



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

NEW YORK CITY FACT SHEET

New York City is one of the 30 largest cities by population in the United States. More than 1.6 million working-age African Americans (16 years and over) live in New York City, making up about a quarter of the city's working-age population. The black community in New York City 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 **12.0 percent**, the unemployment rate for African Americans in New York City is **more than twice** the 5.5 percent rate for whites (*see Figure*).

African Americans face an unemployment rate that is **over four percentage points higher** than the highest unemployment rate experienced by whites (7.9 percent) during the recent recession.

Income

The median income of African American households in the city is \$41,000—**nearly half** the median income of white households (\$80,200).

Poverty

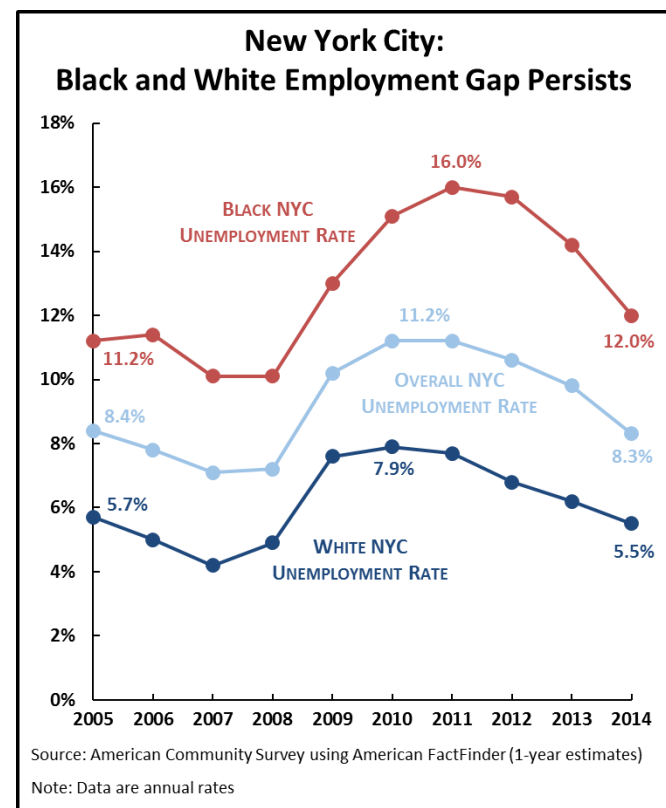
Almost one in four African Americans in New York City live in poverty (23 percent)—**almost double** the rate for whites (13 percent).

Education

Among those 25 years old and over in New York City, whites are **more than twice as likely** as African Americans the same age to have a 4-year college degree (49 percent vs. 23 percent).

Work Experience

Only 38 percent of African Americans work full time compared to 45 percent of whites in the city.



U.S. Cities: Current Measures of Economic Well-Being in the African American Community, 2014

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	56,400	8%	10.5%	3.7%	\$35,500	\$67,700	28%	11%	25%	49%	42%	52%
Baltimore, MD	307,100	61%	16.1%	5.7%	\$34,000	\$67,700	28%	14%	15%	54%	34%	47%
Boston, MA	128,000	23%	12.2%	5.0%	\$34,800	\$85,400	27%	14%	21%	63%	34%	48%
Charlotte, NC	216,200	34%	13.9%	5.8%	\$39,800	\$75,000	24%	8%	27%	52%	43%	50%
Chicago, IL	668,900	31%	20.6%	5.8%	\$29,000	\$73,400	34%	10%	19%	47%	29%	49%
Columbus, OH	171,100	26%	11.8%	4.0%	\$31,800	\$55,900	31%	14%	18%	40%	39%	50%
Dallas, TX	241,300	25%	12.3%	4.0%	\$28,400	\$70,900	32%	10%	15%	36%	37%	51%
Denver, CO	49,400	9%	7.6%	3.8%	\$31,300	\$68,800	27%	10%	20%	48%	36% *	50%
Detroit, MI	420,600	79%	23.6%	11.9%	\$24,700	\$30,800	39%	39%	12%	21%	25%	29%
El Paso, TX	20,300	4%	17.4%	6.3%	\$48,400	\$57,700	16%	9%	28%	23%	45% **	40%
Fort Worth, TX	119,200	20%	10.4%	4.8%	\$33,100	\$70,000	31%	9%	17%	30%	42%	47%
Houston, TX	405,200	23%	11.0%	3.2%	\$32,700	\$78,600	28%	10%	21%	34%	42%	49%
Indianapolis, IN	176,100	27%	15.9%	6.3%	\$30,500	\$50,600	29%	14%	17%	33%	37%	44%
Jacksonville, FL	198,100	29%	13.5%	6.6%	\$32,400	\$51,900	30%	13%	15%	29%	37%	43%
Las Vegas, NV	57,700	12%	15.6%	8.9%	\$36,100	\$58,900	25%	12%	14%	24%	36%	41%
Los Angeles, CA	295,100	9%	15.4%	7.6%	\$32,300	\$72,600	29%	12%	23%	37%	33%	41%
Louisville, KY	104,700	22%	12.6%	5.2%	\$27,100	\$52,200	33%	12%	14%	31%	36%	44%
Memphis, TN	317,600	62%	13.5%	4.9%	\$27,700	\$53,500	35%	14%	15%	43%	37%	44%
Milwaukee, WI	167,400	36%	18.6%	5.1%	\$25,000	\$49,600	40%	15%	12%	33%	31%	42%
Nashville, TN	139,900	27%	12.3%	3.8%	\$31,700	\$56,900	31%	12%	27%	42%	40%	48%
New York, NY	1,662,900	24%	12.0%	5.5%	\$41,000	\$80,200	23%	13%	23%	49%	38%	45%
Philadelphia, PA	513,500	41%	18.3%	7.3%	\$30,200	\$54,400	31%	14%	14%	36%	32%	40%
Phoenix, AZ	75,000	6%	14.4%	6.6%	\$35,300	\$57,500	30%	12%	21%	29%	41%	44%
Portland, OR	27,100	5%	13.4%	7.3%	\$26,900	\$60,100	46%	15%	22%	50%	31% *	42%
San Antonio, TX	78,700	7%	8.4%	4.8%	\$35,500	\$61,000	26%	12%	24%	26%	40%	43%
San Diego, CA	73,200	6%	12.2%	5.3%	\$50,300	\$80,100	23%	9%	24%	48%	42%	44%
San Francisco, CA	38,900	5%	17.9%	4.4%	\$29,500	\$104,400	28%	8%	25%	69%	30% *	51%
San Jose, CA	23,800	3%	7.4%	5.1%	\$60,800	\$101,900	18%	6%	32%	39%	39% *	44%
Seattle, WA	37,000	6%	11.2%	3.6%	\$28,100	\$80,400	36%	9%	16%	66%	31% *	50%
Washington, DC	260,800	47%	17.0%	2.7%	\$40,700	\$117,100	26%	7%	25%	87%	36%	60%
U.S. Total	31,139,400	12%	13.2%	5.8%	\$35,500	\$59,600	27%	11%	20%	31%	37%	41%

† The poverty rate was derived using the American Community Survey, which gives a higher estimate (15.5 percent for the entire population in 2014) than the official poverty rate (14.8 percent), which uses the Current Population Survey.

Source: JEC Democratic staff calculations using data from the 2014 American Community Survey (1-year estimates) using American FactFinder.

** indicates 3-year estimates (2011-13). *** indicates 5-year estimates (2009-13).

Notes: "African American" refers to anyone who identifies as "black" or "African American," not in combination with any other race. 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.