

IN FIRST SIX MONTHS, RECOVERY ACT HAS POSITIVE IMPACT

“[W]hat six months ago looked like an economy plunging into an abyss is now an economy on the mend. And the stimulus deserves some of the credit.”

– Alan S. Blinder, *Washington Post*, [8/11/09](#)

Recovery Act Is Working, Helped Economy Avoid Depression

When President Obama took office, we were facing the greatest economic crisis in a generation and the economy appeared to be on the verge of a depression. In its first 6 months, the Recovery Act has worked to stabilize economic conditions, stem job losses, rebuild our economic base, help those harmed by this crisis, and create the stability necessary to get us on the road to economic recovery.

“We’ve averted the worst, and there are clear signs the stimulus is working,” said Kenneth Goldstein, an economist at the Conference Board in New York.” – *Bloomberg*, [8/12/09](#)

“The stimulus is crucial, [Ian C. Shepherdson, chief domestic economist for High Frequency Economics,] said. ‘If it were to stop, the economy would grind to a halt...’” – *New York Times*, [8/8/09](#)

“These are still early days for a bill Congress passed only six months ago, but the stimulus has already had a notable impact.” – Alan S. Blinder, *Washington Post*, [8/11/09](#)

“The fact that people for the first time in over a year are starting to look at some glimmers of hope plays to the prospect of some strength in the stimulus,” said Susan Molinari, a Republican strategist in Washington...” – *Bloomberg*, [8/12/09](#)

“If the fiscal stimulus package didn’t exist for example, we would anticipate that there would be higher unemployment.” – *Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke*, [7/21/09](#)

“[R]easonable estimates suggest that around a million more Americans are working now than would have been employed without that plan — a number that will grow over time — and that the stimulus has played a significant role in pulling the economy out of its free fall. All in all, then, the government has played a crucial stabilizing role in this economic crisis...” – *Paul Krugman, New York Times*, [8/10/09](#)

“This year, the federal stimulus package signed into law by President Obama in February served as a lifeline. For all the intense partisan debate in Washington over whether the stimulus so far has worked, **in the states there is little question that federal cash has staved off catastrophe. ‘The stimulus has had a tremendous effect in forestalling some of the worst cuts,’** said Elizabeth McNichol, a senior fellow with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. **‘It’s absolutely worked for the states.’ [Chris] Whatley, of the Council of State Governments, said state deficits would be 40 percent worse if not for the stimulus funds.”** – *Washington Post*, [8/11/09](#)

Leading Economists Believe Recession Is Over; But Rebuilding Our Economy Will Take Time and Effort

Economists believe that the recession is over, but our economic problems – which have been many years in the making – won't be solved overnight. While the economy has stabilized and we are beginning to see some early signs of progress, American families and businesses are still struggling on the long road to recovery; but every Recovery dollar spent and project started is one step closer to building a strong and sustainable economic recovery.

“[T]he majority of the economists The Wall Street Journal surveyed during the past few days said the recession that began in December 2007 is now over.” – *Wall Street Journal*, [8/11/09](#)

“It's over,' the economists at Barclays Capital declared Friday, referring to the Great Recession.” – *New York Times*, [8/8/09](#)