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# Shadow Government Statistics

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## Section Four of Four

### Reporting/Market Focus

#### State-by-State Broad Unemployment Rate Comparisons

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) regularly releases estimates of the headline unemployment number (U.3) on a state-by-state basis. While the national number is released usually on the first Monday of the month following the survey month, the state-by-state detail usually is released about two weeks later.

Recently, the BLS began releasing estimates of its alternative measures of labor underutilization, including their broadest measure (U.6), which includes marginally attached workers (encompassing short-term discouraged workers) and those forced to work part-time for economic reasons, on a state-by-state basis, using a rolling annual average, updated quarterly. Details can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/> under the "Alternative Measure of Labor Underutilization for States" link.

Since the annual BLS numbers fall far short of measuring the current circumstance, I have estimated U.6 by state for June 2009 and also have estimated a state-by-state SGS-Alternate Unemployment measure. The state-by-state June U.6 estimates were calculated using the relative proportions of the latest annual U.6 to U.3 by state, adjusted for the latest monthly U.6 to U.3 ratio in

national reporting, against the latest U.3 reporting by state. The SGS estimate of the long-term discouraged workers -- defined out of statistical existence in 1994 -- also was distributed on a proportional basis in estimating the SGS-Alternate Unemployment rate by state.

The results are shown in the following table. Economic downturns rarely are spread evenly across the United States at the same time; some states lead and others follow, and various states are impacted by a wide range of varying economic activity.

The hardest hit state, at present, appears to be Michigan, with 26.3% U.6 unemployment, and 32.9% unemployment using the SGS measure. Those rates tend to rival the national averages seen during the Great Depression. Following in severity, are Oregon, Nevada, California, South Carolina and, Rhode Island, all with U.6 above 20% and the SGS estimate above 25%.

On the positive side, North Dakota, Nebraska, Utah and South Dakota all have U.6 rates below 10%, and SGS estimates at 12% or below.

This table will be updated regularly on our Web site, if there is subscriber interest.

**State-by-State Unemployment Rate Estimates for June 2009**  
**Headline (U-3), BLS Broadest (U-6) and SGS Alternative Measures**

State Ranked by SGS-Alt/U-6	Unemployment Rate (%)			State	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	U-3	U-6	SGS-Alt		U-3	U-6	SGS-Alt
Michigan	15.2	26.3	32.9	Alabama	10.1	16.1	20.0
Oregon	12.2	22.0	27.5	Alaska	8.4	13.9	17.4
Nevada	12.0	20.9	26.1	Arizona	8.7	15.3	19.1
California	11.6	20.9	26.0	Arkansas	7.2	13.7	17.0
South Carolina	12.1	20.3	25.4	California	11.6	20.9	26.0
Rhode Island	12.4	20.2	25.2	Colorado	7.6	13.7	17.2
Florida	10.6	19.2	23.9	Connecticut	8.0	13.9	17.4
Ohio	11.1	18.8	23.5	Delaware	8.4	14.3	17.9
Tennessee	10.8	18.5	23.1	D.C.	10.9	16.0	20.0
North Carolina	11.0	18.4	23.0	Florida	10.6	19.2	23.9
Indiana	10.7	18.0	22.4	Georgia	10.1	17.3	21.6
West Virginia	9.2	17.9	22.4	Hawaii	7.4	15.2	19.0
Illinois	10.3	17.5	21.9	Idaho	8.4	15.3	19.1
Kentucky	10.9	17.5	21.9	Illinois	10.3	17.5	21.9
Georgia	10.1	17.3	21.6	Indiana	10.7	18.0	22.4
Washington	9.3	16.8	21.0	Iowa	6.2	11.0	13.7
<b>National Average</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	Kansas	7.0	11.8	14.7
Alabama	10.1	16.1	20.0	Kentucky	10.9	17.5	21.9
D.C.	10.9	16.0	20.0	Louisiana	6.8	10.3	12.8
Wisconsin	9.0	15.8	19.7	Maine	8.5	15.5	19.3
New Jersey	9.2	15.7	19.6	Maryland	7.3	12.2	15.3
Maine	8.5	15.5	19.3	Massachusetts	8.6	14.1	17.6
Arizona	8.7	15.3	19.1	Michigan	15.2	26.3	32.9
Idaho	8.4	15.3	19.1	Minnesota	8.4	14.6	18.2
Hawaii	7.4	15.2	19.0	Mississippi	9.0	14.5	18.1
Missouri	9.3	14.8	18.5	Missouri	9.3	14.8	18.5
New York	8.7	14.6	18.3	Montana	6.4	11.3	14.1
Minnesota	8.4	14.6	18.2	Nebraska	5.0	9.2	11.4
Mississippi	9.0	14.5	18.1	Nevada	12.0	20.9	26.1
Delaware	8.4	14.3	17.9	New Hampshire	6.8	13.2	16.4
Massachusetts	8.6	14.1	17.6	New Jersey	9.2	15.7	19.6

**State-by-State Unemployment Rates for June 2009 (continued)**  
**Headline (U-3), BLS Broadest (U-6) and SGS Alternative Measures**

State Ranked by SGS-Alt/U-6	Unemployment Rate (%)			State	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	U-3	U-6	SGS-Alt		U-3	U-6	SGS-Alt
Pennsylvania	8.3	14.0	17.5	New Mexico	6.8	13.3	16.6
Alaska	8.4	13.9	17.4	New York	8.7	14.6	18.3
Connecticut	8.0	13.9	17.4	North Carolina	11.0	18.4	23.0
Colorado	7.6	13.7	17.2	North Dakota	4.2	7.7	9.6
Texas	7.5	13.7	17.1	Ohio	11.1	18.8	23.5
Arkansas	7.2	13.7	17.0	Oklahoma	6.3	10.4	12.9
New Mexico	6.8	13.3	16.6	Oregon	12.2	22.0	27.5
New Hampshire	6.8	13.2	16.4	Pennsylvania	8.3	14.0	17.5
Virginia	7.2	13.0	16.3	Rhode Island	12.4	20.2	25.2
Vermont	7.1	12.6	15.8	South Carolina	12.1	20.3	25.4
Maryland	7.3	12.2	15.3	South Dakota	5.1	9.6	12.0
Kansas	7.0	11.8	14.7	Tennessee	10.8	18.5	23.1
Montana	6.4	11.3	14.1	Texas	7.5	13.7	17.1
Iowa	6.2	11.0	13.7	Utah	5.7	9.6	12.0
Wyoming	5.9	11.0	13.7	Vermont	7.1	12.6	15.8
Oklahoma	6.3	10.4	12.9	Virginia	7.2	13.0	16.3
Louisiana	6.8	10.3	12.8	Washington	9.3	16.8	21.0
South Dakota	5.1	9.6	12.0	West Virginia	9.2	17.9	22.4
Utah	5.7	9.6	12.0	Wisconsin	9.0	15.8	19.7
Nebraska	5.0	9.2	11.4	Wyoming	5.9	11.0	13.7
North Dakota	4.2	7.7	9.6	<b>National Average</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>

Notes: U-3 is the headline unemployment rate. U-6 is the broadest BLS measure and includes marginally-attached workers (encompassing short-term discouraged workers) and those employed part time for economic reasons. SGS-Alt is the alternative unemployment rate estimated by ShadowStats.com. It includes an estimate of long-term discouraged workers (those who have not looked for work in more than one year), who were defined out of existence in the 1994 overhaul of unemployment surveying. Data are seasonally adjusted. The break out by state for U-6 and SGS-Alt are estimates made by ShadowStats.com  
 Sources: ShadowStats.com, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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