

# DETROIT

## Millions suffer as Trump's economy crumbles

By Stacy M. Brown  
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America's economy is not collapsing by accident. Under President Donald Trump, Russell Vought, and Stephen Miller, a deliberate plan has taken hold, a plan that weakens the labor market, starves families of food and health care, and rewards the wealthy with power and profit. What was once called "economic populism" has become an organized campaign of cruelty that has left the country broken and millions of Americans in despair.

The labor market is in free fall. UPS cut 48,000 workers, the largest reduction in its 117-year history. Amazon is firing up to 30,000 corporate employees. Intel eliminated 24,000 positions. Nestlé slashed 16,000 jobs. Ford and Accenture each let go of 11,000 workers. Novo Nordisk terminated 9,000 employees. Microsoft cut 7,000. PwC laid off 5,600. Salesforce dismissed 4,000. Paramount reduced 2,000. Target eliminated 1,800. Kroger cut 1,000. Applied Materials reduced 1,444, and Meta let go of 600. The layoffs have rippled across every major industry, devastating workers, families, and communities nationwide. According to Intellizence data, more than 4,200 companies have announced mass layoffs since January. The Associated Press reported that executives cite Trump's tariffs, erratic trade actions, and federal instability as the leading causes of widespread job losses and frozen hiring.

While the job market collapses, Trump's government shutdown has unleashed a humanitarian crisis. More than 42 million Americans, many of whom supported Trump, will lose access to food assistance through SNAP and WIC. Another 25 million people will lose their health care. Trump also canceled nearly 94 million pounds of food aid, including meat, eggs, and dairy, that were supposed to reach food banks across the country. For those working on the front lines of hunger relief, it was an invisible theft—food promised but never delivered. The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed it will not release \$6 billion in contingency funds, claiming the money can only be used for "unforeseen events" such as natural disasters. Yet Trump approved \$40 billion for Argentina, spent \$1 billion for a private jet stationed in Qatar, and at least \$300 million to destroy historic White House property and construct a new ballroom for himself. Taxpayers have been forced to pay an

### Financial tips for women

(StatePoint) Women face unique financial challenges, such as career breaks for caregiving and gender wealth gaps.

**CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®** professionals are offering insights into some of these challenges, along with tips to help women build wealth and achieve financial independence.

**Wealth gap:** Across all workers nationwide, women were typically paid 75 cents for every dollar paid to a man in 2023, a figure that's held steady for decades. Given this persistent wage gap, it's no surprise that the TIAA Institute finds that women have 30% less in retirement income than men, a big issue considering that American women live 5.8 years longer on average.

**Caregiving roles:** Women are often the primary caretaker to children and other family members, such as elderly parents, and are more likely than men to take time off from work to fulfill this role. This can impact long-term savings, professional advancement opportunities and Social Security benefits.

**Health issues:** While no one likes to imagine getting sick or feeling unwell, the unfortunate reality is that 1 in 8 American women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Other women's health

estimated \$30 million for his golf trips, \$520 million for unnecessary National Guard deployments, and \$172 million for jets requested by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. None of those expenditures has lowered health care costs or provided relief to struggling families.

While ordinary Americans lose jobs, food, and medical care, Trump's personal income has skyrocketed. The Trump Organization reported \$864 million in revenue in the first half of 2025, a 17-fold increase from the previous year. Most of that money came from cryptocurrency ventures. Financial filings show \$463 million from sales of World Liberty Financial tokens and another \$336 million from TRUMP meme coins. The investigation revealed that foreign investors were heavily involved. Hong Kong-based billionaire Justin Sun, who reportedly was charged with fraud by the SEC in 2023, bought \$75 million worth of Trump tokens. Abu Dhabi's state-controlled MGX used Trump's stablecoin to fund a \$2 billion investment in Binance. Chinese businessman Guren "Bobby" Zhou, reportedly under investigation for money laundering in Britain, purchased \$100 million in tokens. Trump, meanwhile, eliminated federal crypto enforcement teams, withdrew regulatory warnings, and pardoned Binance founder Changpeng Zhao after his conviction for anti-money-laundering failures. Ethics experts have called it the most blatant conflict of interest in U.S. history.

Vought, Trump's former budget director and the author of Project 2025, created the framework for this collapse. His plan dismantles federal oversight, guts safety nets, and funnels public funds into private and partisan interests. Miller, Trump's longtime political enforcer, has turned those ideas into action by starving agencies, blocking aid, and tightening control of the economy under the White House. Wall Street, meanwhile, is celebrating the pain. UPS shares surged nine percent after its mass firings, and Amazon's stock climbed on news of more job cuts. Economists say this "profit from pain" economy has become Trump's defining legacy, an America where corporate success depends on working-class suffering. The fallout is everywhere. Food banks are running out of supplies. Hospitals are closing departments. Families are skipping rent to pay for prescriptions. Millions who once believed Trump would protect them are now struggling to survive policies that favor billionaires.

conditions, while not life-threatening, can also be costly to manage. Menopause, for example, associated with more than 100 symptoms, costs U.S. women \$26.6 billion annually in medical expenses and lost work, according to the Mayo Clinic.

**Financial abuse:** Financial abuse is a common form of domestic abuse whereby a member of the household seizes control over another's financial resources. While financial abuse transcends socioeconomic boundaries, the majority of victims are women.

So how can women overcome these challenges? Here are several strategies for building wealth and holding onto it:

- Be proactive about potential health issues. Understand the price tag involved for care and adjust your budget accordingly. Have disability insurance to replace income should a medical condition sideline you, and a life insurance plan in place before a serious diagnosis to secure an affordable policy.

- Select a health insurance plan that meets your needs.
- Establish an emergency fund.
- Diversify your income streams.
- Begin investing in a well-diversified portfolio as early as possible.

# NATIVE SUN

## The Entrepreneurial mindset: Why managing a business isn't the same as building one

By Alvin C. Hill IV, MBA  
SPECIAL TO THE SUN



While recently finishing up my MBA, I found that most of my classmates were intrigued by the fact that I was running my own business. Why? Because they were continuing their education in order to put themselves in better positions for promotions at their respective corporations. This observation revealed something fascinating about how we approach business education.

One of my childhood friends, who had obtained her MBA about twenty years prior, had already run the idea by me that she was taught how to run someone else's business and not to start her own. Because the HBCU she attended did not offer classes about entrepreneurship, only management. This gap in education speaks volumes about how recently we've begun to recognize entrepreneurship as a distinct discipline worthy of serious academic study.

The difference between entrepreneurship and business management may seem a blur to an untrained mind, but a closer look will open your eyes to why there is an obvious separation, and why it matters for anyone considering their business future.

When managing a company, you inherit a systemized entity that you're expected to optimize. While changes may be welcomed, the foundational aspects are already available to you. You step into a structure with established processes, proven revenue streams, and defined roles. Your job is to make incremental improvements, manage existing resources efficiently, and maintain the momentum that's already been built.

When you start your own company, you run across a totally different set of obstacles, including funding, personnel, and actually creating the systems necessary to run your business successfully. There's no play-book waiting for you, no established departments to delegate to, and no proven product-market fit to rely on. When starting your own company, you must be at least moderately versed at different aspects of business—marketing, financial management, sales, operations, product development, and more.

While a manager usually has the people in place in these departments, and, yes, you must be unhappy with the performance of the people in certain positions, you have the backing to find new people to fill those positions. An entrepreneur rarely has this luxury in the early stages. You're often the marketing department, the finance team, and the customer service representative all rolled into one.

The Foundation of Entrepreneurial Success  
When I speak to entrepreneurs about running their business, the first thing I do is help them understand the difference on what makes a business successful, with and

without the right systems in place. This starts with understanding what success looks like and reverse engineering that success from where you are.

A business plan can help, but it's planning that serves as why there is an obvious separation. When managing a company, you work within an existing plan. When building one, you create the plan from scratch—and then watch it evolve as reality collides with your assumptions.

Running a business is inherently messy. Things don't go according to plan, markets shift, customers behave unpredictably, and funding challenges emerge at the worst possible moments. This uncertainty sometimes leads to stagnation, so you must get used to the cycle of planning, implementing, and adjusting. This is the only way to find success as an entrepreneur, and it takes a certain type of person to thrive under those circumstances.

You need resilience. You need adaptability. You need the ability to make decisions with incomplete information. These aren't just nice-to-have qualities—they're survival skills in the entrepreneur world.

Learning from Those Who've Been There  
Lessons are the only awards for trying in entrepreneurship. There's no certificate for effort, no participation trophy for launching a business that fails. Newcomers are often upset when they realize how much work building a startup is. They watch other people and listen to other stories, hoping to find some kind of shortcut, but that type of thinking only leads to destruction.

The shortcut is learning how to avoid the mistakes that others have made and learning how to implement the things that worked for them. This is why most millionaires recommend reading biographies and autobiographies of successful people—not for inspiration alone, but for the tactical lessons embedded in their journeys.

Every successful entrepreneur has a graveyard of failed experiments behind them. Every breakthrough came after multiple setbacks. Every smooth-running system was built through trial and error. When you study these stories, you're not just learning what to do—you're learning what to expect, what to avoid, and most importantly, what mindset to cultivate.

**The Takeaway**  
So you can pull the details necessary to help you in your life and business. Whether you're considering entrepreneurship or already building something, understand this: the entrepreneurial journey is fundamentally different from climbing the corporate ladder. It requires different skills, a different mindset, and a different relationship with risk and uncertainty.

The good news? These skills can be developed. The mindset can be cultivated. And the lessons are available to anyone willing to learn from those who've walked the path before them.

The question isn't whether you're ready now—it's whether you're ready to begin the journey of becoming ready.

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