

L 2,3:
1731

BLACK



NEGROES

YS

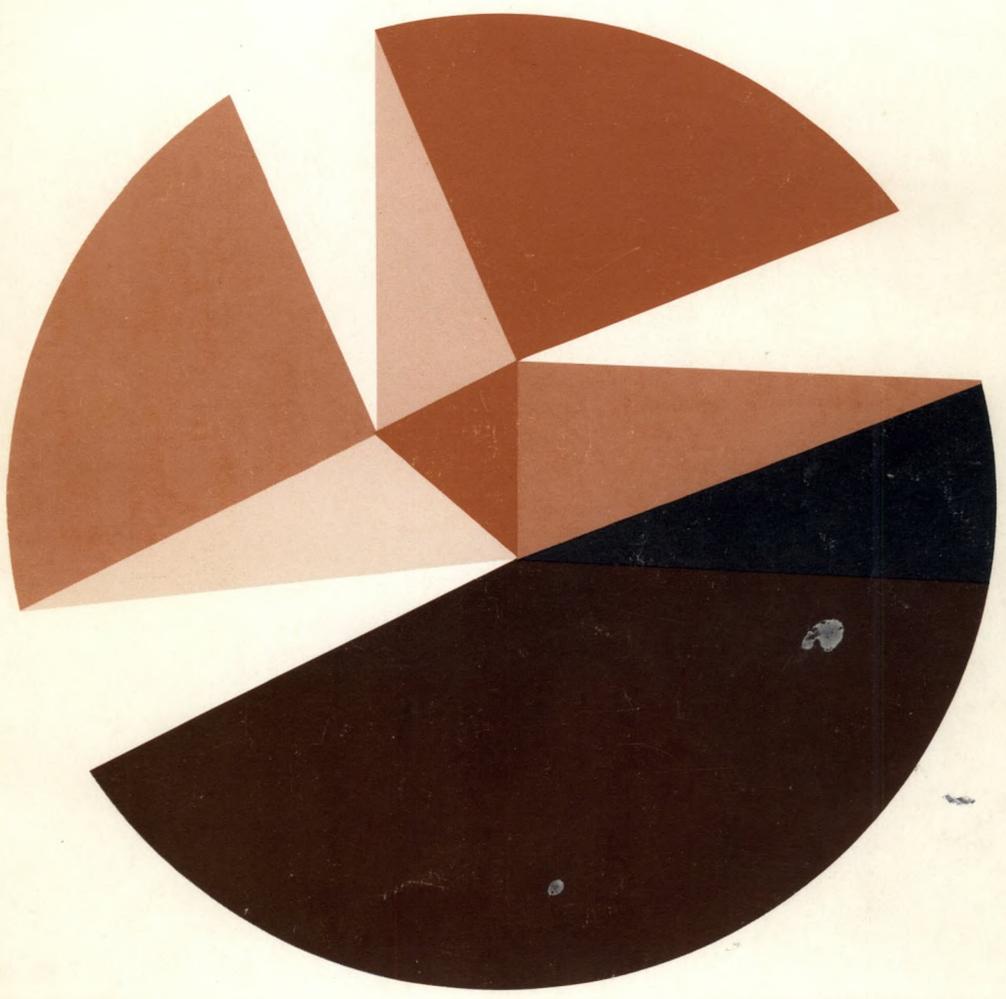
Montgomery Co. Public Library

A DECADE OF OCCUPATIONAL CHANGE

MAR 30 1972

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Bulletin 1731
1972

DOCUMENT COLLECTION



L 2,3,
1731/errata

(ERRATA)

Dayton & Montgomery Co.
Public Library

JUN 2 1972

BLACK AMERICANS

DOCUMENT COLLECTION

A DECADE OF
OCCUPATIONAL CHANGE

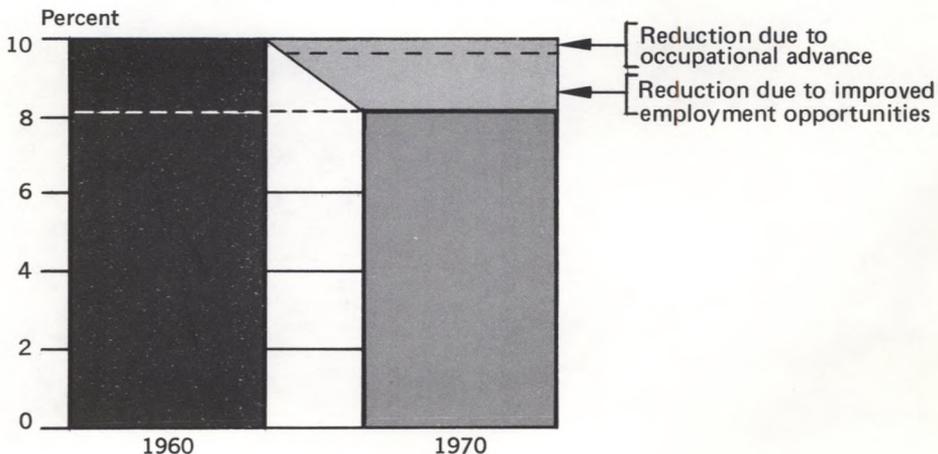
The last sentence, paragraph 1, page 1, "Introduction," should read "The change in the occupational distribution of black workers has had the effect of reducing their unemployment rate by 0.3 percentage point, and of increasing earnings more than \$10 a week for full-time workers."

Chart 3b, page 7, should read:

**IN 1970, THE BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 8.2% . . .
COMPARED WITH OVER 10% IN 1960.**

**Part of this reduction resulted from occupational advancement--
especially of black men.**

Chart 3b.
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF BLACK WORKERS



Occupational change had little or no effect on white unemployment rates.

Dayton & Montgomery Co
Paper Co

1885

DOCUMENT COLLECTION

AMERICAN
BLACK
MOVEMENT
OF
CHANGE

The following table shows the percentage of the total population of the United States which is colored, and the percentage of the colored population which is male, female, and under 16 years of age, for each year from 1850 to 1900.

Year 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900

Colored population, percent of total population 12.6 13.3 14.0 14.7 15.4 16.1

Male colored population, percent of total colored population 50.0 50.0 50.0 50.0 50.0 50.0

Table 1



Percent of colored population under 16 years of age, 1850-1900

BLACK AMERICANS

A DECADE OF OCCUPATIONAL CHANGE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
J. D. Hodgson, Secretary

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Geoffrey H. Moore, Commissioner

Bulletin 1731

1972



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402 - Price 40 cents

Stock Number 2901-0867

BACK
PAGE OVER

PREFACE

This chartbook was prepared by Sylvia Small in the Office of Economic and Social Research, Bureau of Labor Statistics, under the general direction of Robert L. Stein.

Maxine Stewart, Program Planning Officer of the Bureau, provided expert guidance.

Marian Hester was responsible for the statistical compilations underlying the charts and Susie Scandrett also contributed.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction _____	1
Opportunities for occupational advancement of black workers have been improving _____	2
The higher paid occupations tend to be more secure _____	4
Occupational change has led to higher earnings and lower unemployment for black workers _____	6
Occupational advancement is related to a better prepared black population _____	8
Black youths are staying in school longer, and more are going to college _____	10
The effect of educational and occupational advance is most apparent among <i>young</i> black workers _____	12
Educational and occupational achievements, of both young and old, have been higher in the West and North than in the South _____	14
As a result of wider job choices and increased job security, incomes of black workers have increased _____	16
The improvement in black workers' jobs and security has reduced, but not eliminated, low earners in the labor force _____	18
The future holds great promise _____	20

TABLE 1

Year	Population	Unemployment	Wages	Productivity
1950	150,000,000	6.7%	\$1,000	1.0
1955	160,000,000	6.2%	\$1,200	1.1
1960	170,000,000	6.7%	\$1,400	1.2
1965	180,000,000	6.7%	\$1,600	1.3
1970	190,000,000	7.0%	\$1,800	1.4
1975	200,000,000	7.0%	\$2,000	1.5
1980	210,000,000	7.7%	\$2,200	1.6
1985	220,000,000	7.7%	\$2,400	1.7
1990	230,000,000	7.0%	\$2,600	1.8
1995	240,000,000	7.0%	\$2,800	1.9
2000	250,000,000	6.3%	\$3,000	2.0
2005	260,000,000	5.0%	\$3,200	2.1
2010	270,000,000	4.4%	\$3,400	2.2
2015	280,000,000	4.4%	\$3,600	2.3
2020	290,000,000	4.4%	\$3,800	2.4
2025	300,000,000	4.4%	\$4,000	2.5
2030	310,000,000	4.4%	\$4,200	2.6
2035	320,000,000	4.4%	\$4,400	2.7
2040	330,000,000	4.4%	\$4,600	2.8
2045	340,000,000	4.4%	\$4,800	2.9
2050	350,000,000	4.4%	\$5,000	3.0

INTRODUCTION

Black workers have been moving up the occupational scale in recent years, away from the laborer and service occupations and toward white-collar, craftsmen, and operative jobs. In 1960, 2 in every 5 black workers were in white-collar, craftsmen, or operative occupations. By 1970, more than half were in such jobs. These occupations are less subject to unemployment and they are better paid. The change in the occupational distribution of black workers has had the effect of reducing their unemployment rate by nearly two points (1.8 percentage points) and of increasing earnings more than \$10 a week for full-time workers.

