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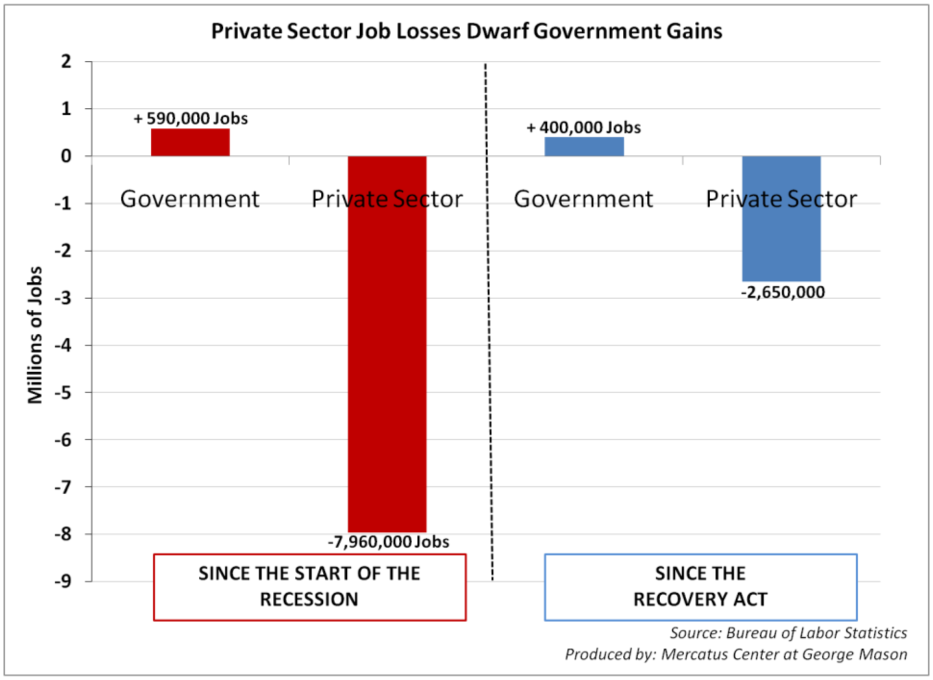

The above chart by Mercatus Center senior research fellow Veronique de Rugy examines fluctuations in seasonally adjusted, private and public non-farm payroll employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These data tell of increasing growth and centralization in the public sector during the Great Recession.

Since the beginning of the recession, the number of jobs in government has increased by 590,000 while the private sector has lost nearly 8 million jobs. For context, this is a 7% decrease in private employment coupled with a 3% increase in government employment. The majority of this government job creation has been federal, with local governments losing 83,000 jobs, state governments gaining 16,000 jobs and the federal government gaining 656,000 jobs since the start of the recession.

This trend towards increased federal and state government jobs has continued since the passage of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Since this time, the private sector has lost an additional 2.7 million jobs, or 2.5% of total employment, while state and federal governments have continued to grow. The federal government has grown by 2%, adding 603,000 jobs, while state governments have contracted by 0.5%, shedding 31,000 jobs and local government has contracted by 1%, losing the 173,000 jobs.

Veronique examines the [public employment edge](#).

To contact Dr. de Rugy, please call (703)993-9458 or email jdebnam@gmu.edu.