

another year to unravel and start to rebuild. In the meantime, a heap of other issues may come to the fore that makes recovery more difficult — flat or declining oil available for export may be one of them. Stay tuned.

Housing Slump Pinches States in Pocketbook, by Abby Goodnough — *New York Times*, April 8, 2007

MIAMI, April 7 — State tax revenues around the country are growing far more slowly this year and in some cases falling below projections, a result of the housing market slowdown that has curbed voracious spending on real estate, building materials, furniture, and other items... Nowhere is the downturn more apparent than in Florida, where tax revenue is projected to drop this year for the first time since the energy crisis of the 1970s.

For example, New Jersey could face a \$2.5 billion shortfall by mid-2008, Gov. Jon S. Corzine has said, and may lease its turnpike or its lottery to a private company to raise money. In California, where income tax receipts in January were \$1 billion less than forecast, a nonpartisan legislative analyst has urged budget cuts and warned that the state could have about \$2 billion less in revenue this year and next than Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has projected.

"It's the year of the housing hangover," said Sean M. Snaith, director of the Institute for Economic Competitiveness at the University of Central Florida... New home sales nationally fell in February to the lowest rate in seven years, and homeowners who tapped into plentiful home equity and spent extravagantly during the real estate boom have started to cut back... Those events not only threaten revenue streams for things like building materials and labor, but also affect spending on big-ticket items like cars and furniture, which many homeowners financed with home equity lines of credit.

Chris McCarty, survey research director at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida, said it would be foolish to "underestimate the effect that the inability to extract equity from homes is going to have."... In one hint of how much Floridians were relying on property wealth during the real estate boom, 16 percent of new car purchases here were being made with home equity loans in 2006, compared with 7 percent nationally, according to CNW Marketing Research, an automotive research firm in Bandon, Oregon. In California, the percentage was even higher — about 30 percent, said Art Spinella, the firm's president.

During the last few years, families in much of the country have relied on the cash from mortgage refinancing, made possible by rising house values, low interest rates, and a bevy of creative new loans, to make up for stagnant wages. From 2001 to 2005, even as the economy was growing at a healthy clip overall, the pay of most workers failed to keep pace with inflation. Now the housing slowdown is making it more difficult to take equity out of a house, and an improved job market is finally causing wages to rise. Still, Mr. McCarty said consumer confidence in Florida dropped markedly last month, especially willingness to buy expensive items.

Some budget watchers say that Florida, whose housing boom was prolonged and intensified by the rebuilding frenzy after a series of hurricanes, could be a warning beacon for other states anticipating housing-related economic woes. Last spring, 9 of the 20 metropolitan areas that saw the sharpest home price appreciation were in Florida, according to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight. Many areas of the state now have plummeting home values.

Arizona, California, Florida, and Nevada, the chief beneficiaries of the housing rush, are also expected to suffer disproportionately from the slump. From late 2005 to late 2006, existing home sales fell by 21 percent in California, 27 percent in Arizona, 31 percent in Florida, and 36 percent in Nevada, the steepest drop in the nation... Maryland's real estate transfer tax revenue has tumbled by 22 percent this fiscal year, suggesting that fewer homes are being sold, prices have fallen or both. Connecticut's real estate transfer tax revenue, which state budget analysts predicted would fall by 3.6 percent, is down by 13.3 percent so far.

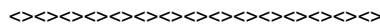
Some states have defied the trend, chiefly New York, where the housing market has been bolstered by sales in Manhattan. The prices and number of apartments selling in Manhattan rose in the first three months of this year, according to data released last week by several of New York City's largest real estate brokerages... Healthy reserves built up over the last few years and stable economic conditions outside the housing sector could cushion the blow for many states, at least for now... "The tendency is for people to say, 'Wow, things look pretty good, except for housing,'" said Richard Nathan, co-director of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany. "But that is a very big exception, because it has a large impact on people's perceptions of what they feel their asset capability is."

Some economists fear the situation will worsen as credit standards tighten and more recipients of sub-prime loans — typically people with bad credit who obtained such loans easily during the housing boom — default on their payments... But others expect the revenue lag to last two years at most, because with the exception of industrial Midwestern states like Michigan and Ohio, the economy remains relatively healthy.

Alan Greenspan, the former Federal Reserve chairman who has expressed worries about the housing market, has said he believes there is a one-in-three chance the economy will slip into recession in 2007. Even without a recession, a growing national movement to reduce local property taxes could leave local governments short of the amount they need to provide services at a time when home values are falling, some economists said.

"People are reacting to the large increases in assessments that took place over the past few years and looking to cut property taxes," wrote Iris J. Lav, deputy director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal research and advocacy organization. "If assessments stagnate or decline, however, the cuts could seriously overreach."... Gov. Charlie Crist of Florida is among officials across the country who dismiss that notion, saying that reducing property taxes would fatten consumers' wallets and dissuade them from leaving the state.

Census data show that fewer people than usual moved into Florida last year, and an abrupt halt in the growth of public school enrollment this year suggests that families are leaving. Despite dropping prices, communities like Naples, Miami and Sarasota still have some of the most overvalued real estate in the nation, according to Global Insight, a research firm in Waltham, Mass. ... "People are packing up the equity and moving to North Carolina and Tennessee," Mr. Snaith said... Georganna Meyer, chief economist for the Arizona Department of Revenue, said both sales and income tax receipts had slowed there, in part because so many people who jumped into the real estate business during the boom are now earning less. "I've heard stories about real estate broker income going up 50 percent year after year," she said. "So a large part of why the income tax is not what it used to be is related to the real estate market tightening, no doubt." [Terry Aguayo contributed reporting from Miami, and David Leonhardt from New York.]



How Big is Wal-Mart? by Bob Browning

1. At Wal-Mart, Americans spend \$36,000,000 every hour of every day.
2. This works out to \$20,928 profit every minute!
3. Wal-Mart will sell more from January 1st to St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) than Target sells all year.
4. Wal-Mart is bigger than Home Depot + Kroger +Target + Sears + Costco + K-Mart combined.
5. Wal-Mart employs 1.6 million people and is the largest private employer.
6. Wal-Mart is the largest company in the history of the world.
7. Wal-Mart now sells more food than Kroger and Safeway combined, and keep in mind they did this in only 15 years.
8. During this same period, 31 supermarket chains sought bankruptcy (including Winn-Dixie).
9. Wal-Mart now sells more food than any other store in the world.
10. Wal-Mart has approximately 3,900 stores in the USA, of which 1,906 are Super Centers; this is 1,000 more than it had 5 years ago.
11. This year, 7.2 billion different purchasing experiences will occur at a Wal-Mart store (Earth's population is approximately 6.5 billion).
12. 90% of Americans live within 15 miles of a Wal-Mart.

science, but also their history. In the 1920s, Britain supported another "green" movement — the early "Wandervogel" bands which became the Nazi Party. Supporting fascism in Germany led to disaster for Britain and the entire world. This group knows that Britain cannot be allowed to support fascism — this time led by the likes of Al Gore, Gordon Brown, and their ilk — again.

Gore felt so pressured by the Channel 4 film that he attacked it directly in his speech to the NAPF, calling the documentary "pseudo-science as entertainment," in alleged contrast to his own Hollywood fantasy film. British Environment Secretary David Miliband, the "tweener generation" front man for the Fabians, also attacked the British film, claiming that, "the science [of global warming] is set, and there is a consensus." Miliband, according to his website, will be sending Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs scientists out to try to counter the effects of "The Global Warming Swindle."

There are some stirrings also in other parts of Europe. Peter Struck, chairman of Germany's Social Democratic parliamentary faction, said in an interview in the March 11 tabloid *Bild am Sonntag*: "I completely support warnings against climate hysteria." All of a sudden, "climate" is on everybody's agenda, and such issues as German unemployment have become unimportant, Struck said. It is notable that three days earlier, Struck had arranged for the SPD parliamentarians to see Gore's hoax "documentary." The next day, the usually neoconservative newspaper *Die Welt* put out a very sober warning on where the propaganda can lead. Editorial board member Thomas Schmidt wrote: "In other words, the climate issue finally creates the very state of emergency that right wingers and left wingers, as well as ecological friends of Carl Schmitt, would like to have a license for." Carl Schmitt was the legal ideologue and Crown Jurist of the Hitler regime, whose writings justified the Emergency Measures of Hitler's police-state rule...

The New Empire

The "carbon-emissions-trading" scam has been in the making for some years, with the City of London leading the way, and the nations of the European Union sheepishly following the leader. A revealing article in London's Conservative Daily Telegraph published March 14 reported that Al Gore's real message is the "booming market in emissions trading." Economics reporter Tom Stevenson wrote that Gore "can spot a trend," and "carbon trading is the hottest ticket in town."

On March 12, Gordon Brown told the Green Alliance that he wants to make London the center of a new "global carbon market." Citing the sensationalist "global warming will drown us all" report by Sir Nicholas Stern, which Brown had published in October 2006, the Chancellor said that Britain can lead climate change "initiatives" "by creating new markets. As Nick Stern argued, emissions trading can enable significant flows of investment into developing countries. My ambition is to build a global carbon market, founded on the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and centered in London. Today, worth just \$9 billion, emissions trading could grow to between \$50 and \$100 billion. So we will now advance this through an international conference hosted in London to discuss how we can link schemes in different countries and enhance trading with developing nations — to turn this growing system into a global force for change." The nations of "China, Brazil, South Africa, India, Mexico, and other[s]" will be targets of this attempt at a new "environmental" empire... Environment Secretary David Miliband presented the Labour government's draft Climate Change Bill, which would make Britain the first government to make drastic emissions reductions — the target is 60% by 2050 — legally binding...

There have been a lot of machinations to get the carbon bubble going, The Telegraph account indicated: In the first phase of the ETS, 2005-07, most EU states overestimated their emissions, so the market surplus has sent carbon prices down to less than 33% of the peak a year ago; but the next much stricter phase is due to be launched in 2008. Allowances will be cut sharply, obviously calculated to send prices shooting up, giving speculators a killing. Some of the world's biggest investment banks, such as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, are getting involved, The Telegraph reported, and a new bank, Climate Change Capital, just launched a \$1 billion fund...

Rotten in Denmark

Gore had likely expected a smooth visit to Denmark, where his personal fan Danish Environmental Minister Connie Hedegaard, had invited him. But not all went so well. Even as the Danish ecological establishment greeted him for his Jan. 18 speech in Copenhagen, a singing demonstration by supporters of Lyndon LaRouche, the Danish

River basin, undermining calculations of how much water the river can be expected to provide and intensifying pressures to find new solutions or sources... The effects of the drought can be seen at Lake Mead in Nevada, where a drop in the water level left docks hanging from newly formed cliffs and a marina surrounded by dry land. Upriver at Lake Powell, which is at its lowest level since spring 1973, receding waters have exposed miles of mud in the side canyons leading to the Glen Canyon Dam.

In California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has sounded alarm bells by pushing for a ballot measure in 2008 that would allocate \$4.5 billion in bonds for new water storage in the state. The water content in the Sierra Nevada snowpack has reached the lowest level in about two decades, state hydrologists have reported, putting additional pressure on the nation's most populous state to find and store more water. "Scientists say that global warming will eliminate 25 percent of our snowpack by the half of this century," Mr. Schwarzenegger said recently in Fresno, Calif., "which will mean less snow stored in the mountains, which will mean more flooding in the winter and less drinking water in the summer."

In Montana, where about two-thirds of the Missouri River and half of the Columbia River have their headwaters, officials have embarked on a long-term project to validate old water rights claims in an effort to legally shore up supplies the state now counts on... Under the West's water laws, claims are hierarchal. The oldest, first-filed claims, many dating to pioneer days, get water first, with newer claims at the bottom of the pecking order... Still, some of the sharpest tensions stem more from population growth than cautionary climate science, especially those between Nevada and Utah, states with booming desert economies and clout to fight for what they say is theirs.

Las Vegas, the fastest-growing major city in the country — and the driest — developed the pipeline plan several years ago to bring groundwater from the rural northern reaches of the state. The metropolitan area, which relies on the Colorado River for 90 percent of its water, is awaiting approval from Nevada's chief engineer.

Ranchers and farmers in northern Nevada and Utah are opposed to the pipeline plan and have vowed to fight it in court, saying it smacks of the famous water grab by Los Angeles nearly a century ago that caused severe environmental damage in the Owens Valley in California... "Southern Nevada thinks it can come up here and suck all these springs dry without any problems," said Dean Baker, whose family's ranch straddles the Nevada-Utah border, pointing out springs that farmers have run dry with their own wells. "We did this ourselves. Now imagine what pumping for a whole big city is going to do."

Meanwhile, Utah has proposed a \$500 million, 120-mile pipeline from Lake Powell to serve the fast-growing City of St. George and Washington County in the state's southwestern corner. Nevada officials have said they will seek to block that plan if Utah stands in the way of theirs... "Utah is being very disingenuous, and we're calling them on it," said Patricia Mulroy, the chief executive of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the agency responsible for finding water for Las Vegas and its suburbs. "St. George, Utah, is growing as fast as southern Nevada, because the growth is going right up the I-15 corridor." Dennis J. Strong, director of the Utah Division of Water Resources, said Nevada was protesting too much and instead should be cheering the Lake Powell project because Colorado River water that Utah does not use would flow in Nevada's direction. Mr. Strong said that Nevada's protests "may be a bargaining chip." He said he hoped for a compromise that would allow both projects to move forward.

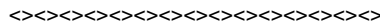
In Yuma, near the Arizona border with Mexico, officials have pinned hopes on a desalination plant built 15 years ago. The plan then had been to treat salty runoff from farms before it made its way into the Colorado River headed to Mexico, thus meeting the terms of an old water treaty... But a series of unusually wet years made it more efficient to meet the treaty obligations with water from Lake Mead, so the plant sat idle. Drought has changed all that. Arizona water managers, who are first in line to have their water cut in a shortage under an agreement with other states, called for the plant to be turned on.

Under an agreement with environmentalists, the federal Bureau of Reclamation plans to monitor the environmental effects of using the plant, and study, among other things, using the purified water for purposes other than meeting its treaty obligations, like supplying the growing communities around Yuma. "It never made sense to me to just dump bottled-water quality water into the river anyway," said Jim Cherry, the bureau's Yuma area manager.

What unites the Western states is a growing consensus among scientists that future climate change and warmer temperatures, if they continue, could hit harder here than elsewhere in the continental United States... "The

Western mountain states are by far more vulnerable to the kinds of change we've been talking about compared to the rest of the country, with the New England states coming in a relatively distant second," said Michael Dettinger, a research hydrologist at the United States Geological Survey who studies the relationships between water and climate... Mr. Dettinger said higher temperatures had pushed the spring snowmelt and runoff to about 10 days earlier on average than in the past. Higher temperatures would mean more rain falling rather than snow, compounding issues of water storage and potentially affecting flooding.

In some places, the new tensions and pressures could even push water users toward compromise... Colorado recently hired a mediator to try to settle a long-running dispute over how water from the Rocky Mountains should be shared among users in the Denver area and the western half of the state. Denver gets most of the water and has most of the state's population; but water users in the mountains — notably the ski resort industry — also have clout and want to keep their share... Robert W. Johnson, the Bureau of Reclamation commissioner, said he shared the optimism that the disputes could be worked out, but he said he thought it might take a reconsideration of the West's original conception of what water was for. The great dams and reservoirs that were envisioned beginning in the 1800s were conceived with farmers in mind, and farmers still take about 90 percent of the Colorado River's flow. More and more, Mr. Johnson said, the cities will need that water... An agreement reached a few years ago between farmers and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the chief supplier of water to that region, is one model. Under the terms of the agreement, farmers would let their fields lie fallow and send water to urban areas in exchange for money to cover the crop losses... "I definitely see that as the future," Mr. Johnson said.



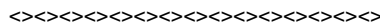
Distract and Disenfranchise, by Paul Krugman, *The New York Times*, April 2, 2007

I have a theory about the Bush administration abuses of power that are now, finally, coming to light. Ultimately, I believe, they were driven by rising income inequality.

Let me explain... In 1980, when Ronald Reagan won the White House, conservative ideas appealed to many, even most, Americans. At the time, we were truly a middle-class nation. To white voters, at least, the vast inequalities and social injustices of the past, which were what originally gave liberalism its appeal, seemed like ancient history. It was easy, in that nation, to convince many voters that Big Government was their enemy, that they were being taxed to provide social programs for other people.

Since then, however, we have once again become a deeply unequal society. Median income has risen only 17 percent since 1980, while the income of the richest 0.1 percent of the population has quadrupled. The gap between the rich and the middle class is as wide now as it was in the 1920s, when the political coalition that would eventually become the New Deal was taking shape.

And voters realize that society has changed. They may not pore over income distribution tables, but they do know that today's rich are building themselves mansions bigger than those of the robber barons. They may not read labor statistics, but they know that wages aren't going anywhere. According to the Pew Research Center, 59 percent of workers believe that it's harder to earn a decent living today than it was 20 or 30 years ago.

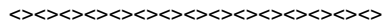


Reviews, by Tony Dajer — *DISCOVER Magazine*, May 2007

We spend 50% more per capita on health care than any other country, for a total of \$2 trillion a year, yet our health care system, according to the World Health Organization, ranks 37th worldwide (France is number one). By any measure — longevity, infant mortality, burden of disease — we sit in the basement of the industrialized world. Yet we American doctors still fancy ourselves the best trained anywhere, our care second to none. Why the disconnect? And why, if physicians' cognitive pitfalls are so predictable and the benefit of measuring outcomes so compelling, can't our vaunted medical schools (including Harvard) simply teach success? Because we refuse to acknowledge the power of money, that's why. It's no secret that our lack of a rational, single-payer health system has allowed market forces (read: middlemen) to trump health needs. What's less obvious is that the misallocation of resources is rapidly turning doctors into nonscientists.

Granted, both Dr. Jerome Groopman and Atul Bawande, two Harvard University researchers, clinicians, and best-selling authors, devote chapters to the influence of money and marketing on quality of care (making brief forays into the malpractice system, for instance, and doctor's pay scales). Groopman mentions the spinal fusion industry, in which surgeons "treat" low back pain by scraping out disks and screwing rods into lumbar vertebrae. Some 150,000 fusions are performed a year — at \$20,000 each. No study has ever proved they help.

To suggest that doctors prefer chasing dollars over treating real disease might seem unfair, but the facts speak for themselves: In 2005, doctors performed over \$12 billion worth of cosmetic surgery while, according to some experts, up to a third of our diabetics and hypertensives received inadequate care. Meanwhile, the proportion of U.S. internal medicine residents planning to enter primary care continued its slide from one-half (in 1998) to one-fifth. Why? Money rules. The average American medical school graduate takes on \$130,000 in debt (European grads face much less)... Financial interest doesn't just warp medicine by luring doctors to lucrative procedures; it corrupts the scientific data that underlie care. Take, for example, the recent news that hormone replacement therapy very likely causes breast cancer. As an intern 20 years ago, I memorized elaborate protocols on how to dose patients with estrogen and progesterone. It never occurred to me to question the underlying data, which it turns out rested on a few observational studies and slick marketing. It's likely we doctors caused hundreds of thousands of cases of breast cancer — all the while scratching our heads over its rising incidence... A staggering 31 percent of every health care dollar in the U.S. is wasted on overhead... Meanwhile, the malpractice industry — besides squandering money on lawyers, experts, and logistics — does its worst by stifling free inquiry into mistakes.



Controversial Michael Moore Flick "Sicko" Will Compare U.S. Health Care with Cuba's, By Don Hazen —
Posted on April 23, 2007 [<http://www.alternet.org/story/50911/>]

The film targets drug companies and the HMOs in the richest country in the world — where the most money is spent on health care, while it ranks 21st in life expectancy among the 30 most developed nations, obviously in part due to the fact that 47 million people are without health insurance... The problems with America's health care system have mushroomed during the Bush administration. For example, between 2001 and 2005 the number of people without health insurance rose 16.6 percent. The average health insurance premiums for a family of four are \$10,880, which exceeds the annual gross income of \$10,712 for a full-time, minimum-wage worker. In addition, the lack of insurance causes 18,000 excess deaths a year while people without health insurance have 25 percent higher mortality rates. Fifty-nine percent of uninsured people with chronic conditions such as asthma or diabetes skip medicine or go without care.

One of the film's segments, a boat trip to Cuba, according to sources who spoke to both the *NY Post* and *The Daily News*, took ailing rescue workers to Cuba for health treatment for respiratory ailments which they suffer as a result of working at Ground Zero, and for which a number of the workers have no health insurance. The purpose of the trip, according to some, was to show that the free health care in Cuba is superior to the health care system in the U.S. Those invited on the trip were told the "Cuban doctors had developed new techniques for treating lung cancer and other respiratory illnesses," and that health care in Cuba was free.

According to the Associated Press as cited in the *Post* article, "Cuba has made recent advancements in biotechnology and exports its treatments to 40 countries around the world, raking in an estimated \$100 million a year. ... In 2004, the U.S. government granted an exception to its economic embargo against Cuba and allowed a California drug company to test three cancer vaccines developed in Havana."... From the *NY Post*: "From what I hear through the grapevine those people who went are utterly happy," said John Feal, who runs the Fealgood Foundation to raise money for responders and was approached by Moore to find responders willing to take the trip. "They got the Elvis treatment."... According to staff writer Bill Hutchinson from the *Daily News*, Moore was praised for seeking medical alternatives. Retired Firefighter Vinnie Forras, 49, said he's been going to Ecuador and Bolivia for experimental treatments for lung damage and severe headaches which he suffered at Ground Zero. "For me, anyone who's looking to try to help the guys and women who are sick is a good thing. I don't care where you go for that treatment."

"The World Health Organization ranks health care systems based on objective measures of medical outcomes: The United States' health care system currently ranks 37th in the world, behind Colombia and Portugal; the United States ranks 44th in the world in infant mortality, behind many impoverished Latin American countries. While infant

mortality in the United States is skewed toward poor people, who have rates double the wealthy, *the top quintile of the U.S. population has infant mortality rates higher than Canadians in the lowest quintile of wealth.*

"The United States has fewer physicians, nurses and hospital beds than most developed nations. In the United States, 28 percent say it is "difficult to get care"; in most European countries, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, 15 percent say that. In terms of continuity of care (i.e., five-plus years with the same doctor), the United States is the worst of all developed nations. *By every objective measure, the United States has a second-rate health care system.*"

One in six U.S. Factory jobs has vanished since 2000 — Pace of loss has accelerated with increase in imports, By Martin Crutsinger — *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, April 21, 2007

Washington — Three weeks ago, Dawn Zimmer became a statistic. Laid off from her job assembling trucks at Freightliner's plant in Portland, she and 800 of her colleagues joined a long line of U.S. manufacturing workers who have lost jobs in recent years. A total of 3.2 million — one in six factory jobs — have disappeared since the start of 2000. Many people believe those jobs will never come back.

"They are building a multimillion dollar plant in Mexico, and they are going to build the Freightliners down there. They came in and videotaped us at work so they could train the Mexican workers," said Zimmer 55, who had worked at Freightliner since 1994... That's the issue for American workers. Many of their jobs are moving overseas, to Mexico and China, and elsewhere.

Just ask Tom Riegel... He worked for 27 years making Pennsylvania House furniture at a factory in Lewisburg, PA, until the plant shut down in December 2004. The production was moved to a plant in China, which kept making the furniture under the Pennsylvania House label for shipment back to the United States... Riegel, 48, who has had health problems, hasn't worked since he lost his job running a molding machine. He says his prospects aren't good, given the number of other furniture plants in the area that have suffered layoffs. "It started with just a few pieces of furniture made in China. Then it snowballed," he said.

Even though manufacturing jobs have been declining, the country is enjoying the lowest average unemployment rates of the past four decades. The reason: the growth in the service industries — everything from hotel chambermaids to skilled heart surgeons... Eighty-four percent of Americans in the labor force are employed in service jobs, up from 81 % in 2000... "Every advanced economy has seen its employment in agriculture and manufacturing decline relative to services and America is no exception," said Daniel Griswold, an economist at the Cato Institute... But others note that the loss in manufacturing jobs has been accelerating in recent years as the trade deficit has grown and America imports more and more products that used to be made here.

Alan Blinder, who was vice chairman of the Federal Reserve during the Clinton administration, says that the number of jobs at risk of being shipped out of the country could reach 40 million over the next 10 to 20 years... Those lost manufacturing jobs are fueling an intense debate over globalization — the increasing connection of the United States and other economies... Last year's trade deficit was \$765.3 Billion. (\$232.5B of those imported goods were from China. This was an all-time high for a single country.)

In 1943 and 1944, with factories working overtime to build the ships, tanks, and planes needed to fight World War II, manufacturing accounted for 4 out of 10 jobs in the U.S. This was the peak in manufacturing jobs. The remainder of jobs was split almost equally between the farm and service sectors of the economy. ***(Today, manufacturing now accounts for 1 job in 10, services with slightly less than 8 jobs and the remainder as farm jobs...Paul C.)*** In just the last 16 years, manufacturing has declined as a percentage of the work force in 48 of 50 states. Nevada's percentage stayed the same, and North Dakota saw an increase.

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