

A Profile of the Working Poor, 2010



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In 2010, according to the Census Bureau, about 46.2 million people, or 15.1 percent of the nation's population, lived below the official poverty level.¹ Although the poor were primarily children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, 10.5 million individuals were among the “working poor” in 2010; this measure was little changed from 2009. The working poor are persons who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (that is, working or looking for work) but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. In 2010, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 7.2 percent, also little different from the previous year's figure (7.0 percent). (See tables A and 1, and the chart.)

Following are additional highlights from the 2010 data:

- Full-time workers were less likely to be among the working poor than were part-time workers. Among persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 4.2 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 15.1 percent of part-time workers.
- Blacks and Hispanics continued to be much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor.
- The likelihood of being classified as working poor greatly diminishes as workers attain higher levels of education. Among college graduates, 2.1 percent of those who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor, compared with 21.4 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.
- The likelihood of being among the working poor was lower for individuals employed in management, professional, and related occupations than for those employed in service jobs.
- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those families with children under 18 years old were about 4 times more likely than those without children to live in poverty.
- Women who maintain families were more likely than their male counterparts to be among the working poor.

¹See table 4 of *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, Current Population Reports, pp. 60-239 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2011), online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty status in 2010 for workers and their families.

The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status vary, depending on whether the individuals are living with family members or are living alone or with nonrelatives. For family members, the poverty threshold is determined by their family's total income; for individuals not living in families, their personal income is used as the determinant. Data were collected in the 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. (For a detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the technical note at the end of this report.)

Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2010, about the same number of men (5.3 million) and women (5.2 million) were classified as working poor. The working-poor rate, however, continued to be higher for women (7.6 percent) than for men (6.7 percent). The working-poor rates for both men and women were essentially unchanged from a year earlier. (See table 2.)

Hispanics and Blacks continued to be much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor. In 2010, 14.1 percent of Hispanics and 12.6 percent of Blacks were among the working poor, compared with 6.5 percent of Whites and 4.8 percent of Asians.

Table A. **Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2007-2010**
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total persons ¹	146,567	147,838	147,902	146,859
In poverty	7,521	8,883	10,391	10,512
Working-poor rate	5.1	6.0	7.0	7.2
Unrelated individuals	33,226	32,785	33,798	34,099
In poverty	2,558	3,275	3,947	3,947
Working-poor rate	7.7	10.0	11.7	11.6
Primary families ²	65,158	65,907	65,467	64,931
In poverty	4,169	4,538	5,193	5,269
Working-poor rate	6.4	6.9	7.9	8.1

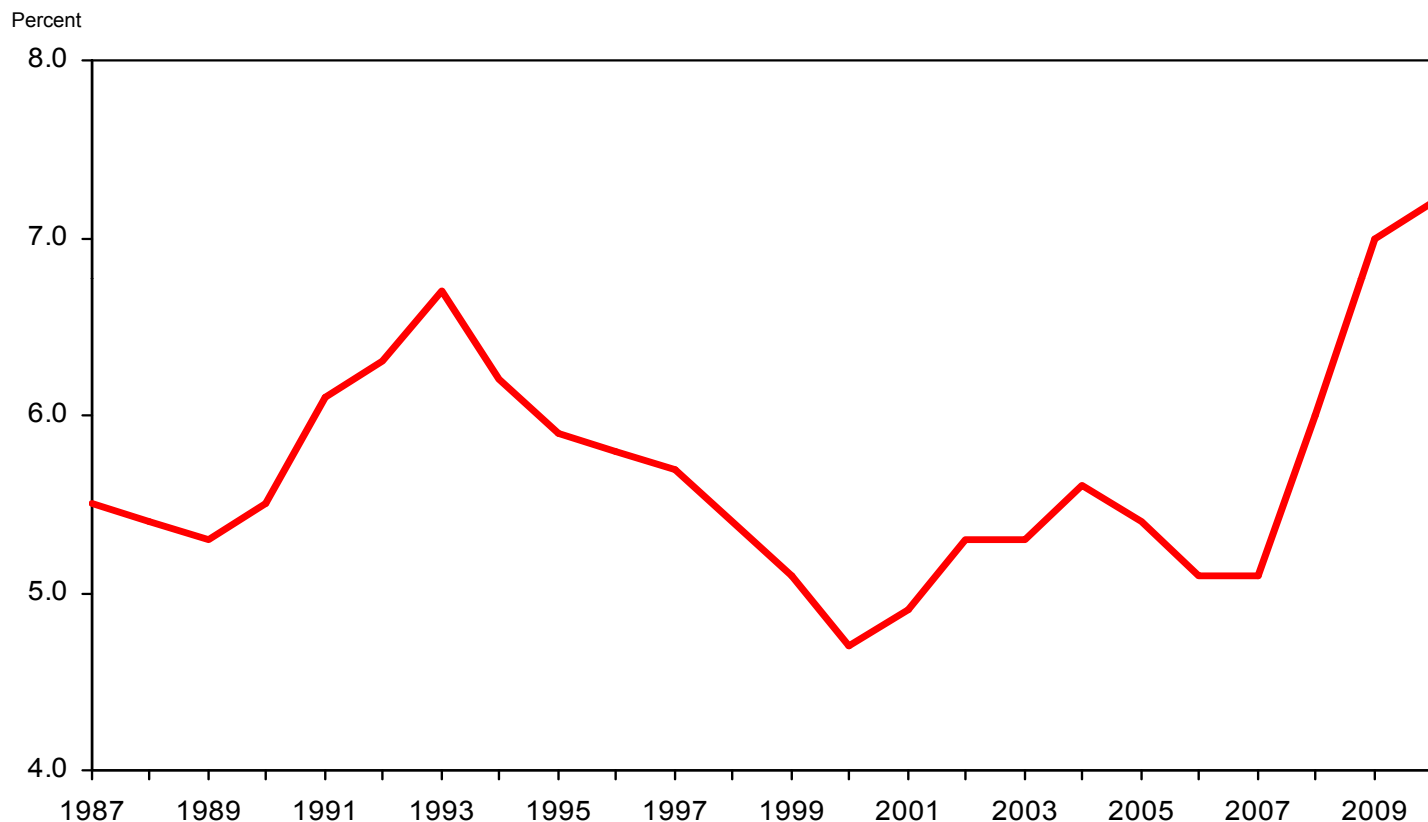
¹ Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

