

A Profile of the Working Poor, 2006



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In 2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 36.5 million people, or 12.3 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty threshold, roughly the same number as in 2005.¹ The majority of the Nation's poor were children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year. However, 7.4 million were among the working poor—those who spent 27 weeks or more in the labor force, working or looking for work, but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. These individuals represented 5.1 percent of all persons aged 16 years and older who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2006, down from 5.4 percent the previous year. (See tables A and 1 and chart 1.)

Following are some additional highlights from the 2006 data:

- Of the 145.2 million individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2006, 3.7 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 11.3 percent of part-time workers.
- Although more than 70 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 poor. Asians were least likely to be among the working poor in 2006.
- In general, the risk of being poor falls rapidly as individuals attain higher education levels. In 2006, the percentage of college graduates who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks and who were counted among the working poor was 1.4 percent, compared with 13.8 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.
- By occupation, the probability of being among the working poor was lowest for individuals employed in managerial, professional, and related occupations and highest for those holding service jobs.
- Married-couple families with children under 18 years old were nearly 5 times as likely as families without children to be among the working poor.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2006 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine people's pov-

erty status vary with 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 families' total income; for individuals not living in families, their personal income is used as the determinant. The data were collected in the 2007 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 persons in the labor force for at least 27 weeks during 2006, slightly more women than men were poor (3.9 and 3.6 million, respectively). The working-poor rate—the proportion of persons in the labor force for at least 27 weeks who lived below the poverty level—continued to be much higher for women. Specifically, the working-poor rate for women was 5.8 percent, compared with 4.5 percent for men. The rates for both groups were slightly lower in 2006 than in 2005. (See table 2.)

Overall, Black and Hispanic workers were disproportionately represented among the working poor, as they continued to experience working-poor rates that were more than twice that of Whites or Asians. Black and Hispanic teenage workers, in particular, are more likely than others to be in poverty. Among teenagers who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2006, 20.7 percent of Blacks and 14.7 percent of Hispanics were in poverty, compared with 9.2 percent of Whites.

As in past years, in 2006, younger workers were more likely to be among the working poor than were their older counterparts, due largely to younger workers' lower average earnings and higher rates of unemployment. Among the youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2006, 10.5 percent of 16- to 19-

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2003–06

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristic	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total persons ¹	140,007	140,908	142,824	145,229
In poverty	7,429	7,836	7,744	7,427
Poverty rate	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.1
Unrelated individuals	29,898	30,694	31,422	31,887
In poverty.....	2,472	2,742	2,846	2,741
Poverty rate	8.3	8.9	9.1	8.6
Primary families ²	63,567	63,912	64,360	65,388
In poverty	4,167	4,261	4,094	3,960
Poverty rate	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.1

¹ Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

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

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

¹See *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 233 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2007).

Chart 1. Poverty rate of persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1987–2006



year-olds and 11.1 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were in poverty. These rates were several times greater than the rates for workers aged 35 to 44 years (4.8 percent), 45 to 54 years (3.0 percent), and 55 to 64 years (2.4 percent).

Educational Attainment

Achieving higher levels of education dramatically reduces the likelihood of being among the working poor. 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. In 2006, the working-poor rate for college graduates was 1.4 percent, the lowest by education level. By comparison, individuals with less than a high school diploma and those with a high school diploma or the equivalent, but no college, had working-poor rates of 13.8 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively. The proportions of Blacks and Hispanics classified as working poor were higher than those of their White counterparts at all levels of educational attainment. (See table 3.)

Among Whites, 13.6 percent of women with less than a high school diploma who were in the labor force 27 weeks or more were among the working poor, compared with 12.1 percent of their male counterparts. By comparison, working-poor rates for White female and male college graduates were 1.5 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. Among Black men and women, the disparity in working-poor rates was greater, especially at lower levels of education. For instance, the rate for Black women workers with less than a high school diploma was 28.9 percent, compared with 15.4 percent for Black men. Among high school graduates (no college), the working-poor rate of Black women (15.3 percent) was higher than that for Black men—9.0 percent. Among both White and Black college graduates, differences in the working-poor rates of men and women essentially disappear.

Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely by occupation. Individuals in occupations that require higher levels of education and offer higher earnings had a lower probability of being poor. Managerial, professional, and related occupations had the lowest working-poor rate (1.8 percent). The proportion of workers classified as working poor was highest (10.3 percent) for those employed in service occupations, whose working-poor rate was twice the average for all persons in the labor force 27 or more weeks in 2006. Individuals employed in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations also had a relatively high probability of being among the working poor; the proportion living in poverty was 6.9 percent. (See table 4.)

Families

In 2006, 4.0 million families were living below the poverty level, despite having at least one family member in the labor force for half of the year or more. The number was little changed from 2005. These families accounted for 6.1 percent of all families with workers in 2006, down from 6.4 percent in 2005. Among families with one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2006, married-couple families, regardless of whether the husband or wife was the family member in the labor force, were those least likely to fall below the poverty level (7.5 percent). By comparison, 12.0 percent of families maintained by men and 22.4 percent of families maintained by women were below the poverty level. (See table 5.)

The working-poor rate was higher for families with children (9.4 percent) than families without children (1.8 percent). Families maintained by women with children younger than 18 years had a working-poor rate of 23.2 percent, while the working-poor rate for families maintained by men with children, although about half

the women's rate, also was still high (11.8 percent). Married-couple families with children had a much lower working-poor rate of 5.2 percent. (See table 5.)

Unrelated individuals

In 2006, there were 31.9 million unrelated individuals in the labor force for at least half the year, and 2.7 million lived below the poverty level. The "unrelated individuals" category includes persons who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Their working-poor rate was 8.6 percent in 2006, compared with 9.1 percent in 2005. (See table 6.)

Of the 2.7 million unrelated individuals who lived below the poverty level, nearly two-thirds lived with others. Persons living with unrelated individuals had a working-poor rate of 12.1 percent, in contrast to 5.6 percent for individuals living alone. (See Table 7.) Many unrelated individuals with low incomes may live with others out of necessity. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have sufficient incomes to support themselves. However, poverty status for unrelated individuals is determined using each person's resources. The pooling of resources and sharing of expenses may permit some individuals in this category who are technically classified as poor to live above the poverty level.

The number of men and women living alone or with unrelated individuals was roughly equal; however, the working-poor rate for such women (9.4 percent) was higher than the rate for men (7.9 percent). The number of White unrelated individuals living in poverty was much larger than the number of Blacks or the number

of Hispanics; yet, the working-poor rates for the latter two groups were 10.9 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively, compared with only 8.2 percent of Whites.

Labor market problems

Individuals in the labor force whose income falls below the poverty threshold have often experienced unemployment, low earnings, or involuntary part-time employment. (See the Technical Note for detailed definitions of these terms.) Among those who participated in the labor force for more than half of the year and who usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 4.0 million, or 3.5 percent, were classified as working poor in 2006—a proportion that was unchanged from the previous year. (See table 8.)

In 2006, 83.6 percent of the working poor who usually worked full time experienced at least one labor market problem. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem for these workers, with 7 in every 10 reporting low earnings, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. Unemployment, either alone or combined with other labor market problems, was experienced by more than a quarter of the working poor. About 4.5 percent of the working poor experienced all three problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time work—in 2006.

Some 652,000 of the working poor did not experience any of the three main labor market problems in 2006. Their poverty status may be associated with other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, or a family structure that increases the likelihood of poverty.

Technical Note

Source of data

The primary source of data in this report is the 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect demographic, social, and economic information about persons 16 years of age and older. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement is asked of part of the CPS samples for February and April and of the entire sample for March, making up a total of 78,000 households. Work experience and income data collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement refer to activity during the entire previous 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, 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 in this technical note, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 233 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2007), also available on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site at www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/p60-233.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; e-mail: cpsinfo@bls.gov; or telephone (202) 691-6378.

Comparability of estimates

The 2006 estimates presented in this report, which were collected in the 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2005 and earlier years, because of the introduction in January 2007 of revised population controls used in the CPS. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2007," in the February 2007 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cps/cps07adj.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 from the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan and reflected the different consumption requirements of families, based 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 2006, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$20,614; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$41,499; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 and older, it was \$9,669. 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: 2006*, previously cited.)

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 who currently are covered. The low-earnings level has subsequently been adjusted each year with reference to the CPI-U, so that the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2006, the low-earnings threshold was \$296.72 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.)

Income. Income data are limited to money income received in the calendar year preceding the supplement, before personal income tax and payroll deductions. 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: 2006*, previously cited.)

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 in the labor force for 27 or more weeks.

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. 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 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 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 an unrelated family household, or live in group quarters with other unrelated individuals.

Related children. Data on related children refer to the children

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

Race. White, Black or African-American, and Asian are the categories used to describe the race of people. People in these categories are those who selected 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. The ethnicity of 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, 2006**

[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
TOTAL			
Total in labor force	158,563	145,229	131,687
Did not work during the year	1,905	844	693
Worked during the year	156,658	144,385	130,995
Usual full-time workers	126,677	121,580	113,682
Usual part-time workers	29,981	22,805	17,313
Involuntary part-time workers	4,693	3,859	3,058
Voluntary part-time workers	25,287	18,946	14,255
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	148,685	137,802	125,573
Did not work during the year	1,212	490	390
Worked during the year	147,473	137,312	125,184
Usual full-time workers	121,199	117,092	109,813
Usual part-time workers	26,274	20,220	15,371
Involuntary part-time workers	3,550	2,925	2,305
Voluntary part-time workers	22,724	17,294	13,066
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	9,878	7,427	6,114
Did not work during the year	693	354	303
Worked during the year	9,185	7,073	5,811
Usual full-time workers	5,477	4,488	3,869
Usual part-time workers	3,707	2,586	1,942
Involuntary part-time workers	1,144	934	753
Voluntary part-time workers	2,564	1,652	1,189
Rate¹			
Total in labor force	6.2	5.1	4.6
Did not work during the year	36.4	41.9	43.7
Worked during the year	5.9	4.9	4.4
Usual full-time workers	4.3	3.7	3.4
Usual part-time workers	12.4	11.3	11.2
Involuntary part-time workers	24.4	24.2	24.6
Voluntary part-time workers	10.1	8.7	8.3

¹ 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, 2006

[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	145,229	118,915	16,437	6,624	19,985	7,427	5,295	1,601	251	1,956
16 to 19 years	4,128	3,461	440	65	620	432	320	91	4	91
20 to 24 years	13,299	10,743	1,706	436	2,420	1,480	1,079	306	39	266
25 to 34 years	31,831	25,212	4,012	1,704	6,259	2,196	1,515	527	72	689
35 to 44 years	34,617	27,815	4,184	1,859	5,267	1,674	1,212	333	59	546
45 to 54 years	34,977	28,926	3,866	1,536	3,528	1,050	710	243	59	241
55 to 64 years	20,618	17,658	1,812	843	1,496	498	388	81	14	102
65 years and older	5,759	5,100	417	182	396	96	71	22	3	21
Men, 16 years and older	78,457	65,533	7,648	3,552	12,177	3,564	2,726	547	147	1,187
16 to 19 years	2,054	1,701	229	38	360	201	129	55	4	51
20 to 24 years	7,185	5,926	822	214	1,498	668	520	98	17	167
25 to 34 years	17,740	14,397	1,921	930	4,021	1,064	829	147	49	441
35 to 44 years	18,951	15,618	1,911	1,019	3,191	821	657	99	30	325
45 to 54 years	18,433	15,513	1,778	811	1,999	528	358	111	37	130
55 to 64 years	10,894	9,507	789	441	873	231	197	23	5	57
65 years and older	3,200	2,870	197	100	235	52	36	13	3	15
Women, 16 years and older	66,772	53,382	8,790	3,072	7,808	3,863	2,569	1,054	104	769
16 to 19 years	2,074	1,760	211	27	261	232	190	36	-	40
20 to 24 years	6,114	4,816	884	222	922	812	559	208	22	99
25 to 34 years	14,090	10,816	2,090	774	2,238	1,132	687	379	23	247
35 to 44 years	15,666	12,197	2,273	840	2,075	854	555	233	29	221
45 to 54 years	16,544	13,413	2,088	725	1,529	522	352	132	21	111
55 to 64 years	9,724	8,151	1,023	403	623	268	191	57	9	44
65 years and older	2,558	2,230	220	82	161	44	35	8	-	6

Age and sex	Rate ¹				
	Total	White	Black or African-American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	5.1	4.5	9.7	3.8	9.8
16 to 19 years	10.5	9.2	20.7	(²)	14.7
20 to 24 years	11.1	10.0	17.9	8.9	11.0
25 to 34 years	6.9	6.0	13.1	4.2	11.0
35 to 44 years	4.8	4.4	8.0	3.2	10.4
45 to 54 years	3.0	2.5	6.3	3.8	6.8
55 to 64 years	2.4	2.2	4.4	1.7	6.8
65 years and older	1.7	1.4	5.2	1.9	5.3
Men, 16 years and older	4.5	4.2	7.2	4.1	9.7
16 to 19 years	9.8	7.6	24.0	(²)	14.1
20 to 24 years	9.3	8.8	11.9	8.0	11.2
25 to 34 years	6.0	5.8	7.7	5.3	11.0
35 to 44 years	4.3	4.2	5.2	3.0	10.2
45 to 54 years	2.9	2.3	6.3	4.6	6.5
55 to 64 years	2.1	2.1	3.0	1.2	6.6
65 years and older	1.6	1.3	6.7	3.0	6.3
Women, 16 years and older	5.8	4.8	12.0	3.4	9.8
16 to 19 years	11.2	10.8	17.0	(²)	15.5
20 to 24 years	13.3	11.6	23.5	9.7	10.7
25 to 34 years	8.0	6.3	18.1	2.9	11.0
35 to 44 years	5.4	4.6	10.3	3.5	10.6
45 to 54 years	3.2	2.6	6.3	2.9	7.3
55 to 64 years	2.8	2.3	5.6	2.3	7.1
65 years and older	1.7	1.6	3.8	0.5	3.8

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

² Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the race groups shown (White, Black or African-

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

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2006

[Numbers in thousands]

