

[The Covid-19 recession is the strangest recession in living memory](#)

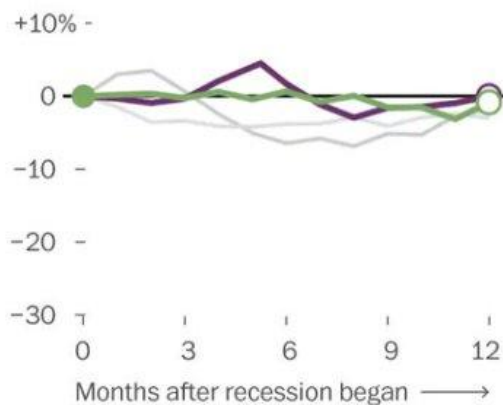
Atif Mian, January, 4, 2021

For starters, it is the most unequal recession -
like the virus, decimating some and untouched others.

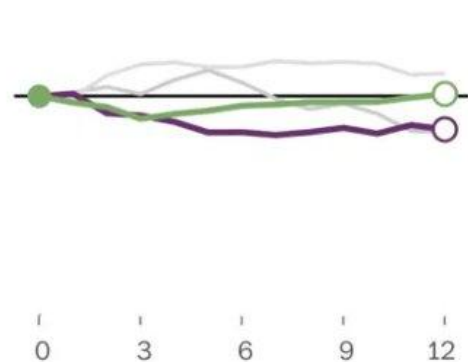
The coronavirus crisis is different

Job growth (or loss) since each recession began, based on weekly earnings

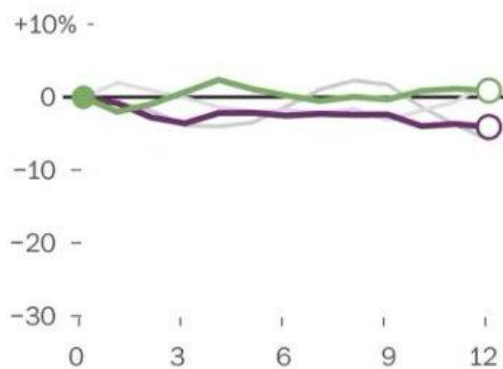
1990 recession



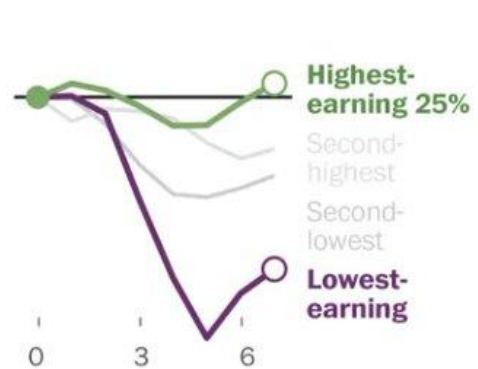
2001 recession



2008 recession



Coronavirus crisis

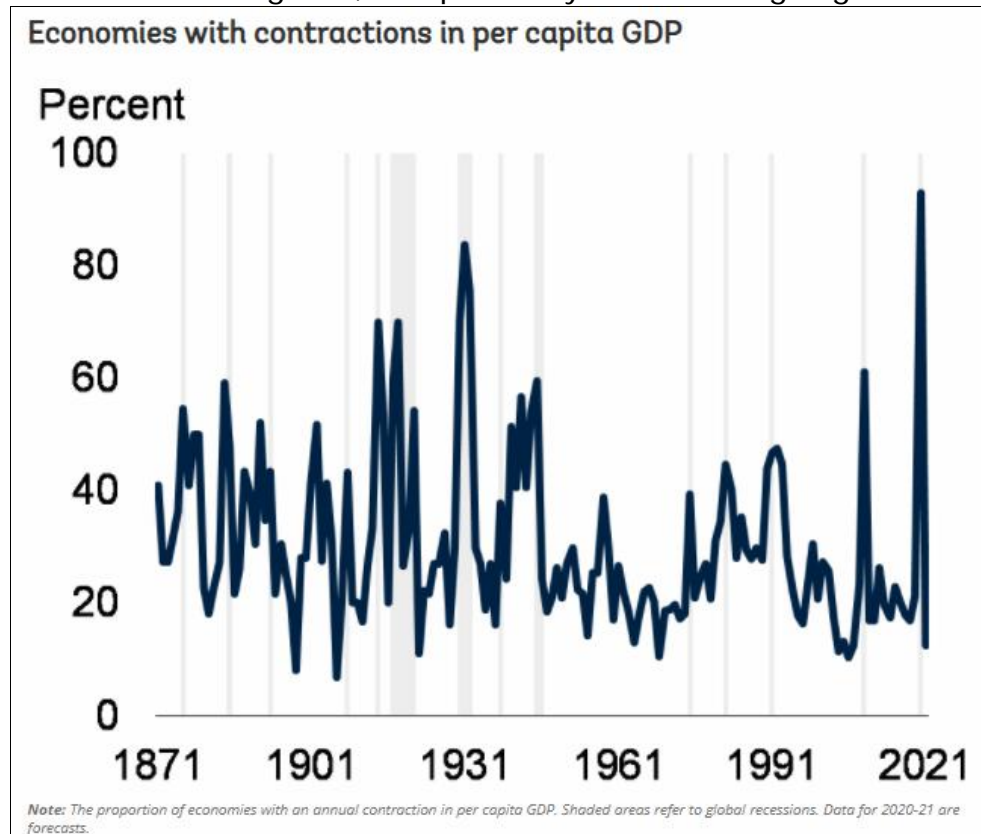


Notes: Based on a three-month average to show the trend in volatile data.

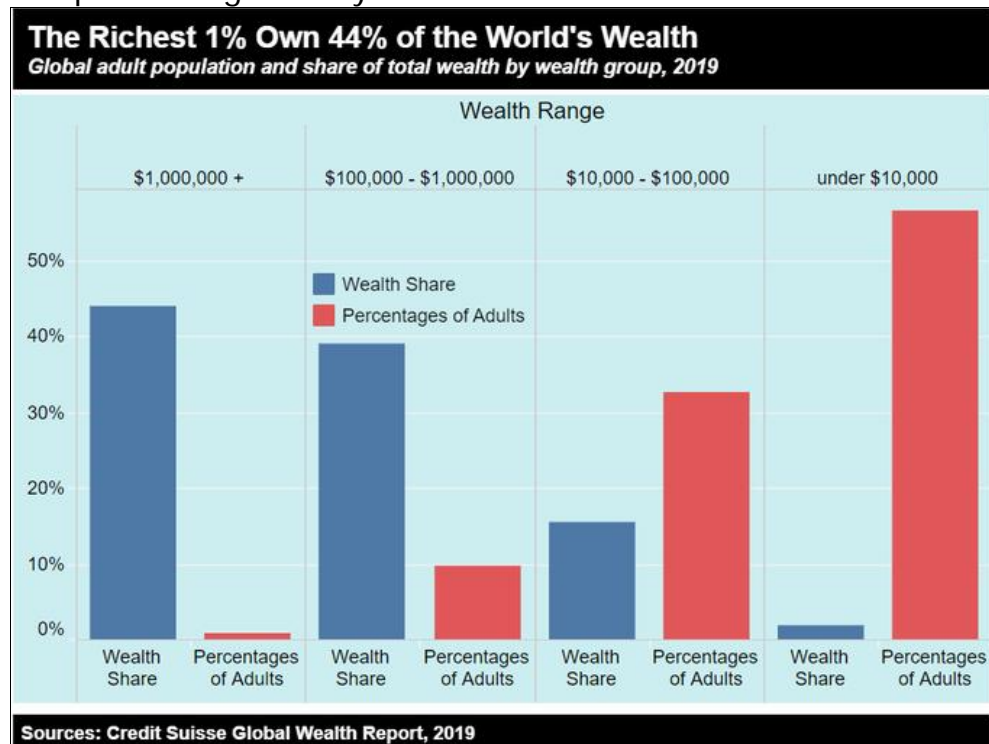
Source: Labor Department via IPUMS, with methodology assistance from Ernie Tedeschi of Evercore ISI

