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"Getting people back to work is what this Department does. Giving people hope in their future is our job."

— U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao

**More Resources**

- [The White House](#)
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- [DisabilityInfo.gov](#)
- [HireVetsFirst.gov](#)
- [Career Voyages](#)
- [Business.gov](#)
- [Regulations.gov](#)
- [PandemicFlu.gov](#)
- [USA Freedom Corps](#)
- [No Fear Act — Equal Employment Opportunity Data Posted Pursuant to the No Fear Act](#)

**In Focus**

**U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao Keynotes 4th Annual Opportunity Conference**

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 17 — [Secretary Chao](#) emphasized economic development and minority access to government resources in the 4th Annual Opportunity Conference. The conference was attended by more than 1,000 African American, Asian Pacific American and Hispanic American small business owners, entrepreneurs, community and faith based leaders.



[Event photo details...](#)

- Read the [news release](#).
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**Highlights**

- [Presidential Order Extends Federal Safe Workplace Initiative](#)
- [DOL Gives Filers Affected by Hurricane Katrina Until December 31, 2006 for Annual Reports on Benefit Plans](#)
- [DOL Releases Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2006-2011](#)
- [DOL Announces Drug-Free Work Week, October 16-22](#)
- [DOL Issues President's Management Agenda 2006 Report to Employees](#)
- [DOL Issues Summer 2006 Issue of The Labor Advocate](#)
- [DOL and OPM Issue Asian Pacific American \(APA\) Career Guide](#)
- [PandemicFlu.gov Offers Information for Workers on Pandemic Flu and Avian Influenza](#)
- [Final USERRA Regulations](#)
- [Information for Military Reservists Called to Active Duty \(USERRA\)](#)
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**Latest Numbers**

<a href="#">Consumer Price Index:</a>	-0.5%	Sep 2006
<a href="#">Unemployment Rate:</a>	4.6%	Sep 2006
<a href="#">Payroll Employment:</a>	+51,000(p)	Sep 2006
<a href="#">Average Hourly Earnings:</a>	+\$0.04(p)	Sep 2006
<a href="#">Producer Price Index:</a>	-1.3%	Sep 2006
<a href="#">Employment Cost Index:</a>	+0.9%	2nd Qtr 2006
<a href="#">Productivity:</a>	+1.6%	2nd Qtr 2006
<a href="#">U.S. Import Price Index:</a>	-2.1%	Sep 2006
<a href="#">Unemployment Initial (UI) Claims:</a>	299,000	Oct 14 2006
<a href="#">UI Claims 4-Week Average:</a>	307,750	Oct 14 2006
<a href="#">Federal Minimum Wage:</a>	\$5.15	

(p) preliminary; (c) corrected

• [More Statistics](#)

**Compliance Assistance**

- [eLaws — Employment Law Advisors](#)

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