



For each 1% increase in Unemployment over the Natural Rate of Unemployment (NRU) we lose production equivalent to 2.5% of GDP

1% Unemployment above  $NRU = GDP \times 0.025$

**Example:** Suppose that total GDP was 14,000B  
and that unemployment was 1% higher than the **NRU**

## 2. Lost Production due to unemployment: Okun's Law

**NRU = Frictional + structural**

1% Unemployment above  $NRU = 14,000B \times 0.025$

= \$350B lost due to  
unemployment



Costs of Unemployment

This means that  
**Actual**  
**Unemployment was:**  
$$\text{NRU} + 1 =$$
$$5 + 1 = 6$$

This means that with  
zero unemployment,  
**GDP would have  
been:**  $14,000 + 350 =$   
 $14,350\text{B}$

# Costs of Unemployment

## 2. Lost Production due to unemployment: Okun's Law

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For each 1% increase in Unemployment over the Natural Rate of Unemployment (NRU) we lose production equivalent to 2.5% of GDP

**Example:** Suppose that total GDP was 14,000B and that unemployment was 1% higher than the NRU

$$1\% \text{ Unemployment above NRU} = \text{GDP} \times 0.025$$

$$1\% \text{ Unemployment above NRU} = 14,000\text{B} \times 0.025 = \$350\text{B lost due to unemployment}$$

This means that with zero unemployment, **GDP would have been:**  $14,000 + 350 = 14,350\text{B}$

# Okun's Law: an example