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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2005

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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2005

Abstract

[Excerpt] This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2005 for workers and their families.

The specific income thresholds used to determine poverty status differed depending on whether the individuals were living with family members, with nonrelatives, or alone. For those living with family members, the poverty threshold was determined by the family's total income; for individuals not living in families, personal income was used as the determinant.

The data were collected in the 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. For a more detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the Technical Note.

Keywords

poverty, United States, labor force activity, workers, families

Comments

Suggested Citation

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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2005

U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
September 2007

Report 1001

In 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 37.0 million people, or 12.6 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty threshold. The majority of the Nation's poor were children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year. About 7.7 million of this group were classified as "working poor"—persons who, during the year, spent 27 weeks or more in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics began measuring the working poor in 1987 and has since reported annually about the demographic and labor force characteristics of this group. In 2005, persons 16 years and older who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more living below poverty numbered 5.4 percent—little changed from 5.6 percent the prior year. The 2005 working-poor rate was 0.7 percentage point higher than its most recent low point of 4.7 percent in 2000. (See tables A and 1 and chart 1.) Additional highlights from the 2005 data include:

- Full-time workers were less likely to be among the working poor than were part-time workers. About 3.9 percent of the 118.7 million full-time workers were classified as working poor, compared with 11.6 percent of the 23.0 million part-time workers.
- Although working full-time (35 or more hours per week) substantially lowers a person's likelihood of being poor, nearly 6 of every 10 of the working poor who held a job during 2005 usually worked full-time.
- As workers achieve higher levels of education, their likelihood of being classified as working poor decreases. In 2005, the number of college graduates who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks counted among the working poor was 1.7 percent, compared with 14.1 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.
- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those families including children under 18 years old were about four times more likely than those without children to live in poverty or to be among the working poor.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor

force activity and poverty in 2005 for workers and their families.

The specific income thresholds used to determine poverty status differed depending on whether the individuals were living with family members, with nonrelatives, or alone. For those living with family members, the poverty threshold was determined by the family's total income; for individuals not living in families, personal income was used as the determinant.

The data were collected in the 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. For a more detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the Technical Note.

Demographic characteristics

Of all persons in the labor force at least half of the year during 2005, about the same number of women and men were poor (4.0 million and 3.8 million, respectively). However, the working-poor rate—the proportion of persons in the labor force for at least 27 weeks who lived below the poverty level—was higher for women (6.1 percent) than for men (4.8 percent). The rates for both women and men were little changed from the prior year. (See table 2.)

Whites accounted for about 7 in 10 of the working poor in 2005. Blacks and Hispanics had the highest working-poor rates, 10.5 percent each. The rates for Whites and Asians, at 4.7 percent each, were less than half as high. The likelihood

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2002–05
(Numbers in thousands)

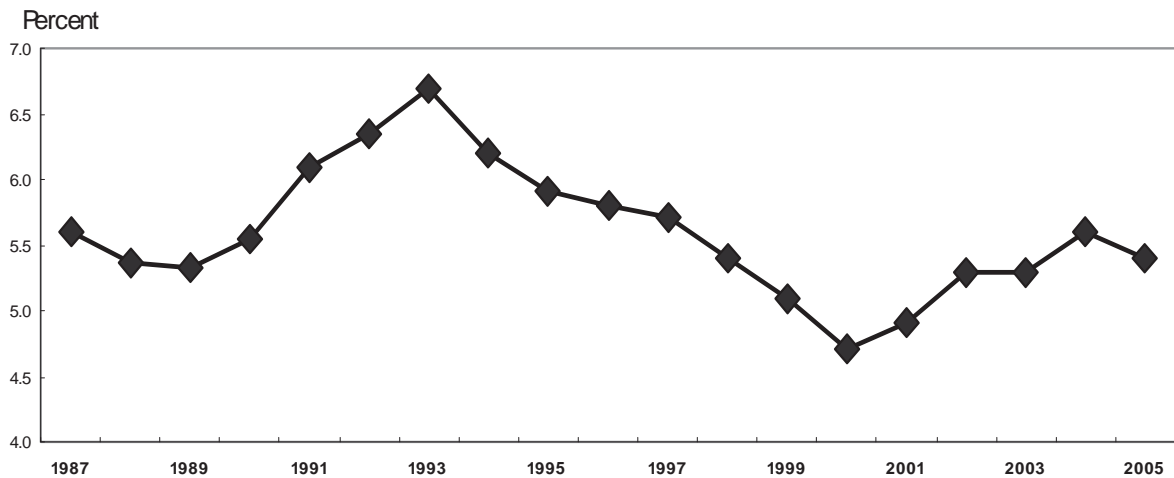
Characteristic	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total persons ¹	139,728	140,007	140,908	142,824
In poverty	7,359	7,429	7,836	7,744
Poverty rate	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.4
Unrelated individuals	29,847	29,898	30,694	31,422
In poverty	2,584	2,472	2,742	2,846
Poverty rate	8.7	8.3	8.9	9.1
Primary families ²	63,352	63,567	63,912	64,360
In poverty	3,973	4,167	4,261	4,094
Poverty rate	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.4

¹ Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

² Primary families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half of the year.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Chart 1. Poverty rate of persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1987–2005



of being among the working poor was higher for White women and Black women than for their male counterparts (5.0 percent for White women, compared with 4.4 percent for White men and 13.0 percent for Black women, compared with 7.7 percent for Black men). Among Asians and Hispanics, men and women were about equally likely to be among the working poor.

Young workers continued to be more vulnerable to poverty than their older counterparts. This is due largely to young people's lower earnings and higher rates of unemployment. In 2005, among youth who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 10.5 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 12.0 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were living in poverty. This compared to 5.0 percent for workers aged 35 to 44 and 2.7 percent for those aged 55 to 64 years.

Educational attainment

The likelihood of being among the working poor decreases greatly as individuals achieve higher levels of education. Of all people in the labor force for more than half of 2005, those with less than a high school diploma were the most likely to be among the working poor (14.1 percent). High school graduates with no college had a lower working-poor rate—6.6 percent—and college graduates with either an associate's degree (3.4 percent) or a bachelor's degree or higher (1.7 percent) were even less likely to be among the working poor. Individuals with higher levels of education generally have greater access to higher paying jobs, such as management, professional, and related occupations, than those with lower levels of education. (See table 3.)

However, at almost all levels of educational attainment, Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to be among the working poor than were Whites or Asians. Additionally, the incidence of poverty was higher for Black women than Black men for all levels of education except for college graduates. Among

college graduates, the working-poor rate for Black women (2.4 percent) was about the same as the rate for Black men (3.0 percent). For those with less than a high school diploma, the likelihood of being among the working poor for Black women (29.4 percent) was nearly twice that for Black men (15.8 percent). Among high school graduates (no college), the gap narrowed with Black women at 17.0 percent and Black men at 8.5 percent. Within each of the other race groups—Whites, Asians, and Hispanics—men and women had similar working-poor rates at most levels of educational attainment.

Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely by occupation. (Individuals are classified by occupation based on the job they held the longest during the year.) Those who had worked in occupations requiring higher levels of education and offering higher earnings had a lower incidence of being poor. For example, those employed in management, professional, and related occupations had the lowest working-poor rate (1.8 percent). By comparison, workers in service occupations, which typically do not require higher levels of education and are characterized by lower average earnings, had the highest working-poor rate, 10.8 percent. About 6.8 percent of individuals who had worked in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations were classified as working poor. Within this broad occupational category, the working-poor rates for those in farming, forestry, and fishing jobs was 13.7 percent and for those in construction occupations, 8.1 percent. During 2005, about two-thirds of the working poor who had been employed at some point during the year worked in one of the following three occupational groups: Service occupations; sales and office occupations; and production, transportation, and material moving occupations. (See table 4.)

Families

In 2005, there were 4.1 million families classified as living below the poverty level, which had at least one family member in the labor force for half the year or more—6.4 percent of all such families—were classified as living below the poverty level. The incidence of poverty among families was down slightly from 6.7 percent the previous year. Among families with one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2005, married-couple families were less likely (8.3 percent) to fall below the poverty level than either families maintained by women (22.4 percent) or families maintained by men (11.7 percent).

The working-poor rate was higher in families with children than in those without children. Of all primary families, those with children under age 18 had a working-poor rate of 9.5 percent; families without children had a working-poor rate of 2.4 percent. Among married-couple families with children, the proportion classified as working poor was 5.5 percent. Among families maintained by women with children under age 18, the working-poor rate was 22.6 percent; for families maintained by men with children, it was 12.4 percent. (See table 5.)

Unrelated individuals

In 2005, there were 31.4 million unrelated individuals in the labor force for half the year or longer, and 2.8 million lived below the poverty level. The unrelated individuals category includes persons who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Their working-poor rate was 9.1 percent in 2005, about the same as in 2004 (8.9 percent). (See tables 6 and A.)

In 2005, of the 2.8 million people in the category who lived below the poverty level, 6 in every 10 lived with at least one other person. Persons living with unrelated individuals had a working-poor rate of 12.2 percent, while persons living alone had a rate of 6.3 percent. (See table 7.) Unrelated individuals with low incomes often live with others out of necessity. Many of those who choose to live alone do so because they have sufficient income to support themselves. Poverty status for unrelated individuals in either living situation is determined by each person's individual resources. However, the pooling of resources and sharing of expenses may permit some individuals who are technically classified as poor to live above the poverty level.

