# **U.S. Economic Outlook**

Presented by

Steven G. Cochrane

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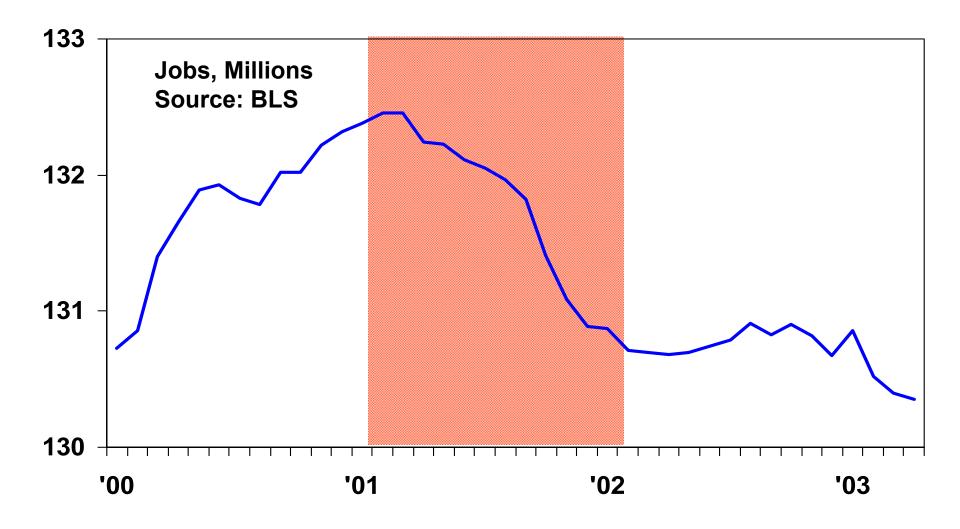


# **Outlook Summary**

- The economy was hit hard by the war with Iraq.
- The economy is expected to quickly stabilize in the wake of the resounding military victory. Confidence is improving and energy prices are falling.
- The economy is poised to rebound as the principal excesses of the late 1990s have been worked off.
- The economy will receive near-term support from more federal fiscal stimulus and ample household cashflow.
- The economy will receive longer-term support from resilient productivity gains and a weaker dollar.
- The economy will be constrained by persistent geopolitical concerns, a weak global economy, spent-up housing and vehicle demand, highly leveraged households, and state government cutbacks.

