

The Nation's Long-Term Unemployed

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Economics in the know.

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Introduction

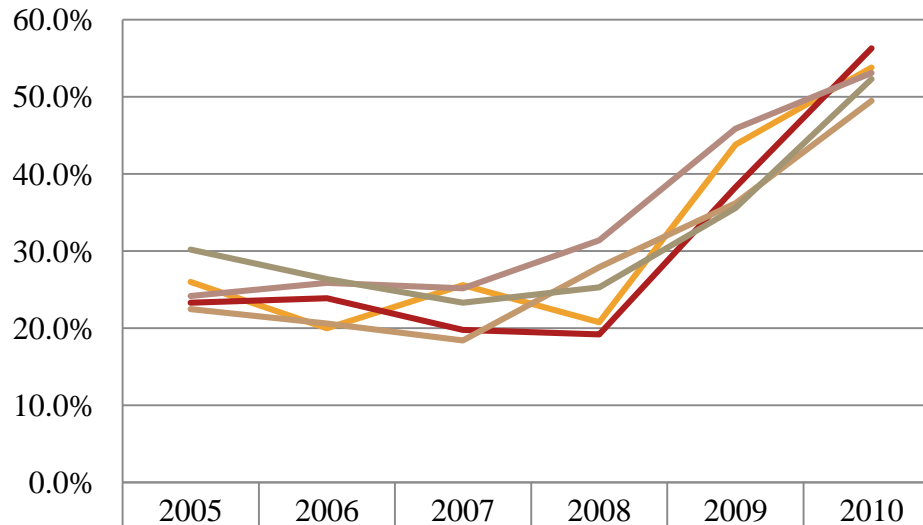
Nationally, as of December 2011, nearly four million people had been without work for at least a year and were still looking. This report shows what percentages of the nation's unemployed have been out of work for more than 27 or 52 weeks in the largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) around the country for the period 2005-2010.

While not publicly published, data on the duration of unemployment for the 54 largest MSAs were provided by the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics*. All data are subject to sampling error, which may be considerable for the less populous MSAs.

Most Severe Long-Term Unemployment

Duration of Unemployment 27+ Weeks

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	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
— Memphis	26.0%	20.0%	25.6%	20.8%	43.8%	53.8%
— Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta	23.3%	23.9%	19.8%	19.2%	38.3%	56.3%
— Detroit-Warren-Livonia	24.2%	25.9%	25.2%	31.4%	45.9%	53.1%
— Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach	22.5%	20.6%	18.4%	27.9%	36.2%	49.5%
— Chicago-Joliet-Naperville	30.2%	26.4%	23.3%	25.3%	35.6%	52.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*

For the nation's top 5 MSAs which experienced the most severe long-term unemployment, data show a general upward trend in long-term unemployment since the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

In 2010, Atlanta (56.3%) was the leading metro with the highest percentage of long-term unemployed, followed by Memphis (53.8%), Detroit (53.1%), Chicago (52.3%), and Miami (49.5%).

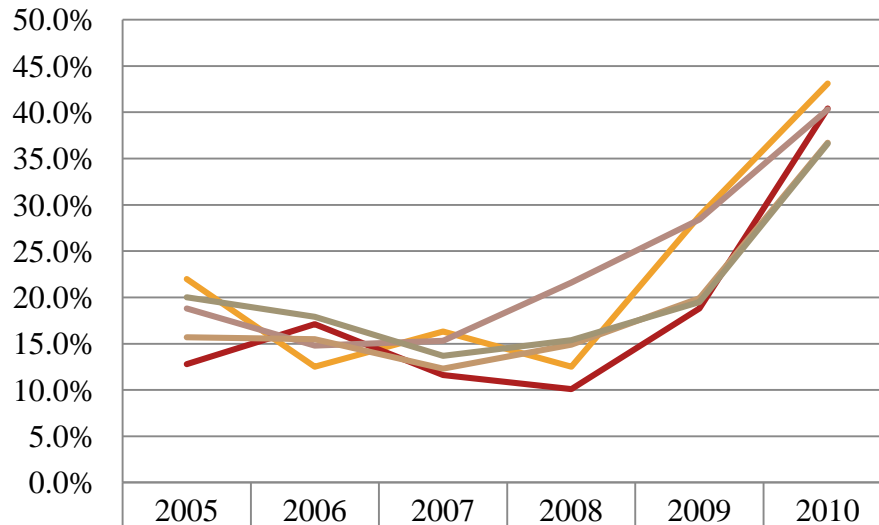
From 2005-2010, Atlanta saw the largest percent point increase in long-term unemployment of 33.0%, followed by Detroit (28.9%), Memphis (27.8%), Miami (27.0%), and Chicago (22.1%).

