

Employment Status: 2000

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Census 2000 Brief

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Census 2000 found that 63.9 percent of the 217.2 million people aged 16 and over in the United States were in the labor force.¹ Of the 138.8 million people in the labor force, 129.7 million were employed, 7.9 million were unemployed, and 1.2 million were in the Armed Forces. The civilian unemployment rate was 5.8 percent.²

Note that, in general, the estimates in this report will differ from the official labor force data collected in the Current Population Survey and released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For further information on these differences, see the text box on page 3.

¹ The labor force includes all people classified in the civilian labor force (employed or unemployed) plus members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Employed people include civilians 16 and over who were either "at work" or were "with a job but not at work." Unemployed civilians are those who did not have a job during the reference period, were actively looking for work, or waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, and were available to go to work.

² This rate is defined as the number of unemployed people divided by the sum of employed plus unemployed people.

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Questions on Employment Status From Census 2000

- 21** LAST WEEK, did this person do ANY work for either pay or profit? Mark the "Yes" box even if the person worked only 1 hour, or helped without pay in a family business or farm for 15 hours or more, or was on active duty in the Armed Forces.
- Yes
 No → Skip to 25a
- 25** a. LAST WEEK, was this person on layoff from a job?
- Yes → Skip to 25c
 No
- b. LAST WEEK, was this person TEMPORARILY absent from a job or business?
- Yes, on vacation, temporary illness, labor dispute, etc. → Skip to 26
 No → Skip to 25d
- c. Has this person been informed that he or she will be recalled to work within the next 6 months OR been given a date to return to work?
- Yes → Skip to 25e
 No
- d. Has this person been looking for work during the last 4 weeks?
- Yes
 No → Skip to 26
- e. LAST WEEK, could this person have started a job if offered one, or returned to work if recalled?
- Yes, could have gone to work
 No, because of own temporary illness
 No, because of all other reasons (*in school, etc.*)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

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U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