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

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

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)

Chart. **Working-poor rate of persons in the labor force for 27 or more weeks, 1987–2010**



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement

White men and women who spent at least 27 weeks or more in the labor force were about equally likely in 2010 to be poor (6.4 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively). Among Hispanics, the rates for men (14.4 percent) and women (13.8 percent) also were about the same. In contrast, the working-poor rate for Black men (10.4 percent) was lower than the rate for Black women (14.5 percent).

Young workers are more vulnerable to poverty than are older age groups, in part because earnings are lower for young workers, and their unemployment rate is higher. In 2010, among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 14.4 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 15.5 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were in poverty, about double the rate for workers age 35 to 44 (7.3 percent). Workers age 45 to 54 (4.9 percent), 55 to 64 (3.4 percent), and 65 and older (2.0 percent) had lower working-poor rates than did other age groups in 2010.

Educational attainment

Achieving higher levels of education greatly reduces the incidence of living in poverty. Individuals who complete more years of education have greater access to higher paying jobs—such as management, professional, and related occupations—than those with fewer years of education. Of all the people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2010, those with less than a high school diploma had a higher working-poor rate (21.4 percent) than did high school graduates with no college (9.2 percent). Workers with

an associate's degree and those with a bachelor's degree or higher had the lowest working-poor rates: 4.5 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively. At nearly all levels of educational attainment, Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to be among the working poor, in 2010, than were Whites and Asians. (See table 3.)

At each educational level, working-poor rates were similar for White men and women. For example, 20.2 percent of White men with less than a high school diploma who spent at least half the year in the labor force were among the working poor, compared with 22.1 percent of their female counterparts. Among college graduates, the proportions classified as working poor were 2.0 percent and 1.9 percent for White men and White women, respectively. In contrast, Black men with less than a high school diploma were considerably less likely than their female counterparts to be among the working poor, 20.6 percent compared with 36.2 percent. Among Black men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher, the working-poor rate was about the same (3.6 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively). The working-poor rates of men and women of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity with less than a high school diploma were about the same—24.0 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively. The rates for Hispanic men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher also were similar, at 4.0 percent and 3.5 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 high earnings—such as management, professional, and related occupations—were less likely to be classified as working poor (2.4 percent) in 2010. In contrast, individuals employed in occupations that typically do not require high levels of education and that are characterized by relatively low earnings were more likely to be among the working poor. For example, 13.1 percent of service workers were classified as working poor in 2010. Indeed, service occupations, with 3.2 million working poor, accounted for nearly one-third of all those classified as working poor. Among those employed in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations, 10.5 percent of workers were classified as working poor. Within this occupation group, 19.5 percent of workers employed in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations and 12.8 percent of those in construction and extraction occupations were among the working poor. (See table 4.)

