

# Unemployment—occupation makes a difference

*Dave Gower*

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Unemployment is a major social and economic problem faced by many nations, including Canada. During the 1980s, the number of Canadians available for and seeking work, but unable to find jobs, seldom dropped below one million.

However, the burden of unemployment is not equally shared. For example, unemployment rates are higher for the young than for those aged 25 and over. And certain regions, particularly the Atlantic provinces and the Gulf of St. Lawrence area of Quebec, persistently experience higher than average unemployment. [\(1\)](#)

As well, unemployment rates vary widely by occupation. Even with the economy at its cyclical peak in 1989, some occupations had high unemployment rates. In contrast, other occupations maintained low unemployment rates even as the recession deepened in late 1990. This study focuses on the unequal distribution of unemployment among occupations.

Occupation data have been available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to the "3-digit" level (about 80 groups) for some time. While such a limited number of classes cannot show the full range of diversity in the economy, [\(2\)](#) they do show the basic picture of the occupational differences in unemployment rates. Because many of the 3-digit groups are too small for the LFS to measure accurately, some of them have been clustered together, producing 47 groups in all (see [Appendix](#)).

## Quartiles

One way to show the range of unemployment rates, and to give an idea of the rates encountered by various parts of the occupation spectrum, is to cluster the 47 occupations into quartiles based on their unemployment rates. [\(3\)](#)

The first quartile contains the quarter of the labour force in the lowest unemployment-rate occupations, while the fourth quartile consists of the occupations with the highest rates. The ranking is based on 1989 annual averages, because that year approximated the economic "peak" of the period of growth following the recession of the early 1980s. Because all comparisons are made using the same ranking, the occupations in the quartiles are always the same and the quartile values can therefore be compared over time.

Not surprisingly, the first quartile contains mostly professional and technical occupations, while the fourth quartile is occupied largely by manual workers. Clerical, sales and various kinds of skilled and semi-skilled manual workers are scattered throughout the two middle quartiles ([Table 1](#)).



## Table 1 Annual average unemployment rates, by quartiles of occupations ranked by 1989 rate

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

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## The picture at the end of the decade

Unemployment is unevenly spread among the quartiles. In 1989, first quartile occupations had an average unemployment rate of only 3.2%, much less than half the national average. Even the third quartile rate of 7.2% was just under the national average. Only the fourth quartile, averaging 14.0%, had rates well above the national. In other words, the distribution of unemployment is highly skewed.

While unemployment rates in particular occupations changed over the 1985 to 1990 period, the relative ranking showed remarkably little variation. ([4](#))

The degree of inequality in the distribution of unemployment in 1989 is clearly illustrated: the quarter of the labour force with the worst unemployment situation (quartile 4) had nearly one-half the national unemployment (465,000 out of 1.02 million). At the other extreme, the best-off quarter (quartile 1) had about one-tenth of total unemployment (107,000).



## Chart Unemployment rates by occupation quartiles, 1989.

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

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Some unemployment results from routine turnover in the labour market, rather than a shortage of jobs. As unemployment approaches this minimum level, the economy is considered by many observers to be approaching full employment. Any unemployment remaining is frequently referred to as "frictional unemployment".

In 1989, the annual average unemployment rate for first quartile occupations was 3.2% (in the third quarter of that year it dropped to 2.9%). Such a low rate is likely to be close to the frictional minimum. Yet even while this was happening, unemployment rates for the worst-off quarter of the labour force remained around 14%.

This illustrates the difficulty that Canada had in getting unemployment below one million in the 1980s. As this number (representing an unemployment rate of about 7.5%) was approached, the labour market for particular types of workers started to become tight. Indeed, by the late 1980s, "help-wanted" window signs were becoming common in some locations.

## More seasonality in high-unemployment occupations

Fourth quartile occupations have greater seasonal movement than other occupations. Conversely, first quartile occupations have relatively little.

During a normal year, unemployment rates can be expected to drop between winter and summer. The difference between the highest and lowest quarterly unemployment rates, divided by the annual average unemployment rate, produces a measure of seasonal variation. Averaged over the six years 1985-1990, the values for the four quartiles were: 0.15, 0.21, 0.21, and 0.33.

Not only did fourth quartile occupations suffer the highest annual average unemployment rates, they also bore a disproportionate share of seasonal unemployment.

## Low unemployment occupations expanded more quickly

Between 1985 and 1988, unemployment declined in all quartiles ([Table 2](#)). However, the detailed picture is a little more complex.