THE WASHINGTON POST

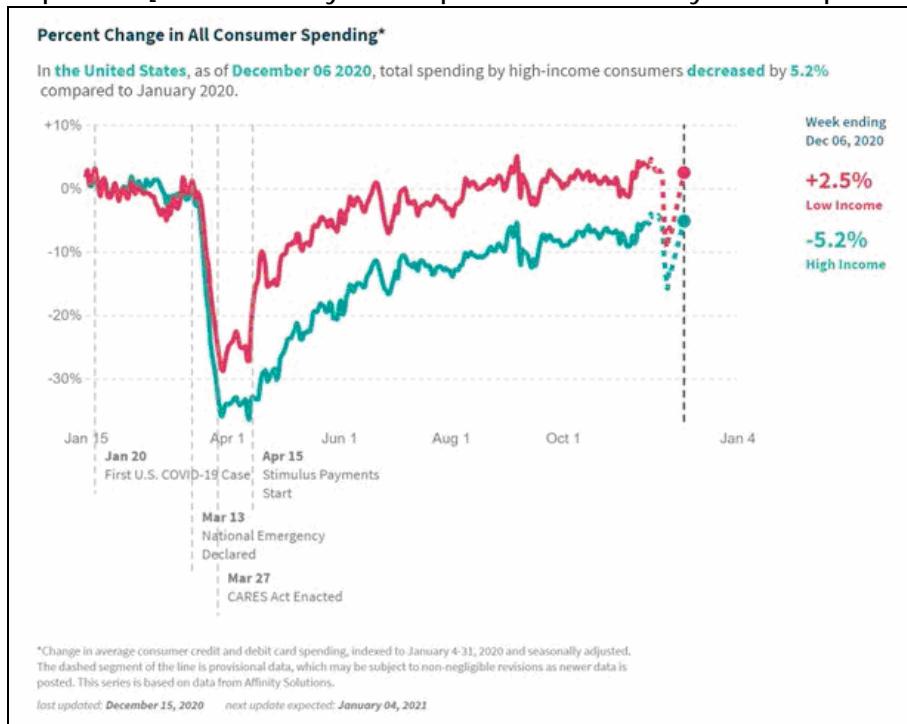
It is also the most global, with practically all countries going down at the same time



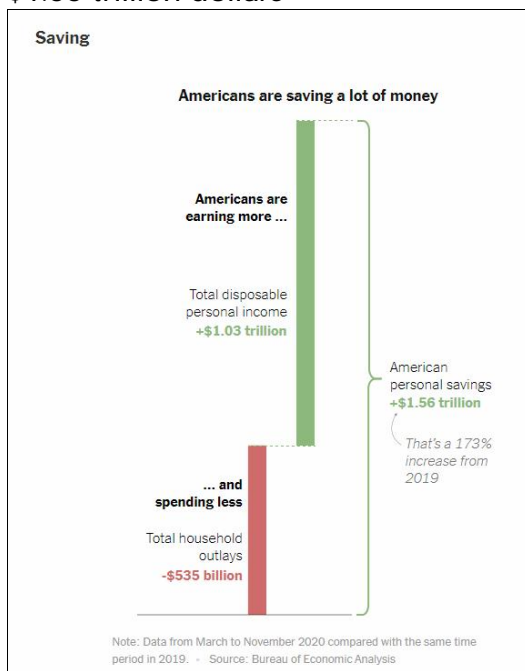
The most unequal recession comes at a time when the world was already most unequal in living memory



Paradoxically, despite the most unequal recession coming at the most unequal time, the decline in spending in this recession is driven by the richest, who have been least impacted [because they can't spend on what they like to spend on]



Because those who are earning the most, are spending the least, we are seeing some of the largest \$ increase in personal saving: The U.S. households saved an additional \$1.56 trillion dollars



<https://nytimes.com/2021/01/01/upshot/why-markets-boomed-2020.html>

We have the biggest boom in bank accounts, while we have the longest lines at food banks.

The economy is an ecosystem. It requires balance. We are not in balance.