# Labor Force Participation Rate for Selected Age Groups: 2008 and 2009 

## American Community Survey Briefs

The recent economic downturn has affected the labor force participation of men and women of all ages and education levels. ${ }^{1}$ Recent college graduates have had difficulty obtaining jobs, ${ }^{2}$ while older workers are returning to work or continuing to work in order to bolster their diminished retirement savings. ${ }^{3}$ Some younger workers may enroll in school or stay in school due to diminished job prospects, while others may end their job search out of frustration. ${ }^{4}$ The recession has also had an impact on workers in the prime working age group of 25 to 54, particularly for men and especially for those with less education. The largest job losses have been in male-dominated industries such as construction and manufacturing, whereas female-dominated industries such as healthcare have fared relatively better over the course of the recession. ${ }^{5}$ As a result of men bearing the brunt of the job losses, women are entering the labor force to supplement family income when their spouses have either lost their jobs or have had their work hours reduced. ${ }^{6}$ Consequently, workers

[^0]Labor force participation rate: The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the population that is in the labor force. For example, if there are 100 people in the population 16 years and over, and 64 of them are in the labor force, then the labor force participation rate for the population 16 years and over would be 64 percent.

Civilian labor force: Consists of people classified as employed or unemployed.

Labor force: All people classified in the civilian labor force plus members of the U.S. Armed Forces (people on active duty with the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard).

Employed: This category includes all civilians 16 years old and over who either (1) were "at work," that is, those who did any work at all during the reference week as paid employees, worked in their own business or profession, worked on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a family farm or in a family business; or (2) were "with a job but not at work," that is, those who did not work during the reference week but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons. Excluded from the employed are people whose only activity consisted of work around the house or unpaid volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations; also excluded are all institutionalized people and people on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009, Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009.
of all ages and education levels will be competing for jobs within a smaller job market pool.

For men aged 16 to 24 , the national labor force participation rate decreased 2.3 percentage points from 61.5 percent in 2008 to 59.2 percent in 2009. For women this age, the national labor force participation rate decreased 1.7 percentage points from 60.4 percent to 58.7 percent. For these men and women, the drop in labor force participation rate was related both to discouraged workers dropping out of the labor force ${ }^{7}$ and to an increase in school enrollment rates. Between 2008 and 2009, school enrollment increased nationally for this age group from 60.1

[^1]percent to 60.6 percent. ${ }^{8}$ Of the ten states that had an increase in school enrollment between 2008 and 2009, six had decreases in labor force participation (see Table 1).

There were 20 states for which the labor force participation rate for men aged 16 to 24 and for women aged 16 to 24 did not change from 2008 to 2009 (see map). For 12 states and the District of Columbia, the male labor force participation rate decreased while the female rate did not change. There were five states (Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Oklahoma) that experienced a decrease in labor force participation rate for women and not for

[^2]men. There were 12 states that had a decrease in the labor force participation rates for men and for women.

Vermont was the only state with an increase in male labor force participation rate; its rate for women did not change.

For men aged 25 to 54, the national labor force participation rate decreased from 88.5 percent in 2008 to 87.9 percent in 2009, while women in this group experienced an increase from 77.0 percent to 77.1 percent. The drop in the male labor force participation rate for this age group was related to large job losses in male-dominated industries, such as construction and manufacturing, and the subsequent withdrawal of men in these industries from the labor force. This, in turn, may have

Table 1.
Percent Change in Labor Force Participation Rate and School Enrollment Rate From 2008 to 2009 for Those Aged 16 to 24

| State | Change in <br> labor force <br> participation | Change in <br> school <br> enrollment <br> rate |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Arizona | -2.65 | 1.75 |
| California | -2.56 | 1.10 |
| Florida | -2.36 | 1.81 |
| Georgia | -2.33 | 1.56 |
| Maryland | -2.28 | 1.81 |
| Virginia | -3.01 | 1.67 |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009.
contributed to the rise in women this age entering or returning to the labor force to offset losses in household income after, for example, a husband's job loss or reduction in hours worked. ${ }^{9}$ Women also faced better job prospects as a result of possessing education levels, such as advanced degrees, required to attain and hold on to jobs in today's evolving economy.

For men 55 years and older, the national labor force participation rate remained unchanged (at 45.2 percent) from 2008 to 2009, while the rate for women increased from 32.8 percent to 33.2 percent. ${ }^{10}$ These results were partly related to older workers staying at their existing jobs longer, or returning to the work force, or both.

[^3]
## SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2008 and 2009. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the "2009 ACS Accuracy of the Data" document located at <www.census.gov/acs
/www/Downloads/data
_documentation/Accuracy/ACS
_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf>.

## WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

Table 2.
Labor Force Participation Rate by State and Age: 2008 and 2009; Men Only
(In percent)

| Area | 2008 |  |  |  |  |  | 2009 |  |  |  |  |  | Change from 2008 to 2009 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 16 to 24 |  | 25 to 54 |  | 55 and older |  | 16 to 24 |  | 25 to 54 |  | 55 and older |  | 16 to 24 |  | 25 to 54 |  | 55 and older |  |
|  | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. |
| United States. | 61.5 | 0.2 | 88.5 | 0.1 | 45.2 | 0.1 | 59.2 | 0.2 | 87.9 | 0.1 | 45.2 | 0.1 | *-2.3 | 0.3 | *-0.6 | 0.1 | - | 0.2 |
| Alabama | 61.2 | 1.8 | 85.3 | 0.6 | 40.8 | 0.9 | 58.5 | 1.6 | 84.8 | 0.6 | 40.8 | 0.8 | *-2.7 | 2.4 | -0.5 | 0.8 | - | 1.2 |
| Alaska | 71.0 | 3.1 | 88.3 | 1.5 | 54.6 | 2.6 | 63.9 | 4.0 | 87.8 | 1.4 | 54.6 | 2.1 | *-7.1 | 5.1 | -0.5 | 2.1 | - | 3.4 |
| Arizona | 63.7 | 1.4 | 87.4 | 0.5 | 39.9 | 0.8 | 59.8 | 1.3 | 86.0 | 0.6 | 39.8 | 0.8 | *-3.9 | 1.9 | *-1.4 | 0.8 | -0.2 | 1.2 |
| Arkansas | 63.2 | 2.0 | 84.0 | 0.9 | 38.5 | 1.0 | 61.7 | 2.4 | 84.3 | 0.8 | 39.7 | 1.1 | -1.5 | 3.1 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| California | 58.4 | 0.5 | 88.5 | 0.2 | 45.9 | 0.4 | 55.4 | 0.5 | 88.1 | 0.2 | 46.4 | 0.4 | *-3.0 | 0.7 | *-0.4 | 0.3 | *0.6 | 0.5 |
| Colorado | 68.4 | 1.2 | 91.2 | 0.5 | 51.2 | 0.9 | 65.9 | 1.2 | 89.7 | 0.5 | 51.1 | 0.8 | *-2.5 | 1.7 | *-1.5 | 0.7 | -0.1 | 1.2 |
| Connecticut | 63.0 | 1.9 | 90.4 | 0.5 | 51.6 | 1.0 | 59.6 | 1.7 | 90.4 | 0.6 | 52.0 | 0.9 | *-3.4 | 2.6 | - | 0.7 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| Delaware | 62.9 | 3.4 | 89.3 | 1.1 | 43.1 | 1.8 | 59.1 | 3.8 | 89.0 | 1.2 | 43.9 | 2.0 | -3.8 | 5.1 | -0.3 | 1.6 | 0.7 | 2.7 |
| District of Columbia | 50.2 | 4.2 | 88.0 | 1.8 | 45.9 | 3.3 | 42.2 | 4.6 | 87.4 | 1.6 | 49.8 | 3.1 | *-8.0 | 6.2 | -0.6 | 2.4 | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| Florida | 60.4 | 0.8 | 87.5 | 0.3 | 38.6 | 0.4 | 57.8 | 0.8 | 87.0 | 0.4 | 38.8 | 0.4 | *-2.6 | 1.1 | *-0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| Georgia | 57.7 | 1.0 | 87.8 | 0.5 | 47.7 | 0.7 | 54.7 | 1.2 | 86.7 | 0.5 | 45.7 | 0.8 | *-3.0 | 1.6 | *-1.1 | 0.7 | *-2.0 | 1.1 |
| Hawaii | 62.4 | 2.9 | 89.4 | 1.1 | 46.5 | 1.5 | 60.5 | 2.9 | 89.7 | 1.1 | 47.3 | 1.2 | -1.9 | 4.1 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Idaho | 67.5 | 2.7 | 92.0 | 1.0 | 43.8 | 1.4 | 65.7 | 2.9 | 88.6 | 0.9 | 43.3 | 1.2 | -1.8 | 3.9 | *-3.4 | 1.3 | -0.5 | 1.9 |
