

UNCOVERING THE FACTS: Asian Employment

The Biden-Harris administration had a stronger performance on Asian employment than the Trump-Pence administration. In short, the Biden-Harris administration delivered record gains in employment for Asian workers despite inheriting a weaker labor market with higher unemployment from the Trump-Pence administration. Here are the facts about what happened to Asian employment.

Trump and Pence

- When Trump and Pence first took office, they inherited an Asian unemployment rate of 3.6% (2016). This was the result of a 9-year decline across two Obama-Biden administrations.
- Asian unemployment then fell 0.9 percentage points to a low of 2.7% in 2019.
- Between 2016 and 2019, the share of Asian adults ages 25–54 with a job increased by about 2.3 percentage points to 78.5%.

Biden and Harris

- The Biden-Harris administration inherited an Asian unemployment rate of 8.7% (2020) from the pandemic recession. This was more than 5 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate inherited by the Trump-Pence administration.
- Asian unemployment fell by nearly 6 percentage points to an annual rate of 3.0% in 2023.
- Between 2020 and 2023, the share of Asian adults ages 25–54 with a job increased by nearly 7 percentage points to an all-time high of 80.4%.