

TEN FOR TEN

★ 10.28.12

11.06.12 ★

# THE BIG SQUEEZE ON THE MIDDLE CLASS



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 5, 2012



# THE MIDDLE CLASS IS NOT BETTER OFF

---

**JOBS:** Since Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 1,019,000 Construction Jobs And 586,000 Manufacturing Jobs. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** Since Obama Took Office, The Unemployment Rate Has Increased From 7.8 Percent To 7.9 Percent. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

**DISAPPEARING LABOR FORCE:** Four Million Workers Are Missing From The Labor Force, "Primarily Due To A Lack Of Jobs Rather Than The Normal Aging Of America's Population." (Lucia Mutikani, "America's Hidden Unemployed: Too Discouraged To Count," [Reuters](#), 9/23/12)

**LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT:** Since Obama Took Office, The Average Length Of Unemployment Has More Than Doubled From 19.8 Weeks To 40.2 Weeks. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

**NET WORTH:** "The Net Worth Of The American Family Has Fallen To Its Lowest Level In Two Decades." (Ylan Q. Mui, "Fed: Americans' Wealth Dropped 40 Percent," [The Washington Post](#), 6/11/12)

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:** Household Income Is Down \$4,520 From \$55,198 In January 2009 To \$50,678 In August 2012. ("Household Income Trends, August 2012," [Sentier Research](#), 9/25/12)

**SAVINGS:** 23.4 Percent Of Families Have No Savings At All, Up From 18.5 Percent In 2009. (Christine Dugas, "Recession Added Debt, Drained Families' Savings," [USA Today](#), 5/12/12)

**GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE:** "49.1%: Percent Of The Population That Lives In A Household Where At Least One Member Received Some Type Of Government Benefit In The First Quarter Of 2011." (Phil Izzo, "Number Of The Week: Half Of U.S. Lives In Household Getting Benefits," [The Wall Street Journal's "Real Time Economics"](#), 5/26/12)

**FOOD STAMPS:** Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of Americans Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased From 31.9 Million To A Record 46.7 Million, A 46 Percent Increase. ([Department Of Agriculture](#), 9/28/12)

**POVERTY:** 97.3 Million Americans Now Qualify As Low-Income And Another 49.1 Million Are In Poverty; Together, 146.4 Million Americans Or 48 Percent Of The Population Are Low-Income Or In Poverty. (Hope Yen, "Census Shows 1 In 2 People Are Poor Or Low-Income," [The Associated Press](#), 12/15/11)

**FOOD PRICES:** Since Obama Became President, The Monthly Price Of A Moderate-Cost Food Plan For A Family Of Four With Young Children Has Increased From \$819.40 To \$858.10. ("Official USDA Food Plans: Cost Of Food At Home At Four Levels, U.S. Average, January 2009," [USDA](#), 2/09; "Official USDA Food Plans: Cost Of Food At Home At Four Levels, U.S. Average, September 2012," [USDA](#), 10/12)

**GAS PRICES:** Since Obama Took Office, The Average Price Per Gallon Of Gas Has Nearly Doubled From \$1.847 To \$3.568. ("Gasoline And Diesel Fuel Update," [U.S. Energy And Information Administration](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

**COLLEGE COSTS:** Since Obama Took Office, The Average Cost Of In-State Tuition At A Four Year College Has Risen From \$6,585 To \$8,655, A 31 Percent Increase. ("Trends In College Pricing 2009," College Board, 2008; "Trends In College Pricing 2012," [College Board](#), 2012)

**HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS:** Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Family Health Care Premiums Has Increased By \$3,065 From \$12,680 To \$15,745, A 24.2 Percent Increase. ("Employer Health Benefits, 2012 Annual Survey, Exhibit 6.4," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2012)

**FORECLOSURES:** Currently 5.64 Million Residential Mortgages Are Either 30 Days Delinquent Or In Foreclosure. (Press Release, "LPS 'First Look' Mortgage Report: September Month-End Data Shows Significant Rise In Delinquencies; Foreclosures Drop," [Lender Processing Services](#), 10/22/12)

**NEGATIVE EQUITY:** As Of The Second Quarter Of 2012, 30.9 Percent – 15.3 Million – Of U.S. Homeowners With A Mortgage Are Underwater. (Stan Humphries, "Negative Equity Declines Slightly On The Back Of Modest Home Value Gains," [Zillow](#), 8/22/12)

# UNDER OBAMA THE AMERICAN DREAM IS SLIPPING AWAY FROM THE MIDDLE CLASS

---

**“The Idea That Living Standards Inevitably Improve From One Generation To The Next Is Under Threat.”** “For the first time since the Great Depression, middle-class families have been losing ground for more than a decade. They, and the poor, have struggled particularly badly since the financial crisis led to a global recession in 2008. The idea that living standards inevitably improve from one generation to the next is under threat.” (David Leonhardt, “A Closer Look At Middle-Class Decline,” [The New York Times' Economix](#), 7/23/12)

- **“Many Of The Bedrock Assumptions Of American Culture — About Work, Progress, Fairness And Optimism — Are Being Shaken.”** (David Leonhardt, “A Closer Look At Middle-Class Decline,” [The New York Times' Economix](#), 7/23/12)

**“Far From A New Dawn Of Broad-Based Growth, America’s Middle Class Decline Is Getting Worse.”** “Second, the hollowing out of America’s middle class – still politely described as median income stagnation rather than ‘decline’ – is accelerating rather than slowing. According to the US Census last week, the US median household is 4.8 per cent poorer now than at the start of the recovery in 2009. Median incomes have now fallen to the pre-internet level of 1993. All of the gains of the Clinton years have been lost. The decline in the past three years follows a 3.2 per cent drop during the recession, which itself followed a shrinkage during the 2000-2007 cycle. Far from a new dawn of broad-based growth, America’s middle class decline is getting worse.” (Edward Luce, “The US Economy Is Still In A Sorry State,” [Financial Times](#), 9/23/12)

- **The Middle Class Is Shrinking And Millions Of Families Are Hurting.** “The latest census data depict a middle class that’s shrinking as unemployment stays high and the government’s safety net frays. The new numbers follow years of stagnating wages for the middle class that have hurt millions of workers and families.” (Hope Yen, “Census Shows 1 In 2 People Are Poor Or Low-Income,” [The Associated Press](#), 12/15/11)
- **“Many Of The ‘New Poor’ Are The Former Middle Class.”** “‘Many of the ‘new poor’ are the former middle class,’ broadcaster Tavis Smiley, who requested the study, said in a statement.” (Mary Wisniewski, “Poverty To Keep Rising Due To Slow Recovery: Study,” [Reuters](#), 1/11/12)

## THE ECONOMY UNDER OBAMA IS STUCK IN A GRIM “NEW NORMAL” THAT IS DEVASTATING THE MIDDLE CLASS

**“The American Economy Is Stuck In A New Kind Of Normal...”** “The American economy is stuck in a new kind of normal, somewhere between crisis and prosperity, and economic policy makers are struggling to define their role. The Fed, which has responded forcefully each time the economy tips back toward recession, remains divided over whether it should try with similar urgency to return the economy to prosperity.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Fed Is Torn On Tipping Point For Action,” [The New York Times](#), 7/11/12)

**“Obama, Who Came Into Office Promising To Bolster The Middle Class And Reduce Inequality, Has Presided Over A Turbulent Economy That So Far Has Done Neither.”** “Analysts call continuing high levels of joblessness a prime factor in the income and wealth declines that have continued for most Americans even after the recession ended. Obama, who came into office promising to bolster the middle class and reduce inequality, has presided over a turbulent economy that so far has done neither.” (Michael A. Fletcher, “Obama’s Record: Struggling To Bring Back Jobs,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/18/12)

- **Obama’s “Policies Have Failed To Ignite Anything Close To The Robust Jobs Growth Needed To Overcome The Horrific Losses Caused By The Downturn.”** “The aggressive series of actions helped construct a floor under the most severe economic collapse since the Great Depression, many economists agree. Yet, the president’s policies have failed to ignite anything close to the robust jobs growth needed to overcome the horrific losses caused by the downturn.” (Michael A. Fletcher, “Obama’s Record: Struggling To Bring Back Jobs,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/18/12)

**The Recovery Has Failed To Produce The Middle Class Jobs Obama Campaigned On.** “Barack Obama campaigned four years ago assailing President George W. Bush for wage losses suffered by the middle class. More than three years into Obama’s own presidency, those declines have only deepened. The rebound from the worst recession since the 1930s has generated relatively few of the moderately skilled jobs that once supported the middle class, tightening the financial squeeze on many Americans, even those who are employed.” (Mike Dorning, “Obama Fails To Stem Middle-Class Slide He Blamed On Bush,” [Bloomberg](#), 4/30/12)

- **Only 19 Percent Of Voters Believe Obama’s Policies Favor The Middle Class.** “Just 19 percent of registered voters believe the president’s policies favor the middle class, compared with 25 percent who say they benefit the rich, according to a CBS-New York Times poll conducted Feb. 8-13. Still, asked to choose which candidate would do a better job protecting the middle class, 49 percent say Obama and 39 percent Romney, according to an April 5-8 ABC News-Washington Post poll.” (Mike Dorning, “Obama Fails To Stem Middle-Class Slide He Blamed On Bush,” [Bloomberg](#), 4/30/12)
- **“A President Who Attacked Bush’s Policies For Favoring The Rich Has Overseen A Recovery In Which The Wealthiest 1 Percent Captured 93 Percent Of Per-Capita Real Income Gains In 2010.”** “A president who attacked Bush’s policies for favoring the rich has overseen a recovery in which the wealthiest 1 percent captured 93 percent of per-capita real income gains in 2010, according to an analysis of tax data by Emmanuel Saez, an economics professor at the University of California at Berkeley. On average, families in the top 1 percent saw their inflation-adjusted incomes rise by \$105,637 that year from 2009, according to Saez.” (Mike Dorning, “Obama Fails To Stem Middle-Class Slide He Blamed On Bush,” [Bloomberg](#), 4/30/12)

