

Average weeks of unemployment and the unemployment rate, 1948-2005

	Unemployment rate	Average number of weeks unemployed
1948	3.8	8.6
1949	5.9	10.0
1950	5.3	12.1
1951	3.3	9.7
1952	3.0	8.4
1953	2.9	8.0
1954	5.5	11.8
1955	4.4	13.0
1956	4.1	11.3
1957	4.3	10.5
1958	6.8	13.9
1959	5.5	14.4
1960	5.5	12.8
1961	6.7	15.6
1962	5.5	14.7
1963	5.7	14.0
1964	5.2	13.3
1965	4.5	11.8
1966	3.8	10.4
1967	3.8	8.7
1968	3.6	8.4
1969	3.5	7.8
1970	4.9	8.6
1971	5.9	11.3
1972	5.6	12.0
1973	4.9	10.0
1974	5.6	9.8
1975	8.5	14.2
1976	7.7	15.8
1977	7.1	14.3
1978	6.1	11.9
1979	5.8	10.8
1980	7.1	11.9
1981	7.6	13.7
1982	9.7	15.6
1983	9.6	20.0
1984	7.5	18.2
1985	7.2	15.6
1986	7.0	15.0
1987	6.2	14.5
1988	5.5	13.5
1989	5.3	11.9
1990	5.6	12.0
1991	6.8	13.7
1992	7.5	17.7
1993	6.9	18.0
1994	6.1	18.8
1995	5.6	16.6
1996	5.4	16.7
1997	4.9	15.8
1998	4.5	14.5
1999	4.2	13.4
2000	4.0	12.6
2001	4.7	13.1
2002	5.8	16.6
2003	6.0	19.2
2004	5.5	19.6
2005	5.1	18.4

Source: Authors' analysis from *The State of Working America 2006-07*, Figure 4K.