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**NUMBER OF JOBS HELD, LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY, AND
EARNINGS GROWTH AMONG THE YOUNGEST BABY BOOMERS:
RESULTS FROM A LONGITUDINAL SURVEY**

The average person born in the latter years of the baby boom (1957-1964) held 11.3 jobs from age 18 to age 46, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nearly half of these jobs were held from ages 18 to 24.

These findings are from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979; a survey of 9,964 men and women who were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979 and ages 45 to 53 when interviewed most recently in 2010-11. These respondents were born in the years 1957 to 1964, the latter years of the "baby boom" that occurred in the United States from 1946 to 1964. The survey spans more than 3 decades and provides information on work and nonwork experiences, education, training, income and assets, health, and other characteristics. The information provided by respondents, who were interviewed annually from 1979 to 1994 and biennially since 1994, can be considered representative of all men and women born in the late 1950s and early 1960s and living in the United States when the survey began in 1979.

This release of the latest data from the longitudinal survey focuses on the number of jobs held, job duration, labor force participation, and earnings growth. Highlights from the survey include:

- Individuals born from 1957 to 1964 held an average of 11.3 jobs from ages 18 to 46. These baby boomers held an average of 5.5 jobs while ages 18 to 24. The average fell to 3 jobs from ages 25 to 29, to 2.4 jobs from ages 30 to 34, and to 2.1 jobs from ages 35 to 39 and also from ages 40 to 46. Jobs that span more than one age group were counted once in each age group, so the overall average number of jobs held from age 18 to age 46 is less than the sum of the number of jobs across the individual age groups.
- Although job duration tends to be longer the older a worker is when starting the job, these baby boomers continued to have large numbers of short-duration jobs even at middle age. Among jobs started by 40 to 46 year olds, 33 percent ended in less than a year, and 69 percent ended in less than 5 years.
- The average person was employed during 78 percent of the weeks from age 18 to age 46. Generally, men spent a larger percent of weeks employed than did women (84 versus 71

percent). Women spent much more time out of the labor force (25 percent of weeks) than did men (10 percent of weeks).

- The average annual percent growth in inflation-adjusted hourly earnings was fastest when workers were in their late teens and early twenties. Growth rates in earnings generally were higher for college graduates than for workers with less education.

Number of Jobs Held

Individuals held an average of 11.3 jobs from ages 18 to 46, with nearly half of these jobs being held before age 25. In this release, a job is defined as an uninterrupted period of work with a particular employer. (See the Technical Note for additional information on the definition of a job.) On average, men held 11.5 jobs, and women held 11.1 jobs from age 18 to age 46. Men held 5.7 jobs from age 18 to age 24, compared with 2.1 jobs from age 40 to age 46. The reduction in the average number of jobs held in successive ages was similar for women. (See table 1.)

On average, men without a high school diploma held 13.1 jobs from ages 18 to 46, while men with a bachelor's degree and higher held 11.4 jobs between these ages. In contrast, women without a high school diploma held an average of 10.1 jobs from ages 18 to 46, while women with a bachelor's degree and higher held 12.2 jobs between these ages.

From age 18 to age 24, whites held more jobs than blacks or Hispanics. On average, whites held 5.7 jobs between the ages of 18 and 24, while blacks held 4.6 jobs and Hispanics held 4.9 jobs. From age 25 to age 46, there was no significant difference in the average number of jobs held by individuals across racial and ethnic groups.

