Inequality Trends — 2025–2026 (partial term; term runs through Jan. 2029)

Trump Administration (Second Term) — INTERIM SNAPSHOT, TERM IN PROGRESS

Metrics and Measured Outcomes

Metric	Observed Change	Score	Interpretation
Real median household income	▼ squeezed by tariff-driven price increases	+1	Independent modeling (Yale Budget Lab) found that for all but the top income decile, tax increases from 2025 tariffs outweigh the gains from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's tax cuts.
Income share of bottom 50%	▼▼ reduced by benefit cuts and regressive tariffs	+2	The Center for American Progress characterized the OBBBA as 'the largest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in a single law in U.S. history,' citing roughly 10 million more people without health coverage and reduced food assistance for millions.
Wealth share of top 10%	▲ rising with equities and permanent capital-favorable provisions	+1	Equity markets recovered to and exceeded pre-term levels by mid-2025; the OBBBA permanently extended lower capital and business tax provisions, including bonus depreciation and R&D; expensing.
Homeownership by age cohort	~data still emerging	+0	Insufficient term-specific data is yet available to assess a clear directional shift within this short a window.
Labor share of national income	▼ federal workforce cuts and mixed labor-market effects	+1	An estimated 200,000-300,000 federal jobs were eliminated in 2025; separate research on the year's immigration enforcement expansion found it reduced job opportunities for the U.S.-born workers it was intended to help, rather than increasing them.
Intergenerational mobility indicators	too early to assess	+0	A term in progress of roughly 18 months provides no meaningful basis for assessing mobility effects, which require a multi-decade horizon.

Raw metric total: +5 **External adjustment:** +2 **Net score:** +7

Policy Levers and Their Effects on Inequality

IMPORTANT NOTE ON SCOPE: Unlike every other document in this treatise, this term is not complete. It covers only the first approximately 18 months of a four-year term that runs through January 2029. All figures, scores, and conclusions here are an interim snapshot as of mid-2026 and should be understood as provisional — they are likely to change, possibly substantially, as the term continues. This document should be revised and reissued as a true four-year record once the term concludes.

With that caveat, the term's dominant fiscal action has been the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (July 2025), which permanently extended the 2017 tax cuts and added new provisions, financed partly through Medicaid and SNAP reductions; independent analysts project it will leave roughly 10 million more people uninsured. Simultaneously, sweeping tariffs imposed under emergency authority in April 2025 (later ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in February 2026 and partially replaced under different legal authority) function as a regressive consumption tax, since research finds their costs outweigh OBBBA's tax benefits for all but the highest-income households. An external adjustment of +2 reflects the unusually consistent direction of independent analysis (CBO, Yale Budget Lab, CBPP, and others) describing this combination as significantly regressive — comparable in documentation quality, though not yet in scale or certainty, to the 2008 financial crisis term. This adjustment, like the whole document, should be revisited as the term progresses.

Placement on the Wealthy ↔ Common Man Scale

With a net score of **+7**, this period is classified as described below.

Classification: Good For Wealthy (INTERIM — subject to revision)