Written by Sun Staff Sunday, 27 June 2010 19:32 - Last Updated Wednesday, 06 June 2012 06:19

In Indian philosophy, the Sanskrit term *naya-samgraha* generally refers to a summary of political wisdom. The term samgraha-na is likewise

used to describe 'looking at things in a general way', or from a common sense point of view. Samgraha

means 'bringing together, assembling, grasping', as in closing one's hand around a group of things, like ideas. It refers to looking at the overall common features of a group or class of things.

Today we begin a multi-part series in the Sun called Naya-samgraha: a state-of-the-world report. We have had a few Sun articles recently that touch upon some of the issues that will be covered in this general summary. Most recently, in her article " Is the Materialistic Civilization About to Fall Apart?

", Anuttama

devi dasi reminded us of Srila Prabhupada's comments on impending nuclear war – a topic often revisited by the devotees. Other articles have touched upon predictions related to the 2012 epoch, including "

Cataclysms and the Periodic Disappearance of Advanced Technologies

" by Bharati Krsna dasa, and Kshamabuddhi das's earlier article on the subject.

In May 2008, the Sun ran a Feature story called " <u>Global Meltdown</u>, written at the height of the global economic crisis brought on by the sub-prime and derivatives debacles. This was followed by an article entitled " <u>Temp</u>

le Management in a Meltdown World

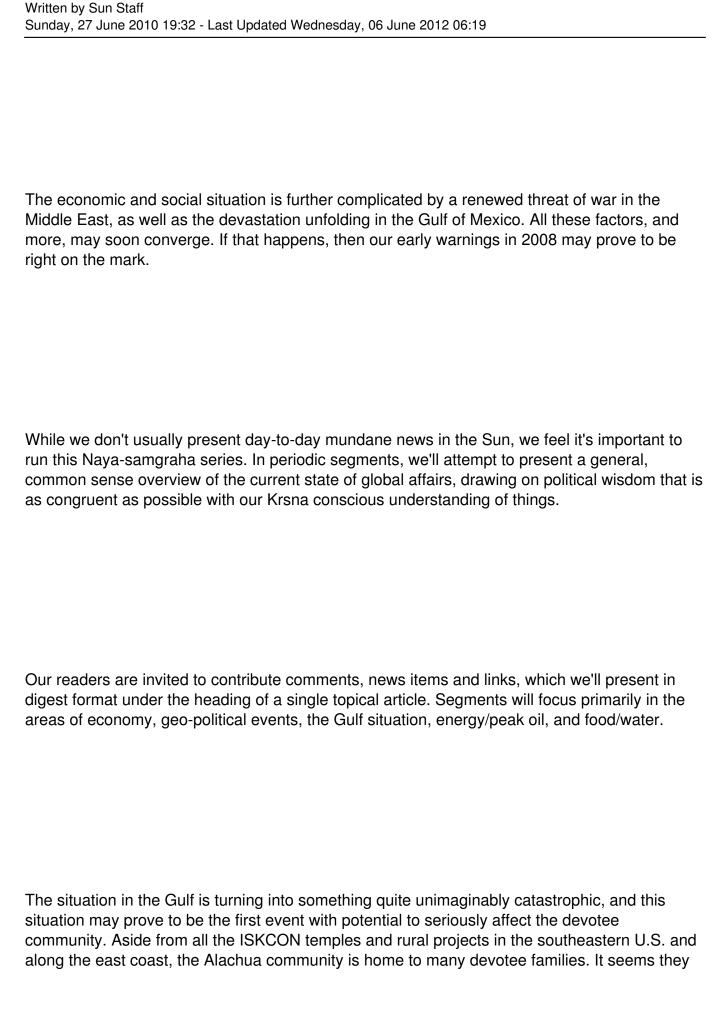
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, in September 2008, in which we encouraged ISKCON preaching projects to look seriously at their financial and infrastructure vulnerabilities, should things melt down completely.

