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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2002

Abstract

[Excerpt] This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2002 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine persons' poverty status differ, depending on whether the individuals are living with family members or are living alone or with non-relatives. For those living with family members, the poverty threshold is determined by their family's total income; for persons not living in families, their personal income is used as the determinant. Thus, for persons living in family situations, earnings from their employment are only one factor in their poverty status. Other important factors include the earnings of others in the family, other sources of income that family members might have, and the size of the family.

The data were collected in the 2003 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, 2002



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Report 976

In 2002, 34.6 million persons, or 12.1 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty level—1.7 million more than in 2001. Most of the poor were children, or adults who did not participate in the labor force during the year. Yet some 7.4 million were classified as the “working poor,” about 560,000 higher than in 2001. The working poor are those 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 who worked 27 weeks or more, 5.3 percent were classified among the working poor in 2002, up by 0.4 percentage point from the previous year. The poverty rate for those who worked 27 weeks or more increased from its recent low of 4.7 percent in 2000 to 5.3 percent in 2002; however, it was still below the series peak of 6.7 percent in 1993. (See tables A and 1, and chart 1.)

Additional highlights from the 2002 data include:

- Among persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2002, 3.8 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 10.9 percent of part-time workers.
- Although working full time substantially lowers a person’s probability of being poor, nearly 2 in 3 of the working poor who worked during 2002 usually worked full time.
- In 2002, 7.6 percent of the working poor actively searched for a job for more than 6 months without finding any work, up from 5.6 percent in 2001 and 4.7 percent in 2000.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2002 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine persons’ poverty status differ, depending on whether the individuals are living with family members or are living alone or with nonrelatives. For those living with family members, the poverty threshold is determined by their family’s total income; for persons not living in families, their personal income is used as the determinant. Thus, for persons living in family situations, earnings from their employment are only one factor in their poverty status. Other important factors include the earnings of others in the family, other sources of income that family members might have, and the size of the family.

The data were collected in the 2003 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

In 2002, the proportion of those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who were classified as working poor continued to be higher for women than for men—6.0 versus 4.7 percent. (See table 2.) Over the year, these proportions edged up by 0.5 and 0.3 percentage point, respectively. However, both rates remained lower than they had been in the early 1990s. In 1993, for example, the rates were 7.3 percent for women and 6.2 percent for men.

The proportion who were in poverty was higher among women who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more than among men for all of the major racial and ethnic groups, with the exception of Asian workers, for whom the rates were about the same. The incidence of poverty among working black women was about twice that of their male counterparts, while the rates for white and Hispanic women were only 0.5 percentage point greater than those for their male counterparts. This is in part because black women are

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2000-2002

(Numbers in thousands)

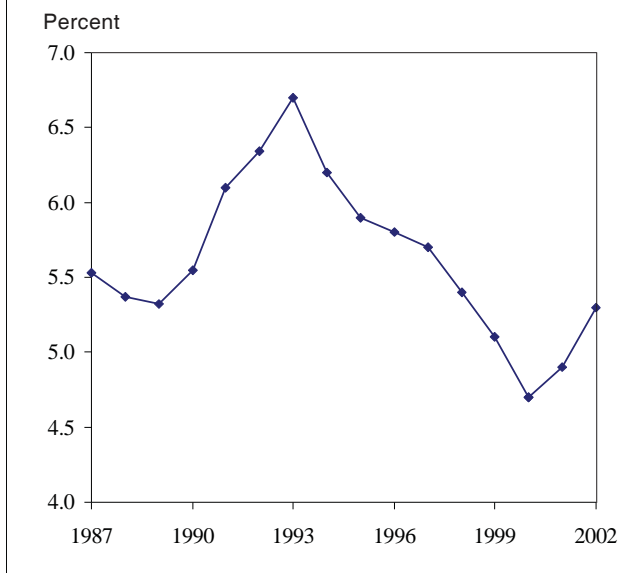
Characteristic	2000	2001	2002 ¹
Total persons ²	137,398	138,143	139,728
In poverty	6,483	6,802	7,359
Poverty rate	4.7	4.9	5.3
Unrelated individuals	29,258	29,387	29,847
In poverty	2,238	2,388	2,584
Poverty rate	7.6	8.1	8.7
Primary families ³	61,879	62,251	63,352
In poverty	3,492	3,697	3,973
Poverty rate	5.6	5.9	6.3

¹ Data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 2001 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2003 of revised population controls used in the survey.

² Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

³ Primary families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half of the year.

Chart 1. Poverty rates of persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1987-2002



far more likely to head families alone than are women in other racial and ethnic groups.

In 2002, about 71 percent of the working poor were white. However, the proportions classified as working poor for blacks (10.5 percent) and Hispanics or Latinos (10.4 percent) continued to be about twice those of whites (4.5 percent) and Asians (4.6 percent). (See table 2.)

Young workers are more vulnerable to poverty than other groups, in part because their earnings are lower and unemployment is higher for them than for their older counterparts. Among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2002, 9.0 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 10.2 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were in poverty. These rates were roughly double the rate for workers aged 35 to 44 (5.2 percent) and about triple the rate for workers aged 45 to 54 years of age (3.2 percent).

Black and Hispanic or Latino teenagers who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were much more likely to be in poverty. Among 16- to 19-year-olds, the proportions who were in poverty for blacks (17.8 percent) and Hispanics or Latinos (13.9 percent) were much higher than those for whites (7.9 percent) and Asians (8.2 percent). (See table 2.)

Educational attainment

The incidence of living in poverty greatly diminishes as workers achieve higher levels of education. In 2002, only 1.6 percent of college graduates who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were counted among the working poor, compared with 6.1 percent of high school graduates with no college and 14.6 percent of high school dropouts. Persons with higher levels of education have better access to higher paying jobs, such as managerial, professional, and related occupations, than do those with lower levels of education. (See table 3.)

At all major educational levels, women were more likely

than men to be among the working poor. Among whites, the differences in the working poor rates by education between women and men were relatively small. For example, about 5.5 percent of the white female high school graduates with no college who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were among the working poor, compared with 4.7 percent of their male counterparts. Among college graduates, the proportions classified as working poor for white women and men were 1.5 and 1.3 percent, respectively. In contrast, black women without a college degree were considerably more likely than their male counterparts to be among the working poor. About 17.2 percent of the black women high school graduates with no college were among the working poor, compared with 8.0 percent of the men. Among college graduates, however, black women were less likely than their male counterparts to be among the working poor—2.1 and 2.4 percent, respectively.

Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely by occupation. Workers in occupations requiring higher education and characterized by relatively higher earnings, such as managerial, professional, and related occupations, were least likely to be classified as working poor (2.0 percent) in 2002. On the other hand, persons employed in occupations that usually do not require high levels of education and that are characterized by relatively lower earnings—such as services and natural resources, construction, and maintenance—were more likely to be among the working poor. For example, 10.3 percent of service workers were classified as working poor in 2002. Service occupations, with 2.2 million working poor, accounted for 29.3 percent of all those classified as the working poor. Overall, 6.8 percent of workers in natural resources (farming, fishing, and forestry), construction, and maintenance occupations were classified as working poor. Within this occupational group, 13.2 percent of farmworkers and 7.8 percent of construction workers were classified as working poor. (See table 4.)

Families

Nearly 4.0 million families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more—6.3 percent of all such families—lived below the poverty level in 2002. This was up from 5.9 percent of families in the previous year. For families with one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, married-couple families had a lower incidence of poverty (8.1 percent) than did either families maintained by single women (21.5 percent) or families maintained by men with no spouse present (11.8 percent). This was true regardless of which member of the married-couple family was in the labor force. (See table 5.)

The poverty threshold for families reflects both the total family income and the number of family members. The more workers a family has, the higher its income is likely to be and, therefore, the less likely the family is to be living below the poverty line. For example, only 0.8 percent of families

with three or more members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and 2.0 percent of families with two such labor force participants were among the working poor in 2002. In contrast, 12.5 percent of families with only one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were in poverty.

The larger the family, however, the higher the level of income needed to keep the family out of poverty. In addition, the presence of children can reduce the ability of one or both of the parents to participate fully in the labor force. Thus, working families with children, regardless of type of family, had higher poverty rates than families without children. The difference was greatest among families maintained by women. Among these families, 22.3 percent of those with children were poor in 2002, compared with 4.9 percent of those without children. (See table 5.)

Working wives are less likely than working husbands to be poor, primarily because working wives are more likely to be in families with a second earner, usually the husband. In 2002, 1.9 percent of married women who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were in poverty, compared with 3.5 percent of married men. In comparison, 17.6 percent of women who maintained families and who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were in poverty. (See table 6.)

Unrelated individuals

Unrelated individuals are those who either live alone or live with nonrelatives. Of the 29.8 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2002, 8.7 percent lived below the poverty level. This was up from 8.1 percent in 2001. (See table 7.)

The living arrangements of unrelated individuals fall into one of two types: Some live by themselves, while others share housing with unrelated persons. Unrelated individuals with low incomes often live with others in order to share expenses and pool resources. Because poverty status for unrelated individuals is determined by their personal income and not by their household income, the poverty measure for these unrelated individuals living with nonrelatives may overstate their actual economic hardship. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have sufficient incomes to support themselves. Persons living with unrelated

individuals and who were labor force participants for more than 27 weeks in 2002 were about twice as likely as those living alone to be poor (11.3 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively). Teenagers who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and were living on their own or with others not related to them were more vulnerable to being poor than were other unrelated individuals. In 2002, 38.0 percent of such teenagers lived below the poverty level.

Labor market problems

As noted earlier, persons who usually work full time are far less likely to live in poverty than are others. Yet, there remains a sizable group of full-time workers who live below the poverty threshold. Among those who participated in the labor force for more than half of the year and who usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 3.6 million, or 3.3 percent, were classified as working poor in 2002. (See table 8.) This proportion has edged up from its recent low of 3.1 percent in 2000.

There are three major labor market problems that can impede a worker's ability to earn an income above the poverty threshold: Low earnings, periods of unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See Technical Note for definitions.)

In 2002, 80.9 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 condition encountered, with 65.4 percent facing low earnings either alone or in conjunction with other labor market problems. About 35 percent experienced unemployment either alone or in conjunction with other problems. Only 5.2 percent experienced all three problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment.

Some 690,000 persons, or 19.1 percent of the working poor who usually worked full time, did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2002. Their classification as working poor 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 2003 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 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, comprising a total of 78,000 households. The work experience and income information collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement refers to activity in the previous 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 *Poverty in the United States: 2002*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 222 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2003). This publication also is available on the Census Bureau Web site at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty02.html>.

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

Comparability of estimates

The 2002 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2001 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2003 of revised population controls used in the CPS. The effect of the revised population controls on the estimates of the working poor is unknown. However, the effect of the new controls on the monthly CPS estimates was to increase the January 2003 employment level by 576,000 and the unemployment level by 38,000 relative to the December 2002 level. For additional information, see "Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003" in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcps03.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 2002, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$18,392; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$37,062; and for an unrelated individual age 65 or older, it was \$8,628. 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: 2002*, 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 2002, the low-earnings threshold was \$264.80 per week. For a more complete definition, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Ronces, "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 *Poverty in the United States: 2002*, 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 of the persons 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 household with others who are not relatives, 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 persons. Persons 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 Islanders, and persons 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. Persons 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, 2002

(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	153,411	139,728	126,569
Did not work during the year	2,656	1,340	1,127
Worked during the year	150,755	138,387	125,443
Usual full-time workers	120,970	115,951	108,453
Usual part-time workers	29,785	22,436	16,990
Involuntary part-time workers	5,171	4,144	3,378
Voluntary part-time workers	24,614	18,293	13,612
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	143,488	132,369	120,574
Did not work during the year	1,665	778	648
Worked during the year	141,823	131,591	119,927
Usual full-time workers	115,609	111,594	104,742
Usual part-time workers	26,215	19,997	15,185
Involuntary part-time workers	3,959	3,215	2,634
Voluntary part-time workers	22,256	16,782	12,550
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	9,923	7,359	5,995
Did not work during the year	991	562	479
Worked during the year	8,931	6,796	5,516
Usual full-time workers	5,361	4,357	3,710
Usual part-time workers	3,570	2,439	1,806
Involuntary part-time workers	1,212	929	744
Voluntary part-time workers	2,358	1,511	1,062
Rate ¹			
Total in labor force	6.5	5.3	4.7
Did not work during the year	37.3	42.0	42.5
Worked during the year	5.9	4.9	4.4
Usual full-time workers	4.4	3.8	3.4
Usual part-time workers	12.0	10.9	10.6
Involuntary part-time workers	23.4	22.4	22.0
Voluntary part-time workers	9.6	8.3	7.8

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

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and older. Data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 2001

and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2003 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see the Technical Note and "Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003" in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcps03.pdf>.

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2002

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and sex	Total	White ¹	Black or African American ¹	Asian ¹	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Below poverty level				
						Total	White ¹	Black or African American ¹	Asian ¹	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	139,728	115,307	15,558	5,764	17,434	7,359	5,194	1,634	263	1,821
16 to 19 years	4,390	3,712	425	111	604	394	292	75	9	84
20 to 24 years	13,174	10,677	1,634	451	2,403	1,340	956	288	45	285
25 to 34 years	31,299	25,015	3,892	1,584	5,631	2,125	1,505	474	60	619
35 to 44 years	36,008	29,273	4,358	1,562	4,647	1,858	1,267	435	79	541
45 to 54 years	32,719	27,371	3,444	1,299	2,714	1,042	698	269	48	210
55 to 64 years	17,263	14,927	1,470	609	1,175	485	388	71	19	63
65 years and older	4,875	4,331	335	148	259	115	88	22	4	18
Men, 16 years and older	75,198	63,204	7,148	3,149	10,564	3,514	2,696	532	145	1,083
16 to 19 years	2,217	1,875	208	57	354	167	116	38	5	43
20 to 24 years	7,052	5,780	796	254	1,521	577	423	107	25	155
25 to 34 years	17,372	14,237	1,779	888	3,614	1,020	831	115	30	388
35 to 44 years	19,432	16,175	1,958	870	2,739	915	684	135	49	337
45 to 54 years	17,161	14,586	1,600	650	1,469	550	409	102	22	116
55 to 64 years	9,245	8,126	641	343	702	240	195	27	14	36
65 years and older	2,718	2,426	166	88	164	46	38	7	-	7
Women, 16 years and older	64,530	52,103	8,410	2,614	6,870	3,844	2,499	1,102	118	738
16 to 19 years	2,173	1,837	217	53	250	227	177	37	4	41
20 to 24 years	6,122	4,898	838	198	882	764	533	181	20	130
25 to 34 years	13,926	10,778	2,113	696	2,017	1,105	674	359	30	231
35 to 44 years	16,576	13,098	2,400	692	1,907	943	583	299	30	204
45 to 54 years	15,558	12,785	1,844	649	1,246	492	289	167	26	94
55 to 64 years	8,018	6,801	829	267	473	245	193	43	5	27
65 years and older	2,157	1,906	169	60	95	69	49	15	4	11

Age and sex	Rate ²				
	Total	White ¹	Black or African American ¹	Asian ¹	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	5.3	4.5	10.5	4.6	10.4
16 to 19 years	9.0	7.9	17.8	8.2	13.9
20 to 24 years	10.2	9.0	17.7	10.0	11.9
25 to 34 years	6.8	6.0	12.2	3.8	11.0
35 to 44 years	5.2	4.3	10.0	5.0	11.6
45 to 54 years	3.2	2.6	7.8	3.7	7.7
55 to 64 years	2.8	2.6	4.8	3.0	5.4
65 years and older	2.4	2.0	6.6	2.5	6.9
Men, 16 years and older	4.7	4.3	7.4	4.6	10.2
16 to 19 years	7.5	6.2	18.3	(³)	12.2
20 to 24 years	8.2	7.3	13.4	9.9	10.2
25 to 34 years	5.9	5.8	6.4	3.3	10.7
35 to 44 years	4.7	4.2	6.9	5.6	12.3
45 to 54 years	3.2	2.8	6.4	3.4	7.9
55 to 64 years	2.6	2.4	4.3	4.1	5.2
65 years and older	1.7	1.6	4.4	-	4.4
Women, 16 years and older	6.0	4.8	13.1	4.5	10.7
16 to 19 years	10.4	9.6	17.3	(³)	16.3
20 to 24 years	12.5	10.9	21.7	10.1	14.8
25 to 34 years	7.9	6.3	17.0	4.3	11.4
35 to 44 years	5.7	4.5	12.5	4.3	10.7
45 to 54 years	3.2	2.3	9.1	4.0	7.6
55 to 64 years	3.1	2.8	5.2	1.7	5.7
65 years and older	3.2	2.6	8.8	(³)	11.1

¹ Beginning with data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are not included. Prior to 2002, persons who reported more than one race group were included in the group they identified as the main race. Also beginning in 2002, Asians no longer include Pacific Islanders.

