

LEHD Fact Sheet

Table 1: Distribution of demographic characteristics by groups of earnings in CA, FL, IL, MD, MN and TX in 1996-98.

	Low earnings	Partially low earnings	Partially non-low earnings	Non-low earnings	All
All	12.2	5.8	20.3	61.6	100.0
Female	16.2	7.5	21.5	54.9	100.0
Male	8.7	4.4	19.3	67.6	100.0

Status of earnings. We have defined a worker as “low earnings” if total annual earnings (from all employers) are below 12,000 (in 1998 dollars) in three consecutive years, when the worker is at least marginally attached to the labor force. “Non-low earnings” workers are defined as workers with annual earnings above \$15,000 in each of the three years. The reason why we have deliberately chosen to define these two states to not be mutually exclusive because we want to focus on significant changes in earnings when studying the transitions in and out of low earnings status. Consequently we have defined two intermediate states of earnings status. If earnings in at least one (but not all three) year is above \$15,000, then the worker is defined as “partially non-low earnings”. The remaining state is if a worker’s earnings are consistently below \$15,000 (but not consistently below \$12,000) then the worker is defined as “partially low earnings”.



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Table 2: Distribution of earnings by demographic group in CA, FL, IL, MD, MN and TX in 1996-98.

	Low earnings	Partially low earnings	Partially non-low earnings	Non-low earnings	All
Female	16.2	7.5	21.5	54.9	100.0
Male	8.7	4.4	19.3	67.6	100.0
25-34	14.4	6.8	26.0	52.7	100.0
35-44	11.6	5.5	18.3	64.6	100.0
45-54	10.2	5.0	15.6	69.2	100.0
U.S.-born	11.5	5.2	19.6	63.8	100.0
Foreign born	15.3	8.5	23.5	52.7	100.0
White	9.7	4.5	18.6	67.3	100.0
Black	18.1	7.8	23.8	50.4	100.0
Other	16.5	8.7	23.6	51.1	100.0
All	12.2	5.8	20.3	61.6	100.0
Female					
25-34	18.0	8.2	26.8	47.0	100.0
35-44	16.1	7.4	19.8	56.7	100.0
45-54	14.0	6.8	17.0	62.2	100.0
U.S.-born	15.3	6.9	21.1	56.7	100.0
Foreign born	20.4	10.6	23.1	45.9	100.0
White	13.9	6.2	20.6	59.3	100.0
Black	19.2	8.6	23.2	49.0	100.0
Other	21.2	10.6	23.1	45.1	100.0
All	16.2	7.5	21.5	54.9	100.0
Male					
25-34	11.3	5.7	25.4	57.6	100.0
35-44	7.7	3.8	17.0	71.5	100.0
45-54	6.5	3.3	14.2	76.0	100.0
U.S.-born	7.9	3.6	18.1	70.4	100.0
Foreign born	11.7	7.0	23.8	57.5	100.0
White	5.9	2.9	16.8	74.4	100.0
Black	16.8	6.7	24.5	52.0	100.0
Other	12.9	7.3	24.0	55.8	100.0
All	8.7	4.4	19.3	67.6	100.0



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**Table 3: The 15 most important low earnings industries
in CA, FL, IL, MD and MN in 1996-98**

Industry	Percentages of low earners in each industry	Percentages of workers in each industry who are low earners
58 Eating and drinking places	13.3	31.8
82 Educational services	11.1	11.7
73 Business services	10.3	14.4
80 Health services	6.4	5.9
07 Agricultural services	6.4	36.3
01 Agricultural production- crops	6.0	36.1
54 Food stores	4.0	15.9
83 Social services	3.8	16.7
59 Miscellaneous retail	3.4	15.5
53 General merchandise stores	3.0	16.7
79 Amusement and recreational services	2.6	18.2
70 Hotels, rooming houses, camps etc.	2.7	17.5
72 Personal services	2.4	24.5
17 Special trade contractors	2.3	6.0
65 Real estate	2.2	11.0



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**Table 4: Low wage employment by firm size in
CA, FL, IL, MD and MN in 1996-98**

Size class	Percentages of low earners in each size class	Percentages of workers in each size class who are low earners
-24	26.0	13.5
25-99	16.3	9.1
100-499	19.8	8.2
500-999	8.1	8.3
1000-	29.9	7.8



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Table 5: Distribution of low-earners across selected industries by demographic group in CA, FL, IL, MD and MN in 1996-98.

