

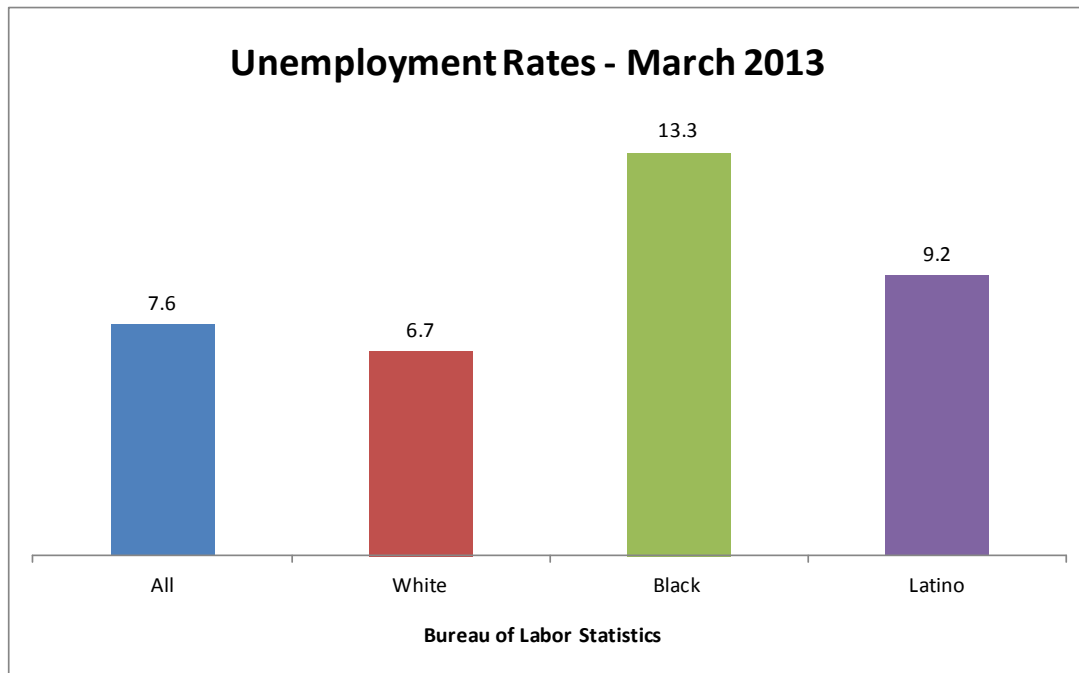
April 5, 2013

DATA BRIEF:

## Black Employment and Unemployment in March 2013

The unemployment rate for Blacks was 13.3% 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 decrease from February, when unemployment in the Black community was 13.8%. For the nation as a whole, unemployment was 7.6% in the month of March; this was virtually unchanged from February when the national unemployment rate stood at 7.7%. Among whites, unemployment was 6.7%; among Latinos, unemployment was 9.2%. Comparable February 2013 figures were 6.8% and 9.6% respectively. Overall, total non-farm payroll employment increased by 88,000 jobs from last month.

FIGURE 1

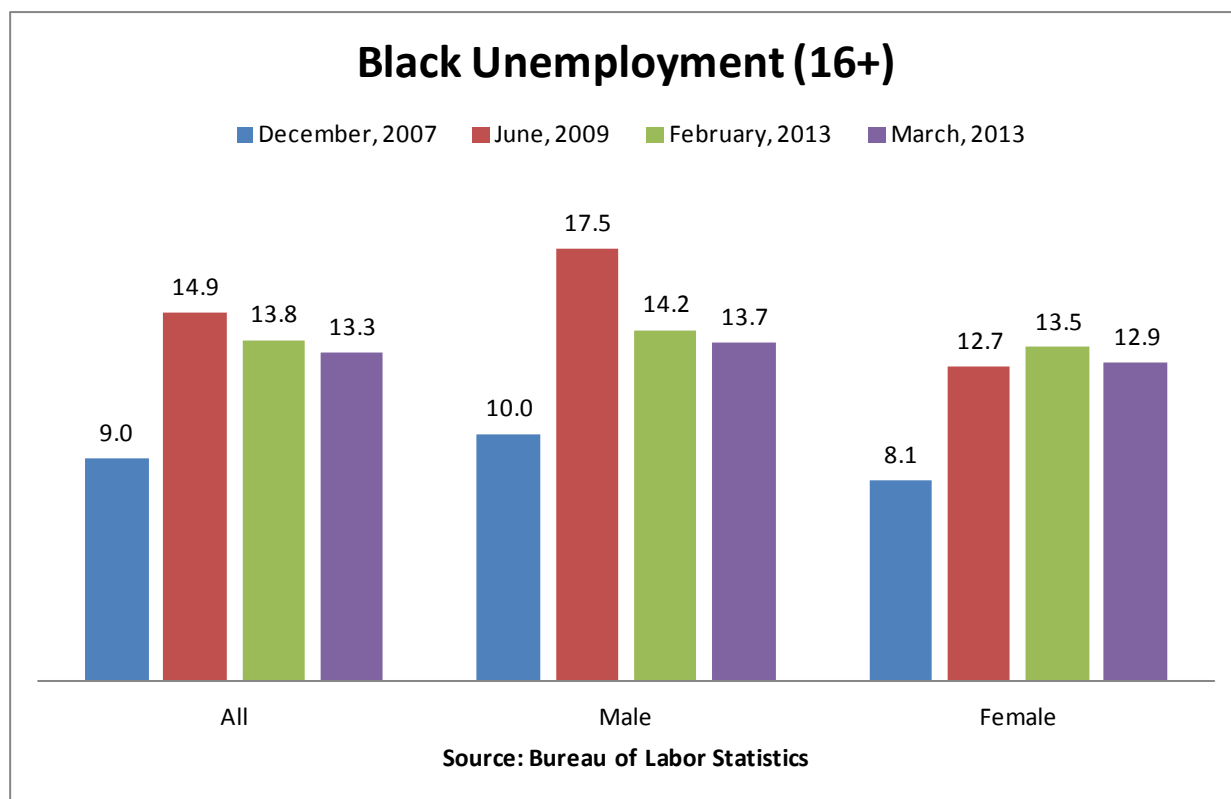


# Unemployment<sup>1</sup>

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 March, the unemployment rate for Blacks, 16 years of age and older, was 13.3%. This was a decrease from 13.8% in February. For Black women, unemployment was 12.9% (a decrease from 13.5% in February). For Black men, unemployment was 13.7% (a decrease from 14.2% in February). 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); February 2013; and March 2013.<sup>2</sup>

