The US Presidential Election and Implications for the World Economy

Edward P. Lazear

Graduate School of Business

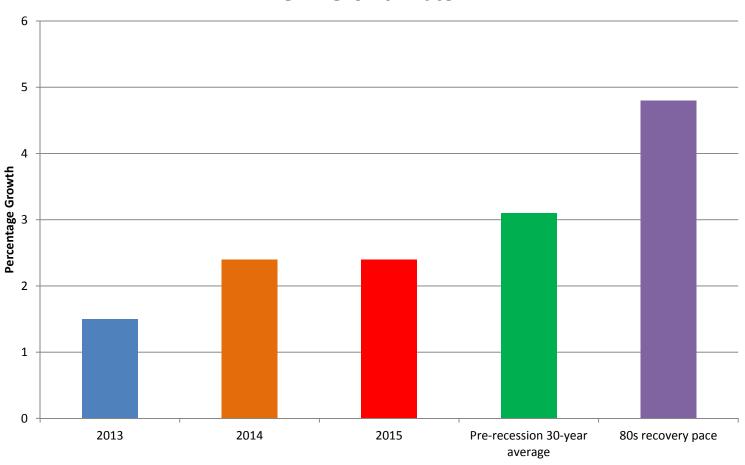
Stanford University

How is the Economy Doing?

- Unemployment rate down to 5%
- Jobs growing at 200,000 per month past 3 months
- GDP growth in 2015 at about the recovery average
- Housing starts back over 1 million per year

