



FACT SHEET

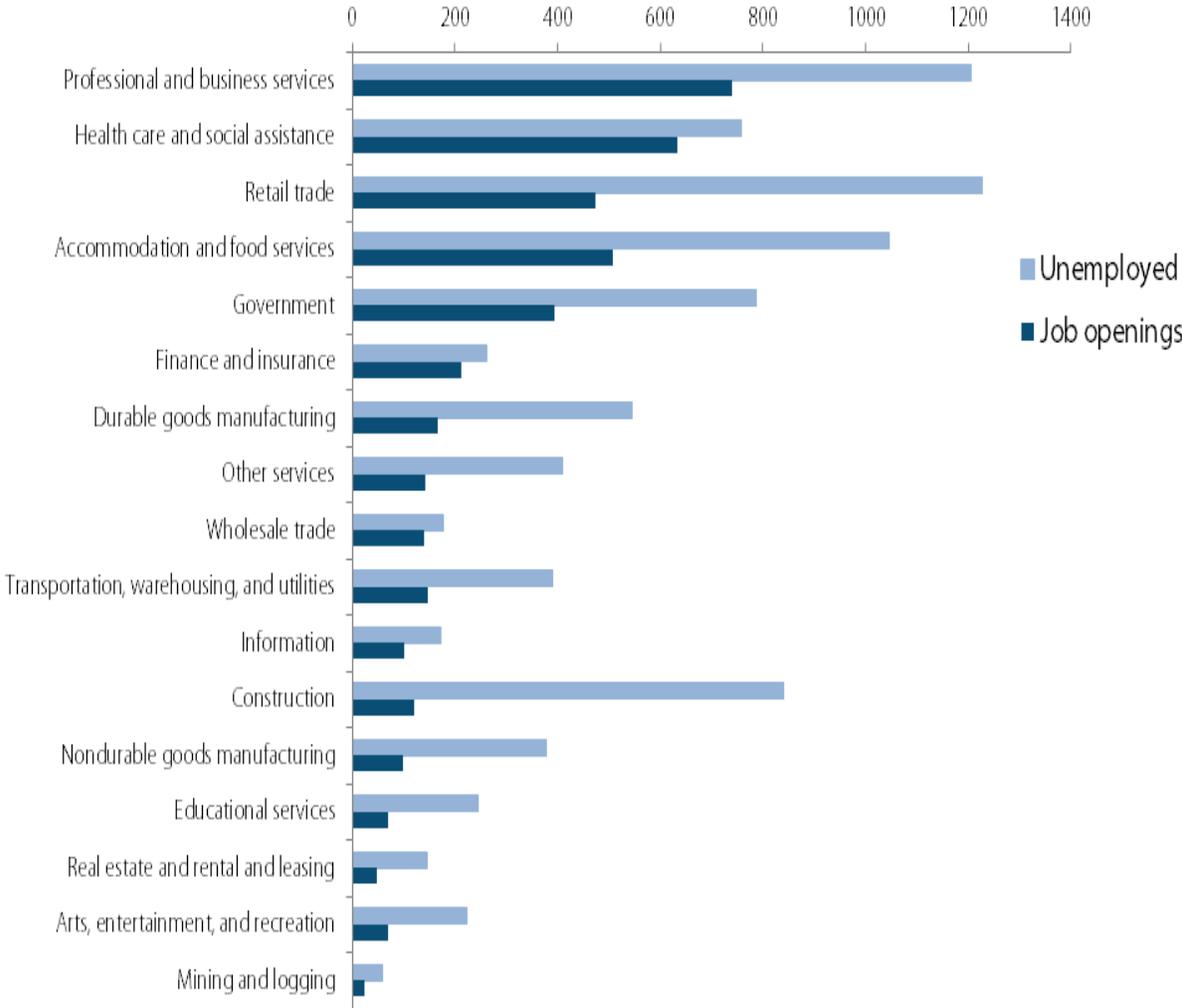
The Impact of Unemployment Cuts on Jobs and the Economy

- When we started the [Witness Wednesday](#) campaign in June, there were almost 3 million Americans searching for work, five months after their Emergency Unemployment benefits had been cut off. A bipartisan Senate bill to renew Emergency UI retroactively had been allowed to die in the House without a vote.
- Demand for workers remains extraordinarily weak in the U.S., with two job seekers for every job opening. There are over 700,000 fewer public-sector jobs than there were six years ago; if the number of teachers, police, and city workers had kept pace with population growth during that time, we'd have 1.5 million more jobs today (Economic Policy Institute).
- If Emergency Unemployment Benefits are not renewed, it will cost the U.S. economy 240,000 jobs this year, according the White House. Not renewing Emergency Unemployment Benefits hurts local businesses and puts the jobs of those currently working at risk.
- Last week, a second bipartisan bill renewing Emergency Unemployment (with no retroactive benefits) was quashed when the funding source from the unemployment extension was instead used to pay for a short-term patch to a looming, long-term national transportation infrastructure crisis. Again, no vote on the UI bill was allowed.
- On July 11, the House passed a bill (bonus depreciation) that would give permanent tax breaks to businesses, retroactive to January. The bill will cost taxpayers [\\$287 billion](#) over the next decade and [\\$83 billion](#) alone next year. All of it is unpaid for. Yet House leadership insists that the \$10 billion cost of extending emergency unemployment benefits for five months be fully offset by cuts to other social programs. The contrast is appalling: House leadership is willing to vote to use public funds to “incentivize” actions that companies have already taken (upgrading equipment) – on borrowed money – but denies a vote to provide assistance to people who are actively struggling to get back into the labor market and stay on their feet.



Number of unemployed far outstrips number of available jobs across the board

Unemployed and job openings, by industry (in thousands)



Note: Because the data are not seasonally adjusted, these are 12-month averages, June 2013–May 2014.

Source: EPI's analysis of data from the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey and the Current Population Survey