Two years have elapsed since our first 'red flag' article on the state of global affairs, and many notable events have occurred since then, propelling the world along an even more haphazard trajectory. Many would agree that in the intervening years since the initial economic crisis of early '08, the majority of people have been lulled back into a false sense of security. We hear of 'green shoots' and a 'recovery from the recession', yet the same analysts who accurately predicted the last crash now tell us that the 2nd shoe is about to drop, and the impact is expected to be much more severe.

The false sense of confidence prevalent in the U.S. stems from three main things: a lack of knowledge (information), an unwillingness to confront painful reality, and the fact that the progressive meltdown has not yet fully trickled down. Many have lost homes, or will shortly. Many are unemployed and living on government subsidy. What stands between financial despair and the poverty of homelessness is the government's willingness and ability to provide a social services safety net, but the government's ability to keep that net in place is failing fast. When it drops and people are left on their own, then many of the predictions we made in our May 2008 article, "Global Meltdown", may come to pass.

Local ISKCON temples, like all other religious and social welfare organizations, may eventually be overrun by the needy. The first in line will be members of our own devotee congregations, and as history shows, we have long demonstrated our inability and unwillingness as a society to provide for the needs of the devotees. Imagine the long queue of people that could form behind them, knocking on the door of every temple and prasadam distribution program in the country.



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are now at risk of being evacuated from the area, hard as that is to imagine. We all have a duty to be as informed as possible about the situation unfolding there, so that needed assistance can be quickly and effectively deployed, if it comes to that.

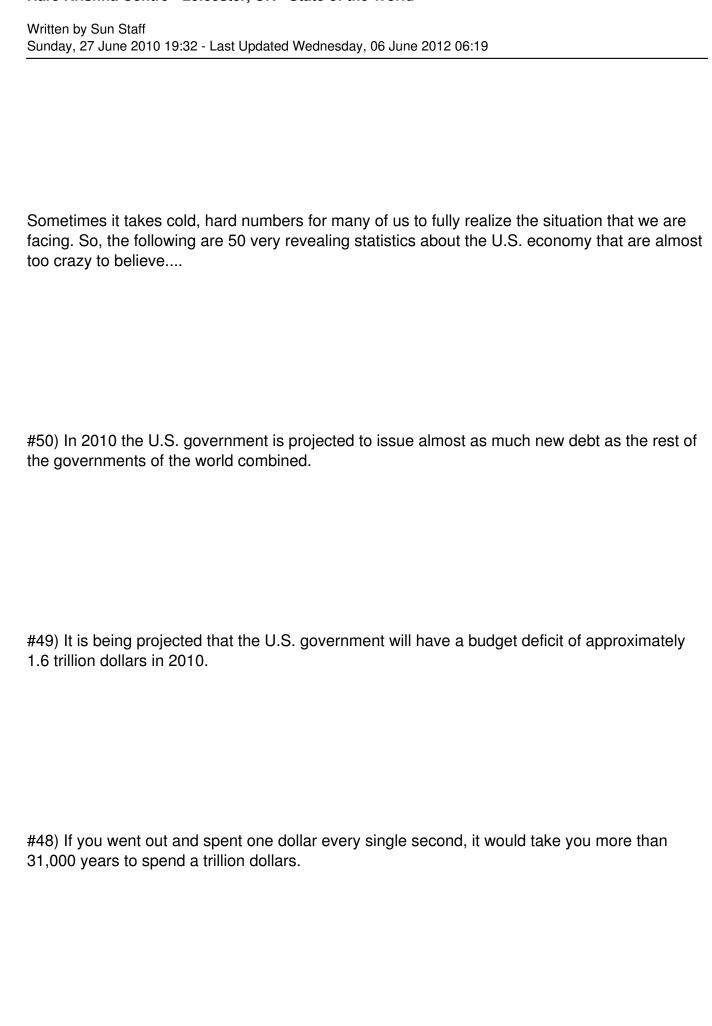
While the Gulf situation is of the most imminent concern, we've decided to first present some fundamental information on the state of the economy, particularly in North America. It's important to understand the severity of the financial crisis, which is now coming to a new crescendo, because availability of financial resources will have a huge impact on how emergencies in the Gulf can be practically handled. Towards that end, we begin today with a brief, bullet point outline of some of the facts that form the basis of concern on matters economic.

