# Fiscal Forecasting for a Fickle Economy

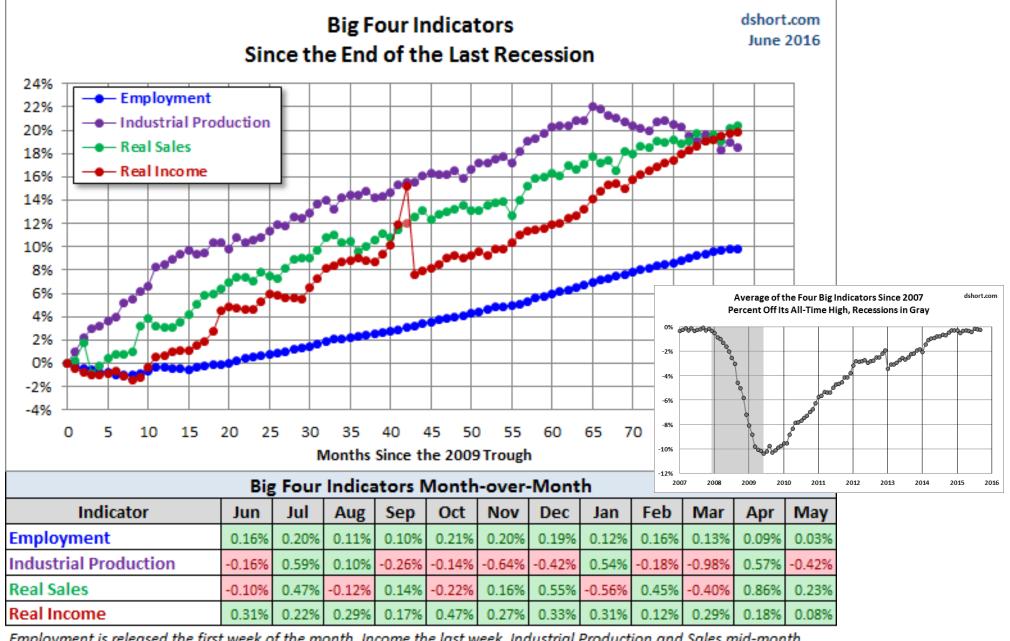
Dr. Charlie Hall Professor & Ellison Chair Texas A&M University c-hall@tamu.edu

