
The United States economy began growing again in the third quarter of the year, according to new official figures. The economy grew by 0.9%, an annual rate of 3.5% which is the first sign of improvement in more than a year. Andrew Walker reports:

The figures suggest the recession in the US is over and **a recovery underway**. Spending by **consumers** increased for most types of goods and services, including cars. Business investment also rose for the first time in two years. But there are concerns that this improvement is too **dependent** on government spending, such as **subsidies** to replace old cars. Certainly the US Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, was not ready **to claim victory in tackling the recession**.

Tim Geithner: 'But this is just a beginning. Unemployment remains **unacceptably high**. For every person out of work, for every family **facing foreclosure**, for every small business facing a credit crunch, the recession **remains alive and acute**'.

Among the other leading developed economies, France, Germany and Japan returned to economic growth three months earlier than the US, though the downturn was deeper in Germany and Japan. Britain is the only other major economy to report its performance for the third quarter. Unlike the US, Britain showed **a continued decline**. The global picture is thus one of a widening recovery. But it has not reached everywhere and it is not particularly strong.

Andrew Walker, Economics and Business Correspondant

Vocabulary and definitions

a recovery underway	the process of getting the economy back to its previous healthy condition has begun
consumers	people who buy goods
dependent	reliant on the actions of others
subsidies	money given (usually by the government) to help to pay for something
claim victory	declare or tell everyone that he has been successful
tackling the recession	dealing with and trying to find a solution to the economic difficulties of the country
unacceptably high	too great to be accepted or approved of
facing foreclosure	dealing with the prospect of losing their houses because they cannot afford to pay back the loan the bank gave them to buy it
remains alive and acute	is still happening and is still extreme and causing lots of problems for people
a continued decline	still getting worse, not improving

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