



February 24, 2020

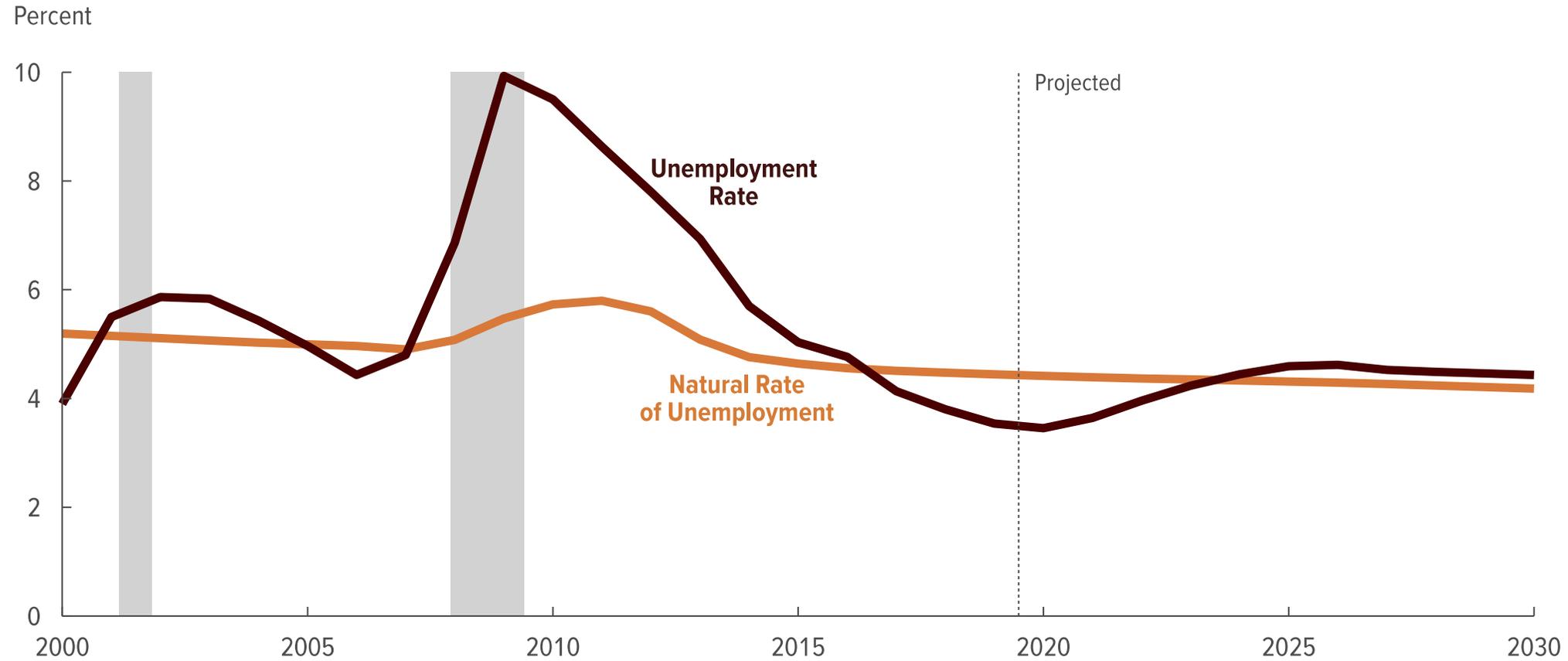
## **The 2020 Budget and Economic Outlook**

A Presentation to the 36th Annual Economic Policy Conference  
National Association for Business Economics

