

A Huge Pool of Potential Workers Unemployment, Underemployment, and Non-Work Among Native-Born Americans

By Steven A. Camarota and Karen Jensenius

While the current high rate of official unemployment is well known, there is a broader measure of employment that the Bureau of Labor Statistics calls U-6. It includes the unemployed as well as people who would like to work, but who have not looked for a job recently and those involuntarily working part-time. In addition, there are individuals who are not in the labor force at all. A look at these numbers shows the situation is particularly bad for minorities, the young, and less-educated Americans. These are the workers who face the most competition from immigrants — legal and illegal. (All figures in this report are seasonally unadjusted and are from the third quarter of 2009.)

Number unemployed or underemployed:

- As of the third quarter of 2009, there are 12.5 million unemployed native-born Americans, but the broader U-6 measure shows 21 million natives unemployed or underemployed.
- There are 6.1 million natives with a high school education or less who are unemployed. Using the U-6 measure, it is 10.4 million.
- In addition to those less-educated natives covered by U-6, there are another 18.7 million natives with a high school education or less not in the labor force, which means they are not looking for work.
- The total number of less-educated (high school education or less) natives who are unemployed, underemployed, or not in the labor force is 29.1 million.
- There also are 6.6 million native-born teenagers (16 and 17) not working.
- To place these numbers in perspective, there are an estimated seven to eight million illegal immigrants holding jobs.

Unemployment rates for less-educated and younger workers:

- As of the third quarter of 2009, the overall unemployment rate for native-born Americans is 9.5 percent; the U-6 measure shows it as 15.9 percent.
- The unemployment rate for natives with a high school degree or less is 13.1 percent. Their U-6 measure is 21.9 percent.

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- The unemployment rate for natives with less than a high school education is 20.5 percent. Their U-6 measure is 32.4 percent.
- The unemployment rate for young native-born Americans (18-29) who have only a high school education is 19 percent. Their U-6 measure is 31.2 percent.
- The unemployment rate for native-born blacks with less than a high school education is 28.8 percent. Their U-6 measure is 42.2 percent.
- The unemployment rate for young native-born blacks (18-29) with only a high school education is 27.1 percent. Their U-6 measure is 39.8 percent.
- The unemployment rate for native-born Hispanics with less than a high school education is 23.2 percent. Their U-6 measure is 35.6 percent.
- The unemployment rate for young native-born Hispanics (18-29) with only a high school degree is 20.9 percent. Their U-6 measure is 33.9 percent.
- The overall unemployment rate for immigrants (legal and illegal) is 9.9 percent. Their U-6 measure is 19.6 percent, which is significantly higher than the rate for natives.
- The unemployment rate for immigrants with less than a high school education is 12.3 percent. Their U-6 measure is 27.4 percent. The unemployment rate for young immigrants (18-29) with only a high school education is 12.2 percent. Their U-6 measure is 25.2 percent.

Discussion

The unemployment rate excludes some people who may want to work, but who are not actively looking for a job and are therefore not officially unemployed. Also, the official unemployment figures do not include those working part-time, but who want to work full-time. In order to get a broader or more comprehensive measure of unemployment and underemployment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) developed the U-6 measure (the official unemployment rate is referred to as U-3). The methodology section of this report explains in detail who is included in the U-6 measure of unemployment. Table 1 (p. 6) reports unemployment figures and the broader U-6 measure of unemployment and underemployment. This more comprehensive measure of unemployment includes those who are officially unemployed, those who are involuntarily working part-time, and those “marginally” attached to the labor market. People who are marginally attached indicate that they would like to work but

are not actively looking for a job because economic conditions and their own experience indicate that it is futile. Table 2 (p. 7) reports the percentage and number employed and unemployed, and the number of people who are not in the labor force. People not in the labor force are not working nor have they looked for work in the last four weeks. As already indicated, some of those people not in the labor force are included in the U-6 measure as marginally attached.

Number Unemployed, Underemployed, or not in the Labor Force

The left side of Table 1 shows that, as of the third quarter of 2009, the total number of unemployed natives is 12.5 million using the standard U-3 measure of unemployment. Using the U-6 measure, 21 million natives are unemployed or underemployed. Looking at the U-6 measure for natives without a high school degree, there are 2.7 million unemployed

or underemployed. For those natives with only a high school education, there are 7.7 million unemployed or underemployed. In total, 10.4 million natives with a high school education or less are unemployed or underemployed using the U-6 measure.