Families

In 2010, 5.3 million families were living below the poverty level, despite having at least one member in the labor force for half the year or more, little different than the 2009 figure. Among families with only one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2010, married-couple families had a lower likelihood of living below the poverty level (10.1 percent) than did families maintained by women (26.3 percent) or by men (15.6 percent)—a pattern that held, regardless of which member of the married-couple family was in the labor force. (See table 5.)

Families with children with at least one member in the labor force for half the year had greater odds of living below the poverty level than did those without children. The proportion of families with children age 18 years and younger that lived in poverty was 12.7 percent, in contrast to 2.8 percent for families without children. About 28.2 percent of families maintained by a woman with children under the age of 18 were in poverty. For such families maintained by men, the proportion in poverty also was relatively high, at 18.0 percent. Married-couple families with children had a working-poor rate of 7.3 percent in 2010.

Unrelated individuals

The “unrelated individuals” category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Of the 34.1 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half the year or longer, 3.9 million lived below the poverty level in 2010. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals was 11.6 percent. Both the working-poor level and rate were little different from a year earlier. (See table 6.)

Within the group of unrelated individuals, teenagers were the most likely to be among the working poor. In 2010, about half

(53.7 percent) of teens who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and who lived on their own or with others not related to them lived below the poverty level. Overall, the working-poor rates for women and men living alone or with unrelated individuals were 11.3 and 11.8 percent, respectively. The working-poor rates for unrelated individuals were much higher for Blacks (15.8 percent) and Hispanics (17.1 percent) than for Whites (11.0 percent) and Asians (9.3 percent). (See table 7.)

Of the 3.9 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2010, about two-thirds lived with others. These individuals had a working-poor rate of about twice that of individuals who lived alone. Many unrelated individuals living below the poverty level may live with others out of necessity. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have sufficient income to support themselves. Unrelated individuals’ poverty status, however, is determined by each person’s resources. The pooling of resources and sharing of living expenses may permit some individuals in this category—who are technically classified as poor—to live at a higher standard than they would have if they lived alone.

Labor market problems

As noted earlier, workers who usually work full time are less likely to live in poverty than are others who do not work full time, 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 27 weeks or more and usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 4.1 million, or 3.8 percent, were classified as working poor in 2010, essentially unchanged from 2009. (See table 8.)

There are three major labor market problems that can hinder a worker’s ability to earn an income above the poverty threshold: low earnings, periods of unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See the technical note for detailed definitions.)

In 2010, 84 percent of the working poor who usually worked full time experienced at least one of the major labor market problems. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, with nearly two-thirds (63 percent) subject to low earnings, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. About 42 percent experienced unemployment alone or in conjunction with other problems. Only 5 percent of the working poor experienced all three problems: low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment.

Some 667,000, or 16 percent, of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems, in 2010. Their classification as working poor may be explained by other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, and a family structure that increases the risk of poverty.

Technical Note

Source of data

The data presented in this report were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households. Data from the CPS are used to obtain the monthly estimates of the nation's employment and unemployment levels. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement, conducted in the months of February through April, includes questions about work activity and income during the previous calendar year. For instance, data collected in 2011 refer to the 2010 calendar year.

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, both small estimates and 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 in this technical note, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, Current Population Reports, pp. 60-239 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2011). This publication is available on the U.S. Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>. Additional information about income and poverty measures is online at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income.html>.

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

Comparability of estimates

The 2010 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2009 and earlier years, because of the introduction in January 2011 of revised population controls used in the CPS. Additional information is online at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop>.

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 predicated on

the basis of factors such as family size and the number of children under 18 years of age.

The actual poverty thresholds vary with the makeup of the family. In 2010, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$22,314; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$45,220; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 years or older, it was \$10,458. 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: 2010*, online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.)

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 year 1967 was chosen as the base year, 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 been adjusted each year since then in accordance with the CPI-U, so the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2010, the low-earnings threshold was \$320.94 per week. For a more complete definition of the low-earnings threshold, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Rones, "A profile of the working poor," *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1989, pp. 3-13, online at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1989/10/art1full.pdf>.

Income. Data on income are limited to money income—before personal income taxes and payroll deductions—received in the calendar year preceding the CPS supplement. Data on income 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 income, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.

