

Jobs Picture – May 2009

Employment and Unemployment Stats at a Glance

Official unemployment rate	9.4 percent
"Real" unemployment rate	16.4 percent
Number unemployed	14.5 million
"Real" number unemployed	25.4 million
Average duration of unemployment	22.5 weeks
Manufacturing job losses since 1998 peak	5.6 million
Jobs lost since recession started (12/07)	6 million

"Real" unemployment includes people working part-time for economic reasons and workers who have searched for work and are available to work but are no longer considered officially unemployed. All figures are adjusted for seasonal variation.

- The unemployment rate surged a half a percentage point to 9.4% in May. Although job losses over the month were large (345,000), they were about half the average rate of the past 6 months.
- The auto industry shed 30,000 jobs in May, leaving total industry employment at about half the level of its most recent peak in February 2000.
- The manufacturing sector continued to experience large job losses, 156,000 in May, dropping employment below 12 million. The last time employment was below 12 million was February 1946.
- Job losses are hitting men hardest. Overall, the unemployment rate for adult men is 9.8% v. 8.0% for women. African-American adult men are suffering even more with an unemployment rate of 16.8% v. 11.2% for African-American adult women.

For the full employment situation release, go to <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.toc.htm>

Next update: Monday, July 6, 2009