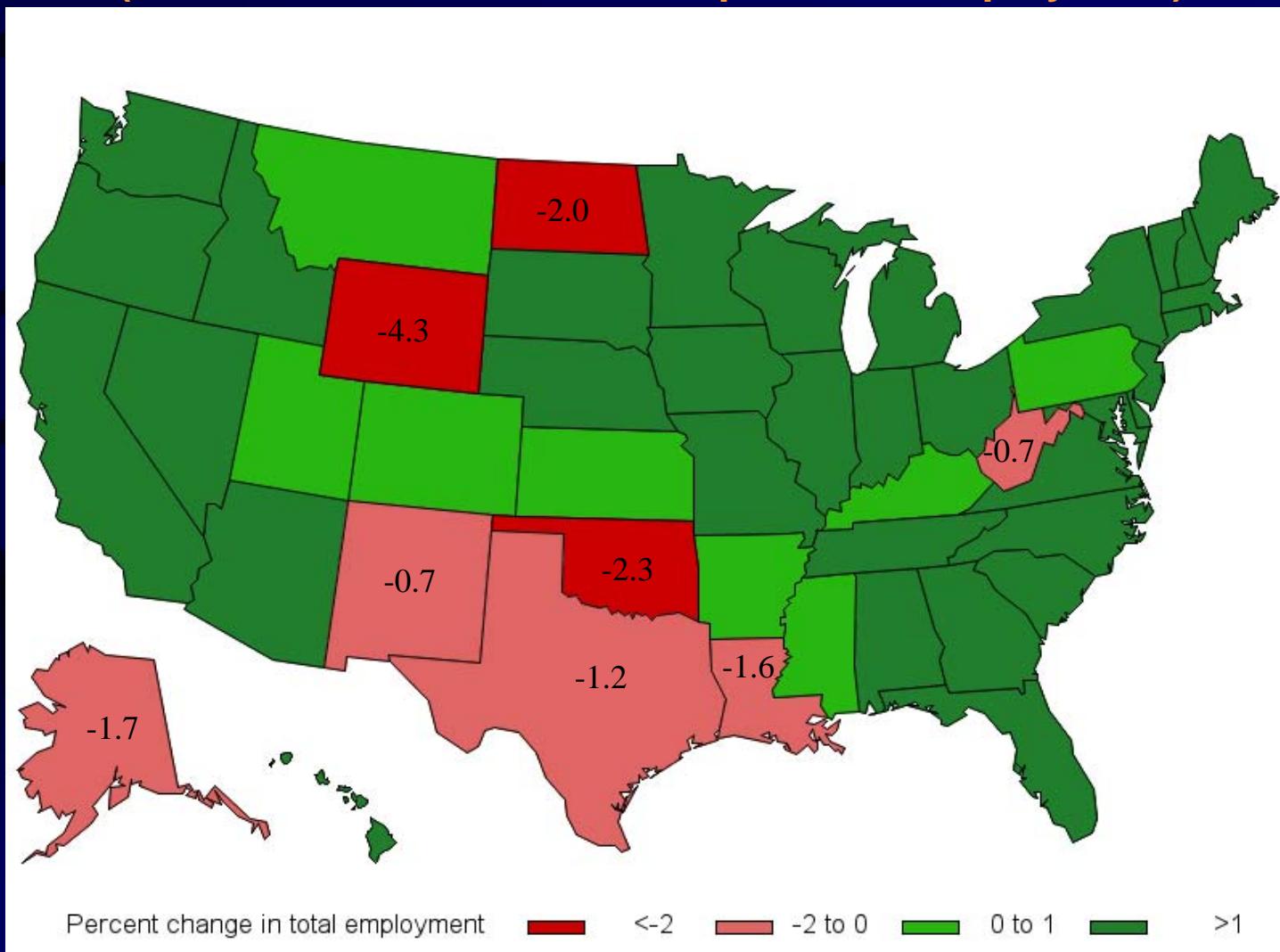
## Natural gas prices have also declined and remains low



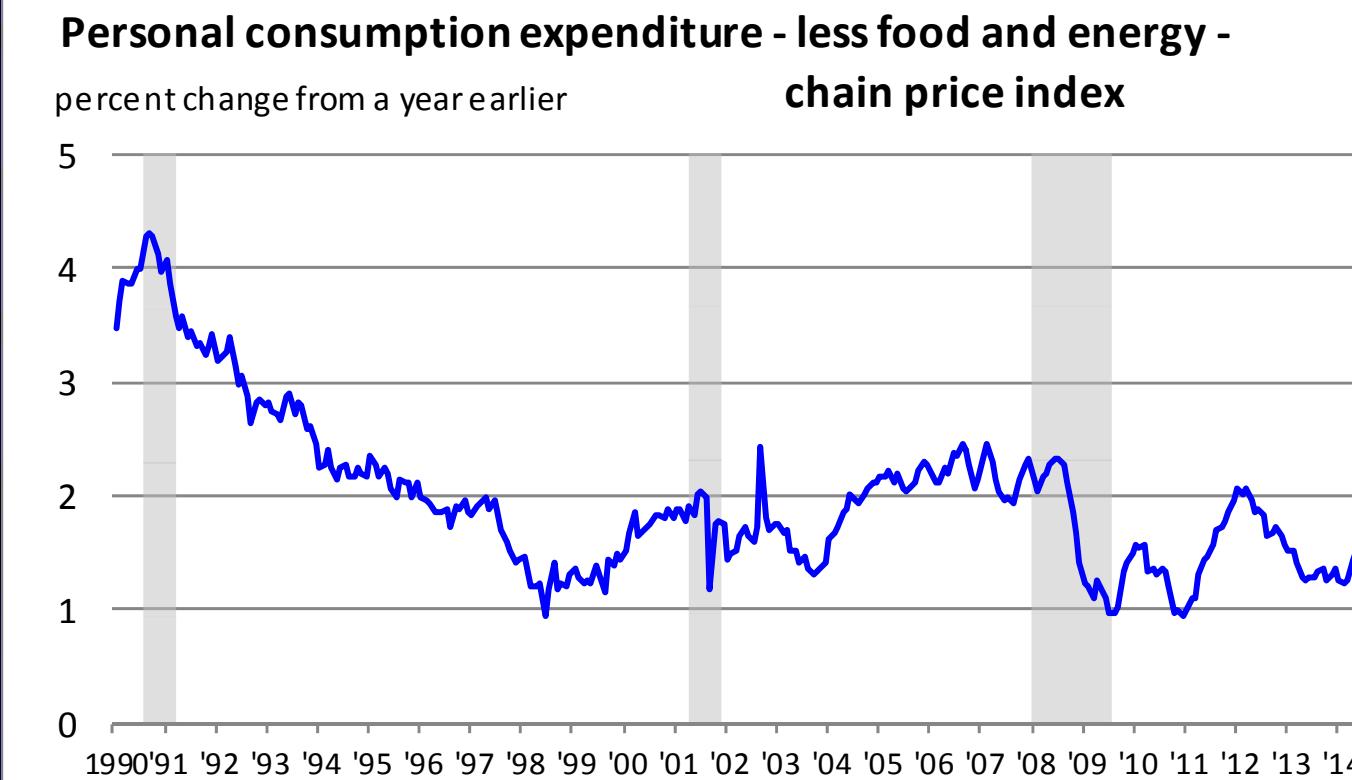
## Expenditures on energy are below the historical average



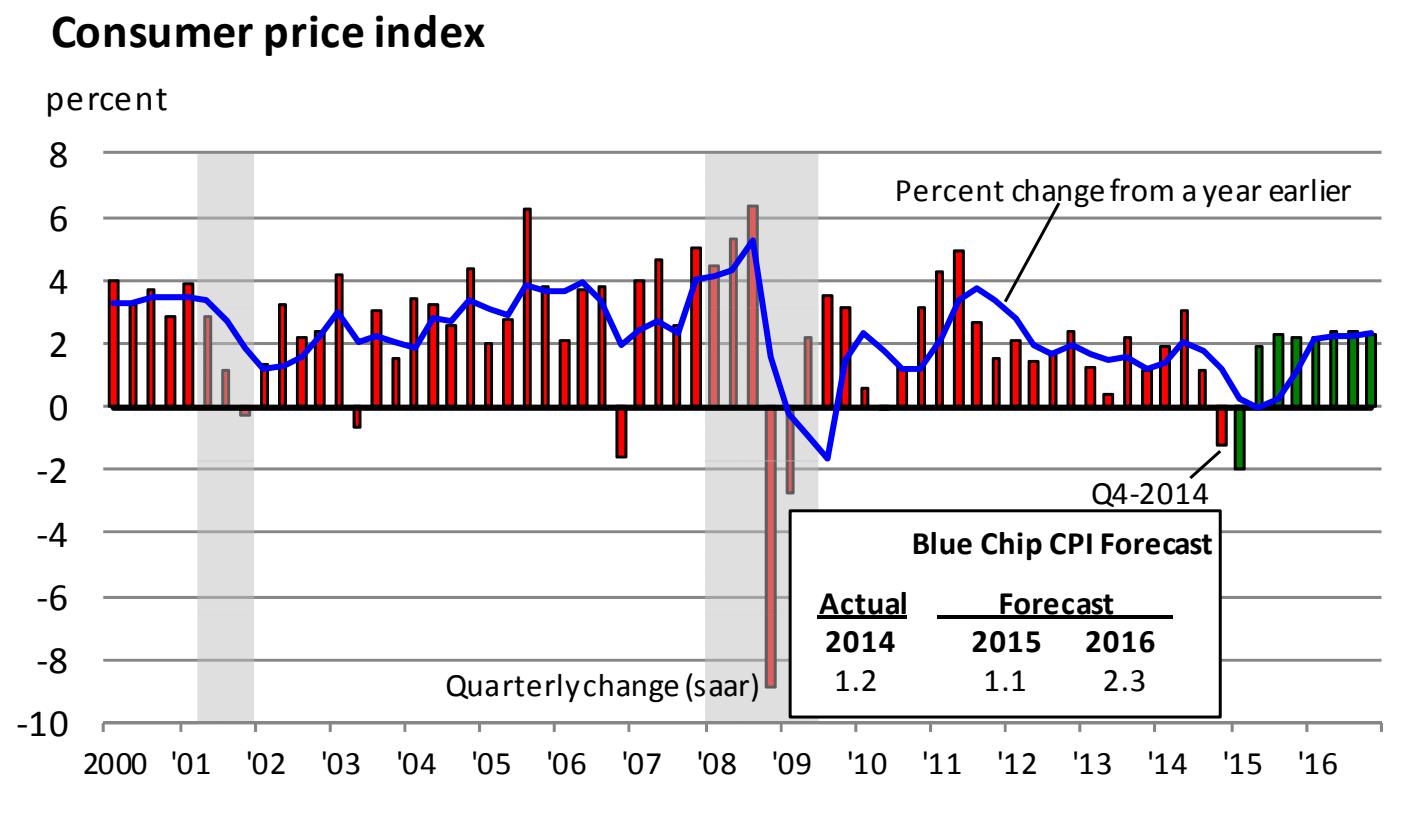
## Low oil prices benefit most states (Effect of a 50% decline in oil prices on employment)