# OBAMA'S POLICIES HAVE RESULTED IN THE WEAKEST RECOVERY IN MODERN HISTORY

**CBS News' Scott Pelley: "This Is The Worst Economic Recovery America Has Ever Had."** "This is worst economic recovery America has ever had. We've been looking for hopeful signs, but today the chairman of the Federal Reserve threw a cold splash of reality on those hopes. Ben Bernanke said any improvement in unemployment will 'likely be frustratingly slow.' Well, yes, to say the least." ([CBS Evening News With Scott Pelley](#), 7/17/12)



**CLICK TO PLAY: CBS News' Scott Pelley: "This Is The Worst Economic Recovery America Has Ever Had."**

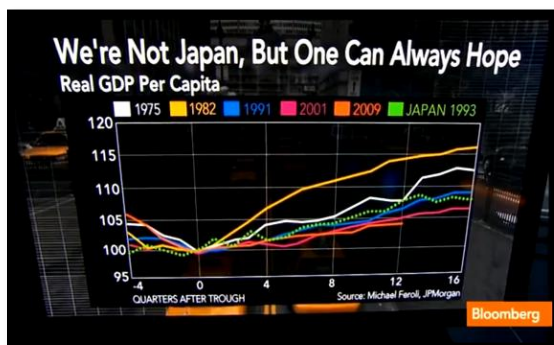
- **"Never In The Last 60 Years Has The Length Of Joblessness Been As Long As It Has Been Recently."** CBS NEWS' SCOTT PELLEY: "Never in the last 60 years has the length of joblessness been as long as it has been recently. Nearly four million people, almost a third of the unemployed, have been out of work more than a year. They've been severed from the workforce." (CBS' ["60 Minutes,"](#) 8/12/12)

**The Associated Press Headline: "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II."** (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/16/12)

- **"The Recession That Ended Three Years Ago This Summer Has Been Followed By The Feeblest Economic Recovery Since The Great Depression."** (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/16/12)

**The U.S. Recovery Is Worse Than That Of All Countries That Have Suffered A Recession Or A Financial Crisis Since 1970.** "The Obama administration says one reason the U.S. economic recovery has been so slow is that it is still suffering from the aftermath of the financial crisis. But the U.S. is not the first country to suffer a recession and a financial crisis. And the U.S. recovery is doing worse than all of them." (James Pethokoukis, "U.S. Recovery Weakest Of Any In the World Since 1970," [AEldeas](#), 7/31/12)

- **"And The U.S. Is In Dead Last After 12 Quarters From The Bottom."** "In a new research note, JPMorgan points out that since 1970, Japan, Finland and Sweden have all gone through what the U.S. is currently going through. And all three of them had recoveries stronger than America's. The above chart compares the economic recovery — as measured by real GDP per capita — of each nation at different points after the trough of their recessions. And the U.S. is in dead last after 12 quarters from the bottom." (James Pethokoukis, "U.S. Recovery Weakest Of Any In the World Since 1970," [AEldeas](#), 7/31/12)



**CLICK TO PLAY: Bloomberg's Mike McKee: "If This Were The Olympics We Would Be Performing Very Poorly."**

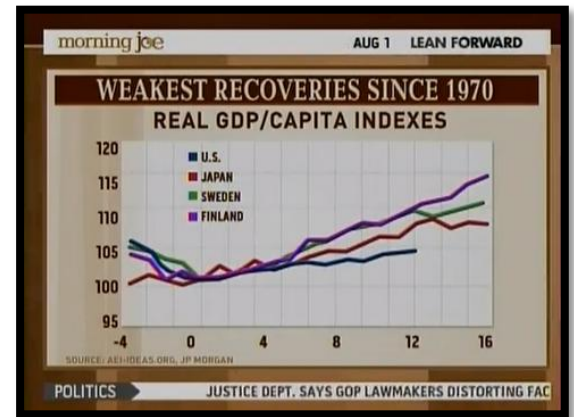
**Bloomberg's Mike McKee: "If This Were The Olympics We Would Be Performing Very Poorly. ... This Is The Worst Recovery Since The Mid 70's And You Can Probably Go Back To The 40s."** MCKEE: "If this were the Olympics we would be performing very poorly. Three years now on got the GDP report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. We're three years into the recovery. Look how we're doing. This is the worst recovery since the mid 70's and you can probably go back to the 40s. According to Mike Feroli at JP Morgan, this recovery has been truly awful. It lags all of the rest. And not only that - we hold up Japan as the poster boy for bad recoveries, their lost decade. Well this far into the recovery for Japan we are performing even worse than they did. We



are lower than Japan. Mike says we are not Japan, but one can always hope.” (Bloomberg’s [“Surveillance,”](#) 8/1/12)

**CNBC’s Brian Sullivan: “Since 1970, This Is Statistically The Worst Recovery Out Of A Recession In A Developed Nation.”**

SULLIVAN: “I’m a business guy. I like pretty-colored lines, right, so there’s a chart and this is basically a look at how economies in Japan and Finland and the U.S. and other places have done coming out of deep recessions. Right? And if you look at this chart, you will notice the U.S. is, since 1970, this is statistically the worst recovery out of a recession in a developed nation. So in other words, in over 40 years, this is officially the slowest recovery when compared to other countries. So Miles, there’s a report out recently that Canada, right, is now wealthier on a per capita basis in terms of net worth per household than the United States. So I would ask you: how do we fix that? Right? What can America do better?” (MSNBC’s [“Morning Joe,”](#) 8/1/12)



**CLICK TO PLAY: CNBC’s Brian Sullivan: “Since 1970, This Is Statistically The Worst Recovery Out Of A Recession In A Developed Nation.”**

**A Federal Reserve Study Of Recessions Across 59 Advanced And Emerging Market Economies Found That, “For The United States, The Current Recovery Has Been Weaker Than Would Have Predicted Based On The Depth And Duration Of The Recession Alone.”** “For the United States, the current recovery has been weaker than would have predicted based on the depth and duration of the recession alone. Without question, the labor market has performed particularly weakly – with especially tepid employment growth and a sharp decline in labor force participation.” (Greg Howard, Robert Martin, and Beth Anne Wilson, “Are Recoveries From Banking And Financial Crises Really So Different?,” [Board Of Governors Of The Federal Reserve System](#), 11/11)

- **The Federal Reserve Has Noted That “The Emerging Market Economies Are Recovering As Would Be Predicted Given The Depth And Duration Of Their Great Recession Experiences,” But The United States Is “Lagging.”** “Second, the depth and duration of a recession does matter for recovery speed. Deeper recessions are associated with faster post-trough recoveries, in line with the view that pent-up demand and underutilized resources can contribute to a sharp snapback. In contrast, longer recessions are associated with slower post-trough growth, possibly reflecting skill and capital deterioration as recessions drag on. Banking and financial crises are associated with more severe recessions – deeper in the case of emerging market economies and longer in the case of the advanced economies – but do not appear to impose additional restraint to recoveries beyond the depth and duration. Currently, the emerging market economies are recovering as would be predicted given the depth and duration of their Great Recession experiences, but the advanced economies, including the United States, are lagging.” (Greg Howard, Robert Martin, and Beth Anne Wilson, “Are Recoveries From Banking And Financial Crises Really So Different?,” [Board Of Governors Of The Federal Reserve System](#), 11/11)

# UNDER OBAMA, INCOMES HAVE FALLEN TO THE LOWEST LEVELS IN DECADES, ERASING A GENERATION OF GAINS

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:** Household Income Is Down \$4,520 From \$55,198 In January 2009 To \$50,678 In August 2012. ("Household Income Trends, August 2012," [Sentier Research](#), 9/25/12)

**Median Household Income Has Fallen Since The Great Recession Ended More Than It Did During The Great Recession.** "Median household income fell 4.8 percent on an inflation- adjusted basis since the recession ended in June 2009, more than the 2.6 percent drop during the 18-month contraction, the research firm's Gordon Green and John Coder wrote in a report today." (Jeff Kearns, "U.S. Incomes Fell More In Recovery, Sentier Says," [Bloomberg](#), 8/23/12)



CLICK TO PLAY: White House Press Secretary Dodges Question On Why Incomes Have Continued To Decline Under Obama

**From June 2009 To June 2012, Real Median Annual Household Incomes Have Fallen By Nearly \$4,000, From \$54,916 To \$50,964** "Real median annual household income fell to \$53,508 from \$54,916 during the 18-month recession from December 2007 to June 2009, according to the firm's study of income data for the 36- month period ended in June 2012. Incomes kept falling during the 36-month period since then, dropping to \$50,964 in June 2012." (Jeff Kearns, "U.S. Incomes Fell More In Recovery, Sentier Says," [Bloomberg](#), 8/23/12)

**Americans Of Every Demographic Earn Less Today Than They Did In June 2009.** "Across the country, in almost every demographic, Americans earn less today than they did in June 2009, when the recovery technically started. As of June, the median household income for all Americans was \$50,964, or 4.8 percent lower than its level three years earlier, when the inflation-adjusted median income was \$53,508." (Catherine Rampell, "Big Income Losses For Those Near Retirement," [The New York Times' Economix](#), 8/23/12)

**John Coder, Previous Director Of The Census Bureau's Income And Poverty Program, Says "Almost Every Group Is Worse Off Than It Was Three Years Ago."** "Almost every group is worse off than it was three years ago, and some groups had very large declines in income," Green, who previously directed work on the Census Bureau's income and poverty statistics program, said in a phone interview today." (Jeff Kearns, "U.S. Incomes Fell More In Recovery, Sentier Says," [Bloomberg](#), 8/23/12)

