

USA Global Council Call 10 May 2016

Economy growth revised downward twice for Q1 from over 2.0 to 1.4 to .5. Unemployment at 5.0 which looks great on paper, but issue is that the country is still trying to adjust to a service economy from a mfg. one. Millions of people remain to be retained to growth sectors such as healthcare, energy (solar/wind), tech. If the new president elects to put some real focus on infrastructure rebuilding, it should help a lot with decent playing jobs for those displaced from Mfg.

Election year here, so chaos abounds and nothing will happen until that is over; not that anything has happened prior to this either as I am sure everyone on the call is aware. Real issue is that the central govt. which tends to be made up of high income, insulated people who are pretty much out of touch with the real world and this has been going on for so long, with nothing getting done in Washington, that the so-called middle class is more than fed up and have therefore gravitated to extremists like Trump on the right and Sanders on the left. At the moment, the conventional wisdom is that Clinton will win the general election, but at the start of the cycle when there were 17 candidates on the Republican side, everyone thought that Trump was just a PR joke, and while there are still many who think that, the fact is that it is more than likely that he will, in fact, stand as one of two candidates to become president. For many of us, it still feels like a bad dream.