Phillip L. Swagel, Director

# **The Economy**

# We expect the unemployment rate to remain near historic lows throughout 2020

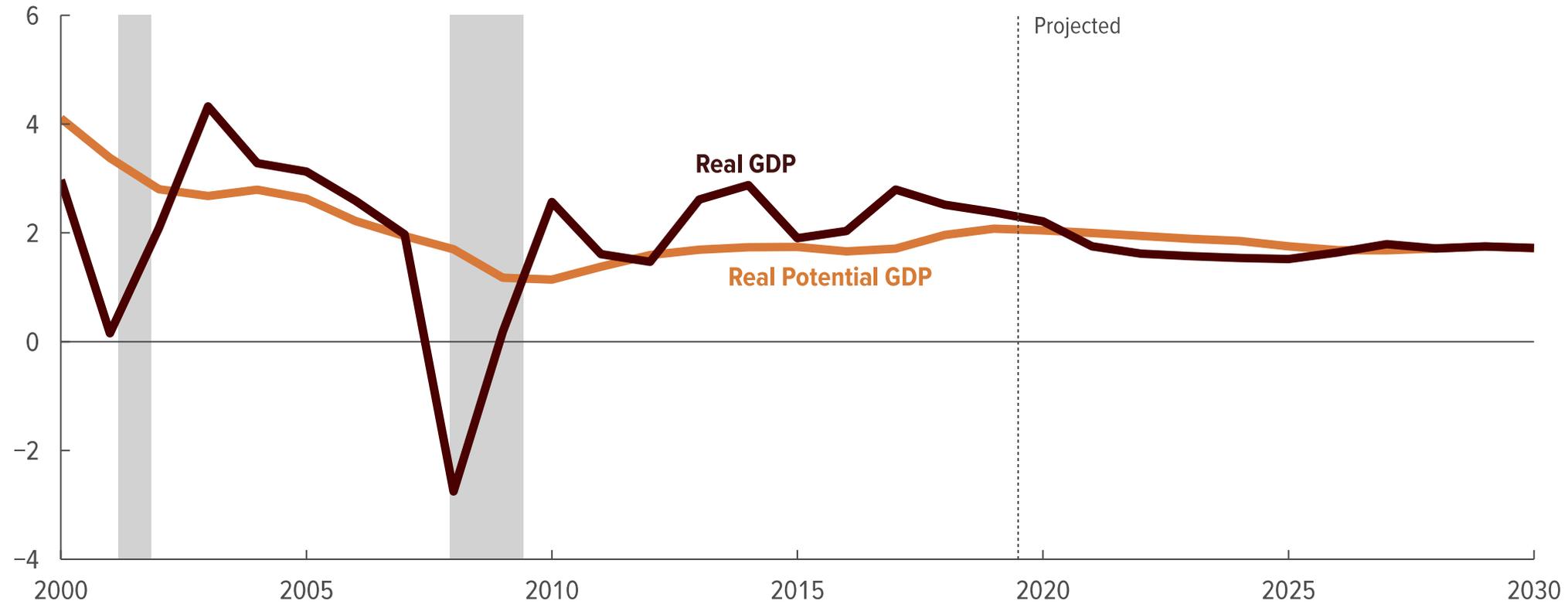


# Gains in hourly wages have been especially strong for low-wage earners since late 2016



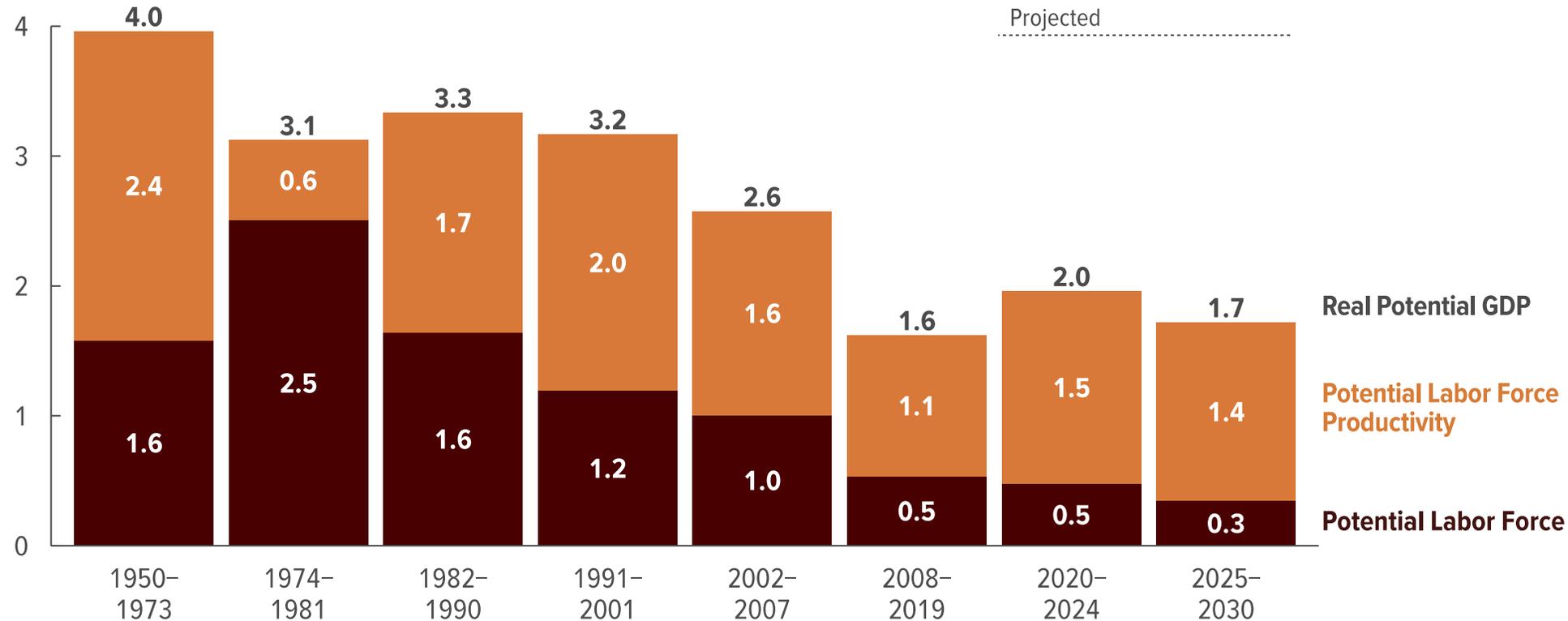
# GDP is projected to grow by 2.2 percent in 2020

Percentage Change



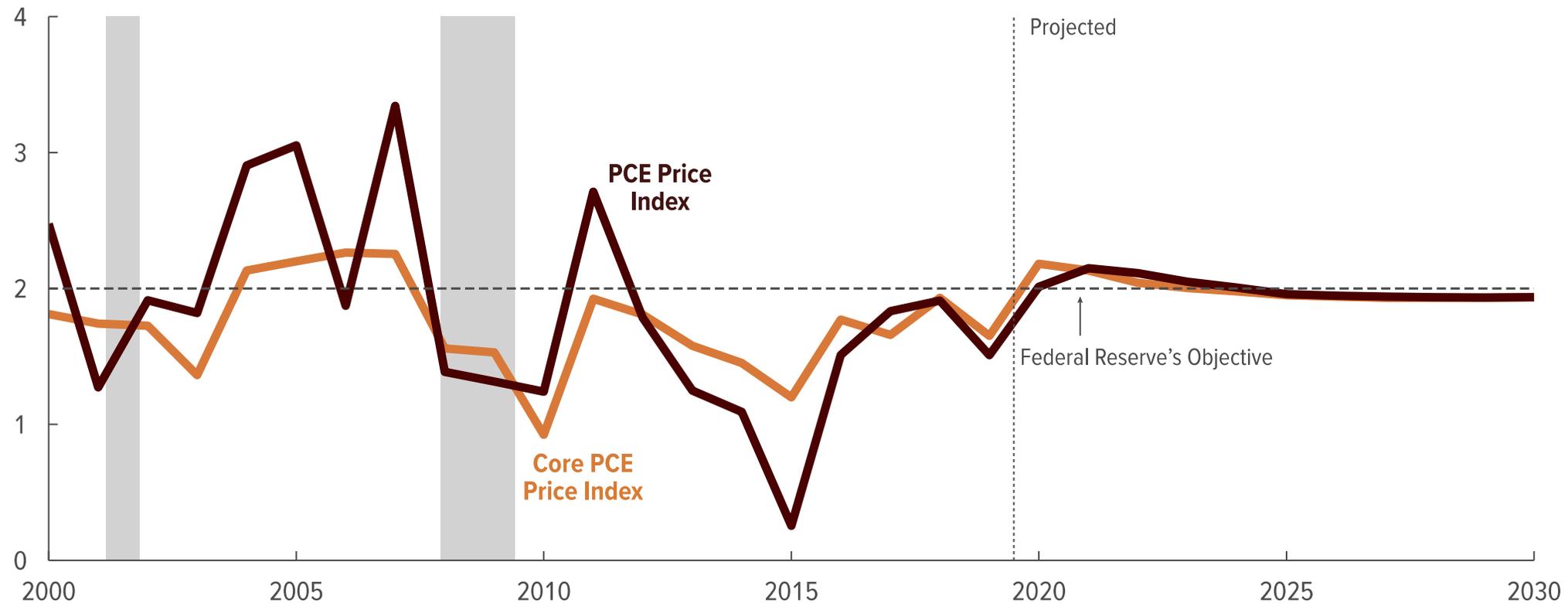
# Maximum sustainable output growth is projected to be faster than it was from 2008 to 2019 and slower than it was in earlier years

Percentage Change

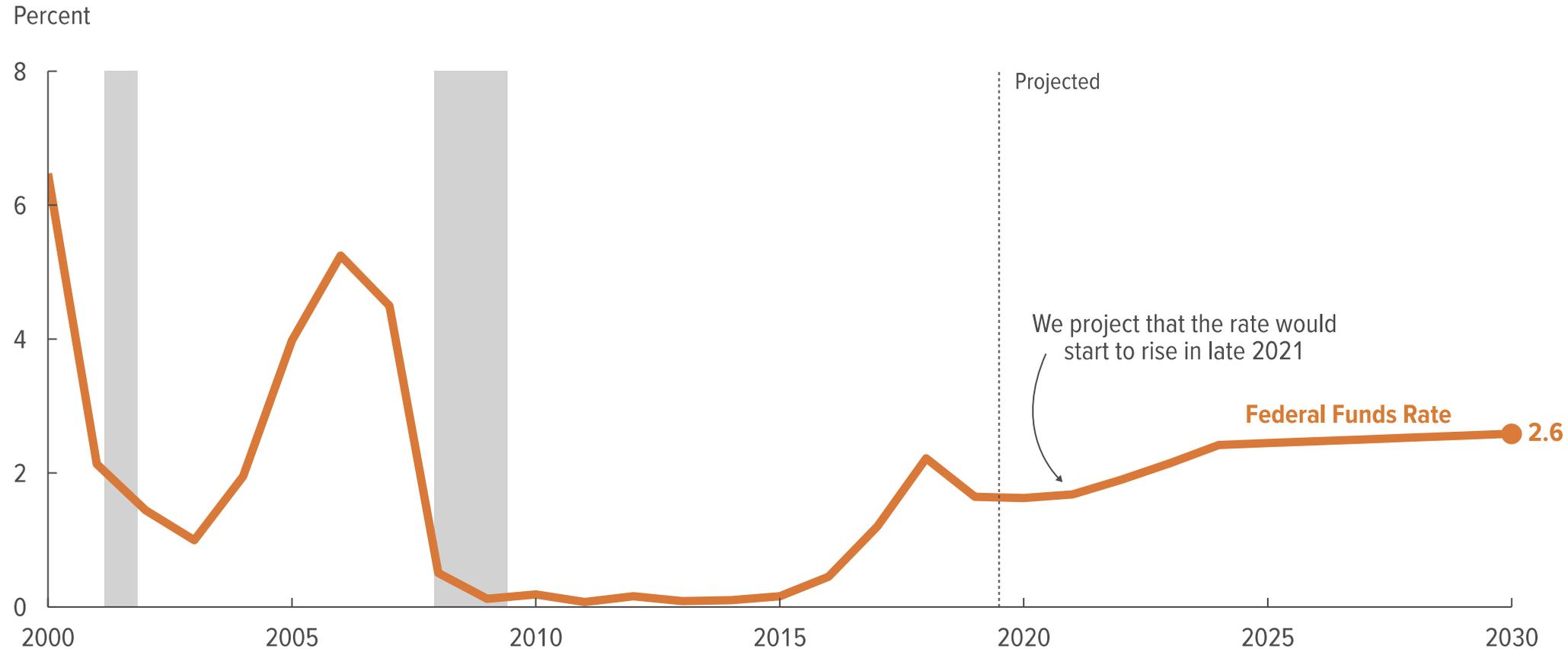


# We expect strong labor and product markets to contribute to faster inflation in 2020

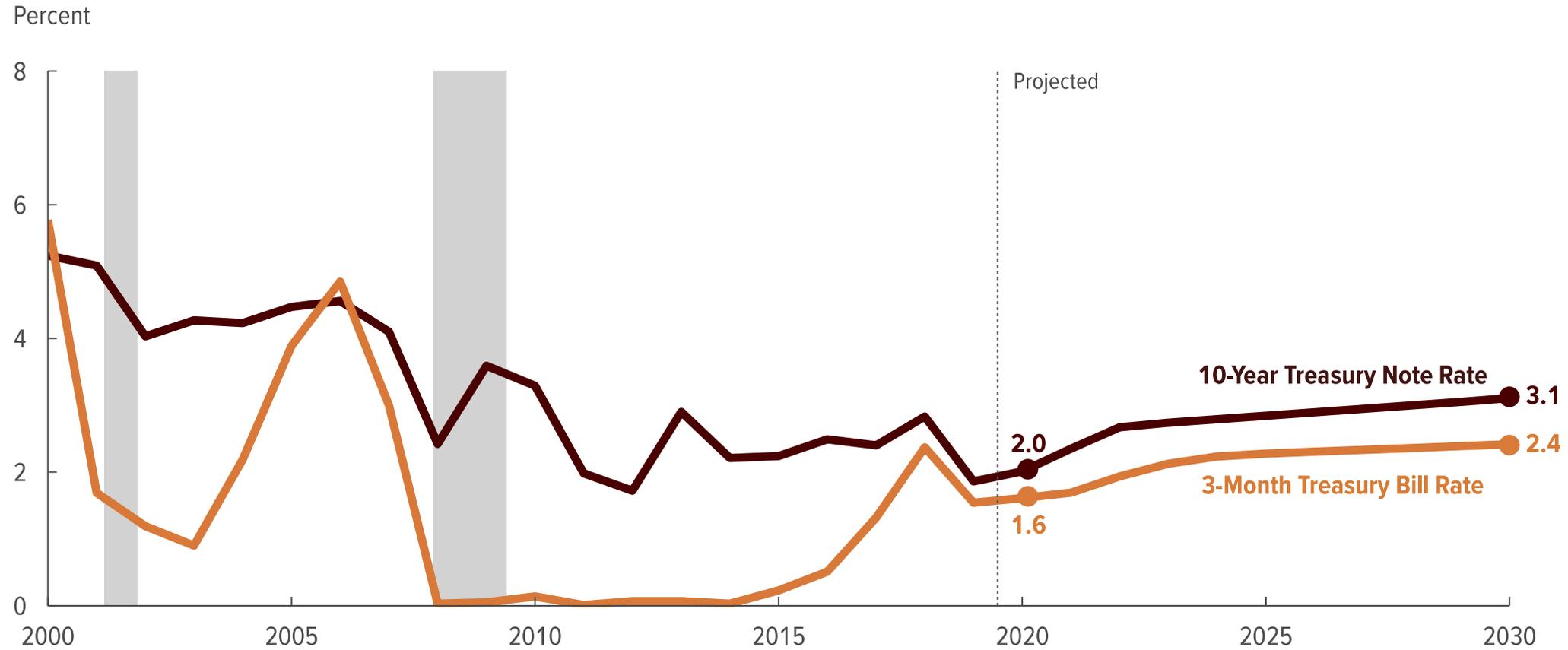
Percentage Change



# In our projections, the Federal Reserve begins raising the target range for the federal funds rate to ease inflationary pressures



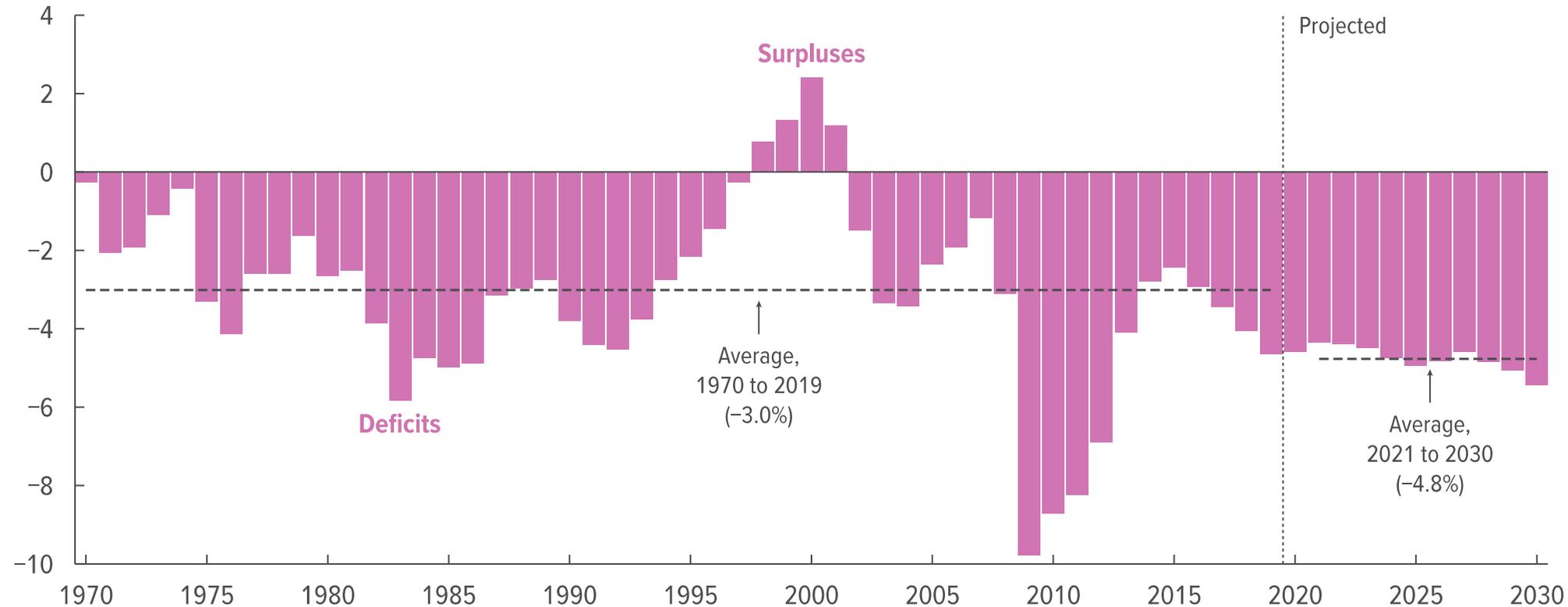
# We expect other interest rates to rise, following a path similar to that of the federal funds rate



