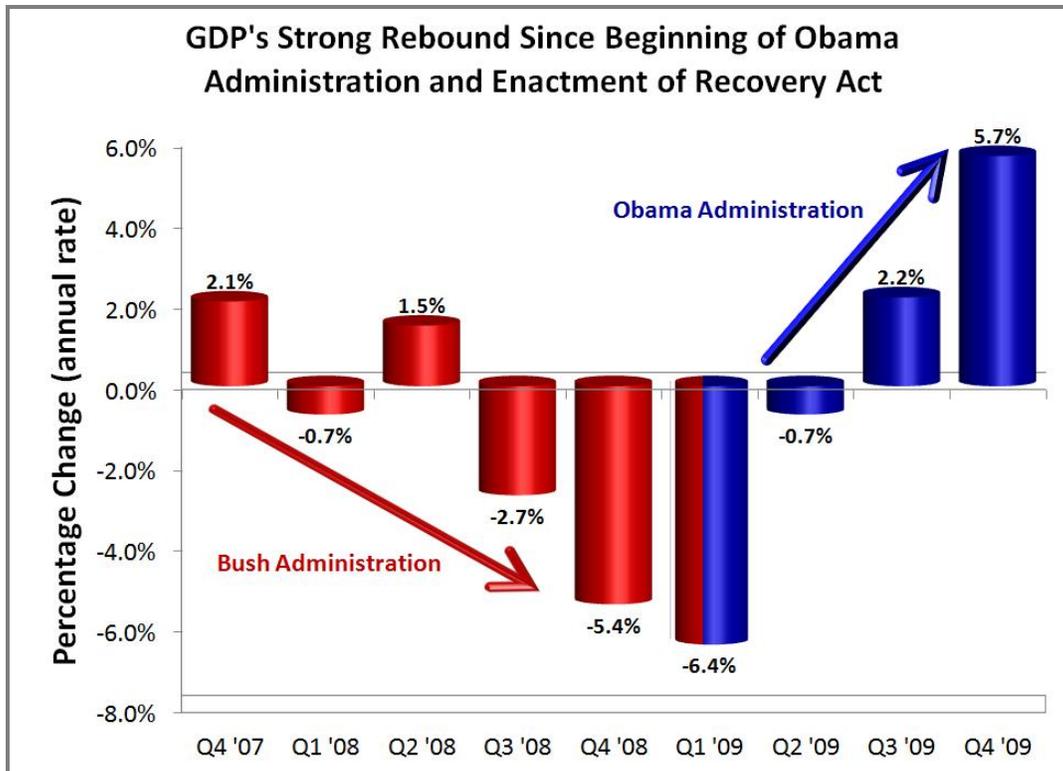


# ECONOMY SHOWS POSITIVE SIGNS OF RECOVERY

## *GDP Growth Another Indication That Recovery Efforts Are Working*

Today's announcement that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew from -6.4% in the first quarter of 2009 to 5.7% in the last quarter of 2009 is another indication that our economy continues to show positive signs of recovery. Since President Obama took office last January, and following Democratic efforts such as the Recovery Act, our economy has seen the following improvements:

- **GDP:** GDP growth increased from -6.4% in the first quarter of 2009 to a preliminary estimate of 5.7% in the fourth quarter of 2009 – the fastest growth in 6 years.



- **Jobs:** In the last 3 months of the Bush Administration, the economy was losing on average 673,000 jobs per month; in the last 3 months of 2009, the average job loss was 69,333 per month, an improvement of nearly 90%.
- **Housing:** Home prices rose 0.5 % in November 2009 compared to November 2008, the first annual gain since 2007 and the sixth successive monthly increase.
- **Manufacturing:** According to the Institute for Supply Management's index, U.S. manufacturing activity rose from 53.6 in November to 55.9 in December – the highest level since April 2006 – signaling growth in the sector for a fifth consecutive month.
- **Consumer Confidence:** Consumer confidence reached the highest level in 16 months, rising for the third straight month and an indication that Americans are aware of improving economic conditions.

While we welcome these encouraging signs of recovery, too many American families and businesses are still hurting. Democrats remain focused on creating jobs and hope Republicans will work with us in our continued efforts