Duration of Employment Relationships

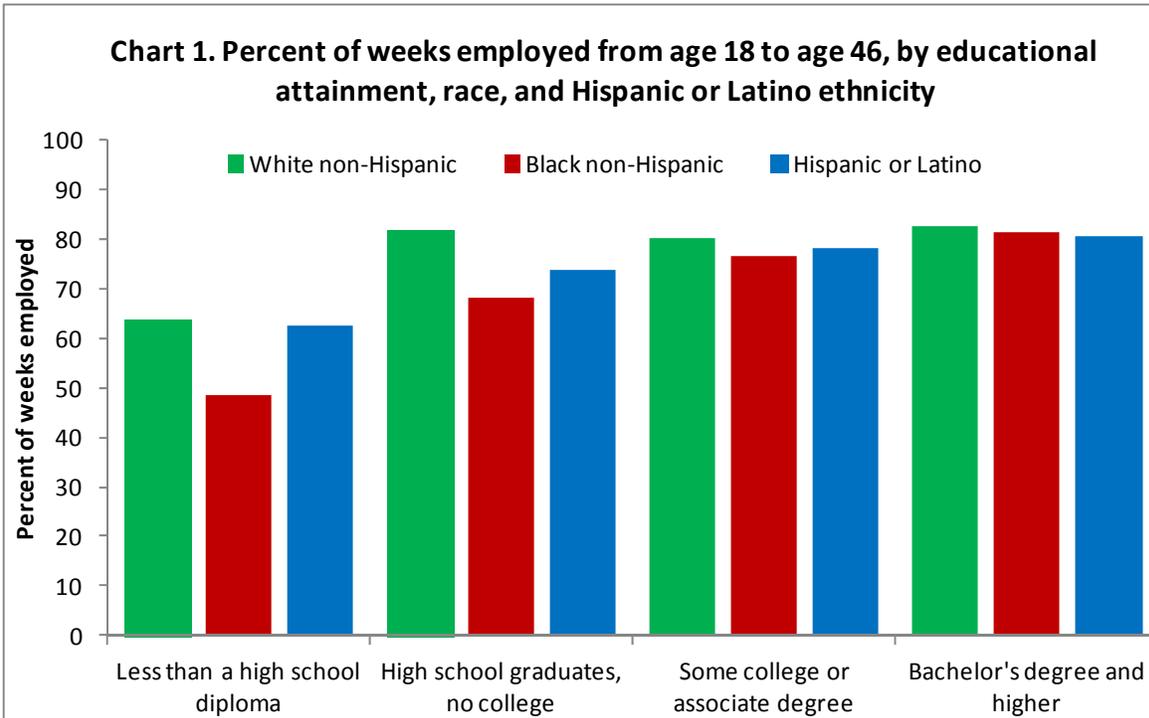
The length of time a worker remains with the same employer increases with the age at which the worker began the job. Of the jobs that workers began when they were 18 to 24 years of age, 69 percent ended in less than a year and 93 percent ended in less than 5 years. Among jobs started by 40 to 46 year olds, 33 percent ended in less than a year and 69 percent ended in less than 5 years. (See table 2.)

Percent of Weeks Employed, Unemployed, and Not in the Labor Force

On average, the baby boomers represented by the survey sample were employed during 78 percent of all the weeks occurring from age 18 to age 46. They were unemployed—that is, without jobs but seeking work—4 percent of the weeks. They were not in the labor force—that is, neither working nor seeking work—17 percent of the weeks. (See table 3.)

