



Obama's Full Circle

Last Time Obama Spoke In Fort Collins, CO In Campaign Mode, He Lamented The Country's "Difficult Times"

FLASHBACK: When Obama Was In Fort Collins In 2008, He Said "I Know These Are Difficult Times." OBAMA: "It's getting harder and harder to make a mortgage or fill up your gas tank or keep the electricity bill paid. At this rate the question isn't are you better off than you were four years ago, the question is are you better off than you were four weeks ago? ... Now, I know these are difficult times, Fort Collins." (President Barack Obama, Remarks At A Campaign Event, Fort Collins, CO, 10/26/08)

FOUR YEARS LATER, FORT COLLINS IS STILL IN DIFFICULT TIMES

In June, The Unemployment Rate In The Fort Collins-Loveland Metropolitan Area Increased From 6.4 To 6.7 Percent. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

- **In July, The Fort Collins-Loveland Metropolitan Area Lost 300 Jobs.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

UNDER OBAMA, COLORADO IS STILL IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Jobs: Since Obama Took Office, Colorado Has Lost 11,400 Jobs And The Unemployment Rate Has Increased From 6.6 Percent To 8.3 Percent. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

- **In July, Colorado's Unemployment Rate Increased From 8.2 Percent To 8.3 Percent.** ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

Unemployment: Colorado Has 227,340 Unemployed Seeking Work. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

Median Household Income: Since 2008, Colorado's Median Income Has Fallen \$2,947. ([U.S. Census Website](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

Food Stamps: Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of People In Colorado Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased By 66 Percent. ("Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating," [Food Research And Action Center](#), Accessed 8/27/12; "Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating," [USDA Food And Nutrition Service](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

Poverty: Between 2008 To 2010, 106,897 More People In Colorado Fell Into Poverty. ("Poverty: 2007 And 2008," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 10/11; "Poverty: 2009 And 2010," [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 10/11)

Gas Prices: Since The Week Obama Took Office, The Average Price Per Gallon Of Gas In Colorado Has Increased From \$1.609 To \$3.517. ("Current State Averages," [Fuel Gauge Report](#), 1/16/09; "Current State Averages," [Fuel Gauge](#))

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[Report](#), 8/27/12)

College Tuition: The Average Student Graduating From A Four-Year College Institution In Colorado Has \$22,017 In Debt. ([Project On Student Debt](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

Foreclosures: In The First Half Of 2012, Colorado Had The Nation's Eighth Highest Foreclosure Rate. "California registered the nation's fourth highest state foreclosure rate in the first half of 2012, with 1.56 percent of housing units with a foreclosure filing, and Florida registered the nation's fifth highest state foreclosure rate, with 1.55 percent of housing units with a foreclosure filing. Other states with foreclosure rates among the 10 highest nationwide in the first half of 2012 were Illinois (1.40 percent of housing units with foreclosure filing), Michigan (1.02 percent), Colorado (0.97 percent), Ohio (0.94 percent), and Utah (0.93 percent)." (Press Release, "1 Million Properties With Foreclosure Filings In First Half Of 2012," [RealtyTrac](#), 7/12/12)

THE COUNTRY IS STILL IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Obama: "I'm The First One To Say We're Not Where We Need To Be." *THE ASSOCIATED PRESS'S* BEN FELLER: "Put yourself in the shoes of an undecided voter who says: I don't have a job, I can't pay my bills, my life isn't better — my life isn't better under President Obama. Why should that person vote for you?" OBAMA: "Look, I hear from folks all the time who are still struggling. Even if they have a job, they are still having a tough time paying the bills. Their home may be underwater because of the housing bubble burst. They're still worried about saving for their retirement. And so I'm the first one to say that we're not where we need to be." ("AP Interview Transcript With President Obama," [The Associated Press](#), 8/25/12)

Obama's Stewardship Has Left The Country Nowhere Near Where It Needs To Be

Jobs: Since President Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 316,000 Jobs And The Unemployment Rate Has Remained Above Eight Percent For 42 Straight Months. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

- In July, 150,000 Workers Dropped Out Of The Labor Force. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)
- The Real Unemployment Rate, Including Those That Are Working Part-Time Due To Economic Reasons, Increased To 15.0 Percent. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

Unemployment: 23.6 Million Americans Are Either Unemployed, Underemployed Or Have Given Up Looking For Work. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

- Since Obama Took Office, 6.1 Million Workers Have Been Displaced From Jobs They Had Held For At Least 3 Years. "From January 2009 through December 2011, 6.1 million workers were displaced from jobs they had held for at least 3 years, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today." (Press Release, "Worker Displacement: 2009 – 2011," [Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), 8/24/12)

Long-Term Unemployment: Since Obama Took Office, The Average Duration Of Unemployment Has Nearly Doubled From 19.8 Weeks To 38.8 Weeks. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/27/12)

- "Nearly 5.2 Million Have Been Out Of Work For Six Months Or More." (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/16/12)

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: "Real Median Household Income In March Was Down \$4,300 Since

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Obama Took Office In January 2009 ... (Mike Dorning, "Obama Fails To Stem Middle-Class Slide He Blamed On Bush," [Bloomberg](#), 4/30/12)

- **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)

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 President Obama Took Office, The Number Of Americans Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased From 31.9 Million To 46.5 Million, A 45 Percent Increase. ([Department Of Agriculture](#), 7/26/12)

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. (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 \$861.60. ("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, June 2012," [USDA](#), 7/12)

Obama Has Presided Over The Weakest Recovery Since The Great Depression

"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)

- **"Since World War II, 10 U.S. Recessions Have Been Followed By A Recovery That Lasted At Least Three Years. An Associated Press Analysis Shows That By Just About Any Measure, The One That Began In June 2009 Is The Weakest."** (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/16/12)
- **"The Ugliness Goes Well Beyond Unemployment, Which At 8.3 Percent Is The Highest This Long After A Recession Ended."** (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/16/12)
- **"Economic Growth Has Never Been Weaker In A Postwar Recovery."** (Paul Wiseman, "Economic Recovery Is Weakest Since World War II," [The Associated Press](#), 8/16/12)