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WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE POPULATION IN 2004

A total of 152.3 million persons worked at some point during 2004, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The proportion of workers who worked full time, year round was up slightly from 2003. The number of persons who experienced some unemployment in 2004 fell by 1.4 million from 2003, to 15.1 million. (See tables 1 and 3.)

These data are based on information collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ASEC collects information on employment and unemployment experienced during the prior calendar year. Additional information about the CPS and the ASEC, including concepts and definitions, is provided in the Technical Note. Highlights from the 2004 data include:

- The proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 years old and over that worked at some time during the year was 67.6 percent in 2004, essentially unchanged from 2003.
- The proportion of workers who worked full time, year round in 2004 (66.8 percent) was slightly higher than in 2003 (66.3 percent).
- The “work-experience unemployment rate”—defined as the number unemployed at some time during the year as a proportion of the number who worked or looked for work during the year—fell by 1.0 percentage point over the year to 9.7 percent in 2004.

Persons with Employment

In 2004, the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over that worked at some point during the year was 67.6 percent, about unchanged from 2003. (See table 1.) This proportion had trended down from 2000 to 2003. In 2004, the proportions of men and women who worked at some time during the year, 74.1 and 61.5 percent, respectively, also were about unchanged from the prior year.

Among those with work experience during 2004, 77.0 percent were employed year round (either full or part time), up by 0.5 percentage point from 2003. Continuing a long-term growth trend, full-year employ-

ment among women edged up to 73.7 percent from 73.3 percent in 2003. The percentage of men employed year round also was up over the year, increasing to 80.0 percent from 79.3 percent in 2003. (See table 1.)

About 4 out of 5 of those who were employed at some time during 2004 usually worked full time, about the same ratio as in 2003. Among both men and women, the proportion who worked full time was little changed between 2003 and 2004. (See table 1.)

Persons with Unemployment

Overall, 15.1 million persons experienced some unemployment in 2004, down from 16.4 million in 2003. Declines in unemployment among men accounted for more than three-quarters of the over-the-year change. (See table 3.)

At 9.7 percent in 2004, the “work-experience unemployment rate” was down by 1.0 percentage point from 2003. The rate is low by historical standards, but is above the series low of 8.6 percent reached in 2000. The rate for blacks in 2004, 14.4 percent, was higher than the rates for Hispanics or Latinos (10.9 percent), whites (9.0 percent), and Asians (8.0 percent). (See tables 3 and 4.)

In 2004, the “work-experience unemployment rate” for white men (9.5 percent) was higher than that for white women (8.5 percent). In contrast, there was little difference in the rates for black men and women (14.7 and 14.2 percent, respectively), or Hispanic or Latino men and women (11.0 and 10.8 percent, respectively). The rates for Asian men and women were 7.5 and 8.6 percent, respectively. (See table 4.)

In 2004, among those who experienced unemployment, the median number of weeks spent looking for work was 14.9 weeks, down from 16.6 weeks in 2003. About 2.5 million individuals had looked for a job but did not work at all in 2004, down from 2.8 million a year earlier. Of the 12.5 million persons who worked during the year and also experienced unemployment, 23.1 percent had two or more spells of joblessness, compared with 22.6 percent in 2003.

Technical Note

The data presented in this release were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly sample survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the CPS are used to obtain the monthly estimates of the nation's employment and unemployment levels. The supplement, conducted in the months of February through April, includes questions about work activity during the prior calendar year. For instance, data collected in 2005 refer to the 2004 calendar year. Because the reference period is a full year, the number of persons with some employment or unemployment greatly exceeds the average levels for any given month, which are based on a 1-week reference period, and the corresponding annual average of the monthly estimates. As shown below, for example, the number experiencing any unemployment during 2004 was about twice the number unemployed in an average month during the year.

	Employed	Unemployed
2004 estimates (in thousands)		
Annual average of monthly estimates	139,252	8,149
Annual supplement data	152,235	15,063

In addition, estimates from the supplement differ from those obtained in the basic CPS because the questions used to classify workers as either employed or unemployed are different. More important, perhaps, is that fewer questions by which to categorize respondents are asked in the supplement. In regard to unemployment in particular, the supplement has no questions on the type of job search activity or on the respondent's availability to work. Also, individuals can be counted as both employed and unemployed in the work experience data, whereas, for a specific reference week, each person is only counted in one category and employment activity takes precedence over job search activity.

Work experience data for 2004, which were collected in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2003 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2005 of revised population controls used in the CPS. The effect of the revised population controls on the work experience estimates is unknown. However, the effect of the new controls on the monthly CPS estimates was to decrease the December 2004 employment level by 45,000 and the unemployment level by 4,000. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005" in the February 2005 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf>.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 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*.

Concepts and definitions

Persons who worked. In the 2005 supplement, persons are considered to have worked if they responded "yes" to either the question "Did you work at a job or business at any time during 2004?" or "Did you do any temporary, part-time, or seasonal work even for a few days during 2004?"

Unemployed persons. Persons who worked during the year but not in every week are counted as unemployed if they also reported looking for work or being on layoff from a job during the year. Those who reported no work activity during the year are considered unemployed if they responded "yes" to the question "Even though you did not work in 2004, did you spend any time trying to find a job or on layoff?"

Labor force participants. Persons who either worked or were unemployed during the year.

Usual full- and part-time employment. These data refer to the number of hours a worker typically works during most weeks of the year. Workers are classified as full time if they usually worked 35 hours or more in a week; part-time employment refers to workers whose typical workweek was between 1 and 34 hours.

Year-round and part-year employment. Workers are classified as year round if they worked 50 to 52 weeks. Part-year employment refers to workers who worked fewer than 50 weeks.

Table 1. Work experience of the population during the year by sex and extent of employment, 2003-04

Extent of employment	Total		Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Numbers (in thousands)					
Civilian noninstitutional population	222,509	225,236	107,241	108,702	115,269	116,534
Total who worked or looked for work	153,448	154,796	81,023	81,759	72,425	73,037
Percent of the population	69.0	68.7	75.6	75.2	62.8	62.7
Total who worked during the year ¹	150,689	152,253	79,539	80,547	71,150	71,706
Percent of the population	67.7	67.6	74.2	74.1	61.7	61.5
Full time ²	120,325	121,730	69,019	70,101	51,306	51,628
50 to 52 weeks	99,904	101,768	58,064	59,436	41,841	42,332
48 to 49 weeks	1,917	2,063	1,128	1,277	789	785
40 to 47 weeks	5,269	5,345	2,762	2,806	2,508	2,539
27 to 39 weeks	4,763	4,444	2,571	2,332	2,192	2,112
14 to 26 weeks	4,909	4,921	2,614	2,533	2,295	2,388
1 to 13 weeks	3,562	3,189	1,880	1,716	1,682	1,472
Part time ³	30,364	30,523	10,520	10,445	19,844	20,078
50 to 52 weeks	15,325	15,502	5,034	4,969	10,291	10,533
48 to 49 weeks	782	768	236	223	546	544
40 to 47 weeks	2,611	2,564	813	754	1,798	1,810
27 to 39 weeks	2,632	2,724	821	1,008	1,810	1,716
14 to 26 weeks	4,386	4,258	1,684	1,565	2,702	2,693
1 to 13 weeks	4,628	4,707	1,932	1,926	2,696	2,781
	Percent distribution					
Total who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ²	79.8	80.0	86.8	87.0	72.1	72.0
50 to 52 weeks	66.3	66.8	73.0	73.8	58.8	59.0
48 to 49 weeks	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.1
40 to 47 weeks	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
27 to 39 weeks	3.2	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.9
14 to 26 weeks	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.3
1 to 13 weeks	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.1
Part time ³	20.2	20.0	13.2	13.0	27.9	28.0
50 to 52 weeks	10.2	10.2	6.3	6.2	14.5	14.7
48 to 49 weeks	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.8
40 to 47 weeks	1.7	1.7	1.0	0.9	2.5	2.5
27 to 39 weeks	1.7	1.8	1.0	1.3	2.5	2.4
14 to 26 weeks	2.9	2.8	2.1	1.9	3.8	3.8
1 to 13 weeks	3.1	3.1	2.4	2.4	3.8	3.9

¹ Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.

