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VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES — 2012

The **volunteer rate** declined by 0.3 percentage point to 26.5 percent for the year ending in September 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. About 64.5 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2011 and September 2012. The decline in the volunteer rate in 2012 followed an increase of one-half of a percentage point in 2011.

These data on volunteering were collected through a supplement to the September 2012 Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note.

Volunteering Among Demographic Groups

The volunteer rates for both **men** and **women** (23.2 and 29.5 percent, respectively) changed little in the year ending in September 2012. Women continued to volunteer at a higher rate than did men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major demographic characteristics. (See tables A and 1.)

By **age**, 35- to 44-year-olds were most likely to volunteer (31.6 percent). Volunteer rates were lowest among 20- to 24-year-olds (18.9 percent). For persons 45 years and over, the volunteer rate tapered off as age increased. Teens (16- to 19-year-olds) had a volunteer rate of 27.4 percent.

Among the **major race and ethnicity groups**, whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (27.8 percent) than did blacks (21.1 percent), Asians (19.6 percent), and Hispanics (15.2 percent). Of these groups, the volunteer rate for whites fell 0.4 percentage point in 2012, driven by a decline in the volunteer rate of white women. Among blacks, the rate edged up 0.8 percentage point.

Married persons volunteered at a higher rate (31.9 percent) in 2012 than did those who had never married (20.7 percent) and those with other marital statuses (21.3 percent). The volunteer rate of **parents** with children under age 18 (33.5 percent) remained higher than the rate for persons without children (23.8 percent).

Individuals with higher levels of **education** engaged in volunteer activities at higher rates than did those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, 42.2 percent of college graduates volunteered,

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2008 through September 2012

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	September 2008		September 2009		September 2010		September 2011		September 2012	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Sex										
Total, both sexes	61,803	26.4	63,361	26.8	62,790	26.3	64,252	26.8	64,513	26.5
Men	26,268	23.2	26,655	23.3	26,787	23.2	27,354	23.5	27,238	23.2
Women	35,535	29.4	36,706	30.1	36,004	29.3	36,898	29.9	37,274	29.5
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	61,803	26.4	63,361	26.8	62,790	26.3	64,252	26.8	64,513	26.5
16 to 24 years	8,239	21.9	8,290	22.0	8,297	21.9	8,578	22.5	8,776	22.6
25 to 34 years	9,154	22.8	9,511	23.5	9,140	22.3	9,691	23.3	9,513	23.2
35 to 44 years	13,016	31.3	12,835	31.5	12,904	32.2	12,566	31.8	12,527	31.6
45 to 54 years	13,189	29.9	13,703	30.8	13,435	30.3	13,420	30.6	12,777	29.3
55 to 64 years	9,456	28.1	9,894	28.3	9,830	27.2	10,449	28.1	10,619	27.6
65 years and over	8,749	23.5	9,129	23.9	9,184	23.6	9,547	24.0	10,301	24.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	53,078	27.9	54,078	28.3	53,556	27.8	54,432	28.2	53,778	27.8
Black or African American	5,325	19.1	5,712	20.2	5,580	19.4	5,934	20.3	6,316	21.1
Asian	2,022	18.7	2,060	19.0	2,207	19.6	2,304	20.0	2,524	19.6
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,662	14.4	4,873	14.7	4,982	14.7	5,151	14.9	5,635	15.2
Educational attainment ¹										
Less than a high school diploma	2,427	9.4	2,242	8.6	2,231	8.8	2,461	9.8	2,177	8.8
High school graduates, no college ²	10,998	18.1	11,408	18.8	10,887	17.9	11,049	18.2	10,527	17.3
Some college or associate degree	15,519	30.0	15,931	30.5	15,505	29.2	15,946	29.5	15,832	28.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	24,620	42.2	25,490	42.8	25,870	42.3	26,218	42.4	27,202	42.2
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	44,313	28.5	44,833	29.0	44,522	28.7	45,249	29.1	44,974	28.7
Employed	42,131	28.9	41,372	29.7	40,980	29.2	41,881	29.6	42,083	29.1
Full time ⁴	33,344	27.8	32,085	28.7	31,625	28.2	32,517	28.7	32,568	28.1
Part time ⁵	8,788	34.2	9,287	33.7	9,355	33.2	9,363	33.3	9,515	33.4
Unemployed	2,181	22.3	3,462	22.9	3,542	23.8	3,368	23.8	2,891	23.8
Not in the labor force	17,491	22.2	18,528	22.6	18,268	22.0	19,003	22.5	19,539	22.4

¹Data refer to persons 25 years and over.²Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.³Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.⁴Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.⁵Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point in the year ending in September. See the Technical Note for further information.

compared with 17.3 percent of high school graduates and 8.8 percent of those with less than a high school diploma. The rate of volunteering was about unchanged for college graduates. The rate declined for persons in the other educational attainment categories.

