

Graphic detail

Daily chart

Tracking America in the age of Trump

Eleven measures that take the temperature of Donald Trump's America

Graphic detail

Jun 4th 2018

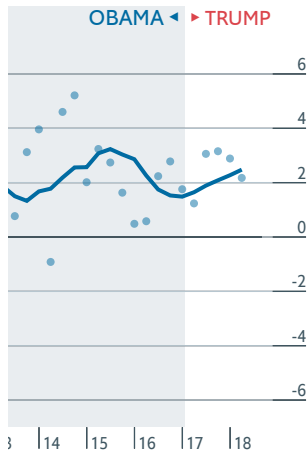
DONALD TRUMP'S campaign slogan promised to "Make America Great Again". Mr Trump is now 500 days into his presidency, and seems ready to proclaim victory. The president reckons that a strong economy and soaring confidence are a result of his policies. "Best Economy & Jobs EVER," he tweeted today. Dissenters assert that Mr Trump is reaping the benefits of policies enacted by the previous administration and that he has achieved little beyond a tax cut that favours the rich. In an effort to peer through the partisanship *The Economist* has compiled 11 charts that keep tabs on Mr Trump as he progresses through the remaining 961 days (at least) of his presidency.

erage, monthly average



Mr Trump admitted he was "very proud" when the stockmarket rallied after his inauguration. During his first year in office he tweeted 14 times about the Dow Jones Industrial Average, an index tracking 30 big American firms. The president likes to take credit for the Dow's performance; it has **risen 24% since he took office**. But what goes up often comes down.

erage, % change on year earlier



On the campaign trail Mr Trump stated that he would grow the economy by "four percent" a year, or perhaps as much as "six percent". Many reckon this extremely unrealistic: GDP growth has averaged 2.6% a year over the previous 30 years. In Mr Trump's time in office, it has **risen by 2.52% on an annualised basis**.

it

Subscribe

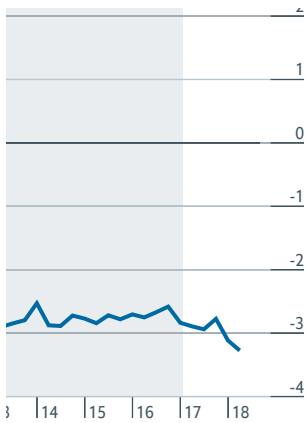
or sign up to enjoy 3 articles free

Get full access to *The Economist* via print, online and our apps or sign up to enjoy 3 articles free.

Subscribe

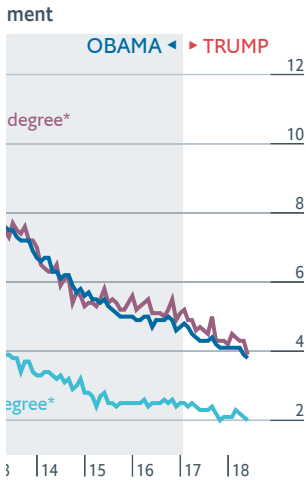
+ receive a free reusable coffee cup

Sign up: 3 articles per week



America last ran a trade surplus in 1975 and Mr Trump thinks that is an embarrassment. The president has promised to fix it with his deal-making skills. Thus far he has withdrawn from a pending Pacific trade deal and is renegotiating NAFTA, and he is now threatening a full-scale trade war. In the three months to **March 2018** the trade deficit was **0.44% of GDP higher than it was when Mr Trump took office.**

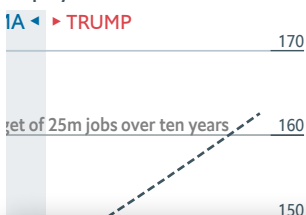
ate



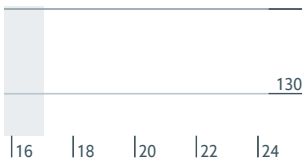
Mr Trump inherited a healthy labour market upon entering office. The jobless rate fell from a 26-year high of 10% in 2009 to 4.8% in January 2017. It has **since fallen another 0.9 percentage points as of May 2018.** Mr Trump claimed in August that "unemployment is at a record low" but it needs to **fall by a further 1.3 percentage points** to beat the record of 2.5% set in 1953.

*Aged 25 years and over

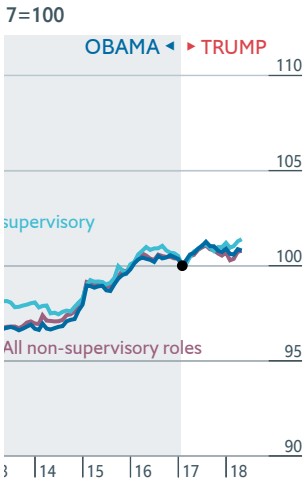
employed, m



On the campaign trail, Mr Trump promised to create 25 million jobs in a decade, a sustained rate of job growth never seen before. There were another 15.8m employed in



Great Recession. A **further 2.1m** have since found work. So far, he is **146,163 jobs behind his target's schedule.**



American blue-collar workers have suffered a chronic lack of earnings growth in recent years. From 2009-17, wage-earners' real pay increased an average of just 0.5% per year, and stagnated among manufacturing workers. Since Mr Trump took office pay for **all wage earners has increased by 0.6% a year on average**, and for **manufacturing workers it has risen by 1.1%.**

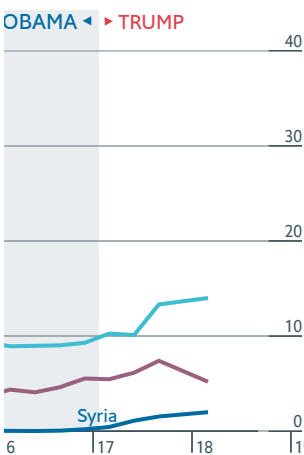
on



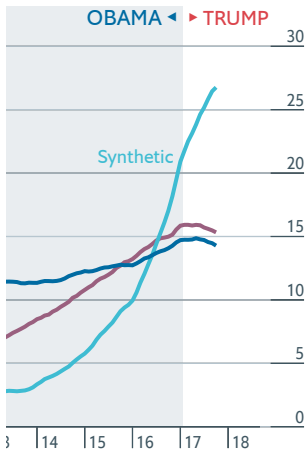
Controlling immigration was a cornerstone of Mr Trump's election platform. While progress on a border wall with Mexico has been slow, rhetoric alone seemed enough: apprehensions at the Mexican border—a proxy for illegal immigration—fell 75% in the six months following Mr Trump's victory. But they have **since risen**. While **deportations have fallen**, **arrests of immigrants have risen 13.4%** since Mr Trump took the oath.

*ICE detentions

duty

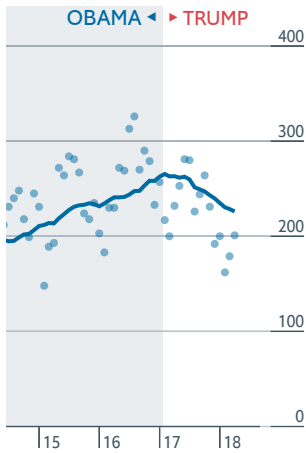


While Mr Trump seems willing to engage in a sparring match with foreign leaders on Twitter he has not yet started any new wars. He was opposed to the war in Iraq, after he was for it, and blamed the rise of ISIS on the "weakness and incompetence" of the Democrats. In an effort to reduce the threat of Islamic extremism Mr Trump has so far **committed an additional 6,162 troops** to Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.



To his credit Mr Trump has highlighted the damage that the opioid epidemic has done to vast swathes of America. But he has done little since to help abate it. In the **12 months to October 2017 there were 56,365** opioid overdose deaths, **up 22%** from a year earlier. While deaths from **prescription opioids** and **heroin** appear to be falling, **synthetic opioids have killed 57% more people in the past year** than in the one before.

cities*, 12-month rolling average



In early 2017 Mr Trump promised to “send in the Feds” if Chicago doesn’t “fix the horrible carnage”. That carnage was a 57% rise in murders in 2016. But it is not the only city where violence spiked. Across ten cities murders increased from a low of 2,318 in the 12 months to July 2014 to 3,138 upon the president’s inauguration. That number has since **fallen to 2,713 as of April 2018**. In Chicago **they are now 22% below their peak**.

*Baltimore; Chicago; Detroit; Houston; Los Angeles; Louisville; New Orleans; New York; Philadelphia, St. Louis

Next

America is good at dealing with hurricanes on the mainland—after they strike

You’ve seen the news, now discover the story

Get incisive analysis on the issues that matter. Whether you read each issue cover to cover, listen to the audio edition, or scan the headlines on your phone, time with *The Economist* is always well spent.

Enjoy great savings

+ receive a free reusable coffee cup