

2014 Memphis Unemployment Fact Sheet (Data from 2012, 2013, and 2014)

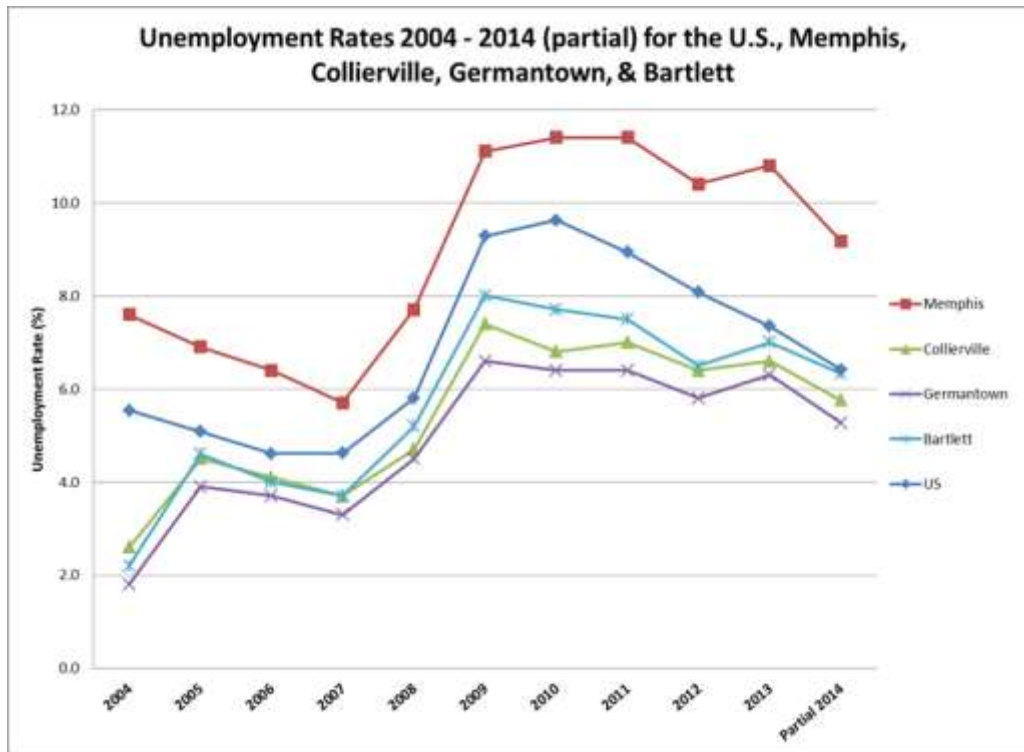
Unemployment Rates in Memphis and Greater Memphis

The City of Memphis and surrounding suburbs were impacted by the 2008 economic crash, but Memphis suffered greater job losses, while Collierville, Germantown, and Bartlett milder impact than the United States as a whole. While unemployment rates have come down, the recovery has been slow and uneven, with fewer jobs for the city’s residents. According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2014) the unemployment rate in Memphis (the city) was 9.2%, while the unemployment rate was 5.8% in Collierville; 5.3% in Germantown; and 6.3% in Bartlett. Unemployment rates have been consistently higher in the city of Memphis than the national rate, but consistently lower than the national rate in Collierville, Germantown, and Bartlett. This suggests that the employed tend to live in the suburbs regardless of place of employment, which may have serious consequences for the fiscal health of the city of Memphis.

Table 1 – Unemployment Rates in the United States, Memphis, Collierville, Germantown, and Bartlett

	US	Memphis	Collierville	Germantown	Bartlett
2004	5.5%	7.6%	2.6%	1.8%	2.2%
2005	5.1%	6.9%	4.5%	3.9%	4.6%
2006	4.6%	6.4%	4.1%	3.7%	4.0%
2007	4.6%	5.7%	3.7%	3.3%	3.7%
2008	5.8%	7.7%	4.7%	4.5%	5.2%
2009	9.3%	11.1%	7.4%	6.6%	8.0%
2010	9.6%	11.4%	6.8%	6.4%	7.7%
2011	8.9%	11.4%	7.0%	6.4%	7.5%
2012	8.1%	10.4%	6.4%	5.8%	6.5%
2013	7.4%	10.8%	6.6%	6.3%	7.0%
2014 (July)	6.4%	9.2%	5.8%	5.3%	6.3%

