### Thirty-five years of upward wage, income, and wealth redistribution

National Academy of Social Insurance 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Policy Research

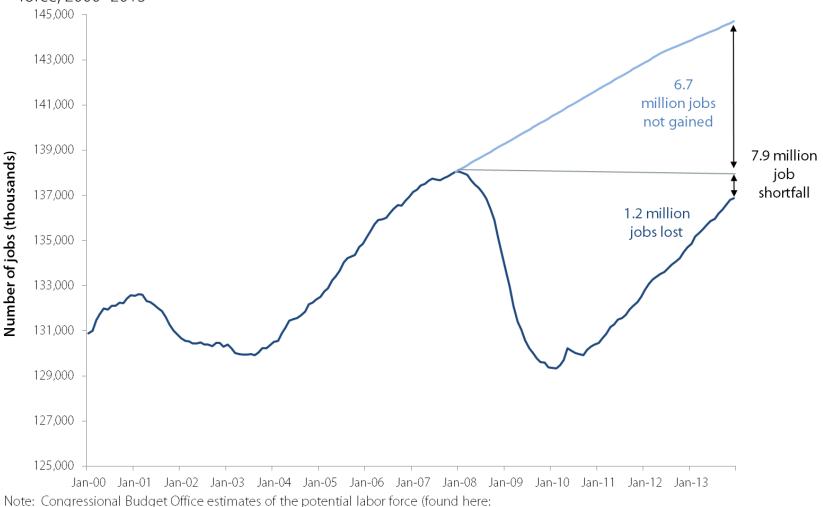
### Heidi Shierholz, Ph.D. Economist, Economic Policy Institute

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### The shadow of the Great Recession looms

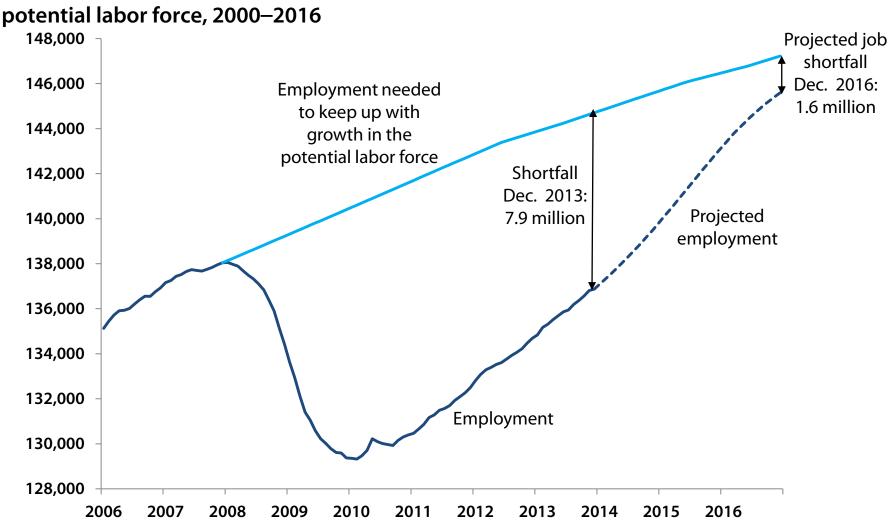
#### Recession has left a job shortfall of nearly 8 million

Payroll employment and the number of jobs needed to keep up with the growth in the potential labor force, 2000–2013



http://cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/43910\_KeyAssumptionsProjectingPotentialGDP.xls) are used to calculate the number of jobs needed to keep up with the growth in the potential labor force.

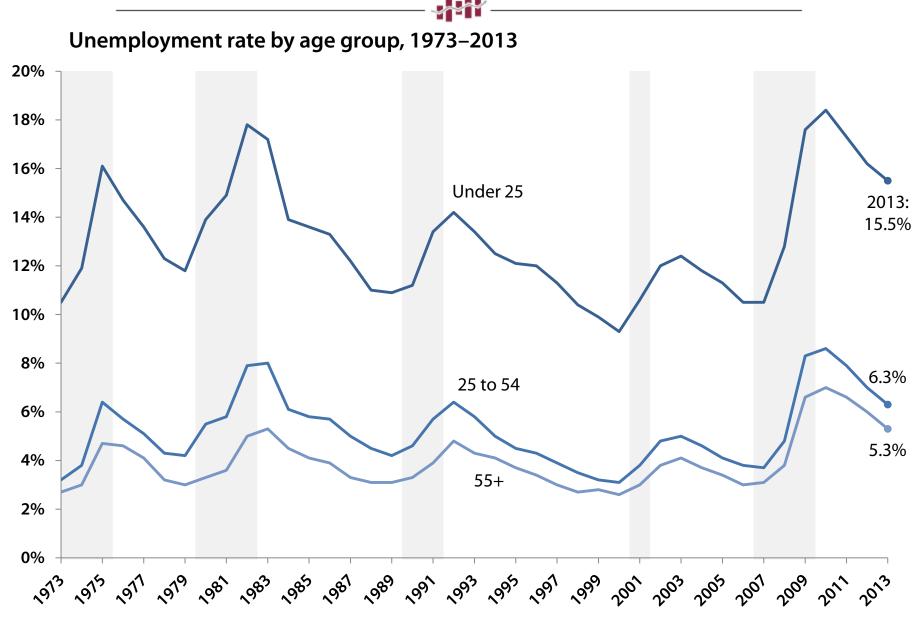
Source: Authors' analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics public data series and Congressional Budget Office data



Payroll employment and the number of jobs needed to keep up with the growth in the

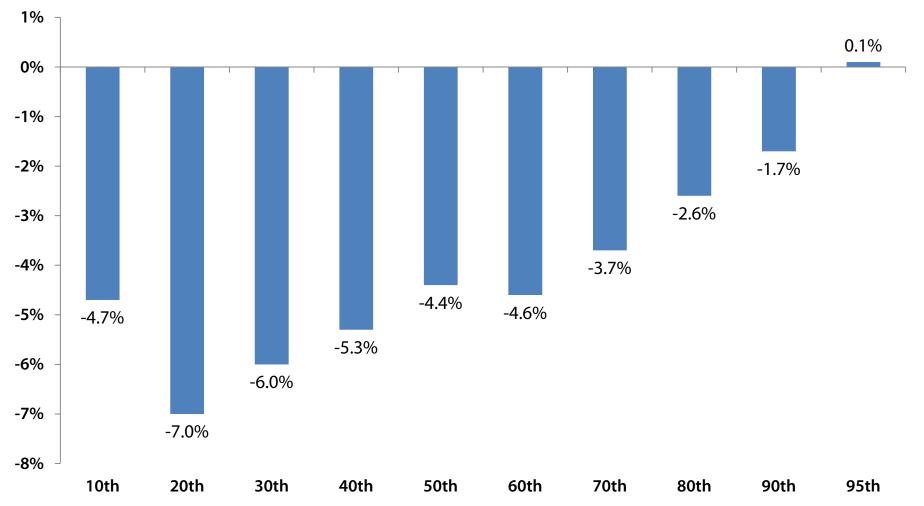
Note: Congressional Budget Office estimates of the potential labor force are used to calculate the number of jobs needed to keep up with the growth in the potential labor force.

Source: Author's analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics public data series and Congressional Budget Office data



Note: Shaded areas denote recessions. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey public data series

# Change in real hourly wages between 2009 and 2013 at various parts of the wage distribution



Note: Data are by wage percentile. Due to data availability, 2013 is actually the 12-month average of data from December 2012 to November 2013.

