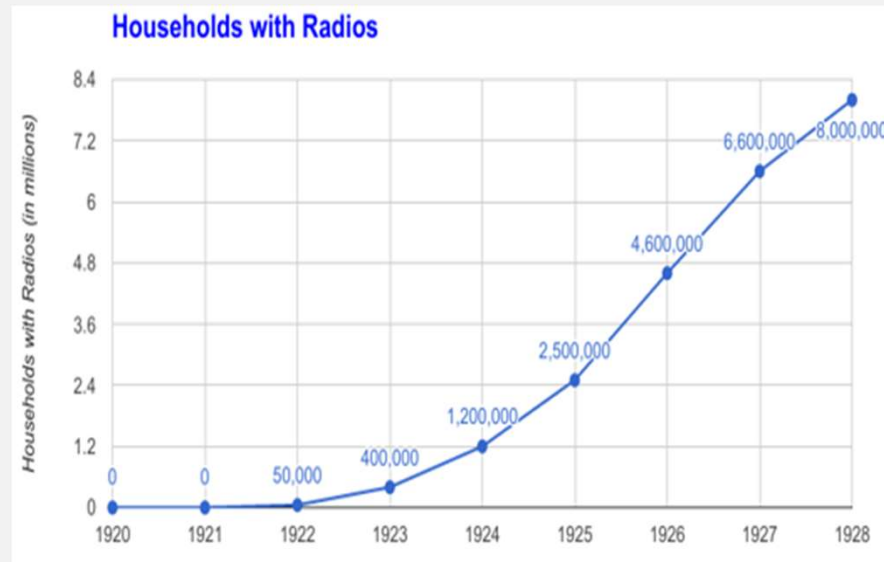


# FIRESIDE CHATS

FDR's radio program explaining his policies in a friendly way



**CRQ1:** How many American households had a radio in 1928?

**CRQ2:** Why do you think President Roosevelt chose to do regular radio addresses during the Great Depression? TTQA

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Roosevelt kept Congress in session, giving them 15 proposals to address the nation's problems. Congress passed all of them. The special session took almost three months and became known as the **Hundred Days**. The fear and tension of President Hoover's administration began to fade.

**CRQ:** What were fireside chats and why were they effective in reassuring Americans?

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## How did President Franklin D. Roosevelt use fireside chats to inspire confidence during the Great Depression?

Year	Unemployment Rate	Per Capita Personal Income
1929	3.2%	\$698
1930	8.9%	\$619
1931	16.3%	\$526
1932	24.1%	\$399
1933	25.2%	\$372

**Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labor force that is willing and able to work, does not currently have a job, and is actively looking for employment. The labor force consists of people ages 16 and over who are employed or actively seeking work

**Per Capita Personal Income:** Average income per person in a given area in a specific year, in this case years 1929 - 1933 in the United States.

Unemployment data from Gordon, Robert J. "Table A-1, Time Series Data for the U.S. Economy: 1875-1999." *Macroeconomics*, 8th ed., Addison-Wesley, 2000. Per capita personal income from [www.bea.gov/bea/regional/spi/](http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/spi/).

Excerpt from FDR  
Fireside Chat - May  
7, 1933

First, we are giving opportunity of employment to one-quarter of a million of the unemployed, especially the young men who have dependents, to go into the forestry and flood prevention work. This is a big task because it means feeding, clothing and caring for nearly twice as many men as we have in the regular army itself. In creating this civilian conservation corps we are killing two birds with one stone. We are clearly enhancing the value of our natural resources and, second, we are relieving an appreciable amount of actual distress of unemployment.

### Document 1 Historical Context

1) Explain the historical circumstances that led to the development of the Unemployment rate from 1929-1933.

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## ***How did President Franklin D. Roosevelt use fireside chats to inspire confidence during the Great Depression?***

In spite of the fact that unemployment remains a serious problem here as in every other nation, we have come to recognize the possibility and the necessity of certain helpful remedial measures. These measures are of two kinds. The first is to create programs intended to relieve, to minimize and to prevent future unemployment; the second is to establish the practical means to help those who are unemployed in this present emergency...Therefore, let us keep our minds on two or three simple, essential facts in connection with this problem of unemployment. It is true that, while business and industry are definitely better, our relief rolls are still too large. However, for the first time in five years the relief rolls have declined instead of increased during the winter months. They are still declining. The simple fact is that many million more people have private work today than two years ago today or one year ago today, and every day that passes offers more chances to work for those who want to work.

The program for social security now pending before the Congress is a necessary part of the future unemployment relief...We must begin now to make provision for the future. That is why our social security program is an important part of the complete picture. It proposes, by means of old-age pensions, to help those who have reached the age of retirement to give up their jobs, and thus give to the younger generation greater opportunities for work, and to give to all a feeling of security as they look toward old age. **Source: Excerpt from FDR Fireside Chat - April 28th 1935**

### **Document 2**

**2a) Based on this excerpt from FRD identify his point of view concerning the policies of the New Deal .**

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**3) Identify and explain a cause and effect relationship associated with the events or ideas in document 1- Unemployment and document 2- FDR Fire Side Chat . Be sure to use evidence from both documents 1 and 2 in your response.**

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