Figure 1 – Unemployment Rates in the United States, Memphis, Collierville, Germantown, and Bartlett



Racial Disparities

Even though they are decreasing throughout the region, unemployment rates remain higher for minorities, with the highest unemployment rates among African Americans and Latinos in every case. The very low rate for Latinos in Memphis in 2012 appears to be a statistical anomaly given 2013 figures. Also of note is the extremely high unemployment rate for youth between the ages of 16 to 19, suggesting scarcity of jobs for low-skilled workers.

Table 2 – Unemployment Rates in Greater Memphis and the City of Memphis, 2009-2012

	Greater Memphis		Memphis City Only	
	2009	2012	2009	2012
Overall	10.7%	8.8%	13.0%	9.4%
16 to 19 years	33.4%	25.4%	40.1%	N/A
White	6.8%	5.5%	7.6%	5.9%
White Men	8.7%	5.2%	9.4%	5.9%
Black	16.8%	13.8%	17.7%	12.0%
Black Men	17.6%	15.8%	18.5%	13.8%
Latino	19.0%	5.2%	23.7%	N/A

Figure 2 – Unemployment Rates in Greater Memphis, 2009 and 2012

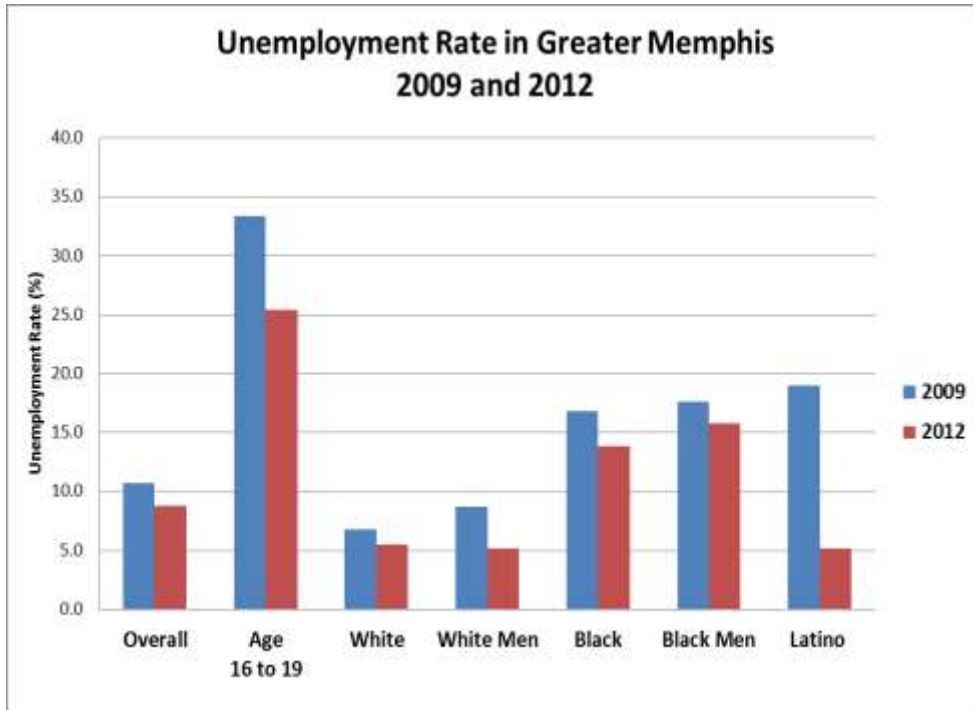


Figure 3 – Unemployment Rates in the City of Memphis, 2009 and 2012

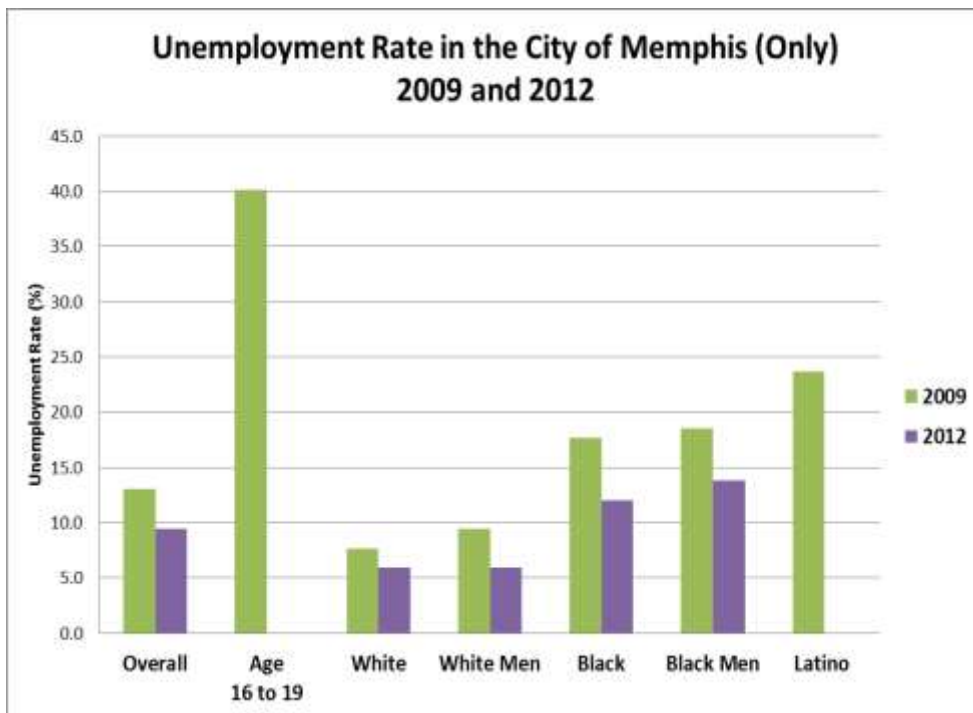


Table 3 – Unemployment Rates in the United States and Tennessee, 2012-2013

	United States		Tennessee	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Overall	8.1	7.4	7.8	8.0
White	7.2	6.5	6.8	6.6
White Men		6.8	7.0	6.8
Black	13.8	13.1	13.1	15.0
Black Men		14.2	15.2	16.6
Latino	10.3	9.1	5.5	8.0
Age 16 to 19	24.0	22.9	20.4	31.9
Men 16 to 19		25.5	23.2	35.6
Men 20 to 24		14.0	13.2	13.8

