





Written by [Bob Adelman](#) on March 10, 2013

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The *Times* also noted that the labor force is shrinking, so that whatever numbers the BLS reports aren't real:

Most of the decline [in unemployment] reflects a shrinking labor force rather than new hiring. In fact, if hiring were more robust, the unemployment rate would hold steady or even rise as the estimated four million Americans who are not working or looking for work rejoined the ranks of job seekers, where they would be counted in the official unemployment rate.

Furthermore, those who have been out of work for six months or more actually increased last month. If the economy were healthy, surely that number would be declining.

Even if one could believe that the unemployment report from Friday was accurate, it still falls below the estimated 250,000 jobs needed every month just to absorb new job seekers. It would take many more than that to bring the unemployment rate down significantly, and that just isn't on the horizon.

Until the debate about how to grow the economy changes significantly in Washington from "how do we grow jobs?" to "how do we get out of the way of jobs growth?" the unemployment rate will remain high, extending the impact of the Great Recession far into the future.

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