



BlackEconomics.org®

“A Black American Employment Bulletin: An Updated Forecast”

In 2011, **BlackEconomics.org** analyzed and forecasted out to 2050 seven important Black American economic variables in a monograph entitled [53](#): Population, employment, income, entrepreneurship, educational attainment, criminal justice, and health. This bulletin follows up that analysis in consideration of Black America’s future.

The “Do Nothing” forecast from 53 for employment was:¹

	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Black American Employment (Millions)	15.0	18.1	20.6	23.5	26.8

According to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), average Black or African American employment in 2020 was 17.9 million.²

We produced forecasts of Black American Employment out to 2050 by: (1) Adopting BLS’s Black or African American Civilian Noninstitutional Population (CNIP), Labor Force (LF), Employment, and Unemployment estimates for 2020; (2) extrapolating the 2020 CNIP estimate out to 2050 using the 1980-to-2020 average annual growth rate in the CNIP-to-Black American Alone Population ratio (see [Population Bulletin](#) for population estimates out to 2050); (3) applying the 1980-to-2020 average ratios of LF-to-CNIP and Employment-to-LF throughout the 2020-to-2050 period to generate forecasts for LF and Employment; and (4) computing Unemployment as LF less Employment, and the Unemployment Rate as the ratio of Unemployment-to-LF.

	2020	2030	2040	2050
Black American Employment (Millions)	17.9	19.3	20.4	21.4

The just given 2050 forecast of employment is associated with a population of 57.3 million; a noninstitutional population of 38.4 million; a labor force of 24.2 million (a 63.1 percent labor force participation rate); and 2.8 million of unemployed Black Americans (an unemployment rate of 11.7 percent). Except for 2020 (the COVID-19 effect), the labor force participation and unemployment rates are consistent with historical averages. However, the employment-to-population ratio over the 2020-to-2050 period declines from the 1980-to-2020 average, which anticipates an aging population and a world of less work as we know it today.

¹ The “Do Nothing” forecast assumed that Black Americans would not adopt any policies or actions to modify our 2010 modus operandi through 2050.

² Historical BLS statistics on the Black or African American Civilian Noninstitutional Population, Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment are available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/data.htm> (Ret. 111821).