

## **EC101 – CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC ISSUES**

Homework#3

Due in Discussion Groups, October 27, 2006

This homework requires multiple steps, including tracking down data on the internet. The intent is to link classroom topics with real examples and media coverage. It also provides a preview of employment data, which we cover more extensively later in the term.

### Part I: Locating employment data.

Download the September Employment Situation Report at:

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

- A. What is the unemployment rate for the US?
- B. What is the unemployment rate for Katrina evacuees?
- C. Go to Table B1.
  1. How many employees were on total nonfarm payrolls in September 2006 (use the seasonally adjusted numbers).
  2. For the same month, how many employees were on nonfarm payrolls in the textile industry, the combination of employees in textile mills and textile product mills (use the seasonally adjusted numbers).
  3. What percentage of total nonfarm payrolls are textile workers?
- D. Go to Table B3.
  1. What was the average hourly wage for goods producing workers in September 2006?
  2. What was the average hourly wage for textile mill and textile product mill workers in September 2006?
  3. Relative to other sectors in the economy, is the textile industry a good paying job? Explain briefly (two or three sentences).

Part II: Applying the data.

Read Chapter 8, The Power of Organized Interests, in your text.  
Read the Wall Street Journal article:

**Textile Makers Tap Political Opportunity**  
**Industry Uses Voters' Economic Unease**  
**To Win Protections, Derail Free-Trade Plans**  
**By GREG HITT**  
*October 18, 2006; Page A4*

Wall Street Journal subscribers can find the article at:

[http://online.wsj.com/article\\_print/SB116112957373195898.html](http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB116112957373195898.html)

Otherwise, you will need to locate the article at the library.

According to the Wall Street Journal article:

- A. Is the current White House more or less opposed to expanding free trade?
  
- B. What industry is attempting to pressure the government to slow the process of expanding trade initiatives? Why?
  
  
- C. Thinking back to the data collected in Part A, why is the industry examined in the WSJ article an example of the material in Chapter 8 of your text?