



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
**JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**

**Congressman Jim Saxton**  
**Ranking Republican Member**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release  
March 9, 2007

**PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT  
INCREASES IN FEBRUARY**

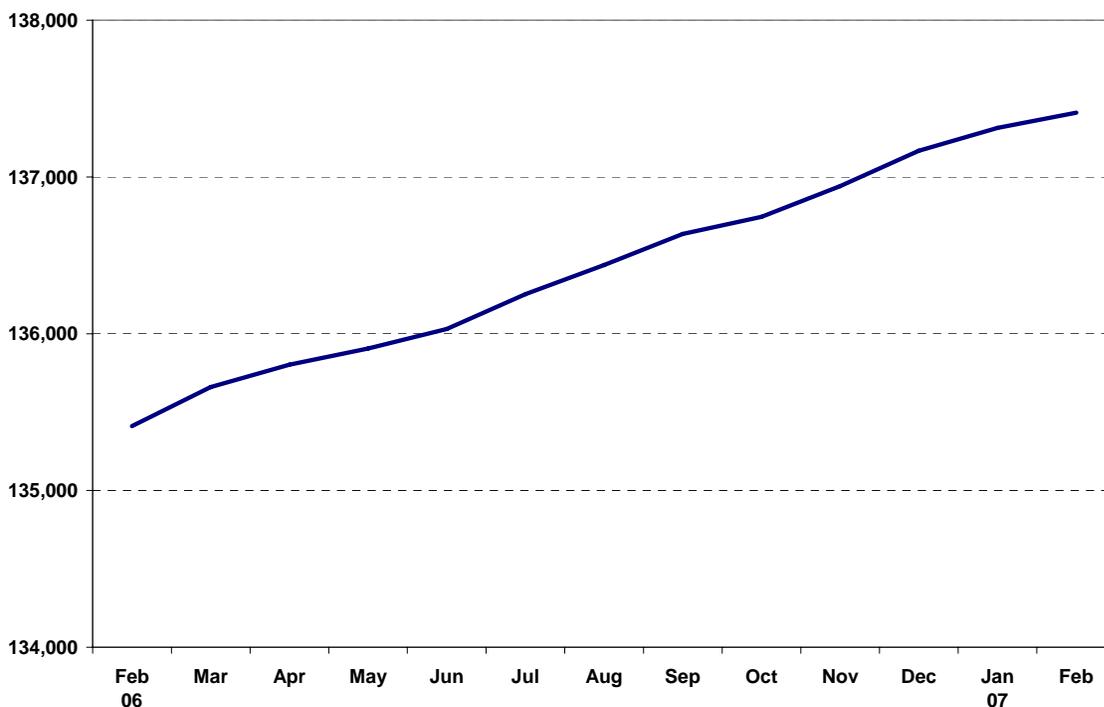
**-- Job Gains Continue for 42 Consecutive Months --**

Press Release #110-5  
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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – New employment data released today show that the economic expansion continues to create jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), payroll employment increased by 97,000 in February, pushing the total level of payroll employment to 137.4 million. Earnings continued to grow. Employment gains in December and January were revised upward by a combined total of 55,000. According to the separate household survey, the unemployment rate edged down to 4.5 percent. Ranking JEC member Jim Saxton made the following statement on the new figures:

“The U.S. economy continues to grow and generate new employment opportunities. Since August of 2003, 7.6 million jobs have been created. The unemployment rate is low and workers’ earnings are rising at a good clip. As the Federal Reserve has noted, ‘the economic outlook for this year and next appears favorable.’ There are some soft spots in the housing sector and to a lesser extent in manufacturing, but the service sector, representing most of the economy, continues to perform well. The economic outlook remains positive.”

**Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment**  
SA, Thousands



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