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EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES IN 2002

In 2002, 7.8 percent of families had an unemployed member, up from 6.6 percent the year before, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. This was the second consecutive increase in this proportion. Of the nation's 74.2 million families, 82.4 percent had at least one employed member in 2002, down by 0.4 percentage point from 2001.

These data on employment, unemployment, and family relationships are collected as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of approximately 60,000 households. Families include married-couple families, as well as families maintained by a man or woman with no spouse present. For further information about the CPS, see the Technical Note.

Families and Unemployment

In an average week in 2002, 5.8 million families had at least one member who was unemployed, an increase of 962,000 families from 2001. The proportion of families with an unemployed member was higher for black families (13.1 percent) than for either white families (7.0 percent) or Hispanic families (11.2 percent). For all three groups, the proportion of families with an unemployed person was higher than in 2001. (See table 1.)

In 2002, among the families with unemployment, 71.0 percent had at least one employed member, down from 72.1 percent in 2001. For white families with an unemployed member, 74.0 percent also contained someone who was employed in 2002, compared with 71.1 percent of Hispanic families and 59.3 percent of black families. Over the year, this proportion was down for each group.

Overall, 82.1 percent of married-couple families with unemployment had an employed member. In comparison, 58.7 percent of families with some unemployment maintained by men and 47.7 percent of such families maintained by women also had at least one employed member. (See table 3.)

Changes in Family Data

The estimates for 2001 and 2002 in this release incorporate new population controls reflecting Census 2000 results. Consequently, the 2001 data appearing in this release may differ from those published earlier, which were based on population controls derived from the 1990 census. Estimates for 2001 and 2002 are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. For further information, see the Technical Note.

Families and Employment

In 2002, 79.0 percent of black families had at least one employed member, down by 0.9 percentage point from the prior year. The proportion of white families (82.6 percent) and Hispanic families (86.5 percent) with an employed member decreased by 0.3 and 0.7 percentage point, respectively. (See table 1.)

Among married-couple families, 83.5 percent had an employed person, little changed from 2001. The proportion with an employed member fell from 77.7 percent to 77.0 percent over the year for families maintained by women (no spouse present) and from 86.2 percent to 85.1 percent for those maintained by men (no spouse present). (See table 2.)

The proportion of married-couple families in which only the husband worked increased over the year, while the proportion of dual-earner couples declined. Married-couple families in which only the wife worked increased to 6.4 percent of all married-couple families, the highest rate since the series began in 1994. (See table 2.)

Families with Children

Of the 35.2 million families with children under 18, the percent that had an employed parent fell by 0.7 percentage point to 90.7 percent, the second straight yearly decline. Among families with children under 18 maintained by unmarried fathers, the percent with an employed parent was down by 1.2 percentage points in 2002 to 83.9 percent. Families with children under 18 maintained by unmarried mothers had a 1.0 percentage point decline to 73.4 percent with an employed parent. Among married-couple families with children under 18, 96.7 percent had an employed member in 2002, about unchanged from the prior year. (See table 4.)

Mothers

The overall labor force participation rate of mothers with children under 18, at 71.8 percent, was about unchanged over the year. However, the labor force participation rate for married mothers fell by 0.5 percentage point to 69.0 percent in 2002. This continued a trend of decreasing labor force participation by married mothers that began in 1997. (See table 5.)

The unemployment rate for unmarried mothers—those who were single, widowed, divorced, or separated—with children under 18 increased by 1.6 percentage points to 9.5 percent in 2002. The jobless rate for married mothers increased by 0.7 percentage point to 4.1 percent. (See table 5.)

For mothers of children under age 1, the unemployment rate increased from 7.7 percent in 2001 to 9.4 percent in 2002. The rate for unmarried mothers of children under age 1 grew from 16.7 percent to 19.6 percent in 2002. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release are based on annual average data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a national sample survey of about 60,000 households conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information relates to the labor force status of persons 16 years old and over in the civilian noninstitutional population during an “average” week of the year.

