

Economic Reality

Facts Are Stubborn Things

By Dr. Larry Bates, Publisher and Editor

January 2011 Issue of *Monetary & Economic Review*

We are bombarded daily by õspinmeistersõ in the government and on Wall Street with a carefully orchestrated disinformation campaign that seeks to promote more control of your economic and social behavior. Many of us on an annual basis go to our physicians for an annual checkup and generally as a part of that process we have several tests run to get a true picture of our personal health.

In the following chart, we have examined and tested key components of our economic health in the aftermath of national control by a Democrat administration and Democrat Congress. Again, facts are stubborn things. Here are the data on the impact socialist-controlled government has had on the economic health of all Americans.

	<u>Jan.09</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>	<u>Source</u>
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 vs. 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