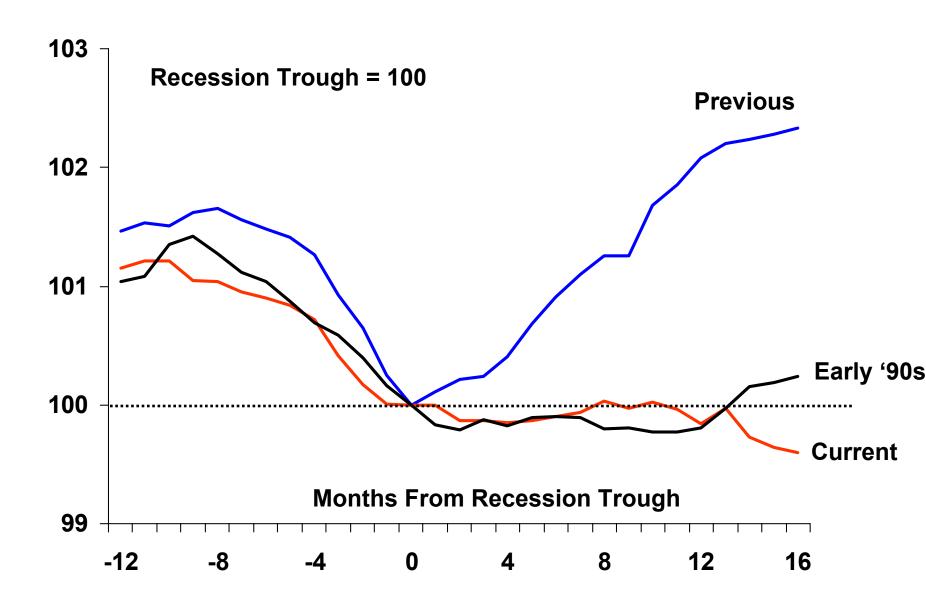


# **Struggling Economy**



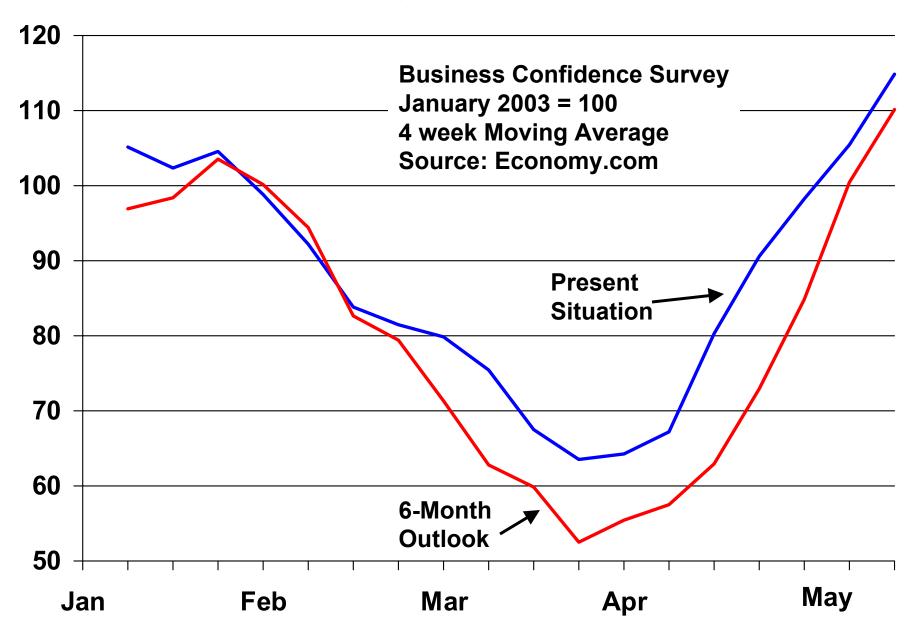


## **Worse Than the Jobless Recovery**



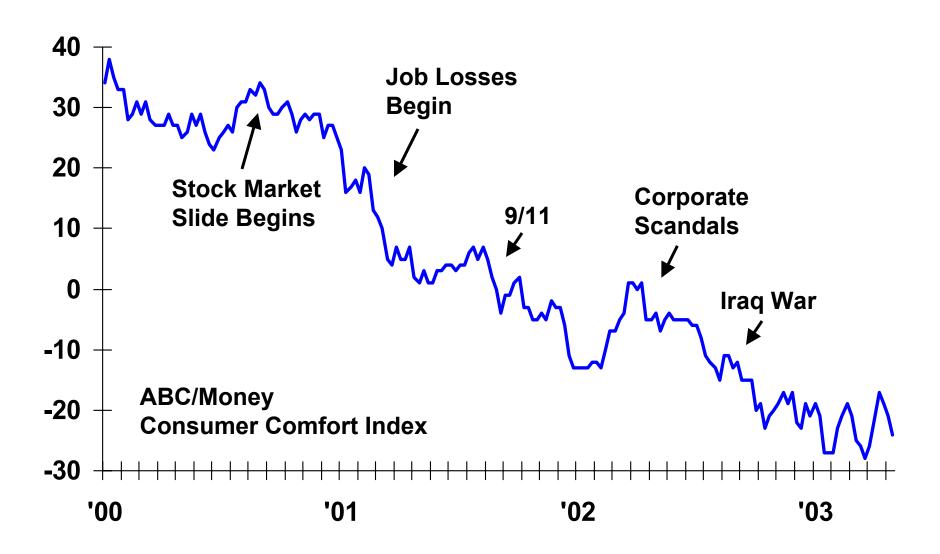


#### **Businesses Confidence Rebounds**



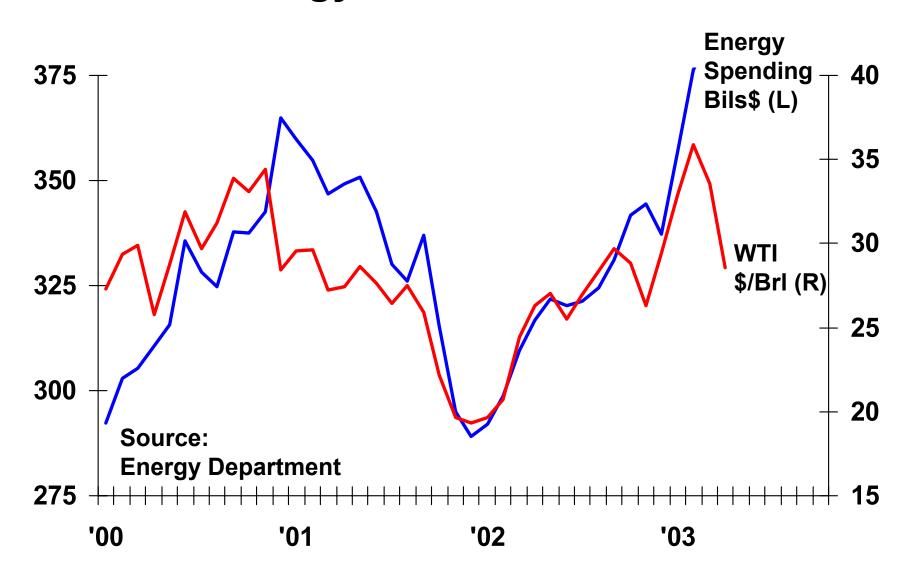