Labor force. Persons in the labor force are those who worked or looked for work sometime during the calendar year. The number of weeks in the labor force is accumulated over the entire year. The focus in this report is on persons who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

Involuntary part-time workers. These are persons who, during at least one 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. This term 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 were expecting to be recalled to that job. 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 consists of 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. Related children are children (including sons,

daughters, and step- or adopted children) of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family, as well as other children related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Race. White, Black or African American, and Asian are categories used to describe the race of people in this report. People in these categories are those who selected that race group only. Data for the two remaining race categories—American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian and 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. Hispanic or Latino ethnicity is assigned 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, 2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in the labor force	27 or more weeks in the labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
Total			
Total in labor force	158,882	146,859	134,601
Did not work during the year	6,562	4,497	4,024
Worked during the year	152,320	142,362	130,577
Usual full-time workers	119,145	115,227	108,637
Usual part-time workers	33,175	27,135	21,940
Involuntary part-time workers	10,852	9,680	8,388
Voluntary part-time workers	22,323	17,455	13,552
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	145,964	136,348	125,589
Did not work during the year	4,289	2,918	2,612
Worked during the year	141,674	133,430	122,977
Usual full-time workers	113,625	110,399	104,397
Usual part-time workers	28,049	23,031	18,581
Involuntary part-time workers	8,189	7,328	6,364
Voluntary part-time workers	19,861	15,702	12,217
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	12,919	10,512	9,012
Did not work during the year	2,272	1,580	1,412
Worked during the year	10,646	8,932	7,599
Usual full-time workers	5,520	4,829	4,240
Usual part-time workers	5,126	4,104	3,360
Involuntary part-time workers	2,664	2,351	2,024
Voluntary part-time workers	2,462	1,752	1,335
Rate¹			
Total in labor force	8.1	7.2	6.7
Did not work during the year	34.6	35.1	35.1
Worked during the year	7.0	6.3	5.8
Usual full-time workers	4.6	4.2	3.9
Usual part-time workers	15.5	15.1	15.3
Involuntary part-time workers	24.5	24.3	24.1
Voluntary part-time workers	11.0	10.0	9.9

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

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2010

(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	146,859	119,582	16,827	7,063	21,283	10,512	7,728	2,120	339	3,010
16 to 19 years	3,140	2,621	329	72	571	452	326	101	7	125
20 to 24 years	13,300	10,669	1,795	449	2,546	2,057	1,531	429	43	421
25 to 34 years	32,561	25,743	4,216	1,661	6,127	3,005	2,132	670	89	954
35 to 44 years	32,056	25,461	3,884	1,948	5,467	2,353	1,778	428	87	862
45 to 54 years	34,721	28,539	3,870	1,636	4,068	1,689	1,258	314	66	454
55 to 64 years	24,066	20,426	2,197	1,049	1,943	814	604	148	43	162
65 years and older	7,015	6,122	536	247	560	143	99	30	5	32
Men, 16 years and older	78,626	65,229	7,848	3,759	12,653	5,299	4,166	816	167	1,817
16 to 19 years	1,577	1,317	153	37	328	206	164	27	4	74
20 to 24 years	7,035	5,720	862	253	1,547	908	718	160	12	211
25 to 34 years	17,908	14,446	2,031	926	3,857	1,568	1,228	226	51	615
35 to 44 years	17,362	14,146	1,784	1,022	3,275	1,242	1,023	161	33	549
45 to 54 years	18,223	15,244	1,790	854	2,255	890	674	150	45	268
55 to 64 years	12,627	10,900	987	526	1,081	408	305	75	19	80
65 years and older	3,893	3,455	240	141	311	77	54	16	3	20
Women, 16 years and older	68,234	54,353	8,979	3,304	8,630	5,213	3,561	1,304	173	1,193
16 to 19 years	1,563	1,304	177	35	244	246	162	74	3	51
20 to 24 years	6,265	4,950	933	196	999	1,149	813	269	30	210
25 to 34 years	14,652	11,296	2,185	735	2,270	1,437	904	444	38	339
35 to 44 years	14,694	11,314	2,099	927	2,192	1,111	756	267	54	314
45 to 54 years	16,498	13,295	2,079	782	1,814	799	584	163	21	186
55 to 64 years	11,439	9,526	1,209	524	862	406	299	73	24	81
65 years and older	3,122	2,667	297	105	249	66	45	14	-	12

