

## Smart and Steady: Securing Our Long-term Prosperity

Article By:

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Our nation's [labor market added 96,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in August](#), while **the unemployment rate dropped to 8.1 percent**.

When President Obama came into office, the economy was in a free fall, credit markets were frozen, and our nation was bleeding hundreds of thousands of jobs a month. We've now added back 4.6 million private sector jobs over the last 30 months, including nearly 2 million in the last year alone.

Monthly Change in Total Private Employment February 2008 - August 2012. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Program

An economic crisis that was decades in the making will not be solved overnight, but our recovery remains on a stable trajectory of positive job growth. Smart and steady wins the race.

It's worth noting that, in the **38 months since the end of the recession in June 2009, we've created three times as many private sector jobs as we had at the same point following the 2001 recession**.

To continue our path forward, Congress must reject the voices who seek to gut funding for education and skills training at this pivotal moment for our nation. We have to make a college education affordable for every student willing to work hard, invest in skills training so Americans workers can compete in a 21st century economy and prevent a tax increase on middle-class families. We know that an enduring recovery must be built from the middle out and the bottom up – not the top down. That's the key to securing our long-term prosperity.

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