

CHAZ Unemployment Rate



The meme above about the CHAZ unemployment rate was making the rounds on the internet a few days ago. I laughed, my wife laughed, I posted it on Facebook. **One of my economist colleagues pointed out an obvious error. It turns out the actual unemployment rate in CHAZ is undefined.** Read on for details.

For those who have been someplace pleasant and cut off from the news, **CHAZ is the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone in Seattle.** There has been a move to renaming it **CHOP, the Capitol Hill Occupied Protest.**

My economist pal pointed out, correctly, that **to be counted as both unemployed and in the labor force a person must be looking for work.** Both those numbers are zero. **Meaning the unemployment in that area, whatever name you use, is $0/0$.** This is **undefined**, if only because division by zero is a big no-no.