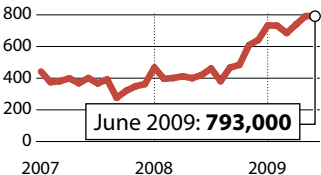


# Dropping out of the job hunt

About 2.2 million people hadn't looked for work in the last month but had in the last year, making them marginally attached to the labor force. The figure includes people who are discouraged about their job prospects and those who have stopped looking for other reasons, such as lack of education or family responsibilities. The figure has steadily grown as the recession has dragged on and unemployment reached historic highs.

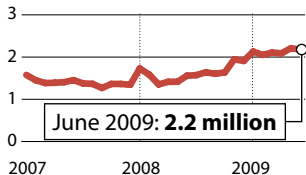
## DISCOURAGED OVER JOB PROSPECTS

Scale in thousands



## LOOKED FOR WORK LAST YEAR

Scale in thousands



Figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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