| Illinois. | 62.3 | 1.0 | 89.9 | 0.3 | 46.9 | 0.5 | 60.5 | 1.0 | 89.3 | 0.4 | 47.2 | 0.5 | *-1.8 | 1.4 | *-0.6 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Indiana. | 62.5 | 1.2 | 88.9 | 0.4 | 46.1 | 0.6 | 60.9 | 1.4 | 88.4 | 0.5 | 46.1 | 0.7 | -1.7 | 1.8 | -0.5 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| lowa. | 72.1 | 1.4 | 91.8 | 0.5 | 49.3 | 0.7 | 68.9 | 2.0 | 91.5 | 0.6 | 48.4 | 0.8 | *-3.2 | 2.4 | -0.3 | 0.8 | -0.9 | 1.1 |
| Kansas. | 71.2 | 1.6 | 91.2 | 0.5 | 50.9 | 1.0 | 66.8 | 1.9 | 89.8 | 0.6 | 49.5 | 0.9 | *-4.4 | 2.4 | *-1.4 | 0.8 | *-1.3 | 1.3 |
| Kentucky | 63.0 | 1.5 | 82.7 | 0.6 | 37.8 | 0.9 | 61.2 | 1.5 | 83.0 | 0.6 | 39.4 | 0.9 | -1.8 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 0.9 | *1.5 | 1.2 |
| Louisiana | 60.0 | 2.0 | 84.0 | 0.6 | 43.1 | 1.1 | 59.2 | 1.7 | 84.9 | 0.7 | 43.7 | 1.0 | -0.8 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.5 |
| Maine. | 63.0 | 2.5 | 87.9 | 1.0 | 45.1 | 1.3 | 64.6 | 2.4 | 87.9 | 0.9 | 44.8 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 3.5 |  | 1.4 | -0.3 | 1.8 |
| Maryland | 62.3 | 1.4 | 90.5 | 0.5 | 52.4 | 0.8 | 59.4 | 1.7 | 89.8 | 0.5 | 52.9 | 1.0 | *-2.9 | 2.2 | *-0.7 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 1.3 |
| Massachusetts | 62.7 | 1.2 | 89.8 | 0.5 | 49.6 | 0.9 | 59.2 | 1.2 | 89.7 | 0.5 | 49.9 | 0.7 | *-3.4 | 1.7 | -0.2 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.2 |
| Michigan | 61.5 | 0.9 | 86.4 | 0.4 | 39.7 | 0.5 | 59.6 | 1.1 | 85.5 | 0.5 | 39.3 | 0.5 | *-1.9 | 1.5 | *-0.9 | 0.6 | -0.4 | 0.8 |
| Minnesota | 68.8 | 1.5 | 92.9 | 0.4 | 48.9 | 0.7 | 68.4 | 1.1 | 92.3 | 0.4 | 47.7 | 0.6 | -0.4 | 1.8 | *-0.7 | 0.5 | *-1.2 | 1.0 |
| Mississippi | 55.2 | 2.1 | 83.6 | 0.9 | 40.7 | 1.3 | 52.3 | 2.2 | 81.6 | 0.9 | 40.1 | 1.3 | -2.9 | 3.1 | *-2.0 | 1.3 | -0.7 | 1.9 |
| Missouri | 65.5 | 1.2 | 88.5 | 0.5 | 43.6 | 0.8 | 63.1 | 1.2 | 87.1 | 0.6 | 43.6 | 0.7 | *-2.4 | 1.7 | *-1.4 | 0.7 |  | 1.1 |
| Montana. | 65.7 | 3.6 | 88.7 | 1.0 | 45.7 | 1.8 | 62.1 | 4.0 | 86.4 | 1.2 | 46.0 | 1.7 | -3.6 | 5.3 | *-2.3 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 2.5 |
| Nebraska | 73.0 | 2.0 | 92.6 | 0.7 | 52.6 | 1.2 | 70.7 | 1.9 | 91.9 | 0.8 | 51.8 | 1.2 | -2.3 | 2.8 | -0.6 | 1.0 | -0.7 | 1.7 |
| Nevada | 65.0 | 2.2 | 91.0 | 0.8 | 47.1 | 1.3 | 63.7 | 1.9 | 91.0 | 0.7 | 47.6 | 1.3 | -1.4 | 2.8 |  | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| New Hampshire | 66.8 | 2.5 | 92.8 | 0.8 | 51.6 | 1.8 | 65.0 | 2.7 | 91.1 | 0.9 | 52.5 | 1.4 | -1.9 | 3.7 | *-1.7 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| New Jersey | 57.7 | 1.1 | 91.1 | 0.4 | 49.9 | 0.7 | 56.8 | 1.2 | 90.7 | 0.3 | 50.3 | 0.7 | -0.9 | 1.7 | -0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| New Mexico | 60.4 | 2.5 | 84.2 | 1.1 | 41.7 | 1.4 | 60.3 | 2.7 | 84.1 | 1.2 | 41.7 | 1.4 | -0.1 | 3.7 | -0.1 | 1.6 | -0.1 | 2.0 |