# The Budget

# We project a cumulative federal budget deficit of \$12.4 trillion from 2020 to 2029

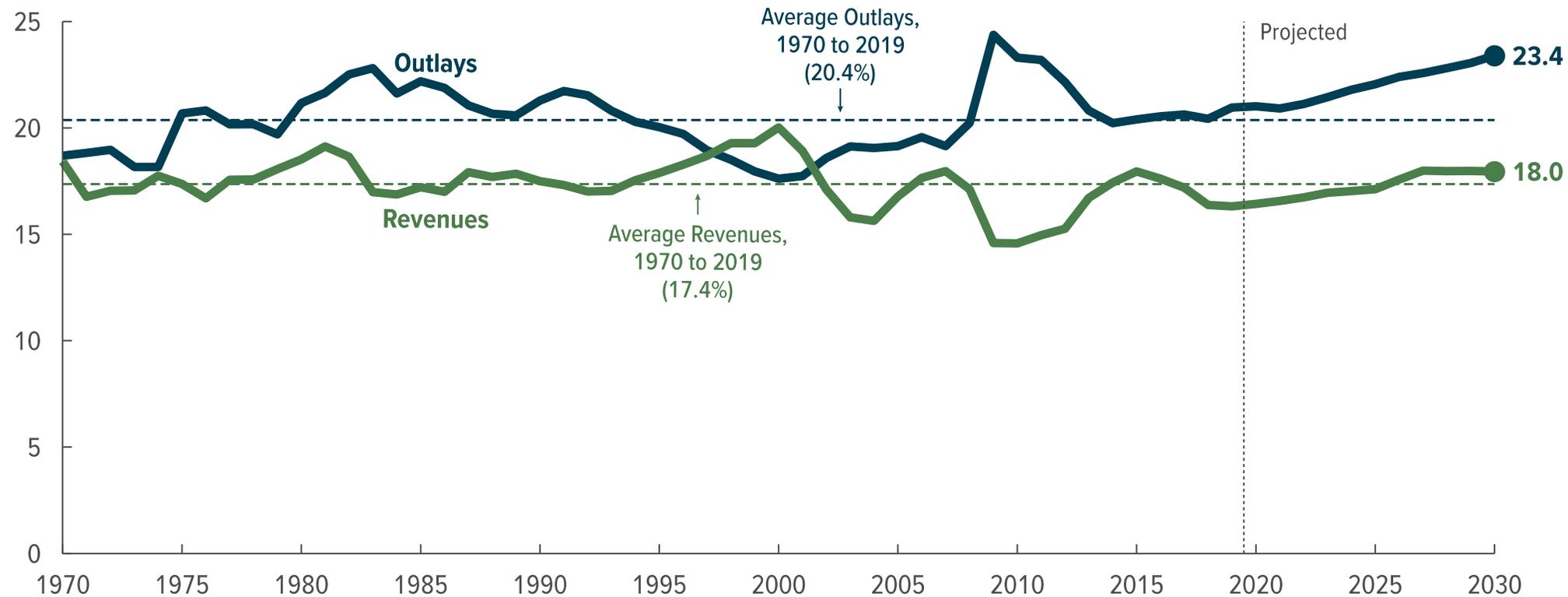
Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



When October 1 (the first day of the fiscal year) falls on a weekend, certain payments that would have ordinarily been made on that day are instead made at the end of September and thus are shifted into the previous fiscal year. All projections presented here have been adjusted to exclude the effects of those timing shifts.

# The gap between spending and revenues grows in our projections

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



When October 1 (the first day of the fiscal year) falls on a weekend, certain payments that would have ordinarily been made on that day are instead made at the end of September and thus are shifted into the previous fiscal year. All projections presented here have been adjusted to exclude the effects of those timing shifts.

# Total revenues as a share of GDP are projected to rise, largely because of increasing receipts from individual income taxes

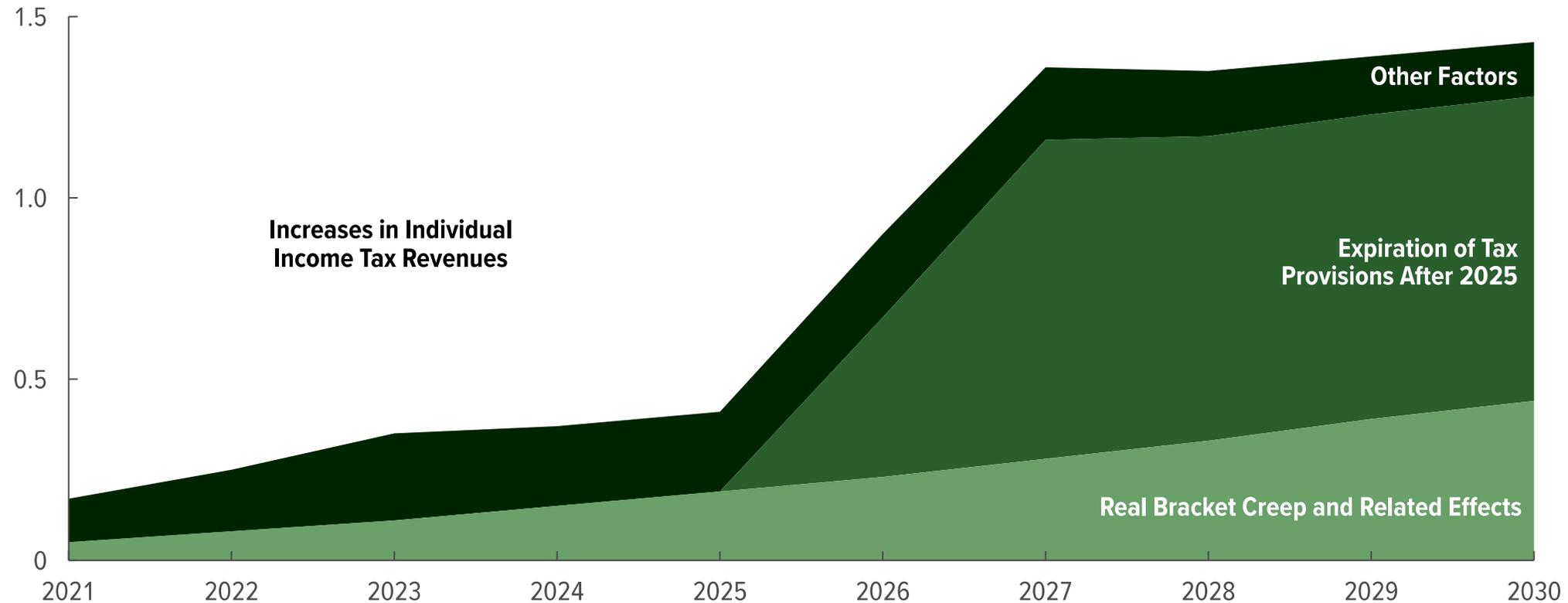
Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

	Revenues		Change (Percentage points)	Major Reasons for Change
	2020	2030		
Individual Income Taxes	8.1	9.5	1.4	Expiration of certain provisions of the 2017 tax act after 2025; real bracket creep
Payroll Taxes	5.9	5.9	*	Not applicable
Corporate Income Taxes	1.1	1.3	0.2	Scheduled changes in tax rules enacted in the 2017 tax act
Other Taxes	1.4	1.2	-0.1	Repeal of a tax on health insurance providers

\* = between zero and 0.05 percentage points.

# Much of the growth of revenues in our projections stems from the expiration of tax provisions

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



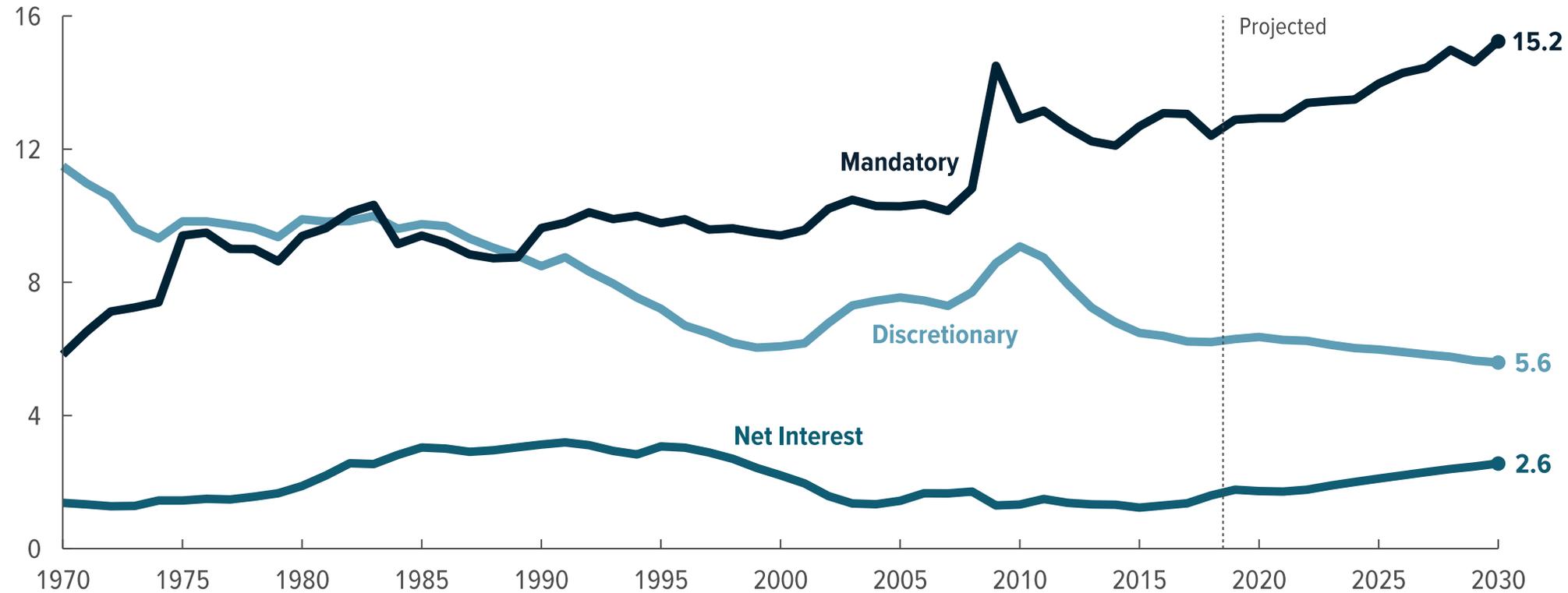
# Since last August, we have reduced our projections of corporate income tax receipts during the 2020–2029 period by \$127 billion

The largest of those revisions are related to:

- Certain provisions of the 2017 tax act related to international business activities
- A onetime tax that the act imposed on the existing foreign earnings of U.S. corporations
- A rule in the act about research and experimentation expenditures
- New information about corporate profits during the 2016–2018 period

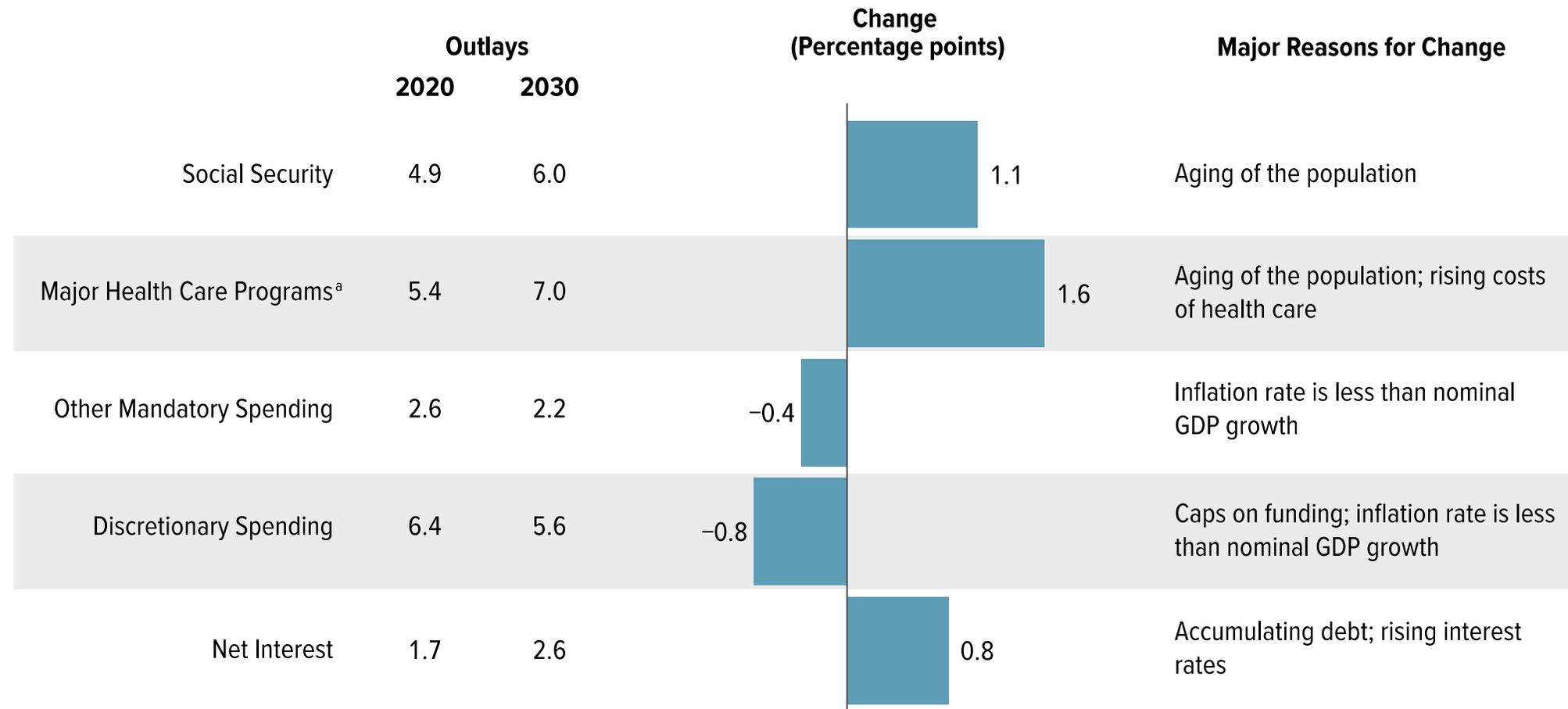
# Increases in projected outlays stem from growth in mandatory spending and in net interest costs

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



# Social Security and Medicare are projected to contribute the most to growth in mandatory spending

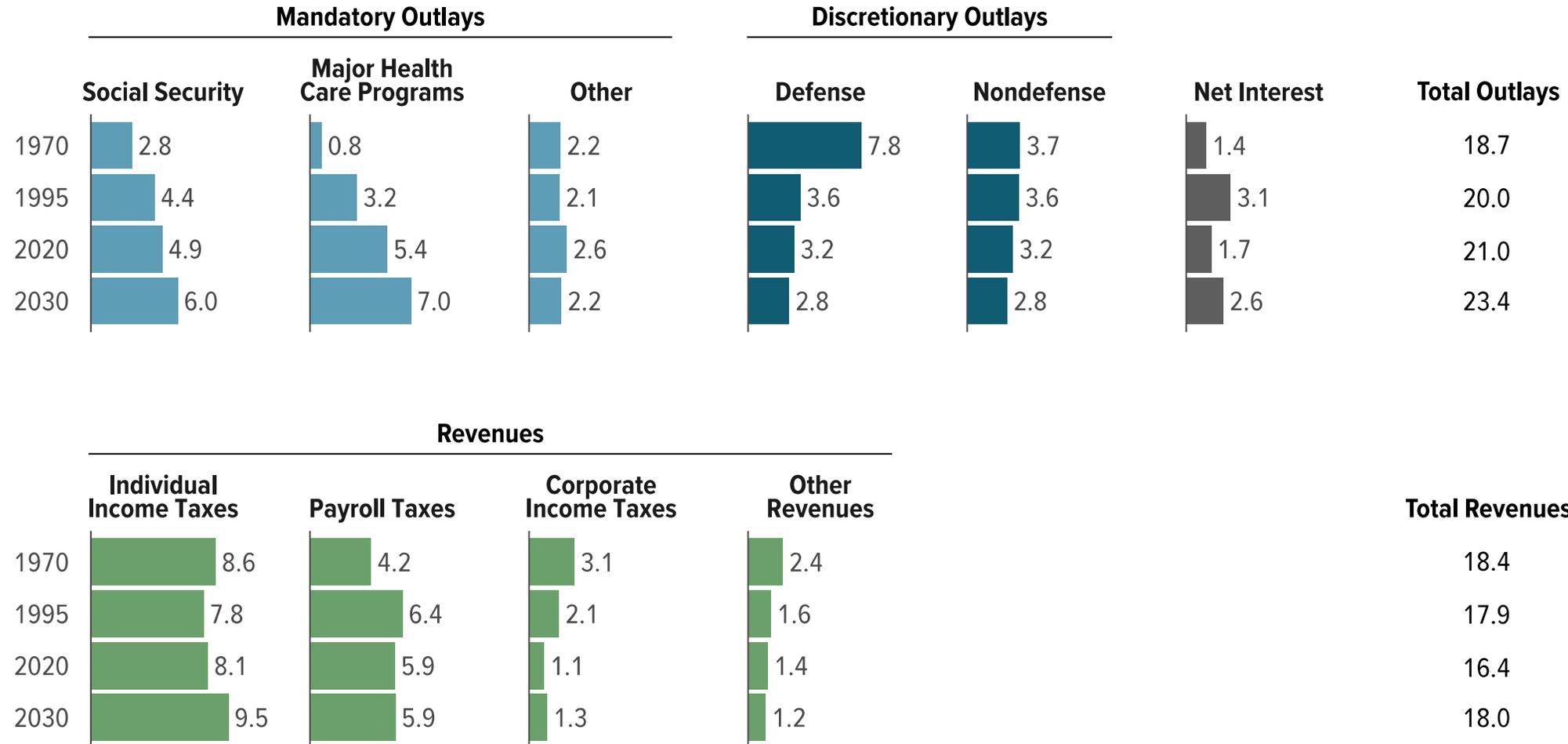
Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



a. Consists of outlays for Medicare (net of premiums and other offsetting receipts), Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, premium tax credits, and related spending.

# Spending and taxes in 2030 are projected to be very different from what they were 50 years ago

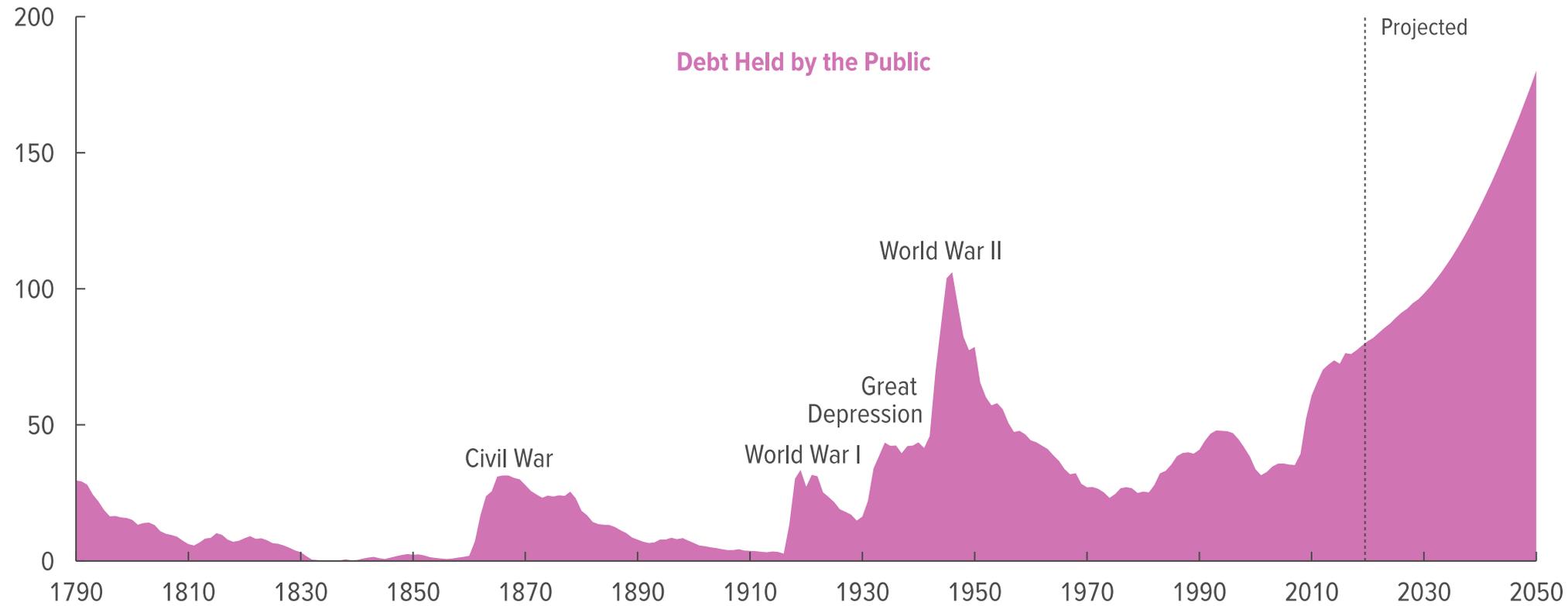
Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



When October 1 (the first day of the fiscal year) falls on a weekend, certain payments that would have ordinarily been made on that day are instead made at the end of September and thus are shifted into the previous fiscal year. That happened in 1994 and 1995, so values for 1995 have been adjusted to exclude the effects of those timing shifts.

# By 2050, debt is projected to equal 180 percent of GDP—far higher than it has ever been

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



# We post our projections and other data on our website

The screenshot shows the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) website. The header includes the CBO logo and the text 'Congressional Budget Office Nonpartisan Analysis for the U.S. Congress'. Navigation links include 'About CBO', 'Topics', 'Cost Estimates', 'Interactives', 'FAQs', and 'Blog'. A search icon is also present.

The main content area is titled 'Budget and Economic Data'. It contains a paragraph stating: 'CBO regularly publishes data to accompany some of its key reports. These data have been published in the Budget and Economic Outlook and Updates and in their associated supplemental material, except for that from the Long-Term Budget Outlook.'

Below this paragraph are two columns of links:

- BUDGET**
  - 10-Year Budget Projections
  - Long-Term Budget Projections
  - Historical Budget Data
  - 10-Year Trust Fund Projections
  - Revenue Projections, by Category
  - Spending Projections, by Budget Account
  - Estimates of Automatic Stabilizers
  - Tax Parameters and Effective Marginal Tax Rates
- ECONOMIC**
  - 10-Year Economic Projections
  - Potential GDP and Underlying Inputs
  - Historical Data and Economic Projections

A left-hand navigation menu is visible, listing various sections under 'ABOUT CBO', including '10 Things to Know', 'Products' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Processes', 'Transparency', 'Objectivity', 'Organization and Staffing', 'History', 'Work at CBO', 'Business Opportunities', and 'Contact Information'. The 'Products' dropdown is currently open, showing 'Major Recurring Reports', 'Budget and Economic Data', and 'Baseline Projections for Selected Programs'.