- **Coder: "We're In An Unprecedented Period Of Economic Stagnation."** (Jeff Kearns, "U.S. Incomes Fell More In Recovery, Sentier Says," [Bloomberg](#), 8/23/12)

**"Short Of Working A Second Job, Most People Would Be Hard-Pressed To Be Earning More Money Now Than They Did When President Barack Obama Took Office."** "Short of working a second job, most people would be hard-pressed to be earning more money now than they did when President Barack Obama took office. Adjusted for inflation, the average hourly wage has gone up just 42 cents over the past four years to \$23.41, according to Labor Department figures. High unemployment explains some of this, but salaries have stayed disturbingly flat, economists say." (Josh Boak, "Election Angst: Wages Have Barely Budged Since '08," [Politico](#), 6/12/12)

- **"Americans' Incomes Are Falling, Perhaps A Reason Why Pessimism About Their Personal Finances Is Now The Lowest It's Been In A Decade."** "Americans' incomes are falling, perhaps a reason why pessimism about their personal finances is now the lowest it's been in a decade. The median income fell in 2010 for the second year in a row to \$26,364, a 1.2 percent drop from 2009, and the lowest level since 1999, according to David Cay Johnston at Reuters." (Jillian Berman, "U.S. Median Income Falls To \$26,364 As Pessimism Reaches 10-Year High," [The Huffington Post](#), 10/20/11)

**“In The Past Year, Most Americans Have Barely Seen a Bump In Earnings.”** “Americans’ take-home pay — one of the critical economic benchmarks for presidents seeking reelection — declined in January and February. Research shows that the amount of money Americans earn after taxes and inflation is one of the most reliable predictors of a president’s November chances — more so than the unemployment rate. In the past year, most Americans have barely seen a bump in earnings, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.” (Josh Boak, “Shrinking Paychecks May Hurt Obama,” [Politico](#), 4/3/12)

- **September Saw The Lowest Consumer-Sentiment Numbers Observed In Eight Months Due To Stagnant Wage Gains.** “The Bloomberg Consumer Index hovered near an eight-month low in the week ended Sept. 2. ‘All of the income measures are not very pleasant,’ said Chris Christopher, director of U.S. and global consumer economics research at HIS Global Insight in Lexington, Massachusetts. ‘Wage gains have been slow and flat. There is going to be a lot of discontent in the consumer-sentiment numbers.’” (Shobhana Chandra and Steve Matthews, “Stagnant Incomes Signal Restraint In Spending By U.S. Consumers,” [Bloomberg Businessweek](#), 9/10/12)

**For The First Time Since The End Of World War II, Mean Family Incomes Declined For Americans In All Income Tiers.** “Their downbeat take on their economic situation comes at the end of a decade in which, for the first time since the end of World War II, mean family incomes declined for Americans in all income tiers. But the middle-income tier—defined in this Pew Research analysis as all adults whose annual household income is two-thirds to double the national median —is the only one that also shrunk in size, a trend that has continued over the past four decades.” (“The Lost Decade Of The Middle Class,” [Pew Research Center](#), 8/22/12)

- **The Bureau Of Labor Statistics Reports That The U.S. Average Weekly Wage Decreased In 2011, “One Of Only Five Declines In The History Of The Series.”** “The U.S. average weekly wage decreased over the year by 1.7 percent to \$955 in the fourth quarter of 2011. This is one of only five declines in the history of the series which dates back to 1978.” (Press Release, “County Employment And Wages: Fourth Quarter 2011,” [Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), 6/28/12)

**Many Workers Are Underemployed, “Others Find Pay That Is Simply Not Keeping Up With Their Expenses: Adjusted For Inflation, The Median Hourly Wage Was Lower In 2011 Than It Was A Decade Earlier.”** “These are anxious days for American workers. Many, like Ms. Woods, are underemployed. Others find pay that is simply not keeping up with their expenses: adjusted for inflation, the median hourly wage was lower in 2011 than it was a decade earlier, according to data from a forthcoming book by the Economic Policy Institute, “The State of Working America, 12th Edition.” (Michael Cooper, “Lost In Recession, Toll On Underemployed And Underpaid,” [The New York Times](#), 6/18/12)

- **Plummeting Household Wealth Has Erased Two Decades Of Gains.** “And household wealth is dropping. The Federal Reserve reported last week that the economic crisis left the median American family in 2010 with no more wealth than in the early 1990s, wiping away two decades of gains. With stocks too risky for many small investors and savings accounts paying little interest, building up a nest egg is a challenge even for those who can afford to sock away some of their money.” (Michael Cooper, “Lost In Recession, Toll On Underemployed And Underpaid,” [The New York Times](#), 6/18/12)



# TRILLIONS IN DEFICIT SPENDING HAS FAILED TO PUT MILLIONS OF STRUGGLING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

---

**JOBS:** Since Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 1,019,000 Construction Jobs And 586,000 Manufacturing Jobs. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** Since Obama Took Office, The Unemployment Rate Has Increased From 7.8 Percent To 7.9 Percent. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

- **Obama's Advisers Predicted The Stimulus Would Lower Unemployment To 5.4% By Today.** (Christina Romer and Jared Bernstein, "[The Job Impact Of The American Recovery And Reinvestment Plan](#)," 1/9/09)
- **"The Jobless Rate When Obama Took Office In January 2009 Was 7.8 Percent Rate. It Exceeded 8 Percent For 43 Months Prior To September, The Longest Such Stretch Since Monthly Records Began In 1948."** (Alex Kowalski, "Payrolls In U.S. Climbed More Than Forecast In October," [Bloomberg](#), 11/2/12)

**There Are 23 Million Americans That Are Unemployed, Underemployed Or Marginally Attached To The Labor Force.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/2/12)

- **In October, The Number Of Unemployed Workers Increased By 170,000 To 12.26 Million.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/2/12)

**There Are 8.3 Million Americans Working Part-Time For Economic Reasons.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/2/12)

- **813,000 Discouraged Workers Have Given Up Looking For Work.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/2/12)

**"While Many Industries Are Adding Jobs, The Current Tepid Pace Of Growth Is Not Enough To Climb Out Of The Jobs Hole, Economists Said. Companies Remain Hesitant To Boost Payrolls."** (Tami Luhby, "October Jobs Report: Hiring Increases, Unemployment Up," [CNN Money](#), 11/2/12)

**CNN's Alison Kosik: "We're At This Point Right Now Where The Number Of Jobs Being Added Every Month Is Just Not Enough To Keep Up With Population Growth."** CNN's ALISON KOSIK: "It's not a great response, though, because there's a harsh reality that 171,000 jobs added – it is a good number, this is no doubt a good report - but if you look at the overall trend, you see how the job market is doing, it's just not roaring ahead. And you know we're at this point right now where the number of jobs being added every month is just not enough to keep up with population growth. You know, it averages out to 157,000 jobs created every month. It's just not enough momentum in the jobs market." (CNN's "Starting Point," 11/2/12)

- **Kosik: "Some People Are Saying This Is More Of A Minimum Wage Recovery..."** KOSIK: "We're not gaining back enough jobs fast enough and in the right places. You know Soledad, some people are saying this is more of a minimum wage recovery, meaning jobs in restaurants and retailers are adding a lot of jobs, but that doesn't give the income enough and makes it hard for a lot of people to still pay the bills." (CNN's "Starting Point," 11/2/12)

**Obama's "Policies Have Failed To Ignite Anything Close To The Robust Jobs Growth Needed To Overcome The Horrific Losses Caused By The Downturn."** "The aggressive series of actions helped construct a floor under the most severe economic collapse since the Great Depression, many economists agree. Yet, the president's policies have failed to ignite anything close to the robust jobs growth needed to overcome the horrific losses caused by the downturn." (Michael A. Fletcher, "Obama's Record: Struggling To Bring Back Jobs," [The Washington Post](#), 10/18/12)

- **Obama's Economic Policies Have Not Generated Enough Jobs "To Keep Pace With The Normal Growth In The Labor Force, Let Alone Significantly Lower The Unemployment Rate."** "Since the economy emerged from the deep recession in June 2009, employers have added

an average of 87,000 jobs a month, according to the latest government figures. That is not quite enough to keep pace with the normal growth in the labor force, let alone significantly lower the unemployment rate.” (Michael A. Fletcher, “Obama’s Record: Struggling To Bring Back Jobs,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/18/12)

- **“The Tepid Pace Of Job Creation Looms As Perhaps The President’s Biggest Political Vulnerability As His Re-Election Campaign Enters Its Final Weeks.”** “The tepid pace of job creation looms as perhaps the president’s biggest political vulnerability as his re-election campaign enters its final weeks. The unemployment rate had been stuck above 8 percent for 43 consecutive months before falling to 7.8 percent in September. Still, nearly 5 million Americans have been out of work for six months or more.” (Michael A. Fletcher, “Obama’s Record: Struggling To Bring Back Jobs,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/18/12)

## **OBAMANOMICS IS CREATING LOW-WAGE JOBS THAT FAMILIES CAN’T GET BY ON**

**Despite Regaining 4 Million Of The 8 Million Jobs Lost In The Downturn, “Middle Class Jobs Have Been Replaced By McJobs” In The Obama Economy.** “We said goodbye to more than eight million jobs in the downturn; we’ve added around four million back. It’s easy and dismal math. But there’s another painful dimension to this recovery that’s gotten far less attention than the lingering jobs deficit. It’s the fact that most of the jobs we lost offered decent pay, while the ones we’re adding are mostly low-level, service sector positions. Middle class jobs have been replaced by McJobs.” (Jordan Weissmann, “Our Low-Wage Recovery: How McJobs Have Replaced Middle Class Jobs,” [The Atlantic](#), 8/31/12)

- **Mid-Wage Jobs, Which Constituted 60% Of Employment Lost During The Recession, Accounted For Only 22% Of The Jobs Made Up During The Recovery Through The First Quarter Of 2012.** “Mid-wage jobs, such as construction trades and secretaries, accounted for 60 percent of our employment drop during the recession but made up just 22 percent of the recovery through the first quarter of 2012, according to the most recent Current Population Survey data. Low-wage occupations, such as retail and food service workers, made up 21 percent of the losses and 58 percent of growth.” (Jordan Weissmann, “Our Low-Wage Recovery: How McJobs Have Replaced Middle Class Jobs,” [The Atlantic](#), 8/31/12)
- **Among The “Worst Hit Mid-Wage Occupations,” There Are Approximately 345,000 Fewer Administrative Assistants.** “As NELP notes, many of the worst hit mid-wage occupations have been office workers; there are now around 345,000 fewer secretaries and administrative assistants and 108,000 fewer insurance claims clerks, for instance.” (Jordan Weissmann, “Our Low-Wage Recovery: How McJobs Have Replaced Middle Class Jobs,” [The Atlantic](#), 8/31/12)

**Peter Edelman, Director Of The Georgetown Center On Poverty, Inequality, And Public Policy: “The Problem Is That The Tidal Wave Of Low-Wage Jobs Is Dragging Us Down And The Wage Problem Is Not Going To Go Away Anytime Soon.”** ““The issues aren’t just with public benefits. We have some deep problems in the economy,’ said Peter Edelman, director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy. ... ‘I’m reluctant to say that we’ve gone back to where we were in the 1960s. The programs we enacted make a big difference. The problem is that the tidal wave of low-wage jobs is dragging us down and the wage problem is not going to go away anytime soon,’ Edelman said.” (Hope Yen, “US Poverty On Track To Rise To Highest Since 1960s,” [The Associated Press](#), 7/22/12)

- **“The Problem Is That Most Of The Decent Job Growth We’ve Seen In The Past Few Months Has Been In Sectors That Do Not Pay All That Well.”** “The problem is that most of the decent job growth we’ve seen in the past few months has been in sectors that do not pay all that well. The economy has created 1.2 million nonfarm payroll jobs in the past six months -- great news. But nearly 668,000 of those jobs -- more than 55 percent -- have been created in the retail, temp, ‘health care and social assistance’ and ‘leisure and hospitality’ sectors, notes Brusuelas.” (Mark Gongloff and Bonnie Kavoussi, “Job Market Recovery Led By Low-Wage Sectors,” [The Huffington Post](#), 4/5/12)

## LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT HAS REMAINED AT CRISIS LEVELS

---

**LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT:** Since Obama Took Office, The Average Length Of Unemployment Has More Than Doubled From 19.8 Weeks To 40.2 Weeks. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

- In October, The Average Duration Of Unemployment Increased From 39.8 Weeks To 40.2 Weeks. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of Workers Unemployed For 27 Weeks Or Longer Has Increased From 2.7 Million To 5.0 Million. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/2/12)

- In October, The Number Of Workers Out Of Work For 27 Weeks Or Longer Increased By 158,000. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)
- 40.6 Percent Of All Unemployed Workers Have Been Out Of Work For 27 Weeks Or Longer. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of Workers Unemployed For 52 Weeks Or Longer Has More Than Doubled From 1.4 Million To 3.6 Million. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

- In October, The Number Of Workers Out Of Work For 52 Weeks Or Longer Increased By 118,000. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)
- 30.4 Percent Of All Unemployed Workers Have Been Out Of Work For 52 Weeks Or Longer. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 11/4/12)

CBS' Scott Pelley: "Nearly Four Million People, Almost A Third Of The Unemployed, Have Been Out Of Work More Than A Year. They've Been Severed From The Workforce." (CBS' "[60 Minutes](#)," 8/12/12)

"Long-Term Unemployment Has Devastated The Ranks Of The Middle Class." "Long-term unemployment has devastated the ranks of the middle class, with many people losing their homes and forced to turn to food banks and government aid after they run through their savings. It takes nearly 41 weeks, on average, for the jobless to find new work. Also, the steep decline in home values has hurt many in the middle class." (Tami Luhby, "Middle Class Dropouts," [CNN Money](#), 1/11/12)

- When People Are Unemployed In The Longer Term, "Skills Erode, And People Lose Contact With Former Colleagues Who Could Help With The Job Search." "The longer people remain unemployed, the harder it is to find work, Bernanke has said. Skills erode, and people lose contact with former colleagues who could help with the job search." (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/16/12)

**Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke: Levels Of Long-Term Unemployment Remain "Far Outside The Range Of Experience Since World War II."** FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN BEN BERNANKE: "Although most spells of unemployment are disruptive or costly, the persistently high rate of long-term unemployment we have seen over the past three years or so is especially concerning. In this episode, both the median and average durations of unemployment have reached levels far outside the range of experience since World War II. And the share of unemployment that represents spells lasting more than six months has been higher than 40 percent since December 2009. By way of comparison, the share of unemployment that was long term in nature never exceeded 25 percent or so in the severe 1981-82 recession." (Ben Bernanke, [Prepared Remarks For Delivery Before The National Association For Business Economics Annual Conference](#), Washington, D.C., 3/26/12)



# POVERTY HAS RISEN TO RECORD LEVELS

**POVERTY: 97.3 Million Americans Now Qualify As Low-Income And Another 49.1 Million Are In Poverty; Together, 146.4 Million Americans Or 48 Percent Of The Population Are Low-Income Or In Poverty.** (Hope Yen, "Census Shows 1 In 2 People Are Poor Or Low-Income," [The Associated Press](#), 12/15/11)

**WHAT WE WERE TOLD: Obama Said That The Stimulus Bill Would Lift Two Million Americans Out Of Poverty.** OBAMA: "And it's a plan that rewards responsibility, lifting 2 million Americans from poverty by ensuring that anyone who works hard does not have to raise a child below the poverty line. So as a whole, this plan will help poor and working Americans pull themselves into the middle class in a way we haven't seen in nearly 50 years." (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At The Signing Of The American Recovery And Reinvestment Act](#), Denver, CO, 2/17/09)



**CLICK TO PLAY: In 2009, Obama Promised The Stimulus Would Lift Two Million Americans Out Of Poverty**

**WHAT HAPPENED: Under Obama, 6.4 Million More Americans Have Fallen Into Poverty.** (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12; Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2008," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/09)

- **In 2010, The Number Of Americans Living In Poverty (46.2 Million) Reached The Highest Level On Record.** (Press Release, "Income, Poverty And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2010," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/13/11)
- **Under Obama, Poverty Has Either Increased Or Been Stagnant.** "After 3 consecutive years of increases, neither the official poverty rate nor the number of people in poverty were statistically different from the 2010 estimates (Figure 4 and Table 3)." (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12)

**In 2011, 46.2 Million Americans Lived In Poverty, As The Official Poverty Rate Was 15 Percent.** "In 2011, the official poverty rate was 15.0 percent. There were 46.2 million people in poverty (Figure 4 and Table 3)." (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12)

- **In 2011, 9.5 Million American Families Were In Poverty, About 11.8 Percent Of All Families.** "In 2011, the poverty rate and the number of families in poverty were 11.8 percent and 9.5 million, both not statistically different from the 2010 estimates (Table 4)." (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12)
- **Since Obama Took Office, About 28 Percent Of The Population Had At Least One Spell Of Poverty Lasting 2 Months Or More.** "During the 2-year period from 2009 to 2010, approximately 28.0 percent of the population had at least one spell of poverty lasting 2 or more months." (Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty, And Health Insurance Coverage In The United States: 2011," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12/12)

**"There Are Now Seven Million American Children Whose Families Earn Below 50 Percent Of The Poverty Line."** (Paul Tough, "Obama Vs. Poverty," [The New York Times](#), 8/15/12)

- **"In 2010, 1 In Every 10 American Children Lived In Deep Poverty."** "The numbers are even higher for children, disturbingly so. In 2010, 1 in every 10 American children lived in deep poverty." (Paul Tough, "Obama Vs. Poverty," [The New York Times](#), 8/15/12)

# RECORD NUMBERS OF AMERICANS ARE DEPENDENT ON GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ENDS MEET

---

## **GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE: “49.1%: Percent Of The Population That Lives In A Household Where At Least One Member Received Some Type Of Government Benefit In The First Quarter Of 2011.”**

(Phil Izzo, “Number Of The Week: Half Of U.S. Lives In Household Getting Benefits,” [The Wall Street Journal's Real Time Economics](#), 5/26/12)

- **“As Of Early 2011, 15% Of People Lived In A Household That Received Food Stamps, 26% Had Someone Enrolled In Medicaid And 2% Had A Member Receiving Unemployment Benefits.”** “As of early 2011, 15% of people lived in a household that received food stamps, 26% had someone enrolled in Medicaid and 2% had a member receiving unemployment benefits. Families doubling up to save money or pool expenses also is likely leading to more multigenerational households. But even without the effects of the recession, there would be a larger reliance on government. The Census data show that 16% of the population lives in a household where at least one member receives Social Security and 15% receive or live with someone who gets Medicare.” (Phil Izzo, “Number Of The Week: Half Of U.S. Lives In Household Getting Benefits,” [The Wall Street Journal's “Real Time Economics.”](#) 5/26/12)

## **OBAMA HAS PRESIDED OVER A “FOOD STAMP BOOM”**

**FOOD STAMPS:** Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of Americans Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased From 31.9 Million To A Record 46.7 Million, A 46 Percent Increase. ([Department Of Agriculture](#), 9/28/12)

**Bloomberg Headline: “Food-Stamp Use Climbs To Record, Reviving Campaign Issue”** (Alan Bjerga, “Food-Stamp Use Climbs To Record, Reviving Campaign Issue,” [Bloomberg](#), 9/4/12)

- **The Record Comes “As Democrats Prepare To Nominate President Barack Obama For A Second Term With The Economy As A Chief Issue In The Campaign.”** “Food-stamp use reached a record 46.7 million people in June, the government said, as Democrats prepare to nominate President Barack Obama for a second term with the economy as a chief issue in the campaign.” (Alan Bjerga, “Food-Stamp Use Climbs To Record, Reviving Campaign Issue,” [Bloomberg](#), 9/4/12)

**45 Million People Received Food Stamps In 2011, A 70 Percent Increase From 2007, And Will Continue Growing Until 2014.** “The Congressional Budget Office said Thursday that 45 million people in 2011 received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, a 70% increase from 2007. It said the number of people receiving the benefits, commonly known as food stamps, would continue growing until 2014.” (Damian Paletta, “Food Stamp Rolls To Grow Through 2014,” [The Wall Street Journal's Real Time Economics](#), 4/19/12)

- **“The CBO Projected That One In Seven U.S. Residents Received Food Stamps Last Year.”** (Damian Paletta, “Food Stamp Rolls To Grow Through 2014,” [The Wall Street Journal's Real Time Economics](#), 4/19/12)

**“It Estimated That 34 Million People, Or 1 In 10 U.S. Residents, Would Receive SNAP Benefits In 2022.”** “CBO said the number of people receiving benefits is expected to fall after 2014 because the economy will be improving. ‘Nevertheless, the number of people receiving SNAP benefits will remain high by historical standards,’ the agency said. It estimated that 34 million people, or 1 in 10 U.S. residents, would receive SNAP benefits in 2022 ‘and SNAP expenditures, at about \$73 billion, will be among the highest of all non-health-related federal support programs for low-income households.’” (Damian Paletta, “Food Stamp Rolls To Grow Through 2014,” [The Wall Street Journal's Real Time Economics](#), 4/19/12)

- **“Some 11.2 Million More People Have Joined The Rolls From 2009 Through 2011, Including 4.4 Million Last Year During What Was Ostensibly An Economic Recovery.”** “But Mr. Obama is now outstripping that dubious achievement, and in only three years rather than eight. The 2009 stimulus bill increased maximum benefits and authorized more money for states to administer the program. Some 11.2 million more people have joined the rolls from 2009 through 2011, including

4.4 million last year during what was ostensibly an economic recovery.” (Editorial, “Food Stamps Nation,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/19/12)

## **RECORD NUMBER OF AMERICANS SUFFER FROM FOOD INSECURITY**

**Nearly 17 Million Americans Suffered From “Very Low Food Security” In 2011.** (Alisha Coleman, Mark Nord, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson, “Household Food Security In The United States In 2011,” [USDA](#), 9/5/12)

- **14.9 Percent Of American Households, Or 17.9 Million, Were Food Insecure At Some Point In 2011, Meaning They Were Unable To Afford Adequate Food For Everyone In The Household.** “The remaining 14.9 percent (17.9 million households) were food insecure at some time during the year. That is, they were, at times, unable to acquire adequate food for one or more household members because they had insufficient money and other resources for food.” (Alisha Coleman, Mark Nord, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson, “Household Food Security In The United States In 2011,” [USDA](#), 9/5/12)
- **Nearly Half Of All Households Classified As Having “Very Low Food Security” Reported “Having Lost Weight” Because They Could Not Afford Food.** “48 percent reported having lost weight because they did not have enough money for food.” (Alisha Coleman, Mark Nord, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson, “Household Food Security In The United States In 2011,” [USDA](#), 9/5/12)
- **At 16.4 Percent, The Overall Food-Insecurity Rate For Individuals In 2011 Remains Almost Unchanged From “When It Surged To The Highest Levels Since The Agriculture Department Began Monitoring Food Security In 1995.”** “The overall food-insecurity rate for individuals was 16.4 percent, almost unchanged since 2008, when it surged to the highest levels since the Agriculture Department began monitoring food security in 1995.” (Charles Abbott, “Nearly 17 Million Americans Repeatedly Short Of Food: Report,” [Reuters](#), 9/5/12)



# UNDER OBAMA FAMILY WEALTH HAS DECLINED TO THE LOWEST LEVELS IN TWO DECADES AS AMERICANS STRUGGLE TO SAVE FOR THE FUTURE

---

**NET WORTH:** “The Net Worth Of The American Family Has Fallen To Its Lowest Level In Two Decades.” “The net worth of the American family has fallen to its lowest level in two decades, according to government data released Monday, driven by a more than 40 percent drop in their stakes in their homes. The Federal Reserve’s detailed survey of consumer finances showed families’ median wealth plunged from \$126,400 in 2007 to \$77,300 in 2010 — a 39 percent decline. That put them on par with median wealth in 1992.” (Ylan Q. Mui, “Fed: Americans’ Wealth Dropped 40 Percent,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/11/12)

**“The Recent Financial Crisis Left The Median American Family In 2010 With No More Wealth Than They Had In The Early 1990s, Erasing Almost Two Decades Of Accumulated Prosperity.”** “The recent financial crisis left the median American family in 2010 with no more wealth than they had in the early 1990s, erasing almost two decades of accumulated prosperity, the Federal Reserve said on Monday.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Family Net Worth Drops To Level Of Early ‘90s, Fed Says,” [The New York Times](#), 6/11/12)

- **The Median Family Had A Net Worth Of \$77,300 In 2010, Down From \$126,400 In 2007.** “The median family, richer than half of the nation’s families and poorer than the other half, had a net worth of \$77,300 in 2010, down from \$126,400 in 2007, the Fed said. The crash of housing prices explained three-quarters of the loss.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Family Net Worth Drops To Level Of Early ‘90s, Fed Says,” [The New York Times](#), 6/11/12)

**“This Vast Loss Of Wealth Was Compounded By A Loss Of Income, As The Earnings Of The Median Family Fell By 7.7 Percent Over The Same Period.”** (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Family Net Worth Drops To Level Of Early ‘90s, Fed Says,” [The New York Times](#), 6/11/12)

## MORE FAMILIES AND SENIORS ARE LEFT WITH NOTHING TO FALL BACK ON

**SAVINGS:** 23.4 Percent Of Families Have No Savings, Up From 18.5 Percent In 2009. “One out of five families owes more on credit cards, medical bills, student loans and other unsecured debt than they have in savings, according to a new University of Michigan report. And the number of families surveyed at the end of 2011 that have no savings at all increased to 23.4%, compared with 18.5% in 2009.” (Christine Dugas, “Recession Added Debt, Drained Families’ Savings,” [USA Today](#), 5/12/12)

- **“Sixty Percent Of Workers Say That The Value Of Their Savings And Investments Is Less Than \$25,000.”** “At a time many Americans are trying to claw their way out of debt, they have no emergency fund and little or no retirement savings. Sixty percent of workers say that the value of their savings and investments is less than \$25,000, according to EBRI’s 2012 Retirement Confidence Survey. And retirement confidence is at historically low levels.” (Christine Dugas, “Recession Added Debt, Drained Families’ Savings,” [USA Today](#), 5/12/12)

**More Seniors Are Attempting To Enter The Workforce Due To “Growing Worries That Their Retirement Security Is At Risk.”** “Coyle is among the many unemployed, older Americans who, while struggling to reenter the workforce, have growing worries that their retirement security is at risk.” (Susan Heavey, “Over 55 And Jobless, Americans Face Tough Hunt,” [Reuters](#), 5/15/12)

- **According To The Employee Benefit Research Institute, Only 14 Percent Of Seniors Believe They Can Retire Comfortably.** “A flurry of recent reports have raised fresh concerns about the ability of some older Americans to support themselves in retirement. More seniors with jobs expect to work longer, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, and just 14 percent say they believe they can retire comfortably.” (Susan Heavey, “Over 55 And Jobless, Americans Face Tough Hunt,” [Reuters](#), 5/15/12)
- **Typical Household Income For Americans Age 55 To 64 Is Almost 10 Percent Lower Than What It Was In Three Years Ago.** “The typical household income for people age 55 to 64 years old is almost 10 percent less in today’s dollars than it was when the recovery officially began three

years ago, according to a new report from Sentier Research, a data analysis company that specializes in demographic and income data.” (Catherine Rampell, “Big Income Losses For Those Near Retirement,” [The New York Times’ Economix](#), 8/23/12)

**As Seniors Rely On Their Savings To Supplement Their Social Security Benefits, Interest Rates On CDs And Money Market Accounts “Have Gone Subterranean.”** “Middle-class white seniors, who rely on income from savings to supplement Social Security and pensions, are particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates on CDs and money market accounts. And those interest rates have gone subterranean.”

(Martin Frost, Op-Ed, “Seniors Could Be Obama’s Achilles’ Heel,” [Politico](#), 5/23/12)

**The Nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute: Working To Age 70 Won’t Be Enough “For Approximately One-Third Of The Households Between The Ages Of 30 And 59 In 2007” To Have Adequate Income In Retirement.** “Contrary to some reports that working just a little bit longer—to age 70—will allow between 80 and 90 percent of households to have adequate income in retirement, new research by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) shows that for approximately one-third of the households between the ages of 30 and 59 in 2007 that won’t be enough.” (Press Release, “Work To Age 70? For Many, That Still Won’t Pay For Retirement,” [Employee Benefit Research Institute](#), 8/30/12)

- **EBRI Research Director Jack VanDerhei:** “It would be comforting from a public policy standpoint to assume that merely working to age 70 would be a panacea to the significant challenges of assuring retirement income adequacy, but this may be a particularly risky strategy, especially for the vulnerable group of low-income workers.” (Press Release, “Work To Age 70? For Many, That Still Won’t Pay For Retirement,” [Employee Benefit Research Institute](#), 8/30/12)

# STRUGGLING FAMILIES ARE FINDING IT HARDER TO HELP THEIR KIDS GET AHEAD AS THE COST OF COLLEGE SKYROCKETS

---

**COLLEGE COSTS:** Since Obama Took Office, The Average Cost Of In-State Tuition At A Four Year College Has Risen From \$6,585 To \$8,655, A 31 Percent Increase. ("Trends In College Pricing 2009," College Board, 2008; "Trends In College Pricing 2012," [College Board](#), 2012)

- **"Anxiety Over College Costs Is At An All-Time High."** "A report last year by the Pew Research Center and the Chronicle of Higher Education warned that public anxiety over college costs is at an all-time high." (Eric Plainin, "Student Loans Seen As Potential 'Next Debt Bomb,' For U.S. Economy," [The Washington Post](#), 3/10/12)

**Over The Past Two Years, "The Average Cost Of Attending A Four-Year Public University Increased By 15 Percent" According To The U.S. Department Of Education.** "The average cost of attending a four-year public university increased by 15 percent over a two-year period, fueled by state budget cuts and tuition increases of 40 percent or more at universities in Georgia, Arizona and California. The U.S. Education Department released the figures Tuesday in its annual look at college affordability." (Christine Armario, "Average Price Of 4-Year University Up 15 Percent," [The Associated Press](#), 6/12/12)

**In The Past Year, Tuition For Instate Public College Rose 8.3 Percent.** "Published in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions average \$8,244 in 2011-12, \$631 (8.3%) higher than in 2010-11. Average total charges, including tuition and fees and room and board, are \$17,131, up 6.0% from 2010-11." ("Trends In College Pricing 2011," [College Board](#), 2011-12)

- **In The Past Year, Tuition For Public Two-Year Colleges Rose 8.7 Percent.** "Published tuition and fees at public two-year colleges average \$2,963, \$236 (8.7%) higher than in 2010-11." ("Trends In College Pricing 2011," [College Board](#), 2011-12)

**With In-State Tuition And Fees At Four-Year Public Colleges Rising An Additional \$631 Or 8.3 Percent In Fall 2011, The Cost Of College Is A "Kick In The Gut" For American Families.** "It's a kick in the gut even for students and families hardened to bad financial news: Average in-state tuition and fees at four-year public colleges rose an additional \$631 this fall, or 8.3 percent, compared with a year ago." (Justin Pope, "College Prices Up Again As States Slash Budgets," [The Associated Press](#), 10/26/11)

- **The Cost Of College Is Currently At "An All Time High."** "Nationally, the cost of a full credit load has passed \$8,000, an all-time high. Throw in room and board, and the average list price for a state school now runs more than \$17,000 a year, according to the twin annual reports on college costs and student aid published Wednesday by the College Board." (Justin Pope, "College Prices Up Again As States Slash Budgets," [The Associated Press](#), 10/26/11)

**The Cost Of College Has Increased "Faster Than The Rate Of Inflation" And If The Current Trend Continues, The Cost Of College "Will Have More Than Doubled In Just 15 Years."** "Nationally, state and local spending per college student, adjusted for inflation, reached a 25-year low this year, jeopardizing the long-held conviction that state-subsidized higher education is an affordable steppingstone for the lower and middle classes. All the while, the cost of tuition and fees has continued to increase faster than the rate of inflation, faster even than medical spending. If the trends continue through 2016, the average cost of a public college will have more than doubled in just 15 years, according to the Department of Education." (Andrew Martin and Andrew W. Lehren, "A Generation Hobbled By The Soaring Cost Of College," [The New York Times](#), 5/12/12)

- **The Price Of College Increased "More Than Double" The Rate Of Inflation Between July 2010 And July 2011.** "That increase is more than double the inflation rate of 3.6% between July 2010 and July 2011. Family earnings dropped across all income levels. And state funding per student declined by 4% in 2010, the latest year available, and 23% over the past decade, the report says." (Mary Beth Marklein, "Tuition And Fees Rise More Than 8% At U.S. Public Colleges," [USA Today](#), 10/25/11)



# AS COLLEGE COSTS RISE, MORE STUDENTS ARE FINDING THE WEIGHT OF THEIR COLLEGE DEBT IMPOSSIBLE TO MANAGE

## **STUDENT LOAN DEBT: “Student Loan Defaults Have Risen For The Sixth Straight Year.”**

“Student loan defaults have risen for the sixth straight year, as students from traditional non-profit universities have an increasingly difficult time paying off their college debt.” (Megan Hoyer, “More College Students Defaulting On Student Loans,” [USA Today](#), 9/30/12)

- **Student Debt Has Stretched To A Record Number Of U.S. Households - Nearly 1 In 5.** “With college enrollment growing, student debt has stretched to a record number of U.S. households - nearly 1 in 5 - with the biggest burdens falling on the young and poor.”

(Hope Yen, “Student Debt Stretches To Record 1 In 5 Households,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/27/12)



CLICK TO PLAY: CNBC: Student Loan Debt For The Class Of 2011 Increases To A Record High

**Last Year, 13.4 Percent Of Borrowers Defaulted On Student Loans Within The First Three Years Of Payments.** “The percentage of borrowers who defaulted on federal education loans within the first three years of payments rose to an average of 13.4 percent last year — 22.7 percent for those who attended for-profit colleges — according to statistics released on Friday by the Department of Education.” (Tamar Lewin, “Education Department Report Shows More Borrowers Defaulting On Student Loans,” [The New York Times](#), 9/28/12)

- **“The Rate Of Students Defaulting On Federal Loans Within Two Years, Also Released On Friday, Increased To 9.1 Percent, The Highest Level In More Than A Decade.”** (Tamar Lewin, “Education Department Report Shows More Borrowers Defaulting On Student Loans,” [The New York Times](#), 9/28/12)

**“According To The Education Department, The Average Time For A Troubled Borrower To Default Is Four Years.”** “According to the Education Department, the average time for a troubled borrower to default is four years. And a study last year by the Institute for Higher Education Policy found that for every borrower who defaulted, at least two more were delinquent in their payments.” (Tamar Lewin, “Education Department Report Shows More Borrowers Defaulting On Student Loans,” [The New York Times](#), 9/28/12)

## **COLLEGE GRADUATES HAVE TREMENDOUS AMOUNTS OF DEBT AND FEW JOB PROSPECTS TO PAY IT OFF**

**“Workers Who Graduated During The Recession – From 2009 Through Last Year – Earned A Median Starting Salary Of \$27,000 – Or \$3,000 Less Annually Than Earlier Graduates.”** “Workers who graduated during the recession – from 2009 through last year – earned a median starting salary of \$27,000 – or \$3,000 less annually than earlier graduates. Nearly a quarter of all respondents said their current job pays much less than they’d anticipated. Female graduates earned \$2,000 less than their male counterparts.” (Tiffany Hsu, “Half Of College Grads Working Full Time, With Less Pay, Deep Debt,” [Los Angeles Times’ Money & Co](#) 5/10/12)

- **“Meanwhile, College Graduates Are Having Trouble Paying Off Student Loan Debt, Which Is At A Median Of \$20,000 For Graduates Of Classes 2006 To 2010.”** (Catherine Rampell, “Many With New College Degrees Find Job Market Humbling,” [The New York Times](#), 5/19/11)
- **“Half The Graduates Said They’d Taken Jobs That Didn’t Require A Bachelor’s Degree.”** “The median starting pay for 2009 and 2010 graduates was 10 percent lower than the salary received by those who entered the workforce in 2006 and 2007, the researchers said. Half the graduates said they’d taken jobs that didn’t require a bachelor’s degree.” (Dianne Stafford, “Recent College Grads Hit By Recession,” [The Kansas City Star](#), 5/18/11)

# OBAMANOMICS HAS LEFT YOUNG ADULTS FACING THE PROSPECT OF BECOMING A LOST GENERATION

---

**The Washington Post Headline: “Generation Obama: Pursuing Their Dreams Through Four Years Of Hard Times.”** (Krissah Thompson, “Generation Obama: Pursuing Their Dreams Through Four Years Of Hard Times,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/16/12)

**Young Adults Are At Risk Of “Becoming A Lost Generation.”** “They are young adults, 18 to 34, struggling to begin their adult lives during the worst economy since the Great Depression, and they risk becoming a lost generation, according to an extensive new study released Wednesday by two advocacy groups.” (Bob Sullivan, “Recession Threatens Generation Of Young Adults, Inspires ‘Occupy’ Protests,” [MSNBC’s Redtape](#), 11/2/11)

- **About Half Of Young Adults Think “A Fundamental Tenet Of The American Dream Is Broken.”** “About half of young Americans between the ages of 18 and 34 believe that a fundamental tenet of the American dream is broken — that the next generation will be better off than they are,’ the report concludes.” (Bob Sullivan, “Recession Threatens Generation Of Young Adults, Inspires ‘Occupy’ Protests,” [MSNBC’s Redtape](#), 11/2/11)

**“The Unemployment Rate For Young College Graduates In 2011 Remained High At 8.8 Percent.”** “The unemployment rate for young college graduates in 2011 remained high at 8.8 percent, a slight decrease from 2010, which saw the highest annual rate on record for this group (9.1%).” (“Student Debt And The Class Of 2011,” [The Institute For College & Success](#), 10/12)

**19.1 Percent Of 2011 Graduates Were “Working Part Time Or Had Given Up Looking For Work.”** “In addition, many more young graduates were considered underemployed. Among those who wanted to be working full time, as many as 19.1 percent were either working part time or had given up looking for work.” (“Student Debt And The Class Of 2011,” [The Institute For College & Success](#), 10/12)

- **“Further, 37.8 Percent Of Working Young Graduates Had Jobs That Did Not Require A College Degree, Depressing Their Wages.”** (“Student Debt And The Class Of 2011,” [The Institute For College & Success](#), 10/12)

**Young Voters Have “Disproportionately Sustained Job Losses, Wage Declines And Detours On Their Career Paths.”** “In the hard economic times since 2008, when Foster voted for President Barack Obama’s message of hope, America’s young voters have been battered. They’ve disproportionately sustained job losses, wage declines and detours on their career paths. For many, even the normal rites of passage to adulthood have been disrupted, as they delay such life steps as leaving home, getting married and having children. ‘These people are stuck,’ said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington. ‘Their life is on hold in many different ways.’” (Mike Dorning, “Obama’s 2008 Young Voters Find Little Hope In Job Market,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/14/12)

