

Talking About:

Jobs and the Jobs Crisis

Prepared by North Carolina State AFL-CIO
James Andrews, President

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MaryBe McMillan, Secretary-Treasurer

The December private sector job growth was welcome news but remains inadequate to address long-term unemployment. The news of the unemployment rate falling to 9.4 percent is tempered by the drop of 260,000 in labor force participation.

Specific points you might make in your conversations at home, at work, and in correspondence with lawmakers about the jobs crisis:

- Though there's been welcome news recently of some job growth, we are unfortunately far from an economic recovery. Now is the time for boldness.
- **We are a nation that still has choices.** We don't need to settle for stagnation and ever-increasing inequality. Our leaders need to stop debating about how to cut spending and instead debate how best to compete in the world economy and secure our future.
- **We have let our transnational business titans convince our politicians that our national strength lies in their profits, not our jobs.** We are failing to invest in creating good paying jobs, which are essential to a strong economy. Without a bold and committed investment in job creation and infrastructure modernization, we will see weak job growth indefinitely.
- **Only with dramatic action to create jobs will our economy see the robust and sustained recovery we need to put millions of Americans back to work.** That means an investment in rebuilding roads, bridges, schools and clean energy systems and a manufacturing policy to build things in America and stop sending our jobs overseas.
- **Not since the Great Depression have so many workers been out of work for so long.** Almost half—a record 44 percent—of the 15 million unemployed workers in America have been jobless for more than 6 months. Our country has a deep jobs hole. And the anguish is shared by small businesses and entire communities.
- It's time for action, not political posturing
 - » We must invest in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure and in the green jobs of the future.
 - » We have to maintain funding for vital services by state and local governments and prevent destructive cuts in education, police and fire protection and more.
 - » We must fight outsourcing and policies that are destroying American jobs.
 - » We must fortify the safety net through programs like Social Security and Medicare.
 - » And we must take the additional steps needed to extend economic and health care lifelines for the jobless.