

Nearly Half Of Detroiters Can't Read

John Ellis | May 5, 2011, 3:07 PM | 2,787 |  38

[Detroit](#) was once *the* symbol of American wealth and industrial capacity. It is now everybody's emblem of decline.

The data about Detroit grow more depressing by the month. [This report](#) may be the most depressing thing you'll read all year.

In a nutshell, it says that roughly half of all the people who live in Detroit are illiterate. They can't read the back of a cereal box. They can't read a weather report. They can't read at all.

As Andrew Coulson [notes in his blog](#) at Cato: "Virtually the entire illiterate population has completed elementary school, the level at which reading is theoretically [taught](#). That's seven years of schooling (k-6), at a cost of roughly \$100,000, for... nothing."

By way of epitaph, last month every teacher in the Detroit public [school](#) system [was laid off](#).

Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/nearly-half-of-detroiters-cant-read-2011-5#ixzz1LaM8WHCb>