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VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008

About 61.8 million people, or 26.4 percent of the population, volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2007 and September 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the level and rate of volunteering were essentially unchanged from the prior year.

These data on volunteering were collected through a supplement to the September 2008 Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note.

Volunteering Among Demographic Groups

The volunteer rates of men, 23.2 percent, and women, 29.4 percent, were about the same in the year ending September 2008 as in the prior year. Women volunteered at a higher rate than did men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major demographic characteristics, as in previous years. (See tables A and 1.)

Persons age 35 to 44 continued to be the most likely to volunteer (31.3 percent), while persons in their early twenties were the least likely (18.6 percent). The only age group with a significant change over the year was 16- to 19-year-olds. The volunteer rate of this group rose 1.4 percentage points in the year ending September 2008, essentially offsetting the 1.9 percentage point decrease that occurred in the prior year.

In the year that ended in September 2008, whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (27.9 percent) than did blacks (19.1 percent) and Asians (18.7 percent). The rate for each of these groups was either unchanged or essentially unchanged from the prior year. Among Hispanics or Latinos, 14.4 percent volunteered in 2008, up from 13.5 percent in the year ending September 2007.

Married persons volunteered at a higher rate (31.6 percent) than those who had never married (20.4 percent) and those with other marital statuses (20.9 percent). Parents with children under age 18 were substantially more likely to volunteer than were persons without children, 33.8 percent compared with 23.5 percent.

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2004 through September 2008

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	September 2004		September 2005		September 2006		September 2007		September 2008	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Sex										
Total, both sexes	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4
Men	27,011	25.0	27,370	25.0	25,546	23.0	25,724	22.9	26,268	23.2
Women	37,530	32.4	37,987	32.4	35,653	30.1	35,114	29.3	35,535	29.4
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4
16 to 24 years	8,821	24.2	8,955	24.4	8,044	21.7	7,798	20.8	8,239	21.9
25 to 34 years	10,046	25.8	9,881	25.3	9,096	23.1	9,019	22.6	9,154	22.8
35 to 44 years	14,783	34.2	14,809	34.5	13,308	31.2	12,902	30.5	13,016	31.3
45 to 54 years	13,584	32.8	13,826	32.7	13,415	31.2	13,136	30.1	13,189	29.9
55 to 64 years	8,784	30.1	9,173	30.2	8,819	27.9	9,316	28.4	9,456	28.1
65 years and over	8,524	24.6	8,712	24.8	8,518	23.8	8,667	23.8	8,749	23.5
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	55,892	30.5	56,170	30.4	52,850	28.3	52,586	27.9	53,078	27.9
Black or African American	5,435	20.8	5,879	22.1	5,211	19.2	5,010	18.2	5,325	19.1
Asian	1,832	19.3	2,055	20.7	1,881	18.5	1,887	17.7	2,022	18.7
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,102	14.5	4,511	15.4	4,212	13.9	4,279	13.5	4,662	14.4
Educational attainment ¹										
Less than a high school diploma	2,718	9.6	2,837	10.0	2,615	9.3	2,394	9.0	2,427	9.4
High school graduates, no college ²	12,709	21.6	12,594	21.2	11,537	19.2	11,379	18.6	10,998	19.1
Some college or associate degree	16,414	34.2	16,452	33.7	15,196	30.9	15,468	30.7	15,519	30.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	23,880	45.7	24,517	45.8	23,808	43.3	23,799	41.8	24,620	42.2
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	45,896	30.9	46,872	31.1	43,579	28.5	43,405	28.1	44,313	28.5
Employed	43,886	31.2	44,894	31.3	41,861	28.7	41,708	28.3	42,131	28.9
Full time ⁴	34,237	29.6	35,225	29.8	32,951	27.3	32,714	26.9	33,344	27.8
Part time ⁵	9,649	38.5	9,669	38.2	8,910	35.5	8,994	35.4	8,788	34.2
Unemployed.....	2,010	25.6	1,978	26.4	1,718	23.8	1,697	23.2	2,181	22.3
Not in the labor force.....	18,646	24.7	18,485	24.4	17,621	23.1	17,433	22.3	17,491	22.2

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.⁴ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.⁵ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point in the year ending in September. See the Technical Note for further information.

Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment volunteered at higher rates than did those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, 42.2 percent of college graduates volunteered, compared with 18.1 percent of high school graduates and 9.4 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.

Among employed persons, 28.9 percent volunteered during the year ending in September 2008. By comparison, 22.3 percent of unemployed persons and 22.2 percent of those not in the labor force volunteered. Among the employed, part-time workers were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—34.2 versus 27.8 percent.

