

Theme - Economic Development

Sub Theme - Employment

Indicator - Employment Status

In 2010 survey of area residents, 38% of respondents stated that the biggest problem facing Houston was unemployment, poverty and the cost of living (Klineberg, 2010). Employment is essential to gain access to health care, quality shelter, good communities, and quality of life among many other things. Education is a fundamental step in the process and indicators like the Drop-out Rate among high school students show trends leading to vulnerabilities like employment stability (Sanborn, 2012). In comparison to the 63 largest cities in the country Houston had the 18th highest unemployment rate in 2010.

Sustainability Benefit: The unemployment rate for Hispanics, which are the fastest growing segment of the population has not increased significantly between 1990 and 2010.

Sustainability Issue: In 2010 Houston had a very high unemployment rate at 10 percent.

The following metric, **Figure 25: Unemployment Rate**, is used to measure the indicator *Employment Status*.

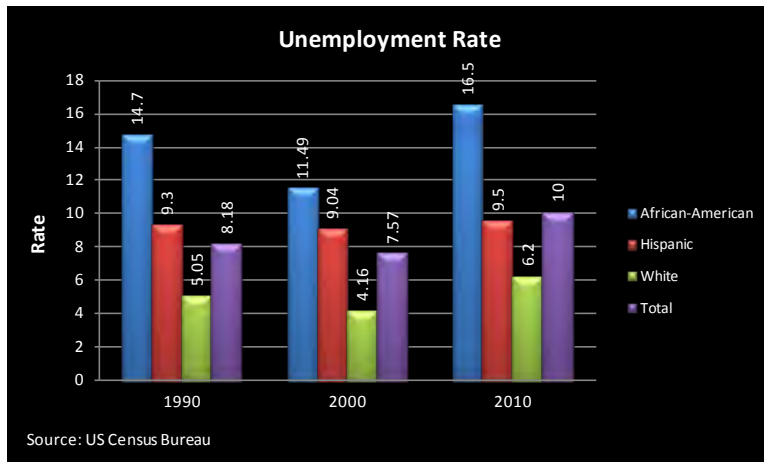


Figure 25: Unemployment Rate

- African Americans had a 16.5% unemployment rate in 2010. This is the highest rate of any racial or ethnic group and hence it demonstrates that African Americans are at a disadvantage when it comes to employment and job security in Houston.
- The unemployment rate among Hispanics remained stable at around 9.5%. This might lead some to erroneously state that Hispanic persons were not affected by the downturn in the economy starting in 2007.



- All groups show a reduction in unemployment percentage in 2000 and then an increase in unemployment in 2010. African Americans are the most adversely affected group in terms of unemployment.