

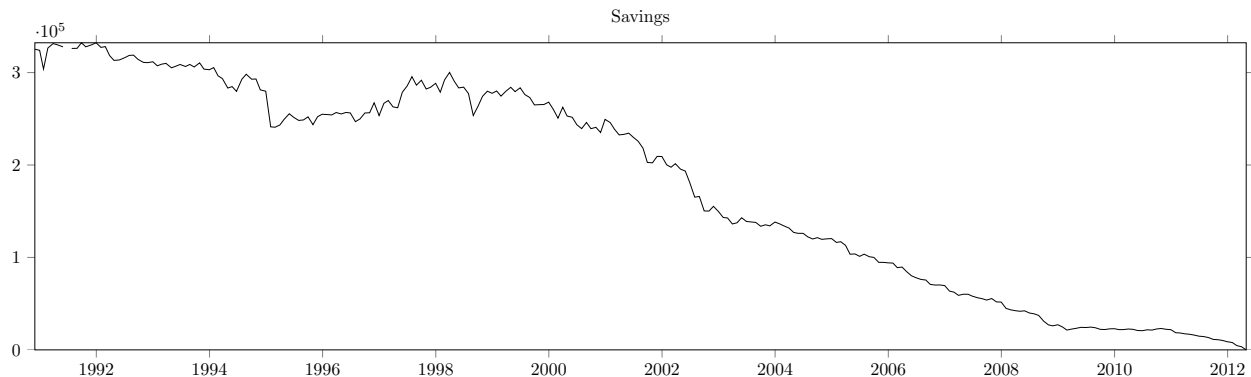
Personal History

John Kormylo

I had become increasingly unhappy at EPR, mostly due to being pigeonholed as a refraction statics expert (which I wasn't). I didn't want to leave Houston, but no other local companies were hiring either. When I rolled over my IRA I realized I could live off the interest, so I retired. This turned out to be the biggest mistake of my life.

I didn't realize it at the time, but this would have been the perfect time to start a career in DSP or MATLAB programming. Instead I tried to make it as an independent developer on a platform that was soon orphaned. With these and other setbacks, I eventually was spending more time playing games than developing.

When the stock market crashed, I began living off the principle rather than the interest, a process which only got worse with time. When I started looking for a job, I discovered that I was now unemployable. I'm told this is because I lack recent experience. If someone had hired me when I first started looking, I would have 13 years of recent experience by now. I suspect that this isn't the real reason, but it's not like they can say that it's because I'm too old.



For that matter, when did being overqualified become a bad thing? Don't employers want the best and brightest working for them? Is there really a "Goldilocks zone" for competence? Considering all the research positions which disappeared in the '90s, I suspect I am not the only one with this problem. Perhaps my inability to find work is not just a symptom of a sick economy, it is a cause. But I digress

During this time I kept reading about how desperate schools were for math teachers. Texas instituted an Alternative Certification Program to make becoming a teacher easier. Schools have a history of hiring retired professionals, so I thought I'd give it a try. It seems that schools weren't that desperate after all. I eventually found a position as an emergency replacement, but the year ended before my apprenticeship was completed.

The principal who hired me had been replaced and a more experienced teacher applied for my position. I didn't appreciate being let go in August, especially after producing such extraordinary numbers. But I really can't argue with the decision. I just could not reach many of the students.

Unfortunately, by the next hiring season, schools were laying off teachers in large numbers. I have kept busy putting together slide shows and worksheets. I really didn't have time to do this sort of thing while teaching five different subjects for the first time.

Lost Opportunities

The following is a partial list of the employers who have turned me down for jobs since the stock market crash forced me back into the job market. In fact, none of these applications ever led to an interview. I present it here simply to document to broad range of employers who are not interested in someone with my credentials.

AeroTek	Dolby Labs	Oklahoma University
APL	Draper	Patriot Technical
Appsig	Dynamic Research	Penn. State University
Aramco	Fairfield	Phillips
AS&E	Faro	Prarie View AMU
Aspex Semiconductor	Florida State University	Princeton One
Athena	General Electric	Purdue University
BAE Systems	Glacier Bay	Qualcomm
Bang Olufsen	Houghton Mifflin College	Ratheon
Bionueronics	Houston Community College	Rice University
Boeing	Idaho National Laboratory	Schlumberger
Bose Labs	Interactive Intel.	Selinc
Bosch	Invitrogen	Shell Oil
Broadcom	LI Creative Tech.	Silkroad Tech.
Cal. Tech.	Lincoln Labs (MIT)	Sony
Chevron-Texaco	LumenVox	Strategic Resources
Cisco	MD Anderson	TIAXLLC
Creare	MIT	University of S. Utah
Cyberonics	Motorola	University of So. Cal.
Digimarc	National Semiconductor	Volcano Corp.
Digital Wireless	NSWCPCD	Wright Curtis
Dimensionality	Numerica	