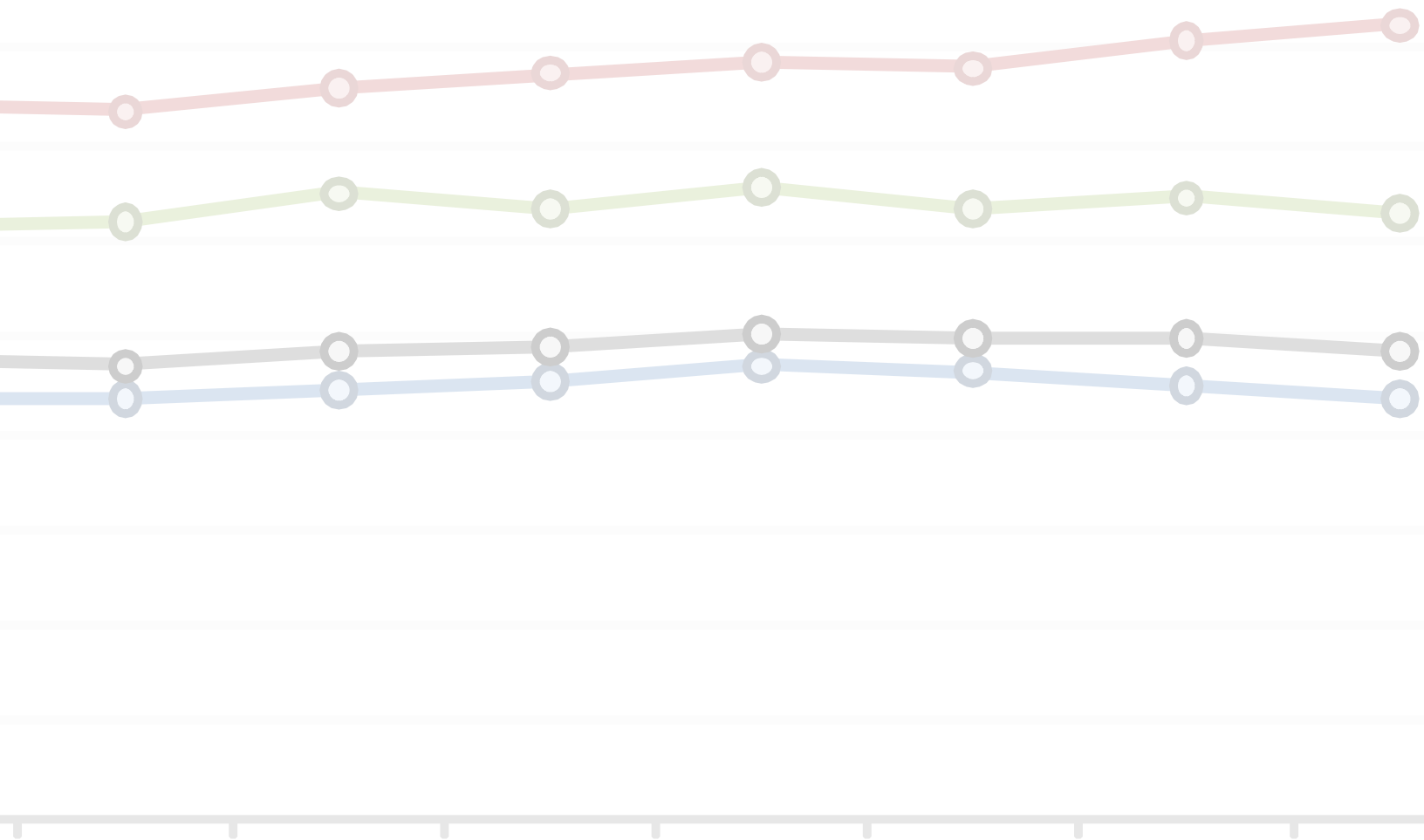




JUNE 2010

# RACE-RECOVERY INDEX

## IS STIMULUS HELPING COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS?



KIRWAN INSTITUTE

FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

**john a. powell**  
*Executive Director*

**Andrew Grant-Thomas**  
*Deputy Director*

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## KIRWAN INSTITUTE

*The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity is a university-wide interdisciplinary research institute. We generate and support innovative analyses that improve understanding of the dynamics that underlie racial marginality and undermine full and fair democratic practices throughout Ohio, the United States, and the global community. Responsive to real-world needs, our work informs policies and practices that produce equitable changes in those dynamics.*

