

“Who Is the Most Unemployed? Factors Affecting Joblessness,” by Lela Somoza, staff writer for *EconSouth*

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Discussion questions

1. What has been a leading factor in the unemployment gender gap? Cite evidence from the article to support your answer? What is the origin of the term “mancession”? Explain.
2. What has happened to the unemployment rate for women during the recovery and how does this compare to the historic trend since the 1970s according to a July 2011 Pew Research Center study? Explain.
3. Why might longer-term employment trends favor women? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Which group had the highest unemployment rate during the recession? Cite reasons that young workers traditionally have higher unemployment rates.
5. According to *The Kids Aren’t Alright—A Labor Market Analysis of Young Workers*, a 2010 report by Kathryn Anne Edwards and Alexander Hertel-Fernandez of the Economic Policy Institute, why were young workers even more likely to lose their jobs during this recession than previously? What are the long-term implications?
6. Which age demographic is spending a longer time out of work? Cite data from the article to support. What are the implications and what is happening to the labor force participation rate for this group?
7. What are some reasons that explain why blacks have had higher rates of unemployment?
8. What role has education played in labor market outcomes?

Related links

[Classroom Economist: Unemployment](#)

First select the Economic Indicators tab, then click the Unemployment slider tab to view all the resources that this issue contains.

[econlowdown](#)

Use these online courses and videos to teach about unemployment.

[The Fed Explains video: “The Ups and Downs of Unemployment”](#)

This animated video from the Atlanta Fed helps students to understand the labor force and the unemployment rate.

[Jobs Calculator](#)

Use this resource to access up-to-date information on inflation and inflation indices.

[Labor Market Spider Chart](#)

Use this interactive chart and supporting resources to introduce students to broad labor market developments.

[macroblog: "Casting a Web over Jobs Data"](#)

Read this entry about the spider chart, and link to other entries.

[macroblog: "The Hiring Forecasts of Small Firms: Will the Pace of Employment Growth Pick Up?"](#)

Read about the factors affecting the hiring pace of small firms.