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

labor force for 27 weeks or more.

³ 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, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2002

(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	139,728	75,198	64,530	7,359	3,514	3,844	5.3	4.7	6.0
Less than a high school diploma	16,617	10,398	6,220	2,421	1,340	1,081	14.6	12.9	17.4
Less than 1 year of high school	4,926	3,326	1,600	849	551	297	17.2	16.6	18.6
1-3 years of high school	9,872	5,949	3,922	1,377	688	689	13.9	11.6	17.6
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,820	1,123	697	196	101	95	10.8	9.0	13.6
High school graduates, no college ²	42,843	23,198	19,645	2,630	1,210	1,420	6.1	5.2	7.2
Some college or associate degree	39,952	19,895	20,057	1,673	643	1,031	4.2	3.2	5.1
Some college, no degree	27,681	14,273	13,408	1,332	503	829	4.8	3.5	6.2
Associate degree	12,272	5,622	6,650	341	140	201	2.8	2.5	3.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	40,315	21,708	18,608	634	321	313	1.6	1.5	1.7
White, 16 years and older ⁴	115,307	63,204	52,103	5,194	2,696	2,499	4.5	4.3	4.8
Less than a high school diploma	13,562	8,784	4,778	1,784	1,069	715	13.2	12.2	15.0
Less than 1 year of high school	4,238	2,915	1,323	723	476	247	17.1	16.3	18.7
1-3 years of high school	7,968	4,999	2,969	959	537	422	12.0	10.7	14.2
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,356	870	486	101	55	46	7.5	6.4	9.4
High school graduates, no college ²	35,166	19,279	15,887	1,779	907	872	5.1	4.7	5.5
Some college or associate degree	32,811	16,661	16,150	1,154	479	675	3.5	2.9	4.2
Some college, no degree	22,480	11,847	10,633	915	379	536	4.1	3.2	5.0
Associate degree	10,331	4,814	5,517	239	100	139	2.3	2.1	2.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	33,768	18,480	15,288	477	241	236	1.4	1.3	1.5
Black or African American, 16 years and older ⁴	15,558	7,148	8,410	1,634	532	1,102	10.5	7.4	13.1
Less than a high school diploma	2,053	1,017	1,035	484	179	305	23.6	17.6	29.4
Less than 1 year of high school	354	205	149	70	37	33	19.7	18.0	22.1
1-3 years of high school	1,354	631	723	337	110	227	24.9	17.4	31.4
4 years of high school, no diploma	345	182	163	78	33	45	22.5	18.1	27.5
High school graduates, no college ²	5,598	2,784	2,814	707	221	485	12.6	8.0	17.2
Some college or associate degree	4,888	2,084	2,805	376	101	275	7.7	4.8	9.8
Some college, no degree	3,653	1,619	2,034	301	74	226	8.2	4.6	11.1
Associate degree	1,235	464	771	75	27	49	6.1	5.7	6.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,019	1,264	1,756	67	30	37	2.2	2.4	2.1
Asian, 16 years and older ⁴	5,764	3,149	2,614	263	145	118	4.6	4.6	4.5
Less than a high school diploma	524	291	233	72	47	25	13.7	16.2	10.5
Less than 1 year of high school	221	122	99	32	20	12	14.6	16.3	12.5
1-3 years of high school	226	130	96	25	17	9	11.3	12.8	9.2
4 years of high school, no diploma	78	39	38	14	11	3	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
High school graduates, no college ²	1,087	552	535	50	27	23	4.6	4.9	4.2
Some college or associate degree	1,193	617	576	65	27	39	5.5	4.3	6.7
Some college, no degree	802	429	373	52	19	33	6.5	4.5	8.9
Associate degree	391	188	203	13	7	6	3.3	3.9	2.8
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	2,959	1,690	1,269	76	44	32	2.6	2.6	2.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	17,434	10,564	6,870	1,821	1,083	738	10.4	10.2	10.7
Less than a high school diploma	6,471	4,395	2,075	1,108	727	381	17.1	16.5	18.4
Less than 1 year of high school	3,340	2,307	1,032	611	414	197	18.3	17.9	19.0
1-3 years of high school	2,627	1,743	884	439	273	165	16.7	15.7	18.7
4 years of high school, no diploma	504	345	159	59	40	19	11.7	11.5	12.2
High school graduates, no college ²	5,184	3,073	2,111	435	230	205	8.4	7.5	9.7
Some college or associate degree	3,749	1,985	1,764	217	93	123	5.8	4.7	7.0
Some college, no degree	2,812	1,509	1,302	180	80	100	6.4	5.3	7.7
Associate degree	937	476	462	37	14	23	3.9	2.9	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	2,030	1,111	919	61	32	29	3.0	2.9	3.1

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

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

⁴ Beginning with data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are not included. Prior to 2002, persons who reported more than one

race group were included in the group they identified as the main race. Also beginning in 2002, Asians no longer include Pacific Islanders.

⁵ 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, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

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, 2002

(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	138,387	74,390	63,997	6,794	3,206	3,588	4.9	4.3	5.6
Management, professional, and related occupations	47,514	23,706	23,807	916	443	473	1.9	1.9	2.0
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	20,478	11,805	8,673	429	258	171	2.1	2.2	2.0
Professional and related occupations	27,035	11,901	15,134	487	185	302	1.8	1.6	2.0
Service occupations	21,709	9,380	12,329	2,221	727	1,494	10.2	7.7	12.1
Sales and office occupations	35,703	12,991	22,712	1,648	447	1,201	4.6	3.4	5.3
Sales and related occupations	16,079	8,364	7,715	970	283	687	6.0	3.4	8.9
Office and administrative support occupations	19,624	4,628	14,997	678	164	514	3.5	3.5	3.4
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	14,661	13,969	692	968	901	66	6.6	6.5	9.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,026	785	241	139	99	41	13.6	12.6	16.8
Construction and extraction occupations	8,523	8,315	208	640	622	18	7.5	7.5	8.6
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,112	4,869	243	188	180	8	3.7	3.7	3.3
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	18,703	14,258	4,445	1,039	688	351	5.6	4.8	7.9
Production occupations	10,207	7,056	3,150	523	296	227	5.1	4.2	7.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations	8,496	7,202	1,294	516	392	124	6.1	5.4	9.6
White, 16 years and older ²	114,507	62,706	51,802	4,905	2,522	2,383	4.3	4.0	4.6
Management, professional, and related occupations	40,294	20,400	19,894	683	347	336	1.7	1.7	1.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	17,808	10,495	7,313	347	214	133	2.0	2.0	1.8
Professional and related occupations	22,485	9,904	12,581	336	133	203	1.5	1.3	1.6
Service occupations	16,667	7,397	9,270	1,502	548	954	9.0	7.4	10.3
Sales and office occupations	29,622	10,929	18,693	1,149	340	809	3.9	3.1	4.3
Sales and related occupations	13,660	7,255	6,405	682	214	468	5.0	2.9	7.3
Office and administrative support occupations	15,962	3,674	12,289	467	126	341	2.9	3.4	2.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,061	12,458	603	827	765	62	6.3	6.1	10.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	922	709	212	128	90	38	13.9	12.7	18.0
Construction and extraction occupations	7,622	7,436	187	544	527	17	7.1	7.1	9.0
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,517	4,313	204	155	148	7	3.4	3.4	3.3
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	14,799	11,461	3,338	743	521	222	5.0	4.5	6.7
Production occupations	8,154	5,791	2,363	394	248	146	4.8	4.3	6.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations	6,645	5,670	975	349	274	76	5.3	4.8	7.8
Black or African American, 16 years and older ²	15,147	6,920	8,228	1,400	422	978	9.2	6.1	11.9
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,818	1,445	2,373	133	31	101	3.5	2.2	4.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,387	591	797	40	15	25	2.9	2.5	3.2
Professional and related occupations	2,431	855	1,576	93	17	76	3.8	2.0	4.8
Service occupations	3,522	1,277	2,245	561	115	446	15.9	9.0	19.9
Sales and office occupations	4,049	1,254	2,794	393	75	319	9.7	5.9	11.4
Sales and related occupations	1,538	667	871	233	53	180	15.2	8.0	20.7
Office and administrative support occupations	2,510	587	1,924	160	21	139	6.4	3.7	7.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	1,019	964	56	96	93	3	9.4	9.7	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	44	34	10	6	5	2	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	584	570	15	69	69	-	11.8	12.1	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	391	360	31	21	19	1	5.3	5.4	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	2,719	1,964	755	216	108	109	8.0	5.5	14.4
Production occupations	1,286	777	509	90	24	66	7.0	3.0	13.0
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,433	1,187	246	126	84	42	8.8	7.1	17.2

