Unemployment Rate (Long Term and Recent History)

2017-05-19, Tom Paper: The Unemployment rate continues a steady downward trend. Overall unemployment is now around 4.3%, it's lowest level since 2006. Weekly unemployment claims are at their lowest levels since the 1970s.
The drop in the labor force participation rate, which started around 2008, remains the most significant (and challenging) part of the employment picture in the US. People have dropped out of the workforce.
2017-05-19, Tom Paper: Since the financial crisis of 2009, the median duration of unemployment has come down to about 10 weeks, a very high number when you look back over the prior decades. Those unemployed for 27 weeks or more is down to about 1.5 million, but that still is a very large number relative to the past.
2017-05-19, Tom Paper: Total nonfarm payroll continues a steady upward trend. Most of this is due to the natural population growth of our country. As a % of the US population, nonfarm payroll is up to about 45%, which is a positive sign.
The trend away from manufacturing or goods-producing employment continues.
2017-05-19, Daniel Saniski: After nearly reaching parity in 2009, the number of males and females in the labor force has been slowly splitting again. The total difference remains near 2 million more men than women employees.