A Weak Recovery

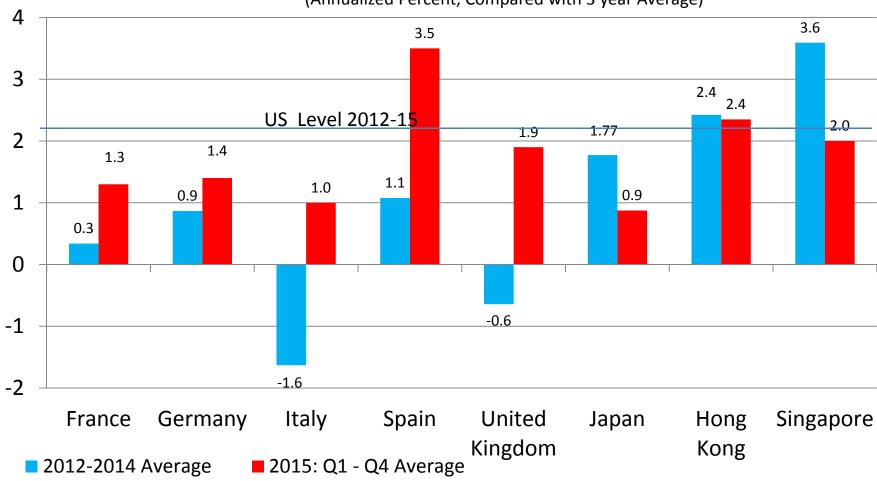
GDP Growth Rate



Other Economies

Recent Real GDP Growth Rate in Selected Economies



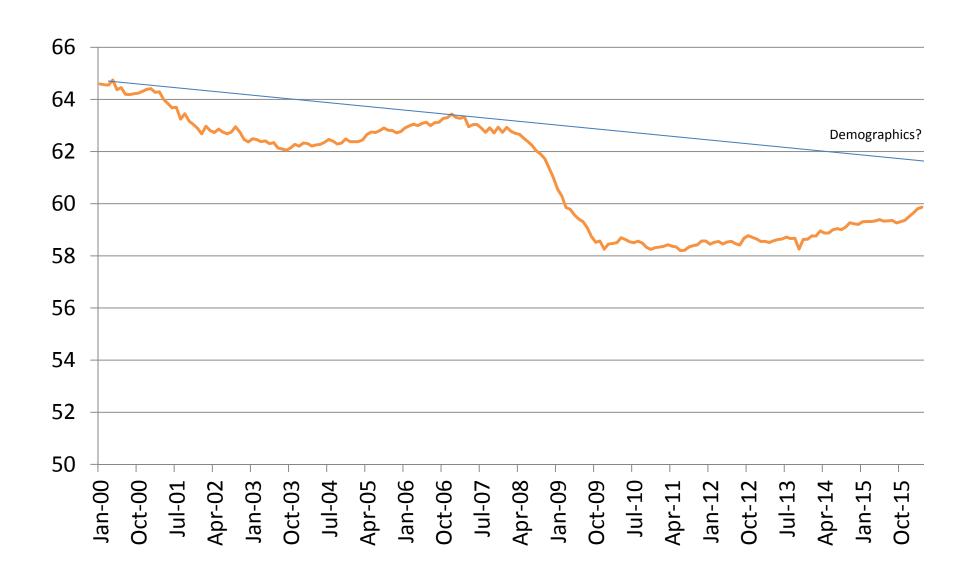


Source: Europa Eurostat (February 2016), IMF World Economic Outlook (April 2016), Trading Economies (May 2016)

