# Economic Outlook: Where are we, and where are we going?

#### Jeremy Jackson, Ph.D.

Director, Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise

Professor of Economics

North Dakota State University

## NDSU PUBLIC CHOICE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

### Acknowledgements

- Thank you all for joining us today.
- Thank you to my colleagues in extension for hosting this event and inviting me to speak.
- Thank you to our undergraduate research fellows that assisted with writing the Economic Outlook Reports

The views in this presentation belong to the presenters and do not reflect the views of North Dakota State University.

#### Outline

- Where are we?
  - National Economy
  - State Economy
- Where are we going?
  - National Economy
  - State Economy
  - Metro Areas



- Summary Points
- Questions

NDSU PUBLIC CHOICE
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE



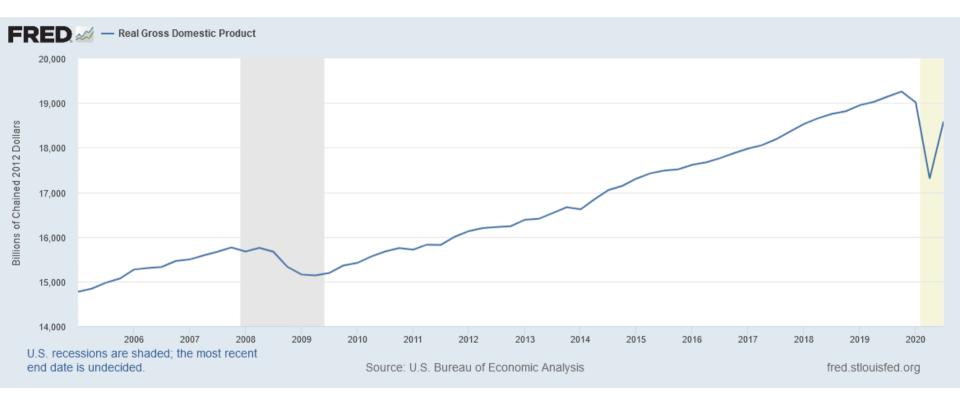
#### NDSU PUBLIC CHOICE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

### **National Economy**

- Gross Domestic Product
- Unemployment Rate
- Consumption
- Net Investment
- Corporate Profits
- Crude Oil