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older	145,229	78,457	66,772	7,427	3,564	3,863	5.1	4.5	5.8
Less than a high school diploma	16,229	10,358	5,870	2,241	1,309	932	13.8	12.6	15.9
Less than 1 year of high school	5,028	3,429	1,599	764	515	248	15.2	15.0	15.5
1-3 years of high school.....	9,167	5,691	3,476	1,238	672	565	13.5	11.8	16.3
4 years of high school, no diploma	2,034	1,239	795	239	121	118	11.8	9.8	14.8
High school graduates, no college ²	43,273	24,361	18,911	2,718	1,238	1,479	6.3	5.1	7.8
Some college or associate degree	41,261	20,315	20,946	1,827	705	1,122	4.4	3.5	5.4
Some college, no degree	27,667	13,993	13,674	1,381	521	860	5.0	3.7	6.3
Associate degree	13,594	6,322	7,272	446	184	262	3.3	2.9	3.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	44,466	23,422	21,044	642	312	330	1.4	1.3	1.6
White, 16 years and older	118,915	65,533	53,382	5,295	2,726	2,569	4.5	4.2	4.8
Less than a high school diploma	13,225	8,742	4,482	1,672	1,061	611	12.6	12.1	13.6
Less than 1 year of high school	4,331	3,051	1,280	661	463	198	15.3	15.2	15.4
1-3 years of high school	7,354	4,726	2,628	859	517	342	11.7	10.9	13.0
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,540	966	575	152	80	72	9.9	8.3	12.5
High school graduates, no college ²	35,165	20,169	14,996	1,841	879	961	5.2	4.4	6.4
Some college or associate degree	33,698	16,973	16,724	1,276	537	740	3.8	3.2	4.4
Some college, no degree	22,482	11,643	10,839	982	408	574	4.4	3.5	5.3
Associate degree	11,216	5,330	5,886	295	129	166	2.6	2.4	2.8
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	36,828	19,648	17,179	506	249	256	1.4	1.3	1.5
Black or African-American, 16 years and older	16,437	7,648	8,790	1,601	547	1,054	9.7	7.2	12.0
Less than a high school diploma	1,933	1,014	919	421	156	265	21.8	15.4	28.9
Less than 1 year of high school	275	151	123	51	23	27	18.4	15.2	22.3
1-3 years of high school	1,315	672	643	299	100	199	22.7	14.9	30.9
4 years of high school, no diploma	343	190	153	72	33	39	21.0	17.1	25.7
High school graduates, no college ²	5,863	2,940	2,923	711	264	446	12.1	9.0	15.3
Some college or associate degree	5,222	2,184	3,038	399	95	305	7.6	4.3	10.0
Some college, no degree	3,634	1,542	2,092	295	63	232	8.1	4.1	11.1
Associate degree	1,587	642	946	105	32	73	6.6	5.0	7.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,420	1,510	1,910	70	32	38	2.0	2.1	2.0
Asian, 16 years and older	6,624	3,552	3,072	251	147	104	3.8	4.1	3.4
Less than a high school diploma	563	283	281	57	33	24	10.1	11.7	8.4
Less than 1 year of high school	267	124	143	25	12	13	9.4	9.8	9.0
1-3 years of high school	204	112	92	25	17	8	12.3	14.8	9.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	93	46	46	7	4	2	7.3	(⁴)	(⁴)
High school graduates, no college ²	1,229	674	555	76	46	30	6.2	6.8	5.5
Some college or associate degree	1,201	598	603	62	39	23	5.1	6.5	3.8
Some college, no degree	744	403	342	43	26	17	5.8	6.5	5.1
Associate degree	457	196	261	18	13	5	4.0	6.6	2.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,631	1,997	1,633	56	29	27	1.5	1.4	1.7
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	19,985	12,177	7,808	1,956	1,187	769	9.8	9.7	9.8
Less than a high school diploma	6,795	4,783	2,012	1,123	761	361	16.5	15.9	18.0
Less than 1 year of high school	3,473	2,508	965	587	419	168	16.9	16.7	17.4
1-3 years of high school	2,739	1,883	856	451	288	163	16.5	15.3	19.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	582	392	190	84	54	30	14.5	13.9	15.8
High school graduates, no college ²	6,087	3,701	2,386	548	298	251	9.0	8.0	10.5
Some college or associate degree	4,498	2,343	2,155	222	96	126	4.9	4.1	5.8
Some college, no degree	3,170	1,735	1,435	174	77	97	5.5	4.4	6.8
Associate degree	1,328	608	720	48	19	29	3.6	3.2	4.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	2,605	1,350	1,255	63	32	31	2.4	2.4	2.5

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

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or the equivalent.

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

⁴ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the race groups shown (White, Black or African-American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

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 sex, 2006

[Numbers in thousands]

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older ²	145,229	78,457	66,772	7,427	3,564	3,863	5.1	4.5	5.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	50,294	25,022	25,271	882	364	517	1.8	1.5	2.0
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	21,120	11,988	9,132	329	152	177	1.6	1.3	1.9
Professional and related occupations	29,173	13,034	16,139	552	212	340	1.9	1.6	2.1
Service occupations	22,255	9,617	12,638	2,294	762	1,532	10.3	7.9	12.1
Sales and office occupations	34,668	12,999	21,669	1,485	452	1,034	4.3	3.5	4.8
Sales and related occupations	15,757	8,295	7,462	880	272	607	5.6	3.3	8.1
Office and administrative support occupations	18,911	4,705	14,207	605	179	426	3.2	3.8	3.0
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	15,740	15,132	608	1,088	1,023	65	6.9	6.8	10.7
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	945	762	183	147	117	30	15.6	15.3	16.6
Construction and extraction occupations	9,722	9,493	229	788	761	27	8.1	8.0	11.9
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	5,074	4,877	196	153	145	8	3.0	3.0	3.8
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	17,978	13,786	4,192	1,062	705	358	5.9	5.1	8.5
Production occupations	9,453	6,604	2,849	496	278	218	5.2	4.2	7.6
Transportation and material moving occupations	8,525	7,182	1,343	566	427	140	6.6	5.9	10.4
White, 16 years and older ²	118,915	65,533	53,382	5,295	2,726	2,569	4.5	4.2	4.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	42,073	21,308	20,765	660	296	364	1.6	1.4	1.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	18,187	10,583	7,604	254	119	136	1.4	1.1	1.8
Professional and related occupations	23,886	10,725	13,161	406	177	229	1.7	1.7	1.7
Service occupations	16,875	7,459	9,416	1,572	537	1,035	9.3	7.2	11.0
Sales and office occupations	28,440	10,740	17,700	1,000	335	665	3.5	3.1	3.8
Sales and related occupations	13,207	7,154	6,053	597	221	376	4.5	3.1	6.2
Office and administrative support occupations	15,233	3,586	11,647	403	114	289	2.6	3.2	2.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,827	13,330	496	938	884	54	6.8	6.6	10.8
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	826	679	147	133	106	27	16.1	15.6	18.5
Construction and extraction occupations	8,628	8,432	196	676	656	20	7.8	7.8	10.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,373	4,219	154	129	123	6	2.9	2.9	4.1
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	14,355	11,208	3,147	722	497	225	5.0	4.4	7.1
Production occupations	7,735	5,591	2,144	365	224	142	4.7	4.0	6.6
Transportation and material moving occupations	6,620	5,617	1,002	357	274	83	5.4	4.9	8.3
Black or African American, 16 years and older ²	16,437	7,648	8,790	1,601	547	1,054	9.7	7.2	12.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	4,279	1,599	2,681	159	37	122	3.7	2.3	4.5
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,584	671	913	48	15	33	3.0	2.2	3.6
Professional and related occupations	2,696	928	1,768	111	22	89	4.1	2.4	5.0
Service occupations	3,692	1,418	2,274	546	139	407	14.8	9.8	17.9
Sales and office occupations	4,060	1,356	2,703	369	69	300	9.1	5.1	11.1
Sales and related occupations	1,538	613	925	216	25	191	14.1	4.0	20.7
Office and administrative support occupations	2,522	743	1,779	153	44	109	6.1	5.9	6.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	1,196	1,129	67	101	95	6	8.4	8.4	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	60	42	18	6	6	-	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	718	698	20	82	77	5	11.5	11.1	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	418	389	29	13	11	1	3.0	2.9	(³)
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	2,605	1,876	729	264	147	117	10.1	7.8	16.0
Production occupations	1,132	674	458	101	37	63	8.9	5.5	13.9
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,473	1,202	270	163	110	53	11.1	9.2	19.7

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 sex, 2006—Continued

[Numbers in thousands]