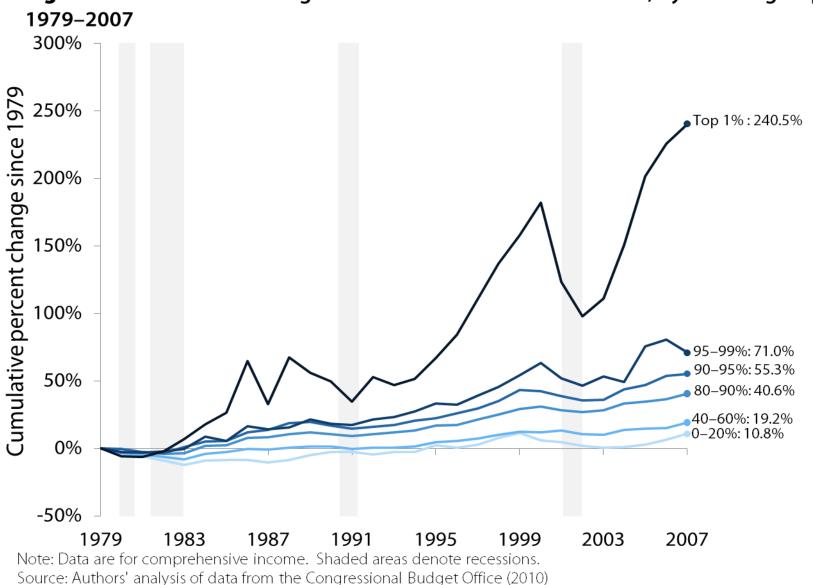
Source: Author's analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group microdata

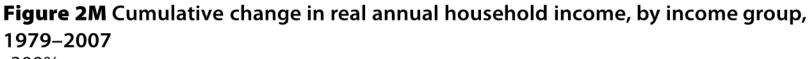
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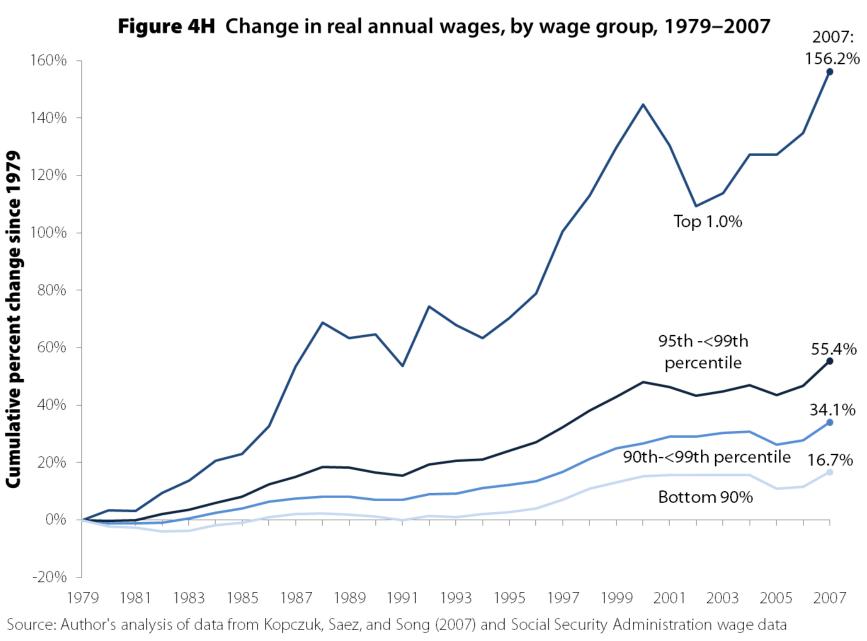
But skewed wage growth did not just emerge in the aftermath of the Great Recession.

Rising inequality blocked wage and income growth for most of the workforce for most of the last *generation*.

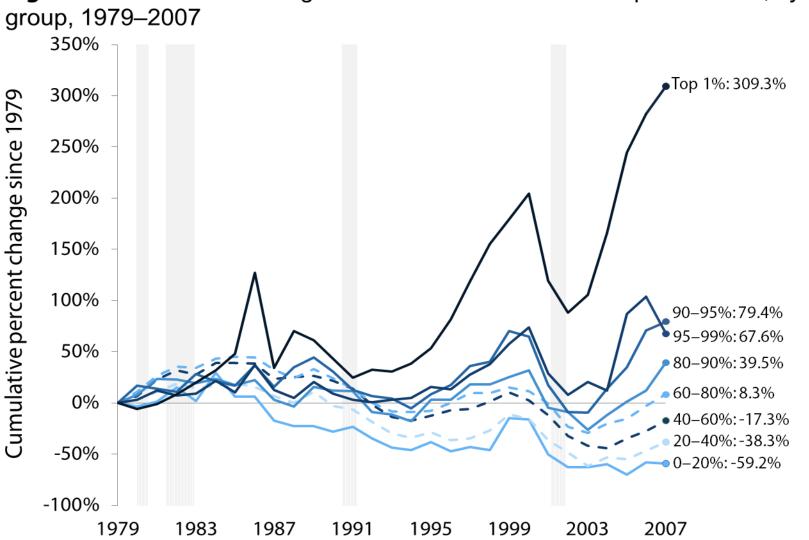
First the trends...







