

# The Grouse House Gazette

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Weekly Thoughts on Music, Nature, and Politics, from the Catskill Mountains

## **FORBES ON TRUMP'S FIRST YEAR...**

### **America's leading financial magazine gives their analysis**

I don't think anyone could have predicted that the constant onslaught of continuous news stories would have been able to keep up the tyrannical pace that we saw in 2017. It was absolutely overwhelming.

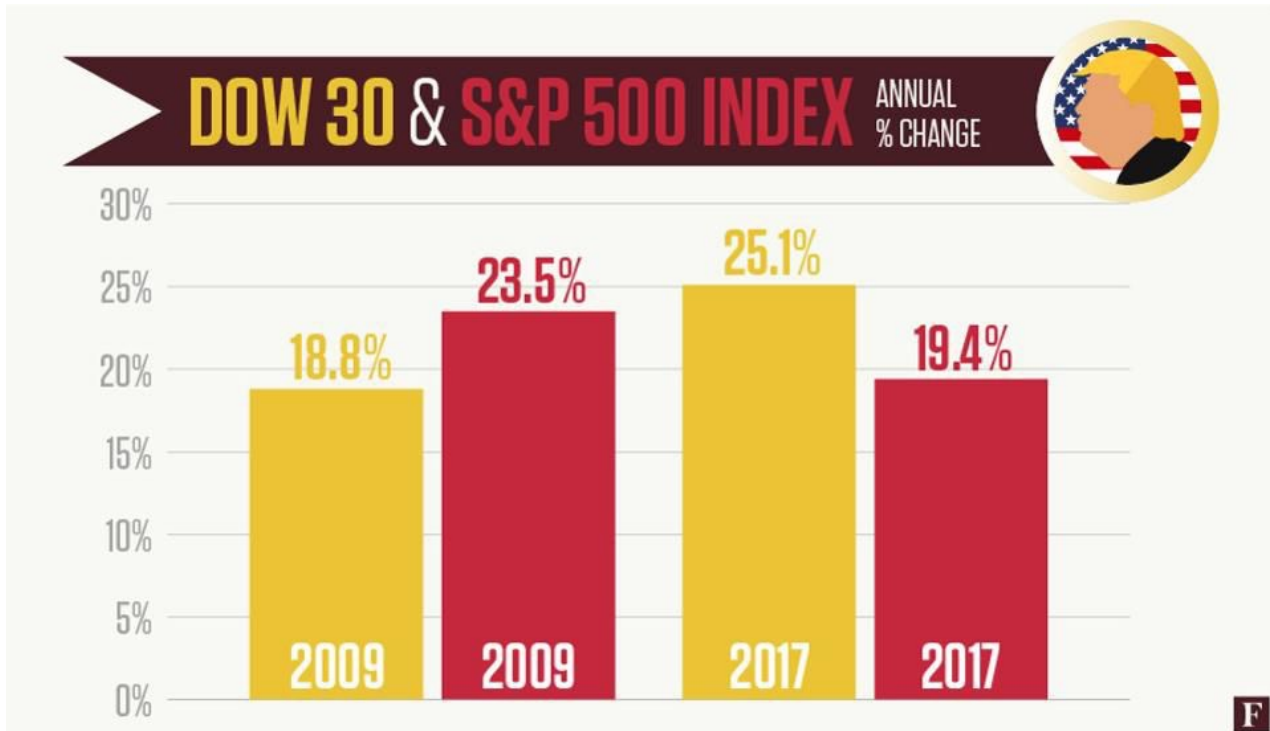
And it has now actually accelerated as we move into 2018 and Mueller draws closer to Trump. And a lot of important stories are being missed.

The fact that our president paid off a porn star \$130,000 and it is not getting much coverage in the news... shows the absolute extreme state of the current information flow being generated by this simpleton. And this sounds more like blackmail than a "keep your mouth shut" payment generated by Trump. And if "Stormy" got \$130,000... just imagine what Putin got... and I am certain that it wasn't money.

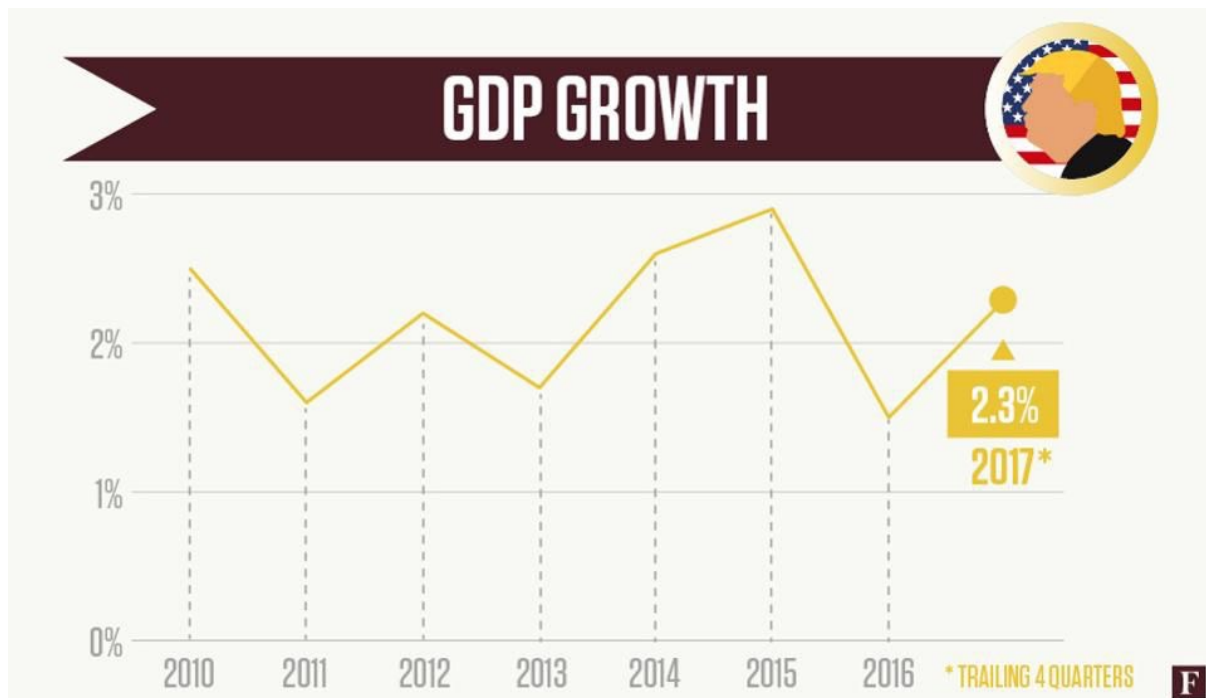
If you've watched Trump at all on television this past month you have surely seen him crowing loudly about the incredible economic miracle of a financial "turnaround" that took place in his first year.

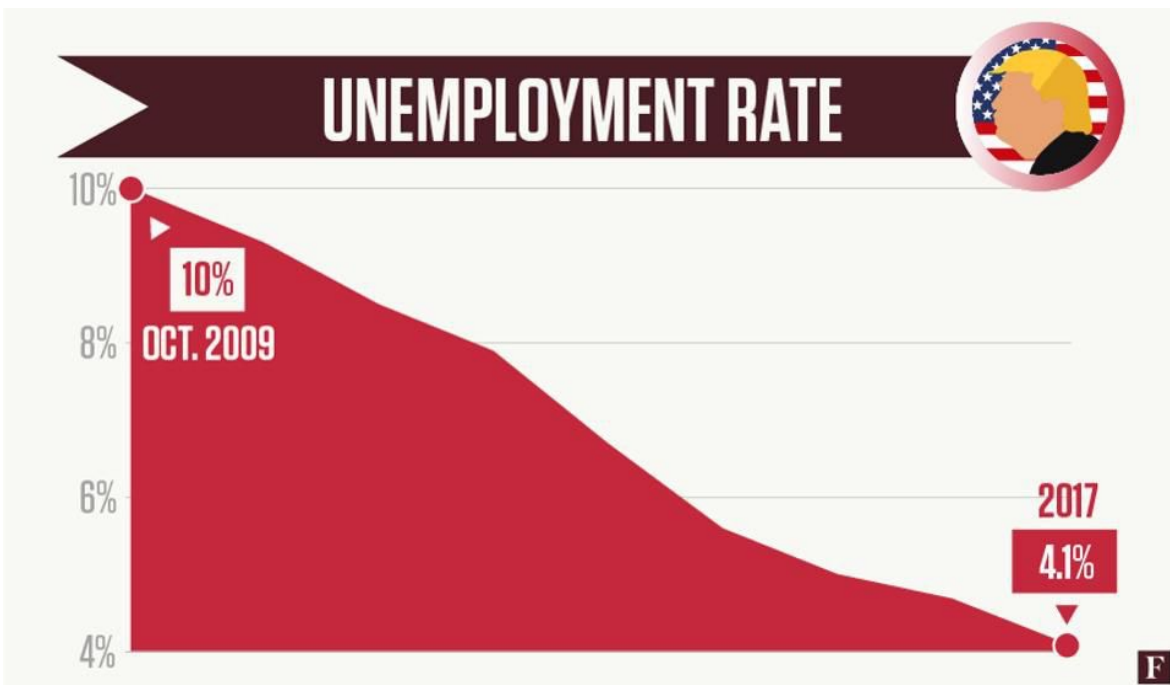
Because the financial magazine *Forbes* doesn't get a broad general circulation... hardly anyone noticed the magazine's financial analysis of Trump's first year in office. So I present some "highlights" below.

[From “Trump’s Economic Scorecard” by Chuck Jones @ Forbes](#)



This compares the market gains of Obama & Trump’s first years. Though most people talk about the “DOW” ... any good financial guy will tell you that the S&P 500 is a better overall economic indicator.

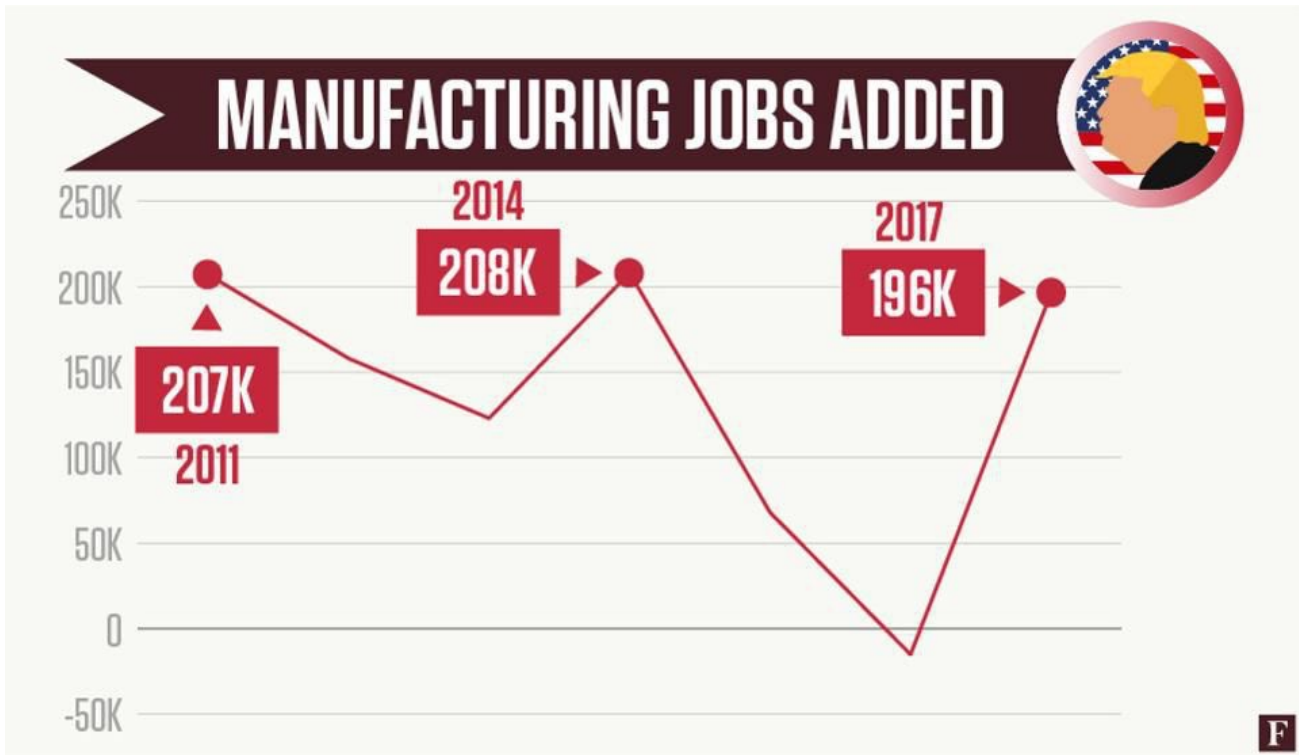




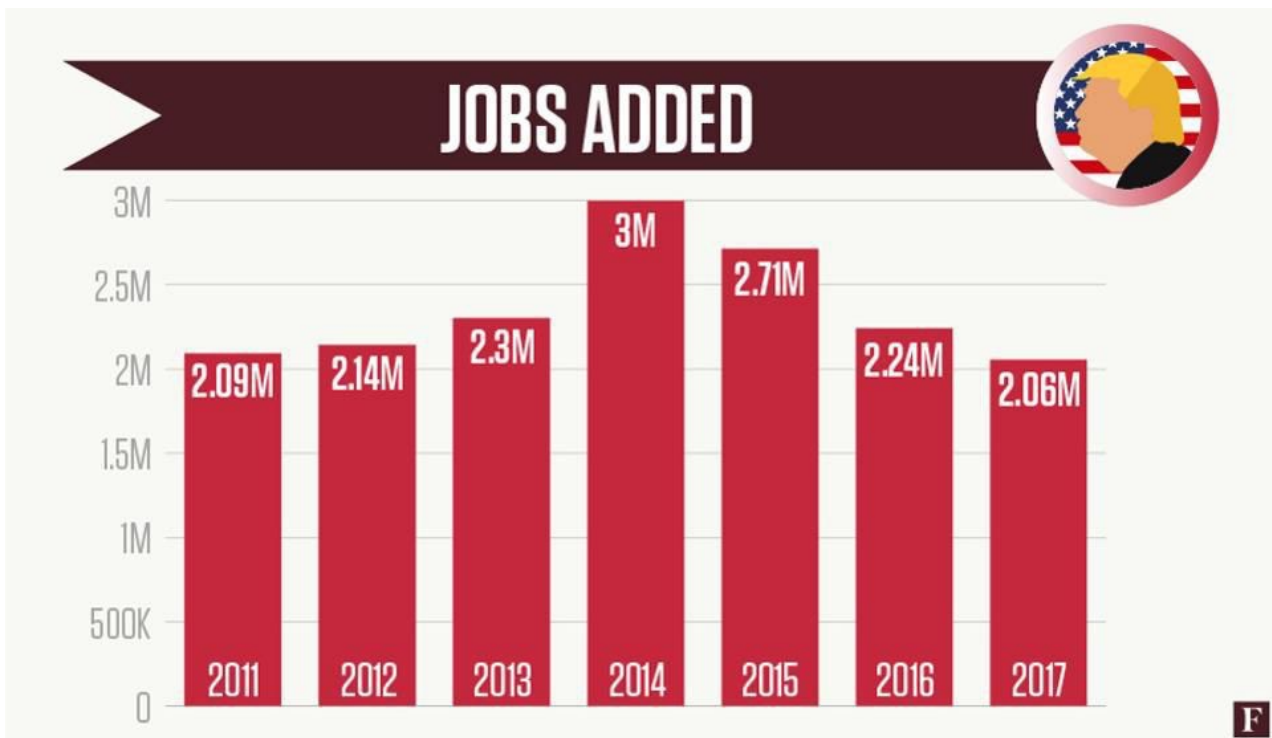
The unemployment rate peaked at 10.0% in October 2009 and has been on a downward trajectory since. 2017 was the eighth year in a row that it has fallen. We are essentially at technical “full employment”.



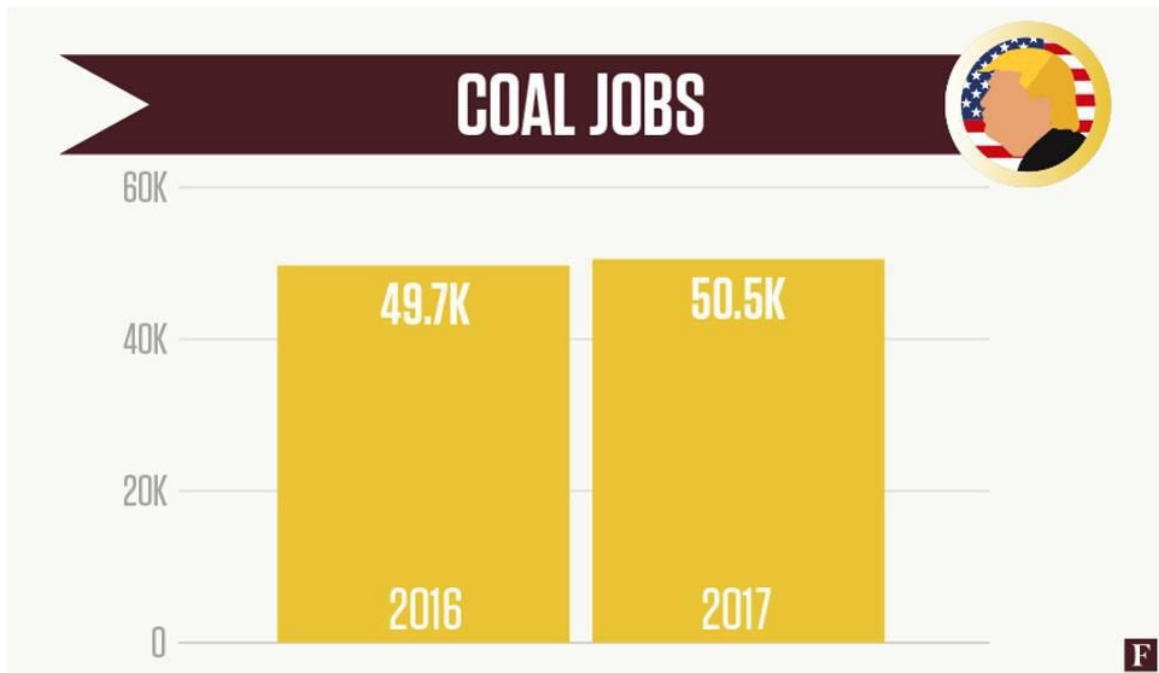
The 2.5% hourly wage rate growth was a bit less than 2016’s 2.9% and mirrored 2015’s. It is yet to be seen if the tax cuts will help.



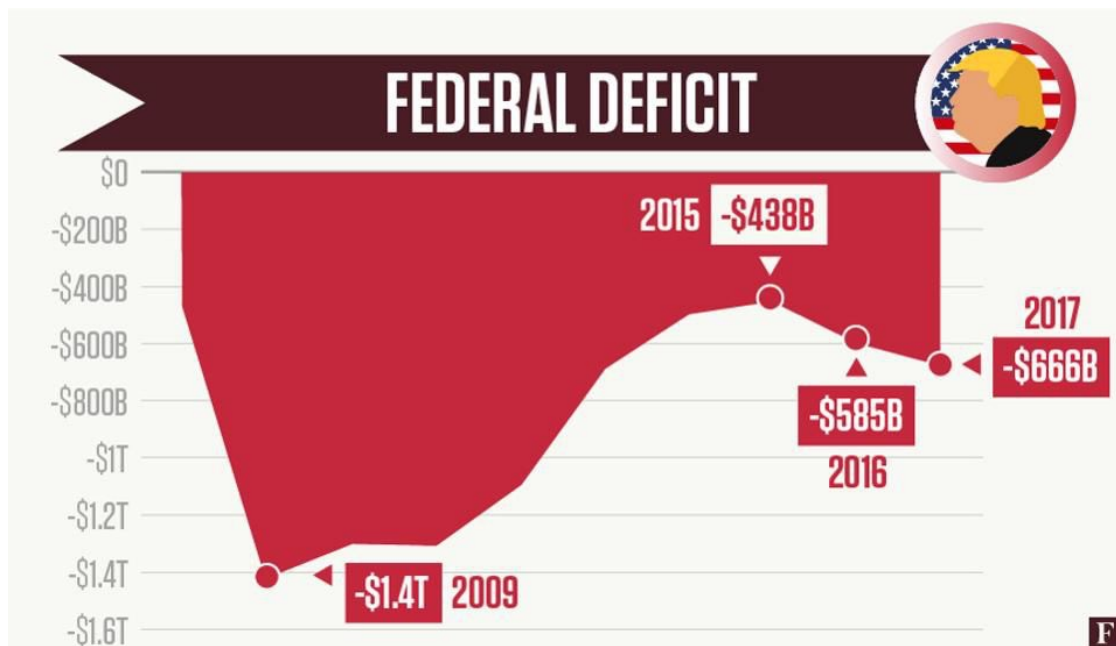
Manufacturing job growth bounced back to the levels seen in 2011 and 2014. However, if wages rise too much companies could invest in automation, which would keep large increases in check.



More jobs were added in Obama's final year than in Trump's first.



There were 800 coal jobs added in 2017 (so long suckers!)



Similar to the unemployment rate, the federal deficit reached a peak in 2009 and started a downward trend until 2015. However, it increased in 2016 and is expected to continue to grow due to the tax bill passing.

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For some reason "Forbes Link" works on "Chrome" but not "Safari"... I have no clue about Microsoft's Browser.