

Jobless increase is biggest among workers in older age groups

Compiled by Bill Pinkovitz, Center for Community and Economic Development, UW-Extension.

QUESTIONS? Contact Pinkovitz at bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu.

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It is not surprising that the unemployment rate declines according to age. In March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported a 14 percent unemployment rate for 20- to 24-year-olds.

Comparing that to the 6.6 percent rate reported for 45- to 54-year-olds, one might conclude that younger workers are bearing the brunt of the recession. However, both groups experienced significant increases in unemployment

Jobs
Week 2:
Unemployment
by age

during the past year. The number of unemployed 45- to 54-year-olds increased by 91.8 percent to 2.4 million while unemployment for 20- to 24-year-olds increased 50.3 percent to 2.1 million.

The following chart includes unemployment rates and the rate of increase over the past 12-month reporting period. Similar data by month is available at www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.nr0.htm.

Unemployment by age

Age	Unemployment rate	Percent increase in unemployed (08 to 09)	Total unemployed
16 to 19	21.7%	31.2%	1,427,000
20 to 24	14.0%	50.3%	2,128,000
25 to 34	9.0%	68.6%	2,984,000
35 to 44	7.2%	83.0%	2,447,000
45 to 54	6.6%	91.8%	2,401,000
55+	6.2%	89.2%	1,784,000

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table A-7