

# A Profile of the Working Poor, 2009



U.S. Department of Labor  
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
March 2011

Report 1027

In 2009, according to the Census Bureau, about 43.6 million people, or 14.3 percent of the Nation's population, lived at or below the official poverty level.<sup>1</sup> Although the poor were primarily children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, 10.4 million individuals were among the "working poor," 1.5 million more than in 2008. 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 2009, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—increased to 7.0 percent, up by 1.0 percentage point from the previous year's figure. (See tables A and I, and the chart.)

Following are additional highlights from the 2009 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 15.0 percent of part-time workers.
- Black and Hispanic workers continued to be about twice as likely as White or Asian workers to be 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 20.3 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.
- 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 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.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty status in 2009 for workers and their families.

<sup>1</sup> See table 4 of Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2009, Current Population Reports, P60-238 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2010), on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.pdf>.

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 2010 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 2009, about the same number of men and women were classified as working poor—5.2 million. The working-poor rate, however, continued to be higher for women (7.5 percent) than for men (6.6 percent). (See table 2.)

Blacks and Hispanics continued to be about twice as likely as their White counterparts to be among the working poor. White working men and women who spent at least 27 weeks or more in the labor force were about equally likely to be poor (6.1 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively). Among Hispanics, the rates for men (14.2 percent) and women (13.6 percent) also were about the same. In contrast, the working-poor rate for Black women (14.2 percent) was higher than the rate for Black men (10.1 percent).

Young workers are more vulnerable to poverty than are other age groups, in part because their earnings are lower and

Table A. Poverty status of people and primary families in the labor force for 27 or more weeks, 2006-09  
(Numbers in thousands)

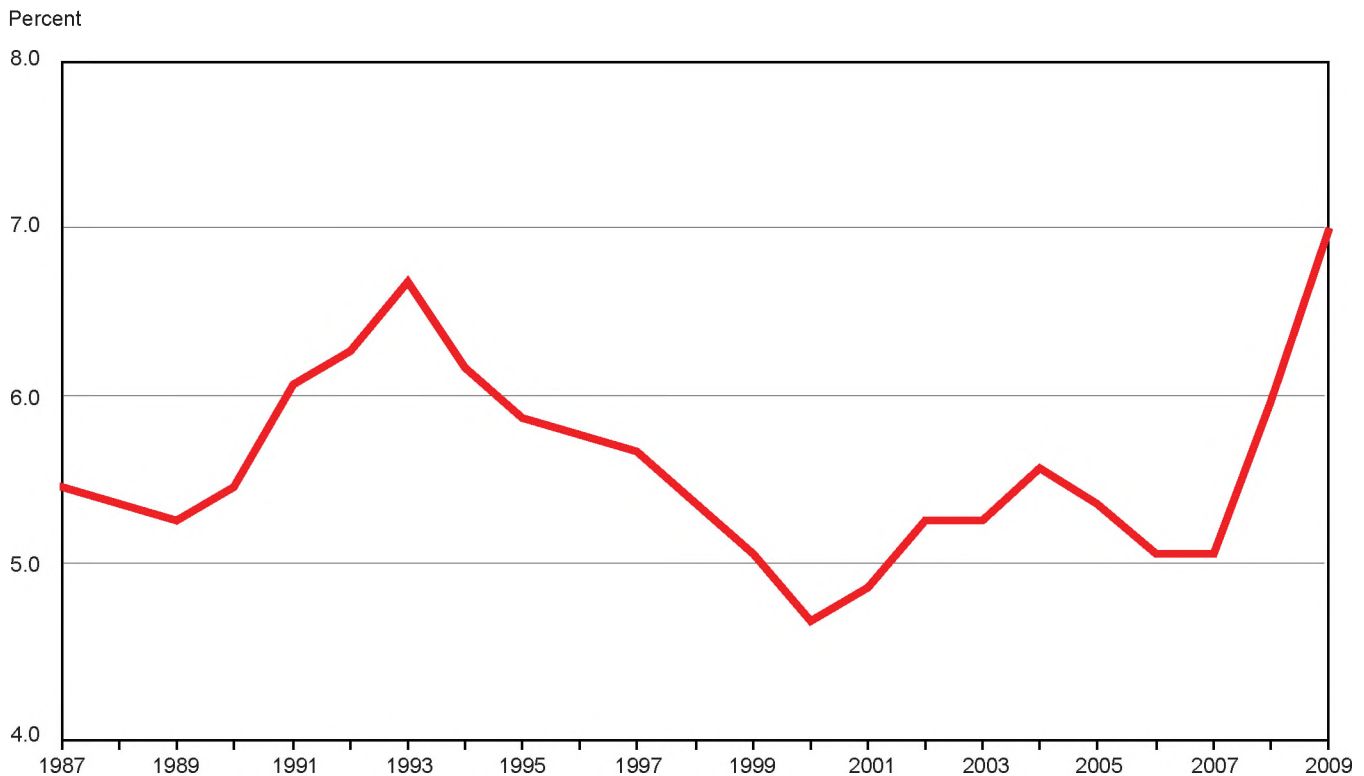
Characteristic	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total persons <sup>1</sup> .....	145,229	146,567	147,838	147,902
In poverty .....	7,427	7,521	8,883	10,391
Working-poor rate .....	5.1	5.1	6.0	7.0
Unrelated individuals .....	31,887	33,226	32,785	33,798
In poverty .....	2,741	2,558	3,275	3,947
Working-poor rate .....	8.6	7.7	10.0	11.7
Primary families <sup>2</sup> .....	65,388	65,158	65,907	65,467
In poverty .....	3,960	4,169	4,538	5,193
Working-poor rate .....	6.1	6.4	6.9	7.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes people in families, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Chart. Working-poor rate of persons in the labor force for 27 or more weeks, 1987–2009



