

**HOUSEHOLD DATA
ANNUAL AVERAGES**

35. Persons not in the labor force by desire and availability for work, age, and sex

(In thousands)

Category	Total		Age						Sex			
	1997	1998	16 to 24 years		25 to 54 years		55 years and over		Men		Women	
			1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
Total not in the labor force	66,837	67,547	11,343	11,343	18,552	18,732	36,942	37,472	24,454	24,799	42,382	42,748
Do not want a job now ¹	61,895	62,735	9,434	9,491	16,311	16,580	36,151	36,664	22,420	22,790	39,475	39,945
Want a job ¹	4,941	4,812	1,909	1,852	2,241	2,152	791	807	2,034	2,008	2,907	2,803
Did not search for work in previous year	2,857	2,859	1,034	1,011	1,245	1,240	579	608	1,118	1,134	1,739	1,725
Searched for work in previous year ²	2,084	1,953	875	841	997	912	212	200	917	875	1,168	1,078
Not available to work now	669	643	346	332	289	275	34	36	257	250	412	392
Available to work now	1,416	1,310	529	509	708	637	178	164	659	624	756	686
Reason not currently looking:												
Discouragement over job prospects ³	343	331	107	108	184	170	52	53	200	198	143	133
Reasons other than discouragement	1,073	979	423	401	524	467	126	111	460	427	613	552
Family responsibilities	139	143	26	37	97	93	16	13	21	23	117	120
In school or training	235	206	188	173	45	32	2	1	113	105	121	102
Ill health or disability	116	104	17	14	71	69	28	21	52	52	64	52
Other ⁴	583	525	191	177	311	273	81	75	273	247	311	278

¹ Includes some persons who are not asked if they want a job.

² Persons who had a job in the prior 12 months must have searched since the end of that job.

³ Includes believes no work available, could not find work, lacks necessary schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

⁴ Includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child-care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not ascertained.

NOTE: Beginning in January 1998, data reflect new composite estimation procedures and revised population controls used in the household survey.