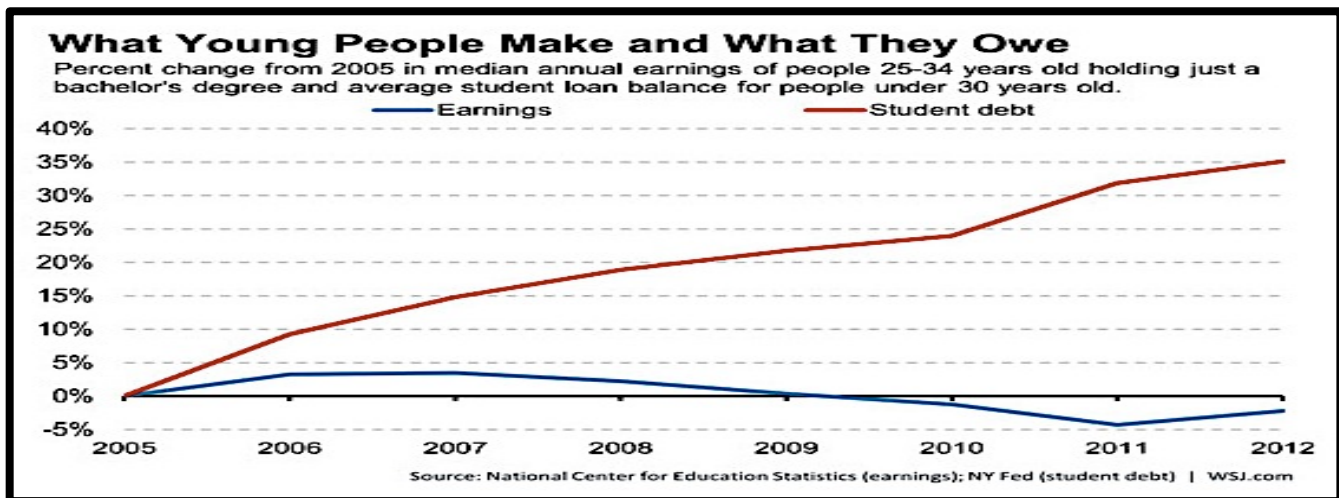
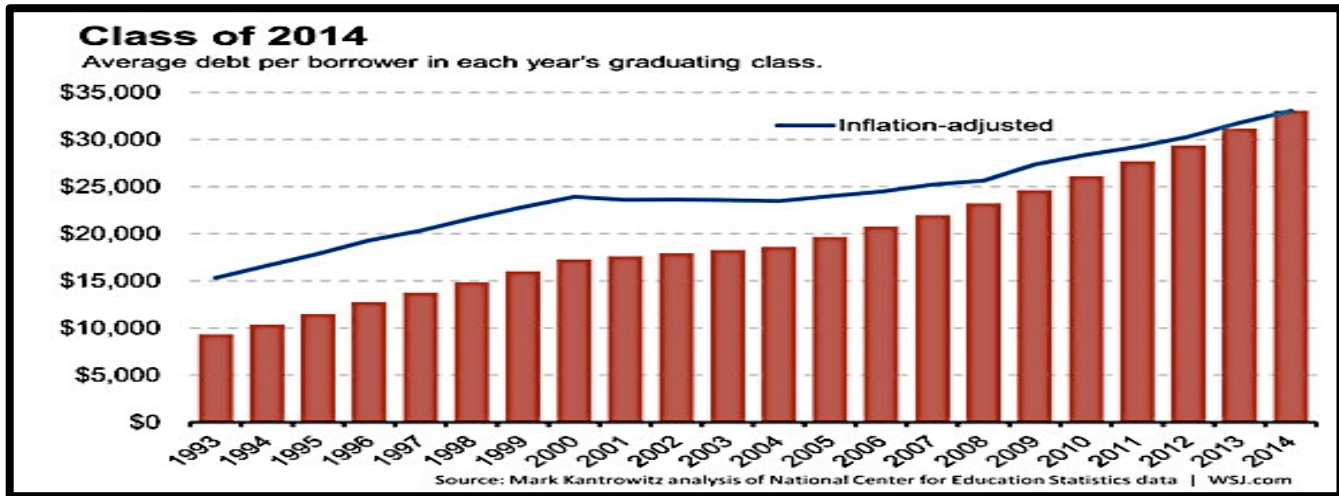


Class Of 2014 Graduates With Most Student Debt Ever: As members of the Class of 2014 graduate from universities and colleges this month, they begin their next chapters as the most indebted graduating class ever. The *Wall Street Journal* broke down [government data](#) compiled by Mark Kantrowitz at [Edvisors.com](#) that illustrates today's college graduates are saddled, on average, with about \$33,000 of outstanding student loan debt. The average loan debt was less than \$20,000 ten years ago and around \$10,000 in 1994. There is no reason to believe the student loan debt burden will return to those lower levels any time soon.



Unfortunately, the economy is not keeping up with the rapid increase of student loan debts, putting these graduates in an even more difficult position: they start out with higher debt and less opportunity and income than graduating classes before them. As the *Wall Street Journal* noted, average student loan debt increased 35% between 2005 and 2012, while the median salary for people 25-34 years old with a bachelor's degree fell by 2.2% over the same time. This disparity between what young Americans make and what they owe affects other factors that contribute to economic growth like housing and consumer spending. Addressing the student loan issue will require policies that stimulate economic growth as well.