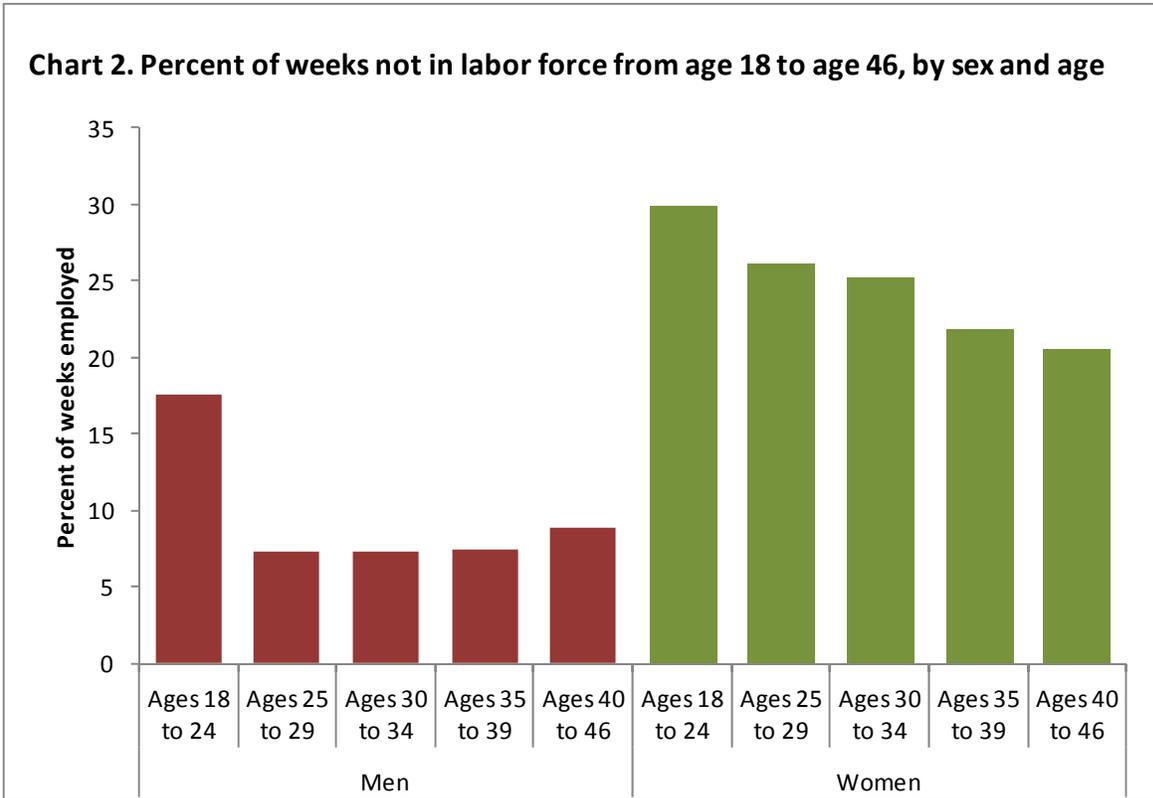
The amount of time spent employed differs substantially among those without a high school diploma and those who have graduated from high school or attained higher levels of education. Individuals with less than a high school diploma (as of the 2010-11 survey) spent 60 percent of weeks employed and 31 percent of weeks out of the labor force from age 18 to age 46. By comparison, high school graduates spent 79 percent of weeks employed and 15 percent of weeks out of the labor force, while those with a bachelor's degree and higher spent 82 percent of weeks employed and 15 percent of weeks out of the labor force.

White high school graduates with no college were employed a higher percentage of weeks and out of the labor force a smaller percentage of weeks than similarly educated blacks or Hispanics. Between the ages of 18 and 46, white high school graduates with no college spent 82 percent of weeks employed and 14 percent of weeks out of the labor force, similarly educated blacks spent 68 percent of weeks employed and 22 percent of weeks out of the labor force, and Hispanic high school graduates with no college spent 74 percent of weeks employed and 20 percent of weeks out of the labor force. Among those with a bachelor's degree and higher, however, there was little difference among racial and ethnic groups in labor market attachment; each group spent about 80 percent of weeks employed. (See chart 1.)



The amount of time spent in the labor force differs by sex. Overall, men were out of the labor force 10 percent of weeks from age 18 to age 46; at these same ages, women were out of the labor force 25 percent of these weeks. Women's labor force participation generally grows with education level, although women at every educational level spent fewer weeks in the labor force than men. Women without a high school diploma spent almost half (47 percent) of all weeks between age 18 and age 46 out of the labor force, while those with a high school diploma were out of the labor force 24 percent of weeks, those with some college were out of the labor force 22 percent of weeks, and those with a bachelor's degree and higher were out of the labor force only 19 percent of weeks. Among men in those ages, those without a high school diploma were out of the labor force about 20 percent of weeks and those in the other three education categories were out of the labor force only 8 to 10 percent of weeks. (See table 3.)

Women at every age spent fewer weeks in the labor force than men. From ages 18 to 24, men spent 18 percent of weeks out of the labor force, and women spent 30 percent of weeks out of the labor force. This age range was a period when large proportions of men and women attended college or received vocational training and, as a result, spent less time in the labor force. From ages 25 to 39, these men spent only 7 percent of weeks out of the labor force, while women spent between 22 and 26 percent of weeks out of the labor force. Compared to men, women spent an average of two to three times as many weeks out of the labor force as their male counterparts after age 24. (See table 4 and chart 2.)