Age and sex	Rate ¹				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	7.2	6.5	12.6	4.8	14.1
16 to 19 years	14.4	12.4	30.6	(²)	21.8
20 to 24 years	15.5	14.3	23.9	9.5	16.5
25 to 34 years	9.2	8.3	15.9	5.4	15.6
35 to 44 years	7.3	7.0	11.0	4.5	15.8
45 to 54 years	4.9	4.4	8.1	4.0	11.2
55 to 64 years	3.4	3.0	6.8	4.1	8.3
65 years and older	2.0	1.6	5.5	2.1	5.8
Men, 16 years and older	6.7	6.4	10.4	4.4	14.4
16 to 19 years	13.1	12.5	17.9	(²)	22.5
20 to 24 years	12.9	12.6	18.5	4.8	13.6
25 to 34 years	8.8	8.5	11.1	5.5	15.9
35 to 44 years	7.2	7.2	9.0	3.2	16.8
45 to 54 years	4.9	4.4	8.4	5.2	11.9
55 to 64 years	3.2	2.8	7.6	3.6	7.4
65 years and older	2.0	1.6	6.7	2.2	6.4
Women, 16 years and older	7.6	6.6	14.5	5.2	13.8
16 to 19 years	15.7	12.4	41.7	(²)	20.9
20 to 24 years	18.3	16.4	28.8	15.5	21.0
25 to 34 years	9.8	8.0	20.3	5.2	15.0
35 to 44 years	7.6	6.7	12.7	5.8	14.3
45 to 54 years	4.8	4.4	7.9	2.7	10.2
55 to 64 years	3.5	3.1	6.0	4.6	9.4
65 years and older	2.1	1.7	4.6	1.9	4.9

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

² 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. Persons 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 3. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2010

(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	146,859	78,626	68,234	10,512	5,299	5,213	7.2	6.7	7.6
Less than a high school diploma	13,471	8,600	4,870	2,883	1,719	1,164	21.4	20.0	23.9
Less than 1 year of high school	4,396	2,950	1,445	1,082	715	367	24.6	24.2	25.4
1-3 years of high school	7,448	4,627	2,821	1,526	838	688	20.5	18.1	24.4
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,627	1,023	604	275	166	109	16.9	16.2	18.1
High school graduates, no college ²	41,848	24,145	17,703	3,850	1,936	1,913	9.2	8.0	10.8
Some college or associate's degree	43,276	21,012	22,264	2,770	1,115	1,655	6.4	5.3	7.4
Some college, no degree	28,240	14,140	14,100	2,091	855	1,236	7.4	6.0	8.8
Associate's degree	15,036	6,872	8,164	678	260	419	4.5	3.8	5.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	48,265	24,869	23,396	1,009	529	480	2.1	2.1	2.1
White, 16 years and older	119,582	65,229	54,353	7,728	4,166	3,561	6.5	6.4	6.6
Less than a high school diploma	10,902	7,161	3,740	2,270	1,445	825	20.8	20.2	22.1
Less than 1 year of high school	3,761	2,597	1,164	927	641	286	24.7	24.7	24.6
1-3 years of high school	5,914	3,763	2,152	1,135	664	471	19.2	17.6	21.9
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,227	802	425	208	140	68	17.0	17.5	16.0
High school graduates, no college ²	33,764	19,801	13,962	2,705	1,453	1,252	8.0	7.3	9.0
Some college or associate's degree	34,992	17,355	17,637	1,963	847	1,116	5.6	4.9	6.3
Some college, no degree	22,651	11,608	11,044	1,496	656	840	6.6	5.7	7.6
Associate's degree	12,341	5,748	6,593	467	191	276	3.8	3.3	4.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	39,924	20,911	19,013	789	421	368	2.0	2.0	1.9
Black or African American, 16 years and older	16,827	7,848	8,979	2,120	816	1,304	12.6	10.4	14.5
Less than a high school diploma	1,595	879	715	439	181	259	27.6	20.6	36.2
Less than 1 year of high school	263	156	108	92	45	47	34.9	28.7	44.0
1-3 years of high school	1,077	593	483	300	126	175	27.9	21.2	36.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	255	130	125	47	10	37	18.5	8.1	29.4
High school graduates, no college ²	5,654	3,024	2,630	901	367	533	15.9	12.1	20.3
Some college or associate's degree	5,806	2,405	3,400	656	213	443	11.3	8.9	13.0
Some college, no degree	3,948	1,681	2,267	485	158	326	12.3	9.4	14.4
Associate's degree	1,858	724	1,134	171	55	116	9.2	7.6	10.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,772	1,539	2,233	124	55	69	3.3	3.6	3.1
Asian, 16 years and older	7,063	3,759	3,304	339	167	173	4.8	4.4	5.2
Less than a high school diploma	542	289	253	71	37	34	13.1	12.7	13.4
Less than 1 year of high school	250	117	133	33	13	20	13.2	10.7	15.4
1-3 years of high school	203	120	83	31	17	14	15.2	14.3	16.5
4 years of high school, no diploma	89	51	38	7	7	-	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
High school graduates, no college ²	1,370	701	670	114	57	57	8.3	8.2	8.5
Some college or associate's degree	1,350	708	642	74	28	47	5.5	3.9	7.3
Some college, no degree	871	466	405	53	21	32	6.1	4.5	8.0
Associate's degree	480	242	237	21	7	14	4.5	2.9	6.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,800	2,061	1,739	80	45	35	2.1	2.2	2.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	21,283	12,653	8,630	3,010	1,817	1,193	14.1	14.4	13.8
Less than a high school diploma	6,281	4,269	2,012	1,557	1,025	532	24.8	24.0	26.5
Less than 1 year of high school	3,190	2,189	1,001	822	564	258	25.8	25.8	25.8
1-3 years of high school	2,451	1,649	803	595	370	225	24.3	22.4	28.0
4 years of high school, no diploma	640	431	208	140	90	50	21.9	20.9	23.9
High school graduates, no college ²	6,741	4,205	2,536	923	550	372	13.7	13.1	14.7
Some college or associate's degree	5,125	2,629	2,496	413	180	233	8.1	6.8	9.4
Some college, no degree	3,573	1,924	1,649	313	148	165	8.8	7.7	10.0
Associate's degree	1,552	705	847	100	32	69	6.5	4.5	8.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,136	1,551	1,586	117	62	55	3.7	4.0	3.5

