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EMPLOYMENT-UNEMPLOYMENT

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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FEBRUARY 7, MARCH 6, AND APRIL 3, 1992

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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JANUARY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:40 a.m., in room SD-106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes (chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Present: Senator Sarbanes.

Also present: William Buechner, professional staff member.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR SARBANES
CHAIRMAN

SENATOR SARBANES. The Committee will come to order.

The Joint Economic Committee is meeting this morning to receive and examine some of the first official data on the economy for 1992, namely the employment and unemployment figures for January.

We are pleased to welcome as our witness this morning the Acting Commissioner of Labor Statistics, William Barron, and his associates, Mr. Plewes and Mr. Dalton.

Clearly, from the job data released this morning, there is still no light at the end of the tunnel, despite the assertions by the Administration that a recovery is imminent. There are really no signs of recovery in the job market.

The figure this morning for the official unemployment rate is still 7.1 percent for the month of January. That's the highest figure during this recession. It corresponds with the figure for the month before.

We are still losing jobs. We lost jobs last month at the rate of 3,000 a day. And, as I understand it, the figures this morning show a significant jump in the number of Americans who are seeking full-time work, but can only find part-time work.

That figure has gone up from 6,300,000 to 6,700,000, a jump of 400,000 people who want to work full time, but can only find part-time work.

In January, business payrolls declined by 91,000 jobs. Those people who still have jobs worked fewer hours and, according to this morning's release, they took home less money.

The recession is now the longest that we have experienced since the Great Depression.

In a moment, I am going to turn to Mr. Barron for his testimony on the employment and unemployment situation, but first I'd just like to review some data on productivity and earnings that the Bureau of Labor Statistics released earlier this week.

In 1991, the productivity of the American economy barely grew two-tenths of 1 percent, our third year in a row with virtually no growth in productivity. In fact, the productivity of American businesses is now lower than it was in 1988.

The policies of the last decade that were supposed to stimulate investment and productivity in the American economy—that's the basis on which they were sold to the American public and to the Congress—simply haven't produced, and the productivity situation is a deeply troubling one.

Second, earnings. According to the BLS release, real hourly compensation for workers in non-farm businesses—in other words, workers in nonfarm businesses hourly real compensation—fell three-tenths of a percent in 1991. It has now been flat or down for five years in a row.

If you adjust for inflation, American workers are making less per hour now than they did in 1986. They are making a little more in dollar terms, but if you adjust the dollar figure for inflation, they are, in fact, making less than they were making five years ago.

This suggests that anyone who has made headway since 1986 in their economic circumstance is probably working longer hours, contrary to what the Japanese prime minister seemed to be saying the other day.

In another release this week which focused on weekly earnings, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that median weekly earnings of full-time workers in 1991 was down, after adjusting for inflation, from 1990. The actual earnings rose from $415 per week to $430 per week, 1990 to 1991, but that wasn't enough to keep pace with the increase in prices.

So, on the basis of weekly earnings, the average worker came out behind in 1991, just as happened on an hourly basis.

In my view, these earnings data help explain why consumer confidence has recently fallen to the second-lowest level on record.

The Conference Board keeps a consumer confidence index, and as we can see, this index, which began up at this level, dropped very precipitously at the end of 1990 and at the beginning of 1991 (see chart below).

Consumer Confidence Index
The Conference Board
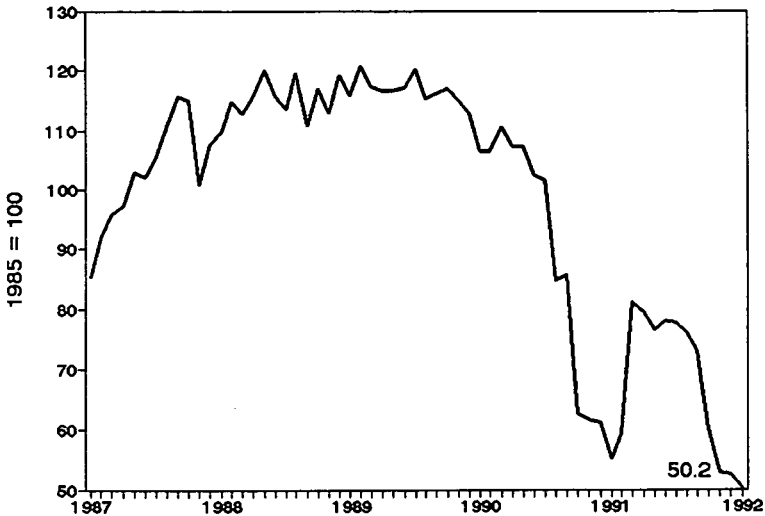
It then rose, and now it has literally fallen off the shelf once more. It is now actually lower than it has been at any time during this recession. In fact, this figure is the second-lowest level on record since the Conference Board has been keeping this figure.

So, you have this problem: not only are people losing jobs—it has been estimated that one out of every five workers experienced unemployment at some time or another last year—but even those who have jobs are seeing their economic situation deteriorate. They may have jobs, but they are earning, in real terms, less for their efforts than they did a year ago, in terms of their standard of living, .

In fact, on an hourly basis, they are earning less than they did in 1986.

So, what we have is, in my view, one of the reasons why consumer confidence has dropped so drastically. It is not only because of the rise in unemployment, but also the shrinking in the income level of the people who have their jobs.

So, even if you have a job, you are being constrained in your economic circumstance.

Now, that's compounded by the fact that a number of very large companies have announced layoffs yet to come, which of course puts their whole work force into a state of freeze. No one knows whether its their job or somebody else's job. The community doesn't know whether it's going to be this plant or some other plant.

As a consequence, that also again undercuts consumer confidence. In fact, the unemployment rate—and Commissioner, I am going to go into this with you—the official figure that you gave us, of course, is only part of the picture, and I hope this morning to address the comprehensive figure, as well (see chart below).

Comparison of Unemployment Rates
Official vs. Comprehensive (U7)
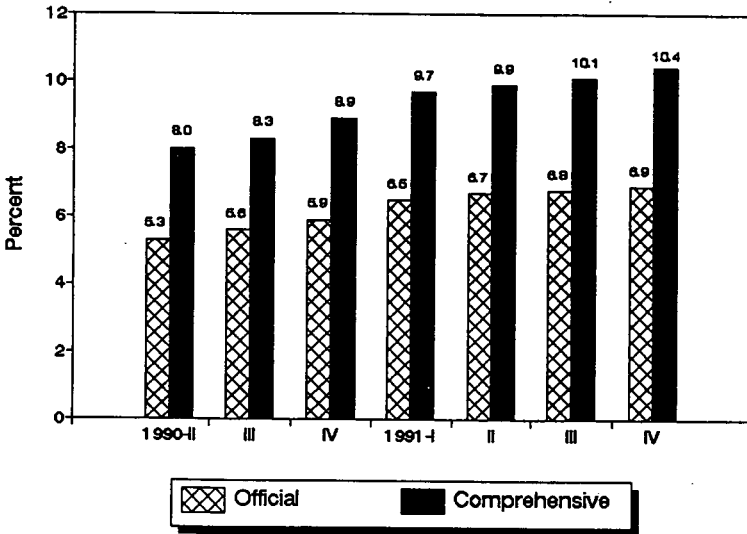
For the last quarter of 1991, the official figure was 6.9 percent—of course, this morning's figure for the month of January is 7.1 percent—and the comprehensive rate was 10.4 percent.

Now, the comprehensive rate includes people so discouraged that they have dropped out of the work force altogether, and the people that I made reference to earlier who want a full-time job but can only find a part-time job, that has now jumped from 6,300,000 people to 6,700,000 people.

There is one final point that I would like to make. I understand, and we'll go into this, that the number of persons who are long-term unemployed has taken a really critical jump this month.

We have been using this chart, and the jump this month in the long-term unemployed has been so great that we didn't have time to revise the parameters of the chart. It's really gone through the top line. These are people who have been out of a job for 27 weeks or longer (see chart below.)

Number of Persons Unemployed
27 Weeks or Longer
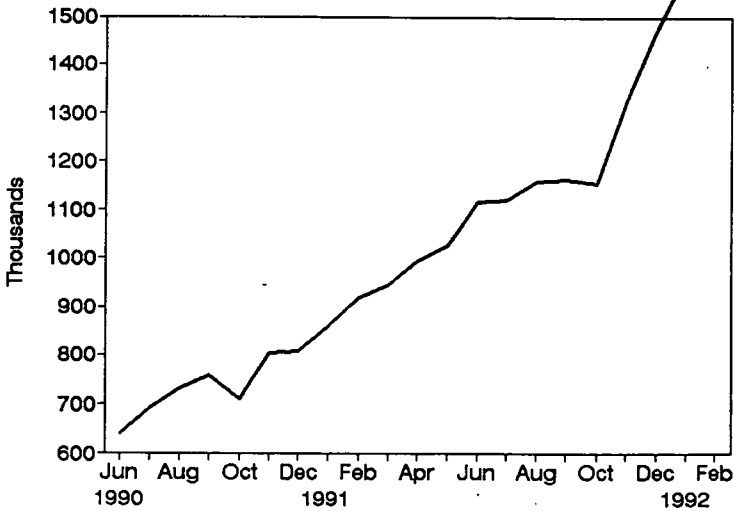
At the beginning of this recession, the number of people long-term unemployed—27 weeks or longer without a job—was just above 600,000. It then began to rise through the course of this recession.

Of course, the length of the recession correlates with the increase in the number of unemployed, and it continued up. In the last couple of months, it has just taken off. This line here is 1,500,000, and it has gone through that line and up.

So, we've had a rise of about a million in the number of long-term unemployed since this recession began.

Now, Commissioner, I know you are not going to address this point, but I want to make one final observation. We held a hearing yesterday with the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, Michael Boskin, the President's chief economic advisor. The Administration, by its own projections—and there are many who question their projections, as to how realistic they are—says that they expect the economy to grow in 1992 by 2.2 percent. They expect that if there is no action on a program here that the economy will grow 1.6 percent.

So, the program that the President announced in his State of the Union message almost 600 days after the recession began in July 1990, even by the Administration's own estimates, would add only six-tenths of a percent to growth.

Just to give you some sense of the inadequacy of the response to the depth of the problem, the program would only add six-tenths of a percent to growth, and the Administration's own projections are that the average unemployment rate for 1992 will be 6.9 percent.

It's 7.1 percent now. They project that the average for the year will be 6.9 percent.

In effect, what we have is a program that has been put forward with a lot of ballyhoo that, when it is analyzed, contributes just over half a percentage point to growth in the economy and brings down the unemployment two-tenths of a percent.

With that, by way of an opening statement, Commissioner, I am pleased to turn to you to receive your report on the employment and unemployment figures for the month of January.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM G. BARRON, JR., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS: ACCOMPANIED BY THOMAS PLEWES, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS; AND KENNETH DALTON, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER, PRICES AND LIVING CONDITIONS

MR. BARRON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide a few comments to supplement this morning's employment situation news release.

The Nation's unemployment rate remained at 7.1 percent in January.

SENATOR SARBANES. Could I interject there? It was 7.1 percent last month, as well; is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. Am I correct that it hadn't reached that level at any other point during this recession?

MR. BARRON. That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. Thank you.

MR. BARRON. Nonfarm payroll employment, on a seasonally adjusted basis, fell by 91,000 as large cutbacks occurred in manufacturing and retail trade.

Although unemployment was unchanged overall, the jobless rate rose for adult men, particularly black men, whose 13.4 percent rate was at its highest level of the recession. Persons of Hispanic origin also experienced a substantial rise in unemployment over the month.

These movements were countered by small declines among adult women and teenagers.

As is typical well into a recession, the number of unemployed persons who had been jobless for relatively long periods of time continued to rise. In January, there were increases in both the number unemployed 15 to 26 weeks and those jobless 27 weeks and over.

Combined, these two categories grew by 215,000 over the month.

For the first time since September, the household survey showed an increase in total employment. This increase was essentially limited to a 400,000 rise in the number of persons working part-time schedules who would have preferred full-time jobs. At 6.7 million, their number was at its highest level in this recession.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, the number of people working part-time who want to work full time is now the highest figure in the course of this downturn.

MR. BARRON. Of this recession, yes, Mr. Chairman.

In the payroll survey, the January employment loss of 91,000 brought the total decline since last October to over 300,000. These cutbacks negated all of the increase that had occurred over the prior six months of 1991.

Among the few bright spots in the January survey were gains in the finance and transportation industries.

In contrast, employment in retail trade fell by 51,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis, even though weak holiday hiring had already left employment levels in that industry depressed.

General merchandise stores, which employ one in eight retail workers, have accounted for nearly half of the nearly 550,000 net job loss in retail trade during the recession.

After growing by an average of 75,000 jobs a month over the April-October period, job growth in the services industry virtually ceased in the last three months. Business services experienced an unusually large loss in January and health services had only half of its typical monthly gain.

In the goods producing industries, manufacturing lost 52,000 jobs, marking the fifth consecutive month of substantial job losses. Two-thirds of the January decline came in just two industries, transportation equipment and industrial machinery, and there were also small declines in a number of other industries.

Construction employment was flat over the month on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since May of 1990, construction has lost 615,000 jobs.

The factory work week declined by three-tenths of an hour in January after holding at high levels in recent months despite employment losses. The average work week in all private industries also fell by two-tenths of an hour, but it should be noted that this measure has been fluctuating in recent months.

Average hourly earnings inched down a penny in January, but this followed a fairly substantial increase in December.

There is one other important issue that I would like to mention this morning.

Commissioner Norwood promised in her testimony before this Committee on November 1 that we would keep you posted on the annual upcoming revision to the payroll survey data. She had discussed with the Committee the possibility that payroll employment estimates would be revised downward when we introduced our annual benchmark adjustments in June.

This was because preliminary benchmark counts of employment obtained through the unemployment insurance system showed a much

larger decline in the first quarter of 1991 than our payroll sample survey was showing.

While we are still reviewing the data, it appears that our initial report to you was correct. Current information would suggest that the payroll employment total for March 1991 will be revised down by nearly 650,000 when we issue our revisions.

This revision is slightly larger than any of those experienced over the past decade.

I should also stress that the estimates of payroll employment change over the last ten months will not be materially affected by these revisions. This issue is particularly important this week since erroneous reports have been widely circulated in the media stating that the size of the revisions should exceed two million.

Some reports have even suggested that we have underestimated unemployment by either 600,000 or two million. Of course, the unemployment count estimated from the household survey would not be affected by these adjustments.

Summarizing, again, the data for January and December's unemployment rate of 7.1 percent was sustained, and the number of persons working part-time for economic reasons rose considerably.

Employment weakness continued in both manufacturing and retail trade and, as has generally been the case during this recession, very few industries showed noteworthy strength.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues and I will now be glad to try to answer any questions you may have.

[The table attached to Mr. Barron's statement, together with the Employment Situation press release, follows:]

Unemployment rates of all civilian workers by alternative seasonal adjustment methods

Month and year	Unad-justed rate	X-11 ARIMA method						X-11 method (official method before 1980)	Range (cols. 2-8)
		Official procedure	Concurrent (as first computed)	Concurrent (revised)	Stable	Total	Residual		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1991									
January.....	7.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	.1
February....	7.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	.1
March........	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	.1
April........	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	.1
May..........	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	-
June.........	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.9	.2
July.........	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	.1
August.......	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	-
September...	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	.1
October......	6.4	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	.1
November....	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	.1
December....	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	-
1992									
January.....	8.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	.2

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
February 1992

(1) <u>Unadjusted rate</u>. Unemployment rate for all civilian workers, not seasonally adjusted.

(2) <u>Official procedure</u> (X-11 ARIMA method). The published seasonally adjusted rate for all civilian workers. Each of the 3 major civilian labor force components—agricultural employment, nonagricultural employment and unemployment—for 4 age—sex groups—males and females, ages 16-19 and 20 years and over—are seasonally adjusted independently using data from January 1975 forward. The data series for each of these 12 components are extended by a year at each end of the original series using ARIMA (Auto-Regressive, Integrated, Moving Average) models chosen specifically for each series. Each extended series is then seasonally adjusted with the X-11 portion of the X-11 ARIMA program. The 4 teenage unemployment and nonagricultural employment components are adjusted with the additive adjustment model, while the other components are adjusted with the multiplicative model. The unemployment rate is computed by summing the 4 seasonally adjusted unemployment components and calculating that total as a percent of the civilian labor force total derived by summing all 12 seasonally adjusted components. All the seasonally adjusted series are revised at the end of each year. Extrapolated factors for January-June are computed at the beginning of each year; extrapolated factors for July-December are computed in the middle of the year after the June data become available. Each set of 6-month factors are published in advance, in the January and July issues, respectively, of <u>Employment and Earnings</u>.

(3) <u>Concurrent</u> (as first computed, X-11 ARIMA method). The official procedure for computation of the rate for all civilian workers using the 12 components is followed except that extrapolated factors are not used at all. Each component is seasonally adjusted with the X-11 ARIMA program each month as the most recent data become available. Rates for each month of the current year are shown as first computed; they are revised only once each year, at the end of the year when data for the full year become available. For example, the rate for January 1985 would be based, during 1985, on the adjustment of data from the period January 1975 through January 1985.

(4) <u>Concurrent</u> (revised, X-11 ARIMA method). The procedure used is identical to (3) above, and the rate for the current month (the last month displayed) will always be the same in the two columns. However, all previous months are subject to revision each month based on the seasonal adjustment of all the components with data through the current month.

(5) <u>Stable</u> (X-11 ARIMA method). Each of the 12 civilian labor force components is extended using ARIMA models as in the official procedure and then run through the X-11 part of the program using the stable option. This option assumes that seasonal patterns are basically constant from year-to-year and computes final seasonal factors as unweighted averages of all the seasonal-irregular components for each month across the entire span of the period adjusted. As in the official procedure, factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series are revised at the end of each year. The procedure for computation of the rate from the seasonally adjusted components is also identical to the official procedure.

(6) <u>Total</u> (X-11 ARIMA method). This is one alternative aggregation procedure, in which total unemployment and civilian labor force levels are extended with ARIMA models and directly adjusted with multiplicative adjustment models in the X-11 part of the program. The rate is computed by taking seasonally adjusted total unemployment as a percent of seasonally adjusted total civilian labor force. Factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series revised at the end of each year.

(7) <u>Residual</u> (X-11 ARIMA method). This is another alternative aggregation method, in which total civilian employment and civilian labor force levels are extended using ARIMA models and then directly adjusted with multiplicative adjustment models. The seasonally adjusted unemployment level is derived by subtracting seasonally adjusted employment from seasonally adjusted labor force. The rate is then computed by taking the derived unemployment level as a percent of the labor force level. Factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series revised at the end of each year.

(8) <u>X-11 method</u> (official method before 1980). The method for computation of the official procedure is used except that the series are not extended with ARIMA models and the factors are projected in 12-month intervals. The standard X-11 program is used to perform the seasonal adjustment.

<u>Methods of Adjustment</u>: The X-11 ARIMA method was developed at Statistics Canada by the Seasonal Adjustment and Times Series Staff under the direction of Estela Bee Dagum. The method is described in <u>The X-11 ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Method</u>, by Estela Bee Dagum, Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 12-564E, February 1980.

The standard X-11 method is described in <u>X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program</u>, by Julius Shiskin, Allan Young and John Musgrave (Technical Paper No. 15, Bureau of the Census, 1967).

News

United States Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics   Washington, D.C. 20212

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: JANUARY 1992

The nation's labor market remained weak in January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs fell, with substantial declines in manufacturing and retail trade. The unemployment rate remained at 7.1 percent, following an increase in December.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

Both the number of unemployed persons, 8.9 million (seasonally adjusted), and the unemployment rate, 7.1 percent, were unchanged in January. While the overall unemployment rate held steady, there were changes in jobless rates among the major population groups. The unemployment rate for adult men increased for the second month in a row, to 6.9 percent in January, while the rates for adult women (5.9 percent) and teenagers (18.3 percent) edged down over the month. The unemployment rate for adult men has risen 2 percentage points since the recession began in July 1990. Jobless rates for blacks and Hispanics also rose in January, to 13.7 and 11.3 percent, respectively, while that for white workers was about unchanged at 6.2 percent. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The average length of time a person has been unemployed rose in January. The mean duration of unemployment increased to 16.4 weeks, and the median duration was up to 8.1 weeks. Both measures have risen considerably since the recession began. One out of every 3 unemployed persons in January had been without work for 15 weeks or longer, and about 1 in 6 had been unemployed for 6 months or longer. (See table A-5.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons, sometimes referred to as the underemployed or partially unemployed, increased by 400,000 in January to 6.7 million. All of the increase occurred among persons who wanted full-time work but could only find part-time jobs. Since the onset of the recession, the total number of persons employed part time involuntarily has risen by 1.7 million. (See table A-3.)

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment, which has been fluctuating without any clear trend in recent months, increased 390,000 in January, after seasonal adjustment.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Dec.-Jan. change
	1991		1991		1992	
	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	125,266|	125,500|	125,374|	125,619|	126,046|	427
Employment..........	116,767|	116,789|	116,772|	116,728|	117,117|	389
Unemployment........	8,499|	8,711|	8,602|	8,891|	8,929|	38
Not in labor force....	64,712|	64,949|	65,078|	64,986|	64,713|	-273
Discouraged workers.	1,064|	1,094|	N.A.		N.A.		N.A.		N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.........	6.8|	6.9|	6.9|	7.1|	7.1|	.0
Adult men.........	6.5|	6.5|	6.4|	6.6|	6.9|	0.3
Adult women.......	5.6|	6.0|	5.9|	6.1|	5.9|	-.2
Teenagers.........	19.0|	19.0|	18.7|	19.3|	18.3|	-1.0
White.............	6.1|	6.2|	6.2|	6.3|	6.2|	-.1
Black.............	12.2|	12.6|	12.3|	12.7|	13.7|	1.0
Hispanic origin...	10.1|	10.1|	10.2|	9.7|	11.3|	1.6
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,965|	p108,921|	108,843|	p108,846|	p108,755|	p-91
Goods-producing 1/..	23,807|	p23,625|	23,595|	p23,554|	p23,492|	p-62
Construction......	4,695|	p4,616|	4,584|	p4,593|	p4,587|	p-6
Manufacturing.....	18,419|	p18,335|	18,337|	p18,290|	p18,238|	p-52
Service-producing 1/	85,158|	p85,295|	85,248|	p85,292|	p85,263|	p-29
Retail trade......	19,343|	p19,243|	19,227|	p19,215|	p19,164|	p-51
Services..........	28,834|	p29,023|	29,008|	p29,043|	p29,050|	p7
Government........	18,419|	p18,485|	18,469|	p18,520|	p18,531|	p11
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.......	34.3|	p34.4|	34.4|	p34.5|	p34.3|	p-0.2
Manufacturing.......	40.9|	p41.0|	41.0|	p41.1|	p40.8|	p-.3
Overtime..........	3.7|	p3.7|	3.7|	p3.8|	p3.6|	p-.2

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.   p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

After falling sharply earlier in the recession, total employment has, in effect, shown little sustained movement since the beginning of 1991. Over this period, however, there has been a decline in the proportion of workers employed full time and a corresponding increase in the proportion working part time (all of which has occurred among those who would prefer full-time work). The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population that is employed--was 61.4 percent in January, an increase from December but still 1.3 percentage points below the July 1990 figure. (See tables A-1 and A-3.)

At 126.0 million, seasonally adjusted, the labor force rose by 430,000 in January. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of working-age persons either employed or actively seeking employment--was 66.1 percent, little different from a year earlier.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Nonfarm payroll employment weakened in January, falling 91,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis, with further losses in manufacturing and trade. (See table B-1.)

Job cutbacks in manufacturing industries totaled 52,000, primarily in durable goods. Employment decreased by 25,000 in transportation equipment, with more than half of it due to the temporary idling of some auto plants for inventory control. Declines also continued in industrial machinery, which lost another 9,000 jobs in January. Other losses in durable goods included the stone, clay, and glass industry, primary metals, and electronic equipment. Within nondurables, textiles and apparel showed job declines for the first time since August.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, mining experienced its eleventh consecutive employment decline, losing another 4,000 jobs in January. Seasonal layoffs in the construction industry were about normal for the month, and hence employment was essentially unchanged on a seasonally adjusted basis. Construction employment has shown little movement since an unusually large decline in November.

In the service-producing sector, employment declines continued in wholesale and retail trade. The decline in retail trade was particularly large (51,000), half of it in department and variety stores. Since July 1990, retail trade employment has decreased by about 550,000. There was no net job growth in the services industry over the month; jobs in business services decreased by 39,000, while health services added just 17,000 jobs, well below its average monthly growth. Employment rose in finance, reflecting increased activity in the wake of low interest rates, and in the transportation industry, where December losses were recouped.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined 0.2 hour in January to 34.3 hours, following a slight increase the previous month. The factory workweek fell by 0.3 hour to 40.8 hours; overtime decreased 0.2 hour to 3.6 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours declined 0.8 percent to 120.9 (1982=100) in January, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index decreased 1.2 percent, reflecting both the hours and employment losses. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers decreased by 0.1 percent in January, seasonally adjusted, following a rise in December. Average weekly earnings decreased 0.7 percent, offsetting an increase in the prior month. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased by 2 cents to $10.51, while average weekly earnings decreased by $8.76 to $355.24, due to the decline in hours. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for February 1992 will be released on Friday, March 6, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Explanatory Note

This news release presents statistics from two major surveys, the Current Population Survey (household survey) and the Current Employment Statistics Survey (establishment survey). The household survey provides the information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment that appears in the A tables, marked HOUSEHOLD DATA. It is a sample survey of about 60,000 households that is conducted by the Bureau of the Census with most of the findings analyzed and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The establishment survey provides the information on the employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls that appears in the B tables, marked ESTABLISHMENT DATA. This information is collected from payroll records by BLS in cooperation with State agencies. The sample includes over 350,000 establishments employing over 41 million people.

For both surveys, the data for a given month are actually collected for and relate to a particular week. In the household survey, unless otherwise indicated, it is the calendar week that contains the 12th day of the month, which is called the survey week. In the establishment survey, the reference week is the pay period including the 12th, which may or may not correspond directly to the calendar week.

The data in this release are affected by a number of technical factors, including definitions, survey differences, seasonal adjustments, and the inevitable variance in results between a survey of a sample and a census of the entire population. Each of these factors is explained below.

Coverage, definitions, and differences between surveys

The sample households in the household survey are selected so as to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and older. Each person in a household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. Those who hold more than one job are classified according to the job at which they worked the most hours.

People are classified as *employed* if they did any work at all as paid employees; worked in their own business or profession or on their own farm; or worked 15 hours or more in an enterprise operated by a member of their family, whether they were paid or not. People are also counted as employed if they were on unpaid leave because of illness, bad weather, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons.

People are classified as *unemployed*, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: They had no employment during the survey week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the prior 4 weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

The *civilian labor force* equals the sum of the number employed and the number unemployed. The *unemployment rate* is the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force. Table A-7 presents a special grouping of seven measures of unemployment based on varying definitions of unemployment and the labor force. The definitions are provided in the table. The most restrictive definition yields U-1 and the most comprehensive yields U-7. The civilian worker unemployment rate is U-5b, while U-5a, the overall unemployment rate, includes the resident Armed Forces in the labor force base.

Unlike the household survey, the establishment survey only counts wage and salary employees whose names appear on the payroll records of nonfarm firms. As a result, there are many differences between the two surveys, among which are the following:

● The household survey, although based on a smaller sample, reflects a larger segment of the population: the establishment survey excludes agriculture, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers;

● The household survey includes people on unpaid leave among the employed; the establishment survey does not;

● The household survey is limited to those 16 years of age and older; the establishment survey is not limited by age;

● The household survey has no duplication of individuals, because each individual is counted only once; in the establishment survey, employees working at more than one job or otherwise appearing on more than one payroll would be counted separately for each appearance.

Other differences between the two surveys are described in "Comparing Employment Estimates from Household and Payroll Surveys," which may be obtained from BLS upon request.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. For example, the labor force increases by a large number each June, when schools close and many young people enter the job market. The effect of such seasonal variation can be very large; over the course of a year, for example, seasonality may account for as much as 95 percent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment.

Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics from month to month. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments, such as declines in economic activity or increases in the participation of women in the labor force, easier to spot. To return to the school's-out example, the large number of people entering the labor force each June is likely to obscure any other changes that have taken place since May, making it difficult to determine if the level of economic activity has risen or declined. However, because the effect of students finishing school in previous years is known, the statistics for the current year can be adjusted to allow for a comparable

change. Insofar as the seasonal adjustment is made correctly, the adjusted figure provides a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in economic activity.

Measures of labor force, employment, and unemployment contain components such as age and sex. Statistics for all employees, production workers, average weekly hours, and average hourly earnings include components based on the employer's industry. All these statistics can be seasonally adjusted either by adjusting the total or by adjusting each of the components and combining them. The second procedure usually yields more accurate information and is therefore followed by BLS. For example, the seasonally adjusted figure for the civilian labor force is the sum of eight seasonally adjusted employment components and four seasonally adjusted unemployment components; the total for unemployment is the sum of the four unemployment components; and the unemployment rate is derived by dividing the resulting estimate of total unemployment by the estimate of the civilian labor force.

The numerical factors used to make the seasonal adjustments are recalculated twice a year. For the household survey, the factors are calculated for the January-June period and again for the July-December period. For the establishment survey, updated factors for seasonal adjustment are calculated for the May-October period and introduced along with new benchmarks, and again for the November-April period. In both surveys, revisions to historical data are made once a year.

Sampling variability

Statistics based on the household and establishment surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the estimate of the number of people employed and the other estimates drawn from these surveys probably differ from the figures that would be obtained from a complete census, even if the same questionnaires and procedures were used. In the household survey, the amount of the differences can be expressed in terms of standard errors. The numerical value of a standard error depends upon the size of the sample, the results of the survey, and other factors. However, the numerical value is always such that the chances are approximately 68 out of 100 that an estimate based on the sample will differ by no more than the standard error from the results of a complete census. The chances are approximately 90 out of 100 that an estimate based on the sample will differ by no more than 1.6 times the standard error from the results of a complete census. At approximately the 90-percent level of confidence--the confidence limits used by BLS in its analyses--the error for the monthly change in total employment is on the order of plus or minus 358,000; for total unemployment it is 224,000; and, for the civilian worker unemployment rate, it is 0.19 percentage points. These figures do not mean that the sample results are off by these magnitudes but, rather, that the chances

are approximately 90 out of 100 that the "true" level or rate would not be expected to differ from the estimates by more than these amounts.

Sampling errors for monthly surveys are reduced when the data are cumulated for several months, such as quarterly or annually. Also, as a general rule, the smaller the estimate, the larger the sampling error. Therefore, relatively speaking, the estimate of the size of the labor force is subject to less error than is the estimate of the number unemployed. And, among the unemployed, the sampling error for the jobless rate of adult men, for example, is much smaller than is the error for the jobless rate of teenagers. Specifically, the error on monthly change in the jobless rate for men is .25 percentage point; for teenagers, it is 1.29 percentage points.

In the establishment survey, estimates for the most current 2 months are based on incomplete returns; for this reason, these estimates are labeled preliminary in the tables. When all the returns in the sample have been received, the estimates are revised. In other words, data for the month of September are published in preliminary form in October and November and in final form in December. To remove errors that build up over time, a comprehensive count of the employed is conducted each year. The results of this survey are used to establish new benchmarks--comprehensive counts of employment--against which month-to-month changes can be measured. The new benchmarks also incorporate changes in the classification of industries and allow for the formation of new establishments.

Additional statistics and other information

In order to provide a broad view of the nation's employment situation, BLS regularly publishes a wide variety of data in this news release. More comprehensive statistics are contained in *Employment and Earnings*, published each month by BLS. It is available for $10.00 per issue or $31.00 per year from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20204. A check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents must accompany all orders.

Employment and Earnings also provides approximations of the standard errors for the household survey data published in this release. For unemployment and other labor force categories, the standard errors appear in tables B through J of its "Explanatory Notes." Measures of the reliability of the data drawn from the establishment survey and the actual amounts of revision due to benchmark adjustments are provided in tables M, O, P, and Q of that publication.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-523-1221, TDD phone: 202-523-3926, TDD Message Referral Phone Number: 1-800-326-2577.

Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
TOTAL									
Civilian noninstitutional population	188,977	190,805	190,769	188,977	190,122	190,289	190,452	190,805	190,769
Civilian labor force	123,585	125,109	125,072	124,740	125,590	125,508	125,374	125,819	126,046
Participation rate	65.4	65.6	65.6	66.0	66.1	66.0	65.9	65.9	66.1
Employed	114,990	116,549	115,122	116,977	117,089	116,867	116,772	116,728	117,117
Employment-population ratio	60.8	61.1	60.3	61.9	61.6	61.4	61.3	61.2	61.4
Agriculture	2,750	2,862	2,722	3,194	3,283	3,204	3,272	3,183	3,166
Nonagricultural industries	112,240	113,687	112,400	113,783	113,806	113,663	113,500	113,545	113,951
Unemployed	8,595	8,559	9,949	7,783	8,501	8,641	8,602	8,991	8,929
Unemployment rate	7.0	6.8	8.0	6.2	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1
Not in labor force	65,392	65,496	65,687	64,237	64,532	64,781	65,078	64,998	64,713
Men, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	90,137	91,006	91,094	90,137	90,736	90,830	90,924	91,006	91,094
Civilian labor force	67,462	68,006	68,117	68,156	68,722	68,491	68,417	68,416	68,618
Participation rate	74.8	74.7	74.8	75.6	75.7	75.4	75.2	75.2	75.3
Employed	62,372	63,025	62,024	63,819	63,787	63,597	63,572	63,426	63,453
Employment-population ratio	69.2	69.3	68.1	70.8	70.3	70.0	69.9	69.7	69.7
Unemployed	5,090	4,983	6,093	4,337	4,955	4,894	4,845	4,990	5,165
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.3	8.9	6.4	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.5
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	83,271	84,367	84,464	83,271	84,023	84,151	84,245	84,367	84,464
Civilian labor force	64,089	64,793	64,915	64,416	65,086	64,961	64,914	64,962	65,081
Participation rate	77.0	76.8	76.9	77.4	77.5	77.2	77.1	77.0	77.0
Employed	59,687	60,467	59,526	60,768	60,843	60,746	60,764	60,672	60,600
Employment-population ratio	71.7	71.7	70.5	73.0	72.4	72.2	72.1	71.9	71.7
Agriculture	2,060	2,134	2,020	2,318	2,400	2,370	2,390	2,317	2,277
Nonagricultural industries	57,627	58,334	57,506	58,450	58,443	58,376	58,374	58,356	58,323
Unemployed	4,402	4,326	5,389	3,648	4,243	4,215	4,150	4,290	4,481
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.7	8.3	5.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.9
Women, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	98,840	99,597	99,665	98,840	99,386	99,459	99,528	99,597	99,665
Civilian labor force	56,123	57,100	56,955	56,584	56,868	57,017	56,957	57,200	57,428
Participation rate	56.8	57.3	57.1	57.2	57.2	57.3	57.2	57.4	57.8
Employed	52,618	53,524	53,099	53,158	53,322	53,270	53,200	53,302	53,664
Employment-population ratio	53.2	53.7	53.3	53.8	53.7	53.6	53.5	53.5	53.8
Unemployed	3,505	3,576	3,856	3,426	3,546	3,747	3,757	3,901	3,764
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.3	6.8	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	92,139	93,032	93,125	92,139	92,797	92,875	92,958	93,032	93,125
Civilian labor force	52,971	53,962	54,019	53,138	53,650	53,696	53,655	53,909	54,190
Participation rate	57.5	58.0	58.0	57.7	57.8	57.8	57.7	57.9	58.2
Employed	50,045	50,896	50,669	50,328	50,639	50,564	50,474	50,813	50,968
Employment-population ratio	54.3	54.7	54.4	54.6	54.6	54.4	54.3	54.4	54.7
Agriculture	557	597	575	653	687	638	672	661	673
Nonagricultural industries	49,487	50,299	50,094	49,675	49,972	49,928	49,802	49,952	50,295
Unemployed	2,926	3,066	3,350	2,810	3,011	3,132	3,181	3,298	3,221
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.7	6.2	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1	5.9
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian noninstitutional population	13,567	13,206	13,169	13,567	13,302	13,263	13,250	13,206	13,169
Civilian labor force	6,526	6,352	6,138	7,186	6,854	6,851	6,805	6,748	6,796
Participation rate	48.1	48.1	46.6	53.0	51.5	51.7	51.4	51.1	51.6
Employed	5,259	5,186	4,927	5,881	5,607	5,557	5,534	5,443	5,549
Employment-population ratio	38.8	39.3	37.4	43.3	42.2	41.9	41.8	41.2	42.1
Agriculture	132	131	127	223	216	198	210	205	216
Nonagricultural industries	5,126	5,054	4,800	5,658	5,391	5,359	5,324	5,238	5,333
Unemployed	1,267	1,166	1,210	1,306	1,247	1,294	1,271	1,305	1,247
Unemployment rate	19.4	18.4	19.7	18.2	18.2	18.9	18.7	19.3	18.3

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	161,007	162,047	162,144	161,007	161,738	161,848	161,949	162,047	162,144
Civilian labor force	106,092	107,172	107,118	107,113	107,593	107,632	107,599	107,848	107,973
Participation rate	65.9	66.1	66.1	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.4	66.4	66.6
Employed	99,422	100,625	99,478	101,204	101,053	101,067	100,977	100,826	101,235
Employment-population ratio	61.8	62.1	61.4	62.9	62.5	62.4	62.4	62.2	62.4
Unemployed	6,670	6,547	7,641	5,909	6,540	6,565	6,622	6,818	6,737
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.1	7.1	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.2
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	55,863	56,126	56,258	55,948	56,457	56,320	56,312	56,244	56,400
Participation rate	77.4	77.3	77.4	77.8	77.9	77.7	77.6	77.4	77.6
Employed	52,162	52,723	52,009	53,080	53,040	52,990	53,011	52,896	52,908
Employment-population ratio	72.5	72.6	71.5	73.8	73.2	73.1	73.0	72.8	72.8
Unemployed	3,501	3,403	4,249	2,868	3,417	3,330	3,301	3,348	3,491
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.1	7.6	5.1	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	44,764	45,542	45,603	44,947	45,240	45,384	45,372	45,530	45,762
Participation rate	57.2	57.8	57.8	57.5	57.5	57.6	57.6	57.6	58.0
Employed	42,584	43,298	43,121	42,894	43,040	43,118	43,038	43,076	43,425
Employment-population ratio	54.4	54.9	54.7	54.8	54.7	54.8	54.8	54.6	55.1
Unemployed	2,180	2,244	2,482	2,053	2,200	2,266	2,334	2,454	2,337
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.9	5.4	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.1
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	5,865	5,504	5,257	6,218	5,896	5,928	5,915	5,872	5,811
Participation rate	52.1	52.0	49.8	57.2	55.5	55.9	55.8	55.5	55.0
Employed	4,876	4,603	4,346	5,230	4,973	4,959	4,928	4,856	4,902
Employment-population ratio	43.0	43.5	41.1	48.1	46.8	46.7	46.5	45.9	46.4
Unemployed	989	901	910	988	923	969	987	1,016	909
Unemployment rate	17.5	16.4	17.3	15.9	15.7	16.3	16.7	17.3	15.6
Men	18.4	18.1	19.1	16.1	16.9	16.9	17.4	18.0	16.6
Women	16.4	14.5	15.4	15.6	14.3	15.8	15.9	16.6	14.6
BLACK									
Civilian noninstitutional population	21,470	21,774	21,803	21,470	21,683	21,714	21,745	21,774	21,803
Civilian labor force	13,341	13,549	13,574	13,502	13,731	13,570	13,426	13,559	13,723
Participation rate	62.1	62.2	62.3	62.9	63.3	62.5	61.7	62.3	62.9
Employed	11,707	11,871	11,676	11,868	12,043	11,834	11,779	11,841	11,837
Employment-population ratio	54.5	54.5	53.6	55.3	55.5	54.5	54.2	54.4	54.3
Unemployed	1,634	1,678	1,899	1,634	1,688	1,736	1,647	1,718	1,886
Unemployment rate	12.2	12.4	14.0	12.1	12.3	12.8	12.3	12.7	13.7
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,272	6,393	6,379	6,327	6,414	6,377	6,357	6,402	6,427
Participation rate	73.0	72.9	72.7	73.6	73.8	73.0	72.7	73.0	73.2
Employed	5,512	5,654	5,461	5,612	5,702	5,673	5,675	5,665	5,567
Employment-population ratio	64.1	64.5	62.2	65.3	65.4	65.0	64.9	64.6	63.4
Unemployed	760	739	918	715	712	704	682	737	860
Unemployment rate	12.1	11.6	14.4	11.3	11.1	11.0	10.7	11.5	13.4
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,391	6,497	6,485	6,374	6,560	6,464	6,366	6,460	6,469
Participation rate	59.4	59.5	59.3	59.3	60.3	59.3	58.3	59.1	59.1
Employed	5,761	5,786	5,755	5,738	5,876	5,716	5,648	5,730	5,732
Employment-population ratio	53.6	52.9	52.6	53.4	54.0	52.5	51.8	52.4	52.4
Unemployed	630	711	729	636	684	748	718	730	737
Unemployment rate	9.9	10.9	11.2	10.0	10.4	11.6	11.3	11.3	11.4
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	678	660	710	801	757	729	703	697	827
Participation rate	31.9	31.7	34.2	37.7	36.3	34.9	33.7	33.5	39.8
Employed	434	431	459	518	465	445	456	446	538
Employment-population ratio	20.5	20.7	22.1	24.4	22.3	21.3	21.9	21.4	25.9
Unemployed	244	229	251	283	292	284	247	251	289
Unemployment rate	36.0	34.7	35.4	35.3	38.6	39.0	35.1	36.0	34.9
Men	37.6	35.3	37.7	35.3	40.7	36.1	36.4	35.7	35.6
Women	34.5	33.9	32.4	35.4	35.9	42.1	33.8	36.3	33.8

See footnotes at end of table.

HOUSEHOLD DATA   HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
HISPANIC ORIGIN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	14,553	14,987	15,027	14,553	14,869	14,908	14,948	14,987	15,027
Civilian labor force	9,515	9,757	9,821	9,660	9,852	9,900	9,848	9,875	9,964
Participation rate	65.4	65.1	65.4	66.4	66.3	66.4	65.9	65.9	66.3
Employed	8,577	8,810	8,658	8,752	8,782	8,865	8,844	8,915	8,835
Employment-population ratio	58.9	58.8	57.6	60.1	59.1	59.5	59.2	59.5	58.8
Unemployed	938	948	1,164	908	1,070	1,035	1,004	960	1,129
Unemployment rate	9.9	9.7	11.8	9.4	10.9	10.5	10.2	9.7	11.3

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns. NOTE: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table A-3. Selected employment indicators

(In thousands)

Category	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
CHARACTERISTIC									
Civilian employed, 16 years and over	114,990	116,549	115,122	116,977	117,089	116,867	116,772	116,728	117,117
Married men, spouse present	39,993	40,312	39,691	40,411	40,440	40,472	40,398	40,208	40,092
Married women, spouse present	29,451	29,967	29,653	29,643	29,833	29,838	29,803	29,779	29,832
Women who maintain families	6,405	6,629	6,599	6,383	6,551	6,469	6,501	6,536	6,579
OCCUPATION									
Managerial and professional specialty	30,736	31,865	31,173	30,694	31,041	31,139	31,218	31,798	31,120
Technical, sales, and administrative support	36,033	35,774	36,250	36,369	36,030	36,045	35,862	35,626	36,579
Service occupations	15,604	16,026	15,765	15,811	16,061	16,051	16,121	16,076	15,989
Precision production, craft, and repair	13,091	12,903	12,765	13,393	13,064	13,129	13,023	12,982	13,052
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	16,883	17,018	16,356	17,311	17,383	17,138	17,189	16,922	16,999
Farming, forestry, and fishing	2,842	2,964	2,814	3,448	3,452	3,439	3,460	3,420	3,415
INDUSTRY AND CLASS OF WORKER									
Agriculture:									
Wage and salary workers	1,361	1,478	1,317	1,630	1,715	1,654	1,683	1,648	1,583
Self-employed workers	1,283	1,300	1,334	1,412	1,437	1,440	1,488	1,431	1,471
Unpaid family workers	105	85	71	142	117	121	115	108	95
Nonagricultural industries:									
Wage and salary workers	103,415	104,685	103,868	104,781	104,645	104,527	104,291	104,407	105,250
Government	17,839	18,156	17,909	17,716	17,944	18,135	17,812	17,915	17,802
Private industries	85,576	86,529	85,960	87,065	86,701	86,392	86,479	86,492	87,448
Private households	914	954	950	974	1,013	993	954	953	1,013
Other industries	84,662	85,575	85,010	86,091	85,688	85,399	85,525	85,539	86,435
Self-employed workers	8,607	8,790	8,323	8,770	8,955	8,950	8,950	8,758	8,476
Unpaid family workers	218	212	209	232	201	232	231	229	222
PERSONS AT WORK PART TIME[1]									
All industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	5,664	6,221	6,806	5,587	6,327	6,304	6,408	6,321	6,719
Slack work	3,347	3,325	3,662	2,954	3,358	3,384	3,297	3,246	3,232
Could only find part-time work	2,061	2,620	2,846	2,275	2,663	2,631	2,768	2,743	3,145
Voluntary part time	15,115	15,907	14,935	14,931	15,021	14,960	14,924	14,893	14,773
Nonagricultural industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	5,364	5,959	6,570	5,247	6,040	6,055	6,123	6,084	6,429
Slack work	3,104	3,124	3,476	2,733	3,158	3,198	3,102	3,081	3,063
Could only find part-time work	2,014	2,560	2,802	2,189	2,584	2,565	2,688	2,664	3,052
Voluntary part time	14,794	15,515	14,570	14,537	14,561	14,497	14,483	14,450	14,326

[1] Excludes persons "with a job but not at work" during the survey period for such reasons as vacation, illness, or industrial dispute. NOTE: Data on occupations and industries for 1992 are not fully comparable with data for prior years because of the introduction of the classification systems used in the 1990 decennial census of population. Some categories, particularly "technical, sales, and administrative support," may have significant breaks in comparability.

Table A-4. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Category	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
CHARACTERISTIC									
Total, 16 years and over	7,763	8,891	8,929	6.2	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1
Men, 20 years and over	3,648	4,290	4,461	5.7	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.9
Women, 20 years and over	2,610	3,296	3,221	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1	5.9
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years	1,305	1,305	1,247	18.2	18.2	18.9	18.7	19.3	18.3
Married men, spouse present	1,702	1,999	2,021	4.0	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.8
Married women, spouse present	1,259	1,524	1,488	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.8
Women who maintain families	634	652	648	9.0	9.0	9.4	9.1	9.1	9.0
Full-time workers	6,443	7,309	7,394	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.8
Part-time workers	1,361	1,547	1,619	7.7	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.1
Labor force time lost[2]	—	—	—	7.1	7.7	7.7	7.9	8.1	8.1
OCCUPATION[3]									
Managerial and professional specialty	837	944	917	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Technical, sales, and administrative support	1,738	2,101	2,125	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,060	1,166	1,324	7.3	6.0	8.1	8.2	8.3	9.2
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	1,946	2,029	2,061	10.1	10.0	10.1	10.0	10.7	10.8
Farming, forestry, and fishing	274	280	305	7.4	7.9	7.8	8.1	7.8	8.2
INDUSTRY									
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers	6,021	6,909	7,000	6.5	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4
Goods-producing industries	2,386	2,554	2,525	8.3	8.9	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.1
Mining	51	61	48	6.5	9.6	8.3	9.2	8.2	6.3
Construction	894	971	1,010	14.5	15.7	16.1	16.1	16.3	17.0
Manufacturing	1,441	1,522	1,469	6.6	6.9	7.0	7.4	7.2	7.0
Durable goods	901	688	846	7.1	7.0	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.0
Nondurable goods	540	634	623	6.0	6.8	6.4	7.9	7.1	7.0
Service-producing industries	3,635	4,355	4,476	5.6	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.7
Transportation and public utilities	299	456	382	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.7	6.7	5.5
Wholesale and retail trade	1,657	1,858	1,984	7.0	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.8	8.2
Finance and service industries	1,679	2,041	2,110	4.9	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9
Government workers	550	654	715	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.9
Agricultural wage and salary workers	218	214	194	11.8	11.2	11.9	12.4	11.5	10.9

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.
[2] Aggregate hours lost by the unemployed and persons on part time for economic reasons as a percent of potentially available labor force hours.
[3] Seasonally adjusted unemployment data for service occupations are not available because the seasonal components are small relative to the trend-cycle and/or irregular components and consequently cannot be

separated with sufficient precision.
NOTE: Data on occupations and industries for 1992 are not fully comparable with data for prior years because of the introduction of the classification systems used in the 1990 decennial census of population. Some categories, particularly "technical, sales, and administrative support," may have significant breaks in comparability.

Table A-5. Duration of unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Weeks of unemployment	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
DURATION									
Less than 5 weeks	3,754	3,053	3,689	3,392	3,344	3,300	3,289	3,307	3,329
5 to 14 weeks	2,853	2,827	3,003	2,527	2,796	2,774	2,721	2,764	2,667
15 weeks and over	1,988	2,678	3,258	1,869	2,422	2,570	2,623	2,843	3,059
15 to 26 weeks	1,085	1,284	1,577	1,007	1,260	1,415	1,300	1,372	1,455
27 weeks and over	903	1,394	1,681	862	1,162	1,155	1,323	1,471	1,604
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	12.2	15.6	16.0	12.5	14.2	14.8	14.9	15.3	16.4
Median duration, in weeks	5.9	8.1	8.1	5.9	7.4	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.1
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	43.7	35.7	37.1	43.6	39.0	38.2	38.1	37.1	36.8
5 to 14 weeks	33.2	33.0	30.2	32.4	32.7	32.1	31.5	31.0	29.5
15 weeks and over	23.1	31.3	32.7	24.0	28.3	29.7	30.4	31.9	33.8
15 to 26 weeks	12.6	15.0	15.9	12.9	14.7	16.4	15.1	15.4	16.1
27 weeks and over	10.5	16.3	16.9	11.1	13.6	13.4	15.3	16.5	17.7

Table A-6. Reason for unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Reason	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Job losers	5,000	5,091	5,575	4,080	4,805	4,782	4,696	4,990	4,780
On layoff	1,730	1,343	1,759	1,151	1,149	1,230	1,196	1,256	1,168
Other job losers	3,270	3,748	4,115	2,929	3,656	3,552	3,500	3,734	3,612
Job leavers	983	837	1,043	914	946	986	987	913	975
Reentrants	2,036	1,942	2,347	2,036	2,036	2,100	2,108	2,184	2,352
New entrants	576	696	664	661	783	813	774	811	790
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers	58.2	58.5	59.0	52.9	58.1	55.1	54.8	58.2	53.7
On layoff	20.1	15.7	17.7	14.9	13.4	14.2	14.0	14.1	13.1
Other job losers	38.0	43.8	41.4	38.0	42.7	40.9	40.9	42.1	40.6
Job leavers	11.4	9.8	10.5	11.9	11.0	11.4	11.5	10.3	11.0
Reentrants	23.7	22.7	23.6	26.4	23.6	24.2	24.6	24.4	26.4
New entrants	6.7	8.0	6.9	8.6	9.1	9.4	9.0	9.1	8.9
UNEMPLOYED AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE									
Job losers	4.0	4.1	4.7	3.3	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.8
Job leavers	.8	.7	.8	.7	.8	.8	.8	.7	.8
Reentrants	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9
New entrants	.5	.6	.5	.5	.6	.6	.6	.6	.6

Table A-7. Range of unemployment measures based on varying definitions of unemployment and the labor force, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Measure	Quarterly averages					Monthly data		
	1990	1991				1991		1992
	IV	I	II	III	IV	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer as a percent of the civilian labor force	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.4
U-2 Job losers as a percent of the civilian labor force	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.8
U-3 Unemployed persons 25 years and over as a percent of the civilian labor force for persons 25 years and over	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.9
U-4 Unemployed full-time jobseekers as a percent of the full-time civilian labor force	5.7	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.8
U-5a Total unemployed as a percent of the labor force, including the resident Armed Forces	5.9	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.8	7.0	7.0
U-5b Total unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force	6.0	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1
U-6 Total full-time jobseekers plus 1/2 part-time jobseekers plus 1/2 total on part time for economic reasons as a percent of the civilian labor force less 1/2 of the part-time labor force	8.2	8.8	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.9
U-7 Total full-time jobseekers plus 1/2 part-time jobseekers plus 1/2 total on part time for economic reasons plus discouraged workers as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers less 1/2 of the part-time labor force	8.9	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.4	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

N.A. = not available.

Table A-8. Unemployed persons by sex and age, seasonally adjusted

Sex and age	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
Total, 16 years and over	7,763	6,891	6,929	6.2	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1
16 to 24 years	2,628	2,942	2,779	12.5	13.4	13.8	13.8	14.3	13.6
16 to 19 years	1,305	1,305	1,247	18.2	18.2	18.9	18.7	19.3	18.3
16 to 17 years	536	608	555	19.6	20.8	21.6	20.9	22.7	20.9
18 to 19 years	732	702	653	18.5	17.1	17.1	17.2	17.2	15.8
20 to 24 years	1,321	1,637	1,532	9.6	11.1	11.3	11.1	11.9	11.2
25 years and over	5,236	5,919	6,260	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.9
25 to 54 years	4,652	5,319	5,539	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.1
55 years and over	524	628	680	3.4	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3
Men, 16 years and over	4,337	4,990	5,166	6.4	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.5
16 to 24 years	1,470	1,595	1,615	13.3	14.6	14.4	14.3	14.6	15.0
16 to 19 years	689	700	704	18.4	19.6	19.2	19.6	20.3	19.6
16 to 17 years	291	291	298	19.2	21.6	21.7	21.3	21.7	21.6
18 to 19 years	382	406	382	18.9	18.6	17.5	18.6	19.2	17.5
20 to 24 years	781	895	911	10.7	12.1	12.0	11.6	12.3	12.7
25 years and over	2,973	3,379	3,691	5.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.4
25 to 54 years	2,585	3,025	3,191	5.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.5
55 years and over	333	371	428	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.9
Women, 16 years and over	3,426	3,901	3,764	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6
16 to 24 years	1,158	1,347	1,164	11.6	12.1	13.2	12.9	13.8	12.0
16 to 19 years	616	605	543	17.9	16.6	18.5	17.4	18.4	16.6
16 to 17 years	255	317	259	20.0	19.6	21.4	20.6	23.6	20.3
18 to 19 years	350	297	271	16.2	15.4	16.6	16.5	18.0	14.0
20 to 24 years	540	742	621	8.3	9.9	10.4	10.6	11.4	9.6
25 years and over	2,262	2,540	2,569	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4
25 to 54 years	2,067	2,294	2,347	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7
55 years and over	191	257	231	2.9	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.9	3.6

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Table A-9. Employment status of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans by age, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status and age	Civilian noninstitutional population		Civilian labor force							
			Total		Employed		Unemployed			
							Number		Percent of labor force	
	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1992
VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS										
Total, 35 years and over	7,718	7,831	6,976	7,040	6,599	6,563	378	477	5.4	6.8
35 to 49 years	6,493	6,373	6,104	5,924	5,763	5,506	341	418	5.6	7.1
35 to 39 years	1,275	1,035	1,192	951	1,093	871	99	81	8.3	8.5
40 to 44 years	3,203	2,881	3,024	2,667	2,858	2,474	166	193	5.5	7.2
45 to 49 years	2,015	2,457	1,888	2,306	1,813	2,162	76	145	4.0	6.3
50 years and over	1,225	1,458	872	1,116	835	1,057	37	59	4.2	5.3
NONVETERANS										
Total, 35 to 49 years	17,830	18,944	16,713	17,700	15,751	16,477	962	1,222	5.8	6.9
35 to 39 years	8,171	8,599	7,763	8,095	7,310	7,504	453	591	5.8	7.3
40 to 44 years	5,454	6,009	5,064	5,624	4,826	5,246	257	378	5.1	6.7
45 to 49 years	4,205	4,336	3,886	3,982	3,615	3,728	251	253	6.6	6.4

NOTE: Male Vietnam-era veterans are men who served in the Armed Forces between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. Nonveterans are men who have never served in the Armed Forces; published data are limited to those 35 to 49 years of age, the group that most closely corresponds to the bulk of the Vietnam-era veteran population.

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-10. Employment status of the civilian population for 11 large states

(Numbers in thousands)

State and employment status	Not seasonally adjusted[1]			Seasonally adjusted[2]					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
California									
Civilian noninstitutional population	22,202	22,656	22,699	22,202	22,526	22,571	22,614	22,656	22,699
Civilian labor force	14,603	15,010	14,889	14,685	14,967	14,974	14,982	15,087	14,975
Employed	13,523	13,903	13,623	13,653	13,816	13,813	13,864	13,932	13,759
Unemployed	1,080	1,107	1,266	1,032	1,151	1,161	1,118	1,155	1,216
Unemployment rate	7.4	7.4	8.5	7.0	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.7	8.1
Florida									
Civilian noninstitutional population	10,248	10,465	10,485	10,248	10,404	10,424	10,445	10,465	10,485
Civilian labor force	6,323	6,404	6,338	6,424	6,464	6,449	6,490	6,436	6,438
Employed	5,929	5,938	5,794	6,018	5,958	5,974	6,018	5,952	5,881
Unemployed	394	466	544	406	506	475	472	484	557
Unemployment rate	6.2	7.3	8.6	6.3	7.8	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.7
Illinois									
Civilian noninstitutional population	8,897	8,939	8,943	8,897	8,926	8,931	8,935	8,939	8,943
Civilian labor force	6,003	6,018	6,081	6,049	6,004	5,979	5,973	6,049	6,124
Employed	5,567	5,465	5,527	5,657	5,562	5,510	5,470	5,497	5,619
Unemployed	437	553	554	392	442	469	503	552	505
Unemployment rate	7.3	9.2	9.1	6.5	7.4	7.8	8.4	9.1	8.2
Massachusetts									
Civilian noninstitutional population	4,822	4,827	4,827	4,822	4,824	4,825	4,826	4,827	4,827
Civilian labor force	3,076	3,146	3,087	3,117	3,139	3,150	3,157	3,184	3,131
Employed	2,798	2,897	2,826	2,854	2,851	2,867	2,880	2,889	2,884
Unemployed	278	249	261	263	288	283	277	275	247
Unemployment rate	9.0	7.9	8.4	8.4	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.7	7.9
Michigan									
Civilian noninstitutional population	7,009	7,027	7,029	7,009	7,020	7,023	7,025	7,027	7,029
Civilian labor force	4,512	4,575	4,564	4,557	4,512	4,520	4,547	4,559	4,607
Employed	4,123	4,185	4,116	4,208	4,081	4,114	4,112	4,138	4,199
Unemployed	389	390	448	349	431	406	435	421	408
Unemployment rate	8.6	8.5	9.8	7.7	9.6	9.0	9.6	9.2	8.9
New Jersey									
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,027	6,026	6,027	6,027	6,025	6,026	6,026	6,026	6,027
Civilian labor force	3,990	3,993	3,984	4,028	4,043	4,030	3,986	3,995	4,024
Employed	3,705	3,711	3,680	3,774	3,785	3,756	3,702	3,707	3,752
Unemployed	285	282	304	254	258	274	283	288	272
Unemployment rate	7.1	7.1	7.6	6.3	6.4	6.8	7.1	7.2	6.8
New York									
Civilian noninstitutional population	13,801	13,806	13,806	13,801	13,802	13,803	13,805	13,806	13,806
Civilian labor force	8,539	8,436	8,434	8,536	8,569	8,553	8,544	8,479	8,435
Employed	7,933	7,780	7,665	7,990	7,978	7,924	7,868	7,798	7,724
Unemployed	605	658	769	546	591	629	678	681	711
Unemployment rate	7.1	7.8	9.1	6.4	6.9	7.4	7.9	8.0	8.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-10. Employment status of the civilian population for 11 large states — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

State and employment status	Not seasonally adjusted[1]			Seasonally adjusted[2]					
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
North Carolina									
Civilian noninstitutional population	5,083	5,092	5,097	5,083	5,075	5,080	5,088	5,092	5,097
Civilian labor force	3,344	3,414	3,385	3,398	3,518	3,479	3,468	3,436	3,441
Employed	3,142	3,225	3,157	3,227	3,313	3,287	3,272	3,239	3,244
Unemployed	202	189	228	171	205	192	196	197	197
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.5	6.7	5.0	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7
Ohio									
Civilian noninstitutional population	8,299	8,325	8,328	8,299	8,316	8,320	8,323	8,325	8,328
Civilian labor force	5,357	5,438	5,428	5,416	5,439	5,397	5,433	5,445	5,492
Employed	4,968	5,086	4,993	5,090	5,090	5,096	5,114	5,092	5,122
Unemployed	389	353	434	326	349	301	319	353	370
Unemployment rate	7.3	6.5	8.0	6.0	6.4	5.8	5.9	6.5	6.7
Pennsylvania									
Civilian noninstitutional population	9,402	9,428	9,430	9,402	9,419	9,422	9,425	9,428	9,430
Civilian labor force	5,831	5,930	5,935	5,872	5,935	5,982	5,980	5,953	5,978
Employed	5,416	5,531	5,470	5,500	5,527	5,582	5,559	5,532	5,556
Unemployed	415	399	465	372	408	400	401	421	422
Unemployment rate	7.1	6.7	7.8	6.3	6.9	6.7	6.7	7.1	7.1
Texas									
Civilian noninstitutional population	12,458	12,608	12,622	12,458	12,565	12,580	12,594	12,608	12,622
Civilian labor force	8,422	8,562	8,646	8,526	8,527	8,558	8,537	8,583	8,747
Employed	7,839	7,987	7,924	7,980	7,963	7,898	7,969	7,984	8,061
Unemployed	583	575	722	546	584	662	568	599	686
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.7	8.3	6.4	6.8	7.7	6.7	7.0	7.8

[1] These are the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates used in the administration of Federal fund allocation programs.

[2] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and the seasonally adjusted columns.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data have been revised based on the experience through December 1991. Data for 1987-91 are subject to revision.

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ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Jan. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p	Jan. 1992p	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p	Jan. 1992p
Total.............................	107,979	109,822	109,668	107,351	109,418	109,046	109,073	108,843	108,846	108,735
Total private....................	89,646	90,952	90,850	88,838	91,055	90,642	90,696	90,374	90,326	90,224
Goods-producing industries..................	23,639	23,803	23,526	22,950	24,181	23,797	23,727	23,595	23,556	23,492
Mining...........................	701	679	672	656	713	684	679	674	671	667
Oil and gas extraction...............	397.5	380.4	378.4	369.5	399	385	382	377	376	371
Construction......................	4,410	4,708	4,533	4,202	4,797	4,699	4,671	4,584	4,593	4,587
General building contractors...........	1,147.7	1,158.5	1,135.1	1,079.6	1,221	1,161	1,151	1,137	1,139	1,149
Manufacturing....................	18,528	18,416	18,321	18,092	18,671	18,414	18,377	18,337	18,290	18,238
Production workers...............	12,485	12,474	12,408	12,204	12,604	12,456	12,435	12,404	12,380	12,328
Durable goods..................	10,701	10,499	10,443	10,290	10,770	10,531	10,493	10,457	10,415	10,363
Production workers..............	7,046	6,945	6,907	6,777	7,098	6,954	6,933	6,909	6,887	6,836
Lumber and wood products.............	690.6	697.2	691.3	680.7	706	696	698	697	698	697
Furniture and fixtures.............	490.7	484.7	482.1	477.8	490	482	481	479	478	478
Stone, clay, and glass products..........	513.9	523.3	512.4	494.4	532	522	523	517	516	512
Primary metal industries.............	739.8	709.6	709.0	701.2	740	719	713	709	708	702
Blast furnaces and basic steel products...	271.5	255.6	257.1	255.8	271	260	258	256	257	256
Fabricated metal products.............	1,381.1	1,360.7	1,354.4	1,336.6	1,389	1,358	1,356	1,351	1,346	1,345
Industrial machinery and equipment.......	2,049.6	1,952.8	1,951.1	1,938.0	2,048	1,980	1,968	1,955	1,945	1,936
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	1,619.6	1,580.2	1,573.0	1,559.9	1,621	1,581	1,573	1,572	1,568	1,563
Transportation equipment.............	1,849.2	1,859.0	1,850.7	1,793.6	1,888	1,861	1,850	1,853	1,840	1,815
Motor vehicles and equipment.......	762.0	802.1	798.7	751.2	763	795	789	800	792	777
Instruments and related products........	982.6	959.3	953.1	946.2	985	967	964	958	949	948
Miscellaneous manufacturing...........	363.7	372.1	365.6	361.2	371	365	367	366	367	367
Nondurable goods...................	7,827	7,917	7,878	7,802	7,901	7,883	7,884	7,880	7,875	7,875
Production workers..............	5,441	5,531	5,493	5,427	5,506	5,502	5,502	5,495	5,493	5,492
Food and kindred products.............	1,628.1	1,682.7	1,657.9	1,628.8	1,675	1,676	1,672	1,669	1,668	1,674
Tobacco products.................	51.6	48.9	50.8	51.4	49	49	48	47	47	49
Textile mill products.............	665.3	676.0	673.8	668.5	667	670	672	673	674	671
Apparel and other textile products.......	1,003.8	1,052.4	1,044.8	1,029.3	1,012	1,034	1,039	1,043	1,044	1,039
Paper and allied products.............	691.8	691.3	690.6	686.6	696	692	691	691	690	690
Printing and publishing.............	1,560.1	1,530.2	1,533.5	1,522.7	1,560	1,530	1,528	1,524	1,524	1,521
Chemicals and allied products.........	1,087.1	1,088.4	1,090.2	1,089.6	1,094	1,090	1,092	1,092	1,091	1,095
Petroleum and coal products...........	153.4	159.0	155.6	153.1	158	159	159	158	157	158
Rubber and misc. plastics products.......	863.0	866.8	861.7	854.2	868	862	864	863	860	859
Leather and leather products..........	122.6	121.0	119.2	117.5	124	121	121	119	120	119
Service-producing industries................	84,340	86,019	86,142	84,381	85,237	85,269	85,346	85,248	85,292	85,263
Transportation and public utilities........	5,802	5,864	5,853	5,753	5,866	5,829	5,828	5,814	5,798	5,814
Transportation...............	3,539	3,616	3,609	3,519	3,591	3,569	3,571	3,564	3,552	3,569
Communications and public utilities.......	2,263	2,248	2,244	2,234	2,275	2,260	2,257	2,250	2,246	2,245
Wholesale trade....................	6,086	6,050	6,029	5,959	6,138	6,049	6,047	6,034	6,023	6,009
Durable goods.................	3,556	3,482	3,472	3,440	3,576	3,495	3,490	3,479	3,469	3,457
Nondurable goods...............	2,530	2,568	2,557	2,519	2,562	2,554	2,557	2,555	2,554	2,552
Retail trade......................	19,323	19,554	19,811	18,955	19,542	19,338	19,288	19,227	19,215	19,164
General merchandise stores...........	2,497.9	2,470.2	2,556.4	2,326.2	2,431	2,342	2,321	2,304	2,297	2,265
Food stores....................	3,235.6	3,254.6	3,277.3	3,198.6	3,243	3,226	3,220	3,213	3,207	3,205
Automotive dealers and service stations...	2,027.9	2,035.9	2,021.5	2,001.5	2,053	2,035	2,038	2,026	2,032	2,026
Eating and drinking places...........	6,341.5	6,521.8	6,532.9	6,310.6	6,608	6,569	6,558	6,561	6,566	6,574
Finance, insurance, and real estate........	6,678	6,675	6,675	6,638	6,736	6,692	6,697	6,694	6,693	6,695
Finance........................	3,264	3,273	3,280	3,278	3,296	3,283	3,282	3,276	3,280	3,288
Insurance.......................	2,133	2,117	2,116	2,111	2,136	2,122	2,122	2,123	2,118	2,113
Real estate......................	1,259	1,283	1,279	1,249	1,304	1,287	1,293	1,295	1,295	1,294
Services.........................	28,118	29,008	28,956	28,585	28,590	28,937	29,019	29,008	29,043	29,050
Business services.................	5,179.6	5,391.0	5,367.1	5,217.0	5,271	5,336	5,374	5,343	5,346	5,307
Health services..................	8,040.0	8,389.8	8,431.0	8,439.4	8,061	8,321	8,365	8,398	8,439	8,456
Government.......................	18,333	18,870	18,818	18,493	18,365	18,624	18,467	18,469	18,520	18,511
Federal........................	2,930	2,967	2,976	2,966	2,952	2,979	2,985	2,982	2,985	2,990
State.........................	4,305	4,467	4,425	4,297	4,352	4,328	4,332	4,341	4,342	4,345
Local.........................	11,098	11,436	11,417	11,230	11,061	11,117	11,152	11,146	11,193	11,196

p/ = preliminary.

Table B-2. Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Jan. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p/	Jan. 1992p/	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p/	Jan. 1992p/
Total private...........................	33.7	34.3	34.7	33.8	34.1	34.3	34.3	34.4	34.5	34.3
Mining.................................	44.4	44.4	44.6	43.6	44.4	44.1	43.9	44.1	43.8	43.6
Construction...........................	36.2	37.7	37.9	36.6	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Manufacturing..........................	40.2	41.3	41.7	40.6	40.4	41.0	40.9	41.0	41.1	40.8
Overtime hours......................	3.2	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6
Durable goods..........................	40.7	41.6	42.2	41.0	40.8	41.5	41.4	41.4	41.5	41.1
Overtime hours......................	3.2	3.9	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5
Lumber and wood products................	38.9	40.3	41.0	39.8	39.4	40.5	40.0	40.5	40.7	40.4
Furniture and fixtures..............	38.2	39.2	40.8	39.3	38.5	39.1	39.1	38.9	39.7	39.6
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	40.1	41.9	41.9	40.3	41.0	42.0	41.9	41.5	42.0	41.3
Primary metal industries............	42.1	42.8	43.1	42.3	42.0	42.8	42.7	42.5	42.5	42.3
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	42.7	43.3	43.4	42.2	42.6	43.7	43.5	43.0	42.9	42.1
Fabricated metal products...........	40.6	41.8	42.5	41.1	40.6	41.7	41.6	41.4	41.7	41.3
Industrial machinery and equipment..	41.7	42.8	43.8	41.7	41.6	42.1	41.8	41.8	42.0	41.6
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	40.5	41.5	42.2	40.7	40.3	40.7	40.6	41.1	41.2	40.7
Transportation equipment............	41.4	42.4	42.5	41.4	41.5	42.3	42.5	42.4	41.9	41.7
Motor vehicles and equipment......	41.2	42.8	42.8	41.7	41.4	43.0	43.1	42.5	42.4	42.2
Instruments and related products....	40.8	41.6	42.1	40.9	40.8	41.3	40.9	41.2	41.2	40.9
Miscellaneous manufacturing.........	38.8	40.4	40.6	39.5	39.0	40.2	39.8	39.7	40.0	39.7
Nondurable goods.......................	39.6	40.8	41.1	40.1	39.9	40.3	40.4	40.5	40.5	40.5
Overtime hours......................	3.3	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.7
Food and kindred products...........	40.4	41.3	41.3	40.1	40.7	40.6	40.6	40.9	40.6	40.4
Tobacco products....................	39.5	38.5	39.5	40.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Textile mill products...............	39.2	41.7	41.8	40.6	39.4	41.3	41.3	41.4	41.6	41.0
Apparel and other textile products..	36.0	37.6	37.8	37.1	36.3	37.3	37.4	37.3	37.5	37.5
Paper and allied products...........	43.2	43.9	44.4	43.3	43.0	43.4	43.4	43.5	43.6	43.3
Printing and publishing.............	37.4	38.4	38.8	37.5	37.7	37.6	37.8	38.1	38.2	37.8
Chemicals and allied products.......	42.6	43.7	44.3	42.9	42.6	43.2	43.2	43.4	43.6	42.9
Petroleum and coal products.........	42.9	44.5	43.3	43.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rubber and misc. plastics products..	40.8	41.7	42.0	41.4	40.8	41.2	41.4	41.5	41.5	41.4
Leather and leather products........	36.7	38.0	38.1	37.3	36.9	37.7	37.1	38.4	37.7	37.7
Transportation and public utilities...........	38.2	38.4	38.8	37.6	38.7	38.9	38.4	38.4	38.7	38.1
Wholesale trade................................	37.7	38.1	38.4	37.7	37.9	38.2	38.1	38.1	38.2	38.0
Retail trade..................................	27.6	28.5	29.2	28.0	28.3	28.8	28.4	28.8	28.7	28.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate...........	35.7	35.6	36.2	35.6	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Services......................................	32.1	32.4	32.7	32.2	32.2	32.6	32.4	32.5	32.7	32.4

1/ Data relate to production workers in mining and
manufacturing; construction workers in construction;
and nonsupervisory workers in transportation and
public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance,
insurance, and real estate; and services. These groups
account for approximately four-fifths of the total
employees on private nonfarm payrolls.

2/ These series are not published seasonally
adjusted since the seasonal component is small relative
to the trend-cycle and/or irregular components and
consequently cannot be separated with sufficient
precision.
p = preliminary.

Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	Jan. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p/	Jan. 1992p/	Jan. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p/	Jan. 1992p/
Total private............................	$10.22	$10.46	$10.49	$10.51	$344.41	$358.78	$364.00	$355.24
Seasonally adjusted...................	10.18	10.44	10.48	10.47	347.14	359.14	361.56	359.12
Mining....................................	14.20	14.29	14.52	14.71	630.48	634.48	647.59	641.36
Construction..............................	14.02	14.00	14.12	14.06	507.52	527.80	535.15	514.60
Manufacturing.............................	11.05	11.31	11.37	11.31	444.21	467.10	474.13	459.19
Durable goods.............................	11.58	11.91	11.96	11.85	471.31	495.46	504.71	485.85
Lumber and wood products................	9.11	9.37	9.39	9.38	354.38	377.61	384.99	373.32
Furniture and fixtures..................	8.61	8.85	8.93	8.87	328.90	346.92	364.34	348.59
Stone, clay, and glass products........	11.23	11.47	11.49	11.46	450.32	480.59	481.43	461.84
Primary metal industries...............	13.17	13.49	13.49	13.42	554.46	577.37	581.42	567.67
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	15.06	15.54	15.53	15.50	643.06	672.88	674.00	654.10
Fabricated metal products...............	11.02	11.36	11.42	11.32	447.41	474.85	485.35	465.25
Industrial machinery and equipment......	12.06	12.29	12.36	12.25	502.90	516.18	531.48	510.83
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	10.59	10.88	10.96	10.90	428.90	451.52	462.51	443.63
Transportation equipment...............	14.61	15.12	15.15	14.90	596.57	641.09	643.88	616.86
Motor vehicles and equipment..........	14.87	15.55	15.56	15.18	612.64	665.54	665.97	633.01
Instruments and related products.......	11.64	11.80	11.84	11.84	474.91	490.88	498.46	484.26
Miscellaneous manufacturing............	8.78	8.94	9.08	9.05	340.66	361.18	368.65	357.48
Nondurable goods..........................	10.53	10.54	10.62	10.61	409.07	430.03	436.48	425.46
Food and kindred products...............	9.78	10.02	10.13	10.04	395.11	413.83	418.37	402.60
Tobacco products........................	16.16	16.95	16.29	16.68	638.32	652.58	643.46	670.54
Textile mill products...................	8.17	8.45	8.50	8.49	320.26	352.37	355.30	344.69
Apparel and other textile products......	6.64	6.81	6.85	6.83	259.04	256.06	258.93	253.39
Paper and allied products...............	12.51	12.85	12.94	12.82	540.43	564.12	574.56	555.11
Printing and publishing.................	11.37	11.62	11.70	11.66	425.24	446.21	453.96	437.25
Chemicals and allied products...........	13.87	14.27	14.35	14.37	590.86	623.60	635.71	616.47
Petroleum and coal products.............	16.63	17.38	17.47	17.67	713.43	773.41	756.45	763.34
Rubber and misc. plastics products......	10.02	10.18	10.26	10.34	408.82	424.51	430.92	428.08
Leather and leather products............	7.09	7.23	7.31	7.32	260.20	274.74	278.51	273.04
Transportation and public utilities.........	13.18	13.26	13.32	13.29	503.48	509.18	516.82	499.70
Wholesale trade............................	11.04	11.26	11.35	11.33	416.21	429.01	435.84	427.14
Retail trade...............................	6.90	7.11	7.09	7.15	190.44	202.64	207.03	200.20
Finance, insurance, and real estate.........	10.24	10.54	10.68	10.66	365.57	375.22	386.62	379.50
Services...................................	10.12	10.41	10.50	10.52	324.85	337.28	343.35	338.74

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2.   p = preliminary.

Table B-4. Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p/	Jan. 1992p/	Percent change from: Dec. 1991-Jan. 1992
Total private:							
Current dollars.................	$10.18	$10.41	$10.40	$10.44	$10.48	$10.47	-0.1
Constant (1982) dollars2/........	7.42	7.47	7.46	7.45	7.46	N.A.	(3)
Mining..............................	14.04	14.34	14.24	14.38	14.53	14.54	.1
Construction........................	13.95	14.04	14.02	13.99	14.08	13.99	-.6
Manufacturing.......................	11.02	11.25	11.26	11.31	11.31	11.30	-.1
Excluding overtime4/.............	10.58	10.76	10.77	10.81	10.82	10.82	.0
Transportation and public utilities	13.15	13.27	13.20	13.25	13.29	13.26	-.2
Wholesale trade.....................	11.00	11.23	11.21	11.21	11.26	11.30	.0
Retail trade........................	6.86	7.05	7.06	7.09	7.09	7.10	.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	10.17	10.55	10.49	10.55	10.66	10.60	-.6
Services............................	10.02	10.32	10.29	10.37	10.37	10.42	.1

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2.
2/ The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is used to deflate this series.
3/ Change was .1 percent from November 1991 to December 1991, the latest month

available.
4/ Derived by assuming that overtime hours are paid at the rate of time and one-half.
N.A. = not available.
p/ = preliminary.

Table B-5. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

(1982=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Jan. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p/	Jan. 1992p/	Jan. 1991	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991p/	Jan. 1992p/
Total private...........................	117.9	122.1	123.4	117.2	121.3	122.3	121.3	121.5	121.9	120.9
Goods-producing industries...................	100.4	104.9	104.3	98.2	104.4	104.4	104.0	103.1	103.4	102.2
Mining.....................................	63.3	61.0	60.3	57.1	64.9	60.9	60.2	59.9	59.2	58.3
Construction...............................	108.1	123.4	118.3	103.9	125.0	124.9	124.4	119.3	121.5	120.3
Manufacturing..............................	101.3	103.8	104.3	99.8	102.7	102.9	102.6	102.6	102.5	101.3
Durable goods..........................	99.3	100.2	101.1	96.2	100.4	100.0	99.4	99.1	99.1	97.5
Lumber and wood products...............	116.0	121.9	122.8	116.9	120.5	122.4	121.3	122.6	123.2	122.0
Furniture and fixtures.................	115.5	117.7	121.7	116.6	115.9	116.5	116.5	115.3	117.3	117.3
Stone, clay, and glass products........	95.5	102.7	99.9	92.2	102.1	102.6	102.4	100.1	101.3	98.4
Primary metal industries...............	89.2	86.7	87.3	84.4	89.0	87.9	87.1	86.0	85.9	84.5
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	79.5	75.1	75.6	72.9	79.1	77.7	76.5	74.5	74.7	72.5
Fabricated metal products..............	102.2	103.7	104.7	99.7	103.2	103.1	102.6	101.7	102.1	101.0
Industrial machinery and equipment.........	94.4	89.3	91.9	88.6	93.8	91.3	90.0	89.0	89.4	87.9
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	101.9	102.7	104.0	99.4	101.5	100.6	100.0	101.2	101.4	99.3
Transportation equipment...............	109.4	113.9	113.7	105.9	111.2	113.5	113.4	113.7	111.2	108.4
Motor vehicles and equipment.........	111.0	127.6	126.9	114.9	114.8	126.6	125.9	126.4	124.9	121.0
Instruments and related products.......	84.8	83.4	84.3	81.0	84.8	82.6	81.5	82.3	81.7	81.0
Miscellaneous manufacturing............	95.2	102.8	100.8	97.2	98.0	99.5	99.3	99.0	99.8	99.8
Nondurable goods.......................	104.0	108.9	108.8	104.8	105.9	107.0	107.1	107.4	107.4	106.7
Food and kindred products..............	106.1	113.7	111.3	105.8	110.8	111.3	110.8	111.4	110.4	110.3
Tobacco products.......................	76.0	69.7	75.1	77.3	71.8	71.1	69.0	65.5	68.3	72.9
Textile mill products..................	92.8	100.3	100.3	96.7	93.7	98.5	99.0	99.1	100.1	98.1
Apparel and other textile products.....	88.4	97.5	97.0	93.6	89.9	94.7	95.4	95.7	96.1	95.7
Paper and allied products..............	109.4	111.5	112.7	109.5	109.9	110.2	110.0	110.3	110.8	110.0
Printing and publishing................	124.1	125.0	126.9	121.5	125.1	122.6	123.1	123.5	123.8	122.4
Chemicals and allied products..........	102.5	102.7	104.1	100.9	103.4	102.4	102.5	102.3	102.8	101.6
Petroleum and coal products...........	79.9	87.0	82.4	80.6	84.5	86.3	84.9	85.7	83.7	85.1
Rubber and misc. plastics products.....	122.6	126.1	126.3	123.4	123.6	123.7	124.7	125.0	124.6	124.1
Leather and leather products...........	56.2	57.4	56.7	54.5	57.4	56.8	55.3	57.8	56.2	55.6
Service-producing industries.................	125.8	129.9	131.9	125.7	128.9	130.3	129.0	129.7	130.2	129.2
Transportation and public utilities..........	112.4	115.0	115.7	110.0	115.3	115.3	115.8	115.7	114.3	112.9
Wholesale trade..............................	112.7	113.4	113.8	110.1	114.7	113.6	113.1	113.0	113.1	112.1
Retail trade.................................	116.1	121.1	125.9	114.9	120.3	120.9	118.7	120.1	119.6	119.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate..........	118.6	118.4	120.3	117.7	120.4	120.4	118.0	119.2	120.7	119.3
Services.....................................	142.6	148.7	149.6	145.2	145.8	149.2	148.8	149.2	150.3	149.1

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2. p = preliminary.

