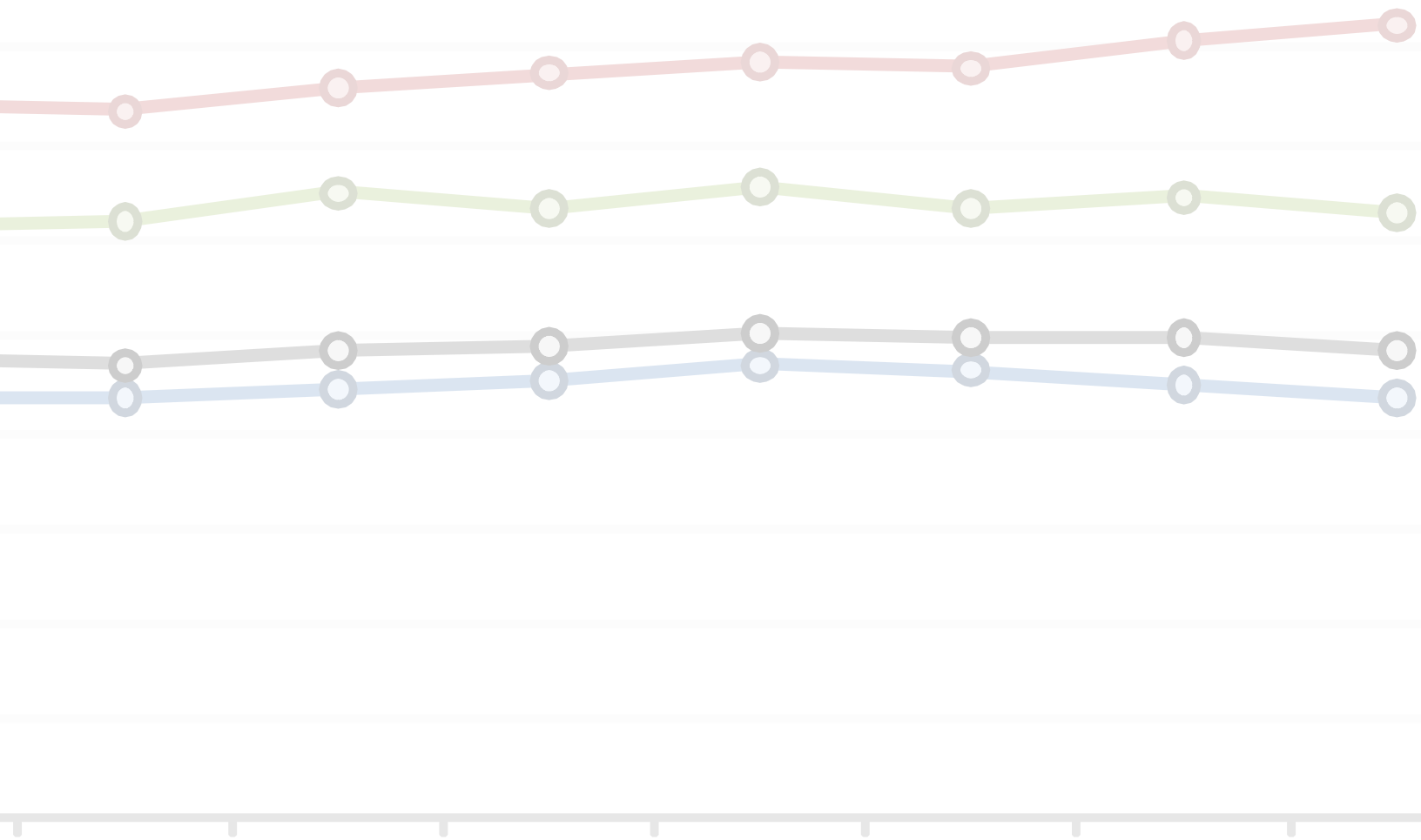




MAY 2010

RACE-RECOVERY INDEX

IS STIMULUS HELPING COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS?



KIRWAN INSTITUTE

FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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KIRWAN INSTITUTE

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity is a university-wide interdisciplinary research institute. We generate and support innovative analyses that improve understanding of the dynamics that underlie racial marginality and undermine full and fair democratic practices throughout Ohio, the United States, and the global community. Responsive to real-world needs, our work informs policies and practices that produce equitable changes in those dynamics.

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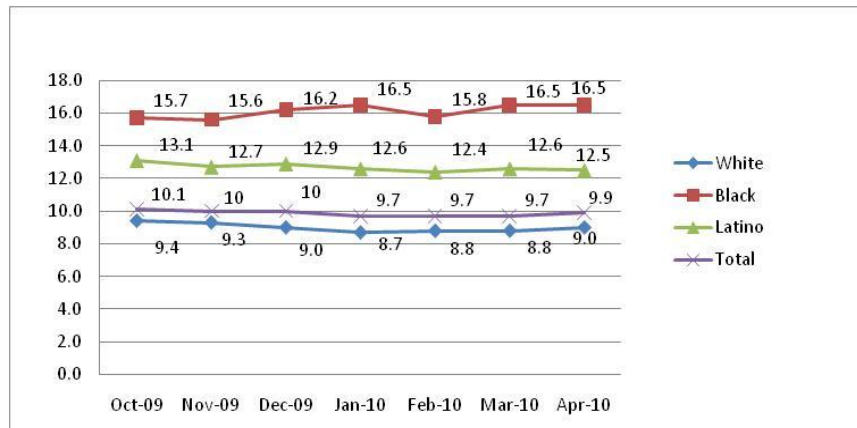


NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The national unemployment rate increased from 9.7% to 9.9% between March and April 2010, even with a gain of 290,000 jobs, the largest monthly number of jobs added to the labor force in four years. National unemployment rates correspond directly to the increase of unemployed persons reentering the work force; over 800,000 individuals returned to the labor force in April, making the unemployment rate appear frightful despite the high number of jobs.¹

Unemployment rates stayed the same for the Latino and Black population while there was an increase of one-fifth of a percentage point for unemployed Whites from April to May. **Chart 1** illustrates recent trends in national unemployment by race, while **Table 1** shows a detailed monthly breakdown of unemployed persons by race for the last year.

Chart 1: National Unemployment by Race, by Month



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 1: Unemployed Persons by Race (in thousands)

Race	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10
White	10,213	10,874	10,986	10,927	11,254	11,366	11,813	11,589	11,266	10,782	10,982	10,945	11,295
Black	2,676	2,650	2,617	2,600	2,682	2,701	2,754	2,757	2,843	2,929	2,812	2,951	2,966
Latino	2,548	2,860	2,739	2,792	2,908	2,849	2,939	2,872	2,891	2,848	2,800	2,859	2,834
Total	13,816	14,518	14,721	14,534	14,993	15,159	15,612	15,340	15,267	14,837	14,871	16,755	17,095

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

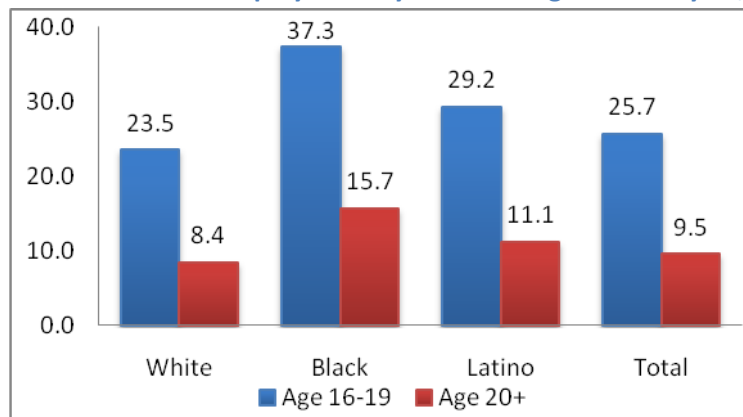
¹ New York Times [Economy Gains Impetus as U.S Adds 290,000 Jobs](#)



UNEMPLOYMENT BY RACE AND AGE

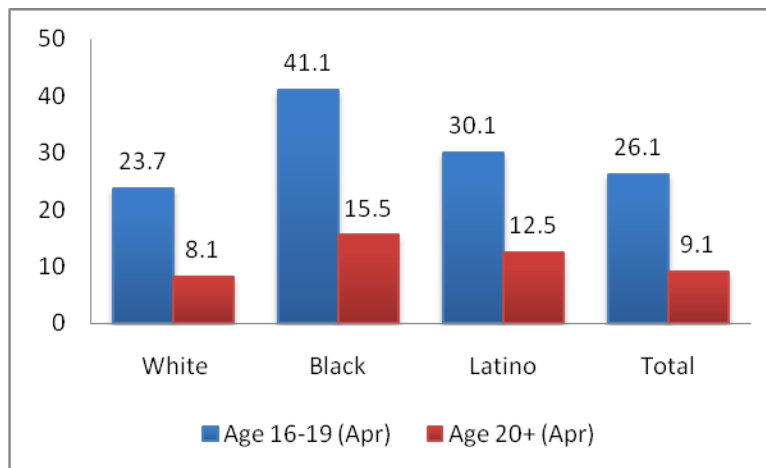
Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows a decrease in overall unemployment for the age group 16-19 from April to May 2010 (refer to charts 2 and 3), particularly for Black and Latino youth. The decrease in unemployment rates may possibly be attributed to summer job opportunities for teens. These newly added workers could have been placed among the 26,000 temporary help service jobs, 12,400 retail jobs, or 45,000 hospitality industries jobs created in the past month. **Charts 2 and 3** show the disparity gaps of unemployment by age and race.

Chart 2 : National Unemployment by Race and Age as of May 07, 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 3 : National Unemployment by Race and Ages as of April 07, 2010



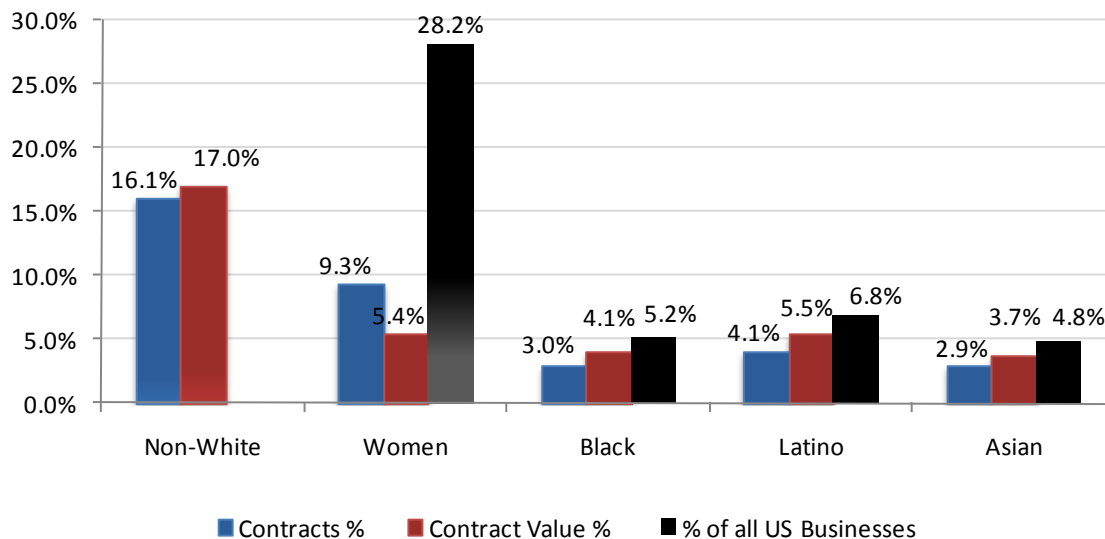
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



FEDERAL ARRA CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

Tracking stimulus contracts allocated to minority owned businesses is another measure of how equitable America’s Recovery is. Information from the Federal Procurement Data System shows marginalized businesses received a smaller percentage of contracts and total contract value than the comparable share of all United States businesses (**Chart 4**). This trend has been consistent since the signing of the Recovery Act.

