

Table 1: U.S. Unemployment Rates

Years	Overall Rate	White Rate	Black Rate	Hispanic Rate
1973–79	6.5%	6.8%	12.5%	9.5%
1979–89	7.1	5.5	14.7	10.3
1989–2000	5.6	4.2	10.8	8.6
1995	5.6	4.9	10.4	9.3
1996	5.4	4.7	10.5	8.9
1997	4.9	4.2	10.0	7.7
1998	4.5	3.9	8.9	7.2
1999	4.2	3.7	8.0	6.9
2000	4.0	3.5	7.6	5.7
2001	4.7	4.2	8.6	6.6
2002	5.8	5.1	10.2	7.5
2003	6.0	5.2	10.8	7.7
2004	5.5	4.8	10.4	7.0

Sources: SWA, 222; Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), <http://www.bls.gov>. These are official unemployment rates, derived from a monthly survey of households. They include only those who are without jobs but are actively seeking work. They exclude so-called “discouraged workers,” those who have given up looking for work for market-related reasons. They also exclude “involuntary part-time” workers, those who desire full-time work but cannot find it.