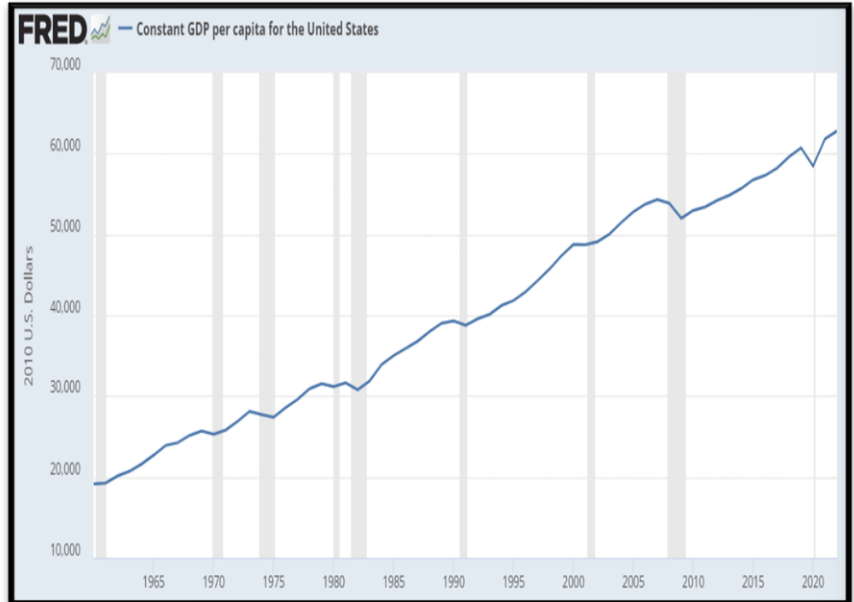


ABOUT THE ECONOMY...

Overview: The U.S. economy is a leading issue for voters in the upcoming 2024 Presidential election. Overall, positive economic trends marked former President Trump’s administration (2017-2021) and President Biden’s administration (2021-present). Both presidents benefited from economic policies Obama (2009-2017) enacted to address the 2007 financial crisis. The coronavirus (COVID) pandemic (2020 – present) impacted Trump’s and Biden’s economic records.

COVID’s Economic Impact: Under Trump, the pandemic forced the economy into a recession in 2020, upending the job market and increasing unemployment. Under Biden, the pandemic subsided, but economic recovery was met with high inflation. Biden staved off a recession with sound economic policies. Both presidents enacted policies to aid and grow the economy. The GDP chart at right shows the steady, expanding economies under Obama, Trump, and Biden – the decline in 2020 is due to COVID.



Road to Economic Recovery: Both of the presidents signed stimulus bills to aid economic recovery. Trump signed the *2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (\$2.2T) and Biden signed the *2021 American Rescue Plan Act* (\$1.9T). The *CARES Act* authorized payments to families (\$1,200/adult plus \$500/child for households earning up to \$75,000 annually) and put a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures and tenant evictions, extended unemployment assistance, and subsidized payroll for affected small businesses. Biden’s *American Rescue Plan* provided further relief to families and businesses, extended unemployment benefits and the child tax credit, and subsidized COVID testing and vaccination programs.



The American Society of Civil Engineers maintains a “report card” on U.S. infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and ports. Infrastructure is critical because it underpins all aspects of the U.S. economy. Trump campaigned on increased infrastructure investment, but never even introduced a single bill. Once elected, Biden quickly enacted the *2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (\$1.2T), funding 46,000 new projects and improvements to roads, bridges, public transit, drinking water, and expanding access to the internet, among other initiatives. Biden enacted many other economic policies, including: the *2023 CHIPS and Science Act* (\$52B), which brought semiconductor manufacturing back to the U.S., the *2022 Inflation Reduction Act* (\$430B), which invests in green energy initiatives and reduced healthcare costs, and the *2023 Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Act* (\$230B), which provides relief for student loan borrowers.

Additional Economic Policies: Trump signed the *2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act* (\$2T) to boost the stock market and fuel investment and demand. It gave lower- and middle-income tax brackets a tax cut while giving the wealthy and companies larger tax cuts (the corporate rate went from 35% to a flat 21%). The decline in government revenues from the tax cut fueled a pre-COVID spike in deficit spending. The individual tax cuts expire in 2025, but corporate tax cuts will continue.

