WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

September 2004

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Unemployment rates edge down as students and seasonal workers leave the labor force

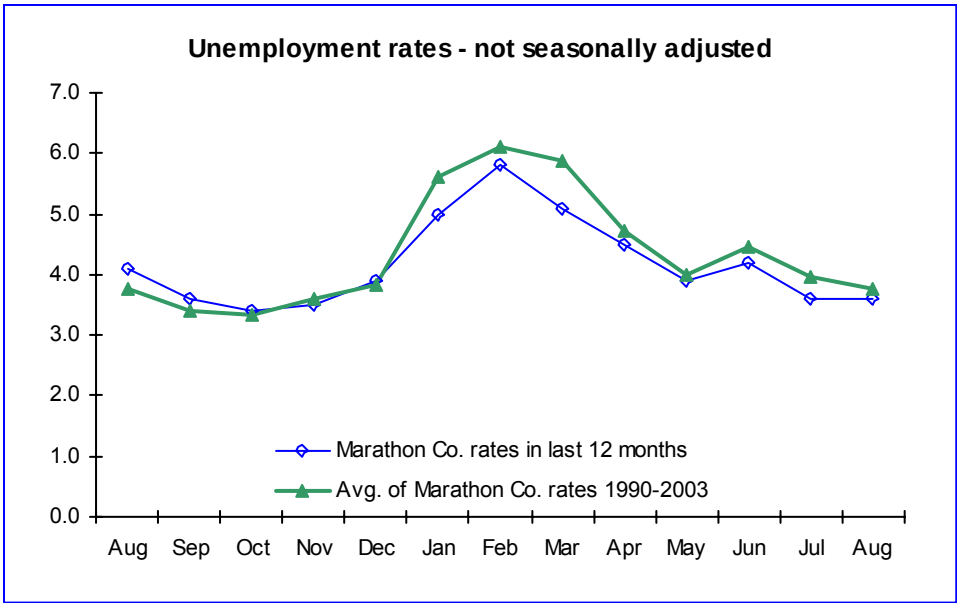
The unemployment rate in **Adams County**'s fell 0.4 percent, as it usually does in August, putting it 1.5 percent above the typical August level just as it had been 1.5 percent above the typical July level. After three months of hovering near or very slightly above year-ago levels, total nonfarm employment estimates returned to below-year-ago levels, as they had been from October through April. Retail & wholesale trade employment estimates poked above year-ago levels for the first time since January.

In **Forest County**, the unemployment rate declined more slowly than it usually does in August, but remained below the typical August level. Total nonfarm employment estimates remain below year-ago levels, as they have been for the last twelve months.

Langlade County's unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percent instead of holding steady as it typically does in August. June through August rates have been 0.9 percent to 1.2 percent above typical, which is more encouraging than September through March rates, which were 1.5 percent to 2.1 percent above typical. Information, professional, business & other services employment estimates are above year-ago levels largely because they did not dip as low this summer as last.

The unemployment rate in **Lincoln County** held steady instead of falling as it typically does in August and matched its typical August level (4.7%). Total nonfarm employment estimates are as far below year-ago levels as they have been since last August. The construction and manufacturing sectors are lagging year-ago levels and have not shown sustained signs of improvement.

Marathon County's unemployment rate held steady instead of falling as it typically does in August. Nonetheless, it remained below its typical August level. The increase in retail trade employment estimates mirrors last August's increase and leaves the estimate 600 jobs below the year-ago level, just as it was in June and July. Professional and business services employment estimates have shown modest but encouraging signs of improvement since March.



In **Oneida County**, the unemployment rate declined slightly instead of holding steady as it usually does in August, so the rate is slightly closer to typical than it was last month. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates have been stronger this summer than last, but how they weather the autumn months may be more important. Information, professional, business & other services employment estimates have hovered around year-ago levels for most of 2004, following last year's seasonal trends without much over-the-year growth.

