The Interest Rate Paradox

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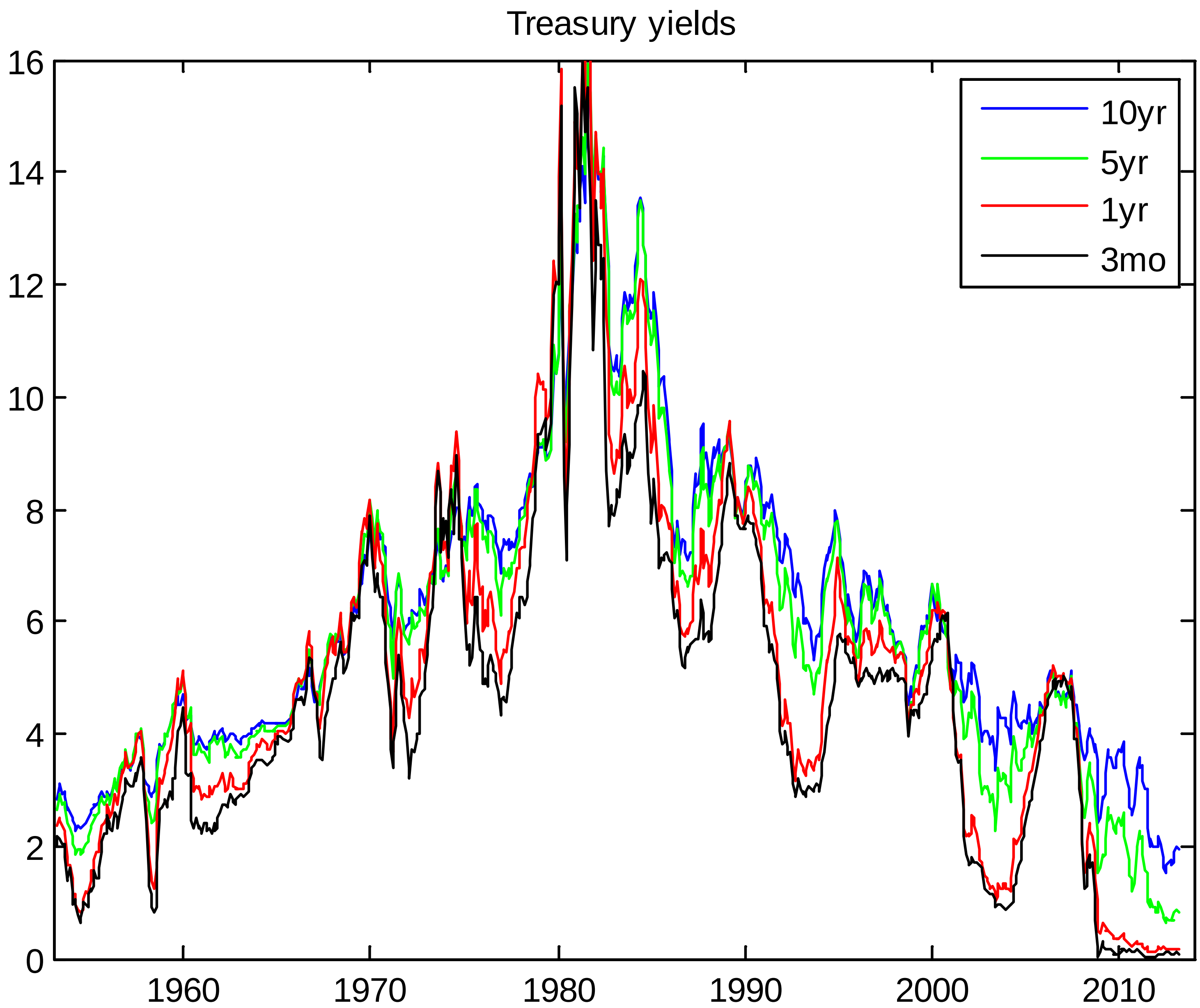
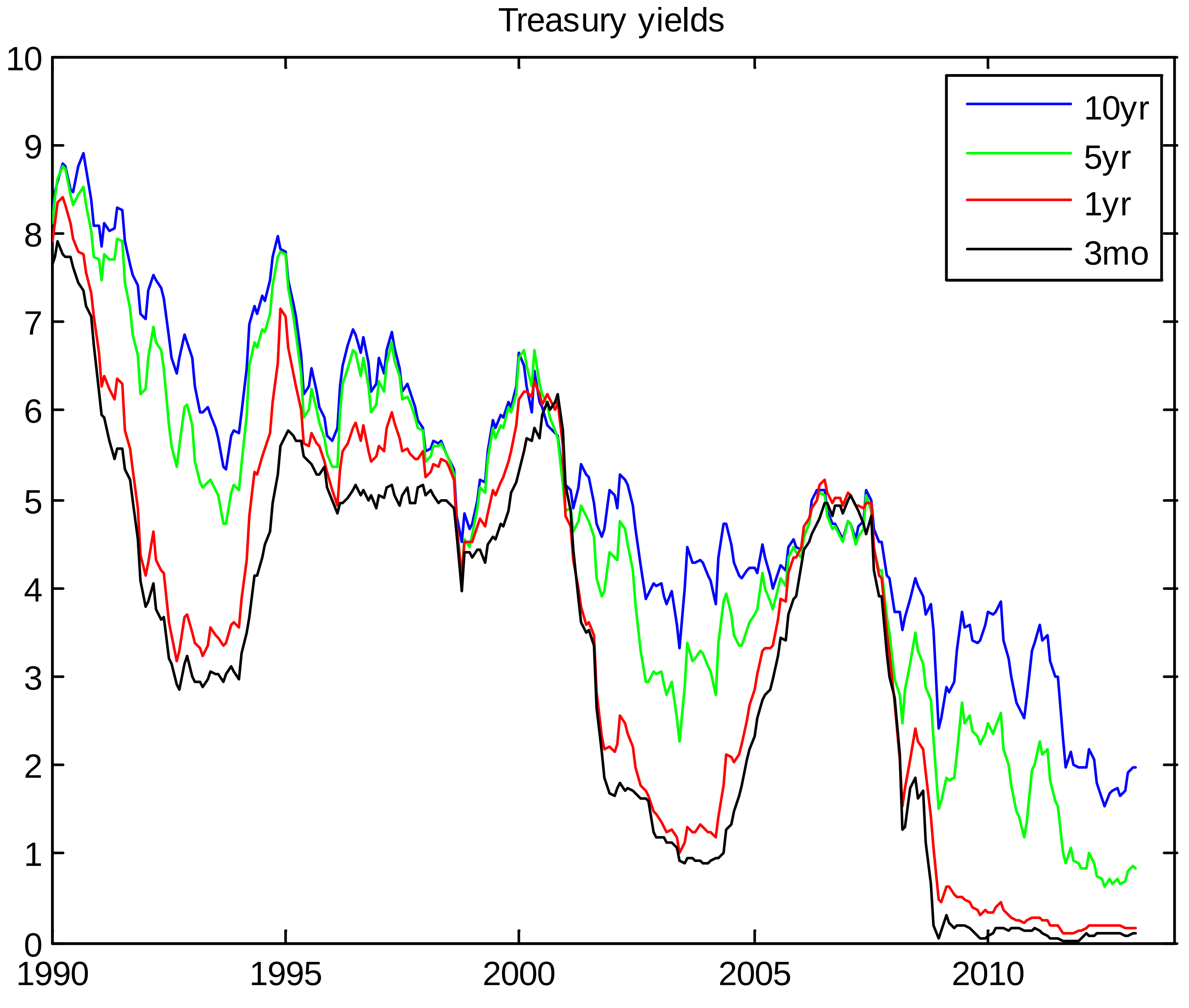
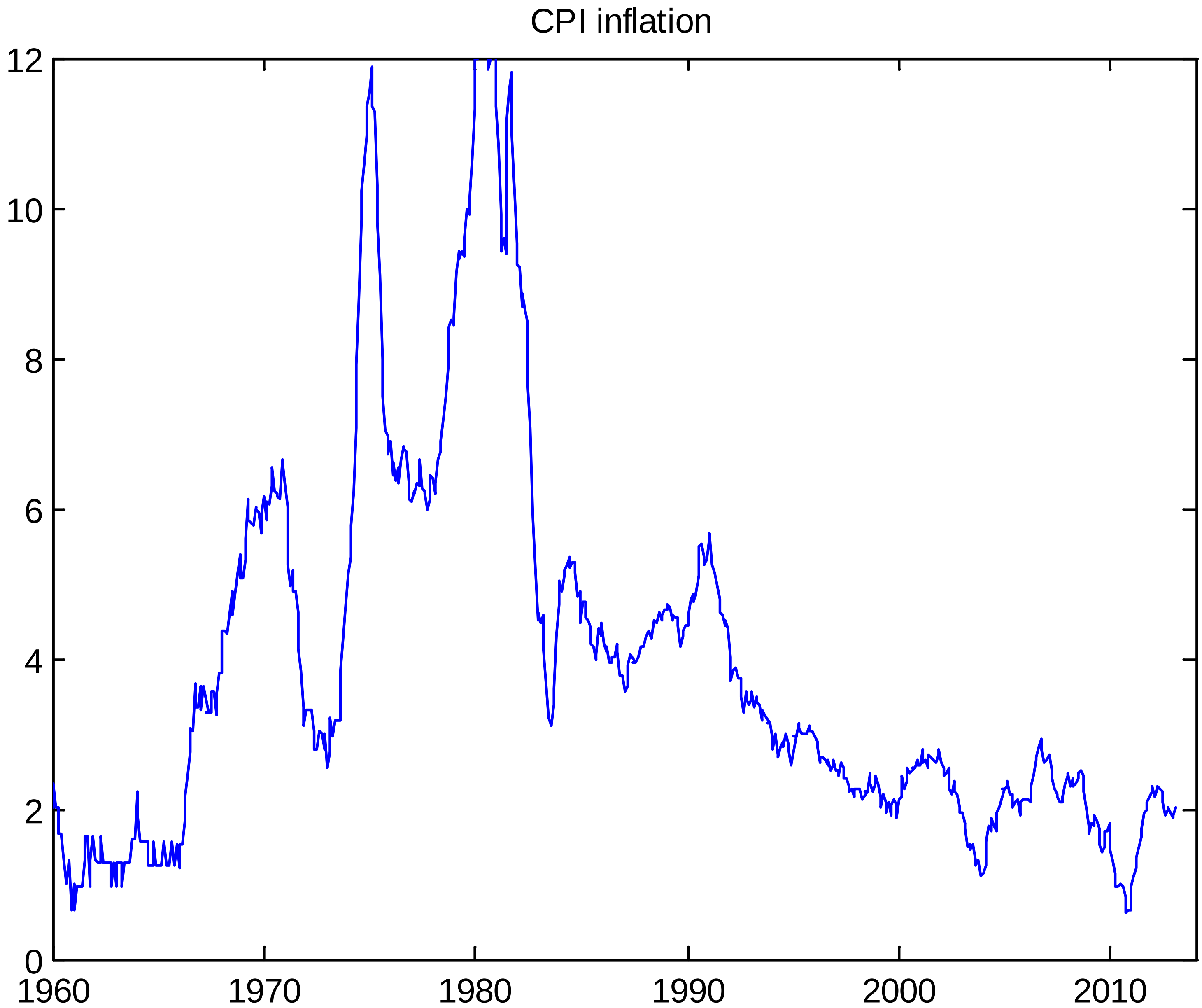


