

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 8, 2013

Employment Situation in February

On Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released its jobs report for the month of February, which showed that in February the private sector added 246,000 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent from 7.9 percent. Overall, the private sector has added 6.4 million jobs for the past 36 months. Coming out of the worst recession since the Great Depression we're making steady progress and need to continue building the economy from the middle out.

The Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, Alan B. Krueger, released this statement after the report was released:

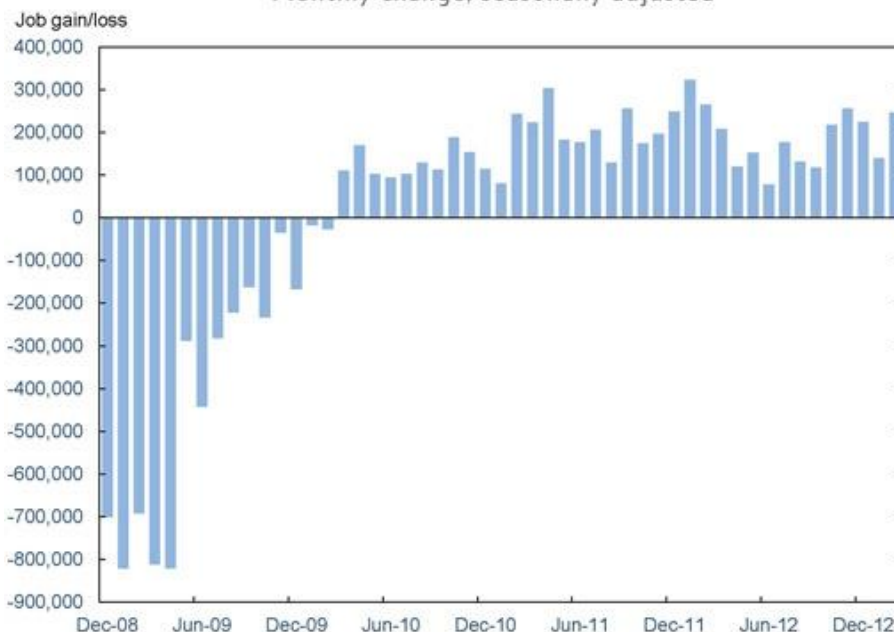
"While more work remains to be done, today's employment report provides evidence that the recovery that began in mid-2009 is gaining traction. Today's report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows that private sector businesses added 246,000 jobs in February. Total non-farm payroll employment rose by 236,000 jobs last month. The economy has now added private sector jobs every month for three straight years, and a total of 6.35 million jobs have been added over that period...

"The Administration continues to urge Congress to move toward a sustainable Federal budget in a responsible way that balances tax loophole closing, entitlement reform, and sensible spending cuts, while making critical investments in the economy that promote growth and job creation and protecting our most vulnerable citizens."

To read the full statement, click [here](#).

Private Sector Payroll Employment

Monthly change, seasonally adjusted



President Obama Signs the Violence Against Women Act

On Thursday, President Obama signed the Violence Against Women Act— legislation that will help protect more women and their families from violence. The reauthorized and strengthened Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) takes us forward in the fight against domestic violence and adds protections for LGBT Americans, Native American women, and immigrant women.

At the signing President Obama said:



"Today is about the millions of women -- the victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault -- who are out there right now looking for a lifeline, looking for support. Because of this bill, they'll continue to have access to all the services that Joe first helped establish 19 years ago: the national hotline, network of shelters, protection orders that carry across state lines. And because of this bill, we're also expanding housing assistance so that no woman has to choose between a violent home and no home at all. That's what today is all about.

"Today is about all the law enforcement officials -- like Police Chief Jim Johnson -- they're the first to respond when a victim calls for help. And because of this bill, we're continuing all the training and support that's proven so effective in bridging some gaps that were in actual enforcement of the law so that we can actually bring more offenders to justice. And we're giving our law enforcement better tools to investigate cases of rape, which remains a consistently underreported crime in our country. Helping police officers deliver on the most important part of their job -- preventing harm and saving lives -- that's what today is all about."