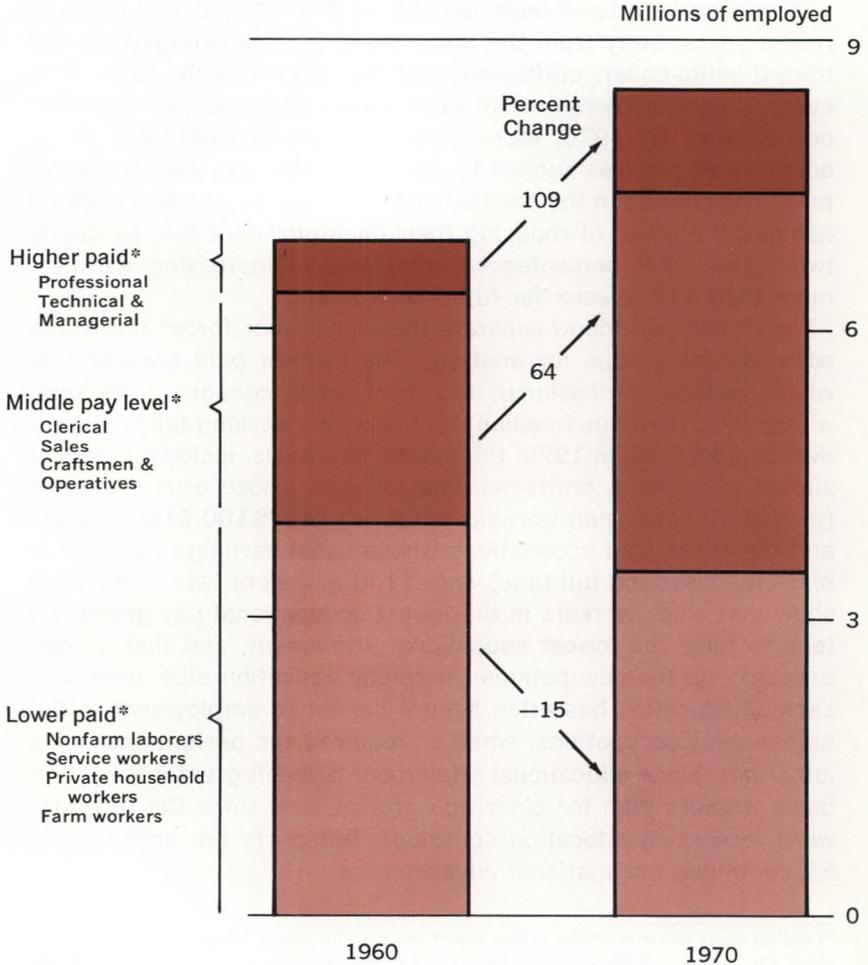
The charts that follow separate the black labor force* into three occupational groups for analysis: The highest paid occupations, which include professional, technical, and managerial workers, whose usual earnings (median) for black men working full time were over \$150 a week in 1970; the middle pay levels, including clerical and sales workers, craftsmen and foremen whose usual earnings (median of black men working full time) were \$100-\$150 a week; and the lower paid occupations whose usual earnings (median of black men working full time) were \$100 a week or less. The charts show that black workers in the lowest occupational pay groupings tend to have the lowest educational attainment, and that as one proceeds up the occupational hierarchy education also increases. Lack of education has often been a barrier to employment in the higher paid occupations, whether required for performance of a job or not. Since educational attainment is much greater for young black workers than for older age groups, and since the trend toward increasing education continues, prospects are encouraging for continued occupational advancement.

*Data for black workers shown in this report refer to the Negro population exclusively in chart 5a, 5b, 7a, and 8b. All other charts are based on data for Negro and other non-white races, 90 percent of whom are Negroes, according to the 1970 Census of Population.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OCCUPATIONAL ADVANCEMENT OF BLACK WORKERS HAVE BEEN IMPROVING . . .

BETWEEN 1960 AND 1970, THE NUMBER OF BLACK WORKERS IN HIGHER-PAID AND MIDDLE LEVEL OCCUPATIONS* INCREASED SHARPLY . . .

**Chart 1a.
BLACK WORKERS**

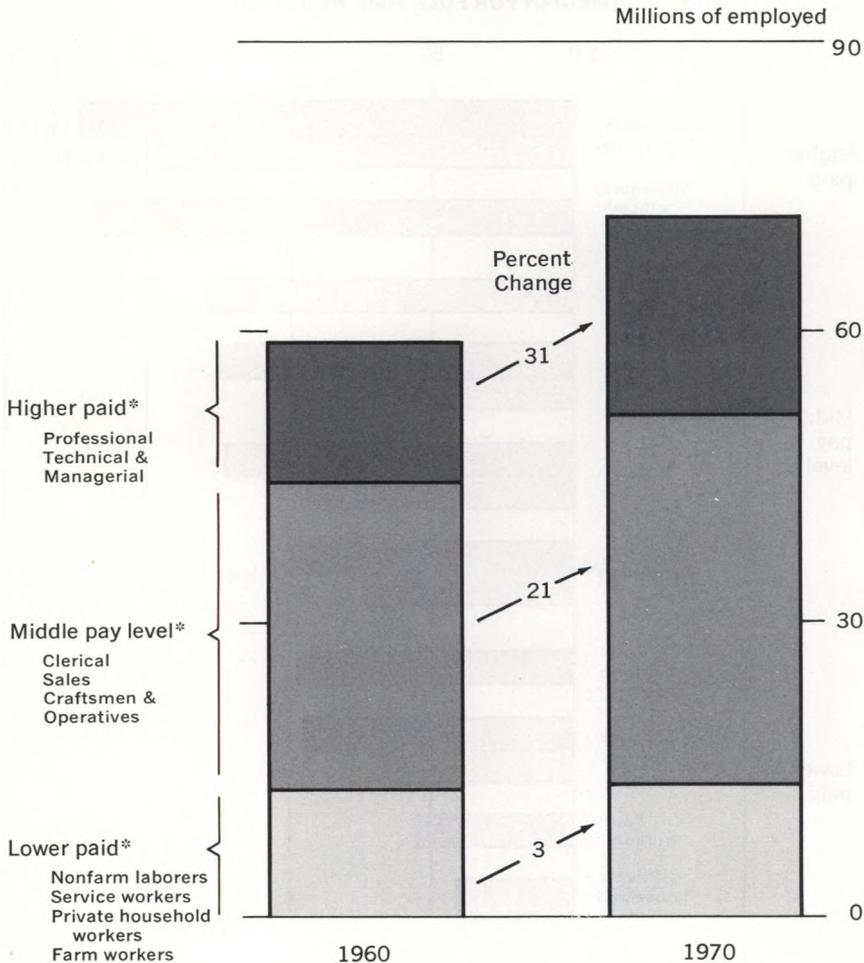


. . . while the number of black workers in lower-paid occupations decreased.

*See Introduction, page 1, for occupational pay level definitions.

GAINS OF WHITE WORKERS WERE SMALLER, PROPORTIONATELY . . .