### Table 2 Summary of trends in occupational quartiles

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

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Employment growth was fastest in the first quartile. For example, between 1987 and 1988, first quartile employment grew at twice the rate of the other quartiles (5.2% versus 2.5% to 2.6%).

If first quartile employment grew so quickly in 1988, why didn't unemployment decline faster in this quartile than in the others? The answer lies in the labour force figures (the labour force is the sum of the employed and the unemployed). People entered first quartile occupations at a much faster rate than other quartile occupations.



## Chart Quarterly unemployment rates by occupation quartiles.

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

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For example, between 1987 and 1988, the first quartile labour force grew 4.7% compared with 0.0% to 1.8% for the other three quartiles. This inflow kept first quartile unemployment rates from going even lower.

This movement reflects the steady upgrading of skills occurring in the Canadian labour market, since first quartile occupations tend to require above-average qualifications.

The growth in first quartile employment paused between 1988 and 1989, before resuming in 1990. This pause may have been a symptom of labour shortages in 1989.

## The impact of the recession - a closer look

The recession did not really begin to affect the Canadian labour market until mid-1990. [\(5\)](#) For this reason, annual average numbers are not the best indicators of the recession's impact. In order to better measure the effect of the recession on the various occupation groupings, data for the "winter-spring" of 1990-91 (loosely defined as the fourth quarter of 1990 and the first two quarters of 1991) were compared with the same period one year earlier. This year-over-year comparison also helps to remove the impact of seasonal factors.



### Table 3 Occupational groups with the greatest rise (more than four percentage points) in unemployment rates between the "winter-spring" periods of 1989-90 and 1990-91

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

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The occupations with the sharpest increases in unemployment rates came predominately from the third and fourth quartiles. These are "blue-collar" occupations, that is, involving manual work. Some are low-skilled but others, such as electrical construction workers, contain a higher proportion of skilled workers.

The fastest percentage growth in unemployment was in second quartile occupations, at 44% ([Table 4](#)). However, the quartile with the next fastest unemployment growth was the first quartile, at 37%. This was considerably faster than the unemployment rise in the fourth quartile (28%). Does this mean that the recession hit first quartile occupations as hard as higher-unemployment groups?

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### Table 4 Impact of the recession on occupations

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

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On closer examination, the answer seems to be "not really." Employment in first quartile occupations rose by a healthy 6% between the two nine-month periods, compared with an employment drop of 1.7% overall and a substantial 6.7% decline among fourth quartile occupations.

Which occupation groups participated in the rise in first quartile employment during the recession? The fastest increases were in the social sciences, mathematics and related, nursing, architecture/engineering, other sales, management, and occupations related to management (such as accountants and auditors).

If employment grew so well in the first quartile, why did unemployment go up? And furthermore, since employment dropped so much in the fourth quartile, why didn't unemployment soar even higher in this quartile as the recession took hold?

Flows of people more than compensated for the different employment trends. The third and fourth quartiles suffered net losses in their labour forces (-1.3% and -1.6%). In contrast, the first quartile continued to attract labour force participants (7%), just as it did between 1985 and 1988.

It is not possible to tell from the available data exactly what underlies these differences. Some people may have switched occupations. However, it seems unlikely that many people who previously worked in

fourth quartile jobs could qualify for the skilled occupations in the first quartile. Other sources of new entrants into the first quartile may have been new graduates, immigrants, or women returning to the labour force.

## Conclusion

Unemployment is far from evenly distributed - it is concentrated among a minority of occupations. Over the few years of available detailed data, these differences persisted as the economic growth of the 1980s came to an end. As well, workers in the highest unemployment rate occupations had the heaviest seasonal unemployment.

By 1989, the peak of the 1980s growth period, unemployment rates for some types of workers had dropped to very low levels, even though one million Canadians remained unemployed.

The recession that began in mid-1990 hit manual (blue-collar) occupations the hardest. Some occupations, particularly ones requiring high levels of education, continued to experience job growth even after the recession was in full swing. In most other occupations, however, employment dropped.

Flows of people compensated for these employment differences to some degree, so that unemployment increased in the best-off occupations in spite of the employment growth.

Perennially high unemployment rates in certain occupations help to explain why, over the period observed in this report, national unemployment did not drop below one million regardless of the level of general economic prosperity. And, for the individual, one's line of work had a big impact on the chances of being out of a job, particularly during a recession.

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## Notes

### *Note 1*

See [D. Gower](#) (Summer 1989).

### *Note 2*

Experimentation with special clusterings of more detailed classes (4-digit) has produced unemployment rates which have a moderately greater spread than the 3-digit groupings used in this paper. The overall patterns are similar, however.

### Note 3

The procedure used was as follows. First, the 47 occupation groups were ranked from lowest to highest unemployment rate. Then they were split into four groups so as to have one-quarter of the labour force in each quartile. Because the occupation groups have a finite size, the boundaries of the quartiles do not fall exactly at the one-quarter, one-half and three-quarter points of the labour force distribution. Therefore, the labour force sizes of the quartiles are not exactly equal.

### Note 4

The Spearman rank correlation coefficient between the 1985 and 1990 annual average unemployment rates for the 47 occupations, for example, was 0.938.

### Note 5

Although national unemployment did not start to rise until the third quarter, other economic indicators (for example, industrial production) showed signs of weakness some months earlier.

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# Appendix

The 47 occupational groupings used in this study are aggregations of three-digit code occupations found in the 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). The following list shows the three-digit occupations contained in each grouping.

**Management:** officials and administrators unique to government (SOC 111); other managers and administrators (SOC 113/114)

**Management related:** occupations related to management and administration (SOC 117)

**Natural sciences:** occupations in physical sciences (SOC 211); occupations in life sciences (SOC 213)

**Architecture/engineering:** architects, engineers and community planners (SOC 214/215)

**Architecture/engineering support:** other occupations in architecture and engineering (SOC 216)

**Mathematics and related:** occupations in mathematics, statistics, systems analysis and related fields (SOC 218)

**Social work:** occupations in social work and related fields (SOC 233)

**Social sciences:** occupations in social sciences (SOC 231); occupations in law and jurisprudence (SOC 234); occupations in library, museum and archival sciences (SOC 235); other occupations in social sciences and related fields (SOC 239); occupations in religion (SOC 251)

**Teaching:** university teaching and related occupations (SOC 271); elementary and secondary school teaching and related occupations (SOC 273); other teaching and related occupations (SOC 279)

**Health diagnosing/treating:** health diagnosing and treating occupations (SOC 311)

**Nursing:** nursing, therapy and related assisting occupations (SOC 313)

**Other medical:** other occupations in medicine and health (SOC 315/316)

**Arts/writing:** occupations in fine and commercial art, photography and related fields (SOC 331); occupations in performing and audio-visual arts (SOC 333); occupations in writing (SOC 335)

**Sports/recreation:** occupations in sports and recreation (SOC 336/337)



**Stenography/typing:** stenographic and typing occupations (SOC 411)

**Bookkeeping:** bookkeeping, account-recording and related occupations (SOC 413)

**Office machine operating:** office machine and electronic data-processing equipment operators (SOC 414)

**Material recording:** material recording, scheduling and distributing occupations (SOC 415)

**Filing/mailing/reception:** library, file and correspondence clerks and related occupations (SOC 416); reception, information, mail and message distribution occupations (SOC 417)

**Other clerical:** other clerical and related occupations (SOC 419)

**Commodity sales:** sales occupations, commodities (SOC 513/514)

**Other sales:** sales occupations, services (SOC 517); other sales occupations (SOC 519)

**Protective service:** protective service occupations (SOC 611)

**Food preparation:** food and beverage preparation and related service occupations (SOC 612)

**Accommodation:** occupations in lodging and other accommodation (SOC 613)

**Personal service:** personal service occupations (SOC 614)

**Other service:** apparel and furnishings service occupations (SOC 616); other service occupations (SOC 619)

**Farming:** farmers (SOC 711)

**Farm labouring:** other farming, horticultural and animal husbandry occupations (SOC 718/719)

**Other primary:** fishing, trapping and related occupations (SOC 731); forestry and logging occupations (SOC 751); mining and quarrying including oil and gas field occupations (SOC 771)

**Food processing:** food, beverage and related processing occupations (SOC 821/822)

**Other processing:** mineral ore treating occupations (SOC 811); metal processing and related occupations (SOC 813/814); clay, glass and stone processing, forming and related occupations (SOC

815); chemicals, petroleum, rubber, plastic and related materials processing occupations (SOC 816/817); wood processing occupations, except pulp and papermaking (SOC 823); pulp and papermaking and related occupations (SOC 825); textile processing occupations (SOC 826/827); other processing occupations (SOC 829)

**Machining:** metal machining occupations (SOC 831); metal shaping and forming occupations, except machining (SOC 833); wood machining occupations (SOC 835); clay, glass, stone and related materials machining occupations (SOC 837); other machining and related occupations, not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.) (SOC 839)

**Metal fabricating:** fabricating and assembling occupations: metal products, n.e.c. (SOC 851/852)

**Electrical fabricating:** fabricating, assembling, installing and repairing occupations: electrical, electronic and related equipment (SOC 853)

**Wood product fabricating:** fabricating, assembling and repairing occupations: wood products (SOC 854)

**Textile fabricating:** fabricating, assembling and repairing occupations: textile, fur and leather products (SOC 855/856)

**Other fabricating:** fabricating, assembling and repairing occupations: rubber, plastic and related products (SOC 857); other product fabricating, assembling and repairing occupations (SOC 859)

**Mechanics:** mechanics and repairers, n.e.c. (SOC 858)

**Excavating/grading/paving:** excavating, grading, paving and related occupations (SOC 871)

**Electrical construction:** electrical power, lighting and wire communications equipment erecting, installing and repairing occupations (SOC 873)

**Other construction:** other construction trades occupations (SOC 878/879)

**Air/rail/water transportation:** air transport operating occupations (SOC 911); railway transport operating occupations (SOC 913); water transport operating occupations (SOC 915); other transport equipment operating occupations (SOC 919)

**Bus/truck/taxi driving:** motor transport operating occupations (SOC 917)

**Material handling:** material handling and related occupations, n.e.c. (SOC 931)

**Printing:** printing and related occupations (SOC 951)

**Equipment operating:** stationary engine and utilities equipment operating and related occupations (SOC 953); electronic and related communications equipment operating occupations, n.e.c. (SOC 955); other crafts and equipment operating occupations, n.e.c. (SOC 959)

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Table 1

**Annual average unemployment rates, by quartiles of occupations ranked by 1989 rate**

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Quartile 1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Farming	--	--	--	--	--	--
Health diagnosing/treating	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nursing	4.0	3.6	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.4
Architecture/engineering	5.1	4.7	3.9	3.1	--	3.4
Mathematics and related	4.3	4.9	3.7	--	--	3.2
Social sciences	3.9	2.7	3.9	3.0	3.1	3.0
Management related	4.8	4.2	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.7
Other medical	4.0	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.5	2.8
Architecture/engineering support	8.8	8.8	5.8	5.2	3.7	5.3
Other sales	4.9	4.4	3.9	4.0	3.7	4.5
Equipment operating	5.5	5.3	6.0	--	--	5.8
Management	4.6	4.5	4.4	3.8	4.0	3.9
<b>Quartile 2</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Teaching	4.7	4.5	4.6	3.9	4.0	3.7
Electrical construction	7.9	8.4	7.3	6.4	4.4	6.3
Other fabricating	8.3	7.5	7.1	5.1	4.8	5.7
Natural sciences	6.1	7.3	7.2	7.1	--	6.1
Air/rail/water transportation	8.1	9.3	8.6	6.7	5.6	6.5
Office machine operating	8.1	7.1	6.5	6.2	6.3	7.6
Protective service	8.6	7.8	8.4	6.2	6.4	6.4
Bookkeeping	9.0	7.6	7.0	6.8	6.5	6.6
Electrical fabricating	7.6	7.3	6.1	5.9	6.5	7.8
Stenography/typing	8.2	7.2	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.4
<b>Quartile 3</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Commodity sales	8.6	8.1	7.4	7.0	6.6	7.0
Metal fabricating	8.3	9.2	8.3	6.2	6.9	1.3

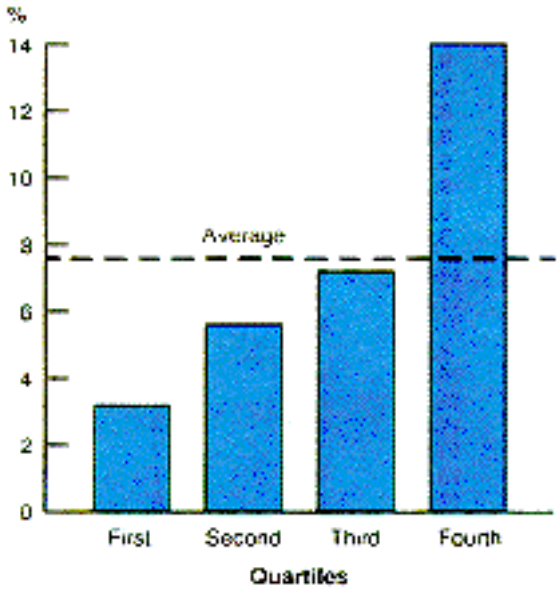
Filing/mailing/reception	8.9	7.7	7.5	7.9	7.0	8.5
Social work	10.2	10.5	8.7	8.2	7.1	6.5
Arts and writing	10.0	9.0	6.4	8.2	7.1	6.8
Machining	11.3	10.5	9.9	7.5	7.2	10.4
Printing	10.9	8.5	7.4	5.7	7.3	8.3
Other clerical	9.0	9.8	8.3	7.0	7.3	7.4
Other processing	10.9	10.0	8.1	7.0	7.4	9.1
Personal service	10.6	10.3	9.8	8.7	7.7	8.3
Wood product fabricating	14.5	10.5	9.3	9.8	7.9	11.4
Material recording	10.3	8.5	8.2	7.9	7.9	8.0
Bus/truck/taxi driving	11.3	10.7	8.9	8.3	8.1	8.5
<b>Quartile 4*</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>15.1</b>
Mechanics	13.2	11.0	11.5	9.4	8.7	11.8
Textile fabricating	14.5	11.3	11.7	10.2	8.7	14.5
Accommodation	10.4	9.5	8.6	7.7	9.3	7.8
Food preparation	15.2	13.4	13.1	10.9	11.0	11.0
Material handling	15.2	13.7	13.1	11.2	11.2	13.6
Other service	14.6	13.9	12.9	11.4	11.3	11.3
Sports/recreation	14.7	13.4	13.0	11.3	11.7	12.1
Food processing	15.0	13.9	13.2	10.7	12.1	12.6
Other construction	21.6	18.8	15.8	13.9	13.8	16.8
Excavating/grading/paving	18.1	17.4	16.7	15.2	14.9	16.4
Farm labouring	17.2	16.5	16.0	16.0	15.7	14.0
Other primary	21.2	20.2	19.5	17.3	16.4	17.8

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

*\* Includes people with no occupation because they have not had a job in the past five years.*

### Unemployment rates by occupation quartiles, 1989

Even in 1989, some occupations had significantly high unemployment rates.



Source: Labour Force Survey

Table 2

**Summary of trends in occupational quartiles**

		1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	
<b>Labour force ('000)</b>		<b>12,532</b>	<b>12,746</b>	<b>13,011</b>	<b>13,275</b>	<b>13,503</b>	<b>13,681</b>	
Quartile	1	2,983	3,097	3,212	3,363	3,390	3,536	
	2	2,738	2,769	2,809	2,855	2,890	2,948	
	3	3,577	3,651	3,744	3,811	3,906	3,894	
	4	3,234	3,228	3,246	3,245	3,318	3,303	
<b>Employment ('000)</b>		<b>11,221</b>	<b>11,531</b>	<b>11,861</b>	<b>12,245</b>	<b>12,486</b>	<b>12,572</b>	
Quartile	1	2,856	2,973	3,090	3,252	3,283	3,417	
	2	2,528	2,577	2,624	2,689	2,727	2,771	
	3	3,224	3,314	3,436	3,524	3,623	3,579	
	4	2,613	2,668	2,710	2,779	2,852	2,804	
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>		<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,109</b>	
Quartile	1	127	124	122	111	107	119	
	2	210	193	185	166	162	176	
	3	353	338	308	287	283	315	
	4	622	561	535	466	465	499	
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>		<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.1</b>	
Quartile	1	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.4	
	2	7.7	7.0	6.6	5.8	5.6	6.0	
	3	9.9	9.2	8.2	7.5	7.2	8.1	
	4	19.2	17.4	16.5	14.4	14.0	15.1	
		<b>Year-over-year change</b>						
<b>Labour force (%)</b>			<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	
Quartile	1		3.8	3.7	4.7	0.8	4.3	
	2		1.2	1.4	1.7	1.2	2.0	
	3		2.1	2.5	1.8	2.5	-0.3	
	4		-0.2	0.5	0.0	2.2	-0.4	
<b>Employment (%)</b>			<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	
Quartile	1		4.1	4.0	5.2	0.9	4.1	

