



Broken Promises: President Trump's Economic Agenda Built on False Narrative, Rewards Special Interests Not Middle Class

During his presidential campaign, Donald Trump repeatedly discredited the state of the U.S. economy under President Obama – claiming it was a “mess” and calling into question the validity of key economic indicators. He criticized the Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly Jobs Report as “[total fiction](#),” claimed unemployment numbers were “[phony numbers](#),” and dubbed the U.S. economy as a whole the “[Obama economic disaster](#).” But now that he is President, Trump is touting these very numbers – many of them statistically similar or lower than President Obama’s – to claim an economic rebound. His false narrative about the economy is yet another desperate attempt to claim credit for the [strong progress made under President Obama](#) and distract the American people from the Republican special interest agenda.

Indeed, instead of looking out for the “forgotten men and women of America,” President Trump has aggressively pushed an economic agenda that rewards corporations and billionaires at the expense of middle-class workers and their families – from pushing a tax scam that raises taxes on the middle class and mortgages the future of America’s children, trying to take away tens of millions of families’ healthcare dismantling key protections that safeguard consumers from big banks’ fraud and abuse and rolling back vital protections that let workers keep their tips, earn overtime pay and earn equal pay for equal work. Aided by the Republican Congress’ complicity, the President chose to put the privileged and powerful first, and children and families last.

TRUMP’S CLAIMED ECONOMIC RECORD BUILT ON FALSE NARRATIVE, TAKING CREDIT FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS MADE UNDER PRESIDENT OBAMA

There has been economic progress under President Trump, but he never acknowledges that his progress is built on the six previous years of steady economic progress under President Obama. Instead, President Trump claims that he inherited a mess from President Obama – a position which is based entirely on Trump [discrediting economic data](#) and [economic experts](#) for years – and that during 2017 he has staged an economic comeback for America. Often, President Trump goes farther and says that on every index the economy under his administration has performed significantly better than under any year when President Obama was in office.

The data shows that President Trump is simply wrong. For example:

- **Job Creation:** Under President Trump, in 2017, 2.06 million jobs were created. However, that is lower than the 2.24 million jobs created in 2016 and is also lower than job creation in each of the previous six years.

Average Monthly #Job Gains -by year

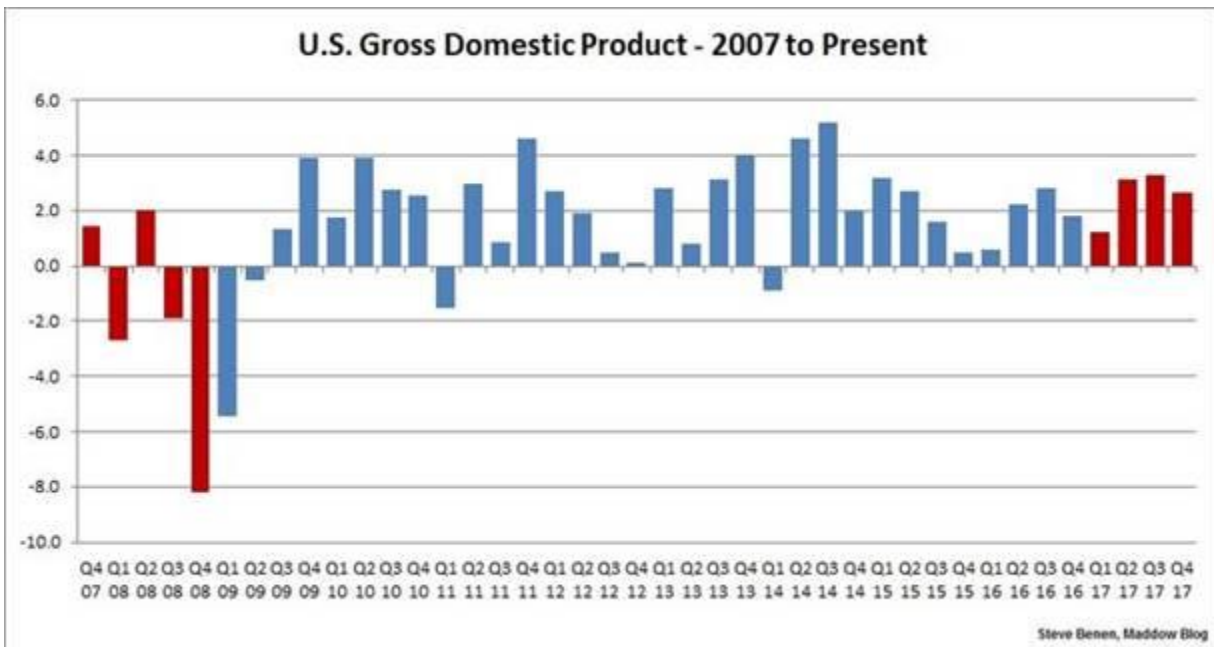
- 2017: 171,000
- 2016: 187,000
- 2015: 226,000
- 2014: 250,000
- 2013: 192,000
- 2012: 179,000
- 2011: 174,000
- 2010: 88,000

#JobsReport

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- **Unemployment Rate:** Under President Obama, the unemployment rate fell from 10 percent to 4.8 percent – a decline of 5.2 percentage points. Under President Trump, the unemployment rate has continued to decline, dropping from 4.8 percent to 4.1 percent – a total of 0.7 percentage points.
- **African American Unemployment Rate:** Under President Obama, the African American unemployment rate fell from 16.8 percent to 7.8 percent – a decline of 9 percentage points. Under President Trump, the African American unemployment rate has fallen to 6.8 percent – a decline of 1 percentage point.
- **Economic Growth:** It was reported on Friday that economic growth for the year 2017 was 2.3 percent – much lower than the 3 percent President Trump had predicted.

Indeed, comparing the increases in real GDP under Presidents Obama and Trump shows a “[dead heat](#).”



“To be sure, 2.6% growth is consistent with a healthy economy. Indeed, this report suggests the full year’s growth for 2017 will also be around 2.6%, which will be up from 2016, and tied with 2015. When Donald Trump tells the public that no one’s seen economic growth like this in a long time, as he’s very likely to do, it’s worth remembering that 2015 was not a long time ago.” – [Steve Benen, 1/26/18](#)

Indeed, at the end of President Obama’s term in January 2017, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellin stated: “Now, it’s fair to say, the economy is near maximum employment and inflation is moving toward our goal.”

TRUMP ECONOMIC POLICIES BETRAY MIDDLE CLASS, REWARD SPECIAL INTERESTS

President Trump’s Promise to Bring Back Manufacturing, Coal Jobs Disappoints: President Trump made [promise](#) after [promise](#) to reopen factories in middle America and to bring back manufacturing and coal jobs. The numbers disappoint. Manufacturing factories gained 196,000 jobs in 2017 – a respectable number given the loss of factory jobs in 2016 but fewer than those added in both 2014 and 2011.

“And most of the jobs that have been added this year were outside the Midwestern ‘Rust Belt’ states that swung for Trump in the election... Meanwhile, Michigan’s manufacturing employment was flat last year, while factory jobs rose just 0.5 percent in Ohio. Pennsylvania lost manufacturing jobs.” – [AP, 1/18/18](#)

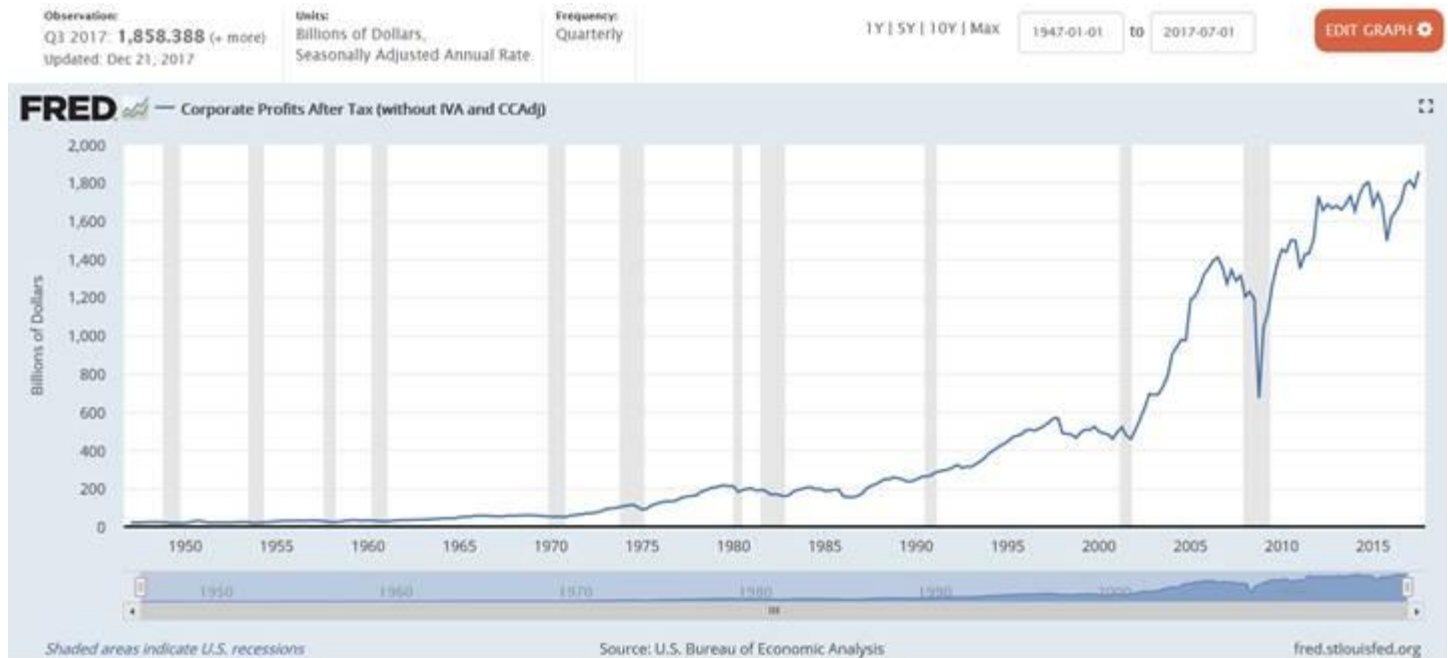
Coal mining jobs only grew by 770 and those were in West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania. [Many states lost mining jobs](#) including Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, Wyoming, Indiana, New Mexico and Texas.