Among all unrelated individuals living alone or with others not related to them and who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, teenagers were those most likely to be working poor. Their working-poor rate was 37.0 percent, in 2005; this was about the same as the rates for the previous several years. The working-poor rate for men who were living alone or with nonrelatives (8.5 percent) was lower than the rate for women in similar living situations (9.8 percent). In 2005, the rates for Hispanics and Blacks were 13.0 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively, and the rate for Whites was 8.4 percent.

Labor market problems

Persons in the labor force whose income falls below the poverty threshold have often experienced one or more of the following three major labor market problems: Unemployment, low earnings, and involuntary part-time employment. (See the Technical Note for detailed definitions.) Among those who participated in the labor force for 27 weeks or longer in 2005 and who usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 3.9 million, or 3.5 percent, lived below the poverty level. This proportion was unchanged from the prior year. This analysis is limited to full-time wage and salary workers. (See table 8.)

Eight out of every 10 persons among the working poor who usually worked full time in wage and salary jobs experienced at least one labor market problem, in 2005. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, with about two-thirds of full-time wage and salary workers experiencing low earnings alone or in combination with other labor market problems. About 1 in 3 experienced unemployment, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. Only 4 percent experienced all three labor market problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time work.

In 2005, some 772,000 of the working poor, or about 1 in 5, who usually worked full-time in wage and salary jobs did not experience any of the three main labor market problems in 2005; that proportion was about the same as the prior year. Their poverty status may have been associated with other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, or a family structure that increases the likelihood of poverty.

Technical Note

Source of data

The primary source of data in this report is the 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect demographic, social, and economic information about persons 16 years of age and older. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement is asked of part of the CPS samples for February and April and of the entire sample for March, making up a total of 78,000 households. Work experience and income data collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement refer to activity in the entire prior calendar year.

The estimates in this report are based on a sample and, consequently, may differ from figures that would have been obtained from a complete count using the same questionnaire and procedures. Sampling variability may be relatively large in cases where the numbers are small. Thus, small estimates, or small differences between estimates, should be interpreted with caution. For a detailed explanation of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided below, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 231 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2006). This publication also is available on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p60-231.pdf.

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For more information on the data provided in this report, write to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Labor Force Statistics, Room 4675, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20212; e-mail: cpsinfo@bls.gov; or telephone (202) 691-6378.

Comparability of estimates

The 2005 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2004 and earlier years, because of the introduction in January 2006 of revised populations controls used in the CPS. For additional information, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2006,” in the February 2006

issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cps06adj.pdf.

Concepts and definitions

Poverty classification. Poverty statistics presented in this report are based on definitions developed by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1981. These definitions originally were based on the Department of Agriculture’s Economy Food Plan and reflected the different consumption requirements of families, based on factors such as family size and the number of children under 18 years of age.

The actual poverty thresholds vary in accordance with the makeup of the family. In 2005, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$19,971; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$40,288; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 or older, it was \$9,367. Poverty thresholds are updated each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The thresholds do not vary geographically. For more information, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005*, cited above.

Low earnings. The low earnings level, as first developed in 1987, represented the average of the real value of the minimum wage between 1967 and 1987 for a 40-hour workweek. The base year of 1967 was chosen because that was the first year in which minimum-wage legislation covered essentially the same broad group of workers that currently is covered. The low earnings level has subsequently been adjusted each year using the CPI-U, so that the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2005, the low earnings threshold was \$287.45 per week. For a more complete definition, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Rones, “A profile of the working poor,” *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1989, pp. 3-13.

Income. Data on income are limited to money income received in the calendar year preceding the supplement, before personal income taxes and payroll deductions. They do not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, and employer-provided benefits. For a complete definition of the income concept, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005*, cited above.

In the labor force. Persons in the labor force are those who worked or looked for work sometime during the calendar year preceding the supplement. The number of weeks in the labor

force is accumulated over the entire year. The focus in this report is on persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

Involuntary part-time workers. These are persons who, in at least 1 week of the year, worked fewer than 35 hours because of slack work or business conditions, or because they could not find full-time work. The number of weeks of involuntary part-time work is accumulated over the year.

Occupation. Refers to the occupation in which a person worked the most weeks during the calendar year.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those who looked for work while not employed or those who were on layoff from a job and expecting recall. The number of weeks unemployed is accumulated over the entire year.

Family. A family is defined as a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The count of families used in this report includes only primary families. A primary family includes the reference person (householder) and all people living in the household who are related to the reference person. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as those maintained by men or women without spouses present. Family status is determined at the time of the interview, and, thus, may be different from that of the previous year.

