

## Factors Affecting the Economic Outlook

Robert F. Dieli, Ph.D. President, RDLB, Inc.

### Iowa Farm Bureau Briefing

Des Moines, IA July 16, 2024

### Agenda

- 1 The Business Cycle and Soft Landings
- 2 Metrics from the Employment Report
- 3 FOMC Part 1: Pause and Pivot
- 4 FOMC Part 2: Timing/ForecastingTool
- 5 Mr. Powell's Inflation Problem -- Part 1
- 6 "If you bought it a truck brought it."
- 7 Mr. Powell's Inflation Problem -- Part 2
- 8 Conclusions

# The Business Cycle and Soft Landings

#### The Patron Saint of Forecasters



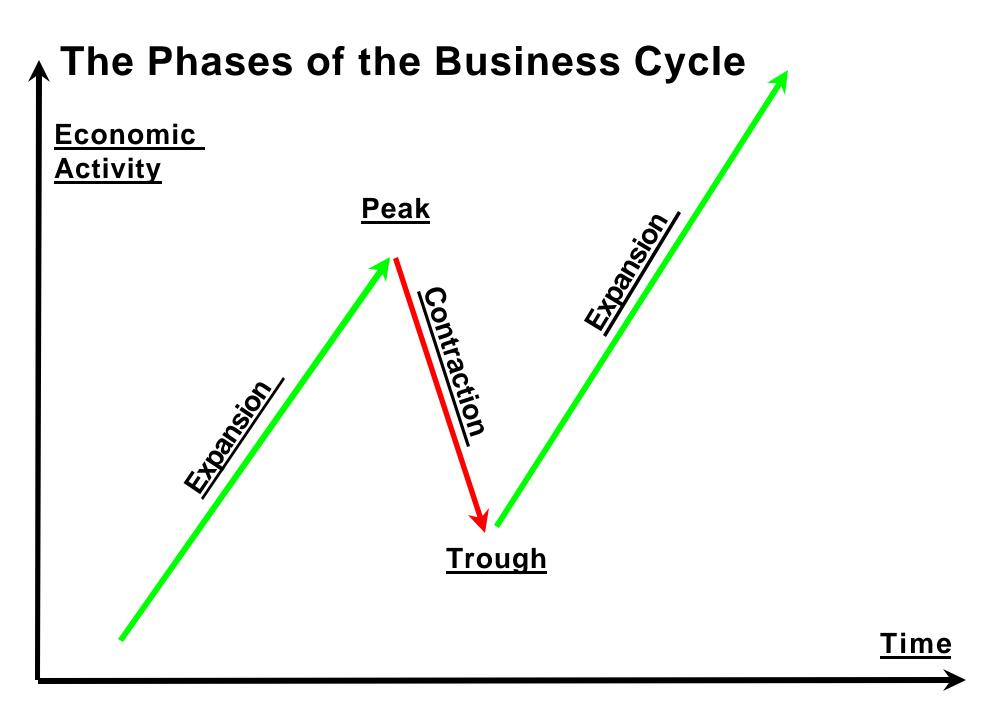
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 4

#### The 4 Iron Laws of Forecasting

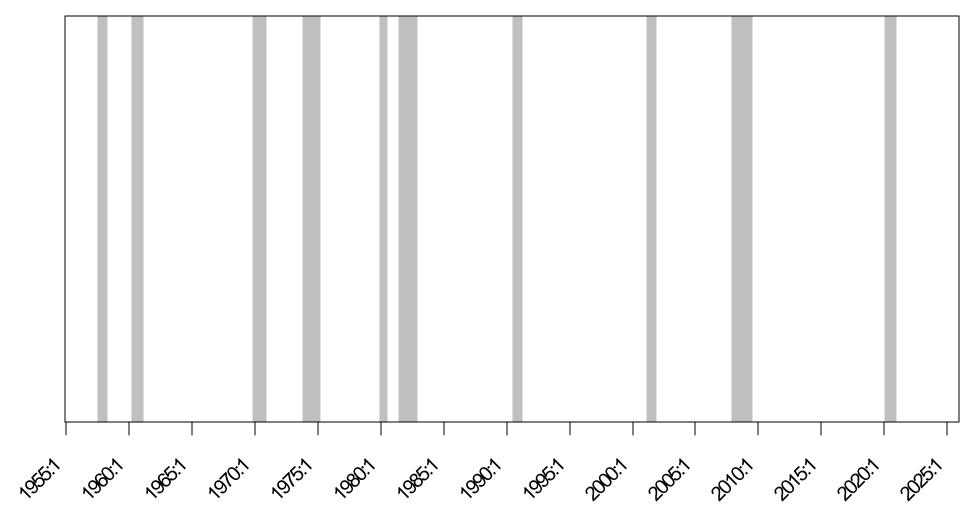
# 1. Nothing grows to the sky.



#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 5



## Recession Periods as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research [NBER]



Year and Month

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 7

## Recession Periods as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research [NBER]

https://www.nber.org/research/business-cycle-dating

"The NBER's traditional definition of a recession is that it is a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and that lasts more than a few months".

To look at the statistics the NBER uses to determine cycle peak and trough dates follow this link:

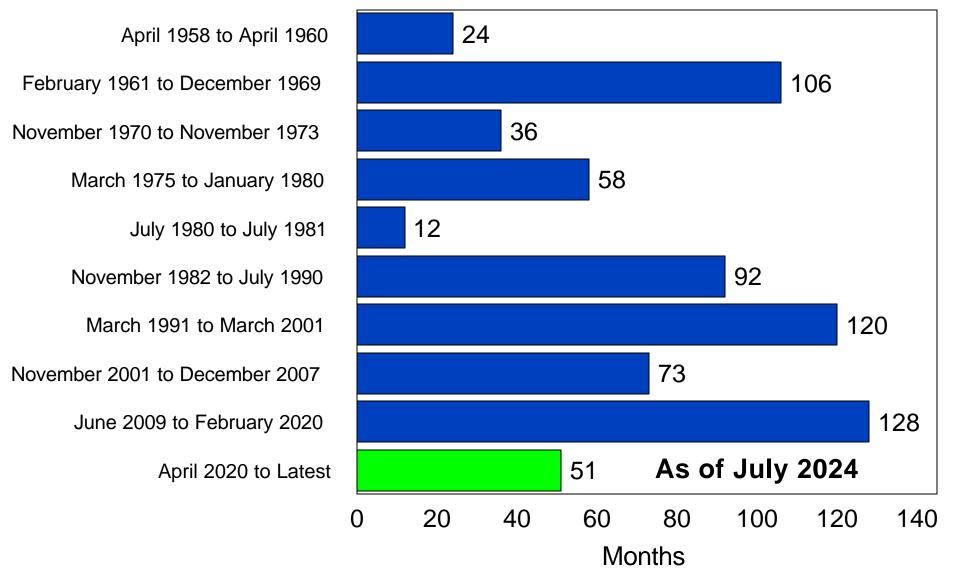
https://fredaccount.stlouisfed.org/public/dashboard/84408



Year and Month

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 8

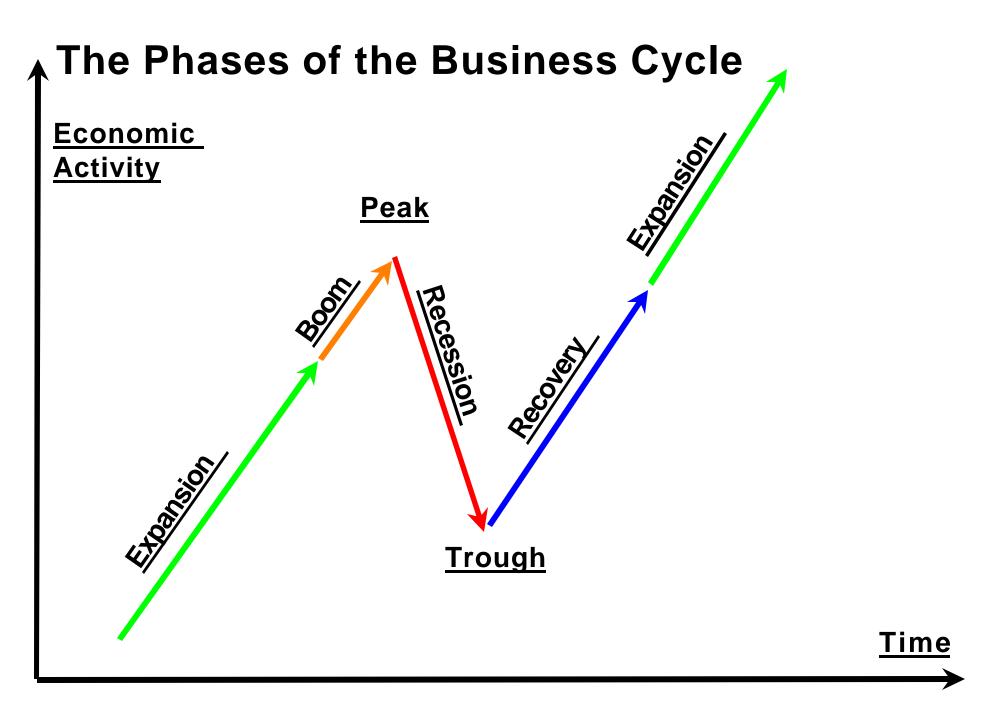
#### Expansion Periods as Defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research

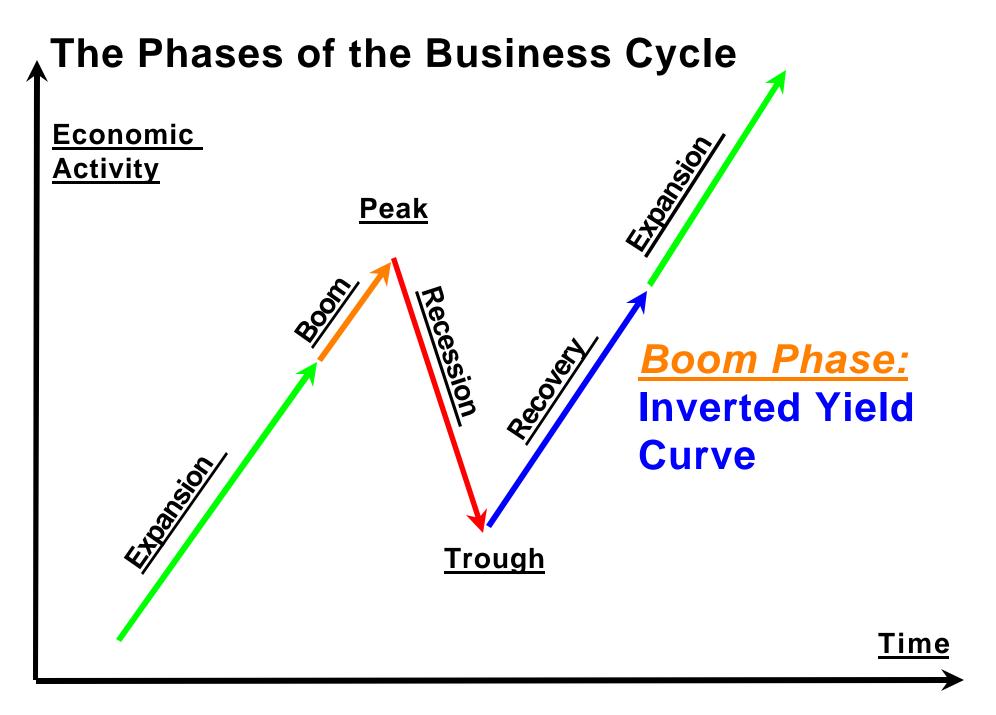


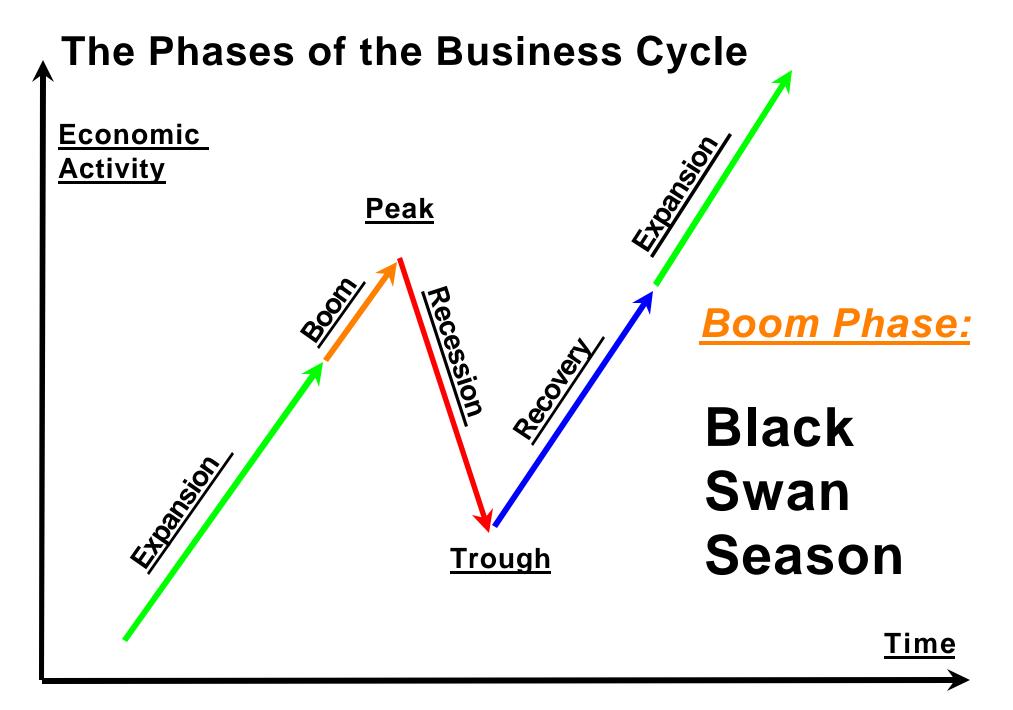
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 9

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there."

Yogi Berra

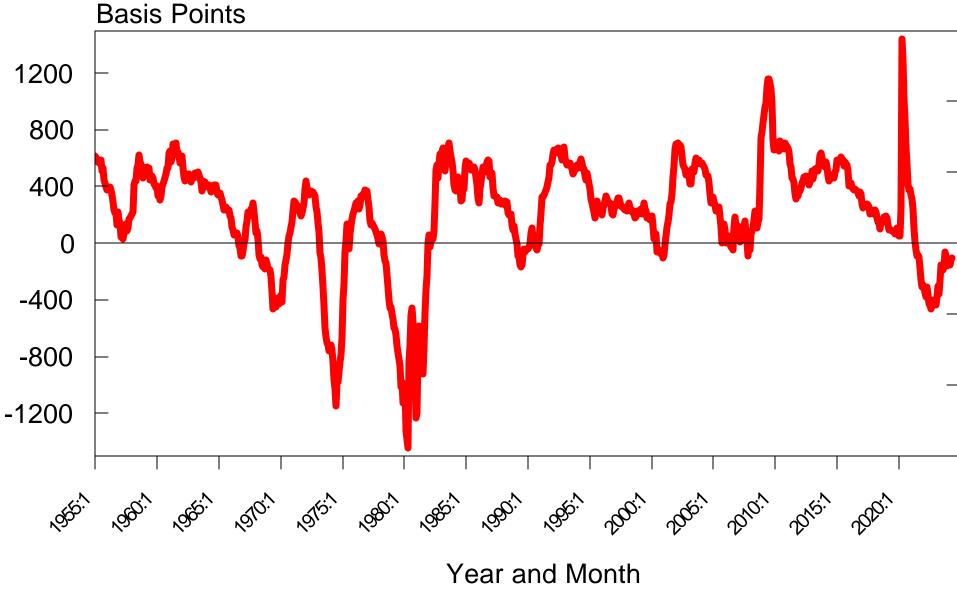






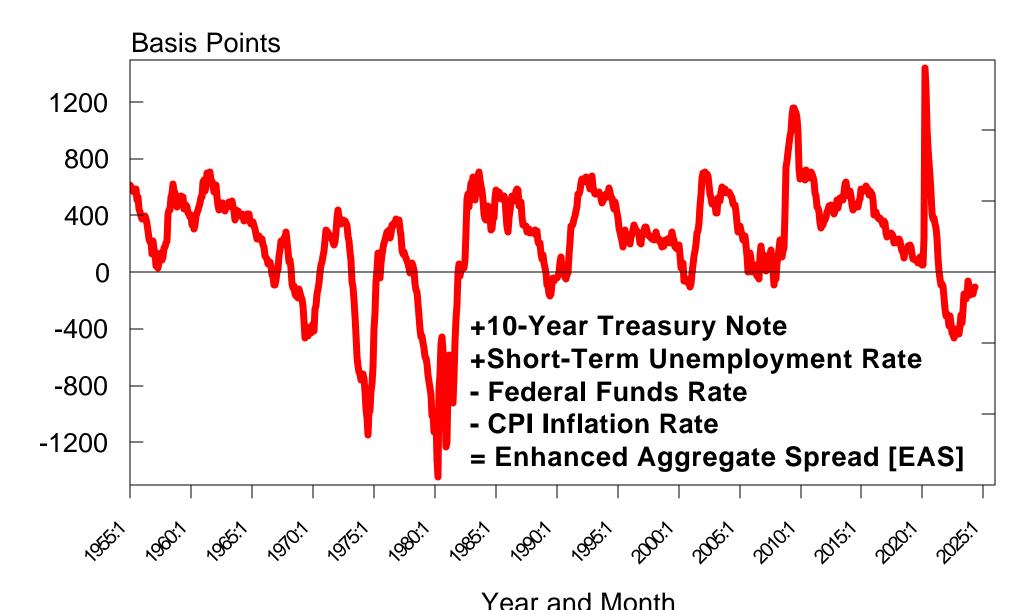
## A Business Cycle Timing Metric

#### **Enhanced Aggregate Spread**



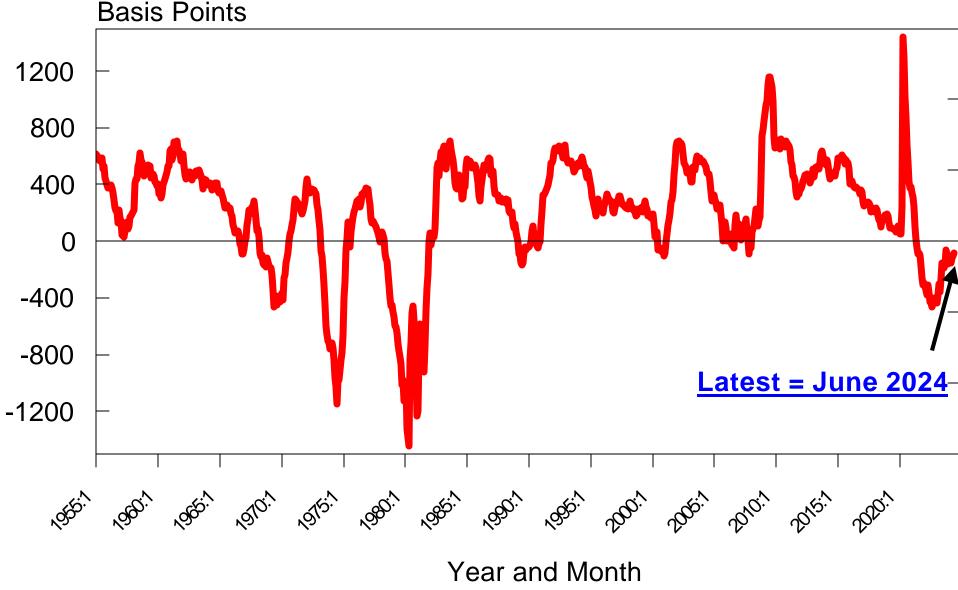
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 15