The estimates for 2001 and 2002 presented in this release incorporate the use of Census 2000-based population controls. Sample results from the CPS are weighted up to independent estimates of the population by sex, age, race, and Hispanic/non-Hispanic origin. The weights, or population controls, are developed using counts of the civilian noninstitutional population derived from the decennial census and are updated using information from administrative records. Previously published estimates of employment characteristics of families in 2001 were based on population controls from the 1990 census. Consequently, the estimates for 2001 appearing in this release may differ from those previously published, and the estimates for 2001 and 2002 are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. For a discussion of the introduction of Census 2000 population controls and the impact their introduction had on CPS data, see “Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003” in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings* and available at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcps03.pdf> on the BLS Web site.

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 data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the “Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error” section of *Employment and Earnings*.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in this release are described below.

Family. A family is a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The count of families is for “primary” families only, that is, the householder and all other persons related to and residing with the householder. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as families maintained by women or men without spouses.

Householder. The householder is the family reference person. This is the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. The relationship of other individuals in the household is defined in terms of relationship to the householder.

Married, spouse present; other marital status. These terms denote the marital status of individuals at the time of interview. Married, spouse present, refers to husbands and wives living together in the same household, even though one may be temporarily absent on business, on vacation, on a visit, in a hospital, or for other reasons. Other marital status includes persons who are never-married; married, spouse absent; widowed; or divorced. Married, spouse absent relates to persons who are separated due to marital problems, as well as husbands and wives who are living apart because one or the other was employed elsewhere, on duty with the Armed Forces, or any other reasons.

Children. Data on children refer to own children and include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children, of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, other related children, and all unrelated children living in the household.

Employed. Employed persons are (a) all those who, during the survey reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family-operated enterprise; and (b) all those who did not work but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, vacation, child-care problems, labor disputes, or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off and whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

Unemployed. The unemployed are persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work at that time, and had made specific efforts to find

employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Civilian labor force. The civilian labor force comprises all

persons classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Labor force participation rate. The labor force participation rate is the labor force as a percent of the population.

Table 1. Employment and unemployment in families by race and Hispanic origin, 2001-02 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2001	2002
TOTAL		
Total families	73,306	74,169
With employed member(s)	60,707	61,121
As percent of total families	82.8	82.4
Some usually work full time ¹	56,519	56,742
With no employed member	12,600	13,048
As percent of total families	17.2	17.6
With unemployed member(s)	4,847	5,809
As percent of total families	6.6	7.8
Some member(s) employed	3,494	4,126
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	72.1	71.0
Some usually work full time ¹	3,122	3,668
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	64.4	63.1
White		
Total families	60,921	61,494
With employed member(s)	50,505	50,785
As percent of total families	82.9	82.6
Some usually work full time ¹	47,060	47,193
With no employed member	10,416	10,709
As percent of total families	17.1	17.4
With unemployed member(s)	3,553	4,275
As percent of total families	5.8	7.0
Some member(s) employed	2,661	3,164
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	74.9	74.0
Some usually work full time ¹	2,379	2,808
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	67.0	65.7
Black		
Total families	8,674	8,845
With employed member(s)	6,933	6,987
As percent of total families	79.9	79.0
Some usually work full time ¹	6,373	6,390
With no employed member	1,742	1,858
As percent of total families	20.1	21.0
With unemployed member(s)	990	1,162
As percent of total families	11.4	13.1
Some member(s) employed	596	689
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	60.2	59.3
Some usually work full time ¹	533	611
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	53.8	52.6
Hispanic origin		
Total families	8,140	8,650
With employed member(s)	7,100	7,485
As percent of total families	87.2	86.5
Some usually work full time ¹	6,692	6,989
With no employed member	1,040	1,165
As percent of total families	12.8	13.5
With unemployed member(s)	809	965
As percent of total families	9.9	11.2
Some member(s) employed	592	686
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	73.2	71.1
Some usually work full time ¹	537	615
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	66.4	63.7

¹ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data for 2001 have been revised to reflect the introduction of Census 2000-based population controls. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals

because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 2. Families by presence and relationship of employed members and family type, 2001-02 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent distribution	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES				
Total	55,749	56,280	100.0	100.0
Member(s) employed, total	46,680	46,976	83.7	83.5
Husband only	10,833	11,174	19.4	19.9
Wife only	3,257	3,613	5.8	6.4
Husband and wife	29,241	28,873	52.5	51.3
Other employment combinations	3,350	3,317	6.0	5.9
No member(s) employed	9,068	9,303	16.3	16.5
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY WOMEN¹				
Total	13,037	13,215	100.0	100.0
Members(s) employed, total	10,131	10,169	77.7	77.0
Householder only	5,667	5,944	43.5	45.0
Householder and other member(s)	2,778	2,559	21.3	19.4
Other member(s), not householder	1,686	1,666	12.9	12.6
No member(s) employed	2,906	3,047	22.3	23.1
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY MEN¹				
Total	4,521	4,674	100.0	100.0
Members(s) employed, total	3,895	3,976	86.2	85.1
Householder only	1,875	1,939	41.5	41.5
Householder and other member(s)	1,450	1,440	32.1	30.8
Other member(s), not householder	570	598	12.6	12.8
No member(s) employed	625	698	13.8	14.9

¹ No spouse present.

NOTE: Data for 2001 have been revised to reflect the introduction

of Census 2000-based population controls. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 3. Unemployment in families by presence and relationship of employed members and family type, 2001-02 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent distribution	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES				
With unemployed member(s), total	3,081	3,772	100.0	100.0
No member employed	531	676	17.2	17.9
Some member(s) employed	2,550	3,096	82.8	82.1
Husband unemployed	1,160	1,523	37.7	40.4
Wife employed	736	993	23.9	26.3
Wife unemployed	918	1,117	29.8	29.6
Husband employed	809	969	26.3	25.7
Other family member unemployed	1,003	1,133	32.6	30.0
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY WOMEN¹				
With unemployed member(s), total	1,324	1,504	100.0	100.0
No member employed	643	787	48.6	52.3
Some member(s) employed	681	717	51.4	47.7
Householder unemployed	593	737	44.8	49.0
Other member(s) employed	129	147	9.7	9.8
Other member(s) unemployed	731	767	55.2	51.0
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY MEN¹				
With unemployed member(s), total	442	533	100.0	100.0
No member employed	178	220	40.3	41.3
Some member(s) employed	264	313	59.7	58.7
Householder unemployed	234	303	52.9	56.8
Other member(s) employed	96	129	21.7	24.2
Other member(s) unemployed	208	230	47.1	43.2

¹ No spouse present.

NOTE: Data for 2001 have been revised to reflect the introduction

of Census 2000-based population controls. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 4. Families with own children: Employment status of parents by age of youngest child and family type, 2001-02 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent distribution	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS				
Total	34,823	35,240	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	31,834	31,955	91.4	90.7
No parent employed	2,989	3,285	8.6	9.3
Married-couple families	25,188	25,191	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	24,456	24,372	97.1	96.7
Mother employed	17,003	16,773	67.5	66.6
Both parents employed	15,878	15,439	63.0	61.3
Mother employed, not father	1,124	1,334	4.5	5.3
Father employed, not mother	7,453	7,599	29.6	30.2
Neither parent employed	732	819	2.9	3.3
Families maintained by women ¹	7,725	8,053	100.0	100.0
Mother employed	5,751	5,910	74.4	73.4
Mother not employed	1,973	2,143	25.5	26.6
Families maintained by men ¹	1,911	1,995	100.0	100.0
Father employed	1,627	1,673	85.1	83.9
Father not employed	284	323	14.9	16.2
WITH OWN CHILDREN 6 TO 17 YEARS, NONE YOUNGER				
Total	19,774	20,042	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	18,179	18,313	91.9	91.4
No parent employed	1,594	1,728	8.1	8.6
Married-couple families	13,882	13,891	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	13,472	13,459	97.0	96.9
Mother employed	10,295	10,230	74.2	73.6
Both parents employed	9,577	9,386	69.0	67.6
Mother employed, not father	718	844	5.2	6.1
Father employed, not mother	3,177	3,229	22.9	23.2
Neither parent employed	409	432	2.9	3.1
Families maintained by women ¹	4,779	4,959	100.0	100.0
Mother employed	3,765	3,856	78.8	77.8
Mother not employed	1,013	1,102	21.2	22.2
Families maintained by men ¹	1,113	1,193	100.0	100.0
Father employed	942	998	84.6	83.7
Father not employed	172	194	15.5	16.3
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS				
Total	15,049	15,197	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	13,655	13,641	90.7	89.8
No parent employed	1,394	1,557	9.3	10.2
Married-couple families	11,306	11,300	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	10,984	10,913	97.2	96.6
Mother employed	6,707	6,543	59.3	57.9
Both parents employed	6,301	6,053	55.7	53.6
Mother employed, not father	406	490	3.6	4.3
Father employed, not mother	4,276	4,370	37.8	38.7
Neither parent employed	322	388	2.8	3.4
Families maintained by women ¹	2,946	3,094	100.0	100.0
Mother employed	1,986	2,054	67.4	66.4
Mother not employed	960	1,040	32.6	33.6
Families maintained by men ¹	797	803	100.0	100.0
Father employed	685	674	85.9	83.9
Father not employed	112	129	14.1	16.1