	Agri- culture ind.	Food stores	Eating and drinking	Business services	Health services	Educational services	Social services	All other
All								
Female	5.1	3.8	12.9	8.0	7.3	14.6	4.3	44.0
Male	14.0	3.0	13.3	13.4	2.0	4.0	2.1	48.2
25 to <35	8.2	3.9	16.3	10.7	5.4	6.3	3.4	45.8
35 to <55	8.4	3.3	11.0	9.5	5.4	13.6	3.6	45.3
US-born	3.5	3.6	13.3	10.5	6.3	12.7	4.1	46.0
For.-born	21.5	3.2	12.2	8.5	2.9	5.6	1.9	44.2
White	2.6	4.0	14.0	7.7	6.3	14.1	3.8	47.5
Black	2.7	3.1	11.0	19.9	7.5	8.2	5.6	42.0
Other	20.7	3.0	12.4	9.2	2.9	6.2	2.1	43.6
All	8.3	3.5	13.0	10.0	5.4	10.8	3.5	45.5
Female								
25 to <35	5.3	4.4	16.6	8.9	7.9	8.6	4.5	43.9
35 to <55	5.0	3.5	10.9	7.5	7.0	17.8	4.2	44.1
US-born	2.7	4.0	13.4	7.7	8.2	16.4	4.8	42.8
For.-born	13.1	3.1	11.0	8.9	4.4	8.6	2.8	48.1
White	2.0	4.3	14.1	6.0	7.9	17.5	4.2	44.0
Black	1.6	3.4	10.3	15.0	10.9	11.6	7.6	39.5
Other	13.6	3.0	11.5	9.0	4.2	9.5	3.0	46.1
All	5.1	3.8	12.9	8.0	7.3	14.6	4.3	44.0
Male								
25 to <35	12.1	3.3	15.8	13.1	2.0	3.3	1.8	48.5
35 to <55	15.7	2.8	11.1	13.7	1.9	4.7	2.4	47.9
US-born	5.1	2.9	13.1	16.1	2.4	5.1	2.8	52.6
For.-born	32.0	3.3	13.8	8.0	1.1	1.8	0.8	39.2
White	4.3	3.3	13.7	11.8	2.2	5.9	2.8	56.1
Black	4.2	2.6	11.9	26.4	3.0	3.7	2.9	45.3
Other	29.5	2.9	13.5	9.4	1.2	2.0	1.0	40.4
All	14.0	3.0	13.3	13.4	2.0	4.0	2.1	48.2



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Table 6: Transition rates in CA, FL, IL and MD.

1993-95\1996-98	Low	Partially low	Partially non-low	Non-low	All
Low	52.3	18.3	23.2	6.2	100.0
Partially low	14.4	27.1	39.7	18.7	100.0
Partially non-low	4.9	6.0	29.9	59.2	100.0
Non-low	0.3	0.4	7.1	92.2	100.0
All	5.6	4.0	13.6	76.8	100.0

Table 7: Transition rates by job-changing status in CA, FL, IL and MD.

1993-95\1996-98	Low		Partially low		Partially non-low		Non-low		All	
	Changed jobs?									
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Low	29.3	23.0	8.8	9.5	7.6	15.6	1.4	4.8	47.1	52.9
Partially low	5.9	8.5	17.2	10.0	19.2	20.5	8.1	10.6	50.4	49.6
Partially non-low	1.3	3.6	2.4	3.5	11.8	18.1	30.8	28.4	46.3	53.7
Non-low	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	3.6	3.5	66.1	26.1	69.9	30.1
All	2.7	2.9	2.0	2.0	6.0	7.6	52.7	24.1	63.4	36.6

Table 8: Transition rates by industry-changing status in CA, FL, IL and MD.

1993-95\1996-98	Low		Partially low		Partially non-low		Non-low		All	
	Changed industries?									
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Low	37.3	14.9	11.6	6.7	11.0	12.2	2.3	3.9	62.3	37.7
Partially low	8.3	6.0	20.6	6.6	24.9	14.8	10.7	8.1	64.6	35.4
Partially non-low	2.1	2.8	3.3	2.6	16.5	13.2	39.0	20.4	60.9	39.1
Non-low	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	4.6	2.4	75.4	16.9	80.2	19.8
All	3.6	2.0	2.6	1.4	8.0	5.5	61.0	16.1	75.1	24.9



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Table 9: Transition rates of low-earners by demographic groups in CA, FL, IL and MD.

