

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005

# Mild Job Growth! Bush's Economy Must Be **Great, Right?**

by Michael in New York on 8/20/2005 05:32:00 PM

Bush's tepid job growth -- far lower than almost every quarter during Clinton's presidency -- is being seized on as evidence the economy is picking up steam.

The report, from the Labor Department, says there are new jobs - that hiring at the end of last year was the strongest since June 2002 and that employers at last added to payrolls in earnest. In the fourth quarter of 2004, the nation gained 8.1 million jobs, the most since the first quarter of 2002, according to the report.

What they're not detailing in this summary: what kind of jobs are being created, part-time work with no benefits? How many are freelancers with no benefits or vacation time at all? How many of these are second jobs? A growing trend among the middle class in middle America and the poor on the coasts is people holding down two or three jobs just to make ends meet. So if you work full-time at Wal-Mart and need to get a second job just to stay out of debtors prison, that's somehow good news because another job has been "created."

Another point to remember:

Among the most comprehensive employment figures available, the data confirm what less rigorous surveys have suggested and what the monthly employment figures have only hinted at. (While the monthly job report is based on surveys of employers and households, the figures released yesterday cover roughly 98 percent of the work force.)

When there's a discrepancy between a survey covering 98% of the work force and a survey covering 100% of employers and households, be wary of people who prefer the mildly "positive" news coming from the less complete data.

So how is your financial situation? Anyone working two jobs?









DISQUS COMMENTS

### JOHN'S PHOTOS





### HOT SOFF THE WIRE

### P Ben Smith

Remainders: Sit-down - Obama gambles on big government, Brownstein writes. The final act of Bush and Cheney. An Iranian journalist waits for

### **M** Daily Kos

CNN President Tells Lou Dobbs To SYFP - Okay, I'm paraphrasing ... \*CNN\* President Jon Klein did not tell Lou Dobbs to "SYFP," but he did send an email to: ... "Lou Dobbs Tonight" staffers tell... 18 minutes ago

### H HuffPost Politics

Gavin Newsom Warns of Dire Results Without Health Care Reform - San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom warned on Friday that local governments throughout the country would find themselves bankrupt if the current health care cri... 30 minutes ago

## Think Progress

Hutchison attacks Perry for turning down stimulus funds that she voted against. - Back in February, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) voted against the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in part because she said the bill "doesn't actu... 34 minutes ago

## Eschaton

Wanker of the Day - Jon Klein. 1 hour ago

AMERICABLOG TV

Next 6









1 of 5











I collect with 6 vodpod

see all 329 videos >

Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.

2 of 5 7/24/09 6:46 PM





3 of 5 7/24/09 6:46 PM

# SEARCH Search SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS americablog@starpower.net BLOG ARCHIVE **Blog Archive**

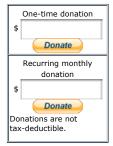
SITES WE LIKE Air America Radio Alan Colmes' blog Ari Melber (The Nation) Ben Smith BicycleMark's blog & podcast Bilerico BradBlog Bring It On Carrie Fisher Crooks and Liars DailyKos Dan Savage's "Slog" Daou Report Democratic Underground Eschaton Ezra Klein Fire Dog Lake FiveThirtyEight.com Freeway Blogger The Gavel (Speaker Pelosi's blog) Good As You Glenn Greenwald Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters Huffington Post Hullabaloo (Digby) Jack and Jill Politics Jed Report Jesus' General Kenneth in the 212 Margaret and Helen Matthew Gross Media Matters Mike Signorile's "The Gist" Mudflats MyDD Open Left Plum Line Political Punch (Jake Tapper) Political Wire Politics 1 Pop Surfing Progressive Blog Digest Queers United RawStory Rex Wockner Rude Pundit Smirking Chimp Talk Left Tapped Taylor Marsh Think Progress TowleRoad VetVoice.com Washington Note WayneBesen.com Wonkette Worth Repeating



### NEWS LINKS

US Wachington Boot

# PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG



### LABELS



### What issues do you cover?

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

## Who are you?

John Aravosis Editor Washington, DC

### Joe Sudbay Deputy Editor Washington, DC

Chris Ryan Associate Editor

# Paris, France

Robert Arena Contributing Editor Baltimore, Maryland

# Jacki Schechner Contributing Editor Washington, DC

7/24/09 6:46 PM 4 of 5

© 2009 - John Aravosis | Design maintenance by Jason Rosenbaum

Send me your tips: americablog@starpower.net

5 of 5 7/24/09 6:46 PM