

**A-38. Persons not in the labor force by desire and availability for work, age, and sex**

(In thousands)

| Category  | Total        |              | Age               |              |                   |              |                      |              | Sex          |              |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Mar.<br>2008 | Mar.<br>2009 | 16 to 24<br>years |              | 25 to 54<br>years |              | 55 years<br>and over |              | Men          |              | Women        |              |
|   |              |              | Mar.<br>2008      | Mar.<br>2009 | Mar.<br>2008      | Mar.<br>2009 | Mar.<br>2008         | Mar.<br>2009 | Mar.<br>2008 | Mar.<br>2009 | Mar.<br>2008 | Mar.<br>2009 |
| Total not in the labor force .....                    | 79,860       | 81,358       | 16,304            | 16,585       | 21,094            | 21,596       | 42,462               | 43,176       | 30,846       | 31,919       | 49,014       | 49,438       |
| Do not want a job now <sup>1</sup> .....              | 75,367       | 75,823       | 14,796            | 14,813       | 19,105            | 19,075       | 41,466               | 41,935       | 28,795       | 29,246       | 46,572       | 46,578       |
| Want a job <sup>1</sup> .....                         | 4,492        | 5,535        | 1,507             | 1,772        | 1,990             | 2,521        | 995                  | 1,242        | 2,051        | 2,674        | 2,442        | 2,861        |
| Did not search for work in previous year .....        | 2,618        | 2,842        | 787               | 853          | 1,120             | 1,161        | 711                  | 829          | 1,134        | 1,285        | 1,484        | 1,557        |
| Searched for work in previous year <sup>2</sup> ..... | 1,874        | 2,693        | 721               | 919          | 869               | 1,361        | 284                  | 413          | 917          | 1,389        | 957          | 1,304        |
| Not available to work now .....                       | 522          | 587          | 237               | 303          | 255               | 248          | 29                   | 36           | 195          | 253          | 327          | 334          |
| Available to work now <sup>3</sup> .....              | 1,352        | 2,106        | 484               | 616          | 614               | 1,112        | 255                  | 377          | 722          | 1,136        | 631          | 970          |
| Reason not currently looking:                         |              |              |                   |              |                   |              |                      |              |              |              |              |              |
| Discouragement over job prospects .....               | 401          | 685          | 132               | 170          | 198               | 380          | 72                   | 136          | 245          | 433          | 156          | 252          |
| Reasons other than discouragement <sup>4</sup> .....  | 951          | 1,421        | 352               | 446          | 416               | 733          | 183                  | 242          | 477          | 703          | 474          | 717          |
| Family responsibilities .....                         | 157          | 193          | 40                | 33           | 86                | 111          | 32                   | 48           | 72           | 55           | 85           | 138          |
| In school or training .....                           | 170          | 287          | 140               | 232          | 23                | 51           | 7                    | 4            | 71           | 146          | 99           | 140          |
| Ill health or disability .....                        | 123          | 191          | 22                | 20           | 55                | 112          | 47                   | 58           | 70           | 88           | 54           | 104          |
| Other <sup>5</sup> .....                              | 501          | 749          | 150               | 160          | 252               | 458          | 98                   | 131          | 264          | 414          | 237          | 335          |

<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> Persons who have searched for work in the previous year and are available to work now also are referred to as "marginally attached to the labor force"

<sup>4</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>5</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: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.