United States
Census
2000

Table 1.
Employment Status of the Population 16 and Over for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Area	1990					2000				
	Population 16 and over	Percent in labor force*	Civilian labor force		Civilian unemployment rate	Population 16 and over	Percent in labor force*	Civilian labor force		Civilian unemployment rate
			Employed	Unemployed				Employed	Unemployed	
United States	191,829,271	65.3	115,681,202	7,792,248	6.3	217,168,077	63.9	129,721,512	7,947,286	5.8
Region										
Northeast	40,187,730	64.9	24,311,910	1,644,612	6.3	41,985,417	63.2	24,904,791	1,566,751	5.9
Midwest	45,692,769	65.7	27,985,184	1,854,073	6.2	49,639,541	66.4	31,185,231	1,676,002	5.1
South	67,133,912	64.1	39,536,681	2,634,638	6.2	77,518,144	62.7	45,226,189	2,743,409	5.7
West	40,127,166	66.8	24,596,907	1,693,875	6.4	48,024,975	63.9	28,405,301	1,961,124	6.5
State										
Alabama	3,103,529	61.1	1,741,794	128,587	6.9	3,450,542	59.7	1,920,189	126,911	6.2
Alaska	393,394	74.7	245,379	23,587	8.8	458,054	71.3	281,532	27,953	9.0
Arizona	2,785,730	62.9	1,603,896	123,902	7.2	3,907,229	61.1	2,233,004	133,368	5.6
Arkansas	1,800,056	59.8	994,289	72,079	6.8	2,072,068	60.6	1,173,399	76,147	6.1
California	22,786,281	67.0	13,996,309	996,502	6.6	25,596,144	62.4	14,718,928	1,110,274	7.0
Colorado	2,518,482	70.3	1,633,281	99,438	5.7	3,325,197	70.1	2,205,194	99,260	4.3
Connecticut	2,616,747	69.0	1,692,874	95,819	5.4	2,652,316	66.6	1,664,440	92,668	5.3
Delaware	518,946	68.3	335,147	13,945	4.0	610,289	65.7	376,811	20,549	5.2
District of Columbia	503,173	66.3	303,994	23,442	7.2	469,041	63.6	263,108	31,844	10.8
Florida	10,377,252	60.4	5,810,467	356,769	5.8	12,744,825	58.6	6,995,047	412,411	5.6
Georgia	6,250,687	66.1	3,839,756	223,052	5.5	6,250,687	66.1	3,839,756	223,052	5.5
Hawaii	855,518	70.4	529,059	19,288	3.5	950,055	64.5	537,909	35,886	6.3
Idaho	729,819	65.5	443,703	29,070	6.1	969,872	66.1	599,453	36,784	5.8
Illinois	8,796,610	66.4	5,417,967	385,040	6.6	9,530,946	65.4	5,833,185	375,412	6.0
Indiana	4,248,923	65.9	2,628,695	160,143	5.7	4,683,717	66.6	2,965,174	152,723	4.9
Iowa	2,131,703	66.0	1,340,242	63,641	4.5	2,281,274	68.2	1,489,816	64,906	4.2
Kansas	1,880,434	66.8	1,172,214	57,772	4.7	2,059,160	67.5	1,316,283	58,415	4.2
Kentucky	2,838,709	60.5	1,563,960	124,354	7.4	3,161,542	60.9	1,798,264	109,350	5.7
Louisiana	3,119,293	59.3	1,641,614	175,303	9.6	3,394,546	59.4	1,851,777	146,218	7.3
Maine	952,644	65.6	571,842	40,722	6.6	1,010,318	65.3	624,011	31,165	4.8
Maryland	3,736,830	70.6	2,481,342	111,536	4.3	4,085,942	67.8	2,608,457	128,902	4.7
Massachusetts	4,809,772	67.8	3,027,950	218,000	6.7	5,010,241	66.2	3,161,087	150,952	4.6
Michigan	7,102,020	64.1	4,166,196	374,341	8.2	7,630,645	64.6	4,637,461	284,992	5.8
Minnesota	3,321,415	69.7	2,192,417	118,919	5.1	3,781,756	71.2	2,580,046	109,069	4.1
Mississippi	1,909,851	59.7	1,028,773	94,712	8.4	2,158,941	59.4	1,173,314	93,778	7.4
Missouri	3,939,284	64.5	2,367,395	155,388	6.2	4,331,369	65.2	2,657,924	148,794	5.3
Montana	599,765	63.7	350,723	26,217	7.0	701,168	65.4	425,977	28,710	6.3
Nebraska	1,192,803	68.3	772,813	29,326	3.7	1,315,715	69.7	877,237	32,287	3.5
Nevada	936,050	70.3	607,437	40,083	6.2	1,538,516	65.2	933,280	61,920	6.2
New Hampshire	858,615	71.9	574,237	38,108	6.2	960,498	70.5	650,871	25,500	3.8
New Jersey	6,129,923	67.4	3,868,698	235,975	5.7	6,546,155	64.2	3,950,029	243,116	5.8
New Mexico	1,113,046	62.8	629,272	54,888	8.0	1,369,176	61.0	763,116	60,324	7.3
New York	14,191,044	63.6	8,370,718	618,903	6.9	14,805,912	61.1	8,382,988	640,108	7.1
North Carolina	5,203,230	67.6	3,238,414	163,081	4.8	6,290,618	65.7	3,824,741	214,991	5.3
North Dakota	480,464	65.3	287,558	16,083	5.3	502,306	67.5	316,632	15,257	4.6
Ohio	8,349,183	63.5	4,931,357	348,638	6.6	8,788,494	64.8	5,402,175	282,615	5.0
Oklahoma	2,398,899	62.5	1,369,138	100,931	6.9	2,666,724	62.1	1,545,296	86,832	5.3
Oregon	2,191,764	64.4	1,319,960	87,183	6.2	2,673,782	65.2	1,627,769	112,529	6.5
Pennsylvania	9,392,816	61.7	5,434,532	344,795	6.0	9,693,040	61.9	5,653,500	339,386	5.7
Rhode Island	801,625	66.1	487,913	34,690	6.6	827,797	64.6	500,731	29,859	5.6
South Carolina	2,669,383	66.0	1,603,425	94,673	5.6	3,114,016	63.4	1,824,700	113,495	5.9
South Dakota	517,032	66.2	321,891	13,983	4.2	577,129	68.4	374,373	17,221	4.4
Tennessee	3,799,725	64.0	2,250,842	154,235	6.4	4,445,909	63.5	2,651,638	153,596	5.5
Texas	12,656,267	66.0	7,634,279	584,749	7.1	15,617,373	63.6	9,234,372	596,187	6.1
Utah	1,154,039	68.0	736,059	41,389	5.3	1,600,279	69.0	1,044,362	54,561	5.0
Vermont	434,544	69.4	283,146	17,600	5.9	479,140	69.3	317,134	13,997	4.2
Virginia	4,843,182	68.9	3,028,362	142,048	4.5	5,529,980	66.8	3,412,647	151,125	4.2
Washington	3,730,985	66.7	2,293,961	139,216	5.7	4,553,591	66.5	2,793,722	186,102	6.2
West Virginia	1,404,900	53.0	671,085	71,142	9.6	1,455,101	54.5	732,673	58,021	7.3
Wisconsin	3,732,898	67.6	2,386,439	130,799	5.2	4,157,030	69.1	2,734,925	134,311	4.7
Wyoming	332,293	67.7	207,868	13,112	5.9	381,912	67.5	241,055	13,453	5.3
Puerto Rico	2,497,078	47.3	934,736	239,940	20.4	2,842,876	40.7	930,865	220,998	19.2

