

A Profile of the Working Poor, 1999



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In 1999, 32.3 million people, or 11.8 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty level—2.2 million fewer than in 1998. While most of these people were children and adults who did not participate in the labor force, some 6.8 million were classified as the “working poor.” This was 362,000 fewer than in 1998, continuing a 6-year downtrend. The working poor are individuals who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes fell below the official poverty level. Of all persons who worked 27 weeks or more, 5.1 percent were classified among the working poor in 1999, down 0.3 percentage point from the previous year. (See tables A and 1.)

Working full time substantially lowers a person’s probability of being poor. Among persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 3.9 percent of those usually employed full time were in poverty, compared with 10.5 percent for part-time workers. Nonetheless, the majority of the working poor—64.0 percent—were full-time workers. Only a very small proportion of the working poor (3.5 percent) actively sought a job for more than 6 months in 1999 without finding any work, down from 5.1 percent in 1998.

This report presents data on the relationships between labor force activity and poverty in 1999 for individual workers and their families. The data were collected in the work experience and income supplement to the March 2000 Current Population Survey (CPS). 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.

For persons living with family members, the earnings thresholds used to determine poverty status are defined in terms of family income, rather than personal income. Thus, for persons living in family situations, earnings from their employment are only one factor in their poverty status. Other important factors include the earnings of others in the family, other sources of income that family members might have, and the size of the family. For persons living alone or with unrelated individuals, personal income data are used in determining poverty status.

Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or

more in 1999, the proportion of women classified as working poor (5.9 percent) was higher than that of men (4.4 percent). Both rates have fallen since the early 1990s; they had been as high as 7.3 percent for women and 6.2 percent for men as recently as 1993. As in earlier years, younger workers were most vulnerable to poverty, in part because earnings are lower and unemployment is higher for younger workers than for older workers. Among teenagers who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 10.1 percent were in poverty, as were 10.6 percent of those aged 20 to 24. These rates were roughly double the rate for workers aged 35 to 44 (4.7 percent), and more than triple the rate for workers 45 to 54 years of age (2.8 percent). (See table 2.)

Black and Hispanic workers continued to experience poverty at much higher rates than did whites. In 1999, 4.3 percent of whites who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were classified as working poor, compared with 10.2 percent of blacks and 10.7 percent of Hispanics. Nonetheless, the vast majority of the working poor were white (70 percent). Among whites and Hispanics, rates for men and women were comparable; however, the rate for black women (13.6 percent) was more than twice the rate for black men (6.2 percent). One explanation for this is that a relatively large proportion of black women maintain families. Nearly 30 percent of black women maintained families in 1999, compared with only about 10 percent of white women. As noted below, women maintaining families are far more likely to be among the working poor than are married women.

Table A. Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1996-99

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total persons ¹	128,320	130,047	131,731	133,651
In poverty	7,421	7,453	7,158	6,796
Poverty rate	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.1
Unrelated individuals	25,539	26,158	26,971	27,845
In poverty	2,423	2,534	2,281	2,272
Poverty rate	9.5	9.7	8.5	8.2
Primary families ²	58,087	58,815	59,621	60,454
In poverty	4,084	4,068	4,019	3,755
Poverty rate	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.2

¹ Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

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

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Working wives were less likely than working husbands to be poor, primarily because working wives were more likely to be in families with a second earner, usually a husband. (See “Family structure,” below). In 1999, 1.8 percent of married women who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were in poverty, compared with 3.2 percent of married men. In contrast, 19.2 percent of women who maintained families and who were in the labor force for at least 6 months were in poverty.

Educational attainment

The risk of being among the working poor declines substantially for workers who complete high school. In 1999, 6.0 percent of workers with a high school diploma were in poverty, considerably lower than the proportion of those who had not completed high school (14.3 percent). Moreover, rates for workers with associate’s and bachelor’s degrees were even lower. At nearly all major educational attainment levels, women were more likely than men and blacks were more likely than whites to be among the working poor. (See table 3.)

Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor continued to vary widely by occupation in 1999. Nearly 11 percent of all workers who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks and whose longest job over the year was in services were poor. Other occupations with relatively high proportions of workers in poverty included farming, forestry, and fishing (15.7 percent), and operators, fabricators, and laborers (6.9 percent). Rates were lowest for executives, administrators, and managers (1.7 percent) and for those employed as professional specialty workers (1.4 percent). These are occupations in which high earnings and full-time employment are typical. (See table 4.)

Family structure

Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 3.8 million families, or 6.2 percent, had incomes below the poverty line in 1999, down from 6.7 percent in 1998. The poverty threshold for families reflects both the total family income and the number of family members; thus, the larger the family, the higher the level of income needed to keep the family out of poverty. The fact that the presence and number of young children can decrease the overall labor supply of a family also contributes to the relatively high incidence of poverty among families with children. In 1999, families with at least one child under age 18 continued to be much more likely to have incomes below the poverty level than did families without children (9.3 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively).

The more workers a family has, the less likely that family is to be living below the poverty line. For example, only 1.8 percent of families with two labor force participants and 1.1 percent of families with three or more participants were among the working poor. In contrast, 12.8 percent of families with

only one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more were in poverty. (See tables 5 and 6.)

Unrelated individuals

Unrelated individuals are persons who live either alone or with nonrelatives. Of the 27.8 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 1999, 2.3 million, or 8.2 percent, lived below the poverty level. This rate was down slightly from 8.5 percent in 1998. It should be noted that the poverty status of unrelated individuals, unlike that of family members, is determined by their personal incomes.

The living situations of unrelated individuals are characterized in one of two ways: some live by themselves, while some share housing with other, unrelated persons. Of those who were labor force participants for more than 6 months in 1999, persons living with unrelated individuals were twice as likely to be poor (11.3 percent) as were those living alone (5.4 percent). Unrelated individuals with low incomes often live with others in order to share expenses and pool resources. Because their poverty status is not determined by household income, the poverty measure for these unrelated individuals may overstate their actual economic hardship. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have sufficient incomes to support themselves. (See table 7.)

Labor market problems

As noted above, people who usually work full time—that is, 35 hours or more per week—are far less likely to live in poverty than are others. However, there remains a sizable group of full-time workers who live below the poverty threshold. 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, 3.6 million, or 3.4 percent, were classified as working poor in 1999. The proportion has been on a downward trend since 1994. (See table 8.)

There are three primary labor market problems experienced by these full-time workers: Low earnings, periods of unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See definitions of these problems in the technical note.) About 4 out of 5 of the working poor who usually worked full time experienced at least one of these major labor market problems. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem encountered—68.2 percent faced low earnings, either alone or in conjunction with other labor market problems. Nearly 35 percent of the working poor experienced unemployment, either alone or in conjunction with other problems. Only 4.3 percent experienced all three problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment.

Some 606,000, or 16.8 percent, of these working poor did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 1999. Their classification as working poor may be explained by other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, or a family structure that increases the risk of poverty.

Technical Note

Source of data

The primary source of data in this report is the work experience and income supplement (the Annual Demographic Survey) to the March 2000 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect demographic, social, and economic information about persons 16 years of age and older. Work experience and income information collected in the March supplement refers to activity in the entire prior 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 March supplement to the Current Population Survey, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided below, see *Poverty in the United States: 1999—Current Population Reports*, series P-60, no. 210 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2000). This publication also is available on the U.S. Census Bureau website (<http://www.census.gov>).

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For more information on the data provided in this report, write to the 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.

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 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 1999, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$17,029; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$34,417; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 or older, it was \$7,990. 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 *Poverty in the United States: 1999*, cited above.

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 using the CPI-U, so that the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 1999, the low earnings threshold was \$245.21 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. Data on income are limited to money income received in the calendar year preceding the March survey date, before personal income taxes and payroll deductions. They 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 the income concept, see *Poverty in the United States: 1999*, cited above.

In the labor force. Persons in the labor force are those who worked or looked for work sometime during the calendar year preceding the March survey date. 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 weeks or more.

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 recall. 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. Persons in related subfamilies—married couples or parent-child groups sharing the living quarters of another family member—are included as members of that family and are not distinct family units. The count of families used in this

report does not include unrelated subfamilies, such as lodgers, guests, or resident employees living in a household but not related to the householder (the person in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented). 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 March 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 be living alone, reside in a nonrelated family household, or live in group quarters with other unrelated individuals.

Related children. Data on related children refer to own children (including sons, daughters, and step- or adopted chil-

dren) 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, and “other” are terms used to describe the race of workers. Included in the “other” group are American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Because of the relatively small sample size, data for this group are not separately tabulated or published.

Hispanic origin. This term refers to persons who identify themselves in the CPS enumeration process as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or of some other Hispanic origin or descent. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race; thus, they also are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table 1. Persons in the labor force: Poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 1999

(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	149,042	133,651	119,376
Did not work during the year	1,503	547	476
Worked during the year	147,539	133,104	118,901
Usual full-time workers	118,368	111,992	103,620
Usual part-time workers	29,171	21,111	15,281
Involuntary part-time workers	3,717	2,956	2,333
Voluntary part-time workers	25,454	18,155	12,947
At or above poverty level			
Total in labor force	139,376	126,855	113,989
Did not work during the year	940	311	273
Worked during the year	138,436	126,544	113,716
Usual full-time workers	112,692	107,644	100,073
Usual part-time workers	25,744	18,900	13,643
Involuntary part-time workers	2,854	2,333	1,830
Voluntary part-time workers	22,890	16,568	11,813
Below poverty level			
Total in labor force	9,666	6,796	5,387
Did not work during the year	563	236	202
Worked during the year	9,103	6,559	5,185
Usual full-time workers	5,676	4,348	3,547
Usual part-time workers	3,427	2,211	1,638
Involuntary part-time workers	863	624	504
Voluntary part-time workers	2,564	1,587	1,134
Poverty rate¹			
Total in labor force	6.5	5.1	4.5
Did not work during the year	37.5	43.2	42.5
Worked during the year	6.2	4.9	4.4
Usual full-time workers	4.8	3.9	3.4
Usual part-time workers	11.7	10.5	10.7
Involuntary part-time workers	23.2	21.1	21.6
Voluntary part-time workers	10.1	8.7	8.8

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and older. Data for 1999, which were collected in the March 2000 supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 1998 and earlier years

because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table 2. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 1999

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and sex	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin	Below poverty level				Poverty rate ¹			
					Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin
Total, 16 years and older	133,651	111,714	15,698	13,971	6,796	4,830	1,596	1,496	5.1	4.3	10.2	10.7
16 to 19 years	5,207	4,405	596	622	527	365	127	93	10.1	8.3	21.4	15.0
20 to 24 years	12,412	10,240	1,675	1,866	1,312	894	367	253	10.6	8.7	21.9	13.6
25 to 34 years	30,695	24,839	4,096	4,178	1,835	1,290	433	486	6.0	5.2	10.6	11.6
35 to 44 years	36,945	30,612	4,564	3,917	1,726	1,246	387	417	4.7	4.1	8.5	10.7
45 to 54 years	29,965	25,468	3,158	2,255	851	631	165	167	2.8	2.5	5.2	7.4
55 to 64 years	14,066	12,240	1,271	938	419	313	89	64	3.0	2.6	7.0	6.8
65 years and older	4,361	3,909	338	195	127	91	27	15	2.9	2.3	8.0	7.7
Men, 16 years and older	71,790	61,163	7,260	8,267	3,165	2,526	447	898	4.4	4.1	6.2	10.9
16 to 19 years	2,700	2,312	264	383	234	183	29	60	8.7	7.9	10.9	15.6
20 to 24 years	6,488	5,487	741	1,152	575	438	115	156	8.9	8.0	15.5	13.5
25 to 34 years	16,728	13,865	1,899	2,558	852	707	93	315	5.1	5.1	4.9	12.3
35 to 44 years	19,949	16,877	2,153	2,254	833	674	119	243	4.2	4.0	5.5	10.8
45 to 54 years	15,764	13,594	1,455	1,253	402	311	52	91	2.5	2.3	3.5	7.3
55 to 64 years	7,595	6,704	582	546	200	159	30	28	2.6	2.4	5.2	5.1
65 years and older	2,566	2,325	166	122	69	53	10	6	2.7	2.3	5.8	4.9
Women, 16 years and older	61,861	50,551	8,438	5,704	3,631	2,303	1,149	598	5.9	4.6	13.6	10.5
16 to 19 years	2,507	2,093	332	239	293	181	99	34	11.7	8.7	29.7	14.1
20 to 24 years	5,924	4,753	934	714	737	456	252	98	12.4	9.6	27.0	13.7
25 to 34 years	13,967	10,975	2,197	1,620	983	582	340	172	7.0	5.3	15.5	10.6
35 to 44 years	16,996	13,735	2,411	1,663	893	571	269	174	5.3	4.2	11.1	10.5
45 to 54 years	14,201	11,874	1,703	1,002	450	320	114	76	3.2	2.7	6.7	7.6
55 to 64 years	6,472	5,537	689	393	219	154	58	36	3.4	2.8	8.5	9.2
65 years and older	1,795	1,584	172	73	57	38	17	9	3.2	2.4	10.1	(²)

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 75,000.

NOTE: Detail for race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Data for 1999,

which were collected in the March 2000 supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 1998 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table 3. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by educational attainment, race, and sex, 1999

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment and race	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Poverty rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older	133,651	71,790	61,861	6,796	3,165	3,631	5.1	4.4	5.9
Less than a high school diploma	15,991	9,728	6,263	2,287	1,257	1,030	14.3	12.9	16.4
Less than 1 year of high school	4,589	2,999	1,591	701	446	255	15.3	14.9	16.1
1-3 years of high school	9,914	5,861	4,054	1,412	720	692	14.2	12.3	17.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,487	868	619	174	91	83	11.7	10.5	13.3
High school graduates, no college	42,601	22,904	19,697	2,535	1,042	1,493	6.0	4.6	7.6
Some college, no degree	27,294	13,840	13,454	1,192	486	706	4.4	3.5	5.2
Associate degree	11,146	5,334	5,812	319	122	196	2.9	2.3	3.4
College graduates	36,619	19,984	16,635	463	257	206	1.3	1.3	1.2
White, 16 years and older	111,714	61,163	50,551	4,830	2,526	2,303	4.3	4.1	4.6
Less than a high school diploma	13,046	8,160	4,887	1,650	1,019	632	12.6	12.5	12.9
Less than 1 year of high school	3,967	2,660	1,307	592	410	182	14.9	15.4	13.9
1-3 years of high school	7,954	4,822	3,132	944	545	399	11.9	11.3	12.8
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,126	678	448	114	64	50	10.1	9.4	11.3
High school graduates, no college	35,536	19,448	16,088	1,758	816	942	4.9	4.2	5.9
Some college, no degree	22,412	11,605	10,807	844	377	467	3.8	3.2	4.3
Associate degree	9,507	4,646	4,861	213	93	119	2.2	2.0	2.5
College graduates	31,213	17,304	13,908	365	222	143	1.2	1.3	1.0
Black, 16 years and older	15,698	7,260	8,438	1,596	447	1,149	10.2	6.2	13.6
Less than a high school diploma	2,206	1,126	1,080	517	168	349	23.4	14.9	32.3
Less than 1 year of high school	365	213	151	74	17	57	20.2	7.8	37.7
1-3 years of high school	1,585	785	800	399	134	264	25.2	17.1	33.0
4 years of high school, no diploma	257	128	128	44	17	27	17.3	13.5	21.1
High school graduates, no college	5,632	2,733	2,899	668	177	491	11.9	6.5	17.0
Some college, no degree	3,790	1,644	2,146	276	71	205	7.3	4.3	9.6
Associate degree	1,172	457	715	81	14	67	6.9	3.1	9.4
College graduates	2,898	1,299	1,598	54	17	37	1.9	1.3	2.3

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

NOTE: Data for 1999, which were collected in the March 2000 supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for

1998 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table 4. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: Poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, and sex, 1999

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation and race	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Poverty rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older ²	133,104	71,451	61,652	6,559	3,017	3,543	4.9	4.2	5.7
Managerial and professional specialty	39,908	20,235	19,674	611	289	322	1.5	1.4	1.6
Executive, administrative, and managerial	19,857	10,917	8,940	339	182	157	1.7	1.7	1.8
Professional specialty	20,051	9,318	10,734	272	107	165	1.4	1.1	1.5
Technical, sales, and administrative support	38,875	13,879	24,996	1,610	387	1,222	4.1	2.8	4.9
Technicians and related support	4,495	2,076	2,419	79	43	36	1.8	2.1	1.5
Sales occupations	15,969	8,069	7,900	955	249	705	6.0	3.1	8.9
Administrative support, including clerical	18,411	3,735	14,676	576	95	482	3.1	2.5	3.3
Service occupations	17,928	7,335	10,593	1,937	570	1,367	10.8	7.8	12.9
Private household	848	46	803	199	9	190	23.4	(³)	23.6
Protective service	2,381	1,964	417	76	47	29	3.2	2.4	6.9
Service, except private household and protective	14,699	5,325	9,374	1,662	514	1,148	11.3	9.6	12.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	14,543	13,155	1,388	621	537	85	4.3	4.1	6.1
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	18,418	14,090	4,328	1,263	830	432	6.9	5.9	10.0
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7,524	4,811	2,714	483	235	248	6.4	4.9	9.1
Transportation and material moving occupations	5,638	5,059	579	278	228	50	4.9	4.5	8.6
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5,256	4,221	1,036	502	367	135	9.5	8.7	13.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	3,294	2,642	652	518	404	114	15.7	15.3	17.4
White, 16 years and older ²	111,384	60,949	50,435	4,705	2,438	2,267	4.2	4.0	4.5
Managerial and professional specialty	34,291	17,754	16,537	494	257	236	1.4	1.4	1.4
Executive, administrative, and managerial	17,311	9,805	7,505	283	164	118	1.6	1.7	1.6
Professional specialty	16,980	7,948	9,032	211	93	118	1.2	1.2	1.3
Technical, sales, and administrative support	32,774	11,922	20,852	1,061	318	743	3.2	2.7	3.6
Technicians and related support	3,738	1,743	1,995	63	43	20	1.7	2.5	1.0
Sales occupations	13,892	7,241	6,651	618	206	412	4.4	2.8	6.2
Administrative support, including clerical	15,144	2,939	12,206	380	68	311	2.5	2.3	2.6
Service occupations	13,613	5,636	7,977	1,266	403	863	9.3	7.1	10.8
Private household	634	29	605	133	3	130	21.0	(³)	21.5
Protective service	1,805	1,544	261	34	20	14	1.9	1.3	5.5
Service, except private household and protective	11,173	4,062	7,112	1,098	380	719	9.8	9.4	10.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	12,845	11,689	1,157	522	460	62	4.1	3.9	5.4
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	14,654	11,381	3,274	888	634	254	6.1	5.6	7.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5,971	3,919	2,052	325	174	151	5.4	4.4	7.4
Transportation and material moving occupations	4,551	4,108	443	209	180	29	4.6	4.4	6.5
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4,132	3,353	779	354	280	74	8.6	8.3	9.5
Farming, forestry, and fishing	3,098	2,475	623	473	365	108	15.3	14.8	17.3
Black, 16 years and older ²	15,528	7,165	8,363	1,502	402	1,100	9.7	5.6	13.1
Managerial and professional specialty	3,352	1,270	2,082	76	17	59	2.3	1.4	2.8
Executive, administrative, and managerial	1,547	620	927	35	7	28	2.3	1.1	3.1
Professional specialty	1,805	650	1,155	40	10	30	2.2	1.6	2.6
Technical, sales, and administrative support	4,401	1,219	3,182	457	39	419	10.4	3.2	13.2
Technicians and related support	495	181	314	12	0	12	2.3	0.0	3.7
Sales occupations	1,374	484	889	282	19	263	20.5	4.0	29.5
Administrative support, including clerical	2,532	553	1,979	164	20	145	6.5	3.5	7.3
Service occupations	3,415	1,280	2,135	577	126	451	16.9	9.8	21.1
Private household	156	8	147	58	6	52	37.2	(³)	35.2
Protective service	508	360	148	38	24	14	7.4	6.5	9.5
Service, except private household and protective	2,751	912	1,839	481	96	385	17.5	10.6	20.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	1,273	1,116	157	65	46	19	5.1	4.1	11.9
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	2,930	2,144	785	292	144	147	10.0	6.7	18.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	1,113	648	465	126	48	79	11.3	7.3	16.9
Transportation and material moving occupations	925	802	122	54	33	21	5.9	4.1	17.3
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	892	694	198	111	64	48	12.5	9.2	24.0
Farming, forestry, and fishing	132	117	15	35	30	5	26.9	25.6	(³)

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force who worked during the year.

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

³ Data not shown where base is less than 75,000.

NOTE: Data for 1999, which were collected in the March 2000 supplement

to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 1998 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table 5. Persons in families and unrelated individuals: Poverty status and work experience, 1999

(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 persons ¹	209,067	54,714	55,247	5,475	17,180	12,669	1,760	9,763	4,003	429	3,832	43,996
With labor force activity	149,042	43,850	36,715	2,576	12,719	9,370	767	6,712	3,224	168	2,740	30,200
1 to 26 weeks	15,391	1,574	3,774	1,560	3,001	941	498	1,104	194	82	308	2,355
27 weeks or more	133,651	42,276	32,941	1,016	9,718	8,429	269	5,607	3,030	87	2,432	27,845
With no labor force activity	60,025	10,864	18,532	2,900	4,461	3,298	993	3,051	779	261	1,091	13,796
At or above poverty level												
All persons ¹	187,707	52,059	52,575	5,063	16,402	9,144	1,218	8,289	3,531	371	3,548	35,508
With labor force activity	139,376	42,304	35,842	2,488	12,414	7,153	608	6,087	2,944	152	2,614	26,770
1 to 26 weeks	12,521	1,396	3,493	1,513	2,896	342	380	856	124	73	252	1,197
27 weeks or more	126,855	40,909	32,349	975	9,519	6,811	228	5,231	2,820	79	2,362	25,573
With no labor force activity	48,331	9,754	16,733	2,575	3,987	1,991	610	2,202	588	219	934	8,738
Below poverty level												
All persons ¹	21,360	2,655	2,672	413	778	3,525	542	1,474	472	58	284	8,488
With labor force activity	9,666	1,546	873	88	305	2,218	159	625	280	16	126	3,430
1 to 26 weeks	2,871	179	282	47	105	599	118	248	70	9	56	1,159
27 weeks or more	6,796	1,367	592	41	200	1,618	41	377	211	7	69	2,272
With no labor force activity	11,694	1,110	1,798	325	474	1,307	383	849	191	42	158	5,058
Poverty rate²												
All persons ¹	10.2	4.9	4.8	7.5	4.5	27.8	30.8	15.1	11.8	13.5	7.4	19.3
With labor force activity	6.5	3.5	2.4	3.4	2.4	23.7	20.7	9.3	8.7	9.5	4.6	11.4
1 to 26 weeks	18.7	11.3	7.5	3.0	3.5	63.7	23.7	22.5	35.9	10.6	18.3	49.2
27 weeks or more	5.1	3.2	1.8	4.1	2.1	19.2	15.3	6.7	7.0	8.4	2.9	8.2
With no labor force activity	19.5	10.2	9.7	11.2	10.6	39.6	38.6	27.8	24.6	16.1	14.5	36.7

¹ Data on families include persons in primary families and unrelated subfamilies.