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## STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

**Keischa Irons**, *Research Assistant*

**Matthew Martin**, *GIS/Planning Specialist*

**Jason Reece**, *Senior Researcher*

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### NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Employment for the month of May increased by 431,000 non-farm jobs, however the primary addition of workers came from the 411,000 temporary jobs created to assist with the 2010 Census data. Most of these jobs will come to an end in a few months, leaving the future employment of a significant number of new workers undetermined. For the economy to continue on a progressive path, 100,000 jobs must be created per month over the summer months in order to support new entrants to the labor force. These new entrants will include high school and college graduates who will soon be seeking work.<sup>1</sup> Conversely, job growth in the private sector fell short of the estimated projection of 150,000 jobs, instead creating only 41,000 jobs.

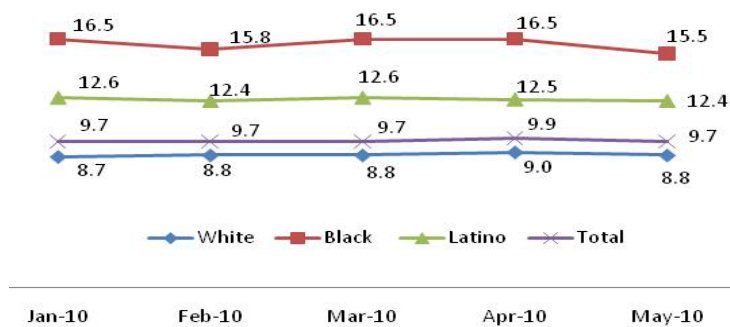
Unemployment rates for the Black population decreased by one percent, while Latino and White unemployment remained about the same from April to May 2010. It is notable to mention that Blacks faced a higher unemployment rate throughout the recession and recovery, usually in the 15 to 16 percent range (see **Table 1**). **Table 1** shows a detailed breakdown of unemployment data by race for the last year, while **Chart 1** graphs these same recent trends from January to May 2010.

Table 1: Unemployment Rates Month by Month

Race	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10
White	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.1	9.4	9.3	9.0	8.7	8.8	8.8	9.0	8.8
Black	15.0	14.8	14.7	15.2	15.5	15.7	15.6	16.2	16.5	15.8	16.5	16.5	15.5
Latino	12.7	12.3	12.4	13.0	12.7	13.1	12.7	12.9	12.6	12.4	12.6	12.5	12.4
Total	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.8	10.1	10	10	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9	9.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 1: Recent Trends in National Unemployment



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

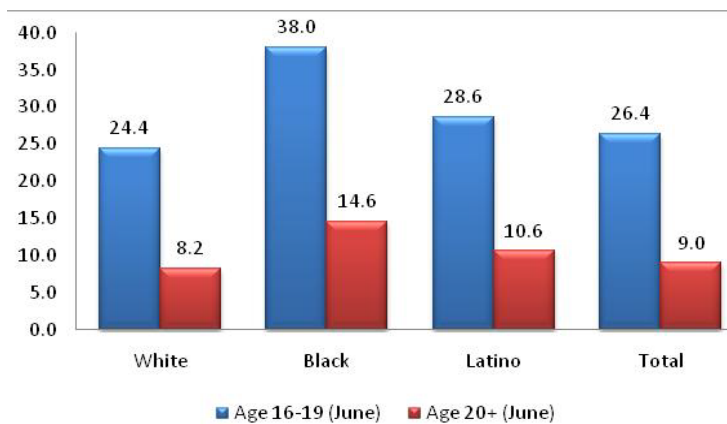
<sup>1</sup>[New York Times- Unemployment Rates May 2010](#)



