

## The Data Shows that Black Jobs do Exist

By Byron A. Ellis, Ph.D. – July 15, 2024



In the United States of America (USA) there have always been “Black jobs,” enslavement of Black people was an unpaid “Black job.” Even today, employment discrimination in the USA leads to “Black jobs.”

Therefore, it is difficult to understand the amnesia on Black social media demanding an explanation for Trump’s reference to “Black jobs.”

Maya King from the [New York Times](#) noted “Black political strategists, elected officials and heads of organizations quickly joined hundreds of social media users to post photos of themselves at their workplaces and to crack jokes about the reductive and racist nature of the former president’s comments.” But was Trump’s comment racist or factual?

“Black jobs” are low-income jobs allocated to Black people and these jobs prevents them from building generational wealth. The reverse of “Black jobs” are “White jobs” and these are high-remunerative jobs that allow many White people to accumulate generational wealth.

In the District of Columbia (DC) and elsewhere low-wage private security guard employment is mostly a “Black job,” are nursing home jobs. According to [ZipRecruiter](#), the nationwide average wage for private security guard jobs is \$19 per hour and [Indeed.com](#) said that the average hourly wage for a nursing home assistant is \$20.28.

Likewise, many highly paid jobs in US corporations, federal and local governments, universities, and elsewhere, are mostly “White jobs.” For instance, the top jobs in the Biden administration were mostly allocated to White people, because these are “White jobs,” even though in the 2020 primary Black voters in South Carolina revived Biden’s campaign. However, Blacks in South Carolina and elsewhere were not rewarded with high remuneration jobs in the Biden administration.

Mr. Trump articulated a known fact, that employment discrimination still exists in the USA, and it leads to “Black jobs” or low-wage jobs for most Black people in the USA.

It appears that liberals do not want to acknowledge the available employment data, which consistently shows Black people in low-wage jobs.

Being employed is not only about having a job but more importantly it is also about having a good-paying job, a “White job.” Thus, it is deceptive to claim low unemployment and ignore the low wages tied to “Black jobs.”

Mr. Trump said what many Democrats know and are unwilling to say, there are “White jobs” that Black people are unable to obtain even when duly qualified, and these are highly remunerative jobs.

For instance, in many black communities, firefighter's employment is a "White job." [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) lists the average wage for firefighters at \$57,400 per year. Whites who set up the hiring requirements for firefighter employment often use racial filters to exclude blacks.

However, as reported by [National Public Broadcasting \(NPR\)](https://www.npr.org), "Thousands of low-level offenders have become a crucial component of how the state battles wildfires," including Black inmates, for \$2.00 an hour.



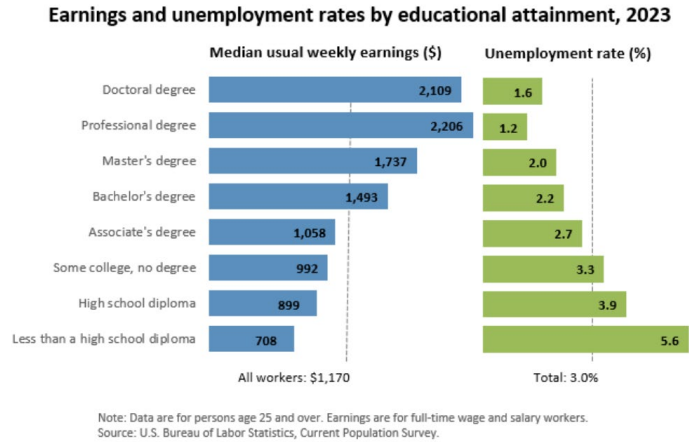
[The Census Bureau in Table A-1](#) indicated that the median income in 2020 for Asians was \$94,903, for Whites \$71,231, for Hispanics \$55,321, and for Blacks \$45,870; the median is the value that separates the higher half of a data sample from the lower half. In [Table S1902](#), the Census Bureau documented the mean income in 2022, for Asians \$53,030, for Whites \$49,045, for Blacks \$29,385, and Hispanics \$26,830; mean income is per capita income.

Thus, the Census Bureau data indicates that low-wage jobs are allocated to Blacks and Hispanics and conversely high-wage jobs are allocated to Asians and Whites people. Of course, aside from favoritism/discrimination, poor education and lack of access to capital are factors that also affect the job allocation process. However, in a discriminatory environment, educational attainment does not always lead to better job outcomes.

The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS) noted that "Among people 25 years and older, the share of the labor force with at least a high school was more than 93 percent each for Whites, Blacks, and Asians in 2022. For Hispanics, the share of the labor force with at least a high school diploma was 80 percent. Asians were the most likely of the groups to have graduated from college: 68 percent of Asians in the labor force had a bachelor's degree and higher, compared with 44 percent of Whites, 34 percent of Blacks, and 25 percent of Hispanics."

The educational attainment between Whites and Blacks is not significant, yet Whites earn significantly more than Blacks, which might be attributed to the "Black Jobs" syndrome.

The chart below from the [BLS](#) provides earnings and employment rates by educational achievement in 2023. It shows that educational achievement is a key success factor in achieving generational wealth. However, the public-school systems in most, if not all, depressed communities do not educate.



The government can and must play a role in improving the education system in depressed communities, as well as ensuring an effective Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to ensure community funding.

Of course, there are exceptions to the “Black jobs” pattern and some of those Blacks that are the exception will continue to defend the status quo and pretend, despite the data, that “Black jobs” do not exist.

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