

# NATIONAL JOBS FOR ALL COALITION

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## OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT, June 2011 – 9. 2%

White	8.1%
African American	16.2%
Hispanic	11.6%
Asian	6.8%
People with disabilities	16.9%
Men 20 years and over	9.1%
Women 20 years and over	8.0%
Teen-agers (16-19 years)	24.5%
Black teens	39.9%
Officially unemployed	14.1 million

## HIDDEN UNEMPLOYMENT

Working part-time because can't find a full-time	8.6 million
People who want jobs but are not looking so are not counted in official statistics	6.5 million

## TOTAL OFFICIAL AND HIDDEN UNEMPLOYMENT

29.2 million =  
18.3% of the labor force

## AND MORE...

- In April 2011 (the latest month available), there were 3 million job openings and 13.7 million officially unemployed people. That's 4.6 persons for every available job and millions more when you count the hidden unemployed who wanted work.
- Millions of people worked full-time all year yet earned less than the official poverty level for a family of four.

## Sources

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and Annual Social and Economic Supplement

National Jobs for All Coalition  
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CAN YOU COUNT THE UNEMPLOYED?  
-AN NJFAC QUIZ

1. Jack was laid off after 17 years as a mechanic when his plant was relocated in Mexico. Unable to find a comparable job, Jack is working at Walmart at a fraction of his previous wage.

Answer: Jack is a casualty of unemployment but he is counted as employed, despite his downgrading.

2. Jill wants to work but stopped looking for a job because she can't afford child care for her daughter.

Answer: Once Jill stops looking for work she disappears from official statistics. She is out of the labor force, not counted as unemployed.

3. Jerry, 18 years old, no longer attends school and has no job. He would like to be able to make some money but unemployment is rampant, and job openings for teenagers are practically nil in the urban ghetto where Jerry lives—especially for those who have never held a job. After repeated but unsuccessful attempts to get a job, Jerry stopped looking for work and now hangs out with friends who are in the same boat.

Answer: Since Jerry is no longer looking for work, he isn't counted as unemployed.

4. John, 62, lost his job last year. He continued to look for work long after exhausting his meager unemployment benefits. Then, as he watched his savings melt away, he despaired of finding another job because of illegal-but rampant-age discrimination. So he threw in the towel and now receives permanently reduced Social Security (early) retirement benefits.

Answer: John is not counted as unemployed. He is no longer looking for work, hence out of the labor force.

5. Jane, a single mother, works full time, year round, at a minimum wage job that pays thousands of dollars less than what the government says is needed to support her and her two young children above the poverty level. She wonders if she will ever get a real job—one that pays a living wage.

Answer: Jane is treated as employed even though a job that pays so little is a form of underemployment.

6. Mary can't find a full-time job as a college teacher. She is forced to take a part-time position as an adjunct at a local college.

Answer: Mary is counted as employed even though she is forced to work part-time.