

# A Profile of the Working Poor, 2007



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In 2007, according to the Census Bureau, 37.3 million people, or 12.5 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty level.<sup>1</sup> Although the Nation's poor were primarily children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, 7.5 million were among the "working poor." This level is slightly higher than the level reported in 2006. The working poor are individuals who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. In 2007, the working poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 5.1 percent, unchanged from the rate reported in 2006. (See tables A and 1, and chart 1.)

Following are some additional highlights from the 2007 data:

- Among persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2007, 3.6 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 11.9 percent of part-time workers.
- Black and Hispanic workers continued to be more than twice as likely as their White counterparts to be poor. Asians were least likely to be among the working poor in 2007.
- The likelihood of being classified as working poor greatly diminishes as workers attain higher levels of education. In 2007, only 1.3 percent of college graduates who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were among the working poor, compared with 16.5 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 5 times more likely than those without children to live in poverty.
- Women who maintain families were more than twice as likely as their male counterparts to be among the working poor.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2007 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status differ 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,

<sup>1</sup> See *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 235 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2008), available on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf>.

their personal income is used as the determinant. The data were collected in the 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. (For a more detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the Technical Note.)

## Demographic characteristics

Of all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks during 2007, slightly more women (3.9 million) than men (3.6 million) were poor. The working-poor rate continued to be higher for women, at 5.8 percent, than it was for men, at 4.6 percent. (See table 2.) The rate for men was slightly higher in 2007 than it was in 2006, while the rate for women was unchanged.

Although 71 percent of the working poor were White workers, Black and Hispanic workers continued to be more than 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. In contrast, Black working women had a working-poor rate of 11.6 percent, much higher than the rate for employed Black men (7.5 percent).

Young workers are more vulnerable to poverty than other groups, in part because their earnings are lower and unemployment is higher for them than for their older counterparts. Among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2007, 10.2 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 10.6 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were in poverty. These rates were roughly twice the rate for workers aged 35 to 44 (5.0 percent) and 3 times the rate for workers aged 45 to 54 (3.3 percent).

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2004-07

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total persons <sup>1</sup> .....	140,908	142,824	145,229	146,567
In poverty .....	7,836	7,744	7,427	7,521
Poverty rate .....	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.1
Unrelated individuals .....	30,694	31,422	31,887	33,226
In poverty .....	2,742	2,846	2,741	2,558
Poverty rate .....	8.9	9.1	8.6	7.7
Primary families <sup>2</sup> .....	63,912	64,360	65,388	65,158
In poverty .....	4,261	4,094	3,960	4,169
Poverty rate .....	6.7	6.4	6.1	6.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons 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 1. **Poverty rate of persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1987-2007**



### Educational Attainment

The incidence of living in poverty greatly diminishes as workers achieve higher levels of education. Individuals who complete more years of education have greater access to higher paying jobs—such as managerial, professional, and related occupations—than those with lower education. Of all the people in the labor force for more than half of 2007, those with less than a high school diploma had a higher working-poor rate (16.5 percent) than did high school graduates with no college (6.3 percent). Workers with an associate degree or a 4-year college degree posted the lowest working-poor rates—2.8 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. At 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.)

Among employed White men and women, working-poor rates were fairly similar at all educational levels. For example, 15.9 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 14.8 percent of their male counterparts. Among college graduates, the proportions classified as working poor for White women and men were 1.3 percent and 1.0 percent, 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; 32.6 percent of Black women with less than a high school diploma were among the working poor, compared with 20.7 percent of men.

### Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely

by occupation. Workers in occupations requiring higher education and characterized by relatively higher earnings—such as managerial, professional, and related occupations—were least likely (1.6 percent) to be classified as working poor in 2007. In contrast, individuals employed in occupations that typically do not require high levels of education and that are characterized by relatively lower earnings were more likely to be among the working poor. For example, 10.7 percent of service workers were classified as working poor in 2007. Indeed, service occupations, with 2.4 million working poor, accounted for nearly one-third of all those classified as working poor. Overall, 6.7 percent of workers employed in natural resource, construction, and maintenance occupations were classified as working poor. Within this occupation group, 12.3 percent of workers employed in farming, forestry, and fishing occupations and 8.1 percent of those in construction and extraction occupations were classified as working poor. (See table 4.)

### Families

In 2007, 4.2 million families were living below the poverty level, despite having at least one member in the labor force for half the year or more. Their number was little changed from 2006. Among families with one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2007, married-couple families had a lower likelihood (8.0 percent) of living below the poverty level than did families maintained by women (23.6 percent) or by men (11.7 percent); this pattern was true 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 families without children. The proportion of families with children younger than 18 years that lived in poverty was 10.0 percent, in contrast to 2.0 percent for families without children. About 25 percent of families with children under the age of 18 that were maintained by a woman were in poverty. The proportion for families maintained by men with children also was high, at 11.6 percent. Among married-couple families with children, the proportion classified as working poor was 5.5 percent, slightly higher than in 2006. (See table 5.)

### **Unrelated individuals**

Of the 33.2 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half of the year or longer in 2007, 2.6 million lived below the poverty level. The “unrelated individuals” category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals was 7.7 percent in 2007, down from 8.6 percent in 2006. (See table 6.)

Within the unrelated individuals group, teenagers were the most likely to be poor. In 2007, there were 166,000 teens (nearly 1 in 3) living on their own or with others not related to them who lived below the poverty level. The working-poor rate was slightly higher for women living alone or with unrelated individuals than it was for men living in comparable circumstances: 8.2 percent, compared with 7.3 percent. The number of White unrelated individuals classified as working poor was much larger than the number of Blacks or Hispanics so classified; however, the working-poor rates for the latter two groups were 8.7 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively, compared with 7.3 percent for Whites. (See table 7.)

Of the 2.6 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2007, more than three-fifths lived with others. These individuals had a working-poor rate nearly twice that of individuals who lived alone. Many unrelated individuals living below the poverty level might 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 if they lived alone.

### **Labor market problems**

As noted earlier, workers who usually work full time are much less likely than other workers to live in poverty, 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, 3.9 million (3.3 percent) were classified as working poor in 2007. (See table 8.) The comparable proportion for 2006 was 3.5 percent.

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 of these terms.)

In 2007, 82.1 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 7 in 10 subject to low earnings, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. About 29 percent experienced unemployment alone or in conjunction with other problems. Only 4.9 percent of the working poor experienced all three problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment.

Some 688,000 (17.9 percent) of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2007. 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. This supplement, conducted in February, March, and April, includes questions about work activity and income during the prior calendar year. For instance, data collected in 2008 refer to the 2007 calendar year.

The estimates in this report are based on a sample and thus might differ from figures that would have been obtained from a complete count using the same questionnaire and procedures. Sampling variability could be relatively large in cases where the numbers are small. Thus, small estimates, or small differences between estimates, should be interpreted with caution. For a detailed explanation of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided here, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 235 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2008). This publication also is available on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at [www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf).

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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, Room 4675, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20212; or contact the Division of Labor Force Statistics at [www.bls.gov/cps/contact.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cps/contact.htm)

## Comparability of estimates

The 2007 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2006 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2008 of revised population controls used in the CPS. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2008," in the February 2008 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cps/cps08adj.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps08adj.pdf).

## Concepts and definitions

**Poverty classification.** Poverty statistics presented in this report are based on definitions developed by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1981. These definitions originally were based on the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan and reflected the different consumption requirements of families relying on factors such as family size and the number of children under 18 years of age.

The actual poverty thresholds vary in accordance with the makeup of the family. In 2007, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$21,203; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$42,739; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 and older, it was \$9,944. 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: 2007*, cited previously.)

**Low earnings.** The low-earnings level, as first developed in 1987, represented the average of the real value of the minimum wage between 1967 and 1987 for a 40-hour workweek. The base year of 1967 was chosen because that was the first year in which minimum-wage legislation covered essentially the same broad group of workers that currently is covered. The low-earnings level has subsequently been adjusted each year using the CPI-U so that the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2007, the low-earnings threshold was \$305.17 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, available 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: 2007*, cited previously.

**In the labor force.** Persons in the labor force are those who worked or looked for work sometime during the calendar year preceding the administration of the CPS supplement. 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, in at least 1 week of the year, worked fewer than 35 hours because of slack work or business conditions or because they could not find full-time work. The number of weeks of involuntary part-time work is accumulated over the year.

**Occupation.** This 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 includes the reference person (householder) and all people living in the household who are related to the reference person. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as those maintained by men or women without spouses present. Family status is determined at the time of the interview and thus could be different from that of the previous year.

**Unrelated individuals.** These are persons who are not living with any relatives. Such individuals either live alone, reside in a non-related 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 a person's race. People are classified in these categories when they select that race group only. Data for the remaining race categories—American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander—and for people who selected more than one race category are included in totals, but are not shown separately because the number of survey respondents is too small to develop estimates of sufficient quality for publication. In the enumeration process, race is determined by the household respondent.

**Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.** 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, 2007**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in the labor force	27 weeks or more in the labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
<b>TOTAL</b>			
Total in labor force .....	159,750	146,567	133,345
Did not work during the year .....	2,097	898	745
Worked during the year .....	157,653	145,670	132,600
Usual full-time workers .....	127,538	122,445	114,907
Usual part-time workers .....	30,115	23,225	17,693
Involuntary part-time workers .....	5,565	4,680	3,750
Voluntary part-time workers .....	24,550	18,544	13,943
<b>At or above poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	149,853	139,046	127,208
Did not work during the year .....	1,274	506	422
Worked during the year .....	148,579	138,541	126,786
Usual full-time workers .....	122,255	118,075	111,154
Usual part-time workers .....	26,324	20,466	15,632
Involuntary part-time workers .....	4,199	3,565	2,846
Voluntary part-time workers .....	22,125	16,902	12,785
<b>Below poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	9,897	7,521	6,137
Did not work during the year .....	823	392	323
Worked during the year .....	9,074	7,129	5,814
Usual full-time workers .....	5,283	4,371	3,753
Usual part-time workers .....	3,791	2,759	2,061
Involuntary part-time workers .....	1,366	1,116	903
Voluntary part-time workers .....	2,426	1,643	1,158
<b>Rate <sup>1</sup></b>			
Total in labor force .....	6.2	5.1	4.6
Did not work during the year .....	39.2	43.6	43.3
Worked during the year .....	5.8	4.9	4.4
Usual full-time workers .....	4.1	3.6	3.3
Usual part-time workers .....	12.6	11.9	11.7
Involuntary part-time workers .....	24.5	23.8	24.1
Voluntary part-time workers .....	9.9	8.9	8.3

<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 weeks or more: poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2007**

(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 .....	146,567	119,792	16,586	6,766	20,461	7,521	5,357	1,612	262	2,139
16 to 19 years .....	4,079	3,397	416	94	664	416	318	71	9	99
20 to 24 years .....	13,315	10,736	1,694	433	2,346	1,413	1,038	296	20	302
25 to 34 years .....	31,963	25,377	3,973	1,698	6,204	2,126	1,460	514	65	713
35 to 44 years .....	34,211	27,346	4,165	1,892	5,458	1,716	1,212	381	67	595
45 to 54 years .....	35,187	29,060	3,885	1,577	3,684	1,175	869	211	55	312
55 to 64 years .....	21,658	18,476	1,982	860	1,682	569	385	117	44	102
65 years and older .....	6,155	5,401	471	212	422	106	75	24	3	16
Men, 16 years and older .....	78,944	65,794	7,684	3,599	12,464	3,631	2,765	576	140	1,283
16 to 19 years .....	2,048	1,718	181	54	402	204	156	33	7	57
20 to 24 years .....	7,168	5,817	861	224	1,453	584	438	108	4	169
25 to 34 years .....	17,535	14,310	1,818	907	3,978	1,001	783	147	28	462
35 to 44 years .....	18,651	15,276	1,906	1,035	3,288	876	658	152	37	340
45 to 54 years .....	18,685	15,693	1,828	821	2,126	637	490	91	33	190
55 to 64 years .....	11,437	9,937	870	445	953	278	202	38	28	55
65 years and older .....	3,421	3,042	220	114	264	51	38	7	2	11
Women, 16 years and older .....	67,624	53,999	8,902	3,167	7,997	3,890	2,592	1,036	123	856
16 to 19 years .....	2,032	1,679	235	39	262	212	162	38	1	42
20 to 24 years .....	6,147	4,919	833	209	893	828	600	187	15	133
25 to 34 years .....	14,428	11,067	2,155	791	2,225	1,125	676	367	37	251
35 to 44 years .....	15,560	12,070	2,259	858	2,171	840	554	228	30	255
45 to 54 years .....	16,502	13,367	2,057	756	1,559	539	379	119	22	122
55 to 64 years .....	10,221	8,539	1,112	416	730	290	183	79	16	47
65 years and older .....	2,734	2,359	251	98	158	55	37	16	1	5

