

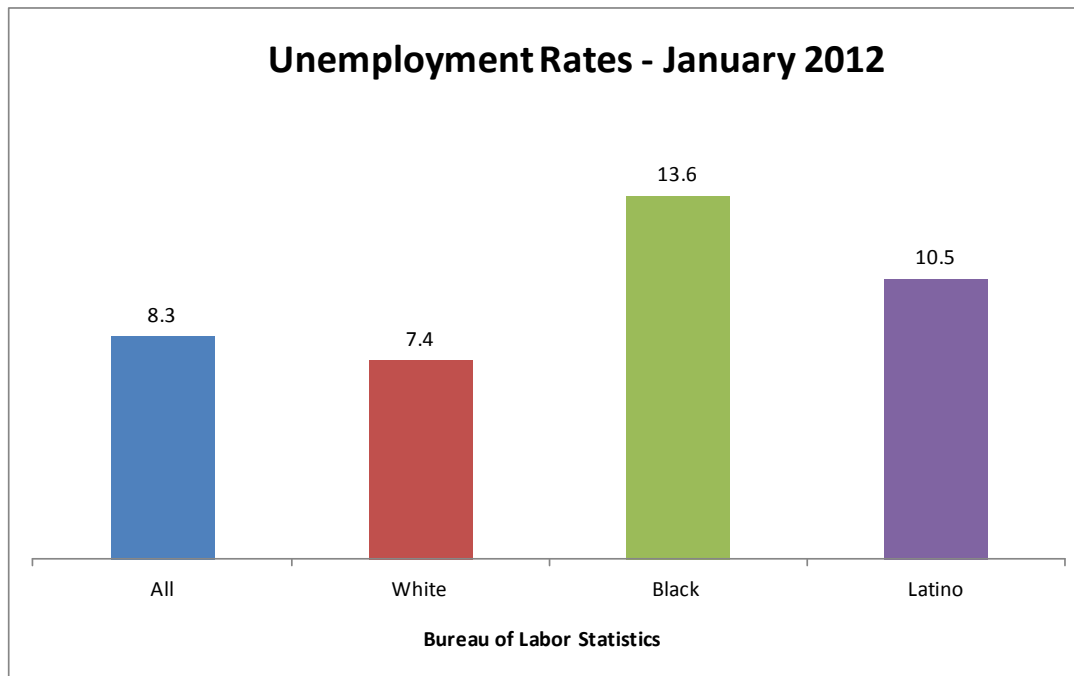
February 3, 2012

DATA BRIEF:

## Black Employment and Unemployment in January 2012

The unemployment rate for Blacks was 13.6% last month.\* This is according to the latest report on the nation's employment situation released Friday morning by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in its monthly Employment Situation report. This rate was a sharp decrease from December, when unemployment in the Black community stood at 15.8%. For the nation as a whole, unemployment was 8.3% in the month of January; this was a decline from December when the national unemployment rate stood at 8.5%. Among whites, unemployment was 7.4%; among Latinos, unemployment was 10.5%. Comparable December 2011 figures were 7.5% and 11.0% respectively. Overall, total non-farm payroll employment increased by 243,000 jobs from last month.

FIGURE 1



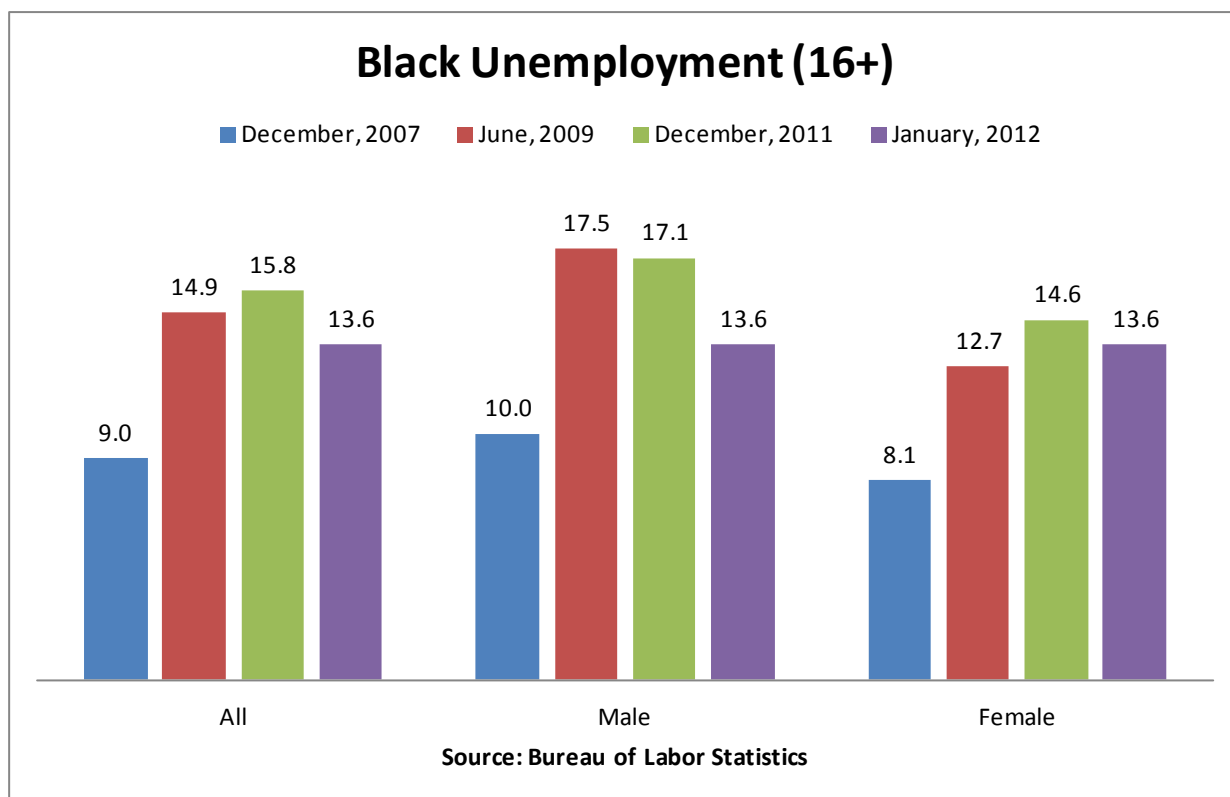
*\*This month's decline was highly unusual. Part of this steep drop results from new statistical weighting by the BLS. Still adjusting for this change, the large reduction is hard to explain.*

# Unemployment<sup>1</sup>

The **unemployment rate** represents the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed. To be counted as officially unemployed, an individual must not have had a job and must have actively looked for work in the last month.

During January, the unemployment rate for Blacks, 16 years of age and older, was 13.6%. This was a decrease from 15.8% in December. For Black women, unemployment was 13.6% (a decrease from 14.6% in December). For Black men, unemployment was 13.6% (a decrease from 17.1% in December). Table 1 presents these data for the months of December 2007 (the beginning of the Great Recession); June 2009 (the official end of the Great Recession); December 2011; and January 2012.<sup>2</sup>

FIGURE 2



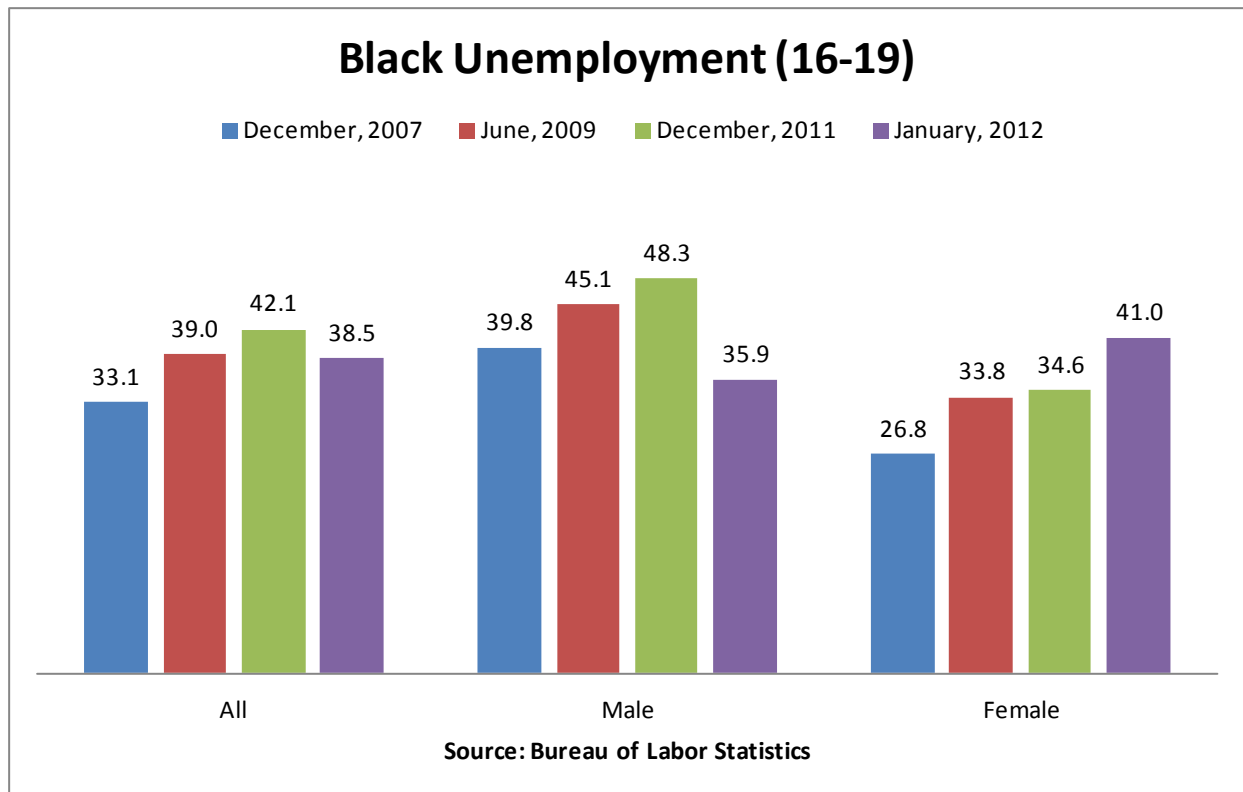
*December 2007 was the first month of the recession, and June 2009 was the last month of the recession. Both are included for comparison.*

<sup>1</sup> This report was produced with the support of a grant from the Open Society Foundation's Campaign for Black Male Achievement.

