U.S. Unemployment Coverup

Total unemployed and partially employed
(percent of total civilian labor force)

Official unemployed · "Want a job now" · Part-time for economic reasons

APRIL 1994		
Official unemployed	**8,408,000**	**6.4%**
Last month	*8,543,000*	*6.5%*
"Want a job now"	**6,574,000[1]**	**5.0%**
Last month	*6,257,000[1]*	*4.8%*
Part-time for economic reasons	**4,757,000**	**3.6%**
Last month	*4,992,000*	*3.8%*
Total	**19,739,000**	**15.1%**
Last month	*19,792,000*	*15.2%*
Civilian labor force	**130,747,000**	
Last month	*130,580,000*	
Employed	**122,338,000**	
Last month	*122,037,000*	
Non-farm payroll employees	**112,088,000**	
Last month	*111,733,000*	

1. Compiled quarterly

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: Data from the Household Survey for 1994 are not directly comparable to data for 1993 and earlier years, because of a major redesign of the BLS Survey, and the implementation of new data collection procedures.
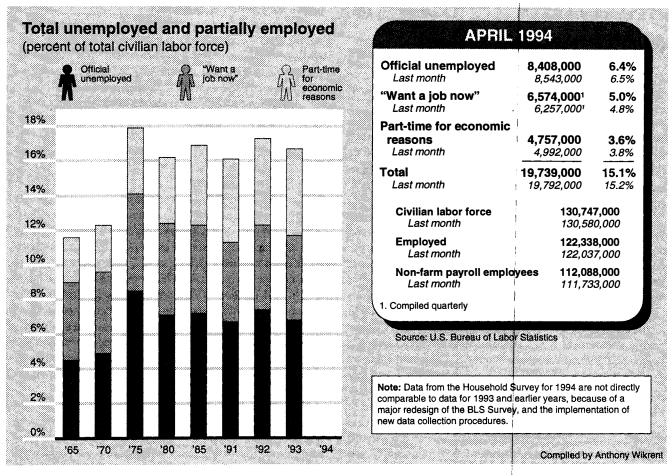
Compiled by Anthony Wikrent

What the graph shows

The U.S. Labor Department's monthly unemployment rate (U-5b) is based on a statistical sampling of approximately 57,000 households. But in order for someone to be counted as *unemployed,* the respondent member of the household (often not the person who is out of work) must be able to state what specific effort that person made in the last four weeks to find a job. If no specific effort can be cited, the jobless person is classified as *not in the labor force* and is ignored in the official unemployment count.

But over 6 million of these discarded people are also reported on the quarterly survey indicating that they **"want a regular job now."** These appear in the graph in dark gray shading. In addition, over 6 million more people are forced into **part-time work for economic reasons,** such as slack work or inability to find a full-time job. These people show up as *employed* in the official statistics, even if they worked only *one hour* during the survey week. These appear in the graph in lighter-gray shading.

Total unemployed and partially employed (1965-94)
(in thousands)

Year	Civilian labor force (a)	Official unemployed (b)	% (b/a)	"Want a job now" (c)	% (c/a)	Part-time for economic reasons (d)	% (d/a)	Total unemployed and underemployed (b+c+d)	% (b+c+d)/a
1965	74,455	3,366	4.5%	na[1]	—	1,928	2.6%	na[1]	—
1970	82,771	4,093	4.9%	3,881	4.7%	2,198	2.7%	10,172	12.3%
1975	93,775	7,929	8.5%	5,271	5.6%	3,541	3.8%	16,741	17.9%
1980	106,940	7,637	7.1%	5,675	5.3%	4,064	3.8%	17,376	16.2%
1985	115,461	8,312	7.2%	5,933	5.1%	5,334	4.6%	19,579	17.0%
1990	124,787	6,874	5.5%	5,473	4.4%	4,860	3.9%	17,207	13.8%
1991	125,303	8,426	6.7%	5,736	4.6%	6,046	4.8%	20,208	16.1%
1992	126,982	9,384	7.4%	6,181	4.9%	6,385	5.0%	21,950	17.3%
1993	128,040	8,734	6.8%	6,319	4.9%	6,348	5.0%	21,401	16.7%
1994[2]	130,692	8,542	6.5%	6,560[3]	5.0%	4,890	3.7%	19,992	15.2%

1. "Want a job now" category estimated as 3,350 or 4.5% for bar graph.
2. Cumulative average.
3. Weighted average of quarterly compiled figure.