Economic Indicators: The chart at right shows key economic indicators during the Trump and Biden Administrations. Prior to COVID, Trump was able to continue Obama’s positive trends in job growth and overall economic expansion. Biden inherited the economic shocks of COVID and quickly passed recovery efforts. Around the world, broken supply chains and massive government spending to combat COVID led to a surge in global inflation. In the U.S., historic interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve, combined with Biden policies, have reduced inflation to near-target levels while avoiding a recession.

Economic Indicators	Trump Administration (from Jan 2017 – Jan 2021)	Biden Administration (from Jan 2021 – latest data collected)
Higher the Number the Better		
Job Growth	Lost 3M (Jan 2021)	Added 14.8M (Mar 2024) (including 800,000 manufacturing jobs)
GDP Growth	Up 14.6% (Jan 2021)	Up 22% (Dec 2023)
Wage Growth	Up 4% (Jan 2021)	Up 6% (Nov 2023)
Student Loan Debt	No action	Canceled \$136.6B for 3.7M Americans
Lower the Number the Better		
Unemployment Rate	6.4% (Jan 2021)	3.7% (Dec 2023)
U.S. National Debt	Up \$7.8T (Jan 2021)	Up \$6.32T (Jan 2024)
Inflation Rate	1.4% (Jan 2021)	3.1% (Jan 2024) (Headed down)
Gas Prices	\$2.33/gal (Jan 2021)	\$3.13/gal (Dec 2023) (Headed down)
Credit Card Lates Fees	\$32 (average)	\$8 cap
Cost of Insulin for Seniors	No action	Lowered from ~\$60 to \$35/month

2024 Election Issues: The chart below shows the differences and similarities between Trump and Biden on economic issues. Trump and Biden contrast starkly on taxes, trade, and jobs.

2024 Election Issues	Trump wants to:	Biden wants to:
Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rely on tariffs – which are paid by U.S. consumers – to protect U.S. businesses and jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enact legislation that invests in infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and clean energy to boost private-sector demand for high-wage union and non-union workers.
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), leaving 20 million Americans (including 3.5 million Texans) without affordable care. Limit annual out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare enrollees. Allow the safe importation of prescription drugs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand ACA to further lower health care costs. Limit annual out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare enrollees. Allow the safe importation of prescription drugs. Expand policies to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices. Prohibit drug companies from raising prices faster than inflation (for those covered by Medicare and other federal programs). Limit initial prices for “specialty drugs.”
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend his 2017 tax reforms for families when they expire in 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse Trump’s 2017 tax plan, which slashed corporate and high-earner taxes while ballooning the national debt. Return the corporate income tax rate to 28%. Close the payroll tax loophole for those earning over \$400,000 to strengthen Social Security and Medicare. Increase income tax rates for those earning over \$400,000 to reduce the national debt.
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impose tariffs on most imported goods. Phase-out Chinese imports of essential goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Trump’s tariffs on Chinese imports and ban the export of advanced microchips to China. Consider new trade agreements for goods and services. Continue suspending tariffs on EU steel and aluminum.
Energy & Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize fossil fuel production while reversing efforts to diversify energy sources – especially climate-friendly renewables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue green energy transformation.
Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disengage the U.S. from its historic role in global peace and stability by limiting military, diplomatic, and economic engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further expand international coalitions to limit aggressor nations such as Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. Continue support for Ukraine and an Israel/Palestinian two-state peace plan.
Student Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposes any student loan relief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand access to free community colleges. Continue student loan relief.

In Summary: If reelected, Trump would continue his trickle-down economics – cutting taxes for the wealthy and big corporations; slashing public investments (e.g., education, infrastructure, health care); and letting American manufacturing jobs be shipped overseas. Economic inequality will grow, and communities will lose jobs.

Biden would continue his successful “Bidenomics” -- growing the economy by strengthening the middle class and making things in America again. Instead of exporting American jobs, Biden would continue creating American jobs and exporting American products again.

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