

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

(In thousands)

Category	Total		Age						Sex			
	2009	2010	16 to 24 years		25 to 54 years		55 years and over		Men		Women	
			2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Total not in the labor force	81,659	83,941	16,207	17,014	21,823	22,350	43,629	44,577	32,013	33,189	49,646	50,752
Do not want a job now ¹	75,765	77,882	14,263	14,990	19,199	19,659	42,303	43,233	29,234	30,309	46,531	47,573
Want a job ¹	5,894	6,059	1,944	2,024	2,624	2,691	1,325	1,344	2,779	2,880	3,115	3,179
Did not search for work in previous year	3,075	2,948	960	968	1,241	1,189	874	791	1,344	1,279	1,731	1,669
Searched for work in previous year ²	2,818	3,111	983	1,056	1,383	1,502	452	553	1,435	1,601	1,384	1,510
Not available to work now	592	623	275	274	256	284	61	65	251	264	341	359
Available to work now	2,226	2,487	708	782	1,127	1,218	391	487	1,184	1,337	1,043	1,151
Reason not currently looking:												
Discouragement over job prospects ³	778	1,173	200	291	427	595	151	287	485	731	293	442
Reasons other than discouragement	1,449	1,315	509	491	699	623	240	200	699	606	749	709
Family responsibilities	209	286	38	49	131	171	41	66	50	83	159	203
In school or training	306	350	234	262	65	81	7	7	163	191	144	158
Ill health or disability	136	50	19	4	68	21	49	25	70	21	66	29
Other ⁴	798	629	219	176	435	350	144	102	417	311	381	318

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: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.