The Labor Supply In A Booming Economy

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Washington DC
July 10 2019
America’s Invisible Jobs Crisis


If the USA still had year 2000 “work rates” today, about 8 million more men and women would have paying jobs right now.

## US male “work rates”:
Right Now vs. Selected Depression Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year and source</th>
<th>Employment to population ratio, men 20-64 (percentage of civilian non-institutional population)</th>
<th>Employment to population ratio, men 25-54 (percentage of civilian non-institutional population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2019 (BLS, seas. Unadj.)</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940 (Census)</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>86.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930 (Census)</td>
<td>88.2*</td>
<td>91.2*^</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: * = calculated for total enumerated population, not civilian non-institutional population
^ = 25-44 population—corresponding male 25/44 work ratio for 2015 would be 85.3 for civilian non-institutional population alone

The Great Postwar “Flight From Work” by Men
(seasonally unadjusted), monthly data

NILF to Unemployment Ratio
(Unemployment = 100)
1950s 97
1960s 137
1970s 158
1980s 120
1990s 196
2000s 238
2015 305
2018 404

The Uncanny Regularity of the Male Flight From Work

NILF Rates for Men 25-54 Years of Age: USA, 1965-2019

VARIABLES

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<tr>
<td>month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
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<td>Observations</td>
<td>712</td>
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<td>R-squared</td>
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Notes: Recession variables- The data used to create this figure is from the “Current Population Survey” (CPS) as was downloaded from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data used to create the regression table in the upper left corner is also from the “Current Population Survey” but was downloaded from IPUMS-CPS for statistical manipulation. Recession dummy variables for the following recessions spanning the subsequent years: (1969-1970), (1973-1975), (1980-1982), (1990-1991), 2001, and (2007-2009).

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Unfilled Positions Today: Not Just Chemical Engineers and Coders

Job Openings by Industry: USA, April 2019 (000s)

- Total: 7,449
- Private Sector: 6,726
  - Construction: 404
  - Transportation, warehousing, and utilities: 373
  - Retail trade: 837
  - Accommodation and food services: 899


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https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V65.0

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Disability Archipelago
Disability Benefits and Means Tested Benefits by Education:
Non-Labor Force Men Aged 25-54, 2013 (percent)

Source: SIPP
Ex-Con Explosion
Estimated Population of Felons and Ex-Felons: USA, 1948-2010