

WRONG FOR IOWA

THE STORY OF HOW OBAMA'S POLICIES
FAILED THE HAWKEYE STATE



PRESS CORPS BRIEFING BOOK
OCTOBER 2012

OBAMANOMICS HAS FAILED IOWA

Jobs: Since Obama Took Office, Iowa Has Lost 9,900 Jobs. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/16/12)

- **In August, The Unemployment Rate In Iowa Increased From 5.3 Percent To 5.5 Percent.** ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/16/12)
- **Under Obama, Iowa's Unemployment Rate For 20 To 24 Year Olds Has Increased From 10.7 Percent To 11.4 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/16/12); ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/16/12)

Failed Stimulus Jobs: Since Obama's \$831 Billion Stimulus Passed, Iowa Has Lost 6,300 Jobs. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/16/12)

- **Since The Stimulus Passed, Iowa Has Lost 5,900 Construction Jobs.** ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/16/12)
- **Iowa's Manufacturing Saw A 20 Percent Decline Over The Past Decade, With A Loss Of 51,000 Positions.** "Manufacturing, with the state's third-best-paying jobs at \$49,773, has eroded dramatically in Iowa. Jobs tumbled 20 percent over the past decade, a loss of 51,000 positions, based on annual averages." (Donnelle Eller, "Register Exclusive: Iowans Lose Ground On Income," *Des Moines Register*, 8/11/12)

Unemployed: Iowa Has 89,984 Unemployed Seeking Work. ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 10/16/12)

Median Household Income: Under Obama, Median Household Income In Iowa Has Decreased From \$51,172 To \$49,427. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#), Accessed 10/16/12)

National Debt: Since Obama Took Office, Each Iowan's Share Of The National Debt Has Increased By \$17,913 To A Total Of \$52,333. (US Department Of The Treasury, [TreasuryDirect.gov](#), Accessed 10/16/12)

Tax Hikes: Obama's Plan To Raise Taxes Would Cost Iowa 8,000 Jobs. (Drs. Robert Carroll and Gerald Prante, "Long-Run Macroeconomic Impact Of Increasing Tax Rates On High-Income Taxpayers In 2013," [Ernst & Young LLP](#), 7/12)

- **Obama's Plan To Raise Taxes Would Cost Iowa \$2 Billion In Lost Economic Output.** (Drs. Robert Carroll and Gerald Prante, "Long-Run Macroeconomic Impact Of Increasing Tax Rates On High-Income Taxpayers In 2013," [Ernst & Young LLP](#), 7/12)

Electricity Rates: Iowa's MidAmerican Energy Raising Rates "For The First Time Since 1995" By Four Percent In 2012 And Two To Three Percent In 2013. "For the first time since 1995 MidAmerican Energy is raising rates. The company is asking the Iowa Utilities Board for a 2 year rate increase. For 2012, the company is raising prices by 4%, which is about a \$2.33 monthly increase for the average homeowner. In 2013, the company is asking for another 2%-3% increase, for the average homeowner that's about \$1.30 more per month." (Erika Cervantes, "Iowa MidAmerican Rates Increasing," [KWQC News](#), 2/29/12)

- **MidAmerican Energy Cites EPA Mandated Improvements As Reason For Rate Hike.** "MidAmerican's president says it's because the EPA is mandating environmental improvements to their plants. The company has to improve the pollution system at their coal fired power plants. Also, freight is costing the company more. A long term coal transportation contract is about to expire and MidAmerican expects the rates to increase dramatically." (Erika Cervantes, "Iowa MidAmerican Rates Increasing," [KWQC News](#), 2/29/12)

Gas Prices: Since The Week Obama Took Office, The Average Price Per Gallon Of Gas In Iowa Has Increased From \$1.847 To \$3.833. ("Current State Averages," [Fuel Gauge Report](#), 1/16/09; "Current State Averages," [Fuel Gauge Report](#), 10/16/12)

Food Stamps: Since Obama Took Office, The Number Of People In Iowa Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased By 44 Percent. ("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 10/16/12)

Poverty: Under Obama, 43,945 More People In Iowa Have Fallen Into Poverty. (“Poverty: 2007 And 2008,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 10/11; “Poverty: 2010 And 2011,” [U.S. Census Bureau](#), 9/12)

One In Four Iowa Families Are Failing To Keep Up With The Rising Costs Of Living. “Nearly one in four Iowa families are failing to keep up with the rising costs of living, and the Iowa City metropolitan area ranks among the state’s most expensive places for families to live, according to a report issued Thursday.” (Josh O’Leary, “Report: One In Four Iowa Families Failing To Keep Up With Cost Of Living,” *Iowa Press Citizen*, 5/31/12)

- **Twenty-Three Percent Of Iowa’s Working Households Are Earning Incomes Below What Is Needed To Meet Their Basic Needs.** “Twenty-three percent of the state’s working households are earning incomes below what is needed to meet their basic needs, according to a study conducted by the Iowa Policy Project, an Iowa City-based group which bills itself as a non-partisan research group. That’s nearly twice the percentage of Iowans who fall below the federal poverty threshold, the researchers said.” (Josh O’Leary, “Report: One In Four Iowa Families Failing To Keep Up With Cost Of Living,” *Iowa Press Citizen*, 5/31/12)

Co-Author Of The Iowa Policy Project Report, Lily French: “It’s Clear That Something Must Be Done To Ensure That Iowans Are Able To Both Live And Work In Our Communities.” “‘The results are frankly quite staggering,’ said Lily French, co-author of the report. ‘When you realize this many Iowans are working day in and day out but are unable to meet their basic needs, it’s clear that something must be done to ensure that Iowans are able to both live and work in our communities.’” (Josh O’Leary, “Report: One In Four Iowa Families Failing To Keep Up With Cost Of Living,” *Iowa Press Citizen*, 5/31/12)

Co-Author Peter Fisher: “The Study Highlights The Inadequacy Of The Government Standards Used To Determine The Eligibility For A Number Of State And Federal Programs.” “Co-author Peter Fisher said with the research showing almost double the number of Iowa families unable to meet basic costs of living than fall below the federal poverty threshold, the study highlights the inadequacy of the government standards used to determine eligibility for a number of state and federal programs.” (Josh O’Leary, “Report: One In Four Iowa Families Failing To Keep Up With Cost Of Living,” *Iowa Press Citizen*, 5/31/12)

Childhood Poverty: In Iowa, The Percentage Of Children In Poverty Has Increased From 14 Percent In 2005 To 16 Percent In 2010. “The percentage of children in poverty has increased from 14 percent in 2005 to 16 percent in 2010. An increasing percentage of Iowa children are living in poverty and a quarter of the state’s children have parents who lack secure employment, according to a national study released Wednesday.” (Mary Stegmeir, “Child Poverty Is Growing Across Iowa, Report Finds,” *Des Moines Register*, 7/26/12)

- **“The Percentage Of Children Living In Households With A High Housing Cost Burden Increased From 25 Percent In 2005 To 27 Percent In 2010.”** (Mary Stegmeir, “Child Poverty Is Growing Across Iowa, Report Finds,” *Des Moines Register*, 7/26/12)

OBAMA’S DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSED ELIMINATING JOBS AT THE DES MOINES AIR FORCE BASE

Obama’s FY2013 Budget Proposed To Eliminate 492 Positions At The Des Moines Air Force Base.

“The U.S. Air Force today asked Congress today to eliminate 492 positions with the Des Moines-based 132nd, a 39 percent reduction in staffing, according to U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa.” (William Petroski, “Air Force Recommends Cutting 492 Positions At Des Moines Air Force Guard Unit,” *Des Moines Register*, 3/6/12)

President Obama’s Budget Includes Air Force Plan To Retire 21 Jets Operated By The Air National Guard 132nd Fighter Wing In Iowa. “Rep. Tom Latham’s office confirmed Monday that President Barack Obama’s \$3.8 trillion budget for next fiscal year includes an Air Force plan to retire the 21 jets operated by the Air National Guard’s 132nd Fighter Wing.” (Tony Leys, “Budget Includes Removal Of Fighter Jets Based In Des Moines,” *Des Moines Register*, 2/13/12)

- **Action Would “Cost Approximately Half” Of The Base’s 1,000 Full And Part Time Jobs.** “The Air Force recommended recently that the F-16 operation be replaced with a unit that would operate unmanned drones. Latham’s office has been told the change would cost approximately half of the Air Guard base’s 1,000 full- and part-time jobs.” (Tony Leys, “Budget Includes Removal Of Fighter Jets Based In Des Moines,” *Des Moines Register*, 2/13/12)

Members Of Iowa’s Congressional Delegation Vowed To Fight Obama’s Defense Budget

“Members Of Iowa’s Congressional Delegation Have Vowed To Battle The Air Force’s Proposal.” “Congress will have the final say on the matter, and members of Iowa’s congressional delegation have vowed to battle the Air Force’s proposal. Forty-nine of the nation’s governor’s last week signed a letter criticizing the Air Force’s plan, saying the cuts in the Guard would be disproportionate to reductions facing full-time Air Force units. The reductions have also been criticized by National Guard leaders nationwide, including Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard.” (William Petroski, “Air Force Recommends Cutting 492 Positions At Des Moines Air Force Guard Unit,” *Des Moines Register*, 3/6/12)

Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA): “I Will Continue To Fight” For The Des Moines Unit. “Loebsack, a Democrat from Iowa City, in a statement said “The 132nd Fighter Wing is one of the finest in the country. ... The Air National Guard, including the 132nd Fighter Wing, has played a critical role in defending our states here at home as well as our nation overseas, and I will continue to fight for them.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Iowa Lawmakers Grill Air Force Leaders About Plan To Cut 500 D.M Jobs,” *Des Moines Register*, 2/9/12)

- **Rep. Loebsack: “The Proposal To Move The F-16’s Out Of Des Moines Was Short-Sighted.”** “I am very proud to offer this amendment. The men and women of the 132nd Fighter Wing have proven time and again they are some of the hardest working and most experienced in the National Guard. Their performance is second to none. The proposal to move the F-16s out of Des Moines was short-sighted and wasn’t a good deal for taxpayers or our national security. I am pleased the other members of the House Armed Services Committee agree and I strongly encourage the passage of this amendment,” Loebsack said.” (William Petroski, “Loebsack Seeks Bipartisan Support To Keep 132nd Fighter Wing In Des Moines,” *Des Moines Register*, 5/9/12)
- **Rep. Loebsack Introduced An Amendment To Prevent The Shutdown Of Iowa’s 132nd Fighter Wing.** “U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa City, said today he will offer an amendment in the House Armed Services Committee to prevent the shutdown of the Iowa Air National Guard’s 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines.” (William Petroski, “Loebsack Seeks Bipartisan Support To Keep 132nd Fighter Wing In Des Moines,” *Des Moines Register*, 5/9/12)

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA): “The Air Force Still Cannot Provide An Adequate Explanation For Targeting Des Moines.” ““Though the proposal to decommission the 132nd’s F-16s is not final, the Air Force still cannot provide an adequate explanation for targeting Des Moines, the cost-effectiveness of decommissioning this unit, or the impact it will have on the local community,” Harkin, a Democrat, said in a statement.” (Jennifer Jacobs, “Iowa Lawmakers Grill Air Force Leaders About Plan To Cut 500 D.M Jobs,” *Des Moines Register*, 2/9/12)

Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, Adjutant General Of The Iowa National Guard Expressed Objections Over Budget Cuts To Air National Guard Units. “Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard, is among a group of National Guard generals throughout the United States who have signed a letter sent to Congress expressing objections over proposed budget cuts to Air National Guard units.” (William Petroski, “Iowa’s Maj. General Orr Signs Letter Citing “Flawed” Plan For Air Guard Budget Cuts,” *Des Moines Register*, 2/28/12)

Obama’s Sequestration Would Cost Iowa An Additional 5,238 Jobs

According To A Study By George Mason University, The Defense Spending Cuts In Sequestration Would Result In Iowa Losing 5,238 Jobs. (Stephen S. Fuller, “The Economic Impact Of The Budget Control Act Of 2011 On DOD And Non-DOD Agencies,” *Report*, 7/17/12)

- **“Under Sequestration, 433 Civilian DOD Employees Could Lose Their Jobs.”** (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

A Study Conducted By George Mason University Predicts That Iowa Could Lose 4,730 Private Sector Jobs. “A 2011 nationwide economic impact study from the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University predicts that Iowa could lose thousands of private sector jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars under the Sequestration law: Iowa could lose 4,730 jobs.” (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

- **Iowa Would Lose \$279 Million In Lose Earnings.** (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)
- **Iowa Could See A \$406 Million Decrease In Gross State Product.** (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

Iowa Businesses Are “At Risk” Under Obama’s Sequestration

According To A Study By George Mason University, The Defense Spending Cuts In Sequestration Would Result In Iowa Losing 2,500 Small Business Jobs. (Stephen S. Fuller, Committee On Small Business, U.S. House Of Representatives, [Testimony](#), 9/20/12, p. 7)

- **“With At Least 9% Or Sequestration’s 18% In Planned Budget Cuts, Iowa’s Businesses – Especially Small Businesses – Will Be At Risk.”** (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

“Iowa Defense Contractor Revenue Losses Could Be Greater Than \$230 Million – Each Year.” “Iowa defense prime contractors earned over \$1.28 billion in 2011 protecting America, but now they may face 18% revenue cuts under Sequestration - starting in 2013. Iowa defense contractor revenue losses could be greater than \$230 million – each year.” (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

- **“From 2000-2011, 1,965 Iowa Businesses Provided Goods And Services For America’s National Defense.”** “From 2000-2011, 1,965 Iowa businesses provided goods and services for America’s national defense. In 2011, many Iowa businesses were minority owned or other types of small businesses: 26 minority-owned businesses, including 6 owned by Black Americans, 7 owned by Hispanic Americans, 2 owned by Native Americans, 5 owned by Asian-Pacific Americans, and 6 owned by other minority Americans.” (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

“Iowa Defense Contractors May Have To Lay Off Workers Or Even Shut Down Under Sequestration Cuts.” (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

In Iowa, 350 Of The Potential 1,000 Job Reductions At Rockwell Collins, An Aerospace Electronics Company, Is Due To Sequestration. “One issue is whether Congress acts to halt budget sequestration, across-the-board federal budget cuts expected to delay, reduce or halt some defense contracts involving Rockwell Collins. About 350 of the 1,000 job reductions are projected entirely due to sequestration.” (“Rockwell Collins Job Cuts Could Read 1,000,” [The Gazette](#), 9/27/12)

- **Rockwell Collins Has Already Laid Off 250 Employees In The Past Three Months.** “Job reductions of 1,000 are possible across Rockwell Collins on top of 250 in the past three months, the company’s chairman informed employees Thursday.” (“Rockwell Collins Job Cuts Could Read 1,000,” [The Gazette](#), 9/27/12)

Veteran Businesses: Under The Anticipated 18 Percent Budget Cuts In Sequestration, Iowa’s Veteran And Service-Disabled Veteran Businesses Will Lose A Combined \$6,990,691 In Revenue. (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

Women-Owned Businesses: Under The Anticipated 18 Percent Budget Cuts In Sequestration, Iowa's Women Owned Businesses Will Lose \$1,800,027 In Revenue. (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

Minority-Owned Businesses: Under The Anticipated 18 Percent Budget Cuts In Sequestration, Iowa's Minority Owned Businesses Will Lose \$12,737,132 In Revenue. (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

- **Black American Businesses: Under The Anticipated 18 Percent Budget Cuts In Sequestration, Iowa's Black American Businesses Will Lose \$1,031,345 In Revenue.** (Center For Security Policy, [The United States Defense Breakdown Economic Impact Reports 2011 Data Edition](#), 6/6/12)

OBAMACARE IS HARMING IOWA

Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Is Imposing A 9.3 Percent Increase On Individual Policyholders' Premiums Who Are Under The Age Of 65. "Iowa has approved a 9.3 percent rate increase by Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for individual health insurance premiums. Iowa Insurance Commissioner Susan Voss approved the request last week. The decision means rate increases of up to \$45 a month beginning April 1 for 86,000 individual Wellmark policyholders ages 65 and under. Wellmark insures about 1.8 million Iowa residents, most through employers. The Des Moines-based company proposed the increase, citing rising health care costs." ("State Approves 9.3% Rate Increase For Wellmark," [The Associated Press](#), 1/3/12)