#### Enhanced Aggregate Spread [EAS]



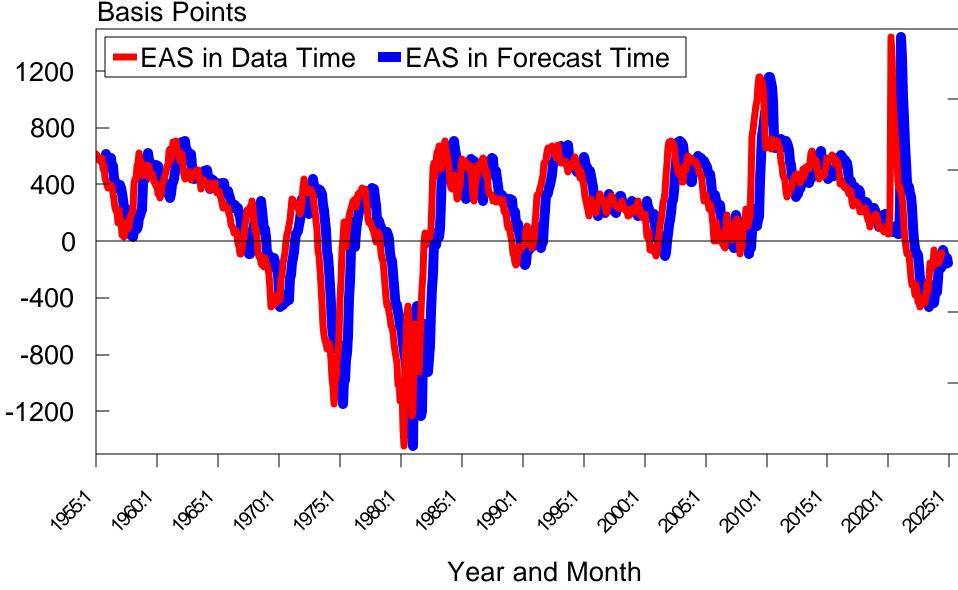
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 16

#### Enhanced Aggregate Spread -- DataTime



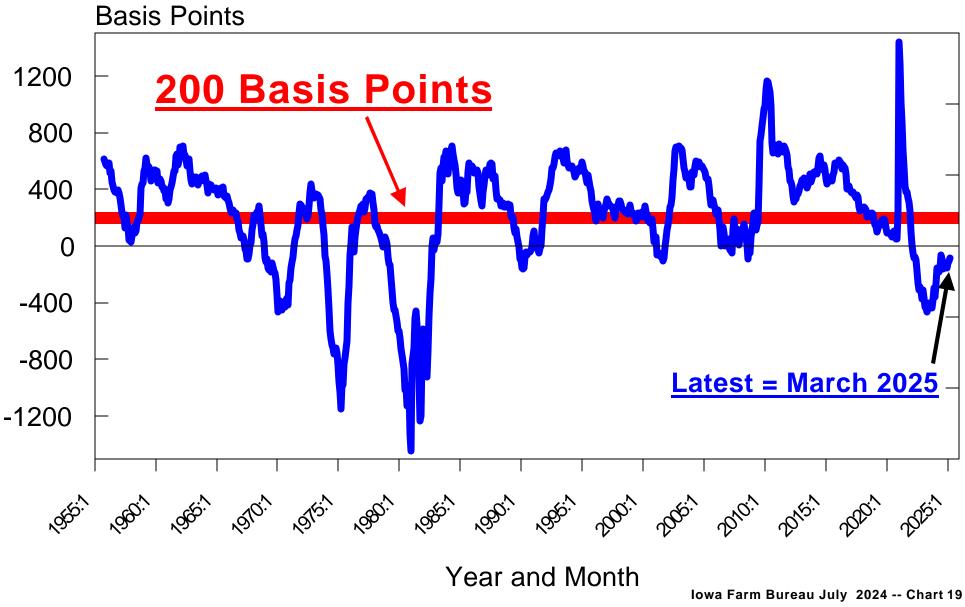
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 17

#### Enhanced Aggregate Spread [EAS]

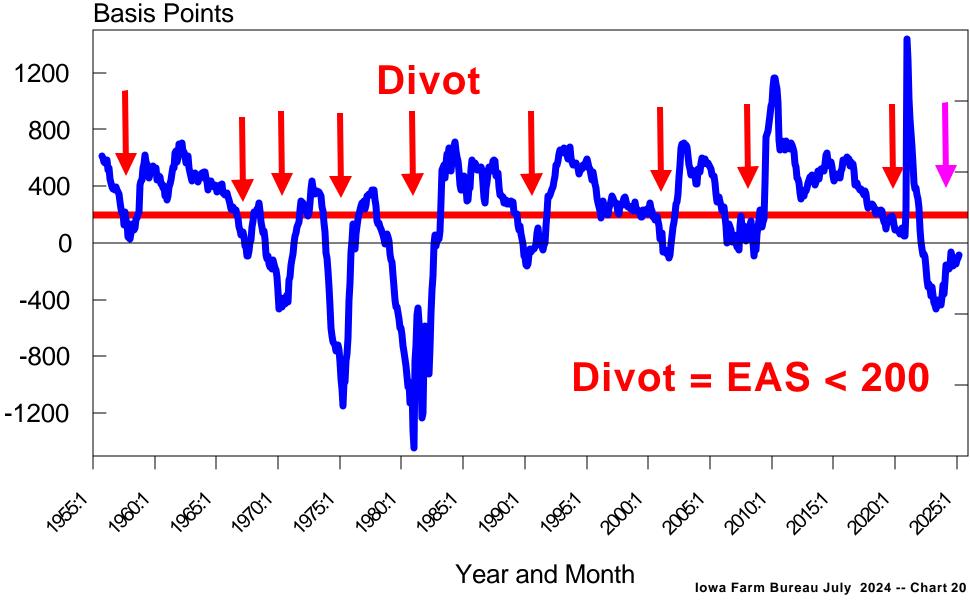


Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 18

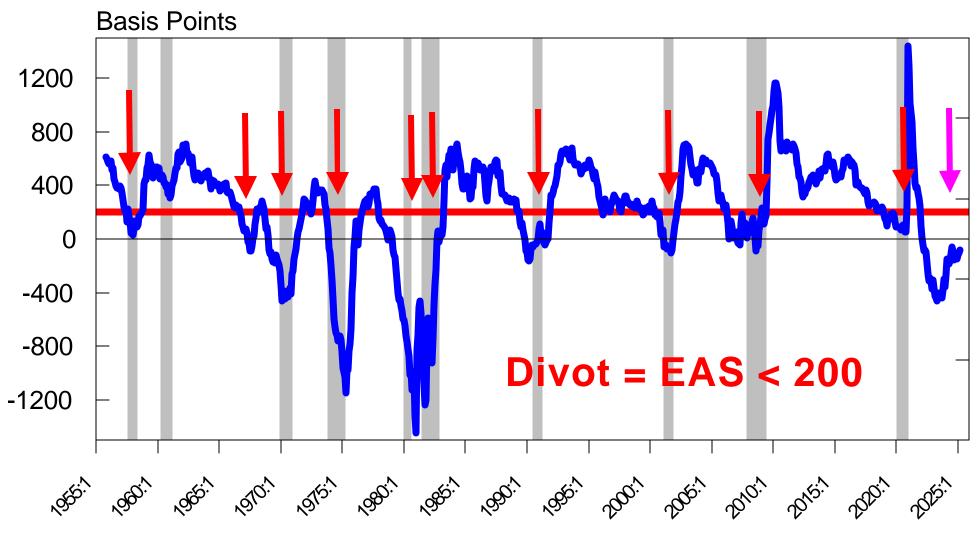
#### Enhanced Aggregate Spread -- Forecast Time



#### Enhanced Aggregate Spread -- Forecast Time



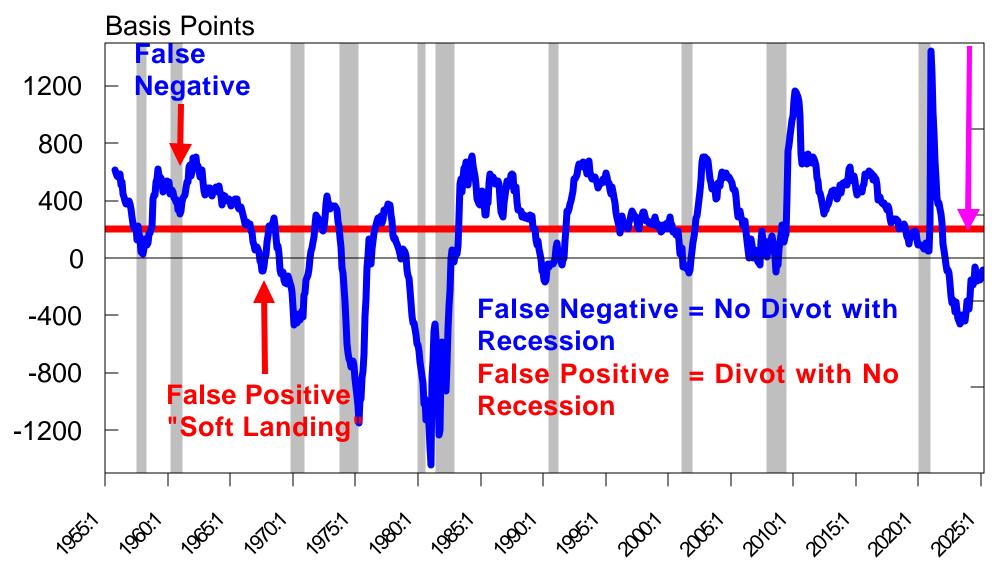
#### Enhanced Aggregate Spread -- Forecast Time



Year and Month

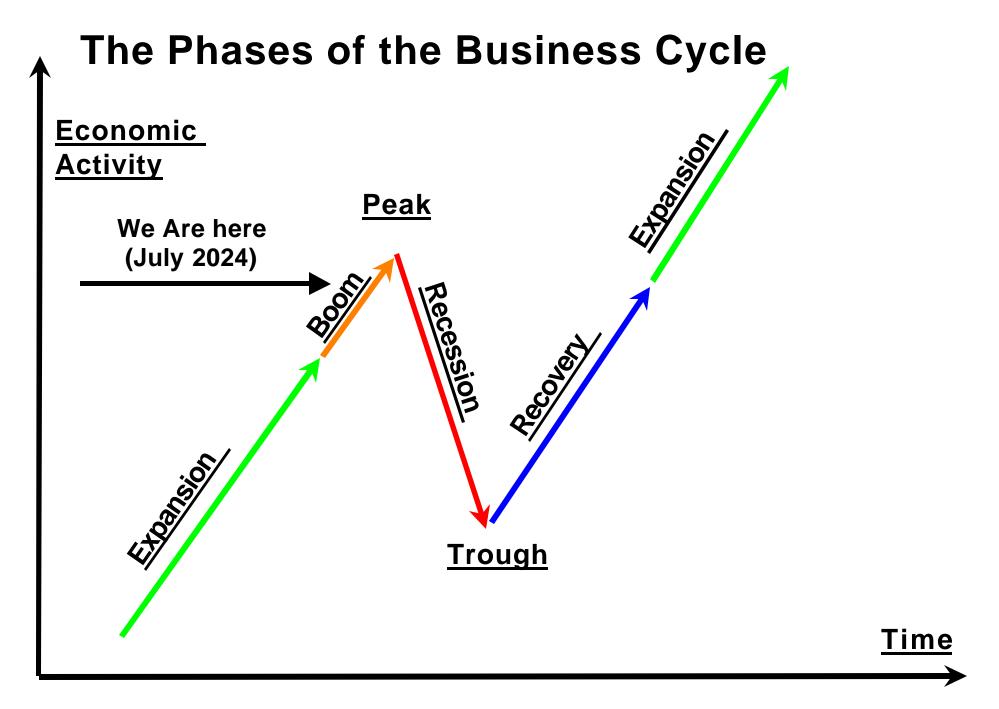
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 21

#### **Enhanced Aggregate Spread**

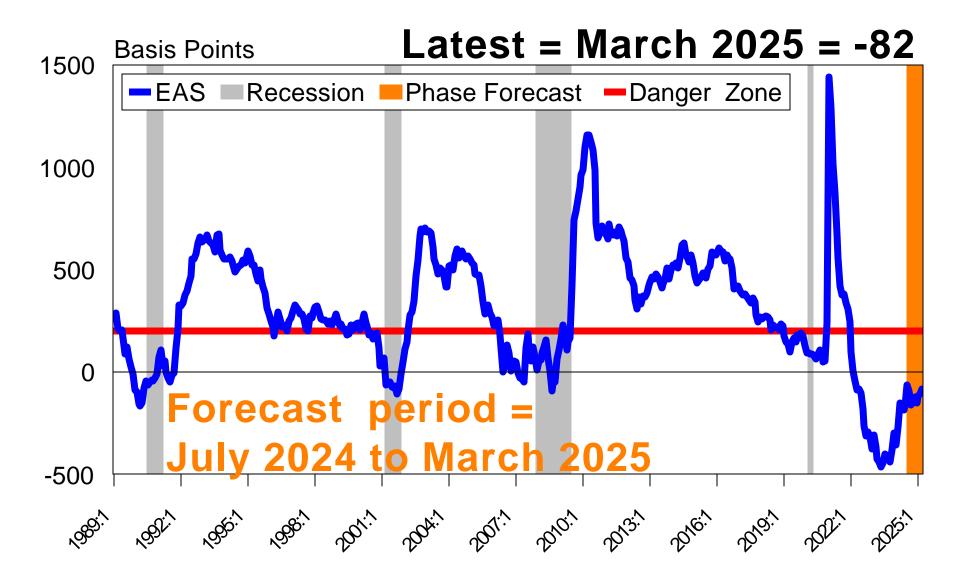


Year and Month

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 22

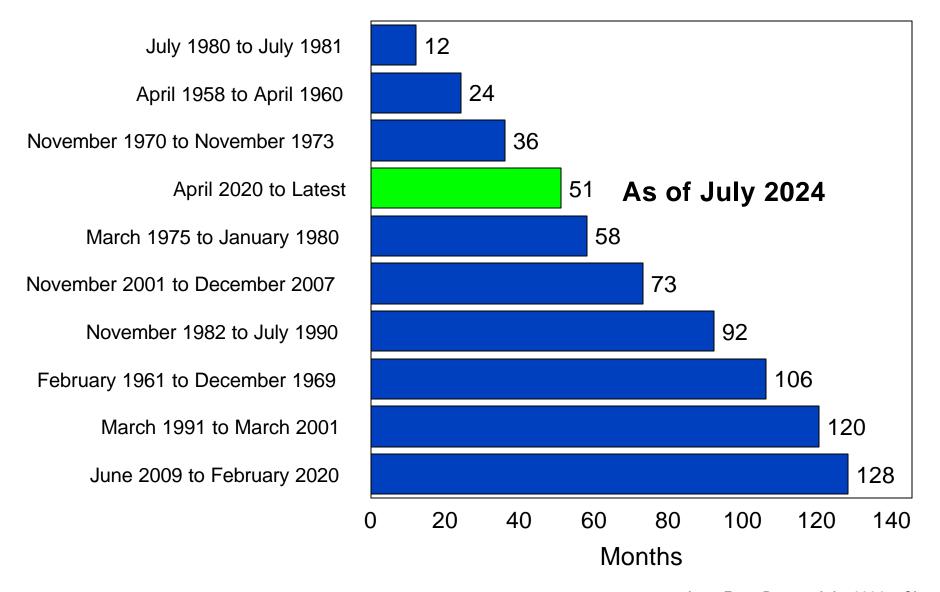


#### **Enhanced Aggregate Spread**



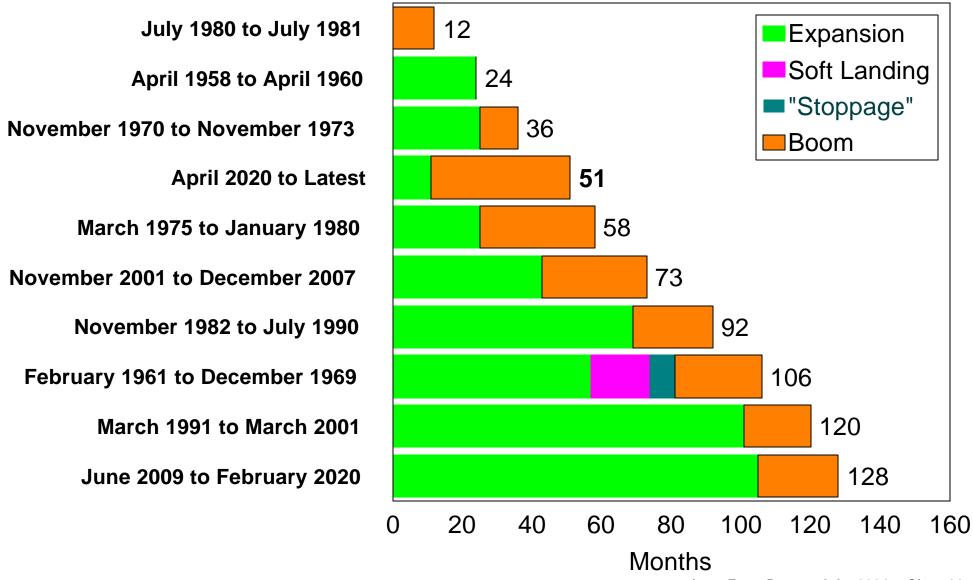
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 24

#### Expansion Periods as Defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 25

### Expansion and Boom Periods as Defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Enhanced Aggregate Spread



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 26

The 'soft landing' is to the business cycle what 'stoppage time' is to a soccer game.

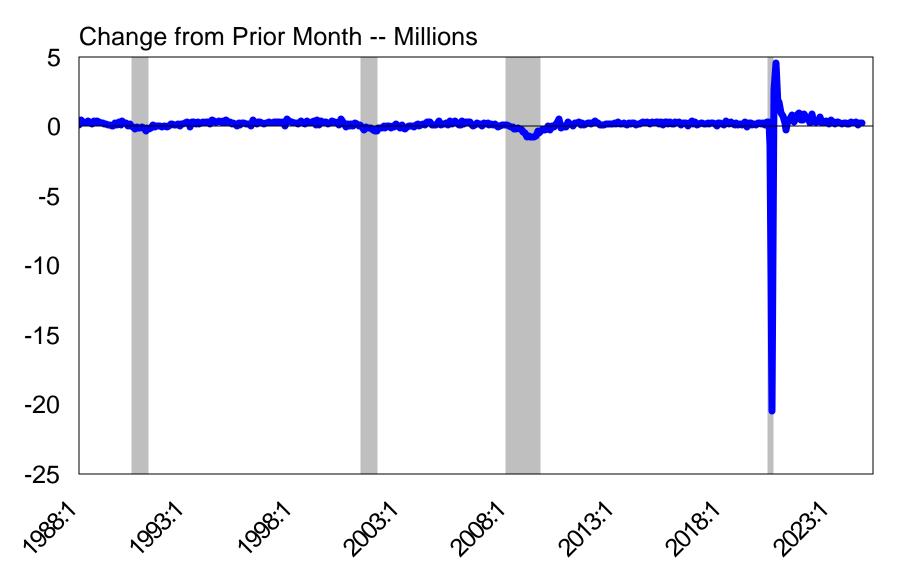
# Useful Employment and Unemployment Metrics

The Employment Report contains data from two separate surveys known as the Establishment Survey and the Household Survey.

# The Establishment Survey asks employers how many people the have on their payroll.

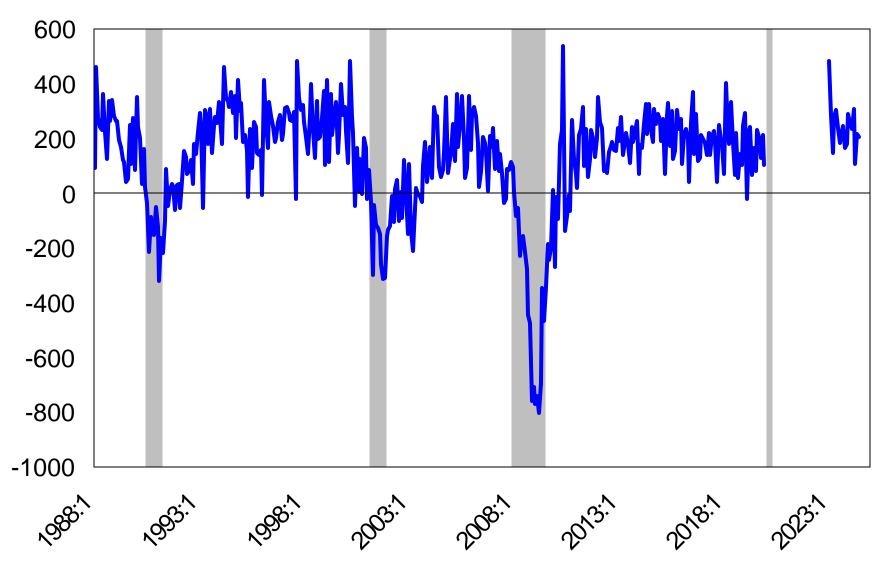
# The media attention is focused on the headline change in total payrolls from the prior month

#### Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 32

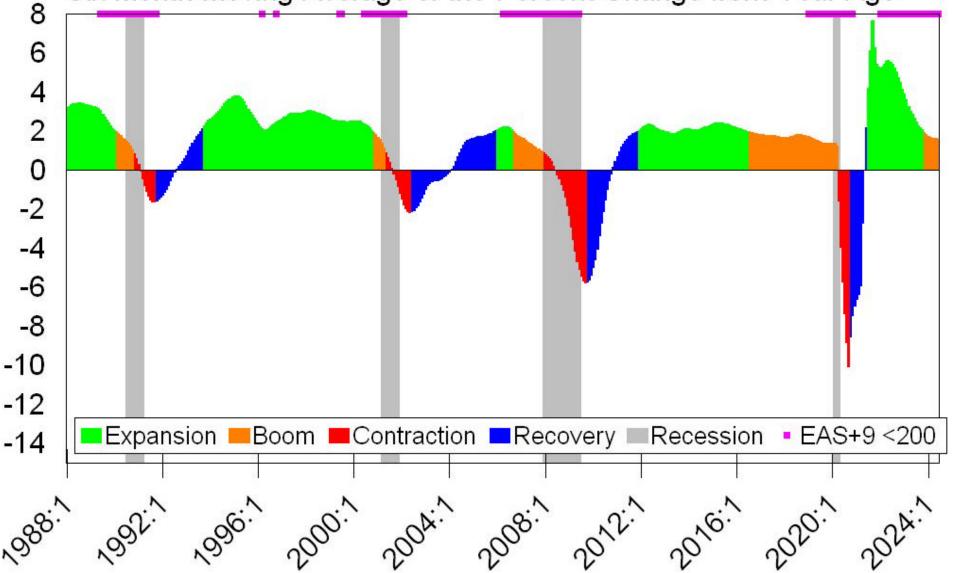
## Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment 2020 to 2022 Excluded



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 33

# More useful information is in this metric:

#### Total Private Nonfarm Payroll Employment Six Month Moving Average of the Percent Change from Year Ago



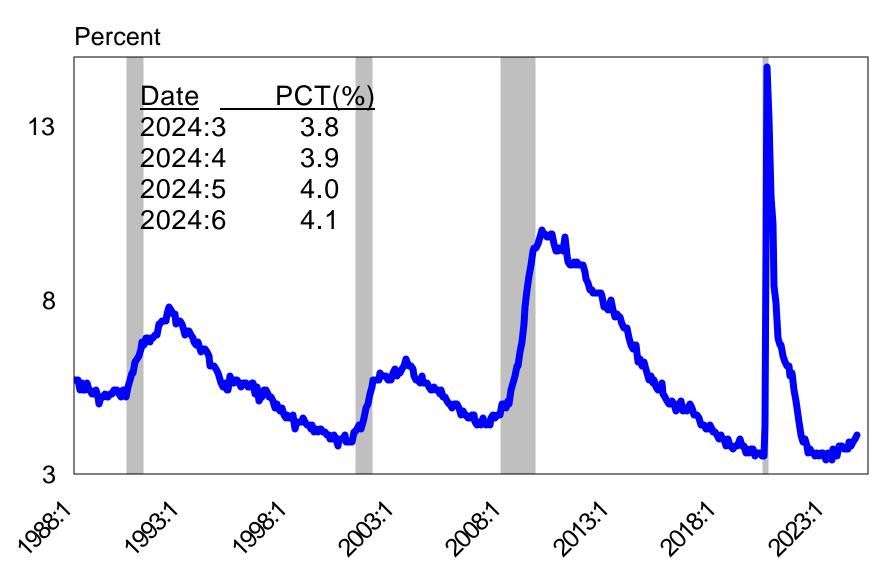
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 35

The Household Survey consists of the results from 60,000 different individuals interviewed by the BLS every month.

The Household Survey generates data on age, gender, ethnicity, education, employment status, and hours worked.

# The media attention is focused on the headline rate of unenployment.

### Official Unemployment Rate (U-3)

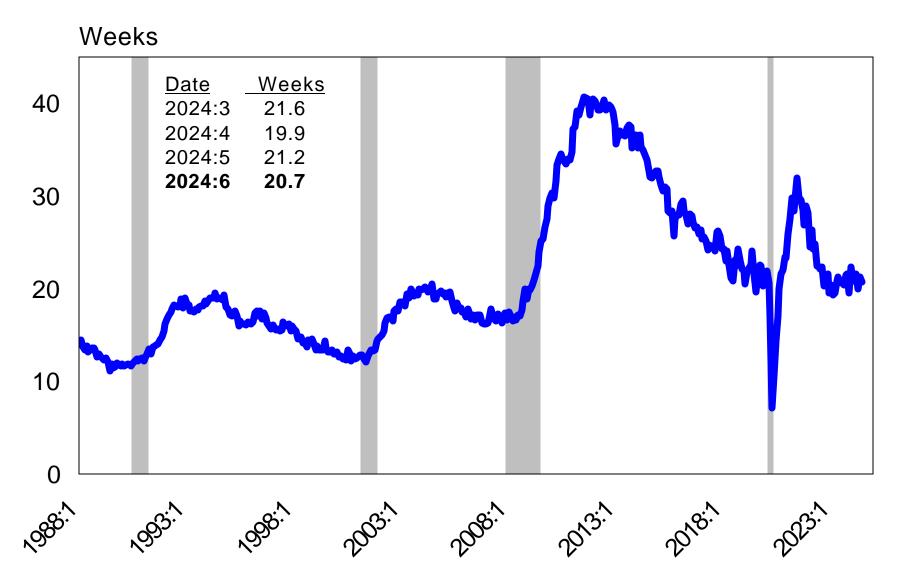


Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 39

There is not enough information in the headline number to properly assess labor market conditions.

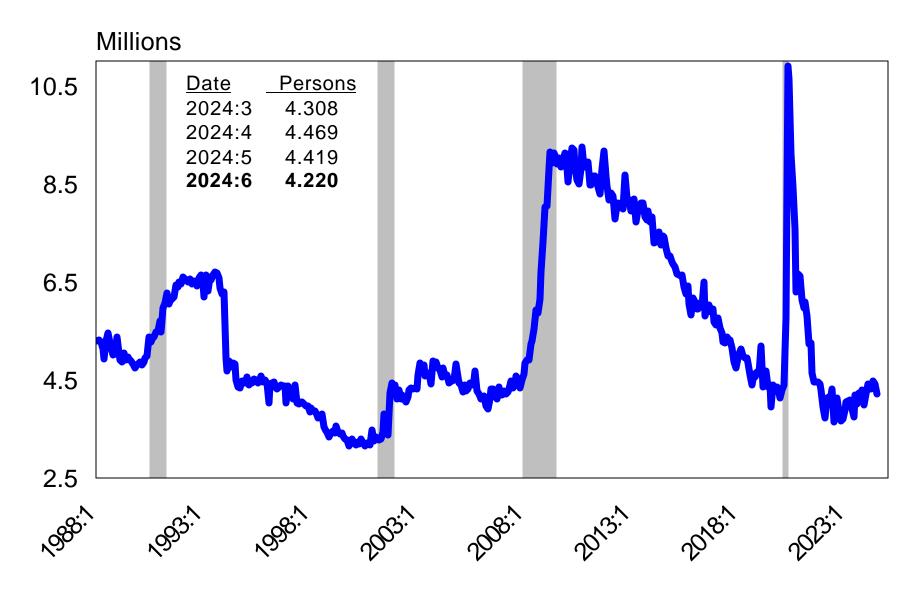
# To do that, you need information such as can be found in these metrics:

### Average Duration of Unemployment



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 42

### Persons Working Part-Time for Economic Reasons



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 43

# Federal Reserve Policy

# Part 1 -- What is Pause and Pivot?

## The 4 Iron Laws of Forecasting

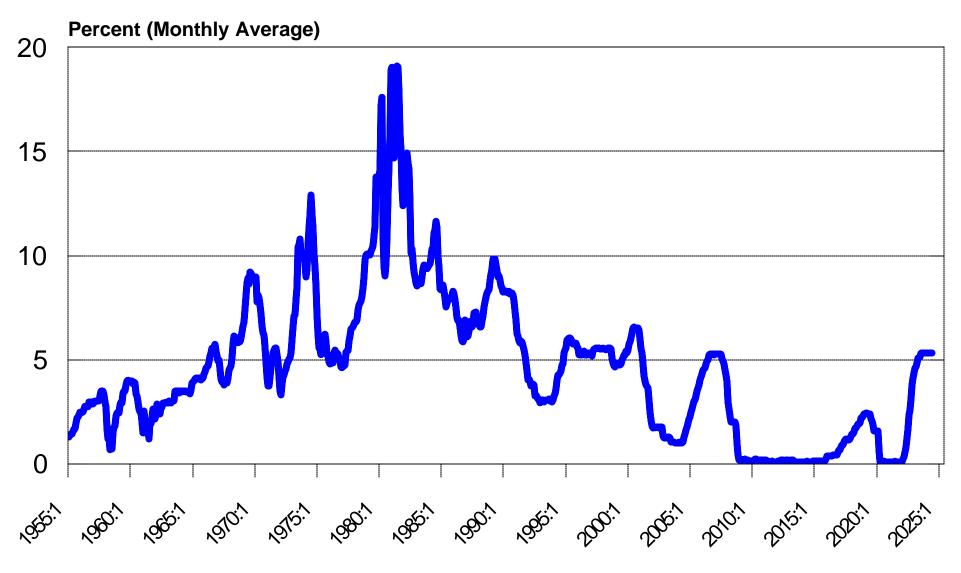
1A. The Corn Crop Don't Care who is the Chair at the Fed.



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 45

The target interest rate range at which which commercial banks borrow and lend their excess reserves to each other overnight. Also the rate paid by the Fed to banks for reserves on deposit. Set by the Federal Open Market Committee [FOMC].

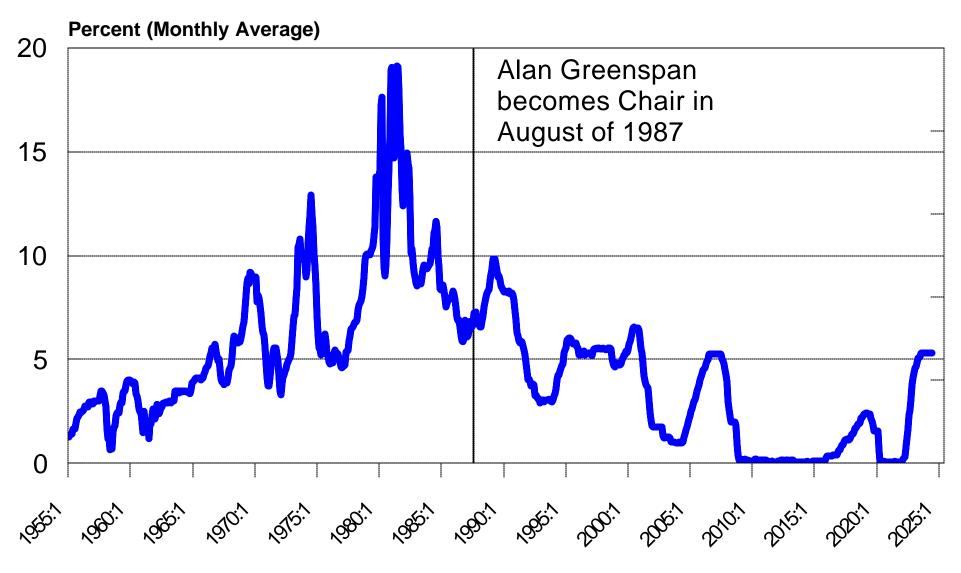
#### Federal Funds Rate 1955-2024



Year and Month

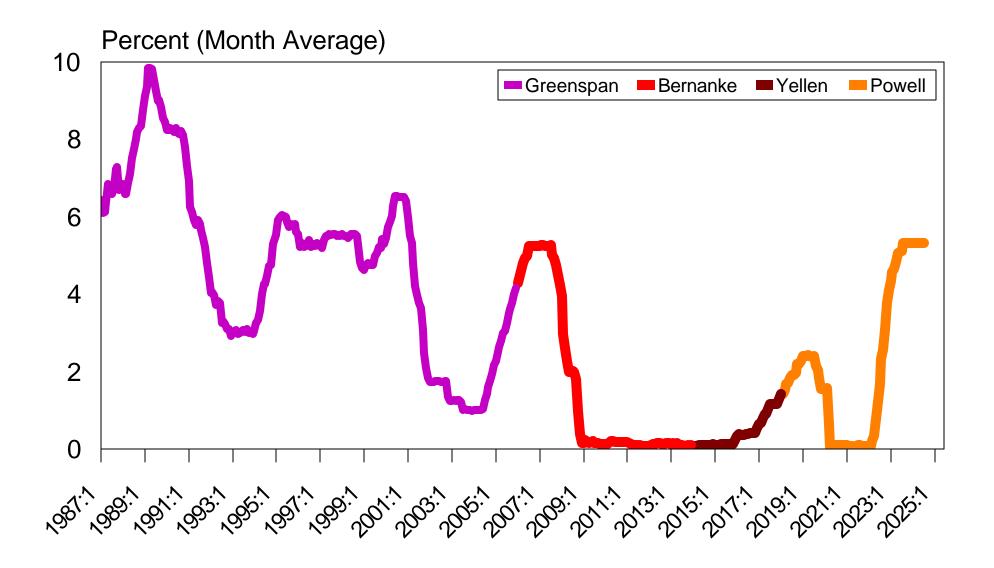
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 47

#### Federal Funds Rate 1955-2024



Year and Month

#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 48



#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 49

# Federal Open Market Committee - FOMC

### Membership:

- 7 Members of Board of Governors
- 12 Presidents of the Federal Reserve Districts

Meets 8 times in 2024

Next meeting is July 30 - 31

Policy announcements are only made at meetings unless there are exigent circumstances.

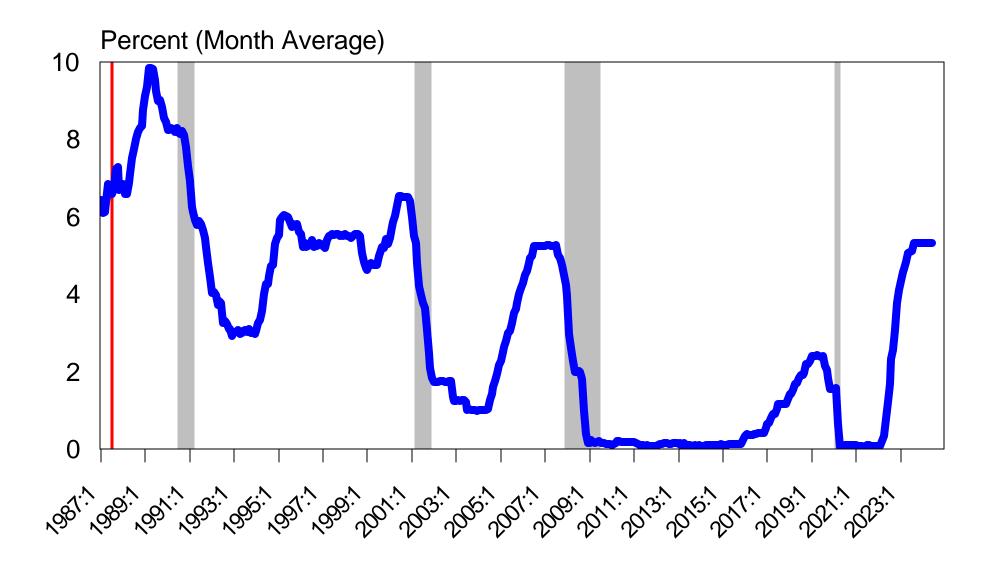
# Federal Open Market Committee - FOMC

Voting Membership 2024:

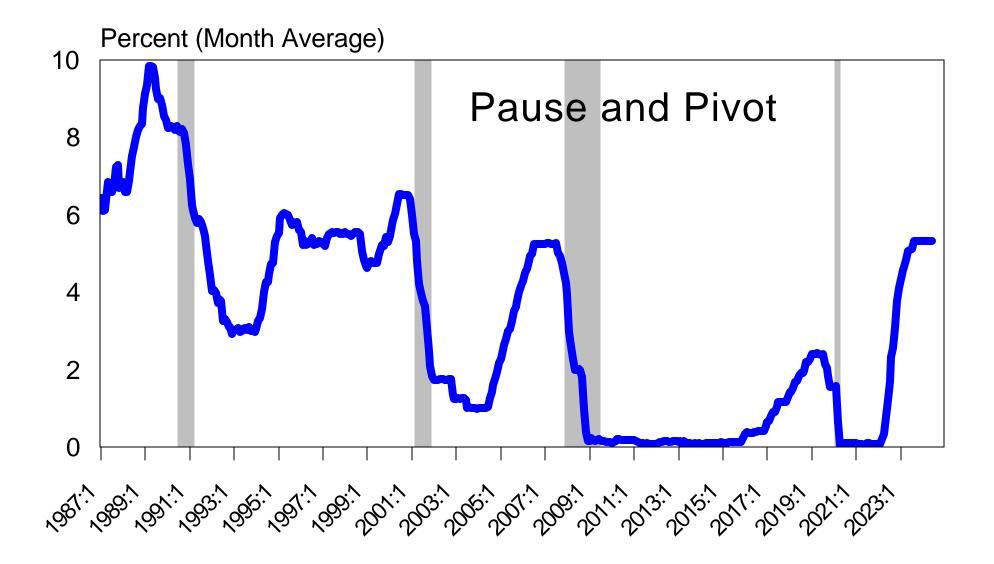
7 Members of Board of Governors
Powell, Jefferson, Barr, Bowman, Cook, Kugler, Waller

