

The Jobs Crisis – By the Numbers

Rapid Response continues to focus on the state of U.S. jobs and the economy. This is the first in a short series of Info Alerts on the topic. An action designed to create and maintain jobs will follow. Please distribute widely.

The number of jobs being lost each month has been steadily declining over the past year, from a loss of nearly 600,000 in January 2009 – when President Bush left office – to losing only 20,000 in January 2010. The unemployment rate also declined slightly in the last month.

However, we have a very, very long way to go to get back on track.

Consider the following:

- 14.8 million** Number of unemployed Americans. This is roughly the equivalent of the population of West Virginia, Maine, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont, Nebraska, Hawaii, Idaho, Rhode Island, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota and Alaska combined.

- 16.5%** Current underemployment rate. This includes those who have given up looking for work and those working part-time because of a lack of full-time positions.

- 6.4** Number of job seekers per job opening.

- 40%** The record-breaking percentage of our nation's unemployed who have been out of work for more than six months.

- Over 10 million** Number of jobs needed just to get back to the pre-recession unemployment rate.

- 28,030** Number of “mass layoffs” in 2009. Mass layoffs are when a single employer lays off 50 or more people at one time. This is the highest year on record since the statistic has been kept.

- 17.9 million** Workers in goods producing employment in the U.S. at the end of 2009. The last time we saw a lower number of year-end goods producing jobs was in 1949 (16.2 million that year).