Unrelated individuals. These are persons who are not living with any relatives. Such individuals may live alone, reside in a nonrelated family household, or live in group quarters with other unrelated individuals.

Related children. Data on related children refer to own children (including sons, daughters, and step- or adopted children) of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family and all other children related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Race. White, Black or African American, and Asian are terms used to describe the race of people. People in these categories are those who selected that race group only. Data for the remaining race categories—American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander—and for people who selected more than one race category are included in totals but are not shown separately, because the number of survey respondents is too small to develop estimates of sufficient quality for publication. In the enumeration process, race is determined by the household respondent.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. This term refers to persons who identified themselves in the CPS enumeration process as being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 1. **People in the labor force: Poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2005**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in the labor force	27 weeks or more in the labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
TOTAL			
Total in labor force	156,744	142,824	129,293
Did not work during the year	2,422	1,099	958
Worked during the year	154,322	141,725	128,335
Usual full-time workers	123,911	118,696	110,977
Usual part-time workers	30,411	23,029	17,358
Involuntary part-time workers	5,018	4,089	3,220
Voluntary part-time workers	25,393	18,940	14,138
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	146,516	135,080	122,982
Did not work during the year	1,523	635	530
Worked during the year	144,994	134,445	122,452
Usual full-time workers	118,354	114,084	107,072
Usual part-time workers	26,640	20,360	15,380
Involuntary part-time workers	3,837	3,137	2,476
Voluntary part-time workers	22,803	17,223	12,904
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	10,228	7,744	6,311
Did not work during the year	900	464	428
Worked during the year	9,328	7,280	5,884
Usual full-time workers	5,557	4,612	3,905
Usual part-time workers	3,772	2,668	1,978
Involuntary part-time workers	1,182	952	743
Voluntary part-time workers	2,590	1,716	1,235
Rate ¹			
Total in labor force	6.5	5.4	4.9
Did not work during the year	37.1	42.2	44.6
Worked during the year	6.0	5.1	4.6
Usual full-time workers	4.5	3.9	3.5
Usual part-time workers	12.4	11.6	11.4
Involuntary part-time workers	23.5	23.3	23.1
Voluntary part-time workers	10.2	9.1	8.7

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force.

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and sex	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Below poverty level				
						Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	142,824	117,078	16,122	6,290	18,905	7,744	5,477	1,694	298	1,983
16 to 19 years	4,192	3,483	511	78	602	438	313	100	8	105
20 to 24 years	13,370	10,767	1,704	447	2,347	1,610	1,144	353	50	328
25 to 34 years	31,022	24,581	3,914	1,621	5,873	2,138	1,472	516	76	681
35 to 44 years	34,779	27,978	4,223	1,782	4,974	1,752	1,268	352	70	557
45 to 54 years	34,422	28,688	3,701	1,371	3,311	1,166	804	246	73	196
55 to 64 years	19,649	16,851	1,701	787	1,445	532	399	105	13	93
65 years and older	5,390	4,730	368	205	353	108	77	22	8	22
Men, 16 years and older	77,329	64,603	7,482	3,396	11,557	3,750	2,846	574	170	1,203
16 to 19 years	2,082	1,739	246	43	369	182	129	34	7	56
20 to 24 years	7,211	5,897	832	245	1,453	727	536	124	32	194
25 to 34 years	17,342	14,076	1,826	887	3,807	1,043	804	141	46	457
35 to 44 years	19,104	15,738	1,950	976	3,021	891	705	116	40	323
45 to 54 years	18,159	15,362	1,708	729	1,879	603	430	115	37	111
55 to 64 years	10,400	9,083	753	412	817	244	195	35	7	51
65 years and older	3,030	2,708	166	104	212	59	47	10	2	12
Women, 16 years and older	65,495	52,475	8,640	2,894	7,348	3,994	2,631	1,119	128	780
16 to 19 years	2,110	1,744	265	35	234	256	184	66	1	50
20 to 24 years	6,159	4,870	872	202	894	882	608	230	18	134
25 to 34 years	13,680	10,504	2,088	733	2,066	1,095	668	374	30	223
35 to 44 years	15,674	12,240	2,272	806	1,953	861	562	236	30	234
45 to 54 years	16,263	13,326	1,993	641	1,432	563	375	131	37	86
55 to 64 years	9,249	7,768	948	375	628	288	204	70	6	42
65 years and older	2,360	2,022	202	101	141	49	30	12	6	10