Portage County's unemployment rate fell sharply in August and came closer to its typical level than it has been since January. Manufacturing employment estimates have been below year-ago levels for quite some time. From last August until this July, the gap between current and year-ago levels seemed to be shrinking, albeit unsteadily. August was the first month in the last year when this gap grew.

The unemployment rate in **Vilas County** held steady (3.8%) instead of falling as it typically does in August. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates remain below year-ago levels, but less so than at any time in the last twelve months. Education & health services employment estimates continue to follow last year's patterns at a higher level.

In **Wood County**, the unemployment rate fell sharply instead of rising as it usually does in August. This left the rate closer to its typical level than it has been in the last twelve months. For the first time since March, total nonfarm employment estimates are below year-ago levels. The July spike in education & health services employment estimates has faded. The estimates remain above year-ago levels, but less so than they had been over the last 12 months.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

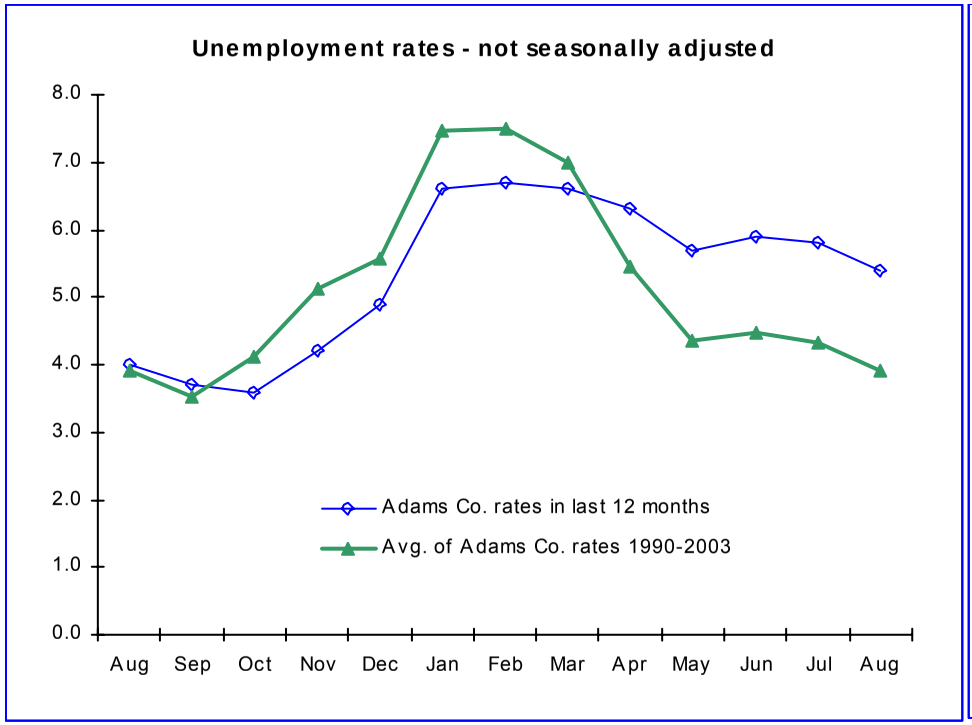
	Wisconsin			Adams			Forest			Langlade			Lincoln		
	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	2,851,300	4,700	46,500	4,100	-90	-20	3,400	-40	-90	3,500	-20	30	11,900	-80	-210
Const., min'g & nat. resources	142,100	-800	2,200	270	0	20	160	0	10	170	0	20	370	-40	-50
Manufacturing	524,500	2,500	10,800	460	0	10	330	10	-10	410	0	-40	3,500	-10	-160
Trade (w holesale & retail)	445,700	800	6,700	500	-20	10	320	0	0	690	10	20	1,760	-10	-20
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	106,400	800	200	130	0	-10	150	0	0	180	0	0	330	0	-10
Financial activities	161,900	-300	2,900	100	0	10	100	0	0	210	0	0	800	0	30
Education & health services	376,100	200	10,900	480	0	20	370	-10	10	310	10	30	960	10	0
Leisure & hospitality	274,000	1,700	4,800	650	-10	-30	260	0	-10	240	0	10	1,140	0	50
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	448,000	5,400	14,100	400	0	20	200	-10	-30	320	0	20	1,050	10	10
Government	372,600	-5,600	-6,100	1,100	-60	-70	1,510	-30	-60	960	-40	-40	2,000	-30	-50
Civilian Labor Force**	3,143,800	-32,200	21,200	8,800	-310	170	5,100	-90	-170	9,600	-180	-160	14,800	-250	-330
Employed	3,005,000	-23,600	47,100	8,300	-260	40	4,800	-70	-80	8,900	-160	-10	14,100	-240	-180
Unemployed	138,800	-8,600	-25,900	480	-50	130	240	-20	-80	680	-20	-150	690	-20	-150
Unemployment rate (%)	4.4	-0.2	-0.9	5.4	-0.4	1.4	4.8	-0.3	-1.4	7.0	-0.1	-1.5	4.7	0.0	-0.8

	Marathon			Oneida			Portage			Vilas			Wood		
	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Aug 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	70,600	100	400	19,000	-120	210	33,300	-100	160	9,100	140	-70	43,700	-370	-80
Const., min'g & nat. resources	3,000	0	0	1,430	0	60	1,230	-20	60	1,000	0	70	1,880	-10	20
Manufacturing	18,800	-100	500	1,350	-50	-110	5,500	-50	-220	430	0	-30	7,300	-60	-380
Trade (w holesale & retail)	13,800	200	-500	4,200	-20	70	5,200	100	140	1,520	-10	40	6,100	0	-180
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,800	0	0	410	10	-20	1,930	-30	20	100	0	0	3,200	-20	70
Financial activities	4,900	0	-100	560	0	0	4,000	-10	-30	410	0	40	1,210	0	50
Education & health services	7,200	0	100	3,100	-10	0	3,400	40	160	800	-20	40	11,200	-180	270
Leisure & hospitality	5,500	100	200	3,200	50	250	3,600	0	220	2,300	60	-20	3,100	10	170
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	7,700	100	200	2,500	-80	-10	4,000	30	60	650	-10	-40	5,000	70	90
Government	6,900	-200	0	2,300	-10	-20	4,500	-170	-240	1,850	120	-170	4,600	-190	-190
Civilian Labor Force**	78,900	-740	500	23,100	-200	0	39,900	-870	430	12,400	-100	50	41,700	-1,220	-90
Employed	76,100	-770	860	22,200	-160	140	38,100	-470	530	11,900	-90	80	39,500	-740	130
Unemployed	2,900	40	-360	950	-40	-140	1,840	-400	-100	470	-10	-30	2,200	-480	-220
Unemployment rate (%)	3.6	0.0	-0.5	4.1	-0.1	-0.6	4.6	-0.9	-0.3	3.8	0.0	-0.2	5.3	-0.9	-0.5

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us, or see http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi.


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
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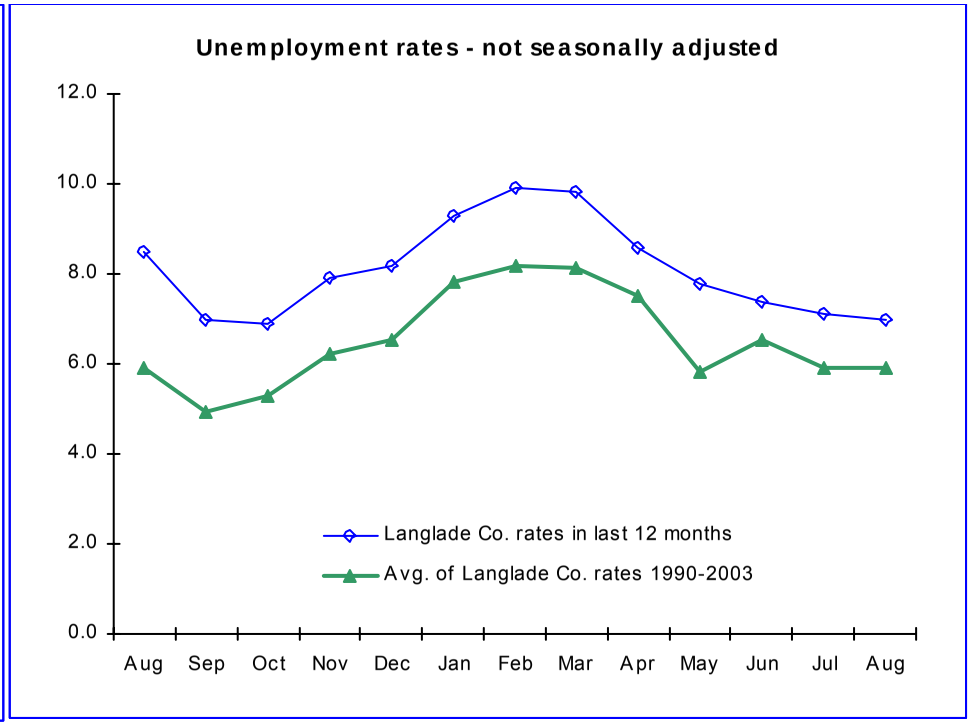
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Adams Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Adams Co. rates 1990-2003


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
12.0
10.0
8.0
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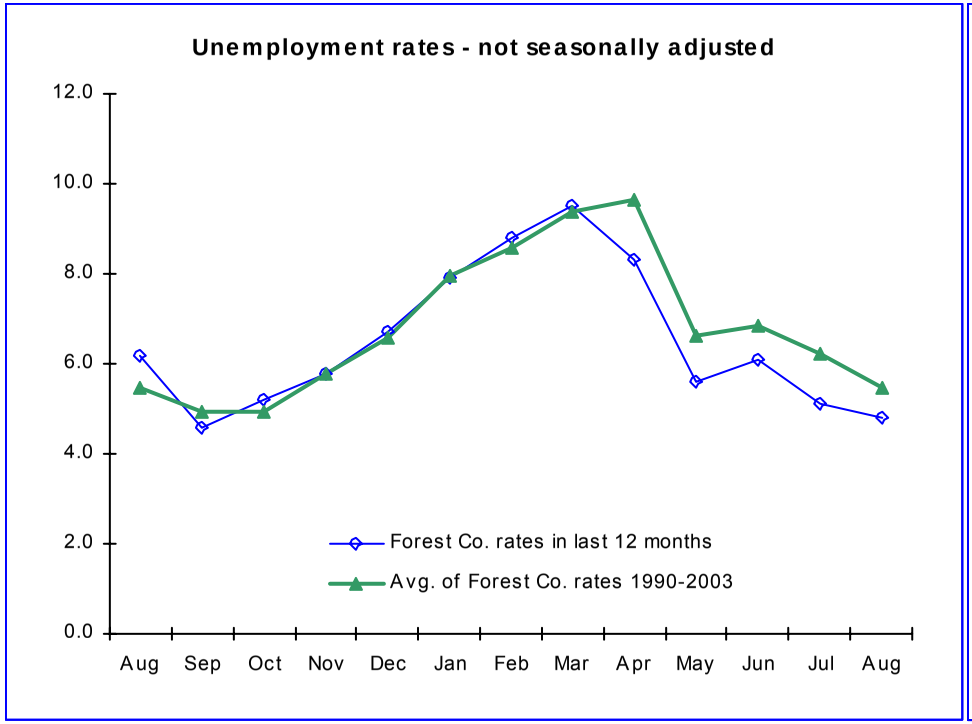
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Langlade Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Langlade Co. rates 1990-2003