Constant-maturity treasury yields and 3 month rate. Source: Fred

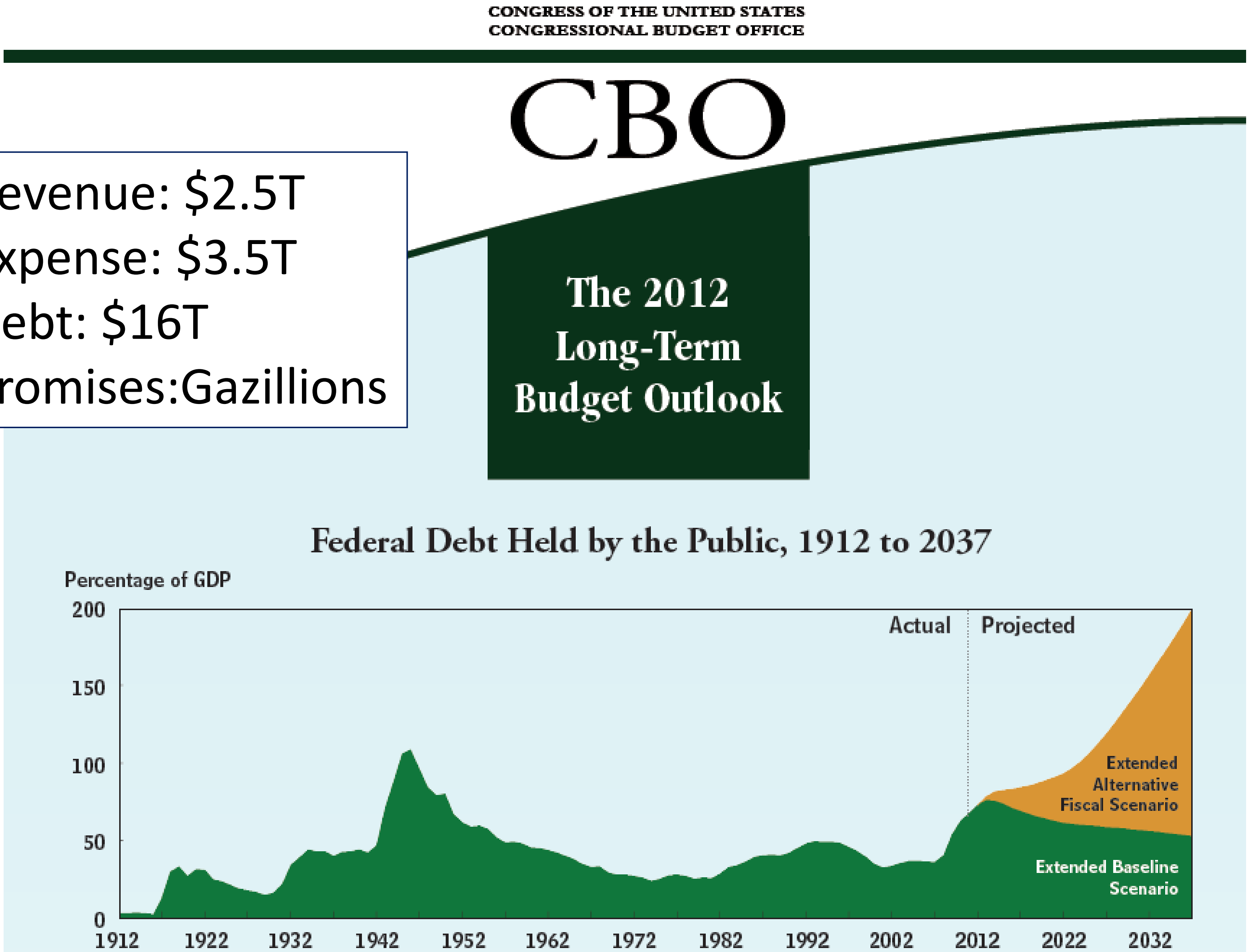


Treasury yields
10yr
5yr
1yr
3mo
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010



Core CPI inflation (ex food and energy). Source: Fred

Revenue: $2.5T
Expense: $3.5T
Debt: $16T
Promises:Gazillions



Choose one of the 5 charts.

Selected Assets of the Federal Reserve

Total Assets

Securities Held Outright

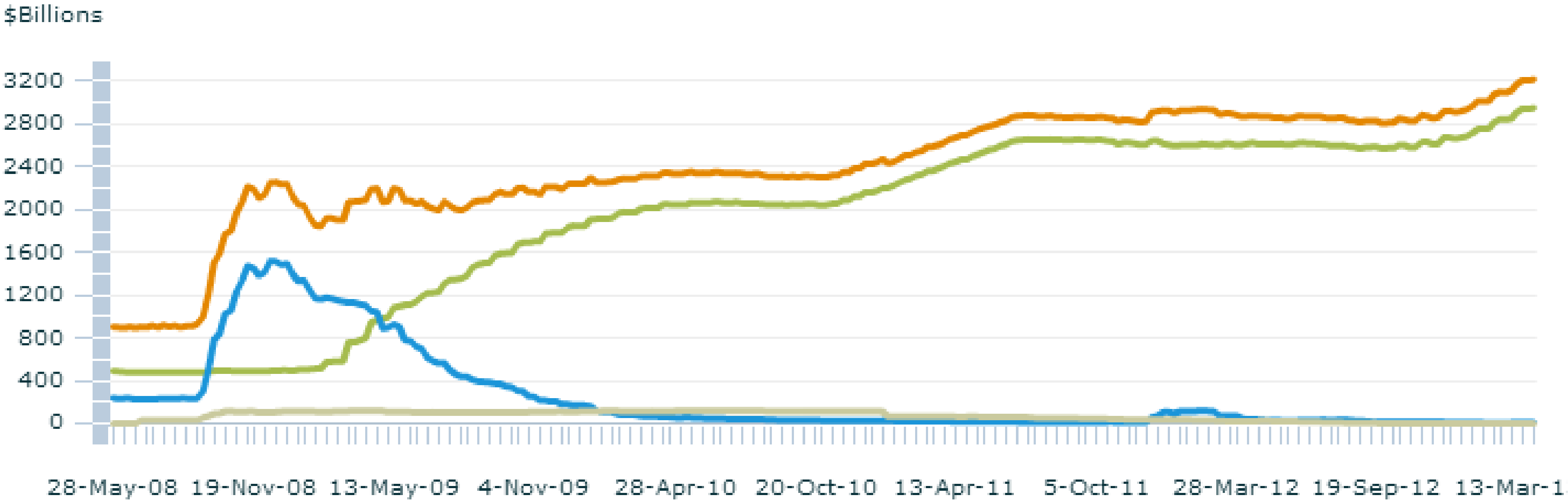
All Liquidity Facilities*

Support for Specific Institutions**

View as table

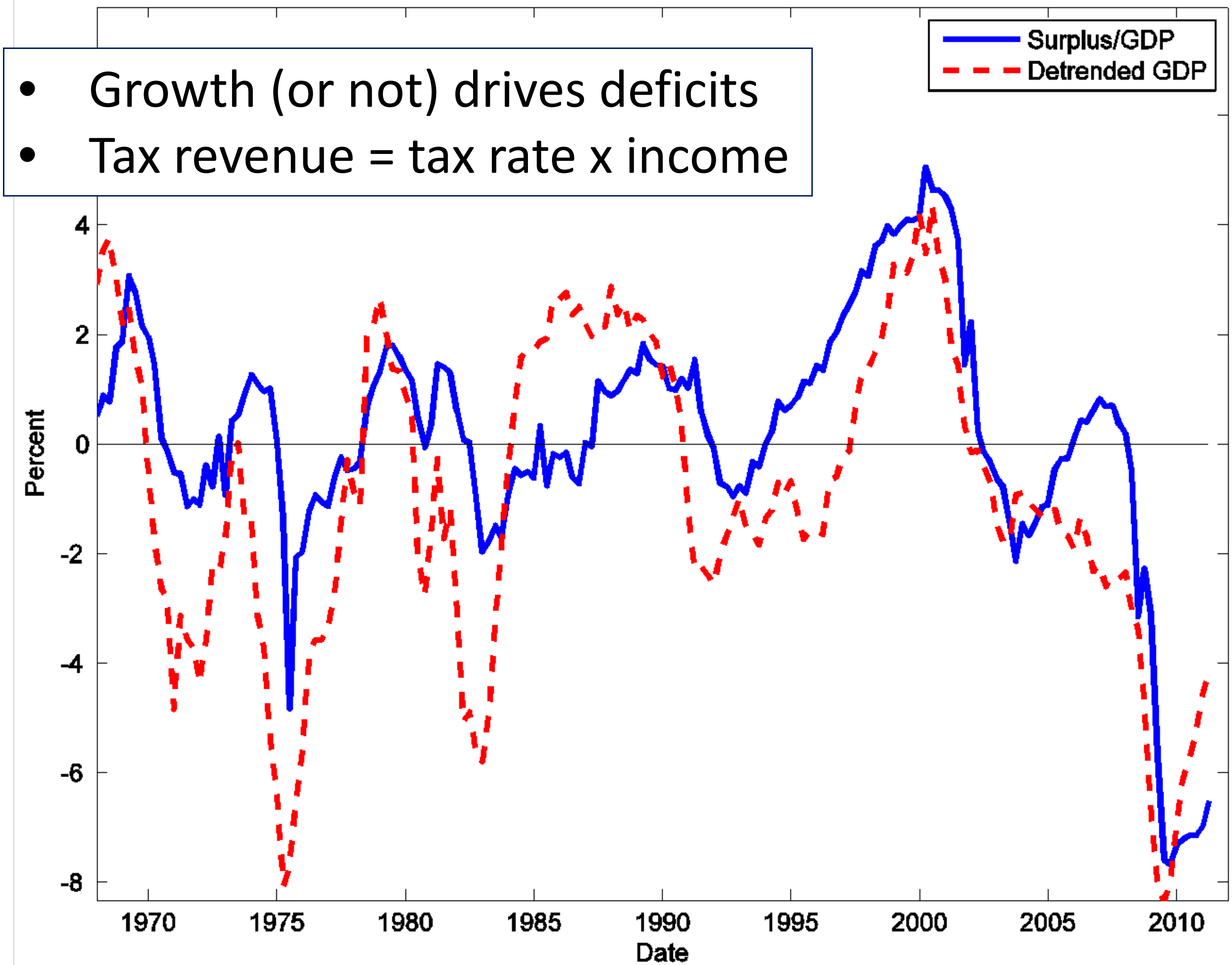
Fullscreen

The increase in the size of the Federal Reserve's balance sheet has been accompanied by changes in the composition of the assets held over time. The level of securities held outright declined at the end of 2007 into 2008 as the Federal Reserve sold Treasury securities to accommodate the increase in credit extended through liquidity facilities. The level of securities holdings has risen significantly since 2009, principally reflecting purchases of Treasury, agency, and agency-guaranteed mortgage-backed securities under the large scale asset purchase programs announced by the FOMC. The various liquidity facilities wound down significantly over the course of 2009.

