

FTC cracks down on scammers

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission announced a major crackdown Wednesday on scammers trying to take advantage of people worried about the tough economy by promising jobs that don't exist, get-rich-quick schemes, debt-reduction scams and other phony services.

The law enforcement sweep — dubbed "Operation Short Change" — was announced jointly with the Justice Department. The operation included 15 cases from the FTC and dozens of additional cases brought by Justice and at least 13 states.