

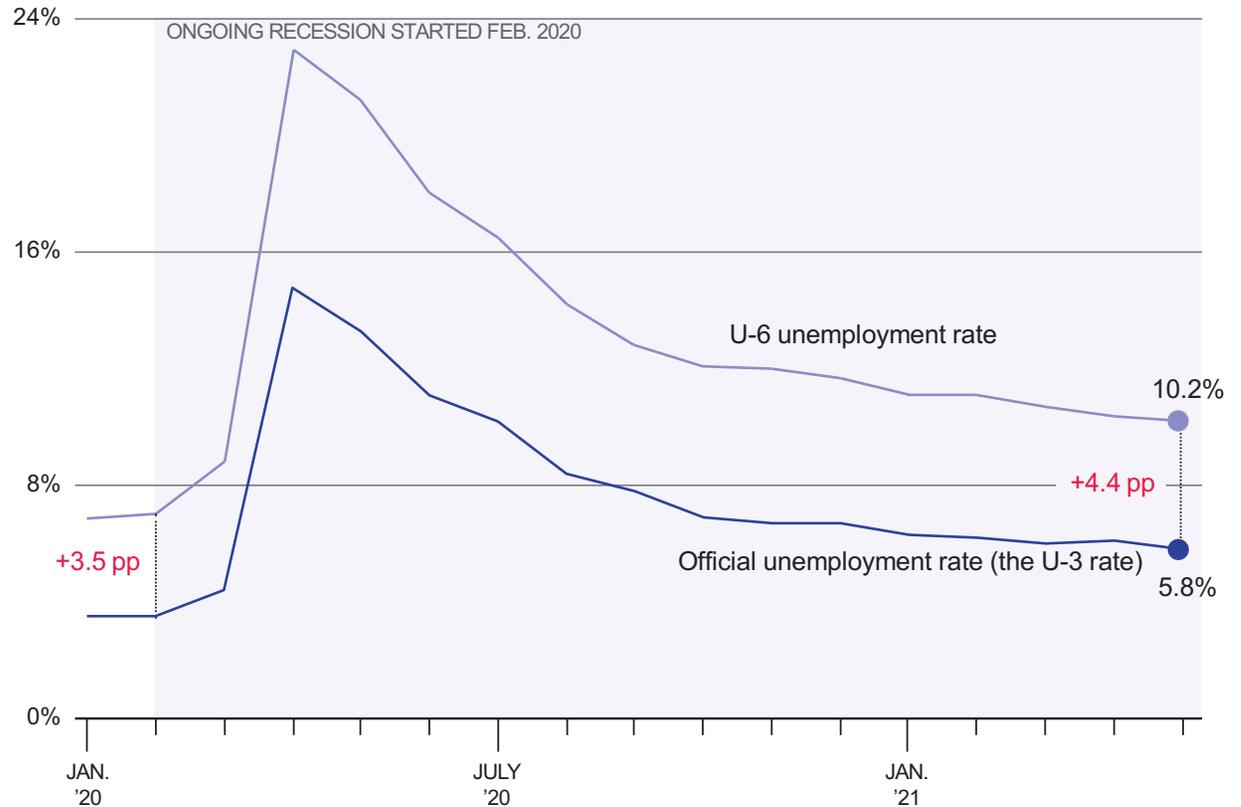


May unemployment shows uneven recovery across labor force

June 8, 2021

The U.S. unemployment rate continued its descent to pre-pandemic levels in May, ticking down 0.3 percentage points to 5.8%. The unemployment rate remains more than two percentage points higher than February 2020, the last full month before the coronavirus pandemic began. That month, unemployment stood at 3.5%.

The BLS uses a range of measures to track people looking for work
U-3 AND U-6 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED



Source: BLS via BLS and St. Louis Federal Reserve FRED database

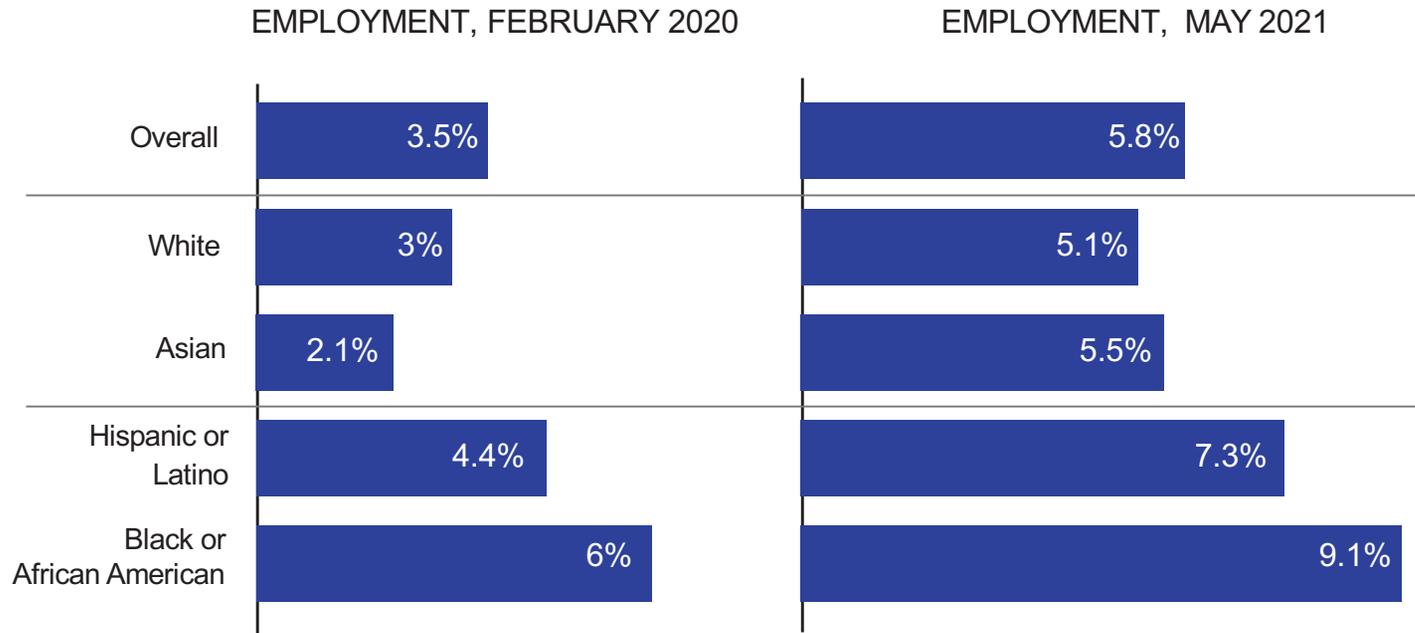
This line chart shows the official unemployment rate and the U-6 unemployment rate from Jan. 2020 to May 2021. The U-6 unemployment rate includes a larger selection of people who are underemployed and who have been looking for jobs over the past year, but not recently. The U-6 rate is higher than the official unemployment rate for the entire period shown.



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Unemployment rates by race and ethnicity, seasonally adjusted



This is a pair of bar charts showing the unemployment rate by race and demographic for February 2020 and May 2021. The overall unemployment rate is 3.5 percent in February and 5.8 percent in May. The Asian and white unemployment rates are lower than the overall rate in both instances. The Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American rates are higher than the overall rate in both instances.

Source: BLS via BLS and St. Louis Federal Reserve FRED database

