



The Disconnect over Free Trade

Most economists favor free trade. The acrimony that overwhelmed the recent attempt to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations revealed vividly, however, that national leaders and the general public have major misgivings about embracing free trade. What is the extent of the disagreement in the United States among economists, national leaders, and the general public?

Surveys of economists have consistently shown a consensus in favor of free trade. A May 1992 article in the *American Economic Review* ("Is There a Consensus Among Economists in the 1990's?" by Alston, Kearn, and Vaughan), reported that more than 90 percent of economists agreed that tariffs and import quotas usually reduce general economic welfare. This consensus in 1990 mirrored the results of a similar survey for 1976. Obviously, the 1990 results are now a decade old, but no compelling reason exists to expect that a similar survey today would yield substantially different results.

As the chart illustrates, neither the general public nor national leaders are as strongly in favor of reducing trade barriers as economists. Based on the answers to two questions in a quadrennial survey by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, it is clear that the general public has major reservations about free trade. In response to a question in 1998 pointing out that the elimination of tariffs and other import restrictions would lead to lower prices, but that certain jobs in import-competitive industries would likely be eliminated, only 32 percent of the general public were in favor of eliminating tariffs. Meanwhile, in response to a second question, 49 percent were more sympathetic to the argument that tariffs are necessary to protect jobs.

Turning to national leaders—drawn from government, businesses, academia, and policy institutes—in senior positions with knowledge of international affairs, one sees that these leaders generally are supportive of

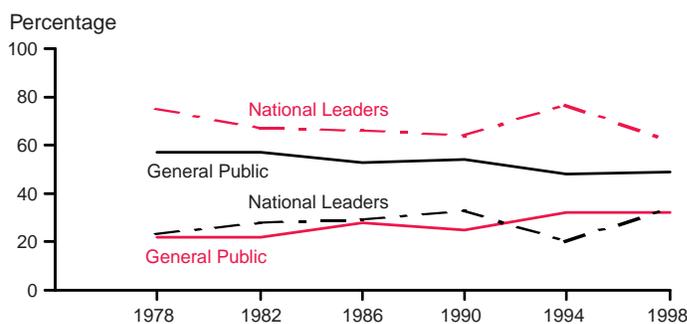
eliminating tariffs. For example, these leaders were more sympathetic to the elimination of tariffs, 62 percent, than they were to using tariffs to protect jobs, 34 percent. Clearly, a substantial gap exists between these national leaders and the general public. In addition, it appears that these national leaders are far less willing to support a free trade position than economists are.

Over the past 20 years, it appears that the general public has moved in the direction of supporting free trade, while national leaders have moved in the other direction. In 1978, 22 percent of the general public supported eliminating tariffs and other import restrictions, while in 1998 the figure was 32 percent. During the same period, the proportion of national leaders in favor of eliminating tariffs and other import restrictions declined from 75 percent to 62 percent.

Clearly, the general public remains very reluctant to support the free trade policies espoused by most economists. One reason for their opposition stems from their concerns about jobs, not necessarily their own. On the other hand, national leaders are less skeptical about free trade than the general public, but their support for free trade appears to be eroding somewhat. These conflicting opinions suggest how difficult it will be for the next round of multilateral trade negotiations to reduce trade barriers substantially.

—Cletus C. Coughlin

Eliminate tariffs? Tariffs are necessary?



Source: Rielly, J.E., *American Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy 1999*.

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Conventions used in this publication:

1. Charts and tables contain data that were current through April 2000. Unless otherwise indicated, data are quarterly.
2. The *percent change* refers to the percent change from the same period in the previous year. For example, the percent change in x between month $t-12$ and the current month t is: $[(x_t / x_{t-12}) - 1] \times 100$.
3. All data with significant seasonal patterns are seasonally adjusted.

We welcome your comments addressed to:

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Real Gross Domestic Product

Percent change

	97.1	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4
Canada	3.22	3.90	4.30	4.37	4.03	3.21	2.40	2.80	3.35	3.99	4.72	4.67
Euro Area	1.56	2.31	2.34	2.91	3.70	2.83	2.61	2.00	1.75	1.85	2.43	3.04
France	1.21	1.68	1.99	3.04	3.50	3.74	3.38	2.94	2.43	2.40	2.95	3.16
Germany	1.75	1.55	1.43	1.46	2.96	1.81	1.83	1.21	0.78	0.89	1.49	2.31
Italy	-0.15	2.28	2.10	3.04	2.98	1.45	1.27	0.47	1.01	1.11	1.51	2.06
Japan	3.76	1.20	1.78	-0.49	-2.87	-1.07	-3.18	-3.06	-0.41	0.74	0.96	0.05
United Kingdom	3.18	3.52	3.89	3.44	2.76	2.48	1.94	1.49	1.47	1.64	2.19	2.95
United States	4.46	4.00	4.47	4.06	4.64	3.95	3.95	4.68	3.89	3.82	4.28	4.60

Nominal Gross Domestic Product

Percent change

	97.1	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4
Canada	5.36	5.00	4.73	4.14	3.42	2.88	1.62	2.07	3.59	5.00	7.39	7.96
Euro Area	1.76	2.05	1.64	2.90	4.11	3.72	4.12	3.82	4.13	3.86	4.13	4.14
France	2.42	3.18	3.52	4.43	4.66	4.64	4.01	3.29	2.65	2.61	3.24	3.82
Germany	2.51	2.44	2.16	2.26	3.69	2.78	3.03	2.52	2.44	1.96	2.40	2.63
Italy	2.37	4.47	4.62	5.65	6.07	4.40	3.86	2.67	2.95	2.42	2.71	3.61
Japan	3.07	1.41	2.23	0.50	-1.77	-1.04	-3.17	-2.90	-1.04	0.05	0.20	-1.42
United Kingdom	6.34	6.31	6.48	6.98	5.38	5.94	5.61	4.62	4.62	4.76	5.15	5.62
United States	6.50	6.13	6.43	5.91	5.96	5.14	5.18	5.85	5.37	5.33	5.68	6.26

Consumer Price Index

Percent change

	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	00.1
Canada	1.61	1.74	1.02	1.05	0.99	0.86	1.07	0.81	1.60	2.17	2.36	.
Euro Area	1.40	1.59	1.48	1.11	1.38	1.08	0.77	0.89	0.98	1.16	1.55	.
France	0.90	1.26	1.16	0.86	1.07	0.73	0.35	0.27	0.36	0.53	0.99	.
Germany	1.53	2.22	2.02	1.24	1.40	0.67	0.41	0.28	0.49	0.63	0.95	.
Italy	1.90	1.83	1.96	2.02	2.06	2.05	1.73	1.39	1.45	1.72	2.05	2.36
Japan	1.99	2.12	2.13	1.98	0.33	-0.20	0.52	-0.09	-0.27	0.01	-0.98	.
United Kingdom	2.70	3.50	3.62	3.41	4.04	3.32	2.91	2.21	1.43	1.17	1.44	.
United States	2.36	2.22	1.89	1.50	1.62	1.62	1.55	1.73	2.09	2.26	2.56	3.15

Employment Growth

Percent change

	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	00.1
Canada	1.83	2.77	3.27	2.78	2.71	2.42	2.68	2.92	2.84	2.66	2.73	2.99
Euro Area	0.48	0.69	0.78	1.20	1.50	1.65	1.79	1.67	1.48	1.38	1.38	.
France	0.96	1.28	1.55	1.97	2.16	2.22	2.06	2.01	1.97	2.19	2.71	.
Germany	-1.03	-0.69	-0.39	-0.10	0.15	0.52	0.87	0.86	0.55	0.07	-0.15	.
Italy	0.07	0.13	0.52	0.71	0.37	0.80	0.94	0.89	0.97	.	.	.
Japan	1.36	0.69	0.71	0.05	-0.74	-0.94	-0.95	-1.23	-1.09	-0.66	-0.22	.
United Kingdom	2.66	2.41	2.99	3.08	2.11	2.54	1.72	1.01	1.14	1.04	1.18	.
United States	2.42	2.14	2.06	1.80	1.49	1.23	1.35	1.69	1.49	1.52	1.47	1.63

Unemployment Rate

Percent

	97.1	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4
Canada	9.44	9.31	8.87	8.76	8.61	8.30	8.20	8.05	7.91	7.83	7.56	6.95
Euro Area	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.50	11.20	11.00	10.80	10.60	10.30	10.00	9.90	9.70
France	12.39	12.41	12.36	12.20	11.94	11.81	11.83	11.80	11.70	11.49	11.24	10.77
Germany	9.61	9.82	10.02	10.08	9.84	9.56	9.18	8.90	8.75	8.67	8.73	8.66
Italy	11.76	11.70	11.67	11.76	11.80	11.92	11.92	11.79	11.61	11.42	11.24	11.14
Japan	3.33	3.34	3.40	3.52	3.68	4.08	4.23	4.43	4.62	4.73	4.70	4.66
United Kingdom	7.41	7.26	6.88	6.59	6.44	6.34	6.29	6.28	6.30	6.09	5.93	5.95
United States	5.25	4.98	4.84	4.67	4.67	4.42	4.51	4.42	4.30	4.26	4.21	4.09

Reserve Money Growth

Percent change

	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	00.1
Canada	5.80	4.23	3.61	2.47	3.77	4.57	6.89	9.65	7.87	8.73	25.24	.
Euro Area	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Japan	6.75	7.05	8.60	9.15	8.94	8.46	6.60	4.29	5.57	5.73	.	.
United Kingdom	6.08	5.72	6.54	6.82	5.93	5.92	4.92	5.33	6.75	7.50	9.26	.
United States	4.82	5.07	5.88	6.02	5.93	6.36	6.90	7.65	8.75	9.09	12.87	10.53

Narrow Money Growth

Percent change

	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	00.1
Canada	15.23	16.87	12.23	11.35	12.29	12.22	9.06	5.35	1.34	1.73	5.19	.
Euro Area	9.06	9.24	7.38	9.79	10.11	8.79	9.96	11.95	11.62	13.22	10.79	.
Japan	8.66	8.04	9.34	8.77	7.79	8.22	6.69	8.46	11.88	12.92	11.77	.
United Kingdom	7.45	7.04	7.34	6.48	5.42	5.86	5.79	6.03	6.76	7.06	7.88	.
United States	6.46	7.25	8.24	9.34	11.05	11.83	14.19	14.47	13.47	12.08	9.14	7.92

Broad Money Growth

Percent change

	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	00.1
Canada	-0.02	-0.49	-1.38	-1.24	-0.98	0.45	1.16	1.80	2.44	2.93	4.11	.
Euro Area	4.42	4.40	4.53	4.99	5.08	4.67	4.78	5.44	5.62	6.79	7.43	.
Japan	2.81	3.18	3.77	4.60	3.96	4.39	4.32	4.12	4.33	3.29	2.63	.
United Kingdom	11.42	6.00	5.58	4.42	3.94	9.00	8.27	6.55	5.48	3.10	3.47	.
United States	4.47	5.09	5.65	6.42	7.15	7.32	8.52	8.46	8.03	7.56	6.06	5.58

Short-Term Interest Rates

Percent

	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	00.1
Canada	3.31	3.58	4.11	4.81	4.96	5.25	5.13	5.00	4.70	4.82	5.04	.
Euro Area	4.19	4.25	4.30	4.12	3.80	3.88	3.52	3.09	2.64	2.70	3.43	3.54
Japan	0.58	0.61	0.66	0.95	0.62	0.67	0.62	0.49	0.11	0.09	0.29	0.11
United Kingdom	6.49	7.10	7.47	7.47	7.49	7.58	6.79	5.50	5.20	5.19	5.89	6.12
United States	5.69	5.60	5.73	5.55	5.59	5.53	5.20	4.90	4.98	5.38	6.06	6.03

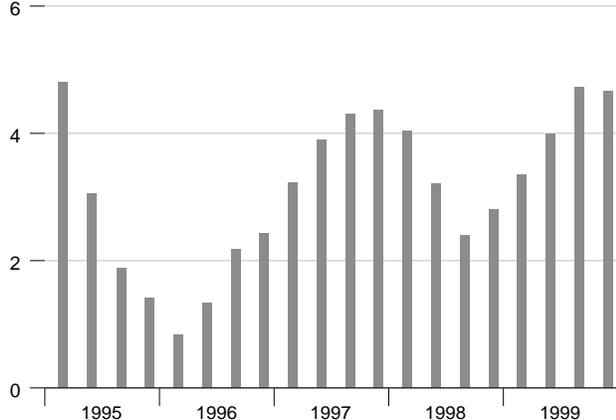
Long-Term Interest Rates

Percent

	97.2	97.3	97.4	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	00.1
Canada	6.87	6.26	5.85	5.61	5.49	5.50	5.21	5.24	5.49	5.78	6.21	6.20
Euro Area	6.22	5.81	5.60	5.12	4.99	4.56	4.15	3.99	4.26	5.05	5.32	.
France	5.85	5.57	5.64	5.14	5.04	4.64	4.45	4.31	4.55	5.20	5.71	5.93
Germany	5.80	5.63	5.50	5.00	4.90	4.40	4.03	3.87	4.10	4.87	5.16	5.46
Italy	7.36	6.51	6.02	5.34	5.14	4.76	4.32	4.09	4.36	5.14	5.42	5.72
Japan	2.38	2.10	1.68	1.65	1.36	1.13	1.02	1.84	1.39	1.79	1.78	1.79
United Kingdom	7.31	6.97	6.49	6.02	5.78	5.47	4.80	4.47	4.89	5.45	5.50	5.60
United States	7.00	6.58	6.20	5.94	5.92	5.58	5.32	5.60	6.04	6.34	6.55	6.54

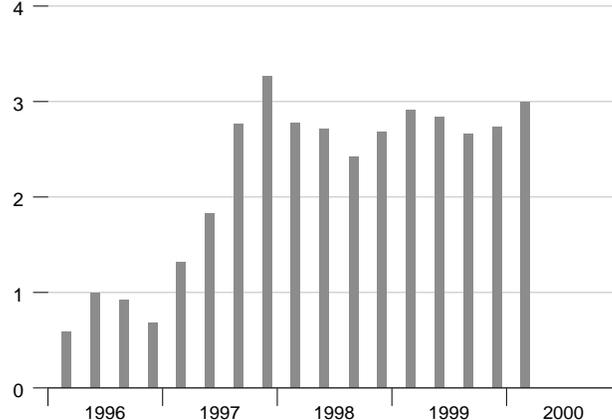
Real GDP Growth

Percent change
6



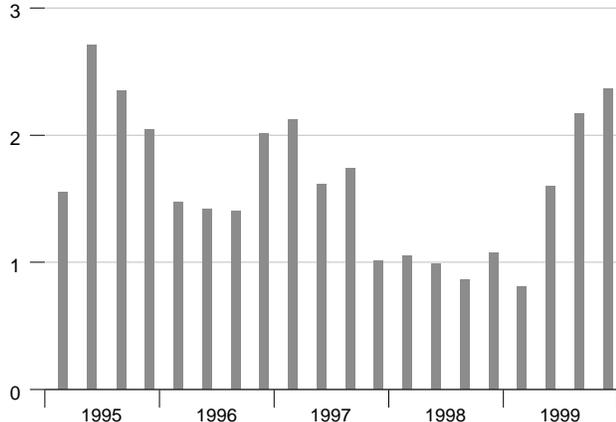
Employment Growth

Percent change
4



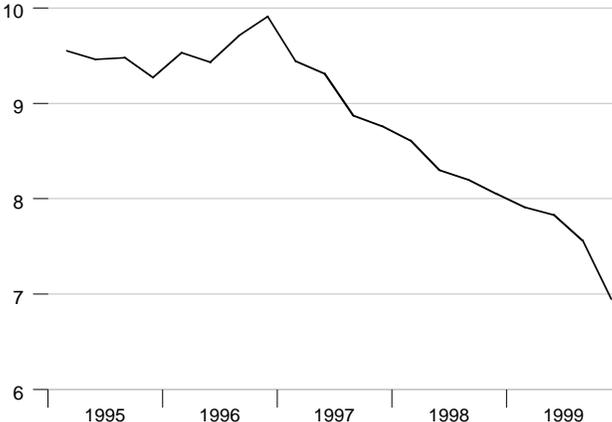
Consumer Price Index

Percent change
3



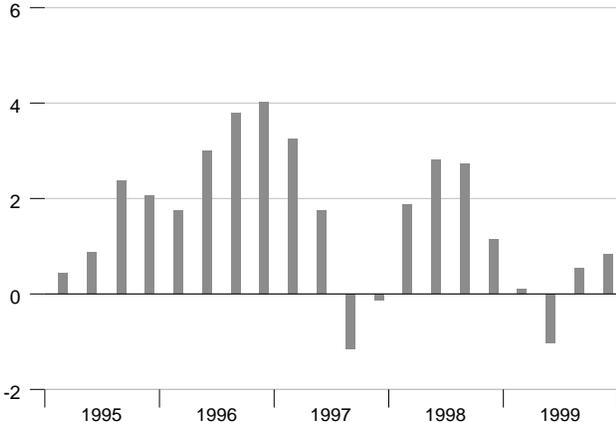
Unemployment Rate

Percent



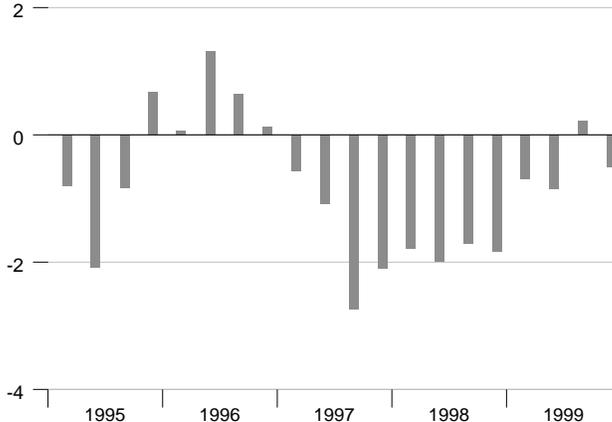
Hourly Earnings

Percent change
6

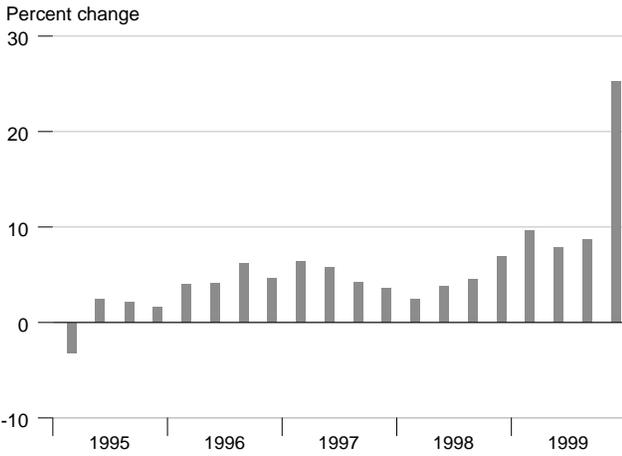


Current Account Balance

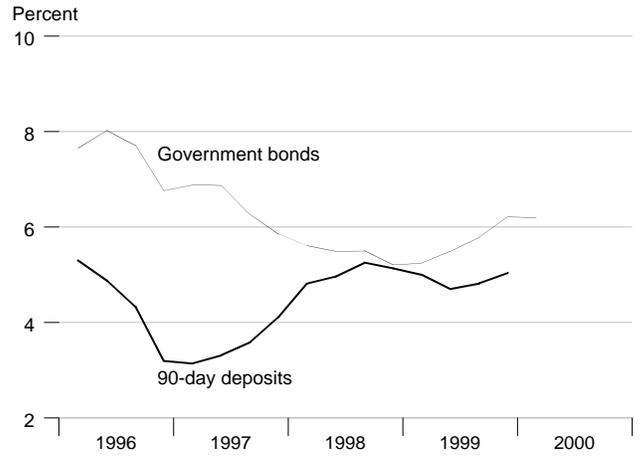
Percent of GDP
2



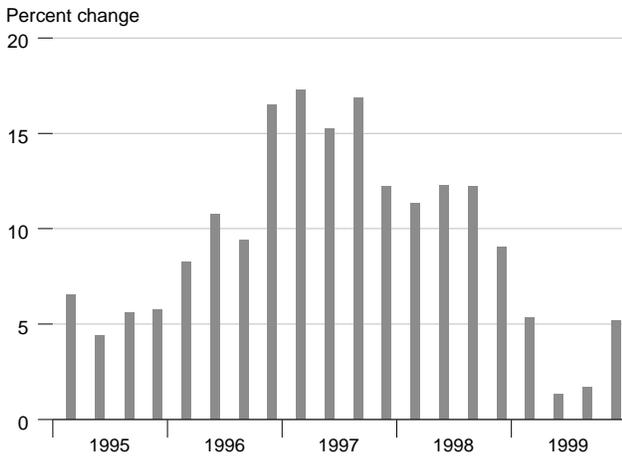
Reserve Money Growth



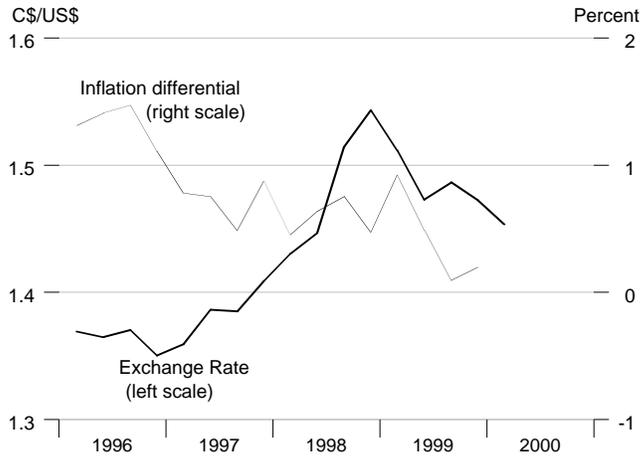
Interest Rates



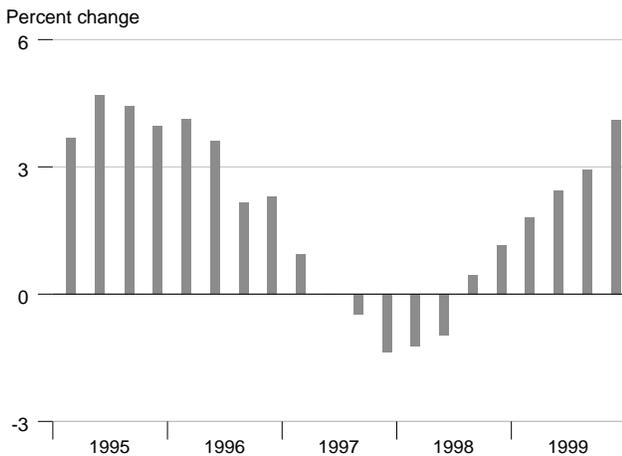
M1 Growth



Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential



M2 Growth

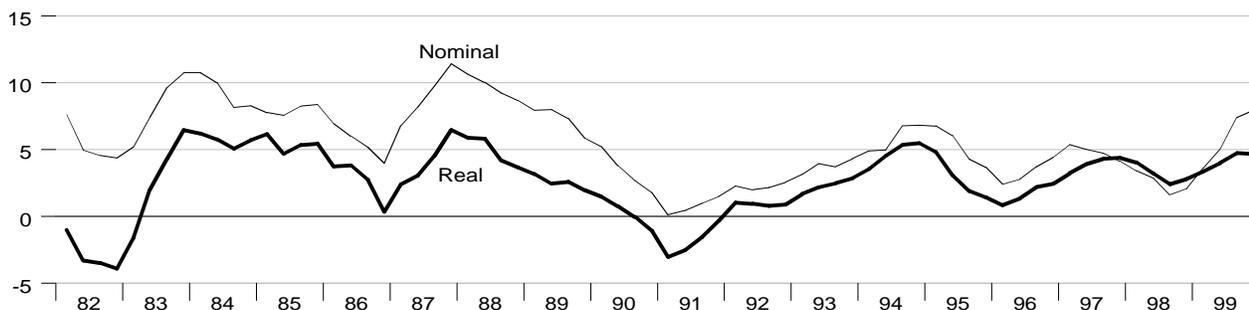


Real Effective Exchange Rate



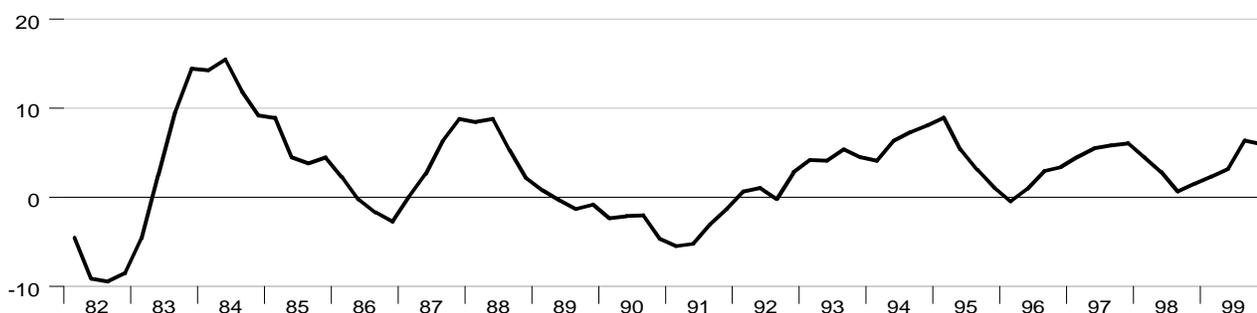
GDP Growth

Percent change



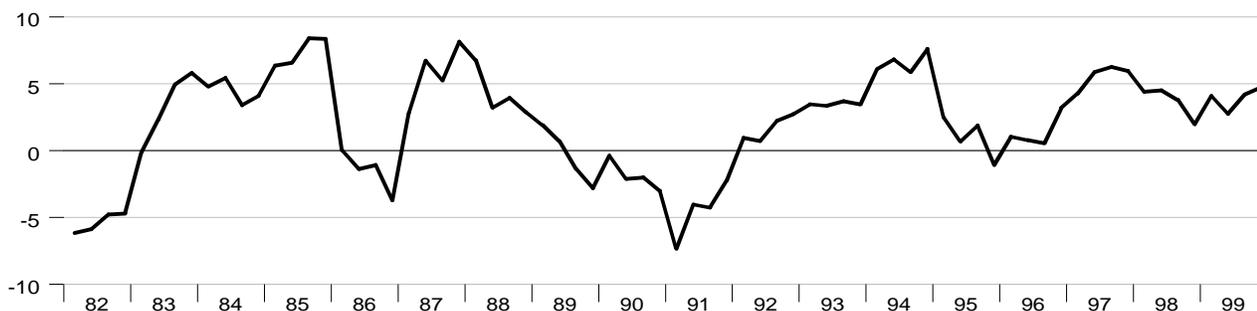
Industrial Production

Percent change



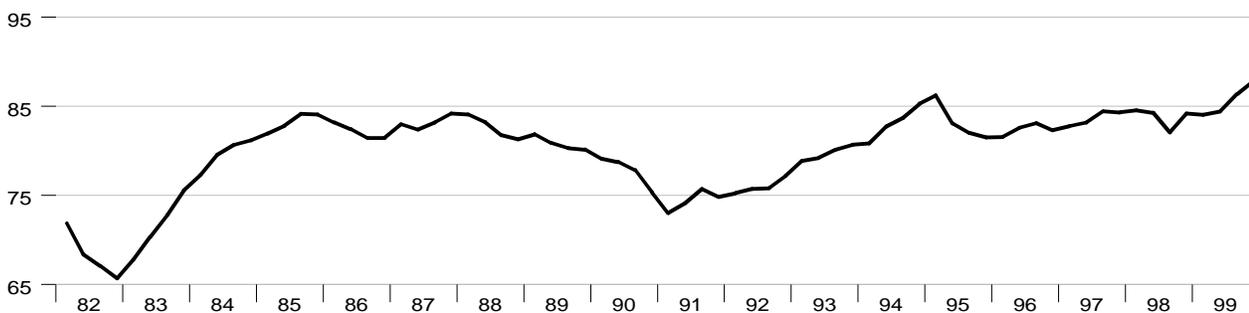
Retail Sales

Percent change

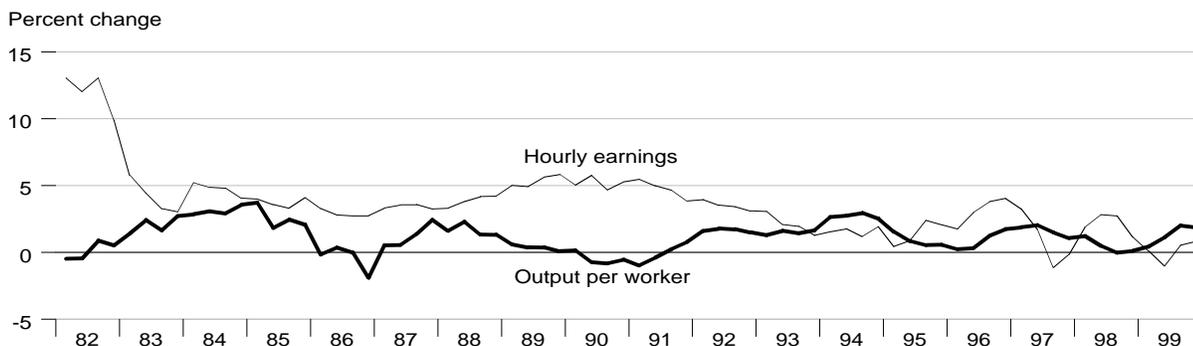


Capacity Utilization

Percent



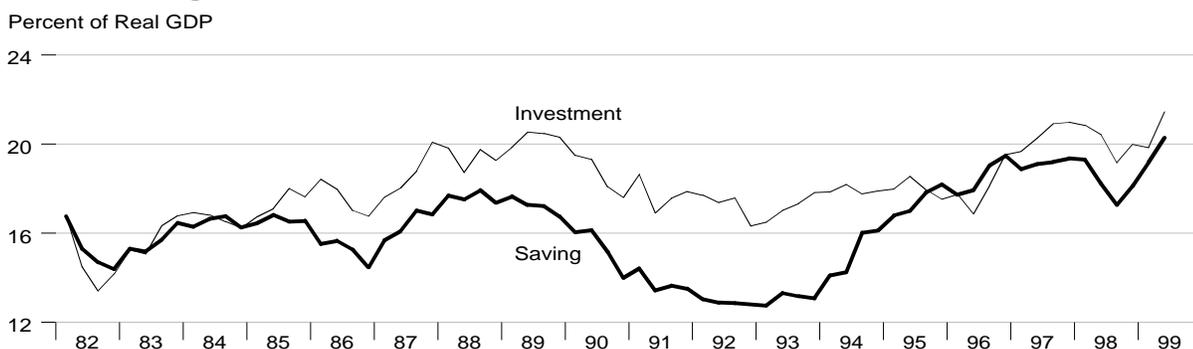
Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker



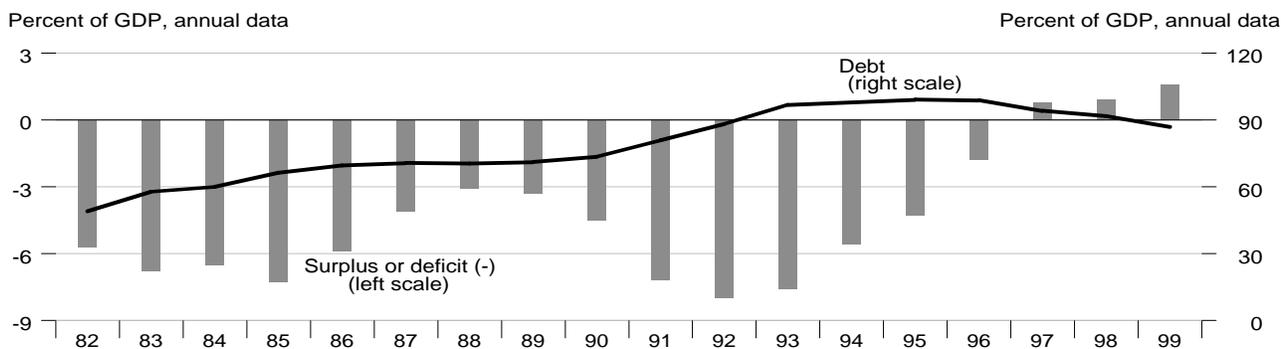
Labor Force Indicators



Real Saving and Real Investment

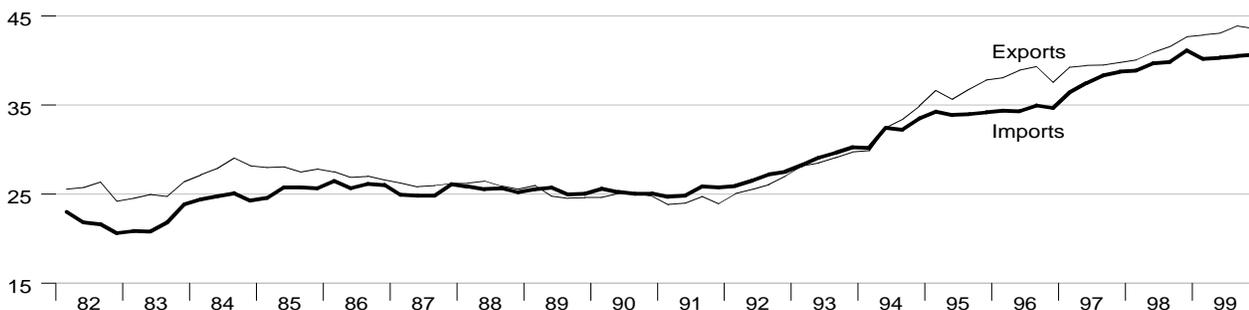


Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



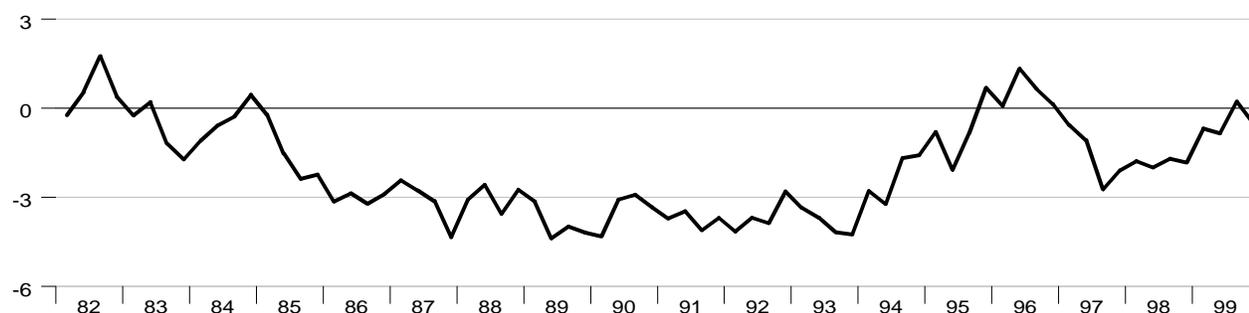
International Trade - Goods and Services

Percent of GDP



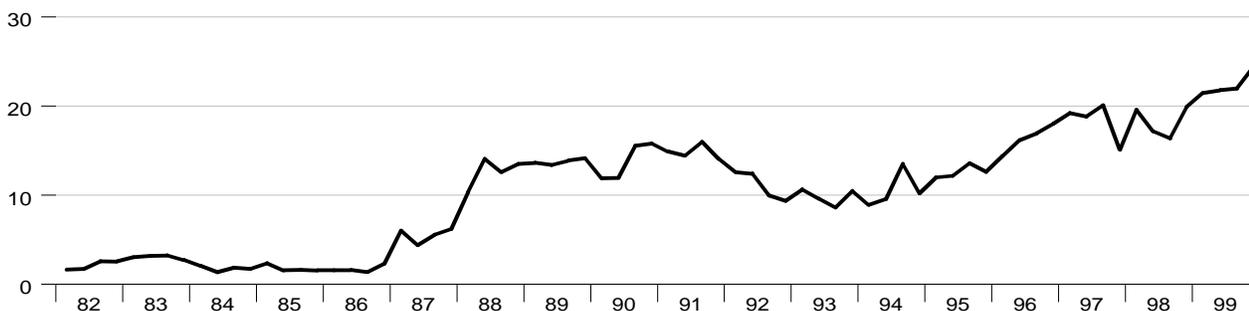
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP



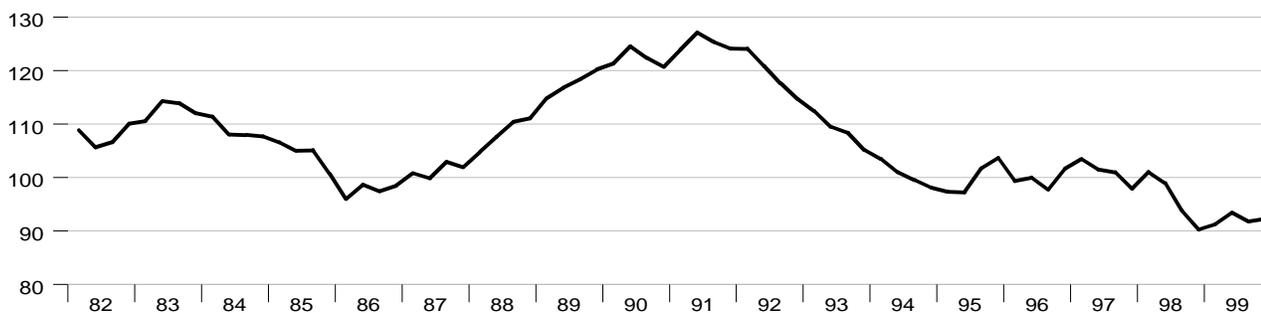
Foreign Exchange Reserves

Billions of US\$



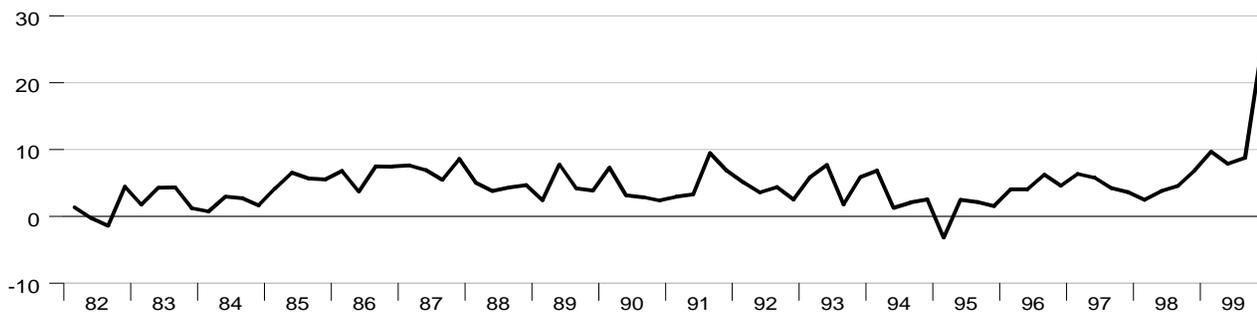
Real Effective Exchange Rate

Index 1995 = 100



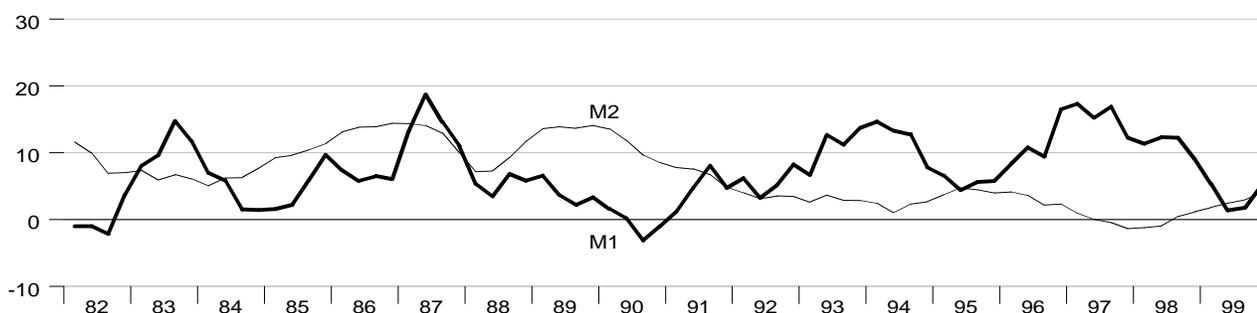
Reserve Money Growth

Percent change



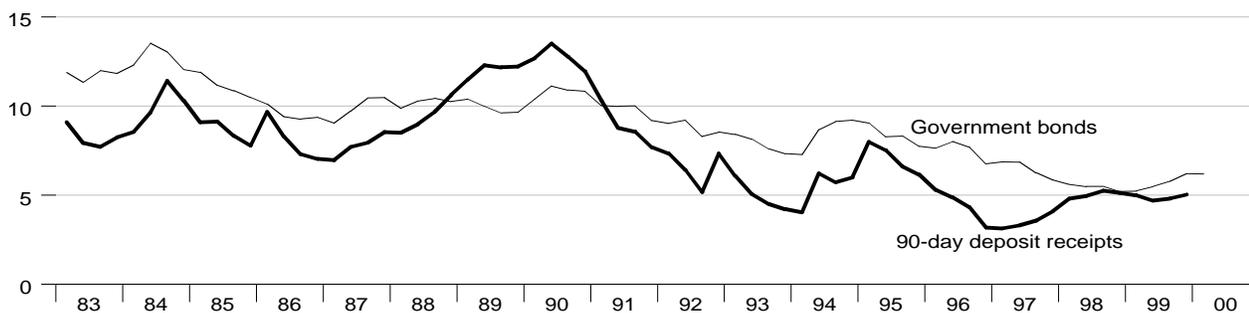
Monetary Aggregates

Percent change



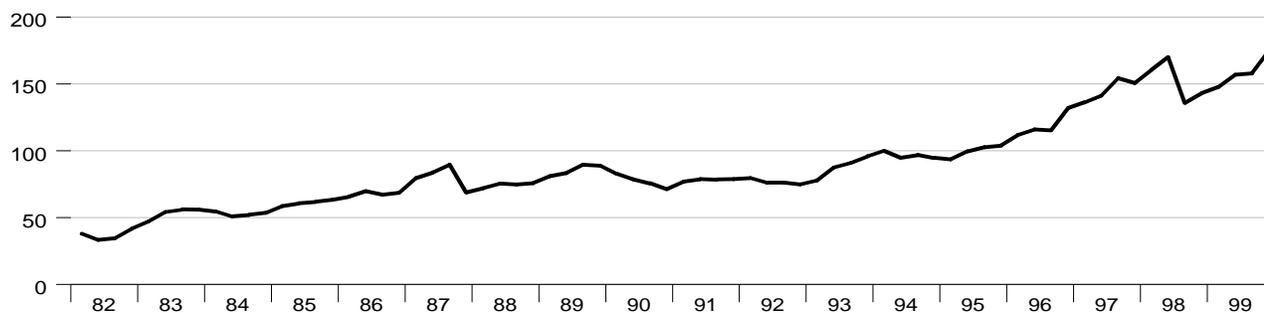
Interest Rates

Percent

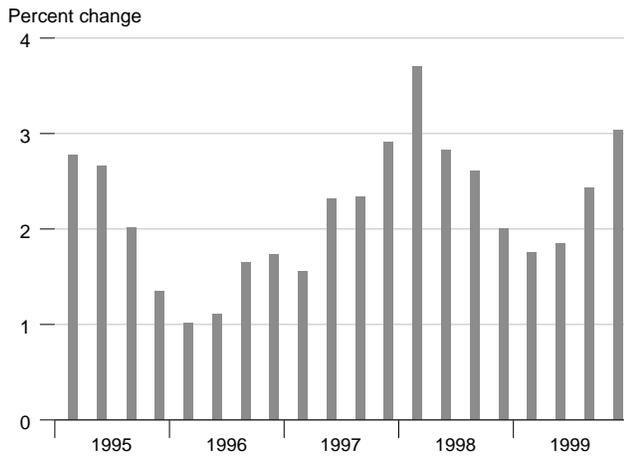


Stock Exchange Index - Toronto Stock Exchange

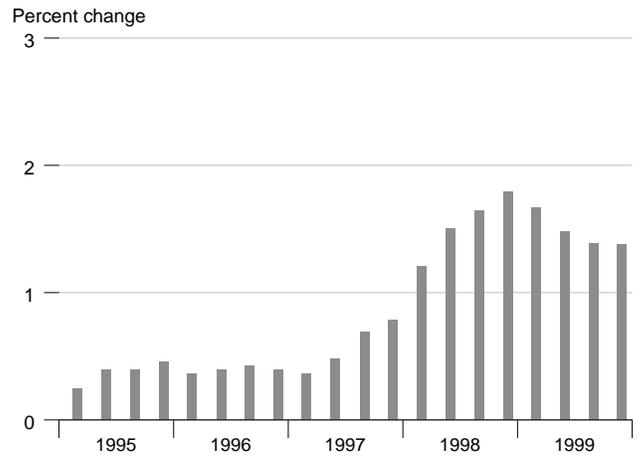
1995 = 100



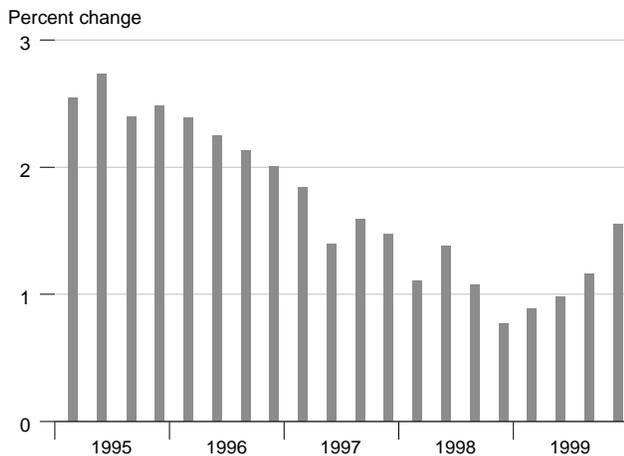
Real GDP Growth



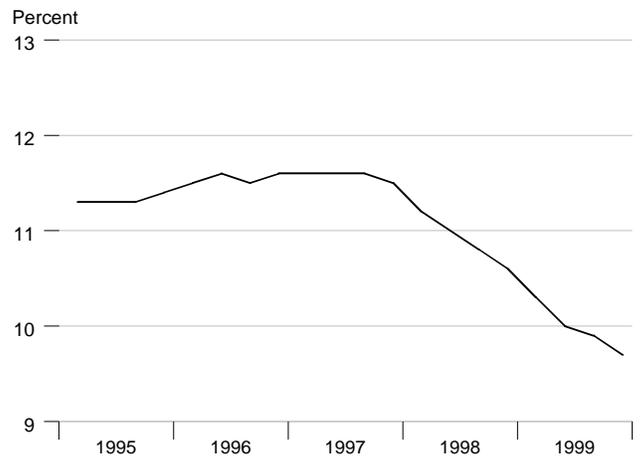
Employment Growth



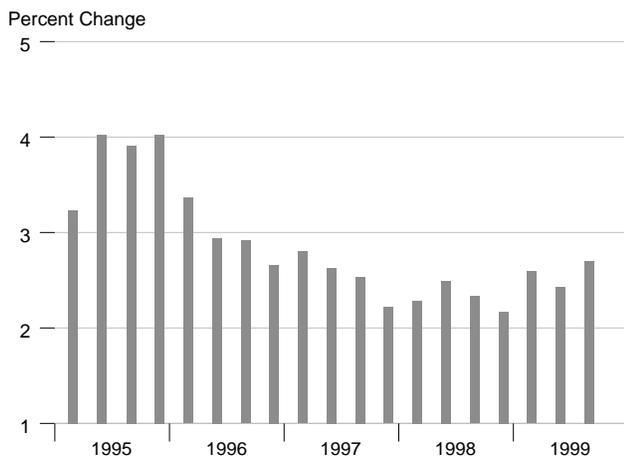
Consumer Price Index



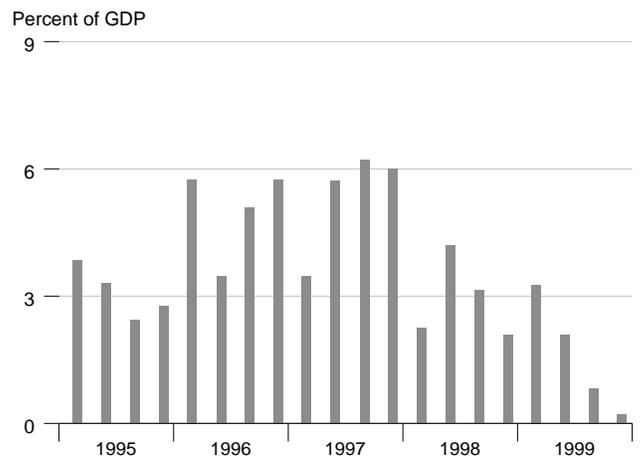
Unemployment Rate



Hourly Earnings

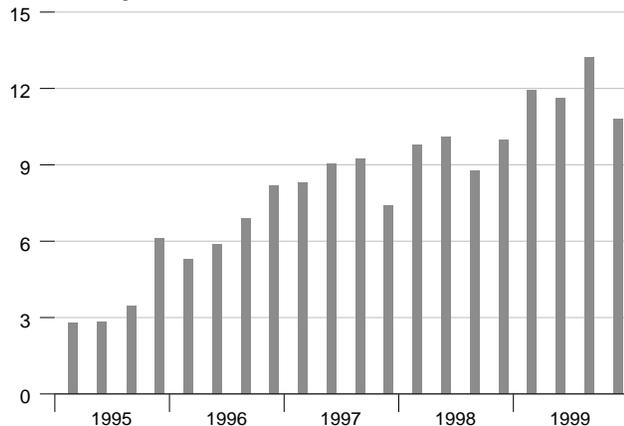


Current Account Balance



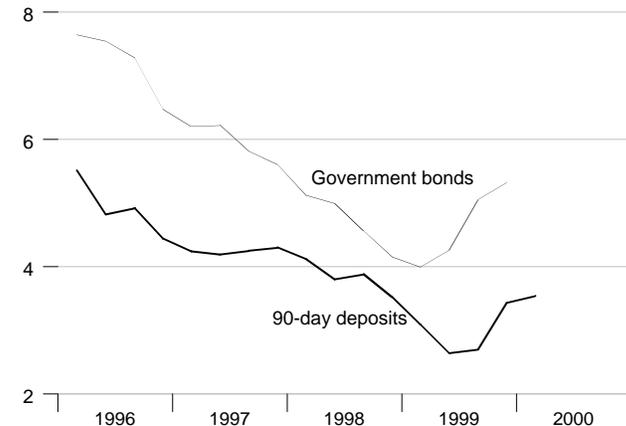
M1 Growth

Percent change



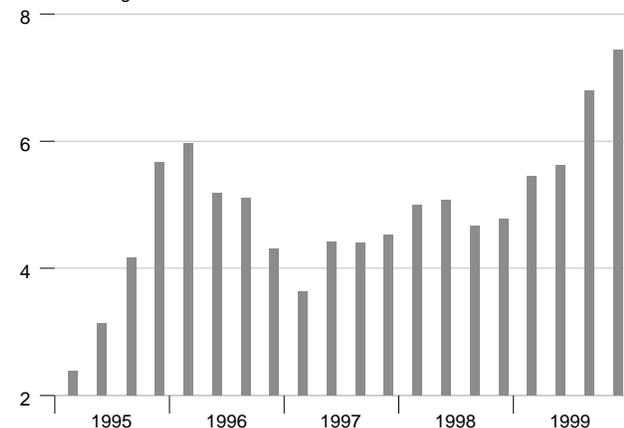
Interest Rates

Percent



M3 Growth

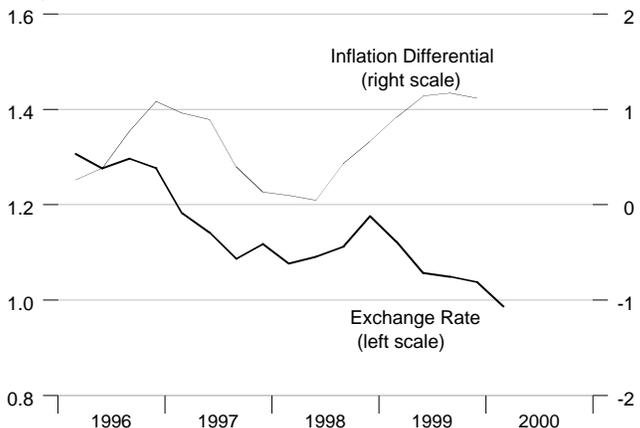
Percent change



Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential

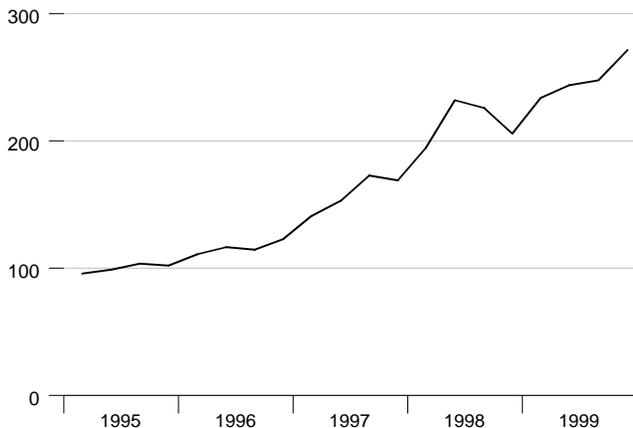
US\$/Euro

Percent



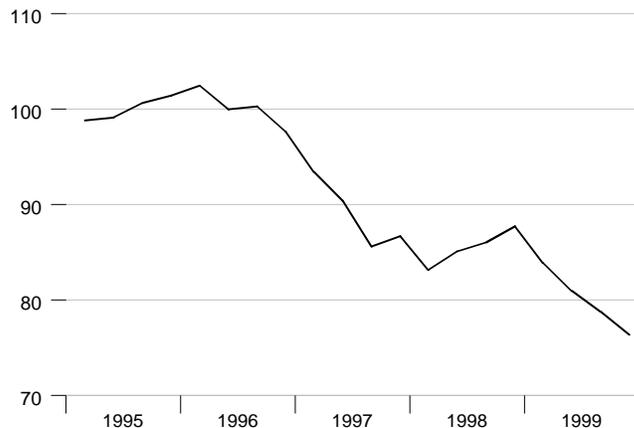
Stock Exchange Index - Dow Jones EURO STOXX SM

1995 = 100



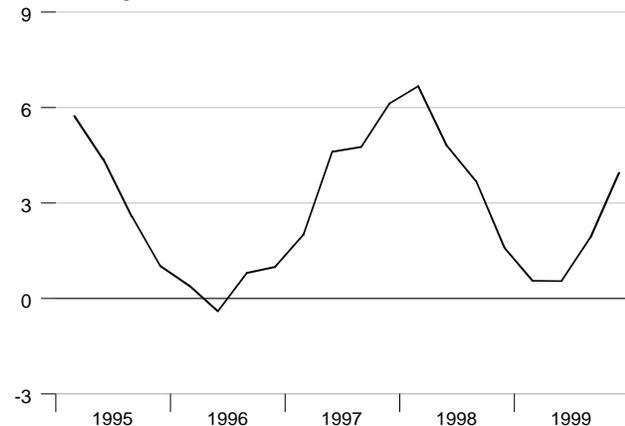
Real Effective Exchange Rate

Index 1995 = 100



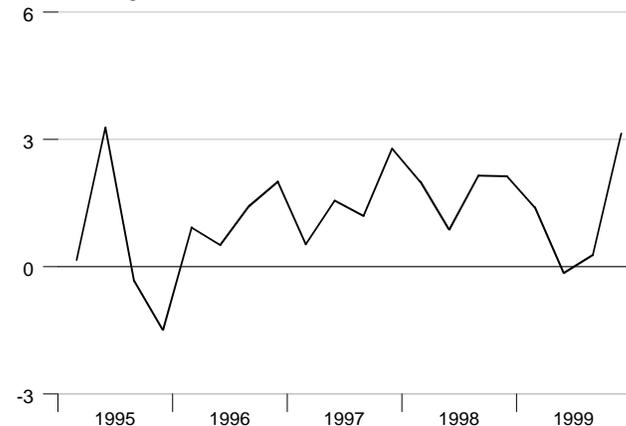
Industrial Production

Percent change



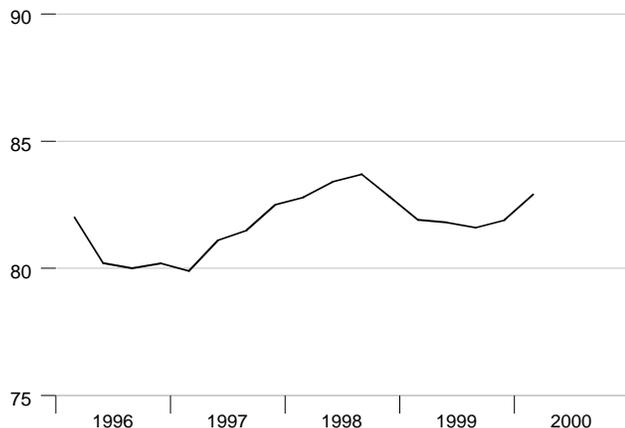
Retail Sales

Percent Change



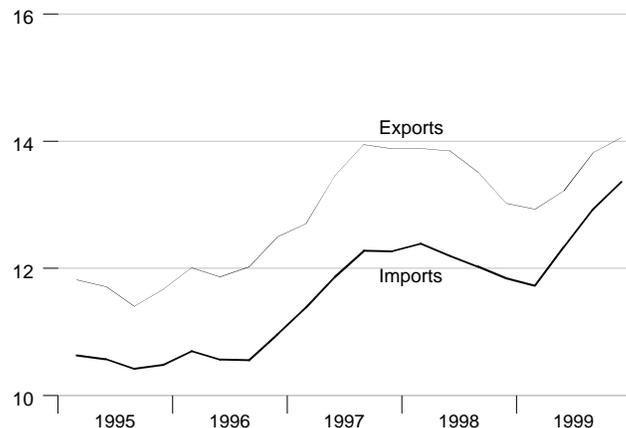
Capacity Utilization

Percent



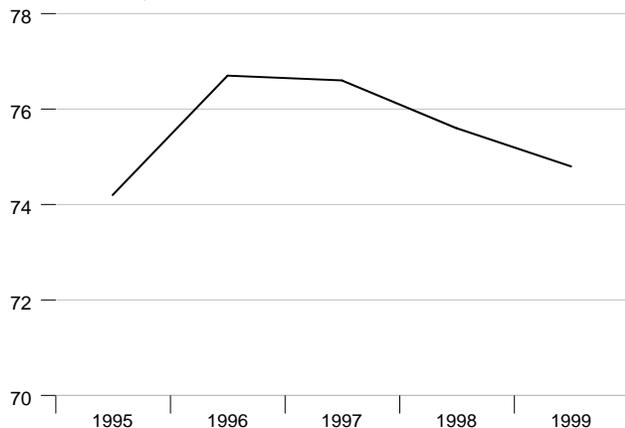
International Trade - Goods

Percent of GDP



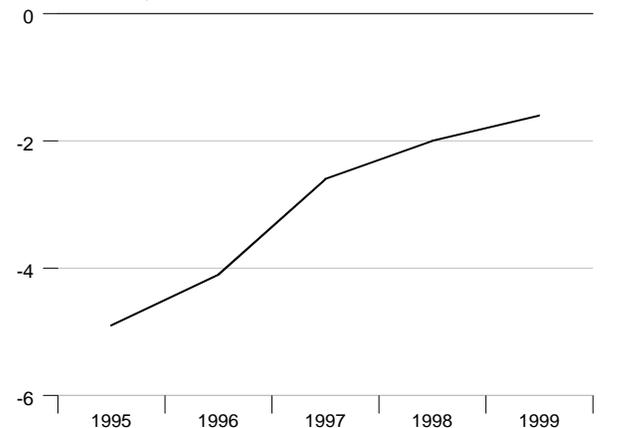
Government Debt

Percent of GDP, annual data



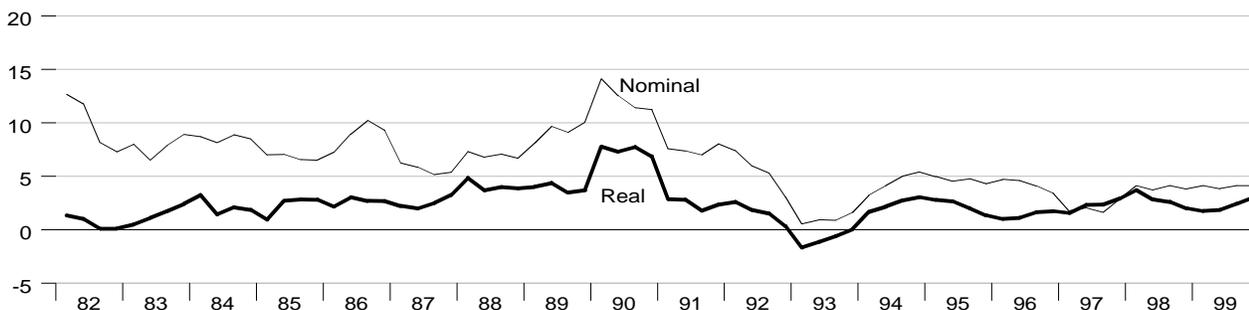
Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)

