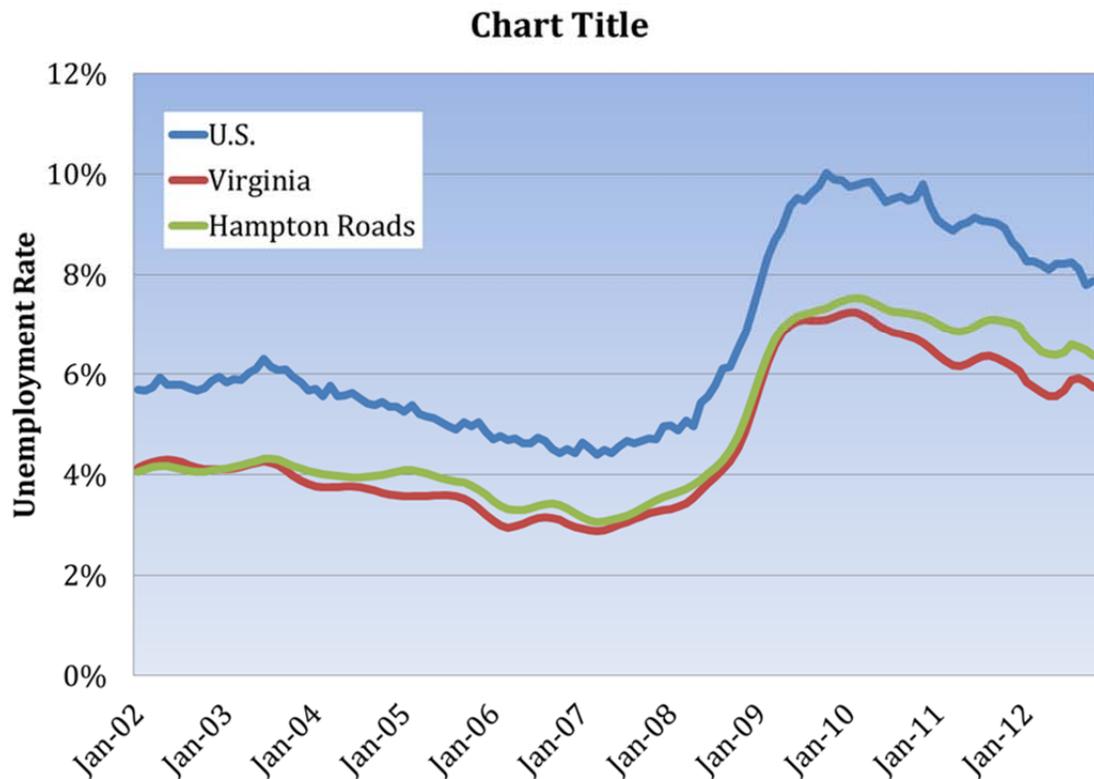


**Figure 1.17 Unemployment Rates in Hampton Roads, Virginia, and the United States (Seasonally Adjusted)**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, HRPDC

**Why is it important?**

Unemployment rates reflect both the general well-being of the labor force and the ability of the labor force to meet the needs of employers. Comparing the regional unemployment rate to the national rate enables one to assess the condition of the regional labor market over time.

**How are we doing?**

Hampton Roads has historically had low unemployment rates, though the unemployment rate has declined relatively slowly from the recent peak during the most recent recession.