#### **Less Anxious Consumers**



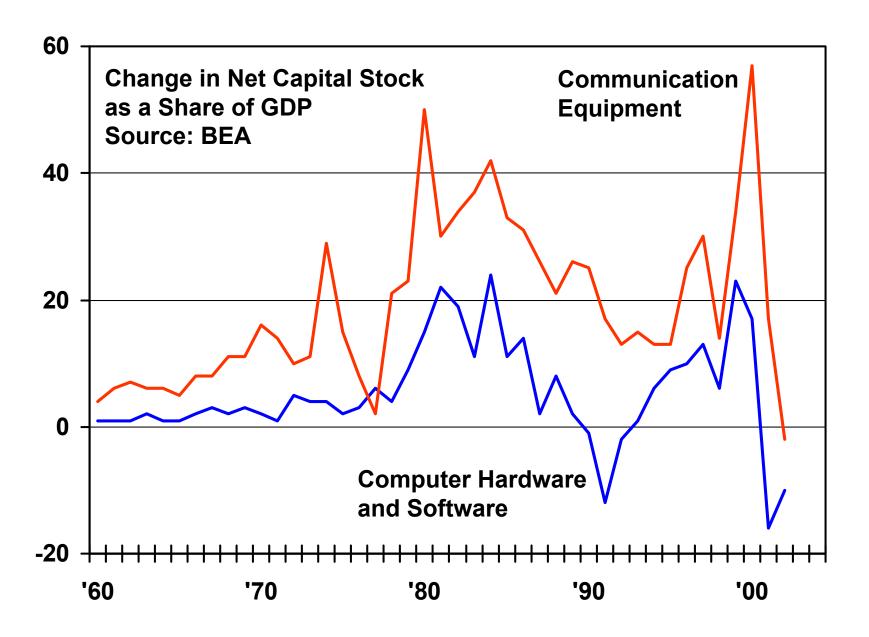


# **Energy Bills Have Peaked**



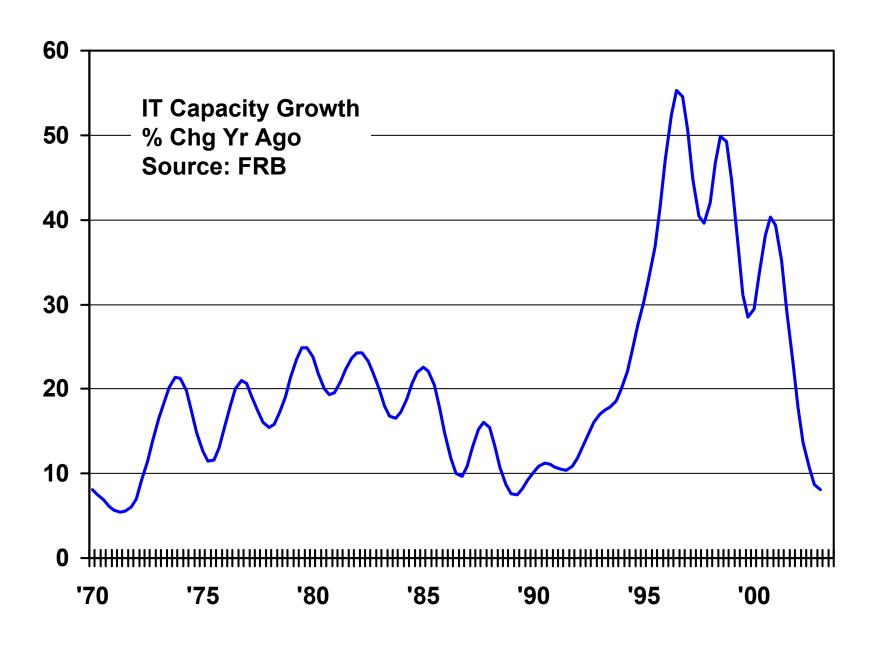


#### IT Excesses are Worked Off

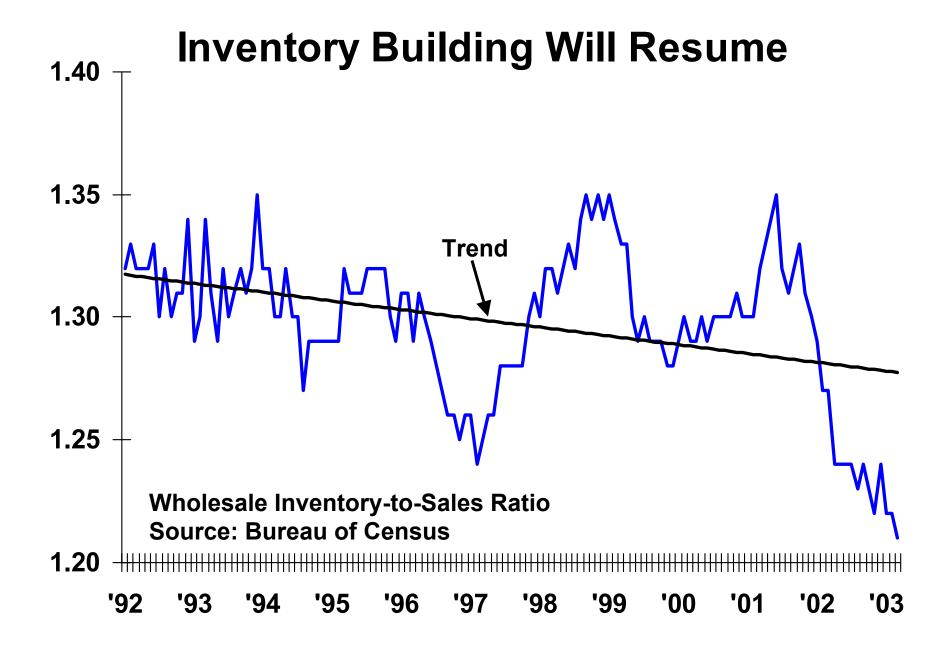




# **IT Capacity Expanding Slowly**

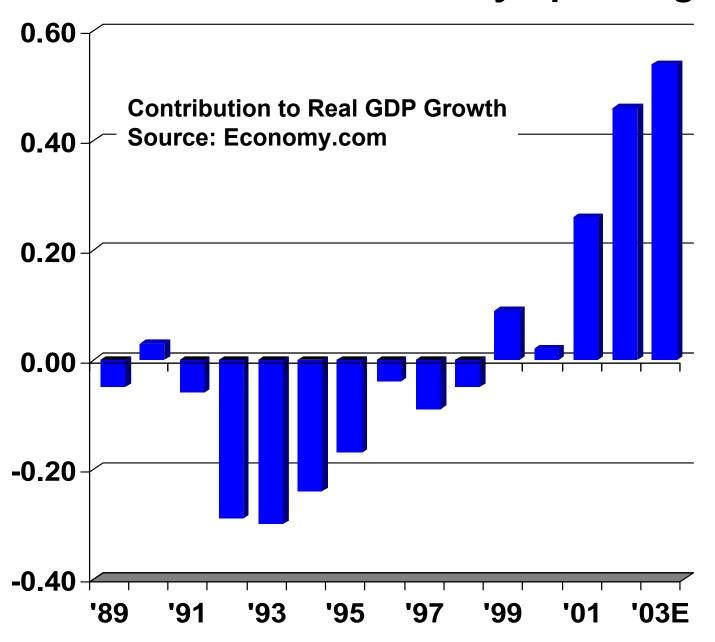






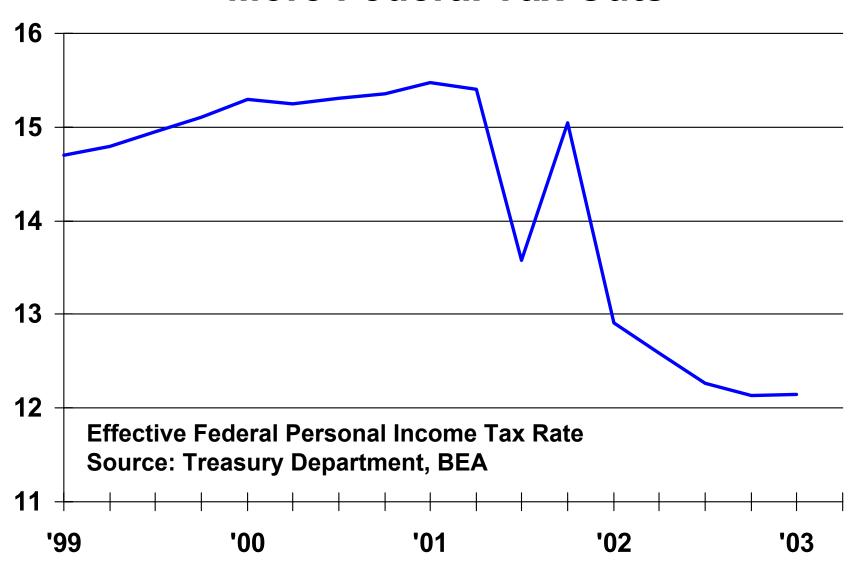


## **Defense and Homeland Security Spending Soars**



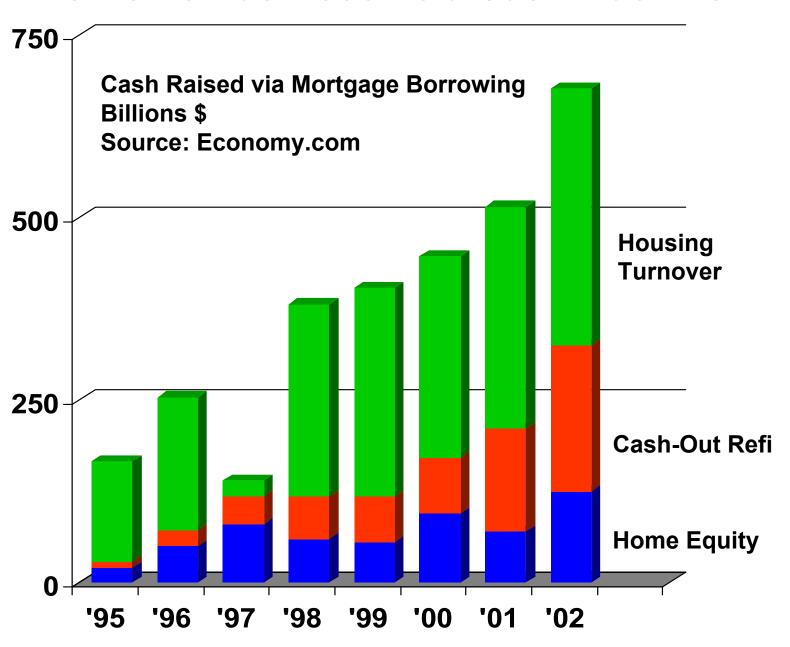


#### **More Federal Tax Cuts**



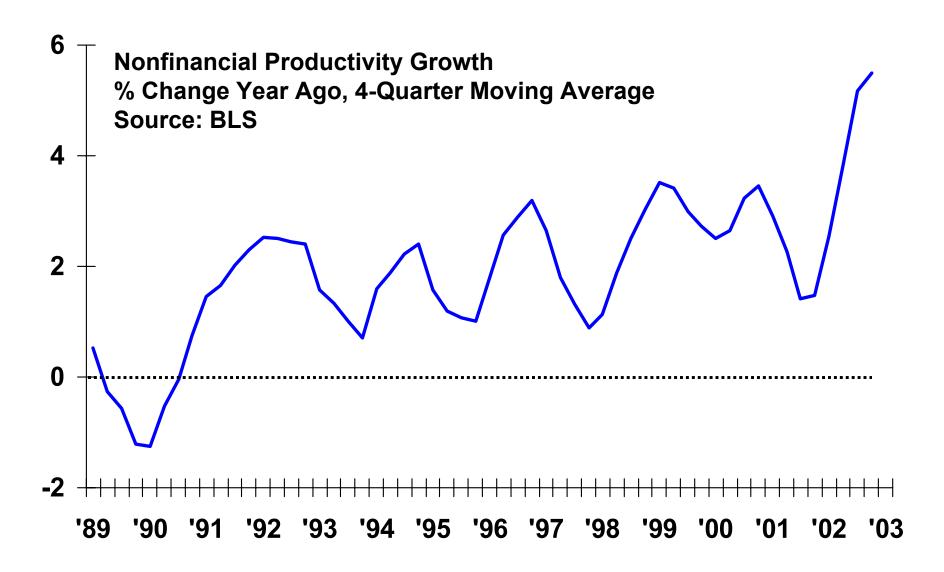