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

their unemployment rate is higher, compared with their older counterparts. Among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2009, 12.7 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 14.8 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were in poverty, about double the rate for workers age 35 to 44 (7.0 percent). Workers age 45 to 54 (4.7 percent), 55 to 64 (3.6 percent), and 65 and older (2.3 percent) had lower working-poor rates than did other age groups in 2009. Except for the working-poor rate for 16- to 19-year-olds, which was unchanged in 2009, the working-poor rates for all major age groups increased over the year.

### 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 managerial, 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 2009, those with less than a high school diploma had a higher working-poor rate (20.3 percent) than did high school graduates with no college (8.8 percent). Workers with an associate's degree and those with a bachelor's degree or higher had the lowest working-poor rates: 4.7 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 than were Whites or Asians. (See table 3.)

Working-poor rates were fairly similar among White men and women at all educational levels. For example, 22.0 percent of White women 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 18.4 percent of their male counterparts. Among college graduates, the proportions classified as working poor were 2.0 percent and 1.8 percent for White women and White men, respectively. In contrast, Black women with less than a high school diploma were considerably more likely than their male counterparts to be among the working poor: 31.8 percent compared with 22.5 percent, respectively. Among Black men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher, the working-poor rates were essentially the same (3.2 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.) By comparison, women of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity with less than a high school diploma had slightly higher working-poor rates than their male counterparts (24.7 percent and 22.3 percent, respectively). The working-poor rates for Hispanic men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher were similar, at 3.9 percent and 3.3 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 managerial, professional, and related occupations—were less

likely to be classified as working poor (2.3 percent) in 2009. 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, 13.2 percent of service workers were classified as working poor in 2009. 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, 9.7 percent of workers were classified as working poor. Within this occupation group, 16.8 percent of workers employed in farming, forestry, and fishing occupations and 11.6 percent of those in construction and extraction occupations were among the working poor. (See table 4.)

### **Families**

In 2009, 5.2 million families were living below the poverty level, despite having at least one member in the labor force for half the year or more. The 2009 figure was up from 4.5 million in 2008. Married-couple families had a lower likelihood of living below the poverty level (10.3 percent in 2009) than did families maintained by women (25.1 percent) or by men (17.6 percent), a pattern that held regardless of which member of the married-couple family was in the labor force. (See table 5.)

Among families with at least one member in the labor force for half the year, those with children had a greater likelihood of living below the poverty level than did those without children. The proportion of families with children aged 18 years and younger that lived in poverty was 12.0 percent, in contrast to 3.1 percent for families without children. About 26.6 percent of families maintained by a woman with children under the age of 18 were in poverty. For families maintained by men with children, the proportion in poverty also was relatively high: 18.2 percent. Among married-couple families with children, the proportion classified as working poor was 7.0 percent in 2009, up from 6.2 percent in 2008.

