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## How We're Doing: A Composite Index of Global and National Trends & Metropolitan Las Vegas: Challenges, Opportunities, and a Vision

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# How We're Doing: A Composite Index of Global and National Trends

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Dr. William Antholis

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Director, Brookings Mountain West Initiative

Las Vegas, NV

September 8, 2009

*We the People, of the United States,  
in Order to form a more perfect Union,  
establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,  
provide for the common defense,  
promote the general Welfare and  
secure the Blessings of Liberty  
to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this  
Constitution for the  
United States of America*

# “Common Defense”



	<b>Jimmy Carter</b> (1977)	<b>Ronald Reagan</b> (1981)	<b>George HW Bush</b> (1989)	<b>Bill Clinton</b> (1993)	<b>George W. Bush</b> (2001)	<b>Barack Obama</b> (2009)
U.S. defense budget (billions of constant fiscal 2009 dollars)	<b>\$383</b>	<b>\$428</b>	<b>\$502</b>	<b>\$416</b>	<b>\$395</b>	<b>\$697</b>
Number of U.S. military personnel stationed abroad	<b>459,000</b>	<b>502,000</b>	<b>510,000</b>	<b>308,000</b>	<b>255,000</b>	<b>476,000</b>
U.S. defense budget as a percentage of GDP	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
Number of U.S. military combat fatalities	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>212</b>
Number of nations that have tested a nuclear weapon	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Armed conflicts worldwide	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>
Civilian casualties due to armed conflicts worldwide	<b>64,000</b>	<b>207,000</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
World population (in millions)	<b>4,134</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>5,456</b>	<b>6,115</b>	<b>6,747</b>
Share of global population living on less than \$1 a day	<b>NA</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>29.8%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
Greenhouse gas concentrations in atmosphere (CO2 and equivalents; 470 parts per million is considered dangerous)	<b>361</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>439</b>

## “General Welfare”



	<b>Jimmy Carter</b> (1977)	<b>Ronald Reagan</b> (1981)	<b>George HW Bush</b> (1989)	<b>Bill Clinton</b> (1993)	<b>George W. Bush</b> (2001)	<b>Barack Obama</b> (2009)
Real GDP growth (annualized for first quarter of presidency)	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>-.05%</b>	<b>-5.5%</b>
Unemployment Rate	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
Consumer confidence (Conference Board)	<b>98.2</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>117.2</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>49.3</b>
Inflation (6-mo change in CPI, annualized)	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Interest Rate on 30- year fixed mortgage	<b>8.86%</b>	<b>16.70%</b>	<b>10.20%</b>	<b>7.42%</b>	<b>7.16%</b>	<b>5.42%</b>
Public debt as a percentage of GDP	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>33.0%</b>	<b>54.8%</b>
Percentage of large metros with house price drops	<b>NA</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>61%</b>
Percentage of large metros with employment declines	<b>11%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>97%</b>

## “General Welfare”



	<b>Jimmy Carter</b> (1977)	<b>Ronald Reagan</b> (1981)	<b>George HW Bush</b> (1989)	<b>Bill Clinton</b> (1993)	<b>George W. Bush</b> (2001)	<b>Barack Obama</b> (2009)
Oil imports (as a percentage of U.S. oil consumption)	<b>48.0%</b>	<b>46.2%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>55.9%</b>	<b>70.6%</b>	<b>78.4%</b>
Federal Reserve balance sheet as a percentage of GDP	<b>7.04%</b>	<b>5.69%</b>	<b>5.69%</b>	<b>6.20%</b>	<b>6.29%</b>	<b>14.51%</b>
Personal savings rate	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
Life expectancy for people born in year of election	<b>72.6</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>77.8 (est.)</b>
Percentage of non-elderly Americans lacking health insurance in year of election	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>

# “Blessings of Liberty”



	<b>Jimmy Carter</b> (1977)	<b>Ronald Reagan</b> (1981)	<b>George HW Bush</b> (1989)	<b>Bill Clinton</b> (1993)	<b>George W. Bush</b> (2001)	<b>Barack Obama</b> (2009)
Approval rating of the president as of July 15	62%	60%	49%	45%	57%	60%
Approval rating of Congress, as of July 15	34%	38%	28%	24%	49%	33%
“Satisfied with the way things are,” as of July 15	NA	33%	44%	24%	51%	31%
Satisfaction improvement over 6 months	NA	+16%	-1%	-5%	-5%	+14%
Approval rating of the president by independent voters, as of July 15	59%	60%	48%	41%	52%	54%
Gap between Republican and Democratic presidential approval ratings	30	44	50	58	59	65

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