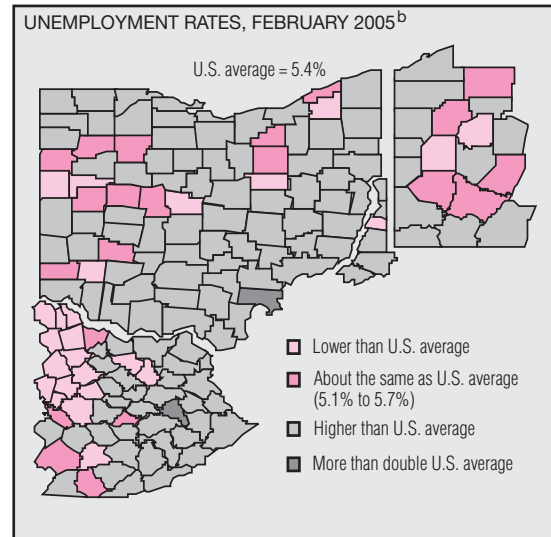
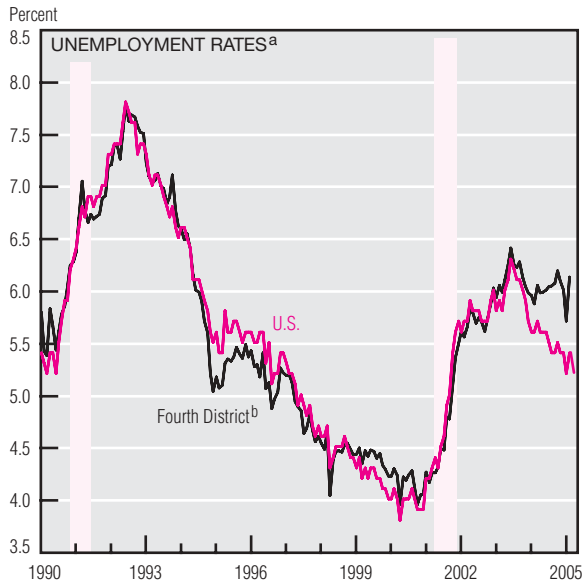


Fourth District Employment



Payroll Employment by MSA

	12-month percent change, March 2005							
	Cleveland	Columbus	Cincinnati	Dayton	Toledo	Pittsburgh	Lexington	U.S.
Total nonfarm	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.2	1.6
Goods-producing	2.4	-0.3	3.8	-4.1	-2.1	-2.5	1.5	1.4
Manufacturing	2.1	-1.6	3.7	-4.8	-4.2	-1.5	1.2	0.2
Natural resources, mining, and construction	3.5	2.4	4.0	n/a	5.6	-4.4	2.5	3.9
Service-providing	-0.5	0.6	-0.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	1.2	1.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	-2.1	-0.3	-1.8	-0.9	1.1	-0.4	0.5	1.1
Information	-0.5	0.0	3.8	-0.9	2.2	-2.9	-2.2	-0.3
Financial activities	0.1	0.3	-1.7	-3.7	-1.5	-1.3	-1.8	2.0
Professional and business services	1.8	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.2	3.3	7.9	3.7
Education and health services	1.0	1.7	0.2	0.8	0.0	1.8	-0.3	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	0.7	2.5	0.2	8.3	0.0	2.1	4.7	1.9
Other services	-1.4	0.3	-0.5	4.2	3.9	0.3	3.0	0.5
Government	-2.7	0.3	0.5	0.8	-0.6	-1.5	-2.5	0.8

a. Shaded bars indicate recessions.

b. Seasonally adjusted using the Census Bureau's X-11 procedure.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In February, the Fourth District's unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage point (pp) to 6.1%, double the U.S. increase of 0.2 pp from 5.2% to 5.4%. (March data show the U.S. unemployment rate falling back to 5.2%.) As a result, the gap in unemployment rates between the District and the U.S. widened in February. It began to widen at the end of 2003, grew widest near the end of 2004 and, after narrowing slightly, grew again to 0.7 pp in February, the highest level since at least 1990.

Differences between the District and U.S. are also clear in county

unemployment rates, particularly since new methods for estimating regional unemployment were implemented in January. In February, unemployment rates exceeded the U.S. average in about three-quarters of District counties, including those associated with almost every major population center in Ohio. However, unemployment rates in the counties where Pittsburgh, Wheeling, and Lexington are located were at or below the U.S. average.

Although payroll employment in many of the District's metropolitan areas rose during the 12-month period

ending in March, these gains generally did not keep pace with the nation's. Growth in the Lexington area was balanced between goods-producing and service-providing sectors during this period. By contrast, losses in goods-producing sectors in the Dayton, Toledo, and Pittsburgh areas were offset by growth in service-providing sectors, and large employment gains in Cleveland and Cincinnati goods-producing sectors offset weaker performance in service sectors.