

Table 602. Persons Not in the Labor Force: 2008

[In thousands (79,501 represents 79,501,000). Annual average of monthly figures. Civilian noninstitutional population 16 years old and over. Based on the Current Population Survey; see text, Section 1 and Appendix III]

Status and reason	Total	Age			Sex	
		16 to 24 years old	25 to 54 years old	55 years old and over	Male	Female
Total not in the labor force	79,501	15,452	21,255	42,794	30,593	48,908
Do not want a job now ¹	74,519	13,719	19,087	41,712	28,365	46,154
Want a job now	4,983	1,733	2,168	1,082	2,228	2,755
In the previous year—						
Did not search for a job	2,826	913	1,145	768	1,187	1,639
Did search for a job ²	2,157	819	1,023	314	1,041	1,115
Not available for work now	543	252	244	48	214	329
Available for work now, not looking for work ³	1,614	568	780	266	827	787
Reason for not currently looking for work:						
Discouraged over job prospects ⁴	462	145	226	90	282	180
Family responsibilities	171	35	111	25	45	126
In school or training	218	173	42	3	108	109
Ill health or disability	124	16	68	40	55	69
Other ⁵	640	199	332	108	337	303

¹ Includes some persons who are not asked if they want a job. ² Persons who had a job in the prior 12 months must have searched since the end of that job. ³ 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." ⁴ Includes such things as believes no work available, could not find work, lacks necessary schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination. ⁵ Includes such things as child care and transportation problems.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Online," January 2009; <<http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm>> and <<http://www.bls.gov/cps/tables.htm#annual>>.