

## □ BY THE NUMBERS

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**A RECOVERY JOBS REPORT** Last week, the [Department of Labor issued its monthly jobs report](#) showing private businesses hired **257,000**

new employees in January 2012. Though the trends in recent months have shown encouraging signs that our economy continues to heal from the worst recession since the Great Depression, **12.8 million**

Americans are still out of a job through no fault of their own and more work must be done to create jobs, grow the economy, strengthen the middle class and guarantee that the next generation of Americans have the economic opportunities they need to succeed. Below is a closer look at the current employment situation in our country:

- In January, the economy added **243,000** jobs and the unemployment rate fell **0.2 percentage points** to **8.3%**, from a high of **10%** in October 2009.

- Private sector payrolls increased by **257,000** jobs and the unemployment rate has fallen by **0.8 percentage points** in the last **12** months.

- In the last **23** consecutive months, the private sector has created 3.7 million jobs.

- Industries leading the way last month include professional and business services (**+70,000** jobs), manufacturing (**+50,000** jobs), leisure and hospitality (**+44,000** jobs), health care and social assistance (**+29,700** jobs), and construction (**+21,000** jobs). The public sector lost **14,000** jobs.

## SHORT TAKES – WASHINGTON, D.C.

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**REP. BECERRA ON "MEET THE PRESS"** On February 5, Rep. [Becerra appeared on "Meet the Press"](#) to discuss the improving state of our economy and the importance of taking immediate action to help put millions of more Americans back on the job. Rep. Becerra also talked about the actions taken by the Obama administration to help make sure all women have access to birth control and the health care that they need. You can view the episode [here](#) :



**REP. BECERRA APPOINTED TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS** On December 23rd, Rep. Becerra was [appointed to serve on a bipartisan](#)

[conference committee](#), charged with finding solutions to extend President Obama's tax cut for 160 million middle class working Americans, unemployment benefits for 2 million Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own, and ensure that 48 million seniors will not lose access to the health care that they need.

On January 19th, Rep. Becerra sent an email to you about his appointment to the House-Senate conference committee asking for you to [share your story – to be heard](#) – on the importance of President Obama's payroll tax cut, unemployment benefits and how Medicare helps you gain access to the doctor and care that you need.

With the clock ticking and fewer than 3 weeks left before the conference committee must report its long-term solutions for these critical services, share your story and let Congress know it needs to move quickly to resolve these urgent matters.

[Click here to visit Rep. Becerra's website and share your story](#) .

## **SHORT TAKES – LOS ANGELES**

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**TELEPHONE TOWN HALL** On his February 8th Telephone Town Hall, Rep. Becerra took questions from across the 31st Congressional District. The issues of job creation and taking immediate action to pass President Obama's payroll tax cut for 160 million middle class Americans dominated the discussion. If you missed this telephone town hall you can listen to an audio recording by clicking on the link below (MP3 player required):

[Telephone Town Hall, February 8, 2012](#)

**40 CASEWORK FILES OPENED IN JANUARY** Have trouble dealing with a federal agency like Veterans Affairs, Social Security or the IRS? Rep. Becerra's staff has over 30 years combined experience cutting through red tape on behalf of his constituents. In 2011, his casework staff helped over 400 residents close the files on their individual cases and in the month of January of this year alone, more than 40 casework files have been opened.

To learn more, visit the “Helping You” section of <http://Becerra.House.Gov> or call the office at 213-483-1425.