

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 28, 2006

**NEWS**

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## **Economic Growth Soars in First Quarter**

*GDP rate strongest in 2.5 years*

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Herger (CA-02) today touted the announcement by the U.S. Department of Commerce that the economy grew by 4.8 percent in the first quarter of 2006. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the sum of all goods and services produced in the United States, and has grown in each of the past 18 quarters. Herger had the following reaction to the report:**

"Vibrant GDP growth in the first quarter further demonstrates that our nation's economy is strong," Herger said. "The booming economy has created over five million new jobs since 2003, and the national unemployment rate has fallen to 4.7%, which is lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Americans looking for a job are increasingly able to find one, which is great news for their families and our nation.

"In 2001 and 2003, Congress passed historic tax relief that slashed rates on all income brackets, reduced the marriage penalty on low and middle income families, and spurred economic entrepreneurship and investment among small businesses," continued Herger. "Vibrant economic growth and strong job creation demonstrate that these pro-growth policies are working.

"Because of this strong growth and prosperity, tax revenue to the federal treasury has increased substantially, thus keeping deficits lower than expected. Rather than raising taxes to their previous levels, I will continue to work to make the tax relief permanent so that our economy continues to grow and produce good jobs," concluded Herger.

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For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!