BY THE NUMBERS:
Summary of True Rate of Unemployment
For the Month of **November 2021**
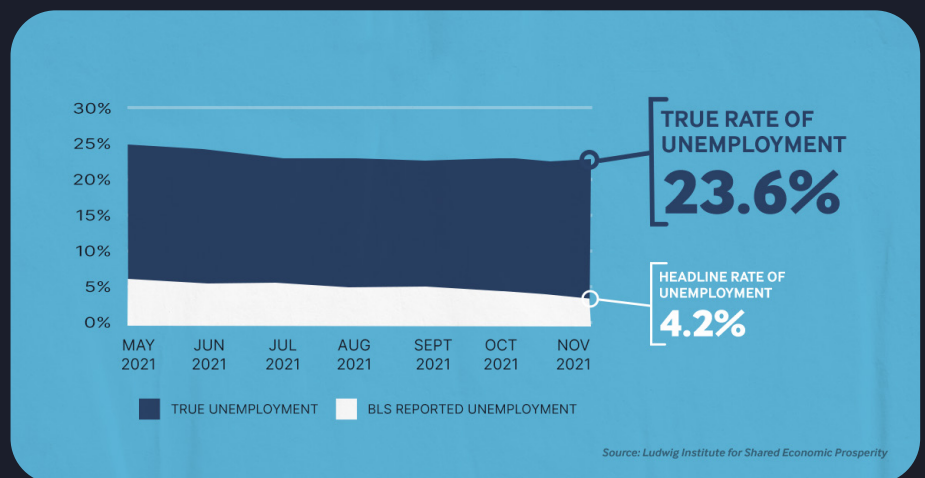
LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR SHARED ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

OVERVIEW:

The Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity (LISEP) has issued its monthly True Rate of Unemployment (TRU) for November 2021. The TRU, which measures the rate of "functionally unemployed" Americans, stands at 23.6% for the month of November. This is a decrease of 0.1 percentage points over the October rate. TRU measures the percentage of the U.S. labor force that is functionally unemployed by using data compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), tracking the percentage of the U.S. labor force that is unemployed, desires but cannot secure full-time employment (35 or more hours a week), or is working a job with wages below the poverty level, defined as $20,000 annually before taxes. A summary for November follows.

TRUE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
23.6%

HEADLINE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
4.2%

■ TRUE UNEMPLOYMENT   □ BLS REPORTED UNEMPLOYMENT

Source: Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- **The overall True Rate of Unemployment increased slightly from October to November,** rising from 23.5% to 23.6%, a 0.1 percentage point increase. This is in contrast to the trend reported by the BLS in the November unemployment report, which indicates a 0.4 percentage point decrease, from 4.6% to 4.2%.

- **Most major demographics only saw minor changes** in the TRU from October to November, with Black workers seeing a 0.2 percentage point increase (26.7% to 26.9%) and White workers experiencing a 0.6 percentage point decrease (from 22.3% to 21.7%).

- **The notable exception was the Hispanic TRU,** which jumped from 27.4% to 28.5%, a 1.1 percentage point increase, nearly erasing a 1.4 percentage point gain from October. This could be due to those workers accepting employment in temporary positions that ended with the onset of winter.

- **Male and female workers perfectly offset each other,** with male workers seeing a 0.3 percentage point increase in functional unemployment rate (18.5% to 18.8%), while women saw a 0.3 percentage point improvement, dropping from 29.1% to 28.8%.

WWW.LISEP.ORG