## So, Charlie, how are we doing right now?



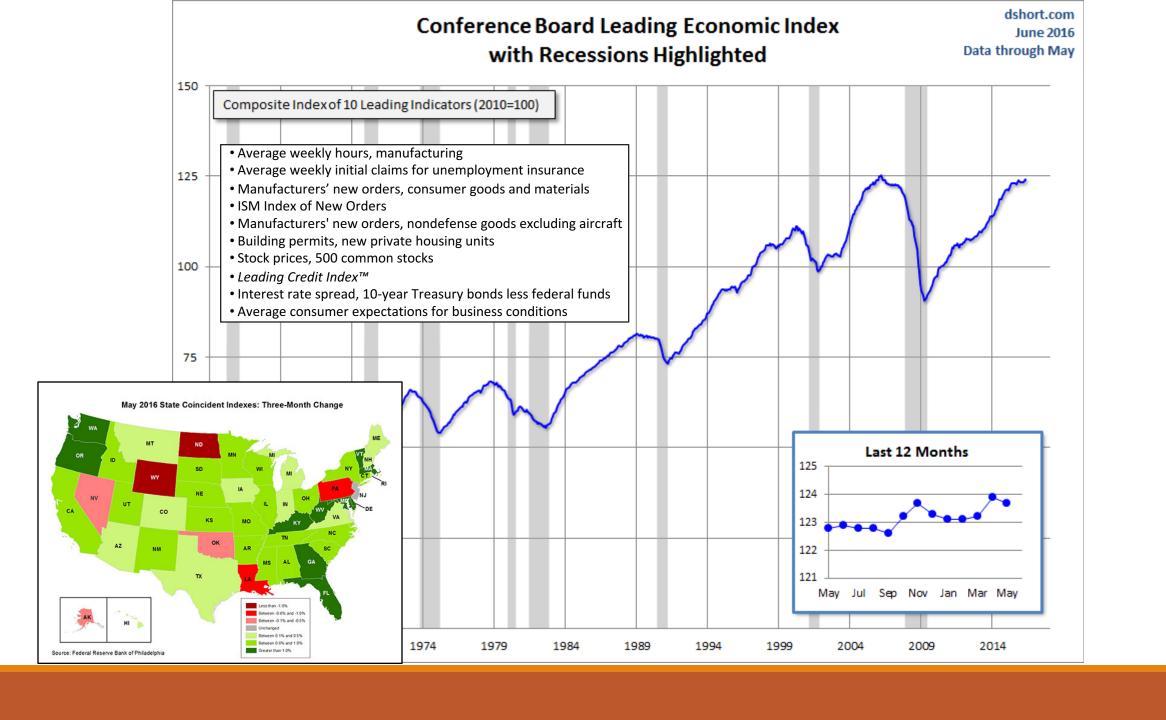
1965 1970 1975

1980 1985 1990



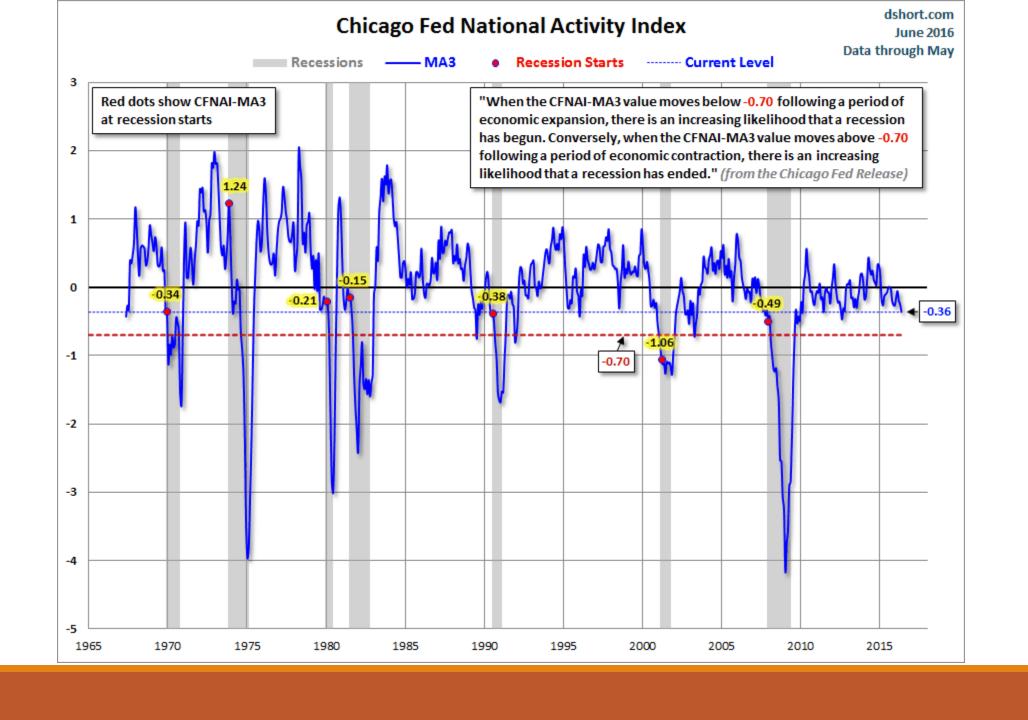
Employment is released the first week of the month, Income the last week, Industrial Production and Sales mid-month.

Do you think this growth will continue?



I hear some folks starting to talk about recession.

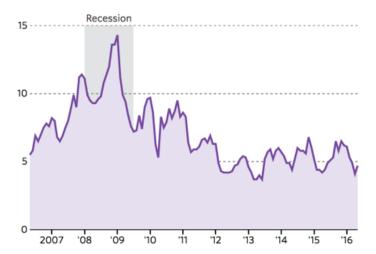
What's up with that?



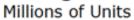
We are obviously correlated with housing.

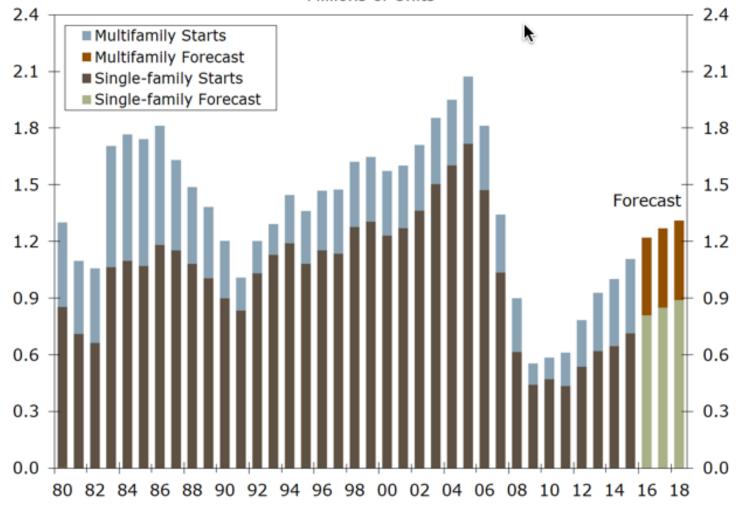
What's going on with that sector?

