

Household survey data show labor market improvements in 2006

Unemployment declined, employment increased, and earnings were about in line with inflation in 2006; the long-term unemployed saw their numbers fall

Sara Kline

Unemployment decreased, and employment, as measured by the Current Population Survey (CPS), rose.¹ Other labor market measures showed improvement over the year. In the fourth quarter of 2006, 6.8 million people were unemployed and the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. Both measures were down from a year earlier. Total employment and the employment-population ratio increased during the year, to 145.6 million and 63.3 percent, respectively. The labor force—the sum of the employed and the unemployed—grew over the year at about the same pace as the population; as a result, the proportion of the population in the labor force—the labor force participation rate—was little changed in 2006.

Unemployment levels and rates—both overall and for all of the major worker groups—were lower at the end of 2006 than a year earlier. The unemployment rate for persons aged 16 years and older was 4.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006, down from 5.0 percent a year before. Between the fourth quarter of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006, the unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage point, to 4.7 percent. The rate remained at that level for the next two quarters and then declined by an additional 0.2 percentage point, to 4.5 percent, in the final quarter of 2006.

The number of unemployed persons declined by 641,000 over the year, reaching 6.8 million in the fourth quarter. Setting the pattern for the overall unemployment rate, the number of unemployed fell by 375,000 between the fourth quarter of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006, remained fairly flat during the second and third quarters of 2006, and then fell by an additional 289,000 between the third and fourth quarters. (See table 1 and chart 1; tables are collected at the end of this article.)

Like the overall unemployment rate, the unemployment rates for all of the major worker groups declined over the year. The decrease was greatest for blacks and those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity: both were down 1.2 percentage points by the fourth quarter of 2006. Blacks ended the year with an unemployment rate of 8.5 percent, Hispanics with 4.8 percent. The unemployment rate of whites also fell over the year, to 3.9 percent at the end of 2006 from 4.3 percent the previous year. Over 2006, the unemployment rate among Asians dropped by 0.7 percentage point, to 2.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) at the end of the year.

Both adult men and adult women ended the year with an unemployment rate of 3.9 percent, down 0.4 percentage point and 0.6 percentage point, respectively. The unemployment rate of teenagers (those aged 16 to 19 years) varied throughout the year and was 15.1 percent in the fourth quarter, 1.0 per-

Sara Kline is an economist formerly in the Division of Labor Force Statistics, Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Differences between employment estimates from the establishment and household surveys

The Bureau of Labor Statistics produces two monthly employment series that are independently obtained: the estimate of total nonfarm jobs derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, also called the establishment or payroll survey; and the estimate of total civilian employment based on the Current Population Survey (CPS), also called the household survey.

These surveys use different definitions of employment, as well as different survey and estimation methodologies. The CES survey is a survey of employers that provides a measure of the number of payroll jobs in nonfarm industries. The CPS is a survey of households that provides a measure of employed persons aged 16 years and older in the civilian noninstitutional population. Employment estimates from the CPS give information about workers in both the agricultural and nonagricultural sectors and in any type of work arrangement: wage and salary jobs (including employment in a private household), self-employment, and unpaid work of at least 15 hours a week in a business or farm operated by a family member. CES payroll employment estimates are restricted to nonagricultural wage and salary jobs and exclude private household workers. As a result, employment estimates from the CPS are higher than those from the CES survey. In the CPS, however, employed persons are counted only once, regardless of whether they hold more than one job during the survey reference period. By contrast, because the CES survey counts the number of jobs rather than persons, multiple jobholders are counted once for each nonfarm job they hold.

The reference periods for the surveys also differ. In the CPS, the reference period is the calendar week that includes the 12th day of the month. In the CES survey, employers report the number of work-

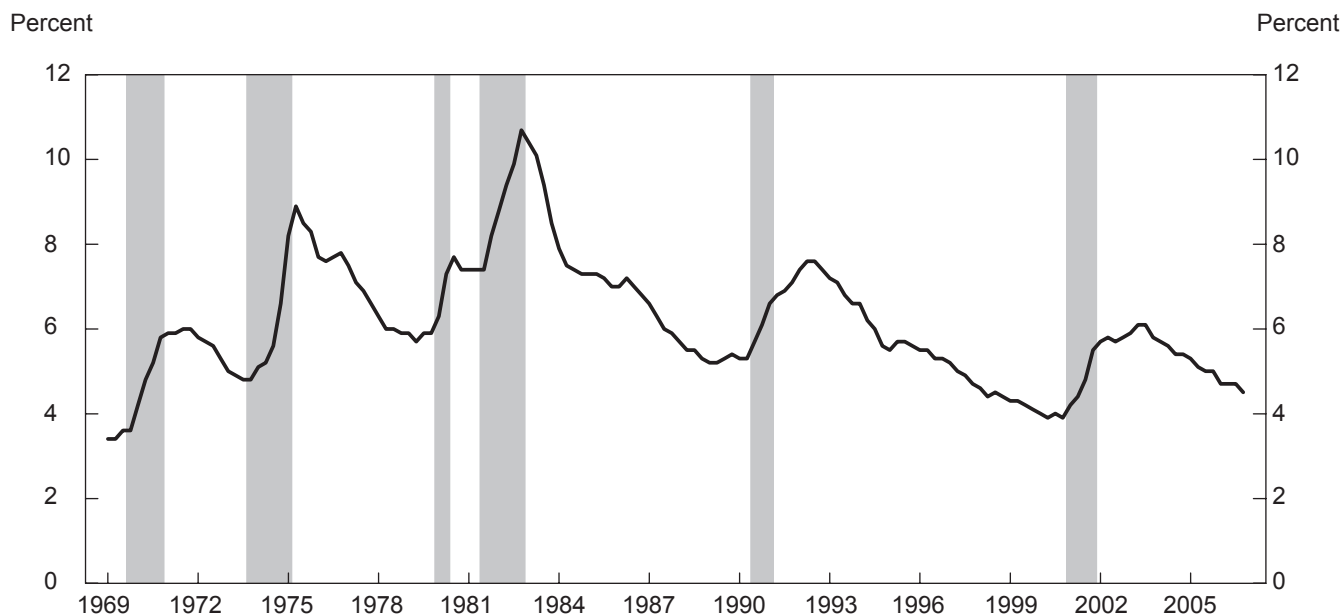
ers on their payrolls for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Because pay periods vary in length among employers and may be longer than 1 week, the CES employment estimates can reflect a longer reference period.

For purposes of comparison, however, some adjustments can be made to CPS employment estimates to make them more similar in definitional scope to CES employment. The Bureau routinely carries out these adjustments to evaluate how the two employment series are tracking. The long-term trends in the two surveys' employment measures are quite comparable. Nonetheless, throughout the history of the surveys, there have been periods when the trends diverged or when growth in one series significantly outpaced growth in the other. For example, following the end of the 2001 recession, CPS employment began to trend upward while CES employment continued to decline for a number of months.

In 2006, CES employment (revised as of February 2007) and CPS employment (adjusted for comparability with CES employment) showed similar growth over the first two quarters. In the third and fourth quarters, CPS employment expanded more than CES employment. Short-term trend differences such as this are not uncommon, but if such a discrepancy persists over a number of quarters, it becomes an issue of interest for labor market analysts.