¹ No spouse present.

NOTE: Data for 2001 have been revised to reflect the introduction of Census 2000-based population controls. Own children include

sons, daughters, step-children and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 5. Employment status of the population by sex, marital status, and presence and age of own children under 18, 2001-02 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2001			2002		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS						
Civilian noninstitutional population	64,100	28,076	36,024	64,399	28,137	36,263
Civilian labor force	52,489	26,551	25,938	52,566	26,529	26,036
Participation rate	81.9	94.6	72.0	81.6	94.3	71.8
Employed	50,455	25,750	24,704	50,022	25,474	24,549
Employment-population ratio	78.7	91.7	68.6	77.7	90.5	67.7
Full-time workers ¹	43,424	24,964	18,460	42,884	24,644	18,240
Part-time workers ²	7,031	787	6,244	7,138	829	6,308
Unemployed	2,034	801	1,233	2,543	1,056	1,488
Unemployment rate	3.9	3.0	4.8	4.8	4.0	5.7
Married, spouse present						
Civilian noninstitutional population	51,981	25,796	26,185	51,947	25,781	26,166
Civilian labor force	42,712	24,512	18,201	42,492	24,425	18,067
Participation rate	82.2	95.0	69.5	81.8	94.7	69.0
Employed	41,431	23,849	17,581	40,867	23,533	17,334
Employment-population ratio	79.7	92.5	67.1	78.7	91.3	66.2
Full-time workers ¹	35,772	23,169	12,603	35,180	22,825	12,356
Part-time workers ²	5,659	680	4,979	5,687	708	4,979
Unemployed	1,282	662	619	1,625	893	733
Unemployment rate	3.0	2.7	3.4	3.8	3.7	4.1
Other marital status³						
Civilian noninstitutional population	12,119	2,280	9,839	12,452	2,355	10,096
Civilian labor force	9,777	2,039	7,737	10,073	2,103	7,970
Participation rate	80.7	89.4	78.6	80.9	89.3	78.9
Employed	9,024	1,902	7,123	9,155	1,941	7,215
Employment-population ratio	74.5	83.4	72.4	73.5	82.4	71.5
Full-time workers ¹	7,652	1,795	5,857	7,704	1,820	5,885
Part-time workers ²	1,372	107	1,265	1,451	122	1,329
Unemployed	752	138	614	918	163	755
Unemployment rate	7.7	6.8	7.9	9.1	7.8	9.5
WITH OWN CHILDREN 6 TO 17 YEARS, NONE YOUNGER						
Civilian noninstitutional population	35,523	15,486	20,038	35,829	15,580	20,250
Civilian labor force	30,182	14,489	15,693	30,371	14,541	15,830
Participation rate	85.0	93.6	78.3	84.8	93.3	78.2
Employed	29,174	14,096	15,078	29,122	14,023	15,099
Employment-population ratio	82.1	91.0	75.2	81.3	90.0	74.6
Full-time workers ¹	25,382	13,689	11,693	25,225	13,586	11,638
Part-time workers ²	3,792	407	3,385	3,898	437	3,461
Unemployed	1,008	393	615	1,249	518	731
Unemployment rate	3.3	2.7	3.9	4.1	3.6	4.6
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS						
Civilian noninstitutional population	28,577	12,590	15,986	28,570	12,557	16,013
Civilian labor force	22,307	12,062	10,245	22,194	11,988	10,206
Participation rate	78.1	95.8	64.1	77.7	95.5	63.7
Employed	21,280	11,654	9,626	20,900	11,450	9,450
Employment-population ratio	74.5	92.6	60.2	73.2	91.2	59.0
Full-time workers ¹	18,041	11,274	6,767	17,660	11,058	6,602
Part-time workers ²	3,239	380	2,859	3,240	392	2,848
Unemployed	1,026	408	619	1,294	538	757
Unemployment rate	4.6	3.4	6.0	5.8	4.5	7.4
WITH NO OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS						
Civilian noninstitutional population	149,643	73,857	75,786	151,715	74,993	76,722
Civilian labor force	90,171	49,249	40,922	90,971	49,644	41,327
Participation rate	60.3	66.7	54.0	60.0	66.2	53.9
Employed	85,421	46,371	39,050	85,187	46,154	39,034
Employment-population ratio	57.1	62.8	51.5	56.1	61.5	50.9
Full-time workers ¹	69,074	39,596	29,478	68,574	39,319	29,254
Part-time workers ²	16,347	6,776	9,572	16,614	6,834	9,779
Unemployed	4,750	2,878	1,872	5,784	3,491	2,293
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.8	4.6	6.4	7.0	5.5