The percentage of weeks in which men are employed peaks at 89 percent in the 35 to 39 age category, and then decreases slightly to 87 percent in the 40 to 46 age group. The percentage of weeks in which women are employed increases from 63 percent in the 18 to 24 age group to a maximum of 76 percent in the 40 to 46 age group. (See table 4.)

Percent Growth in Real Earnings

The inflation-adjusted earnings of these workers increased most rapidly while they were young. Hourly earnings grew by an average of 6.3 percent per year from ages 18 to 24 and 4.1 percent per year from ages 25 to 29. The earnings growth rate slowed to 3.2 percent annually from age 30 to age 34 and 3.1 percent annually from age 35 to age 39. From ages 40 to 46, hourly earnings grew an average of .9 percent per year. Earnings growth was minimal (.2 percent) for 40- to 46-year-olds with less than a high school diploma. This pattern in earnings growth reflects, in part, the state of the U.S. economy during the years in which survey participants were in each age group. For men and women in nearly every age category, growth rates in inflation-adjusted hourly earnings generally were higher for workers with more education. (See table 5.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained using data from the first 24 rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79). This survey is conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University under the direction and sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sample

The NLSY79 is a nationally representative sample of 12,686 young men and women who were 14 to 22 years of age when first surveyed in 1979. This survey sample was initially composed of three subsamples:

- A cross-sectional sample of 6,111 youths that was designed to represent the noninstitutionalized, civilian population of young people living in the U.S. in 1979 and born between Jan. 1, 1957, and Dec. 31, 1964.
- A supplemental sample of 5,295 youths designed to oversample noninstitutionalized, civilian black, Hispanic or Latino, and economically disadvantaged nonblack, non-Hispanic youths living in the U.S. in 1979 and born between Jan. 1, 1957, and Dec. 31, 1964.
- A military sample of 1,280 youths born between Jan. 1, 1957, and Dec. 31, 1961, and enlisted in the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps as of September 30, 1978.

In 1985, the military sample was discontinued, and, in 1991, the economically disadvantaged nonblack, non-Hispanic youths were dropped from the supplemental sample. As a result, the NLSY79 sample now includes 9,964 individuals from the cross-sectional sample and the black and Hispanic supplemental samples. (This sample size is not adjusted for sample members who have died.)

Individuals were surveyed annually from 1979 to 1994 and biennially since 1994. In 2010-11, 7,565 individuals responded to the survey, for a retention rate of 76 percent. Only these individuals are included in the estimates in this release. All results are weighted using the 2010-11 survey weights that correct for the oversampling, interview nonresponse, and permanent attrition from the survey. When weighted, the estimates represent all persons born in the years 1957 to 1964 and living in the U.S. when the survey began in 1979. Not represented by the survey are U.S. immigrants who were born from 1957 to 1964 and moved to the U.S. after 1979.

Work history data

The total number of jobs that people hold during their work life is an easy concept to understand but a difficult one to measure. Reliable estimates require a survey that interviews the same people over the course of their entire work life and also keeps track of all the jobs they ever held. The NLSY79 tracks the number of jobs that people have held, but the respondents in this survey are still in their prime working years, ages 45 to 53 in 2010-11, and have many years of work life ahead of them. As the cohort continues to age, however, more complete information will become available.

A unique feature of the NLSY79 is that it collects the beginning and ending dates of all jobs held by a respondent so that a longitudinal history can be constructed of each respondent's work experiences. The NLSY79 work history data provide a week-by-week work record of each respondent from Jan. 1, 1978, through the most recent survey date. These data contain information on the respondent's labor force status each week, the usual hours worked per week at all jobs, and earnings for all jobs. If a respondent worked at more than one job in any week, hours and earnings are obtained for additional jobs. When a respondent who missed one or more consecutive survey rounds is interviewed again, he is asked to provide information about all time since the last interview.

Interaction between time and age in a longitudinal survey

Because the NLSY79 is a longitudinal survey, meaning the same people are surveyed over time, the ages of the respondents change with each survey round. It is important to keep in mind this inherent link between the calendar years and the ages of the respondents. For example, table 5 reports earnings growth from age 25 to age 29. The youngest respondents in the sample (birth year 1964) were these ages during 1989-93, whereas the oldest respondents (birth year 1957) were these ages during 1982-86.

