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## Bush Administration Hides More Data, Shuts Down Website Tracking U.S. Economic Indicators

The U.S. economy is faltering. Family debt is [on the rise](#), benefits are disappearing, the deficit is [skyrocketing](#), and the mortgage crisis has [worsened](#). Conservatives have attempted to deflect attention from the crisis, by [blaming the media's negative coverage](#) and insisting the United States is [not headed toward a recession](#), despite [what economists are predicting](#).

The Bush administration's latest move is to simply hide the data. Forbes has awarded [EconomicIndicators.gov](#) one of its "Best of the Web" awards. As Forbes [explains](#), the government site provides an invaluable service to the public for accessing U.S. economic data:

This site is maintained by the Economics and Statistics Administration and **combines data collected by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, like GDP and net imports and exports, and the Census Bureau, like retail sales and durable goods shipments.** The site simply links to the relevant department's Web site. This might not seem like a big deal, but doing it yourself—say, trying to find retail sales data on the Census Bureau's site—is such an exercise in futility that it will **convince you why this portal is necessary.**

Yet the Bush administration has decided to shut down [this site](#) because of "[budgetary constraints](#)," effective March 1:



Economic Indicators is particularly useful because people can sign up to receive e-mails as soon as new economic data across government agencies becomes available. While the data will still be available online at various federal websites, it will be less readily accessible to members of the public.

In its e-mail announcement on the closing of Economic Indicators, the Department of Commerce acknowledged the “inconvenience” and offered “a free quarterly subscription to STAT-USA®/Internet™” instead. Once this temporary subscription runs out, however, the public will be forced to pay a fee. So not only will economic data be more hidden, it will also cost money.

It’s ironic that the Economic and Statistics Administration is facing “budgetary constraints,” considering Bush recently submitted a [record \\$3.1 trillion budget](#) to Congress for FY ‘09.

**UPDATE:** Steve Benen has compiled other examples of the Bush administration [hiding inconvenient data](#).

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Posted by [Amanda](#) February 13, 2008 2:47 pm

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1. Nixon is green with envy of the secrecy of the Bushies. Nixon could only dream of what Bush/Cheney has actually achieved.

*Comment by Uncle Ho — February 13, 2008 @ [2:49 pm](#)*

2. Hey, illegal preemptive wars cost money, you know.

*Comment by robbez\_92107 — February 13, 2008 @ [2:49 pm](#)*

3. If you're doing something illegal in your (white) house, you would probably close the curtains and not answer if anyone rang the door bell.

*Comment by PatrioticLiberalChristian — February 13, 2008 @ [2:51 pm](#)*

4. Why... am... I... not... surprised, in the least.

Ostrich... meet sand, or perhaps... GOOPer... meet rear end.

*Comment by The Republic of Stupidity — February 13, 2008 @ [2:52 pm](#)*

5. That's because it's secret. Don't want people knowing the truth or anything, the truth is secret.

Buck Fush

*Comment by Buckie Boy — February 13, 2008 @ [2:54 pm](#)*

6. You can always go to the Heritage Foundation for their economic data. Always rosy and spot on!

Who needs the government to provide this data when you can fund it instead with stolen US bricks of US currency meant for Iraq?

*Comment by CitiDC — February 13, 2008 @ [2:54 pm](#)*

7. I guess shutting down the website is the worst of all economic indicators.

*Comment by 2MillionLightYearsToAndromeda — February 13, 2008 @ [2:54 pm](#)*

8. Wow. Just wow.

Yet another example on how Bush and the GOP want to keep the electorate an uninformed as possible. If you shut down where people can get actual facts, there is no way to refute their outrageous claims.

“You can't see the info on terrorists, just trust us we're doing the right thing.”

“You can’t see info on climate change, just trust us it’s not happening.”

“You can’t see info on private contractors in Iraq, just trust us they’re doing a great job with no screwups.”

“You can’t see a report on where the money in Iraq is going, just trust us that it’s being spent perfectly.”

“You can’t see info on the economy, just trust us it’s not bad. Go shopping.”