² Usually worked 35 hours or more per week.

³ Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Data for 2004, which were collected in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 2001 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2003 of revised

population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see the technical note and "Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003" in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcp03.pdf>. Data for 2004 may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

Table 2. Work experience of the population during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2003-04

(Numbers in thousands)

Extent of employment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
WHITE ¹						
Civilian noninstitutional population	181,964	183,768	88,600	89,602	93,364	94,166
Total who worked or looked for work	126,232	127,054	67,807	68,235	58,425	58,818
Percent of the population	69.4	69.1	76.5	76.2	62.6	62.5
Total who worked during the year ²	124,362	125,405	66,803	67,452	57,560	57,953
Percent of the population	68.3	68.2	75.4	75.3	61.7	61.5
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	79.3	79.4	86.9	87.0	70.6	70.5
50 to 52 weeks	66.1	66.4	73.4	73.9	57.6	57.8
27 to 49 weeks	7.9	7.8	8.1	8.1	7.7	7.6
1 to 26 weeks	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.1
Part time ⁴	20.7	20.6	13.1	13.0	29.4	29.5
50 to 52 weeks	10.6	10.5	6.3	6.2	15.5	15.6
27 to 49 weeks	4.2	4.1	2.4	2.5	6.2	6.0
1 to 26 weeks	5.9	6.0	4.4	4.3	7.7	7.9
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ¹						
Civilian noninstitutional population	25,931	26,377	11,589	11,812	14,343	14,565
Total who worked or looked for work	17,161	17,426	7,829	8,017	9,331	9,408
Percent of the population	66.2	66.1	67.6	67.9	65.1	64.6
Total who worked during the year ²	16,520	16,724	7,488	7,672	9,032	9,053
Percent of the population	63.7	63.4	64.6	64.9	63.0	62.2
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	82.8	83.6	86.1	87.6	80.1	80.3
50 to 52 weeks	67.9	68.8	70.7	72.8	65.6	65.5
27 to 49 weeks	7.8	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.5
1 to 26 weeks	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.0	6.8	7.2
Part time ⁴	17.2	16.4	13.9	12.4	19.9	19.7
50 to 52 weeks	7.9	7.9	6.5	5.9	9.2	9.5
27 to 49 weeks	3.1	2.9	2.1	2.3	3.9	3.4
1 to 26 weeks	6.1	5.6	5.3	4.1	6.9	6.9
ASIAN ¹						
Civilian noninstitutional population	9,429	9,680	4,516	4,596	4,913	5,083
Total who worked or looked for work	6,411	6,516	3,457	3,494	2,954	3,022
Percent of the population	68.0	67.3	76.6	76.0	60.1	59.4
Total who worked during the year ²	6,273	6,417	3,378	3,451	2,895	2,966
Percent of the population	66.5	66.3	74.8	75.1	58.9	58.3
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	83.0	82.9	87.4	88.2	77.8	76.7
50 to 52 weeks	70.5	72.1	75.3	78.4	65.0	64.9
27 to 49 weeks	6.5	6.0	6.7	5.3	6.2	6.9
1 to 26 weeks	5.9	4.7	5.4	4.5	6.5	4.9
Part time ⁴	17.0	17.1	12.6	11.8	22.2	23.3
50 to 52 weeks	8.4	9.6	5.6	6.7	11.8	13.0
27 to 49 weeks	2.9	3.2	1.8	1.6	4.1	5.0
1 to 26 weeks	5.7	4.4	5.2	3.5	6.3	5.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work experience of the population during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2003-04 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Extent of employment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Civilian noninstitutional population	27,783	28,814	14,240	14,791	13,543	14,023
Total who worked or looked for work	19,357	19,912	11,445	11,818	7,912	8,093
Percent of the population	69.7	69.1	80.4	79.9	58.4	57.7
Total who worked during the year ²	18,969	19,579	11,246	11,668	7,723	7,911
Percent of the population	68.3	67.9	79.0	78.9	57.0	56.4
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	83.7	84.4	89.4	90.8	75.4	74.9
50 to 52 weeks	67.7	69.3	73.5	75.7	59.3	59.8
27 to 49 weeks	9.2	9.0	9.6	9.9	8.7	7.7
1 to 26 weeks	6.7	6.1	6.3	5.2	7.4	7.4
Part time ⁴	16.3	15.6	10.6	9.2	24.6	25.1
50 to 52 weeks	8.3	8.1	5.4	4.5	12.7	13.5
27 to 49 weeks	2.8	2.9	1.7	1.6	4.3	4.7
1 to 26 weeks	5.2	4.6	3.5	3.0	7.6	6.9

¹ Beginning with data for 2003, which were collected in the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are excluded. Prior to 2002, persons who reported more than one race were included in the group they identified as their main race. Also beginning in 2002, Asians no longer include Pacific Islanders.

² Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.

³ Usually worked 35 hours or more per week.

⁴ Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals shown in table 3 because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Also, see Note, table 1. Data for 2004 may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

Table 3. Extent of unemployment during the year by sex, 2003-04

Extent of unemployment	Total		Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Numbers (in thousands)						
Total who worked or looked for work	153,448	154,796	81,023	81,759	72,425	73,037
Percent with unemployment	10.7	9.7	11.5	10.1	9.8	9.3
Total with unemployment	16,444	15,077	9,321	8,249	7,122	6,828
Did not work but looked for work	2,759	2,543	1,484	1,213	1,275	1,331
1 to 14 weeks	1,014	977	463	393	550	584
15 weeks or more	1,745	1,567	1,021	819	725	747
Worked during the year	13,684	12,533	7,837	7,037	5,847	5,497
Year-round workers ¹ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	530	463	354	286	176	176
Part-year workers ² with unemployment	13,154	12,071	7,483	6,750	5,671	5,320
1 to 4 weeks	1,836	1,986	954	1,027	882	958
5 to 10 weeks	2,263	2,106	1,313	1,172	950	934
11 to 14 weeks	1,748	1,775	1,038	1,021	710	754
15 to 26 weeks	3,777	3,451	2,177	2,063	1,600	1,388
27 weeks or more	3,530	2,752	2,001	1,467	1,530	1,285
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	16.6	14.9	16.5	15.1	16.6	14.6
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	3,088	2,899	1,877	1,825	1,211	1,074
2 spells	1,584	1,346	945	806	639	540
3 spells or more	1,504	1,553	932	1,019	572	533
Percent distribution						
Did not work but looked for work	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 to 14 weeks	36.7	38.4	31.2	32.4	43.2	43.9
15 weeks or more	63.3	61.6	68.8	67.6	56.8	56.1
Worked during the year	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ¹ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	3.9	3.7	4.5	4.1	3.0	3.2
Part-year workers ² with unemployment	96.1	96.3	95.5	95.9	97.0	96.8
1 to 4 weeks	13.4	15.8	12.2	14.6	15.1	17.4
5 to 10 weeks	16.5	16.8	16.8	16.7	16.3	17.0
11 to 14 weeks	12.8	14.2	13.2	14.5	12.1	13.7
15 to 26 weeks	27.6	27.5	27.8	29.3	27.4	25.3
27 weeks or more	25.8	22.0	25.5	20.9	26.2	23.4
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	22.6	23.1	24.0	25.9	20.7	19.5
2 spells	11.6	10.7	12.1	11.5	10.9	9.8
3 spells or more	11.0	12.4	11.9	14.5	9.8	9.7

¹ Worked 50 or 51 weeks.

² Worked less than 50 weeks.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Also, see Note, table 1.

Data for 2004 may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.

