



# FORECASTING REVENUE IN AN UNCERTAIN ECONOMY

**TGFOA 2020 Fall Conference**

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**pfm.com**

*All data as of 10-7-2020 unless otherwise noted.*



# Covid19 Recession



## First Services Sector Driven Recession

- ◆ COVID-19 has triggered the first recession ever caused by a contraction in the services sector of the economy
- ◆ Prior recessions generally stemmed from the goods producing sector. For example, the Great Recession beginning in 2008 was caused by an excess supply of housing stimulated by faulty financing and speculation
- ◆ Unlike a goods-based recession, a service sector recession does not generate excess inventory that must be absorbed before recovery can begin
- ◆ Instead, a service-based recession causes a very sharp loss of employment and income and devastates restaurants, retail, service, entertainment, tourism and travel
  - Many of these businesses are relatively small and have small capital bases
  - Most services sector workers are relatively lower paid and may lack healthcare and other safety nets and personal savings
- ◆ Since a services sector recession is not burdened by excess inventory, the initial rebound occurs very quickly, but full recovery is delayed until a vaccine is in wide use



# COVID-19 Recession – Overview and Key Assumptions

## 1. Baseline

- A. Overview – COVID-19 has triggered a severe but short global recession. In the U.S. it is the most severe since the Great Depression
- B. Key Assumptions – Gradual re-openings and periodic roll-backs. Normal economic and social activities are delayed until mid-2021 when a vaccine is widely distributed. In between, as testing and quarantine measures ramp up, social distancing remains necessary, dampening economic activity

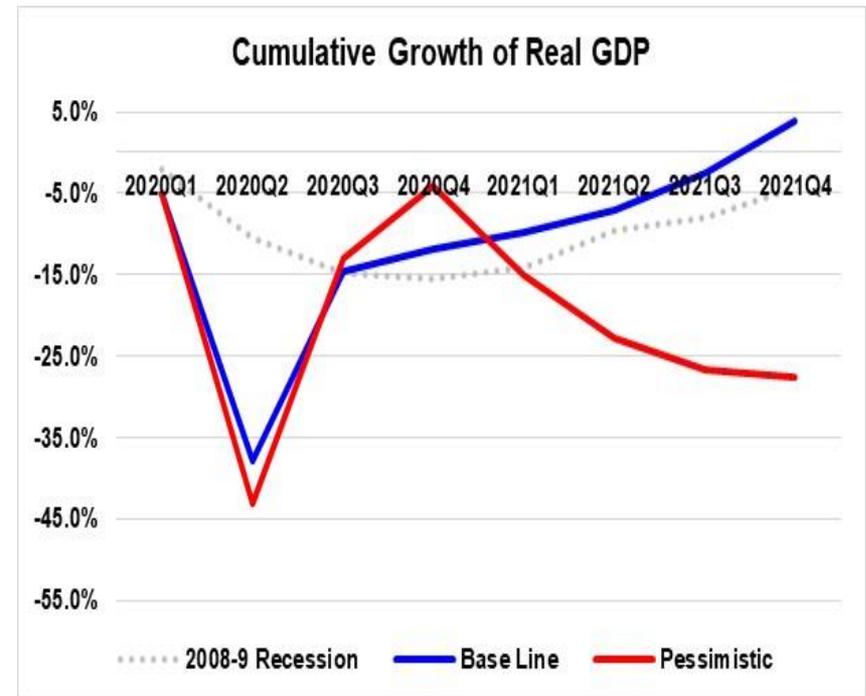
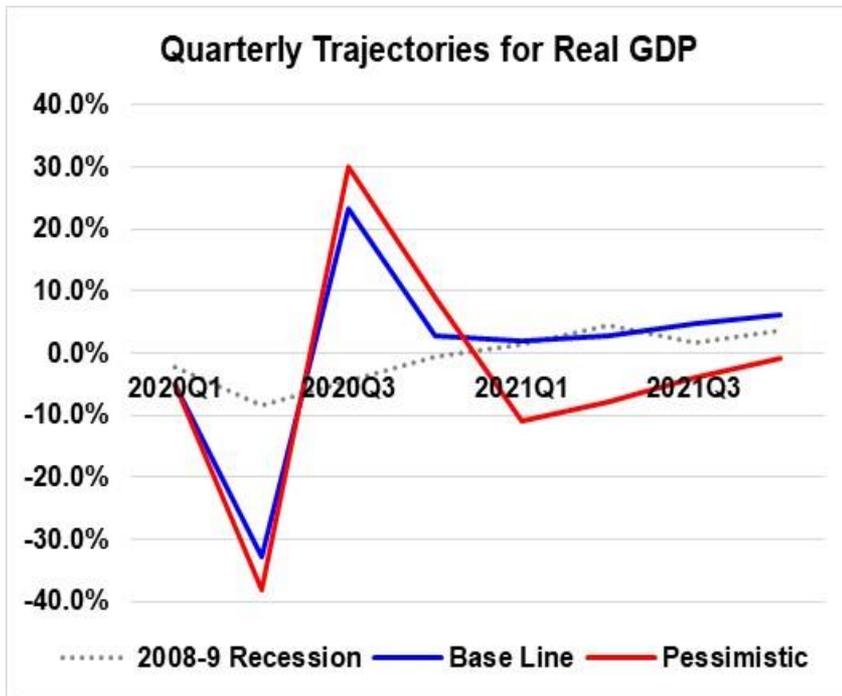
## 2. Pessimistic

- A. Overview – Infections rebound in the U.S., prompting renewals of lockdown measures preventing a recovery. The result is a prolonged period of below trend economic activity
- B. Key Assumptions – Lockdown measures are abandoned too soon and the epidemic re-erupts in major cities. Extensive monetary and fiscal measures result in a quasi nationalization of major sectors of the economy. These measures fail to restore a meaningful recovery, but they do arrest the downward spiral



## Impact of COVID-19 on Real GDP

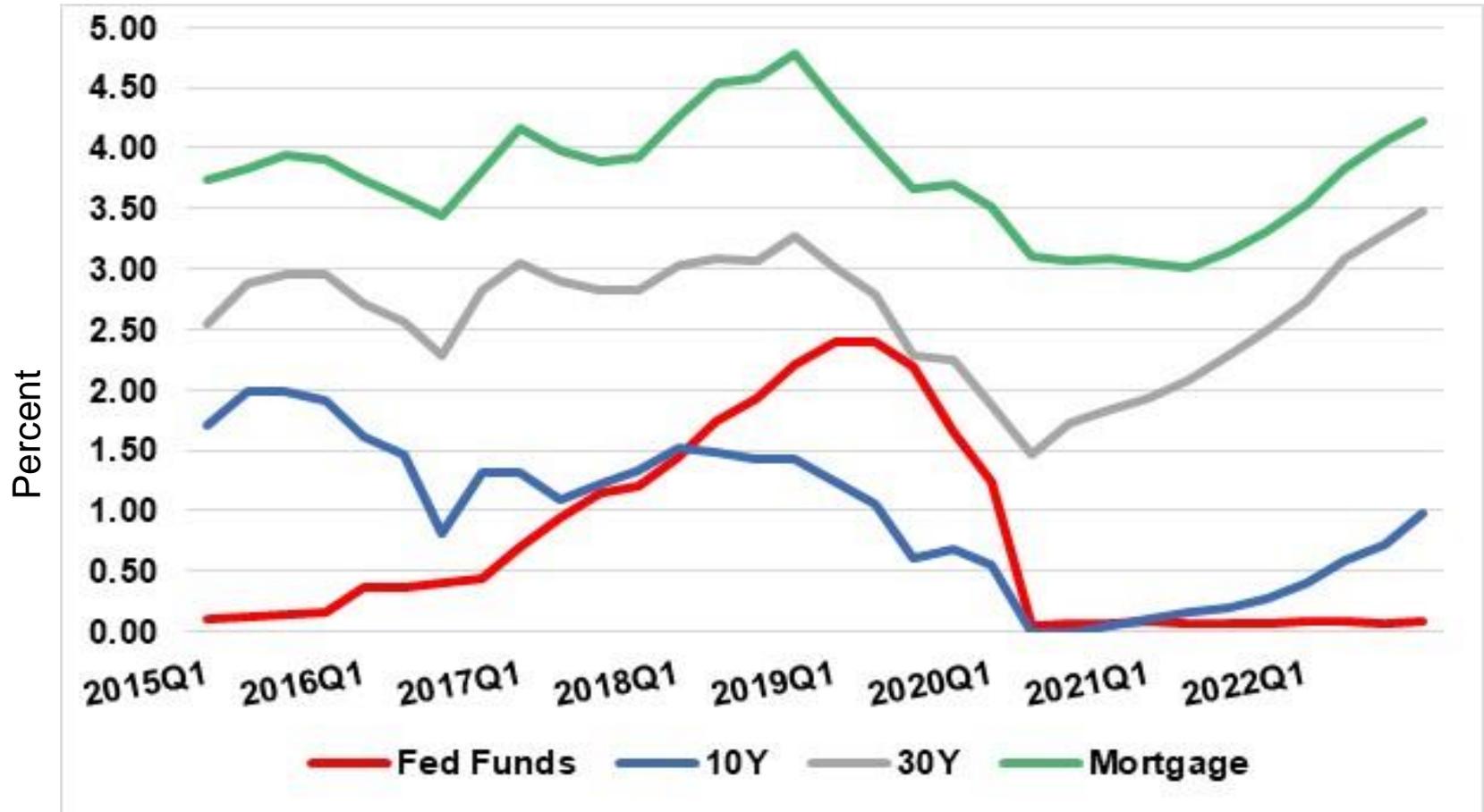
- Baseline – regain prior level of real GDP by 2021Q4
- Pessimistic – do not regain prior level of real GDP until 2023



Sources: Moody's Analytics, and PFM



## Key Interest Rates



Source: Moody's Economy.com,



## Comparison of COVID-19 Recession to Past Recessions

Recession	Months of Duration	Fall in GDP	Peak Unemployment Rate
Great Depression	43	-30.0%	25%
2008-2009	18	-4.3%	13%
COVID-19	3	-10.5%	15%

- The COVID-19 recession is unique, because it is primarily a services sector recession caused by an epidemic.
- Although the COVID-19 recession is expected to be short in duration, it will likely cause a spike in the unemployment rate higher than in the Great Recession of 2008-9. Again, this is because this recession strikes at the services sector of the economy.
- Strong actions by the Federal Reserve and the \$3T federal stimulus package (equal to 15% of GDP) are likely to prevent cascading sequence of business failures and layoffs from morphing into a financial crises and a depression.