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
12.0
10.0
8.0
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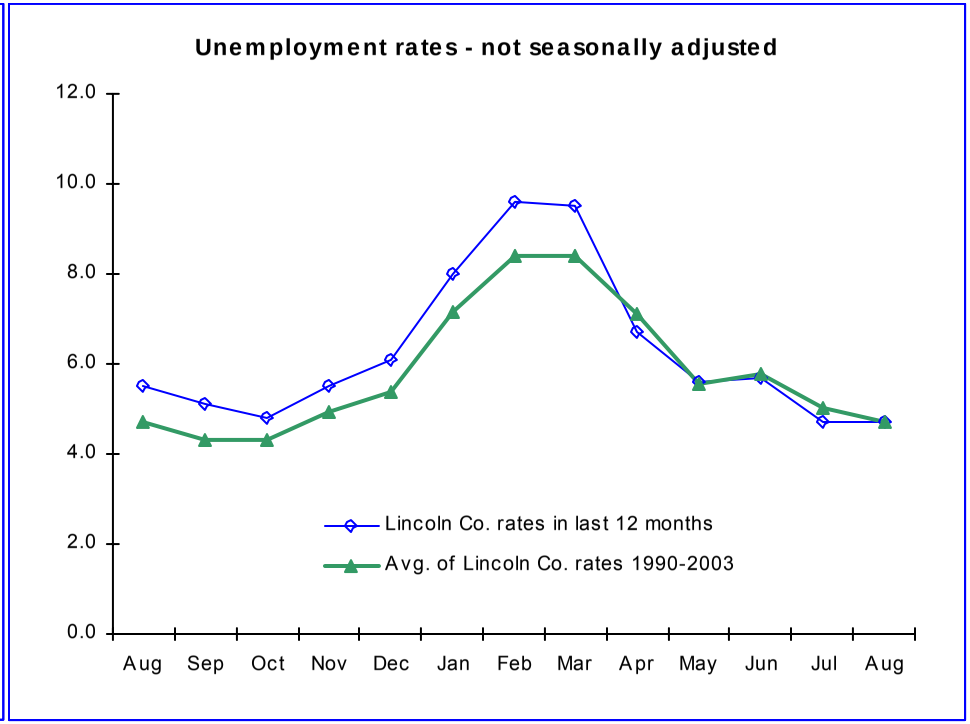
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Forest Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Forest Co. rates 1990-2003


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
12.0
10.0
8.0
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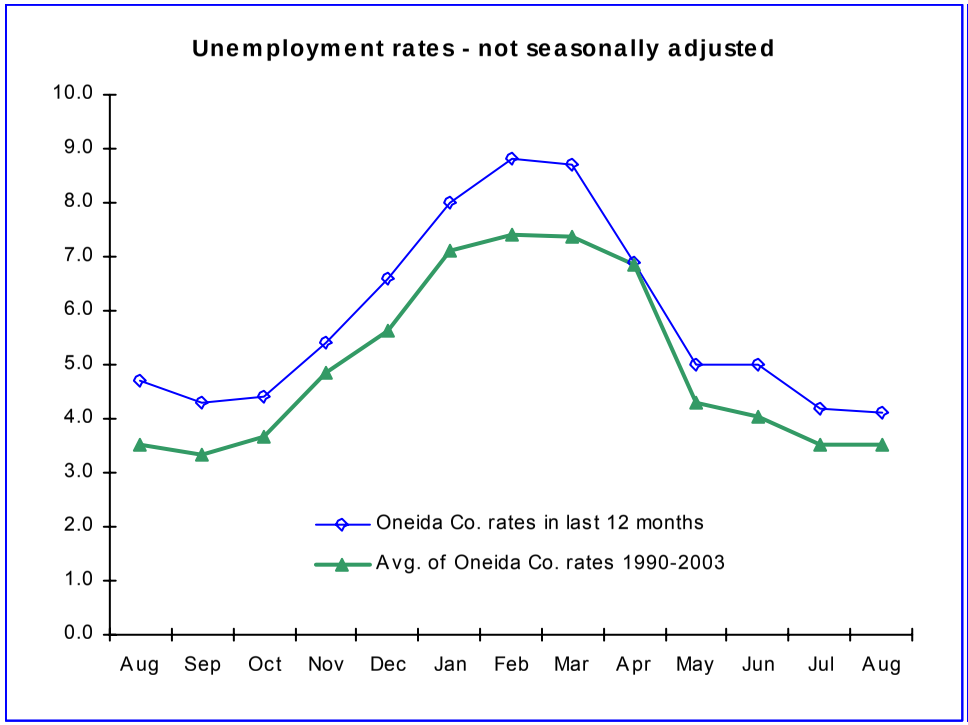
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Lincoln Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Lincoln Co. rates 1990-2003


