



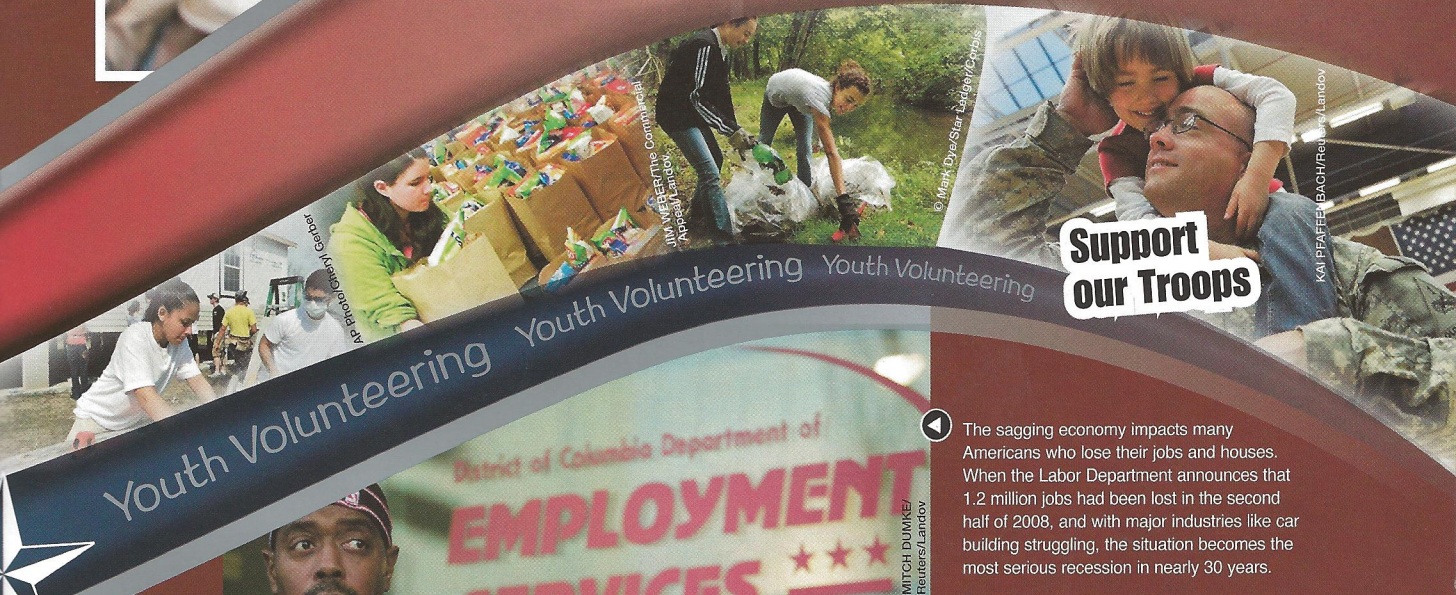
© Randy Faris/Corbis

Family Meals Back to basics



▶ The Green Movement grows as consumers become less wasteful and more environmentally friendly. Reusable shopping bags and totes replace paper and plastic bags and "green" cleaning products hit the shelves.

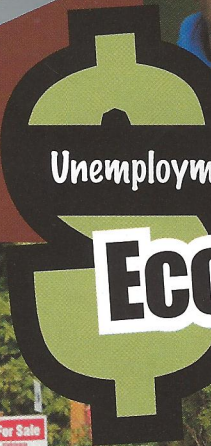
Go Green



Youth Volunteering Youth Volunteering Youth Volunteering

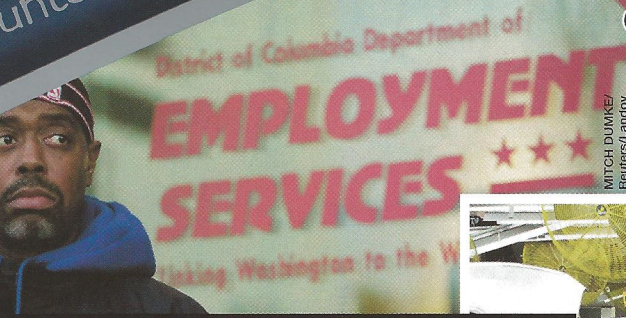
Support our Troops

▶ The sagging economy impacts many Americans who lose their jobs and houses. When the Labor Department announces that 1.2 million jobs had been lost in the second half of 2008, and with major industries like car building struggling, the situation becomes the most serious recession in nearly 30 years.



Unemployment rate hits 16-year high in January

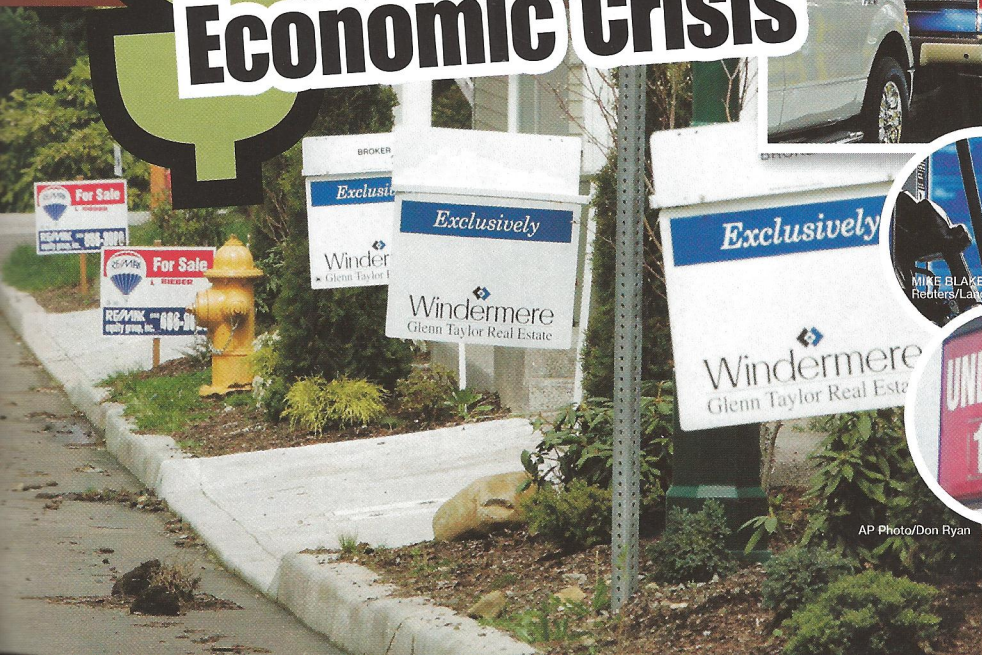
Economic Crisis



MITCH DUMKIE/Reuters/Landov



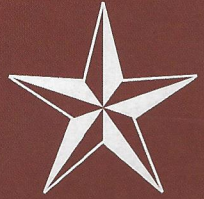
Photo by Larry W. Smith/Getty Images



MIKE BLAKE/Reuters/Landov

UNLEADED 1.76⁹

▶ A spike in gas prices in the spring and summer puts additional pressure on consumers. However, by the end of 2008, prices drop to their lowest level in years.



AP Photo/Don Ryan