Age and sex	Rate <sup>1</sup>				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older .....	5.1	4.5	9.7	3.9	10.5
16 to 19 years .....	10.2	9.4	17.0	9.2	14.9
20 to 24 years .....	10.6	9.7	17.4	4.5	12.9
25 to 34 years .....	6.7	5.8	12.9	3.8	11.5
35 to 44 years .....	5.0	4.4	9.1	3.5	10.9
45 to 54 years .....	3.3	3.0	5.4	3.5	8.5
55 to 64 years .....	2.6	2.1	5.9	5.1	6.1
65 years and older .....	1.7	1.4	5.0	1.3	3.7
Men, 16 years and older .....	4.6	4.2	7.5	3.9	10.3
16 to 19 years .....	10.0	9.1	18.0	( <sup>2</sup> )	14.1
20 to 24 years .....	8.2	7.5	12.6	2.0	11.6
25 to 34 years .....	5.7	5.5	8.1	3.1	11.6
35 to 44 years .....	4.7	4.3	8.0	3.5	10.3
45 to 54 years .....	3.4	3.1	5.0	4.0	8.9
55 to 64 years .....	2.4	2.0	4.3	6.2	5.8
65 years and older .....	1.5	1.3	3.3	1.9	4.0
Women, 16 years and older .....	5.8	4.8	11.6	3.9	10.7
16 to 19 years .....	10.4	9.7	16.3	( <sup>2</sup> )	16.1
20 to 24 years .....	13.5	12.2	22.5	7.3	14.9
25 to 34 years .....	7.8	6.1	17.0	4.7	11.3
35 to 44 years .....	5.4	4.6	10.1	3.5	11.8
45 to 54 years .....	3.3	2.8	5.8	2.9	7.8
55 to 64 years .....	2.8	2.1	7.1	3.9	6.4
65 years and older .....	2.0	1.6	6.5	0.6	3.2

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

<sup>2</sup> Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African

American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. 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 weeks or more: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2007

