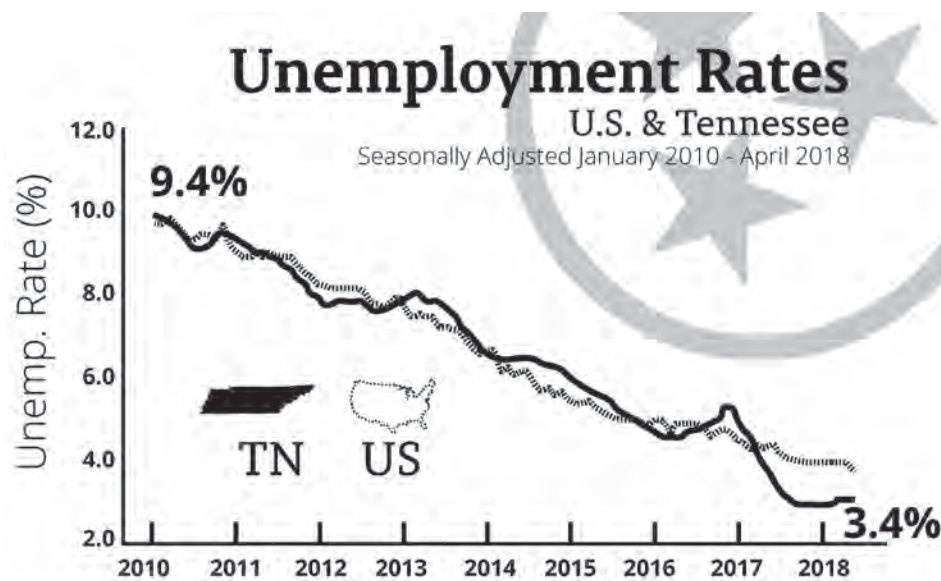


# State unemployment rate holds steady



Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips announced Thursday that Tennessee's statewide unemployment rate for April was 3.4 percent, the third consecutive month the rate has held steady.

The seasonally adjusted rate represents 0.6 of a percentage point decrease in unemployment compared to the same time period in 2017.

April 2018 marks one year since Tennessee's unemployment rate dropped to 4 percent for the first time in recent history. In May 2017, the rate dipped to 3.8 percent and has

remained under that mark ever since.

The state recorded an all-time low unemployment rate of 3.3 percent in September of last year. That figure is just 0.1 of a percentage point lower than the latest rate.

"For more than a year now, Tennessee continues to see unemployment rates lower than ever before. These numbers are a testament to the state's investments in education and job creation," said Haslam. "In just the past three weeks, we have announced more than 2,000 new jobs coming to our state, which sets the path for unemployment to remain low and for Tennesseans to benefit from

that job growth."

Statewide, Tennessee added an estimated 45,000 new jobs between April 2017 and April 2018. The largest increases occurred in leisure/ hospitality, professional/ business services, and education/ health services industries.

Nationally, the United States unemployment rate showed downward movement for the first time in six months. Since October, the national unemployment rate has remained steady at 4.1 percent. During April it dropped 0.2 of a percentage point to 3.9 percent. Unemployment nationwide was half of a percentage point lower last month, than it was in April 2017.

# Campbell's Soup looks to shift strategy

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The top executive at Campbell Soup will retire and the company is undergoing a strategic review as it tries to revive sales that have been under pressure due to shifting American tastes and rising costs.

Denise Morrison, who has been CEO since 2011, is being replaced immediately by Keith McLoughlin, who will lead the company on an interim basis.

The company, founded almost 150 years ago, is also facing new headwinds due to recent changes in U.S. trade policy.

In March, the Trump administration slapped tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

Anthony DiSilvestro, the chief financial officer at Campbell, said a lot of the company's rising costs will be "driven by the impact of anticipated tariffs."

"We expect double-digit increases on steel and alu-

minum," said DiSilvestro, adding the company anticipates inflation to drive prices for wheat and vegetables and other goods as well.

Shares plunged more than 10 percent in early trading Friday. Shares of other consumer-focused companies that rely on metals fell as well, including PepsiCo Inc., Coca-Cola Co. and Molson Coors Brewing.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross famously held up a can of Campbell's soup in a CNBC interview this year to make the case the Trump administration's steel and aluminum tariffs were "no big deal."

The claim was immediately contested by a number of U.S. industries.

The Can Manufacturers Institute, which represents 22,000 workers at manufacturers nationwide, believes the tariffs will harm their industry and consumers alike. The insti-

tute says there are 119 billion cans made in the U.S., meaning a 1 cent tariff would lead to a \$1.1 billion tax on consumers and businesses.

McLoughlin, who is taking over as CEO, is the former chief executive at appliance maker Electrolux. He has been a board member at Campbell Soup Co. since 2016.

The New Jersey food company is wrestling with declining soup and juice sales in a market crowded with competitors at the same time that many families are seeking foods they consider healthier and less processed.



**Sales at Campbell's haven't been souped-up lately. The combination of new tariffs and soft sales are combining to spell trouble for the nearly 150-year-old company.**

# Apprehension surrounds more sports gambling

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)** — For sports leagues and gambling industries, the imminent expansion of legalized sports betting promises a bonanza. For the experts and organizations already concerned about pervasive problem gambling, it promises a whole new roster of worries.

Much of the apprehension relates to the prospect of myriad forms of online sports betting — accessible to gamblers at any time and location via their mobile phones. There's particular alarm over the anticipated explosion of so-called "in-game wagering" in which gamblers bet, often at a rapid pace, on play-by-play developments — for example, will the next football play be a run or a pass. "You lose track of time," said Les Bernal, national director of Stop Predatory Gambling. "The goal of the operators is to get you into a zone where you lose your financial reasoning and think of nothing except betting."

Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling this week, only four states were allowed to offer sports betting and only Nevada offered betting on single games. Now that the court has lifted those bans, there are expectations that most states will offer sports betting within a few years in a play to raise tax revenue.

"We think this is the biggest expansion of gambling in our nation's history, in one fell swoop," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. "Absolutely, categorically, there will be more risk factors for addiction — we've never had that much high-speed, high-stakes interac-

*"We think this is the biggest expansion of gambling in our nation's history, in one fell swoop."*

**Keith Whyte,  
National Council on  
Problem Gambling**

tive access to any sort of betting."

The council wants any company, sports league or government that benefits from sports betting to devote at least 1 percent of the revenue to fund programs preventing and treating compulsive gambling. It also wants betting operators to train staff about problem gambling, set and enforce a minimum age limit, and enable gamblers to set limits on how much time and money they spend betting.

Whyte is skeptical that state lawmakers and the gambling industry — even if they pay lip service to problem gambling — will take sufficiently tough action.

"The ball's in their court," he said. "They can rush to grab the money and then deal with a wave of increased addiction, or they can work with us to try to mitigate the harm."

Nationwide, the generally accepted figure for gambling addiction is 2 to 3 percent of the U.S. population, according to Neva Pryor, who runs New Jersey's Council on Compulsive Gambling. But in New Jersey, which until recently had the nation's second-largest casino market, that figure is over 6 percent.

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COMPARE AT \$6.38

**Foam Plates**

9 Inch, 150 Ct.

**\$3.49**

Plastic Forks or Spoons 48 Ct. **\$1.00**

**Chili With Beans**

15 Oz.

**\$1.00**

COMPARE AT \$1.68

**Snyder, Herts & Wise Potato Chips**

7-10 Oz.

**\$1.79**

**Instant Light Charcoal**

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**\$3.49**

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