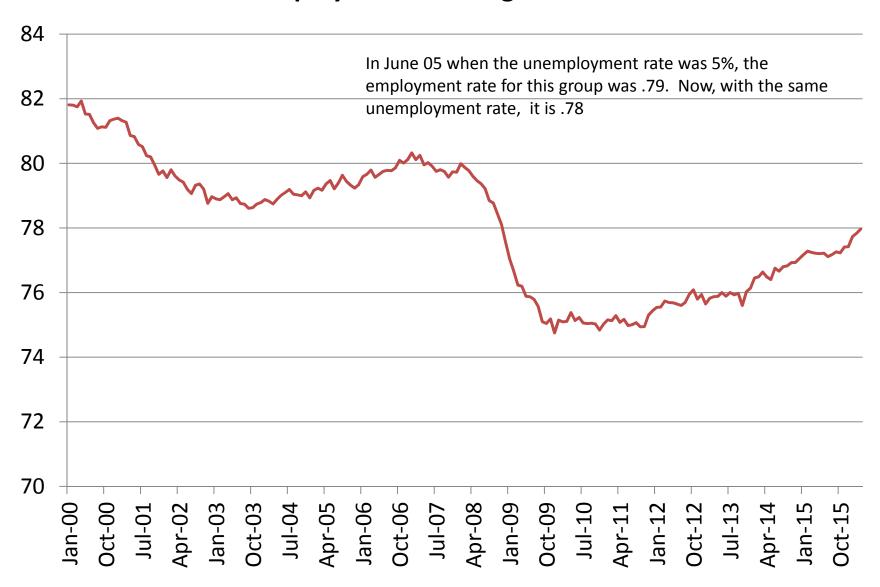
Unemployment Rate

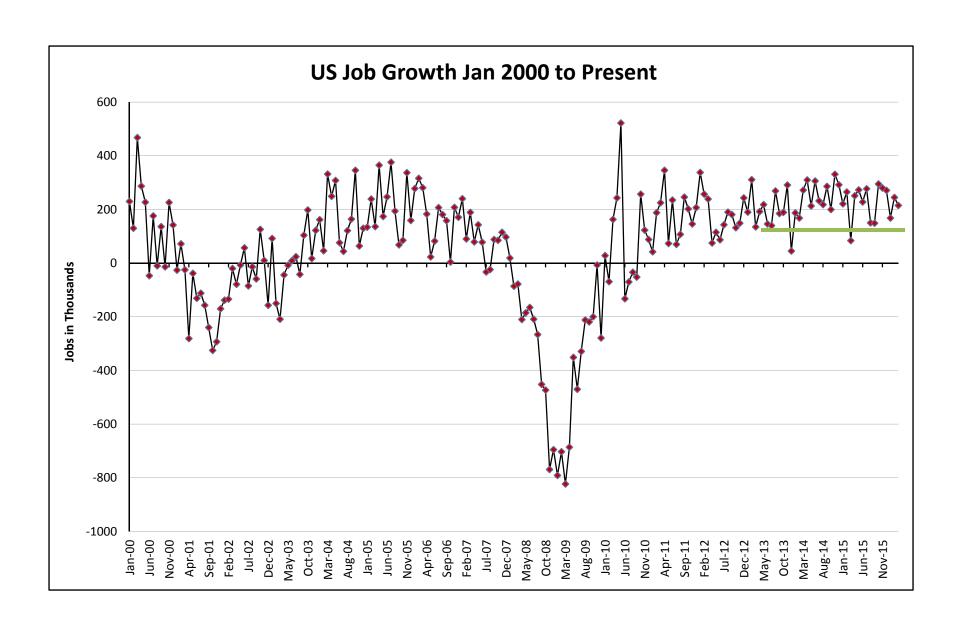


Employment Rate

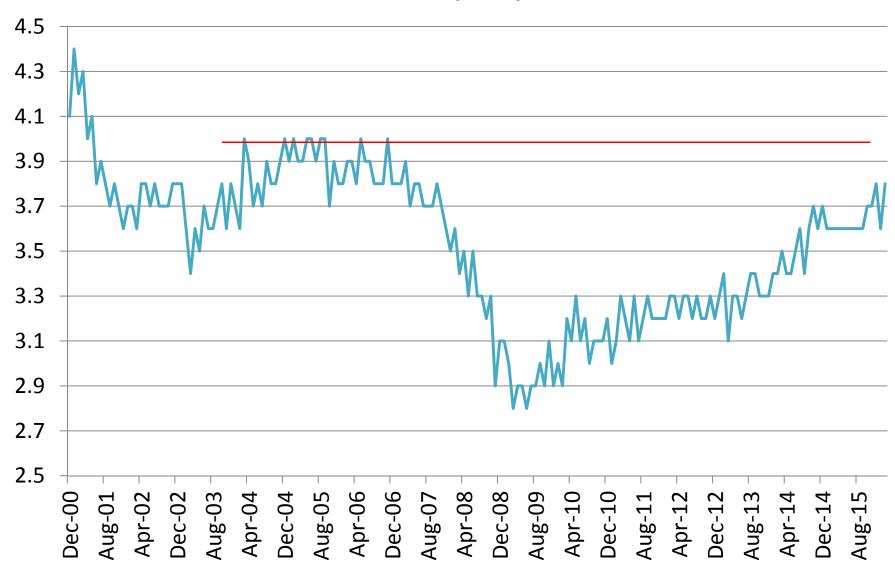


Employment Rate: Age 25 - 54

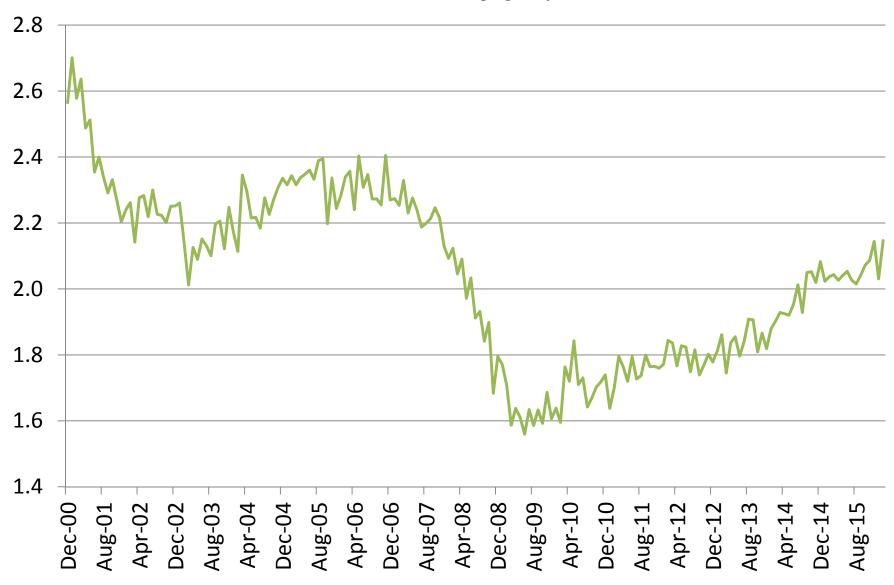




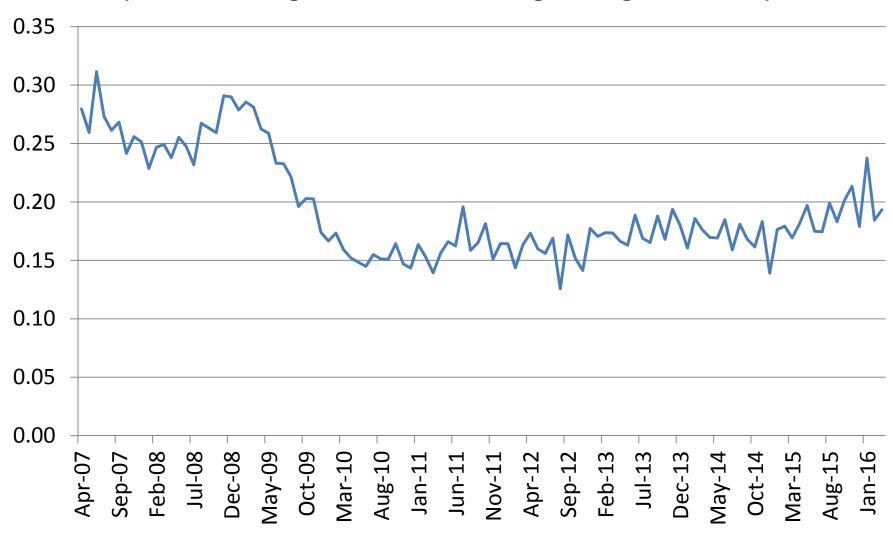
Hires (Rate)



Ratio of Hires to Working Age Population



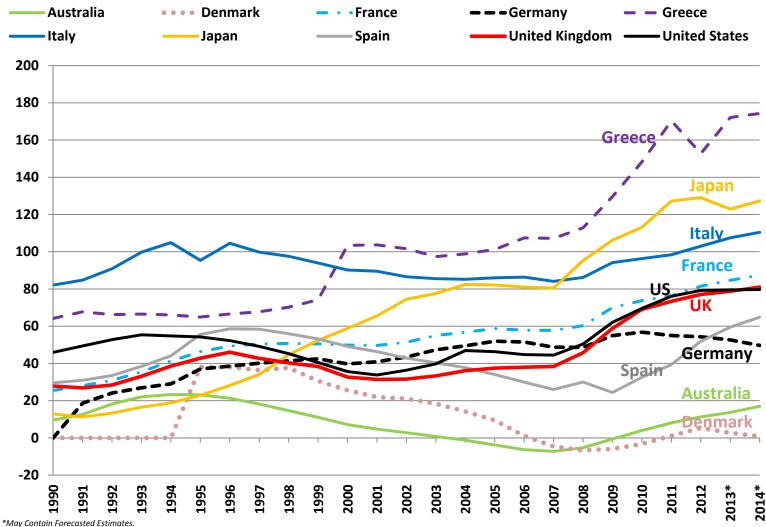
Average Hourly Earnings for All Employees: Total Private (Percent Change, 12-Month Moving Average, Nominal)



GROWING DEBT

DEBT TO GDP

(General Gov't Net Debt, Percent GDP)



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, (April 2016).

US Impact on World

Primary mechanism is through trade

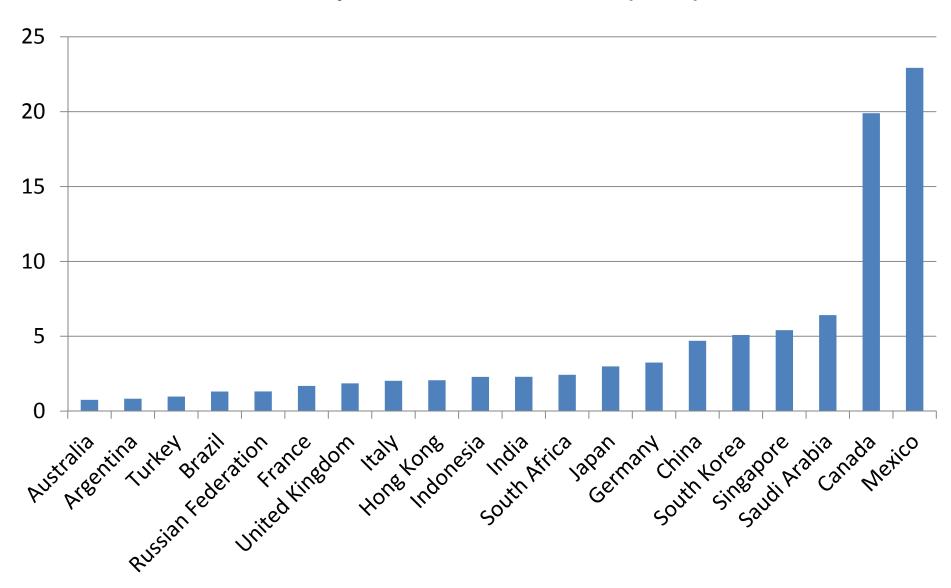
Proportionate Change in GDP from Change in Exports to US

