



Unemployment speaks louder than words

[Fadhel Kaboub](#) Oct . 13 . 2003

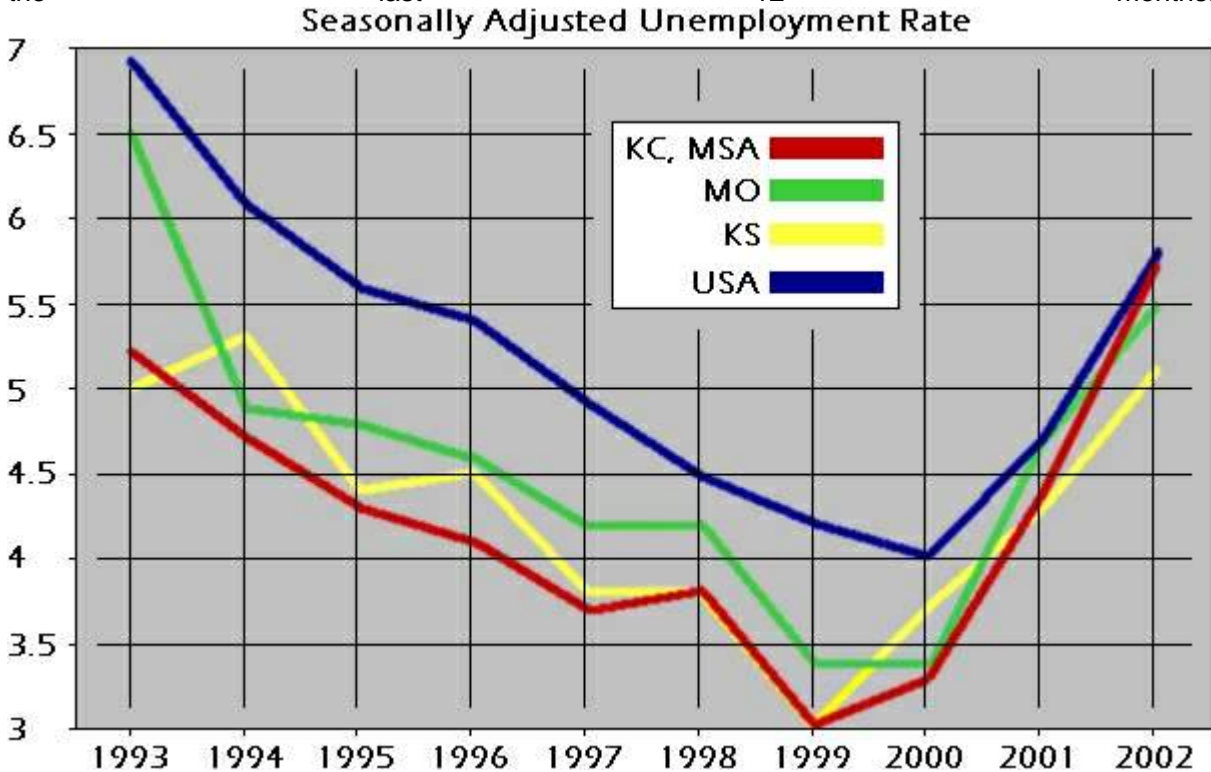
Unemployment rate has been on the rise over the last 12 months, reaching 6.1% in Sept. 2003 compared to the 5.6% in Sept. 2002.

Bad economic expectations have continued to dominate the US economy regardless of what some optimistic analysts continue to spread throughout the mainstream press.

The 6.1% official unemployment rate published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), translates into 8.9 million unemployed people. This number does not include the 1.7 million people that were actively seeking work during the last 12 months prior to Sept. 2003 because they either thought no jobs were available for them, or because of school or family responsibilities.

In Sept. 2003, teenagers had the highest unemployment rate (16.6%), followed by Blacks (10.9%), Hispanics or Latinos (7.8%), then Asians (5.9%), and Whites (5.4%).

The unemployment rate for adult women was only 5.2%, whereas adult men reached 5.8%. This is mainly due to the fact that more women than men have dropped out of the labor force during the last 12 months.



The unemployment situation in Kansas City (MSA) has been consistently better than the national as well as the KS and MO level over the last 10 years. Over the same time period, unemployment in the State of Missouri was below the national average but above that of the State of Kansas.

The current economic outlook suggests that the promised recovery is far from being close, despite the the Bush tax cut and the Fed's low-interest rates monetary policy.

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