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
10.0
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8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
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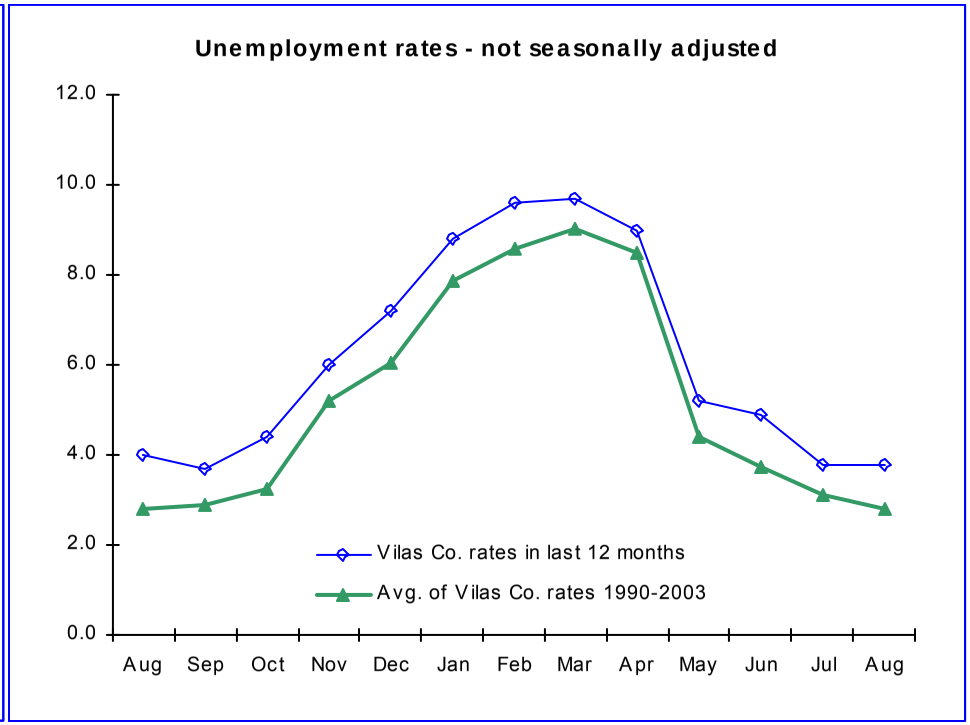
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Oneida Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Oneida Co. rates 1990-2003