Age and sex	Rate ¹				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	5.4	4.7	10.5	4.7	10.5
16 to 19 years	10.5	9.0	19.5	9.7	17.5
20 to 24 years	12.0	10.6	20.8	11.1	14.0
25 to 34 years	6.9	6.0	13.2	4.7	11.6
35 to 44 years	5.0	4.5	8.3	3.9	11.2
45 to 54 years	3.4	2.8	6.6	5.4	5.9
55 to 64 years	2.7	2.4	6.2	1.7	6.4
65 years and older	2.0	1.6	6.0	4.1	6.3
Men, 16 years and older	4.8	4.4	7.7	5.0	10.4
16 to 19 years	8.8	7.4	13.8	(²)	15.1
20 to 24 years	10.1	9.1	14.9	12.8	13.4
25 to 34 years	6.0	5.7	7.7	5.2	12.0
35 to 44 years	4.7	4.5	6.0	4.1	10.7
45 to 54 years	3.3	2.8	6.7	5.0	5.9
55 to 64 years	2.3	2.1	4.6	1.6	6.2
65 years and older	2.0	1.7	5.9	2.2	5.6
Women, 16 years and older	6.1	5.0	13.0	4.4	10.6
16 to 19 years	12.1	10.6	24.9	(²)	21.3
20 to 24 years	14.3	12.5	26.4	9.0	15.0
25 to 34 years	8.0	6.4	17.9	4.1	10.8
35 to 44 years	5.5	4.6	10.4	3.7	12.0
45 to 54 years	3.5	2.8	6.6	5.7	6.0
55 to 64 years	3.1	2.6	7.4	1.7	6.7
65 years and older	2.1	1.5	6.1	(²)	7.4

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

² Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African

American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older	142,824	77,329	65,495	7,744	3,750	3,994	5.4	4.8	6.1
Less than a high school diploma	15,961	10,136	5,825	2,255	1,277	979	14.1	12.6	16.8
Less than 1 year of high school	5,020	3,494	1,526	801	537	264	16.0	15.4	17.3
1-3 years of high school	8,918	5,401	3,517	1,269	643	627	14.2	11.9	17.8
4 years of high school, no diploma	2,022	1,241	782	185	97	88	9.1	7.8	11.3
High school graduates, no college ²	42,947	24,154	18,793	2,844	1,343	1,500	6.6	5.6	8.0
Some college or associate degree	41,514	20,570	20,944	1,937	766	1,170	4.7	3.7	5.6
Some college, no degree	27,930	14,212	13,718	1,475	594	882	5.3	4.2	6.4
Associate degree	13,583	6,358	7,226	461	173	289	3.4	2.7	4.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	42,402	22,469	19,933	708	364	345	1.7	1.6	1.7
White, 16 years and older	117,078	64,603	52,475	5,477	2,846	2,631	4.7	4.4	5.0
Less than a high school diploma	12,939	8,495	4,444	1,683	1,023	660	13.0	12.0	14.8
Less than 1 year of high school	4,309	3,073	1,236	678	465	213	15.7	15.1	17.2
1-3 years of high school	7,083	4,433	2,651	885	491	394	12.5	11.1	14.9
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,547	990	557	120	67	53	7.8	6.8	9.6
High school graduates, no college ²	34,885	19,938	14,947	1,917	978	939	5.5	4.9	6.3
Some college or associate degree	34,111	17,221	16,890	1,349	574	775	4.0	3.3	4.6
Some college, no degree	22,643	11,754	10,889	1,026	444	582	4.5	3.8	5.3
Associate degree	11,468	5,467	6,001	323	129	193	2.8	2.4	3.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	35,143	18,949	16,194	528	272	257	1.5	1.4	1.6
Black or African American, 16 years and older	16,122	7,482	8,640	1,694	574	1,119	10.5	7.7	13.0
Less than a high school diploma	1,956	1,035	922	434	163	271	22.2	15.8	29.4
Less than 1 year of high school	307	194	112	57	32	26	18.7	16.2	22.9
1-3 years of high school	1,323	674	649	324	110	214	24.5	16.3	33.0
4 years of high school, no diploma	327	166	161	53	22	31	16.1	13.0	19.3
High school graduates, no college ²	5,778	2,898	2,881	736	246	490	12.7	8.5	17.0
Some college or associate degree	5,050	2,151	2,899	435	123	312	8.6	5.7	10.8
Some college, no degree	3,698	1,606	2,091	344	97	248	9.3	6.0	11.8
Associate degree	1,352	545	808	91	26	64	6.7	4.9	7.9
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,337	1,398	1,938	89	42	47	2.7	3.0	2.4
Asian, 16 years and older	6,290	3,396	2,894	298	170	128	4.7	5.0	4.4
Less than a high school diploma	568	303	265	57	36	21	10.0	11.9	7.8
Less than 1 year of high school	255	126	129	31	14	17	12.2	10.8	13.5
1-3 years of high school	217	126	91	21	19	2	9.7	15.2	2.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	97	51	46	5	3	1	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
High school graduates, no college ²	1,243	690	552	90	59	31	7.3	8.6	5.6
Some college or associate degree	1,208	618	590	73	33	40	6.1	5.4	6.7
Some college, no degree	755	409	346	44	23	21	5.9	5.7	6.0
Associate degree	453	209	244	29	10	19	6.4	4.8	7.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,271	1,785	1,487	78	41	36	2.4	2.3	2.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	18,905	11,557	7,348	1,983	1,203	780	10.5	10.4	10.6
Less than a high school diploma	6,651	4,604	2,047	1,099	720	379	16.5	15.6	18.5
Less than 1 year of high school	3,527	2,526	1,001	615	427	187	17.4	16.9	18.7
1-3 years of high school	2,534	1,672	861	417	247	169	16.4	14.8	19.6
4 years of high school, no diploma	591	406	185	67	45	22	11.4	11.1	12.0
High school graduates, no college ²	5,747	3,524	2,223	542	319	223	9.4	9.1	10.0
Some college or associate degree	4,141	2,207	1,935	280	129	151	6.8	5.9	7.8
Some college, no degree	2,930	1,607	1,322	218	107	111	7.4	6.7	8.4
Associate degree	1,212	599	612	62	22	40	5.2	3.7	6.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	2,365	1,222	1,143	62	35	27	2.6	2.9	2.4

