The US Labor Force Dataset from the BLS contains nearly 20,000 series. These series are subcategories of the popular series of:

**Civilian Labor Force**
- Employment Level
- Unemployment Level, and
- Unemployment Rate

These basic measures are augmented by:

- Noninstitutional population
- Population Level
- Labor Force Participation Rate
- Not in Labor Force
- Armed Forces Population
- Number at work
- Average hours at work
- Civilian Employment-Population Ratio
- Multiple jobholders
- Unemployed, Jobseekers
- Average number of search methods used
- Vietnam Era veterans / Non veterans
- Number At work on full-time schedules
- Number At work part-time

These series can be subdivided by:

**Sex:**
- Male
- Female

**Race and Ethnicity:**
- White
- Black and Other
- Hispanic
Labor force = Number of people employed + Number of people unemployed

Civilian Labor Force -- 16 years and older

Economic Chart Dispenser

Provided by Ted Bos, School of Business, University of Alabama at Birmingham

If you have questions please email me at: TedBos@UAB.edu

Civilian Employment -- 16 years and older

Click on chart to get and save; or shift-click to save.
Civilian employment

Key business cycle indicator

Civilian Employment; 16 years and older; Thousands; SA

*See Out 26
Press Release by Fed.

- Fed looks at employment
- Less emphasis on GDP/RGDP

*For more details see
www.NBER.org
• Three Labor Market Indicators
  • The unemployment rate
  • The labor force participation rate
  • The employment-to-population ratio
• The unemployment rate is the percentage of the people in the labor force who are unemployed.

Number of people unemployed \times 100
Unemployment rate = \frac{\text{people unemployed}}{\text{Labor force}}

Economic Chart Dispenser

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Click on chart to get and save; or shift-click to save.
To be counted as unemployed, a person must be available for work and must be in one of three categories:

1) Without work but has made specific efforts to find a job within the previous four weeks

2) Waiting to be called back to a job from which he or she has been laid off

3) Waiting to start a new job within 30 days
Population Survey

Every month, the U.S. Census Bureau surveys 60,000 households and asks a series of questions about the age and job market status of its members.

Called the Current Population Survey, the working-age population is the total number of people aged 16 years and over who are not in a jail, hospital, or some other form of institutional care.

The working-age population is divided into those in the labor force and those not in the labor force.

The labor force is divided into the employed and the unemployed.
The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the working-age population who are members of the labor force.

\[
\text{Labor force participation rate} = \frac{\text{Labor force}}{\text{Working age population}} \times 100
\]
The employment-to-population ratio is the percentage of people of working age who have jobs.

\[
\text{Employment-to-population ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of people employed}}{\text{Working-age population}} \times 100
\]
TA 6-5 Determining Who is Unemployed

Last week respondent
- was not working
- had job but was not at work
- was working
- was on vacation, ill, etc.

was looking for work?
- was employed
- was unemployed
- wanted a job now; not looking because
- did not want job now

how many hours?
- employed full-time
- employed part-time
- economic reasons
- noneconomic reasons

was not in the labor force
- discouraged
- other reason

- keeping house
- School
- ill/disabled
- retired
- other

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