Vice President Biden, who initially wrote the Act in 1994, said:

"With all the law's success, there are still too many women in this country who live in fear of violence, who are still prisoners in their own home; too many victims that we have to mourn. We knew from the outset in 1994 that there was much more we could have done at the beginning if we were able to get the votes. But we did what was necessary and important, but we knew more had to be done to reduce domestic violence, domestic violence homicides, to provide new tools, as was just spoken to, to protect Native American women, to address the perplexing rate of dating violence among young women, and so much more. "But because of the people on this stage and in this room, every time we reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, we improved it. Every single time, we've improved it "And we did this again."

Read the President and Vice President's full remarks [here](#).

[GOP Sequester Takes Effect, Local News Notices Effects on Communities Around the Country](#)



PUTTING TAX BREAKS FOR THE RICH OVER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

Across the country, communities are beginning to feel the harmful effects of the [#GOPSequester](#). These arbitrary cuts are the consequence of a decision made by congressional Republicans— to put our economy at risk and sacrifice hundreds of thousands of jobs through their insistence on slashing vital services important to middle class Americans, our seniors, children, and men and women in uniform and their families, rather than agreeing to a balanced approach to reducing our deficit, which includes smart spending cuts and eliminating tax loopholes for the wealthiest Americans.

See below for continued coverage of the GOP Sequester nationwide. And watch the new video, [#GOPSequester: Defenseless](#) for just a few examples of how Republicans' reckless decision to make drastic and arbitrary cuts to our nation's military will hurt communities nationwide.

Alaska

[Juneau prepares for federal sequestration](#)

KTOO // Casey Kelly

It's less than a week since the federal budget cuts known as sequestration took effect, and Southeast Alaska communities are starting figure out what the reductions might mean for their bottom lines. In Juneau, the cuts will affect city and school district operations, as well as services at local nonprofits. City Manager Kim Kiefer says some departments will see small reductions due to the sequester cuts. Capital City Fire and Rescue, Juneau Police and Capital Transit all get federal grants. But some are guaranteed through next fiscal year, while others supply only a small portion of each department's budget. A number of projects at the city-owned Juneau International Airport are funded largely by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Florida

[Sequester cuts to close control tower at Albert Whitted](#)

Tampa Bay Times // Kameel Stanley

Unless there's a deal in Washington, D.C., sequestration will force the closure of the air traffic control tower at the city's downtown airport next month. In that case, Albert Whitted Airport would not be a "controlled" airport for the first time since the 1960s. Airport officials and pilots say that would be a disaster. Albert Whitted, with its urban location and crossing runways, already has occasional crashes — caused by everything from pilot error to engine malfunctions. Not having air traffic controllers, officials said, means an increased risk of more crashes. "It really is a bad idea what the government is doing here," said Jack Tunstill, who has flown planes for 33 years. Without air traffic controllers, pilots who use Albert Whitted would be on their own. So would the corporate jets, commercial flights and other planes passing through on their way to St. Pete-Clearwater International, Tampa International Airport and MacDill Air Force Base. "It removes a critical safety link in the whole chain," said Rich Lesniak, the airport manager, who got a letter from the Federal Aviation Administration on Wednesday saying the tower would close April 7. "And it's very drastic."

Texas

[Napolitano predicts sequester effects on Texas](#)

Texas Tribune // Julian Aguilar

In a letter to Gov. Rick Perry, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that times at the nation's busiest land port in Laredo could double to six hours and more than \$6 million in emergency management grants to Texas could be slashed because of the federal budget cuts that began taking effect Friday. Detailing the effects of sequestration on agencies in Texas, Napolitano also said international arrival wait times at the state's busiest airports could increase by 50 percent and that the U.S. Coast Guard presence off Texas could decrease by 25 percent. "Reductions mandated by sequestration will necessitate furloughs, hiring freezes and elimination of overtime pay for a significant portion of our frontline law enforcement personnel, which will impact staffing levels in Texas," Napolitano wrote in the letter, dated Monday. "As sequestration is implemented, you can expect to see increased wait times at our nation's airports and ports of entry, which will have serious consequences to the flow of trade and travel.

President Obama Announces Nominations

On Monday, President Obama announced his nominations for three important cabinet posts: Sylvia Mathews Burwell to lead the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Dr. Ernie Moniz to lead the Department of Energy; and Gina McCarthy to lead the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The President said:



"This afternoon, I'll hold my first Cabinet meeting of my second term. And there will be some new faces, and there will be some familiar faces in new jobs. But there will also be some seats waiting to be filled on a permanent basis. And today, I'm announcing my plan to nominate three outstanding individuals to help us tackle some of our most important challenges..."

Of Moniz and McCarthy, he said:

"So these two over here, they're going to be making sure that we're investing in American energy, that we're doing everything that we can to combat the threat of climate change, that we're going to be creating jobs and economic opportunity in the first place. They are going to be a great team."

Of Burwell, the President said:

Burwell "understands that our goal when we put together a budget is not just to make the numbers add up. Our goal is also to reignite the true engine of economic growth in this country, and that is a strong and growing middle class -- to offer ladders of opportunity for anybody willing to climb them."

He concluded saying:

"I hope the Senate will confirm them as soon as possible, because we've got a lot of work to do and we cannot afford delay. But I can promise you that as soon as the Senate gives them the go ahead, they're going to hit the ground running and they're going to help make America a stronger and more prosperous country."

Watch the President's speech here.

Issues in the News

Talking Points: Employment Situation in February (3/4/13)

- Due to the grit and determination of the American people, for the past 36 months the private sector has added nearly 6.4 million jobs. Coming out of the worst recession since the Great Depression we're making steady progress and need to continue building the economy from the middle out.
- Today's employment report shows the private sector added 246,000 jobs in February and the unemployment rate fell to 7.7% from 7.9%.
- Over the past 37 months, the manufacturing sector has added more than 500,000 jobs; the largest 37 month period of growth since the mid-1980s.
- In 4 of the last 5 monthly job reports, the economy has added more than 200,000 private sector jobs. With the recovery gaining traction Washington needs to stop moving from one manufactured crisis to the next to help promote growth and help the middle class.
- President Obama will continue to work with Congress on a balanced plan that cuts unnecessary spending, closes tax loopholes, and reforms our entitlement programs. He will also continue to push for critical investments in the economy that promote jobs creation and economic growth.

Sequester

- We are making economic progress, but there is still more work to do. Unfortunately, Republicans refused to deal with sequestration in a balanced way, and now we're facing devastating and indiscriminate spending cuts.
- We've always said the impacts won't be felt immediately, and they won't hit everywhere. But they will harm economic growth and as the President has said, they are self-inflicted by Washington and "dumb." The Congressional Budget Office says sequestration will cost Americans 750,000 jobs. It does nothing to tackle our medium or long term deficit problems. It doesn't reform our tax code or entitlements. It's time for leaders in Washington to work together to end this self-inflicted wound.
- It's important to remember that today's jobs numbers come from February 10-16 for the household survey and the pay period containing February 12th for the establishment survey, both of which took place before sequestration began.

Promoting Growth

- We need to make responsible, smart investments to create jobs and grow the economy from the middle class out. That means:
 - Making America a magnet for jobs;
 - Equipping our workers with the skills they need to find a good job;
 - Ensuring hard work leads to a decent living.
- President Obama will also keep working toward a solution to our broken immigration system that ensures everyone plays by the same rules and enacting commonsense reforms that protect our children by reducing gun violence.
- While we won't solve obstacle facing us, we can take steps right now to create jobs. When there is common ground, the American people expect Congress to act and get the job done. These issues are too important for inaction. And President Obama will continue pushing them to action.

Common Sense Caucus

- Bi-partisan compromise on a wide range of issues is possible in this Congress, and President Obama will continue reaching out to both sides of the aisle in the House and the Senate. As President Obama said last

week, "there is a common sense caucus on Capitol Hill. It's a silent group right now, and we want to make sure that their voices start getting heard."

- He's excited about continuing to reach out to these folks and building bipartisan agreement with these legislators. We can still find common ground even if both sides don't agree on every issue. The President is having honest conversations with leaders on Capitol Hill from both parties, and looks forward to an honest exchange of ideas with these members.
- Earlier this week, he dined with Republican Senators and had lunch with the majority and minority heads of the House Budget Committee, Rep. Paul Ryan and Rep. Chris Van Hollen. He'll continue to talk about his policy agenda with Congressional leaders and look for areas where they can make progress. Which is why he asked to meet with the Republican and Democratic caucuses and conferences in the House and Senate next week, and he looks forward to these meetings.
- Solving our nation's problems won't be easy, and the President will continue engaging with Capitol Hill to find common ground and clear solutions. We know that one dinner or one meeting won't bridge all of our divides. But we need to find out where these discussions go. The most pressing issues are worth of debate between both parties. Our hope is that we can get some work done by letting common sense triumph.
- As we address our fiscal challenges, President Obama will be very clear about the proposals he put on the table, and where he stands on these issues. He believes the best approach involves getting rid of tax loopholes, asking millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share, cutting wasteful spending and strengthening entitlement programs. Some may not know the President's plan, or have more questions about his plan. He's willing to listen and engage on these issues and try to find areas of common ground.