= (Proportionate change in exports to US)(Share of US exports in GDP of exporting country)(multiplier)

$$\frac{Change in \ GDP_{i}}{GDP_{i}} = (\frac{\Delta X_{US_{i}}}{X_{US_{i}}})(\frac{X_{US_{i}}}{GDP_{i}})(multiplier)$$

where GDP_i is GDP of country i and is the amount of exports from country i to the US

G20 Exports to US as % of GDP (2014)



Government Actions that Affect the Economy

- Directly Economic
 - Tax reform
 - Trade agenda
 - Fed Policy
- Indirectly Economic
 - Immigration
 - Health care
 - Regulatory changes

Tax Policies of the Candidates

Trump

- Lower personal rates
- Lower corporate rates (to 15%)
- \$10 trillion deficit over 10 years
- Positive growth

Clinton

- 4% surcharge on high income earners
- Higher capital gains taxes
- Capped deductions
- Negative growth
- Close to revenue neutral

Sanders

- Raise highest marginal rate to 52%
- Treat dividends and capital gains as ordinary income for high earners
- Negative growth
- Positive revenue

Trade

- President Obama's achievements
 - Bush's treaties with Korea, Colombia and Panama modified and passed under Obama
- Proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Fast Track
- Services, not agriculture or manufacturing, but agriculture and manufacturing are at the center of all talks

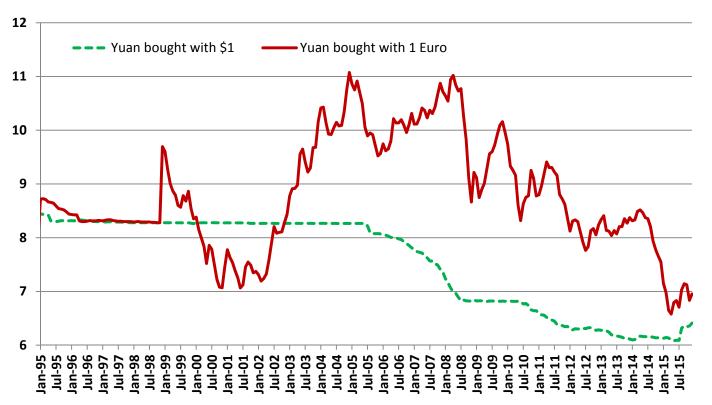
The Candidates on Trans-Pacific Partnership

- Clinton: I did hope that the TPP, negotiated by this administration, I was holding out hope that it would be the kind of trade agreement that I was looking for. Once I saw the outcome, I opposed it. I have a very clear view. We have to trade with the rest of the world. We are 5 percent of the world's population. We have to trade with the other 95 percent. And trade has to be reciprocal. That's the way the global economy works. But we have failed to provide the basic safety net support that American workers need in order to be able to compete and win in the global economy. (MSNBC Debate; Feb 4, 2016)
- **Trump:** "The deal is insanity," he said. "That deal should not be supported and it should not be allowed to happen." (Interview, Breitbart News, Nov 9, 2015)

Is China's Exchange Rate Policy Killing Us? Exchange Rates Do Not Move in Tandem

HISTORICAL EXCHANGE RATES, 1993-PRESENT

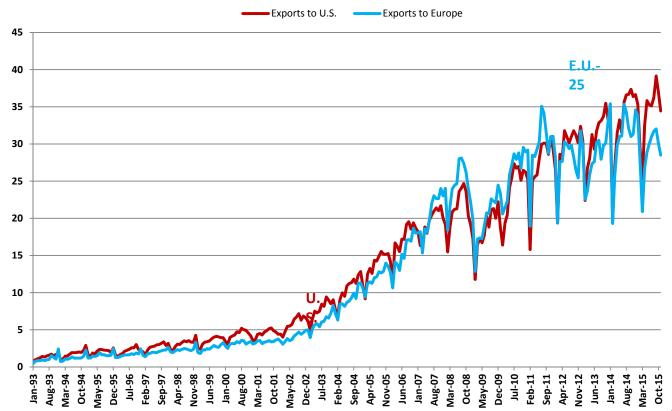
(Chinese Yuan Renminbi per USD and Euro)



China's Exports to US and Europe Move in Tandem

CHINA EXPORT LEVELS, 1993-PRESENT

(Billions, U.S. Dolllars)



20

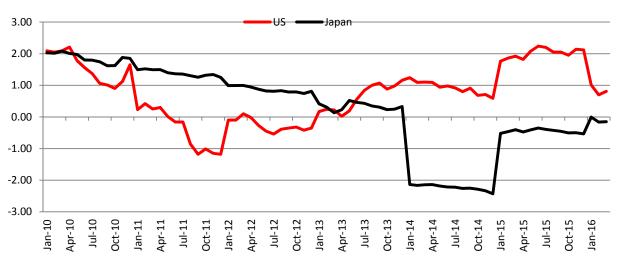
Fed Policy

- Low rates? If
 - Economy still weak
 - Low rates are effective
- Higher rates and the dollar?
 - Dollar has leveled recently
 - Compare interest rates: US higher than Europe
 - Real versus nominal
 - US inflation 1 to 2% so real rate -1%
 - Switzerland negative 1% so real rate + ¾ %
 - Dollar has weakened slightly relative to Swiss france

Exchange Rates: Beggar-thy-Neighbor?