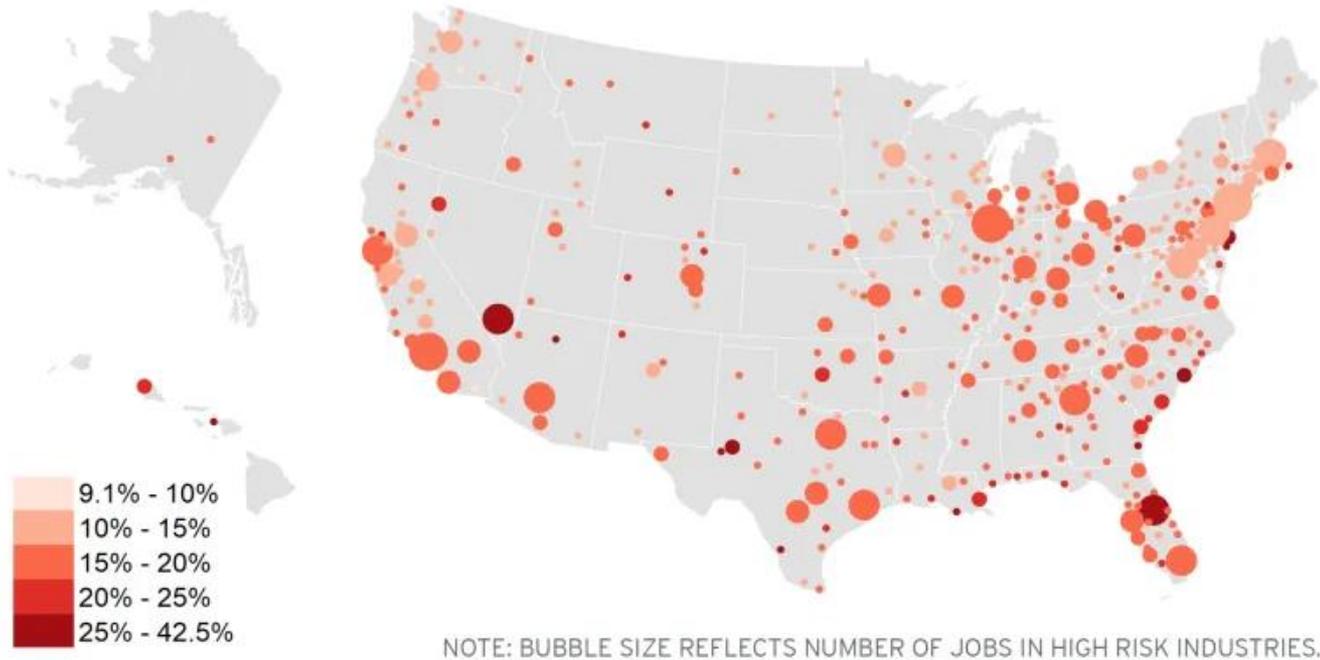
Sources: Moody's Economy.com and NBER



## Impact of Geography / Sector Concentration

### Sunbelt tourist destinations and energy metros stand to be most affected

Share of metro employment in high risk industries, 2019



Source: Zandi, "COVID-19: A Fiscal Stimulus Plan," (Moody's Analytics, 2020) and Brookings analysis of Emsi data

**B** Metropolitan Policy Program  
at BROOKINGS

In addition to different local and regional economic factors, the level and timing of infections also varies across the country, which may, in turn, impact the timing, pace, and phases of economic recovery



# **Structural Change and Implications for the Economic Outlook**



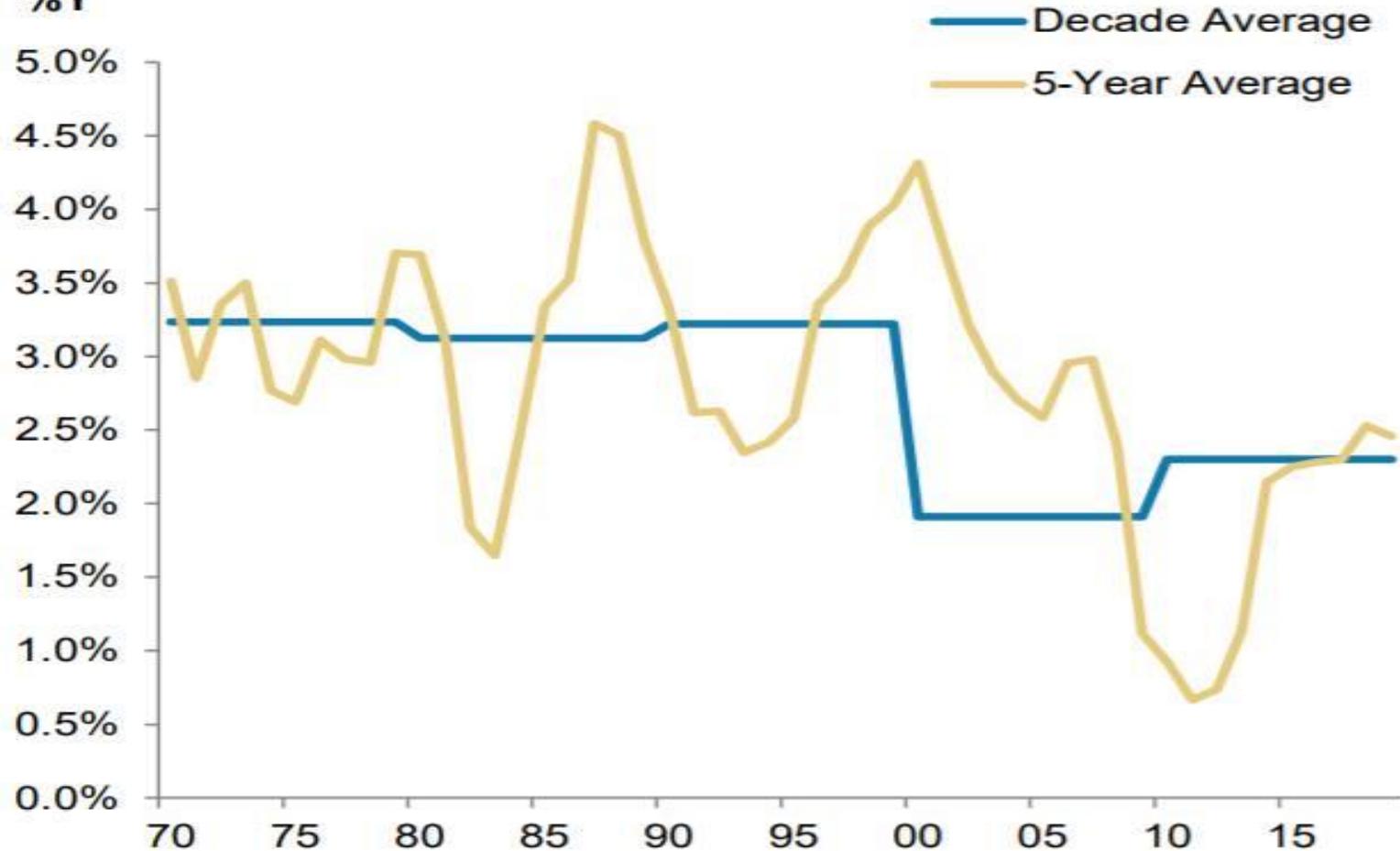
## History is a Good Guide to the Future – Until it is Not!

- ◆ “History doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes,” ascribed to Mark Twain.
- ◆ Typically true and useful.
- ◆ Unless there is structural change that no longer makes the history as useful.
- ◆ Substantial structural changes to U.S. economy have occurred over the last decade
  - Globalization
  - Expanded international trade
  - Fraking and expanded U.S. energy production
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Concentration of wealth
- ◆ Results: slower growth, lower inflation, and lower interest rates



## Trend GDP growth has slowed

US Real GDP  
%Y





## Retail Space Demands Will Continue to Shrink at Accelerating Rate

- Covid19 recession accelerates changes already underway
- Neighborhood centers resist shrinkage for now
- Other retail must adapt and become more of a compelling experience
- Huge excess supply of obsolete space available for re-use
- Need substantial reform of regulations to spur reuse

### Average Supportable Space – Florida

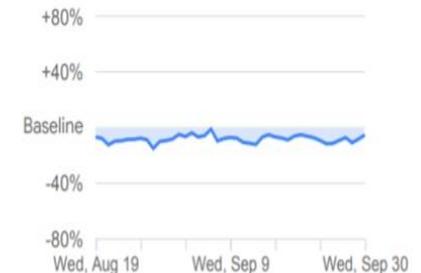
Retail	1980-2000	2000-19	Post Covid
Neighborhood	25	25	20
Community	15	7	3
Regional/Mall	10	5	1
	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>24</b>

**Tennessee mobility data from Google**  
**Tennessee businesses fully reopened now**  
**Even if opened, customers must feel safe**

Retail & recreation

**-5%**

compared to baseline





## Office Space Demand will Shrink Dramatically

- Office space demand was already shrinking prior to Covid19
- Covid19 recession sharply accelerates this trend – proved work from home can work
- Office space is typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest fixed cost for most businesses – firms will economize
- Only the very best or the very cheapest will compete well
- With more work from home offices located near higher valued homes will be favored
- Opportunities for adaptive reuse

Office	SqFt
1980-2000	250
2000-19	150
Post Covid	50-to-75

### Tennessee Mobility from Google Many still working from home

Workplaces

**-25%**

compared to baseline





## Consequences for Property Tax Revenues

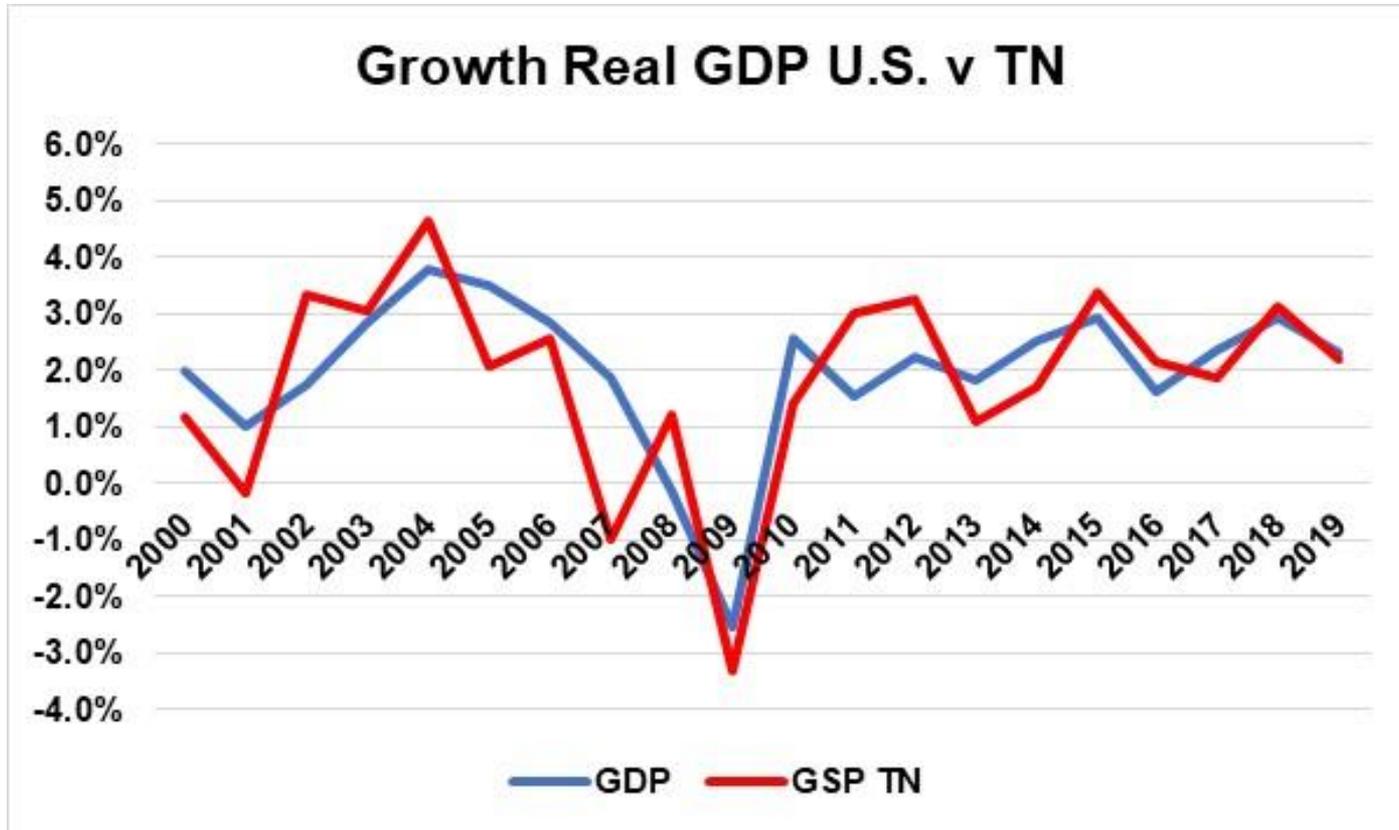
- ◆ Values for retail, restaurant, office and hotels will decline on average
  - Impacts on many retail and office properties will be permanent
  - Impacts on hotels will be substantial, but over time the sector will recover
- ◆ Values for warehouses will increase significantly
  - Driven by Ecommerce
- ◆ Values for residential properties will increase
  - Driven by work from home / school from home
- ◆ Impacts will be felt mostly in FY2022-23



# IMPACT ON TENNESSEE



## Why Care About GDP? Where GDP Goes, so Goes Tennessee's Gross State Product to a Large Extent

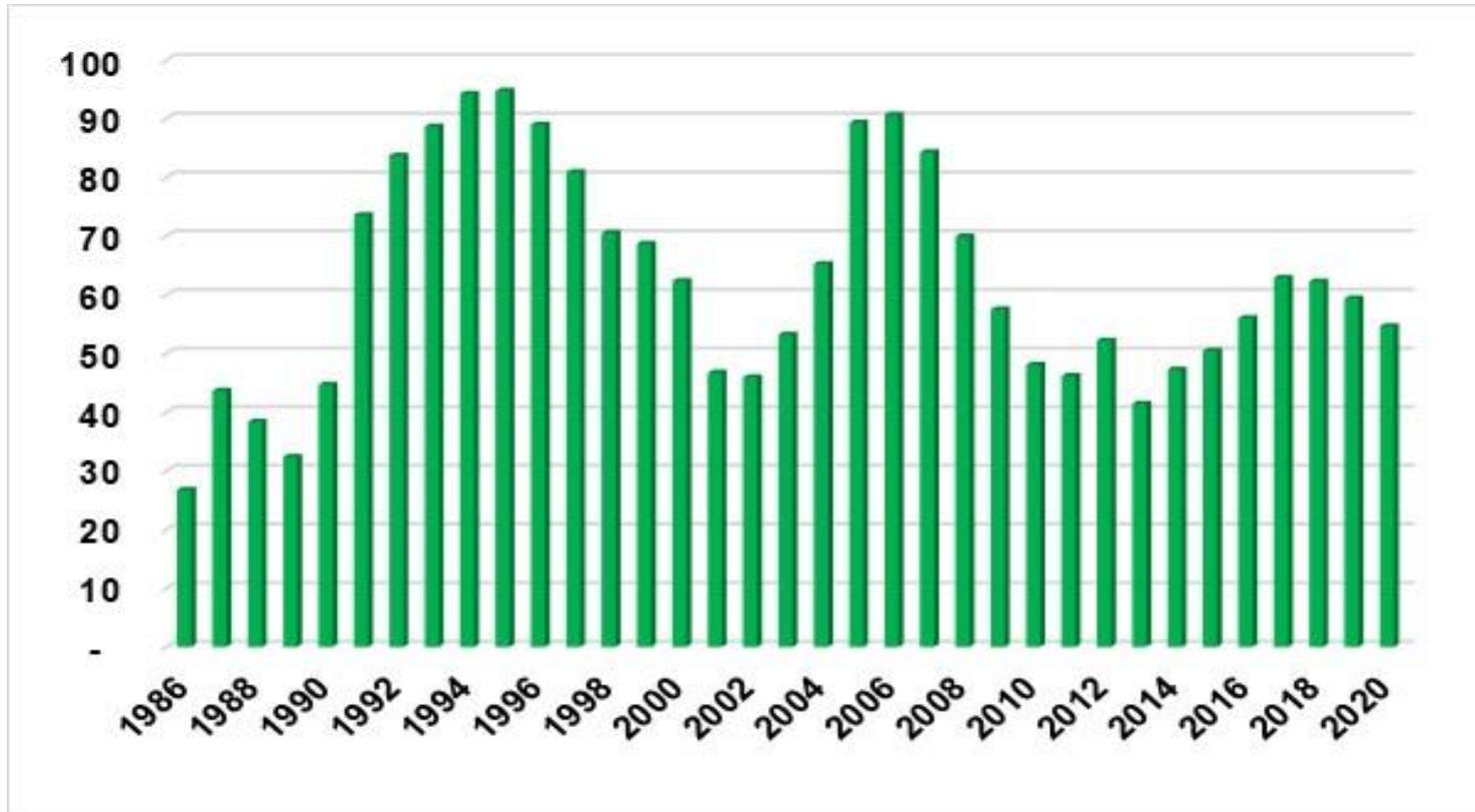


**Correlation = 0.77**



## Tennessee's Population Growth Peaked in 2017 Well Before the COVID-19 Recession

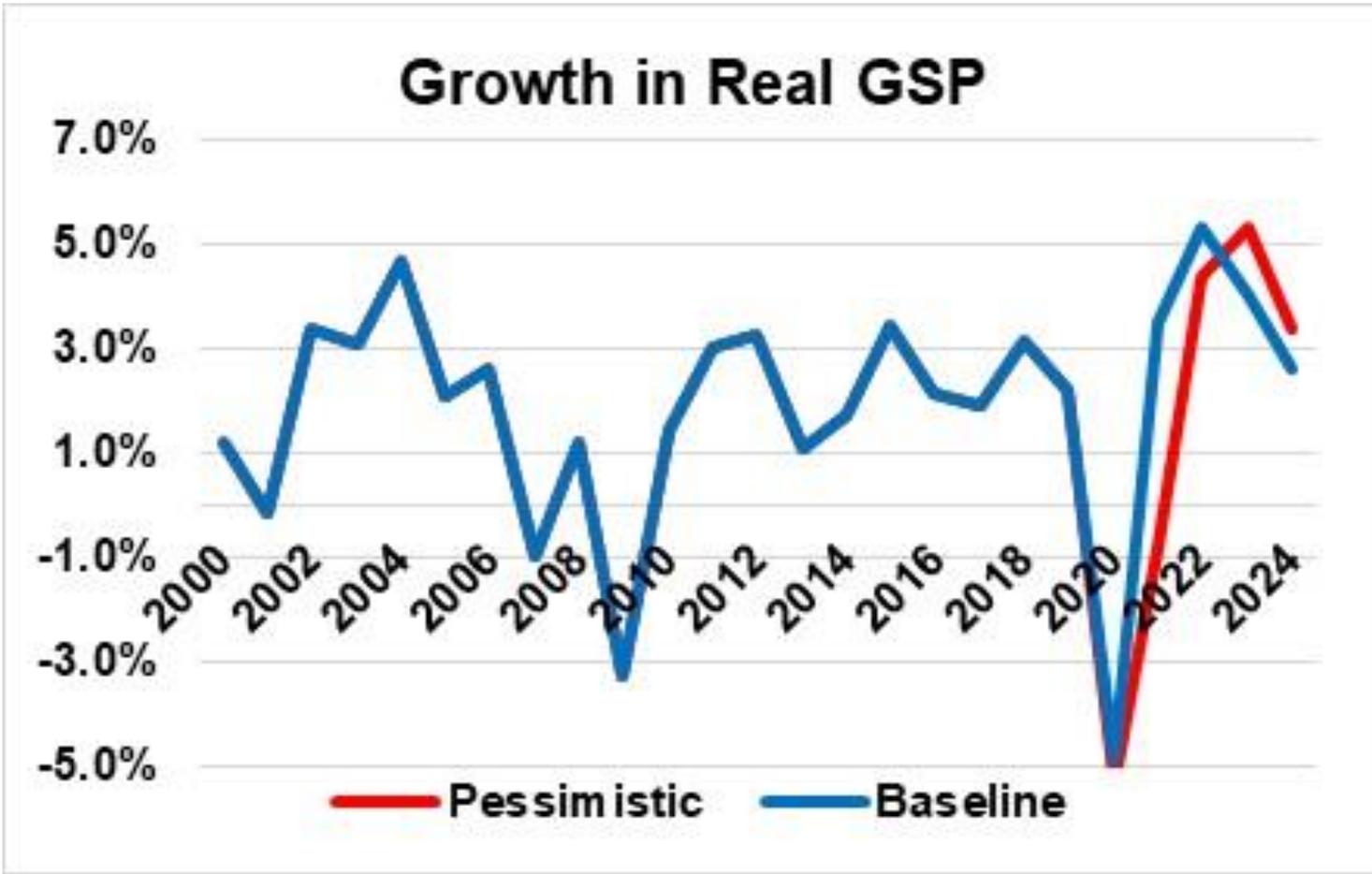
- Domestic migration has slowed significantly over the last 2-years
- International migration has also dropped off



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

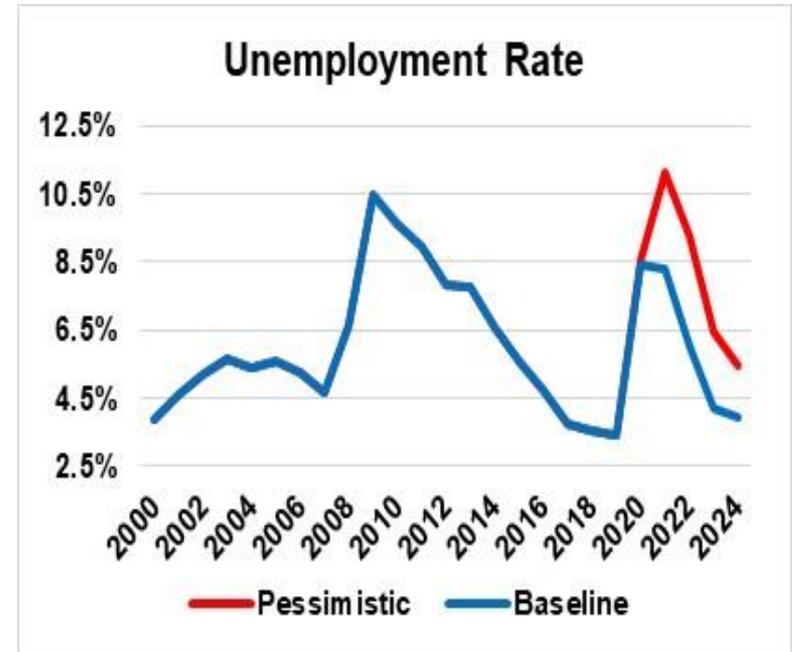
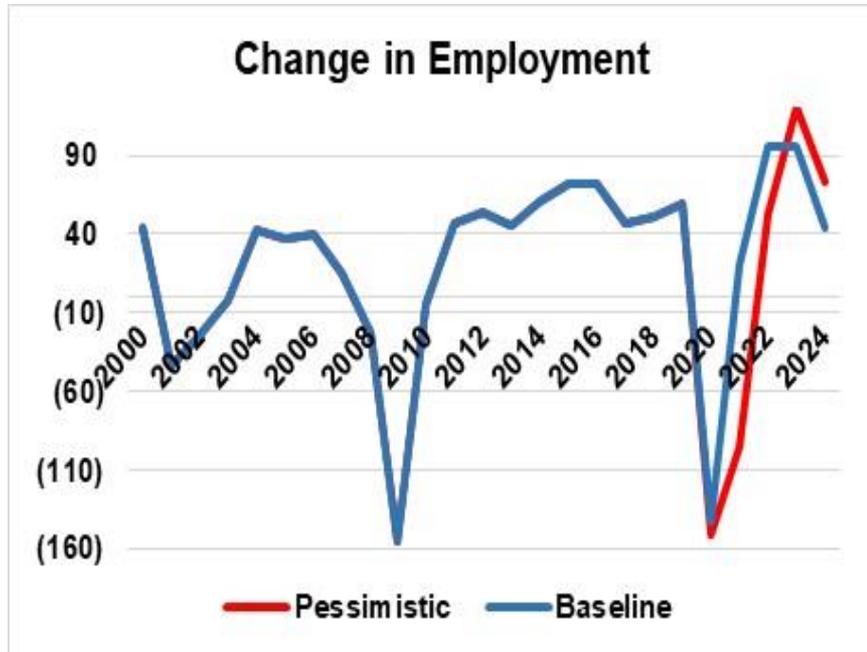


## Impact of COVID-19 Recession on Tennessee



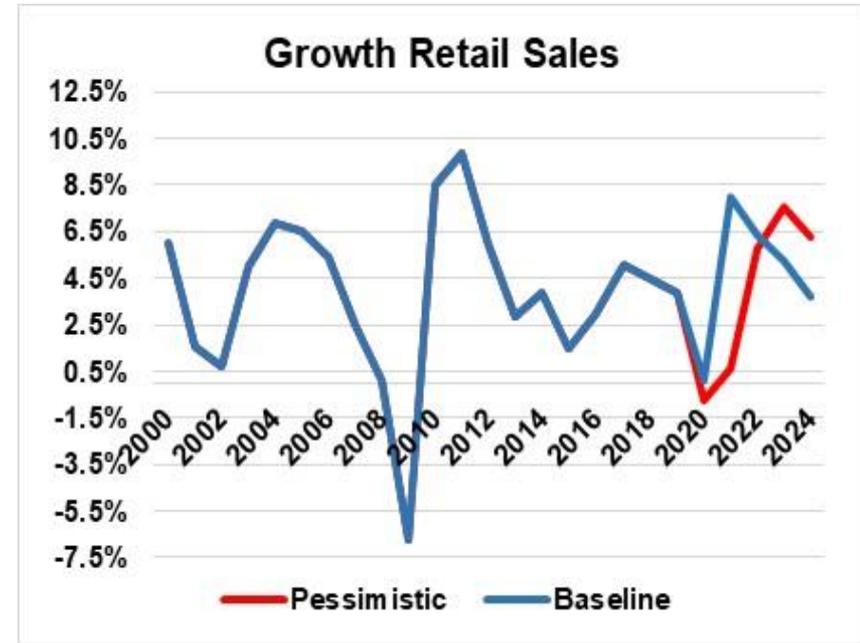
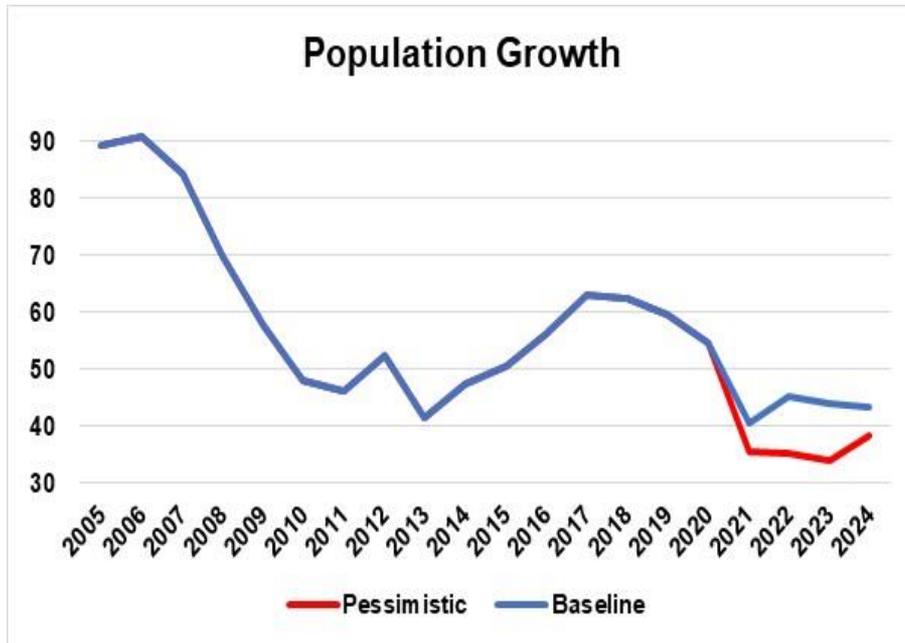


## Impact of COVID-19 Recession on Tennessee





## Impact of COVID-19 Recession on Tennessee





# FORECASTING KEY REVENUES



## Forecasting Key Revenues – Econometric Approach

1. Obtain forecast for independent variables – the drivers
  - ❑ Gross national product
  - ❑ Gross state/metro product
2. Develop model/equation to explain revenue source of interest as a function of independent variables from #1
3. Estimate relationship with regression analysis
  - ❑ Excel has a suitable regression capability
4. Apply judgment – the interocular impact test



## Example – forecast for Tennessee Sales Tax Revenue

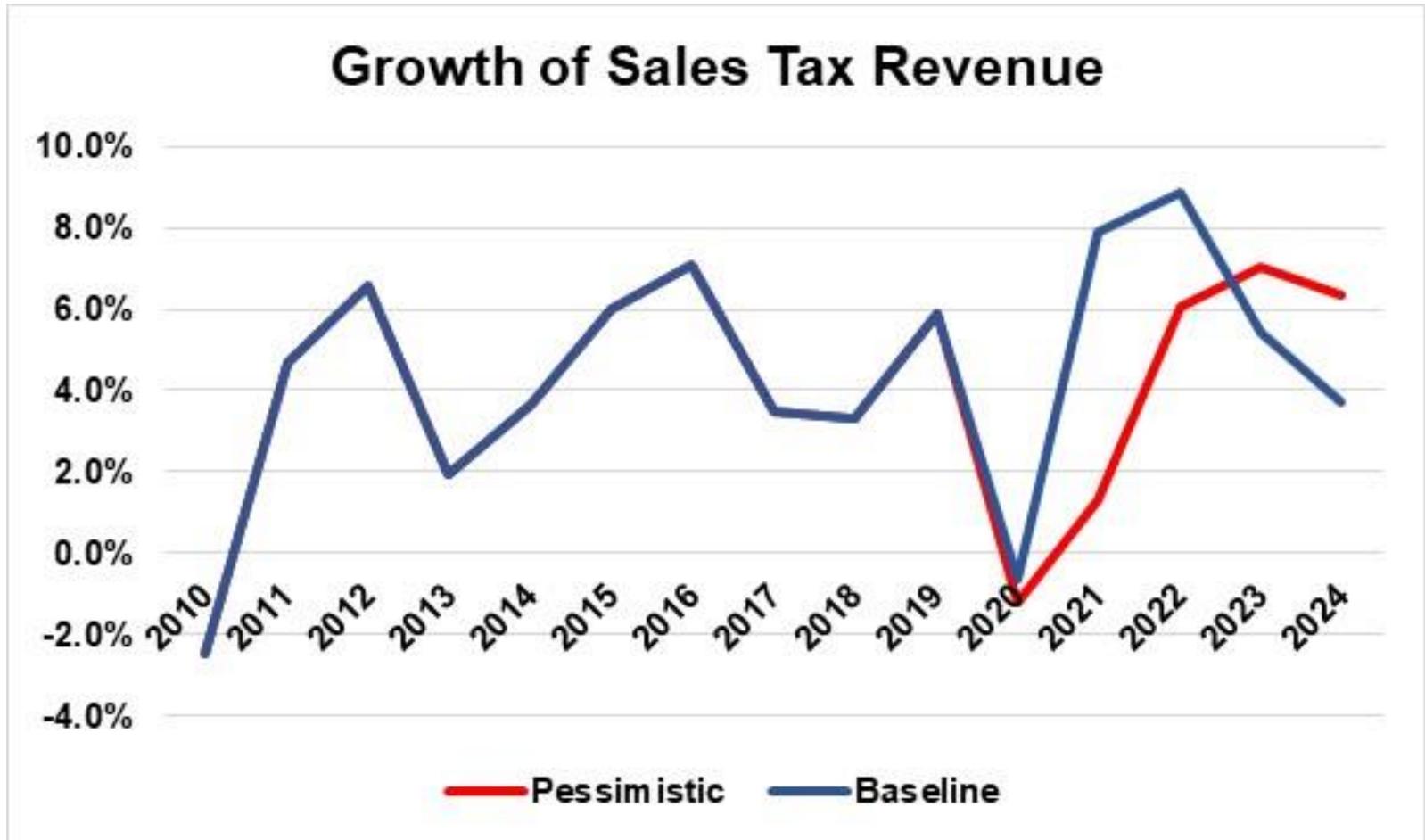
◆ Growth in sales tax revenues estimated as a function of:

- Growth in gross state product
- Growth in population
- Dummy to reflect sales taxation on ecommerce

SUMMARY OUTPUT				
<i>Regression Statistics</i>				
Multiple R		0.82		
R Square		0.67		
Adjusted R Square		0.50		
Standard Error		0.02		
Observations		10.00		
ANOVA				
	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>
Regression	3	0.005	0.002	4.014
Residual	6	0.002	0.000	
Total	9	0.007		
	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>
Intercept	0.006	0.021	0.281	0.788
Growth GSP	1.286	0.889	1.446	0.198
Growth Pop	0.123	0.059	2.065	0.084
Dummy	0.060	0.042	1.429	0.203



## Resulting Forecast





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**Thank You!**



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