Percent of GDP, annual data



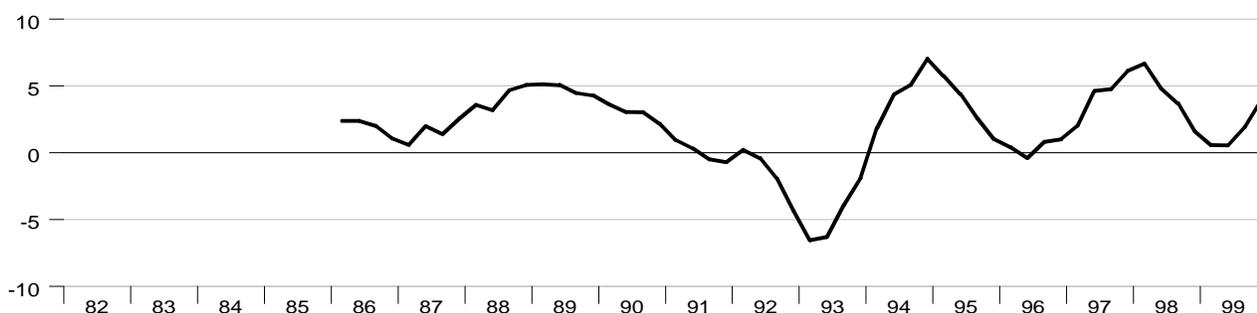
GDP Growth

Percent change



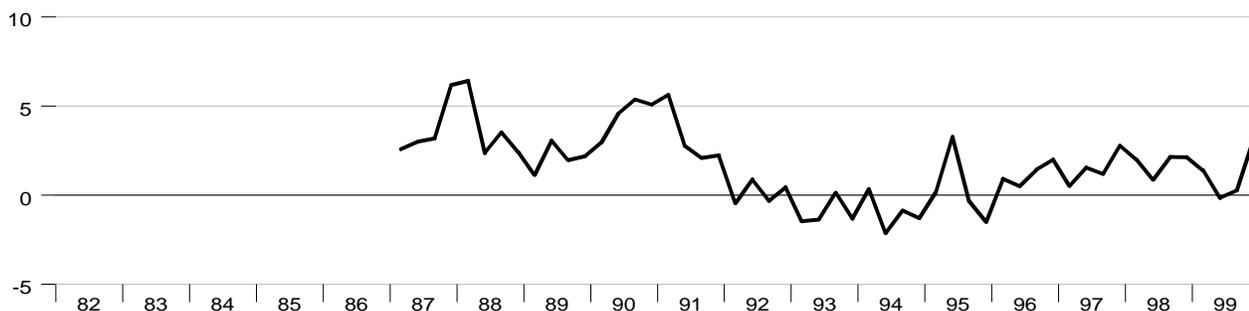
Industrial Production

Percent change



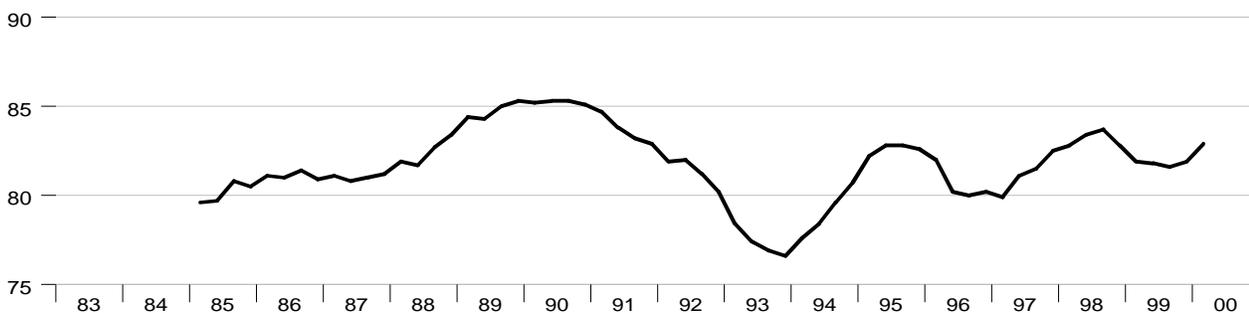
Retail Sales

Percent change

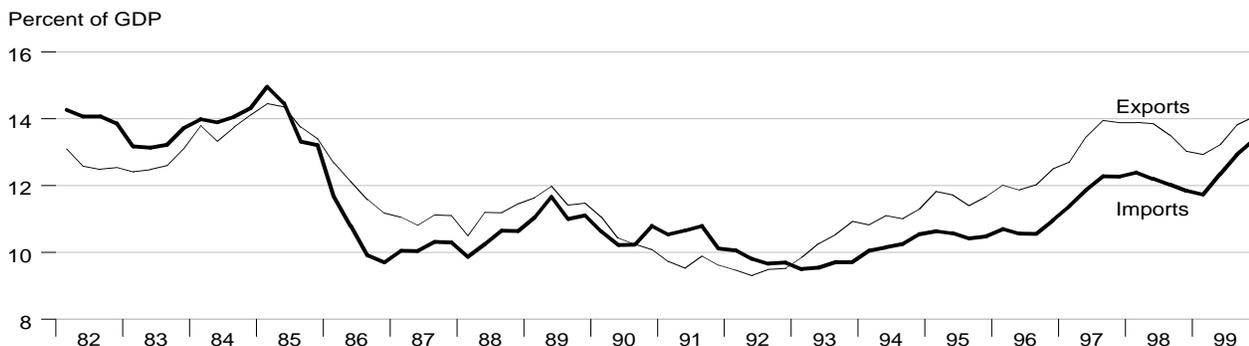


Capacity Utilization

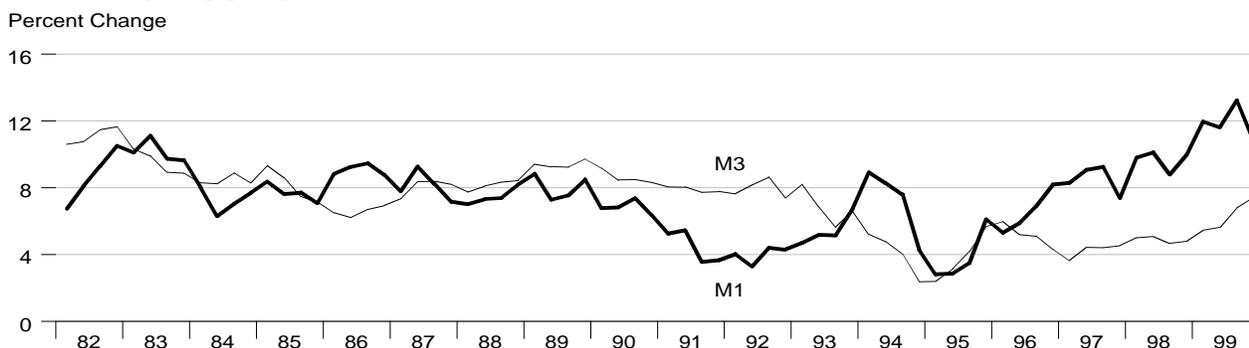
Percent



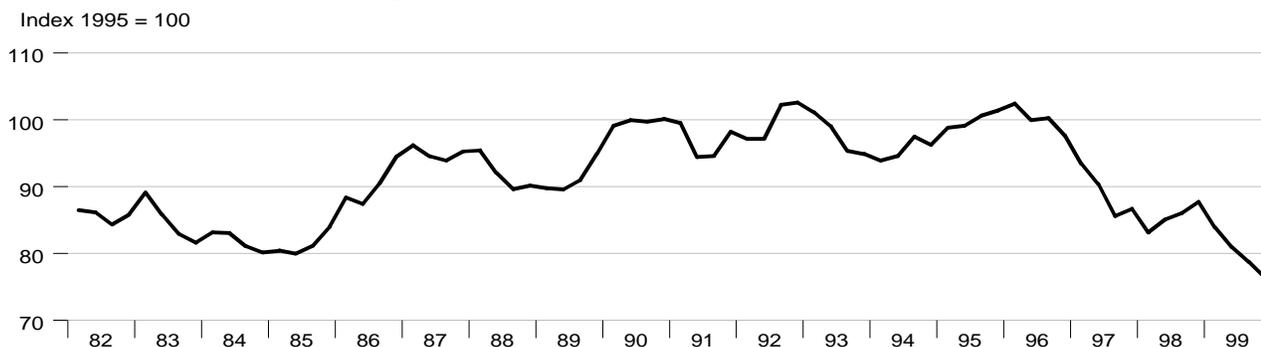
International Trade - Goods



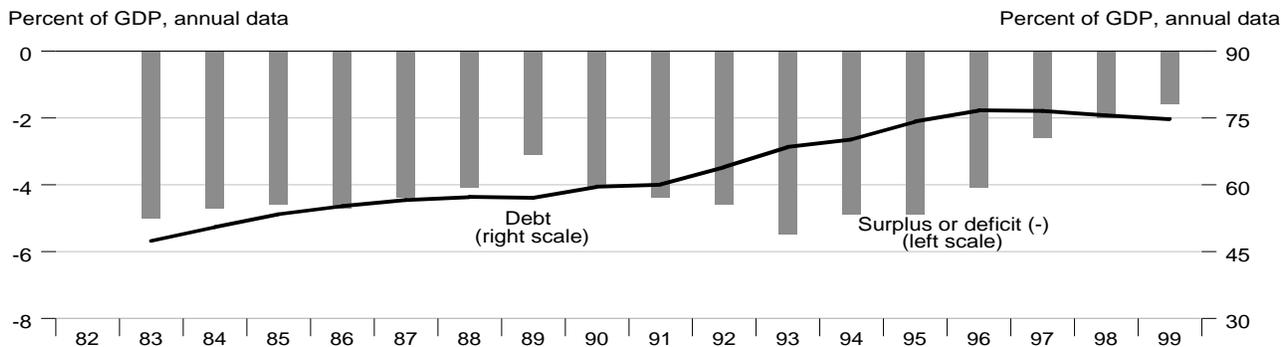
Monetary Aggregates



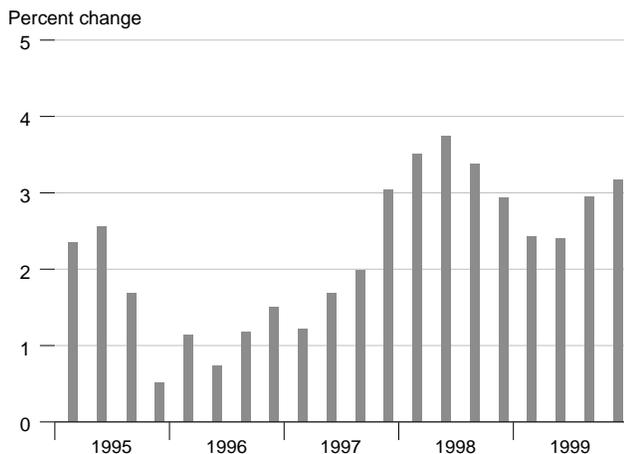
Real Effective Exchange Rate



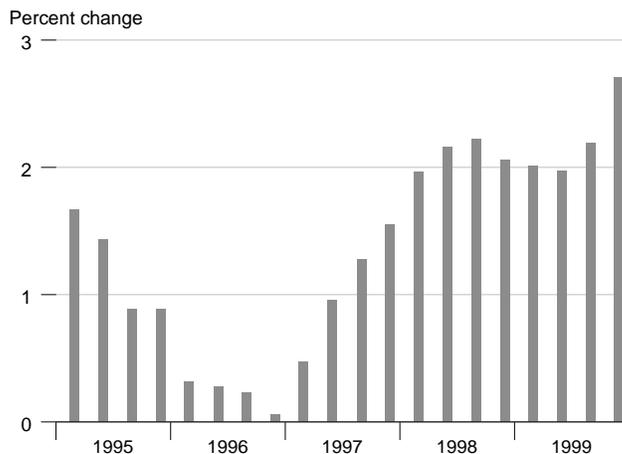
Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



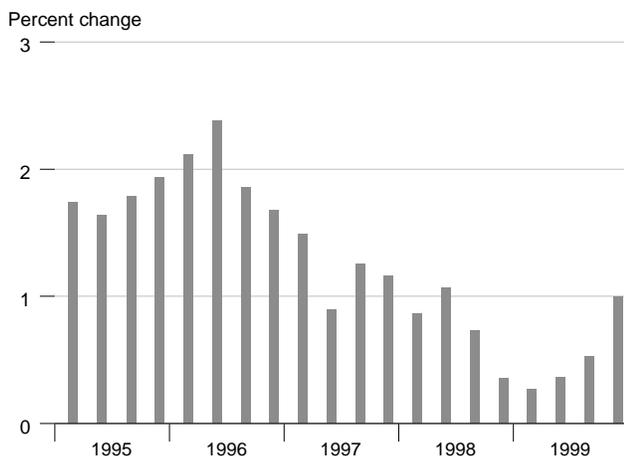
Real GDP Growth



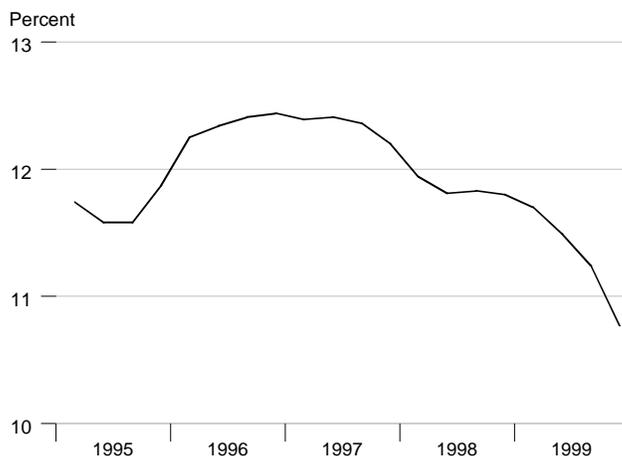
Employment Growth



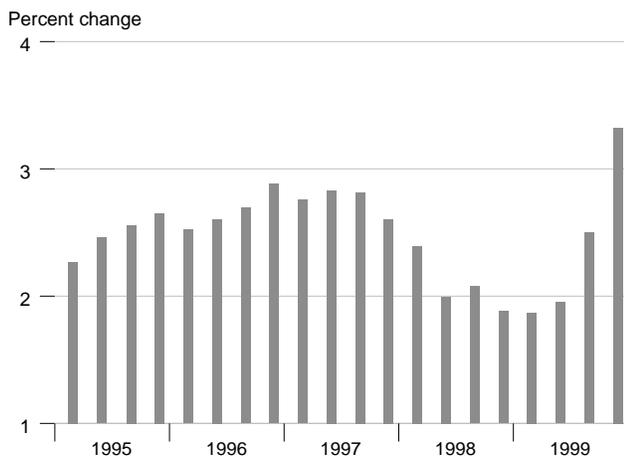
Consumer Price Index



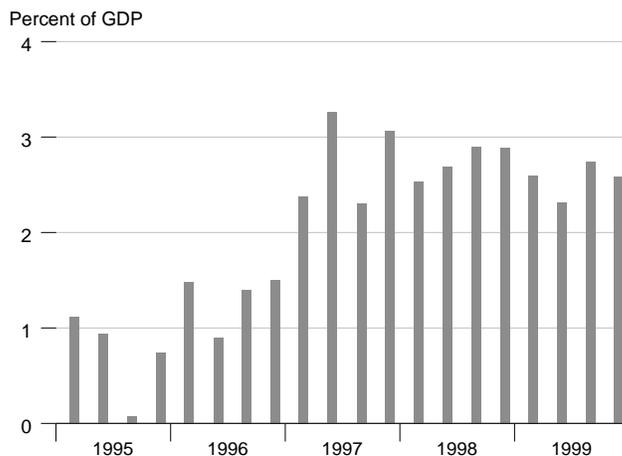
Unemployment Rate



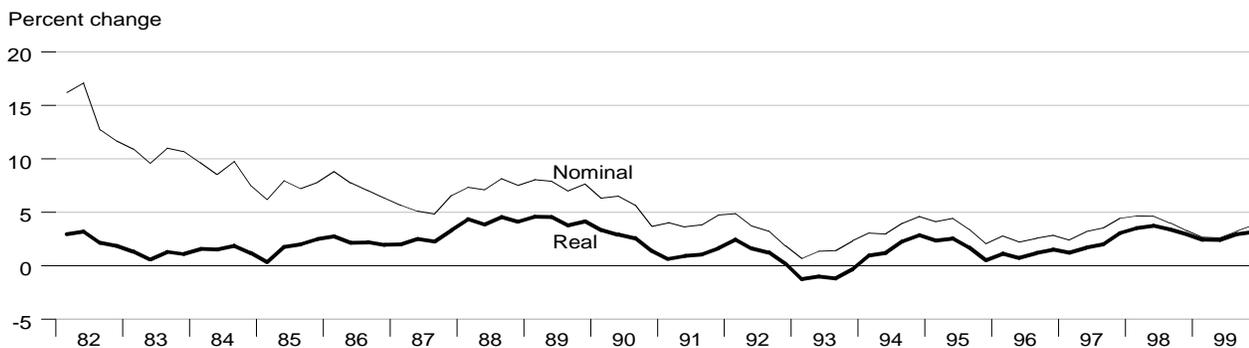
Hourly Earnings



Current Account Balance



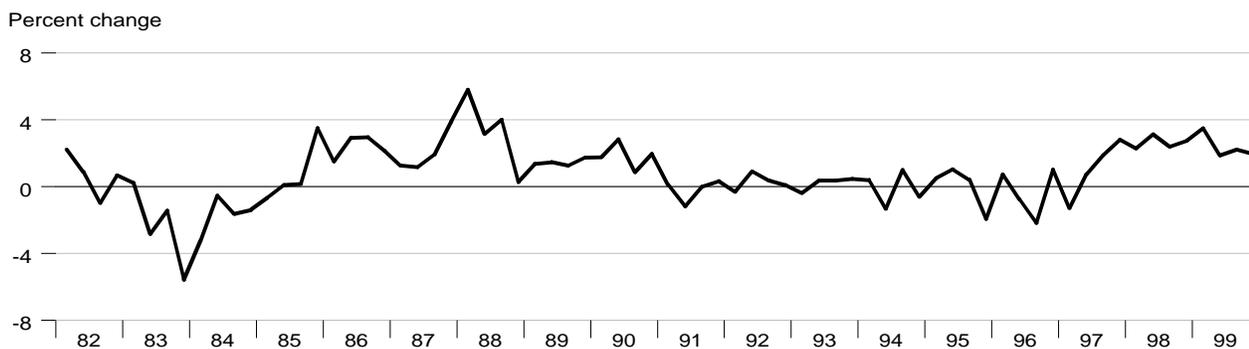
GDP Growth



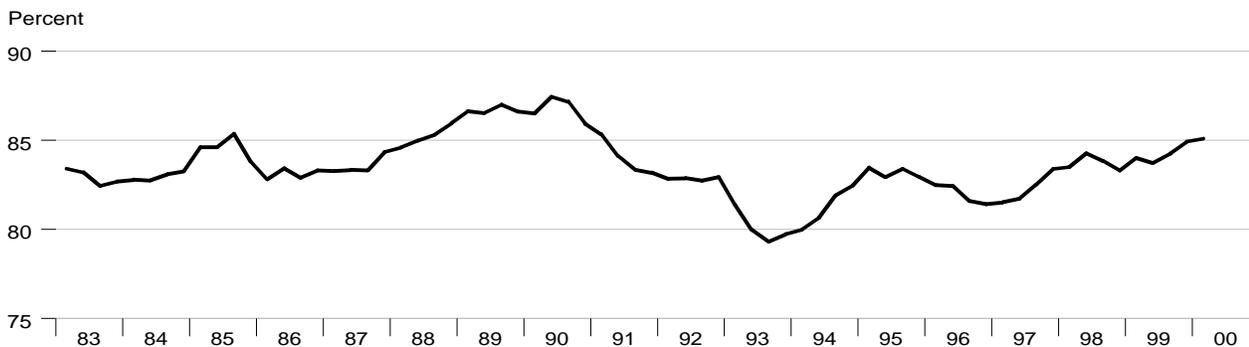
Industrial Production



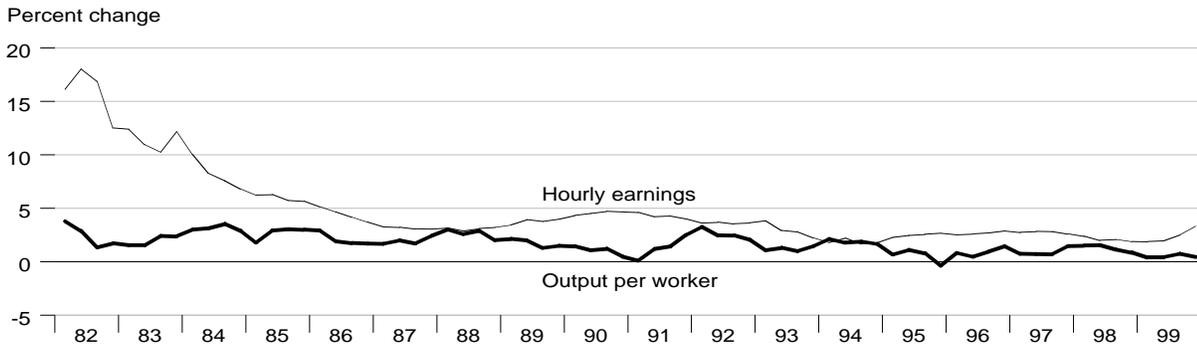
Retail Sales



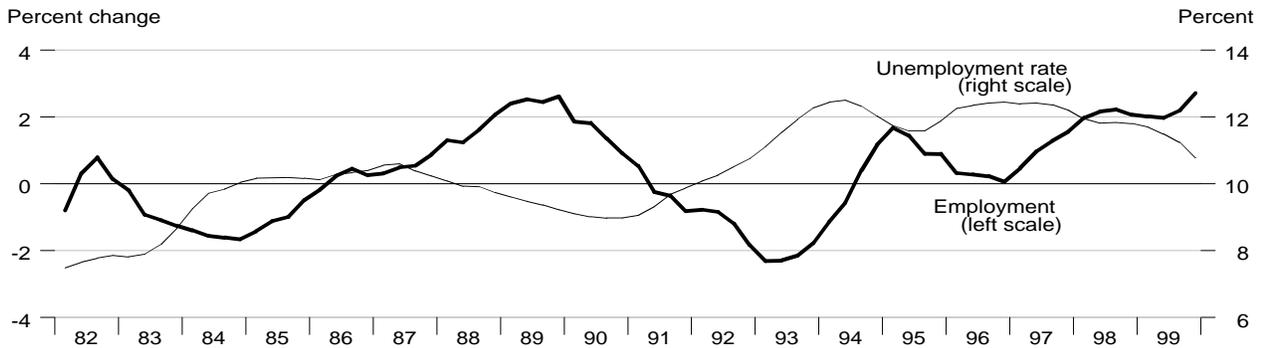
Capacity Utilization



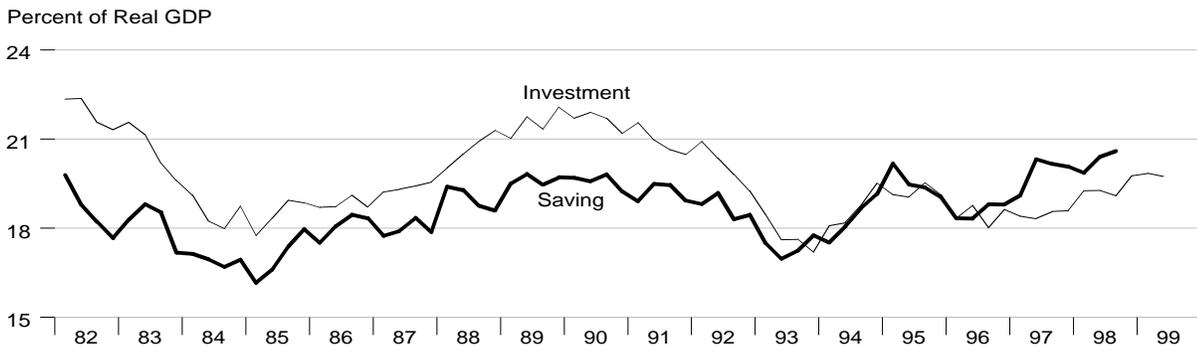
Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker



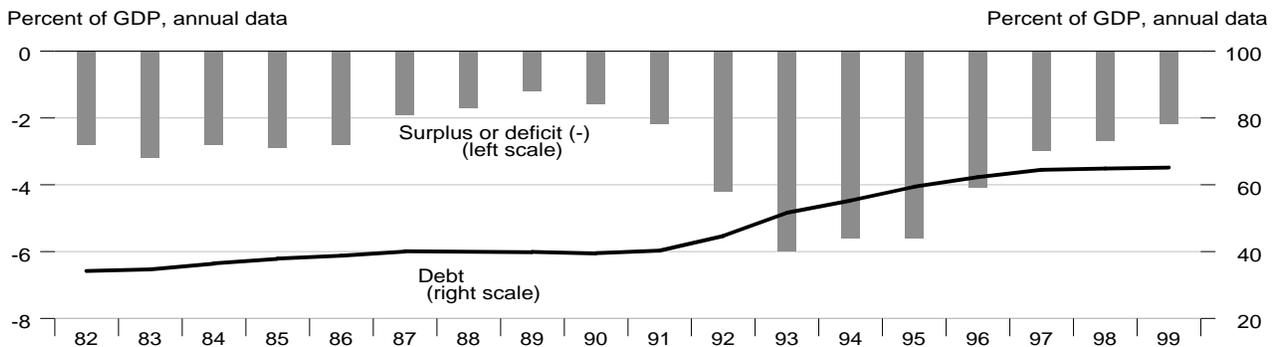
Labor Force Indicators



Real Saving and Real Investment

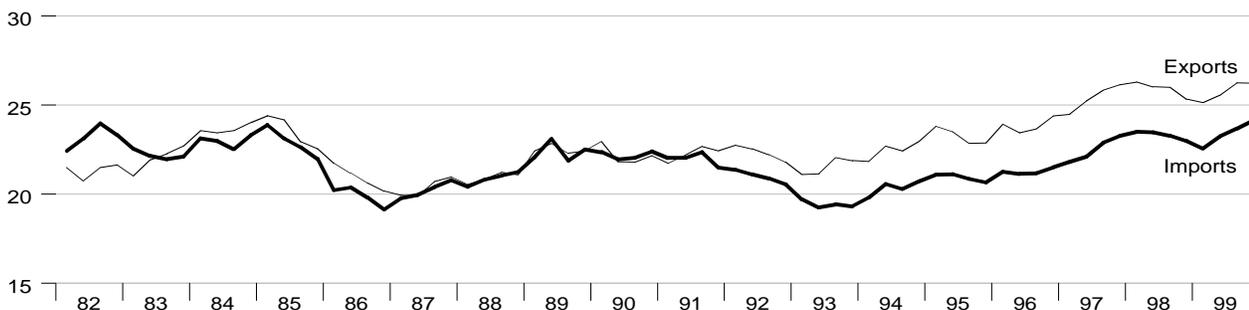


Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



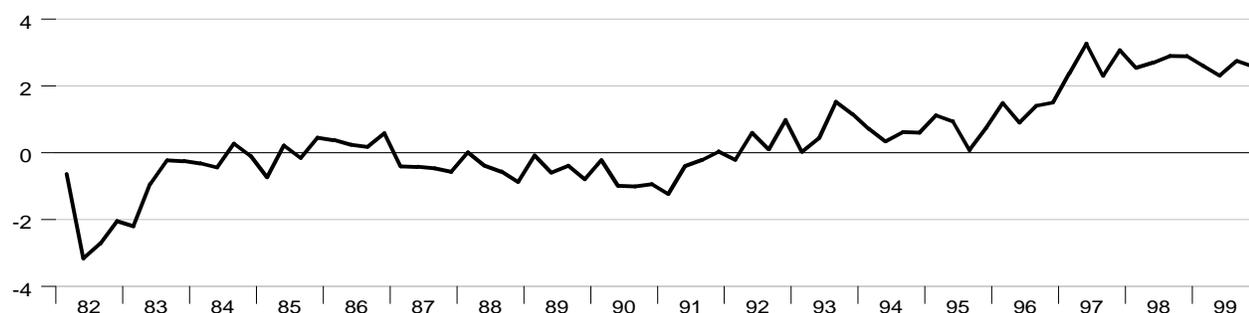
International Trade - Goods and Services

