

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [The Good News on Unemployment for Black Americans](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/23/opinion/unemployment-black-americans.html>

Author(s)	Paul Krugman
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**Summary:** The improvement in Black employment matters a lot, and not just because of the income generated. As the sociologist William Julius Wilson argued, the loss of economic opportunities as jobs moved out of urban areas was a major driving force behind social dysfunction in Black communities. I've long seen the recent emergence of social dysfunction in largely white small towns and rural areas left behind by a changing economy as a vindication of Wilson's thesis (and a repudiation of "cultural" explanations). So the fact that Black America is working again is really good news on multiple fronts. But while full employment helps, racial gaps are considerably smaller now than they were circa 2000 — arguably the last time we had truly full employment. Why? I'd argue — this will probably get me in trouble on both the right and the left — that racism and racial discrimination, while both still very real, have gradually declined over time, at least in a way that's reflected in employment numbers.

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