



Obama's "Record" Week

Will Obama Talk About His Record During His DNC Acceptance Speech?

FLASHBACK: In An October 24, 2008 Campaign Ad, Candidate Obama Said The Question Is Not "Are You Better Off Than You Were Four Years Ago," But Rather "Will Our Country Be Better Off Four Years From Now?" OBAMA: "At this defining moment in our history, the question is not, 'Are you better off than you were four years ago' – we all know the answer to that. The real question is, 'will our country be better off four years from now?' How will we lift our economy and restore America's place in the world?" (Obama For America Ad, "[Barack Obama: Defining Moment](#)," 10/24/08)

RECORD: OBAMA'S DEBT TOPS \$16 TRILLION

On Tuesday, The National Debt Surpassed \$16 Trillion Dollars. (US Department Of The Treasury, [TreasuryDirect.gov](#), Accessed 9/4/12)

- **Obama Is Responsible For "The Most Rapid Increase In The Debt Under Any U.S. President."** "The latest posting by the Treasury Department shows the national debt has now increased \$4 trillion on President Obama's watch. The debt was \$10.626 trillion on the day Mr. Obama took office. The latest calculation from Treasury shows the debt has now hit \$14.639 trillion. It's the most rapid increase in the debt under any U.S. president." (Mark Knoller, "National Debt Has Increased \$4 Trillion Under Obama," [CBS News](#), 8/22/11)

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The Associated Press Headline: "U.S. National Debt Hits \$16 Trillion" (Andrew Taylor, "U.S. National Debt Hits \$16 Trillion," [The Associated Press](#), 9/4/12)

- **"The U.S. National Debt Has Topped \$16 Trillion As Chronic Government Deficits Have Piled More Than \$50,000 Worth Of Debt Onto Federal Ledgers For Every Man, Woman And Child In The United States."** (Andrew Taylor, "U.S. National Debt Hits \$16 Trillion," [The Associated Press](#), 9/4/12)
- **"For His Part, Obama Has Declined To Tackle The Spiraling Growth Of Benefit Programs Like Medicare And The Medicaid Health Program For The Poor And Disabled."** (Andrew Taylor, "U.S. National Debt Hits \$16 Trillion," [The Associated Press](#), 9/4/12)

ABC News: "As Democratic Convention Opens, National Debt Tops \$16 Trillion" (Julie Percha and John Parkinson, "As Democratic Convention Opens, National Debt Tops \$16 Trillion," [ABC News](#), 9/4/12)

- **“The New Debt Figures Came Out Just Hours Before The Three-Day Democratic National Convention Kicked Off In Charlotte...”** “The national debt has reached an all-time high of \$16 trillion, according to the Treasury Department. The new debt figures came out just hours before the three-day Democratic National Convention kicked off in Charlotte, N.C., fueling new GOP attacks against President Obama and his spending policies.” (Julie Percha and John Parkinson, “As Democratic Convention Opens, National Debt Tops \$16 Trillion,” [ABC News](#), 9/4/12)

The Hill **Headline: “National Debt Reaches \$16 Trillion As Dems Begin Their Convention”** (Erik Wasson, “National Debt Reaches \$16 Trillion As Dems Begin Their Convention,” [The Hill](#), 9/4/12)

- **“The Gross Debt Of The United States Has Reached \$16 Trillion, The Treasury Department Announced Tuesday On The First Day Of The 2012 Democratic National Convention.”** “The gross debt of the United States has reached \$16 trillion, the Treasury Department announced Tuesday on the first day of the 2012 Democratic National Convention.” (Erik Wasson, “National Debt Reaches \$16 Trillion As Dems Begin Their Convention,” [The Hill](#), 9/4/12)
- **“The Daily Treasury Statement Puts The Debt At \$16.016 Trillion, A New Record.”** (Erik Wasson, “National Debt Reaches \$16 Trillion As Dems Begin Their Convention,” [The Hill](#), 9/4/12)

Politico **Headline: “Debt To Hit \$16 Trillion As DNC Kicks Off”** (Mike Zapler, “Debt To Hit \$16 Trillion As DNC Kicks Off,” [Politico](#), 9/4/12)

- **“Bad Timing For Democrats: The Gross National Debt Is Set To Hit \$16 Trillion Tuesday As The Party’s Convention Gets Under Way, And Republicans Are Pouncing.”** (Mike Zapler, “Debt To Hit \$16 Trillion As DNC Kicks Off,” [Politico](#), 9/4/12)

USA Today: **“The Debt Passed The \$16 Trillion Mark Just Hours Before The Democrats Opened Their Convention In Charlotte.”** (David Jackson, “Nation Debt Tops \$16T; GOP Pounces On Obama,” [USA Today](#), 9/4/12)

RECORD: HIGHEST NUMBER OF AMERICANS NOW ON FOOD STAMPS

46.7 Million Americans Were On Food Stamps In June. (“Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating,” [USDA Food And Nutrition Service](#), Accessed 9/6/12)

Since President Obama Took Office, The Number Of Americans Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased From 31.9 Million To 46.7 Million, A 46 Percent Increase. (“Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating,” [Food Research And Action Center](#), Accessed 8/10/12; “Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating,” [USDA Food And Nutrition Service](#), Accessed 9/6/12)

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SHOT: At The Democrat National Convention, Obama Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Said **“Rural Americans Want Leaders Who Help The Middle Class Communities To Plan And Prosper Over The Long Term.”** VILSACK: “Rural Americans want leaders who help the middle class communities to plan and prosper over the long term, not opportunists who reaped the rewards for themselves, leaving nothing for the people who do the selling.” (Secretary Tom Vilsack, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/5/12)

- **DOUBLE SHOT:** Vilsack Said Obama **“Understands The Challenges That Rural Communities And Families Face Protecting Their Middle-Class Way Of Life.”** VILSACK: “President Obama’s 54 rural America is personal. He was raised by a single mom and grandparents from Kansas. He hails from a farming state, Illinois. He understands the challenges that rural communities and

families face protecting their middle-class way of life.” (Secretary Tom Vilsack, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/5/12)

CHASER: After Food Stamp Participation Hit A Record, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Said “Too Many Middle-Class Families Who Have Fallen On Hard Times Are Still Struggling.” ““Too many middle-class families who have fallen on hard times are still struggling,’ Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in an e-mailed statement today.” (Alan Bjerga, “Food-Stamp Use Climbs To Record, Reviving Campaign Issue,” [Bloomberg](#), 9/4/12)

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)

CNBC: “Record 46 Million Americans Are On Food Stamps.” (Jeff Cox, “Record 46 Million Americans Are On Food Stamps,” [CNBC](#), 9/4/12)

- **“The Number Of Americans On Food Stamps Hit A Record High In June...”** “The number of Americans on food stamps hit a record high in June, and economists don't expect much improvement as long as unemployment remains high. Those receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program numbered 46.37 million, the government said in a report that hit just days ahead of the monthly nonfarm payrolls report, which the Labor Department releases Friday. The two numbers are inextricably linked as the economy battles its way back from the crippling recession that the National Bureau of Economic Research says ended in 2009.” (Jeff Cox, “Record 46 Million Americans Are On Food Stamps,” [CNBC](#), 9/4/12)

MSN Headline: “Food Stamp Use Hits Record \$46.7 Million.” (“Food Stamp Use Hits Record \$46.7 Million,” [MSN](#), 9/4/12)

North Carolina, Host Of The DNC, Tops List Of States With The Most New Food Stamp Recipients. “Food stamp use has reached \$46.7 million in the U.S., according to a report released today. The high numbers, which reflect Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program enrollment from June, aren't ideal for the Obama campaign as it heads to Charlotte, N.C., to make a pitch for support from voters come November. To make matters worse, North Carolina — the site of the 2012 Democratic National Convention — was listed as the top state for new food stamp recipients, along with Louisiana.” (“Food Stamp Use Hits Record \$46.7 Million,” [MSN](#), 9/4/12)

- **North Carolina Had The Largest Increase In Food Stamp Participants Of All 50 States From May 2012 To June 2012.** (“Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program: Number Of Persons Participating,” [USDA Food And Nutrition Service](#), Accessed 9/6/12)

RECORD: FOOD INSECURITY FOR AMERICANS REMAINS AT HIGHEST LEVELS EVER RECORDED

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)

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Reuters Headline: “Nearly 17 Million Americans Repeatedly Short Of Food: Report” (Charles Abbott, “Nearly 17 Million Americans Repeatedly Short Of Food: Report,” [Reuters](#), 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)

“The Number Of Poor Americans Who Repeatedly Ran Short Of Food Shot Up By 800,000 In 2011 To Nearly 17 Million Compared With 2010.” “The number of poor Americans who repeatedly ran short of food shot up by 800,000 in 2011 to nearly 17 million compared with 2010, the U.S. government said on Wednesday.” (Charles Abbott, “Nearly 17 Million Americans Repeatedly Short Of Food: Report,” [Reuters](#), 9/5/12)

- **“The Food-Security Report Was Released One Day After The Government Said That A Record 46.7 Million Americans Were Enrolled For Food Stamps In June, Up By 173,000 In May.”** (Charles Abbott, “Nearly 17 Millions Americans Repeatedly Short Of Food: Report,” [Reuters](#), 9/5/12)

The Huffington Post Headline: “New Hunger Data Shows A Generation At Risk” (Billy Shore, “New Hunger Data Shows A Generation At Risk,” [The Huffington Post](#), 9/5/12)

- **More Than 16 Million Of The Americans That Struggled With Hunger In 2011 Were Kids.** “According to new data released this morning from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, last year 50 million Americans struggled with hunger. More than 16 million of these Americans, or more than one out of five, were kids.” (Billy Shore, “New Hunger Data Shows A Generation At Risk,” [The Huffington Post](#), 9/5/12)

RECORD FALL: UNDER OBAMA, THE U.S. SLIDES IN GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW

The U.S. Slid In The World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Ranking For The Fourth Year In A Row. “The United States continues the decline that began a few years ago, falling two more positions to take 7th place this year.” (Klaus Schwab, “The Global Competitiveness Report,” [World Economic Forum](#), 9/5/12)

- **FLASHBACK: The United States Ranked The Most Competitive Economy For The 2008 - 2009 Global Competitiveness Index.** “Notwithstanding the present financial crisis, the United States continues to be the most competitive economy in the world, a position it has held for several years.” (Michael E. Porter and Klaus Schwab, “The Global Competitiveness Report,” [World Economic Forum](#), 10/08)

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The Associated Press Headline: "Survey Finds US Competitive Ranking Down Again" (Pan Pylas, "Survey Finds US Competitive Ranking Down Again," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

- **"The Survey Comes Just A Day Before President Barack Obama Addresses The Democratic National Convention..."** "The survey comes just a day before President Barack Obama addresses the Democratic National Convention in his bid to defeat Republican candidate Mitt Romney in November's election." (Pan Pylas, "Survey Finds US Competitive Ranking Down Again," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)
- **"The United States' Ability To Compete On The Global Stage Has Fallen For The Fourth Year..."** "The United States' ability to compete on the global stage has fallen for the fourth year running as confidence in the country's politicians continues to decline, an annual survey from the World Economic Forum found Wednesday." (Pan Pylas, "Survey Finds US Competitive Ranking Down Again," [The Associated Press](#), 9/5/12)

The Hill Headline: "U.S. Slips In Global Competitiveness Rankings" (Peter Schroeder, "U.S Slips In Global Competitiveness Rankings," [The Hill](#), 9/5/12)

- **"That Ranking Places It Behind Switzerland, Singapore, Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands And Germany, And It Also Marks The Fourth Straight Year Of Decline In Competitiveness For The World's Largest Economy."** (Peter Schroeder, "U.S Slips In Global Competitiveness Rankings," [The Hill](#), 9/5/12)
- **"The United States Is Losing Ground..."** "The United States is losing ground when it comes to competing in the global economy, falling to seventh in the world according to a new study. A new report released Wednesday by the World Economic Forum found that the U.S. had slipped from fifth overall to seventh in terms of global competitiveness over the last year." (Peter Schroeder, "U.S Slips In Global Competitiveness Rankings," [The Hill](#), 9/5/12)

Council On Foreign Relations: "Moving In The Wrong Direction: The United States And The Global Competitiveness Report" (Edward Alden, "Moving In The Wrong Direction: The United States And The Global Competitiveness Report," [Council On Foreign Relations](#), 9/6/12)

CNBC Headline: "US Slips Down The Ranks Of Global Competitiveness" (Ansuya Harjani, "US Slips Down The Ranks Of Global Competitiveness," [CNBC](#), 9/5/12)

THE WORST SINCE JULY 2009: MANUFACTURING

The August ISM U.S. Manufacturing Index Is The Worst Reading Since July 2009, At 49.6 Percent. "The Institute for Supply Management manufacturing index fell to 49.6% in August, lower than the 49.8% in July and the worst reading since July 2009." (Greg Robb, "ISM Factory Index Contracts For Third Month," [MarketWatch](#), 9/4/12)

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"The News Comes As Democrats Are Set To Deliver Their Economic Message During Their Three-Day Convention This Week To Nominate President Obama For A Second Term." "The news comes as Democrats are set to deliver their economic message during their three-day convention this week to nominate President Obama for a second term. The Democratic platform, released on Monday, touts the growth of the manufacturing sector for the first time since the 1990s." (Vicki Needham, "Manufacturing Contracts For The Third Straight Month," [The Hill](#), 9/4/12)

- **Bradley Holcomb, Chairman Of The ISM Survey Committee, Says "It Is A Sobering Picture For Manufacturing."** "It is a sobering picture for manufacturing," said Bradley Holcomb,

chairman of the ISM survey committee.” (Greg Robb, “ISM Factory Index Contracts For Third Month,” [MarketWatch](#), 9/4/12)

Manufacturing Activity Has Contracted For The Third Month In A Row. “A gauge that measures the strength of the factory sector remained below the 50% mark for the third straight month, stirring fears that a slowdown in manufacturing was lingering, according to a closely followed survey of top executives released Tuesday.” (Greg Robb, “ISM Factory Index Contracts For Third Month,” [MarketWatch](#), 9/4/12)

- **Manufacturing Declined For The Third Consecutive Month For The First Time Since The Summer Of 2009.** “It’s the first time there have been three-straight sub-50% readings since the summer of 2009.” (Greg Robb, “ISM Factory Index Contracts For Third Month,” [MarketWatch](#), 9/4/12)
- **The Index Means That “More Firms Are Contracting Than Are Growing.”** “Readings below 50% in the ISM diffusion index indicate that more firms are contracting than growing.” (Greg Robb, “ISM Factory Index Contracts For Third Month,” [MarketWatch](#), 9/4/12)

Reuters Headline: “Manufacturing Another Headache For U.S. Economy” (Jonathan Spicer, “Manufacturing Another Headache For U.S. Economy,” [Reuters](#), 9/4/12)

- **“Manufacturing Has Been A Drag On The Slow U.S. Economic Recovery, Which Is Stalling And Struggling To Add Jobs Now Some Three Years After The Brutal Recession And Financial Crisis Ended.”** “ISM’s index of national factory activity fell to 49.6 in August, from 49.8 in July, and just shy of the 50.0 median estimate in a Reuters poll of economists. A reading below 50 indicates contraction in the key sector. Manufacturing has been a drag on the slow U.S. economic recovery, which is stalling and struggling to add jobs now some three years after the brutal recession and financial crisis ended.” (Jonathan Spicer, “Manufacturing Another Headache For U.S. Economy,” [Reuters](#), 9/4/12)