



**Compete.**

Council on  
Competitiveness



# Clarion Call

Infographic





# CLARION CALL FOR COMPETITIVENESS

Interconnected Challenges & Opportunities

## Competitiveness Report Card



**TECHNOLOGY**  
Secure critical infrastructure and information against cyber-attacks.



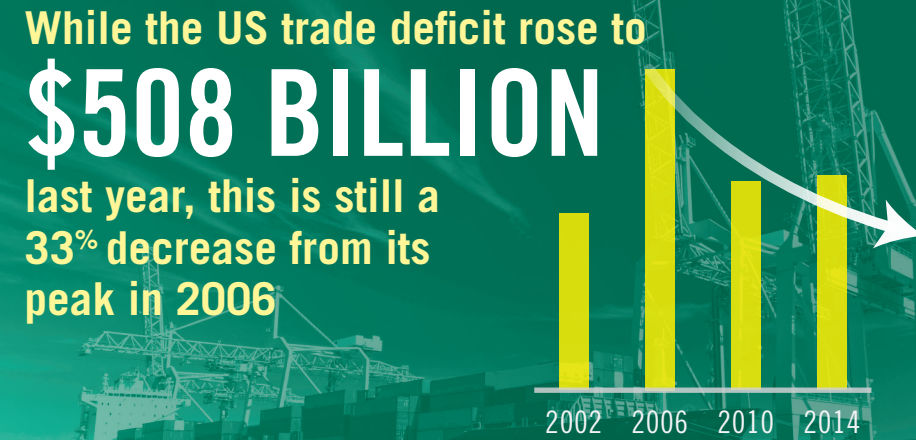
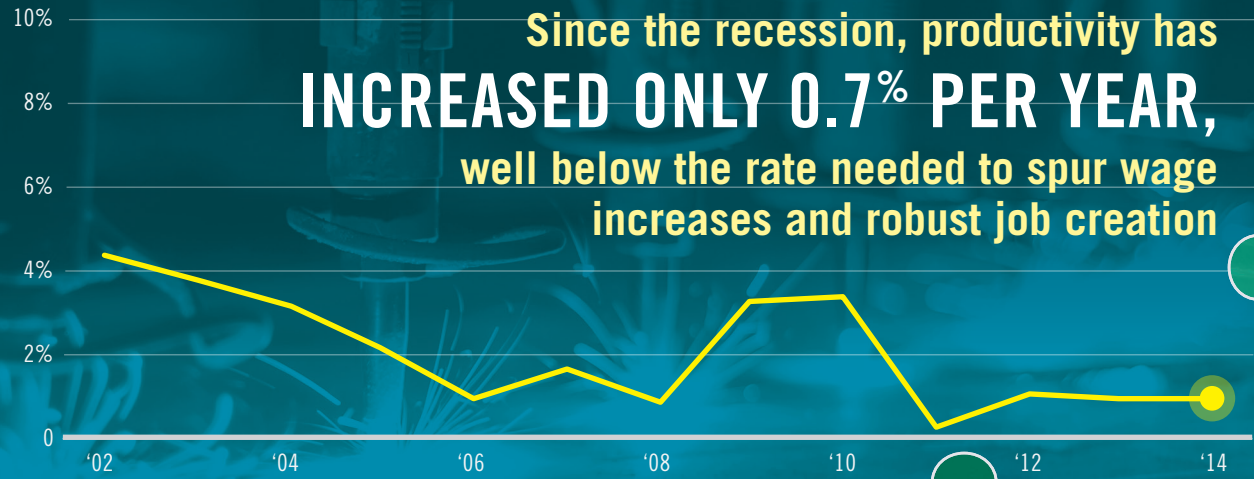
**TALENT**  
Reform immigration to ensure the best and brightest innovate and create opportunities in the US.



**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Deploy a modern and resilient transportation and energy infrastructure.