President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Williams)

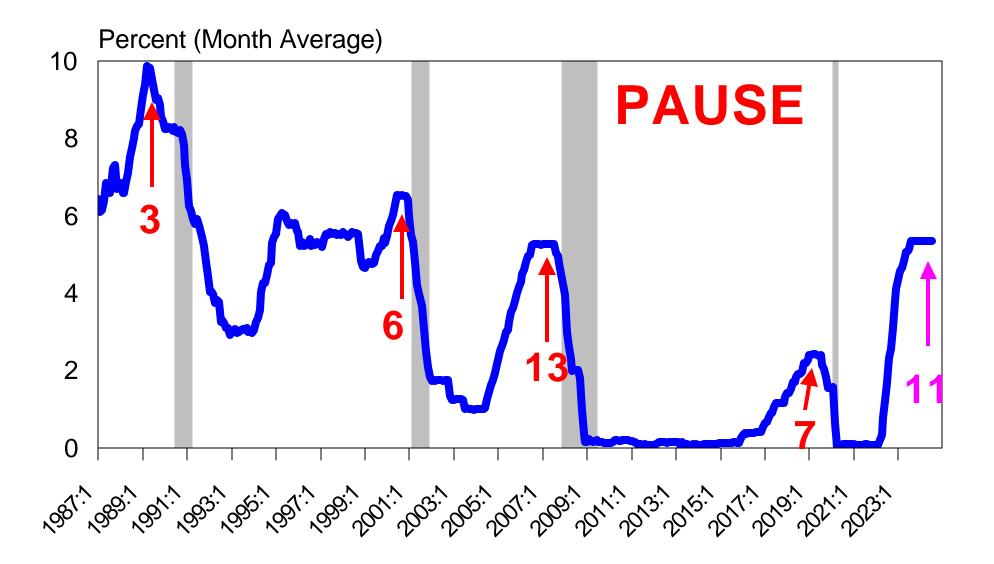
President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Mester)
President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (Barkin)
President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Bostic)
President of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Daly)



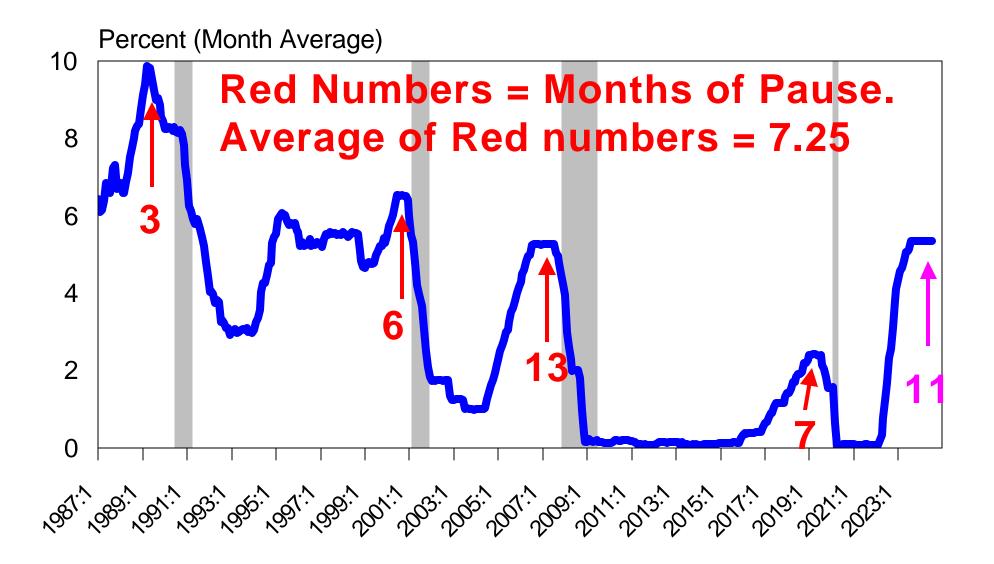
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 52



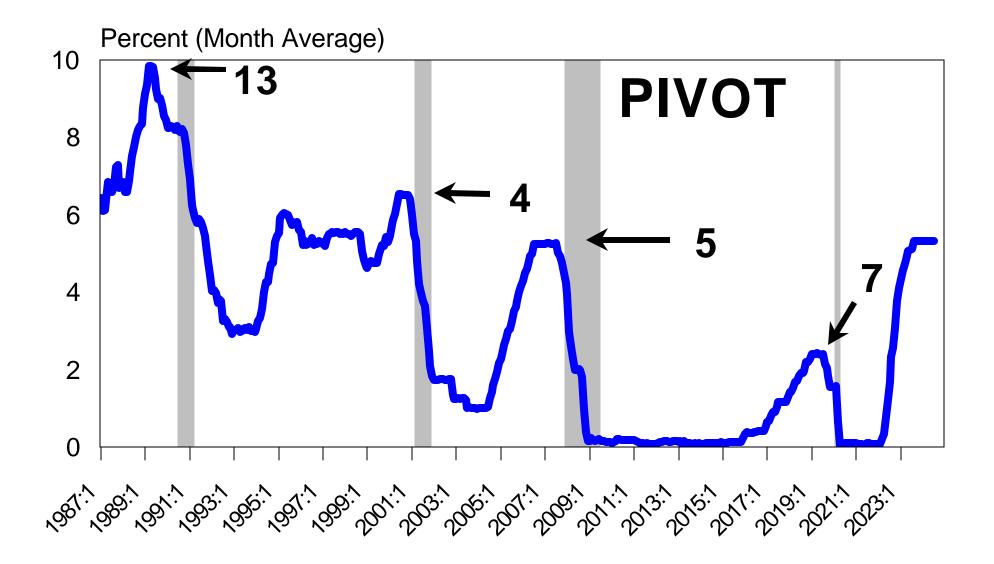
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 53



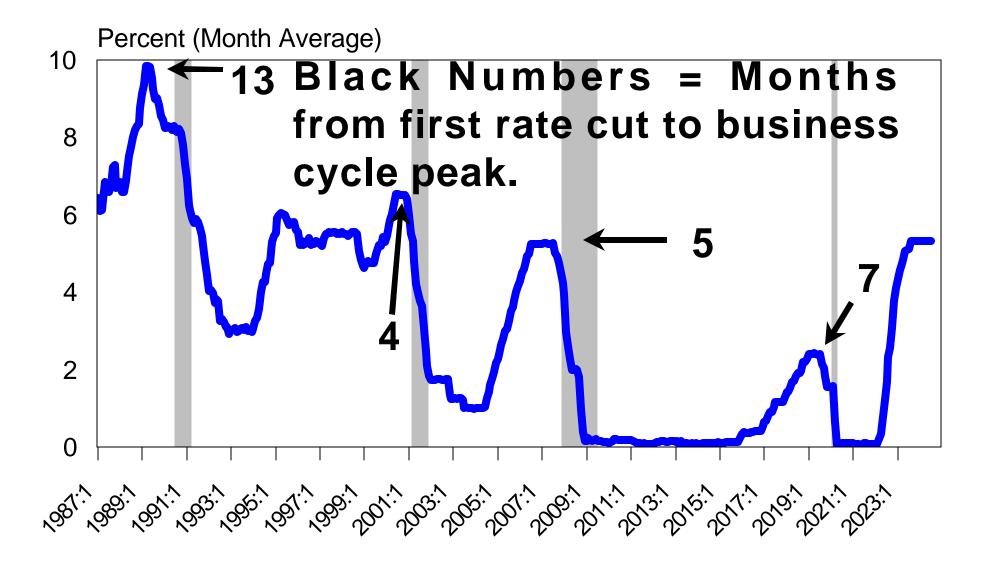
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 54



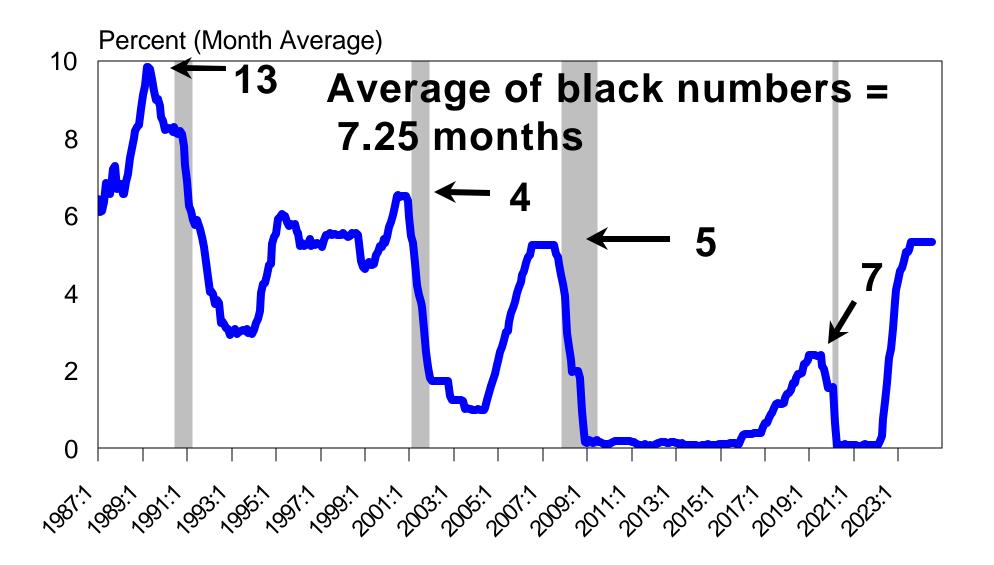
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 55



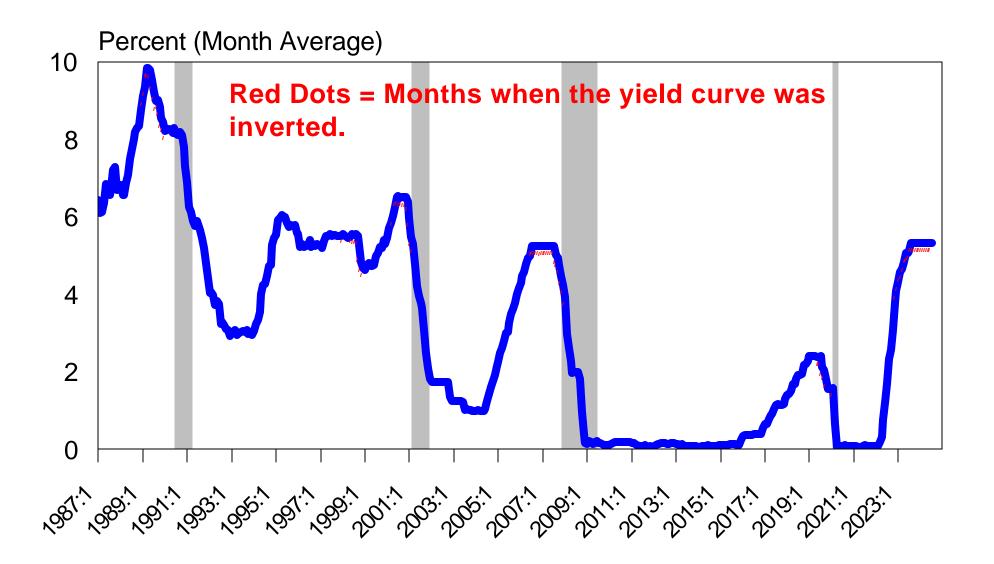
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 56



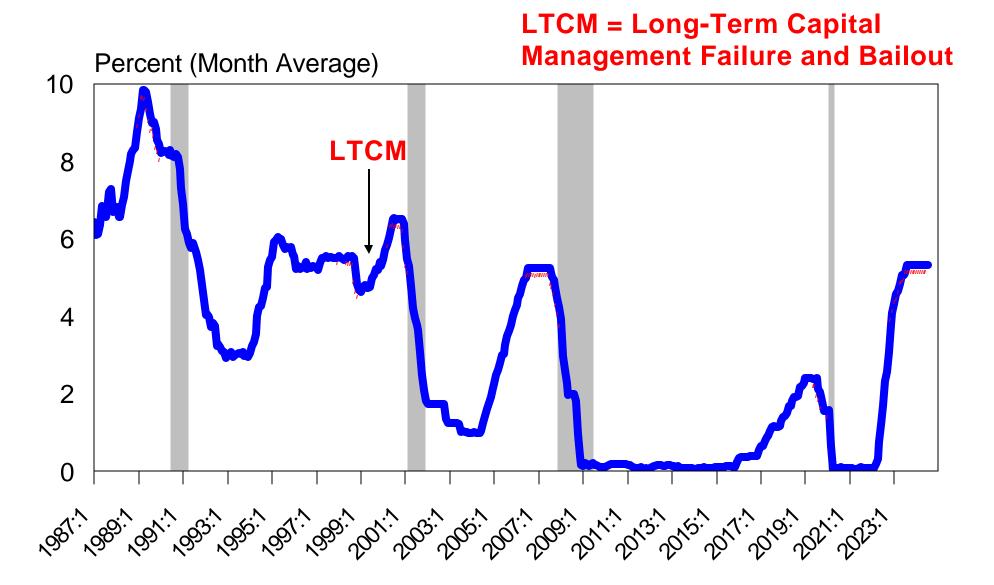
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 57



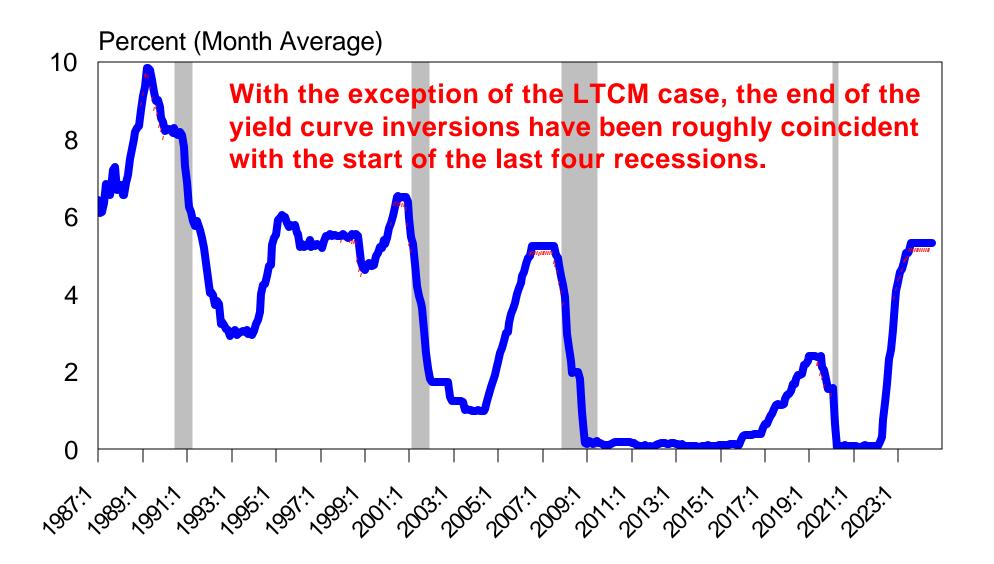
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 58



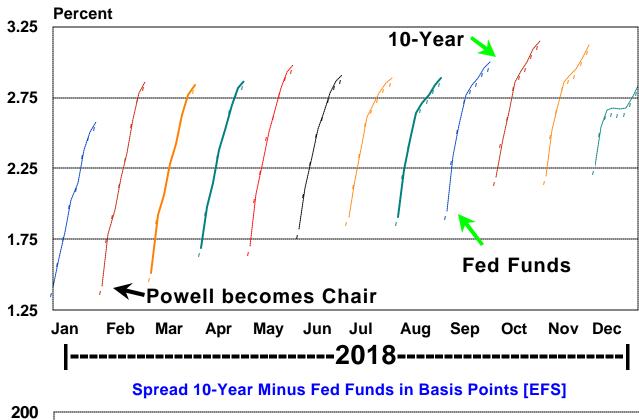
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 59

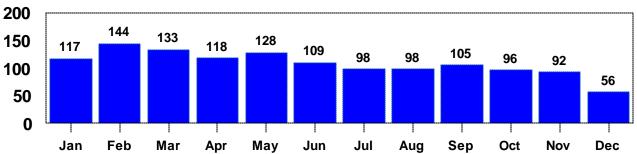


#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 60



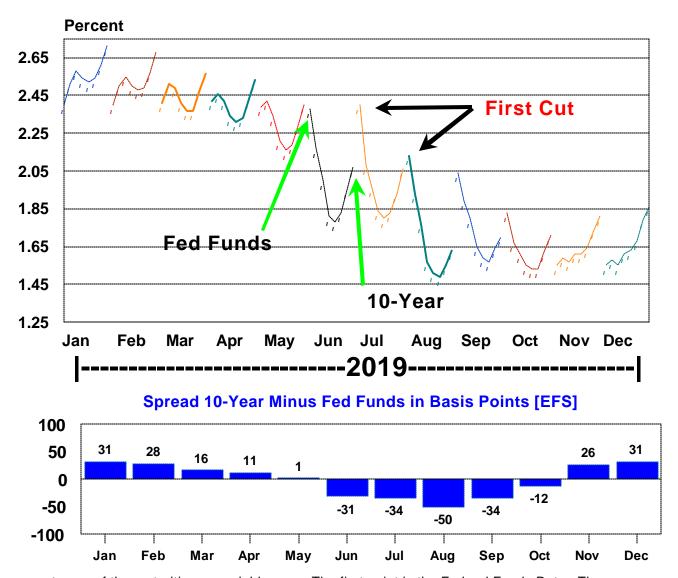
#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 61





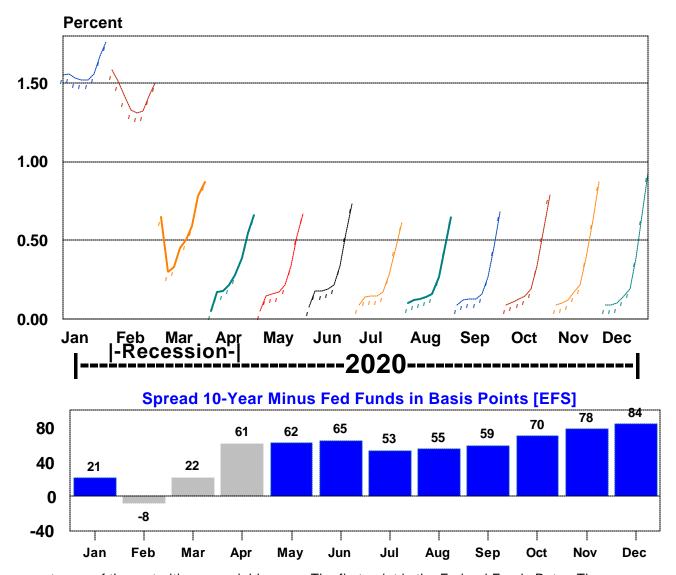
<sup>\*\*</sup>Each point on the line represents one of the maturities on a yield curve. The first point is the Federal Funds Rate. The last point is the 10-Year Treasury Note. The intermediate points, are the 6-month and 12-month bills, followed by the 2,3,5,7-Year notes.

| Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 62



<sup>\*\*</sup>Each point on the line represents one of the maturities on a yield curve. The first point is the Federal Funds Rate. The last point is the 10-Year Treasury Note. The intermediate points, are the 6-month and 12-month bills, followed by the 2,3,5,7-Year notes.