Table B-6. Diffusion indexes of employment change, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Time span	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Private nonfarm payrolls, 356 industries[1]/												
Over 1-month span:												
1990	58.1	58.1	52.2	48.7	52.8	48.3	46.6	47.8	45.1	41.4	40.3	42.8
1991	38.5	36.9	38.6	38.3	51.1	45.8	51.3	54.8	50.0	48.3	44.1	p44.8
1992	p45.1											
Over 3-month span:												
1990	58.8	59.8	54.4	50.7	48.7	49.4	45.6	43.7	40.8	37.4	35.8	35.1
1991	31.6	30.8	30.3	34.3	39.5	48.9	51.7	52.9	50.1	43.5	p41.0	p39.0
1992												
Over 6-month span:												
1990	56.6	55.2	53.2	51.8	47.6	44.9	42.7	38.6	37.2	34.8	30.9	28.8
1991	26.7	31.2	29.5	34.3	41.2	45.8	49.9	44.9	p45.8	p42.4		
1992												
Over 12-month span:												
1990	54.6	54.5	51.4	48.3	46.6	45.5	40.3	35.8	34.1	38.6	32.0	30.2
1991	30.2	30.6	30.3	32.7	33.1	p32.7	p36.2					
1992												
Manufacturing payrolls, 139 industries[1]/												
Over 1-month span:												
1990	46.0	51.1	41.4	47.8	41.7	39.6	45.2	40.3	38.8	34.5	27.3	35.8
1991	31.7	28.4	29.9	54.5	46.8	46.8	53.2	53.2	43.5	43.3	40.6	p43.2
1992	p38.8											
Over 3-month span:												
1990	45.0	43.2	45.0	38.1	38.1	37.4	35.6	31.3	27.0	23.0	21.6	18.3
1991	19.4	16.5	18.8	30.2	36.3	48.9	37.2	55.0	46.8	38.5	p36.3	p33.5
1992												
Over 6-month span:												
1990	39.9	36.7	37.1	40.3	32.4	30.6	24.1	20.5	21.2	17.3	16.2	11.9
1991	18.4	17.3	19.4	23.4	38.5	43.5	49.6	45.7	p45.3	p36.7		
1992												
Over 12-month span:												
1990	35.3	33.5	31.3	29.5	25.2	20.9	19.8	14.0	12.9	10.1	11.2	10.4
1991	13.3	14.7	14.7	18.0	21.2	p23.0	p27.3					
1992												

1/ Based on seasonally adjusted data for 1-, 3-,
and 6-month spans and unadjusted data for the 12-month
span. Data are centered within the span.
  p = preliminary.
  NOTE: Figures are the percent of industries with

employment increasing plus one-half of the industries
with unchanged employment, where 50 percent
indicates an equal balance between industries with
increasing and decreasing employment.

SENATOR SARBANES. Thank you very much, Commissioner.

First of all, we have been told throughout a good part of this recession that jobs in the service industry were holding up. In fact, in some instances, they seemed to be increasing.

I take it that you are now telling us that job growth there has stopped. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. It hasn't stopped, Mr. Chairman, but it has certainly slowed. Health services had been very strong. In this past month, it had about half of its normal monthly increase.

SENATOR SARBANES. You say business services experienced a large loss in January. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. That's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. What do you mean by business services?

MR. BARRON. Let me ask Mr. Plewes to help us with that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PLEWES. These are businesses that serve other businesses. The temporary help industry, for example, is one of those. The people who do xeroxing—consultants and all that.

SENATOR SARBANES. In effect, that's at a secondary stage. So, it probably reflects a slowdown in the businesses for whom they provide services. Is that correct?

MR. PLEWES. That is correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. In manufacturing, we have also lost jobs last month?

MR. BARRON. Down 52,000, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. That's almost half a year in a row now that we've been moving downward in manufacturing jobs.

MR. BARRON. Since September.

SENATOR SARBANES. Does your category of construction embrace housing?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. Housing is often looked to to help pull the country out of a recession. I take it that construction job have declined significantly over the last nine months or so. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes, Mr. Chairman. Last year alone they declined 318,000—that's over the calendar year.

I think one important fact to note is that the average weakening of employment in construction has exceeded the average for other recession postwar recessions. So, it's been hard hit in this recession.

SENATOR SARBANES. Is there any sector of the economy that is showing any substantial growth in employment terms?

MR. BARRON. Let me ask Mr. Plewes to help me with this. I think that over the past year that the service sector did show some growth, but, generally speaking, many sectors of the economy during the last calendar year were in decline and that situation has continued into January.

Perhaps, Tom would like to supplement that.

MR. PLEWES. I think if we are looking for bright spots, certainly the health services industry with its continued growth, even though it is slow this month, has to be looked on as a job gainer. Recently, we have had some job increases in the transportation industry. That's in air transportation and in trucking. That's a good sign.

Government has continued to add jobs, although at a very slow pace, and we have had in the last month now some increases in the finance industry, particularly relating to those activities involved in processing mortgages—second mortgages and so forth.

SENATOR SARBANES. Has that increase brought them back to where they were before the recession, or are they still below that?

MR. PLEWES. Still below, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. They are still below?

MR. PLEWES. Finance was 15,000 below its level when the recession began.

SENATOR SARBANES. Is there a correlation between a recession and an increase in jobs in the health services industry?

In other words, does a recession contribute to people's illnesses and health problems, so the one thing that doesn't get hit as hard in a recession would be jobs in the health services industry because the recession is contributing more patients for the health services industry to look after?

Is there any correlation of that sort?

MR. BARRON. Senator, I don't think we have any data on that. As far as we know, it's primarily a demographic phenomenon as the population ages. There is more demand for health services. In terms of your particular point, I don't think we know.

SENATOR SARBANES. We have had some testimony in the past that stated that the health problems of people increase in a recessionary period as they come under the strain and stress that is connected with an economic downturn. I just wonder whether that then gets translated through to jobs in the health services industry.

What's the significance of the factory work week declining by three-tenths of an hour?

MR. BARRON. That's a number that can bounce around from month-to-month.

SENATOR SARBANES. It's a bad indicator, isn't it?

As I understand it, if the economy is starting to pick up, you see an increase in the length of the work week for those now working before you see an increase in the number of people working.

In other words, what companies do if orders begin to pick up is not to immediately bring the people back, but to work the people that are there a little longer until they have a greater assurance that there really is an upturn, and then they start calling people back to work. At least that's what we've heard in the past.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, one looks to a lengthening work week as a sign that demand is beginning to pick up. Then, the next step after that is to begin to add people back to the payroll.

Now, there was a decline in January that's certainly not insignificant. That is heading in the wrong direction in terms of an improvement in the unemployment rate, isn't it?

MR. BARRON. That's correct, Mr. Chairman. I think in terms of past recessions, the relationship that you have just described has been true. We'll see if Mr. Plewes would like to supplement that.

MR. PLEWES. Basically, that's the pattern. In fact, the manufacturing work week is one of the leading economic indicators, and this three-tenths drop will have a downward pull on the leading economic indicators that are put out next month.

But there may be something different happening with hours this time. We think that employers have been using hours as a substitute for employment, given the large cost of bringing on workers, especially fringe benefits. When there are inventory adjustments to be made, they have been adjusting hours more than they have been adjusting employment.

So, hours have stayed very, very high during this recession even as employment has gone down. This is really one of the first large drops that we have seen in the hours during the recession.

SENATOR SARBANES. I want to focus attention on Table A1, if I could for just a minute, in your release on the employment situation for January of 1992. Do you have that?

MR. BARRON. I have one, yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. At the top of the table where you report the total, you have the seasonally adjusted rate as 7.1 percent for December and 7.1 percent for January.

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. Now, the unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, is 6.8 percent for December and 8 percent for January.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. I'd like you to explain that.

MR. BARRON. January is one month in the year when typically there is a large seasonal movement that we expect, primarily reflecting, in part, the normal hiring that goes on during the holiday season in the month of December. So, January does become a month where—in the business we are in—we do expect a large seasonal movement to occur.

Tom, why don't you supplement that answer?

MR. PLEWES. That's correct. In both retail trade and construction and other kinds of outside industries, we are still seeing an expected increase in unemployment from December to January.

This year, you are right. On an unadjusted basis, unemployment increased from 6.8 in December to 8.0 in January. Last year, for example, it went in December 1990 from 5.9 to 7.0 in January, and so you saw no

change in the seasonally adjusted data, but we still observe the same very large movements on the unadjusted basis.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, you use the seasonally adjusted rate to take into account the trend in the economy and to adjust for that so that you do not give a misleading picture of how the economy is moving. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. But, if someone said, "Well, I really am more interested in how many people are suffering, how many people are really experiencing unemployment," wouldn't the actual count, not seasonally adjusted, be more relevant?

MR. BARRON. Senator, I really believe in this case that the seasonally adjusted figure would be the figure that we ought to look at to take account of the typical movement that you just described.

SENATOR SARBANES. Let me ask you this question. How many unemployed people are reflected in the January figure?

MR. BARRON. On a seasonally adjusted basis it is 8.9 million. On an unadjusted basis, it is 9.9 million. So, it is a million different.

SENATOR SARBANES. But the number of actual people unemployed is the unadjusted figure, is it not?

MR. BARRON. That is the actual number.

SENATOR SARBANES. I understand that you adjust the figure to get some comparability over time in your trend lines, but if I want to know how many people are actually unemployed by your estimates, what is the figure for this month, the month you are reporting on?

MR. BARRON. Unadjusted, it is 9.9 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. Almost 10 million.

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. What was it last month, unadjusted?

MR. BARRON. Unadjusted, 8.6 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, that's another 1,400,000 people who are actually unemployed, according to your figures. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. You know, I understand why you do a seasonal adjustment. That is part of the process and that gives you a comparable figure, but the fact of the matter is, in terms of people who are out of work, actual real people, the figure now is just under 10 million. That's on the official rate.

Now, what about the other components that go into making up the comprehensive rate? Do you have a comprehensive rate for the month, or do you do it only by quarters?

MR. BARRON. We only do that by quarter, Mr. Chairman. We only have the discouraged worker figure for the last quarter. That will not come out again until the end of the next quarter.

SENATOR SARBANES. It was 1.1 million for the last quarter?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. You have no way of making any estimate of what it is on a monthly basis?

MR. BARRON. I don't know of such a way, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PLEWES. We don't have any reliable data on a monthly basis right now, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. The other component is the number of people working part-time who want to work full time. You do that on a monthly basis?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir. We have that figure. The total for that category would be 6.7 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. What was it last month?

MR. BARRON. That reflects an increase of about 400,000 that occurred this past month.

SENATOR SARBANES. It is a jump from 6.3 million?

MR. BARRON. 6.3 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. To 6.7 million.

If the number of discouraged workers stayed at the 1.1 million figure—if we make that assumption—what would the comprehensive figure be for the month?

MR. BARRON. I think, Mr. Chairman, if we added up the total unemployed, all of the discouraged and all of the part-time for economic reasons, I believe the figure is 16.7 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. 16.7 million?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. What's the work force?

MR. BARRON. 126 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. That means well over 13 percent of the work force has been impacted by the unemployment problem. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Let me see if Tom wants to add something to this, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PLEWES. If you add all that, that's correct. If we're trying to find a figure for this month that's comparable to the 10.4 percent that's on your chart for the fourth quarter of last year, we would come up with it in this way.

You would add two-tenths to the unemployment rate; that would make it 10.6. You would take half of those persons who are part-time for economic reasons on the theory that the glass is half-full, half-empty. So, for each 100,000 persons, there is one-tenth. That adds another two-tenths.

Roughly, the comparable figure for January, off the top of my head, would be 10.8 percent if discouraged workers stayed the same as in the fourth quarter.

SENATOR SARBANES. If we make the assumption that discouraged workers stayed at the same level as in the fourth quarter, which seems to me not an unreasonable assumption to make in the light of these figures you are presenting here this morning.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, we would have a comprehensive rate of 10.8 percent. I think it's important to establish that we have an official figure here that says 7.1 percent. That's what it was last month—unemployment has more or less stayed the same.

The fact of the matter is that the problem has compounded because there has been a significant jump in the number of people working part-time who want to work full time. So, if you factor them in, you now get a comprehensive rate that has gone to 10.8 percent.

You publish the unemployment rate by states, I take it, each month, at least for a limited number of states. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. In which states is unemployment now the worst?

MR. BARRON. The latest data I have with me today, Mr. Chairman, is for December 1991. West Virginia, Alaska, Illinois, Michigan and the District of Columbia are at the top of the list—the top five.

SENATOR SARBANES. With what rates?

MR. BARRON. West Virginia, 11.1 percent; Alaska, 10.1 percent; Illinois, 9.2 percent; Michigan, 8.5 percent; and District of Columbia, 8.4 percent.

I point out that this is the December data, which is the only month for which we have all the states. We do have some more recent data for a few of the states, and if I recall correctly, the Illinois rate did drop in January.

We don't have all the states on the same month at the same time, which is why I gave you the data that I did.

SENATOR SARBANES. I note, for instance, in your monthly data, the Florida rate jumped very significantly this month. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir. 7.5 to 8.6 percent, Mr. Chairman. I think that must be the figure that you are noting.

SENATOR SARBANES. These large states seem to be running unemployment rates at or above the national average, at least most of them— California, 8.1 percent. I'm now looking at your seasonally adjusted figures—Florida, 8.7 percent; Illinois, 8.2 percent; Massachusetts, 7.9 percent; Michigan, 8.9 percent. New Jersey is just below at 6.8 percent; New York, 8.4 percent; Ohio, 6.7 percent; Pennsylvania, 7.0 percent.

If these large states are running unemployment rates at or above the national average, where does the performance come to bring the national average to 7.1 percent?

MR. BARRON. In terms of states, Mr. Chairman, again, I'm going to have to use the December data because that's the last month for which we have all of the states.

SENATOR SARBANES. Or even regions of the country. I don't know that you have to go through each state. What is the answer?

MR. BARRON. If Tom has regional data, I'll ask him to add to this. In December, there were 19 states and the District of Columbia that were

above the U.S. rate, but there were 29 states that were below the U.S. rate.

So, I guess it's the interaction of those states, given their population, labor force, etc., that would combine to give you the national rate that we provide you.

Tom, is there is something you would like to add to the regional data?

MR. PLEWES. Basically, we are still seeing a residual strength out there in the Midwest—not necessarily in the industrial Midwest—but as you move from Wisconsin and west through the plains region, we are seeing very little change in unemployment.

SENATOR SARBANES. Is your national sample structured to get some data out of every state?

MR. PLEWES. Yes. The sample gives you, on a monthly basis, reliability for the 11 largest states so that we can provide that information at the same time we provide the national.

It provides us a benchmark, if you will, a basis for doing a computation for the remaining states, and so we do a special rate computation for them that is comparable with the national CPS data.

SENATOR SARBANES. What I am trying to get at is whether the sample, in order to provide a geographic spread to your sample so as to be sure that your sample touches every part of the country, ends up being skewed against the large population centers of the country.

MR. BARRON. More of it would be located in the large population centers.

SENATOR SARBANES. But commensurate with the population differences?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, I'm not in a position to explore it now, but I'm struck by the fact that the rates in populous states exceed the average figure, and I have difficulty understanding why.

For example, California and New York, between them, are about, what, 20 percent of the Nation's population? 18 to 20 percent of the Nation's population?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. In addition, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Texas, are all above the average. Pennsylvania at the average. If I add up the populations of just those states, I am beginning to approach half of the Nation's population, aren't I?

MR. BARRON. I think that has to be close, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. If they are all above the average, how do you get to this average figure of 7.1 percent on the basis of the rest of your sample?

MR. BARRON. We do know that Pennsylvania and Texas—again, I am using the December data because that is the most recent we have for all the states—Pennsylvania and Texas are slightly below the average that

existed at that time. Then, there are other large states, such as Tennessee, Indiana, etc.

SENATOR SARBANES. I understand that, but you have to look at what their populations are.

In January, Texas' unemployment rate is 7.8 percent, according to your figures. Pennsylvania is 7.1 percent, right at the average. New York is 8.4 percent. Michigan is 8.9 percent; Massachusetts 7.9 percent; Illinois 8.2 percent; Florida, 8.7 percent; and California, 8.1 percent.

I have eight of the most populous states in the union right there. With the exception of Pennsylvania, which was at 7.1, the next state is at 7.8 percent, so they go from 7.8, 7.9, 8.1, 8.2, 8.4, 8.7, 8.9.

I don't have a calculator here to add up what the populations of those eight states are. We could obviously put that together. But, just very quickly looking at it, it has to be at least 40 percent of the Nation's population, maybe more. Isn't that correct?

MR. BARRON. I'm not sure of that figure. Tom can help us with some regional data, but, again, the latest figure I have on just sheer number of states—and I don't have the population information available to me here—is that 19 states are above the average, but 29 states are below.

SENATOR SARBANES. I understand that. Let me just give you a hypothetical question and then see how you answer it.

If the 19 states that are above the average represent, let's say, 62 percent of the Nation's population and the 29 states that are below the average represent 38 percent of the Nation's population, how would you get to this figure?

I am trying to find out, again, whether your sample is skewed. The House of Representatives, even though it is based on population, is skewed to some degree away from states with large populations, because every state gets one member regardless of its population.

Do you construct a sample that tries to get this geographic spread, and as a consequence of that, the sample is biased in terms of the location of populations in stating unemployment?

MR. BARRON. I don't believe that's the case, Mr. Chairman, but Tom, what can you add to this?

MR. PLEWES. Basically, the sample is designed to represent the population of the United States as distributed at the time of the decennial census, and we are going through a redesign right now, to updated it with materials from the 1990 census.

So, it is a representative sample of the population of the United States. Each state is also self-represented, which means that we have sufficient sample of 11 large states to provide a monthly unemployment figure and, for the rest of the states, to provide a reliable annual unemployment figure.

The national estimate is estimated independent of the estimates for the states.

We have regional data, on an unadjusted basis, for January. The unadjusted unemployment rate for the Nation, as we talked before, is 8.0 percent for January. In New England, the number was 8.6 percent. Their labor force was about 6.8 million.

In the Middle Atlantic, the number was 8.4. Their labor force was about 18.5 million.

In East North Central, their rate 8.2. Their labor force was about 20 million.

So, those are all above the national rate.

Then, you get to the West North Central. Their rate was well down at 5.7 percent and, although their labor force was only 9 million, that tends to drag the average down.

The South Atlantic was below the national rate, 7.7 percent, and their labor force was in the range of 21.5 million.

The East South Central portion, 7.9. Their labor force was 7 million.

The West South Central was 8.3. That was somewhat above. That's the Texas area. Their labor force was 12.9 million.

The Mountain states were 7.3. Their labor force was 6.6 million. And the Pacific state were about 19.5 million.

So, there are areas in the country that have very, very low rates that are dragging down, on average, the high rates in the other areas.

SENATOR SARBANES. This is something that I think we'll explore further in the future with you. It's very clear, looking at these figures, that the regions with the largest populations, with the exception of the South Atlantic, are all above the national rate.

The question is—simply put—if the large population areas are all above the national rate and the smaller population areas are the ones that are below the national rate, how does that work out?

The national rate ought to be higher, shouldn't it, in that relationship?

MR. PLEWES. The large states aren't sufficiently much higher than the average, and the small states are well below the average, so, on balance, it comes out.

SENATOR SARBANES. Does this pattern characterize most recessions?

MR. BARRON. I just don't know, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. This regional pattern?

MR. PLEWES. The regional pattern is different than in previous recessions. For example, unemployment has affected the East North Central states later in this recession than in previous recessions, and it has affected the Pacific states much more dramatically than in previous recessions.

So, it has changed.

SENATOR SARBANES. Last month, you testified that the unemployment rate in December would have been 7.8 percent rather than 7.1 percent if there had been normal labor force growth during this recession.

When you incorporate the January data, do you still see this phenomenon of low labor-force growth?

Mr. BARRON. Using the alternative rate, Mr. Chairman, it would be 7.7, whereas our actual figure is 7.1.

So, the difference that we have discussed at prior hearings is there.

SENATOR SARBANES. If I factor that into the comprehensive rate on the assumptions that we made earlier, we would have a comprehensive rate of 11.4 percent. Would that be correct?

Mr. BARRON. That may be correct, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. That is the highest that it has been in this recession, isn't it? The 11.4 percent comprehensive rate?

Mr. BARRON. It may be.

SENATOR SARBANES. How many of the people who were unemployed in January reported that they had lost their jobs through temporary layoffs and how many through permanent terminations?

Mr. BARRON. The number of job losers in January, seasonally adjusted, was about 4.8 million, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. What percentage of those were on temporary layoffs?

Mr. BARRON. The percent on layoff was about 13.1 percent, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. What percent had lost their jobs permanently?

Mr. BARRON. I believe the percent of job losers is 40.6 percent out of total unemployment.

SENATOR SARBANES. Have been terminated altogether?

Mr. BARRON. They have reported that they lost their last job.

SENATOR SARBANES. We have been told that there has been a shift in this recession and that fewer people are being put on layoff and that many more people are being terminated. In other words, they are being told that there is no job here for you even if economic conditions improve, instead of being laid off and being told, "Well, when economic conditions improve, we intend to call you back to work."

Is that correct?

Mr. BARRON. Tom, do you have historical data on job losers compared to other recessions? I'm not sure I have that here with me.

Mr. PLEWES. The mix within the job loser category has, during this recession, gone more toward those persons who have lost jobs permanently.

I don't have the exact figure, but I recollect that from the data.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, it is correct that in this recession a smaller percentage are being put on layoff with the expectation, therefore, that they will be called back to their pre-existing job. And more people, a larger percentage, are actually being terminated and told that there is no more job here for you and you have to, in effect, go look somewhere new in order to find work.

Is that correct?

Mr. PLEWES. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. Gentlemen, I must say that this is very grim news that you have brought us this morning. Not only is the unemployment figure, seasonally adjusted at 7.1 percent, the same as last month, but, when we go behind that unemployment figure, we find, in effect, that the situation has deteriorated.

There was a significant jump in the number of people trying to find full-time work who have only been able to find part-time work. It jumped 400,000 people in one month. So, the comprehensive rate has obviously gone up.

We still have growth in the labor force that is well below expectations, which helps to understate the figure.

I'm very concerned about the developments in the different sectors that show weakness across the board not only in manufacturing and construction, which have been very hard hit in this recession, but now the service industry as well, which has failed to pick up as we move into 1992.

And then there was a decline in the work week of those that are working.

Almost 17 million people are experiencing some degree of unemployment. Either they are totally unemployed or they are working part-time and they want to work full time, or they are so discouraged that they have just dropped out of the labor force. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. If you add all those groups, Mr. Chairman, yes. You get right up to that figure.

SENATOR SARBANES. And that's out of a labor force of 126 million?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, 13.5 percent of the population is experiencing either total unemployment or partial unemployment at the current time across the country.

MR. BARRON. Taking all those groups, yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. Is there any bright spot that you see in the unemployment picture this morning? I am looking for one and I can't find it.

MR. BARRON. Well, the growth of the part-time for economic reasons, as you point out. Those were people who wished to have full-time employment, but that was employment, if you want to view that as a bright spot. It wasn't relative to their wishes, but it was employment of a sort.

SENATOR SARBANES. Let me just interject.

They did not come out of the pool of people who were completely unemployed. That pool has stayed the same, has it not?

MR. BARRON. The total number of unemployed is about the same.

SENATOR SARBANES. It would be one thing if you said to me that the number of people working part-time who want to work full time has gone up, but the number of people who are completely unemployed has gone down, so, we would then have at least some movement out of being completely unemployed to being partially employed.

But the number of people completely unemployed at 7.1 percent has stayed the same. And if I look at the unadjusted figures, there is a jump

of a million people in unadjusted terms. So, unemployment stayed the same while the number of people wanting to work full time but only finding part-time work has gone up.

It would seem to me that the increase in the number of people working part-time is coming from people who previously were working full time. So, in effect, what has happened is that some people working full time have now dropped into only being able to find part-time work.

Wouldn't that analysis be correct?

MR. BARRON. It is either that, or they returned to the labor force. But, obviously, as we reported and as you pointed out, they didn't get the type of employment that they wished. But they did have employment, sir.

The only other bright spots that I think one can find in the business survey were——

SENATOR SARBANES. We don't even have to call them bright spots. Why don't we just say dim lights? Just a flicker on the horizon.

Obviously, there is no bright light here. I think that's pretty clear. What about some dim flicker on the horizon?

MR. BARRON. Perhaps, we can just agree on some areas of growth, Mr. Chairman, in the service sector.

SENATOR SARBANES. In the health services, but not quite as much as before.

MR. BARRON. Well, frankly, I think it's about half of what they were, but there was growth. There was some growth in finance and some growth in the transportation sector. Those three spots did experience some growth.

SENATOR SARBANES. But construction, manufacturing—the really large sectors—were on a negative course. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. I think the decline is concentrated in manufacturing and retail trade, but then we had weakness generally, as you are pointing out, in the other sectors.

SENATOR SARBANES. Gentlemen, I thank you very much. You are simply the messengers bringing the message, and it's the message that we have to address. I simply want to close by underscoring the concern that I think these figures should raise.

The January figures, in my judgment, are worse than the figures that we looked at last month. Even though the official unemployment rate has stayed the same, if you analyze beneath that and look at the other components of the comprehensive unemployment, I think the condition has worsened.

I close with the observation that I am very deeply concerned that the program put forward by the President is completely inadequate to address the economic situation in which we find ourselves.

The President's program, by his own projections—and there are a lot of people who question those projections—but even if you accept them, will only contribute six-tenths of 1 percent growth to the economy.

In fact, the difference projected in employment between the Administration's plan and the Administration's estimate of jobs, if you just simply stay the course, is 380,000 jobs. That is really a drop in the bucket when almost 10 million people are unemployed this month, without work.

So, it is not a bold effort to address the economic situation in which the country finds itself.

We thank you very much for your testimony.

MR. BARRON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. The Committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:45 a.m., the Committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

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FEBRUARY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1992

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:48 a.m., in room SD–628, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes (chairman of the Comittee) presiding.

Present: Senator Sarbanes and Representative Obey.

Also present: William Buechner, professional staff member.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR SARBANES
CHAIRMAN

SENATOR SARBANES. The hearing will come to order.

The Joint Economic Committee meets this morning to review the employment and unemployment situation for the month of February. We're very pleased to welcome our witness, William Barron, the Acting Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as well as his regular colleagues, Mr. Plewes and Mr. Dalton.

Today's figures are very grim. They obviously not only give pause, but right on their face refute those who have been asserting that this recession has come to an end.

The unemployment rate for the month of February rose to 7.3 percent—the highest level in this recession. Previously, the highest level occured last month when it was 7.1 percent. So, we now are experiencing the highest level of unemployment in a recession which now has lasted longer than any in the postwar period.

The number of unemployed represented by the 7.3 percent figure went up to 9.2 million people, the highest number of people unemployed since December of 1983, over eight years ago.

In fact, there are more people unemployed now than were unemployed at the worst point of any other recession in the postwar period, except for the very deep downturn in 1981-82.

Furthermore, there was a rise of 125,000 in the number of people unemployed six months or more. Currently, almost one out of every five jobless workers has been without work for six months or longer. A year ago, the figure was one out of every ten. A year ago, one out of every ten unemployed workers had been out of work six months or longer. Now, it's one out of every five unemployed workers.

The job outlook remains gloomy. People are still losing jobs. Hundreds of thousands of layoffs have been announced that are yet to come in 1992. The recession is now 21 months long, the longest since the Great Depression.

Some economic indicators have moved up recently. The Secretary of Labor cited the weekly claims for unemployment insurance that fell by 21,000 in the last report, but newspaper articles point out that some economists said the number of claims may have been distorted by the President's Day holiday when unemployment offices were closed.

Nevertheless, the Secretary of Labor put out a statement saying that the economy is pointed in the right direction and may be starting to gain momentum. That is in this morning's paper.

Today, we get the figure that the unemployment rate has jumped to 7.3 percent.

It is obvious that the American economy is in serious trouble. This recession has brought into stark relief many of the problems that have built up over a decade of economic management.

I am now going to turn to Mr. Barron for his analysis of the figures. But before I do that, I'll yield to Congressman Obey for any statement he may have.

OPENING STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE OBEY

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I really hadn't planned to make a statement, but I would say that I find three things disturbing in this report today.

Number one, of course, is the further increase in the unemployment rate, which is bad news for the country and bad news for our workers.

But I find even more disturbing what it means for the long term, because if you couple these numbers with the Administration's own official projections of the expected unemployment rate in future years, you see that the Administration expects unemployment to be higher at the completion of the President's second term, if he is re-elected, than it was before the recession started. This indicates that under the Administration's own budget projections, planners do not believe that in the next 4½ years that the country will be back to where it was before the recession started. That is really a bleak picture for workers.

The second disturbing problem is that this is a very different recession from others that we have seen in the postwar period because such a high percentage of the job loss is jobs that are not being eliminated because of temporary cyclical problems, but, rather, are being eliminated permanently from the landscape.

And the nature of those jobs, being so heavily into manufacturing, indicates that in addition to continuing to losing these jobs that this country is losing them on a permanent basis, and we're losing some of the best jobs in the country. Yet, I see very little happening officially to

try to do something about it. The government seems, as FDR said a long time ago, frozen in the ice of its own indifference.

It seems to me that these numbers ought to shake what remaining lethargy there is in this town. And, hopefully, it will at least help people to focus on the need to react to the plight of those who are the primary victims of this economic trend.

SENATOR SARBANES. Thank you very much, Congressman Obey.

Mr. Barron, we're prepared to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM G. BARRON, JR., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: ACCOMPANIED BY THOMAS PLEWES, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT; AND KENNETH V. DALTON, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR PRICES AND LIVING CONDITIONS

MR. BARRON. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to add a few comments to this morning's Employment Situation news release.

Payroll employment advanced, recouping the loss of the previous month, and the average workweek increased sharply. On the other hand, the unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.3 percent.

The number of payroll jobs rose by 164,000 in February. Much of this increase occurred in retail trade. The industry showed job growth of 133,000, with a sizable portion of it in general merchandise stores.

As always, when we have an unusually large change, we should exercise caution in assessing their significance. Recessionary forces have modified the seasonal patterns for the industry. Although cyclical influences make it more difficult to discern the underlying employment trend, the February data do suggest some improvement in retail trade.

In addition to retail trade, there were other positive signs in payroll employment. The services industry, after stalling in January, grew by almost 50,000 jobs, with gains in both the business and health components. Despite occasional pauses in job growth during the past year, the services industry has added over half a million jobs, with most of the increase in health services. There were also small, over-the-month job gains in transportation and public utilities and in the finance, insurance and real estate industry.

Employment in manufacturing was little changed in February after falling by about 200,000 during the prior five months. Thirty thousand auto workers returned from layoffs; few other industries showed any sizable movements. The factory workweek increased to 41.1 hours in February, offsetting January's decline and equalling the highest level since before the recession.

Construction employment fell by 30,000 in February. Despite encouraging increases in new home sales and building activity, employment in construction has not yet begun to show increases. The industry has lost over 600,000 jobs since May 1990.

The wholesale trade industry also showed a job loss in February, mostly in durable goods distribution. Wholesalers serve as a major conduit through which manufacturers distribute their products to retailers. In part, because sluggish sales may require a smaller pipeline, employment in wholesale trade has fallen by over 200,000 since the recession began.

Returning to the unemployment figures, the Nation's rate of unemployment rose to 7.3 percent in February, the highest point since July 1985. The number of unemployed persons rose by some 300,000, to 9.2 million. Virtually all of the February increase occurred among persons who had lost their last jobs as opposed to those who might have entered or re-entered the job market to look for work, or those who had left their jobs voluntarily to search for new ones.

Senator Sarbanes. Let me interrupt you.

What does that mean? I am not quite sure I understand that.

The additional 300,000 unemployed are all people who had a job and lost it. Is that correct?

Mr. Barron. Primarily those who had had a job and lost it, yes, sir.

Senator Sarbanes. Rather than people coming into the labor market looking for a job. So, these are people that actually got laid off or terminated from their job.

Is that correct?

Mr. Barron. For the most part, yes.

Senator Sarbanes. All right. Thank you.

Mr. Barron. Unemployment rates increased for each of the three major age/sex groups in February. The jobless rate for adult men, which had leveled off at 6.5 percent for most of the second half of 1991, increased for the third consecutive month to 7.0 percent in February. The rate for adult women increased to 6.1 percent, returning to the December level.

The most pronounced increase, however, occurred among teenagers, whose jobless rate rose 1.7 percentage points to 20.0 percent. The job market for teenagers has been hit particularly hard during this recession, largely because of the deep job cuts in the retail trade industry, where about half of all teens have traditionally found work. The jobless rate for white workers also rose in February while rates for blacks and Hispanics were little changed following increases in January.

Over the last two years, we have reported that the labor force had been growing more slowly than at any time in several decades. It has been suggested that this slow growth had lessened the upward push on unemployment. Since November, however, labor force growth has

accelerated. Nearly a million more persons were in the labor market in February than in November of last year.

In summary, after exhibiting considerable weakness in recent months, nonfarm payroll employment showed signs of growth in February. The unemployment rate also rose, however, to a recession high of 7.3 percent.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

[The table attached to Mr. Barron's statement, together with the Employment Situation press release, follows:]

Unemployment rates of all civilian workers by alternative seasonal adjustment methods

Month and year	Unad-justed rate	X-11 ARIMA method						X-11 method (official method before 1980)	Range (cols. 2-8)
		Official procedure	Concurrent (as first computed)	Concurrent (revised)	Stable	Total	Residual		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1991									
February....	7.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5	.1
March.......	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	.1
April.......	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	.1
May.........	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	-
June........	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.9	.2
July........	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	.1
August......	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	.-
September...	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	.1
October.....	6.4	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	.1
November....	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	.1
December....	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	-
1992									
January.....	8.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	.2
February....	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.4	.2

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
March 1992

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(1) Unadjusted rate. Unemployment rate for all civilian workers, not seasonally adjusted.

(2) Official procedure (X-11 ARIMA method). The published seasonally adjusted rate for all civilian workers. Each of the 3 major civilian labor force components--agricultural employment, nonagricultural employment and unemployment--for 4 age-sex groups--males and females, ages 16-19 and 20 years and over--are seasonally adjusted independently using data from January 1975 forward. The data series for each of these 12 components are extended by a year at each end of the original series using ARIMA (Auto-Regressive, Integrated, Moving Average) models chosen specifically for each series. Each extended series is then seasonally adjusted with the X-11 portion of the X-11 ARIMA program. The 4 teenage unemployment and nonagricultural employment components are adjusted with the additive adjustment model, while the other components are adjusted with the multiplicative model. The unemployment rate is computed by summing the 4 seasonally adjusted unemployment components and calculating that total as a percent of the civilian labor force total derived by summing all 12 seasonally adjusted components. All the seasonally adjusted series are revised at the end of each year. Extrapolated factors for January-June are computed at the beginning of each year; extrapolated factors for July-December are computed in the middle of the year after the June data become available. Each set of 6-month factors are published in advance, in the January and July issues, respectively, of Employment and Earnings.

(3) Concurrent (as first computed, X-11 ARIMA method). The official procedure for computation of the rate for all civilian workers using the 12 components is followed except that extrapolated factors are not used at all. Each component is seasonally adjusted with the X-11 ARIMA program each month as the most recent data become available. Rates for each month of the current year are shown as first computed; they are revised only once each year, at the end of the year when data for the full year become available. For example, the rate for January 1985 would be based, during 1985, on the adjustment of data from the period January 1975 through January 1985.

(4) Concurrent (revised, X-11 ARIMA method). The procedure used is identical to (3) above, and the rate for the current month (the last month displayed) will always be the same in the two columns. However, all previous months are subject to revision each month based on the seasonal adjustment of all the components with data through the current month.

(5) Stable (X-11 ARIMA method). Each of the 12 civilian labor force components is extended using ARIMA models as in the official procedure and then run through the X-11 part of the program using the stable option. This option assumes that seasonal patterns are basically constant from year-to-year and computes final seasonal factors as unweighted averages of all the seasonal-irregular components for each month across the entire span of the period adjusted. As in the official procedure, factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series are revised at the end of each year. The procedure for computation of the rate from the seasonally adjusted components is also identical to the official procedure.

(6) Total (X-11 ARIMA method). This is one alternative aggregation procedure, in which total unemployment and civilian labor force levels are extended with ARIMA models and directly adjusted with multiplicative adjustment models in the X-11 part of the program. The rate is computed by taking seasonally adjusted total unemployment as a percent of seasonally adjusted total civilian labor force. Factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series revised at the end of each year.

(7) Residual (X-11 ARIMA method). This is another alternative aggregation method, in which total civilian employment and civilian labor force levels are extended using ARIMA models and then directly adjusted with multiplicative adjustment models. The seasonally adjusted unemployment level is derived by subtracting seasonally adjusted employment from seasonally adjusted labor force. The rate is then computed by taking the derived unemployment level as a percent of the labor force level. Factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series revised at the end of each year.

(8) X-11 method (official method before 1980). The method for computation of the official procedure is used except that the series are not extended with ARIMA models and the factors are projected in 12-month intervals. The standard X-11 program is used to perform the seasonal adjustment.

Methods of Adjustment: The X-11 ARIMA method was developed at Statistics Canada by the Seasonal Adjustment and Times Series Staff under the direction of Estela Bee Dagum. The method is described in The X-11 ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Method, by Estela Bee Dagum, Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 12-564E, February 1980.

The standard X-11 method is described in X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program, by Julius Shiskin, Allan Young and John Musgrave (Technical Paper No. 15, Bureau of the Census, 1967).

News

United States
Department
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics   Washington, D.C. 20212

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: FEBRUARY 1992

Nonfarm payroll employment rose in February, offsetting January's loss, but unemployment increased further, with the jobless rate rising to 7.3 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The gain in payroll employment was concentrated in retail trade, services, and auto manufacturing. The average workweek rose sharply.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The number of unemployed workers increased by 315,000 in February to 9.2 million. The unemployment rate was up two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.3 percent, its highest level since July 1985. Since the start of the recession in July of 1990, the jobless rate has increased by 1.9 percentage points. (See table A-1.)

The jobless rate for teenagers increased by 1.7 percentage points in February to 20.0 percent, following a decline in January. The rate for men 20 years of age and over continued its upward movement, to 7.0 percent, six-tenths of a point above November's rate. The rate for adult women edged up to 6.1 percent. The unemployment rate for white workers moved up three-tenths of a point to 6.5 percent, while the rate for blacks was about unchanged at 13.8 percent, after rising by a percentage point in January. The rate for Hispanic workers was also little changed at 11.6 percent, after increasing substantially the prior month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of persons unemployed for 6 months or longer continued to rise in February and, at 1.7 million, has nearly doubled over the past year. Nearly 1 in 5 of the persons who were unemployed in February had been jobless for longer than 6 months. The number of persons jobless for 5 to 14 weeks also rose over the month, while the number of newly unemployed, those jobless for less than 5 weeks, fell. The number of unemployed who had lost their last jobs was up by 540,000 in February to 5.3 million. (See tables A-5 and A-6.)

After increasing by 400,000 in January to 6.7 million, the number of persons working part time for economic reasons (often referred to as the partially unemployed) edged back a bit to 6.5 million in February. (See table A-3.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Jan.-Feb. change
	1991		1991	1992		
	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	125,266|	125,500|	125,619|	126,046|	126,287|	241
Employment..........	116,767|	116,789|	116,728|	117,117|	117,043|	-74
Unemployment........	8,499|	8,711|	8,891|	8,929|	9,244|	315
Not in labor force....	64,712|	64,949|	64,986|	64,713|	64,597|	-116
Discouraged workers.	1,064|	1,094|	N.A.		N.A.		N.A.		N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.........	6.8|	6.9|	7.1|	7.1|	7.3|	0.2
Adult men.........	6.5|	6.5|	6.6|	6.9|	7.0|	.1
Adult women.......	5.6|	6.0|	6.1|	5.9|	6.1|	.2
Teenagers.........	19.0|	19.0|	19.3|	18.3|	20.0|	1.7
White.............	6.1|	6.2|	6.3|	6.2|	6.5|	.3
Black.............	12.2|	12.6|	12.7|	13.7|	13.8|	.1
Hispanic origin...	10.1|	10.1|	9.7|	11.3|	11.6|	.3
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,965|	108,933|	108,882|	p108,733|	p108,897|	p164
Goods-producing 1/..	23,807|	23,625|	23,552|	p23,503|	p23,485|	p-18
Construction......	4,695|	4,615|	4,589|	p4,600|	p4,570|	p-30
Manufacturing.....	18,419|	18,336|	18,293|	p18,237|	p18,249|	p12
Service-producing 1/	85,158|	85,308|	85,330|	p85,230|	p85,412|	p182
Retail trade......	19,343|	19,246|	19,224|	p19,161|	p19,294|	p133
Services..........	28,834|	29,028|	29,057|	p29,065|	p29,112|	p47
Government........	18,419|	18,483|	18,514|	p18,509|	p18,497|	p-12
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.......	34.3|	34.4|	34.5|	p34.3|	p34.7|	p0.4
Manufacturing.......	40.9|	41.0|	41.1|	p40.8|	p41.1|	p.3
Overtime..........	3.7|	3.7|	3.8|	p3.6|	p3.8|	p.2

1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.   p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Total employment was about unchanged in February, at a seasonally adjusted level of 117.0 million. There has been very little movement in this measure over the last year, after a sharp drop during the first 6 months of the recession. The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population with a job--though also little changed at 61.3 percent in February, was 1.4 percentage points lower than at the start of the recession. (See table A-1.)

