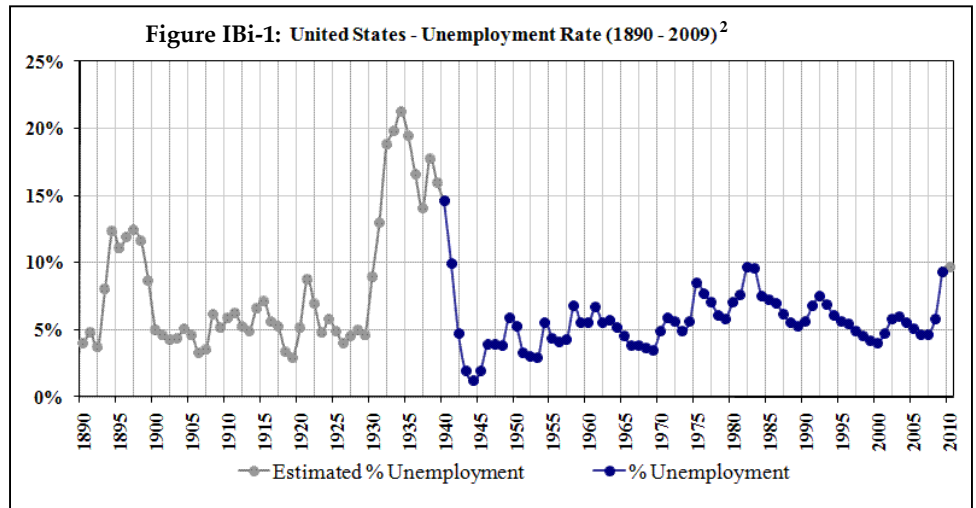


B. EMPLOYMENT

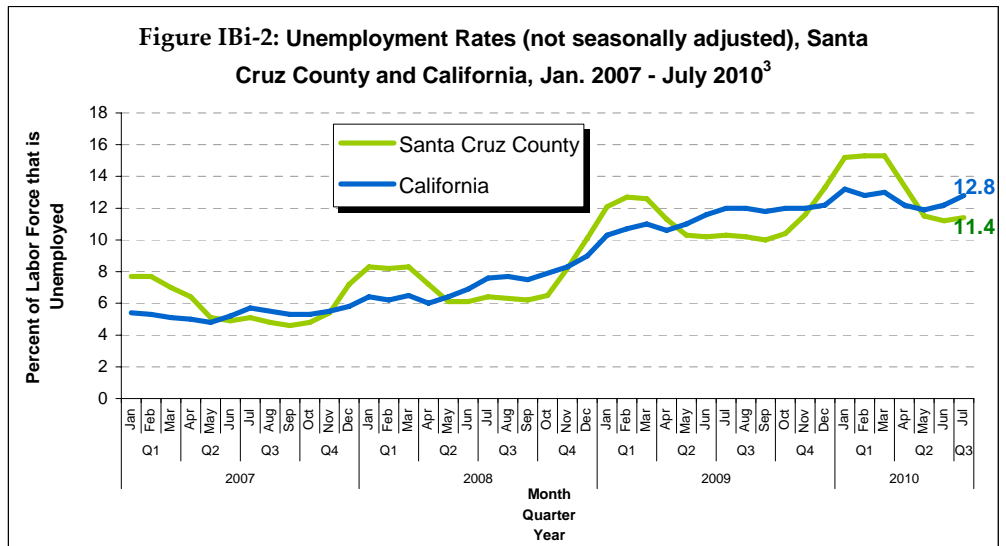
Importance	The relationship between unemployment and adverse health outcomes is complex, partly because of its bidirectional nature, such that having ill health can also cause unemployment. However, reviews of the literature provide evidence that unemployment has a direct effect on health, as well as the expected impacts on socioeconomic status, poverty, risk factors, or prior ill health. ¹
Definitions	<u>Unemployment Rate</u> : Number of unemployed individuals out of the total labor force. <u>Labor Force</u> : Individuals (age 16 and older) who are able, available, and actively looking for work – it does not include the jobless who are not seeking work (such as full-time students, homemakers, and retirees).

i. UNEMPLOYMENT

Although unemployment rates have not approached the high of 25% seen during the Great Depression in 1933,² current levels are much higher than in the past twenty years (Figure IBi-1). Of note, data collected prior to 1948 was based on a labor force of individuals aged 14 and older (compared to 16 and older thereafter).



