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FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS: LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IN 2006

Foreign-born workers' share of the U.S. workforce continued to grow, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. In 2006, foreign-born workers made up 15.3 percent of the U.S. civilian labor force age 16 and over, up from 14.8 percent in 2005. The unemployment rate for the foreign born fell for the third year in a row, to 4.0 percent in 2006. The jobless rate of the native born also continued to decline, decreasing from 5.2 to 4.7 percent over the year.

This news release compares the labor force characteristics of the foreign born with those of their native-born counterparts. The data on nativity are collected as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of approximately 60,000 households. The foreign born are persons who reside in the United States but who were born outside the country or one of its outlying areas to parents who were not U.S. citizens. The foreign born include legally-admitted immigrants, refugees, temporary residents such as students and temporary workers, and undocumented immigrants. The survey data, however, do not separately identify the numbers of persons in these categories. For further information about the survey, see the Technical Note.

Demographic Characteristics

The demographic characteristics of the foreign-born labor force differ significantly in many respects from those of the native born. For example, men made up a larger proportion of the foreign-born labor force (60 percent) in 2006 than they did of the native-born labor force (53 percent). Also, a higher proportion of the foreign-born than the native-born labor force was made up of 25- to 54-year olds (76 and 67 percent, respectively); labor force participation is typically highest among persons in that age group. (See table 1.)

In 2006, Hispanics comprised about 50 percent of the foreign-born labor force compared with about 7 percent of the native-born labor force. About 22 percent of the foreign-born workforce was Asian compared with about 1 percent of the native-born workforce. One in 5 persons in the foreign-born labor force was non-Hispanic whites, compared with nearly 4 of 5 in the native-born labor force. (Data in this release for persons who are white, black, or Asian do not include those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Data on persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are presented separately.)

About 28 percent of the foreign-born labor force 25 years old and over had not completed high school in 2006, compared with about 6 percent of the native-born labor force. About equal proportions of the foreign-born labor force and the native-born labor force had a bachelor's or higher degree (31 and 33 percent, respectively).

By region, the foreign born comprised 24.0 percent of the total labor force in the West, 17.9 percent in the Northeast, and 13.5 percent in the South. By comparison, only 7.3 percent of the total labor force in the Midwest was foreign born. (See table 6.)

Labor Force and Unemployment

Foreign-born workers' share of the U.S. civilian labor force reached 15.3 percent in 2006; this was up 0.5 percent from the prior year. About 23 million, or 68.6 percent, of the foreign born were in the labor force in 2006; that rate was nearly a percentage point higher than in 2005. The labor force participation rate of the native born was 65.8 percent in 2006 and was unchanged from the prior year. Over the year, the number of foreign-born labor force participants rose by 1.1 million; growth among this group accounted for more than half of the total labor force increase in 2006. Since 2000, the foreign born have accounted for 47.3 percent of the net increase in the total labor force. (See table 1.)

Foreign-born men were more likely to be labor force participants (81.7 percent) than their native-born counterparts (72.0 percent). In contrast, 55.3 percent of foreign-born women were labor force participants, compared with 60.0 percent of native-born women.

Foreign-born mothers with children under 18 were less likely to be labor force participants than native-born mothers—59.7 versus 73.5 percent. Among women with children under age 3, the participation rate for the foreign born was 45.9 percent, while that for the native born was 63.9 percent; both rates were up over the year. Foreign- and native-born fathers were about equally likely to be labor force participants (96 percent). (See table 2.)

The unemployment rate of the foreign born declined from 4.6 percent in 2005 to 4.0 percent in 2006. Among the native born, the unemployment rate declined from 5.2 to 4.7 percent. The unemployment rate of the foreign born was lower than that of the native born for the second time since the annual data series was first tabulated in 1996. Over the year, the unemployment rate for foreign-born men declined from 4.1 to 3.5 percent, and the rate for foreign-born women declined from 5.4 to 4.7 percent. (See table 1.)

Occupation

A smaller proportion of foreign-born than native-born workers was employed in management, professional, and related occupations, 26.4 versus 36.4 percent. Foreign-born workers were more likely than their native-born counterparts to be employed in service occupations (22.5 versus 15.4 percent); these included food preparation and serving related occupations and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations. Foreign-born workers also were more likely than native-born workers to be employed in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (16.5 versus 10.0 percent), and in production, transportation, and material moving occupations (16.7 versus 11.9 percent). (See table 4.)

Earnings

In 2006, the median usual weekly earnings of foreign-born full-time wage and salary workers were \$532, compared with \$698 for the native born. Among men, median earnings were \$563 per week for the foreign born, compared with \$782 for the native born; the median for foreign-born women was \$502, compared with \$611 for the native born. As with the native born, the earnings of foreign-born workers increased with education. Foreign-born workers 25 years of age and over with less than a high school education earned \$396 per week in 2006, while those with bachelor's degrees and higher earned about 2.6 times as much—\$1,024 a week. (See table 5.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release are based on annual average data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS, which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that provides information on the labor force status, demographics, and other characteristics of the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. In response to the increased demand for statistical information about the foreign born, questions on nativity, citizenship, year of entry into the United States, and the parental nativity of respondents were added to the CPS beginning in January 1994. Prior to 1994, the primary sources of data on the foreign born were the decennial census, two CPS supplements (conducted in April 1983 and November 1989), and, to some extent, information collected by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service).

The foreign- and native-born data for 2006 are not strictly comparable with data for 2005 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2006 of revised population controls used in the CPS. The effect of the revised population controls on the foreign- and native-born estimates is unknown. However, the effect of the new controls on the monthly CPS estimates was to decrease the December 2006 employment level by 123,000 and the unemployment level by 8,000. The updated controls had little or no effect on unemployment rates and other ratios. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2006" available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps06adj.pdf>.

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 upon 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*.

Concepts and definitions

Foreign born. The foreign born are persons residing in the United States who were not U.S. citizens at birth. That is, they were born outside the United States or one of its outlying areas such as Puerto Rico or Guam, to parents neither of whom was a U.S. citizen. The foreign-born population includes legally-admitted immigrants, refugees, temporary residents such as students and temporary workers, and undocumented immigrants. The survey data, however, do not separately identify the number of persons in these categories.

Native born. The native born are persons born in the United States or one of its outlying areas such as Puerto Rico or Guam or who were born abroad of at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen.

Race and ethnicity groups. In this release, the data are presented for non-Hispanic whites, blacks, and Asians and for persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. These four groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups (including persons who selected more than one race category) are included in the overall totals but are not shown separately because the number of survey respondents is too small to develop statistically reliable estimates. The presentation of the data on race and ethnicity in this release differs from that which appears in most analyses of CPS labor force data in that persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are separated from the race groups. Because persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity can be of any race, they are usually included in the race groups as well as shown separately in the Hispanic or Latino ethnicity group. The reason for the difference in the data presentation in this release is because about half of the foreign born are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and they have somewhat different labor force characteristics than the non-Hispanic foreign born.

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, childcare 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, except for temporary illness, 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.

Usual weekly earnings. Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders). Earnings reported on a basis other than weekly are converted to a weekly equivalent.

Median earnings. The median is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median.

Table 1. Employment status of the foreign-born and native-born populations by selected characteristics, 2005-06 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2005						2006					
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force				Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force					
		Total	Participation rate	Employed	Unemployed		Total	Participation rate	Employed	Unemployed		
					Number	Unemployment rate				Number	Unemployment rate	
TOTAL												
Total 16 years and over	226,082	149,320	66.0	141,730	7,591	5.1	228,815	151,428	66.2	144,427	7,001	4.6
Men	109,151	80,033	73.3	75,973	4,059	5.1	110,605	81,255	73.5	77,502	3,753	4.6
Women	116,931	69,288	59.3	65,757	3,531	5.1	118,210	70,173	59.4	66,925	3,247	4.6
FOREIGN BORN												
Total 16 years and over	32,558	22,042	67.7	21,022	1,020	4.6	33,733	23,148	68.6	22,225	923	4.0
Men	16,321	13,263	81.3	12,720	544	4.1	16,989	13,885	81.7	13,395	491	3.5
Women	16,236	8,779	54.1	8,302	477	5.4	16,743	9,263	55.3	8,831	432	4.7
Age												
16 to 24 years	4,168	2,469	59.2	2,277	192	7.8	4,156	2,501	60.2	2,318	183	7.3
25 to 34 years	7,902	6,094	77.1	5,824	270	4.4	7,997	6,267	78.4	6,027	240	3.8
35 to 44 years	7,620	6,162	80.9	5,930	232	3.8	8,022	6,552	81.7	6,325	227	3.5
45 to 54 years	5,578	4,473	80.2	4,285	188	4.2	5,896	4,740	80.4	4,575	165	3.5
55 to 64 years	3,499	2,278	65.1	2,163	115	5.1	3,707	2,428	65.5	2,340	87	3.6
65 years and over	3,791	566	14.9	542	24	4.2	3,955	660	16.7	640	20	3.1
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity¹												
White non-Hispanic or Latino	7,239	4,351	60.1	4,187	165	3.8	7,329	4,503	61.4	4,344	159	3.5
Black non-Hispanic or Latino	2,360	1,746	74.0	1,631	115	6.6	2,450	1,807	73.7	1,708	99	5.5
Asian non-Hispanic or Latino	7,289	4,922	67.5	4,728	194	3.9	7,481	5,060	67.6	4,917	142	2.8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	15,360	10,794	70.3	10,252	541	5.0	16,156	11,549	71.5	11,034	514	4.5
Educational attainment												
Total, 25 years and over	28,389	19,573	68.9	18,745	828	4.2	29,576	20,647	69.8	19,908	739	3.6
Less than a high school diploma	9,053	5,545	61.2	5,227	318	5.7	9,361	5,865	62.7	5,566	299	5.1
High school graduates, no college ²	7,106	4,804	67.6	4,599	205	4.3	7,358	5,032	68.4	4,855	177	3.5
Some college or associate degree	4,354	3,181	73.1	3,064	118	3.7	4,511	3,346	74.2	3,232	114	3.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	7,876	6,043	76.7	5,856	188	3.1	8,347	6,405	76.7	6,255	149	2.3
NATIVE BORN												
Total 16 years and over	193,525	127,278	65.8	120,708	6,570	5.2	195,082	128,280	65.8	122,202	6,078	4.7
Men	92,830	66,769	71.9	63,254	3,516	5.3	93,615	67,370	72.0	64,107	3,263	4.8
Women	100,695	60,509	60.1	57,454	3,055	5.0	101,467	60,910	60.0	58,095	2,815	4.6
Age												
16 to 24 years	32,505	19,821	61.0	17,493	2,328	11.7	32,787	19,893	60.7	17,723	2,170	10.9
25 to 34 years	31,162	26,247	84.2	24,856	1,391	5.3	31,233	26,305	84.2	25,024	1,282	4.9
35 to 44 years	35,385	29,868	84.4	28,699	1,168	3.9	34,731	29,296	84.3	28,244	1,051	3.6
45 to 54 years	36,529	29,930	81.9	28,922	1,008	3.4	37,005	30,405	82.2	29,477	928	3.1
55 to 64 years	26,666	16,701	62.6	16,186	515	3.1	27,668	17,557	63.5	17,049	508	2.9
65 years and over	31,278	4,712	15.1	4,552	160	3.4	31,658	4,824	15.2	4,685	139	2.9
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity¹												
White non-Hispanic or Latino	150,155	99,539	66.3	95,430	4,109	4.1	150,979	100,126	66.3	96,262	3,864	3.9
Black non-Hispanic or Latino	23,283	14,694	63.1	13,155	1,538	10.5	23,668	14,905	63.0	13,500	1,405	9.4
Asian non-Hispanic or Latino	2,444	1,496	61.2	1,434	62	4.2	2,522	1,552	61.5	1,493	59	3.8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	13,773	9,030	65.6	8,380	650	7.2	13,947	9,145	65.6	8,578	567	6.2
Educational attainment												
Total, 25 years and over	161,019	107,457	66.7	103,215	4,242	3.9	162,295	108,387	66.8	104,479	3,908	3.6
Less than a high school diploma	18,818	7,135	37.9	6,485	649	9.1	18,181	6,893	37.9	6,326	567	8.2
High school graduates, no college ²	53,302	33,392	62.6	31,799	1,593	4.8	53,390	33,322	62.4	31,847	1,475	4.4
Some college or associate degree	43,915	31,793	72.4	30,561	1,232	3.9	44,500	32,064	72.1	30,911	1,152	3.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	44,984	35,137	78.1	34,369	768	2.2	46,224	36,108	78.1	35,394	714	2.0

¹ Data for race/ethnicity groups do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

NOTE: Due to the introduction of revised population controls in January 2006, estimated levels for 2006 are not strictly comparable with those for 2005. See the Technical Note for further information.

Table 2. Employment status of the foreign-born and native-born populations 16 years and over by presence and age of youngest child and sex, 2005-06 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2005			2006		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
FOREIGN BORN						
With own children under 18						
Civilian noninstitutional population	12,781	6,084	6,697	13,239	6,283	6,956
Civilian labor force	9,653	5,737	3,916	10,068	5,912	4,155
Participation rate	75.5	94.3	58.5	76.0	94.1	59.7
Employed	9,247	5,547	3,700	9,674	5,731	3,943
Employment-population ratio	72.3	91.2	55.2	73.1	91.2	56.7
Unemployed	406	190	216	394	182	212
Unemployment rate	4.2	3.3	5.5	3.9	3.1	5.1
With own children 6 to 17, none younger						
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,353	2,950	3,403	6,604	3,050	3,554
Civilian labor force	5,053	2,750	2,303	5,256	2,828	2,428
Participation rate	79.5	93.2	67.7	79.6	92.7	68.3
Employed	4,852	2,658	2,194	5,052	2,737	2,315
Employment-population ratio	76.4	90.1	64.5	76.5	89.7	65.1
Unemployed	201	93	108	204	91	113
Unemployment rate	4.0	3.4	4.7	3.9	3.2	4.6
With own children under 6						
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,428	3,134	3,294	6,635	3,233	3,402
Civilian labor force	4,600	2,987	1,613	4,812	3,084	1,727
Participation rate	71.6	95.3	49.0	72.5	95.4	50.8
Employed	4,395	2,889	1,505	4,622	2,994	1,628
Employment-population ratio	68.4	92.2	45.7	69.7	92.6	47.8
Unemployed	206	98	108	190	90	100
Unemployment rate	4.5	3.3	6.7	3.9	2.9	5.8
With own children under 3						
Civilian noninstitutional population	3,732	1,841	1,891	3,805	1,845	1,961
Civilian labor force	2,595	1,760	835	2,658	1,758	900
Participation rate	69.5	95.6	44.2	69.8	95.3	45.9
Employed	2,489	1,711	778	2,552	1,706	846
Employment-population ratio	66.7	93.0	41.1	67.1	92.5	43.1
Unemployed	106	49	57	105	51	54
Unemployment rate	4.1	2.8	6.8	4.0	2.9	6.0
With no own children under 18						
Civilian noninstitutional population	19,777	10,237	9,539	20,493	10,706	9,787
Civilian labor force	12,389	7,526	4,863	13,080	7,973	5,107
Participation rate	62.6	73.5	51.0	63.8	74.5	52.2
Employed	11,775	7,173	4,603	12,552	7,664	4,888
Employment-population ratio	59.5	70.1	48.2	61.2	71.6	49.9
Unemployed	614	354	260	529	309	220
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.7	5.4	4.0	3.9	4.3
NATIVE BORN						
With own children under 18						
Civilian noninstitutional population	52,845	23,226	29,619	52,551	23,118	29,433
Civilian labor force	43,521	21,852	21,669	43,400	21,774	21,626
Participation rate	82.4	94.1	73.2	82.6	94.2	73.5
Employed	41,727	21,202	20,524	41,768	21,176	20,592
Employment-population ratio	79.0	91.3	69.3	79.5	91.6	70.0
Unemployed	1,794	650	1,145	1,632	598	1,034
Unemployment rate	4.1	3.0	5.3	3.8	2.7	4.8
With own children 6 to 17, none younger						
Civilian noninstitutional population	30,095	13,252	16,843	29,775	13,114	16,662
Civilian labor force	25,526	12,329	13,197	25,296	12,219	13,077
Participation rate	84.8	93.0	78.4	85.0	93.2	78.5
Employed	24,600	11,977	12,623	24,471	11,912	12,559
Employment-population ratio	81.7	90.4	74.9	82.2	90.8	75.4
Unemployed	926	351	574	825	307	518
Unemployment rate	3.6	2.9	4.4	3.3	2.5	4.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Employment status of the foreign-born and native-born populations 16 years and over by presence and age of youngest child and sex, 2005-06 annual averages—Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2005			2006		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
NATIVE BORN—Continued						
With own children under 6						
Civilian noninstitutional population	22,749	9,974	12,776	22,776	10,004	12,772
Civilian labor force	17,995	9,524	8,472	18,104	9,555	8,549
Participation rate	79.1	95.5	66.3	79.5	95.5	66.9
Employed	17,127	9,225	7,901	17,297	9,264	8,033
Employment-population ratio	75.3	92.5	61.8	75.9	92.6	62.9
Unemployed	869	298	570	807	291	516
Unemployment rate	4.8	3.1	6.7	4.5	3.0	6.0
With own children under 3						
Civilian noninstitutional population	13,384	5,910	7,474	13,433	5,963	7,470
Civilian labor force	10,285	5,650	4,635	10,481	5,706	4,775
Participation rate	76.8	95.6	62.0	78.0	95.7	63.9
Employed	9,769	5,470	4,299	9,992	5,523	4,469
Employment-population ratio	73.0	92.6	57.5	74.4	92.6	59.8
Unemployed	516	180	336	489	183	306
Unemployment rate	5.0	3.2	7.3	4.7	3.2	6.4
With no own children under 18						
Civilian noninstitutional population	140,680	69,605	71,076	142,531	70,497	72,034
Civilian labor force	83,757	44,917	38,840	84,880	45,596	39,284
Participation rate	59.5	64.5	54.6	59.6	64.7	54.5
Employed	78,981	42,051	36,930	80,434	42,931	37,503
Employment-population ratio	56.1	60.4	52.0	56.4	60.9	52.1
Unemployed	4,776	2,866	1,910	4,446	2,665	1,781
Unemployment rate	5.7	6.4	4.9	5.2	5.8	4.5

