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## **JOB GROWTH FALLS SHARPLY IN MARCH**

Washington, D.C. – The unemployment rate returned to 5.2 percent in March, but only 110,000 total payroll jobs were created. Job growth last month was half the rise expected by market analysts and below the growth required to keep up with normal growth in the labor force.

“March job growth certainly went out like a lamb,” said **Sen. Jack Reed** (D-RI), Democratic member of the **Joint Economic Committee (JEC)**. “Payroll growth fell off sharply last month and the unemployment rate returned to its January level. More than three years into the recovery, we are still waiting for the labor market to come in like a lion.”

Overall, there are still 7.7 million unemployed Americans, and about 5.0 million additional workers who want a job but are not counted among the unemployed. An additional 4.3 million people work part-time because of the weak economy. The unemployment rate would be 9.1 percent if the figure included those who want to work but are not counted among the unemployed and those who are forced to work part-time because of the weak economy. More than one in every five unemployed people – 1.7 million Americans – has been jobless for more than 26 weeks, the maximum number of weeks for receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits.

*The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.*

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