

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 44 in 1978-2008 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 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	9.4	11.3	12.0	11.3	10.9	7.7	7.3	5.7	5.5	3.7	15.1	5.2
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	21.7	20.9	17.5	13.4	10.7	6.4	4.4	2.7	1.5	0.6	0.3	2.4
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	48.2	22.4	13.0	7.8	4.2	2.2	1.3	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.1
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	61.2	18.4	9.5	5.4	2.6	1.5	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.8
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	70.1	16.8	7.9	2.6	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	72.5	15.2	7.4	3.0	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Men, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	10.1	11.8	11.1	10.9	10.7	7.6	6.6	4.9	5.4	3.9	17.1	5.4
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	22.2	20.6	15.4	12.9	10.8	6.5	4.5	3.7	2.0	0.8	0.5	2.5
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	48.5	20.9	12.6	7.7	5.1	2.7	1.7	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	1.2
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	61.4	16.8	9.6	5.3	3.0	1.8	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.9
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	71.6	15.8	7.8	1.9	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	72.6	14.7	7.7	2.8	1.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Women, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	8.7	10.9	12.9	11.7	11.0	8.0	8.2	6.5	5.7	3.5	13.0	5.0
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	21.1	21.1	19.7	13.8	10.5	6.4	4.4	1.6	1.0	0.3	0.1	2.3
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	48.0	24.0	13.5	7.8	3.3	1.8	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.1
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	61.1	20.0	9.4	5.4	2.1	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	68.5	17.8	8.1	3.4	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	72.3	15.8	7.1	3.2	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5
White non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	10.5	12.5	12.7	11.9	11.2	7.7	7.2	5.5	5.2	3.2	12.5	4.8
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	23.2	21.7	17.5	12.8	10.0	5.9	4.2	2.5	1.4	0.6	0.3	2.3
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	51.2	22.4	12.2	6.8	3.4	2.0	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.0
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	64.5	17.3	8.8	4.7	2.2	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.7
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	73.3	15.6	6.6	2.1	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	75.0	14.2	6.6	2.5	1.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
White non-Hispanic men, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	11.4	13.4	11.5	11.5	11.0	7.4	6.3	5.0	4.8	3.4	14.3	5.0
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	24.1	21.4	15.1	12.2	10.3	6.0	4.1	3.6	1.9	0.9	0.5	2.4
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	51.7	20.9	11.5	6.8	4.1	2.5	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.1
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	65.0	15.7	8.7	4.5	2.8	1.5	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.8
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	75.2	14.6	6.2	1.3	1.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	75.6	13.4	6.7	2.2	1.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 44 in 1978-2008 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity -- continued

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	
White non-Hispanic women, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	9.5	11.5	13.9	12.3	11.3	7.9	8.1	6.0	5.6	3.1	10.7	4.6
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	22.3	21.9	19.9	13.3	9.7	5.8	4.3	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.1	2.2
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	50.7	24.0	12.9	6.9	2.6	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	64.1	19.0	8.8	4.9	1.5	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	71.3	16.7	7.0	3.0	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	74.3	15.0	6.6	2.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4
Black non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	4.6	5.3	9.1	9.0	9.6	7.3	8.7	6.8	7.0	5.5	27.2	6.9
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	13.4	16.0	18.3	16.7	14.4	9.9	5.3	3.3	2.0	0.3	0.4	2.9
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	34.6	22.8	15.8	12.2	7.8	3.4	2.2	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.6
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	46.4	22.7	13.0	7.7	4.9	3.1	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.2
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	56.5	19.9	13.8	5.3	2.0	1.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	61.5	20.0	11.4	4.3	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Black non-Hispanic men, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	4.7	4.0	10.8	8.2	10.0	8.1	8.4	4.9	7.1	5.2	28.8	7.1
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	13.1	16.7	17.2	16.3	13.3	9.6	5.5	4.0	2.8	0.7	0.7	3.0
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	34.8	23.1	15.0	11.3	8.7	3.5	2.1	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.6
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	46.3	22.2	13.1	7.6	4.5	3.3	1.9	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.3
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	56.7	18.9	14.6	5.4	2.4	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.9
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	60.4	19.8	13.3	3.9	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Black non-Hispanic women, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	4.6	6.6	7.4	9.8	9.1	6.4	9.1	8.9	6.8	5.7	25.6	6.8
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	13.6	15.3	19.4	17.1	15.4	10.2	5.1	2.5	1.1	0.0	0.1	2.8
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	34.4	22.5	16.6	13.1	6.9	3.2	2.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.6
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	46.5	23.2	12.8	7.9	5.3	2.9	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.2
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	56.3	21.0	13.0	5.3	1.7	1.4	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.9
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	62.6	20.3	9.5	4.8	1.6	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Hispanic or Latino, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	7.3	11.0	10.8	9.5	9.6	8.5	7.1	6.5	5.8	5.7	18.3	5.7
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	19.9	21.9	16.4	14.2	10.2	5.9	5.7	3.1	1.5	0.5	0.6	2.5
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	42.7	22.8	15.7	9.1	5.2	2.3	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.3
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	56.7	18.9	11.3	6.7	2.9	1.3	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.9
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	63.8	21.8	9.2	2.7	1.5	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	66.4	16.8	9.6	4.7	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6
Hispanic or Latino men, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	6.5	10.5	8.7	9.2	8.2	7.1	6.9	5.0	7.0	7.0	23.8	6.4
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	17.2	19.6	15.8	15.1	10.5	7.0	7.3	4.1	1.9	0.4	1.1	2.8
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	41.0	18.1	16.7	11.0	7.1	3.3	1.5	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.5
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	55.1	16.6	12.1	6.3	3.8	2.2	2.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.1
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	62.6	22.9	9.6	1.7	1.9	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	65.6	16.5	8.8	5.8	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 44 in 1978-2008 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity -- continued

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	
Hispanic or Latino women, ages 18 to 44 in 1978-2008 ¹	100.0	8.1	11.6	13.1	9.8	11.3	10.2	7.3	8.2	4.3	4.2	11.9	4.9
Ages 18 to 22 in 1978-1986 ²	100.0	23.0	24.6	17.2	13.1	9.9	4.6	3.8	2.0	1.0	0.7	0.0	2.1
Ages 23 to 27 in 1980-1991	100.0	44.6	28.2	14.6	6.9	3.1	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.1
Ages 28 to 32 in 1985-1996	100.0	58.6	21.5	10.4	7.2	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Ages 33 to 38 in 1990-2002	100.0	65.1	20.5	8.7	4.0	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Ages 39 to 44 in 1996-2008 ³	100.0	67.2	17.0	10.5	3.4	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	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 43 when interviewed in 2008-09.

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

³ This category excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 43 when interviewed in 2008-09.

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 43 to 52 in 2008-09. Educational attainment is defined as of the 2008-09 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.