

## 2011년 4월 7일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 한국경제의 어려운 상황

### Paul's Summary (transcribed)

Exports **hit a record high** in this first quarter; net income of **listed companies** reached the highest level in years - these are the headlines in the economy sections of newspapers describing **the current status of the Korean economy**. On the surface, the Korean economy seems to be pretty smooth-sailing. But most **mid to low income families** in Korea do not feel that the economy is getting any better. While **large conglomerates** are increasing their income in overseas markets, **small and medium sized companies** are **barely staying afloat** in the domestic market. Conglomerates are very careful hiring new employees and job opportunities for those in their 20s are pretty limited. **Consumer prices** are **soaring**, rent is going up, and mid to low income families are **suffering from the burden of heavy debt**. As most **household debts** are **collateralized against** houses and apartments, **falling property prices** are putting more pressure on **debt-payers**. Some even say **hefty** household debt is like a **time bomb and the clock is ticking**. Construction companies generating a huge amount of **insolvent debt** are putting savings banks in trouble. Some worry the problems associated with savings bank can **spill over to other areas** of the financial section.

All these bitter realities point to one direction: it's time to **put stability first before growth**. However, putting stability first and **slowing down the economy** can be painful. If interest rates go up, more households will suffer from paying a higher interest on their debts.

The real question is who's going to **take the initiative** and **resolve these problems**. We have two upcoming elections next year. It is worried that **populist policies** and **empty campaign pledges** will further hurt the economy. Lack of leadership combined with lack of alternatives - that's what the Korean economy is faced with now.

### Key Words

1. 최고치를 기록하다 hit a record high; breaking through the ceiling; surpassing expectations; surpassing previous records
2. 한국경제의 현 상황 the current status of the Korean economy
3. 서민 mid to low income families
4. (중소기업은) 간신히 버티다 barely staying afloat
5. 빚에 시달리다 suffering from the burden of heavy debt
6. 가계부채 household debts
7. 부동산 가격 하락 falling property prices
8. 주택담보대출(을 받다) mortgage my house for a loan, loan collateralized against my house
9. 부동산 가격 하락 falling property prices
10. 원금을 갚다 pay off the principal
11. 줄도산 dominos of bankruptcies, runaway bankruptcies
12. 가계대출이 시한폭탄이다 customers are sitting on a ticking time bomb
13. 부실 여신 insolvent debt
14. 다른 영역으로 번지다 spill over to other areas
15. 성장보다 안정이 중요하다 put stability before growth
16. 성장을 늦추다 slow down the economy
17. 체감경제 consumer perceived economy
18. 살림살이 standard of living, livelihood

### More Key Words

1. 방사성 비 radioactive rain
2. 방사성 비 조심하라 watch out for the radioactive rain
3. 낙진 fallout

4. 상장사 listed companies
5. 과중한, 부담이 큰 hefty
6. 주도해서 문제를 해결하다 take the initiative and resolve the problems
7. 인기영합 정책 populist policies
8. 지키지 못할 공약 empty campaign pledges
9. 경제를 살리자 let's revitalize the economy, let's reinvigorate the economy, let's put more life in the economy, let's fix the economy, let's get the economy back on track
10. 변화가 심하다, 부침이 있다 fluctuate
11. 상한선과 하한선 ceiling and floor
12. 거치기간 grace period