Between 2005 and 2010, the highest average share of unemployed was recorded in Detroit (34.3%), followed by Chicago (32.2%), Memphis (31.7%), Atlanta (30.1%), and Miami (29.2%).

Most Severe Long-Term Unemployment

Duration of Unemployment 52+ Weeks

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	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
— Memphis	22.0%	12.5%	16.3%	12.5%	28.8%	43.1%
— Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta	12.8%	17.1%	11.6%	10.1%	18.8%	40.4%
— Detroit-Warren-Livonia	18.8%	14.8%	15.3%	21.6%	28.4%	40.3%
— Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach	15.7%	15.5%	12.3%	14.9%	19.9%	36.7%
— Chicago-Joliet-Naperville	20.0%	17.9%	13.7%	15.4%	19.5%	36.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Similar to the duration of unemployment for more than 27 weeks for the nation's top 5 metros, data show a general upward trend in long-term unemployment following the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

In 2010, Memphis (43.1%) was the nation's leading MSA with the highest percentage of long-term unemployed, followed by Atlanta (40.4%), Detroit (40.3%), Miami (36.7%), and Chicago (36.6%).

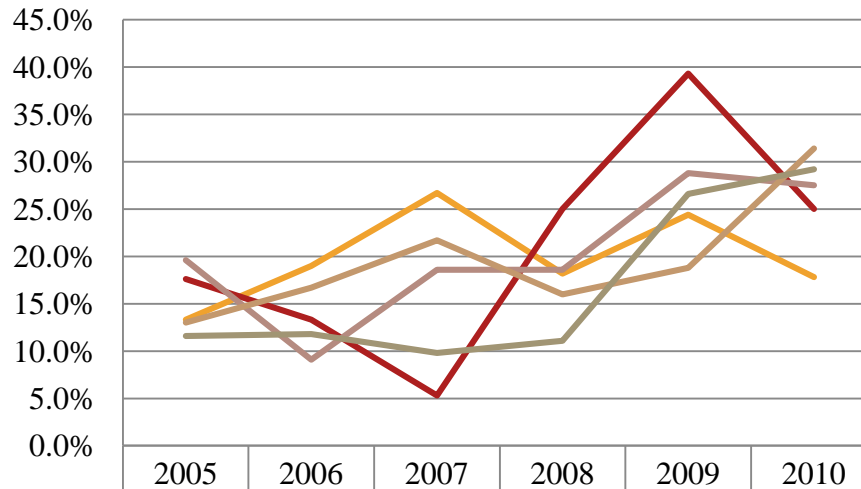
Over the period 2005-2010, Atlanta saw the greatest percent point increase in long-term unemployment of 27.6%, followed by Detroit (21.5%), Memphis (21.1%), Miami (21.0%), and Chicago (16.6%).

Between 2005 and 2010, the highest average percent of unemployed who have been out of work for more than 52 weeks was reported in Detroit (23.2%), followed by Memphis (22.5%), Chicago (20.5%), Miami (19.2%), and Atlanta (18.5%).

Least Severe Long-Term Unemployment

Duration of Unemployment 27+ Weeks

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	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	13.3%	19.0%	26.7%	18.2%	24.4%	17.8%
Tulsa	17.6%	13.3%	5.3%	25.0%	39.3%	25.0%
San Antonio-New Braunfels	19.6%	9.1%	18.6%	18.6%	28.8%	27.5%
Oklahoma City	13.0%	16.7%	21.7%	16.0%	18.8%	31.4%
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	11.6%	11.8%	9.8%	11.1%	26.6%	29.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*

For the nation's top 5 MSAs which saw the least severe long-term unemployment from 2005 to 2010, data show a mixed trend. While there is a general downward trend since 2009 for New Orleans, Tulsa, and San Antonio, a slight upward trend in long-term unemployment has been recorded for Oklahoma City and for Austin.

In 2010, New Orleans (17.8%) was the leading metro with the lowest share of long-term unemployed, followed by Tulsa (25.0%), San Antonio (27.5%), Austin (29.2%), and Oklahoma City (31.4%).

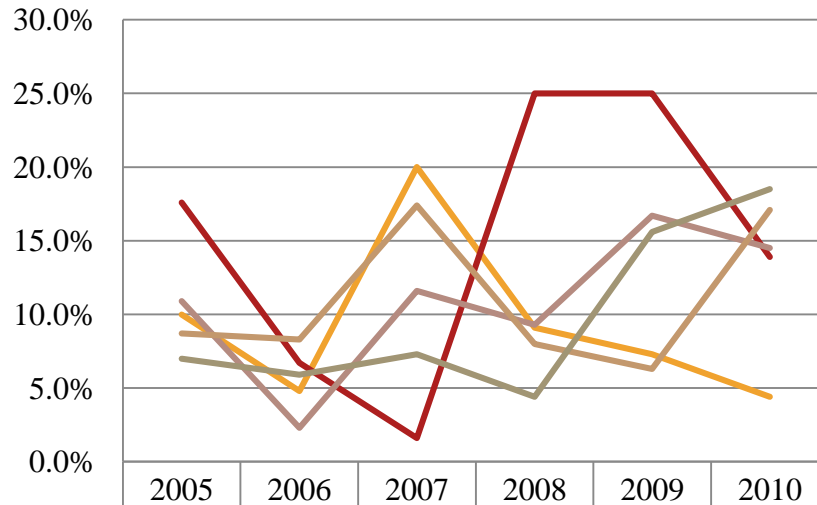
From 2005-2010, the greatest percent point increase in long-term unemployment was recorded in Oklahoma City (18.4%), followed by Austin (17.6%), San Antonio (7.9%), Tulsa (7.4%), and New Orleans (4.5%).

The highest average percent of unemployed who have been out of work for more than 27 weeks was seen in Tulsa (20.9%), followed by San Antonio (20.4%), New Orleans (19.9%), Oklahoma City (19.6%), and Austin (16.7%).

Least Severe Long-Term Unemployment

Duration of Unemployment 52+ Weeks

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	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	10.0%	4.8%	20.0%	9.1%	7.3%	4.4%
Tulsa	17.6%	6.7%	1.6%	25.0%	25.0%	13.9%
San Antonio-New Braunfels	10.9%	2.3%	11.6%	9.3%	16.7%	14.5%
Oklahoma City	8.7%	8.3%	17.4%	8.0%	6.3%	17.1%
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	7.0%	5.9%	7.3%	4.4%	15.6%	18.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Data for the top 5 metros in the U.S. which saw the least severe long-term unemployment for a duration of more than 52 weeks show a mixed trend.

While there is a general downward trend since 2009 for New Orleans, Tulsa, and San Antonio, a slight upward trend in long-term unemployment is seen for Oklahoma City and for Austin.

In 2010, New Orleans (4.4%) was the leading metro with the lowest share of long-term unemployed, followed by Tulsa (13.9%), San Antonio (14.5%), Oklahoma City (17.1%), and Austin (18.5%).

Over the period 2005-2010, the highest percent point decreases were recorded in New Orleans (-5.6%), and in Tulsa (-3.7%), while the lowest decreases were in Austin (11.5%), followed by Oklahoma City (8.4%), and San Antonio (3.6%).

The greatest average relative increases in unemployment of more than 52 weeks were recorded in Tulsa (15.0%), followed by Oklahoma City (11.0%), San Antonio (10.9%), Austin (9.8%), and New Orleans (9.3%).

Greatest Relative Increases in Long-Term Unemployment

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Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Percent of unemployed who have been unemployed 27+ weeks (2010)	Percentage point change, 2005-2010, 27+ weeks	Percent of unemployed who have been unemployed 52+ weeks (2010)	Percentage point change, 2005-2010, 52+ weeks
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	52.7%	38.2%	35.3%	26.2%
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta	56.3%	33.0%	40.4%	27.6%
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin	47.2%	36.7%	33.3%	28.0%
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro	48.5%	26.8%	34.0%	20.7%
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill	51.4%	31.0%	35.5%	25.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Least Relative Increases in Long-Term Unemployment

