

## Feds say St. Louis metro unemployment rose again in May

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The Bureau of Labor Statistics, out with its monthly unemployment report, says the **jobless rate in metropolitan St. Louis** jumped from 8 percent in April to 9 percent in May.

The rate is not adjusted for seasonal employment, such as construction jobs.

In an accounting released Tuesday morning, the BLS said nearly 128,500 local residents were out of work in May. That figure does not take into account unemployed individuals who have abandoned their job search.

The BLS numbers lag behind, but mirror, statewide jobless figures released two weeks ago by the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Missouri's unemployment rate for May, seasonally adjusted the DED, was 9 percent.

Nationally, the BLS said **joblessness increased in every 372 metropolitan areas** measured in its monthly survey. Of those, 15 vicinities — most in California and Michigan — recorded unemployment rates in excess of 15 percent. Another 21 metropolitan regions had unemployment below five percent.

The national unemployment rate in May was 9.1 percent. The BLS will release the national June jobless figures on Thursday.