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

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 race groups shown (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons 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 4. **People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2010**

(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	146,859	78,626	68,234	10,512	5,299	5,213	7.2	6.7	7.6
Management, professional, and related occupations	52,750	25,788	26,963	1,257	581	676	2.4	2.3	2.5
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	21,817	12,500	9,317	463	269	194	2.1	2.2	2.1
Professional and related occupations	30,933	13,287	17,646	794	312	482	2.6	2.3	2.7
Service occupations	24,247	10,732	13,515	3,168	1,128	2,040	13.1	10.5	15.1
Sales and office occupations	32,918	12,515	20,403	2,157	723	1,434	6.6	5.8	7.0
Sales and related occupations	14,838	7,554	7,284	1,225	391	833	8.3	5.2	11.4
Office and administrative support occupations	17,867	4,864	13,003	926	329	597	5.2	6.8	4.6
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,865	13,302	562	1,459	1,389	70	10.5	10.4	12.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	935	733	202	183	153	30	19.5	20.8	14.8
Construction and extraction occupations	8,164	7,977	187	1,044	1,010	33	12.8	12.7	17.9
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,766	4,592	173	232	226	7	4.9	4.9	3.8
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	17,056	13,357	3,700	1,437	996	440	8.4	7.5	11.9
Production occupations	7,783	5,580	2,203	591	354	237	7.6	6.3	10.8
Transportation and material-moving occupations	8,449	7,190	1,259	743	581	162	8.8	8.1	12.9
White, 16 years and older ²	119,582	65,229	54,353	7,728	4,166	3,561	6.5	6.4	6.6
Management, professional, and related occupations	44,227	22,059	22,168	951	484	467	2.1	2.2	2.1
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	18,788	11,038	7,750	361	228	133	1.9	2.1	1.7
Professional and related occupations	25,439	11,021	14,418	590	256	334	2.3	2.3	2.3
Service occupations	18,307	8,242	10,065	2,274	845	1,429	12.4	10.3	14.2
Sales and office occupations	26,717	10,176	16,540	1,494	538	956	5.6	5.3	5.8
Sales and related occupations	12,254	6,415	5,838	846	308	537	6.9	4.8	9.2
Office and administrative support occupations	14,290	3,680	10,610	648	230	418	4.5	6.2	3.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	12,251	11,780	471	1,269	1,214	56	10.4	10.3	11.8
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	855	679	176	169	144	25	19.8	21.2	14.3
Construction and extraction occupations	7,244	7,084	160	911	886	24	12.6	12.5	15.0
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,152	4,017	135	190	183	7	4.6	4.6	4.9
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	13,389	10,633	2,756	1,056	758	299	7.9	7.1	10.8
Production occupations	6,237	4,626	1,611	443	294	149	7.1	6.4	9.3
Transportation and material-moving occupations	6,534	5,571	963	526	411	115	8.1	7.4	12.0
Black or African American, 16 years and older ²	16,827	7,848	8,979	2,120	816	1,304	12.6	10.4	14.5
Management, professional, and related occupations	4,466	1,596	2,870	218	57	161	4.9	3.6	5.6
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,548	661	887	66	24	42	4.2	3.6	4.7
Professional and related occupations	2,918	935	1,983	153	33	119	5.2	3.6	6.0
Service occupations	4,094	1,659	2,435	689	195	494	16.8	11.7	20.3
Sales and office occupations	3,861	1,338	2,524	525	143	382	13.6	10.7	15.1
Sales and related occupations	1,461	547	914	304	56	249	20.8	10.1	27.2
Office and administrative support occupations	2,378	777	1,601	216	86	131	9.1	11.0	8.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	1,010	956	54	120	113	8	11.9	11.8	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	48	32	16	6	6	-	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	576	558	18	82	74	8	14.3	13.3	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	386	366	19	32	32	-	8.3	8.7	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	2,472	1,883	588	303	189	114	12.2	10.0	19.3
Production occupations	909	569	340	109	38	71	12.0	6.7	20.9
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,427	1,215	212	178	141	37	12.5	11.6	17.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2010 — 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	7,063	3,759	3,304	339	167	173	4.8	4.4	5.2
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,106	1,709	1,397	53	30	23	1.7	1.8	1.6
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,101	604	497	21	11	10	1.9	1.9	1.9
Professional and related occupations	2,006	1,105	900	32	19	13	1.6	1.7	1.5
Service occupations	1,160	502	658	109	48	61	9.4	9.6	9.3
Sales and office occupations	1,537	701	836	67	23	43	4.3	3.3	5.2
Sales and related occupations	796	428	368	45	21	24	5.7	4.9	6.6
Office and administrative support occupations	736	273	463	21	2	19	2.9	.8	4.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	266	253	13	20	20	—	7.6	8.0	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	10	6	4	—	—	—	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	126	124	2	14	14	—	11.2	11.4	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	130	124	7	6	6	—	4.7	4.9	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	751	491	260	46	26	20	6.1	5.3	7.6
Production occupations	480	275	205	34	18	16	7.1	6.6	7.6
Transportation and material-moving occupations	228	185	43	12	8	4	5.2	4.2	(³)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ²	21,283	12,653	8,630	3,010	1,817	1,193	14.1	14.4	13.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,985	1,845	2,140	155	77	78	3.9	4.2	3.6
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,686	918	768	77	46	32	4.6	5.0	4.1
Professional and related occupations	2,298	927	1,371	77	32	46	3.4	3.4	3.3
Service occupations	5,166	2,647	2,519	982	451	531	19.0	17.0	21.1
Sales and office occupations	4,246	1,744	2,503	469	166	303	11.0	9.5	12.1
Sales and related occupations	1,834	904	930	265	102	163	14.5	11.3	17.6
Office and administrative support occupations	2,393	826	1,567	204	64	140	8.5	7.7	8.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	3,403	3,236	167	723	693	30	21.2	21.4	18.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	424	321	103	118	94	24	27.8	29.2	23.5
Construction and extraction occupations	2,302	2,270	32	534	531	4	23.2	23.4	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	677	644	32	71	69	2	10.4	10.6	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	3,538	2,713	826	475	335	140	13.4	12.3	16.9
Production occupations	1,599	1,085	514	191	113	78	11.9	10.4	15.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,753	1,510	243	250	201	49	14.3	13.3	20.2

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

² Includes 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero. These data reflect the introduction of the 2010 Census occupational classification system. The classification system is derived from the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). Data for 2010 are not strictly comparable with earlier years.

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 or more weeks, 2010

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	64,931	59,662	5,269	8.1
With related children under 18 years	34,722	30,299	4,424	12.7
Without children	30,209	29,363	846	2.8
With one member in the labor force	27,726	23,403	4,322	15.6
With two or more members in the labor force	37,206	36,259	947	2.5
With two members	31,186	30,375	811	2.6
With three or more members	6,020	5,884	136	2.3
Married-couple families	48,427	46,167	2,260	4.7
With related children under 18 years	24,518	22,724	1,794	7.3
Without children	23,908	23,443	465	1.9
With one member in the labor force	16,288	14,651	1,637	10.1
Husband	11,589	10,310	1,279	11.0
Wife	4,052	3,755	296	7.3
Relative	647	585	62	9.6
With two or more members in the labor force	32,139	31,516	623	1.9
With two members	27,197	26,653	544	2.0
With three or more members	4,942	4,863	79	1.6
Families maintained by women	11,678	9,211	2,466	21.1
With related children under 18 years	7,793	5,597	2,196	28.2
Without children	3,885	3,615	270	7.0
With one member in the labor force	8,452	6,232	2,221	26.3
Householder	7,003	5,063	1,940	27.7
Relative	1,450	1,169	281	19.4
With two or more members in the labor force	3,225	2,980	246	7.6
Families maintained by men	4,827	4,284	543	11.2
With related children under 18 years	2,411	1,978	433	18.0
Without children	2,416	2,306	110	4.5
With one member in the labor force	2,986	2,521	465	15.6
Householder	2,448	2,059	390	15.9
Relative	537	462	75	13.9
With two or more members in the labor force	1,841	1,763	78	4.2

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

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

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2010

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total people	In married-couple families				In families maintained by women			In families maintained by men			Unrelated individuals
		Husbands	Wives	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	
Total												
All people ¹	238,999	57,367	57,978	5,459	20,771	15,001	2,327	12,937	5,538	573	6,177	54,871
With labor force activity	158,882	44,428	36,992	1,228	13,097	10,533	405	7,638	4,293	105	3,960	36,202
1 to 26 weeks	12,023	1,546	2,570	780	2,381	733	240	1,028	211	55	375	2,103
27 or more weeks	146,859	42,882	34,422	448	10,716	9,799	165	6,609	4,082	50	3,585	34,099
With no labor force activity	80,116	12,939	20,985	4,230	7,674	4,468	1,922	5,299	1,244	468	2,217	18,669
At or above poverty level												
All people ¹	207,693	53,826	54,390	5,010	19,488	10,261	1,501	10,435	4,660	444	5,507	42,172
With labor force activity	145,964	42,377	35,919	1,192	12,634	7,959	344	6,744	3,769	96	3,692	31,237
1 to 26 weeks	9,616	1,359	2,307	761	2,252	298	199	849	149	48	309	1,085
27 or more weeks	136,348	41,018	33,613	431	10,382	7,661	144	5,896	3,621	48	3,383	30,152
With no labor force activity	61,730	11,449	18,470	3,818	6,854	2,302	1,157	3,691	891	348	1,815	10,934
Below poverty level												
All people ¹	31,306	3,541	3,588	449	1,283	4,739	826	2,502	878	129	670	12,700
With labor force activity	12,919	2,051	1,073	36	463	2,574	61	893	524	9	268	4,965
1 to 26 weeks	2,407	186	263	19	128	436	41	180	63	7	66	1,018
27 or more weeks	10,512	1,864	810	17	335	2,138	21	714	461	-	202	3,947
With no labor force activity	18,387	1,490	2,515	413	820	2,166	765	1,609	354	120	402	7,734
Rate²												
All people ¹	13.1	6.2	6.2	8.2	6.2	31.6	35.5	19.3	15.8	22.5	10.9	23.1
With labor force activity	8.1	4.6	2.9	2.9	3.5	24.4	15.2	11.7	12.2	8.8	6.8	13.7
1 to 26 weeks	20.0	12.1	10.2	2.4	5.4	59.4	17.0	17.5	29.6	12.0	17.7	48.4
27 or more weeks	7.2	4.3	2.4	3.9	3.1	21.8	12.5	10.8	11.3	(³)	5.6	11.6
With no labor force activity	23.0	11.5	12.0	9.8	10.7	48.5	39.8	30.4	28.4	25.6	18.1	41.4

¹ Data on families include primary families that own or rent the housing unit as well as related and unrelated subfamilies that reside with them.

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

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

NOTE: Dash represents or rounds to zero.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 7. Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2010

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	34,099	30,152	3,947	11.6
16 to 19 years	318	148	171	53.7
20 to 24 years	4,193	3,111	1,081	25.8
25 to 64 years	27,659	25,030	2,629	9.5
65 years and older	1,929	1,863	66	3.4
Men	18,867	16,649	2,219	11.8
Women	15,232	13,503	1,728	11.3
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White	27,591	24,561	3,030	11.0
Men	15,446	13,755	1,692	11.0
Women	12,145	10,806	1,338	11.0
Black or African American	4,488	3,779	709	15.8
Men	2,338	1,904	434	18.6
Women	2,150	1,875	275	12.8
Asian	1,226	1,111	115	9.3
Men	649	600	49	7.5
Women	576	511	66	11.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,167	3,456	711	17.1
Men	2,757	2,296	461	16.7
Women	1,410	1,160	249	17.7
Living arrangement				
Living alone	17,836	16,471	1,365	7.7
Living with others	16,263	13,681	2,582	15.9

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

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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 8. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2010

(Numbers in thousands)

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	109,077	104,938	4,139	3.8
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	87,455	86,788	667	.8
Unemployment only	7,668	7,008	659	8.6
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,816	2,749	68	2.4
Low earnings only	6,624	5,162	1,462	22.1
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	1,369	1,251	117	8.6
Unemployment and low earnings	1,812	1,079	734	40.5
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	809	587	222	27.5
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	524	314	210	40.1
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	11,373	9,653	1,721	15.1
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	5,519	4,901	618	11.2
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	9,770	7,141	2,628	26.9

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

² The low-earnings threshold in 2010 was \$320.94 per week.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics