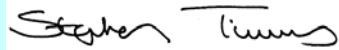




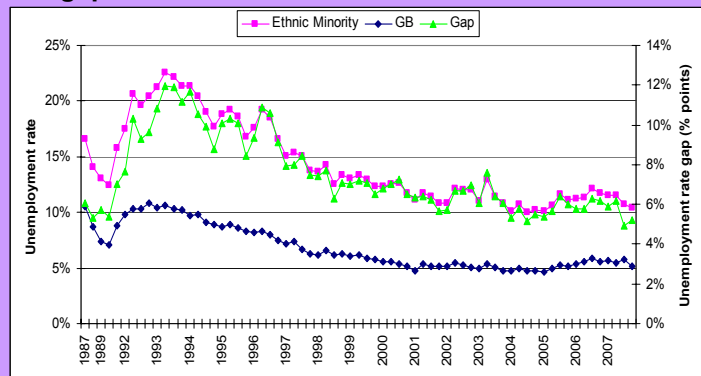
Welcome to the Spring edition of the Task Force newsletter. I attended the Task Force's Advisory Group, EMAG, meeting in March, and we had a wide-ranging discussion about the importance of skills, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship to ethnic minority employment. I look forward to receiving advice from EMAG in the future on these crucial issues; and to seeing a new Task Force work plan in 2008-9.



Key Statistics

	Q4, 2007	Q4, 2006	Change since 2005 (Q2)
Ethnic Minority Emp. Rate	60.9%	61.0%	+2.3%
Overall Emp. Rate	75.0%	74.7%	0.0%
Unemployment Rate (EM)	10.4%	11.7%	+0.3%
Inactivity Rate (EM)	32.0%	30.9%	-2.8%

Trend in ethnic minority and GB unemployment rates and gap:



- There are 3.9million working age ethnic minorities in Great Britain. This figure has grown by 80% in the last 10 years. Ethnic minorities now account for 14.8% of the working age population in Great Britain. (LFS: Q4, 2007)

All figures are taken from the Labour Force Survey, 4th Quarter 2007

New Initiatives and Publications

- The CBI and TUC are launching a joint **business guide** in early June, outlining the benefits of a diverse workforce to employers. The report will look at how companies of various sizes and sectors have addressed the lack of under-represented groups in their workforces, and will include top tips from best practice companies. For more information please contact marion.seguret@cbi.org.uk.
- An econometric investigation into the **Business Case for Equal Opportunities** shows that Equal Opportunities policies and practices do not have an overall negative impact on business performance. The relationship is not simple, but the research allays fears that Equal Opportunities mean large, extra costs for business. The report can be accessed at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_483.asp.
- The **National Audit Office** published the 'Increasing Employment Rates for Ethnic Minorities' report in February. A Public Accounts Committee follow-up report is due to be published in the early summer.
- The Government Equalities Office commissioned Social Enterprise London to carry out a study into the barriers and motivations faced by ethnic minority women in **setting up social enterprises** in 2007. Government is currently considering its findings and is working with the sector to agree the most effective course of action to support more ethnic minority women into social enterprise.
- The Government published detailed proposals in response to the Home Affairs Select Committee Inquiry on **Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System** last October, with a detailed delivery strategy in December. Aims outlined include improving the collection of ethnicity data; using diagnostic tools to effectively monitor a disproportionate ethnic minority presence; and ensuring that progress to address unfair disproportionality is monitored and driven across government. The documents can be downloaded from <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/ybp-cjs.htm>.

Forward Look

- The Task Force will be refreshing its work plan for 2008/9 in April.
- Proposals from the Equality Bill are due to be published early summer, 2008.