

# **2017:IVQ Nevada Unemployment Rate Demographics Report\***

Department of Employment, Training &  
Rehabilitation Research and Analysis Bureau

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\*Prepared as required by Assembly Bill 354, approved by the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature on June 3, 2017, and approved by Governor Brian Sandoval on June 6, 2017.

# Executive Summary

*Background...*Assembly Bill 354 calls for a quarterly report by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation which disaggregates the rate of unemployment by demographic groups for each county within the State utilizing currently available information. This Report satisfies that requirement.

Furthermore, as required by Assembly Bill 354, this Report will be posted on the website of the Department, as well as that for the Research and Analysis Bureau within the Department. This Report is provided to the Governor's Workforce Development Board, as well as other applicable agencies providing workforce development services, as required.

Assembly Bill 354 requires all applicable agencies to coordinate efforts and resources in order to reduce the rate of unemployment for specific demographic groups when certain thresholds are met:

1. When the unemployment rate is at least double (200 percent) the rate of unemployment for the county as a whole.
2. When the unemployment rate is at least four percentage points higher than the rate of unemployment for the county as a whole.
3. When the unemployment rate has been higher than the rate of unemployment for the county as a whole for at least three consecutive years.

*Findings...*Available information highlights some general conclusions for the State as a whole:

- The unemployment rate for younger residents, those 16-24 years old, has historically been relatively high. Currently, it is averaging just over ten percent on an annualized basis, and compares to a total unemployment rate of five percent (again, on an annualized basis). The rate for all other age cohorts fall within a fairly narrow range around the overall average.
- The unemployment rate for Black residents has historically been relatively high. Currently, it is averaging 8.2 percent, and compares to a total unemployment rate of five percent. The rates for Whites (4.6 percent) and Hispanics (5.2 percent) are very close to the overall average. It should be noted that the rate for Hispanics was relatively high during the pre-recessionary period and in the early years of the current economic recovery.
- The unemployment rates for males (5.4 percent) and females (4.5 percent) are essentially identical. During the recessionary period, the unemployment rate for males was relatively high, a result of the pronounced downturn in the construction industry.

For the State's three most populous counties (Clark, Washoe, and Carson City), available information suggests the following<sup>1</sup>:

- As for the various age cohorts, unemployment rates for younger residents are relatively high in all three counties, consistent with Statewide trends. The unemployment rate for 16-19 year olds in Clark County is 26.8 percent (expressed as a five-year average). For those in the 20-24 year old group, the unemployment rate is 14.1 percent. The findings for Washoe County are similar. 16-19 year olds have an unemployment rate of 19.7 percent, while the rate for 20-24 year olds is 12.4 percent. The same is true in Carson City (19.2 percent for 16-19 year olds and 16.8 percent for 20-24 year olds). In all three counties, the unemployment rate for younger residents exceeds Threshold 1 and/or 2. In all three counties, the unemployment rate for those in the 20-24 year old group, exceeds Threshold 2. No other age cohorts exceed the various Thresholds.
- With respect to race/ethnicity results in the three counties, the lone demographic group to exceed Threshold 2 put forth in AB 354 is Blacks in Clark County. The unemployment rate for this group has averaged 15.3 percent over the past five years, which exceeds Threshold 2. Around 95 percent of all unemployed Black residents reside in Clark County.
- An examination of the unemployment rate by gender in the State's three largest counties does not highlight any issues with respect to the AB 354 Thresholds.

As for the States rural counties, the findings are similar, especially with respect to age cohorts:

- In every county, with the exception of Eureka, Lander and Pershing, the unemployment rate for the 16-19 year old cohort exceeds Threshold 1 and/or 2, a pattern very consistent with overall State results. Scattered throughout Nevada's rural counties are isolated cases of older age cohorts which exceed Threshold 1 and/or 2.
- With respect to race/ethnicity, scattered throughout the Silver State's rural counties are cases in which Blacks and/or Hispanics exceed Thresholds 1 and/or 2. However, these counties tend to not have large numbers of persons of color, and overall trends are driven by the metro counties, especially Clark.
- With just two exceptions, males in Mineral and Nye Counties have relatively high rates, the unemployment rate disaggregated by gender do not satisfy any of the Thresholds. This finding is similar to that for the State as a whole.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see page 12 for a discussion regarding data limitations at the sub-State level.

Taken as a whole, this Report finds that, in Nevada as a whole, the unemployment rate for younger persons (16-24 years old), as well as for Blacks, appear to be relatively high.

# **Statewide Information**

# Data Sources

In conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Research and Analysis Bureau of Nevada's Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) produces, analyzes, and disseminates labor market information for the Silver State.

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program provides the "official" monthly unemployment rate estimates at the State level. LAUS model-based estimates are driven by results from the Current Population Survey (CPS), employment trends, and unemployment insurance claims.

The CPS is a monthly survey of households, sponsored by the Census Bureau and BLS. Among other things, it allows for the generation of the demographic (age, race/ethnicity, gender) profile of the unemployment rate at the State-level presented in this section of the Report<sup>2</sup>. In Nevada, approximately 1,100 households are included in this survey, a relatively small sample size in a State with approximately 1.15 million households. Hence, in order to discount the extreme month-to-month volatility inherent in small sample size estimates, standard practice is to present information on a 12-month moving average.<sup>3</sup> Still, even after making this adjustment, some volatility remains, and is simply attributable to "noise" in the series.

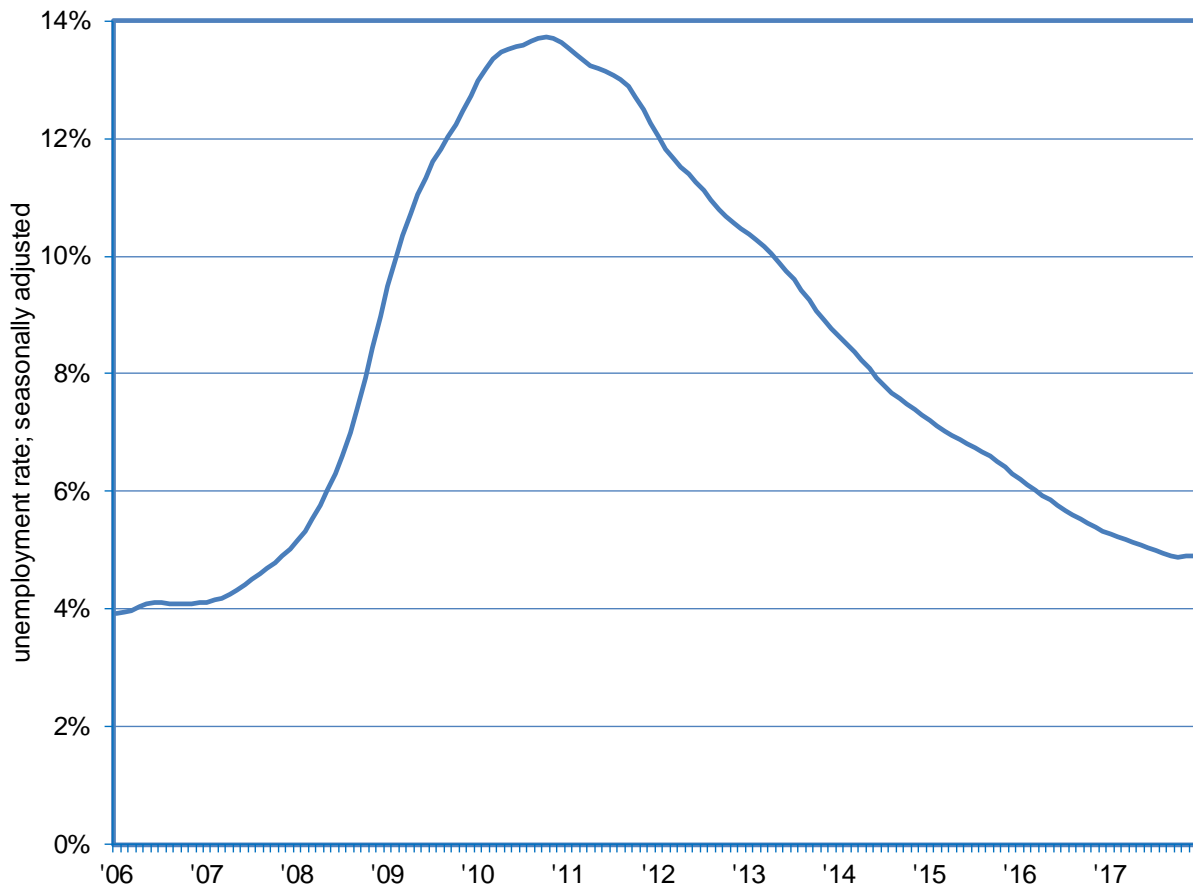
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<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this Report, a "total" unemployment rate, generated from CPS results, is utilized for comparison purposes in presenting the various demographic profiles. It is not to be confused with the LAUS rate.

<sup>3</sup> Also, as noted in the County Information section of this Report, CPS estimates are not available for jurisdictions within the State, as the small sample size will not allow for such estimates.

# Unemployment Rate

Nevada's unemployment rate, generated via the LAUS Program, held steady in December 2017, at 4.9 percent. This represents a decline of 0.4 percentage point from December of 2016, marking the 81st straight month of year-over-year declines of 0.2 percentage point or more. The unemployment rate peaked at 13.7 percent at the height of the recession in late-2010.



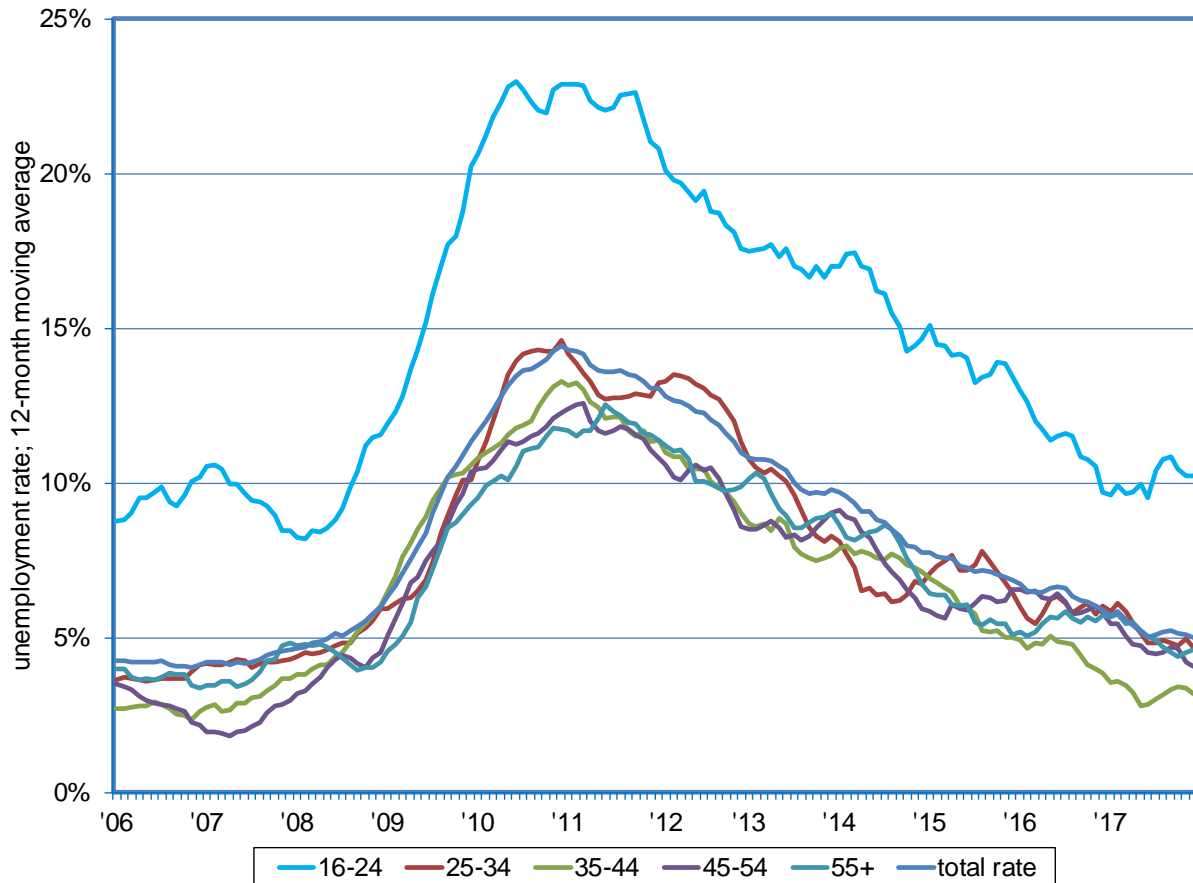
# Unemployment Rate by Age

Based upon information from the CPS, the unemployment rate tends to be higher for the 16-24 year old group, which includes teens and young adults. Rates for all other age groups fall within a relatively narrow range.

Before the recession, the unemployment rate for Nevada's youngest age cohort averaged 9.5 percent (expressed as a 12-month moving average), about six percentage points higher compared to other groups.

Teens and young adults were the most affected by the downturn. The unemployment rate for this group peaked at 23 percent during the recession, roughly ten points higher than that for other age cohorts.

As the recovery unfolded, the unemployment rate for all groups started to decrease. In December 2017, teens and young adults had an unemployment rate of 10.2 percent, still over five percentage points higher than that for other age groups. This compares to a total unemployment rate of five percent, based upon the results from the household survey.





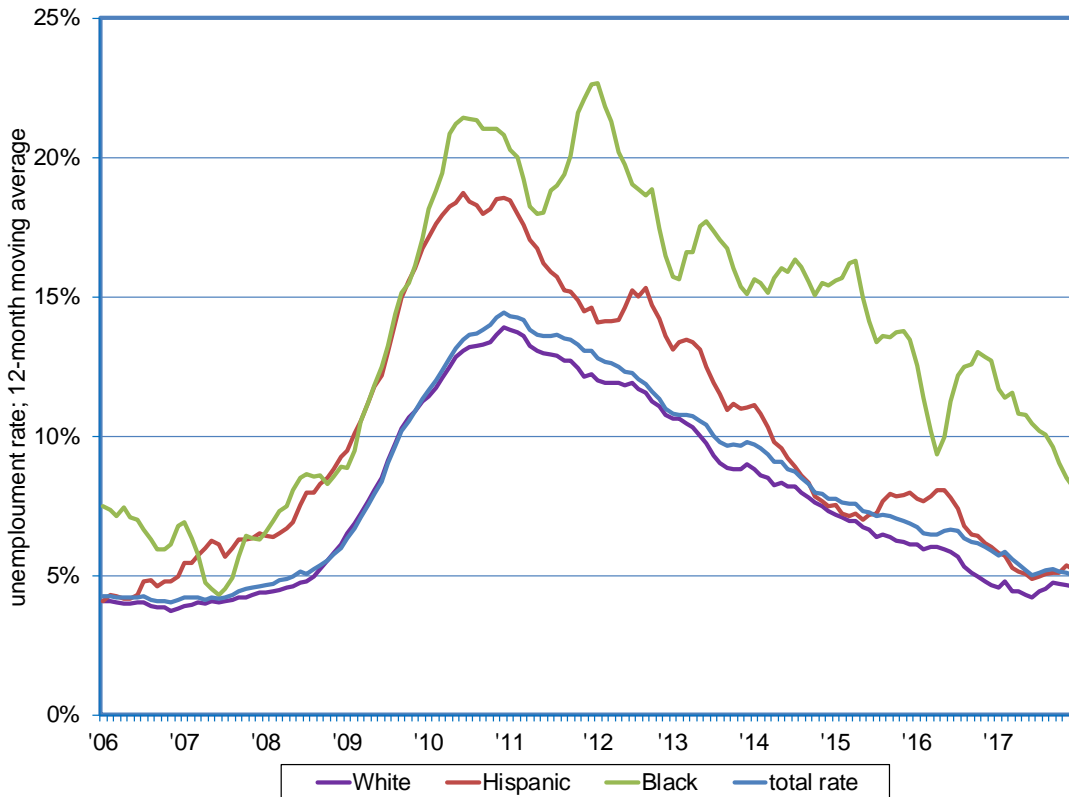
# Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity

The unemployment rate in Nevada varies across race/ethnicities. Prior to the recession, the unemployment rate for Blacks was higher, at 7.4 percent (12-month moving average), compared to that for Whites at four percent. The rate for people of Hispanic origin was 4.1 percent.

During the recession, the unemployment rate for Blacks peaked at 22.6 percent, while the rate for Whites reached its peak at 13.9 percent. The rate for Hispanics topped out at 18.7 percent.

As the recovery unfolded, unemployment rates decreased across all racial/ethnic groups. In December 2017, Blacks had an unemployment rate of 8.2 percent, while the rate for Whites is 4.6 percent. The rate for Hispanics stood at 5.2 percent. The total unemployment rate, based upon CPS information, has averaged five percent over the past year.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, labor market differences across racial groups are associated with many factors, not all of which are measurable. These factors include variations across the groups in educational attainment, the occupations and industries in which they work, and the geographic areas in which the groups are concentrated (including urban or rural settings).



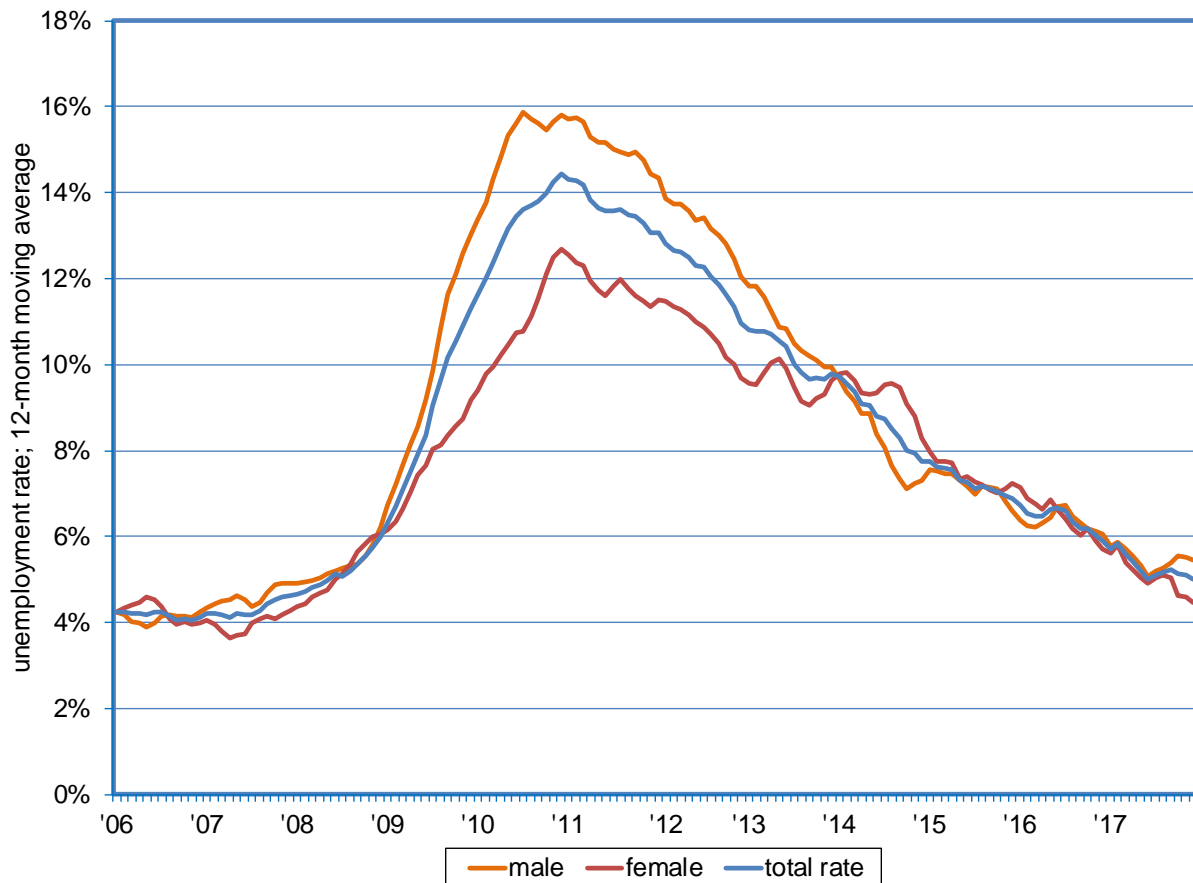
# Unemployment Rate by Gender

Before the recession, both male and female unemployment rates hovered around four percent in Nevada, based upon Current Population Survey results. However, beginning in late-2007, both rates started to increase.

During the recession, the male unemployment rate peaked at 15.9 percent (measured as a 12-month average), while the female unemployment rate reached its peak at 12.7 percent. The differing results by gender are certainly a reflection of the pronounced impacts of the recession on the construction sector in the Silver State, a male-dominated industry. (Men account for nearly 80% of construction employment.)

Both rates started to decrease as the recovery unfolded. In December 2017, the male unemployment rate stood at 5.4 percent, which is 0.4 percentage points above the total unemployment rate five percent. The female rate came in at 4.5 percent.

Based upon trends over the past few years, the gap between men and women has improved, despite some random volatility. Much of the difference in unemployment rates by gender, is due to the distribution of male/female employment across different industries.



# **County Information**

# Data Sources

The LAUS Program also generates monthly unemployment rate estimates by county. However, unlike the situation for the State as a whole, the Current Population Survey cannot be utilized to generate timely and reliable county-level demographic profiles of the unemployment rate due to inadequate coverage.

For purposes of satisfying the specific requirements of Assembly Bill 354, this Report utilizes the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to generate demographic profiles of the unemployed by county. The ACS is a nationwide survey that provides information every year on the demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of the nation's population.

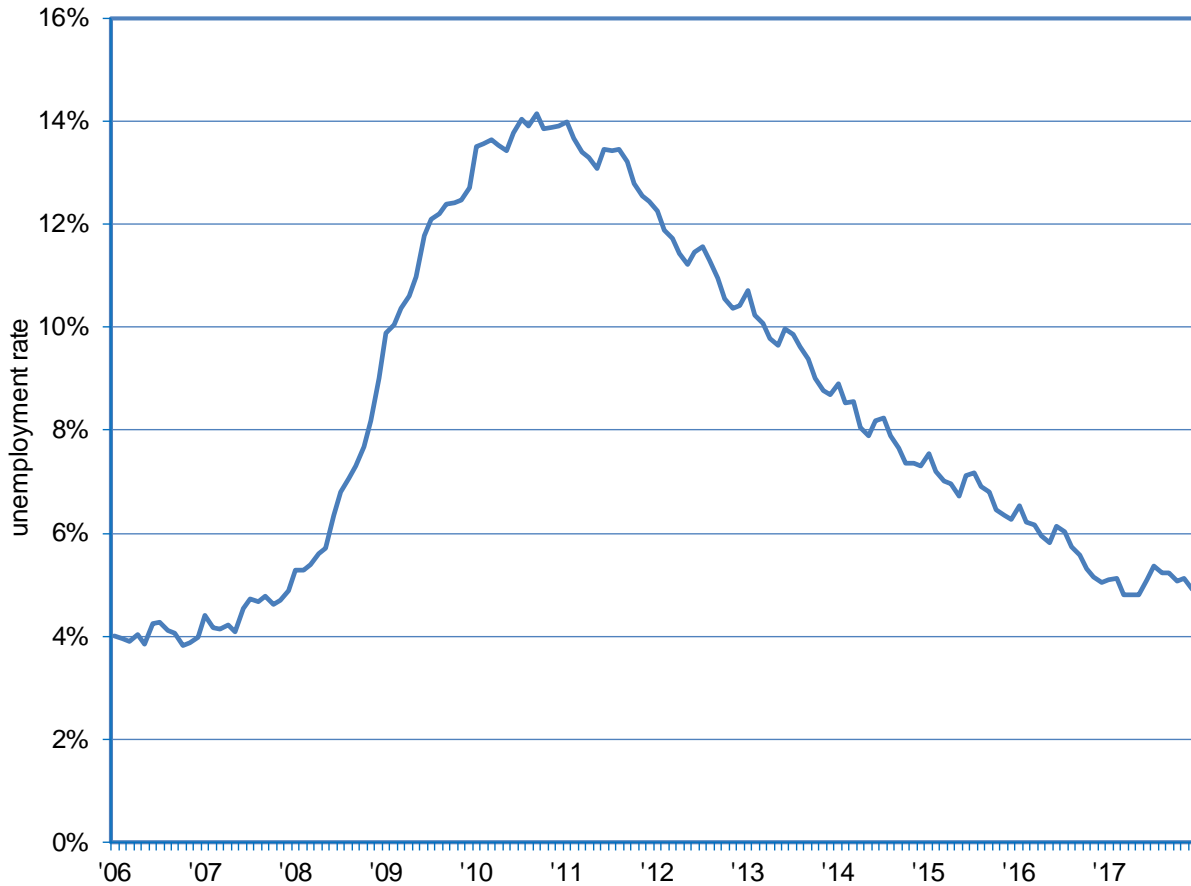
The Survey produces single-year and multiyear estimates. The one-year estimates provide information for geographic areas, including counties, with populations greater than 65,000. In Nevada, 15 of 17 counties do not meet that threshold.

ACS multiyear estimates produce results covering a five-year period. These estimates are relatively reliable, especially for Nevada's smaller counties.

Unfortunately, in the process of generating reliable and comparable information for all counties in Nevada, timeliness becomes an issue. The most recent information covers the 2012-2016 period. In Nevada as a whole, 18,300 households (out of a total of 1.15 million) were interviewed as part of the ACS in 2016.

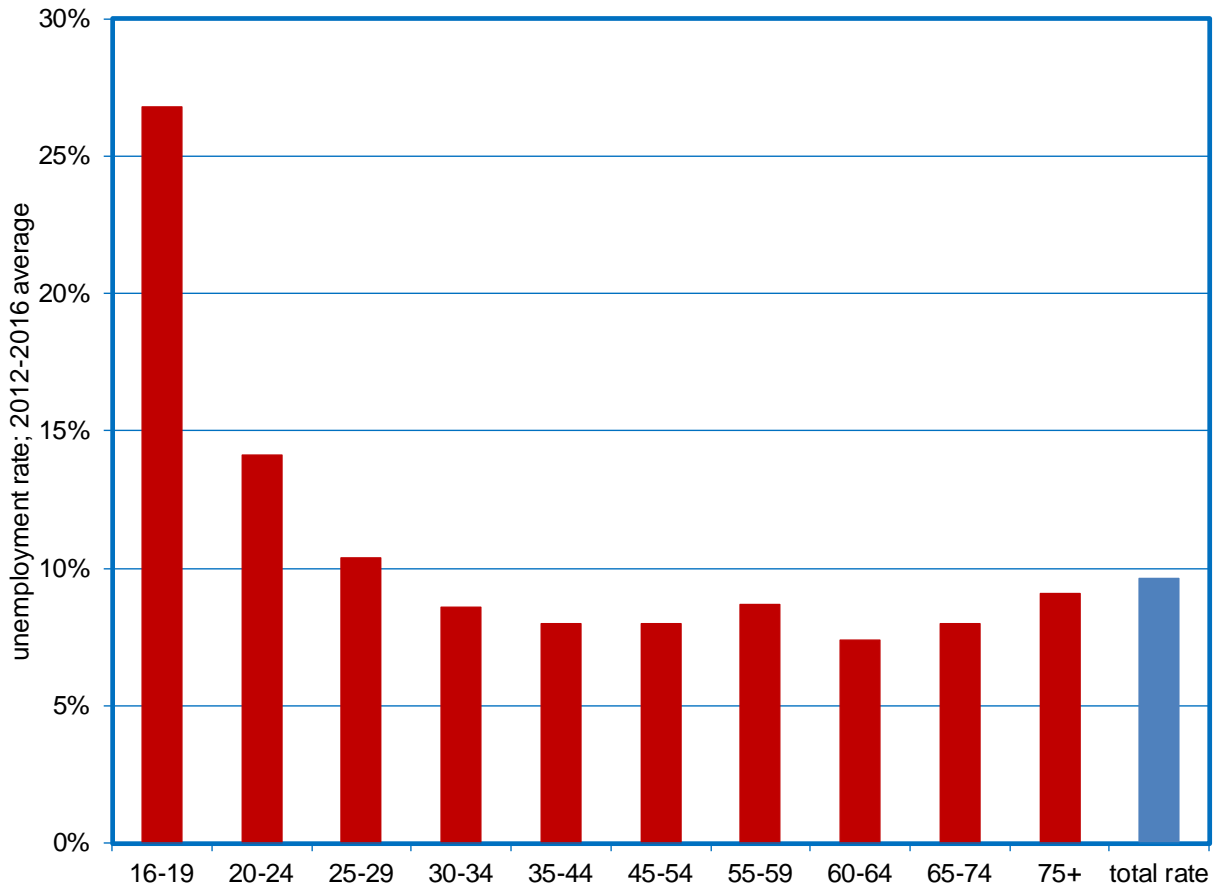
# Clark County Unemployment Rate

Before the recession, the unemployment rate, estimated via the LAUS Program, in Clark County hovered around four percent. During the recession, Clark's unemployment rate peaked at 14.1 percent. As the recovery unfolded, the rate started to decrease. In December 2017, Clark's unemployment rate stood at 4.9 percent down from 5.2 percent a year ago.