### UNEMPLOYMENT BY RACE AND AGE

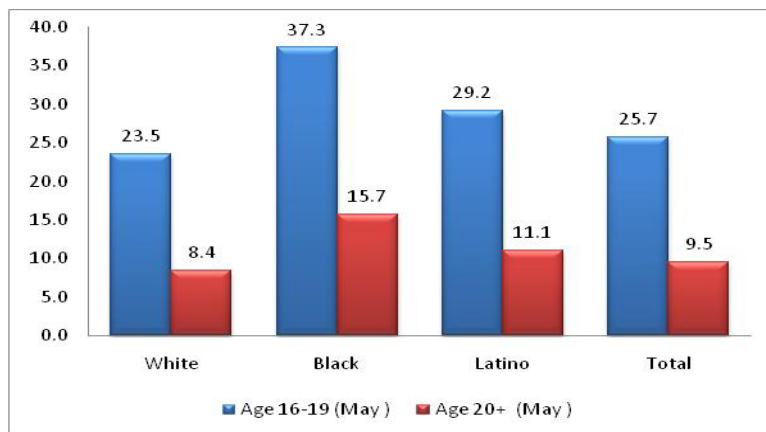
Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an increase in unemployment for the age group 16 to 19 from May 7 to June 4, 2010 (refer to charts 2 and 3), particularly for Black and White youth. The increase in unemployment rates may possibly be attributed to high school graduation rates, and the fact that more teens join the work force in the month of May in search of summer employment. **Charts 2 and 3** show the disparity gaps of unemployment by age and race.

**Chart 2 : National Unemployment by Race and Age as of June 4, 2010**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Chart 3 : National Unemployment by Race and Age as of May 07, 2010**



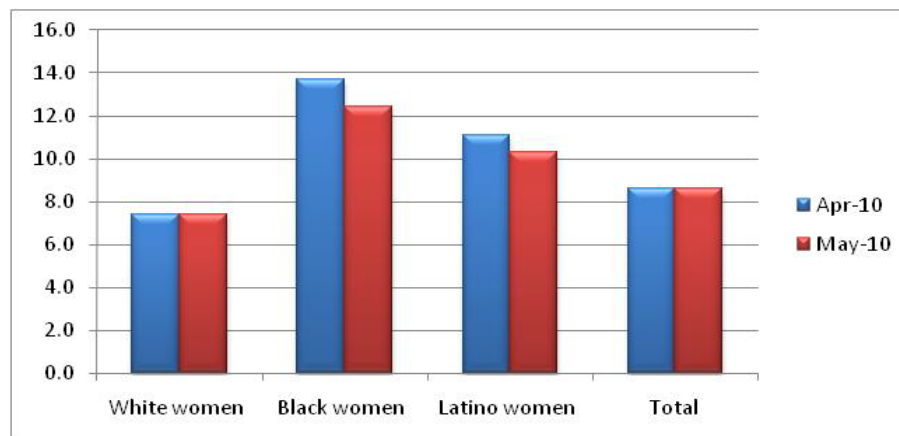
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



### UNEMPLOYMENT BY RACE AND GENDER

While unemployment for White women remained constant over the past month, unemployment for Black and Latino women decreased from April to May 2010 (**Chart 4 shows** the decrease of unemployment by race and gender). Job creation in the month of May, coupled with the decrease in unemployment for Black and Latino women, indicates that these two groups comprised a bulk of the Census workers added to the labor force. **Table 2** depicts the constant trends in national unemployment for white women and a drop in unemployment for Latino and Black women.

**Chart 4: National Unemployment by Gender as of June 4**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Table 2: Trends in Unemployment for Women February-June 2010**

Race	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10
White Women	6.8	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4
Black Women	13.3	12.1	12.4	13.7	12.4
Latino Women	11.5	11.3	12.0	11.1	10.3
Total	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.6	8.6

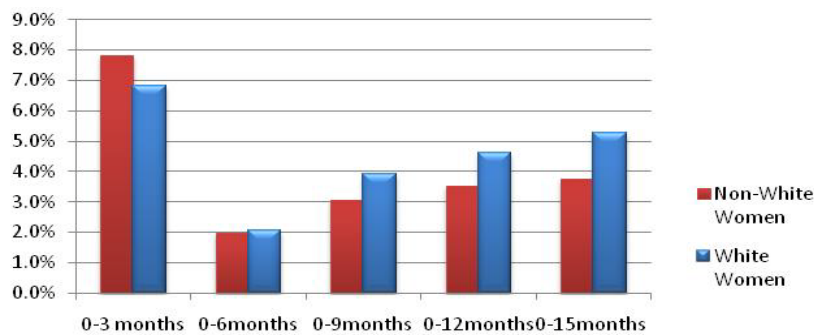
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



*FEDERAL ARRA CONTRACT PROCUREMENT*

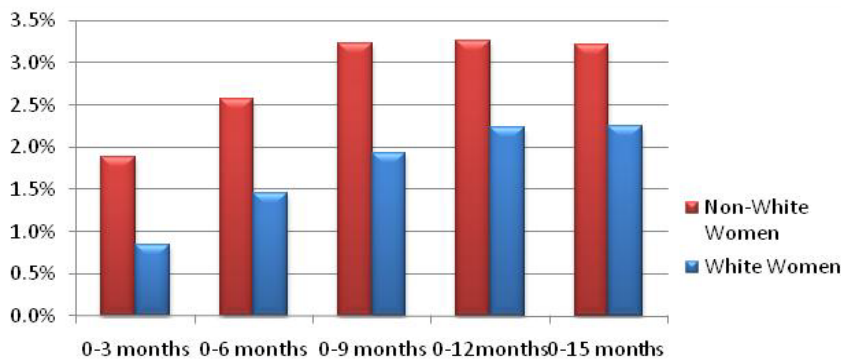
Tracking stimulus contracts allocated to minority- and women-owned businesses provides another snapshot of how equitably these contracts are having impact. **Chart 5** shows a breakdown of total contracts received by White and non-White women-owned businesses since February 2009. Note that White women have received a larger number of the total contracts overall than non-White women over the fifteen-month time frame. In contrast, non-White women-owned businesses have received a greater total dollar value of the contracts than White women (See **Chart 6**). Information from the Federal Procurement Data System shows that many contracts to businesses owned by non-white women were handed down from the Department of Air Force and the Department of Army, justifying the large dollar value reflected.

**Chart 5: Percentage of Total Contract Procurements to Women-Owned Businesses February 2009-May 19, 2010**



Source: Federal Procurement Data System ([www.fpds.gov](http://www.fpds.gov)), Recovery Report