**Chart 1b.
WHITE WORKERS**



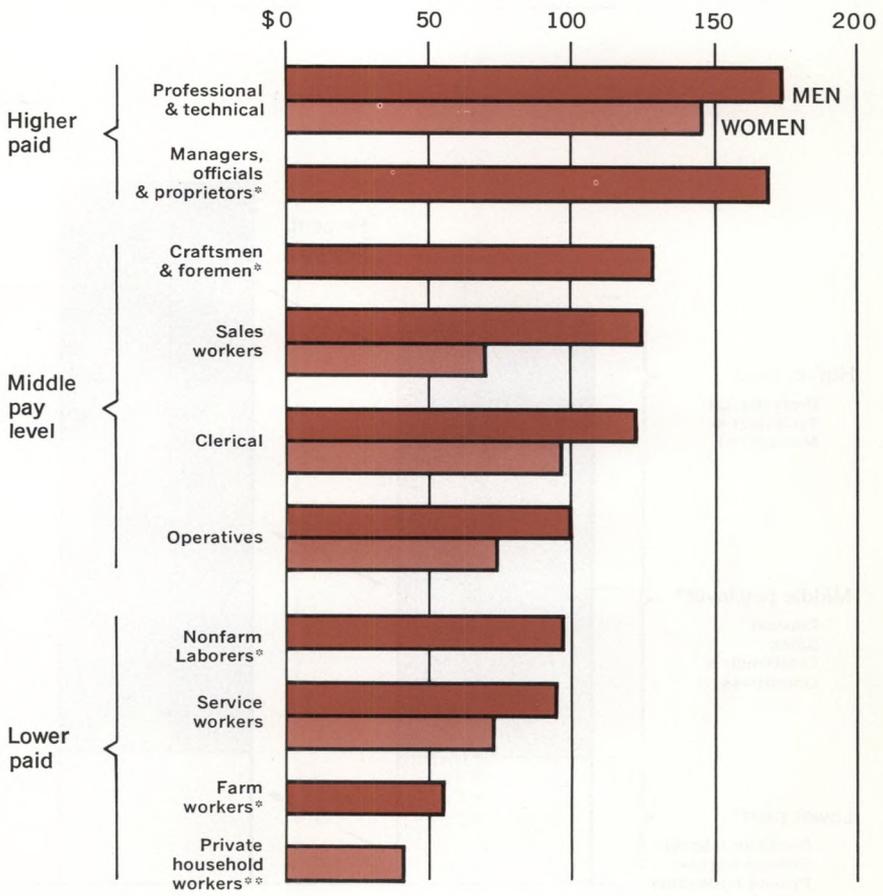
. . . but the share and number of white workers employed in the higher- paid occupations continued to be much larger than for black workers.

**THE HIGHER-PAID
OCCUPATIONS TEND TO BE
MORE SECURE . . .**

**BLACK MEN IN THE PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, AND MANAGERIAL
OCCUPATIONS EARNED ABOUT \$75 A WEEK MORE THAN LABORERS AND
SERVICE WORKERS . . .**

CENT 3

**Chart 2a.
USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS, MAY 1970
(MEDIAN FOR FULL TIME WORKERS)**

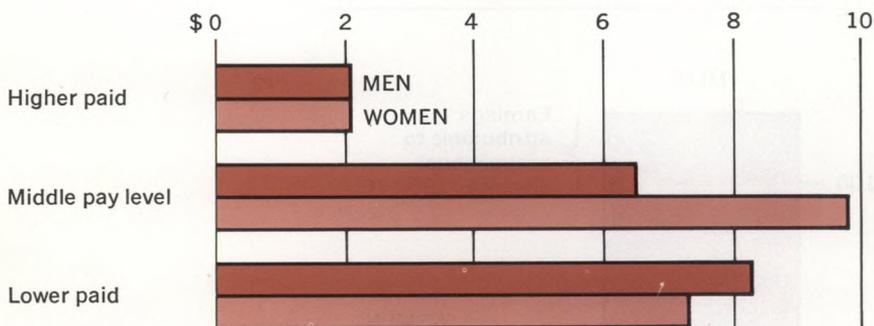


The usual earnings of black women in each occupation were generally lower than those of men.

*Number of women employed in this occupation is too small to be shown separately.
**Number of men employed in this occupation is too small to be shown separately.

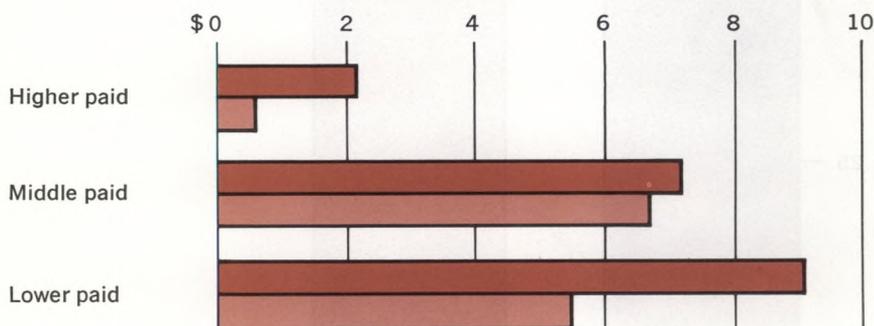
THE HIGHER-PAID OCCUPATIONS HAVE THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATES . . .

**Chart 2b.
1970 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
OF BLACK WORKERS**



And black workers in the higher-paid occupations are rarely unemployed more than once in a single year.

**Chart 2c.
PERCENT UNEMPLOYED MORE THAN ONCE IN 1970 OF
ALL BLACK WORKERS**

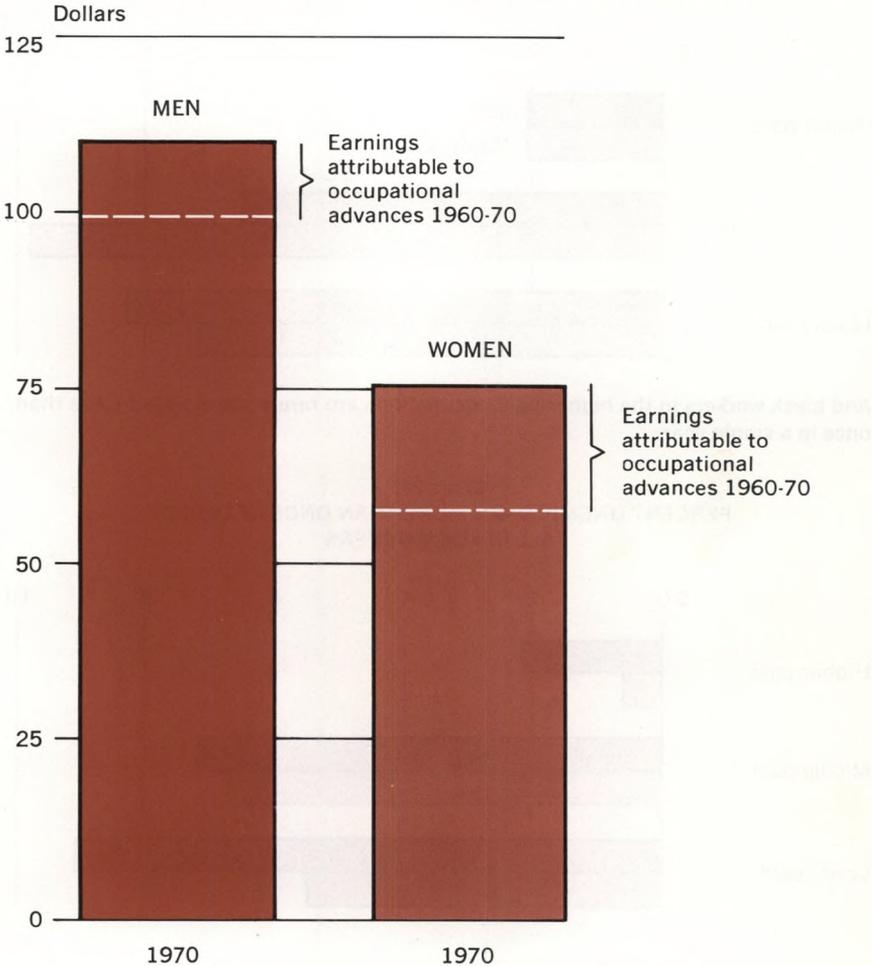


White men's unemployment rates are lower, but follow the same pattern. Women as well as men have the lowest unemployment rates in the higher-paid occupations.

OCCUPATIONAL CHANGE HAS LED TO HIGHER EARNINGS WITH LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT FOR BLACK WORKERS . . .

IN 1970, AVERAGE EARNINGS OF BLACK MEN WERE 11% HIGHER, AND OF BLACK WOMEN ABOUT 30% HIGHER THAN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IF THE BLACK LABOR FORCE HAD NOT BEEN MOVING INTO THE BETTER PAYING OCCUPATIONS . . .