- **Wellmark Is "Iowa's Largest Health Insurance Provider."** "Iowa's largest health insurance provider wants to raise rates 9.35 percent for Iowa individual policyholders under 65, high enough to trigger a review under state law." (Dave DeWitte, "Wellmark Asks 9.35% Individual Health Insurance Rate Hike," [Business380.com](#), 10/17/11)

Des Moines-Based American Enterprise Group's Decision To Stop Providing Individual Insurance Due To The "Widespread Anxiety Among Insurance Companies Over The Raft Of Regulation Resulting From The Health Care Overhaul Bill" Cost 40 Iowa Jobs. "Des Moines-based American Enterprise Group announced Thursday that it will exit the individual major medical insurance market, making it the 13th company to pull out of some portion of Iowa's health insurance business since June 2010. The move means 110 employees will lose their jobs over the next three years — 40 in Des Moines and 70 in Omaha. It also underscores the widespread anxiety among insurance companies over the raft of regulation resulting from the health care overhaul bill. 'It's a fairly predictable consequence of the regulation,' said Michael Abbott, the president and CEO of American Enterprise Group, the parent company of American Republic Insurance. 'The regulatory environment's getting really complicated.'" ("Iowa Insurer Exits Some Individual Health Policies," [Des Moines Register](#), 10/20/11)

Steve Morency, Owner Of M.A. Ford Manufacturing: ObamaCare Is A Mess And Uncertainty Of The Law Leads To A "Tremendous Apprehension To Push Forward." "Morency said he is concerned about what he sees is a lack of direction, pointing to taxes and health care costs as big hurdles facing manufacturing companies. 'This health care plan is such a mess and we don't have a clue of what that will cost us,' he said. 'There is a tremendous apprehension to push forward.'" (Kurt Allemeier, "Quad-City Area Business Leaders Offer Their Advice To President Barack Obama," [Quad-City Times](#), 6/28/11)

Bettendorf, IA Mayor And Small Business Owner: ObamaCare Has Kept His Company From Hiring. "Freemire said he could have added another employee at Results Integrated Marketing and Freemire Enterprises if not for the health care law." (Jennifer Jacobs and Adam Belz, "President Touts Jobs, Knocks Cynicism," [Des Moines Register](#), 6/28/11)

- **In Addition To Double-Digit Increases In Health Care Costs That Will Continue To Grow "Exponentially Greater."** "Bettendorf Mayor Michael Freemire, a Republican, said the federal health care law meant 18 percent in additional costs last year to his two small businesses, which

together employ 19. The law will add 17.5 percent this year, and he expects it to get 'exponentially greater.'" (Jennifer Jacobs and Adam Belz, "President Touts Jobs, Knocks Cynicism," [Des Moines Register](#), 6/28/11)

Craig Kinzer, President And General Manager Of Seaberg Industries: "Seaberg insurance costs have increased nearly 15 percent annually for the past several years." (Kurt Allemeier, "Quad-City area business leaders offer their advice to President Barack Obama," [Quad-City Times](#), 6/28/11)

- **Kinzer Expects Increased Costs And Reduced Coverage Due To ObamaCare.** "We expect to see more cost increase resulting from the new health care requirements,' he said. Kinzer would like to see the scope of mandated coverage reduced or see the federal government work with small business in bearing the burden. (Kurt Allemeier, "Quad-City Area Business Leaders Offer Their Advice To President Barack Obama," [Quad-City Times](#), 6/28/11)

Vermeer Corp. Said ObamaCare Will Cause The Company To Pay 15 To 20 Percent More For Health Care Costs. "Federal health care legislation will cost Vermeer Corp. in Pella an extra 15 percent to 20 percent for health care, said Mary Andringa, the company's CEO." (Jennifer Jacobs and Adam Belz, "President touts jobs, knocks cynicism," [Des Moines Register](#), 6/28/11)

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