Chart4: Federal ARRA Contract Procurements as of May 7, 2010



Source: Federal Procurement Data System (www.fpds.gov), Recovery Report, US Economic 2002 Census Survey of Businesses

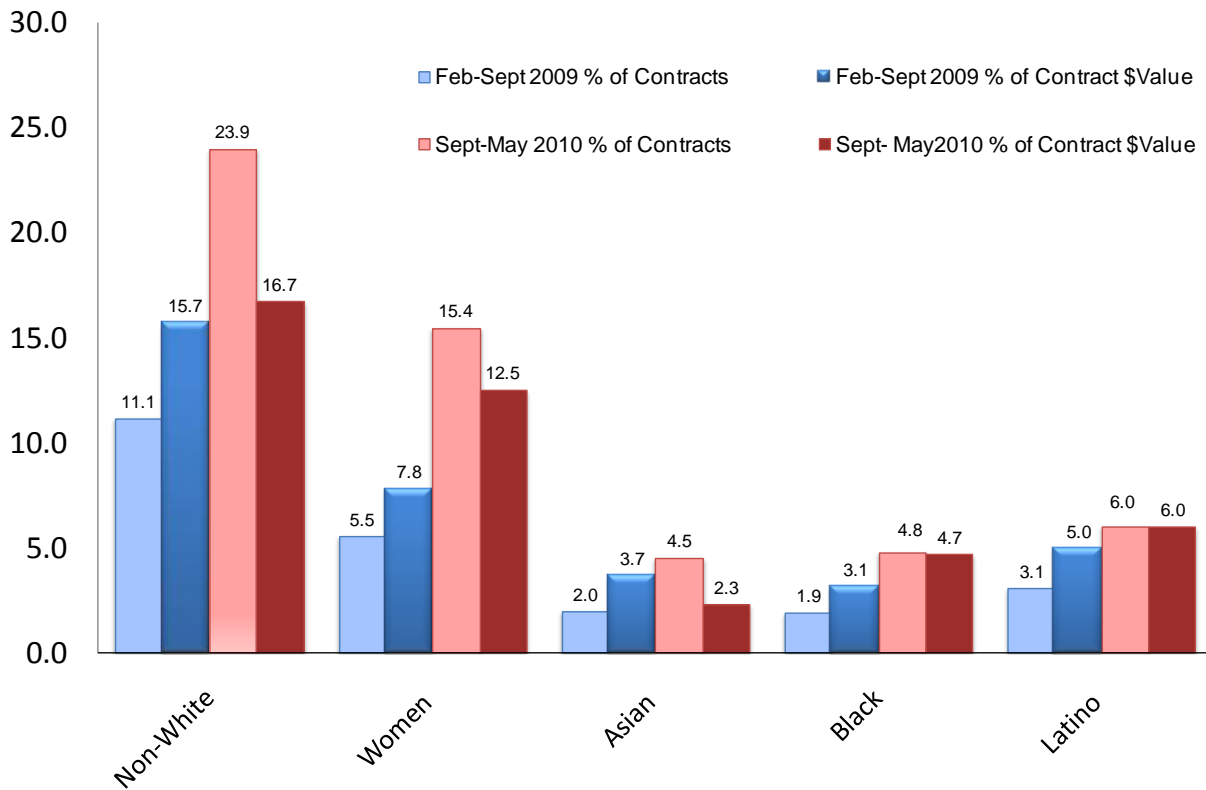
The aggregate number of contracts and value of contracts has increased from the first half of ARRA to the second half. Contracts have increased for firms owned by Blacks, Latinos, Non-Whites, and Women. **Chart 5** shows that Asian contracts have increased yet the total value of awarded contracts has decreased. On a broad spectrum however, minority owned businesses have gradually received more contracts at larger values as the Recovery has continued, representing a response to the Administration’s emphasis on Federal contracting to minority-owned businesses².

² [Obama Administration Increases Contract Opportunities for Minority Businesses, The Network Journal](#)



As unemployment rates begin to stabilize for minorities, and as marginalized businesses continue to receive government funding, the economy is showing some potential signs for a more equitable and inclusive economic recovery.

