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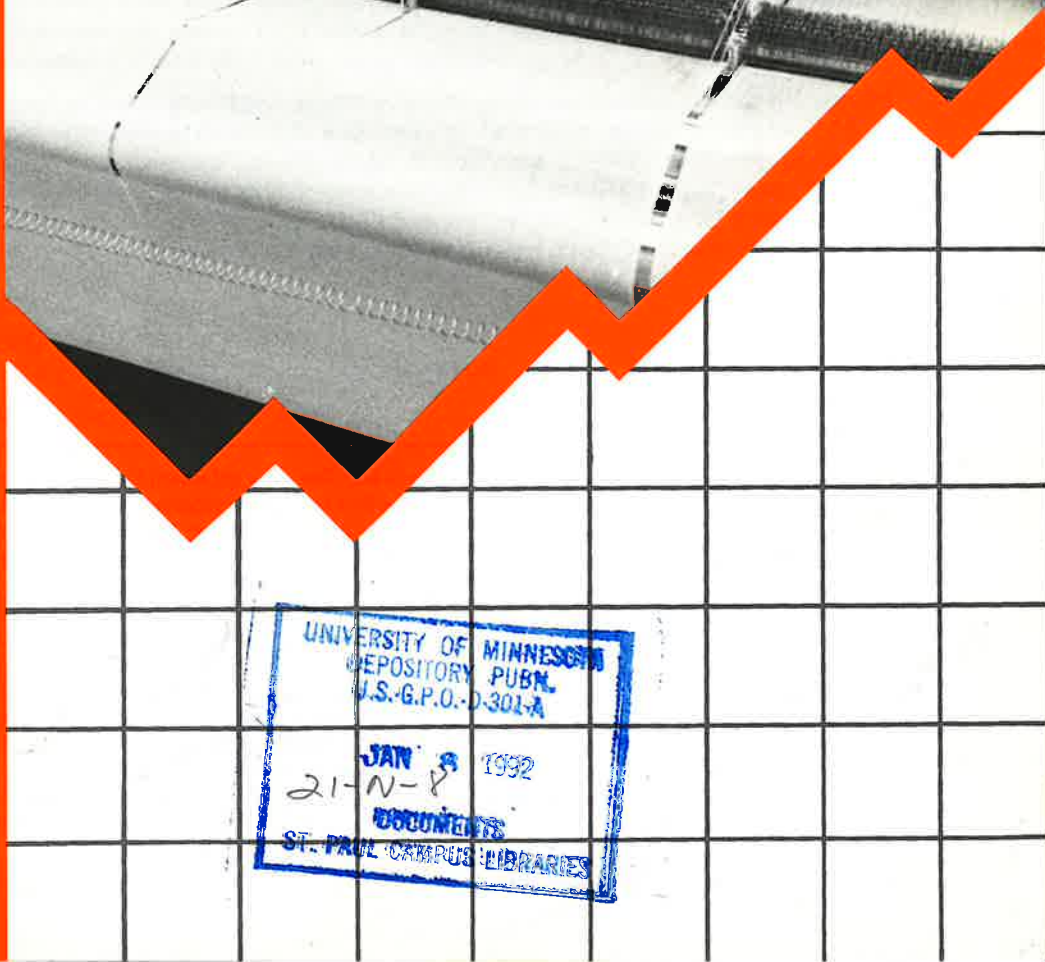
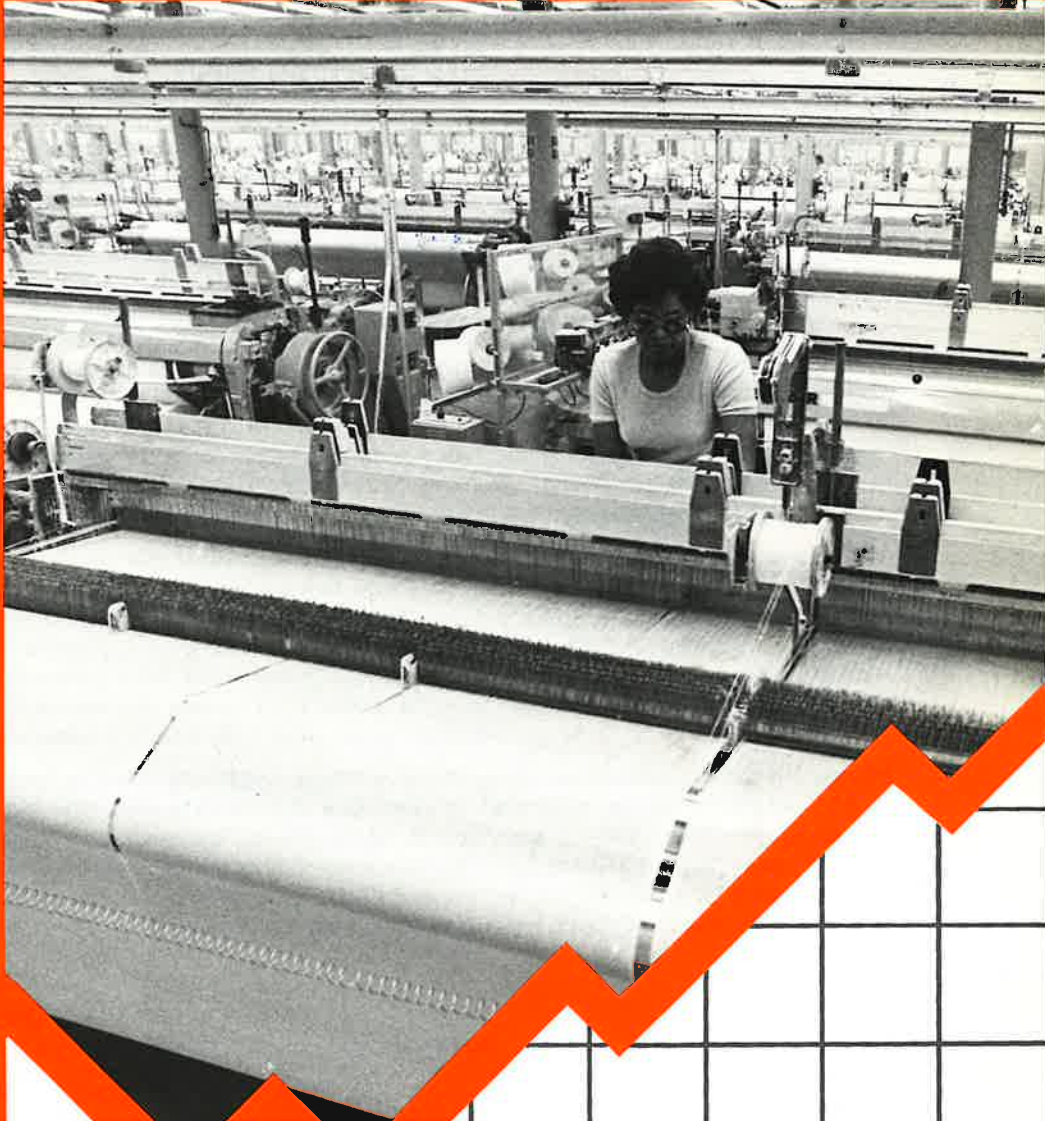
Rural Conditions and Trends

Economic Research Service • United States Department of Agriculture • Fall 1991 • Vol. 2, No. 3



Rural areas no harder hit by recession than urban areas

Recent manufacturing growth looks good for rural America



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Rural and urban areas experienced about the same rates of declining employment and increasing unemployment during the latest recession. Recent national growth in manufacturing is a hopeful sign for rural recovery.

Recession Hit Rural Areas No Harder than Urban

Although national economic indicators are mixed, the recession seems to have ended sometime this spring. During the summer months, industrial production, average hours worked in manufacturing per week, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' index of leading indicators rose while inflation moderated and short-term interest rates fell, all indications that the recovery may be gaining momentum. However, a slight drop in real gross national product in the second quarter and a fall off in new housing sales in July are continuing sources of concern for some analysts. Also, long-term interest rates have fallen somewhat but still remain high, reflecting doubt in the financial sector that inflation will remain low for an extended period.

The availability of information on employment and unemployment in rural and urban areas lags the national economic indicators by several months. The most recent rural and urban data show similar declines in employment during the latest recession, indicating that the recession had no greater effect on rural than on urban areas. From the first half of 1990 to the first half of 1991, employment declined 1.1 percent in rural areas compared with 1.0 percent in urban areas. (First-half employment is calculated by averaging the number employed each month, January through June.) Unemployment increases were also comparable, 1.5 percentage points in rural areas and 1.4 percentage points in urban areas. These similarities may mean that rural areas will have no greater difficulty recovering from the recession. During the 1981-82 recession, rural areas sustained deeper cuts in employment and a steeper rise in unemployment than urban areas. Rural areas also took longer than urban areas to recover.

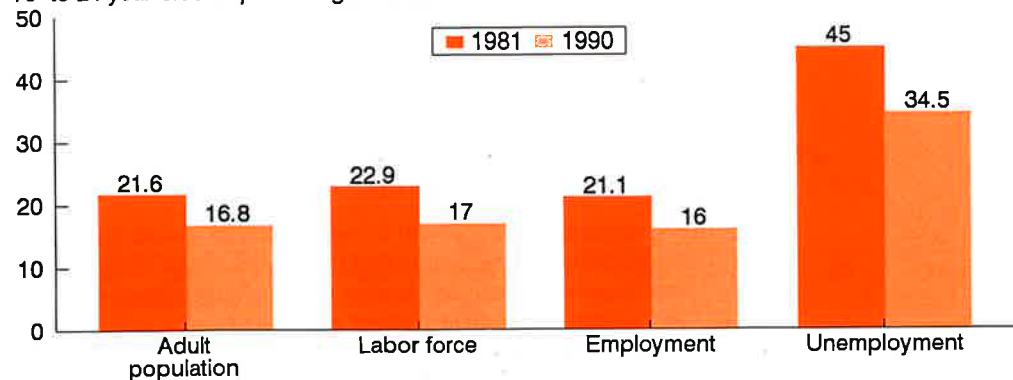
In both rural and urban areas, increases in unemployment due to the recent recession were moderated by the small number of workers entering the labor force. Slow growth in the labor force along with moderate employment declines put less pressure on unemployment. At the time of the previous recession, large numbers of baby boomers entering their working years contributed to an increasing labor force even while employment opportunities shrank. The chart below illustrates the decline in the young's labor force share between the two recessions.

The recent recession was less concentrated in rural areas because sectors other than manufacturing sustained a larger share of job losses this time. Manufacturing accounted for less than half of the jobs lost between July 1990 and July 1991. In contrast, manufacturing accounted for nearly three-quarters of the jobs lost during the 1981-82 recession. Construction, wholesale and retail trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate bore more of the job losses this time. These sectors account for a smaller share of rural than urban jobs, explaining why the latest recession's effects were more evenly distributed.

National growth in manufacturing employment over the past few months is a hopeful sign for rural recovery. Rural areas depend on manufacturing for a larger proportion of jobs (17.5 percent of rural jobs compared with 14 percent of urban jobs in 1989), particularly in the South-eastern States (23 percent of rural jobs compared with 12.3 percent of urban jobs). National increases in manufacturing employment and hours worked suggest that rural areas may be benefiting from this trend in the early stage of the recovery. [Linda M. Ghelfi, 202/219-0547.]

The young in the labor force Young adults played smaller role in latest recession

16- to 24-year-olds as percentage of total



Source: Current Population Survey.

Recovery Gains Ground

Since the second quarter, when the recession probably ended, production and income have risen and employment has remained stable. The prospect is for continued moderate growth and slowly receding unemployment.

The economy recovered slowly during the summer. Although real gross national product (GNP) fell slightly in the second quarter, the number of nonfarm payroll jobs increased slightly, and the unemployment rate dropped. Interest rates remained low and inflation subsided. For the rest of this year and 1992, the administration and the Congressional Budget Office forecast accelerating GNP growth, continued moderate inflation, and steady improvement in the jobs picture.

Production Recovers While Employment Remains Stable

Production has shown steady gains since the spring. From March through August, industrial production rose about 7.5 percent at an annual rate, compared with a 2.6-percent rise in 1989, before the latest recession. Despite the recent increases, production remains more than 2 percent below its recent peak in September 1990. Factory capacity use has risen with rising production, but at 78.7 percent for August is also well below the 83.9-percent average of 1989.

Overall employment data have improved much less than production. The number of nonfarm payroll jobs in August was a slight 0.1 percent above the April level, but well below the July 1990 level. The recovery in jobs has been uneven across industries, just as job losses were uneven during the recession. Construction and manufacturing were especially hard hit during the recession. Since April, manufacturing jobs have increased slightly faster than jobs in most other industries, but overall job gains have been small.

Unemployment has generally declined since the second quarter. In August, the overall rate was 6.8 percent, down from 7.0 percent in June. Even so, unemployment remains higher than the 5.3-percent average rate throughout 1989 and the first half of 1990.

Inflation Subsides

Falling energy prices continued to contribute to slowing overall inflation during the summer. Overall consumer prices rose at a 2.2-percent annual rate in the 6 months ending in August, down from 5.4 percent in the previous 6 months. The recent recession has also generated excess capacity, alleviating some of the pressure on prices to increase. For example, consumer prices excluding food and energy prices, one way to isolate inflation tendencies, rose at a 3.3-percent annual rate in the 6 months ending in August. Those prices rose at about a 5.9-percent annual rate in the previous 6 months.

Interest Rate Movements Mixed

Weak economic activity, slowing inflation, and Federal Reserve policy aimed at promoting growth all contributed to substantial declines in interest rates since the beginning of the year. Short-term rates fell substantially in the early part of the year, remained relatively flat from May through most of August, and then fell again in late August and early September. Long-term rates initially fell much less than short-term rates, probably because there were concerns about higher inflation accompanying the recovery. Modest inflation in August and the relatively slow pace of recovery brought long-term rates down in August and September. If inflation remains moderate, long-term rates could continue to fall, even though short-term rates could rise as the recovery strengthens.

Recovery Expected To Continue

With relatively low interest rates, and with consumer spending and income beginning to increase, the recovery appears likely to strengthen as the year progresses. Both the administration and the Congressional Budget Office forecast real GNP growth above 3 percent for 1992. Some of the growth in business production and employment is expected to be directed at rebuilding inventories, which have been slashed over the last year. Barring an unforeseen jump in oil or food prices, the slack that the recession created in the economy should translate into modest inflation over the next several months. The jobs picture will improve in this environment, with a significant gain likely in manufacturing.

Implications for Rural Areas

The expected improvement in manufacturing should help rural areas, especially those east of the Mississippi where manufacturing accounts for much of the income and employment in many rural counties. Declining energy prices should also contribute to these counties' recovery and help nudge rural unemployment rates down.

Many rural areas engage in agricultural or manufacturing production for the world market, making the export outlook especially important to rural areas. Analysts predict that world growth will rebound in 1992. Trading partners that went into a recession, such as Canada and the United Kingdom, are expected to recover while Japan and Germany are expected to maintain relatively solid growth. Recent increases in the value of the dollar, which have brought the dollar back to its early 1990 level, are not expected to substantially hurt export growth in the coming year. [Analysis reflects data as of September 17, 1991. Karen Hamrick and R. M. Monaco, 202/219-0782.]

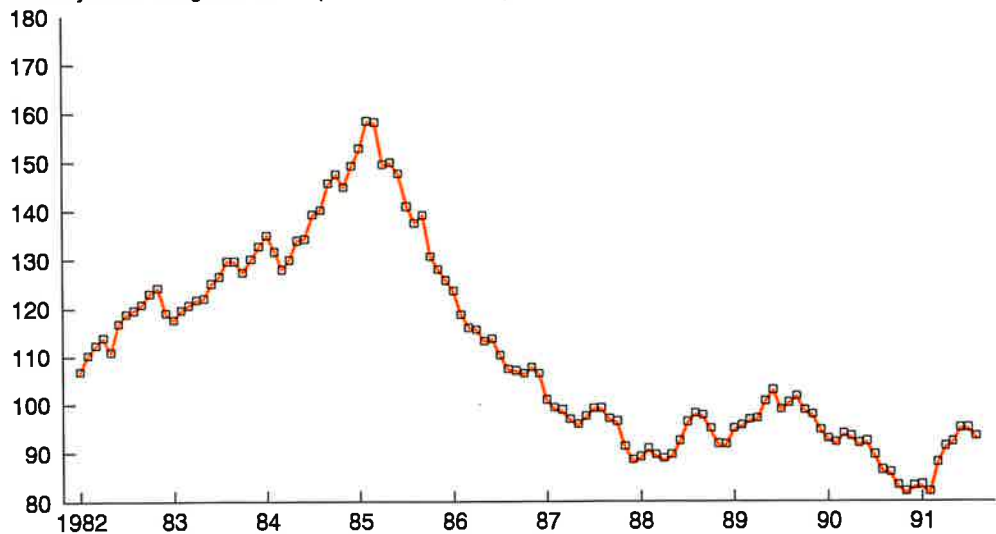
Annual change in employment by industry
Employment by industry has recently stabilized

Industry	July 1989- July 1990	July 1990- July 1991 ¹	April 1991- August 1991 ¹
	<i>Annual percentage change in jobs²</i>		
Total	1.4	-1.3	0.3
Private sector	.9	-1.5	.6
Goods-producing industries	-2.5	-4.9	.3
Construction	-3.2	-8.9	-.7
Manufacturing	-2.5	-4.0	.8
Service-producing industries	2.6	-.3	.3
Transportation and public utilities	1.7	-2.4	.2
Wholesale and retail trade	.3	-2.0	-.4
Finance, insurance, and real estate	-1.0	-.8	-1.0
Business and health services	5.0	1.5	2.2

¹July 1991 and August 1991 figures are preliminary.
²Seasonally adjusted data, April-August 1991 change calculated at annual rate.
 Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

U.S. dollar exchange rate
Dollar is back to its early 1990 level

Monthly trade-weighted value (March 1973=100)



Source: Federal Reserve System.

Rural Employment Down

Rural employment fell by 280,000 workers between the first halves of 1990 and 1991, as the national recession hit rural areas. Employment declines were largest for the young, men, and Blacks. Growth of the rural labor force also slowed to a near standstill.

The period of sustained job growth that began in 1983 ended as the national recession hit rural areas in the second half of 1990. Data for the first two quarters of this year suggest that the fall in employment may have bottomed out. A resumption of rural job growth is not yet apparent, but the available data lag hiring trends by several months.

Rural employment fell 1.1 percent between the first halves of 1990 and 1991, according to Current Population Survey (CPS) data. This decline was in line with the 1.0-percent fall in urban employment. Preliminary Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) county-level data also register the recessionary conditions. According to the BLS estimates, rural employment fell by 0.4 percent and urban employment fell by 1.1 percent between the first halves of 1990 and 1991.

The CPS data indicate similar employment downturns in rural and urban areas, but the BLS data suggest that rural job losses were less severe. Although the causes of this discrepancy are not well understood, the CPS estimates are probably more reliable because they are based on a nationally representative sample of workers while the BLS estimates are based on surveys of firms benchmarked to State employment estimates from the CPS. If the recent recession has in fact resulted in similar job loss rates in rural and urban areas, this compares favorably with the 1981-82 recession, when rural employment losses were relatively more severe.

The Young, Men, Blacks Most Affected

Employment declines differed by age, sex, and race of rural workers. Between the first halves of 1990 and 1991, employment declined 4.5 percent for workers aged 16-34. By contrast, employment increased by 1.3 percent for older workers. This pattern may reflect the greater vulnerability of young, low-seniority workers to layoffs in recessionary periods.

Employment fell more for men than for women and more for Blacks than for Whites. The number of employed men fell 1.7 percent, three times the percentage decline in employed women, 0.5 percent. The number of employed Blacks fell by 3.5 percent. This loss was far larger than the 0.9-percent loss for Whites. In most rural areas, men and Blacks are more frequently employed than women and Whites in the production sector, where jobs are most likely to be lost in business downturns.

Rural Labor Force Growth Slackens

As job growth weakened and then turned negative, growth of the rural civilian labor force slowed to a near standstill. Between 1988 and 1989, rural employment growth was strong and the rural labor force grew at a robust 3.1 percent. Rural employment growth then slowed before turning negative in the second half of 1990. In a parallel fashion, rural labor force growth has been much lower in 1990 (0.4 percent) and 1991 (0.5 percent).

Falling unemployment rates and plentiful job opportunities may coax individuals into the labor market who otherwise would not search for jobs. The process also works in reverse, with recessions discouraging potential labor force entrants. Recent trends in rural labor force growth conform to this pattern. The rapid growth in the labor force at the end of the 1980's was probably a response to vigorous job growth in many rural areas. Since 1989, employment opportunities have worsened and the growth of the rural labor force has slowed substantially.

One important difference between the most recent and the previous recession is that the labor force continued to grow during the 1981-82 period despite falling employment. Demographic factors probably accounted for this persistence. The continued labor force growth during the 1981-82 recession was because large numbers of baby-boomers continued to swell the working-age population. The steady rise in the number of persons looking for work, in turn, contributed to the very high unemployment rates of the early 1980's.

Recovery Should Reach Rural Workers

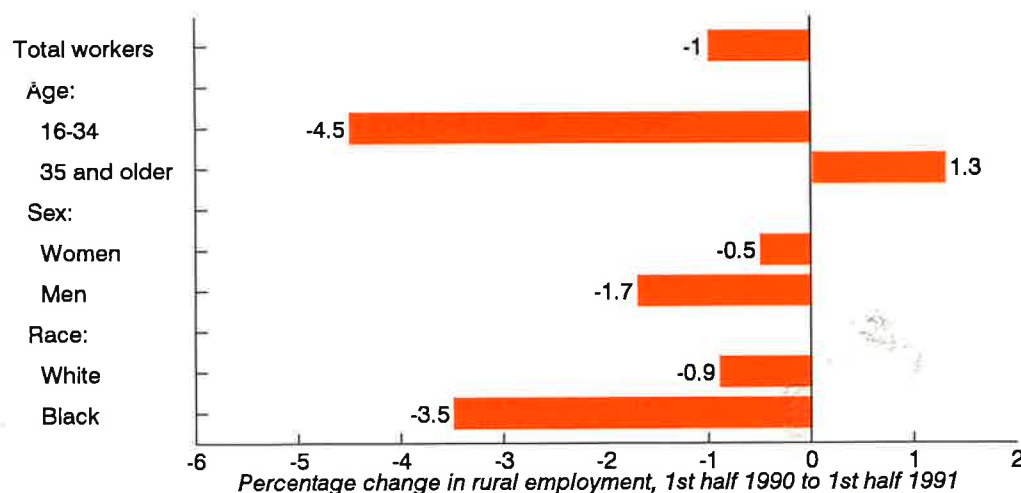
The recent decline in employment has been broadly similar in rural and urban areas. Thus, the outlook for rural employment appears to be closely tied to that for the national economy. Just as many rural workers have felt the effects of the recession, so should many benefit from the recovery. [Paul Swaim, 202/219-0552.]

Recession strikes rural labor markets
Employment falls in first half of 1991

Data source and area	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1st half 1989-1st half 1990	1st half 1990-1st half 1991
<i>Percentage change</i>					
Current Population Survey:					
United States	2.2	2.1	0.5	1.0	-1.0
Metro	2.2	1.6	.6	1.0	-1.0
Nonmetro	2.3	3.7	.2	.8	-1.1
Bureau of Labor Statistics:					
United States	2.3	2.0	.5	.9	-.9
Metro	2.3	2.0	.4	.8	-1.1
Nonmetro	2.4	2.2	.8	1.2	-.4

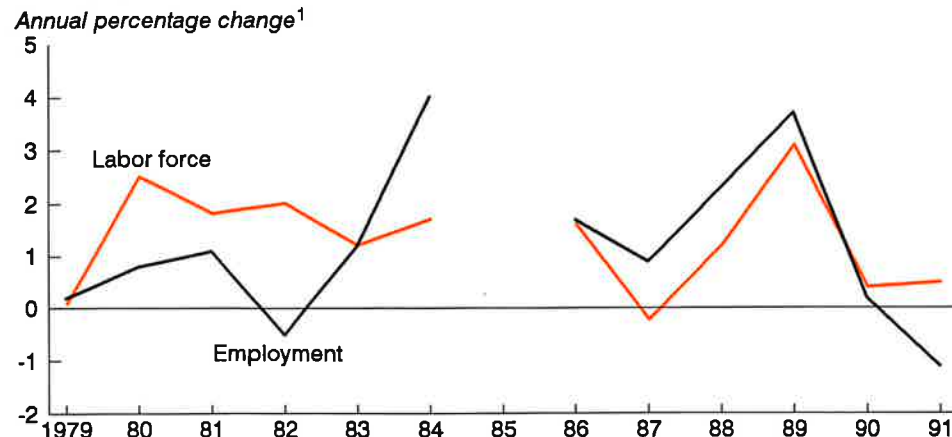
Note: Annual employment is calculated by averaging monthly employment, January through December. First-half employment is calculated by averaging monthly employment, January through June.
 Sources: Current Population Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics county data.

Recession unevenly affects rural workers
Employment of the young, men, and Blacks is most vulnerable



Source: Current Population Survey.

Rural labor force and employment growth
Rural labor force growth slowed during latest recession, but remained strong during the 1980 and 1981-82 recessions



¹Growth rates not calculated for 1984-85 because the Census Bureau revised its metro/nonmetro definition in 1985. The 1990-91 growth rates are based on the first half of each year only.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Rural Unemployment Up in First Half of 1991

Rural unemployment increased considerably during the first half of 1991 compared with the same period a year earlier. The rise in unemployment was especially large for teenagers and Blacks. The number of involuntary part-time and discouraged rural workers also increased.

Rural unemployment rose substantially between the first halves of 1990 and 1991 with the onset of the recent recession. However, rural unemployment rates remained well below the high levels of the 1981-82 recession. Although recent national statistics suggest that unemployment has peaked, prerecession levels may not return soon. Unemployment rates historically take longer to recede when a recovery begins than to increase when a recession begins.

Rural unemployment jumped to 7.6 percent in the first half of 1991 compared with 6.1 percent in the same period a year earlier, according to Current Population Survey (CPS) data. This first-half rural unemployment rate is the highest since 1986, when rural unemployment was at 8.8 percent. Urban unemployment also increased substantially to 6.7 percent in the first half of 1991, up from 5.3 percent in 1990.

Official unemployment rates often underestimate unemployment, particularly in rural areas, because they do not include discouraged or underemployed workers. The adjusted unemployment rate includes workers who have given up looking for work and half of those who work part-time but would like to work full time. The adjusted unemployment rate was 11.5 percent in rural areas and 9.5 percent in urban during the first half of 1991.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data show a similar picture in the first half of 1991. Preliminary BLS data show the rural unemployment rate at 8.1 percent in the first half of 1991, increasing from 6.7 percent in the same period in 1990. Urban unemployment was 6.2 percent in the first half of 1991, up from 5.1 percent a year earlier.

Teenagers, Minorities Have Highest Unemployment Rates

Teenagers, Blacks, and Hispanics continue to face high unemployment in both rural and urban areas. In the first half of 1991, rural unemployment averaged 20.3 percent for teenagers, 14.7 percent for Blacks, and 9.8 percent for Hispanics. The adjusted rural unemployment rates for these groups are markedly higher, with 25.8 percent of teenagers, 21.2 percent of Blacks, and 16.0 percent of Hispanics unemployed.

Unemployment Not as Severe as in 1981-82 Recession

The recession that began in the second half of 1990 has been relatively mild. Just after the 1981-82 recession, rural unemployment reached a high of 11.3 percent in the first half of 1983, which is much higher than the 7.6 percent in the first half of 1991. Rural unemployment may not have reached its peak, but it is not likely to reach as high a level as in 1983. The adjusted rural unemployment rate peaked at 16.4 percent in the first half of 1983, far above the 11.5 percent in the first half of 1991.

In the 1981-82 recession, the goods-producing sectors, including farming, mining, and manufacturing, were hit particularly hard. Many rural areas depend heavily on these industries, and thus experienced high unemployment. Rural unemployment rose no more rapidly than urban unemployment during the recent recession because employment losses have been spread across more industries, including construction, wholesale and retail trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate.

Although national trends suggest that the recession has bottomed out, rural unemployment will probably recede slowly. Employers are usually slower in hiring in a recovery than they were in laying off in the preceding downturn. [Timothy S. Parker, 202/219-0540.]

Nonmetro unemployment jumped during the first half of 1991
Unemployment rates highest among minorities and teenagers

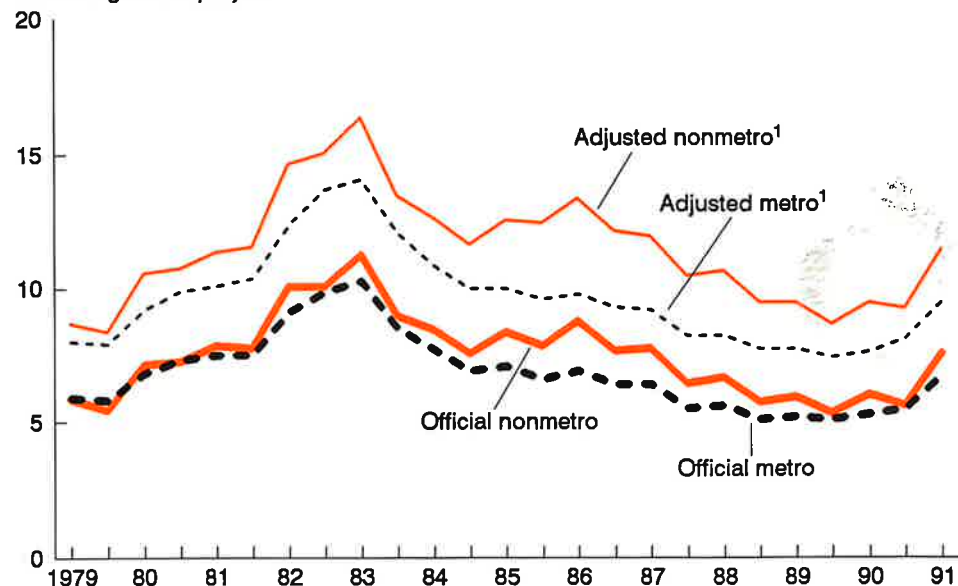
Type of unemployment and group	1st half 1990		1st half 1991	
	Metro	Nonmetro	Metro	Nonmetro
	<i>Percent</i>			
Official unemployment rates:				
Total civilian labor force	5.3	6.1	6.7	7.6
By age and sex:				
Men age 20 and older	4.8	5.5	6.5	7.2
Women age 20 and older	4.6	5.2	5.3	6.3
Teenagers	15.3	15.9	18.8	20.3
By race and ethnicity:				
Whites	4.5	5.5	5.9	6.9
Blacks	10.8	11.4	12.2	14.7
Hispanics	7.6	9.7	9.7	9.8
Adjusted unemployment rate¹	7.6	9.5	9.5	11.5

¹Unemployment rate adjusted to include discouraged workers and half of the workers employed part time for economic reasons.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Rural unemployment up
Rural unemployment was higher in the first half of 1991 compared with 1990

Percentage unemployed



¹Includes discouraged workers and half of the workers employed part time for economic reasons.

Source: Current Population Survey.

Data Sources

Assessing the changing conditions and trends in rural America is complicated by the need to use a variety of data sources for monitoring demographic and economic patterns. Because different sources of data are intended for different purposes and employ different definitions and collection methods, they sometimes produce contradictory statistics and may lead to different interpretations. Describing rural conditions, therefore, necessitates piecing together different trends from many sources of information, not all of which are used each issue.

Macroeconomic conditions: The economic indicators used to monitor macroeconomic changes in the U.S. economy are derived from Federal sources. Measures of inflation, including the Consumer and Producer Price Indexes, and employment and unemployment data are developed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). National income and product account information on capital investment, gross national product, and net exports is produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce. Information relating to monetary policy, including changes in interest rates and foreign exchange rates, and data on industrial production are furnished by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Employment and unemployment: Data on nonmetro employment and unemployment come from two sources. The monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the U.S. Department of Labor, provides detailed information on the labor force, employment, unemployment, and demographic characteristics of the metro and nonmetro population. CPS derives estimates based on a national sample of about 58,000 households that are representative of the U.S. civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Labor force information is based on respondents' activity during 1 week each month.

BLS county-level employment data are taken from unemployment insurance claims and State surveys of establishment payrolls which are then benchmarked to State totals from the CPS. Thus, at the national and State levels, annual average BLS and CPS estimates are the same. The BLS data series provides monthly estimates of labor force, employment, and unemployment for individual counties.

Each of these data sets has its advantages and disadvantages. CPS furnishes detailed employment, unemployment, and demographic data for metro and nonmetro portions of the Nation. BLS provides less detailed employment data than CPS, but offers very current employment and unemployment information at the county level. While these data sources are likely to provide different estimates of employment conditions at any point in time, they generally indicate similar trends.

Definitions

Throughout *Rural Conditions and Trends*, we use "rural" and "nonmetro" interchangeably. The same holds for "urban" and "metro." However, in tables we use "nonmetro" and "metro," the original and more accurate terms used in the data sources.

Adjusted unemployment rate: The number of unemployed people, discouraged workers who have given up looking for work, and half of the workers who work part time but want full-time work as a percentage of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.

Civilian labor force: Noninstitutional civilians aged 16 or older who are either employed or unemployed. Individuals who are neither employed nor unemployed are out of the labor force.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A measure of the average price level of a basket of consumer goods and services at the retail level for a specific period compared against a benchmark period.

County type classification: A recently updated USDA classification of nonmetro counties by principal economic activity or demographic base. The categories used in this issue are as follows:

Farming-dependent—counties where farming accounted for a weighted annual average of 20 percent or more of total labor and proprietor income (TLPI) in 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, and 1986.

Manufacturing-dependent—counties where manufacturing contributed 30 percent or more of TLPI in 1986.

Mining-dependent—counties where mining contributed 20 percent or more to TLPI in 1986.

Retirement-destination—counties where the net immigration rates of people aged 60 and over were 15 percent or more of the expected 1980 population aged 60 and over for the period 1970-80.

For further information, see Thomas F. Hady and Peggy J. Ross, *An Update: The Diverse Social and Economic Structure of Nonmetro America*, AGES 9036, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, June 1990.

Foreign exchange rate: The rate at which one currency is traded for another. The Federal Reserve publishes a measure of the overall foreign exchange rate of the U.S. dollar based on the rates of the 10 major U.S. trading partners.

Gross national product (GNP): The dollar amount of final goods and services produced by the United States. GNP is the sum of consumer spending, Federal Government purchases of goods and services, business investment, and exports less the amount of imports. This statistic is reported quarterly but is revised in each of the 2 months following the initial release. Nominal GNP measures final goods and services at current prices. Real GNP measures final goods and services in 1982 prices to adjust for inflation.

Inflation rate: The percentage change in a measure of the average price level. Changes are reported on a monthly basis and are stated as annual rates for longer term comparisons. The two major measures of the average price level are the Consumer and Producer Price Indexes.

Labor force participation rate: The civilian labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 and older.

Metro areas: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's), as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, include core counties containing a city of 50,000 or more people and a total area population of at least 100,000. Additional contiguous counties are included in the MSA if they are economically and socially integrated with the core county. Metro areas are divided into central cities and areas outside central cities (suburbs). Throughout this publication, "urban" and "metro" have been used interchangeably to refer to people and places within MSA's.

Nonmetro areas: Counties outside metro area boundaries. Throughout this publication, "rural" and "nonmetro" are used interchangeably to refer to people and places outside of MSA's.

Nonmetro county rural-urban continuum classification: A classification that distinguishes among nonmetro counties by degree of urbanization and proximity to metro areas. The categories are as follows:

Urban adjacent—aggregate urban population (people living in places of 2,500 or more population) of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area.

Urban nonadjacent—urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area.

Less urban adjacent—urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area.

Less urban nonadjacent—urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area.

Rural adjacent—completely rural (county contains no place of 2,500 or more population), adjacent to a metro area.

Rural nonadjacent—completely rural, not adjacent to a metro area.

This nonmetro classification is part of a larger classification that also groups metro areas by size. For further information, see Margaret A. Butler, *Rural-Urban Continuum Codes for Metro and Nonmetro Counties*, AGES 9028, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, April 1990.

Nonmetro minority counties: A classification of nonmetro counties by race and ethnicity. Minority counties are nonmetro counties in which 25 percent or more of the total population in 1990 belonged to a single minority group—Black, Hispanic, or Native American. The groups are as follows:

Black—332 nonmetro counties in which 63.1 percent of all nonmetro Blacks lived in 1990.

Hispanic—123 nonmetro counties in which 51.1 percent of all nonmetro Hispanics lived in 1990.

