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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2004

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A Profile of the Working Poor, 2004

Abstract

[Excerpt] This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2004 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status differ, depending on whether the individuals were living with family members or were living alone or with nonrelatives. For family members, the poverty threshold was determined by their family's total income; for individuals not living in families, their personal income was used as the determinant.

The data were collected in the 2005 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

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2006). *A profile of the working poor, 2004* (BLS Report 994). Washington, D.C.: Author.

A Profile of the Working Poor, 2004



U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
May 2006

Report 994

(This report was reissued on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, to reflect corrections to the survey sample weights made after the publication of the original report. The analyses in this report were not affected by the corrections.)

In 2004, 37.0 million people, or 12.7 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty threshold, according to the Census Bureau. The majority of the Nation's poor were children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year. However, 7.8 million were classified as "working poor"—persons who, during the year, spent 27 weeks or more in the labor force during the year (working or looking for work), but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. These individuals represented 5.6 percent of all persons 16 years and older who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more—an increase of 0.3 percentage point (407,000 persons) from the prior year. (See tables A and 1, and chart 1.) Additional highlights from the 2004 data include:

- Although working full-time (35 or more hours per week) substantially lowers a person's probability of being poor, a majority (58.3 percent) of the working poor usually worked full time. Still, full-time workers were less likely than part-time workers to be considered working poor: in 2004, 3.9 percent of all persons who spent 27 or more weeks in the labor force and usually worked full time were classified as working poor, compared with 11.6 percent of usual part-time workers.

- Black and Hispanic or Latino workers continued to be more than twice as likely as their white counterparts to be among the working poor.

- In general, the risk of being poor falls rapidly as individuals attain higher education levels. Of those in the labor force for most of 2004, only 1.7 percent of college graduates were among the working poor, compared with 15.2 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.

- The probability of being among the working poor was lowest for individuals employed in management, professional,

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2001-2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2001	2002 ¹	2003 ²	2004
Total persons ³	138,143	139,728	140,007	140,908
In poverty	6,802	7,359	7,429	7,836
Poverty rate	4.9	5.3	5.3	5.6
Unrelated individuals	29,387	29,847	29,898	30,694
In poverty	2,388	2,584	2,472	2,742
Poverty rate	8.1	8.7	8.3	8.9
Primary families ⁴	62,251	63,352	63,567	63,912
In poverty	3,697	3,973	4,167	4,261
Poverty rate	5.9	6.3	6.6	6.7

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

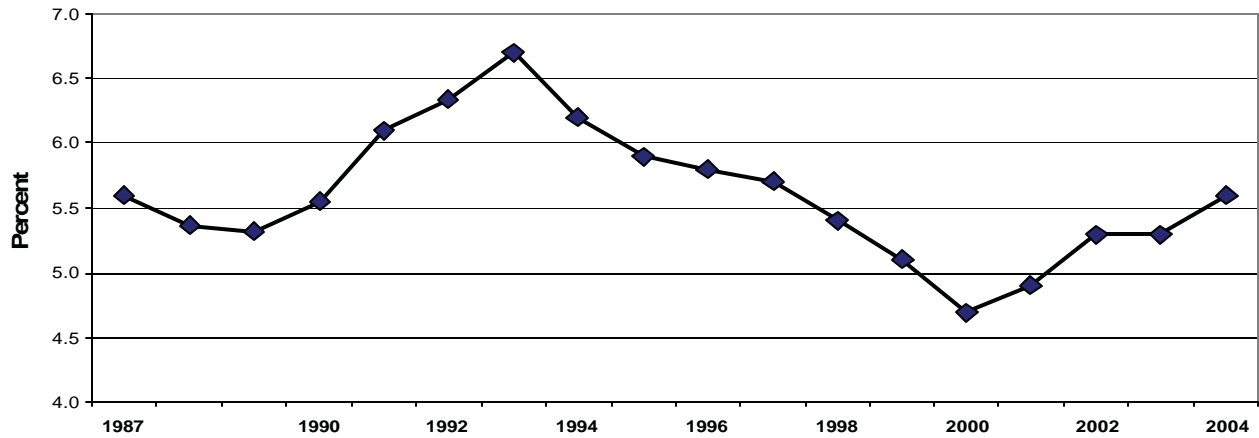
² Data, beginning in 2003 with the collection of the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population, are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years because of the introduction in the January 2004 survey of revised population controls used in the survey.

³ Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

⁴ Primary families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half of the year.

NOTE: Data for 2004 may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

Chart 1. Poverty rates of persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1987-2004



and related occupations and highest for those holding service jobs.

- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those including children under 18 years old were about four times as likely as 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 2004 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine people’s poverty status differ, depending on whether the individuals were living with family members or were living alone or with nonrelatives. For family members, the poverty threshold was determined by their family’s total income; for individuals not living in families, their personal income was used as the determinant.

The data were collected in the 2005 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 for at least 27 weeks during 2004, about the same number of women and men were poor, 4.0 and 3.8 million, respectively. The working-poor rate—the proportion of persons in the labor force for at least 27 weeks, who lived below the poverty level—was 6.2 percent for women, compared with 5.0 percent for men. (See table 2.) The rate for men was slightly higher than in 2003.

As in past years, younger workers were more likely to be among the working poor than were their older counterparts, largely because of young people’s lower earnings and higher

rates of unemployment. Among youth who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2004, 10.2 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 11.7 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were living in poverty. These rates were at least double the rate for workers aged 35 to 44 (5.1 percent), and more than triple the rate for workers 55 to 64 years of age (3.0 percent).

Black and Hispanic teenage workers are more likely to be in poverty. Among teenagers who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 19.5 percent of blacks and 15.6 percent of Hispanics were living in poverty, compared with 9.0 percent of whites and 7.0 percent of Asians. (See table 2.)

Educational attainment

Achieving higher levels of education dramatically reduces the likelihood of being among the working poor. Individuals with higher levels of education have greater access to higher paying jobs, such as management, professional, and related occupations, than those with lower education. In 2004, the working-poor rate for college graduates was 1.7 percent, the lowest by education level. Persons with less than a high school diploma were those most likely to be among the working poor (15.2 percent); having a high school diploma or equivalent, but no college, reduced the working-poor rate to 6.5 percent. Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to be among the working poor than were whites at all levels of educational attainment. (See table 3.)

At lower levels of educational attainment, white women were slightly more likely to be among the working poor than were white men. There were some marked disparities, however, among black men and women. The working-poor rate for black women workers with less than a high school diploma was 31.5 percent, compared with 17.6 percent for black men. Among high school graduates (no college), the gap was narrower, but the working-poor rate was still higher for black

women (14.6 percent) than for black men (9.4 percent). Among college graduates, however, the working-poor rate for black women was slightly below that for black men.

Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely by occupation. In 2004, 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. (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. Management, professional, and related occupations had the lowest working-poor rate—1.9 percent. The proportion of workers classified as working poor was highest for those employed in service occupations; at 11.2 percent, the rate was twice that for all workers. Individuals who had worked in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations also had an above-average working-poor rate—7.3 percent. (See table 4.)

Families

In 2004, 4.3 million families were classified as living below the poverty level, despite having at least one family member in the labor force for half the year or more. This number represented 6.7 percent of all families who had at least one member in the labor force in 2004, little changed from 2003. Among families with one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2004, married-couple families—regardless of whether the husband or the wife was the family member in the labor force—were the least likely to fall below the poverty level (8.8 percent). Families maintained by single women had a working-poor rate of 22.6 percent and families maintained by single men, 13.1 percent. (See table 5.)

The working-poor rate was higher in families with children than in those without children. Married-couple families with children had a working-poor rate of 5.9 percent; married-couple families without children had a working-poor rate of only 1.8 percent. Families maintained by single women with children under 18 years old had a working-poor rate of 23.3 percent. The working-poor rate for families maintained by single men with children also was high—12.4 percent. (See table 5.)

Unrelated individuals

In 2004, 30.7 million unrelated individuals were in the labor force for half the year or longer, and 2.7 million lived below the poverty level. Unrelated individuals are persons who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Their working-

poor rate was 8.9 percent in 2004, up from 8.3 percent in 2003. (See tables 6 and A.)

Of the 2.7 million unrelated individuals who lived below the poverty level, roughly 3 in every 5 lived with others. Persons living with unrelated individuals had a working-poor rate of 12.1 percent, compared with 6.2 percent for individuals living alone. Many unrelated individuals with low incomes may live with others out of necessity; if they had sufficient incomes to support themselves, they might choose to live alone. Poverty status for unrelated individuals in either living situation is determined using the individual's resources, but 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 unrelated individuals, teenagers living alone or with others not related to them were those most likely to live below the poverty level: about 3 in every 5 (227,000) were below the poverty level in 2004. Roughly equal numbers of men and women below the poverty level who were living alone or with unrelated individuals; however, women living alone or with unrelated individuals had a higher working-poor rate (9.9 percent) than did men (8.2 percent). Working-poor rates for unrelated blacks and unrelated Hispanics were 11.6 and 10.4 percent, respectively, compared with 8.4 percent for unrelated whites. (See table 7.)

Labor market problems

Three major labor market problems commonly experienced by persons in the labor force who live below the poverty level are unemployment, low earnings, and involuntary part-time employment. (See the Technical Note for detailed definitions.) 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, 3.8 million, or 3.5 percent, were classified as working poor in 2004. This proportion was little different from the prior year. This analysis is limited to full-time wage and salary workers. (See table 8.)

In 2004, 8 in 10 of the working poor who usually worked full time in wage and salary jobs experienced at least one labor market problem. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, reported by two-thirds of workers in this group, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. Unemployment, either alone or combined with other labor market problems, was experienced by about 3 in 10. Only 3.2 percent experienced all three problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time work.

Some 729,000 of the working poor who usually work full-time in wage and salary jobs did not experience any of the three main labor market problems in 2004. Their poverty status may be 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 2005 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, 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: 2004*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 229 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2005). This publication also is available on the Census Bureau Web site at www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p60-229.pdf.

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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.

Comparability of estimates

The 2004 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2003 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2005 of revised population controls used in the CPS. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005" in the February 2005 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.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 2004, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$19,307; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$39,048; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 or older, it was \$9,060. 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: 2004*, 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 2004, the low earnings threshold was \$278.03 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: 2004*, 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, 2004**

(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	154,796	140,908	127,562
Did not work during the year	2,543	1,247	1,069
Worked during the year	152,253	139,662	126,493
Usual full-time workers	121,730	116,549	108,730
Usual part-time workers	30,523	23,113	17,763
Involuntary part-time workers	5,147	4,222	3,463
Voluntary part-time workers	25,377	18,891	14,300
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	144,411	133,073	121,068
Did not work during the year	1,525	672	562
Worked during the year	142,886	132,400	120,506
Usual full-time workers	116,201	111,978	104,838
Usual part-time workers	26,685	20,422	15,667
Involuntary part-time workers	3,823	3,181	2,591
Voluntary part-time workers	22,862	17,242	13,076
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	10,385	7,836	6,494
Did not work during the year	1,019	575	507
Worked during the year	9,366	7,261	5,987
Usual full-time workers	5,529	4,571	3,892
Usual part-time workers	3,838	2,691	2,095
Involuntary part-time workers	1,323	1,041	871
Voluntary part-time workers	2,514	1,649	1,224
Rate ¹			
Total in labor force	6.7	5.6	5.1
Did not work during the year	40.1	46.1	47.4
Worked during the year	6.2	5.2	4.7
Usual full-time workers	4.5	3.9	3.6
Usual part-time workers	12.6	11.6	11.8
Involuntary part-time workers	25.7	24.7	25.2
Voluntary part-time workers	9.9	8.7	8.6

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

NOTE: Data refer to people 16 years and older. Data for 2004, which were collected in the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 2003 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2004 of revised

population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see the Technical Note and the article "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2004," available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf. Data in this table may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2004