The labor force increased slightly, after seasonal adjustment, reaching 126.3 million in February. After a lengthy period of very slow growth, the labor force increased by nearly a million over the last 3 months. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of the working-age population either working or looking for a job--was 66.2 percent, a rise of four-tenths of a percentage point since November. Since the start of the recession, labor force growth has just kept pace with the rise in the working-age population. (See table A-1.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 164,000 in February to 108.9 million, after seasonal adjustment. Retail trade employment showed an increase of 133,000 (seasonally adjusted), offsetting declines of the prior 3 months. Nevertheless, employment in this industry remains 415,000 below the July 1990 level. (See table B-1.)

The services industry resumed growth in February, with gains of 25,000 and 31,000, respectively, in the business and health components. Transportation and public utilities gained 15,000 jobs, following 4 months of employment declines totaling 31,000. Employment declines continued in wholesale trade, with durable goods distribution sustaining most of the losses. This industry has lost about 220,000 jobs since the recession began.

Factory employment was little changed in February after seasonal adjustment, following a 5-month string of declines. There was a large increase in auto manufacturing, due to returns from layoff, and gains in several auto-related industries. These movements were partially offset by further declines in electronic equipment, instruments, apparel, and printing.

Construction employment fell by 30,000 in February, more than offsetting gains made in the prior 2 months. About 635,000 construction jobs have been lost since May 1990. Employment in the mining industry held steady in February, following declines for the prior 11 months.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls increased sharply, by 0.4 hour, to 34.7 hours in February, following a decline of 0.2 hour in the previous month. The

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factory workweek rose 0.3 hour to 41.1 hours, the same level as in December; factory overtime rose by 0.2 hour to 3.8 hours. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers rose by 1.5 percent to 122.6 (1982=100) in February, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing index gained 0.9 percent to 102.4, after decreasing in each of the prior 2 months. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up 0.3 percent in February to $10.50, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings increased by 1.5 percent to $364.35, largely due to the increase in average weekly hours. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents to $10.53 and average weekly earnings increased by $6.28 to $361.18. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 2.9 percent and average weekly earnings rose by 4.1 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for March 1992 will be released on Friday, April 3, at 8:30 A.M. (EST).

Explanatory Note

This news release presents statistics from two major surveys, the Current Population Survey (household survey) and the Current Employment Statistics Survey (establishment survey). The household survey provides the information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment that appears in the A tables, marked HOUSEHOLD DATA. It is a sample survey of about 60,000 households that is conducted by the Bureau of the Census with most of the findings analyzed and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The establishment survey provides the information on the employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls that appears in the B tables, marked ESTABLISHMENT DATA. This information is collected from payroll records by BLS in cooperation with State agencies. The sample includes over 350,000 establishments employing over 41 million people.

For both surveys, the data for a given month are actually collected for and relate to a particular week. In the household survey, unless otherwise indicated, it is the calendar week that contains the 12th day of the month, which is called the survey week. In the establishment survey, the reference week is the pay period including the 12th, which may or may not correspond directly to the calendar week.

The data in this release are affected by a number of technical factors, including definitions, survey differences, seasonal adjustments, and the inevitable variance in results between a survey of a sample and a census of the entire population. Each of these factors is explained below.

Coverage, definitions, and differences between surveys

The sample households in the household survey are selected so as to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and older. Each person in a household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. Those who hold more than one job are classified according to the job at which they worked the most hours.

People are classified as *employed* if they did any work at all as paid employees; worked in their own business or profession or on their own farm; or worked 15 hours or more in an enterprise operated by a member of their family, whether they were paid or not. People are also counted as employed if they were on unpaid leave because of illness, bad weather, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons.

People are classified as *unemployed*, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: They had no employment during the survey week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the prior 4 weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

The *civilian labor force* equals the sum of the number employed and the number unemployed. The *unemployment rate* is the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force. Table A-7 presents a special grouping of seven measures of unemployment based on varying definitions of unemployment and the labor force. The definitions are provided in the table. The most restrictive definition yields U-1 and the most comprehensive yields U-7. The civilian worker unemployment rate is U-5b, while U-5a, the overall unemployment rate, includes the resident Armed Forces in the labor force base.

Unlike the household survey, the establishment survey only counts wage and salary employees whose names appear on the payroll records of nonfarm firms. As a result, there are many differences between the two surveys, among which are the following:

● The household survey, although based on a smaller sample, reflects a larger segment of the population; the establishment survey excludes agriculture, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers;

● The household survey includes people on unpaid leave among the employed; the establishment survey does not;

● The household survey is limited to those 16 years of age and older; the establishment survey is not limited by age;

● The household survey has no duplication of individuals, because each individual is counted only once; in the establishment survey, employees working at more than one job or otherwise appearing on more than one payroll would be counted separately for each appearance.

Other differences between the two surveys are described in "Comparing Employment Estimates from Household and Payroll Surveys," which may be obtained from BLS upon request.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. For example, the labor force increases by a large number each June, when schools close and many young people enter the job market. The effect of such seasonal variation can be very large; over the course of a year, for example, seasonality may account for as much as 95 percent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment.

Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics from month to month. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments, such as declines in economic activity or increases in the participation of women in the labor force, easier to spot. To return to the school's-out example, the large number of people entering the labor force each June is likely to obscure any other changes that have taken place since May, making it difficult to determine if the level of economic activity has risen or declined. However, because the effect of students finishing school in previous years is known, the statistics for the current year can be adjusted to allow for a comparable

change. Insofar as the seasonal adjustment is made correctly, the adjusted figure provides a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in economic activity.

Measures of labor force, employment, and unemployment contain components such as age and sex. Statistics for all employees, production workers, average weekly hours, and average hourly earnings include components based on the employer's industry. All these statistics can be seasonally adjusted either by adjusting the total or by adjusting each of the components and combining them. The second procedure usually yields more accurate information and is therefore followed by BLS. For example, the seasonally adjusted figure for the civilian labor force is the sum of eight seasonally adjusted employment components and four seasonally adjusted unemployment components; the total for unemployment is the sum of the four unemployment components; and the unemployment rate is derived by dividing the resulting estimate of total unemployment by the estimate of the civilian labor force.

The numerical factors used to make the seasonal adjustments are recalculated twice a year. For the household survey, the factors are calculated for the January-June period and again for the July-December period. For the establishment survey, updated factors for seasonal adjustment are calculated for the May-October period and introduced along with new benchmarks, and again for the November-April period. In both surveys, revisions to historical data are made once a year.

Sampling variability

Statistics based on the household and establishment surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the estimate of the number of people employed and the other estimates drawn from these surveys probably differ from the figures that would be obtained from a complete census, even if the same questionnaires and procedures were used. In the household survey, the amount of the differences can be expressed in terms of standard errors. The numerical value of a standard error depends upon the size of the sample, the results of the survey, and other factors. However, the numerical value is always such that the chances are approximately 68 out of 100 that an estimate based on the sample will differ by no more than the standard error from the results of a complete census. The chances are approximately 90 out of 100 that an estimate based on the sample will differ by no more than 1.6 times the standard error from the results of a complete census. At approximately the 90-percent level of confidence—the confidence limits used by BLS in its analyses—the error for the monthly change in total employment is on the order of plus or minus 358,000; for total unemployment it is 224,000; and, for the civilian worker unemployment rate, it is 0.19 percentage points. These figures do not mean that the sample results are off by these magnitudes but, rather, that the chances are approximately 90 out of 100 that the "true" level or rate would not be expected to differ from the estimates by more than these amounts.

Sampling errors for monthly surveys are reduced when the data are cumulated for several months, such as quarterly or annually. Also, as a general rule, the smaller the estimate, the larger the sampling error. Therefore, relatively speaking, the estimate of the size of the labor force is subject to less error than is the estimate of the number unemployed. And, among the unemployed, the sampling error for the jobless rate of adult men, for example, is much smaller than is the error for the jobless rate of teenagers. Specifically, the error on monthly change in the jobless rate for men is .25 percentage point; for teenagers, it is 1.29 percentage points.

In the establishment survey, estimates for the most current 2 months are based on incomplete returns; for this reason, these estimates are labeled preliminary in the tables. When all the returns in the sample have been received, the estimates are revised. In other words, data for the month of September are published in preliminary form in October and November and in final form in December. To remove errors that build up over time, a comprehensive count of the employed is conducted each year. The results of this survey are used to establish new benchmarks—comprehensive counts of employment—against which month-to-month changes can be measured. The new benchmarks also incorporate changes in the classification of industries and allow for the formation of new establishments.

Additional statistics and other information

In order to provide a broad view of the nation's employment situation, BLS regularly publishes a wide variety of data in this news release. More comprehensive statistics are contained in *Employment and Earnings*, published each month by BLS. It is available for $10.00 per issue or $31.00 per year from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20204. A check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents must accompany all orders.

Employment and Earnings also provides approximations of the standard errors for the household survey data published in this release. For unemployment and other labor force categories, the standard errors appear in tables B through J of its "Explanatory Notes." Measures of the reliability of the data drawn from the establishment survey and the actual amounts of revision due to benchmark adjustments are provided in tables M, O, P, and Q of that publication.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-523-1221, TDD phone: 202-523-3926, TDD Message Referral Phone Number: 1-800-326-2577.

Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
TOTAL									
Civilian noninstitutional population	189,115	190,759	190,884	189,115	190,289	190,452	190,605	190,759	190,884
Civilian labor force	124,070	125,072	125,386	125,067	125,508	125,374	125,619	126,046	126,287
Participation rate	65.6	65.6	65.7	66.1	66.0	65.8	65.9	66.1	66.2
Employed	115,151	115,122	115,224	116,937	116,867	116,772	116,728	117,117	117,043
Employment-population ratio	60.9	60.3	60.4	61.8	61.4	61.3	61.2	61.4	61.3
Agriculture	2,786	2,722	2,786	3,237	3,204	3,272	3,183	3,166	3,232
Nonagricultural industries	112,366	112,400	112,438	113,700	113,663	113,500	113,545	113,951	113,811
Unemployed	8,919	9,949	10,161	8,130	8,641	8,602	8,891	8,929	9,244
Unemployment rate	7.2	8.0	8.1	6.5	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3
Not in labor force	65,045	65,687	65,498	64,048	64,781	65,078	64,986	64,713	64,597
Men, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	90,211	91,094	91,164	90,211	90,830	90,924	91,008	91,094	91,164
Civilian labor force	67,724	68,117	68,244	68,295	68,491	68,417	68,416	68,618	68,710
Participation rate	75.1	74.8	74.9	75.7	75.4	75.2	75.2	75.3	75.4
Employed	62,296	62,024	62,027	63,611	63,597	63,572	63,426	63,453	63,352
Employment-population ratio	69.1	68.1	68.0	70.5	70.0	69.9	69.7	69.7	69.5
Unemployed	5,427	6,093	6,218	4,684	4,894	4,845	4,990	5,165	5,359
Unemployment rate	8.0	8.9	9.1	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.8
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	83,392	84,464	84,549	83,392	84,151	84,245	84,367	84,464	84,549
Civilian labor force	64,404	64,915	65,077	64,583	64,961	64,914	64,962	65,061	65,179
Participation rate	77.2	76.9	77.0	77.4	77.2	77.1	77.0	77.0	77.1
Employed	59,640	59,526	59,625	60,573	60,746	60,764	60,672	60,600	60,597
Employment-population ratio	71.5	70.5	70.5	72.6	72.2	72.1	71.9	71.7	71.7
Agriculture	2,063	2,020	2,083	2,332	2,370	2,390	2,317	2,277	2,356
Nonagricultural industries	57,577	57,506	57,542	58,241	58,376	58,374	58,355	58,323	58,241
Unemployed	4,764	5,389	5,452	4,010	4,215	4,150	4,290	4,461	4,582
Unemployment rate	7.4	8.3	8.4	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.9	7.0
Women, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	98,904	99,665	99,720	98,904	99,459	99,528	99,597	99,665	99,720
Civilian labor force	56,346	56,955	57,141	56,772	57,017	56,957	57,203	57,428	57,578
Participation rate	57.0	57.1	57.3	57.4	57.3	57.2	57.4	57.6	57.7
Employed	52,855	53,099	53,198	53,326	53,270	53,200	53,302	53,664	53,691
Employment-population ratio	53.4	53.3	53.3	53.9	53.6	53.5	53.5	53.8	53.8
Unemployed	3,491	3,856	3,944	3,446	3,747	3,757	3,901	3,764	3,886
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.8	6.9	6.1	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	92,198	93,125	93,208	92,198	92,875	92,958	93,032	93,125	93,208
Civilian labor force	53,179	54,019	54,135	53,318	53,696	53,655	53,909	54,190	54,272
Participation rate	57.7	58.0	58.1	57.8	57.8	57.7	57.9	58.2	58.2
Employed	50,209	50,669	50,734	50,438	50,564	50,474	50,613	50,968	50,973
Employment-population ratio	54.5	54.4	54.4	54.7	54.4	54.3	54.4	54.7	54.7
Agriculture	580	575	584	667	638	672	661	673	672
Nonagricultural industries	49,629	50,094	50,150	49,771	49,928	49,802	49,952	50,295	50,301
Unemployed	2,970	3,350	3,401	2,880	3,132	3,181	3,296	3,221	3,299
Unemployment rate	5.6	6.2	6.3	5.4	5.8	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian noninstitutional population	13,525	13,169	13,127	13,525	13,263	13,250	13,206	13,169	13,127
Civilian labor force	6,487	6,138	6,174	7,166	6,851	6,805	6,748	6,796	6,836
Participation rate	48.0	46.6	47.0	53.0	51.7	51.4	51.1	51.6	52.1
Employed	5,302	4,927	4,866	5,926	5,557	5,534	5,443	5,549	5,472
Employment-population ratio	39.2	37.4	37.1	43.8	41.9	41.8	41.2	42.1	41.7
Agriculture	142	127	119	238	198	210	205	216	203
Nonagricultural industries	5,160	4,800	4,748	5,688	5,359	5,324	5,238	5,333	5,269
Unemployed	1,185	1,210	1,308	1,240	1,294	1,271	1,305	1,247	1,364
Unemployment rate	18.3	19.7	21.2	17.3	18.9	18.7	19.3	18.3	20.0

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	161,097	162,144	162,219	161,097	161,848	161,949	162,047	162,144	162,219
Civilian labor force	106,656	107,118	107,442	107,309	107,632	107,599	107,846	107,973	108,071
Participation rate	66.2	66.1	66.2	66.7	66.5	66.4	66.4	66.6	66.6
Employed	99,698	99,476	99,583	101,184	101,067	100,977	100,828	101,235	101,073
Employment-population ratio	61.9	61.4	61.4	62.8	62.4	62.4	62.2	62.4	62.3
Unemployed	6,958	7,641	7,860	6,215	6,565	6,622	6,818	6,737	6,998
Unemployment rate	6.5	7.1	7.3	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.5
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	55,921	56,258	56,400	56,047	56,320	56,312	56,244	56,400	56,439
Participation rate	77.7	77.4	77.5	77.8	77.7	77.8	77.4	77.8	77.6
Employed	52,115	52,009	52,072	52,894	52,990	53,011	52,896	52,908	52,865
Employment-population ratio	72.4	71.5	71.6	73.5	73.1	73.0	72.8	72.8	72.7
Unemployed	3,806	4,249	4,328	3,153	3,330	3,301	3,348	3,491	3,574
Unemployment rate	6.8	7.6	7.7	5.6	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.3
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	45,100	45,603	45,742	45,173	45,384	45,372	45,530	45,762	45,789
Participation rate	57.6	57.8	58.0	57.7	57.6	57.6	57.8	58.0	58.0
Employed	42,847	43,121	43,206	43,025	43,118	43,038	43,076	43,425	43,380
Employment-population ratio	54.7	54.7	54.8	55.0	54.8	54.6	54.6	55.1	55.0
Unemployed	2,253	2,482	2,535	2,148	2,266	2,334	2,454	2,337	2,410
Unemployment rate	5.0	5.4	5.5	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.3
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	5,636	5,257	5,301	6,179	5,926	5,915	5,872	5,811	5,843
Participation rate	52.1	49.8	50.3	57.1	55.0	55.8	55.5	55.0	55.4
Employed	4,737	4,346	4,304	5,265	4,959	4,928	4,856	4,902	4,829
Employment-population ratio	43.8	41.1	40.8	48.7	46.7	46.5	45.9	46.4	45.8
Unemployed	899	910	996	914	969	987	1,016	909	1,014
Unemployment rate	16.0	17.3	18.8	14.8	16.3	16.7	17.3	15.6	17.4
Men	17.9	19.1	21.3	15.9	16.9	17.4	18.0	16.6	19.0
Women	13.9	15.4	16.1	13.6	15.8	15.9	16.6	14.6	15.5
BLACK									
Civilian noninstitutional population	21,493	21,803	21,828	21,493	21,714	21,745	21,774	21,803	21,828
Civilian labor force	13,255	13,574	13,505	13,444	13,570	13,426	13,559	13,723	13,680
Participation rate	61.7	62.3	61.9	62.5	62.5	61.7	62.3	62.9	62.7
Employed	11,605	11,676	11,556	11,845	11,834	11,779	11,841	11,837	11,794
Employment-population ratio	54.0	53.6	52.9	55.1	54.5	54.2	54.4	54.3	54.0
Unemployed	1,651	1,899	1,949	1,599	1,736	1,647	1,718	1,886	1,886
Unemployment rate	12.5	14.0	14.4	11.9	12.8	12.3	12.7	13.7	13.8
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,312	6,379	6,354	6,359	6,377	6,357	6,402	6,427	6,387
Participation rate	73.3	72.7	72.3	73.8	73.0	72.7	73.0	73.2	72.8
Employed	5,513	5,461	5,411	5,639	5,673	5,675	5,665	5,567	5,533
Employment-population ratio	64.0	62.2	61.5	65.5	65.0	64.9	64.6	63.4	62.9
Unemployed	799	918	943	720	704	682	737	860	854
Unemployment rate	12.7	14.4	14.8	11.3	11.0	10.7	11.5	13.4	13.4
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,288	6,485	6,437	6,314	6,464	6,366	6,460	6,469	6,484
Participation rate	58.4	59.3	58.7	58.6	59.3	58.3	59.1	59.1	59.0
Employed	5,671	5,755	5,710	5,708	5,716	5,648	5,730	5,732	5,750
Employment-population ratio	52.7	52.6	52.1	53.0	52.5	51.8	52.4	52.4	52.5
Unemployed	617	729	727	606	748	718	730	737	714
Unemployment rate	9.8	11.2	11.3	9.6	11.6	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.0
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	656	710	713	771	729	703	697	827	829
Participation rate	31.1	34.2	34.3	36.5	34.9	33.7	33.5	39.8	39.9
Employed	420	459	434	498	445	456	446	538	511
Employment-population ratio	19.9	22.1	20.9	23.6	21.3	21.9	21.4	25.9	24.6
Unemployed	235	251	279	273	284	247	251	289	318
Unemployment rate	35.9	35.4	39.1	35.4	39.0	35.1	36.0	34.9	38.4
Men	39.4	37.7	42.4	35.8	36.1	36.4	35.7	35.8	39.0
Women	32.7	32.4	35.3	35.0	42.1	33.8	36.3	33.8	37.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
HISPANIC ORIGIN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	14,593	15,027	15,066	14,593	14,906	14,948	14,987	15,027	15,066
Civilian labor force	9,493	9,821	9,914	9,618	9,900	9,848	9,875	9,984	10,033
Participation rate	65.1	65.4	65.8	65.9	66.4	65.9	65.9	66.3	66.6
Employed	8,534	8,658	8,688	8,705	8,865	8,844	8,915	8,835	8,865
Employment-population ratio	58.5	57.6	57.7	59.7	59.5	59.2	59.5	58.8	58.8
Unemployed	959	1,184	1,226	913	1,035	1,004	960	1,129	1,168
Unemployment rate	10.1	11.8	12.4	9.5	10.5	10.2	9.7	11.3	11.6

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.
NOTE: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table A-3. Selected employment indicators

(In thousands)

Category	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
CHARACTERISTIC									
Civilian employed, 16 years and over	115,151	115,122	115,224	116,937	116,867	116,772	116,728	117,117	117,043
Married men, spouse present	40,037	39,691	39,426	40,517	40,472	40,398	40,206	40,092	39,905
Married women, spouse present	29,561	29,653	29,692	29,695	29,838	29,803	29,779	29,832	29,841
Women who maintain families	6,403	6,599	6,575	6,388	6,469	6,501	6,536	6,579	6,555
OCCUPATION									
Managerial and professional specialty	31,127	31,173	31,098	31,030	31,139	31,218	31,796	31,120	30,990
Technical, sales, and administrative support	35,847	36,250	36,680	36,162	36,045	35,862	35,628	36,579	37,013
Service occupations	15,663	15,765	15,962	15,847	16,051	16,121	16,078	15,989	16,172
Precision production, craft, and repair	13,053	12,765	12,445	13,366	13,129	13,023	12,982	13,052	12,751
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	16,609	16,356	16,203	17,111	17,138	17,189	16,922	16,999	16,708
Farming, forestry, and fishing	2,852	2,814	2,836	3,474	3,439	3,460	3,420	3,415	3,459
INDUSTRY AND CLASS OF WORKER									
Agriculture:									
Wage and salary workers	1,368	1,317	1,410	1,646	1,654	1,683	1,646	1,583	1,705
Self-employed workers	1,306	1,334	1,295	1,441	1,440	1,486	1,431	1,471	1,426
Unpaid family workers	112	71	81	156	121	115	108	95	112
Nonagricultural industries:									
Wage and salary workers	103,542	103,868	103,813	104,773	104,527	104,291	104,407	105,250	105,055
Government	18,041	17,909	17,870	17,803	18,135	17,812	17,915	17,802	17,841
Private industries	85,500	85,960	85,943	86,970	86,392	86,479	86,492	87,448	87,415
Private households	885	950	1,033	987	993	954	953	1,013	1,130
Other industries	84,615	85,010	84,910	86,003	85,399	85,525	85,539	86,435	86,284
Self-employed workers	8,610	8,323	8,417	8,890	8,950	8,950	8,758	8,476	8,695
Unpaid family workers	214	209	208	237	232	231	229	222	230
PERSONS AT WORK PART TIME[1]									
All industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	6,092	6,806	6,665	5,957	6,304	6,406	6,321	6,719	6,509
Slack work	3,574	3,662	3,664	3,182	3,384	3,297	3,248	3,232	3,260
Could only find part-time work	2,240	2,846	2,735	2,386	2,631	2,766	2,743	3,145	2,906
Voluntary part time	15,779	14,936	15,092	15,002	14,980	14,924	14,893	14,773	14,318
Nonagricultural industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	5,849	6,570	6,412	5,685	6,055	6,123	6,084	6,429	6,213
Slack work	3,371	3,476	3,484	2,994	3,196	3,102	3,081	3,083	3,089
Could only find part-time work	2,210	2,802	2,672	2,330	2,565	2,688	2,664	3,052	2,807
Voluntary part time	15,385	14,570	14,676	14,567	14,497	14,483	14,450	14,326	13,900

[1] Excludes persons "with a job but not at work" during the survey period for such reasons as vacation, illness, or industrial dispute.
NOTE: Data on occupations and industries for 1992 are not fully comparable with data for prior years because of the introduction of the classification systems used in the 1990 decennial census of population. Some categories, particularly "technical, sales, and administrative support," may have significant breaks in comparability.

Table A-4. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Category	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
CHARACTERISTIC									
Total, 16 years and over	8,130	8,929	9,244	6.5	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3
Men, 20 years and over	4,010	4,461	4,582	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.9	7.0
Women, 20 years and over	2,880	3,221	3,299	5.4	5.8	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years	1,240	1,247	1,364	17.3	18.9	18.7	19.3	18.3	20.0
Married men, spouse present	1,788	2,021	2,122	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.0
Married women, spouse present	1,335	1,488	1,501	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.8
Women who maintain families	636	648	686	9.1	9.4	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.5
Full-time workers	6,772	7,394	7,710	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.8	7.1
Part-time workers	1,343	1,519	1,516	7.5	8.4	8.6	8.6	9.1	8.8
Labor force time lost[2]	—	—	—	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.3
OCCUPATION[3]									
Managerial and professional specialty	784	917	993	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.1
Technical, sales, and administrative support	1,880	2,125	2,223	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,090	1,324	1,325	7.5	6.1	8.2	8.3	9.2	9.4
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	2,152	2,061	2,232	11.2	10.1	10.0	10.7	10.8	11.8
Farming, forestry, and fishing	285	305	299	7.6	7.8	8.1	7.6	8.2	8.0
INDUSTRY									
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers	6,346	7,000	7,189	6.8	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.6
Goods-producing industries	2,548	2,626	2,701	8.9	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.7
Mining	48	48	67	6.0	8.3	9.2	8.2	8.3	8.9
Construction	927	1,010	1,026	15.1	16.1	16.1	16.3	17.0	17.4
Manufacturing	1,571	1,469	1,608	7.2	7.0	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.6
Durable goods	996	846	941	7.8	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.0	7.7
Nondurable goods	575	623	667	6.4	6.4	7.9	7.1	7.0	7.5
Service producing industries	3,800	4,476	4,467	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.7
Transportation and public utilities	333	382	347	5.1	5.1	5.7	6.7	5.6	5.1
Wholesale and retail trade	1,750	1,984	2,003	7.3	7.7	7.5	7.8	8.2	8.2
Finance and service industries	1,717	2,110	2,118	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9
Government workers	578	715	732	3.1	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.0
Agricultural wage and salary workers	210	194	227	11.3	11.9	12.4	11.5	10.9	11.7

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.
[2] Aggregate hours lost by the unemployed and persons on part time for economic reasons as a percent of potentially available labor force hours.
[3] Seasonally adjusted unemployment data for service occupations are not available because the seasonal components are small relative to the trend cycle and/or irregular components and consequently cannot be separated with sufficient precision.

NOTE: Data on occupations and industries for 1992 are not fully comparable with data for prior years because of the introduction of the classification systems used in the 1990 decennial census of population. Some categories, particularly "technical, sales, and administrative support," may have significant breaks in comparability.

Table A-5. Duration of unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Weeks of unemployment	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
DURATION									
Less than 5 weeks	3,378	3,699	3,020	3,417	3,300	3,289	3,307	3,329	3,061
5 to 14 weeks	3,373	3,003	3,642	2,694	2,774	2,721	2,764	2,867	2,902
15 weeks and over	2,170	3,258	3,499	1,985	2,570	2,623	2,843	3,069	3,204
15 to 26 weeks	1,207	1,577	1,693	1,066	1,415	1,300	1,372	1,455	1,476
27 weeks and over	962	1,681	1,807	919	1,155	1,323	1,471	1,604	1,729
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	12.8	16.0	16.9	12.9	14.6	14.9	15.3	16.4	17.0
Median duration, in weeks	7.0	8.1	9.2	6.3	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.1	8.2
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	37.9	37.1	29.7	42.2	38.2	38.1	37.1	36.8	33.3
5 to 14 weeks	37.6	30.2	35.8	33.3	32.1	31.5	31.0	29.5	31.7
15 weeks and over	24.3	32.7	34.4	24.5	29.7	30.4	31.9	33.8	35.0
15 to 26 weeks	13.5	15.9	16.7	13.2	16.4	15.1	15.4	16.1	16.1
27 weeks and over	10.8	16.9	17.8	11.4	13.4	15.3	16.5	17.7	18.9

Table A-6. Reason for unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Reason	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Job losers	5,319	5,875	6,337	4,474	4,782	4,698	4,990	4,780	5,321
On layoff	1,988	1,759	1,766	1,441	1,230	1,198	1,256	1,168	1,275
Other job losers	3,331	4,115	4,570	3,033	3,552	3,500	3,734	3,612	4,046
Job leavers	1,004	1,043	910	993	986	987	913	976	900
Reentrants	2,014	2,347	2,160	2,010	2,100	2,106	2,184	2,352	2,162
New entrants	581	684	754	649	813	774	811	790	823
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers	59.6	59.0	62.4	55.1	55.1	54.8	56.2	53.7	57.8
On layoff	22.3	17.7	17.4	17.7	14.2	14.0	14.1	13.1	13.9
Other job losers	37.3	41.4	45.0	37.3	40.9	40.9	42.1	40.6	43.9
Job leavers	11.3	10.5	9.0	12.2	11.4	11.5	10.3	11.0	9.8
Reentrants	22.6	23.6	21.3	24.7	24.2	24.6	24.4	26.4	23.5
New entrants	6.5	6.9	7.4	8.0	9.4	9.0	9.1	8.9	8.9
UNEMPLOYED AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE									
Job losers	4.3	4.7	5.1	3.6	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.8	4.2
Job leavers	.8	.8	.7	.8	.8	.8	.7	.8	.7
Reentrants	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.7
New entrants	.5	.5	.6	.5	.6	.6	.6	.6	.7

Table A-7. Range of unemployment measures based on varying definitions of unemployment and the labor force, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Measure	Quarterly averages					Monthly data		
	1990	1991				1991	1992	
	IV	I	II	III	IV	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer as a percent of the civilian labor force	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5
U-2 Job losers as a percent of the civilian labor force	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.2
U-3 Unemployed persons 25 years and over as a percent of the civilian labor force for persons 25 years and over	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.9	6.0
U-4 Unemployed full-time jobseekers as a percent of the full-time civilian labor force	5.7	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.8	6.8	7.1
U-5a Total unemployed as a percent of the labor force, including the resident Armed Forces	5.9	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.2
U-5b Total unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force	6.0	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3
U-6 Total full-time jobseekers plus 1/2 part-time jobseekers plus 1/2 total on part time for economic reasons as a percent of the civilian labor force less 1/2 of the part-time labor force	8.2	8.9	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.6	9.9	10.0
U-7 Total full-time jobseekers plus 1/2 part-time jobseekers plus 1/2 total on part time for economic reasons plus discouraged workers as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers less 1/2 of the part-time labor force	8.9	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.4	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

N.A. = not available.

Table A-8. Unemployed persons by sex and age, seasonally adjusted

Sex and age	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
Total, 16 years and over	8,130	8,929	9,244	6.5	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3
16 to 24 years	2,656	2,779	2,893	12.7	13.8	13.6	14.3	13.8	14.1
16 to 19 years	1,240	1,247	1,364	17.3	18.9	18.7	19.3	18.3	20.0
16 to 17 years	489	555	576	17.4	21.6	20.9	22.7	20.9	21.5
18 to 19 years	735	653	772	16.6	17.1	17.2	17.2	15.8	18.4
20 to 24 years	1,416	1,532	1,529	10.3	11.3	11.1	11.9	11.2	11.2
25 years and over	5,464	6,280	6,332	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.9	6.0
25 to 54 years	4,891	5,538	5,670	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.3
55 years and over	573	660	664	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.3
Men, 16 years and over	4,684	5,165	5,359	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.8
16 to 24 years	1,505	1,615	1,668	13.7	14.4	14.3	14.8	15.0	15.6
16 to 19 years	674	704	777	18.2	19.2	19.8	20.3	19.8	22.0
16 to 17 years	289	296	326	19.5	21.7	21.3	21.7	21.6	24.0
18 to 19 years	384	382	451	17.1	17.5	18.8	19.2	17.5	20.4
20 to 24 years	831	911	891	11.4	12.0	11.6	12.3	12.7	12.4
25 years and over	3,168	3,691	3,675	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.4	6.3
25 to 54 years	2,797	3,191	3,257	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.5	6.6
55 years and over	364	428	412	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.7
Women, 16 years and over	3,446	3,764	3,886	6.1	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7
16 to 24 years	1,151	1,164	1,225	11.6	13.2	12.9	13.8	12.0	12.6
16 to 19 years	566	543	587	16.4	18.5	17.4	18.4	16.8	17.8
16 to 17 years	200	259	250	15.0	21.4	20.6	23.9	20.3	18.9
18 to 19 years	351	271	321	16.5	16.6	15.5	15.0	14.0	16.2
20 to 24 years	585	621	638	9.0	10.4	10.6	11.4	9.6	9.9
25 years and over	2,296	2,589	2,657	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.6
25 to 54 years	2,094	2,347	2,414	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.9
55 years and over	209	231	253	3.2	3.3	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.8

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Table A-9. Employment status of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans by age, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status and age	Civilian noninstitutional population		Civilian labor force							
			Total		Employed		Unemployed			
							Number		Percent of labor force	
	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1992
VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS										
Total, 35 years and over	7,728	7,838	7,002	7,040	6,528	6,542	474	498	6.8	7.1
35 to 49 years	6,484	6,356	6,103	5,915	5,678	5,460	425	455	7.0	7.7
35 to 39 years	1,255	1,017	1,185	937	1,058	847	127	90	10.7	9.6
40 to 44 years	3,176	2,845	2,993	2,647	2,802	2,438	191	209	6.4	7.9
45 to 49 years	2,053	2,494	1,926	2,331	1,818	2,175	107	157	5.6	6.7
50 years and over	1,244	1,482	899	1,125	850	1,082	49	43	5.5	3.8
NONVETERANS										
Total, 35 to 49 years	17,894	18,986	16,788	17,669	15,832	16,404	956	1,264	5.7	7.2
35 to 39 years	8,164	8,613	7,740	8,109	7,278	7,495	462	614	6.0	7.6
40 to 44 years	5,531	6,040	5,190	5,604	4,932	5,229	258	376	5.0	6.7
45 to 49 years	4,199	4,333	3,858	3,955	3,622	3,680	236	275	6.1	6.9

NOTE: Male Vietnam-era veterans are men who served in the Armed Forces between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. Nonveterans are men who have never served in the Armed Forces; published data are limited to those 35 to 49 years of age, the group that most closely corresponds to the bulk of the Vietnam-era veteran population.

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Table A-10. Employment status of the civilian population for 11 large states

(Numbers in thousands)

State and employment status	Not seasonally adjusted[1]			Seasonally adjusted[2]					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
California									
Civilian noninstitutional population	22,242	22,696	22,737	22,242	22,571	22,614	22,656	22,696	22,737
Civilian labor force	14,722	14,889	14,992	14,826	14,974	14,982	15,087	14,975	15,099
Employed	13,579	13,623	13,610	13,747	13,813	13,864	13,932	13,759	13,781
Unemployed	1,143	1,266	1,381	1,079	1,161	1,118	1,155	1,216	1,317
Unemployment rate	7.8	8.5	9.2	7.3	7.8	7.5	7.7	8.1	8.7
Florida									
Civilian noninstitutional population	10,267	10,485	10,504	10,267	10,424	10,445	10,485	10,485	10,504
Civilian labor force	6,311	6,338	6,389	6,400	6,449	6,490	6,436	6,438	6,479
Employed	5,866	5,794	5,833	5,954	5,974	6,018	5,952	5,881	5,922
Unemployed	444	544	556	446	475	472	484	557	557
Unemployment rate	7.0	8.6	8.7	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.7	8.6
Illinois									
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,900	8,943	8,946	6,900	8,931	8,935	8,939	8,943	8,946
Civilian labor force	6,038	6,081	6,065	6,067	5,979	5,973	6,049	6,124	6,094
Employed	5,653	5,527	5,524	5,705	5,510	5,470	5,497	5,619	5,573
Unemployed	385	554	541	362	469	503	552	505	521
Unemployment rate	6.4	9.1	8.9	6.0	7.8	8.4	9.1	8.3	8.5
Massachusetts									
Civilian noninstitutional population	4,622	4,627	4,627	4,622	4,625	4,626	4,627	4,627	4,627
Civilian labor force	3,103	3,087	3,116	3,117	3,150	3,157	3,164	3,131	3,130
Employed	2,796	2,826	2,851	2,839	2,867	2,880	2,889	2,884	2,895
Unemployed	307	261	264	278	283	277	275	247	234
Unemployment rate	9.9	8.4	8.5	8.9	9.0	8.8	8.7	7.9	7.5
Michigan									
Civilian noninstitutional population	7,010	7,029	7,029	7,010	7,023	7,025	7,027	7,029	7,029
Civilian labor force	4,539	4,564	4,564	4,577	4,520	4,547	4,559	4,607	4,601
Employed	4,074	4,116	4,115	4,143	4,114	4,112	4,138	4,199	4,185
Unemployed	465	448	449	434	406	435	421	408	416
Unemployment rate	10.2	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.0	9.6	9.2	8.9	9.0
New Jersey									
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,026	6,027	6,026	6,026	6,026	6,026	6,026	6,027	6,026
Civilian labor force	3,962	3,984	4,014	3,967	4,030	3,985	3,995	4,024	4,021
Employed	3,694	3,680	3,687	3,718	3,756	3,702	3,707	3,752	3,713
Unemployed	268	304	326	249	274	283	288	272	307
Unemployment rate	6.8	7.6	8.1	6.3	6.8	7.1	7.2	6.8	7.6
New York									
Civilian noninstitutional population	13,801	13,806	13,805	13,801	13,803	13,805	13,806	13,806	13,805
Civilian labor force	8,562	8,434	8,412	8,614	8,553	8,544	8,479	8,435	8,463
Employed	7,996	7,665	7,631	8,078	7,924	7,866	7,798	7,724	7,713
Unemployed	567	769	781	536	629	678	681	711	750
Unemployment rate	6.6	9.1	9.3	6.2	7.4	7.9	8.0	8.4	8.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-10. Employment status of the civilian population for 11 large states — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

State and employment status	Not seasonally adjusted[1]			Seasonally adjusted[2]					
	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
North Carolina									
Civilian noninstitutional population	5,038	5,097	5,102	5,038	5,080	5,088	5,092	5,097	5,102
Civilian labor force	3,410	3,385	3,415	3,436	3,479	3,468	3,438	3,441	3,442
Employed	3,214	3,157	3,190	3,252	3,287	3,272	3,239	3,244	3,229
Unemployed	195	228	225	184	192	196	197	197	213
Unemployment rate	5.7	6.7	6.6	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.2
Ohio									
Civilian noninstitutional population	8,301	8,328	8,329	8,301	8,320	8,323	8,325	8,328	8,329
Civilian labor force	5,341	5,426	5,401	5,398	5,397	5,433	5,445	5,491	5,462
Employed	4,932	4,993	4,964	5,032	5,096	5,114	5,092	5,122	5,070
Unemployed	409	434	436	366	301	319	353	370	391
Unemployment rate	7.7	8.0	8.1	6.8	5.6	5.9	6.5	6.7	7.2
Pennsylvania									
Civilian noninstitutional population	9,404	9,430	9,432	9,404	9,422	9,425	9,428	9,430	9,432
Civilian labor force	5,876	5,935	5,977	5,910	5,982	5,960	5,953	5,978	6,007
Employed	5,432	5,470	5,463	5,521	5,582	5,559	5,532	5,556	5,550
Unemployed	443	465	514	389	400	401	421	422	457
Unemployment rate	7.5	7.8	8.6	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.6
Texas									
Civilian noninstitutional population	12,471	12,622	12,634	12,471	12,580	12,594	12,608	12,622	12,634
Civilian labor force	8,444	8,646	8,648	8,525	8,558	8,537	8,583	8,747	8,723
Employed	7,921	7,924	7,966	8,048	7,896	7,969	7,984	8,061	8,086
Unemployed	523	722	682	477	662	568	599	686	637
Unemployment rate	6.2	8.3	7.9	5.6	7.7	6.7	7.0	7.8	7.3

