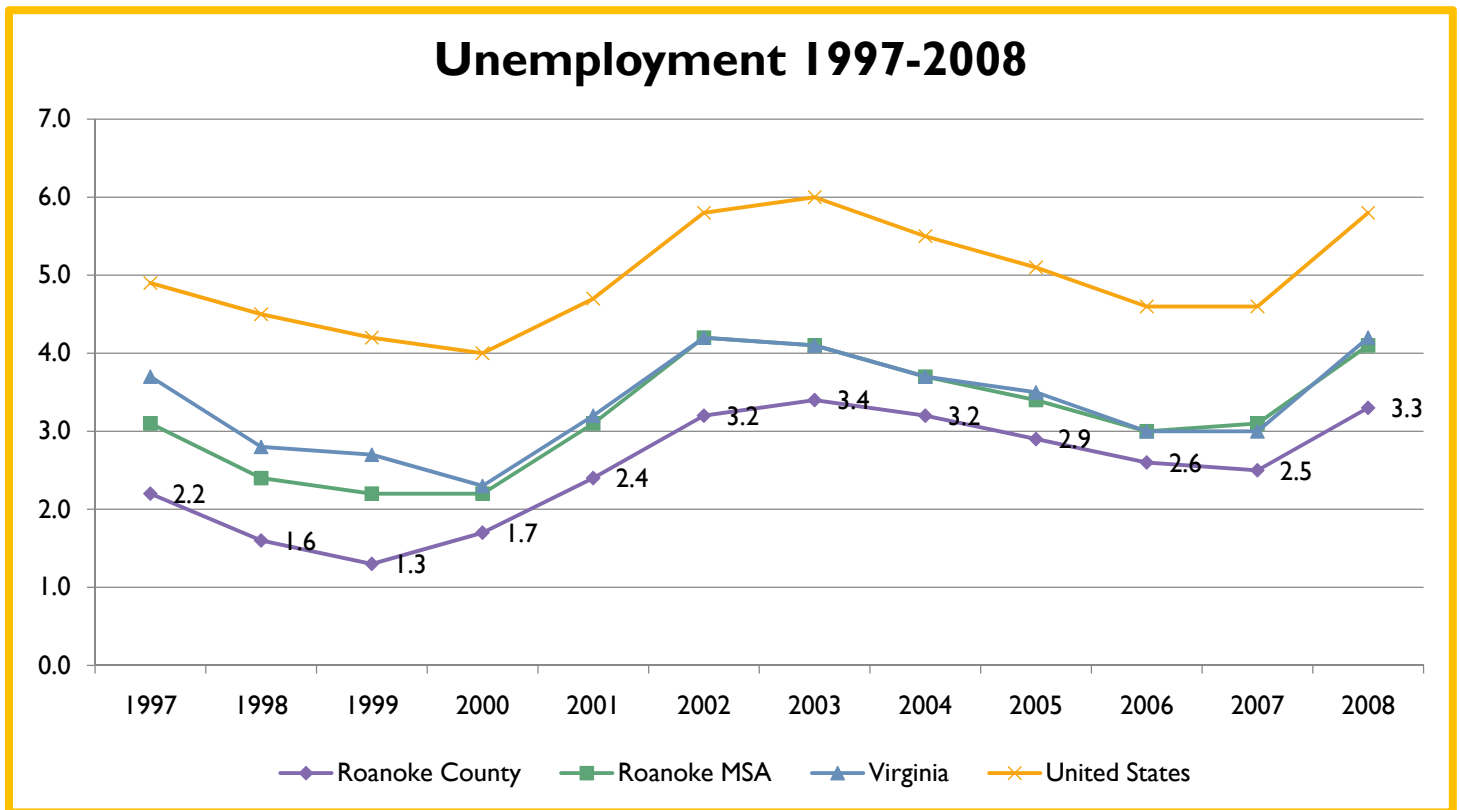


The rate of unemployment within Roanoke County is less than regional, state and national unemployment rates.



Source: Virginia Employment Commission: Labor Force, Employment & Unemployment, 2009

Between 1997 and 2007, Roanoke County has seen an unemployment rate less than that of regional, state and national levels. Although lower, the trends over the last ten years within the county are reflective of rates elsewhere. In the late 1990s, the unemployment rate declined reaching its lowest point at 1.3% in 1999. Since that point, unemployment rose until 2003 then falling until 2007. In 2008, the unemployment rate falls at 3.3%, just one tenth of a percent from the 11 year high.