“Texas lost the largest number, at 455, and Ohio was a close second, losing 414, according to the data. Pennsylvania, which gained 96 jobs in 2017, is also expected to go negative soon after Dana Mining announced this month it would close a mine employing about 400 people.” – [Reuters, 1/19/18](#)

Stock Market Booming, But Wages for Working Americans Remain Flat: The stock market has continued to rise – breaking records for corporate America – but wages for working Americans are [flat](#).

“American wages rose a sluggish 2.5 percent last year, according to a Labor Department [report released Friday morning](#)... The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 25 percent in 2017 and is up more than 30 percent since Trump won the election, but those gains largely accrue to the wealthiest Americans, including many of Trump's donors and close friends. Almost half of the country [doesn't have a single dollar](#) in the stock market.” – [Washington Post, 1/5/18](#)

Big Corporations’ ‘Big, Fat Profitable Year’: While wages for everyday Americans have remained stagnant, corporate profits surged in 2017 – “hitting a record annual rate of nearly [\\$1.86 trillion](#) in the third quarter of 2017.... 10.1 percent higher than the full-year figure for 2016.”



#GOPTaxScam Means Wealthiest Few Get the Biggest Benefit & Middle Class Gets Left Behind:

President Trump and Congressional Republicans delivered a windfall to big banks and billionaires on the backs of hard-working Americans. Experts expect that corporations will use the vast majority of their tax cuts on stock buybacks, dividends, and merger activity – and not wage growth or long-term benefits for workers.

- **Gives 83 Percent of the Tax Cuts to the Wealthiest 1 Percent** – the GOP tax scam puts corporations and the richest ahead of everyone else.
- **Raises Taxes on 86 Million Middle Class Families** – the GOP tax scam’s meager, temporary benefits for the middle class evaporate in a few years, and the scam ultimately raises taxes on 86 million middle class families.
- **\$1.3 Trillion Tax Rate Break for Corporations** – instead of simplifying the tax code or making it fairer, Republicans handed permanent tax breaks to big corporations, rewarded corporations shipping jobs overseas, and added even more loopholes for special interests to exploit.

After receiving massive windfalls for the tax scam, corporations are overwhelmingly pocketing the profits themselves – instead of sharing them with hard-working Americans.

- For instance, Wells Fargo – one of the biggest winners under the GOP tax scam – is spending only 5 percent of its massive windfall on wage increases and charitable giving, according to a recent analysis. At the same time, they are closing 800 branches.
- A new Morgan Stanley survey of Wall Street analysts found that only 22 percent expected the companies they follow to spend any of their tax savings to employee compensation. By contrast, 83 percent of analysts said companies would increase share buybacks, dividends or merger activity.

Many corporations are even laying off thousands of workers as they pocket massive tax breaks for themselves, including Wal-Mart, Pfizer and AT&T.

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