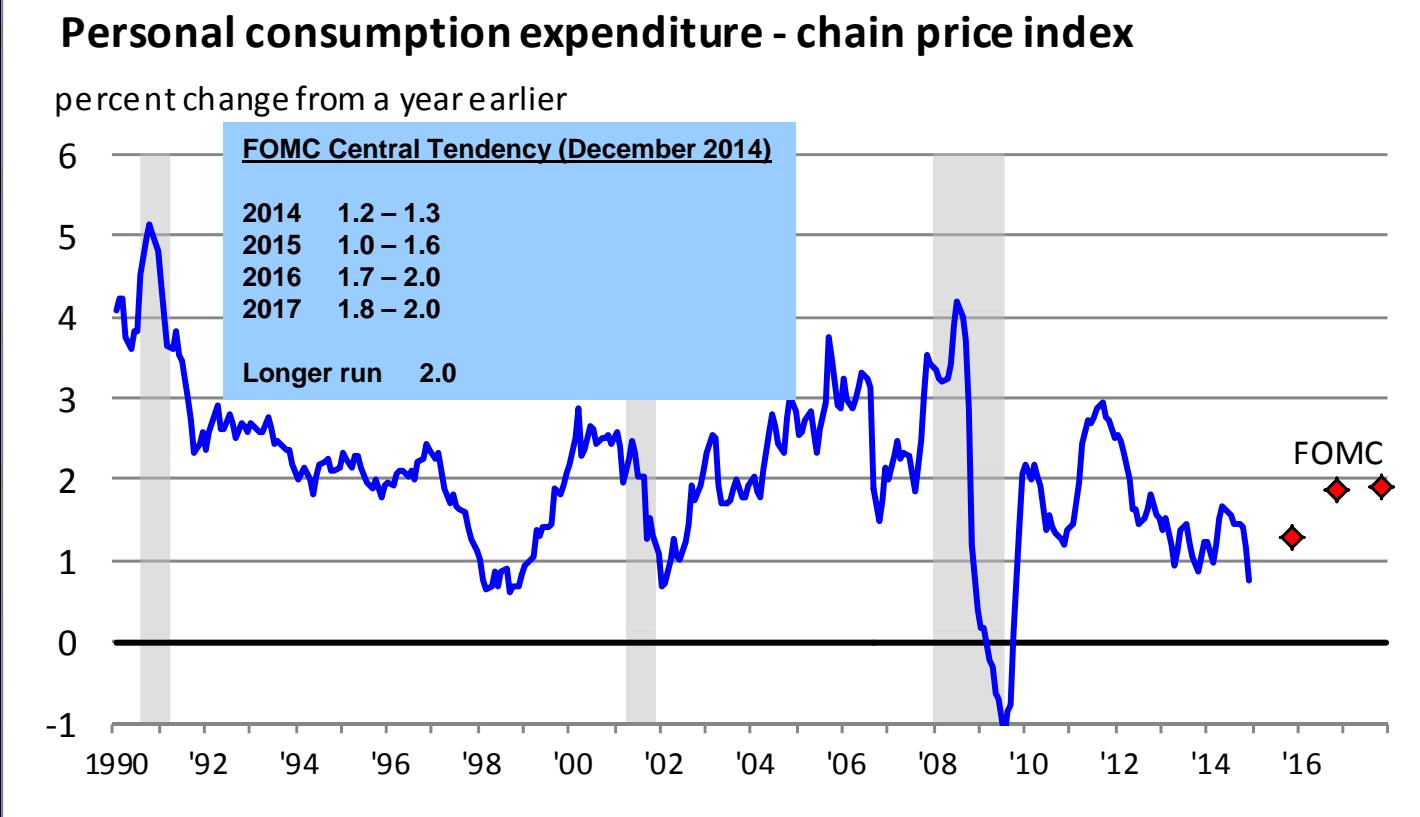
## Removing the volatile food and energy components from the PCE, “core” inflation remains low



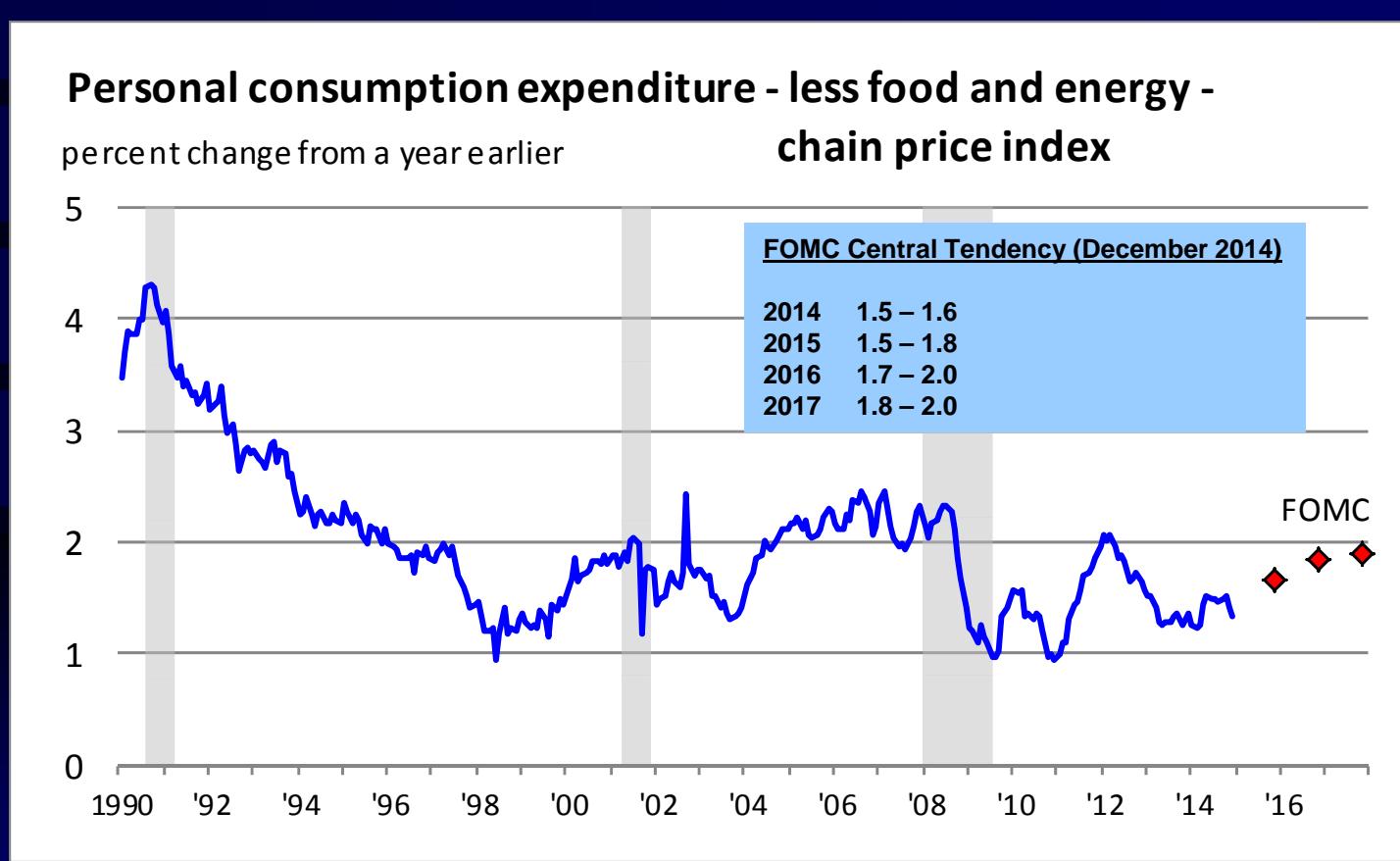
**Inflation is forecast to rise 1.1 percent in 2015  
and 2.3 percent in 2016**



The FOMC anticipates that PCE inflation will remain below two percent through 2017



**The FOMC anticipates that “core” PCE inflation will also remain below two percent through 2017**



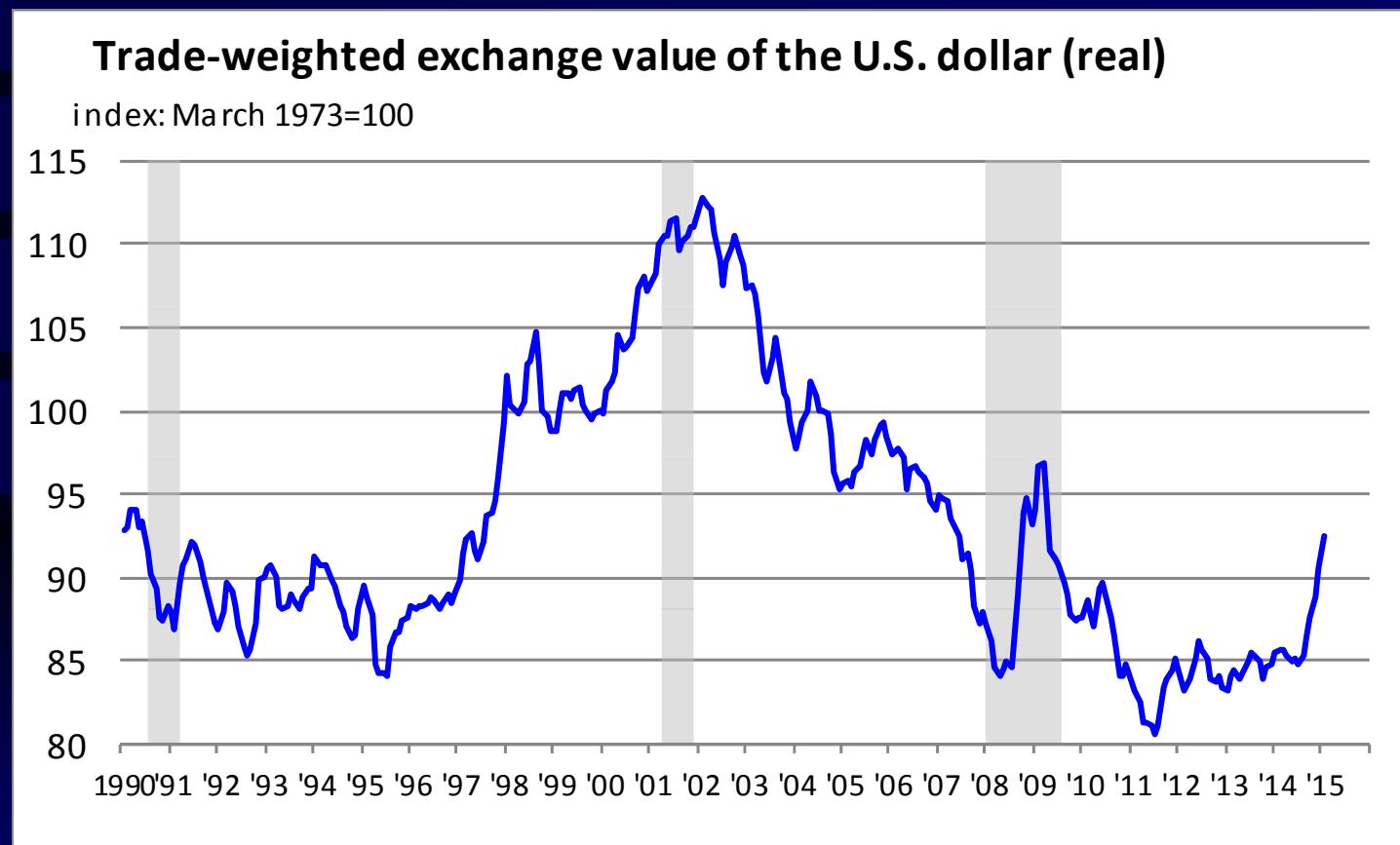
# Blue Chip International Consensus Forecasts

	Real GDP			Inflation			Exchange Rate	
	% change			% change			Against	
	Annual			Annual			US Dollar	
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2015	2016
United States	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	-	-
Canada	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.19</b>
Mexico	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>14.03</b>	<b>13.75</b>
Japan	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>123.5</b>	<b>127.2</b>
South Korea	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,091</b>
United Kingdom	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>1.51</b>
Germany	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1.07</b>
France	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1.07</b>
Euro Zone	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1.07</b>
Brazil	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>2.79</b>	<b>2.85</b>
Russia	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>60.5</b>
China	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>6.21</b>	<b>6.16</b>
India	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>63.1</b>

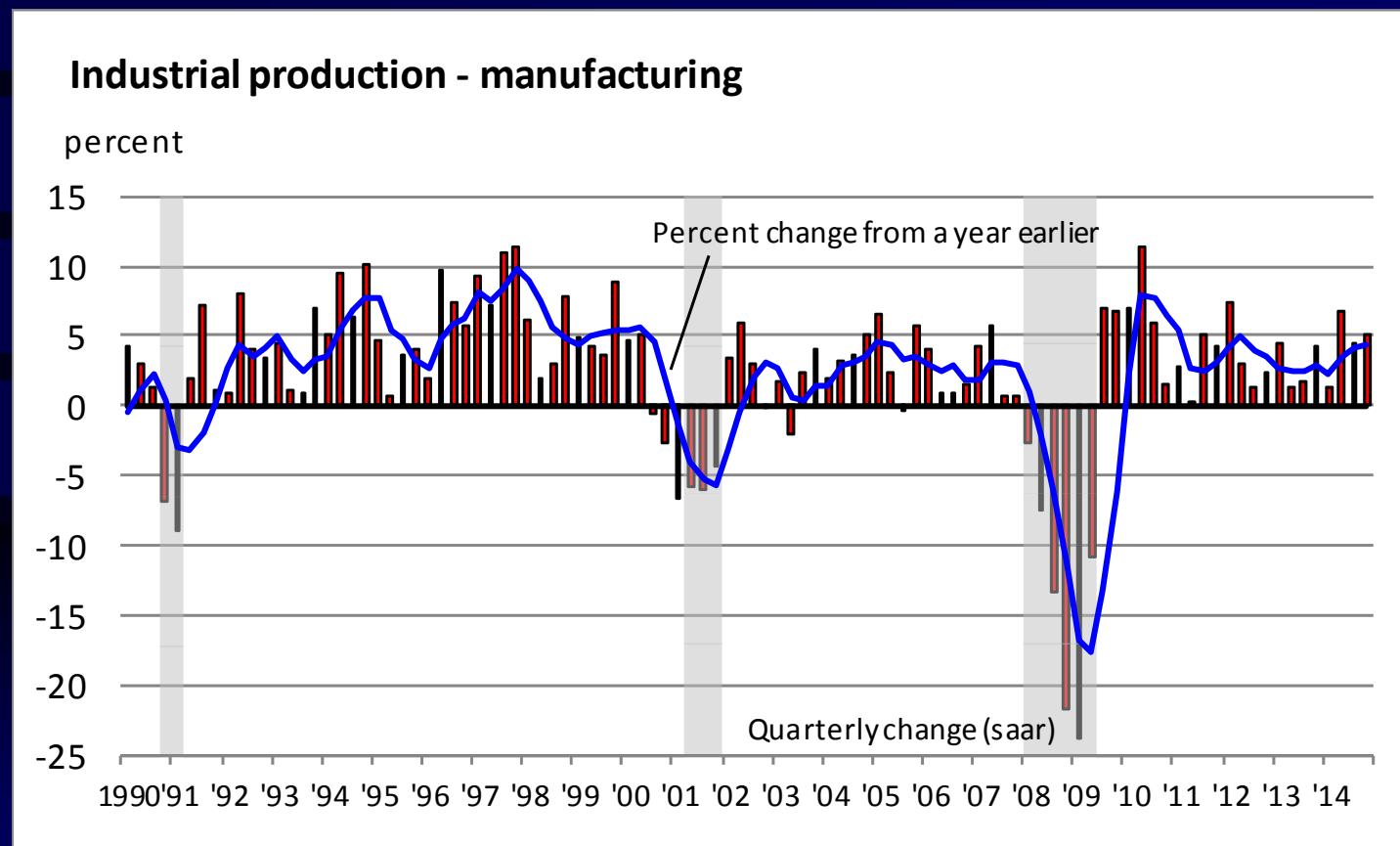
Blue Chip Economic Indicators Forecast February 10, 2015



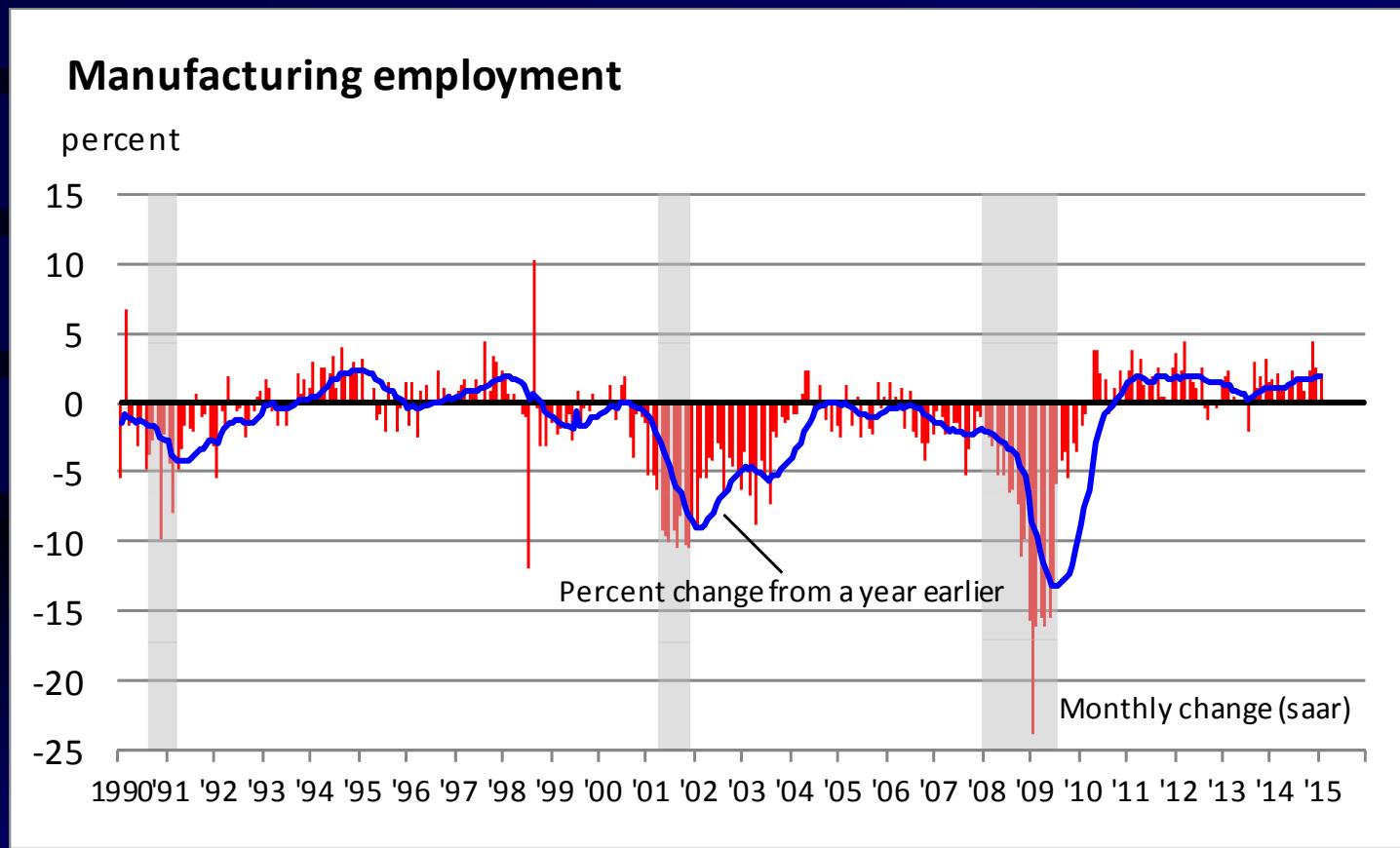
**The real trade-weighted dollar has increased 8.9% over the past six months**