*Comment by bobcat\_grad — February 13, 2008 @ [2:54 pm](#)*

#### 9. “An Inconvenient Website”

*Comment by leftcoast — February 13, 2008 @ [2:54 pm](#)*

#### 10. from antiwar.com (Justin Raimondo) :

Since 9/11, the United States has stood astride the global arms market and shows no signs of slacking off. In 2006, Washington wrapped up the biggest number of new arms deals, to the tune of some \$16.9 billion, over 40 percent of the worldwide total. Russia came in second, with a mere \$8.7 billion. More than half of the global arms deliveries were made by the U.S.

Just last week, on Feb. 8, 18 “defense”-related contracts were announced totaling \$326,664,244. That makes 58 publicly-reported defense contracts for the week, totaling \$1,584,635,220. Last month, there were 223 publicly-reported defense contracts, totaling \$19,625,989,716. While the civilian economy is shrinking, the military sector is expanding – and, if either of the eventual major party candidates have their way, the military expenditures will balloon. The Democrats, like the Republicans, are pledged to an even bigger U.S. military. It’s good for business, if your business is war or war-related, and it’s good for votes – especially the votes, active support, and political contributions of the growing group of Americans whose livelihoods, and claim to some sort of social status, depend on the continuation of our foreign policy of perpetual war.

*Comment by Kay — February 13, 2008 @ [2:55 pm](#)*

#### 11. Everything can’t be great if we can’t afford the website that says how great everything is going.

*Comment by deebaser — February 13, 2008 @ [2:55 pm](#)*

12. Mr. Bush,

The time for glorifying yourself will soon be at an end.

Maximus

*Comment by Dirty Hippie — February 13, 2008 @ [2:55 pm](#)*

13. I guess shutting down the website is the worst of all economic indicators.

Comment by 2MillionLightYearsToAndromeda — February 13, 2008 @ 2:54 pm

Qutoed for truth

*Comment by deebaser — February 13, 2008 @ [2:56 pm](#)*

14. Socialist commie pinko website. Shut it down!

*Comment by 2MillionLightYearsToAndromeda — February 13, 2008 @ [2:57 pm](#)*

15. more from antiwar.com (Justin Raimondo)

This permanent war economy is financed by government, of course, which goes into debt in order to pay for the biggest orgy of arms spending in history. That debt eats away at the very heart of our prosperity and threatens to hollow out our economic system as the markets shake and quiver, hinting at a financial meltdown that every half-awake economist and market maven expects – and fears. A few profit while the rest of us suffer the consequences. That isn't capitalism; that's government-subsidized cronyism.

We are borrowing from the Chinese in order to pay the costs of our Middle Eastern empire, but what will we do when they no longer buy our debt? When they dump our securities, our “empire” goes down the tubes – and the warlords of Washington know it

*Comment by Kay — February 13, 2008 @ [2:59 pm](#)*

16. The Democrats, like the Republicans, are pledged to an even bigger U.S. military.

Comment by Kay — February 13, 2008 @ 2:55 pm

And therein lies the problem. All the problems Hillary and Barack pledge to address simply cannot materialize as long as the Defense budget stays at current levels or is increased. Period.

The defense budget needs to be cut 25% IMMEDIATELY and another 25% shortly thereafter.

Comment by 2MillionLightYearsToAndromeda — February 13, 2008 @ [3:01 pm](#)

17. The definition of irony is when national economic indicators get so bad that the government has to shut down its website for reporting national economic indicators.

Comment by mongo — February 13, 2008 @ [3:01 pm](#)

18. Economic indicators, like reality, have a well known liberal bias.

Comment by Bubs — February 13, 2008 @ [3:01 pm](#)

19. even more from antiwar.com (Justin Raimondo)

For a relatively paltry investment – chump change, really – the military-industrial complex hauls in boatloads of cash. It's nice work, if you can get it. The problem is that the rest of us pay, in the form of taxes, to subsidize this politically powerful new class: an America that isn't producing anything all that useful, except for bombs and subprime mortgage securities, is growing poorer as a result of their labors. Every dollar locked up in the dead end of military equipment, which cannot be used except for a single, rather limited purpose, is one less dollar that is invested in productive capital, i.e., an investment that expands the private market, creates non-government jobs, and generally increases the level of well-being in our society.

In effect, the military-industrial complex lives very much like a vampire, draining the life's blood from the productive sector and reducing the availability of capital investment where it's really needed. Our foreign policy massively misallocates the distribution of wealth in our society and pumps funds into areas that are not productive, while starving those sectors that would benefit the civilian economy.

Comment by Kay — February 13, 2008 @ [3:01 pm](#)

20. *Yet another example on how Bush and the GOP want to keep the electorate an uninformed as*

*possible.*

*Comment by bobcat\_grad — February 13, 2008 @ 2:54 pm*

Damn straight, bobcat.

It's why they have such a hard-on for the "liberal academic elite". Because they know that, in general, the more educated one becomes, the more liberal their thinking.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1228-32.htm>

*Comment by ralph the wonder llama — February 13, 2008 @ 3:02 pm*

21. Actually, as most already know, this is just bogus. The work, and the real cost of the website, is still going to done to produce the data. The cost of having the website is trivial in comparison.

*Comment by zubrek — February 13, 2008 @ 3:03 pm*

22. We have to face the facts : it's a War Economy and the civilian economy is going down the toilet.

The only ones that are getting rich are the arms manufacturers.

Folks, this is a "phony war on terror"

*Comment by Kay — February 13, 2008 @ 3:04 pm*

23. Gee, ya think, kay?

*Comment by The Republic of Stupidity — February 13, 2008 @ 3:05 pm*

24. Kay; another way of saying it is:

Kill! It's GOOD for the economy!

*Comment by Uncle Ho — February 13, 2008 @ 3:07 pm*

25. Bush is a cut and run coward. He has cut and run from trouble every time he has caused it in his

pathetic, cowardly life.

*Comment by VerbalKint — February 13, 2008 @ [3:10 pm](#)*

26. “Facts are stupid things.”

- Ronald Reagan

*Comment by Leftside Annie — February 13, 2008 @ [3:17 pm](#)*

27. That explanation is pure garbage. The cost of the site - like most any site, really - is in establishing it, not so much in maintaining it.

Another daily example of lies, lies, and more lies. If the administration does not like information critical of it, they manipulate it, discredit it, or, in this, case bury it - even their own data.

But, I did not expect anything different. We’ve only had seven years of this same crap to get us acclimated to it. I’m only sometimes surprised at the various ways they find to continue with their deceitful, dishonest ways.

My dad ( WWII vet, Korea, etc.) said how lucky were were to **not** live in the USSR where those damn Reds kept their citizens in the dark, owned the press, lied and/or hid all the information on government operations. Big secretive state.

Wow. I bet Stalin and Khrushchev would be so proud right now. George Bush has brought their ideology and governmental operations right to our doorstep, and without a shot being fired.

Nyet to Premier Bushky! Impeach them all, and do it now!

*Comment by Tired of being lied to — February 13, 2008 @ [3:20 pm](#)*

28. SSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

DAMMIT! you weren’t suppose to notice.

Now we’ll have to round you up and detain you for an indefinite period of time.

Of course, you won’t need counsel, as you won’t be charged with any criminal action, just subversive activity as defined by the fearless codpiece\_in\_Chief.

*Comment by RUCerious — February 13, 2008 @ [3:26 pm](#)*

29. InMotion Hosting, Inc (USA) | Host Interview  
Value Max Plan - \$5/mo (Plan Value 80018)  
Linux | Check Host Reliability  
99% (172 ratings posted)

\$5.00 a month

I've got \$5.00 on it... who's willing to chip in?

*Comment by belac — February 13, 2008 @ [3:27 pm](#)*

30. Following up on my previous comment, #23, it would seem like someone with good investigative skill and the FOIA (yeah, I know, insert joke here) could find out the budget for this website and a breakdown of costs.