Chart 5: Federal ARRA Contract Procurements from February 2009-May 2010



Source: Federal Procurement Data System (www.fpds.gov), Recovery Report

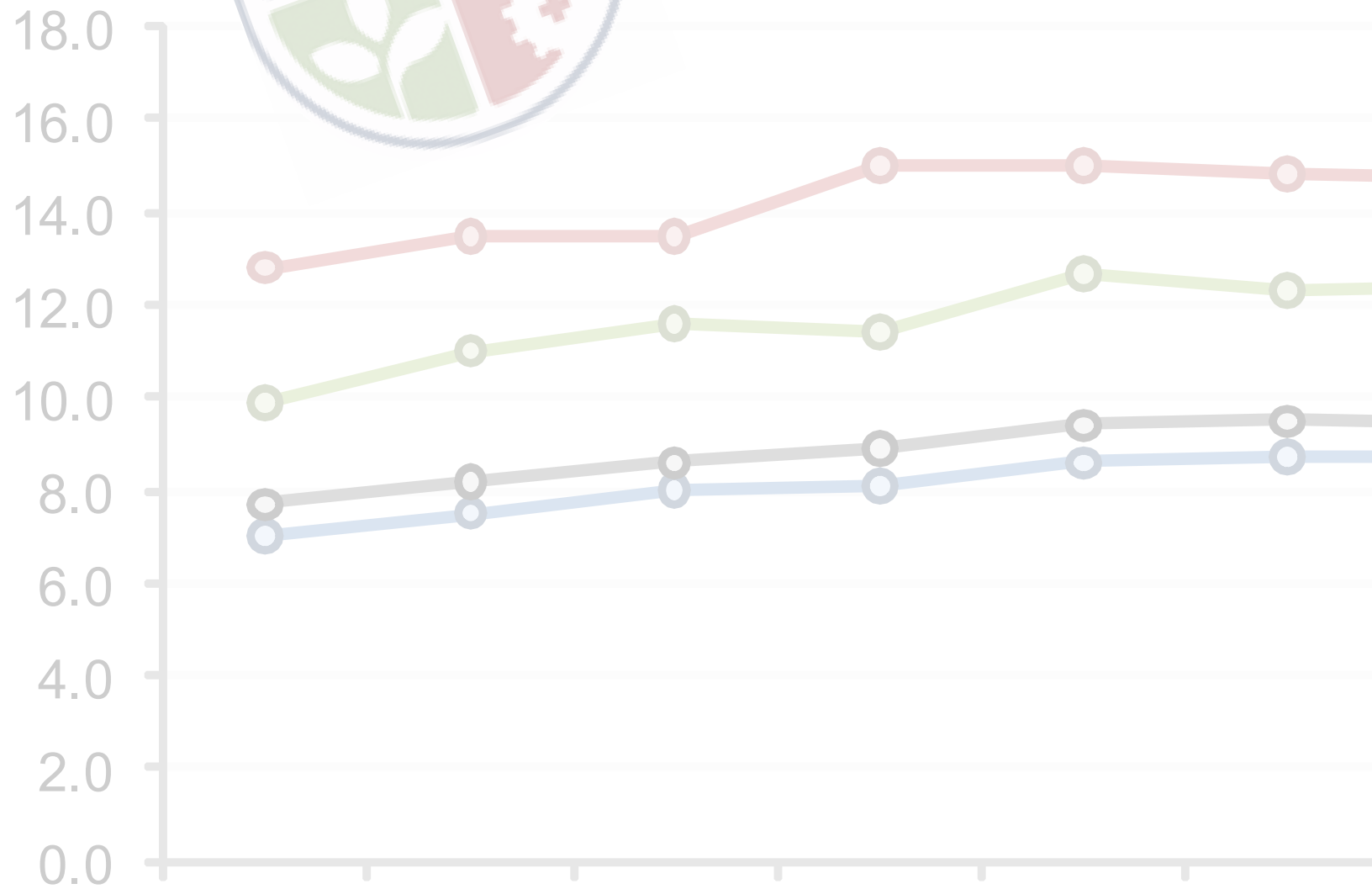
RACE-RECOVERY INDEX

The Race-Recovery Index, a project of the Kirwan Institute, is designed to measure how all people, but particularly marginalized populations, are faring in the midst of the national recovery efforts. The two primary tools for measurement used on a monthly basis are the national unemployment figures by race, and the Federal contract procurement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Additional forms of measurement may eventually be added.

For more information, please visit:

www.fairrecovery.org

FairRecovery.org



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