Although participants in the NLSY79 were ages 45 to 53 during the 2010-11 interviews, this release covers only the period while the respondents were ages 18 to 46. The reason for not including older ages is that the sample sizes were still too small to provide statistically reliable estimates for age groups older than 46. As the NLSY79 continues to be administered and the respondents age, subsequent rounds of the survey will enable analyses to be conducted for older age groups.

As with age, the educational attainment of individuals may change from year to year. In the tables and analysis presented in this report, educational attainment is defined as of the 2010-11 survey. This definition is used even when data on age and educational attainment are presented together. For

example, table 1 reports the number of jobs held during different age categories. Suppose that a respondent had completed a bachelor's degree at age 30. That respondent would be included in the "Bachelor's degree or more" educational category in all age categories shown on the table, even though he or she did not have a bachelor's degree at any point from age 18 to age 29.

Definitions

Job. A job is defined as an uninterrupted period of work with a particular employer. Jobs are therefore employer-based, not position-based. If a respondent indicates that he or she left a job but in a subsequent survey returned to the same job, it is counted as a new job. For example, if an individual worked in a retail establishment during the summer, quit at the end of summer to return to school, and then resumed working for the same employer the following spring, this sequence would count as two jobs, rather than one. For self-employed workers, each "new" job is defined by the individuals themselves.

Unemployment. If respondents indicate a gap between employers, they are asked how many of those weeks they spent searching for employment or on layoff. For that number of weeks, they are considered unemployed. For the remaining weeks, they are coded as not in the labor force. No probing for intensity of job search is done.

Usual earnings. Respondents can report earnings over any time frame (hour, day, week, month, year). For those who do not report an hourly wage, one is constructed using usual hours worked over that time frame. Wages greater than \$100 per hour and less than \$1 per hour (in January 1979 dollars, 100=283.70 in December 2010 dollars) were not included in the analysis of earnings growth because the reported earnings levels were almost certainly in error. For the same reason, individuals who had inflation-adjusted earnings growth greater than 100 percent were not included in the analysis. These exclusions from the analysis affected 40 respondents.

Race and ethnicity groups. In this release, the findings are reported for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics or Latinos. These three groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates. In other BLS publications, estimates usually are published for whites, blacks, and Hispanics or Latinos, but these groups are not mutually exclusive. The term "Hispanic or Latino" is considered to be an ethnicity group, and Hispanics or Latinos can be of any race. Most other BLS publications include Hispanics or Latinos in the white and black race groups in addition to the Hispanic or Latino ethnicity group.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Number of jobs held by individuals from age 18 to age 46 in 1978-2010 by educational attainment, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and age

Characteristic	Average number of jobs for persons ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010					
	Total ¹	Ages 18 to 24	Ages 25 to 29	Ages 30 to 34	Ages 35 to 39	Ages 40 to 46
Total	11.3	5.5	3.0	2.4	2.1	2.1
Less than a high school diploma	11.9	5.0	3.0	2.5	2.1	2.0
High school graduates, no college ²	10.5	5.0	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.0
Some college or associate degree	11.8	5.7	3.1	2.5	2.2	2.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	11.8	6.2	3.1	2.4	2.1	2.1
Men	11.5	5.7	3.1	2.6	2.1	2.1
Less than a high school diploma	13.1	5.9	3.6	2.8	2.2	2.2
High school graduates, no college ²	10.9	5.3	3.1	2.5	2.0	2.1
Some college or associate degree	11.8	6.0	3.2	2.6	2.1	2.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	11.4	5.9	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.1
Women	11.1	5.3	2.8	2.3	2.0	2.1
Less than a high school diploma	10.1	3.8	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.8
High school graduates, no college ²	10.2	4.7	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.0
Some college or associate degree	11.8	5.5	3.0	2.4	2.2	2.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	12.2	6.4	3.2	2.3	1.9	2.1
White non-Hispanic.....	11.4	5.7	3.0	2.4	2.1	2.1
Less than a high school diploma	12.5	5.5	3.2	2.7	2.2	2.1
High school graduates, no college ²	10.5	5.2	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.0
Some college or associate degree	11.9	5.9	3.0	2.4	2.1	2.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	11.8	6.3	3.1	2.4	2.0	2.1
Black non-Hispanic	10.9	4.6	2.9	2.5	2.1	2.2
Less than a high school diploma	10.3	3.8	2.6	2.1	1.9	1.8
High school graduates, no college ²	10.8	4.3	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.2
Some college or associate degree	11.5	5.2	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	11.1	5.4	3.1	2.7	2.1	2.4
Hispanic or Latino.....	11.2	4.9	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.2
Less than a high school diploma	11.2	4.5	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.2
High school graduates, no college ²	10.7	5.0	2.7	2.4	2.0	2.2
Some college or associate degree	11.6	5.1	3.1	2.3	2.2	2.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	12.2	5.4	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.0

