



Americans for Tax Reform

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## **McGreevey & McCormac's Credibility Gap Continues to Grow**

### *Today's Employment Report Runs Contrary To Treasury Testimony*

**WASHINGTON** – This week, state Treasurer John McCormac presented a rosy budget scenario for the State of New Jersey in both the current and next fiscal years. The Treasurer pointed to the McGreevey Administration policies for creating jobs and hence increasing state revenues.

According to the Treasury press release, “The revenue growth is testament to the Governor’s economic policies, which have created more than 54,000 jobs in the last year, making New Jersey a national leader in job creation and business investment.”

This morning the Department of Labor released employment totals for all fifty states in April which refutes the Treasurer’s claim. It shows New Jersey job growth is average at best.

1. Over the past year, the unemployment rate has fallen in 47 states
2. Over the past year, employment has increased in 44 states.
3. New Jersey ranks 20<sup>th</sup> nationally in private sector job growth since May 2003
4. 25 percent of all New Jersey jobs created in that time were government created jobs financed by higher taxes on working NJ families. This does nothing to improve economic growth.
5. Connecticut continues to lag the nation in job creation as a result of the state increasing their income tax last year – a proposal also put forward by the McGreevey Administration

**“Either the Treasurer can not count or he is lying to the taxpayers of New Jersey,”** said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“First we found out the Treasurer purposely underestimated revenue by \$900 million in order to raise taxes in last year’s budget. Now we find out he completely**

exaggerated and distorted the employment numbers this week as a way to take credit for the strong revenue growth in the budget. We urge all state legislators not to move forward on the budget until the Administration fully answers these questions.”

### Private Sector Job Growth Since May 2003

	May-03	Apr-04	% Growth
Nevada.....	944.1	987.60	4.61%
Arizona.....	1883.6	1,934.50	2.70%
Virginia.....	2857.1	2,926.50	2.43%
Florida .....	6202.6	6,352.80	2.42%
Hawaii (3).....	446.7	456.10	2.10%
Oregon .....	1289.1	1,314.90	2.00%
Washington.....	2132	2,172.20	1.89%
Idaho .....	457.5	466.10	1.88%
Wyoming.....	185.4	188.60	1.73%
Wisconsin.....	2364.8	2,404.10	1.66%
Missouri.....	2244.8	2,281.10	1.62%
Alaska.....	217.8	221.20	1.56%
New Mexico.....	579.4	588.20	1.52%
Maryland (3).....	2019	2,049.30	1.50%
Montana.....	314.1	318.70	1.46%
South Carolina.....	1482.2	1,503.70	1.45%
Utah.....	874.6	886.90	1.41%
New Hampshire.....	525.3	532.60	1.39%
Tennessee.....	2250.4	2,279.90	1.31%
<b>New Jersey.....</b>	<b>3347.3</b>	<b>3,388.00</b>	<b>1.22%</b>
South Dakota.....	303.1	306.70	1.19%
Minnesota.....	2249	2,272.10	1.03%
California.....	11963.6	12,085.80	1.02%
Georgia .....	3220.3	3,249.70	0.91%
Delaware (3).....	356.2	359.30	0.87%
Kentucky.....	1467.6	1,480.30	0.87%
North Dakota.....	256	258.20	0.86%
Vermont.....	246.6	248.70	0.85%
Mississippi.....	869.7	877.00	0.84%
Texas.....	7719.6	7,778.40	0.76%
Iowa.....	1192.4	1,201.40	0.75%
Oklahoma.....	1159.2	1,166.80	0.66%
North Carolina.....	3163.1	3,182.50	0.61%
Colorado.....	1790.3	1,801.00	0.60%
Louisiana.....	1525.8	1,534.20	0.55%
Indiana.....	2472.5	2,486.00	0.55%

Maine.....	500.9	503.50	0.52%
Rhode Island.....	417.1	419.00	0.46%
New York.....	6920.4	6,951.80	0.45%
Alabama.....	1515.6	1,521.60	0.40%
Kansas.....	1062.4	1,065.90	0.33%
Arkansas.....	944.7	947.30	0.28%
Nebraska.....	743	743.70	0.09%
Pennsylvania.....	4867.9	4,868.00	0.00%
Illinois.....	4957.7	4,957.70	0.00%
Connecticut.....	1397.7	1,397.40	-0.02%
West Virginia.....	584.6	584.00	-0.10%
Ohio.....	4601.2	4,589.40	-0.26%
Michigan.....	3737.5	3,716.20	-0.57%
Massachusetts.....	2776.9	2,750.60	-0.95%