

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 38 in 1978-2002 by educational attainment, 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	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	6.1	6.9	8.2	7.9	9.5	7.6	7.5	8.4	8.6	5.8	23.6	6.7
High school graduates, no college	100.0	11.5	12.2	11.4	11.1	8.9	7.8	6.5	6.3	4.8	3.9	15.6	5.1
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	12.3	13.5	11.7	11.5	11.1	7.6	6.8	6.1	3.5	2.9	12.9	4.6
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	9.9	16.9	14.0	16.7	11.5	8.7	7.0	5.8	3.8	2.0	3.6	3.6
Men	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	3.3	4.4	7.0	6.9	10.6	7.3	6.8	10.1	8.8	6.3	28.5	7.6
High school graduates, no college	100.0	12.2	12.8	12.0	11.2	7.3	6.6	6.9	4.7	5.1	4.1	17.0	5.2
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	14.1	15.9	10.2	10.9	12.5	7.6	4.9	3.8	4.9	1.9	13.5	4.5
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	11.5	19.4	13.2	15.5	9.5	9.9	4.6	5.9	4.0	2.0	4.5	3.5
Women	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	10.0	10.3	9.8	9.2	7.9	8.2	8.3	6.2	8.3	5.1	16.7	5.5
High school graduates, no college	100.0	10.6	11.6	10.7	10.9	10.6	9.1	6.1	8.1	4.5	3.8	14.0	4.9
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	10.9	11.4	13.0	12.0	9.8	7.6	8.5	8.0	2.4	3.8	12.5	4.7
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	8.3	14.4	14.9	17.9	13.4	7.6	9.4	5.7	3.7	1.9	2.8	3.7
White non-Hispanic.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	6.4	6.9	8.9	9.5	10.0	8.5	6.4	9.1	8.2	4.9	21.0	6.4
High school graduates, no college	100.0	13.1	13.9	12.0	11.5	8.7	7.7	6.3	5.5	4.6	3.6	13.1	4.7
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	14.3	14.3	12.7	11.7	11.0	7.3	6.3	5.5	3.3	2.4	11.1	4.3
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	10.0	17.4	14.3	16.7	11.2	8.5	7.0	5.8	4.0	1.9	3.1	3.5
White non-Hispanic men.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	4.1	3.9	7.8	7.7	11.7	8.2	5.7	11.8	8.3	5.2	25.6	7.3
High school graduates, no college	100.0	13.7	14.7	12.7	12.5	6.6	5.9	6.9	3.5	5.0	3.9	14.6	4.8
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	16.5	17.0	11.0	10.2	12.3	7.8	4.3	2.2	5.1	1.9	11.6	4.2
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	11.6	20.3	13.4	15.1	9.2	9.6	4.4	6.0	4.2	1.9	4.3	3.4
White non-Hispanic women.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	9.7	11.1	10.5	12.2	7.6	8.9	7.3	5.3	8.2	4.6	14.6	5.1
High school graduates, no college	100.0	12.5	13.0	11.2	10.5	10.9	9.7	5.6	7.6	4.1	3.2	11.5	4.5
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	12.4	12.1	14.1	13.0	10.0	6.9	8.0	8.3	1.8	2.7	10.8	4.4
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	8.4	14.6	15.3	18.3	13.1	7.3	9.6	5.6	3.8	1.9	2.0	3.6

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 38 in 1978-2002 by educational attainment, 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	
Black non-Hispanic.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	2.7	6.1	4.1	4.9	5.2	5.2	11.8	6.8	10.4	8.0	34.8	8.3
High school graduates, no college	100.0	4.0	4.8	7.9	9.5	10.0	7.2	8.0	8.9	5.8	5.5	28.4	6.9
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	5.6	7.4	9.1	9.4	10.6	10.5	8.9	8.2	4.9	5.0	20.5	6.0
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	8.4	12.4	13.3	17.7	13.1	9.1	5.0	6.5	1.9	2.1	10.4	4.3
Black non-Hispanic men.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	1.2	4.2	5.7	5.1	5.5	4.9	12.2	4.8	8.9	8.3	39.0	8.8
High school graduates, no college	100.0	5.1	5.6	9.5	6.5	11.2	8.7	6.9	7.2	5.4	5.2	28.6	6.8
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	4.7	6.8	8.4	14.0	13.0	9.0	7.1	9.1	4.8	1.6	21.5	5.8
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	10.2	13.8	15.4	17.5	11.1	7.9	6.3	5.5	2.1	2.0	8.1	3.8
Black non-Hispanic women.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	4.9	8.8	1.8	4.6	4.8	5.6	11.1	9.7	12.5	7.5	28.7	7.6
High school graduates, no college	100.0	2.7	3.8	5.7	13.4	8.5	5.3	9.4	11.0	6.2	5.8	28.1	7.1
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	6.3	7.8	9.6	6.2	8.8	11.5	10.1	7.6	5.0	7.4	19.8	6.0
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	6.9	11.3	11.6	17.9	14.8	10.0	3.9	7.4	1.7	2.2	12.3	4.6
Hispanic or Latino	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	6.7	9.1	11.2	4.5	10.9	5.4	7.5	8.5	8.8	7.5	20.1	6.4
High school graduates, no college	100.0	7.6	12.3	12.1	9.2	9.8	9.1	6.3	8.8	6.5	4.9	13.5	5.2
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	10.6	19.0	10.1	15.8	10.6	4.3	7.8	2.7	2.9	4.1	12.1	4.3
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	15.6	8.3	10.9	12.7	14.6	9.5	8.5	6.0	4.4	5.2	4.4	4.0
Hispanic or Latino men.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	3.0	8.2	4.9	6.2	7.9	6.6	5.0	10.5	12.3	9.4	26.1	7.5
High school graduates, no college	100.0	8.7	11.5	10.7	6.8	6.7	11.0	7.6	9.1	7.2	3.5	17.2	5.7
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	11.8	22.5	7.2	12.6	9.2	3.5	6.4	3.7	3.1	2.2	17.7	4.7
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Hispanic or Latino women.....	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
Less than a high school diploma	100.0	11.0	10.1	18.3	2.5	14.2	4.0	10.4	6.3	4.8	5.3	13.2	5.1
High school graduates, no college	100.0	6.4	13.1	13.6	11.8	13.1	7.0	4.9	8.4	5.7	6.5	9.5	4.7
Less than a bachelor's degree	100.0	9.5	15.6	12.9	19.0	11.9	5.0	9.2	1.6	2.6	6.0	6.7	4.0
Bachelor's degree or more	100.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

1 Data not shown where cell size is less than 50.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who turned age 18 before Jan. 1, 1978, or 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.