

Average weeks of unemployment and the unemployment rate, 1948-2004

	Unemployment rate	Average number of weeks unemployed
1948	3.8	8.6
1949	5.9	10.0
1950	5.3	12.1
1951	3.3	9.7
1952	3.0	8.4
1953	2.9	8.0
1954	5.5	11.8
1955	4.4	13.0
1956	4.1	11.3
1957	4.3	10.5
1958	6.8	13.9
1959	5.5	14.4
1960	5.5	12.8
1961	6.7	15.6
1962	5.5	14.7
1963	5.7	14.0
1964	5.2	13.3
1965	4.5	11.8
1966	3.8	10.4
1967	3.8	8.7
1968	3.6	8.4
1969	3.5	7.8
1970	4.9	8.6
1971	5.9	11.3
1972	5.6	12.0
1973	4.9	10.0
1974	5.6	9.8

1975	8.5	14.2
1976	7.7	15.8
1977	7.1	14.3
1978	6.1	11.9
1979	5.8	10.8
1980	7.1	11.9
1981	7.6	13.7
1982	9.7	15.6
1983	9.6	20.0
1984	7.5	18.2
1985	7.2	15.6
1986	7.0	15.0
1987	6.2	14.5
1988	5.5	13.5
1989	5.3	11.9
1990	5.6	12.0
1991	6.8	13.7
1992	7.5	17.7
1993	6.9	18.0
1994	6.1	18.8
1995	5.6	16.6
1996	5.4	16.7
1997	4.9	15.8
1998	4.5	14.5
1999	4.2	13.4
2000	4.0	12.6
2001	4.7	13.1
2002	5.8	16.6
2003	6.0	19.2
2004	5.5	19.6

Source: Authors' analysis from *The State of Working America 2004-05*, Figure 3K.