

Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 44 in 1978-2008 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	9.4	11.3	12.0	11.3	10.9	7.7	7.3	5.7	5.5	3.7	15.1	5.2
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	4.1	4.5	6.8	8.6	7.8	7.5	7.5	6.5	9.3	4.9	32.4	7.7
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	9.9	10.9	11.9	9.9	10.7	7.1	7.3	5.4	4.9	4.5	17.4	5.4
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	11.3	12.4	11.2	10.3	10.7	7.9	8.2	6.2	4.8	3.0	13.9	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	9.8	14.1	15.1	15.2	12.6	8.6	6.6	5.3	5.2	2.5	5.0	3.9
Men .....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	1.4	4.7	5.7	7.8	7.0	8.3	7.3	7.1	8.1	3.7	38.8	8.4
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	10.8	10.8	11.9	9.9	11.2	6.9	6.7	3.9	5.1	4.9	17.9	5.5
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	13.5	13.5	11.0	7.8	11.7	7.7	7.2	4.8	4.6	3.3	15.0	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	11.5	15.7	13.2	16.1	11.5	8.0	5.4	5.3	4.8	3.0	5.5	3.9
Women .....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	8.1	4.1	8.3	9.7	8.9	6.4	7.7	5.7	11.1	6.7	23.1	6.5
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	8.9	11.0	11.9	9.9	10.3	7.3	8.0	7.0	4.7	4.1	16.8	5.3
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	9.5	11.5	11.3	12.3	9.9	8.1	9.1	7.5	5.1	2.7	12.9	4.9
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	8.1	12.6	17.0	14.3	13.6	9.3	7.7	5.3	5.5	2.1	4.5	3.9
White non-Hispanic.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	4.3	4.3	6.9	10.6	7.3	7.8	6.4	7.3	8.5	5.0	31.5	7.5
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	11.1	12.2	12.7	10.5	11.3	6.9	7.3	5.0	4.6	4.4	14.1	5.0
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	13.3	13.7	12.0	9.9	10.8	7.6	8.6	6.1	4.4	1.8	11.7	4.6
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	10.0	14.7	15.1	15.4	12.6	8.6	6.3	5.1	5.4	2.1	4.7	3.8
White non-Hispanic men.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	1.5	5.6	5.5	9.2	6.0	9.6	6.4	8.8	6.6	3.6	37.1	8.3
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	12.1	12.2	12.4	10.7	12.2	6.6	6.3	3.5	4.7	4.8	14.5	5.0
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	16.2	15.7	11.9	6.9	12.1	6.9	7.9	4.4	3.3	1.8	12.8	4.5
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	11.6	16.6	12.9	16.5	11.1	7.7	5.1	5.5	5.0	2.7	5.4	3.8
White non-Hispanic women.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	8.7	2.3	9.1	12.9	9.4	4.9	6.4	4.9	11.5	7.3	22.6	6.4
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	10.0	12.2	13.0	10.3	10.3	7.2	8.3	6.5	4.4	4.1	13.8	4.9
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	10.8	12.1	12.2	12.5	9.6	8.2	9.3	7.5	5.4	1.9	10.6	4.6
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	8.3	12.8	17.4	14.4	14.2	9.5	7.5	4.7	5.7	1.5	4.0	3.8
Black non-Hispanic.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	1.6	3.3	4.0	5.4	8.0	4.9	11.7	4.6	14.0	4.6	37.9	8.8
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	4.5	4.5	8.9	7.4	9.7	7.1	8.0	6.7	6.4	4.4	32.3	7.3
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	4.6	4.7	8.4	10.8	10.9	9.1	7.2	7.6	5.4	7.4	23.7	6.6
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	8.0	10.1	15.8	13.5	8.7	7.2	10.2	8.2	3.7	5.8	9.0	4.7

**Number of unemployment spells experienced by individuals from age 18 to age 44 in 1978-2008 by educational attainment, 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	
Black non-Hispanic men.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	0.7	2.2	5.4	5.5	10.1	5.5	12.4	2.2	13.0	1.8	41.3	9.0
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	5.1	4.5	11.0	5.7	9.2	8.5	7.7	4.9	6.3	5.1	32.2	7.3
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	4.3	2.1	8.4	11.4	10.9	10.2	5.0	7.6	7.6	8.7	23.8	6.8
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	9.3	8.0	21.3	14.3	10.6	7.3	10.6	4.3	0.7	4.9	8.6	4.2
Black non-Hispanic women.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	2.9	5.1	1.8	5.3	4.7	3.9	10.6	8.4	15.6	8.9	32.8	8.3
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	3.9	4.5	6.5	9.5	10.3	5.6	8.3	8.9	6.6	3.7	32.4	7.3
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	4.8	6.8	8.4	10.4	10.9	8.2	9.1	7.7	3.7	6.4	23.6	6.4
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	6.9	11.7	11.5	12.8	7.1	7.2	9.8	11.2	6.0	6.5	9.3	5.1
Hispanic or Latino .....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	5.0	7.3	9.2	4.6	9.2	7.8	8.6	6.5	6.5	5.9	29.5	7.1
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	7.2	11.7	12.3	8.7	7.0	8.5	7.4	7.7	6.6	5.6	17.4	5.7
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	7.3	14.9	9.5	13.3	10.7	8.6	6.8	5.3	5.8	4.8	13.0	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	12.8	9.5	12.6	15.1	16.3	10.3	3.6	5.2	1.6	7.5	5.7	4.1
Hispanic or Latino men.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	2.4	3.5	7.6	4.5	7.9	5.9	5.7	5.4	9.6	7.5	40.1	8.4
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	5.7	13.0	10.6	9.8	3.3	6.4	10.1	7.0	7.4	6.4	20.5	6.2
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	7.0	16.7	8.3	9.7	9.0	9.8	5.4	2.5	6.2	6.5	18.8	5.6
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	17.6	7.7	6.8	17.2	21.7	7.1	3.3	2.7	1.9	8.8	5.4	4.1
Hispanic or Latino women.....	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
Less than a high school diploma .....	100.0	8.1	11.9	11.1	4.7	10.7	10.2	12.1	7.8	2.7	3.9	16.8	5.6
High school graduates, no college <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	9.0	10.3	14.2	7.5	11.4	11.0	4.1	8.6	5.6	4.6	13.7	5.1
Some college or associate degree .....	100.0	7.5	13.0	10.6	16.9	12.5	7.4	8.2	8.0	5.4	3.2	7.2	4.4
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	6.8	11.7	20.1	12.4	9.5	14.3	3.9	8.4	1.2	5.9	6.0	4.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons with a bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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

Note This table excludes individuals who turned age 18 before Jan. 1, 1978, or who had not yet turned age 45 when interviewed in 2008-09.

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.