US Economic Indicators: Unemployment

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thinking outside the box
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Figure 1.

Unemployment Rates

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

**SPECIAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**
(percent, sa)
- Underemployment Rate* Plus Unemployment Rate (7.9)
- U-6 Rate** (8.7)

**EMPLOYED PART-TIME FOR ECONOMIC REASONS**
(as percent of civilian labor force)
- Total (3.5)
- Slack Business Conditions (2.5)
- Can Only Find Part-Time Work (0.8)

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.
Figure 3.

UNEMPLOYED & UNDER-EMPLOYED
(millions, sa)

Unemployed (7.1)
Employed Part-Time for Economic Reasons (5.8)

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

Figure 4.

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

Total (5.8)
Slack Business Conditions (4.0)
Can Only Find Part-Time Work (1.3)

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

#### Figure 5.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total (millions, sa)</th>
<th>Long-Term** (millions, sa)</th>
<th>Short-Term* (millions, sa)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total (percent)</th>
<th>Long-Term** (percent)</th>
<th>Short-Term* (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
AVERAGE & MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(weeks, sa)

Average (17.1)
Median (7.0)

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

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

Marginally Attached To The Labor Force* (1.4)
Discouraged Workers** (0.5)

* 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.
Unemployed

Figure 9.

UNEMPLOYMENT
(millions)

- Unemployment (7.1)
- 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 (4.4)
- 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.
Figure 11.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (percent)

- Unemployment Rate (4.4)
- U-6 Unemployment Rate* (8.7)

* 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

1980-1990 vs. 2007-Present

Figure 13.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY RACE & ETHNICITY
(percent)


Figure 14.

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