In July 2010, Santa Cruz County had an unemployment rate of **11.4%** (or 17,300 people) compared to **12.8%** statewide and **9.7%** nationwide. Yet just a few months earlier, in Santa Cruz County in March 2010, the rate was 15.3% unemployed (or 22,800 persons).³

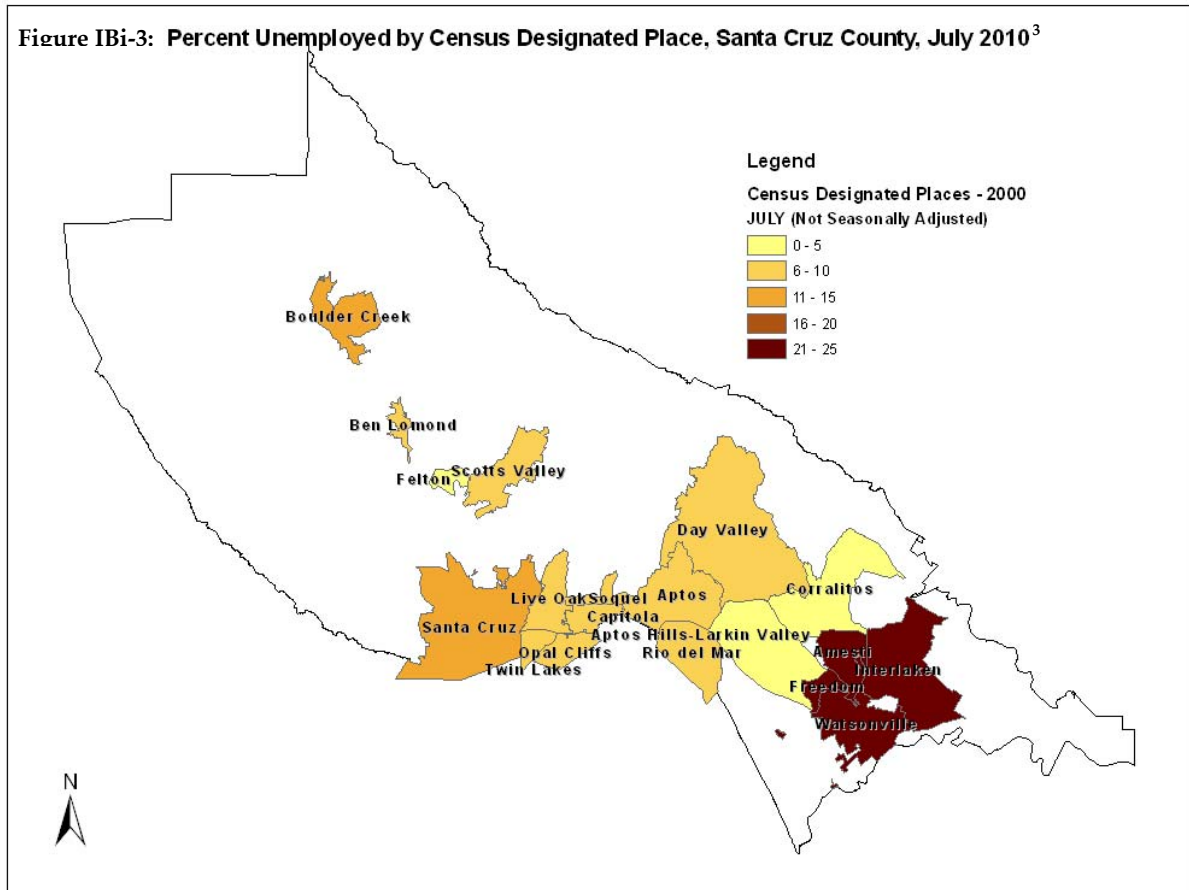


Although it is good to see a slight decrease in the unemployment rate since March (see Figure IBi-2), the data shown in the figure are not seasonally adjusted, and it is normal to see a decrease in the summer and fall months—likely a result of time-limited jobs associated with tourism and agriculture.

In Santa Cruz County, the July 2010 unemployment rate (11.4%) was more than one percentage point higher than the year before (10.3% in July 2009), but five percentage points higher than the rate two years before (6.4% in July 2008).³ In this county, each percentage point represents roughly 1,500 people, so a seemingly small change greatly impacts a large number of residents.

i. UNEMPLOYMENT (CONT.)

At the sub-county level, unemployment rates in cities and Census Designated Places vary greatly, with the Watsonville, Amesti, Interlaken, and Freedom areas all having rates over 20% in July 2010 (for a total of 7,600 unemployed persons). Boulder Creek was the next highest, at 13.1% (or 400 persons), and then the city of Santa Cruz, with a rate of 9.5% (or 3,100 persons). The lowest rates were in Aptos, Aptos Hills/Larkin Valley, Corralitos, Ben Lomond, and Felton, all with rates below 5%. It is worth noting that many Watsonville employees work in agriculture, which is typically seasonal employment and more prone to unemployment.³



Helpful Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ California Employment Development Department (EDD): http://www.edd.ca.gov/ ▪ United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: http://www.bls.gov/
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Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mathers CD and Schofield, DJ (1998). "The health consequences of unemployment: the evidence." <i>The Medical Journal of Australia</i>, 168:178-182. http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/feb16/mathers/mathers.html. 2. Robert VanGiezen and Albert E. Schwenk (2003). "Compensation from before World War I through the Great Depression." Bureau of Labor Statistics. http://www.bls.gov/opub/cwc/cm20030124ar03p1.htm. 3. State of California. Employment Development Department (EDD): [updated 2010 Aug 20; cited 2010 Sept 2]. Available from http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov.
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