


<http://www.bls.gov/>

## The Unemployment Rate

Use the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/>) website to answer the following questions.

What is the current unemployment rate for March of 2016? (Look the right hand side under **Latest Numbers**).



Use the page icon  to go to more information about the unemployment rate. Go to the [Employment Situation Summary Table A. Household data, seasonally adjusted](#) and fill in the following information:

	March 2016 Unemployment Rates
Adult Men	
Adult Women	
Teenagers (16-19 years old)	
White	
Black or African American	
Asian	
Hispanic or Latino	


**Now compare these current unemployment rates with a year ago, March 2015.**

Which groups have seen a drop in unemployment rates in the last year?

Which groups have seen an increase in unemployment rates in the last year?

Who has a lower unemployment rate, high school graduates or college graduates with a Bachelor's degree or higher?

# The History of Unemployment Rates

Go back to the Bureau of Labor Statistics main page and choose the icon  next to the unemployment rate to learn more about historical unemployment rates.

Look at the graph of the unemployment rate from 2006 to 2016 and answer the following questions:

What was the unemployment rate in 1/07?

When was the unemployment rate the highest during the last decade? What was this rate?

From what you learned yesterday about the business cycle, can you explain why the unemployment rate was so high in 2009?

Is the current unemployment rate high or low compared with other rates of the last decade?

**The highest unemployment rate in the 20th century was during the Great Depression at 24%. The lowest was right after World War II. Chart the unemployment rate for the last 50 years by choosing From 1966 to 2016.**

From:  To:   
 include graphs  include annual averages

What other decade saw unemployment above 10%?

What impact did the technology boom of the 1990's have on the unemployment rate?

When did unemployment shoot up again during the 21st century?

How would you characterize the current unemployment rate, with those of the last 50 years? Is it relatively low or relatively high?