**Assignment 1**

Link to data: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNU04032231>

This data, Unemployment Rate – Construction Industry, Private Wages and Salary workers, which is taken from FRED. The data contains the unemployment percentage collected monthly from 2000 to 2024. This series comes from the 'Current Population Survey (Household Survey)'. The employees considered in this area from the construction sector, which includes Working supervisors, qualified craft workers, mechanics, apprentices, helpers, laborers, and so forth, engaged in new work, alterations, demolition, repair, maintenance, and the like, whether working at the site of construction or in shops or yards at jobs (such as precutting and preassembling) ordinarily performed by members of the construction trades.

**Trends**

This time series exhibits a linear trend. In early there was a little rise in unemployment in 2003, but then the rate can be seen to come down. But, the noticeable peak happens during late 2007 and 2010. This was the period of the Great Financial Crisis, where the construction industry was very much affected and a lot of workers were laid off, which explains the increase in the unemployment rate. But, the actual peak occurs in the 2010 period, as the after-effects of the crisis.

From then on, the trend of unemployment kept coming down with the economic recovery. In 2020 we see another peak in unemployment during the COVID-19 lockdown, where everything in the country was shut down. The overall trend seems to be decreasing, which is a good sign as a decrease in unemployment means more economic growth for the country.

**Seasonality**

We can see the seasonality in the graph according to the months. The rate is lower in the months of March, April, May, June, and July. Most constructions take place in warmer months spring and summer, which explains the employment of workers in that time. And, the rate is high during the months of December and January, as the colder months do not call for many constructions, which is the reason for more unemployment in this sector.