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Strippers, Ghost Towns, and 9+ Signs the Recession Is Here



PomeroySays

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5 min read · Apr 14, 2025

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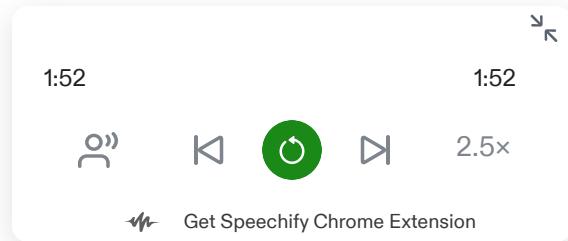
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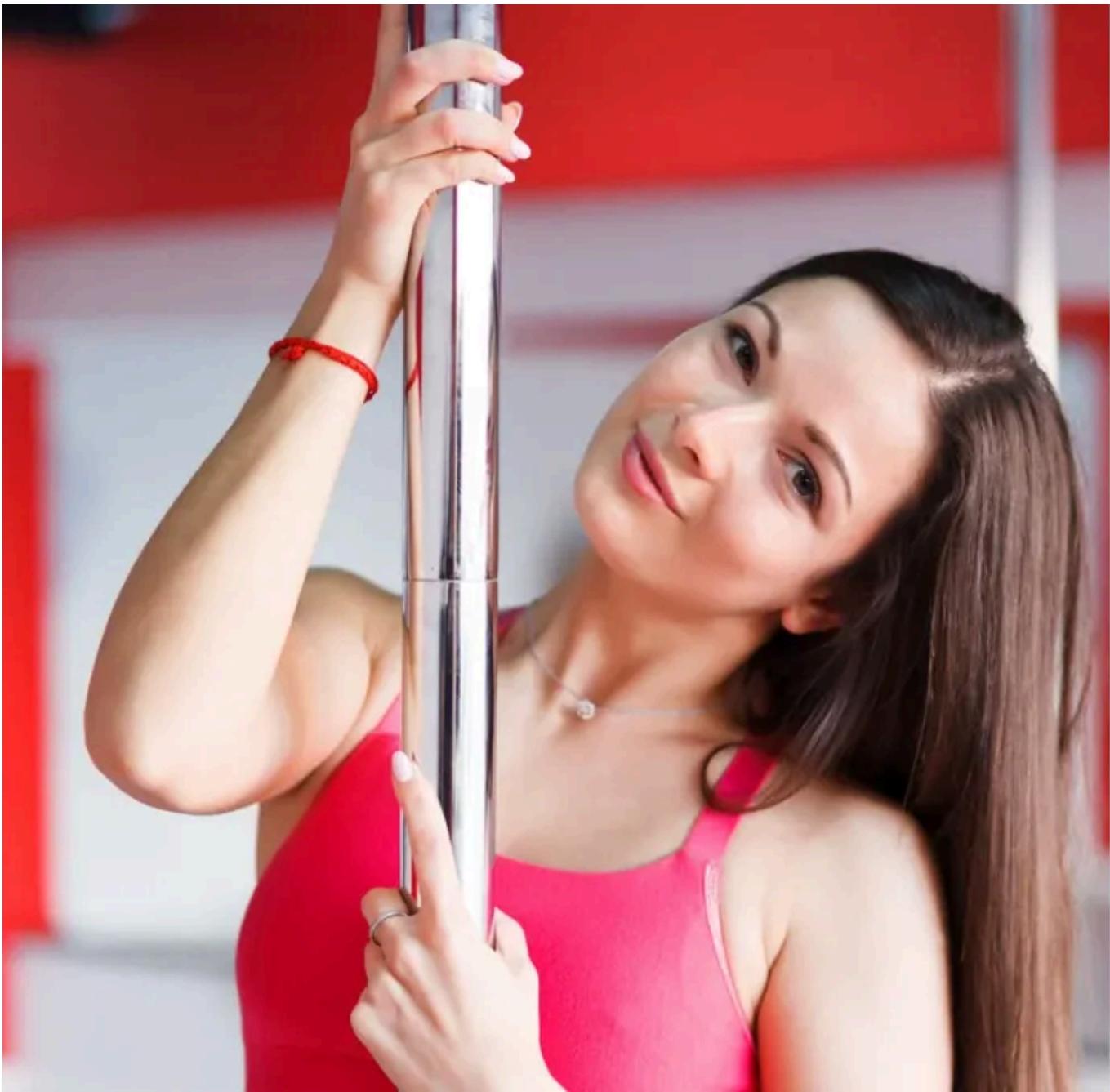






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It seems some people are in complete denial we are already in a recession.

I know we are already in one. It's that feeling expensive but no one is making enough mon-

1:52 1:52

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A speech bubble interface from the Speechify Chrome Extension. It shows a timestamp of 1:52 at both the top and bottom. The main text area contains the beginning of a sentence: "I know we are already in one. It's that feeling expensive but no one is making enough mon...". Below the text are several icons: a play/pause symbol, a volume symbol, a left arrow, a circular refresh/reload symbol, a right arrow, and a 2.5x speed symbol. At the bottom, there is a link to "Get Speechify Chrome Extension" with a small microphone icon.

Here are the signs, proof positive we are in bad economic times:

Empty strip clubs: According to HuffPost, one big indicator the economy is crashing is the sex industry is suffering

“Strippers in the U.S. are also feeling the pinch. Dancer and influencer Vulgar Vanity said that when she first started dancing in 2022, she could earn six figures just by dancing during a handful of big events in Austin, such as the Formula 1 Grand Prix and South by Southwest music festival. This year is different.

“I didn’t even bother working South by Southwest because the first Friday night I attempted to work, I walked into a completely empty club and didn’t make any money at all,” she said.”

Beer:

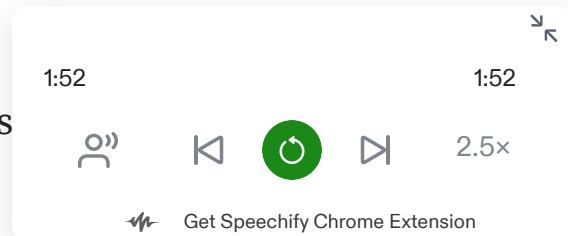
Normally a must-have for happy hour, the big game or just hanging out with friends, beer, especially craft beer is feeling the pinch:

“Beer is a discretionary spend and a social spend,” so people cut back on how much they spend on beer when they are worried about the economy, he explained. Since it’s much less expensive to pick up a six-pack than to go out for draft beers, how much money people are spending on draft beer, and pricey craft beers in particular, is a harbinger of a recession.

“Craft beer sales are way down,” potentially indicating a recession is likely, Buffington said.

Brothels are feeling the pinch:

For those who normally seek out sex workers decrease in clients.



According to De Noire, business at her brothel usually picks up in the spring once people give up on their New Year's resolutions and recover from holiday spending. But this year, business is down. She attributes the “huge dip” in earnings at her brothel to customers feeling insecure about the economy.

“There are significantly fewer clients coming in, and the sex workers are reporting noticeably lower earnings,” she said. Although De Noire emphasizes that the top sex workers at her brothel are still earning more compared to the general population, she said some of the highest earners at her brothel are earning about half of what they did during the same time last year.

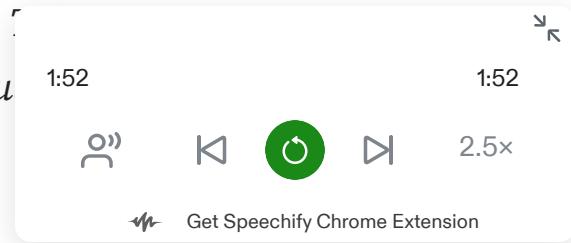
“We’re seeing clients come in less often, try to negotiate lower prices or stop visiting altogether. We’re also hearing from our workers that more clients are going for the cheapest possible service,” she said.

According to De Noire, this suggests that people are saving money or reallocating their spending toward things they see as more essential, likely because they’re preparing for challenging times ahead.

The Lipstick Index:

When times are tough, a small treat is more financially feasible than a big expenditure. The lipstick index states that people are more likely to buy little treats like lipstick to help them feel better, than a \$40 facial.

*The Lipstick Index doesn’t just apply to lipstick. [REDACTED]
Index is that when money is tight, consumers turn to cheap luxuries like lipstick.*



“In the 2008 recession, cosmetics sales increased, showing that even in tough times, individuals crave tiny comfort purchases that give psychological boosts

without a hefty financial outlay," Shahnazari explained.

More Signs Include:

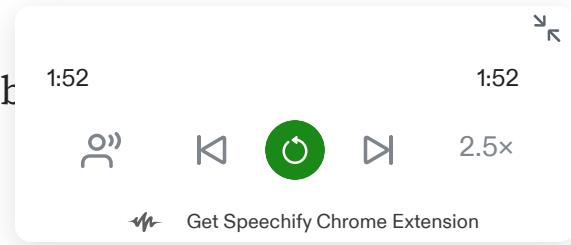
- **Shorter fast food lines:** Have you been by McDonald's lately? Even with the hyped Minecraft Happy Meals and deals, the lines are shorter.
- **Plumbers and home repair people showing up and offering deals:** When the economy is tanking, many people put off roof repairs, updating their bathrooms, etc. During a recession, home professionals are more apt to hustle for more work.
- **Loan denials:** For those looking for a new home loan or other loan, it might be the worst time to apply. "My denial rate shot up from 20% to 60%, and that's with no change to underwriting practices. It's due to debt levels."
- **People Selling Antiques and Collectibles Online:** In desperate times, many part with their beloved collections to bring in some money.
- **More people filing for bankruptcy:**

Most Of Us Are One Paycheck Away From Bankruptcy

About 10 years ago, my mom knew her finances were bad when the repo man showed up one night. She had purchased a...

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- **Home-cooked lunches:** More people are keeping to go out to eat.
- **Big lottery jackpots:**



"Watch the lottery. During economically hard times, it will run up to a high number way more often and more quickly than before."

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- **Middle-class women are cutting back on Botox and spa treatments:**

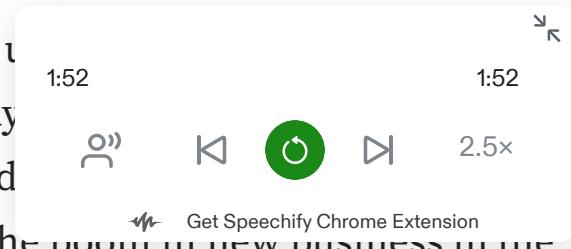
One of the first things to go in a recession are beauty treatments. Many women opt to do their hair at home, buy drugstore makeup and skip the Botox.

- **A Huge Increase in People Going Back to School:**

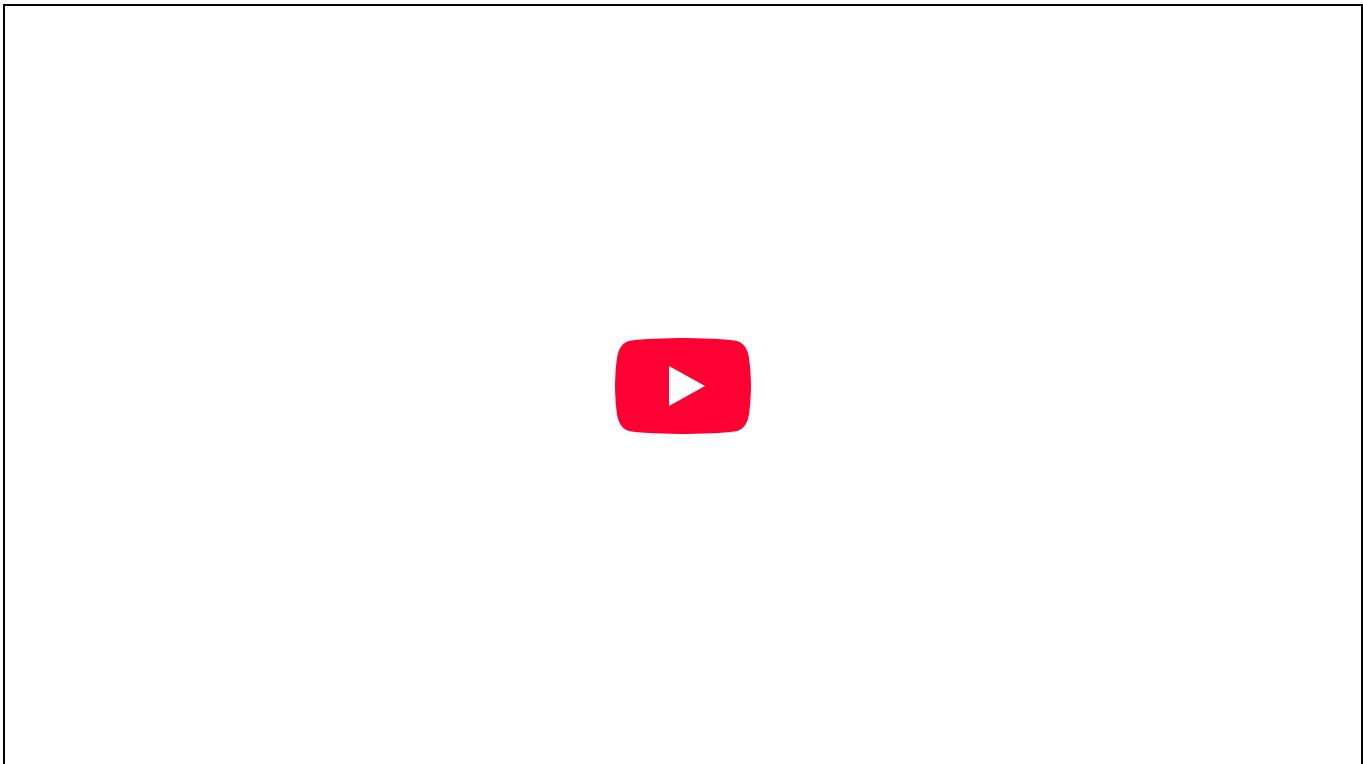
Several of my son's friends have gone back to school because they couldn't find a job after graduation. It seems there are a lot of new grads working at Target, Doordash- and going back to school.

- **Economically depressed towns are seeing more and more people moving out.**

Upstate NY is a great example of this. I grew up there years ago. Most of my family has moved away or returned recently and it has definitely gone down. There have been new businesses but nothing like the ones in the Midwest.



If you want to see an example of upstate NY, this is really what it is like:



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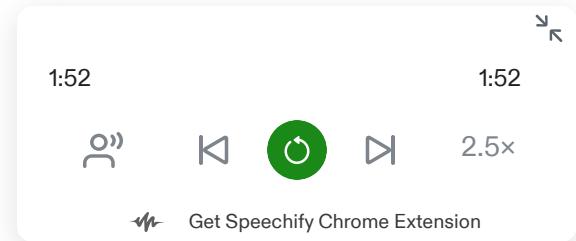
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Written by PomeroySays

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New England born- now living in the Midwest. Blogger, author, influencer, and history addict. Say hi on KoFi- <https://ko-fi.com/pomerroysays/>

Responses (73)



Jeff Heisler

What are your thoughts?



KRE he/him/they

Apr 14 (edited)

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Shorter fast food lines:

It used to be fast cheap, and halfway decent. Now the opposite is true of all those things. Pass.

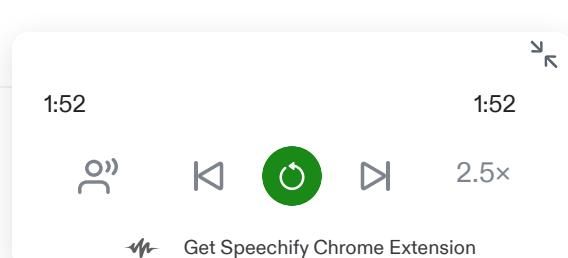
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2 replies

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Augustin Duret he/him
Apr 17



Thanks for this, Pomeroy — the brothel detail really caught me off guard, but it drove home your point. When even the most primal industries slow down, something's definitely off in the economy.

It reminded me of that old saying: "Recessions don't... [more](#)

179

2 replies

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Zail Dugal



Apr 14

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The lipstick index states that people are more likely to buy little treats like lipstick to help them feel better, than a \$40 facial.

Where do they have \$40 facials? My area has facials starting at \$150, which is why I have been giving myself facials for years.

241

6 replies

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I have noticed a trend among Boomers and older. And it's kind of disturbing.



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7+ Reasons Why People Hate Gen X

According to the NY Times, Gen X is used to being hated.

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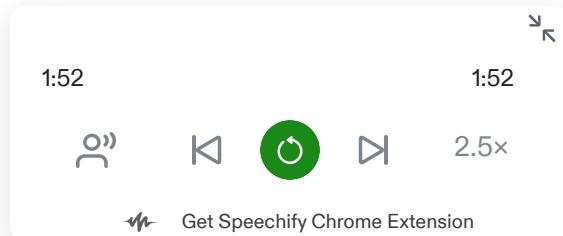
The title of this article might seem harsh, but it's a fact that Gen X grew up with some hard...

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