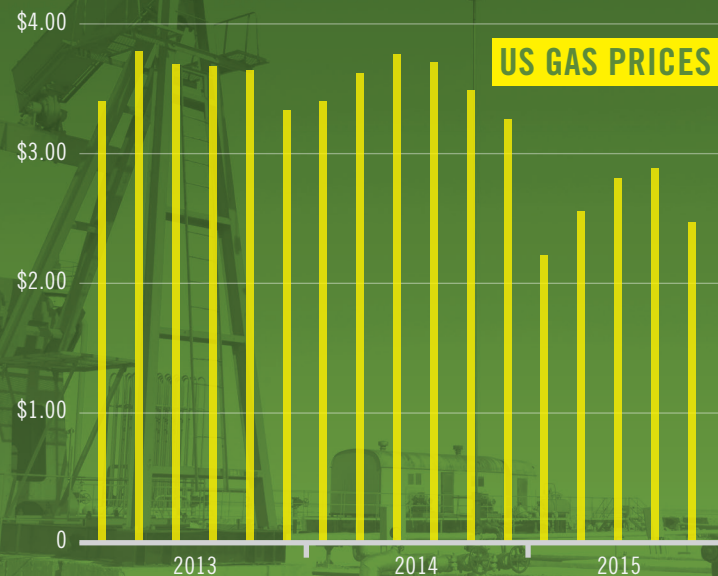


**INVESTMENT**  
Work across party lines to compromise on spending and revenue measures.

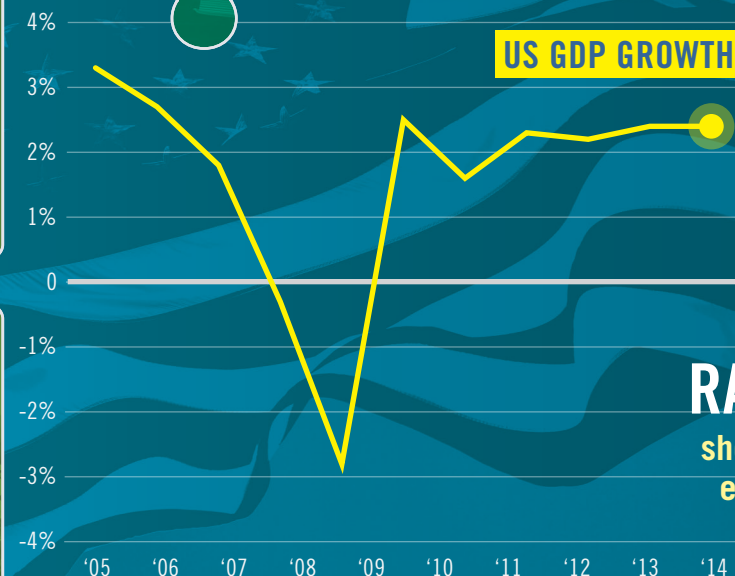


In 2014, the US invested **\$38.3 BILLION** on renewable energy, among the highest in the world

In addition, our abundance of energy is reflected in lower gas prices



The class of 2015 will graduate with an **AVERAGE OF \$35,051** IN STUDENT DEBT, up from \$27,000 in 2014

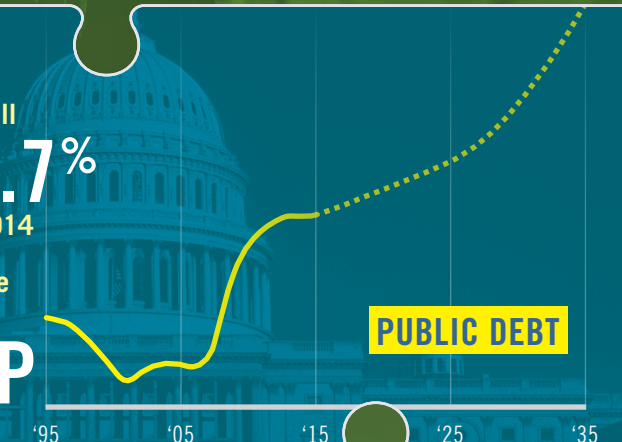


Estimates for GDP growth for 2015 **RANGE FROM 2%–3.1%** short of the 4%–5% needed for a full economic recovery. Yet, US GDP per capita remains the highest in the world among large economies

Federal research was **ONLY 0.79% OF GDP IN 2014**, a 25% decline since 2003. That percentage is expected to decrease to 0.76% by the end of 2015

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the budget deficit as % of GDP will **DROP TO 2.7%** in 2015, down from 3% in 2014

But, by 2025, debt held by the public is projected to reach **77% OF GDP** the highest since WWII



After a 5 year decline, new businesses have begun to rebound with **530,000 STARTUPS** launching each month

Since 2005, the US has experienced **OVER 6,000** REPORTED DATA BREACHES with 855 million records exposed. In 2014, we saw a record 27.5% increase in attacks

# Why the Clarion Call

Since 2012, the Clarion Call has laid out a competitiveness agenda for policymakers, a roadmap to follow based on nearly three decades of research and the insights of the nation's leading corporate executives, academic and labor leaders, and national lab directors. The Clarion Call highlights key emerging trends and ongoing U.S. competitiveness challenges. The Council now offers letter grades on policymakers' progress (or lack thereof) on core recommendations.

## About the Council

### WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1986, the Council on Competitiveness is a non-partisan leadership organization of corporate CEOs, university presidents, labor leaders and national laboratory directors committed to advancing U.S. competitiveness in the global economy and a rising standard of living for all Americans.

Dedicated to building U.S. prosperity, the Council plays a powerful role in shaping America's future by setting an action agenda to assess U.S. competitiveness, identify emerging forces transforming the economy, catalyze thought leaders who drive change and galvanize stakeholders to act.

### CONTACT

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### SOURCES

#### Productivity & Unemployment

Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

#### US Trade Deficit

Bureau of Economic Analysis, United States Department of Commerce.

#### Student Debt

Berman, Jillian. Class of 2015 has the most student debt in U.S. history. MarketWatch. May 2015.

#### Federal Research

Research and Development Funding in FY 2016 Appropriations. The American Association for the Advancement of Science. September 2015.

#### Public Debt

Congressional Budget Office.

### HOW WE OPERATE

The key to U.S. prosperity in a global economy is to develop the most innovative workforce, educational system and businesses that will maintain the United States' position as the global economic leader.

The Council achieves its mission by:

- Identifying and understanding emerging challenges to competitiveness
- Generating new policy ideas and concepts to shape the competitiveness debate
- Forging public and private partnerships to drive consensus
- Galvanizing stakeholders to translate policy into action and change

#### Renewable Energy

McCrone, Angus. Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2015. Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance. March 2015.

#### US Gas Prices

Energy Information Administration, United States Department of Energy.

#### Cyber Security

Identity Theft Resource Center. November 2015.

#### New Businesses

The Kauffman Index, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION



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