(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 .....	146,567	78,944	67,624	7,521	3,631	3,890	5.1	4.6	5.8
Less than a high school diploma .....	15,013	9,612	5,401	2,474	1,482	993	16.5	15.4	18.4
Less than 1 year of high school .....	4,568	3,178	1,389	838	597	241	18.3	18.8	17.4
1-3 years of high school .....	8,752	5,395	3,357	1,415	765	651	16.2	14.2	19.4
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,693	1,039	655	221	121	100	13.1	11.6	15.3
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	42,799	24,216	18,583	2,696	1,222	1,474	6.3	5.0	7.9
Some college or associate degree .....	42,784	21,167	21,617	1,756	651	1,105	4.1	3.1	5.1
Some college, no degree .....	28,819	14,625	14,194	1,363	496	867	4.7	3.4	6.1
Associate degree .....	13,964	6,542	7,423	393	156	238	2.8	2.4	3.2
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	45,972	23,949	22,023	595	276	319	1.3	1.2	1.4
White, 16 years and older .....	119,792	65,794	53,999	5,357	2,765	2,592	4.5	4.2	4.8
Less than a high school diploma .....	12,174	8,070	4,104	1,847	1,196	652	15.2	14.8	15.9
Less than 1 year of high school .....	3,914	2,785	1,129	716	523	193	18.3	18.8	17.1
1-3 years of high school .....	6,952	4,473	2,479	995	599	395	14.3	13.4	16.0
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,308	812	496	137	74	63	10.5	9.1	12.8
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	34,872	20,134	14,738	1,815	900	915	5.2	4.5	6.2
Some college or associate degree .....	34,869	17,561	17,308	1,257	465	792	3.6	2.6	4.6
Some college, no degree .....	23,296	12,071	11,224	977	359	618	4.2	3.0	5.5
Associate degree .....	11,573	5,490	6,084	280	106	174	2.4	1.9	2.9
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	37,877	20,029	17,849	438	204	233	1.2	1.0	1.3
Black or African American, 16 years and older .....	16,586	7,684	8,902	1,612	576	1,036	9.7	7.5	11.6
Less than a high school diploma .....	1,785	952	833	468	197	272	26.2	20.7	32.6
Less than 1 year of high school .....	229	141	88	58	30	28	25.5	21.3	32.4
1-3 years of high school .....	1,285	648	637	352	135	216	27.3	20.9	33.9
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	270	162	108	58	31	27	21.6	19.3	25.1
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	5,733	2,871	2,862	703	237	466	12.3	8.2	16.3
Some college or associate degree .....	5,404	2,283	3,121	372	118	254	6.9	5.2	8.1
Some college, no degree .....	3,812	1,655	2,157	286	88	198	7.5	5.3	9.2
Associate degree .....	1,592	628	964	86	30	55	5.4	4.8	5.8
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,664	1,578	2,086	69	25	44	1.9	1.6	2.1
Asian, 16 years and older .....	6,766	3,599	3,167	262	140	123	3.9	3.9	3.9
Less than a high school diploma .....	505	243	262	61	34	27	12.1	13.9	10.5
Less than 1 year of high school .....	236	106	130	27	16	11	11.5	15.4	8.3
1-3 years of high school .....	198	95	103	20	8	12	10.1	8.0	12.0
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	70	42	28	14	10	4	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	1,182	614	568	78	39	39	6.6	6.4	6.8
Some college or associate degree .....	1,319	717	602	55	28	27	4.2	3.8	4.6
Some college, no degree .....	841	467	374	48	24	24	5.8	5.1	6.5
Associate degree .....	478	250	228	7	4	3	1.4	1.4	1.3
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,761	2,025	1,736	68	39	29	1.8	1.9	1.7
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older .....	20,461	12,464	7,997	2,139	1,283	856	10.5	10.3	10.7
Less than a high school diploma .....	6,614	4,644	1,970	1,220	819	401	18.5	17.6	20.3
Less than 1 year of high school .....	3,281	2,410	871	600	449	151	18.3	18.6	17.4
1-3 years of high school .....	2,760	1,865	895	535	326	210	19.4	17.5	23.4
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	573	368	204	85	45	40	14.8	12.2	19.4
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	6,359	3,970	2,388	595	330	265	9.4	8.3	11.1
Some college or associate degree .....	4,637	2,373	2,264	249	95	153	5.4	4.0	6.8
Some college, no degree .....	3,330	1,750	1,581	181	61	119	5.4	3.5	7.5
Associate degree .....	1,307	624	683	68	34	34	5.2	5.5	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	2,851	1,477	1,375	74	38	37	2.6	2.5	2.7

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

<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 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 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, 2007**

