



Federal Supplemental Compensation and Unemployment Insurance recipients

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In September 1982, the Federal Supplemental Compensation program was enacted to provide benefits to individuals who exhaust all of their rights to benefits under the regular and extended Unemployment Insurance programs. In States where extended benefits are not in effect, exhaustees of regular unemployment insurance immediately become eligible for Federal Supplemental Compensation. In States on extended benefits, an individual must exhaust those benefits before collecting Federal Supplemental Compensation. Originally, 6 to 10 additional weeks of benefits were provided by the Federal Supplemental Compensation program, depending on each State's insured unemployment rate and extended benefit status. Benefit duration was changed to 8 to 16 weeks in January 1983, and to 8 to 14 weeks in April.

From September through December 1982, relatively few Unemployment Insurance recipients went on to receive Federal Supplemental Compensation benefits—only 10 percent did so, and 45 percent of them had first received extended benefits. The age and sex distributions of Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients were quite similar to those of regular Unemployment Insurance recipients who did not receive Federal Supplemental Compensation benefits. (See table 1.) Two-thirds of both Federal Supplemental Compensation and Unemployment Insurance recipients were between the ages of 25 and 54, 20 percent were under age 25, and about 40 percent were women. However, 27 percent of Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients were non-white, compared with 18 percent of the regular Unemployment Insurance recipients.

Unemployment Insurance recipients who had worked in the cyclically sensitive manufacturing industries prior to their unemployment were less likely to go on to become Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients. However,

those from the service-producing industries (services; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; public administration; and transportation and public utilities) were more likely to become Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients. Forty-three percent of Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients were from manufacturing and 45 percent were from service-producing industries. In contrast, 53 percent of Unemployment Insurance recipients were from manufacturing and 33 percent were from service-producing industries.

Those Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients who first received extended benefits differed from those who did not with respect to sex, race, and industry: more were men, more were white, and more came from manufacturing. The industry difference occurred because the States that triggered onto extended benefits had higher unemployment rates and relatively more concentration in durable manufacturing, and extended benefits recipients going on to receive Federal Supplemental Compensation have longer durations of unemployment.

The majority of Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients had not provided the sole support for household dependents; 63 percent had either no dependents or a working spouse. The proportion married, 57 percent, was somewhat lower than for Unemployment Insurance recipients, but numbers of dependents were similar.

A significant portion (17 percent) of Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients were unemployed for reasons other than layoff, compared with regular Unemployment Insurance beneficiaries (13 percent). More than 10 percent of Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients had been fired from their last job, and 4 percent were not working because they had quit their last job over unsatisfactory work arrangements, had retired, or were involved in a labor dispute.

Although Federal Supplemental Compensation was enacted to provide assistance to those who suffered unemployment and benefit exhaustion associated with the recession, recipients were disproportionately from less cyclical industries such as services, in which employment was growing. Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients were less likely than Unemployment Insurance recipients to have been laid off from their previous job, but were more likely to have quit or to have been fired. In other words, Federal

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Table 1. Selected characteristics of recipients of regular Unemployment Insurance and Federal Supplemental Compensation benefits, September through December 1982

(In percent)

Characteristic	Regular Unemployment Insurance beneficiaries (not receiving Federal Supplemental Compensation)	Federal Supplemental Compensation beneficiaries
Age:		
Under 22 years	10.9	8.3
22 to 24 years	11.3	11.7
25 to 54 years	65.6	67.2
55 to 64 years	10.3	11.3
65 years and over	1.9	1.6
Sex and race:		
Men	61.4	59.9
Women	38.6	40.1
White	82.0	73.3
Nonwhite	18.0	26.7
Industry:		
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	1.1	.9
Mining	1.2	1.0
Construction	12.0	9.5
Manufacturing	53.0	43.2
Durable	26.8	25.4
Nondurable	24.9	16.3
Miscellaneous	1.2	1.5
Transportation, communication, and public utilities	3.5	3.7
Wholesale trade	4.2	6.4
Retail trade	9.1	11.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1.8	4.0
Services	12.4	17.3
Public administration	1.5	2.1
Not covered3	.3

Supplemental Compensation recipients' joblessness was more often caused by factors other than the recession.

Recipients of Federal Supplemental Compensation under extended reachback provisions (those who had exhausted their regular and extended benefits more than 3 months before Federal Supplemental Compensation became effective) were less likely than other Federal Supplemental Compensation beneficiaries to have separated from cyclical industries such as durable manufacturing. Lower proportions of those recipients were on layoff than other Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients and higher proportions were fired or quit their previous job.

The survey of Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients was conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, and covered the September through December 1982 period. Data are from the Continuous Wage and Benefit History project of the Unemployment Insurance Service, longitudinal records drawn from State Unemployment Insurance administrative files, and information from a questionnaire administered at the time of initial filing for Unemployment Insurance. About 28,000 Federal Supplemental Compensation recipients from 12 States (Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin) were covered by the survey.¹ The 12 States combined closely resemble the Nation in their insured unemployment rates, industrial mix, and demographic characteristics. Thus,

the findings are likely to reflect the national situation.

A copy of the full study, *Characteristics of Recipients of Federal Supplemental Compensation*, is available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Office of Research and Technical Support, Washington, D.C. 20210. □

—FOOTNOTE—

¹ Although the sample from these States is large, estimates are subject to sampling variability. It is possible that some of the differences in the report are not statistically significant.

The black population: a statistical view, 1970–82

Statistics from the recent Bureau of Census Population Surveys and the 1980 census show improvement in income levels of black married-couple families, educational attainment and school enrollment, and homeownership among blacks during the 1970's. But the data also reveal setbacks influenced by high black unemployment, sharply increased divorce and separation rates, and a rise in family households maintained by women.

Population growth and distribution

Between 1970 and 1980, the black population increased by 17.3 percent, from 22.6 million to 26.5 million. In 1980, blacks represented approximately 12 percent of the total population.

In 1980, blacks constituted more than 20 percent of the population in seven States—Mississippi (35 percent), South Carolina (30 percent), Louisiana (29 percent), Georgia (27 percent), Alabama (26 percent), Maryland (23 percent), and North Carolina (22 percent). Twelve States had black populations of 1 million or more, an increase of three States (Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia) from 1970.

New York had the largest black population of any city (1,784,337) in 1980, followed by Chicago (1,197,000), Detroit (758,939), Philadelphia (638,878), and Los Angeles (505,210).

Of the 100 cities with the largest black population, the city with the highest percentage was East St. Louis, Ill. (96 percent). In Washington, D.C. about 70 percent of the population was black in 1980, about the same as in 1970, although the total population in the city actually dropped during the decade.

The traditional large black migration from the South to points north and west appeared to end in the 1970 decade. Between 1975 and 1980, about 415,000 blacks moved to the South, whereas only about 220,000 left, thereby reversing the longstanding black exodus from the South. In 1980, the proportion of the black population residing in the South was 53 percent, the same as in 1970.

Some income gain, but poverty increases

While median income of black families continued to lag behind the median income of the general population, black married-couple families registered a 6.9-percent gain in real median income between 1971 and 1981, improving from \$18,370 to \$19,620 in constant dollars. The comparable figures for white married-couple families were \$25,130 in 1971 and \$25,470 in 1981.

While the income level for black married-couple families was climbing during the decade of the 1970's, the proportion that this group constituted of all black families dropped from 64 percent in 1972 to 55 percent in 1982.

In real terms, the 1981 median income for all black families (\$13,270) dropped 8.3 percent from 1971 and dropped 5.2 percent between 1980 and 1981. Median income for white families in 1981 was \$23,520, down only 2.7 percent from 1980 when adjusted for inflation.

In 1971, the median income for black families was 60 percent of the median income of white families—\$14,460 versus \$23,970. By 1981, this ratio fell to 56 percent.

According to the report, the decline in black family median income reflects, in part, the increase in the proportion of families maintained by women with no husband present and the lack of income gains for these families. Among blacks, such families totaled 2.6 million in 1982, or about 41 percent of all black families, up from 32 percent in 1972. The median income for families maintained by black female householders with no husband present was \$7,510 in 1981, about 38 percent of the median of black married-couple families (\$19,620).

Persistent inflation, a stagnant economy, and family breakup were reflected in the rising number of persons classified as poor between 1979 and 1981. During this period, the total number of persons in poverty increased by 5.4 million.

In 1970, about 8 million blacks (34 percent) and 17 million whites (10 percent) had incomes below the poverty level. By 1981, the number increased to 9 million for blacks (34 percent) and 22 million for whites (11 percent). (The poverty level for 1981 was \$9,287 for a family of four.)

During the 1970's, an increasing concentration of the poor in families maintained by women was especially evident among blacks. The number of poor black families with a female householder rose from 834,000 in 1970 to 1.4 million in 1981. These families accounted for 70 percent of all poor black families in 1981, substantially up from 56 percent in 1970.

Family statistics

Families maintained by black women increased during the decade. In 1970, about 28 percent of the 4.9 million black families were maintained by women. By 1982, however, almost 41 percent of the 6.4 million black families

were maintained by women. The comparable percentage for whites during this period increased from 9 to 12 percent. In 1982, the majority of black families were still maintained by married couples. However, since 1970, the percentage of all black families maintained by married couples has declined from 68 to 55 percent.

Among black women who maintained families in 1982, 32 percent had never married, compared to 11 percent for white families maintained by a woman.

The number of black children living with both parents dropped sharply between 1970 and 1982, while the percentage of black children living in one-parent situations increased from 32 to 49 percent. About 8 percent of the children lived with neither parent in 1982, but in most cases resided with another relative. White children living with one parent also increased, doubling from 9 percent in 1970 to 17 percent in 1982. Still, 81 percent of white children lived with both parents in 1982, compared with 42 percent of black children. Black children constituted just 15 percent of all children under 18 years of age in 1982, but represented 34 percent of all children living with only one parent.

The proportion of births occurring to unmarried mothers increased during the decade for both black and white women, in part due to declines in births to married women. In 1980, more than one-half of the births to black women (55 percent) occurred out of wedlock, up from 38 percent in 1970. The corresponding proportion for white women increased from 6.0 to 11.0 percent during the same period.

In contrast to the pattern noted above, the nonmarital fertility rate¹ for black women declined from 96 births per 1,000 unmarried women 15 to 44 years old in 1970 to 83 per 1,000 in 1980. The rate for white women increased from 14 to 18 per 1,000 during the same period.

This excerpt is adapted from the U.S. Bureau of the Census report, *America's Black Population: 1970 to 1982*,² Special Publication P10/POP-83-1, which is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or any U.S. Department of Commerce district office. The cost is \$3.50 per copy. □

FOOTNOTES

¹Rate computed by relating total nonmarital births, regardless of age of mother, to unmarried women 15 to 44 years old.

²The full report includes data from the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and the U.S. Department of Defense. The Census Bureau data, which cover a wide range of topics, were collected primarily in the 1980 Census of Population and in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The BLS data on labor force are from the CPS; the NCHS data on vital statistics and mortality are from its registration system; and the data from the Department of Defense are from administrative records.