



From: Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen [mailto:Congressman.Frelinghuysen@mail.house.gov]
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What's Inside?

1. **The Week Just Past**
2. **Inside the Unemployment Rate**
3. **Laying a Foundation for Picatinny's Future**

The Week Just Past

“In the week after the House passed the Speaker Pelosi health care bill, there was not much progress in moving the bill forward. The Senate seems to be in a holding pattern as they wait for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to tell them how expensive their government takeover of health care will be.

“Last weekend’s vote by the House was a mistake. Health care reform should address the rising costs of health care, preserve the fundamental tenet that medical treatment decisions be made between doctors and their patients and help American families and small businesses gain access to affordable, high-quality health care.

“The Pelosi health care bill achieves none of these objectives. Instead, this legislation is a brazen \$1.3 trillion bill that will raise premiums, ration care, make damaging cuts to Medicare, suffocate economic growth and cost jobs at a time when our unemployment rate is higher than it has been in 26 years.

“I strongly opposed the bill for these reasons, and instead, supported a better, common-sense plan to improve our health care system in a way our nation can afford.

“Now that the leadership has rammed this \$1 trillion government takeover through the House, maybe they will turn their attention to the issue that is foremost on Americans’ minds: reviving our economy and creating private sector jobs.”

Inside the Unemployment Rate

A look inside the staggering unemployment figures released last week by the Department of Labor is very revealing. While the ‘official’ jobless rate reached a staggering 10.2 percent for the month of October, the highest level in 26 years, the actual unemployment rate is closer to 17

percent due to frustrated job-seekers and part-timers unable to find full-time work.

The numbers inside the ‘official’ unemployment number tell an interesting tale:

15,700,000: Americans unemployed and looking for work—the highest number ever. Since the President signed the trillion dollar “stimulus” in February, the number of unemployed Americans has increased by nearly three million.

190,000: Individuals whose jobs were eliminated in October.

1,737,000: People unemployed in October because they have been laid off.

2,804,000: Jobs lost since the “stimulus” was signed in February.

9,284,000: People who are working only part-time because they cannot find full time employment.

2,373,000: People who want work, but who are not currently looking because of the state of the economy.

5,594,000: People unemployed and searching for work for more than 27 weeks—the highest level ever.

1,090,000: Job seekers that are new entrants to the workforce and have yet to find a job.

26.9: Average number of weeks job seekers are unemployed after losing their jobs—the highest number since the statistic was first recorded in 1948.

27.6%: Unemployment rate among job seekers between the ages of 16 and 19—the highest level since the statistic was first measured in 1948.

15.7%: Unemployment rate among African Americans—the highest level since 1985.

13.1%: Unemployment rate among Hispanics and Latinos.

17.5%: Rate of underemployment, accounting for the unemployed and those who are unable to find adequate work.

15.5%: Unemployment rate among job seekers without a high school degree.

65.1%: Rate of the U.S. population in the workforce.

Recommended Reading: Wednesday’s Wall Street Journal editorial on trade policy, “America Leaves Itself Behind”:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703574604574500372712162380.html>

Laying a Foundation for Picatinny’s Future

Picatinny Arsenal began writing the next chapter in its storied history this week, breaking ground on two new state-of-the-art facilities.

Rodney was on hand on Monday as Captain Neil Stubits of the Indian Head Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Picatinny Commander Brigadier General Jon Maddux and Dr. Joseph Lannon, Director of the Army's Armaments Research Development Engineering Center (ARDEC) broke ground on the new Weapons and Armaments Packaging, Handling, Storage and Transportation (PHS&T) Center.

This is the first Naval facility to be relocated to Picatinny in decades. The center is currently located at the Earle Naval Weapons Station in Colts Neck in Monmouth County. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure I(BRAC) process determined that the PHS&T operation would be moved to Picatinny to help create "an integrated weapon and armaments specialty site for guns and ammunition."

"When this new facility is completed, our Navy and Army experts here at Picatinny will get critical items and systems to our warfighters more quickly and more efficiently," Rodney said at the ceremony. "So this is a good day for all of our military services – Army and the Navy and the Marines, even the Air Force."

Then, earlier today, the Army broke ground on a Fuze Engineering Complex. These facilities will provide renovated Fuze Engineering space plus additional Fuze Engineering Space, Fuze Lab space, Explosives Research Laboratory space, Electromagnetic Research Lab space, Explosive Storage Space and refurbishment of Anechoic Chamber space. This facility is being re-located through the BRAC process from Adelphi, Maryland.

Both facilities will cost about \$20 million each.

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