*Includes members of the armed forces

Note: The armed forces population is equal to the population 16 years old and over multiplied by the percent in the labor force minus the civilian labor force. The population not in the labor force is equal to 100 minus the percent in the labor force (or the percent not in the labor force) multiplied by the population 16 years and over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 census and Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Differences between Census 2000 and Current Population Survey (official) estimates of the labor force

Employment and unemployment estimates from Census 2000 will, in general, differ from the official labor force data collected in the Current Population Survey (CPS) and released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, because the design and collection methodology of the census and the CPS meet different purposes.

Census 2000 was designed to collect general information about the labor force for very small geographic areas on a one-time basis. It was primarily a mail-out/mail-back data collection that asked fewer and less precise questions than the CPS on employment and unemployment.

The CPS is specifically designed to produce the official estimates of employment and unemployment for the United States each month. Data collection consists of personal interviews of respondents by field representatives who ask numerous detailed questions on labor force participation. For example, the

CPS asks a more detailed and extensive series of questions about whether a person is "actively looking for work" than can be asked in the census.

Specifically, at the national level, Census 2000 estimates of employment were considerably below, and estimates of unemployment above, the corresponding CPS estimates. Subnational estimates from the two sources may exhibit even wider relative differences.

A known problem in Census 2000 increased the number of unemployed people for some places with relatively large numbers of people living in civilian noninstitutional group quarters, such as college dormitories, worker dormitories, and group homes, and may have affected comparisons of labor force data for higher levels of geography. For more information on this specific problem, see Data Note 4 in Chapter 9 of the technical documentation for Census 2000 Summary File 3 at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.

Decennial censuses have included questions on employment status since 1930. Census 2000 collected information on employment status from people aged 15 and over; however, all published tabulations of employment-status data are restricted to the population aged 16 and over. Questions 21 and 25 on the Census 2000 forms asked people about their connection to the paid workforce in the week before they filled out the questionnaire (see Figure 1). Answers to these questions were used to measure labor force participation, the unemployment rate, and other indicators of the economic activity of the population.³

The battery of Census 2000 questions that collected employment status information differed slightly

³ While both questions are used to determine a person's employment status, they are not discussed individually within this report.

from the 1990 census questions. The new questions were developed in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the Department of Labor. Highlights of the changes include the addition of the words "for either pay or profit" to the "work last week" item (question 21); the removal of the 1990 question "How many hours did you work last week?"; the division and expansion of the "temporary absence from a job or layoff" item into three separate questions (25a, 25b, and 25c); and the revision of the definition of "available" in the "availability to work" item (question 25e) from being able to "take a job" to being able to "start a job if offered one, or return to work if recalled."

This report is part of a series that presents population and housing data collected by Census 2000. The report provides data on the employment status of people 16

and over and how employment status varies among regions, states, counties, and places with populations of 100,000 or more.⁴

The U.S. labor force increased over the decade.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of people in the U.S. labor force increased by 13.5 million, or 10.8 percent (see Table 1).⁵ The population 16 and over increased by 25.3 million (13.2 percent), while the population not in the labor force grew 17.8 percent.

⁴ The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 1 and Figure 3.

⁵ The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted.

Labor force participation by women increased between 1990 and 2000, but at a slower pace than in previous decades.

In 1960, about 36 of every 100 women participated in the labor force, a figure that hit 57 in 1990, but then increased slightly to 58 in 2000 (see Figure 2). The labor force participation of men declined from 80 percent in 1960 to 71 percent in 2000.⁶

The labor force is demographically diverse.

To highlight how the economy and various groups in the population influence each other, this section concentrates on the prime working-age population, 20 to 64 year olds.⁷ Of the 166.3 million people aged 20 to 64 in 2000, 118.9 million were employed, 1.0 million were in the Armed Forces, 6.2 million were unemployed, and 40.1 million were not in the labor force (see Table 2).