(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> .....	145,670	78,396	67,273	7,131	3,385	3,746	4.9	4.3	5.6
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	51,584	25,276	26,308	796	351	445	1.5	1.4	1.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	21,696	12,294	9,402	296	180	116	1.4	1.5	1.2
Professional and related occupations .....	29,888	12,982	16,906	500	171	328	1.7	1.3	1.9
Service occupations .....	23,806	10,379	13,427	2,672	878	1,794	11.2	8.5	13.4
Sales and office occupations .....	35,752	13,102	22,649	1,549	432	1,117	4.3	3.3	4.9
Sales and related occupations .....	16,240	8,362	7,878	903	259	644	5.6	3.1	8.2
Office and administrative support occupations .....	19,512	4,740	14,772	646	173	472	3.3	3.7	3.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	15,782	15,113	669	1,033	972	61	6.5	6.4	9.1
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	1,064	864	200	124	104	19	11.6	12.1	9.7
Construction and extraction occupations .....	9,489	9,241	247	745	718	27	7.9	7.8	11.0
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	5,229	5,008	221	164	150	14	3.1	3.0	6.4
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	18,653	14,452	4,201	1,080	751	329	5.8	5.2	7.8
Production occupations .....	9,520	8,625	2,895	475	274	202	5.0	4.1	7.0
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	9,134	7,827	1,306	605	477	128	6.6	6.1	9.8
White, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	119,233	65,439	53,794	5,137	2,623	2,513	4.3	4.0	4.7
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	43,114	21,509	21,605	558	252	306	1.3	1.2	1.4
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	18,676	10,890	7,786	236	145	91	1.3	1.3	1.2
Professional and related occupations .....	24,438	10,619	13,818	322	107	215	1.3	1.0	1.6
Service occupations .....	18,044	8,031	10,014	1,828	655	1,173	10.1	8.2	11.7
Sales and office occupations .....	29,348	10,847	18,501	1,090	318	772	3.7	2.9	4.2
Sales and related occupations .....	13,643	7,206	6,437	633	203	430	4.6	2.8	6.7
Office and administrative support occupations .....	15,705	3,641	12,065	457	115	342	2.9	3.2	2.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	13,851	13,301	549	899	847	51	6.5	6.4	9.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	929	763	167	109	90	18	11.7	11.9	10.9
Construction and extraction occupations .....	8,399	8,199	200	662	635	26	7.9	7.7	13.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	4,522	4,339	183	129	122	7	2.8	2.8	3.8
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	14,807	11,701	3,107	760	549	211	5.1	4.7	6.8
Production occupations .....	7,612	5,466	2,146	359	222	137	4.7	4.1	6.4
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	7,195	6,235	961	401	328	73	5.6	5.3	7.6
Black or African American, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	16,315	7,532	8,783	1,469	491	978	9.0	6.5	11.1
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	4,325	1,592	2,733	161	58	103	3.7	3.6	3.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,538	649	889	38	19	19	2.4	2.9	2.1
Professional and related occupations .....	2,787	943	1,844	123	39	84	4.4	4.1	4.6
Service occupations .....	3,977	1,532	2,446	630	147	483	15.8	9.6	19.7
Sales and office occupations .....	4,169	1,357	2,811	355	72	284	8.5	5.3	10.1
Sales and related occupations .....	1,582	649	933	207	32	175	13.1	4.9	18.8
Office and administrative support occupations .....	2,587	709	1,878	148	40	108	5.7	5.6	5.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	1,110	1,045	64	67	59	7	6.0	5.7	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	51	45	7	7	7	-	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations .....	634	603	32	32	32	-	5.0	5.2	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	424	398	26	28	20	7	6.5	5.1	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	2,714	1,987	727	256	155	101	9.4	7.8	13.9
Production occupations .....	1,204	746	457	90	35	55	7.5	4.7	12.0
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	1,511	1,241	270	166	120	46	11.0	9.6	17.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2007 — 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> .....	6,720	3,569	3,152	250	129	121	3.7	3.6	3.8
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	3,187	1,705	1,482	41	23	18	1.3	1.4	1.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,110	560	550	12	7	4	1.1	1.3	.8
Professional and related occupations .....	2,077	1,145	932	29	16	13	1.4	1.4	1.4
Service occupations .....	1,111	508	603	101	38	63	9.1	7.5	10.4
Sales and office occupations .....	1,446	649	797	61	32	28	4.2	5.0	3.6
Sales and related occupations .....	717	394	324	39	19	21	5.5	4.7	6.4
Office and administrative support occupations .....	728	255	473	21	14	8	2.9	5.4	1.6
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	305	286	19	15	15	—	5.0	5.4	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	9	7	3	—	—	—	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations .....	150	143	6	9	9	—	6.1	6.4	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	146	136	10	6	6	—	4.3	4.6	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	670	419	250	32	20	12	4.8	4.7	5.0
Production occupations .....	460	249	211	15	6	9	3.3	2.6	4.1
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	209	170	39	17	13	4	8.2	7.9	( <sup>3</sup> )
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	20,366	12,404	7,963	2,091	1,253	838	10.3	10.1	10.5
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	3,579	1,700	1,879	103	44	59	2.9	2.6	3.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,579	866	713	47	30	18	3.0	3.5	2.5
Professional and related occupations .....	2,000	835	1,166	55	14	42	2.8	1.6	3.6
Service occupations .....	4,723	2,327	2,396	781	343	437	16.5	14.8	18.3
Sales and office occupations .....	4,336	1,670	2,665	322	95	227	7.4	5.7	8.5
Sales and related occupations .....	1,864	953	911	172	63	109	9.2	6.6	12.0
Office and administrative support occupations .....	2,472	718	1,754	150	32	118	6.1	4.5	6.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	4,074	3,915	159	534	510	24	13.1	13.0	14.8
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	460	363	97	73	60	13	15.9	16.6	13.5
Construction and extraction occupations .....	2,890	2,850	41	411	401	10	14.2	14.1	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	724	702	22	49	49	1	6.8	7.0	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	3,639	2,777	863	351	260	91	9.6	9.4	10.5
Production occupations .....	1,910	1,275	635	179	123	56	9.4	9.6	8.9
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	1,729	1,501	228	172	137	34	9.9	9.1	15.1