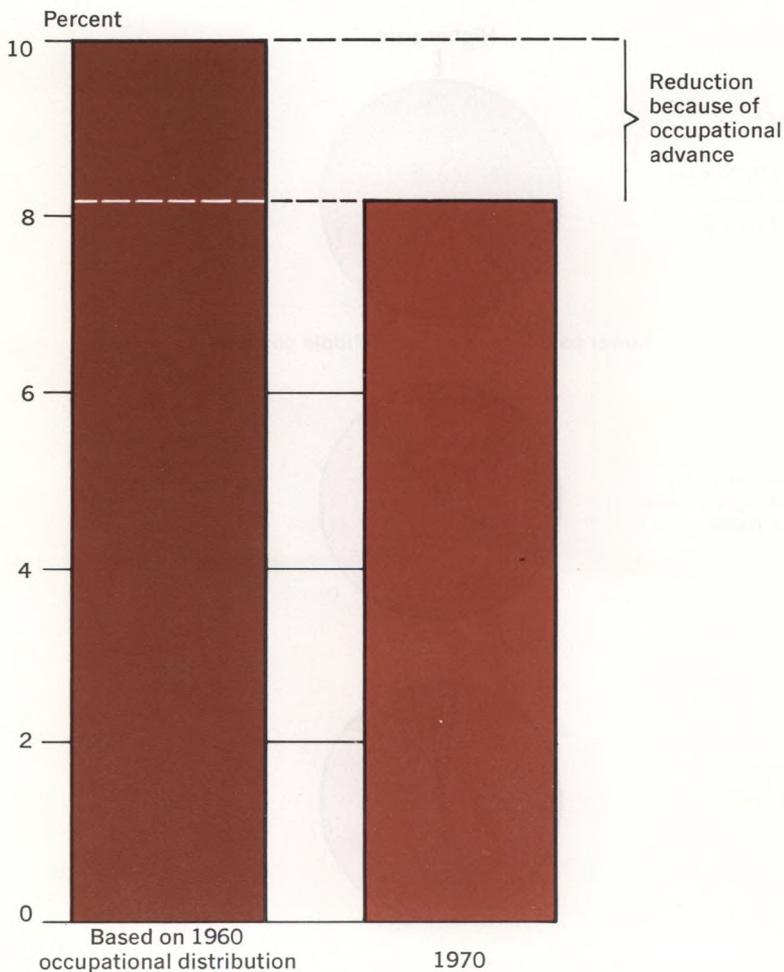
**Chart 3a.
USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF FULL-TIME BLACK WORKERS (MEDIAN)**



Similar occupational movement of white men contributed less than 3%, and of white women about 4% to 1970 earnings.

IN 1970, THE BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 8.2% . . . BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN 10% IF OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLACK LABOR FORCE HAD BEEN THE SAME AS IN 1960.

**Chart 3b.
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF BLACK WORKERS**

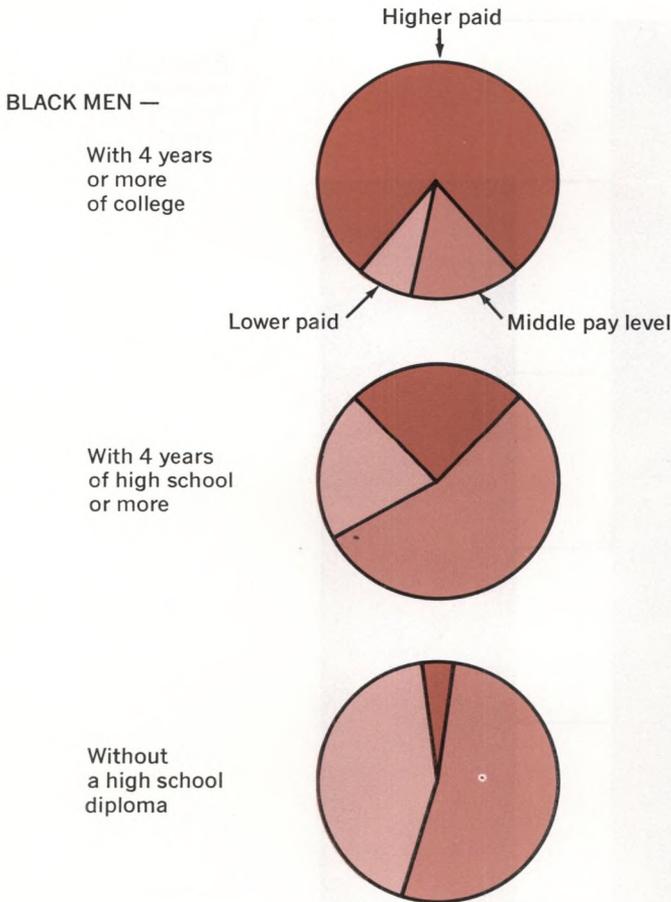


Occupational change had little or no effect on white unemployment rates.

**OCCUPATIONAL ADVANCEMENT
IS RELATED TO A BETTER PREPARED
BLACK POPULATION . . .**

**BETTER EDUCATED BLACK WORKERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FILL
HIGHER-PAID JOBS.**

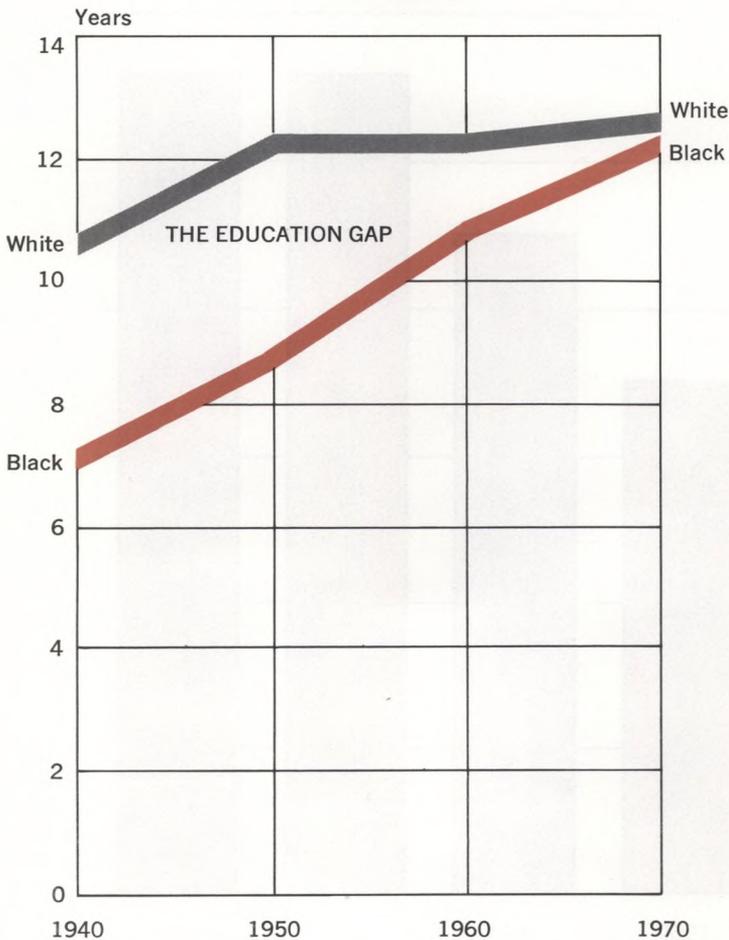
Chart 4a.



Higher educational attainment leads to higher occupational attainment for both men and women.

YOUNG BLACK ADULTS HAVE BEEN CLOSING THE EDUCATION GAP.

Chart 4b.
MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY YOUNG ADULTS
(25-29 YEARS OLD)

