

The US Trustee released the new means test data last week. The bad news is that median incomes in NJ are down.

Unemployment numbers came out last week showing a slight uptick in the unemployment rate. [Kiplinger](#) reports the employment outlook for next year to continue its sluggish pace with an increase in the unemployment rate to a projected 8%.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) reports this as good news! How on earth can an increase in unemployment be a good thing for the economy?

The unemployment rate measures those who are “actively looking for work” in the prior four weeks. In order to be “actively looking for work,” a person must be:

- Contacting:
  - An employer directly or having a job interview
  - A public or private employment agency
  - Friends or relatives
  - A school or university employment center
- Sending out resumes or filling out applications
- Placing or answering advertisements
- Checking union or professional registers
- Some other means of active job search

Source: [How the Government Measures Unemployment](#)

So if more people are looking to enter or re-enter the workforce, it may be a positive economic indicator that more individuals have a positive outlook of job availability.