Research Notes



Unemployment Rate by Race Dionny McDonnell, Economist

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Nevada's Unemployment Rate Trending Down Across Race Groups



- The monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), sponsored by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, allows for the analysis of the unemployment rate in the Silver State by race.
- In early 2006, the unemployment rate for Blacks was 7.4 % (expressed as a 12-month moving average), compared to that for Whites at four percent. The rate for people of Hispanic origin was 4.1 percent.
- The unemployment rate for Blacks peaked at 22.6% in early 2012, while the rate for Whites topped out at 13.9 % in late 2010. The rate for Hispanics peaked at 18.7% in mid-2010.
- For the year ending in September 2018, Blacks have an unemployment rate of 7.1%, down from 10.5% a year ago. The rate for Whites is 4.2 %, down from 4.7% last year. The rate for Hispanics stands at 5.4 % slightly up from 5.1% last year. In September the overall unemployment rate is 4.6¹ percent.
- Similar to the U.S., the unemployment rate in Nevada varies across race groups. According to the
 Bureau of Labor Statistics, labor market differences across racial groups are associated with many
 factors, not all of which are measurable. These factors include variations across the groups in
 educational attainment, the occupations and industries in which they work, and the geographic areas
 in which the groups are concentrated (including urban or rural settings).

¹ It should be noted that utilizing information solely from the CPS results in a slightly different total unemployment rate than what is officially reported. The State's official rate incorporates information regarding job trends and unemployment insurance claims activity into the calculation, in addition to CPS results.