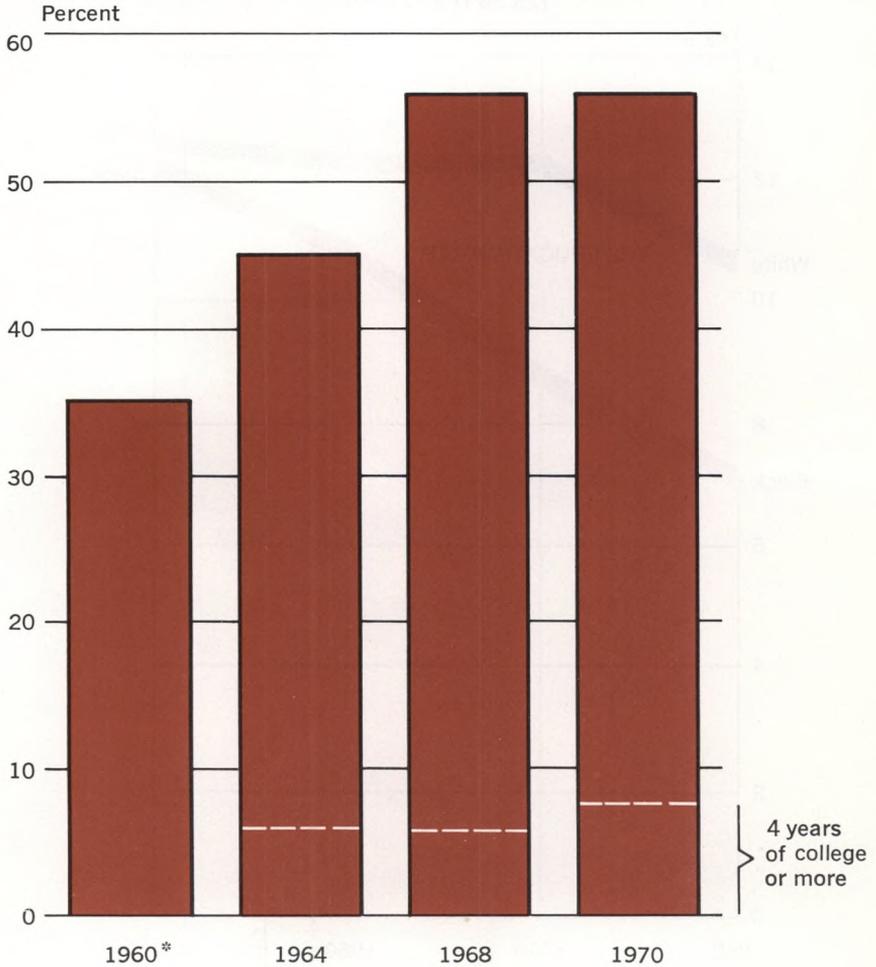


By 1970, educational attainment of young black adults was within one-half year of young white people this age. Lack of education is often a barrier to employment in better paid jobs for both black and white workers, whether education is required for performance of the job or not.

**BLACK YOUTHS ARE
STAYING IN SCHOOL LONGER AND MORE
ARE GOING TO COLLEGE . . .**

**BY 1970, MORE THAN HALF OF THE YOUNG BLACK ADULTS HAD FOUR YEARS
OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE . . .**

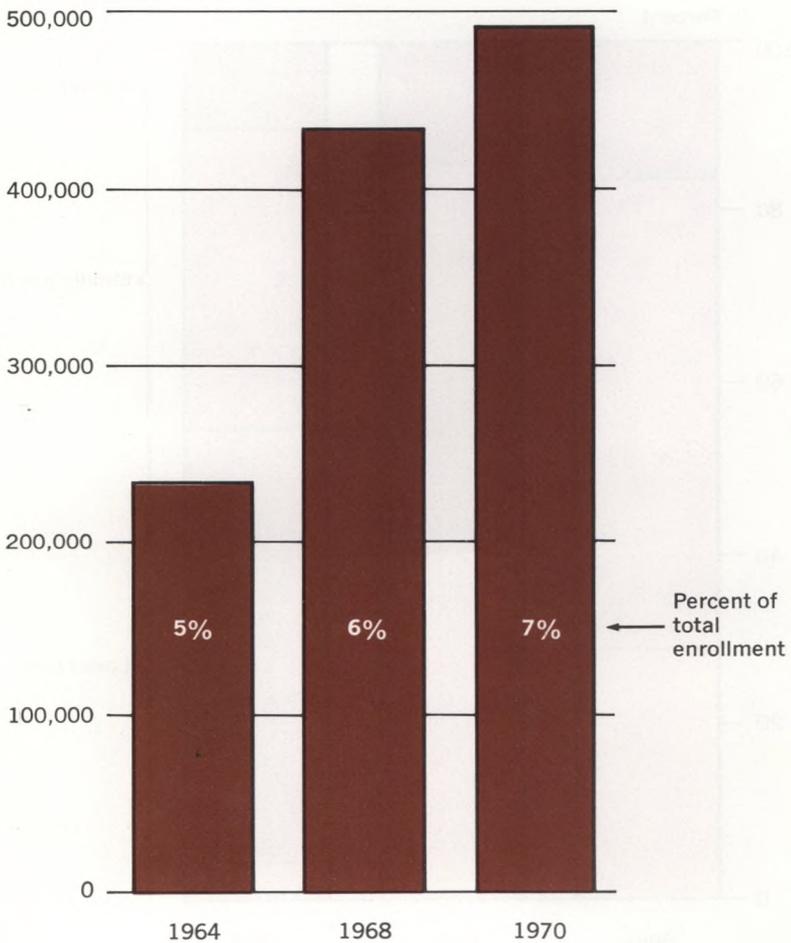
**Chart 5a.
PERCENT OF BLACK POPULATION AGES 25-29 WHO HAD COMPLETED
4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE, AND 4 YEARS OF COLLEGE**



*Data refer to Negro and other races. College data not available.

... AND COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS INCREASED SHARPLY.

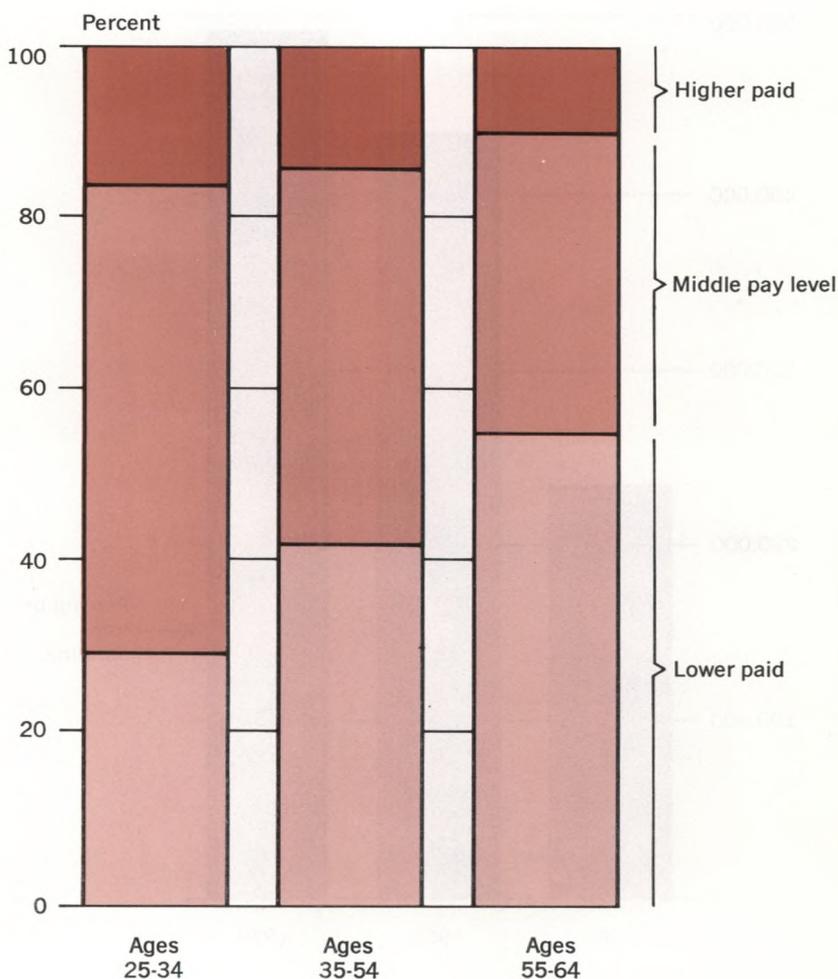
Chart 5b.
NUMBER OF BLACK YOUTH ENROLLED IN COLLEGE



**THE EFFECT OF EDUCATIONAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL ADVANCE IS MOST APPARENT
AMONG YOUNG BLACK WORKERS . . .**

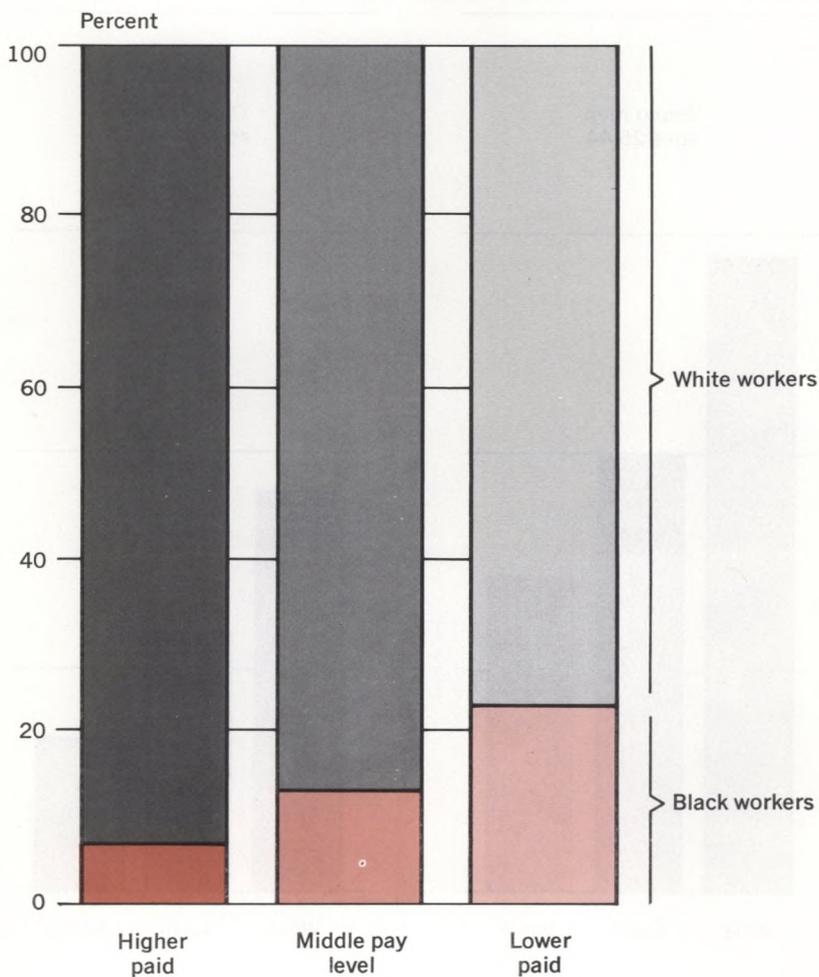
**YOUNGER BLACK WORKERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE IN HIGHER PAID
OCCUPATIONS THAN ARE OLDER AGE GROUPS . . .**

Chart 6a.



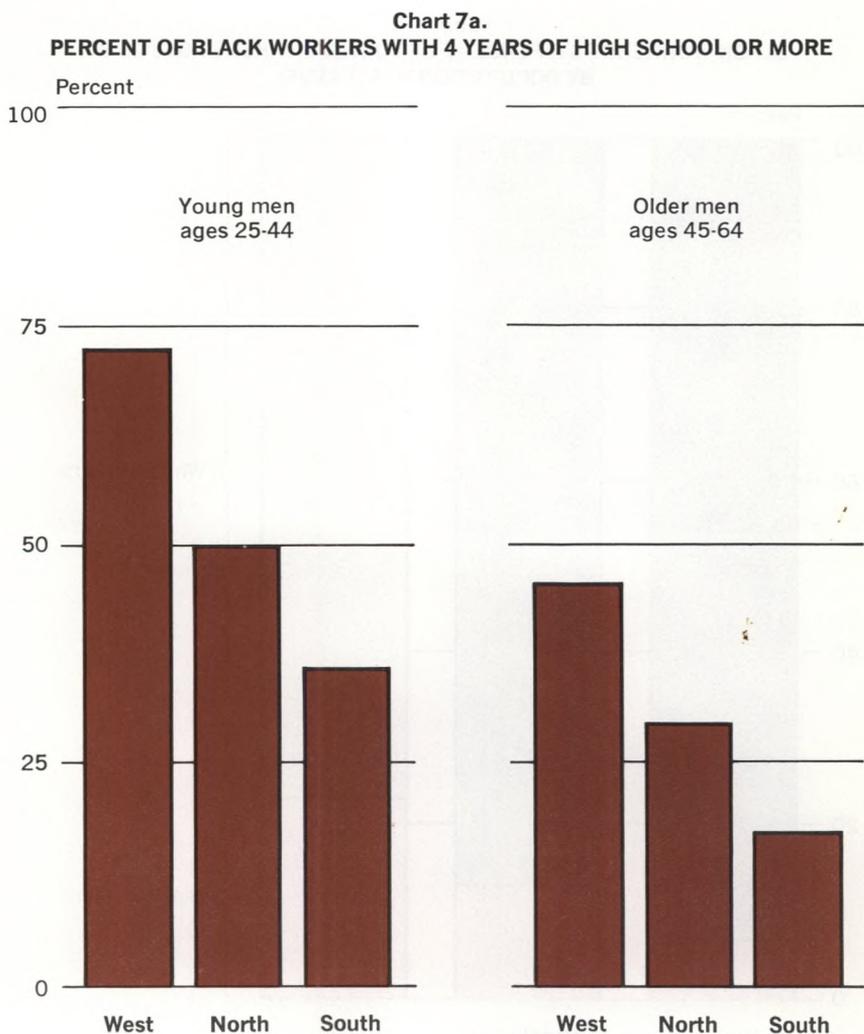
HOWEVER, DESPITE GAINS MADE BY THE YOUNG, MANY ARE STILL IN THE LOWEST PAID OCCUPATIONS.

Chart 6b.
BLACK WORKERS AS A PERCENT OF YOUNG WORKERS AGES 25-34,
BY OCCUPATIONAL PAY LEVEL



**EDUCATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS
OF BLACK WORKERS, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, HAVE BEEN HIGHER
IN THE WEST AND NORTH* THAN IN THE SOUTH**

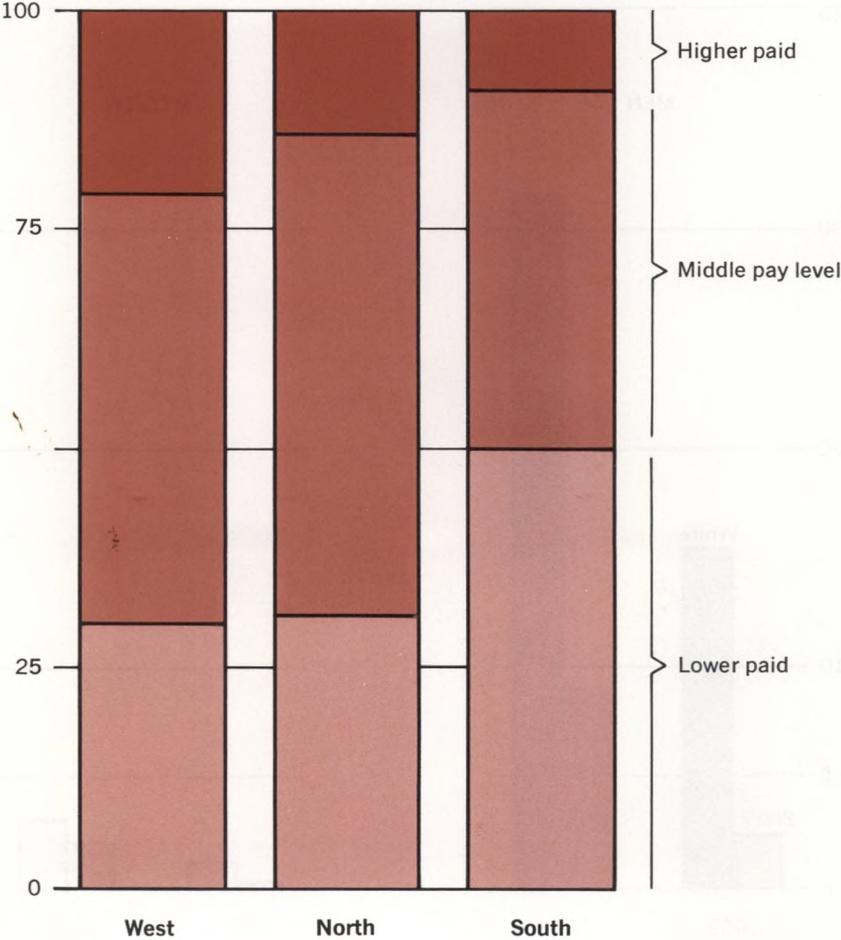
**NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF THE YOUNG BLACK MEN IN THE WEST, AND
ONE-HALF OF THOSE IN THE NORTH HAD FINISHED FOUR YEARS OF HIGH
SCHOOL OR MORE BY 1970, COMPARED WITH JUST OVER ONE-THIRD IN
THE SOUTH . . .**



*North is composed of Northeast and North Central regions.

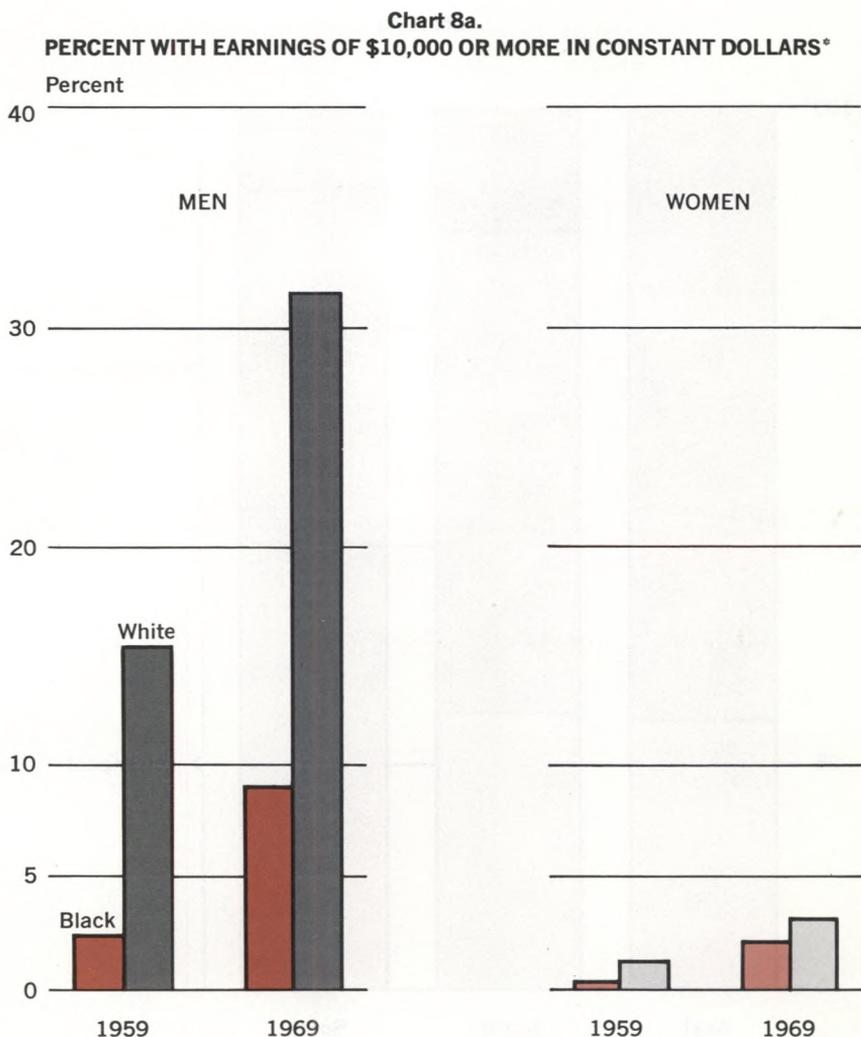
TWO-THIRDS OF THE BLACK WORKERS IN THE WEST AND NORTH ARE IN THE HIGHER OR MIDDLE PAY LEVEL OCCUPATIONS, COMPARED WITH ONE-HALF OF THE BLACK WORKERS IN THE SOUTH.

Chart 7b.



**AS A RESULT OF WIDER JOB CHOICES,
AND INCREASED JOB SECURITY, INCOMES OF
BLACK WORKERS HAVE INCREASED . . .**

**THE PROPORTION OF BLACK MEN WITH OVER \$10,000 EARNINGS*
QUADRUPLED BETWEEN 1959 AND 1969 . . . BUT WAS STILL FAR BELOW
THAT OF WHITE MEN.**

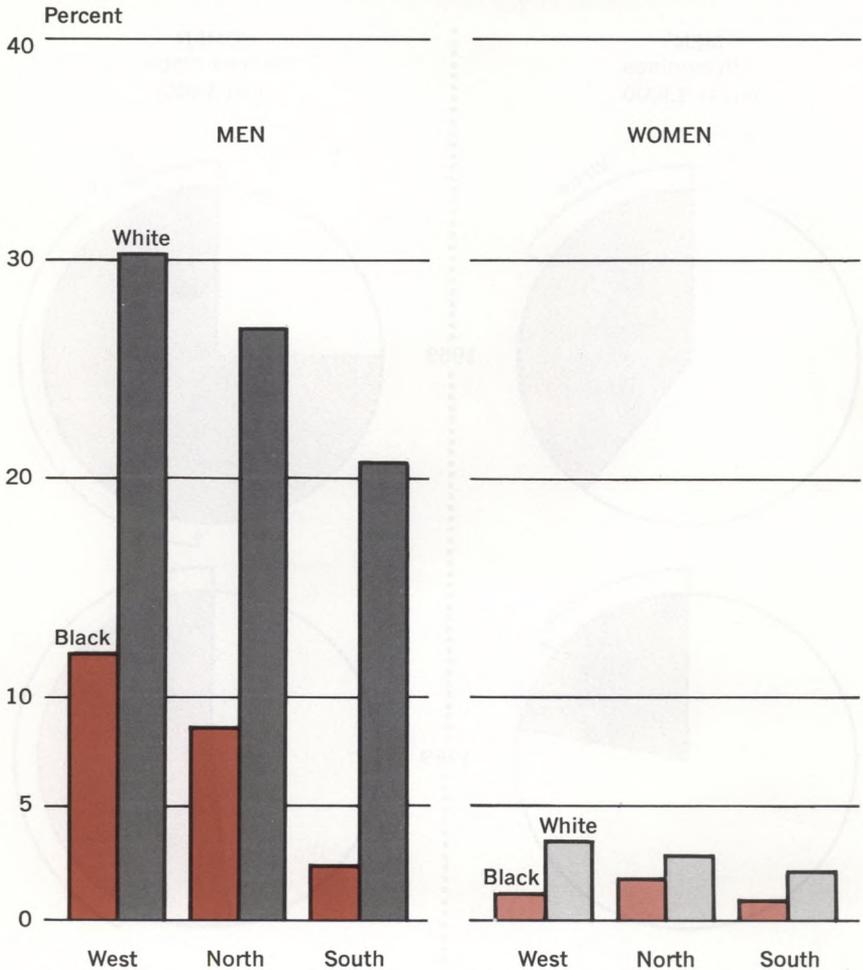


Black and white women lagged behind both black and white men in achieving such earnings, despite gains during the decade.

*In constant 1969 dollars for Negro and other races.

THE PERCENT WITH INCOME OF \$10,000 OR MORE WAS MUCH LARGER IN THE WEST AND THE NORTH THAN IN THE SOUTH FOR BOTH BLACK AND WHITE MEN.

**Chart 8b.
PERCENT OF PERSONS WITH INCOMES OF \$10,000 OR MORE IN 1969***



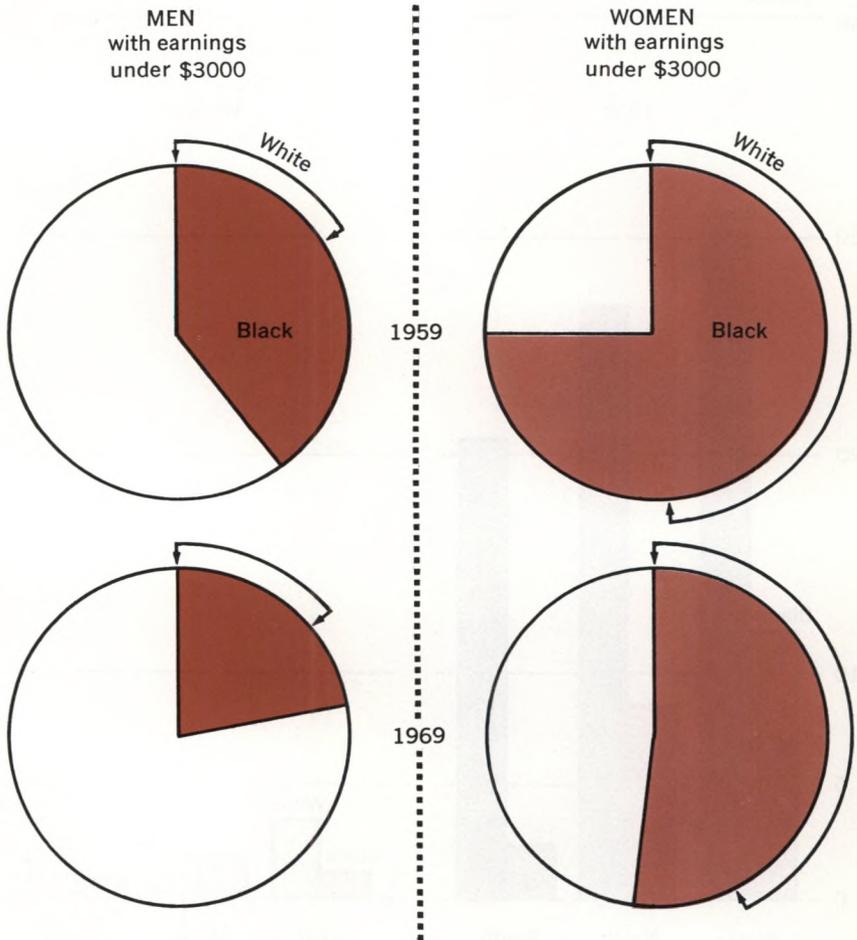
However, few women earn such incomes in any region.

*Data for black men and women refer to Negroes, only.

THE IMPROVEMENT IN BLACK WORKERS' JOBS AND SECURITY HAS REDUCED, BUT NOT ELIMINATED, LOW EARNERS IN THE LABOR FORCE . . .

THERE WAS A SHARP REDUCTION BETWEEN 1959 AND 1969 IN THE PERCENT OF BLACK MEN AND BLACK WOMEN WITH EARNINGS UNDER \$3,000*.

Chart 9a

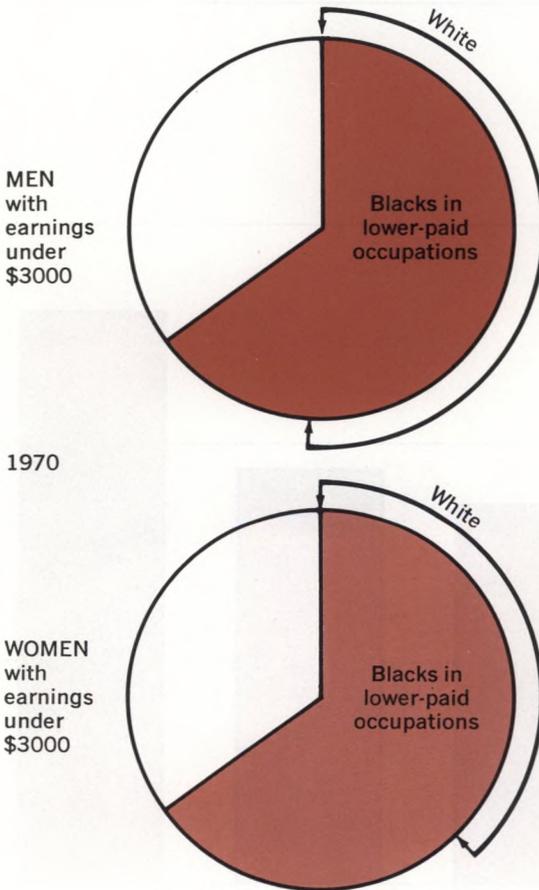


But more than half of all black women and two-fifths of all white women still had such earnings in 1969.

* Annual earnings in constant dollars.

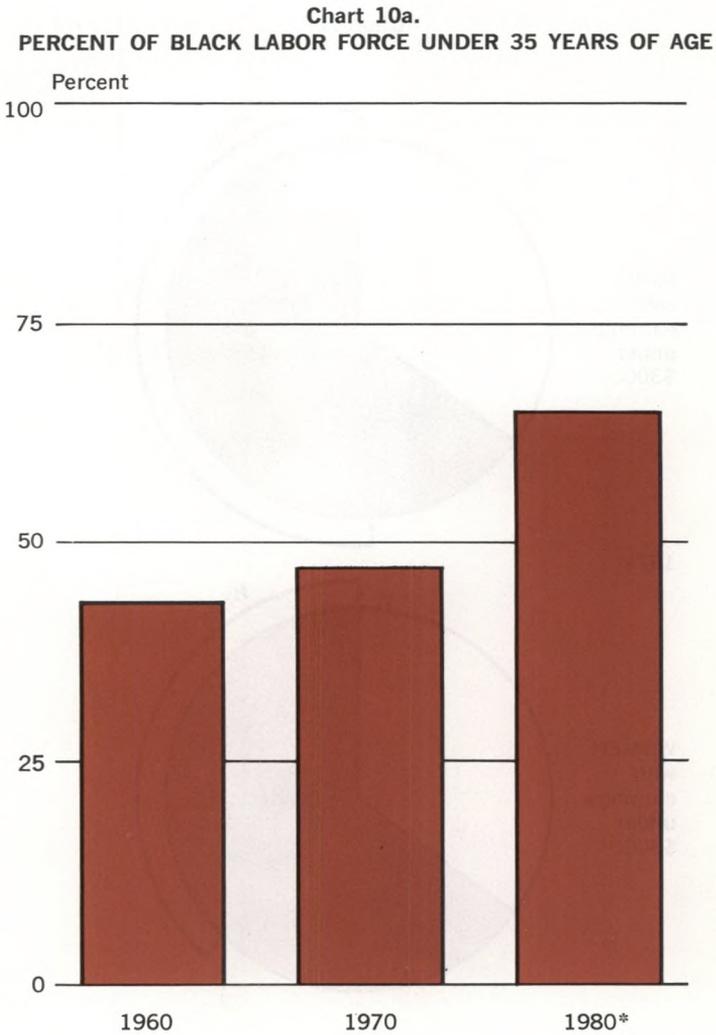
TWO-THIRDS OF THE BLACK MEN AND WOMEN WITH LESS THAN \$3,000 EARNINGS IN 1970 WERE IN THE LOWER-PAID OCCUPATIONS.

Chart 9b



**THE FUTURE
HOLDS
GREAT PROMISE . . .**

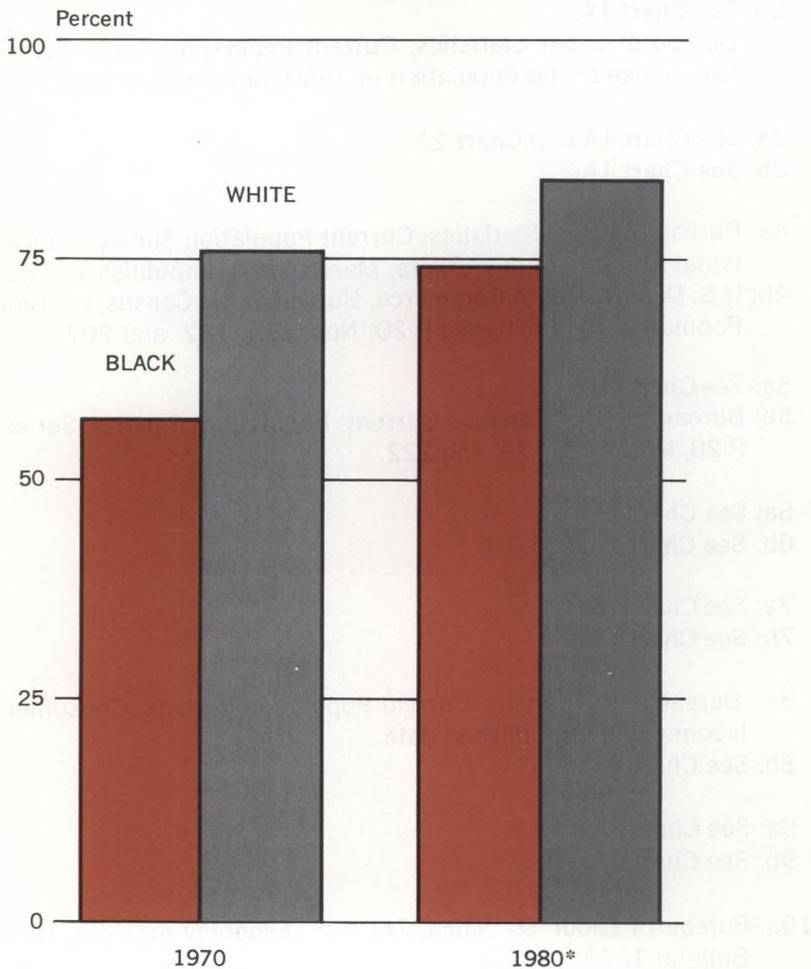
**BY 1980, A MUCH LARGER SHARE OF THE BLACK LABOR FORCE
WILL BE YOUNG . . .**



*Projection

... AND BETTER EDUCATED.

Chart 10b.
PERCENT HAVING 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE, AGES 25-34



As a result, a larger proportion of black workers is expected to be in the better paid occupations.

*Projection

SOURCES OF DATA

Chart

- 1a: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Annual Averages, 1960 and 1970.
1b: See Chart 1A.
- 2a: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, May 1970.
2b: See Chart 1A.
2c: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Work Experience of the Population in 1969, unpublished data.
- 3a: See Chart 1A and Chart 2A.
3b: See Chart 1A.
- 4a: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Educational Attainment of Workers, March 1970, unpublished data.
4b: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Report Series P-20, Nos. 138, 182, and 207.
- 5a: See Chart 4B.
5b: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports Series P-20, Nos. 148, 179, and 222.
- 6a: See Chart 1A.
6b: See Chart 1A.
- 7a: See Chart 4A.
7b: See Chart 1A.
- 8a: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, and unpublished data.
8b: See Chart 8A.
- 9a: See Chart 8A.
9b: See Chart 8A.
- 10a: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The U.S. Economy in 1980*, BLS Bulletin 1673. (1970)
10b: Johnston, Denis. "Education of Adult Workers: Projections to 1985," *Monthly Labor Review*, August 1970.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20212

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

THIRD CLASS MAIL

