

By Alec Feinberg
Based On Chapter8, From the book
The Truth of the Modern Recession - Root Causes and Reliable Solutions

ModernRecession.com

The Growing Problem of Overpopulation and its Effect on Job Losses

8.2: Job Loss Issues Due to Overpopulation

The overpopulation problem is a fact both in the U.S. and around the world. It is considered by many the number one problem facing the U.S. and humankind. The director of the U.S. Intelligence Agency puts it somewhat in perspective:

Remark 8.1: “The director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Gen. Michael Hayden, when asked to pinpoint which issue was of most pressing concern to him, said that the most troublesome threat facing the U.S. and the world today is not terrorism or global warming, but overpopulation, especially in the poorest parts of the planet.”¹

Overpopulation is a strong reason for our recession, since the number of jobs currently available is seriously a problem compared to the number of job applicants. When this occurs, there is a serious loss of opportunity for many individuals. For example, while no official statistics are available, numerous articles constantly appear, and one specific government area found about 100 applicants per job.

Remark 8.2: January 2009—“More than 350,000 resumes have been submitted online, according to the Obama transition team....Only 3,000 to 4,000 jobs are available.”²

The government economists and politicians do not appear to recognize the seriousness of the studies that provide clear warning to the problem of overpopulation and its relation to an unreliable economy.

Remark 8.3: “In a study titled *Food, Land, Population and the U.S. Economy*, David Pimentel, professor of ecology and agriculture at Cornell University, and Mario Giampietro, senior researcher at the U.S. National Research Institute on Food and Nutrition (INRAN), estimate the maximum U.S. population for a sustainable economy at 200 million. To achieve a sustainable economy and avert disaster, the United States must reduce its population by at least one-third, and world population will have to be reduced by two-thirds, says the study.”³

¹ www.articlesbase.com/environment-articles/overpopulation-the-biggest-threat-to-our-planets-survival-520631.html

² http://money.cnn.com/2009/01/11/news/obama_job_seekers/index.htm?postversion=2009011119

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overpopulation>

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According to Remark 8.3, the recommendation for a sustainable U.S. economy is 200 million people. Currently the U.S. population is 305 million people. As indicated by Remark 8.4, this is expected to increase to 439 million by 2050.

Remark 8.4: “Almost all growth will take place in the less developed regions, where today’s 5.3 billion population of underdeveloped countries is expected to increase to 7.8 billion in 2050. By contrast, the population of the more developed regions will remain mostly unchanged, at 1.2 billion. The world’s population is expected to rise by 40% to 9.1 billion. An exception is the United States population, which is expected to increase 44% from 305 million in 2008 to 439 million in 2050.”⁴

Presently with the U.S. population of 305 million, and the maximum suggested economic amount of 200 million people (Remark 8.3), the U.S. is overpopulated by 105 million. This estimate is apparently somewhat over-conservative, as the economy can accommodate more people during a worst-case scenario such as our recession. For example, it is conservative yet still a good reference considering the fact that unemployment continues to rise as of June 2009 and is now between 14.7 and 25.8 million people.

Remark 8.5: “The number of unemployed persons (14.7 million) and the unemployment rate (9.5 percent) were little changed in June. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons has increased by 7.2 million, and the unemployment rate has risen by 4.6 percentage points.”⁵

Another study that includes underemployed workers as well finds the number closer to 25.8 million.

Remark 8.6: “If we break down the unemployment numbers further, we see that nearly 26,000,000 American workers are either unemployed or underemployed: Unemployed = 14,500,000, Part-time workers = 9,100,000, Marginally Attached = 2,200,000, Total = 25,800,000 unemployed or underemployed workers.”⁶

From the perspective of the economy, it is clear that overpopulation is a failure mode for job-friendly investing issues since the government is not applying any investing resources to this problem. With no reliability economic team available to council the White House, it appears there is no real attempt to view the issue of overpopulation in relation to a recession problem.

⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overpopulation>
⁵ www.bls.gov/news.release/empstf.nr0.htm

⁶ www.mybudget360.com/real-unemployment-situation-approximately-26000000-unemployed-or-underemployed-job-growth-in-10-per-hour-jobs-while-20-per-hour-jobs-disappear/

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There are, of course, strong religious conflicts of interest amongst our politicians. It is really unavoidable, but does not play well when it comes to the separation of church and state. Since the two will forever be entangled over this issue, population control is really a responsibility of both. It would be great if the world could practice a natural family planning method, as many religious viewers seek. The magnitude of the real-world problem is larger than reliability economics; there are serious consequences that come with an overcrowded planet. We are only beginning to see the tip of the iceberg. There will always be administrative and personal choices. However, the issue currently appears as both a church and political problem. The church needs to do more to address the problem. There are other ways, for example, to stress the importance of natural family planning through an active program requiring churches around the world to heighten everyone's awareness of the overpopulation problem and to promote sermons on the issue. There are no alternatives; the solution will most likely not be resolved without both politics and the church taking full responsibility for a problem that threatens mankind. Failure is not an option. The ranking of this root cause is rated as a 10 (see Appendix 2A, Table 2A-1). since the planet is, according to many scientists, facing catastrophic consequences economically that include the possibility of war and famine.

Remark 8.7: “The United Nations indicates that about 850 million people are malnourished or starving, and 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water. Some argue that Earth may support 6 billion people, but only if many live in misery....the 2050 population projection is: Africa: 1.9 billion, Asia: 5.2 billion, Europe: 664 million, Latin America & Caribbean: 769 million, Northern America: 445 million. This provides a total of 8.9 billion, well over the estimated 6 billion person limit.”⁷

⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overpopulation>