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Volunteers of both sexes spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities during the period from September 2007 to September 2008. Median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a high of 96 hours for volunteers age 65 and over to a low of 40 hours for those 16 to 19 or 25 to 34 years old. The 20- to 24-year-old group showed the largest over-the-year change in median hours volunteered, increasing by 7 hours to a median of 48 hours. (See table 2.)

Number and Type of Organizations

Most volunteers were involved with either one or two organizations—69.6 and 19.3 percent, respectively. Individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than were those with less education. Parents also were somewhat more likely to volunteer for more than one organization than were persons without children under 18. (See table 3.)

In 2008, the main organization—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—was most frequently religious (35.1 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational or youth service related (26.0 percent). Another 13.5 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer mainly for religious organizations than were their younger counterparts. For example, 46.7 percent of volunteers age 65 and over did their service mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 30.8 percent of volunteers age 16 to 24.

The types of main organization for which individuals volunteered also varied by educational attainment. Volunteering mainly for religious organizations decreased as educational attainment increased, from 47.0 percent of volunteers with less than a high school diploma to 32.1 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher. Volunteering primarily for educational or youth service organizations increased with educational attainment. Of volunteers with less than a high school diploma, 21.9 percent volunteered mainly for this type of organization, compared with 27.8 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher.

Among volunteers with children under 18 years old, 45.8 percent of mothers and 40.6 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational or youth service organization, such as a school or scouting group. Volunteers without children under 18 were considerably more likely than parents to volunteer for other types of organizations, such as hospitals or other health organizations and social or community service organizations.

Main Volunteer Activity for Main Organization

The main activity volunteers performed for their main organization was most frequently fundraising (11.4 percent) and tutoring or teaching (10.1 percent). Men and women tended to engage in different main activities. Men who volunteered were most likely to engage in general labor (12.6 percent); coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (10.3 percent); or provide professional or management assistance (10.1 percent). Female volunteers were most likely to fundraise (12.8 percent); tutor or teach (12.0 percent); or collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food (10.7 percent). (See table 5.)

Educational attainment influenced the types of activities volunteers performed. College graduates were more likely than those with less education to provide professional or management assistance or to tutor or teach. They were least likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food; engage in general labor; or be an usher, greeter, or minister.

Parents were considerably more likely than those without children to engage in some types of volunteer activities that are frequently related to children—including coaching, refereeing, or supervising sports teams; tutoring or teaching; and mentoring youth.

How Volunteers Became Involved with Main Organization

About 43.7 percent of volunteers became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization. A slightly smaller proportion, 40.8 percent, became involved on their own initiative; that is, they approached the organization. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The data in this release were collected through a supplement to the September 2008 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS—a monthly survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics—focuses on obtaining information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. The purpose of this supplement to the CPS was to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering and the characteristics of volunteers in the United States.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For a full discussion of the reliability of CPS data and for information on estimating standard errors, see the Household Data Section of the "Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error" at http://www.bls.gov/cps/eetech_methods.pdf.

The Census Bureau introduces adjustments to the population controls for the CPS as part of its annual update of population estimates. The 2003 adjustment resulted in an increase to the estimates for all population categories. This increase was partly offset by downward adjustments in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008. The 2007 adjustment was in the upward direction. Consequently, estimated levels of volunteers for September 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 are not strictly comparable with one another, or with estimated levels for September 2002. These adjustments to the levels, however, should have had only negligible effects on the volunteer rates. In addition to the population control adjustments, new questions on race and ethnicity were introduced into the CPS in January 2003. For a discussion of the changes introduced into the CPS in January 2003, see "Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in

January 2003," in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcps03.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2004, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2004," in the February 2004 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps04adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2005, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005," in the February 2005 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2006, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2006," in the February 2006 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps06adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2007, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2007," in the February 2007 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps07adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2008, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2008," in the February 2008 issue of *Employment and Earnings Online*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps08adj.pdf>.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September 2008 supplement, questions on volunteer activities were asked of all households. Efforts were made to have household members answer the volunteer questions for themselves. (Generally, one member of the household answers all the questions in the CPS on behalf of the entire household.) Self-response was considered important for the volunteer supplement because research indicated that self-respondents could more easily answer questions on the characteristics of the volunteer activity. About 68.2 percent of the responses were self-reports.

The survey was introduced as follows: "This month, we are interested in volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. We only want you to include volunteer activities that you did through or for an organization, even if you only did them once in a while."

Following this introduction, respondents were asked the first supplement question: "Since September 1st of last year, have you done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?"

If respondents did not answer "yes" to the first question, they were asked the following question: "Sometimes people don't think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for children's schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities. Since September 1st of last year, have you done any of these types of volunteer activities?"

Respondents were considered volunteers if they answered "yes" to either of these questions. This is the same method of identifying volunteers as was used in each of the six prior supplements.