In 2000, women were more likely than men to be outside the labor force (30.0 percent of women, 18.1 percent of men). The gap between unemployed men and women was narrower in 2000 than in 1990 (4.0 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively, in 2000, compared with 4.9 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively, in 1990).⁸

The age categories with the largest percentage employed were those 45 to 54 years old (76.3 percent)

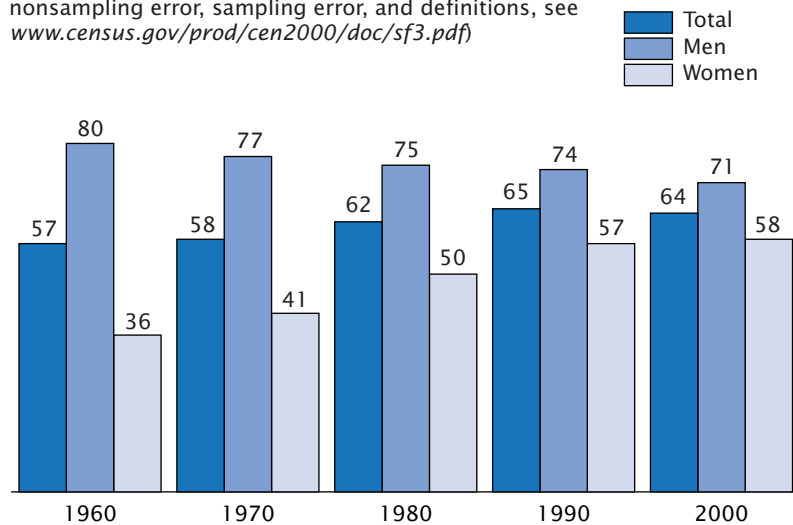
⁶ The labor force participation rate is defined as those people in the labor force divided by the total population aged 16 and over.

⁷ The data for people in this group are less likely to reflect the influence of noneconomic factors, such as education and retirement, which cloud the data for younger and older people.

⁸ These rates are the unemployed population divided by the total population; they differ from the civilian unemployment rate, which is the unemployed population divided by the total civilian labor force.

Figure 2.
Percentage in the Labor Force by Sex for People 16 and Over: 1960-2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census data.

followed by those 35 to 44 years old (76.2 percent). People 20 to 21 were most likely to be unemployed (9.2 percent). The likelihood of being unemployed declined with increasing age. People 62 to 64 were most likely not to be in the labor force (59.6 percent).

People aged 20 to 64 with incomes in 1999 at or above the poverty level were almost twice as likely to be employed during the reference week as those with incomes below the poverty level (76.8 percent and 38.9 percent, respectively).⁹ More than half (51.4 percent) of those with incomes below the poverty level were not in the labor force. Unemployed people were nearly

⁹ Employment status and poverty have different reference periods. Employment status relates to calendar weeks in 2000. Poverty status is determined based on a family's income during the previous calendar year, 1999. For more information on poverty status, see *Poverty: 1999* (C2KBR-19) by Alemayehu Bishaw and John Iceland.

five times as likely to be in poverty as employed people (27.9 percent versus 5.8 percent).

Employment rates varied among the race and ethnic groups.

Census 2000 allowed respondents to choose more than one race. With the exception of the Two or more races group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated only one racial identity among the six major categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race.¹⁰ The use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or

¹⁰ For further information on each of the six major race groups and the Two or more races population, see reports from the Census 2000 Brief series (C2KBR/01), available on the Census 2000 Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html.

Table 2.
Selected Characteristics of the Population 20 to 64 by Employment Status: 2000