#### The Home Has Become a Cash Machine



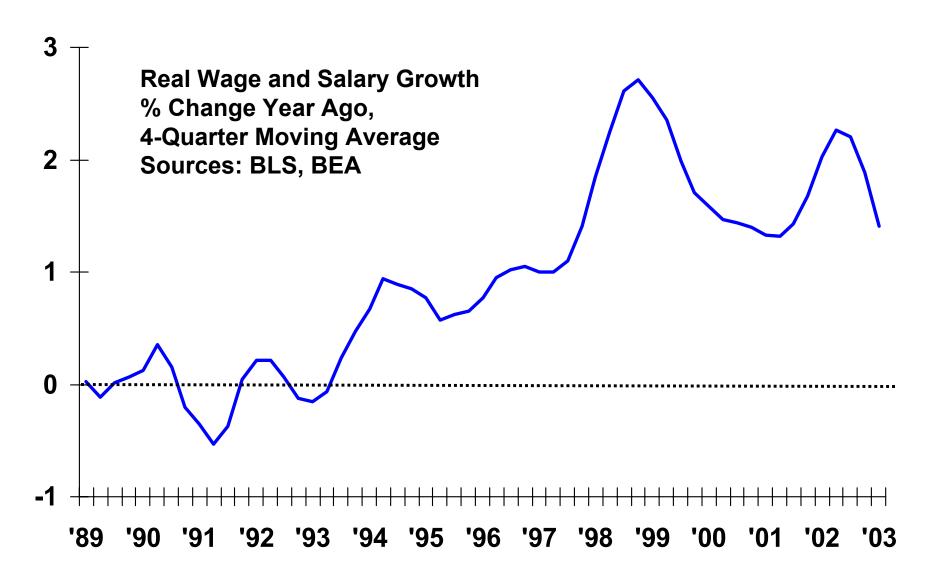


## **Resilient Productivity Growth...**



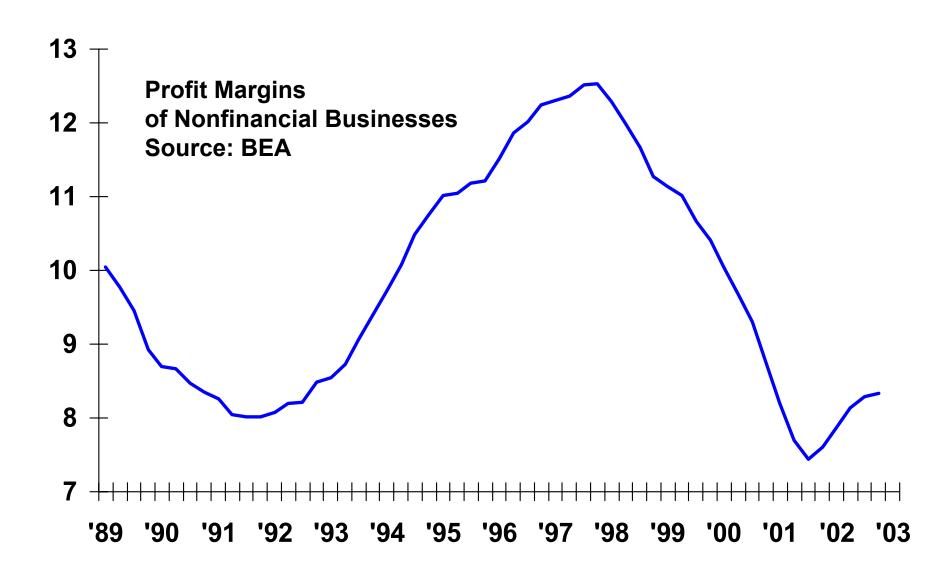


#### ...Supports Wage Growth...



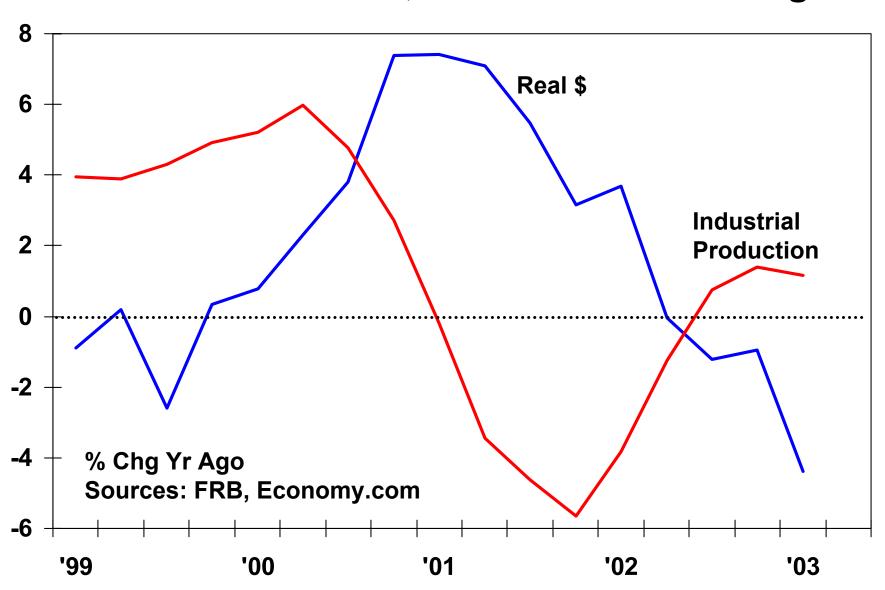


## ...and Ultimately Profit Margins



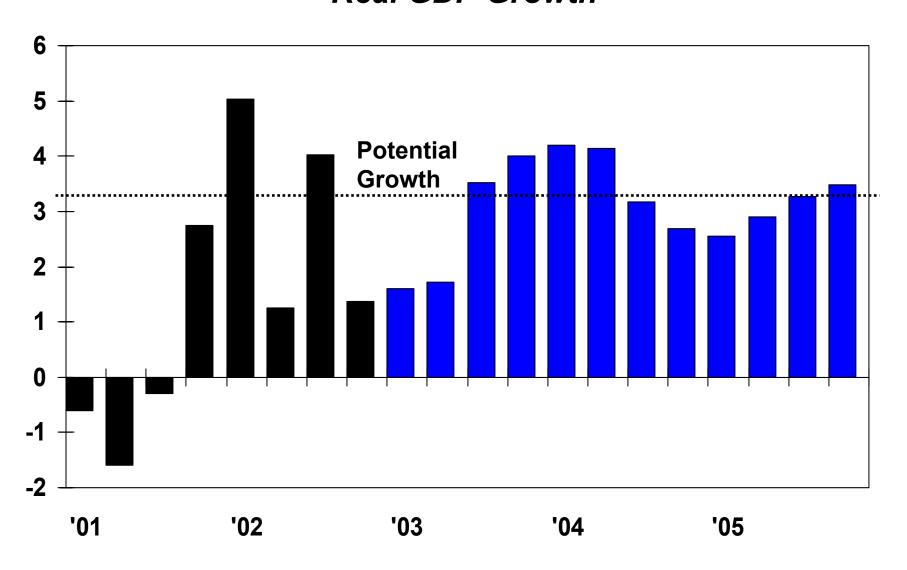


