

109TH  
CONGRESS

*Congress of the United States*  
**Joint Economic Committee**  
Democrats

804 HART SENATE OFFICE  
BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6602  
202-224-0372  
FAX 202-224-5568  
www.jec.senate.gov/democrats

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**Contact:** Nan Gibson  
202-224-0377

**ECONOMY POSTS JUST FIFTH MONTH  
OF HEALTHY JOB GAINS IN FOUR YEARS**

Washington, D.C. – The unemployment rate returned to 5.4 percent in February, but 262,000 total payroll jobs were created. Non-government jobs grew by 229,000.

“February’s job gains are welcome news, since we have had only a few months of good employment growth in the last four years,” said **Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)**, Democratic member of the **Joint Economic Committee (JEC)**. “The lack of a robust labor market during this recovery has limited job opportunities and held down wages. For the sake of American workers, I hope we continue to see healthy job growth.”

Since President Bush took office, the economy has posted only 5 months of job gains of 250,000 or larger – a number that was regularly achieved during the last economic expansion.

Overall, there are still 8.0 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 9.3 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. About one in every five unemployed people – 1.6 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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