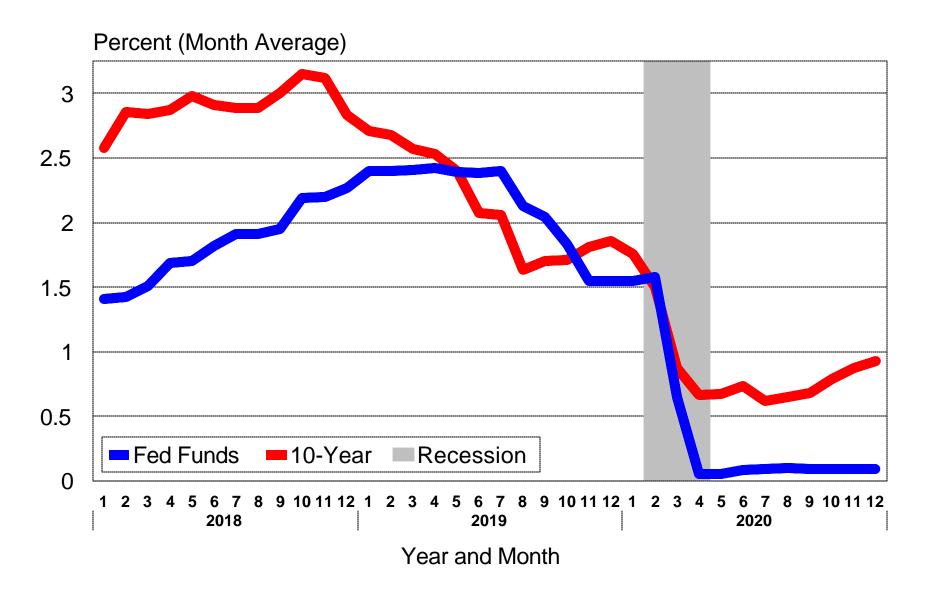
| Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 63



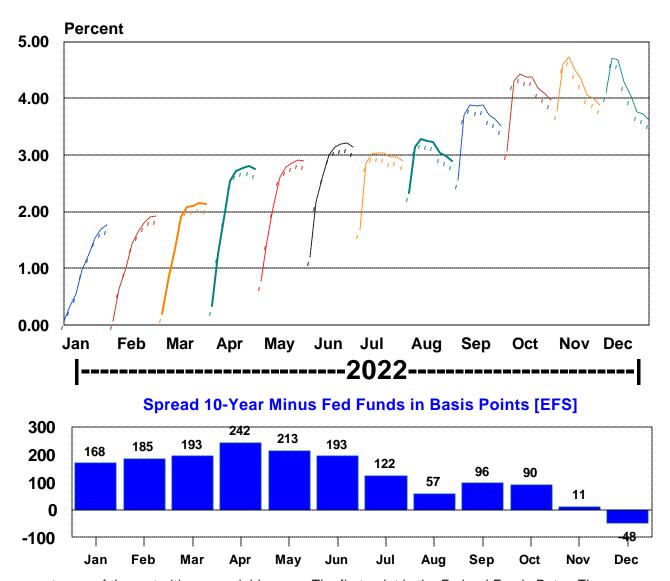
<sup>\*\*</sup>Each point on the line represents one of the maturities on a yield curve. The first point is the Federal Funds Rate. The last point is the 10-Year Treasury Note. The intermediate points, are the 6-month and 12-month bills, followed by the 2,3,5,7-Year notes.

| Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 64

#### Selected Interest Rates

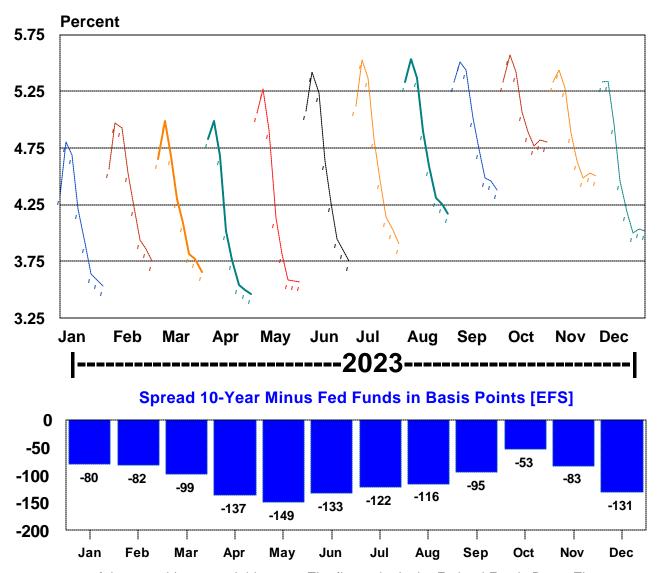


Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 65



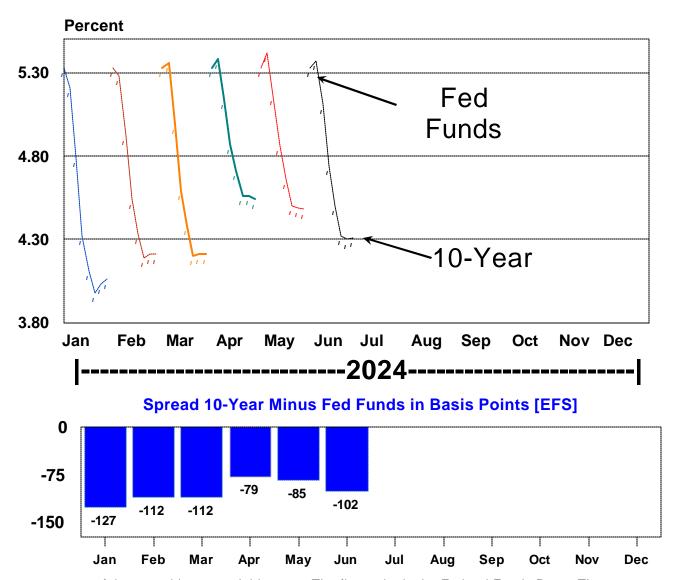
<sup>\*\*</sup>Each point on the line represents one of the maturities on a yield curve. The first point is the Federal Funds Rate. The last point is the 10-Year Treasury Note. The intermediate points, are the 6-month and 12-month bills, followed by the 2,3,5,7-Year notes.

| Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 66



<sup>\*\*</sup>Each point on the line represents one of the maturities on a yield curve. The first point is the Federal Funds Rate. The last point is the 10-Year Treasury Note. The intermediate points, are the 6-month and 12-month bills, followed by the 2,3,5,7-Year notes.

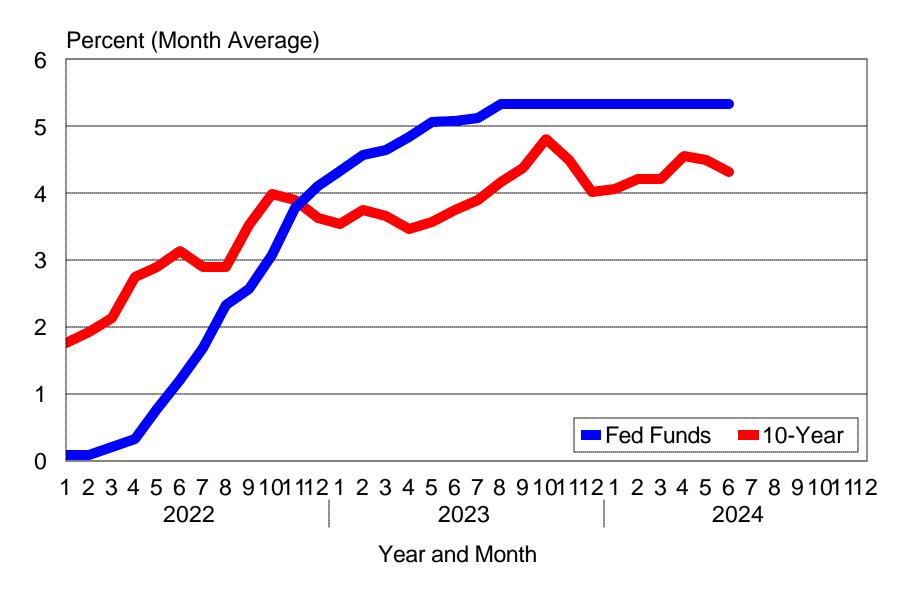
| Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 67



<sup>\*\*</sup>Each point on the line represents one of the maturities on a yield curve. The first point is the Federal Funds Rate. The last point is the 10-Year Treasury Note. The intermediate points, are the 6-month and 12-month bills, followed by the 2,3,5,7-Year notes.

| Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 68

#### Selected Interest Rates



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 69

# FOMC Part 2

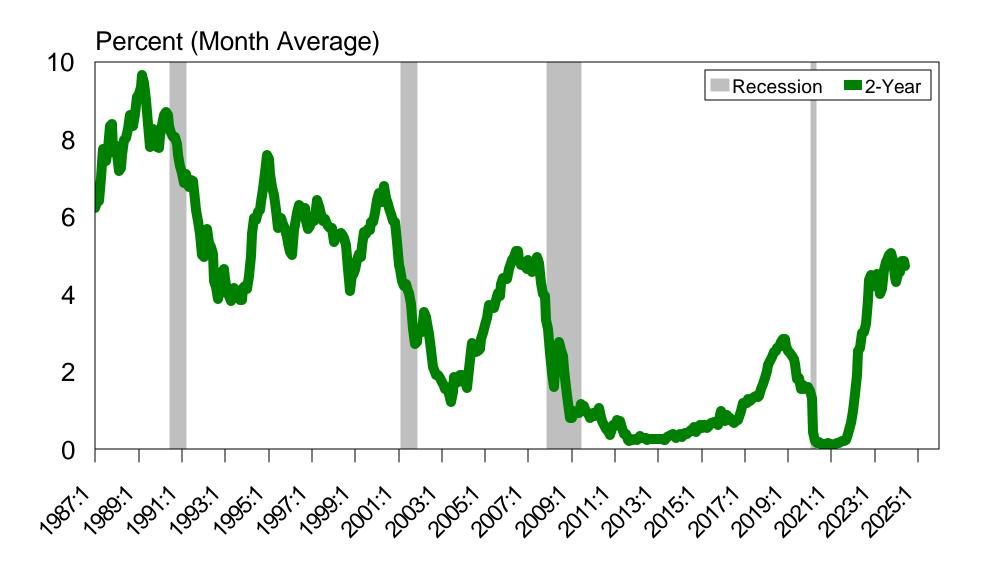
# Timing/ForecastingTool

# Down and Dirty Fed Funds Forecasting Tool

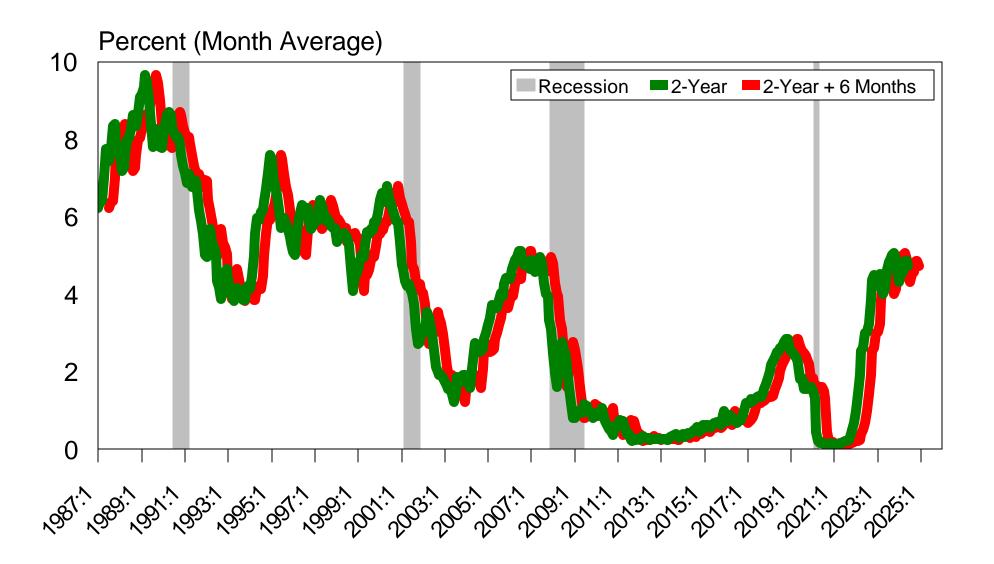
The Level and Trend of the 2-Year Note Today Gives You a Good Indication of Where the Funds Rate will be Six Months From Now.

# "You can observe a lot just by watching."

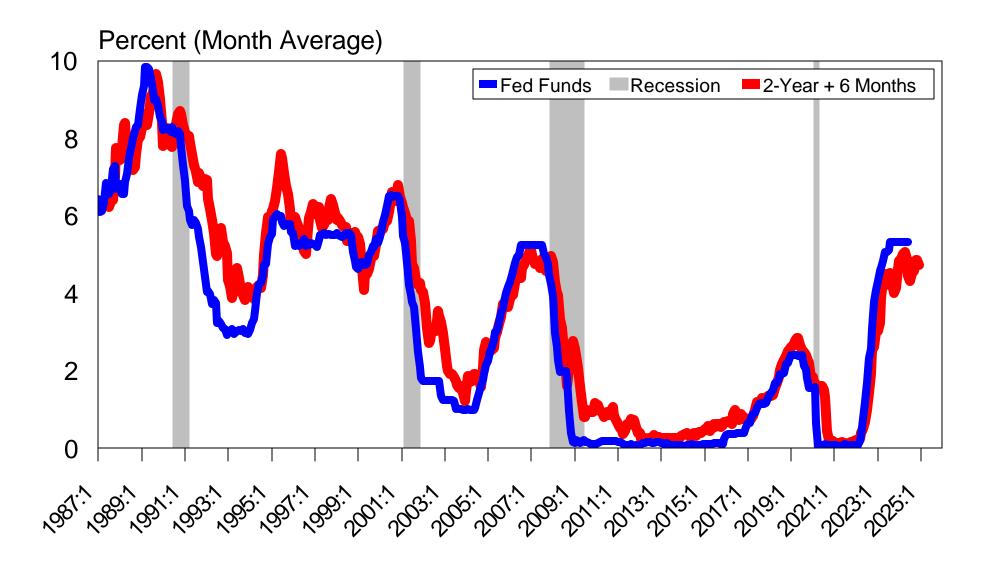
Yogi Berra



### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 74



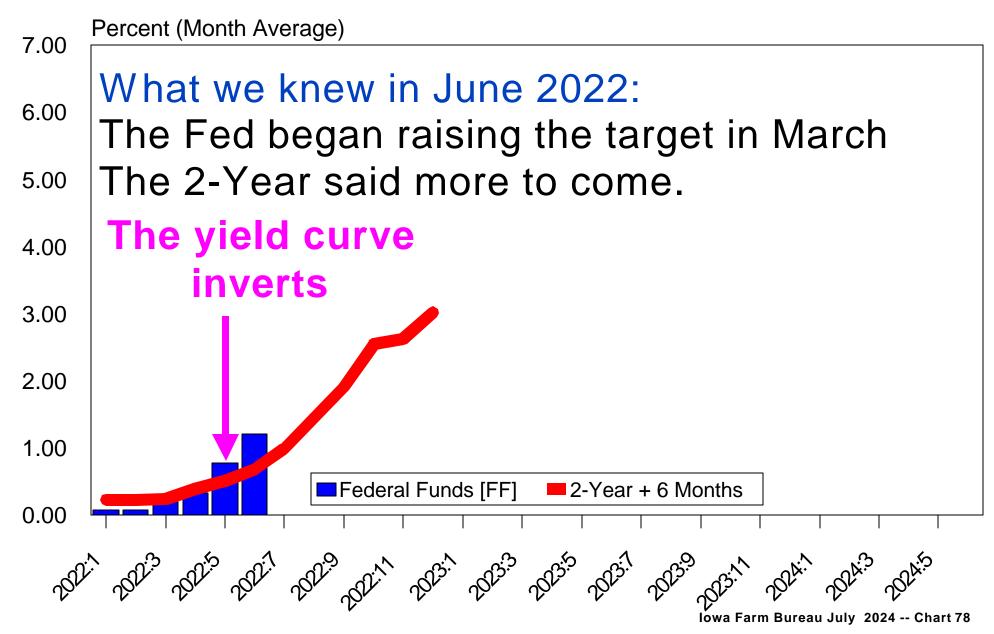
### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 75

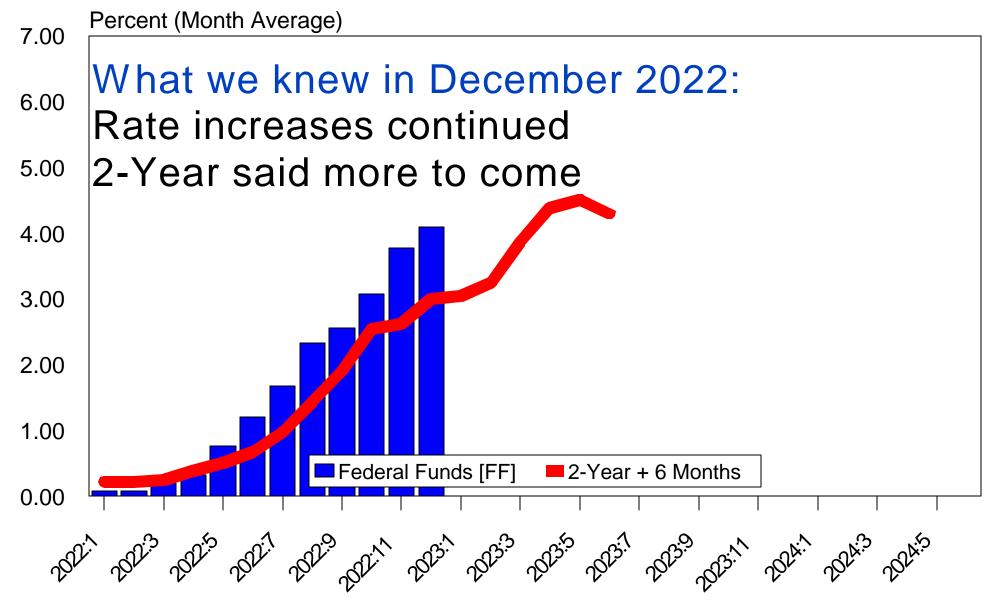


### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 76

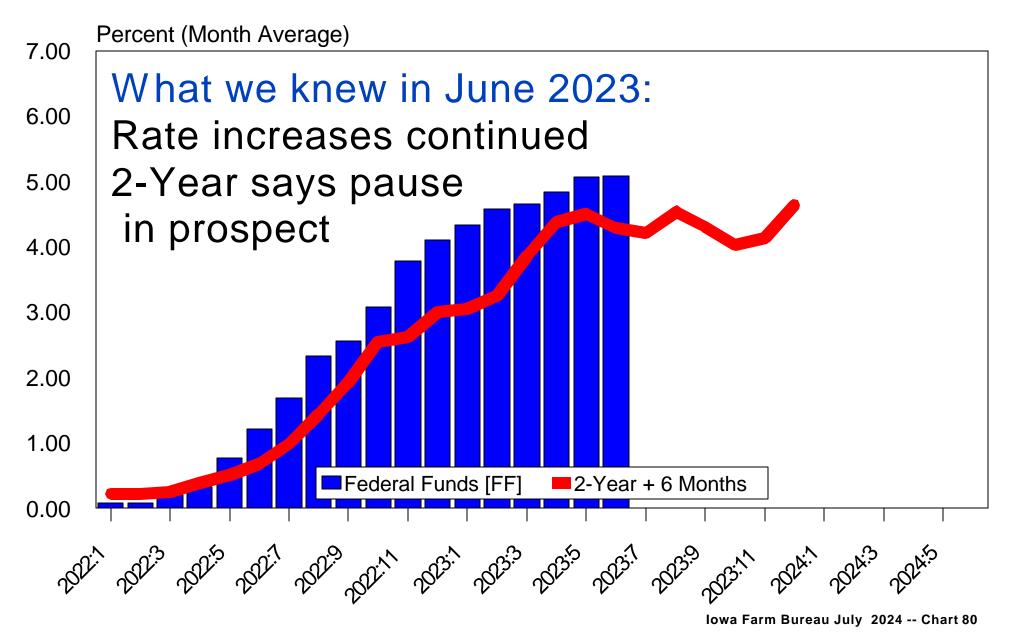


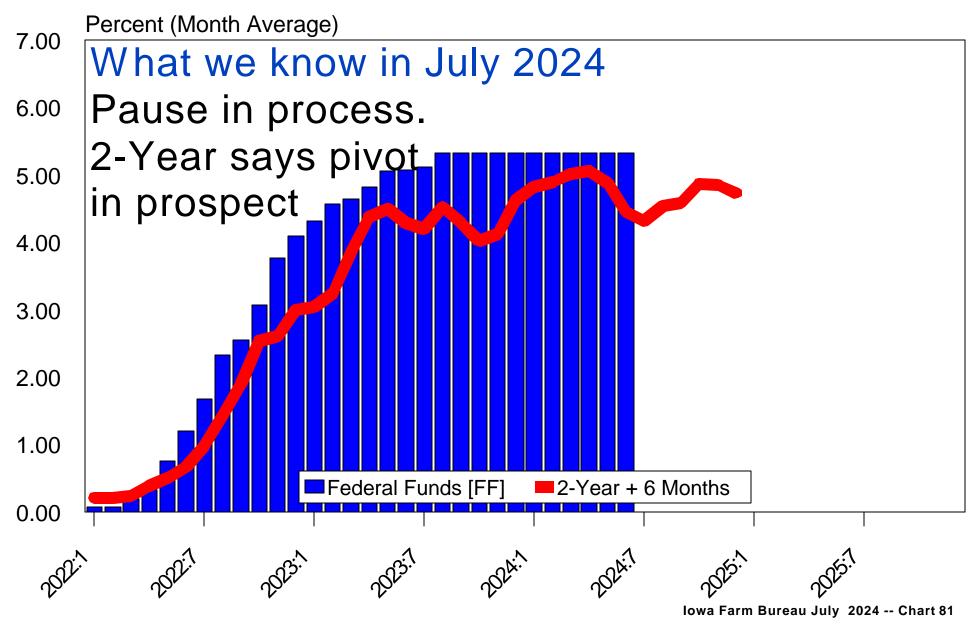
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 77

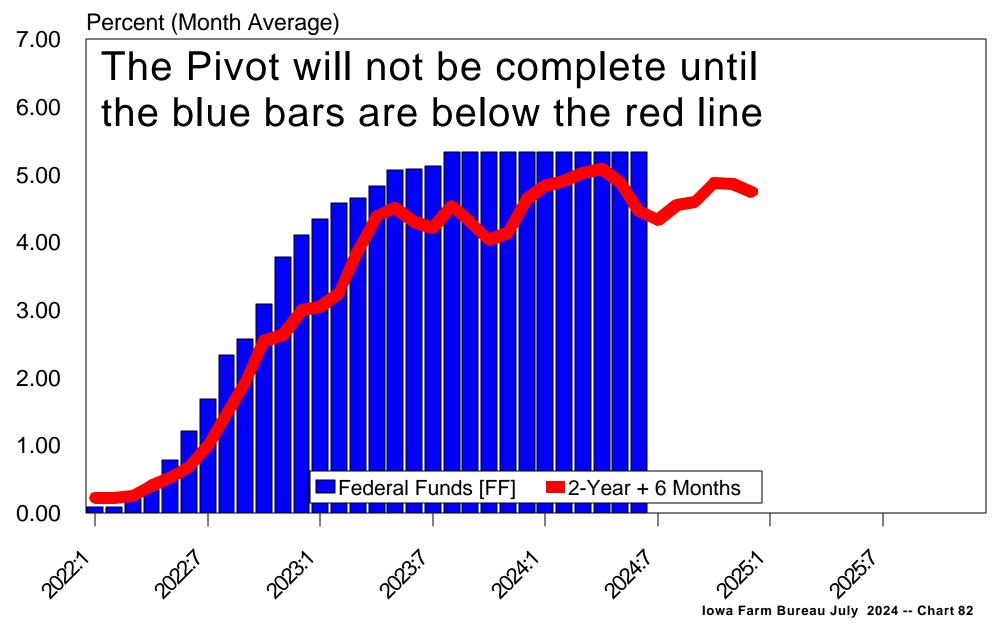




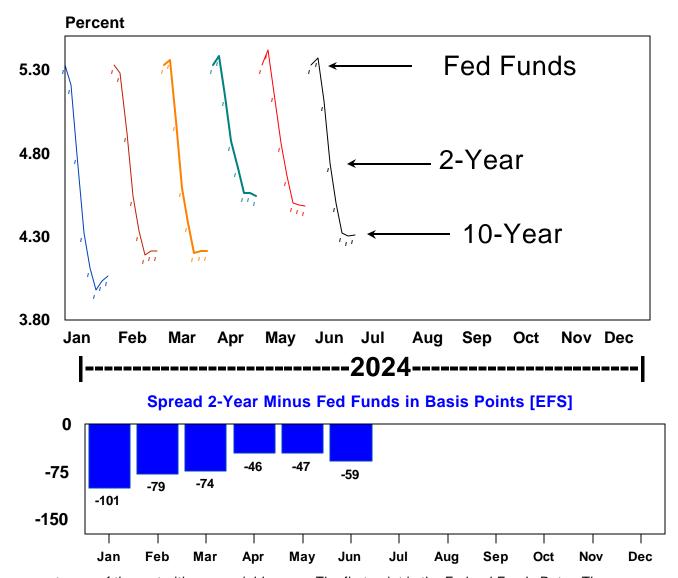
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 79







# The Constant Maturity Treasury Yield Curve\*\*



<sup>\*\*</sup>Each point on the line represents one of the maturities on a yield curve. The first point is the Federal Funds Rate. The last point is the 10-Year Treasury Note. The intermediate points, are the 6-month and 12-month bills, followed by the 2,3,5,7-Year notes.

| Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 83

# Mr. Powell's Inflation Problem Part 1

Inflation is a generalized and persistent rise in prices over time.

Inflation is to the economy what your blood pressure is to your vital signs.

Too high: you have a stroke and you die.

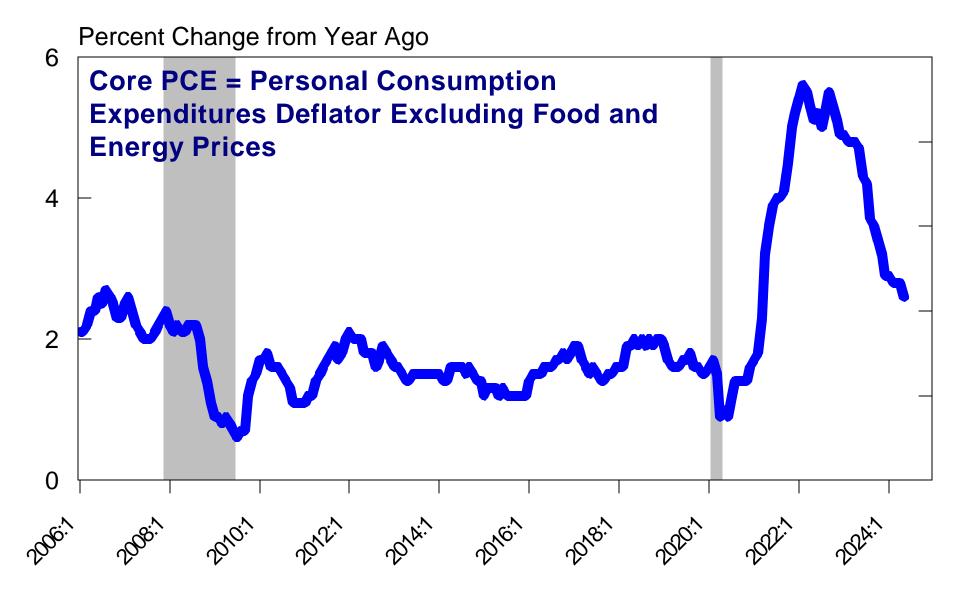
Too low: you have a stroke and you die.

# "A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."

Yogi Berra

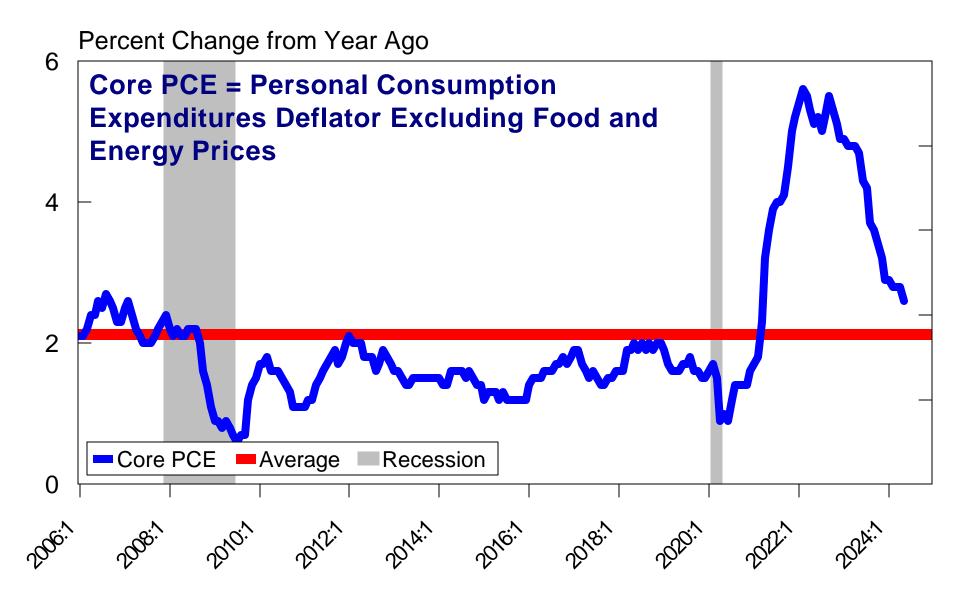
# Why we have a 2% Inflation Target

# Core PCE



### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 90

# Core PCE

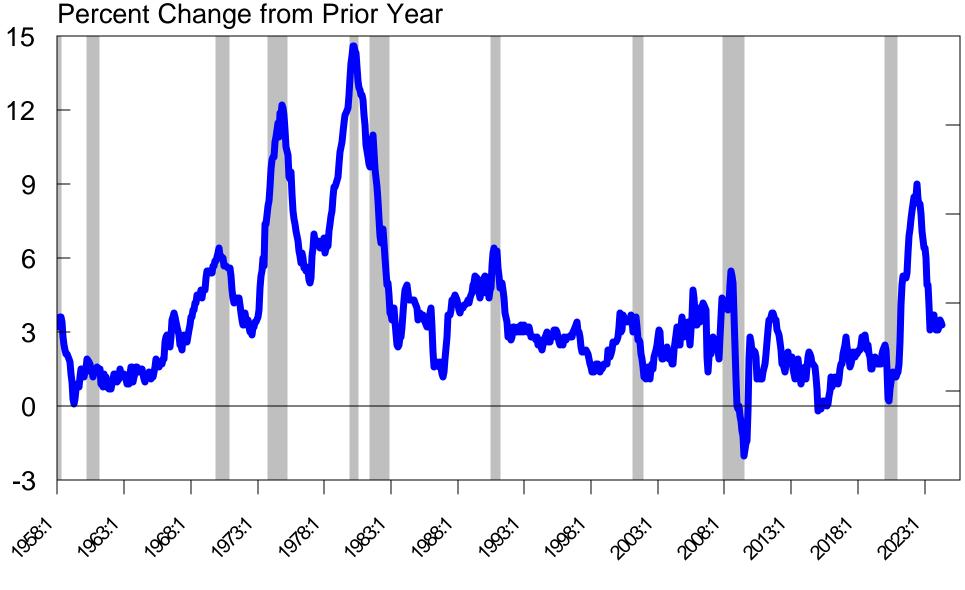


## Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 91

"The Committee does not expect it will be appropriate to reduce the target range until it has gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2 percent."

June 12, 2024 FOMC Statement

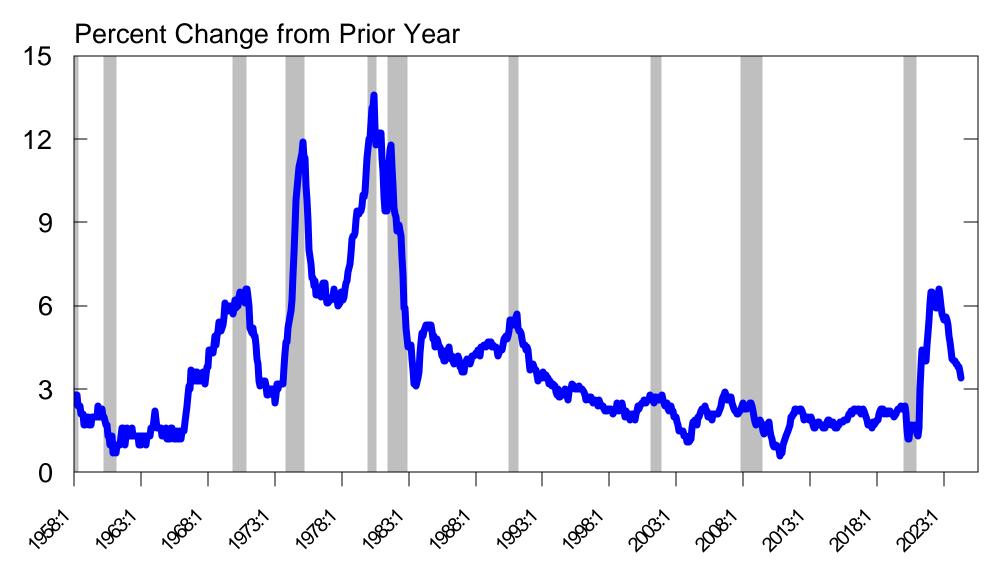
# All-Items Consumer Price Index



Year and Month

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 93

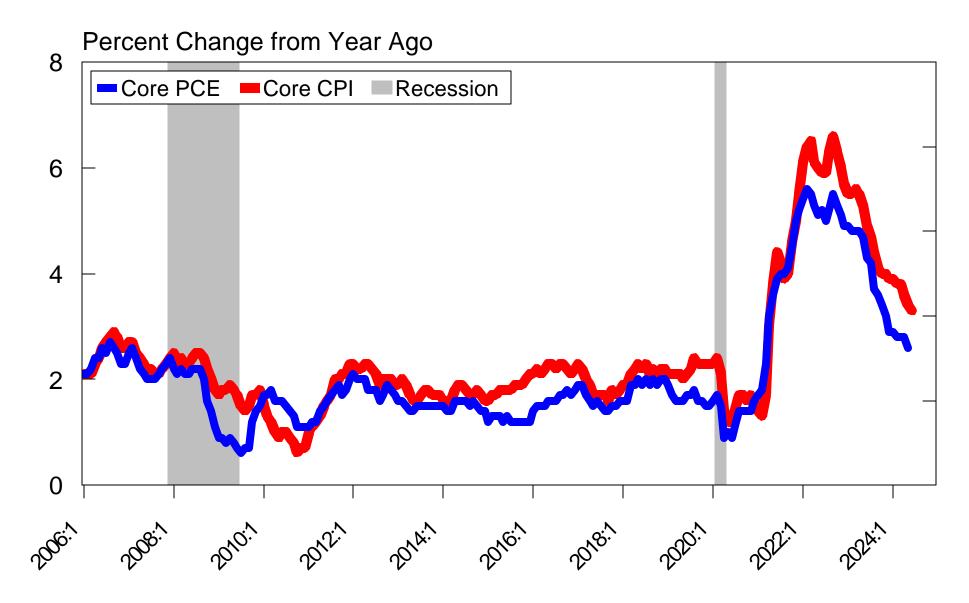
# Consumer Price Index Ex Food and Energy (Core)



Year and Month

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 94

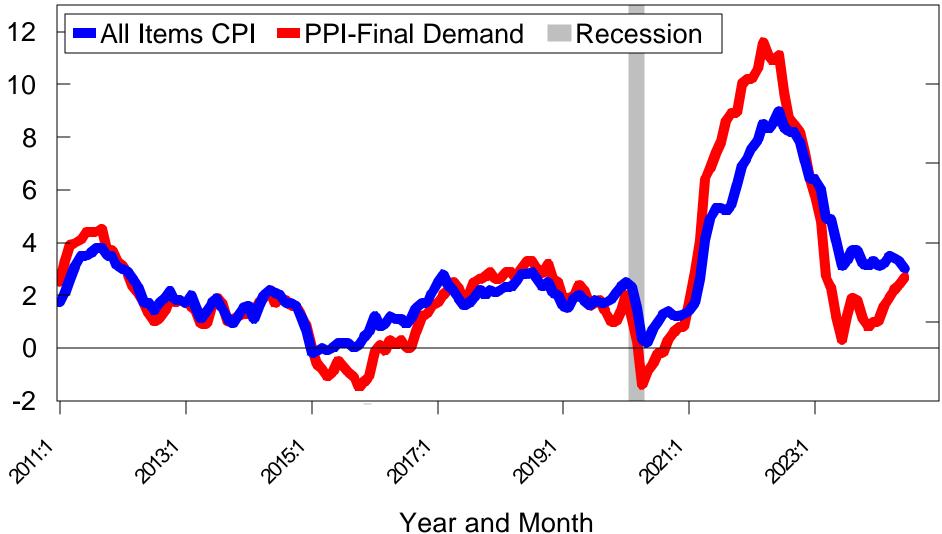
# Selected Measures of Inflation



### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 95

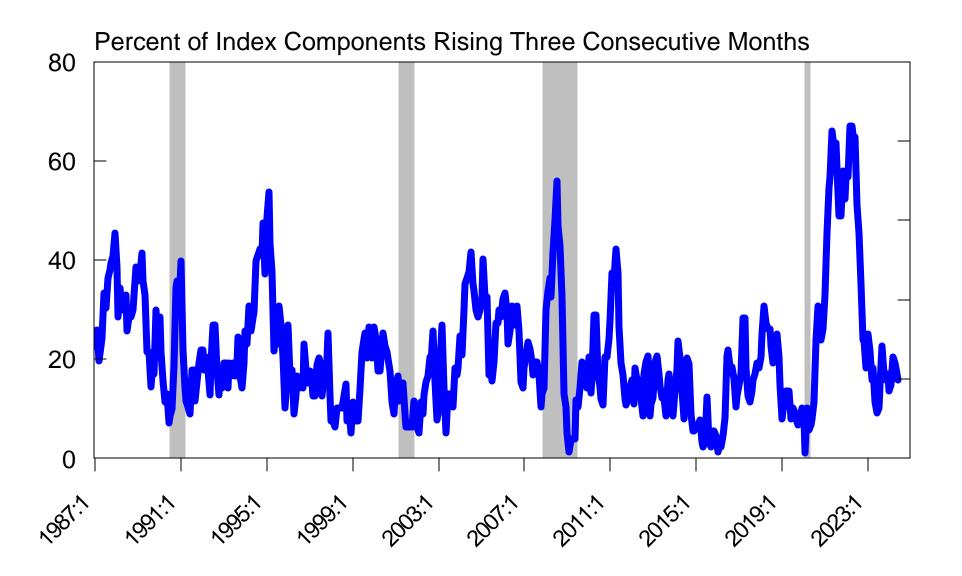
# Selected Measures of Inflation



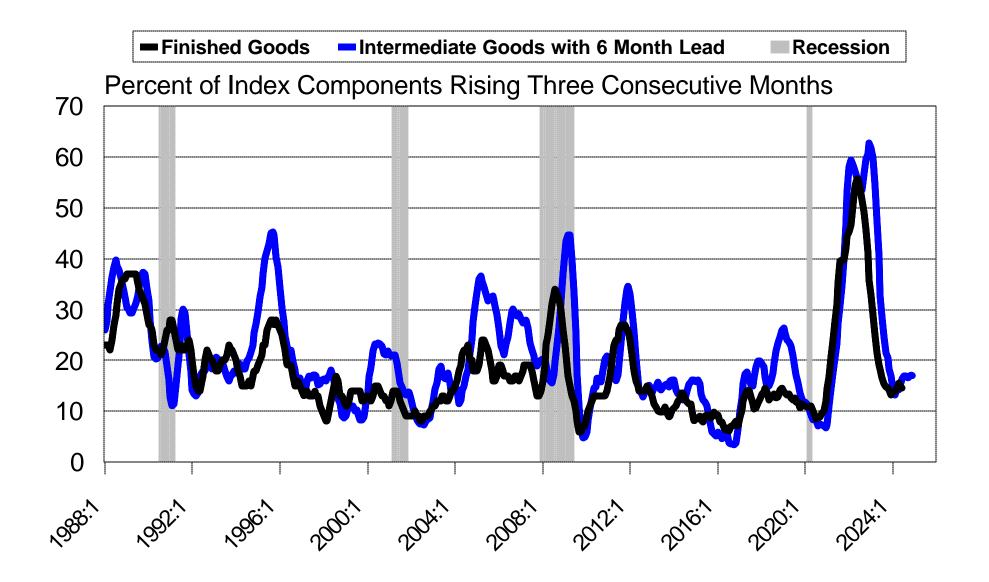


Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 96

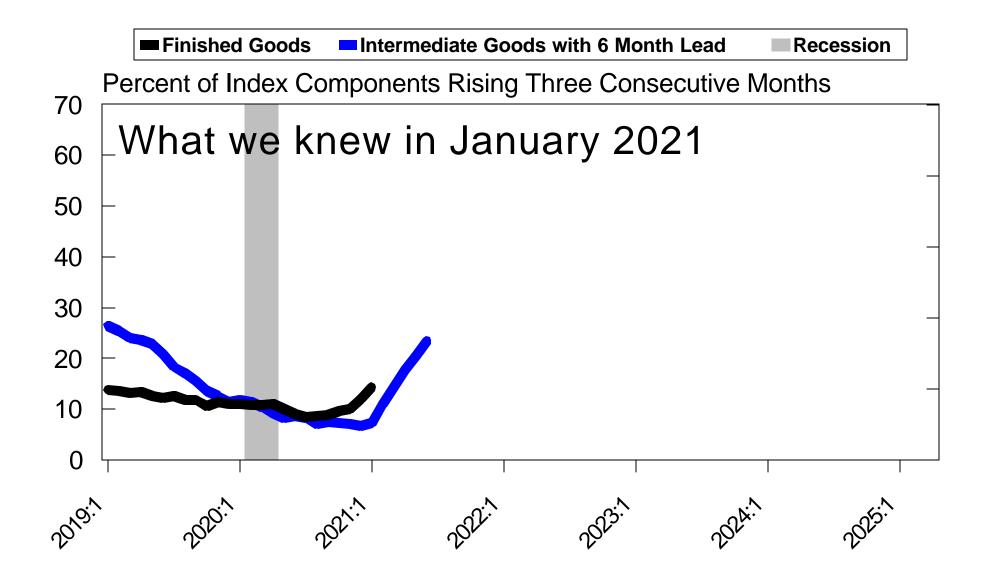
# Intermediate Goods PPI Diffusion Index



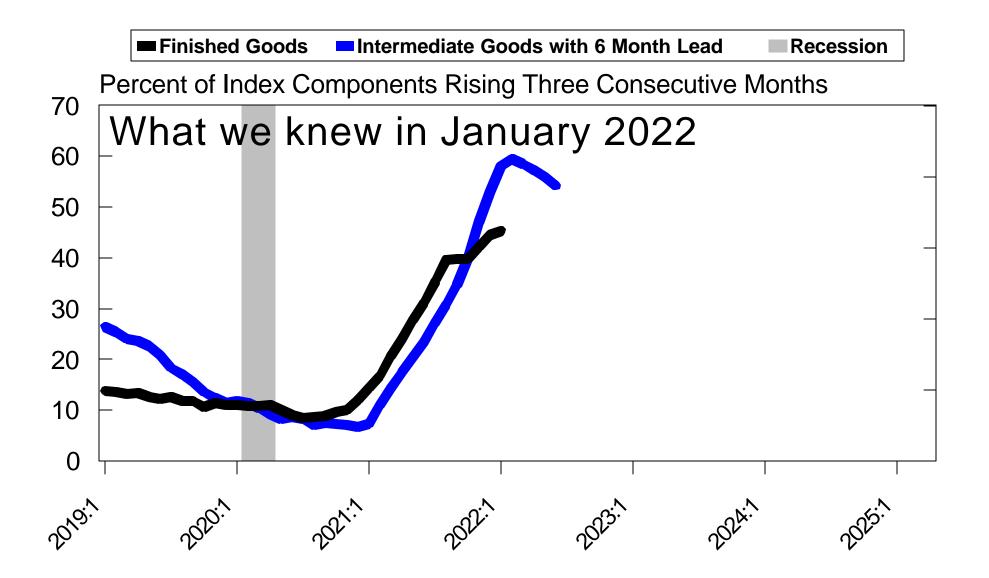
### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 97



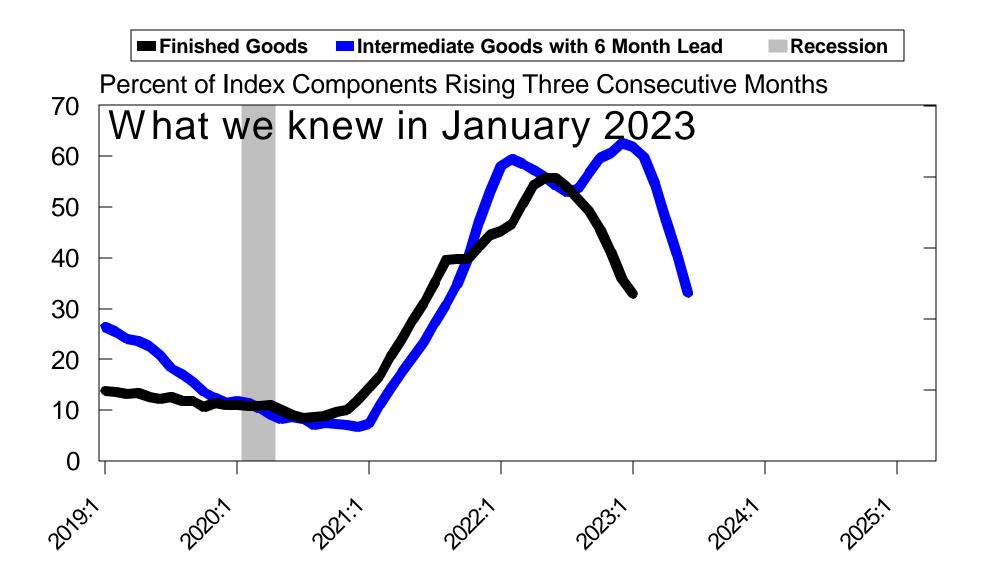
### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 98



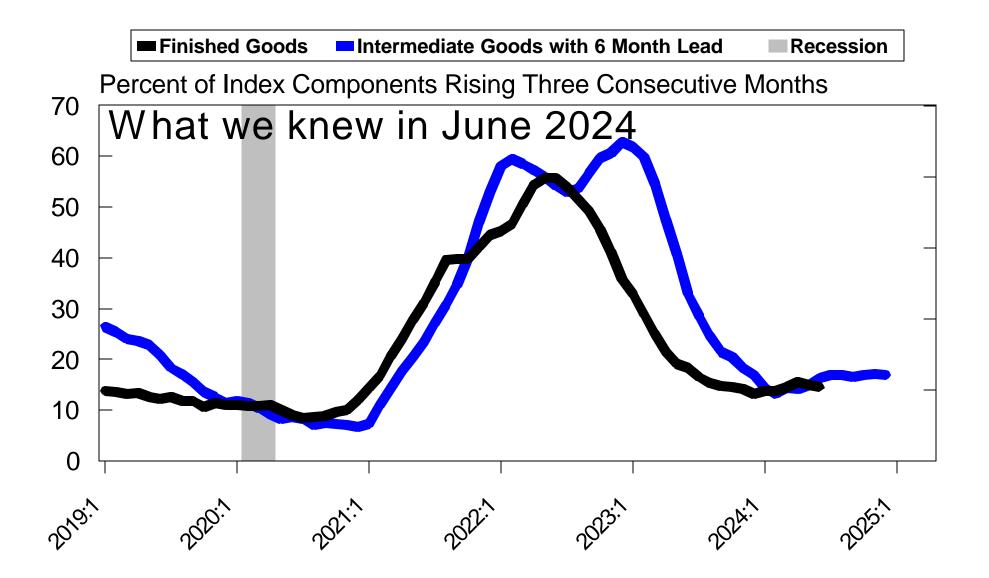
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 99



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 100



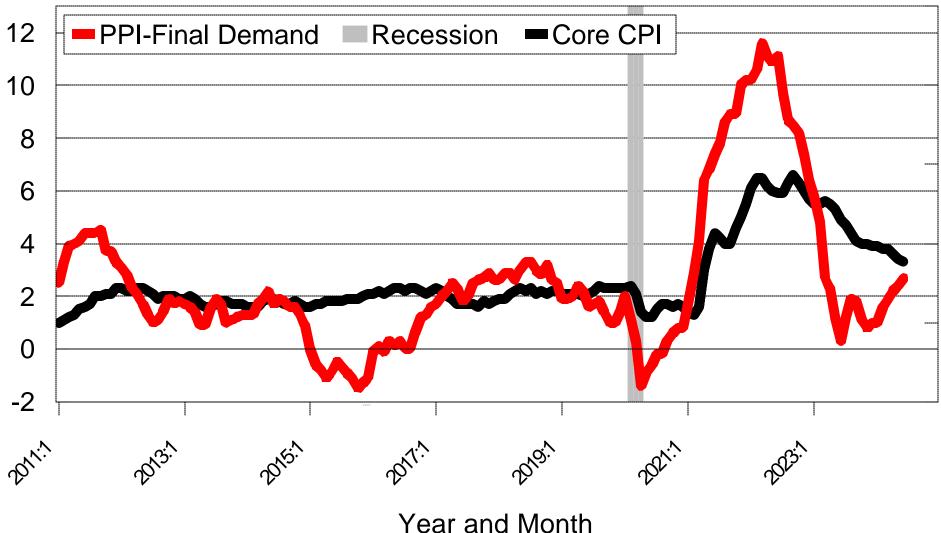
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 101



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 102

# Selected Measures of Inflation

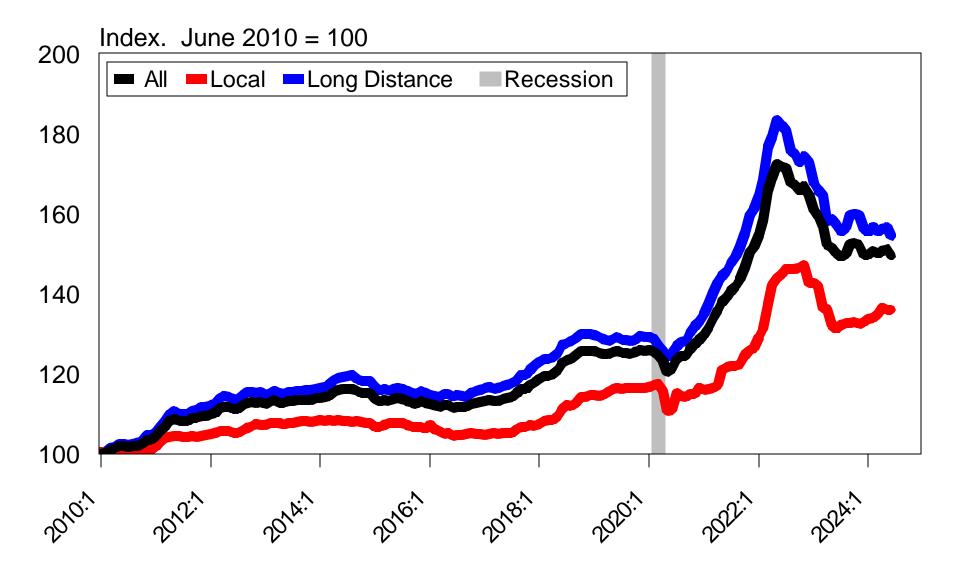
# Percent Change from Year Ago



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 103

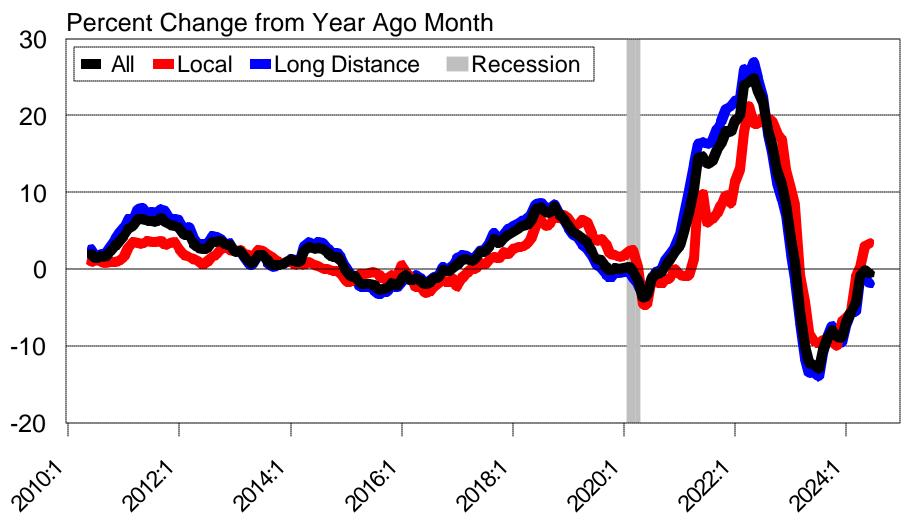
# "If you bought it, a truck brought it."

# Truck Transportation Services



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 105

# Selected Measures of Inflation -- Truck Transportation Services



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 106

# Major Issues In Trucking

Right to Repair Legislation

Internal Combustion VS All Other Fuel Types

AB5 - California Rules

2027 EPA Emission Standards

# Mr. Powell's Inflation Problem Part 2

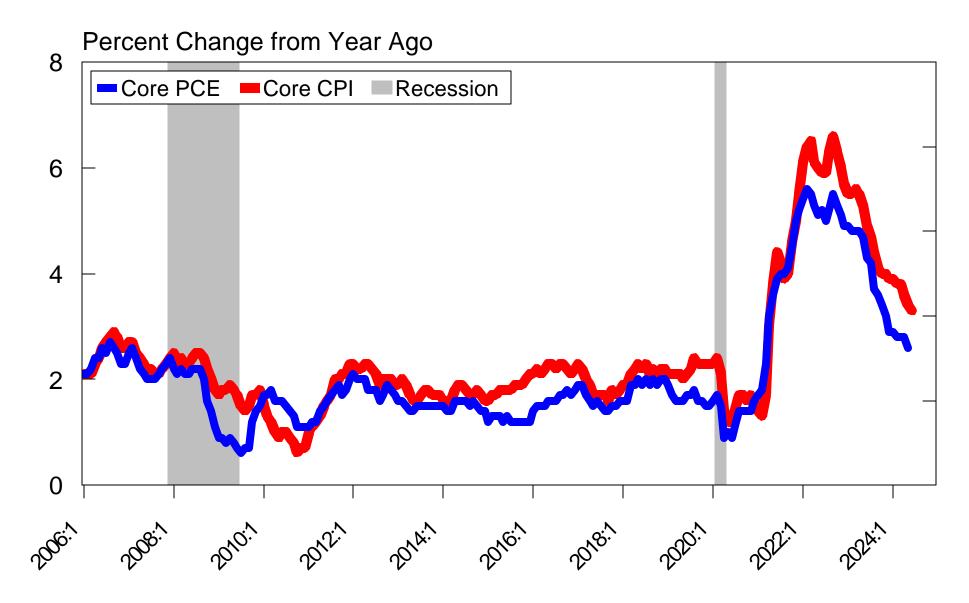
"The Committee does not expect it will be appropriate to reduce the target range until it has gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2 percent."

June 12, 2024 FOMC Statement

#### "Pair up in threes."

Yogi Berra

#### Selected Measures of Inflation



#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 111

#### **All Figures in Basis Points**

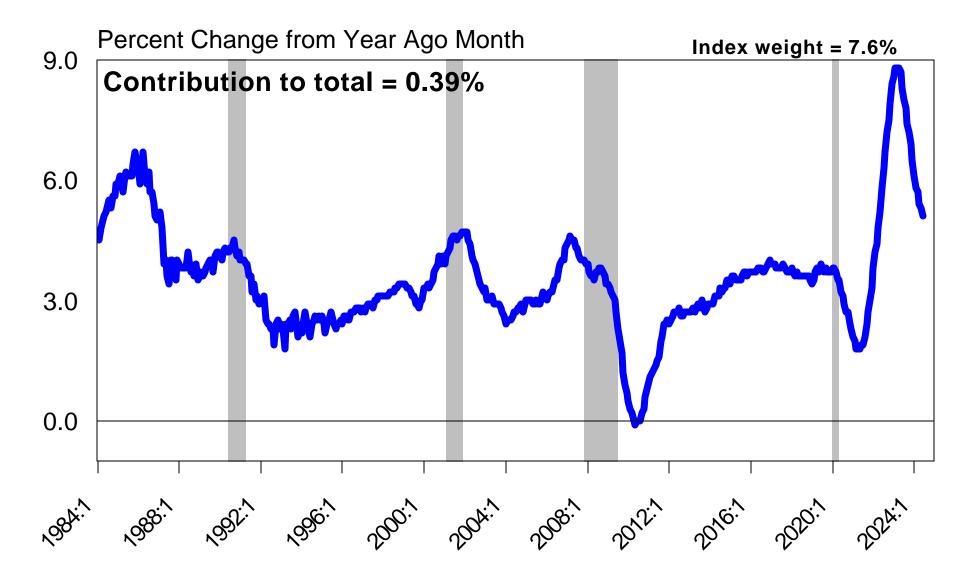
Category	Weight (%)
Cash Rent	7.610
OERPR*	26.627
Medical Care	7.946
Used Vehicles	1.902
Airline Fares	0.838
Core Contributors	44.923
Core CPI	79.794
Food at Home	8.061
Food Away from Home	5.334
Gasoline	3.670
Food and Energy	17.065
All Other**	38.012
All Items CPI	100.000

<sup>\*</sup>OERPR = Owners' Equivalent Rent of Primary Residence

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 112

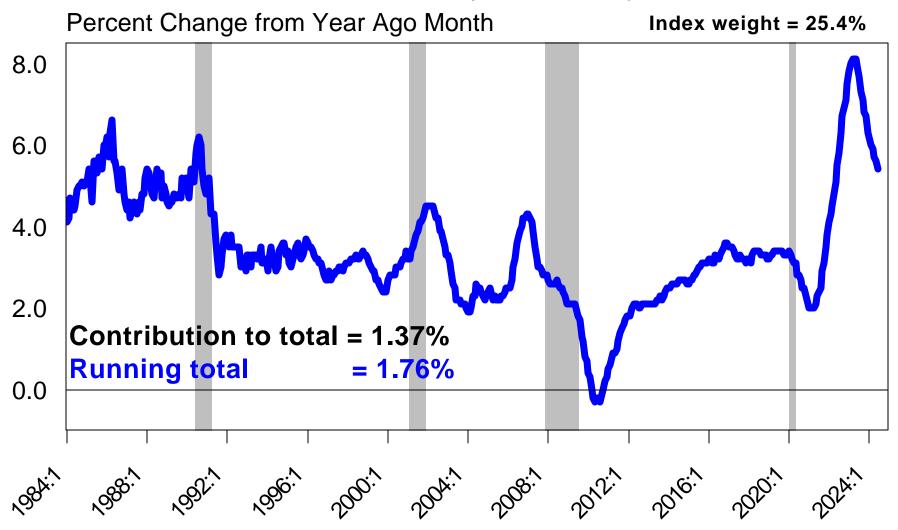
<sup>\*\*</sup> All Other = All Items CPI - Core Contributors - Food and Energy

#### Rent of Primary Residence



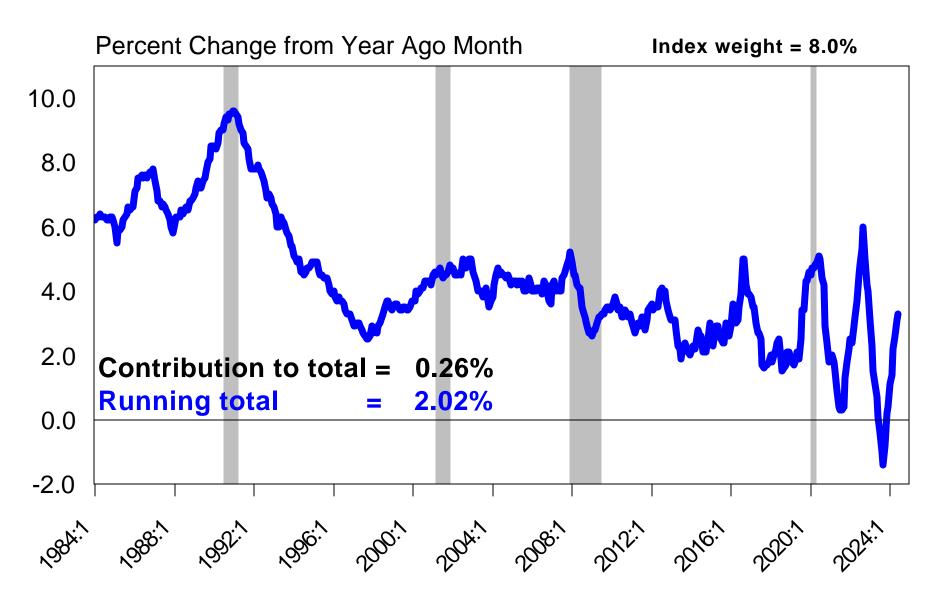
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 113

### Owners' Equivalent Rent of Primary Residence (OERPR)



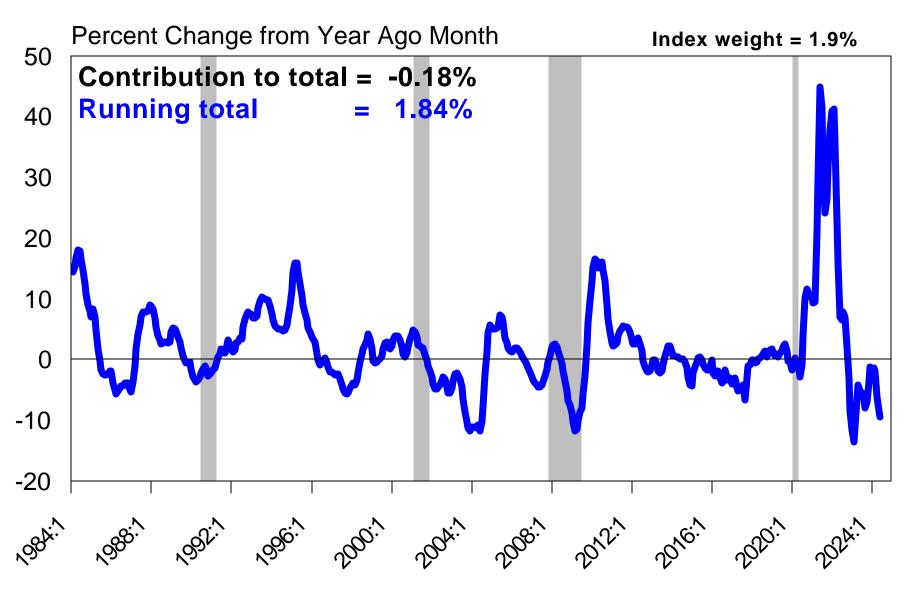
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 114

#### **Medical Care**



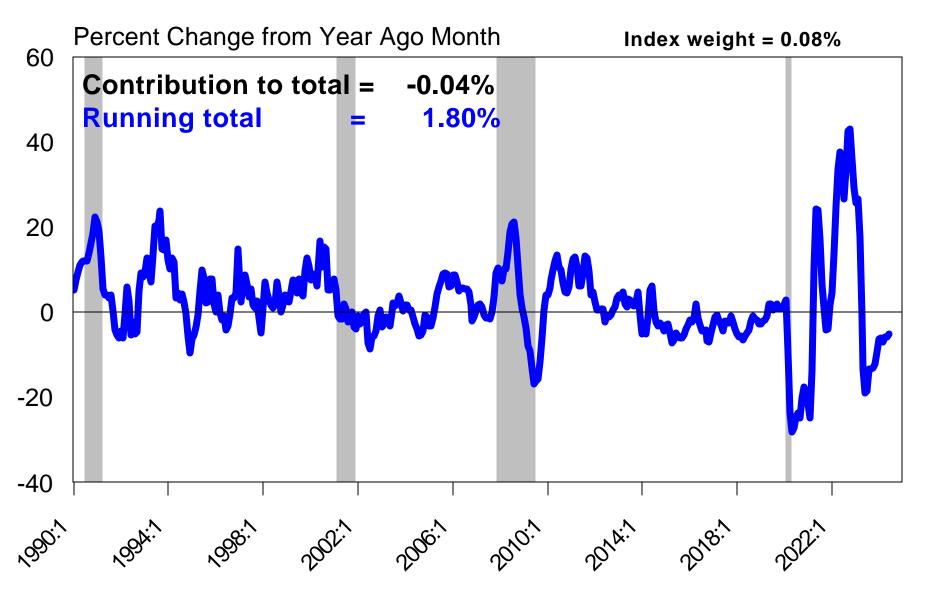
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 115

#### **Used Vehicles**



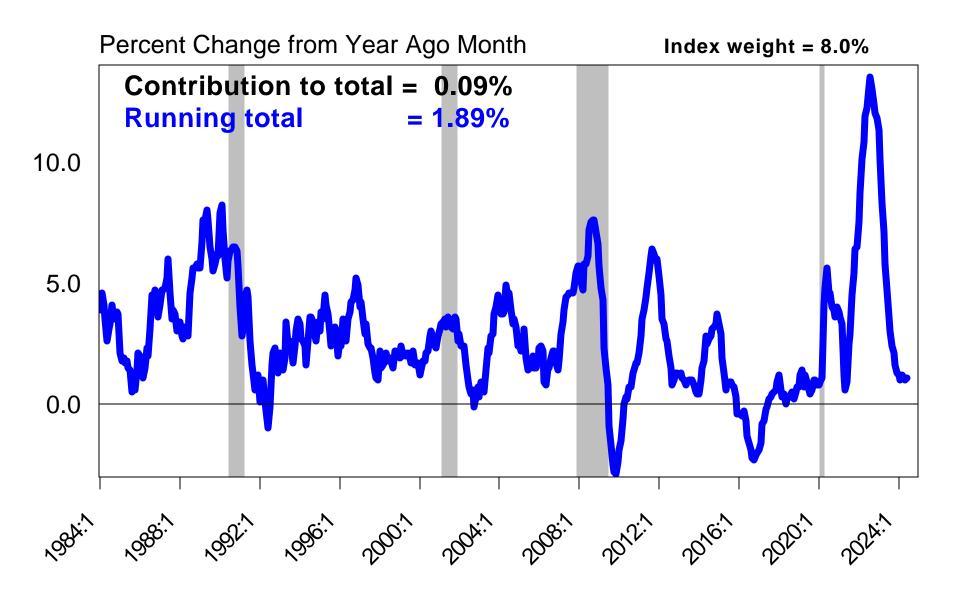
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 116

#### Airline Fares



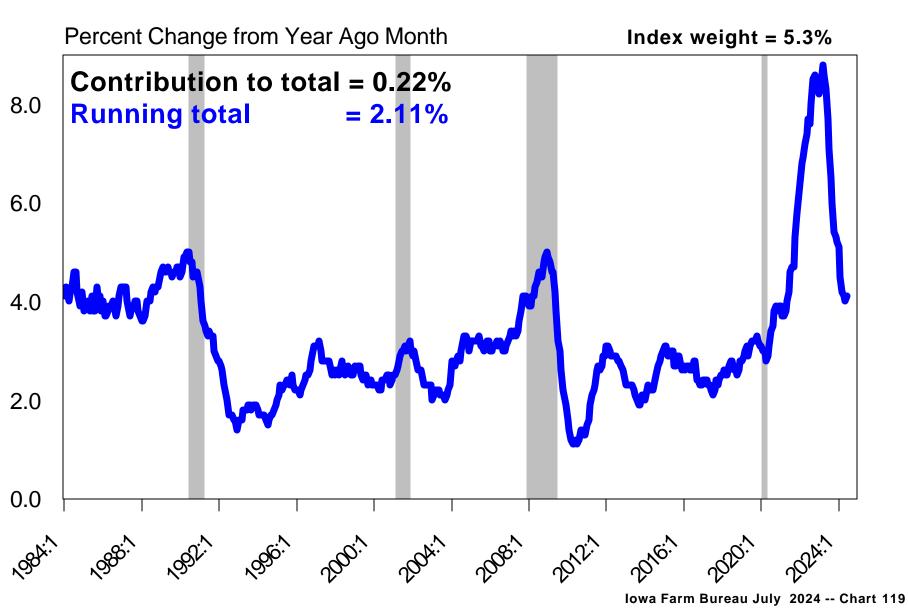
Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 117

#### Food at Home

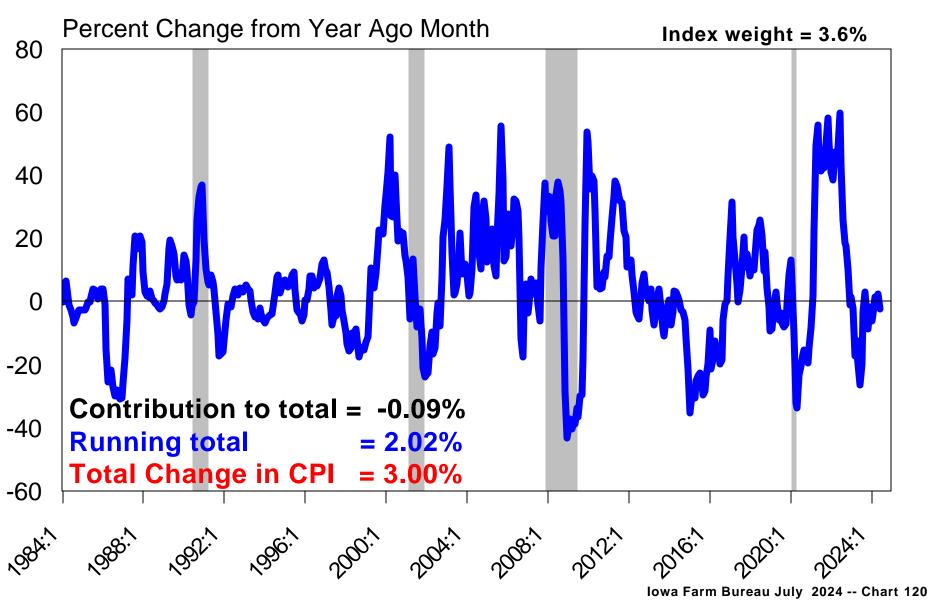


Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 118

#### Food Away from Home



#### Gasoline (All Types)



#### **All Figures in Basis Points**

Category	May 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2024
Cash Rent	27	15	44	39
OERPR*	83	61	147	137
Medical Care	39	3	37	26
Used Vehicles	-1	87	14	-18
Airline Fares	-23	20	27	-4
Core Contributors	125	186	269	180
Core CPI	120	440	590	330
Food at Home	39	7	99	9
Food Away from Home	16	22	41	22
Gasoline	-112	150	198	-9
Food and Energy	-57	179	338	22
All Other**	-48	165	293	98
All Items CPI	20	530	900	300

<sup>\*</sup>OERPR = Owners' Equivalent Rent of Primary Residence

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 121

<sup>\*\*</sup> All Other = All Items CPI - Core Contributors - Food and Energy

#### **All Figures in Basis Points**

Category	June 2022	June 2024	Change	
Cash Rent	44	39		
OERPR*	147	137	-10	
Medical Care	37	26	-1	
Used Vehicles	14	-18	-3	
Airline Fares	27	-4	-3	
Core Contributors	269	180	-89	
Core CPI	590	330	-26	
Food at Home	99	9	-9	
Food Away from Home	41	22	-1	
Gasoline	198	-9	-20	
Food and Energy	338	22	-31	
All Other**	293	98	-19	
All Items CPI	900	300	-60	

<sup>\*</sup>OERPR = Owners' Equivalent Rent of Primary Residence

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 122

<sup>\*\*</sup> All Other = All Items CPI - Core Contributors - Food and Energy

#### **All Figures in Basis Points**

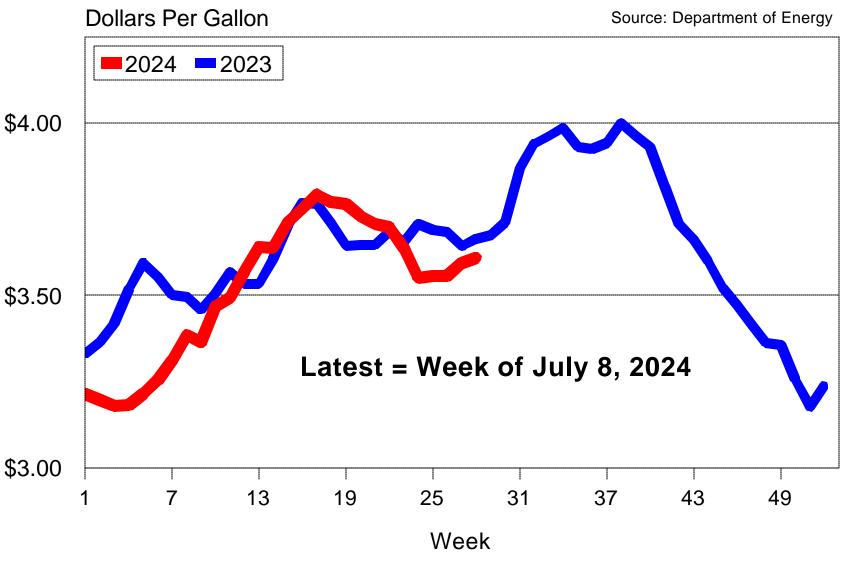
Category	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Cash Rent	43	41	40	39
OERPR*	157	152	149	137
Medical Care	17	21	25	26
Used Vehicles	-4	-12	-16	-18
Airline Fares	-6	-5	-5	-4
Core Contributors	207	197	193	180
Core CPI	380	360	340	330
Food at Home	10	9	8	9
Food Away from Home	22	22	21	22
Gasoline	5	4	8	-9
Food and Energy	37	35	37	22
All Other**	106	108	100	98
All Items CPI	350	340	330	300

<sup>\*</sup>OERPR = Owners' Equivalent Rent of Primary Residence

Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 123

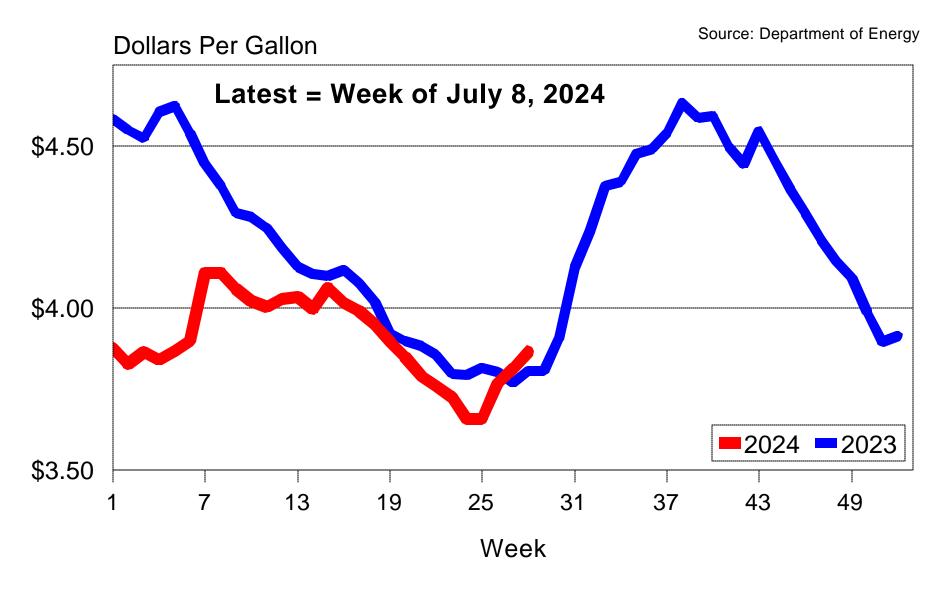
<sup>\*\*</sup> All Other = All Items CPI - Total Contribution from prior chart

#### Gasoline Prices -- All Grades



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 124

#### Diesel Prices -- All Grades



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 125

#### Conclusions

### "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

Yogi Berra

#### The 4 Iron Laws of Forecasting

2. Two 'wrongs' can make a 'right' but they are not always the same two 'wrongs'.



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 128

# A soft landing is possible, but not probable.

# A soft landing would postpone a cycle peak not negate one.

How quickly the FOMC starts to cut interest rates will depend almost entirely on what happens to Core Inflation

## Watch the 2-Year Note for clues to FOMC Moves.

# "If people don't want to come out to the ball park nobody's gonna stop'em."

Yogi Berra

#### The 4 Iron Laws of Forecasting

### 3.Thou shalt not forecast the forecast.



#### Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 134

# "If you ask me anything I don't know, I'm not going to answer.

Yogi Berra

#### The 4 Iron Laws of Forecasting

# 4. I said 'maybe' and that's final!



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 136



Iowa Farm Bureau July 2024 -- Chart 137