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Asian, 16 years and older ²	6,624	3,552	3,072	251	147	104	3.8	4.1	3.4
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,077	1,720	1,357	27	16	11	.9	.9	.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	997	554	443	12	8	3	1.2	1.5	.7
Professional and related occupations	2,080	1,167	914	16	7	8	.8	.6	.9
Service occupations	1,060	465	594	96	55	41	9.0	11.7	6.9
Sales and office occupations	1,402	642	761	54	28	26	3.9	4.3	3.5
Sales and related occupations	705	398	307	36	19	17	5.1	4.8	5.4
Office and administrative support occupations	697	243	454	18	9	10	2.6	3.6	2.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	280	255	25	9	6	2	3.1	2.5	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	25	14	11	5	3	2	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	104	98	7	1	1	—	.5	.6	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	151	143	8	3	3	—	1.9	2.0	(³)
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	576	378	199	45	36	8	7.8	9.6	4.2
Production occupations	375	205	170	14	7	7	3.7	3.5	4.0
Transportation and material moving occupations	202	173	28	31	29	2	15.3	16.9	(³)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ²	19,985	12,177	7,808	1,956	1,187	769	9.8	9.7	9.8
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,447	1,611	1,836	98	27	71	2.8	1.7	3.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,533	814	718	44	16	28	2.9	2.0	3.9
Professional and related occupations	1,915	797	1,118	53	11	42	2.8	1.4	3.8
Service occupations	4,454	2,211	2,243	630	304	327	14.2	13.7	14.6
Sales and office occupations	3,860	1,522	2,338	255	86	169	6.6	5.7	7.2
Sales and related occupations	1,728	873	855	143	53	89	8.3	6.1	10.4
Office and administrative support occupations	2,132	649	1,483	112	33	80	5.3	5.1	5.4
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	4,106	3,971	135	544	515	29	13.3	13.0	21.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	357	288	69	86	69	18	24.2	23.9	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	3,034	2,995	39	404	398	5	13.3	13.3	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	716	689	27	54	48	6	7.6	7.0	(³)
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	3,523	2,599	923	312	200	112	8.9	7.7	12.2
Production occupations	1,943	1,288	656	178	103	75	9.2	8.0	11.4
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,579	1,312	268	134	97	38	8.5	7.4	14.0

¹ 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.

² Includes a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

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

NOTE: Estimates for the 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 5. Primary families: Poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2006

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	65,388	61,429	3,960	6.1
With related children under 18 years	36,459	33,033	3,426	9.4
Without children	28,929	28,396	533	1.8
With one member in the labor force	27,559	24,156	3,403	12.3
With two or more members in the labor force	37,829	37,273	557	1.5
With two members	31,948	31,428	520	1.6
With three or more members	5,881	5,845	36	.6
Married-couple families	49,703	48,058	1,645	3.3
With related children under 18 years	26,502	25,120	1,382	5.2
Without children	23,200	22,937	263	1.1
With one member in the labor force	16,764	15,500	1,264	7.5
Husband	12,436	11,415	1,022	8.2
Wife	3,710	3,499	211	5.7
Relative	618	586	31	5.1
With two or more members in the labor force	32,938	32,557	381	1.2
With two members	28,007	27,644	362	1.3
With three or more members	4,932	4,913	19	.4
Families maintained by women	11,273	9,333	1,940	17.2
With related children under 18 years	7,655	5,883	1,772	23.2
Without children	3,618	3,450	168	4.6
With one member in the labor force	8,107	6,292	1,815	22.4
Householder	6,675	5,109	1,565	23.5
Relative	1,432	1,182	250	17.5
With two or more members in the labor force	3,166	3,041	125	3.9
Families maintained by men	4,412	4,038	374	8.5
With related children under 18 years	2,302	2,030	272	11.8
Without children	2,111	2,008	102	4.8
With one member in the labor force	2,687	2,364	324	12.0
Householder	2,230	1,978	252	11.3
Relative	457	386	71	15.6
With two or more members in the labor force	1,725	1,674	51	2.9

