What’s Wrong With the Recovery?

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Monthly Change in Private Payroll Employment

Unemployment Rate
Manufacturing Employment

Industrial Production Index, Manufacturing
Real Investment in Business Equipment and Software Growth

Index of House Prices, Real
Housing Starts

Crude Oil Price per Barrel, Nominal and Real
Index of Consumer Sentiment

[Graph showing the Index of Consumer Sentiment from 1979 to 2014 with shaded areas indicating US recessions as of 2011 research.stlouisfed.org]

Real Consumption Spending Growth

[Graph showing Real Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCECC96) with shaded areas indicating US recessions as of 2011 research.stlouisfed.org]
Federal Budget Balance, Percent of GDP

Real Government Purchases Growth

Real Government Consumption Expenditures & Gross Investment, 1 Decimal (GCEC1)
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Real Government Social Benefits Growth

CPI Inflation, All Items and Core
Federal Funds Interest Rate

Corporate Bond Interest Rates
What’s Wrong With The Recovery?

- Productivity growth inhibits new hiring
- Glut of vacant housing reduces home prices and depresses construction
- Oil prices are rising
- Consumers are gloomy; consumer spending isn’t growing
- Federal stimulus is ending; State and local governments are cutting back
- The Fed has cut interest rates as far as it can, but lending and spending haven’t resumed

Sources for Data and Graphs

- St. Louis Federal Reserve, Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED)
- http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/