

By Valley Press Staff June 4, 2011 [Link](#)

GOP House Whip Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, who represents portions of Lancaster and East Kern County, said the news Friday that unemployment again has jumped above 9% shows that President Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress need to work with Republicans on job creation.

In the Antelope Valley, which is not part of the Labor Department report, unemployment fell in Palmdale from 15% in March to 14.5% in April, while Lancaster's rate dropped from 17% to 16.4%, according to the latest state Employment Development Department estimates.

May numbers for the Antelope Valley will be released later this month.

U.S. employers in May added the fewest number of workers in eight months, according to an announcement Friday from Washington. Unemployment unexpectedly rose to 9.1%, underscoring Federal Reserve concerns the expansion is failing to boost the labor market.

McCarthy, joined by House Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor, said the Democrats are losing opportunity daily to get the country's unemployment rolls reduced.

"One of the things when you look at the jobs report, you sit back and wonder why," McCarthy said. "Today it takes the average unemployed 39.7 weeks to find a job. We have had 28 straight months with unemployment above 8%. You look back and wonder why.

"There are a number of bills that the House Republicans actually have passed - to roll back regulations, to focus small business. Seventy percent of all new jobs start through small business. Let's put people before politics and get this country back to work."

The so-called underemployment rate - which includes part-time workers who would prefer full-time positions and people who want work but have given up looking - was little changed at 15.8% after 15.9% in April.

The report also showed an increase in long-term unemployed Americans. The number of people unemployed for 27 weeks or more rose as a percentage of all jobless, to 45.1% from 43.4%.

Manufacturing grew in May at the slowest pace in more than a year, according to Institute for Supply Management data this week, reinforcing concern the industry that led the U.S. recovery is cooling. Consumer spending grew less than forecast in April as households felt the pinch of grocery and energy costs, a Commerce Department report showed.

Economic growth slipped to a 1.8% annual pace in the first three months of the year from 3.1% in the prior quarter, revised figures from the Commerce Department showed last week.

McCarthy released the following statement regarding the launch of the House Republicans' Plan for America's Job Creators agenda: "I am proud to be a part of the House Republican jobs initiative, the Plan for America's Job Creators, an ongoing effort aimed at promoting pro-growth economic policies to create more American jobs.

"Over the last two years, Washington Democrats' big government initiatives like the failed stimulus bill and Obamacare have stifled job creation and added a crushing \$3 trillion to our national debt.

"The Plan for America's Job Creators, in keeping with the Pledge, provides common-sense, pro-growth initiatives that will remove burdensome regulations hampering small-business growth, reform our tax code to keep America more competitive in a global economy, increase competition by fostering America's entrepreneurial spirit, and maximize our domestic energy production.

"The American economy and House Republicans understand that more government is not the

answer. The Plan for America's Job Creators provides the critical tools private-sector job creators need in order to grow and expand so that America can get back to work."