Volunteers by Employment Status

Among employed persons, 29.1 percent volunteered during the year ending in September 2012. By comparison, 23.8 percent of unemployed persons and 22.4 percent of those not in the labor force volunteered. Among the employed, part-time workers were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—33.4 percent compared with 28.1 percent. (See table 1.)

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Volunteers spent a median of 50 hours on volunteer activities during the period from September 2011 to September 2012. Time spent on volunteer activities was similar for women and men. Median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a low of 32 hours for those 25 to 34 years old to a high of 90 hours for volunteers age 65 and over. (See table 2.)

Number and Type of Organizations

Most volunteers were involved with either one or two organizations—70.5 and 19.1 percent, respectively. Individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than were those with less education. (See table 3.)

In 2012, the **main organization**—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—was most frequently religious (33.1 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational or youth service related (25.5 percent) and social or community service organizations (14.2 percent). (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer mainly for religious organizations than were their younger counterparts. For example, 46.5 percent of volunteers age 65 and over did their service mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 26.5 percent of volunteers age 16 to 24.

For all levels of educational attainment, volunteers were most likely to volunteer for religious organizations, followed by educational or youth service organizations. Among volunteers with less than a high school diploma, 48.6 percent volunteered mainly for religious organizations and 23.2 percent volunteered for educational or youth service organizations. Of volunteers with a bachelor's degree and higher, 30.5 percent volunteered mainly for religious organizations and 26.8 percent volunteered mainly for educational or youth service organizations.

Among volunteers with children under 18 years old, 46.2 percent of mothers and 38.8 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational or youth service organization, such as a school or scouting group. Volunteers without children under age 18 were more likely than parents to volunteer for other types of organizations, such as social or community service organizations, hospitals or other health organizations, and religious organizations.

Main Volunteer Activity for Main Organization

Collecting, preparing, distributing, or serving food (10.9 percent) and fundraising (10.7 percent) were the activities volunteers performed most frequently for their main organization. Men and women tended to engage in different main activities. Men who volunteered were most likely to engage in general labor (11.6 percent) or coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (10.1 percent). Female volunteers were most likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food (12.3 percent) or fundraise (11.8 percent). (See table 5.)

The main types of activities volunteers performed varied by educational attainment. Persons with a bachelor's degree and higher were more likely than those with less education to provide professional or management assistance or to tutor or teach. They were least likely to collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food. Volunteers with less than a high school diploma were more likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food than those with higher levels of education.

Parents were considerably more likely than those without children to engage mainly in volunteer activities that are frequently related to children—including coaching, refereeing, or supervising sports teams; tutoring or teaching; and mentoring youth.

How Volunteers Became Involved with Main Organization

About 41.6 percent of volunteers became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization. About 42.1 percent became involved on their own initiative—that is, they approached the organization. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The data in this release were collected through a supplement to the September 2012 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS—a monthly survey of about 60,000 eligible households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics—focuses on obtaining information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. The purpose of this supplement to the CPS was to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering and the characteristics of volunteers in the United States.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as *sampling error*, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

A full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and for information on estimating standard errors is available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

The Census Bureau introduces adjustments to the population controls for the CPS as part of its annual update of population estimates. For this reason, data in this release are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. Additional information is available on the internet at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September supplement, questions on volunteer activities were asked of all households. Efforts were made to have household members answer the volunteer questions for themselves. (Generally, one member of the household answers all the questions in the CPS on behalf of the entire household.) Self-response was considered important for the volunteer supplement because research indicated that self-respondents could more easily answer questions on the characteristics of the volunteer activity. About 7 of 10 responses were self-reports. The survey was introduced as follows: "This month, we are interested in volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. We only want you to include volunteer activities that you did through or for an organization, even if you only did them once in a while."

Following this introduction, respondents were asked the first supplement question: "Since September 1st of last year, have you done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?"

If respondents did not answer "yes" to the first question, they were asked the following question: "Sometimes people don't think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for children's schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities. Since September 1st of last year, have you done any of these types of volunteer activities?"

Respondents were considered volunteers if they answered "yes" to either of these questions. This method has been used since the supplement was first administered in 2002.

Respondents classified as volunteers were asked further questions about the number and type of organizations for which they volunteered, total hours spent volunteering, how they became involved with the main organization for which they volunteered, the type of activities they performed for the main organization, and what their main activity was. The reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2011, through the survey reference week in September 2012. The reference period for other characteristics—such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status—refer to the survey reference week in September 2012. It is possible that these characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed.