*Comment by zubrek — February 13, 2008 @ [3:28 pm](#)*

31. I'm in fer \$5, belac.

*Comment by The Republic of Stupidity — February 13, 2008 @ [3:29 pm](#)*

32. Oops, I meant #21

*Comment by zubrek — February 13, 2008 @ [3:29 pm](#)*

33. Tired; is your dad still around to see the sh!t we are in now? And if so, what does he have to say about it?

*Comment by Uncle Ho — February 13, 2008 @ [3:31 pm](#)*

34. Naturally, they solved this problem by voting to send everyone a check, and cutting taxes to pay for it.

Right.

*Comment by Bush is a four letter word — February 13, 2008 @ [3:36 pm](#)*

35. I'm in fer \$5, belac.

*Comment by The Republic of Stupidity — February 13, 2008 @ 3:29 pm*

Sweet, now all we have to do is get through to the President and tell him that we've found a sweet server that'll cut down on costs and still allow them to get the data out... um... oh, I get it...

*Comment by belac — February 13, 2008 @ [3:37 pm](#)*

36. A message on the website states that it was shut down due to budgetary constraints. Once again proof that these people live in an irony-free zone.

*Comment by shoeless — February 13, 2008 @ [3:38 pm](#)*

37. This is like Bush shutting down the EPA libraries to supposedly save all of \$2 million, which is what we spend in Iraq about every 11 minutes.

It was never about saving money — but it was about shutting the public off from information that the government found embarrassing or potentially harmful to its corporate friends.

*Comment by Naturegal — February 13, 2008 @ [3:39 pm](#)*

38. A message on the website states that it was shut down due to budgetary constraints. Once again proof that these people live in an irony-free zone.

*Comment by shoeless — February 13, 2008 @ 3:38 pm*

Yeah, but they used a really small font so they wouldn't take up so much of the tubes-... ya see, on the digi-web ya have to be aware of your datum files and whatnot- otherwise things get clogged and people have trouble watching the YouTube...

*Comment by belac — February 13, 2008 @ [3:43 pm](#)*

39. Um...how much does it cost to keep this website running? If our leaders were truly interested in

cutting spending, surely they could find some bigger items to focus on (the war in Iraq, the constant funneling of money toward our no-bid contractors, etc.).

This is a little bit like a person cutting their caloric intake by having a Diet Coke with their pizza, buffalo wings, cheese fries, and banana split instead of a regular Coke.

When the “official” reason is this weak, a sensible person has to ask what there is to hide.

*Comment by missmolly — February 13, 2008 @ [3:44 pm](#)*

40. These aren't the data you are looking for...

You can go about your business...

*Comment by RUCerious — February 13, 2008 @ [3:46 pm](#)*

41. These aren't the data you are looking for...

You can go about your business...

*Comment by RUCerious — February 13, 2008 @ 3:46 pm*

Move along, move along...

*Comment by belac — February 13, 2008 @ [3:48 pm](#)*

42. Remember, the Force can have a strong influence on the weak-minded

*Comment by RUCerious — February 13, 2008 @ [3:54 pm](#)*

43. *Yeah, but they used a really small font so they wouldn't take up so much of the tubes-... ya see, on the digi-web ya have to be aware of your datum files and whatnot- otherwise things get clogged and people have trouble watching the YouTube...*

*Comment by belac*

Oh, I thought they just couldn't afford the big font.

I heard Bush sent his budget to Congress over the internets. The chapter on defense spending alone is big enough to clog up the series of tubes.

*Comment by shoeless — February 13, 2008 @ [3:55 pm](#)*

44. The Ministry of Propaganda strikes again!

Just another act of desperation by the cheney/bush criminal enterprise.

*Comment by LividLib — February 13, 2008 @ [4:01 pm](#)*

45. Comment by shoeless — February 13, 2008 @ 3:55 pm

Ahh, but Congress is just down the street so it didn't have too far to travel... ya see, technology is easy to understand if you just use "common sense"

*Comment by belac — February 13, 2008 @ [4:02 pm](#)*

46. Probably a really short internets tube running from da Casa Blanca to the Congress...

*Comment by RUCerious — February 13, 2008 @ [4:06 pm](#)*

47. But it runs uphill. No way that bloated defense budget is going to make through those tubes.

*Comment by shoeless — February 13, 2008 @ [4:13 pm](#)*

48. With trucks in the way, too!

Seriously, this is what they meant by "gumming it to death." Everything, all of it, through 01-09.

*Comment by [OleHippieChick](#) — February 13, 2008 @ [4:14 pm](#)*

49. Somebody probably told the chymp they'd have to pay the Native Americans for an Apache server license.

*Comment by RUCerious — February 13, 2008 @ [4:20 pm](#)*

50. The strategy has been quite apparent for some time now. The Repubs plan to make “happy talk” about the economy until they are driven from office and then blame the coming recession (or depression) on democrats. The challenge for Bush people is that the economy is deteriorating faster than they figured it would and it’s becoming harder and harder to avoid the truth about it before Bush leaves office.

*Comment by Ret. Col. Jack Ripper — February 13, 2008 @ [4:27 pm](#)*

51. Comment by Ret. Col. Jack Ripper — February 13, 2008 @ 4:27 pm

But will it work? I tend to think that the American people are starting to show serious signs of “happy talk” fatigue.

After a while, all that sunshine being blown up our a\$\$es starts to sunburn and peel.

I know that Bush et al. doesn’t seem to care but I think they’re queering the pitch for the other Repubs in the short and long term...

*Comment by belac — February 13, 2008 @ [4:41 pm](#)*

52. 1984 came twenty years late

*Comment by bebop — February 13, 2008 @ [5:04 pm](#)*

53. Or they could just take one day off — just one day — from Iraq and use the \$275,000,000 to pay for it and thousand’s of other things.

*Comment by drago — February 13, 2008 @ [7:37 pm](#)*

54. Why is anyone surprised? Hiding the data which doesn’t report what they want it to or say it does is a frequent practice by the Bush administration. Am I the only one who remembers that the Bush administration used to collect data about terrorist activity worldwide during the first term? Can anyone tell me why they don’t do that anymore? Yup, you guessed it...the reports were showing that terrorist activity was actually increasing around the globe rather than decreasing as the Bush administration was claiming and wanted everyone to believe it was, so they simply stopped collecting (or at least publishing) the data.

*Comment by Bluestocking — February 13, 2008 @ [7:47 pm](#)*

55. Thanks for the well presented information Kay! It is all true... unfortunately!

*Comment by sacopenapa — February 13, 2008 @ [10:04 pm](#)*

56. They're going to go balls-out to cover and lie and prop things up until the day the chimp leaves office. The day after when the whole thing comes crashing down, they'll say: "It didn't happen onn our watch, it's all Obama's fault!"

*Comment by marlow — February 13, 2008 @ [10:27 pm](#)*

57. Great way to tell economy is in the dumps...shut down a government site because of money...

Too, funny...

Bush = bass ackwards

*Comment by YouCantHandleDaTruth — February 13, 2008 @ [11:28 pm](#)*

58. Bush should be hung upside down from the ceiling and beaten like a piñata (or water-boarded)!!

But seriously, isn't there anyone who's read this who has contacts with a tv station? This bit of news looks really newsworthy, and what better way to bring this to the attention of MORE people!!

*Comment by wearywanderer — February 14, 2008 @ [1:24 am](#)*

59. "Hey, illegal preemptive wars cost money, you know."

War? I thought it was an occupation?

*Comment by TheKingsSon — February 14, 2008 @ [1:30 am](#)*

60. Once again the head chimp of BUSHCO speaks, lies, lies, and more lies that is all we are going to continue to hear until JAN 09. We should be used to it by now after 7yrs. This latest escapade is just what BUSHCO needs to confirm to me that him and his crime family need to go on trial for WAR CRIMES and CIVILIAN CRIMES also. To the rest of the world DUBYA has made this

once great country of ours look like a FARCE. People please call, write and e-mail your senators and congressmen/women and let them know we want this web site back on. The creep is hiding something and we as the PEOPLE of this country demand action. Tell me again how the media is to blame, does fox news tell us lies too when they talk about the economy and we should just it around and “viola” everythings rosy. To coincidental for me to swallow....

*Comment by christopher wiwi — February 14, 2008 @ [8:59 am](#)*

61. The Government's short of money? Legalize marijuana, there's \$40 billion annually right there! That should keep economic indicators running.

Cost to society in ending the prohibition - NOTHING. Cost to society in perpetuating the prohibition - increased taxes, increased crime, funding of criminal organizations, drug testing nonusers in workplaces and schools, alienation within families and society itself, death by prohibition-related crime and enforcement activities, risk to every nonuser of SWAT-style police actions or home invasions due to being wrongly suspected of marijuana involvement. The list goes on. 800,000 people are arrested every year for marijuana-related offenses, the benefit to society which pays for these arrests and subsequent judicial activity and sentencing - NOTHING.

Legalize marijuana and save economic indicators!

*Comment by jway — February 14, 2008 @ [1:18 pm](#)*

62. You've still got other government websites, don't get too down.

Why, you can still visit Barney's place on the web, it's still operating.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/barney/>

*Comment by Canadian Paul — February 14, 2008 @ [2:38 pm](#)*

63. Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies, Lies and MORE DAMN LIES! Even when the commander-in-THIEF is STANDING UP, he's LYING, and when Bush is LYING DOWN, he's REDUNDANT! Everything Bush says or does is a LIE, including “I,” “And” and “The,” his whole STINKING WORTHLESS LIFE has been a BIG LIE, and when he DIES, which I hope is as soon as possible, HE WILL TRY TO LIE to the Grim Reaper, who will put PAID to Monkey Boy's LYING YAP with a swift swipe of his merciless scythe, and CHIMPya's head will be rolling into OBLIVION! A PLEASANT THOUGHT!

*Comment by raymundohpl — February 14, 2008 @ [6:20 pm](#)*

64. eh, “portal” in question is just a list of 15 links that don’t even change from report to report, current one is always there. Copy the links, easy, take you about 10 seconds if you know how to work with a browser.

much ado about nothing.....

*Comment by rubycodez — February 14, 2008 @ [7:28 pm](#)*

65. they haven’t found a way yet to hide job performance indicators: 30% approval and plummeting, but I’m sure they’re working on it. And many more Repugnicians expecting unemployed status following the next election. Better hope Obama doesn’t cut their benefits!  
They can’t lower the bar **far enough** to make their own corruption, negligence, malfeasance, sheer incompetence and rampant stupidity look good, even compared to third world dictatorships like Chavez, Kim Jong Il and W’s buddy and fellow despot, Vlad (the Impaler) Putin! Even he’s envious of the clampdown on information and civil liberties that routinely goes on in W’s USA.

Can’t wait ’til all the lying stooges are in the Hague on trial for their crimes against humanity...  
“**Make it so, Number One. They all resemble Number Two.**”

*Comment by [bushwacked](#) — February 14, 2008 @ [10:19 pm](#)*

66. Don’t like the news out of Iraq deny reality  
Don’t like the news on the economy shut down the website  
Don’t like the news on climate change deny reality  
Don’t like the news that you’re going to lose shut down the election.

This Congress has so completely failed its constitutionally mandated oversight responsibilities that it has sent a loud and clear message to the Bush Administration that it’s “OK” to postpone the constitutionally mandated election. They don’t do any anything about the kill crazy mercenaries in Iraq, illegal spying on citizens, corrupt contracts in New Orleans, and hundreds of other abuses of power. What does Bush-Cheney have to fear from never holding a General Election until one or both of them is dead?

*Comment by [Speak.Low](#) — February 14, 2008 @ [11:23 pm](#)*

67. WHAT’S WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE? HE’S DOING IT TO PROTECT US FROM THE TERRORISTS!!!

*Comment by tymo — February 15, 2008 @ [1:20 am](#)*

68. Ephedra and Ephedrine diet pills are scientifically proven to melt fat and raise metabolism without diet or exercise.

EphBurn 25 is the classic ECA Stack just like the original Stacker 2. It will give you the strong thermogenic fat burning effect naturally. You can get it here:

<http://www.thatswholesale.com>

*Comment by [stacker2ephedra](#) — February 15, 2008 @ [8:17 am](#)*

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