(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	140,908	115,662	15,819	6,039	18,296	7,836	5,615	1,670	266	1,930
16 to 19 years	4,208	3,550	410	103	595	430	319	80	7	93
20 to 24 years	13,327	10,792	1,591	410	2,363	1,557	1,164	279	33	310
25 to 34 years	30,867	24,453	3,959	1,598	5,728	2,227	1,508	577	57	709
35 to 44 years	35,003	28,295	4,200	1,702	4,814	1,774	1,266	382	85	491
45 to 54 years	33,705	28,057	3,633	1,357	3,127	1,195	852	251	53	225
55 to 64 years	18,578	15,938	1,609	717	1,362	548	423	89	20	88
65 years and older	5,221	4,577	417	152	308	106	83	11	10	14
Men, 16 years and older	75,887	63,368	7,401	3,284	11,174	3,799	2,892	621	154	1,156
16 to 19 years	2,068	1,736	209	48	346	188	126	46	3	45
20 to 24 years	7,102	5,854	756	204	1,479	686	525	109	19	173
25 to 34 years	17,203	13,973	1,842	911	3,695	1,067	808	185	27	447
35 to 44 years	19,001	15,658	1,942	957	2,931	875	678	132	52	297
45 to 54 years	17,737	15,001	1,704	688	1,783	641	471	113	35	143
55 to 64 years	9,870	8,557	752	389	773	276	228	35	11	44
65 years and older	2,906	2,589	196	87	166	66	56	1	7	7
Women, 16 years and older	65,022	52,294	8,419	2,755	7,122	4,036	2,723	1,049	112	774
16 to 19 years	2,140	1,814	201	54	249	241	193	34	5	48
20 to 24 years	6,225	4,938	835	206	883	871	640	170	14	136
25 to 34 years	13,664	10,479	2,117	688	2,033	1,159	700	393	30	262
35 to 44 years	16,002	12,637	2,258	746	1,883	899	587	250	34	194
45 to 54 years	15,968	13,057	1,928	670	1,343	554	381	138	18	82
55 to 64 years	8,707	7,381	858	328	589	272	195	55	10	45
65 years and older	2,316	1,988	221	65	142	40	27	10	2	7

Age and sex	Rate ¹				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	5.6	4.9	10.6	4.4	10.5
16 to 19 years	10.2	9.0	19.5	7.0	15.6
20 to 24 years	11.7	10.8	17.5	8.2	13.1
25 to 34 years	7.2	6.2	14.6	3.6	12.4
35 to 44 years	5.1	4.5	9.1	5.0	10.2
45 to 54 years	3.5	3.0	6.9	3.9	7.2
55 to 64 years	3.0	2.7	5.6	2.8	6.5
65 years and older	2.0	1.8	2.6	6.3	4.4
Men, 16 years and older	5.0	4.6	8.4	4.7	10.3
16 to 19 years	9.1	7.3	22.1	(²)	13.1
20 to 24 years	9.7	9.0	14.5	9.4	11.7
25 to 34 years	6.2	5.8	10.0	3.0	12.1
35 to 44 years	4.6	4.3	6.8	5.4	10.1
45 to 54 years	3.6	3.1	6.6	5.2	8.0
55 to 64 years	2.8	2.7	4.6	2.7	5.6
65 years and older	2.3	2.2	0.7	8.6	4.2
Women, 16 years and older	6.2	5.2	12.5	4.1	10.9
16 to 19 years	11.3	10.6	16.8	(²)	19.2
20 to 24 years	14.0	12.9	20.3	7.0	15.4
25 to 34 years	8.5	6.7	18.6	4.4	12.9
35 to 44 years	5.6	4.6	11.1	4.5	10.3
45 to 54 years	3.5	2.9	7.1	2.6	6.1
55 to 64 years	3.1	2.6	6.4	2.9	7.6
65 years and older	1.7	1.4	4.3	(²)	4.7

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. Also, see Note, table 1. Data in this table may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2004

