

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970-2008

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	High school		College	
			Less than 4 years	4 years, no college	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Total, both sexes						
1970 ¹	61,765	100.0	36.1	38.1	11.8	14.1
1971	62,344	100.0	34.5	38.4	12.3	14.8
1972	63,704	100.0	33.3	38.8	12.4	15.5
1973	64,775	100.0	30.9	39.7	13.0	16.4
1974	66,527	100.0	29.3	39.5	13.7	17.5
1975	67,774	100.0	27.5	39.7	14.4	18.3
1976	69,243	100.0	25.8	39.6	15.2	19.4
1977	71,324	100.0	24.9	39.2	15.7	20.2
1978	73,504	100.0	23.7	39.2	16.5	20.6
1979	75,781	100.0	21.8	39.5	17.3	21.3
1980	78,010	100.0	20.6	39.8	17.6	22.0
1981	80,273	100.0	19.7	40.6	17.7	22.0
1982	81,516	100.0	18.8	40.8	17.3	23.1
1983	83,615	100.0	17.8	39.9	18.1	24.2
1984	86,001	100.0	16.7	40.2	18.4	24.7
1985	88,424	100.0	15.9	40.2	19.0	24.9
1986	90,500	100.0	15.5	40.2	19.5	24.8
1987	92,966	100.0	14.9	40.2	19.7	25.3
1988	94,870	100.0	14.7	39.9	19.7	25.7
1989	97,318	100.0	14.0	39.6	20.0	26.4
1990	99,175	100.0	13.4	39.5	20.7	26.4
1991	100,480	100.0	13.0	39.4	21.1	26.5
Total, both sexes						
Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Total	Percent distribution			
			Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college ²	Some college, no degree, or associate degree	College graduates ³
Total, both sexes						
1992 ⁴	103,018	100.0	12.1	35.7	25.6	26.6
1993	104,237	100.0	11.3	35.1	26.6	27.0
1994	105,610	100.0	10.8	33.9	27.7	27.6
1995	107,032	100.0	10.4	33.2	28.1	28.3
1996	108,932	100.0	10.6	32.9	27.8	28.7
1997	110,945	100.0	10.6	32.9	27.5	29.0
1998	111,932	100.0	10.5	32.4	27.4	29.8
1999	113,095	100.0	10.0	31.8	27.6	30.5
2000	115,750	100.0	10.1	31.4	27.8	30.7
2001	116,893	100.0	10.1	30.9	28.0	31.0
2002	118,028	100.0	10.0	30.7	27.7	31.6
2003	119,621	100.0	9.9	30.3	27.6	32.1
2004	120,135	100.0	9.7	30.1	27.7	32.4
2005	121,752	100.0	9.8	29.9	27.8	32.5
2006	123,550	100.0	9.7	29.6	27.7	33.0
2007	125,104	100.0	9.3	29.2	27.7	33.8
2008	126,011	100.0	9.0	28.8	28.0	34.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970-2008—Continued

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	High school		College	
			Less than 4 years	4 years, no college	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Women						
1970 ¹	22,462	100.0	33.5	44.3	10.9	11.2
1971	22,804	100.0	32.2	44.2	11.9	11.8
1972	23,606	100.0	30.7	45.1	11.8	12.4
1973	24,158	100.0	28.4	45.9	12.4	13.3
1974	25,203	100.0	26.7	45.3	13.4	14.6
1975	26,146	100.0	26.5	45.5	13.9	14.1
1976	27,166	100.0	24.0	45.1	14.7	16.2
1977	28,369	100.0	22.8	45.1	15.2	16.9
1978	29,738	100.0	22.0	44.9	16.1	17.0
1979	31,151	100.0	20.1	45.0	17.1	17.8
1980	32,593	100.0	18.4	45.4	17.4	18.7
1981	33,910	100.0	17.4	46.1	17.9	18.6
1982	34,870	100.0	16.6	45.6	18.3	19.5
1983	35,712	100.0	15.6	44.8	18.8	20.9
1984	37,234	100.0	14.5	44.9	18.9	21.7
1985	38,779	100.0	13.7	44.4	19.9	22.0
1986	39,767	100.0	13.2	44.3	20.3	22.2
1987	41,105	100.0	12.5	44.0	20.7	22.8
1988	42,254	100.0	12.4	43.3	21.2	23.1
1989	43,650	100.0	11.9	42.9	20.9	24.3
1990	44,699	100.0	11.3	42.4	21.9	24.5
1991	45,315	100.0	10.9	41.6	22.2	25.2
Percent distribution						
Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Total	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college ²	Some college, no degree, or associate degree	College graduates ³
1992 ⁴	46,589	100.0	10.3	37.4	27.3	25.0
1993	47,245	100.0	9.3	36.6	28.4	25.7
1994	48,405	100.0	9.0	35.0	29.8	26.2
1995	49,247	100.0	8.8	34.1	30.2	26.9
1996	50,240	100.0	8.8	33.6	29.9	27.8
1997	51,261	100.0	8.7	33.5	29.4	28.4
1998	51,678	100.0	8.8	32.7	29.4	29.2
1999	52,525	100.0	8.5	32.1	29.5	29.9
2000	53,749	100.0	8.5	31.6	29.8	30.1
2001	54,229	100.0	8.4	31.0	30.2	30.4
2002	54,710	100.0	8.1	30.6	29.9	31.3
2003	55,596	100.0	7.9	30.0	29.9	32.2
2004	55,616	100.0	7.7	29.4	30.2	32.6
2005	56,322	100.0	7.7	28.7	30.2	33.3
2006	57,201	100.0	7.6	28.3	30.2	33.9
2007	57,791	100.0	7.1	27.9	30.1	34.9
2008	58,465	100.0	6.9	27.2	30.4	35.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970-2008—Continued

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	High school		College	
			Less than 4 years	4 years, no college	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Men						
1970 ¹	39,303	100.0	37.5	34.5	12.2	15.7
1971.....	39,539	100.0	35.9	35.1	12.5	16.5
1972.....	40,098	100.0	34.8	35.1	12.8	17.3
1973.....	40,617	100.0	32.4	36.0	13.4	18.2
1974.....	41,344	100.0	30.8	36.0	13.9	19.3
1975.....	41,628	100.0	28.9	36.1	14.8	20.2
1976.....	42,077	100.0	27.0	36.0	15.5	21.5
1977.....	42,954	100.0	26.3	35.3	16.1	22.3
1978.....	43,766	100.0	24.8	35.3	16.9	23.0
1979.....	44,630	100.0	23.0	35.7	17.5	23.8
1980.....	45,417	100.0	22.2	35.7	17.7	24.3
1981.....	46,363	100.0	21.5	36.5	17.4	24.6
1982.....	47,144	100.0	20.3	36.8	17.5	25.5
1983.....	47,903	100.0	19.4	36.3	17.7	26.6
1984.....	48,767	100.0	18.4	36.7	18.0	26.9
1985.....	49,647	100.0	17.7	36.9	18.3	27.1
1986.....	50,733	100.0	17.2	37.0	18.9	26.9
1987.....	51,860	100.0	16.8	37.1	18.9	27.2
1988.....	52,616	100.0	16.5	37.3	18.5	27.8
1989.....	53,668	100.0	15.7	36.9	19.2	28.2
1990.....	54,476	100.0	15.1	37.2	19.7	28.0
1991.....	55,165	100.0	14.7	37.5	20.2	27.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970-2008—Continued

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college ²	Some college, no degree, or associate degree	College graduates ³
Men						
1992 ⁴	56,428	100.0	13.7	34.2	24.3	27.8
1993	56,992	100.0	12.9	33.9	25.1	28.1
1994	57,205	100.0	12.4	33.0	25.9	28.8
1995	57,784	100.0	11.8	32.4	26.3	29.4
1996	58,692	100.0	12.2	32.3	26.1	29.4
1997	59,684	100.0	12.2	32.4	25.9	29.6
1998	60,255	100.0	12.0	32.1	25.6	30.3
1999	60,570	100.0	11.4	31.6	26.0	31.0
2000	62,001	100.0	11.5	31.2	26.1	31.2
2001	62,664	100.0	11.5	30.9	26.2	31.4
2002	63,318	100.0	11.6	30.8	25.8	31.8
2003	64,025	100.0	11.7	30.6	25.6	32.1
2004	64,519	100.0	11.5	30.7	25.6	32.3
2005	65,430	100.0	11.5	30.9	25.7	31.9
2006	66,350	100.0	11.5	30.6	25.5	32.3
2007	67,313	100.0	11.2	30.4	25.6	32.9
2008	67,546	100.0	10.9	30.2	25.9	33.0

¹ Data from 1970-1991 are based on the March Current Population Survey.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁴ Beginning in 1992, data on educational attainment are annual averages and are based

on the highest diploma or degree received rather than the number of years of school completed.

SOURCE: Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.