

When President Barack Obama took the oath of office last year, the nation had just begun our worst economic downturn in decades. Americans were losing jobs at a rate of 750,000 a month, and millions were facing pay cuts, loss of employment benefits, and rapidly shrinking investments and savings accounts.

On February 13, 2009, almost immediately after President Obama took office, Congress passed the [American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009](#) in order to create new jobs and save existing ones, spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth, and establish new, unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending.

So far, as a result of that bill, more than 680,000 new jobs have been created nationwide in a variety of fields, including research, education, construction, engineering, law enforcement, and more. Many of these jobs are with private businesses and organizations, which have been able to expand as a result of the grant and loan programs established in the bill, and others are with government agencies and contractors. Since the beginning of this year, we have added an average of 200,000 jobs per month, a majority in the private sector, and in May alone, the economy added 431,000 new jobs nationwide. I am also pleased that the Silicon Valley is beginning to show the first signs of economic recovery. In April 2010, the unemployment rate in the South Bay was 11.7%, down from 12.3% the month before.

In California, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has created more than 70,000 jobs over the last year. To learn more about California's economic recovery, [click here to see a summary of recovery spending in California from the federal government](#)

, or

[click here to visit California's recovery website](#)

to learn about what the state is doing with the money it received.

Of course, more still needs to be done, and I, like President Obama, am committed to making sure that there is a job available for every American who wants one. That is why, along with many of my colleagues in Congress, I was proud to support the [H.R. 2847, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment \(HIRE\) Act](#), which President Obama signed into law on March 18, 2010. The HIRE Act will create approximately 300,000 jobs by establishing a payroll tax holiday for businesses that hire unemployed workers and an income tax credit of \$1,000 for businesses that retain these employees. It also included tax cuts to help small businesses invest, expand, and hire more workers, and provisions to make it easier for states to adopt new infrastructure improvement projects.

While these bills are very important to get our economy back on track, I believe that we must also look at long-term solutions that will make the foundations of our economy strong and resilient for generations to come. That is why I was proud to support the [America COMPETES Reauthorization Act](#), which was passed by the House of Representatives on May 28th. This bill establishes, revises, and extends science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs, as well as engineering, research, and training programs, to help prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers to compete with those from around the world. The bill included an amendment I offered to improve coordination between federal STEM education efforts and the work being done at the state and local level.

As a Member of Congress, I will continue to work with the President and with my colleagues to increase job opportunities and to create opportunities for current and future workers.

For more information about jobs, grants, and loan opportunities created by the recovery act, visit the [Recovery Act opportunities website](#) .