

# Post-Great Recession Blues (and then some...)

## Coalition of Labor Union Women 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention

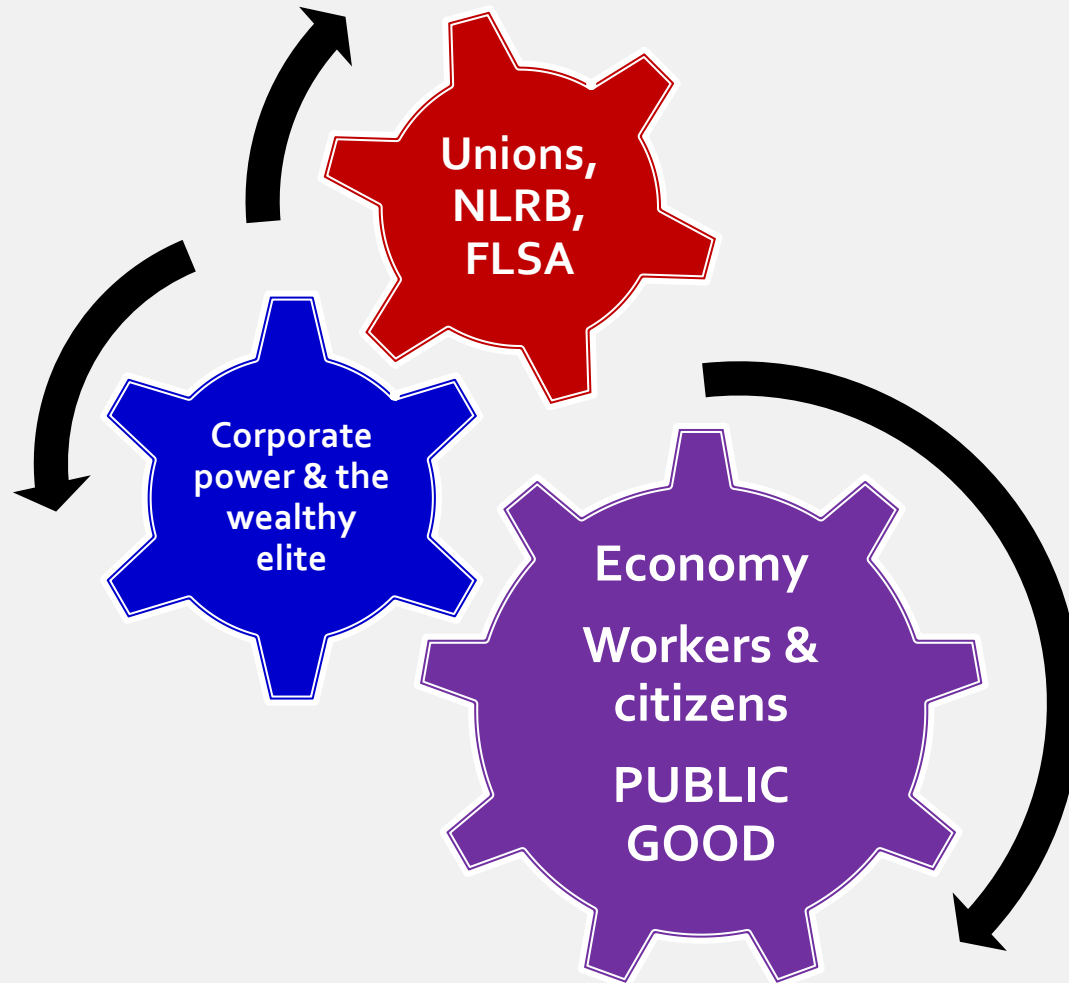
November 20, 2015  
Sacramento, California

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Institute for Research & Labor Employment  
University of California, Berkeley