Table 4. Extent of unemployment during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2003-04

(Numbers in thousands)

Extent of unemployment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
WHITE ¹						
Total who worked or looked for work	126,232	127,054	67,807	68,235	58,425	58,818
Percent with unemployment	10.1	9.0	10.8	9.5	9.1	8.5
Total with unemployment	12,691	11,483	7,348	6,504	5,342	4,979
Did not work but looked for work	1,870	1,649	1,004	784	866	865
Worked during the year	10,821	9,835	6,344	5,720	4,477	4,114
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	15.7	14.2	15.9	14.7	15.5	13.5
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	4.3	4.0	4.9	4.3	3.3	3.7
Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment	95.7	96.0	95.1	95.7	96.7	96.3
1 to 4 weeks	13.9	17.0	12.3	15.2	16.2	19.6
5 to 14 weeks	30.3	31.7	30.9	31.6	29.4	31.9
15 weeks or more	51.5	47.2	51.8	48.9	51.1	44.8
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	22.6	23.0	24.3	25.6	20.2	19.3
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ¹						
Total who worked or looked for work	17,161	17,426	7,829	8,017	9,331	9,408
Percent with unemployment	14.7	14.4	16.3	14.7	13.3	14.2
Total with unemployment	2,520	2,510	1,279	1,175	1,240	1,335
Did not work but looked for work	641	701	341	346	299	355
Worked during the year	1,879	1,809	938	830	941	979
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	21.2	19.7	21.2	18.5	21.1	20.6
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	2.5	1.8	3.2	2.0	1.9	1.7
Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment	97.5	98.2	96.8	98.0	98.1	98.3
1 to 4 weeks	10.1	10.2	10.4	11.2	9.7	9.4
5 to 14 weeks	24.2	27.1	23.2	29.5	25.2	25.0
15 weeks or more	63.2	60.9	63.2	57.4	63.2	63.9
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	22.8	23.9	23.7	28.8	22.0	19.8
ASIAN ¹						
Total who worked or looked for work	6,411	6,516	3,457	3,494	2,954	3,022
Percent with unemployment	10.2	8.0	10.8	7.5	9.7	8.6
Total with unemployment	657	522	372	262	285	260
Did not work but looked for work	138	99	79	43	59	56
Worked during the year	519	423	293	218	226	205
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	17.0	15.2	15.3	17.1	18.4	13.7
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	2.4	3.7	1.5	4.3	3.4	3.0
Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment	97.6	96.3	98.5	95.7	96.6	97.0
1 to 4 weeks	14.6	12.2	16.7	9.0	11.9	15.7
5 to 14 weeks	28.4	33.8	31.3	32.2	24.6	35.5
15 weeks or more	54.6	50.3	50.5	54.6	60.0	45.8
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	15.9	22.7	14.3	23.1	18.0	22.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Extent of unemployment during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2003-04 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Extent of unemployment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Total who worked or looked for work	19,357	19,912	11,445	11,818	7,912	8,093
Percent with unemployment	12.9	10.9	13.1	11.0	12.5	10.8
Total with unemployment	2,494	2,168	1,502	1,296	991	872
Did not work but looked for work	388	333	199	150	189	182
Worked during the year	2,106	1,836	1,303	1,146	803	690
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	17.6	16.0	16.9	15.7	18.5	16.5
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.8	2.9	2.3
Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment	96.3	96.1	95.8	95.2	97.1	97.7
1 to 4 weeks	13.0	13.8	12.2	13.5	14.4	14.2
5 to 14 weeks	27.4	30.0	29.6	29.8	24.0	30.4
15 weeks or more	55.9	52.3	54.1	52.0	58.7	53.0
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	23.9	23.8	25.3	27.4	21.8	17.8

¹ Beginning with data for 2003, which were collected in the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are excluded. Prior to 2002, persons who reported more than one race were included in the group they identified as their main race. Also beginning in 2002, Asians no longer include Pacific Islanders.

² Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.

³ Worked 50 or 51 weeks.

⁴ Worked less than 50 weeks.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals shown in table 3 because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Also, see Note, table 1. Data for 2004 may vary slightly from that previously published due to corrections to the sample weights.