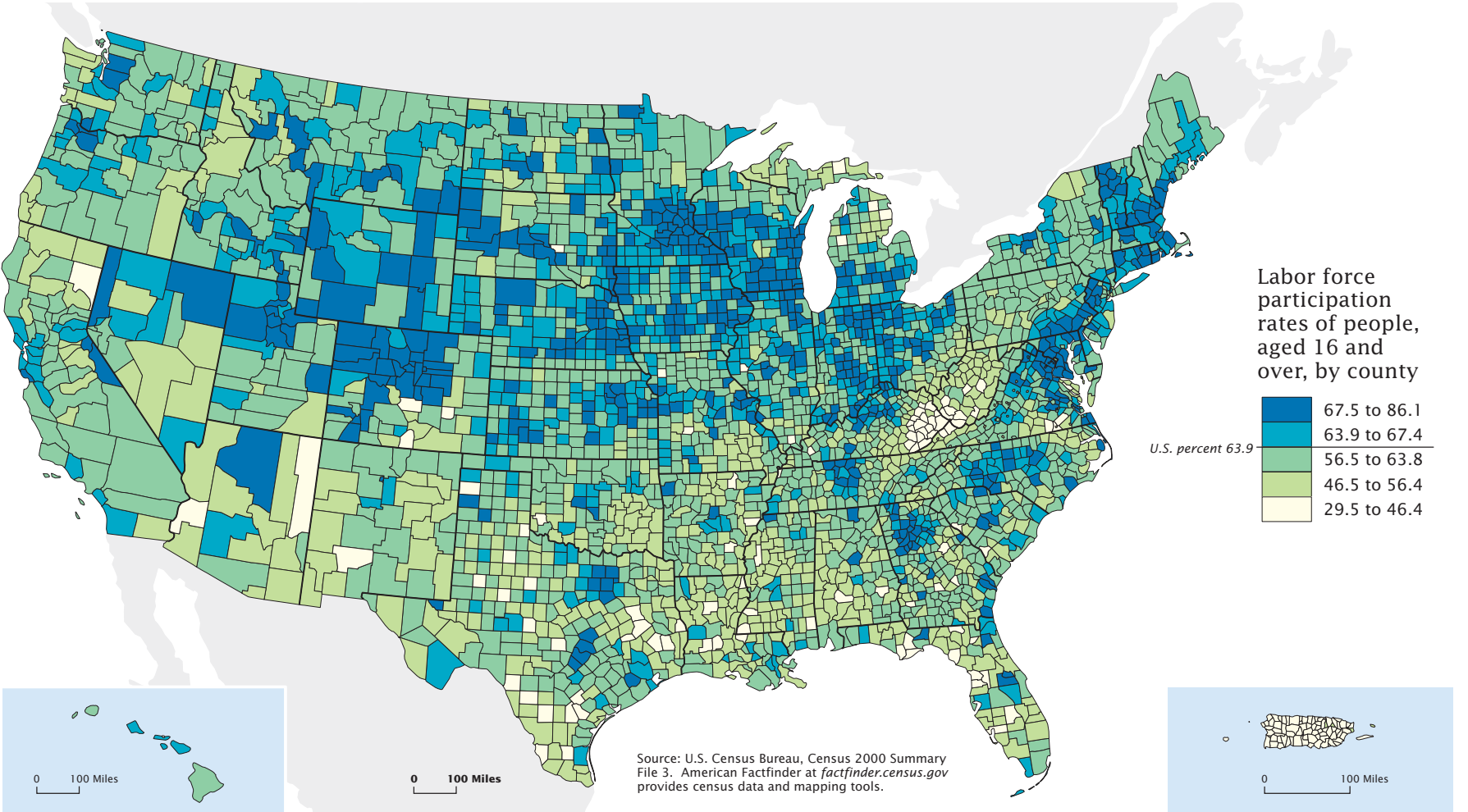
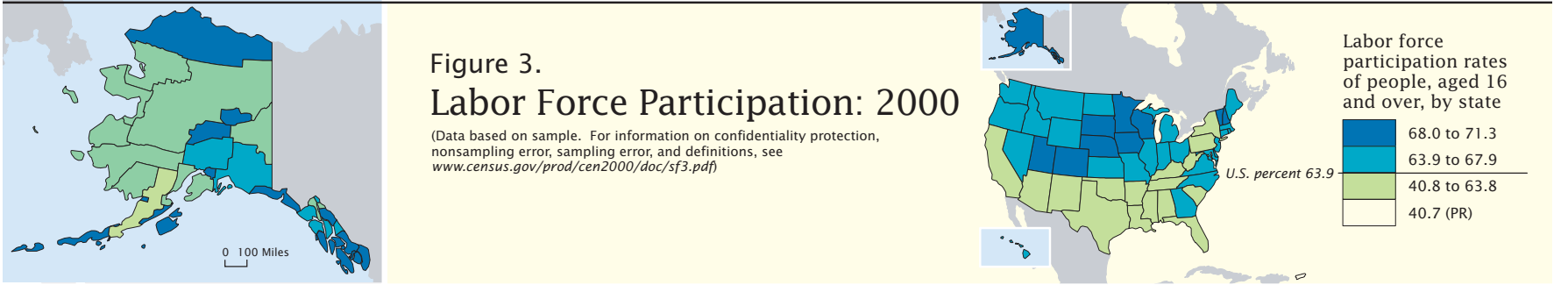
(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Characteristics	Total	In labor force						Not in labor force	
		Number	Percent of total	Civilian labor force					
				Employed		Unemployed			
				Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All people	166,258,647	126,149,256	75.9	118,897,175	71.5	6,202,557	3.7	40,109,391	24.1
Sex									
Men	82,401,295	67,485,877	81.9	63,300,673	76.8	3,280,583	4.0	14,915,418	18.1
Women	83,857,352	58,663,379	70.0	55,596,502	66.3	2,921,974	3.5	25,193,973	30.0
Age									
20 to 21 years	7,892,819	5,672,742	71.9	4,784,870	60.6	727,264	9.2	2,220,077	28.1
22 to 24 years	11,133,161	8,576,078	77.0	7,649,427	68.7	739,624	6.6	2,557,083	23.0
25 to 29 years	19,212,244	15,219,226	79.2	14,147,042	73.6	863,772	4.5	3,993,018	20.8
30 to 34 years	20,365,113	16,101,522	79.1	15,169,436	74.5	760,117	3.7	4,263,591	20.9
35 to 44 years	45,905,471	36,776,494	80.1	34,961,987	76.2	1,552,338	3.4	9,128,977	19.9
45 to 54 years	37,578,609	29,801,024	79.3	28,671,720	76.3	1,074,811	2.9	7,777,585	20.7
55 to 59 years	13,383,251	8,972,311	67.0	8,662,391	64.7	305,528	2.3	4,410,940	33.0
60 to 61 years	4,515,448	2,497,033	55.3	2,407,126	53.3	89,469	2.0	2,018,415	44.7
62 to 64 years	6,272,531	2,532,826	40.4	2,443,176	39.0	89,634	1.4	3,739,705	59.6
Race									
White alone	125,817,324	98,071,328	77.9	93,527,883	74.3	3,800,088	3.0	27,745,996	22.1
Black or African American alone	19,645,401	13,584,629	69.1	12,042,857	61.3	1,355,114	6.9	6,060,772	30.9
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1,409,145	961,304	68.2	844,951	60.0	106,581	7.6	447,841	31.8
Asian alone	6,646,456	4,764,861	71.7	4,523,302	68.1	211,899	3.2	1,881,595	28.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	224,136	164,098	73.2	145,344	64.8	14,948	6.7	60,038	26.8
Some other race alone	8,832,789	5,977,201	67.7	5,408,955	61.2	521,358	5.9	2,855,588	32.3
Two or more races	3,683,396	2,625,835	71.3	2,403,883	65.3	192,569	5.2	1,057,561	28.7
Hispanic or Latino Origin									
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	19,949,575	13,448,890	67.4	12,242,310	61.4	1,105,861	5.5	6,500,685	32.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	146,309,072	112,700,366	77.0	106,654,865	72.9	5,096,696	3.5	33,608,706	23.0
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	116,216,507	91,590,295	78.8	87,573,488	75.4	3,314,303	2.9	24,626,212	21.2
Poverty*									
Income in 1999 at or above the poverty level	145,295,481	116,714,795	80.3	111,628,422	76.8	4,315,496	3.0	28,580,686	19.7
Income in 1999 below the poverty level	17,514,796	8,506,928	48.6	6,817,882	38.9	1,668,160	9.5	9,007,868	51.4

*Poverty status was determined for all people except institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups also were excluded from the numerator and denominator when calculating poverty rates.

Note: The total and in labor force estimates include those in the armed forces.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.



analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.¹¹

Among the race and Hispanic or Latino origin categories in Table 2, non-Hispanic Whites (single race) were most likely to be employed (75.4 percent) and least likely to be unemployed (2.9 percent). Of the Asian population who reported only one race, 68.1 percent were employed and 3.2 percent were unemployed. The percent of people unemployed was highest for those in the American Indian and Alaska Native category, 7.6 percent.

The percentage of people of Hispanic or Latino origin between 20 and 64 years who were employed, 61.4 percent, was considerably below the corresponding 72.9 percent for those who were not Hispanic.¹² Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for 79.4 percent of the non-Hispanic population in this age group. The 5.5 percent of Hispanics who were unemployed was nearly double the 2.9 percent of non-Hispanic Whites who were unemployed.

¹¹ This report draws heavily on Summary File 3, a Census 2000 product that can be accessed through *American FactFinder*, available from the Census Bureau's Web site, www.census.gov. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as "White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native" or "Asian **and** Black or African American," is forthcoming in Summary File 4, which will also be available through *American FactFinder* in 2003. About 2.6 percent of people reported more than one race.

¹² Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion Hispanic was 8.0 percent for the White alone population, 1.9 percent for the Black alone population, 14.6 percent for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population, 1.0 percent for the Asian alone population, 9.5 percent for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone population, 97.1 percent for the Some other race alone population, and 31.1 percent for the Two or more races population.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

More than one-third of the labor force lived in the South.¹³

Census 2000 data showed that 35.0 percent of the nation's labor force lived in the South, and 23.8 percent lived in the Midwest, percentages that closely follow the distribution of the population aged 16 and over (see Table 1). The labor force participation rate was highest in the Midwest, at 66.4 percent. The region with the lowest labor force participation was the South, at 62.7 percent. The only region where the labor force participation rate increased from 1990 to 2000 was the Midwest (65.7 percent to 66.4 percent).

Alaska and Minnesota led the states in labor force participation.

Labor force participation rates were highest in Alaska and Minnesota, at 71.3 percent and 71.2 percent, respectively (see Table 1).¹⁴ The state map located at the top of Figure 3 also shows a cluster of states in the Midwest with high labor force participation rates. The state with the lowest rate was West Virginia, 54.5 percent, followed by Florida, at

¹³ The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

¹⁴ These rates are not statistically different from each other.

58.6 percent. Labor force participation was also low in many other southern states.

The state with the highest civilian unemployment rate was Alaska (9.0 percent), but the District of Columbia's rate was even higher (10.8 percent). Nebraska's unemployment rate was the lowest among the states (3.5 percent).

From 1990 to 2000, Iowa was the only state with an increase in its labor force participation rate that was greater than 2 percentage points (see Table 1).¹⁵ Hawaii was the only state whose rate decreased more than 5 percentage points from 1990 to 2000.¹⁶ Texas experienced the largest state-level increase in the number of employed people from 1990 to 2000 (1.6 million).

Labor force participation rates were high in some counties in the Northeast and upper Midwest and low in parts of Appalachia.

Counties in the upper interior Midwest from Chicago to Minneapolis-St. Paul displayed high labor force participation rates, as did a band of counties stretching from southern Maine to northern Virginia (see Figure 3). Labor force participation rates were also high in several metropolitan areas in the South, such as Atlanta, Nashville, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Austin. In Census 2000, low labor force participation was found in many Appalachian counties and in scattered nonmetropolitan counties throughout the South.

¹⁵ South Dakota and North Dakota also had labor force participation rates greater than two percentage points, however they were not statistically greater than two percentage points.

¹⁶ Nevada's labor force rate also decreased more than five percentage points, however the decrease was not statistically more than five percentage points.

Most places with the highest and lowest labor force participation rates were in the South and the West.¹⁷

For places of 100,000 or more population, the labor force participation rates were highest in Westminster, Colorado; Carrollton, Texas; and Gilbert, Arizona (see Table 3).¹⁸ Among the ten places with the highest labor force participation rates, two other places were in Texas, another in Arizona, and a total of two in Virginia. Rounding out the top ten were Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Anchorage, Alaska. The Northeast was not represented in the top ten.

Among the ten places with the lowest labor force participation rates, the top three were Miami and Hialeah, Florida, along with East Los Angeles, California (see Table 4).¹⁹ The other seven were scattered among older industrial-era cities (Newark and Paterson, New Jersey; and Gary, Indiana) and a variety of other locations that included Brownsville and Laredo,

¹⁷ Census 2000 shows 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They include 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census-designated places that are not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html.

¹⁸ The participation rates for these three places were not statistically different from each other.

¹⁹ The labor force participation rates in these three cities are not statistically different from each other. The labor force participation rate for East Los Angeles, California, is not statistically different from that for Brownsville, Texas.

Table 3.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Percentage of People 16 and Over in the Labor Force: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	In the labor force		Margin of error*
	Number	Percent	
Westminster, CO	59,746	77.7	0.7
Carrollton, TX	63,424	77.6	0.6
Gilbert town, AZ	58,180	76.9	0.7
Plano, TX	124,183	75.3	0.5
Arlington CDP, VA**	120,803	74.9	0.5
Sioux Falls, SD	71,988	74.8	0.6
Chandler, AZ	96,063	74.7	0.5
Alexandria, VA	80,949	74.4	0.6
Anchorage, AK	143,350	74.4	0.4
Irving, TX	109,409	74.0	0.5

*When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the estimate, it produces a 90-percent confidence interval.

