



National Employment Law Project

From the National Employment Law Project

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GRIM JOBS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER BRINGS CALL TO ACTION TO RENEW FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Washington, DC – Job growth slowed to a disappointing 39,000 jobs in November, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today, and the unemployment rate jumped to an alarmingly high 9.8 percent – reinforcing the grim picture of an economy short on jobs with millions still looking for work. In November, the number of Americans out of work for six months or longer swelled to 6.3 million, with unemployed people searching for work for an average of 33.8 weeks.

Just days after Congress allowed federal unemployment insurance programs to expire, the National Employment Law Project urged lawmakers to reauthorize the programs through 2011 to keep digging the nation out of recession.

“Today’s jobs report could not have been worse for unemployed Americans and a struggling economy anxious for better news. Job growth stalled out in November, and most disturbingly the unemployment rate has jumped back up. Millions of the unemployed – nearly half – have been looking for work for more than six months. Corporations may be scoring historic profits, but the recession hasn’t ended for workers. It should be clear as day that the economy is in absolutely no shape to absorb cut-backs in the support that unemployment insurance provides to families, businesses and overall growth. Congress members on both sides of the aisle have offered proposals to reauthorize these programs through next year – and now they need to make it happen before the cut-offs start piling up,” said **Christine Owens, executive director of the National Employment Law Project.**

A new [report issued yesterday by the President’s Council of Economic Advisers](#) estimates that failure to reauthorize unemployment insurance could cost the nation 600,000 jobs by the end of next year and that without these programs, there would have been 800,000 fewer jobs as of September 2010. The report concurs with NELP’s finding that two million Americans in December – and at least seven million over the course of next year – will be cut off unemployment insurance as they try to support their families and look for work, should Congress fail to act.

Recent reports from the [Congressional Budget Office](#) and [Department of Labor](#) have also found that the federal unemployment insurance programs have increased employment and labor force participation over what they would otherwise have been coming out of the recession. Recognizing the stimulus the federal unemployment insurance programs provide the economy, 33 prominent economists – including five recipients of the Nobel Prize in Economics and five former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers – recently issued a [statement](#) endorsing the programs’ continuation for a full year.

“Without question, unemployment insurance has significantly contributed to the job growth we have seen to-date, and we need to keep it going until the recovery finally reaches beyond the corporate ledger and puts Americans back to work. Every dollar of unemployment insurance generates two dollars of new economic activity – because jobless Americans spend it immediately on necessities like housing, food and transportation while they look for work. With the holidays here, renewing these programs is especially urgent for retailers who expect twenty percent of their business at this time of year. The clock is ticking,” said Owens.

Click here for NELP’s state-by-state breakdown of the number of Americans at risk of unemployment insurance cut-offs in December: <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/2010/november.extension.report.pdf?nocdn=1>

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