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, 2002 — 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	5,684	3,103	2,581	240	132	108	4.2	4.2	4.2
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,563	1,471	1,092	67	41	25	2.6	2.8	2.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	945	525	419	23	13	11	2.5	2.4	2.5
Professional and related occupations	1,618	945	673	43	29	15	2.7	3.0	2.2
Service occupations	899	395	504	62	25	36	6.9	6.4	7.2
Sales and office occupations	1,261	550	711	57	20	37	4.5	3.6	5.3
Sales and related occupations	575	306	268	26	12	14	4.6	3.8	5.4
Office and administrative support occupations	686	243	443	31	8	23	4.5	3.3	5.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	225	212	13	14	14	—	6.4	6.5	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	27	18	9	1	1	—	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	95	94	—	9	9	—	9.1	9.2	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	103	99	3	5	5	—	4.5	4.7	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	729	468	261	40	31	9	5.5	6.6	3.4
Production occupations	517	300	217	21	14	7	4.1	4.6	3.5
Transportation and material-moving occupations	212	168	44	18	17	1	8.7	10.2	(³)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ²	17,280	10,483	6,797	1,749	1,050	699	10.1	10.0	10.3
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,779	1,381	1,398	92	48	44	3.3	3.4	3.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,106	626	480	42	36	7	3.8	5.7	1.4
Professional and related occupations	1,673	755	918	49	12	38	3.0	1.6	4.1
Service occupations	4,165	2,154	2,011	638	303	335	15.3	14.1	16.7
Sales and office occupations	3,767	1,466	2,301	286	102	185	7.6	6.9	8.0
Sales and related occupations	1,660	795	866	159	57	102	9.6	7.2	11.7
Office and administrative support occupations	2,106	671	1,435	128	45	83	6.1	6.7	5.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	2,974	2,809	166	360	335	25	12.1	11.9	15.1
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	419	308	111	77	53	24	18.3	17.2	21.2
Construction and extraction occupations	1,873	1,850	24	236	235	2	12.6	12.7	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	681	650	31	47	47	—	6.9	7.3	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	3,586	2,664	922	372	263	109	10.4	9.9	11.9
Production occupations	2,019	1,349	670	209	134	75	10.3	9.9	11.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,567	1,315	252	163	129	34	10.4	9.8	13.7

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, 2002

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	63,352	59,379	3,973	6.3
With related children under 18 years	35,865	32,500	3,366	9.4
Without children	27,487	26,879	607	2.2
With one member in the labor force	26,369	23,063	3,306	12.5
With two or more members in the labor force	36,983	36,316	667	1.8
With two members	31,213	30,591	622	2.0
With three or more members	5,771	5,725	45	.8
Married-couple families	48,348	46,551	1,797	3.7
With related children under 18 years	26,184	24,755	1,430	5.5
Without children	22,164	21,796	368	1.7
With one member in the labor force	15,872	14,580	1,292	8.1
Husband	11,946	10,905	1,040	8.7
Wife	3,312	3,106	206	6.2
Relative	614	569	45	7.4
With two or more members in the labor force	32,476	31,971	505	1.6
With two members	27,621	27,148	473	1.7
With three or more members	4,856	4,824	32	.7
Families maintained by women	10,897	9,054	1,843	16.9
With related children under 18 years	7,521	5,843	1,678	22.3
Without children	3,376	3,211	165	4.9
With one member in the labor force	7,963	6,248	1,715	21.5
Householder	6,603	5,090	1,513	22.9
Relative	1,361	1,158	202	14.9
With two or more members in the labor force	2,933	2,806	128	4.3
Families maintained by men	4,107	3,774	333	8.1
With related children under 18 years	2,160	1,902	258	12.0
Without children	1,947	1,872	74	3.8
With one member in the labor force	2,533	2,235	298	11.8
Householder	2,079	1,840	239	11.5
Relative	454	395	59	13.1
With two or more members in the labor force	1,574	1,539	35	2.2

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. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: Poverty status and work experience, 2002

(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	220,285	56,685	57,280	5,638	17,234	13,593	1,965	10,306	4,626	541	4,738	47,679
With labor force activity	153,411	45,229	37,372	2,303	11,914	9,993	592	6,822	3,719	173	3,247	32,044
1 to 26 weeks	13,683	1,454	3,287	1,398	2,517	807	375	970	216	99	365	2,196
27 weeks or more	139,728	43,776	34,086	905	9,398	9,186	217	5,852	3,504	75	2,882	29,847
With no labor force activity	66,874	11,455	19,908	3,335	5,319	3,600	1,372	3,484	907	368	1,490	15,635
At or above poverty level												
All persons ¹	196,718	53,676	54,230	5,330	16,509	9,983	1,402	8,822	4,070	451	4,336	37,909
With labor force activity	143,488	43,532	36,439	2,253	11,641	7,889	484	6,246	3,383	154	3,091	28,376
1 to 26 weeks	11,119	1,284	3,000	1,365	2,419	323	300	766	144	81	323	1,113
27 weeks or more	132,369	42,248	33,439	888	9,222	7,565	184	5,481	3,239	73	2,767	27,263
With no labor force activity	53,230	10,143	17,791	3,077	4,868	2,094	919	2,576	687	297	1,245	9,533
Below poverty level												
All persons ¹	23,567	3,009	3,050	308	725	3,610	563	1,484	556	90	402	9,770
With labor force activity	9,923	1,697	933	50	273	2,104	109	576	336	19	157	3,668
1 to 26 weeks	2,564	170	286	33	98	483	76	205	72	17	42	1,084
27 weeks or more	7,359	1,528	647	17	176	1,621	33	371	265	2	115	2,584
With no labor force activity	13,644	1,312	2,117	258	451	1,506	454	908	220	71	245	6,102
Rate ²												
All persons ¹	10.7	5.3	5.3	5.5	4.2	26.6	28.6	14.4	12.0	16.6	8.5	20.5
With labor force activity	6.5	3.8	2.5	2.2	2.3	21.1	18.4	8.4	9.0	10.9	4.8	11.4
1 to 26 weeks	18.7	11.7	8.7	2.3	3.9	59.9	20.2	21.1	33.2	17.5	11.5	49.3
27 weeks or more	5.3	3.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	17.6	15.3	6.3	7.6	(³)	4.0	8.7
With no labor force activity	20.4	11.5	10.6	7.7	8.5	41.8	33.1	26.1	24.2	19.3	16.4	39.0

¹ Data on families include persons 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.

NOTE: See Note, table 1.

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, 2002

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	29,847	27,263	2,584	8.7
16 to 19 years	533	330	202	38.0
20 to 24 years	4,121	3,445	676	16.4
25 to 64 years	23,741	22,093	1,648	6.9
65 years and older	1,453	1,395	58	4.0
Men	16,439	15,120	1,319	8.0
Women	13,408	12,143	1,265	9.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White ²	24,467	22,501	1,966	8.0
Men	13,519	12,508	1,012	7.5
Women	10,948	9,994	954	8.7
Black or African American ²	3,528	3,139	389	11.0
Men	1,879	1,686	193	10.3
Women	1,649	1,453	196	11.9
Asian ²	1,098	988	110	10.0
Men	583	538	45	7.7
Women	514	450	65	12.6
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,190	2,792	397	12.5
Men	2,106	1,882	224	10.6
Women	1,083	910	173	16.0
Living arrangement				
Living alone	15,981	14,966	1,015	6.4
Living with others	13,866	12,297	1,569	11.3

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

² Beginning with data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are not included. Prior to 2002, persons who reported more than one race group were included in the group they identified as the main race. Also beginning in 2002,

Asians no longer include Pacific Islanders.

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, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

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, 2002

(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	108,959	105,350	3,609	3.3
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	89,533	88,843	690	.8
Unemployment only	6,798	6,400	398	5.9
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,401	2,348	52	2.2
Low earnings only	6,575	5,123	1,452	22.1
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	1,104	994	110	10.0
Unemployment and low earnings	1,466	897	569	38.8
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	654	502	152	23.3
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	429	243	186	43.3
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	9,796	8,534	1,262	12.9
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	4,587	4,087	501	10.9
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	9,124	6,765	2,359	25.9

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 2002 was \$264.80 per week. NOTE: See Note, table 1.