



June 14, 2012

5 Questions: Obama's "Economic Framing Speech"

Tomorrow, President Obama will deliver what has been previewed as an "economic framing speech." Five questions that need to be answered in the president's speech.

- 1. 3 ½ Years In, When Will America See Robust GDP Growth?** The Commerce Department revised down GDP growth for the first quarter of 2012 to [1.9 percent](#). GDP growth for all of 2011 was [1.7 percent](#). The Congressional Budget Office projects growth of just 2 percent in 2012 and 1.1 percent in 2013. The post World War II average has been 3.3 percent.
- 2. With Household Net Worth Dropping 40 Percent, When Will Home Values Come Back?** The Federal Reserve says the net worth of American households has [fallen](#) by almost 40 percent from 2007-2010. Median net worth fell from \$126,400 to \$77,300. Much of the drop is due to the housing market.
- 3. What is the Priority with High Unemployment – Public Sector or Private Sector?** The Labor Department shows unemployment at 8.2 percent for a record 40 straight months. Private sector unemployment is at 7.8 percent (9.4 million workers) and government unemployment is at 4.2 percent (899,000 workers).
- 4. Is the Disparity in Compensation Among Public and Private Workers Healthy?** Total compensation (wages and benefits) for a private sector worker is \$28.78 per hour. For a state and local government worker it is \$41.16 per hour or 30 percent more.
- 5. What is Your Plan for More Manufacturing in the U.S.?** Orders for goods from U.S. factories are at the [lowest level](#) in six months. Manufacturing has lost 433,000 jobs since Obama took office.