Months' supply of newly-built homes for the past 10 years

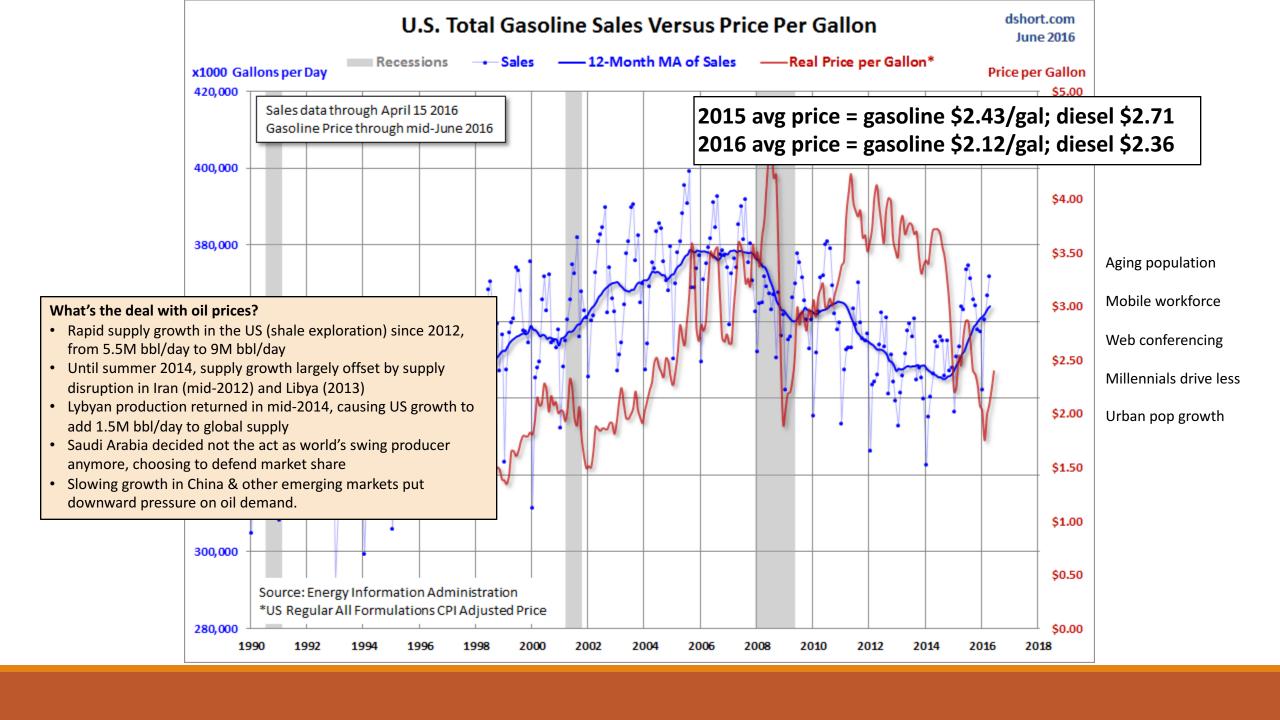


### **Housing Starts**



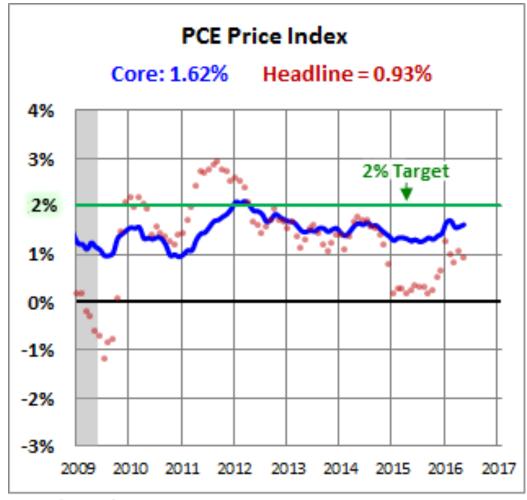


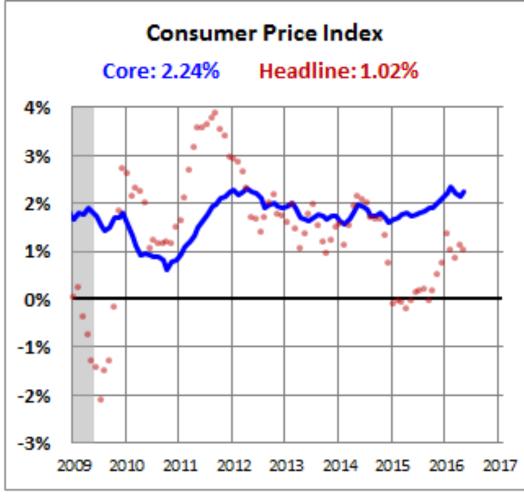
What about the effect of these lower fuel prices?



