

ECONOMIC SUMMARY

UNITED STATES

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Real gross domestic product (GDP) rose over the year at a rate of 2.0% in the first quarter of 2018, according to the third estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Real GDP went up 2.9% within the fourth quarter.

The general idea is that economic growth has been unchanged; based on the third estimate. Additionally, revisions in private inventory investment and personal consumption expenditures (PCE) declined.

The increase in real GDP for the first quarter was derived from mainly positive contributions from exports, non-residential fixed investment, PCE, federal government spending, and state and local government spending. This was partially impacted by the negative contribution from residential fixed investment and private inventory investments. Imports, a deduction of the calculation of GDP, rose over the period.

The deceleration of real GDP within the quarter reflected slowing in PCE, exports, federal government spending and state and local government spending and a decline in residential fixed investment. These were tempered by a downturn in private inventory investment and a more huge advance in non-residential fixed investment. Imports also went down.

“Current-dollar GDP increased 4.2%, or \$206 billion, in the first quarter to a level of \$19.96 trillion. In the fourth quarter, current-dollar GDP increased 5.3%, or \$253.50 billion”, according to the Bureau Economic Analysis.

“The price index for GDP purchases moved up 2.7% in the first quarter, compared to a rise of 2.5% in the fourth quarter. The PCE price index went up 2.5%, relative to an advance of 2.7%. With the exception of food and energy prices, the PCE price index increased 2.3%, relative to a 1.9% climb.”

UNEMPLOYMENT

Total nonfarm payroll employment climbed by 213,000 in June, with the rate of unemployment moved up to 4%. Employment rose in the various areas of health care, professional and business services and manufacturing while there was a reduction in retail trade jobs. In June, the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 % to 4% with the number of unemployed persons jumping up to 6.6 million (499,000). Reflecting a year ago, unemployment rate was 7 million with a job-less rate of 4.3%.

Long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) increased by 289,000 and was at 1.5 million in June and accounted for 23% of the unemployed.

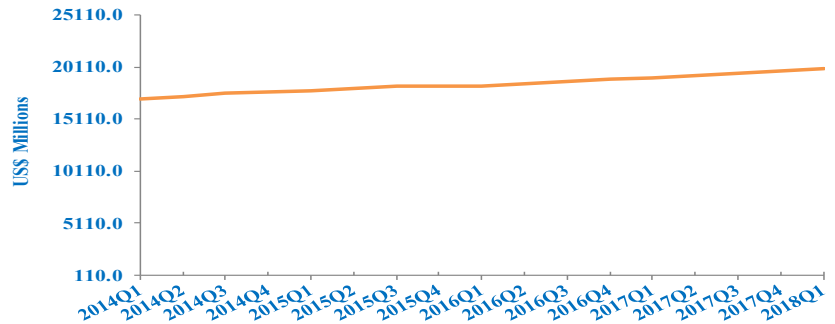
Labour force participation rate had a marginal change at 62.9% and the employment-population ratio at 60.4% for June (which has been unchanged since February).

Involuntary part-time workers or the number of persons employed part time for economic reasons experienced a slight change at 4.7 million in June. These persons who would have wanted full time employment, worked part time due to a reduction of hours or the inability to find a full-time job.

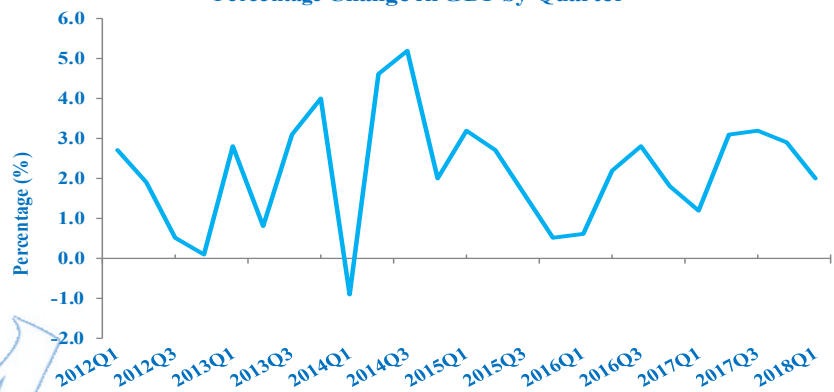
There were 1.4 million individuals marginally attached to the labour force, a small change compared to last year. These persons were not in the labour force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job in the last year. They would not have been counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks before the survey was conducted.

Of the marginally attached, 359,000 persons were classified as discouraged workers in May. These persons are not currently seeking for work as they believe no jobs are available for them. There are still 1.1 million persons marginally attached to the labor force in June who had not sought employment for reasons such as school attendance or family responsibilities.

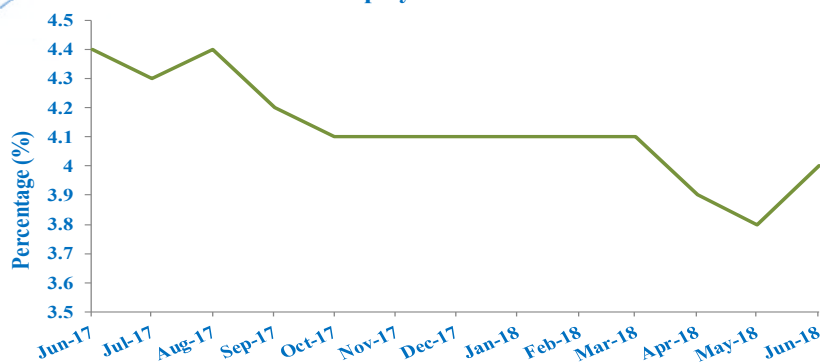
Total GDP



Percentage Change in GDP by Quarter



Unemployment Rate



NonFarm Payroll in thousands	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct - Dec
	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3
2013	465,953	466,617	466,987	465,188
2014	466,895	466,619	468,315	469,048
2015	470,574	471,483	471,043	472,438
2016	476,528	476,337	478,633	478,739
2017	479,973	541,997	345,000	637,000
2018	616,000	600,000		





CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

“The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.1% in June on a seasonally adjusted basis following a climb of 0.2% in May,” the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated. The all items index increased 2.9% before seasonal adjustment over the last year.

The all items less food and energy index increased 0.2% in June. The indexes for shelter rose 0.1% for the month of June and the indexes for medical care, used cars and trucks, new vehicles, and recreation all went up. On the other hand, those for airline fares, apparel and operations fell.

The all items index rose by 0.1% to 2.9% for the 12 months for June, experiencing the largest upward trend since the year ending February 2012. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.3% for year ending June. The energy index increased 12% and the food index advanced 1.4%, the highest since February of last year.

There was a rise in the energy index of 0.3% in June (May: 0.9%). The gasoline index grew 0.5% after rising 1.7% the prior month. (Before seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices increased 0.3% in June). The electricity index went down 1.4% in June, and the index for natural gas fell 1.7%.

The energy index increased 12% over the past 12 months. Gasoline index advanced 24.3% and the fuel oil index up 30.8%.” Whereas the index for natural gas and electricity for the last year fell 2.1% and 0.1% respectively.

The food index jumped to 0.2 in June subsequent to being the same in May which was driven by the rise in five of the six major grocery store food group indexes while the index for food away from home increased 0.2%. During the last year, the index for food away from home and food at home index both increased 2.8% and 0.4% respectively.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

“The Producer Price Index for final demand prices went up 0.3% in June, seasonally adjusted. Final demand prices rose 0.5% in May and 0.1% in April. On an unadjusted basis, the final demand index increased 3.4% for the 12 months ended in June, the largest 12-month rise since the increase of 3.7% in November 2011.”

The index for final demand services went up 0.4%, and prices for final demand goods in June was 0.1%.

“The prices for final demand less foods, energy, and trade services inched up 0.3% in June, from a rise of 0.1% in May. For the 12 months ended in May, index for final demand less foods, energy, and trade services increased 2.7%.”

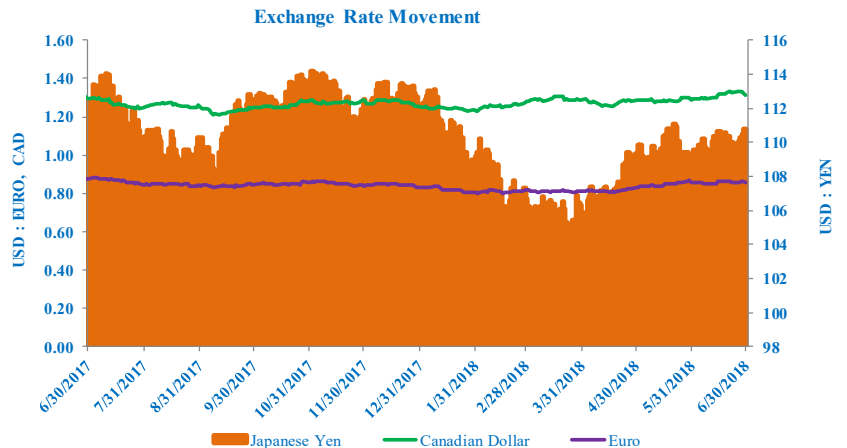
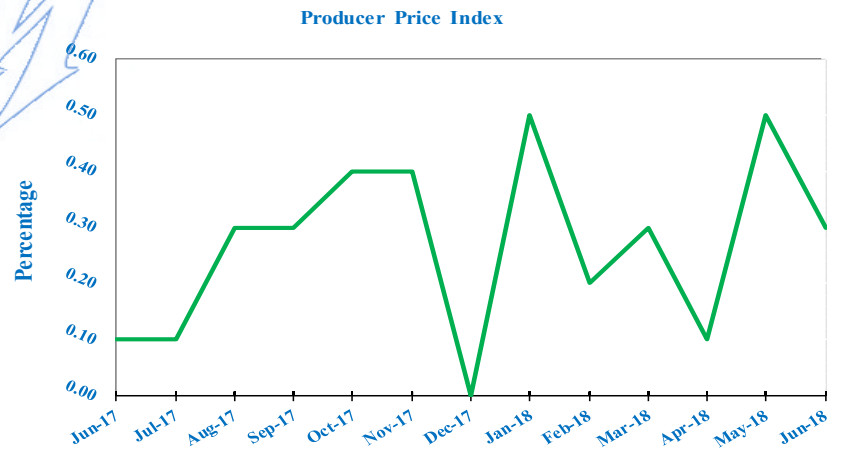
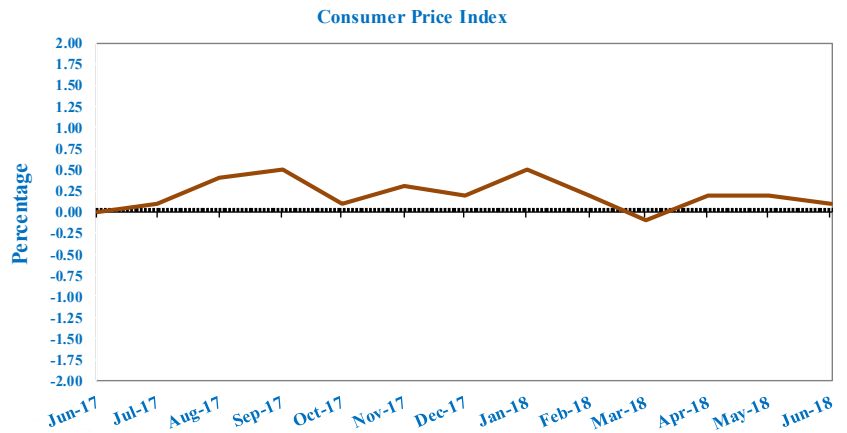
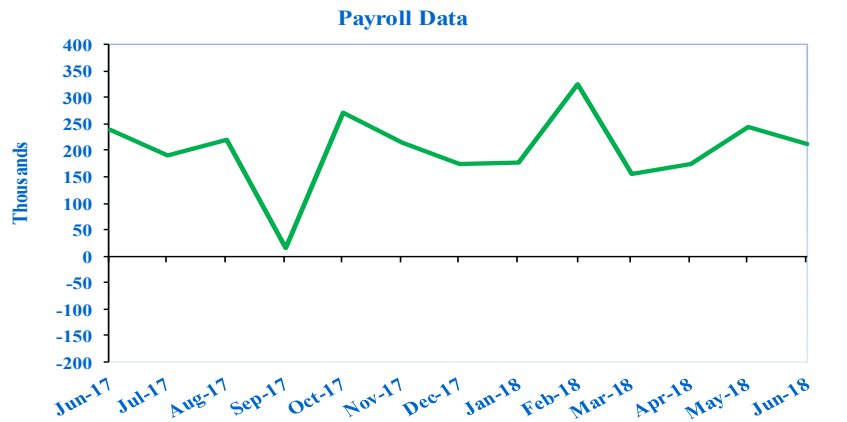
The index for final demand goods advanced 0.1% in June. Final demand energy went up 0.8% as opposed to the index for final demand foods which saw a decline of 1.1%.

The prices for final demand services moved up 0.4% in June, the sixth successive rise since that of 0.5% in January. The climb in June was influenced by the final demand trade services index which rose by 0.7%. (Trade indexes measure movements in margins received by wholesalers and retailers.) Prices for final demand services less trade, transportation and warehousing services went up 0.3% whereas the index for final demand transportation, and warehousing services was 0.5%.

U.S. Dollar

According to FX Empire, “There was a huge decline throughout April 2018 as the EURUSD pair experienced saw range bound fluctuations in June 2018 which was due to the current global trade war and the Central bank decisions. The EURUSD saw new 360-day low’s testing 1.15 handle before seeing some recovery action as the trade wars heightened. The pair moved from 1.161 handle to 1.184 handle as worries over the fall back because of Italy’s League and 5-Star having finally reached an agreement to form a coalition government. The retaliation of the US allies against the US measures which rekindled trade war fears had subdued about the last week of April also influenced the Euro to go up.”

“Furthermore, the currency faced pressures against US Greenback because of political climate in Spain as Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy was replaced by Pedro Sanchez of Spanish Socialist Workers Party. This was aided through vote of no-confidence in parliament which Nationalists regained control of Catalonia’s government and called for independence talks. In the first week continued news assisted the upward trend in the Euro regardless of the current situation of the trade war and internal conflict in Europe.”



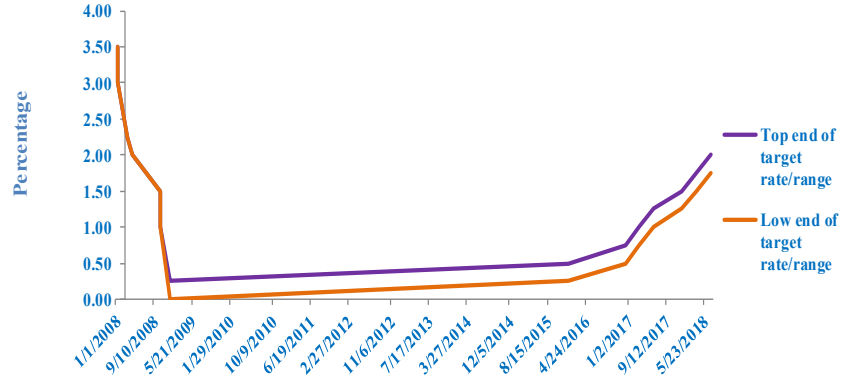


FEDERAL RESERVE MINUTES

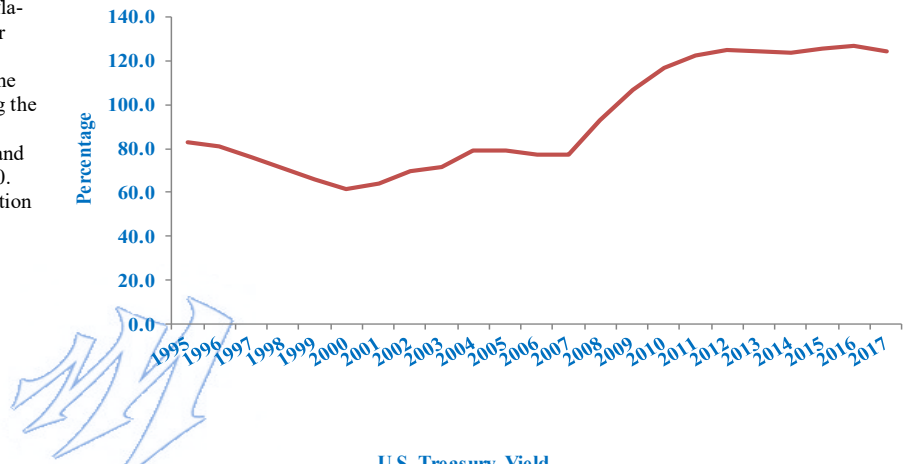
“On June 12-13, 2018, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) held a meeting in order for participants to submit their projections of the most reasonable outcomes for real GDP growth, the unemployment rate, and inflation for the years 2018 to 2020 and the overall future (longer-run projection). Each participant’s projection were based on information available during the meeting, along with his or her assessments of appropriate monetary policy (including a path for federal funds and its future value) and assumptions about other factors likely to affect an economic outcome. The long-run projections represent each participant’s assessment of the value of projected convergence for each variable as a result of appropriate monetary policy and absence of further shocks to the economy. Appropriate monetary policy can be defined as the future path of policy that each participant deems most likely to help outcomes for economic activity and inflation that best satisfy his or her individual interpretation of the statutory mandate to promote maximum employment and price stability.”

“Any participant who submitted longer-run projections expected that the real GDP, in 2018, would expand at a rate exceeding their individual estimates of the longer-run growth rate of real GDP. Participants saw the real GDP rate growing in each of the upcoming two years, but their estimates were lower than the actual long-run rate. All of the participants who submitted longer-run projections expected that the unemployment rate would remain below their estimates. All members estimating inflation projected, as measured by a percentage change in price index for personal consumption expenditures in all four quarters by the end of 2018 and would move at or above the FOMC’s objective of 2% by the end of this year and remain the same through 2020. When comparing the Summary of Economic Projections from March to the FOMC, most participants increased their projections of real GDP growth in 2018 and lowered their projections for unemployment from 2018 through 2020. Along with that, most participants projected a slight increase in inflation in 2018.”

Federal Interest Rates



Debt to GDP (Percentage)

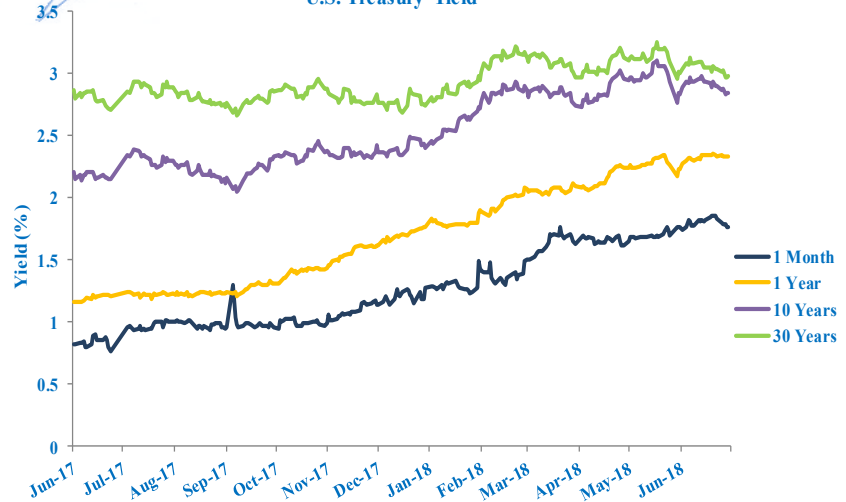


U.S. TREASURY YIELD CURVE

According to Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, “In June, short rates moved up and long rates trended down. The three-month (constant maturity) Treasury bill rate went up to 1.94% (for the week ending June 22) up 2 basis points from May’s 1.92%, which was much higher (11 basis points) from April’s 1.81%. The 10-year rate (also constant maturity) fell by 10 basis points to 2.91%, down from May’s 3.01 but slightly above the April’s 2.88%. These changes moved the slope downwards to 97 basis points, down 12 basis points from May’s 109 basis points and 10 basis points below that of April (110 basis points).”

“Overall, the incoming data had a small impact of how growth will move. Using past values of the spread and GDP growth suggests that real GDP will grow at approximately 1.5% rate over the upcoming year, the same as April and March estimates. Although the time horizons do not match exactly, the forecast, like other forecasts, does show moderate growth.”

U.S. Treasury Yield



GOVERNMENT DEBT/DEFICIT

According to the Congressional Budget Office, “The federal budget deficit was \$607 billion for the first nine months of fiscal year 2018, the Congressional Budget Office estimates, \$84 billion more than the shortfall recorded during the same period last year. Revenues and outlays were higher, by 1% and 4%, respectively, than in the same period in fiscal year 2017.”

Outlays were recorded at 3,146 billion, \$115 billion greater than that of last year while receipts increased by \$31 billion closing at \$2,508 billion (2017: \$2,539 billion). The year 2018 outlays were impacted by movements in the timing of particular payments that otherwise would have been transacted on the weekend. If it weren't for those shifts, outlays and the deficit through June would have been smaller, by roughly \$40 billion, both this year and last year—but the year-to-year variances would not have been very different.

Budget Totals, October–June			
Billions of Dollars			
	Actual, FY 2017	Preliminary, FY 2018	Estimated Change
Receipts	2,508	2,539	31
Outlays	3,031	3,146	115
Deficit (-)	-523	-607	-84