Respondents classified as volunteers were asked further questions about the number and type of organizations for which they volunteered, total hours spent volunteering, how they became involved with the main organization for which they volunteered, the type of activities they performed for the main organization, and what their main activity was.

The reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2007, through the survey week in September 2008. The reference period for other characteristics—such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status—refer to the survey reference week in September 2008. It is possible that these characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed.

One new question was added to the 2008 survey to determine whether or not respondents had donated money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations in the past 12 months. Two questions asked in the 2007 supplement were removed in 2008. These questions asked how often respondents who had attended public meetings or who had worked with others in their neighborhood to fix a problem did so.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. The count of volunteers only includes persons who volunteered through or for an organization; the figures do not include persons who volunteered in a more informal manner. For example, a woman who taught acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer. However, a woman who, on her own, organized softball games for the children in her neighborhood would not be counted as a volunteer for the purpose of this survey.

Organizations are associations, societies, or groups of people who share a common interest. Examples include churches, youth groups, and civic organizations. For the purpose of this study, organizations are grouped into eight major categories, including religious, youth, and social or

community service organizations. (See table 4.)

In the 2005 survey, one organization category, immigrant/refugee assistance, was added to the questionnaire as a possible response. Responses that were collected in this category may have been distributed over at least six of the major organization categories in previous years. For this reason, the addition of the new response category created a break in the comparability of organizations between 2005 and prior years. Because few people reported volunteering for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations and because the group was not a definite subset of any of the major organization categories, those persons who did report that they volunteered for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations were placed in the "other" group.

The *main organization* is the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. If a respondent volunteered for only one organization, it was considered the main organization, even if exact hours were not obtained.

In order to identify the type of main organization, respondents provided information about the organization and, for those who volunteered for more than one organization, annual hours worked for each. Some respondents did not provide the information necessary to determine the main organization. For these respondents, the follow-up questions on activities and how they became involved with the main organization asked them to report on the organization for which they think they spent the most time volunteering.

Activities are the specific tasks the volunteer did for an organization. Examples include tutoring, fundraising, and serving food. The activity categories were modified in 2005, thus creating a break in the comparability of activities between 2005 and prior years.

In 2006, a new question was added that asked respondents on which of the activities they mentioned they spent the most time. Previously, respondents reported all of the activities they did for their main organization. The new question identified which of them was the *main activity* for the main organization.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2008

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2008	Total, both sexes			Men			Women		
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers	
		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	234,360	61,803	26.4	113,414	26,268	23.2	120,946	35,535	29.4
16 to 24 years	37,547	8,239	21.9	18,938	3,747	19.8	18,609	4,493	24.1
16 to 19 years	17,101	4,437	25.9	8,673	2,074	23.9	8,428	2,364	28.0
20 to 24 years	20,446	3,802	18.6	10,265	1,673	16.3	10,181	2,129	20.9
25 years and over	196,813	53,564	27.2	94,476	22,521	23.8	102,337	31,043	30.3
25 to 34 years	40,131	9,154	22.8	20,080	3,689	18.4	20,051	5,465	27.3
35 to 44 years	41,576	13,016	31.3	20,512	5,397	26.3	21,064	7,619	36.2
45 to 54 years	44,104	13,189	29.9	21,597	5,682	26.3	22,507	7,507	33.4
55 to 64 years	33,696	9,456	28.1	16,222	4,196	25.9	17,474	5,260	30.1
65 years and over	37,306	8,749	23.5	16,065	3,558	22.1	21,241	5,191	24.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	189,916	53,078	27.9	92,930	22,756	24.5	96,986	30,322	31.3
Black or African American	27,939	5,325	19.1	12,564	2,065	16.4	15,376	3,260	21.2
Asian	10,826	2,022	18.7	5,138	881	17.1	5,688	1,141	20.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	32,369	4,662	14.4	16,645	1,936	11.6	15,724	2,726	17.3
Educational attainment ¹									
Less than a high school diploma	25,879	2,427	9.4	12,787	954	7.5	13,092	1,473	11.3
High school graduates, no college ²	60,719	10,998	18.1	29,272	4,510	15.4	31,448	6,489	20.6
Some college or associate degree	51,812	15,519	30.0	23,521	5,978	25.4	28,290	9,541	33.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	58,403	24,620	42.2	28,896	11,080	38.3	29,507	13,539	45.9
Marital status									
Single, never married	66,079	13,475	20.4	35,308	6,080	17.2	30,770	7,394	24.0
Married, spouse present	122,784	38,827	31.6	61,944	17,474	28.2	60,840	21,352	35.1
Other marital status ⁴	45,497	9,502	20.9	16,162	2,714	16.8	29,336	6,788	23.1
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵									
Without own children under 18	168,293	39,485	23.5	84,432	17,377	20.6	83,861	22,108	26.4
With own children under 18	66,067	22,318	33.8	28,982	8,891	30.7	37,085	13,427	36.2
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	155,512	44,313	28.5	82,922	20,589	24.8	72,589	23,723	32.7
Employed	145,737	42,131	28.9	77,460	19,661	25.4	68,277	22,470	32.9
Full time ⁶	120,063	33,344	27.8	68,604	17,377	25.3	51,458	15,966	31.0
Part time ⁷	25,674	8,788	34.2	8,856	2,284	25.8	16,818	6,504	38.7
Unemployed	9,775	2,181	22.3	5,462	928	17.0	4,313	1,253	29.0
Not in the labor force	78,848	17,491	22.2	30,492	5,679	18.6	48,357	11,812	24.4

