



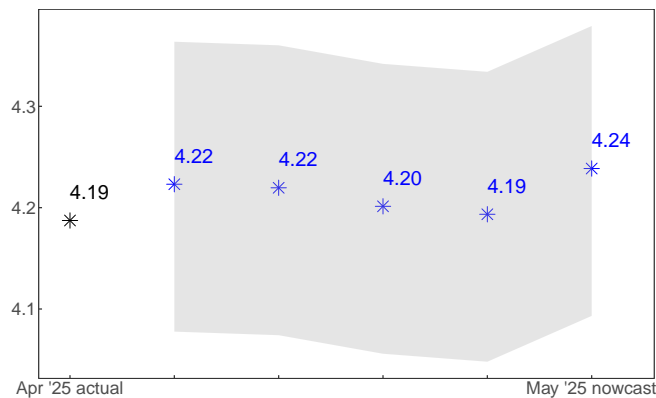
Chicago Fed Unemployment Rate Nowcast (CHURN)

June 5, 2025

The Chicago Fed Unemployment Rate Nowcast (CHURN) is a weekly estimate of the U.S. civilian unemployment rate based on a combination of official and private data sources that predict job flows. Projections are updated weekly, filling in the gaps between the values reported monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Weekly Tracking Nowcast

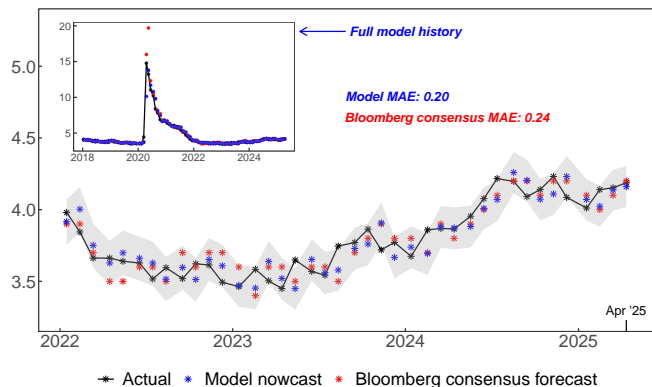
percent



The figure displays at the far left the latest reported value (as a “black marker”) for the U.S. civilian unemployment rate based on the BLS monthly Employment Situation report. This value corresponds to the share of the labor force that self-reported as being unemployed in the reference week of that month in the BLS *Current Population Survey*, or household survey (i.e., typically the calendar week that includes the 12th of the month). To the right of this value, we display our model’s projections (as “blue markers”) for the civilian unemployment rate in the subsequent weeks leading up to the next survey reference week to be reported by the BLS. The gray shaded regions surrounding our projections correspond to finite-sample 68% prediction intervals calculated over the period from July 2008 to present, which take into account the uncertainty inherent in our statistical model.

Historical Unemployment Rates

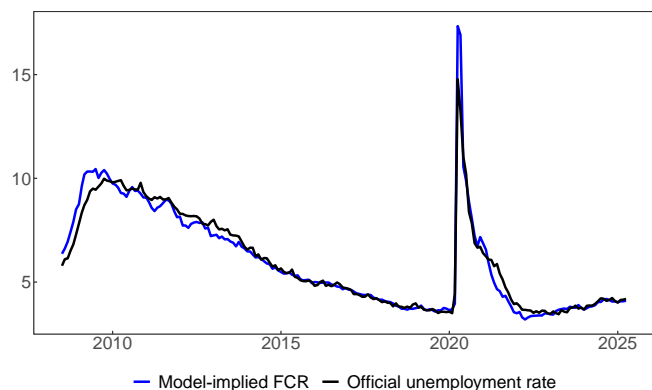
percent



The figure summarizes the historical performance of our statistical model. Using currently available data, we reestimate the model for each past BLS household survey reference week, projecting the yet-to-be-released unemployment rate value (blue dots) as if we were making that projection ahead of each month’s actual release (black dots). The gray shaded regions surrounding each projection correspond to finite-sample 68% prediction intervals calculated over the period from July 2008 to present, which take into account the uncertainty inherent in our statistical model. We summarize the out-of-sample performance of the model by reporting the model’s accuracy in terms of its mean absolute error (MAE) since 2018 and also provide for comparison the MAE of Bloomberg consensus forecast’s projections (red dots) made over the same time period.

Flow-Consistent Unemployment Rate

percent



Underlying our nowcast is a weekly estimate of the flow-consistent unemployment rate (FCR) constructed using partial least squares (PLS) methods applied to several official and private sector measures that are commonly used to predict job flows. These measures include the civilian unemployment rate, unemployment insurance claims as well as the insured unemployment rate, hiring and layoffs rates from the *Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey* (JOLTS), the Google Trends unemployment topic index, job openings data from Indeed divided by payroll data from ADP, surveys conducted by the Conference Board and Morning Consult, and the Bloomberg consensus forecast for the official unemployment rate. The figure displays our flow-consistent unemployment rate (model-implied FCR) and the official unemployment rate from the BLS.