



UNITED STATES

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis' "third" estimate, real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 2.3% in the third quarter of 2021. Real GDP increased by 6.7% in the second quarter.

The ongoing economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was evident in the increase in third-quarter GDP. In some sections of the country, a revival of COVID-19 cases has resulted in increased restrictions and delays in the reopening of businesses. Payments to businesses in the form of forgivable loans, grants to state and local governments, and social benefits to households also decreased.

Private inventory investment, PCE, state and local government expenditure, and non-residential fixed investment all increased in the third quarter, partially offsetting declines in residential fixed investment, federal government spending, and exports. Imports increased, which is a factor in calculating GDP.

Private inventory investment increased as wholesale trade (driven by nondurable goods industries) and retail trade both grew (led by motor vehicles and parts dealers). The increase in PCE was due to an increase in services that was partially offset by a decrease in goods. Within services, increases were widespread, with "other" services (mostly international travel) and transportation services contributing the most. The drop in goods was mostly due to lower spending on motor vehicles and parts. Employee compensation drove the increase in state and local government spending (notably, education). The increase in non-residential fixed investment was partly offset by reductions in structures and equipment due to an increase in intellectual property products (driven by software and research & development).

The decline in residential fixed investment was mostly due to lower spending on improvements and new single-family homes. After the processing and administration of Paycheck Protection Program loan applications by banks on behalf of the federal government concluded in the second quarter, the decrease in federal government spending was mostly due to a decrease in non-defense spending on intermediate goods and services. The drop in exports was due to a drop in both products and services. The increase in imports was mostly due to an increase in services (led by travel and transport).

A decrease in PCE more than compensated for the drop in real GDP in the third quarter. Between the second and third quarters, consumer spending on goods (led by automobiles and parts) and services slowed (led by food services and accommodations).

In the third quarter, current dollar GDP increased 8.4% on an annual basis, or \$461.3 billion, to \$23.20 trillion. GDP increased by 13.4%, or \$702.8 billion, in the second quarter.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In December, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 199,000. The unemployment rate ticked down to 3.9% in December. The job growth was spread across various industries, with notable gains in leisure and hospitality, in professional and business services, in manufacturing, in construction, and in transportation and warehousing.

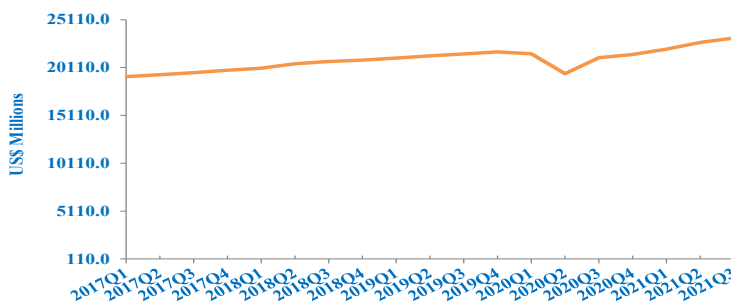
Professional and business services added 43,000 jobs in December 2021. Employment in leisure and hospitality continued to trend up in December (+53,000). Transportation and warehousing added 19,000, construction (+22,000) and manufacturing (+26,000) over the month. Additionally, employment in wholesale trade added 14,000 and mining added 7,000. According to BLS, "in December, employment showed little or no change in other major industries, including retail trade, information, financial activities, health care, other services, and government."

Notably, the number of persons on temporary layoff was little changed at 812,000 in December. The number of permanent job losers declined to 1.7 million. While the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) fell by 185,000 to 2.0 million. Moreover, the number of unemployed persons who were jobless less than 5 weeks in December was 1.98 million.

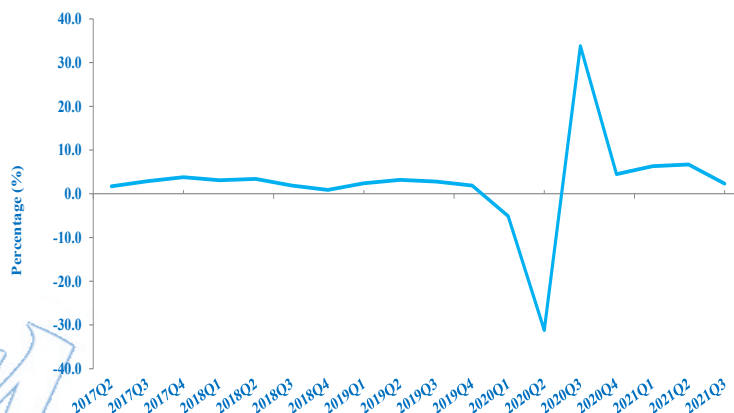
The labour force participation rate for December stood at 61.9%, while the employment population ratio rose to 61.9%. Nonetheless, persons employed part-time for economic reasons stood at 3.9 million in December. Based on BLS assessment, "these individuals, who would have preferred full-time employment, were working part-time because their hours had been reduced or they were unable to find full-time jobs."

In December, a total of 1.6 million individuals were slightly attached to the labour force. These persons were not in the labour force, wanted and were available for work, and had looked for a job in the last year. Of the marginally attached, 463,000 persons were classified as discouraged workers in December, little changed over the month. These persons are not currently seeking work as they believe no jobs are available for them.

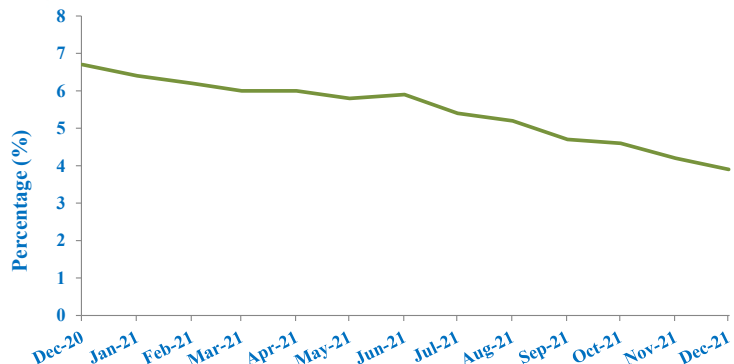
Total GDP



Percentage Change in GDP by Quarter



Unemployment Rate



Labour Force in Thousands	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct - Dec
Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2017	437,341	438,955	440,624	442,216
2018	443,964	445,945	447,653	449,152
2019	450,503	451,747	453,350	455,201
2020	455,597	400,995	422,580	427,857
2021	430,065	435,168	442,324	446,206



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.5% for December 2021, on a seasonally adjusted basis, according to U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS). The all-items index rose 7.0% before seasonal adjustment over the last year.

The all-items less food and energy index climbed 0.6% in December. The index shelter index increased by 0.4%. The indexes for new vehicles and used cars and trucks rose 1.0% and 3.5%, respectively. The prices for medical care rose 0.3%, household furnishings and operations rose 1.1% and apparel rose 1.7%. The indexes for airline fares (+2.7%), tobacco (+0.7%), education (+0.1%) and personal care (+0.5%) increased in December. Whereas the motor vehicle insurance index and recreation index fell in December by 1.5% and 0.2%, respectively. The communication index remained unchanged over the month.

The index for food rose 0.5% in December, while the index for food at home increased 0.4%. The index for fruits and vegetables increased the most, rising 0.9% over the month as the index for fresh fruits increased 1.8%. The non-alcoholic beverages index increased 0.8% in December. The food away from home index rose 0.6% while the index for other food at home increased by 0.7% over the month. The food away from home index rose 0.6% in December. The index for fruits and vegetables climbed 1.0% in December. The index for dairy and related products climbed 0.7% and the index for cereals and bakery products rose 0.4% in December. The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs declined 0.4% in December.

The index for energy fell 3.5% in December. A 0.5% decrease was recorded in the gasoline index. Meanwhile, the index for natural gas decreased 1.2% whereas the electricity index increased 0.3% in December.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

The seasonally adjusted Producer Price Index for final demand gained 0.2% in December, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Following gains of 1.0% in November and 0.6% in October, the stock market has risen again. Final demand prices increased 9.7% in 2021 on an unadjusted basis, the largest calendar-year increase since data were first calculated in 2010.

