

US Employment and Unemployment Rates

Summary

This dataset contains US Employment and Unemployment rates since 1940. US unemployment rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.3 percent in July 2017, matching a 16-year low touched in May. The number of unemployed persons was little changed at 7.0 million while the labor force participation rate edged up to 62.9 percent.

Key Facts

Date Created	1941
Date Modified	2010
Version	2010
Update Frequency	Annual
Complexity	Simple
Temporal Coverage	1941-2010
Spatial Coverage	United States
Source	USA Bureau of Labor Statistics
Source License URL	N/A
Source License Requirements	N/A
Source Citation	N/A
Keywords	US Employment, US Employment Rate, Unemployment in US, Employment and Unemployment in US



Other Titles and Uses

- United States Unemployment Rate
- US Unemployment Rise

Description

Unemployment Rate in the United States averaged 5.80 percent from 1948 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 10.80 percent in November of 1982 and a record low of 2.50 percent in May of 1953. The unemployment rate is the share of the labor force that is jobless, expressed as a percentage. It is a lagging indicator, meaning that it generally rises or falls in the wake of changing economic conditions, rather than anticipating them. When the economy is in poor shape and jobs are scarce, the unemployment rate can be expected to rise. When the economy is growing at a healthy rate and jobs are relatively plentiful, it can be expected to fall.

In the U.S., the U3 or U-3 rate, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases as part of its monthly employment situation report, is the most commonly cited national rate. It is not the only metric available, however, and it receives criticism for giving the impression that the labor market is healthier than alternative measures would indicate.

The official unemployment rate is known as U3.

Schema

Field Name	Type	Description	Properties
Year	Date	Employment and Unemployment year	
Civilian_Noninstitutional_Population	Integer	Civilian Noninstitutional Population	Level: Ratio
Total_Civilian_Labor_Force	Integer	Total Civilian Labor Force	Level: Ratio
Percentage_Of_Population	Number	Population Percentage calculating employment and unemployment rate	Level: Ratio
Total_Employed	Integer	Total Employed People	Level: Ratio
Employed_Percentage_Of_Population	Number	Employed Percentage Of Population	Level: Ratio
Agriculture	Integer	Agriculture Employment	Level: Ratio
Non_Agriculture	Integer	Non Agriculture Employment	Level: Ratio
Unemployed_Number	Integer	Unemployed Number in United States	Level: Ratio
Unemployed_Percentage_Of_Labor_Force	Number	Unemployed Percentage Of Labor Force	Level: Ratio
Not_In_Labor_Force	Integer	Not In Labor Force	Level: Ratio

Sample Records

Field Name	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
Year	1941	1952	1972
Civilian_Noninstitutional_Population	99900	105231	144126
Total_Civilian_Labor_Force	55910	62138	87034
Percentage_Of_Population	56	59	60.4
Total_Employed	50350	60250	82153
Employed_Percentage_Of_Population	50.4	57.3	57
Agriculture	9100	6500	3484

Field Name	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
Non_Agriculture	41250	53749	78669
Unemployed_Number	5560	1883	4882
Unemployed_Percentage_Of_Labor_Force	9.9	3	5.6
Not_In_Labor_Force	43990	43093	57091