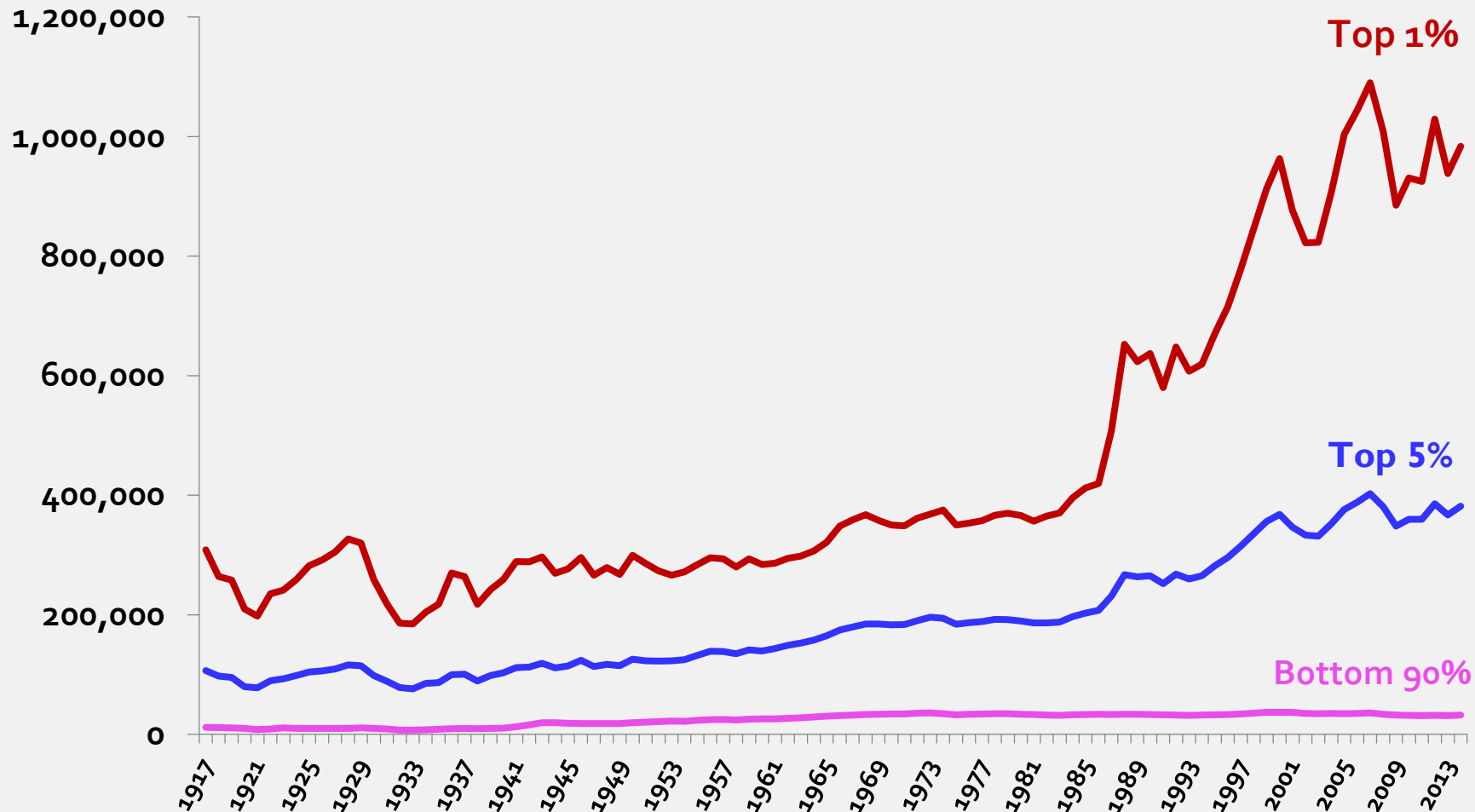


**Fairness & dignity**

**Shared sacrifice & shared prosperity**



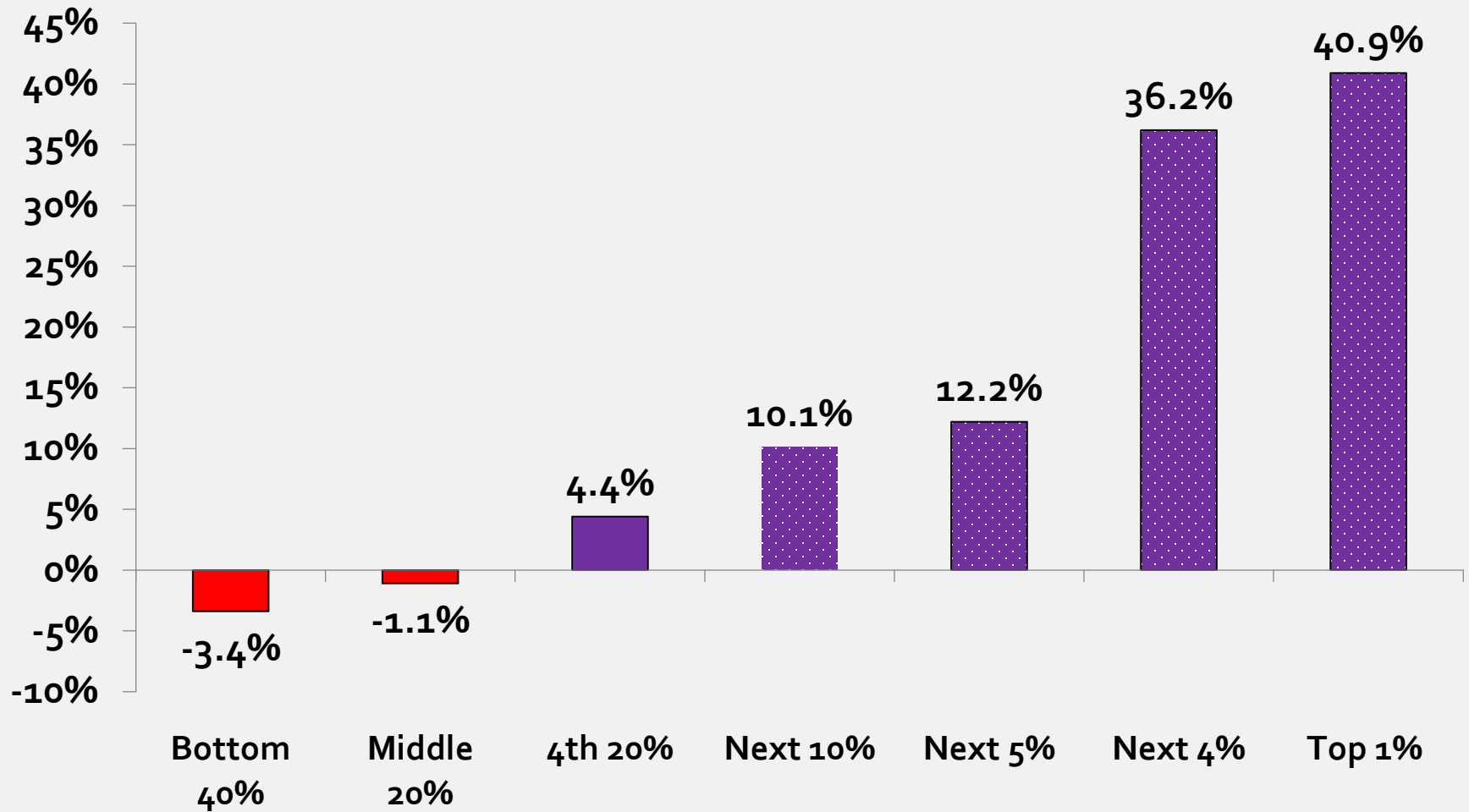
# U.S. Incomes



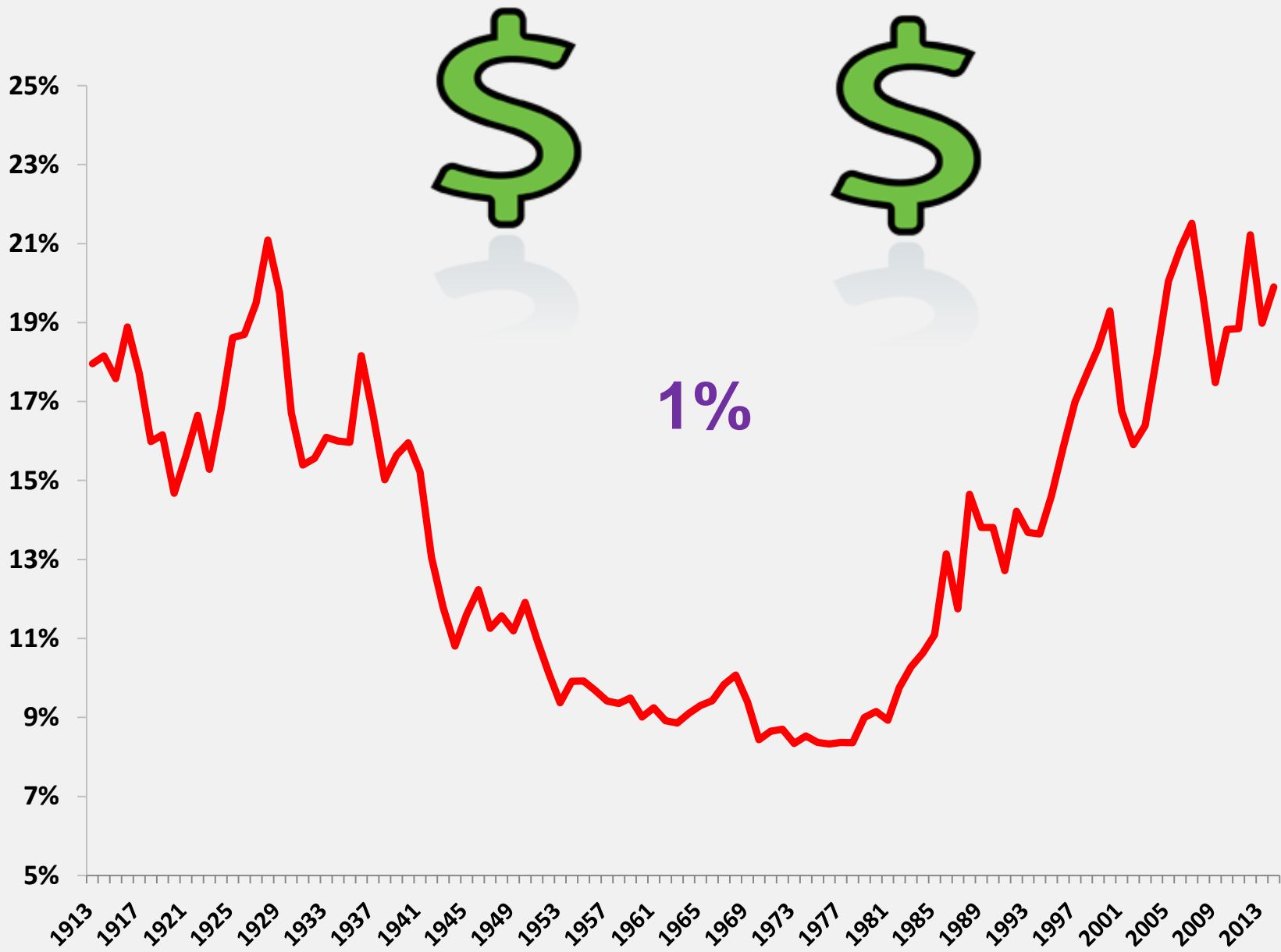
Source: Piketty, T. and Saez, E., The World Top Incomes Database. U.S. before-tax income, excluding K-gains.

# The rich are getting richer!

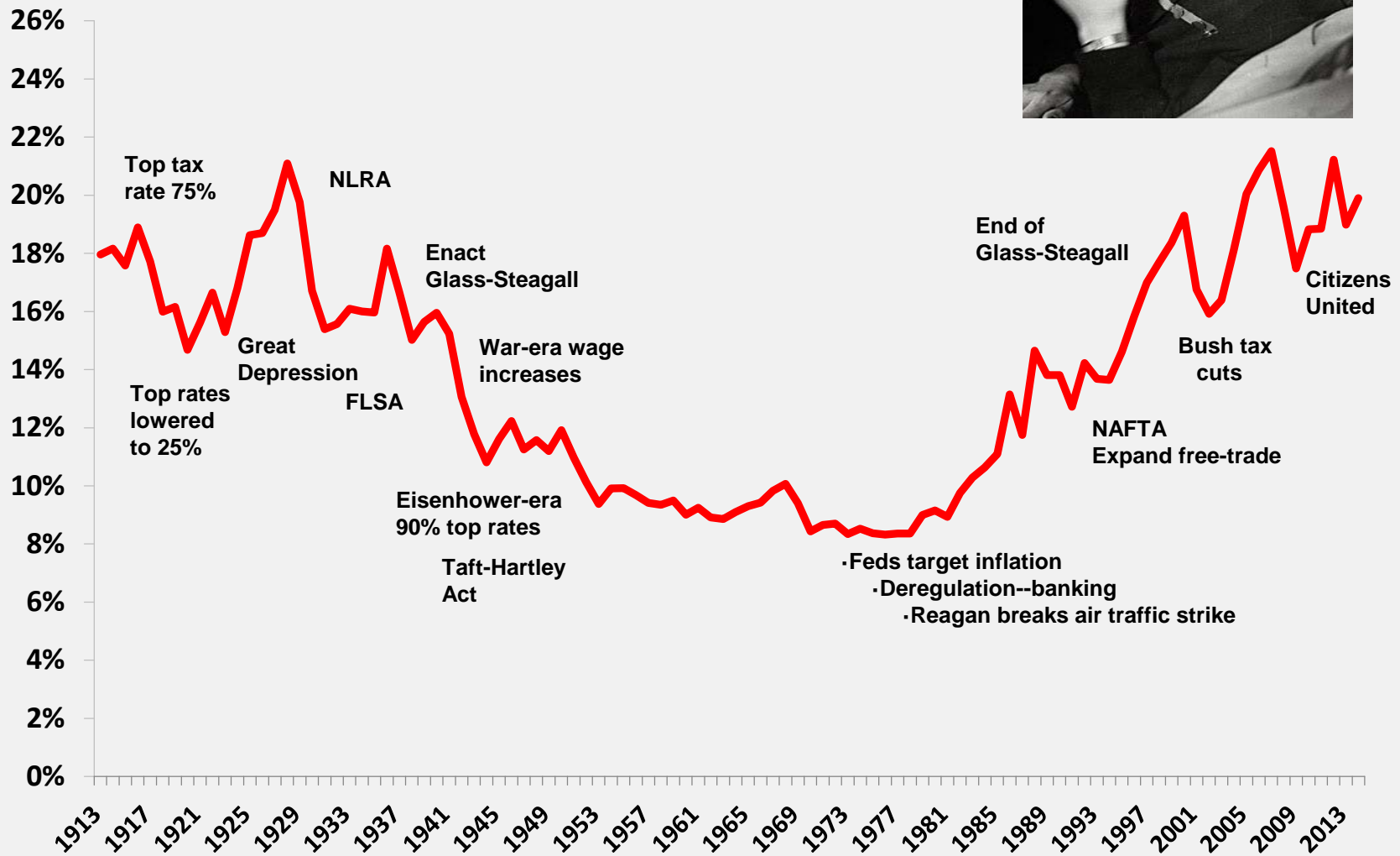
(How gains in U.S. wealth were distributed, 1983-2013)



Source: Ed Wolff, Survey of Consumer Finances.

