

## ACTIVITY 2

### ELECTIONS AND THE ECONOMY

The following table includes information about three key measures (growth in real GDP per capita, unemployment rate, and inflation rate) of the annual performance of the U.S. economy since 1957.

**TABLE 2**

| Year | Growth<br>in Real<br>GDP per<br>Capita<br>(in %) | Unempl.<br>Rate<br>(in %) | Inflation<br>Rate<br>(in %) | Misery<br>Index | Real<br>GDP per<br>Capita<br>Growth<br>Rule | Misery<br>Index<br>Rule | Candidates                       | Incumbent<br>Party<br>Wins or<br>Loses? |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1957 | 0.3                                              | 4.3                       | 3.4                         | 7.7             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1958 | -2.4                                             | 6.8                       | 2.7                         | 9.5             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1959 | 5.1                                              | 5.5                       | 0.9                         | 6.5             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1960 | 0.5                                              | 5.5                       | 1.5                         | 7.0             | _____                                       | _____                   | Kennedy /<br>Nixon               | _____                                   |
| 1961 | 0.9                                              | 6.7                       | 1.1                         | 7.8             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1962 | 4.5                                              | 5.6                       | 1.2                         | 6.8             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1963 | 2.9                                              | 5.6                       | 1.3                         | 6.9             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1964 | 4.3                                              | 5.2                       | 1.3                         | 6.5             | _____                                       | _____                   | Johnson /<br>Goldwater           | _____                                   |
| 1965 | 5.2                                              | 4.5                       | 1.6                         | 6.1             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1966 | 5.4                                              | 3.8                       | 3.0                         | 6.8             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1967 | 1.6                                              | 3.8                       | 2.8                         | 6.6             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1968 | 3.9                                              | 3.6                       | 4.2                         | 7.8             | _____                                       | _____                   | Humphrey /<br>Nixon / Wallace    | _____                                   |
| 1969 | 2.1                                              | 3.5                       | 5.4                         | 8.9             |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1970 | -0.9                                             | 5.0                       | 5.9                         | 10.9            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1971 | 2.0                                              | 6.0                       | 4.2                         | 10.2            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1972 | 4.2                                              | 5.6                       | 3.3                         | 8.9             | _____                                       | _____                   | McGovern /<br>Nixon              | _____                                   |
| 1973 | 4.6                                              | 4.9                       | 6.3                         | 11.2            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1974 | -1.4                                             | 5.6                       | 11.0                        | 16.6            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1975 | -1.2                                             | 8.5                       | 9.1                         | 17.6            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1976 | 4.4                                              | 7.7                       | 5.8                         | 13.5            | _____                                       | _____                   | Carter /<br>Ford                 | _____                                   |
| 1977 | 3.6                                              | 7.1                       | 6.5                         | 13.6            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1978 | 4.4                                              | 6.1                       | 7.6                         | 13.7            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1979 | 2.0                                              | 5.9                       | 11.3                        | 17.2            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1980 | -1.4                                             | 7.2                       | 13.5                        | 20.7            | _____                                       | _____                   | Carter /<br>Reagan /<br>Anderson | _____                                   |
| 1981 | 1.6                                              | 7.6                       | 10.4                        | 18.0            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1982 | -2.8                                             | 9.7                       | 6.2                         | 15.9            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1983 | 3.7                                              | 9.6                       | 3.2                         | 12.8            |                                             |                         |                                  |                                         |
| 1984 | 6.3                                              | 7.5                       | 4.4                         | 11.9            | _____                                       | _____                   | Mondale /<br>Reagan              | _____                                   |

## ACTIVITY 2, CONTINUED

| Year | Growth<br>in Real<br>GDP per<br>Capita<br>(in %) | Unempl.<br>Rate<br>(in %) | Inflation<br>Rate<br>(in %) | Misery<br>Index | Real<br>GDP per<br>Capita<br>Growth<br>Rule | Misery<br>Index<br>Rule | Candidates                | Incumbent<br>Party<br>Wins or<br>Loses? |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1985 | 3.3                                              | 7.2                       | 3.5                         | 10.7            |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1986 | 2.6                                              | 7.0                       | 1.9                         | 8.9             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1987 | 2.5                                              | 6.2                       | 3.6                         | 9.8             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1988 | 3.3                                              | 5.5                       | 4.1                         | 9.6             | _____                                       | _____                   | Dukakis /<br>Bush         | _____                                   |
| 1989 | 2.7                                              | 5.3                       | 4.8                         | 10.1            |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1990 | 0.8                                              | 5.6                       | 5.4                         | 11.0            |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1991 | -1.4                                             | 6.9                       | 4.2                         | 11.1            |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1992 | 2.2                                              | 7.5                       | 3.0                         | 10.5            | _____                                       | _____                   | Clinton / Bush /<br>Perot | _____                                   |
| 1993 | 1.4                                              | 6.9                       | 3.0                         | 9.9             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1994 | 2.8                                              | 6.1                       | 2.6                         | 8.7             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1995 | 1.5                                              | 5.6                       | 2.8                         | 8.4             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1996 | 2.5                                              | 5.4                       | 2.9                         | 8.3             | _____                                       | _____                   | Clinton / Dole            | _____                                   |
| 1997 | 3.2                                              | 4.9                       | 2.3                         | 7.2             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1998 | 3.2                                              | 4.5                       | 1.5                         | 6.0             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 1999 | 3.5                                              | 4.2                       | 2.2                         | 6.4             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2000 | 3.0                                              | 4.0                       | 3.4                         | 7.4             | _____                                       | _____                   | Gore / Bush               | _____                                   |
| 2001 | 0.0                                              | 4.7                       | 2.8                         | 7.5             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2002 | 0.8                                              | 5.8                       | 1.6                         | 7.4             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2003 | 1.9                                              | 6.0                       | 2.3                         | 8.3             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2004 | 2.9                                              | 5.5                       | 2.7                         | 8.2             | _____                                       | _____                   | Kerry / Bush              | _____                                   |
| 2005 | 2.4                                              | 5.1                       | 3.4                         | 8.5             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2006 | 1.7                                              | 4.6                       | 3.2                         | 7.8             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2007 | 0.8                                              | 4.6                       | 2.9                         | 7.5             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2008 | -1.2                                             | 5.8                       | 3.8                         | 9.6             | _____                                       | _____                   | Obama / McCain            | _____                                   |
| 2009 | -3.6                                             | 9.3                       | -0.3                        | 9.0             |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2010 | 1.7                                              | 9.6                       | 1.6                         | 11.2            |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2011 | 0.8                                              | 8.9                       | 3.1                         | 12.0            |                                             |                         |                           |                                         |
| 2012 | 1.5                                              | 8.1                       | 2.1                         | 10.2            | _____                                       | _____                   | Obama / Romney            | _____                                   |

## ACTIVITY 2, CONTINUED

The Last Four Years

| Year | Growth<br>in Real<br>GDP per<br>Capita<br>(in %) | Unempl.<br>Rate<br>(in %) | Inflation<br>Rate<br>(in %) | Misery<br>Index | Real<br>GDP per<br>Capita<br>Growth<br>Rule | Misery<br>Index<br>Rule | Candidates            | Incumbent<br>Party Wins<br>or<br>Loses? |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2013 | 0.7                                              | 7.4                       | 1.5                         | 8.9             |                                             |                         |                       |                                         |
| 2014 | 1.6                                              | 6.2                       | 1.6                         | 7.8             |                                             |                         |                       |                                         |
| 2015 | 1.6                                              | 5.3                       | 0.1                         | 5.4             |                                             |                         |                       |                                         |
| 2016 | ???                                              | ???                       | ???                         | ???             | _____                                       | _____                   | Democrat / Republican | _____                                   |