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**JOB GAINS IN SEPTEMBER ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DENT
IN THE JOB LOSSES SUFFERED ON BUSH'S WATCH**
**“Jobs Ticker” Shows Economy Must Create over a Million Jobs per Month
by Year’s End to Avoid Surpassing His Father’s Private Job Loss Record**

Washington, D.C. – The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1 percent in September, but the jobless recovery drags on as only 57,000 payroll jobs were created. Private nonfarm payrolls gained 72,000 jobs, but the manufacturing sector shed another 29,000 jobs. The **Joint Economic Committee (JEC) Democrats’** “Jobs Ticker” shows that this will undoubtedly become the most protracted private sector jobs recession since the 1930s, as the economy must now create an average of just over a million private jobs per month for the next 3 months – a pace never seen – in order to avoid this dubious achievement.

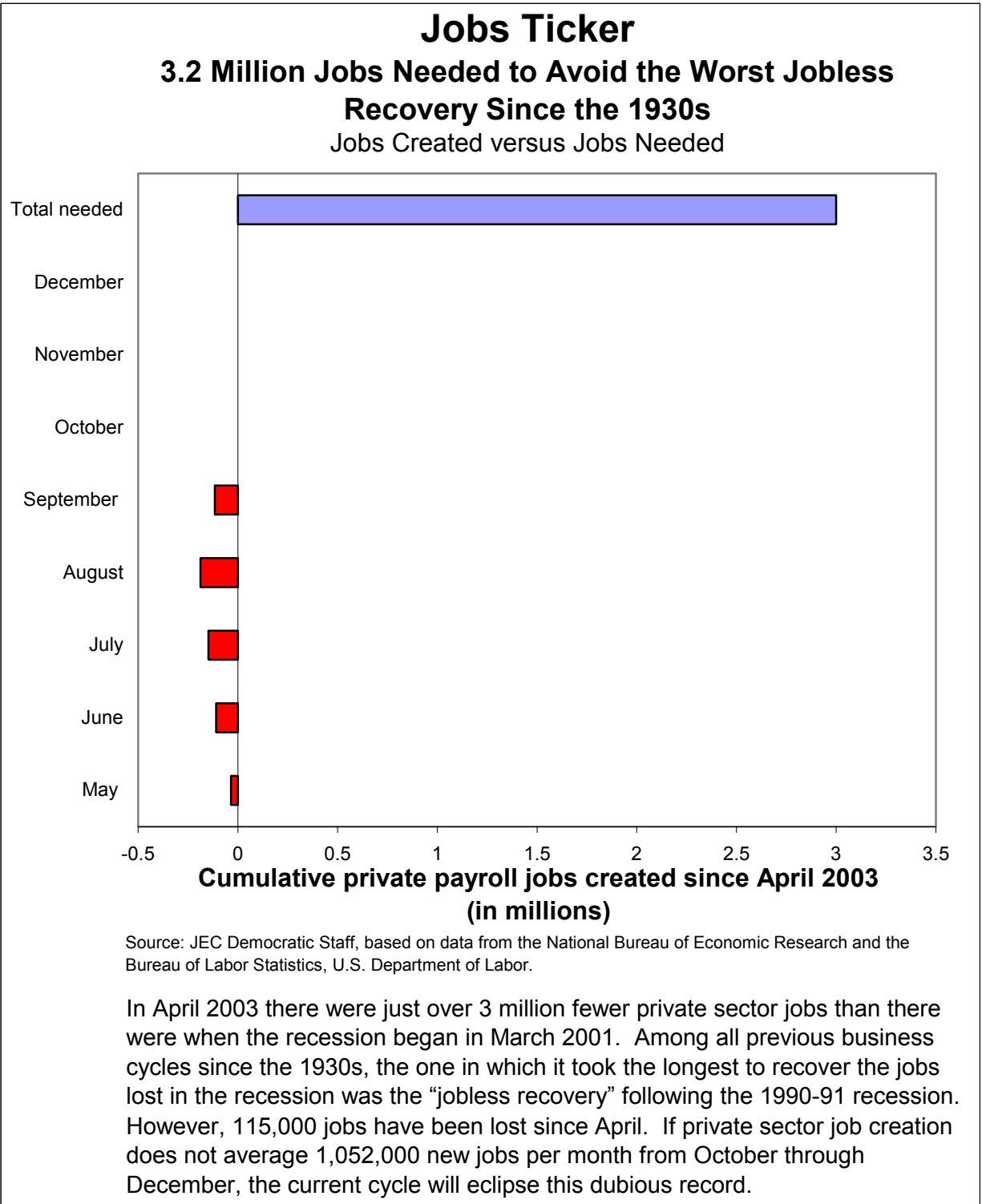
“The paltry job gains in September don’t even begin to make a dent in the more than 3 million jobs lost on President Bush’s watch,” said **Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA)**, Senior Democrat of the JEC. “In the last week we have learned the terrible toll that Bush’s jobless recovery is taking on American families, as poverty rises, incomes fall, and the ranks of the uninsured swell. How many more casualties of this jobless recovery will it take for the President to recognize the failure of his economic policies and change course?” added Stark.

The JEC Democrats’ “Jobs Ticker,” introduced in April, tracks progress in creating enough jobs by December 2003 in order for the economy to avoid the worst jobless recovery in the post-World War II era. The *loss* of 115,000 jobs since April makes the task truly daunting. On average, private sector job losses in a recession bottom out after 15 months and are erased within two years. This time, however, 30 months after the recession began there is scant evidence of a jobs recovery, making the persistence of job losses the most severe since the 1930s. The economy will have to grow consistently and at a substantially faster pace than the 3.3 percent achieved in the second quarter to even begin to close the jobs gap.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ September employment situation continued to paint a disappointing labor market picture. Since the start of the Bush recession, the economy has lost 3.2 million private sector jobs. Overall, there are 9.0 million unemployed Americans, and about 4.6 million additional workers who want a job but are not counted among the unemployed. An additional 5.0 million people work part-time because of the weak economy. And long-term unemployment jumped up, with 2.1 million Americans having been unemployed for more than 26 weeks. That is over 23 percent of the unemployed and the highest percentage in 20 years. The BLS also announced today that preliminary tabulations of more complete data show that the already bleak picture of a jobless recovery will be made worse when these new data are incorporated into the official statistics in February 2004.

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Chart 1



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.