

**In-class Exercise: Measuring Employment**

**Directions:** Work in groups of up to four people and answer the following questions. All papers will be collected, but only one member's paper will be randomly selected and graded and all members of the group will receive the same grade.

By signing below, you agree that the following work represents the efforts of everyone in the group, and you are willing to accept as your own grade for the group project the grade earned from this representation of your group's work. Every member must agree to these terms to earn a non-zero grade for this assignment.

_____ Signature Group Member 1	_____ Print Name	_____ Date
_____ Signature Group Member 2	_____ Print Name	_____ Date
_____ Signature Group Member 3	_____ Print Name	_____ Date
_____ Signature Group Member 4	_____ Print Name	_____ Date



5. According to the BLS news release, what is the definition of a **long-term unemployed** person? How many people were long-term unemployed in January 2015? What percentage of the total unemployed persons are in this category?
  
6. What is the definition of a **discouraged worker**? How many discouraged workers were there in January 2015? How does this compare to one year before?
  
7. According to the BLS news release, what is the definition of working **part time for economic reasons**? How many workers were part time for economic reasons in January 2015? What percentage of the labor force is this?
  
8. According to the BLS news release, how many workers were voluntarily part time in January 2015 (part time for non-economic reasons)? What percentage of the labor force is voluntarily part time?

9. Suppose the “workforce” (this is a term I am making up for this assignment) is defined as the labor force plus discouraged workers. For September 2014, calculate the size of the workforce, and compute what percentage of the workforce are either unemployed, under-employed for economic reasons, or are discouraged workers (report a single statistic to answer this question).
  
10. How does your answer above compare to the unemployment rate? Which do you think is a better measure for the health of the labor market?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. According to Table A, which racial group suffers the highest level of unemployment? What was this unemployment rate in January 2015? Which racial group has the lowest level of unemployment? What was this unemployment rate in January 2015?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Table A-4 reports unemployment numbers by educational attainment. Are there differences in unemployment rates depending on the amount of education one has? If so, what education group has the highest unemployment rate? What was this unemployment rate in 2015? What educational group has the lowest unemployment rate? What was this unemployment rate in 2015?

13. According to Table A-4, are there differences in labor force participation rates depending on the amount of education one has? If so, what education group has the highest labor force participation rate? What was it in 2015? What educational group has the lowest labor force participation rate? What was it in 2015?
  
14. Table A-10 reports unemployment rates by age groups. For adults 18 and over, what age group has the highest level of unemployment? What was it in January 2015? What age group has the lowest unemployment rate? What was it in January 2015?
  
15. According to Table A-13, what two occupations experience the highest unemployment rates? What were these in 2015? What two occupations experience the lowest unemployment rates? What were these in 2015? In what field listed here do you most expect to be working in the future?