

Jobs & GDP Report

By; Chuck Vollmer, Jobenomics Founder & President
4 May 2018

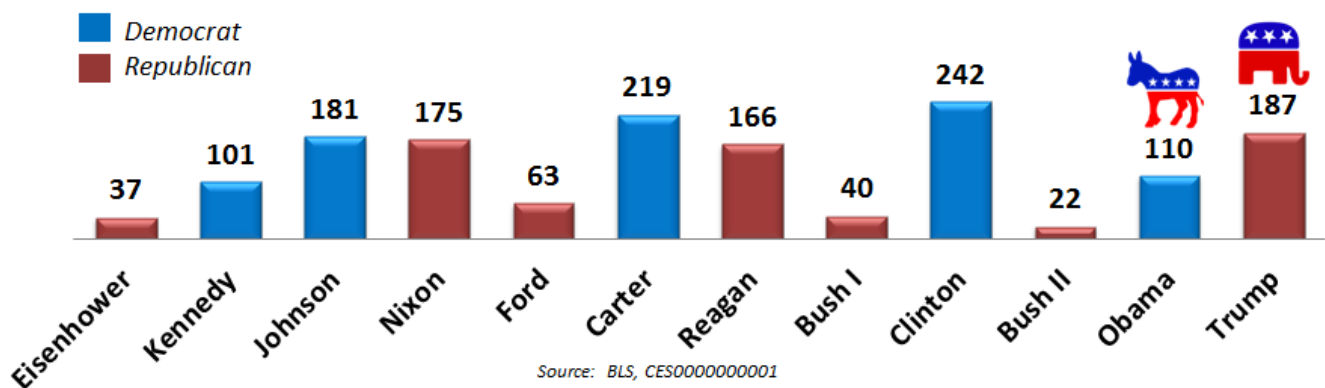


Keywords: President Trump, Trump Administration, Obama Administration, Bush Administration, 25 Million New Jobs, Gross Domestic Product, GDP, GDP Growth, Jobenomics National Grassroots Movement, Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Situation Summary, ADP National Employment Report, U.S. Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, Not in the Labor Force, Employment Report, Workforce Development, Economic Development, Business Development, Private Sector Jobs, Government Jobs, Federal Reserve, Consensus Bureau, Kauffman Foundation

Caption: In April, the U.S. added 164,000 new jobs, a figure well below the threshold advocated by most economists. Quarterly GDP growth is also tepid. Consequently, the economy is not gaining sufficient momentum to achieve the President goal to create 25 million new jobs and sustained 4% GDP growth.

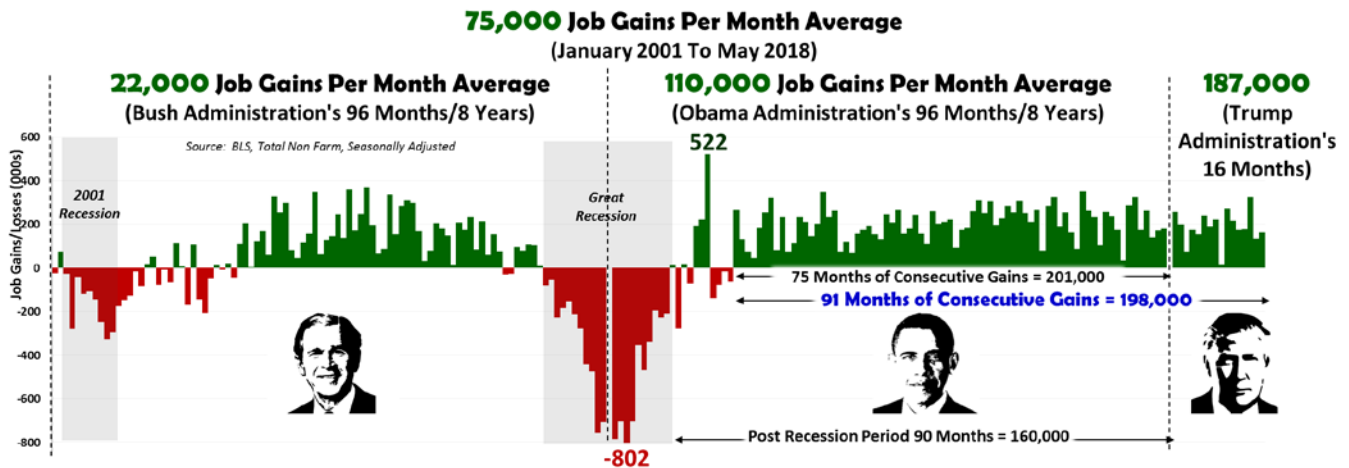
The latest U.S. [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [ADP Research Institute](#) employment reports for April 2018 indicate that the United States created only 164,000 and 204,000 new jobs respectively. Both figures are below the 250,000 new job threshold advocated by most economists. As reported by the [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) (BEA), during the first year of the Trump Administration, GDP averaged 2.6%. BEA's advance estimate for Q1 2018 is a disappointing 2.3%. Consequently, the U.S. economy is not yet gaining sufficient momentum to achieve President Trump's goal of creating 25 million new jobs and sustained 4% GDP growth over the next decade. To accomplish this worthy and essential goal, the Administration must spend more time on small, micro and startup business creation, with emphasis on the emerging digital economy.

Monthly Job Creation Rate By President Since WWII



In today's highly-charged political environment, what people really want to know is how today's president is performing against past presidents. As color-coded by political party, of the twelve presidents since WWII, President Trump's average monthly job creation rate is 186,688, which puts him in third-place following President's Clinton and Carter.

Job Creation Scoreboard Since 2001



From January 2001 through April 2018, the United States averaged an abysmal 75,000 new jobs per month. During this period, the monthly job creation high water mark was 522,000 new jobs in May 2010, and the low water mark for job losses was 802,000 in March 2009.