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2008

Characteristics in September 2008	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of total annual hours spent volunteering at all organizations							Median annual hours ¹
		Total	1 to 14 hour(s)	15 to 49 hours	50 to 99 hours	100 to 499 hours	500 hours and over	Not reporting annual hours	
Sex									
Total, both sexes	61,803	100.0	19.8	25.5	15.5	28.9	5.4	4.7	52
Men	26,268	100.0	19.1	25.9	15.2	29.1	5.9	4.8	52
Women	35,535	100.0	20.4	25.3	15.8	28.8	5.1	4.7	52
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	61,803	100.0	19.8	25.5	15.5	28.9	5.4	4.7	52
16 to 24 years	8,239	100.0	21.9	28.2	14.7	24.1	4.9	6.1	42
16 to 19 years	4,437	100.0	22.1	31.5	16.5	21.8	4.0	4.1	40
20 to 24 years	3,802	100.0	21.8	24.5	12.6	26.8	6.0	8.4	48
25 years and over	53,564	100.0	19.5	25.1	15.7	29.7	5.5	4.5	52
25 to 34 years	9,154	100.0	25.5	27.0	13.9	24.0	4.0	5.6	40
35 to 44 years	13,016	100.0	21.6	26.7	16.5	27.0	4.1	4.1	48
45 to 54 years	13,189	100.0	18.8	25.8	16.4	29.5	5.3	4.2	52
55 to 64 years	9,456	100.0	17.8	24.9	15.9	30.8	6.4	4.3	58
65 years and over	8,749	100.0	13.1	19.9	15.0	38.5	8.6	4.9	96
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	53,078	100.0	19.9	25.7	15.8	28.7	5.4	4.5	52
Black or African American	5,325	100.0	18.8	22.1	13.7	31.8	7.2	6.5	60
Asian	2,022	100.0	21.8	30.1	11.5	28.0	2.9	5.7	40
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,662	100.0	23.7	26.3	14.5	23.7	5.3	6.5	40
Educational attainment ²									
Less than a high school diploma	2,427	100.0	22.4	25.1	14.9	25.1	6.7	5.8	48
High school graduates, no college ³	10,998	100.0	21.0	24.0	15.5	27.6	6.0	5.8	52
Some college or associate degree	15,519	100.0	20.7	25.0	15.1	29.6	5.3	4.3	52
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	24,620	100.0	17.8	25.7	16.2	31.0	5.3	4.0	60
Marital status									
Single, never married	13,475	100.0	22.3	28.4	14.4	23.8	4.9	6.2	40
Married, spouse present	38,827	100.0	18.9	24.7	16.1	30.6	5.5	4.2	56
Other marital status ⁵	9,502	100.0	20.2	24.7	15.0	29.4	5.9	4.9	52
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	17,377	100.0	18.4	26.1	14.4	29.1	6.4	5.6	52
With own children under 18 years old	8,891	100.0	20.6	25.4	16.7	29.1	4.8	3.3	52
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	22,108	100.0	19.2	24.8	15.2	29.8	5.8	5.2	52
With own children under 18 years old	13,427	100.0	22.3	26.1	16.8	27.2	3.9	3.8	48
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	44,313	100.0	21.1	26.7	15.7	27.2	4.7	4.7	48
Employed	42,131	100.0	21.2	26.5	15.9	27.3	4.5	4.7	48
Full time ⁷	33,344	100.0	21.6	26.7	15.6	26.9	4.3	4.9	48
Part time ⁸	8,788	100.0	19.9	25.7	16.7	28.9	5.3	3.6	52
Unemployed	2,181	100.0	19.4	29.2	12.9	25.5	8.2	4.8	48
Not in the labor force	17,491	100.0	16.6	22.7	15.1	33.2	7.4	5.0	70

¹ For those reporting annual hours.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2008