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

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and older. Data for 1999, which were collected in the March 2000 supplement to the Current Population

Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 1998 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table 6. Primary families: Poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1999

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Poverty rate ¹
Total primary families	60,454	56,699	3,755	6.2
With related children under 18	34,542	31,337	3,205	9.3
Without children	25,912	25,362	550	2.1
With one member in the labor force	24,649	21,506	3,143	12.8
With two or more members in the labor force	35,805	35,193	612	1.7
With two members	29,970	29,421	550	1.8
With three or more members	5,835	5,772	62	1.1
Married-couple families:				
With related children under 18	25,658	24,314	1,343	5.2
Without children	21,158	20,845	313	1.5
With one member in the labor force	15,285	14,083	1,202	7.9
Husband	11,413	10,476	937	8.2
Wife	3,175	2,967	207	6.5
Relative	698	639	58	8.4
With two or more members in the labor force	31,530	31,076	454	1.4
With two members	26,518	26,112	406	1.5
With three or more members	5,012	4,964	48	1.0
Families maintained by women:				
With related children under 18	6,920	5,269	1,651	23.9
Without children	3,154	2,973	181	5.7
With one member in the labor force	7,189	5,498	1,691	23.5
Householder	5,870	4,380	1,490	25.4
Relative	1,319	1,118	201	15.2
With two or more members in the labor force	2,885	2,744	141	4.9
Families maintained by men:				
With related children under 18	1,965	1,754	211	10.7
Without children	1,600	1,543	56	3.5
With one member in the labor force	2,175	1,925	250	11.5
Householder	1,795	1,602	193	10.8
Relative	380	323	57	14.9
With two or more members in the labor force	1,390	1,372	18	1.3

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. Data for 1999, which were collected in the March 2000 supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data

for 1998 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table 7. Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and living arrangement, 1999

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Poverty rate ¹
Age and sex				
Total unrelated individuals	27,845	25,573	2,272	8.2
16 to 19 years	621	400	221	35.6
20 to 24 years	3,608	2,986	622	17.2
25 to 64 years	22,435	21,069	1,367	6.1
65 years and older	1,180	1,118	62	5.3
Men	15,362	14,214	1,148	7.5
Women	12,483	11,360	1,124	9.0
Race and Hispanic origin				
White	23,069	21,258	1,811	7.8
Men	12,777	11,823	955	7.5
Women	10,291	9,435	856	8.3
Black	3,642	3,262	381	10.5
Men	1,930	1,775	155	8.0
Women	1,713	1,487	226	13.2
Hispanic origin	2,283	1,998	286	12.5
Men	1,521	1,349	172	11.3
Women	762	649	113	14.9
Living arrangement				
Living alone	14,765	13,969	796	5.4
Living with others	13,080	11,604	1,476	11.3

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

NOTE: Detail for race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Data for 1999, which were collected in the March 2000

supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 1998 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Table 8. Persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 1999

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Poverty rate ¹
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	104,968	101,369	3,599	3.4
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	86,868	86,262	606	.7
Unemployment only	5,320	4,907	413	7.8
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,025	1,983	42	2.1
Low earnings only	7,444	5,939	1,505	20.2
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	883	800	83	9.4
Unemployment and low earnings	1,426	820	606	42.5
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	623	435	189	30.3
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	377	222	155	41.1

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 1999 was \$245.21 per week.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and older. Data for 1999, which were collected in the March 2000 supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 1998

and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2000 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January 2000" in the February 2000 issue of *Employment and Earnings*.