FIGURE 2



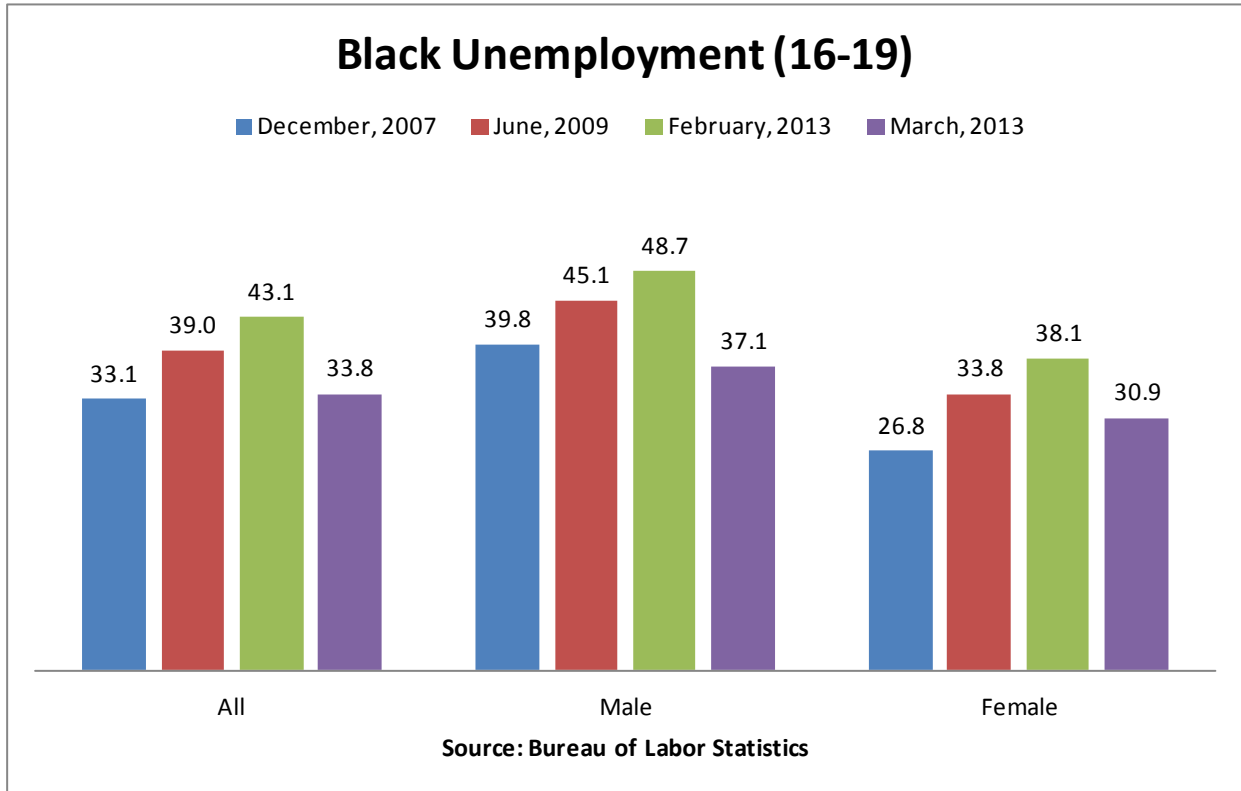
*December 2007 was the first month of the recession, and June 2009 was the last month of the recession. Both are included for comparison.*

<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.

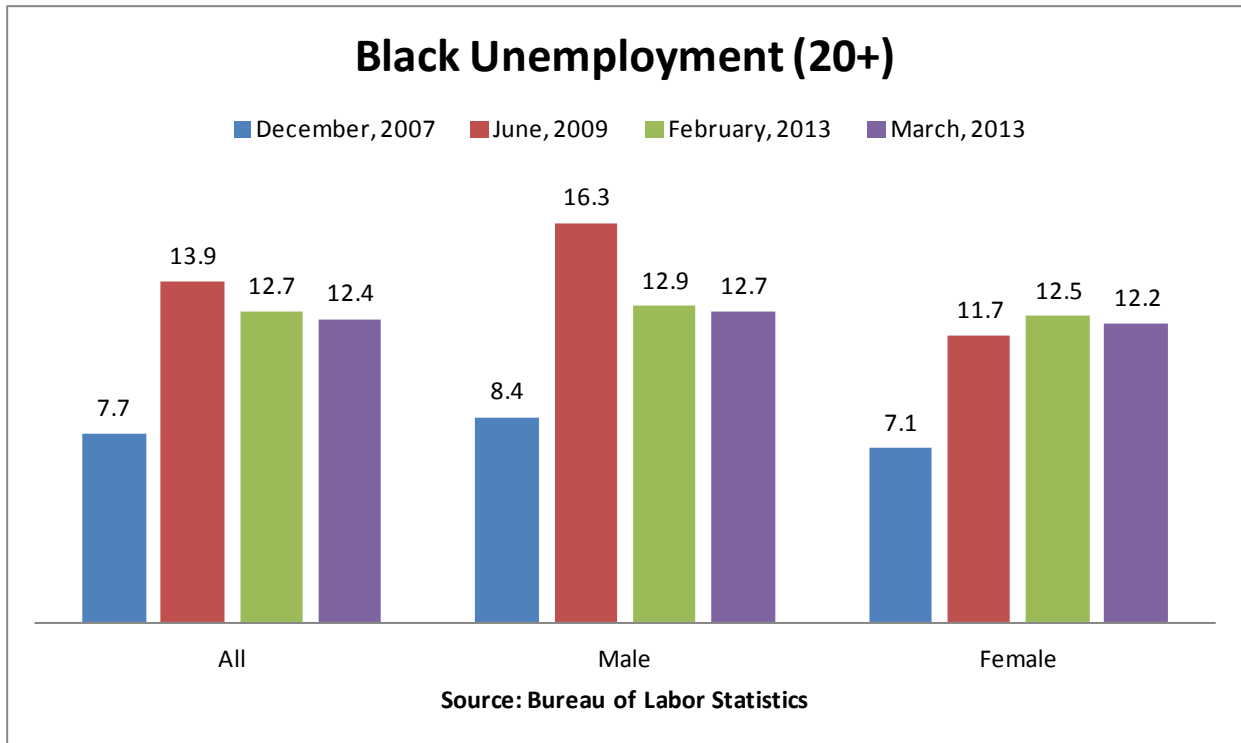
For Black teens (16-19), unemployment was 33.8% (a decrease from 43.1% in February). For Black female teens, unemployment stood at 30.9% (a decrease from 38.1% in February). For Black male teens, unemployment was 37.1% (a decrease from 48.7% in February). Teen unemployment rates are extremely volatile from month to month.

FIGURE 3



Analyzing Blacks, 20 and over, unemployment stood at 12.4% (a decrease from 12.7% in February). For Black women, ages 20 and over, unemployment stood at 12.2% (a decrease from 12.5% in February). For Black men, ages 20 and over, unemployment was 12.7 % (a decrease from 12.9% in February).

FIGURE 4

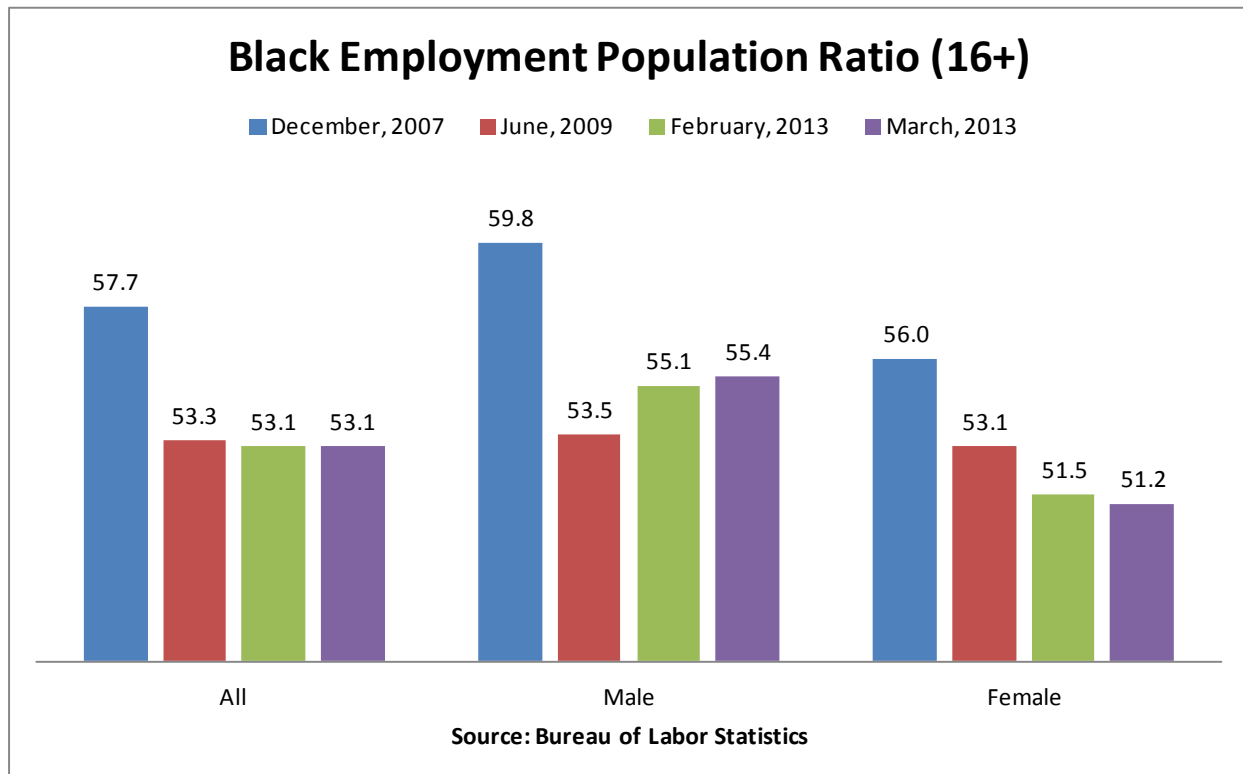


## Employment-Population Ratio

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%.

