Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LA)
la.txt

Section Listing

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Section 1
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The following is a definition of: LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LA)

Survey Description: Labor force and unemployment estimates for States and local areas are developed by State workforce agencies to measure local labor market conditions under a Federal-State cooperative program. The Department of Labor develops the concepts, definitions, and technical procedures which are used by State agencies for preparation of labor force and unemployment estimates.

These estimates are derived from a variety of sources, including the Current Population Survey, the Current Employment Statistics Survey, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, various programs at the Census Bureau, and unemployment insurance claims data from the State workforce agencies.

To establish uniform labor force concepts and definitions in all States and areas consistent with those used for the U.S. as a whole, monthly national estimates of employment and unemployment from the Current Population Survey are used as controls (benchmarks) for the State labor force statistics.

Summary Data Available: Monthly labor force and unemployment series are available for approximately 7,500 geographic areas, including cities over 25,000 population, counties, metropolitan areas, States, and other areas.

For each area, the following estimates are presented by place of residence:

* Total civilian labor force,
* Total number of people employed,
* Total number of people unemployed, and
* Unemployment rate

These series begin in January 1976 for statewide data, and January 1990 for most substate areas.

Frequency of Observations: Data are monthly in all cases.

Annual Averages: Annual averages are available for not seasonally adjusted series.

Data Characteristics: Rates are expressed as percents with one decimal place. Levels are measured as individual persons (not thousands) and are stored with no decimal places.

Updating Schedule: Updates become available about two months after the reference month. In addition, annual revisions yield typically updates for the preceding 5 years within two and one-half months of the end of the year.

Other historical revisions occur periodically: Administrative changes may require that data for new areas be collected or that an existing series be dropped. Also, some series ID codes may change.

References: BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 4
Measurement of Unemployment in States and Local Areas
(http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch4.htm)

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Section 2
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The following Local Area Unemployment Statistics files are on the BLS internet in the sub-directory pub/time.series/la:

la.data.0.CurrentU90-94	-	All LAUS areas, not seasonally adjusted, monthly and annual average, 1990-94
la.data.0.CurrentU95-99	-	All LAUS areas, not seasonally adjusted, monthly and annual average, 1995-99
la.data.0.CurrentU00-04	-	All LAUS areas, not seasonally adjusted, monthly and annual average, 2000-04
la.data.0.CurrentU05-09	-	All LAUS areas, not seasonally adjusted, monthly and annual average, 2005-09
la.data.0.CurrentU10-14	-	All LAUS areas, not seasonally adjusted, monthly and annual averages, 2010-14
la.data.0.CurrentU15-19	-	All LAUS areas, not seasonally adjusted, monthly and annual averages, 2015-forward
la.data.1.CurrentS	-	All seasonally adjusted data, monthly, 1976-forward
la.data.2.AllStatesU	-	States, not seasonally adjusted
la.data.3.AllStatesS	-	States, seasonally adjusted
la.data.4.RegionDivisionU	-	Regions/Divisions, not seasonally adjusted
la.data.5.RegionDivisionS	-	Regions/Divisions, seasonally adjusted
la.data.7.Alabama	-	(state code = 01) AL = ALABAMA
la.data.8.Alaska	-	(state code = 02) AK = ALASKA
la.data.9.Arizona	-	(state code = 04) AZ = ARIZONA
la.data.10.Arkansas	-	(state code = 05) AR = ARKANSAS
la.data.11.California	-	(state code = 06) CA = CALIFORNIA
la.data.12.Colorado	-	(state code = 08) CO = COLORADO
la.data.13.Connecticut	-	(state code = 09) CT = CONNECTICUT
la.data.14.Delaware	-	(state code = 10) DE = DELAWARE
la.data.15.DC	-	(state code = 11) DC = DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
la.data.16.Florida	-	(state code = 12) FL = FLORIDA
la.data.17.Georgia	-	(state code = 13) GA = GEORGIA
la.data.18.Hawaii	-	(state code = 15) HI = HAWAII
la.data.19.Idaho	-	(state code = 16) ID = IDAHO
la.data.20.Illinois	-	(state code = 17) IL = ILLINOIS
la.data.21.Indiana	-	(state code = 18) IN = INDIANA
la.data.22.Iowa	-	(state code = 19) IA = IOWA
la.data.23.Kansas	-	(state code = 20) KS = KANSAS
la.data.24.Kentucky	-	(state code = 21) KY = KENTUCKY
la.data.25.Louisiana	-	(state code = 22) LA = LOUISIANA
la.data.26.Maine	-	(state code = 23) ME = MAINE
la.data.27.Maryland	-	(state code = 24) MD = MARYLAND
la.data.28.Massachusetts	-	(state code = 25) MA = MASSACHUSETTS
la.data.29.Michigan	-	(state code = 26) MI = MICHIGAN
la.data.30.Minnesota	-	(state code = 27) MN = MINNESOTA
la.data.31.Mississippi	-	(state code = 28) MS = MISSISSIPPI
la.data.32.Missouri	-	(state code = 29) MO = MISSOURI
la.data.33.Montana	-	(state code = 30) MT = MONTANA

