Economic Disparity in St. Louis City and County

Ferguson 1000
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*These are my own views, and not necessarily the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Federal Reserve System, or the Board of Governors
Who is in the Labor Force?

- Individuals who are employed OR unemployed are in the labor force.

- Individuals are considered unemployed if:
  - Neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work.”
  - Actively looking for work during last 4 weeks.
  - Were available to start a job.

- Individuals who have given up looking for a job will not be considered unemployed.
Black Working Age Population Less Engaged in Labor Market

Labor Force Participation Rate, 16-64 Year Olds

Percent

85
80
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40

St. Louis County

79
76

White, Non-Hispanic

St. Louis City

80
65

Black

Source: Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Severe Unemployment in both STL City & County

Unemployment Rate, 16-64 Year Olds
Percent

St. Louis County

- White, Non-Hispanic: 4.8%
- Black: 13.5%

St. Louis City

- Black: 19.9%

Source: Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Recession Hit Black Men and Women Harder

Unemployment Rate, All 16-64 Year Olds, St. Louis County

Percent

Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.
Recession Hit Black Men and Women Harder

Unemployment Rate, All 16-64 Year Olds, St. Louis City

Percent

Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.
Labor Market Difficulties Yielding Severe Poverty

Family Poverty Status in Past 12 Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>St. Louis County</th>
<th>St. Louis City</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Poverty Rate Falling in County

Poverty Rate, All Families, St. Louis County

Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.
Poverty Rates Diverging, Divide Largely Unchanged

Poverty Rate, All Families, St. Louis City

Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Gray area indicates years in which recession occurred.
Summary

- Census data indicate sizeable divide in unemployment rate and poverty rate for black job seekers and families.

- Given lack of stable employment, black families are disproportionately below poverty line.

- Ferguson 1000 and its partnerships with local employers, job fairs, and other innovative programs are important drivers of job growth for our underserved communities.
Job Seeker Resources

Personal Finance 101 Chats (Interview Tips & W-4 Guide)
https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/personal-finance-101-chats

STL Youth Jobs
http://stlyouthjobs.org/

Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.
https://www.ulstl.com/about-us/
For More Information on Our Center...

Center for Household Financial Stability

stlouisfed.org/hfs

*In the Balance* Research Essays

stlouisfed.org/publications/in-the-balance

FRED Economic Data

research.stlouisfed.org/fred2