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## Investing News

### Income inequality is worse under Obama

The president is getting dangerously close to leaving a legacy of soaring corporate profits and slumping wages.

By [The Week](#) Jan 24, 2014 2:33PM

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Americans today are very worried about income inequality.

A Gallup poll this month found that 67 percent of Americans are unhappy with the distribution of income and wealth in the U.S. The disappointment goes across party lines -- 54 percent of Republicans are dissatisfied, as well as 70 percent of Independents and 75 percent of Democrats.

And a growing number of people are worried that they can no longer get ahead simply by working hard, suggesting that inequality is becoming more entrenched.

As Paul Krugman argues, this gives Obama a pretty strong mandate to focus on reducing inequality.

But of course, income inequality has actually gotten much worse under Obama's watch. In Obama's 2013 inaugural

address, he argued that "our country cannot succeed when a shrinking few do very well and a growing many barely make it." But during his presidency, this is precisely what has occurred.

U.S. median household income in June 2013 was 4.4 percent below where it was in June 2009, when the recovery began.

Meanwhile, the top one percent of Americans -- those earning above \$366,623 a year -- have taken 81 percent of the fruits of the recovery. And the top 0.01 percent -- earning about \$8 million a year -- took an astonishing 39 percent of the growth.

Indeed, Obama is getting dangerously close to leaving a legacy of soaring corporate profits and slumping wages; climbing stock prices and high unemployment; and a recovery for the ultra-rich, and not much else for everyone else.

This began during the crisis itself. Both Republicans and Democrats chose to bail out the well-connected financial industry that caused the crisis, but help has been much less forthcoming and transient for the unemployed and a squeezed middle class.

Now none of this is necessarily Obama's fault alone. The trend toward greater income inequality began way before Obama took office; the Great Recession took a deep toll on the 99 percent; and for much of Obama's presidency, his economic proposals have been blocked by an intransigent Congress. Furthermore, Obama has significantly expanded the safety net of the welfare state, a move that at least provides temporary assistance to the poor, but is not a long-term solution to income inequality like stronger job creation.

Still, there's obviously more work to be done. This involves Congress agreeing to ideas that both Republicans and Democrats can embrace, a rather difficult task, but not an impossible one. These could include increasing and extending tax breaks for businesses that hire new workers, the streamlining of costly regulations on small businesses, spending on improving the nation's infrastructure, and raising the minimum wage (surprisingly, yes, Republicans do favor it).

Fortunately for Obama, Congress has recently shown some signs of compromise by finally managing to pass a budget. But whether he can use this new atmosphere of conciliation to ramp up growth and opportunity for the middle class remains to be seen.

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NAME	LAST	CHANGE	% CHANGE
<b>DOW</b>	16,412.71	-159.84	-0.96



<b>NASDAQ</b>	4,127.73	-110.01	-2.60
<b>S&amp;P</b>	1,865.09	-23.68	-1.25
<b>Sm Caps</b>	1,153.38	-27.74	-2.35
<b>10 Yr Note</b>	100.24	+1.06	+1.07

Market index data delayed by 15 minutes

[BRIEFING.COM] The stock market finished the week on a lower note after equity indices spent the entire session in a steady decline from their opening highs. The Nasdaq led the retreat, falling 2.6%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average (-1.0%) and S&P 500 (-1.3%) registered smaller losses.

Even though the major averages endured a daylong retreat, only the Nasdaq ended down for the week (-0.7%) while the Dow and S&P 500 posted respective weekly gains of 0.6% and 0.4%. ... [More](#)

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NAME	LAST	CHANGE	% CHANGE
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<b>Pound/Dollar</b>	1.65795	+0.00015	+0.01
<b>Dollar/Yen</b>	103.28500	+0.01500	+0.01

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MirageGuy

Jan 24, 2014 2:48PM



Of course it is. Obamanomics was designed to reward the parasitic democrat voter base. It is a complete failure for the middle class as they have grown far poorer. The poor have become destitute. Democrat economic policies have caused massive debt, killed jobs, caused massive tax increases, and the worst is yet to come under Obamacare.

This train wreck may drag down the entire economy and cause a depression the likes of which we have never seen.

Remember that when you vote in November...

1313 203 | Replies (50)

Old Geezer 727

Jan 24, 2014 3:47PM



LETTERMAN'S TOP 10 REASONS TO VOTE DEMOCRAT

#10. I vote Democrat because I love the fact that I can now marry whatever I want. I've decided to marry my German Shepherd.

#9. I vote Democrat because I believe oil companies' profits of 4% on a gallon of gas are obscene, but the government taxing the same gallon at 15% isn't.

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1215 | 115 | Replies (27)

**Its all mine**

Jan 24, 2014 3:24PM



Holy hell. An article with Obama's name in it that is actually negative and doesn't try to shield him.

THEY DO EXIST!!

992 | 84 | Replies (13)

**BStacy**

Jan 24, 2014 3:45PM



Obama only wants those two economic classes - Wealthy and Poor. The poor to rely on the government to provide for them, and the wealthy to provide the funds. Obama has no use for the middle class, which is why he's doing his best to get rid of them.

892 | 78 | Replies (13)

**BRENT THE PENSIONER 2014**

Jan 24, 2014 4:14PM



Ok I will admit it, Obama is the worst president in history!

835 | 60 | Replies (24)

**next time up**

Jan 24, 2014 2:59PM



The guy is a total con. If you look rationally and objectively the correlation of what he says he will do and actually does is very close to 100% the opposite.

789 | 67 | Replies (5)

**chatr afds**

Jan 24, 2014 3:38PM



"Obama is getting dangerously close to leaving a legacy of ; climbing stock prices and high unemployment; and a recovery for the ultra-rich, and not much else for everyone else."

Because he's such an ignorant, arrogant, petulant child that he thinks the only way to help people out is to punish the people he thinks has too much money (if they are Conservatives) and then act like he's giving the money to the people he thinks needs it.

Change to a flat tax or national sales tax, cut back the wasteful spending across the board, reduce the size of government and we all benefit.

775 | 76 | Replies (26)

**Old Geezer 727**

Jan 24, 2014 3:50PM



"Liberalism is a mental disorder...Common sense is the cure."

- Ronald Reagan

Clint Eastwood's One Sentence Editorial --

"We Americans are so tired of being thought of as \*\*\*\*es by the rest of the world that we went to the polls this past November and removed all doubt."

705 | 62 | Replies (6)

**Daddy4**

Jan 24, 2014 3:56PM



Take a look and see what happened in Wisconsin since a republican conservative took over!!!! He has money in reserve and is giving money back to the people in the form of a tax break and unemployment is at a low!

Wake up! Socialist society doesn't work people!

685 | 48 | Replies (34)