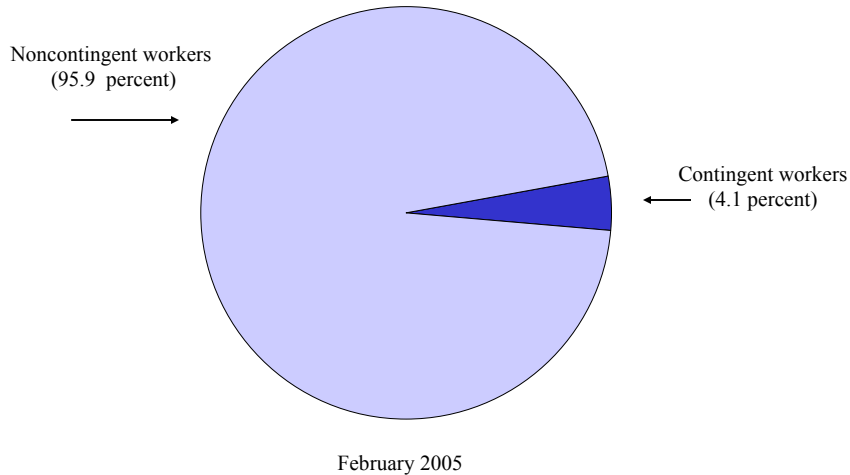


Chart 3-4. In 2005, about 1 in 25 workers could be described as "contingent," believing that they could not work at their job indefinitely



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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- Conceptually, contingent workers can be thought of as those workers who have no explicit or implicit contract for ongoing employment. Under the broadest definition, which includes workers who do not expect their jobs to last, they made up approximately 4 percent of workers in February 2005. The percentage of workers classified as "contingent" has edged down from about 5 percent in February 1995 (when the data on contingent work were first collected).
- In 2005, slightly more than one-half of contingent workers would have preferred a permanent job; about one-third of contingent workers preferred the contingent arrangement (the remainder were either undecided or did not respond).