**Economics 120 Weekly Assignment for May 11th – Unemployment Rate**

The *unemployment rate* is the percentage of the labour force that is not working at any given time. It is a calculation: the total number of unemployed people divided by the total labour force (all people with jobs +those actively seeking work). Each month, statistics Canada presents this number as a measure of how the economy is doing.

Assignment: Read through the CBC article reporting the national unemployment rate for April 2020 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-jobs-april-1.5561001>

1. How does the unemployment rate for April 2020 compare with March 2020?
2. Why the change?
3. How would unemployment affect society?
4. If you were a member of the federal government, how would you use these numbers in considering how to help the economy, and the people of Canada?
5. Do you think this is a good measure of the health of the economy? Explain