

# CNN Fact Check: About those 4.5 million jobs ... - CNN.com

By the CNN Wire Staff

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CNN Fact Check: About those 4.5 million jobs ...

gymnast

CNN Reality Check: 4.5 million jobs created?

Gabby Douglas leads

(CNN) -- Anyone watching the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday night heard the number 4.5 million several times.

of Allegiance

Despite incredible odds and united Republican opposition, our president took action, and now we've seen 4.5 million new jobs," San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, the party's keynote speaker, said.

West

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who served as President Barack Obama's chief of staff, and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who followed Obama's November rival Mitt Romney as governor of Massachusetts, both cited the same number.

Charlotte High School

Sights and sounds from the DNC

on the colors

It's a big-sounding number, given the still-sputtering job market. So we're giving it a close eyeballing.

5. President Barack Obama

The facts:

Obama

The number Castro cites is an accurate description of the growth of private-sector jobs since January 2010, when the long, steep slide in employment finally hit bottom. But while a total of 4.5 million jobs sounds great, it's not the whole picture.

the



Watch full speech of Julian Castro

final day of

the convention.

Delegate Goodwin

the

public

Goodwin

the

Meanwhile,

the

depicting

President Barack

Barack

Are you better off?

Nonfarm private payrolls hit a post-recession low of 106.8 million that month, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The figure currently stands at 111.3 million as of July.

While that is indeed a gain of 4.5 million, it's only a net gain of 300,000 over the course of the Obama administration to date. The private jobs figure stood at 111 million in January 2009, the month Obama took office.

And total nonfarm payrolls, including government workers, are down from 133.6 million workers at the beginning of 2009 to 133.2 million in July 2012. There's been a net loss of nearly 1 million public-sector jobs since Obama took office, despite a surge in temporary hiring for the 2010 census.

Meanwhile, the jobs that have come back aren't the same ones that were lost.

Obama

and  
first  
lady  
According to a study released last week by the liberal-leaning National Employment Law Project, low-wage fields such as retail sales and food service are adding jobs nearly three times as fast as higher-paid occupations.

Obama

Conclusion:

Wednesday.

Ruby

Gilman

The figure of 4.5 million jobs is accurate if you look at the most favorable period and category for the administration. But overall, there are still fewer people working now than when Obama took office at the height of the recession.

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