

Hourly Wage Labor Market in South Bend: Survey of Area Men

Which racial or ethnic categories describe you? Check as many as apply.

- African American/Black
- European American/Caucasian (White)
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian
- Other: Specify _____

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- GED
- High school graduate
- Some college or technical school but no degree
- Community college, technical school or associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree or above

How old are you? _____ years

Do you have any children? Yes No **If YES, how many?** _____

Do any of them live with you? Yes No **If YES, how many?** _____

Are you married? Yes No

What best describes your current living situation? You may check more than one.

- Alone
- With biological mother and/or biological father
- With another relative or adoptive parents
- With wife
- With girlfriend or child's mother
- With friends
- No stable living situation or at a shelter

How often do you use the Internet?

- I have never used the Internet
- I have used the Internet a few times in my life
- Occasionally
- About once a month
- About once a week
- Daily

Do you have a formal, regularly scheduled job right now? Yes No

Have you ever held a formal job for more than three months? Yes No

How many hours per week do you usually work, either at a formal job or doing odd jobs here and there? _____ hours per week

About how much money do you earn from employment in a typical month, either at a formal job or doing odd jobs? \$ _____ per month

What do you do when you need more money than your income provides?

- _____ Borrow from family
- _____ Borrow from friends
- _____ Family gives me money
- _____ Friends give me money
- _____ Ask strangers
- _____ Somehow I always find some
- _____ Other

Do you owe child support? Yes No Don't Know

If YES, how much of your paycheck from a formal job would go to child support?

- _____ None
- _____ About 10%
- _____ 10 to 25%
- _____ 25 to 50%
- _____ More than half my paycheck

On a formal job, would taxes be deducted from your paychecks?

Yes No Don't Know

If YES, how much of your paycheck from a formal job would go to taxes?

- _____ None
- _____ None and I might get more money back from the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit)
- _____ About 10% of my paycheck would go to taxes
- _____ 10 to 25%
- _____ 25 to 50%
- _____ More than half my paycheck

If you are not working at a formal job right now, what is the main reason for this?

- _____ I choose not to work
- _____ I would like to work but I cannot find a job or cannot take one right now

If you CHOOSE NOT TO, why? Check as many as you want.

- _____ I am just not the type of person who has a steady job
- _____ Unfriendliness or lack of respect from co-workers or customers
- _____ I prefer to do other things with my time
- _____ Work is too boring
- _____ Keeping the schedule of a regular job is too hard or too much hassle
- _____ Child support payments would take too much out of my paycheck
- _____ There is no point in working, since I can't save enough money to get ahead
- _____ Other: _____

If you WOULD LIKE TO BUT CAN'T, why? Check as many as you want.

- I am not qualified for the available jobs because reading, math or computers are difficult for me
- I am not qualified because I need a high school degree or GED
- Immigrants are taking all the jobs that I could do
- Employers won't hire me because they are biased or racist
- Employers won't hire me because I have a criminal record
- There are no jobs at all
- There are no good jobs
- I am not healthy enough to work right now
- Other: _____

Have you tried looking for a steady job in the last year? Yes No

How many openings did you see or hear about for steady jobs that you could do?

- None A few Some A lot

How many jobs did you apply for last year?

- None, but I was looking for help wanted signs or advertisements.
- None, I wasn't looking.
- 1
- 2 or 3
- 4 or more

In general, how would you describe your experiences applying for formal jobs? Check as many as you want.

- I have never applied for one
- I've had no problems or negative experiences filling out job applications
- Filling out the applications is tedious but it is not hard
- Filling out applications is difficult and time consuming
- Even if a job is posted, it is hard to figure out when, where and how to apply for it
- Making a special trip just to fill out an application is a hassle
- People have been unfriendly or unhelpful when I asked for an application

Would you like a steady job if one were offered to you tomorrow? Yes No

If YES,

... do you want a part-time job or a full-time job? Full Part time

... what is the lowest hourly wage you would accept to take a job today? \$ _____ per hour

... what is the hourly wage you think you deserve? \$ _____ per hour

Do you see yourself wanting a steady job one year from now? Yes No

If YES,

... do you think you will want a part-time job or a full-time job? Full Part time

... at that time, what is the lowest wage you think you will accept? \$ _____ per hour

Do you see yourself wanting a steady job five years from now? Yes No
If YES,

... do you think you will want a part-time job or a full-time job? Full Part time

... at that time, what is the lowest wage you think you will accept? \$ _____ per hour

What are the main aspects of a job, besides the pay, that would make you not want to take it? Assume that you are qualified to do the job. Check as many as you want.