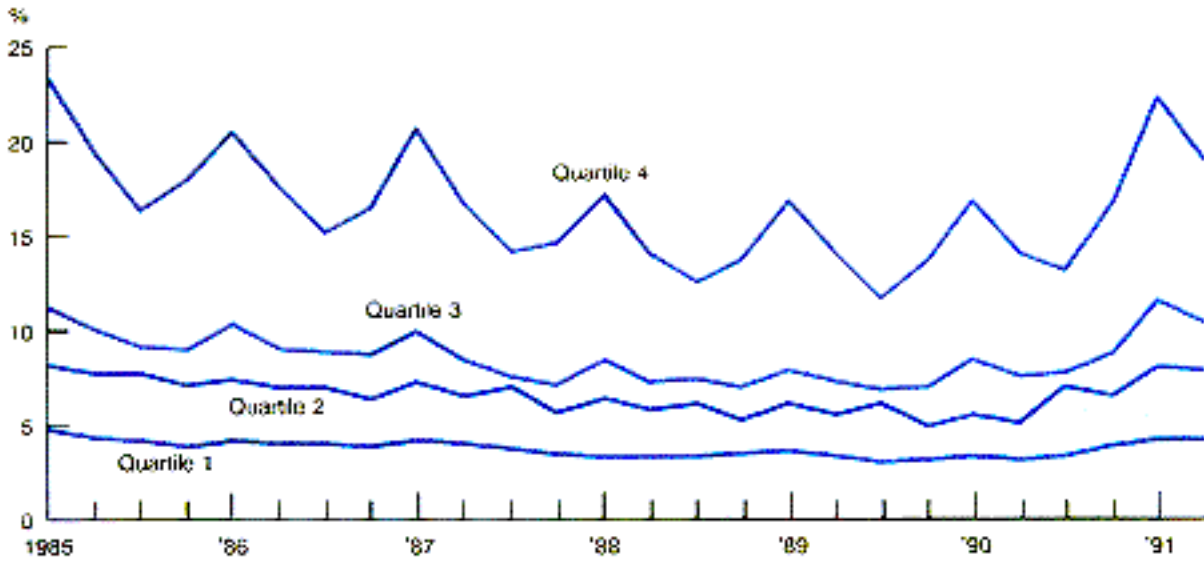
	2	1.9	1.8	2.5	1.4	1.6
	3	2.8	3.7	2.6	2.8	-1.2
	4	2.1	1.6	2.5	2.6	-1.7
<b>Unemployment (%)</b>		<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>-10.4</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Quartile	1	-1.9	-2.0	-8.7	-3.8	10.6
	2	-8.1	-4.2	-10.1	-2.2	8.5
	3	-4.3	-8.7	-6.8	-1.6	11.6
	4	-9.8	-4.5	-13.0	-0.1	7.2
<b>Unemployment rate (change in % points)</b>		<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Quartile	1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2	0.2
	2	-0.7	-0.4	-0.8	-0.2	0.4
	3	-0.6	-1.0	-0.7	-0.3	0.9
	4	-1.9	-0.9	-2.1	-0.3	1.1

*Source: Labour Force Survey*



### Quarterly unemployment rates by occupation quartiles

Seasonal fluctuations are greater in high-unemployment occupations.



Source: Labour Force Survey

Table 3

**Occupational groups with the greatest rise (more than four percentage points) in unemployment rates between the “winter-spring” periods of 1989-90 and 1990-91**

Occupation	Quartile	Increase (% points)
Other construction	4	8.3
Wood product fabricating	3	8.1
Textile fabricating	4	7.7
Mechanics	4	6.8
Metal fabricating	3	6.7
Excavating/grading/paving	4	5.7
Electrical construction	2	5.2
Material handling	4	4.7

*Source: Labour Force Survey*

Table 4

**Impact of the recession on occupations**

		Nine-month periods		Change between periods	
		10/89 to 6/90	10/90 to 6/91		
		'000		'000	%
<b>Labour force</b>		<b>13,522</b>	<b>13,649</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Quartile	1	3,426	3,665	239	7.0
	2	2,934	2,922	-13	-0.4
	3	3,897	3,848	-49	-1.3
	4	3,265	3,214	-51	-1.6
<b>Employment</b>		<b>12,483</b>	<b>12,271</b>	<b>-212</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Quartile	1	3,318	3,517	199	6.0
	2	2,783	2,704	-80	-2.9
	3	3,601	3,455	-146	-4.1
	4	2,780	2,594	-185	-6.7
<b>Unemployment</b>		<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>32.6</b>
Quartile	1	108	148	40	37.2
	2	151	218	67	44.4
	3	296	393	97	32.8
	4	485	619	135	27.8
		%	%	change in % points	
<b>Unemployment rate</b>		<b>7.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	
Quartile	1	3.1	4.0	0.9	
	2	5.1	7.5	2.3	
	3	7.6	10.2	2.6	
	4	14.8	19.3	4.4	

*Source: Labour Force Survey*