



The American Dream on Hold Economic Challenges in the African American Community

BALTIMORE FACT SHEET

Baltimore is one of the 30 largest cities by population in the United States. More than 300,000 African Americans live in Baltimore, constituting 61 percent of the city's population. The black community in Baltimore faces extraordinary challenges as compared to whites in the city.

This fact sheet parallels national statistics from a [recent report](#) by the Joint Economic Committee Democrats. Data from the 30 largest U.S. cities by population appear on the reverse side of this fact sheet.

Unemployment

At **14.8 percent**, the unemployment rate for African Americans in Baltimore is **more than two-and-a-half times** the 5.8 percent rate for whites (*see Figure*).

African Americans face an unemployment rate that is **over six percentage points higher** than the highest unemployment rate experienced by whites (8.5 percent) during the recent recession.

Income

The median income of African American households in the city is \$34,600—**nearly \$30,000 less** than the median income of white households (\$63,700).

Poverty

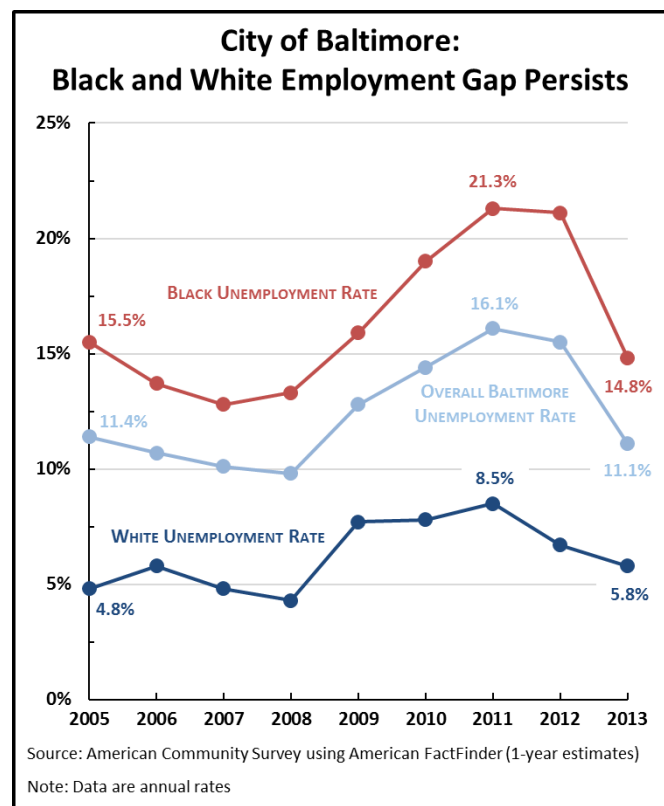
More than one in four African Americans in Baltimore live in poverty (27 percent)—**almost double** the rate for whites (14 percent).

Education

Among those 25 years old and over in Baltimore, whites are **more than three-and-a-half times as likely** as African Americans the same age to have a 4-year college degree (51 percent vs. 14 percent).

Work Experience

Only 36 percent of African Americans work full time compared to 47 percent of whites in the city.



U.S. Cities: Current Measures of Economic Well-Being in the African American Community, 2013

Top 30 U.S. Cities by Population	African American Population (16+)	Percent of City Population	Unemployment Rate		Median Household Income		Poverty Rate†		Percentage with 4-Year Degree		Percentage Working Full Time	
			African American	White	African American	White	African American	White	African American	White	African American	White
Austin, TX	53,700	8%	10.2%	5.2%	\$37,300	\$68,100	24%	11%	21%	50%	41%	50%
Baltimore, MD	308,700	61%	14.8%	5.8%	\$34,600	\$63,700	27%	14%	14%	51%	36%	47%
Boston, MA	123,100	22%	12.5%	5.4%	\$38,700	\$75,000	24%	14%	20%	60%	38%	46%
Charlotte, NC	215,700	35%	16.2%	6.2%	\$36,100	\$70,500	25%	8%	25%	52%	42%	48%
Chicago, IL	679,100	31%	24.6%	5.8%	\$30,000	\$69,900	34%	10%	19%	46%	29%	48%
Columbus, OH	163,600	25%	12.9%	5.0%	\$30,200	\$51,500	35%	16%	20%	38%	39%	48%
Dallas, TX	231,100	24%	13.5%	4.8%	\$27,100	\$70,100	35%	10%	18%	37%	37%	50%
Denver, CO	49,000	9%	13.0%	4.3%	\$30,600	\$62,500	36%	10%	24%	48%	36% *	36% *
Detroit, MI	433,900	81%	26.9%	14.6%	\$23,800	\$29,900	40%	40%	12%	22%	25%	26%
El Paso, TX	18,300	4%	14.9%	8.3%	\$45,600	\$52,300	13%	11%	28%	22%	45% **	45% **
Fort Worth, TX	106,800	18%	13.9%	4.9%	\$33,600	\$67,300	36%	9%	18%	34%	41%	48%
Houston, TX	397,600	23%	14.5%	5.5%	\$32,000	\$73,400	28%	10%	21%	35%	40%	49%
Indianapolis, IN	176,600	27%	19.8%	7.6%	\$28,500	\$50,600	32%	14%	15%	33%	34%	44%
Jacksonville, FL	192,800	29%	16.4%	7.7%	\$32,000	\$55,700	29%	12%	18%	30%	39%	45%
Las Vegas, NV	55,700	12%	18.4%	11.6%	\$32,000	\$56,300	30%	11%	17%	23%	36%	39%
Los Angeles, CA	286,700	9%	17.7%	9.4%	\$32,500	\$70,300	29%	13%	23%	37%	32%	40%
Louisville, KY	103,200	21%	16.5%	5.5%	\$27,300	\$51,700	26%	13%	14%	30%	36%	43%
Memphis, TN	311,500	61%	19.0%	5.2%	\$29,000	\$57,200	34%	10%	15%	42%	35%	47%
Milwaukee, WI	165,700	36%	18.4%	6.4%	\$26,400	\$48,300	40%	15%	12%	32%	29%	41%
Nashville, TN	135,400	27%	10.1%	6.0%	\$36,100	\$55,300	25%	12%	24%	32%	43%	46%
New York, NY	1,651,900	24%	14.2%	6.2%	\$40,700	\$75,100	24%	13%	22%	47%	38%	44%
Philadelphia, PA	518,000	42%	18.9%	8.3%	\$30,000	\$51,400	29%	15%	14%	35%	33%	39%
Phoenix, AZ	78,500	7%	12.7%	8.0%	\$31,700	\$56,800	24%	13%	17%	28%	38%	44%
Portland, OR	27,500	5%	20.7%	7.5%	\$27,900	\$62,200	36%	14%	15%	50%	31% *	31% *
San Antonio, TX	78,000	7%	13.9%	5.0%	\$33,400	\$60,100	29%	10%	25%	26%	39%	42%
San Diego, CA	67,200	6%	16.7%	6.8%	\$45,600	\$73,300	23%	11%	21%	45%	38%	44%
San Francisco, CA	41,000	6%	17.4%	5.2%	\$30,400	\$101,300	36%	9%	23%	67%	30% *	30% *
San Jose, CA	24,700	3%	16.6%	6.5%	\$46,800	\$92,900	23%	8%	26%	38%	39% *	39% *
Seattle, WA	36,300	6%	12.6%	5.0%	\$25,700	\$78,200	41%	9%	24%	66%	31% *	31% *
Washington, DC	255,800	47%	20.0%	3.2%	\$38,100	\$118,400	29%	8%	24%	87%	33%	61%
U.S. Total	30,669,900	12%	15.2%	6.8%	\$34,800	\$57,700	28%	11%	19%	31%	37%	41%

† The poverty rate was derived using the American Community Survey, which gives a higher estimate (15.8 percent for the U.S. population in 2013) than the official poverty rate, based on the Current Population Survey (14.5 percent).

Source: JEC Democratic staff calculations using data from the American Community Survey through American FactFinder.

"*" indicates 3-year estimates. "***" indicates 5-year estimates. All other data are 1-year estimates.

Notes: "African American" refers to anyone who identifies as "black" or "African American," alone or in combination with other races, including individuals of Hispanic ethnicity. White refers to non-Hispanic white, not in combination with any other race. Percentage working full time refers to those who worked full time, year round in the past 12 months. U.S. cities determined by overall population size from 2010 Census. African American population refers to the civilian, non-institutional population, 16 years and over. Numbers rounded to nearest percentage except unemployment rates.