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.

Staff Contributors

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National Unemployment

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 9.5% for the second month in a row in July 2010, despite the fact that the economy experienced a loss of 131,000 non-farm jobs. The rate remained unchanged for the month in part because of the 422,000 people who removed themselves from the labor force, representing job seekers who have given up the search for employment. Despite the loss of 143,000 temporary public-sector jobs, private sector employment increased by 71,000 jobs. Unemployment rates for Whites held steady at 8.6%, while dropping slightly for Latinos (by one third of a percentage point), and increasing slightly for Blacks (by one fifth of a percentage point). Further review (Chart 2) shows unemployment rates for both Black and Latino women increased by one percentage point during the month of July; this may reflect the distribution of census jobs which were terminated in July. Black and Latino men faced slight decreases in unemployment (0.7% and 1.1% respectively).

![Chart 1. U.S. Unemployment Rate by Race: March 2010-July 2010](chart.png)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Jul-09</th>
<th>Aug-09</th>
<th>Sep-09</th>
<th>Oct-09</th>
<th>Nov-09</th>
<th>Dec-09</th>
<th>Jan-10</th>
<th>Feb-10</th>
<th>Mar-10</th>
<th>Apr-10</th>
<th>May-10</th>
<th>Jun-10</th>
<th>Jul-10</th>
<th>% Change (year over year)</th>
<th>Unemployment Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>10,927</td>
<td>11,254</td>
<td>11,366</td>
<td>11,813</td>
<td>11,589</td>
<td>11,266</td>
<td>10,782</td>
<td>10,982</td>
<td>10,945</td>
<td>11,295</td>
<td>11,070</td>
<td>10,797</td>
<td>10,760</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
<td>-167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>2,682</td>
<td>2,701</td>
<td>2,754</td>
<td>2,757</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>2,929</td>
<td>2,812</td>
<td>2,951</td>
<td>2,966</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>2,732</td>
<td>2,755</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>2,792</td>
<td>2,908</td>
<td>2,849</td>
<td>2,939</td>
<td>2,872</td>
<td>2,891</td>
<td>2,848</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,859</td>
<td>2,834</td>
<td>2,836</td>
<td>2,820</td>
<td>2,751</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14,534</td>
<td>14,993</td>
<td>15,159</td>
<td>15,612</td>
<td>15,340</td>
<td>15,267</td>
<td>14,837</td>
<td>14,871</td>
<td>15,005</td>
<td>15,260</td>
<td>14,973</td>
<td>14,623</td>
<td>14,599</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Chart 2. U.S. Unemployment Rates by Race and Gender March-July 2010

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Chart 4. July 2010 Unemployment Rates by Race and Gender

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 5. July 2010 Unemployment Rates by Race and Age

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

August 2010
Federal ARRA Contract Procurement

During the month of July, Asian owned businesses received an equitable share of total contract value in relation to their overall share of U.S. businesses. However, Women owned businesses continued to receive both a smaller number of contracts and lower contract value in relation to the percentage of U.S. businesses they represent. Chart 6 shows a further breakdown of total contracts and contract values received by non-white and Women-owned businesses during the month of July in comparison to the past 18 months, since the signing of ARRA. Additionally, Chart 6 shows that non-white and Women-owned businesses did better during the month of July than the aggregate findings of the past 18 months, receiving a higher share of contracts and contract value. Such findings suggest that these businesses are increasingly receiving a more equitable share of federal dollars.

Chart 6. Federal ARRA Contract Procurements in July and for 18 months as of August 2010


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**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