- **“One In Six 16- To 24-Year-Olds Last Year Was Idle, Neither Working Nor Attending School Even For Just An Hour A Week.”** “One in six 16- to 24-year-olds last year was idle, neither working nor attending school even for just an hour a week, according to an analysis of Labor Department data by Lawrence Katz, a Harvard economics professor. Among 20- to 24-year-old men, almost one in five was idle last year.” (Mike Dorning, “Obama’s 2008 Young Voters Find Little Hope In Job Market,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/14/12)

## OBAMA’S FAILURE TO CREATE JOBS CREATED A “BOOMERANG GENERATION” OF YOUNG JOBLESS AMERICANS FORCED TO DEPEND ON THEIR PARENTS

**More Than 60 Percent Of Young Adults Receive Financial Help From Their Parents.** “More than 60% of today’s young adults have received financial help from their parents — and those described as having more agreeable personalities as children get more money than others, finds a study to be presented today at a meeting of the Population Association of America.” (Sharon Jayson, “Parents Play Favorites When Helping Adult Kids Out,” [USA Today](#), 5/3/12)

**According To A Census Report, “Household Sharing” Increased 11.7 Percent From The Spring Of 2007 To The Spring Of 2010.** “This research defines a shared household as a household with at least one resident adult who is not enrolled in school and who is neither the householder, nor the spouse or cohabiting partner of the householder. In spring 2007, there were 19.7 million shared households. By spring 2010, the number of shared households had increased by 11.4 percent, while all households increased by only 1.3 percent (Table 1).” (“Sharing A Household: Household Composition And Economic Well-Being: 2007-2010,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 6/12)

- **Between 2007 And 2010, The Number Of Adult Children Who Lived In Their Parents’ Homes Increased By 1.2 Million To 15.8 Million.** “Economists estimate that there are more than 2 million fewer occupied homes in the country than there would have been had Americans continued forming households at the rate they did before the recession. The slowdown has lowered demand for housing as well as for furnishings and appliances, placing a further drag on the economy.” (Michael A. Fletcher, “Census Bureau: Millions More Americans Shared Households In Face Of Recession,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/20/12)

**Two-Thirds Of The Adult Children Who Lived In Their Parents’ Home Were Between The Ages Of 25 And 34.** “Between 2007 and 2010, the number of adult children who resided in their parents’ households increased by 1.2 million. Those aged 25 to 34 accounted for two-thirds of the increase (823,000) in adult children of householders between 2007 and 2010.” (“Sharing A Household: Household Composition And Economic Well-Being: 2007-2010,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 6/12)

- **The Number Of Adults Aged 25 To 34 Who Lived In Someone Else’s Household Increased By 18.1 Percent.** “The number of adults aged 25 to 34 who lived in someone else’s household increased by 18.1 percent, while the number aged 35 to 64 increased by 9.7 percent between 2007 and 2010.” (“Sharing A Household: Household Composition And Economic Well-Being: 2007-2010,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 6/12)
- **Nearly One-Half Of The Increase In The Number Of Additional Adults Occurred Among Those Aged 25 To 34.** “More than one-half of additional adults were young (under age 35). Yet nearly one-half of the increase in the number of additional adults over the course of the recession (45 percent) occurred among those aged 25 to 34.” (“Sharing A Household: Household Composition And Economic Well-Being: 2007-2010,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 6/12)

**The Unemployment Rate For Recent College Grads Is 9.4 Percent And 19.1 Percent Have Taken Jobs For Which They Are Overqualified.** “The national unemployment rate rose to 8.2% in May as Silsby was graduating as one of 2.6 million who got bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees in the school year now ending. The non-partisan Economic Policy Institute called their labor market ‘grim’ and said that over the previous year, unemployment among college graduates younger than 25 had averaged 9.4%, with an additional 19.1% in jobs for which they were overqualified.” (Chuck Raasch, “Grim Job Prospects Could Scar Today’s College Graduates,” [USA Today](#), 6/19/12)

- **“Many Recent College Graduates Are Finding It Hard To Land The Kinds Of Jobs They Had Envisioned.”** “People with college degrees still get jobs with better pay and benefits than those without, but many recent college graduates are finding it hard to land the kinds of jobs they had envisioned. David Thande, 27, who graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, five years ago, works part time as a clerk in an Apple Store.” (Michael Cooper, “Lost In Recession, Toll On Underemployed And Underpaid,” [The New York Times](#), 6/18/12)

**The Economic Policy Institute Called The Labor Market “Grim” For The 2.6 Million Who Got Their Bachelor’s, Master’s, And Doctoral Degrees In 2012, As Nearly 20 Percent Of 2011 College Graduates Were In Jobs For Which They Were Overqualified.** “The national unemployment rate rose to 8.2% in May as Silsby was graduating as one of 2.6 million who got bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees in the school year now ending. The non-partisan Economic Policy Institute called their labor market “grim” and said that over the previous year, unemployment among college graduates younger than 25 had averaged 9.4%, with an additional 19.1% in jobs for which they were overqualified.” (Chuck Raasch, “Grim Job Prospects Could Scar Today’s College Graduates,” [USA Today](#), 6/19/12)



# OBAMACARE HAS FAILED TO STEM RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

**HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS:** Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Family Health Care Premiums Has Increased By \$3,065 From \$12,680 To \$15,745, A 24.2 Percent Increase. ("Employer Health Benefits, 2012 Annual Survey, Exhibit 6.4," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2012)

- **"The Average Annual Premiums In 2012 Are \$5,615 For Single Coverage And \$15,745 For Family Coverage."** ("Employer Health Benefits, 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12)
- **"Average Premiums Increased 3% For Single Coverage And 4% For Family Coverage In The Last Year."** ("Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12)
- **"The Rise In Premiums Easily Outpaced Workers' Raises And Inflation."** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Premiums For Family Health Plans Hit \$15,745," [The Associated Press](#), 9/11/12)
- **Under Obama, Families Pay An Average Of \$255 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** ("Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; "Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2/23/99)
- **Under Obama, Americans Pay An Average Of \$76 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** ("Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; "Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2/23/99)

**Higher Health Care Costs This Year "Took A Bigger Bite From The Income Of Middle-Class Employees."** "But the study's authors, at the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research and Educational Trust, said higher costs still took a bigger bite from the income of middle-class employees, whose wages advanced only 1.7 percent, as employers shifted more health care costs to their workers." (David Morgan, "U.S. Employer Health Care Premiums Outpace Inflation, Wages," [Reuters](#), 9/11/12)

**"Hang On To Your Wallets," ObamaCare Has Failed To Tackle Unaffordable Health Care Costs.** "But hang on to your wallets. Premiums averaged \$15,745, with employees paying more than \$4,300 of that, a glaring reminder that the nation's problem of unaffordable medical care is anything but solved." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Premiums For Family Health Plans Hit \$15,745," [The Associated Press](#), 9/11/12)

**"Low-Wage Workers Were Hit Hardest" By The Premium Increase "Paying On Average \$1,000 More Each Year Toward Their Premiums For Family Coverage Than Workers At Higher-Wage Firms."** "Low-wage workers were hit hardest, paying on average \$1,000 more each year toward their premiums for family coverage than workers at higher-wage firms. They were also more likely to have high deductibles, according to the survey." (Julie Appleby, "Health Premiums Rise A Relatively Modest 4 Percent, Study Finds," [Kaiser Health News](#), 9/11/12)

- **Workers That Make Less Than \$24,000 A Year Pay On Average \$5,000 A Year On Family Health Care Premiums While High Income Earners Pay \$4,000 On Average.** "The report also looked at differences between how much employees are paying for premiums in companies where at least 35 percent of workers earn \$24,000 or less a year, compared to how much employees are paying where at least 35 percent of workers earn \$55,000 a year. Employers typically ask workers to pay some share of the overall premium cost out of their paychecks. Kaiser found that workers at places with more low-wage employees paid on average \$1,000 more in premiums than those working at places employing more higher-earning workers. The low-wage employees paid, on average, nearly \$5,000 for their share of premiums, while higher-earning individuals paid about \$4,000, on average." (Reed Abelson, "Health Care Premiums Rise Modestly, Report Says," [The New York Times](#), 9/11/12)

## OBAMA BROKE HIS PROMISES TO LOWER THE COST OF HEALTH CARE

**PROMISE:** As A Candidate, Obama Promised His Plan Would "Bring Down Premiums By \$2,500 For The Typical Family." "And if you already have health insurance and you want to keep that health insurance, we will bring down premiums by \$2,500 for the typical family. And we will prevent insurance

companies from discriminating against those who need care the most.” (Sen. Barack Obama, Remarks At Campaign Event, Raleigh, NC, 6/9/08)

**BROKEN: Under ObamaCare, Family Health Care Premiums Will Increase \$2,404 Annually.** (Douglas W. Elmendorf, CBO Director, [Letter To Senator Evan Bayh](#), 11/30/09; “Updated Estimates For The Insurance Coverage Provisions Of The Affordable Care Act Updated For The Recent Supreme Court Decision,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 7/24/12)

- **The CBO Estimates That Premiums “Will Be 2 Percent Higher Than Those Estimated In March 2012.”** “The additional enrollees are likely to spend more on health care, on average, than those previously expected to purchase insurance through the exchanges because people with lower income generally have somewhat poorer health. As a result, CBO and JCT now estimate that the premiums for health insurance offered through the exchanges, along with premiums in the individual market, will be 2 percent higher than those estimated in March 2012.” (“Updated Estimates For The Insurance Coverage Provisions Of The Affordable Care Act Updated For The Recent Supreme Court Decision,” [Congressional Budget Office](#), 7/24/12)