Figure 4 – Unemployment Rates in Tennessee, 2012-2013

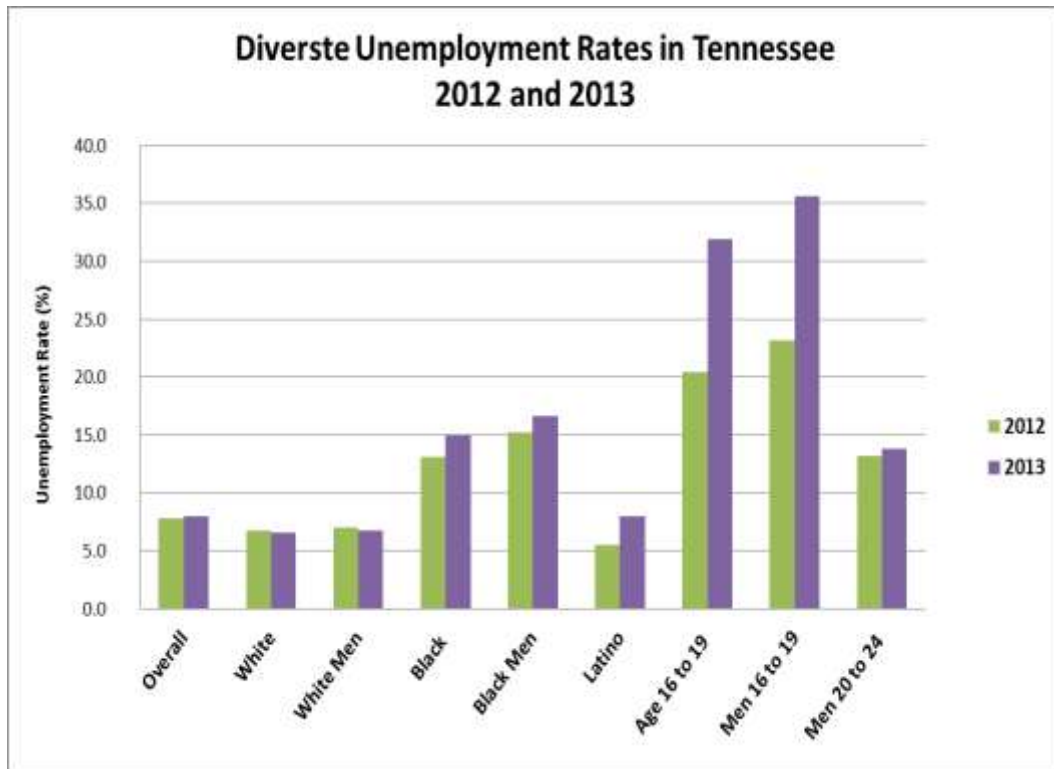
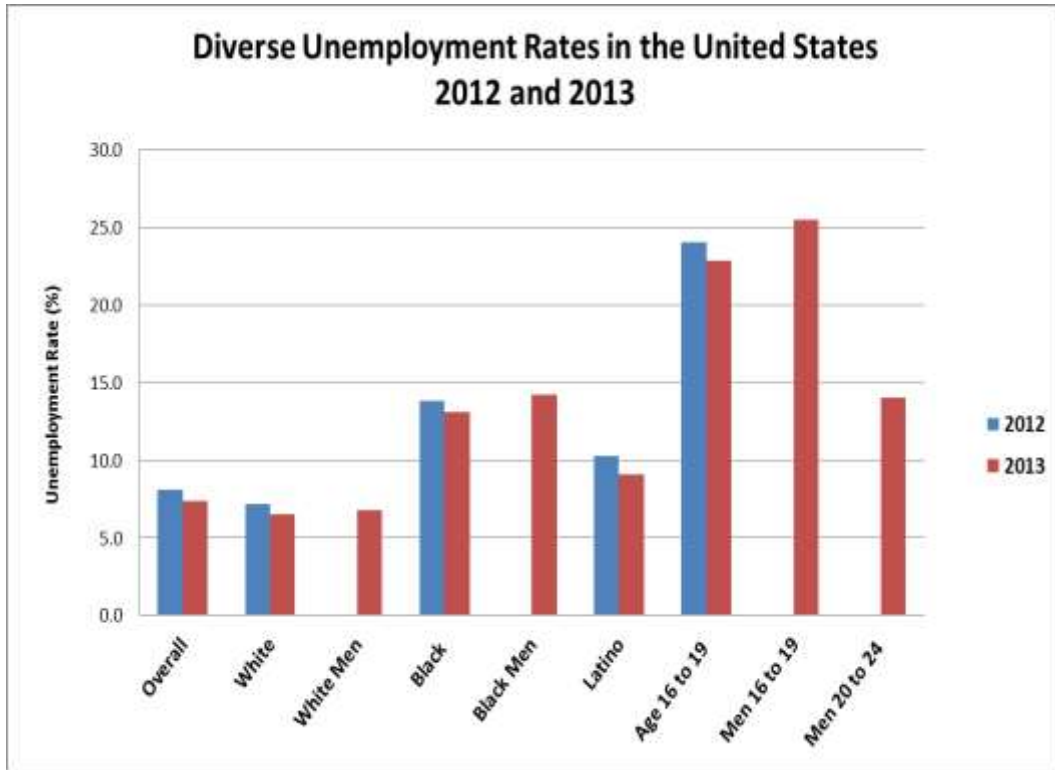