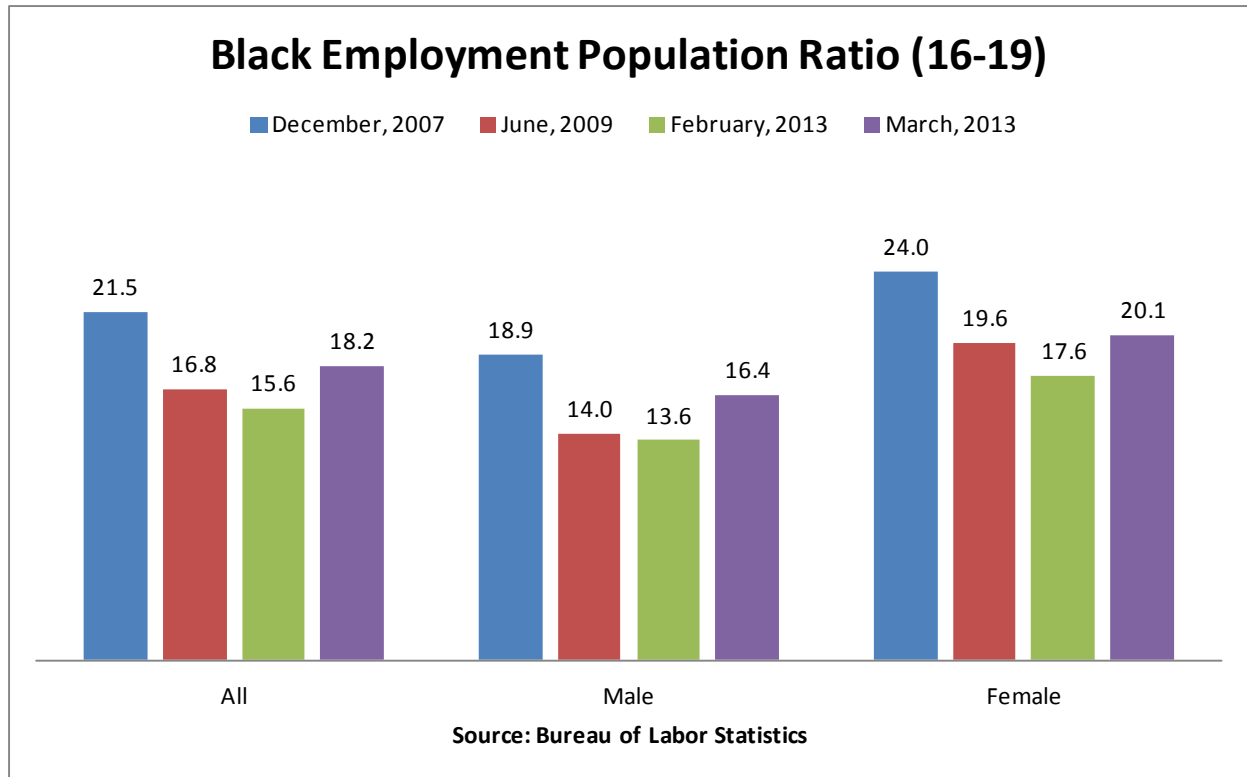
In March, the employment-population ratio for Blacks, 16 and over, was 53.1%. This was unchanged from 53.1% in February. For Black women, the employment-population ratio stood at 51.2% (a slight decrease from 51.5% in February). For Black men, the employment-population ratio was 55.4% (an increase from 55.1% in February).

FIGURE 5



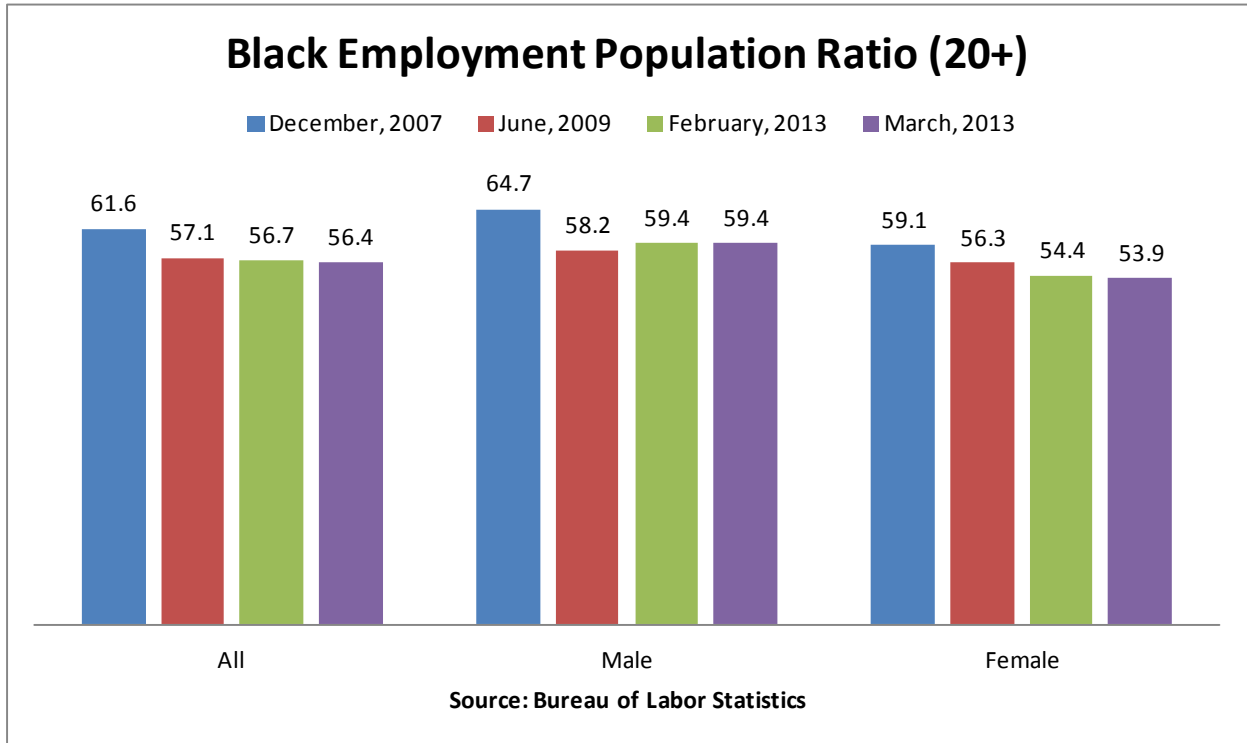
For Black teens, the employment-population ratio was 18.2% (an increase from 15.6% in February). For Black female teens, ages 16 - 19, the employment-population ratio stood at 20.1% (an increase from 17.6% in February). For Black male teens, 16 -19, the employment-population ratio was 16.4% (an increase from 13.6% in February). 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 56.4% (a slight decrease from 56.7% in February). For Black women, ages 20 and over, the employment-population ratio stood at 53.9% (a decrease from 54.4% in February). For Black men, ages 20 and over, the employment-population ratio was 59.4% (unchanged from 59.4% in February).