##

Talking Points: Cabinet Nominees to Lead OMB, Dept. of Energy, and EPA (3/8/13)

OMB: Sylvia Mathews Burwell

- Today President Obama announced he will nominate Sylvia Mathews Burwell as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- Burwell previously served as Deputy Director of OMB from 1998-2001 during the Clinton Administration and is an expert on budgetary and domestic policy and is an expert on the budget process. She also served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the President and Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Treasury during the Clinton Administration.
- Burwell is known as a problem solver and someone who builds coalitions to get things done. As Deputy Director of OMB, she was a principal architect of budget plans that produced a budget surplus, proving that she understands the complex budget process and can work in a bipartisan way to get results. She will bring her thorough analytical skills and strong bonds with people on both sides of the aisle to her new role.
- Burwell has served as the head of two of the most prominent global philanthropic organizations in the world, and she has a reputation as a proven and effective leader. She currently serves the President of the Walmart Foundation and she also leads Walmart's Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative.
- Before serving as President of the Walmart Foundation, Burwell was President of the Global Development Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where she worked for 10 years and was also the Chief Operating Officer.
- Burwell's profound understanding of the budget and economic issues coupled with her record of fighting for middle class Americans make her an outstanding choice to lead OMB at this crucial time. As she proved under President Clinton, she knows how to cut wasteful spending while protecting key investments that will grow the economy, protect the middle class, and encourage economic prosperity in the years ahead. President Obama is grateful that she has agreed to serve the country in this important role.

Department of Energy: Dr. Ernie Moniz

- Today President Obama announced that he will nominate Dr. Ernie Moniz to head the Department of Energy (DOE).
- With experience running the MIT Energy Initiative and sitting on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (2009-present) and the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (2010-2012), Dr. Moniz understands the energy challenges facing our country and will be ready to lead the Department the moment he is confirmed.
- As a physicist, Dr. Moniz, brings decades of experience to DOE and the President believes in his ability to implement the Administration's all of the above energy approach that fully utilizes all of our energy resources to achieve greater energy independence, cut pollution, and help American's have a lower energy bill.
- As Director of MIT Energy Initiative, Dr. Moniz has promoted hundreds of development projects focusing on clean energy using research, analysis and technology.
- Dr. Moniz is also intimately familiar with the DOE. From 1997-2001, he served as Undersecretary at DOE and had oversight of the science and energy programs, advanced science and technology for environmental remediation, led a wide-ranging review of nuclear weapons stockpile stewardship, and served as the Secretary's chief negotiator for Russian nuclear materials disposition programs.

EPA: Gina McCarthy

- President Obama announced he will nominate Gina McCarthy to head the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Gina has been a public servant for 30 years and is well qualified to lead the EPA. She knows what it takes to achieve environmental results while building a strong economy.
- Gina played a critical role in bringing people together to implement the new Fuel Economy Standards. These are toughest fuel efficiency stands in American history and they will save families thousands at the pump, nearly double the efficiency of our cars and trucks in the next decade, reduce carbon pollution, and help create jobs that solidify America's spot as the world leader in advanced transportation technology.
- The new fuel standards mean drivers will be able to go twice as far on a gallon of gas and will over time save people more than \$8,000 in fuel costs. This is good for working families and reducing carbon in our environment.
- McCarthy currently serves as the Assistant Administrator at the EPA for the office of Air and Radiation. Under her leadership, the Office of Air and Radiation has established momentous Clean Air Act standards and actions such as the first Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants; the science-based legal determination that greenhouse gas emissions are harmful to human health and the environment; more protective air quality health standards for fine particulate matter; and for the first time in history, greenhouse gas emission standards for light- and heavy-duty vehicles.
- She knows how to work with both Democrats and Republicans; environmental groups and industry heads; and leaders in local, state, and federal government; she has a track record as a diligent promoter for policies that advance public health, grow our economy, and address climate change all at the same time.

##