



Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010

SUMMARY | NCJ 303147

DECEMBER 2021

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) produced this study to fulfill a congressional mandate in the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act, part of the 2019 Defense Reauthorization Act (P.L. 116–92, Title XI, Subtitle B, Section 1124). Congress tasked BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau with reporting on post-prison employment of persons released from federal prison.

Study population

The study population in this report includes 51,500 persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) whose release records could be linked by the U.S. Census Bureau to employment and wage files from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program. The Census Bureau assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) to BOP release records to link them to employment records from 2010 to 2014. Of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010, a total of 51,500 (70%) received a PIK. Approximately 30% (22,000) could not be assigned a PIK and were excluded from the analysis.

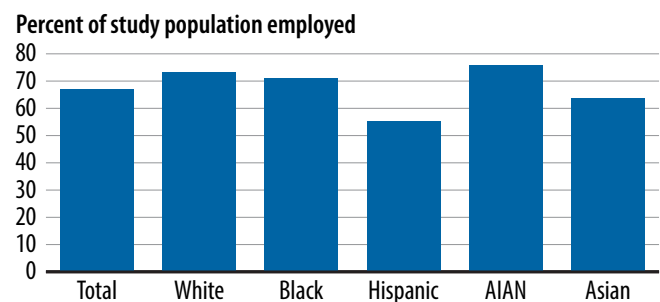
Post-prison employment

More than two-thirds (67%) of the study population released from federal prison in 2010 obtained formal employment at any point during the 16 quarters following release. However, the total study population's employment did not exceed 40% in any of the individual 16 quarters after BOP release. A third (33%) of persons in the study population did not find employment at any point during the 16 quarters after release.

Demographic characteristics

A higher percentage of females than males were employed in each of the 16 quarters following their release in 2010; however, females who were employed were paid a median of \$800 to \$1,800 less per quarter

Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during any of the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by race or ethnicity



Note: The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). AIAN denotes American Indians and Alaska Natives. See figure 1 in the report for more information.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

than employed males. In the first full quarter after release, 46% of whites in the study population were employed, compared to 37% of American Indians and Alaska Natives; 36% of blacks; 33% of Hispanics; and 33% of Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders.

Earnings after release

Median quarterly earnings for employed persons in the study population increased from \$3,500 in the first full quarter following their release in 2010 to \$6,000 in the sixteenth quarter.

The full report (*Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010*, NCJ 303147), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.