| New York | 54.2 | 0.8 | 87.8 | 0.3 | 44.9 | 0.5 | 51.4 | 0.7 | 87.6 | 0.3 | 45.4 | 0.4 | *-2.8 | 1.0 | -0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| North Carolina | 62.1 | 1.3 | 88.2 | 0.4 | 44.8 | 0.6 | 59.4 | 1.2 | 87.9 | 0.4 | 43.5 | 0.5 | *-2.6 | 1.8 | -0.3 | 0.6 | *-1.3 | 0.8 |
| North Dakota | 73.8 | 2.5 | 92.5 | 0.9 | 48.2 | 1.8 | 66.3 | 3.1 | 93.0 | 0.9 | 48.2 | 1.5 | *-7.5 | 4.0 | 0.5 | 1.3 | - | 2.4 |
| Ohio | 64.0 | 0.8 | 88.3 | 0.4 | 43.9 | 0.5 | 60.4 | 1.1 | 87.2 | 0.3 | 43.5 | 0.5 | *-3.6 | 1.3 | *-1.1 | 0.5 | -0.5 | 0.7 |
| Oklahoma | 64.6 | 1.8 | 85.7 | 0.7 | 44.5 | 1.0 | 62.7 | 1.6 | 85.5 | 0.7 | 43.3 | 0.9 | -1.9 | 2.4 | -0.2 | 1.0 | -1.1 | 1.3 |
| Oregon. | 61.5 | 1.9 | 88.8 | 0.6 | 43.1 | 0.9 | 61.3 | 1.8 | 88.0 | 0.7 | 42.5 | 1.0 | -0.2 | 2.6 | -0.8 | 0.9 | -0.6 | 1.4 |
| Pennsylvania | 58.7 | 1.0 | 88.1 | 0.3 | 44.0 | 0.5 | 57.7 | 1.0 | 87.4 | 0.3 | 45.0 | 0.4 | -1.0 | 1.4 | *-0.6 | 0.4 | *1.0 | 0.7 |
| Rhode Island | 62.7 | 3.2 | 87.1 | 1.2 | 48.5 | 1.7 | 61.4 | 3.0 | 88.4 | 1.3 | 48.6 | 1.9 | -1.4 | 4.4 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 2.5 |
| South Carolina. | 58.0 | 1.5 | 86.0 | 0.6 | 42.7 | 0.9 | 56.8 | 1.9 | 85.3 | 0.5 | 42.1 | 0.9 | -1.2 | 2.5 | -0.7 | 0.8 | -0.5 | 1.2 |
| South Dakota. | 71.4 | 3.4 | 90.0 | 1.1 | 50.9 | 1.5 | 68.6 | 4.2 | 91.0 | 1.1 | 48.3 | 2.0 | -2.8 | 5.4 | 1.0 | 1.6 | *-2.5 | 2.5 |
| Tennessee | 62.3 | 1.3 | 87.2 | 0.4 | 44.2 | 0.7 | 60.4 | 1.2 | 86.2 | 0.5 | 42.3 | 0.9 | *-1.8 | 1.8 | *-1.0 | 0.7 | *-1.9 | 1.1 |
| Texas | 62.2 | 0.7 | 89.1 | 0.2 | 48.3 | 0.5 | 59.6 | 0.7 | 88.2 | 0.3 | 48.6 | 0.4 | *-2.6 | 1.0 | *-0.9 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| Utah. | 70.7 | 2.1 | 92.4 | 0.5 | 48.4 | 1.3 | 70.6 | 1.9 | 92.1 | 0.6 | 49.1 | 1.4 | -0.2 | 2.8 | -0.3 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 1.9 |
| Vermont | 60.2 | 3.1 | 92.0 | 1.1 | 52.3 | 1.6 | 66.1 | 2.8 | 89.9 | 1.1 | 50.7 | 1.6 | *5.9 | 4.2 | *-2.1 | 1.5 | -1.6 | 2.2 |
| Virginia. | 61.5 | 1.2 | 89.2 | 0.4 | 49.3 | 0.7 | 59.1 | 1.4 | 88.7 | 0.4 | 49.0 | 0.7 | *-2.4 | 1.8 | -0.5 | 0.6 | -0.3 | 1.0 |
| Washington | 62.5 | 1.3 | 89.2 | 0.4 | 45.7 | 0.7 | 59.2 | 1.4 | 88.4 | 0.4 | 45.5 | 0.7 | *-3.2 | 1.9 | *-0.9 | 0.6 | -0.1 | 1.0 |
| West Virginia | 56.8 | 2.3 | 82.0 | 1.0 | 34.0 | 1.3 | 57.2 | 2.6 | 81.7 | 0.9 | 35.4 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 3.4 | -0.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Wisconsin | 69.4 | 1.1 | 91.0 | 0.4 | 45.6 | 0.7 | 67.5 | 1.3 | 90.0 | 0.4 | 46.4 | 0.6 | *-1.9 | 1.7 | *-0.9 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Wyoming | 69.8 | 4.0 | 93.2 | 1.1 | 52.3 | 2.3 | 70.7 | 4.1 | 92.1 | 1.2 | 51.1 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 5.7 | -1.1 | 1.6 | -1.2 | 3.4 |
| Puerto Rico | 41.4 | 1.3 | 74.3 | 0.8 | 26.4 | 0.8 | 40.5 | 1.3 | 75.2 | 1.0 | 25.4 | 0.9 | -0.9 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 1.3 | -1.0 | 1.2 |

[^4]
## - Represents or rounds to zero.

${ }^{1}$ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009, Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009.

Table 3.
Labor Force Participation Rate by State and Age: 2008 and 2009; Women Only
(In percent)

| Area | 2008 |  |  |  |  |  | 2009 |  |  |  |  |  | Change from 2008 to 2009 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 16 to 24 |  | 25 to 54 |  | 55 and older |  | 16 to 24 |  | 25 to 54 |  | 55 and older |  | 16 to 24 |  | 25 to 54 |  | 55 and older |  |
|  | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. | Rate | M.O.E. |
| United States. | 60.4 | 0.2 | 77.0 | 0.1 | 32.8 | 0.1 | 58.7 | 0.2 | 77.1 | 0.1 | 33.2 | 0.1 | *-1.7 | 0.3 | *0.1 | 0.1 | *0.4 | 0.1 |
| Alabama | 55.5 | 1.5 | 73.9 | 0.7 | 27.2 | 0.7 | 54.9 | 2.0 | 73.3 | 0.8 | 28.2 | 0.7 | -0.6 | 2.5 | -0.7 | 1.1 | *1.0 | 1.0 |
| Alaska | 65.6 | 4.3 | 78.2 | 1.8 | 46.0 | 2.3 | 60.4 | 4.4 | 77.6 | 1.6 | 46.0 | 2.8 | -5.2 | 6.1 | -0.7 | 2.4 | - | 3.6 |
| Arizona | 58.7 | 1.5 | 73.8 | 0.8 | 30.0 | 0.7 | 57.4 | 1.6 | 73.5 | 0.8 | 29.3 | 0.8 | -1.4 | 2.2 | -0.3 | 1.1 | -0.8 | 1.1 |
| Arkansas | 58.1 | 2.2 | 74.6 | 0.8 | 28.9 | 0.9 | 57.0 | 2.3 | 74.1 | 1.0 | 28.8 | 0.9 | -1.1 | 3.2 | -0.5 | 1.3 | -0.1 | 1.3 |
| California | 55.4 | 0.6 | 73.6 | 0.3 | 32.2 | 0.3 | 53.3 | 0.5 | 74.6 | 0.2 | 33.6 | 0.3 | *-2.1 | 0.8 | *1.0 | 0.4 | *1.4 | 0.4 |
| Colorado | 63.5 | 1.6 | 78.7 | 0.7 | 37.3 | 0.7 | 62.6 | 1.5 | 78.3 | 0.6 | 38.1 | 0.8 | -0.9 | 2.2 | -0.4 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.1 |
| Connecticu | 65.8 | 1.9 | 79.6 | 0.7 | 37.1 | 0.7 | 62.9 | 1.6 | 80.9 | 0.7 | 38.4 | 0.8 | *-2.9 | 2.5 | *1.3 | 1.0 | *1.3 | 1.1 |
| Delaware | 61.1 | 4.1 | 80.4 | 1.4 | 32.7 | 1.7 | 61.5 | 3.8 | 80.0 | 1.5 | 34.3 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 5.6 | -0.4 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 2.4 |
| District of Columbia | 52.1 | 4.3 | 84.2 | 1.7 | 39.1 | 2.7 | 46.9 | 4.2 | 82.0 | 1.8 | 39.9 | 1.9 | -5.3 | 6.0 | -2.3 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 3.3 |
| Florida | 59.1 | 0.9 | 77.6 | 0.4 | 29.1 | 0.4 | 57.1 | 1.0 | 77.9 | 0.4 | 28.9 | 0.4 | *-2.1 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 | -0.2 | 0.5 |
| Georgia | 54.6 | 1.1 | 76.6 | 0.6 | 33.9 | 0.6 | 53.0 | 1.4 | 76.8 | 0.5 | 32.8 | 0.7 | -1.6 | 1.8 | 0.2 | 0.8 | *-1.0 | 1.0 |
| Hawaii | 57.9 | 3.2 | 80.1 | 1.4 | 35.5 | 1.3 | 56.4 | 3.6 | 79.7 | 1.5 | 36.2 | 1.3 | -1.5 | 4.8 | -0.4 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 1.8 |
| Idaho | 64.7 | 2.9 | 73.5 | 1.5 | 33.2 | 1.3 | 61.4 | 2.6 | 74.1 | 1.3 | 33.5 | 1.2 | -3.3 | 3.8 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 1.8 |
| Illinois. | 61.5 | 1.0 | 78.2 | 0.3 | 34.7 | 0.4 | 60.0 | 1.0 | 78.7 | 0.4 | 34.2 | 0.5 | *-1.4 | 1.4 | *0.5 | 0.5 | -0.5 | 0.6 |
| Indiana. | 63.4 | 1.3 | 78.4 | 0.6 | 33.4 | 0.6 | 60.7 | 1.4 | 77.8 | 0.6 | 33.8 | 0.6 | *-2.8 | 1.9 | -0.6 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| lowa. | 73.5 | 1.3 | 83.9 | 0.7 | 35.8 | 0.7 | 71.3 | 1.4 | 84.1 | 0.9 | 36.4 | 0.7 | *-2.1 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Kansas. | 70.6 | 1.6 | 80.7 | 0.8 | 36.6 | 0.8 | 65.8 | 2.3 | 80.6 | 0.8 | 36.1 | 0.8 | *-4.7 | 2.8 | -0.1 | 1.1 | -0.5 | 1.1 |
| Kentucky | 60.2 | 1.8 | 72.7 | 0.8 | 27.5 | 0.7 | 57.5 | 1.8 | 72.3 | 0.8 | 29.0 | 0.6 | *-2.7 | 2.5 | -0.4 | 1.1 | *1.4 | 0.9 |
| Louisiana | 56.3 | 2.0 | 73.1 | 0.9 | 29.4 | 0.8 | 57.9 | 2.0 | 74.3 | 0.7 | 29.5 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 2.8 | *1.2 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 1.2 |
| Maine. | 65.4 | 3.2 | 80.5 | 1.2 | 34.7 | 1.2 | 66.9 | 2.4 | 79.9 | 1.1 | 33.7 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 4.0 | -0.6 | 1.6 | -1.0 | 1.6 |
| Maryland | 63.7 | 1.4 | 82.8 | 0.6 | 38.1 | 0.5 | 62.1 | 1.4 | 82.4 | 0.6 | 39.0 | 0.7 | -1.7 | 2.0 | -0.4 | 0.9 | *0.9 | 0.9 |
| Massachusetts | 64.8 | 1.2 | 81.0 | 0.6 | 37.4 | 0.6 | 62.3 | 1.5 | 81.5 | 0.5 | 37.6 | 0.6 | *-2.5 | 1.9 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Michigan | 62.7 | 0.9 | 77.1 | 0.4 | 30.0 | 0.4 | 62.7 | 1.1 | 77.3 | 0.5 | 30.1 | 0.4 | - | 1.5 | 0.2 | 0.6 | - | 0.6 |
| Minnesota | 72.3 | 1.3 | 84.8 | 0.4 | 37.2 | 0.6 | 69.8 | 1.0 | 84.3 | 0.5 | 37.3 | 0.5 | *-2.5 | 1.6 | -0.5 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.8 |
| Mississippi | 53.1 | 2.3 | 74.1 | 1.0 | 28.3 | 1.0 | 53.7 | 1.9 | 73.6 | 1.1 | 27.9 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 3.0 | -0.5 | 1.5 | -0.4 | 1.5 |
| Missouri | 66.1 | 1.3 | 79.1 | 0.6 | 32.8 | 0.6 | 65.7 | 1.1 | 78.1 | 0.7 | 33.2 | 0.7 | -0.4 | 1.7 | *-1.0 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| Montana. | 65.6 | 3.5 | 79.1 | 1.6 | 35.1 | 1.4 | 64.4 | 3.4 | 80.2 | 1.5 | 34.9 | 1.4 | -1.1 | 4.9 | 1.1 | 2.2 | -0.2 | 2.0 |
| Nebraska | 73.7 | 1.9 | 83.8 | 0.9 | 37.8 | 0.8 | 73.7 | 2.3 | 83.0 | 0.9 | 38.6 | 0.9 | -0.1 | 3.0 | -0.8 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.3 |
| Nevada | 61.4 | 2.4 | 77.3 | 0.8 | 37.7 | 1.3 | 59.0 | 2.4 | 77.1 | 1.0 | 37.1 | 1.1 | -2.4 | 3.4 | -0.2 | 1.3 | -0.6 | 1.7 |
| New Hampshire. | 68.8 | 2.3 | 82.2 | 1.1 | 38.3 | 1.2 | 68.1 | 2.1 | 82.8 | 1.2 | 39.7 | 1.5 | -0.7 | 3.2 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.9 |
| New Jersey | 59.9 | 1.2 | 78.6 | 0.5 | 36.1 | 0.5 | 57.8 | 1.1 | 78.3 | 0.5 | 36.5 | 0.6 | *-2.1 | 1.6 | -0.2 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| New Mexico | 60.5 | 2.8 | 74.8 | 1.3 | 31.9 | 1.3 | 56.8 | 2.7 | 74.4 | 1.3 | 32.5 | 1.4 | -3.6 | 3.9 | -0.3 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1.9 |
| New York | 56.4 | 0.8 | 77.5 | 0.3 | 32.6 | 0.4 | 53.5 | 0.9 | 77.3 | 0.4 | 34.0 | 0.4 | *-2.8 | 1.2 | -0.3 | 0.5 | *1.4 | 0.5 |
| North Carolina | 59.4 | 1.2 | 77.6 | 0.4 | 32.8 | 0.6 | 55.5 | 1.1 | 77.1 | 0.5 | 32.2 | 0.5 | *-3.9 | 1.6 | -0.5 | 0.7 | -0.6 | 0.7 |
| North Dakota | 72.3 | 2.8 | 84.7 | 1.3 | 36.3 | 1.4 | 70.8 | 3.0 | 86.0 | 1.2 | 35.5 | 1.6 | -1.5 | 4.1 | 1.3 | 1.8 | -0.8 | 2.1 |
| Ohio. | 65.2 | 0.9 | 78.9 | 0.5 | 32.1 | 0.5 | 64.3 | 0.9 | 78.3 | 0.4 | 32.8 | 0.5 | -0.9 | 1.3 | -0.5 | 0.6 | *0.7 | 0.7 |
| Oklahoma | 60.7 | 1.8 | 74.6 | 0.8 | 31.8 | 0.9 | 57.7 | 1.8 | 73.6 | 0.9 | 31.4 | 0.8 | *-3.0 | 2.6 | -1.0 | 1.2 | -0.5 | 1.2 |
| Oregon. | 63.6 | 1.7 | 77.1 | 0.8 | 32.3 | 0.7 | 62.1 | 1.7 | 78.4 | 1.0 | 33.0 | 0.9 | -1.6 | 2.4 | *1.3 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.1 |
| Pennsylvania | 60.8 | 1.1 | 78.1 | 0.4 | 31.3 | 0.4 | 59.5 | 0.9 | 78.3 | 0.5 | 31.7 | 0.4 | -1.3 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Rhode Island | 61.2 | 3.8 | 80.8 | 1.4 | 34.2 | 1.2 | 61.6 | 3.2 | 81.6 | 1.4 | 36.0 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 5.0 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| South Carolina. | 57.9 | 1.7 | 75.7 | 0.8 | 30.0 | 0.8 | 57.3 | 1.8 | 77.3 | 0.7 | 31.1 | 0.8 | -0.6 | 2.5 | *1.6 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| South Dakota. | 72.1 | 3.2 | 85.0 | 1.6 | 37.7 | 1.7 | 68.1 | 3.0 | 84.2 | 1.5 | 39.0 | 1.6 | -4.0 | 4.4 | -0.8 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 2.4 |
| Tennessee | 60.9 | 1.4 | 74.7 | 0.6 | 31.2 | 0.7 | 56.9 | 1.2 | 75.1 | 0.8 | 30.7 | 0.6 | *-4.0 | 1.9 | 0.4 | 1.0 | -0.4 | 0.9 |
| Texas | 55.5 | 0.7 | 72.9 | 0.4 | 32.7 | 0.4 | 55.6 | 0.7 | 73.8 | 0.3 | 32.9 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 1.0 | *0.9 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Utah. | 72.0 | 1.7 | 70.5 | 1.0 | 33.7 | 1.1 | 69.7 | 1.8 | 70.9 | 1.1 | 34.7 | 1.0 | -2.3 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| Vermont | 66.3 | 3.1 | 84.0 | 1.7 | 41.2 | 1.7 | 65.1 | 3.2 | 83.2 | 1.3 | 39.8 | 1.8 | -1.2 | 4.5 | -0.8 | 2.1 | -1.4 | 2.5 |
| Virginia. | 61.6 | 1.2 | 79.0 | 0.4 | 35.3 | 0.6 | 58.0 | 1.5 | 78.5 | 0.5 | 35.6 | 0.6 | *-3.6 | 1.9 | -0.4 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.8 |
| Washington | 62.2 | 1.1 | 76.1 | 0.6 | 34.0 | 0.6 | 61.1 | 1.2 | 76.0 | 0.5 | 35.6 | 0.7 | -1.1 | 1.6 | - | 0.8 | *1.5 | 0.9 |
| West Virginia | 52.4 | 2.6 | 69.8 | 1.1 | 25.9 | 1.0 | 52.2 | 3.2 | 68.0 | 1.1 | 26.6 | 1.0 | -0.2 | 4.1 | *-1.8 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| Wisconsin | 73.0 | 1.1 | 83.7 | 0.5 | 34.8 | 0.5 | 70.7 | 1.1 | 83.5 | 0.5 | 36.0 | 0.5 | *-2.4 | 1.6 | -0.2 | 0.7 | *1.2 | 0.7 |
| Wyoming | 64.1 | 3.8 | 78.8 | 2.0 | 41.1 | 2.4 | 64.2 | 3.9 | 79.3 | 1.8 | 39.5 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 5.4 | 0.5 | 2.7 | -1.5 | 3.3 |
| Puerto Rico | 33.3 | 1.5 | 62.0 | 0.8 | 13.8 | 0.6 | 34.1 | 1.5 | 63.6 | 0.9 | 13.6 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 2.1 | *1.6 | 1.2 | -0.2 | 0.8 |

