

Unemployment Word Search — Labor Market

Answer Key

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■ 10 Terms & Definitions

<p>UNEMPLOYMENT</p> <p>Unemployment refers to the condition of people who are actively seeking work but are unable to find a job. It is measured as the unemployment rate — the percentage of the labor force that is jobless and looking for employment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics releases the official</p>	<p>LAYOFF</p> <p>A layoff is the termination of employment initiated by the employer, typically due to economic conditions, restructuring, or reduced demand — not the employee's performance. Laid-off workers are generally eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Mass layoffs occur when compa</p>
<p>BENEFITS</p> <p>Unemployment benefits — also called unemployment insurance (UI) — are government payments made to workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. In the US, benefits are administered by state governments with federal oversight. They typically replace 40–50% of pre</p>	<p>RECESSION</p> <p>A recession is a significant, widespread decline in economic activity lasting more than a few months, typically defined as two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth. Recessions cause unemployment to rise sharply as businesses cut costs by reducing their workforce.</p>
<p>STRUCTURAL</p> <p>Structural unemployment occurs when workers' skills no longer match the jobs available due to technological change, globalization, or shifts in industry demand. Unlike cyclical unemployment, it persists even in a healthy economy because workers must retrain or transition to new f</p>	<p>FRictionAL</p> <p>Frictional unemployment is the short-term joblessness that occurs as workers voluntarily change jobs, enter the workforce for the first time, or transition between positions. It is a normal feature of a dynamic economy. Economists consider some frictional unemployment healthy bec</p>
<p>WAGE</p> <p>A wage is the payment workers receive for their labor, typically expressed as an hourly rate. Wages reflect supply and demand for workers across occupations and regions. Wage growth is a key indicator of economic health. The federal minimum wage in the US is \$7.25/hour, though ma</p>	<p>PARTICIPATION</p> <p>The labor force participation rate measures the percentage of the working-age population (16+) that is either employed or actively seeking work. It is broader than the unemployment rate because it captures people who have stopped looking for jobs — who are not counted as unemploy</p>
<p>CYCLICAL</p> <p>Cyclical unemployment is the rise in joblessness caused by economic downturns in the business cycle. When GDP contracts, businesses reduce production and lay off workers. During expansions, cyclical unemployment falls as demand grows. Government stimulus — rate cuts or fiscal spe</p>	<p>PAYROLL</p> <p>Payroll refers to the total compensation a company pays its employees, or the monthly count of jobs added or lost in the US economy. The Non-Farm Payroll (NFP) report — published on the first Friday of each month by the BLS — is one of the most closely watched economic indicators</p>