**Chart 6: Percentage of Total Contract Value for Women-Owned Businesses February 2009- May 2010**

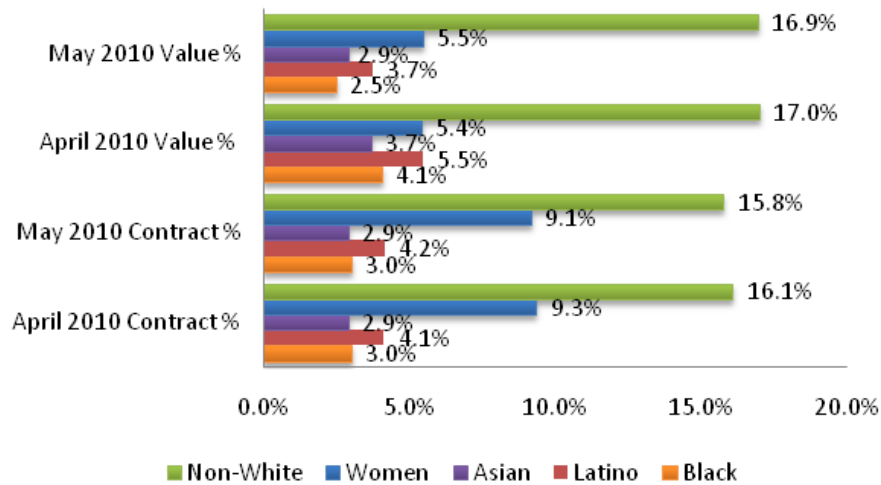


Source: Federal Procurement Data System ([www.fpds.gov](http://www.fpds.gov)), Recovery Report



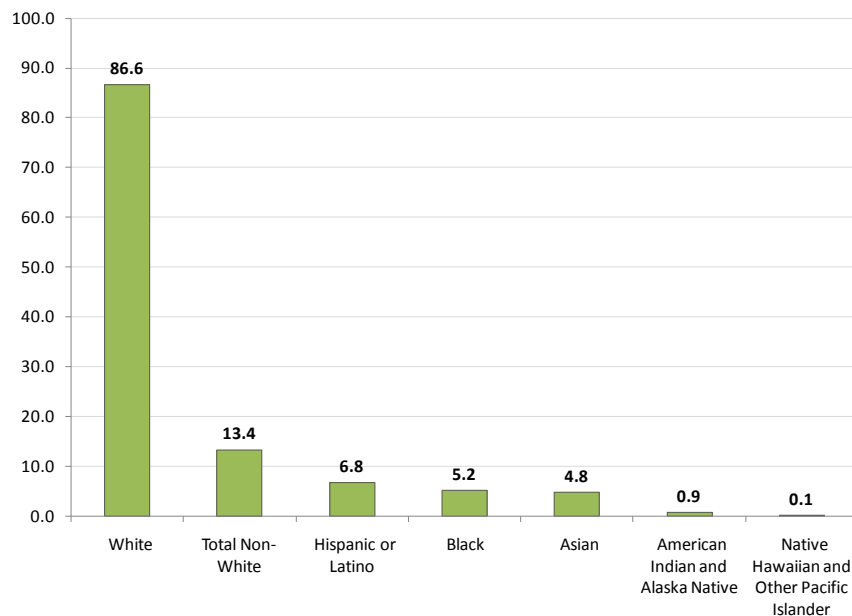
A comparison with previous month shows that overall contract volumes remained relatively constant for each group, dollar values of contracts dipped slightly. Specifically, total contract values for Latino-, Asian- and Black- owned businesses show a small decrease from April to May as shown in **Chart 7**.

Chart 7: Federal ARRA Contract Procurements



Source: Federal Procurement Data System ([www.fpds.gov](http://www.fpds.gov)), Recovery Report

Chart 8: Share of All U.S. Businesses, by Race of Business Owner



Source: US Economic 2002 Census Survey of Businesses



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## RACE-RECOVERY INDEX

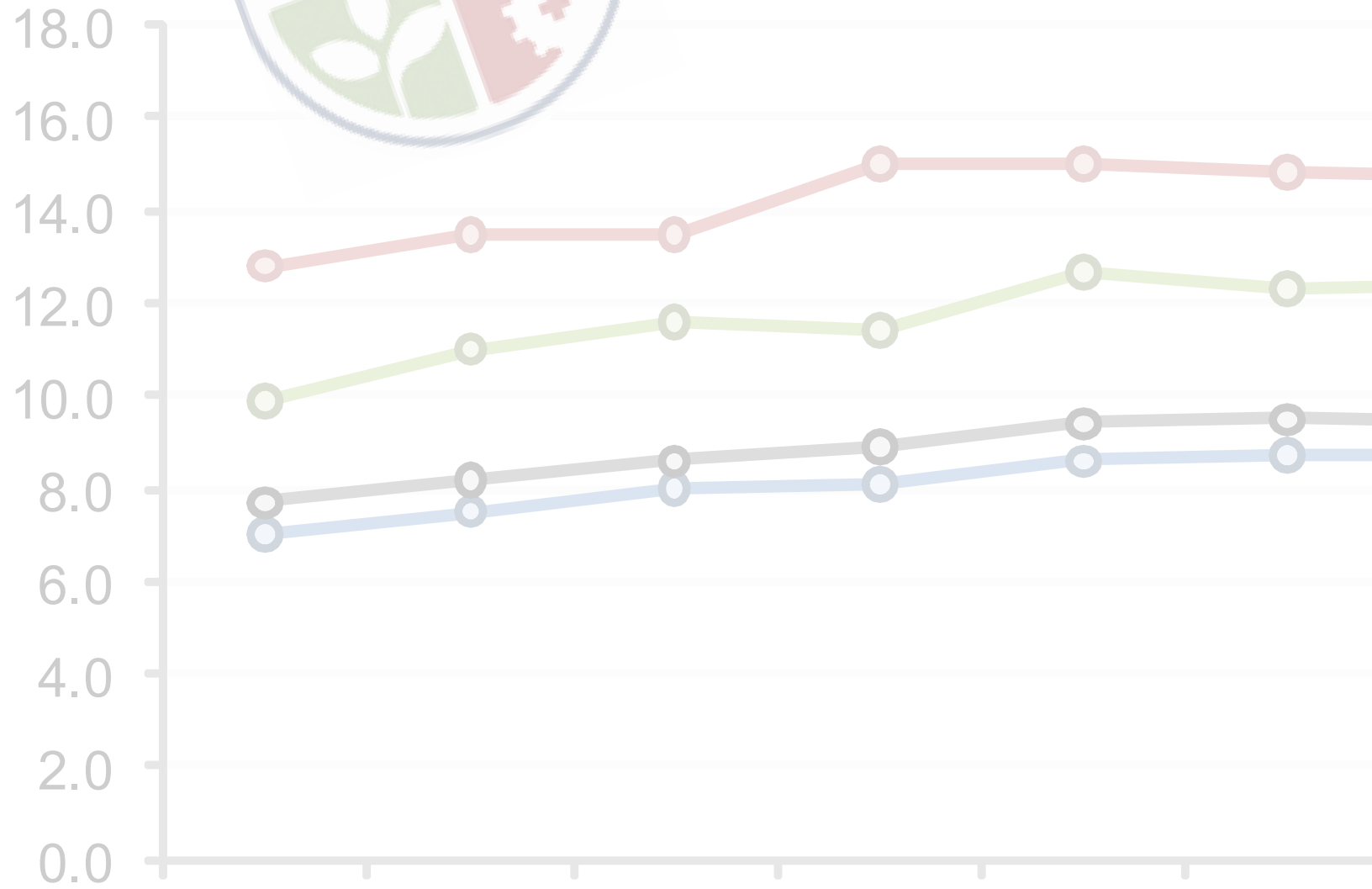
*The Race-Recovery Index, a project of the Kirwan Institute, is designed to measure how all people, but particularly marginalized populations, are faring in the midst of the national recovery efforts. The two primary tools for measurement used on a monthly basis are the national unemployment figures by race, and the Federal contract procurement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Additional forms of measurement may eventually be added.*

*For more information, please visit:*

*[www.fairrecovery.org](http://www.fairrecovery.org)*

**FairRecovery.org**

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**KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY**  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
433 MENDENHALL LABORATORY | 125 SOUTH OVAL MALL | COLUMBUS OH 43210  
Ph: 614.688.5429 | Fax: 614.688.5592  
Website: [www.kirwaninstitute.org](http://www.kirwaninstitute.org)