<sup>2</sup> All statistics in this report are seasonally adjusted data from the Current Population Survey.

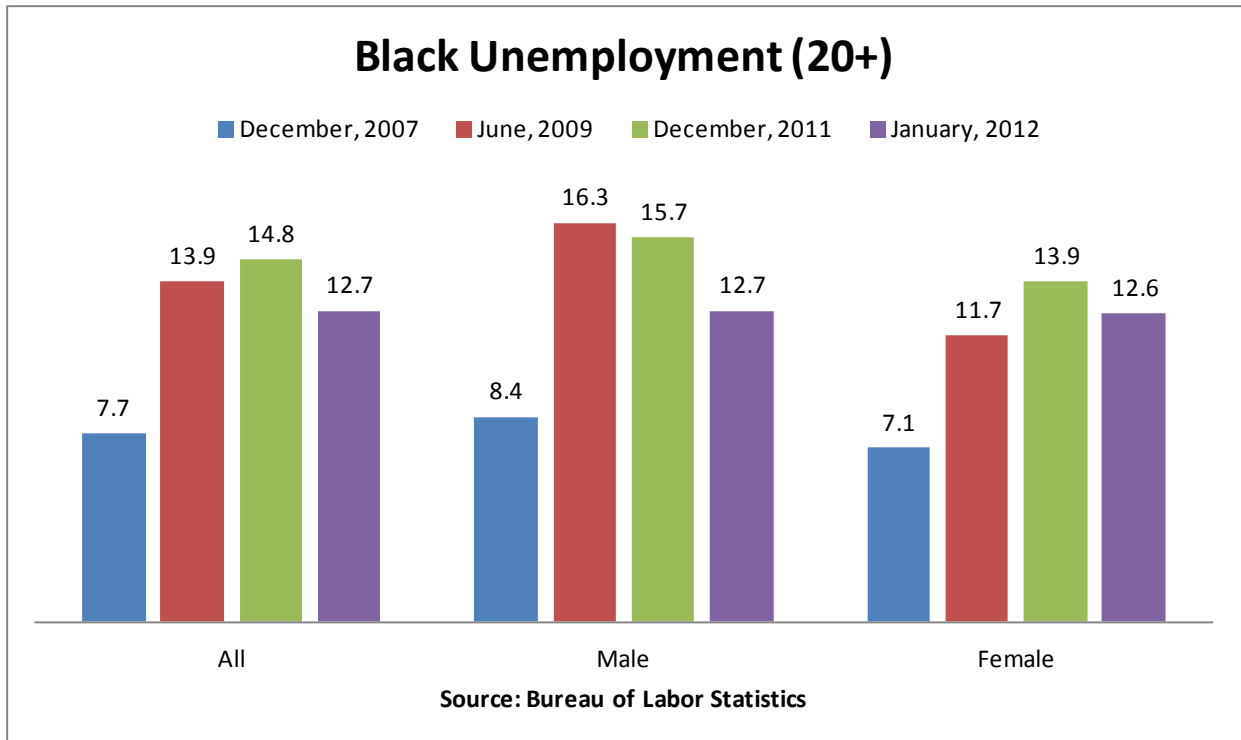
For Black teens (16-19), unemployment was 38.5% (a decrease from 42.1% in December). For Black female teens, unemployment stood at 41.0% (an increase from 34.6% in December). For Black male teens, unemployment was 35.9% (a decrease from 48.3% in December). Teen unemployment rates are extremely volatile from month to month.

FIGURE 3



Analyzing Blacks, 20 and over, unemployment stood at 12.7% (a decrease from 14.8% in December). For Black women, ages 20 and over, unemployment stood at 12.6% (a decrease from 13.9% in December). For Black men, ages 20 and over, unemployment was 12.7% (a decrease from 15.7% in December).

FIGURE 4

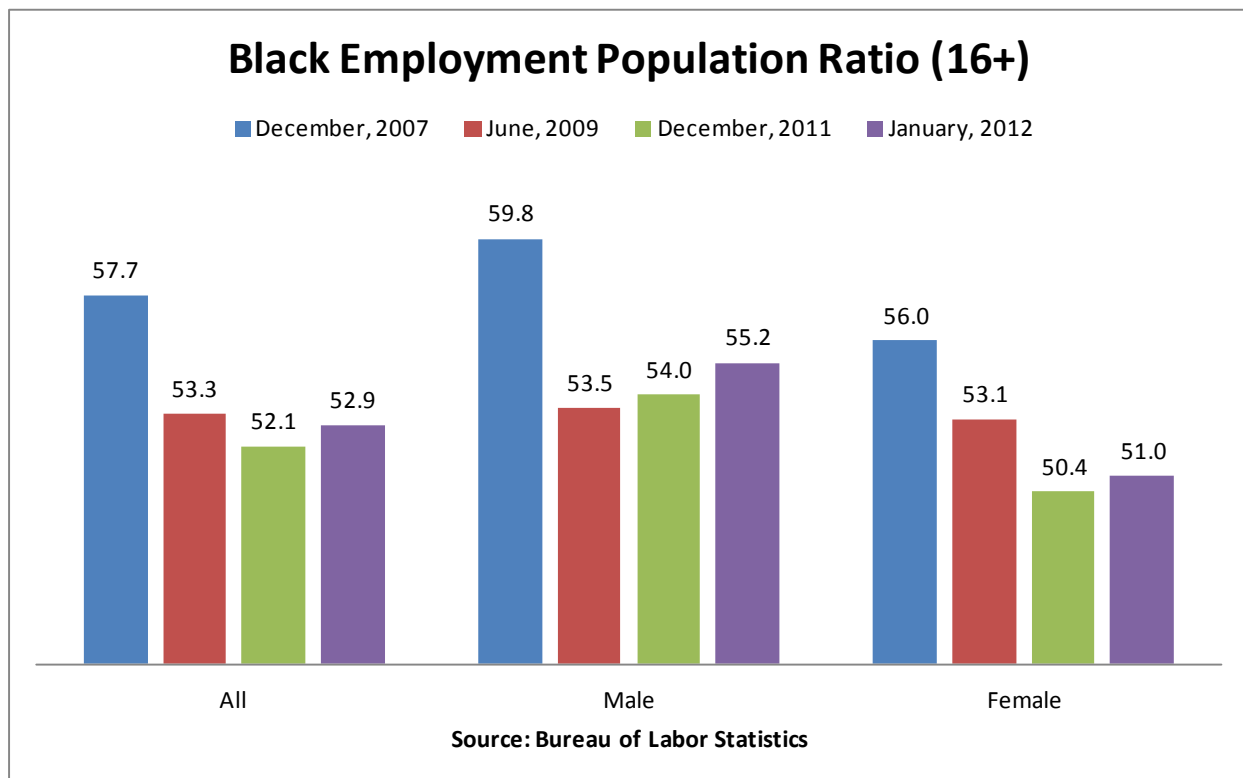


## Employment-Population Ratio

The **employment-population ratio** represents the percentage of the population that is employed and it can be interpreted as the probability that a member of the population is employed. It captures employment prospects better than the unemployment rate, since jobless individuals who are not in the labor force (including discouraged workers) are not calculated in the unemployment rate. However, it would be a mistake to conclude that all persons not employed are without a job and desiring employment. Some people might not be employed because of their status as a full-time student, homemaker, retiree, or disabled person. Hence, an employment-population ratio of 60% **does not** imply an unemployment rate of 40%.

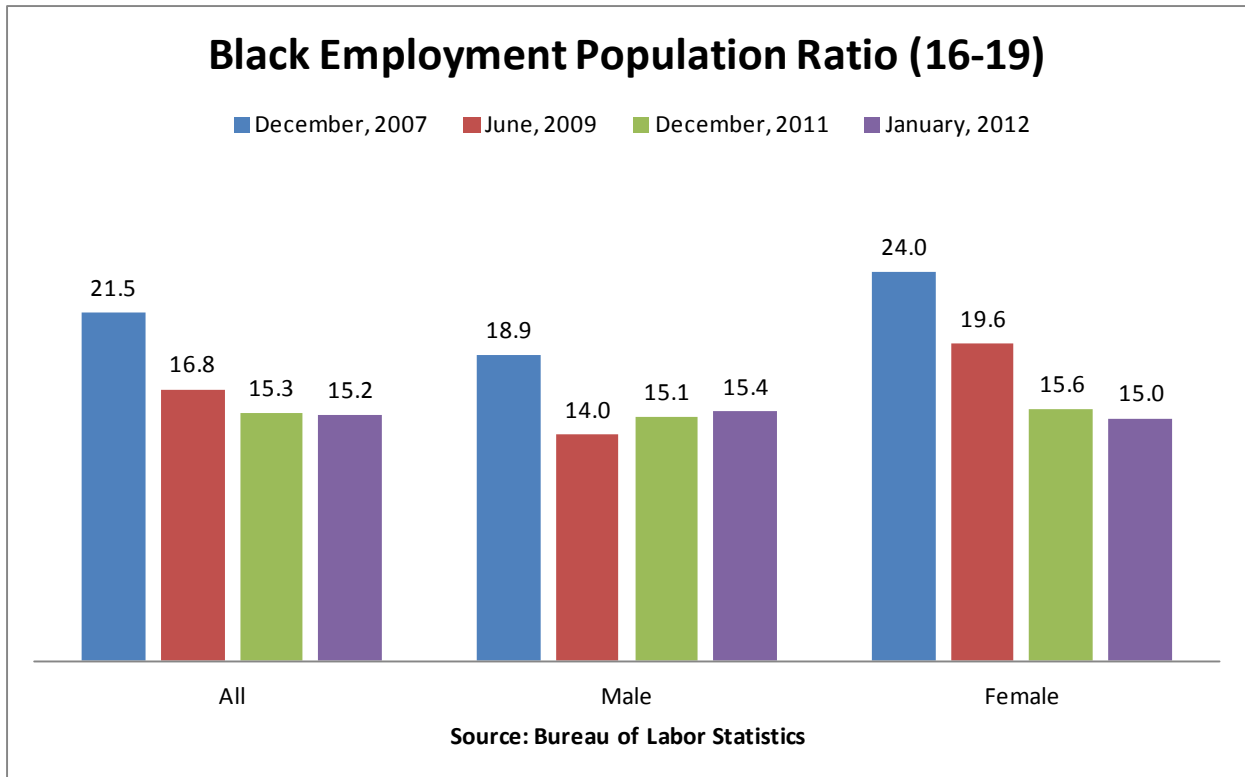
In January, the employment-population ratio for Blacks, 16 and over, was 52.9%. This was an increase from 52.1% in December. For Black women, the employment-population ratio stood at 51.0% (an increase from 50.4% in December). For Black men, the employment-population ratio was 55.2% (an increase from 54.0% in December).

FIGURE 5



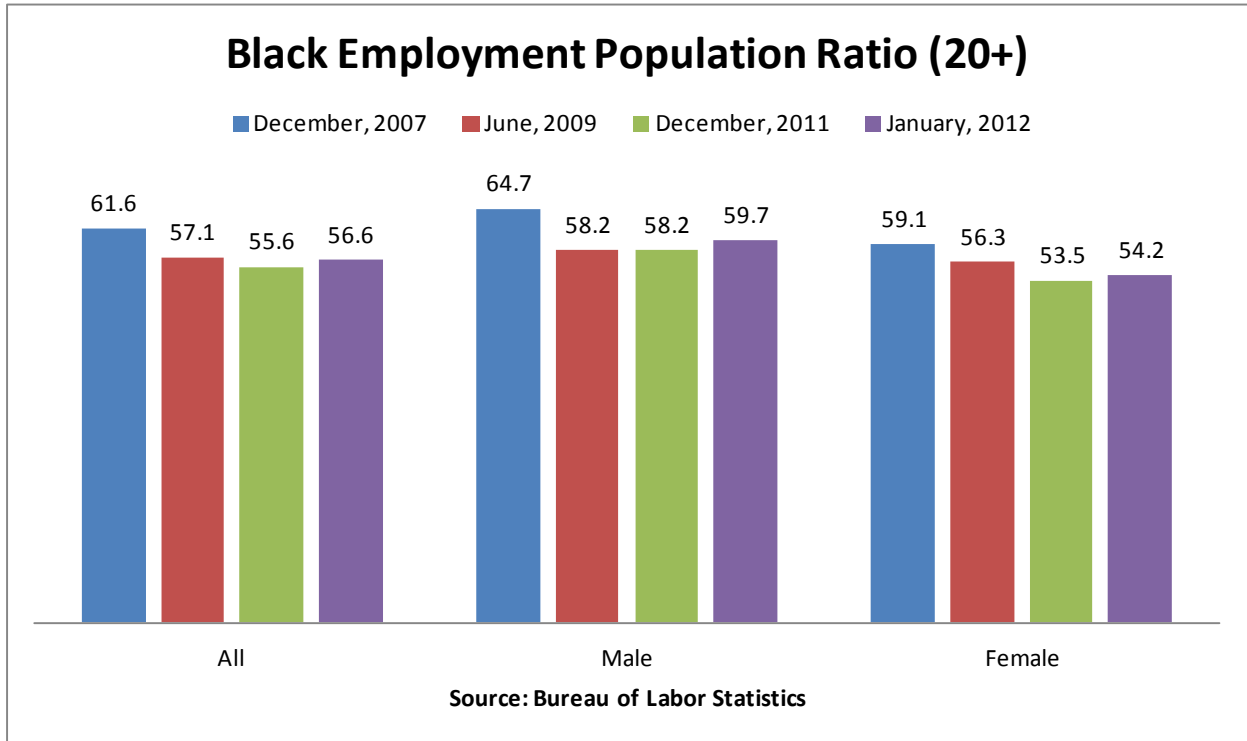
For Black teens, the employment-population ratio was 15.2% (virtually unchanged from 15.3% in December). For Black female teens, ages 16 - 19, the employment-population ratio stood at 15.0% (a decrease from 15.6% in December). For Black male teens, 16 -19, the employment-population ratio was 15.4% (a slight increase from 15.1% in December). As with the monthly teen unemployment rates, these figure are very volatile.

FIGURE 6



Analyzing Blacks, 20 and over, the employment-population ratio stood at 56.6% (an increase from 55.6% in December). For Black women, ages 20 and over, the employment-population ratio stood at 54.2% (an increase from 53.5% in December). For Black men, ages 20 and over, the employment-population ratio was 59.7% (an increase from 58.2% in December).

FIGURE 7



## Appendices

Definitions	9
Figures A1-A3: Unemployment by race	10
Figures A4-A6: Teen Unemployment by race	11
Figures A7-A9: Adult Unemployment by race	12
Figures A10-A12: Employment-Population Ratios by race	13
Figures A13-A15: Teen Employment-Population Ratios by race	14
Figures A16-A18: Adult Employment-Population Ratios by race	15
Table A1: Unemployment: All	16
Table A2: Unemployment: White	17
Table A3: Unemployment: Black	18
Table A4: Employment-Population Ratios: All	19
Table A5: Employment-Population Ratios: White	20
Table A6: Employment-Population Ratios: Black	21

The Bureau of Labor Statistics does not release comparable data for Latinos.

## Definitions

Each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys approximately 60,000 households reporting information on the labor market activity of the **civilian non-institutionalized population** that is 16 years of age or older. (Members of the armed services and persons in prisons, mental institutions, and homes for the elderly and disabled are not included) From this information, an individual's labor status is determined to fall into one of three broad categories:

**Employed.** Persons will be considered employed if (during the survey week) they did paid work for at least 1 hour; worked in their own firm; worked unpaid for at least 15 hours for a family business; or were temporarily absent from work for a variety of reasons. (Work in their own home is not included.)

**Unemployed.** Persons will be considered unemployed if (during the survey week) they did not have a job, but they were available to work and sought work during the preceding month. (Laid off workers awaiting recall are labeled as unemployed.)

**Not in the Labor Force.** Those persons not considered employed or unemployed are classified as not in the labor force.

The **Civilian Labor Force** represents the total number of employed and unemployed persons.

Given these basic concepts, the following rates can be calculated:

**Unemployment Rate.** The unemployment rate is the proportion of the civilian labor force that was unemployed. (The ratio of the unemployed (U) and the civilian labor force (CLF):  $U\% = U/CLF$ .) Please note: persons can be jobless, but unemployed if they are not seeking employment. Hence the unemployment rate understates the amount of joblessness.

**Employment-Population Ratio.** The employment-population ratio is the proportion of the population that is employed. (The ratio of the employed (EMP) and the population (POP):  $Emp\text{-}Pop\text{ Ratio} = EMP/POP$ .)

For more information, please consult the website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm> and [http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch1\\_b.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch1_b.htm)