Real Long-Term Government Bond Yields: 10-Year Main

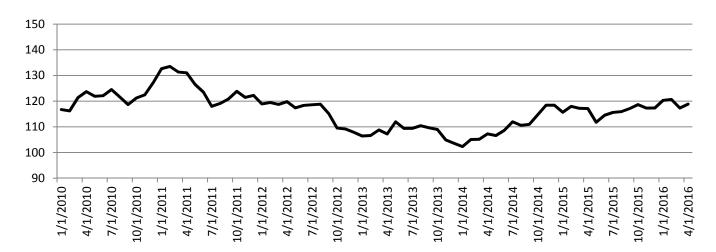




Japan rates fall in 2014 and yen depreciates

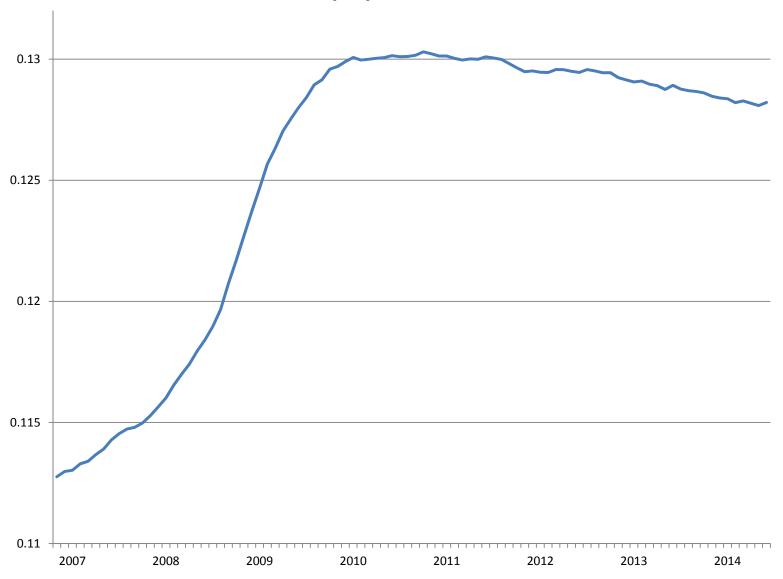
Japanese Yen bought with \$1

Japanese Yen bought with \$1

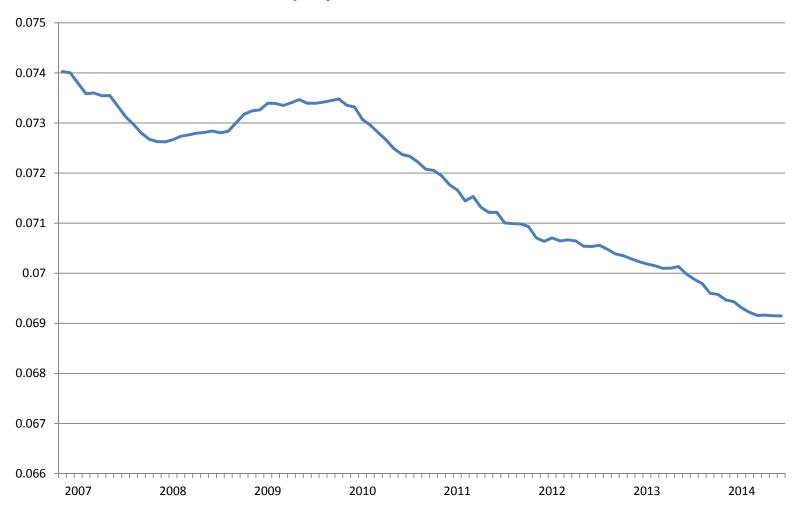


Source: US Foreign Exchange Services (April 2016).

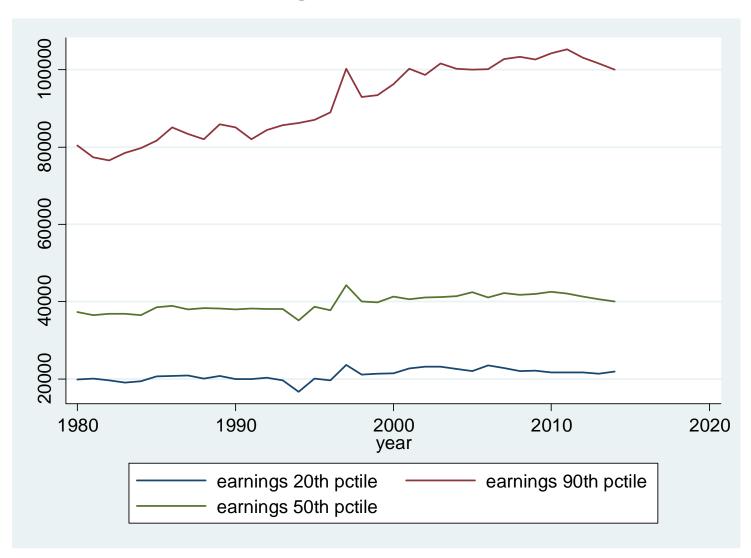
Share of Employment in Health Care



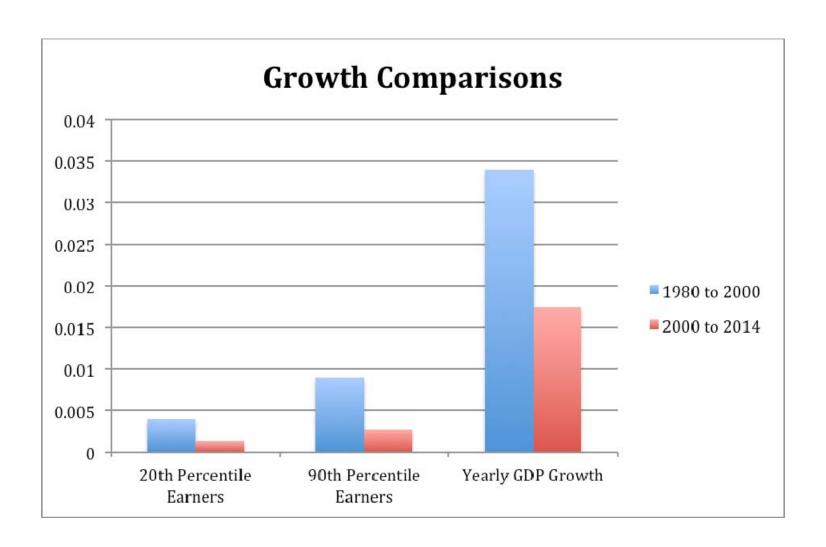
Share of Employment in Financial Activities



