Families who experience unemployment are affected adversely in many ways. The burden of parents’ unemployment can also affect the well-being of their children. The stress associated with job loss can negatively affect parenting practices. [1] As a result, children of unemployed parents report more distress and depressive symptoms. Widespread unemployment in neighborhoods reduces resources, which may result in crowding and low-quality housing, underfunded schools, and limited opportunities for jobs, making it more difficult for people to return to work. [2]

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall unemployment rate for the United States in 2014 was 6.2%. The percent of women in the labor force has remained fairly consistent in the last few years (57%) with the percent of men in the workforce declining a percentage point to close to 70%. [3] The annual average unemployment rate in 2014 for women (16 years and older) was 5.9%, while for men of the same age range it was 6.1%. [4]

---


[5] See http://go.illinois.edu/IECAMunemploy