Economics Practicum Class Review

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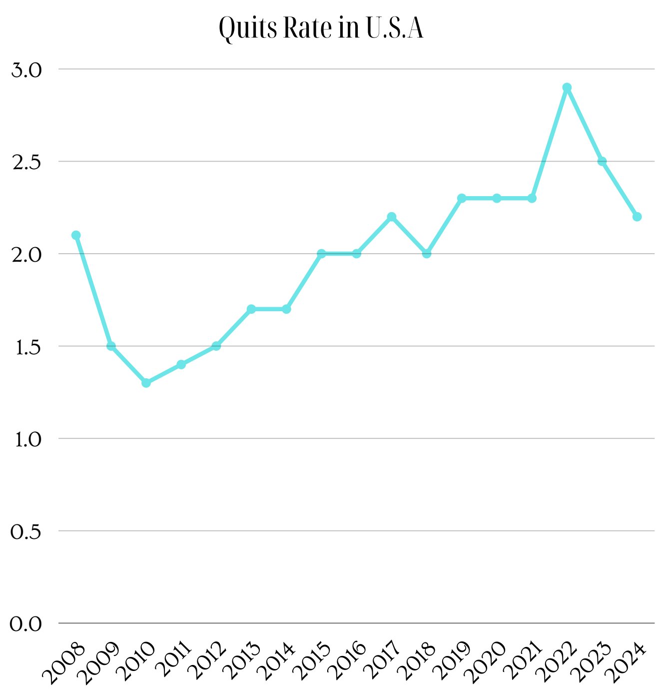
When registering for classes, practicum was the one I was most excited to be taking. After having such a positive experience during the spring semester researching current economic events and monetary policy, I was looking forward to putting it all together in the competition submission.

This semester I felt much more confident in my knowledge of monetary policy tools, economic conditions, and my research abilities. I was able to take on more of a leadership role and be one of the five presenters in the final video submission which was an honor. The group collaborated really effectively and we were able to complete a very convincing and informed monetary policy recommendation.,

Our groups recommendation to the Federal Reserve was to lower the current rate range to 4.50%-4.75% . We analyzed the current economic conditions and synthesized forecasts. This was a great opportunity for me to have regular academic discussions on current economic events, learning from my peers and deepening my understanding. It also helped me practice applying my research to form practical and realistic suggestions. Below is a graph that I made to show the quits rate in the United States which I will explain in the next paragraph.

We determined that the decrease we have seen in inflation paired with the uncertainty in the labor market were significant reasons for lowering the federal funds rate. One thing that I was able to learn more about was the quits rate. During our orientation in the beginning of the semester at the New York Federal Reserve, one of the speakers mentioned the Feds interest in the quits rate as a new and significant labor marker indicator. This was something that I had not thought to look at before and after doing some research on it I found that the quits rate had dropped a whole percentage point in the beginning of 2022 and has been steadily declining since, a decrease that had not been seen since 2008 (excluding the pandemic). This indicated that people were less confident in the job. market because they weren't leaving their jobs to pursue new opportunities. I think this information is really helpful in determining labor force conditions and consumer / worker confidence. I was glad that we were able to include it in our final presentation.



This class challenged me to think outside of the box and take on the role of an economist working to maintain the dual mandate. I am very proud of the final video that my team and I submitted. Unfortunately, we did not end up winning but the experience as a whole has been one of my favorite during my time at UConn. Although it was sad when we found out we did not make it to the finals it was an irreplaceable learning experience and I know that we can use our knowledge to help next years team. This loss has given me the opportunity to exercise my perseverance and positive outlook.

This practicum helped me elevate some of my skills for example, my research, data analysis, creating graphs and charts. Additionally, I was able to improve my time management and organization because I had to work on the group presentation while also staying on top of my other classes workloads.

Being able to participate in this class has nurtured my passion for economics and introduced me to other bright minds in my same field. I would recommend this class to anyone that is interested in getting hands on experience, learning more about current events, working with a great team, and discovering how the federal open market committee decides monetary policy. For anyone that is considering it I would encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone like I did and challenge yourself to something new.

Bibliography:

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quits: Total Nonfarm [JTSQUR], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/JTSQUR, November 18, 2024.