

U.S. Economy Steadily Gains Momentum

Closure: Made In America Series

OLIVIA CHEUNG
News Editor

The United States ended 2011 with another drop in its unemployment rate, now at 8.3%, the nation's lowest level since February 2009.

Millions of jobs were created in 2011, more than any other year since 2005, proving that the U.S. is making steady improvement in its economic recovery.

"It is important for the American people to recognize that we have now added 3.2 million new private sector jobs over the last 22 months, nearly 2 million new jobs last year alone," President Obama said, addressing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Jan. 6.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on Jan. 6 that non-farm payroll employment rose by 200,000 in December, doubling

the gain in November and an increased amount of 1.6 million over the past 12 months. (Non-farm payroll is a compiled name for goods-producing, construction

and manufacturing companies.) off workers, the private sector continues to add more jobs, with 257,000 new jobs in January.

The majority of the newly created jobs were within the

"Our economy has stabilized but that's all it really has done," sophomore Andrew Quach said. "The majority of those jobs [...] are at or below minimum wage,

12.8 million. For January, the Labor Department reported that 5.5 million people had been out of work for six months or more, while about 43% remain jobless.

The economy lost about 8.5 million jobs in 2008 and 2009 but only recovered 1.1 million of them last year. However, factoring in natural population growth, the actual number of new jobs needed is even larger. Economists say about 100,000 to 125,000 new jobs have to be added every month just to keep balance with new entrants to the workforce.

"There are still a lot of struggles that people are going through out there," Obama said. "A lot of families are still having a tough time. A lot of small businesses are still having a tough time. But we are starting to rebound. We are moving in the right direction. We have made real progress. Now is not the time to stop."

MOOR GRAPHIC by ALISON TRAN



and manufacturing companies.) Similarly, employment in the private sector rose by 212,000 in December and by 1.9 million over the year.

While federal agencies and local governments continue to lay

industries of manufacturing, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality.

The unemployment rate appears to be falling because people were securing jobs rather than merely leaving the work force.

but the [...] high paying jobs that will make our country shine above other countries economy are just not being created."

Although the pool of unemployed people has been shrinking, the number remains high at

AHS Bomb Threat Demonstrates Cooperation Between Administrators and Police

ELLEN LI
News Editor

On Friday, Jan. 13, AHS was put on lockdown at around 11:40 am when "an unidentified person called [the] school and [...] threatened that there was a bomb on campus," according to the SGV Tribune's interview with Alhambra police Sgt. Jerry Johnson.

When the lockdown initially began, many of the staff and students were caught off guard.

"When I first heard here was a bomb threat, I didn't think it was real and I thought it was a drill," sophomore Marilynn Bach said.

Students and staff were later evacuated to the track field on Fourth Street as the police searched the school for an explosive device.

Once the police conducted a "thorough search" of the campus and officials were confident that there were no dangerous devices on campus, students were then permitted to return to the campus at about 2:30 PM.

However, no information regarding the suspect or the motives behind the bomb threat was available,

and the investigation remains ongoing.

According to the National School Safety and Security Services, one major issue facing most school districts is deciding whether or not to evacuate a school on bomb threats. Many threats have been made by students who aim to disrupt the school day; however, all threats must be treated seriously and thoroughly investigated.

The protocol in the event of such an occurrence varies from school to school and is adjusted to the different circumstances of each situation.

"In a situation like [the recent bomb threat] where there is a concern on campus, AHS administration works in conjunction with the Alhambra police department to make decisions to ensure the safety of the students," Assistant Principal Jeremy Infranca said. "In this case, it was decided that the best thing to do was to evacuate campus."

While the investigation remains ongoing, it has been made clear that the instigator of this event will be severely punished and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

National Website 'Blacklisting': Stop Online Piracy Act Internet Censorship Bill Introduced and Defeated Before Website Protest

ASTRID TOVAR
Staff Writer

The Internet domineers as the primary source of the public's free flow of information and a major media center that has been loosely monitored since its early age. Until now.

Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) was introduced on Oct. 26, 2011 by U.S. House Representative Lamar Smith as a means to stop online piracy.

For a long while the government had no grounds to prosecute offenders of piracy; SOPA is the first of several bills that would have tackled online piracy.

If the bill were to pass, the music industry would receive most of the revenue it has lost in the previous years by finally controlling online piracy.

Its purpose serves to make it harder for websites to sell pirated copyrighted material, such as media and counterfeit goods.

SOPA, as a whole, grants intellectual property owners, such as a movie studios, record labels and corporations, the ability to remove foreign sites against those that have a copyright claim.

If a movie production studio were to claim a certain website was providing streams or torrents of their feature film, they could have Google remove them from their search results, while PayPal, Visa and Mastercard would not accept any monetary transactions for that

site can easily eliminate rising competing companies by claiming copyright infringement.

"The [government] doesn't have any right to censor the Internet," senior Chris Trieu said.

Opponents of the bill also criticize that SOPA is a sloppy means to target single criminal activities on a website. If an individual uploads illegal content, the entire website could be shut down.

Websites, as they are now, have firm privacy statements that state they are not responsible for content their users provide. SOPA removes that right.

On Jan. 18, hundreds of websites participated in a nation wide protest against the bills. Websites like Wikipedia shut down access to their site and provided a page of information along with a link for an online petition. Similarly, Google censored its logo. The black bar on the logo also redirected to an online petition which Google reports over 4.5 million people signed.

However, on Jan. 15, representatives concluded the bill was to be pushed to a later date for a decision.

PHOTO courtesy of BING



On Jan. 18, Google, alongside sites such as Wikipedia and Mozilla, had blacked out its logo with the message: "Tell Congress: Please don't censor the web."

They are essentially "black listed," as opponents claim.

Most opponents of the bill agree with its purpose, but when these legal claims of permanently black listing a website can have "no grounds," the opinions begin to shift.

IP owners can take these actions without a court appearance or judicial sign off, which creates competition complications; any major company web-



In Other News...

Florida business owner adopts his 42-year-old girlfriend

Teacher buys Armani suit as a reward for star student

Overwhelmed man surrenders 94 hamsters to animal control

Woman stranded in a car within a pond survives off candy for a week

Obama's 2005 Chrysler for sale on eBay for \$1 million

Thief caught with 11,000 pairs of womens' underwear