This chartbook presents information on the extent and nature of unemployment in the United States. The statistics presented are part of a broad array of unemployment and related labor force data available from the Current Population Survey, a sample survey of some 60,000 households conducted monthly by the Bureau of the Census. The 28 charts and graphs in the booklet are organized into two parts. The charts in part 1 focus on the extent and nature of unemployment and the characteristics of jobless workers, while the charts in part 2 illustrate the sensitivity of unemployment and related measures to changing economic conditions. Beside each chart, highlights are presented in narrative form. An appendix to the chartbook explains the methods used to prepare the data and includes definitions of the important concepts used in the booklet. A list of selected references completes the chartbook. *(KC)*
Workers With
A Chartbook

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

July 1982
Workers Without Jobs: A Report on Unemployment

Department of Labor
Donovan, Secretary

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Perwood, Commissioner

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- Among persons 25 years of age and over, the more years of school completed, the less the likelihood of unemployment.
- Workers with less than 4 years of high school were 3 times more likely to be unemployed than those with 4 years of college.
Chart 4. Unemployment, March 1991

Percent completed, Ma
Dropouts have the highest unemployment rate among younger workers

- 16- to 24-year-olds who dropped out of school had the highest jobless rates in 1982. This was tied closely to their lack of skills, experience, and a high school diploma, as well as to the very tight labor market in which they had to compete.

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Most of the unemployed are seeking full-time jobs, but the proportion varies by sex and age

- 84 percent of those unemployed in 1982 wanted full-time jobs.
- Teenagers are more likely than adults to seek part-time jobs, but nearly 3 out of every 5 sought full-time jobs.
- More than 4 out of 5 jobless adult women wanted full-time work.
- The vast majority of jobless men want to work full time.
Chart 10: Unemployed adults and teenagers by full or part-time status on job sought, 1982

- Total unemployed:
  - Seeking full-time jobs: 84%
  - Seeking part-time jobs: 16%

- Adult men:
  - 95%
  - 5%

- Adult women:
  - 84%
  - 16%

- Teenagers:
  - 42%
  - 58%
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The U.S. unequally with other in substantially
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Though unemployment rises and falls with the business cycle, the jobless rate has had an upward trend since 1970

- During each recession, the unemployment rate climbed sharply; with the exception of the recovery periods beginning in 1949 and 1961, the jobless rate failed to decline to prerecession levels.

- Prior to the 1981-82 recession, the highest unemployment rate of the postwar period was 9.0 percent, reached during the 1973-75 recession. A new postwar peak of 10.8 percent was reached in December 1982.

- The unemployment rate declined moderately in the first half of 1983.
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Appendix: Method

Method

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ment rates based on both
published regularly by the
The rate based on the
throughout this chartbook
examination of unemployment
other characteristics.
Selected Bibli
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