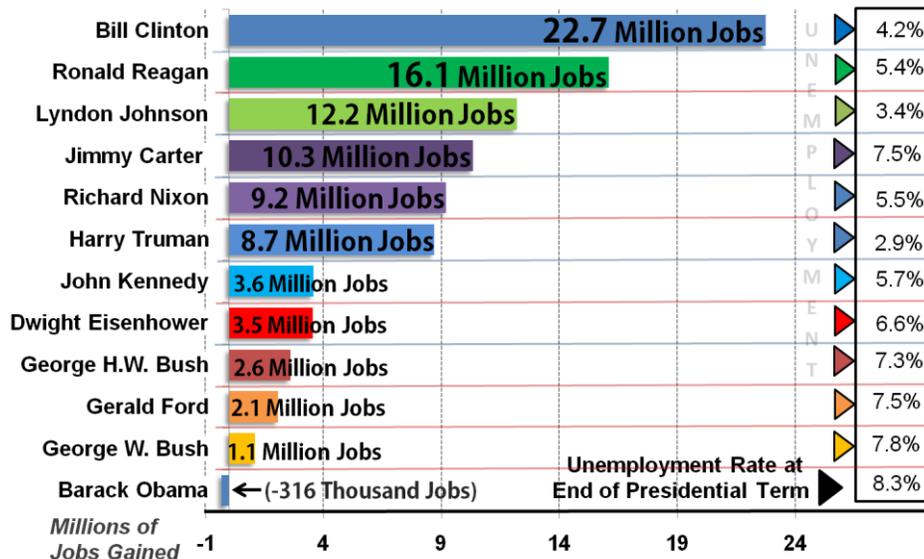


How Many Jobs Gained During a Presidential Tenure?



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Establishment Data, "B" Tables, Seasonally Adjusted.
Data note: All job estimates pertain to the tenure period of each president since 1945.
Produced by Veronique de Rugy, Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Polls show over and over again that jobs are a major concern for Americans. While presidents don't create jobs, their policies can influence the direction of the economy. Presidents can create an environment that is more or less conducive to job creation—hence, the close scrutiny of employment statistics during presidential campaigns.

This chart uses data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Employment Tables to show the number of jobs gained during each presidential tenure since 1945. This chart *isn't* meant to compare President Obama (who's completed just under one term so far) to President Clinton (who completed two terms.) Rather it is meant to look at how each president did during their tenure. Also, considering that population grows and labor participation varies over time, this data is probably slightly biased in favor of President Obama for both the job numbers and unemployment rate.

Although President Obama has not yet finished his first term, the data show that it would take him roughly 280,000 new jobs per month for every month from now until January 2013 to get him out of last place. Presidents Clinton and Reagan saw the highest gains in jobs and maintained some of the lowest unemployment rates during their administrations.

Veronique de Rugy further [explains](#) these job gains at NRO's [The Corner](#).

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