

### THE U.S. LABOUR PICTURE: GETTING THE FACTS STRAIGHT

While many people continue to applaud the fall in the rate of unemployment in the United States (US) for the month of December 2003, careful analysis of the statistics, churned out by The Bureau of Labour Statistics of the US Department of Labour, suggests that all is not well in the House of President George W. Bush, after all.

As **TARGET** has mentioned, many times in the past, statistics can prove anything ... or nothing, at all.

Officially, The US Labour Department announced, last Friday, that, in the month of December 2003, *'Employment was virtually unchanged ... while the unemployment rate, at 5.7 percent, continued to trend down ...'*

The Labour Department, then, went on to state:

*'In December, about 1.5 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force, about the same as a year earlier ... These individuals wanted and were available to work and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They were not counted as unemployed, however, because they did not actively search for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey.'*

And, then:

*'There were 433,000 discouraged workers in December, also about the same as in December 2002. Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, were not currently looking for work specifically because they believed no jobs were available for them. The other 1.1 million (workers) marginally attached had not searched for work for other reasons, such as school or family responsibilities.'*

President George W. Bush, in his weekly Radio Address of last Saturday, made mention of select Labour Department statistics, stating, inter alia, that the economy of the US *'is strong and getting stronger'*.

To add credence to his statements, he said:

*'More manufacturers are seeing increased activity than at any time in the last 20 years ... And over the past 5 months, more than a quarter-million Americans started work at new jobs. In December, the unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent, from a high of 6.3 percent last June.'*

*'This latest report underscores a choice about the future of our economy, and the future of those who are looking for work ...'*

The number of people in the US, who are, officially, out of work, is about 8.40 million workers.

The civilian labour force, in fact, fell by some 309,000 workers in December, last year, to 146.90 million workers.

The total employment levels, at ... [CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE](#)

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