NOTE: Due to the introduction of revised population controls in January 2006, estimated levels for 2006 are not strictly comparable with those for 2005. See the Technical Note for further information.

Table 3. Employment status of the foreign-born and native-born populations 25 years and over by educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2005-06 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2005				2006			
	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college ¹	Some college or associate degree	Bachelor's degree and higher ²	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college ¹	Some college or associate degree	Bachelor's degree and higher ²
FOREIGN BORN								
White non-Hispanic or Latino								
Civilian noninstitutional population	928	1,869	1,258	2,525	940	1,803	1,296	2,647
Civilian labor force	345	988	797	1,862	349	971	848	1,969
Participation rate	37.1	52.8	63.4	73.8	37.1	53.8	65.4	74.4
Employed	325	955	766	1,805	331	937	819	1,920
Employment-population ratio	35.0	51.1	60.9	71.5	35.2	52.0	63.1	72.6
Unemployed	19	33	31	57	18	33	30	48
Unemployment rate	5.6	3.4	3.9	3.1	5.3	3.4	3.5	2.5
Black non-Hispanic or Latino								
Civilian noninstitutional population	361	641	499	558	357	648	507	608
Civilian labor force	219	490	407	468	226	477	416	510
Participation rate	60.7	76.5	81.5	83.9	63.2	73.7	81.9	83.9
Employed	203	458	382	452	207	453	398	495
Employment-population ratio	56.1	71.5	76.6	80.9	57.8	69.9	78.4	81.4
Unemployed	17	32	25	17	19	25	18	15
Unemployment rate	7.5	6.5	6.1	3.6	8.6	5.2	4.3	3.0
Asian non-Hispanic or Latino								
Civilian noninstitutional population	857	1,332	998	3,385	858	1,340	1,016	3,575
Civilian labor force	402	845	725	2,606	391	862	742	2,743
Participation rate	46.9	63.5	72.7	77.0	45.6	64.3	73.0	76.7
Employed	378	804	702	2,524	376	834	721	2,684
Employment-population ratio	44.1	60.4	70.3	74.6	43.8	62.3	71.0	75.1
Unemployed	24	41	23	82	15	27	21	58
Unemployment rate	5.9	4.9	3.2	3.2	3.9	3.2	2.8	2.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,870	3,207	1,534	1,309	7,167	3,506	1,615	1,424
Civilian labor force	4,558	2,437	1,202	1,026	4,875	2,677	1,279	1,111
Participation rate	66.4	76.0	78.3	78.4	68.0	76.4	79.2	78.0
Employed	4,301	2,340	1,164	997	4,631	2,587	1,234	1,085
Employment-population ratio	62.6	72.9	75.9	76.2	64.6	73.8	76.4	76.1
Unemployed	257	98	38	29	243	90	46	27
Unemployment rate	5.6	4.0	3.1	2.9	5.0	3.4	3.6	2.4
NATIVE BORN								
White non-Hispanic or Latino								
Civilian noninstitutional population	12,313	42,100	34,792	38,847	11,847	42,087	35,100	39,751
Civilian labor force	4,479	25,768	24,879	30,102	4,369	25,714	24,931	30,787
