

“Fed@Issue: Weaving a Web for Watching Indicators,” by Dave Altig , executive vice president and research director of the Atlanta Fed

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### **Discussion questions**

1. According to the author, Dave Altig, which part of the Fed’s dual mandate (price stability and full employment) has been heightened since September 2012? Why?
2. According to Atlanta Fed President, Dennis Lockhart, why would growth in labor force participation be a sign of improvement in the labor market?
3. Using evidence from the article, what is underemployment?
4. Using one variable from each of the four broad categories, explain how the new visual tool being used by the Atlanta Fed helps track labor market trends.
5. Explain the following statement: “Thus, the spider charts by construction are about visualizing the transition to some fixed benchmark, not a device for monitoring labor markets over the long run.”

### **Related links**

[Classroom Economist: Unemployment](#)

First select the Economic Indicators tab, then click the Unemployment slider tab to view all the resources that this issue contains.

[econlowdown](#)

Use these online courses and videos to teach about unemployment.

[The Fed Explains video: “The Ups and Downs of Unemployment”](#)

This animated video from the Atlanta Fed helps students to understand the labor force and the unemployment rate.

[Jobs Calculator](#)

Use this resource to access up-to-date information on inflation and inflation indices.

[Labor Market Spider Chart](#)

Use this interactive chart and supporting resources to introduce students to broad labor market developments.

[macroblog: “Casting a Web over Jobs Data”](#)

Read this entry about the spider chart, and link to other entries.