Percent of GDP



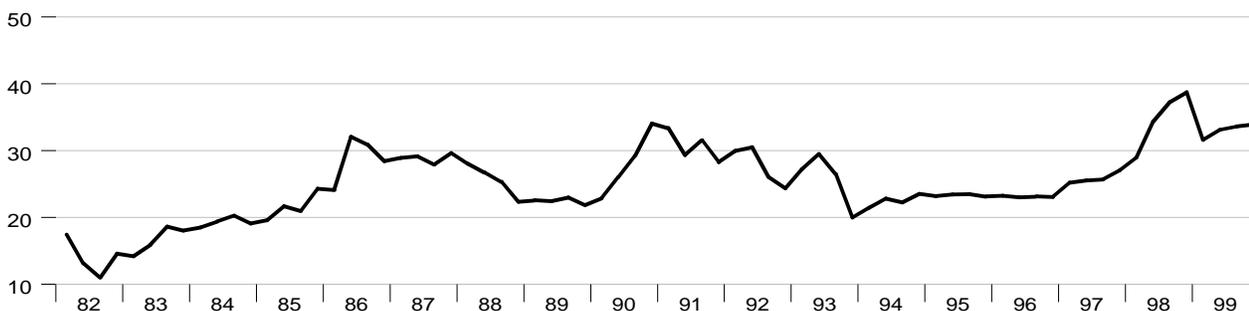
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP



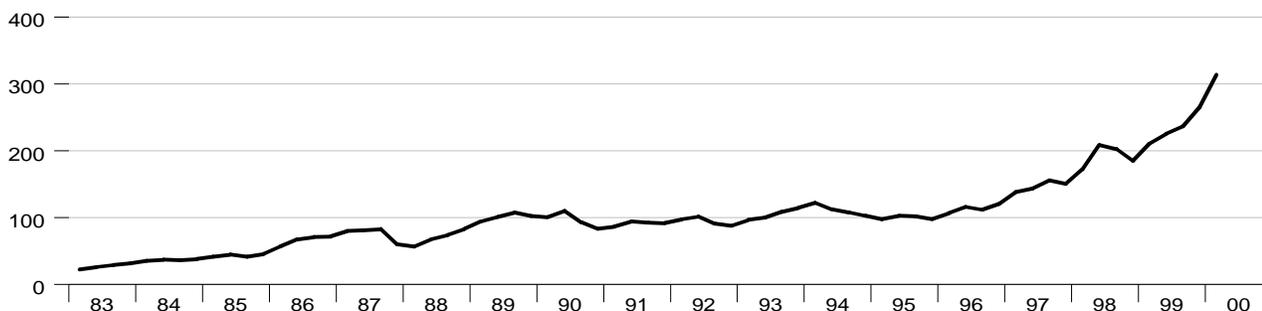
Foreign Exchange Reserves

Billions of US\$

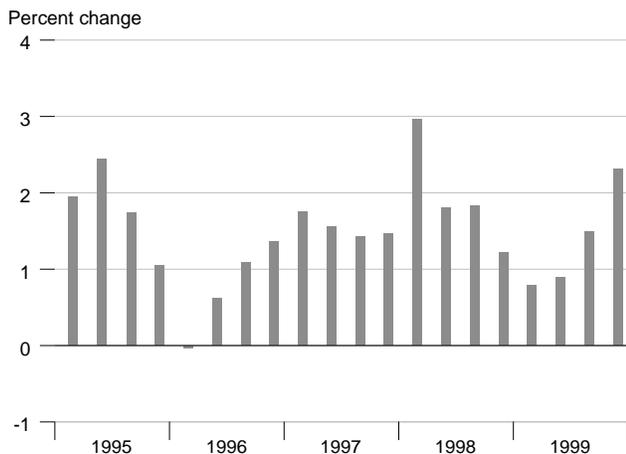


Stock Exchange Index - SBF 250

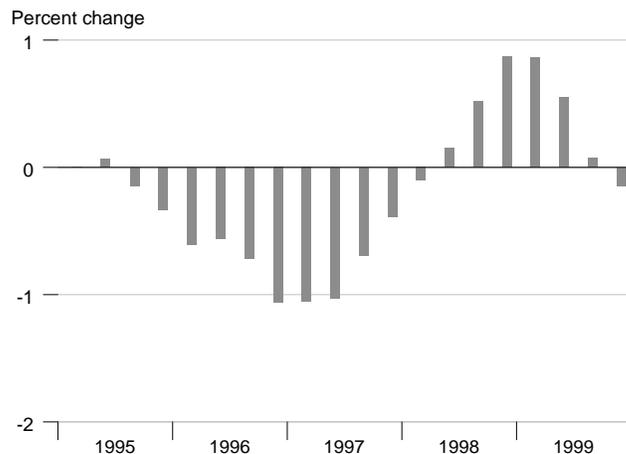
1995 = 100



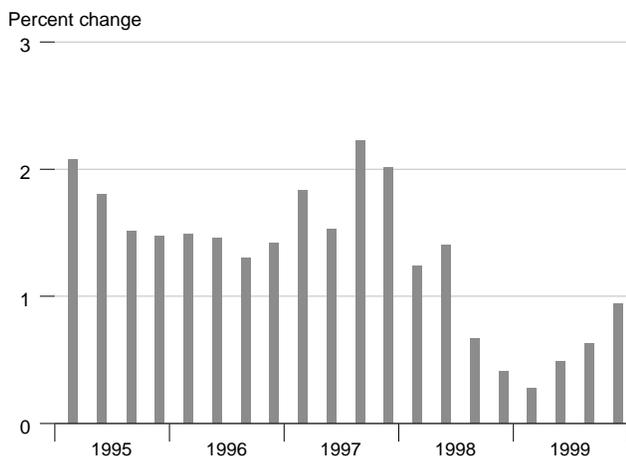
Real GDP Growth



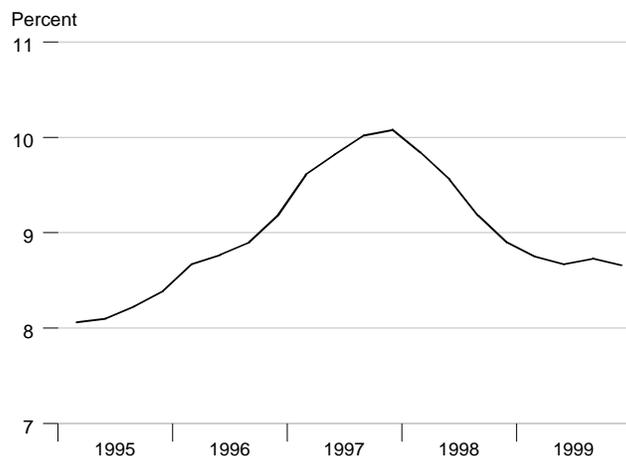
Employment Growth



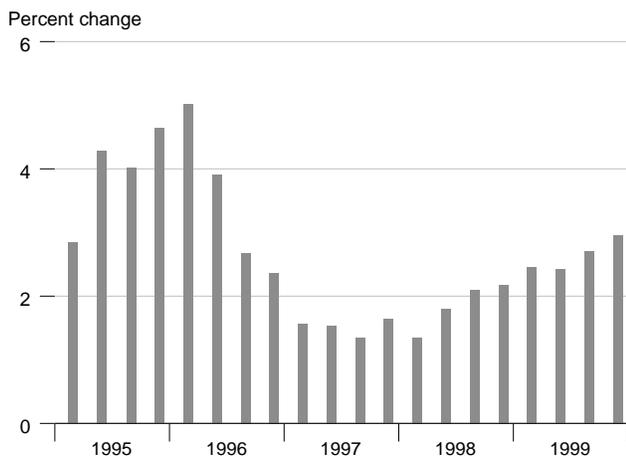
Consumer Price Index



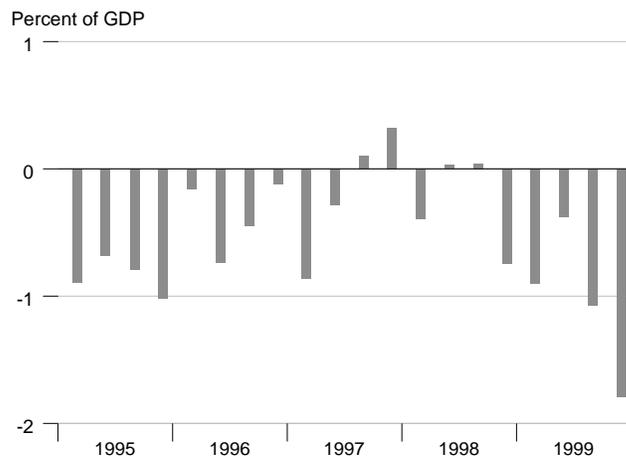
Unemployment Rate



Hourly Earnings

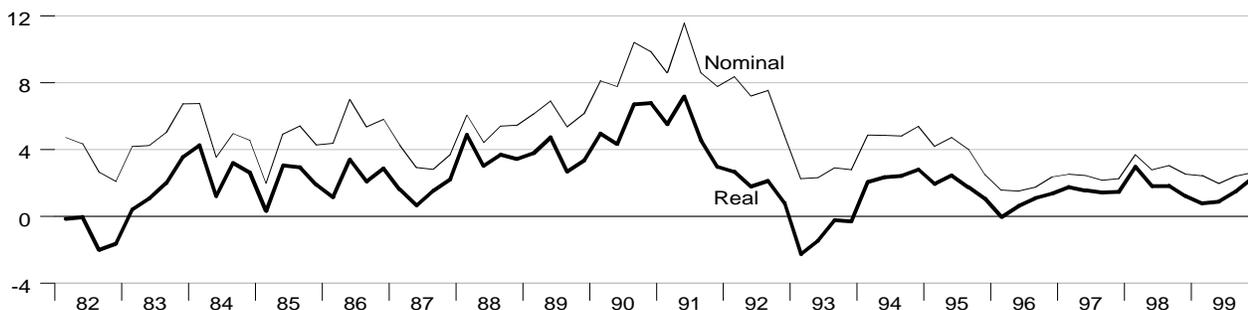


Current Account Balance



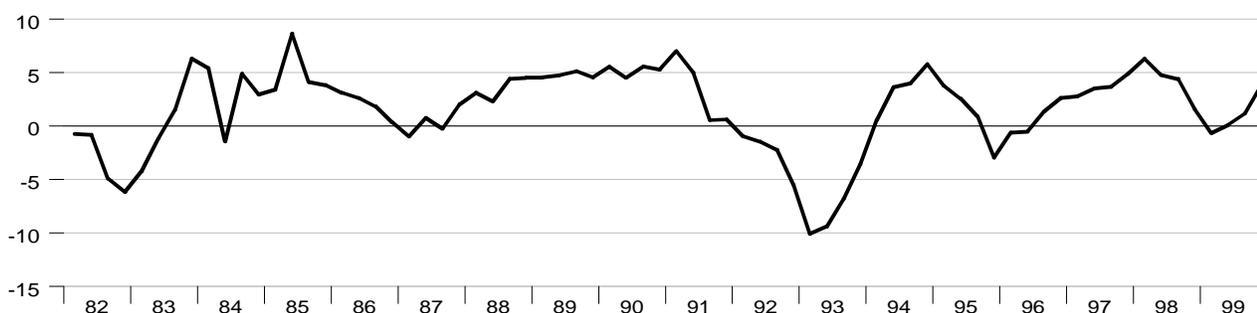
GDP Growth

Percent change



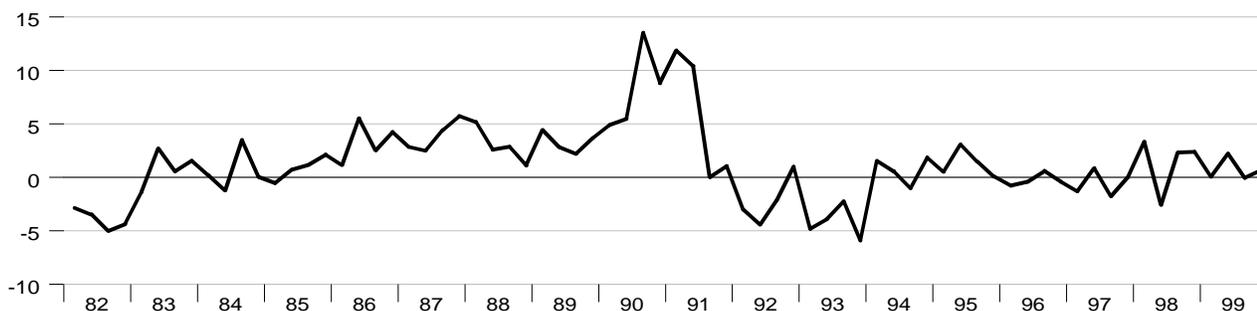
Industrial Production

Percent change



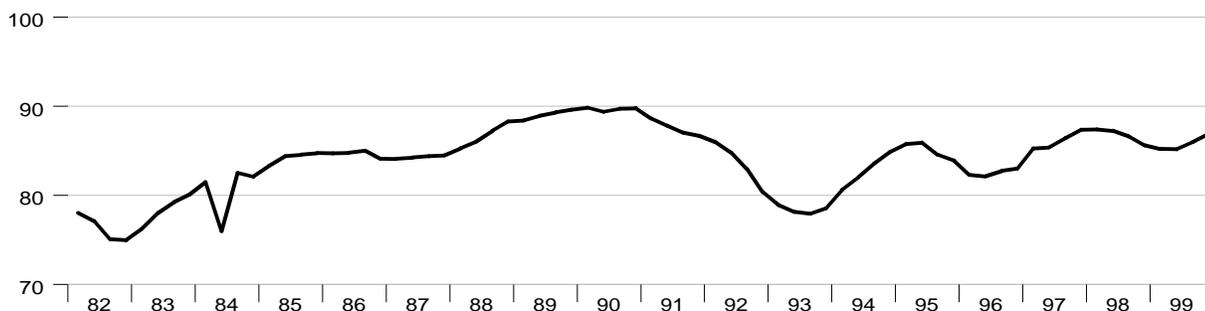
Retail Sales

Percent change

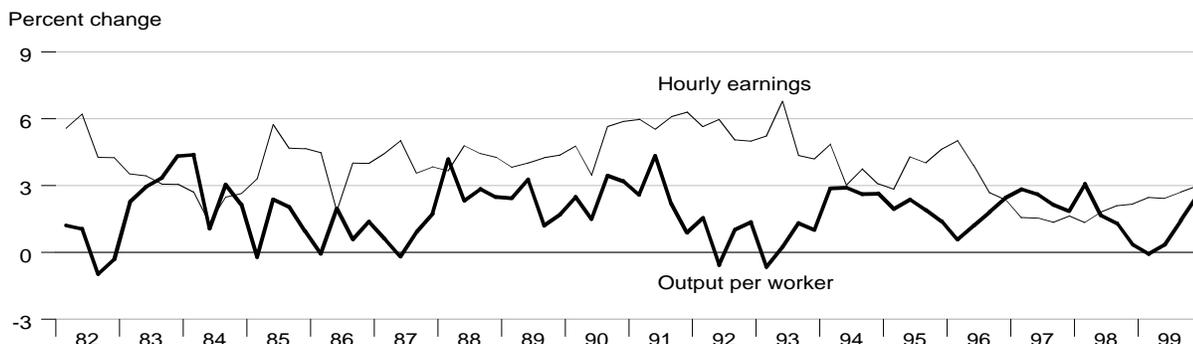


Capacity Utilization

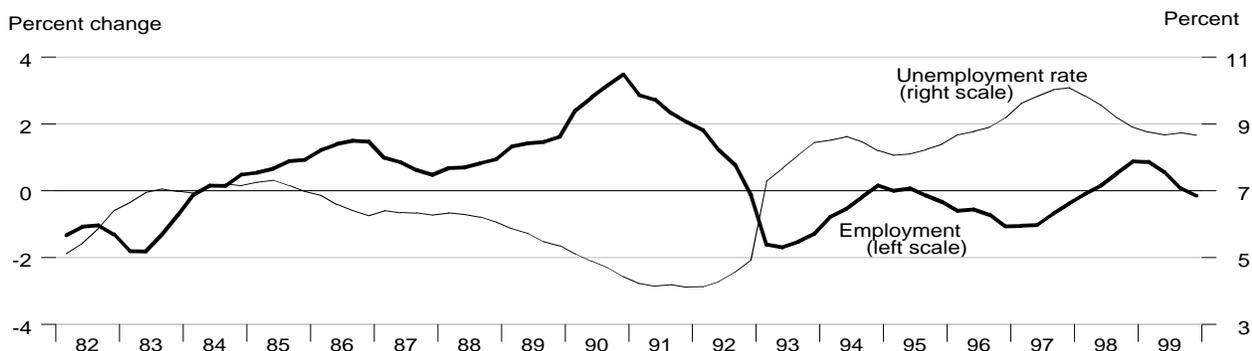
Percent



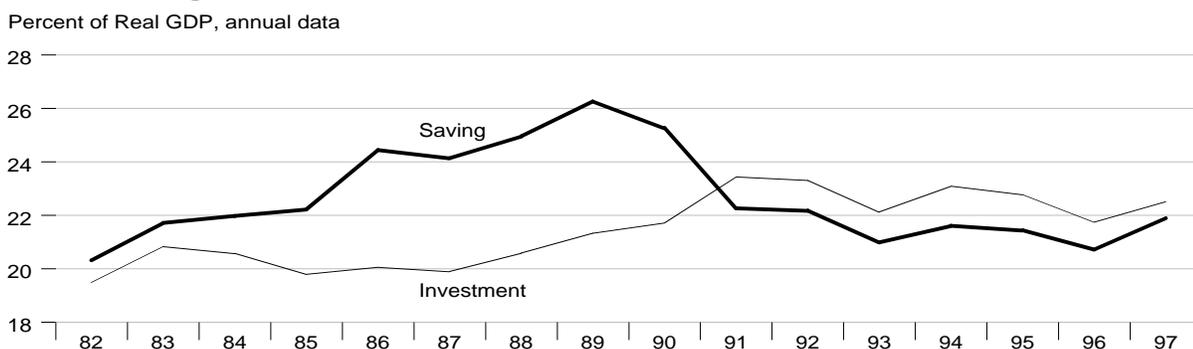
Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker



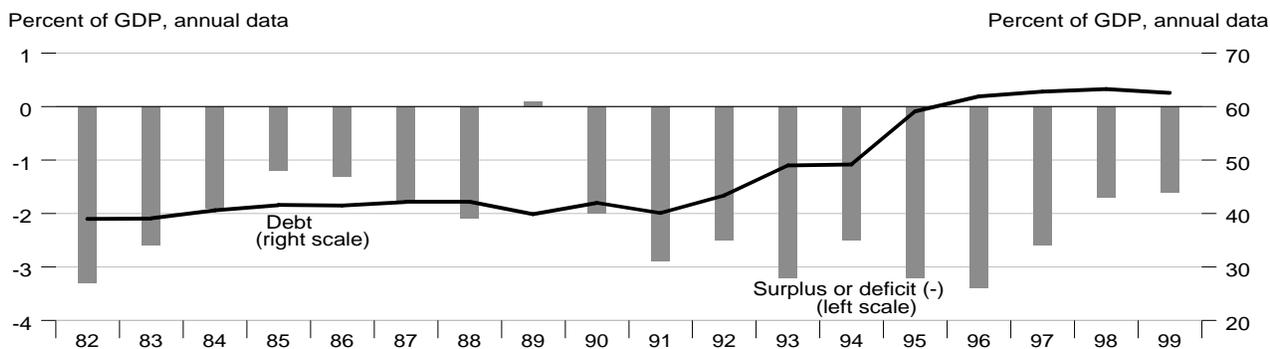
Labor Force Indicators



Real Saving and Real Investment

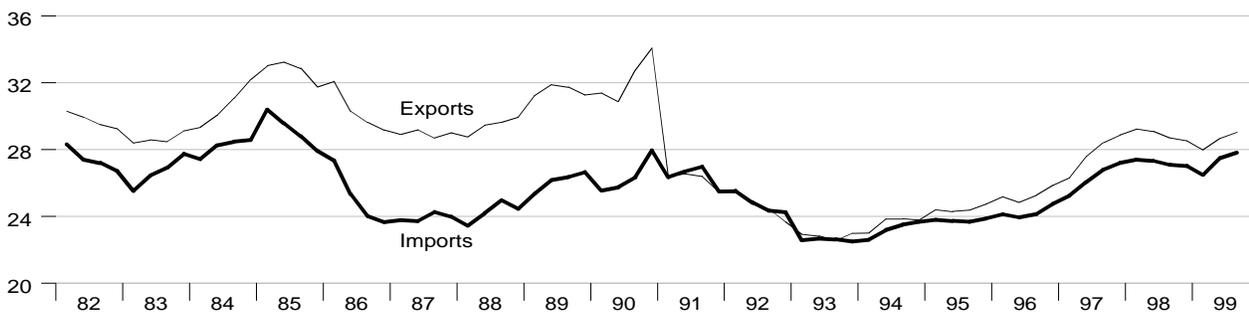


Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



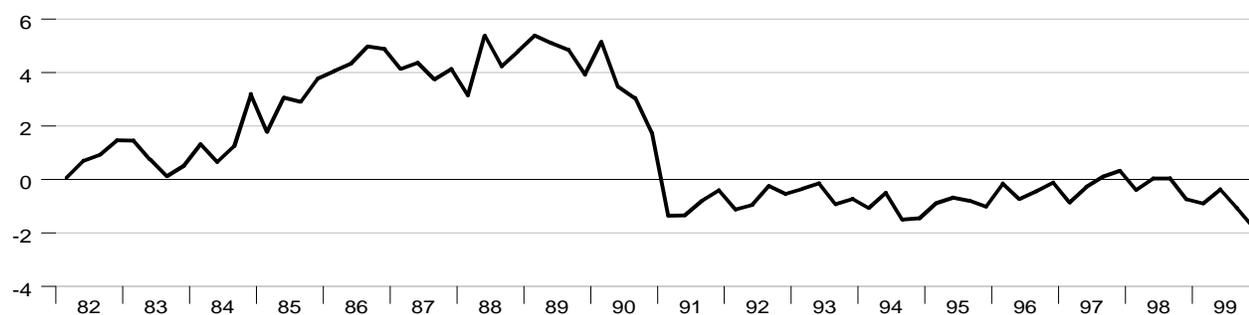
International Trade - Goods and Services

Percent of GDP



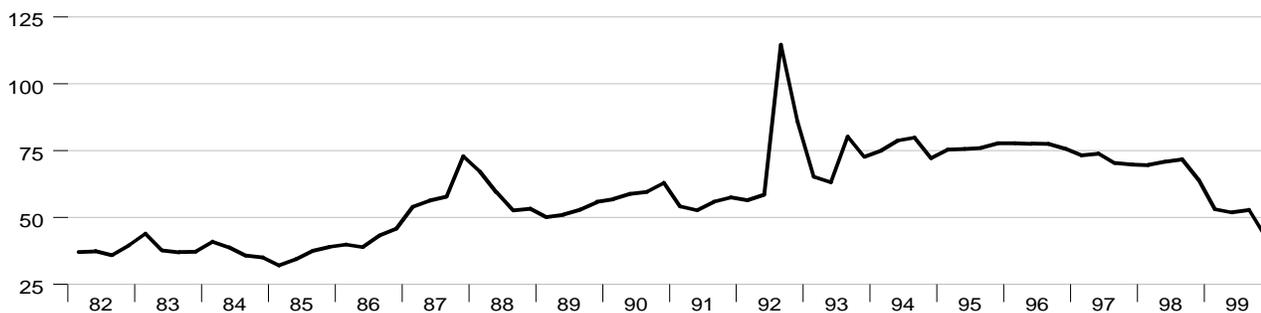
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP



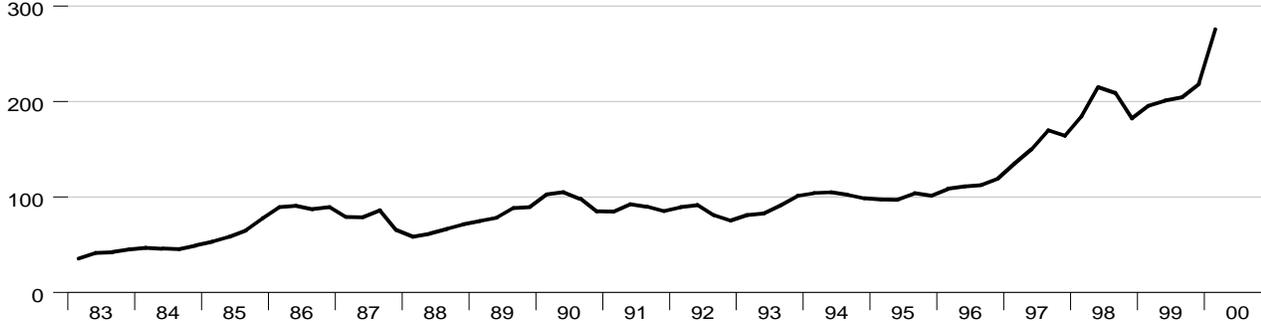
Foreign Exchange Reserves

Billion of US\$

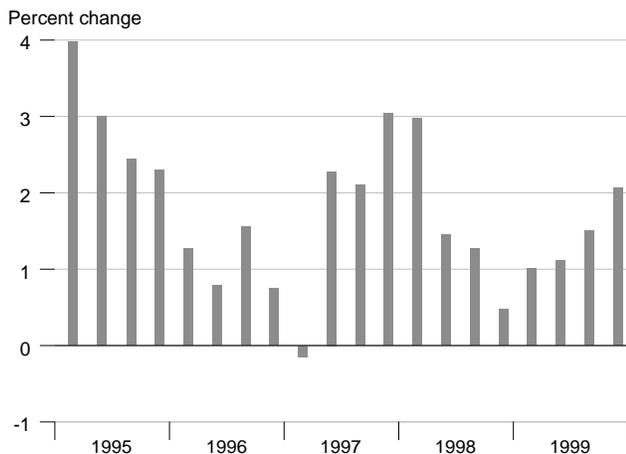


Stock Exchange Index - CDAX

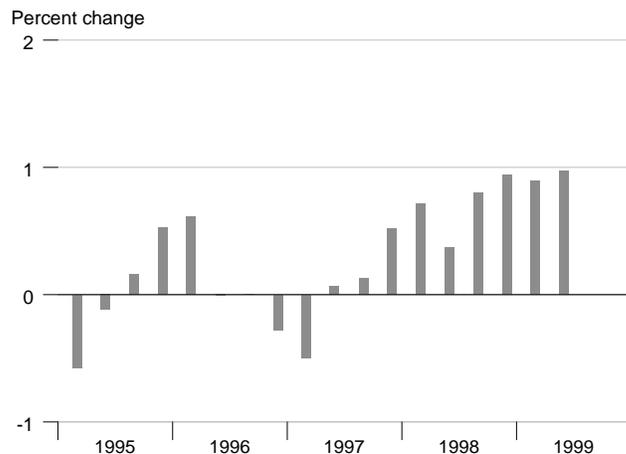
1995 = 100



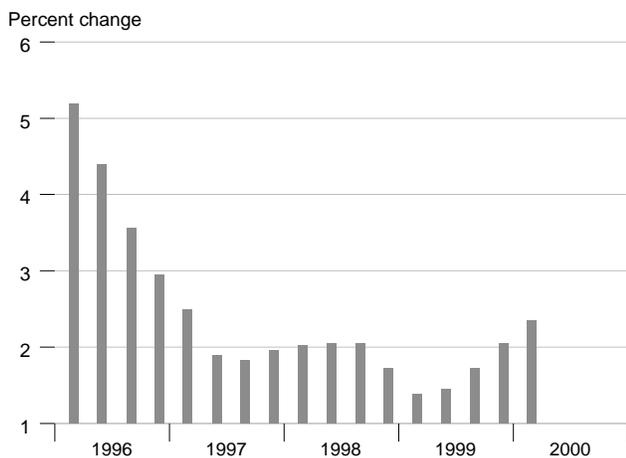
Real GDP Growth



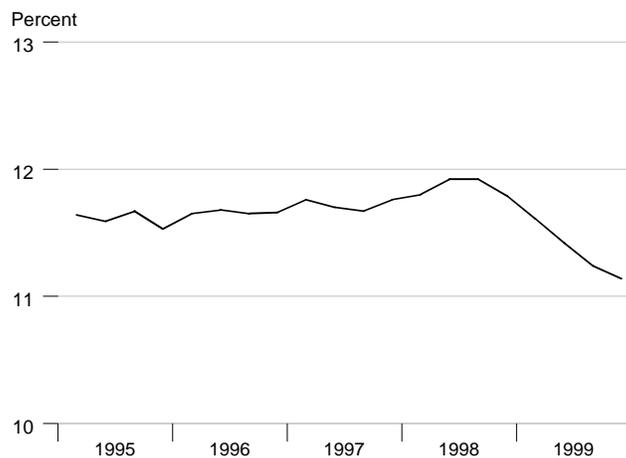
Employment Growth



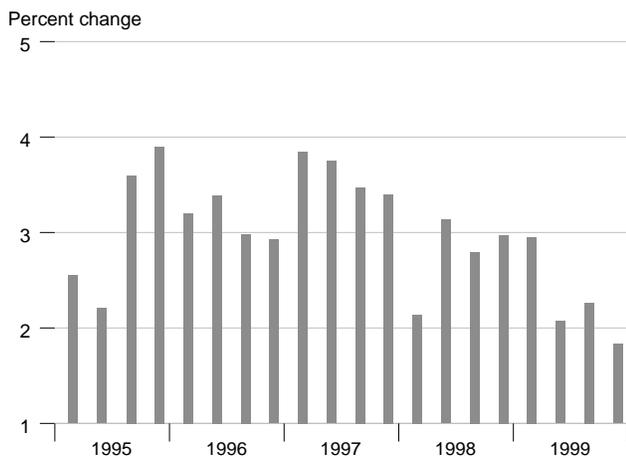
Consumer Price Index



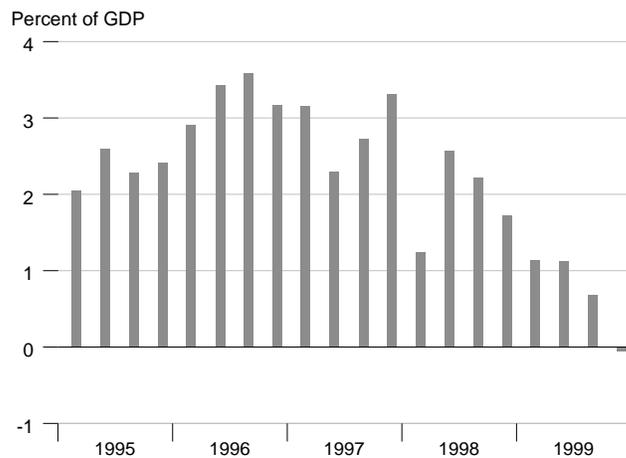
Unemployment Rate



Hourly Earnings

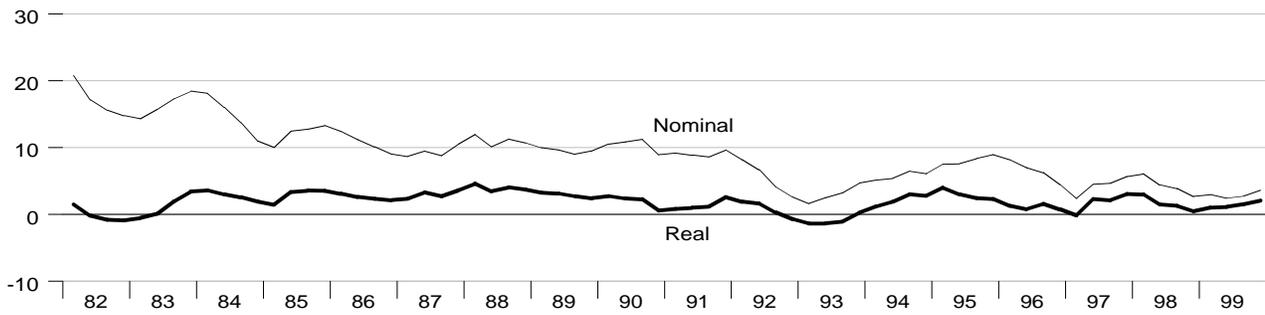


Current Account Balance



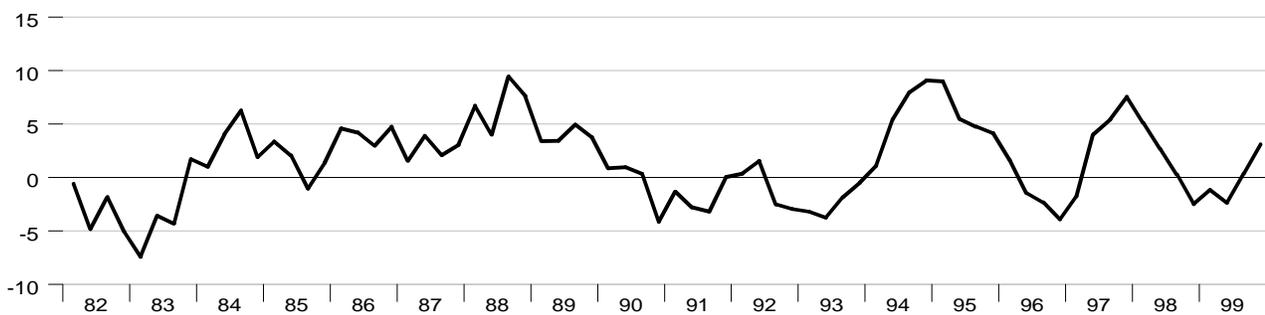
GDP Growth

Percent change



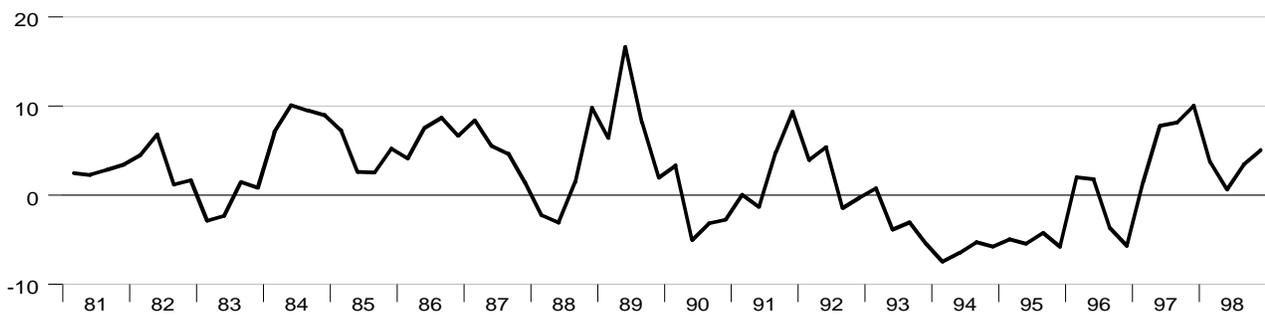
Industrial Production

Percent change



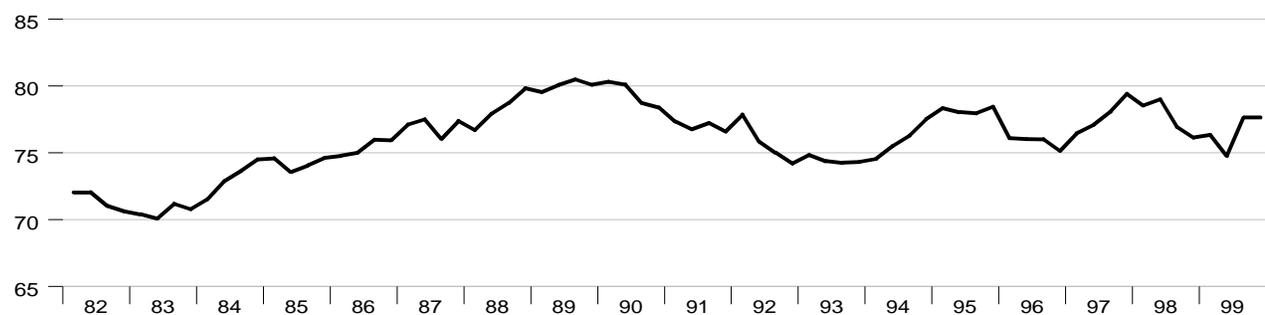
Retail Sales

Percent change

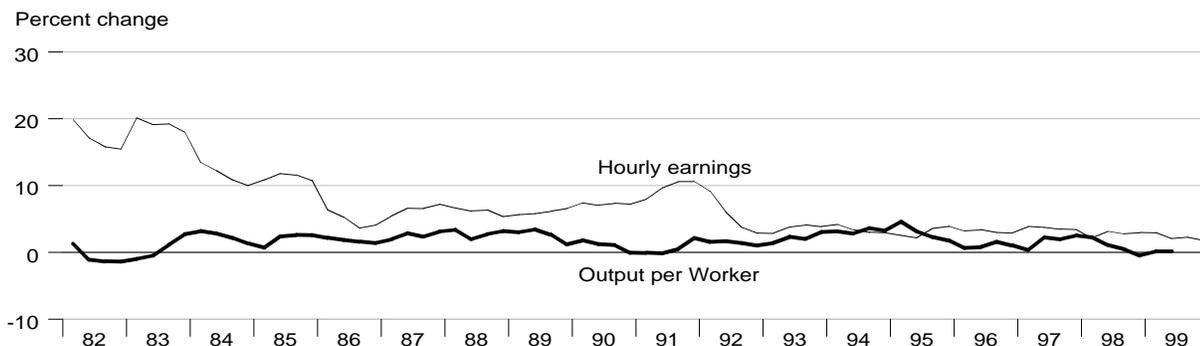


Capacity Utilization

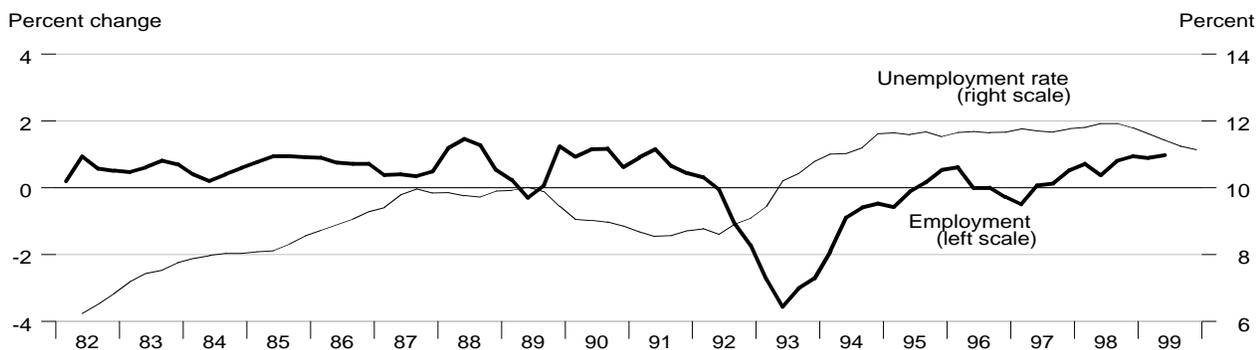
Percent



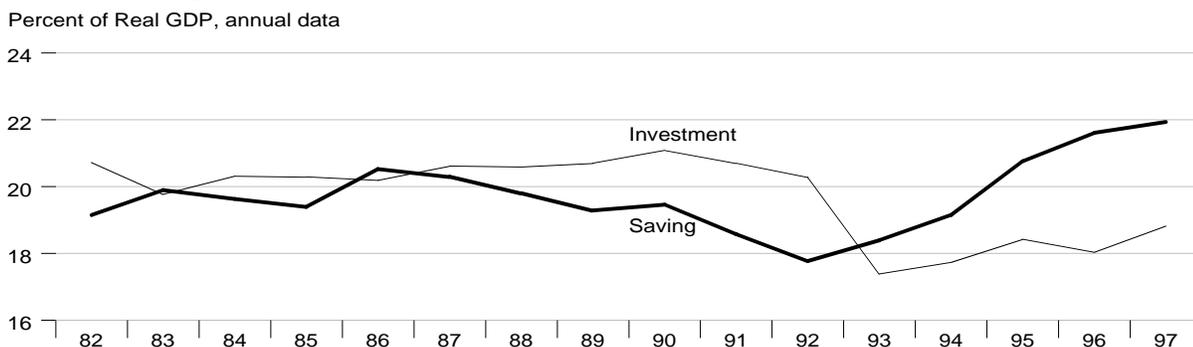
Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker



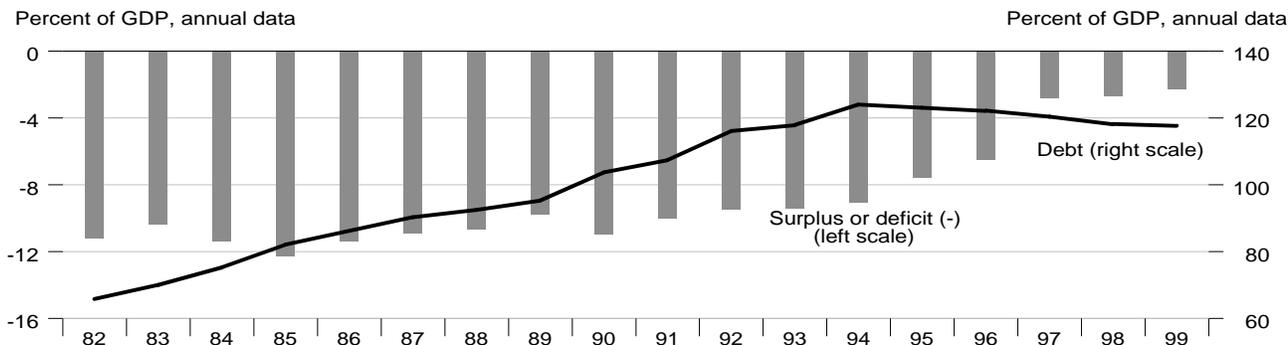
Labor Force Indicators



Real Saving and Real Investment

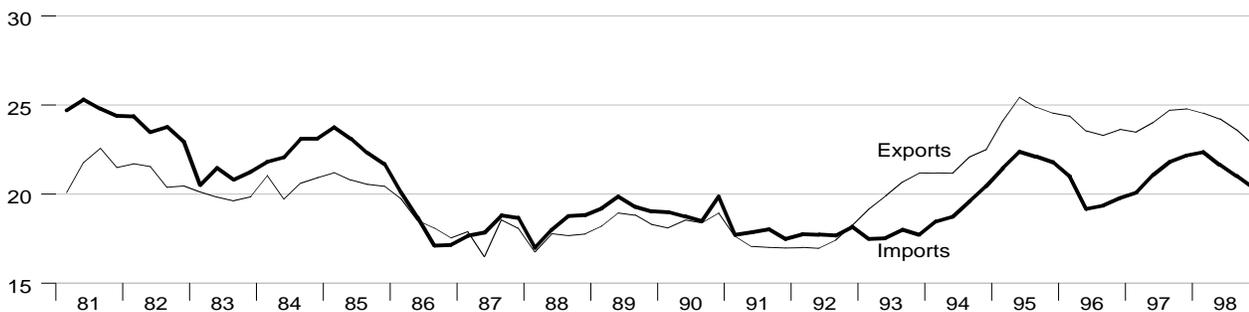


Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



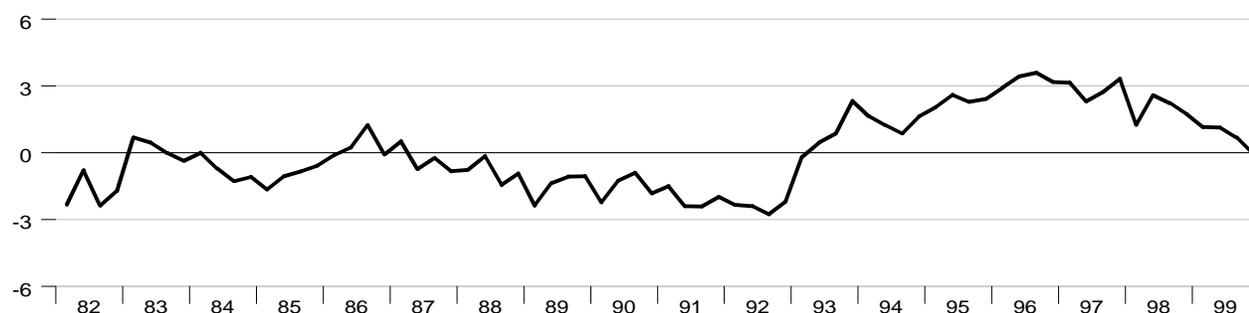
International Trade - Goods and Services

Percent of GDP



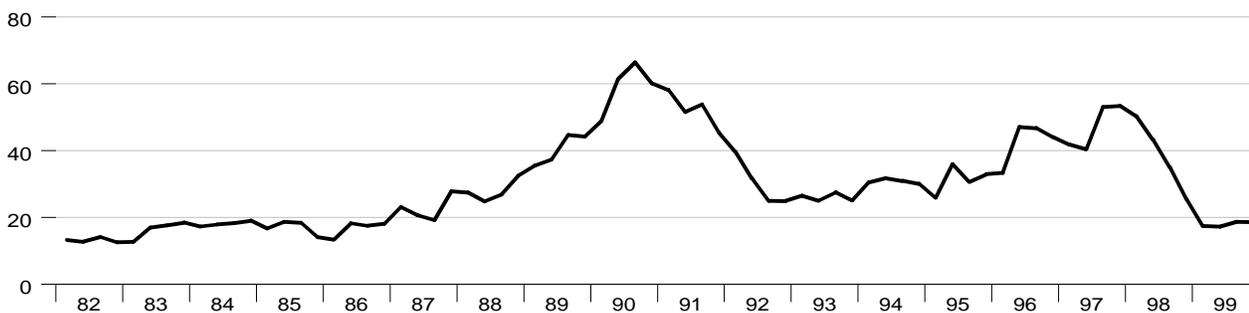
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP



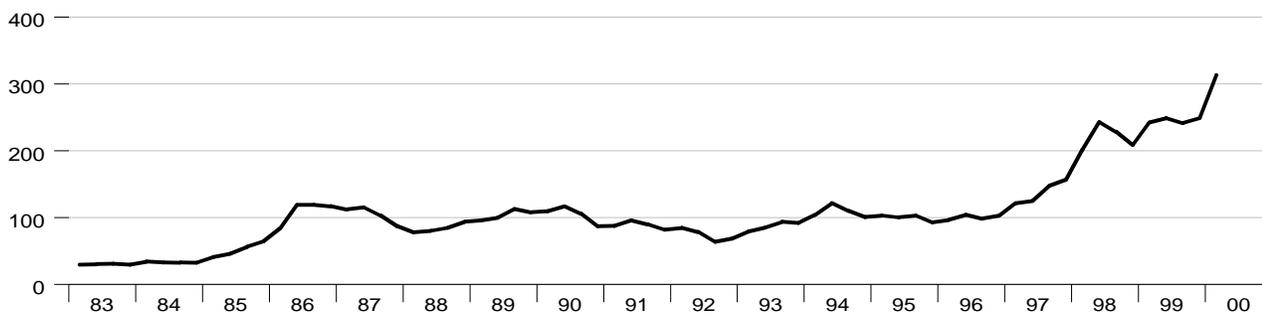
Foreign Exchange Reserves

Billions of US\$

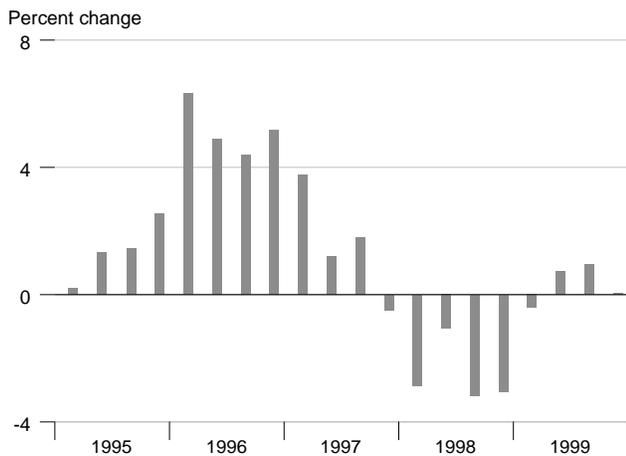


Stock Exchange Index - Milan Stock Exchange

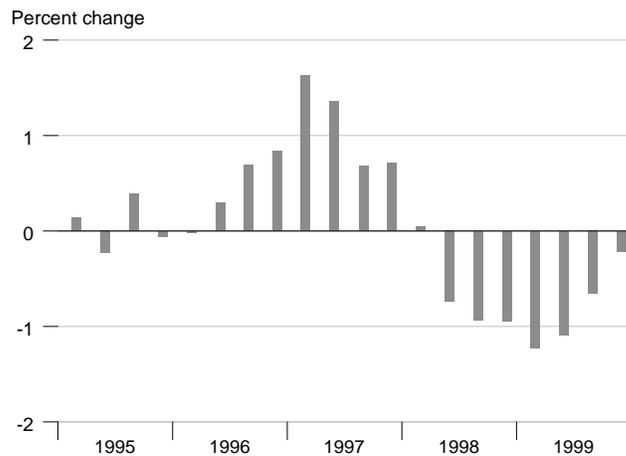
1995 = 100



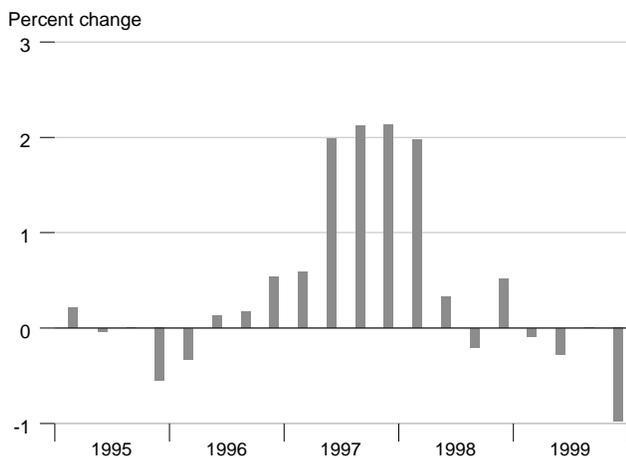
Real GDP Growth



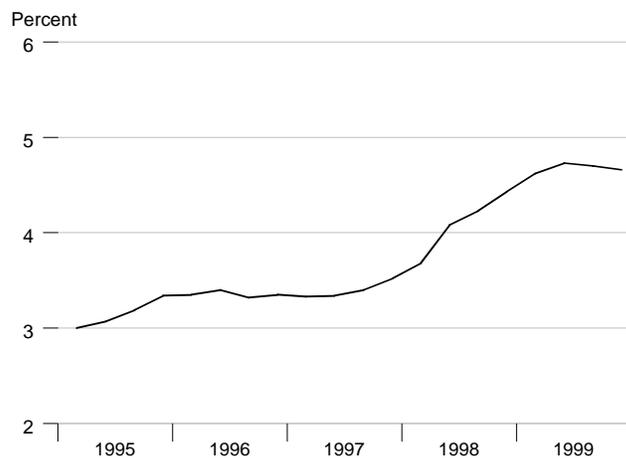
Employment Growth



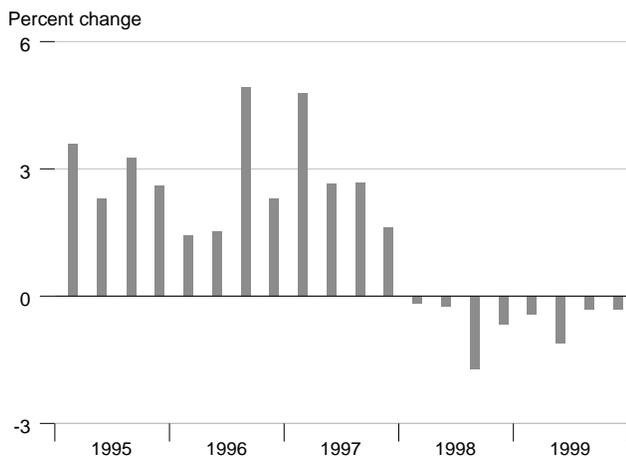
Consumer Price Index



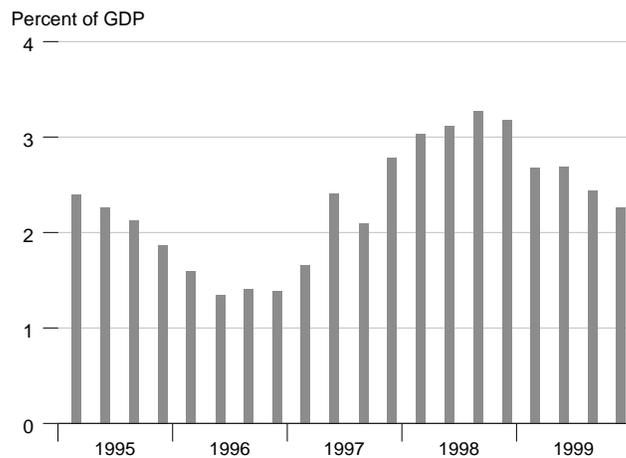
Unemployment Rate



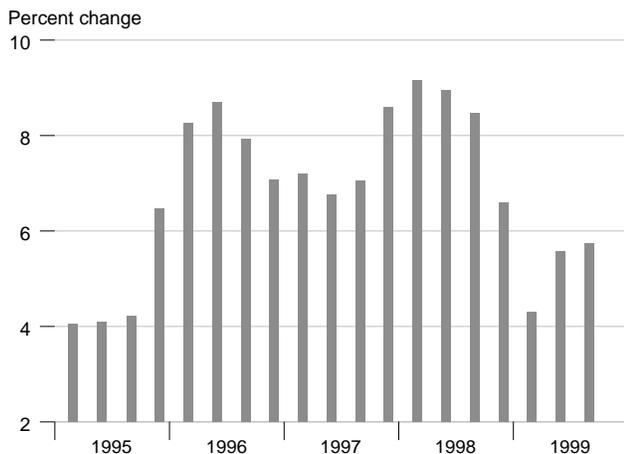
Monthly Earnings



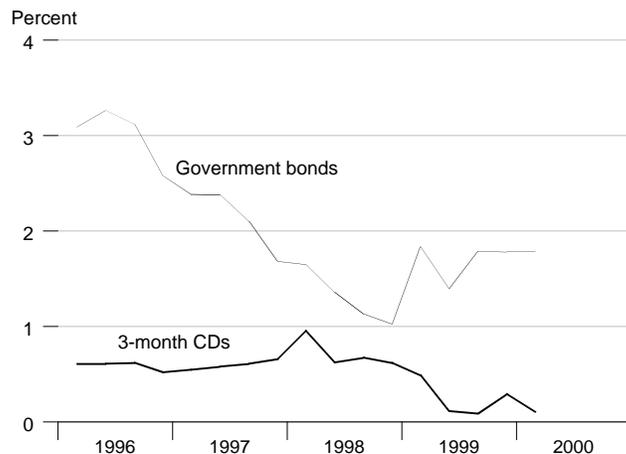
Current Account Balance



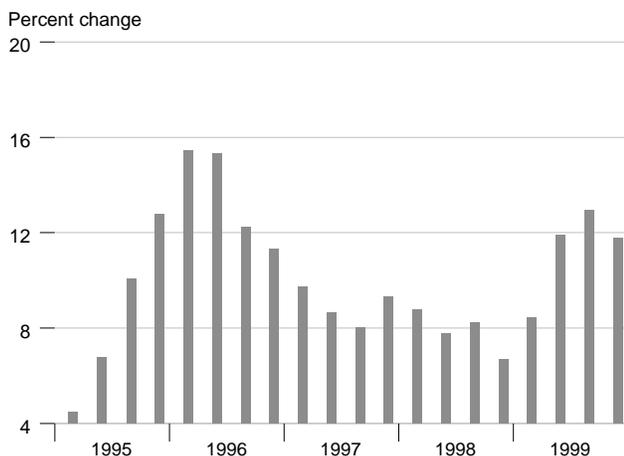
Adjusted Monetary Base Growth



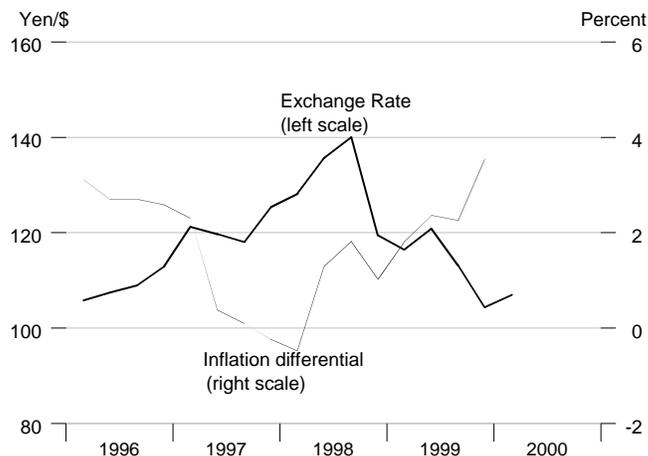
Interest Rates



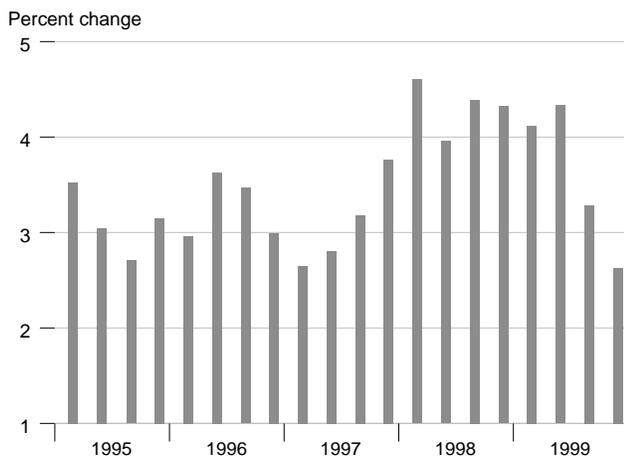
M1 Growth



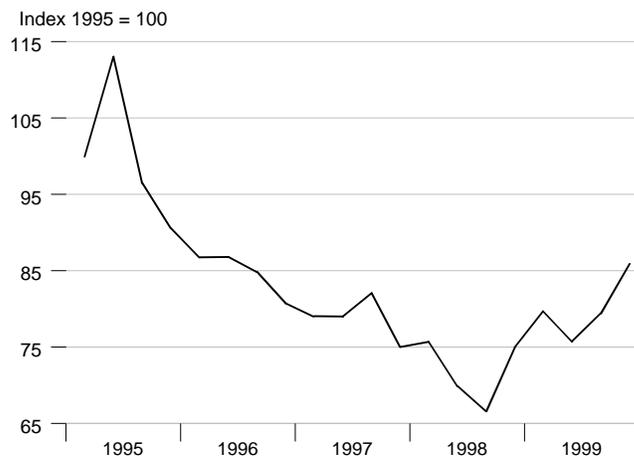
Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential



M2 Growth

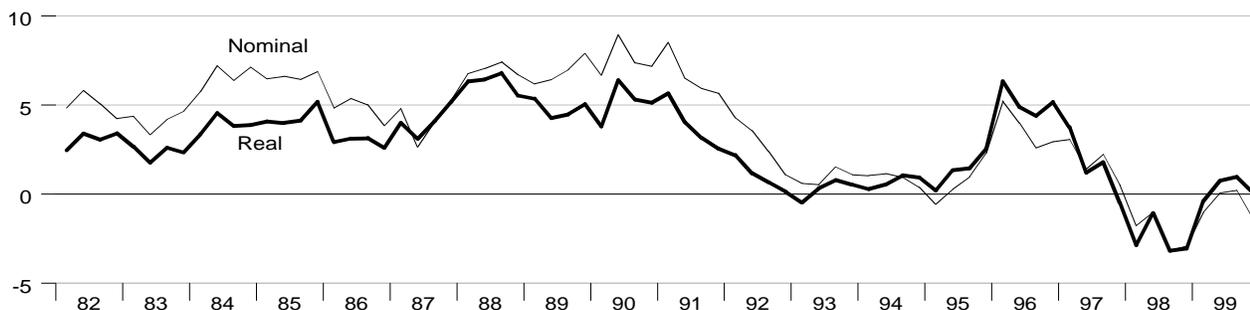


Real Effective Exchange Rate



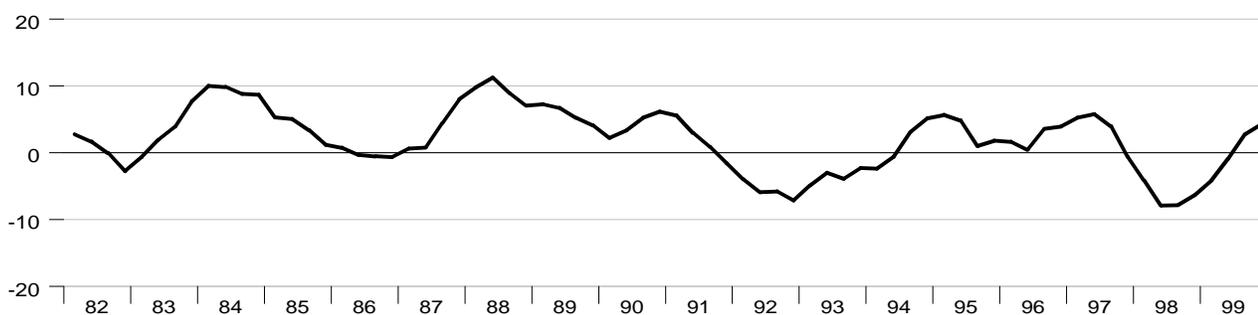
GDP Growth

Percent change



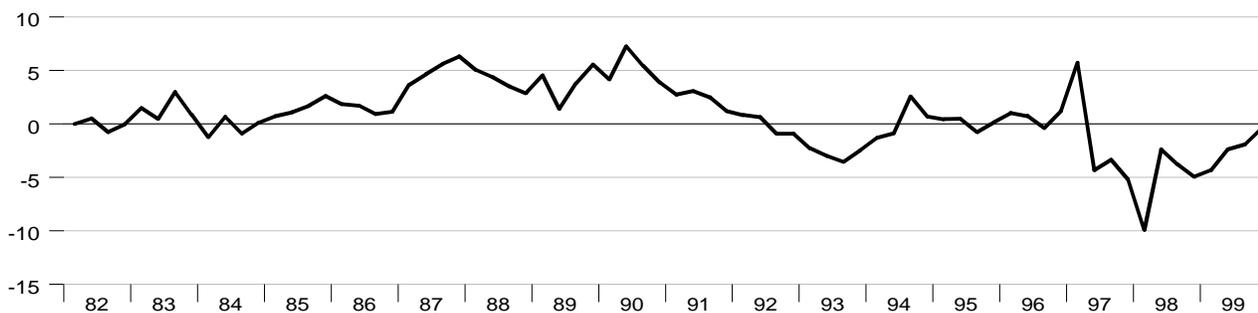
Industrial Production

Percent change



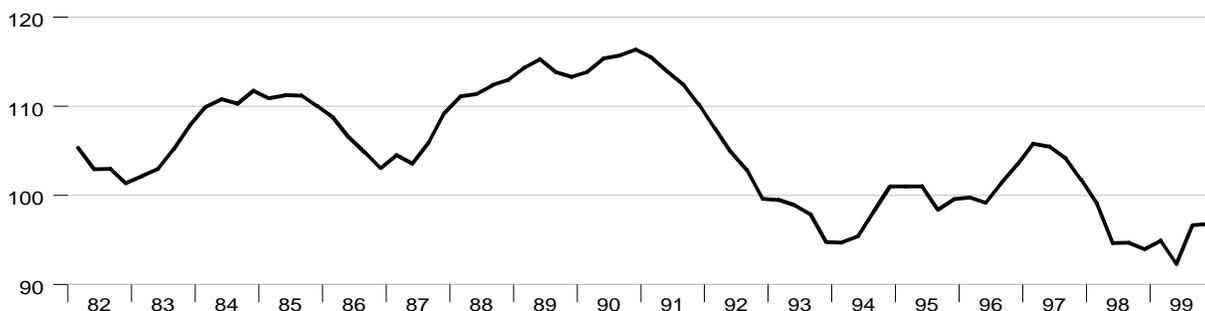
Retail Sales

Percent change

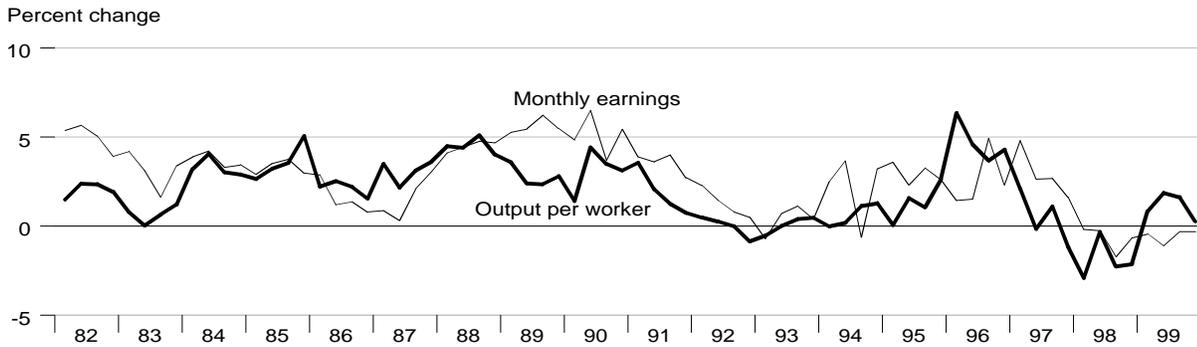


Capacity Utilization

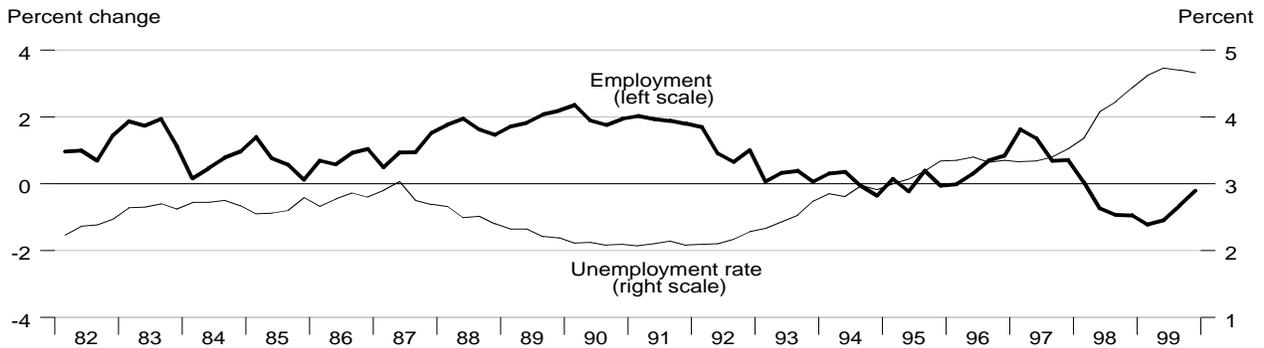
1995 = 100



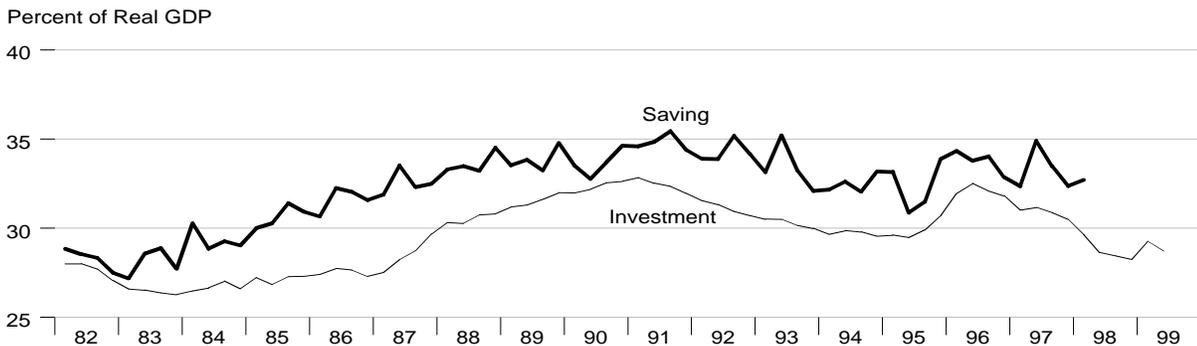
Monthly Earnings and Output per Worker



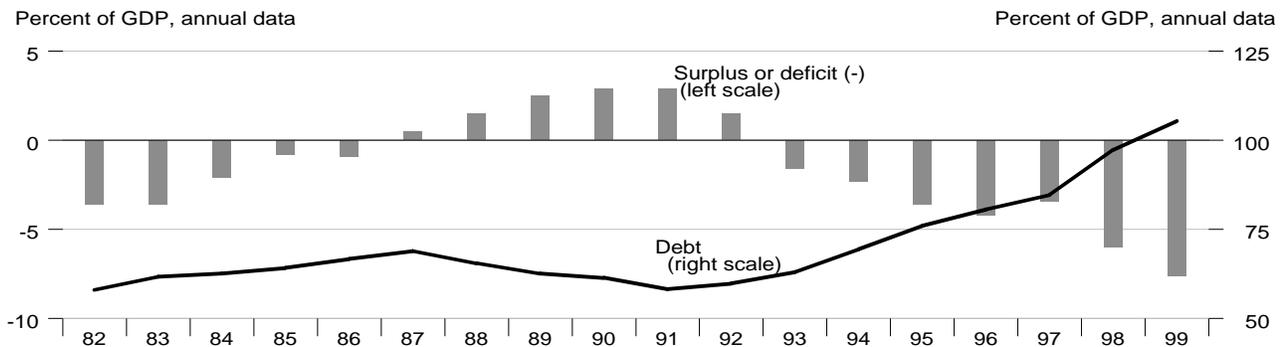
Labor Force Indicators



Real Saving and Real Investment

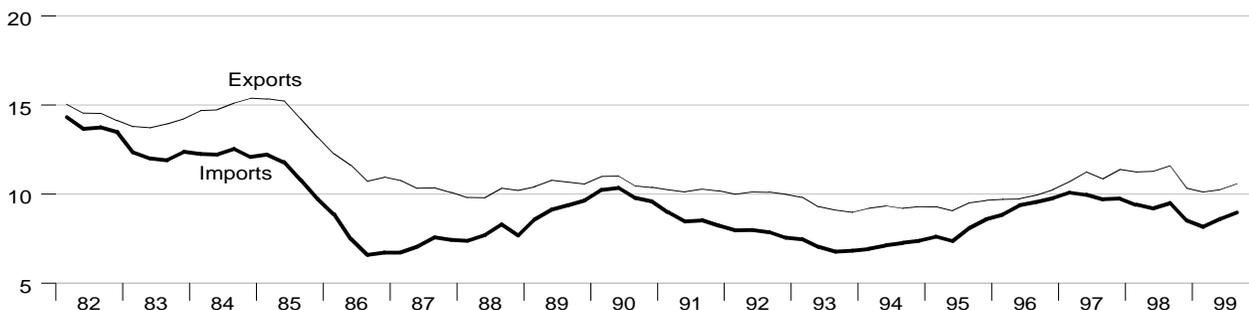


Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



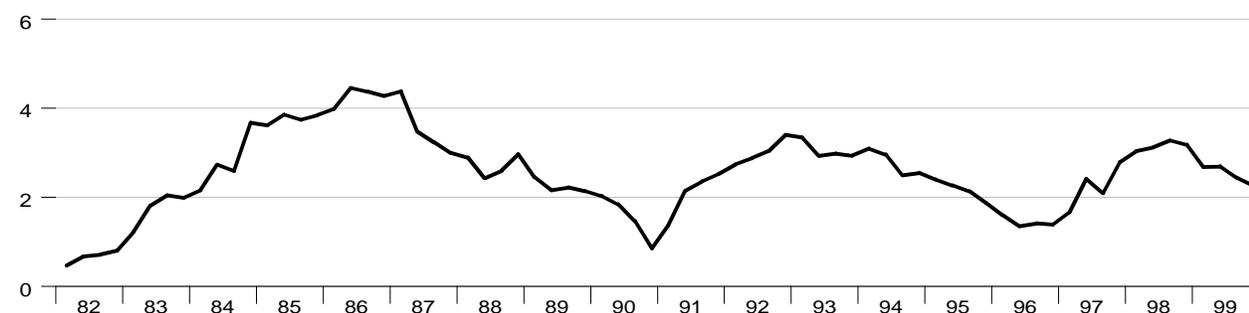
International Trade - Goods and Services

Percent of GDP



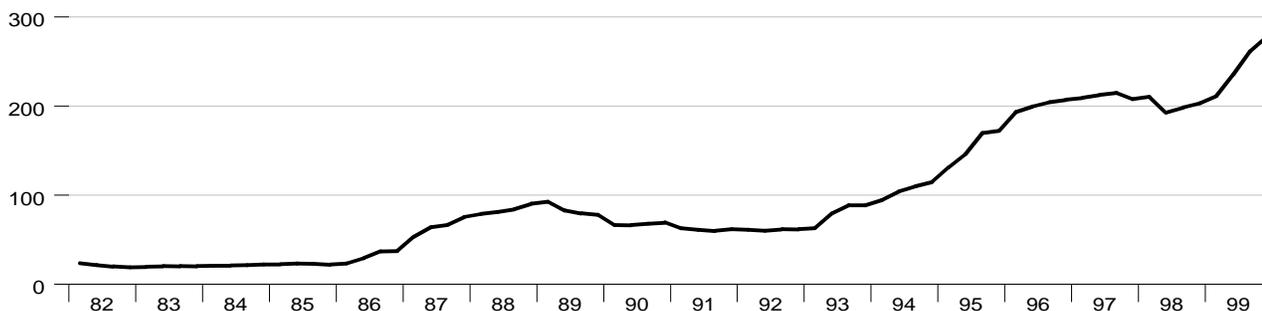
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP



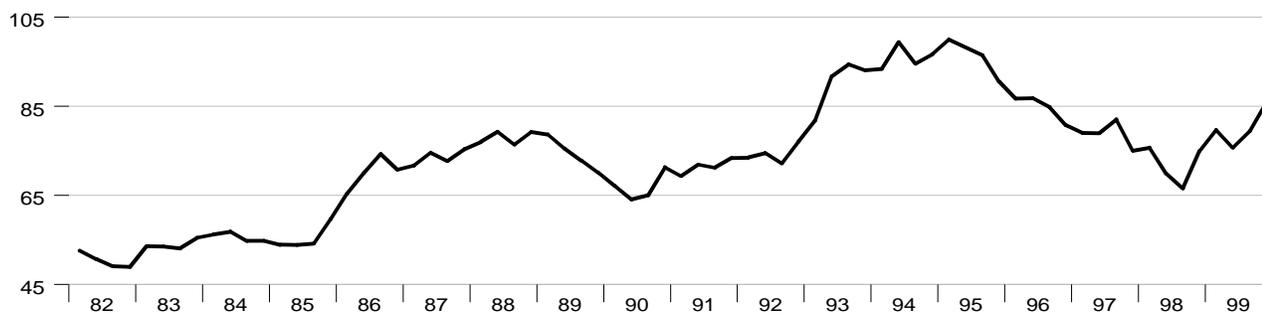
Foreign Exchange Reserves

Billions of US\$



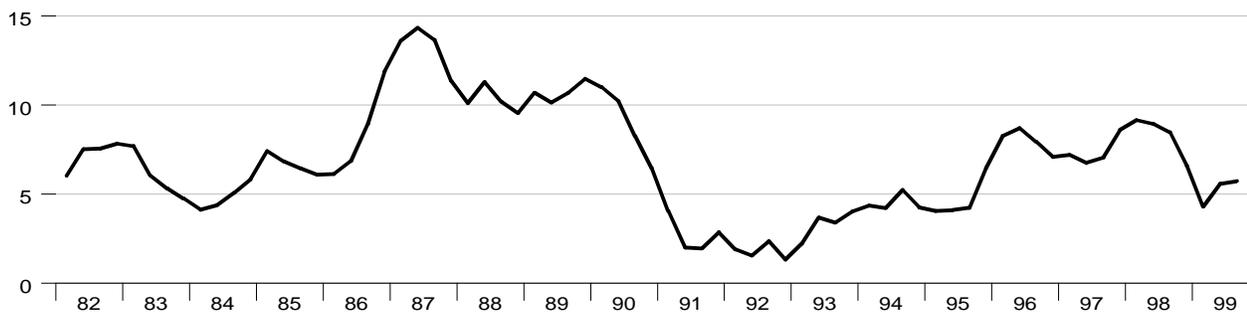
Real Effective Exchange Rate

Index 1995 = 100



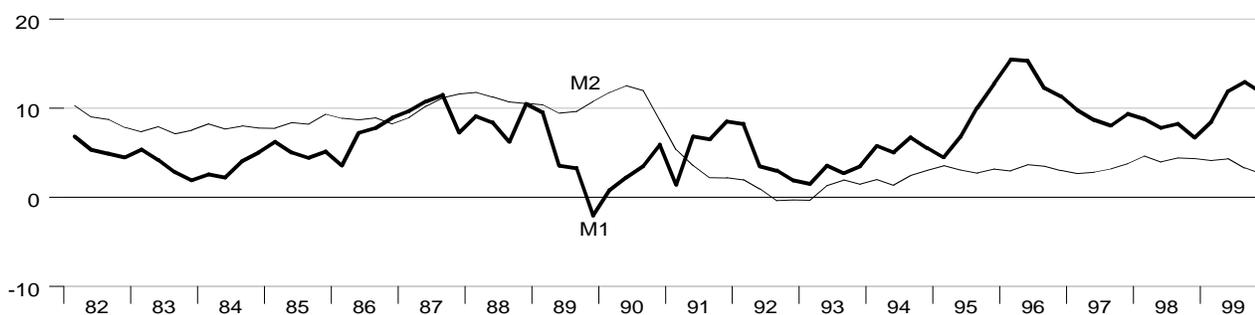
Adjusted Monetary Base Growth

Percent change



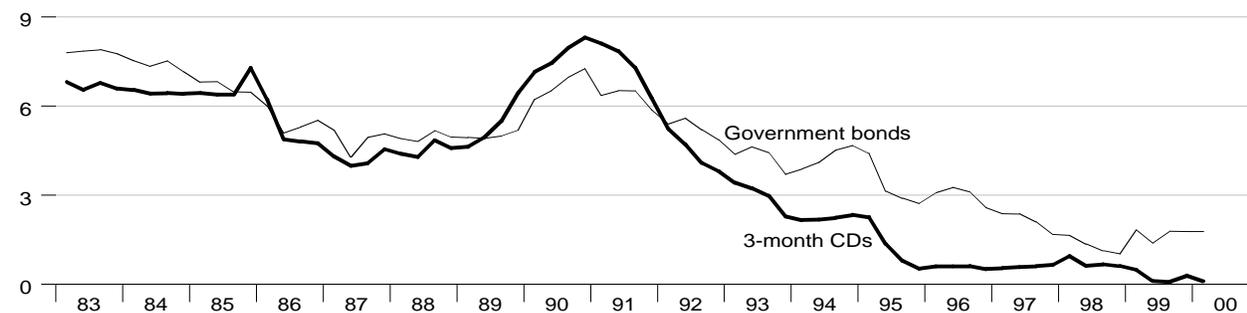
Monetary Aggregates

Percent change



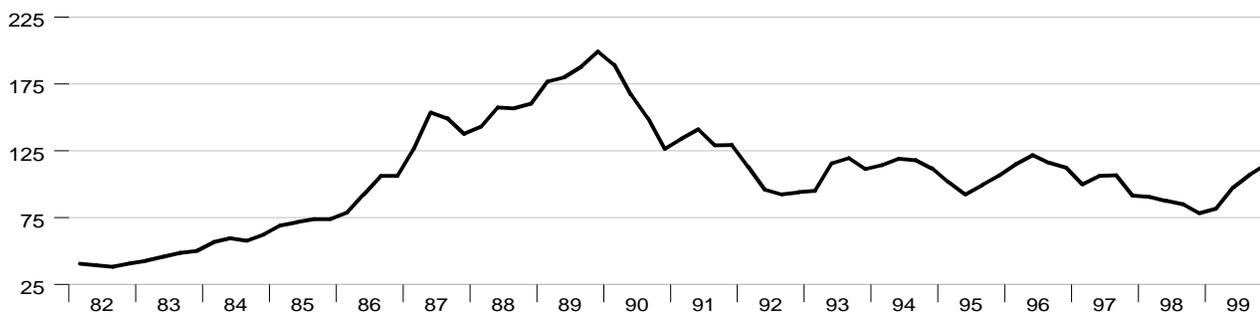
Interest Rates

Percent



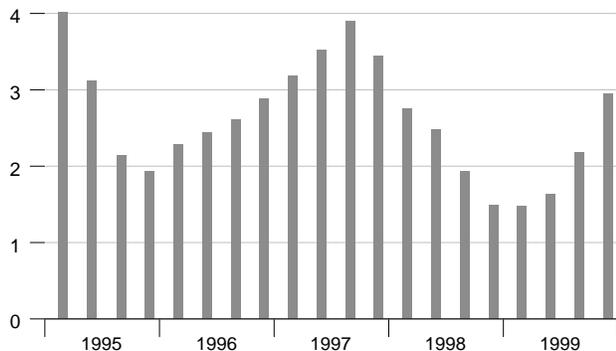
Stock Exchange Index - Tokyo Stock Exchange

1995 = 100



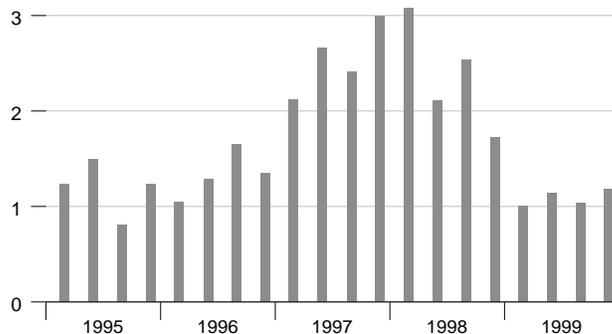
Real GDP Growth

Percent change
5



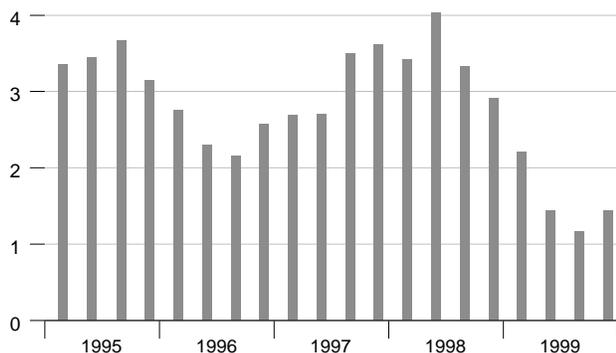
Employment Growth

Percent change
4



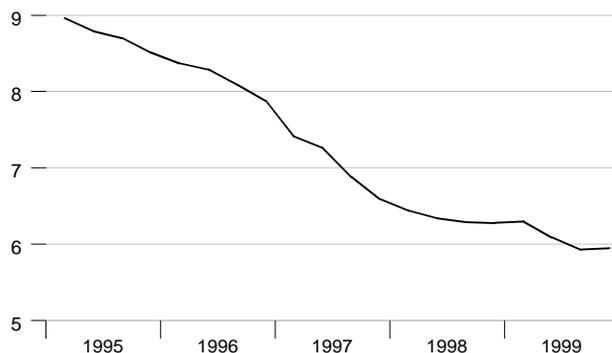
Consumer Price Index

Percent change
5



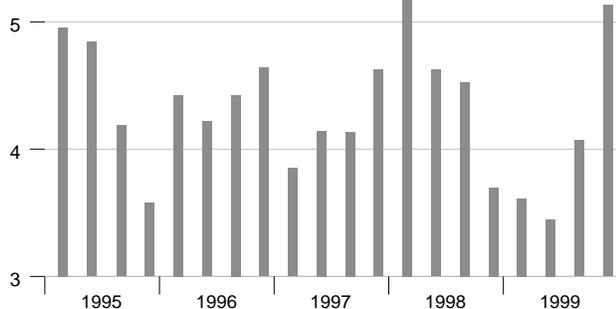
Unemployment Rate

Percent
10



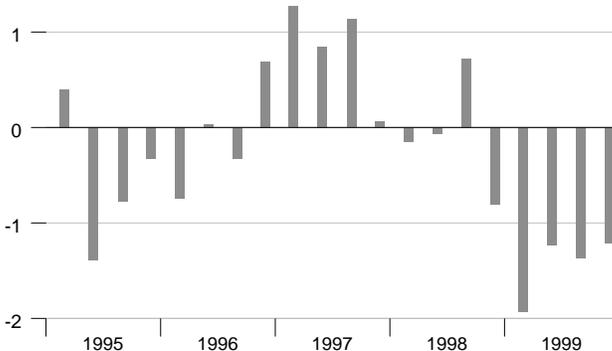
Weekly Earnings

Percent change
6



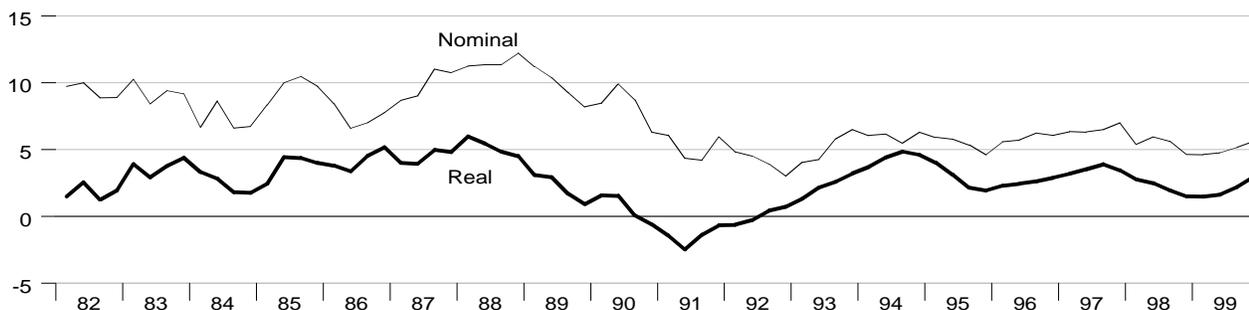
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP
2



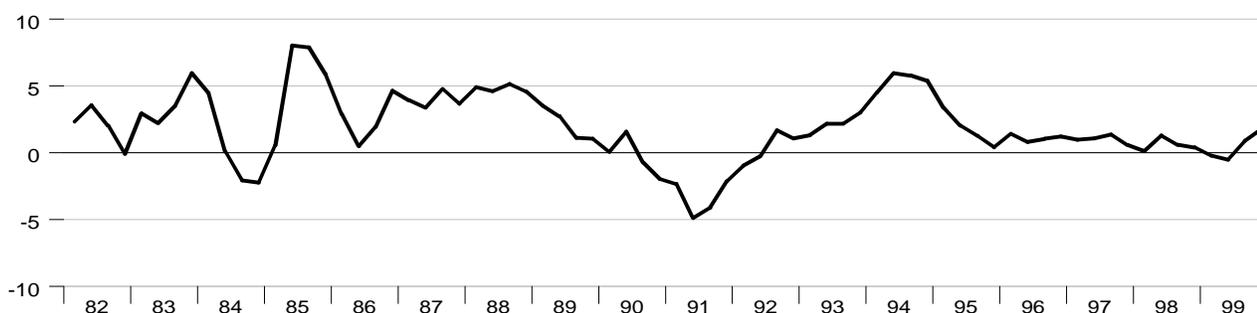
GDP Growth

Percent change



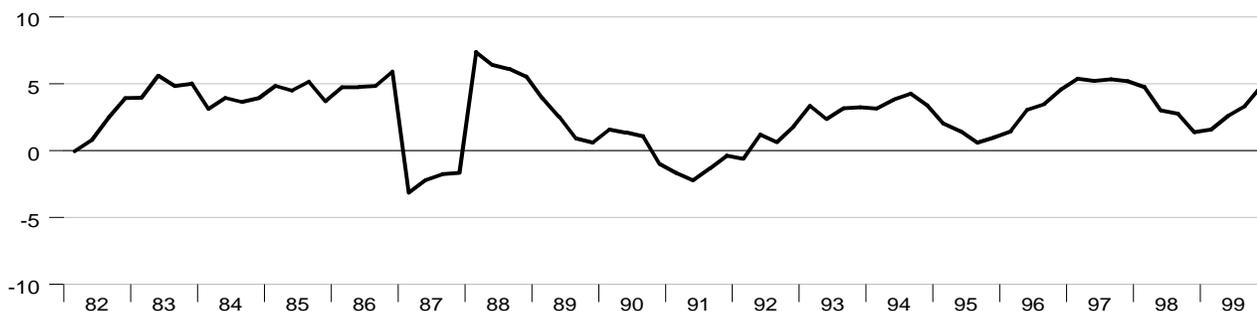
Industrial Production

Percent change



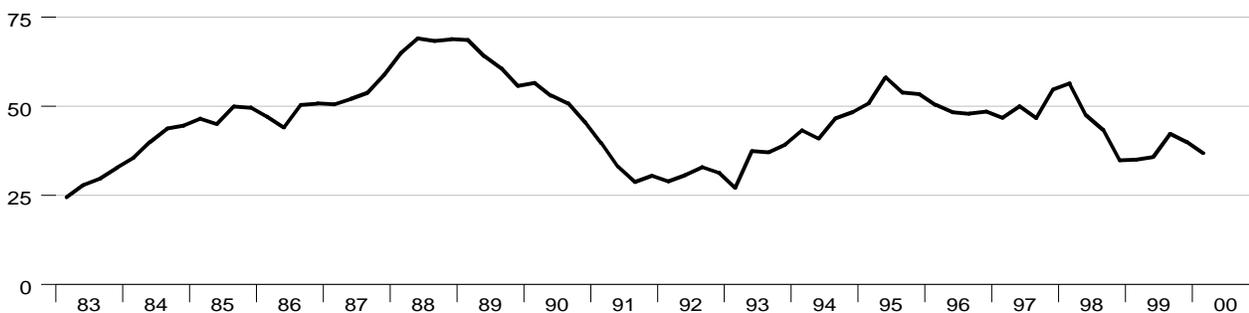
Retail Sales

Percent change

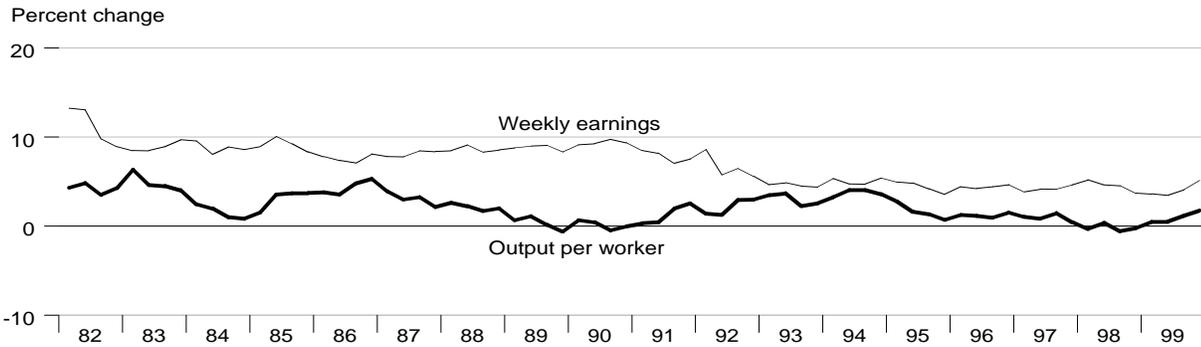


Firms Operating at Capacity

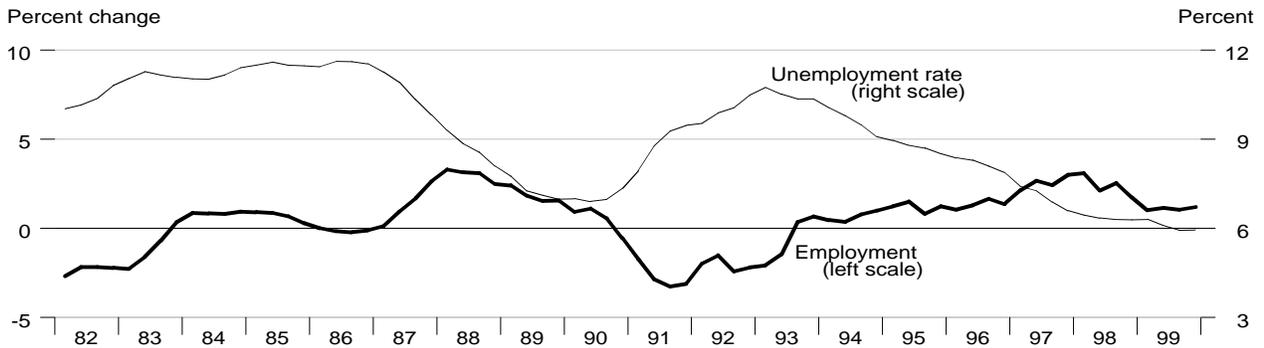
Percent



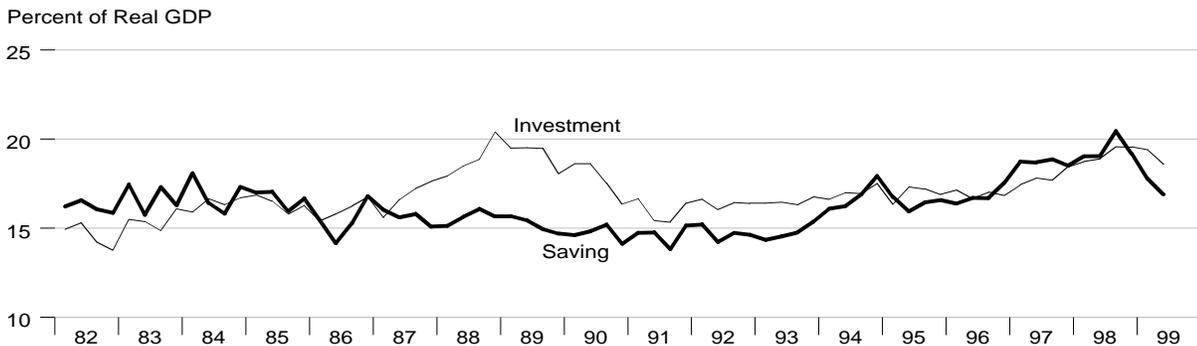
Weekly Earnings and Output per Worker



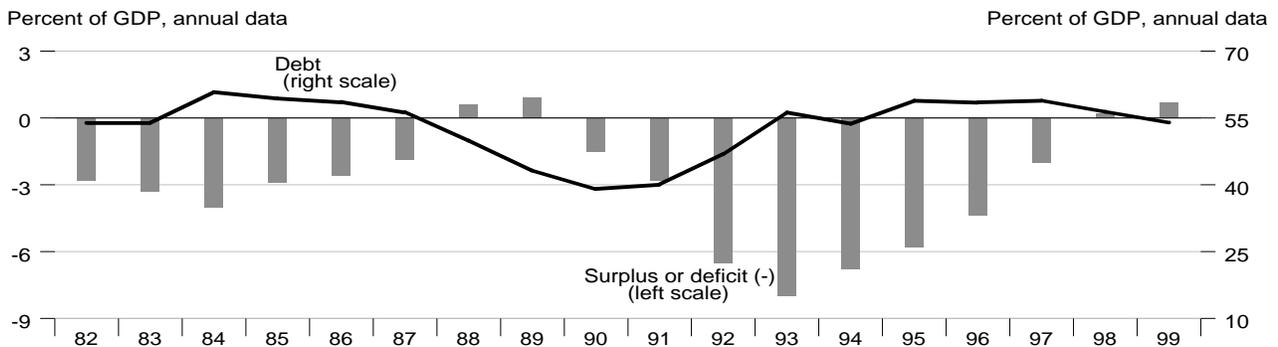
Labor Force Indicators



Real Saving and Real Investment

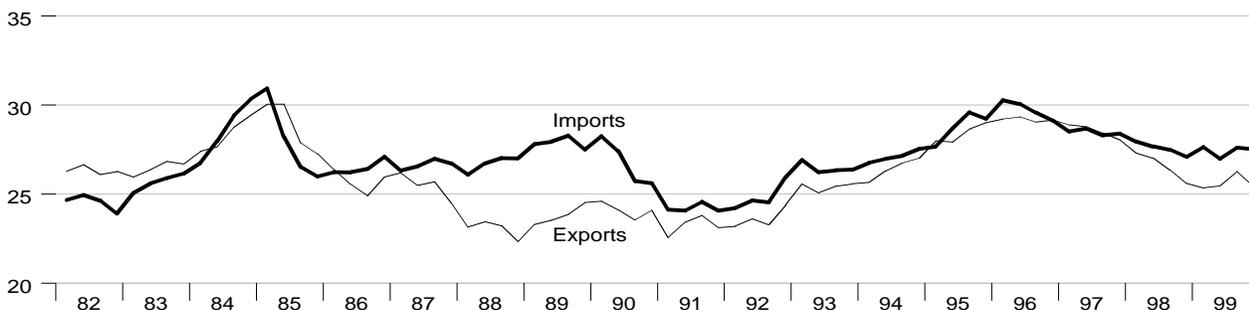


Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



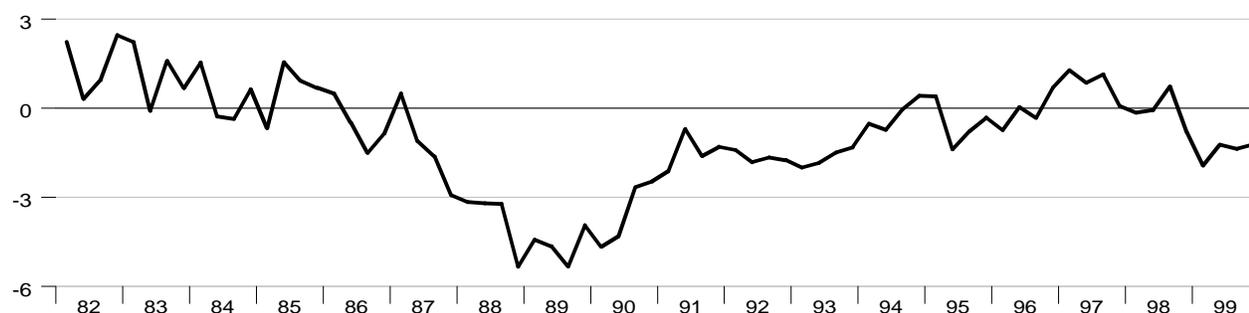
International Trade - Goods and Services

Percent of GDP



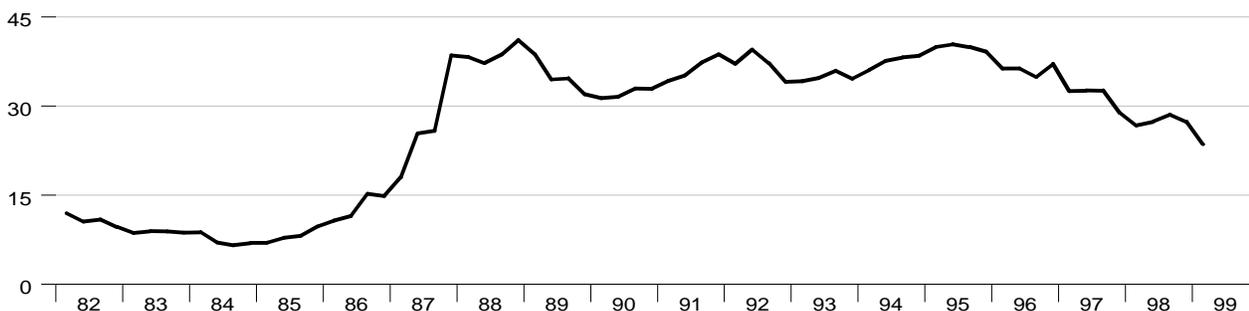
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP



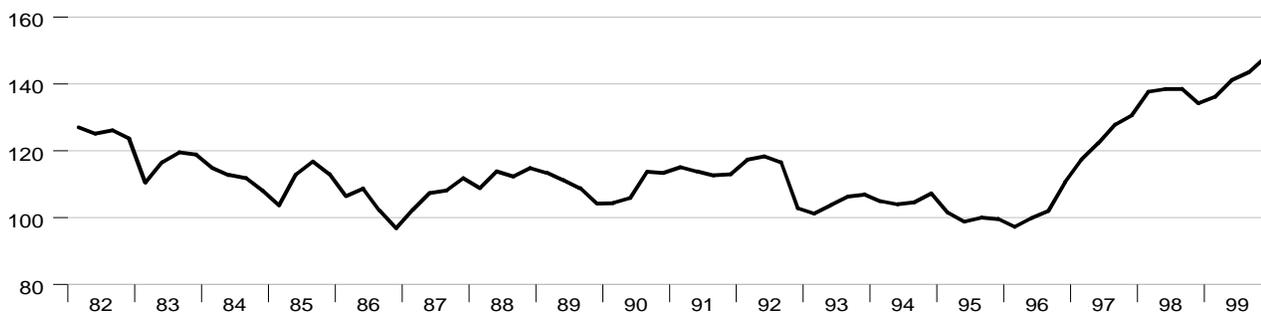
Foreign Exchange Reserves

Billions of US\$



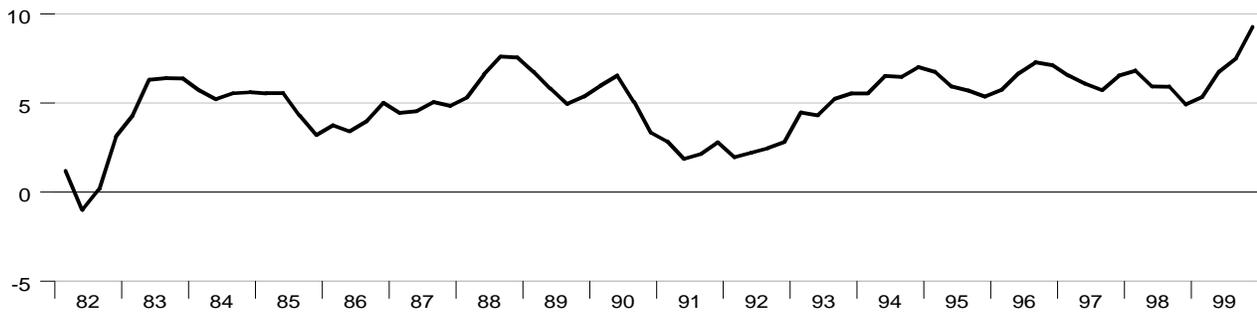
Real Effective Exchange Rate

Index 1995 = 100



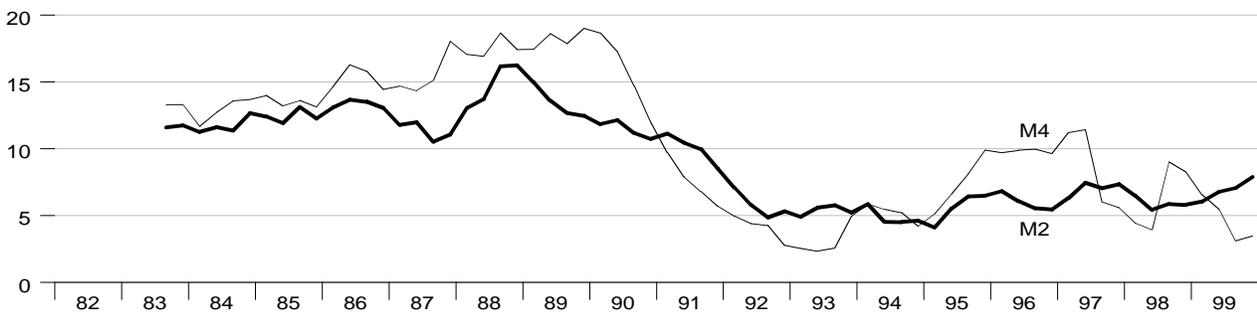
M0 Growth

Percent change



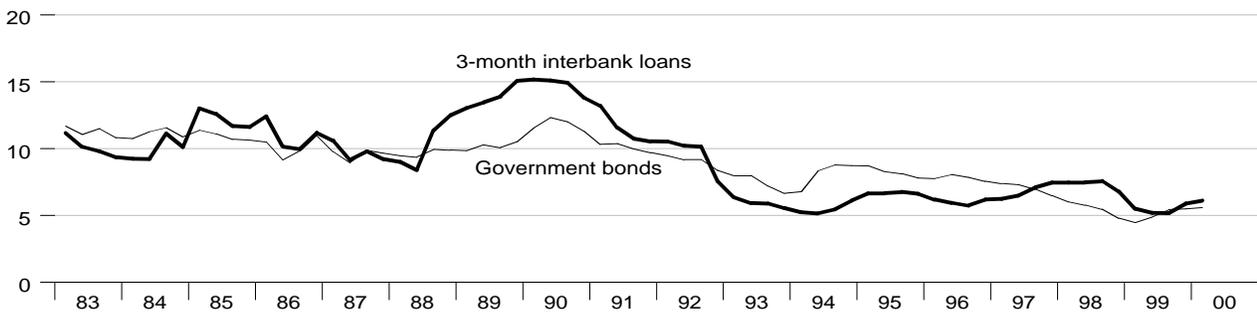
Monetary Aggregates

Percent change



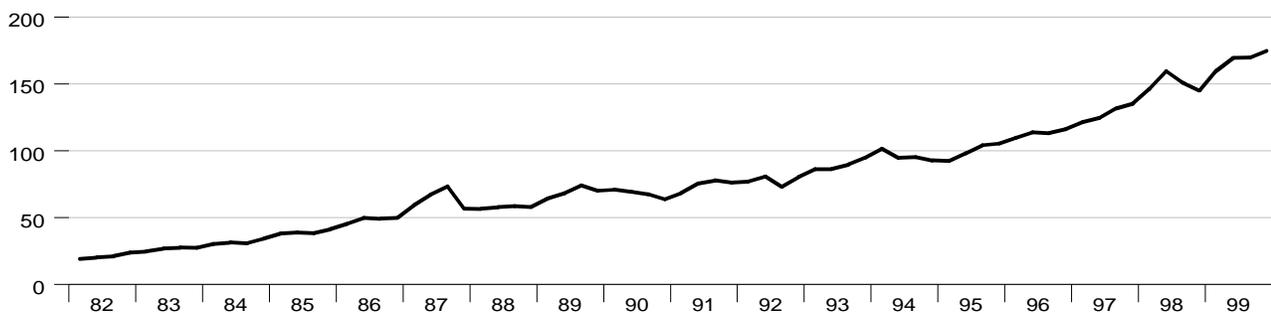
Interest Rates

Percent

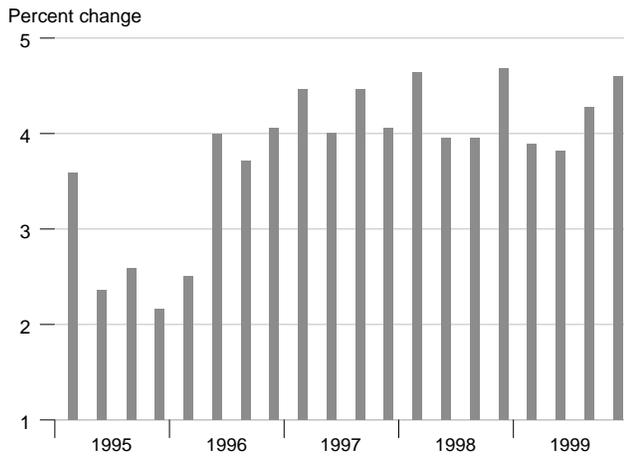


Stock Exchange Index - Financial Times Stock Exchange

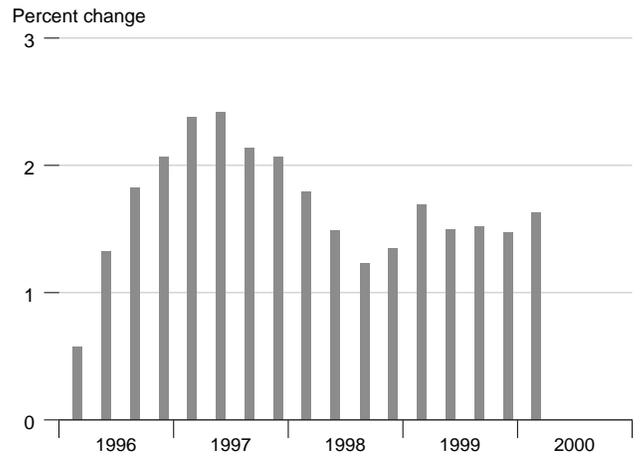
1995 = 100



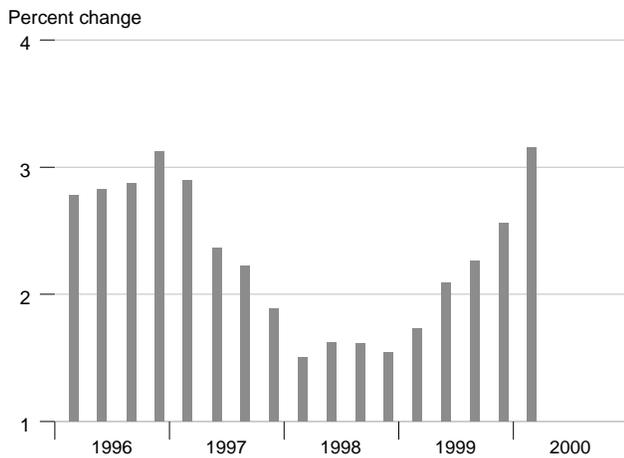
Real GDP Growth



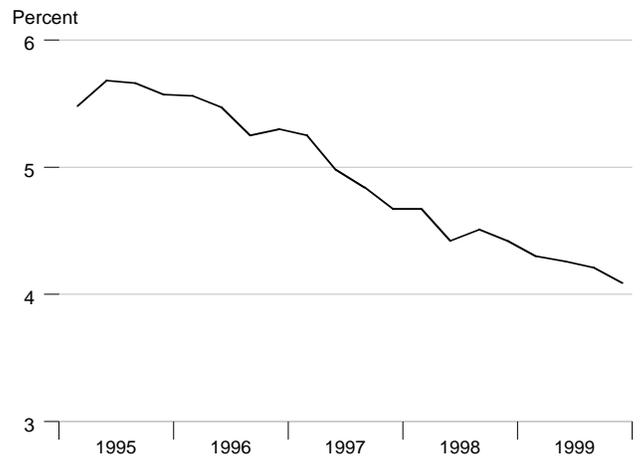
Employment Growth



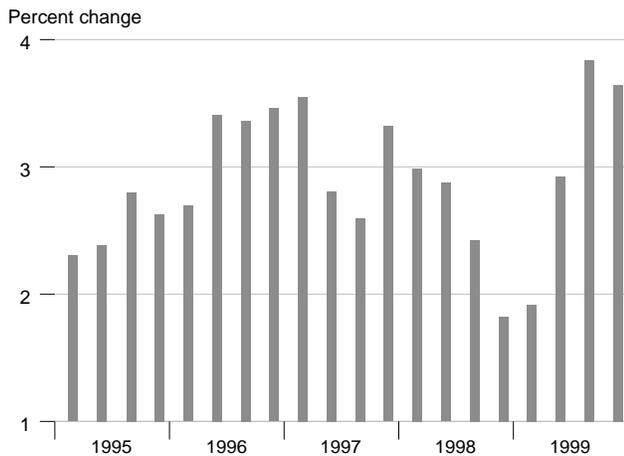
Consumer Price Index



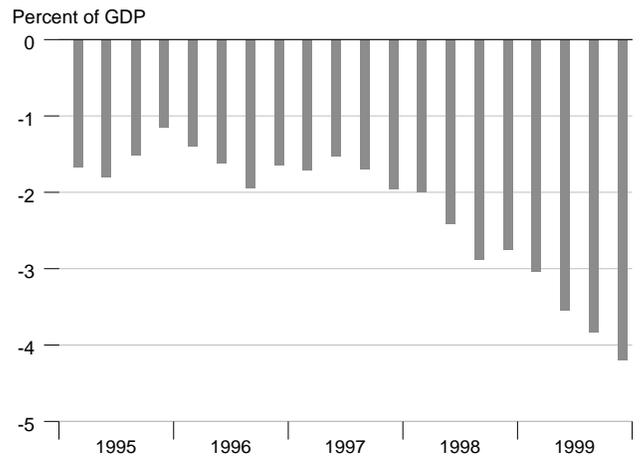
Unemployment Rate



Hourly Earnings

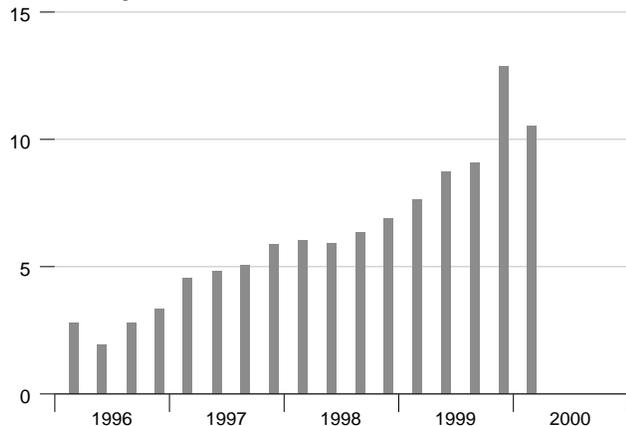


Current Account Balance



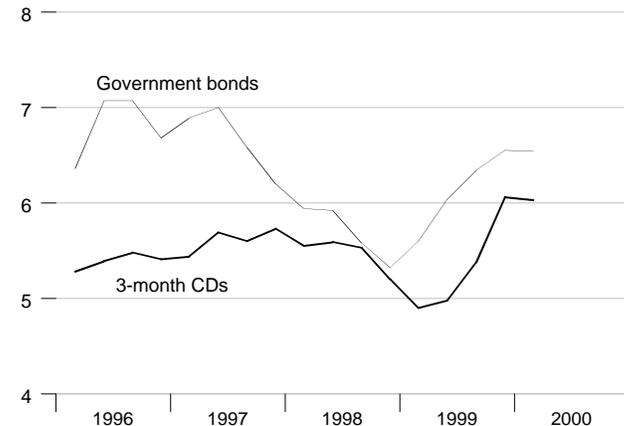
Adjusted Monetary Base Growth

Percent change



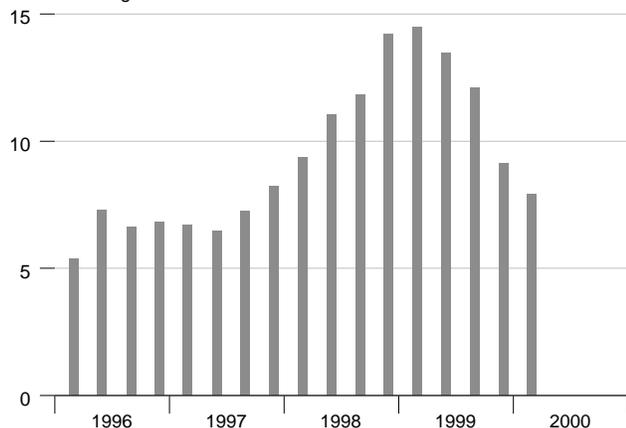
Interest Rates

Percent



MZM Growth

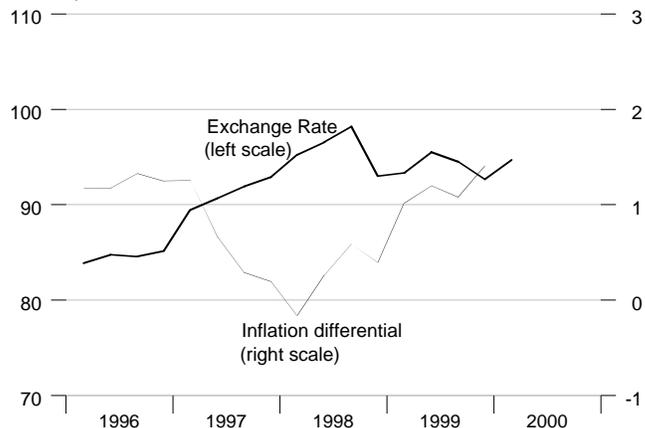
Percent change



Exchange Rate and Inflation Differential

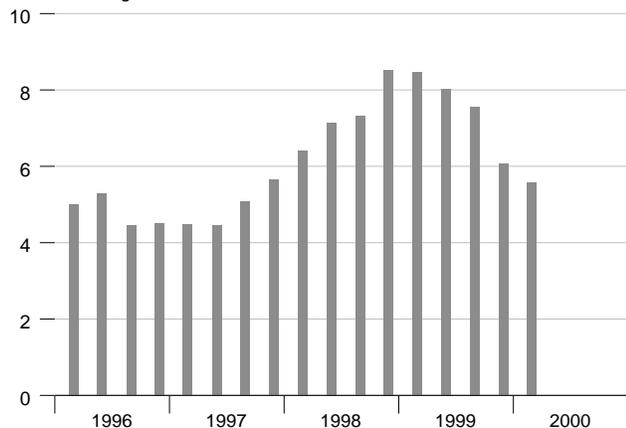
TWEX, March 1973=100

Percent



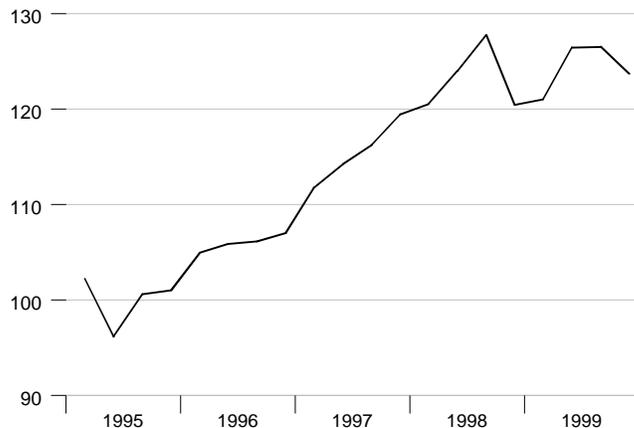
M2 Growth

Percent change



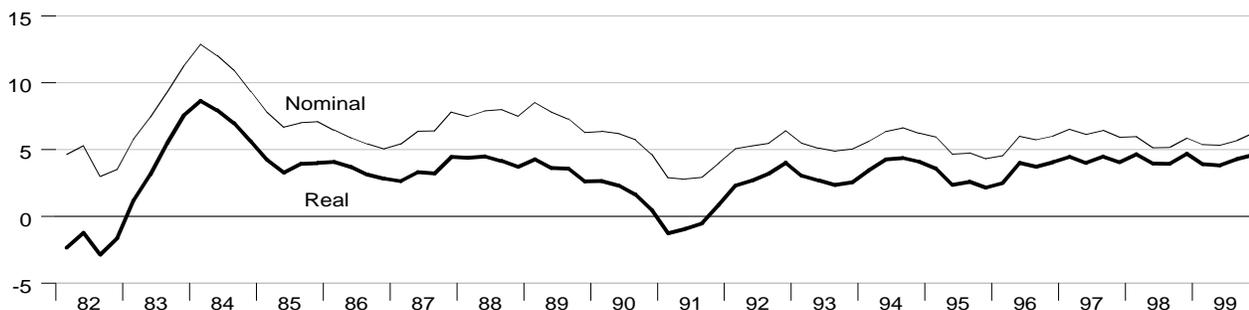
Real Effective Exchange Rate

Index 1995 = 100



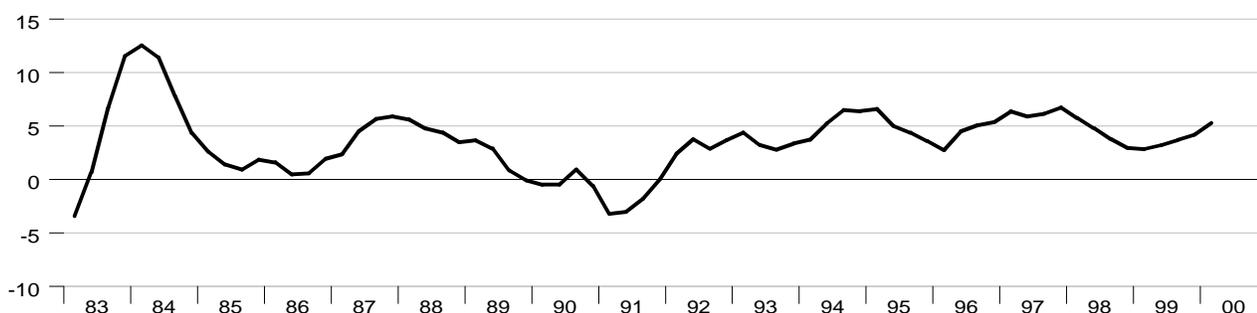
GDP Growth

Percent change



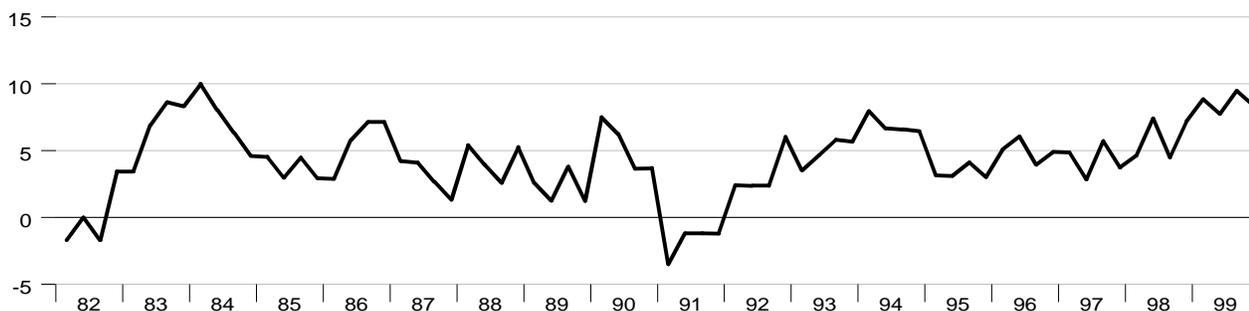
Industrial Production

Percent change



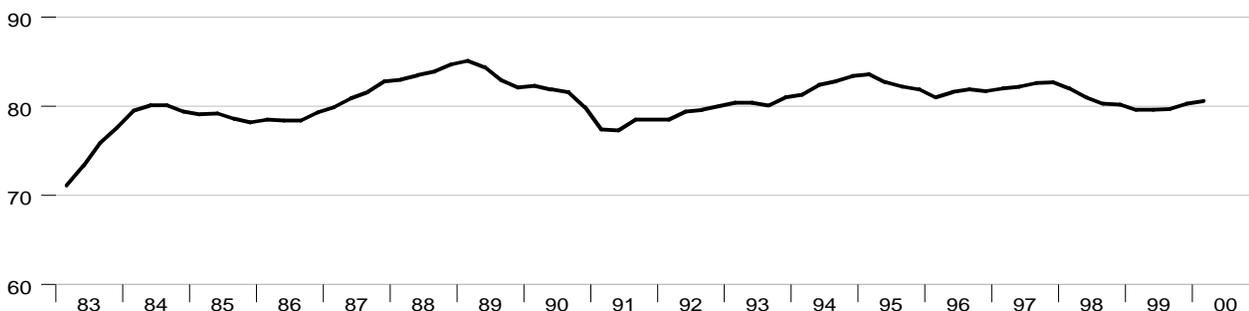
Retail Sales

Percent change

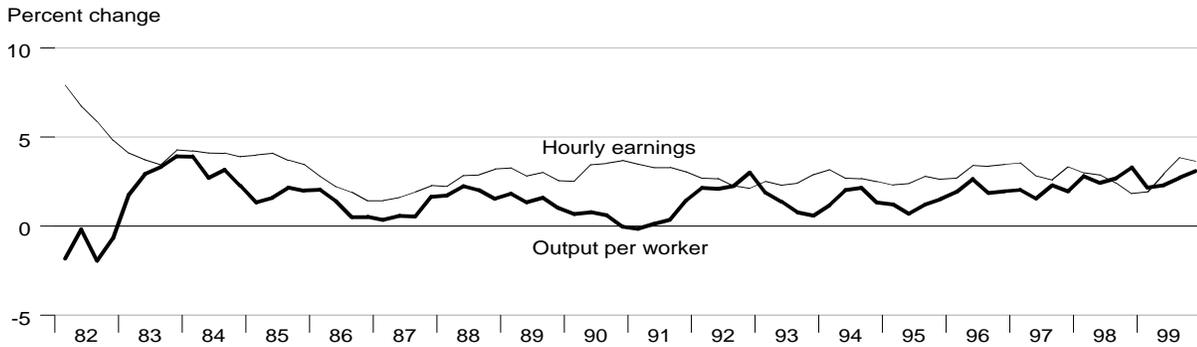


Capacity Utilization

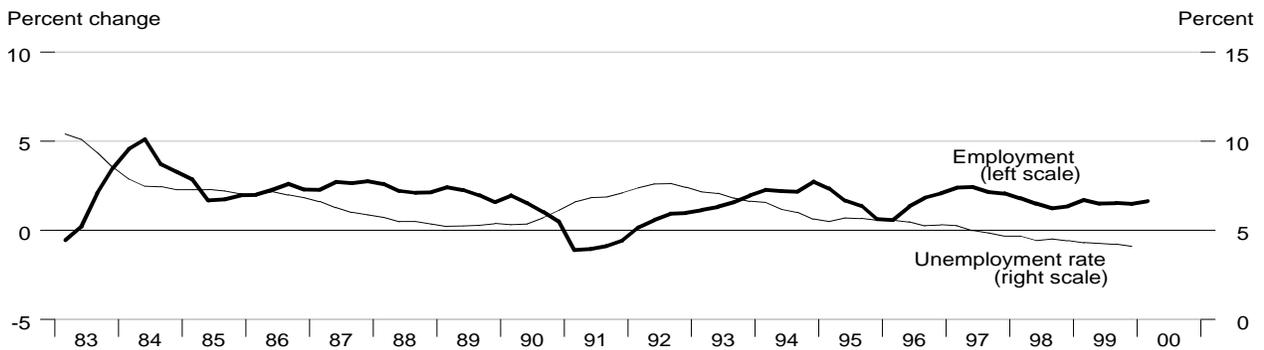
Percent



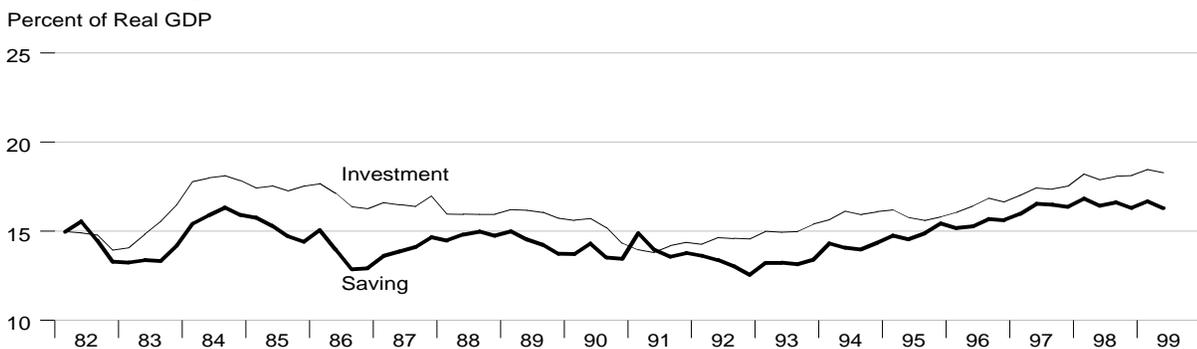
Hourly Earnings and Output per Worker



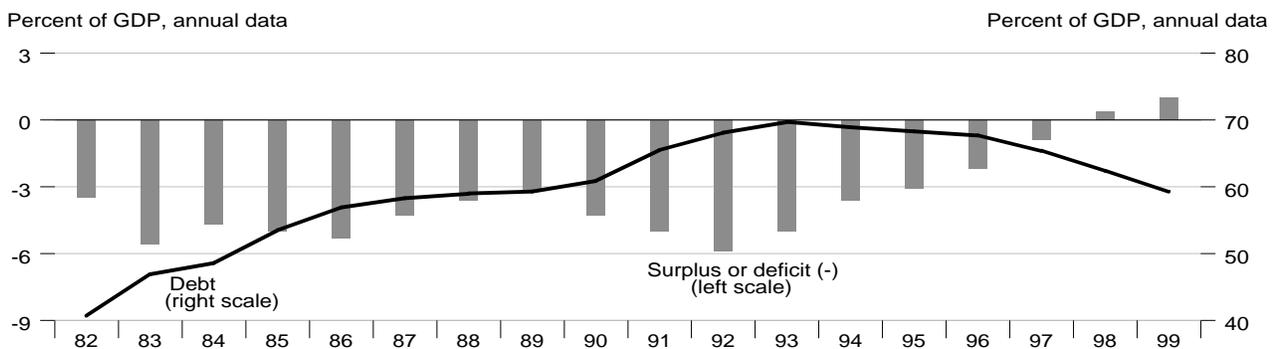
Labor Force Indicators



Real Saving and Real Investment

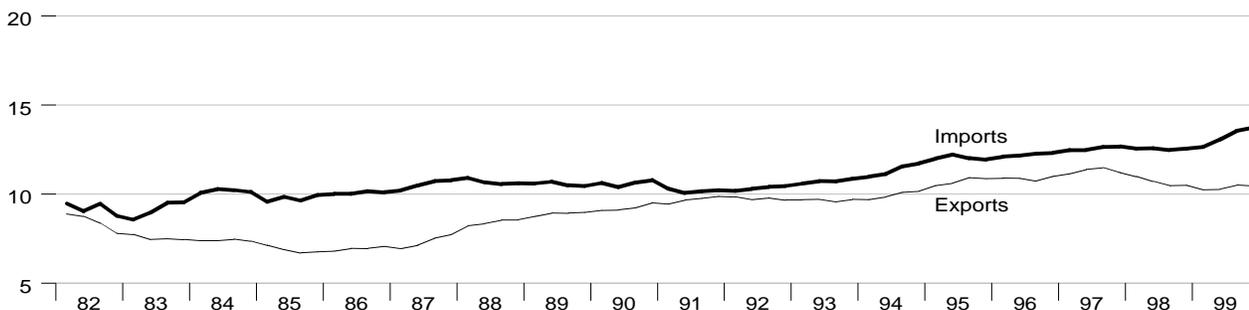


Government Debt and Budget Surplus or Deficit (-)



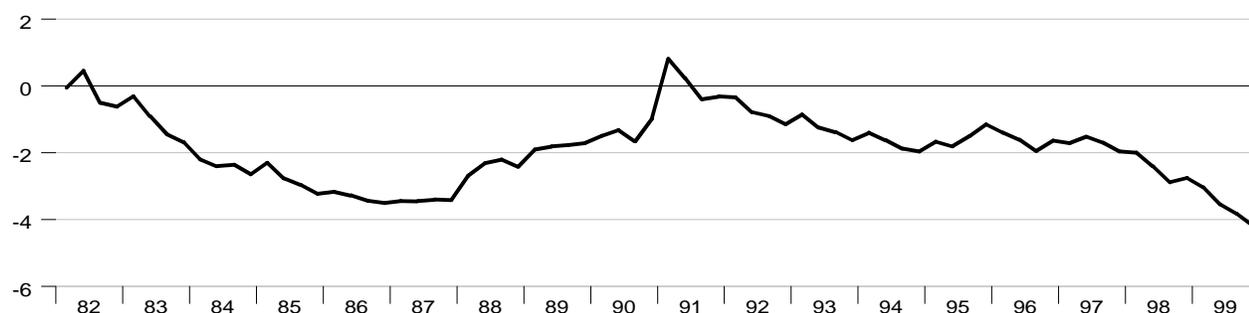
International Trade - Goods and Services

Percent of GDP



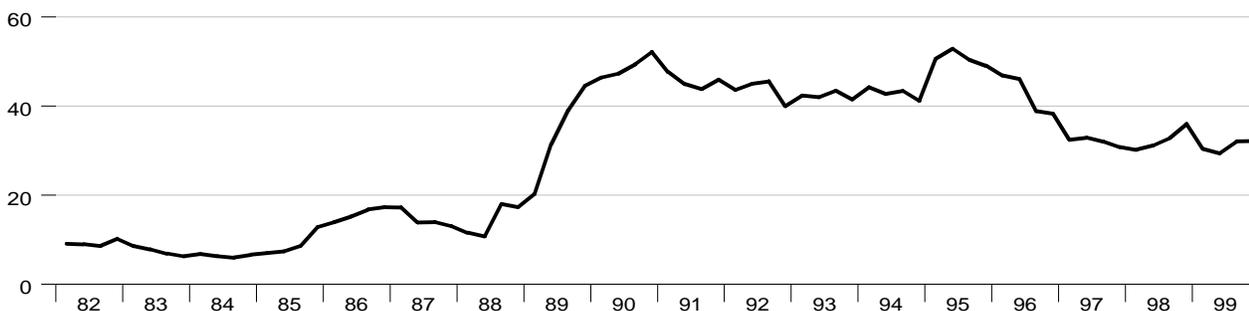
Current Account Balance

Percent of GDP



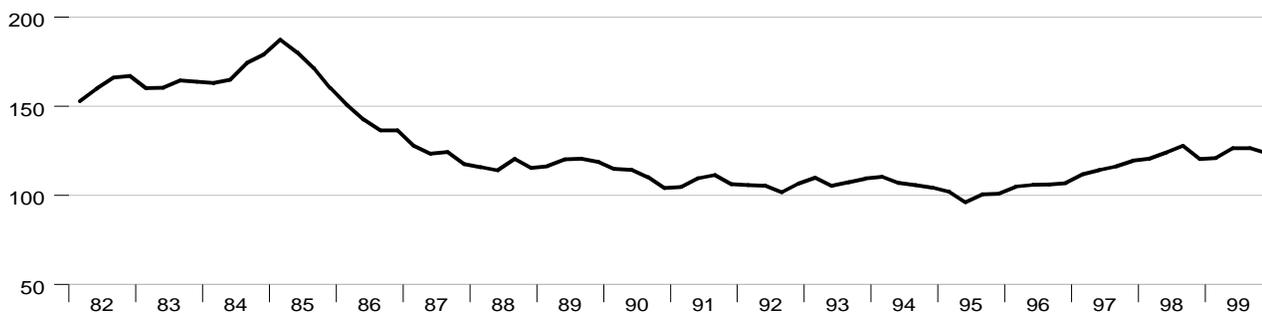
Foreign Exchange Reserves

Billions of US\$



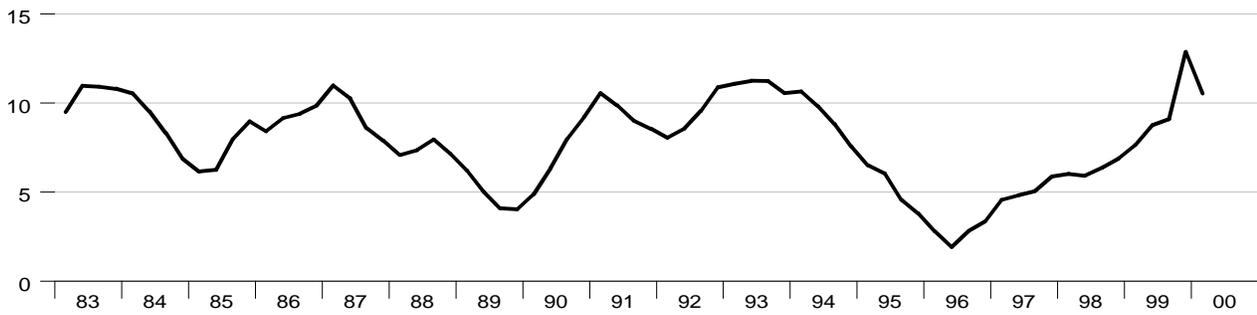
Real Effective Exchange Rate

Index 1995 = 100



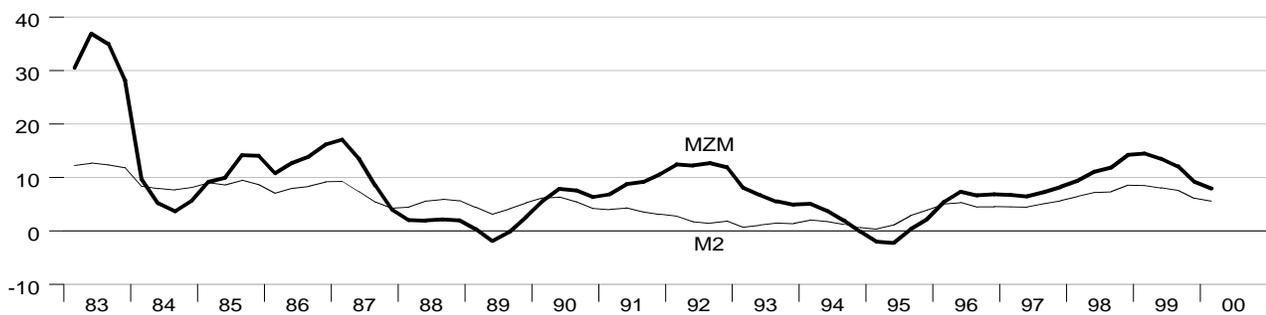
Adjusted Monetary Base Growth

Percent change



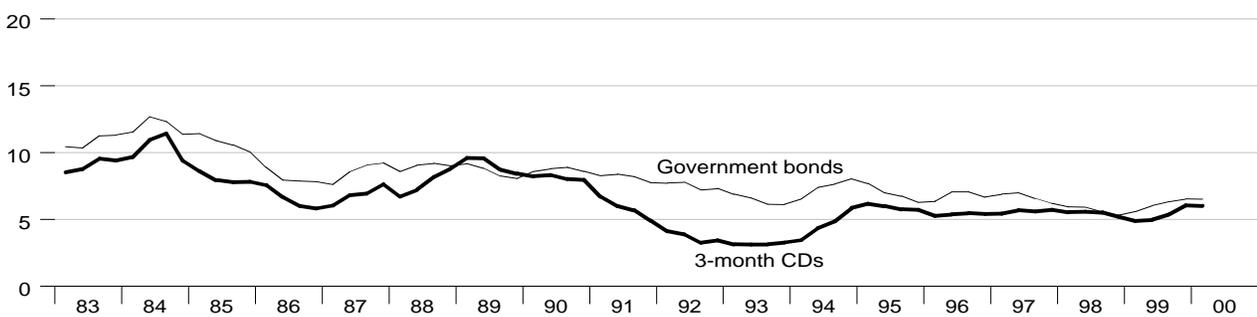
Monetary Aggregates

Percent change



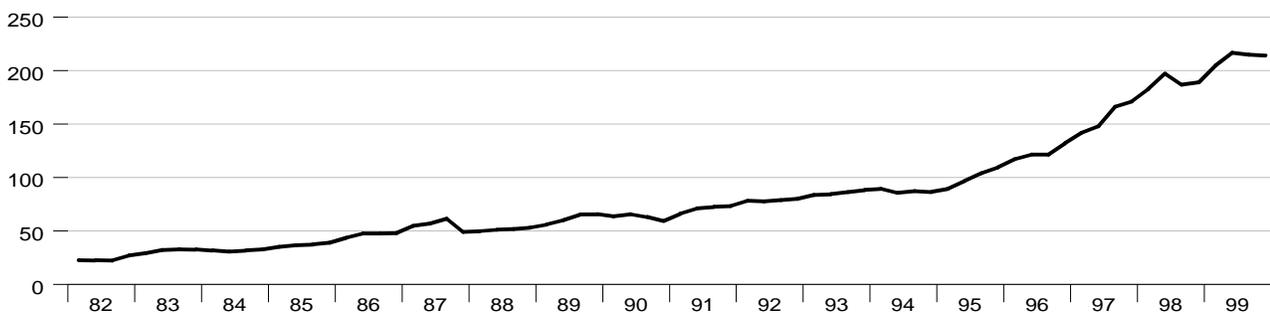
Interest Rates

Percent



Stock Exchange Index - New York Stock Exchange

1995 = 100



Notes

Euro-area Data – The unit of account for most series is the euro.

Prior to December 1998, euro-area interest rates are calculated on the basis of national government yields weighted by GDP. Starting in 1999 short-term rates are euro interbank offered rates. Long-term rates are calculated on the basis of national government bond yields weighted by the nominal outstanding amounts of government bonds in each maturity band.

Inflation data for the euro area is based on the harmonized index of consumer prices. Data for individual countries in this publication continues to be based on national consumer price indexes.

The dollar/euro exchange rate used in the chart on page 12 is a synthetic rate prior to January 1999. This is constructed by calculating a weighted average of the exchange rates of the 10 euro-area countries against the dollar. The weights are based on 1997 GDP shares.

German Data – As a result of reunification, data for all of Germany are now incorporated in most of the statistical series. The starting periods for unified German data are listed below. Care should be exercised when interpreting the data around these break periods. Data for capacity utilization and hourly earnings remain for western Germany only.

Third quarter 1990: current account balance and international trade.
First quarter 1991: CPI, GDP, industrial production, investment and saving.

First quarter 1992: employment and output per worker.

First quarter 1993: stock exchange index and unemployment rate.

First quarter 1994: retail sales.

Capacity Utilization covers the manufacturing sector for Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the euro area; manufacturing excluding food, beverage and tobacco for Germany; and mining and manufacturing for Italy.

Consumer Price Index is for all items. The current index is based on goods and services consumed by all individuals for Canada and Italy; all households for France; households with a monthly income of less than 25,000 DM for Germany; all multi-person households excluding those mainly engaged in agriculture, forestry and fisheries for Japan; all households except pensioners dependent on state pension and high income households for the United Kingdom; and all urban households for the United States.

Current Account Balance is the sum of merchandise and service exports and income receipts on domestic assets abroad minus the sum of merchandise and service imports and income payments from foreign assets in the domestic economy plus net unilateral transfers.

Earnings are based on hourly earnings in manufacturing for Canada, France, Germany, the United States, and the euro area; hourly earnings in industry excluding construction for Italy; monthly earnings in manufacturing for Japan; and weekly earnings in manufacturing for the United Kingdom.

The **Real Effective Exchange Rate** uses normalized unit labor costs in manufacturing. The weighting scheme used to construct the rates, for all except the euro area, is based on disaggregated data for trade among 21 industrial countries in manufactured goods for 1989-91. For the euro area the weights relate to the trade of the euro area with the other countries. The weights reflect the relative importance of a country's trading partners in its direct bilateral trade relations and competition in third markets. Normalized unit labor costs in manufacturing are calculated by dividing an index of actual hourly compensation per worker by a five-year moving average index of output per man-hour.

Employment data refer to civilian employment for Canada, Germany, the United States, and the euro area; industrial employment for France; employed persons excluding conscripts for Italy; and total employment for Japan and the United Kingdom.

Fluctuations in the dollar value of **Foreign Exchange Reserves** occur as a result of changes in reserve holdings and/or changes in the dollar value of the currencies held.

Government Surplus is the difference between general government current receipts and total outlays. Total outlays consist of current expenditures and net capital expenditures. **Government Debt** incorporates all financial liabilities of the general government sector. The general government sector consolidates the accounts of the central, state, local and social security sectors.

The **Inflation Differential** is the difference between the U.S. inflation rate and the foreign inflation rate, as measured by the consumer price index. For the U.S. chart on page 41, the inflation differential is the difference between the U.S. inflation rate and a weighted average of the inflation rates in the 17 countries used in the major currency trade-weighted exchange index. For the euro-area chart on page 12, the inflation differential is the difference between the U.S. inflation rate and a weighted average of the inflation rates in the 11 euro-area countries. The weights are based on 1997 GDP shares.

Industrial Production measures the change in the volume of output in the mining, manufacturing, oil, electricity, gas and water industries.

The **Short-Term Interest Rate** table on page 4 uses the relevant 3-month interest rate shown in the country pages.

The **Long-Term Interest Rate** table on page 4 uses the government bond rate. The government bond rate is a composite of yields on Federal government bonds with maturities of more than 10 years for Canada and the United States; long-term public and semi-public sector bonds for France; 7-15 year public sector bonds for Germany; 15-20 year government bonds through 1990, and 10-year government bonds starting in 1991 for Italy; 10-year government bonds for Japan, the United Kingdom, and the euro area.

Investment is gross fixed capital formation and changes in stocks (inventories) of the government and business sectors.

The **Reserve Money** table on page 4 refers to the adjusted monetary base for Japan and the United States; reserve money for Canada; and M0 for the United Kingdom. **Reserve Money** is currency in circulation, deposits of the deposit money banks, and demand deposits of other residents (with the exception of the central government) with the monetary authority.

Adjusted Monetary Base

Japan – currency in circulation, reserve requirements and an adjustment for the effects of changes in reserve requirement ratios.

United States – the sum of currency in circulation outside Federal Reserve Banks and the U.S. Treasury, deposits of depository financial institutions at Federal Reserve Banks, and an adjustment for the effects of changes in statutory reserve requirements on the quantity of base money held by depositories.

M0

United Kingdom – notes and coins in circulation outside the Bank of England and bankers' operational deposits at the Bank of England.

M1

Canada – currency in circulation and chartered bank net demand deposits.

Japan – cash, currency in circulation and deposit money.

Euro area – currency in circulation and overnight deposits.

MZM

United States – currency in circulation, travelers' checks and total publicly-held checkable deposits minus cash items in the process of collection and Federal Reserve float, savings deposits, shares in retail money market mutual funds (funds with initial investments of less than \$50,000), net of retirement accounts and institutional money market mutual funds.

M2

Canada – M1 plus all checkable notice deposits and personal term deposits.

United Kingdom – currency in circulation and sterling retail deposits with the UK banks and building societies.

United States – MZM less institutional money market mutual funds plus small denomination (less than \$100,000) time deposits.

M2 + CDs

Japan – M1 plus private deposits, public deposits less demand deposits, and certificates of deposit.

M3

Euro area – M1 plus deposits with a maturity up to 2 years, deposits redeemable at notice up to 3 months, repurchase agreements, money market funds and debt securities up to two years.

M4

United Kingdom – M2 plus wholesale deposits with the UK banks and building societies.

Output Per Worker is the ratio of real GDP to employment.

Retail Sales are based on a volume index.

Saving is gross national saving which includes net national saving (receipts less disbursements of households, business and the government) and consumption of fixed capital. Nominal saving is deflated using the investment deflator.

The **Stock Market Index** refers to all share prices except for the United Kingdom, which excludes financial firms.

The trade-weighted exchange rate, **TWEX**, is the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's major currency trade-weighted dollar exchange rate. This is a weighted average of the exchange value of the U.S. dollar relative to the major international currencies of 17 industrial countries.

The **Unemployment Rate** is the standardized unemployment rate. It is the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed. The unemployed are all persons of working age who are without work, readily available for work and actively seeking work. The standardized rate may differ from the national unemployment rate calculations.

Sources

Except as noted below, all data are from the *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)*. For more details on these data see: OECD, *Main Economic Indicators, Sources and Definitions 1997*, July 1997. This publication is available on the Internet at: <http://www.oecd.org/std/meta.htm>.

Bank of Canada

M1 and M2 (Canada)

Bank of England

M2 (U.K.)

Banca D'Italia

Long-term interest rate (Italy)

Bank of Japan

Adjusted monetary base (Japan), long-term interest rate (Japan), employment (Japan)

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Exchange rates, short and long-term interest rates (U.S.), M2 (U.S.), industrial production index (U.S.), capacity utilization (U.S.)

Bundesanstalt Fur Arbeit

Employment (Germany)

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce

Gross domestic product (U.S.), current account balance (U.S.), merchandise and service trade (U.S.)

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor

Employment (U.S.), consumer price index (U.S.)

Eurostat

Current account balance (euro area), gross domestic product (euro area), retail sales (euro area)

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Inflation differential (U.S. and euro area), adjusted monetary base (U.S.), MZM (U.S.)

Financial and Economic Research International

Employment (euro area), merchandise trade (euro area)

Haver Analytics

Synthetic euro exchange rate

Instituto Centrale di Statistica

Employment (Italy)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Foreign exchange reserves, reserve money (Canada), merchandise and service trade (except U.S. and euro area), and real effective exchange rate. For more details on these data see: *IMF, International Financial Statistics*.

Ministere du Travail et des Affaires Sociales

Employment (France)

Statistics Canada

Employment (Canada)

U.K. Office for National Statistics

Employment (U.K.) and M0 (U.K.)