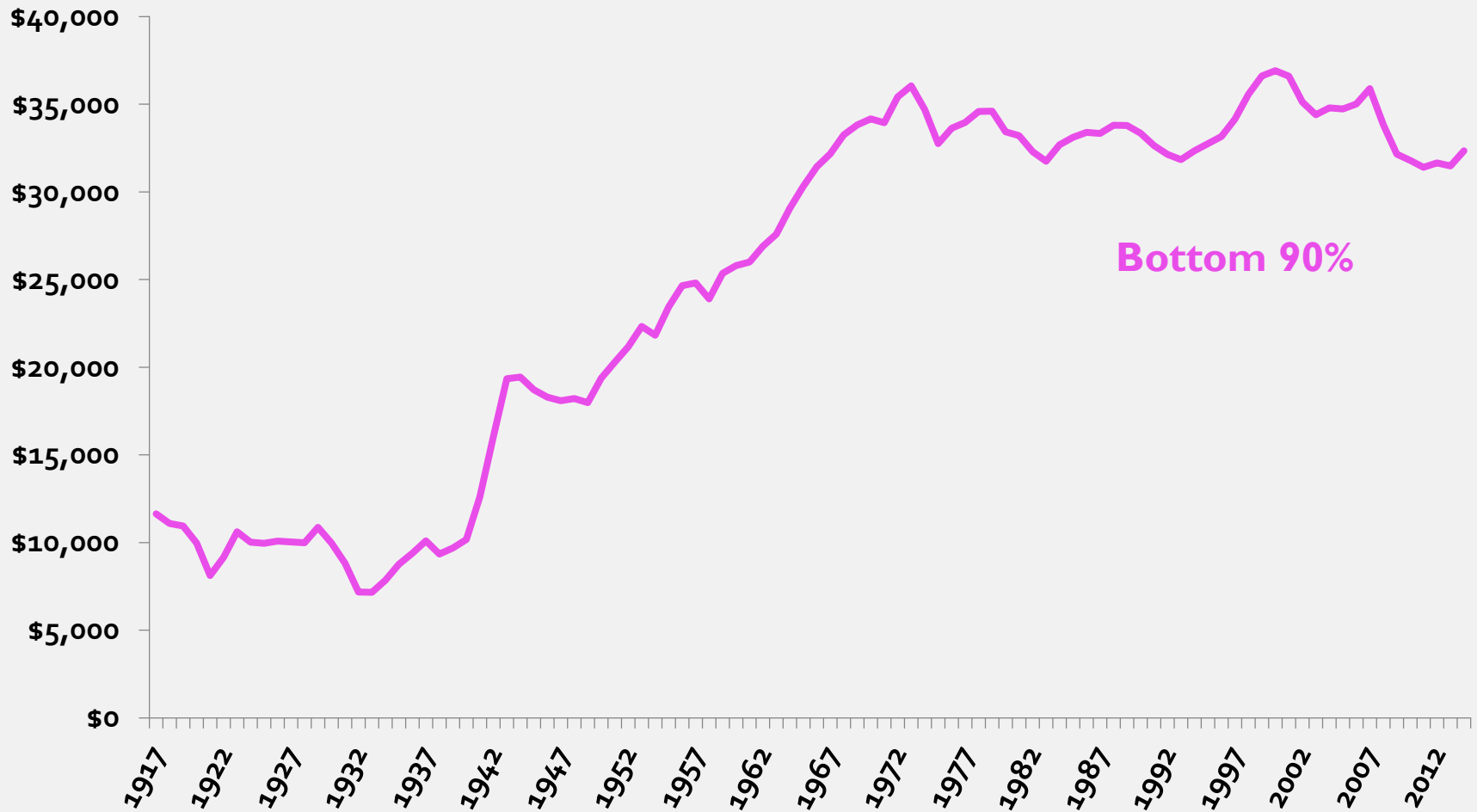


# The 'free market' fallacy (Top 1% of income shares)



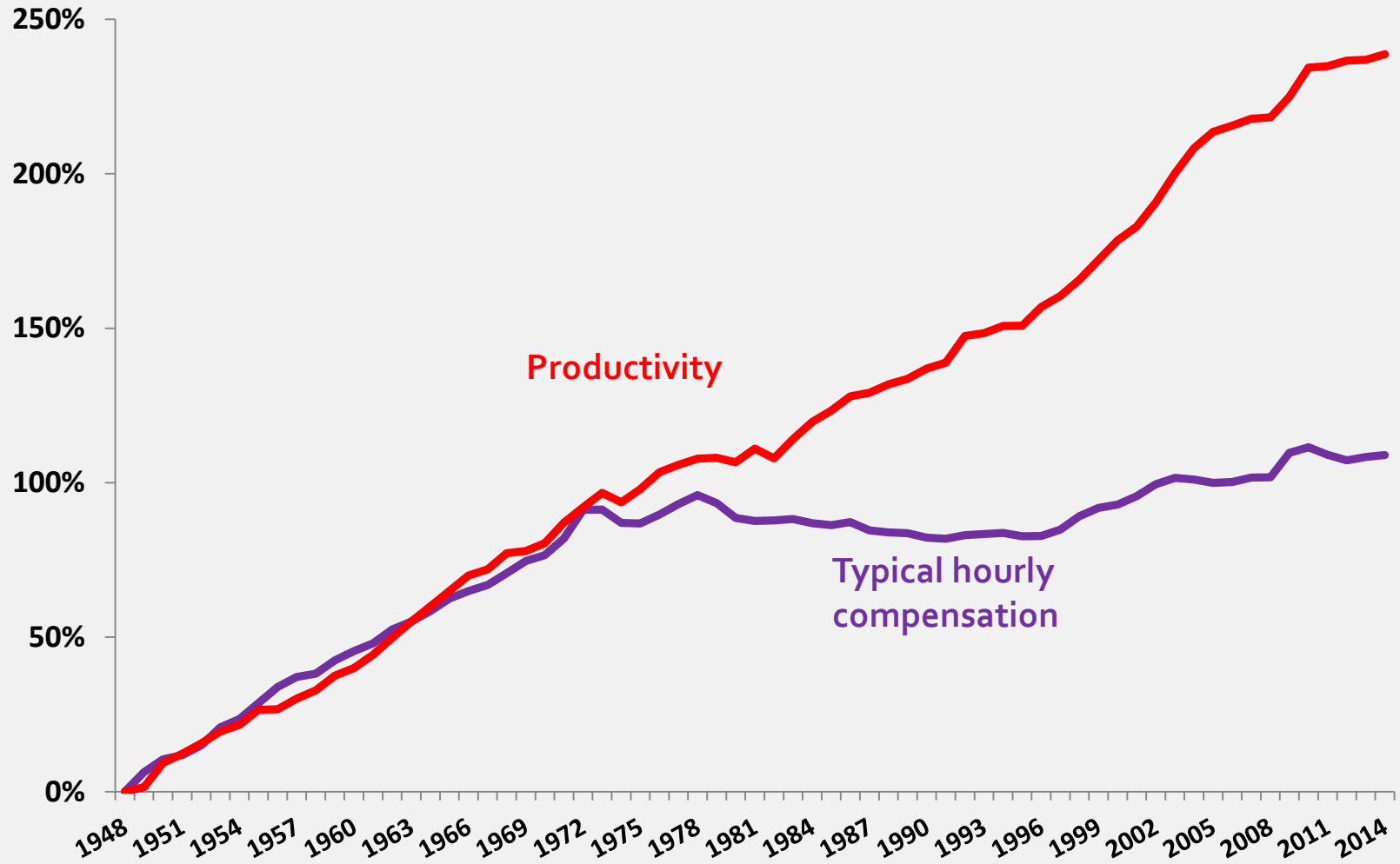
Source: Saez & Piketty. Top 1% income shares in the United States. Center for Economic & Policy Research. Ex. K-gains.

# A rising tide...



Source: Piketty, T. and Saez, E., The World Top Incomes Database. U.S. before-tax income excluding K-gains 2014\$.

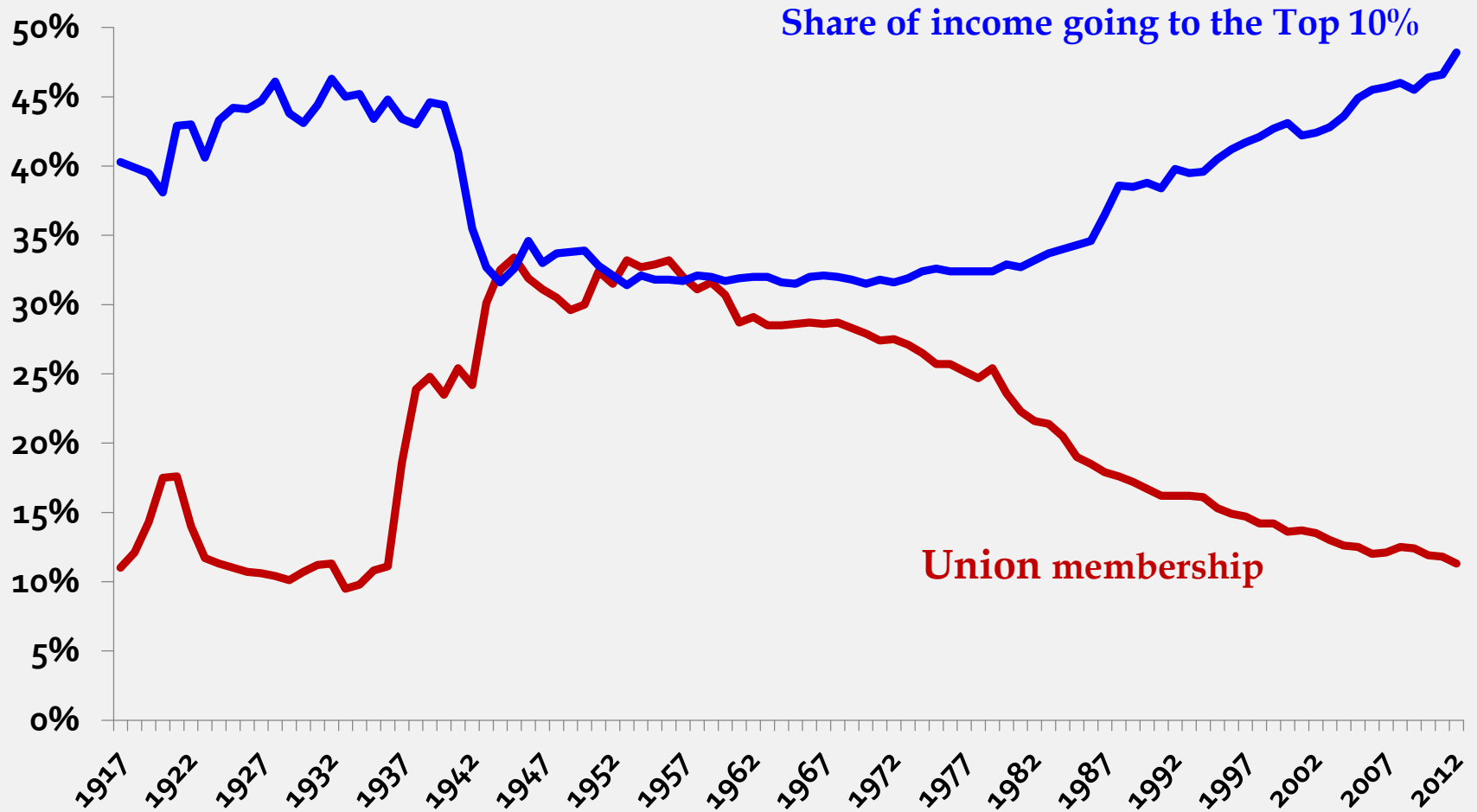
# Growing together, growing apart



Source: Economic Policy Institute. Analysis of BLS data.

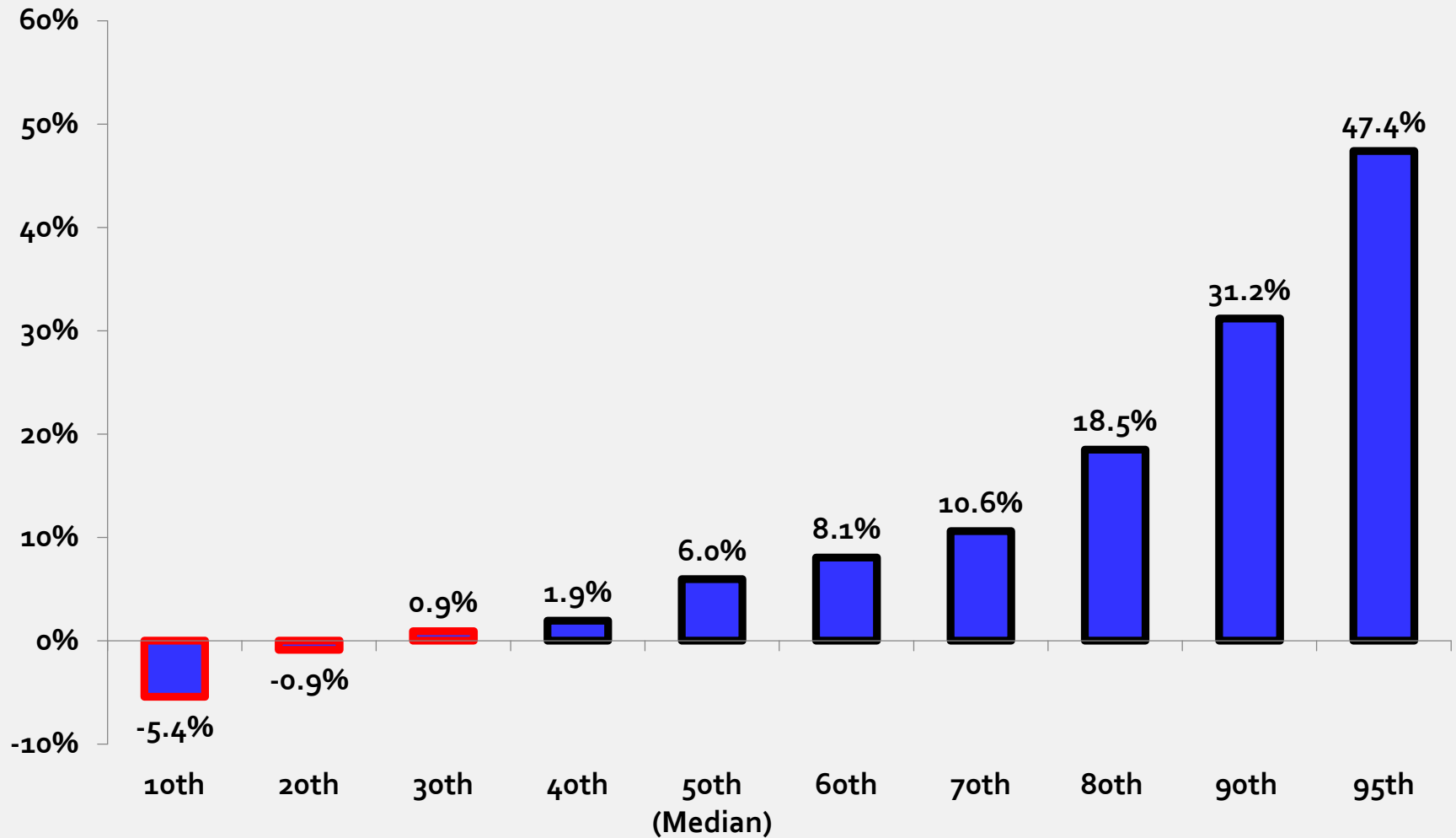


# Inequality & unions



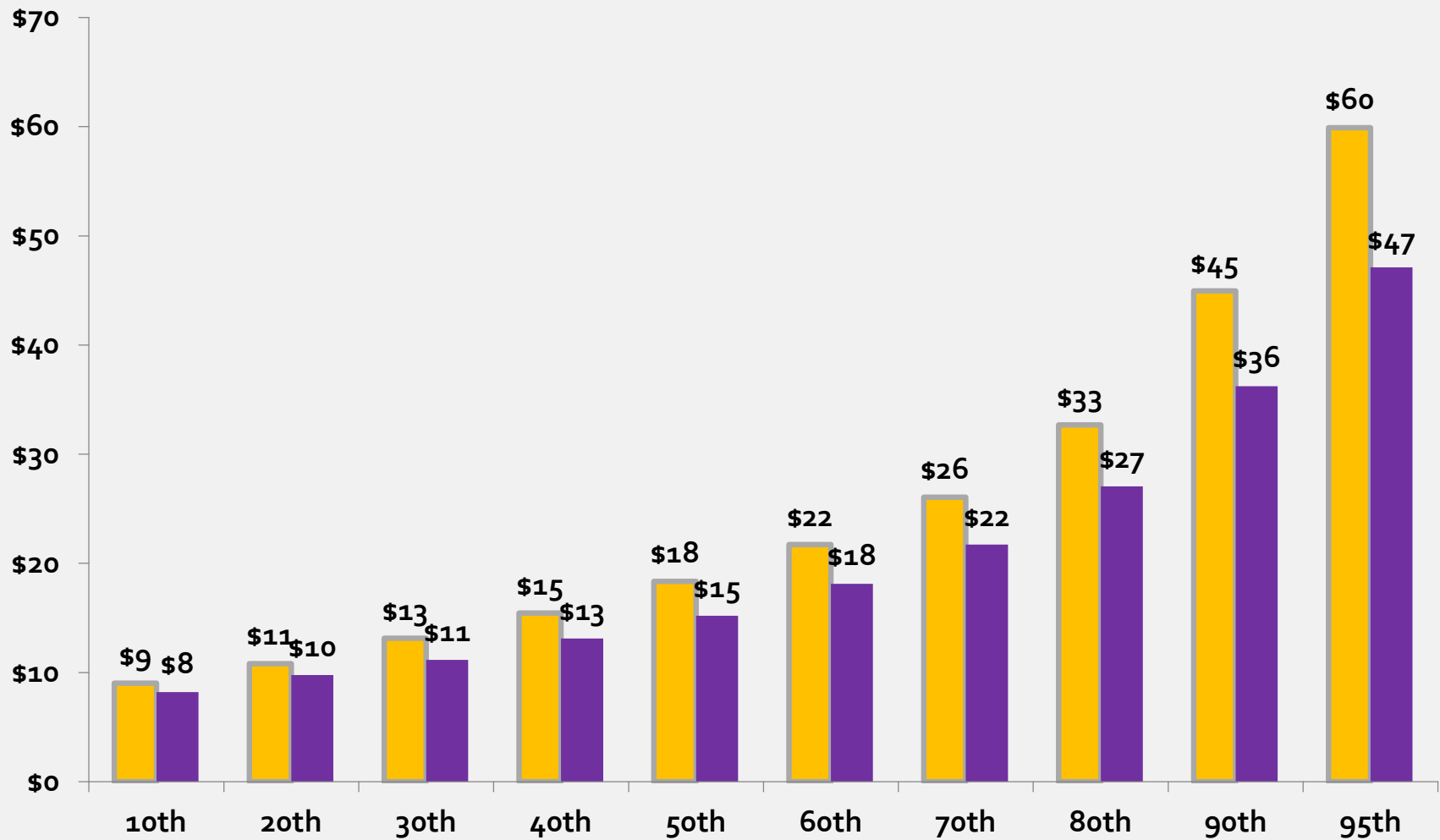
Source: EPI: Piketty and Saez (2013) and U.S. Census Bureau.

# Three decades of wage growth in the USA



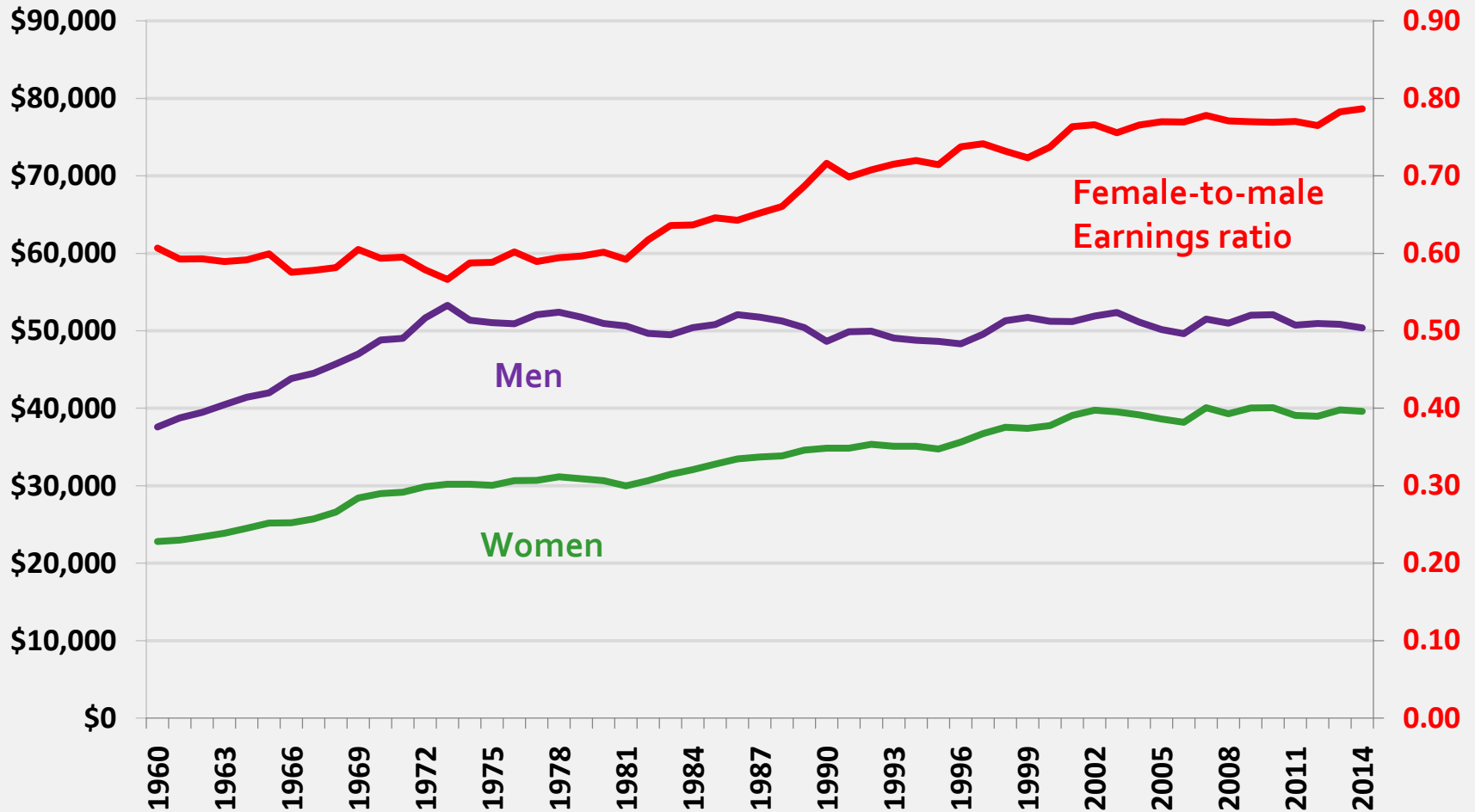
Source: BLS Current Population Survey.

# Wage gap grows with higher pay



Source: Economic Policy Institutes analysis of BLS Current Population Survey 2014 data.

