



AAAC Briefing: Unemployment for Blacks and Hispanics Continues Upward

Although the latest quarterly report from the Connecticut Department of Labor shows a slight drop in the total number of unemployed from a year ago, there is an alarming increase in the number of unemployed African-Americans and Hispanics.

In the Connecticut Labor Force Data for Affirmative Actions Plans 1st Quarter – 2011 report, the total number of minorities (Black and Hispanic) unemployed rose in the first quarter of 2011 compared to a year ago from 76,260 to 81,130. This represents an overall percentage increase of 2.9%. The overall unemployment rate for the State remained at 9.3% for the past year due to a drop in the state’s labor force- 4,900 fewer jobs.

The March 2011 report lists the rate of unemployment for Blacks and Hispanics in the nine Connecticut labor markets. In all markets, minority unemployment was disproportionate to the population. In the Bridgeport-Stamford market, Blacks and Hispanics were 61% of the 25,330 unemployed. In Hartford 51.6 % of the 28,890 unemployed were Black and Hispanic. The chart below shows steady increase in unemployment for minorities since 2010.

Labor Market	Yr-2010		Yr-2011		% change Yr 2010 vs. Yr 2011
	Total Minority Unemployed	% of Total Unemployed	Total Minority Unemployed	% of Total Unemployed	
Bridgeport-Stamford	23,420	57.70	25,300	61.0	3.3
Danbury	1,990	27.20	2,120	30.3	3.1
Enfield	1,240	28.30	1,220	29.7	1.4
Hartford	28,670	50.40	28,890	51.6	1.2
New Haven	13,630	46.40	15,260	50.4	4.0
Norwich-New London	3,870	31.70	4,410	35.5	3.8
Torrington	1,010	18.80	980	18.9	0.1
Waterbury	5,660	44.20	5,850	46.8	2.6
Willimantic- Danielson	1,300	20.60	1,360	22.7	2.1

Nationally the Department of Labor reports that just 51.5% of African-Americans over 20 compared to 59.5% of whites have jobs. This is the lowest since records began in 1972, this according to the government monthly jobs report (Federal Department of Labor – April 2011 Monthly Report <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>).

For a full report from the Connecticut Department of Labor visit: <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/affirm/affirm.asp> .