## Figures A1-3

### Unemployment by Race

FIGURE A1

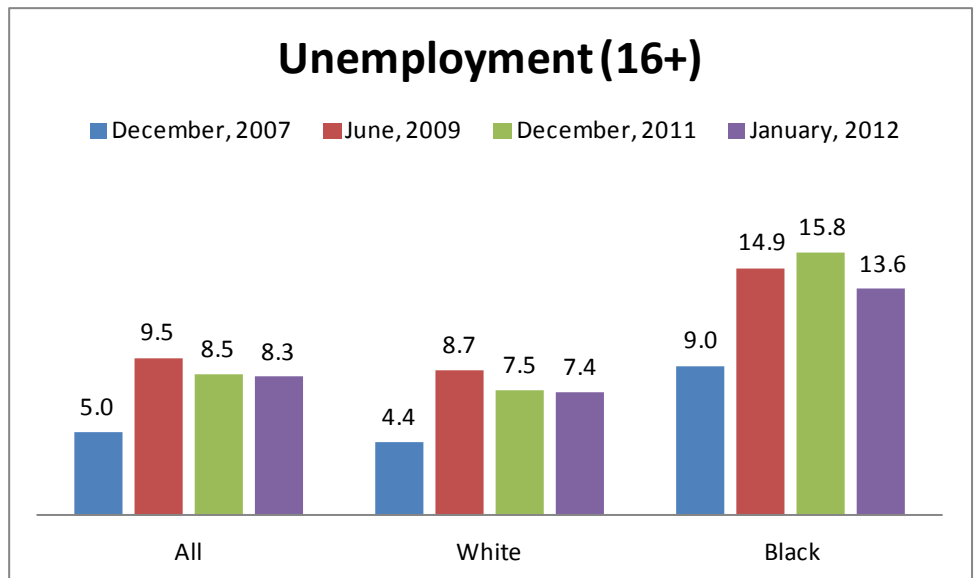


FIGURE A2

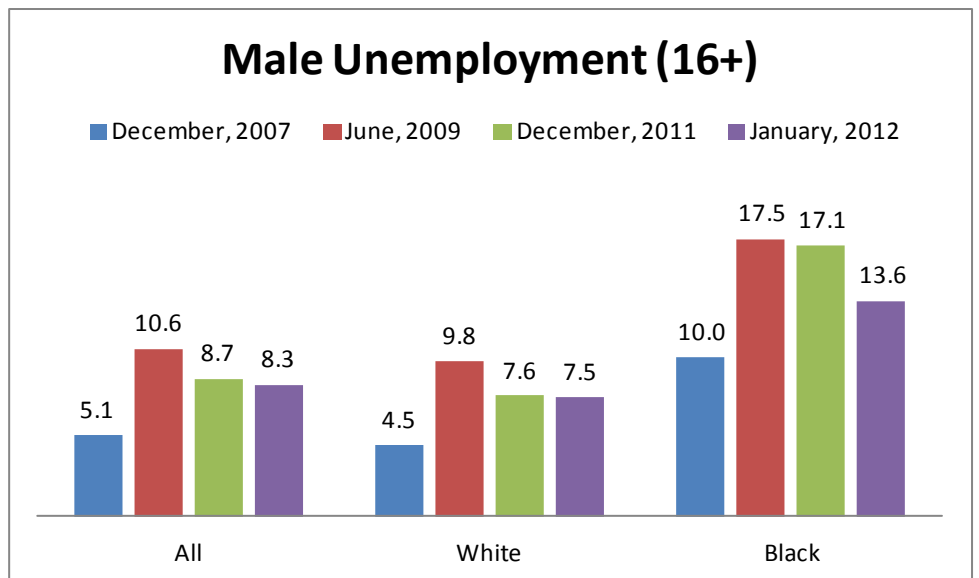
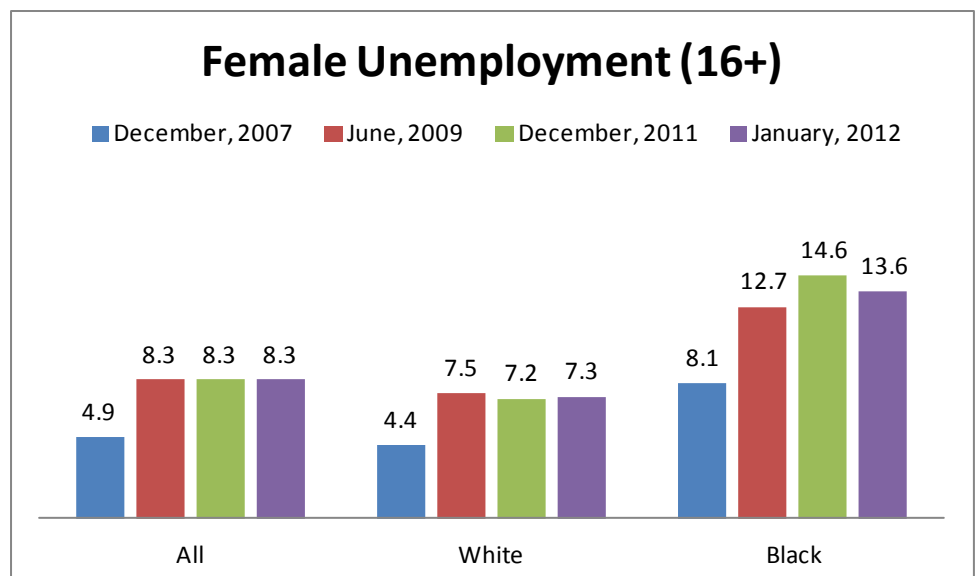


FIGURE A3



Figures A4-6

Teen  
Unemployment by  
Race

FIGURE A4

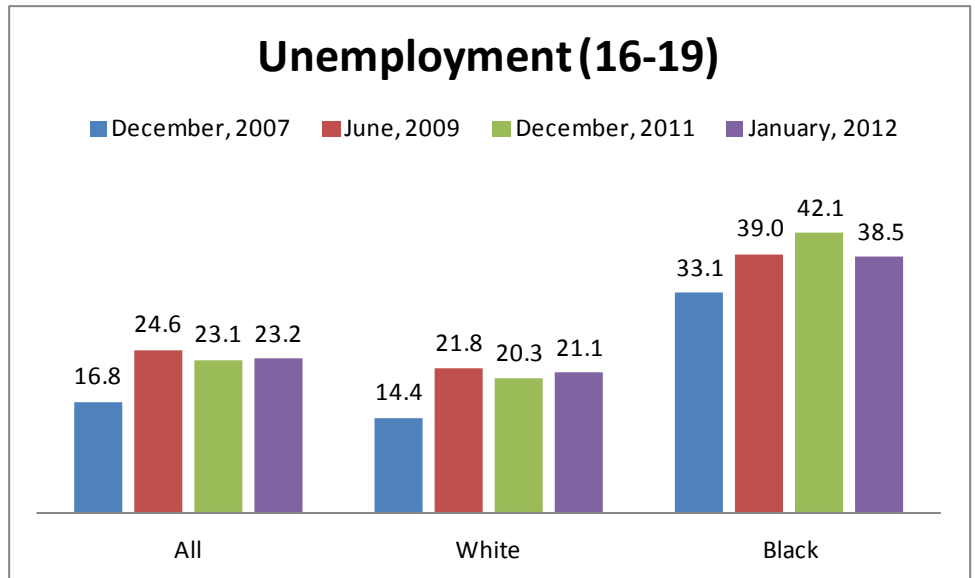


FIGURE A5

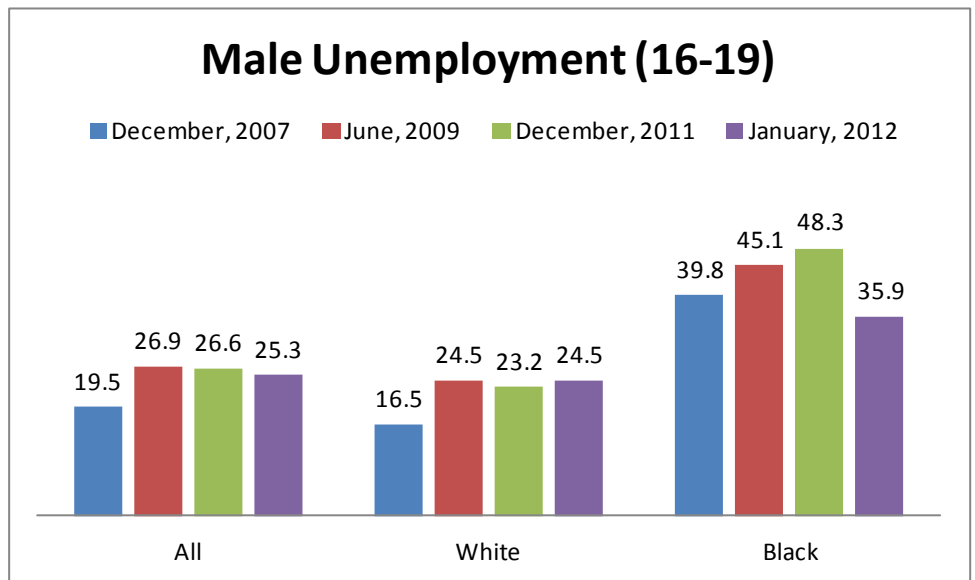
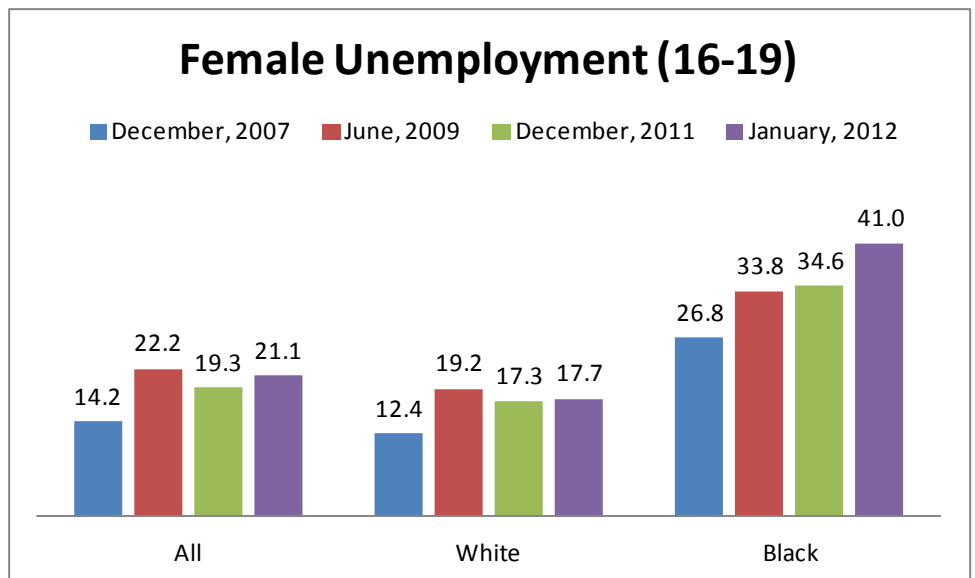


FIGURE A6



Figures A7-9

Adult  
Unemployment by  
Race

FIGURE A7

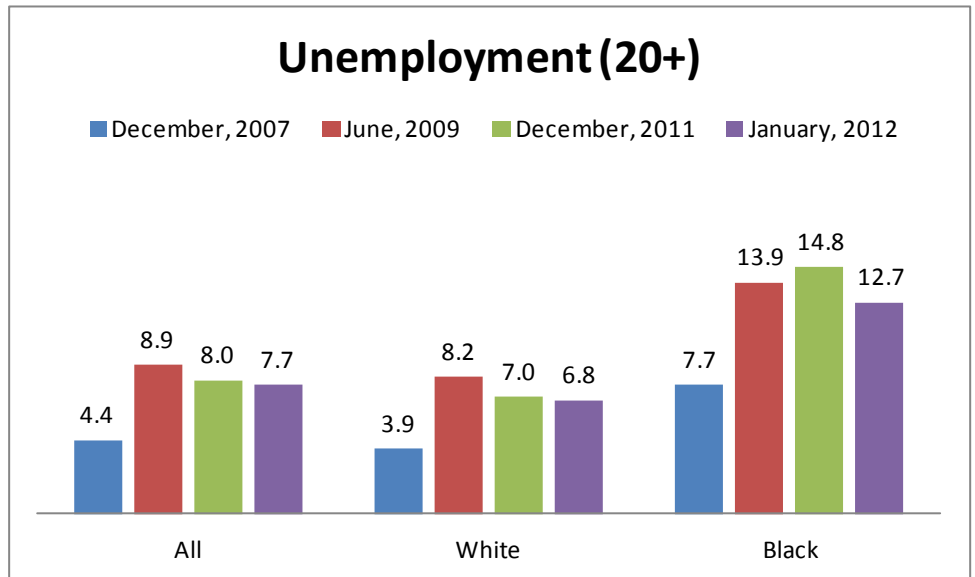


FIGURE A8

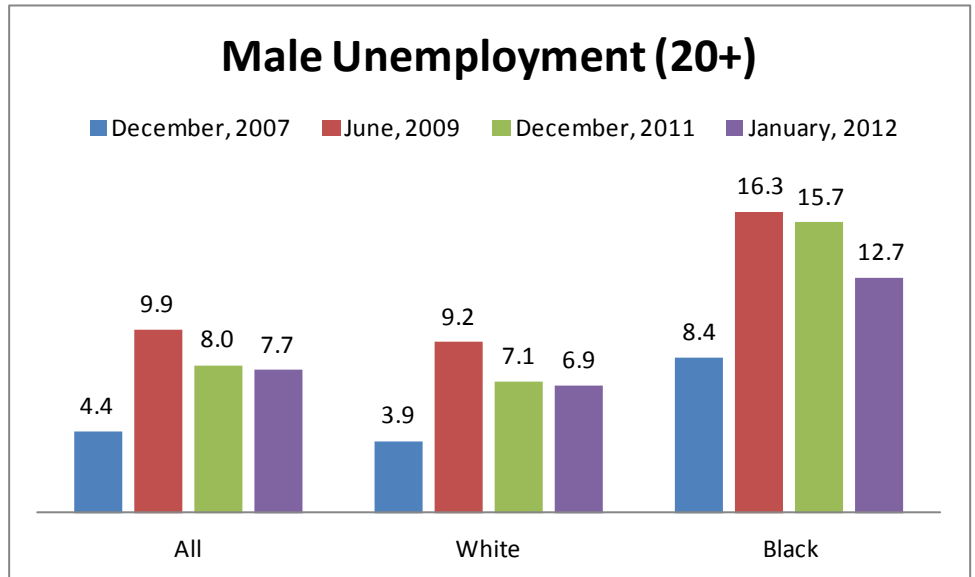
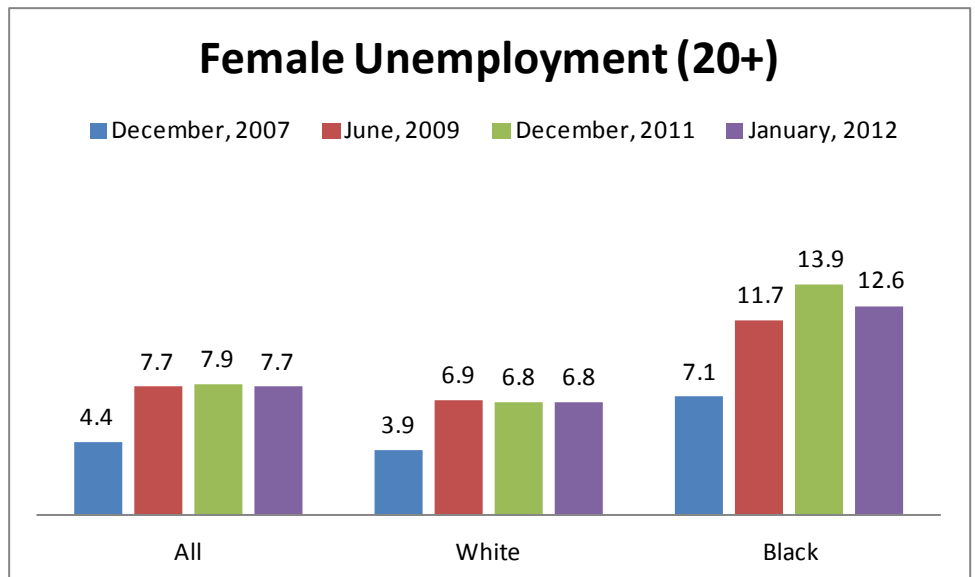


FIGURE A9



Figures A10-12

Unemployment  
Population Ratios  
by Race

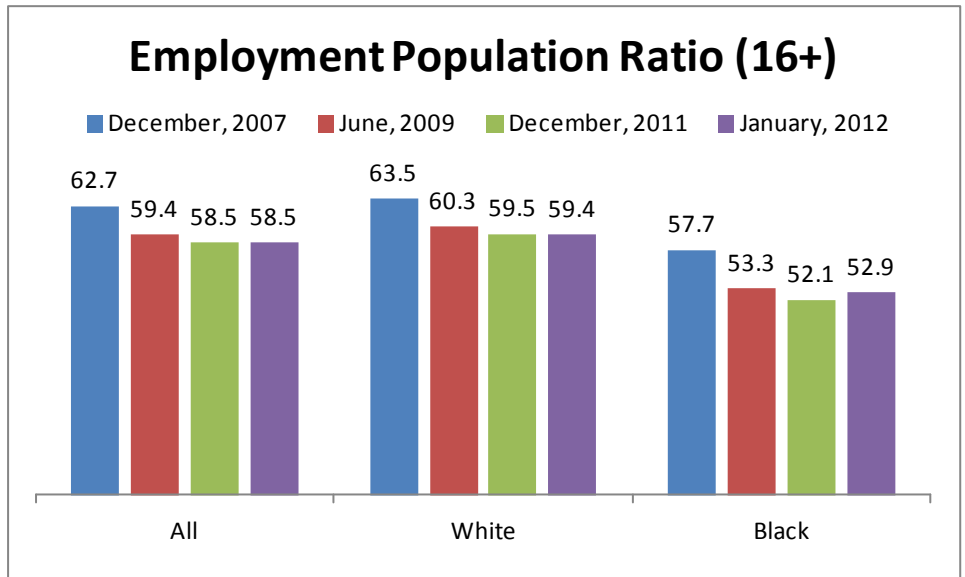


FIGURE A10

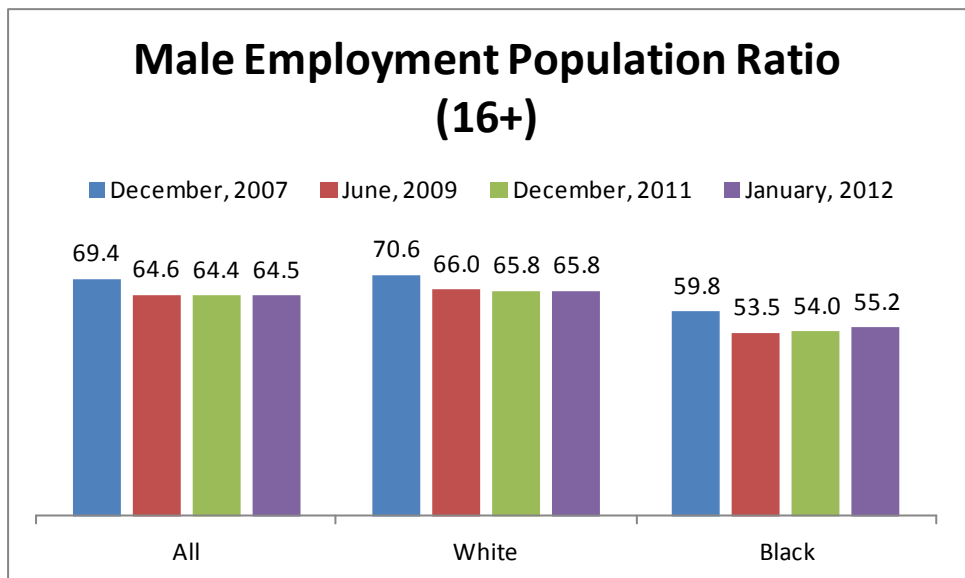


FIGURE A11

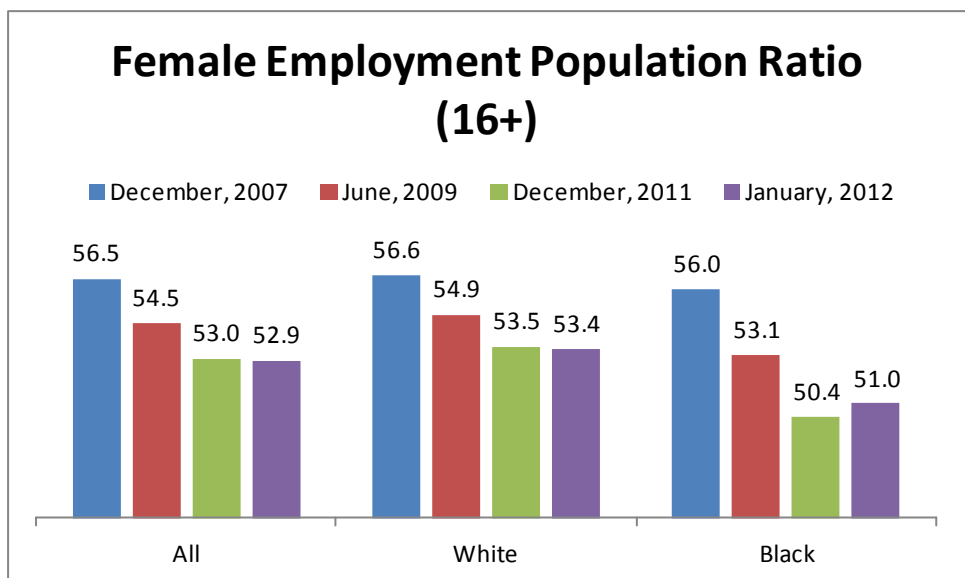


FIGURE A12

## Figures A13-15

### Teen Unemployment Population Ratios by Race

FIGURE A13

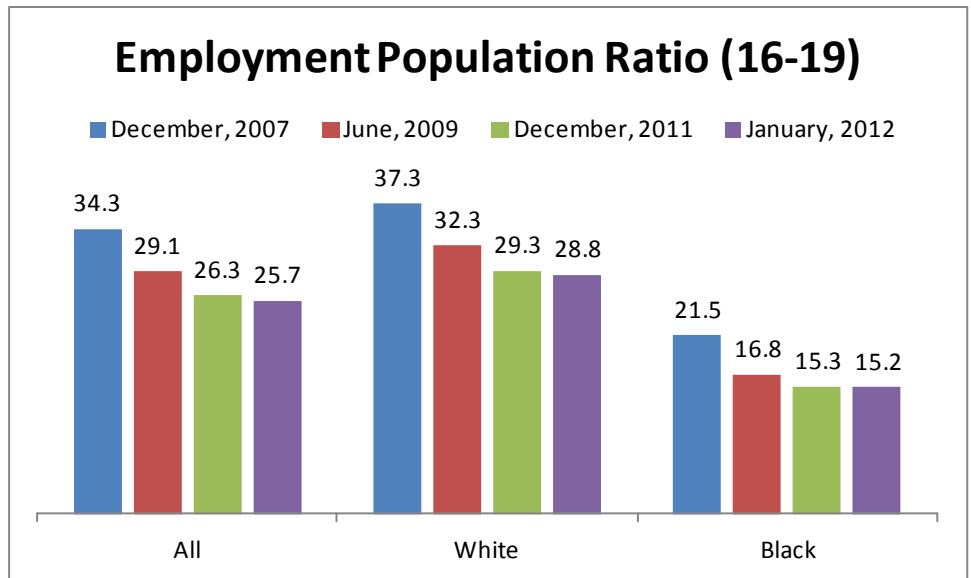


FIGURE A14

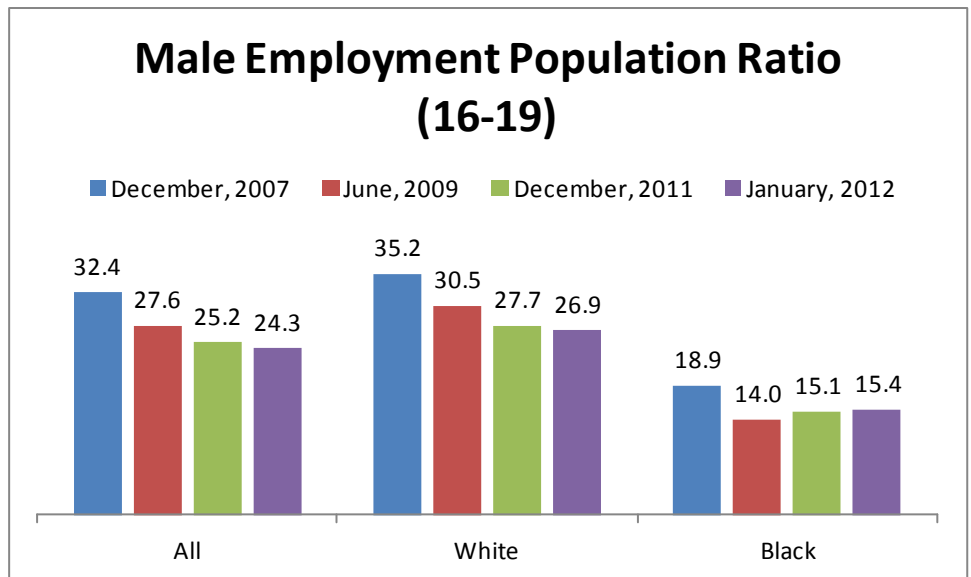
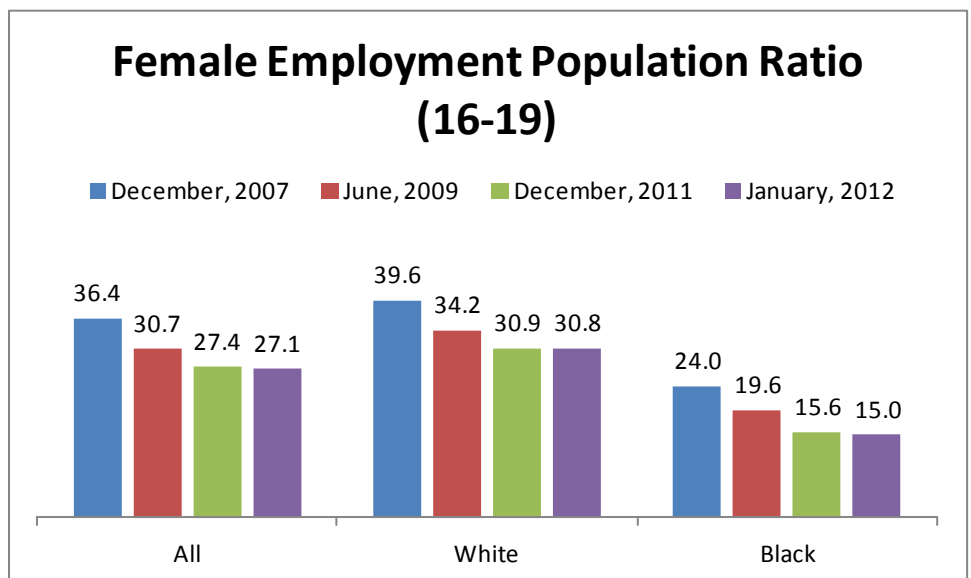


