

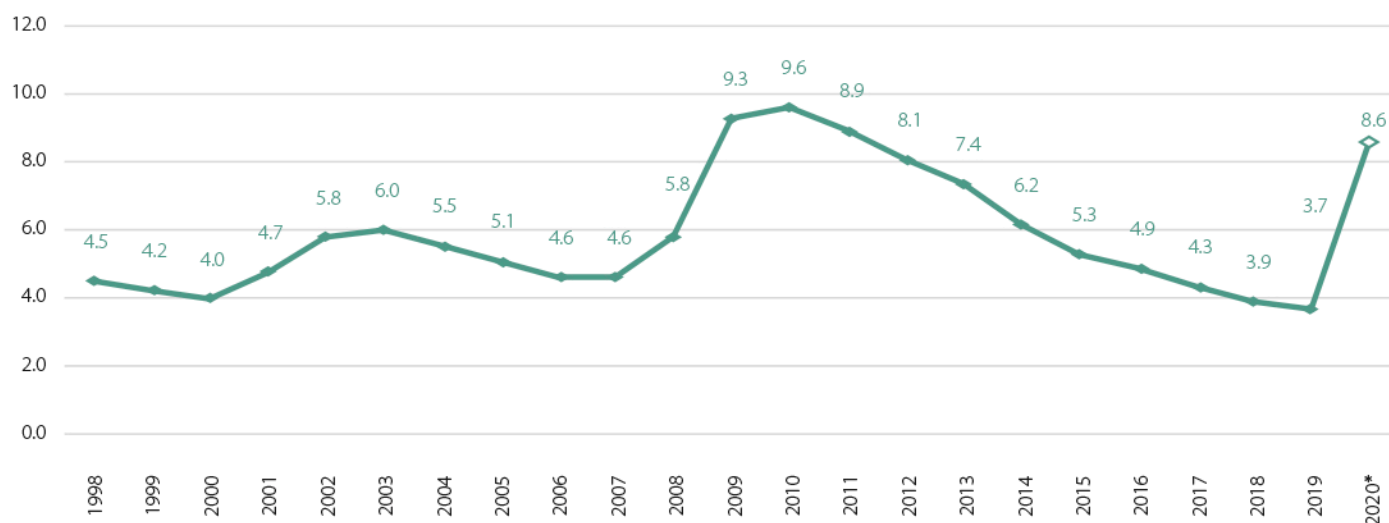


OVERALL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Volume 1/October 2020

For the majority of the population, the only indicator that matters is unemployment although there is considerable variation within the data. Unemployment rates peaked after the 2008 recession and fell to record lows by the start of 2020. The rates surged back up as the lockdown recession began and were in the double-digits for a month or two. They have been coming down slowly and were at 7.9% at last measure.

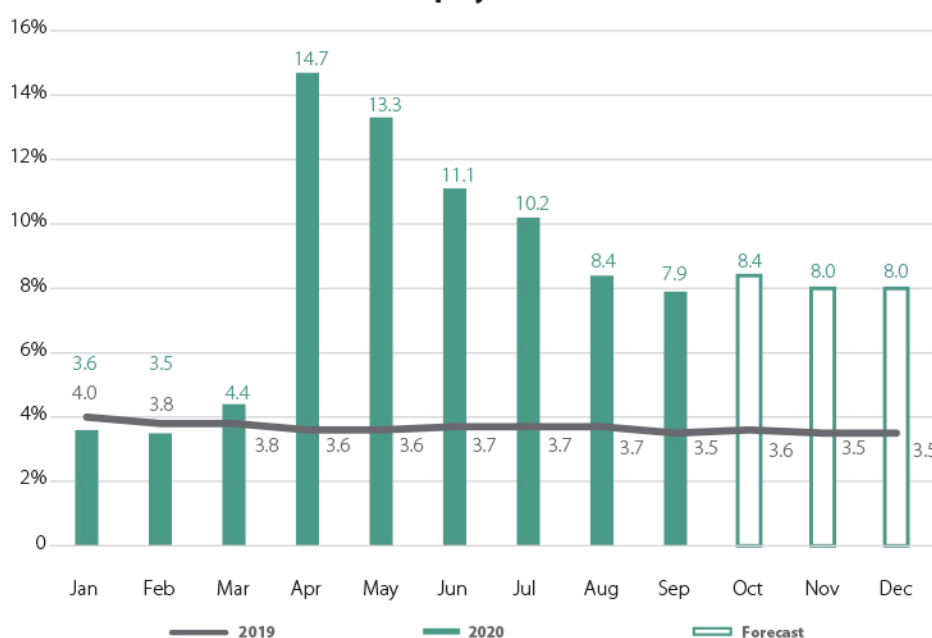
Unemployment Year-Over-Year Average



*Average through September 2020

2019-2020 Unemployment and Forecast

Unemployment for 2020 reached its peak in April at 14.7% and then began to fall. Some economists expect the rate to stabilize around 6.5% provided there is not a renewal of the lockdown. As of August, the Northeast remained above the national average at 9.3% with the Midwest at 6.9%, the South at 7.1%, and the West at 8.1%. Even with these high rates of joblessness overall, there will be labor shortages in the electrical wholesale industry as those who have been laid off lack the skills needed to fulfill open jobs. Unemployment will remain high for as long as the lockdown lasts but will improve as more restrictions are lifted. Projections for higher rates of job loss are based on the assumption that lockdowns will be expanded through the end of the year, but this is not certain.





Year-Over-Year and Forecast for U.S. Regular Gas Prices and Diesel



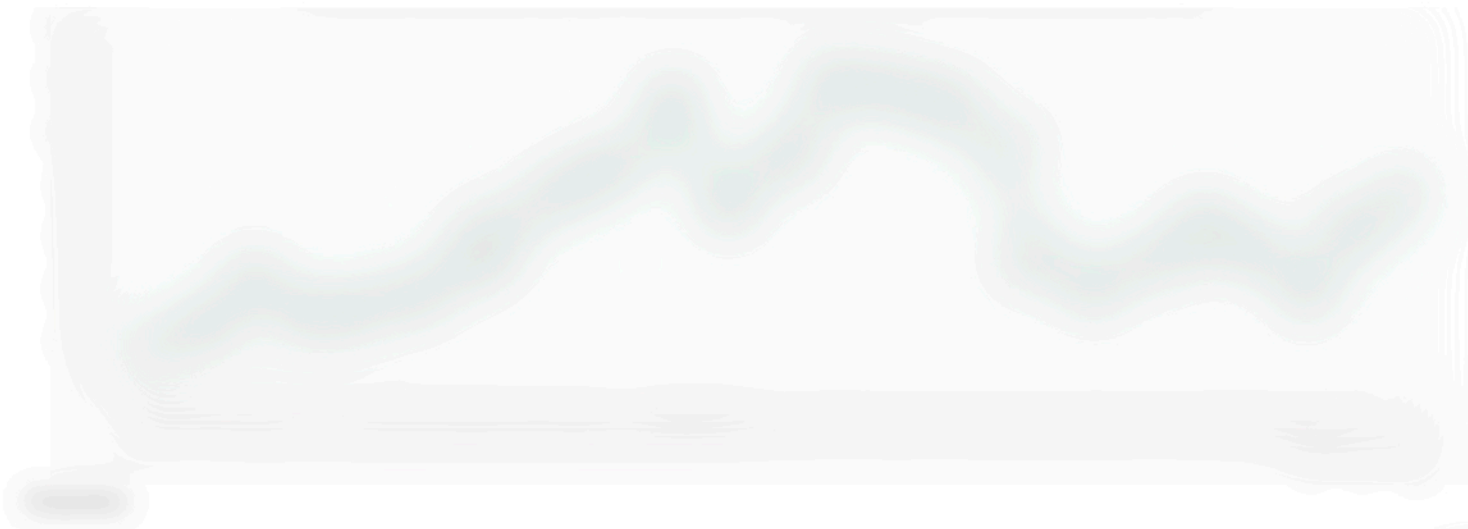
2019-2020 Month-Over-Month Average U.S. Regular Gas
and Diesel Prices and Forecast



2020 Total U.S. Oil Prices per Barrel by Month and Forecast



Year-Over-Year Average U.S. Oil Prices per Barrel and Forecast (Year Ending)



Average Price of Copper by Month and Forecast - 2019-2020



Average Price of Copper by Year and Forecast

