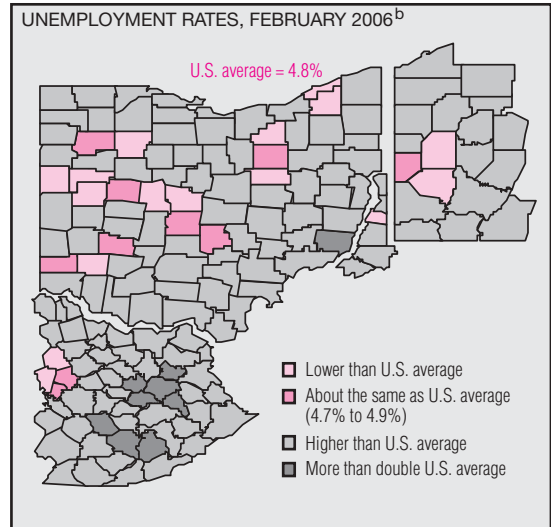
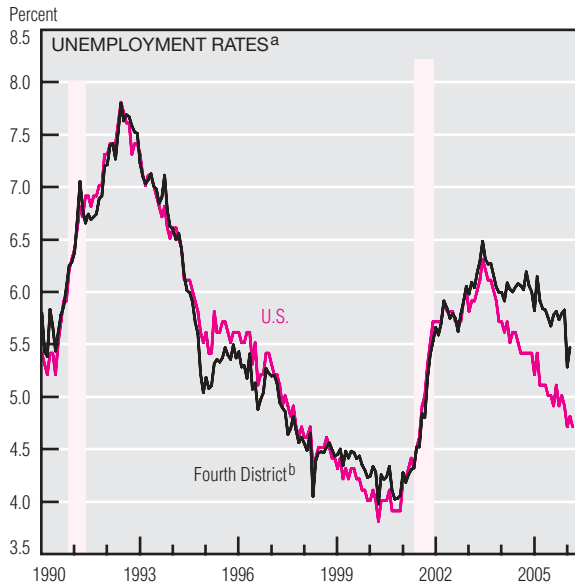


Fourth District Employment



	12-month percent change, March 2006							
	Cleveland	Columbus	Cincinnati	Dayton	Toledo	Pittsburgh	Lexington	U.S.
Total nonfarm	-0.1	0.9	1.2	-0.1	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.6
Goods-producing	-0.7	0.9	0.5	-0.3	-0.6	1.0	1.5	1.4
Manufacturing	-0.1	-0.6	0.0	-0.3	-1.0	-1.1	0.6	-0.4
Natural resources, mining, and construction	-3.4	4.1	1.8	0.0	0.7	5.2	4.2	4.7
Service-providing	0.0	0.9	1.3	-0.1	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	-1.4	0.2	-0.3	-1.7	0.2	0.8	4.0	1.1
Information	-2.6	0.5	-3.1	-0.9	-2.5	-4.3	2.2	0.3
Financial activities	-0.5	-0.1	2.0	-1.6	3.0	0.6	0.0	2.3
Professional and business services	1.4	2.1	3.0	1.9	1.5	0.4	2.7	2.8
Education and health services	1.1	1.4	2.6	0.5	2.9	2.1	1.0	2.3
Leisure and hospitality	2.0	1.8	2.9	1.9	1.9	6.5	2.1	2.3
Other services	-0.9	1.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.0	0.2
Government	-1.0	0.1	0.2	-1.2	-0.2	-0.8	0.0	0.7
February unemployment rate (percent)	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.5	6.3	4.9	5.0	4.8

a. Shaded bars represent recessions.

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

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

The Fourth District's unemployment rate in February was 5.5%, up from 5.3% a month earlier. This reflects a 3.6% rise in unemployment, a 0.2% fall in the number employed, and virtually no change in the size of the labor force. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 4.8% in February, falling to 4.7% in March.

Unemployment rates among the District's counties generally exceeded the U.S. average in February. Kentucky's rates were particularly high: Eight of the state's 56 District counties

posted rates that were more than double the national average, but only four counties had rates that were close to this average or lower. Among the District's major metropolitan areas, Toledo experienced the highest unemployment rate (6.3%), but this was an improvement on the previous few months. Rates in most of the District's major metropolitan areas were close to the national average, but none were below it.

Employment growth has varied significantly among the District's metropolitan areas: Whereas Cleveland and

Dayton lost employment in the 12 months ending in March, growth in Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Lexington was similar to the nation's. In fact, none of Lexington's industries posted job losses for the year. Cleveland, on the other hand, saw its goods producers continuing to struggle during the year, losing jobs in the natural resources, mining, and construction sector—which meanwhile was growing rapidly in the District's other metropolitan areas—and in manufacturing.