



**National Employment Law Project**

**From the National Employment Law Project**

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Press Contact: Tim Bradley, 314.440.9936; Anna Deknatel, 646.200.5311

Workers contact: <http://www.nelp.org/page/s/BenefitQuestions> or 212-285-3025 x 309

**NELP STATEMENT ON APRIL EMPLOYMENT REPORT**

Washington, DC – The Department of Labor reported today that employers added 290,000 jobs to the economy in April, marking the second straight month of job growth. Along with the positive trend, however, the National Employment Law Project noted that the ranks of the long-term unemployed grew to 6.7 million – or almost 46% of the unemployed – indicating that recovery remains far off for this expanding group of workers.

“April brought another encouraging sign of recovery, with strong job growth that points in a positive direction. But there remains a dark underbelly of long-term joblessness that puts genuine recovery still very far off. Between the jobs we have lost since the recession began and growth in the working age population, we have a deficit of roughly 11 million jobs—a hole it will take many more months and years of strong job growth to fill. Today’s jobs report is an encouraging one, but the story remains a tale of two cities – even as jobs return for some, the picture is growing more grim for many who remain unemployed,” said Christine Owens, Executive Director of the National Employment Law Project.

With April’s numbers, there are now 15.3 million unemployed workers, and 10.2 million are collecting some form of jobless benefits. Even with recent job growth, there are still 5.5 unemployed workers for every job opening nationally, far surpassing the strain on job openings following the 2001 recession, when, at the peak, there were 2.8 unemployed workers per opening. Meanwhile, unemployment is expected to remain above 9% through the end of 2010, and still above 8% through 2011.

“The strong job growth in April is very encouraging and will need to be maintained to spur large-scale hiring and permanently reduce the ranks of unemployed,” said Owens.

On April 15th, Congress passed a two-month extension of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act benefits, including unemployment aid, the COBRA subsidy and other related provisions. The passage followed weeks of delay and an interruption in benefits for approximately 400,000 workers. The House and Senate are now reconciling larger bills that will continue the extension programs through the end of the year.

“It would be wrong to conclude these early signs of recovery are easing the burden on millions of jobless workers— or that the existing lifelines are sufficient for those who have been jobless for years rather than months. There are still far too few new jobs to make a dent in the ranks of the unemployed, and unemployed workers who cannot find jobs still need support. Congress

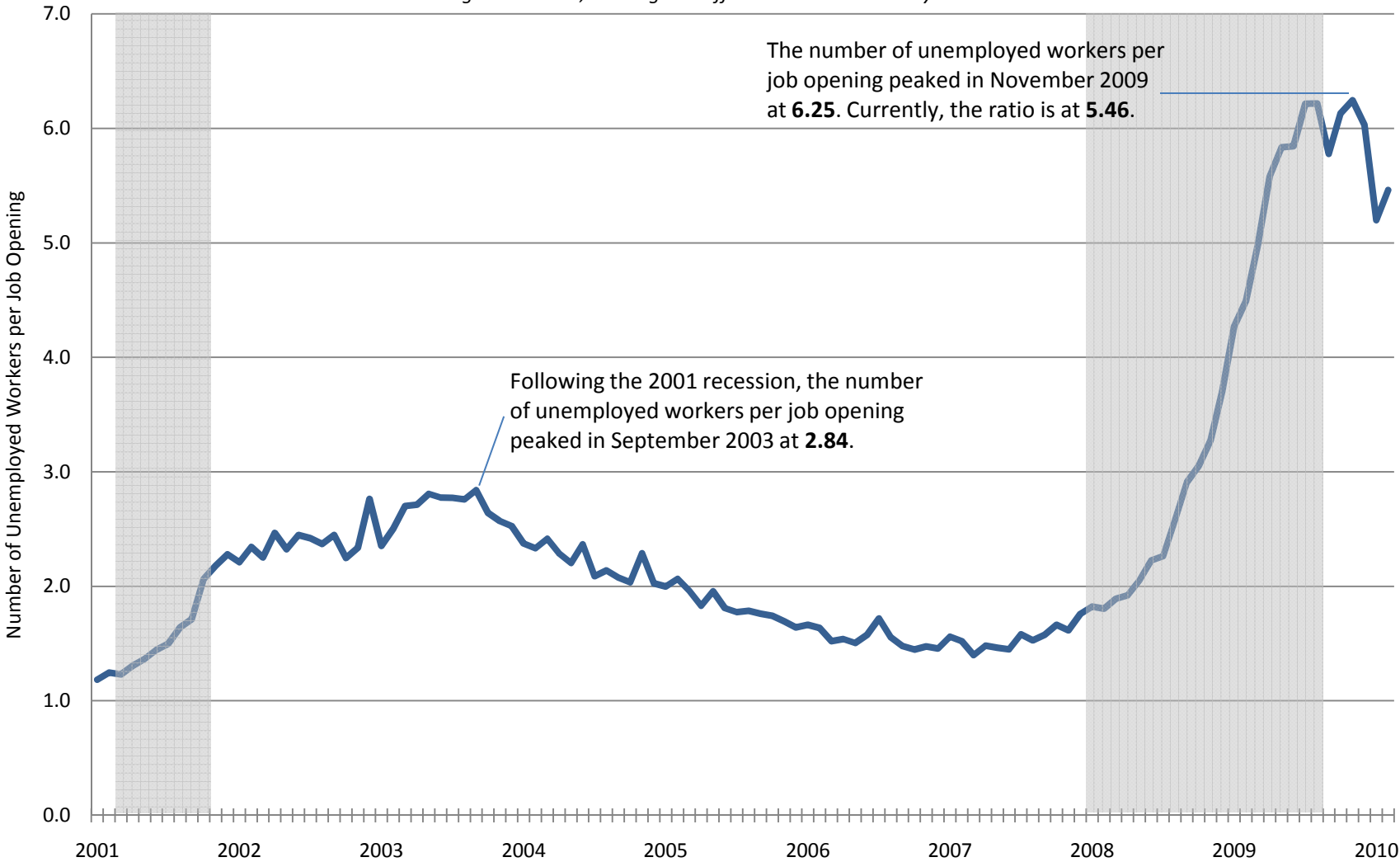
must implement measures to both sustain strong job growth and support long-term jobless workers in the months ahead. Otherwise, the promising signs of turnaround in the jobs market could shift into reverse,” Owens said.

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# Number of Unemployed Workers per Job Opening, 2001 - Present

— Unemployed Workers per Job Opening

Shaded areas represent months of a recession. The current recession is represented as ending in Fall 2009, although an official end date has not yet been determined.



The number of unemployed workers per job opening peaked in November 2009 at **6.25**. Currently, the ratio is at **5.46**.

Following the 2001 recession, the number of unemployed workers per job opening peaked in September 2003 at **2.84**.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey and Current Population Survey, Accessed May 2010.