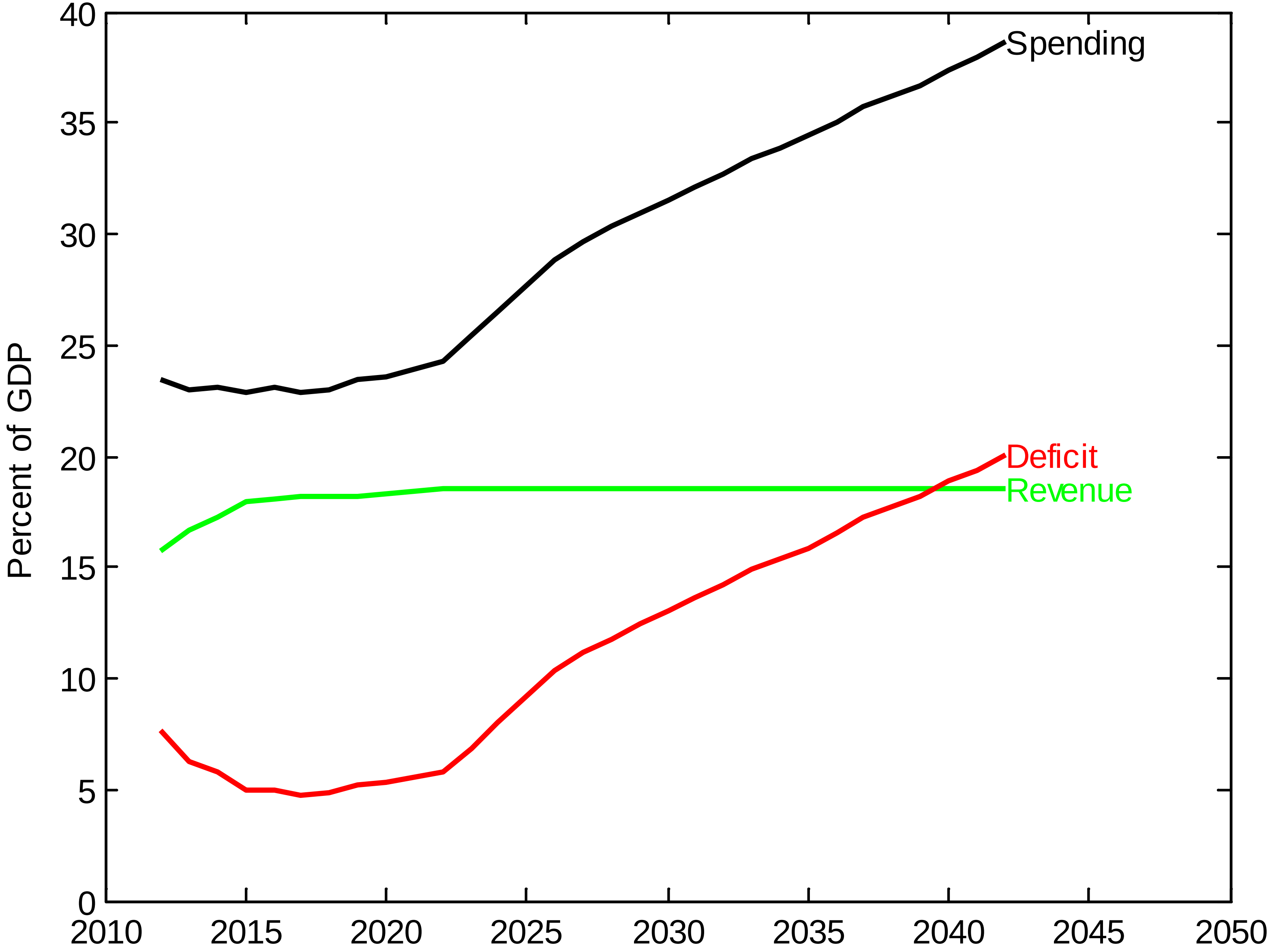


Source: http://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/bst_recenttrends.htm

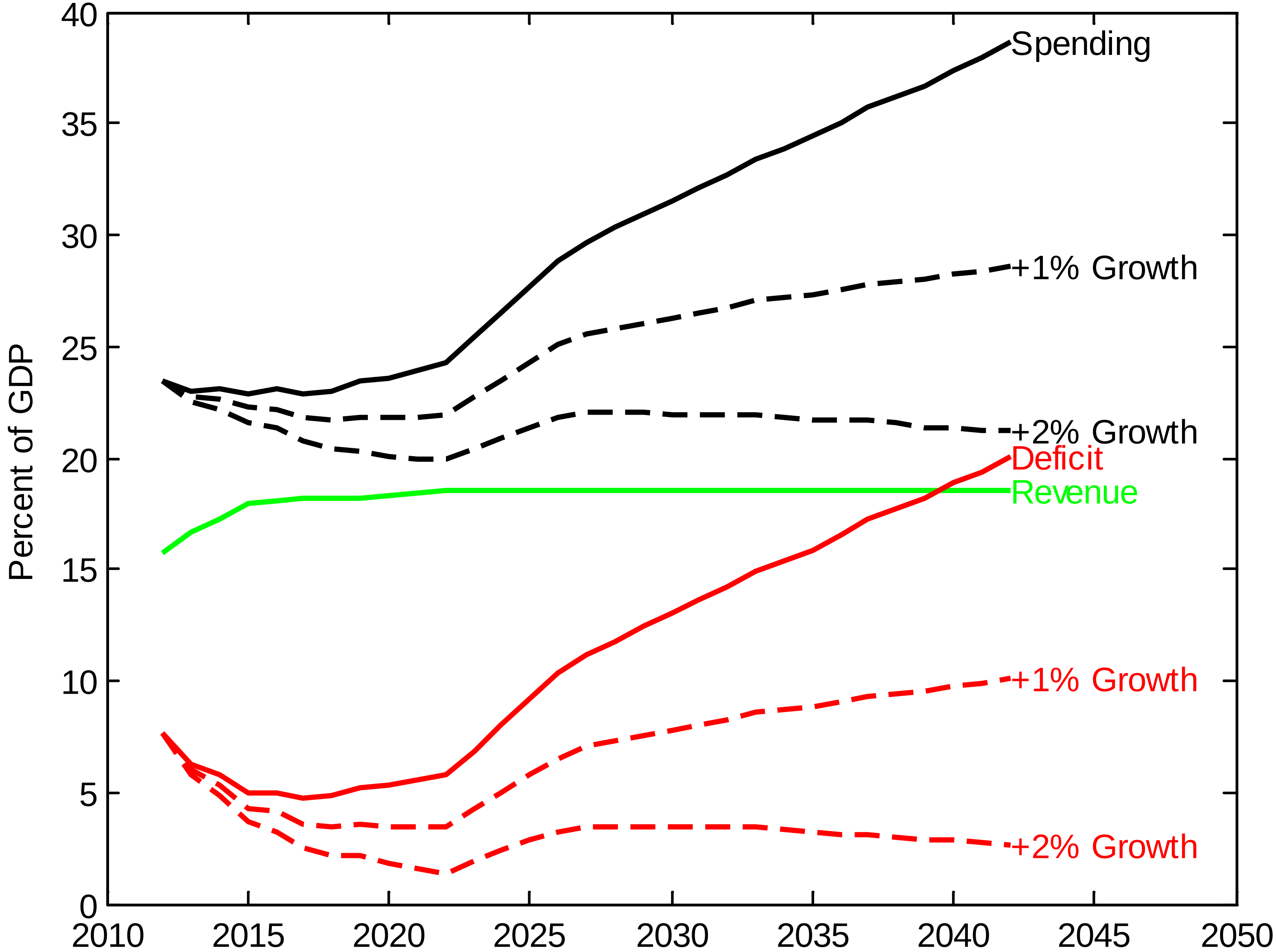
- Growth (or not) drives deficits
- Tax revenue = tax rate x income