Characteristics in September 2008	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of the number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed						
		Total	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Not reporting number of organizations
Sex								
Total, both sexes	61,803	100.0	69.6	19.3	7.0	2.4	1.4	0.3
Men	26,268	100.0	71.5	18.3	6.4	2.2	1.2	.4
Women	35,535	100.0	68.2	20.0	7.5	2.5	1.5	.3
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	61,803	100.0	69.6	19.3	7.0	2.4	1.4	.3
16 to 24 years	8,239	100.0	74.2	17.1	5.7	1.9	.6	.5
16 to 19 years	4,437	100.0	72.0	18.4	6.0	2.3	1.0	.2
20 to 24 years	3,802	100.0	76.9	15.7	5.2	1.3	.1	.8
25 years and over	53,564	100.0	68.9	19.6	7.3	2.4	1.5	.3
25 to 34 years	9,154	100.0	75.7	16.8	4.7	1.6	.7	.4
35 to 44 years	13,016	100.0	68.0	20.0	8.1	2.3	1.3	.2
45 to 54 years	13,189	100.0	66.3	20.9	7.8	3.0	1.7	.3
55 to 64 years	9,456	100.0	66.8	20.3	7.9	2.6	2.0	.3
65 years and over	8,749	100.0	69.3	19.2	7.1	2.5	1.6	.3
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
White	53,078	100.0	68.2	20.0	7.5	2.5	1.4	.3
Black or African American	5,325	100.0	78.5	14.3	4.5	1.0	1.0	.6
Asian	2,022	100.0	79.4	14.0	3.7	1.4	.9	.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,662	100.0	81.5	12.6	3.9	1.1	.4	.4
Educational attainment ¹								
Less than a high school diploma	2,427	100.0	87.8	8.4	2.5	.6	.2	.6
High school graduates, no college ²	10,998	100.0	78.7	15.2	4.0	1.1	.7	.3
Some college or associate degree	15,519	100.0	70.5	19.8	6.4	2.0	1.1	.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	24,620	100.0	61.7	22.6	9.7	3.5	2.2	.3
Marital status								
Single, never married	13,475	100.0	72.8	18.0	5.9	1.9	.8	.6
Married, spouse present	38,827	100.0	68.2	20.0	7.4	2.5	1.7	.3
Other marital status ⁴	9,502	100.0	70.9	18.2	7.2	2.5	1.0	.2
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	17,377	100.0	72.5	17.5	6.2	2.2	1.2	.5
With own children under 18 years old	8,891	100.0	69.6	20.0	6.7	2.1	1.4	.3
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	22,108	100.0	69.3	19.5	7.1	2.3	1.5	.4
With own children under 18 years old	13,427	100.0	66.5	20.8	8.3	2.8	1.4	.2
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	44,313	100.0	69.1	19.7	7.2	2.3	1.3	.4
Employed	42,131	100.0	68.8	19.8	7.3	2.4	1.3	.4
Full time ⁶	33,344	100.0	69.3	19.6	7.1	2.3	1.3	.4
Part time ⁷	8,788	100.0	66.9	20.6	8.1	2.9	1.4	.2
Unemployed	2,181	100.0	74.1	17.5	5.6	1.6	1.2	—
Not in the labor force	17,491	100.0	71.0	18.3	6.5	2.4	1.5	.2

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.
⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.
⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.
NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2008

