



# EPI FACT SHEET

---

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE • SEPTEMBER 7, 2009 • FACT SHEET

## Labor Day by the Numbers

*Note that all numbers are current as of September 4, 2009.*

### TOTAL JOBS LOST DURING THE RECESSION: 6.9 MILLION

- New jobs needed per month to keep up with population growth: **127,000**
- Jobs lost in August 2009: **216,000**
- Jobs needed to regain pre-recession unemployment levels: **9.4 million**
- Manufacturing jobs lost since the start of the recession: **2.0 million** (14.6% of sector's jobs)
- Construction jobs lost in the recession: **1.4 million** (19%, nearly one in five construction jobs)
- Mass layoffs (50 or more people by a single employer) in July 2009: **2,157**; jobs lost: **206,791**

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 9.7%

- Number unemployed: **14.9 million** (up from 7.5 million in December 2007)
- Underemployment rate: **16.8%**; Share of workers un- or underemployed: **roughly 1 in 6**
- Under- and unemployed, marginally attached and involuntary part-time workers: **26.4 million**
- Unemployment rate, ages 16 to 24: **18.2%**
- Male unemployment: **10.9%**; female unemployment: **8.2%**
- White unemployment: **8.9%**; black unemployment: **15.1%**; Hispanic unemployment: **13%**
- Unemployment rate, young college graduates: **5.9%** (2nd worst on record); Worst recorded unemployment rate for young college graduates: **6.2%** (1983)

- 
- Traditional share of young college grads' unemployment to overall rate: **50%**; Current ratio: **70%**
  - Portion of unemployed who have been jobless more than six months: (**one third**)
  - Average weekly unemployment benefit in July (including additional \$25 per week from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act): **\$332**

### **STATES WITH DOUBLE-DIGIT UNEMPLOYMENT (AS OF JULY 2009): 16; WHEN THIS LAST HAPPENED: 1983**

- Highest unemployment rate: Michigan, **15.0%**; lowest: North Dakota, **4.2%**
- When California's Hispanic unemployment surpassed black unemployment: **2nd quarter, 2009**
- Projected African American unemployment for Michigan, 2nd quarter of 2010: **24.9%**

### **INCREASE IN AVERAGE U.S. WORKER'S PRODUCTIVITY, 2000-07: 19.2%**

- Decrease in all prime-aged worker's real median weekly wages, 2000-2007: **\$1**; Decrease for African Americans: **\$3**
- Annual growth rate of private-sector workers' wages, last three months: **2.6%**
- Annual growth of wages in managerial, professional, and related occupations, 2009, 2nd quarter: **0%**
- Annual growth rate of real (inflation-adjusted), average, hourly wages since June 2000: **0.70%**
- Ratio of average CEO's pay to typical worker's pay in 1979: **27 to 1**; Ratio in 2007: **275 to 1**

### **EXPECTED NEW SPENDING (12-MONTHS) FROM THE NEW \$7.25 MINIMUM WAGE: \$5.5 BILLION**

- Share of minimum wage workers with high school diploma in 1979: **57.5%**; Share in 2008: **72%**
- Workers getting a raise from latest minimum wage increase: **4.5 million**
- Share of affected workers with annual family income below \$35,000: **57.1%**; Share working at least 20 hours a week: **81.6%**
- Extent to which the minimum wage's real value is lower than in 1968: **17%**

### **AMERICANS UNINSURED IN 2007: 45 MILLION**

- Drop in children covered through parents' employers, 2000 to 2007: **3.4 million**
- Share of people under 65, with incomes in the top 20%, covered by employers in 2007: **86.4%**; Share with incomes in the *bottom* 20%, covered by employers: **21.9%**
- Share of Hispanic workers who are uninsured: **39.8%**
- Percentage of under-65 Americans with employer-sponsored health insurance in 2000: **68.3%**; In 2007: **62.9%**

- 
- Average monthly cost of COBRA with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act subsidy: **\$370**; *Without* American Recovery and Reinvestment Act subsidy: **\$1,057**
  - Rise in out-of-pocket spending for the 1% of adults with the greatest medical expenses, 2004-07: **42%**
  - Increase in health care premiums since 1999: **119%**
  - Amount by which U.S. private health insurance administrative costs exceeded *all* Canadian national health spending in 2007: **\$25 billion**
  - Share of total U.S. health care costs paid by private insurers in 2007: **35%**
  - Share of total health care costs paid by U.S. government in 2007: **46%**

### **SHARE OF PEOPLE NEAR RETIREMENT AGE WITH A 401(K) BALANCE UNDER \$40,000 IN 2007: 50%**

- Percentage of amount needed to maintain living standards that is held by average 401(k) participant approaching retirement: **20-40%**
- Share of 401(k) assets estimated to be lost since 2007: **29%**

### **WORKPLACES WITH NO CONTRACT MORE THAN THREE YEARS AFTER ELECTION IS WON: 25%**

- Share of employers that interrogate workers in mandatory one-on-one meetings, 1999-2003: **63%**; Share of employers that threaten workers in such meetings, 1999-2003: **54%**
- Increase in likelihood that firm will fail if unionized: **0%**
- U.S. manufacturing workers ranking on “value-added per employee,” compared to 16 nations with *higher* compensation: **2**

### **ANNUALIZED RATE OF ECONOMIC CONTRACTION, 2nd QUARTER, 2009: 1%**

- Likely size of this contraction *without* the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: **3-4%**
- Jobs likely lost *without* American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, 2nd quarter, 2009: **at least 1.8 million**
- Actual jobs lost, 2nd quarter, 2009: **1.3 million**

**Compiled by Anna Turner.**