[^5]- Represents or rounds to zero.
${ }^{1}$ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009, Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Hipple, Steven F., "The Labor Market in 2009: Recession Drags On," Monthly Labor Review, March 2010, Vol. 133, No. 3, pp. 3-22.
    ${ }^{2}$ Hipple, 2010.
    ${ }^{3}$ See Bureau of Labor Statistics, Issues in Labor Statistics, March 2010, at <www.bls.gov /opub/ils/pdf/opbils81.pdf>.
    ${ }^{4}$ Hipple, 2010.
    ${ }^{5}$ Hipple, 2010.
    ${ }^{6}$ See Greenhouse, Steven, "Recession Drives Women Back to the Work Force," New York Times, September 19, 2009, at <www.nytimes.com /2009/09/19/business/19women.html>.

[^1]:    ${ }^{7}$ See Bureau of Labor Statistics, Issues in Labor Statistics, April 2009, at <www.bls .gov/opub/ils/pdf/opbils74.pdf>.

[^2]:    ${ }^{8}$ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009. College enrollment rates for 18 to 24 year olds increased from 38.6 percent in 2008 to 39.5 percent in 2009 (author's tabulations).

[^3]:    ${ }^{9}$ See Woodring (2010), "Employment Status of Married-Couple Families by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years: 2008 and 2009" at <www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs /acsbr09-10.pdf>, and Greenhouse, Steven, "Recession Drives Women Back to the Work Force," New York Times, September 19, 2009, at <www.nytimes.com/2009/09/19 /business/19women.html>.
    ${ }^{10}$ See Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition at <www.bls.gov/oco/oco2003.htm>, and McQueen, M. P., "Better Education Shields Women from Worst of Job Cuts," Wall Street Journal, February 12, 2010, at <online.wsj .com/article/NA_WSJ_PUB:SB1000142405274 $8703389004575033762482114190 . \mathrm{html}>$.

[^4]:    * Statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level.

[^5]:    * Statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level.

