

UNCOVERING THE FACTS: Black Unemployment

Which administration has a better record on Black unemployment: Trump-Pence or Biden-Harris? Biden and Harris had a stronger performance on Black unemployment than the previous administration did. During the Biden-Harris administration, the percentage of Black adults with a job rose to an all-time high, and the Black unemployment rate reached an all-time low. Here are the facts about what happened to Black unemployment under the previous and current administrations.

Trump and Pence

- When Trump and Pence first took office, they **inherited a Black unemployment rate of 8.4%** (2016). This was the result of a 9-year decline across two Obama-Biden administrations.
- Black unemployment then **fell 2.4 percentage points** to a **low of 6.1%** in 2019.
- In 2019, **76.0% of all Black adults ages 25–54 had a job**. This included **78.3% of Black men** and **74.1% of Black women** in this age group.

Biden and Harris

- Because of the economic turmoil caused by the pandemic, Biden and Harris faced less favorable conditions than Trump and Pence did. The Biden-Harris administration **inherited a Black unemployment rate of 11.5%** (2020) from the pandemic recession. This was over 3 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate when the Trump-Pence administration began.
- Black unemployment **fell 6 percentage points** to the **lowest annual rate of 5.5%** in 2023, a 0.6 percentage point **improvement on the 2019 low of the Trump-Pence administration**.
- In 2023, an **all-time high of 77.7% of Black adults ages 25–54 had a job**. This included **79.8% of Black men** and **75.5% of Black women** in this age group.

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