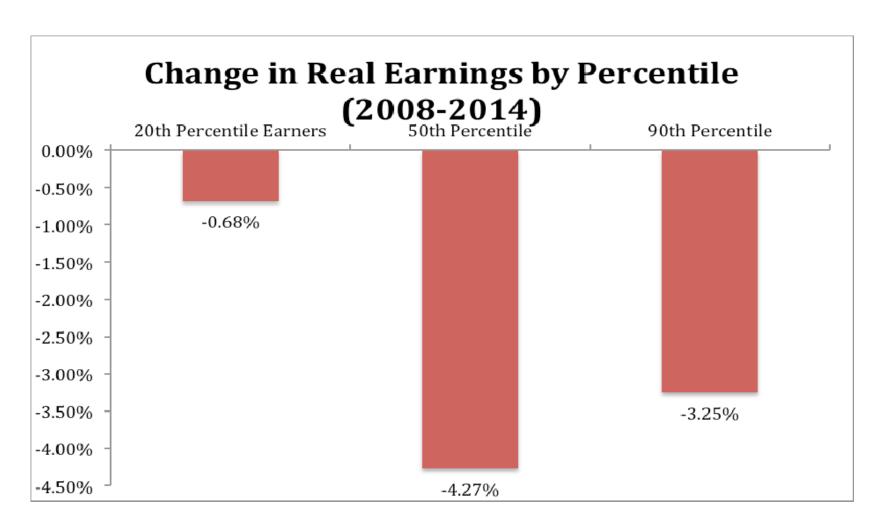
Income Inequality Has Grown Earnings Over Time



Poor and Rich Do Best In Rapidly Growing Economies



True for Declining Periods Also



Appendix

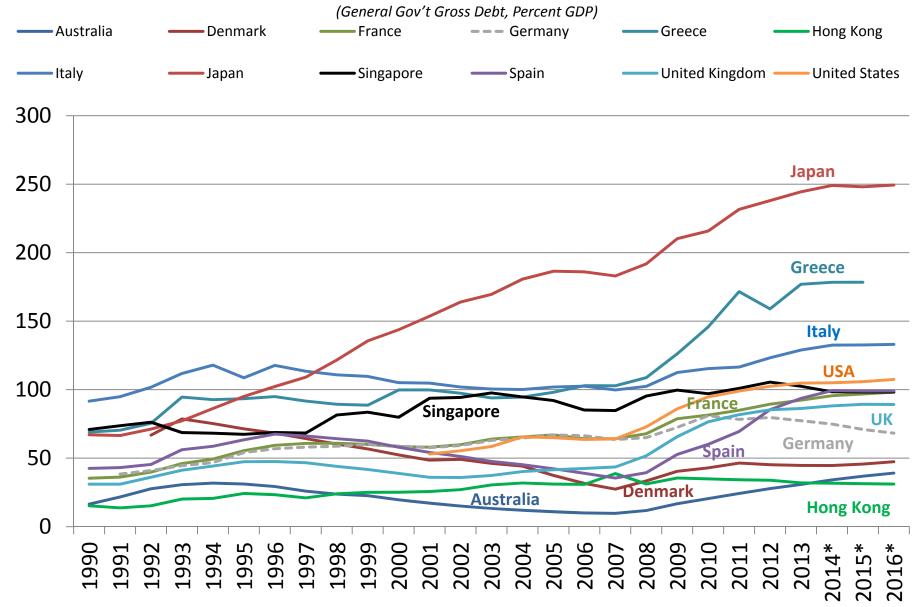
Labor Force Participation Rate





GROWING DEBT

DEBT TO GDP



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, Trading Economies (April 2016).

^{*}May Contain Forecasted Estimates.