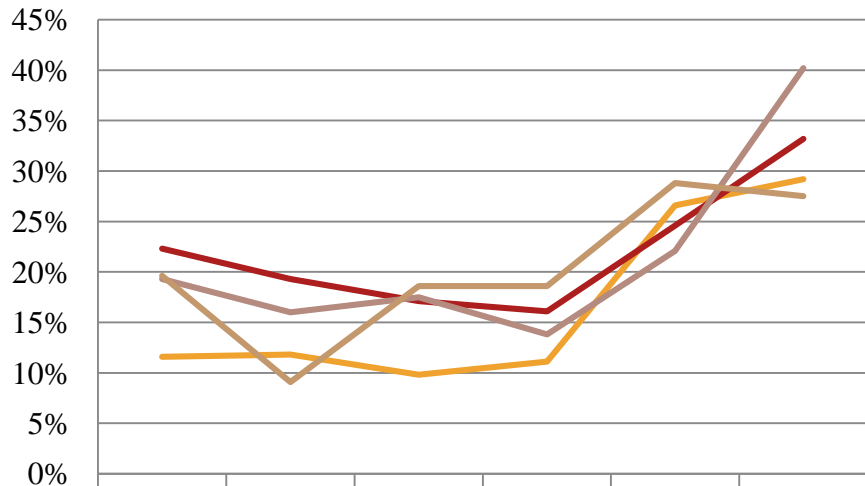
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Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Percent of unemployed who have been unemployed 27+ weeks (2010)	Percentage point change, 2005-2010, 27+ weeks	Percent of unemployed who have been unemployed 52+ weeks (2010)	Percentage point change, 2005-2010, 52+ weeks
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	17.8%	4.5%	4.4%	-5.6%
Oklahoma City	31.4%	18.4%	17.1%	8.4%
San Antonio-New Braunfels	27.5%	7.9%	14.5%	3.6%
Honolulu	34.5%	20.2%	20.7%	13.6%
St. Louis	39.7%	20.7%	23.1%	10.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Long-Term Unemployment in Major Texas MSAs

Duration of Unemployment 27+ Weeks



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
— Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	11.6%	11.8%	9.8%	11.1%	26.6%	29.2%
— Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	22.3%	19.3%	17.1%	16.1%	24.6%	33.2%
— Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	19.3%	16.0%	17.5%	13.8%	22.1%	40.2%
— San Antonio-New Braunfels	19.6%	9.1%	18.6%	18.6%	28.8%	27.5%

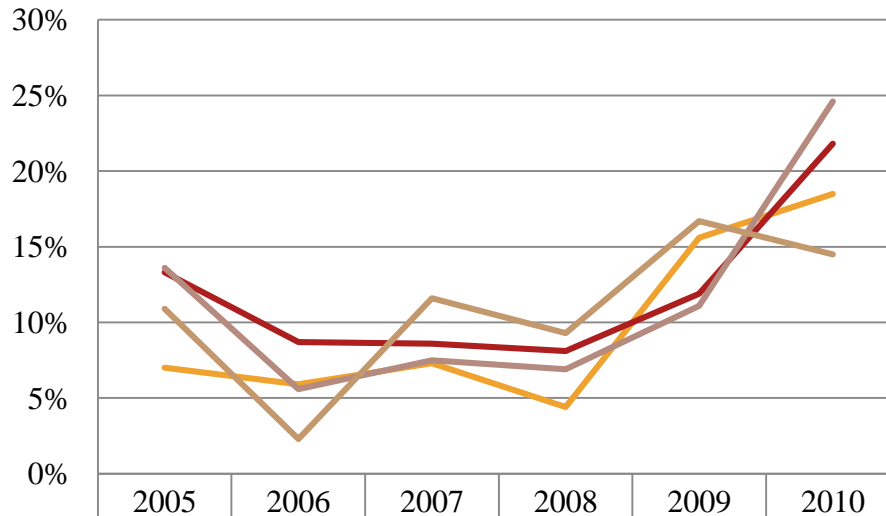
Between 2005 and 2010, all major Texas MSAs saw an increase in the percentage of long-term unemployment. The greatest relative increase was recorded in Houston (20.9%), followed by Austin (17.6%), Dallas (10.9%), and San Antonio (7.9%).

Relative to its peer metro areas, San Antonio had the lowest percentage of long-term unemployed of 27.5% in 2010. Over the period 2005-2010, average percentage of long-term unemployed in Dallas was 22.1%, followed by Houston (21.5%), San Antonio (20.4%), and Austin (16.7%).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Long-Term Unemployment in Major Texas MSAs

Duration of Unemployment 52+ Weeks



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos	7.0%	5.9%	7.3%	4.4%	15.6%	18.5%
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	13.3%	8.7%	8.6%	8.1%	11.9%	21.8%
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	13.6%	5.6%	7.5%	6.9%	11.1%	24.6%
San Antonio-New Braunfels	10.9%	2.3%	11.6%	9.3%	16.7%	14.5%

For a duration of long-term unemployment of over 52 weeks, all major Texas metro areas experienced an increase in long-term unemployment from 2005 to 2010.

Austin saw the largest relative increase of 11.5%, followed by Houston (11.0%), Dallas (8.5%), and San Antonio (3.6%).

In 2010, San Antonio had the lowest percentage of long-term unemployed of 14.5%, while Houston had the highest percent of 24.6%.

Between 2005 and 2010, the highest average share of long-term unemployed was in Dallas (12.1%), followed by Houston (11.6%), San Antonio (10.9%), and Austin (9.8%)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



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