Economics 314   Spring 2019
Daily Problem #36   April 11

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics categorizes respondents to the Current Population Survey into three basic categories (with some additional marginal categories added recently): employed, unemployed, and out of the labor force. The headline unemployment rate is then calculated as the number unemployed divided by the labor force (which is employed plus unemployed).

How would each of the following be categorized by the BLS: employed, unemployed, or out of the labor force?

1. Someone who is retired

2. A student who does neither works nor seeks work

3. A student who works five hours per week at the library

4. A factory worker who has been laid off temporarily (for two weeks), but is not seeking employment in the interim

5. A factory worker who has been permanently laid off, but is not seeking employment

6. A factory worker who has been permanently laid off and is looking actively for another job

7. A college student who has just been graduated, has never worked, but is now looking for a job

8. A factory worker who was laid off a year ago, looked for work unsuccessfully, but has now given up

9. A barista who works ten hours a week, but really wants full-time employment

10. A barista who works forty hours a week at Starbucks and has a second job working twenty hours a week as a waiter