# Clark County Unemployment Rate by Age

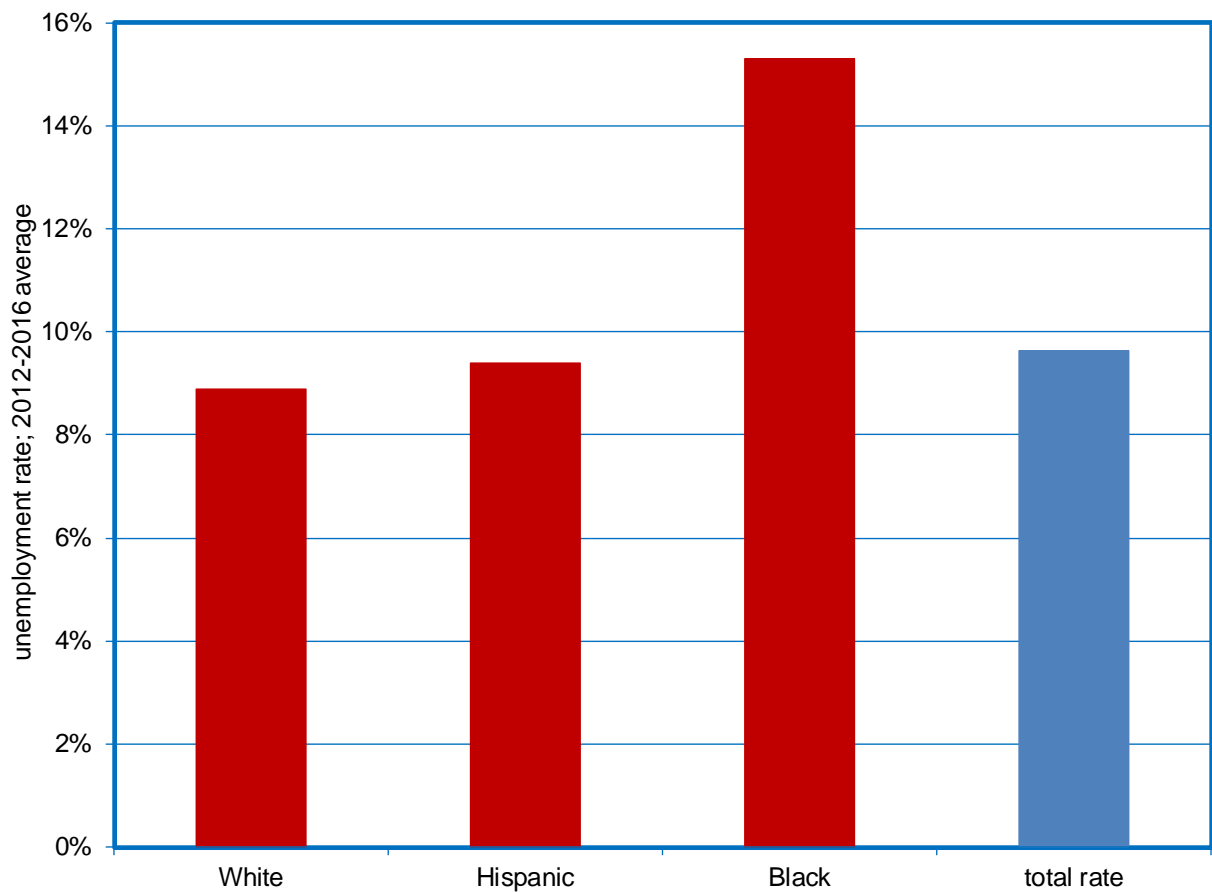
According to ACS five-year average estimates, in 2016, the total unemployment rate in Clark County stood at 9.6 percent (2012-2016 average). The unemployment rate for teenagers (16-19 years old), was 26.8 percent, about 18 percentage points higher than that for other age cohorts. The unemployment rate for young adults (20-24 years old) was 14.1 percent. Rates for other age groups hovered in a fairly narrow range around the overall average.



# Clark County Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity

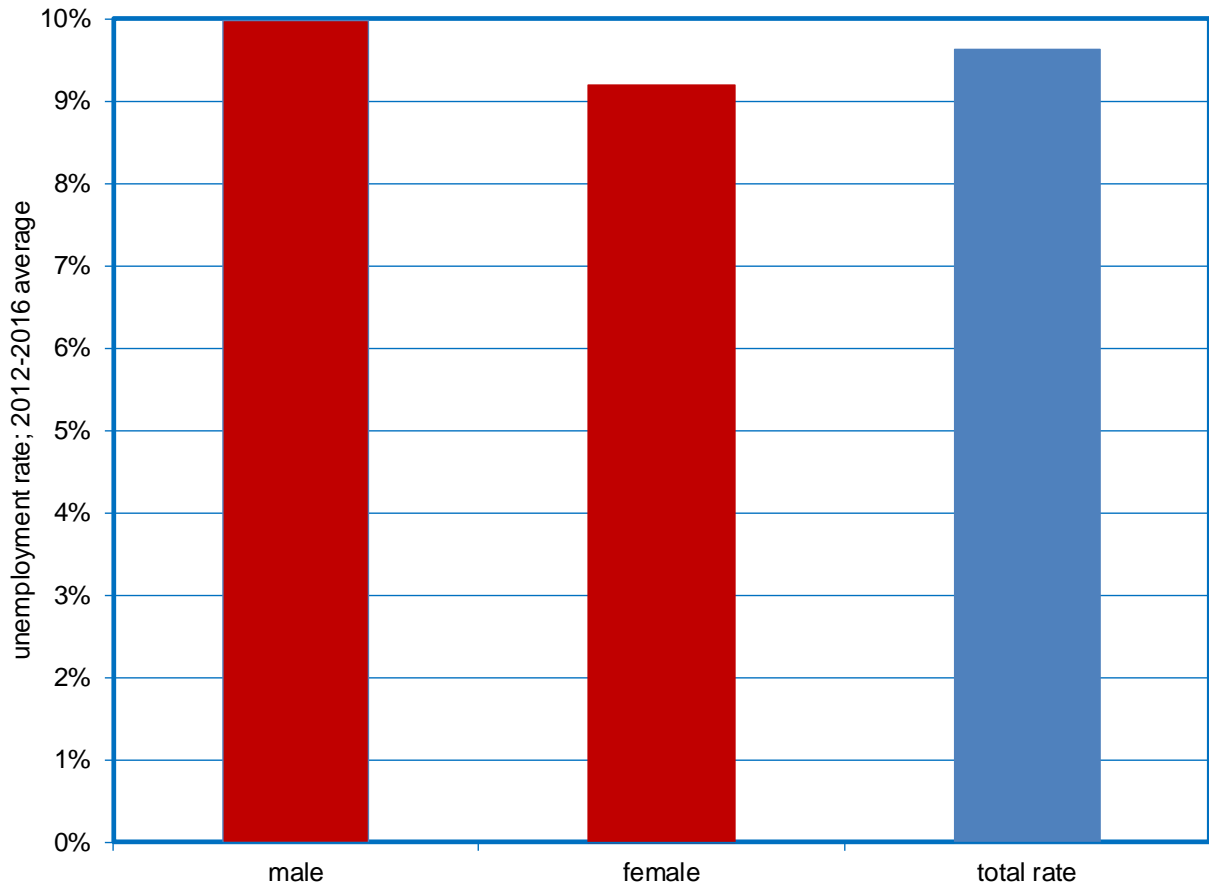
Over the 2012-2016 period, ACS estimates show that Blacks or African Americans in Clark County had a relatively high unemployment rate compared to that for Whites and for Hispanics. The unemployment rate for Blacks averaged 15.3 percent over the period, well above the overall average for the period (9.6 percent). Whites had a jobless rate of 8.9 percent, while the rate for Hispanics was 9.4 percent.

As an aside, Black unemployment in Clark County is estimated to be 17,600. This represents 95 percent of the State's total for this demographic group.



# Clark County Unemployment Rate by Gender

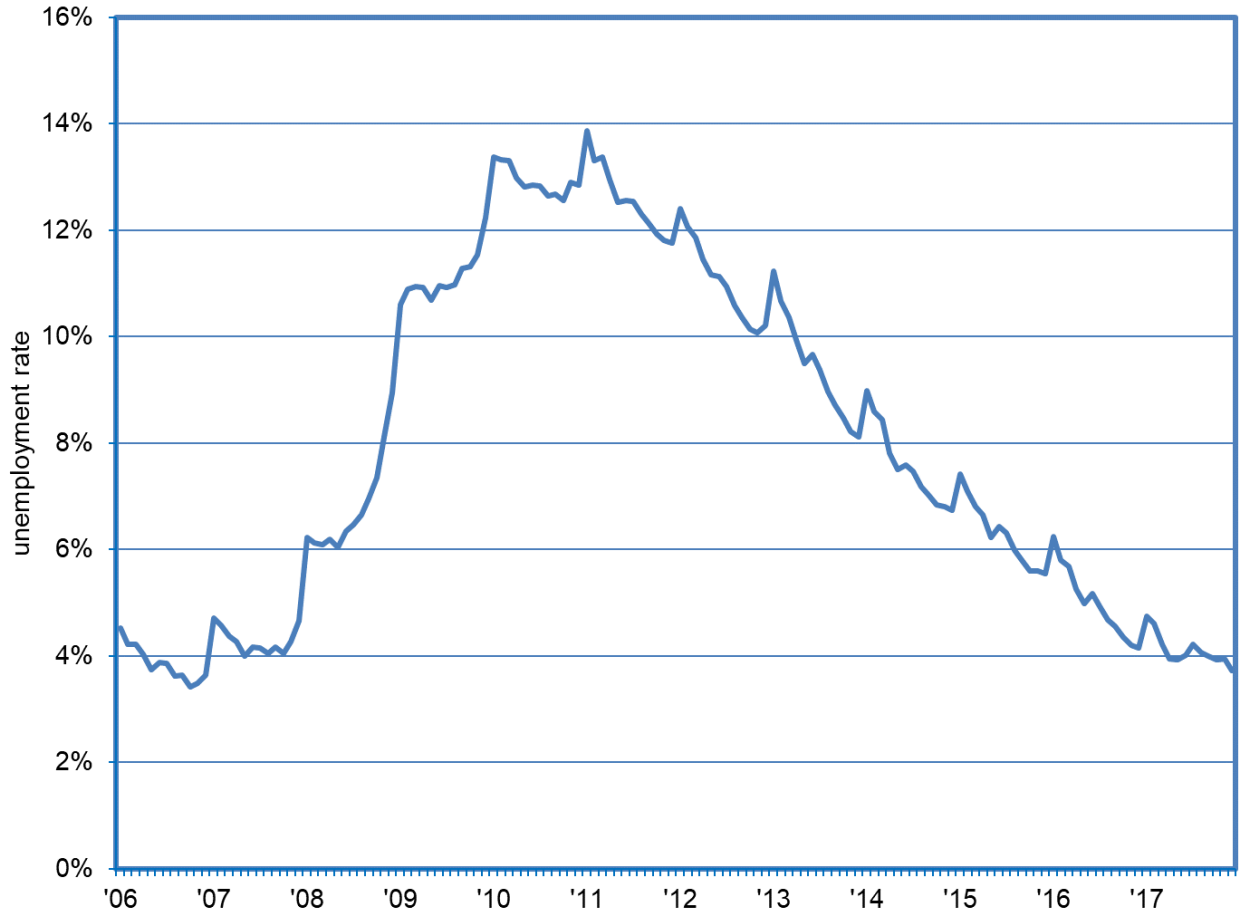
In 2016, ACS five-year estimates show that the male unemployment rate in Clark County stood at 10 percent. The female unemployment rate was 9.2 percent, 0.8 of a percentage point below the male jobless rate. Both rates are very similar to the total unemployment rate for the County, 9.6 percent.





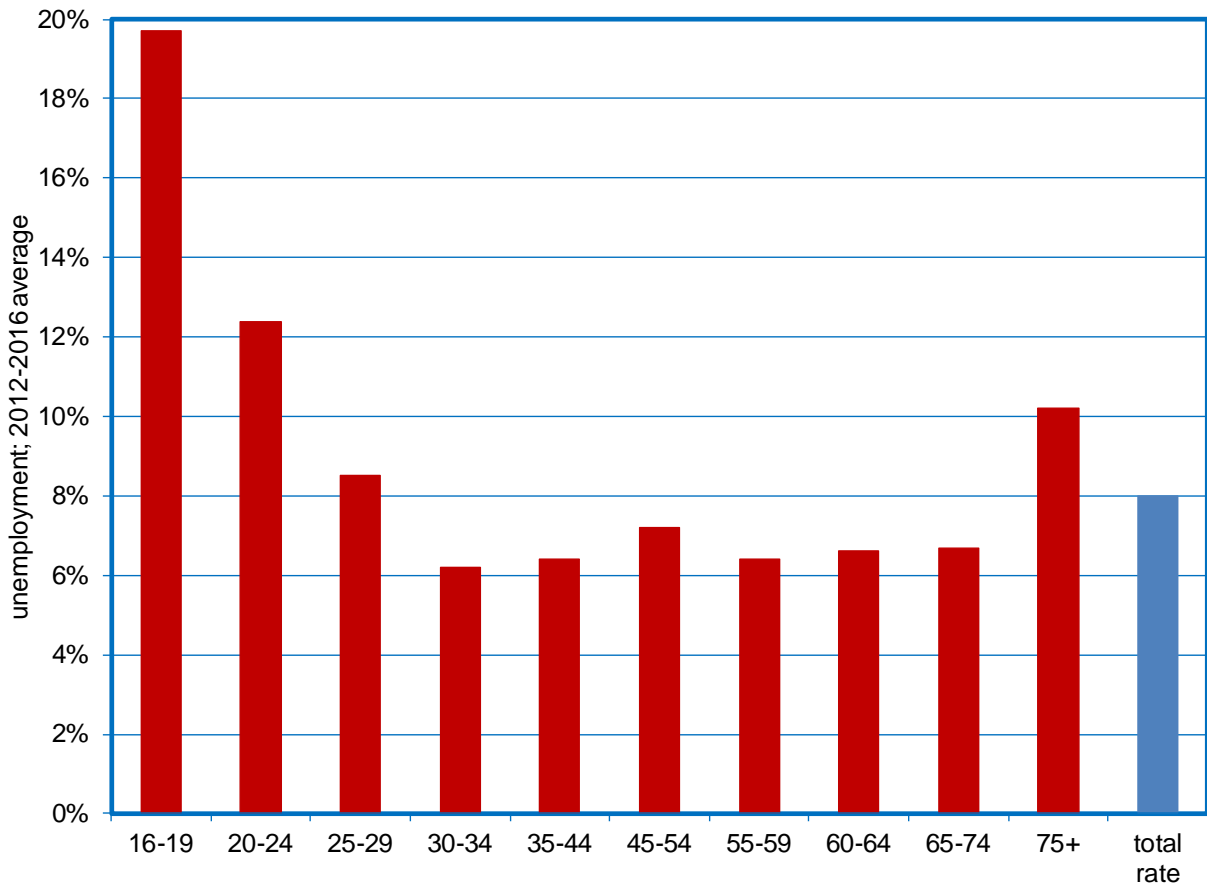
# Washoe County Unemployment Rate

Before the recession, the LAUS-based unemployment rate in Washoe County hovered around four percent. During the recession, the jobless rate peaked at 13.9 percent. As the recovery unfolded, the rate started to decrease. In December 2017, Washoe's unemployment rate stood at 3.7 percent, down from 4.2 percent a year ago.