Characteristics in September 2008	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteers by type of main organization ¹										
		Total	Civic, political, professional, or international	Educational or youth service	Environmental or animal care	Hospital or other health	Public safety	Religious	Social or community service	Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts	Other	Not determined
Sex												
Total, both sexes	61,803	100.0	5.5	26.0	2.0	8.2	1.3	35.1	13.5	3.3	3.3	1.9
Men	26,268	100.0	6.8	24.8	2.0	6.4	2.1	34.6	13.7	3.8	3.7	1.9
Women	35,535	100.0	4.4	27.0	2.0	9.5	.6	35.5	13.4	2.8	3.0	1.8
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	61,803	100.0	5.5	26.0	2.0	8.2	1.3	35.1	13.5	3.3	3.3	1.9
16 to 24 years	8,239	100.0	4.7	27.7	3.0	8.8	1.6	30.8	13.9	3.2	3.6	2.7
16 to 19 years	4,437	100.0	4.1	31.3	3.1	7.0	1.6	30.8	13.6	3.2	3.4	1.9
20 to 24 years	3,802	100.0	5.3	23.5	2.8	10.9	1.7	30.8	14.2	3.2	3.9	3.6
25 years and over	53,564	100.0	5.6	25.8	1.8	8.1	1.2	35.8	13.5	3.3	3.2	1.7
25 to 34 years	9,154	100.0	5.0	32.4	2.1	8.1	1.4	28.9	13.1	3.3	3.1	2.6
35 to 44 years	13,016	100.0	4.3	41.3	1.4	5.7	1.4	28.7	10.5	2.7	2.6	1.4
45 to 54 years	13,189	100.0	5.0	26.8	1.9	7.8	1.0	36.6	13.2	3.1	3.0	1.7
55 to 64 years	9,456	100.0	7.6	13.7	2.3	9.7	1.2	41.2	15.2	3.7	3.6	1.7
65 years and over	8,749	100.0	6.8	7.4	1.5	10.3	1.0	46.7	16.7	3.9	4.3	1.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	53,078	100.0	5.6	26.1	2.2	8.5	1.4	33.9	13.8	3.4	3.4	1.7
Black or African American	5,325	100.0	4.3	22.9	.3	6.3	.2	46.5	12.7	1.5	2.6	2.7
Asian	2,022	100.0	4.5	31.6	.6	6.4	.3	37.0	9.1	4.0	3.0	3.6
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,662	100.0	3.1	34.5	1.1	5.2	.6	38.5	9.6	2.4	2.5	2.5
Educational attainment ²												
Less than a high school diploma	2,427	100.0	3.4	21.9	.6	6.0	1.5	47.0	12.5	1.2	4.5	1.5
High school graduates, no college ³	10,998	100.0	4.6	23.2	1.1	8.7	1.8	40.6	12.6	3.0	2.9	1.4
Some college or associate degree	15,519	100.0	5.5	25.1	2.1	8.0	1.3	36.4	13.7	3.2	2.8	1.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	24,620	100.0	6.3	27.8	2.1	8.0	.8	32.1	13.8	3.6	3.5	1.9
Marital status												
Single, never married	13,475	100.0	5.6	25.9	2.8	10.3	1.3	28.0	15.5	3.6	4.0	3.0
Married, spouse present	38,827	100.0	5.3	27.7	1.6	6.8	1.3	38.0	11.9	3.1	2.9	1.5
Other marital status ⁵	9,502	100.0	6.1	19.7	2.3	10.8	1.1	33.8	17.4	3.5	3.7	1.7
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	17,377	100.0	7.7	16.7	2.5	7.7	2.3	35.9	16.6	3.9	4.5	2.2
With own children under 18 years old	8,891	100.0	5.2	40.6	.9	3.8	1.8	32.2	8.1	3.8	2.2	1.4
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	22,108	100.0	5.4	15.5	2.7	12.3	.7	38.2	16.2	3.4	3.6	2.1
With own children under 18 years old	13,427	100.0	2.9	45.8	.7	4.9	.5	31.1	8.8	2.0	1.9	1.3
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	44,313	100.0	5.6	27.9	2.0	7.9	1.4	33.9	13.0	3.1	3.1	2.0
Employed	42,131	100.0	5.6	27.6	2.0	8.0	1.4	34.0	13.1	3.1	3.1	2.0
Full time ⁷	33,344	100.0	5.7	27.5	2.1	8.2	1.6	32.9	13.5	3.2	3.2	2.2
Part time ⁸	8,788	100.0	5.0	28.1	1.9	7.2	.8	37.9	11.7	2.9	3.0	1.5
Unemployed	2,181	100.0	5.6	32.2	2.2	5.9	1.0	32.1	11.7	3.5	3.7	2.1
Not in the labor force	17,491	100.0	5.2	21.4	1.7	8.9	.9	38.4	14.8	3.6	3.6	1.4

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 5. Main volunteer activity for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2008

Characteristics in September 2008	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of main volunteer activity for main organization ¹													
		Coach, referee, or supervise sports teams	Tutor or teach	Mentor youth	Be an usher, greeter, or minister	Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food	Fundraise or sell items to raise money	Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	Provide general office services	Provide professional or management assistance, including serving on a board or committee	Engage in music, performance, or other artistic activities	Engage in general labor; supply transportation to people	Other	Equal time among all
Sex															
Total, both sexes	61,803	5.9	10.1	5.9	4.2	9.1	3.4	11.4	3.0	4.6	7.9	4.3	9.0	13.3	8.0
Men	26,268	10.3	7.6	5.7	5.5	6.8	2.0	9.5	3.4	2.7	10.1	4.1	12.6	12.7	7.1
Women	35,535	2.7	12.0	6.1	3.3	10.7	4.4	12.8	2.7	5.9	6.3	4.4	6.3	13.7	8.6
Age															
Total, 16 years and over	61,803	5.9	10.1	5.9	4.2	9.1	3.4	11.4	3.0	4.6	7.9	4.3	9.0	13.3	8.0
16 to 24 years	8,239	4.9	10.0	9.0	2.6	8.2	2.7	10.4	3.3	3.5	2.2	7.1	13.3	14.3	8.6
16 to 19 years	4,437	5.8	8.8	8.6	3.1	9.7	2.8	10.9	2.0	3.2	1.0	7.2	14.7	13.9	8.3
20 to 24 years	3,802	3.7	11.3	9.4	1.9	6.4	2.6	9.9	4.9	3.9	3.6	7.1	11.7	14.7	8.9
25 years and over	53,564	6.1	10.1	5.5	4.5	9.2	3.5	11.6	3.0	4.7	8.8	3.8	8.3	13.1	7.9
25 to 34 years	9,154	8.2	11.7	8.4	2.8	7.4	2.7	12.2	3.1	3.7	5.4	3.5	8.4	14.9	7.5
35 to 44 years	13,016	10.6	12.1	7.2	3.1	7.6	2.9	12.2	2.9	3.9	6.7	2.7	7.8	12.5	7.9
45 to 54 years	13,189	6.6	10.7	5.9	4.1	8.9	2.9	11.8	3.1	4.3	9.8	4.0	8.8	11.4	7.6
55 to 64 years	9,456	2.1	8.3	3.1	5.5	10.2	3.7	11.9	3.5	5.1	12.8	4.2	8.3	13.1	8.1
65 years and over	8,749	.7	6.7	1.8	7.5	13.0	5.5	9.2	2.2	7.2	9.4	5.2	8.3	14.9	8.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity															
White	53,078	6.1	10.0	5.7	4.0	8.9	3.4	11.8	3.1	4.6	8.3	4.1	9.1	13.1	7.8
Black or African American	5,325	5.6	10.7	8.4	7.0	9.9	2.8	7.7	2.6	4.3	4.8	5.2	7.8	14.1	9.1
Asian	2,022	3.4	13.3	4.0	4.3	11.1	3.2	12.8	3.3	3.5	5.8	4.7	8.7	14.5	7.6
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,662	7.7	10.7	4.8	4.3	10.2	4.7	10.2	2.4	4.6	3.5	3.3	9.2	17.5	6.7
Educational attainment ²															
Less than a high school diploma	2,427	4.2	7.0	2.6	7.1	14.4	4.9	9.5	2.4	4.7	1.9	2.4	11.9	20.4	6.5
High school graduates, no college ³	10,998	5.9	7.4	4.8	5.1	13.1	4.5	12.0	2.6	4.7	4.2	3.1	10.5	14.0	8.2
Some college or associate degree	15,519	6.1	9.4	5.4	4.5	10.3	3.6	12.0	2.9	5.2	6.5	4.0	9.0	12.9	8.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	24,620	6.4	12.2	6.1	3.9	6.3	2.8	11.3	3.2	4.4	12.9	4.2	6.6	12.2	7.6
Marital status															
Single, never married	13,475	5.1	9.2	7.8	2.8	8.4	2.8	11.5	3.6	4.5	4.3	5.5	11.8	15.3	7.2
Married, spouse present	38,827	6.8	11.0	5.6	4.6	8.6	3.1	11.2	2.8	4.2	9.4	3.8	8.3	12.2	8.3
Other marital status ⁵	9,502	3.5	7.7	4.4	4.5	12.0	5.4	12.0	3.2	6.0	6.7	4.3	7.9	14.8	7.5
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶															
Men:															
No own children under 18 years old	17,377	4.6	6.9	5.0	5.8	7.7	2.2	10.2	3.7	3.0	10.6	4.7	13.9	14.3	7.4
With own children under 18 years old ..	8,891	21.3	8.9	7.0	4.9	5.1	1.6	8.2	2.9	2.0	9.0	3.0	10.1	9.7	6.4
Women:															
No own children under 18 years old	22,108	1.7	9.8	4.9	3.9	11.6	5.0	12.3	3.2	6.4	6.6	5.4	6.7	14.3	8.2
With own children under 18 years old ..	13,427	4.3	15.7	8.1	2.3	9.3	3.4	13.7	2.0	5.2	5.7	2.9	5.6	12.7	9.3
Employment status															
Civilian labor force	44,313	7.2	10.4	6.4	3.9	8.1	2.7	11.9	3.3	3.8	8.5	4.2	9.1	12.8	7.8
Employed	42,131	7.3	10.4	6.5	3.9	8.0	2.7	12.0	3.3	3.7	8.7	4.1	9.0	12.7	7.7
Full time ⁷	33,344	8.1	9.9	6.4	4.0	7.6	2.7	12.3	3.5	3.4	9.3	3.7	9.0	12.5	7.5
Part time ⁸	8,788	4.1	12.5	6.8	3.3	9.5	2.6	11.0	2.8	4.8	6.3	5.7	8.6	13.5	8.6
Unemployed	2,181	5.8	9.3	5.6	3.8	10.2	3.8	8.5	2.7	5.4	4.9	4.9	11.1	13.8	10.1
Not in the labor force	17,491	2.6	9.5	4.7	5.1	11.4	4.9	10.3	2.3	6.5	6.4	4.6	8.8	14.6	8.3

