

New York State's April 2020 unemployment rate stood at 14.5 percent – up from 4.1 percent in March –and was the state's largest recorded monthly increase since 1976, when the current record keeping began. In the seven weeks between March 10 and April 25, 2020, New York State processed over 1.5 million initial unemployment insurance claims from residents, which represents more people than the entire population of the state of Maine.

- Hispanic New Yorkers have the highest rate of pandemic unemployment.
- Prior to the pandemic, Black workers had the highest unemployment rates. As of May 2020, Black and white workers have similarly high rates at 15%.
- Asian workers have seen a sharp increase in pandemic unemployment when compared with pre-pandemic unemployment.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Persist Despite the Drastic Increase in Unemployment for Every Group

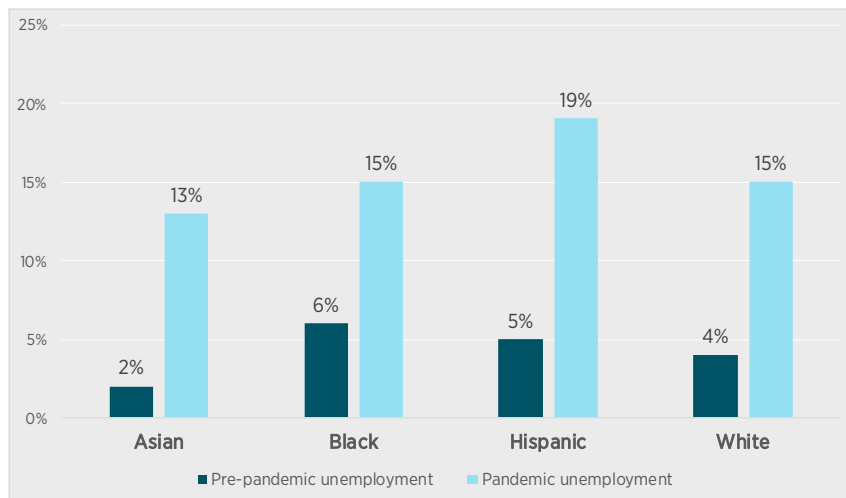


FIG. 1 Source: Fiscal Policy Institute Analysis of CPS microdata, New York State, Seasonally Adjusted

Note: Pre-pandemic is a 6-month average from September 2019 – February 2020; pandemic = March and April 2020. Data on people identified as other race categories, including Native American/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or Some Other Race, are not provided here. The Hispanic category includes people of any race.

Unemployment claims have now been made in every one of the 20 industries included in the New York State Department of Labor's Division of Research and Statistics. As of May 23, the six most racially and ethnically diverse industries have seen unemployment claims from nearly 1.5 million workers, which is nearly 60 percent of all claims made.

- In New York's six most racially diverse industries, there were a total of 1,242,964 unemployment insurance (UI) claims filed through May 23rd.
- The most unemployment insurance claims were filed in the Accommodations and Food Services industry where the workforce is 13 percent Asian, 12 percent Black, 30 percent Hispanic, and 55 percent white.

Impact of Layoffs on Six of New York's Most Racially and Ethnically Diverse Industries

Industry	11-Week Total Initial UI Claims Week of 5/23	Share Asian	Share Black	Share Hispanic	Share White
Accommodation and Food Services	394,703	13%	12%	30%	55%
Construction/Utilities	177,058	5%	10%	25%	74%
Health Care and Social Assistance	268,801	9%	24%	17%	56%
Retail Trade	291,048	8%	14%	19%	65%
Transportation and Warehousing	111,354	12%	26%	11%	49%

FIG. 2 Source: Fiscal Policy Institute Analysis of American Community Survey Microdata