¹ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

² Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

³ Includes never-married, divorced, separated, and widowed

persons.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 4.

Table 6. Employment status of mothers with own children under 3 years old by single year of age of youngest child, and marital status, 2001-02 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force							
		Total	Percent of population	Employed				Unemployed	
				Total	Percent of population	Full-time workers ¹	Part-time workers ²	Number	Percent of labor force
2001									
TOTAL MOTHERS									
With own children under 3 years old	9,352	5,613	60.0	5,227	55.9	3,591	1,636	387	6.9
2 years	2,844	1,868	65.7	1,751	61.6	1,218	533	117	6.3
1 year	3,405	2,050	60.2	1,911	56.1	1,308	603	140	6.8
Under 1 year	3,103	1,695	54.6	1,565	50.4	1,065	500	130	7.7
Married, spouse present									
With own children under 3 years old	7,079	4,058	57.3	3,884	54.9	2,601	1,282	175	4.3
2 years	2,120	1,310	61.8	1,258	59.3	839	419	53	4.0
1 year	2,589	1,479	57.1	1,416	54.7	940	475	63	4.3
Under 1 year	2,370	1,269	53.5	1,210	51.1	822	388	59	4.6
Other marital status³									
With own children under 3 years old	2,269	1,555	68.5	1,343	59.2	989	352	212	13.6
2 years	723	558	77.2	493	68.2	379	114	65	11.6
1 year	814	571	70.1	495	60.8	367	127	76	13.3
Under 1 year	732	426	58.2	355	48.5	243	111	71	16.7
2002									
TOTAL MOTHERS									
With own children under 3 years old	9,350	5,632	60.2	5,181	55.4	3,513	1,667	451	8.0
2 years	2,949	1,895	64.3	1,758	59.6	1,234	524	137	7.2
1 year	3,310	2,003	60.5	1,852	56.0	1,241	610	151	7.5
Under 1 year	3,091	1,734	56.1	1,571	50.8	1,038	533	163	9.4
Married, spouse present									
With own children under 3 years old	7,073	4,071	57.6	3,869	54.7	2,572	1,297	203	5.0
2 years	2,201	1,333	60.6	1,274	57.9	870	404	59	4.4
1 year	2,509	1,446	57.6	1,379	55.0	902	477	67	4.6
Under 1 year	2,363	1,292	54.7	1,216	51.5	800	416	77	6.0
Other marital status³									
With own children under 3 years old	2,278	1,562	68.6	1,313	57.6	941	372	248	15.9
2 years	748	562	75.1	484	64.7	364	120	77	13.7
1 year	802	557	69.5	473	59.0	340	134	84	15.1
Under 1 year	728	443	60.9	356	48.9	237	118	87	19.6

¹ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.
² Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

³ Includes never-married, divorced, separated, and widowed persons.
 NOTE: See NOTE, table 4.