<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 weeks or more, 2007**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Total primary families .....	65,158	60,989	4,169	6.4
With related children under 18 years .....	35,687	32,115	3,572	10.0
Without children .....	29,471	28,874	597	2.0
With one member in the labor force .....	27,510	23,938	3,572	13.0
With two or more members in the labor force .....	37,647	37,051	596	1.6
With two members .....	31,719	31,168	551	1.7
With three or more members .....	5,928	5,882	46	.8
Married-couple families .....	49,277	47,567	1,709	3.5
With related children under 18 years .....	25,618	24,215	1,403	5.5
Without children .....	23,658	23,352	306	1.3
With one member in the labor force .....	16,516	15,202	1,315	8.0
Husband .....	12,108	11,073	1,035	8.5
Wife .....	3,772	3,555	217	5.8
Relative .....	636	574	62	9.8
With two or more members in the labor force .....	32,760	32,366	395	1.2
With two members .....	27,838	27,473	366	1.3
With three or more members .....	4,922	4,893	29	.6
Families maintained by women .....	11,408	9,331	2,077	18.2
With related children under 18 years .....	7,639	5,754	1,886	24.7
Without children .....	3,768	3,577	192	5.1
With one member in the labor force .....	8,186	6,258	1,928	23.6
Householder .....	6,773	5,065	1,708	25.2
Relative .....	1,414	1,193	221	15.6
With two or more members in the labor force .....	3,222	3,073	149	4.6
Families maintained by men .....	4,473	4,091	382	8.5
With related children under 18 years .....	2,429	2,146	283	11.6
Without children .....	2,044	1,945	100	4.9
With one member in the labor force .....	2,808	2,478	330	11.7
Householder .....	2,357	2,082	275	11.7
Relative .....	451	396	55	12.1
With two or more members in the labor force .....	1,665	1,612	53	3.2