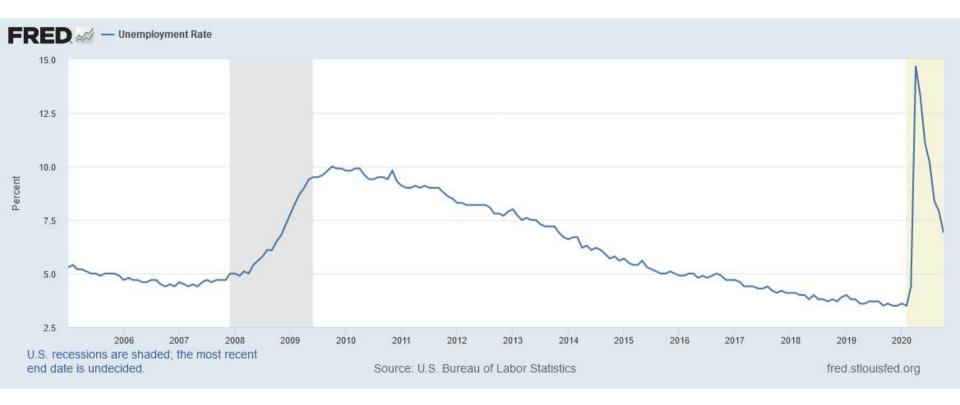


#### **National GDP**





#### **National UR**



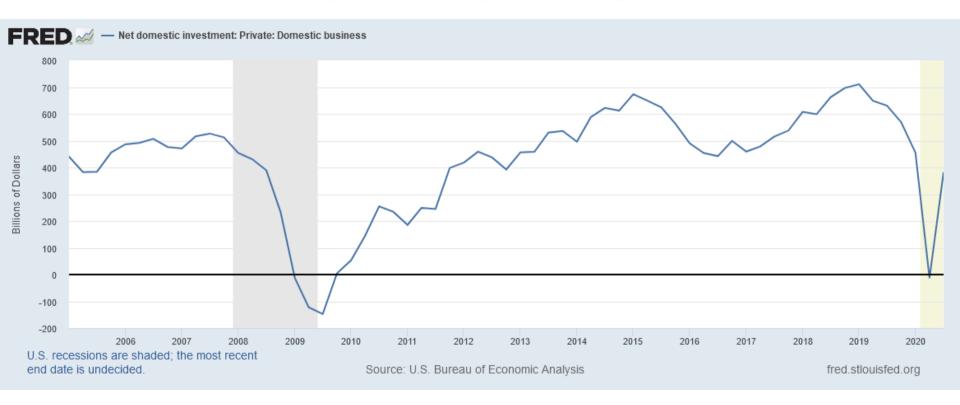


### Consumption





#### **Net Investment**



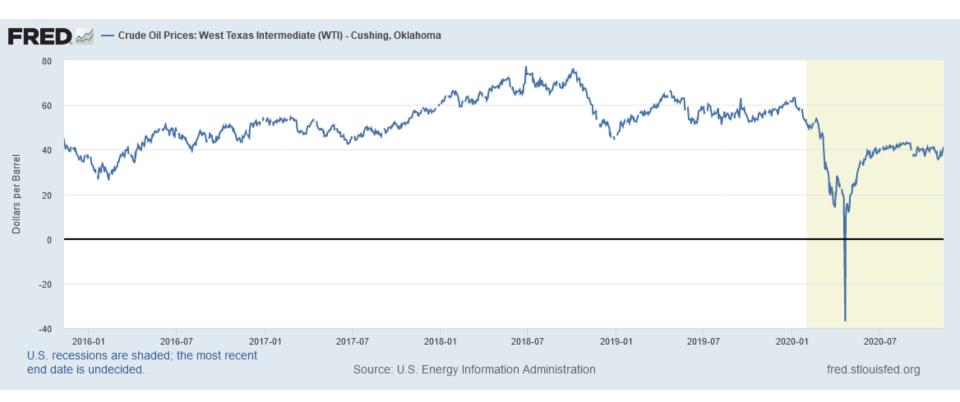


#### **Corporate Profits**





#### **WTI Crude Futures**



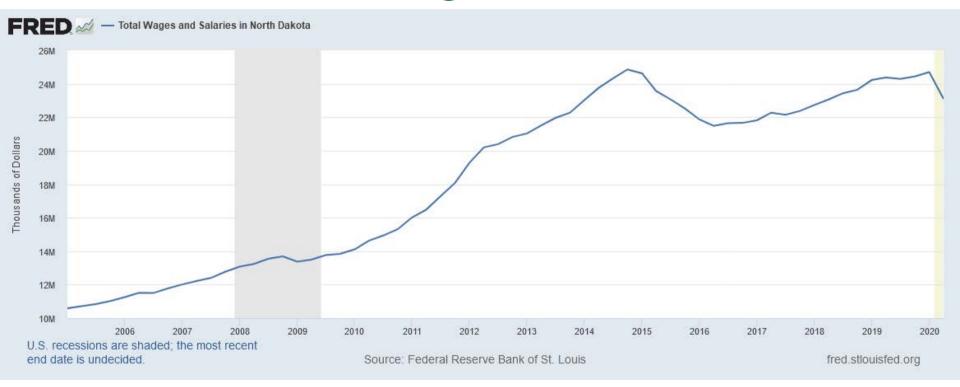


### State Economy

- ND Total Wages and Salaries
- ND Labor Force
- ND Unemployment Rate
- ND Gross State Product
- ND Total Tax Revenue



### ND Total Wages and Salaries





#### **ND Labor Force**



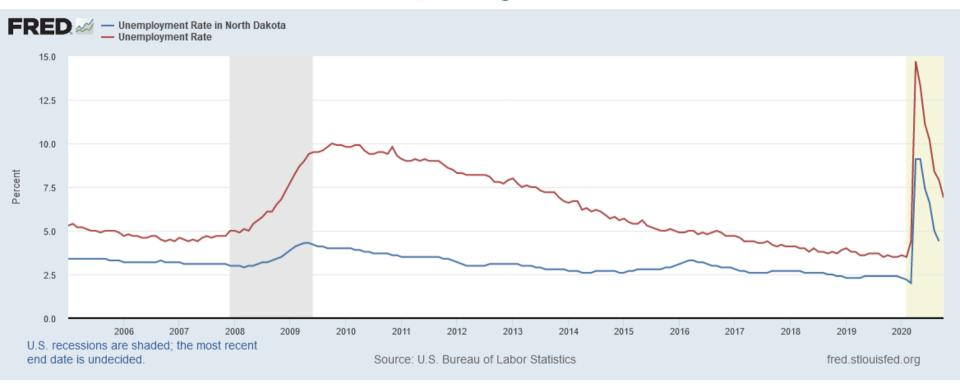


### ND Unemployment Rate





### ND Unemployment Rate



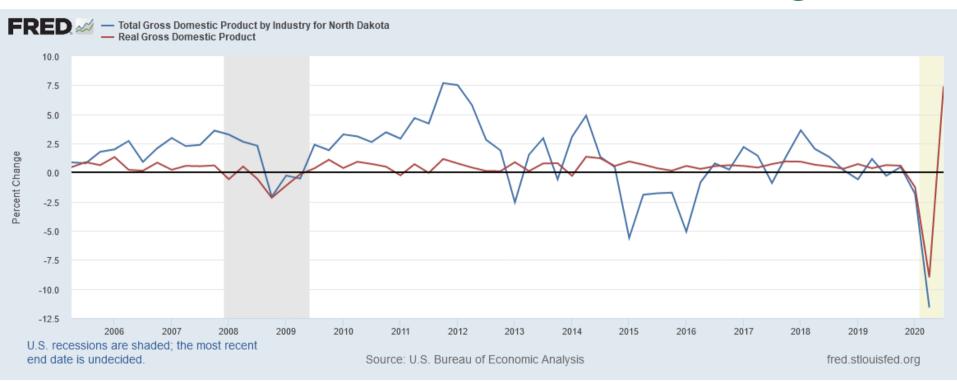


#### **ND Gross State Product**



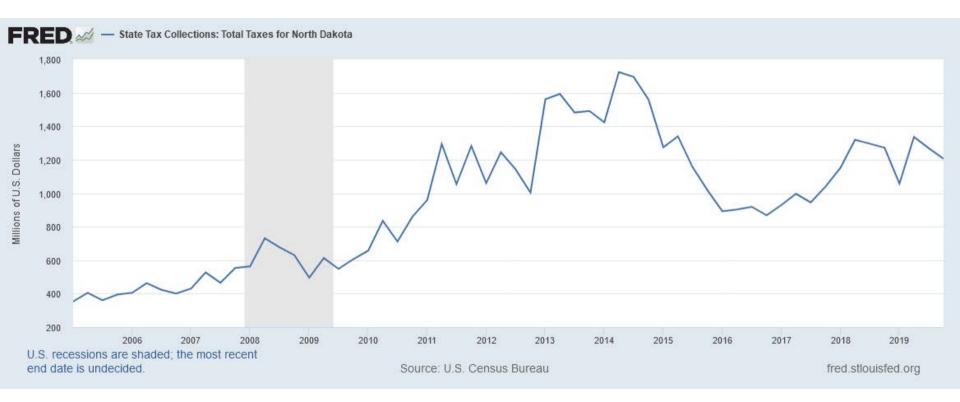


### ND GSP and GPD (% Change)

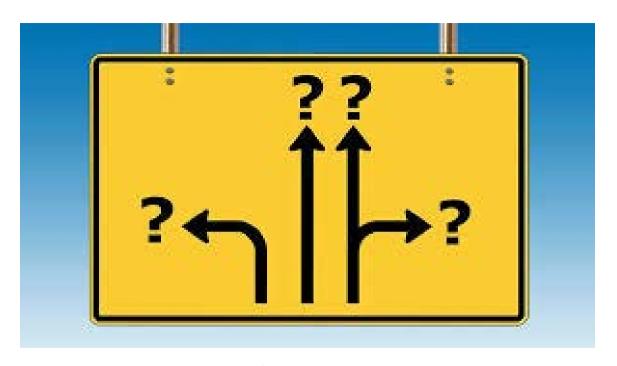




#### **ND Total Tax Collections**







Where are we going?



#### **ND Forecast Model**

- We are publishing an Economic Outlook Quarterly Report using the North Dakota Forecast Model.
  - https://www.ndsu.edu/centers/pcpe/research/economic\_outlook/
- The model requires regularly updated and accessible data.
  - Currently, all data used in the model is available from the Federal Reserve Economic Database (FRED) hosted by the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank.
  - https://fred.stlouisfed.org/
- Methodology is Vector Auto Regression (VAR)





A word of caution...

### Why Forecast?

- Even though wrong, forecasts give us useful information that can help us plan for the future.
- Forecasts can reveal trends and patterns that aren't readily evident in casual observance of the data.
- Forecast methods allow us to calculate what "may" happen in hypothetical scenarios.
- Forecasts, done properly, can reveal information about risk and the range of possible outcomes.





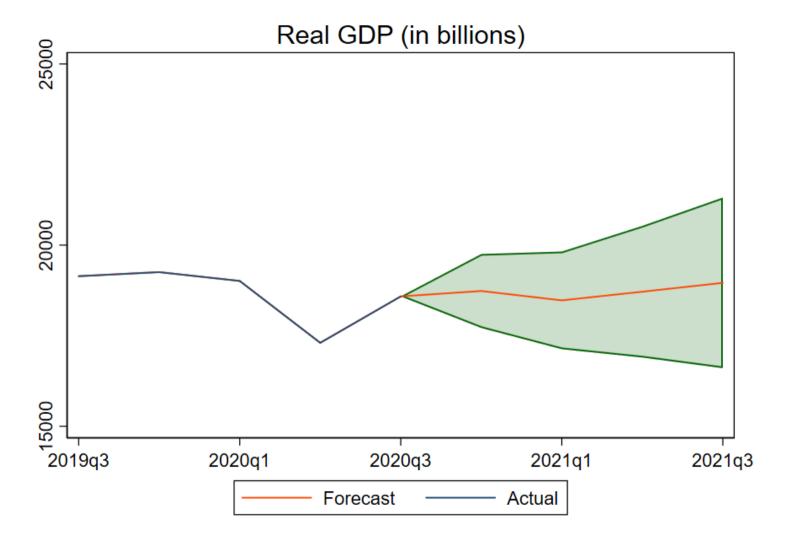
The Forecast - latest run 11/2/2020

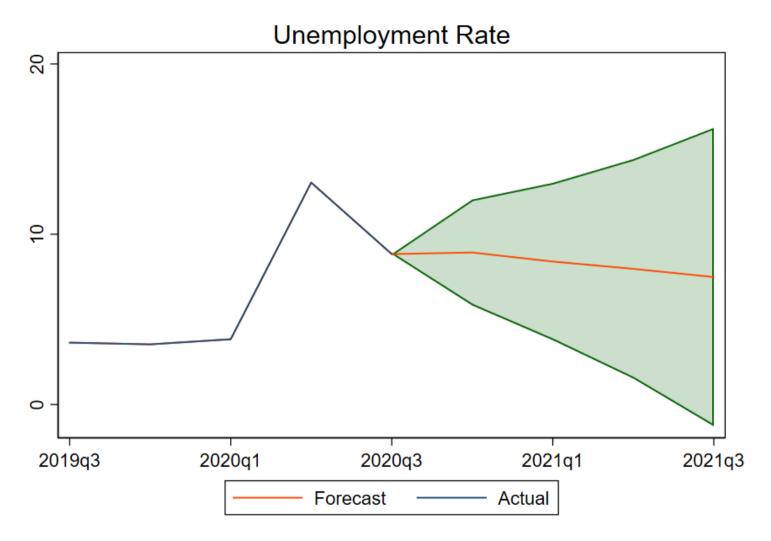


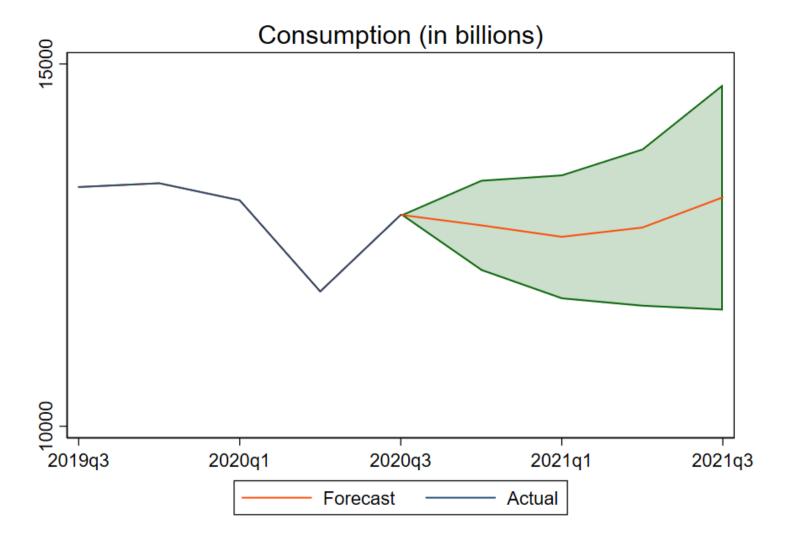
### **National Economy**

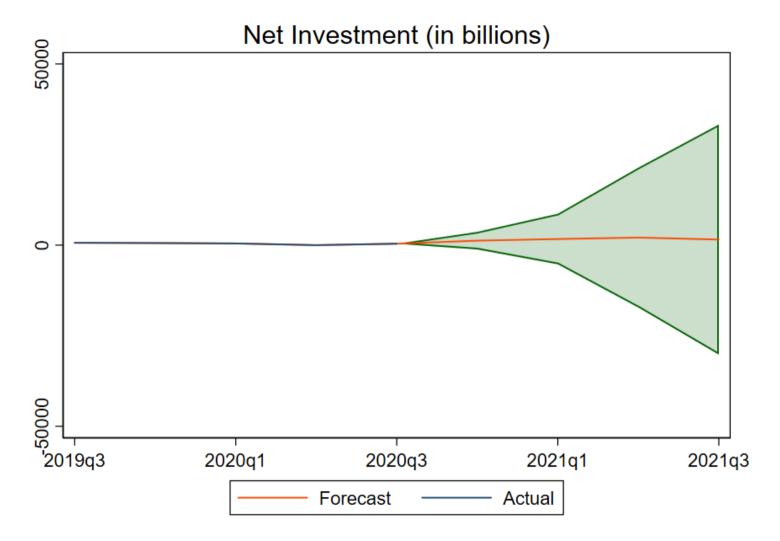
- Gross Domestic Product
- Unemployment Rate
- Consumption
- Net Investment
- Corporate Profits
- Commodities

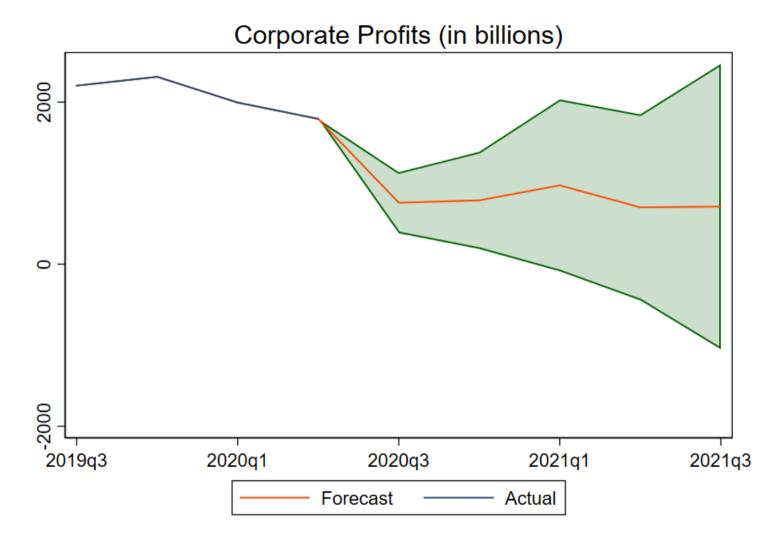




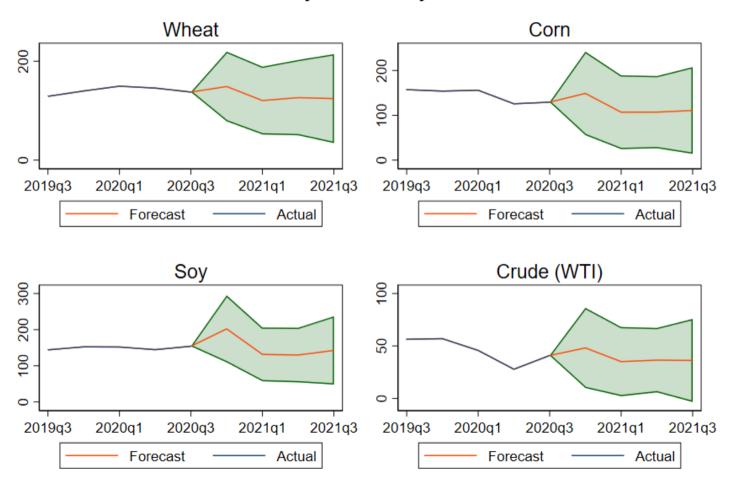








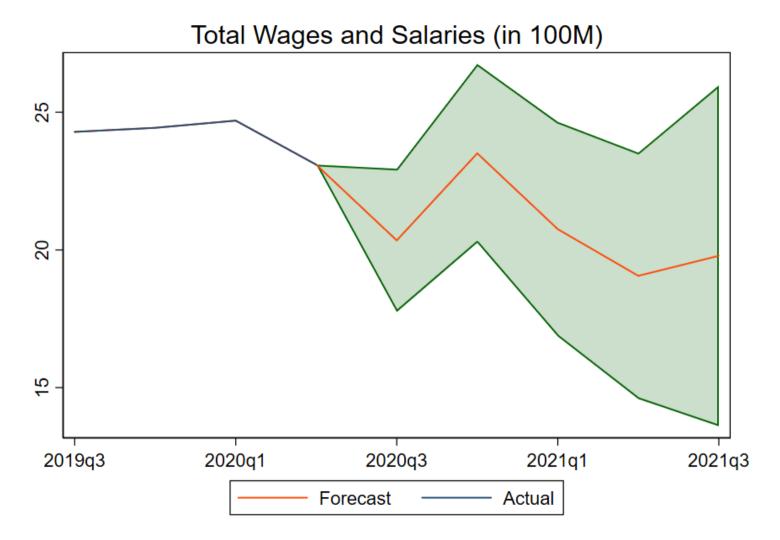
#### Commodity Quarterly Outlook

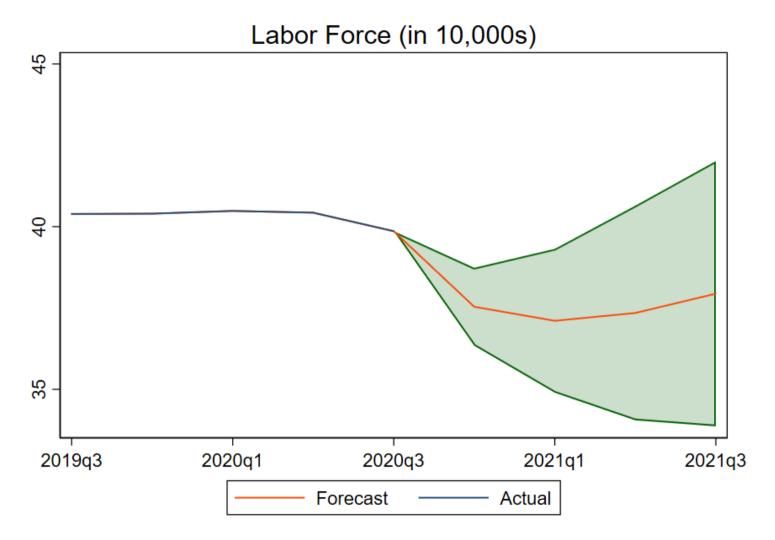


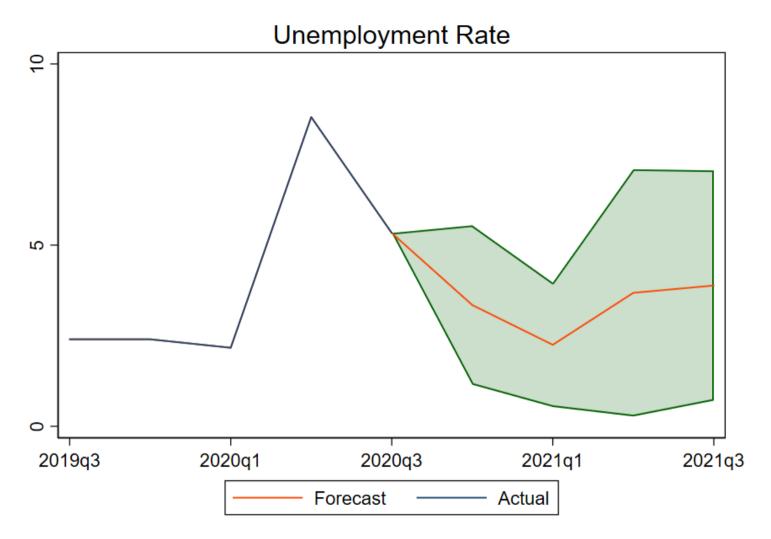
### State Economy

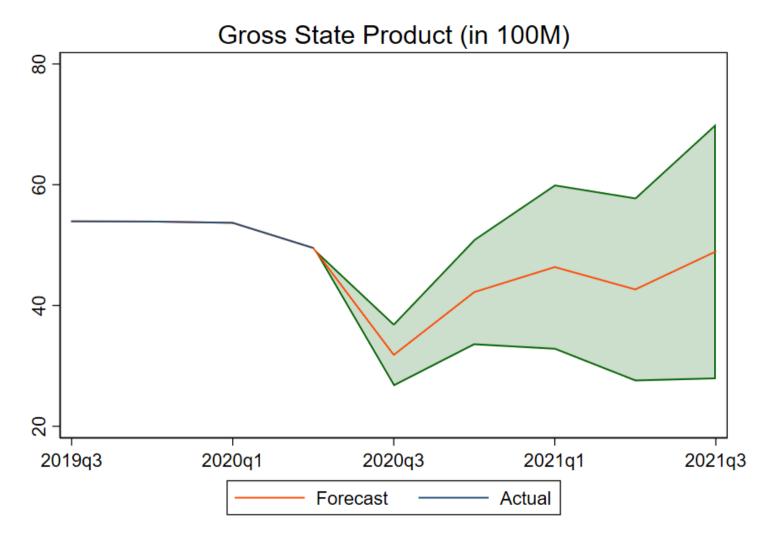
- ND Total Wages and Salaries
- ND Labor Force
- ND Unemployment Rate
- ND Gross State Product
- ND Total Tax Revenue

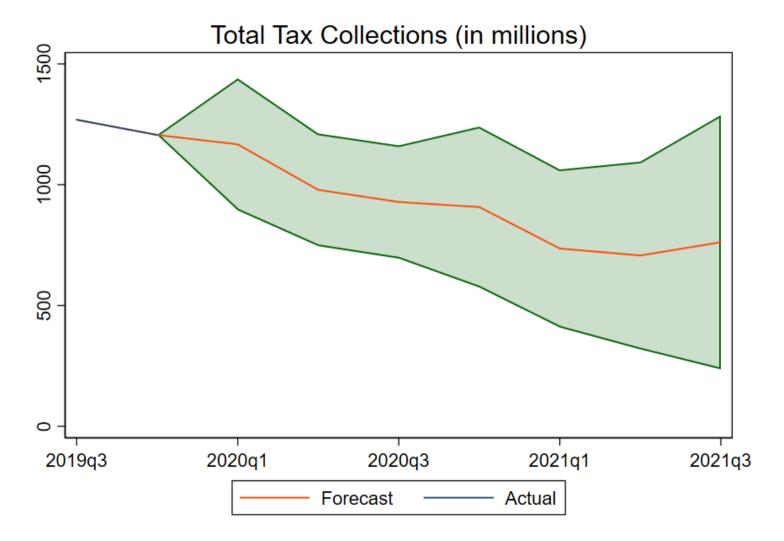










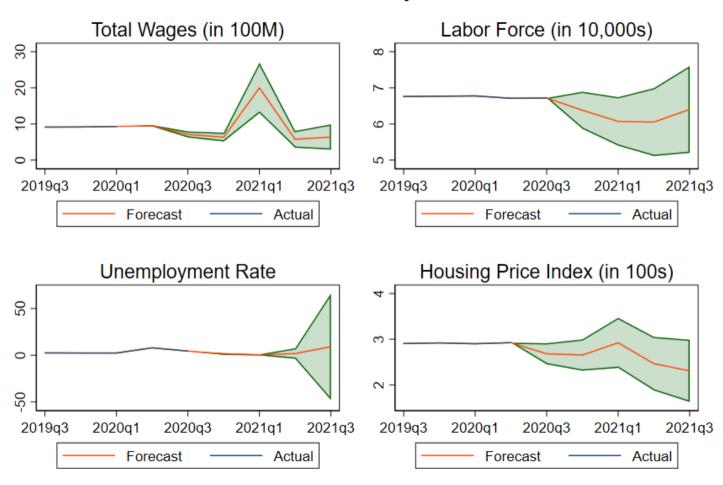


### Metropolitan Areas

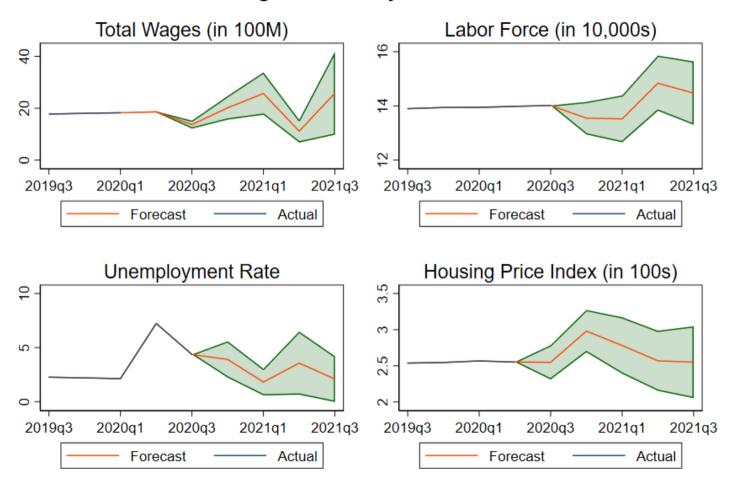
- Bismarck
- Fargo
- Grand Forks



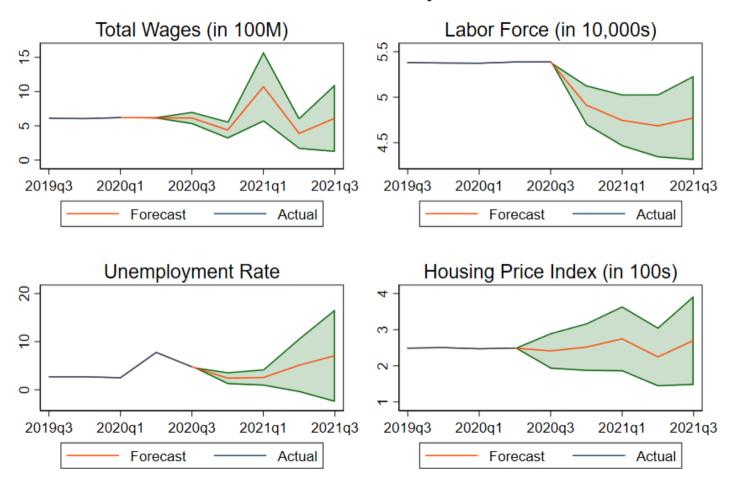
#### Bismarck Quarterly Outlook



#### Fargo Quarterly Outlook



#### **Grand Forks Quarterly Outlook**



### **Summary Points**

- North Dakota is continuing to struggle amidst the COVID-19 economy.
  - Wages and Salaries, Labor Force, Gross State Product, and Tax Revenue all face declines and limited recovery over 2021.
  - The unemployment rate does appear to be coming back down.
  - Trends are less alarming than in previous forecast results.
- Metro areas are also facing difficulties ahead.
- Much uncertainty remains as the national and state responses to the pandemic remain fluid.



# Center for the Study of Public Choice and Private Enterprise

#### **Our Mission**

• We engage in research and educational programs to explore the institutions and policies that promote human flourishing.

#### **Current and Future Projects**

- <u>Economic Outlook</u> quarterly report
- COVID-19 economic research

#### Questions

Questions and comments are welcome

Email: jeremy.jackson@ndsu.edu



Social media: @NDSUpcpe











#### North Dakota Quarterly Outlook - Alternate Scenarios

