

## Index of real U.S. unemployment

Gross unemployment in the United States, the number of workers who would work if there were jobs, climbed dramatically over the 20 percent mark in late 1981 to 21.5 percent in August 1982.

The *EIR* index is computed by adding the following categories:

- A) The officially counted unemployed;
- B) Fifty percent of the involuntary part-time employed and 15 percent of the voluntary part-times;
- C) Fifteen percent of full-time students and 5 percent of those enrolled in vocational education;
- D) Fifty percent of the employables among the estimated 6.9 million people not counted by the 1980 Census;
- E) Fifty percent of the two-thirds of the employables associated with welfare families;
- F) All those who leave the workforce early, but are not disabled.

By far the largest increase came among the officially counted unemployed, which percentage increased from 7.4 percent of the labor force in

1981 to 9.8 percent in August this year. This accounts for nearly 2.7 million workers—mostly in the industrial sector, laid off during this year.

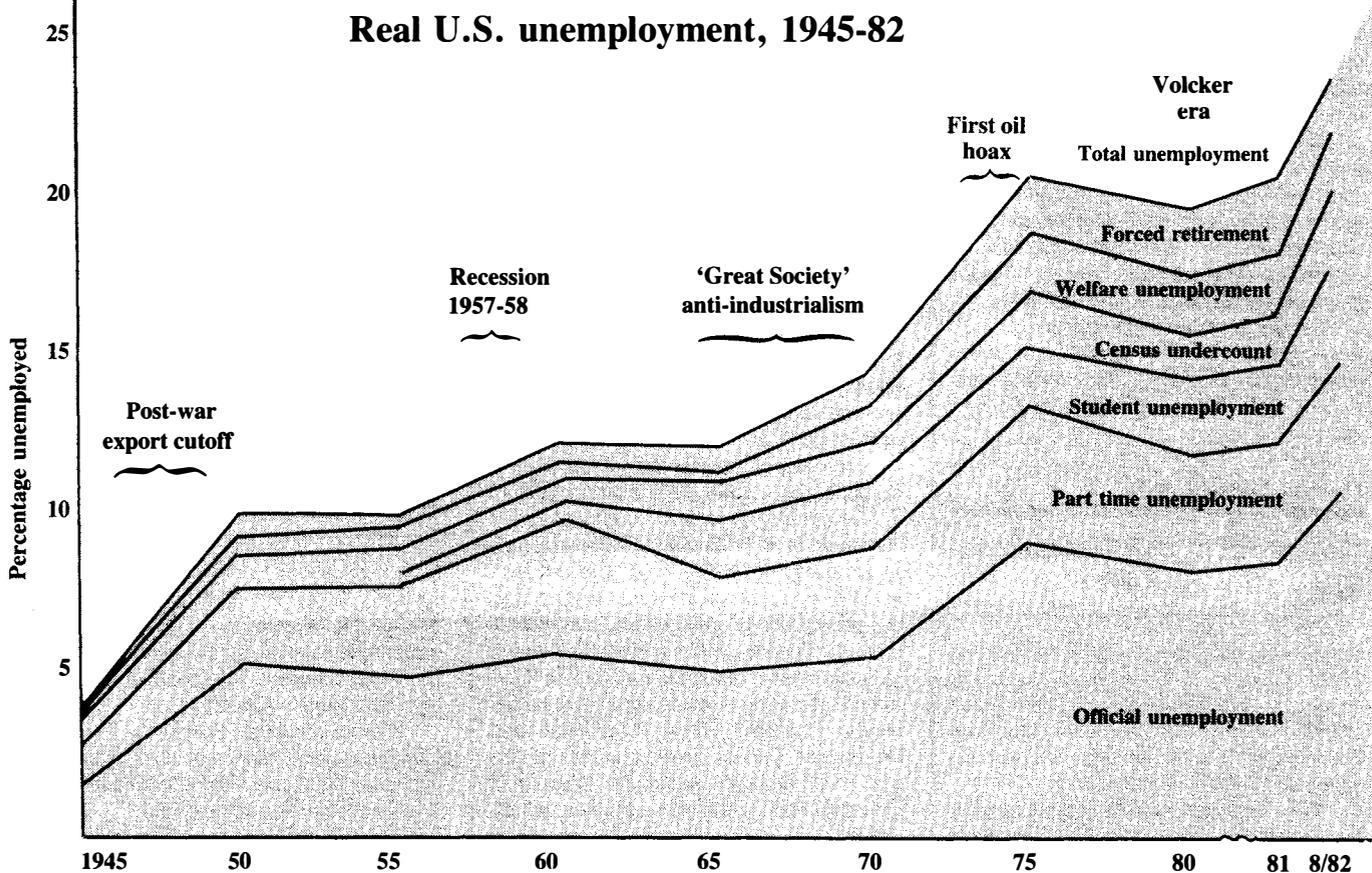
Gross domestic unemployment, in actual numbers of workers without jobs, now stands at just over 24.2 million. This is a third larger than the total number of unemployed during the depth of the First Great Depression, although percentage-wise it is considerably lower, since the labor force is approximately twice as large as it was in the early 1930s.

Most of the newly unemployed are former industrial workers, reflecting the fact that production in the United States has dropped precipitously and will continue to do so. And the new heavy increase in unemployment has hit an economy already burdened with near-20 percent unemployment since the recession of 1975.

This means that nearly 3 million more people are straining the resources devoted to maintaining unemployed members of the domestic workforce. In some regions, such as the industrial centers of the Midwest, this is causing extreme misery among the population.

The second major category to show a marked increase is among students enrolled in full-time and vocational education in lieu of working. This category rose from 2.6 percent to 2.9 percent of the jobless, an increase of about a third of a million.

An important component of U.S. unemployment is those individuals forcibly retired from the workforce before the age of 65. In 1945, 90 percent of all males between the age of 55 and 64 were in the workforce. Today only 70 percent remain in the workforce, adding about 2 million workers to the total unemployed, or about 1.8 percent additional unemployment.



**Sources:** Official unemployment is that reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Part-time unemployment, both voluntary and involuntary, is reported by the BLS back to 1960 with BLS estimates for 1950 and 1955. Student enrollments in higher education and federally assisted vocational training are compiled

by the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics. The census undercount estimate is based on a 1972 federal review of the 1970 Census count that found an undercount of 2.7 percent. The number of welfare recipients is compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.