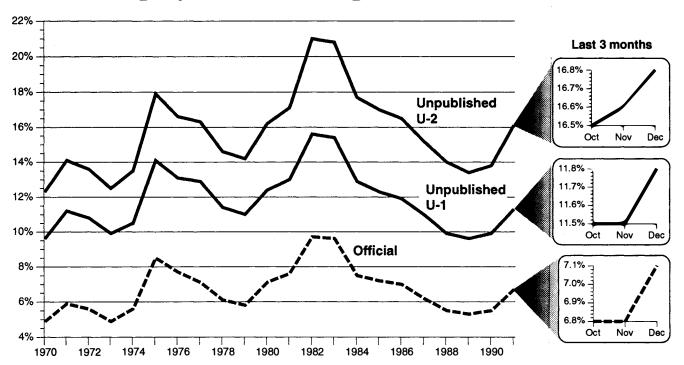
U.S. Unemployment Coverup



Data used for Unpublished U-1 and U-2 unemployment rates (thousands)

	Civilian		Want a job now (c)	Part-time, economic reasons (d)	Official U-5b rate b/a	Unpub- lished U-1 rate (b+c)/a	Unpub- lished U-2 rate (b+c+d)/a								
Year	labor force (a)	Official unemployed (b)													
								1970	82,771	4,093	3,881	2,198	4.9%	9.6%	12.3%
								1971	84,382	5,016	4,423	2,452	5.9%	11.2%	14.1%
1972	87,034	4,882	4,493	2,430	5.6%	10.8%	13.6%								
1973	89,429	4,365	4,510	2,343	4.9%	9.9%	12.5%								
1974	91,949	5,156	4,514	2,751	5.6%	10.5%	13.5%								
1975	93,775	7,929	5,271	3,541	8.5%	14.1%	17.9%								
1976	96,158	7,406	5,233	3,334	7.7%	13.1%	16.6%								
1977	99,009	6,991	5,775	3,368	7.1%	12.9%	16.3%								
1978	102,251	6,202	5,446	3,298	6.1%	11.4%	14.6%								
1979	104,962	6,137	5,427	3,372	5.8%	11.0%	14.2%								
1980	106,940	7,637	5,675	4,064	7.1%	12.4%	16.2%								
1981	108,670	8,273	5,835	4,499	7.6%	13.0%	17.1%								
1982	110,204	10,678	6,559	5,852	9.7%	15.6%	21.0%								
1983	111,550	10,717	6,503	5,997	9.6%	15.4%	20.8%								
1984	113,544	8,539	6,070	5,512	7.5%	12.9%	17.7%								
1985	115,461	8,312	5,933	5,334	7.2%	12.3%	17.0%								
1986	117,834	8,237	5,825	5,345	7.0%	11.9%	16.5%								
1987	119,865	7,425	5,714	5,122	6.2%	11.0%	15.2%								
1988	121,669	6,701	5,373	4,965	5.5%	9.9%	14.0%								
1989	123,869	6,528	5,395	4,656	5.3%	9.6%	13.4%								
1990	124,787	6,874	5,473	4,860	5.5%	9.9%	13.8%								
1991	125,303	8,426	5,736	6,046	6.7%	11.3%	16.1%								
Last 12 month															
January	124,638	7,715	5,7281	5,510	6.2%	10.8%	15.2%								
February	125,076	8,158	5,7281	6,062	6.5%	11.1%	15.9%								
March	125,326	8,572	5,7281	6,163	6.8%	11.4%	16.3%								
April	125,672	8,274	5,519¹	6,162	6.6%	11.0%	15.9%								
May	125,232	8,640	5,5191	5,932	6.9%	11.3%	16.0%								
June	125,629	8,745	5,519¹	5,705	7.0%	11.4%	15.9%								
July	125,214	8,501	5,8461	5,881	6.8%	11.5%	16.2%								
August	124,904	8,488	5,8461	5,892	6.8%	11.5%	16.2%								
September	125,607	8,442	5,8461	6,374	6.7%	11.4%	16.4%								
October	125,549	8,582	5,8461	6,328	6.8%	11.5%	16.5%								
November	125,257	8,499	5,8461	6,461	6.8%	11.5%	16.6%								
December	125,619	8,891	5,9321	6,321	7.1%	11.8%	16.8%								

¹The want a job now figure is compiled quarterly. The figure used for monthly calculation of the EIR U-1 rate is that from the most recent available quarter.

Explanatory Note

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' official unemployment rate (U-5b) is obtained by dividing the number of people classified under Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) definitions as unemployed, by the number of people classified as civilian labor force. These numbers are obtained by statistical sampling techniques carried out monthly among a changing sample population of approximately 57,000 households.

In December 1991, 8,891,000 people qualified as unemployed under BLS definitions, producing an official unemployment rate of 7.1 percent. (To qualify as unemployed, a person must have made specific efforts to find employment some time during the four weeks prior to the survey.) However, an additional 5,932,000 had stated in the most recent quarterly survey that they "want a job now." These people are considered by the BLS as not in the labor force, and are not counted in the unemployment figure.

The Unpublished U-1 rate is calculated by adding the Bureau of Labor Statistics' want a job now category (using the seasonally adjusted data from the most recent available quarter) to the number of officially unemployed.

Additionally, many millions of people who want full-time employment are forced into part-time work for economic reasons, such as slack work, or inability to find a full-time job. This number is collected monthly and published in BLS statistical documents, but is not counted in the official unemployment rate. The Unpublished U-2 rate includes the part-time for economic reasons category as well as the want a job now category.

For comparability with the official rate, the EIR rates are calculated on the same base figure, the BLS-defined civilian labor force. This figure comprises all civilians classified as either employed or unemployed. For a number of reasons, the civilian labor force can be considered as a bloated figure. Its use as the divisor in unemployment rate calculations thus further masks the depth of the unemployment problem. The definition of the component category employed includes anyone who worked even one hour during the survey week. Large segments of the population, who under healthy economic conditions might not be forced to seek work, have become a part of the civilian labor force over the past 25 years of "post-industrial society" economy. This includes young mothers, the elderly, and many college students.

EIR January 17, 1992 Economics