

45.9 percent of South Africans feel they won't get work next year

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SOUTH AFRICANS are more pessimistic about finding a job next year than they have been during the past nine years.

A new study, by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), found that 45.9 percent of people believed they would probably be unemployed within the next year.

This is the highest percentage response to this question since it was first asked in 2004.

Nine years ago only 34.4 percent of people were pessimistic about finding a job and between 2005 and 2009 more

than 40 percent of people thought they would not get a job.

In 2010 and 2011 the size of this group declined to 36.7 percent but it shot up this year.

IJR researcher Kate Lefko-Everett said "the economy has not yet recovered the jobs lost in the recession and people might still be feel the impact of high unemployment, slow job creation and constrained growth prospects".

Despite the pessimism the report also found 34.9 percent of people believed their chances of finding a job had improved over the past

12 months, while almost half, or 44.9 percent, believed their financial situation was likely to improve.

A closer look at the data revealed that people under 35, who were working either full-time or part-time, were more optimistic than those who were unemployed.

Altogether 52.9 percent of full-time and 56.4 percent of part-time employees believed their financial standing would be better in a year.

Only 41.4 percent of people who were unemployed and looking for work felt the new year would bring them

better fortunes.

"I think among many people, and youth in particular, there is... a tendency to be overly optimistic about their own economic chances," said Lefko-Everett.

South Africa's poorest are the most critical of the government and its ability to create jobs.

On average more than half, or 53.1 percent, of all lowest earning households believed the government had not created enough jobs.

Poor youths of white and Indian/Asian descent have an even lower regard for the gov-

ernment as a job creator.

About 18 percent of white youth and 23 percent of Indians/Asians were confident in the government's ability to create jobs, while 37.4 percent of young black South Africans believed it was doing a good job of doing so.

The research is based on interviews with 3 565 people during April and May this year in the nine provinces.

The interviews were done face-to-face in six languages and were representative of gender, age and racial demographics.

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