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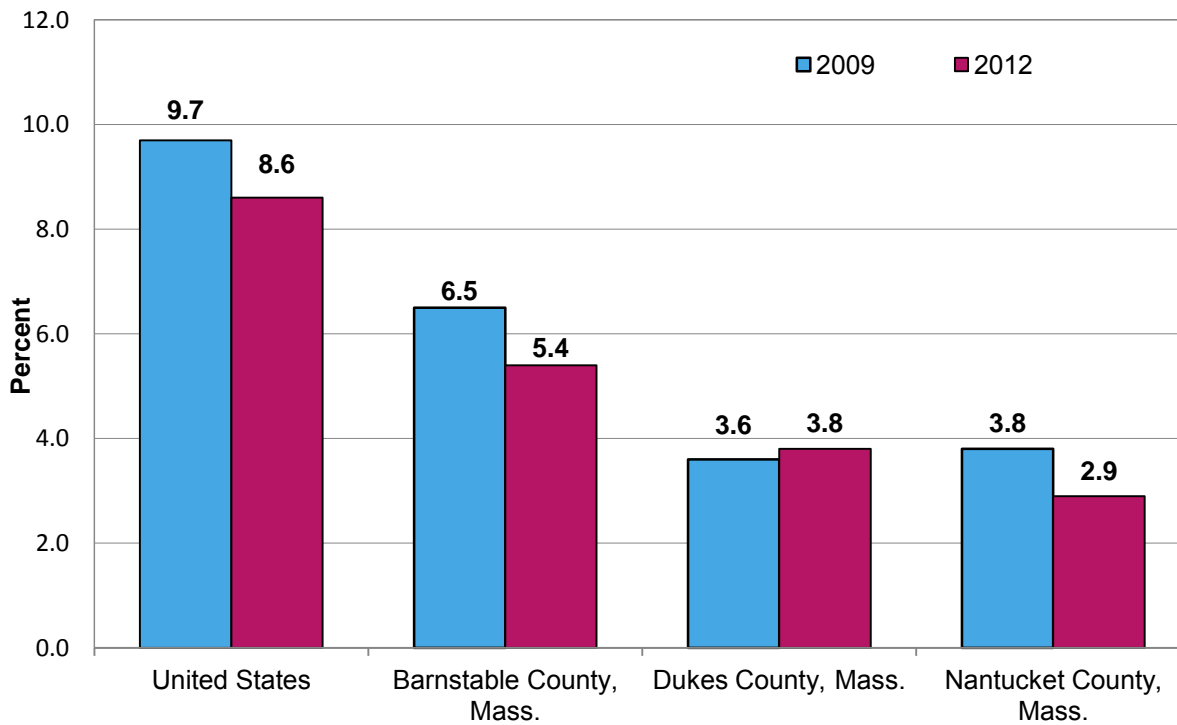
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UNEMPLOYMENT ON CAPE COD AND THE ISLANDS – JULY 2012

Summertime Unemployment Rates Fall for Second Consecutive Year

In July, Barnstable County, Mass., reported the highest unemployment rate among the three counties that make up Cape Cod and the Islands, at 5.4 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See chart 1.) Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that Barnstable's jobless rate was below the national average of 8.6 percent. In addition to Barnstable County (Cape Cod), both Dukes (Martha's Vineyard) and Nantucket Counties, Mass., had rates below that for the United States, at 3.8 and 2.9 percent, respectively. (See chart 1. The Technical Note at the end of this release contains county definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties on Cape Cod and the Islands, July 2009 and July 2012, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket Counties all had unemployment rates that were lower in July 2012 than one year earlier. Of the three counties, Barnstable posted the largest over-the-year decrease at 1.0 percentage point. The national unemployment rate fell 0.7 percentage point over this same time period.

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties on Cape Cod and the Islands, not seasonally adjusted

Area	July 2009 ¹	Unemployment rates			Net change from		
		July 2010 ²	July 2011 ²	July 2012 ³	July 2009 to July 2010	July 2010 to July 2011	July 2011 to July 2012 ³
United States.....	9.7	9.7	9.3	8.6	0.0	-0.4	-0.7
Barnstable County, Mass.....	6.5	6.8	6.4	5.4	0.3	-0.4	-1.0
Dukes County, Mass.....	3.6	4.5	4.2	3.8	0.9	-0.3	-0.4
Nantucket County, Mass.....	3.8	3.8	3.4	2.9	0.0	-0.4	-0.5

¹ Reflects controlling to new statewide totals.

² Reflects revised inputs, reestimation, and controlling to new statewide totals.

³ Preliminary.

The jobless rates for Cape Cod and Nantucket in July 2012 were 1.1 and 0.9 percentage points below their 2009 levels, respectively. Conversely, Dukes County had a jobless rate higher than that reported three years ago, up 0.2 percentage point. (See table A and chart 1.) Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased 1.1 percentage points over this three-year period.

Technical Notes

This release presents unemployment rate data for counties from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Method of estimation. Estimates for the substate areas in this release are prepared through indirect estimation procedures using a building-block approach. Employment estimates, which are based largely on "place of work" estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, are adjusted to refer to place of residence as used in the CPS. Unemployment estimates are aggregates of persons previously employed in industries covered by state unemployment insurance (UI) laws and entrants to the labor force data from the CPS. The substate estimates of employment and unemployment, which

geographically exhaust the entire state, are adjusted proportionally to ensure that they add to the independently estimated state or balance-of-state totals. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year, usually implemented with January estimates. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation.

Area definitions: The Cape Cod and the Islands area includes:

Barnstable County which consists of the towns of Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet, and Yarmouth.

Dukes County which consists of the towns of Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, and West Tisbury.

Nantucket County which consists of the town of Nantucket.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.