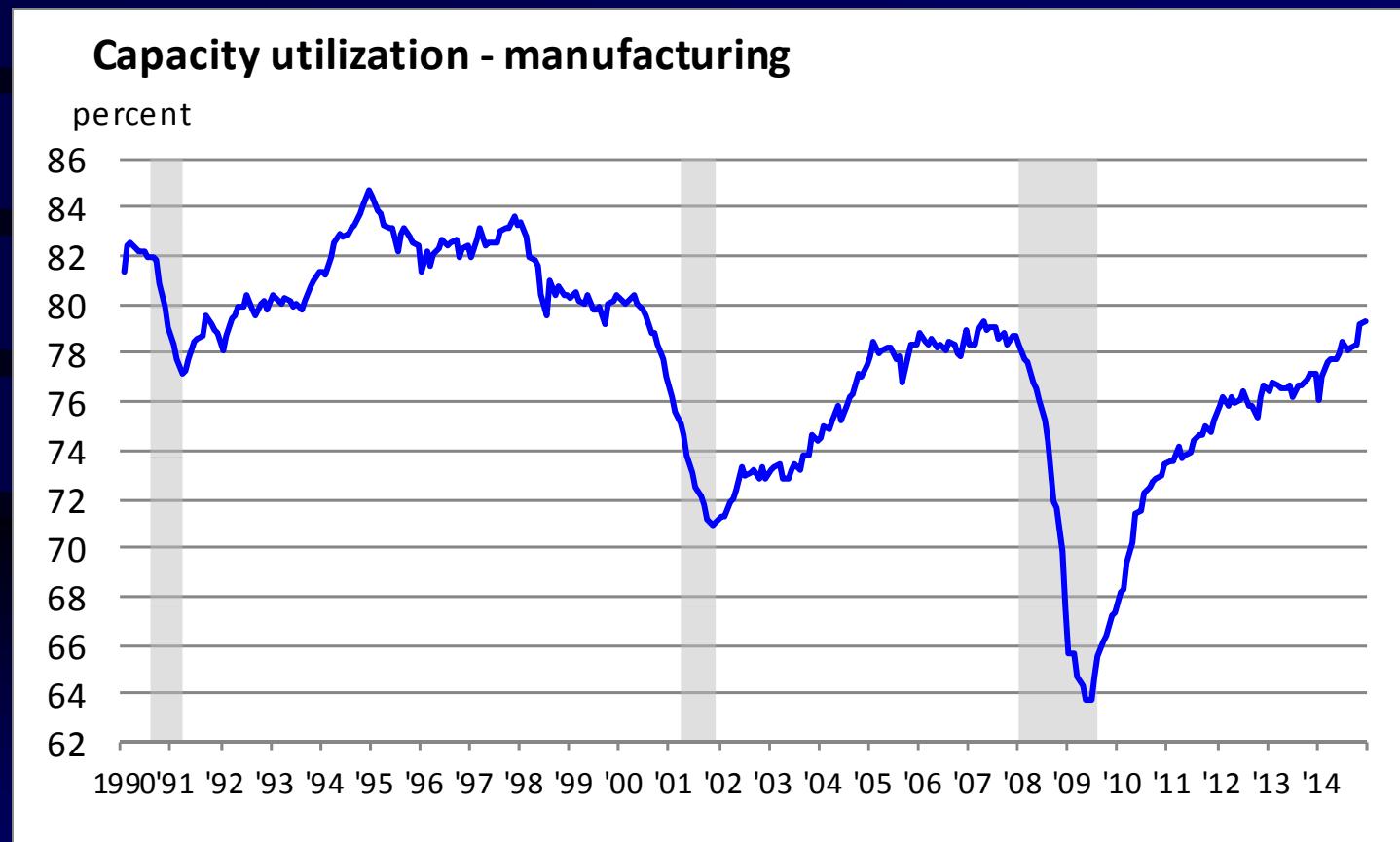
Since the beginning of the expansion manufacturing output has been increasing at a 4.9% annualized rate and has recovered 116% of the output during the recession



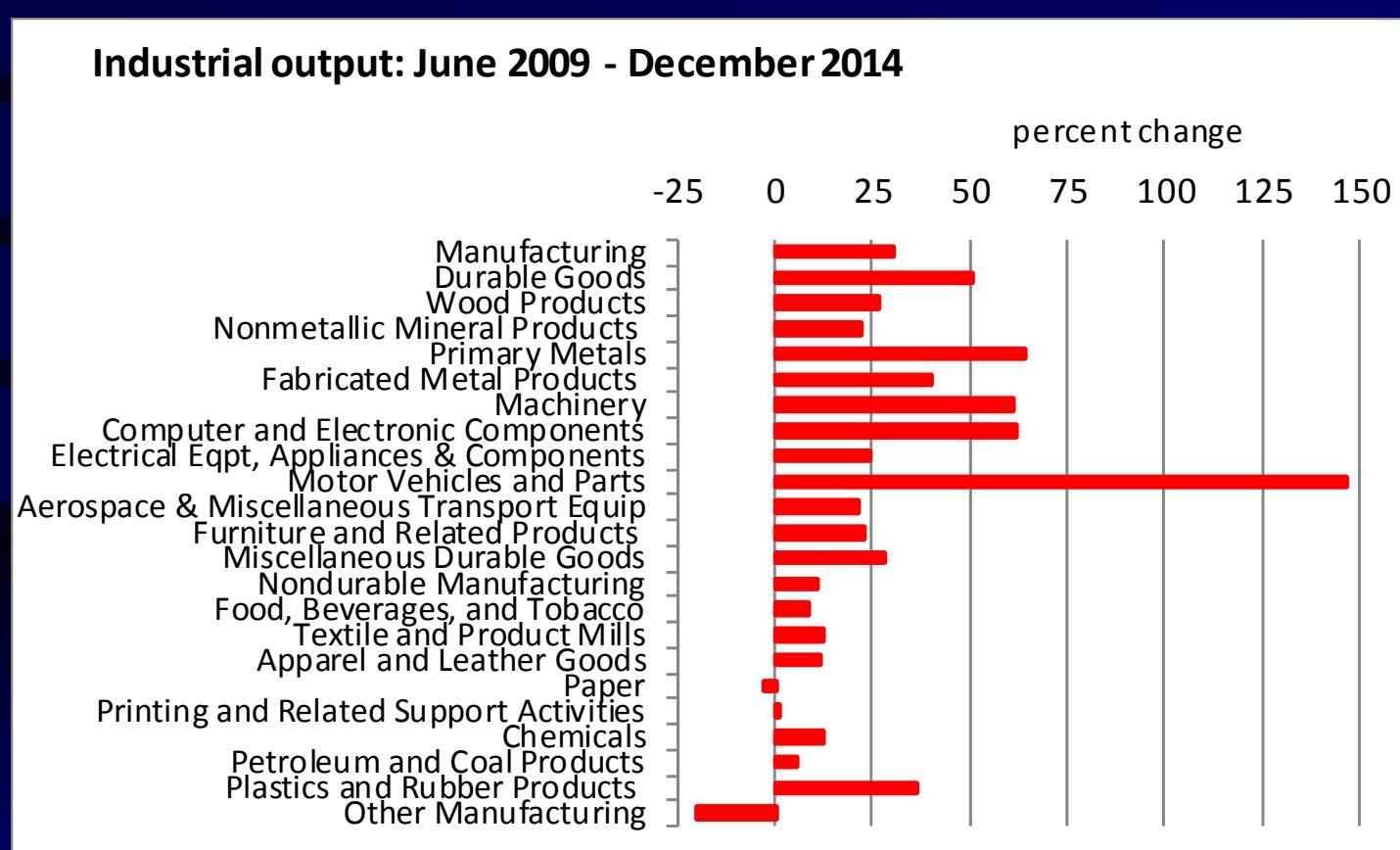
**While manufacturing jobs have been rising,  
they have only recovered 38.2% of the jobs  
lost during the downturn**



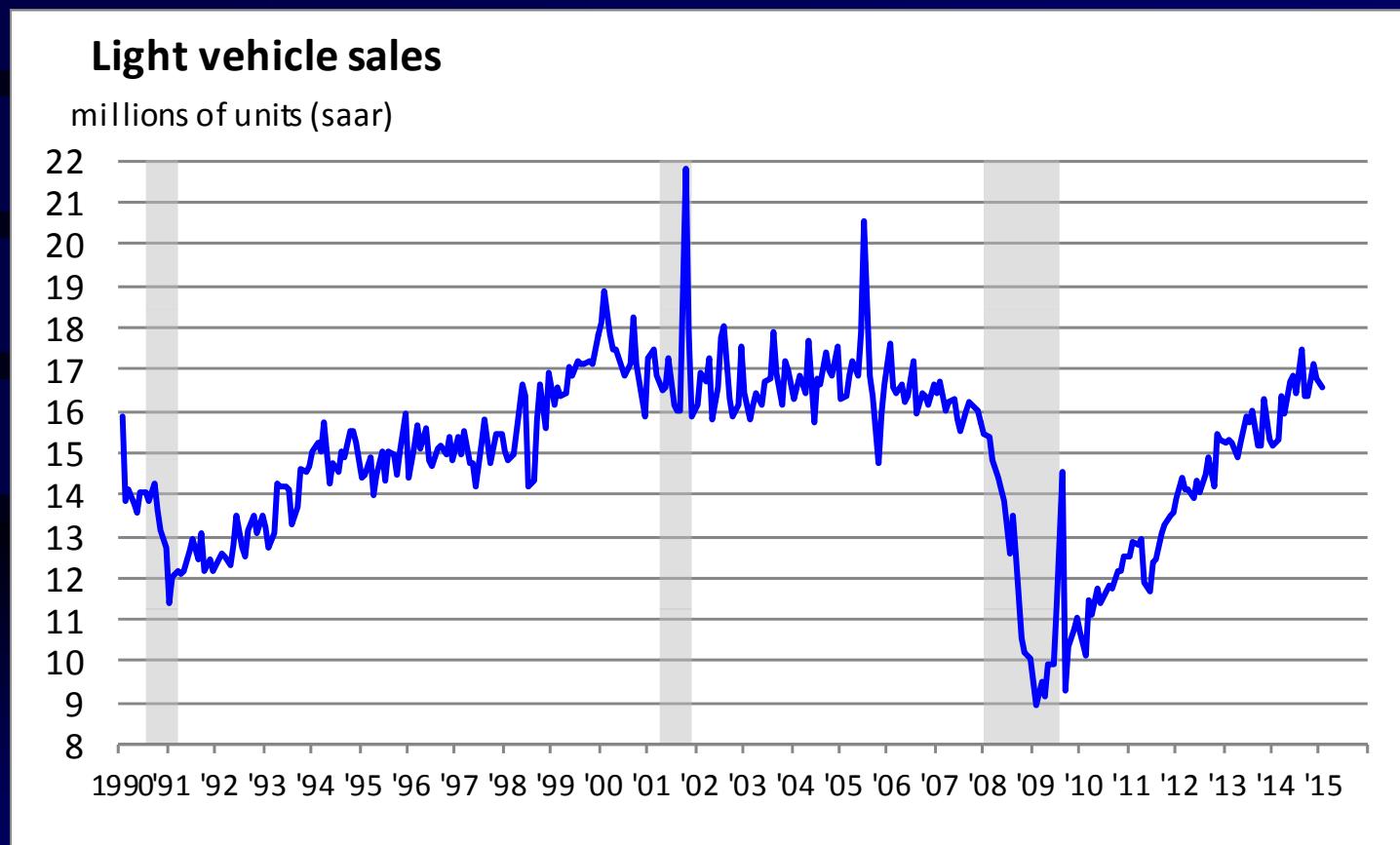
# Capacity utilization is getting very close to full utilization



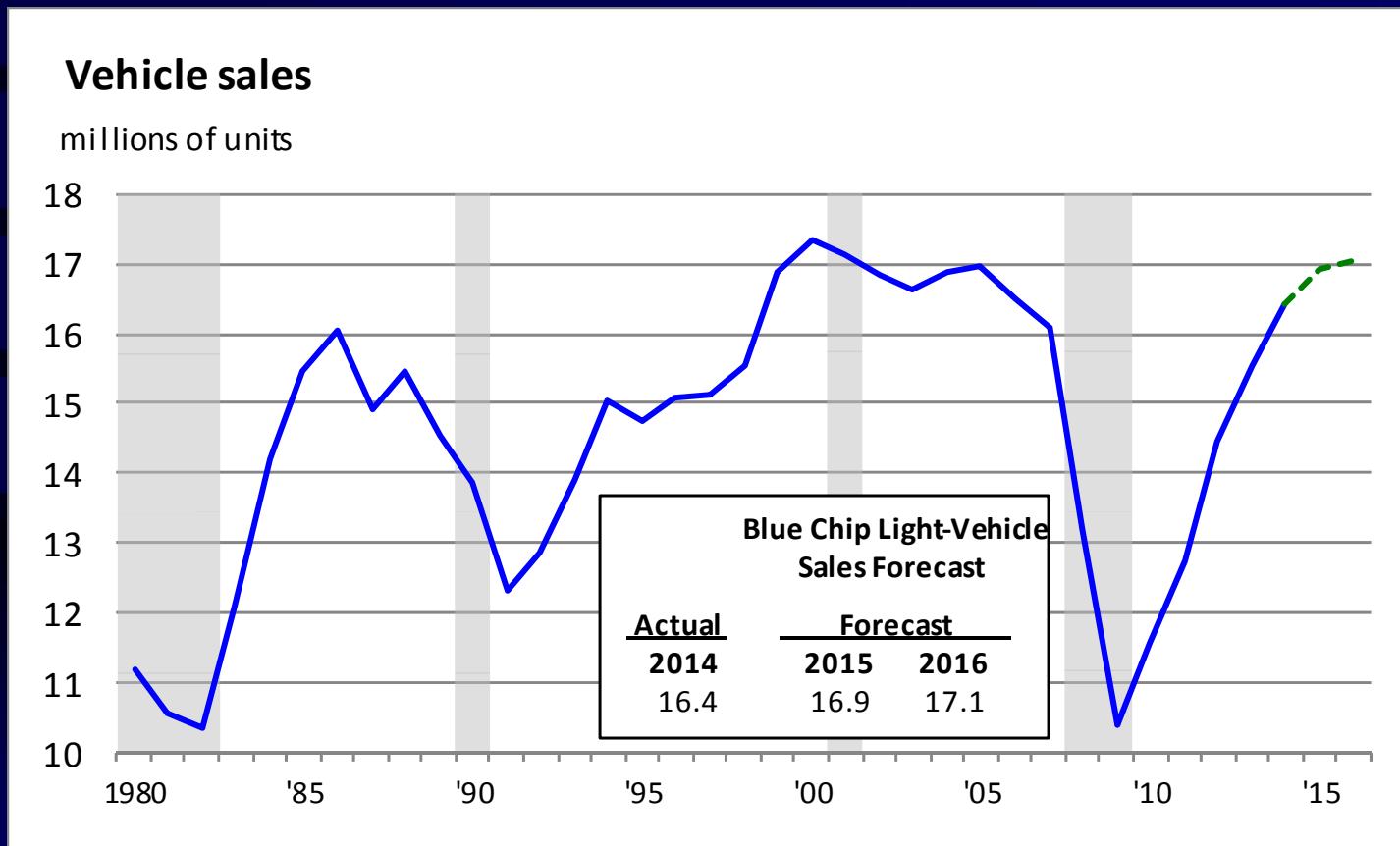
## The recovery has also been broad-based with vehicle and primary metals manufacturing leading the way



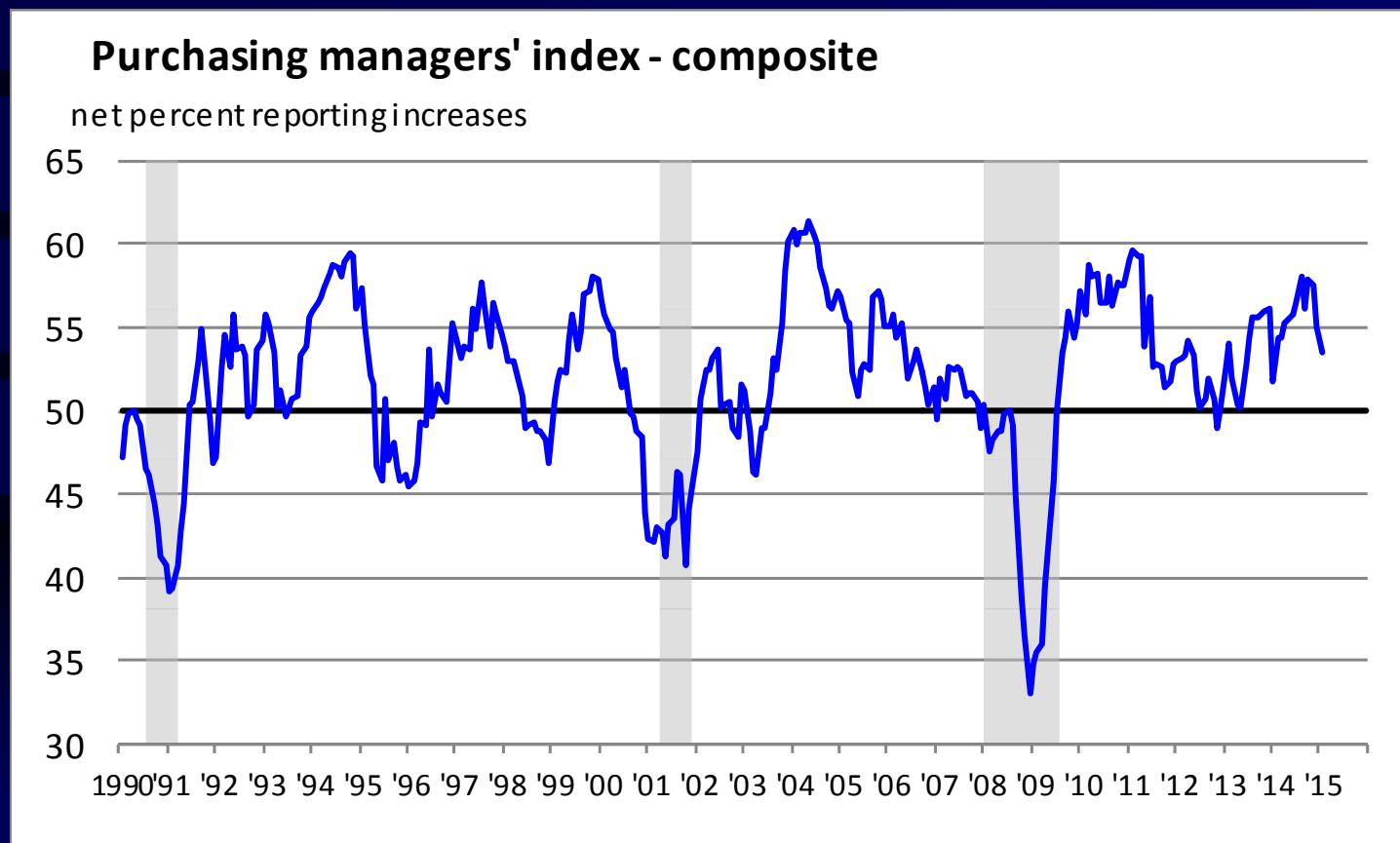
## Light vehicles sales have reached pre-recession levels



**Vehicle sales are forecast to rise around 3% this year and 1% next year**



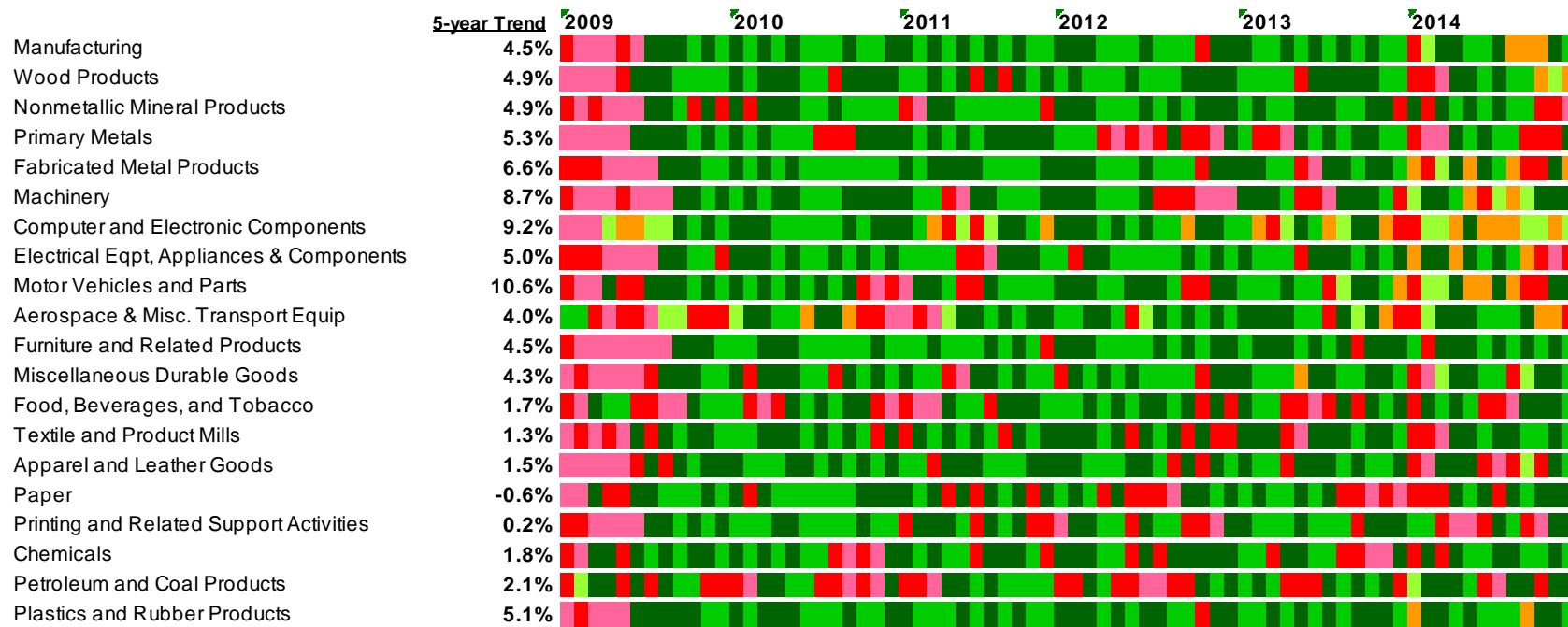
**The purchasing managers' index has moderated over the past few months**



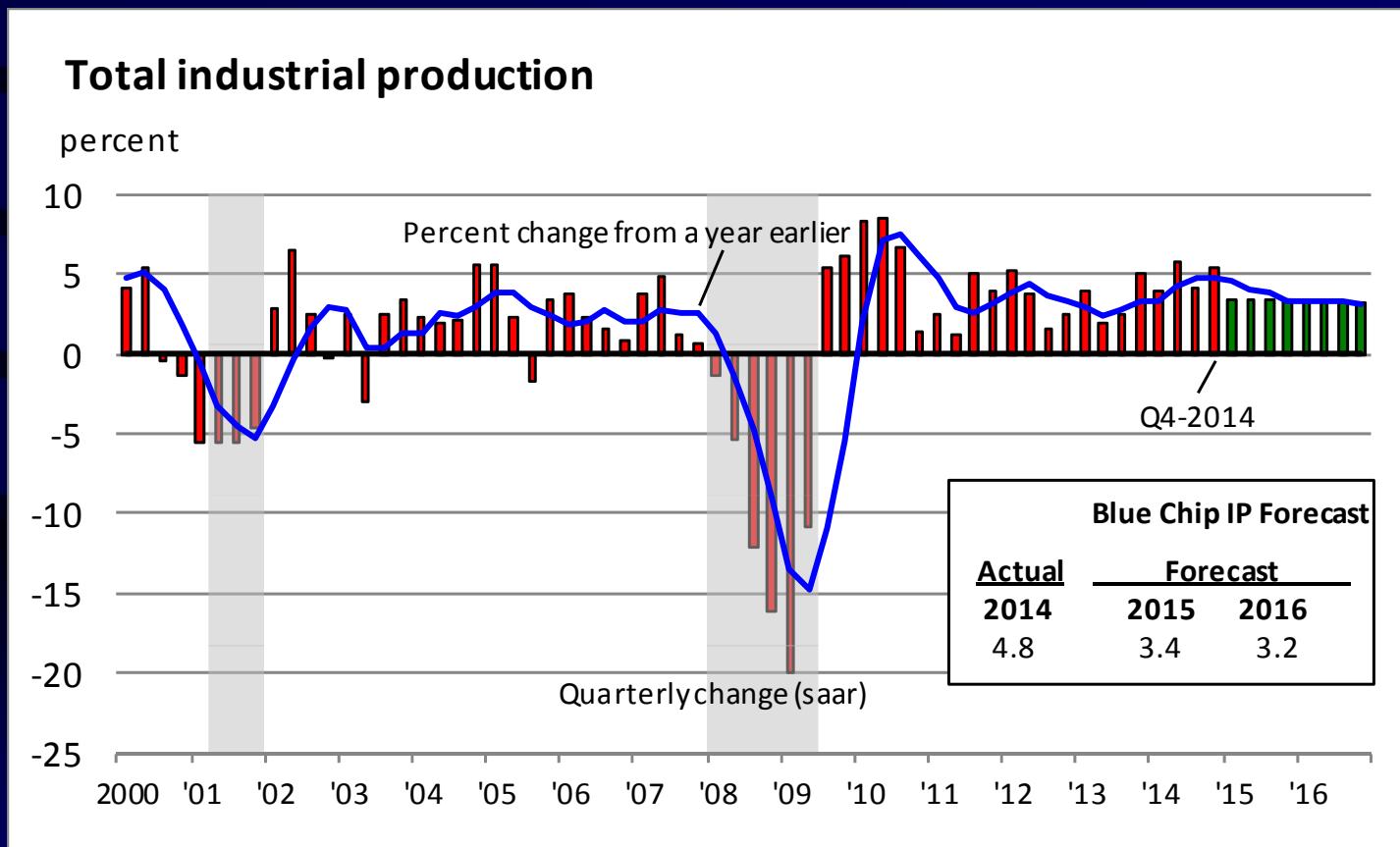
# The industrial sector has performed very well over the past 5 years

Current 3 Month Moving Average Growth is:	
Above Trend and Accelerating	Green
Above Trend and Decelerating	Light Green
Below Trend and Accelerating	Light Green
Below Trend and Decelerating	Orange
Contracting but Improving	Pink
Contracting and Deteriorating	Red

Manufacturing Industries Activity Chart  
Growth (3-month moving average)  
compared with the most recent 5-year trend