Native American—44 nonmetro counties in which 41.3 percent of all nonmetro Native Americans (American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts) lived in 1990.

Producer Price Index: A measure of the average price received by producers of finished goods at the wholesale level during a specific period compared against a benchmark period.

Unemployment rate: The number of unemployed people 16 years and older as a percentage of the civilian labor force 16 years and older.

Appendix Tables

Appendix table 1—Nonmetro employment: Quarterly and annual averages

Year/quarter	Labor force	Labor force participation	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment rate	Adjusted unemployment rate ¹
	Thousands	Percent	Thousands		Percent	
1991:						
2nd	26,529	63.1	24,673	1,856	7.0	10.7
1st	26,049	61.9	23,898	2,151	8.3	12.3
1990:						
4th	26,361	62.6	24,776	1,585	6.0	9.7
3rd	26,607	63.2	25,158	1,450	5.4	8.8
2nd	26,417	63.2	24,934	1,483	5.6	8.9
1st	25,893	62.2	24,196	1,697	6.6	10.0
1989:						
4th	26,168	62.8	24,778	1,390	5.3	8.6
3rd	26,783	64.1	25,323	1,459	5.4	8.7
2nd	26,389	63.5	24,919	1,470	5.6	8.9
1st	25,441	62.2	23,807	1,634	6.4	10.2
1988:						
4th	25,510	62.8	24,042	1,469	5.8	9.4
3rd	25,793	63.2	24,294	1,499	5.8	9.6
2nd	25,513	62.4	23,978	1,535	6.0	9.8
1st	24,819	61.2	22,996	1,823	7.3	11.6
1987:						
4th	25,087	62.3	23,449	1,638	6.5	10.6
3rd	25,277	62.9	23,634	1,643	6.5	10.5
2nd	25,186	62.2	23,437	1,749	6.9	10.9
1st	24,856	61.0	22,688	2,167	8.7	13.1
1990	26,319	62.8	24,766	1,554	5.9	9.4
1989	26,209	63.2	24,718	1,491	5.7	9.1
1988	25,409	62.4	23,827	1,582	6.2	10.1
1987	25,101	62.1	23,302	1,799	7.2	11.3
1986	25,171	61.9	23,091	2,080	8.3	12.8
1985	24,781	61.2	22,700	2,081	8.4	13.0
1984	34,725	62.1	31,930	2,796	8.1	12.2
1983	34,156	61.8	30,696	3,460	10.1	14.9
1982	33,740	61.7	30,335	3,405	10.1	14.9
1981	33,092	61.9	30,488	2,603	7.9	11.5
1980	32,512	61.7	30,150	2,362	7.3	10.7
1979	31,716	61.5	29,916	1,800	5.7	8.5

Note: Beginning in 1985, estimation procedures for the Current Population Survey are based on the 1980 Census. That change accounts for the large drop in the nonmetro labor force between 1984 and 1985.

¹Unemployment rate adjusted to include discouraged workers and half of the workers employed part time for economic reasons.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey.

Appendix table 2—Metro employment: Quarterly and annual averages

Year/quarter	Labor force	Labor force participation	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment rate	Adjusted unemployment rate ¹
	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
1991:						
2nd	99,017	67.1	92,522	6,496	6.6	9.4
1st	97,984	66.6	91,362	6,622	6.8	9.7
1990:						
4th	98,463	67.2	92,956	5,507	5.6	8.2
3rd	99,290	67.9	93,872	5,417	5.5	8.0
2nd	98,504	67.4	93,480	5,024	5.1	7.4
1st	97,615	67.0	92,283	5,332	5.5	7.8
1989:						
4th	98,191	67.5	93,242	4,949	5.0	7.3
3rd	98,373	67.9	93,366	5,007	5.1	7.5
2nd	97,391	67.4	92,449	4,942	5.1	7.5
1st	96,633	66.7	91,411	5,223	5.4	7.9
1988:						
4th	96,886	67.0	92,139	4,748	4.9	7.4
3rd	97,249	67.5	92,132	5,117	5.3	8.0
2nd	95,843	66.8	90,801	5,042	5.3	7.8
1st	95,061	66.3	89,492	5,569	5.9	8.6
1987:						
4th	95,433	66.6	90,347	5,086	5.3	7.9
3rd	95,924	67.2	90,434	5,490	5.7	8.6
2nd	94,546	66.6	88,869	5,677	6.0	8.7
1st	93,152	65.9	86,904	6,249	6.7	9.6
1990	98,468	67.4	93,148	5,320	5.4	7.9
1989	97,660	67.4	92,624	5,036	5.2	7.5
1988	96,260	66.9	91,141	5,119	5.3	7.9
1987	94,764	66.6	89,138	5,625	5.9	8.7
1986	92,665	66.2	86,508	6,157	6.6	9.5
1985	90,684	65.9	84,453	6,231	6.9	9.9
1984	78,819	65.4	73,076	5,743	7.3	10.4
1983	77,394	65.1	70,137	7,257	9.4	13.1
1982	76,465	65.1	69,192	7,273	9.5	13.1
1981	73,301	64.9	67,825	5,476	7.5	10.3
1980	72,207	64.8	67,120	5,087	7.0	9.5
1979	71,192	64.7	67,029	4,163	5.8	8.0

Note: Beginning in 1985, estimation procedures for the Current Population Survey are based on the 1980 Census.

¹Unemployment rate adjusted to include discouraged workers and half of the workers employed part time for economic reasons.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey.