



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

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Local Area Unemployment Statistics

What data does the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program produce?

The LAUS program is a Federal-State cooperative effort which produces monthly and annual average estimates of the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate by place of residence. These estimates are available for approximately 7,300 areas, including Census regions and divisions, states, metropolitan statistical areas, counties and equivalents, and cities with populations of 25,000 or more. Employment-population ratios and labor force participation rates also are available for regions, divisions, and states. Region, division, and state series begin in 1976, while data for most other areas are available from 1990 forward.

How can you use LAUS data?

- Federal programs use the data to allocate funds to states for job training programs, food assistance, disaster aid, infrastructure development, and more.
- State and local governments use the estimates for planning and budgetary purposes and to determine the need for local employment and training services.
- The private sector uses the data for mortgage and bond underwriting, among other things.
- Researchers and academics use the data to study trends in labor markets over time and to make comparisons across areas.
- Businesses and individuals use the data for worksite and residence location decisions.

What can you learn from LAUS data?

- What is the unemployment rate for your city or county? How does it compare to the state, region, or neighboring cities or counties?
- What areas have the highest and lowest jobless rates?
- How did an area's labor market fare over time and across business cycles?
- What areas are experiencing the largest labor market changes, both positive and negative?
- What impact did a particular natural disaster or economic disruption have on local labor market conditions?

When are the data available to you?

LAUS data are published on a staggered basis:

- Region, division, and state data for a given month are generally available on the third Friday of the following month.
- Metropolitan area data follow about a week and a half later, generally on the fourth Wednesday.
- Data for the remainder of the 7,300 areas are typically released a week after metropolitan area data.
- Annual average and revised historical data for all areas are available early each year.

Our complete release schedule can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausched.htm>.

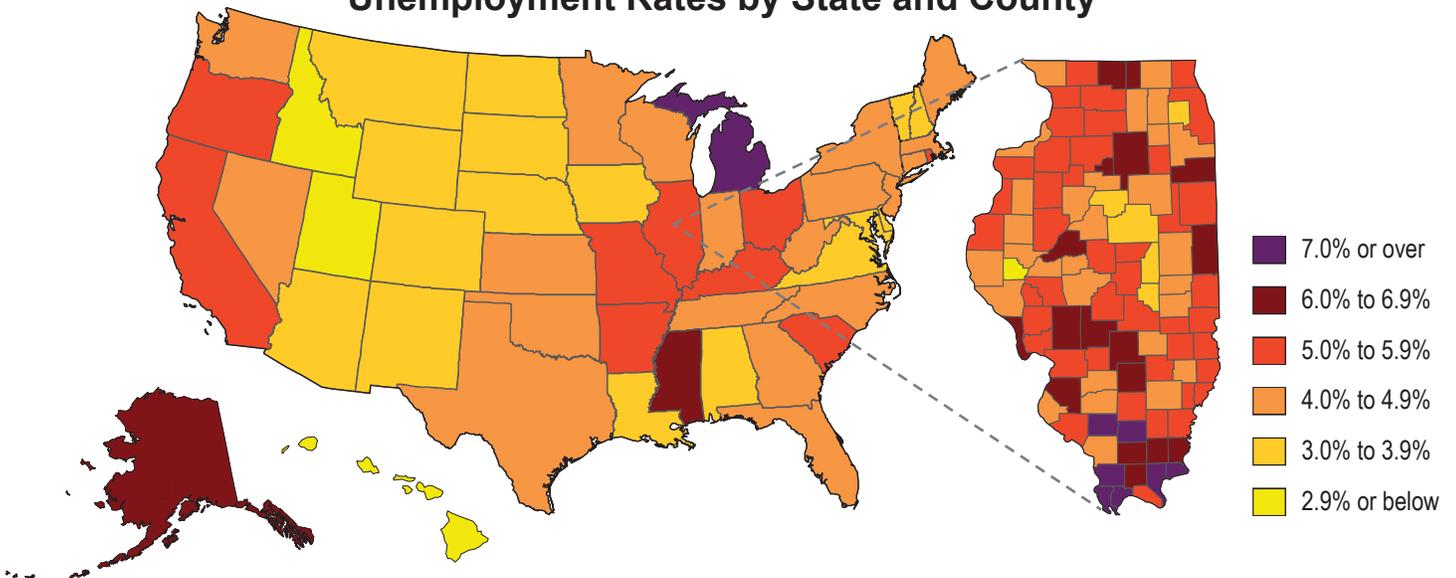
Where can you find the information?

LAUS data and program information are available on the LAUS webpage at www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm or by contacting LAUS staff by e-mail at lausinfo@bls.gov or by telephone at (202) 691-6392.



Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Unemployment Rates by State and County



Unemployment Rates in the East North Central and West North Central Divisions, Seasonally Adjusted, 1976 to 2008