#### Weaker Dollar, Firmer Manufacturing



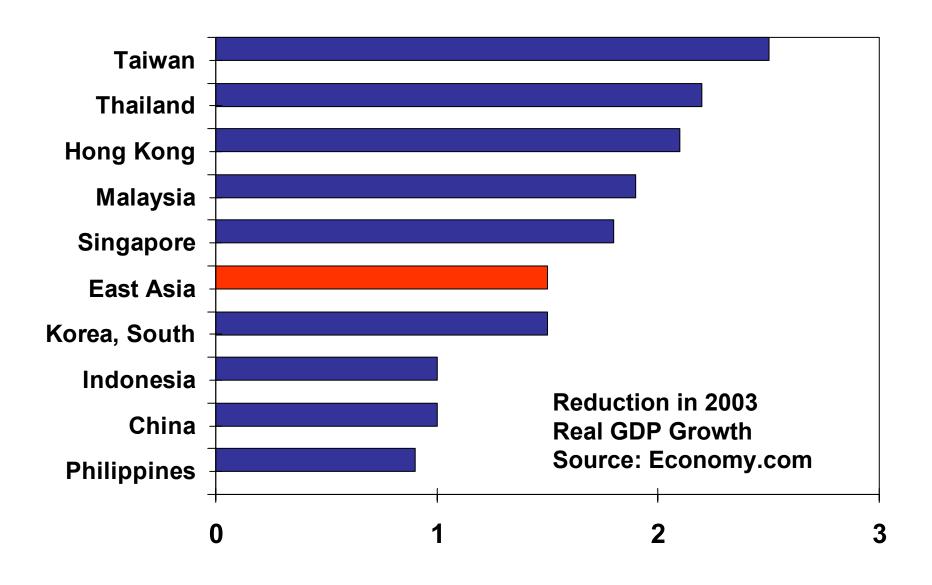


# **Near-Term Outlook** *Real GDP Growth*



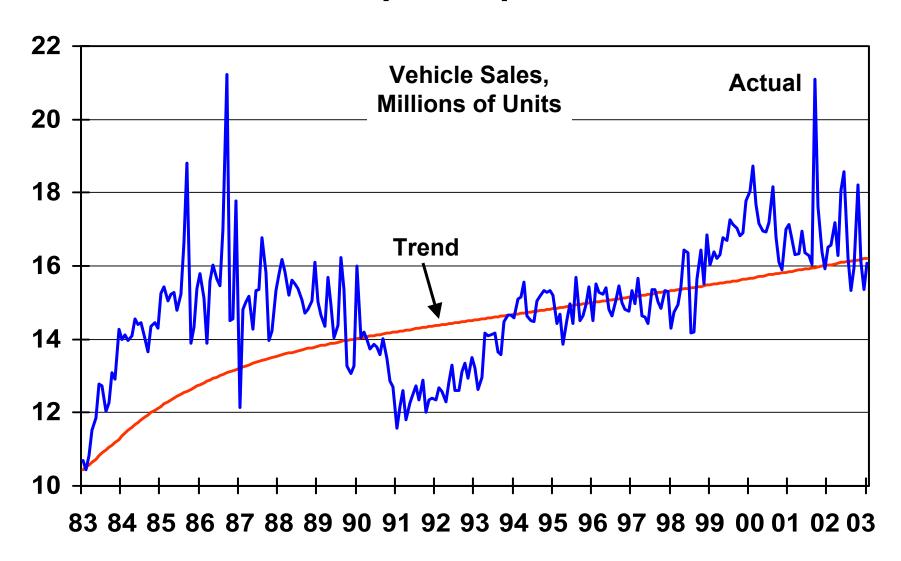


# **SARS** Is a Growing Economic Weight



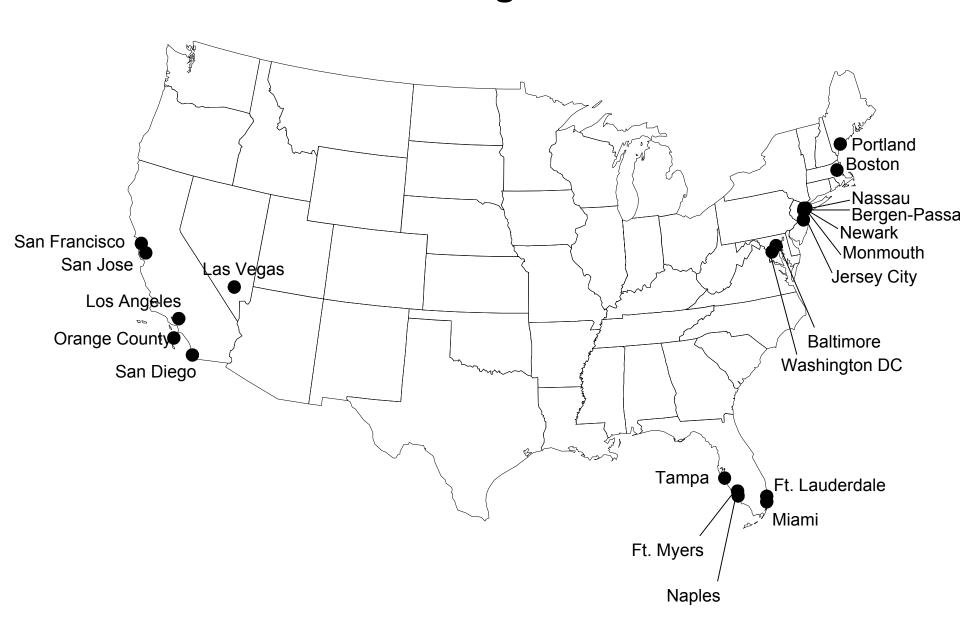