People not in the labor force are neither working nor looking for work. The right half of Table 2 shows those ages 18 to 65 not in the labor force. In addition to the 10.4 million unemployed and underemployed less-educated natives covered by U-6, there are another 18.7 million natives who have a high school education or less not in the labor force.¹ In total there are 29.1 million less-educated natives who are unemployed, involuntarily working part-time, or not in the labor force. Moreover, there are 6.6 million native-born teenagers (16 and 17) who are either unemployed or not in the labor force as of the third quarter of 2009. To place these numbers in perspective, there are an estimated seven to eight million illegal immigrants holding jobs.

This extremely large number of less-educated natives not working or forced to work part-time is relevant to the immigration debate because they are the individuals most in competition with immigrants — legal and illegal. Of course, a significant share of those not in the labor force do not wish to work or are unemployable for some reason. But if only one-fourth of these less-educated adult natives became employed or worked full-time, coupled with one-tenth of native-born teenagers, it would equal the entire illegal immigrant workforce.²

Unemployment Rates for Young And Less-Educated Natives

Table 1 shows that over 30 percent of natives with less than a high school education are unemployed or underemployed using the U-6 measure. This is also the case for young natives (18-29) with only a high school degree. Moreover, Table 1 shows that the situation is even worse for young and less-educated black and Hispanic natives. Among black native-born high school dropouts, the U-6 rate is 42.2 percent; among young (18-29) black natives with only a high school diploma, U-6 is 39.8 percent. The very high rates of unemployment and underemployment and the number of those discouraged

from looking for work among less-educated Americans are a clear indication that there is no shortage of workers at the bottom end of the job market.

The fact that unemployment and the U-6 measure look so bad for less-educated and young workers is not proof that immigration has caused this situation. The severity of the current recession clearly is part of the problem. But unemployment, underemployment, and declining rates of labor force participation were a problem for less-educated natives long before this recession began. What we can say from the data is that those types of workers most in competition with immigrants face the most dire labor market situation. This is consistent with the possibility that immigration has harmed their job prospects. The other conclusion that we can draw from this data is that there is no shortage of less-educated workers in the country. If the United States were to enforce immigration laws and encourage illegal immigrants to return to their home countries, we would seem to have an adequate supply of less-educated natives to replace these workers.

Additionally, the United States could alter its immigration policy in response to the recession. The number of natives unsatisfied with their employment status (represented by U-6) raises the question of why new foreign workers are needed. In 2008, an average of 112,000 new foreign workers were authorized each month to work in the United States. This includes new adult permanent residents (green card holders) and long-term temporary visas for guest workers and others authorized to work. It does not include several hundred thousand illegal immigrants who are already in the country when they change their status and are therefore technically not new arrivals. However, they too could be counted as new work authorizations.³

Although some foreign workers are in the high-tech sector, a very large share of temporary workers and green card holders have relatively little education. The “New Immigrant Survey,” for example, indicates that one-third of adult legal immigrants (new green card holders) have not completed high school. Given the deterioration in the economies of many of the primary immigrant-sending countries, it seems likely that legal immigration to the United States will remain high, absent a change in U.S. policy.

State Data

Table 3 (p. 8) reports unemployment figures by state using both the U-3 and U-6 measures for natives 16 and older. It also reports the number and share of working-age (16 to 65) natives who are not in the labor force. The last two columns of the table show the number of employed immigrants in the state and their share of the labor force. Table 4 (p. 9) reports the same information for those with only a high school degree or less. Since we are looking at individuals by education level, it is necessary to exclude those under age 18 in Table 4. Table 3 shows high unemployment in most of the country for natives, with 17 states having an overall U-6 measure of unemployment higher than the 15.9 percent national average. Given the severity of the problems in the U.S. auto industry, Michigan tops the list with the highest unemployment rates.

Turning to the less-educated population, Table 4 shows that in almost every state the U-6 unemployment rate for natives with a high school education or less is higher than the national average for all native workers (15.9 percent). If we look at the states where the U-6 rate is the highest for less-educated natives, we find that many have very large immigrant populations, including California, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, and Illinois. In addition to high immigration states, other states where U-6 is very high for less-educated natives are those with large African American populations, such as the District of Columbia and South Carolina, or states hit hard by the recession in the auto industry, such as Michigan and Indiana. Table 4 also shows that the share of less-educated natives not working is very high throughout the country. In 41 states (including the District of Columbia), one-third or more of less-educated natives 18 to 65 years of age are not working as of the third quarter of 2009.

Methodology

The data for Tables 1 and 2 come from the public-use files of the July, August, and September 2009 Current Population Surveys (CPS), collected monthly by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Each CPS includes about 131,000 respondents, roughly half of whom are in the labor force. The tables presented here are reported by quarter. Quarterly data are more statistically robust, especially for smaller populations like immigrants and minorities, due to the inclusion of three months of data. Persons in institutions like prisons or nursing homes are not included. The CPS is the nation's primary source for unemployment and other labor force statistics. Like all government surveys, the data are weighted to reflect the actual size and demographic makeup of the U.S. population.

The government publishes employment statistics that are both seasonally adjusted and seasonally unadjusted from the survey. The figures in this analysis are seasonally unadjusted. Unadjusted figures are computationally simpler and easy for other researchers to replicate. In general, BLS does not provide separate estimates for the foreign-born (immigrants) and native-born. However, CPS respondents are asked if they are immigrants, and we have divided the population based on this question. The Census Bureau defines the foreign-born as persons who are not U.S. citizens at birth, which includes naturalized citizens, legal immigrants who are not citizens (green card holders), temporary visitors and workers, and illegal immigrants. All figures for the total U.S. population at the top of Tables 1 and 2 match those from the BLS.

The U-6 measure divides the sum of the unemployed population, involuntary part-time workers, and marginally attached people (discouraged and other) by the civilian labor force (employed and

unemployed) plus marginally attached workers. The column headings in Table 1 show this calculation. An unemployed worker is someone who does not currently hold a job, but is available to work and has looked for a job in the previous four weeks. Marginally attached workers indicate that they want and are available for jobs, and they have looked for work in the past 12 months.⁴ However, they are not considered unemployed because they have not searched for

a job in the previous four weeks. Involuntary part-time workers are those individuals who report that they are working part-time for economic reasons. They want and are available for full-time work, but must instead settle for part-time hours.⁵ Because the total U-6 measure includes the unemployed, those working involuntarily part-time, and those marginally attached to the labor market (discouraged and other), it provides the broadest possible measure of problems in the U.S. work force.

End Notes

¹ To avoid double counting, the 18.7 million figure excludes the roughly one million less-educated natives who are not in the labor force, but are included in the U-6 measure as marginally attached to the labor market. They are shown in columns 4 and 5 of Table 1. The 29.1 million figure includes those over age 65 who are unemployed; that is, they are looking for work. But it does not include those who are over age 65 who are not in the labor force.

² Our best estimate is that the illegal labor force in the March 2009 Current Population Survey was 6.55 million. If we assume a 10 percent undercount, which is what the Department of Homeland Security uses for its estimates of the illegal population, then the total illegal population was 7.2 million in the first part of 2009. While there may have been some change in the number of illegal immigrants holding a job between March 2009 and the third quarter of 2009, that number should not have changed dramatically.

³ See Table 10 in “Trends in Immigrant and Native Employment,” Center for Immigration Studies, at www.cis.org/First-Quarter2009Unemployment.

⁴ Marginally attached workers indicate that they looked for work in the last 12 months, but not in the prior four weeks. The marginally attached are comprised of two groups, both of which are included in U-6. One group is considered “discouraged.” Discouraged workers provide a reason related to the market conditions for why they are not currently looking for a job. The second group of marginally attached workers indicate that they are conditionally interested in finding work and are referred to as “other marginally attached workers.” These individuals provide reasons such as family responsibilities, school attendance, illness, and transportation problems for why they have not searched for work in the previous four weeks.

⁵ Involuntary part-time workers respond that they are working part-time (one to 34 hours a week) for economic reasons; this category includes those who usually work full-time and those who usually work part-time. They share in common a desire to work full-time.

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Table 1. U-6 Measure for Native-Born Americans and Immigrants, Q3 2009 (thousands)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Employed	Unemployed ¹	Percent Unemployed	Marginally Attached: Discouraged ²	Marginally Attached: Other ³	Part-Time: Economic Reasons ⁴	U-6 Population (2+4+5+6)	U-6 Measure 7/(1+2+4+5)
All Persons (16+)	140,069	14,854	9.6 %	753	1,504	8,731	25,842	16.4 %
Teens (16-17)	1,889	663	26.0 %	64	146	111	984	35.6 %
<HS (18+)	12,015	2,424	16.8 %	167	240	1,649	4,480	30.2 %
HS Only (18+)	39,611	5,079	11.4 %	293	503	3,160	9,035	19.9 %
HS Only (18-29)	9,324	2,076	18.2 %	119	238	1,154	3,587	30.5 %
Some College (18+)	40,858	4,068	9.1 %	151	363	2,403	6,985	15.4 %
College or More (18+)	45,696	2,621	5.4 %	78	252	1,409	4,360	9.0 %
All Natives (16+)	118,264	12,452	9.5 %	625	1,316	6,636	21,029	15.9 %
Teens (16-17)	1,818	625	25.6 %	61	139	101	926	35.0 %
<HS (18+)	6,319	1,625	20.5 %	129	191	732	2,677	32.4 %
HS only (18+)	34,139	4,477	11.6 %	248	450	2,563	7,738	19.7 %
HS only (18-29)	8,097	1,905	19.0 %	105	223	993	3,226	31.2 %
Some College (18+)	36,894	3,612	8.9 %	134	324	2,098	6,168	15.1 %
College or More (18+)	39,095	2,113	5.1 %	55	211	1,142	3,521	8.5 %
Black Natives (16+)	12,684	2,361	15.7 %	170	301	903	3,735	24.1 %
Teens (16-17)	160	91	36.3 %	11	32	16	150	51.0 %
<HS (18+)	1,016	410	28.8 %	42	48	140	640	42.2 %
HS only (18+)	4,336	885	17.0 %	69	124	340	1,418	26.2 %
HS only (18-29)	1,125	419	27.1 %	35	68	133	655	39.8 %
Some College (18+)	4,245	695	14.1 %	40	75	312	1,122	22.2 %
College or More (18+)	2,927	279	8.7 %	9	22	94	404	12.5 %
Hispanic Natives (16+)⁵	8,730	1,416	14.0 %	70	149	712	2,347	22.6 %
Teens (16-17)	199	103	34.1 %	11	25	13	152	45.0 %
<HS (18+)	1,112	336	23.2 %	19	36	144	535	35.6 %
HS only (18+)	2,939	514	14.9 %	28	43	292	877	24.9 %
HS only (18-29)	1,131	299	20.9 %	19	26	156	500	33.9 %
Some College (18+)	2,892	359	11.0 %	11	28	195	593	18.0 %
College or More (18+)	1,588	105	6.2 %	1	18	68	192	11.2 %
All Immigrants (16+)⁶	21,805	2,402	9.9 %	128	188	2,095	4,813	19.6 %
Teens (16-17)	71	38	34.9 %	4	6	11	59	49.6 %
<HS (18+)	5,697	799	12.3 %	38	49	917	1,803	27.4 %
HS only (18+)	5,471	602	9.9 %	45	53	597	1,297	21.0 %
HS only (18-29)	1,227	170	12.2 %	13	15	161	359	25.2 %
Some College (18+)	3,964	455	10.3 %	17	39	304	815	18.2 %
College or More (18+)	6,602	508	7.1 %	23	41	267	839	11.7 %
Hisp. Immigrants (16+)^{5,6}	10,950	1,412	11.4 %	71	89	1,463	3,035	24.2 %
Teens (16-17)	39	24	38.1 %	2	2	4	32	47.8 %
<HS (18+)	4,815	694	12.6 %	28	36	810	1,568	28.1 %
HS only (18+)	3,207	362	10.1 %	24	28	424	838	23.1 %
HS only (18-29)	881	112	11.3 %	9	10	114	245	24.2 %
Some College (18+)	1,692	223	11.6 %	12	14	152	401	20.7 %
College or More (18+)	1,198	108	8.3 %	5	9	72	194	14.7 %

Source: Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use July, August, and September 2009 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

¹ Unemployed means not working, but looking for work.

² Discouraged workers are not in the labor force; they neither have jobs nor have looked for one in the previous four weeks because they do not think there are any suitable for them. However, they are available for work and have looked for a job in the last 12 months.

³ These people are not in the labor force; they neither have jobs nor are looking for one, though they would work under the right circumstances. But they do not fall into the official definition of discouraged workers. Like discouraged workers these individuals have looked in the last 12 months.

⁴ These individuals work part-time because of the economy. They include those who normally work full-time but are now part-time for economic reasons.

⁵ Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

⁶ Immigrant matches the Census definition of foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

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Table 2. Employment of Native-Born Americans and Immigrants, Q3 2009 (thousands)

	Employed	Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Not in Labor Force (18-65) ¹	Employed	Total ²	Employment Rate ³	
All Persons (16+)	140,069	14,854	9.6 %	All Persons (18-65)	44,986	132,952	191,751	69.3 %
Teens (16-17)	1,889	663	26.0 %	Teens (16-17)	6,323	1,889	8,874	21.3 %
<HS (18+)	12,015	2,424	16.8 %	<HS (18-65)	8,712	11,414	22,496	50.7 %
HS Only (18+)	39,611	5,079	11.4 %	HS Only (18-65)	15,465	38,009	58,441	65.0 %
HS Only (18-29)	9,324	2,076	18.2 %	HS Only (18-29)	4,405	9,324	15,805	59.0 %
Some College (18+)	40,858	4,068	9.1 %	Some College (18-65)	12,599	39,681	56,238	70.6 %
College or More (18+)	45,696	2,621	5.4 %	College or More (18-65)	8,210	43,848	54,576	80.3 %
All Natives (16+)	118,264	12,452	9.5 %	All Natives (18-65)	37,681	111,824	161,011	69.5 %
Teens (16-17)	1,818	625	25.6 %	Teens (16-17)	5,938	1,818	8,380	21.7 %
<HS (18+)	6,319	1,625	20.5 %	<HS (18-65)	6,240	5,862	13,690	42.8 %
HS only (18+)	34,139	4,477	11.6 %	HS Only (18-65)	13,379	32,678	50,432	64.8 %
HS only (18-29)	8,097	1,905	19.0 %	HS Only (18-29)	3,788	8,097	13,790	58.7 %
Some College (18+)	36,894	3,612	8.9 %	Some College (18-65)	11,338	35,805	50,652	70.7 %
College or More (18+)	39,095	2,113	5.1 %	College or More (18-65)	6,724	37,479	46,237	81.1 %
Black Natives (16+)	12,684	2,361	15.7 %	Black Natives (18-65)	6,071	12,195	20,497	59.5 %
Teens (16-17)	160	91	36.3 %	Teens (16-17)	1,051	160	1,302	12.3 %
<HS (18+)	1,016	410	28.8 %	<HS (18-65)	1,444	947	2,791	33.9 %
HS only (18+)	4,336	885	17.0 %	HS Only (18-65)	2,436	4,235	7,543	56.1 %
HS only (18-29)	1,125	419	27.1 %	HS Only (18-29)	837	1,125	2,381	47.2 %
Some College (18+)	4,245	695	14.1 %	Some College (18-65)	1,656	4,172	6,511	64.1 %
College or More (18+)	2,927	279	8.7 %	College or More (18-65)	535	2,841	3,652	77.8 %
Hispanic Natives (16+)⁴	8,730	1,416	14.0 %	Hispanic Natives (18-65)⁴	3,462	8,357	13,126	63.7 %
Teens (16-17)	199	103	34.1 %	Teens (16-17)	997	199	1,299	15.3 %
<HS (18+)	1,112	336	23.2 %	<HS (18-65)	1,032	1,058	2,425	43.6 %
HS only (18+)	2,939	514	14.9 %	HS Only (18-65)	1,236	2,888	4,636	62.3 %
HS only (18-29)	1,131	299	20.9 %	HS Only (18-29)	579	1,131	2,009	56.3 %
Some College (18+)	2,892	359	11.0 %	Some College (18-65)	915	2,855	4,128	69.2 %
College or More (18+)	1,588	105	6.2 %	College or More (18-65)	279	1,556	1,937	80.3 %
All Immigrants (16+)⁵	21,805	2,402	9.9 %	All Foreign-Born (18-65)⁵	7,305	21,128	30,739	68.7 %
Teens (16-17)	71	38	34.9 %	Teens (16-17)	385	71	494	14.4 %
<HS (18+)	5,697	799	12.3 %	<HS (18-65)	2,473	5,552	8,807	63.0 %
HS only (18+)	5,471	602	9.9 %	HS Only (18-65)	2,086	5,331	8,009	66.6 %
HS only (18-29)	1,227	170	12.2 %	HS Only (18-29)	616	1,227	2,013	61.0 %
Some College (18+)	3,964	455	10.3 %	Some College (18-65)	1,261	3,876	5,586	69.4 %
College or More (18+)	6,602	508	7.1 %	College or More (18-65)	1,485	6,369	8,337	76.4 %
Hisp. Immigrants (16+)^{4,5}	10,950	1,412	11.4 %	Hisp. Immigrants (16+)^{4,5}	3,718	10,702	15,777	67.8 %
Teens (16-17)	39	24	38.1 %	Teens (16-17)	207	39	270	14.4 %
<HS (18+)	4,815	694	12.6 %	<HS (18+)	1,933	4,726	7,339	64.4 %
HS only (18+)	3,207	362	10.1 %	HS only (18+)	1,044	3,156	4,556	69.3 %
HS only (18-29)	881	112	11.3 %	HS only (18-29)	376	881	1,369	64.4 %
Some College (18+)	1,692	223	11.6 %	Some College (18+)	445	1,665	2,328	71.5 %
College or More (18+)	1,198	108	8.3 %	College or More (18+)	296	1,155	1,554	74.3 %

Source: Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use July, August, and September 2009 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

¹ Persons who are not working nor looking for work.

² Total number of people in age group.

³ The share of people in the a specific age group who are currently holding a job.

⁴ Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

⁵ Immigrant matches the Census definition of foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

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Table 3. Employment by State, Q3 2009 (thousands)¹

	Native Unemployment ²		Native U-6 ³		Natives Not Working (16-65)		Number of Immigrants Employed ⁴	Immigrant Share of Labor Force ⁴
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Michigan	670	14.7 %	1,020	22.1 %	2,287	37.9 %	343	7.9 %
California	1,436	11.8 %	2,470	19.9 %	6,035	36.9 %	5,496	33.9 %
Florida	750	10.7 %	1,361	19.0 %	3,367	36.0 %	1,902	23.3 %
Nevada	134	12.8 %	202	19.0 %	472	35.1 %	267	22.9 %
Oregon	190	10.7 %	333	18.6 %	754	33.1 %	172	10.2 %
Rhode Island	55	11.2 %	91	18.4 %	181	30.5 %	70	13.9 %
Arizona	314	11.7 %	493	18.2 %	1,178	34.1 %	485	16.9 %
South Carolina	227	11.2 %	377	18.2 %	1,084	38.4 %	80	4.2 %
Indiana	303	10.0 %	541	17.6 %	1,320	33.3 %	150	5.5 %
Tennessee	293	10.3 %	508	17.5 %	1,388	36.0 %	149	5.6 %
Kentucky	212	10.9 %	344	17.5 %	1,001	37.7 %	100	5.3 %
Alabama	245	12.0 %	358	17.3 %	1,157	40.1 %	91	4.6 %
North Carolina	463	10.8 %	743	17.2 %	1,858	33.4 %	313	7.4 %
Illinois	569	10.2 %	973	17.1 %	2,331	32.5 %	991	16.3 %
Mississippi	114	9.6 %	204	16.7 %	744	41.8 %	41	3.4 %
Missouri	297	10.0 %	484	16.2 %	1,204	31.7 %	107	3.7 %
Ohio	555	9.9 %	921	16.1 %	2,354	32.5 %	210	3.8 %
Georgia	401	9.6 %	666	15.8 %	1,994	35.4 %	590	13.9 %
New Jersey	348	10.3 %	534	15.6 %	1,305	31.1 %	1,100	26.5 %
Idaho	60	8.5 %	110	15.3 %	278	30.6 %	47	6.8 %
Massachusetts	265	8.9 %	457	15.2 %	1,102	29.8 %	477	15.1 %
Washington, DC	29	10.2 %	43	15.0 %	113	31.8 %	51	16.3 %
Washington state	266	8.6 %	464	14.8 %	1,074	28.3 %	453	13.8 %
New York	634	8.9 %	1,070	14.7 %	3,328	34.8 %	2,432	27.1 %
Hawaii	39	7.9 %	73	14.4 %	210	32.5 %	148	23.7 %
West Virginia	62	7.6 %	120	14.4 %	456	38.5 %	10	1.2 %
Delaware	34	8.5 %	57	14.3 %	161	31.8 %	40	9.6 %
Connecticut	139	8.6 %	232	14.2 %	548	27.9 %	292	16.2 %
Wisconsin	244	8.2 %	424	14.1 %	888	25.3 %	156	5.3 %
Texas	845	8.9 %	1,351	14.0 %	4,255	33.8 %	2,269	20.7 %
Pennsylvania	482	8.0 %	858	14.0 %	2,278	29.9 %	261	4.5 %
Colorado	178	7.5 %	332	13.9 %	778	26.9 %	347	13.6 %
Maine	54	7.9 %	96	13.9 %	252	29.3 %	19	3.1 %
New Mexico	69	8.3 %	116	13.8 %	421	36.4 %	93	10.9 %
Arkansas	90	6.9 %	179	13.6 %	565	32.6 %	67	5.3 %
Utah	99	7.9 %	171	13.3 %	464	29.1 %	129	10.3 %
Minnesota	192	7.0 %	365	13.2 %	737	23.2 %	206	7.7 %
New Hampshire	46	6.6 %	88	12.5 %	214	25.6 %	40	6.0 %
Montana	32	6.6 %	61	12.3 %	192	30.6 %	6	1.1 %
Kansas	108	7.5 %	177	12.3 %	443	25.8 %	105	7.3 %
Arkansas	23	7.0 %	41	12.2 %	119	28.3 %	28	7.8 %
Louisiana	163	8.2 %	243	12.0 %	993	36.1 %	66	3.5 %
Iowa	102	6.5 %	186	11.7 %	404	22.6 %	115	7.2 %
Vermont	22	6.5 %	41	11.6 %	104	25.1 %	13	3.7 %
Maryland	176	7.1 %	290	11.6 %	845	27.6 %	544	19.0 %
Wyoming	21	7.0 %	34	11.5 %	91	26.2 %	9	3.3 %
Virginia	218	6.1 %	405	11.2 %	1,285	28.3 %	516	13.4 %
Oklahoma	107	6.3 %	178	10.3 %	730	32.3 %	109	6.4 %
Nebraska	41	4.6 %	78	8.6 %	228	21.8 %	73	8.2 %
South Dakota	19	4.3 %	37	8.6 %	105	21.3 %	18	4.3 %
North Dakota	13	3.8 %	26	7.4 %	78	19.5 %	9	2.8 %
Total	12,452	9.5 %	21,030	15.9 %	55,752	32.9 %	21,805	15.6 %

Source: Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use July, August, and September 2009 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

¹ Unemployment statistics are for those 16 and older and include a small under of persons over age 65. Figures for those not working are only for those 16 to 65.

² Unemployed are persons 16 and older who are not working, but have looked for work in the past four weeks.

³ U-6 measure is for persons 16 and older. See footnotes 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Table 1 for who is included in the U-6 calculation.

⁴ Immigrant matches the Census definition of foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

Table 4. Less-Educated Employment by State, Q3 2009 (thousands)¹

	Native Unemployment ²		Native U-6 ³		Natives Not Working (18-65)		Number of Immigrants Employed ⁴	Immigrant Share of Labor Force ⁴
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Michigan	322	20.3 %	517	31.9 %	1,043	46.4 %	87	6.5 %
Washington, DC	13	20.0 %	20	29.3 %	51	51.4 %	19	24.6 %
California	588	17.2 %	1,022	28.9 %	2,216	44.8 %	2,909	49.7 %
Arizona	155	18.0 %	234	26.8 %	505	42.3 %	319	29.3 %
Florida	374	14.9 %	674	26.0 %	1,448	41.7 %	816	27.0 %
Tennessee	180	14.7 %	325	26.0 %	755	43.1 %	94	8.2 %
South Carolina	133	16.2 %	221	26.0 %	581	46.9 %	32	4.6 %
North Carolina	228	15.1 %	380	24.8 %	842	40.9 %	170	11.1 %
Nevada	76	17.9 %	106	24.5 %	220	40.0 %	161	31.7 %
Illinois	271	14.6 %	463	24.4 %	974	39.4 %	489	22.5 %
Georgia	218	13.7 %	388	23.8 %	956	42.1 %	315	18.2 %
Alabama	149	17.1 %	213	23.7 %	571	45.2 %	50	5.9 %
Indiana	176	12.7 %	327	23.1 %	689	37.3 %	109	8.7 %
Rhode Island	23	13.7 %	39	22.7 %	82	37.1 %	39	20.8 %
Kentucky	122	13.5 %	202	22.2 %	591	44.4 %	55	6.3 %
Missouri	157	12.9 %	274	22.2 %	647	38.8 %	50	4.3 %
Mississippi	64	12.1 %	121	22.2 %	399	46.9 %	24	4.4 %
Hawaii	16	10.8 %	34	22.2 %	86	39.9 %	70	32.5 %
Utah	48	12.7 %	83	21.8 %	191	37.5 %	81	19.5 %
Washington state	103	12.4 %	183	21.3 %	400	36.4 %	216	22.2 %
Oregon	71	12.1 %	126	21.2 %	289	37.3 %	89	15.6 %
New Jersey	143	13.7 %	220	20.6 %	504	37.8 %	490	34.2 %
Connecticut	64	12.6 %	107	20.6 %	213	33.5 %	112	19.2 %
Texas	457	12.9 %	742	20.6 %	2,082	41.2 %	1,435	31.0 %
Colorado	69	10.9 %	130	20.4 %	270	33.5 %	197	24.9 %
Ohio	289	12.0 %	494	20.1 %	1,267	38.5 %	81	3.5 %
New York	258	11.6 %	460	20.0 %	1,398	42.7 %	1,260	38.3 %
Idaho	30	12.2 %	47	19.0 %	111	35.0 %	31	12.3 %
Massachusetts	106	11.3 %	180	19.0 %	447	36.1 %	195	18.7 %
Delaware	19	11.5 %	33	19.0 %	82	36.6 %	19	10.3 %
Arkansas	57	9.5 %	114	18.8 %	330	39.2 %	35	5.9 %
Minnesota	88	11.0 %	150	18.6 %	305	31.5 %	76	10.3 %
Maine	29	10.6 %	51	18.4 %	136	36.8 %	5	2.1 %
Virginia	129	10.3 %	230	18.1 %	633	36.9 %	233	16.7 %
New Mexico	32	9.3 %	62	18.0 %	219	42.2 %	64	17.6 %
Maryland	92	11.5 %	145	17.8 %	384	36.5 %	195	20.7 %
Wisconsin	110	11.0 %	180	17.7 %	384	31.4 %	82	8.3 %
New Hampshire	21	9.3 %	40	17.6 %	83	30.2 %	12	6.0 %
West Virginia	40	10.2 %	68	17.1 %	281	45.3 %	1	0.3 %
Pennsylvania	248	9.6 %	450	17.0 %	1,206	35.4 %	113	4.8 %
Wyoming	12	10.5 %	19	16.6 %	44	31.6 %	5	4.4 %
Alaska	11	9.1 %	20	16.4 %	49	31.2 %	11	8.4 %
Kansas	45	9.7 %	75	16.1 %	199	33.4 %	63	12.8 %
Vermont	11	8.6 %	20	15.3 %	46	28.8 %	3	2.3 %
Louisiana	90	10.0 %	139	15.2 %	554	41.5 %	42	5.0 %
Montana	15	7.9 %	28	14.9 %	87	34.9 %	3	1.6 %
Oklahoma	65	9.8 %	99	14.8 %	374	39.7 %	76	11.2 %
Iowa	48	8.4 %	83	14.5 %	178	27.2 %	73	12.2 %
Nebraska	20	7.2 %	38	13.1 %	105	29.9 %	47	15.5 %
South Dakota	10	6.3 %	21	13.0 %	47	25.9 %	9	5.8 %
North Dakota	5	4.7 %	13	10.7 %	31	23.6 %	4	3.5 %
Total	6,102	13.1 %	10,414	21.9 %	25,583	39.9 %	11,168	21.3 %

Source: Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use July, August, and September 2009 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

¹ Unemployment statistics are for those 18 and older and include a small under of persons over age 65. Figures for those not working are only for those 18 to 65.

² Unemployed are persons 18 and older who are not working, but have looked for work in the past four weeks.

³ U-6 measure is for persons 18 and older. See footnotes 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Table 1 for who is included in the U-6 calculation.

⁴ Immigrant matches the Census definition of foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.