

July 2, 2010

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The Platte Institute strongly believes in the importance of citizens participating in the public dialogue on issues

# PLATTE CHAT

## Recession, Stimulus Good for Public Sector Employment

Berkeley Brown  
Platte Institute

Since the beginning of the recession and since the passage of the stimulus bill, it has been far better to be a bureaucrat in Nebraska than it has been to be in the private sector. This trend also applies to the entire nation.

That's because when the entire country is hurting and the private sector continues to lose jobs, bureaucrats are being hired.

Since the recession began at the start of 2008, Bureau of Labor Statistics show that government jobs in Nebraska have increased by 4.27 percent – rising from 163,700 to 170,700. Meanwhile, in the same time frame, private sector jobs have decreased by 3.68 percent. Those jobs have shrunk from 802,200 to 772,600.

And while Washington implemented the stimulus program to help employment, the only employment which has benefited in Nebraska has been the government work force. Since February 2009, government jobs in the Cornhusker state have increased 2.15 percent (net gain of 3,600 jobs) while the private sector has seen a decrease of 1.80 percent (a net loss

important to Nebraska. Writing a letter to the editor is an outstanding way to partake in the discussion and have your voice heard by thousands of people. To make the process easier, the Platte Institute has assembled a list of links which allow you to submit a letter to the editor to nearly all Nebraska newspapers. Simply [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of the newspapers and follow the appropriate link to submit your letter.

## Contact Us

If you would like to contact someone at the Platte Institute, you are always welcome to give us a call, drop us an email or stop by the office. Our telephone number is 402.452.3737. We are located at 10050 Regency Circle – Suite 120 – in Omaha. Below is a list of staff email address:

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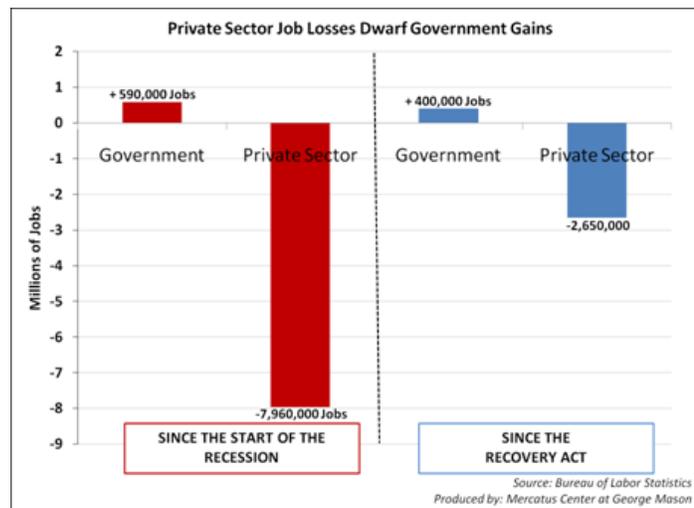
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of 14,200 jobs).

The following chart from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University makes that case on a national level. Since January 2008, some 7.9 million jobs were lost in the private sector while 590,000 jobs were gained in the public one. And since the passage of the stimulus bill in February 2009, over 2.6 million private jobs were lost, but the government workforce grew by 400,000.



Mercatus Center senior research fellow [Veronique de Rugy](#) wrote, "plus, as you know, according to the latest numbers from Bureau of Economic Analysis, the average federal civilian worker now earns *double* what private-sector workers earn when factoring in wages and benefits ([\\$119,982 vs. \\$59,909](#)). And the gap is increasing. According to [Chris Edwards](#) of the Cato Institute, in 2000, the average federal worker earned 66 percent more in total compensation than the average private-sector worker. By 2008, that ratio had risen to 100 percent. That's serious money."

During these difficult economic times, if you're in Nebraska or anywhere in the United States, it's good to be a bureaucrat.

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