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2008

Characteristics in September 2008	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization ¹								
		Total	Approached the organization	Was asked by:					Other	Not reporting how became involved
				Total ²	Boss or employer	Relative, friend, or co-worker	Someone in the organization/school	Someone else		
Sex										
Total, both sexes	61,803	100.0	40.8	43.7	1.4	14.2	26.8	1.2	12.6	2.9
Men	26,268	100.0	40.5	44.5	1.4	15.2	26.4	1.4	12.0	3.0
Women	35,535	100.0	41.1	43.1	1.3	13.5	27.0	1.1	13.0	2.8
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	61,803	100.0	40.8	43.7	1.4	14.2	26.8	1.2	12.6	2.9
16 to 24 years	8,239	100.0	40.0	41.4	.7	16.1	22.9	1.5	15.0	3.6
16 to 19 years	4,437	100.0	39.7	41.5	.3	16.2	23.4	1.6	16.0	2.8
20 to 24 years	3,802	100.0	40.4	41.3	1.3	16.1	22.3	1.4	13.8	4.5
25 years and over	53,564	100.0	41.0	44.1	1.4	13.9	27.4	1.2	12.2	2.8
25 to 34 years	9,154	100.0	41.6	42.5	2.4	15.1	23.1	1.5	12.5	3.3
35 to 44 years	13,016	100.0	39.9	45.9	1.9	13.4	29.5	1.0	11.5	2.8
45 to 54 years	13,189	100.0	39.7	45.0	1.4	13.9	28.6	1.0	12.8	2.5
55 to 64 years	9,456	100.0	41.1	43.5	1.1	14.0	26.9	1.3	12.6	2.9
65 years and over	8,749	100.0	43.6	42.1	.1	13.3	27.3	1.4	11.7	2.7
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	53,078	100.0	40.9	44.2	1.3	14.2	27.3	1.3	12.3	2.7
Black or African American	5,325	100.0	40.9	41.2	1.7	14.8	23.2	1.4	13.7	4.2
Asian	2,022	100.0	41.4	38.4	1.8	11.5	24.8	.2	14.4	5.8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,662	100.0	44.0	41.0	1.7	12.8	24.6	1.5	11.9	3.1
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma	2,427	100.0	45.4	42.1	.3	12.5	27.9	1.2	10.2	2.3
High school graduates, no college ⁴	10,998	100.0	41.1	43.9	1.1	15.2	26.4	1.0	12.5	2.5
Some college or associate degree	15,519	100.0	39.8	44.7	1.5	13.4	28.3	1.3	13.0	2.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁵	24,620	100.0	41.2	44.0	1.7	13.8	27.2	1.2	11.8	3.1
Marital status										
Single, never married	13,475	100.0	39.8	40.9	1.8	16.8	20.6	1.6	15.2	4.0
Married, spouse present	38,827	100.0	40.7	45.2	1.2	13.2	29.6	1.2	11.5	2.5
Other marital status ⁶	9,502	100.0	42.8	41.4	1.4	14.7	24.1	1.0	13.1	2.7
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	17,377	100.0	40.5	43.2	1.4	16.0	24.1	1.5	12.9	3.4
With own children under 18 years old	8,891	100.0	40.4	47.1	1.5	13.4	30.9	1.1	10.3	2.2
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	22,108	100.0	40.9	41.9	1.3	15.4	23.7	1.3	13.9	3.3
With own children under 18 years old	13,427	100.0	41.4	45.0	1.3	10.3	32.5	.8	11.5	2.1
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	44,313	100.0	40.0	44.4	1.8	14.5	26.8	1.2	12.6	3.0
Employed	42,131	100.0	39.9	44.7	1.9	14.6	26.9	1.2	12.4	3.0
Full time ⁸	33,344	100.0	39.1	45.2	2.1	15.0	26.8	1.1	12.5	3.2
Part time ⁹	8,788	100.0	42.8	42.5	.8	12.8	27.5	1.3	12.4	2.4
Unemployed	2,181	100.0	41.5	40.0	.8	13.1	24.1	1.8	15.3	3.1
Not in the labor force	17,491	100.0	43.0	41.8	.2	13.4	26.8	1.4	12.6	2.6

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Includes persons who did not specify who asked them to volunteer, not shown separately.

³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

⁴ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁶ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁷ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included

are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁸ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁹ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through the survey period in September 2008. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.