The Bureau publishes a monthly report with the latest trends and comparisons of CES and CPS employment. (See "Employment from the BLS household and payroll surveys: summary of recent trends," on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/web/ces_cps_trends.pdf.) This report includes a summary of possible causes of differences in the surveys' employment trends, as well as links to additional research on the topic.

Chart 1. Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted quarterly data, 1969–2006



NOTE: Shaded regions represent recessions as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

centage point lower than a year earlier.

Among workers aged 25 years and older, the unemployment rate of those with less than a high school diploma declined 1.0 percentage point, to 6.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006. The unemployment rates for high school graduates with no college and for those with some college or an associate's degree each fell 0.5 percentage point, to 4.2 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively. The jobless rate declined and remained lowest for college graduates, 1.9 percent at the end of the year. (See chart 2.)

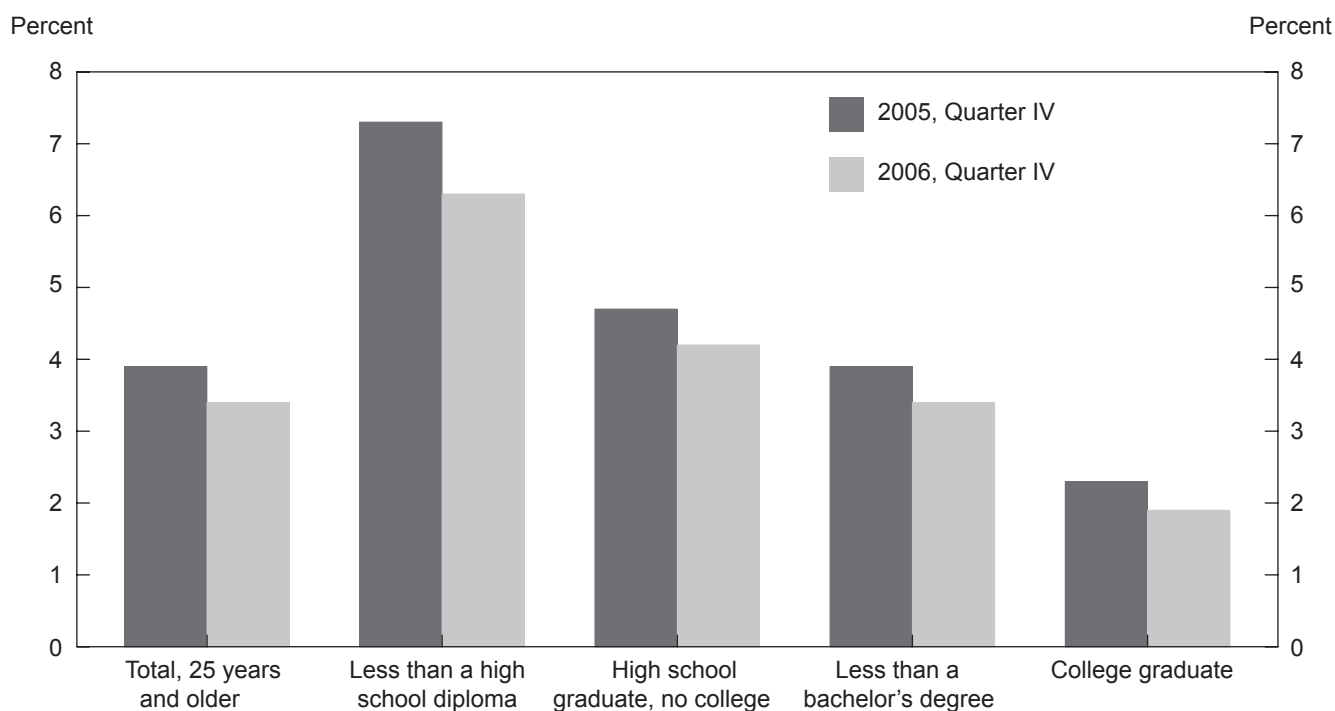
The number of persons who were unemployed due to job loss declined in 2006, as did the number of long-term unemployed. The number of persons who were unemployed due to job loss fell to 3.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2006, down 339,000 from the previous year. The majority of the overall decrease in unemployment was among job losers. This involuntary job loss category includes those on temporary layoff (awaiting recall) and those not on layoff—permanent job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs. The over-the-year decline occurred largely among persons who did not expect to be recalled to work. Reentrants to the labor force accounted for about one-quarter of the decrease in the number of unemployed persons. (Reentrants had been in the labor force previously, had spent time out of the labor

force, and once again were actively seeking work.) Over the year, the number of unemployed reentrants fell by 160,000, to 2.2 million. Both the number of job leavers (unemployed persons who voluntarily left their jobs) and the number of new entrants to the labor force were down slightly from 1 year earlier. (See table 2 and chart 3.)

The number of persons unemployed 27 weeks or longer at the end of 2006 was down 285,000 from a year earlier. (See chart 4.) These long-term unemployed accounted for a slightly smaller portion of total unemployment than they did the previous year: 16.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006, down from 18.7 percent in the last quarter of 2005. At the end of 2006, the number of unemployed persons who had been looking for work for less than 5 weeks was 2.6 million, a decline of 126,000 over the year. The percentage of the unemployed who were jobless for less than 5 weeks was up 1.7 percentage points, to 38.4 percent. The average (mean) duration and median duration of unemployment were 16.2 and 7.8 weeks, respectively, in the last quarter of 2006, both figures slightly lower than a year earlier.

Paralleling the unemployment rate, the alternative measures of labor underutilization showed improvement in 2006. In addition to publishing the official unemployment rate, the Bureau produces five alternative labor underutilization

Chart 2. Unemployment rate by educational attainment, seasonally adjusted data, selected quarters



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

indicators each month. These measures performed much as did the official unemployment rate: over the year, they were all down. Labeled U-1 through U-6 (U-3 is the official unemployment rate), the measures provide additional insight into the degree to which labor resources are underutilized; each one is presented as a percent of the labor force.² The first two measures single out a subgroup of the unemployed: persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer (U-1); and job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs (U-2). U-4 through U-6 include broader groups in addition to the unemployed persons in U-3: discouraged workers (U-4); all marginally attached workers (U-5); and the marginally attached plus persons employed part time for economic reasons (U-6). (See table 3.)

The civilian labor force grew by 2.3 million in 2006, but the labor force participation rate remained little changed from the previous year. In 2006, as in the previous 2 years, the labor force participation rate was relatively flat, with both the U.S. population and the Nation's labor force having grown in roughly equal proportions. In the fourth quarter of 2006, the rate was 66.3 percent. (See chart 5.)

