

“My Economy” - on Marketplace

The American economy looks pretty good on paper right now. We’re adding jobs – not as many as we’d like – but we’re adding them. The country’s gross domestic product is expanding — again, not as fast as we’d like, but it’s growing. Wall Street is doing pretty well. Corporate profits are up. The recession ended five and a half years ago.

My Economy tells the story of the new economic normal through the eyes of people trying to make it, because we know the only numbers that really matter are the ones in your economy.

#1 - My Economy: [Hard work, risk and opportunity in Alabama](https://www.marketplace.org/2015/11/04/economy/my-economy/my-economy-hard-work-risk-and-opportunity-alabama)

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***** This is the Intro - Catfish Farming in Alabama and on the streets in small town Alabama - does a good job at comparing two people in the town - one good, one a drop out. And its interesting about the Farm.

[The risks of going back to school can have economic rewards](https://www.marketplace.org/2017/09/28/economy/my-economy/risk-going-back-school-can-have-economic-rewards)

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/09/28/economy/my-economy/risk-going-back-school-can-have-economic-rewards>

For the latest installment in our series, Pam Palme tells her story of going back to school to pursue a career as a nurse anesthetist.

[Working as a nurse but wishing to be a mom](https://www.marketplace.org/2017/09/06/economy/my-economy/working-nurse-wishing-be-mom)

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/09/06/economy/my-economy/working-nurse-wishing-be-mom>

For the latest installment in the series, we hear from Joy O'Brien, who works at a community health clinic in Massachusetts.

I've always wanted children. I started buying books at the school book fair when I was 8 and writing notes to my future children, you know, "Oh, I really like this book in third grade. I hope you do too." And I've also always known that I wanted to adopt children. Life circumstances have actually made that an essential, but that's not a blow for me, except for the financial aspect, in that that's an unachievable thing right now.

We can't afford adoption, and I can't afford not to work full time to pay off my student loans. So I'm paying \$2,100 a month in loan repayments, which is about half of my salary.

A tale of two minimum wages -

June 30, 2017- longer podcast

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/06/29/world/minimum-wage-workers-tell-their-stories>

We hear many sides to the minimum wage debate: The small business owners who are afraid they won't make payroll if wages go up; the organizer advocating for higher wages for working families; the economist discussing if wages are keeping up with the cost of living.

But what about the people working minimum-wage jobs?

Marketplace Weekend reached out to farmers, restaurant workers, city employees and other people across the U.S. to find out what it's like to earn minimum wage, (and not just at a summer job).

Learning a trade instead of taking on debt

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/02/28/world/my-economy/my-economy-learning-trade-instead-taking-debt>

For this latest installment of our series My Economy, we hear from John Williams, a 25-year-old bus mechanic in the San Francisco Bay Area.

My older brother has a bachelor's degree in European history. He currently is teaching in a foreign country because he can't find a job in America. My sister has a bachelor's degree in economics. She works in marketing at a bank. So everyone that I know that got a degree basically did the same thing — they went into a lot of debt, they started the jobs and everyone wanted 10 years of experience but wanted to pay entry-level wages.

[A scientist worries about a climate "hostile to science and the truth"](https://www.marketplace.org/2017/07/25/economy/my-economy/my-economy-scientist-worries-about-climate-hostile-science-and-truth)

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/07/25/economy/my-economy/my-economy-scientist-worries-about-climate-hostile-science-and-truth>

For today's installment of our ongoing series, we hear from Geoff Reeves, a space scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

[Health care uncertainty means business uncertainty](https://www.marketplace.org/2017/06/26/economy/my-economy/my-economy-health-care-uncertainty-means-business-uncertainty)

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/06/26/economy/my-economy/my-economy-health-care-uncertainty-means-business-uncertainty>

For this latest installment of our series, we hear from Rebecca Dunne, a music teacher and publications technician in Fairbanks, Alaska. The importance of having health care from an employer.

[Life as a millennial renter priced out of the housing market](https://www.marketplace.org/2017/07/05/economy/my-economy/my-economy-life-millennial-renter-priced-out-housing-market)

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/07/05/economy/my-economy/my-economy-life-millennial-renter-priced-out-housing-market>

Much of the state of California is in the middle of a housing crunch. And a lot of the time, that means people aren't able to purchase a home, despite having a job and a steady income.

Rent is too high and home values are keeping first time home buyers from getting into the market. For today's installment of our ongoing series, My Economy, a young woman living in Costa Mesa, California, shares her experience:

Educational aspirations in a borderland

<https://www.marketplace.org/2016/02/05/world/my-economy/my-economy-economic-aspirations-borderland>

Bowie High School sits just 100 yards from the U.S-Mexico border. It's one of the oldest operating high schools in El Paso, Texas. Students have a view of Juárez from their basketball courts.

Many students at Bowie and its surrounding schools live in poverty. The unemployment rate in El Paso is a pretty decent 4.8 percent, but about 25 percent of its residents live below the poverty line. Many families can't afford to provide enough food or a decent place to live. For some students, this stark reality has made them ambitious to make a different sort of life, both for them and their families.

A Dreamer caught between DACA and what comes next

<https://www.marketplace.org/2016/12/13/world/my-economy-dreamer-caught-between-daca-and-what-comes-next>

There are plus or minus 700,000 people in the U.S. brought here illegally as children who now contribute to the economy legally as a result of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals — DACA for short.

The Obama-era executive order establishing that program was sharply criticized by candidate Donald Trump. Those criticisms are being soft-peddled by President-elect Donald Trump, but DACA participants — or DREAMers, as they're known — are caught in-between.

Kathia Garcia told her story for an installment of our series “My Economy.”

Refugee says America is still 'the land of opportunity'

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/02/08/world/my-economy-refugee-why-america-still-land-opportunity>

President Donald Trump's Jan. 27 executive order on immigration put new limits on the United States' refugee program and barred entry for all refugees for 120 days. Patrick Ngalamulume and his brother George came to the U.S. as refugees from Zambia in 2008 and are now students at the University of Idaho. Patrick told part of his family's story for our series "My Economy":

Treating wastewater at the bottom of the world

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/08/08/economy/my-economy/treating-wastewater-bottom-world>

This has a few links to other podcasts. Might be interesting...

I run wastewater treatment plants.

I was going through my bachelor's during the recession — during the worst parts of the recession. If there's one thing that I learned while I was at school, it was that the assumed constants can always change. So I knew that I wanted a job that I enjoyed but would always have job security.