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

² Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes people with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁴ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.

Table 4. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older ²	141,725	76,686	65,039	7,281	3,487	3,793	5.1	4.5	5.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	48,907	24,312	24,595	871	401	471	1.8	1.6	1.9
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	20,816	12,086	8,730	340	192	148	1.6	1.6	1.7
Professional and related occupations	28,091	12,226	15,866	532	209	322	1.9	1.7	2.0
Service occupations	23,128	10,109	13,019	2,464	877	1,587	10.7	8.7	12.2
Sales and office occupations	35,586	13,045	22,541	1,743	442	1,301	4.9	3.4	5.8
Sales and related occupations	16,129	8,232	7,897	1,041	276	765	6.5	3.4	9.7
Office and administrative support occupations	19,457	4,812	14,645	702	167	536	3.6	3.5	3.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	15,767	15,108	660	1,051	1,002	50	6.7	6.6	7.5
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,002	797	204	140	117	23	13.9	14.7	11.1
Construction and extraction occupations	9,535	9,299	237	756	731	25	7.9	7.9	10.4
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,231	5,012	219	156	154	2	3.0	3.1	1.0
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	18,229	14,020	4,209	1,150	765	385	6.3	5.5	9.2
Production occupations	9,610	6,664	2,946	556	316	240	5.8	4.7	8.1
Transportation and material-moving occupations	8,619	7,355	1,263	594	449	146	6.9	6.1	11.5
White, 16 years and older ²	116,393	64,181	52,212	5,213	2,681	2,532	4.5	4.2	4.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	41,006	20,749	20,257	642	296	346	1.6	1.4	1.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	18,005	10,716	7,289	268	149	119	1.5	1.4	1.6
Professional and related occupations	23,001	10,033	12,968	374	147	227	1.6	1.5	1.7
Service occupations	17,541	7,705	9,836	1,652	607	1,045	9.4	7.9	10.6
Sales and office occupations	29,456	11,049	18,408	1,202	354	848	4.1	3.2	4.6
Sales and related occupations	13,731	7,255	6,475	729	215	514	5.3	3.0	7.9
Office and administrative support occupations	15,725	3,793	11,932	473	139	334	3.0	3.7	2.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,869	13,340	529	886	840	46	6.4	6.3	8.7
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	886	712	174	122	99	23	13.7	13.9	13.1
Construction and extraction occupations	8,424	8,229	195	631	610	21	7.5	7.4	10.7
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,559	4,400	160	133	131	2	2.9	3.0	1.4
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	14,433	11,260	3,173	830	584	246	5.8	5.2	7.8
Production occupations	7,669	5,437	2,231	420	267	153	5.5	4.9	6.8
Transportation and material-moving occupations	6,765	5,823	942	410	316	94	6.1	5.4	10.0
Black or African American, 16 years and older ²	15,786	7,315	8,470	1,516	493	1,023	9.6	6.7	12.1
Management, professional, and related occupations	4,152	1,552	2,600	134	47	87	3.2	3.0	3.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,521	653	868	38	20	18	2.5	3.1	2.0
Professional and related occupations	2,632	899	1,732	96	27	69	3.7	3.0	4.0
Service occupations	3,818	1,563	2,255	628	163	465	16.4	10.4	20.6
Sales and office occupations	4,022	1,183	2,839	414	58	355	10.3	4.9	12.5
Sales and related occupations	1,386	485	901	238	39	199	17.2	8.0	22.1
Office and administrative support occupations	2,636	698	1,938	176	19	157	6.7	2.8	8.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	1,130	1,051	79	96	95	1	8.5	9.0	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	57	40	18	13	13	-	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	686	670	16	74	73	1	10.8	10.9	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	386	341	45	9	9	-	2.4	2.7	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	2,650	1,957	693	244	130	115	9.2	6.6	16.5
Production occupations	1,221	779	442	96	27	69	7.9	3.5	15.5
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,429	1,178	250	148	102	46	10.4	8.7	18.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. **People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2005 — Continued**

