US Economic Indicators: Unemployment

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thinking outside the box
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Unemployment Rates

Note: Shaded areas denote recessions according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Figure 2.

SPECIAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(per cent, sa)

Underemployment Rate*
Plus Unemployment Rate (15.5)
U-6 Rate** (16.5)

EMPLOYED PART-TIME FOR ECONOMIC REASONS
(as percent of civilian labor force)

Total (5.3)
Slack Business Conditions (4.6)
Can Only Find Part-Time Work (0.7)

Note: Shaded areas denote recessions according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.
*Total number of people working part time for economic reasons as percent of civilian labor force. **Unemployed plus marginally attached plus part time for economic reasons as percent of civilian labor force. ***Unemployed plus discouraged workers as percent of civilian labor force.
Unemployed

Figure 3.

**UNEMPLOYED & UNDER-EMPLOYED**
(millions, sa)

- Unemployed (16.3)
- Employed Part-Time for Economic Reasons (8.4)

Note: Shaded area denote recessions according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Figure 4.

**EMPLOYED PART-TIME FOR ECONOMIC REASONS**
(millions, sa)

- Total (8.4)
- Slack Business Conditions (7.3)
- Can Only Find Part-Time Work (1.0)

Note: Shaded area denote recessions according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Figure 5.

UNEMPLOYED: TOTAL, SHORT-TERM, & LONG-TERM
(millions, sa)

- Total (16.3)
- Short-Term* (14.8)
- Long-Term** (1.5)

Note: Shaded areas denote recessions according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

* Unemployed for less than 27 weeks.
** Unemployed for 27 weeks and longer.

Figure 6.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES: TOTAL, SHORT-TERM, & LONG-TERM
(percent)

- Total (10.2)
- Short-Term* (9.3)
- Long-Term** (0.9)

Note: Shaded areas denote recessions according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

* Unemployed for less than 27 weeks.
** Unemployed for 27 weeks and longer.
Figure 7.

AVERAGE & MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(weeks, sa)

Average (17.9)
Median (15.0)

Note: Shaded areas denote recessions according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Figure 8.

MARGINALLY ATTACHED TO THE LABOR FORCE & DISCOURAGED WORKERS
(millions, nsa)

Marginally Attached To The Labor Force* (2.0)
Discouraged Workers** (0.7)

* Persons marginally attached to the labor force are those who currently are neither working nor looking for work but indicate that they want and are available for a job and have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months.
** Discouraged workers, a subset of the marginally attached, have given a job-market related reason for not currently looking for work.
Figure 9.  

UNEMPLOYMENT (millions)  

- Unemployment (16.3)  
- Unemployment at Labor Force Participation Rates of 63%, 65%, & 67%  

* Labor force participation rate times working-age population minus household employment.  

Figure 10.  

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (percent, sa)  

- Official Unemployment Rate (10.2)  
- Unemployment Rate at Labor Force Participation Rates of 63%, 65%, and 67%*  

* Labor force participation rate times working-age population minus household employment all divided by adjusted labor force.  
Unemployed

Figure 11.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(percent)

- Unemployment Rate (10.2)
- U-6 Unemployment Rate* (16.5)

* Total unemployed, plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force.


Figure 12.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 1980-1990 vs. 2007-PRESENT

Figure 13.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY RACE & ETHNICITY
(percent)

African-American (14.6)
Hispanic (12.9)
White (9.2)
Asian (12.0)


Figure 14.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY EDUCATION
(percent, ages 25 and older)

Less than High School Degree (15.4)
High School Degree (10.8)
Some College (10.0)
Bachelor’s Degree (6.7)

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