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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2000

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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2000

Abstract

[Excerpt] This report presents data on the relationships between labor force activity and poverty in 2000 for individual workers and their families. The data were collected in the work experience and income supplement to the March 2001 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

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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2000



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In 2000, 31 million people, or 11.3 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty level—1.1 million fewer than in 1999. While the bulk of these individuals were children and adults who did not participate in the labor force, about 6.4 million were classified as the “working poor.” This was 445,000 fewer than in 1999, continuing a 7-year downtrend. As defined for this report, the working poor are individuals who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes fell below the official poverty level. Of all persons in the labor force for at least 27 weeks, 4.7 percent were classified as working poor in 2000, down 0.4 percentage point from the previous year.

Working full time substantially lowers a person’s probability of being poor. Among persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, the poverty rate for those usually employed full time was 3.5 percent, compared with 10.2 percent for part-time workers. The majority of the working poor—three-fifths—were, nevertheless, full-time workers. Only a small proportion of the working poor (4.1 percent) actively sought a job for more than 6 months in 2000 without finding any work, up from 3.5 percent in 1999. (See tables A and 1.)

This report presents data on the relationships between labor force activity and poverty in 2000 for individual workers and their families. The data were collected in the work experience and income supplement to the March 2001 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.

For persons living with family members, the income thresholds used to determine poverty status are in terms of family, rather than personal, income. Thus, earnings from employment are only one factor in determining the poverty status of individuals living in family settings. Also important are the earnings of others in the family, the size of the family, and other sources of income that family members might have. Personal income data are used in determining the poverty status of persons living alone or with unrelated individuals.

Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2000, the proportion of women classified as working

poor (5.5 percent) was higher than that of men (4.0 percent). Both rates continued their downward trend from 7.3 percent for women and 6.2 percent for men in 1993. (See table 2.)

Working wives were less likely than working husbands to be poor (in aggregate) because working wives were more likely to be in families with a second earner, usually a husband. (See “Family structure,” below.) In 2000, 1.8 percent of wives who were in the labor force 27 weeks or more were in poverty, compared with 3.0 percent of husbands. In contrast, 16.7 percent of women who maintain families and who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were in poverty. (See table 5.)

Younger workers were again more likely to be in poverty than were older workers. Young workers have lower earnings and are more likely to be unemployed than are older workers. Among teenagers who were in the labor force 27 weeks or more, 9.2 percent were in poverty, as were 8.7 percent of 20- to 24-year olds. These rates were roughly double the rate for workers aged 35 to 44 (4.5 percent), and more than triple the rate for workers 45 to 54 years of age (2.7 percent). (See table 2.)

Black and Hispanic workers continued to experience poverty at much higher rates than did whites. In 2000, 4.0 percent of white labor force participants were classified as working poor, compared with 8.7 percent of blacks and 10.0 percent of Hispanics. Among whites and Hispanics, rates for men and women were comparable; in contrast, the rate for black women (11.4 percent) was twice that of black men (5.6 percent). One

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 week or more, 1997-2000

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total persons ¹	130,047	131,731	133,651	135,626
In poverty	7,453	7,158	6,796	6,351
Rate	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.7
Unrelated individuals .	26,158	26,971	27,845	29,041
In poverty	2,534	2,281	2,272	2,198
Rate	9.7	8.5	8.2	7.6
Primary families ²	58,815	59,621	60,454	60,870
In poverty	4,068	4,019	3,755	3,417
Rate	6.9	6.7	6.2	5.6

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.

Stephanie Boraas, an economist in the Division of Labor Force Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, prepared this report.

explanation for this is that a relatively large proportion of black women maintain families on their own. Nearly 30 percent of black women maintained families in 2000, compared with only about 10 percent of white women. As noted above, women maintaining families are far more likely to be among the working poor than are married women.

Educational attainment

Education and the likelihood of living in poverty were closely related among those in the labor force at least 27 weeks of the year. In 2000, high school dropouts were more than twice as likely as high school graduates to be counted among the working poor (12.9 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively). The incidence of being counted among the working poor declined further as educational attainment rose. Among workers with associate degrees, 2.5 percent were classified as working poor, and only 1.4 percent of college graduates were so classified. (See table 3.)

Occupation

The occupation in which one was employed continued to be related to the likelihood of being among the working poor in 2000. Almost 31 percent of the poor who worked during the year were employed in service occupations as their longest job of the year. Looked at another way, nearly 11 percent of all workers who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks and whose longest job over the year was in services were poor, more than twice the average for all occupations. Private household workers, a subset of service workers that is made up largely of women, were the most likely to be in poverty (20 percent). Farming, forestry, and fishing was another occupation with a relatively high proportion of workers in poverty (13.7 percent). Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations and professional specialty jobs had low incidences of poverty, at 1.4 percent each. High earnings and full-time employment are typical in these occupations. (See table 4.)

Family structure

Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2000, 3.4 million, or 5.6 percent, had incomes at or below the poverty line, down from 6.2 percent in 1999. The poverty threshold for families is based on both the total family income and the number of family members; thus, the larger the family, the higher the level of income needed to keep the family out of poverty. This, coupled with the fact that the presence of children tends to reduce the overall labor supply of a family, contributes to the relatively high incidence of poverty among families with children. Consequently, families with at least one child under the age of 18 were much more likely to have incomes below the poverty level than were families without children (8.5 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively).

Families with more workers are less likely to be below the poverty line. In 2000, 11.4 percent of families with only one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were in poverty, while only 1.8 percent of families with two labor force participants, and 1.1 percent of families with three or more participants were in poverty. (See table 6.)

Unrelated individuals

Unrelated individuals are those who live either alone or with nonrelatives. Of the 29.0 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2000, about 2.2 million, or 7.6 percent, lived below the poverty level. This rate was down from 8.2 percent in 1999. Those who were living alone were less than half as likely as those who were living with nonrelatives to be poor (4.8 percent and 10.6 percent, respectively). Unrelated individuals with low incomes often live with others in order to share expenses and pool resources. Because their poverty status is determined by personal rather than household income, the actual economic hardship of these individuals may be overstated by the poverty measure. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have sufficient incomes to support themselves. (See table 7.)

Labor market problems

As noted above, people who work full time—that is, 35 or more hours a week—are far less likely to live in poverty than are others. However, there remains a sizable group of full-time workers who live below the poverty threshold. In 2000, among those who participated in the labor force for more than half the year and who usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, almost 3.4 million, or 3.1 percent, were classified as working poor. (See table 8.)

There are three primary labor market problems experienced by these full-time workers: Low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See definitions in the Technical Note.) About 85 percent of the working poor who usually worked full time experienced at least one of these major labor market problems. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, with 73 percent of workers facing it, either alone or in conjunction with other labor market problems. About 30 percent of the working poor experienced unemployment, either alone or in conjunction with other problems. Only 3.6 percent experienced all three problems.

Some 514,000, or 15.3 percent, of the working poor did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2000. Their poverty status may be explained by other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, or a family structure that increases the risk of poverty.

Technical Note

Source of data

The primary source of data in this report is the work experience and income supplement (the Annual Demographic Survey) to the March 2001 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect demographic, social, and economic information about persons 16 years of age and older. Work experience and income information collected in the March supplement refers 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 March supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided below, see *Poverty in the United States: 2000—Current Population Reports*, series P-60, no. 214 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2001). This publication also is available on the Census Bureau Web site (<http://www.census.gov>).

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For more information on the data provided in this report, write to the 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.

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 2000, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$17,603; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$35,060; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 or older, it was \$8,259. 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 *Poverty in the United States: 2000*, 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 who currently are 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 2000, the low earnings threshold was \$253.45 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 March survey date, 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 *Poverty in the United States: 2000*, 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 March survey date. 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. Persons in related subfamilies—married couples or parent-child groups sharing the living quarters of another family member—are included as members of that family and are not distinct family units. The count of families used in

this report does not include unrelated subfamilies, such as lodgers, guests, or resident employees living in a household but not related to the householder (the person in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented). 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 March 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 chil-

dren) 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, and “other” are terms used to describe the race of workers. Included in the “other” group are American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Because of the relatively small sample size, data for this group are not separately tabulated or published.

Hispanic origin. This term refers to persons who identify themselves in the CPS enumeration process as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or of some other Hispanic origin or descent. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race; thus, they also are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table 1. Persons in the labor force: Poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2000

(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	150,002	135,626	121,540
Did not work during the year	1,425	640	522
Worked during the year	148,577	134,986	121,018
Usual full-time workers	119,829	113,923	105,591
Usual part-time workers	28,748	21,063	15,427
Involuntary part-time workers	3,433	2,652	2,035
Voluntary part-time workers	25,315	18,410	13,391
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	141,132	129,275	116,512
Did not work during the year	881	378	296
Worked during the year	140,252	128,897	116,216
Usual full-time workers	114,763	109,983	102,351
Usual part-time workers	25,489	18,914	13,866
Involuntary part-time workers	2,575	2,036	1,583
Voluntary part-time workers	22,914	16,877	12,282
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	8,869	6,351	5,028
Did not work during the year	544	262	226
Worked during the year	8,325	6,089	4,802
Usual full-time workers	5,066	3,940	3,240
Usual part-time workers	3,259	2,149	1,561
Involuntary part-time workers	858	616	452
Voluntary part-time workers	2,401	1,533	1,109
Rate¹			
Total in labor force	5.9	4.7	4.1
Did not work during the year	38.2	41.0	43.3
Worked during the year	5.6	4.5	4.0
Usual full-time workers	4.2	3.5	3.1
Usual part-time workers	11.3	10.2	10.1
Involuntary part-time workers	25.0	23.2	22.2
Voluntary part-time workers	9.5	8.3	8.3

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

Table 2. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 2000

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and sex	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin	Below poverty level				Rate ¹			
					Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin
Total, 16 years and older	135,626	113,022	15,974	14,636	6,351	4,561	1,397	1,463	4.7	4.0	8.7	10.0
16 to 19 years	5,228	4,499	547	720	483	355	113	96	9.2	7.9	20.7	13.4
20 to 24 years	13,048	10,742	1,721	2,009	1,141	834	241	244	8.7	7.8	14.0	12.2
25 to 34 years	30,459	24,489	4,153	4,275	1,746	1,238	404	499	5.7	5.1	9.7	11.7
35 to 44 years	37,056	30,510	4,630	3,952	1,663	1,165	394	376	4.5	3.8	8.5	9.5
45 to 54 years	31,056	26,357	3,297	2,444	825	573	172	174	2.7	2.2	5.2	7.1
55 to 64 years	14,361	12,490	1,282	1,015	397	313	61	55	2.8	2.5	4.8	5.4
65 years and older	4,417	3,936	346	221	96	83	11	18	2.2	2.1	3.2	8.1
Men, 16 years and older	72,758	61,664	7,435	8,525	2,901	2,279	420	871	4.0	3.7	5.6	10.2
16 to 19 years	2,612	2,244	267	419	206	161	36	52	7.9	7.2	13.4	12.5
20 to 24 years	6,749	5,692	769	1,191	490	387	71	143	7.3	6.8	9.2	12.0
25 to 34 years	16,485	13,588	1,857	2,552	722	592	83	309	4.4	4.4	4.5	12.1
35 to 44 years	20,187	16,927	2,215	2,330	790	607	133	223	3.9	3.6	6.0	9.6
45 to 54 years	16,345	14,073	1,527	1,303	459	328	76	103	2.8	2.3	5.0	7.9
55 to 64 years	7,734	6,773	620	590	196	165	21	26	2.5	2.4	3.3	4.4
65 years and older	2,647	2,367	180	140	39	39	-	13	1.5	1.7	-	9.6
Women, 16 years and older	62,867	51,358	8,539	6,111	3,450	2,282	977	592	5.5	4.4	11.4	9.7
16 to 19 years	2,617	2,255	280	301	278	194	77	44	10.6	8.6	27.6	14.7
20 to 24 years	6,299	5,050	952	819	651	447	170	101	10.3	8.9	17.8	12.4
25 to 34 years	13,974	10,901	2,296	1,723	1,024	646	321	190	7.3	5.9	14.0	11.0
35 to 44 years	16,869	13,583	2,415	1,622	873	558	261	153	5.2	4.1	10.8	9.4
45 to 54 years	14,710	12,284	1,770	1,141	365	245	96	71	2.5	2.0	5.4	6.2
55 to 64 years	6,627	5,717	662	426	201	148	41	29	3.0	2.6	6.2	6.8
65 years and older	1,770	1,569	165	80	57	43	11	4	3.2	2.8	6.7	5.6

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

NOTE: Detail for race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals

because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Dash represents zero or rounds to zero.

Table 3. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by educational attainment, race, and sex, 2000

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment and race	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older	135,626	72,758	62,867	6,351	2,901	3,450	4.7	4.0	5.5
Less than a high school diploma	16,013	9,674	6,339	2,071	1,086	985	12.9	11.2	15.5
Less than 1 year of high school	4,566	2,978	1,588	685	461	223	15.0	15.5	14.1
1-3 years of high school	9,832	5,715	4,116	1,234	562	672	12.6	9.8	16.3
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,616	981	635	152	62	90	9.4	6.3	14.2
High school graduates, no college	42,673	23,141	19,531	2,314	961	1,353	5.4	4.2	6.9
Some college, no degree	27,249	13,829	13,421	1,158	473	685	4.2	3.4	5.1
Associate degree	11,968	5,737	6,230	297	108	189	2.5	1.9	3.0
College graduates	37,723	20,377	17,346	511	274	238	1.4	1.3	1.4
White, 16 years and older	113,022	61,664	51,358	4,561	2,279	2,282	4.0	3.7	4.4
Less than a high school diploma	13,058	8,140	4,918	1,518	899	619	11.6	11.1	12.6
Less than 1 year of high school	4,008	2,674	1,335	616	427	189	15.4	16.0	14.2
1-3 years of high school	7,825	4,680	3,145	792	419	373	10.1	9.0	11.9
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,225	786	439	111	53	57	9.0	6.8	13.1
High school graduates, no college	35,260	19,369	15,891	1,553	703	850	4.4	3.6	5.3
Some college, no degree	22,567	11,654	10,913	853	368	485	3.8	3.2	4.4
Associate degree	10,065	4,981	5,085	229	90	140	2.3	1.8	2.7
College graduates	32,072	17,520	14,552	408	219	189	1.3	1.2	1.3
Black, 16 years and older	15,974	7,435	8,539	1,397	420	977	8.7	5.6	11.4
Less than a high school diploma	2,273	1,154	1,119	463	142	321	20.4	12.3	28.7
Less than 1 year of high school	314	190	124	38	19	19	12.1	10.1	15.2
1-3 years of high school	1,636	811	825	387	114	273	23.7	14.1	33.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	323	153	170	37	8	29	11.5	5.4	17.1
High school graduates, no college	5,868	2,960	2,908	639	194	445	10.9	6.6	15.3
Some college, no degree	3,608	1,565	2,043	220	58	162	6.1	3.7	7.9
Associate degree	1,382	513	869	34	7	27	2.5	1.5	3.1
College graduates	2,843	1,242	1,600	41	19	22	1.4	1.5	1.4

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

Table 4. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: Poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, and sex, 2000

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation and race	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older ²	134,986	72,400	62,586	6,089	2,756	3,333	4.5	3.8	5.3
Managerial and professional specialty	41,510	20,821	20,689	579	256	323	1.4	1.2	1.6
Executive, administrative, and managerial	20,654	11,065	9,589	291	144	147	1.4	1.3	1.5
Professional specialty	20,856	9,756	11,100	287	111	176	1.4	1.1	1.6
Technical, sales, and administrative support	39,088	14,078	25,010	1,566	406	1,160	4.0	2.9	4.6
Technicians and related support	4,617	2,125	2,492	34	11	24	.7	.5	.9
Sales occupations	15,801	8,065	7,736	900	252	649	5.7	3.1	8.4
Administrative support, including clerical	18,670	3,888	14,782	632	143	488	3.4	3.7	3.3
Service occupations	17,599	6,940	10,660	1,868	491	1,376	10.6	7.1	12.9
Private household	710	32	677	142	11	131	20.0	(³)	19.3
Protective service	2,372	1,928	444	66	42	24	2.8	2.2	5.4
Service, except private household and protective	14,517	4,979	9,539	1,660	438	1,222	11.4	8.8	12.8
Precision production, craft, and repair	15,045	13,803	1,242	475	424	51	3.2	3.1	4.1
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	18,451	14,078	4,373	1,155	818	338	6.3	5.8	7.7
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7,388	4,632	2,755	391	211	180	5.3	4.6	6.5
Transportation and material moving occupations	5,763	5,146	617	264	218	47	4.6	4.2	7.5
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5,301	4,299	1,001	500	389	111	9.4	9.1	11.1
Farming, forestry, and fishing	3,236	2,632	604	444	359	85	13.7	13.7	14.0
White, 16 years and older ²	112,655	61,454	51,201	4,417	2,185	2,232	3.9	3.6	4.4
Managerial and professional specialty	35,633	18,204	17,429	450	214	237	1.3	1.2	1.4
Executive, administrative, and managerial	17,869	9,852	8,018	224	123	101	1.3	1.3	1.3
Professional specialty	17,763	8,352	9,411	226	90	136	1.3	1.1	1.4
Technical, sales, and administrative support	32,786	12,004	20,782	1,044	310	734	3.2	2.6	3.5
Technicians and related support	3,792	1,801	1,991	30	8	22	.8	.4	1.1
Sales occupations	13,672	7,140	6,533	610	205	405	4.5	2.9	6.2
Administrative support, including clerical	15,322	3,063	12,258	404	97	308	2.6	3.2	2.5
Service occupations	13,315	5,227	8,088	1,237	339	897	9.3	6.5	11.1
Private household	543	18	525	100	6	94	18.5	(³)	17.9
Protective service	1,809	1,506	303	35	22	13	1.9	1.5	4.3
Service, except private household and protective	10,963	3,703	7,260	1,102	311	791	10.0	8.4	10.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	13,280	12,274	1,006	413	372	41	3.1	3.0	4.0
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	14,617	11,297	3,319	859	616	243	5.9	5.5	7.3
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5,839	3,800	2,040	291	166	125	5.0	4.4	6.1
Transportation and material moving occupations	4,590	4,110	480	195	158	37	4.2	3.8	7.7
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4,187	3,388	799	373	292	80	8.9	8.6	10.1
Farming, forestry, and fishing	2,975	2,406	570	415	334	81	14.0	13.9	14.2
Black, 16 years and older ²	15,725	7,298	8,426	1,291	379	912	8.2	5.2	10.8
Managerial and professional specialty	3,502	1,315	2,187	79	17	61	2.2	1.3	2.8
Executive, administrative, and managerial	1,742	700	1,042	48	11	37	2.8	1.6	3.6
Professional specialty	1,760	615	1,146	31	6	24	1.7	1.0	2.1
Technical, sales, and administrative support	4,497	1,293	3,204	410	52	358	9.1	4.1	11.2
Technicians and related support	536	172	365	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sales occupations	1,412	561	851	237	27	210	16.8	4.9	24.7
Administrative support, including clerical	2,548	560	1,988	172	25	147	6.8	4.5	7.4
Service occupations	3,348	1,281	2,067	524	114	409	15.6	8.9	19.8
Private household	138	10	128	38	3	36	27.7	(³)	27.8
Protective service	496	367	129	25	15	11	5.1	4.0	8.4
Service, except private household and protective	2,714	904	1,810	460	97	363	17.0	10.8	20.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,229	1,068	162	39	35	5	3.2	3.2	2.9
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	2,969	2,175	794	214	138	76	7.2	6.3	9.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	1,109	594	515	73	32	42	6.6	5.4	8.1
Transportation and material moving occupations	958	841	117	41	31	9	4.3	3.7	8.1
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	901	740	161	99	74	25	11.0	10.1	15.5
Farming, forestry, and fishing	174	161	13	23	20	3	13.4	12.7	(³)

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 a small number of persons whose last job was in the Armed

Forces.

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

NOTE: Dash represents zero or rounds to zero.

Table 5. Persons in families and unrelated individuals: Poverty status and work experience, 2000

(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 persons ¹	211,180	54,973	55,563	5,424	17,106	12,507	1,685	9,502	4,213	482	4,072	45,652
With labor force activity	150,002	44,016	36,783	2,425	12,329	9,281	721	6,555	3,439	197	2,840	31,417
1 to 26 weeks	14,376	1,492	3,640	1,362	2,666	848	415	940	208	119	311	2,376
27 weeks or more	135,626	42,524	33,143	1,063	9,663	8,433	307	5,615	3,231	78	2,528	29,041
With no labor force activity	61,179	10,957	18,780	2,999	4,777	3,226	963	2,947	775	285	1,232	14,236
At or above poverty level												
All persons ¹	190,610	52,349	52,927	5,064	16,464	9,413	1,208	8,288	3,731	422	3,792	36,952
With labor force activity	141,132	42,523	35,914	2,349	12,082	7,391	594	6,039	3,152	181	2,720	28,187
1 to 26 weeks	11,858	1,271	3,367	1,308	2,585	366	340	769	130	110	267	1,345
27 weeks or more	129,275	41,251	32,547	1,040	9,497	7,025	254	5,270	3,022	71	2,454	26,842
With no labor force activity	49,477	9,826	17,013	2,715	4,382	2,022	613	2,249	579	241	1,071	8,765
Below poverty level												
All persons ¹	20,571	2,623	2,636	360	642	3,095	477	1,214	483	60	280	8,700
With labor force activity	8,869	1,493	869	76	247	1,890	127	516	287	16	119	3,229
1 to 26 weeks	2,518	220	273	53	81	483	74	172	78	9	45	1,031
27 weeks or more	6,351	1,273	596	23	166	1,408	53	345	209	7	75	2,198
With no labor force activity	11,701	1,131	1,767	284	395	1,204	350	697	196	44	161	5,471
Rate²												
All persons ¹	9.7	4.8	4.7	6.6	3.8	24.7	28.3	12.8	11.5	12.4	6.9	19.1
With labor force activity	5.9	3.4	2.4	3.1	2.0	20.4	17.6	7.9	8.3	7.9	4.2	10.3
1 to 26 weeks	17.5	14.8	7.5	3.9	3.0	56.9	17.9	18.2	37.3	7.2	14.4	43.4
27 weeks or more	4.7	3.0	1.8	2.2	1.7	16.7	17.1	6.1	6.5	9.0	3.0	7.6
With no labor force activity	19.1	10.3	9.4	9.5	8.3	37.3	36.3	23.7	25.3	15.6	13.1	38.4

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

² Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total.
NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and older.

Table 6. Primary families: Poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2000

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	60,870	57,453	3,417	5.6
With related children under 18	34,734	31,772	2,962	8.5
Without children	26,136	25,681	455	1.7
With one member in the labor force	24,836	22,014	2,822	11.4
With two or more members in the labor force	36,034	35,439	595	1.7
With two members	30,013	29,483	531	1.8
With three or more members	6,021	5,956	64	1.1
Married-couple families:				
With related children under 18	25,793	24,530	1,264	4.9
Without children	21,169	20,869	300	1.4
With one member in the labor force	15,201	14,066	1,134	7.5
Husband	11,456	10,593	863	7.5
Wife	3,116	2,886	230	7.4
Relative	628	587	42	6.7
With two or more members in the labor force	31,761	31,332	429	1.4
With two members	26,662	26,275	386	1.4
With three or more members	5,099	5,057	43	.8
Families maintained by women:				
With related children under 18	6,910	5,417	1,493	21.6
Without children	3,257	3,146	111	3.4
With one member in the labor force	7,332	5,867	1,465	20.0
Householder	5,924	4,635	1,290	21.8
Relative	1,408	1,233	175	12.5
With two or more members in the labor force	2,835	2,696	139	4.9
Families maintained by men:				
With related children under 18	2,030	1,826	205	10.1
Without children	1,711	1,666	45	2.6
With one member in the labor force	2,303	2,081	223	9.7
Householder	1,931	1,745	186	9.6
Relative	372	336	36	9.8
With two or more members in the labor force	1,438	1,411	27	1.9

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 7. Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and living arrangement, 2000

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	29,041	26,842	2,198	7.6
16 to 19 years	574	372	203	35.3
20 to 24 years	4,167	3,526	641	15.4
25 to 64 years	23,155	21,842	1,313	5.7
65 years and older	1,145	1,103	42	3.6
Men	15,941	14,876	1,065	6.7
Women	13,100	11,967	1,133	8.6
Race and Hispanic origin				
White	23,883	22,161	1,722	7.2
Men	13,108	12,297	811	6.2
Women	10,775	9,864	911	8.5
Black	3,921	3,581	340	8.7
Men	2,094	1,911	183	8.7
Women	1,827	1,670	157	8.6
Hispanic origin	2,495	2,189	306	12.3
Men	1,607	1,438	170	10.6
Women	888	752	136	15.3
Living arrangement				
Living alone	15,176	14,452	724	4.8
Living with others	13,865	12,391	1,474	10.6

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

NOTE: Detail for race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to

totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table 8. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2000

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	107,055	103,693	3,362	3.1
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	89,085	88,571	514	.6
Unemployment only	5,001	4,698	304	6.1
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,020	1,984	36	1.8
Low earnings only	7,830	6,191	1,639	20.9
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	861	807	53	6.2
Unemployment and low earnings	1,300	765	534	41.1
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	634	475	159	25.1
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	324	202	122	37.7

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 2000 was \$253.45 per week. NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and older.