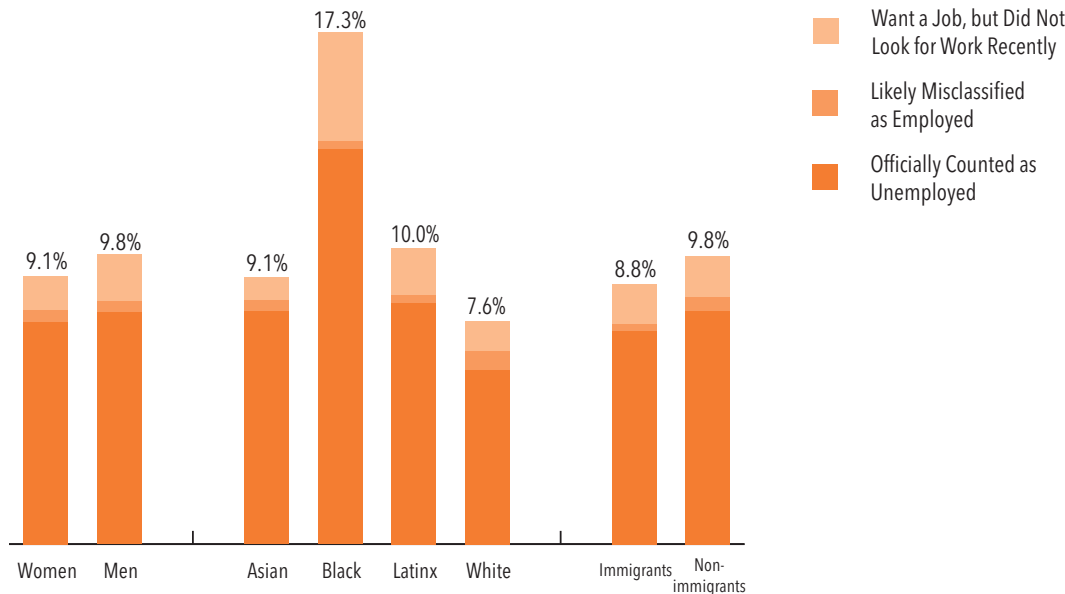




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Inequitable Job Gains Mean Unemployment Is Twice as High for Black Californians as for White Californians

Adjusted Unemployment Rate, May 2021 to July 2021



Note: People are officially counted as unemployed only if they looked for work in the past four weeks. This analysis counts individuals as unemployed who did not look for work in the past four weeks as long as they reported wanting a job and having looked for work within the past year. Also included are people the Bureau of Labor Statistics believes were likely unemployed but misclassified as employed.
 Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, CPS data processed by Economic Policy Institute

- **Unemployment for Black Californians remains extremely high.** Between May and July 2021, 17.3% of Black workers were unemployed – twice the rate for white workers and well above the still-high rates for Asian and Latinx workers. This is based on a more accurate count of people who want to work, but have yet to find a job.
- **For decades, unemployment for Black workers has been around twice that for white workers** – recession or not. Black workers are also more likely to be out of work than white workers at every level of education. This persistent inequity reflects discrimination and other barriers to work created through centuries of structural racism.
- With 60% of Black households having lost earnings in 2020 due to the pandemic and a persistent racial wealth gap that blocks Black Californians from economic opportunities, **policymakers must prioritize an equitable recovery by continuing to provide economic supports that are helping Black Californians and their families meet basic needs.**