¹ 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, 2006**

[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	
TOTAL												
All people ¹	231,033	58,408	58,927	5,906	18,452	14,405	2,235	11,352	5,031	518	5,287	50,511
With labor force activity	158,563	46,025	38,056	2,107	12,382	10,253	587	7,325	3,974	147	3,508	34,199
1 to 26 weeks	13,334	1,359	3,075	1,308	2,608	778	341	950	193	86	325	2,312
27 weeks or more	145,229	44,666	34,981	800	9,774	9,476	246	6,375	3,782	61	3,182	31,887
With no labor force activity	72,470	12,383	20,872	3,799	6,070	4,151	1,648	4,027	1,057	371	1,779	16,312
At or above poverty level												
All people ¹	206,167	55,535	56,013	5,584	17,700	10,321	1,551	9,585	4,353	449	4,765	40,311
With labor force activity	148,685	44,519	37,286	2,047	12,134	8,110	468	6,744	3,620	142	3,292	30,324
1 to 26 weeks	10,883	1,234	2,842	1,258	2,503	311	266	796	137	83	276	1,177
27 weeks or more	137,802	43,285	34,444	789	9,631	7,799	202	5,948	3,483	59	3,015	29,146
With no labor force activity	57,482	11,016	18,727	3,536	5,565	2,211	1,083	2,841	733	307	1,474	9,987
Below poverty level												
All people ¹	24,866	2,873	2,914	323	752	4,083	684	1,767	678	70	522	10,200
With labor force activity	9,878	1,506	770	60	247	2,143	119	582	354	5	216	3,875
1 to 26 weeks	2,451	125	233	49	105	467	76	154	56	3	49	1,134
27 weeks or more	7,427	1,380	537	11	142	1,677	43	428	299	2	167	2,741
With no labor force activity	14,988	1,367	2,144	262	505	1,940	565	1,186	323	64	306	6,325
Rate²												
All people ¹	10.8	4.9	4.9	5.5	4.1	28.3	30.6	15.6	13.5	13.4	9.9	20.2
With labor force activity	6.2	3.3	2.0	2.9	2.0	20.9	20.3	7.9	8.9	3.7	6.2	11.3
1 to 26 weeks	18.4	9.2	7.6	3.8	4.0	60.0	22.2	16.2	28.9	3.9	15.1	49.1
27 weeks or more	5.1	3.1	1.5	1.4	1.5	17.7	17.6	6.7	7.9	(³)	5.3	8.6
With no labor force activity	20.7	11.0	10.3	6.9	8.3	46.7	34.3	29.4	30.6	17.3	17.2	38.8

¹ Data on families include people in primary families and family households with unrelated individuals.

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

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

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, 2006

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	31,887	29,146	2,741	8.6
16 to 19 years	545	336	210	38.5
20 to 24 years	4,393	3,565	828	18.9
25 to 64 years	25,306	23,653	1,654	6.5
65 years and older	1,642	1,593	49	3.0
Men	17,966	16,540	1,426	7.9
Women	13,921	12,607	1,315	9.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White	25,798	23,683	2,115	8.2
Men	14,705	13,614	1,091	7.4
Women	11,093	10,069	1,024	9.2
Black or African American	4,135	3,683	452	10.9
Men	2,140	1,909	231	10.8
Women	1,995	1,774	222	11.1
Asian	1,159	1,069	90	7.8
Men	656	604	52	8.0
Women	503	465	37	7.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,961	3,478	483	12.2
Men	2,830	2,506	324	11.4
Women	1,131	972	159	14.1
Living arrangements				
Living alone	17,303	16,331	972	5.6
Living with others	14,584	12,815	1,769	12.1

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

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 weeks or more: poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2006

[Numbers in thousands]

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	114,265	110,285	3,980	3.5
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	94,359	93,708	652	.7
Unemployment only	5,467	5,071	396	7.2
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,530	2,468	62	2.4
Low earnings only	8,547	6,641	1,906	22.3
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	941	867	75	7.9
Unemployment and low earnings	1,262	760	501	39.7
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	790	582	208	26.4
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	369	188	181	49.0
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	8,039	6,886	1,153	14.3
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	4,631	4,105	526	11.4
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	10,968	8,171	2,797	25.5

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

² The low-earnings threshold in 2006 was \$296.72 per week.