

Types of Unemployment Chart

For the Audio version of this file click on this link:
Unemployment Chart Audio

Type of Unemployment	Description	Cause
STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT	Unemployment that occurs when there is a mismatch of jobs and the skills, experience, education or location of potential employees.	 Changes in Technology When the automobile started becoming popular, there was no longer a demand for buggy- whips. Buggy-whip manufacturers closed down, people lost their jobs, and no one was hiring anyone with their skills. Changes in Tastes If accordions become unpopular, companies that build them will close down and their former workers will be unemployed, but no one will be hiring accordion builders, so they will have to learn more skills
FRICTIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT	Unemployment that occurs with the normal workings of the economy, such as workers taking time to search for suitable jobs and firms taking time to search for qualified workers. This type if unemployment is voluntary and it merely reflects transitions between jobs.	 Sources of frictional unemployment include: People entering the workforce from school People re-entering the workforce after raising children People changing employers because of quitting People changing careers because of changing interests People moving to a new city (for non- structural reasons) and being unemployed when they arrive

CYCLICAL UNEMPLOYMENT	Unemployment that occurs during fluctuations in real GDP	Cyclical unemployment occurs when the unemployment rate moves in the opposite direction of the real GDP growth rate. • Getting laid off because of a recession is the classic case of cyclical unemployment
SEASONAL UNEMPLOYMENT	Periodic unemployment caused by seasonal variations in particular markets	This is actually a type of Structural Unemployment but here are some examples: Someone who plays a 'Santa Claus' will not be able to find such a job in July. A drawbridge operator in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is out of work in the winter because the water is frozen.
NATURAL UNEMPLOYMENT OR FULL-EMPLOYMENT	The level of unemployment at which there is no cyclical unemployment	There will always exist a certain amount of Structural Unemployment and Frictional Unemployment