**Arlington is a Census Designated Place and not an incorporated area.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Table 4.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Lowest Percentage of People 16 and Over in the Labor Force: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Place	In the labor force		Margin of error*
	Number	Percent	
Miami, FL	147,356	50.3	0.4
Hialeah, FL	91,536	50.8	0.5
East Los Angeles CDP, CA**	43,538	50.9	0.8
Brownsville, TX	50,622	52.4	0.7
Newark, NJ	108,275	52.7	0.5
Laredo, TX	64,387	53.5	0.6
Paterson, NJ	60,507	55.4	0.7
Pueblo, CO	44,417	55.7	0.8
San Bernardino, CA	70,413	55.8	0.7
Gary, IN	42,206	55.9	0.8

*When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the estimate, it produces a 90-percent confidence interval.

**East Los Angeles is a Census Designated Place and not an incorporated area.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Texas; Pueblo, Colorado; and San Bernardino, California. Texas had two places among the bottom ten, giving it the distinction, with

Colorado, of making both the top-ten and bottom-ten lists. At least one place from every region was in the bottom ten.

Table 5.
Five States With the Highest Percentage of People 16 to 64 in the Armed Forces: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

State	In armed forces		Margin of error*
	Number	Percent	
Hawaii	39,036	4.95	0.10
Alaska	17,111	4.05	0.12
Virginia	130,891	2.76	0.03
North Dakota	7,093	1.74	0.05
North Carolina	90,847	1.71	0.02

*When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the estimate, it produces a 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Table 6.
Ten States With the Highest Number of People 16 to 64 in the Armed Forces: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

State	Population 16 to 64 years	Number in armed forces	Margin of error*
California	22,009,350	148,677	1,840
Virginia	4,739,413	130,891	1,538
Texas	13,549,906	106,591	1,437
North Carolina	5,320,796	90,847	1,102
Georgia	5,462,781	66,858	1,137
Florida	9,938,688	64,519	1,119
Washington	3,891,429	47,910	962
Hawaii	788,914	39,036	786
South Carolina	2,628,171	36,027	834
Maryland	3,487,938	32,166	789

*When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the estimate, it produces a 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

Where are people on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces concentrated?²⁰

As part of its measurement of the labor force, Census 2000 counted the number of people on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard), who resided in the United States.²¹ Tables 5, 6, and 7 display state data on the Armed Forces population.

Hawaii was the state with the largest percent of people in the armed forces, followed by Alaska (see Table 5). The Northeast was the only region that did not have a state represented in the top five states.

The states with the highest number of people in the armed forces were coastal states located in the South and the West (see Table 6). The states in the top ten ranged from California, with an estimated 148,677 people in the armed forces, to Maryland, with an estimated 32,166 people. Vermont and New Hampshire were the two states with the lowest number of

²⁰ This section refers to the population 16 to 64 years, because they are in the primary age range for serving in the armed forces.

²¹ People in the military assigned to military installations outside the United States and crews of military vessels with a home-port outside the United States are not included in Armed Forces figures cited in this report. They are part of the U.S. overseas population and are not counted as part of the U.S. resident population.

people in the armed forces (fewer than an estimated 1,000 people, see Table 7).²²

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why Census 2000 asked about employment status.

The questions on labor force participation are key to understanding work and unemployment patterns and the availability of workers. The Department of Labor identifies service delivery areas and determines amounts to be allocated for job training based on labor markets and unemployment levels. The impact of immigration on the economy and job markets is measured partially by labor force data, which is included in required reports to Congress. Under the Job Training Partnership Act, labor force data are used to allocate funds and identify programs that create new jobs in local areas with substantial unemployment. Also, areas with substantial unemployment are targeted for housing and community development projects under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Accuracy of the Estimates

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the

²² These numbers are not statistically different from each other.

Table 7.
Ten States With the Lowest Number of People 16 to 64 in the Armed Forces: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

State	Population 16 to 64 years	Number in armed forces	Margin of error*
Vermont	401,845	761	71
New Hampshire	812,459	819	95
West Virginia	1,178,275	1,650	149
Iowa	1,844,897	1,859	159
Oregon	2,235,895	2,340	178
Minnesota	3,188,341	2,594	187
Wisconsin	3,454,362	2,868	197
Indiana	3,930,832	3,006	242
District of Columbia	398,953	3,273	273
Wyoming	324,445	3,300	211

*When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the estimate, it produces a 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are

introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in Summary File 3 Technical Documentation under Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.

All statements in this Census 2000 brief have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables, maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different category. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

For More Information

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available from the *American Factfinder* on the Internet (factfinder.census.gov). They were released on a state-by-state basis during 2002. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 brief series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html. This series,

which will be completed in 2003, presents information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing characteristics, such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.

For additional information on employment status, including reports and survey data, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at www.census.gov/hhes/www/laborfor.html. To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail webmaster@census.gov.

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