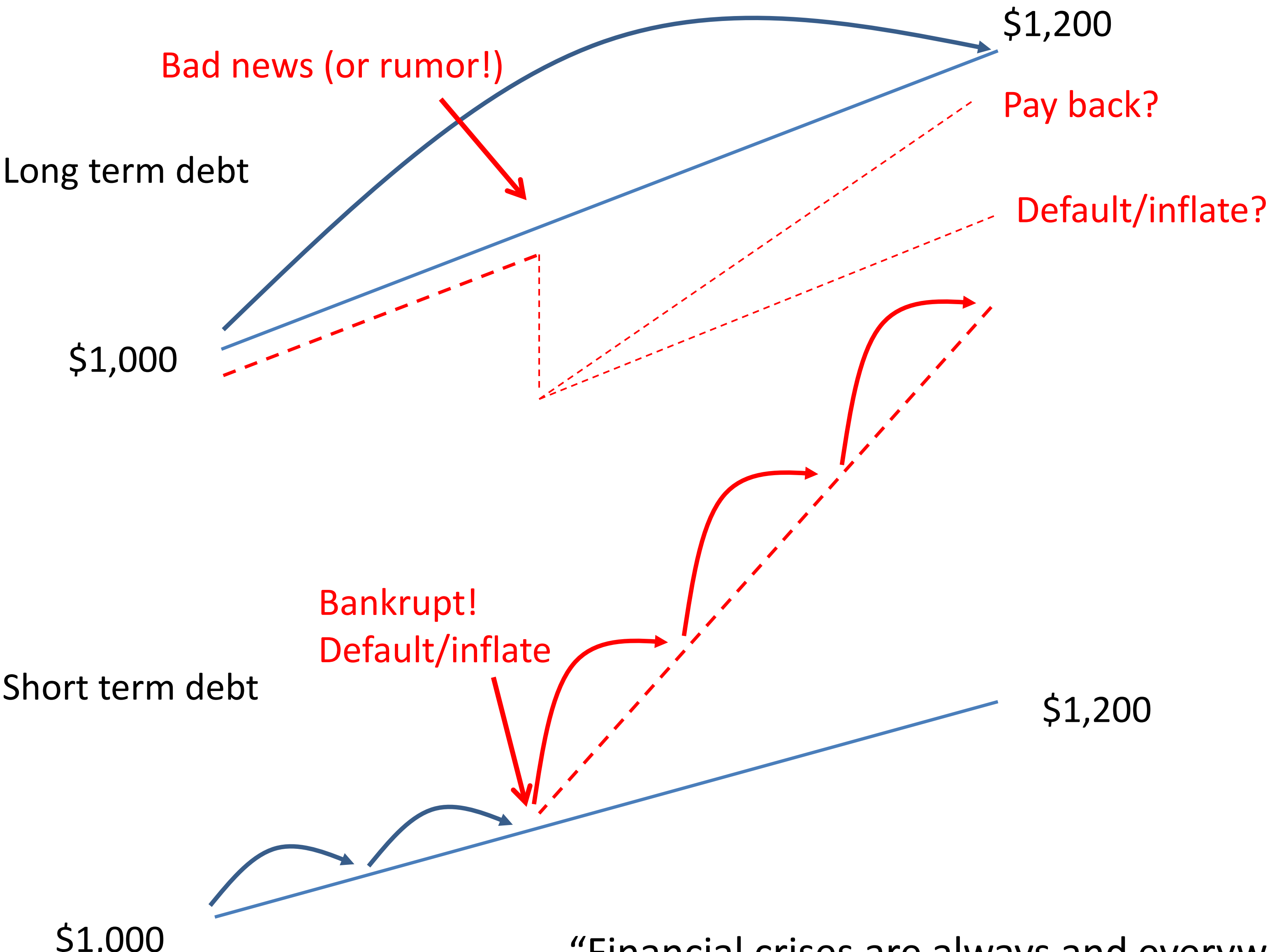
CBO Long Term Budget Outlook



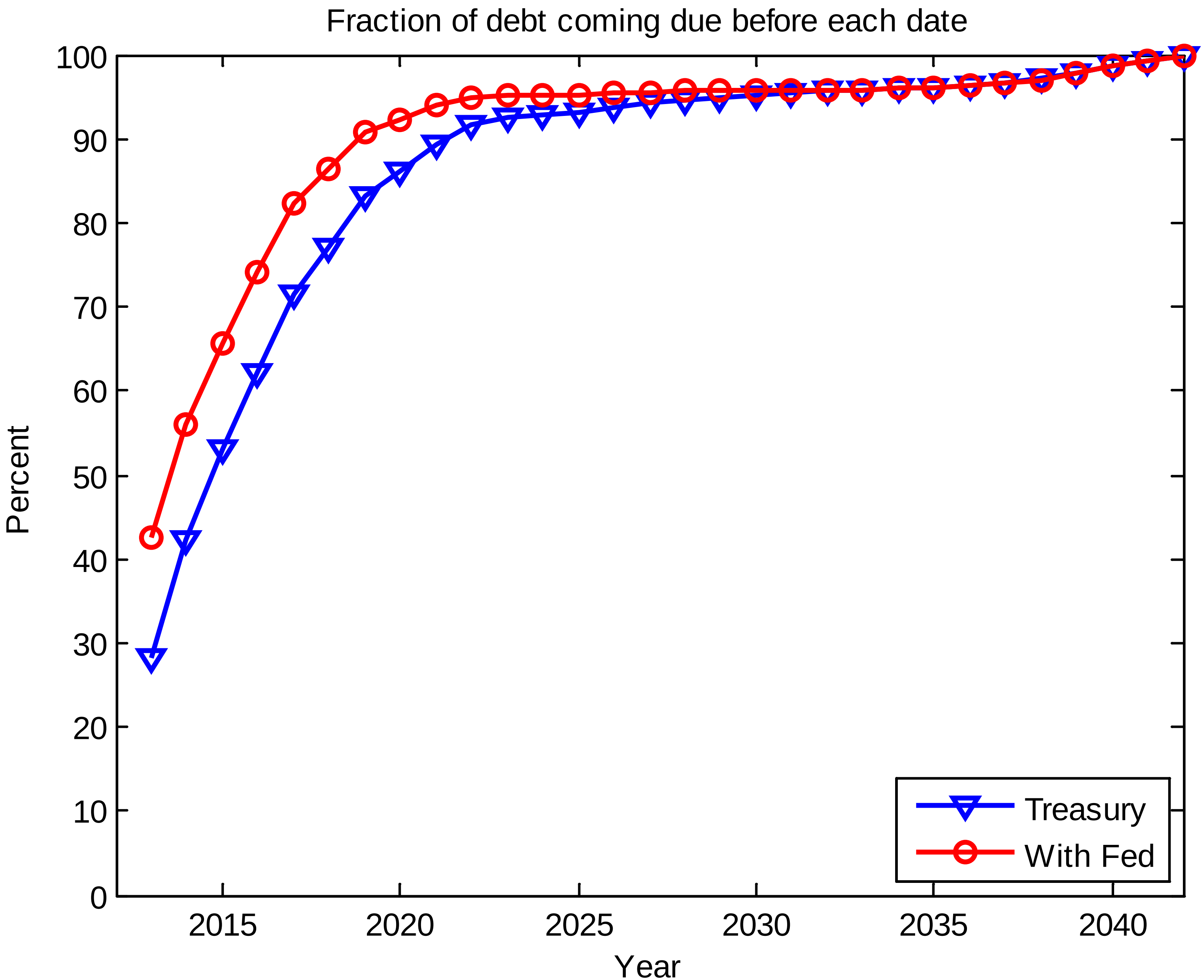
The Effect of Economic Growth on Deficits



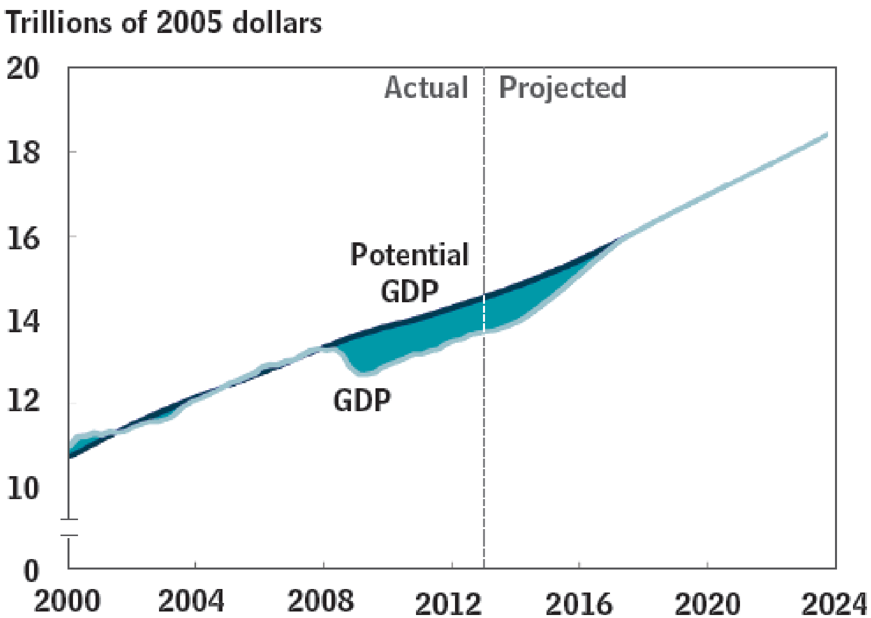
Short term debt: Future problems cause crisis today



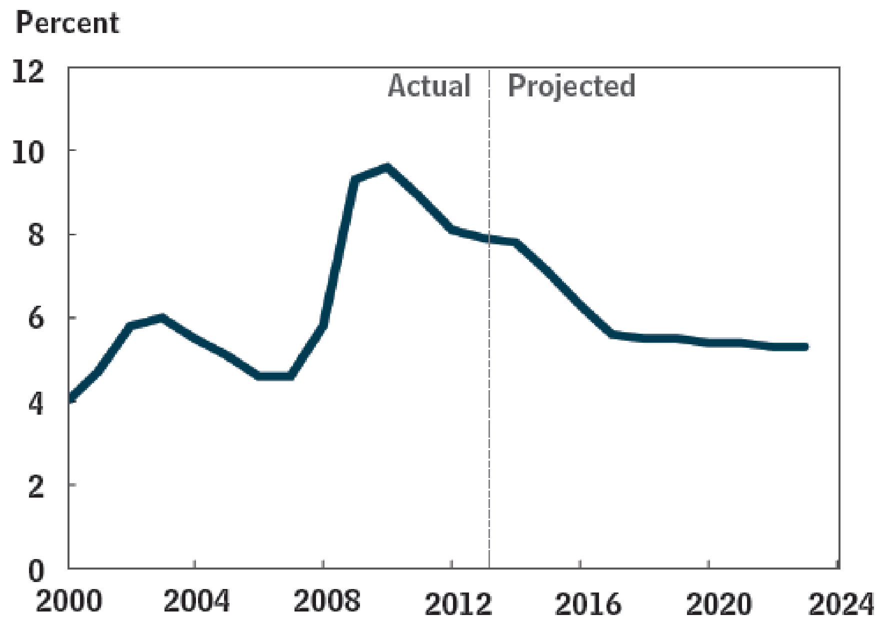
"Financial crises are always and everywhere the result of short term debt"


Fraction of debt coming due before each date
Percent
Year
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
Treasury
With Fed

- But even the CBO’s dire forecast assumes a return to growth! (and magical spending cuts)



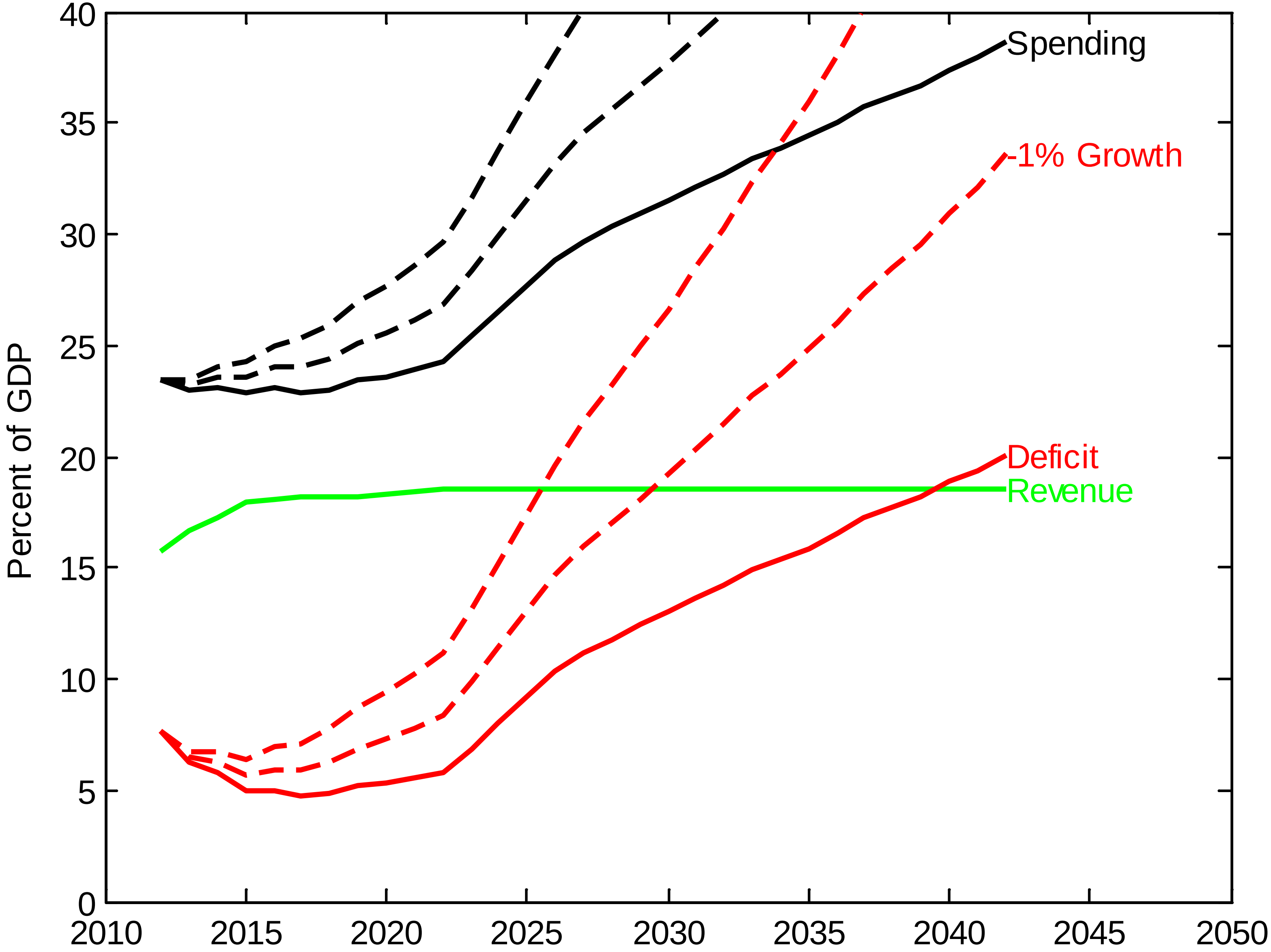
GDP and Potential GDP

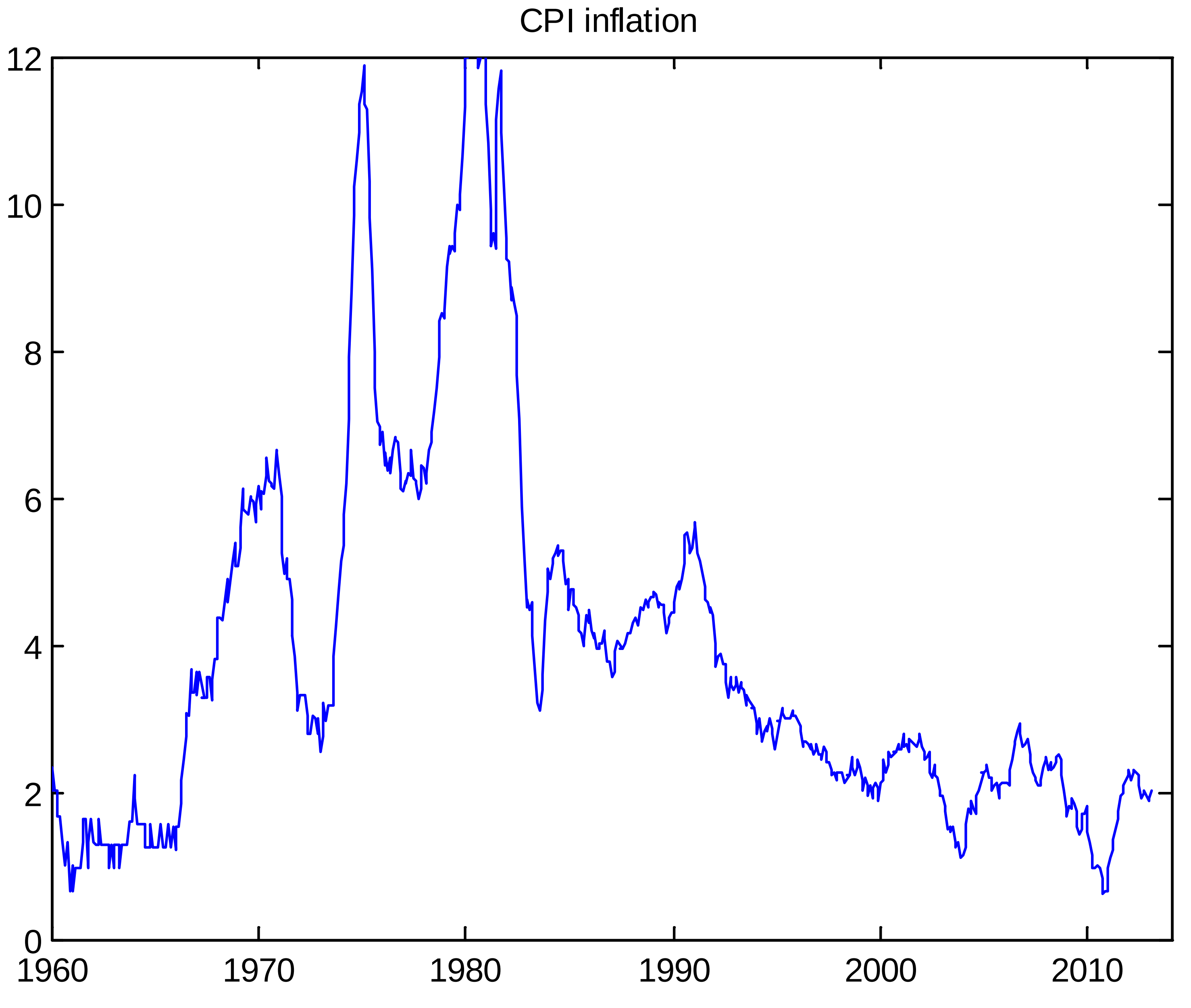


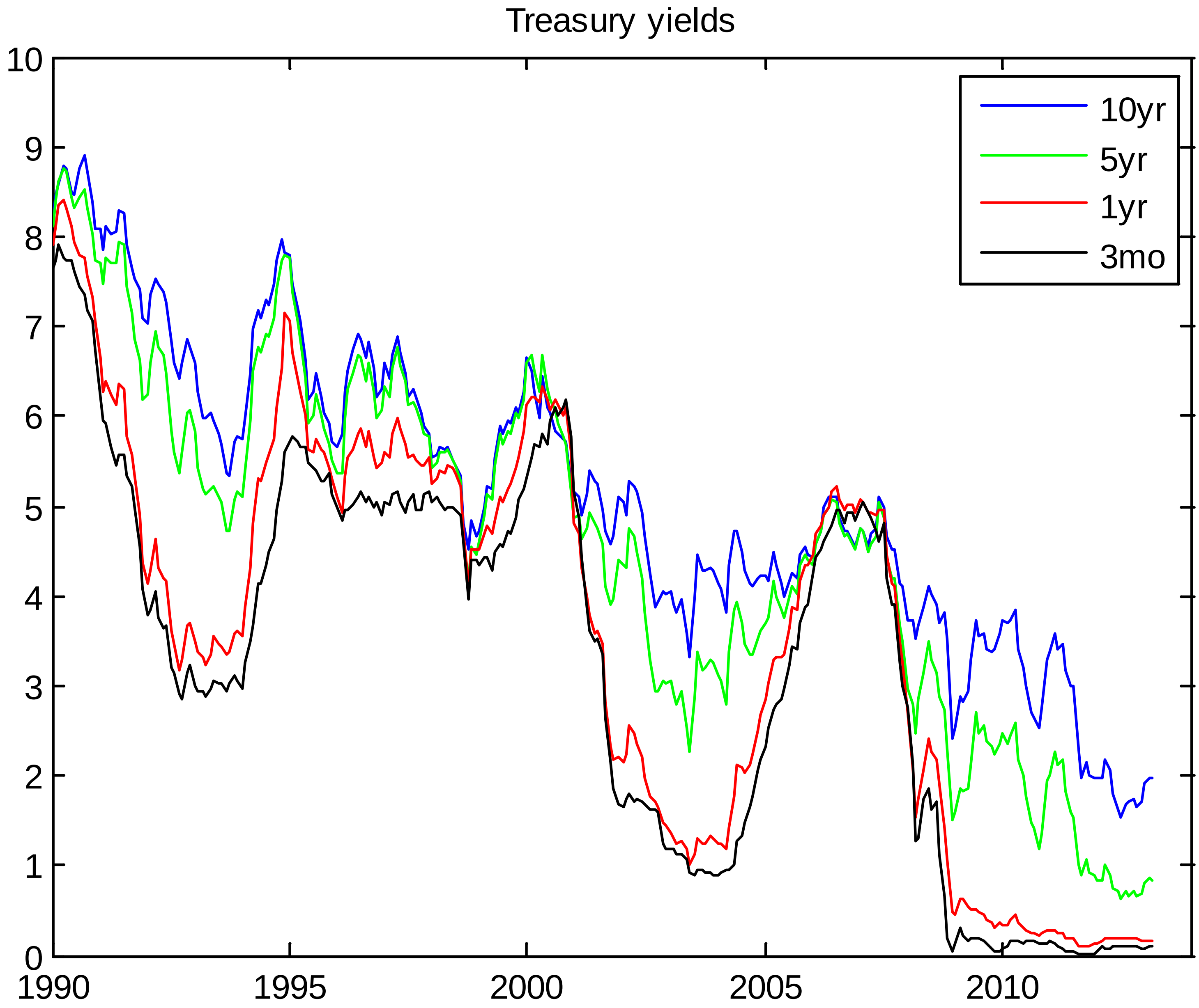
Unemployment Rate

http://cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/43907-BudgetOutlook.pdf

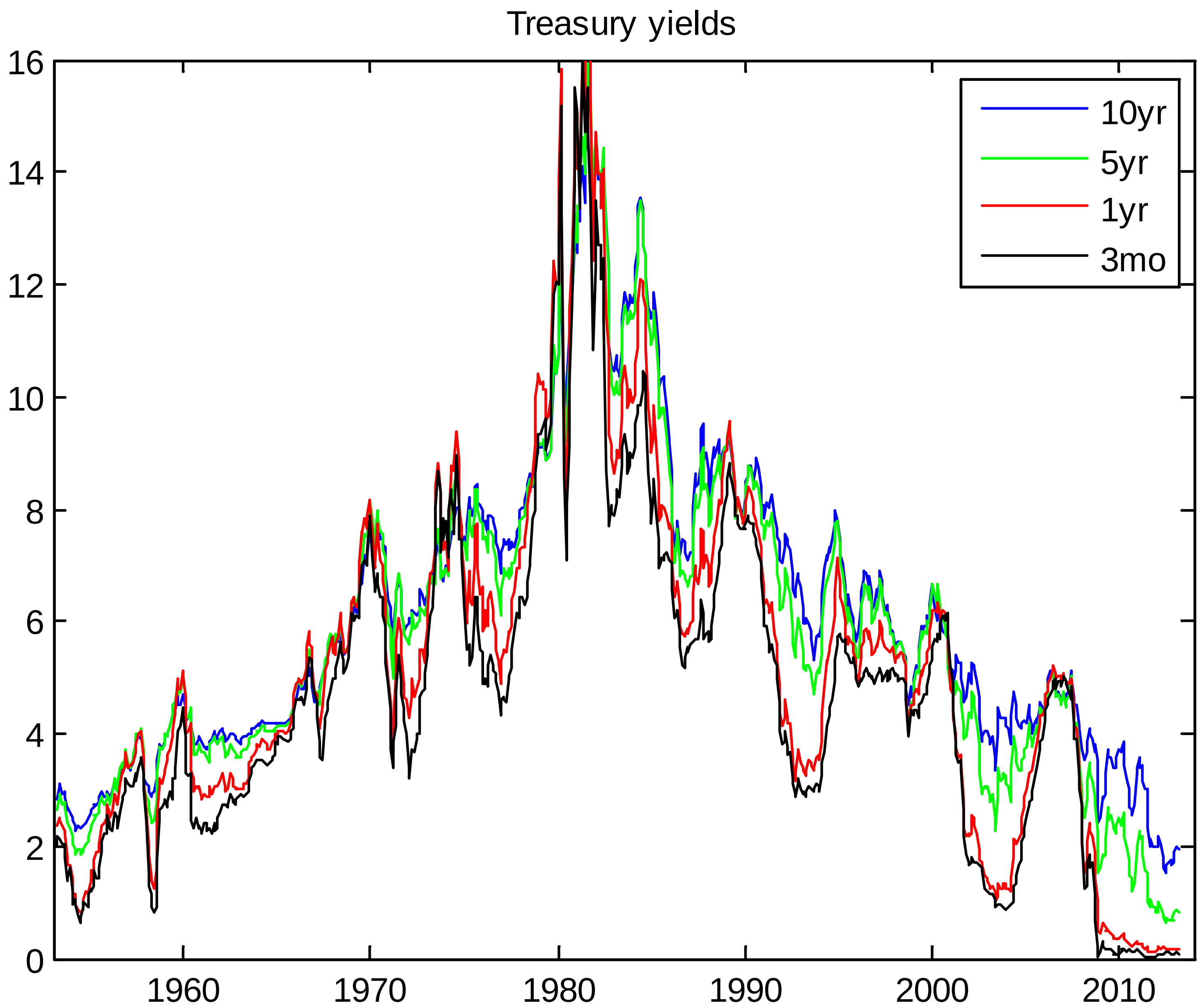
The Effect of Slower Growth on Deficits




CPI inflation
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010



Treasury yields
10yr
5yr
1yr
3mo
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010



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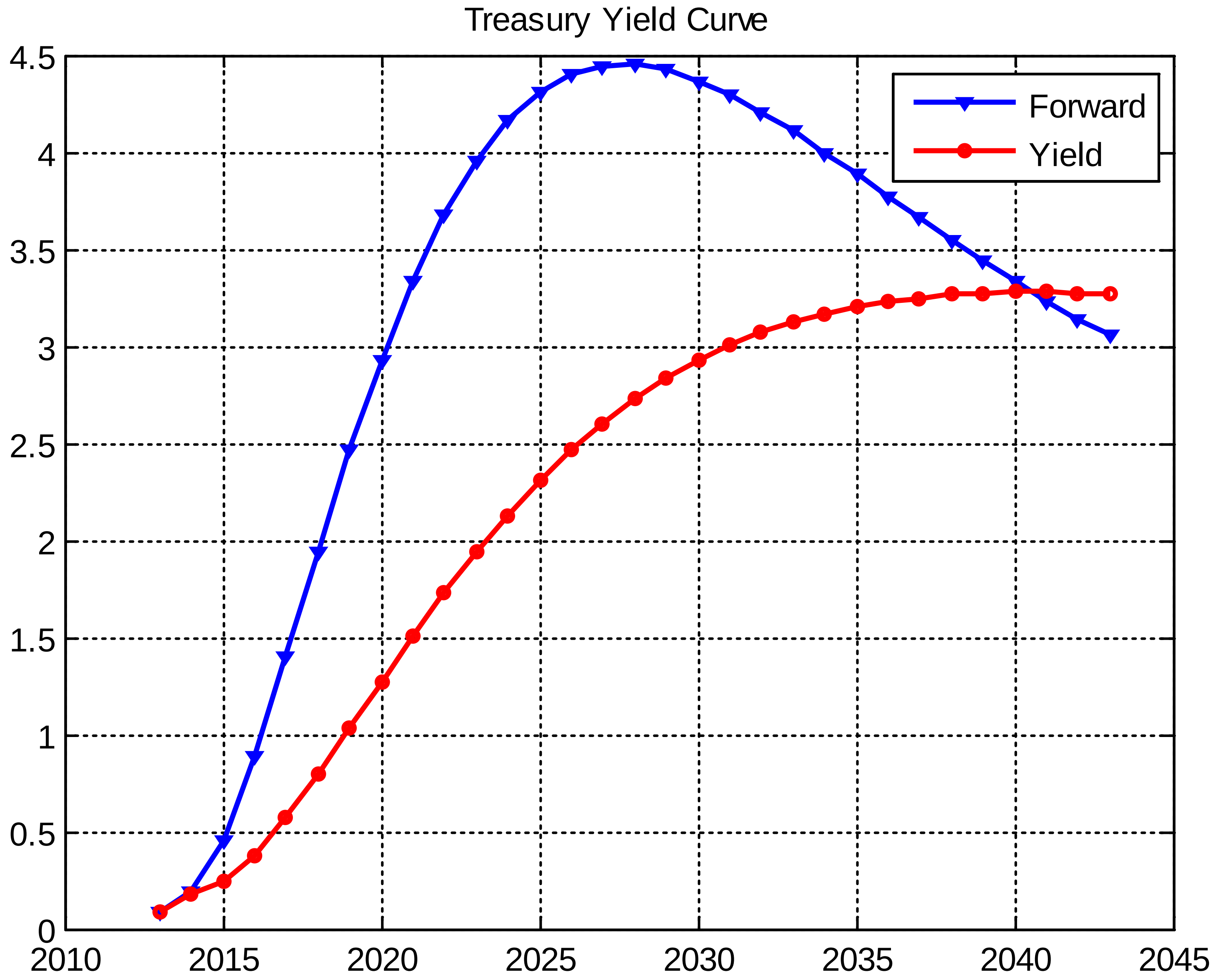
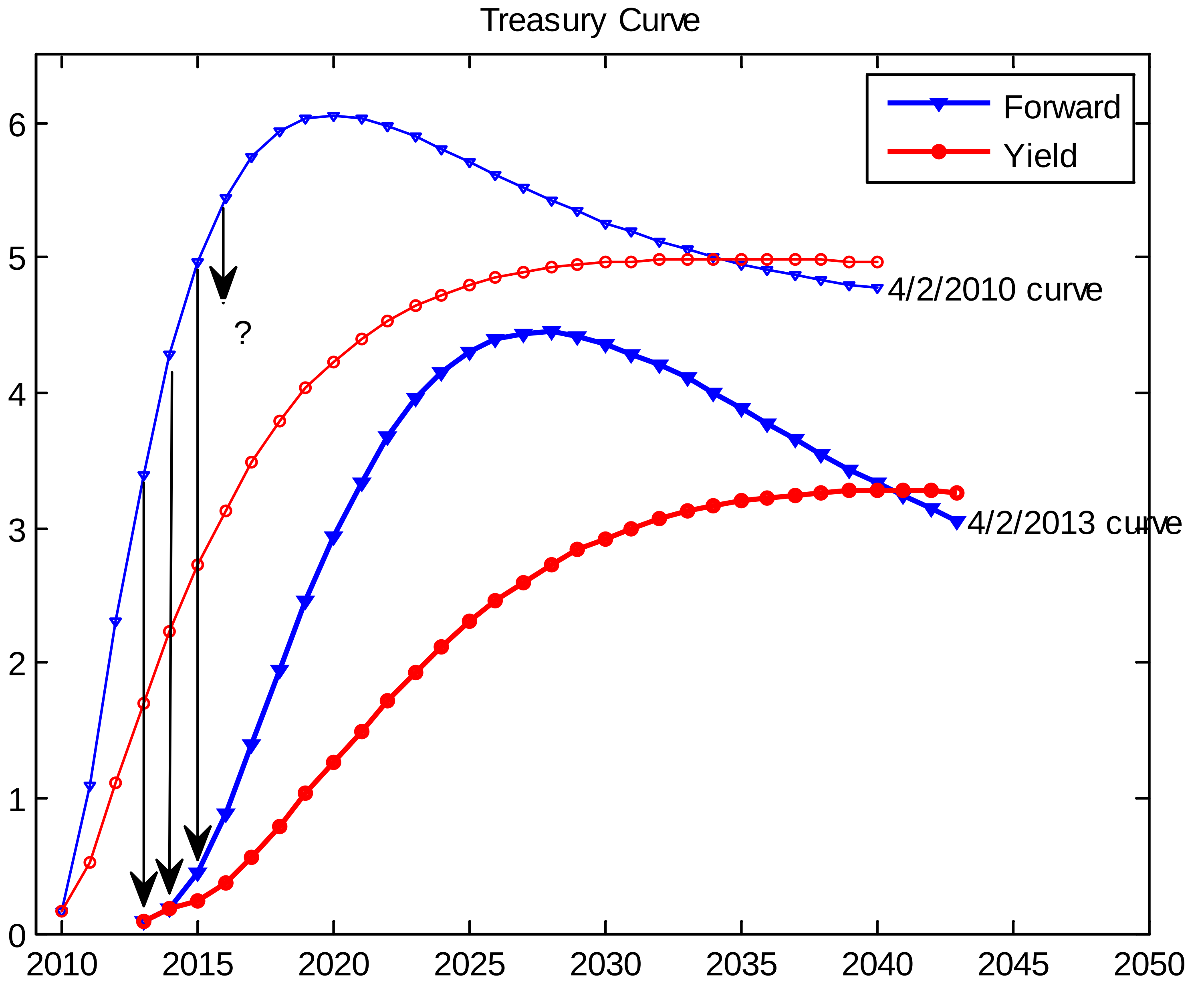
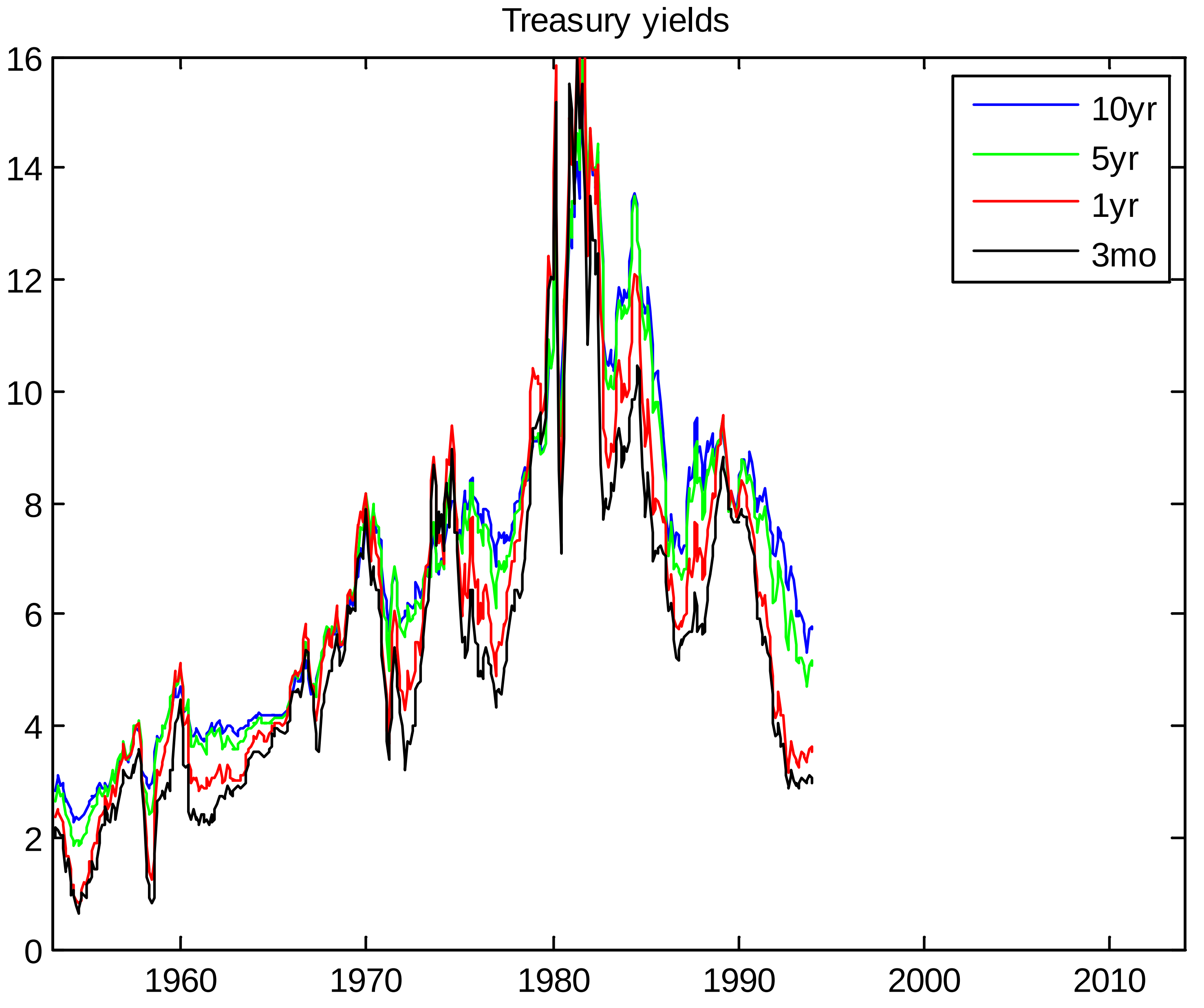