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Asian, 16 years and older ²	6,243	3,362	2,882	288	162	126	4.6	4.8	4.4
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,842	1,575	1,267	58	34	24	2.1	2.1	1.9
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	947	535	412	16	10	6	1.7	1.9	1.4
Professional and related occupations	1,895	1,040	855	42	24	19	2.2	2.3	2.2
Service occupations	1,095	514	581	103	64	39	9.4	12.4	6.8
Sales and office occupations	1,338	547	791	69	19	50	5.2	3.5	6.3
Sales and related occupations	686	346	340	38	15	23	5.6	4.5	6.7
Office and administrative support occupations	652	201	450	31	4	27	4.7	1.9	6.0
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	313	282	31	23	23	—	7.2	8.0	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	27	20	7	2	2	—	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	125	112	12	11	11	—	8.9	9.9	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	161	150	11	9	9	—	5.9	6.3	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	651	438	213	35	22	12	5.4	5.1	5.9
Production occupations	460	268	193	21	9	12	4.6	3.2	6.5
Transportation and material-moving occupations	190	170	20	14	14	—	7.3	8.1	(³)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ²	18,748	11,467	7,282	1,900	1,156	743	10.1	10.1	10.2
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,111	1,477	1,634	100	56	44	3.2	3.8	2.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,346	732	614	38	23	15	2.8	3.1	2.4
Professional and related occupations	1,765	745	1,020	62	33	29	3.5	4.5	2.8
Service occupations	4,499	2,305	2,194	674	319	354	15.0	13.9	16.1
Sales and office occupations	3,932	1,594	2,338	283	83	199	7.2	5.2	8.5
Sales and related occupations	1,752	861	890	174	49	125	9.9	5.6	14.0
Office and administrative support occupations	2,180	733	1,447	109	34	74	5.0	4.7	5.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	3,736	3,566	170	477	456	21	12.8	12.8	12.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	400	318	82	75	62	13	18.7	19.6	15.3
Construction and extraction occupations	2,646	2,580	67	336	328	7	12.7	12.7	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	690	668	21	66	65	2	9.6	9.7	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	3,464	2,518	946	366	242	124	10.6	9.6	13.1
Production occupations	1,940	1,256	684	213	132	81	11.0	10.5	11.8
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,524	1,263	262	153	110	44	10.1	8.7	16.7

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year.

² Includes the long-term unemployed with no previous work experience and a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

³ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

Note: Estimates for the race groups shown (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 5. Primary families: Poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	64,360	60,266	4,094	6.4
With related children under 18 years	36,075	32,658	3,417	9.5
Without children	28,285	27,608	676	2.4
With one member in the labor force	27,498	24,003	3,494	12.7
With two or more members in the labor force	36,862	36,263	600	1.6
With two members	31,025	30,481	544	1.8
With three or more members	5,837	5,782	55	1.0
Married-couple families	48,899	47,111	1,787	3.7
With related children under 18 years	26,287	24,846	1,441	5.5
Without children	22,612	22,265	347	1.5
With one member in the labor force	16,772	15,377	1,394	8.3
Husband	12,451	11,372	1,079	8.7
Wife	3,665	3,405	260	7.1
Relative	655	600	55	8.4
With two or more members in the labor force	32,127	31,734	393	1.2
With two members	27,270	26,911	359	1.3
With three or more members	4,857	4,823	34	.7
Families maintained by women	10,966	9,041	1,925	17.6
With related children under 18 years	7,461	5,772	1,689	22.6
Without children	3,505	3,269	236	6.7
With one member in the labor force	7,924	6,151	1,773	22.4
Householder	6,597	5,060	1,537	23.3
Relative	1,326	1,090	236	17.8
With two or more members in the labor force	3,042	2,890	152	5.0
Families maintained by men	4,496	4,114	382	8.5
With related children under 18 years	2,328	2,040	288	12.4
Without children	2,168	2,074	94	4.3
With one member in the labor force	2,802	2,475	327	11.7
Householder	2,287	2,013	274	12.0
Relative	515	462	53	10.3
With two or more members in the labor force	1,693	1,639	55	3.2

