

The Truth: Americans Have Problems of Their Own

Union of Saints

The American people are facing **serious economic and social challenges**. Across the country many families are struggling with employment instability, rising costs of living, and the pressure of a rapidly changing global economy. While international concerns often dominate political discussion, the daily reality for millions of Americans is uncertainty about work, opportunity, and long term security.

At this moment in history, many Americans feel that their own challenges are not receiving adequate attention. Veterans, working families, and communities that built the nation continue to face economic strain, housing insecurity, and declining job stability in certain regions.

The American people have historically supported international cooperation and immigration. However, that support was always intended to exist alongside strong protection of American workers and communities. When domestic economic stability declines, citizens naturally question whether their own needs are being prioritized.

Economic data reflects that many Americans remain under financial and employment pressure.

Americans currently hold approximately **71 percent of jobs in the United States**, while immigrants account for roughly **three out of every ten workers in the labor force**. These numbers reflect the growing global diversity of the workforce but also raise questions about economic opportunity and labor competition in certain industries.

There are currently **more than seven million Americans actively seeking work**. This figure includes individuals who are unemployed and actively searching for employment. It does not include retirees, stay at home parents, discouraged workers, or people unable to work due to disability.

Economists also track a broader measure known as **U-6 underemployment**, which includes individuals who are working part time but seeking full time work, discouraged workers who have stopped searching for employment, and others who remain economically underutilized. This broader measure typically ranges between **seven and ten percent of the labor force**.

When including all adults who are not currently working for any reason, roughly **thirty eight percent of the adult population is not employed**. This group includes retirees, students, caregivers, and individuals who have left the workforce due to economic discouragement.

One particularly important category within labor statistics is that of the **discouraged worker**.

Discouraged workers are individuals who want employment and are capable of working but have stopped searching because they believe no jobs are available for them. This category is tracked by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of individuals who are not currently in the labor force.

There are several reasons why workers become discouraged.

Repeated Job Rejection

Many discouraged workers have applied to numerous positions without success. Some individuals submit dozens or even hundreds of applications while receiving few responses from employers. Over time this repeated rejection can lead workers to believe that further job searching will not lead to employment.

Lack of Available Jobs in Certain Regions

In some parts of the country there may be limited job opportunities within specific industries. When major employers close or economic activity declines, workers may feel that there are simply no suitable positions available in their area.

Skills Mismatch

Economic changes and technological development can shift the skills required by employers. Workers whose industries have changed, or whose training no longer matches market demands, may struggle to find employment even if they have significant work experience.

Age Discrimination Concerns

Some older workers report difficulty returning to the workforce after layoffs or career interruptions. While experience can be valuable, repeated rejection sometimes leads workers to believe their age is a barrier to employment.

Health or Family Responsibilities

Individuals caring for family members or managing health limitations may still wish to work but find that their personal responsibilities prevent them from meeting the demands of many jobs.

Transportation or Relocation Barriers

In some cases jobs exist but are difficult to access due to transportation limitations, relocation costs, or housing affordability in areas where employment opportunities are concentrated.

Psychological Effects of Long Term Unemployment

Extended periods without work can have significant emotional and psychological effects. Loss of confidence, financial stress, and social isolation can reduce motivation and make returning to the labor force more difficult.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that **between 300,000 and 500,000 Americans are classified as discouraged workers**, though this number changes depending on economic conditions. These individuals are included in broader measures such as U-6 underemployment but are not counted in the official unemployment rate.

The challenges facing American workers are complex and deserve careful attention. Economic policy, workforce development, and community investment all play important roles in ensuring that citizens have access to opportunity and stability.

A strong nation depends on the well being of its people. Addressing employment challenges, supporting workers, and strengthening economic opportunity at home must remain a central priority for the future of the United States.