Zero-coupon yield curve 4/2/2013 . Source: Gurkanyak, Sack and Wright (FRB)


Treasury Curve
Forward
Yield
4/2/2010 curve
4/2/2013 curve
?
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
2010
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050



Treasury yields
10yr
5yr
1yr
3mo
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

Scenarios

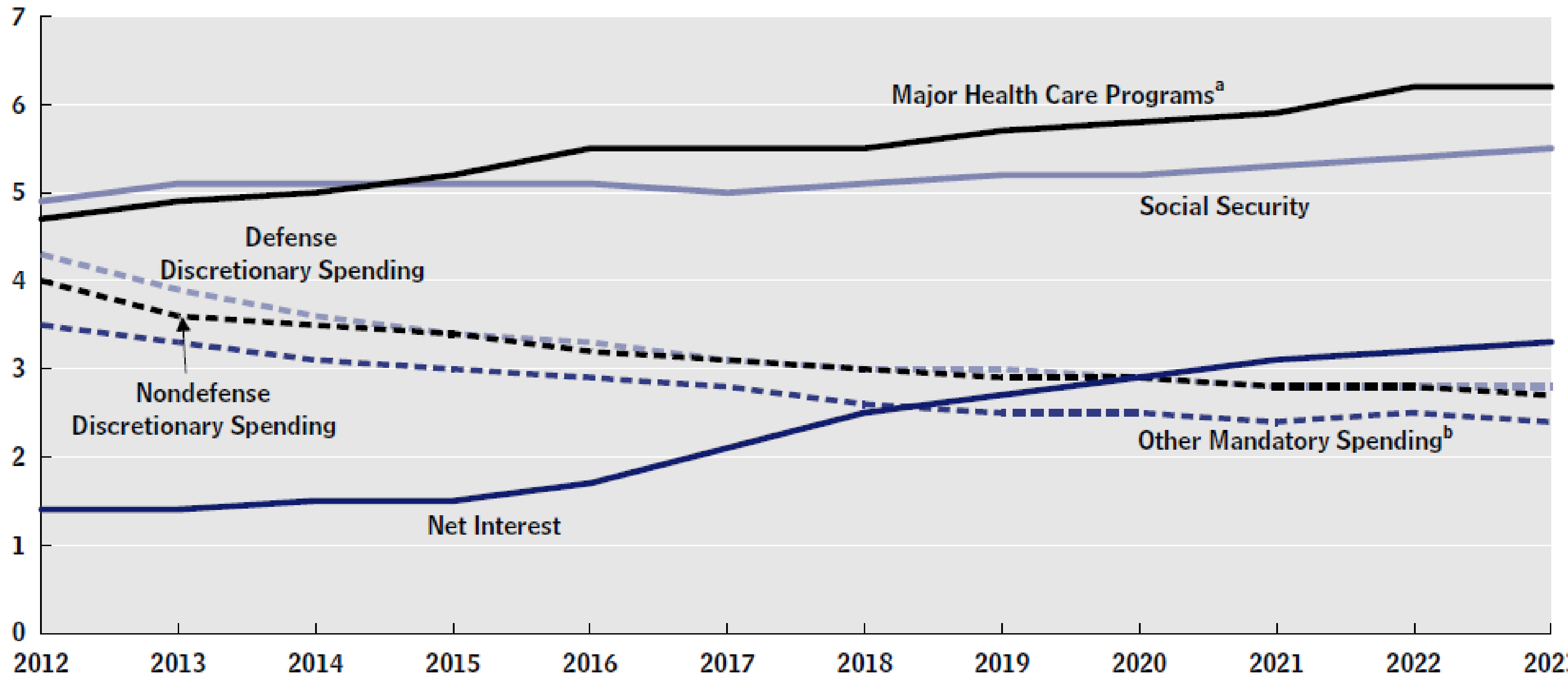
- **Consensus.** Economy improves slowly, slow tightening inflation "anchored." Enough entitlement reform to stop a crisis.
- **Japan.** 10-20 year stagnation, inflation to zero, rates stay zero, great time to hold long term bonds. Debt builds up to magical levels (200%+ GDP)
- **Mild crisis.** Inflation to 3-4%, Fed tries to tighten, can't from fiscal / bank/ political limits, stagflation breaks out.
- **Severe crisis 1:** Rates rise, debt spiral
- **Severe crisis 2:** Europe, state bankruptcy, etc. trigger "run on long sovereign debt" then "run on dollar."
- **Miracle of common sense:** Tax reform, entitlement reform, structural reform, return to strong growth, pay off debt, inflation stays low.
- **Forward curve**: Averages all these + risk premiums.
- **What to do:** Wise portfolio allocation starts with *risk management* not alpha.

The End

Figure 1-3.