From an Administration standpoint,

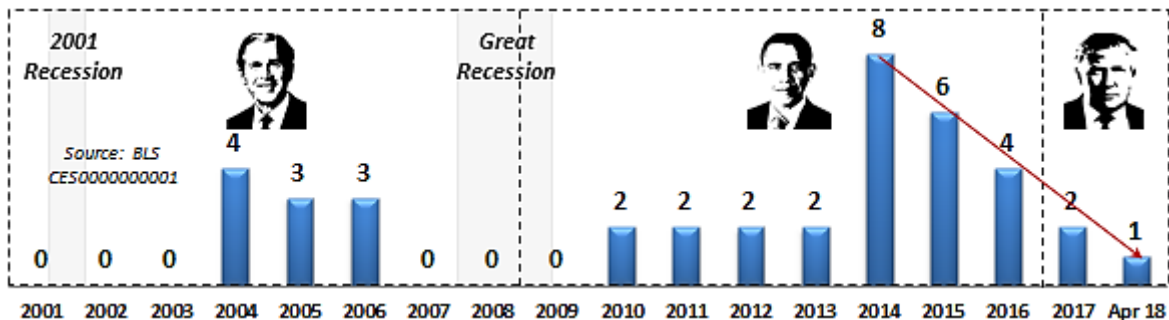
- The Bush Administration (2001 to 2008) created an average of only 22,000 new jobs per month, due to the onslaught of two major recessions, the calamity of 9/11 and the United States' expensive mobilization for the global war on terrorism.
- The Obama Administration (2009 to 2016) created an average 110,000 job gains per month. Subtracting the six months of the Great Recession that Obama "inherited" from the previous administration, the average job creation rate during the 90-month post-recession period yielded an average of 160,000 new jobs per month. Perhaps, the most important legacy of the Obama Administration is 75-months of consecutive job gains averaging 201,000 jobs per month.
- The Trump Administration continued the positive job creation trend with 16 consecutive months of job gains and extended the continuous job creation run to 91-months—the longest span of labor force gains since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began record keeping in February 1939.

The Trump Administration is averaging 186,688 job gains per month. While it is a substantial number in comparison to previous presidents, it is insufficient for the Trump Administration to achieve the President's 25 million new job goal over the next decade (120 months). To accomplish this goal, the Administration needs to generate an average of 211,663 new jobs per month for the remaining 104 months in the decade since President Trump was elected. April's 164,000 new job posting is the second consecutive monthly setback for the Administration (a disappointing 135,000 new jobs were created in March).

A 250,000 threshold is a reasonable job creation standard to robustly grow the economy and provide a hedge against future downturns. During the recent 91-month run of consecutive job gains, the United States exceeded the 250,000 job threshold 22-times or nearly one out of every

four months. Unfortunately, the number of mega (250K+) monthly employment gains is on the decline as shown. Hopefully, the Administration's tax cuts will motivate near-term hiring.

Mega (250K+) Monthly Employment Gains Since 2001



As a note of caution, the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment statistics reported above were "seasonally adjusted" figures. Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique that attempts to measure and remove the influences of predictable seasonal patterns to reveal how employment and unemployment change from month to month.

Seasonally Adjusted Versus Not Seasonally Adjusted

Millions		Establishment Survey (CES) 2017 Total Non-Farm Employment												2018			
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Not Seasonally Adjusted		143.4	144.4	145.1	146.1	146.9	147.6	146.5	146.8	147.2	148.2	148.8	148.5	145.4	146.7	147.4	148.4
Seasonally Adjusted		145.7	145.9	146.0	146.1	146.3	146.5	146.7	146.9	147.0	147.2	147.5	147.6	147.8	148.1	148.3	148.4
		-2.3	-1.5	-0.9	0.0	0.6	1.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.0	1.3	0.9	-2.4	-1.5	-0.9	-0.1
		-4.7				0.0								-4.8			

The Seasonally Adjusted Versus Not Seasonally Adjusted chart shows the wide gap between actual and altered numbers. In 2017, the difference between Seasonally Adjusted and Not Seasonally Adjusted numbers reconciled themselves by the end of the year out of a total of approximately 148 million employees. For the first 4- months of 2018, Seasonally Adjusted figures are 4.8 million higher than the unadjusted (actual) numbers. The same seasonal disparities occurred in previous years (4.7 million higher in 2017 as shown, 4.5 million in 2016, and 4.4 million in 2015). Consequently, it likely that the 4- month "bump-up" generated early in 2018 may dissipate later in the calendar year.

Jobenomics Analysis of the BLS Employment Situation Summary Report.

The monthly U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [Employment Situation Summary](#) is a monthly summary of all U.S. government and private sector employment.

On 4 May 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the U.S. labor force added 164,000 new jobs, and the unemployment rate edged down to a post-recession low of 3.9%. The change in total nonfarm payroll employment for February was revised down from 326,000 to 324,000, and March was revised up from 103,000 to 135,000, for a net gain of 30,000 jobs.

From a Jobenomics standpoint, these employment statistics are essential measures of economic growth, but **only as a prelude to net labor force gains and losses.**

Knowing how the BLS defines labor force and accounts for the different labor force categories is essential to understanding labor force statistics and interpreting fact from fiction. The basic concepts involving employment and unemployment are straightforward.

- People with jobs are **Employed**.
- People are **Unemployed** if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. Marginally employed and underemployed personnel, who are actively looking for work, are reported as a subset of the unemployed category and include part-time workers who work less than 35 hours per week.
- People who have no job and are no longer looking for a job are classified by the BLS as “not in the labor force” or **Not-in-Labor-Force**.

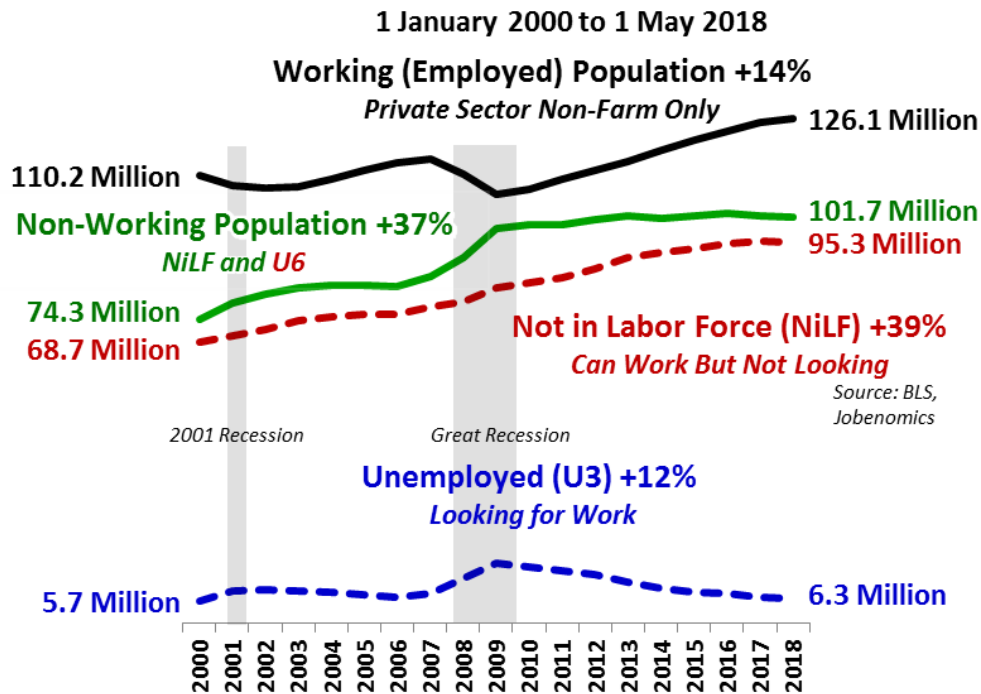
April’s 3.9% U3 “Official” Unemployment Rate is now at its lowest point since the post-Great Recession. Consequently, it will be the most ballyhooed, publicized, politicized, and **least understood** metric of all labor force statistics.

To be classified as unemployed, one must be actively looking for work. Non-disabled Americans who quit looking and voluntarily depart the workforce are accounted by the BLS in a nebulous and obscure Not-in-Labor-Force category that few people comprehend. Consequently, it is **theoretically possible for the United States to have a zero rate of unemployment while simultaneously having zero people employed in the labor force** if people just quit looking for employment. The BLS reports that 95% of the (surveyed) 95 million people in the Not-in-Labor-Force “do not want a job now.”

The U.S. labor force consists of approximately 250 million citizens (called the civilian noninstitutional population) enrolled in one of three Bureau of Labor Statistics categories: Employed, Unemployed and Not-in-Labor-Force. From a Jobenomics viewpoint, it is vitally important to evaluate the give-and-take between each of these categories as opposed to emphasizing each individually. For example, increasing the labor force by 25 million new jobs (Trump’s plan) makes little economic sense if 25 million people voluntarily leave the workforce for welfare and alternative lifestyles as has happened in the recent past.

Since the beginning of the 21st Century (1 January 2000), 17.6 million people entered the workforce as opposed to 27.1 million voluntary workforce departures of Americans capable of working—not including population growth of 45 million additional Americans (282 million in 2000 versus 327 million today). If these trends continue, the U.S. economy will suffer due to the financial burden of the non-working population. Fortunately, current trends are positive, but a financial downturn could easily reverse our economic situation.

Working Versus Non-Working Populations



This graph presents a strategic perspective of the U.S. the civilian noninstitutional population covering the period from 1 January 2000 to 1 May 2018.

Before and during the Great Recession, the Non-Working Population (unemployed citizens looking for work and citizens capable of working but not looking for work) was growing at a rate that it almost matched the level of the private sector Working (Employed) Population in 2009. Fortunately, the spread between the Working Population and Non-Working Population is now widening, which is a good sign for the U.S. economy and labor force.

The private sector produces the vast majority of goods and services that drive economic growth. From the year 2000, the Working (Employed) population rose by 14% (126.1 million citizens) compared to the Non-Working Population rise of 37% (101.7 million citizens).

Jobenomics defines the Non-Working Population as Not-in-Labor-Force that rose by 39% (95.3 million citizens) and the U3 Officially Unemployed (6.3 million citizens which are still 12% higher today).

U.S. Labor Force Gains and Losses Since 2000

	Working Population Employment Gain/Loss	Non-Working Population		Net Labor Force Gains- Losses
		Not-in-Labor Force Gain/Loss	Unemployed (U3) Gain/Loss	
Last Month (April 2018)	164,000	410,000	(239,000)	(7,000)
Trump Era (Jan 2017-Present)	2,987,000	739,000	(1,156,000)	3,404,000
Post Recession (Jan 2010-Present)	18,643,000	11,932,000	(8,752,000)	15,463,000
Obama Era (2009-2016)	10,595,000	14,626,000	(3,784,000)	(247,000)
Bush II Era (2001-2008)	2,115,000	9,892,000	5,652,000	(13,429,000)
Since Year 2000	17,635,000	27,090,000	693,000	(10,148,000)
	<i>BLS CES Report (CES0000000001) Table B-1 Seasonally Adjusted</i>	<i>BLS Not-in-Labor- Force Report (LNS15000000) Seasonally Adjusted</i>	<i>BLS Unemployed Report (LNS13000000) Table A-10</i>	

The 4 May 2018 [BLS Employment Situation Summary](#) reported that the U.S. economy generated 164,000 new jobs in April 2017. The official unemployment rate (U3 rate) edged down to 3.9%, and the number of unemployed shrank slightly by 239,000. Most importantly, and least reported by the media, is that the Not-in-Labor-Force cadre of sidelined citizens increased by 410,000. The combined effect of a weak employment boost, a sizable increase in sidelined Not-in-Labor-Force cadre and a significant decrease in the number of unemployed yielded a net labor force loss of 7,000.

During the first 16-months of the **Trump Administration**, employment gains amounted to 2,987,000 workers, for an average of 186,688 per month. Correspondingly, the U3 Unemployment category decreased by 1,156,000 personnel, and the Not-in-Labor-Force category grew by 739,000 citizens. Consequently, the overall Trump Administration **net labor force gain** is 3,404,000. In comparison, during the 8-years/96-months in Obama Administration, the net labor force loss was 247,000. During the 8-years/96-months in GW Bush Administration, the net labor force loss was 13,429,000.

Since the **end of the Great Recession**, from 1 January 2010 to 1 May 2018, the U.S. labor force net gain was 15,463,000 workers. 18,643,000 new workers entered the labor force. 8,752,000 fewer workers were listed as officially unemployed, but the number of work-capable people in Not-in-Labor-Force increased by 11,932,000 people.

During the 8-years/96-months of the **Obama Era** (1 January 2009 through 31 December 2016), the U.S. labor force lost a net 247,000 jobs, with 10,595,000 entering the labor force, 14,626,000 voluntarily departing, and 3,784,000 fewer people recorded as officially unemployed. It is important to remember that the first 21-months of President Obama's first term in office, the Administration dealt with the Great Recession and post-recession recovery operations. Obama's next 75-months in office produced the longest run of consecutive labor gains since WWII when BLS record keeping began. This 75-month run exceeded the previous record of 48-months that occurred in the July 1986 to June 1990.

During the 8-years/96-months of the **Bush II Era** (1 January 2001 through 31 December 2008), the U.S. labor force suffered a devastating net loss of 13,429,000 jobs (2,115,000 new jobs, 9,892,000

voluntary workforce departures, and 5,652,000 newly unemployed). To a large extent, President Bush endured the perfect storm of labor force calamities:

- 8-months of the 2001 Recession (March 2001 through November 2001),
- 13-months of Great Recession (December 2007 through December 2008),
- the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and the ensuing global war on terrorism, and
- nine major Hurricanes (Katrina, Ike, Rita, Wilma, Ivan, Charley, Frances, Jeanne, and Allison) that collectively caused over \$275 billion in damage.

From the **beginning of the 21st Century** (1 January 2000 to 1 May 2018), the American labor force is still **weaker by a net 10,148,000 workers** (highlighted in light red). This weakness is exacerbated by a population growth of 45 million additional American citizens present today compared to 2000 (282 million versus 327 million) plus the impact of a rapid rise of contingent part-time workers with a commensurate decrease in traditional full-time workers.

To sum up, while recent trends are slowly reversing America's descent from an economic quagmire, the U.S. economy is not yet sustainable without the continued strengthening of the U.S. private sector labor force. The [private sector workforce](#) consists of 125,904,000 workers, which represents only 38% of the total [U.S. population](#) of 327,634,618 as of 1 May 2018. Of this workforce, approximately 60% are traditional full-time workers, and 40% are contingent workers (part-timers, freelancers, independent contractors, etc.) who earn far less income than conventional workers and often receive little or no benefits. Policy-makers and decision-leaders must concentrate on small business creation and sustainment to achieve economic and labor force growth.

Jobenomics Analysis of the ADP National Employment Report.

The ADP [National Employment Report](#) is a monthly survey of workers in 400,000 U.S. private sector businesses by the ADP Research Institute in collaboration with Moody's Analytics.

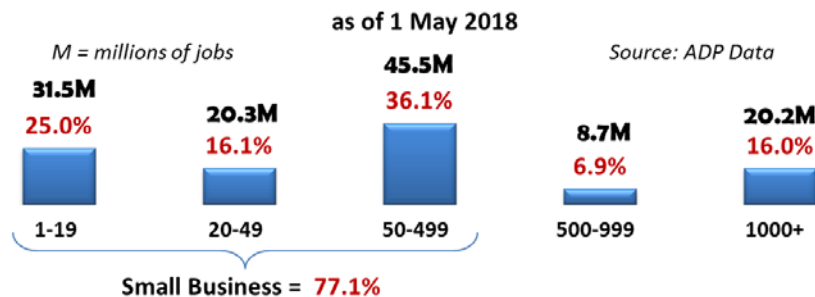
The April 2017 [ADP National Employment Report](#), released on 2 May 2018, states that the U.S. non-farm private sector created 204,000 new jobs, which is 40,000 less than the 164,000 new jobs reported by the BLS Employment Situation Summary that includes 168,000 new non-farm private sector and -4,000 government new jobs. ADP does not report on government employment, unemployment or workforce departures as does the BLS.

Of the 204,000 U.S. non-farm private sector new jobs reported by ADP, small businesses (1-49 employees) gained 62,000 jobs, medium businesses (50-499 employees) gained 88,000 new jobs, and large companies (500+ employees) gained 54,000 new jobs. Micro-businesses (1-19 employees) created 31,000 compared to 42,000 Macro-businesses (1000+ employees), or 74%, which is a historically low percentage.

Service-providing industries created 160,000 jobs and the goods-producing sector 44,000 jobs. Of the ten private sector industries, Professional/Business Services generated 58,000 new jobs, followed by Education/Health Services (39,000), Leisure & Hospitality (36,000), Construction (27,000), Trade/Transportation/Utilities (14,000), Manufacturing (10,000), Services (8,000), Financial Activities (7,000) and Other Natural Resources & Mining (7,000). Information was the only supersector that lost jobs (-2,000).

For the remainder of this report, Jobenomics classifies “small business” as having 1-499 employees (the definition supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration), medium-sized business as 500-999 and large businesses as 1000+ employees. Also, Jobenomics defines micro-businesses as having 1-19 employees, which includes self-employed individuals.

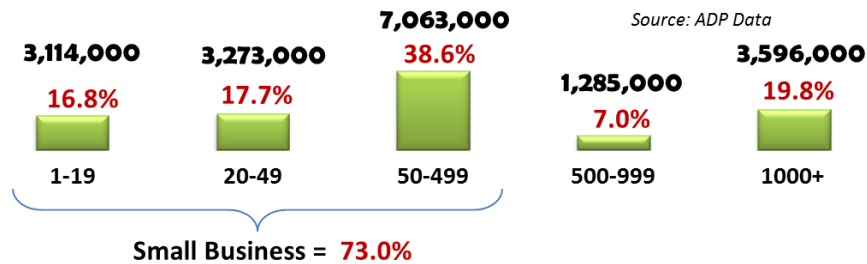
U.S. Private Sector Employment by Company Size



As reported by ADP, small businesses are undeniably the dominant employer in the United States. Small companies with less than 500 employees employ 77.1% of all private sector Americans with a total of 97,295,000 employees—over 3.4-times the number of established enterprises with more than 500 employees that have 28,852,000 employees. Micro-businesses with 1-19 employees employ 1.6-times the number of giant corporations with over 1,000 employees (31,478,000 versus 20,180,000).

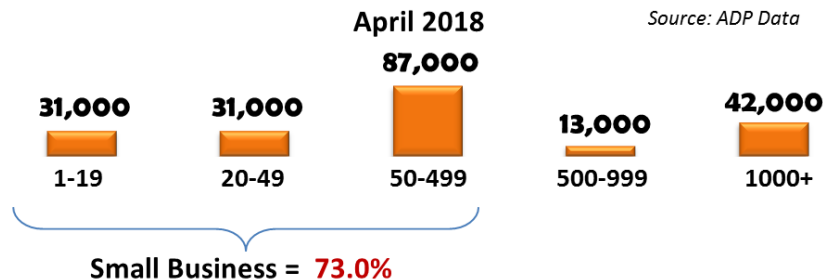
U.S. Private Sector Jobs Created This Decade by Company Size

1 January 2010 to 1 May 2018 (100 Months)



Since the beginning of this decade, small businesses created 73.0% of all new jobs in the United States. Small businesses with less than 500 employees created 2.7-times more jobs as large businesses with 500+ employees, or 13,903,000 versus 5,104,000 new jobs respectively. Micro and self-employed firms with 1-19 employees produced 85% as many jobs as large-scale corporations with over 1,000 employees (3,196,000 versus 3,769,000).

U.S. Private Sector Jobs Created Last Month by Company Size

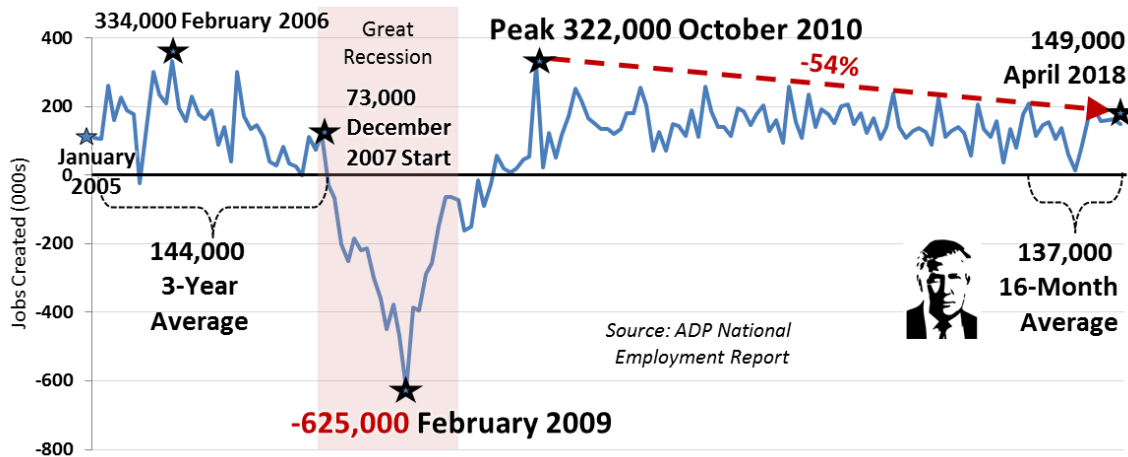


Last month (April 2018), U.S. small business (1-499 employees) created 73.0% of all new jobs. This percentage compares favorably with previous months during the Trump Administration: 68.9% March, 65.8% February, 65.3% January 2018, 78.7% December, 82.0% November, 47.5% October, **16.9% September (Low)**, 35.9% August, 68.3% July, 69.5% June, 77.1% May, **93.6% April (High)**, 93.5% March, 75.3% February, and 72.7% January 2017.

Jobenomics Analysis of the Small and Startup Business Situation.

While current small business statistics are impressive, the U.S. small business engine is faltering.

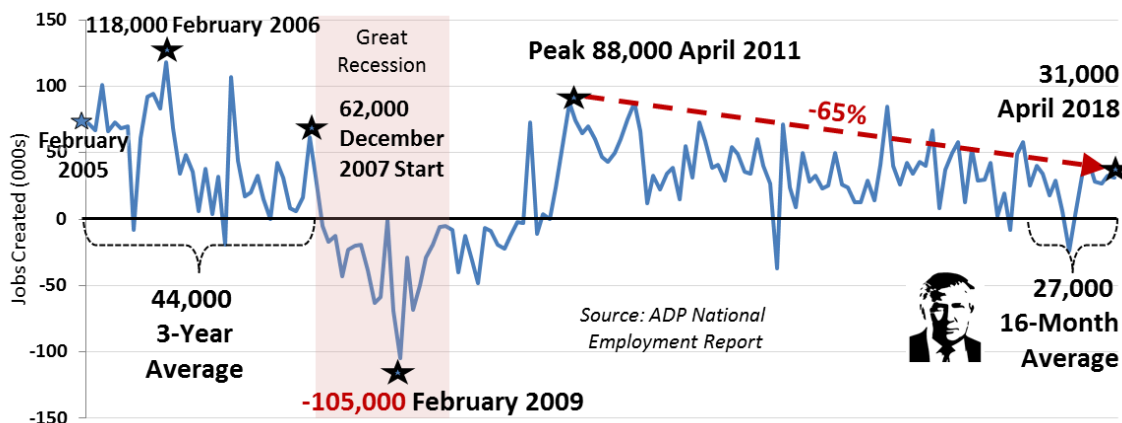
U.S. Small Business (1-499) Job Creation Engine Is Faltering



During the depth of the Great Recession in February 2009, small businesses laid off 625,000 people in a single month, which is indicative of the hazards of a stalled small business engine. Twenty months later, the small business engine was hitting on all cylinders and generated a peak of 322,000 jobs in October 2010. Since this post-recession peak to today, small business job creation **dropped 54%** to 149,000 in April 2018, a difference of 149,000 jobs. Consequently, over a 120-month period, a deficit of 149,000 jobs equates to approximately 18 million fewer jobs per decade. The Trump Administration could use these lost jobs to fulfill the President's vision of 25 million new jobs over the next decade.

If the small business engine had heart, it would be a micro-business. Most micro-business are self-employed firms (one-person incorporated or unincorporated), family businesses (mom-and-pops) or partnerships. Micro-businesses are also the heart the U.S. economy. Mom-and-pop stores are essential to local communities. They are the type of enterprises that hire the unemployed and give part-time jobs to high schoolers and other entry-level individuals who want to work. Continued deterioration and denigration of micro-businesses can only lead to economic stagnation.

U.S. Micro-Business (1-19) Job Creation Engine Is Also Faltering



Sadly, the U.S. micro-business heart is suffering from a form of atherosclerosis (narrowing or blockage of the arteries) as indicated by a 60% decline since the post-recession peak. Since the post-recession peak month in April 2011, micro-businesses **declined by 65% today**. The average micro-business job creation over the Trump Administration is 27,000 jobs per month, which is a meager number considering the relative strength of the U.S. economy. The 3-year average before the Great Recession was 44,000 new jobs per month.

The vast majority (95%) of small and micro-businesses are “pass-through” businesses (sole proprietorships, partnerships, and S-Corporations that pay taxes based the owner’s income tax returns). Consequently, the recent Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA)’s pass-through businesses tax reduction from 39.6% to 20% for qualified business income should have a positive economic and labor force impact in 2018. The primary intent of TCJA’s pass-through business legislation was to boost mom-and-pop business growth and employment.

Unfortunately, most of the earnings generated by pass-through entities are not by mom-and-pop businesses but by high net-worth individuals (e.g., hedge fund managers, management consultants, and real estate executives) who self-incorporate as an LLC or S-Corp to reduce their tax burden. While the TCJA includes “anti-abuse measures” to ensure that only owners of “bona fide” businesses claim the 20% rate, abuse is likely to grow now that a new “territorial system” exempts foreign profits by U.S. business. A shrewd Wall Street hedge fund manager or real estate broker can start a pass-through business on a Caribbean island to reduce their tax burden and deduct business expenses while enjoying Mai Tais on the beach.

While the Jobenomics outlook for small and self-employed business is positive throughout 2018, it is less bright than it could be. Washington and corporate America need to place significantly more attention on small business development and sustainment. Tax cuts will help but are not the solution to the problems facing small businesses.

America needs to rejuvenate the small business entrepreneurial spirit and create a worldview that small and micro-businesses are a viable alternative to the decreasing number of high-paying full-time jobs. Women-owned and minority-owned businesses are deserving of far more attention than they receive today. Additionally, digitally-savvy Screenagers (Generation Z) are suited for starting micro-business tailored to meet the needs of the emerging digital economy and contingent labor force. If the 29.6 million American small businesses created or hired only one net new employee over the next several years, Trump’s 25 million new jobs goal could happen in a much shorter timeframe than he currently envisions.

The rate of small business startups is also dropping precipitously.

Business startups are the seed corn of the U.S. economy. Without the planting and fertilization of these seedlings, the fields of American commerce will be fallow.

Of the estimated three million startups over the last decade, tens of thousands of ultra-high growth businesses (called unicorns and gazelles) have generated millions of net new jobs for America. According to the [Kauffman Foundation](#), these fleet-footed startups account for 50% of all new jobs

created. Uber, Lyft, Airbnb, SpaceX, WeWork, and Pinterest are recent examples of unicorns—a startup company that rapidly achieves a stock market valuation of \$1 billion or more. A gazelle is a high-growth company that increases revenues by over 20% per year for four-plus years. The top-10 U.S. gazelles include Natural Health Trends, Paycom Software, Lending Tree, ABIOMED, MiMedx Group, Facebook, NetEase, Ellie Mae, Amazon.com and Arista Networks, according to [Fortune](#) magazine.

Regarding new starts (firms less than 1-year old), the Census Bureau's Business Dynamic Statistics indicate that the United States is now creating startup businesses at historically low rates, down from 16.5% of all firms to 8% in 2014 ([latest data](#)). Based on a Wall Street Journal (WSJ) [analysis](#) of this Census Bureau data, "If the U.S. were creating new firms at the same rate as in the 1980s...more than **200,000 companies and 1.8 million jobs a year**" would have been created.

During the heydays of the 1970s, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs started Microsoft and Apple, two of the world's most celebrated companies with a market capitalization (the value of the total number of shares multiplied by the present share price) of \$741 billion and \$911 billion respectively. One has to wonder if these companies would have started in our current austere startup environment?

According to a Census Bureau's Business Dynamic Statistics [press release](#) on 20 September 2017, in 2015, 414,000 U.S. startup firms created 2.5 million new jobs, which is well below the pre-Great Recession average of 524,000 startup firms and 3.3 million new jobs per year for the period 2002-2006. In 2015, job creation minus job destruction equaled **net** job creation of 3.1 million, which supports the Jobenomics hypothesis that net job creation is a critical statistic for policy-makers than just focusing on only new jobs. Other tidbits of the 2017 Business Dynamic Statistics press release include:

- 5 million U.S. small businesses (1-499 employees) created 45% (1,400,711) of all net new jobs compared to 20 thousand large enterprises (500+ employees) that produced 55% (1,690,591) net new jobs.
- 4.5 million micro-businesses (1-19 employees) net job creation equated to 14% (434,203) of all net new jobs.
- Net job creation in urban areas was over twice the rate of rural communities, or 2.7% versus 1.2% respectively.

According to another [Kauffman Foundation](#) analysis of the Census Bureau's Business Dynamic Statistics, most **city and state government policies that look too big business for job creation are doomed to failure** because they are based on unrealistic employment growth models. "It's not just net job creation that startups dominate. While older firms lose more jobs than they create, those gross flows decline as firm's age. On average, one-year-old firms create nearly 1,000,000 jobs, while ten-year-old firms generate 300,000. The notion that firms bulk up as they age is, in the aggregate, not supported by data."

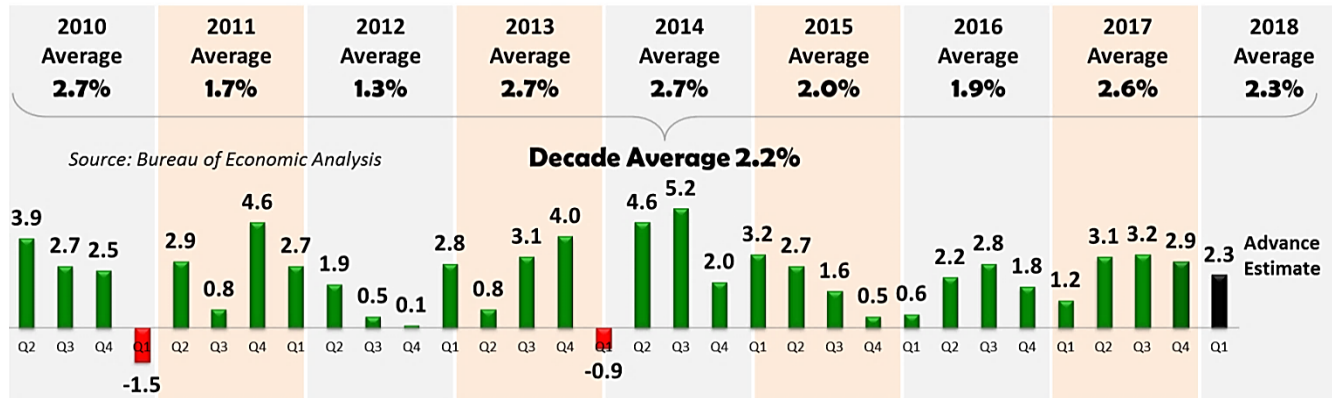
Jobenomics agrees with both the WSJ and Kauffman analyses. Moreover, the Jobenomics 20-part series, entitled [President Trump's New Economy Challenge](#) provides a detailed analysis why **the Trump Administration's bold economic (4% GDP) and job creation (25 million new jobs) vision is**

likely to fall short due to its concentration on big business rather than small business creation and sustainment. Small business is not only critical to net job creation; it is the primary determinant for GDP growth given the fact that big firms are increasingly looking at automation and outsourcing (to foreign workers or domestic contingency workers) to replace the conventional full-time labor force.

Jobenomics Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Analysis.

The ideal rate for U.S. GDP growth is around 3%. Any GDP growth below 2% is sclerotic, which makes the U.S. economy vulnerable to financial downturns.

Real GDP Quarterly Percent Change This Decade



According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis ([BEA](#)), during the post-recession recovery period from 2010 through 2017, U.S. GDP averaged 2.2%. In 2015 and 2016, U.S. GDP grew by subpar rates of 2.0% and 1.9% respectively. During the 8-years of the Obama Administration, GDP averaged 1.8%. During the first year of the Trump Administration, GDP averaged 2.6%. BEA's advance estimate for Q1 2018 is a disappointing 2.3%

For Q1 2018, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's GDPNow forecast is 2.0% as of 26 April 2018, which is down from a high of 5.4% on 1 February 2018 and up from a low of 1.8% on 15 March 2018. The GDPNow's "Blue Chip consensus" survey of leading business economists forecast that Q1 2018 growth will be 2.1% with a low estimate of 1.6% and a high estimate of 2.6%.

For Q2 2018, as of 4 May 2018, the initial Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's [GDPNow](#) forecast is 4.0%—an optimist projection which is likely to be downgraded over the quarter as happened in previous quarters. The GDPNow's "Blue Chip consensus" survey of leading business economists forecast that Q2 2018 growth will be 3.1% with a low estimate of 2.5% and a high estimate of 3.7%.

While GDP growth does not ensure employment growth, sclerotic GDP growth discourages business hiring, consumer spending and labor force expansion. Sclerotic GDP growth also discourages lower rates of unemployment and voluntary workforce departures. Negative GDP growth creates recessions and depressions depending on the severity and longevity of the contracting economy.

The period of sclerotic GDP growth from 2000, has dramatically impacted the American middle-class and the U.S. labor force that is weaker by 11 million workers today than at the beginning of the 21st Century. Even though wages have improved in the last year, for most American workers, real salaries (purchasing power) have not increased significantly for decades. America's aggregate household income has shifted from middle-income to upper-income households, causing many middle-class workers to leave the workforce altogether. The solution to building a robust middle-class is to



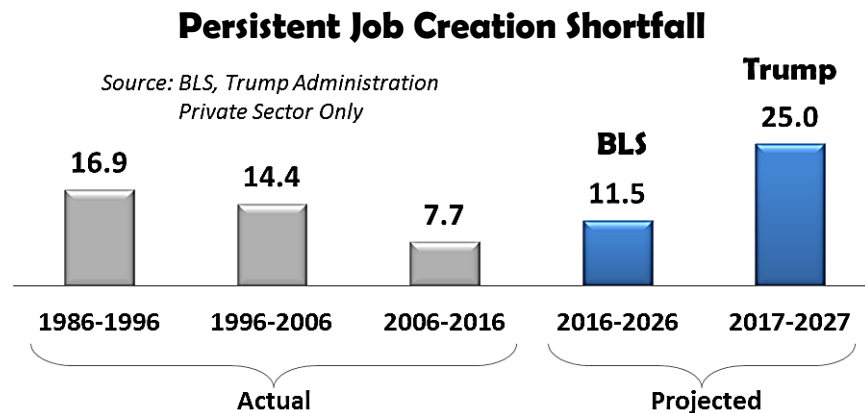
accelerate GDP growth, which requires the creation of more productive private sector jobs, which, in turn, can only be generated by a massive expansion of the small business sector.

Concluding Thoughts.

President Trump’s vision of a “dynamic and booming economy” is one that can produce a GDP growth rate of “4% over the next decade.” This vision ultimately depends on mass-producing business, especially small business, in sufficient quantities to create 25 million net new jobs. Sclerotic (0% to 2%) or recessive (negative) GDP rates depreciate a government’s legitimacy. Robust GDP growth of over 3% will have the opposite effect.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office’s 2017 to 2027 Budget and Economic Outlook [report](#), “over the next five years, the monthly increase in nonfarm payroll employment, which is estimated to average 160,000 jobs in the first half of 2017, is projected to settle down to an average of 64,000 jobs.” If this CBO forecast is correct, the next decade is likely to produce only 9 million American jobs, which is far short of President Trump’s projection of 25 million new jobs.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not foresee robust labor force growth by 2026. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [Employment Projections: 2016-26 Summary](#) published on 24 October 2017—ten months into the Trump Administration—projects that the next decade will produce only 11.5 million new jobs. 11.5 million is a shortfall of 13.5 million jobs when measured against the Trump Administration goal of 25 million jobs. It is also below the gains experienced in the two prior ten year periods covering 1986-1996 (16.9 million) and 1996-2006 (14.4 million).¹



The BLS Summary [projects](#) a loss of 219,500 jobs in Goods-Producing Industries supersector group with gains of 864,700 jobs in Construction and 90,800 in Mining and Logging (including oil and gas extraction, and exploration and support services) supersectors, and massive loss of 736,400 jobs in the Manufacturing supersector.

The Service-Providing Industries supersector group is projected to gain 10,526,500 jobs with the most substantial growth in employment occurring in Health Care and Social Assistance (3,998,300), Professional and Business Services (2,159,700) and Leisure and Hospitality (1,319,000) supersectors. The vast majority of employment gains in the service-providing supersector will be lower wage jobs in the contingent workforce.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections: 2016-26 Summary, 24 October 2017. Employment by major industry sector, https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_201.htm

For Agriculture/forestry/fishing industries, the BLS Summary projects a net loss of 6,100 jobs. Small self-employed farmers will suffer a loss of 23,000 while larger corporate farms will increase by 17,000 wage earners. According to the Department of Agriculture, the number of American farms decreased by two-thirds (6.8 million to 2.1 million) since its peak in 1935, while the size of farms tripled (440 acres verse 155 acres).² With the possible exception of indoor controlled agriculture (e.g., hydroponics, aquaponics, vertical farming, and cannabis), the era of small American farms is rapidly closing.

The Federal government is expected to downsize by 55,800 while State and Local governments should increase by 788,700 workers, per the BLS Employment Projections: 2016-26 Summary.

Jobenomics tends to agree with these rather gloomy CBO and BLS forecasts for the reasons discussed in the Jobenomics [20-part series](#) entitled President Trumps New Economy Challenge. However, the Trump Plan can be amended to change CBO and BLS labor force projections from negative to positive.

With proper leadership, the Administration can lift tens of millions of Americans out of poverty by making the following four structural changes to President Trump's economic and job creation plan:

- Balancing the traditional standard industrial economy with the newly emerging nonstandard digital economy,
- Mitigating the mass-exodus of capable workers who are voluntarily departing the U.S. labor force for lives of dependency and alternative (often illicit) lifestyles,
- Addressing the challenge of the ever-growing contingency workforce that will soon be the dominant form of labor in the United States, and
- Mass-producing small and self-employed businesses—the engine of the U.S. economy—and the employer of the vast majority of Americans.

If the Trump Administration can achieve 4% GDP growth in a stable global economy, the U.S. economy will boom, and Americans will be euphoric. This feat will not be easy. The last time that the United States reached 4% in a single year was 2001. The last time that the United States achieved 4% in ten consecutive years over the previous 5-decades was never (3.5% was the highest from 1976 to 1985). Notwithstanding, if the Trump Administration can tie the 3.5% record over the next decade, they will be vindicated and worthy of much praise.

About Jobenomics: *Jobenomics deals with the economics of business and job creation. The non-partisan Jobenomics National Grassroots Movement's goal is to facilitate an environment that will create 20 million net new middle-class U.S. jobs within a decade. The Movement has a following of an estimated 20 million people. The Jobenomics website contains numerous books and material on how to mass-produce small business and jobs as well as valuable content on economic and industry trends. For more information see <https://jobenomicsblog.com/>.*

² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farming and Farm Income, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/farming-and-farm-income/>