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TUCSON, Ariz. – Three months ago, Joseph Schwartz and his wife Susan welcomed the arrival of their third child. When Mr. Schwartz was younger, he didn't think a lot about money. He viewed work as a joke and preferred to travel off of what he had.

Now that he has three young children, Mr. Schwartz, 36, is facing the harsh reality of unemployment. After nine years of hard work and loyalty, he got laid off last month from Hastings Pipe Factory. He knew that business was bad, but he never expected to get fired. It is too early for his wife to work, as she is still breastfeeding their baby.

Mr. Schwartz has spent the past month repeatedly going into the unemployment center, begging for any chance of a job. While holding their three-month-old baby girl, Mrs. Schwartz explained that they aren't looking for sympathy – they just want normal lives where they can give their children what they want and deserve.

Unemployment increased by one percentage point last month nationwide. Many Americans are facing the daunting situation of applying to job after job with no hope in sight. Simultaneously, businesses are struggling with sales and cannot hire every applicant who is willing to work.