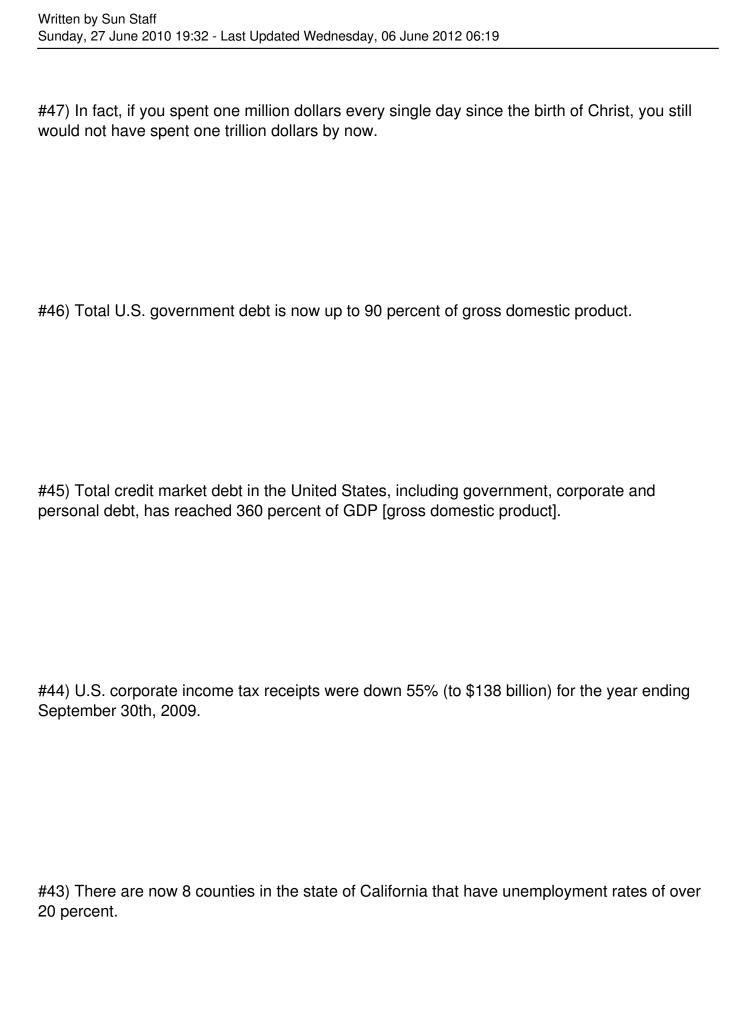
50 Statistics About the U.S. Economy

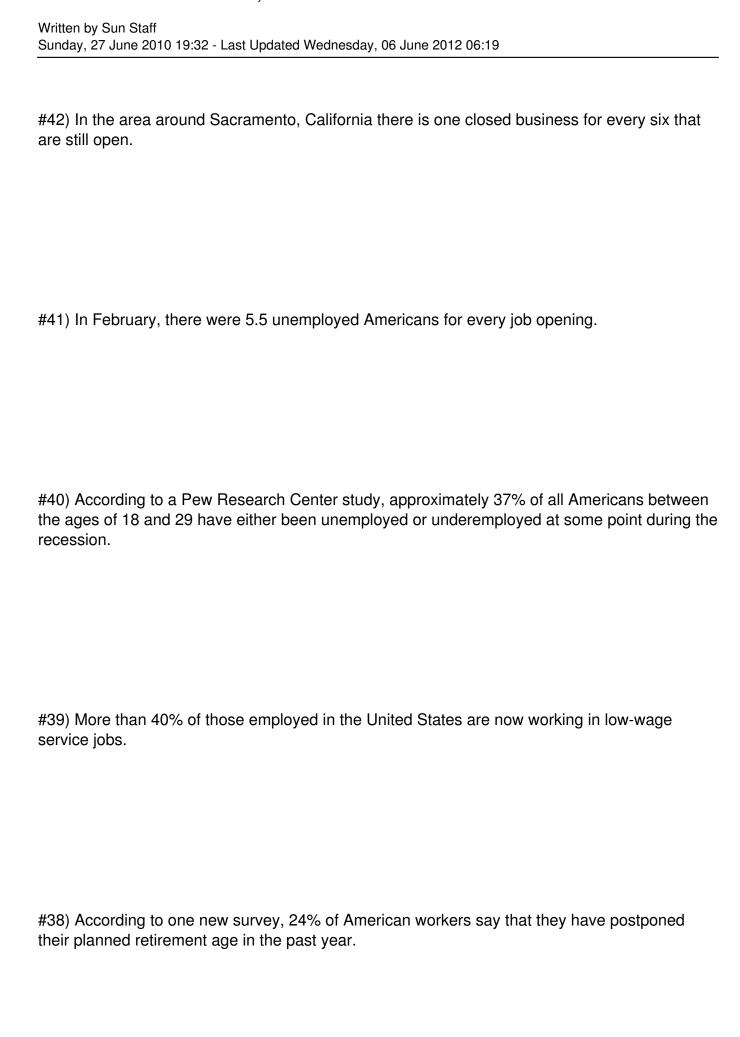
that are Almost Too Crazy to Believe

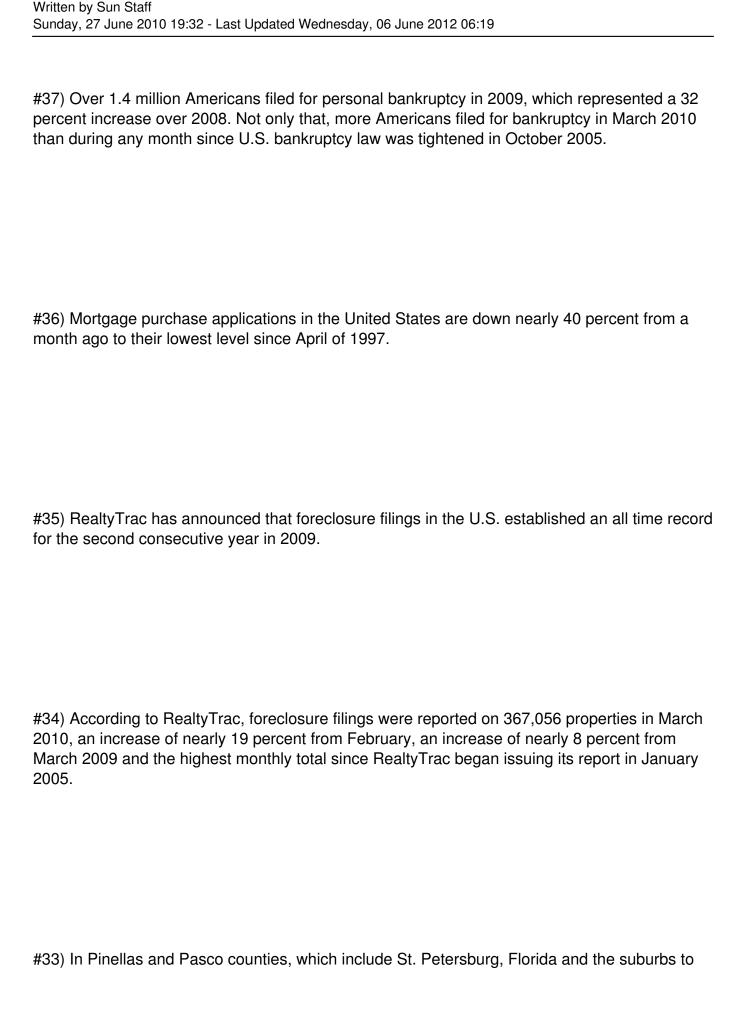
(By Michael Snyder)

But the truth is that you cannot defy the financial laws of the universe forever. What goes up must come down. The borrower is the servant of the lender. Cutting corners always catches up with you in the end.

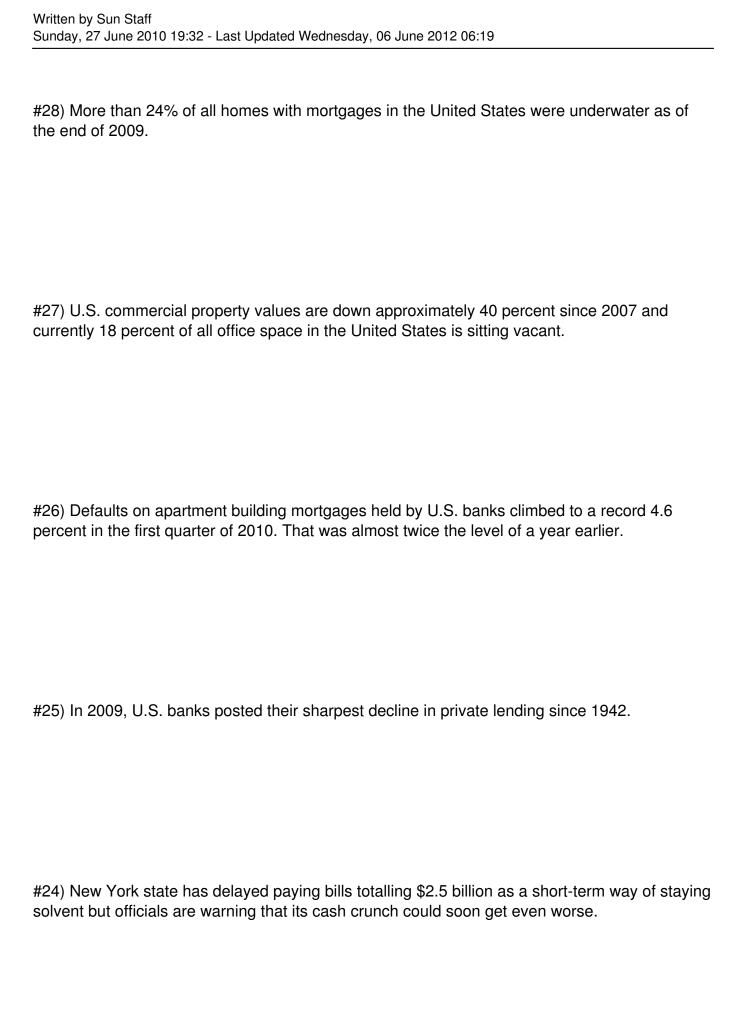


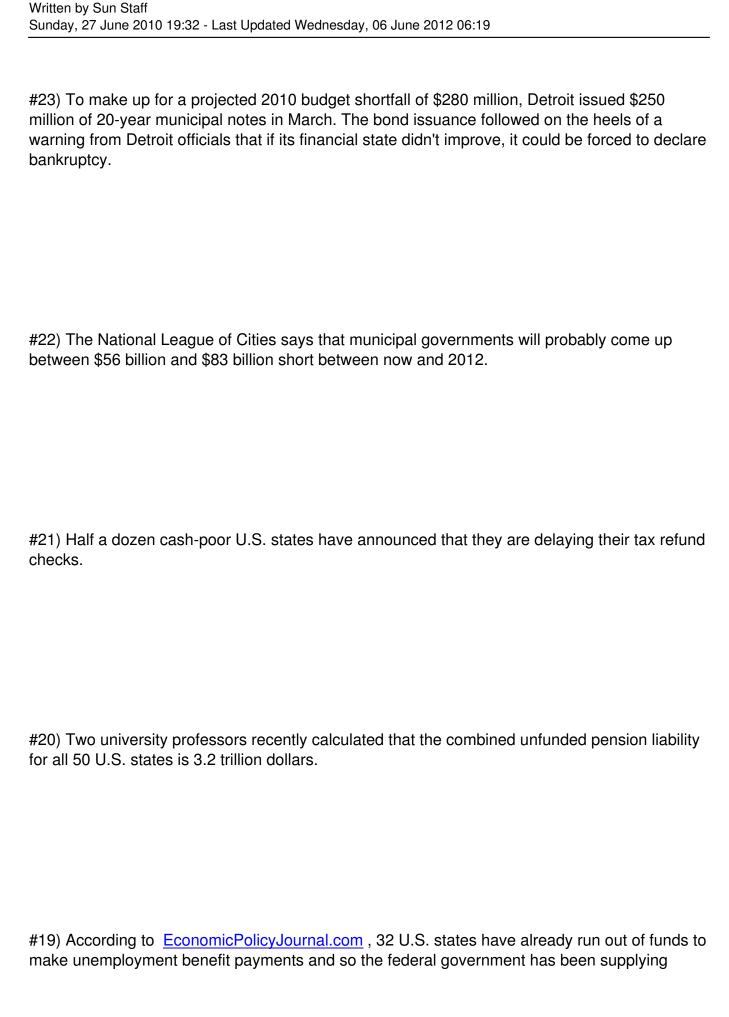


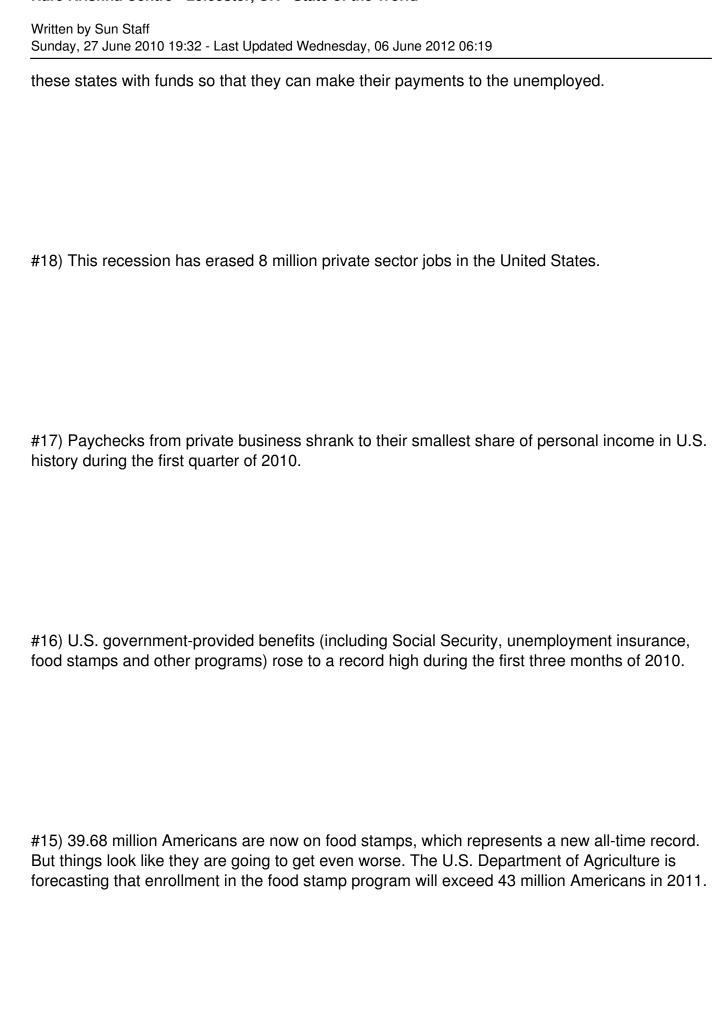


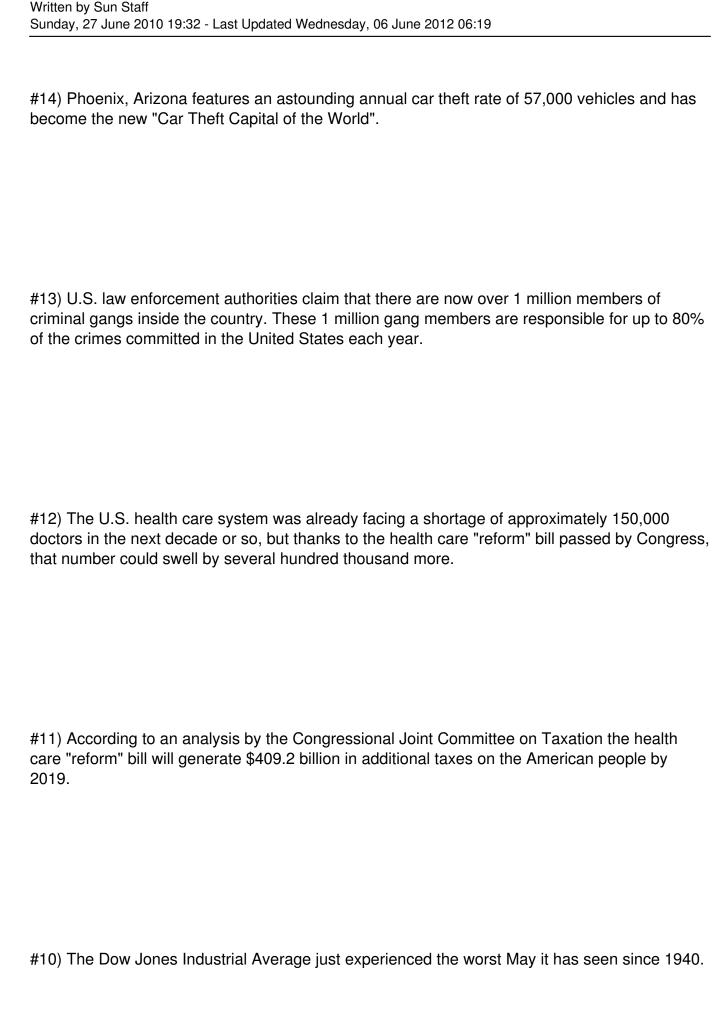


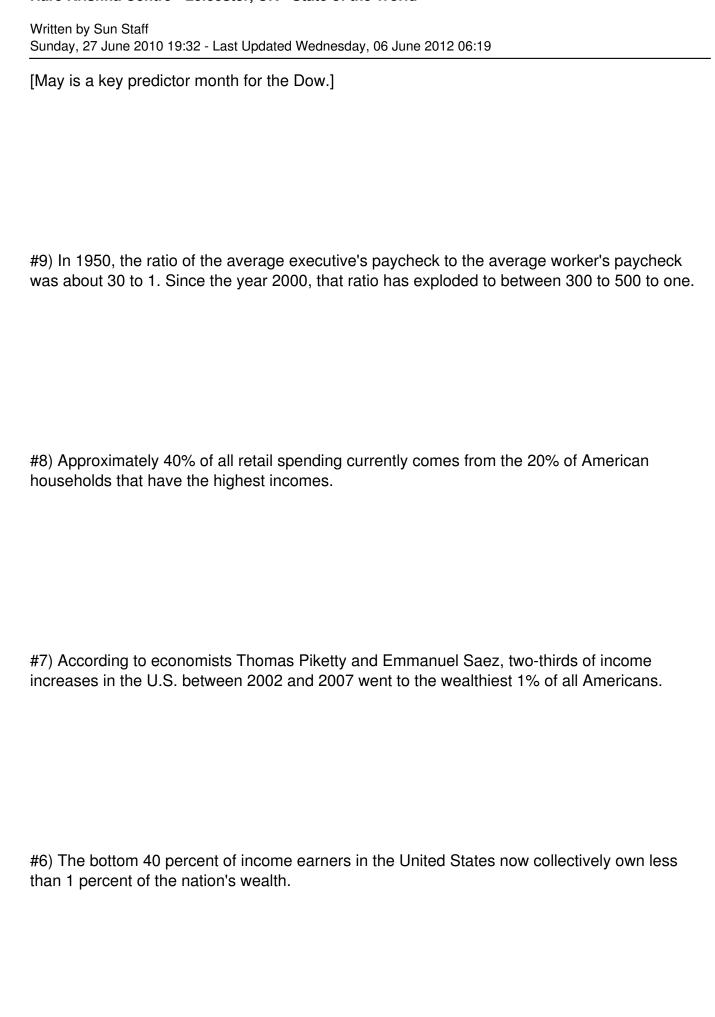
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the north, there are 34,000 open foreclosure cases. Ten years ago, there were only about 4,000.
#32) In California's Central Valley, 1 out of every 16 homes is in some phase of foreclosure.
#31) The Mortgage Bankers Association recently announced that more than 10 percent of all U.S. homeowners with a mortgage had missed at least one payment during the January to March time period. That was a record high and up from 9.1 percent a year ago.
#30) U.S. banks repossessed nearly 258,000 homes nationwide in the first quarter of 2010, a 35 percent jump from the first quarter of 2009.
#29) For the first time in U.S. history, banks own a greater share of residential housing net worth in the United States than all individual Americans put together.

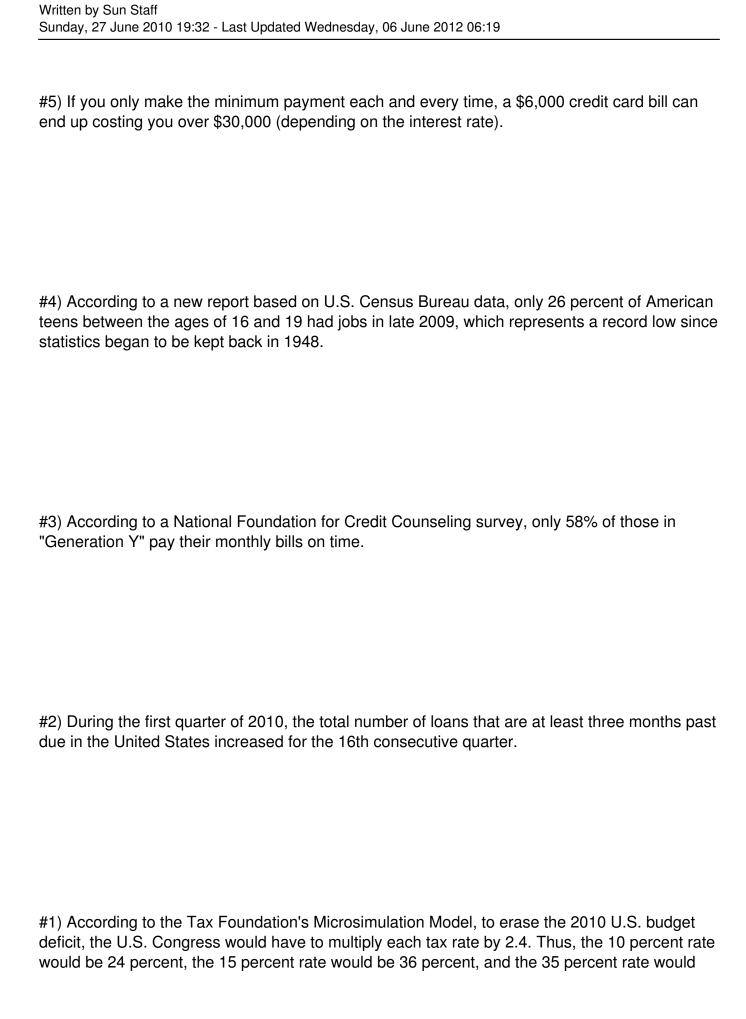












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have to be 85 percent.