



**Statement of on the September Employment Report
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WASHINGTON DC- “Congress and the President moved quickly and urgently over the last two weeks to respond to potential threats posed by the nation’s credit crisis, but they did so without helping out long-term unemployed workers, 800,000 of whom will run out of emergency unemployment benefits on Sunday. Today’s sobering report that employers shed nearly 160,000 jobs last month and that an additional 120,000 workers dropped out of the labor market underscores how tragic that decision was.

“The economy is deteriorating rapidly and is far worse today than when Congress passed the emergency unemployment compensation program in June. Nearly 10 million workers are unemployed and actively looking for work; more than two million (over 21 percent) have been out of work for at least six months, the highest since March 2005. Six million workers are forced to work part-time because they can’t get full-time hours, and another 7.7 million are piecing together two or more jobs to make ends meet. One in nine workers is either unemployed and looking for a job, working part-time involuntarily, or has simply given up.

“On every measure that matters, the economy is worse today than it was when Congress passed the emergency unemployment compensation program in June—and no one expects any improvement soon. This is a crisis for the 1.4 million unemployed workers who will run out of their emergency unemployment by the end of the year and have nothing further to fall back on unless Congress expands the emergency program to provide additional weeks of benefits. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said he will bring the Senate back into session in mid-November to take care of some last minute matters. For the sake of the nation’s jobless workers, expanding the emergency unemployment compensation program must be a top priority then.”

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The National Employment is a New York City-based research and policy organization that fights to restore the promise of economic opportunity for today’s workforce.