Just as in America, in Britain too the story told by official statistics does not always match people’s lived experience. That is especially true in places like Newcastle, a former shipbuilding city, which lost out to competition from Asia in the 1970s and has seen living standards stagnate ever since.

不仅仅是美国，还有英国，统计学家说这个故事和人们的生活经验不是完全匹配的，但在一些地方像纽卡斯尔这里就相当合适，昔日的造船厂城市，自1970年和亚洲相比就失去了竞争力，从那时起，生活水平就停滞不前。

The U.S. economy, we are told, is booming. In the past two quarters, gross domestic product has risen by more than 3%, the stock market is soaring and unemployment is down to a 17-year low of 4.1%. Many people, though, don’t feel that upside.The perception gap is huge.

gross domestic product GDP 国内生产总值

the stock market is soaring 股市飙升（也就是虚高，充满泡沫）

我们常说：美国经济是爆炸性增长，过去的两个季度，国内生产总值（GDP）上升超过3%，股市飙升，同时失业率下降到17年来的最低点4.1%，因此，许多人们并不沮丧，认知差距是巨大的。

Unemployment, more broadly measured, is higher than the headline number suggests because many people have simply given up looking for work or are working in part-time jobs when they want a full-time job.

失业率是被扩大化的测量了，高于标题的数字显示，因为很多人简单的放弃了找工作，或者当他们想要一份全职工作时却在做着兼职工作；

One of the prime faults of GDP is that it deals in averages and aggregates. Aggregates hide the nuances of inequality. And averages don’t tell us very much at all. Barring a few recessions, the U.S. economy has been on a near relentless upward path since the 1950s.

Nuance ['nu.ɑns] 细微差别；神韵

Barring  ['bɑrɪŋ] 除了，除非 except for

Recession [rɪ'seʃ(ə)n] n 后退，暴跌，退出，经济衰退

Relentless [rɪ'lentləs] 不停的，持续强烈的

GDP主要的错误之一是它反映的是平均情况和整体情况；

整体情况隐藏了不平等的细微差别，平均情况没有告诉我们所有的细节。除了小部分的经济衰退，自1950年以来美国的经济一直在持续的上升；

Yet according to a Pew Research Center report, the average hourly wage for nonmanagement private-sector work was $20.67 in 2014, a measly $1.49 higher than in 1964, adjusted for inflation.

但是依据Pew研究中心的报告，2014年私有企业的非管理人才平均时薪是$20.67，经过通货膨胀调整，略高于1964年的$1.49美元；

Studies suggest that people care more about relative than absolute wealth. If that is true, then as a minority have become richer, the majority have grown more miserable. In a famous experiment carried out at Emory University, two capuchin monkeys were put side by side and given cucumbers as a reward for performing a task.

Miserable adj痛苦的 n

研究表明：相比财富相关性人们更关心财富的绝对性；如果这是对的，那要么成为少数的富人，要么成为大多数的穷人，

When one of the monkeys was given better-tasting grapes instead, the monkey receiving cucumbers became distraught, flinging its now despised reward at its trainer. The problems with using GDP as a barometer go beyond masking inequality. Invented in the U.S. in the 1930s, the figure is a child of the manufacturing age–good at measuring physical production but not the services that dominate modern economies. How would GDP measure the quality of mental-health care or the availability of day-care centers and parks in your area? Even the Belarusian economist who practically invented GDP, had doubts about his creation. He did not like the fact that it counted armaments and financial speculation as positive outputs. Above all, he said, GDP should never be confused with well-being. That suggests we need to find different ways of measuring our success. For the most part, we have become enraptured with a single measure that offers only limited information.