

Depression Comparisons - Employment levels - United States

(As of 2010)

1930's - 1940's	1980's - 2000's
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Total Current Population

121,000,000	295,000,000
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	1930's - 1940's	1980's - 2000's
percent of total population of working age	48	52
percent of the eligible workers that are men	90	50
percent of the eligible workers that are women	10	50
total number of full time eligible male workers at the end of the depression period**	52,272,000	76,700,000
total number of full time eligible female workers at the end of the depression period**	5,808,000	76,700,000
Total number of people eligible for employment at the end of the depression period.**	58,080,000	153,400,000
Length of the depression period - in years**	19	28 and counting
Percent of people estimated by the government to be unemployed during the depths of the depression period.*	22	9.7
Estimated total percentage of people unemployed, but <u>not counted</u> as unemployed due to limits on government "sampling" methods. Includes unemployed persons no longer getting unemployment checks that are not enumerated through government random sampling techniques.(This group didn't exist during the depression of the 1930's)	0	10
Estimated percent of people <u>underemployed</u> - currently working at or near poverty level wages but who formerly had a good paying job -i.e, jobs migrated to other countries, etc. (this group also didn't exist during the depression of the 1930's)	0	11
Total number of people <u>directly</u> impacted by job loss during the depression period	12,777,600	47,093,800
Number of related non-workers (per unemployed worker) suffering <u>indirectly</u> because the main breadwinner became unemployed	3.3	2
Total number of people suffering due to the depression related job losses and cutbacks	54,943,680	141,281,400
Percent of the total population suffering the effects of the depression	45.4	47.9

* The number of people unemployed during the depths of the depression of the 1930's are estimates, regardless of the source. There were no government programs in place to accurately measure unemployment during the depression period of the 1930's. The government's welfare (relief) programs at the time had limited statistical data gathering capabilities.

** The depression period 1980's - 2000's may not have bottomed out yet as this is being written (March 2010)

Summary: If the true measure of the impact of economic depression is the measure of how many human beings (citizens) are suffering, it would appear that the depression of the 1980's - 2000's is almost three times worse than the depression of the 1930's and 1940's. Even if, as the government would prefer, we instead measure the impact of the two depression periods as a percent of the total population that are suffering (taking into account population growth over the intervening period), it would still appear that we are worse off now than we were during the depths of the "great" depression of the 1930's and 1940's.