(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	140,908	75,887	65,022	7,836	3,799	4,036	5.6	5.0	6.2
Less than a high school diploma	16,013	10,032	5,981	2,427	1,341	1,087	15.2	13.4	18.2
Less than 1 year of high school	5,055	3,490	1,566	846	562	284	16.7	16.1	18.1
1-3 years of high school	9,226	5,463	3,763	1,368	672	696	14.8	12.3	18.5
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,732	1,079	653	214	106	107	12.3	9.8	16.4
High school graduates, no college ²	42,922	24,129	18,792	2,792	1,382	1,410	6.5	5.7	7.5
Some college or associate degree	40,570	19,818	20,753	1,903	727	1,176	4.7	3.7	5.7
Some college, no degree	27,385	13,706	13,679	1,499	575	924	5.5	4.2	6.8
Associate degree	13,186	6,112	7,073	404	152	252	3.1	2.5	3.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	41,404	21,908	19,495	714	350	364	1.7	1.6	1.9
White, 16 years and older	115,662	63,368	52,294	5,615	2,892	2,723	4.9	4.6	5.2
Less than a high school diploma	12,957	8,410	4,547	1,790	1,072	718	13.8	12.7	15.8
Less than 1 year of high school	4,374	3,095	1,279	728	497	231	16.6	16.1	18.0
1-3 years of high school	7,296	4,450	2,846	935	492	444	12.8	11.0	15.6
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,287	865	422	128	84	44	9.9	9.7	10.4
High school graduates, no college ²	34,898	19,844	15,054	1,939	1,009	930	5.6	5.1	6.2
Some college or associate degree	33,356	16,621	16,736	1,362	559	804	4.1	3.4	4.8
Some college, no degree	22,312	11,419	10,893	1,062	447	616	4.8	3.9	5.7
Associate degree	11,044	5,202	5,842	300	112	188	2.7	2.2	3.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	34,450	18,494	15,957	523	252	271	1.5	1.4	1.7
Black or African American, 16 years and older	15,819	7,401	8,419	1,670	621	1,049	10.6	8.4	12.5
Less than a high school diploma	2,022	1,054	968	490	185	305	24.3	17.6	31.5
Less than 1 year of high school	303	174	130	57	25	32	18.8	14.3	25.0
1-3 years of high school	1,406	724	681	359	141	218	25.5	19.5	32.0
4 years of high school, no diploma	313	156	157	74	19	55	23.7	12.3	35.1
High school graduates, no college ²	5,867	3,052	2,815	697	286	411	11.9	9.4	14.6
Some college or associate degree	4,825	2,023	2,803	383	101	283	7.9	5.0	10.1
Some college, no degree	3,450	1,464	1,986	307	74	233	8.9	5.1	11.7
Associate degree	1,375	558	817	77	27	50	5.6	4.8	6.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,105	1,272	1,833	99	49	50	3.2	3.8	2.7
Asian, 16 years and older	6,039	3,284	2,755	266	154	112	4.4	4.7	4.1
Less than a high school diploma	498	236	261	50	28	22	10.1	11.8	8.5
Less than 1 year of high school	224	114	110	25	17	8	10.9	14.5	7.3
1-3 years of high school	203	96	107	19	10	10	9.6	10.0	9.2
4 years of high school, no diploma	71	26	44	6	2	4	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
High school graduates, no college ²	1,146	644	502	61	38	23	5.3	5.8	4.7
Some college or associate degree	1,235	611	625	76	41	35	6.1	6.7	5.6
Some college, no degree	820	415	404	64	33	30	7.8	8.0	7.5
Associate degree	416	195	220	12	7	5	2.9	3.8	2.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,161	1,793	1,367	79	48	31	2.5	2.7	2.3
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	18,296	11,174	7,122	1,930	1,156	774	10.5	10.3	10.9
Less than a high school diploma	6,608	4,509	2,098	1,170	733	437	17.7	16.3	20.8
Less than 1 year of high school	3,530	2,508	1,022	660	458	202	18.7	18.3	19.8
1-3 years of high school	2,535	1,628	908	437	228	209	17.2	14.0	23.0
4 years of high school, no diploma	542	373	169	73	47	26	13.5	12.5	15.6
High school graduates, no college ²	5,461	3,341	2,119	462	278	184	8.5	8.3	8.7
Some college or associate degree	4,043	2,110	1,933	231	114	118	5.7	5.4	6.1
Some college, no degree	2,968	1,573	1,395	176	91	85	5.9	5.8	6.1
Associate degree	1,075	537	538	55	23	32	5.1	4.2	6.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	2,185	1,214	971	66	31	35	3.0	2.6	3.6

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. Also, see Note, table 1. Data in this table may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

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, 2004

(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	139,662	75,207	64,455	7,261	3,524	3,737	5.2	4.7	5.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	47,919	23,531	24,388	904	444	460	1.9	1.9	1.9
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	19,886	11,303	8,582	358	232	126	1.8	2.1	1.5
Professional and related occupations	28,033	12,228	15,806	546	212	334	1.9	1.7	2.1
Service occupations	22,412	9,687	12,725	2,468	759	1,709	11.0	7.8	13.4
Sales and office occupations	35,377	13,017	22,360	1,746	561	1,185	4.9	4.3	5.3
Sales and related occupations	16,021	8,259	7,762	1,012	366	646	6.3	4.4	8.3
Office and administrative support occupations	19,356	4,757	14,599	734	195	539	3.8	4.1	3.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	15,377	14,654	722	1,113	1,045	68	7.2	7.1	9.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,063	829	234	164	126	39	15.5	15.2	16.5
Construction and extraction occupations	9,094	8,830	264	720	697	23	7.9	7.9	8.6
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,220	4,996	224	228	221	7	4.4	4.4	3.0
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	18,433	14,187	4,246	1,030	715	315	5.6	5.0	7.4
Production occupations	9,845	6,889	2,957	523	318	206	5.3	4.6	7.0
Transportation and material-moving occupations	8,588	7,298	1,289	507	398	109	5.9	5.4	8.5
White, 16 years and older ²	114,893	62,959	51,934	5,302	2,740	2,562	4.6	4.4	4.9
Management, professional, and related occupations	40,433	20,225	20,208	706	369	337	1.7	1.8	1.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	17,223	10,085	7,138	312	210	101	1.8	2.1	1.4
Professional and related occupations	23,210	10,140	13,069	395	159	236	1.7	1.6	1.8
Service occupations	17,162	7,475	9,687	1,666	530	1,135	9.7	7.1	11.7
Sales and office occupations	29,100	10,868	18,232	1,187	392	795	4.1	3.6	4.4
Sales and related occupations	13,509	7,129	6,379	718	261	457	5.3	3.7	7.2
Office and administrative support occupations	15,591	3,738	11,853	469	131	338	3.0	3.5	2.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,533	12,936	597	960	903	57	7.1	7.0	9.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	935	728	207	153	116	37	16.3	15.9	17.9
Construction and extraction occupations	8,076	7,850	226	603	588	15	7.5	7.5	6.6
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,522	4,358	164	204	199	5	4.5	4.6	3.3
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	14,564	11,364	3,201	783	546	237	5.4	4.8	7.4
Production occupations	7,763	5,572	2,190	395	244	151	5.1	4.4	6.9
Transportation and material-moving occupations	6,801	5,791	1,010	388	302	86	5.7	5.2	8.5
Black or African American, 16 years and older ²	15,418	7,165	8,252	1,443	511	932	9.4	7.1	11.3
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,873	1,346	2,527	131	40	91	3.4	3.0	3.6
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,436	554	882	38	15	23	2.7	2.8	2.6
Professional and related occupations	2,437	792	1,645	93	25	68	3.8	3.1	4.1
Service occupations	3,661	1,479	2,182	616	150	466	16.8	10.1	21.4
Sales and office occupations	4,013	1,254	2,759	424	121	303	10.6	9.7	11.0
Sales and related occupations	1,444	572	872	223	67	156	15.4	11.7	17.9
Office and administrative support occupations	2,569	681	1,888	201	55	147	7.8	8.0	7.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	1,115	1,033	82	81	74	7	7.3	7.2	8.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	69	52	17	5	4	1	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	658	631	27	68	64	5	10.4	10.1	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	389	351	38	7	7	1	1.9	1.9	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	2,724	2,024	700	191	126	65	7.0	6.2	9.4
Production occupations	1,321	839	482	87	44	44	6.6	5.2	9.1
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,403	1,185	217	103	82	22	7.4	6.9	9.9

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, 2004 — 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	6,001	3,266	2,735	250	145	105	4.2	4.4	3.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,665	1,509	1,156	38	25	13	1.4	1.7	1.1
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	876	483	393	5	3	2	.5	.6	.4
Professional and related occupations	1,790	1,026	763	33	22	11	1.8	2.2	1.4
Service occupations	910	424	487	94	52	42	10.4	12.4	8.6
Sales and office occupations	1,457	629	828	75	32	43	5.1	5.1	5.2
Sales and related occupations	732	397	335	41	25	16	5.6	6.3	4.8
Office and administrative support occupations	725	233	493	34	7	27	4.6	3.0	5.4
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	289	271	18	21	21	—	7.2	7.7	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	18	14	4	—	—	—	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	113	110	3	13	13	—	11.8	12.1	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	158	148	11	7	7	—	4.7	5.1	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	679	433	246	22	15	7	3.2	3.4	3.0
Production occupations	495	281	214	18	12	6	3.6	4.2	2.9
Transportation and material-moving occupations	184	152	32	4	3	1	2.2	1.9	(³)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ²	18,131	11,083	7,048	1,854	1,125	729	10.2	10.1	10.3
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,048	1,493	1,556	86	46	40	2.8	3.1	2.6
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,294	715	578	40	27	13	3.1	3.8	2.2
Professional and related occupations	1,754	777	977	46	19	27	2.6	2.4	2.8
Service occupations	4,335	2,212	2,123	634	272	362	14.6	12.3	17.1
Sales and office occupations	3,855	1,532	2,324	322	126	196	8.4	8.3	8.4
Sales and related occupations	1,645	834	811	192	82	111	11.7	9.8	13.7
Office and administrative support occupations	2,211	698	1,513	130	45	85	5.9	6.4	5.6
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	3,407	3,230	177	476	446	31	14.0	13.8	17.3
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	477	372	105	98	75	24	20.6	20.1	22.4
Construction and extraction occupations	2,271	2,226	45	307	304	3	13.5	13.7	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	659	632	27	71	67	4	10.8	10.6	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	3,467	2,598	869	335	235	100	9.7	9.1	11.5
Production occupations	1,932	1,312	620	188	117	71	9.7	8.9	11.4
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,535	1,286	249	148	119	29	9.6	9.2	11.7

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, 2004

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	63,912	59,652	4,261	6.7
With related children under 18 years	36,154	32,565	3,589	9.9
Without children	27,758	27,087	671	2.4
With one member in the labor force	27,307	23,696	3,611	13.2
With two or more members in the labor force	36,605	35,956	649	1.8
With two members	30,960	30,361	599	1.9
With three or more members	5,645	5,595	50	.9
Married-couple families	48,675	46,725	1,950	4.0
With related children under 18 years	26,288	24,742	1,546	5.9
Without children	22,387	21,983	404	1.8
With one member in the labor force	16,727	15,255	1,471	8.8
Husband	12,664	11,463	1,202	9.5
Wife	3,477	3,249	228	6.6
Relative	585	543	42	7.1
With two or more members in the labor force	31,949	31,470	479	1.5
With two members	27,241	26,793	448	1.6
With three or more members	4,708	4,677	31	.7
Families maintained by women	10,944	9,019	1,925	17.6
With related children under 18 years	7,548	5,793	1,755	23.3
Without children	3,396	3,226	170	5.0
With one member in the labor force	7,937	6,143	1,793	22.6
Householder	6,611	5,009	1,602	24.2
Relative	1,326	1,134	191	14.4
With two or more members in the labor force	3,007	2,875	132	4.4
Families maintained by men	4,293	3,908	385	9.0
With related children under 18 years	2,319	2,030	289	12.4
Without children	1,975	1,878	96	4.9
With one member in the labor force	2,644	2,298	347	13.1
Householder	2,217	1,932	285	12.9
Relative	427	366	61	14.3
With two or more members in the labor force	1,649	1,611	39	2.3

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. Data in this table may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: Poverty status and work experience, 2004

(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	225,236	57,326	57,911	5,712	17,641	13,968	2,089	10,977	4,869	513	5,093	49,137
With labor force activity	154,796	45,408	37,142	2,166	11,869	10,137	651	6,916	3,872	157	3,451	33,029
1 to 26 weeks	13,888	1,464	3,435	1,363	2,495	814	415	942	183	90	353	2,334
27 weeks or more	140,908	43,944	33,707	803	9,375	9,323	236	5,973	3,689	67	3,099	30,694
With no labor force activity	70,440	11,918	20,770	3,546	5,771	3,831	1,438	4,061	998	356	1,642	16,109
At or above poverty level												
All people ¹	200,049	54,156	54,702	5,324	16,856	10,009	1,484	9,259	4,217	463	4,576	39,003
With labor force activity	144,411	43,582	36,235	2,101	11,624	7,911	518	6,333	3,498	147	3,256	29,205
1 to 26 weeks	11,338	1,304	3,164	1,317	2,423	306	322	754	127	82	288	1,253
27 weeks or more	133,073	42,279	33,071	784	9,201	7,605	196	5,579	3,372	65	2,968	27,952
With no labor force activity	55,638	10,574	18,466	3,223	5,232	2,098	966	2,926	719	316	1,320	9,798
Below poverty level												
All people ¹	25,187	3,170	3,210	388	784	3,959	605	1,717	652	50	518	10,134
With labor force activity	10,385	1,826	906	64	245	2,226	133	582	373	10	196	3,823
1 to 26 weeks	2,549	161	270	46	72	508	94	188	56	8	65	1,081
27 weeks or more	7,836	1,665	636	19	173	1,718	39	394	317	2	130	2,742
With no labor force activity	14,802	1,344	2,304	323	539	1,733	472	1,135	279	40	322	6,310
Rate ²												
All people ¹	11.2	5.5	5.5	6.8	4.4	28.3	29.0	15.6	13.4	9.7	10.2	20.6
With labor force activity	6.7	4.0	2.4	3.0	2.1	22.0	20.4	8.4	9.6	6.3	5.7	11.6
1 to 26 weeks	18.4	11.0	7.9	3.4	2.9	62.5	22.5	20.0	30.7	8.7	18.5	46.3
27 weeks or more	5.6	3.8	1.9	2.3	1.8	18.4	16.8	6.6	8.6	(³)	4.2	8.9
With no labor force activity	21.0	11.3	11.1	9.1	9.3	45.2	32.8	27.9	28.0	11.3	19.6	39.2

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.

NOTE: See Note, table 1. Data in this table may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

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, 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	30,694	27,952	2,742	8.9
16 to 19 years	595	368	227	38.2
20 to 24 years	4,334	3,504	830	19.2
25 to 64 years	24,326	22,688	1,638	6.7
65 years and older	1,439	1,392	46	3.2
Men	16,800	15,430	1,370	8.2
Women	13,895	12,522	1,372	9.9
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White	24,944	22,842	2,102	8.4
Men	13,778	12,743	1,034	7.5
Women	11,166	10,099	1,068	9.6
Black or African American	3,936	3,481	456	11.6
Men	2,028	1,781	247	12.2
Women	1,908	1,699	209	10.9
Asian	965	881	85	8.8
Men	530	480	50	9.5
Women	435	400	34	7.9
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,656	3,277	379	10.4
Men	2,544	2,317	227	8.9
Women	1,112	960	152	13.7
Living arrangement				
Living alone	16,569	15,539	1,030	6.2
Living with others	14,125	12,413	1,712	12.1

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. Also, see Note, table 1. Data in this table may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

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, 2004

(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	109,297	105,520	3,777	3.5
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	90,805	90,076	729	.8
Unemployment only	5,612	5,188	424	7.6
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,325	2,270	55	2.4
Low earnings only	7,244	5,620	1,623	22.4
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	998	924	74	7.4
Unemployment and low earnings	1,318	789	530	40.2
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	682	461	221	32.4
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	313	191	122	38.8
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	8,242	7,093	1,149	13.9
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	4,318	3,847	472	10.9
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	9,557	7,062	2,495	26.1

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 2004 was \$278.03 per week.

NOTE: See Note, table 1. Data in this table may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.