

# **TOP 5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OF 2009**

## *Democrats Bring In the New Year by Building on Economic Progress*

As the new year begins, Democrats remain focused on economic recovery and job creation to build on our efforts from 2009. When President Obama took office last January, the economy was in free-fall, and America was losing nearly 700,000 jobs a month. Today, nearly a year later, the economy is seeing signs of improvement – thanks in large part to Democratic efforts like the Recovery Act. However, it is clear that Americans are still hurting and any job losses are too many, which is why Democrats will continue our efforts to strengthen the economy and put millions of Americans back to work.

### **1. Job Losses Decline**

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 69,000 per month, an improvement of nearly 90%.

### **2. Stock Market Gains**

Stocks have seen significant gains since the beginning of March 2009, following passage of the Recovery Act. The Dow is up 58%, the S&P is up 64%, and the Nasdaq is up 75%.

### **3. GDP Grows**

In the first quarter of 2009, GDP was -6.4%. By the third quarter of 2009, GDP was on the rise, increasing +2.2%, the best quarter for growth in two years. Forecasters predict steady GDP growth throughout 2010.

### **4. Home Sales Rise**

Existing home sales in November 2009 were 44% higher than they were in November 2008, and the number of homes on the market over the same period is down 15%.

### **5. Manufacturing Rebounds**

U.S. manufacturing activity rose to 55.9 from 53.6 in November, reaching the highest level since April 2006 and a positive indication of broader economic growth.

While these improvements in the economy are promising indications that Democratic actions are having an effect, the road to recovery is long. That is why, as the House begins its second session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, Democrats are committed to an agenda that is focused on creating jobs and strengthening our economy.