

HERE'S THAT "HOPE and CHANGE" THAT WAS VOTED FOR

Two years ago, Barack Obama was inaugurated as president of the United States. Are you better off today than you were two years ago? Numbers don't lie, and here are the data on the impact he [and his buddies have](#) had on the lives of Americans:

	January 2009	TODAY	% chg	Source
Avg. retail price/gallon gas in U.S.	\$1.83	\$ 3.104	69.6%	1
Crude oil, European Brent (barrel)	\$43.48	\$99.02	127.7%	2
Crude oil, West TX Inter. (barrel)	\$38.74	\$91.38	135.9%	2
Gold: London (per troy oz.)	\$853.25	\$1,369.50	60.5%	2
Corn, No.2 yellow, Central IL	\$3.56	\$ 6.33	78.1%	2
Soybeans, No. 1 yellow, IL	\$9.66	\$13.75	42.3%	2
Sugar, cane, raw, world, lb. fob	\$13.37	\$35.39	164.7%	2
Unemployment rate, non-farm, overall	7.6%	9.4%	23.7%	3
Unemployment rate, blacks	12.6%	15.8%	25.4%	3
Number of unemployed	11,616,000	14,485,000	24.7%	3
Number of fed. employees, ex. military (curr = 12/10 prelim)	2,779,000	2,840,000	2.2%	3
Real median household income (2008 v 2009)	\$50,112	\$49,777	-0.7%	4
Number of food stamp recipients (curr = 10/10)	31,983,716	43,200,878	35.1%	5
Number of unemployment benefit recipients (curr = 12/10)	7,526,598	9,193,838	22.2%	6
Number of long-term unemployed	2,600,000	6,400,000	146.2%	3
Poverty rate, individuals (2008 v 2009)	13.2%	14.3%	8.3%	4
People in poverty in U.S. (2008 v 2009)	39,800,000	43,600,000	9.5%	4
U.S. rank in Economic Freedom World Rankings	5.	9.	n/a	10
Present Situation Index (curr = 12/10)	29.9	23.5	-21.4%	11
Failed banks (curr = 2010 + 2011 to date)	140.	164.	17.1%	12
U.S. dollar versus Japanese yen exchange rate	89.76	82.03	-8.6%	2
U.S. money supply, M1, in billions (curr = 12/10 prelim)	1,575.1	1,865.7	18.4%	13
U.S. money supply, M2, in billions (curr = 12/10 prelim)	8,310.9	8,852.3	6.5%	13
				14
National debt, in trillions	\$10.627	\$14.052	32.2%	

Just take this last item: In the last two years we have accumulated national debt at a rate **more than 27 times as fast as during the rest of our entire nation's history. Over 27 times as fast!** Metaphorically, speaking, if you are driving in the right lane doing 65 MPH and a car rockets past you in the left lane 27 times faster . . . it would be doing 1,755 MPH! This is a disaster!

Sources:

(1) U.S. Energy Information Administration; (2) Wall Street Journal; (3) Bureau of Labor Statistics; (4) Census Bureau; (5) USDA; (6) U.S. Dept. of Labor; (7) FHFA; (8) Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller; (9) RealtyTrac; (10) Heritage Foundation and WSJ; (11) The Conference Board; (12) FDIC; (13) Federal Reserve; (14) U.S. Treasury