Projected Spending in Major Budget Categories

(Percentage of gross domestic product)



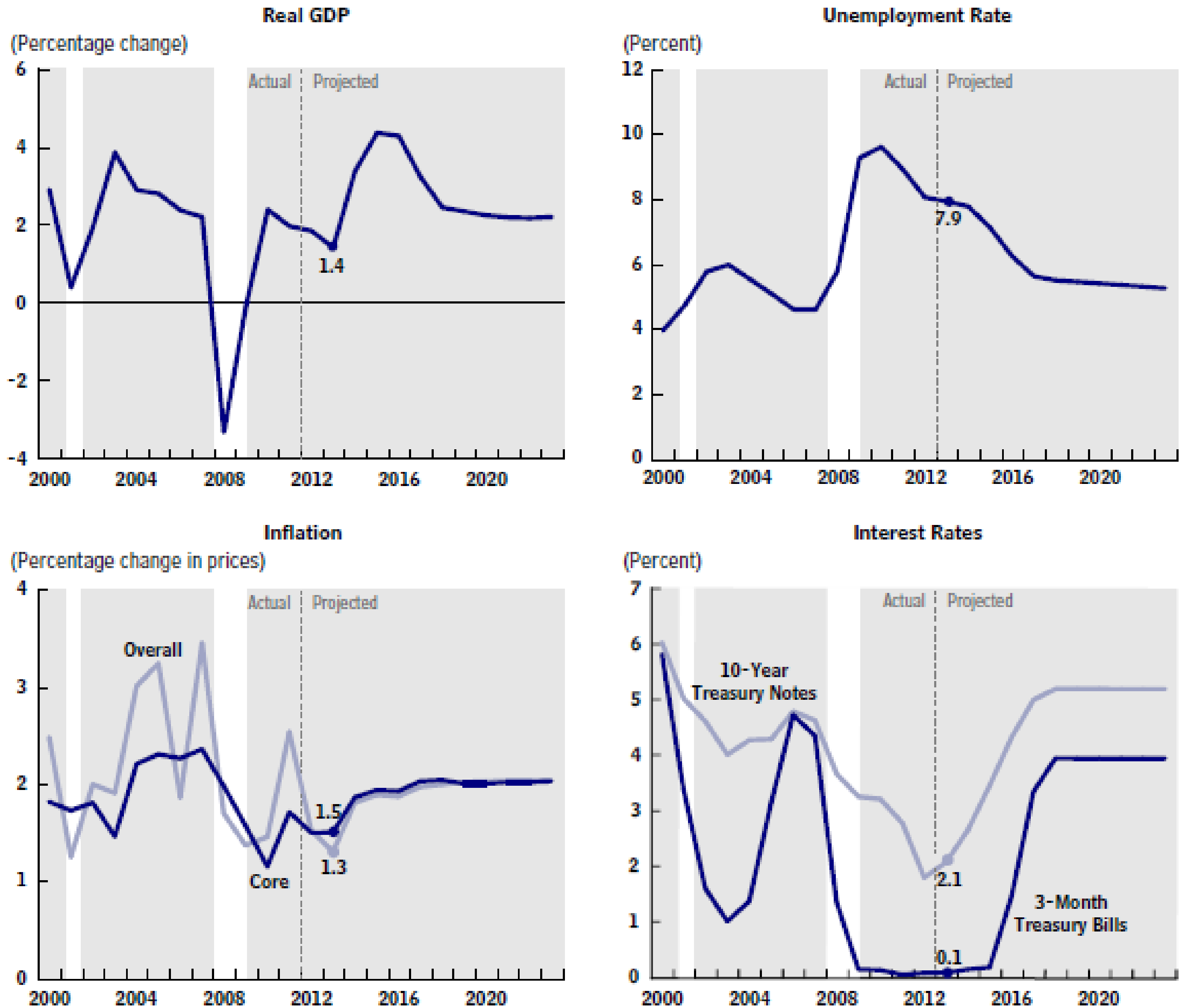
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

a. Includes Medicare (net of receipts from premiums), Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and subsidies offered through new health insurance exchanges and related spending.

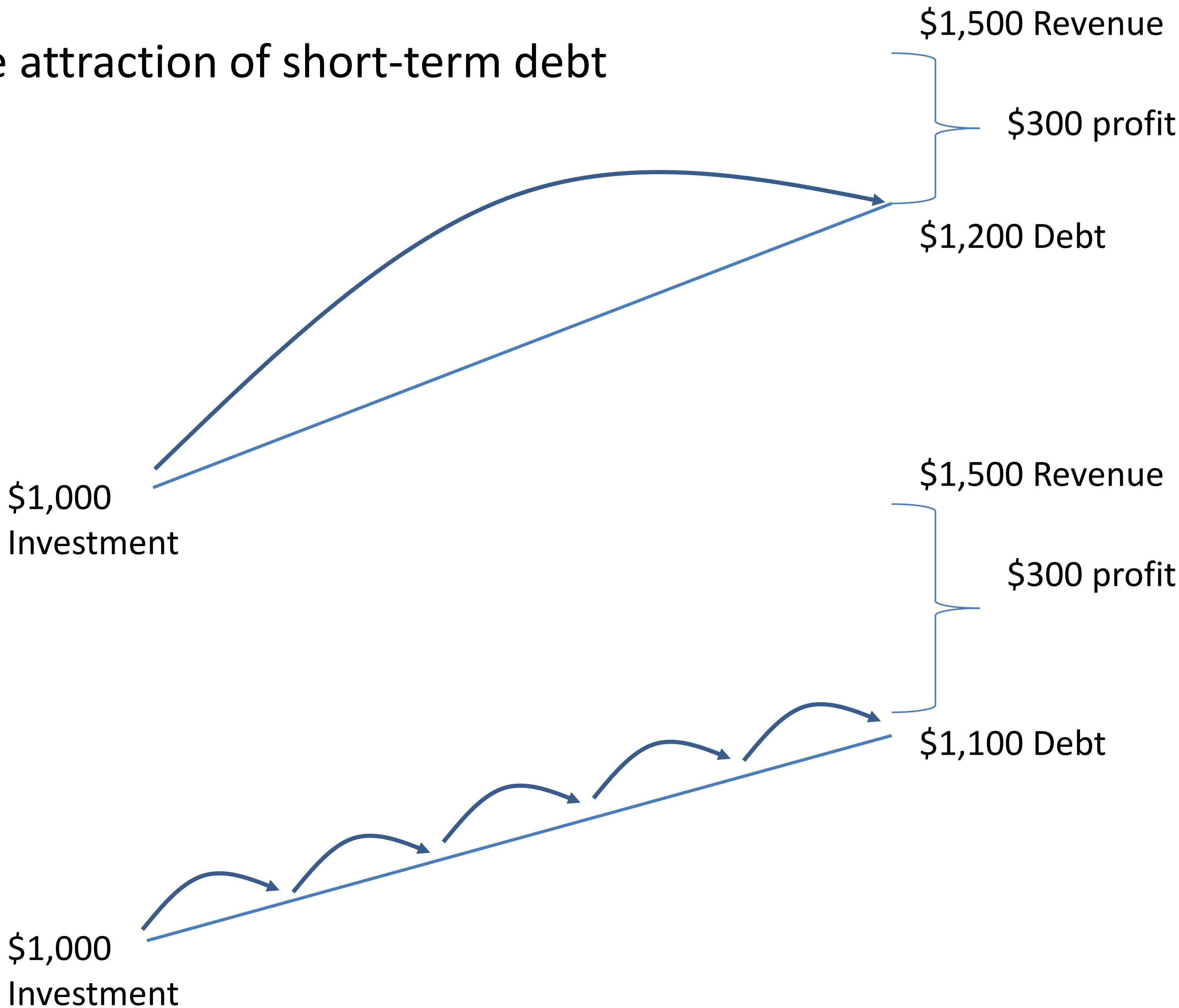
b. Other than mandatory spending for major health care programs and Social Security.

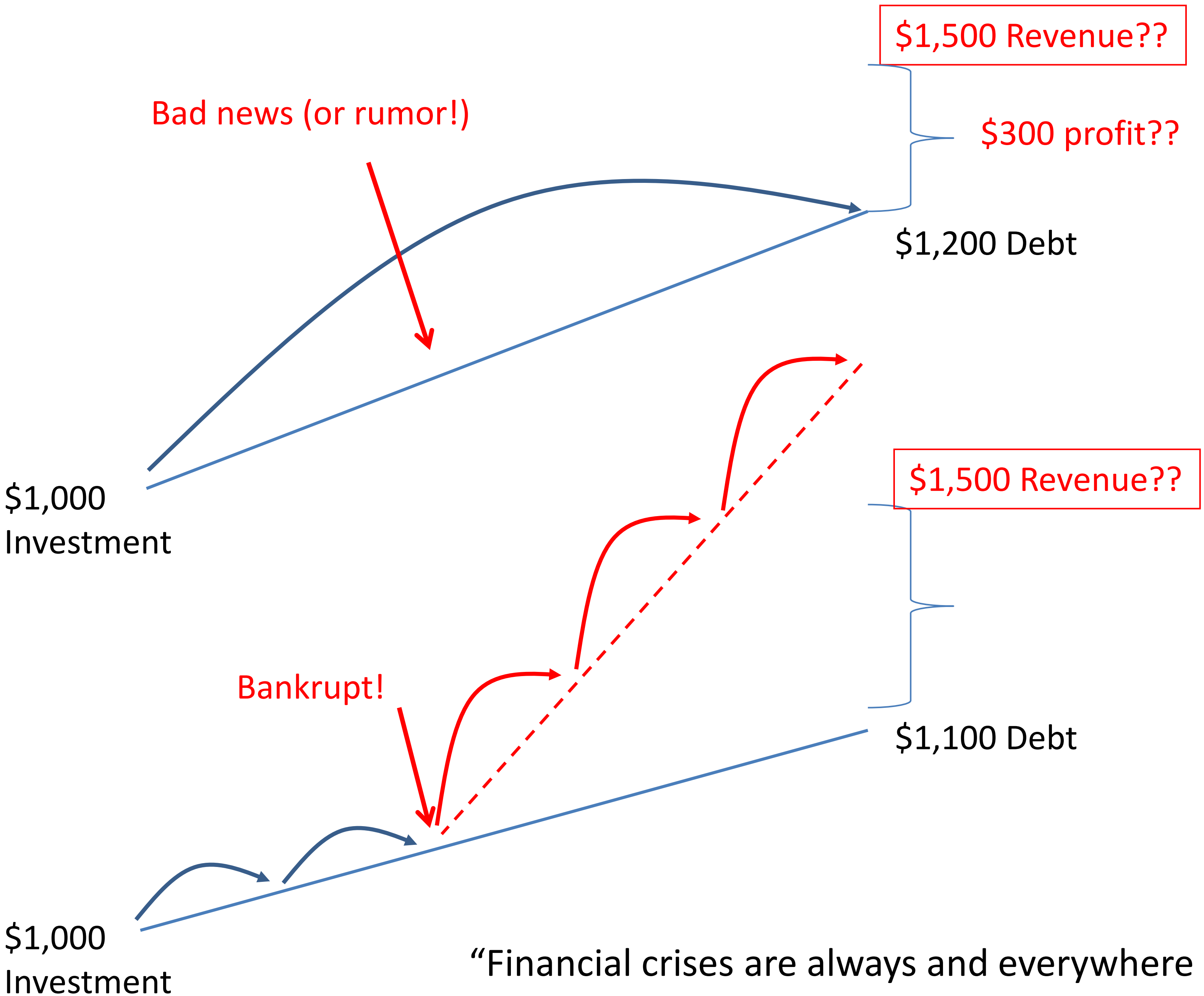
Figure 2-4.

Actual Values and CBO's Projections of Key Economic Indicators



The attraction of short-term debt





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