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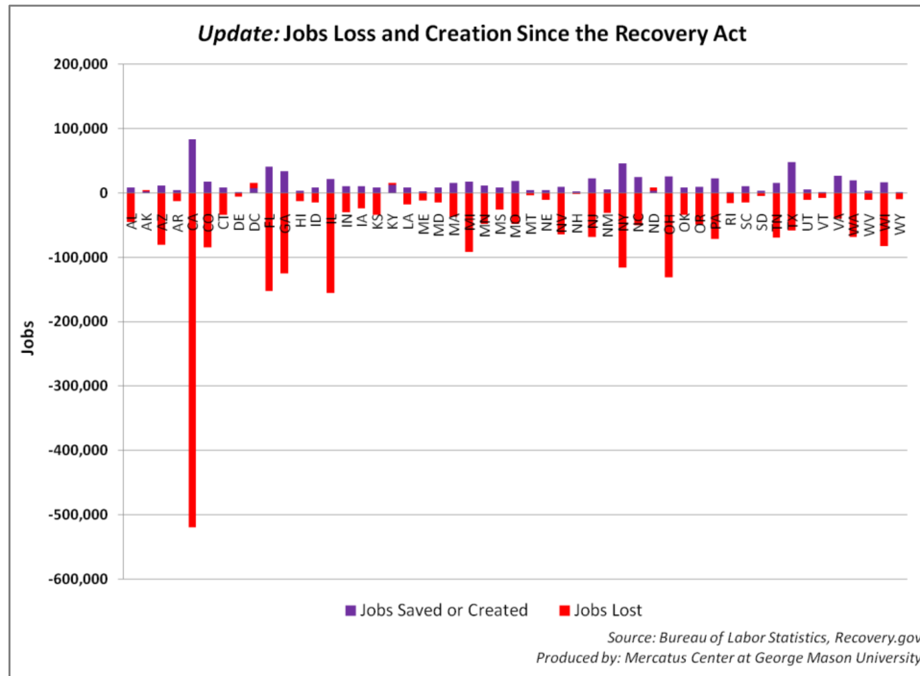

Using the most recent quarter of stimulus data from Recovery.gov and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this chart by Mercatus Center Senior Research Fellow Veronique de Rugy puts job creation numbers in context. For each state, jobs "saved or created" (purple) and jobs lost from employer payrolls (red) are shown.

Payroll employment since the passage of the Recovery Act has continued the same employment trends that preceded the recession: with the exceptions of Alaska, Kentucky, North Dakota and the District of Columbia, employment across America has plummeted. So as Recovery.gov boasts this quarter of 755,454 temporary jobs, the largest job creation claims yet, we must remember that 2.62 million real jobs have been lost since the passage of the Recovery Act.

As reported on Recovery.gov, a job is 3 months of full-time equivalent labor paid for with stimulus dollars - inherently temporary. Compare this with payroll employment jobs, the vast majority of which are not temporary, and have lasted for far more than a quarter of a fiscal year. These jobs are sustainable, do not require continued taxpayer funds to be sustained, and are precisely the jobs that America needs to pull it out of the recession.

Economists know that increased debt, spending and policy uncertainty all lead to decreased economic growth; economic growth is the engine of real, lasting job creation. Knee-jerk spending policies undermine economic growth and in doing so, they undermine economic recovery. Temporary stimulus jobs have a cost that must be considered: the loss of real, private sector ones.

Veronique de Rugy discusses true job creation in context for C-Span's Washington Journal.

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