### **Unrelated individuals**

The “unrelated individuals” category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Of the 33.8 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half the year or longer, 3.9 million lived below the poverty level in 2009. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals was 11.7 percent, up from 10.0 percent in 2008. (See table 6.)

Within the group of unrelated individuals, teenagers were the most likely to be among the working poor. In 2009, nearly half 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 rate for women living alone or with unrelated individuals was 12.0 percent, compared with 11.4 percent for their male counterparts. The working-poor rates for unrelated individuals were much higher for Blacks (15.1 percent) and Hispanics (18.2 percent) than for their White (11.1 percent) or Asian (11.3 percent) counterparts. (See table 7.)

Of the 3.9 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2009, 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, 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, 4.2 million, or 3.8 percent, were classified as working poor in 2009, little different than the proportion in 2008 (3.6 percent). (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 2009, 86 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 two-thirds (67 percent) subject to low earnings, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. About 44 percent experienced unemployment alone or in conjunction with other problems, up from 38 percent in 2008. In 2009, 7 percent of the working poor experienced all three problems: low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment.

Some 575,000, or 14 percent, of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2009. Their classification as working poor may be explained by other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, or a family structure that increases the risk of poverty.

# Technical Note

## Source of data

The data presented in this report were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. 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 2010 refer to the 2009 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, 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: 2009*, Current Population Reports, P60-238 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2010). This publication is available on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.pdf>, and additional information about income and poverty measures is online at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income.html>.

Information in this report will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1 (800) 877-8339. This material is in the public domain and, with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission.

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

## Comparability of estimates

The 2009 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2008 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2010 of revised population controls used in the CPS. Additional information is on the Internet 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 in accordance with the makeup of the family. In 2009, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$21,954; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$44,366; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 years or older, it was \$10,289. 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: 2009*, online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.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 that the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2009, the low-earnings threshold was \$315.76 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, on the Internet 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 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: 2009*, online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.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 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.** 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. People in these categories are those who selected that race group only. Data for the two remaining race categories—American Indian or Alaska Native and 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.*** 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, 2009

(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
<b>Total</b>			
Total in labor force .....	159,776	147,902	135,576
Did not work during the year .....	5,847	3,926	3,477
Worked during the year .....	153,929	143,976	132,099
Usual full-time workers .....	120,538	116,695	110,049
Usual part-time workers .....	33,391	27,281	22,050
Involuntary part-time workers .....	10,979	9,678	8,379
Voluntary part-time workers .....	22,412	17,603	13,671
<b>At or above poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	147,061	137,511	126,668
Did not work during the year .....	3,793	2,549	2,264
Worked during the year .....	143,268	134,962	124,404
Usual full-time workers .....	114,954	111,764	105,755
Usual part-time workers .....	28,314	23,198	18,650
Involuntary part-time workers .....	8,327	7,417	6,368
Voluntary part-time workers .....	19,987	15,781	12,281
<b>Below poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	12,715	10,391	8,908
Did not work during the year .....	2,054	1,377	1,213
Worked during the year .....	10,661	9,014	7,695
Usual full-time workers .....	5,583	4,931	4,294
Usual part-time workers .....	5,077	4,083	3,401
Involuntary part-time workers .....	2,652	2,261	2,011
Voluntary part-time workers .....	2,426	1,822	1,390
<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>			
Total in labor force .....	8.0	7.0	6.6
Did not work during the year .....	35.1	35.1	34.9
Worked during the year .....	6.9	6.3	5.8
Usual full-time workers .....	4.6	4.2	3.9
Usual part-time workers .....	15.2	15.0	15.4
Involuntary part-time workers .....	24.2	23.4	24.0
Voluntary part-time workers .....	10.8	10.4	10.2

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force.

**Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2009**

(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 .....	147,902	120,560	16,864	6,948	21,175	10,391	7,553	2,073	390	2,948
16 to 19 years .....	3,749	3,127	423	85	642	476	346	98	17	101
20 to 24 years .....	13,233	10,530	1,801	434	2,449	1,961	1,394	414	83	424
25 to 34 years .....	32,465	25,625	4,185	1,701	6,146	3,004	2,127	647	79	967
35 to 44 years .....	32,819	26,169	3,975	1,885	5,508	2,286	1,694	449	84	820
45 to 54 years .....	35,671	29,403	3,927	1,633	4,040	1,680	1,215	329	77	447
55 to 64 years .....	23,223	19,770	2,074	975	1,918	832	656	118	38	157
65 years and older .....	6,742	5,936	479	235	471	152	120	17	11	32
Men, 16 years and older .....	79,019	65,623	7,842	3,731	12,565	5,216	4,031	796	214	1,778
16 to 19 years .....	1,891	1,573	212	53	357	182	135	33	10	54
20 to 24 years .....	6,917	5,607	830	231	1,428	879	654	151	40	242
25 to 34 years .....	17,812	14,383	1,995	926	3,840	1,526	1,185	233	39	614
35 to 44 years .....	17,924	14,652	1,834	1,016	3,363	1,241	988	173	47	528
45 to 54 years .....	18,689	15,673	1,811	845	2,260	885	658	154	47	237
55 to 64 years .....	12,087	10,429	943	519	1,046	421	347	44	21	87
65 years and older .....	3,700	3,306	218	141	271	81	64	7	9	17
Women, 16 years and older .....	68,883	54,937	9,022	3,217	8,610	5,176	3,522	1,277	176	1,170
16 to 19 years .....	1,858	1,554	211	32	286	293	211	65	7	47
20 to 24 years .....	6,316	4,923	970	204	1,021	1,082	739	263	43	183
25 to 34 years .....	14,653	11,243	2,190	775	2,307	1,479	943	414	41	354
35 to 44 years .....	14,895	11,517	2,142	869	2,145	1,045	706	276	37	292
45 to 54 years .....	16,982	13,729	2,116	788	1,779	795	557	175	30	210
55 to 64 years .....	11,136	9,341	1,131	456	872	410	309	74	17	69
65 years and older .....	3,042	2,630	261	94	200	71	56	9	-	16

Age and sex	Rate <sup>1</sup>				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older .....	7.0	6.3	12.3	5.6	13.9
16 to 19 years .....	12.7	11.1	23.2	19.8	15.8
20 to 24 years .....	14.8	13.2	23.0	19.1	17.3
25 to 34 years .....	9.3	8.3	15.5	4.7	15.7
35 to 44 years .....	7.0	6.5	11.3	4.5	14.9
45 to 54 years .....	4.7	4.1	8.4	4.7	11.1
55 to 64 years .....	3.6	3.3	5.7	3.9	8.2
65 years and older .....	2.3	2.0	3.5	4.7	6.9
Men, 16 years and older .....	6.6	6.1	10.1	5.7	14.2
16 to 19 years .....	9.7	8.6	15.6	( <sup>2</sup> )	15.2
20 to 24 years .....	12.7	11.7	18.2	17.4	16.9
25 to 34 years .....	8.6	8.2	11.7	4.2	16.0
35 to 44 years .....	6.9	6.7	9.4	4.6	15.7
45 to 54 years .....	4.7	4.2	8.5	5.6	10.5
55 to 64 years .....	3.5	3.3	4.7	4.0	8.3
65 years and older .....	2.2	1.9	3.4	6.7	6.2
Women, 16 years and older .....	7.5	6.4	14.2	5.5	13.6
16 to 19 years .....	15.8	13.6	30.9	( <sup>2</sup> )	16.4
20 to 24 years .....	17.1	15.0	27.1	21.0	17.9
25 to 34 years .....	10.1	8.4	18.9	5.2	15.3
35 to 44 years .....	7.0	6.1	12.9	4.3	13.6
45 to 54 years .....	4.7	4.1	8.3	3.8	11.8
55 to 64 years .....	3.7	3.3	6.5	3.8	8.0
65 years and older .....	2.3	2.1	3.5	1.7	7.8

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

**Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older .....	147,902	79,019	68,883	10,391	5,216	5,176	7.0	6.6	7.5
Less than a high school diploma .....	14,448	9,103	5,345	2,927	1,701	1,226	20.3	18.7	22.9
Less than 1 year of high school .....	4,497	2,998	1,499	1,091	735	356	24.3	24.5	23.8
1–3 years of high school .....	8,159	4,935	3,223	1,525	779	746	18.7	15.8	23.1
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,792	1,170	623	311	187	124	17.3	16.0	19.9
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	43,585	24,920	18,666	3,816	1,904	1,912	8.8	7.6	10.2
Some college or associate's degree .....	42,680	20,798	21,883	2,668	1,124	1,544	6.3	5.4	7.1
Some college, no degree .....	28,224	14,254	13,970	1,993	866	1,127	7.1	6.1	8.1
Associate's degree .....	14,456	6,543	7,913	675	258	417	4.7	3.9	5.3
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	47,189	24,199	22,990	980	487	493	2.1	2.0	2.1
White, 16 years and older .....	120,560	65,623	54,937	7,553	4,031	3,522	6.3	6.1	6.4
Less than a high school diploma .....	11,778	7,610	4,169	2,318	1,403	915	19.7	18.4	22.0
Less than 1 year of high school .....	3,898	2,685	1,213	978	663	315	25.1	24.7	26.0
1–3 years of high school .....	6,517	4,026	2,491	1,119	597	522	17.2	14.8	21.0
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,363	899	465	221	143	78	16.2	15.9	16.9
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	35,214	20,500	14,714	2,625	1,397	1,228	7.5	6.8	8.3
Some college or associate's degree .....	34,652	17,246	17,406	1,874	863	1,010	5.4	5.0	5.8
Some college, no degree .....	22,760	11,748	11,013	1,419	664	755	6.2	5.7	6.9
Associate's degree .....	11,892	5,498	6,394	455	199	255	3.8	3.6	4.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	38,916	20,268	18,648	736	368	369	1.9	1.8	2.0
Black or African American, 16 years and older .....	16,864	7,842	9,022	2,073	796	1,277	12.3	10.1	14.2
Less than a high school diploma .....	1,734	946	788	463	213	250	26.7	22.5	31.8
Less than 1 year of high school .....	255	136	120	67	39	28	26.4	29.0	23.5
1–3 years of high school .....	1,188	631	557	323	140	183	27.2	22.2	32.8
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	291	179	111	73	33	40	25.1	18.6	35.5
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	5,935	3,125	2,810	922	377	544	15.5	12.1	19.4
Some college or associate's degree .....	5,502	2,282	3,220	568	157	411	10.3	6.9	12.7
Some college, no degree .....	3,832	1,672	2,160	414	125	289	10.8	7.5	13.4
Associate's degree .....	1,670	610	1,060	154	32	122	9.2	5.3	11.5
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,693	1,489	2,204	120	48	72	3.2	3.2	3.3
Asian, 16 years and older .....	6,948	3,731	3,217	390	214	176	5.6	5.7	5.5
Less than a high school diploma .....	484	260	224	62	42	20	12.7	16.0	8.9
Less than 1 year of high school .....	209	94	115	34	26	8	16.3	27.3	7.3
1–3 years of high school .....	178	101	77	19	9	10	10.8	9.3	12.7
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	97	65	32	8	7	2	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	1,348	685	663	116	58	58	8.6	8.5	8.7
Some college or associate's degree .....	1,304	690	614	106	51	55	8.1	7.4	9.0
Some college, no degree .....	772	420	351	79	38	41	10.2	9.0	11.6
Associate's degree .....	532	269	263	28	13	14	5.2	4.9	5.5
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,812	2,096	1,716	106	63	43	2.8	3.0	2.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older .....	21,175	12,565	8,610	2,948	1,778	1,170	13.9	14.2	13.6
Less than a high school diploma .....	6,612	4,495	2,117	1,527	1,003	524	23.1	22.3	24.7
Less than 1 year of high school .....	3,288	2,268	1,019	863	593	270	26.3	26.2	26.5
1–3 years of high school .....	2,645	1,732	913	527	301	226	19.9	17.4	24.8
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	680	495	185	137	110	28	20.2	22.2	15.0
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	6,687	4,106	2,582	883	509	373	13.2	12.4	14.5
Some college or associate's degree .....	4,867	2,442	2,425	429	207	223	8.8	8.5	9.2
Some college, no degree .....	3,408	1,780	1,628	322	165	156	9.4	9.3	9.6
Associate's degree .....	1,459	662	797	108	41	67	7.4	6.2	8.4
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,008	1,522	1,486	109	59	50	3.6	3.9	3.3

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>3</sup> Includes people with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

<sup>4</sup> 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.



**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, 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup>	143,976	76,604	67,372	9,016	4,410	4,606	6.3	5.8	6.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	52,477	25,596	26,882	1,093	504	589	2.1	2.0	2.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	21,530	12,435	9,095	470	279	191	2.2	2.2	2.1
Professional and related occupations	30,948	13,161	17,787	623	225	398	2.0	1.7	2.2
Service occupations	24,991	10,757	14,234	3,239	1,113	2,126	13.0	10.3	14.9
Sales and office occupations	34,671	12,700	21,970	2,071	620	1,451	6.0	4.9	6.6
Sales and related occupations	16,026	7,881	8,144	1,301	412	889	8.1	5.2	10.9
Office and administrative support occupations	18,645	4,819	13,826	770	208	562	4.1	4.3	4.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	14,812	14,113	699	1,367	1,292	74	9.2	9.2	10.7
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,118	830	287	193	148	45	17.3	17.8	15.8
Construction and extraction occupations	8,509	8,293	216	957	931	26	11.2	11.2	12.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,185	4,990	195	217	214	3	4.2	4.3	1.4
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	16,896	13,332	3,564	1,243	880	363	7.4	6.6	10.2
Production occupations	8,373	6,121	2,251	549	346	204	6.6	5.6	9.0
Transportation and material-moving occupations	8,523	7,211	1,313	693	534	159	8.1	7.4	12.2
White, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup>	117,920	63,962	53,957	6,725	3,512	3,212	5.7	5.5	6.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	43,848	21,809	22,038	865	433	432	2.0	2.0	2.0
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	18,594	11,020	7,574	394	246	148	2.1	2.2	2.0
Professional and related occupations	25,254	10,789	14,464	471	187	284	1.9	1.7	2.0
Service occupations	19,116	8,404	10,711	2,306	834	1,472	12.1	9.9	13.7
Sales and office occupations	28,395	10,449	17,946	1,429	453	977	5.0	4.3	5.4
Sales and related occupations	13,298	6,750	6,548	886	303	583	6.7	4.5	8.9
Office and administrative support occupations	15,097	3,700	11,398	544	150	394	3.6	4.0	3.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,151	12,552	600	1,191	1,131	60	9.1	9.0	10.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,010	751	259	176	137	39	17.4	18.2	15.2
Construction and extraction occupations	7,652	7,465	186	839	819	20	11.0	11.0	10.8
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,490	4,336	154	176	176	1	3.9	4.0	4
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	13,312	10,668	2,644	931	662	269	7.0	6.2	10.2
Production occupations	6,720	5,052	1,668	423	266	158	6.3	5.3	9.5
Transportation and material-moving occupations	6,592	5,617	976	508	396	112	7.7	7.1	11.4
Black or African American, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup>	15,863	7,252	8,612	1,601	556	1,045	10.1	7.7	12.1
Management, professional, and related occupations	4,429	1,595	2,834	147	32	115	3.3	2.0	4.1
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,533	660	873	49	15	34	3.2	2.3	3.9
Professional and related occupations	2,896	935	1,961	98	17	82	3.4	1.8	4.2
Service occupations	3,890	1,456	2,434	673	175	498	17.3	12.0	20.5
Sales and office occupations	4,035	1,367	2,668	455	97	358	11.3	7.1	13.4
Sales and related occupations	1,634	634	1,000	285	54	230	17.4	8.6	23.0
Office and administrative support occupations	2,401	733	1,668	171	42	128	7.1	5.8	7.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	996	926	70	119	106	14	12.0	11.4	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	63	45	18	13	8	5	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations	504	479	25	78	71	6	15.4	14.9	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	429	402	27	29	27	2	6.7	6.6	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	2,500	1,898	602	205	145	60	8.2	7.6	10.0
Production occupations	1,022	685	338	77	52	24	7.5	7.6	7.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,477	1,213	264	128	93	36	8.7	7.6	13.5

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, 2009 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Asian, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	6,793	3,646	3,147	356	196	161	5.2	5.4	5.1
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	3,215	1,756	1,459	54	28	26	1.7	1.6	1.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,060	592	468	19	13	6	1.8	2.2	1.3
Professional and related occupations .....	2,155	1,164	991	35	15	20	1.6	1.3	2.0
Service occupations .....	1,245	558	687	134	60	74	10.7	10.7	10.8
Sales and office occupations .....	1,400	618	782	98	51	47	7.0	8.3	6.1
Sales and related occupations .....	726	363	363	83	45	38	11.5	12.4	10.6
Office and administrative support occupations .....	674	255	419	15	6	9	2.2	2.4	2.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	295	282	13	23	23	—	7.6	8.0	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	16	12	4	2	2	—	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations .....	127	125	2	17	17	—	13.4	13.6	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	152	145	7	3	3	—	2.2	2.3	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	637	432	205	47	34	14	7.5	7.8	6.6
Production occupations .....	438	261	178	21	12	8	4.7	4.8	4.7
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	198	171	28	27	21	5	13.4	12.5	( <sup>3</sup> )
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	20,554	12,171	8,383	2,696	1,627	1,070	13.1	13.4	12.8
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	3,735	1,791	1,945	176	84	93	4.7	4.7	4.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,634	910	724	73	43	30	4.5	4.7	4.1
Professional and related occupations .....	2,102	881	1,221	103	40	63	4.9	4.6	5.1
Service occupations .....	5,400	2,624	2,776	964	434	530	17.8	16.5	19.1
Sales and office occupations .....	4,327	1,643	2,684	393	123	270	9.1	7.5	10.1
Sales and related occupations .....	1,872	874	998	230	82	148	12.3	9.3	14.9
Office and administrative support occupations .....	2,455	769	1,686	163	41	122	6.6	5.3	7.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	3,539	3,381	158	699	665	35	19.8	19.7	21.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	465	354	111	130	101	29	27.9	28.6	25.9
Construction and extraction occupations .....	2,364	2,337	27	502	496	5	21.2	21.2	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	709	690	19	68	67	1	9.6	9.7	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	3,533	2,716	817	465	322	143	13.2	11.8	17.5
Production occupations .....	1,815	1,293	522	213	134	79	11.7	10.4	15.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	1,718	1,424	294	252	188	64	14.6	13.2	21.7

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the long-term unemployed with no previous work experience and a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

<sup>3</sup> 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 or more weeks, 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Total primary families .....	65,467	60,274	5,193	7.9
With related children under 18 years .....	35,415	31,151	4,264	12.0
Without children .....	30,052	29,124	929	3.1
With one member in the labor force .....	27,234	22,989	4,245	15.6
With two or more members in the labor force .....	38,233	37,286	947	2.5
With two members .....	32,038	31,200	838	2.6
With three or more members .....	6,194	6,085	109	1.8
Married-couple families .....	49,012	46,765	2,247	4.6
With related children under 18 years .....	25,205	23,443	1,762	7.0
Without children .....	23,807	23,322	484	2.0
With one member in the labor force .....	16,016	14,371	1,646	10.3
Husband .....	11,323	10,054	1,269	11.2
Wife .....	4,028	3,718	310	7.7
Relative .....	665	598	67	10.1
With two or more members in the labor force .....	32,996	32,394	601	1.8
With two members .....	27,856	27,325	532	1.9
With three or more members .....	5,140	5,070	70	1.4
Families maintained by women .....	11,643	9,298	2,345	20.1
With related children under 18 years .....	7,702	5,656	2,046	26.6
Without children .....	3,941	3,641	300	7.6
With one member in the labor force .....	8,314	6,227	2,088	25.1
Householder .....	6,780	4,969	1,811	26.7
Relative .....	1,534	1,258	277	18.0
With two or more members in the labor force .....	3,328	3,071	257	7.7
Families maintained by men .....	4,812	4,212	601	12.5
With related children under 18 years .....	2,508	2,052	456	18.2
Without children .....	2,304	2,160	144	6.3
With one member in the labor force .....	2,903	2,391	512	17.6
Householder .....	2,365	1,940	425	18.0
Relative .....	538	452	86	16.1
With two or more members in the labor force .....	1,909	1,820	89	4.6

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2009

(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	
<b>Total</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	237,158	57,735	58,368	5,590	20,137	14,837	2,269	12,526	5,547	586	5,935	53,629
With labor force activity .....	159,776	44,896	37,769	1,508	12,941	10,426	502	7,543	4,282	130	3,908	35,871
1 to 26 weeks .....	11,874	1,417	2,495	913	2,400	749	288	903	213	68	356	2,073
27 or more weeks .....	147,902	43,479	35,273	595	10,541	9,678	214	6,641	4,069	62	3,552	33,798
With no labor force activity .....	77,382	12,839	20,599	4,082	7,196	4,411	1,767	4,983	1,266	455	2,027	17,758
<b>At or above poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	207,602	54,378	54,963	5,179	18,985	10,400	1,527	10,167	4,607	464	5,228	41,704
With labor force activity .....	147,061	42,902	36,740	1,463	12,534	7,950	392	6,654	3,721	118	3,635	30,953
1 to 26 weeks .....	9,550	1,255	2,286	882	2,306	293	213	694	157	62	301	1,101
27 or more weeks .....	137,511	41,647	34,454	581	10,228	7,657	179	5,960	3,563	56	3,334	29,852
With no labor force activity .....	60,541	11,475	18,223	3,716	6,452	2,450	1,135	3,513	887	347	1,594	10,751
<b>Below poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	29,556	3,357	3,405	410	1,152	4,437	742	2,359	940	122	706	11,925
With labor force activity .....	12,715	1,994	1,029	45	407	2,477	110	889	561	13	273	4,918
1 to 26 weeks .....	2,324	162	209	31	94	456	75	209	55	6	55	971
27 or more weeks .....	10,391	1,831	819	14	313	2,021	35	680	506	—	218	3,947
With no labor force activity .....	16,841	1,363	2,376	366	744	1,960	633	1,470	379	109	433	7,007
<b>Rate<sup>2</sup></b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	12.5	5.8	5.8	7.3	5.7	29.9	32.7	18.8	16.9	20.8	11.9	22.2
With labor force activity .....	8.0	4.4	2.7	3.0	3.1	23.8	21.9	11.8	13.1	9.9	7.0	13.7
1 to 26 weeks .....	19.6	11.5	8.4	3.4	3.9	60.9	25.9	23.1	26.0	9.3	15.4	46.9
27 or more weeks .....	7.0	4.2	2.3	2.3	3.0	20.9	16.4	10.2	12.4	( <sup>3</sup> )	6.1	11.7
With no labor force activity .....	21.8	10.6	11.5	9.0	10.3	44.4	35.8	29.5	29.9	23.9	21.4	39.5

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

<sup>2</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total.

<sup>3</sup> Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Dash represents or rounds to zero.

**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, 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Age and sex</b>				
Total unrelated individuals .....	33,798	29,852	3,947	11.7
16 to 19 years .....	408	206	202	49.6
20 to 24 years .....	4,245	3,230	1,015	23.9
25 to 64 years .....	27,180	24,529	2,651	9.8
65 years and older .....	1,965	1,888	77	3.9
Men .....	18,955	16,790	2,165	11.4
Women .....	14,844	13,062	1,782	12.0
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>				
White .....	27,520	24,479	3,041	11.1
Men .....	15,676	13,980	1,696	10.8
Women .....	11,844	10,499	1,345	11.4
Black or African American .....	4,342	3,686	656	15.1
Men .....	2,225	1,883	342	15.4
Women .....	2,116	1,802	314	14.8
Asian .....	1,066	946	120	11.3
Men .....	597	540	57	9.5
Women .....	469	406	64	13.6
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity .....	4,245	3,472	773	18.2
Men .....	2,921	2,395	526	18.0
Women .....	1,324	1,077	247	18.7
<b>Living arrangement</b>				
Living alone .....	17,348	15,982	1,366	7.9
Living with others .....	16,450	13,870	2,581	15.7

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**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, 2009**

(Numbers in thousands)

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Total, full-time wage and salary workers .....	110,329	106,146	4,183	3.8
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings <sup>2</sup> .....	86,735	86,160	575	.7
Unemployment only .....	8,537	7,947	591	6.9
Involuntary part-time employment only .....	3,308	3,240	68	2.1
Low earnings only .....	6,445	5,006	1,439	22.3
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment .....	1,750	1,600	150	8.6
Unemployment and low earnings .....	1,951	1,160	791	40.6
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings .....	924	662	262	28.3
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings .....	679	372	307	45.2
Unemployment (alone or with other problems) .....	12,917	11,078	1,839	14.2
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems) .....	6,662	5,874	787	11.8
Low earnings (alone or with other problems) .....	9,999	7,200	2,799	28.0

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

<sup>2</sup> The low-earnings threshold in 2009 was \$315.76 per week.