One new question was added to the 2008 survey to determine whether or not respondents had donated money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations in the past 12 months. Two questions asked in the 2007 supplement were removed in 2008. These questions asked how often respondents who had attended public meetings or who had worked with others in their neighborhood to fix a problem did so.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point during the survey reference year. The count of volunteers only includes persons who volunteered through or for an organization; the figures do not include persons who volunteered in a more informal manner. For example, a woman who taught acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer. However, a woman who, on her own, organized softball games for the children in her neighborhood would not be counted as a volunteer for the purpose of this survey.

Organizations are associations, societies, or groups of people who share a common interest. Examples include churches, youth groups, and civic organizations. For the purpose of this study, organizations are grouped into eight major categories, including religious, youth, and social or community service organizations.

In the 2005 survey, one organization category, immigrant/refugee assistance, was added to the questionnaire as a possible response. Responses that were collected in this category may have been distributed over at least six of the major organization categories in previous years. For this reason, the addition of the new response category created a break in the comparability of organizations between 2005

and prior years. Because few people reported volunteering for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations and because the group was not a definite subset of any of the major organization categories, those persons who did report that they volunteered for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations were placed in the "other" group.

The *main organization* is the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. If a respondent volunteered for only one organization, it was considered the main organization, even if exact hours were not obtained.

In order to identify the type of main organization, respondents provided information about the organization and, for those who volunteered for more than one organization, annual hours worked for each. Some respondents did not provide the information necessary to determine the main organization. For these respondents, the follow-up questions on activities and how they became involved with the main organization asked them to report on the organization for which they think they spent the most time volunteering.

Activities are the specific tasks the volunteer did for an organization. Examples include tutoring, fundraising, and serving food. The activity categories were modified in 2005, thus creating a break in the comparability of activities between 2005 and prior years.

In 2006, a new question was added that asked respondents on which of the activities they mentioned they spent the most time. Previously, respondents reported all of the activities they did for their main organization. The new question identified which of them was the main activity for the main organization.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2012

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2012	Total, both sexes			Men			Women		
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers	
		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	243,772	64,513	26.5	117,600	27,238	23.2	126,172	37,274	29.5
16 to 24 years	38,800	8,776	22.6	19,556	3,914	20.0	19,244	4,862	25.3
16 to 19 years	16,931	4,644	27.4	8,628	2,166	25.1	8,303	2,478	29.8
20 to 24 years	21,869	4,132	18.9	10,928	1,748	16.0	10,941	2,384	21.8
25 years and over	204,973	55,737	27.2	98,045	23,324	23.8	106,928	32,413	30.3
25 to 34 years	41,072	9,513	23.2	20,263	3,813	18.8	20,810	5,700	27.4
35 to 44 years	39,632	12,527	31.6	19,412	5,130	26.4	20,221	7,397	36.6
45 to 54 years	43,608	12,777	29.3	21,294	5,569	26.2	22,314	7,208	32.3
55 to 64 years	38,442	10,619	27.6	18,475	4,547	24.6	19,966	6,072	30.4
65 years and over	42,219	10,301	24.4	18,601	4,265	22.9	23,618	6,036	25.6
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	193,503	53,778	27.8	94,429	22,961	24.3	99,074	30,817	31.1
Black or African American	29,991	6,316	21.1	13,550	2,429	17.9	16,441	3,886	23.6
Asian	12,875	2,524	19.6	6,040	1,057	17.5	6,835	1,467	21.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	36,969	5,635	15.2	18,546	2,422	13.1	18,424	3,213	17.4
Educational attainment ¹									
Less than a high school diploma	24,697	2,177	8.8	12,293	956	7.8	12,404	1,221	9.8
High school graduates, no college ²	60,767	10,527	17.3	29,747	4,391	14.8	31,020	6,136	19.8
Some college or associate degree	55,081	15,832	28.7	25,004	6,123	24.5	30,077	9,709	32.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	64,428	27,202	42.2	31,000	11,855	38.2	33,427	15,346	45.9
Marital status									
Single, never married	72,102	14,920	20.7	38,024	6,501	17.1	34,078	8,419	24.7
Married, spouse present	123,194	39,290	31.9	61,981	17,711	28.6	61,213	21,579	35.3
Other marital status ⁴	48,476	10,302	21.3	17,595	3,027	17.2	30,881	7,276	23.6
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵									
Without own children under 18	176,911	42,105	23.8	88,080	18,248	20.7	88,831	23,857	26.9
With own children under 18	66,861	22,408	33.5	29,521	8,991	30.5	37,340	13,417	35.9
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	156,594	44,974	28.7	83,124	20,882	25.1	73,469	24,092	32.8
Employed	144,450	42,083	29.1	76,695	19,681	25.7	67,755	22,402	33.1
Full time ⁶	115,983	32,568	28.1	66,207	16,873	25.5	49,775	15,695	31.5
Part time ⁷	28,468	9,515	33.4	10,488	2,807	26.8	17,980	6,707	37.3
Unemployed	12,144	2,891	23.8	6,430	1,202	18.7	5,714	1,689	29.6
Not in the labor force	87,179	19,539	22.4	34,476	6,356	18.4	52,703	13,183	25.0