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
12.0
10.0
8.0
6.0
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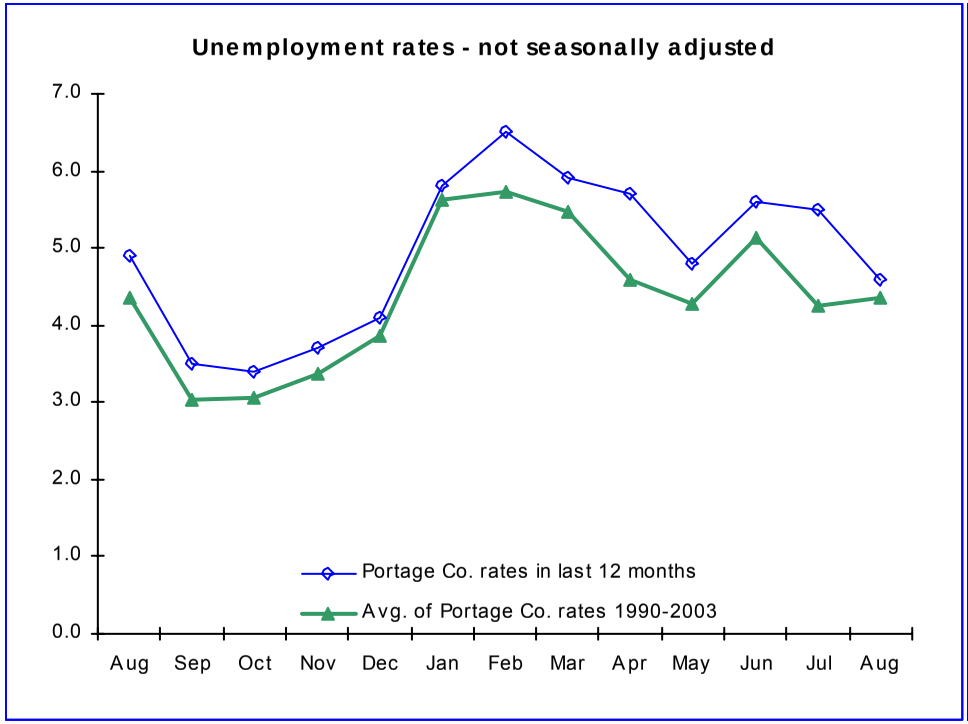
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Vilas Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Vilas Co. rates 1990-2003


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
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6.0
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4.0
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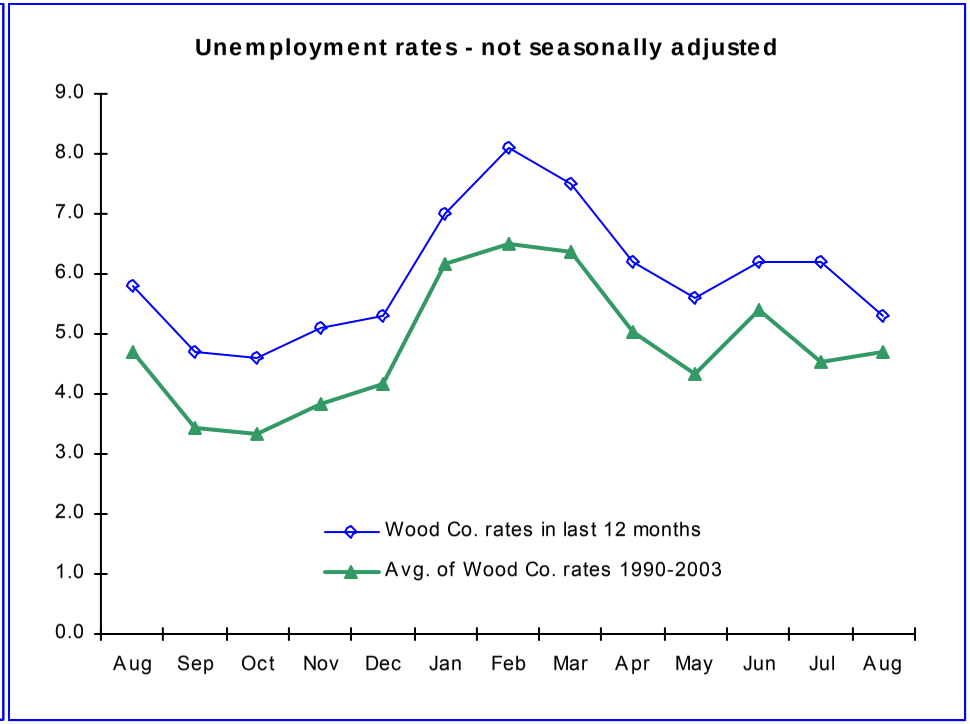
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Portage Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Portage Co. rates 1990-2003


Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0
2.0
1.0
0.0
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
Wood Co. rates in last 12 months
Avg. of Wood Co. rates 1990-2003