



FACT SHEET

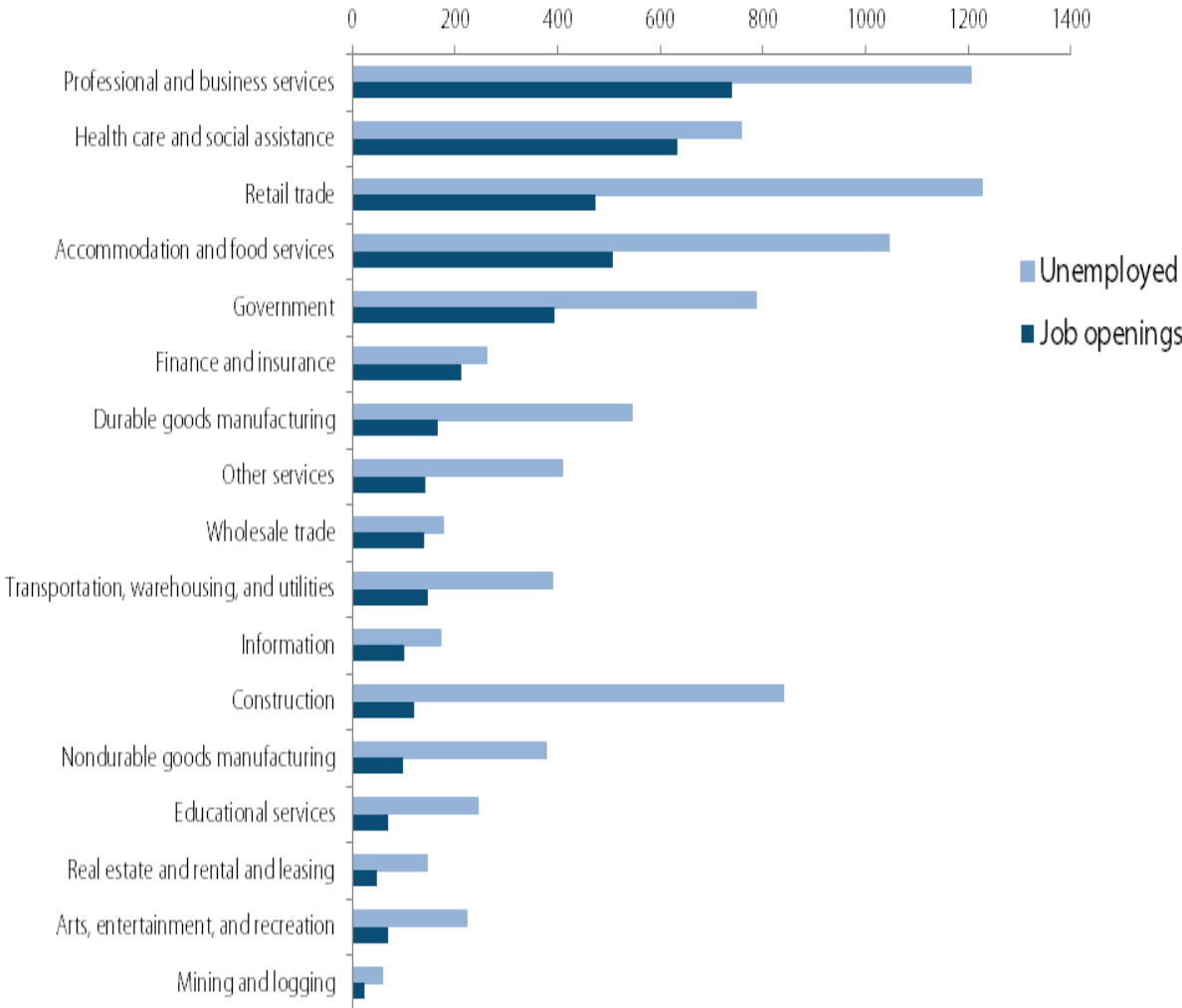
Minority Workers and Unemployment

- Despite an uptick in employment in June, over **3 million** Americans have been searching for work for at least six months. The unemployment rate fell to 6.1 percent because people found jobs, not because jobseekers became discouraged and stopped looking for work. However, over 9 and half million people are still unemployed and searching for work, almost a third of them for more than six months.
- There are still about two job seekers for every job opening.
- If we create jobs continuously at the June growth rate, it will take another two and half years to return to 2007 employment levels.
- The Economic Policy Institute estimates that there are still about 6 million people out of the labor force and not searching for work because the job market is still bleak. If they were still looking for work, the official unemployment rate would be over 9.6 percent.
- The long-term unemployment crisis is particularly devastating to minority workers, who suffer from higher general unemployment rates than white workers and have fewer personal and family assets to fall back on when times are tough.
- The black unemployment rate is 10.7 percent – this is the first time it has dropped below 11 percent in years; the Latino unemployment rate is 7.8 percent – higher than in May.
- The National Women’s Law Center estimates that the incidence and average duration of long-term unemployment spells are significantly higher for Asian American and African American women than for white and Hispanic women. Among men, African Americans have the highest rate of long-term unemployment (39%), followed closely by Asian, Hispanic, and white men. However, African American men have shorter average spells of long-term unemployment than the other three groups.



Number of unemployed far outstrips number of available jobs across the board

Unemployed and job openings, by industry (in thousands)



Note: Because the data are not seasonally adjusted, these are 12-month averages, June 2013–May 2014.

Source: EPI's analysis of data from the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey and the Current Population Survey