

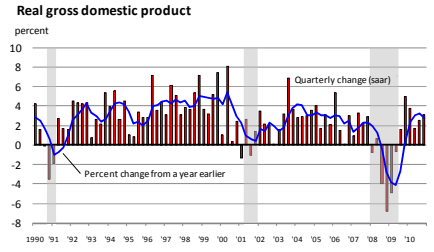
Economic Outlook for 2011 and 2012

Rotary Club of Joliet
Joliet, IL
April 19, 2011

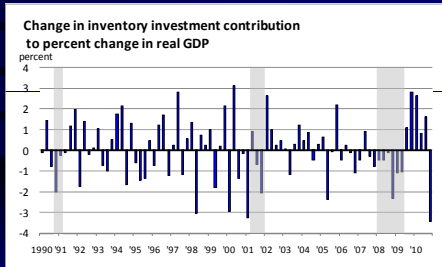
William Strauss
Senior Economist
and Economic Advisor
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago



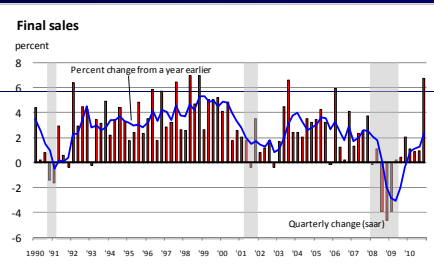
The "Great Recession" ended in June 2009 and the economy expanded by 2.8% over the past year



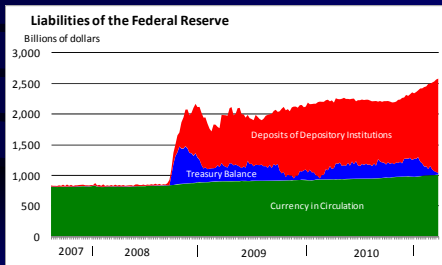
During the first five quarters of the recovery, the change in inventories have accounted for 62% of the growth in real GDP



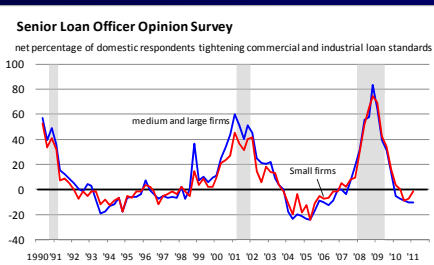
Final sales had been increasing at a slow pace

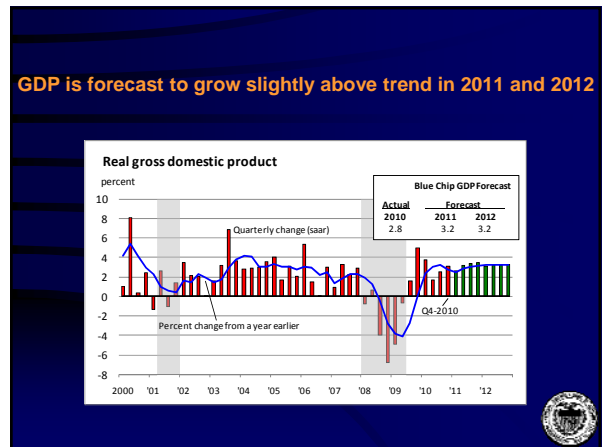
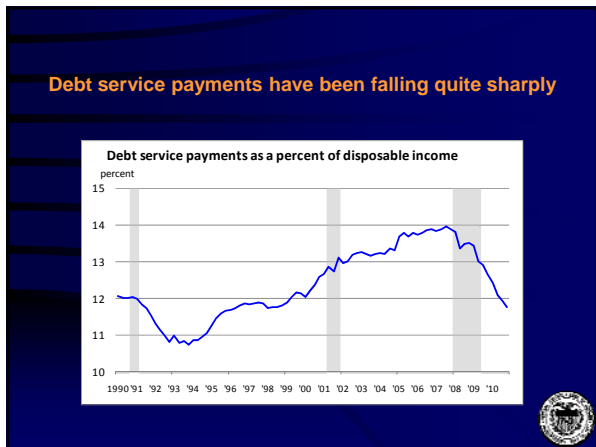
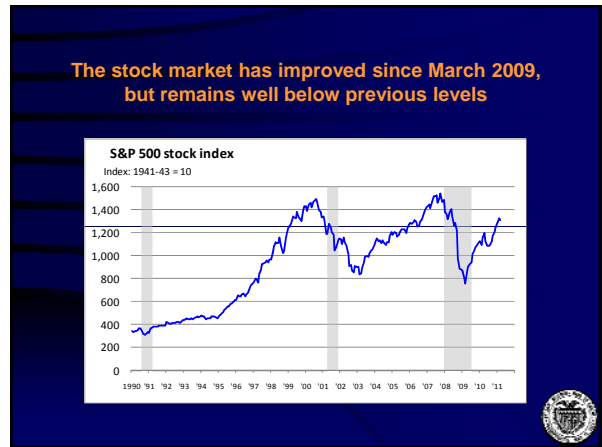
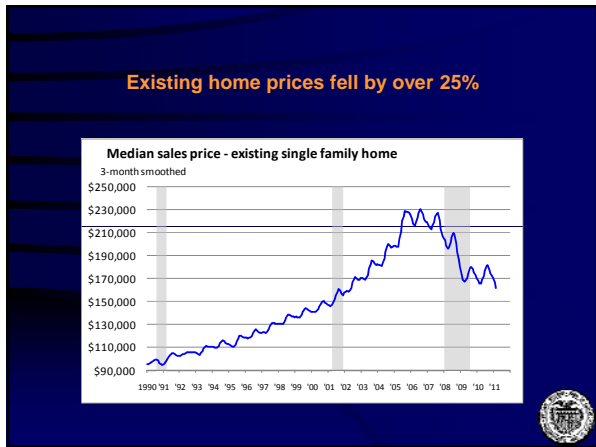
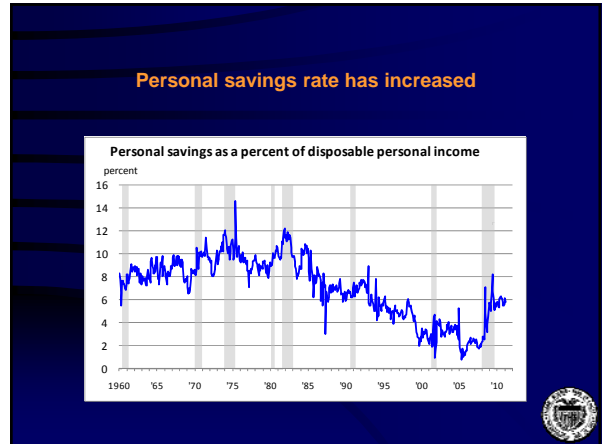
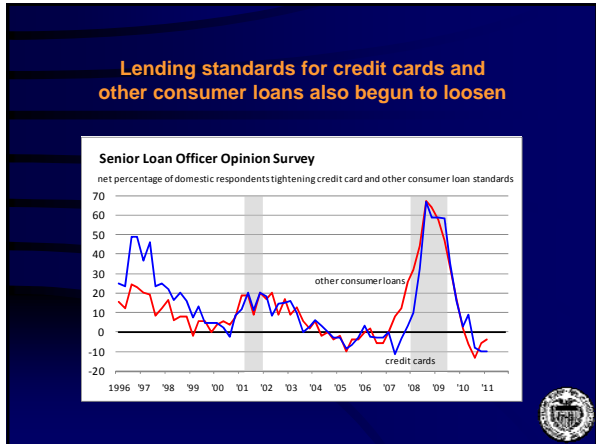


The liabilities side of the Fed's balance sheet shows large amount of excess reserves

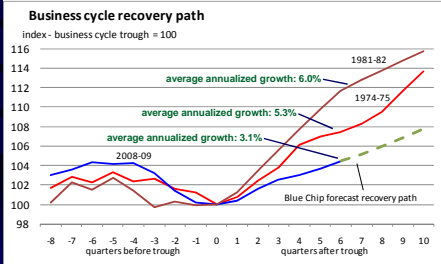


Lending standards for commercial and industrial loans have begun to loosen

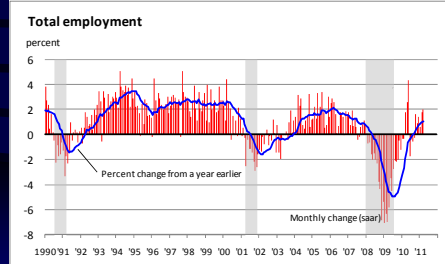




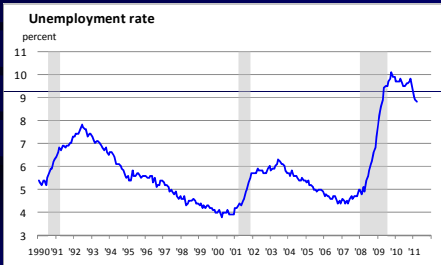
The forecast path of the current recovery is relatively muted compared with past deep recession recovery cycles



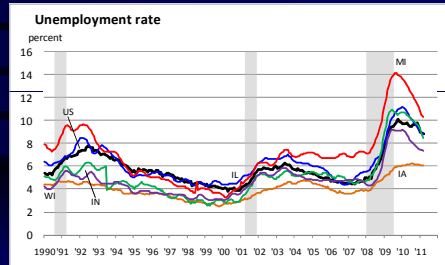
Employment fell by over 8.7 million jobs between December 2007 and February 2010, but it began to rise in March 2010, adding 1.3 million jobs over the past 12 months



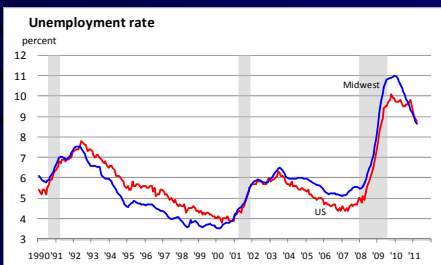
The unemployment rate had only edged lower through November 2010, although since then it declined by 1 percentage points over the past four months



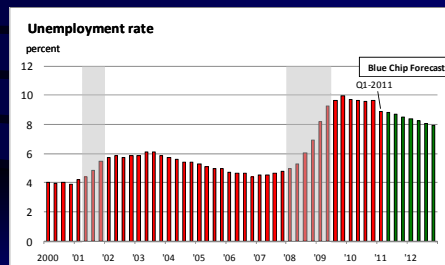
Michigan has fallen from having the highest state unemployment rate to number four, after Nevada, California and Rhode Island



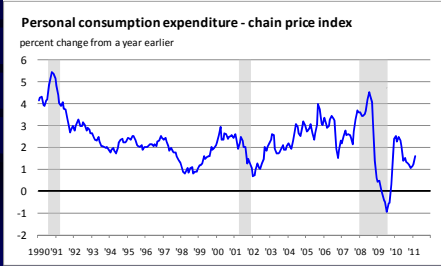
For first time since December 2002, the unemployment rate in the Midwest matches the nation



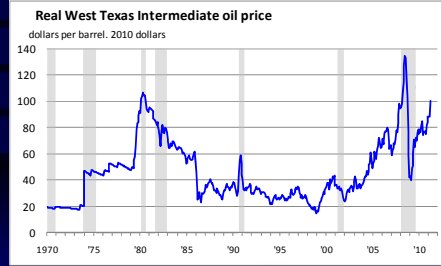
The unemployment rate is forecast to edge lower



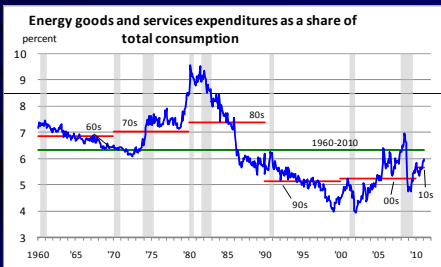
Inflation has been moderating over the past year



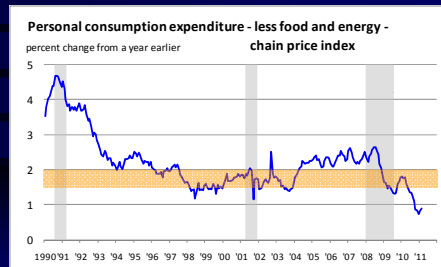
Adjusted for inflation, current oil prices are well below the levels that existed thirty years ago



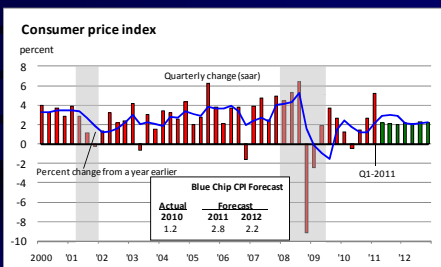
Expenditures on energy are currently well below the historical average



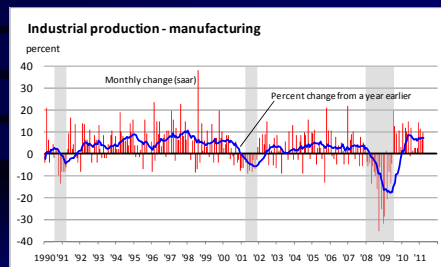
Removing the volatile food and energy components from the PCE, "core" inflation remains very low



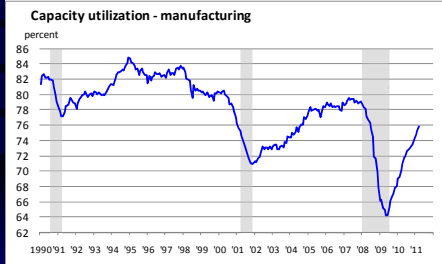
Inflation expected to rise 2.8% this year and 2.2% in 2012



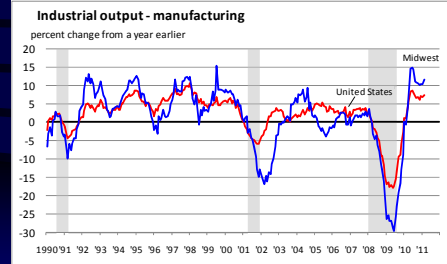
Industrial output in manufacturing fell quite sharply during the recession, but has risen strongly over the past twenty months, averaging 7.9% and has recovered 52.4% of the loss during the recession



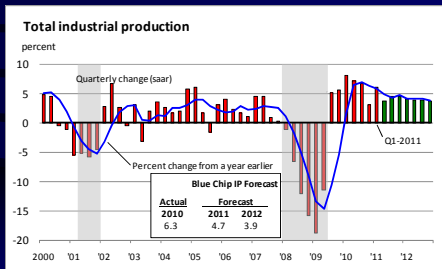
Manufacturing capacity utilization has been rising since June 2009



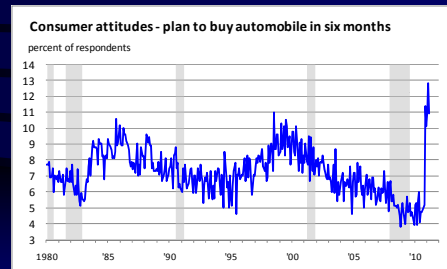
Midwest manufacturing production has been performing better than the nation



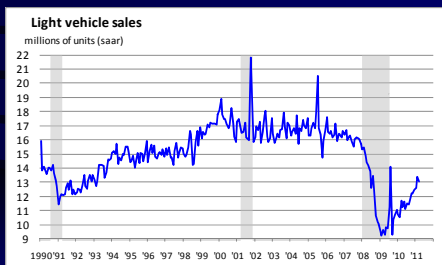
Industrial production is forecast to rise at a strong pace through the end of 2012



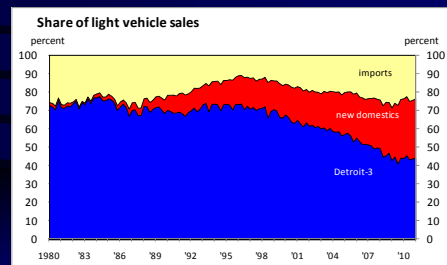
Consumer attitudes about buying a vehicle have surged



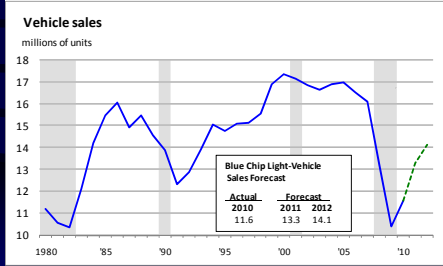
Light vehicle sales have been steadily rising



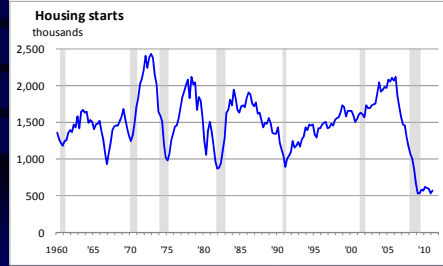
Increases in new domestic production share has offset losses in Detroit-3 market share



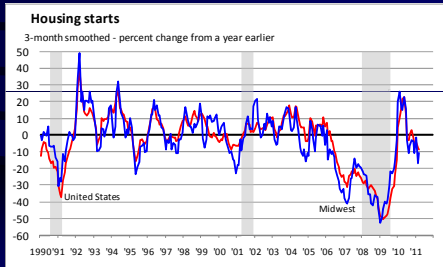
Vehicle sales are expected to improve at a moderate pace



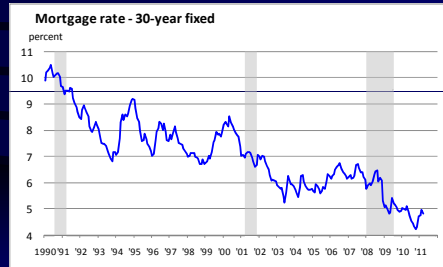
Housing starts fell to a post WWII low



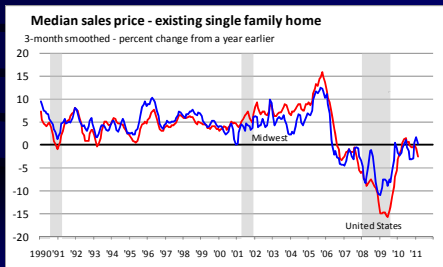
Housing starts have been cut-back sharply



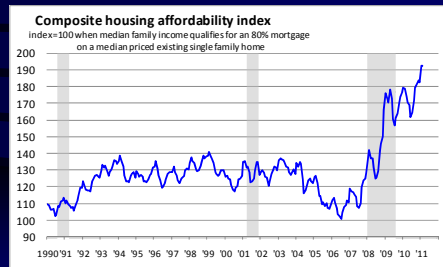
Mortgage rates remain very low



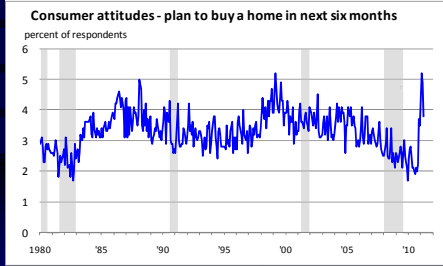
Home price declines have been large, but appear to be close to a bottom



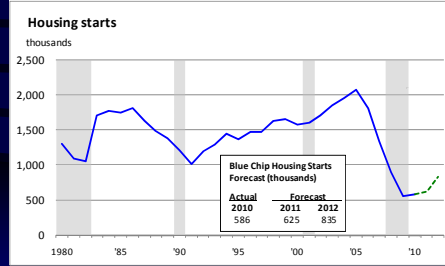
Housing affordability improved dramatically



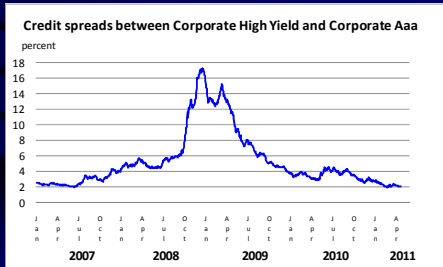
Consumer attitudes for buying a home had been very low, but they have increased over the past few months



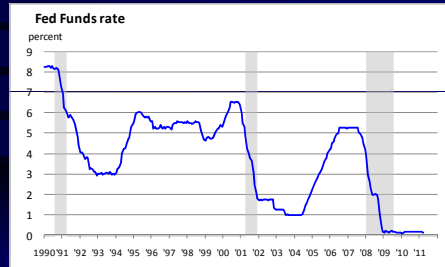
The forecast calls for a very slow recovery in housing



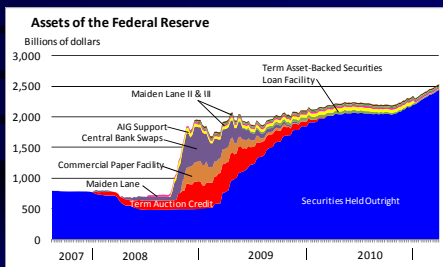
Credit spreads between Corporate High Yield securities and Corporate Aaa securities have been edging lower



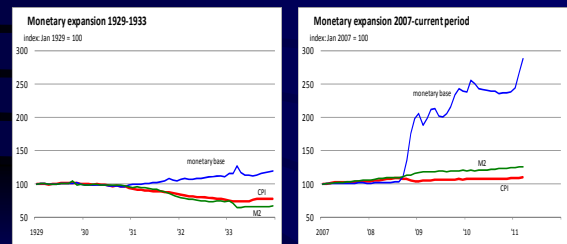
Monetary policy has been very aggressive, lowering the Fed Funds rate by nearly 525 basis points and keeping them near zero since December 2008



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



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 solid pace this year and next year
- Employment is expected to rise moderately over the next two years with the unemployment rate edging lower
- Slackness in the economy will lead to a relatively contained inflation rate
- Manufacturing is forecast to have grow at a solid pace in 2011 and 2012
- Auto sales are anticipated to continue improving at a moderate pace
- The housing market should edge higher



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