#### **Vehicle Spent-Up Demand**



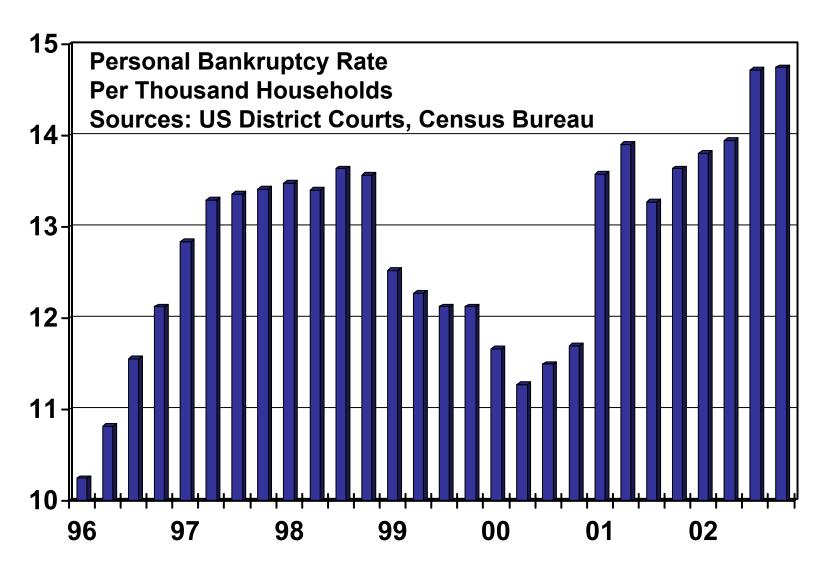


# **Potential Housing Market Bubbles**



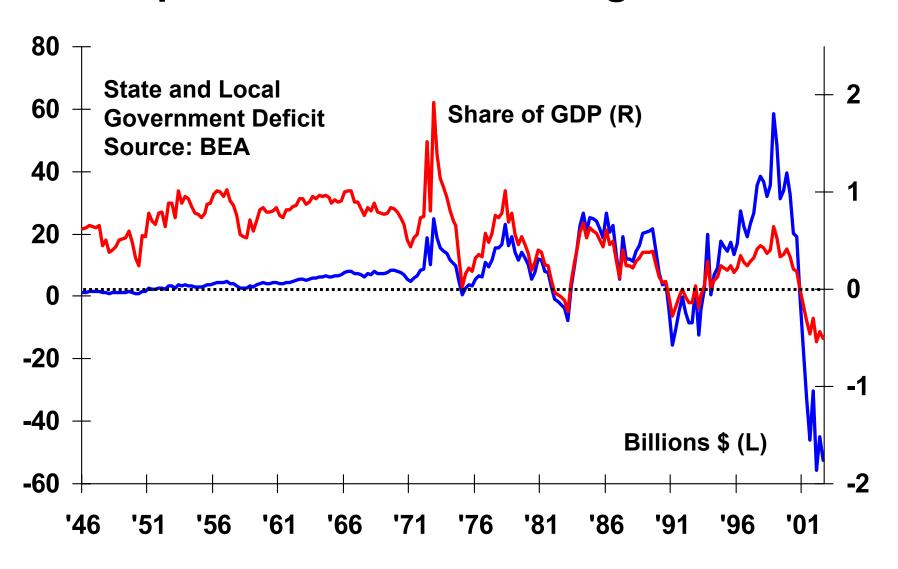


#### Households are Under Financial Stress



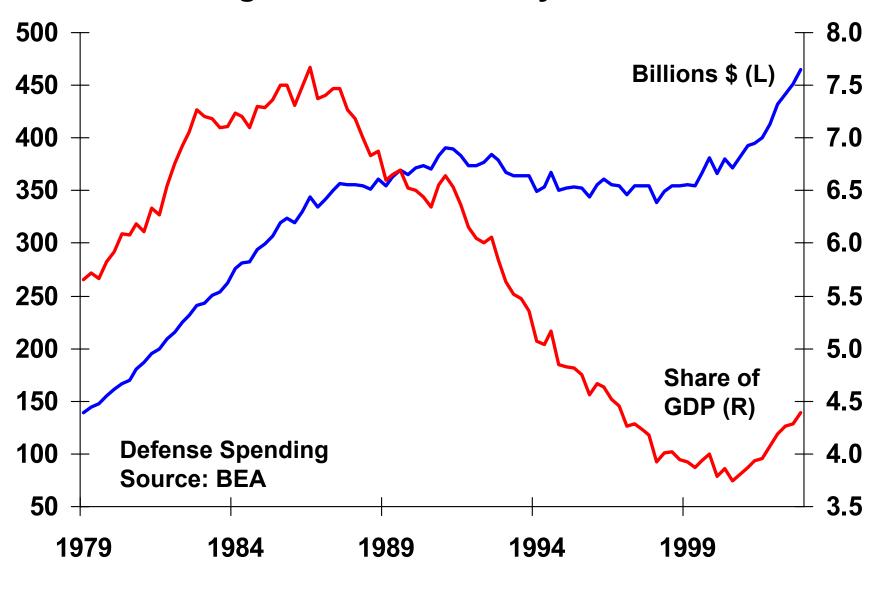