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

NOTE: Data relate to primary families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: Poverty status and work experience, 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total persons	In married-couple families				In families maintained by women			In families maintained by men			Unrelated individuals
		Husbands	Wives	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	
TOTAL												
All people ¹	227,975	57,518	58,128	5,810	18,010	14,076	2,128	11,256	5,107	573	5,346	50,023
With labor force activity	156,744	45,406	37,426	2,089	12,318	10,122	608	7,246	4,060	168	3,695	33,606
1 to 26 weeks	13,920	1,490	3,320	1,217	2,716	842	383	1,038	235	109	388	2,183
27 weeks or more	142,824	43,916	34,106	873	9,601	9,281	226	6,208	3,825	60	3,307	31,422
With no labor force activity	71,231	12,112	20,702	3,721	5,692	3,954	1,519	4,010	1,047	405	1,651	16,417
At or above poverty level												
All people ¹	202,671	54,623	55,188	5,448	17,256	10,043	1,492	9,363	4,443	492	4,871	39,452
With labor force activity	146,516	43,799	36,586	2,038	12,060	7,909	492	6,579	3,675	151	3,522	29,707
1 to 26 weeks	11,436	1,340	3,078	1,187	2,638	295	307	841	172	94	354	1,130
27 weeks or more	135,080	42,459	33,508	851	9,422	7,614	185	5,738	3,503	57	3,168	28,576
With no labor force activity	56,155	10,825	18,602	3,410	5,195	2,134	1,000	2,784	769	341	1,349	9,745
Below poverty level												
All people ¹	25,304	2,895	2,940	362	754	4,033	636	1,893	663	82	476	10,571
With labor force activity	10,228	1,607	840	51	257	2,213	117	667	385	18	173	3,899
1 to 26 weeks	2,484	150	242	29	78	547	76	196	63	15	34	1,053
27 weeks or more	7,744	1,457	598	22	179	1,666	40	470	322	3	139	2,846
With no labor force activity	15,076	1,287	2,100	311	497	1,820	519	1,226	278	64	303	6,672
Rate²												
All people ¹	11.1	5.0	5.1	6.2	4.2	28.7	29.9	16.8	13.0	14.3	8.9	21.1
With labor force activity	6.5	3.5	2.2	2.5	2.1	21.9	19.2	9.2	9.5	10.6	4.7	11.6
1 to 26 weeks	17.8	10.1	7.3	2.4	2.9	65.0	19.9	18.9	26.8	13.7	8.7	48.2
27 weeks or more	5.4	3.3	1.8	2.5	1.9	18.0	17.9	7.6	8.4	(³)	4.2	9.1
With no labor force activity	21.2	10.6	10.1	8.4	8.7	46.0	34.2	30.6	26.6	15.8	18.3	40.6

¹ Data on families include people in primary families and unrelated subfamilies.

² Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total.

³ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

Table 7. **Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2005**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	31,422	28,576	2,846	9.1
16 to 19 years	537	338	199	37.0
20 to 24 years	4,311	3,423	888	20.6
25 to 64 years	24,992	23,275	1,717	6.9
65 years and older	1,583	1,541	42	2.7
Men	17,586	16,097	1,489	8.5
Women	13,836	12,479	1,357	9.8
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White	25,346	23,205	2,140	8.4
Men	14,333	13,215	1,118	7.8
Women	11,013	9,991	1,022	9.3
Black or African American	4,106	3,620	486	11.8
Men	2,143	1,906	236	11.0
Women	1,963	1,714	249	12.7
Asian	1,159	1,051	108	9.3
Men	637	578	59	9.3
Women	522	474	49	9.3
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,588	3,120	467	13.0
Men	2,546	2,241	304	12.0
Women	1,042	879	163	15.6
Living arrangement				
Living alone	16,731	15,683	1,047	6.3
Living with others	14,691	12,893	1,798	12.2

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are

not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.

Table 8. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	111,556	107,657	3,899	3.5
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	93,417	92,645	772	.8
Unemployment only	5,647	5,223	424	7.5
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,333	2,272	61	2.6
Low earnings only	7,181	5,489	1,692	23.6
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	825	739	86	10.4
Unemployment and low earnings	1,220	721	499	40.9
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	567	362	204	36.0
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	367	206	160	43.8
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	8,058	6,888	1,169	14.5
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	4,091	3,580	511	12.5
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	9,334	6,778	2,556	27.4

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

² The low-earnings threshold in 2005 was \$287.45 per week.