[1] These are the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates used in the administration of Federal fund allocation programs.
[2] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and the seasonally adjusted columns.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted civilian labor force levels and unemployment rates for January 1992 may differ slightly from those originally published due to changes in rounding procedures.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA   ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Feb. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p/	Feb. 1992p/	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p/	Feb. 1992p/
Total..............................	107.887	109.701	107.306	107.625	109.160	109.073	108.843	108.882	108.733	108.897
Total private........................	89.204	90.890	88.835	88.824	90.771	90.686	90.374	90.368	90.224	90.400
Goods-producing industries............	25.419	23.522	22.958	22.861	24.039	23.727	23.595	23.552	23.503	23.485
Mining.............................	.699	671	655	651	715	679	674	670	666	666
Oil and gas extraction.................	396.9	377.8	369.5	365.7	401	382	377	375	371	569
Construction........................	4.333	4.529	4.214	4.127	4.792	4.671	4.584	4.589	4.608	4.570
General building contractors............	1.122.3	1.134.8	1.082.7	1.060.7	1.210	1.151	1.137	1.138	1.152	1.144
Manufacturing.......................	18.387	18.322	18.089	18.083	18.532	18.377	18.337	18.293	18.237	18.249
Production workers...................	12.362	12.396	12.205	12.220	12.488	12.435	12.404	12.376	12.329	12.367
Durable goods......................	10.580	10.442	10.290	10.291	10.652	10.493	10.457	10.414	10.366	10.381
Production workers...................	6.930	6.903	6.781	6.798	7.000	6.933	6.909	6.883	6.839	6.875
Lumber and wood products.............	677.2	690.7	680.8	679.4	696	698	697	697	698	703
Furniture and fixtures.................	480.8	481.4	477.9	475.5	482	481	479	478	478	477
Stone, clay, and glass products.........	508.7	513.2	496.0	495.0	527	523	517	517	513	514
Primary metal industries..............	724.4	709.3	703.6	699.9	726	713	709	708	704	703
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	263.0	257.6	256.2	254.8	264	258	256	257	256	256
Fabricated metal products.............	1.356.7	1.354.3	1.333.6	1.331.0	1.365	1.356	1.351	1.346	1.342	1.342
Industrial machinery and equipment.....	2.038.3	1.950.1	1.938.8	1.939.5	2.036	1.968	1.955	1.946	1.937	1.936
Electronic and other electrical equipment.	1.605.7	1.573.1	1.560.4	1.549.5	1.611	1.573	1.572	1.568	1.564	1.557
Transportation equipment.............	1.844.5	1.850.9	1.791.9	1.817.2	1.859	1.850	1.853	1.840	1.816	1.839
Motor vehicles and equipment........	733.8	749.2	747.6	780.9	746	789	800	793	773	803
Instruments and related products.......	979.9	953.1	947.7	944.3	982	964	958	949	950	946
Miscellaneous manufacturing...........	364.1	363.6	359.4	360.3	368	367	366	367	366	364
Nondurable goods...................	7.807	7.880	7.799	7.792	7.880	7.884	7.880	7.879	7.871	7.868
Production workers...................	5.423	5.493	5.424	5.422	5.488	5.502	5.495	5.493	5.490	5.492
Food and kindred products............	1.625.6	1.659.7	1.627.5	1.619.7	1.679	1.672	1.669	1.670	1.673	1.672
Tobacco products....................	50.8	51.4	51.8	50.3	49	48	47	48	49	49
Textile mill products.................	657.6	673.8	668.4	669.8	661	672	673	674	671	674
Apparel and other textile products......	1.009.9	1.043.0	1.028.6	1.030.2	1.010	1.039	1.043	1.042	1.038	1.033
Paper and allied products.............	690.2	690.7	686.0	685.3	694	691	691	690	689	689
Printing and publishing...............	1.552.7	1.532.9	1.521.9	1.514.2	1.553	1.528	1.524	1.524	1.520	1.514
Chemicals and allied products..........	1.088.9	1.090.0	1.087.9	1.092.9	1.093	1.092	1.092	1.091	1.093	1.096
Petroleum and coal products...........	153.7	155.9	155.4	155.5	158	159	158	158	158	158
Rubber and misc. plastics products......	856.5	863.8	856.0	858.6	861	864	863	862	861	865
Leather and leather products...........	121.6	119.2	117.8	117.5	122	119	120	120	119	118
Service-producing industries..............	84.468	86.179	84.348	84.764	85.121	85.346	85.248	85.330	85.230	85.412
Transportation and public utilities........	5.759	5.866	5.737	5.739	5.834	5.828	5.816	5.811	5.798	5.813
Transportation.....................	3.501	3.623	3.517	3.520	3.562	3.571	3.566	3.566	3.567	3.581
Communications and public utilities.....	2.258	2.243	2.220	2.219	2.272	2.257	2.250	2.245	2.231	2.232
Wholesale trade....................	6.062	6.029	5.955	5.940	6.119	6.047	6.034	6.023	6.005	5.997
Durable goods.....................	3.540	3.472	3.436	3.425	3.562	3.490	3.479	3.469	3.453	3.446
Nondurable goods..................	2.522	2.557	2.519	2.515	2.557	2.557	2.555	2.554	2.552	2.551
Retail trade.......................	18.965	19.820	18.950	18.792	19.464	19.288	19.227	19.224	19.161	19.294
General merchandise stores............	2.335.7	2.556.0	2.338.4	2.254.4	2.415	2.321	2.304	2.296	2.277	2.331
Food stores........................	3.204.6	3.276.9	3.198.7	3.170.1	3.237	3.220	3.213	3.206	3.205	3.202
Automotive dealers and service stations..	2.011.1	2.020.4	2.002.9	1.997.8	2.042	2.038	2.036	2.031	2.027	2.030
Eating and drinking places.............	6.324.8	6.534.0	6.305.8	6.339.0	6.582	6.558	6.561	6.567	6.569	6.596
Finance, insurance, and real estate.......	6.669	6.685	6.635	6.642	6.732	6.697	6.694	6.701	6.692	6.699
Finance...........................	3.282	3.280	3.272	3.280	3.295	3.282	3.276	3.280	3.282	3.290
Insurance..........................	2.134	2.122	2.118	2.115	2.157	2.122	2.123	2.124	2.120	2.115
Real estate........................	1.253	1.281	1.245	1.247	1.300	1.293	1.295	1.297	1.290	1.294
Services..........................	28.330	28.970	28.600	28.650	28.583	29.019	29.008	29.057	29.065	29.112
Business services...................	5.155.7	5.366.3	5.211.8	5.225.8	5.256	5.374	5.343	5.345	5.302	5.327
Health services.....................	8.072.1	8.431.3	8.426.7	8.458.5	8.089	8.365	8.398	8.440	8.444	8.475
Government........................	18.683	18.811	18.471	18.801	18.389	18.467	18.469	18.514	18.509	18.497
Federal...........................	2.936	2.977	2.960	2.963	2.951	2.983	2.982	2.986	2.984	2.978
State.............................	4.449	4.420	4.302	4.436	4.354	4.332	4.341	4.338	4.350	4.341
Local.............................	11.298	11.414	11.209	11.402	11.084	11.152	11.146	11.190	11.175	11.178

p/ = preliminary.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA   ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table B-2. Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Feb. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p	Feb. 1992p	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p	Feb. 1992p
Total private	33.9	34.7	33.8	34.3	34.3	34.3	34.4	34.5	34.3	34.7
Mining	44.4	44.7	43.4	44.2	44.9	43.9	44.1	43.9	43.4	44.6
Construction	37.0	37.8	36.6	36.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Manufacturing	39.9	41.7	40.6	40.6	40.5	40.9	41.0	41.1	40.8	41.1
Overtime hours	3.0	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8
Durable goods	40.4	42.2	41.0	41.1	40.7	41.4	41.4	41.5	41.2	41.5
Overtime hours	3.0	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.6
Lumber and wood products	38.5	40.9	39.8	40.3	39.3	40.0	40.5	40.6	40.4	41.4
Furniture and fixtures	37.0	40.8	39.2	39.1	37.5	39.1	38.9	39.7	39.5	39.9
Stone, clay, and glass products	40.6	41.9	40.3	40.7	41.7	41.9	41.5	42.0	41.5	41.8
Primary metal industries	41.5	43.2	42.4	42.6	41.5	42.7	42.5	42.6	42.4	43.1
Blast furnaces and basic steel products	41.2	43.5	42.5	43.8	41.5	43.5	43.8	43.0	42.4	43.6
Fabricated metal products	40.4	42.4	41.2	41.1	40.7	41.6	41.4	41.6	41.4	41.6
Industrial machinery and equipment	41.4	43.1	41.7	41.9	41.5	41.8	41.8	42.1	41.6	42.1
Electronic and other electrical equipment	40.3	42.2	41.0	40.7	40.5	40.6	41.1	41.2	41.0	40.9
Transportation equipment	40.8	42.5	41.3	41.3	41.0	42.5	42.4	41.9	41.6	41.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	40.3	42.7	41.4	41.7	40.9	43.1	42.9	42.3	41.9	42.8
Instruments and related products	41.0	42.1	41.0	41.3	41.0	40.9	41.2	41.2	41.0	41.5
Miscellaneous manufacturing	39.0	40.6	39.4	39.5	39.3	39.8	39.7	40.0	39.6	39.8
Nondurable goods	39.4	41.0	40.1	40.0	39.8	40.4	40.5	40.5	40.4	40.5
Overtime hours	3.1	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.9
Feed and kindred products	39.7	41.2	40.2	39.8	40.6	40.6	40.9	40.6	40.5	40.7
Tobacco products	38.4	39.4	39.0	38.3	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Textile mill products	38.8	41.7	40.6	40.3	39.2	41.3	41.4	41.5	41.0	41.0
Apparel and other textile products	36.5	37.8	37.1	37.0	36.3	37.4	37.3	37.5	37.5	37.2
Paper and allied products	42.7	44.4	43.5	43.2	43.0	43.4	43.5	43.6	43.5	43.7
Printing and publishing	37.4	38.8	37.6	37.8	37.6	37.8	38.1	38.2	37.9	38.1
Chemicals and allied products	42.5	44.2	43.1	43.3	42.4	43.2	43.4	43.5	43.1	43.5
Petroleum and coal products	43.8	43.5	42.9	42.8	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rubber and misc. plastics products	40.6	42.0	41.5	41.5	40.6	41.4	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.9
Leather and leather products	36.8	38.1	37.0	36.8	37.2	37.1	38.4	37.7	37.4	37.2
Transportation and public utilities	38.5	38.6	37.8	38.4	38.6	38.4	38.4	38.5	38.3	38.8
Wholesale trade	37.7	38.4	37.8	38.1	37.9	38.1	38.1	38.2	38.1	38.4
Retail trade	28.0	29.2	27.8	28.5	28.6	28.4	28.8	28.7	28.5	29.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	35.8	36.2	35.7	36.5	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Services	32.3	32.6	32.2	32.6	32.5	32.4	32.5	32.6	32.4	32.8

1/ Data relate to production workers in mining and manufacturing; construction workers in construction; and nonsupervisory workers in transportation and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services. These groups account for approximately four-fifths of the total employees on private nonfarm payrolls.

2/ These series are not published seasonally adjusted since the seasonal component is small relative to the trend-cycle and/or irregular components and consequently cannot be separated with sufficient precision.

p = preliminary.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	Feb. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p/	Feb. 1992p/	Feb. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p/	Feb. 1992p/
Total private............................	$10.23	$10.50	$10.50	$10.53	$346.80	$364.35	$354.90	$361.18
Seasonally adjusted....................	10.20	10.48	10.47	10.50	349.86	361.56	359.12	364.35
Mining...................................	14.10	14.53	14.62	14.48	626.04	649.49	634.51	640.02
Construction.............................	13.93	14.12	14.06	13.89	515.41	533.74	514.60	506.99
Manufacturing............................	11.02	11.38	11.30	11.33	439.70	474.55	458.78	460.00
Durable goods..........................	11.55	11.96	11.85	11.90	466.62	504.71	485.85	489.09
Lumber and wood products.............	9.10	9.38	9.39	9.40	350.35	383.64	373.72	378.82
Furniture and fixtures...............	8.65	8.95	8.87	8.88	320.05	365.16	347.70	347.21
Stone, clay, and glass products......	11.19	11.48	11.46	11.40	454.31	481.01	461.84	463.98
Primary metal industries.............	13.02	13.49	13.41	13.45	537.73	582.77	568.58	572.97
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	14.96	15.52	15.48	15.57	616.35	675.12	657.90	669.51
Fabricated metal products............	11.02	11.41	11.31	11.40	445.21	483.78	465.97	468.54
Industrial machinery and equipment...	12.06	12.35	12.23	12.32	499.28	532.29	509.99	516.21
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	10.58	10.96	10.90	10.87	426.37	462.51	446.90	442.41
Transportation equipment.............	14.54	15.18	14.91	15.00	585.07	645.15	615.78	619.50
Motor vehicles and equipment.......	14.73	15.61	15.17	15.26	593.62	666.55	628.04	636.34
Instruments and related products.....	11.65	11.88	11.86	11.85	477.65	500.15	486.26	489.41
Miscellaneous manufacturing..........	8.70	9.08	9.04	9.06	339.30	368.65	356.18	357.87
Nondurable goods.......................	10.31	10.62	10.59	10.60	406.21	435.42	424.66	424.00
Food and kindred products............	9.74	10.11	10.05	10.04	386.68	416.53	404.01	399.59
Tobacco products.....................	16.12	16.08	16.17	16.46	619.01	633.55	630.65	630.42
Textile mill products................	8.13	8.49	8.49	8.50	315.46	354.05	344.69	342.55
Apparel and other textile products...	6.61	6.86	6.82	6.85	259.94	259.31	293.02	253.45
Paper and allied products............	12.51	12.95	12.85	12.84	534.18	574.98	558.98	554.69
Printing and publishing..............	11.37	11.69	11.63	11.66	425.24	453.57	437.29	440.75
Chemicals and allied products........	13.83	14.34	14.28	14.28	585.01	633.83	615.47	618.52
Petroleum and coal products..........	17.01	17.47	17.57	17.76	745.04	759.95	753.75	760.13
Rubber and misc. plastics products...	9.99	10.27	10.33	10.27	403.60	431.34	428.70	426.21
Leather and leather products.........	7.09	7.31	7.34	7.35	260.91	278.51	271.58	270.48
Transportation and public utilities..........	13.17	13.36	13.32	13.41	504.41	515.70	503.50	514.94
Wholesale trade.............................	11.08	11.34	11.30	11.35	417.72	435.46	427.14	432.44
Retail trade................................	6.89	7.09	7.15	7.15	192.92	207.03	198.77	203.78
Finance, insurance, and real estate..........	10.30	10.68	10.65	10.82	368.74	386.62	380.21	394.93
Services....................................	10.14	10.50	10.50	10.53	327.52	342.30	338.10	343.28

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2.　　　　　　　　　　　　　p = preliminary.

Table B-4. Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p/	Feb. 1992p/	Percent change from: Jan. 1992- Feb. 1992
Total private:							
Current dollars....................	$10.20	$10.40	$10.44	$10.48	$10.47	$10.50	0.3
Constant (1982) dollars2/.........	7.44	7.45	7.45	7.46	7.45	N.A.	(3)
Mining............................	13.99	14.24	14.38	14.54	14.45	14.39	-.4
Construction......................	13.97	14.02	13.99	14.08	13.99	13.93	-.4
Manufacturing.....................	11.03	11.26	11.31	11.32	11.29	11.34	.4
Excluding overtime4/............	10.59	10.77	10.81	10.82	10.81	10.87	.6
Transportation and public utilities	13.13	13.20	13.25	13.33	13.29	13.37	.6
Wholesale trade...................	11.05	11.21	11.26	11.29	11.27	11.32	.4
Retail trade......................	6.87	7.06	7.09	7.10	7.11	7.14	.4
Finance, insurance, and real estate	10.22	10.49	10.55	10.66	10.59	10.74	1.4
Services..........................	10.07	10.29	10.37	10.42	10.41	10.46	.5

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2.
2/ The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is used to deflate this series.
3/ Change was -.1 percent from December 1991 to January 1992, the latest month available.
4/ Derived by assuming that overtime hours are paid at the rate of time and one-half.

N.A. = not available.
p/ = preliminary.
NOTE: The CPI-W has been revised to reflect the experience through December 1991. Constant-dollar earnings series have been revised from January 1987 through December 1991.

Table B-5. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

(1982=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Feb. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p/	Feb. 1992p/	Feb. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992p/	Feb. 1992p/
Total private.........................	117.8	125.3	117.1	118.7	121.5	121.5	121.5	121.7	120.8	122.6
Goods-producing industries...................	99.1	104.2	98.3	97.9	104.0	104.0	103.1	103.5	102.4	102.9
Mining...............................	63.1	60.4	56.9	57.5	65.4	60.2	59.9	59.4	58.1	59.7
Construction.........................	108.6	118.1	104.3	101.3	126.9	124.4	119.5	121.2	120.8	118.5
Manufacturing........................	99.6	104.3	99.9	100.0	101.6	102.6	102.6	102.5	101.5	102.4
Durable goods.......................	97.1	101.0	96.3	96.8	98.8	99.4	99.1	99.0	97.6	99.0
Lumber and wood products..........	112.5	122.4	117.1	118.2	118.6	121.3	122.6	122.7	122.0	125.7
Furniture and fixtures............	109.5	121.5	116.1	115.2	111.7	116.5	115.3	117.3	117.1	117.9
Stone, clay, and glass products...	95.7	100.1	92.6	93.4	102.4	102.4	100.1	101.3	98.9	100.4
Primary metal industries..........	85.4	87.5	85.2	85.2	86.6	87.1	86.0	86.2	85.2	86.7
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	74.0	75.8	73.5	74.1	74.7	76.5	74.5	74.9	73.1	75.5
Fabricated metal products.........	99.1	104.6	99.6	99.5	100.8	102.6	101.7	101.8	100.9	101.7
Industrial machinery and equipment..	93.1	91.8	88.4	89.2	93.0	90.0	89.0	89.4	87.9	89.3
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	100.2	104.0	100.3	98.8	101.1	100.0	101.2	101.2	100.3	99.9
Transportation equipment..........	106.1	113.6	105.4	108.1	108.0	113.4	113.7	111.2	108.0	111.3
Motor vehicles and equipment....	107.0	126.7	113.2	119.9	108.7	125.9	126.4	124.6	119.1	127.7
Instruments and related products..	84.3	84.1	81.4	81.7	84.8	81.5	82.3	81.7	81.3	81.9
Miscellaneous manufacturing.......	95.9	100.7	96.1	96.9	98.0	99.3	99.0	99.8	98.8	98.9
Nondurable goods....................	103.0	108.7	104.9	104.6	105.5	107.1	107.4	107.4	106.9	107.3
Food and kindred products.........	104.2	111.4	106.0	104.6	111.0	110.8	111.4	110.5	110.6	111.4
Tobacco products..................	71.1	76.0	76.1	71.8	70.7	69.0	65.5	70.0	72.5	70.2
Textile mill products............	90.7	100.0	96.6	96.1	92.3	99.0	99.1	99.7	98.0	98.5
Apparel and other textile products..	89.8	96.9	93.6	93.5	90.3	95.4	95.7	96.0	95.7	94.3
Paper and allied products.........	107.7	112.8	109.5	108.6	109.9	110.0	110.0	110.5	110.1	110.6
Printing and publishing...........	123.2	126.8	121.8	121.5	124.1	125.1	125.5	123.8	122.5	122.7
Chemicals and allied products.....	102.1	103.8	100.9	102.5	102.8	102.5	102.3	102.4	101.6	103.2
Petroleum and coal products.......	81.8	83.1	80.3	79.8	85.9	84.9	85.7	84.1	85.4	84.8
Rubber and misc. plastics products..	120.1	126.6	123.6	124.2	121.6	124.7	125.0	124.8	124.6	126.4
Leather and leather products......	56.0	56.6	54.4	53.8	57.0	55.3	57.8	56.2	55.7	54.9
Service-producing industries.................	126.2	131.9	125.6	127.9	129.4	129.0	129.7	130.0	129.1	131.4
Transportation and public utilities.........	111.7	115.5	110.0	112.0	114.5	113.8	115.7	113.9	113.1	114.9
Wholesale trade...........................	112.2	113.7	110.3	110.9	114.2	113.1	113.0	113.1	112.4	113.0
Retail trade..............................	115.0	125.9	114.0	115.7	121.1	118.7	120.1	119.6	118.3	122.0
Finance, insurance, and real estate.........	118.9	120.5	117.7	120.8	120.2	118.0	119.2	120.9	119.5	122.2
Services..................................	144.8	149.5	145.3	148.7	146.9	148.8	149.2	149.9	149.2	151.1

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2.   p = preliminary.

Table B-6. Diffusion indexes of employment change, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Time span	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Private nonfarm payrolls, 356 industries1/											
Over 1-month span:												
1990..............	58.1	58.1	52.2	48.7	52.8	48.3	46.6	47.8	45.1	41.4	40.3	42.0
1991..............	38.5	36.9	38.6	38.5	51.1	45.8	51.3	54.8	50.0	48.3	44.1	45.9
1992..............	p/42.7	p/49.7										
Over 3-month span:												
1990..............	58.8	59.0	54.4	50.7	48.7	49.4	45.6	43.7	40.0	37.4	35.8	35.1
1991..............	31.6	30.8	30.3	38.3	39.5	48.9	51.7	52.9	50.1	43.5	42.8	p/38.5
1992..............	p/45.4											
Over 6-month span:												
1990..............	56.6	55.2	55.2	51.8	47.6	44.9	42.7	38.6	37.2	34.8	30.9	28.8
1991..............	26.7	31.2	29.5	34.3	41.2	45.8	49.9	44.9	46.5	p/45.4	p/41.3	
1992..............												
Over 12-month span:												
1990..............	54.6	54.5	51.4	48.3	46.6	43.5	40.3	35.8	34.1	30.6	32.0	30.2
1991..............	30.2	30.6	30.3	32.7	33.1	33.6	p/36.4	p/39.3				
1992..............												
	Manufacturing payrolls, 139 industries1/											
Over 1-month span:												
1990..............	46.0	51.1	41.4	47.8	41.7	39.6	43.2	40.3	38.8	34.5	27.3	33.8
1991..............	31.7	28.4	29.9	38.5	46.8	46.0	53.2	55.2	43.5	45.3	40.6	43.9
1992..............	p/38.5	p/44.6										
Over 3-month span:												
1990..............	45.0	43.2	45.0	38.1	38.1	37.4	35.6	31.3	27.0	23.0	21.6	18.3
1991..............	19.4	16.5	18.0	30.2	36.3	48.9	57.2	55.0	46.0	38.5	36.7	p/31.3
1992..............	p/39.6											
Over 6-month span:												
1990..............	39.9	36.7	37.1	40.3	32.4	30.6	24.1	20.5	21.2	17.3	16.2	11.9
1991..............	10.4	17.3	19.4	23.4	38.5	43.5	49.6	45.7	45.7	p/37.1	p/53.5	
1992..............												
Over 12-month span:												
1990..............	35.3	35.5	31.3	29.5	25.2	20.9	19.8	14.0	12.9	10.1	11.2	10.4
1991..............	13.3	14.7	14.7	18.0	21.2	23.4	p/26.6	p/32.4				
1992..............												

1/ Based on seasonally adjusted data for 1-, 3-, and 6-month spans and unadjusted data for the 12-month span. Data are centered within the span.
  p = preliminary.
NOTE: Figures are the percent of industries with employment increasing plus one-half of the industries with unchanged employment, where 50 percent indicates an equal balance between industries with increasing and decreasing employment.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Barron.

I am interested in a release that you put out on the February 18 about state and regional unemployment in 1991. You do not do all the states every month, is that right?

MR. BARRON. No, sir, we don't.

SENATOR SARBANES. This morning, you only have figures on what, the eleven largest?

MR. BARRON. Based on the last census, they are not quite the largest ones any more. It's eleven large states.

SENATOR SARBANES. Before I go to the comparison of the 1991 and 1990 figures for all states, let me ask about the largest state figures that you released this morning.

Could you run through what has happened in these large states to the unemployment rates that you reported this morning, compared with last month?

MR. BARRON. Okay. These are February 1992 data, Mr. Chairman.

In California, the current month unemployment rate is 8.7, which is a change upwards of six-tenths.

SENATOR SARBANES. Up from 8.1 percent to 8.7 percent in California?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir. Florida, 8.6 percent. That's down a tenth from 8.7 over the previous month.

SENATOR SARBANES. All right.

MR. BARRON. Illinois, 8.5 percent, an increase of two-tenths over the previous month level of 8.3 percent. Massachusetts, 7.5 percent, which is down four-tenths of a percent. Michigan, 9 percent, up a tenth. New Jersey, 7.6 percent, which is up eight-tenths.

SENATOR SARBANES. Up eight-tenths of a point?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

New York is 8.9 percent, up five-tenths over 8.4 percent; North Carolina, 6.2 percent, up five-tenths; Ohio, 7.2 percent, up five-tenths; Pennsylvania, 7.6 percent, up five-tenths; Texas, 7.3 percent, down five-tenths.

I believe that's the complete list, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, eight of the eleven largest states have had increases in the unemployment rate during this past month. Is that right?

MR. BARRON. Eight of eleven large states, yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. And, generally, in the range of about half a point.

MR. BARRON. I think that's correct, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. Comparing the 1991 to the 1990 figures for all the states, on the state basis, how did the average unemployment rates in 1991 compare to 1990?

MR. BARRON. For January 1992, the last month for which we have the data for all the states, the average was 7.1 percent in the United States as a whole.

We had 23 states and the District of Columbia which were above that average rate, and 26 states which were below.

SENATOR SARBANES. How many states had higher unemployment in 1991 than in 1990?

MR. BARRON. In December, it was 39 were higher.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, now, you say in your release——

MR. BARRON. Between 1991 and 1990, using annual averages, Senator, 45 states and the District of Columbia.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, 45 of the 50 states had higher annual average unemployment rates in 1991 than in 1990. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. Did any states have any decline in unemployment between 1990 and 1991?

MR. BARRON. Let us check just a moment, sir.

MR. PLEWES. We have three states, all of them were less than five-tenths of a percentage point.

SENATOR SARBANES. Three states had a decline. Which three states were those? Do you know?

MR. PLEWES. I don't have that at my fingertips. I'll get that.

MR. BARRON. I can see that between January 1991 and January 1992, we're shifting a bit from annual averages to the monthly data.

South Dakota had had a decline; Kansas, a small decline; Utah, a decline; Wisconsin, a small decline; Colorado, a small decline; Delaware, a small decline; Indiana, a small decline; and Oklahoma, Idaho and New Jersey.

SENATOR SARBANES. I am looking at a BLS release that says all four major regions of the country experienced unemployment rate increases between 1990 and 1991, with the Northeast showing the largest rise from 5.3 to 7.2 percent. As recently as 1988, the jobless rate in the Northeast was only 4 percent.

The West, particularly the Pacific division, was also hard hit by the recession. Employment in the Pacific states edged down from 1990 to 1991 for the first time in eight years, and the jobless rate rose from 5.4 to 7.1 percent.

So, this dowwnturn has hit virtually every state in the country, hasn't it?

MR. BARRON. Many states, particularly over the course of 1990-91 comparisons.

SENATOR SARBANES. Now, am I correct that the retail trade sector employs a lot of part-time workers?

MR. BARRON. Yes, you are correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. Concerning the increase in employment in the retail trades, do you know whether that is primarily full time or part-time?

MR. BARRON. Let me see if Mr. Plewes can help us with that number.

MR. PLEWES. For the most part, retail trade is part-time. The hours in retail trade went up, so we think that the mix somewhat changed and

that part of this growth was full time. But we don't have the exact split, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. I want to explore the retail trade problem because my understanding is that your seasonal adjustments may have been thrown out of whack by a changed pattern of hiring in the retail trades.

MR. BARRON. That's a good point with respect to these data, Mr. Chairman, which we've attempted to discuss a little bit in my statement.

Having had less of a pre-Christmas buildup in prior years, except for the immediate prior year when we were also in a recession, the number of individuals laid off after the holiday season was smaller than usual.

Therefore, when we seasonally adjust the data, we're showing an increase. It's due, in part, to the fact that the number of people laid off are less than usual because less people were hired.

There was an improvement between the extent of this happening this year and the extent last year. But you are right in that there is a seasonal issue in this particular set of data.

SENATOR SARBANES. Now, let me turn to a chart that shows total nonfarm payrolls (see chart below). What it shows is a really precipitous drop into 1991, then a slight improvement, and then a further drop, so that it is currently at this level. That corresponds with the increase in the number of persons unemployed in this other chart.

Total Nonfarm Payrolls
Payroll Survey
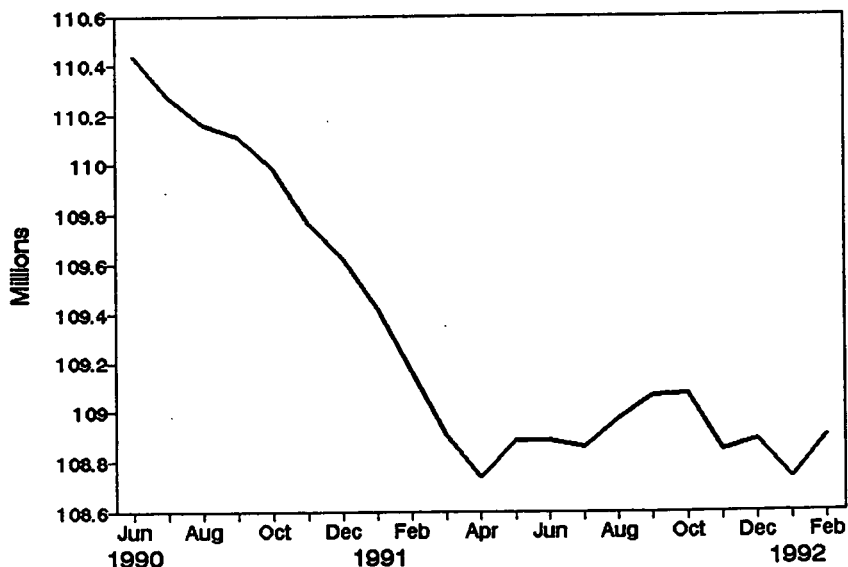
This point is June of 1990 [indicating], when unemployment was under 6.5 million. This is where we are this morning at 9.2 million (see chart below).

Number of Persons Unemployed
Household Survey
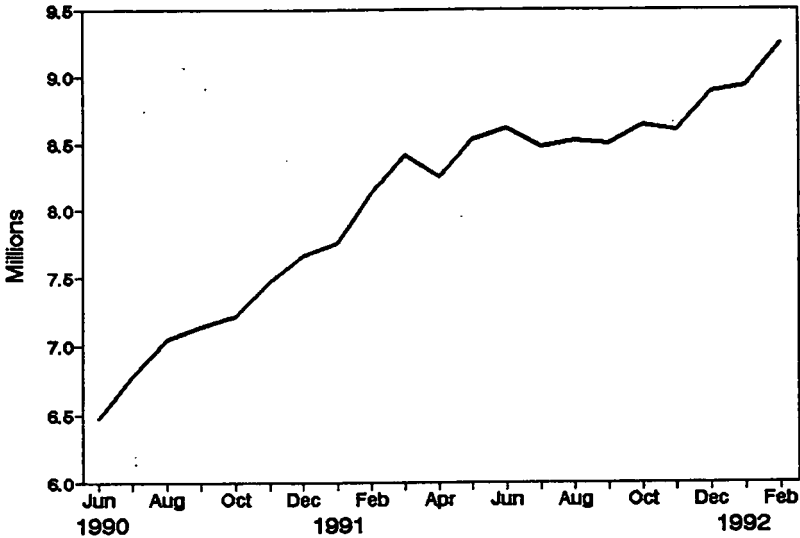
MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. Of course, that 9.2 million does not take into account the discouraged workers.

Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes, that's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. How many of those are there?

MR. BARRON. 1.1 million, as of the last quarter, sir, which, as you know, was the last time we collected those data.

SENATOR SARBANES. How many people were working part-time who want to work full time?

MR. BARRON. 6.5 million, sir, if you use the total. That's a little bit of a drop from last month.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, that's 16.8 million people, either totally or partially unemployed.

Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Adding those sets of data, that's the correct total, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. And what would the comprehensive unemployment rate be, taking into account all of those factors, not just the 9.2 million, but also the 1.1 million and the 6.5 million?

MR. BARRON. Mr. Chairman, you're always asking me to exhibit my weaknesses in quick arithmetic. Let's see.

If we add the total correct, what would that rate be, Tom?

SENATOR SARBANES. Is it about 10.9 percent?

MR. BARRON. It would be very close to that.

MR. PLEWES. Yes. 10.9, 11.0 percent, depending.

MR. BARRON. As you know, though, the Bureau's calculation where we don't add in the total part-time was 10.4 percent. So, that would be about right, 10.9 percent.

SENATOR SARBANES. The unemployment rate was, what, 5.3 percent at the beginning of this recession?

MR. BARRON. It was 5.4 percent in July 1990.

SENATOR SARBANES. And it is now at 7.3 percent. Is that right?

MR. BARRON. That's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, that only underscores what Congressman Obey said at the outset in his statement about the seriousness of this situation.

I want to just show one more chart that further underscores the problem, and that is the increase in the number of long-term unemployed— persons out of work 27 weeks or longer (see chart below).

Long-Term Unemployment
Persons Unemployed 27 Weeks or Longer
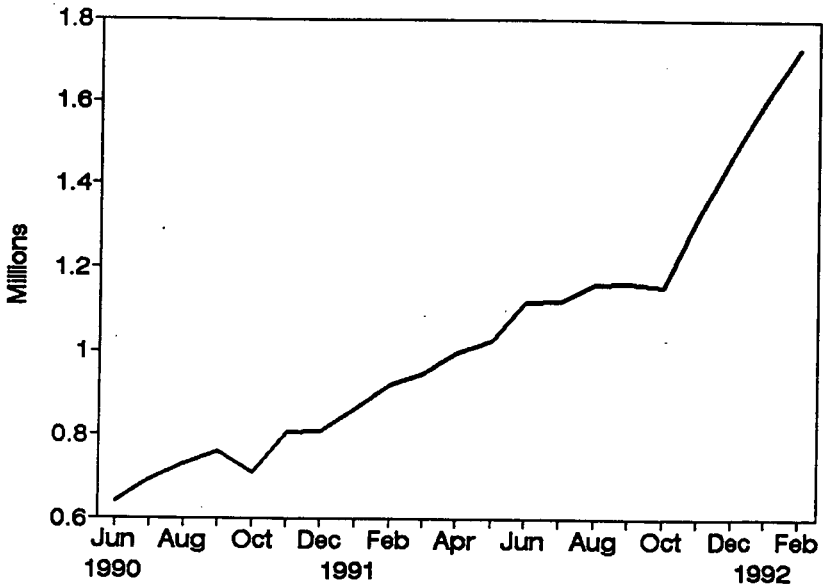
SENATOR SARBANES. That is now up to how many people?

MR. BARRON. The number of unemployed for 15 weeks or more increased by 145,000 in February to a level of 3.2 million, Mr. Chairman. It's about one out of every three unemployed persons.

SENATOR SARBANES. Is that the long-term unemployed?

MR. BARRON. Using 15 weeks and over.

SENATOR SARBANES. How about for 27 weeks?

MR. BARRON. The number of jobless for 27 weeks or more rose by 125,000 in Feburary to 1.7 million, which is about one out of every five jobless workers.

SENATOR SARBANES. And what was it at the beginning of this recession?

MR. BARRON. One out of ten at the beginning of the recession.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, this is a pretty dramatic figure, in my opinion. You have the rise in long-term unemployed. You have the unemployment rate now at its highest level in this recession. There are now over 9.2 million unemployed. If you factor in the discouraged workers and the people working part-time that want to work full time, we are almost at a comprehensive unemployment rate of 10.9 percent.

Congressman Obey?

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I don't have much to add. I think you've covered most of the issues in your questioning. Just let me ask a couple of quick ones.

If you look at this in terms of families, what percentage of families have had someone in their family experience unemployment over the last year?

MR. BARRON. For the last quarter of the year, it was about 10 percent of all families.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. But over the last year, isn't it closer to 20 percent?

SENATOR SARBANES. Actually, it is closer to 25 percent, isn't it, of all families?

MR. BARRON. Maybe, it's higher, Representative Obey. I didn't bring that release with me. I'm sorry.

MR. PLEWES. We won't collect that information until our March survey, sir. We expect that it will be in the range of about 25 percent. It was 20 percent in the first year of the recession, so it will be more.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. So, it's not exactly what you would call an isolated phenomenon.

MR. BARRON. No.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. Manufacturing jobs—how many manufacturing jobs have we lost in the last year?

MR. BARRON. Over the course of the last year, we've lost almost 300,000—283,000, to be precise—and it's 916,000 over the course of the recession.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. We've had, as I understand, an increase in business bankruptcies over the past three years of some 208,000.

Do you have any figures to indicate how that would compare with the last serious recession we had in 1981 and 1982?

MR. BARRON. Business bankruptcies, sir?

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. Yes.

MR. BARRON. I'm sorry, we just don't have those data. We could try and provide them for you.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. My understanding is that it's somewhere around 78,000 or 79,000.

I noted that—I don't see a page number here, but it's in your establishment data in Table B-4—in average hourly earnings that the percentage change from January 1992 to February 1992 were all rather anemic—mining, minus four-tenths of 1 percent; construction, minus four-tenths; the others, all less than 1 percent, except for finance, insurance and real estate.

Given all of the troubles that we've had in the financial sector of the economy over the past few years, that number surprises me.

Do you have any explanation why that one sector, the one which in the public mind seems to be in so much trouble, is the only one that's had an average hourly earnings increase of more than a percent?

MR. BARRON. It dropped down a little bit in January and now bounced back.

I know, just over the month, the employment situation has improved a little bit in the finance industry and improved a little bit in the real estate industry.

That has not been the case in the insurance industry, where it dropped again.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. Right.

MR. BARRON. Perhaps, the bit of employment growth that's showing up there is having an upward tug on wages.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't have any other questions. I think the situation is pretty self-explanatory. The only question that I have is the same question I've had for the past 20 months: When is this city going to begin to really attack the long-term problems that underlie this economy?

I think it's amazing that the only economic activity we see these days is economic activity on the campaign trail, with very little by way of economic improvements being offered in the seat of government. I find that incredibly discouraging.

I have no more questions, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. It's really discouraging when the Labor Secretary says in the morning paper that a release issued yesterday—the report on weekly claims, coupled with other recent reports of rising home sales and improvement in manufacturing—indicates that the economy is pointed in the right direction and may be starting to gain momentum.

Then, we come in this morning and we get a 7.3 percent unemployment figure. The article had a person commenting from the private sector who said, "I'm not going to leap to the conclusion that things suddenly have improved," which, it seems to me, is a much more realistic attitude about what's happening out there in the economy.

I want to make sure I understand this because your statement makes a point about the increase in jobs in the retail trade.

But in the release, the Bureau says, "retail trade employment showed an increase of 133,000, seasonally adjusted, offsetting declines of the prior three months." So, we're really back where we were, so to speak.

Is that right?

MR. BARRON. Over the course of the recession, retail trade has been hard hit. But, in terms of the recent past, yes, the increase in February did recoup many of the jobs lost from October through January, but not over the whole recession.

SENATOR SARBANES. Over the whole recession, employment in the retail trade is down significantly.

Is that right?

MR. BARRON. That's right, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, I am concerned about this seasonal adjustment problem. As we discussed before, it has been throwing some of these figures out of line because hiring patterns on which the seasonal adjustments were based apparently had changed substantially. And if that happens, then the seasonal adjustment no longer accurately corresponds to the situation.

Is that a fair concern?

MR. BARRON. We know the pattern has changed.

SENATOR SARBANES. Okay. If you don't seasonally adjust, which your figures do this morning, what happened to retail trade jobs in February?

MR. BARRON. There's actually a decline. Tom?

MR. PLEWES. There's a decline of 158,000.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, in terms of what actually happened, there was a decline of 158,000 retail jobs in February. Is that correct?

MR. PLEWES. That's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. Now, you show an increase in retail jobs after seasonal adjustment because the decline was not as great as it usually is. Is that correct?

MR. PLEWES. That is correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. Usually, you have a big hiring before Christmas in the retail trades in order to deal with the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas rush, but that did not happen this year. Is that correct?

MR. PLEWES. It didn't happen as it had in all the past years. It happened about the same as it happened in 1990-91.

SENATOR SARBANES. Which was also a recession year.

MR. PLEWES. Which was also a recession year, that's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, now, for two years in a row, the pattern is different from the pattern upon which the seasonal adjustment is based.

Is that correct?

MR. PLEWES. That's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, I make that point because I don't take a lot of comfort out of that figure. The real figures in fact are negative. We

have previously explored in this Committee the fact that there was a change in the hiring pattern that threw off, particularly, I think, in the retail trades, the seasonal adjustment figures.

Is that correct?

MR. PLEWES. I think it's fair to say that there are three things that cause us to believe that there was really improvement.

One is that if you look at the hiring increase from last year to this year—both recession years—it was about the same. The layoffs in January this year were about the same as the lay-offs in January of last year. The layoffs this February were about half the number of layoffs that they had last February.

I think the second thing is that when we seasonally adjust, using all of the data through the current month—in other words, through February—we do what's called a concurrent adjustment. We still get an employment increase, although it is somewhat smaller than the reported employment increase in the press release.

And the third, of course, is the outside indications from the retail sales sector that there has been increased activity in that sector, which causes us to think that there has been improvement, although we caution that the 133,000 may be an overstatement.

SENATOR SARBANES. Now, is it correct that the jobs in the retail trade include a high percentage of part-time jobs?

MR. PLEWES. That's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. Of course, that means then that the jobs do not pay them health benefits and so forth. Is that correct?

MR. PLEWES. In many cases, that's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, gentlemen, we thank you very much. I just want to underscore in closing that the unemployment rate is now the highest that it has been in this recession, at 7.3 percent. And the Administration's own plan in their Economic Report talks about having an average unemployment rate for this year at 6.9 percent. This is their own projection, even assuming that the President's program is enacted. That program is only worth six-tenths of a point on the growth rate, I might add.

The number of persons unemployed has gone up from under 6.5 million. It is now 9.2 million. And the number of persons unemployed 27 weeks or longer is now at an all-time high for this recession. It is now approaching 1.8 million people.

The 27 weeks or longer figure is important as it bears on unemployment benefits because the standard benefits are only for 26 weeks. And one of the reasons that we kept trying to extend UI benefits was to cover people who were out of jobs for a long time.

That was rejected, unfortunately, twice by the President last year, but finally accepted by him in November, and then proposed by him in January.

Does the increase in the unemployment rate in eight of the eleven large states in the month of February say anything about trend lines with respect to unemployment?

MR. BARRON. No, I don't think I want to comment on that, Mr. Chairman. You are correct. Those are large states. As we have pointed out, there are some movements in the other way. But, as you know, we don't get into the future at in the Bureau. There's plenty of difficulty dealing with the present, I might add.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. Mr. Chairman, could I just interrupt to make an observation?

SENATOR SARBANES. Certainly.

REPRESENTATIVE OBEY. As I sit here, I come away with an increasing sense of anger because we have seen growth in this economy decline from 3.9 percent in 1988 to 2.5 percent in 1989, to 1 percent in 1990, to miserable in 1991, and we're still adrift in 1992.

The result of that lack of growth is demonstrated in the rising unemployment numbers that you've presented here this morning, Mr. Barron.

It leads inevitably to policy prescriptions to try to attack the problem. I find it ironic that at a time when we are suffering the hangover from the 1980s—the incredible debt, the incredible warp in delivery of resources based on income in this society—we are still being told by a substantial number of people in this town that the way to deal with this problem is to provide even more benefits to those at the top of the ladder, while these numbers reflect what's happening to people in the middle and on the bottom of the ladder.

I find it ironic that the *New York Times* reported today that in contrast to these numbers—we're not here talking today about the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this society; they're not the ones who are losing their jobs—that 60 percent of the income growth in the 1980s went to those who are in the highest 1 percent of income in the country.

I have another chart here, Mr. Chairman, which is based on an excellent series done by the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, which points out that if you total up all of the increase in income by income group during the 1980s, you see that people between $20,000 and $50,000—when you add together all of their income growth before adjusting for inflation, so this is nominal growth, not real growth—they had a miniscule 44 percent increase in the total value of their income growth in the 1980s.

Those between $200,000 and $1 million have had a total income growth of 697 percent. And those who make more than $1 million have had a total income growth of 2,184 percent in the 1980s.

Then, you have some people, unfortunately—even some people in my party—who are suggesting that the way to deal with this problem is to provide another round of benefits to people at the top.

I find that pretty weird to be blunt about it. I also observe that those in politics and in editorial rooms and in board rooms, who are counselling that we continue to "ride it out" or do nothing major to deal with

the problem, are generally people who are making more than $100,000 a year.

And so, these numbers demonstrate that it's time to disregard the velvet reassuring tones of people in those circles of comfort, and begin to react in a real way to the imperatives that these numbers make obvious if we're going to improve not only the short-term situation, but the long-term situation.

I find myself extremely angry, Mr. Chairman, that, in spite of the evidence which is being presented month-after-month, government policy continues to be adrift, again promising prosperity just around the corner, which we heard a long time ago in another era of drift.

SENATOR SARBANES. Well, thank you very much, Congressman Obey.

Gentlemen, we thank you very much for your testimony this morning. The Committee stands adjourned.

MR. BARRON. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 10:28 a.m., the Committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

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MARCH EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1992

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:20 a.m., in room SD–628, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes (chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Present: Senators Sarbanes and Bingaman, and Representative Solarz.

Also present: Stephen A. Quick, Executive Director; William Buechner; Lee Price; Jim Klumpner; and Chris Frenze, professional staff members.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR SARBANES
CHAIRMAN

SENATOR SARBANES. The Committee will come to order.

This morning the Joint Economic Committee meets to examine the employment and unemployment situation for March. The Committee is very pleased to welcome again the Acting Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Mr. William Barron, and his colleagues, Mr. Tom Plewes and Mr. Ken Dalton. Gentlemen, we are pleased to have you back before us.

MR. BARRON. Thank you, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. I want to observe right at the outset that in recent weeks a few positive economic indicators have led some to assert that an economic recovery is under way. If that is the case, the recovery is very hard to distinguish from a recession. Spring may be here in terms of the calendar, but the economy still feels like winter. The unemployed continue to face a very grim situation.

In March, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.3 percent. More than 9.2 million people remain unemployed. That is worse than at any point in any postwar recession except for the severe recess in 1981-82. The number of people who have been jobless for 6 months or more was almost 1.8 million in March.

Now, the payroll survey submitted this morning found total employment up by 19,000, but jobs in the private sector actually fell by 20,000. All of the payroll gains came from increased local government employment, mainly pollwatchers for the Super Tuesday primaries which took place during the reporting week. Talk about grasping at

straws. Manufacturing, which traditionally leads a recovery, continued to shed jobs in March. The weak March payroll numbers were accompanied by a large downward revision in what appeared to be strong payroll gains in February. So, I have to be very candid in saying that I think these figures show an economy still bouncing along the bottom as it has done over the past year.

Actually, for many workers, the recession is just beginning. Despite some signs of an upturn, businesses are still handing out pink slips. Four hundred and fifty-six thousand people filed for unemployment insurance in the week of March 21. That was an increase of 25,000 in the last 2 survey weeks. Actually, it is the same figure claiming unemployment insurance as in the middle of January when President Bush said the economy was in a free fall.

In my view, this morning's report cannot be read as good news for the millions of jobless Americans who read and took hope from the assertions that a recovery has begun. While there have been some signs that sales and production are gradually improving, employers remain cautious about hiring, and the labor market is showing little sign of life.

Let me just make reference to these charts because I think they will graphically indicate the situation.

This is the civilian unemployment rate as a percent of the labor force. This is June 1990 when it was at 5.3 percent. That is now not quite 2 years ago. In the intervening period of time, the unemployment rate has moved upward. It had some leveling off, and now it has moved back up again. It is now at 7.3 percent, which is the highest it has been at any point in this recession. So, despite all the talk about recovery, the unemployment rate has worsened (see chart below).

Civilian Unemployment Rate
Percent of the Labor Force
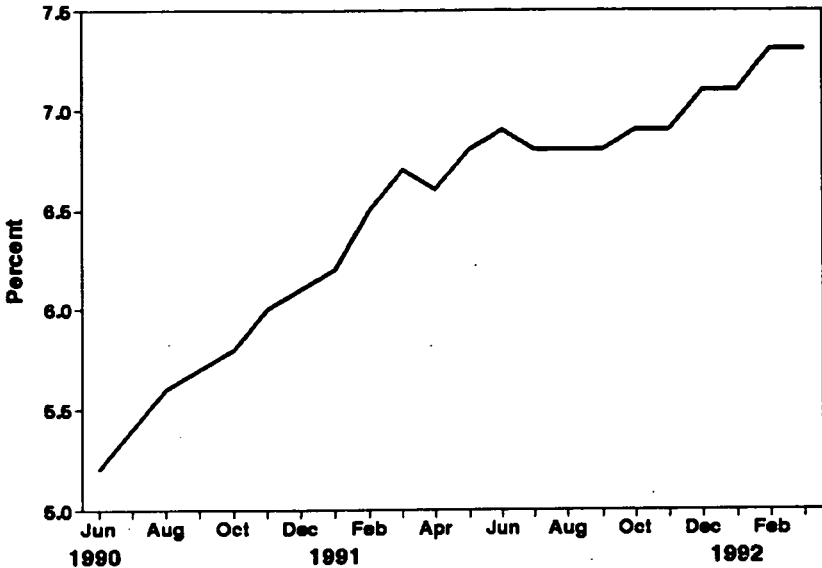
I am going to explore this in the questioning later. You can have all the economic indicators that you would like in order to show that this activity and that activity is turning up, but if unemployment continues to go up, suffering continues to go up.

The unemployment rate is the key indicator because what that represents are real people. The number of persons unemployed has gone from 6.5 million to almost 9.5 million, 9.2 million or 9.3 million people unemployed from 6.5 million at the beginning of the recession. These are persons that lie behind the unemployment rate figure.

In response to the suggestion that we are still getting this increase in claims, we had a sharp turn upwards. It came back down. Now it has started back up again. These are persons filing claims for unemployment insurance on a four-week moving average.

Finally—and we will explore this a bit in the hearing—is the comprehensive unemployment rate. Figures for the first quarter, as I understand it, were submitted this morning. The comprehensive rate includes not only the unemployment figure, which you are giving us, but the people who have become discouraged and are not looking for work and the people working part-time. That figure is now at an all-time high for this recession at 10.7 percent, more than one out of every ten in the country. Actually, you count the part-time as half. So, the number of people reflected here is about 17 million people who have been either completely or partially unemployed during this period.

Gentlemen, I know you are just the messengers and, therefore, we ought not take the grim news out on you, but I must say these figures continue to be very disturbing.

With that I will turn to my colleagues for any opening statement that they may have.

SENATOR SARBANES. Senator Bingaman, you may proceed.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Mr. Chairman, I will just wait and ask a few questions after the presentation. Thank you very much.

SENATOR SARBANES. Congressman Solarz, you may proceed.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. You have said it all, as usual, Mr. Chairman. I will await the testimony of the witnesses and then perhaps have a few questions.

SENATOR SARBANES. Mr. Barron, we are happy to hear from you, sir. We welcome you and your colleagues before the Committee this morning.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM G. BARRON, JR., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: ACCOMPANIED BY THOMAS PLEWES, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT; KENNETH V. DALTON, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR PRICES AND LIVING CONDITIONS; AND EDWIN DEAN, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY

MR. BARRON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here once again to provide a few comments to supplement this morning's Employment Situation news release.

Data from both the establishment and household surveys indicate that there was little change in labor market conditions in March. While total employment, as measured by the household survey, showed an increase and has been inching upward since the end of last year, payroll employment was unchanged and the unemployment held at 7.3 percent. Nonfarm payroll employment has shown little definitive movement since November, while unemployment has edged upward over this period.

Payroll employment in all of the major industry groups held fairly steady in March. Employment in construction has hovered around its present level of about 4.6 million since November. This stability represents an improvement over the pattern of steep job losses that occurred during much of the 1990-91 period, but the pickup in building activity since last spring has not yet been translated into any meaningful job growth in the industry.

In manufacturing, employment in both the durable and nondurable goods components held steady in March, with few significant changes among the individual industries. In fact, after declining for the five-month period through January, manufacturing employment seems to

have stabilized in the past two months. Lumber, autos and auto-related industries have shown some job growth, and a few other industries, most notably industrial machinery, have evidenced some moderation in their pattern of job losses. In addition, the manufacturing workweek has remained at very high levels.

Employment in retail trade slipped a bit in March, following a large increase in the prior month. Overall, there seems to have been some revival in retail hiring. This is based on encouraging job gains in general merchandise stores, the retail industry that had shown the most weakness during the recession.

Employment in the services industry was little changed in March, as moderate increases in business and health services were offset by losses elsewhere in the industry. Job growth in the services industry has slowed considerably thus far this year. Employment in transportation and public utilities, wholesale trade and finance, insurance and real estate also changed little over the month. There was a modest increase in local government employment, but most of the gain reflected temporary hiring associated with the elections held in a number of states during the survey period.

Turning to the household survey, total employment rose by about 300,000 in March, and there was little movement in unemployment. The number of unemployed persons held at 9.2 million and the unemployment rate stayed at 7.3 percent, following increases in February.

The unemployment rates for the major demographic groups were about unchanged in March, and the duration of unemployment also held steady. Similarly, there was little change in most other measures of job market performance derived from the household survey. The number of persons employed part-time for economic reasons remained at 6.5 million in March, and the estimate of discouraged workers for the first quarter of 1992 at 1.1 million was unchanged from the prior quarter.

I think it is noteworthy that the labor force increased again in March, the fourth consecutive monthly advance. Since November, the labor force has grown by about 1.2 million, with about half the increase showing up as gains in employment and half as increases in the number unemployed. The labor force participation rate has increased half a percentage point over the period to 66.3 percent. This pickup in labor force growth is in marked contrast with the trend during most of 1990-1991 when we were commenting on the exceptionally slow rate of labor force growth and its dampening effect on the unemployment rate.

In summary, overall labor market conditions, as measured by our data, held steady in March.

My colleagues and I will now be glad to answer any questions you may have.

[The table attached to Mr. Barron's statement, together with the Employment Situation press release, follows:]

Unemployment rates of all civilian workers by alternative seasonal adjustment methods

Month and year	Unad-justed rate	X-11 ARIMA method						X-11 method (official method before 1980)	Range (cols. 2-8)
		Official procedure	Concurrent (as first computed)	Concurrent (revised)	Stable	Total	Residual		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1991									
March........	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	.1
April........	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	.1
May..........	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	–
June.........	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.9	.2
July.........	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	.1
August.......	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	–
September...	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	.1
October......	6.4	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	.1
November....	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	.1
December....	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	–
1992									
January.....	8.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	.2
February....	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.4	.2
March........	7.7	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	.1

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
          Bureau of Labor Statistics
          April 1992

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Alternative Methods of Seasonal Adjustment

(1) *Unadjusted rate.* Unemployment rate for all civilian workers, not seasonally adjusted.

(2) *Official procedure (X-11 ARIMA method).* The published seasonally adjusted rate for all civilian workers. Each of the 3 major civilian labor force components—agricultural employment, nonagricultural employment and unemployment—for four age-sex groups—males and females, ages 16-19 and 20 years and over—are seasonally adjusted independently using data from January 1975 forward. The data series for each of these 12 components are extended by a year at each end of the original series using ARIMA (Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average) models chosen specifically for each series. Each extended series is then seasonally adjusted with the X-11 portion of the X-11 ARIMA program. The four teenage unemployment and nonagricultural employment components are adjusted with the additive adjustment model, while the other components are adjusted with the multiplicative model. The unemployment rate is computed by summing the 4 seasonally adjusted unemployment components and calculating that total as a percent of the civilian labor force total derived by summing all 12 seasonally adjusted components. All the seasonally adjusted series are revised at the end of each year. Extrapolated factors for January-June are computed at the beginning of each year; extrapolated factors for July-December are computed in the middle of the year after the June data become available. Each set of 6-month factors are published in advance, in the January and July issues, respectively, of *Employment and Earnings.*

(3) *Concurrent (as first computed, X-11 ARIMA method).* The official procedure for computation of the rate for all civilian workers using the 12 components is followed except that extrapolated factors are not used at all. Each component is seasonally adjusted with the X-11 ARIMA program each month as the most recent data become available. Rates for each month of the current year are shown as first computed; they are revised only once each year, at the end of the year when data for the full year become available. For example, the rate for January 1992 would be based, during 1992, on the adjustment of data through January 1992.

(4) *Concurrent (revised, X-11 ARIMA method).* The procedure used is identical to (3) above, and the rate for the current month the last month displayed) will always be the same in the two columns. However, all previous months are subject to revision each month based on the seasonal adjustment of all the components with data through the current month.

(5) *Stable (X-11 ARIMA method).* Each of the 12 civilian labor force components is extended using ARIMA models as in the official procedure and then run through the X-11 part of the program using

the stable option. This option assumes that seasonal patterns are basically constant from year to year and computes final seasonal factors as unweighted averages of all the seasonal-irregular components for each month across the entire span of the period adjusted. As in the official procedure, factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series are revised at the end of each year. The procedure for computation of the rate from the seasonally adjusted components is also identical to the official procedure.

(6) *Total (X-11 ARIMA method).* This is one alternative aggregation procedure, in which total unemployment and civilian labor force levels are extended with ARIMA Models and directly adjusted with multiplicative adjustment models in the X-11 part of the program. The rate is computed by taking seasonally adjusted total unemployment as a percent of seasonally adjusted total civilian labor force. Factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series revised at the end of each year.

(7) *Residual (X-11 ARIMA method).* This is another alternative aggregation method, in which total civilian employment and civilian labor force levels are extended using ARIMA models and then directly adjusted with multiplicative adjustment models. The seasonally adjusted unemployment level is derived by subtracting seasonally adjusted employment from seasonally adjusted labor force. The rate is then computed by taking the derived unemployment level as a percent of the labor force level. Factors are extrapolated in 6-month intervals and the series revised at the end of each year.

(8) *X-11 method (official method before 1980).* The method for computation of the official procedure is used except that the series are not extended with ARIMA models and the factors are projected in 12-month intervals. The standard X-11 program is used to perform the seasonal adjustment.

Methods of Adjustment. The X-11 ARIMA method was developed at Statistics Canada by the Seasonal Adjustment and Times Series Staff under the direction of Estela Bee Dagum. The method is described in *The X-11 ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Method,* by Estela Bee Dagum, Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 12-564E, January 1983. A description of the current adjustment of labor force data appears in Revision of Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series, *Employment and Earnings,* January 1992.

The standard X-11 method is described in *X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program,* by Julius Shiskin, Allan Young, and John Musgrave (Technical Paper No. 15, Bureau of the Census, 1967).

News

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: MARCH 1992

The labor market was little changed in March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The nation's unemployment rate remained at 7.3 percent, although total employment, as measured by the survey of households, showed an increase over the month. The number of nonfarm jobs, as measured by the survey of employers, was essentially unchanged.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The unemployment rate, 7.3 percent, and the number of unemployed persons, 9.2 million, were both unchanged in March. The jobless rate remained 1.9 percentage points above the level in July of 1990, when the recession started. The level of unemployment rose by 2.5 million over this period. There were no significant changes in unemployment among the major demographic groups over the month. (See tables A-1 and A-2.)

The number of people unemployed for less than 5 weeks rose in March, but this increase was offset by a drop among those jobless from 5 to 14 weeks. The number unemployed for 6 months or longer, at 1.8 million, was up in excess of 1 million since the beginning of the recession. (See table A-5.)

The number of persons working part time even though they would have preferred full-time work was unchanged in March at 6.5 million. Persons in this category, shown in table A-3 as working "part time for economic reasons," are often referred to as the "partially unemployed" or the "underemployed."

Total Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

The total number of employed persons increased by 300,000 in March, to 117.3 million. After trending downward from mid-1990 to the end of 1991, total employment has since grown by about 600,000. The population of working age has also continued to grow, however, so that the employment-population ratio--the proportion of the working-age population that is employed (61.4 percent)--has risen only marginally in recent months. (See table A-1.)

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, seasonally adjusted

Category	Quarterly averages		Monthly data			Feb.-Mar. change
	1991	1992	1992			
	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
HOUSEHOLD DATA	Thousands of persons					
Civilian labor force..	125,500	126,308	126,046	126,287	126,590	303
Employment..........	116,789	117,169	117,117	117,043	117,348	305
Unemployment........	8,711	9,138	8,929	9,244	9,242	-2
Not in labor force....	64,949	64,580	64,713	64,597	64,432	-165
Discouraged workers.	1,094	1,084	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Percent of labor force					
Unemployment rates:						
All workers.........	6.9	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.3	.0
Adult men.........	6.5	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.9	-0.1
Adult women.......	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.1	.0
Teenagers.........	19.0	19.6	18.3	20.0	20.6	.6
White.............	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.5	.0
Black.............	12.6	13.9	13.7	13.8	14.1	.3
Hispanic origin...	10.1	11.5	11.3	11.6	11.6	.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA	Thousands of jobs					
Nonfarm employment....	108,933	p108,838	108,760	p108,867	p108,886	p19
Goods-producing 1/..	23,625	p23,496	23,506	p23,490	p23,492	p2
Construction......	4,615	p4,587	4,602	p4,574	p4,584	p10
Manufacturing.....	18,336	p18,246	18,238	p18,252	p18,249	p-3
Service-producing 1/	85,308	p85,342	85,254	p85,377	p85,394	p17
Retail trade......	19,246	p19,243	19,168	p19,292	p19,268	p-24
Services..........	29,028	p29,078	29,073	p29,076	p29,086	p10
Government........	18,483	p18,527	18,519	p18,511	p18,550	p39
	Hours of work					
Average weekly hours:						
Total private.......	34.4	p34.5	34.2	p34.6	p34.6	p.0
Manufacturing.......	41.0	p41.0	40.8	p41.1	p41.1	p.0
Overtime..........	3.7	p3.7	3.6	p3.7	p3.7	p.0

  1/ Includes other industries, not shown separately.   p=preliminary.
N.A.= not available.

The civilian labor force also grew by 300,000 in March to a level of 126.6 million, marking the fourth straight month of increases in this measure. The number of teenagers in the labor force dropped by about 175,000 but substantial increases continued among adult men and women. Since November, about 1.2 million workers have been added to the labor force. In marked contrast, the labor force had grown by less than 700,000 between July 1990 and November 1991. The labor force participation rate-- the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or seeking employment--continued to edge up and, at 66.3 percent, was half a percentage point higher than in November. (See table A-1.)

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

The number of discouraged workers--persons who want jobs but are not looking because they feel that their search would be fruitless--was about unchanged in the first quarter of 1992 at 1.1 million workers. Although this total is about 260,000 higher than at the beginning of the recession, it has been at approximately the same level for 3 consecutive quarters. During the 1981-82 recession, the number of discouraged workers rose by a much greater amount--about 700,000. (See table A-11.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

Total nonfarm payroll employment was virtually unchanged in March, after seasonal adjustment, following essentially offsetting movements in January and February. (See table B-1.)

At 18.2 million, the number of factory jobs was about unchanged for the second consecutive month, following a 5-month string of job losses. March was characterized by generally small changes among the component industries, the largest being a 6,000 pickup in the auto industry. Employment in this industry has rebounded by 73,000 from its March 1991 low point but remains 83,000 below the pre-recession high.

Elsewhere in the goods-producing sector, construction employment edged up very slightly in March, after seasonal adjustment. Employment levels in the industry seem to have stabilized in recent months, after declining sharply since the spring of 1990. Mining employment, on the other hand, has continued to experience losses; it is now 8 percent lower than when the recession began.

Employment in the service-producing sector was about unchanged in March, as offsetting movements occurred within some of the component industries. Retail trade employment edged down after seasonal adjustment, following a very large February increase; most of the job losses occurred in eating and drinking places. Employment declines continued in wholesale trade in March, with most of the losses occurring in nondurable goods distribution. The number of jobs in the services industry was little changed in March, even though employment in the health services component continued to show growth. Government employment rose by 39,000 in March, largely because local governments hired temporary workers to help with elections.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls held steady at 34.6 hours in March, following an increase of 0.4 hour in February. Both the average factory workweek and the overtime component were unchanged at 41.1 hours and 3.7 hours, respectively, in March. (See table B-2.)

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers was down by 0.2 percent to 122.1 (1982=100) in March, seasonally adjusted, and the index for manufacturing was unchanged. Both indexes had large gains in the previous month. (See table B-5.)

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings of private production or nonsupervisory workers were up 0.4 percent in March to $10.55, seasonally adjusted. Average weekly earnings also increased by 0.4 percent to $365.03. Before seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents to $10.56, and average weekly earnings increased by $2.08 to $362.21. Over the past year, average hourly earnings increased by 3.1 percent and average weekly earnings rose by 4.0 percent. (See table B-3.)

The Employment Situation for April 1992 will be released on Friday, May 8, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Explanatory Note

This news release presents statistics from two major surveys, the Current Population Survey (household survey) and the Current Employment Statistics Survey (establishment survey). The household survey provides the information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment that appears in the A tables, marked HOUSEHOLD DATA. It is a sample survey of about 60,000 households that is conducted by the Bureau of the Census with most of the findings analyzed and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The establishment survey provides the information on the employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls that appears in the B tables, marked ESTABLISHMENT DATA. This information is collected from payroll records by BLS in cooperation with State agencies. The sample includes over 350,000 establishments employing over 41 million people.

For both surveys, the data for a given month are actually collected for and relate to a particular week. In the household survey, unless otherwise indicated, it is the calendar week that contains the 12th day of the month, which is called the survey week. In the establishment survey, the reference week is the pay period including the 12th, which may or may not correspond directly to the calendar week.

The data in this release are affected by a number of technical factors, including definitions, survey differences, seasonal adjustments, and the inevitable variance in results between a survey of a sample and a census of the entire population. Each of these factors is explained below.

Coverage, definitions, and differences between surveys

The sample households in the household survey are selected so as to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and older. Each person in a household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. Those who hold more than one job are classified according to the job at which they worked the most hours.

People are classified as *employed* if they did any work at all as paid employees; worked in their own business or profession or on their own farm; or worked 15 hours or more in an enterprise operated by a member of their family, whether they were paid or not. People are also counted as employed if they were on unpaid leave because of illness, bad weather, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons.

People are classified as *unemployed*, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: They had no employment during the survey week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the prior 4 weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

The *civilian labor force* equals the sum of the number employed and the number unemployed. The *unemployment rate* is the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force. Table A-7 presents a special grouping of seven measures of unemployment based on varying definitions of unemployment and the labor force. The definitions are provided in the table. The most restrictive definition yields U-1 and the most comprehensive yields U-7. The civilian worker unemployment rate is U-5b, while U-5a, the overall unemployment rate, includes the resident Armed Forces in the labor force base.

Unlike the household survey, the establishment survey only counts wage and salary employees whose names appear on the payroll records of nonfarm firms. As a result, there are many differences between the two surveys, among which are the following:

● The household survey, although based on a smaller sample, reflects a larger segment of the population; the establishment survey excludes agriculture, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers;

● The household survey includes people on unpaid leave among the employed; the establishment survey does not;

● The household survey is limited to those 16 years of age and older; the establishment survey is not limited by age;

● The household survey has no duplication of individuals, because each individual is counted only once; in the establishment survey, employees working at more than one job or otherwise appearing on more than one payroll would be counted separately for each appearance.

Other differences between the two surveys are described in "Comparing Employment Estimates from Household and Payroll Surveys," which may be obtained from BLS upon request.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. For example, the labor force increases by a large number each June, when schools close and many young people enter the job market. The effect of such seasonal variation can be very large; over the course of a year, for example, seasonality may account for as much as 95 percent of the month-to-month changes in unemployment.

Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the statistics from month to month. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments, such as declines in economic activity or increases in the participation of women in the labor force, easier to spot. To return to the school's-out example, the large number of people entering the labor force each June is likely to obscure any other changes that have taken place since May, making it difficult to determine if the level of economic activity has risen or declined. However, because the effect of students finishing school in previous years is known, the statistics for the current year can be adjusted to allow for a comparable

change. Insofar as the seasonal adjustment is made correctly, the adjusted figure provides a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in economic activity.

Measures of labor force, employment, and unemployment contain components such as age and sex. Statistics for all employees, production workers, average weekly hours, and average hourly earnings include components based on the employer's industry. All these statistics can be seasonally adjusted either by adjusting the total or by adjusting each of the components and combining them. The second procedure usually yields more accurate information and is therefore followed by BLS. For example, the seasonally adjusted figure for the civilian labor force is the sum of eight seasonally adjusted employment components and four seasonally adjusted unemployment components; the total for unemployment is the sum of the four unemployment components; and the unemployment rate is derived by dividing the resulting estimate of total unemployment by the estimate of the civilian labor force.

The numerical factors used to make the seasonal adjustments are recalculated twice a year. For the household survey, the factors are calculated for the January-June period and again for the July-December period. For the establishment survey, updated factors for seasonal adjustment are calculated for the May-October period and introduced along with new benchmarks, and again for the November-April period. In both surveys, revisions to historical data are made once a year.

Sampling variability

Statistics based on the household and establishment surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the estimate of the number of people employed and the other estimates drawn from these surveys probably differ from the figures that would be obtained from a complete census, even if the same questionnaires and procedures were used. In the household survey, the amount of the differences can be expressed in terms of standard errors. The numerical value of a standard error depends upon the size of the sample, the results of the survey, and other factors. However, the numerical value is always such that the chances are approximately 68 out of 100 that an estimate based on the sample will differ by no more than the standard error from the results of a complete census. The chances are approximately 90 out of 100 that an estimate based on the sample will differ by no more than 1.6 times the standard error from the results of a complete census. At approximately the 90-percent level of confidence—the confidence limits used by BLS in its analyses—the error for the monthly change in total employment is on the order of plus or minus 358,000; for total unemployment it is 224,000; and, for the civilian worker unemployment rate, it is 0.19 percentage points. These figures do not mean that the sample results are off by these magnitudes but, rather, that the chances

are approximately 90 out of 100 that the "true" level or rate would not be expected to differ from the estimates by more than these amounts.

Sampling errors for monthly surveys are reduced when the data are cumulated for several months, such as quarterly or annually Also, as a general rule, the smaller the estimate, the larger the sampling error. Therefore, relatively speaking, the estimate of the size of the labor force is subject to less error than is the estimate of the number unemployed. And, among the unemployed, the sampling error for the jobless rate of adult men, for example, is much smaller than is the error for the jobless rate of teenagers. Specifically, the error on monthly change in the jobless rate for men is .25 percentage point; for teenagers, it is 1.29 percentage points.

In the establishment survey, estimates for the most current 2 months are based on incomplete returns; for this reason, these estimates are labeled preliminary in the tables. When all the returns in the sample have been received, the estimates are revised. In other words, data for the month of September are published in preliminary form in October and November and in final form in December. To remove errors that build up over time, a comprehensive count of the employed is conducted each year. The results of this survey are used to establish new benchmarks—comprehensive counts of employment—against which month-to-month changes can be measured. The new benchmarks also incorporate changes in the classification of industries and allow for the formation of new establishments.

Additional statistics and other information

In order to provide a broad view of the nation's employment situation, BLS regularly publishes a wide variety of data in this news release. More comprehensive statistics are contained in *Employment and Earnings*, published each month by BLS. It is available for $10.00 per issue or $31.00 per year from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20204. A check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents must accompany all orders.

Employment and Earnings also provides approximations of the standard errors for the household survey data published in this release. For unemployment and other labor force categories, the standard errors appear in tables B through J of its "Explanatory Notes." Measures of the reliability of the data drawn from the establishment survey and the actual amounts of revision due to benchmark adjustments are provided in tables M, O, P, and Q of that publication.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-523-1221, TDD phone: 202-523-3926, TDD Message Referral Phone Number: 1-800-326-2577.

Table A-1. Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex, and age	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
TOTAL									
Civilian noninstitutional population	189,243	190,684	191,022	189,243	190,452	190,605	190,759	190,684	191,022
Civilian labor force	124,443	125,398	125,797	125,250	125,374	125,619	126,046	126,297	126,590
Participation rate	65.8	65.7	65.9	66.2	65.8	65.9	66.1	66.2	66.3
Employed	115,639	115,224	116,106	116,834	116,772	116,728	117,117	117,043	117,348
Employment-population ratio	61.1	60.4	60.8	61.7	61.3	61.2	61.4	61.3	61.4
Agriculture	2,849	2,786	2,918	3,124	3,272	3,183	3,166	3,232	3,194
Nonagricultural industries	112,790	112,438	113,188	113,710	113,500	113,545	113,951	113,811	114,155
Unemployed	8,804	10,161	9,691	8,416	8,602	8,891	8,929	9,244	9,242
Unemployment rate	7.1	8.1	7.7	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.3
Not in labor force	64,800	65,498	65,225	63,993	65,078	64,986	64,713	64,597	64,432
Men, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	90,273	91,164	91,238	90,273	90,924	91,008	91,094	91,164	91,238
Civilian labor force	68,028	68,244	68,491	68,421	68,417	68,418	68,618	68,710	68,849
Participation rate	75.4	74.9	75.1	75.8	75.2	75.2	75.3	75.4	75.5
Employed	62,659	62,027	62,802	63,563	63,572	63,426	63,453	63,352	63,529
Employment-population ratio	69.4	68.0	68.6	70.4	69.9	69.7	69.7	69.5	69.6
Unemployed	5,369	6,218	5,689	4,858	4,845	4,990	5,165	5,358	5,320
Unemployment rate	7.9	9.1	8.6	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.8	7.7
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	83,466	84,549	84,590	83,466	84,245	84,367	84,464	84,549	84,590
Civilian labor force	64,628	65,077	65,322	64,703	64,914	64,982	65,061	65,179	65,375
Participation rate	77.4	77.0	77.2	77.5	77.1	77.0	77.0	77.1	77.3
Employed	59,992	59,625	60,204	60,597	60,764	60,672	60,600	60,597	60,846
Employment-population ratio	71.9	70.5	71.2	72.6	72.1	71.9	71.7	71.7	71.9
Agriculture	2,104	2,083	2,177	2,269	2,390	2,317	2,277	2,356	2,351
Nonagricultural industries	57,888	57,542	58,027	58,328	58,374	58,355	58,323	58,241	58,495
Unemployed	4,636	5,452	5,118	4,106	4,150	4,290	4,461	4,582	4,529
Unemployment rate	7.2	8.4	7.8	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.9	7.0	6.9
Women, 16 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	98,970	99,720	99,783	98,970	99,528	99,597	99,665	99,720	99,783
Civilian labor force	56,415	57,141	57,306	56,829	56,957	57,203	57,428	57,576	57,741
Participation rate	57.0	57.3	57.4	57.4	57.2	57.4	57.6	57.7	57.9
Employed	52,980	53,198	53,504	53,271	53,200	53,302	53,664	53,691	53,820
Employment-population ratio	53.5	53.3	53.6	53.8	53.5	53.5	53.8	53.8	53.9
Unemployed	3,435	3,944	3,802	3,558	3,757	3,901	3,764	3,886	3,922
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.8
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian noninstitutional population	92,273	93,208	93,256	92,273	92,958	93,032	93,125	93,208	93,256
Civilian labor force	53,250	54,135	54,379	53,396	53,855	53,909	54,190	54,272	54,555
Participation rate	57.7	58.1	58.3	57.9	57.7	57.9	58.2	58.2	58.5
Employed	50,327	50,734	51,100	50,408	50,474	50,613	50,968	50,973	51,212
Employment-population ratio	54.5	54.4	54.8	54.6	54.3	54.4	54.7	54.7	54.9
Agriculture	561	584	597	618	672	661	673	672	659
Nonagricultural industries	49,766	50,150	50,503	49,790	49,802	49,952	50,295	50,301	50,554
Unemployed	2,923	3,401	3,279	2,988	3,181	3,296	3,221	3,299	3,343
Unemployment rate	5.5	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.1
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian noninstitutional population	13,504	13,127	13,176	13,504	13,250	13,206	13,169	13,127	13,176
Civilian labor force	6,565	6,174	6,095	7,151	6,805	6,748	6,796	6,836	6,660
Participation rate	48.6	47.0	46.3	53.0	51.4	51.1	51.6	52.1	50.5
Employed	5,320	4,866	4,802	5,829	5,534	5,443	5,549	5,472	5,290
Employment-population ratio	39.4	37.1	36.4	43.2	41.8	41.2	42.1	41.7	40.1
Agriculture	184	119	144	237	210	205	216	203	184
Nonagricultural industries	5,136	4,748	4,658	5,592	5,324	5,238	5,333	5,269	5,106
Unemployed	1,245	1,308	1,293	1,322	1,271	1,305	1,247	1,364	1,370
Unemployment rate	19.0	21.2	21.2	18.5	18.7	19.3	18.3	20.0	20.6

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	161,179	162,219	162,305	161,179	161,949	162,047	162,144	162,219	162,305
Civilian labor force	106,782	107,442	107,772	107,524	107,599	107,646	107,973	108,071	108,491
Participation rate	66.3	66.2	66.4	66.7	66.4	66.4	66.6	66.6	66.8
Employed	99,955	99,583	100,325	101,027	100,977	100,828	101,235	101,073	101,411
Employment-population ratio	62.0	61.4	61.8	62.7	62.4	62.2	62.4	62.3	62.5
Unemployed	6,827	7,860	7,447	6,497	6,622	6,818	6,737	6,998	7,080
Unemployment rate	6.4	7.3	6.9	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.5
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	56,061	56,400	56,559	56,191	56,312	56,244	56,400	56,439	56,673
Participation rate	77.8	77.5	77.7	78.0	77.6	77.4	77.6	77.6	77.8
Employed	52,353	52,072	52,572	52,919	53,011	52,896	52,908	52,865	53,157
Employment-population ratio	72.6	71.6	72.2	73.4	73.0	72.8	72.8	72.7	73.0
Unemployed	3,708	4,328	3,987	3,272	3,301	3,348	3,491	3,574	3,516
Unemployment rate	6.6	7.7	7.0	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.2
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	45,087	45,742	45,931	45,218	45,372	45,530	45,762	45,789	46,066
Participation rate	57.6	58.0	58.2	57.7	57.6	57.8	58.0	58.0	58.3
Employed	42,892	43,206	43,479	42,977	43,038	43,076	43,425	43,380	43,568
Employment-population ratio	54.8	54.8	55.1	54.9	54.6	54.6	55.1	55.0	55.2
Unemployed	2,195	2,535	2,452	2,241	2,334	2,454	2,337	2,410	2,499
Unemployment rate	4.9	5.5	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.4
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	5,634	5,301	5,282	6,115	5,915	5,872	5,811	5,843	5,753
Participation rate	52.3	50.3	50.1	56.7	55.8	55.5	55.0	55.4	54.6
Employed	4,711	4,304	4,274	5,131	4,928	4,856	4,902	4,829	4,688
Employment-population ratio	43.7	40.8	40.6	47.6	46.5	45.9	46.4	45.8	44.5
Unemployed	924	996	1,009	984	987	1,016	909	1,014	1,065
Unemployment rate	16.4	18.8	19.1	16.1	16.7	17.3	15.6	17.4	18.5
Men	19.5	21.3	22.4	18.2	17.4	18.0	16.6	19.0	20.7
Women	13.0	16.1	15.5	13.8	15.9	16.6	14.6	15.5	16.1
BLACK									
Civilian noninstitutional population	21,516	21,828	21,854	21,516	21,745	21,774	21,803	21,828	21,854
Civilian labor force	13,469	13,505	13,596	13,585	13,426	13,559	13,723	13,680	13,688
Participation rate	62.6	61.9	62.2	63.1	61.7	62.3	62.9	62.7	62.6
Employed	11,800	11,555	11,669	11,909	11,779	11,841	11,837	11,794	11,765
Employment-population ratio	54.8	52.9	53.4	55.3	54.2	54.4	54.3	54.0	53.8
Unemployed	1,669	1,949	1,917	1,676	1,647	1,718	1,886	1,886	1,923
Unemployment rate	12.4	14.4	14.1	12.3	12.3	12.7	13.7	13.8	14.1
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,373	6,354	6,437	6,382	6,357	6,402	6,427	6,387	6,435
Participation rate	73.9	72.3	73.1	74.0	72.7	73.0	73.2	72.6	73.1
Employed	5,610	5,411	5,475	5,654	5,675	5,665	5,567	5,533	5,514
Employment-population ratio	65.0	61.5	62.2	65.5	64.9	64.6	63.4	62.9	62.6
Unemployed	762	943	962	728	682	737	860	854	921
Unemployment rate	12.0	14.8	14.9	11.4	10.7	11.5	13.4	13.4	14.3
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	6,370	6,437	6,499	6,395	6,366	6,460	6,469	6,464	6,524
Participation rate	59.1	58.7	59.2	59.3	58.3	59.1	59.1	59.0	59.5
Employed	5,755	5,710	5,800	5,750	5,648	5,730	5,732	5,750	5,788
Employment-population ratio	53.4	52.1	52.9	53.3	51.8	52.4	52.4	52.5	52.8
Unemployed	615	727	699	645	718	730	737	714	736
Unemployment rate	9.7	11.3	10.8	10.1	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.0	11.3
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	726	713	650	808	703	697	827	829	729
Participation rate	34.5	34.3	31.3	38.4	33.7	33.5	39.8	39.9	35.1
Employed	435	434	394	505	456	446	538	511	463
Employment-population ratio	20.7	20.9	19.0	24.0	21.9	21.4	25.9	24.6	22.3
Unemployed	292	279	256	303	247	251	289	318	266
Unemployment rate	40.1	39.1	39.4	37.5	35.1	36.0	34.9	38.4	36.5
Men	40.2	42.4	40.2	37.5	36.4	35.7	35.8	39.0	37.6
Women	40.1	35.3	38.3	37.5	33.8	38.3	33.8	37.5	35.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-2. Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
HISPANIC ORIGIN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	14,632	15,066	15,106	14,632	14,948	14,987	15,027	15,066	15,106
Civilian labor force	9,591	9,914	10,092	9,674	9,848	9,875	9,964	10,033	10,170
Participation rate	65.5	65.8	66.8	66.1	65.9	65.9	66.3	66.6	67.3
Employed	8,630	8,688	8,921	8,704	8,844	8,915	8,835	8,865	8,993
Employment-population ratio	59.0	57.7	59.1	59.5	59.2	59.5	58.8	58.8	59.5
Unemployed	961	1,226	1,170	970	1,004	960	1,129	1,168	1,177
Unemployment rate	10.0	12.4	11.6	10.0	10.2	9.7	11.3	11.6	11.6

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

NOTE: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table A-3. Selected employment indicators

(In thousands)

Category	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
CHARACTERISTIC									
Civilian employed, 16 years and over	115,639	115,224	116,106	116,834	116,772	116,728	117,117	117,043	117,348
Married men, spouse present	40,175	39,426	39,914	40,387	40,398	40,206	40,092	39,905	40,115
Married women, spouse present	29,632	29,692	30,144	29,611	29,803	29,779	29,832	29,841	30,144
Women who maintain families	6,438	6,575	6,494	6,456	6,501	6,536	6,579	6,555	6,514
OCCUPATION									
Managerial and professional specialty	30,994	31,098	31,075	30,761	31,218	31,796	31,120	30,990	30,840
Technical, sales, and administrative support	36,229	36,680	36,906	36,265	35,862	35,626	36,579	37,013	36,945
Service occupations	15,773	15,962	16,084	15,935	16,121	16,076	15,989	16,172	16,246
Precision production, craft, and repair	12,987	12,445	12,439	13,236	13,023	12,982	13,052	12,751	12,680
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	16,676	16,203	16,635	17,153	17,189	16,922	16,999	16,706	17,129
Farming, forestry, and fishing	2,977	2,836	2,965	3,416	3,460	3,420	3,415	3,459	3,404
INDUSTRY AND CLASS OF WORKER									
Agriculture:									
Wage and salary workers	1,413	1,410	1,560	1,584	1,683	1,646	1,583	1,705	1,755
Self-employed workers	1,319	1,295	1,486	1,412	1,431	1,431	1,471	1,428	1,360
Unpaid family workers	117	81	86	127	115	108	95	112	92
Nonagricultural industries:									
Wage and salary workers	103,772	103,813	104,379	104,553	104,291	104,407	105,250	105,055	105,141
Government	18,061	17,870	17,975	17,820	17,812	17,915	17,802	17,641	17,727
Private industries	85,711	85,943	86,404	86,733	86,479	86,492	87,448	87,415	87,415
Private households	922	1,033	997	988	954	953	1,013	1,130	1,069
Other industries	84,789	84,910	85,407	85,745	85,525	85,539	86,435	86,284	86,346
Self-employed workers	8,765	8,417	8,536	8,901	8,950	8,758	8,476	8,695	8,657
Unpaid family workers	253	208	273	225	231	229	222	230	242
PERSONS AT WORK PART TIME[1]									
All industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	6,009	6,665	6,473	6,051	6,408	6,321	6,719	6,509	6,499
Slack work	3,415	3,664	3,428	3,209	3,297	3,246	3,232	3,260	3,216
Could only find part-time work	2,319	2,735	2,786	2,460	2,768	2,743	3,145	2,906	2,951
Voluntary part time	15,827	15,062	15,298	14,883	14,924	14,893	14,773	14,318	14,378
Nonagricultural industries:									
Part time for economic reasons	5,765	6,412	6,205	5,760	6,123	6,084	6,429	6,213	6,180
Slack work	3,247	3,484	3,216	3,010	3,102	3,081	3,063	3,089	2,975
Could only find part-time work	2,255	2,672	2,744	2,384	2,638	2,664	3,052	2,807	2,901
Voluntary part time	15,464	14,678	14,845	14,504	14,463	14,450	14,326	13,900	13,926

[1] Excludes persons "with a job but not at work" during the survey period for such reasons as vacation, illness, or industrial dispute.

NOTE: Data on occupations and industries for 1992 are not fully comparable with data for prior years because of the introduction of the classification systems used in the 1990 decennial census of population. Some categories, particularly "technical, sales, and administrative support," may have significant breaks in comparability.

Table A-4. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted

Category	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
CHARACTERISTIC									
Total, 16 years and over	8,416	9,244	9,242	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.3
Men, 20 years and over	4,106	4,582	4,529	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.9	7.0	6.9
Women, 20 years and over	2,988	3,299	3,343	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.1
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years	1,322	1,364	1,370	18.5	18.7	19.3	18.3	20.0	20.6
Married men, spouse present	1,868	2,122	2,018	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.8
Married women, spouse present	1,440	1,501	1,579	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.0
Women who maintain families	644	686	722	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.5	10.0
Full-time workers	6,839	7,710	7,675	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.8	7.1	7.0
Part-time workers	1,579	1,516	1,571	8.6	8.6	8.6	9.1	8.8	9.0
Labor force time lost[2]	—	—	—	7.6	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.3
OCCUPATION[3]									
Managerial and professional specialty	845	993	975	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1
Technical, sales, and administrative support	1,958	2,223	2,231	5.1	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,098	1,325	1,385	7.6	8.2	8.3	9.2	9.4	9.8
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	2,079	2,232	2,129	10.8	10.0	10.7	10.8	11.8	11.1
Farming, forestry, and fishing	323	299	247	8.6	8.1	7.6	8.2	8.0	6.8
INDUSTRY									
Nonagricultural private wage and salary workers	6,591	7,169	7,366	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.8
Goods-producing industries	2,527	2,701	2,644	8.9	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.7	9.5
Mining	55	67	56	6.9	9.2	8.2	6.3	8.9	7.7
Construction	876	1,026	1,054	14.3	16.1	16.3	17.0	17.4	17.6
Manufacturing	1,596	1,608	1,534	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.6	7.3
Durable goods	995	941	902	7.9	7.1	7.3	7.0	7.7	7.4
Nondurable goods	601	667	632	6.7	7.9	7.1	7.0	7.5	7.1
Service-producing industries	4,064	4,467	4,722	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.7	7.1
Transportation and public utilities	347	347	398	5.3	5.7	6.7	5.5	5.1	5.9
Wholesale and retail trade	1,876	2,003	2,080	7.8	7.5	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.5
Finance and service industries	1,841	2,118	2,244	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.3
Government workers	658	732	684	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.0	3.7
Agricultural wage and salary workers	236	227	186	13.0	12.4	11.5	10.9	11.7	9.6

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.
[2] Aggregate hours lost by the unemployed and persons on part time for economic reasons as a percent of potentially available labor force hours.
[3] Seasonally adjusted unemployment data for service occupations are not available because the seasonal components are small relative to the trend-cycle and/or irregular components and consequently cannot be

separated with sufficient precision.
NOTE: Data on occupations and industries for 1992 are not fully comparable with data for prior years because of the introduction of the classification systems used in the 1990 decennial census of population. Some categories, particularly "Technical, sales, and administrative support," may have significant breaks in comparability.

Table A-5. Duration of unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Weeks of unemployment	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
DURATION									
Less than 5 weeks	3,149	3,020	2,996	3,458	3,289	3,307	3,329	3,051	3,281
5 to 14 weeks	3,192	3,642	3,036	2,803	2,721	2,764	2,867	2,902	2,658
15 weeks and over	2,463	3,499	3,659	2,144	2,623	2,843	3,059	3,204	3,185
15 to 26 weeks	1,480	1,693	1,822	1,199	1,300	1,372	1,455	1,475	1,418
27 weeks and over	983	1,607	1,837	945	1,323	1,471	1,604	1,729	1,766
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	13.7	16.9	18.0	13.0	14.9	15.3	16.4	17.0	17.1
Median duration, in weeks	8.3	9.2	10.2	6.5	7.7	7.8	8.1	8.2	8.0
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	35.8	29.7	30.9	41.1	38.1	37.1	36.8	33.3	36.0
5 to 14 weeks	36.3	35.8	31.3	33.3	31.5	31.0	29.5	31.7	29.1
15 weeks and over	28.0	34.4	37.8	25.5	30.4	31.9	33.8	35.0	34.9
15 to 26 weeks	16.8	16.7	16.8	14.3	15.1	15.4	16.1	16.1	15.5
27 weeks and over	11.2	17.8	19.0	11.2	15.3	16.5	17.7	18.9	19.4

Table A-6. Reason for unemployment

(Numbers in thousands)

Reason	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED									
Job losers	5,155	6,337	5,938	4,587	4,698	4,990	4,780	5,321	5,274
On layoff	1,765	1,766	1,592	1,371	1,198	1,256	1,168	1,275	1,231
Other job losers	3,390	4,570	4,347	3,216	3,500	3,734	3,612	4,046	4,042
Job leavers	1,011	910	874	1,055	987	913	975	900	909
Reentrants	2,027	2,180	2,167	2,076	2,108	2,164	2,352	2,182	2,213
New entrants	611	754	712	708	774	811	790	823	811
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers	58.6	62.4	61.3	54.4	54.8	56.2	53.7	57.8	57.3
On layoff	20.0	17.4	16.4	16.3	14.0	14.1	13.1	13.9	13.4
Other job losers	38.5	45.0	44.9	38.2	40.9	42.1	40.6	43.9	43.9
Job leavers	11.5	9.0	9.0	12.5	11.5	10.3	11.0	9.8	9.9
Reentrants	23.0	21.3	22.4	24.6	24.6	24.4	26.4	23.5	24.0
New entrants	6.9	7.4	7.3	8.4	9.0	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.8
UNEMPLOYED AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE									
Job losers	4.1	5.1	4.7	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.8	4.2	4.2
Job leavers	.8	.7	.7	.8	.8	.7	.8	.7	.7
Reentrants	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.7
New entrants	.5	.6	.6	.6	.6	.6	.6	.7	.6

Table A-7. Range of unemployment measures based on varying definitions of unemployment and the labor force, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Measure	Quarterly averages					Monthly data		
	1991				1992	1992		
	I	II	III	IV	I	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
U-1 Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer as a percent of the civilian labor force	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5
U-2 Job losers as a percent of the civilian labor force	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.2	4.2
U-3 Unemployed persons 25 years and over as a percent of the civilian labor force for persons 25 years and over	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.0
U-4 Unemployed full-time jobseekers as a percent of the full-time civilian labor force	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.6	7.0	6.8	7.1	7.0
U-5a Total unemployed as a percent of the labor force, including the resident Armed Forces	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.0	7.2	7.2
U-5b Total unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.3
U-6 Total full-time jobseekers plus 1/2 part-time jobseekers plus 1/2 total on part time for economic reasons as a percent of the civilian labor force less 1/2 of the part-time labor force	8.9	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.9	9.9	10.0	9.9
U-7 Total full-time jobseekers plus 1/2 part-time jobseekers plus 1/2 total on part time for economic reasons plus discouraged workers as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers less 1/2 of the part-time labor force	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.7	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

N.A. = not available.

Table A-8. Unemployed persons by sex and age, seasonally adjusted

Sex and age	Number of unemployed persons (in thousands)			Unemployment rates[1]					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
Total, 16 years and over	8,416	9,244	9,242	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.3
16 to 24 years	2,726	2,893	2,850	13.1	13.6	14.3	13.8	14.1	14.0
16 to 19 years	1,322	1,364	1,370	18.5	18.7	19.3	18.3	20.0	20.6
16 to 17 years	573	576	608	21.0	20.9	22.7	20.9	21.5	23.6
18 to 19 years	766	772	777	17.3	17.2	17.2	16.8	18.4	18.9
20 to 24 years	1,404	1,529	1,480	10.2	11.1	11.9	11.2	11.2	10.8
25 years and over	5,705	6,332	6,410	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.0
25 to 54 years	5,077	5,670	5,714	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.3
55 years and over	617	664	677	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4
Men, 16 years and over	4,858	5,359	5,320	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.8	7.7
16 to 24 years	1,590	1,668	1,691	14.5	14.3	14.8	15.0	15.6	15.9
16 to 19 years	752	777	791	20.2	19.8	20.3	19.8	22.0	22.6
16 to 17 years	352	326	362	24.3	21.3	21.7	21.6	24.0	26.8
18 to 19 years	416	451	443	18.1	18.8	19.2	17.5	20.4	20.6
20 to 24 years	838	891	900	11.5	11.6	12.3	12.7	12.4	12.6
25 years and over	3,261	3,675	3,641	5.7	5.7	5.9	8.4	6.3	6.3
25 to 54 years	2,886	3,257	3,196	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.5
55 years and over	393	412	444	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.7	5.0
Women, 16 years and over	3,558	3,886	3,922	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.8
16 to 24 years	1,136	1,225	1,159	11.5	12.9	13.8	12.0	12.6	11.9
16 to 19 years	570	587	579	16.6	17.4	18.4	16.8	17.8	18.2
16 to 17 years	221	250	246	17.2	20.6	23.9	20.3	18.9	20.1
18 to 19 years	350	321	334	16.3	15.5	15.0	14.0	18.2	17.0
20 to 24 years	566	638	580	8.8	10.6	11.4	9.6	9.9	8.9
25 years and over	2,424	2,657	2,769	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.8
25 to 54 years	2,191	2,414	2,519	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.1
55 years and over	224	253	234	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.8	3.5

[1] Unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Table A-9. Employment status of male Vietnam-era veterans and nonveterans by age, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status and age	Civilian noninstitutional population		Civilian labor force							
			Total		Employed		Unemployed			
							Number		Percent of labor force	
	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992
VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS										
Total, 35 years and over	7,739	7,845	7,043	7,083	6,668	6,669	376	413	5.3	5.8
35 to 49 years	6,477	6,338	6,132	5,942	5,784	5,591	348	351	5.7	5.9
35 to 39 years	1,236	999	1,178	928	1,078	863	100	65	8.5	7.0
40 to 44 years	3,149	2,810	2,974	2,640	2,807	2,494	168	146	5.6	5.5
45 to 49 years	2,092	2,529	1,980	2,374	1,900	2,234	80	140	4.1	5.9
50 years and over	1,262	1,507	911	1,141	884	1,078	28	62	3.0	5.5
NONVETERANS										
Total, 35 to 49 years	18,003	19,043	16,914	17,751	15,924	16,563	989	1,188	5.8	6.7
35 to 39 years	8,224	8,619	7,798	8,144	7,324	7,567	474	577	6.1	7.1
40 to 44 years	5,603	6,097	5,250	5,656	4,948	5,282	303	375	5.8	6.6
45 to 49 years	4,175	4,327	3,866	3,950	3,653	3,714	213	236	5.5	6.0

NOTE: Male Vietnam-era veterans are men who served in the Armed Forces between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. Nonveterans are men who have never served in the Armed Forces; published data are limited to those 35 to 49 years of age, the group that most closely corresponds to the bulk of the Vietnam-era veteran population.

Table A-10. Employment status of the civilian population for 11 large states

(Numbers in thousands)

State and employment status	Not seasonally adjusted[1]			Seasonally adjusted[2]					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
California									
Civilian noninstitutional population	22,281	22,737	22,777	22,281	22,614	22,656	22,698	22,737	22,777
Civilian labor force	14,571	14,992	14,966	14,667	14,962	15,087	14,975	15,099	15,064
Employed	13,444	13,610	13,660	13,565	13,864	13,932	13,759	13,781	13,785
Unemployed	1,127	1,381	1,305	1,102	1,118	1,155	1,216	1,317	1,278
Unemployment rate	7.7	9.2	8.7	7.5	7.5	7.7	8.1	8.7	8.5
Florida									
Civilian noninstitutional population	10,265	10,504	10,523	10,265	10,445	10,466	10,485	10,504	10,523
Civilian labor force	6,410	6,389	6,451	6,417	6,490	6,436	6,438	6,479	6,459
Employed	5,966	5,833	5,927	5,941	6,018	5,952	5,881	5,922	5,902
Unemployed	444	556	524	476	472	484	557	557	557
Unemployment rate	6.9	8.7	8.1	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.7	8.6	8.6
Illinois									
Civilian noninstitutional population	8,903	8,946	8,950	8,903	8,935	8,939	8,943	8,946	8,950
Civilian labor force	6,041	6,065	6,056	6,077	5,973	6,049	6,124	6,094	6,090
Employed	5,613	5,524	5,559	5,670	5,470	5,497	5,619	5,573	5,613
Unemployed	428	541	497	407	503	552	505	521	477
Unemployment rate	7.1	8.9	8.2	6.7	8.4	9.1	8.3	8.5	7.8
Massachusetts									
Civilian noninstitutional population	4,622	4,627	4,627	4,622	4,626	4,627	4,627	4,627	4,627
Civilian labor force	3,136	3,116	3,137	3,142	3,157	3,164	3,131	3,130	3,143
Employed	2,814	2,851	2,823	2,847	2,880	2,889	2,884	2,895	2,857
Unemployed	322	264	315	295	277	275	247	234	287
Unemployment rate	10.3	8.5	10.0	9.4	8.8	8.7	7.9	7.5	9.1
Michigan									
Civilian noninstitutional population	7,011	7,029	7,031	7,011	7,025	7,027	7,029	7,029	7,031
Civilian labor force	4,621	4,564	4,590	4,675	4,547	4,559	4,607	4,601	4,641
Employed	4,113	4,115	4,132	4,192	4,112	4,138	4,199	4,185	4,209
Unemployed	508	449	459	483	435	421	408	416	433
Unemployment rate	11.0	9.8	10.0	10.3	9.6	9.2	8.9	9.0	9.3
New Jersey									
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,026	6,026	6,025	6,026	6,026	6,026	6,027	6,026	6,025
Civilian labor force	4,004	4,014	4,045	4,004	3,985	3,995	4,024	4,021	4,047
Employed	3,724	3,687	3,742	3,741	3,702	3,707	3,752	3,713	3,761
Unemployed	280	326	303	263	283	288	272	307	286
Unemployment rate	7.0	8.1	7.5	6.6	7.1	7.2	6.8	7.6	7.1
New York									
Civilian noninstitutional population	13,800	13,805	13,805	13,800	13,805	13,806	13,806	13,805	13,805
Civilian labor force	8,552	8,412	8,450	8,643	8,544	8,479	8,435	8,463	8,543
Employed	7,941	7,631	7,736	8,060	7,866	7,798	7,724	7,713	7,858
Unemployed	611	781	715	583	678	681	711	750	686
Unemployment rate	7.1	9.3	8.5	6.7	7.9	8.0	8.4	8.9	8.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-10. Employment status of the civilian population for 11 large states — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

State and employment status	Not seasonally adjusted[1]			Seasonally adjusted[2]					
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992
North Carolina									
Civilian noninstitutional population	5,043	5,102	5,107	5,043	5,066	5,092	5,097	5,102	5,107
Civilian labor force	3,365	3,415	3,417	3,409	3,468	3,438	3,441	3,442	3,462
Employed	3,174	3,190	3,200	3,217	3,272	3,239	3,244	3,229	3,244
Unemployed	191	225	217	192	196	197	197	213	218
Unemployment rate	5.7	6.6	6.4	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.2	6.3
Ohio									
Civilian noninstitutional population	8,302	8,329	8,331	8,302	8,323	8,325	8,329	8,329	8,331
Civilian labor force	5,417	5,401	5,469	5,471	5,433	5,445	5,491	5,462	5,524
Employed	5,003	4,964	5,041	5,089	5,114	5,092	5,122	5,070	5,129
Unemployed	414	436	429	382	319	353	370	391	396
Unemployment rate	7.6	8.1	7.8	7.0	5.9	6.5	6.7	7.2	7.2
Pennsylvania									
Civilian noninstitutional population	9,405	9,432	9,433	9,405	9,425	9,428	9,430	9,432	9,433
Civilian labor force	5,797	5,977	5,901	5,885	5,960	5,953	5,978	6,007	5,986
Employed	5,359	5,463	5,451	5,467	5,559	5,532	5,556	5,550	5,558
Unemployed	438	514	450	418	401	421	422	457	428
Unemployment rate	7.6	8.6	7.6	7.1	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.6	7.2
Texas									
Civilian noninstitutional population	12,483	12,634	12,647	12,483	12,594	12,608	12,622	12,634	12,647
Civilian labor force	8,528	8,648	8,699	8,598	8,537	8,583	8,747	8,723	8,768
Employed	7,978	7,966	8,057	8,026	7,969	7,984	8,061	8,086	8,101
Unemployed	550	682	642	572	568	599	686	637	667
Unemployment rate	6.4	7.9	7.4	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.8	7.3	7.6

[1] These are the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates used in the administration of Federal fund allocation programs.

[2] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and the seasonally adjusted columns.

Table A-11. Persons not in the labor force by reason, sex, and race, quarterly averages

(In thousands)

Reason, sex, and race	Not seasonally adjusted		Seasonally adjusted				
	1991	1992	1991				1992
	I	I	I	II	III	IV	I
TOTAL							
Total not in labor force	65,079	65,470	64,093	64,047	64,712	64,949	64,580
Do not want a job now	59,266	59,211	58,321	58,679	58,833	59,157	58,325
Current activity: Going to school	8,261	8,451	8,665	8,829	6,914	6,814	6,864
Ill, disabled	4,881	4,964	4,956	4,869	5,031	5,128	5,047
Keeping house	23,212	22,046	23,181	23,388	23,188	22,942	22,030
Retired	18,954	19,641	19,034	19,130	19,385	19,575	19,723
Other activity	3,959	4,108	4,484	4,463	4,315	4,698	4,661
Want a job now	5,813	6,260	5,665	5,551	5,797	5,932	6,118
Reason not looking: School attendance	1,597	1,687	1,431	1,381	1,485	1,412	1,518
Ill health, disability	985	1,025	997	903	1,008	1,010	1,031
Home responsibilities	1,164	1,308	1,194	1,185	1,172	1,300	1,342
Think cannot get a job	1,039	1,144	982	952	1,064	1,094	1,084
Job-market factors	698	873	647	698	699	732	810
Personal factors	342	271	335	254	366	362	274
Other reasons[1]	1,028	1,099	1,061	1,150	1,068	1,117	1,143
Men							
Total, not in labor force	22,469	22,881	21,916	21,928	22,205	22,480	22,439
Do not want a job now	20,309	20,659	19,705	19,990	20,092	20,334	20,077
Want a job now	2,160	2,223	2,101	2,030	2,155	2,204	2,165
Reason not looking: School attendance	827	793	739	654	711	755	703
Ill health, disability	496	468	527	441	507	511	501
Think cannot get a job	426	500	407	425	470	438	477
Other reasons[1]	410	462	429	511	466	500	484
Women							
Total, not in labor force	42,610	42,589	42,177	42,120	42,507	42,469	42,141
Do not want a job now	38,957	38,552	38,616	38,689	38,741	38,823	38,249
Want a job now	3,654	4,037	3,564	3,521	3,642	3,728	3,953
Reason not looking: School attendance	769	894	692	727	774	657	815
Ill health, disability	491	558	470	462	500	499	530
Home responsibilities	1,164	1,305	1,194	1,185	1,172	1,300	1,342
Think cannot get a job	611	644	575	527	594	656	608
Other reasons	619	637	633	640	602	617	659
White							
Total, not in labor force	54,585	54,779	53,750	53,723	54,248	54,321	54,045
Do not want a job now	50,335	50,204	49,590	49,964	50,078	50,041	49,462
Want a job now	4,247	4,547	4,129	3,826	4,279	4,301	4,453
Reason not looking: School attendance	1,126	1,217	1,019	928	1,080	991	1,111
Ill health, disability	753	741	714	827	782	775	706
Home responsibilities	867	956	899	829	870	912	993
Think cannot get a job	698	781	648	621	736	748	710
Other reasons[1]	803	872	849	821	811	875	934
Black							
Total, not in labor force	8,138	8,273	7,983	8,005	8,078	8,226	8,131
Do not want a job now	6,821	6,799	6,668	6,590	6,799	6,842	6,648
Want a job now	1,317	1,474	1,294	1,459	1,341	1,349	1,508
Reason not looking: School attendance	385	391	324	378	394	336	336
Ill health, disability	201	250	236	240	211	219	314
Home responsibilities	276	312	276	281	245	330	321
Think cannot get a job	270	339	271	318	270	267	352
Other reasons[1]	185	182	188	241	222	196	186

[1] Includes small number of men not looking for work because of "home responsibilities."

NOTE: Detail may not add to not-in-labor force totals because of the weighting procedures.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table B-1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry

(In thousands)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p/	Mar. 1992p/	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p/	Mar. 1992p/
Total............................	108.147	107.533	107.595	108.054	108.902	108.843	108.882	108.760	108.567	108.886
Total private......................	89.373	88.852	88.779	89.133	90.495	90.374	90.368	90.241	90.356	90.336
Goods-producing industries...................	23.381	22.961	22.864	22.948	23.877	23.595	23.552	23.506	23.490	23.492
Mining...............................	699	655	649	646	714	674	670	666	664	659
Oil and gas extraction.............	393.6	368.6	363.4	359.2	402	377	373	370	367	363
Construction........................	4.366	4.215	4.130	4.213	4.720	4.584	4.589	4.602	4.574	4.584
General building contractors.......	1.121.4	1.081.7	1.058.8	1.036.2	1.196	1.137	1.138	1.151	1.142	1.128
Manufacturing.......................	18.316	18.091	18.085	18.089	18.443	18.337	18.293	18.238	18.252	18.249
Production workers..............	12.319	12.210	12.217	12.238	12.424	12.404	12.376	12.337	12.363	12.374
Durable goods....................	10.534	10.293	10.296	10.305	10.584	10.457	10.414	10.367	10.386	10.381
Production workers..........	6.914	6.784	6.797	6.821	6.956	6.909	6.883	6.844	6.875	6.886
Lumber and wood products...............	675.6	680.2	681.1	685.2	692	697	697	697	704	706
Furniture and fixtures.................	474.2	477.9	474.7	477.9	479	478	478	478	477	480
Stone, clay, and glass products........	509.0	496.1	494.7	500.9	520	517	517	514	514	514
Primary metal industries..............	725.7	702.2	699.4	698.2	724	709	708	703	702	700
Blast furnaces and basic steel products.	261.2	255.0	254.0	252.9	262	256	257	255	255	256
Fabricated metal products.............	1.350.5	1.334.7	1.329.4	1.327.7	1.356	1.351	1.346	1.343	1.340	1.337
Industrial machinery and equipment....	2.028.3	1.940.1	1.939.6	1.936.6	2.024	1.955	1.944	1.958	1.956	1.955
Electronic and other electrical equipment.	1.594.1	1.561.7	1.551.0	1.546.9	1.599	1.572	1.568	1.565	1.559	1.555
Transportation equipment..............	1.833.3	1.790.7	1.820.1	1.826.2	1.846	1.833	1.840	1.812	1.862	1.845
Motor vehicles and equipment......	732.0	746.1	782.7	794.0	736	800	793	772	805	813
Instruments and related products......	976.6	949.2	945.4	943.7	978	958	949	951	947	946
Miscellaneous manufacturing...........	363.8	359.8	360.9	360.9	366	366	367	366	363	363
Nondurable goods..........................	7.782	7.798	7.789	7.784	7.859	7.880	7.879	7.871	7.866	7.868
Production workers...................	5.405	5.426	5.420	5.417	5.468	5.495	5.493	5.493	5.488	5.488
Food and kindred products.............	1.619.9	1.626.5	1.618.0	1.610.8	1.679	1.669	1.670	1.672	1.670	1.667
Tobacco products......................	46.5	51.8	49.7	47.3	48	47	48	49	48	48
Textile mill products.................	657.6	669.5	670.5	670.8	660	673	674	672	675	676
Apparel and other textile products....	1.009.0	1.027.2	1.034.8	1.032.5	1.009	1.043	1.042	1.037	1.038	1.036
Paper and allied products.............	688.7	686.4	684.7	685.5	693	691	690	690	689	690
Printing and publishing...............	1.547.7	1.522.6	1.514.3	1.515.6	1.548	1.524	1.524	1.521	1.514	1.516
Chemicals and allied products.........	1.087.6	1.086.7	1.088.9	1.090.0	1.091	1.092	1.091	1.092	1.092	1.092
Petroleum and coal products...........	154.6	153.0	152.9	153.1	158	158	158	157	157	157
Rubber and misc. plastics products.....	849.9	856.9	858.6	860.8	852	863	862	862	865	867
Leather and leather products..........	120.5	117.5	116.4	117.9	121	120	120	119	118	119
Service-producing industries..............	84.766	84.372	84.731	85.106	85.025	85.248	85.330	85.254	85.377	85.394
Transportation and public utilities........	5.764	5.733	5.726	5.736	5.824	5.816	5.811	5.794	5.800	5.797
Transportation......................	3.503	3.516	3.508	3.521	3.549	3.566	3.566	3.566	3.569	3.571
Communications and public utilities..	2.261	2.217	2.218	2.215	2.275	2.250	2.245	2.228	2.231	2.226
Wholesale trade......................	6.063	5.957	5.939	5.942	6.105	6.034	6.023	6.007	5.996	5.987
Durable goods.......................	3.536	3.439	3.424	3.425	3.550	3.479	3.469	3.456	3.445	3.442
Nondurable goods....................	2.527	2.518	2.515	2.517	2.555	2.555	2.554	2.551	2.551	2.545
Retail trade........................	18.990	18.957	18.790	18.844	19.378	19.227	19.224	19.168	19.292	19.268
General merchandise stores...........	2.295.7	2.346.6	2.240.9	2.227.7	2.396	2.304	2.296	2.285	2.317	2.325
Food stores.........................	3.200.0	3.196.0	3.171.7	3.162.5	3.245	3.213	3.206	3.202	3.204	3.194
Automotive dealers and service stations..	2.011.1	2.002.6	1.998.5	2.007.7	2.036	2.036	2.031	2.027	2.031	2.034
Eating and drinking places...........	6.416.3	6.306.7	6.352.9	6.440.4	6.361	6.561	6.567	6.569	6.611	6.592
Finance, insurance, and real estate........	6.685	6.636	6.646	6.664	6.735	6.694	6.701	6.693	6.702	6.706
Finance............................	3.284	3.273	3.284	3.293	3.297	3.276	3.280	3.283	3.296	3.300
Insurance..........................	2.138	2.117	2.117	2.115	2.140	2.123	2.124	2.119	2.117	2.115
Real estate........................	1.263	1.246	1.245	1.256	1.298	1.295	1.297	1.291	1.291	1.291
Services...........................	28.490	28.608	28.814	28.999	28.576	29.008	29.057	29.073	29.074	29.086
Business services...................	5.188	5.216	5.207	5.247.2	5.254	5.343	5.365	5.307	5.309	5.327
Health services....................	8.105.4	8.451.4	8.456.3	8.489.8	8.114	8.398	8.440	8.448	8.473	8.498
Government.........................	18.774	18.681	18.816	18.921	18.407	18.469	18.514	18.519	18.511	18.550
Federal............................	2.939	2.959	2.963	2.965	2.951	2.982	2.984	2.983	2.978	2.980
State..............................	4.472	4.503	4.444	4.466	4.359	4.341	4.338	4.351	4.348	4.349
Local..............................	11.363	11.219	11.409	11.490	11.097	11.146	11.190	11.185	11.185	11.221

p/ = preliminary.

Table B-2. Average weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p	Mar. 1992p	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p	Mar. 1992p
Total private.........................	34.0	33.8	34.2	34.3	34.2	34.4	34.3	34.2	34.6	34.6
Mining................................	44.0	43.4	43.6	43.3	44.6	44.1	43.9	43.4	44.0	44.1
Construction..........................	37.2	36.6	36.5	37.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Manufacturing.........................	40.1	40.6	40.6	40.8	40.3	41.0	41.1	40.8	41.1	41.1
Overtime hours......................	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7
Durable goods.........................	40.5	41.0	41.1	41.4	40.6	41.4	41.5	41.2	41.6	41.6
Overtime hours......................	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.7
Lumber and wood products..............	38.9	39.8	40.3	40.7	39.2	40.3	40.6	40.4	41.4	41.2
Furniture and fixtures................	37.9	39.1	39.0	39.5	38.2	38.9	39.7	39.4	39.8	40.1
Stone, clay, and glass products.......	40.7	40.4	40.8	41.2	41.3	41.3	42.0	41.4	41.9	41.9
Primary metal industries..............	41.4	42.4	42.4	42.7	41.4	42.5	42.6	42.4	42.9	43.0
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	41.5	42.5	42.7	43.3	41.8	43.0	43.0	42.4	43.3	43.8
Fabricated metal products.............	40.4	41.1	41.1	41.2	40.6	41.4	41.6	41.3	41.6	41.4
Industrial machinery and equipment.......	41.5	41.8	42.0	42.3	41.5	41.8	42.1	41.7	42.2	42.3
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	40.1	41.0	40.9	41.1	40.2	41.1	41.2	41.8	41.1	41.2
Transportation equipment..................	41.0	41.2	41.4	41.7	40.8	42.4	41.9	41.5	41.9	41.8
Motor vehicles and equipment........	40.5	41.4	41.7	41.9	40.5	42.5	42.3	41.9	42.8	42.1
Instruments and related products......	40.9	40.9	41.3	41.3	40.9	41.2	41.2	40.9	41.3	41.3
Miscellaneous manufacturing...........	39.3	39.4	39.5	39.8	39.3	39.7	40.0	39.6	39.8	39.9
Nondurable goods......................	39.6	40.1	40.0	40.2	39.9	40.5	40.5	40.3	40.5	40.5
Overtime hours......................	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.8
Food and kindred products.............	39.9	40.2	40.0	39.9	40.6	40.9	40.6	40.5	40.9	40.5
Tobacco products......................	38.2	39.1	38.0	40.1	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Textile mill products.................	39.2	40.6	40.5	40.6	39.4	41.4	41.5	41.0	41.2	41.0
Apparel and other textile products....	36.4	37.1	37.0	37.1	36.6	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.2	37.3
Paper and allied products.............	42.8	43.4	43.1	43.2	43.2	43.5	43.6	43.4	43.6	43.6
Printing and publishing...............	37.7	37.6	37.8	38.2	37.6	38.1	38.2	37.9	38.1	38.1
Chemicals and allied products.........	42.7	43.2	43.2	43.4	42.7	43.4	43.5	43.2	43.4	43.4
Petroleum and coal products...........	43.9	42.4	43.7	44.1	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rubber and misc. plastics products....	40.5	41.4	41.4	41.6	40.6	41.5	41.5	41.4	41.8	41.9
Leather and leather products..........	36.7	37.2	36.6	36.6	37.1	38.4	37.7	37.6	37.0	37.0
Transportation and public utilities...........	38.3	37.9	38.2	38.5	38.6	38.4	38.5	38.4	38.6	38.6
Wholesale trade.............................	37.9	37.8	38.2	38.2	38.1	38.1	38.2	38.1	38.5	38.4
Retail trade................................	28.1	27.8	28.4	28.4	28.6	28.8	28.7	28.5	29.1	28.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate...........	35.6	35.6	36.4	36.3	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Services....................................	32.5	32.2	32.6	32.6	32.4	32.5	32.6	32.4	32.8	32.7

1/ Data relate to production workers in mining and manufacturing; construction workers in construction; and nonsupervisory workers in transportation and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services. These groups account for approximately four-fifths of the total employees on private nonfarm payrolls.

2/ These series are not published seasonally adjusted since the seasonal component is small relative to the trend-cycle and/or irregular components and consequently cannot be separated with sufficient precision.
p = preliminary.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table B-3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	Mar. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p/	Mar. 1992p/	Mar. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p/	Mar. 1992p/
Total private........................	$10.24	$10.51	$10.53	$10.56	$348.16	$355.24	$360.13	$362.21
Seasonally adjusted..............	10.24	10.47	10.51	10.55	350.21	358.07	363.65	365.03
Mining................................	14.09	14.61	14.54	14.55	619.96	634.07	633.94	632.93
Construction...........................	13.93	14.06	13.89	14.05	518.20	514.60	506.99	522.66
Manufacturing........................	11.06	11.29	11.32	11.38	443.51	458.37	459.59	464.30
Durable goods.......................	11.60	11.85	11.90	11.95	469.80	485.85	489.09	494.73
Lumber and wood products.............	9.10	9.38	9.41	9.37	353.99	373.32	379.22	381.36
Furniture and fixtures...............	8.67	8.87	8.87	8.96	328.59	346.82	345.93	353.92
Stone, clay, and glass products......	11.20	11.45	11.41	11.47	455.84	462.58	465.55	472.56
Primary metal industries.............	13.17	13.41	13.46	13.56	545.24	568.58	570.70	579.01
Blast furnaces and basic steel products..	15.18	15.49	15.61	15.75	629.97	638.33	664.55	681.98
Fabricated metal products............	11.08	11.30	11.33	11.38	447.63	464.43	465.66	468.86
Industrial machinery and equipment...	12.13	12.24	12.30	12.33	503.40	511.63	516.60	521.56
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	10.55	10.90	10.91	10.93	423.06	446.90	446.22	449.22
Transportation equipment.............	14.43	14.91	15.02	15.08	591.63	614.29	621.83	628.84
Motor vehicles and equipment........	14.87	15.15	15.29	15.43	602.24	627.21	637.59	646.52
Instruments and related products.....	11.69	11.84	11.82	11.92	478.12	484.26	488.17	492.50
Miscellaneous manufacturing..........	8.76	9.06	9.08	9.15	344.27	356.96	358.66	364.17
Nondurable goods....................	10.35	10.59	10.58	10.65	409.86	424.66	423.20	428.13
Food and kindred products............	9.80	10.03	10.04	10.10	391.02	404.01	401.60	402.99
Tobacco products.....................	17.35	16.16	16.33	17.05	662.77	631.86	620.54	682.90
Textile mill products................	8.16	8.49	8.48	8.49	319.87	344.69	343.44	344.69
Apparel and other textile products...	6.63	6.82	6.83	6.86	241.33	253.02	252.71	254.51
Paper and allied products............	12.56	12.86	12.85	12.94	537.57	558.12	553.84	559.01
Printing and publishing..............	11.36	11.62	11.60	11.69	428.27	436.91	438.48	446.56
Chemicals and allied products........	13.85	14.30	14.29	14.33	591.40	617.76	617.33	621.92
Petroleum and coal products..........	17.06	17.53	17.95	18.12	748.93	745.27	784.42	799.09
Rubber and misc. plastics products...	10.01	10.32	10.28	10.32	405.41	427.25	425.59	429.31
Leather and leather products.........	7.11	7.34	7.37	7.42	260.94	273.05	269.74	271.57
Transportation and public utilities...........	13.15	13.34	13.42	13.41	503.65	505.59	512.64	513.60
Wholesale trade...........................	11.06	11.31	11.37	11.37	419.17	427.52	434.33	434.33
Retail trade..............................	6.91	7.15	7.14	7.14	194.17	198.77	202.78	202.78
Finance, insurance, and real estate...........	10.33	10.68	10.83	10.84	367.75	380.21	394.21	393.49
Services..................................	10.16	10.50	10.55	10.54	328.17	338.10	343.93	343.60

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2.

p = preliminary.

Table B-4. Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers1/ on private nonfarm payrolls by industry, seasonally adjusted

Industry	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p/	Mar. 1992p/	Percent change from: Feb. 1992- Mar. 1992
Total private:							
Current dollars..................	$10.24	$10.44	$10.48	$10.47	$10.51	$10.55	0.4
Constant (1982) dollars2/........	7.45	7.45	7.46	7.46	7.46	N.A.	(3)
Mining............................	14.03	14.38	14.54	14.44	14.45	14.51	.4
Construction......................	13.97	13.99	14.08	13.99	13.93	14.09	1.1
Manufacturing.....................	11.05	11.31	11.32	11.28	11.33	11.38	.4
Excluding overtime4/............	10.61	10.81	10.82	10.81	10.86	10.89	.3
Transportation and public utilities	13.16	13.25	13.33	13.31	13.38	13.44	.4
Wholesale trade...................	11.07	11.26	11.29	11.28	11.34	11.38	.4
Retail trade......................	6.90	7.09	7.10	7.11	7.13	7.14	.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	10.32	10.55	10.66	10.62	10.75	10.83	.7
Services..........................	10.13	10.37	10.42	10.41	10.41	10.48	.3

1/ See footnote 1, table B-2.
2/ The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is used to deflate this series.
3/ Change was .1 percent from January 1992 to February 1992, the latest month available.
4/ Derived by assuming that overtime hours are paid at the rate of time and one-half.
N.A. = not available.
p/ = preliminary.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table B-5. Indexes of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers[1] on private nonfarm payrolls by industry

(1982=100)

Industry	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted					
	Mar. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p	Mar. 1992p	Mar. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992p	Mar. 1992p
Total private...........................	118.5	117.2	118.5	119.3	120.9	121.5	121.7	120.9	122.4	122.1
Goods-producing industries...................	99.4	98.4	98.0	99.2	102.7	103.1	103.3	102.5	102.9	103.0
Mining......................................	62.5	57.0	56.5	55.9	65.0	59.9	59.4	58.2	58.7	58.1
Construction................................	110.2	104.4	101.5	106.0	123.2	119.3	121.2	120.9	118.7	119.6
Manufacturing...............................	99.6	100.0	100.1	100.8	108.9	102.6	102.5	101.5	102.5	102.5
Durable goods..............................	97.0	96.4	96.9	97.8	97.8	99.1	99.0	97.7	99.1	99.3
Lumber and wood products.................	113.0	117.0	118.6	120.6	117.0	122.6	122.7	122.0	124.4	126.0
Furniture and fixtures...................	111.6	115.8	114.5	117.1	112.6	115.3	117.3	116.4	117.3	119.5
Stone, clay, and glass products..........	95.9	92.6	93.4	96.1	99.9	100.1	101.3	99.1	100.3	100.3
Primary metal industries.................	85.7	85.0	84.7	84.9	85.7	86.0	86.2	85.0	86.0	85.9
Blast furnaces and basic steel products.	74.0	73.1	73.2	73.6	74.7	74.5	74.9	72.7	74.6	74.7
Fabricated metal products................	98.8	99.6	99.5	99.6	99.9	101.7	101.8	100.8	101.5	100.9
Industrial machinery and equipment.......	92.9	88.7	89.4	89.9	92.5	89.0	89.4	88.1	89.4	89.7
Electronic and other electrical equipment..	99.3	100.6	99.4	99.9	99.7	101.2	101.2	100.6	100.5	100.9
Transportation equipment.................	106.0	105.6	108.5	110.1	106.3	113.7	111.2	107.9	111.7	112.1
Motor vehicles and equipment...........	107.2	112.9	120.3	123.0	108.1	126.4	124.6	118.9	128.1	126.2
Instruments and related products.........	84.0	81.3	81.7	81.7	84.4	82.3	81.7	81.3	82.1	82.3
Miscellaneous manufacturing..............	96.4	96.3	96.7	97.8	96.9	99.0	99.8	99.1	98.9	98.8
Nondurable goods...........................	103.2	104.9	104.6	105.0	105.2	107.4	107.4	106.9	107.3	107.1
Food and kindred products................	104.2	106.0	104.8	104.0	111.0	111.4	110.5	110.6	111.6	110.4
Tobacco products.........................	64.4	76.2	70.1	69.3	67.2	65.5	70.0	72.7	69.7	72.9
Textile mill products....................	91.7	96.8	96.6	97.0	92.3	99.1	99.7	98.1	98.9	98.8
Apparel and other textile products.......	90.0	93.5	94.1	94.2	90.5	95.7	96.0	95.5	94.8	94.8
Paper and allied products................	107.8	109.4	108.0	108.5	109.7	110.3	110.5	109.8	110.1	110.3
Printing and publishing..................	124.2	121.9	121.6	123.4	123.5	123.5	123.8	122.8	122.9	122.9
Chemicals and allied products............	102.9	101.0	101.3	101.9	103.1	102.3	102.4	101.7	101.9	101.9
Petroleum and coal products..............	82.6	79.8	82.1	83.3	86.3	85.7	84.1	84.2	86.5	87.1
Rubber and misc. plastics products.......	119.2	123.8	123.9	124.8	119.7	125.0	124.8	124.7	126.2	126.5
Leather and leather products.............	55.1	54.6	53.4	53.9	55.9	57.8	56.2	56.0	54.6	55.1
Service-producing industries.................	126.7	125.7	127.7	128.2	129.0	129.7	130.0	129.1	131.1	130.7
Transportation and public utilities..........	111.9	110.4	111.4	111.9	114.1	113.7	113.9	113.5	114.2	114.3
Wholesale trade..............................	112.7	110.4	111.1	111.4	114.3	113.0	113.1	112.4	113.4	112.9
Retail trade.................................	115.9	114.1	115.3	115.6	120.6	120.1	119.6	118.3	121.6	120.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate..........	118.5	117.8	120.5	120.6	119.9	119.2	120.9	119.3	121.8	122.1
Services.....................................	145.4	145.3	148.5	149.4	146.5	149.2	149.9	149.3	150.9	150.5

[1] See footnote 1, table B-2.

p = preliminary.

Table B-6. Diffusion indexes of employment change, seasonally adjusted

(Percent)

Time span	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Private nonfarm payrolls, 356 industries [1]												
Over 1-month span:												
1990	58.1	58.1	52.2	48.7	52.8	48.3	46.6	47.8	45.1	41.4	40.3	42.0
1991	38.5	36.9	38.6	38.5	51.1	45.8	51.3	54.8	50.8	48.5	44.1	45.9
1992	42.8	p/48.5	p/48.0									
Over 3-month span:												
1990	58.8	59.0	54.6	50.7	48.7	49.4	45.6	43.7	48.0	37.6	35.8	39.1
1991	31.6	30.8	30.5	38.5	39.5	48.9	51.7	52.9	50.1	43.5	42.8	39.2
1992	p/43.4	p/46.4										
Over 6-month span:												
1990	56.6	55.2	55.2	51.8	47.6	44.9	42.7	38.6	37.2	34.8	30.9	28.8
1991	26.7	31.2	29.5	34.5	41.2	45.8	49.9	44.9	46.5	43.3	p/40.2	p/39.6
1992												
Over 12-month span:												
1990	54.6	54.5	51.4	48.5	46.6	43.5	48.3	35.8	34.1	30.6	32.0	30.2
1991	30.2	30.6	30.3	32.7	33.1	33.6	36.9	p/39.5	p/40.6			
1992												
Manufacturing payrolls, 139 industries [1]												
Over 1-month span:												
1990	46.0	51.1	41.4	47.8	41.7	59.6	63.2	40.3	38.8	34.5	27.3	33.8
1991	31.7	28.4	29.9	38.5	46.8	46.0	53.2	53.2	43.5	45.3	40.6	43.9
1992	59.2	p/45.0	p/46.4									
Over 3-month span:												
1990	45.0	43.2	45.0	38.1	38.1	37.4	35.6	31.3	27.0	23.0	21.6	18.3
1991	19.4	16.5	18.0	50.2	36.3	48.9	57.2	55.0	46.0	38.5	36.7	32.7
1992	p/37.1	p/39.2										
Over 6-month span:												
1990	39.9	36.7	37.1	40.5	32.4	30.6	24.1	20.5	21.2	17.5	16.2	11.9
1991	10.4	17.3	19.4	23.4	38.5	43.5	49.6	45.7	43.7	37.4	p/32.4	p/34.5
1992												
Over 12-month span:												
1990	55.3	33.5	31.5	29.5	25.2	20.9	19.8	14.0	12.9	10.1	11.2	10.4
1991	13.3	14.7	14.7	18.0	21.2	23.4	26.3	p/32.0	p/36.0			
1992												

1/ Based on seasonally adjusted data for 1-, 3-,
and 6-month spans and unadjusted data for the 12-month
span. Data are centered within the span.
  p = preliminary.
  NOTE: Figures are the percent of industries with

employment increasing plus one-half of the industries
with unchanged employment, where 50 percent
indicates an equal balance between industries with
increasing and decreasing employment.

SENATOR SARBANES. Thank you very much.

On March 19, the *New York Times* carried an article titled "Recovery Held Too Weak to Generate Jobs." It suggests that you could have technically what would be called an economic recovery—in other words, technically come out of the recession—but have no improvement and even conceivably a worsening in the job situation.

The first question I would put to you concerning that article is, is it possible to have an economic recovery in which the growth in the economy would be so weak and anemic that the unemployment rate would stay where it is or even rise?

MR. BARRON. I believe that is the case, Mr. Chairman. In fact, the long-term unemployed particularly could continue to rise even after a recovery has begun. So, I think that is possible.

SENATOR SARBANES. In the fourth quarter of last year, the economy grew at an annual rate of only 0.4 percent, just barely positive growth in the economy. That was for the fourth quarter of 1991. On a long-term basis, I take it, with growth in the economy at that rate, you would probably have a rise in the unemployment rate, would you not?

MR. BARRON. I don't know that it would rise. It may be the kind of situation that we have now, a very big——

SENATOR SARBANES. How much do you expect the labor force to grow?

MR. BARRON. With the recent increases that we have seen just over the past three or four months, that experience may continue.

Tom, what would you say?

MR. PLEWES. Basically, just to keep up with population increases, you have to have a labor force growth of about 100,000 a month or 1.2 million a year. That is the expectation now. So, to stay even, you have to generate that many jobs.

SENATOR SARBANES. If you had a growth in the labor force of 1 or 1.1 percent a year, and if the economy was only growing at 0.4 percent, the unemployment rate would go up, would it not?

MR. PLEWES. It certainly depends on how that passes through, but those who have studied that say that you need a larger growth than .4 percent to generate job growth. That's correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. That is right. So, technically you could have some growth in the economy, but it could be so weak that the unemployment situation would actually worsen. Isn't that correct?

MR. BARRON. It could happen.

SENATOR SARBANES. Yes.

Now, in fact, this article estimates that it would take at least 2 percent real growth for a sustained period of time to reduce unemployment and possibly as much as 3 percent real growth in order to reduce unemployment. I just want to explore that with you for a moment.

First of all, on the basis of BLS's long-term projections of the labor force, how much do you expect the labor force to grow, on average,

during the next few years? What is the average annual percent growth that you expect in the labor force?

MR. PLEWES. That is what we reported before. About 1 million to 1.2 million until about 1995 when it starts to increase again.

SENATOR SARBANES. What percent is that? Is that the percentage figure you are giving me?

MR. PLEWES. No. I'm talking about the actual numbers. The result is about 1 percent.

SENATOR SARBANES. If there were no productivity growth in the economy—let us make that assumption for the moment—and if the labor force grew about 1 percent, wouldn't the economy have to grow about 1 percent just to keep the unemployment rate from rising?

MR. BARRON. That may be right, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. In other words, if the economy grew less than the labor force was growing, it is reasonable to assume that your unemployment rate would go up. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. That question was premised on the assumption that there would be no productivity growth, but, of course, you want productivity growth, or you assume there will be some productivity growth. In fact, the President's Council of Economic Advisors forecasted that productivity would increase at the annual rate of 1.4 percent. That is not a very good performance, but, nevertheless, it represents an increase.

If the labor force were growing 1 percent per year and if productivity were growing 1.4 percent a year, if we were to accept that forecast of the Council of Economic Advisors, is it reasonable to conclude that the economy would have to grow about 2.5 percent a year in order for the unemployment rate not to rise?

MR. BARRON. That sounds reasonable. We haven't studied that, but I think that is a logical premise.

SENATOR SARBANES. I just want to point out that the Administration itself is forecasting growth for this year of 2.2 percent only, and that is assuming the enactment of the President's program, which was only worth six-tenths of 1 percent on the growth rate. It was a pretty weak program in that regard.

But, nevertheless, even if you accept the Administration's forecast of 2.2 percent growth, if we have these other increases in the labor force and improvements in productivity, the unemployment rate is not going to improve in any marked measure from where it is right now.

Let me ask you again about the comprehensive unemployment rate. The 7.3 percent represents what population?

MR. BARRON. That includes all of those who were seeking work. It does not include those part-time for economic reasons, and it does not include the discouraged, which is a new set of data that we have issued this quarter.

SENATOR SARBANES. How many are discouraged?

MR. BARRON. Just about 1.1 million in the first quarter, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. The 7.3 percent figure represents how many people?

MR. BARRON. 9.2 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. And then how many people are working part-time and want to work full time?

MR. BARRON. The aggregate of those is about 6.5 million.

SENATOR SARBANES. 6.5 million.

MR. BARRON. All of them, yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, that is 16.8 million people——

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. ——either totally unemployed or partially unemployed.

What percent of the labor force does 16.8 million people represent?

MR. BARRON. It's just about 13 percent, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. It is almost one out of every seven who is being affected by unemployment.

Is the gap between the regular unemployment and the comprehensive unemployment figure greater in this recession than in past recessions?

MR. BARRON. No. This is a little bit less than the recession average for all the postwar recessions, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR SARBANES. When you say "this," what do you mean?

MR. BARRON. The increase in the discouraged workers in this particular recession. It has increased about 31 percent. That percent increase is just a little less than the postwar recession average.

SENATOR SARBANES. What about the part-time workers?

MR. BARRON. That too is just a little bit less than the percent increase that occurred in the other postwar recessions, just a little bit less.

SENATOR SARBANES. What is that figure?

MR. BARRON. Involuntary part-times increased 28.6 percent, and the postwar recession average has been 36.4. So, it is just a little bit less.

SENATOR SARBANES. What was the percent increase in the official unemployment rate during this recession?

MR. BARRON. The unemployment rate in this recession has gone up 1.9 percentage points. The postwar recession average has been 3 percentage points. So, it has been less.

SENATOR SARBANES. This recession is longer, though, I take it. Is that right?

MR. BARRON. That is correct. The average postwar recession has been about 11 months, and, as we have discussed before, the Bureau does not define when these things end, but assuming it would continue through the moment about which we are speaking here today, it would be 20 months.

SENATOR SARBANES. Twenty months.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. Is that the longest recession in the post-World War II period?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir, it is.

SENATOR SARBANES. Which previous recession was the longest prior to this one?

MR. BARRON. The downturns in 1981 and 1982 and 1973-75 were both 16 months in length.

SENATOR SARBANES. So, this is now the longest by a very substantial margin at 20 months. Is that correct?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir, again with the proviso that, as you well know, the experts who define such things, including a former BLS Commissioner, Geoffrey Moore, may well decide that at some point, perhaps, this was over.

SENATOR SARBANES. That may be, but the point that I was trying to make at the outset, which I think is a very important point, is that one of these days they may declare that we are no longer technically in a recession because there has been some growth in the economy quarter-to-quarter—four-tenths of 1 percent growth in the last quarter of last year. But this technical definition does not really address the unemployment problem if the growth is so anemic coming out of the recovery that the rate may even continue to go up, according to the apprehensions of some people. In any event, the rate is clearly not coming down. So, we have a situation in which you say you are not technically in a recession, but for the unemployed or the people concerned about their jobs, it feels just like a recession. As I said at the outset, spring may be here, but it is still winter as far as the unemployed are concerned.

MR. BARRON. That is true, Mr. Chairman. In fact, in the 1981-82 recession, the number of jobless workers unemployed 15 weeks or more continued to rise for two months after the eventually declared official end of the recession. The number of jobless for 27 weeks or more did not reach its peak until seven months after what was decided was the official end of that recession. So, the point you are making is correct.

SENATOR SARBANES. That is seven months later?

MR. BARRON. Yes. That is just in reference to the 1981-82 recession. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SARBANES. What was that figure? Over 10 percent, as I recall.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR SARBANES. Gentlemen, I am not happy to get this news because I think it is distressing news, but I appreciate your testimony here this morning. I will yield to my colleague, SENATOR BINGAMAN.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I heard one economist put it the other day, he said the good news is the recession is over; the bad news is the recession is over.

[Laughter.]

I think that may be the point the Chairman is making.

Let me ask you about the general trend in this chart from the Council of Economic Advisors in *Economic Indicators*, March 1992, on page 14. It shows nonagricultural employment for the last five years, or for the five years from 1988 through 1992. It seems pretty clear from the chart that in this period in the work force—the last four years and three months, or four years and two months—we have seen a substantial shift in employment toward the service sector. The loss has been in manufacturing and in construction.

Is there anything to indicate that that trend is behind us, or that that trend continues as far as you can tell?

MR. BARRON. Looking at recent data, we know that just this last month that the small increase that has occurred in construction employment was the first increase in some time. Manufacturing for the last two months has been stable after a series of job losses. I think that stability is a relative improvement.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. There is still no improvement in manufacturing. Is that fair?

MR. BARRON. That's fair.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. What I wanted to ask about is, is this. It seems to me, in the way I am viewing this thing, we have a long-term trend of losing jobs in our manufacturing sector, and that has been in place now for some years. On top of that, we have a recession that has come on in the last year or two; and second, we have the defense build-down that is occurring, which will, as I understand it at any rate, result in a substantial additional loss in manufacturing jobs.

You folks are not in the business of predicting, I guess, but does any agency have a projection as to where we are going to be with manufacturing? Is this trend going to be accelerated or exacerbated as we go through this defense build-down?

MR. BARRON. We do very long-run projections, Senator. I don't know that they took into account the defense build-down that is now being considered or debated on the Hill. Our long-run projections demonstrate that the long-run trend that you mentioned is continuing. I think you have described a set of conditions that are of concern given the defense cutbacks, which we do predict would continue.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. But you predict that it would continue even without a defense build-down.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. So, whatever happens in the defense build-down—for example, the President has proposed rescission of the Sea Wolf submarine—if the Congress goes along with that, that is 17,000 jobs in Connecticut and another 5,000 in Rhode Island, as I understand it. I assume that none of those figures are in these calculations.

MR. BARRON. Those precise kind of decisions are not in our calculations.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. I think this is a correct quote in your opening statement—"industrial machinery has shown moderation and job losses." Maybe, you could explain that.

MR. BARRON. In that industry, Senator, there had been recurring job losses, and we were simply noting that over the most recent month that that continuing trend in job loss appeared to have abated. The employment level between February and March in that particular industry was almost unchanged, and that was a relative improvement to the recent past where the job losses seemed to be occurring and reoccurring.

Senator Bingaman (presiding). On page 17 of this same pamphlet that I was referring to—the *Economic Indicators* for March of 1992—it has some charts that show what has happened to the space and the defense equipment sector from 1988 until now. There has been a fairly substantial dropoff already, I guess, in those sectors. Is that an accurate——

MR. BARRON. Let me see if Mr. Plewes can help us there, Senator.

MR. PLEWES. We have our own following of defense-related industry employment that we keep track of. We take a look at two different groups of defense industries: one group of industries in which 50 percent of their output is defense related, and another group in which at least 40 percent is defense related.

The 50 percent related industries are ordnance and accessories, aircraft and parts, shipbuilding, guided missiles, tanks, and search and navigation equipment. Those are really the heavy defense industries. If you look at that, we have seen fairly substantial job losses over that period. For example, in March 1988, there were 1,425,000 persons employed in those industries, aggregated. That is down now to 1,228,000, and it has been going down fairly steadily month after month. So, I don't have those figures that you are looking at, but our figures confirm those trends.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Your figures—the figures you are talking about—would be part and parcel of this general information that we are getting on manufacturing.

MR. PLEWES. That's correct. These are subparts of the larger manufacturing——

SENATOR BINGAMAN. So, to the extent we saw more losses in defense, we would see even greater reductions in manufacturing.

MR. PLEWES. That's correct.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Let me ask one other question, then defer to Congressman Solarz for his questions. Do you have anything you can tell us about the makeup of the unemployment roles? Which groups in our society are hardest hit by this 7.3 percent unemployment? Is it most heavily falling on the minorities? Is it most heavily falling on white collar, women? Is there anything you can tell us about that?

MR. BARRON. Sure. Let me provide some data, and I will ask Mr. Plewes to supplement it. The overall rate, as we have reported, is 7.3

percent. Adult men are at 6.9 percent; adult women, 6.1 percent; teen-
agers, 20.6 percent; whites, 6.5 percent; blacks, 14.1 percent; Hispan-
ics, 11.6 percent. Those are our summary data.

Compared to prior recessions, most of these groups have fared a little
better. As the Chairman pointed out, this is a longer recession. As with
other data that I mentioned to him, it has been milder in terms of what
has happened to these specific groups in this recession than in prior
ones. The prior recession average, for example, for adult men was an
increase of 3 percentage points, and this time it has been 2 percentage
points. So, I am not diminishing the significance of that on the people
involved, but it is a little less significant in percentage terms.

The only group whose experience in this recession seems to ap-
proach what has happened in the average of all recessions of post-
World War II is Hispanics, and teenagers have fared worse. Others,
while the experience is not good, don't quite fare as poorly as they have
in other postwar recessions.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Do you break it down to, for example, Hispanic
teenagers? Do you have those statistics so that you could say what has
happened to that group?

MR. BARRON. I only have here with me the total, Senator.

What I have is that in prior recessions for Hispanics, as a whole,
their increase in unemployment rates went up 3.8 percentage points, on
average, and this time the rise is almost matching that. Their rate is up
by 3.6 percentage points. So, relative to other groups, their experience
this time has been almost bad as it has been in the average.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Congressman Solarz?

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Thank you very much, SENATOR BINGAMAN.

Mr. Barron, good to have you with us.

MR. BARRON. Thank you, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. What has happened to Dr. Norwood? Old
BLS directors never die. They just fade away?

MR. BARRON. Absolutely.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Is she among the 7.3 percent unemployed?

MR. BARRON. Oh, no. She is doing quite well.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. She hasn't despaired of getting work?

MR. BARRON. No.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. She is not working part-time, even though
she would like to work full time? In other words, she is not in any of
these charts?

MR. BARRON. No, sir, she's not. I think she always did the work of
two people and seems to be still doing that, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. What is she doing?

MR. BARRON. She is working at the Urban Institute doing some con-
sulting and staying involved in statistical issues.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Why did she leave? It's not quite the same without her, with all due respect to you, but I got used to her. I actually rather liked her.

[Laughter.]

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. She was sharp. She never let herself get trapped. She could see three questions ahead where we were trying to lead her.

MR. BARRON. A remarkable person, no question, and I would never want to be compared to her. I will say that I worked with her as my direct supervisor for longer than any other BLS employee; I admire her greatly and miss her a great deal. You are absolutely right.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. She was an extraordinary public servant.

MR. BARRON. Absolutely.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. And the Nation benefited from her contributions. Give her my best wishes.

MR. BARRON. I will do that. I hope she taught me a little bit.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Well, we'll see.

[Laughter.]

MR. BARRON. That is what I am worried about, yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Now, are we still in a recession?

MR. BARRON. Well, Mr. Solarz, as you know, the Bureau does not define when those things begin and end. In the future, the folks who do define beginning and end points will provide us with the endpoint. When they do that, we may well find that they have declared some period that is already behind us as having been the official end.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Is there any credible source that says the recession is over?

MR. BARRON. Analysts have been disagreeing, but some say it is over.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Well, as I understand, a recession is said to be over when you have two consecutive quarters of positive growth.

MR. BARRON. Yes, some people say that.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. That is net growth, real growth.

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Have we had two consecutive quarters of real growth?

MR. BARRON. Not yet, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. So, presumably the recession is still on.

MR. BARRON. Presumably, and sometimes these data get revised later on. You are correct as far as the data that have been issued.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Which quarter are we in now?

MR. BARRON. The first quarter of 1992.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. And the last quarter of 1991, was that real growth?

MR. BARRON. Small growth in 1991.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. So, technically, if the current quarter indicated that there was positive real growth, one could say the recession was over.

MR. BARRON. I think that possibility is out there, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. When will this quarter end?

MR. BARRON. March. I'm not sure when those data would be issued, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Could you tell us what the unemployment rate is in the other major industrial democracies?

MR. BARRON. Let me see if Ed Dean, who takes care of all our international comparisons work—who is behind us, sir—can help us with that.

MR. DEAN. The manufacturing output per hour, which is one thing that we closely track in our international comparisons, has tended to show a steady increase in manufacturing productivity in most industrial countries. Is it manufacturing that you want to focus on?

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. No. Unemployment. I want to see how we stack up to the British, the French, the Germans, the Italians, the Japanese.

MR. DEAN. In the February figures, we had unemployment rates that were substantially below those for Canada, Australia and France. Those three countries had unemployment rates of 10 percent or slightly more. The same is true of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom had an unemployment rate of 10.7 percent in January. We were above the unemployment rate shown for Japan, Germany, and Sweden.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. What are the unemployment rates in Germany and Japan?

MR. BARRON. In Japan, it was 2.0 percent.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. So, ours is over three times greater than Japan.

Mr. Dean. That's right.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. And Germany?

Mr. Dean. In Germany, it was 4.4 percent. This means the former West Germany. In Sweden, it was 3.7 percent.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. When you say the former West Germany, what about East Germany, which is now part of Germany?

Mr. Dean. We don't have official unemployment rates for that country. As you may know, unemployment was declared an impossibility under a Soviet system, and the German Federal Statistical Office has not yet begun producing that for that part of the world.

I must say also that there are reasons to believe, which we are currently investigating, that the unemployment rate in West Germany is presently underestimated because they are not fully capturing the unemployment of former East Germans who are now in West Germany and looking for jobs.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Do you have an average unemployment figure for the OECD countries as a whole?

Mr. Dean. No, we do not. We have an average figure for the European Community.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Which is?

Mr. Dean. Which is 9.3 percent in January.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Now, could you tell us over the course of the last year how many Americans were unemployed at one point or another, or to put it in percentage terms, what percentage of the work force was unemployed at one point or another? Right now, it is 7.3 percent, but if you take a cumulative figure of people who are out and then in, what would it be?

MR. PLEWES. We don't have that yet for last year. That information was collected in March, but it has not yet been processed. I can tell you that the year before that in 1990, when the unemployment rate, of course, was lower, there were about 20 million persons who were unemployed at some time during the year. Our expectation is——

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. That would be what percent?

MR. PLEWES. Well, you have to have a total number of persons who were in the labor force at some point. I don't have a number here. I'm going to have to give that for the record. I didn't bring that.

Our expectation, of course, is that unemployment is going to be much larger this past year because the unemployment rate has been much larger.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. But just as an order of magnitude, would the percentage of those over the last year who have been unemployed at one time or another be clearly in double digits?

MR. PLEWES. Oh, yes, I would say that.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Close to 20 percent?

MR. PLEWES. Above 10 percent. I'm not quite sure how much above 10 percent.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Could you get us that for the record?

[Submission for the record follows:]

SUBMISSION FOR THE RECORD

In reference to the data requested, the total number of persons in the labor force sometime during 1990 was 134.4 million. The number of persons unemployed at sometime during the year was 19.8 million.

The proportion of the labor force experiencing some unemployment in 1990 was 14.7 percent, compared with 12.9 percent in 1989.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Because I have the impression when a lot of people hear these unemployment figures, they think to themselves, well, 7.3 percent, that suggests that 92.7 percent have jobs, and I'm more likely to be in the 92 percent than in the 7 percent. So, that is not so bad. But I have the impression, if you count the number of people who at one point or another have lost their jobs, it is a substantially higher figure.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. In fact, high enough to send shivers down the spine of anybody who does not have the American equivalent of a full-time job.

MR. BARRON. That is correct, sir.

MR. PLEWES. I could probably do it quick. In 1990, the number who were unemployed at least one week was about three times the monthly average of 6.9 million. So, if we took three times the roughly 8.4 million average that we had back in 1991, you are talking about 25 million.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Yes. So, we are talking over 20 percent, conceivably approaching a quarter of the work force. We are not holding you responsible for it, but it could be that about 25 percent of the work force over the last year at one point or another was out of work.

MR. PLEWES. I cannot say that because I don't know the total size of the work force during the year.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. I have been going through this release, and I have to say I am a little bit confused. You seem to have, toward the back the unemployment figures, broken down by state, at least some of the states. My friend from New Mexico will undoubtedly take note of the fact that for some inexplicable reason his state was left off. But I see this is the 11 large states.

MR. BARRON. That's correct.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. I know New Mexico makes up in quality what it lacks in quantity, certainly in its senatorial delegation.

But here you have the 11 largest states, and it says here in California that the unemployment was 8.7; in Florida, 8.1; Illinois, 8.2; Massachusetts, 10; Michigan, 10; New York—which is my State—8.5 percent; Ohio, 7.8. Now, in every one of these states but one—North Carolina—the unemployment rate is higher and in some cases substantially higher than the national average.

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Why is the national average so much lower? Which states are doing so well and why, by comparison?

MR. BARRON. The last month for which we have data for all states, sir, is February. So, if you don't mind, I will go back to that month. At that time, 29 states were below the national average; 29 states had unemployment rates less than the 7.3, which was the national average at that time. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia were above the average.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. But unemployment is based on people, not states.

MR. BARRON. That's correct.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. The point is, if you have California and New York substantially over the national average and you add to that Massachusetts and Illinois and Michigan, these are states with very large populations.

MR. BARRON. It is just that their rates are not enough higher, sir. I understand the point that you are making, but there are a lot of people in those other 29 states. When you look at that average, it does work out right. I am confident that that's okay.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Well, that suggests in these other states that it must be substantially below the national average.

MR. BARRON. In a few cases, that's true, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. So, we seemed to have a kind of Swiss cheese economy. Some states are doing very, very well, and other states are in the hole. Why is that? Is there a pattern, some underlying explanation, a unified theory—as it were— that would explain why the small states are doing well and the big states are not?

MR. BARRON. I don't know that I learned enough from Janet to give you any unifying theory, sir. It has been suggested that this has been a coastal recession, and I am sure that that has to do with the industrial composition of the states that are——

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. By coastal states, you mean states that abut the Great Lakes also?

MR. BARRON. Well, I didn't mean that, but, in fact, you make a good point. That is true that some of those states have fared poorly in this recession as well.

I think Tom has some data on regions that perhaps would shed some light on this.

MR. PLEWES. The rate for the Nation rose by 0.6 percent between March 1991 and March 1992. New England has gone up by 0.3 percent. The Middle Atlantic States have gone up by 0.8 percent. So, the Middle Atlantic States have gone up more than the national average. New England, which was affected early on in the recession, has not slipped as badly.

The east North Central area—that is the Illinois, Michigan area— actually had a decline. The rate declined over the last year in that region by 0.2 percent.

The west North Central area—that is the bread basket area, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and so forth—declined by 0.3 percent.

The South Atlantic States—that is essentially from Delaware down—have gained quite a bit, about 1.4 percent.

The east South Central—that is Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee—are down 0.6 percent.

The west South Central—the Texas area—is up 0.7 percent.

The Mountain States, up 1.6 percent; and the Pacific States, up 1.4 percent.

So, you can get a feeling for where the focus of the recession has shifted. It varies substantially between the regions.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. One of your charts indicates the unemployment rate by industry. If I am reading this correctly—this is Table A-4, I believe—it suggests that the construction industry is a disaster area—17.6 percent unemployment in construction. Is that accurate?

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir. It is accurate.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. That is twice as high as every other category in industry except one—goods producing industries—where it is almost twice as high.

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir. As you are astutely noting, that is an industry that, relative to all recessions post-World War II, has fared very poorly this time.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Why is it in such bad shape?

MR. BARRON. Well, some have suggested the real estate problems. Overconstruction of office buildings seems to be an issue that has hurt the industry very badly, and until that excess office space works off, this condition seems to persist.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. What goes into the construction category besides residential and office space?

MR. BARRON. It is all forms of construction.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Do you count, for example, public works projects, roads, bridges, highways?

MR. BARRON. All forms.

MR. PLEWES. Highway jobs went up 4,000 last month.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. In another one of your charts, you have the unemployment breakdown by sex and race and the like. I was struck by the fact that there seems to be a considerably higher unemployment rate, I believe, among women than among men. It says here in Table A-2: Women—20 years and over—unemployment rate, 10.8 percent; men—20 and over—7 percent. Am I reading that correctly?

MR. BARRON. I don't think so, Congressman.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Do you see which chart I'm looking at, Table A-2, employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. What would you rather look at. seasonally adjusted or not?

MR. BARRON. We would prefer the seasonally adjusted.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. If you look at seasonally adjusted, men—20 years and over—6.2 percent.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Women—20 years and over—11.3 percent.

MR. PLEWES. He is looking at the white men and black women.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. That is a gender gap if I ever saw one.

MR. BARRON. That is also, Mr. Solarz, a racial gap too. I think you are looking at data for whites and blacks.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Oh, I see.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Actually, among whites, the unemployment rate is higher among men than among women.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Why is that?

MR. BARRON. It is the nature of the industries where these men worked that are suffering from unemployment, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. And it is also true among black men compared to black women.

MR. BARRON. It is partly related to the construction industry and other industries where men are heavily concentrated.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Tell me, in a way, the biggest gap is among teenagers—white and black. White teenagers have a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate—both sexes—of 18.5 percent, and among the blacks—16 to 19—it is 36 percent. It is almost twice as high.

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir. Again, you have hit on an area that in this particular recession that has been a very serious problem. The experience of teenagers in this recession has been worse than in the postwar recession average because many of them are employed in retail trade, which has been one of the industries hard hit this time.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. But even among adults, black unemployment is about twice as high as white unemployment.

MR. BARRON. Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. And it is also about twice as high for Hispanics as it is for whites.

MR. BARRON. Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. To what do you attribute that.

MR. BARRON. I am sure there are multiple causes, sir. Again, I think it is in the nature of the jobs, the industries that these people were employed in when the recession took hold.

Tom, do you have any other specifics?

MR. PLEWES. Well, it has also to do with geographic areas in which these populations reside. In the central city, the unemployment rates are much higher than in suburban areas. So, if you keep listing all these things, you get to a beginning of an answer.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. I have just one other question. Senator Bingaman asked about manufacturing jobs. What percent of the jobs in the country are in manufacturing? How does that compare to what it was at some relevant points in the past? I may be mistaken, but I have the impression that the overall number of manufacturing jobs has remained fairly constant, but the percentage of manufacturing jobs, as a

percent- age of the total number of jobs, has declined. Is that true or not?

MR. BARRON. The number of jobs in the goods producing sector, in general, has declined in relative terms to the jobs in the total economy. There were 18.3 million jobs in manufacturing in March.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Over the course of 5 or 10 years, have the total number of manufacturing jobs declined, or have they remained more or less constant or grown?

MR. PLEWES. If you go back to 1981, the number of manufacturing jobs has declined by almost 2 million. Over that period, the total number of jobs has increased by about 18 million.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. So, virtually all the new jobs were in the service sector?

MR. PLEWES. That's correct. A lot of that decline, of course, has occurred just in the past two years in manufacturing. But, up until then, there was almost no growth in manufacturing; only about 18 million jobs added overall.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. And that 2 million loss was what percentage of the manufacturing jobs?

MR. PLEWES. About 10 percent.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Has that experience been reflected in the other industrial democracies, particularly in the European Community? Have they lost manufacturing jobs as well?

MR. PLEWES. They have. While the United States became a service economy before Europe, our loss of manufacturing jobs did not precede theirs.

MR. BARRON. We can check on that for you, sir, if you would like.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Could you get that?

MR. BARRON. Sure.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Thank you very much.

[Submission for the record follows:]

U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen as a percent of total employment since the mid-1960s, but the level of manufacturing employment peaked in 1979. In Europe, the peak employment years were 1965-66 for Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom; 1970 for West Germany; 1974 for France; and 1980 for Italy.

Between 1979 and 1990, U.S. manufacturing employment fell about 9 percent. Belgium, France, Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom had larger percentage declines over this time period. In addition, between their peak years for manufacturing employment and 1990, manufacturing employment fell 40 percent in the United Kingdom; about 25 percent in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands; over 15 percent in Italy and Sweden; and 10 percent in West Germany.

In part, these larger percentage declines in manufacturing employment in Europe than in the United States reflect substantial shifts of employment from manufacturing to services in economies with much lower population and labor force growth rates. However, European employment growth overall has also been much lower relative to population growth.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Let me just ask the following. You referred earlier to the fact that you had projections for where these trends were going on manufacturing. Is that something that is public? Could you give us that?

MR. BARRON. Yes, absolutely. We do long-term projections, and we would be glad to provide those to you.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. That would be very interesting to know. For what period is that? For the rest of the 1990s, or what?

MR. BARRON. Through the year 2005.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Through the year 2005?

MR. BARRON. Yes, Senator.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Anything you could give us that indicates where you think we are going on the number of manufacturing jobs, in absolute terms, and also relative to the rest of the economy. That would be very useful.

Also, do you make projections on plant utilization?

MR. BARRON. No, sir, we don't.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. I noticed, on industrial plant utilization, it is down to about 77 percent. I just wondered if there was any projection on where that was going.

MR. BARRON. No, Senator. We don't have data on that subject.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. If the gentleman will yield. What is the figure, with respect to plant utilization, at which you begin to generate inflationary pressures?

MR. BARRON. I just don't know the answer, Congressman. I'm sorry. I can check that for you and see if we can find such a figure.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. I chaired a hearing yesterday of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs on the economic challenge that we face from Asia. We had a briefing from some of your counterparts at the Congressional Reference Service. They were able to give us some pretty good figures, indicating the number of jobs generated in the United States by our exports to Asian countries in general and to Japan in particular. There seems to be a formula. For every billion dollars worth of exports, there are a certain number of jobs. By that calculation, it suggests that there were about a million jobs, I think, generated by our exports to Japan.

Then, they were asked how many jobs do we lose as a result of Japanese exports to the United States. Here, mass confusion reigned. They threw up their hands. They said we don't have these figures. Nobody has calculated them. It is very difficult.

I wonder if you can respond to this because it seems to me that while the calculations may be difficult, to be sure, it is hard to know whether a job was lost because of automation, or because of imports, or because of other factors. Nevertheless, when you consider these complex computer models that purport to predict what is going to happen in the economy as a whole, surely it should not be impossible to come up

with some kind of formula to enable us to make a judgment about the impact on American jobs of imports from other countries, which to some extent might be displacing workers who would otherwise produce goods and services that would fill a need that is now being filled by these imports.

Could you tell us why this doesn't exist and whether any work is being done to come up with such a formula, and if so, whether you can perhaps come back to us with something that we can sink our teeth into?

MR. BARRON. There is some work that has been sponsored by the ILAB— the International Labor organization within the Department of Labor. BLS has not done any work on the employment impacts of international trade in more than a couple decades, sir, partly because another organization within the Department works in that arena, and partly due to budget difficulties.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Well, can you do it? It seems to me that we ought to know what the net impact on jobs of our position as a leading world trading country is. We hear a lot of talk about the virtues of free trade and expanding international trade. It may well be true. I tend to incline in that direction myself. But it certainly would be helpful in making some judgments about the direction in which we want to go as a Nation, with respect to our trading policy, if we knew what the actual net impact would be on our capacity to generate and keep jobs of various market opening measures, which may make it easier for us to generate jobs by exporting, but also may potentially threaten existing jobs by making it easier for others to export to us.

MR. BARRON. Intellectually, you are exactly correct. We have not done work in that area recently.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. What will it take to get you to do it?

MR. BARRON. At current budget levels, we simply would not be able to do it.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. If we ask a Japanese economic organization to do it?

MR. BARRON. I don't know that we would want you to do that. Why don't we look at the work that is going on in the Department of Labor?

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Could you do this?

MR. BARRON. Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. I would appreciate it if you or the staff could bring the results of your work to my attention: What you are doing, what others are doing, what it would take to get the job done, who you think would be the most appropriate ones to do it, and what it would cost to get it done if the problem is because budgetary resources have not been made available. I should think that this information is of sufficient relevance and interest that it would probably not be all that difficult to get an item in some budget somewhere that would make it possible for us to get this information.

MR. BARRON. I do not want to leave you with the notion that gathering these data is solely a matter of budget. It was a policy judgment as well. Part of what we would like to provide you with in our response will be some comments that were made by former Commissioner Norwood concerning the difficulty of gathering these kinds of data. We can share that with you and go from there.

[Submission for the record follows:]

SUBMISSION FOR THE RECORD

The following is an excerpt from the Statement of Dr. Janet L. Norwood, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, before the Senate Finance Committee of the United States Congress on July 16, 1986.

Foreign Trade and U.S. Employment

The structural changes in the U.S. Economy have focused attention on our international competitiveness. Foreign trade has become an increasingly important factor affecting the U.S. employment situation. In 1970, merchandise exports and imports each represented only about 4 percent of our gross national product (GNP). Ten years later -- by 1980, these ratios had risen to about 8 and 9 percent respectively. Since 1981, however, our trade balance has changed. Merchandise exports have declined (even on a current dollar basis), and as of 1985, represented 5.4 percent of the GNP. Merchandise imports, in contrast, continued to rise and still represented nearly the same proportion of the GNP in 1985, as in 1980.

Over the years, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has received numerous requests for information on the employment content of exports and imports. In my view, conceptual and data problems make it impossible to estimate the employment effects of internationally traded products with statistical accuracy.

On the export side, we can say that the fact that exports accounted for a smaller proportion of our GNP in 1985, implies a similar relationship in terms of jobs. But, the difficulty in developing estimates of the number of jobs associated with exports is that assumptions must be made about the marginal productivities associated with producing those exports. Models using an input-output approach exist, but the data required to estimate those models are available only in a highly aggregated form. International trade occurs at the product level. The flow of goods across borders differs markedly among products -- indeed, even among products in the same industry or plant. In any case, such estimates, even if they could be produced, would tell us very little about what would happen to employment if exports were sharply cut back.

On the import side, the estimation task is even more difficult. In my view, it is just not possible to estimate with accuracy the number of U.S. jobs that have been displaced by imports. In the case of imports, there are no domestic jobs involved in producing the goods. The task is to estimate the employment that might take place, assuming other factors of production are constant, if those imports were or could be produced in the United States.

The problem is that the task requires answers to questions for which we have no basis in fact. How can we estimate for each sector of the economy the level of final demand which might occur if the United States were to cease importing? We do not even know whether the country has the capacity to produce the amounts of the goods which are imported or whether attempts at self-sufficiency in import-competitive industries would result in bottlenecks. Even if it were possible for the United States to produce the goods which are being imported, major reallocations of resources would take place, and there would be concurrent changes in prices and in consumer preferences for goods. There also would be shifts in employment based on imported goods, including transportation, sales and servicing.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. You are getting me a little bit upset or concerned. If you tell me that we don't have the information to some extent because of a policy judgment, it sounds like a judgment was made that we don't want any facts to disturb our prejudices.

MR. BARRON. I did not mean to imply that, sir. This work is very difficult analytically and calls for some highly judgmental decisions. The Bureau, given its long history of objectivity, does not like to get into the types of research that require such subjective choices, if possible.

REPRESENTATIVE SOLARZ. Thank you very much.

SENATOR BINGAMAN. Thank you all very much. It has been useful.

[Whereupon, at 10:25 a.m., the Committee adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

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