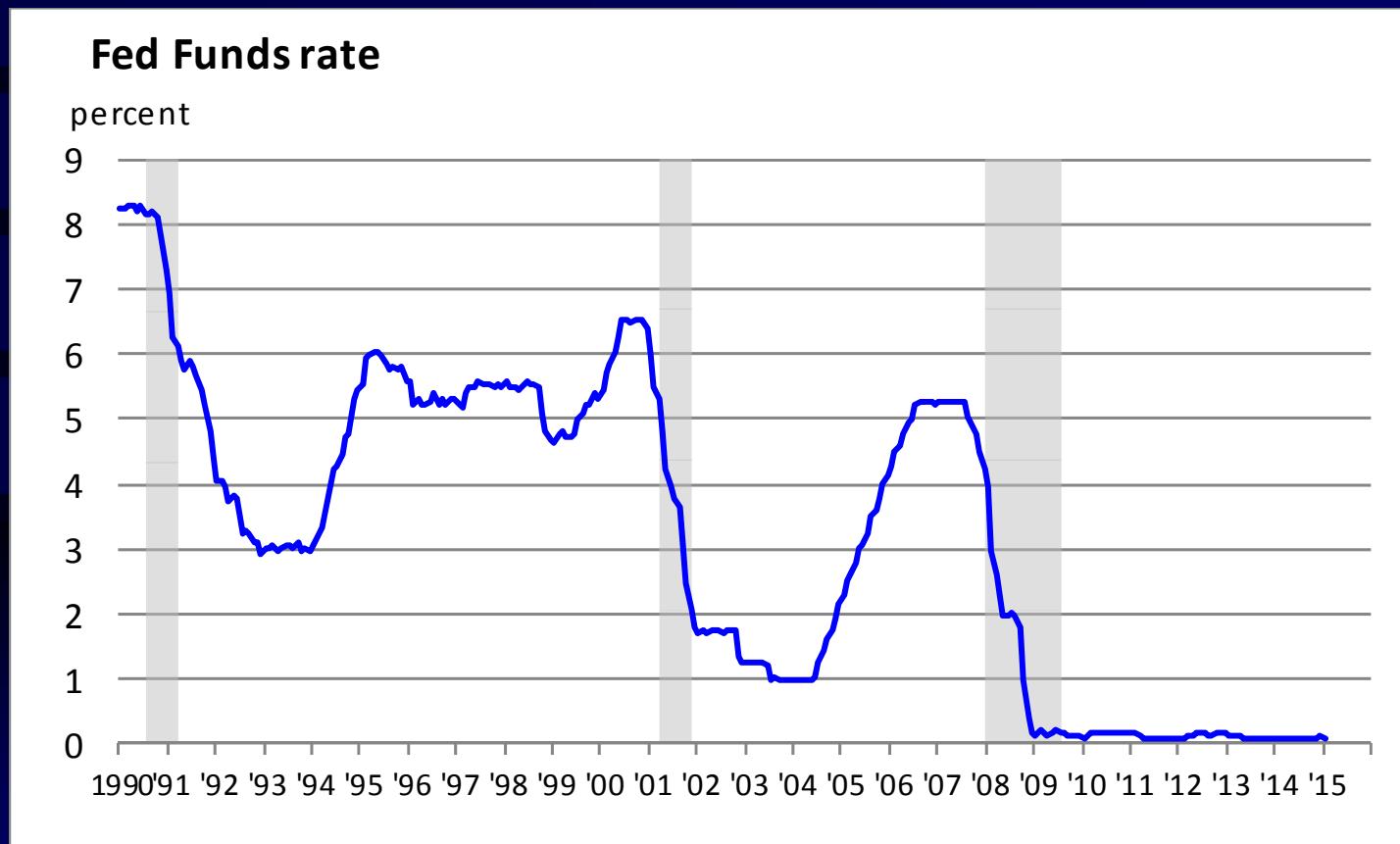
## Industrial production is forecast to rise at a pace above trend in 2015 and 2016



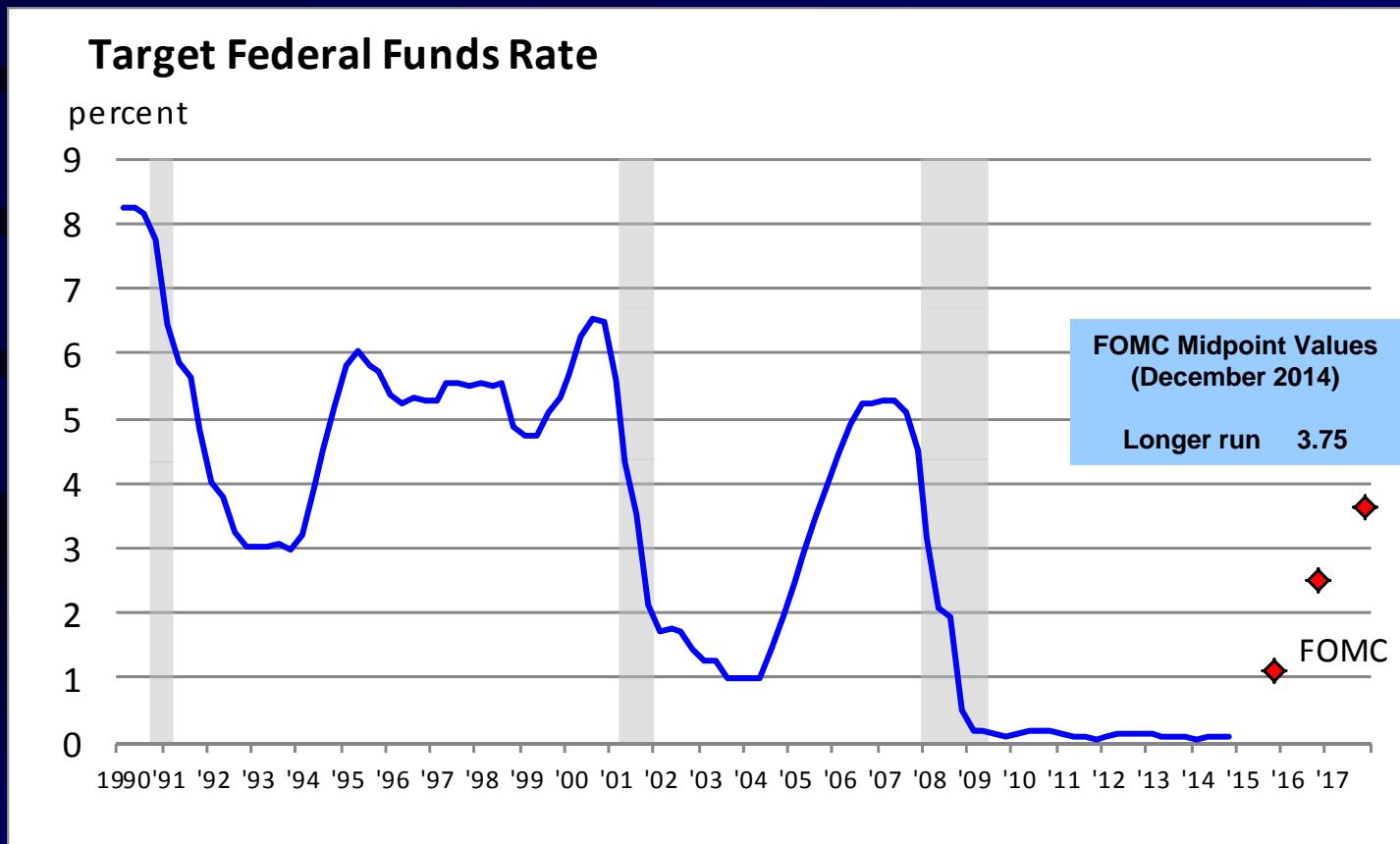
**Credit spreads between Corporate High Yield securities and Corporate Aaa securities have remained low, but has been inching higher since the middle of 2014**



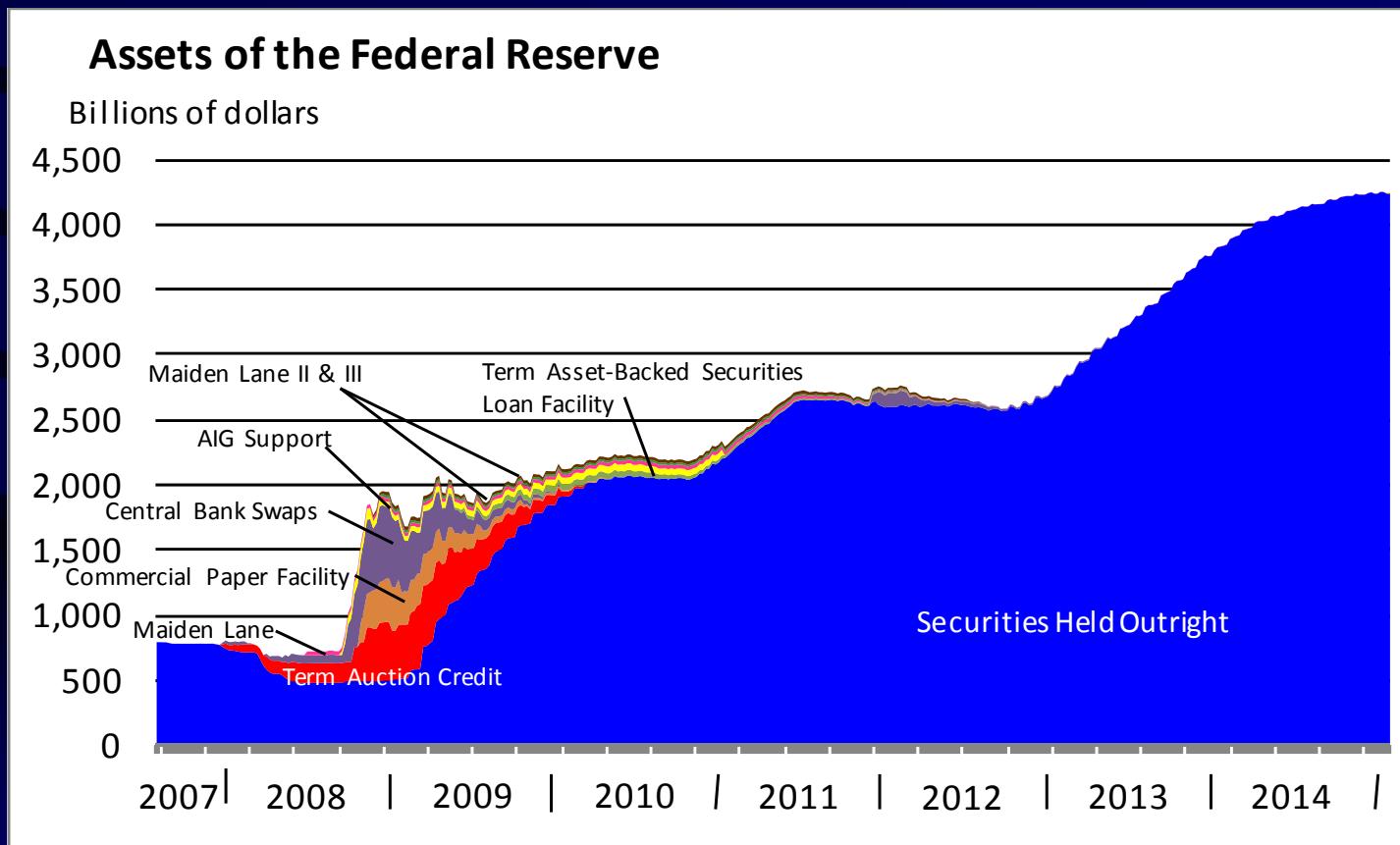
Monetary policy has been very aggressive,  
keeping the Fed Funds near zero since December 2008



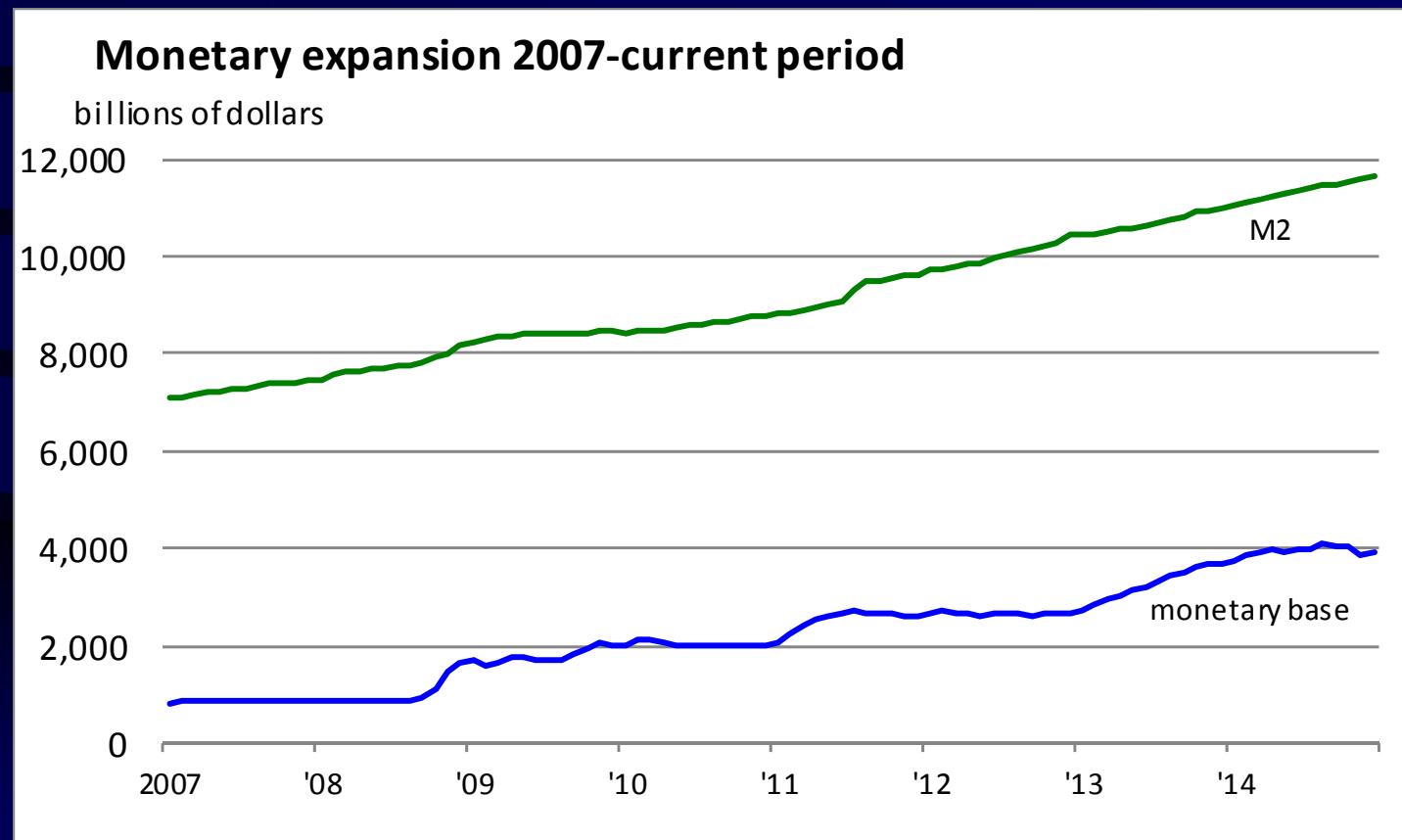
The Federal Funds Rate is anticipated to return to the neutral rate by the end of 2017



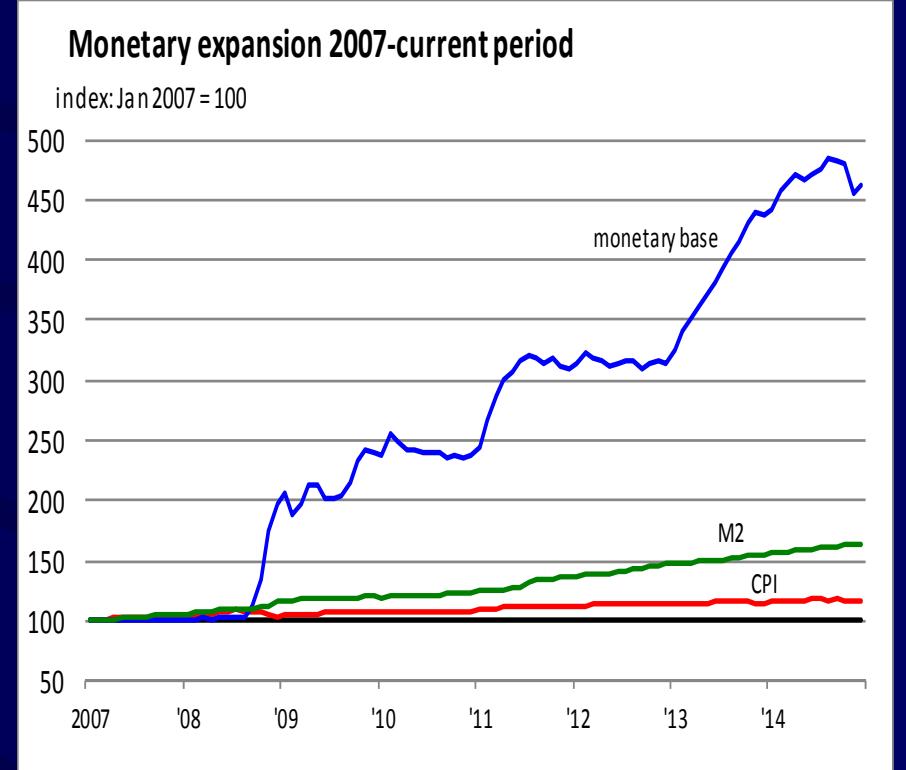
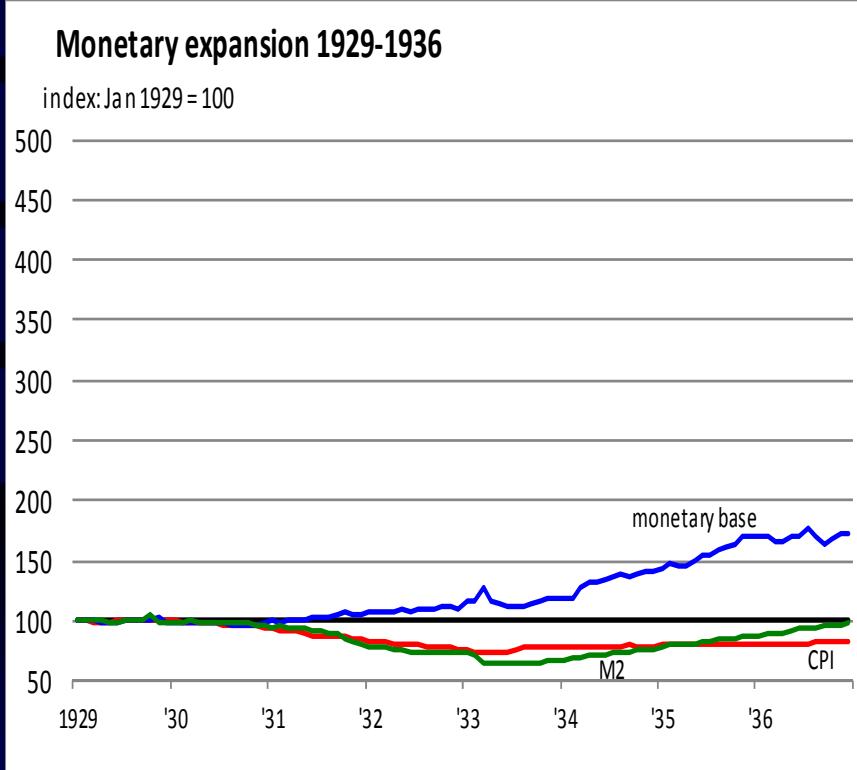
# The asset side of the Fed's balance sheet has expanded in size and in composition



The money supply (M2) is nearly 3 times bigger than the monetary base



# The Fed's expansion of the monetary base has allowed the money supply to continue rising, compared with what took place during the 1930s



## Summary

- The outlook is for the U.S. economy to expand at a pace somewhat above trend in 2015 and 2016
- Employment is expected to rise moderately with the unemployment rate edging lower
- Slackness in the economy will lead to a relatively contained inflation rate
- Growth in manufacturing output should be above trend over the next two years



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