# Washoe County Unemployment Rate by Age

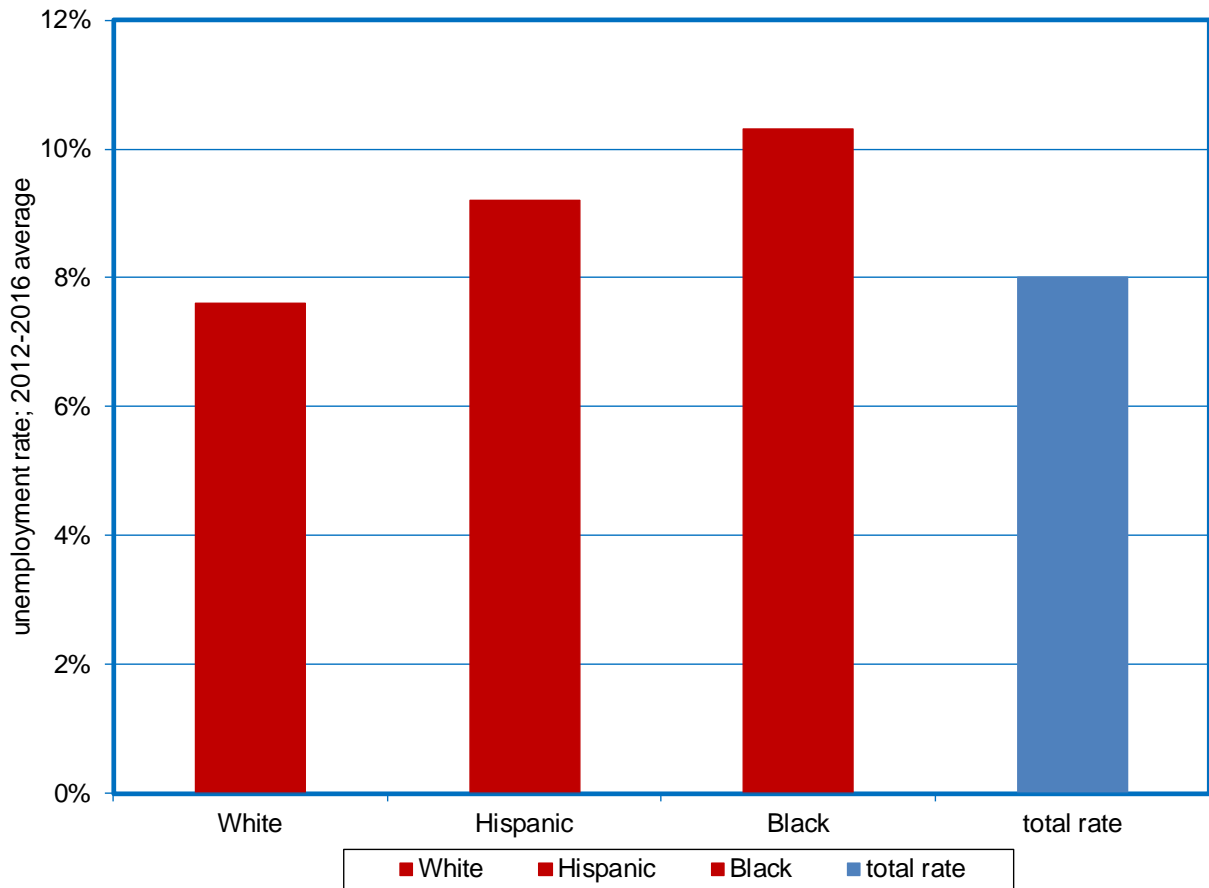
Based upon ACS five-year average estimates, 2016's, total unemployment rate in Washoe County stood at eight percent (2012-2016 average). The unemployment rate for teenagers (16-19 years old), was 19.7 percent, about 11 percentage points higher than that for other age cohorts. The unemployment rate for young adults (20-24 years old) was 12.4 percent, follow by the 75 years old and older group at 10.2 percent. Rates for other age groups hovered in a fairly narrow range around the overall average of eight percent.



# Washoe County Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity

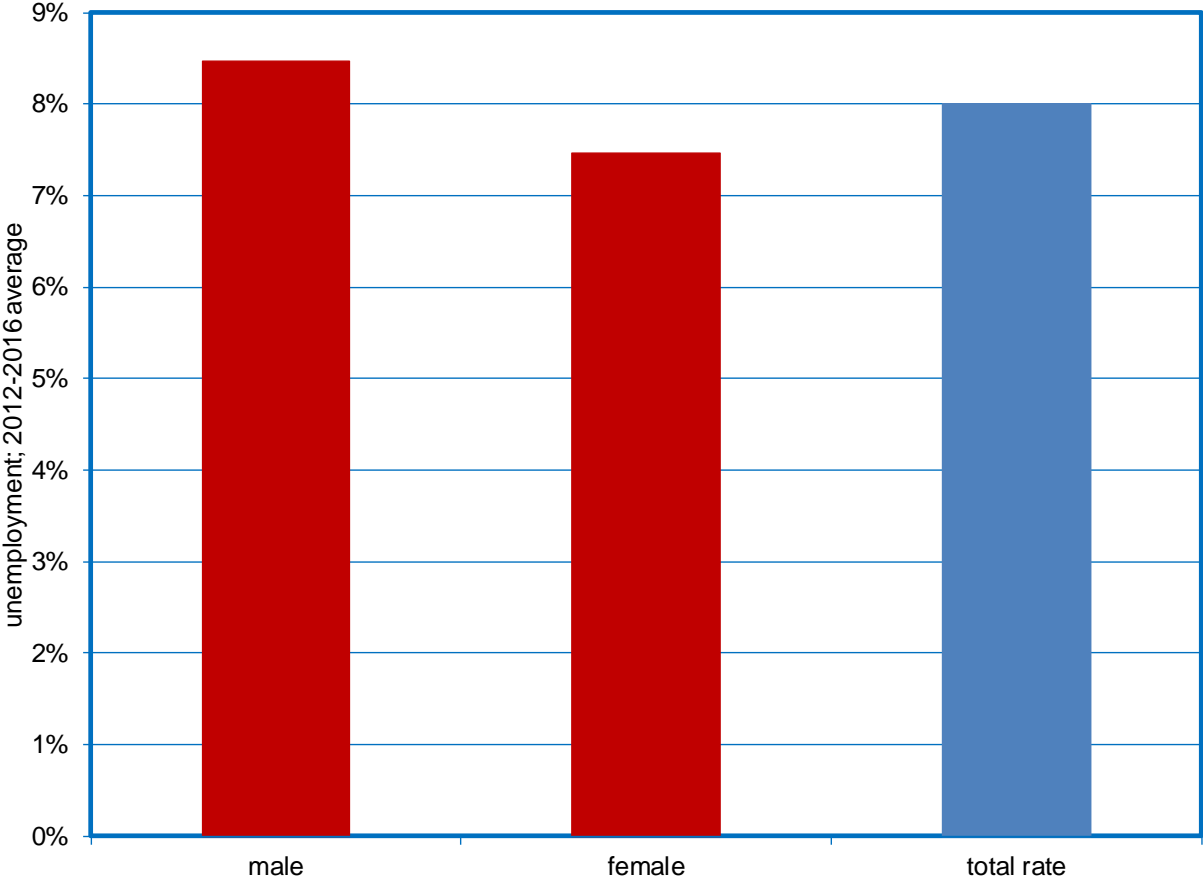
Over the 2012-2016 period, ACS estimates show that unemployment rate estimates disaggregated by race/ethnicity hovered in a fairly narrow range.

As an aside, Black unemployment in Washoe County is estimated to be 550. This represents three percent of the State's total for this demographic group.



# Washoe County Unemployment Rate by Gender

In 2016 the male unemployment rate in Washoe County stood at 8.5 percent. The female unemployment rate was 7.5 percent, one percentage point below the male jobless rate. Both rates are very similar to the total unemployment rate for the County, eight percent.



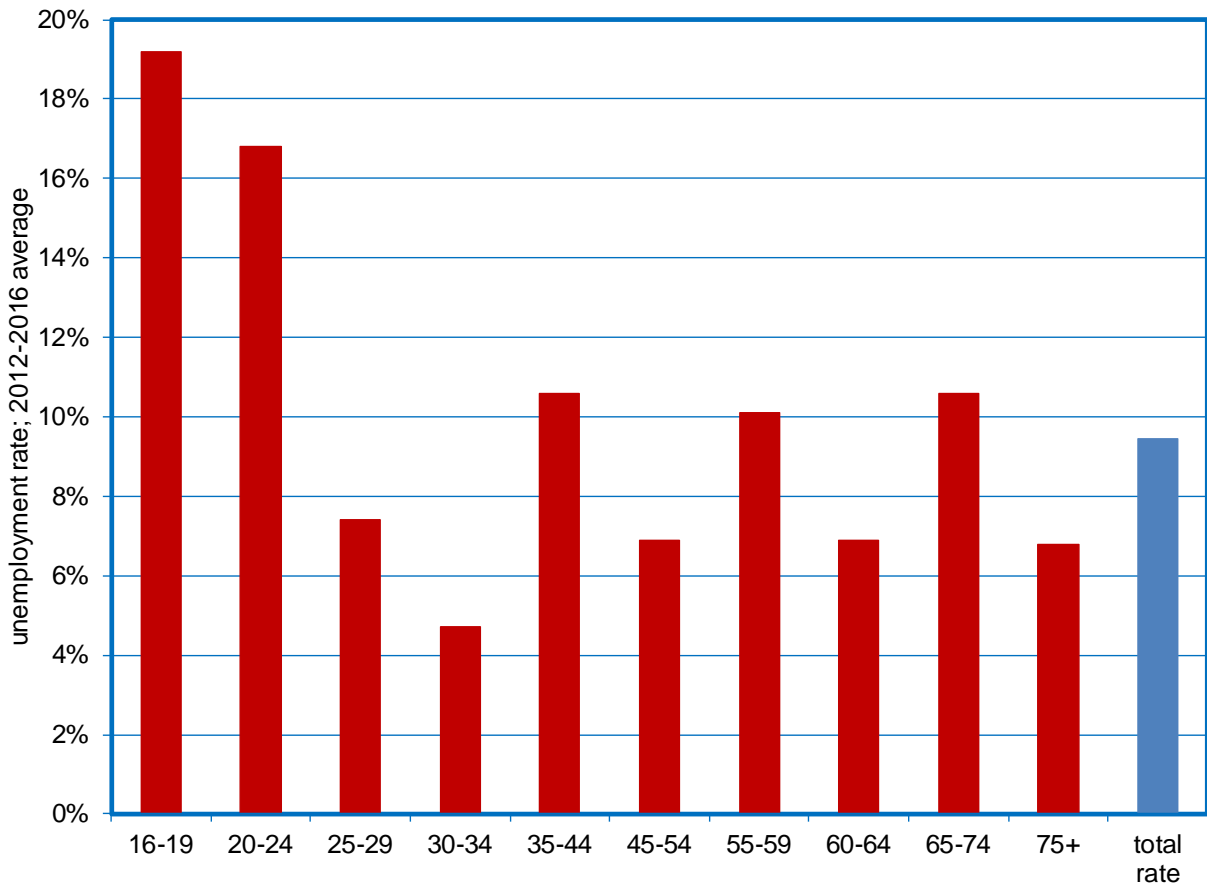
# Carson City Unemployment Rate

Before the recession, the official unemployment rate in Carson City hovered around 4.5 percent. During the recession, Carson City's unemployment rate peaked at 14.9 percent, compared to 13.7 percent statewide. As the recovery unfolded, the rate started to decrease. In December 2017, Carson's unemployment rate stood at 4.9 percent down from 5.3 percent a year ago.



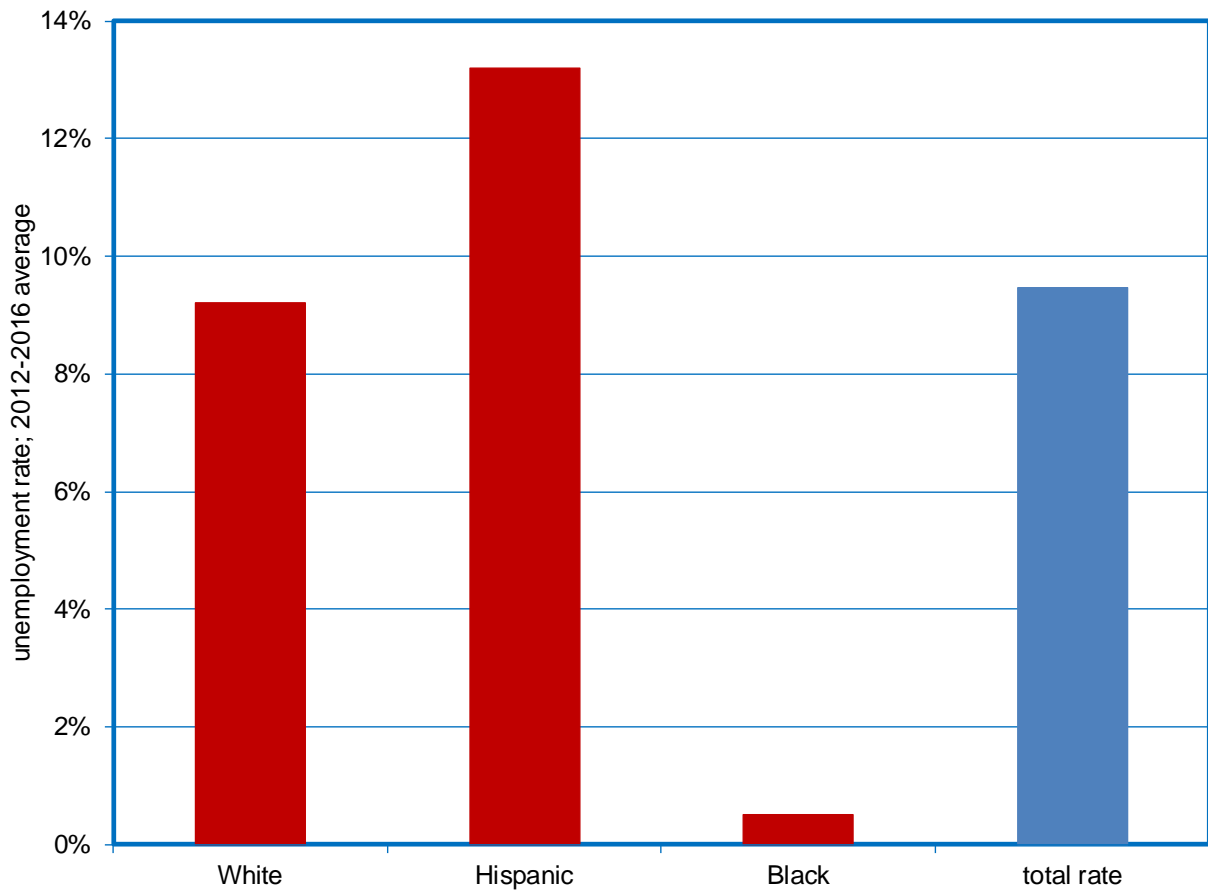
# Carson City Unemployment Rate by Age

In 2016, the total unemployment rate in Carson City County stood at 9.5%. The unemployment rate for teenagers (16-19 years old), was 19.2 percent, about 10 percentage points higher than that for other age cohorts. The unemployment rate for young adults (20-24 years old) was 16.8 percent follow by 35-44 and 65-74 years old groups at 10.6 percent. The age cohort with the lowest rate was the 30-34 years old at 4.7 percent.