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

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

Table 6. **People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2007**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total persons	In married-couple families				In families maintained by women			In families maintained by men			Unrelated individuals
		Husbands	Wives	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	
<b>TOTAL</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	232,995	57,708	58,350	5,849	19,036	14,390	2,260	11,966	5,079	650	5,269	52,439
With labor force activity .....	159,750	45,541	37,906	1,896	12,557	10,417	552	7,551	4,085	191	3,558	35,496
1 to 26 weeks .....	13,183	1,366	3,132	1,134	2,537	785	326	953	219	120	341	2,270
27 weeks or more .....	146,567	44,175	34,774	762	10,020	9,632	227	6,598	3,866	71	3,217	33,226
With no labor force activity .....	73,244	12,167	20,443	3,953	6,479	3,972	1,707	4,415	994	460	1,711	16,943
<b>At or above poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	207,748	54,886	55,504	5,474	18,175	10,316	1,560	10,114	4,391	546	4,749	42,032
With labor force activity .....	149,853	43,989	37,197	1,838	12,269	8,148	446	6,886	3,720	178	3,351	31,832
1 to 26 weeks .....	10,807	1,227	2,938	1,106	2,445	350	251	752	172	107	294	1,164
27 weeks or more .....	139,046	42,762	34,259	732	9,823	7,797	195	6,134	3,548	71	3,057	30,668
With no labor force activity .....	57,895	10,897	18,307	3,636	5,907	2,168	1,114	3,228	671	368	1,399	10,200
<b>Below poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	25,247	2,822	2,846	375	860	4,074	700	1,852	688	105	519	10,407
With labor force activity .....	9,897	1,552	709	58	288	2,270	106	665	365	13	207	3,664
1 to 26 weeks .....	2,376	139	193	28	92	435	74	202	47	13	47	1,106
27 weeks or more .....	7,521	1,413	516	30	197	1,835	32	464	318	-	159	2,558
With no labor force activity .....	15,350	1,270	2,137	317	572	1,804	594	1,187	323	91	312	6,742
<b>Rate<sup>2</sup></b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	10.8	4.9	4.9	6.4	4.5	28.3	31.0	15.5	13.5	16.1	9.9	19.8
With labor force activity .....	6.2	3.4	1.9	3.0	2.3	21.8	19.3	8.8	8.9	6.9	5.8	10.3
1 to 26 weeks .....	18.0	10.2	6.2	2.4	3.6	55.4	22.9	21.1	21.5	10.7	13.9	48.7
27 weeks or more .....	5.1	3.2	1.5	3.9	2.0	19.0	14.1	7.0	8.2	( <sup>3</sup> )	5.0	7.7
With no labor force activity .....	21.0	10.4	10.5	8.0	8.8	45.4	34.8	26.9	32.5	19.9	18.3	39.8

<sup>1</sup> Data on families include people in primary families and family households with unrelated individuals.

<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 weeks or more: poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2007

(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 .....	33,226	30,668	2,558	7.7
16 to 19 years .....	523	357	166	31.7
20 to 24 years .....	4,453	3,748	705	15.8
25 to 64 years .....	26,523	24,890	1,633	6.2
65 years and older .....	1,728	1,674	54	3.1
Men .....	18,632	17,265	1,367	7.3
Women .....	14,594	13,403	1,191	8.2
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>				
White .....	26,975	24,993	1,981	7.3
Men .....	15,284	14,236	1,048	6.9
Women .....	11,691	10,758	933	8.0
Black or African American .....	4,219	3,854	365	8.7
Men .....	2,218	2,005	213	9.6
Women .....	2,001	1,849	152	7.6
Asian .....	1,197	1,107	89	7.5
Men .....	640	601	39	6.1
Women .....	557	507	50	9.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity .....	4,116	3,631	485	11.8
Men .....	2,925	2,589	335	11.5
Women .....	1,191	1,042	149	12.5
<b>Living arrangement</b>				
Living alone .....	17,785	16,816	969	5.5
Living with others .....	15,441	13,852	1,589	10.3

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

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or

African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

**Table 8. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2007**

(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 .....	115,342	111,490	3,852	3.3
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings <sup>2</sup> .....	95,905	95,217	688	.7
Unemployment only .....	5,690	5,336	354	6.2
Involuntary part-time employment only .....	2,469	2,409	59	2.4
Low earnings only .....	7,757	6,010	1,747	22.5
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment .....	1,077	973	104	9.7
Unemployment and low earnings .....	1,255	776	479	38.2
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings .....	764	532	232	30.4
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings .....	425	236	189	44.5
Unemployment (alone or with other problems) .....	8,448	7,321	1,126	13.3
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems) .....	4,736	4,150	585	12.4
Low earnings (alone or with other problems) .....	10,201	7,554	2,647	25.9

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

<sup>2</sup> The low-earnings threshold in 2007 was \$305.17 per week.