

Unemployment Insurance: Data definitions and Potential Indicators by Steve Barker and Leena Sukhram, EUCSS

Following the User Requirements document, this note takes the information required and transforms requirements needed into measurable indicators that should be periodically monitored and reported. Any terms used for the description of an indicator should be defined precisely.

Each definition and indicator also needs a source of data which details who and how the data is collected, (from employers? Survey? Local bureaus?), how often it is collected, and how reliable the source is.

This document outlines:

1. definitions required that need to be defined
2. potential indicators that can be used to monitor future unemployment trends
3. detail around where, how, when, data is collected

All sections need to be discussed with the UI department to provide the information required within this note.

Definitions

When Provinces/cities/counties collect the information detailed below, they need to ensure that data collected is consistent (as can be) with the definitions provided here. Where possible, data sources should be the same across regions in line with the table in section 3.

Variable	Definition
1. Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Those not working,● who want a job, and● have actively looked in the last four weeks, and● are available to start in the next 2 weeks.● Or those who are out of work and have accepted a job that will start within 2 weeks.● Age: over X or under Y. <p>In addition this applies only to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Urban areas● To be unemployed must have an urban hukou. The hukou needs to be the same as the province unemployed in.● Include registered/ unregistered unemployed?<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. how could we include unregistered?ii. Establish if there is a difference between those

‘registered’ and those ‘receiving unemployment insurance benefit?’

In the future it will apply to:

- Rural unemployed
- Migrant unemployed

It does not include:

- Those sick/disabled not in work?
- Those caring for a child?
- Other categories?

2. Employed

Working more than X hrs a week?

Part time and full time included?

Includes migrant workers who have a job?

3. Unemployment rate

Number unemployed divided by number employed as they are defined here.

4. Significant increase (in unemployment rate)

- Increase in the recorded unemployment rate for X consecutive months?
- Y% increase in the recorded unemployment rate over the past X months?
- Y% forecasted increase over the next X months?

5. Laid off worker

Includes those who have quit employment voluntarily or have been dismissed (made redundant?) in the past X months.

- Does dismissal for misconduct etc fall in this category?

After what period in unemployment does a laid off worker become a job searcher?

6. People searching for jobs

People both unemployed and employed?

7. School leavers searching for jobs

How long after you leave school are you a school leaver?

8. Migrant workers

Workers not employed in the place of their hukou registration?

9. Employment contract

10. Expected bankruptcies

11. Policy led closures

12. Energy related industries

Includes the following: paper making, oil refining, chemical, metallurgy, mining, construction, material production / others?

13. Import export industries

Includes: Clothing, daily goods, upstream and downstream industries, materials / others?

14. Re-entering the workforce

A person moving from unemployment into employment

15. Exchange rate

Price of Chinese currency against another country's currency / which is used as matter of consistency, dollar? Or more than one?

16. Government incentives to advance technology	Any policy provided favouring advancing or improving technology, including...
17. Future downsizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Companies reducing size by X%? ● By 50-100 staff? ● Does it apply to all firms? ● Or just med-large ones?
18. Skill group	Where are skill groups defined and who is responsible?
19. Sex	Male, female
20. Enterprise sector	How does this definition relate to items 12 and 13 above?
21. Age	Single years? Age bands?
22. Educational groups	How and who defines?
23. Company ownership	SOE, collective, privately owned enterprise, joint venture, family ownership
24. Size of firm	Small? Medium? Large? Giant? How many in each?

Potential Unemployment Warning Indicators

Given the definitions, from this information, we can derive the following potential indicators.

1. Number in Unemployment
2. Number Employed
3. Unemployment rate
4. Significant increase in unemployment rate
5. Number of laid off workers
6. Number of people searching for jobs
7. Number of school leavers searching for jobs
8. Number of migrant workers in employment in urban area
9. Number of migrant workers unemployed in urban area
10. Number of contracts ending in period X
11. Number of contracts starting in period X
12. Number of expected bankruptcies due in period X
13. Number of policy led closures due in period X
14. Number of workers in energy related industries
15. Number of workers in import export industries
16. Number of unemployed reentering the workforce
17. Exchange rate with the main countries China trades with
18. Number of companies taking Government incentives to advance technology
19. Number of companies reporting future downsizing
20. Number of employees affected by downsizing

Preferable to have this information split by skills, sex, enterprise sector, age, educational groups, company ownership, size of firm.

Further details required

For each piece of data information, it must be clear where the data comes from, how it is collected, how frequently it is collected, and how reliable the source is.

	Data source	Collection Method	Frequency of collection	Reliability
Unemployment				
Employed				
Laid off workers				
Job searchers				
school leavers				
migrant workers				
contracts ending				
contracts starting				
expected bankruptcies				
policy led closures				
workers in energy related industries				
workers in import export industries				
unemployed reentering the workforce				
Exchange rate				
companies taking Government incentives to advance technology				
companies reporting future downsizing				
employees affected by downsizing				
Skills				
gender				
Enterprise sector				
age				
Educational groups				
Company Ownership				
Size of Firm				