# **Unprecedented State Budget Crisis**





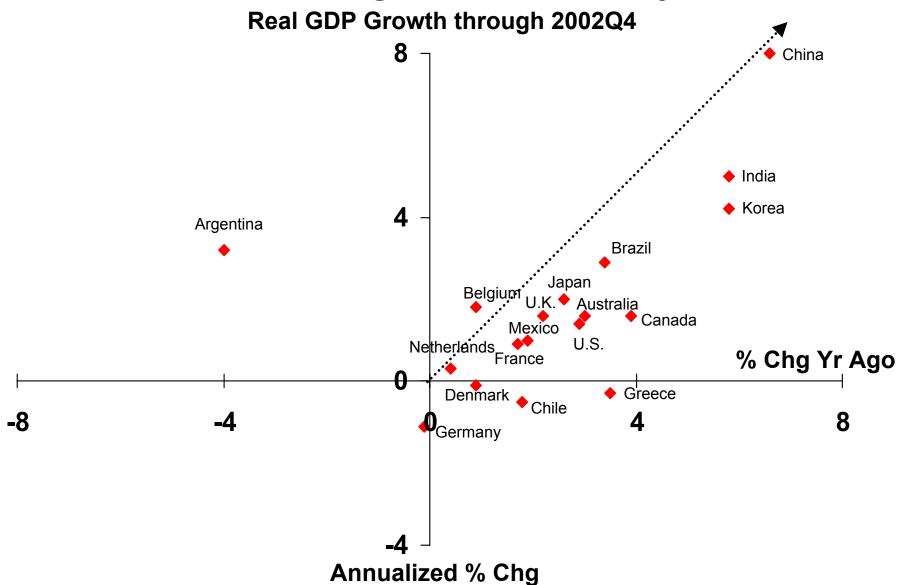
#### **Mounting Homeland Security/Defense Costs**





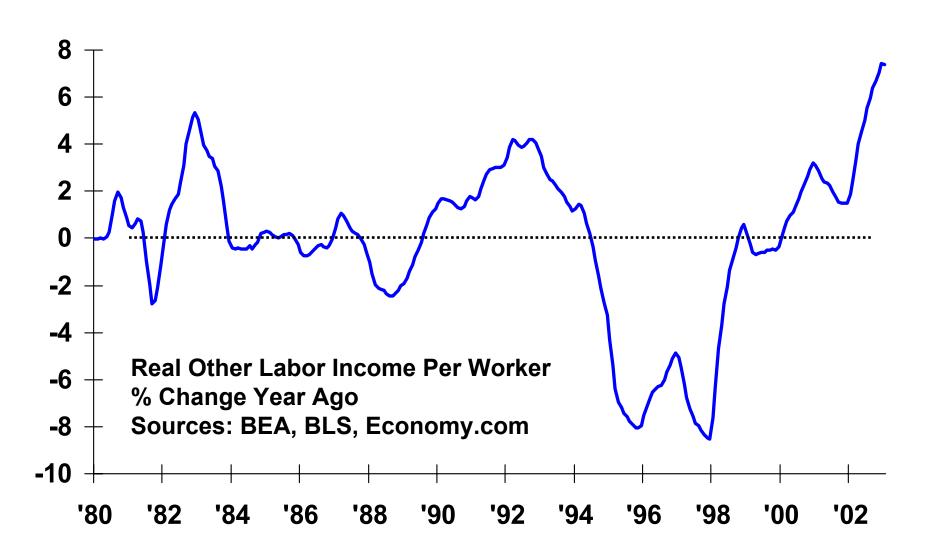


## **Weakening Global Economy**





# **Soaring Health Care/Pension Costs**





#### **Persistent Overcapacity**