**FactCheck.org: ObamaCare “Falls Short Of Making Health Care ‘Affordable And Available To Every Single American,’ As Promised.”** “Furthermore, the law falls short of making health care ‘affordable and available to every single American,’ as promised. The law provides subsidies to help some Americans buy insurance, expands Medicaid and doesn’t allow insurance companies to exclude persons with preexisting conditions. But still, the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected 23 million persons will remain uninsured — some because they can’t afford coverage.” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](#), 1/4/12)

- **FactCheck.org: ObamaCare Is Actually Making Health Care “Less Affordable.”** “At the moment, the new law is making health care slightly less affordable. Independent health care experts say the law has caused some insurance premiums to rise. As we wrote in October, the new law has caused about a 1 percent to 3 percent increase in health insurance premiums for employer-sponsored family plans because of requirements for increased benefits. Last year’s premium increases cast even more doubt on another promise the president has made — that the health care law would ‘lower premiums by up to \$2,500 for a typical family per year.’” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](#), 1/4/12)
- **The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker: Young Adults Will “Have Sticker Shock When They See What Happens To Their Premiums Starting In 2014.”** “The law’s provisions, especially the requirement for essential benefits, will almost certainly increase premiums, though tax subsidies will help mitigate the impact for a little over half of the people in the exchanges. But a lot of other people — such as a young male who currently has a plan that does not include all of the required benefits — are likely going to have sticker shock when they see what happens to their premiums starting in 2014.” (Glenn Kessler, “President Obama’s Claim That Insurance Premiums ‘Will Go Down,’” *The Washington Post’s “The Fact Checker,”* 8/10/12)

# OBAMA'S HOUSING POLICIES HAVE FAILED TO HELP FAMILIES STAY IN THEIR HOMES

---

**FORECLOSURES: Currently 5.64 Million Residential Mortgages Are Either 30 Days Delinquent Or In Foreclosure.** (Press Release, "LPS 'First Look' Mortgage Report: September Month-End Data Shows Significant Rise In Delinquencies; Foreclosures Drop," [Lender Processing Services](#), 10/22/12)

**HOMEOWNERSHIP: In The First Half Of 2012, Homeownership Remains At Its Lowest Levels Since 1997.** (Press Release, "Residential Vacancies And Homeownership In The Second Quarter 2012," [Census.gov](#), 7/27/12)

**NEGATIVE EQUITY: As Of The Second Quarter Of 2012, 30.9 Percent – 15.3 Million – Of U.S. Homeowners With A Mortgage Are Underwater.** (Stan Humphries, "Negative Equity Declines Slightly On The Back Of Modest Home Value Gains," [Zillow](#), 8/22/12)

- **"Almost All Middle-Class Families Have Had Their Life's Savings Evaporate With The Decline In Equity In Their Home, And Families With Little Or No Life's Savings Are Not Eager Consumers."** (Rep. Brad Miller, "Timothy Geithner's Secrecy Problem," [Salon](#), 8/15/12)

**The Fiscal Times Headline: "Homeowners Not Better Off Now Than Four Years Ago"** (Liz Peek, "Homeowners Not Better Off Now Than Four Years Ago," [The Fiscal Times](#), 9/5/12)

- **"Are We Better Off Than We Were Four Years Ago? 'Absolutely' Chirps Obama's Hallelujah Chorus. 'No Way' Say Struggling Homeowners, And They Have A Point."** "Are we better off than we were four years ago? 'Absolutely' chirps Obama's hallelujah chorus. 'No way' say struggling homeowners, and they have a point. Despite tens of billions of dollars pledged and a veritable barrage of government programs, more than one in five borrowers hold underwater mortgages, just as they did when Obama took office." (Liz Peek, "Homeowners Not Better Off Now Than Four Years Ago," [The Fiscal Times](#), 9/5/12)
- **"65 Percent Of Local Housing Markets Nationwide Are Worse Off Than Four Years Ago Based On An Analysis Of Five Key Metrics Impacting Housing In More Than 900 Counties Nationwide."** "RealtyTrac® ([www.realtytrac.com](#)), the leading online marketplace for foreclosure properties, today released an exclusive report on the health of local housing markets compared to four years ago. Titled 'Election 2012 Housing Health Check,' the report found that 65 percent of local housing markets nationwide are worse off than four years ago based on an analysis of five key metrics impacting housing in more than 900 counties nationwide. The key metrics analyzed were average home prices, unemployment, foreclosure inventory, foreclosure starts and share of distressed sales. In the 919 counties with data available for all five metrics, 580 (65 percent) showed at least three out of the five key metrics worse off than four years ago, while in 315 counties (35 percent) at least three of the five key metrics were better off than four years ago." (Press Release, "65 Percent Of County Housing Markets Worse Off Than Four Years Ago According To RealtyTrac Election 2012 Report," [RealtyTrac](#), 10/22/12)

**"Housing Has Blown A Giant Smoking Hole In The Middle Of Our Economy, And The Consequences Continue To Impede The Pace Of Recovery."** "Here's a reminder about a problem that still doesn't get the attention that it deserves: Housing has blown a giant smoking hole in the middle of our economy, and the consequences continue to impede the pace of recovery." (Binyamin Appelbaum, "Measuring Housing's Drag On The Economy," [The New York Times' Economix](#), 2/24/12)

- **"A Disappointing Rebound In U.S. Housing Continues To Trip Up The Country's Overall Economic Recovery..."** "A disappointing rebound in U.S. housing continues to trip up the country's overall economic recovery, two influential Federal Reserve officials said on Friday, highlighting a corner of the economy that still frustrates monetary policymakers." (Johnathan Spicer and Leah Schnurr, "Housing Still Impediment To U.S. Growth: Fed Officials," [Reuters](#), 10/5/12)

**“Roughly Five Years After The Housing Bubble Burst, The Real Estate Market’s Road Forward Remains Bumpy.”** “Sales of previously owned homes in the United States dropped 0.9 percent in February, according to a report released Wednesday, lower than expected by economists. The disappointing number indicates that roughly five years after the housing bubble burst, the real estate market’s road forward remains bumpy. Many economists had thought with mortgage rates near record lows and the job market improving, existing home sales would rise, not decline.” (Jia Lynn Yang, “Housing Sales Report Disappoints,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/21/12)

## **OBAMA BROKE HIS PROMISE TO PREVENT SEVEN TO NINE MILLION FORECLOSURES**

**PROMISE:** Obama Promised That His Housing Program Would Prevent 7 To 9 Million Families From Foreclosure. OBAMA: “And we will pursue the housing plan I’m outlining today. And through this plan, we will help between 7 and 9 million families restructure or refinance their mortgages so they can afford—avoid foreclosure.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks On The Home Mortgage Industry](#), Mesa, AZ, 2/18/09)

- **Obama Said That “All Of Us Will Pay An Even Steeper Price If We Allow This Crisis To Deepen – A Crisis Which Is Unraveling Homeownership, The Middle Class, And The American Dream Itself.”** OBAMA: “All of us will pay an even steeper price if we allow this crisis to deepen – a crisis which is unraveling homeownership, the middle class, and the American dream itself.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks On The Home Mortgage Industry](#), Mesa, AZ, 2/18/09)

**BROKEN:** Obama Promised His Foreclosure Prevention Program Would Help 9 Million Homeowners, But It Has Only Assisted About Two Million Homeowners. “The foreclosure prevention fund was the heart of his promise. Obama originally pledged \$10 billion but ended up setting aside \$75 billion, using TARP funds. He predicted the money would assist 9 million homeowners. But after three years, only about 2 million people have won permanent mortgage help, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.” (Molly Moorhead, “President Barack Obama’s Efforts To Help Foreclosure Crisis Have Fallen Short,” [Politifact](#), 5/28/12)

- **“Obama Didn’t Deliver On His Vow That Day To Avert As Many As 9 Million Foreclosures.”** (Clea Benson, “Obama Housing Fix Faltered On Carrots-Not-Sticks Policy,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/11/12)

**“The Alphabet Soup Of Housing Assistance Programs To Date -- HAMP, HARP, EHLA, 2MP -- Have Been Too Poorly Administered And Too Limited In Scope And Eligibility To Slow Or Halt The Slide In The U.S. Housing Market.”** (Eric Wieffering, “Fixing economy Requires More Work On Housing,” [Star Tribune](#), 9/17/11)

- **“‘I Don’t Think There’s Much Doubt, Even Within The Administration, That The (Foreclosure Assistance) Programs Overpromised And Underperformed — Embarrassingly So,’ Said Ken Harney, Who Writes A Weekly Syndicated Real Estate Column.”** (Molly Moorhead, “President Barack Obama’s Efforts To Help Foreclosure Crisis Have Fallen Short,” [Politifact](#), 5/28/12)

**“Every Program Has Fallen Far Short Of Goals.”** “‘Every program has fallen far short of goals. I can’t think of one that’s been largely successful,’ says John Dodds, director of the Philadelphia Unemployment Project, a non-profit that’s been involved in foreclosure prevention for decades.” (Julie Schmit, “What Went Wrong With Foreclosure Aid Programs,” [USA Today](#), 12/12/11)

- **Treasury Secretary Geithner Admitted That The Administration’s Housing Programs Have Not Lived Up To Expectations.** “Mr. Geithner said that he agreed that the administration’s efforts had not met expectations, and he pointed to efforts by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to reduce barriers to refinancing, which he said could be introduced next week. ‘We are doing as much as we can with the authority we have to help people caught up in this crisis,’ Mr. Geithner said.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, “Treasury Secretary Urges Quick Action On Jobs Plan,” [The New York Times](#), 10/6/11)

Paid For By The Republican National Committee  
Not Authorized By Any Candidate Or Candidate’s Committee  
310 First Street SE, Washington DC 20003  
[www.gop.com](#)