## Are interest rates going to go up again?



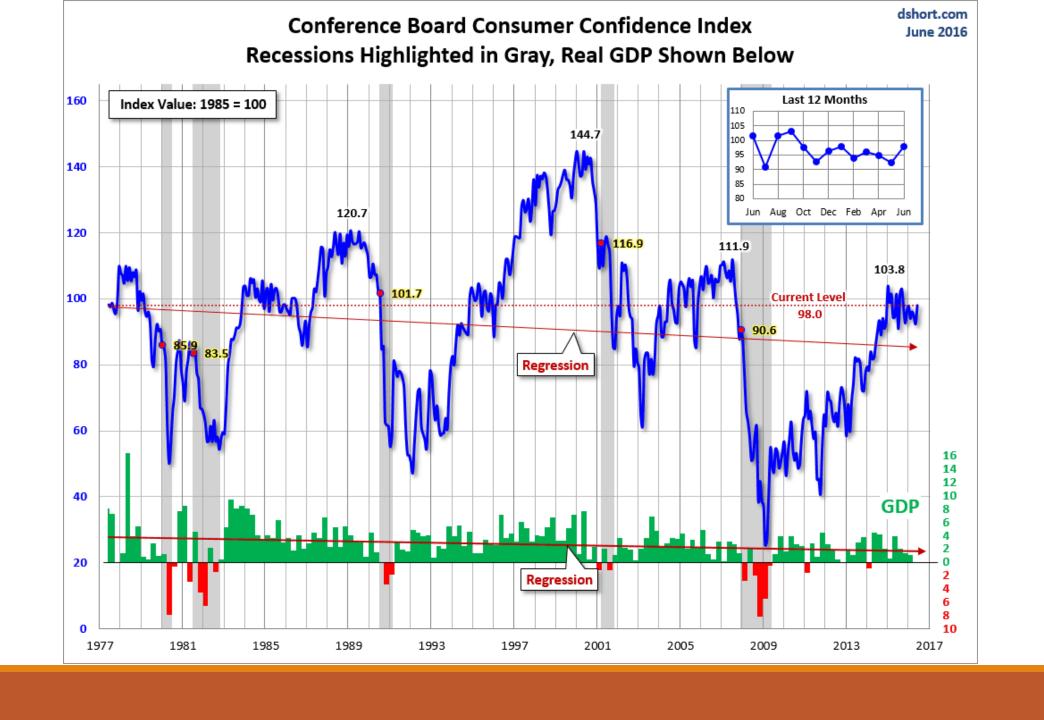




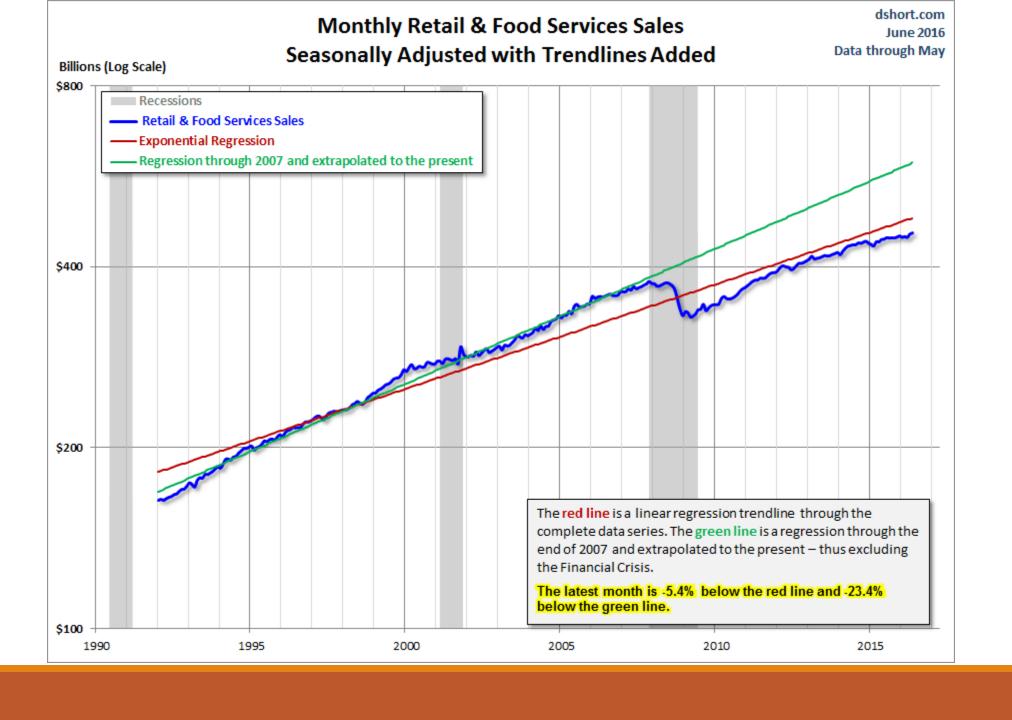
PCE through May

CPI through May

Have lower gas prices and interest rates translated into folks feeling better?

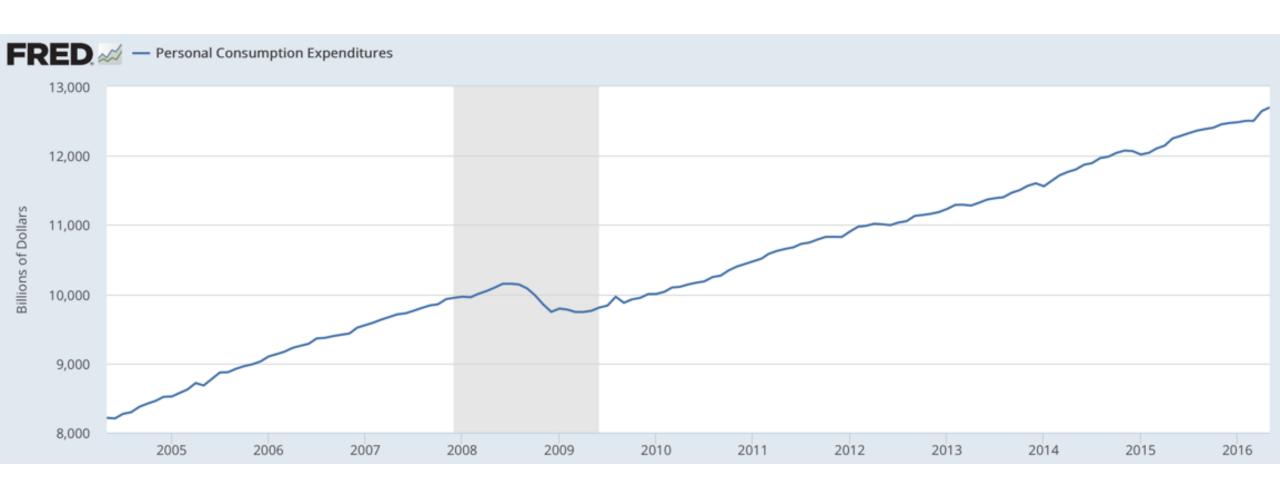


## How have all of these trends affected retail sales?



### People afford what they want.

-- (Lowell Catlett)



### QUESTIONS?

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