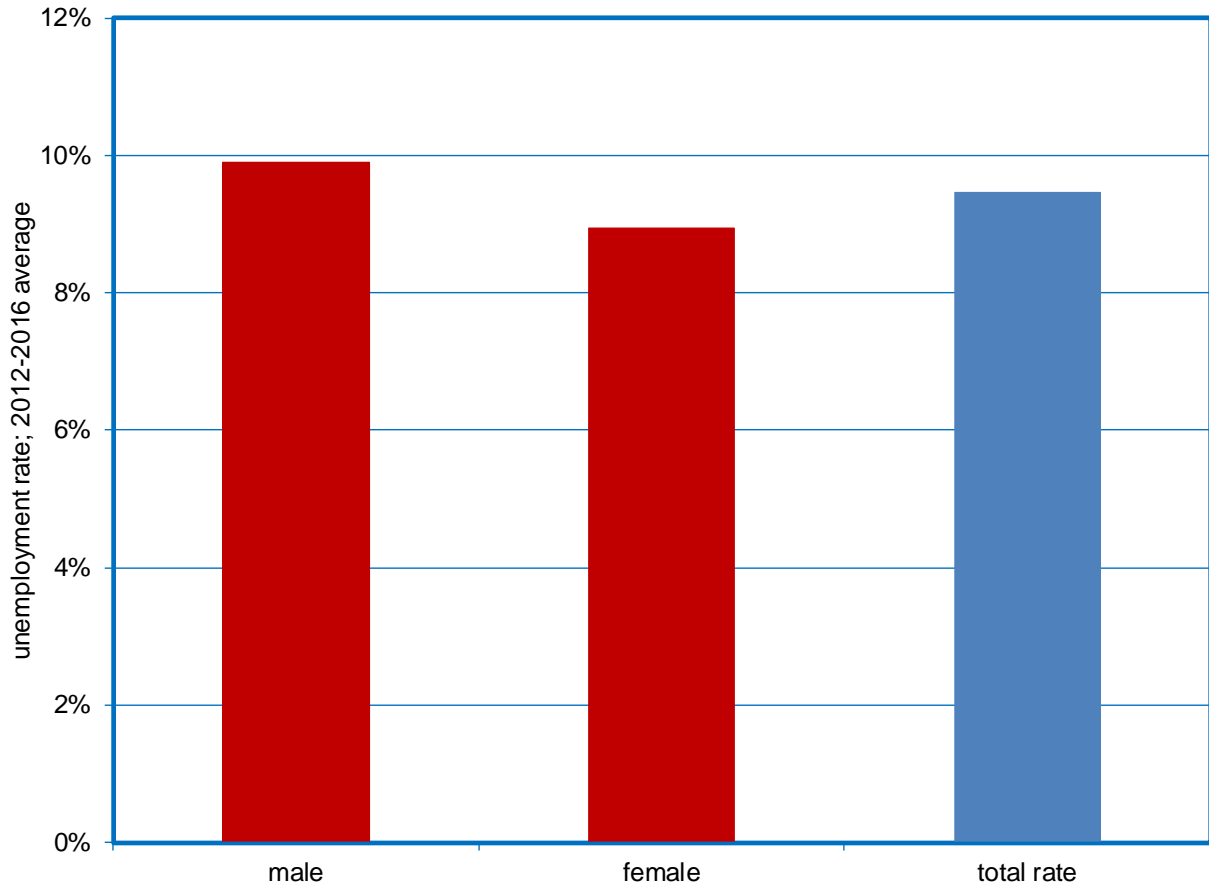
# Carson City Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity

In 2016 Hispanics in Carson City had a higher unemployment rate compared to that for Whites and for African Americans. The unemployment rate for Hispanics stood at 13.2 percent. It was higher than the total rate at 9.5 percent. Whites had a jobless rate of 9.2 percent, while the rate for African Americans was 0.5 percent.



# Carson City Unemployment Rate by Gender

In 2016 the male unemployment rate in Carson City stood at 9.9 percent. The female unemployment rate was 8.9 percent, one percentage points below the male jobless rate. Both rates are very similar to the total unemployment rate for the County, 9.5 percent.





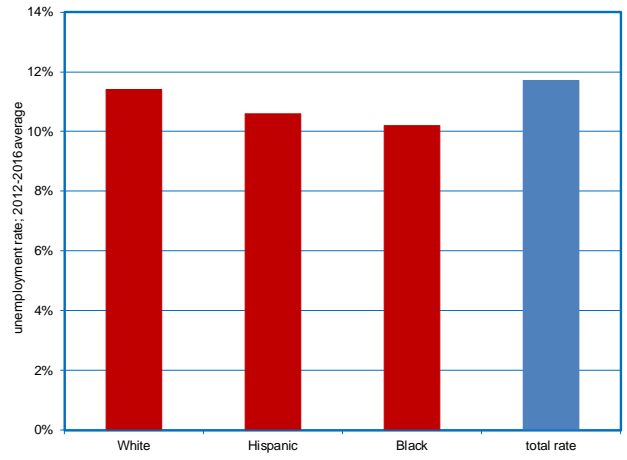
# **Rural County Information**

# Churchill County

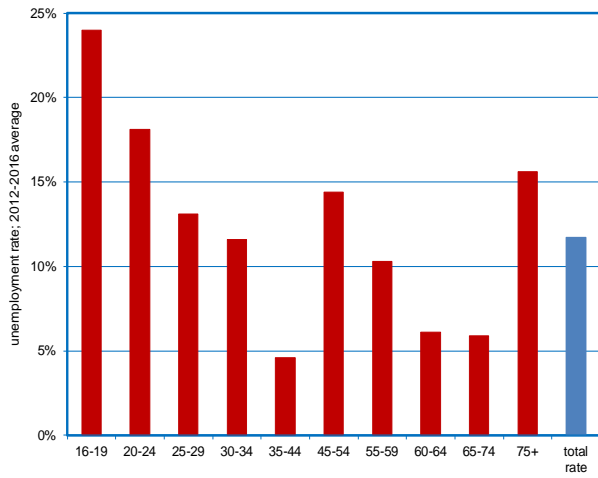
Unemployment Rate



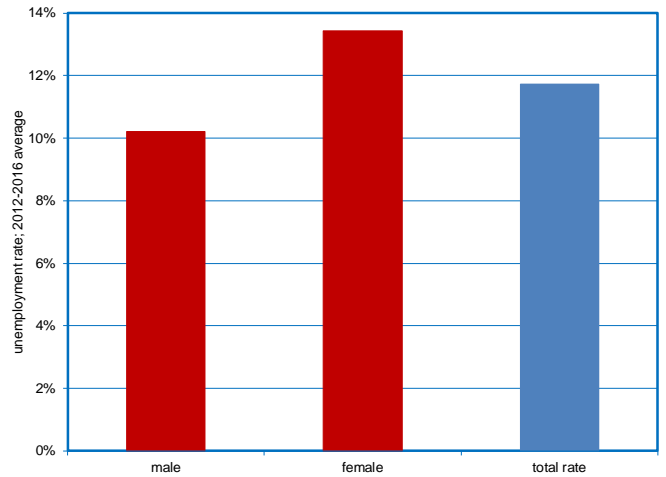
Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age

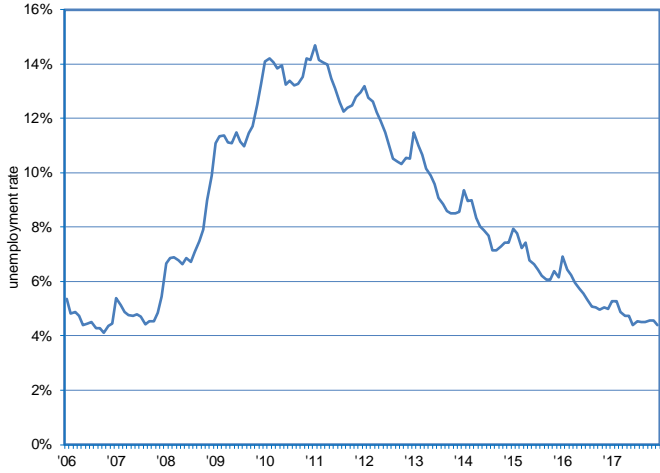


Unemployment Rate by Gender

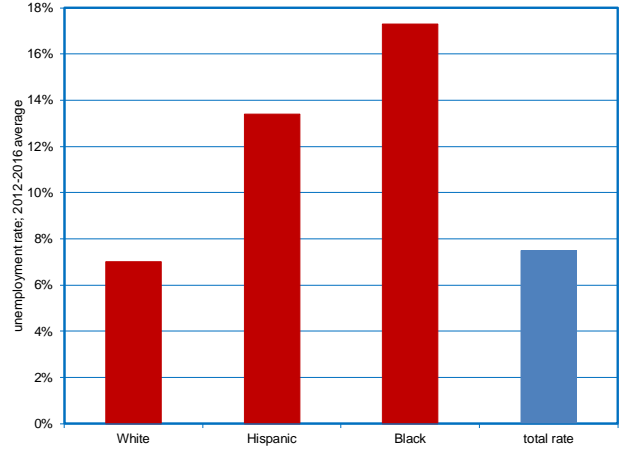


# Douglas County

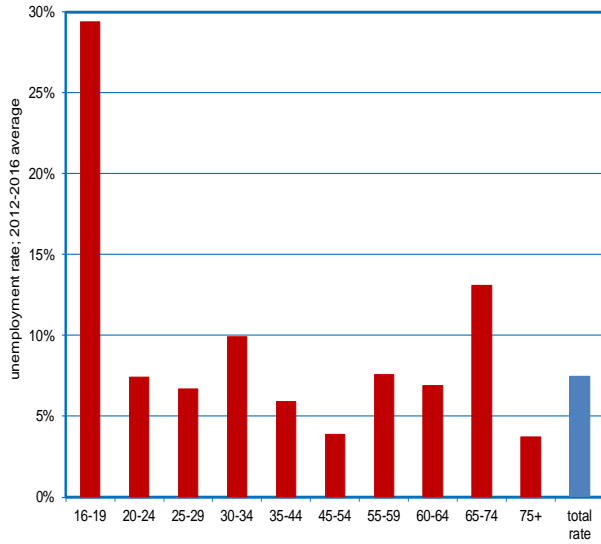
## Unemployment Rate



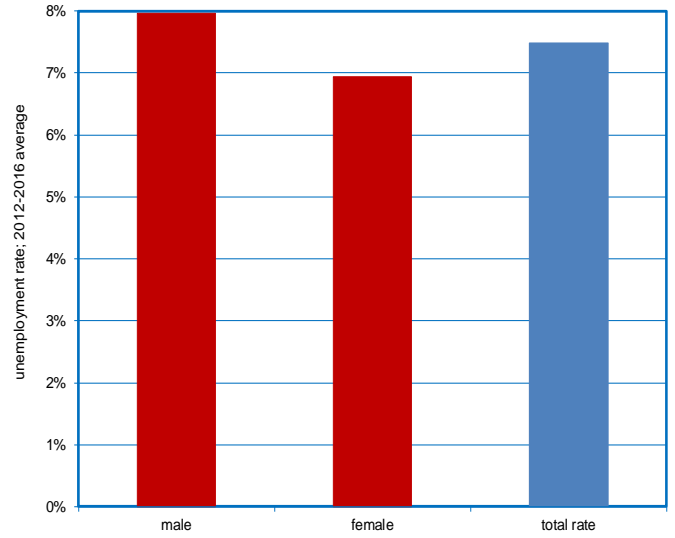
## Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



## Unemployment Rate by Age

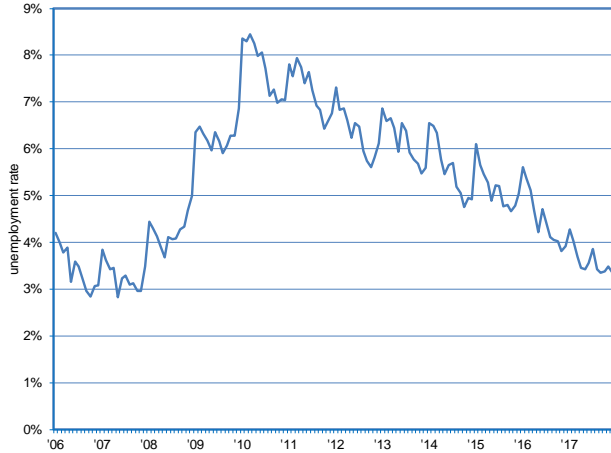


## Unemployment Rate by Gender

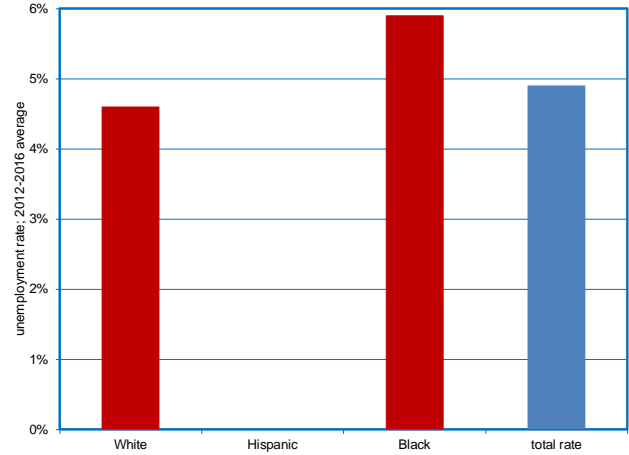


# Elko County

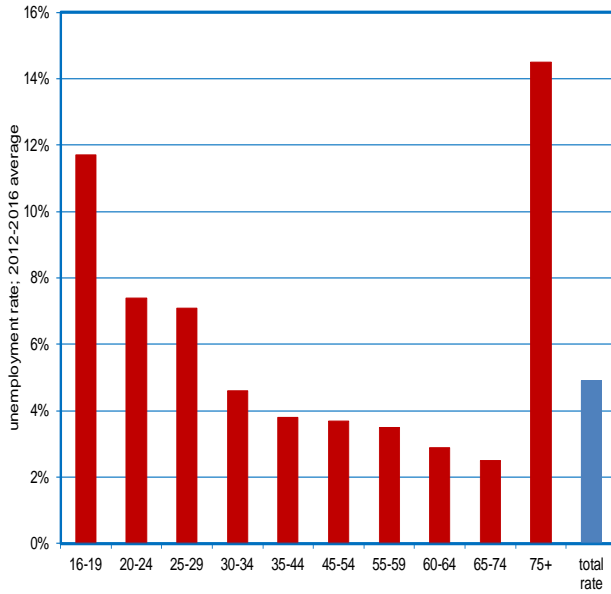
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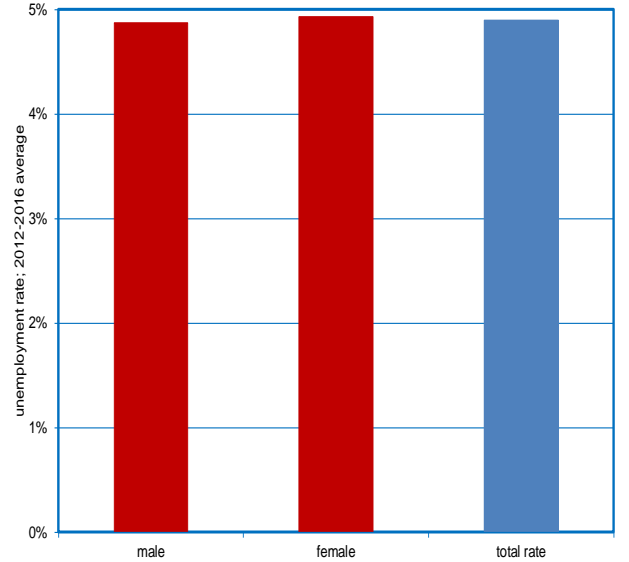
Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age

