

There's still **WORK** to be done

You might not have known, but the Cleveland Fed helps facilitate workforce development in the region it serves. It's evident such efforts are still needed, even years after the recession.

Recent data make it clear: Things have improved in the workforce, but we're not out of the woods yet.

Average duration of unemployment (in weeks)¹

The average time someone is out of work in the United States reached a five-year low in 2014. But that lower average duration of unemployment—31 weeks—was still roughly 50% higher than the 21 weeks it was a decade ago.

Year	US	OH	KY	PA	WV
2004	21	18	15	18	14
2006	18	17	14	20	22
2008	17	18	20	15	16
2010	32	35	29	30	24
2012	35	34	23	32	26
2014	31	32	29	25	37

22%

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED THAT IS LONG-TERM
US: 2004

34%

PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED THAT IS LONG-TERM
US: 2014

Percentage of unemployed that is long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more)¹

The percentage of unemployed who fell into the long-term unemployed category was higher in 3 of the 4 states served by the Cleveland Fed* than it was nationally in 2014. In Kentucky and West Virginia, it was roughly 40 percent.

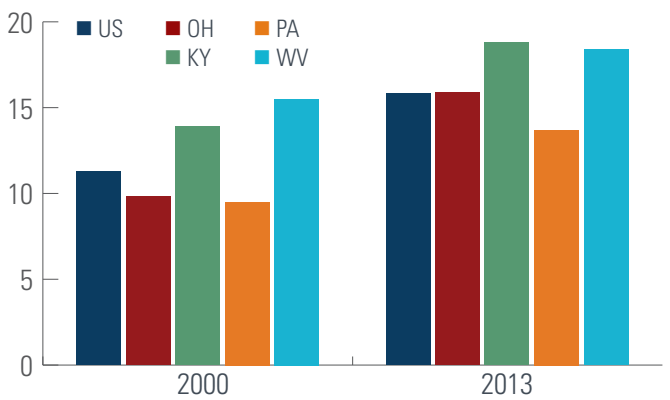
Percentage of unemployed that was long-term unemployed in 2014:



Workforce development efforts help ensure that those who want to work have the skills they need. They also help connect employers with quality workers. Ultimately, a successful workforce development system can help to lower poverty.

Poverty rates in all 4 of the states in the Fourth Federal Reserve District* rose between 2000 and 2013. The same is true for every state in the country. The smallest increase nationwide was 0.5 percentage points (WY), and the greatest, 7.3 percentage points (MI).

Poverty rates for all individuals²



Top 5 greatest increases in poverty rate, by county²

54% OF THE 169 COUNTIES IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT* EXPERIENCED POVERTY-RATE INCREASES OF 5 PERCENTAGE POINTS OR MORE

	2000	2013	% point change
Martin County, KY	29	41	12
Athens County, OH	19	31	12
McCreary County, KY	30	41	11
Forest County, PA	14	25	11
Clay County, KY	32	43	11

Read 10 reasons why the Federal Reserve is committed to workforce development in *Forefront* magazine's "Focused on the Workforce . . . But Why?": tinyurl.com/kg8x5qb

*The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland serves the Fourth Federal Reserve District, which comprises Ohio, western Pennsylvania, the northern panhandle of West Virginia, and eastern Kentucky.

Sources: ¹Current Population Survey; ²US Census Bureau