Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance

Fewer layoffs, last month might be an anomaly.

World Economic Growth
FocusEconomics consensus

Outlook is a hair better.

Business Confidence
sources: Business Roundtable & NFIB

Optimism on the rise, and I hear this from my audiences.

Manufacturing Production

Finally, turning up electronics a big part of the gain.
Health Care Expenditures

- $3.5 trillion (2008)
- $3.0 trillion (2010)
- $2.5 trillion (2012)
- $2.0 trillion (2014)
- Est. $2.9 trillion (2016) with a +6% increase.

"The real issue is cost-shifting."

Corporate Cash Holdings

- $2.3 trillion (2014)
- $2.1 trillion (2015)
- $1.9 trillion (2016)
- High level.

"Big not seeing good investment opportunities."

Fed's Interest Rate Projections

Federal Funds Rate

- 2.50 percent in 2014
- 2.00 percent in 2015
- 1.50 percent in 2016
- 1.00 percent in 2017
- 0.50 percent year-end 2017
- Number of members predicting a value indicated by line thickness and label.

- 1 member expects a 1 percent hike
- 3 members expect a 1.5 percent hike
- 6 members expect a 2 percent hike
- 4 members expect a 2.5 percent hike
- 2 members expect no hikes

"Two more hikes expected, but I doubt even one."

Stock Market

- S&P 500
- 1400 in 2014
- 1600 in 2015
- 1800 in 2016
- 2000 in 2017
- Bold hopes for the future.
OR Personal Income Growth

WA Personal Income Growth

Tighter labor market makes further growth harder.

A little more wage gain in recent quarter.

Oregon New Housing

Washington New Housing

Charts show my favorite housing measure: construction relative to population growth.

No over-building in either state.

Bill Conerly gives speeches to management teams, trade associations, and customer groups. Email Bill@ConerlyConsulting.com
Businomics®: Connecting the Dots Between the Economy . . . and Business!

Consulting

Uncertain About the Future? Contingency planning can help you execute changes faster, and in a way consistent with core values and strategy. Call Dr. Conerly for his assistance.

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Speeches

Speeches: Dr. Bill Conerly has given over 1300 presentations in 32 states and four countries. He's got great content and great delivery—lots of humor and stories and actionable insights.

Prepare for Perpetual Change: A leader's guide to helping people deal with continuing change. How to thrive in a world full of surprises.

Free Resources

Forbes.com: Dr. Conerly's current insights into the economy—and what business leaders should have on their to-do lists—appears on Forbes.com.

Newsletter: The Businomics® Newsletter contains charts with Dr. Bill Conerly's comments on the latest data. It arrives monthly via email. To view a sample or sign up for a free subscription, go to

The Flexible Stance:
Thriving in a Boom/Bust Economy

Visualize a baseball game. A fast runner is on first base, looking to steal second. The runner takes a lead, then plants himself in a flexible stance. He's ready to run in either direction: to second base if he gets a chance to steal, or back to first base if the pitcher tries to pick him off. Using that stance in business is the subject of Dr. Bill Conerly's latest book, The Flexible Stance: Thriving in a Boom/Bust Economy.

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