

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 38 in 1978-2002 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Percent distribution of persons by number of unemployment spells												Mean number of spells
	Total	0 spells	1 spell	2 spells	3 spells	4 spells	5 spells	6 spells	7 spells	8 spells	9 spells	10 spells or more	
Total, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	10.7	13.1	11.7	12.2	10.1	8.0	6.8	6.4	4.7	3.4	12.9	4.8
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	21.9	21.2	16.9	13.1	10.3	6.6	4.6	2.9	1.4	0.6	0.4	2.4
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	48.1	22.6	12.5	8.0	4.3	2.3	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.2
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	60.8	18.2	9.5	5.6	2.6	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.8
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	70.2	16.7	7.6	2.7	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Men, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	11.3	14.0	11.3	11.7	9.4	7.7	5.9	5.5	5.3	3.4	14.7	4.9
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	22.1	21.5	15.0	12.6	9.9	6.7	4.5	4.0	2.1	0.9	0.6	2.5
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	48.9	20.6	11.6	8.1	5.2	2.8	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.1	--	1.2
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	62.0	16.3	9.2	5.3	3.1	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.9
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	72.7	14.9	7.2	2.1	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5
Women, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	10.1	12.1	12.3	12.8	10.9	8.3	7.7	7.3	4.1	3.4	11.1	4.6
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	21.7	21.0	18.8	13.7	10.7	6.6	4.6	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.1	2.3
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	47.2	24.6	13.5	7.8	3.4	1.9	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.1
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	59.6	20.2	9.8	6.0	2.0	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	--	0.8
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	67.6	18.5	8.1	3.3	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6
White non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	11.8	14.3	12.5	12.8	10.0	7.9	6.5	5.9	4.5	3.0	10.6	4.4
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	23.6	22.2	16.8	12.5	9.5	6.1	4.3	2.8	1.3	0.6	0.3	2.3
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	51.2	22.8	11.5	7.0	3.4	2.1	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.0
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	64.2	17.4	8.4	5.1	2.1	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	73.3	15.8	6.2	2.2	1.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
White non-Hispanic men, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	12.6	15.5	12.0	12.2	9.0	7.6	5.6	4.9	5.2	3.1	12.3	4.6
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	23.8	22.7	14.7	11.8	9.3	6.2	4.1	4.1	2.0	0.9	0.5	2.4
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	52.1	20.8	10.5	7.1	4.3	2.7	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.1
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	65.7	15.4	8.0	4.6	2.8	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.8
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	76.4	13.7	5.5	1.4	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
White non-Hispanic women, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	11.1	13.1	13.0	13.5	11.1	8.3	7.5	7.0	3.8	2.8	8.9	4.2
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	23.4	21.7	19.0	13.3	9.8	5.9	4.5	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	2.1
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	50.3	24.9	12.6	6.8	2.6	1.6	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.0
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	62.6	19.5	8.9	5.6	1.4	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	70.2	18.0	7.0	2.9	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5
Black non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	4.8	6.6	8.3	9.8	9.8	8.0	8.5	8.1	5.8	5.3	25.0	6.6
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	12.6	15.7	18.1	16.7	14.3	10.5	5.7	3.1	2.4	0.5	0.5	3.0
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	33.1	21.8	16.2	12.7	8.2	3.9	2.7	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.7
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	45.1	21.8	14.1	7.9	5.1	3.4	1.8	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.3
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	55.8	20.3	13.7	5.5	1.9	1.6	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.9

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 38 in 1978-2002 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

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Black non-Hispanic men, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	4.9	6.5	9.2	9.2	10.6	8.0	7.8	7.1	5.5	4.6	26.6	6.6
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	13.3	16.0	17.0	16.3	12.9	9.7	6.1	3.5	3.4	1.0	0.8	3.0
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	34.4	21.3	15.1	11.9	8.9	3.7	2.8	1.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.7
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	44.8	20.7	15.1	8.0	4.7	3.0	2.3	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.3
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	55.9	19.2	14.6	5.9	2.1	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Black non-Hispanic women, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	4.7	6.8	7.3	10.4	9.0	8.1	9.1	9.2	6.0	6.1	23.3	6.5
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	11.8	15.4	19.2	17.1	15.8	11.3	5.2	2.7	1.4	0.0	0.2	2.9
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	31.7	22.2	17.4	13.5	7.4	4.0	2.6	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.7
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	45.5	22.9	13.1	7.7	5.5	3.9	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.2
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	55.7	21.4	12.8	5.1	1.7	1.7	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.9
Hispanic or Latino, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	9.0	12.9	11.2	10.2	10.7	7.0	7.2	6.8	5.8	5.3	13.8	5.1
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	21.1	21.8	16.3	12.8	10.4	6.4	5.4	3.4	0.8	0.7	1.0	2.5
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	42.9	23.2	15.4	9.5	5.0	1.8	1.1	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.3
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	58.2	17.0	11.7	6.4	3.2	1.4	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.9
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	64.1	20.9	9.1	3.3	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6
Hispanic or Latino men, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	9.0	13.1	8.0	9.1	8.8	7.7	6.7	7.6	7.0	4.9	18.2	5.7
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	18.9	19.8	14.9	14.2	10.0	7.2	7.3	4.3	0.9	0.5	2.0	2.7
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	42.3	18.1	16.5	11.9	6.4	2.4	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.4
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	58.4	14.7	11.6	5.2	3.9	2.2	2.0	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.6	1.1
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	64.4	21.0	9.8	1.6	1.7	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6
Hispanic or Latino women, ages 18 to 38 in 1978-2002 ¹	100.0	8.9	12.7	14.8	11.4	12.7	6.2	7.8	6.0	4.6	5.8	9.1	4.6
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1987 ²	100.0	23.5	23.9	17.7	11.3	10.8	5.5	3.4	2.3	0.7	0.9	0.0	2.1
Ages 23 to 27 in 1983-1992	100.0	43.5	28.7	14.1	7.0	3.5	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.1
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1997	100.0	58.0	19.5	11.8	7.7	2.3	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002 ³	100.0	63.9	20.7	8.3	5.1	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6

¹ This category excludes individuals who turned age 18 before Jan. 1, 1978, or who had not yet turned age 39 when interviewed in 2002.

² This category excludes individuals who turned age 18 before Jan. 1, 1978.

³ This category excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 39 when interviewed in 2002.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79).

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 consists of men and women who were born in the years 1957-64 and were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. These individuals were ages 37 to 45 in 2002. Educational attainment is defined as of the 2002 survey. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.