According to the Associated Press, the number of claims for unemployment benefits fell slightly last week, indicating modest job growth. When the number of applications falls below 375,000 a week, it implies hiring is strong enough to reduce the unemployment rate. Some recent data on unemployment rate dropping from 9 percent in April 2011 to 8.1% last month may suggest that the economy is improving. However, the Associated Press states that the reason for the drop may not be exclusive to the employers adding a million jobs over the past five months; but it also declined due to the people who have become discouraged over time from actively looking for work. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not account for discouraged workers who are not actively seeking employment as well as self-employed or part-time workers.