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2011, through the survey period in September 2012. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2012

Characteristics in September 2012	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of total annual hours spent volunteering at all organizations							Median annual hours ¹
		Total	1 to 14 hour(s)	15 to 49 hours	50 to 99 hours	100 to 499 hours	500 hours and over	Not reporting annual hours	
Sex									
Total, both sexes	64,513	100.0	21.7	24.5	15.3	27.4	5.8	5.3	50
Men	27,238	100.0	21.4	24.8	15.3	27.3	6.0	5.2	50
Women	37,274	100.0	21.9	24.3	15.4	27.5	5.6	5.3	51
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	64,513	100.0	21.7	24.5	15.3	27.4	5.8	5.3	50
16 to 24 years	8,776	100.0	25.1	25.4	14.8	22.9	4.6	7.2	40
16 to 19 years	4,644	100.0	24.6	27.4	16.5	21.7	3.3	6.5	40
20 to 24 years	4,132	100.0	25.6	23.1	12.9	24.3	6.0	8.0	40
25 years and over	55,737	100.0	21.2	24.4	15.4	28.1	6.0	4.9	52
25 to 34 years	9,513	100.0	29.0	26.1	15.8	20.9	3.5	4.8	32
35 to 44 years	12,527	100.0	23.6	26.1	15.8	25.6	4.5	4.5	46
45 to 54 years	12,777	100.0	20.9	25.3	15.2	28.5	5.5	4.6	52
55 to 64 years	10,619	100.0	18.4	24.0	15.9	30.2	6.4	5.1	56
65 years and over	10,301	100.0	14.3	20.1	14.4	35.1	10.2	5.9	90
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	53,778	100.0	21.3	25.0	15.5	27.6	5.6	5.0	50
Black or African American	6,316	100.0	21.7	22.2	13.5	27.9	7.6	7.2	52
Asian	2,524	100.0	28.5	22.4	16.7	22.7	3.6	6.1	40
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,635	100.0	22.8	26.0	15.6	24.1	5.8	5.7	48
Educational attainment ²									
Less than a high school diploma	2,177	100.0	25.5	18.7	16.1	27.5	6.1	6.0	52
High school graduates, no college ³	10,527	100.0	22.4	24.0	14.6	27.2	6.3	5.4	50
Some college or associate degree	15,832	100.0	22.0	24.7	14.9	27.0	6.3	5.1	50
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	27,202	100.0	19.9	24.8	15.9	29.1	5.6	4.6	52
Marital status									
Single, never married	14,920	100.0	26.4	24.9	14.9	22.7	4.5	6.7	40
Married, spouse present	39,290	100.0	20.3	24.6	15.8	29.1	5.8	4.5	52
Other marital status ⁵	10,302	100.0	20.3	23.9	14.4	27.7	7.7	6.0	52
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	18,248	100.0	20.5	25.0	14.6	27.1	6.9	5.9	52
With own children under 18 years old	8,991	100.0	23.3	24.3	16.5	27.7	4.3	3.9	50
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	23,857	100.0	20.5	23.4	15.0	29.0	6.2	5.8	52
With own children under 18 years old	13,417	100.0	24.5	26.0	16.1	24.7	4.4	4.3	44
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	44,974	100.0	23.0	25.8	15.7	25.8	4.7	5.0	48
Employed	42,083	100.0	23.0	25.9	15.8	25.7	4.5	5.0	48
Full time ⁷	32,568	100.0	23.5	26.2	15.8	25.2	4.2	5.0	45
Part time ⁸	9,515	100.0	21.3	24.9	16.0	27.5	5.4	4.9	52
Unemployed	2,891	100.0	23.3	23.8	13.6	27.6	7.6	4.1	52
Not in the labor force	19,539	100.0	18.7	21.7	14.5	31.0	8.2	5.9	61

¹ For those reporting annual hours.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2011, through the survey period in September 2012. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2012

Characteristics in September 2012	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of the number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed						
		Total	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Not reporting number of organizations
Sex								
Total, both sexes	64,513	100.0	70.5	19.1	6.8	2.2	1.2	0.2
Men	27,238	100.0	71.8	18.7	6.4	1.9	1.1	.1
Women	37,274	100.0	69.5	19.5	7.1	2.4	1.3	.2
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	64,513	100.0	70.5	19.1	6.8	2.2	1.2	.2
16 to 24 years	8,776	100.0	77.2	14.8	5.3	1.8	.8	.1
16 to 19 years	4,644	100.0	74.1	17.2	5.6	2.2	.9	.1
20 to 24 years	4,132	100.0	80.8	12.0	5.0	1.3	.6	.2
25 years and over	55,737	100.0	69.4	19.8	7.0	2.2	1.3	.2
25 to 34 years	9,513	100.0	75.0	17.4	5.5	1.3	.7	—
35 to 44 years	12,527	100.0	69.8	19.9	7.2	2.0	1.0	.1
45 to 54 years	12,777	100.0	67.5	20.1	8.0	2.6	1.6	.2
55 to 64 years	10,619	100.0	67.1	21.5	7.2	2.5	1.5	.2
65 years and over	10,301	100.0	68.6	20.0	6.9	2.6	1.6	.2
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
White	53,778	100.0	69.2	19.7	7.3	2.3	1.3	.2
Black or African American	6,316	100.0	78.4	14.6	4.4	1.3	1.1	.2
Asian	2,524	100.0	78.4	15.9	4.3	.7	.6	.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,635	100.0	82.5	11.6	3.9	1.2	.7	.1
Educational attainment ¹								
Less than a high school diploma	2,177	100.0	87.8	9.6	1.9	.3	.2	.2
High school graduates, no college ²	10,527	100.0	79.3	14.9	4.5	.7	.5	.1
Some college or associate degree	15,832	100.0	71.8	19.2	5.7	2.0	1.1	.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	27,202	100.0	62.8	22.9	9.2	3.1	1.8	.1
Marital status								
Single, never married	14,920	100.0	75.7	15.7	5.8	1.8	.9	.2
Married, spouse present	39,290	100.0	68.5	20.4	7.3	2.3	1.3	.1
Other marital status ⁴	10,302	100.0	70.6	19.3	6.2	2.2	1.3	.3
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	18,248	100.0	72.2	18.5	6.3	1.8	1.2	—
With own children under 18 years old	8,991	100.0	71.2	19.1	6.8	2.0	.8	.1
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	23,857	100.0	70.2	18.9	6.8	2.5	1.2	.3
With own children under 18 years old	13,417	100.0	68.3	20.4	7.5	2.2	1.5	.1
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	44,974	100.0	69.5	19.8	7.1	2.2	1.2	.2
Employed	42,083	100.0	69.4	19.9	7.1	2.2	1.2	.2
Full time ⁶	32,568	100.0	69.8	19.6	7.1	2.2	1.1	.2
Part time ⁷	9,515	100.0	68.1	20.7	7.3	2.4	1.4	.1
Unemployed	2,891	100.0	71.4	18.1	6.4	2.6	1.3	.3
Not in the labor force	19,539	100.0	72.7	17.7	6.2	2.0	1.3	.2

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.
⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.
⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.
NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2011, through the survey period in September 2012. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2012

Characteristics in September 2012	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteers by type of main organization ¹										
		Total	Civic, political, professional, or international	Educational or youth service	Environmental or animal care	Hospital or other health	Public safety	Religious	Social or community service	Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts	Other	Not determined
Sex												
Total, both sexes	64,513	100.0	5.5	25.5	2.6	7.8	1.2	33.1	14.2	3.8	4.0	2.3
Men	27,238	100.0	6.8	23.8	2.5	6.2	1.9	32.9	14.8	4.5	4.4	2.2
Women	37,274	100.0	4.6	26.7	2.7	9.0	.6	33.2	13.8	3.3	3.7	2.3
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	64,513	100.0	5.5	25.5	2.6	7.8	1.2	33.1	14.2	3.8	4.0	2.3
16 to 24 years	8,776	100.0	4.7	27.4	3.1	9.9	1.4	26.5	16.1	3.1	4.5	3.3
16 to 19 years	4,644	100.0	4.2	30.9	2.4	8.0	.9	27.7	15.8	2.8	4.1	3.2
20 to 24 years	4,132	100.0	5.2	23.4	3.8	12.0	2.0	25.1	16.5	3.4	5.0	3.5
25 years and over	55,737	100.0	5.6	25.2	2.6	7.5	1.1	34.1	13.9	3.9	3.9	2.1
25 to 34 years	9,513	100.0	4.2	31.7	3.2	8.3	1.6	27.9	14.3	3.2	3.5	2.0
35 to 44 years	12,527	100.0	4.0	40.2	2.4	5.5	1.1	26.5	11.6	3.8	3.4	1.5
45 to 54 years	12,777	100.0	4.9	28.6	2.5	7.5	1.0	33.0	12.8	3.7	3.8	2.2
55 to 64 years	10,619	100.0	7.6	14.5	3.1	8.8	1.1	38.2	14.5	4.9	4.6	2.8
65 years and over	10,301	100.0	7.8	7.5	1.8	7.9	.9	46.5	17.1	4.2	4.2	2.2
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	53,778	100.0	5.7	25.1	2.8	8.2	1.3	32.3	14.3	4.0	4.0	2.2
Black or African American	6,316	100.0	4.5	24.6	1.2	5.3	.4	40.7	13.4	2.9	3.9	3.1
Asian	2,524	100.0	4.1	31.4	1.7	7.8	—	34.0	12.2	2.7	3.3	2.8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,635	100.0	3.7	31.2	1.9	6.5	.8	35.0	12.3	2.8	3.0	2.8
Educational attainment ²												
Less than a high school diploma	2,177	100.0	3.6	23.2	.6	3.5	1.4	48.6	12.0	2.8	2.6	1.8
High school graduates, no college ³	10,527	100.0	5.1	21.4	2.9	7.0	1.7	40.0	13.5	3.3	3.3	1.8
Some college or associate degree	15,832	100.0	5.5	25.2	2.3	7.8	1.4	34.5	13.9	3.3	4.2	2.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	27,202	100.0	6.0	26.8	2.8	7.9	.7	30.5	14.3	4.7	4.1	2.3
Marital status												
Single, never married	14,920	100.0	5.6	25.8	3.7	10.1	1.4	24.0	17.3	3.7	5.1	3.3
Married, spouse present	39,290	100.0	5.1	26.9	2.1	6.7	1.1	36.5	12.3	4.0	3.4	1.8
Other marital status ⁵	10,302	100.0	6.7	19.6	3.0	8.7	1.2	33.3	16.9	3.5	4.4	2.5
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	18,248	100.0	7.9	16.4	3.1	7.1	2.1	34.3	17.2	4.3	5.1	2.6
With own children under 18 years old	8,991	100.0	4.6	38.8	1.2	4.4	1.5	30.3	10.0	4.8	3.0	1.4
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	23,857	100.0	5.7	15.8	3.4	11.1	.7	36.4	16.0	3.9	4.4	2.7
With own children under 18 years old	13,417	100.0	2.5	46.2	1.5	5.3	.5	27.6	10.0	2.3	2.5	1.6
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	44,974	100.0	5.5	27.4	2.9	7.8	1.4	30.9	14.0	4.0	3.9	2.3
Employed	42,083	100.0	5.4	27.6	2.9	7.9	1.4	30.9	13.8	4.1	3.8	2.3
Full time ⁷	32,568	100.0	5.6	27.7	2.8	8.2	1.4	30.0	14.1	4.2	3.8	2.3
Part time ⁸	9,515	100.0	5.0	27.2	3.2	6.8	1.1	33.8	12.8	4.1	3.8	2.2
Unemployed	2,891	100.0	5.8	24.6	2.3	6.5	1.9	31.7	16.8	2.7	5.5	2.3
Not in the labor force	19,539	100.0	5.6	21.1	2.1	8.0	.6	38.1	14.8	3.4	4.1	2.3

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2011, through the survey period in September 2012. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 5. Main volunteer activity for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2012

Characteristics in September 2012	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of main volunteer activity for main organization ¹													
		Coach, referee, or supervise sports teams	Tutor or teach	Mentor youth	Be an usher, greeter, or minister	Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food	Fundraise or sell items to raise money	Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	Provide general office services	Provide professional or management assistance, including serving on a board or committee	Engage in music, performance, or other artistic activities	Engage in general labor; supply transportation to people	Other	Equal time among all
Sex															
Total, both sexes	64,513	5.8	9.5	6.3	4.0	10.9	3.7	10.7	3.0	4.8	6.9	3.6	8.1	14.8	7.9
Men	27,238	10.1	6.9	5.9	4.9	9.1	2.2	9.3	3.5	2.9	8.3	3.8	11.6	14.5	7.1
Women	37,274	2.7	11.3	6.5	3.4	12.3	4.8	11.8	2.7	6.3	5.8	3.4	5.6	15.1	8.4
Age															
Total, 16 years and over	64,513	5.8	9.5	6.3	4.0	10.9	3.7	10.7	3.0	4.8	6.9	3.6	8.1	14.8	7.9
16 to 24 years	8,776	5.1	10.3	8.8	2.2	10.4	3.7	10.4	2.9	4.1	1.5	4.8	10.7	16.9	8.2
16 to 19 years	4,644	5.2	9.8	9.3	2.7	11.9	4.3	9.3	1.7	3.7	.9	4.9	11.1	15.8	9.5
20 to 24 years	4,132	5.0	10.9	8.4	1.6	8.6	3.0	11.6	4.3	4.6	2.2	4.6	10.3	18.2	6.7
25 years and over	55,737	5.9	9.3	5.9	4.3	11.0	3.7	10.8	3.1	4.9	7.7	3.4	7.7	14.5	7.8
25 to 34 years	9,513	7.8	10.5	8.9	2.8	9.2	3.7	12.0	3.6	3.3	4.9	3.8	8.5	14.1	6.8
35 to 44 years	12,527	11.0	11.4	7.5	2.3	8.7	2.9	11.6	3.0	4.5	6.3	2.5	6.7	13.7	8.0
45 to 54 years	12,777	6.3	8.8	6.7	4.6	11.1	3.0	11.6	2.8	4.6	7.8	3.0	8.3	13.7	7.5
55 to 64 years	10,619	2.7	8.8	3.8	5.4	11.2	3.7	10.3	3.7	4.9	10.3	4.0	7.9	15.6	7.8
65 years and over	10,301	1.0	6.9	2.1	6.5	15.3	5.4	8.0	2.4	7.4	9.2	3.9	7.2	15.8	8.9
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity															
White	53,778	5.9	9.3	6.1	3.8	10.6	3.6	11.2	3.0	4.8	7.3	3.4	8.4	14.9	7.7
Black or African American	6,316	6.3	9.6	7.3	5.8	13.4	4.0	7.5	3.4	4.6	4.5	4.4	6.5	13.7	8.9
Asian	2,524	4.2	11.1	5.0	4.0	11.6	3.6	10.2	4.3	4.8	6.3	3.6	6.4	17.7	7.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,635	7.4	10.3	5.3	4.2	10.7	4.4	10.1	2.3	5.2	2.6	3.3	8.8	17.4	8.1
Educational attainment ²															
Less than a high school diploma	2,177	5.8	5.3	2.8	5.3	19.6	6.8	8.8	1.2	4.7	1.6	2.1	12.0	15.7	8.2
High school graduates, no college ³	10,527	6.0	7.0	4.3	4.7	15.6	4.6	11.0	2.9	4.2	3.6	3.5	9.2	14.7	8.7
Some college or associate degree	15,832	5.5	8.8	6.0	4.2	11.6	3.8	11.8	2.9	5.6	5.2	3.3	8.3	14.5	8.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	27,202	6.1	10.8	6.6	4.1	8.2	3.0	10.2	3.4	4.9	11.2	3.5	6.4	14.4	7.0
Marital status															
Single, never married	14,920	5.1	8.5	7.7	2.6	10.9	3.5	11.4	3.6	4.4	3.4	4.3	9.9	16.9	7.7
Married, spouse present	39,290	6.6	10.2	6.2	4.5	10.3	3.2	10.7	2.7	4.7	8.5	3.3	7.5	13.7	7.7
Other marital status ⁵	10,302	4.0	8.0	4.2	4.1	13.3	5.6	9.8	3.4	6.0	5.8	3.3	7.7	16.1	8.6
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶															
Men:															
No own children under 18 years old	18,248	5.0	6.6	5.2	5.3	10.0	2.4	9.1	3.7	3.4	8.7	4.3	12.3	16.1	7.7
With own children under 18 years old ..	8,991	20.4	7.5	7.3	4.0	7.2	1.8	9.5	3.1	1.8	7.4	2.7	10.1	11.1	6.0
Women:															
No own children under 18 years old	23,857	1.7	9.8	5.5	4.1	12.9	5.3	10.9	3.3	6.9	6.1	3.9	5.6	15.7	8.3
With own children under 18 years old ..	13,417	4.6	14.0	8.3	2.0	11.2	3.9	13.3	1.7	5.1	5.3	2.6	5.4	14.0	8.6
Employment status															
Civilian labor force	44,974	7.3	9.2	6.7	3.7	10.1	3.2	11.5	3.4	4.0	7.6	3.6	8.1	14.2	7.5
Employed	42,083	7.3	9.4	6.8	3.7	9.8	3.0	11.8	3.4	3.8	7.8	3.5	8.0	14.0	7.5
Full time ⁷	32,568	8.3	8.9	7.0	3.7	9.6	2.9	12.4	3.6	3.5	7.9	3.3	8.0	13.6	7.2
Part time ⁸	9,515	3.8	11.2	6.2	3.8	10.6	3.5	9.7	2.9	5.0	7.3	4.2	8.0	15.4	8.4
Unemployed	2,891	6.5	6.6	5.2	3.5	13.8	5.0	8.1	2.7	6.4	5.2	3.7	8.8	15.9	8.6
Not in the labor force	19,539	2.5	10.0	5.2	4.7	12.9	4.9	8.9	2.2	6.7	5.2	3.6	8.2	16.4	8.6

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2011, through the survey period in September 2012. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2012

Characteristics in September 2012	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization ¹								
		Total	Approached the organization	Was asked by:					Other	Not reporting how became involved
				Total ²	Boss or employer	Relative, friend, or co-worker	Someone in the organization/school	Someone else		
Sex										
Total, both sexes	64,513	100.0	42.1	41.6	1.4	14.8	23.8	1.4	13.0	3.4
Men	27,238	100.0	41.4	42.6	1.5	16.0	23.5	1.5	12.6	3.4
Women	37,274	100.0	42.6	40.8	1.3	13.9	24.1	1.3	13.2	3.4
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	64,513	100.0	42.1	41.6	1.4	14.8	23.8	1.4	13.0	3.4
16 to 24 years	8,776	100.0	40.8	39.2	1.0	16.3	19.7	2.1	15.4	4.6
16 to 19 years	4,644	100.0	40.7	40.3	.2	16.2	21.4	2.4	14.7	4.3
20 to 24 years	4,132	100.0	41.0	38.0	1.9	16.5	17.8	1.7	16.1	4.9
25 years and over	55,737	100.0	42.3	41.9	1.4	14.6	24.5	1.2	12.6	3.2
25 to 34 years	9,513	100.0	42.5	43.2	2.5	15.7	23.6	1.1	11.2	3.2
35 to 44 years	12,527	100.0	41.8	42.8	1.7	13.8	26.0	1.2	12.6	2.8
45 to 54 years	12,777	100.0	41.3	42.7	1.4	14.4	25.7	.9	12.9	3.2
55 to 64 years	10,619	100.0	42.5	40.5	1.3	14.7	22.7	1.5	13.4	3.6
65 years and over	10,301	100.0	43.5	40.3	.2	14.4	23.8	1.6	12.6	3.6
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	53,778	100.0	42.0	41.9	1.4	15.0	23.9	1.4	12.8	3.3
Black or African American	6,316	100.0	41.6	40.1	1.2	13.6	23.6	1.4	14.1	4.3
Asian	2,524	100.0	46.8	36.9	1.4	11.6	22.4	1.2	12.8	3.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,635	100.0	44.5	40.7	1.7	13.5	24.3	1.0	11.2	3.6
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma	2,177	100.0	44.2	42.2	.5	15.3	25.4	.9	10.4	3.2
High school graduates, no college ⁴	10,527	100.0	42.0	42.8	1.1	15.8	24.5	1.2	12.4	2.8
Some college or associate degree	15,832	100.0	41.8	42.2	1.6	15.2	23.9	1.3	12.9	3.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁵	27,202	100.0	42.4	41.4	1.5	13.6	24.8	1.3	12.6	3.5
Marital status										
Single, never married	14,920	100.0	41.4	39.6	1.6	16.7	19.3	1.9	14.4	4.6
Married, spouse present	39,290	100.0	41.9	42.7	1.3	14.1	25.9	1.1	12.4	3.0
Other marital status ⁶	10,302	100.0	43.5	39.9	1.2	14.5	22.4	1.6	13.1	3.5
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	18,248	100.0	41.1	41.8	1.3	16.8	21.6	1.8	13.4	3.7
With own children under 18 years old	8,991	100.0	41.9	44.4	1.8	14.4	27.2	.9	10.9	2.9
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	23,857	100.0	43.4	39.2	1.3	15.5	20.7	1.4	13.5	3.9
With own children under 18 years old	13,417	100.0	41.1	43.5	1.2	11.0	30.1	1.0	12.8	2.6
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	44,974	100.0	41.2	42.3	1.9	15.2	23.7	1.3	13.1	3.3
Employed	42,083	100.0	41.1	42.5	2.0	15.1	23.8	1.3	13.1	3.3
Full time ⁸	32,568	100.0	41.0	42.8	2.3	15.5	23.6	1.2	12.9	3.3
Part time ⁹	9,515	100.0	41.5	41.5	.9	14.1	24.7	1.7	13.6	3.3
Unemployed	2,891	100.0	43.2	40.1	.8	15.5	22.0	1.4	13.4	3.2
Not in the labor force	19,539	100.0	44.0	39.7	.1	13.9	24.1	1.4	12.6	3.7

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Includes persons who did not specify who asked them to volunteer, not shown separately.

³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

⁴ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁶ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁷ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included

are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁸ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁹ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2011, through the survey period in September 2012. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.