

The Delray Democrat

Questions and Memes¹

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Feeling Confident?

Then you're increasingly alone. [The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index](#) just reported "the largest monthly decline since August 2021."

The University of Michigan Consumer Confidence Index fell for the third month in March, dropping 10.5% from February and 27.1% from the prior March (when, for those of us who remember him fondly, Joe Biden was president).

This is all on Trump, who, as *The New York Times* [reminds](#) us: "took office last month at a time of stable economic growth and easing inflation."

The stock market is tanking because businesses do not know how to respond to the economic chaos Trump is causing. [According](#) to Moody's chief economist, Mark Zandi:

Business leaders, CEOs and COOs are nervous, bordering on unnerved, by the policies that are being implemented, how they're being implemented and what the fallout is.

If you're not worried as Trump doubles down on his unhinged economic policies, you are increasingly alone.

It's time to [Get Ready](#), there's a train wreck coming.

Stagflation, Anyone?

It's been a half century since a combination of high inflation and unemployment, coupled with stagnant consumer demand, roiled the country. It was "cured" only by [raising interest rates so high](#) they created the worst recession since The Great Depression.

Many economists [predicted](#) that the 11 Fed rate increases in 2022 and 2023 would similarly crash the economy, but President Biden's unmatched job-creation machine allowed the economy to continue expanding while the rate increases were helping to lower inflation to manageable levels.

Inflation is again rearing its ugly head as the Trump administration pushes reckless tariffs and illegal deportations of low-wage workers. Moreover, mass firings of federal workers and refusals to spend Congressionally appropriated funds on job-creation programs will inevitably create

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), March 2025, page 6.

another Republican-spawned recession. Together, that spells stagflation.

Got Eggs?

Well, maybe not. The price of eggs [increased](#) nearly 20 percent in a single month – from \$4.15 a dozen in December 2024 to \$4.95 in January 2025.

Donald Trump has a plan to deal with the soaring prices – [fire](#) the workers who had been involved in the government’s response to the bird flu that caused the slaughter of more than 160 million birds and is behind the runaway price increases.

“There you go again.”

Ronald Reagan (or his debate coaches) created that meme, but it is the Republican Party that still hasn’t realized that tax cuts benefitting the wealthiest Americans do little more than explode the deficit.

A half century of empirical data proves that tax cuts are the least efficient way of creating jobs. Just look at any of the [reports](#) issued by the Congressional Budget Office that track the impact of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

They assessed the stimulant effect of eight different economic stimulators. Dead last was “Tax Cuts for Higher-Income People,” and even “Tax Cuts for Lower and Middle-Income People” lies in the middle of the pack. But you don’t need government studies to demonstrate that “building from the bottom up and the middle out” is more effective than giving money to people who have more than they can spend and waiting for it to “trickle down.”

Rinse and Repeat

So why do Republicans enact deficit busting tax cuts that reward the wealthiest Americans? Don’t they hate deficits and don’t they know that these tax cuts do little to stimulate the economy?

Maybe they do but, to quote Melania, they “really don’t care.” The cuts accomplish their *raison d’être*—rewarding the plutocrats who comprise their real constituents. And when they blow up the economy and are voted out of power, they kneecap Democratic efforts to fix things, accuse Democrats of causing the deficit, and eventually dupe enough voters into returning them to power.

Rinse and repeat.