

# Explaining Donald Trump's Rise With Economic Misinformation

By [Dean Baker](#)

Global Research, August 12, 2015

[FAIR](#) 7 August 2015

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Global Economy](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

(cc photo: Gage Skidmore)

Everyone has heard about Donald Trump's soaring poll numbers as the current leader in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. Many have also heard the explanation that he appeals to those who feel left behind by the economy. Unfortunately, the way the media often tell this story has little to do with reality.

We got a great example of [creative analysis](#) in the **Washington Post's Wonkblog** section. It tells us:

Non-college grads have struggled since the turn of the century: Economist Robert Shapiro estimates that incomes stagnated or declined from 2002 to 2013 for American households headed by workers without a degree, a marked departure from prior decades.

Both parts of this are seriously misleading. First, it is not just non-college grads who have struggled since the turn of the century. Most college grads have [seen little or no wage gains](#) since then. The second part is wrong also, since wages for non-college grads had also [been stagnant since 1980](#), so for them the experience of the last 15 years has not been "a marked departure from prior decades."

Later, the piece doubles down on this misleading picture:

Trump is selling an economic message that unifies growing concerns among liberals and conservatives alike, "which is that growing GDP doesn't necessarily help people on the bottom," said Mickey Kaus, the author of the **Kausfiles** blog.

The data clearly show that most people have been seeing little or none of the gains from economic growth over the last decade, not just people on the bottom.

*Economist **Dean Baker** is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC. A version of this post originally appeared on CEPR's blog **Beat the Press** ([8/6/15](#)).*

Messages can be sent to the **Washington Post** at [letters@washpost.com](mailto:letters@washpost.com), or via **Twitter** [@washingtonpost](#). Please remember that respectful communication is the most

effective.

The original source of this article is [FAIR](#)  
Copyright © [Dean Baker](#), [FAIR](#), 2015

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Dean Baker](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)