Chart 4-1. Selected labor force characteristics of blacks or African Americans

In 2005, blacks or African Americans comprised:

- 11 percent of the labor force
- 15 percent of those working part time for economic reasons
- 22 percent of the unemployed
- 29 percent of the long-term unemployed
- 25 percent of marginally attached workers

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

• Blacks are more likely than other groups to experience labor market problems. For instance, while blacks made up 11 percent of the U.S. labor force in 2005, they accounted for 22 percent of the unemployed and 29 percent of the long-term unemployed (persons unemployed for 27 weeks or longer).

• Also, blacks comprised a disproportionate share of the marginally attached—persons who were available for work and had searched for work during the prior 12 months but who were not currently looking for work.