Center for American Progress

Did the Stimulus Work?

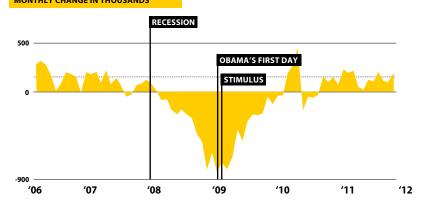
By Michael Linden February 2012

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, better known as the stimulus, turns 3 this month. Did it work? Michael Linden, Director of Tax and Budget Policy at the Center for American Progress, answers that question in a new video by looking at three broad but important indicators for the American economy. All three were in bad shape before the stimulus began, and all three turned around at almost exactly the moment the stimulus started. Coincidence?

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BILLIONS OF 2005 DOLLARS, ANNUALIZED RECESSION OBAMA'S FIRST DAY STIMULUS 12,600 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

TOTAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT MONTHLY CHANGE IN THOUSANDS



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics