

Fiscal Year 2023

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) issues the Labor Surplus Area (LSA) list on a fiscal year basis. The list becomes effective each October 1, and remains in effect through the following September 30.

The reference period used in preparing the current list was January 2020 through December 2021. The national average unemployment rate (including Puerto Rico) during this period is rounded to 6.71 percent. Twenty percent higher than the national unemployment rate during this period is rounded to 8.05 percent. Therefore, a civil jurisdiction must have a two-year unemployment rate of 8.05 percent or higher in order to be classified a LSA.

There is an "Exceptional Circumstance Consideration Provision" that allows a civil jurisdiction to ask for inclusion in the LSA list after it is published. Events like natural disasters and other adverse economic changes, like a major plant closing, within a civil jurisdiction or metropolitan area allow states to ask for inclusion on the LSA list. A detailed explanation of the "Exceptional Circumstance Consideration Provision" is given in the "Related Link" section of this webpage, "Frequently Asked Questions" link, Item 5, ***"Can an area be added to the Labor Surplus List if that area's unemployment rate was below the qualifying unemployment rate for the referenced period?"***

For areas meeting the "Exceptional Circumstance Consideration Provision" requirement, submit a request, signed by the head of the state's Workforce Agency and a list of the area(s) whose unemployment rate is expected to exceed 8.05 percent, to Samuel Wright at wright.samuel.e@dol.gov.