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        la.data.34.Nebraska             -  (state code = 31) NE = NEBRASKA
        la.data.35.Nevada               -  (state code = 32) NV = NEVADA
        la.data.36.NewHampshire         -  (state code = 33) NH = NEW HAMPSHIRE
        la.data.37.NewJersey            -  (state code = 34) NJ = NEW JERSEY
        la.data.38.NewMexico            -  (state code = 35) NM = NEW MEXICO
        la.data.39.NewYork              -  (state code = 36) NY = NEW YORK
        la.data.40.NorthCarolina        -  (state code = 37) NC = NORTH CAROLINA
        la.data.41.NorthDakota          -  (state code = 38) ND = NORTH DAKOTA
        la.data.42.Ohio                 -  (state code = 39) OH = OHIO
        la.data.43.Oklahoma             -  (state code = 40) OK = OKLAHOMA
        la.data.44.Oregon               -  (state code = 41) OR = OREGON
        la.data.45.Pennsylvania         -  (state code = 42) PA = PENNSYLVANIA
        la.data.46.PuertoRico           -  (state code = 72) PR = PUERTO RICO
        la.data.47.RhodeIsland          -  (state code = 44) RI = RHODE ISLAND,
        la.data.48.SouthCarolina        -  (state code = 45) SC = SOUTH CAROLINA
        la.data.49.SouthDakota          -  (state code = 46) SD = SOUTH DAKOTA
        la.data.50.Tennessee            -  (state code = 47) TN = TENNESSEE
        la.data.51.Texas                -  (state code = 48) TX = TEXAS
        la.data.52.Utah                 -  (state code = 49) UT = UTAH
        la.data.53.Vermont              -  (state code = 50) VT = VERMONT
        la.data.54.Virginia             -  (state code = 51) VA = VIRGINIA
        la.data.56.Washington           -  (state code = 53) WA = WASHINGTON
        la.data.57.WestVirginia         -  (state code = 54) WV = WEST VIRGINIA
        la.data.58.Wisconsin            -  (state code = 55) WI = WISCONSIN
        la.data.59.Wyoming              -  (state code = 56) WY = WYOMING
        la.data.60.Metro                -  Metropolitan Statistical Areas and
                                           NECTAs (area_type_code = B)
        la.data.61.Division             -  Metropolitan Divisions and NECTA
                                           Divisions (area_type_code = C)
        la.data.62.Micro                -  Micropolitan Statistical Areas and
                                           NECTAs (area_type_code = D)
        la.data.63.Combined             -  Combined Statistical Areas and NECTAs
                                           (area_type_code = E)
        la.data.64.County               -  Counties and equivalents (area_type_code = F)
        la.data.65.City                 -  Cities and towns (area_type_code = G or H)
        la.area                         -  Area code (mapping file)
        la.area.type                    -  Area type codes (mapping file)
        la.contacts                     -  Contacts for la survey
        la.footnote                     -  Footnote codes (mapping file)
        la.measure                      -  Measure codes (mapping file)
        la.period                       -  Period codes (mapping file)
        la.series                       -  All series and their beginning and end dates
        la.txt                          -  General information

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Section 3
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The definition of a time series, and its relationship to and the interrelationship
among series, data, and mapping files are detailed below:

A time series refers to a set of data values observed over an extended period of
time at consistent intervals (i.e. monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually).
BLS time series data are typically produced at monthly intervals and represent data
ranging from a specific consumer item in a specific geographical area whose price
is gathered monthly to a category of worker in a specific industry whose employment
is being recorded monthly, etc.

The files are organized such that data users are provided with the following set of
files to use in their efforts to interpret data files:

a)  a series file (only one series file per survey)
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b) mapping files
c) data files

The series file contains a set of codes which, together, compose a series identification code that serves to uniquely identify a single time series. Additionally, the series file contains the following series-level information:

a) the period and year corresponding to the first data observation
b) the period and year corresponding to the most recent data observation

The mapping files are definition files that contain explanatory text descriptions that correspond to each of the various codes contained within each series identification code.

The data file contains one line of data for each observation period pertaining to a specific time series. Each line contains a reference to the following:

a) a series identification code
b) year in which data value is observed
c) period for which data value is observed (M13, Q05, and S03 indicate annual averages)
d) data value
e) footnote code (if applicable)

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Section 4
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File Structure and Format: The following represents the file format used to define la.series. Note that the Field Numbers are for reference only; they do not exist in the database. Data files are in ASCII text format. Data elements are separated by tabs; the first record of each file contains the column headers for the data elements stored in each field. Each record ends with a new line character.

Field #/Data Element	Length	Value (Example)
1. series_id	20	LASBS060000000000003
2. area_type_code	1	L
3. area_code	15	BS0600000000000
4. measure_code	2	03
5. seasonal	1	S
6. srd_code	2	06
7. series_title	120	Unemployment Rate: Balance of California, state less Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale MD (S)
8. footnote_codes	1	A
9. begin_year	4	1976
10. begin_period	3	M01
11. end_year	4	2013
12. end_period	3	M11

The series_id (LASBS060000000000003) can be broken out into:

Element		Value
survey abbreviation	=	LA
seasonal	=	S
area_code	=	BS0600000000000
measure_code	=	03

The series_title [Unemployment Rate: Balance of California, state less Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale MD (S)] is a concatenation of the measure, area text, and seasonal adjustment values:

Element		Value
measure	=	Unemployment Rate:
area_text	=	Balance of California, state less Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale MD
seasonal	=	(S)

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Section 5

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File Structure and Format: The following represents the file format used to define each data file. Note that the field numbers are for reference only; they do not exist in the database. Data files are in ASCII text format. Data elements are separated by tabs; the first record of each file contains the column headers for the data elements stored in each field. Each record ends with a new line character.

The la.data file is partitioned into a number of separate files: See Section 2.

All of the above-referenced data files have the following format:

Field #/Data Element	Length	Value (Example)
1. series_id	20	LASBS060000000000003
2. year	4	1976
3. period	3	M01
4. value	12	9.4
5. footnote_codes	10	It varies

The series_id (LASBS060000000000003) can be broken out into:

Code		Value
survey abbreviation	=	LA
seasonal	=	S
area_code	=	BS0600000000000
measure_code	=	03

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Section 6

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File Structure and Format: The following represents the file format used to define each mapping file. Note that the field numbers are for reference only; they do not exist in the database. Mapping files are in ASCII text format. Data elements are

separated by tabs; the first record of each file contains the column headers for the data elements stored in each field. Each record ends with a new line character.

File Name: la.area

Field #/Data Element	Length	Value (Example)
1. area_type_code	1	A
2. area_code	15	ST0100000000000
3. area_text	80	Alabama

File Name: la.area.type

Field #/Data Element	Length	Value (Example)
1. area_type_code	1	A
2. area_type_text	80	Statewide

File Name: la.footnote

Field #/Data Element	Length	Value (Example)
1. footnote_code	1	C
2. footnote_text	100	Corrected.

File Name: la.measure

Field #/Data Element	Length	Value (Example)
1. measure_code	2	03
2. measure_text	30	unemployment rate

File Name: la.period

Field #/Data Element	Length	Value (Example)
1. period	3	M01
2. period_abbr	5	JAN
3. period_name	20	January

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Section 7

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LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LA) DATABASE ELEMENTS

Data Element	Length	Value (Example)	Description
area_code	15	ST0100000000000	Code identifying the geographic

			area to which the data refer.
area_text	80	Alabama	Name of the geographic area to which the data refer.
area_type_code	1	A	Unique code defining the type of area (A through N).
area_type_text	80	Statewide	Name of the area type.
begin_period	3	M01	Identifies first data observation within the first year for which data are available for a given series.
begin_year	4	1976	Identifies first year for which data are available for a given series.
end_period	3	M11	Identifies last data observation within the last year for which data are available for a given series.
end_year	4	2014	Identifies last year for which data are available for a given series.
footnote_code	1	C	Identifies footnote for the data value or series.
footnote_text	100	Corrected.	Contains the text of the footnote.
measure_code	2	03	Code identifying element measured by the data (03, 04, 05 and 06).
measure_text	30	unemployment rate	Name of element measured by the data.
period_abbr	5	JAN	Abbreviation of period name.
period	3	M01	Identifies period for which the data value is observed.
period_name	20	January	Full name of period to which the data value refers.
seasonal	1	S	Code identifying whether the data are seasonally adjusted (S) or not seasonally adjusted (U).
series_id	20	LASST010000000000003	Code identifying the specific series.
series_title	120	Unemployment Rate: Alabama (S)	Concatenation of the measure, area text, and seasonal values.
srd_code	2	01	State, region, or division code.
value	12	6.1	Data value for series in a specifc year and period.

year	4	2014	Identifies year of data value (1976-forward).