Unit 9 Supplement

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Supplement for Slide 15

Question: unemployment rate U=0.05, assume the employment rate E=0.8, and normalize the working age population as 1, what is the amount of labor force?

Solution:

The employment rate $E=0.8=\frac{\text{employed population}}{1}$, so the employed population is 0.8.

The unemployed population = labor force - employment population = $L-0.8\,$

So the unemployment rate
$$U=\frac{\text{unemployed population}}{\text{labor force}}\Rightarrow 0.05=\frac{L-0.8}{L}\Rightarrow 0.05L=L-0.8\Rightarrow 0.95L=0.8\Rightarrow L=0.842.$$