Figure 5 – Unemployment Rates in the United States, 2012-2013



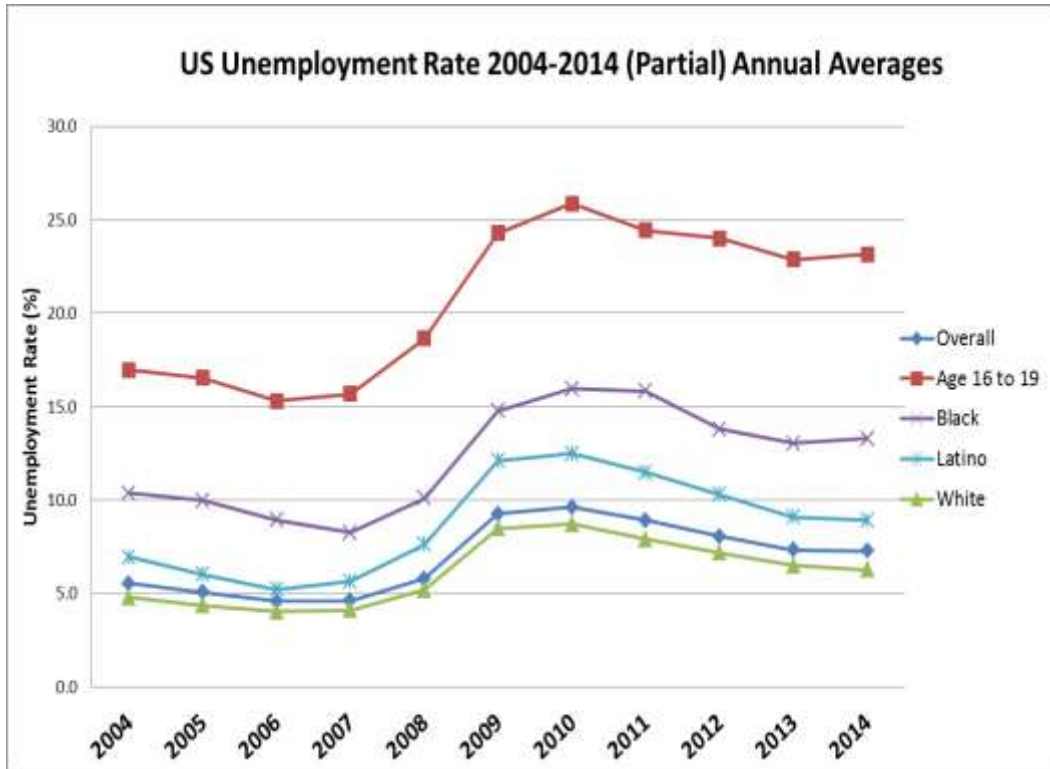
Young and Black

Unemployment rates for youth between the ages of 16 and 19 have been the highest nationally (and locally, as shown in tables 2 and 3, and figures 3, 4, and 5). Unemployment rates for Blacks, particularly for Black men are also among the highest. While it is impossible to know whether the young unemployed are Black, or whether the unemployed Black males are young, it is possible that it is indeed the case.

Table 4 – Annual Averages in Unemployment Rates in the United States, 2004 to 2014 (July)

United States	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 (July)
Overall	5.5%	5.1%	4.6%	4.6%	5.8%	9.3%	9.6%	8.9%	8.1%	7.4%	7.3%
16 to 19	17.0%	16.5%	15.3%	15.7%	18.7%	24.3%	25.9%	24.4%	24.0%	22.9%	23.2%
White	4.8%	4.4%	4.0%	4.1%	5.2%	8.5%	8.7%	7.9%	7.2%	6.5%	6.3%
Black	10.4%	10.0%	9.0%	8.3%	10.1%	14.8%	16.0%	15.8%	13.8%	13.1%	13.3%
Latino	7.0%	6.0%	5.2%	5.7%	7.7%	12.1%	12.5%	11.5%	10.3%	9.1%	8.9%

Figure 6 – Annual Averages in Unemployment Rates in the United States, 2004 to 2014 (July)



The Department of Social Work in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis is dedicated to understanding poverty and its causes through research and engaged scholarship. Our purpose is to identify the most effective ways to eliminate poverty and promote social and economic development for our region. If you would like more information on Memphis poverty or unemployment, please contact Dr. Elena Delavega at mdlavega@memphis.edu

Sources:

Unemployment Data: US Bureau of Labor Statistics: Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, 2012, 2013; Labor Force Statistics 2004-2014; Unemployment Local Area Unemployment Statistics, LAUPS47020003, LAUST47000003, LAUST47000004, LAUST47000005, LAUST47000006 – 2009, 2012, 2004-2014. Retrieved September 19, 2014, from <http://www.bls.gov/bls/proghome.htm#unemployment>