

35. Persons not in the labor force by desire and availability for work, age, and sex

(In thousands)

Category	Total		Age						Sex			
	2002	2003	16 to 24 years		25 to 54 years		55 years and over		Men		Women	
			2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Total not in the labor force .....	72,707	74,658	12,976	13,800	20,358	20,980	39,373	39,878	27,085	28,197	45,621	46,461
Do not want a job now <sup>1</sup> .....	68,029	69,932	11,254	12,079	18,286	18,857	38,489	38,996	24,994	26,073	43,035	43,859
Want a job <sup>1</sup> .....	4,677	4,726	1,722	1,721	2,071	2,124	884	882	2,091	2,124	2,586	2,603
Did not search for work in previous year .....	2,673	2,631	910	882	1,112	1,129	651	620	1,135	1,127	1,538	1,503
Searched for work in previous year <sup>2</sup> .....	2,004	2,096	812	838	960	995	233	262	956	996	1,048	1,099
Not available to work now .....	565	564	272	274	252	248	41	43	227	231	338	333
Available to work now .....	1,439	1,531	540	565	708	747	191	220	729	765	710	766
Reason not currently looking:												
Discouragement over job prospects <sup>3</sup> .....	369	457	110	134	209	248	51	75	226	266	143	190
Reasons other than discouragement .....	1,070	1,075	430	431	499	499	141	145	503	499	567	576
Family responsibilities .....	150	153	31	37	99	94	20	22	34	35	116	118
In school or training .....	238	239	195	194	41	42	2	3	126	125	112	114
Ill health or disability .....	107	113	16	15	61	72	30	26	50	51	56	62
Other <sup>4</sup> .....	575	570	188	184	299	292	88	94	292	288	283	282

<sup>1</sup> Includes some persons who are not asked if they want a job.

<sup>2</sup> Persons who had a job in the prior 12 months must have searched since the end of that job.

<sup>3</sup> Includes believes no work available, could not find work, lacks necessary schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

<sup>4</sup> Includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child-care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not ascertained.

NOTE: Beginning in January 2003, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey.