

A NEW ERA OF RESPONSIBILITY: RENEWING AMERICA'S PROMISE

The U.S. Department of Labor 2010 Budget

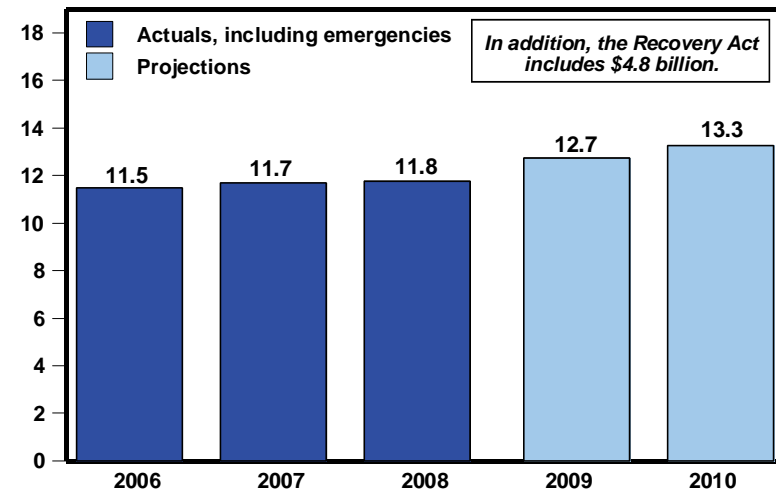
“If jobs and incomes are our yardsticks, then the success of the American worker is key to the success of the American economy. The Department of Labor will once again stand up for working families and be an advocate for everyday people.”

-- President Barack Obama

With an allocation of \$13.3 billion for the Department of Labor, the President's fiscal year 2010 Budget reforms the Unemployment Insurance system (UI), strengthens workforce training, and improves conditions and benefits for workers. The Budget builds on UI modernization reforms included in the Recovery Act by offering proposals to improve the program's financial integrity, as well as its ability to function as an automatic stabilizer and an effective safety net. On workforce training, the Budget builds on support for “green jobs” in the Recovery Act in order to help Americans climb the professional ladder through transitional jobs and career pathway programs, as well as other initiatives. To improve conditions and benefits for America's workers, the Budget restores DOL's capacity to enforce labor standards, establishes automatic workplace pensions, and makes the Saver's Credit refundable.

Department of Labor

Discretionary budget authority in billions of dollars



The U.S. Department of Labor Budget Highlights

THE NATION'S WORKFORCE

Trains and prepares the nation's workforce for jobs in emerging industries. The President's Budget provides strong support for federal workforce training programs to help Americans prepare for, find, and retain stable, high-paying jobs.

Builds on the significant support in the Recovery Act for training in "green jobs." The Administration will direct existing programs to find ways to prepare workers for jobs associated with products and services that use renewable energy resources, reduce pollution, and conserve natural resources.

Supports new transitional jobs and career pathway programs. The Budget supports the testing of innovative approaches to helping low-income Americans grab hold of and climb the career ladder.

Adds to the Recovery Act investments in YouthBuild. The Budget expands opportunities for disadvantaged young people to complete their high school education, learn valuable skills, and builds affordable housing in their communities.

Honors our commitment to returning servicemembers. The Budget provides support for training and placement services to ease the transition of servicemembers to civilian employment.

RESTORES LABOR'S STANDARDS

Enables labor law enforcement agencies to meet growing workloads. The Budget increases funding for: the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, enabling it to vigorously enforce workplace safety laws and whistleblower protections; the Wage and Hour Division to ensure that workers are paid the wages that are due them; and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, which is charged with ensuring equal employment opportunity and a fair and diverse Federal contract workforce.

AUTOMATIC WORKPLACE PENSIONS AND SAVER'S CREDIT

Establishes automatic workplace pensions and makes the Saver's Credit refundable. The President's 2010 Budget lays the groundwork for future establishment of a system of automatic workplace pensions, alongside Social Security, that is expected to dramatically increase both the number of Americans who save for retirement and the overall amount of personal savings for individuals.

Expands retirement savings incentives for working families. The Budget modifies the existing Saver's Credit to provide a 50 percent match on the first \$1,000 of retirement savings for families that earn less than \$65,000. The credit would be fully refundable to ensure that savings incentives are fair to all workers.

A BETTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM

Improves UI as an automatic stabilizer. The 2010 Budget will propose changes to make the UI program a more responsive and effective social safety net and economic stabilizer. These changes will make benefits available more quickly to long-term unemployed workers and avoid the delays associated with enactment of legislation to create special, temporary extended unemployment programs.

Improves UI financial integrity. Despite the efforts of states to reduce improper benefit payments, more than \$3.9 billion in UI benefits were erroneously paid in 2008. The Administration will tackle this problem by increasing funding for program integrity and proposing legislative changes that would reduce UI improper payments by \$3.9 billion and employer tax evasion by almost \$300 million over 10 years.