



July 3, 2003

TALKING POINTS ON NEW UNEMPLOYMENT/ JOB LOSS NUMBERS

- ! **Unemployment Rate Jumped to 6.4 Percent in June – Highest Since April 1994.** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released this morning, the national unemployment rate jumped to 6.4 percent in June from 6.1 percent in May. The 0.3 percentage point jump was the largest month-to-month rise since the September 11th terrorist attack. In addition, the 6.4 percent unemployment rate is the highest unemployment rate since April 1994 – nine years ago.
- ! **The Number of Unemployed Has Now Reached 9.4 Million.** Similarly, the number of unemployed rose to 9.4 million in June from 9.0 million in May. Just in the last three months, the number of unemployed has shot up by 913,000. Furthermore, 9.4 million is an increase of 59 percent in the number of unemployed since January 2001.
- ! **3.1 Million Private-Sector Jobs Have Been Lost Since January 2001.** Since President Bush was inaugurated in January 2001, the economy has lost a total of 3.1 million private-sector jobs – with the economy shedding another 31,000 private-sector jobs in June. Indeed, since the beginning of the year, the economy has shed an additional 307,000 private-sector jobs. It is truly astonishing that more than two years after the recession began in March 2001, the economy is still losing jobs.
- ! **Worst Job Creation Record of Any Modern President.** No President since World War II has seen job losses during his tenure. President Bush seems destined to break this record. More than halfway through his term, he has lost more than 88,000 jobs per month.
- ! **2.4 Million Manufacturing Jobs Lost.** The poor economy under the Bush Administration has had a particularly devastating impact on the nation's manufacturing sector – a sector that historically has provided an important underpinning for our economy. In June itself, the economy lost an additional 56,000 manufacturing jobs. Indeed, overall, 2.4 million of the net loss of 3.1 million private-sector jobs since January 2001 have been in the manufacturing sector – a staggering statistic.
- ! **African American Unemployment Rate Jumped to 11.8 Percent in June.** The unemployment rate for African Americans jumped to 11.8 percent in June – up from 10.8 percent in May, and significantly higher than the 8.2 percent rate back in January 2001.

- ! **Hispanic Unemployment Rate Stood at 8.4 Percent in June.** The unemployment rate for Hispanics stood at 8.4 percent in June – similar to the 8.2 percent in May but significantly higher than the 7.5 percent in April. Back in January 2001, the Hispanic unemployment rate was 5.9 percent.

- ! **The Number of Long-Term Unemployed Has More Than Tripled Since January 2001.** In June, the number of those unemployed for more than 26 weeks was 2.0 million – up by 106,000 from May. The figure of 2.0 million is more than triple the number of Americans unemployed for more than 26 weeks in January 2001 – when it stood at 648,000.

- ! **With A Weak Job Market, The Average Job Search is Lengthy.** Despite the fact that the recession began more than two years ago, the job market remains remarkably weak. The average length of a job search is now 19.8 weeks – about five months. Indeed, the average unemployed worker has applied for 29 different jobs. It is estimated that there are more than three unemployed workers for every available job. Back in January 2001, the average length of a job search was 12.6 weeks.

- ! **Democrats Have Been Pushing A Jobs and Economic Growth Package Since January.** In January 2003, House Democrats unveiled a responsible economic plan for creating jobs and jumpstarting the economy. According to economists, the Democratic package would have created more than 1 million jobs in 2003, without increasing the long-term deficit – by putting money and purchasing power in the hands of consumers, giving tax breaks to small businesses and encouraging business investment, and providing adequate help to cash-strapped states in order to avoid tax increases and service cutbacks at the state level. Unfortunately, the GOP-controlled Congress ignored the Democratic plan and instead enacted a fiscally irresponsible \$350 billion tax cut package targeted to the wealthiest taxpayers – a package that will create enormous long-term deficits, not jobs. Furthermore, the GOP tax cuts will starve key investments to promote economic growth, such as education and infrastructure, and will leave middle-class taxpayers paying a greater share of all taxes.