

## **Answer on Question #39878 – Economics - Macroeconomics**

### **Assignment**

What is the current unemployment rate? Why has it changed over the last 3 to 4 years?

### **Solution**

An unemployed person is defined by Eurostat, according to the guidelines of the International Labour Organization, as someone aged 15 to 74 without work during the reference week who is available to start work within the next two weeks and who has actively sought employment at some time during the last four weeks. The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

According to the Bureau of Labour unemployment rate in February was 6.7%.

Unemployment rate in year 2013 was 7.4% (average for a year):

<b>Year</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Annual (average)</b>
<b>2004</b>	5,7	5,6	5,8	5,6	5,6	5,6	5,5	5,4	5,4	5,5	5,4	5,4	5,5
<b>2005</b>	5,3	5,4	5,2	5,2	5,1	5,0	5,0	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,0	4,9	5,1
<b>2006</b>	4,7	4,8	4,7	4,7	4,6	4,6	4,7	4,7	4,5	4,4	4,5	4,4	4,6
<b>2007</b>	4,6	4,5	4,4	4,5	4,4	4,6	4,7	4,6	4,7	4,7	4,7	5,0	4,6
<b>2008</b>	5,0	4,9	5,1	5,0	5,4	5,6	5,8	6,1	6,1	6,5	6,8	7,3	5,8
<b>2009</b>	7,8	8,3	8,7	9,0	9,4	9,5	9,5	9,6	9,8	10,0	9,9	9,9	9,3
<b>2010</b>	9,7	9,8	9,9	9,9	9,6	9,4	9,5	9,5	9,5	9,5	9,8	9,4	9,6
<b>2011</b>	9,1	9,0	9,0	9,1	9,0	9,1	9,0	9,0	9,0	8,8	8,6	8,5	8,9
<b>2012</b>	8,2	8,3	8,2	8,2	8,2	8,2	8,2	8,1	7,8	7,8	7,8	7,9	8,1
<b>2013</b>	7,9	7,7	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,5	7,3	7,2	7,2	7,2	7,0	6,7	7,4
<b>2014</b>	6,6	6,7											

According to the data in the table we see that during last 3-4 years the unemployment rate was decreasing from 9.3% in 2009 to 7.4% in year 2013: unemployment rate decrease by 1.9%.