

When Reagan took office in 1981, the unemployment rate was 7.6 percent. In the recession of 1981-82, that rate peaked at 9.7 percent, but it fell continuously for the next seven years. When Reagan left office, the unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.

Real median family income grew by \$4,000 during the Reagan period after experiencing no growth in the pre-Reagan years; it experienced a loss of almost \$1,500 in the post-Reagan years.

The savings rate did not rise in the 1980s, as supply side advocates had predicted. In fact, in the 1980s the personal savings rate fell from 8 percent to 6.5 percent. (If the median family was better off why did their savings go down?)

In 1993 Clinton era economic policy raised the taxes on the rich, the opposite of Reaganomics, opponents argued that this would stop the growing economy. That did not happen.

The economy grew by 1/3 in real, inflation-adjusted dollars. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew an average of 4% annually. The 92-month expansion between 1982 and 1990 was the longest since WWII.

The economy created 19.9 million net new jobs between 1980 and 1990.

Inflation had spent much of the 70's spiking from 6% to over 14%. Under Reagan (and Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volker) from nearly 12% in January, 1981 to 4% or under for the last 5 years of Reagan's term.

"U3" Unemployment Rate was 7.5% when Reagan was inaugurated, but rose to nearly 11% as the Federal Reserve tightened money supply to conquer rampant inflation. From 83 to 89, unemployment dropped steadily to 5.4% by the end of Reagan's second term.

Average household income grew from \$16,017 to \$26,550 during Reagan's term. (In inflation adjusted dollars, the avg. grew from \$44,616 to \$49,076.)

Lowering top tax rates from 70% to 28% grew the economy and the amount of taxable income reported. As a result, individual income tax revenue paid to the treasury nearly doubled, from \$244 billion in 1980 to \$467 billion in 1990.

Interest rates fell six points.

Eight million new jobs were created as unemployment fell.

Eight percent growth in private wealth.

According to the Statistical Abstract of the United States for 1996, the number of minority individuals (white, black, and Hispanic) below the poverty level increased in almost every year between 1981 (31.8 million) and 1992 (39.3 million).

The US was \$994 billion in debt in fiscal 1981, when Carter left office, and \$2,867 billion when Reagan left office in fiscal year 1989. The rough number is 2.85 times as much debt in 1989 as in 1981.

The primary reason the deficit grew during the Reagan years was the Cold War military buildup.

Tax cuts did not reduce government revenue. Tax revenues increased in fact in almost a straight progression from pre-Reagan years.

The trade deficit quadrupled.

The 1986 Tax Reform Act is widely considered to be the best piece of American tax legislation since the adoption of the income tax, but it is the opposite of Reaganomics. Over its first five years, it closed more than \$500 billion in loopholes and as a result:

- Major U.S. corporations that previously had paid little or nothing in income taxes due to loopholes were put back on the tax rolls, and corporate taxes were increased overall by a net of more \$100 billion over five years.
- A huge tax-shelter industry for high-income individuals was shut down.
- Tax rates on capital gains income were raised to the same level as on other income.
- Millions of moderate-income working families got tax relief through a major expansion of the earned-income tax credit.
- Taxes on most families (on average, all but the best-off tenth) were reduced.
- The average annual growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) from 1981 to 1989 was 3.2 percent per year, compared with 2.8 percent from 1974 to 1981 and 2.1 percent from 1989 to 1995.

During the economic expansion alone, the economy grew by a robust annual rate of 3.8 percent. By the end of the Reagan years, the American economy was almost one-third larger than it was when they began.