



# 100 DAYS OF HASTE

## *After 100 Days, The Stimulus Has Produced Waste And Fraud, But No Jobs*

### **After 100 Days, The Government Has Spent Only A Fraction Of Stimulus Funds**

**Three Months After The Stimulus Passed, Only 6 Percent Of The \$787 Billion Has Been Spent.** “Nearly three months after President Obama approved a \$787 billion economic stimulus package, intended to create or save jobs, the federal government has paid out less than 6 percent of the money, largely in the form of social service payments to states.” (Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Aid Trickles Out, But States Seek Quicker Relief,” *The New York*, 5/12/09)

- **Most Of The \$45.6 Billion Has Been Spent On Social Services.** “The stimulus bill has directly injected around \$45.6 billion into the economy, mostly to help states cover the costs of Medicaid and unemployment benefits, one-time \$250 checks that were mailed to Social Security recipients last week, and income tax cuts that began to take effect this spring.” (Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Aid Trickles Out, But States Seek Quicker Relief,” *The New York*, 5/12/09)

**Through The First Week Of May, The Department Of Transportation Had Spent Only \$11 Million.** “[T]he Department of Transportation had spent only about \$11 million on highway projects through the first week of May.” (Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Aid Trickles Out, But States Seek Quicker Relief,” *The New York*, 5/12/09)

**“Nonetheless, To The Frustration Of Some Local Governments, The Federal Spigot Has Been More Trickle Than Flood, And States Are Facing Such Fiscal Pressure That Many Are Cutting Jobs Anyway.”** (Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Aid Trickles Out, But States Seek Quicker Relief,” *The New York*, 5/12/09)

**An Obama Administration Official Admitted That It Is Only 8 Percent Of The Way Toward Its Goal.** “The Obama administration has committed to spending 70 percent of the money, or \$550.9 billion, within the first two years. By that benchmark, an administration official said, the government is 8 percent toward its goal.” (Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Aid Trickles Out, But States Seek Quicker Relief,” *The New York*, 5/12/09)

### **Murtha Airport Received \$800,000 From The Stimulus**

**The Pennsylvania Airport Named After Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) Received \$800,000 In Stimulus Funds To Repave Its Alternate Runway.** “The Federal Aviation Administration, after reviewing concerns about a project at a regional airport named after Rep. John P. Murtha (D-Pa.), has decided to go forward with plans to use \$800,000 in stimulus funds to repave the airport's alternate runway.” (Carol D. Leonnig, “FAA Approves Plan To Give Stimulus Funds To Airport Named After Murtha,” *The Washington Post*, 5/12/09)

- **It Was One Of The First Projects To Receive Stimulus Funding.** “It was among the first in the country to win funding from this year's stimulus package: \$800,000 to repave a backup runway.” (Carol D. Leonnig, “Murtha's Earmarks Keep Airport Aloft,” *The Washington Post*, 4/19/09)

**Flights From The Murtha Airport Are Heavily Subsidized By The Federal Government.** “Each of the six daily flights that the United Express local carrier makes to and from the airport is subsidized, costing taxpayers about \$1.4 million, or \$147 per passenger, last year. The subsidy is double the national average for the federal program designed to guarantee air service for 150 rural communities, excluding those in Alaska.” (Carol D. Leonnig, “Murtha's Earmarks Keep Airport Aloft,” *The Washington Post*, 4/19/09)

- **“Inside The Terminal On A Recent Weekday, Four Passengers Lined Up To Board A Flight, Outnumbered By Seven Security Staff Members And Supervisors, All Suited Up In Gloves And Uniforms To Screen Six Pieces Of Luggage. For Three Hours That Day, No Commercial Or Private Planes Took Off Or Landed. Three Commercial Flights Leave The Airport On Weekdays, All Bound For Dulles International Airport.”** (Carol D. Leonnig, “Murtha’s Earmarks Keep Airport Aloft,” *The Washington Post*, 4/19/09)

## States Are Struggling To Oversee Stimulus Spending

**A GAO Report Said States Are Struggling To Oversee And Manage Stimulus Spending To Avoid Waste.** “The Government Accountability Office pointed out in a report last week that states are struggling with how to oversee and manage stimulus expenditures, particularly because their own crunched budgets have forced personnel cuts.” (Amanda Ruggeri, “After 100 Days, Grading Obama’s Stimulus Gamble,” *U.S. News And World Report*, 4/27/09)

**Despite The Increase In New Projects, New Jersey Has Not Hired Any Additional Auditors Or Investigators To Ensure The Money Is Being Spent Properly.** “New Jersey, for example, has not increased the number of its state auditors or investigators, despite a jump in projects, and a state hiring freeze has prevented many of New Jersey’s agencies from increasing their oversight efforts, the GAO says.” (Amanda Ruggeri, “After 100 Days, Grading Obama’s Stimulus Gamble,” *U.S. News And World Report*, 4/27/09)

## Stimulating Dead People

**A Stimulus Check Was Sent To Rose Hagner.** “In the rush to distribute payments, officials were not able to thoroughly review all Social Security records. Rose Hagner no longer received Social Security checks, but because the agency had no official record of her death, she fell into a bureaucratic limbo for people whose status is unclear, he said. The result? She ended up receiving one of the more than 50 million checks being sent to senior citizens this month as part of the \$787 billion stimulus package approved in February.” (Lori Aratani, “Stimulus Payment Issued To Woman Who Died In ‘67,” *The Washington Post*, 5/13/09)

- **Hagner Passed Away On Memorial Day, 1967.** “My mother died on Memorial Day,’ Hagner said. ‘In 1967.’” (Lori Aratani, “Stimulus Payment Issued To Woman Who Died In ‘67,” *The Washington Post*, 5/13/09)

**The Government Has Sent Out About 10,000 Stimulus Checks To Dead People.** “Of the about 52 million checks that have been mailed out, about 10,000 of those have been sent to people who are deceased. The agency blames the error on the strict mid-June deadline of mailing out all of the checks, which didn’t leave officials much time to clean up all of their records.” (“Dead Woman Gets Federal Stimulus Check,” NBC’s WBAL, [www.wbal.com](http://www.wbal.com), 5/12/09)

## Unemployment Rate Continues To Rise

**In April 2009, The Unemployment Rate Was 8.9 Percent.** (U.S. Bureau Of Labor Statistics, “The Employment Situation: April 2009,” Press Release, 5/8/09)

- **In February 2009, The Unemployment Rate Was 8.1 Percent.** (U.S. Bureau Of Labor Statistics, “The Employment Situation: April 2009,” Press Release, 5/8/09)

**“At The Same Time, Some Economists Have Questioned The Administration’s Claims That The Bill Has Saved Or Created 150,000 Jobs.”** (Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Aid Trickles Out, But States Seek Quicker Relief,” *The New York*, 5/12/09)

- **University Of Maryland Economist Peter Morici Said State And Local Employment Trends “Just Do Not Support That Claim.”** “There has been skepticism of the administration’s claim of creating or saving 150,000 jobs. While it can be difficult to count jobs that were saved, as opposed to those that were created, Peter Morici, an economist at the University of Maryland, said that trends in state and local government employment ‘just do not support that claim.’” (Michael Cooper, “Stimulus Aid Trickles Out, But States Seek Quicker Relief,” *The New York*, 5/12/09)