Participation rate	36.4	61.2	71.5	77.5	36.9	61.1	71.0	77.4
Employed	4,157	24,740	24,058	29,490	4,079	24,773	24,157	30,200
Employment-population ratio	33.8	58.8	69.1	75.9	34.4	58.9	68.8	76.0
Unemployed	322	1,027	821	612	289	941	774	586
Unemployment rate	7.2	4.0	3.3	2.0	6.6	3.7	3.1	1.9
Black non-Hispanic or Latino								
Civilian noninstitutional population	3,464	6,778	5,039	3,211	3,396	6,801	5,215	3,379
Civilian labor force	1,277	4,538	3,780	2,617	1,236	4,488	3,885	2,762
Participation rate	36.9	66.9	75.0	81.5	36.4	66.0	74.5	81.7
Employed	1,077	4,135	3,518	2,528	1,065	4,115	3,634	2,687
Employment-population ratio	31.1	61.0	69.8	78.7	31.4	60.5	69.7	79.5
Unemployed	200	403	263	89	171	373	251	75
Unemployment rate	15.7	8.9	6.9	3.4	13.8	8.3	6.5	2.7
Asian non-Hispanic or Latino								
Civilian noninstitutional population	158	303	380	859	152	339	391	880
Civilian labor force	57	162	257	680	55	188	276	710
Participation rate	36.3	53.5	67.8	79.2	36.4	55.4	70.6	80.7
Employed	56	158	249	664	53	183	265	696
Employment-population ratio	35.3	52.0	65.5	77.3	35.1	54.0	67.7	79.2
Unemployed	2	5	9	17	2	5	11	13
Unemployment rate	2.8	2.8	3.4	2.4	3.4	2.6	4.1	1.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Employment status of the foreign-born and native-born populations 25 years and over by educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2005-06 annual averages—Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2005				2006			
	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college ¹	Some college or associate degree	Bachelor's degree and higher ²	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college ¹	Some college or associate degree	Bachelor's degree and higher ²
NATIVE BORN—Continued								
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
Civilian noninstitutional population	2,455	3,182	2,735	1,504	2,352	3,232	2,781	1,626
Civilian labor force	1,163	2,313	2,164	1,272	1,073	2,331	2,222	1,373
Participation rate	47.4	72.7	79.1	84.5	45.6	72.1	79.9	84.4
Employed	1,066	2,195	2,064	1,235	989	2,214	2,143	1,344
Employment-population ratio	43.4	69.0	75.5	82.1	42.0	68.5	77.1	82.6
Unemployed	97	118	100	36	85	117	79	29
Unemployment rate	8.4	5.1	4.6	2.9	7.9	5.0	3.6	2.1

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

² Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Data for race/ethnicity groups do not sum to totals because data

are not presented for all races. Due to the introduction of revised population controls in January 2006, estimated levels for 2006 are not strictly comparable with those for 2005. See the Technical Note for further information.

Table 4. Employed foreign-born and native-born persons 16 years and over by occupation and sex, 2006 annual averages

(Percent distribution)

Occupation	Foreign born			Native born		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total employed (thousands)	22,225	13,395	8,831	122,202	64,107	58,095
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	26.4	24.3	29.6	36.4	33.8	39.4
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	10.0	10.1	9.9	15.5	17.1	13.8
Management occupations	7.2	8.0	5.9	11.2	13.4	8.7
Business and financial operations occupations	2.9	2.1	4.0	4.4	3.8	5.1
Professional and related occupations	16.4	14.2	19.7	20.9	16.7	25.6
Computer and mathematical occupations	3.1	3.9	2.0	2.1	2.9	1.2
Architecture and engineering occupations	2.0	2.7	1.1	1.9	3.2	.5
Life, physical, and social science occupations	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	.9
Community and social services occupations .....	.8	.6	1.1	1.6	1.2	2.1
Legal occupations .....	.4	.3	.7	1.3	1.2	1.4
Education, training, and library occupations	3.1	1.8	5.0	6.1	2.9	9.6
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	1.2	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.1
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	4.6	2.7	7.3	4.9	2.4	7.8
Service occupations	22.5	17.2	30.4	15.4	12.2	18.9
Healthcare support occupations	2.5	.6	5.5	2.1	.4	4.0
Protective service occupations .....	.8	1.0	.4	2.3	3.4	1.1
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7.7	7.4	8.1	4.8	3.6	6.2
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	7.9	7.0	9.3	3.0	3.6	2.3
Personal care and service occupations	3.6	1.3	7.1	3.2	1.3	5.4
Sales and office occupations	17.9	12.9	25.6	26.3	18.0	35.5
Sales and related occupations	9.2	7.9	11.3	11.9	11.6	12.3
Office and administrative support occupations	8.7	5.0	14.2	14.4	6.4	23.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	16.5	26.1	1.9	10.0	18.1	1.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1.6	2.1	1.0	.5	.7	.2
Construction and extraction occupations	11.8	19.0	.7	5.6	10.4	.4
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3.1	4.9	.2	3.8	6.9	.4
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	16.7	19.5	12.5	11.9	17.9	5.3
Production occupations	9.7	9.7	9.6	5.9	8.2	3.4
Transportation and material moving occupations	7.0	9.8	2.9	6.0	9.7	1.8

NOTE: Due to the introduction of revised population controls in January 2006, estimated levels for 2006 are not strictly comparable with those for 2005. See the Technical Note for further information.

Table 5. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers for the foreign born and native born by selected characteristics, 2005-06 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2005					2006				
	Foreign born		Native born		Earnings of foreign born as percent of native born ¹	Foreign born		Native born		Earnings of foreign born as percent of native born ¹
	Number	Median weekly earnings	Number	Median weekly earnings		Number	Median weekly earnings	Number	Median weekly earnings	
Total, 16 years and over	16,340	\$511	87,220	\$677	75.6	17,267	\$532	88,839	\$698	76.2
Men	10,396	523	48,011	760	68.9	10,931	563	48,816	782	72.0
Women	5,945	487	39,210	596	81.7	6,336	502	40,022	611	82.1
Age										
16 to 24 years	1,578	353	9,529	404	87.3	1,608	379	9,753	414	91.5
25 to 34 years	4,831	495	20,181	633	78.3	5,008	508	20,407	647	78.4
35 to 44 years	4,700	587	22,403	755	77.8	5,035	597	22,159	776	76.9
45 to 54 years	3,352	563	22,299	772	73.0	3,567	612	22,814	801	76.4
55 to 64 years	1,582	607	11,192	757	80.2	1,703	608	11,919	787	77.3
65 years and over	297	494	1,616	578	85.4	345	554	1,787	588	94.3
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity ²										
White non-Hispanic or Latino	2,978	733	67,458	720	101.8	3,051	765	68,410	740	103.3
Black non-Hispanic or Latino	1,326	521	10,671	521	100.0	1,349	563	10,939	557	101.1
Asian non-Hispanic or Latino	3,541	747	1,041	777	96.1	3,685	790	1,066	789	100.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	8,331	412	6,343	555	74.2	9,010	430	6,683	572	75.1
Educational attainment										
Total, 25 years and over	14,762	543	77,691	724	74.9	15,659	575	79,085	743	77.4
Less than a high school diploma	4,305	385	4,557	442	87.0	4,542	396	4,487	462	85.8
High school graduates, no college ³	3,589	496	23,926	594	83.4	3,813	507	24,210	607	83.5
Some college	2,316	592	23,155	679	87.2	2,446	613	23,580	701	87.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	4,553	960	26,053	1023	93.8	4,857	1024	26,808	1042	98.2

¹ These figures are computed using unrounded medians and may differ slightly from percents computed using the rounded medians displayed in this table.

² Data for race/ethnicity groups do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

NOTE: Due to the introduction of revised population controls in January 2006, estimated levels for 2006 are not strictly comparable with those for 2005. See the Technical Note for further information.

Table 6. Employment status of the foreign-born and native-born populations 16 years and over by census regions and divisions, 2005-06 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Census region and division	2005						2006					
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force				Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force					
		Total	Participation rate	Employed	Unemployed		Total	Participation rate	Employed	Unemployed		
					Number	Unemployment rate				Number	Unemployment rate	
FOREIGN BORN												
Northeast	7,236	4,817	66.6	4,588	229	4.8	7,494	4,992	66.6	4,775	217	4.3
New England	1,450	996	68.6	946	50	5.0	1,481	1,017	68.7	968	49	4.8
Middle Atlantic	5,785	3,822	66.1	3,642	180	4.7	6,012	3,974	66.1	3,807	168	4.2
South	9,675	6,715	69.4	6,444	272	4.0	10,289	7,304	71.0	7,061	243	3.3
South Atlantic	5,879	4,073	69.3	3,920	152	3.7	6,263	4,462	71.2	4,322	140	3.1
East South Central	505	354	70.2	335	19	5.4	531	388	73.1	373	15	3.8
West South Central	3,291	2,288	69.5	2,188	100	4.4	3,495	2,454	70.2	2,366	88	3.6
Midwest	3,517	2,398	68.2	2,274	124	5.2	3,659	2,542	69.5	2,434	107	4.2
East North Central ..	2,671	1,802	67.5	1,706	96	5.3	2,797	1,914	68.4	1,832	82	4.3
West North Central ..	846	596	70.5	568	28	4.7	862	628	72.9	602	26	4.1
West	12,131	8,111	66.9	7,716	395	4.9	12,291	8,310	67.6	7,955	356	4.3
Mountain	1,972	1,344	68.1	1,289	55	4.1	2,115	1,479	70.0	1,424	56	3.8
Pacific	10,158	6,767	66.6	6,427	340	5.0	10,176	6,831	67.1	6,531	300	4.4
NATIVE BORN												
Northeast	35,409	22,903	64.7	21,796	1,108	4.8	35,260	22,895	64.9	21,829	1,066	4.7
New England	9,763	6,572	67.3	6,261	311	4.7	9,749	6,608	67.8	6,306	302	4.6
Middle Atlantic	25,646	16,332	63.7	15,535	797	4.9	25,512	16,288	63.8	15,524	764	4.7
South	71,597	46,084	64.4	43,740	2,344	5.1	72,469	46,624	64.3	44,473	2,151	4.6
South Atlantic	36,968	23,909	64.7	22,797	1,112	4.7	37,577	24,360	64.8	23,332	1,028	4.2
East South Central ..	13,021	8,024	61.6	7,574	450	5.6	13,155	8,188	62.2	7,757	431	5.3
West South Central ..	21,608	14,151	65.5	13,369	783	5.5	21,737	14,077	64.8	13,384	692	4.9
Midwest	47,205	32,193	68.2	30,440	1,753	5.4	47,428	32,401	68.3	30,778	1,623	5.0
East North Central ..	32,777	21,944	66.9	20,661	1,283	5.8	32,840	22,063	67.2	20,863	1,200	5.4
West North Central ..	14,428	10,249	71.0	9,780	470	4.6	14,588	10,339	70.9	9,916	423	4.1
West	39,313	26,097	66.4	24,732	1,365	5.2	39,925	26,358	66.0	25,121	1,238	4.7
Mountain	13,167	8,919	67.7	8,500	418	4.7	13,523	9,199	68.0	8,832	367	4.0
Pacific	26,146	17,178	65.7	16,231	947	5.5	26,402	17,159	65.0	16,288	871	5.1

NOTE: The states (plus the District of Columbia) that comprise the census divisions are: New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont); Middle Atlantic (New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania); South Atlantic (Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia); East South Central (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee); West South Central Division (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas); East North Central (Illinois,

Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin); West North Central (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota); Mountain (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming); Pacific (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington). Due to the introduction of revised population controls in January 2006, estimated levels for 2006 are not strictly comparable with those for 2005. See the Technical Note for further information.