FIGURE 7



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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

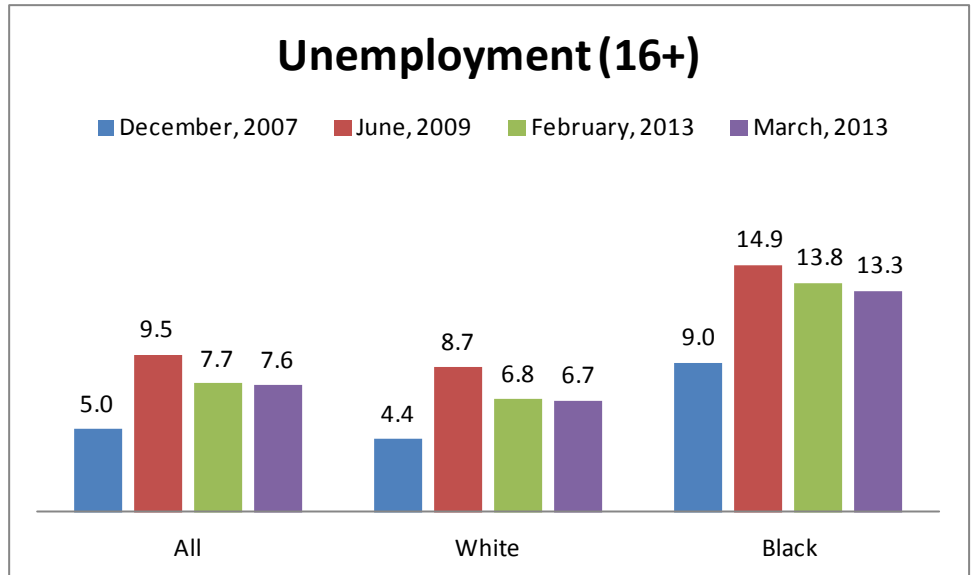


FIGURE A2

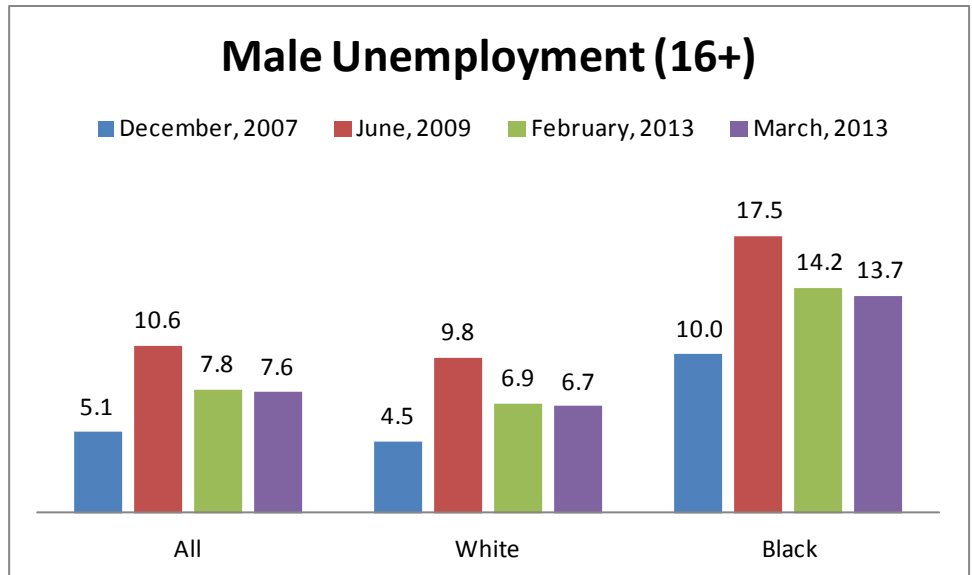
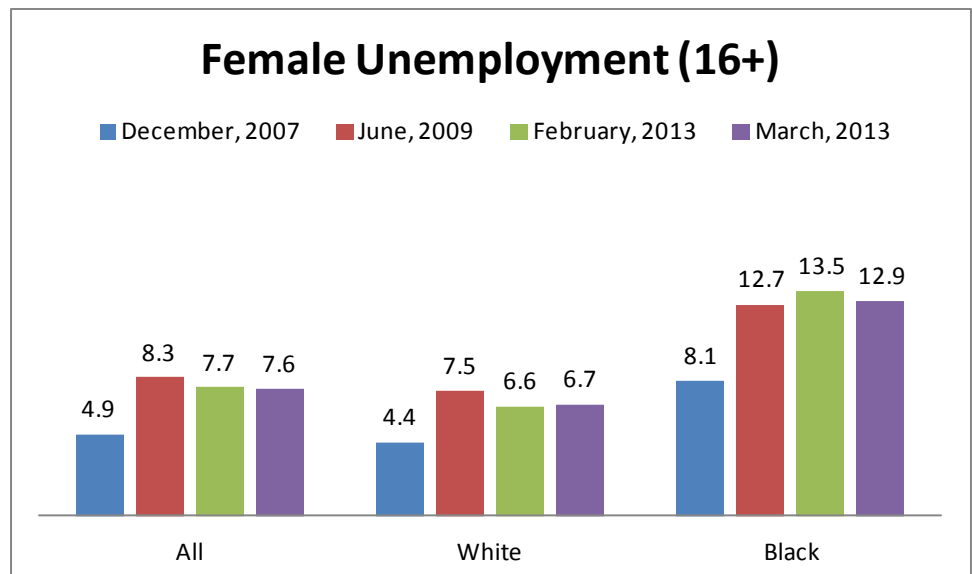