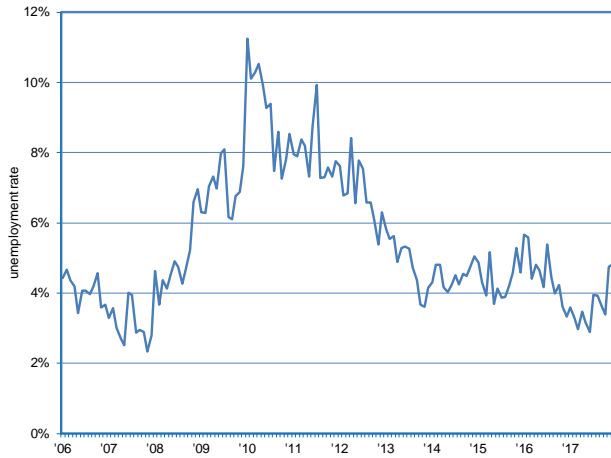


Unemployment Rate by Gender

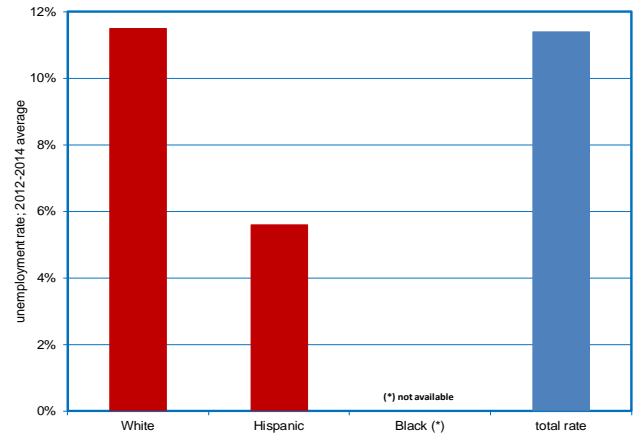


# Esmeralda County

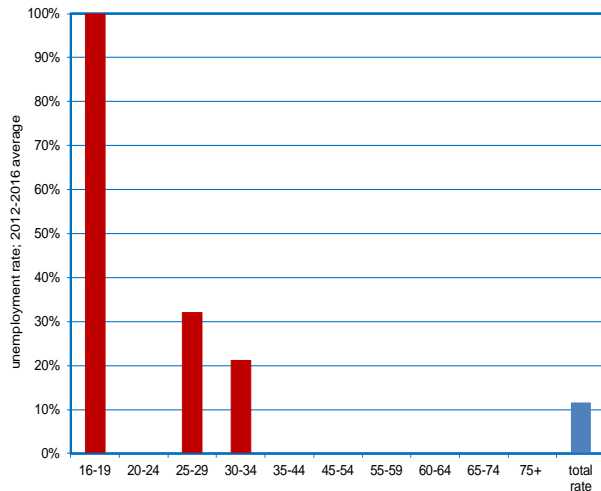
## Unemployment Rate



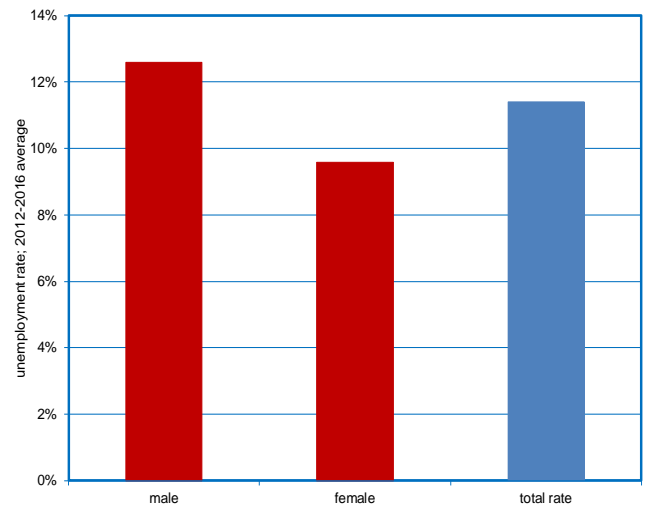
## Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



## Unemployment Rate by Age

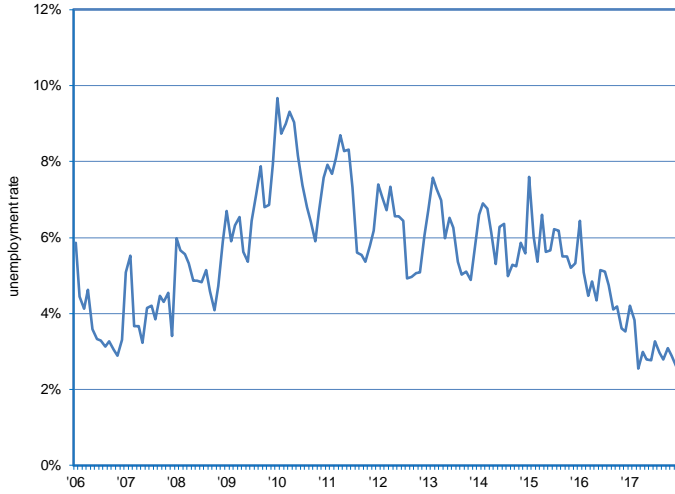


## Unemployment Rate by Gender

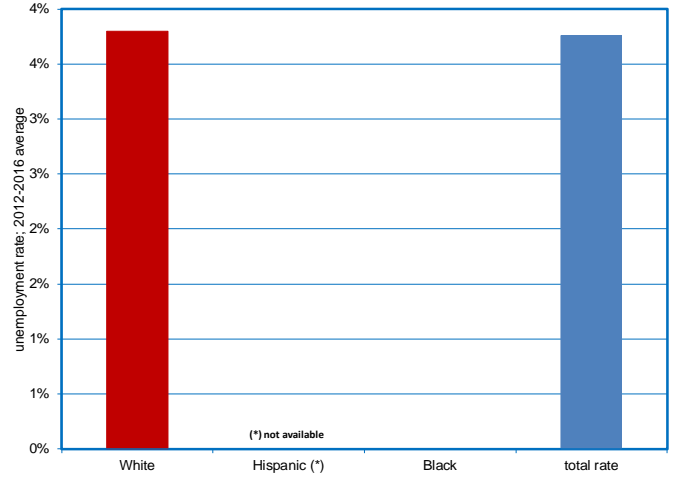


# Eureka County

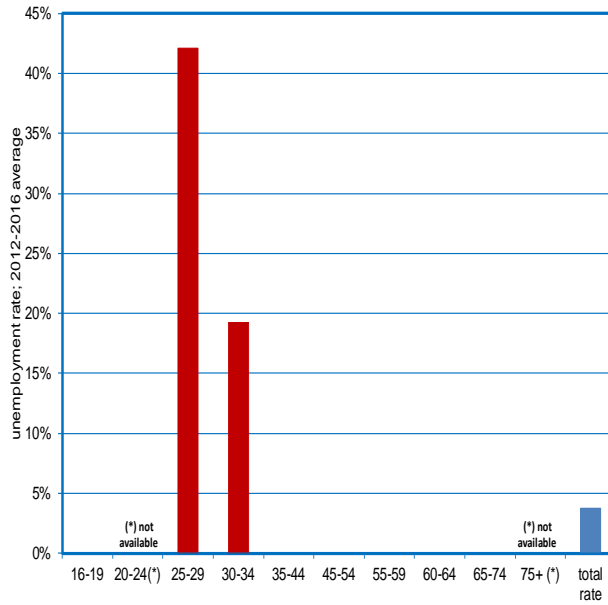
## Unemployment Rate



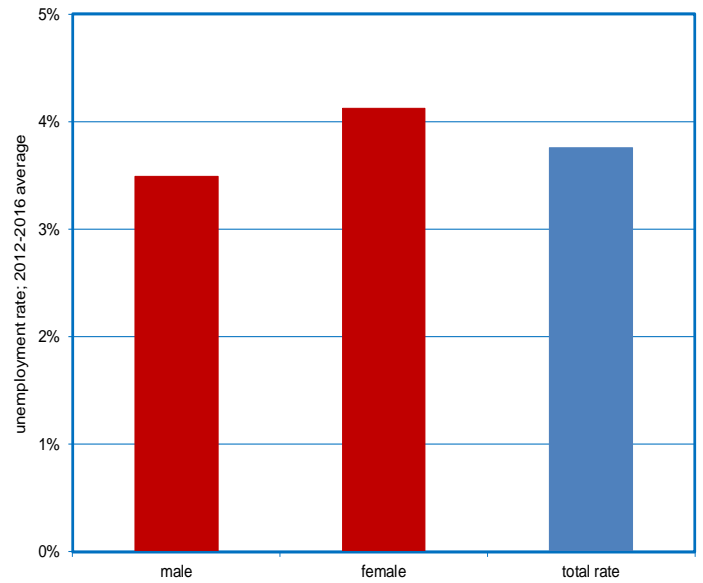
## Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



## Unemployment Rate by Age

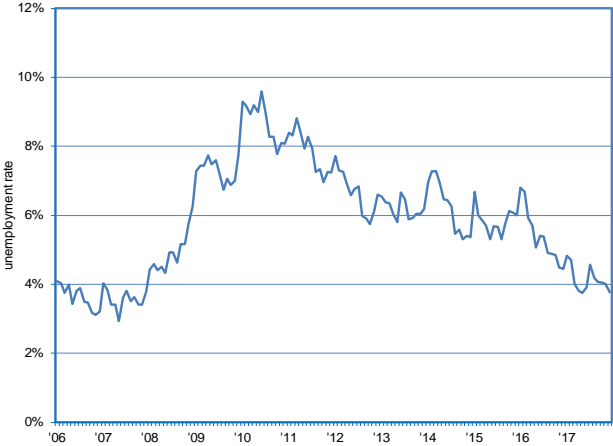


## Unemployment Rate by Gender

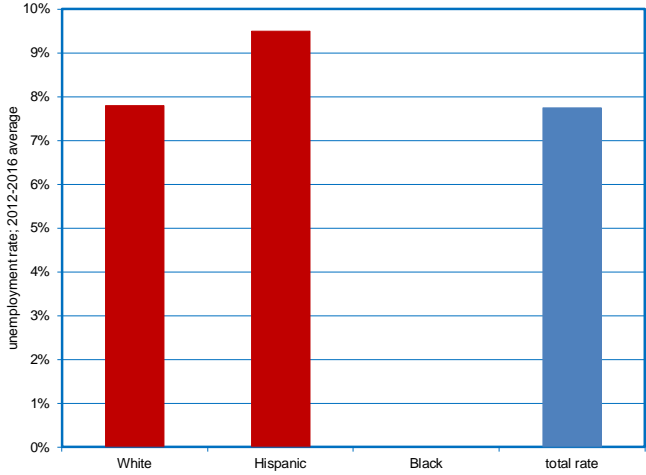


# Humboldt County

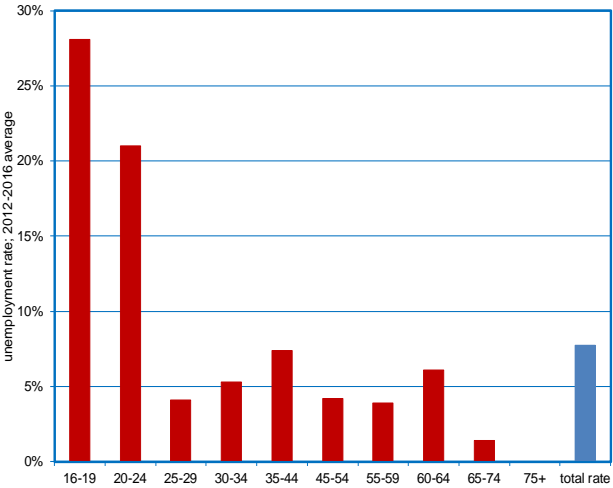
Unemployment Rate



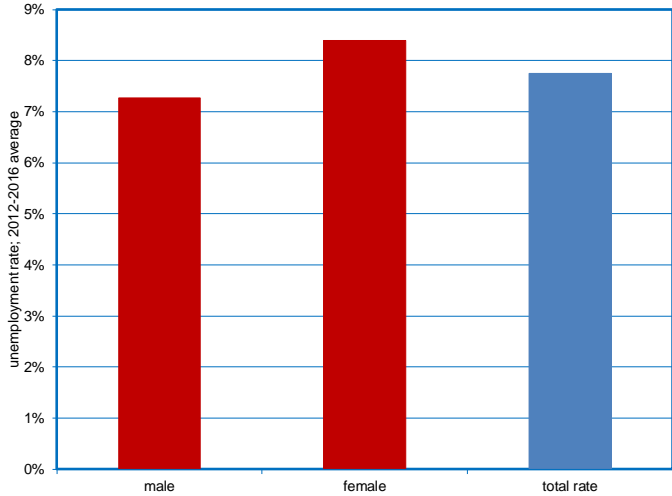
Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age

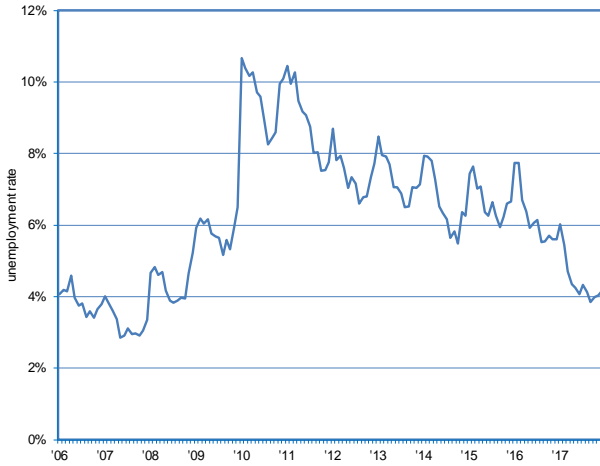


Unemployment Rate by Gender

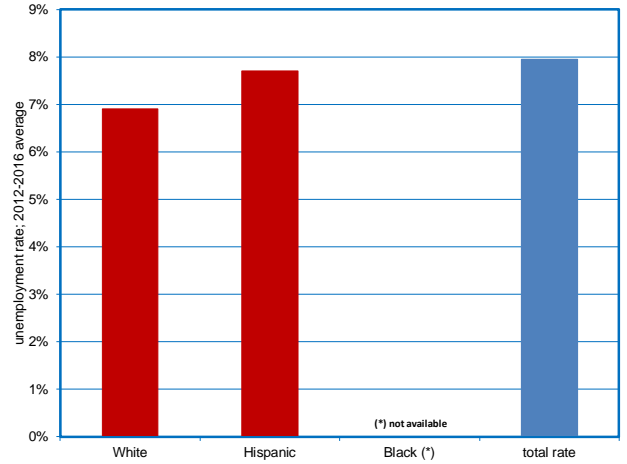


# Lander County

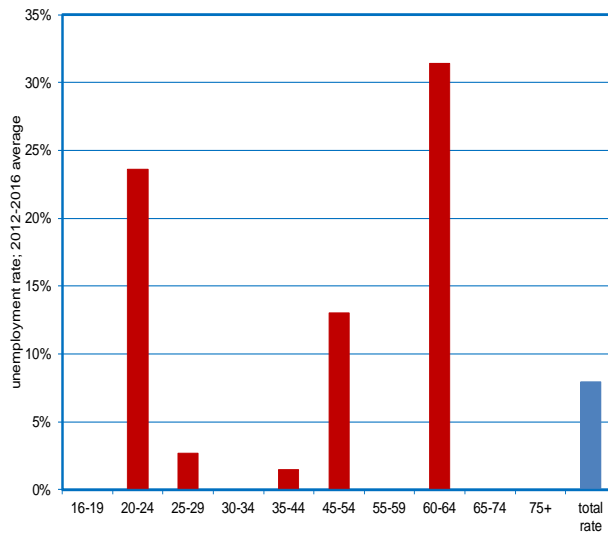
## Unemployment Rate



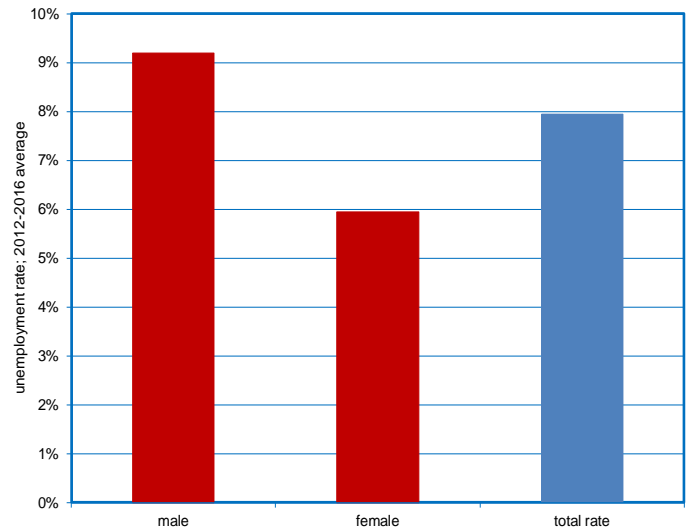
## Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



## Unemployment Rate by Age



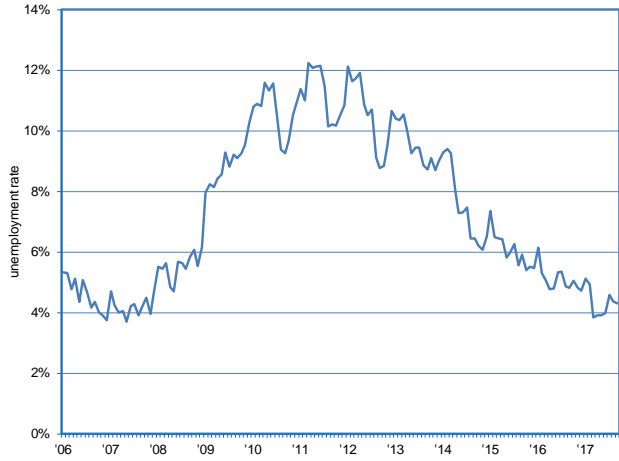
## Unemployment Rate by Gender



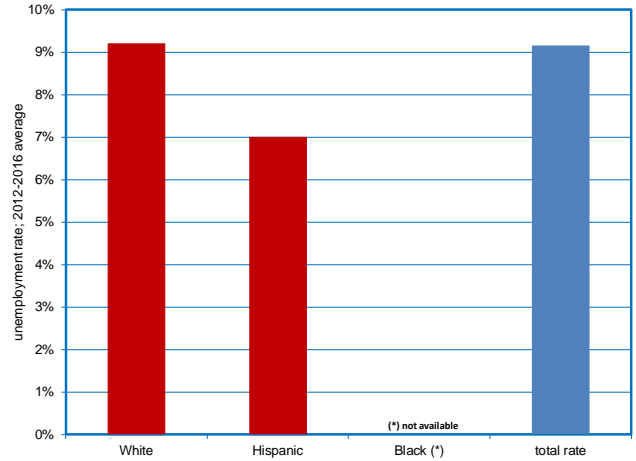


# Lincoln County

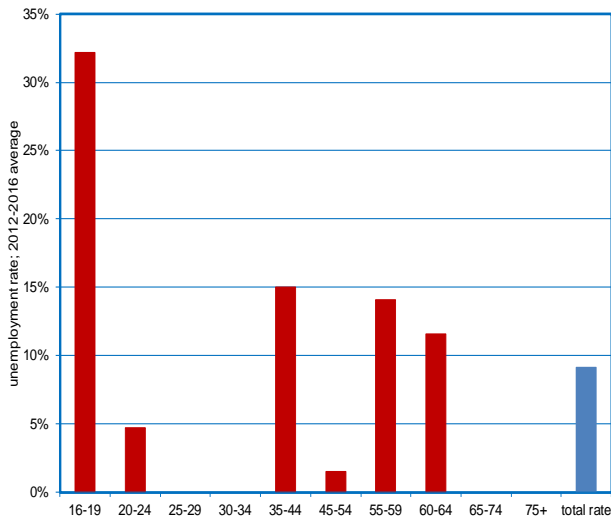
Unemployment Rate



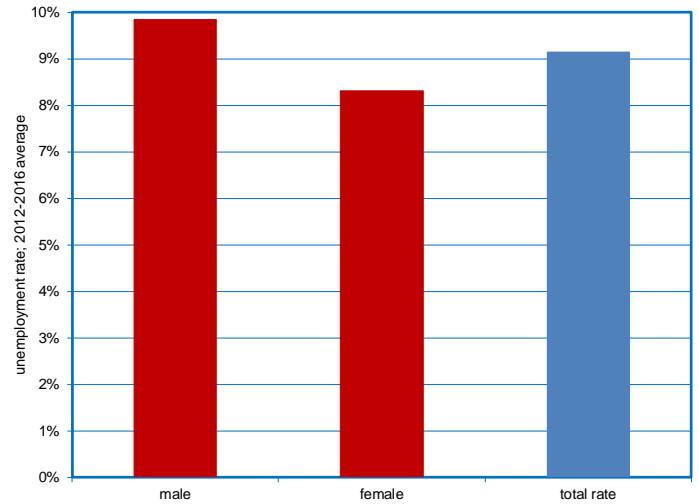
Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age

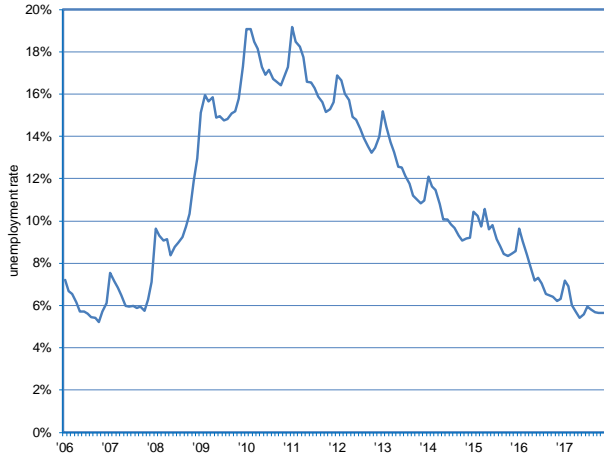


Unemployment Rate by Gender

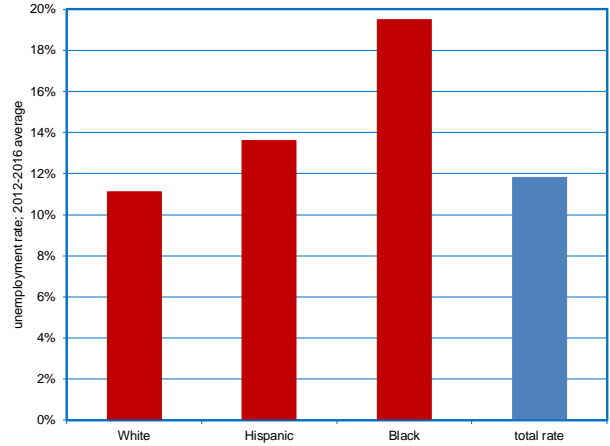


# Lyon County

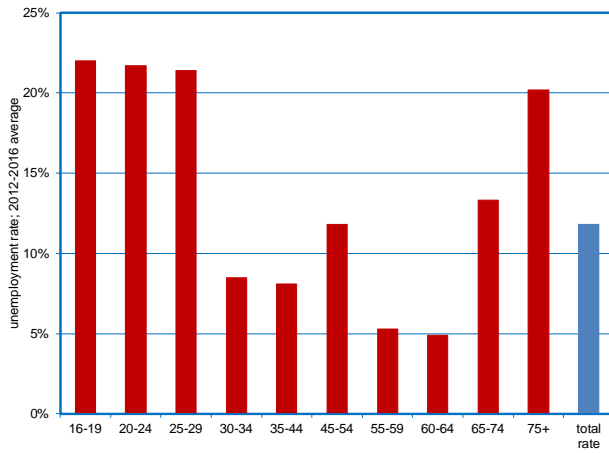
Unemployment Rate



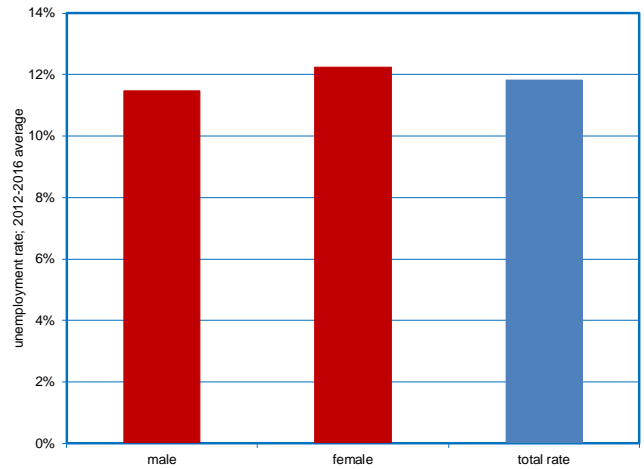
Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age



Unemployment Rate by Gender

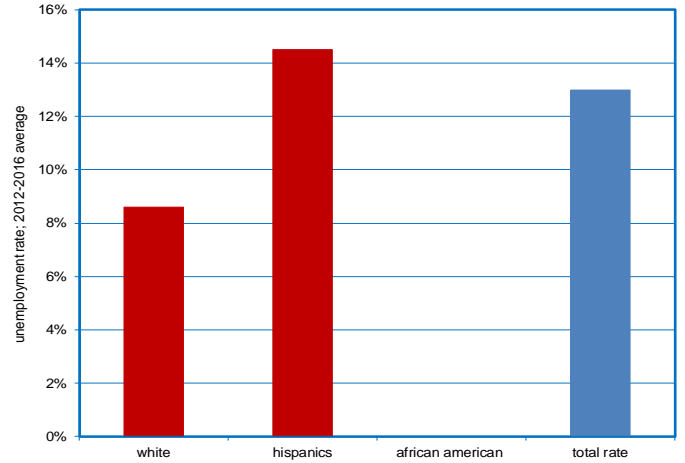


# Mineral County

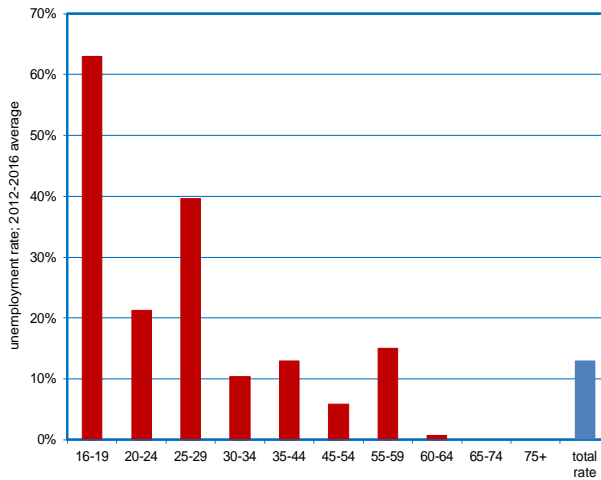
Unemployment Rate



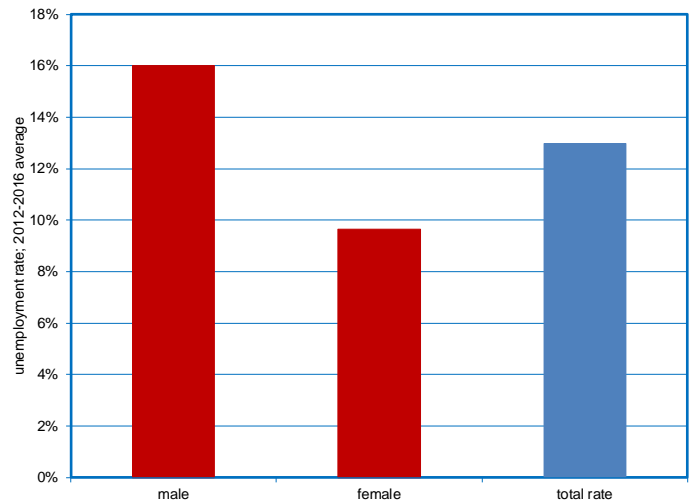
Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age