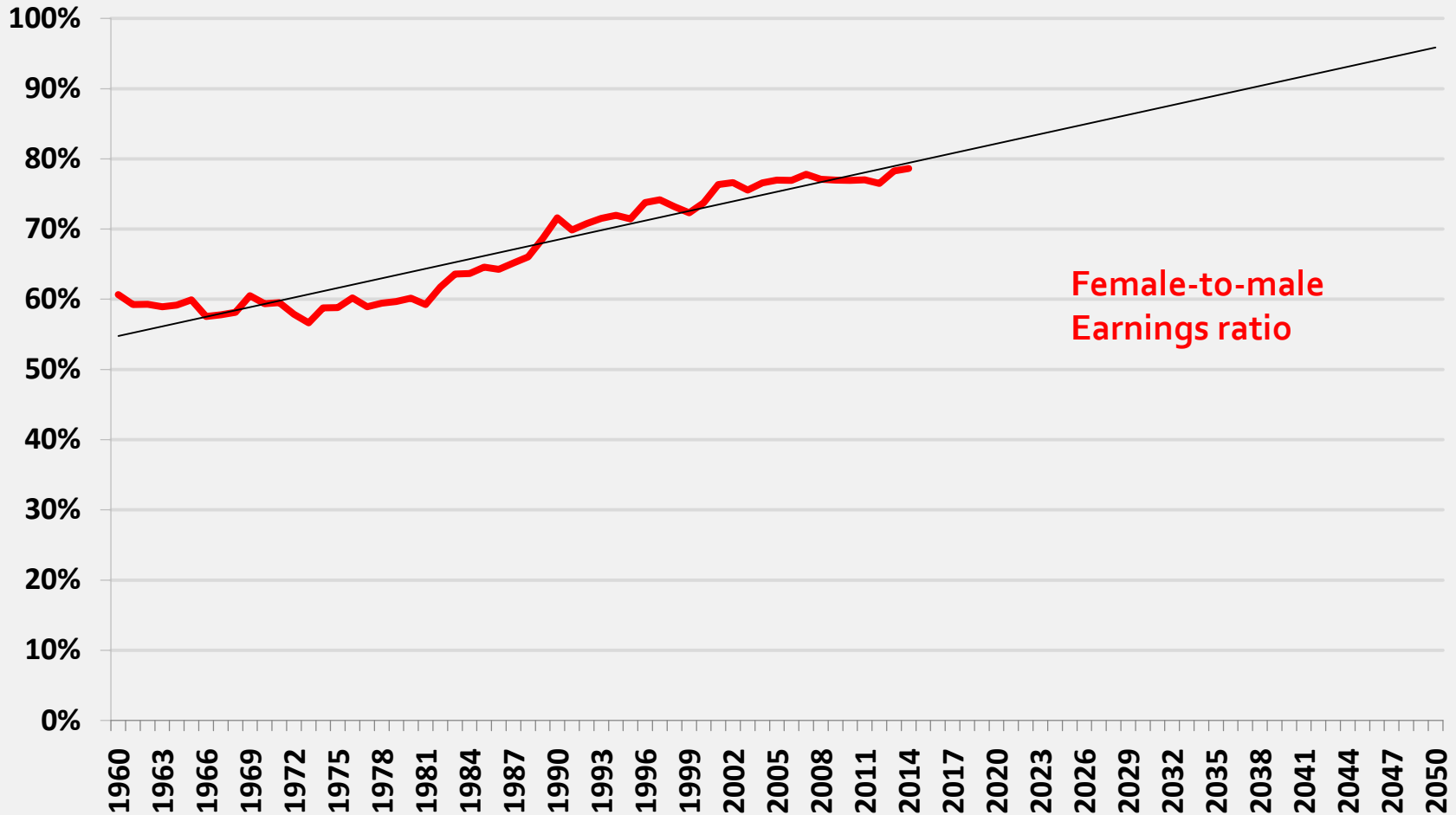
# Wages and the gap



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. March CPS data 2014\$. Full-time, year round workers 1960-2014.

Allegretto 2015

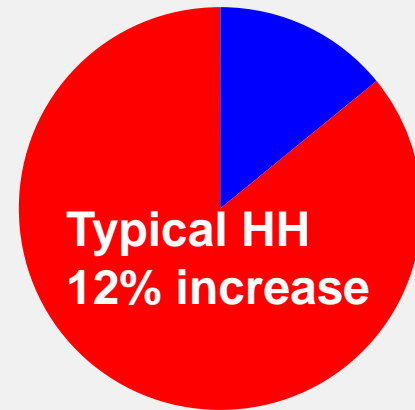
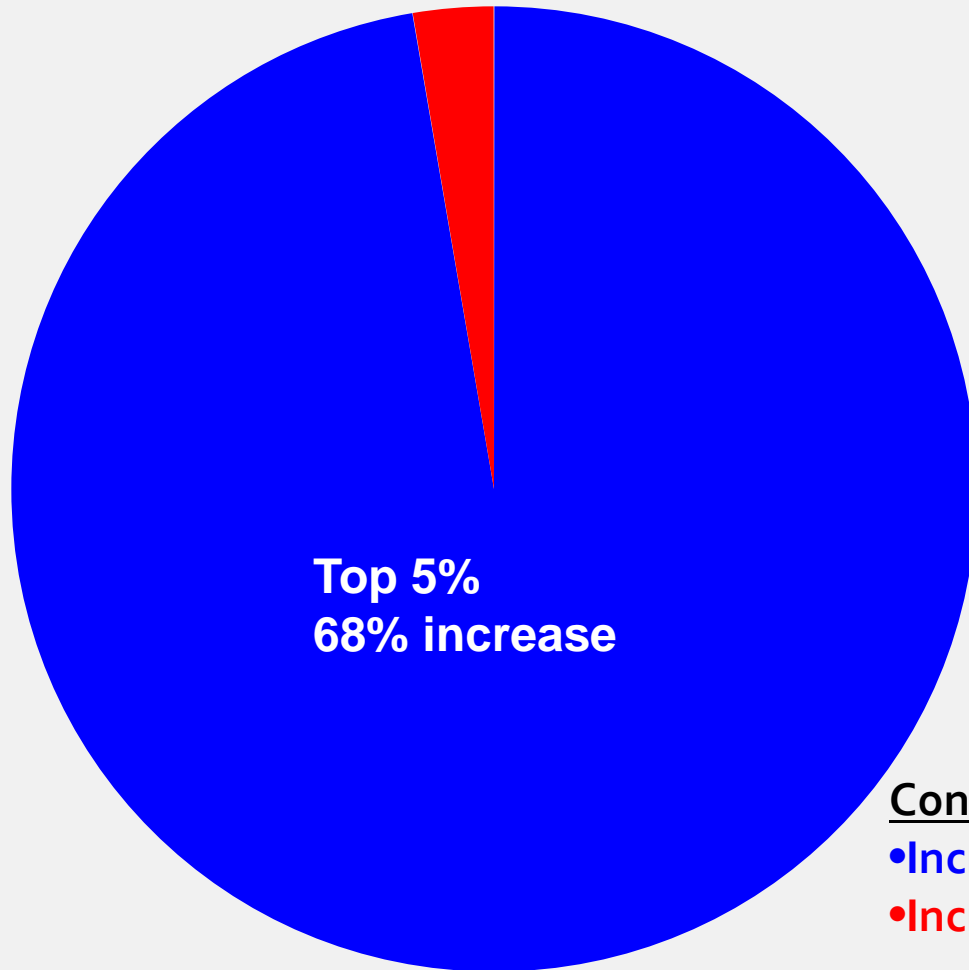
# Trend to persist into 2050s



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. March CPS data 2014\$. Full-time, year round workers 1960-2014.

Allegretto 2015

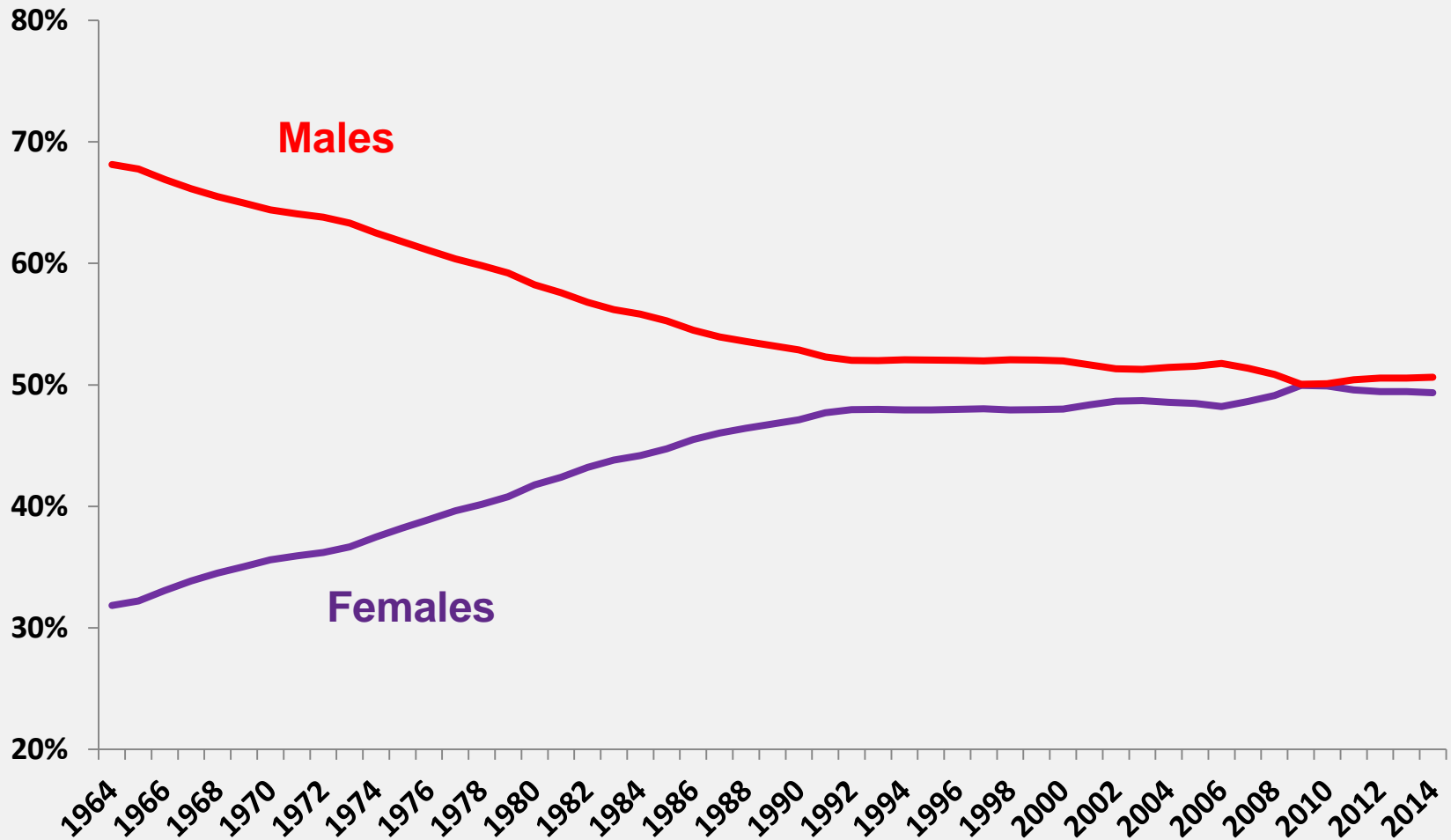
# How did your income grow?