	Low	Partially low	Partially non low	Non-low	All
All					
Female	54.3	19.0	21.4	5.3	100.0
Male	48.6	17.1	26.6	7.8	100.0
25 to <35	45.7	18.2	28.0	8.1	100.0
35 to <55	57.4	18.3	19.6	4.7	100.0
US-born	51.3	17.6	24.3	6.7	100.0
For.-born	54.6	19.8	20.8	4.9	100.0
White	52.1	17.0	23.9	7.0	100.0
Black	50.9	19.4	24.3	5.4	100.0
Other	53.2	19.9	21.7	5.2	100.0
Female					
25 to <35	48.0	19.1	25.9	7.0	100.0
35 to <55	58.2	18.8	18.7	4.3	100.0
US-born	53.3	18.5	22.5	5.7	100.0
For.-born	57.6	20.5	17.9	4.1	100.0
White	54.4	17.8	22.0	5.8	100.0
Black	51.1	21.0	23.0	4.9	100.0
Other	55.8	20.6	19.1	4.4	100.0
Male					
25 to <35	42.8	17.1	30.6	9.5	100.0
35 to <55	55.3	17.0	21.9	5.7	100.0
US-born	46.6	15.7	28.5	9.2	100.0
For.-born	51.4	19.0	23.8	5.7	100.0
White	45.8	14.9	29.0	10.4	100.0
Black	50.6	17.1	26.2	6.0	100.0
Other	50.5	19.1	24.4	6.0	100.0



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Table 10: Industry distribution of low earners by subsequent earnings and industry changing status in CA, FL, IL and MD.

Industry distribution in	Did not escape low earnings	Escaped low earnings and did not change industries	Escaped low earnings and changed industries	
	1993-95	1993-95	1993-95	1996-98
Agricultural ind.	12.7	5.7	5.6	2.6
Food stores	3.4	3.4	3.5	2.2
Eating and drinking	14.4	12.9	14.3	2.8
Business services	7.1	6.5	12.2	9.0
Health services	5.0	9.2	3.7	8.1
Educational services	13.0	18.3	5.8	6.0
Social services	3.5	2.6	2.8	3.0
All other industries	40.9	41.3	52.2	66.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



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Table 11: Employer size distribution of low earners by subsequent earnings and industry changing status in CA, FL, IL and MD.

Size distribution in	Did not	Escaped low	Escaped low earnings and changed jobs	
	escape low earnings 1993-95	earnings and did not change jobs 1993-95	1993-95	1996-98
-24	25.1	25.2	26.2	18.7
25-99	16.8	14.7	18.4	18.8
100-499	20.8	17.2	19.8	23.8
500-999	8.9	8.1	7.8	9.3
1000-	28.3	34.9	27.7	29.3
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 12: Transition rates for low earners by job-changing status in CA, FL, IL and MD.

1993-95\1996-98	Low		Partially low		Partially non-low		Non-low		All	
	Changed jobs?									
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Female	32.7	21.7	9.8	9.1	8.0	13.4	1.4	3.9	51.9	48.1
Male	23.2	25.4	6.9	10.2	7.0	19.6	1.4	6.3	38.5	61.5
25 to <35	20.6	25.1	7.3	10.9	7.4	20.6	1.5	6.6	36.8	63.2
35 to <55	35.9	21.5	9.9	8.4	7.8	11.8	1.4	3.4	55.0	45.0
US-born	28.9	22.5	8.4	9.2	7.9	16.4	1.5	5.2	46.7	53.3
For.-born	30.2	24.3	9.7	10.1	7.0	13.8	1.1	3.8	48.0	52.0
White	31.8	20.2	8.7	8.3	8.3	15.6	1.7	5.3	50.6	49.4
Black	20.4	30.5	7.3	12.2	6.0	18.3	1.0	4.3	34.6	65.4
Other	28.7	24.5	9.6	10.3	7.1	14.6	1.2	4.0	46.5	53.5



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Table 13: Transition rates for low earners by industry-changing status in CA, FL, IL and MD.

1993- 95\1996-98	Low		Partially low		Partially non- low		Non-low		All	
	Changed industries?									
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Female	39.9	14.4	12.6	6.4	11.0	10.4	2.2	3.1	65.7	34.3
Male	32.7	15.7	9.9	7.2	11.0	15.5	2.5	5.3	56.2	43.8
25 to <35	28.7	16.8	10.4	7.9	11.6	16.5	2.6	5.5	53.3	46.7
35 to <55	43.9	13.5	12.5	5.8	10.6	8.9	2.1	2.7	69.1	30.9
US-born	36.0	15.3	11.0	6.7	11.3	13.0	2.5	4.3	60.8	39.2
For.-born	40.5	14.1	13.0	6.8	10.4	10.4	1.9	3.0	65.7	34.3
White	38.4	13.7	11.1	5.9	11.7	12.2	2.7	4.3	63.9	36.1
Black	30.1	20.5	10.7	8.9	9.7	14.7	1.7	3.7	52.2	47.8
Other	38.6	14.6	12.8	7.1	10.5	11.2	1.9	3.3	63.9	36.1

