



A Crooked Piece of Time

*And How We Can Help
Straighten It Out*

Michael Piraino, April 17, 2010



Federal budget **surplus** at
start of the century:
\$236,000,000,000



Predicted 2009 federal **deficit**:
\$1,600,000,000,000

Source: William G. Gale and Allen J. Auerbach,
"An Update on the Economic and Fiscal Crises: 2009 and Beyond,"
The Brookings Institution



Americans who are thriving:

54%



Americans who are
struggling:

43%

Source: Gallup Healthways Well-Being Index, March 22, 2010



Change in unemployment rate since '06:

+127%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics



Rank of unemployment as a risk factor:

#1

Source: Don Peck, "How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America,"

The Atlantic, March 2010



World Ranking of US
economy:

#2



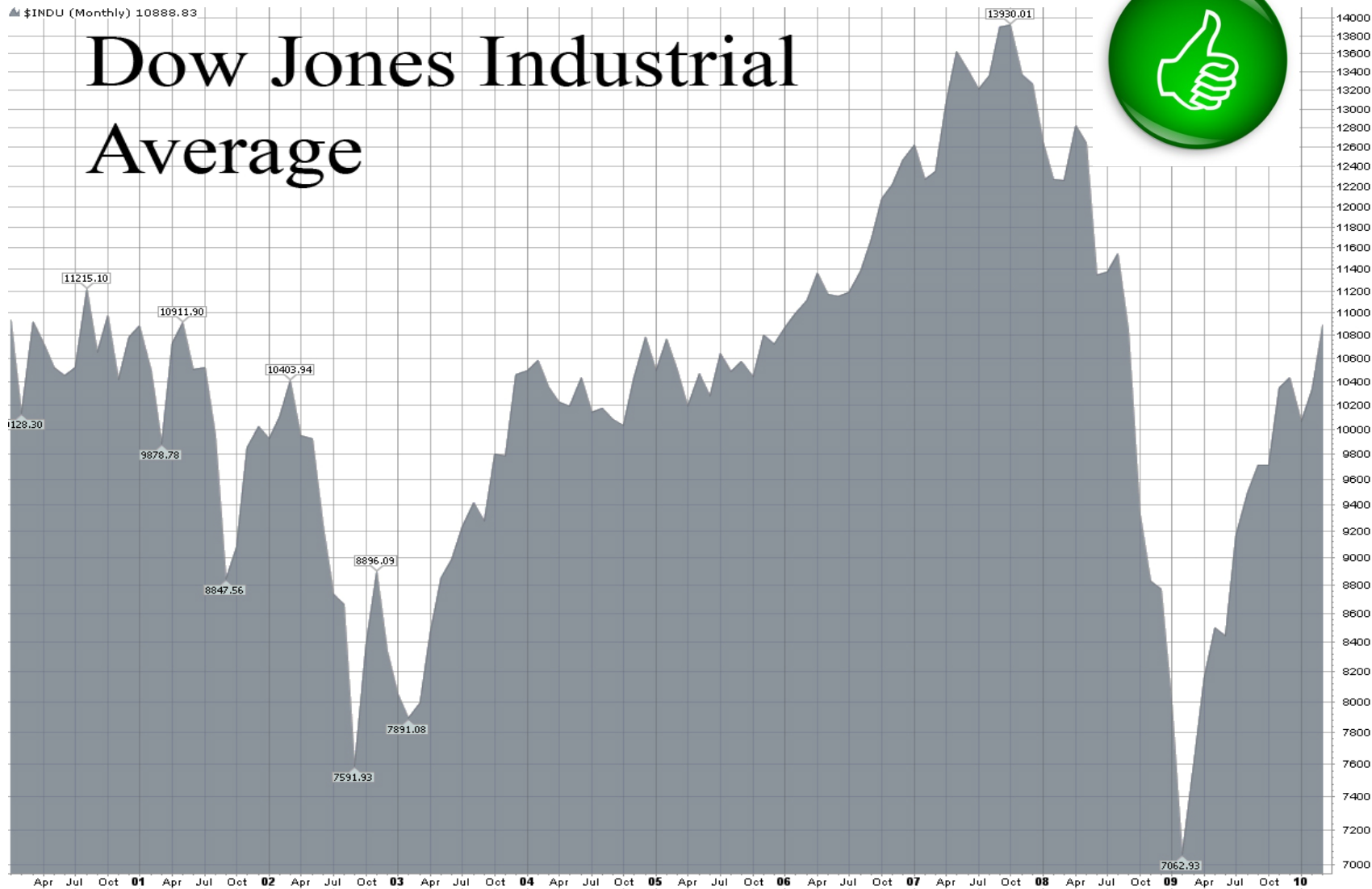
Ranking of US public
institutions:

#34

Source: World Economic Forum

▲ \$INDU (Monthly) 10888.83

Dow Jones Industrial Average





Americans who are “satisfied with
the way things are going:”

19%

(down 34% since 2006)

Source: Gallup Poll



Americans who trust the federal
government:

42%

Source: CNN/Public Research Corporation Survey, 2/23/2010

Public Trust in Government



The “Millennials”



- Problem solvers
- Technology users
- Team oriented
- Diverse
- Committed to family

Child Protection in the US



- 1990: “A national emergency”
 - US Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect



- 1997: “A system in crisis”
 - US Government Accounting Office



- 2010: Child maltreatment down 26%
 - Fourth National Incidence Study



Proportion of Americans who
know little about the foster
care experience

83%



Proportion who agree foster
care should be a national
priority:

87%

Source: National CASA Online Harris Poll



Actual foster care rates compared
to “Minimum Adequate Rates for
Children”:

72%

Source: Children’s Rights



Proposed decrease in federal
support for CASA/GAL work:

33%

Americans who say it is important
to be involved in a community
cause:

94%



Source: Parade Magazine March 7, 2010 poll



Foster youth aging out each year:
29,000



Proportion who feel close to one
biological family member:
94%



Proportion who felt very prepared
for independent living:
25%

Source: *Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth*

Youth Who Aged Out



- 3 times more likely not to have high school diploma or GED



- 2/3 said they were lucky to have been in foster care.



- Median earnings: \$8,000



- Most felt optimistic about their futures



- 43% had an unplanned pregnancy by age 24

Source: Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth

Youth Who Aged Out



- 37% less likely to have a job



- 3/4 said they were helped by their foster parents



- 27% less likely to have health insurance



- Most felt connected to school, work, or parents

Source: Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth

Equity in Foster Care



- African American and Alaska Native/American Indian children over-represented by 200%



- Hispanic/Latino children over-represented in about half the states



- Disparities exist for children with disabilities and LGBTQ youth

Children
served
in 2009:

237,095

New volunteers:

23,753



Sources

Full citations to sources and reading material may be found at
www.CASAforChildren.org