## Contributions to increase in annual wages

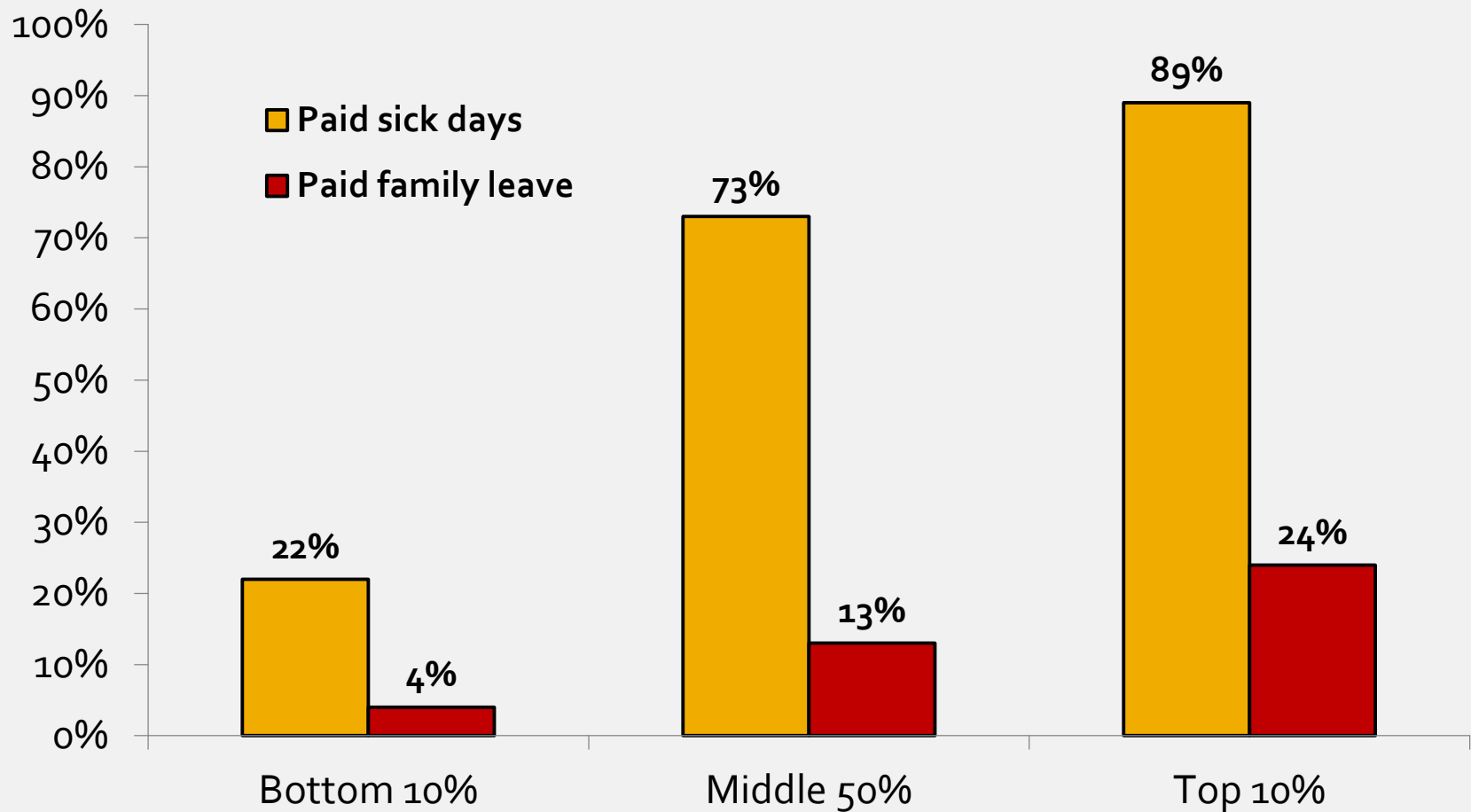
- Increase in hourly wages
- Increase in hours of work

# There is no economy without us galz!



Source: BLS Current Population Survey, 2014.

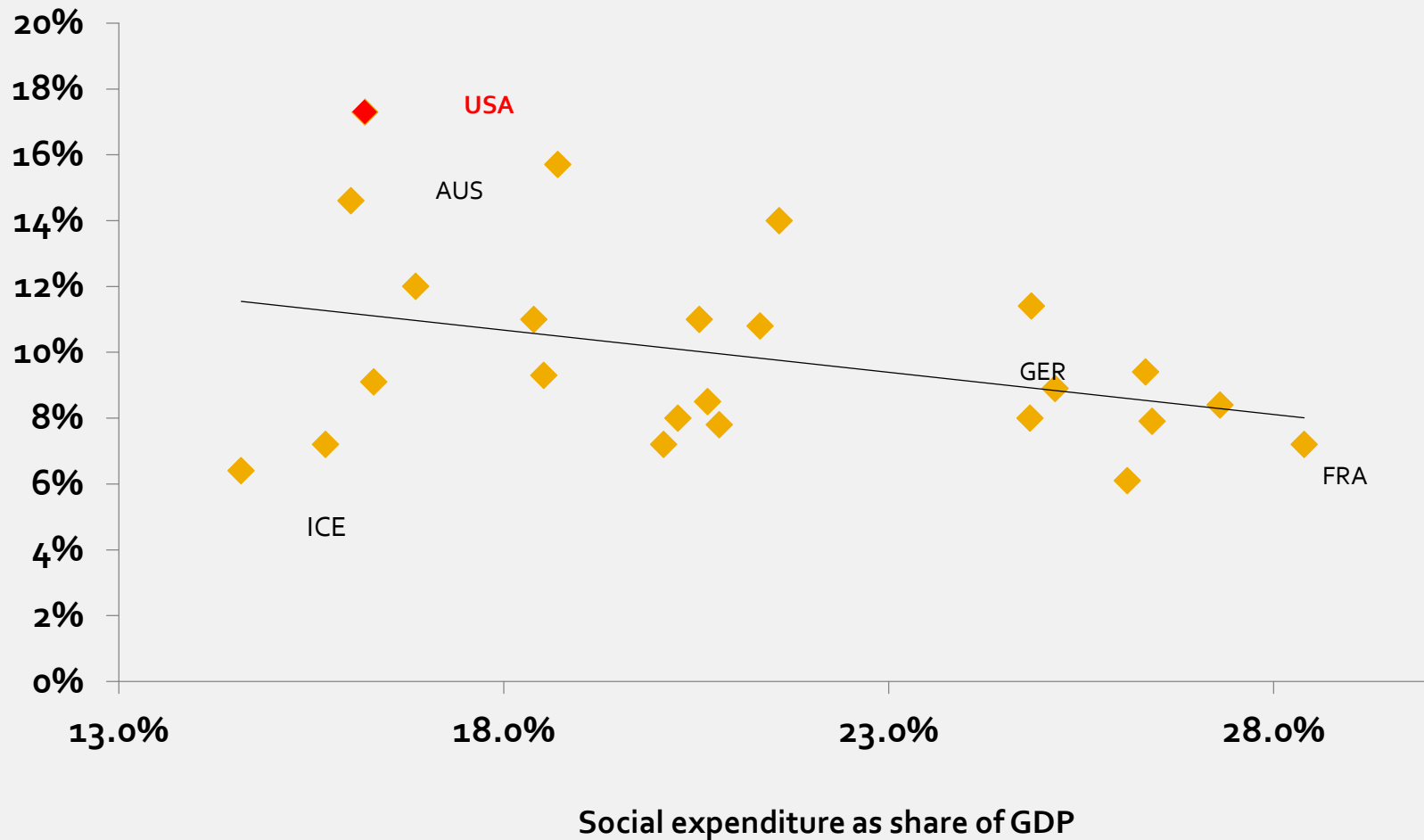
# The YoYo U.S. Model



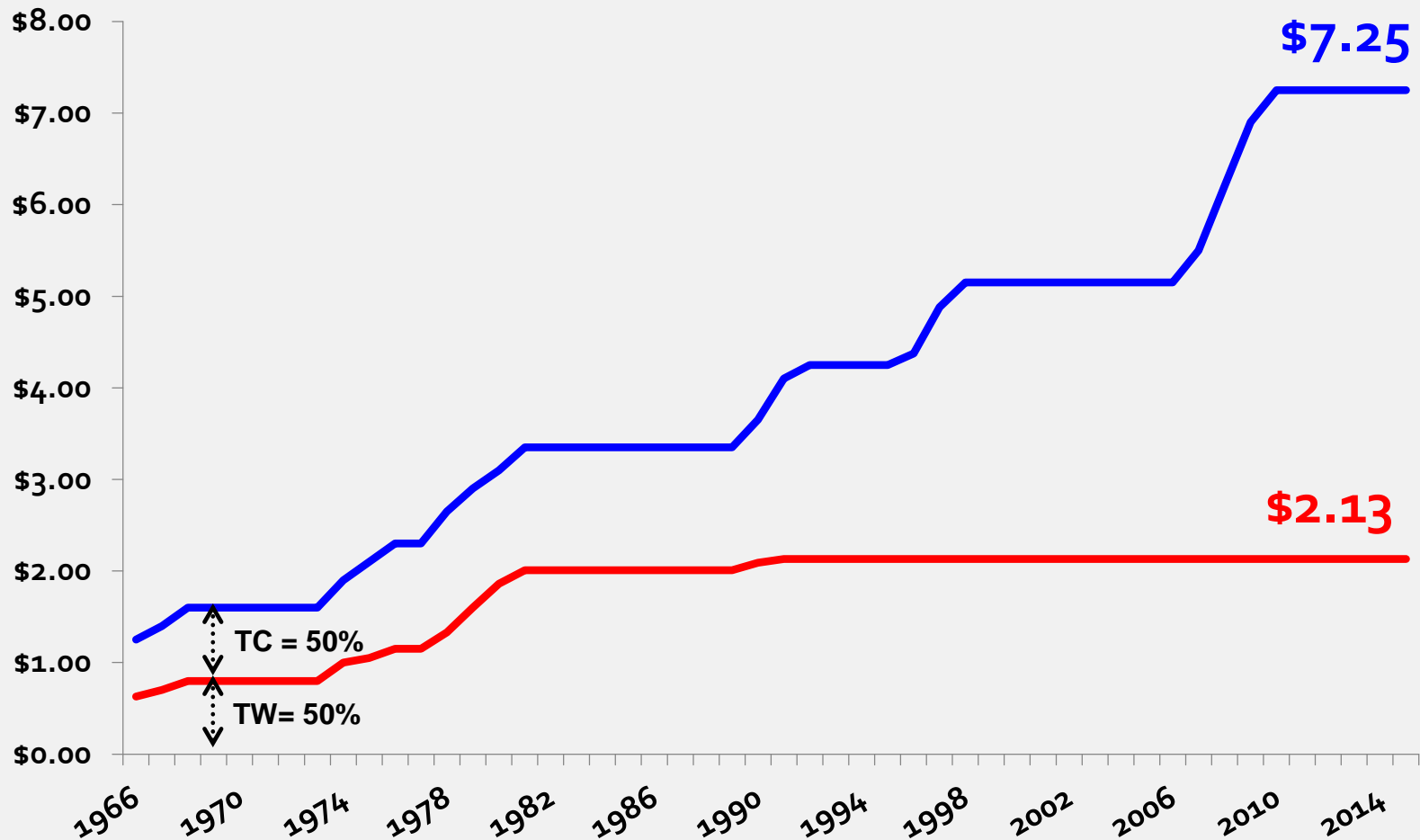


# Mitigating the struggle

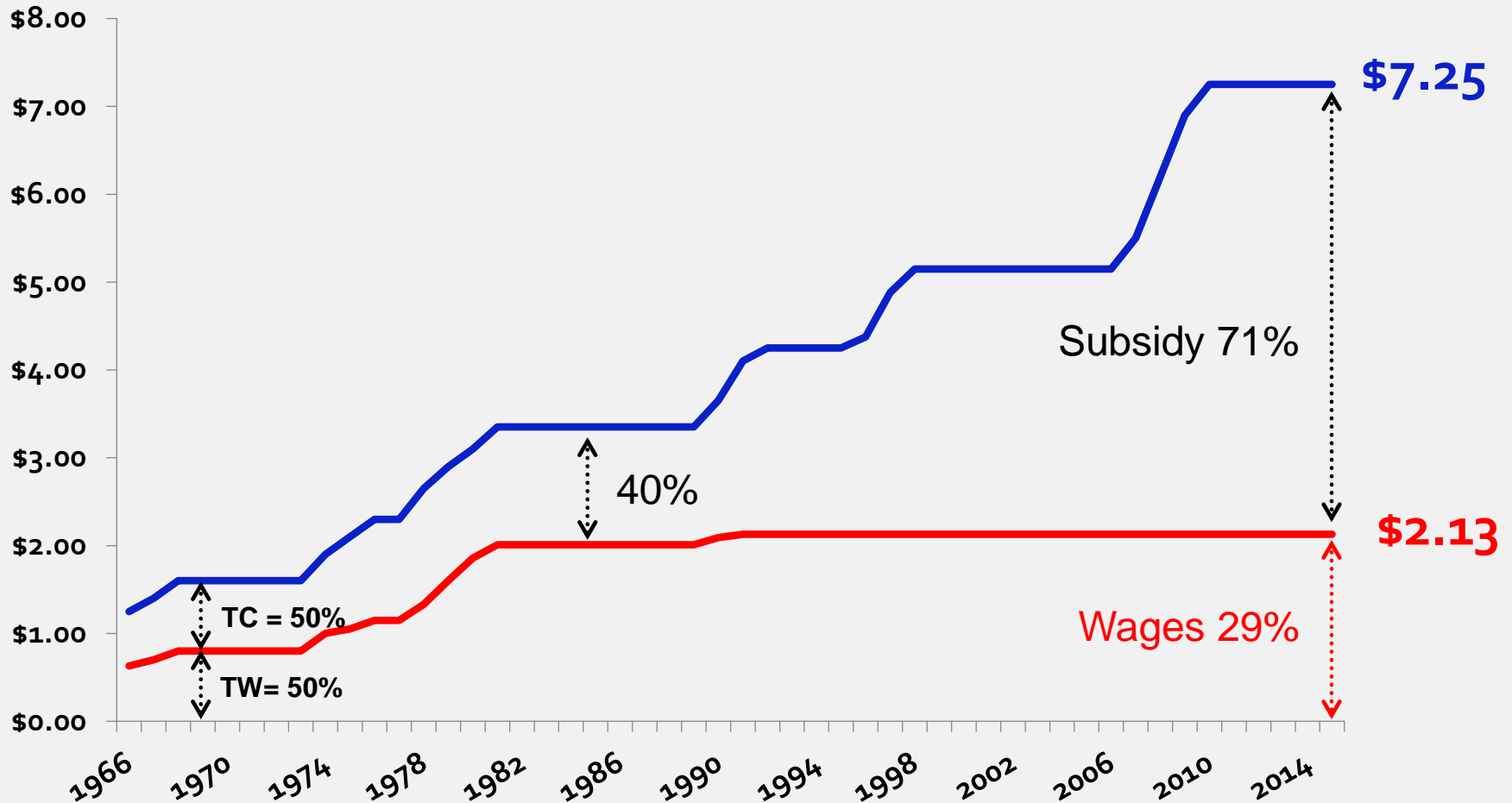
(poverty rates after gov't transfers)