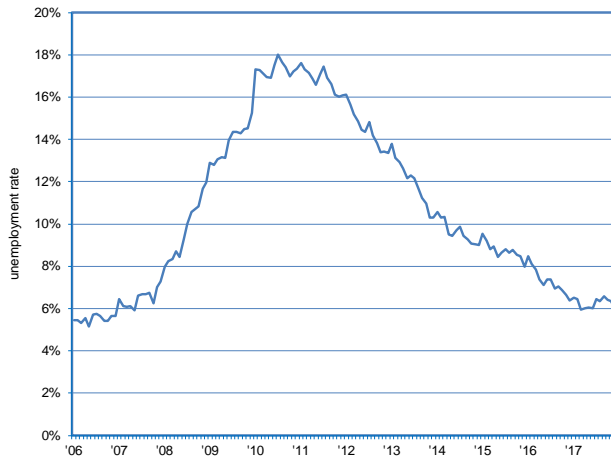


Unemployment Rate by Gender

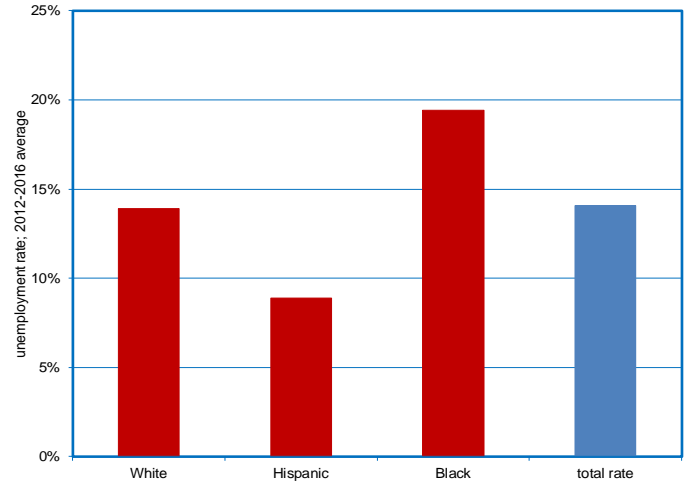


# Nye County

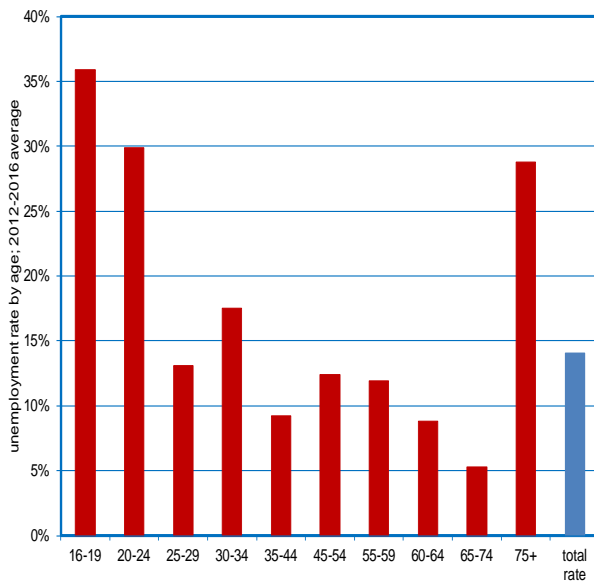
## Unemployment Rate



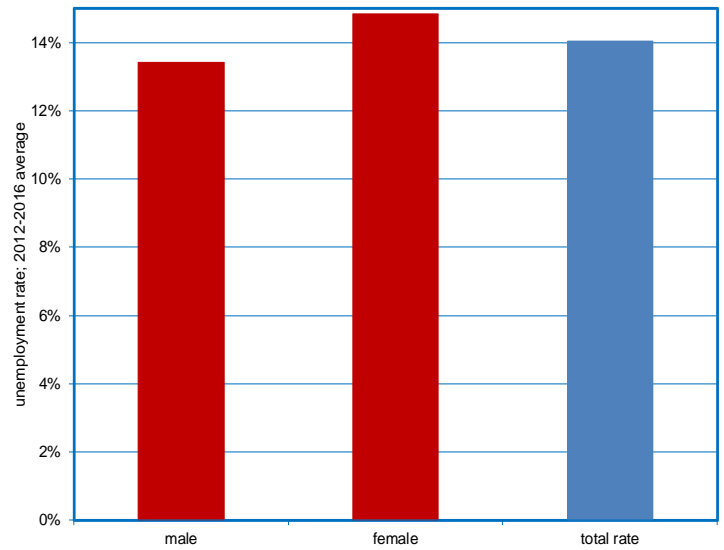
## Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



## Unemployment Rate by Age

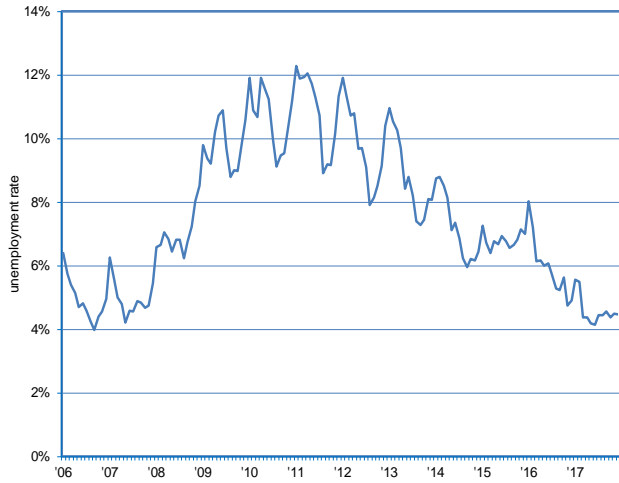


## Unemployment Rate by Gender

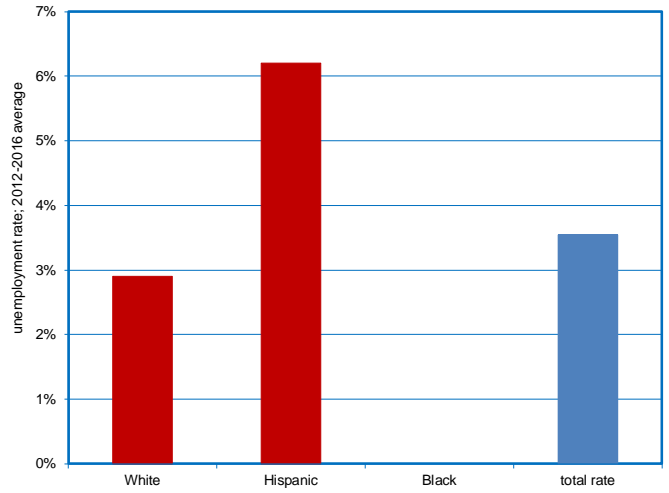


# Pershing County

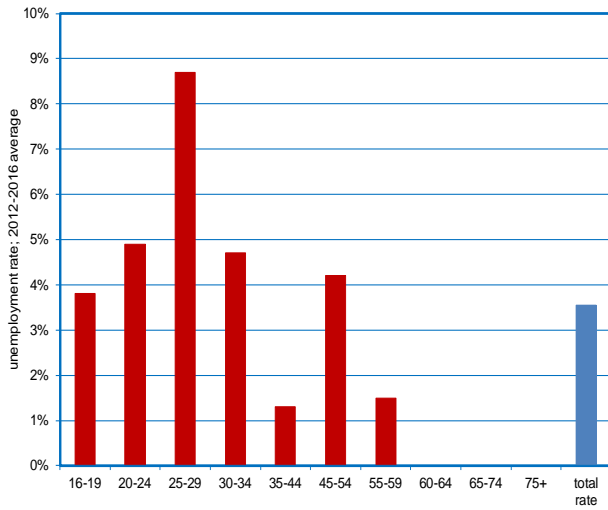
Unemployment Rate



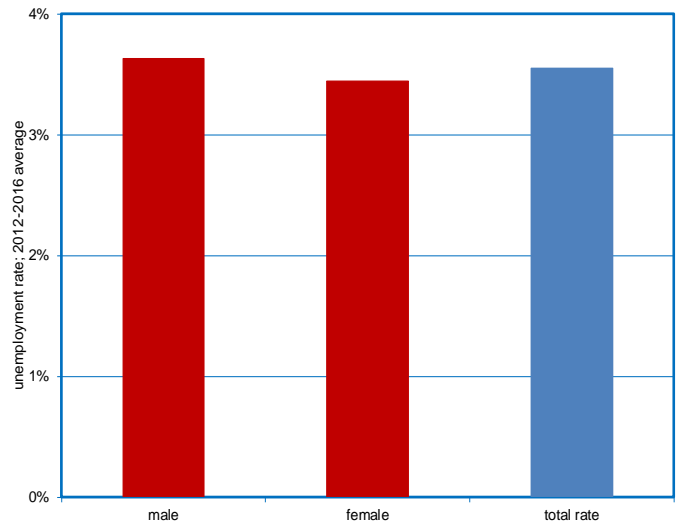
Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age

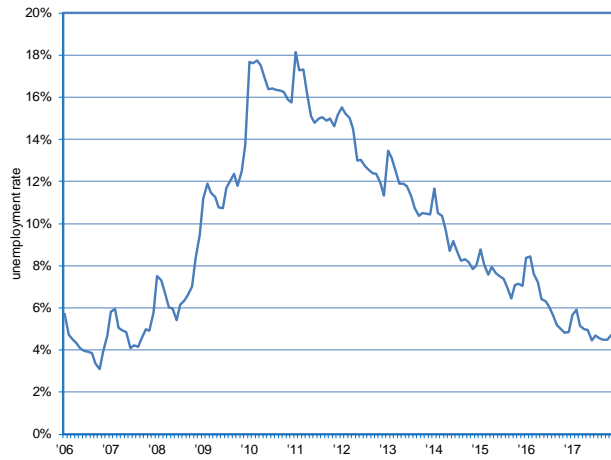


Unemployment Rate by Gender

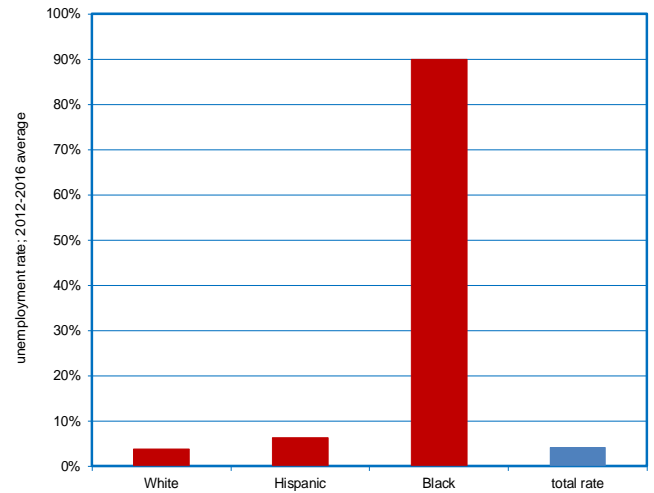


# Storey County

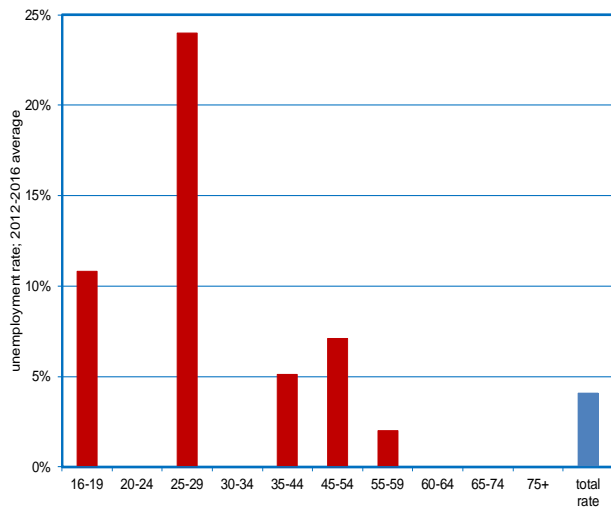
## Unemployment Rate



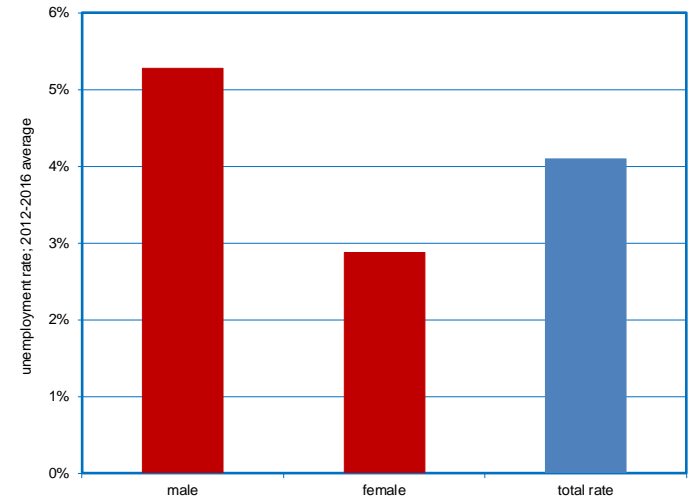
## Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



## Unemployment Rate by Age

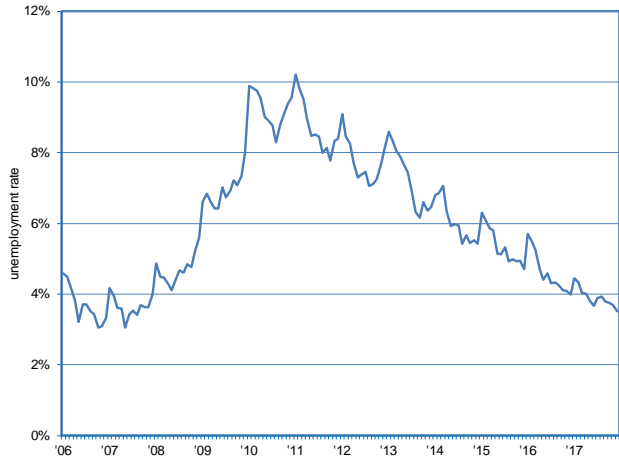


## Unemployment Rate by Gender

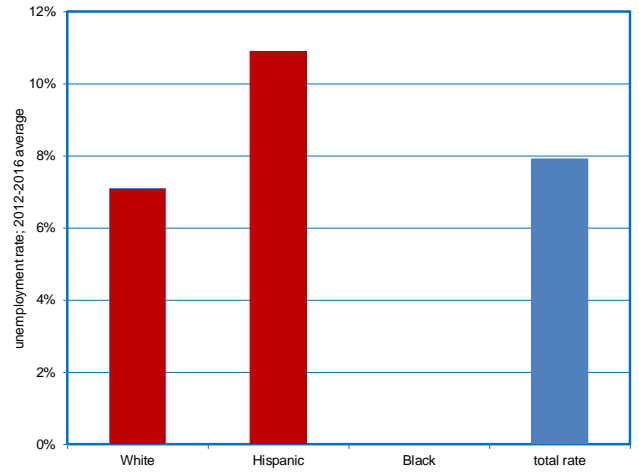


# White Pine County

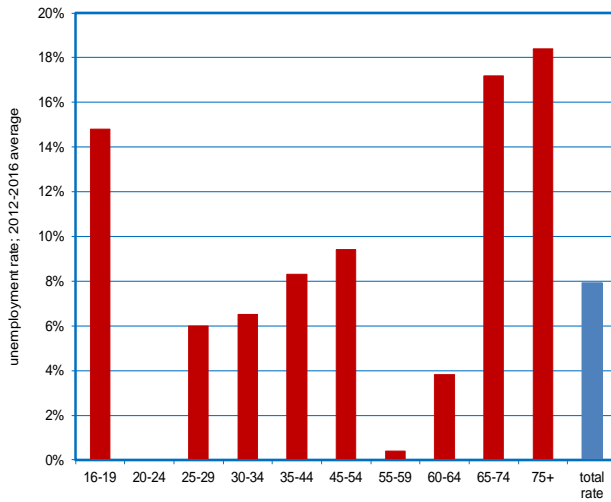
Unemployment Rate



Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Unemployment Rate by Age



Unemployment Rate by Gender

