



SEARCH TIME.COM



Business & Tech

ADD TIME NEWS

MOBILE APPS

NEWSLETTERS

Main • Retirement • Best iPhone Apps • Global Business • Small Business • Curious Capitalist
Techland • It's Your Money • Money & Main Street • Videos



It's Your Money

Money-saving deals and simple advice for saving money

It's Your Money Feed

Daily E-mail Updates

« Previous

Broadband: The Exception to the Rule that Technology Gets Cheaper the Longer It's Around
Next »

Drink Up! Free Coffee & Free Beer Today

Marrying for Love? How About Not Marrying Because of the Economy

Posted by **BRAD TUTTLE** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at 8:54 am

1 Comment • Related Topics: families & children, housing, recession porn, census, homeownership, marriage, relationships, rent

According to recently released Census data, the percentage of young adults (ages 25 to 34) who have never married has been on a steady rise over the past decade, from 34.5% in 2000 to 43.9% in 2008. In 2009, with the full onset of the recession—and apparently, with widespread feelings that getting married was a bad idea amid an uncertain economy—the never-married numbers rose more sharply, up to 46.3%, and for the first time ever surpassed the percentage of young married folks (44.9%). This is hardly the only part of American life that's changed during the recession era: The Census also reveals that fewer people are moving, and fewer people own homes, while more people are getting college degrees and more people are spending at least 30% of their income on renting.

Everybody seems to have jumped on the marriage-decline trend as historic and significant, most obviously the **Population Reference Bureau**, which proclaimed "A Growing Marriage Gap" in a nation that's transformed over the decades: In the 1960s, for example, the marriage rate among young adults was roughly 80%. More recently:

Since 2000, the proportion married has declined in every state. However, several states in the Northeast and Southwest experienced bigger declines than others... These state-level results suggest that rising unemployment rates may have contributed to regional marriage patterns, but that it was not the only factor. In Rhode Island, for example, rising unemployment rates were associated with a sharp drop in the proportion married.

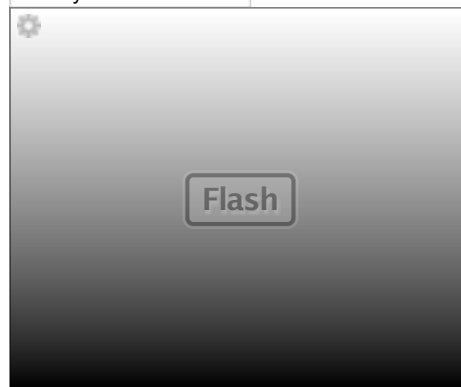
The **WSJ** highlighted the fact that big cities are especially full of young adults who've never been married:

In many big cities, never-married young adults are a strong majority among their peers. In San Francisco, 82% of adults between 25 and 34 had never been married in 2009, the largest share among big U.S. cities. Atlanta, New York and

SEARCH THIS BLOG

It's Your Money Daily E-mail
Get e-mail updates from TIME's It's Your Money in your inbox and never miss a day.

Enter your e-mail address **SIGN UP**



Subscribe to **TIME MAGAZINE** for only **\$1.99**

On Twitter: TIME.com
TIME The trouble with the credit cards of the future | <http://su.pr/2gqZ5u> - 1 hour ago
TIME What makes people gay? | <http://su.pr/21LE8e> (via @TIMEHealthland) - 1 hour ago
TIME Journalists behaving badly! | <http://su.pr/8s7PWI> - 2 hours ago
 Follow TIME.com on Twitter

Most Popular »

ON BLOGS ON TIME.COM

1. Juan Williams: Did He Have a Problem Opinion, or Do We Have a Problem With Opinions?
2. Will the Federal Reserve Cause a Civil War?
3. Logitech Revue with Google TV Review: A Bridge to the Future
4. Bang! You're Dead.
5. Have Banks Wrongly Evicted Millions?
6. Citibank's Credit Card 'Makeover': Why I'm Already Not a Fan of 2G Plastic
7. 18 Android Apps To Get You Started
8. Conservatives Heart Juan Williams

Minneapolis were all among the top 20 U.S. cities with the largest share of never-married young adults, with shares greater than 75%.

Meanwhile, the **NY Times** reported that the marriage drop wasn't limited just to young people:

Among the total population 18 and older, the share of men and women who were married fell from 57 percent in 2000 to 52 percent in 2009 – again, the lowest percentage since the government began collecting data more than 100 years ago. The share of adult women who were married fell below half, to 49.9 percent.

While marriage rates are down, cohabitation rates are up—so it's not like all those non-married young adults are living in their parent's basements. They're probably just more inclined to test out the relationship in uncertain times before jumping into the uncertainty of marriage. And apparently, they're not all that likely to be having babies: It's been previously reported that **U.S. birth rates have fallen to the lowest rates in a century.**

A **USA Today** story cites tons of non-marriage-related data, such as in 2009:

- *median income fell 2.9%, to \$50,221
- *84.6% of people didn't move in the previous year (up from 83.2% in 2006)
- *4.3% of people worked from home (up from 3.9% in 2006)

Another **USA Today** story focuses on the state of housing as depicted by Census data, and it was revealed that:

- *51.5% of people spent more than 30% of income on rent in 2009 (up from 50% in 2008)
- *homeownership rates dropped from 66.6% in 2008 to 65.9% in 2009—and overall, there were roughly 500,000 fewer homeowners and nearly one million more renters
- *the median home price dropped by 6%

So while it might not seem like a good time to get married, it appears to be a fine time to buy a newly cheaper home. Depending on the state of your relationship and the local housing market, one may be a smarter investment than the other.

Print
 E-mail
 Comment
 digg it
 Twitter
 LinkedIn
 Buzz
 Facebook
 MORE

Sponsored Links

PMP Certification Prep
100% Online PMP Exam Prep course from Villanova University. Learn More.
VillanovaU.com/PMP

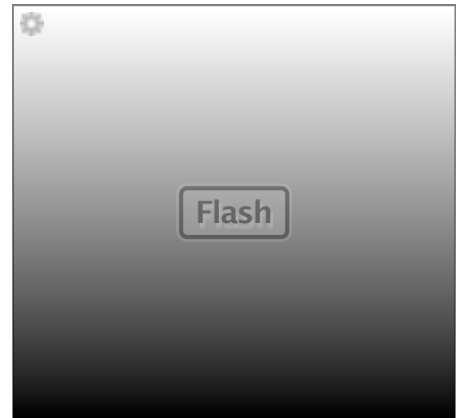
Penny stock alerts that Move! Up to 600%
Sign up FREE to see the next hot stock!
www.freepennyalerts.com

Huge Stock Gains!
Gains as much as 625%. Sign up for your alerts today!
www.GladiatorStocks.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Comments (1)
Post a Comment »
1

9. Ford Turns Cars Into App Platforms
10. Study Reveals Facebook Could Be Outing Gay Users



It's Your Money Favorite Links

- Alpha Consumer
- Andrew Tobias
- Ask Coupon Sherpa
- Ask Liz Weston
- Bargaineering
- Bill Shrink
- Bucks
- Budget Travel's This Just In
- Budgets Are Sexy
- Cheapism
- Consumer Reports Money Blog
- Consumer World
- Consumerism Commentary
- Consuming Interests
- dealnews
- Dollars and Sense
- Fat Wallet
- Get Rich Slowly
- Len Penzo
- Live Cheap
- MintLife Blog
- Money Crashers
- Planet Money
- Red Tape Chronicles
- Smart Spending
- The Consumerist
- The Digerati Life
- The Simple Dollar
- WalletPop
- Watson Inc
- Wise Bread
- You're So Money

TIME COVERS
Get your favorite **MUSICIANS** covers today!

BUY NOW!

It's not the economy that driving this. Young men are avoiding marriage in droves because they understand far more than previous generations what marriage holds in store for them. The Internet has allowed young men to learn from their older peers and draw their own conclusions, unfiltered by society's guardians of the status quo.

Plus, if you look past the cherry-picked data from places like the National Marriage Project, it's not hard to see why young men would shun marriage. Men who never marry are less likely to get overweight, less likely to develop heart disease in middle age, and are at least as happy or happier than those who sign that fateful piece of paper. Marriage is the end of dreams and freedom, and the gateway to muffin top bellies, stress, bills, and depression.

With any luck we'll see marriage become as rare as polio by 2030.

kaithorsten

September 30, 2010

at 3:24 pm

Log in to Reply

Add Your Comment:

You must be logged in to post a comment.

« Back to It's Your Money Home Page

TRY 4 ISSUES RISK FREE!

Full Name	State/Province
Address	Zip/Postal Code
City	E-mail



Archive

September 2010

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

More News from Our Partners



- The 10 most annoying smartphone habits
- The gay social network - for straight people
- Some networks blocking shows on Google TV



- John Lipsky: Macro-Prudential Policies: Putting the 'Big Picture' into Financial Sector Regulation
- This Week In Jobless Discrimination: Unemployed Applicants Might 'Be Tempted To Steal'
- William K. Black: Foreclose on the Foreclosure Fraudsters, Part 1: Put Bank of America in Receivership



- Nobel Winner Wants Jail Time for Corporate Crooks
- Millions Still Driving Recalled Fords, Feds Say
- Facebook, Amazon Backing \$250 Million Social-Media Venture Fund



- Friday Harvest: Tron Legacy pictures, Harry Potter video and more
- Critics Consensus: Paranormal Activity 2 Is A Solid, Scary Follow-up
- Total Recall: Directors Who Started in Horror




- Photo Tips: Mistakes to Avoid
- Old-School Ghosts and Apparitions
- The Week's Best Photos: 10.22.10


More on TIME.com »

 Can Football Finally Tackle Its Injury Problem?

 French Protests: The Cost of Sarkozy's Show of Force

 Q&A: What It's Like to Never Recognize a Face

Quotes of the Day »

 *"The one good thing that's come out of this is, now everybody can actually say my name. Before, everybody always said Justin Bye-ber."*

THE "OTHER" JUSTIN BIEBER, a 35-year-old man who lives in Jacksonville, Fla., who says he gets as many as 50 hyperventilating voice mails every couple of hours from the singer's fans

[More Quotes »](#)

Today in Pictures »



Smokin'

Stay Connected with TIME.com [Learn More »](#)

 **Subscribe to RSS Feeds**
 **Sign Up for Newsletters**
 **Add TIME Widgets**
 **Read TIME Mobile on Your Phone**
 **Become a Fan of TIME**
 **Get TIME Twitter Updates**
 **Get TIME Magazine for just \$1.99** [SUBSCRIBE »](#)



© 2010 Time Inc. All rights reserved | [Privacy Policy](#) | [RSS](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [TIME For Kids](#) | [LIFE.com](#)
[Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Media Kit](#) | [Reprints & Permissions](#) | [Opinion Leaders Panel](#) | [Help](#) | [Site Map](#)

Advertise with us! 

Powered by