



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 6, 2015

[DNC Chair Rep. Wasserman Schultz Statement on Today's Jobs Report](#)

DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on today's jobs report:

"Today's strong jobs report is the latest proof that middle class economics works. Under President Obama, we have now experienced 60 straight months - five full years - of private sector job growth, and 12 straight months with more than 200,000 jobs added.

"Democrats are committed to ensuring that more Americans have the opportunity to share in our economic success. Access to affordable, quality health care, education, and child care, and the ability to save for retirement, are the cornerstones of a middle class life. Today, that American Dream is within reach for more Americans than when President Obama took office six years ago.

"Despite our success, Republicans want to bring back the same old trickle-down policies which contributed to the economic crisis in the first place. The GOP's potential 2016 presidential candidates have advocated for a return to the policies that have failed time and time again. Five straight years of private sector job growth suggest that our economy works best when we build it from the middle out, rather than from the top down."

The White House also issued the following five key points in today's report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

1. The private sector has added 12.0 million jobs over 60 straight months of job growth, extending the longest streak on record.
2. Despite a string of recent snowstorms in the northeast—and [Boston's snowiest month on record](#)—winter weather appeared to have little impact on the headline figures in today's report.
3. While the overall unemployment rate has fallen 1.2 percentage points over the past twelve months to 5.5 percent, the African American and Hispanic unemployment rates have fallen even more quickly, but remain unacceptably high.
4. The last time the private sector added more than 12 million jobs over five years was April 1996 to March 2001.
5. Job growth in a number of industries diverged from recent trends in February.

Read the full White House statement [here](#).



Senior Citizens Can't Trust Jeb Bush

This week, Jeb Bush spoke to a group of senior citizens in Las Vegas, Nevada. There are a few questions we'd like to ask him and we already know his answers:

Will Jeb Bush protect Medicare?

Bush Endorsed the Ryan Budget to Turn Medicare Into a Voucher Program

Jeb Bush [said that](#) Paul Ryan is "the only person who has had the courage to step up and say what he would do", and "the result is, a very solid plan." Ryan's plan would turn Medicare into a voucher program, ending Medicare as we know it.

Will Jeb Bush protect Social Security?

Bush Endorsed His Brother's Plan to Privatize Social Security

Jeb Bush [praised](#) his brother's "leadership" in proposing "private retirement accounts" for social security.

Will Jeb Bush help keep the cost of prescription drugs down?

Bush Wants to Repeal the Affordable Care Act, Which Would Raise Costs for Seniors

[Jeb Bush](#): "We Must Repeal Obamacare."

According to the [Department of Health and Human Services](#), since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, 9.4 million seniors and people with disabilities have saved more than \$15 billion on prescription drugs, or an average of \$1,598 per beneficiary. In Nevada, in 2014 alone, the Affordable Care Act saved 32,950 Nevada seniors \$865 a year on average.

DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz on the 50th Anniversary of Selma

DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement on the 50th Anniversary of the March in Selma, Alabama:

"Fifty years ago, a group of determined Americans gathered in Selma, AL and our nation would forever change as a result of their courageous actions. They were young people and students from across the South – people like Amelia Boynton Robinson, John Lewis and Hosea Williams - who organized and marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, only to be met with intolerance and violence. They were beaten, charged by officers on horseback, and attacked with tear gas.

"Fifty years ago, the images of Bloody Sunday in Selma stunned a horrified nation. With television cameras displaying images of Americans beaten and bloodied for seeking to guarantee their right to vote, the harrowing episode created a sense of urgency that for too long only mattered to those whose dignity and access to the polls were not respected. Across the country, people were compelled to take action, and within weeks legislation was introduced in Congress to right these wrongs and chart a new course for liberty and freedom in America. Within five months, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.

"Today, images from across the country demonstrate that the issues of half a century ago are not as far in the past as we would like to think. We still have work to do. And the critical blow dealt to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court in 2013 is a sad reminder that the right to vote is one we must be ever vigilant to protect.

"The Democratic Party is proud to stand for justice, equality, and opportunity; we value and respect the right of every American to vote and to have that vote counted.

"On this 50th anniversary of Selma, we rededicate ourselves to carrying forward the mission of those who marched and stood up for justice with strength, courage, and unshakable resolve."

[Mic on Dayton vs. Walker: 2 Years After Raising Taxes on the Rich, Here's the Hellscape Minnesota Has Become](#)

BY ZEESHAN ALEEM

Since 2011, Minnesota has been doing quite well for itself. The state has created more than 170,000 jobs, according to the [Huffington Post](#). Its unemployment rate stands at 3.6% — the [fifth-lowest](#) in the country, and far below the nationwide rate of [5.7%](#) — and the state government boasts a budget surplus of [\\$1 billion](#). [Forbes](#) [considers](#) Minnesota one of the top 10 in the country for business.

Given that Minnesota's governor is a well-connected billionaire, one could be forgiven for thinking this was the result of embracing the corporate world. But in fact, over the past four years, the state has undergone a series of policy reforms that most of the corporate world decries: It has imposed higher taxes on the wealthy and raised the minimum wage.

When each of these progressive policies was initially proposed, Minnesota Republicans made [dire predictions](#) about their effects on the economy, and argued that bleeding-heart concerns about economic fairness would stifle growth. Despite all the warnings, Minnesota's economy hasn't tanked. Instead, it's sailing with greater force than it has in years.

How Minnesota did it: The progressive economic policies in the North Star State came into being after the election of Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton. In 2010, Dayton surprised many political observers in Minnesota when he managed to win the governor's mansion, as the first Democrat to seize the governor's mansion in more than two decades. His political career up until that point was mainly [defined](#) by failure, despite the fact that he was a billionaire heir with countless resources.

Dayton's margin of victory wasn't impressive, but he was eventually able to make a dramatic mark on the direction of the state's public policies. He instituted a wide variety of progressive policies that rendered him the "most liberal governor in the country in terms of his willingness to raise taxes and to spend," University of Minnesota political scientist Larry Jacobs [told Mother Jones](#).

In the last few years, Minnesota took a number of measures to make its taxation and wages more progressive. [Mother Jones reports](#) that Dayton targeted the top 2% with a tax raise — "one of the largest hikes in state history." Corporate taxes [increased](#). The state income tax on the highest earners increased to 9.85% in 2013, making it the fourth highest in the nation, according to the [Tax Foundation](#).

The state's minimum wage is [set to increase](#) to \$9.50 by 2016, and last year Dayton [signed](#) a sweeping bill strengthening protections for women in the workplace and guaranteeing equal pay. Other progressive measures have included a [tuition freeze](#) at public universities and two-year colleges, increased spending on public education and increased unionization, according to [Mother Jones](#).

View the rest of the article [here](#).

MARK DAYTON'S DEMOCRATIC MINNESOTA

HIGHEST ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE
IN THE COUNTRY

3.6% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

\$1.87 BILLION PROJECTED
BUDGET SURPLUS

SCOTT WALKER'S REPUBLICAN WISCONSIN

WORST JOB GROWTH IN REGION

5.2% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

\$2 BILLION PROJECTED
BUDGET DEFICIT

[In the States](#)

Paid for and authorized by the Democratic National Committee, www.democrats.org. This communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

- In response to the announcement that Senator Barbara Mikulski, the longest serving woman in Congress, will retire at the end of this term, Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis released the following statement: "Few leaders have shown the level of passion and commitment to working families, equal rights, preserving the Chesapeake Bay, and growing Maryland and our nation's economy more than Senator Mikulski. She will be missed as a Senator, but I am confident her fight for Maryland and our nation will continue unabated, and look forward to her leadership for the next two years and beyond." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Monday, Texas Democratic Party Executive Director Crystal Kay Perkins released the following statement after Republican state senators and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick wrote to the White House asking for more flexibility in managing the state's Medicaid program: "Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and his Tea Party followers in the Senate are finally realizing just how bad Texas' refusal to expand Medicaid coverage is for Texas business and the Texas economy. However, they've come to the bargaining table with no good news for Texas families, focusing on an onerous and extreme proposal that would make it harder for everyday Texas families to get the health coverage they desperately need. The economic benefits that come with expanding Medicaid in Texas are clear: it creates jobs, helps families avoid expensive emergency room visits -- that are often ultimately paid for by local property taxes -- and helps families save money." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Tuesday, more good news came to Minnesota with the announcement that the state is looking at a \$1.9 billion budget surplus under Governor Mark Dayton's leadership. The surplus is an amazing turn from the \$6 billion budget deficit that Governor Dayton faced when he first came into office. Governor Dayton has focused on investing in the state's future by allocating necessary funds toward education and infrastructure, and he plans to utilize the surplus in similar investments, while Republican Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt is proposing spending and tax cuts that would put undue pressure on Minnesota's growing economy. Ken Martin, chairman of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party had this to say in response: "If you want to see what happens to a state that gives tax cuts to special interests, takes away tax credits for low-wage workers and cuts vital services like education and health care, look no further than Wisconsin. While Minnesota is enjoying economic success, Gov. Scott Walker's Wisconsin ranks low regionally for job growth, ranks low nationally in income growth and its budget is in terrible shape. Let's hope Speaker Daudt and the Republicans in the Legislature are willing to work with Gov. Dayton to make the investments necessary for an even Better Minnesota. Our future depends on prudent decision making by policy makers, not a return to the gimmicks of the past which wreaked havoc here in Minnesota." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, the Florida Democratic Party criticized Governor Rick Scott's out-of-touch claims in regards to health care in an op-ed for Politico. In response to Governor Scott's misguided stance against the Affordable Care Act, the Florida Democratic Party had the following to say: "Rick Scott is cheerleading for 1.6 million Floridians to lose their health insurance...For the governor, working to block families from accessing affordable health care is a personal crusade that has been the focus of his entire career... If Scott really cared about expanding access to care, why has he refused to expand Medicaid to over 800,000 working Floridians? Floridians know full well Rick Scott is not interested in looking out for their health care — and they just got a 1000 word reminder." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, Don Young, a Republican representative from Alaska, made strange and outrageous comments about releasing wolves into certain areas in order to help solve problems of homelessness. During a committee hearing for the Department of the Interior's FY 2016 budget, Rep. Young made the peculiar connection between low populations of gray wolves and high homelessness rates, stating, "They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district. I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore." Executive Director of the Alaska Democratic Party Kay Brown released the following statement in response to Young's unusual comments: "What we're seeing here is Don continuing to lose touch with real people. I don't think he actually believes releasing wolves into homeless areas is a good idea, he's just lost touch with the fact that statements like these are harmful to his legacy and Alaska's influence in DC." Read the full press release [here](#).