The labor force participation rates for most of the major

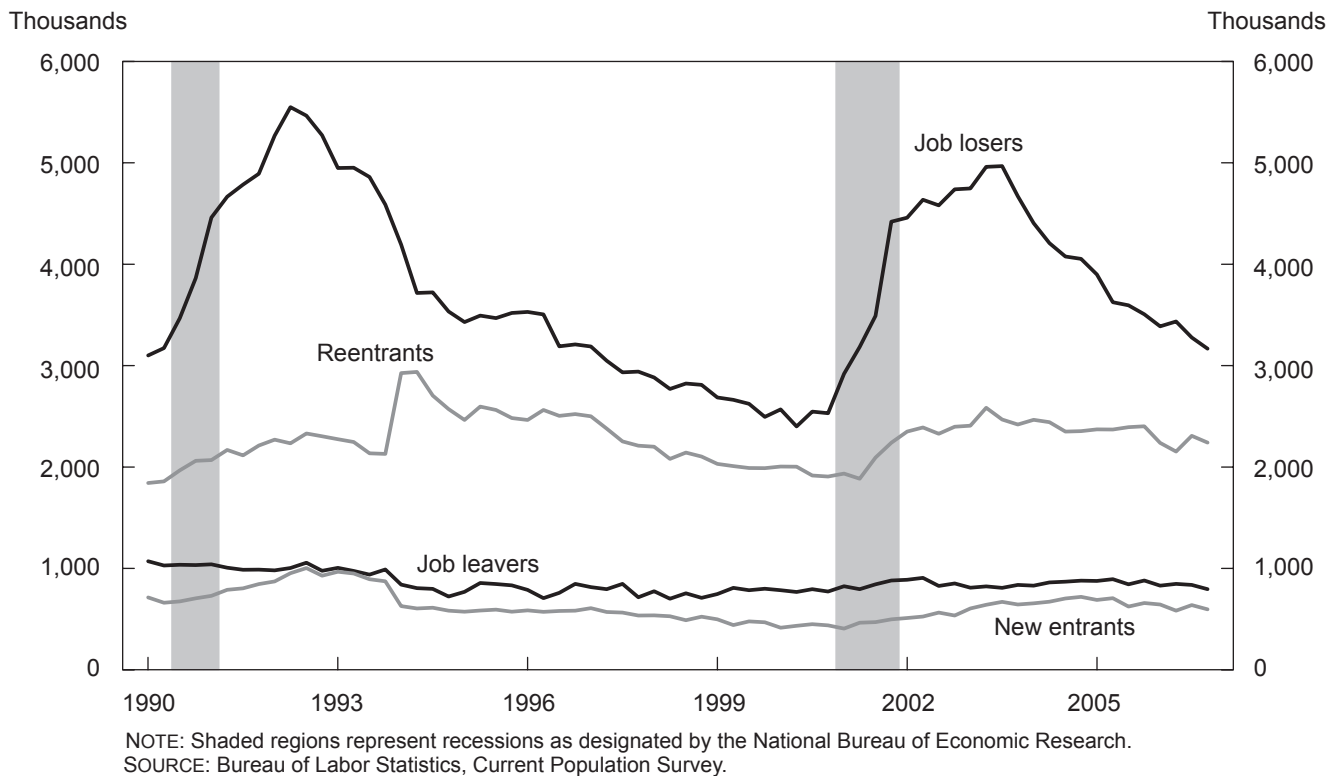
racial and ethnic groups—blacks (64.2 percent), Hispanics (68.8 percent), and Asians (66.4 percent, not seasonally adjusted)—showed little or no change over the year, as did the participation rate for whites (66.6 percent). (See table 1.)

As the following tabulation shows, labor force participation rates and trends varied by age:

Age	Quarter IV, 2005		Quarter IV, 2006	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Total, 16 years and older	66.1	66.3	66.1	66.3
16 to 19 years	43.5	43.4	43.5	43.4
16 to 17 years	31.5	32.7	31.5	32.7
18 to 19 years	57.9	56.5	57.9	56.5
20 to 24 years	74.8	75.0	74.8	75.0
25 to 34 years	82.9	83.1	82.9	83.1
35 to 44 years	83.7	84.1	83.7	84.1
45 to 54 years	81.6	82.1	81.6	82.1
55 years and older	37.5	38.4	37.5	38.4

In the fourth quarter of 2006, the labor force participation rate for teenagers aged 16 to 19 years was little changed, at 43.4 percent. The teen participation rate remained close to the levels seen in recent years, but lower than the rates of several decades ago. In 2006, approximately three-quarters of young adults (those aged 20 to 24 years) were in the labor force, about the same as a year

Chart 3. Reasons for unemployment, seasonally adjusted quarterly data, 1990–2006



earlier. The labor force participation rate for adults aged 25 to 54 years was 83.1 percent at the end of 2006, slightly higher than in the previous year. In recent years, the rate has remained below the historical highs seen in the late 1990s. In contrast, the labor force participation rate for adults aged 55 years and older has been rising for several years, and it continued to do so in 2006, increasing by 0.9 percentage point, to 38.4 percent. Since 1994, the labor force participation rate for those 55 years and older has increased by 8.1 percentage points.³

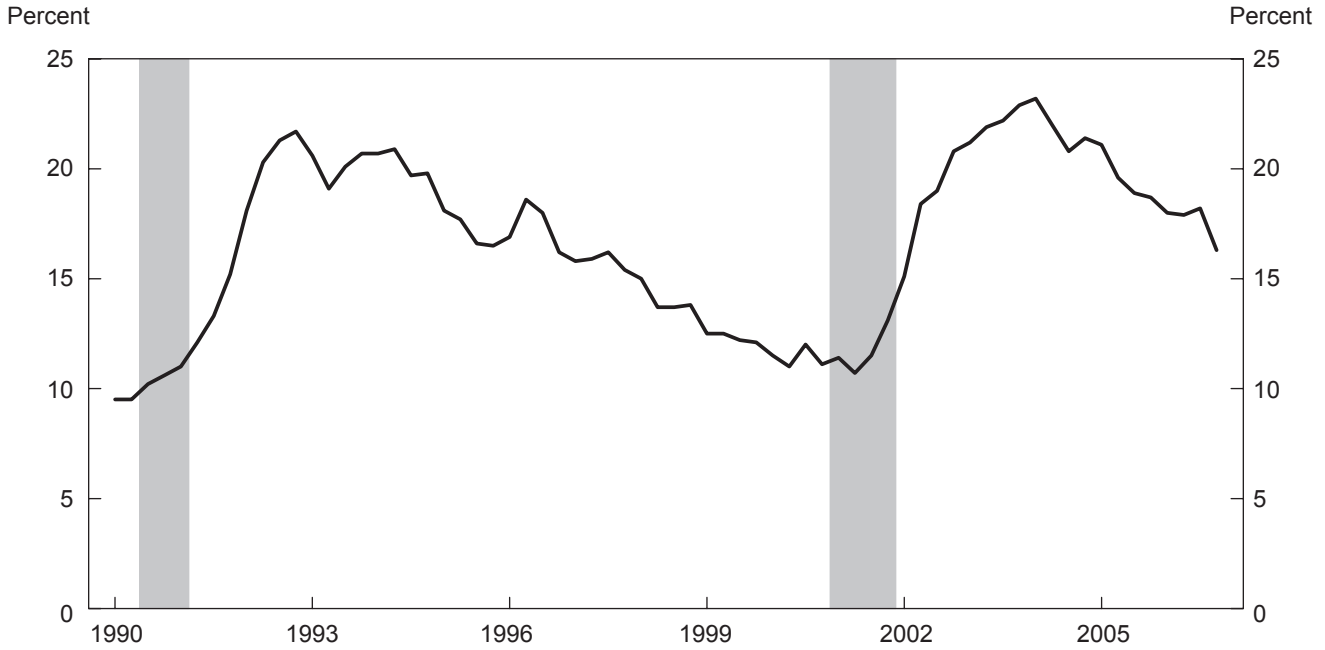
Employment continued to grow in 2006, as did the employment-population ratio. The number of employed persons, as measured by the CPS, continued to grow in 2006, increasing by 3.0 million over the year, to 145.6 million in the fourth quarter. (For more information on the concept of employment, as defined for the household survey and in comparison to its definition for the establishment survey, see the box on page 4.) In 2006, the employment gain for adult men was 1.6 million; for adult women, it was 1.2 million. Employment among teens was little changed over the year.

The number of employed whites rose by 2.1 million in 2006—a slightly larger increase than in the previous year—to 119.7 million in the fourth quarter. The number of employed blacks rose by 525,000 over the year, following a similar-sized gain of 472,000 in 2005. The number of employed Hispanics rose by about 1 million over the year, 34 percent of the overall increase in employment. By comparison, Hispanics accounted for about 14 percent of all employed persons.

The overall employment-population ratio increased 0.5 percentage point, to 63.3 percent, in the fourth quarter of 2006. The ratio edged up over the four quarters of the year. (See chart 5.) The employment-population ratio for both adult men and adult women increased over the year. Although the gap between the ratios for men and women has narrowed significantly over time, the employment-population ratio for adult men remains higher than that for their female counterparts. In the fourth quarter of 2006, the ratios were 73.1 percent and 58.3 percent, respectively. In 2006, the employment-population ratio for teenagers, 36.8 percent, was little changed from the previous year's figure.

With the exception of Asians, whose employment-

Chart 4. Long-term unemployed as a percent of total unemployed, seasonally adjusted quarterly data, 1990–2006



NOTE: Shaded regions represent recessions as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
 SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

population ratio remained little changed over the year, at 64.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted), the major race and ethnic groups saw their ratios increase. During 2006, the Hispanic employment-population ratio—the highest among all the major groups—increased by 1.3 percentage points, to 65.5 percent. For blacks, the ratio rose by 0.9 percentage point, to 58.7 percent, while for whites it rose by 0.5 percentage point, to 64.0 percent.

The number of persons who were self-employed edged up over the year, while the percentage of all employed persons who were self-employed was little changed. In the fourth quarter of 2006, 7.3 percent of employed persons, or 10.6 million, were self-employed. This percentage has changed little since 2000. About 9 of every 10 self-employed persons worked in nonagricultural industries.

The likelihood of self-employment increases with age, as shown in the following tabulation of the self-employed as a percentage of the total employed, not seasonally adjusted:

Age	Fourth quarter, 2006
Total, 16 years and older	7.3
16 to 19 years.	1.1
16 to 17 years	1.2
18 to 19 years	1.1
20 to 24 years	2.3
25 to 34 years	5.0
35 to 44 years	7.3

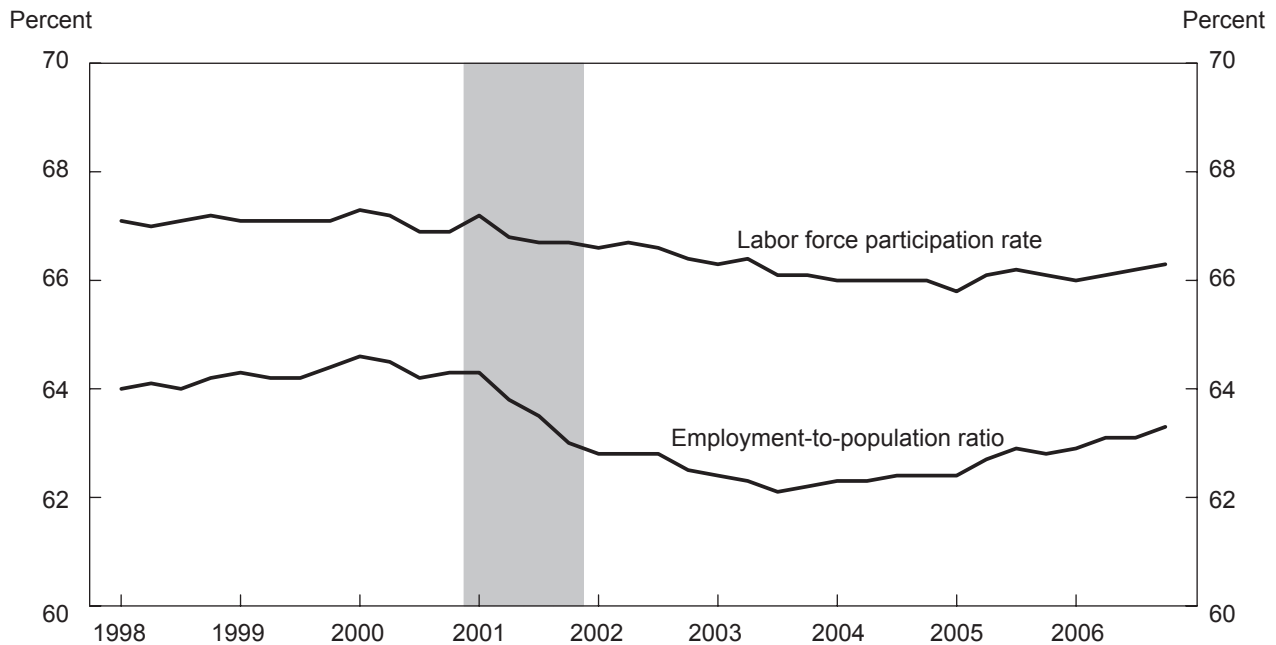
45 to 54 years.....	8.6
55 to 64 years	10.8
65 years and older	18.9

The self-employment rate was highest for those aged 65 years and older—18.9 percent in 2006. In addition, men (8.7 percent) were more likely than women (5.7 percent) to be self-employed.

Employment grew among workers in management, service, and construction occupations in 2006. The number of people employed in management, professional, and related occupations grew by 1.2 million in 2006, slightly more growth than in each of the past few years. (The data in this section are annual averages.) Men and women have a relatively equal share of employment in these occupations and shared the growth fairly equally as well. (See table 4.)

Employment in service occupations rose by 678,000 in 2006. Women accounted for the majority of the increase (402,000). Most found employment in either food preparation (136,000) or personal care (192,000). Among men in service occupations, the largest growth was in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance (119,000). Employment in construction occupations, a traditionally male-dominated category, continued to grow. By far, most of the 362,000 gain in the number of construction workers was among men (345,000). Similarly, in transportation, in which many more

Chart 5. Labor force participation rate and employment-population ratio, seasonally adjusted quarterly data, 1998–2006



NOTE: Shaded regions represent recessions as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

men than women work, more than 85 percent of the increase was among men. Employment in sales and office occupations was little changed in 2006.

Median weekly earnings for full-time wage and salary workers increased in 2006 at about the same rate as inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In 2006, median usual weekly earnings rose by 3.1 percent, to \$671. (The data in this section are annual averages.) Over the year, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 3.2 percent. (See chart 6.) While both men's and women's earnings grew, the ratio of women's earnings to men's earnings was little changed, at 80.8 percent, in 2006. Women's earnings grew 2.6 percent, compared with a 2.9-percent gain in men's earnings. Over time, the earnings gap between the sexes has narrowed considerably: in 1979, women's earnings were 62.5 percent of men's earnings.⁴ (See table 5 and chart 7.)

In 2006, among the major racial and ethnic groups, blacks saw the largest percent increase in earnings, 6.5 percent. Asians experienced the next-highest rate, 4.1 percent. The relative earnings increases for Hispanics and whites were lower: 3.2 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively.

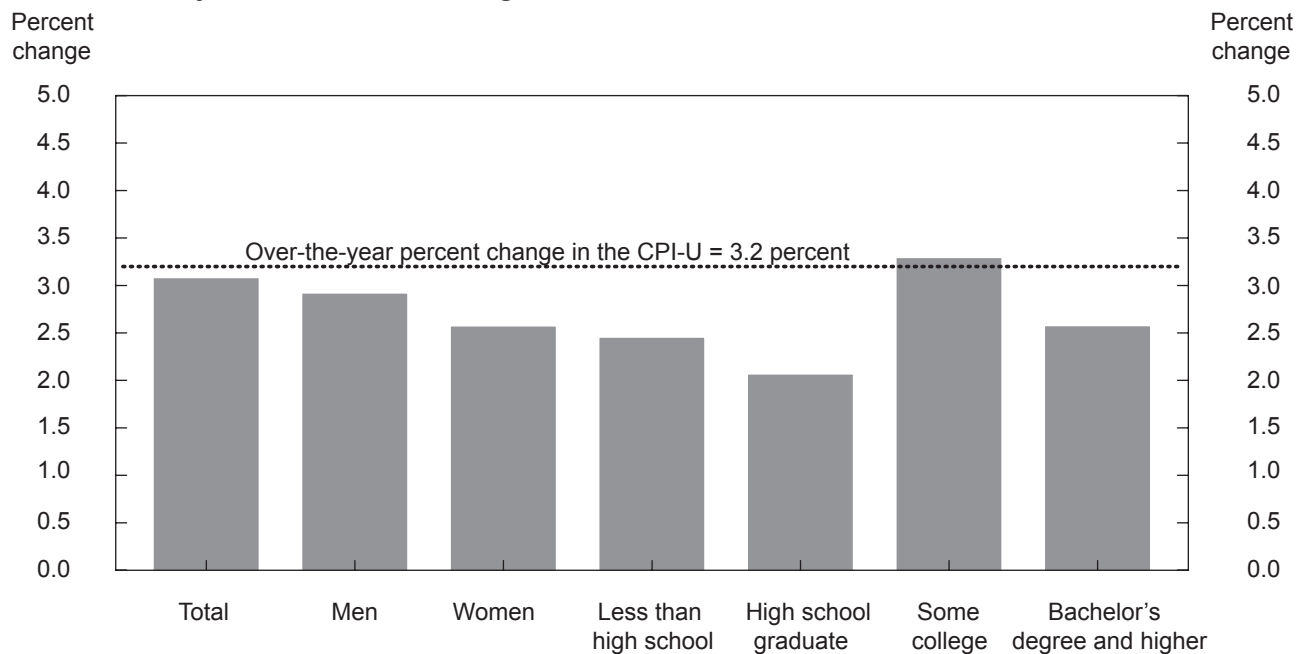
Workers aged 25 years and older with at least a bache-

lor's degree continued to have the highest earnings among the major education groups, \$1,039 in 2006, a 2.6-percent increase over the previous year's figure. Workers with some college or an associate's degree saw the largest over-the-year percentage increase in 2006: earnings for the group were up 3.3 percent, to \$692 per week. Earnings of high school graduates with no college rose 2.1 percent in 2006. Workers with less than a high school diploma earned \$419 per week, up 2.4 percent from 2005. (See table 5.)

The number of persons employed part time for economic reasons and the number of multiple jobholders were essentially unchanged over the year. In the fourth quarter of 2006, the number of persons who worked part time involuntarily, also known as those employed part time for economic reasons, was about the same as in the previous year, 4.2 million. (The data in this section are quarterly averages.) Involuntary part-time workers are persons who would prefer to work full time, but could not because of slack work or business conditions, as well as those who are unable to find full-time work. (See chart 8.)

The number of workers holding more than one job was 7.9 million (not seasonally adjusted) in the fourth quarter of 2006, not significantly different from a year earlier.

Chart 6. Over-the-year percent change in median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, annual averages, 2005–06



NOTE: Data by educational attainment are for those aged 25 years and older.
 SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

er. The percentage of employed persons who were multiple jobholders was unchanged at 5.4 percent. The majority of multiple jobholders have a full-time job with a part-time secondary job (53.0 percent). About 1 in 5 multiple jobholders have two part-time jobs (21.7 percent), and another 1 in 5 have at least one job with hours that vary (20.7 percent). The remainder have two full-time jobs (4.0 percent). These proportions remained stable in 2006. (See table 6.)

The number of persons who wanted a job but were not in the labor force decreased over the year, as did the number of those discouraged over their job prospects. Persons in the civilian noninstitutional population are categorized as either in the labor force—those who are either employed or unemployed—or not in the labor force—those who are neither employed nor actively seeking employment. In 2006, there were 77.4 million persons who were not in the labor force. Of those who were not in the labor force, about 2 in 5 were aged 65 years and older. The number of persons not in the labor force who wanted a job but were not currently looking for one was 4.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2006, down 271,000 from a year earlier.

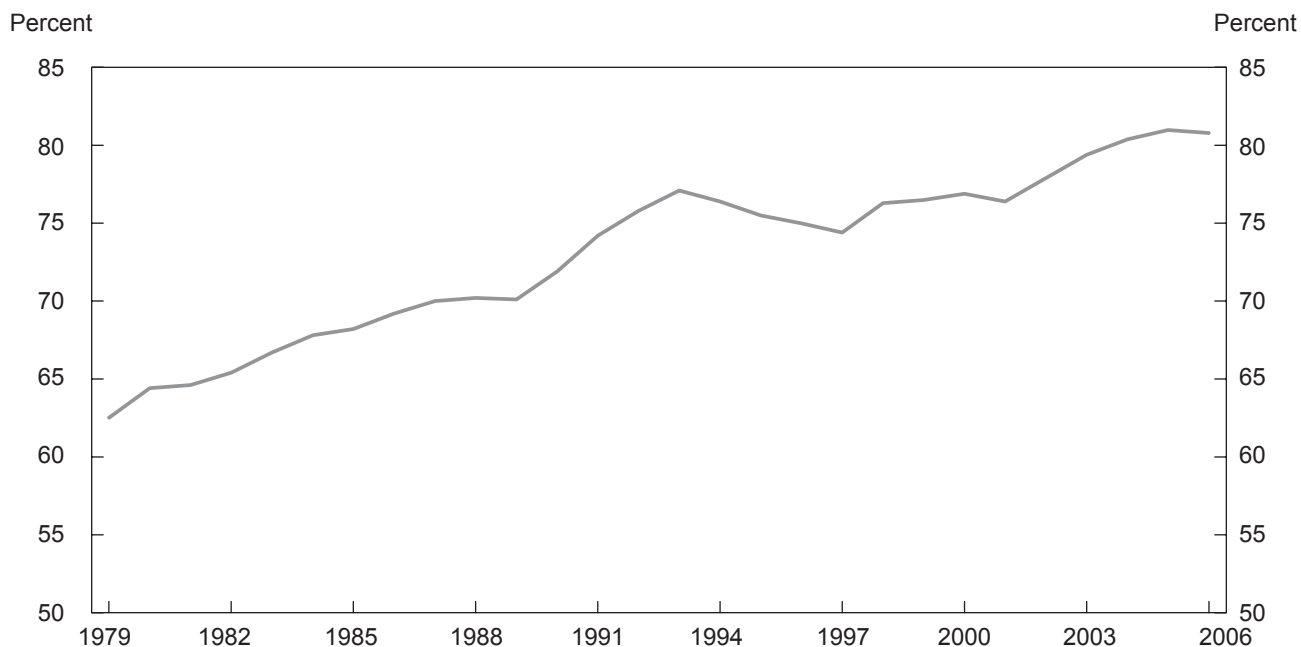
Among the 4.4 million persons who indicated that they

wanted, but were not currently looking for, a job, about 1.4 million had searched for employment in the preceding year and were available to work had they been offered a job. This group is known as marginally attached workers. In the fourth quarter of 2006, the number of such workers was 108,000 lower than it was a year earlier. Some marginally attached persons were not currently looking for a job specifically because they felt that no jobs were available for them. These discouraged workers numbered 318,000 in the fourth quarter of 2006, down from 416,000 a year earlier. (See table 7.)

From October 2005 through October 2006, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau collected special data on Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Following Hurricane Katrina, which struck the Gulf Coast in August 2005, questions were added to the CPS in order to provide labor force information about persons who were forced to leave their homes by the disaster. In October 2006, after 13 months of data collection, the additional questions were discontinued.⁵

The CPS data collected from these questions did not represent all evacuees: persons living outside of the scope

Chart 7. Women's median usual weekly earnings as a percent of men's, full-time wage and salary workers, annual averages, 1979–2006



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

of the survey (such as those living in hotels or shelters) were not included. The number of evacuees identified varied over the period the data were collected—October 2005 through October 2006—due to persons moving in and out of the scope of the survey, as well as both sampling and nonsampling error present in a sample survey such as the CPS.

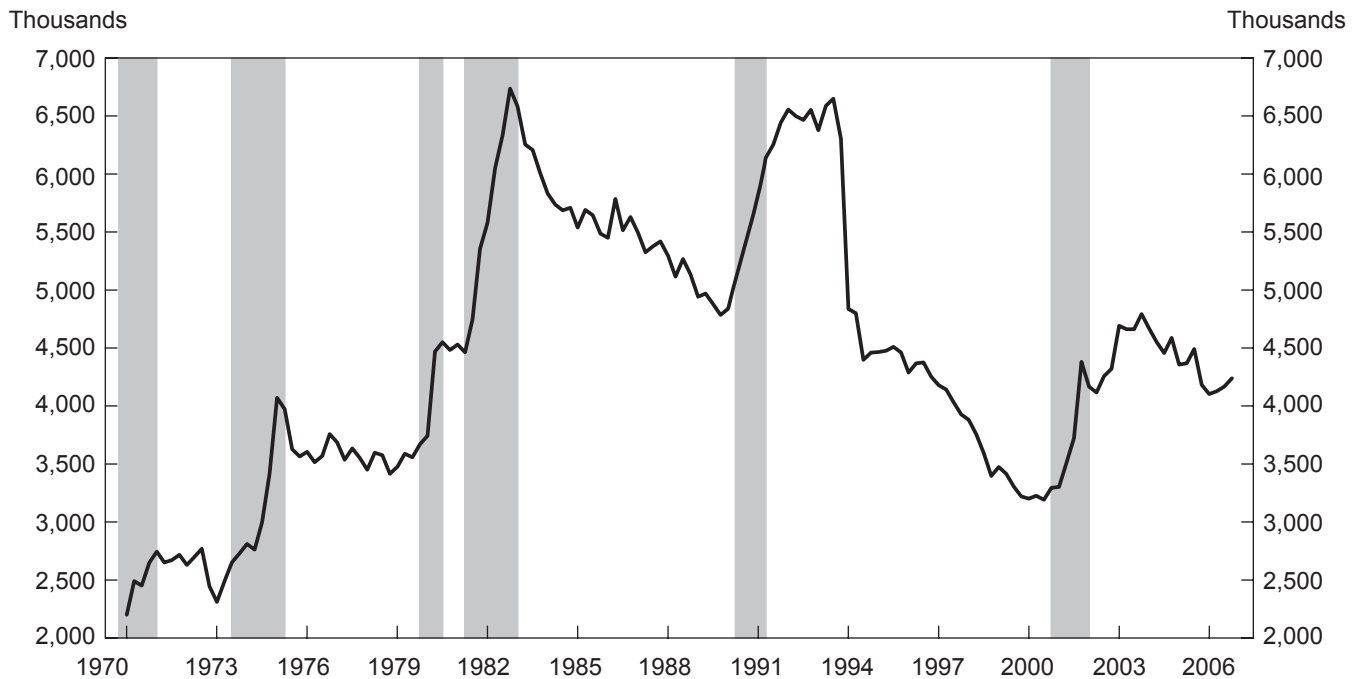
In October 2006, 1.1 million persons aged 16 years and older were identified as having evacuated the residence in which they were living in August 2005 due to Hurricane Katrina. Within the group of evacuees, persons were identified as either having returned to their homes or living in other residences within the scope of the survey. In October 2006, about 3 in 5 persons who had evacuated had returned to their pre-Katrina residences.

The labor force participation rate for all evacuees, including those who had returned to their pre-Katrina homes as well as those who had not, was 62.8 percent. The unemployment rate for all evacuees was 11.0 per-

cent in October. Throughout the year, the unemployment rate for evacuees living in their pre-Katrina residences was considerably lower than the rate for those who had not returned to their pre-Katrina homes (7.0 percent and 17.9 percent, respectively, in October). (See table 8.)

CPS DATA INDICATE THAT THE LABOR MARKET continued to improve in 2006, as shown by a decline in unemployment and an increase in employment. Median weekly earnings increased at a rate similar to that of inflation. Also, fewer persons were unemployed due to job loss, and the long-term unemployed continued to decline in number as well. Labor force participation was little changed over the year. Finally, special labor force data collected on Hurricane Katrina evacuees reflected differences in the labor force status of those who returned to their August 2005 residences and those who had not yet done so. □

Chart 8. Persons employed part time for economic reasons, seasonally adjusted quarterly data, 1970–2006



NOTE: Shaded areas represent recessions as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Beginning in 1994, data are affected by the redesign of the Current Population Survey and are not strictly comparable with data for previous years.
 SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Notes

¹The data in this article are based on information collected in the Current Population Survey (CPS), also called the household survey, a sample survey of some 60,000 households nationwide conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Census Bureau. (For more information about the household survey, see box on page 4.)

Although the CPS is a monthly survey, the data analyzed throughout this article are seasonally adjusted quarterly averages, unless otherwise noted. All over-the-year changes are comparisons of fourth-quarter data from 2005 to 2006.

²For further information about the alternative measures of unemployment, see John E. Bregger and Steven E. Haugen, “BLS introduces new range of alternative unemployment measures,” *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1995, pp. 19–26; on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1995/10/art3full.pdf.

³For additional information on trends in labor force participation, see Abraham Mosisa and Steven Hipple, “Trends in labor force participation in the United States,” *Monthly Labor Review*, October 2006, pp. 35–57; on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2006/10/art3full.pdf.

⁴The CPS first began collecting weekly earnings data each month in 1979.

⁵For more information on the discontinuation of data relating to Hurricane Katrina evacuees, see stats.bls.gov/katrina/notice.htm.

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and older, by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, seasonally adjusted, 2005–06

[In thousands]

Characteristic	Quarter IV, 2005	2006				Change, Quarter IV, 2005, to Quarter IV, 2006
		Quarter I	Quarter II	Quarter III	Quarter IV	
Total						
Civilian labor force.....	150,093	150,429	151,094	151,703	152,425	2,332
Participation rate.....	66.1	66.0	66.1	66.2	66.3	.2
Employed	142,655	143,366	144,065	144,618	145,629	2,974
Employment-population ratio.....	62.8	62.9	63.1	63.1	63.3	.5
Unemployed	7,438	7,063	7,029	7,086	6,797	-641
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	-.5
Men, 20 years and older						
Civilian labor force.....	76,779	77,118	77,389	77,592	78,131	1,352
Participation rate.....	75.7	75.9	75.9	75.8	76.1	.4
Employed	73,484	73,966	74,201	74,465	75,082	1,598
Employment-population ratio.....	72.5	72.8	72.8	72.8	73.1	.6
Unemployed	3,294	3,152	3,188	3,128	3,049	-245
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	-.4
Women, 20 years and older						
Civilian labor force.....	66,134	66,068	66,417	66,828	67,002	868
Participation rate.....	60.5	60.3	60.5	60.7	60.7	.2
Employed	63,149	63,269	63,651	64,042	64,359	1,210
Employment-population ratio.....	57.8	57.7	58.0	58.1	58.3	.5
Unemployed	2,985	2,798	2,765	2,786	2,644	-341
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.9	-.6
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years						
Civilian labor force.....	7,181	7,244	7,289	7,284	7,292	111
Participation rate.....	43.5	43.8	43.8	43.5	43.4	-.1
Employed	6,022	6,131	6,212	6,112	6,188	166
Employment-population ratio.....	36.5	37.1	37.3	36.5	36.8	.3
Unemployed	1,159	1,113	1,076	1,172	1,104	-55
Unemployment rate	16.1	15.4	14.8	16.1	15.1	-1.0
White						
Civilian labor force.....	122,857	123,104	123,561	124,065	124,561	1,704
Participation rate.....	66.3	66.3	66.4	66.5	66.6	.3
Employed	117,555	118,088	118,546	119,024	119,653	2,098
Employment-population ratio.....	63.5	63.6	63.7	63.8	64.0	.5
Unemployed	5,302	5,016	5,015	5,041	4,908	-394
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	-.4
Black or African-American						
Civilian labor force.....	17,101	17,199	17,292	17,318	17,445	344
Participation rate.....	64.0	64.1	64.2	64.0	64.2	.2
Employed	15,441	15,622	15,724	15,743	15,966	525
Employment-population ratio.....	57.8	58.2	58.4	58.2	58.7	.9
Unemployed	1,659	1,577	1,567	1,575	1,479	-180
Unemployment rate	9.7	9.2	9.1	9.1	8.5	-1.2
Asian¹						
Civilian labor force.....	6,628	6,652	6,696	6,767	6,795	167
Participation rate.....	66.3	66.3	66.0	66.2	66.4	.1
Employed	6,397	6,435	6,471	6,577	6,606	209
Employment-population ratio.....	63.9	64.1	63.8	64.4	64.6	.7
Unemployed	231	217	225	190	188	-43
Unemployment rate	3.5	3.3	3.4	2.8	2.8	-.7
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
Civilian labor force.....	20,185	20,463	20,616	20,686	20,998	813
Participation rate.....	68.3	68.9	68.8	68.4	68.8	.5
Employed	18,982	19,342	19,542	19,581	19,981	999
Employment-population ratio.....	64.2	65.1	65.2	64.8	65.5	1.3
Unemployed	1,203	1,121	1,074	1,105	1,017	-186
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.3	4.8	-1.2

¹ Data for Asians are not seasonally adjusted.

NOTE: Beginning in 2006, data reflect revised population controls. Estimates for race and Hispanic-ethnicity groups do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races and because persons

of Hispanic ethnicity may be of any race and are also included in the race groups.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Table 2. Unemployed persons by reason and duration of unemployment, quarterly averages, seasonally adjusted, 2005–06

[In thousands]

Reason and duration	Quarter IV, 2005	2006				Change, Quarter IV, 2005, to Quarter IV, 2006
		Quarter I	Quarter II	Quarter III	Quarter IV	
Reason for unemployment						
Level:						
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	3,507	3,389	3,437	3,278	3,168	-339
On temporary layoff	914	894	948	896	960	46
Not on temporary layoff	2,593	2,495	2,489	2,382	2,207	-386
Job leavers	879	830	846	836	794	-85
Reentrants	2,402	2,239	2,154	2,310	2,242	-160
New entrants	658	643	582	637	595	-63
Percent distribution:						
Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs	47.1	47.7	49.0	46.4	46.6	-.5
On temporary layoff	12.3	12.6	13.5	12.7	14.1	1.8
Not on temporary layoff	34.8	35.1	35.5	33.7	32.5	-2.3
Job leavers	11.8	11.7	12.1	11.8	11.7	-.1
Reentrants	32.3	31.5	30.7	32.7	33.0	.7
New entrants	8.8	9.1	8.3	9.0	8.8	.0
Duration of unemployment						
Level:						
Less than 5 weeks	2,730	2,608	2,608	2,628	2,604	-126
5 to 14 weeks	2,245	2,115	2,139	2,149	2,079	-166
15 weeks or longer	2,460	2,359	2,267	2,317	2,098	-362
15 to 26 weeks	1,068	1,083	1,010	1,025	990	-78
27 weeks or longer	1,393	1,275	1,257	1,293	1,108	-285
Average (mean) duration, in weeks	17.6	17.2	16.7	17.3	16.2	-1.4
Median duration, in weeks	8.5	8.6	8.2	8.3	7.8	-.7
Percent distribution:						
Less than 5 weeks	36.7	36.8	37.2	37.0	38.4	1.7
5 to 14 weeks	30.2	29.9	30.5	30.3	30.7	.5
15 weeks or longer	33.1	33.3	32.3	32.7	30.9	-2.2
15 to 26 weeks	14.4	15.3	14.4	14.4	14.6	.2
27 weeks or longer	18.7	18.0	17.9	18.2	16.3	-2.4

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Table 3. Alternative measures of labor underutilization, quarterly averages, seasonally adjusted, 2005–06

[In thousands]

Measure	Quarter IV, 2005	2006				Change, Quarter IV, 2005, to Quarter IV, 2006
		Quarter I	Quarter II	Quarter III	Quarter IV	
U-1, Persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	-0.2
U-2, Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	-2
U-3, Total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (official unemployment rate)	5.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	-5
U-4, Total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.....	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.7	-5
U-5, Total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.3	-6
U-6, Total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.1	-5

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Table 4. Employment by major occupation and sex, annual averages, 2005–06

[In thousands]

Occupation	Total			Men			Women		
	2005	2006	Change, 2005–06	2005	2006	Change, 2005–06	2005	2006	Change, 2005–06
Total, 16 years and older	141,730	144,427	2,697	75,973	77,502	1,529	65,757	66,925	1,168
Management, professional, and related	49,245	50,420	1,175	24,349	24,928	579	24,896	25,492	596
Management, business, and financial operations	20,450	21,233	783	11,761	12,347	586	8,689	8,886	197
Professional and related	28,795	29,187	392	12,588	12,581	-7	16,207	16,606	399
Service	23,133	23,811	678	9,882	10,159	277	13,251	13,653	402
Health care support	3,092	3,132	40	339	333	-6	2,753	2,799	46
Protective service	2,894	2,939	45	2,246	2,284	38	648	654	6
Food preparation and serving related	7,374	7,606	232	3,202	3,297	95	4,173	4,309	136
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	5,241	5,381	140	3,111	3,230	119	2,130	2,151	21
Personal care and service	4,531	4,754	223	984	1,014	30	3,548	3,740	192
Sales and office	35,962	36,141	179	13,190	13,275	85	22,772	22,866	94
Sales and related	16,433	16,641	208	8,362	8,478	116	8,072	8,163	91
Office and administrative support	19,529	19,500	-29	4,829	4,797	-32	14,700	14,703	3
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	15,348	15,830	482	14,635	15,079	444	713	752	39
Farming, fishing, and forestry	976	961	-15	756	750	-6	220	212	-8
Construction and extraction	9,145	9,507	362	8,871	9,216	345	274	292	18
Installation, maintenance, and repair	5,226	5,362	136	5,008	5,114	106	219	248	29
Production, transportation, and material moving	18,041	18,224	183	13,917	14,061	144	4,124	4,163	39
Production	9,378	9,378	0	6,540	6,529	-11	2,838	2,850	12
Transportation and material moving	8,664	8,846	182	7,377	7,533	156	1,286	1,313	27

NOTE: Data may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Table 5. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, by selected characteristics, annual averages, 2005–06

Characteristic	2005	2006	Percentage change, 2005–06
Total, 16 years and older.....	\$651	\$671	3.1
Men	722	743	2.9
Women	585	600	2.6
Race or ethnicity			
White	672	690	2.7
Men	743	761	2.4
Women	596	609	2.2
Black or African-American	520	554	6.5
Men	559	591	5.7
Women	499	519	4.0
Asian	753	784	4.1
Men	825	882	6.9
Women	665	699	5.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	471	486	3.2
Men	489	505	3.3
Women	429	440	2.6
Occupation			
Management, business, and financial operations	997	1,045	4.8
Professional and related.....	902	928	2.9
Service	413	422	2.2
Sales and related	622	628	1.0
Office and administrative support.....	550	572	4.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry	372	387	4.0
Construction and extraction.....	604	619	2.5
Installation, maintenance, and repair	705	742	5.2
Production	538	559	3.9
Transportation and material moving.....	543	556	2.4
Educational attainment			
Total, 25 years and older ¹	696	718	3.2
Less than a high school diploma	409	419	2.4
High school graduate, no college	583	595	2.1
Some college or associate's degree.....	670	692	3.3
Bachelor's degree or higher.....	1,013	1,039	2.6

¹ Earnings figures by educational attainment pertain to persons aged 25 years and older.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Table 6. Multiple jobholders, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted, 2005–06

[In thousands]

Category	Quarter IV, 2005	2006				Change, Quarter IV, 2005, to Quarter IV, 2006
		Quarter I	Quarter II	Quarter III	Quarter IV	
Multiple jobholders ¹	7,688	7,485	7,429	7,496	7,893	205
Percent of employed	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.4	.0
Level						
Primary job full time, secondary part time	4,085	3,926	3,864	3,954	4,180	95
Primary and secondary jobs both part time	1,736	1,698	1,683	1,611	1,710	-26
Primary and secondary jobs both full time	287	298	307	318	317	30
Hours vary on primary or secondary job	1,529	1,527	1,528	1,570	1,633	104
Percent distribution						
Primary job full time, secondary part time	53.1	52.5	52.0	52.7	53.0	-.1
Primary and secondary jobs both part time	22.6	22.7	22.7	21.5	21.7	-.9
Primary and secondary jobs both full time	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.0	.3
Hours vary on primary or secondary job	19.9	20.4	20.6	20.9	20.7	.8

¹ Include persons who work part time on their primary job and full time on their secondary job(s), not shown separately. SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Table 7. Persons not in the labor force, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted, 2005–06

[In thousands]

Category	Quarter IV, 2005	2006				Change, Quarter IV, 2005, to Quarter IV, 2006
		Quarter I	Quarter II	Quarter III	Quarter IV	
Total not in the labor force	77,057	78,163	77,279	76,731	77,377	320
Persons who currently want a job	4,690	4,874	4,992	4,857	4,419	-271
Marginally attached ¹	1,473	1,528	1,427	1,471	1,365	-108
Reasons not currently looking:						
Discouragement over job prospects ²	416	411	395	400	318	-98
Reasons other than discouragement ³	1,057	1,117	1,032	1,071	1,047	-10

¹ Persons who have searched for work during the previous 12 months and who were available to take a job during the reference week.

² Reasons for discouragement include (1) thinks no work is available, (2) could not find work, (3) lacks schooling or training, (4) employer thinks respondent is too young or too old, and (5) other types of discrimination.

³ Includes those respondents who did not actively look for work in the previous 4 weeks for such reasons as childcare problems or transportation problems, as well as a small number whose reason for nonparticipation was not identified.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Table 8. Employment status in October 2006 of persons 16 years and older who evacuated their August 2005 residence, even temporarily, due to Hurricane Katrina¹

[Numbers in thousands, not seasonally adjusted]

Employment status in October 2006	Total	Residence in October 2006	
		Same as in August 2005	Different than in August 2005
Civilian noninstitutional population	1,065	659	407
Civilian labor force	669	421	247
Participation rate	62.8	64.0	60.8
Employed	595	392	203
Employment-population ratio	55.8	59.5	50.0
Unemployed	74	30	44
Unemployment rate	11.0	7.0	17.9
Not in the labor force	397	237	159

¹ Represents persons in the civilian noninstitutional population aged 16 years and older who resided in households that were eligible to be selected for the Current Population Survey (CPS). These data are not representative of the total evacuee population because they do not include children or people residing in shelters, hotels, places of worship,

or other units outside the scope of the CPS. The total number of evacuees estimated from the CPS varied from month to month as people moved in and out of the scope of the survey and because of sampling variability.

NOTE: These data use population controls that have been adjusted to account for interstate moves by evacuees.