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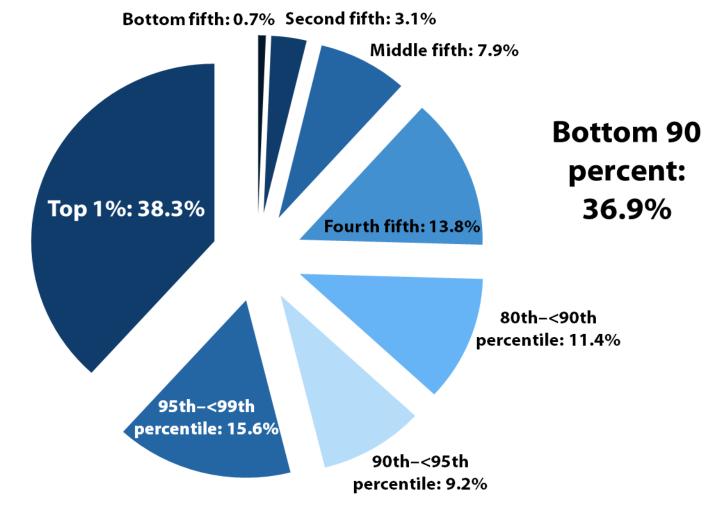
**Figure 2U** Cumulative change in real annual household capital income, by income group, 1979–2007

Note: Shaded areas denote recessions. Source: Authors' analysis of Congressional Budget Office (2010)

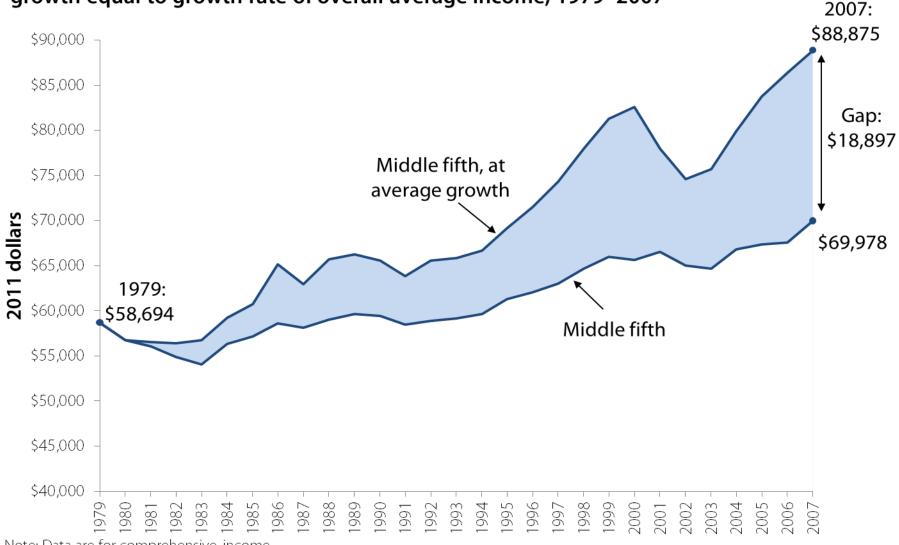
### Now the *consequences...*

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**Figure 2Y** Share of total household income growth attributable to various income groups, 1979–2007

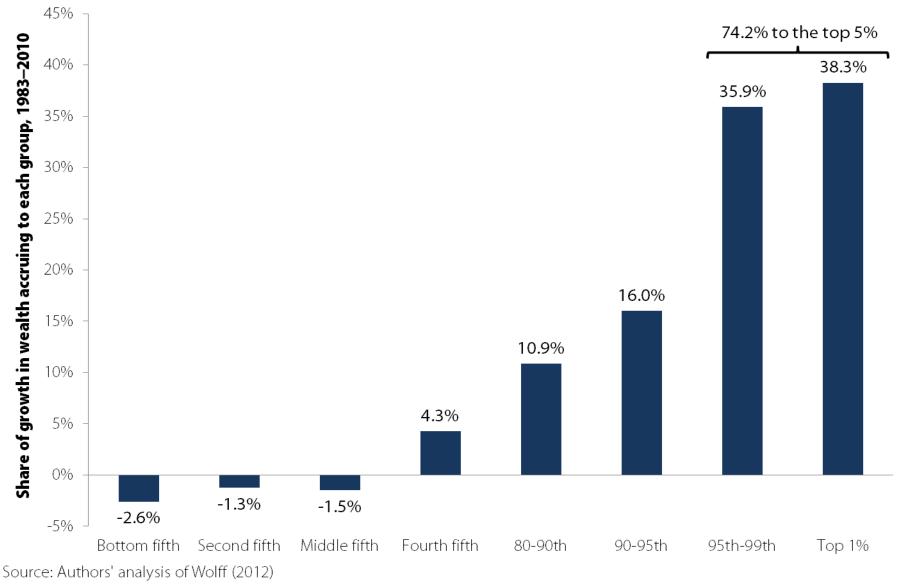


Note: Data are for comprehensive income. Source: Authors' analysis of Congressional Budget Office (2010) **Figure 1K** Household income for the middle fifth, actual and projected assuming growth equal to growth rate of overall average income, 1979–2007



Note: Data are for comprehensive income.

Source: Authors' analysis of Congressional Budget Office (2010)





# A market economy where growth is shared broadly has two key elements 1. Jobs

 Use all levers of macroeconomic policy to ensure full employment

### 2. Good Jobs

- Strengthen labor standards and institutions
- Make globalization a fairer deal for US workers
- Reduce the rents claimed by the finance sector and CEO's

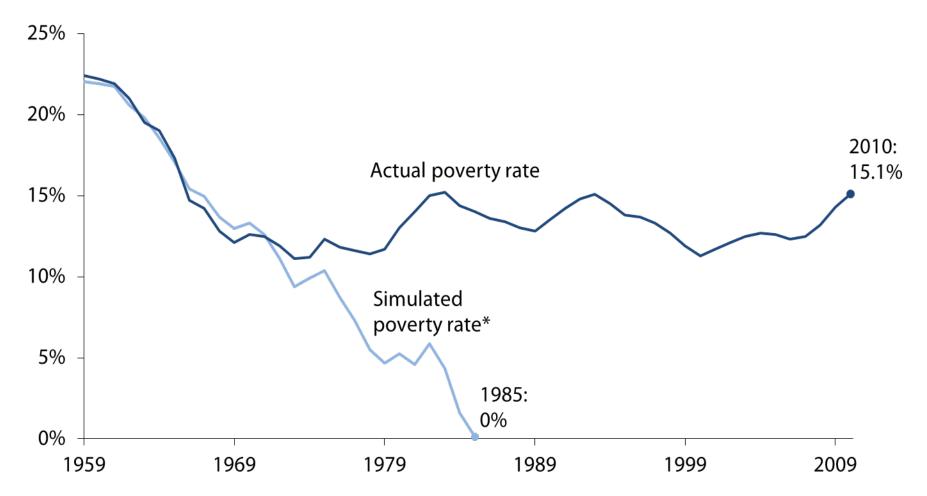
For more information:

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## **EXTRA SLIDES**

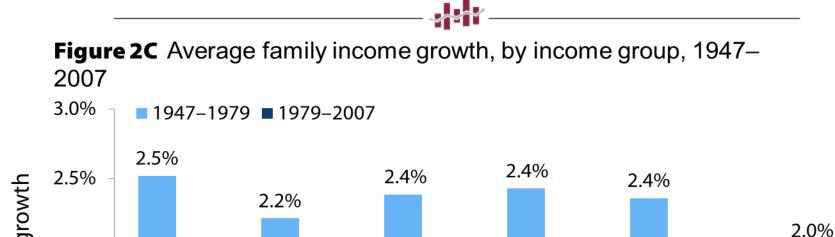
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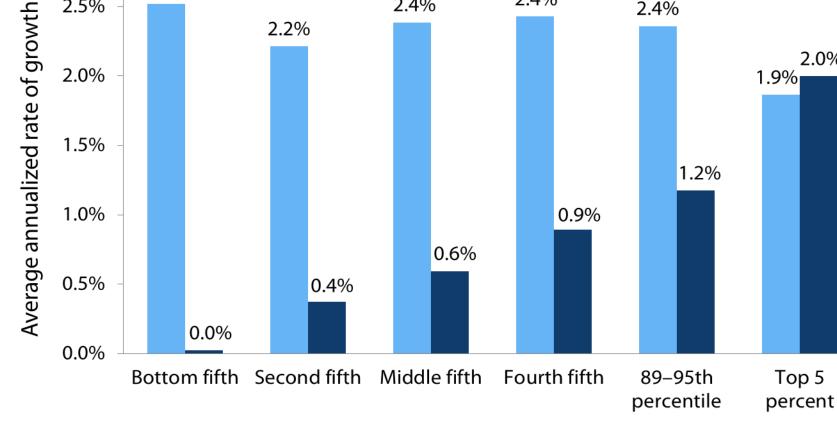
### Figure 7M Poverty rate, actual and simulated, 1959–2010



\* Poverty rate simulated by a model based on the relationship between per capita GDP growth and the official poverty rate between 1959 and 1973.

Source: Authors' analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement Historical Poverty Tables (Tables 2 and 4) and Bureau of Economic Analysis National Income Product Accounts public data. Analysis using Danziger and Gottschalk (1995)





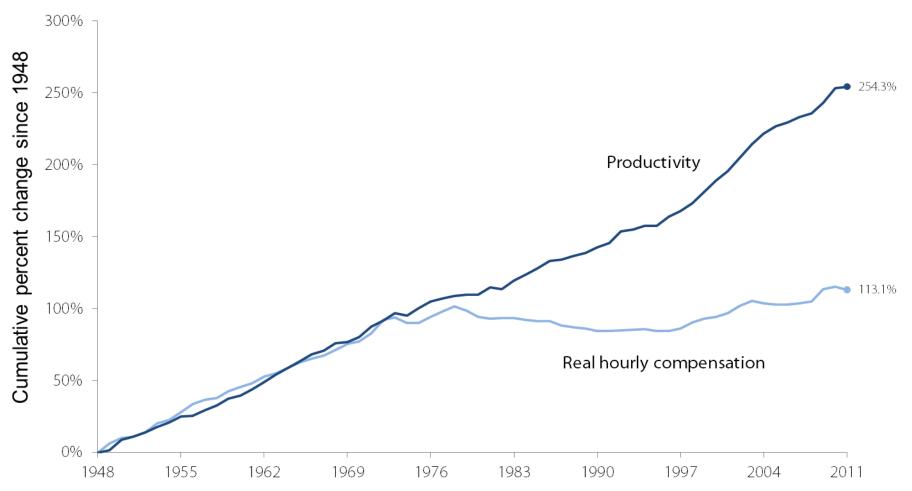
\*Data are for market based income of tax units.

2.0%

Source: Authors' analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement Historical Income Tables (Table F-2, F-3, F-5), and Piketty and Saez (2012)

1.9%

**Figure 4U** Cumulative change in total economy productivity and real hourly compensation of production/nonsupervisory workers, 1948–2011



Note: Data are for production/nonsupervisory workers in the private sector and productivity of the total economy. Source: Authors' analysis of unpublished total economy data from Bureau of Labor Statistics Labor Productivity and Costs program, wage data from BLS Current Employment Statistics program, and Bureau of Economic Analysis National Income and

