

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)

The State of the Economy – 2007

Prosperity for Few; Weak Wage Growth for Most

Only a privileged few Americans are benefiting from the Bush economy.

- Wages are barely keeping up with inflation for most American families. Average hourly earnings in 2006 were \$16.75, slightly lower than an inflation-adjusted \$16.77 in 2002, and up a paltry 2% since 2000.
- Under President Bush, the typical American family's income has declined by \$1,273, or 3% after inflation.
- In 2006, the wealthiest 1% of American households received an average tax cut of \$44,212, while middle-income families received an average tax cut of \$744.

Health Care: Costs Rising, Coverage Falling

American families are digging deeper and deeper into their pockets to cover rising health care costs and fewer have insurance.

- In 2006, the average American family paid \$11,480 for health care premiums, up 78% from \$6,438 in 2000.
- Under President Bush, the number of uninsured Americans increased by 6.8 million to 46.6 million.

Not a Job 'For Everyone Who Wants One'

A far cry from the Great American jobs machine of the 1990s, the Bush economy is marked by the lingering legacy of a prolonged jobs slump.

- Job growth under President Bush has averaged just 68,000 jobs per month, compared with 237,000 jobs per month under President Clinton.
- Under President Bush, 3 million manufacturing jobs have been lost.

(over)

Too Many Broken Promises on Energy

The President has not kept his promise to reduce America's oil addiction, and American families are facing the consequences.

- Under President Bush, oil prices have risen 118% (annual average) and gasoline prices have risen 73% (annual average).
- Under President Bush, U.S. dependence on foreign oil has increased: in 2000, imports were 61% of U.S. oil consumption; in 2006 they were 66%.

Still Piling Up the Debt

The President has presided over an explosion of debt, and the reckless spending continues.

- President Bush squandered a \$128 billion federal budget surplus in FY 2001 in exchange for five years of deficits, including a \$248 billion deficit in FY2006.
- It took the previous 42 presidents 224 years to build up the first \$1 trillion in foreign-held debt, and it took President Bush only six years to more than double that amount to \$2.2 trillion.

Widening Trade Gap

Five years of record trade deficits under President Bush are hurting U.S. businesses.

- Under President Bush, the U.S. annual trade gap has increased by \$386 billion to \$764 billion.
- Under President Bush, the U.S. annual trade deficit with China has increased from \$84 billion to \$233 billion, and represents about 30% of our overall trade deficit.

For more facts on the Bush Economy, go to:
<http://www.jec.senate.gov/bushecon.html>