

The Delray Democrat

It's *Obama's* Economy, Stupid¹

Michael K. Cantwell

The month Barack Obama was inaugurated, January 2009, the economy lost more than 783,000 jobs, and America stood at the brink of a second Great Depression. Although another 5 million jobs disappeared before the end of that year, more than 11 million jobs, net, were added during Obama's presidency.

Obama did not brag about the economy he bequeathed to Donald Trump, or about saving the millions of manufacturing jobs that would have disappeared if he had listened to Republicans and let the auto industry collapse. He understood that many people were still suffering from the economic disaster bequeathed to him by George W. Bush and the Republicans.

Trump is an ignorant, self-promoting, heartless blowhard, so it's hardly surprising he brags about the strong economy he did nothing to create and nothing to improve and in which millions are still suffering. The only "suffering" he's alleviated is that of multi-millionaires who whined they were overtaxed when they were actually taxed at a lower rate than their secretaries or the night manager at a Burger King.

What *is* surprising is that Trump has been unable to destroy Obama's economy yet, despite his tariffs and trade wars and tantrums, the operative term being "yet." Given another four years, the crash Trump creates will be bigger than Bush's.

So when you hear people parrot Trump's lies about *his* economy, tell them, "**It's *Obama's* economy, stupid.**" If they don't believe you, direct them to the data below, showing that the economy performed better on all key indicators during Obama's final 35 months than during Trump's first 35 months. And warn them about what's coming if he's reelected.

	Obama - final 35 months	Trump - first 35 months
Job growth total	7,847,000	6,146,000
Monthly job increase	224,200	175,600
Unemployment drop	2 percentage points	1.2 percentage points
Increase in wages (adjusted for inflation)	1.3%	0.8%

Source: The New York Times [op-ed](#) by Steven Rattner, with job figures updated from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) database.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, February 2020, Front Cover.