- Wearing a uniform
- Working for a white manager
- Working for a woman manager
- Working with people who are not your friends
- Unpredictable hours
- Transportation issues
- Always having to show up at a particular time
- The manager seems not to like or trust you
- Messy or dirty work
- A job where others might try to get discounts or free items from you
- None of these really bother you

Black men without a high school degree have very high unemployment rates. In your opinion and drawing on your experience as a Black man, what is the main reason for this? Check one.

- Most employers are biased or are reluctant to hire these men for reasons unrelated to the job
- Most Black men do not really want steady jobs so they do not apply
- Most Black men want a job but not the jobs they are qualified to do or that are available
- Most employers cannot hire these men because they do not have the people skills or work ethic to be good employees
- Most employers cannot hire these men because they do not have the technical qualifications for existing jobs
- Other _____

Have you ever used any government or community services to help you become employed? Yes No

Which of the following potential programs do you think would most help you to get a job or get a better job? Pick one.

- A program to help me get my GED on my own time and at my own pace
- Part-time high school to help me pick up where I left off in school and keep me on schedule
- A program where I could share a job with one or two friends, and we could work out between us how to cover our shifts
- A program to help me prove to employers that I can have good attendance
- A program that would tell employers about the other good activities that I do, like taking care of my children sometimes or helping at church
- None
- Other _____

Would you take advantage of such a program if it were available to you tomorrow?

Yes No

Would you take advantage of such a program if it were available to you next year?

Yes No

Most formal jobs pay their workers every other week. Does this schedule make a formal job more or less appealing?

_____ Much less
_____ A little less
_____ No effect
_____ A little more
_____ Much more

If you could receive your pay on a schedule of your choosing, which of the following would you pick? Check one.

_____ Paid every day at the end of work
_____ Every other week with two surprise cash advances of \$50 given randomly per month
_____ Every week
_____ Every other week

Do you care whether you are paid in cash or with a check?

_____ Yes, I prefer cash
_____ Yes, I prefer a check
_____ No

The last few questions ask you about how you deal with situations that involve taking chances. The questions may surprise you, but your answers will help us understand your answers to the earlier questions.

Do you smoke cigarettes or marijuana?

_____ No, never _____ Yes, occasionally _____ Yes, regularly

How many alcoholic drinks did you have on an average day in the last year?

_____ 0 _____ 0 to 1 _____ 1 to 2 _____ 2 to 5 _____ More than 5

How often do you wear a seatbelt when riding in a car?

_____ Never _____ Occasionally _____ Sometimes _____ Often _____ Always

Do you try to avoid places or situations if you suspect there will be loaded firearms present?

_____ Never _____ Occasionally _____ Sometimes _____ Often _____ Always

If you learned that there were good entry level jobs hiring men like yourself in Chicago, would you go there to try to get a job? Yes No

... in Atlanta, Georgia? Yes No
... in California? Yes No
... in Elkart or Mishawaka? Yes No

When you are hanging out on the street, do you sometimes ask strangers who walk by for money?

Never Occasionally Sometimes Often Always

Finally, imagine a situation in which you have to choose between two good jobs that you can have every year for life. The jobs are the same but have different salaries.

The FIRST job pays you a salary of \$20,000 for sure. The SECOND job pays one of two possible salaries with 50-50 odds. You must pick one job only. You cannot go back to the first job after you have learned the salary of the second job.

Which job would you take?

First job: Certain salary of \$20,000

Second job: Salary of either \$13,200 or \$40,000 with 50-50 odds. Whichever it is, you are paid that for life.

If you chose the SECOND, would you still take the second job if it paid either \$10,000 or \$40,000 with 50-50 odds?

Yes

No: Take the certain salary of \$20,000.

If you chose the FIRST, would you switch to the second job if it paid either \$16,000 or \$40,000 with 50-50 odds?

Yes

No: Stick with the certain salary of \$20,000.