# AFRICAN-AMERICAN EMPLOYMENT

## THE ISSUE

Their are twice as many unemployed African-American citizens as there are whites. You would think that more education would solve this, right? Well a study from The Atlantic states that African-Americans with college degrees are twice as likely to be unemployed as other non African-American college graduates. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows a consistent unemployment rate by race. Whites had a 5% unemployment rate and African Americans hada 9.9% unemployment rate in December 2013. The employment rate of African Americans was at its lowest in 1972, when it ranged between 11.2% and 9.4%. Although the unemployment rate for African Americans has never fallen under 6 percent.





## LIKELY CAUSES

What is not really widely known is why African Americans have a higher unemployment rate. According to The Economist, one reason could be due to mass incarceration. Around one third of black men spend time behind bars, which severely messes up their employment chances. Another plausible reason is discrimination. A study in 2004 provides strong evidence that racism among employers is at least partly to blame. The authors of the study responded to "help wanted" advertisements in Chicago and Florida with fake resumes. They gave names common to African Americans to some fake applicants. People with white-sounding names were 50% more likely to get a call back than applicants with African-American sounding names.



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