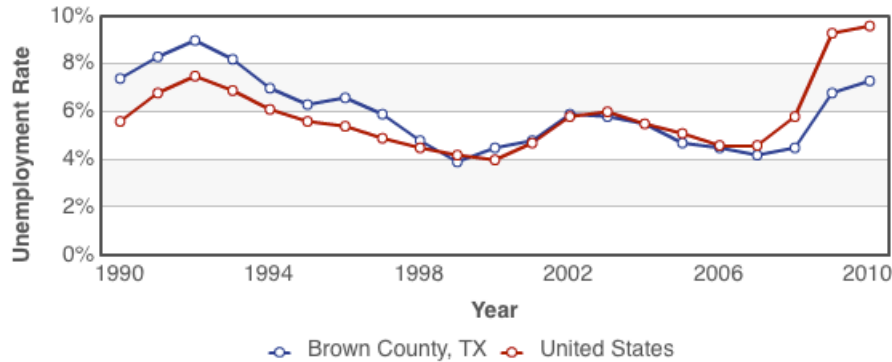


Unemployment

Unemployment rates, like employment growth, provide a quick measure of a region’s economic strength. A large unemployed workforce can make a region less attractive for talented workers due to increased competition for jobs while also creating a financial burden for the community due to the decreased tax base and increased provision of social services. On the positive side, high unemployment also indicates availability of workers in a region.

Brown County maintained an unemployment rate consistently higher than the US through the 1990s but matched the nation for first half of the 2000s. In 2007, Brown County’s unemployment rate dipped below the US and is now at a preliminary 5.7% as of April 2012 -- 2.4 percentage points below the US. While a lower unemployment rate bodes well for workers, it has more to do with the out flux of workers from the region due to a lack of job creation.

Unemployment Rate, 1990-2010
Brown County, TX vs. U.S.



Unemployment Rate, Monthly, 2010-2012
Brown County, TX vs. U.S.

