

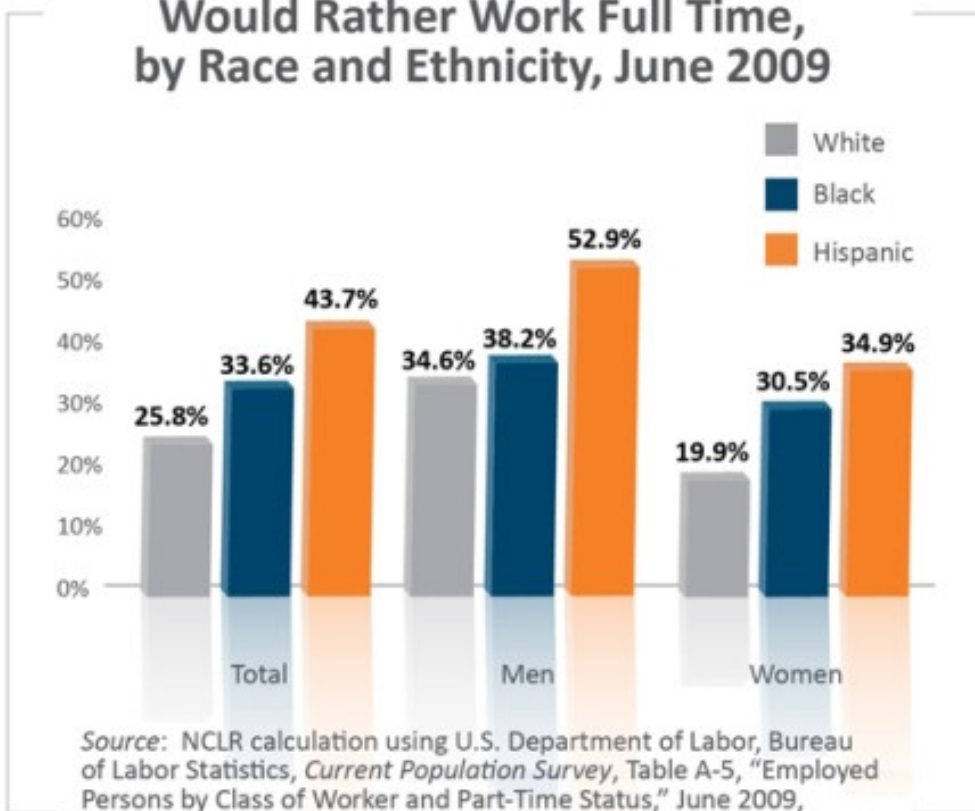
Latino Employment Status, June 2009

The unemployment rate fails to provide a complete picture of how the recession is impacting workers. In addition to laying off employees, numerous businesses are cutting workers' hours, forcing many employees into part-time (less than 35 hours per week) schedules. The Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies these individuals as working part time due to economic reasons, which include "slack work or unfavorable business conditions, inability to find full-time work, and seasonal declines in demand."¹

Of all part-time workers, Latinos are far more likely to be "involuntary" part-time workers. This is true of both Hispanic men and women. As Figure 1 shows, in June 2009, 43.7% of Hispanic part-time workers would have preferred full-time jobs, compared to 33.6% of Black workers and 25.8% of White workers.

Figure 1

Percent of Part-Time Workers Who Would Rather Work Full Time, by Race and Ethnicity, June 2009

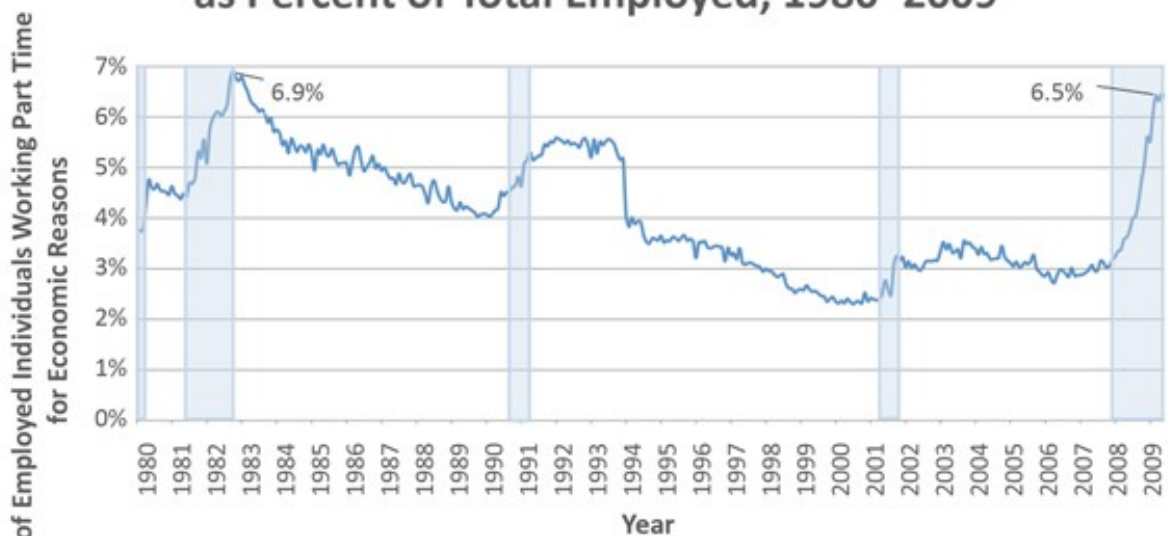


Source: NCLR calculation using U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, Table A-5, "Employed Persons by Class of Worker and Part-Time Status," June 2009, seasonally adjusted. Conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC, July 2009, <http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab5.htm> (accessed July 2009).

As seen in Figure 2, the share of workers employed part time for economic reasons has risen dramatically since the recession began in December 2007. In May 2009, 6.5% of workers worked part time, but would have preferred full-time jobs. The most recent estimates from June 2009 show that 8,989,000 workers (6.4% of total employed workers) were employed part time for economic reasons. These figures are approaching levels not seen since the recession in the early 1980s. October 1982 was the month in which the largest share of U.S. workers was employed part time for economic reasons (6.9%).

Figure 2

No Other Option: Involuntary Part-Time Workers as Percent of Total Employed, 1980–2009



Source: NCLR calculation using U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, Series LNS12032194, "Employment Level—Part Time for Economic Reasons, All Industries," seasonally adjusted; Series LNS12000000, "Employment Level," seasonally adjusted. Conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC, June 2009, <http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab5.htm#a5.f.2> (accessed July 2009).

Note: Due to periodic changes in population measures, the Bureau of Labor Statistics cautions against short-term comparisons of employment data.

The vertical shaded bands represent recessions, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Source: National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., *Business Cycle Expansions and Contractions*, <http://wwwdev.nber.org/cycles/cyclesmain.html> (accessed June 2009).