FIGURE A15



Figures A16-18

Adult  
Unemployment  
Population Ratios  
by Race

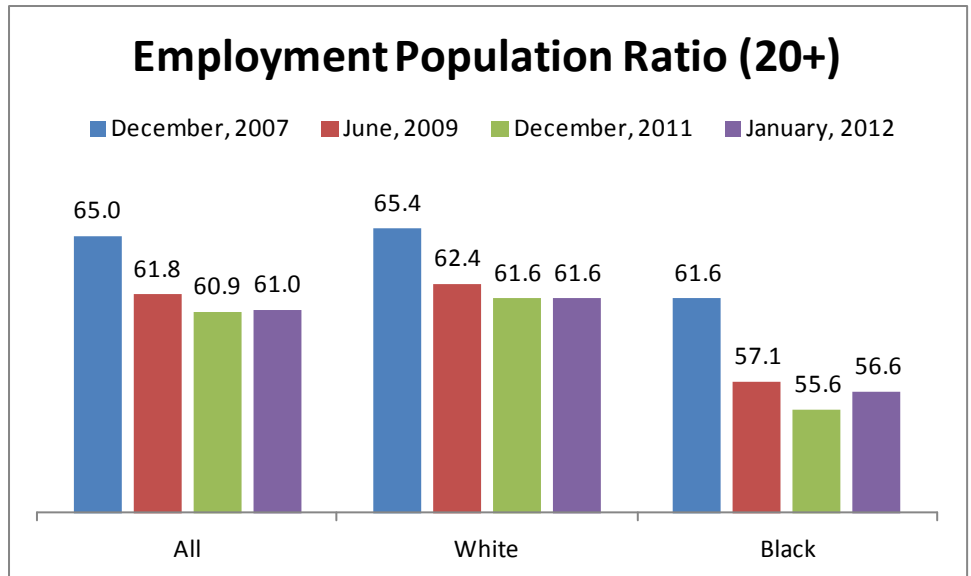


FIGURE A16

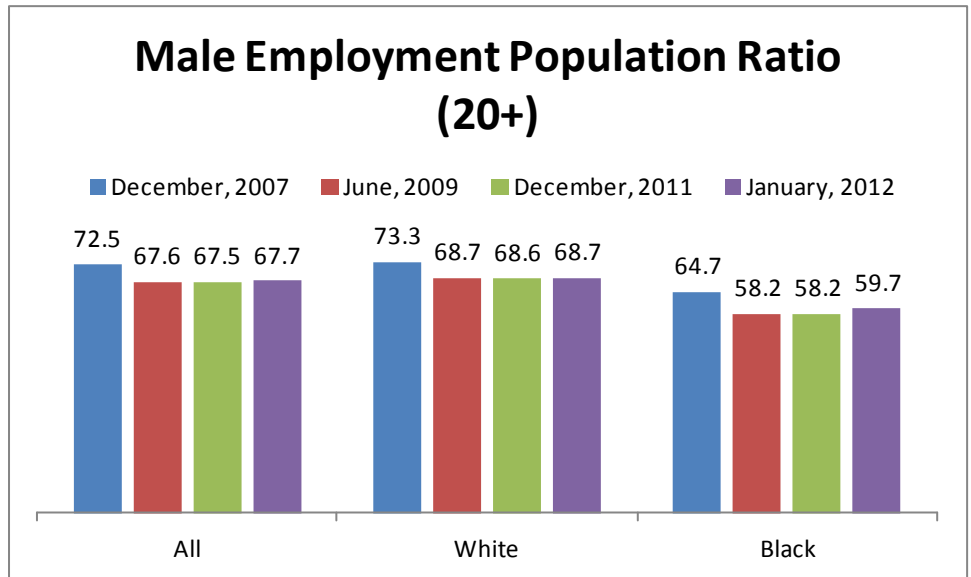


FIGURE A17

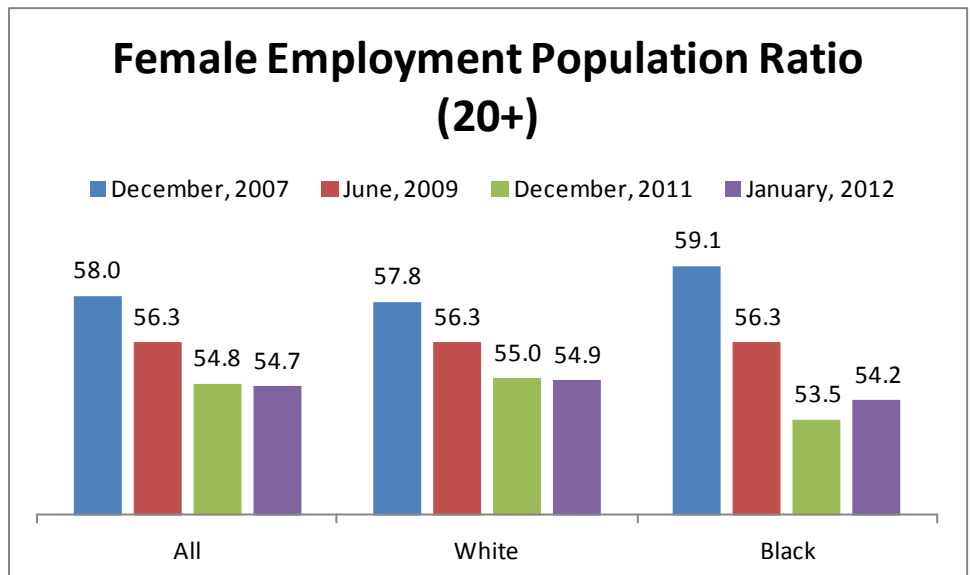


FIGURE A18

**TABLE A1**  
**Unemployment Rate: All**

		all			men			women		
		all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+
2007	December	5.0	16.8	4.4	5.1	19.5	4.4	4.9	14.2	4.4
2010	January	9.7	26.4	9.0	10.8	30.6	10.0	8.4	21.9	7.9
2010	February	9.7	25.0	9.1	10.7	27.6	10.0	8.6	22.3	8.0
2010	March	9.7	26.1	9.1	10.7	29.7	10.0	8.6	22.4	8.0
2010	April	9.9	25.4	9.2	10.8	29.3	10.1	8.8	21.4	8.2
2010	May	9.7	26.4	9.0	10.5	28.1	9.8	8.8	24.6	8.1
2010	June	9.5	25.7	8.9	10.5	29.2	9.9	8.3	22.3	7.8
2010	July	9.5	26.1	8.8	10.4	29.0	9.7	8.5	23.1	7.9
2010	August	9.6	26.3	9.0	10.6	29.7	9.8	8.6	22.9	8.0
2010	September	9.6	26.0	8.9	10.5	29.3	9.8	8.6	22.8	8.0
2010	October	9.6	27.1	8.9	10.4	29.8	9.7	8.8	24.2	8.1
2010	November	9.8	24.6	9.2	10.6	26.7	10.0	8.9	22.4	8.4
2010	December	9.4	25.2	8.8	10.0	27.8	9.4	8.6	22.6	8.1
2011	January	9.1	25.4	8.4	9.6	27.2	8.9	8.5	23.6	7.9
2011	February	9.0	23.9	8.4	9.4	25.9	8.8	8.5	21.8	7.9
2011	March	8.9	24.5	8.3	9.4	26.4	8.7	8.3	22.6	7.8
2011	April	9.0	24.9	8.4	9.5	28.1	8.8	8.4	21.6	7.9
2011	May	9.0	24.1	8.5	9.5	27.0	8.9	8.5	21.3	8.0
2011	June	9.1	24.6	8.5	9.7	27.4	9.0	8.5	21.7	8.0
2011	July	9.1	24.9	8.5	9.6	27.2	8.9	8.5	22.5	7.9
2011	August	9.1	25.3	8.4	9.5	28.1	8.8	8.5	22.4	7.9
2011	September	9.0	24.5	8.4	9.4	27.8	8.7	8.6	21.1	8.1
2011	October	8.9	24.0	8.3	9.4	27.3	8.7	8.4	20.6	7.9
2011	November	8.7	23.7	8.1	8.9	26.6	8.3	8.3	20.7	7.8
2011	December	8.5	23.1	8.0	8.7	26.6	8.0	8.3	19.3	7.9
2012	January	8.3	23.2	7.7	8.3	25.3	7.7	8.3	21.1	7.7

**Table A2**  
**Unemployment Rate: Whites**

		all			men			women		
		all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+
2007	December	4.4	14.5	4.0	4.5	16.6	3.9	4.4	12.4	4.0
2010	January	8.7	23.5	8.1	9.8	27.9	9.1	7.3	18.8	6.8
2010	February	8.8	22.5	8.2	9.6	25.0	9.0	7.8	19.9	7.3
2010	March	8.8	23.7	8.1	9.6	27.0	8.9	7.8	20.3	7.3
2010	April	9.0	23.5	8.4	9.9	27.3	9.2	7.9	19.6	7.4
2010	May	8.8	24.4	8.2	9.5	26.6	8.8	8	22.2	7.4
2010	June	8.6	23.2	8.1	9.5	27.1	8.9	7.6	19.3	7.1
2010	July	8.6	23.5	8.0	9.4	26.4	8.8	7.6	20.5	7.1
2010	August	8.7	23.8	8.1	9.6	27.2	8.9	7.6	20.5	7.1
2010	September	8.7	23.4	8.1	9.5	26.9	8.9	7.7	20.0	7.2
2010	October	8.8	23.6	8.1	9.5	26.3	8.9	7.9	20.9	7.3
2010	November	8.9	20.9	8.5	9.7	23.2	9.2	8.0	18.4	7.6
2010	December	8.5	22.7	7.9	9.1	25.9	8.5	7.7	19.4	7.2
2011	January	8.1	22.6	7.5	8.5	24.3	7.9	7.5	20.7	7.0
2011	February	8.0	21.4	7.5	8.4	22.9	7.9	7.6	19.7	7.1
2011	March	7.9	21.5	7.4	8.3	23.4	7.8	7.4	19.5	6.9
2011	April	8.1	22.1	7.5	8.5	24.9	8.0	7.5	19.4	7.0
2011	May	8.0	20.3	7.5	8.4	22.5	7.9	7.5	18.3	7.1
2011	June	8.1	21.8	7.6	8.6	25.0	8.0	7.5	18.6	7.0
2011	July	8.1	23.1	7.5	8.5	25.3	7.9	7.6	20.8	7.0
2011	August	7.9	22.8	7.3	8.4	26.8	7.7	7.5	18.5	7.0
2011	September	7.9	21.2	7.4	8.3	24.9	7.7	7.5	17.4	7.1
2011	October	8.0	21.7	7.4	8.5	25.5	7.8	7.4	17.7	7.0
2011	November	7.6	21.3	7.1	7.9	24.6	7.3	7.3	18.0	6.9
2011	December	7.5	20.3	7.0	7.6	23.2	7.1	7.2	17.3	6.8
2012	January	7.4	21.1	6.8	7.5	24.5	6.9	7.3	17.7	6.8

**Table A3**  
**Unemployment Rate: Blacks**

		all			men			women		
		all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+
2007	December	9.0	33.4	7.7	9.9	39.4	8.4	8.1	27.9	7.1
2010	January	16.5	43.8	15.3	19.0	48.3	17.6	14.3	39.4	13.3
2010	February	15.8	42.0	14.8	19.0	44.9	17.8	13.1	39.1	12.1
2010	March	16.5	41.1	15.5	20.2	47.4	19.0	13.2	34.7	12.4
2010	April	16.5	37.3	15.7	18.7	35.2	18.0	14.6	39.4	13.7
2010	May	15.5	38.0	14.6	17.8	35.4	17.1	13.5	40.1	12.4
2010	June	15.4	39.9	14.5	18.4	43.2	17.4	12.6	36.5	11.8
2010	July	15.6	40.6	14.7	17.8	43.7	16.7	13.7	37.1	12.9
2010	August	16.3	45.4	15.1	18.8	51.7	17.3	14.0	38.1	13.2
2010	September	16.1	49.0	14.9	18.8	48.4	17.6	13.7	49.6	12.6
2010	October	15.7	48.0	14.4	17.7	51.6	16.3	13.9	44.3	12.7
2010	November	16.0	46.5	14.8	18.0	50.1	16.7	14.2	42.9	13.1
2010	December	15.8	44.0	14.8	17.7	41.4	16.8	14.2	46.3	13.0
2011	January	15.7	44.8	14.6	17.9	47.2	16.6	13.8	42.3	12.8
2011	February	15.4	38.4	14.6	17.3	41.6	16.4	13.7	35.2	13.0
2011	March	15.6	41.9	14.6	17.8	40.3	16.8	13.7	43.5	12.5
2011	April	16.2	41.3	15.2	18.1	45.5	17.0	14.4	37.3	13.5
2011	May	16.2	40.8	15.3	18.5	44.8	17.4	14.1	36.3	13.4
2011	June	16.2	39.8	15.2	17.8	41.3	16.9	14.6	38.3	13.7
2011	July	15.9	39.1	15.1	17.8	37.9	17.0	14.2	40.3	13.4
2011	August	16.7	46.3	15.6	19.1	44.9	18.0	14.5	48.0	13.4
2011	September	15.9	43.6	14.8	17.7	43.5	16.6	14.3	43.6	13.2
2011	October	15.0	37.5	14.2	16.9	38.7	16.0	13.4	36.4	12.6
2011	November	15.5	39.6	14.6	17.3	42.7	16.4	13.9	36.8	13.0
2011	December	15.8	42.1	14.8	17.1	48.3	15.7	14.6	34.6	13.9
2012	January	13.6	38.5	12.7	13.6	35.9	12.7	13.6	41.0	12.6

**Table A4**  
**Employment-Population Ratio: All**

		all			men			women		
		all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+
2007	December	62.7	34.2	64.9	69.3	32.2	72.4	56.5	36.2	58.0
2010	January	58.4	25.9	60.9	63.3	24.6	66.4	53.9	27.3	55.8
2010	February	58.5	26.3	61.0	63.5	25.4	66.6	53.8	27.3	55.8
2010	March	58.6	26.5	61.0	63.7	25.3	66.8	53.8	27.7	55.7
2010	April	58.8	26.8	61.2	64.0	25.4	67.1	53.8	28.2	55.7
2010	May	58.7	26.2	61.2	64.0	25.2	67.2	53.7	27.3	55.6
2010	June	58.5	25.4	61.1	63.7	24.0	66.9	53.6	26.8	55.6
2010	July	58.4	25.6	60.9	63.8	24.8	66.9	53.4	26.4	55.4
2010	August	58.5	25.9	61.0	63.8	24.4	67.0	53.5	27.5	55.3
2010	September	58.5	25.3	61.0	63.7	23.8	66.9	53.6	26.8	55.5
2010	October	58.3	25.6	60.8	63.6	24.5	66.7	53.3	26.8	55.3
2010	November	58.2	26.1	60.6	63.4	25.8	66.4	53.3	26.5	55.2
2010	December	58.3	25.6	60.7	63.6	24.8	66.7	53.3	26.4	55.2
2011	January	58.4	25.7	60.9	63.7	25.4	66.8	53.3	26.0	55.3
2011	February	58.4	25.5	60.9	63.9	25.0	67.0	53.3	26.1	55.2
2011	March	58.5	25.7	61.0	63.8	24.8	67.0	53.4	26.7	55.3
2011	April	58.4	25.3	60.9	63.7	23.6	66.9	53.3	27.1	55.2
2011	May	58.4	25.4	60.9	63.9	23.9	67.1	53.3	26.9	55.1
2011	June	58.2	25.7	60.6	63.7	24.3	66.9	53.0	27.2	54.8
2011	July	58.2	25.4	60.6	63.6	24.3	66.7	53.1	26.7	54.9
2011	August	58.3	25.9	60.7	63.7	24.6	66.8	53.1	27.2	54.9
2011	September	58.4	26.1	60.8	63.9	24.5	67.0	53.2	27.7	55.0
2011	October	58.4	26.3	60.8	63.9	24.7	67.0	53.2	28.0	55.0
2011	November	58.5	26.4	60.9	64.2	24.9	67.3	53.1	28.0	54.8
2011	December	58.5	26.3	60.9	64.4	25.2	67.5	53.0	27.4	54.8
2012	January	58.5	25.7	61.0	64.5	24.3	67.7	52.9	27.1	54.7

**Table A5**  
**Employment-Population Ratio: Whites**

		all			men			women		
		all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+
2007	December	63.4	37.3	65.4	70.5	35.1	73.3	56.6	39.5	57.8
2010	January	59.4	28.7	61.7	64.7	27.1	67.5	54.4	30.4	56.1
2010	February	59.4	29.2	61.6	64.9	27.8	67.7	54.2	30.8	55.8
2010	March	59.5	29.3	61.7	65.1	27.9	67.9	54.2	30.7	55.9
2010	April	59.7	29.8	61.9	65.3	28.1	68.2	54.3	31.6	55.9
2010	May	59.6	28.9	61.8	65.4	27.8	68.3	54.0	30.2	55.7
2010	June	59.5	28.2	61.7	65.2	26.4	68.1	54.0	30.0	55.6
2010	July	59.5	28.7	61.7	65.3	27.6	68.2	53.9	29.8	55.5
2010	August	59.5	29.2	61.7	65.3	27.2	68.2	54.0	31.3	55.5
2010	September	59.5	28.7	61.7	65.3	26.7	68.1	54.0	30.8	55.6
2010	October	59.2	29.0	61.4	64.9	27.5	67.7	53.7	30.6	55.3
2010	November	59.0	29.5	61.1	64.6	29.4	67.3	53.6	29.7	55.2
2010	December	59.2	28.7	61.4	65.0	27.8	67.7	53.7	29.6	55.3
2011	January	59.4	28.9	61.5	65.1	28.4	67.9	53.8	29.5	55.5
2011	February	59.3	28.3	61.6	65.3	27.8	68.1	53.6	28.9	55.3
2011	March	59.5	28.6	61.7	65.2	27.4	68.0	54.0	29.9	55.7
2011	April	59.5	28.3	61.7	65.2	26.5	68.1	53.9	30.2	55.6
2011	May	59.5	28.4	61.8	65.4	26.5	68.4	53.8	30.3	55.4
2011	June	59.3	28.6	61.5	65.2	26.8	68.0	53.6	30.4	55.2
2011	July	59.3	28.4	61.5	65.2	27.0	68.0	53.6	29.9	55.2
2011	August	59.4	29.1	61.5	65.3	27.4	68.1	53.6	30.9	55.2
2011	September	59.4	29.1	61.5	65.4	27.2	68.2	53.6	31.3	55.1
2011	October	59.3	29.4	61.5	65.2	27.4	68.1	53.7	31.5	55.1
2011	November	59.5	29.4	61.6	65.6	27.4	68.5	53.5	31.5	55.0
2011	December	59.5	29.3	61.6	65.8	27.7	68.6	53.5	30.9	55.0
2012	January	59.4	28.8	61.6	65.8	26.9	68.7	53.4	30.8	54.9

**Table A6**  
**Employment-Population Ratio: Blacks**

		all			men			women		
		all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+	all	16-19	20+
2007	December	57.7	21.1	61.6	59.8	18.7	64.7	56.0	23.5	59.1
2010	January	52.0	15.6	55.7	52.6	14.5	57.0	51.4	16.7	54.7
2010	February	52.3	14.9	56.2	52.5	14.5	56.9	52.1	15.3	55.6
2010	March	52.2	15.7	55.9	52.7	14.5	57.0	51.8	16.9	55.1
2010	April	52.4	15.8	56.1	53.4	16.2	57.6	51.5	15.4	54.9
2010	May	53.0	16.2	56.8	54.1	15.4	58.5	52.1	16.9	55.4
2010	June	52.4	14.4	56.3	52.9	14.1	57.3	52.0	14.6	55.5
2010	July	51.9	14.4	55.7	53.0	14.4	57.3	51.0	14.3	54.4
2010	August	52.0	14.3	55.9	53.0	13.8	57.4	51.3	14.8	54.7
2010	September	51.7	11.7	55.8	52.4	12.6	56.9	51.1	10.9	54.9
2010	October	52.4	13.7	56.4	53.3	13.1	57.8	51.7	14.3	55.2
2010	November	52.5	14.2	56.3	53.2	13.3	57.6	51.9	15.0	55.3
2010	December	52.2	13.8	56.1	53.0	13.7	57.4	51.6	13.9	55.1
2011	January	51.9	13.9	55.7	52.7	14.0	56.9	51.3	13.8	54.7
2011	February	52.0	14.8	55.7	52.8	14.2	57.1	51.4	15.3	54.7
2011	March	51.9	14.9	55.5	53.0	15.3	57.1	51.0	14.4	54.3
2011	April	51.5	15.5	55.1	52.6	14.1	56.8	50.7	16.8	53.7
2011	May	51.1	14.4	54.7	51.9	14.5	56.0	50.5	14.4	53.7
2011	June	51.1	15.4	54.6	52.8	15.5	56.8	49.8	15.4	52.9
2011	July	50.9	14.0	54.5	52.3	14.9	56.3	49.7	13.2	52.9
2011	August	51.3	13.0	55.1	52.2	14.5	56.3	50.6	11.5	54.1
2011	September	52.1	14.6	55.8	52.9	14.9	57.0	51.5	14.3	54.8
2011	October	52.5	15.2	56.1	53.4	14.7	57.5	51.8	15.6	55.0
2011	November	51.8	15.1	55.3	53.1	13.8	57.3	50.7	16.4	53.7
2011	December	52.1	15.3	55.6	54.0	15.1	58.2	50.4	15.6	53.5
2012	January	52.9	15.2	56.6	55.2	15.4	59.7	51.0	15.0	54.2