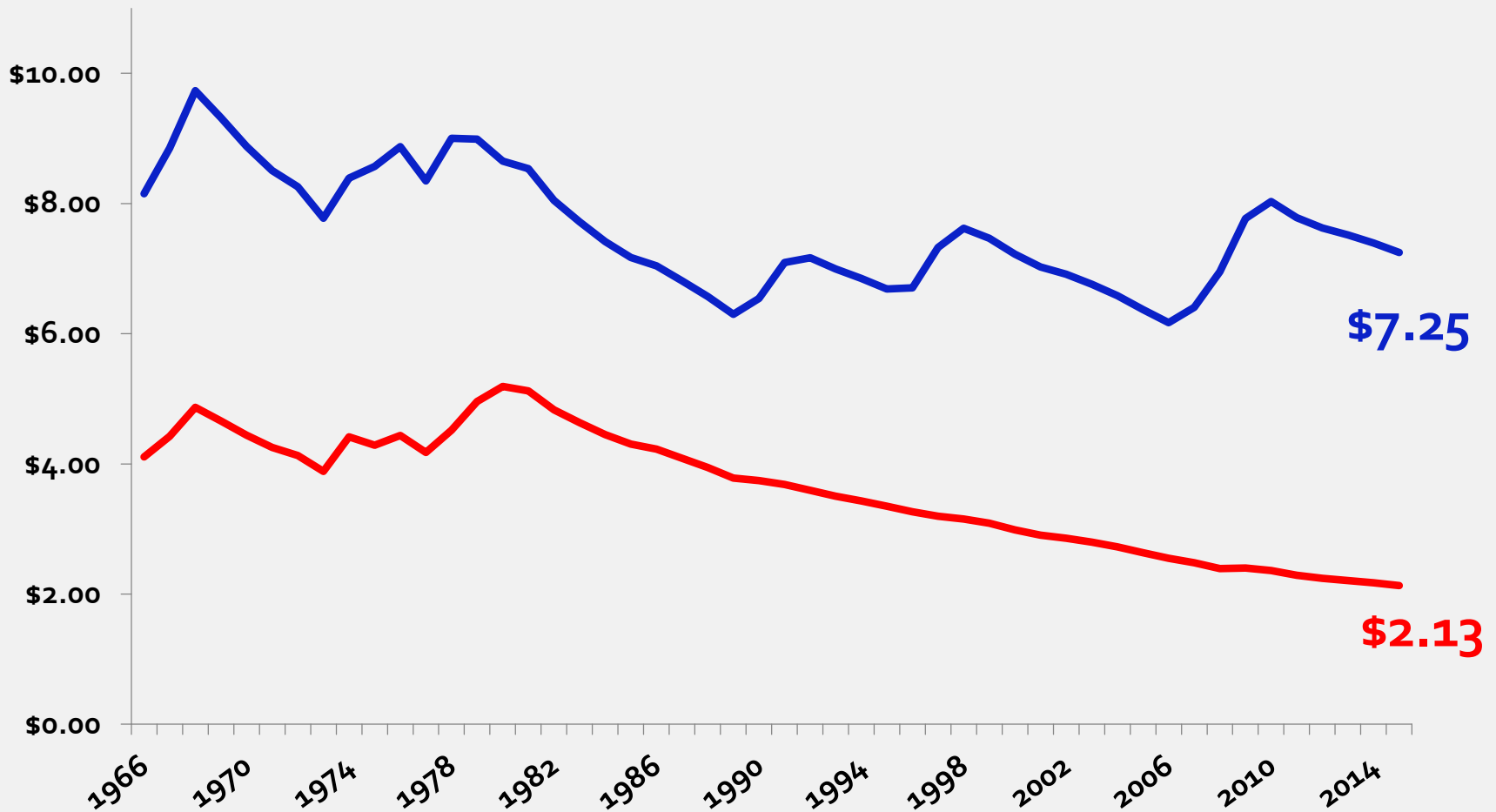
# The two-tiered system



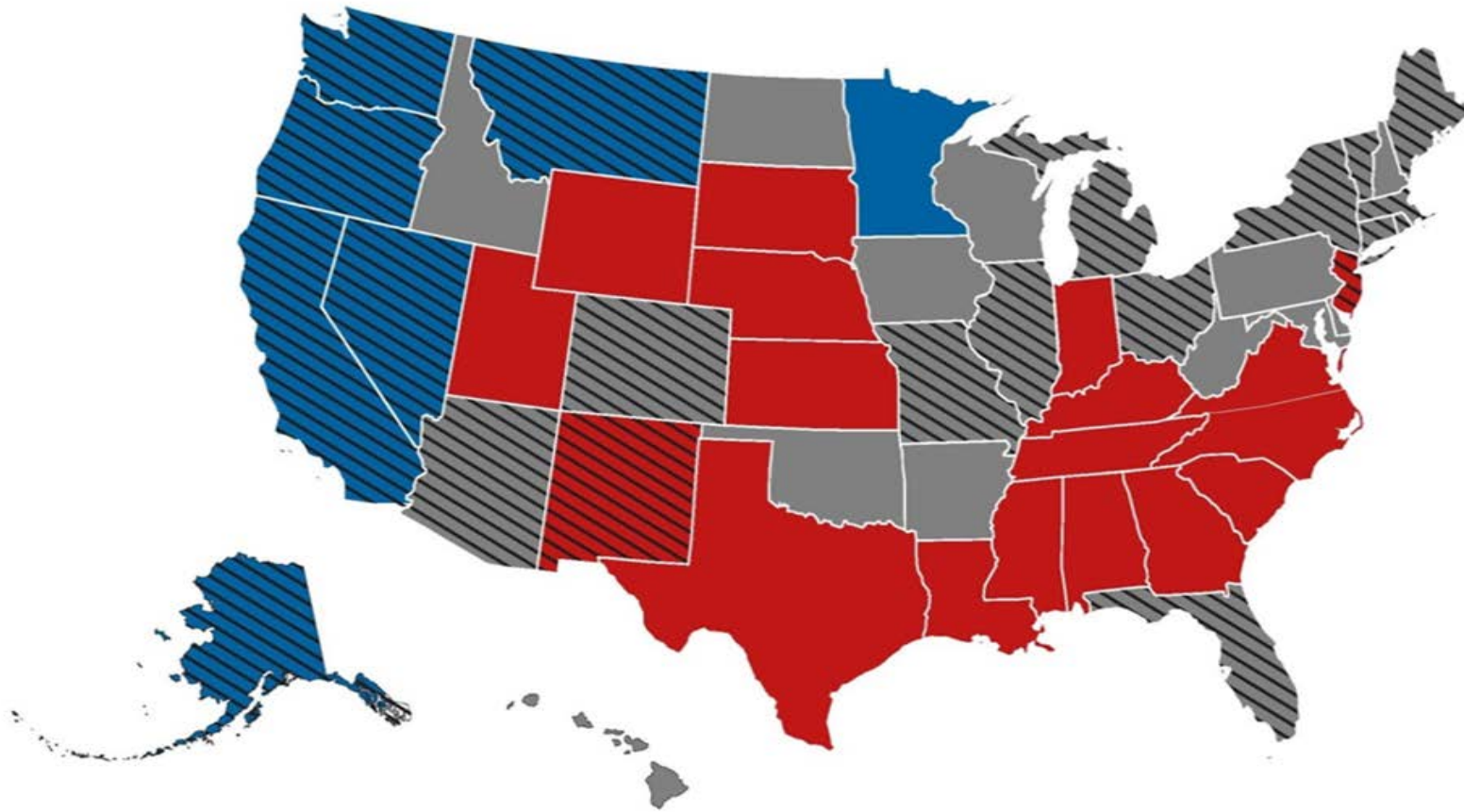
# Customer provided wage subsidy



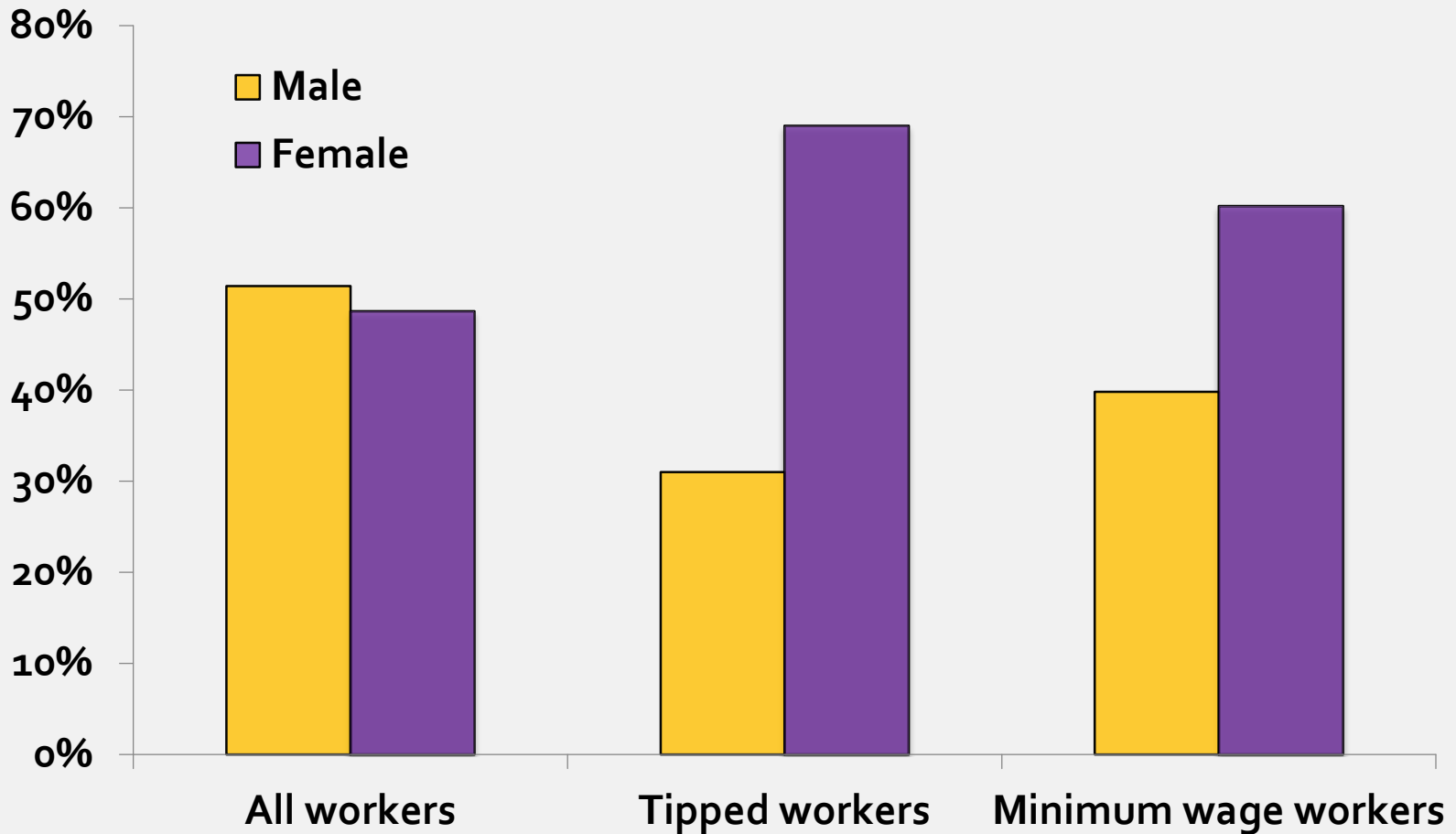
# Slip sliding away



# Natural experiment

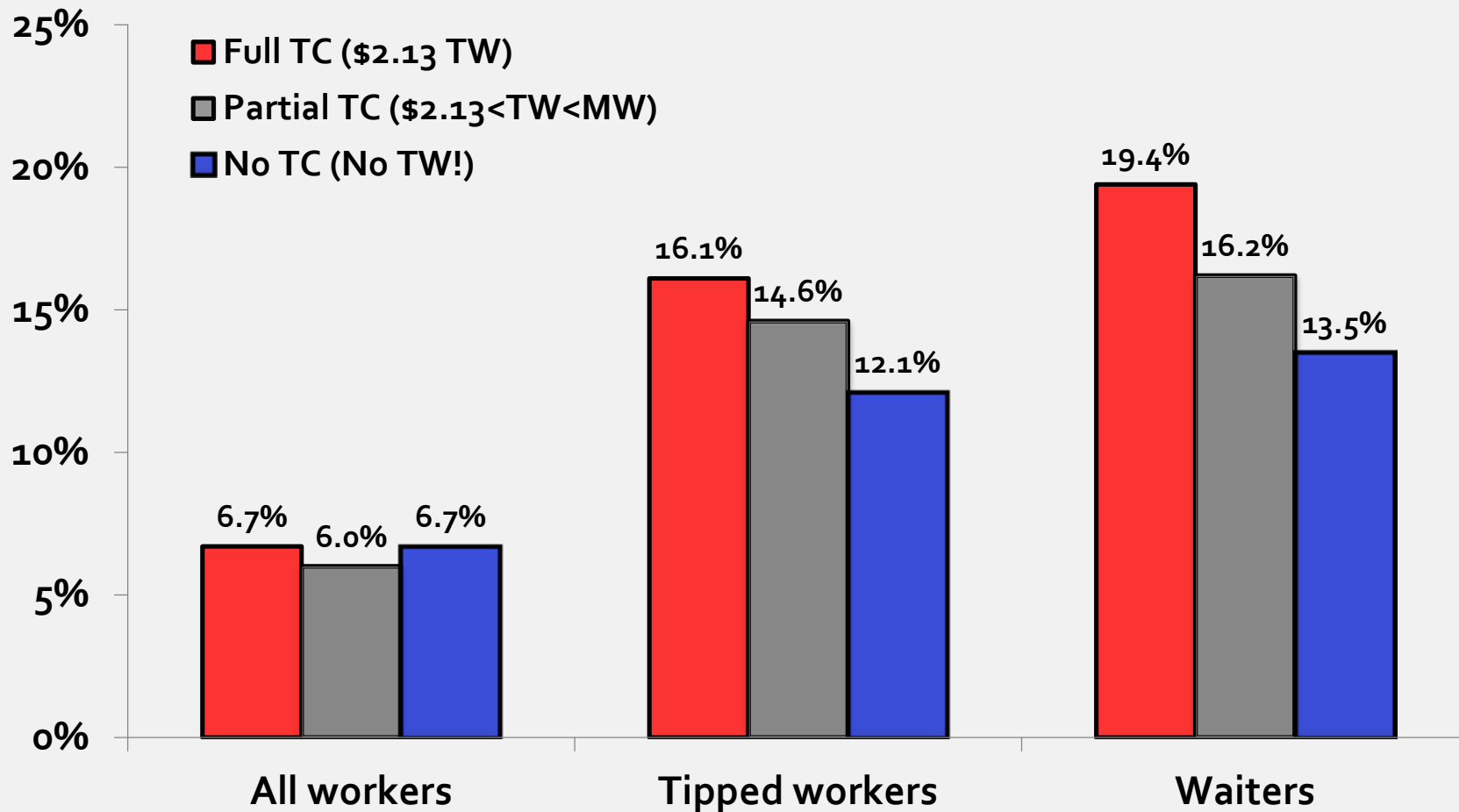


# Gender matters



Source: BLS CPS data. Allegretto & Cooper, 2014 EPI Brief


# Poverty rates



# Out of whack







# *An economy that works for women, works for all*

- **Raise the minimum wage and eliminate the tipped minimum wage**
- **Strengthen collective bargaining rights**
- **Strengthen laws against discrimination in hiring, pay, and promotion**
- **Provide paid family leave**
- **Provide paid sick leave**
- **Require fair scheduling practices**
- **Provide accessible, affordable, high-quality child care and early childhood education**
- **Protect and expand Social Security**
- **Provide undocumented workers a path to citizenship**
- **Support strong enforcement of labor standards**
- **Prioritize wage growth and full employment policy from the Fed.**