FIGURE A3



Figures A4-6

Teen Unemployment by Race

FIGURE A4

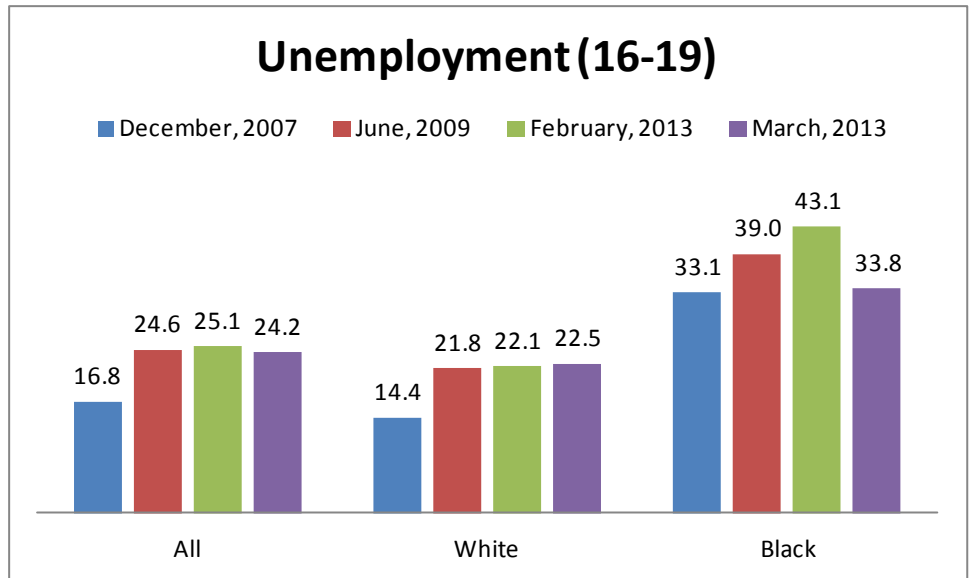


FIGURE A5

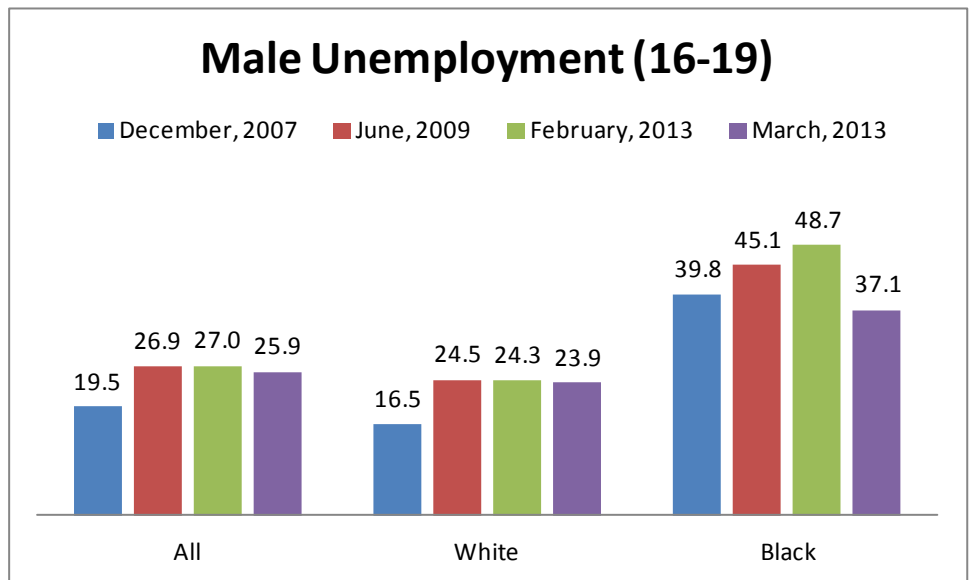
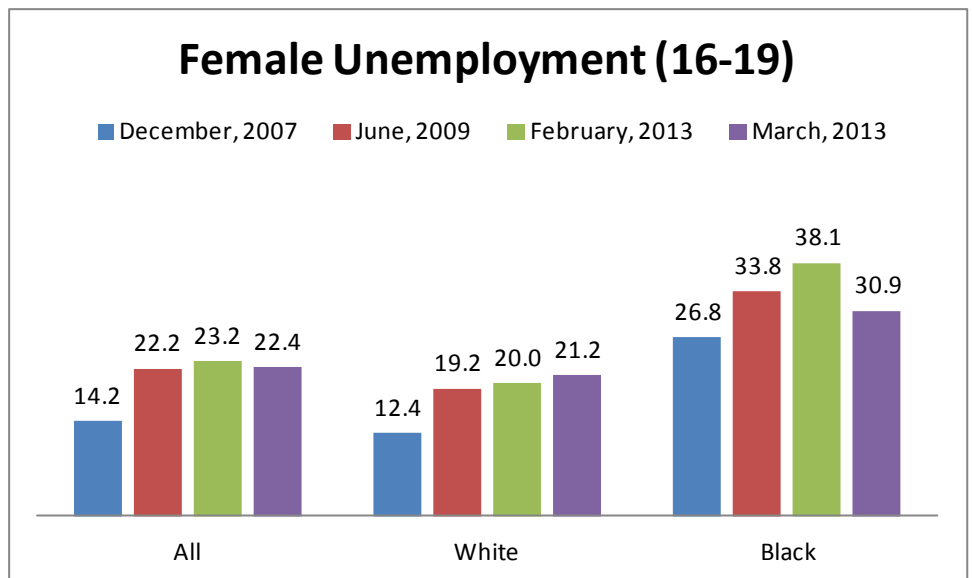


FIGURE A6



## Figures A7-9

### Adult Unemployment by Race

FIGURE A7

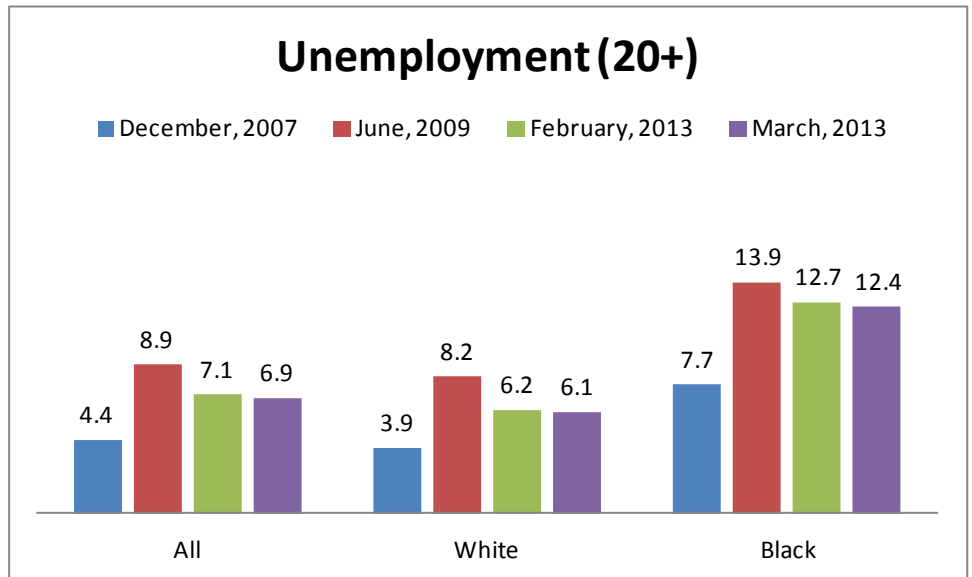
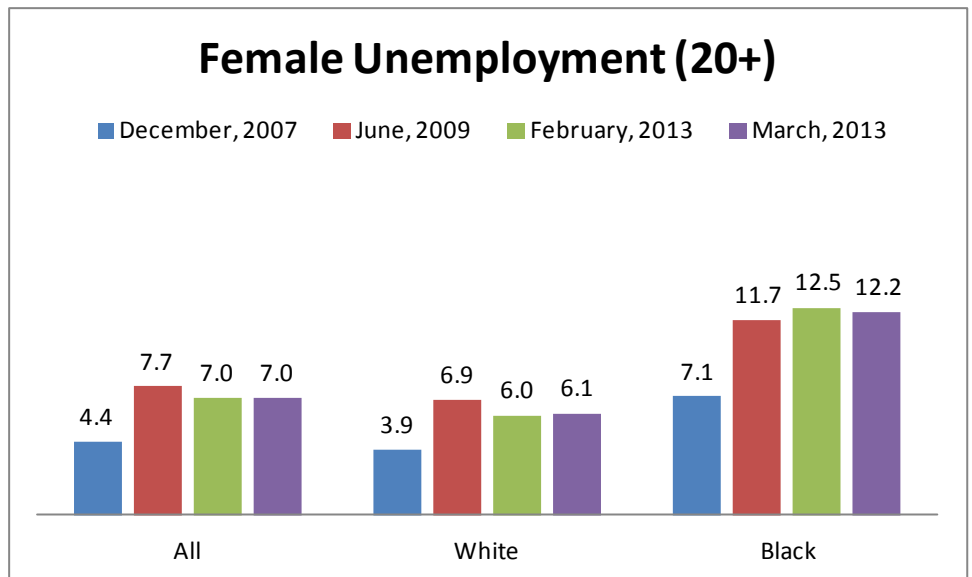


FIGURE A8



FIGURE A9



Figures A10-12

Unemployment  
Population Ratios  
by Race

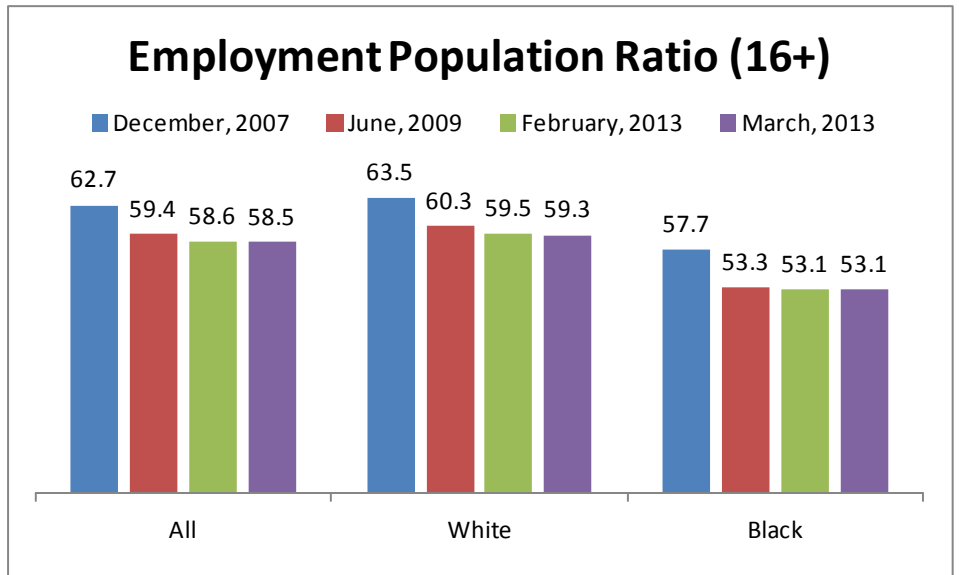


FIGURE A10

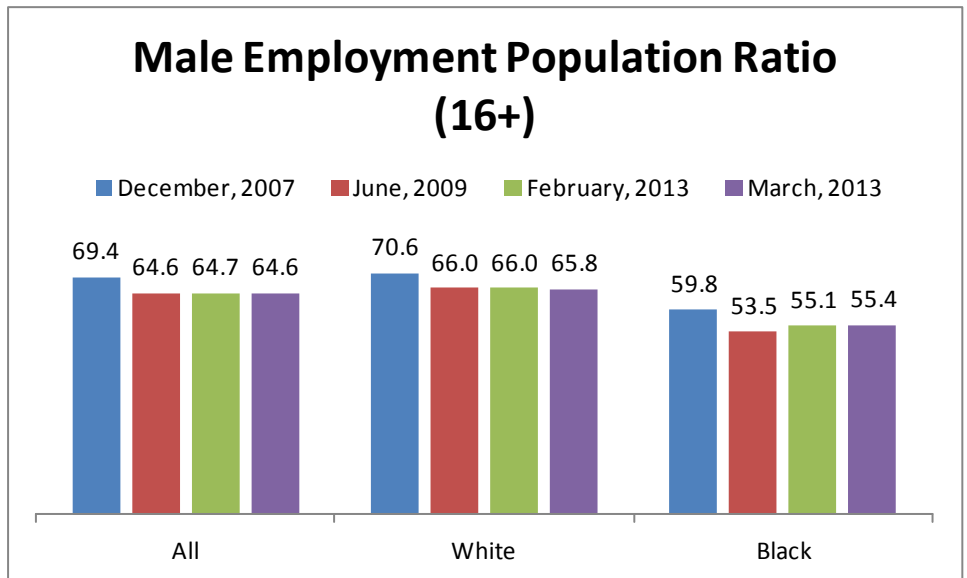


FIGURE A11

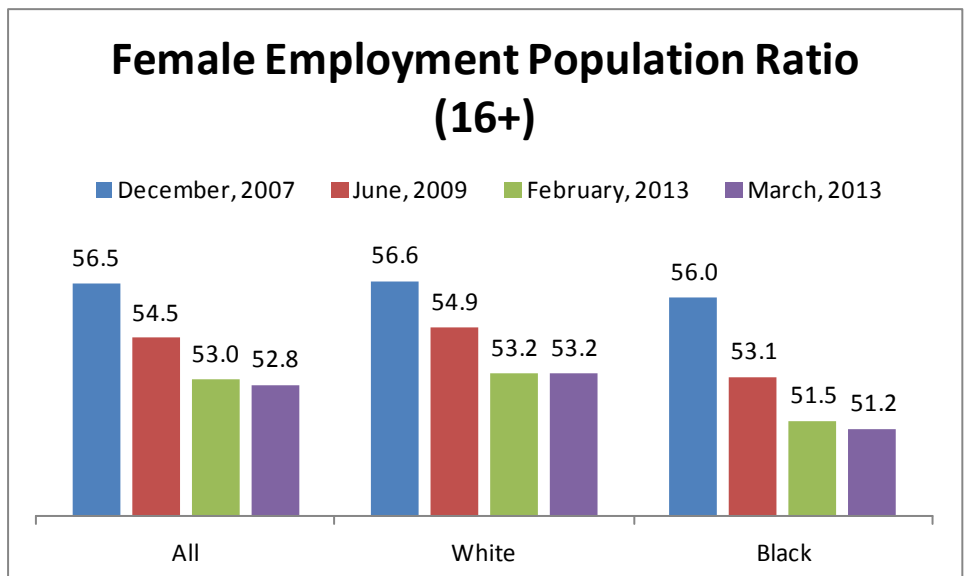


FIGURE A12

## Figures A13-15

### Teen Unemployment Population Ratios by Race

FIGURE A13

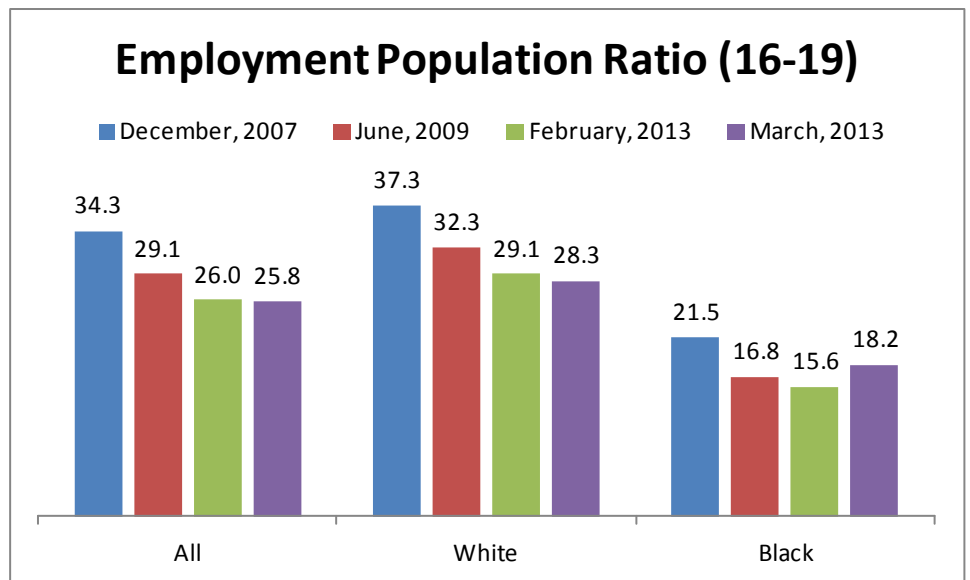


FIGURE A14

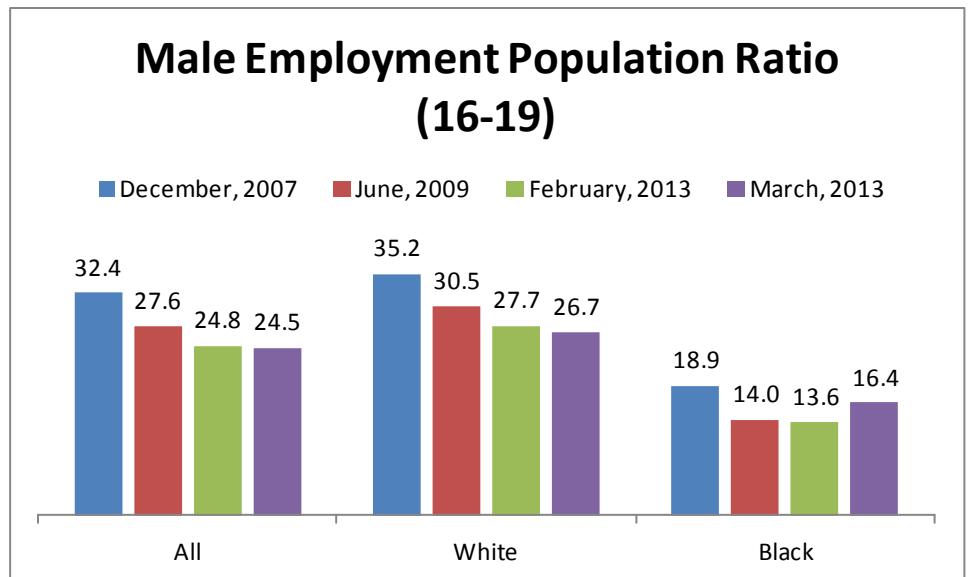
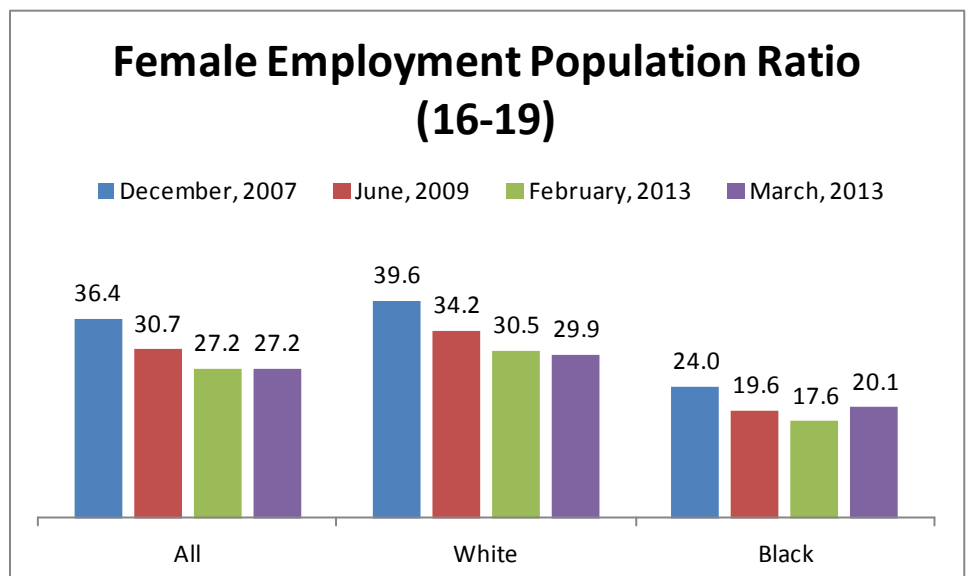


FIGURE A15



Figures A16-18

Adult  
Unemployment  
Population Ratios  
by Race

FIGURE A16

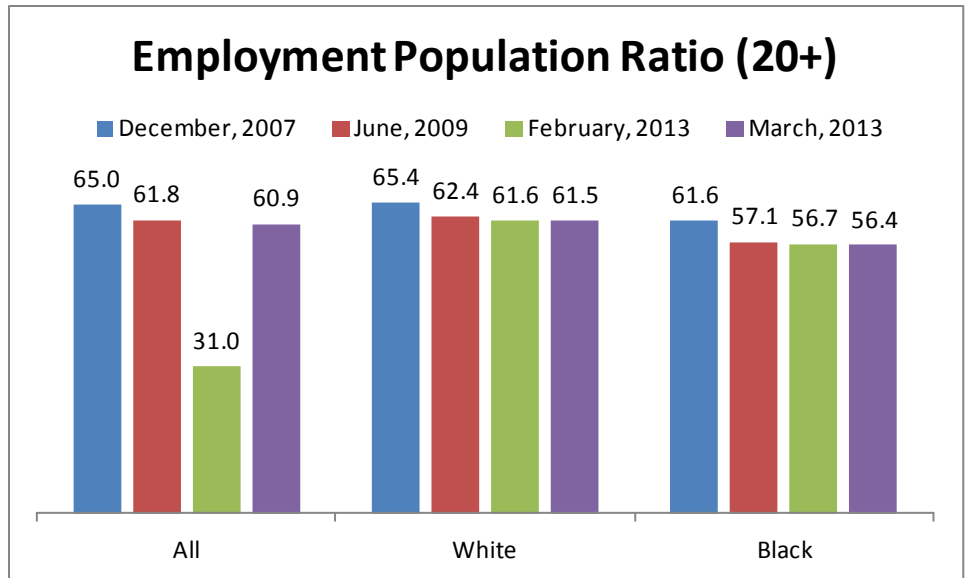


FIGURE A17

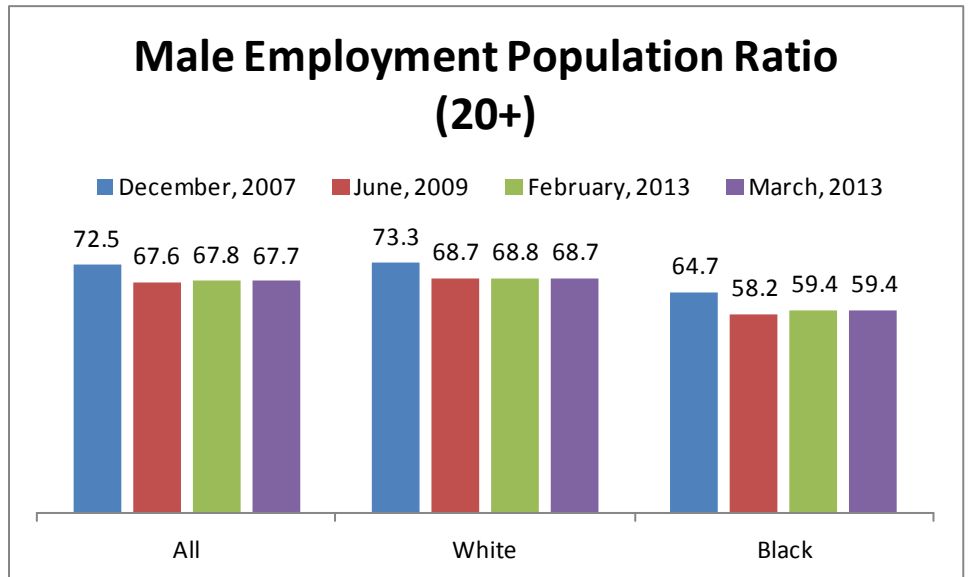
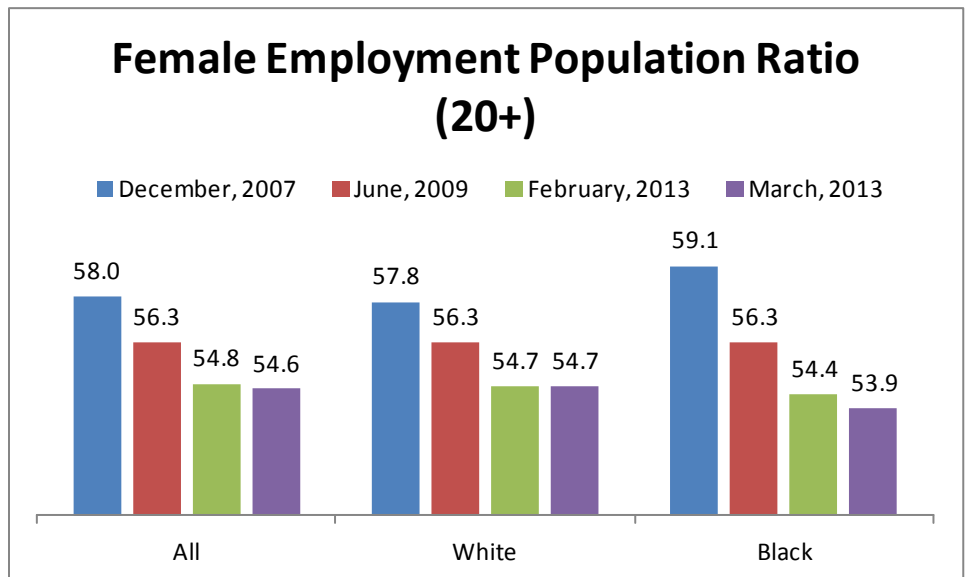


FIGURE A18



**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
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
2012	February	8.3	23.8	7.7	8.3	27.0	7.7	8.2	20.7	7.7
2012	March	8.2	25.0	7.5	8.3	26.7	7.6	8.1	23.4	7.4
2012	April	8.1	24.9	7.4	8.2	27.2	7.5	8.0	22.5	7.4
2012	May	8.2	24.6	7.6	8.4	26.8	7.8	7.9	22.3	7.4
2012	June	8.2	23.7	7.6	8.4	26.4	7.8	8.0	21.0	7.4
2012	July	8.3	23.8	7.6	8.4	26.4	7.7	8.1	21.2	7.5
2012	August	8.1	24.6	7.5	8.3	28.6	7.6	7.8	20.5	7.3
2012	September	7.8	23.7	7.2	8.0	27.2	7.3	7.5	20.2	7.0
2012	October	7.9	23.7	7.3	8.0	26.8	7.3	7.7	20.3	7.2
2012	November	7.8	23.6	7.1	7.9	26.6	7.2	7.6	20.5	7.0
2012	December	7.8	23.5	7.2	7.9	25.9	7.2	7.8	21.2	7.3
2013	January	7.9	23.4	7.3	8.0	26.4	7.3	7.8	20.5	7.3
2013	February	7.7	25.1	7.1	7.8	27.0	7.1	7.7	23.2	7.0
2013	March	7.6	24.2	6.9	7.6	25.9	6.9	7.6	22.4	7.0



**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
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
2012	February	7.3	21.3	6.8	7.4	23.8	6.8	7.3	18.7	6.8
2012	March	7.3	22.5	6.7	7.4	25.5	6.8	7.1	19.5	6.6
2012	April	7.4	22.8	6.8	7.4	25.3	6.8	7.4	20.3	6.8
2012	May	7.4	22.0	6.9	7.6	24.5	7.0	7.2	19.4	6.7
2012	June	7.4	20.9	6.8	7.6	24.3	7.0	7.0	17.4	6.6
2012	July	7.4	21.5	6.9	7.5	23.8	6.9	7.3	19.0	6.8
2012	August	7.2	22.8	6.6	7.5	27.1	6.8	6.9	18.2	6.5
2012	September	7.0	21.2	6.5	7.2	24.2	6.6	6.7	18.1	6.3
2012	October	7.0	20.6	6.4	7.2	23.7	6.6	6.7	17.3	6.3
2012	November	6.8	20.3	6.3	7.0	23.0	6.4	6.6	17.5	6.2
2012	December	6.9	21.6	6.3	6.9	24.5	6.2	6.8	18.8	6.3
2013	January	7.0	20.8	6.5	7.2	23.4	6.6	6.8	18.2	6.4
2013	February	6.8	22.1	6.2	6.9	24.3	6.3	6.6	20.0	6.0
2013	March	6.7	22.5	6.1	6.7	23.9	6.1	6.7	21.2	6.1

**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
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
2012	February	14.1	34.7	13.3	15.4	43.6	14.3	13.0	26.8	12.4
2012	March	14.0	40.5	13.0	14.8	40.2	13.8	13.3	40.8	12.3
2012	April	13.0	38.2	12.1	14.6	39.6	13.6	11.7	36.8	10.8
2012	May	13.6	36.5	12.7	15.0	35.8	14.2	12.3	37.2	11.4
2012	June	14.4	39.3	13.4	15.1	39.1	14.2	13.7	39.6	12.7
2012	July	14.1	36.6	13.1	15.8	37.9	14.8	12.5	35.4	11.5
2012	August	14.1	37.9	13.1	15.5	43.6	14.3	12.8	33.0	12.0
2012	September	13.4	36.7	12.4	15.5	42.5	14.2	11.6	31.0	10.9
2012	October	14.3	40.5	13.2	15.6	48.4	14.1	13.3	33.4	12.4
2012	November	13.2	39.4	12.1	14.2	43.9	12.9	12.3	34.8	11.5
2012	December	14.0	40.5	13.0	15.0	44.3	14.0	13.1	37.6	12.2
2013	January	13.8	37.8	12.8	14.5	43.3	13.4	13.2	33.2	12.3
2013	February	13.8	43.1	12.7	14.2	48.7	12.9	13.5	38.1	12.5
2013	March	13.3	33.8	12.4	13.7	37.1	12.7	12.9	30.9	12.2

**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
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
2012	February	58.6	25.6	61.1	64.4	23.9	67.7	53.2	27.4	55.0
2012	March	58.5	25.4	61.1	64.4	23.9	67.7	53.1	26.9	54.9
2012	April	58.4	25.4	60.9	64.3	24.6	67.5	53.0	26.2	54.9
2012	May	58.6	25.8	61.0	64.3	25.0	67.5	53.2	26.6	55.1
2012	June	58.6	26.6	61.0	64.4	25.7	67.4	53.2	27.6	55.0
2012	July	58.4	26.8	60.8	64.3	25.9	67.3	53.0	27.7	54.8
2012	August	58.3	25.6	60.8	64.0	24.0	67.1	53.1	27.3	54.9
2012	September	58.7	26.1	61.1	64.4	25.0	67.5	53.3	27.3	55.1
2012	October	58.8	26.5	61.2	64.6	25.4	67.7	53.3	27.6	55.1
2012	November	58.7	26.5	61.1	64.5	25.1	67.6	53.3	27.8	55.0
2012	December	58.6	26.1	61.1	64.5	24.6	67.7	53.2	27.7	55.0
2013	January	58.6	26.7	60.9	64.6	25.1	67.7	52.9	28.5	54.6
2013	February	58.6	26.0	31.0	64.7	24.8	67.8	53.0	27.2	54.8
2013	March	58.5	25.8	60.9	64.6	24.5	67.7	52.8	27.2	54.6

**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
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
2012	February	59.6	28.4	61.8	66.0	26.9	68.9	53.4	30.1	55.0
2012	March	59.5	28.6	61.7	65.9	26.8	68.8	53.4	30.4	55.0
2012	April	59.3	28.3	61.5	65.7	27.3	68.6	53.2	29.3	54.8
2012	May	59.5	28.8	61.6	65.7	27.9	68.5	53.5	29.7	55.1
2012	June	59.4	29.7	61.5	65.7	28.7	68.4	53.4	30.7	54.9
2012	July	59.2	29.4	61.3	65.6	28.6	68.4	53.1	30.2	54.6
2012	August	59.1	28.2	61.3	65.3	26.8	68.1	53.2	29.6	54.8
2012	September	59.4	28.6	61.6	65.7	27.7	68.5	53.4	29.6	55.0
2012	October	59.5	29.3	61.6	66.0	28.4	68.7	53.3	30.2	54.9
2012	November	59.4	29.5	61.5	65.8	27.9	68.5	53.4	31.2	54.8
2012	December	59.5	29.1	61.6	65.9	27.4	68.7	53.3	31.0	54.8
2013	January	59.5	29.8	61.5	66.0	28.0	68.8	53.2	31.7	54.7
2013	February	59.5	29.1	61.6	66.0	27.7	68.8	53.2	30.5	54.7
2013	March	59.3	28.3	61.5	65.8	26.7	68.7	53.2	29.9	54.7

**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
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
2012	February	53.0	17.4	56.5	54.0	14.1	58.4	52.2	20.7	55.0
2012	March	53.2	14.9	56.9	54.5	14.0	58.9	52.1	15.9	55.4
2012	April	53.3	15.5	57.0	53.9	15.5	58.1	52.8	15.5	56.1
2012	May	52.9	15.9	56.6	54.2	15.1	58.4	51.9	16.7	55.1
2012	June	53.1	16.8	56.6	54.5	15.7	58.7	52.0	18.0	55.0
2012	July	52.8	18.5	56.1	53.8	17.6	57.7	52.0	19.4	54.8
2012	August	52.7	16.4	56.2	53.5	14.0	57.7	52.1	18.8	55.1
2012	September	53.0	18.4	56.3	53.5	16.5	57.5	52.5	20.2	55.3
2012	October	53.4	17.2	56.9	53.9	14.3	58.1	53.1	20.1	55.9
2012	November	53.1	16.4	56.5	54.2	15.1	58.3	52.1	17.7	55.1
2012	December	52.6	14.9	56.2	53.6	12.0	58.0	51.8	17.8	54.7
2013	January	53.2	17.1	56.6	54.5	14.3	58.8	52.2	19.8	54.9
2013	February	53.1	15.6	56.7	55.1	13.6	59.4	51.5	17.6	54.4
2013	March	53.1	18.2	56.4	55.4	16.4	59.4	51.2	20.1	53.9