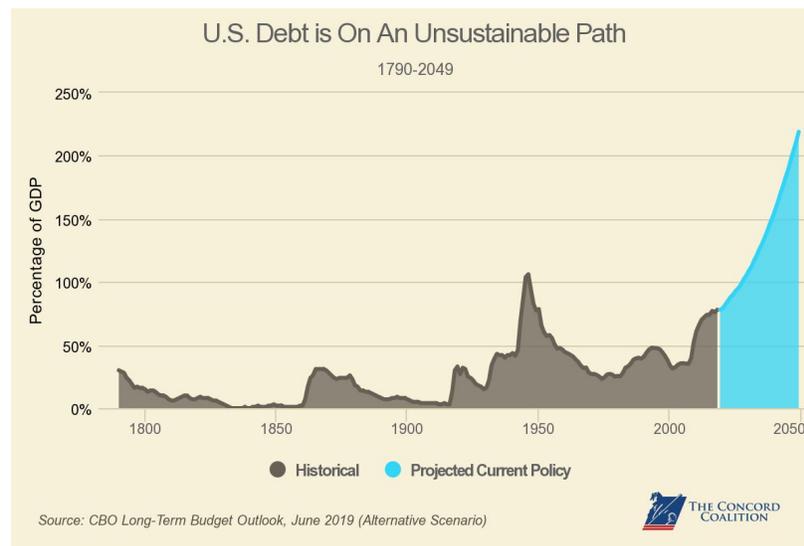




TOWARD A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AGENDA

The Concord Coalition is undertaking a project to define and promote a fiscally responsible economic growth agenda using nonpartisan expert analysis, public engagement, and legislative outreach. It will encourage policymakers and emerging new leaders to think beyond traditional remedies in pursuit of solutions to the nation's fiscal and economic challenges.

We are now facing a fiscal problem so large and so ingrained in current policy that it poses an economic threat. Over time, our fiscal future and our economic future are inevitably linked. We cannot ensure future economic growth without doing more to ensure fiscal sustainability nor can we ensure fiscal sustainability without doing more to enhance economic growth. It is not a competition between separate goals.



Fiscal responsibility is itself a growth agenda. A pro-growth agenda must therefore combine policies that not only promote economic growth but work together to bring about a sustainable budget.

Democrats and Republicans generally agree that higher economic growth must be part of the long-term fiscal solution. Too often, however, growth targets are simply thrown out as a panacea without solid well-researched policy options showing how such higher growth rates could be achieved.

As the kickoff to this project, we have partnered with policy experts to examine five fiscal and economic challenges that deserve priority attention. In different ways they all address some of the fundamental causes of our economic and budgetary problems: large deficits that lead to lower domestic capital stock and investment, substantially slower labor force growth, and stagnant productivity. All these factors contribute to the vicious cycle of widening budget deficits and weaker economic growth that current policies portend.

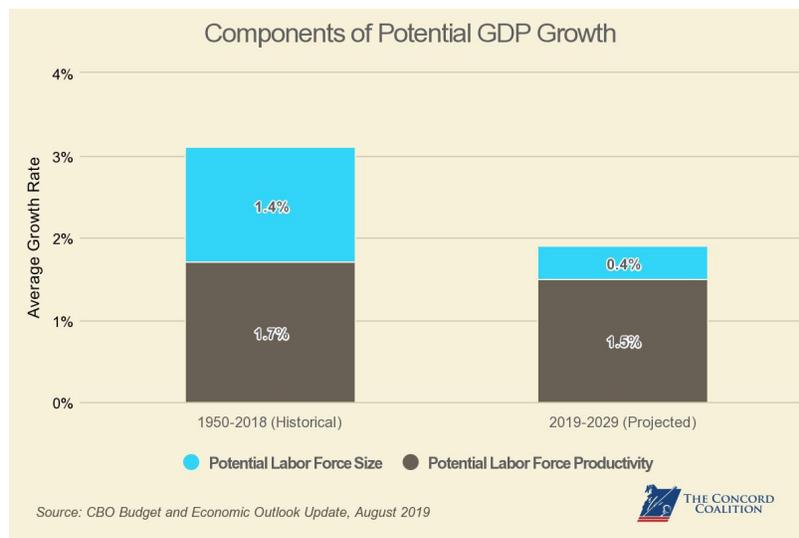
Here is the line-up of papers and their authors:

- **A New Vision for Health Reform** (Alice M. Rivlin, The Brookings Institution, and Joseph Antos, American Enterprise Institute)
- **Promoting Economic Growth Through Social Security Reform** (Maya MacGuineas, Marc Goldwein, and Chris Towner, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget)
- **Building a Pro-Growth Legal Immigration System** (Douglas Holtz-Eakin and Jacqueline Varas, American Action Forum)
- **Why Federal R&D Policy Needs to Prioritize Productivity to Drive Growth and Reduce the Debt-to-GDP Ratio** (Robert Atkinson, Information Technology & Innovation Foundation)
- **Training for Jobs of the Future: Improving Access, Certifying Skills, and Expanding Apprenticeship** (Robert Lerman, Pamela Loprest, and Daniel Kuehn, Urban Institute)

Since its founding in 1992, The Concord Coalition has urged lawmakers of both parties to make the hard choices on spending and taxes needed to achieve a sustainable fiscal path. We have emphasized that the budgetary decisions of today affect the economic opportunities of future generations.

Today, the nation's budget is on an unsustainable path. We do not believe, however, that it is time to throw in the towel or to embrace the dangerous proposition that deficits and debt don't matter. It is the duty of this generation to fight for a sustainable budget and a brighter economic future. That begins by taking a hard look at how the fiscal challenge has evolved and how that evolution affects the solutions needed to get the job done.

Over the long-term, the aim of this project is to create a generation of fiscal and economic stewards who understand the complex relationship between the federal debt and the economy as interdependent factors critical to our future regardless of partisan considerations.



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