

January 9, 2009

(Washington, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today released the following statement on the announcement that the United States' economy lost 524,000 jobs in December, pushing the national unemployment rate to 7.2 percent. Since December of 2007, 3.6 million jobs have been lost.

“Today’s unemployment numbers provide further evidence that Congress has no time to lose in putting in place a robust economic recovery and reinvestment plan that will create new jobs and help lift our economy out of this recession.

“Any economic stimulus package that Congress passes must include tough accountability standards that will ensure money is being used to create jobs and lay the groundwork for America’s long-term economic growth.

“By taking the right course of action now, I remain confident that we can help Americans through this recession and lay the foundation for our economy’s long-term success.”