The increase in the final demand index in December can be attributed to a 0.5-percent increase in final demand service costs. The index for final demand items, on the other hand, fell by 0.4%. Following a 0.8% gain in November, prices for final demand excluding food, energy, and trade services rose 0.4% in December. Following a 1.3% increase in 2020, the final demand index excluding foods, energy, and trade services increased 6.9% in 2021.

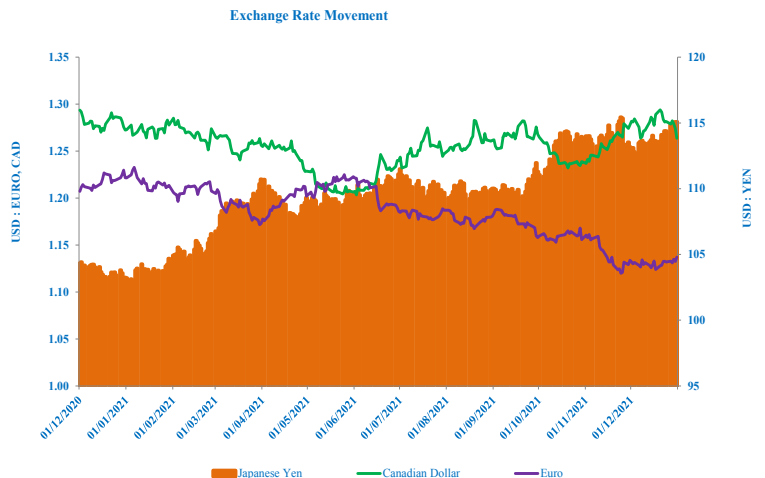
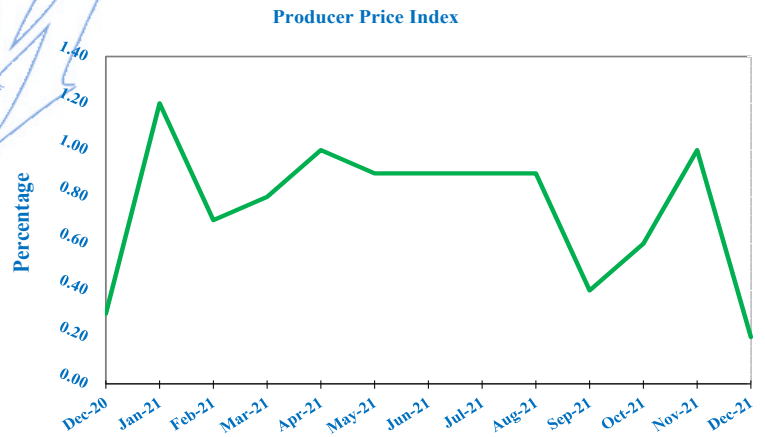
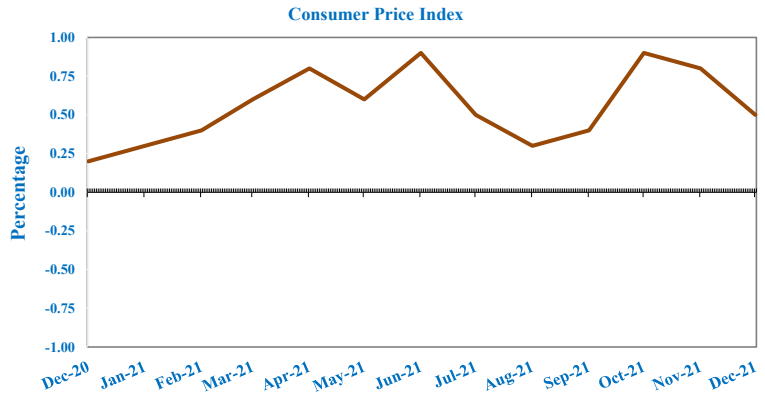
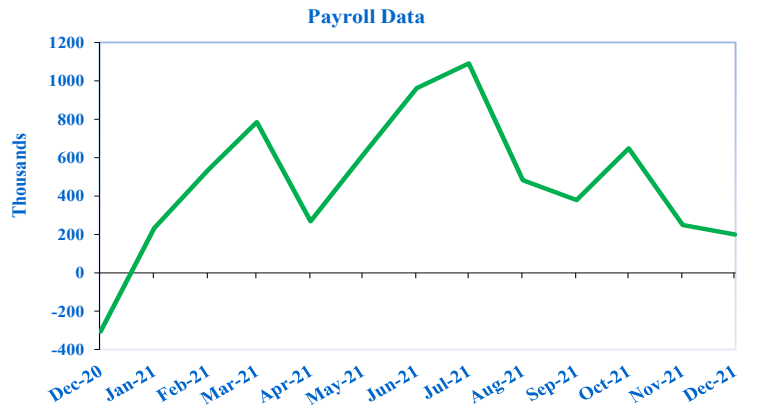
Following a 0.9% increase in November, prices for final demand services increased by 0.5% in December. Margin increases for final demand trade services, which increased by 0.8%, account for more than half of the broad-based gain in December. (Trade indices track changes in wholesalers' and retailers' profit margins.) Prices for final demand services excluding trade, transportation, and warehousing grew 0.2% and 1.7%, respectively, for final demand transportation and warehousing services.

The final demand goods index fell 0.4% in December, the first drop since April 2020, when it fell 2.8%. Final demand energy prices fell 3.3% in December, leading the fall. The final demand foods index declined 0.6%. Prices for final demand products, excluding food and energy, increased by 0.5%.

U.S. Dollar

For December 2021, the EUR/USD pair closed at \$1.1370 versus \$1.1320 at the start of the month, a 0.44% increase. According to FX empire, "the Euro is spiking to the upside at the mid-session on Friday as buyers took advantage of the thin holiday volume. The move may have been fueled by end-of-the-year position-squaring or possibly the news that China would raise its Euro weightings in its key Yuan Index basket."

Looking ahead, "The U.S. Federal Reserve meets next week. It is expected to raise rates in March, for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, and investors are pricing in four rate hikes in 2022," as per FX Empire.





FEDERAL RESERVE MINUTES

On December 15, 2021, the Federal Reserve decided to maintain its benchmark interest rate at 0 and 0.25% after the Federal Open Market Committee concluded its two-day meeting. This target range is expected to be maintained until labor market conditions have reached levels consistent with the Committee’s assessments of maximum employment.

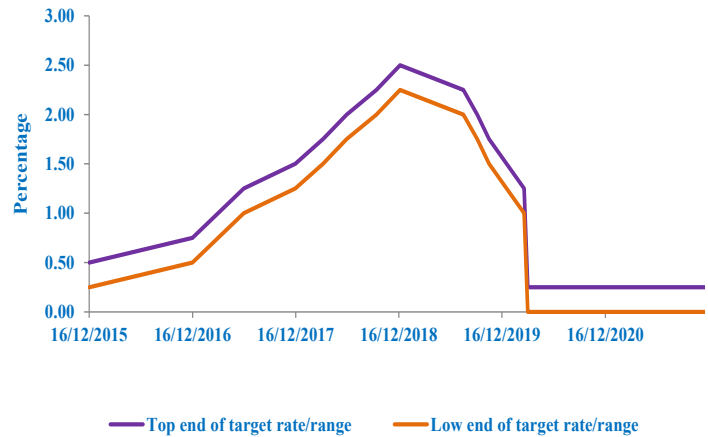
With progress on vaccinations and strong policy support, indicators of economic activity and employment have continued to strengthen. The sectors most adversely affected by the pandemic have improved in recent months, but COVID-19 cases has slowed their recovery. In recent months, job growth has been strong, and the unemployment rate has dropped significantly. The pandemic’s supply and demand imbalances, as well as the economy’s reopening, have continued to contribute to high inflation rates. Overall financial conditions are still accommodating, owing in part to policy measures aimed at bolstering the economy and the supply of credit to U.S. households and businesses.

The Federal Reserve cites, “the path of the economy continues to depend on the course of the virus. Progress on vaccinations and an easing of supply constraints are expected to support continued gains in economic activity and employment as well as a reduction in inflation. Risks to the economic outlook remain, including from new variants of the virus.” The Committee’s long-term aim is to maintain maximum employment and inflation at 2%.

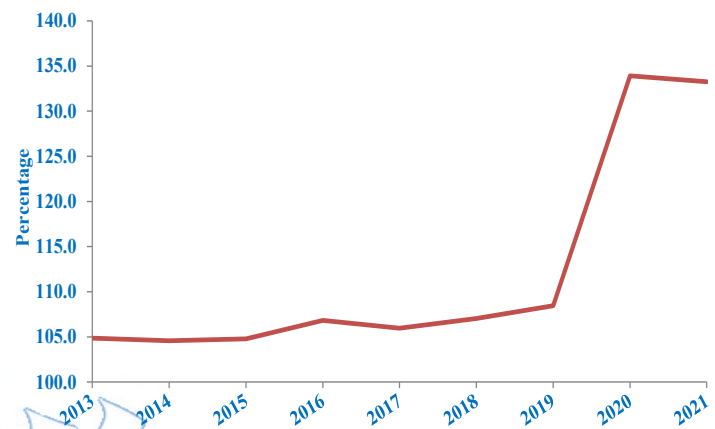
The Committee agreed to cut the monthly pace of its net asset purchases by \$20 billion for Treasury securities and \$10 billion for agency mortgage-backed securities in light of inflation developments and continued labor market strengthening. The Committee will expand its Treasury securities holdings by at least \$40 billion each month, and its agency mortgage-backed securities holdings by at least \$20 billion per month, starting in January. The FOMC stated, “The Committee judges that similar reductions in the pace of net asset purchases will likely be appropriate each month, but it is prepared to adjust the pace of purchases if warranted by changes in the economic outlook. The Federal Reserve’s ongoing purchases and holdings of securities will continue to foster smooth market functioning and accommodative financial conditions, thereby supporting the flow of credit to households and businesses.”

Furthermore, these asset purchases promote smooth market functioning and accommodative financial conditions, thus facilitating the flow of credit to households and businesses. The Committee will continue to monitor the implications of incoming information for the economic outlook and is prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the Committee’s goals.

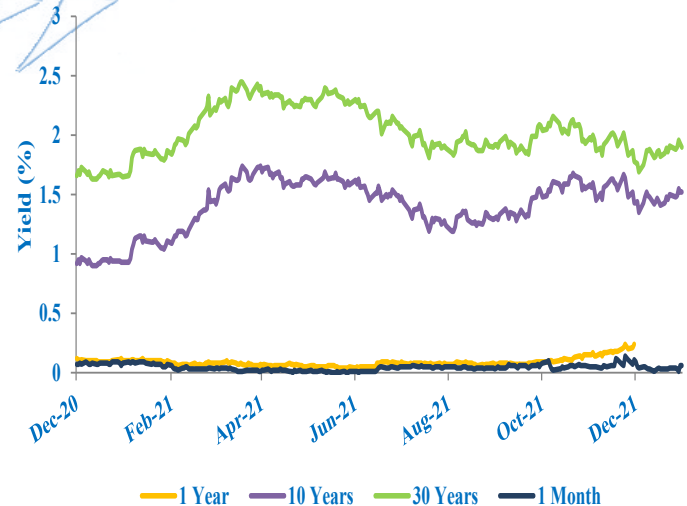
Federal Interest Rates



Debt to GDP (Percentage)



U.S. Treasury Yield



U.S. TREASURY YIELD CURVE

The 3-month Treasury bill rate stood at 0.06% from November’s 0.05%. The 5-year rate fell to 1.26% in November 2021 relative to 1.14%, a month earlier. The 10-year rate (also constant maturity) decreased to 1.52%, from November’s 1.43% and October’s 1.55%.

GOVERNMENT DEBT/DEFICIT

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) indicated that the federal budget deficit amounted to \$377 billion for the first quarter of fiscal year 2022.

Furthermore, for first three months of the fiscal year 2022, CBO estimates receipts to amount to \$1,052 billion, \$248 billion more than in the similar period in 2021.

However, based on CBO estimates for first three months of the fiscal year 2022, outlays are estimated to total \$1,428 billion, a \$52 billion increase relative to the same period last year.

Budget Totals, October–December			
Billions of Dollars			
	Actual, FY2021	Preliminary, FY 2022	Estimated Change
Receipts	803	1,052	248
Outlays	1,376	1,428	52
Deficit (-)	-573	-377	196