¹ Jobs that were held in more than one of the age categories were counted in each appropriate column, but only once in the total column.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who turned age 18 before January 1, 1978, or who had not yet turned age 47 when interviewed in 2010-11.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 consists of men and women who were born in the years 1957-64 and were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. These individuals were ages 45 to 53 in 2010-11. Educational attainment is defined as of the 2010-11 survey. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 2. Duration of employment relationships with a single employer for all jobs started from age 18 to age 46 in 1978-2010 by age at start of job, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Age at the start of job and characteristic	Cumulative percent distribution of duration					Percent of jobs ongoing in 2010
	Less than 1 year	Less than 2 years	Less than 5 years	Less than 10 years	Less than 15 years	
Ages 18 to 24	69.1	82.9	92.9	96.4	97.5	1.5
Men	69.3	83.0	92.6	96.2	97.3	1.6
Women	68.9	82.9	93.1	96.5	97.7	1.4
White non-Hispanic	68.8	82.8	92.7	96.2	97.4	1.6
Black non-Hispanic	71.4	84.7	93.8	97.0	98.0	1.2
Hispanic or Latino	69.2	82.6	92.6	96.4	97.6	1.4
Ages 25 to 29.....	56.2	73.1	87.0	93.0	95.1	3.7
Men	55.8	72.5	86.0	92.0	94.2	4.4
Women	56.7	73.8	88.2	94.1	96.0	2.9
White non-Hispanic	54.7	71.9	86.3	92.6	94.8	3.8
Black non-Hispanic	61.2	77.5	89.8	94.3	95.9	3.0
Hispanic or Latino	60.4	76.1	88.1	93.7	95.8	3.3
Ages 30 to 34	47.8	64.7	82.8	90.9	93.5	6.0
Men	47.5	64.3	82.3	90.2	92.9	6.7
Women	48.0	65.1	83.4	91.8	94.2	5.3
White non-Hispanic	46.0	62.8	81.7	90.3	93.1	6.5
Black non-Hispanic	53.6	71.2	86.6	93.5	95.7	3.9
Hispanic or Latino	50.5	68.1	85.0	92.3	94.3	5.3
Ages 35 to 39.....	37.6	55.4	76.3	86.0	(¹)	12.0
Men	36.5	55.0	75.4	85.4	(¹)	12.3
Women	38.7	55.7	77.1	86.6	(¹)	11.7
White non-Hispanic	36.2	53.7	74.7	84.9	(¹)	12.9
Black non-Hispanic	42.2	61.0	82.1	90.0	(¹)	8.5
Hispanic or Latino	41.7	58.7	79.8	88.3	(¹)	10.2
Ages 40 to 46.....	32.8	50.8	69.0	(¹)	(¹)	25.8
Men	31.3	49.0	68.2	(¹)	(¹)	26.8
Women	34.2	52.5	69.8	(¹)	(¹)	24.9
White non-Hispanic	31.7	49.4	67.2	(¹)	(¹)	27.5
Black non-Hispanic	36.6	55.7	75.2	(¹)	(¹)	20.1
Hispanic or Latino	34.4	52.6	74.5	(¹)	(¹)	21.2

¹ Estimates are not presented for these categories because most sample members were not yet old enough at the time

NOTE: The age category of 18 to 24 excludes individuals who turned age 18 before January 1, 1978.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 consists of men and women who were born in the years 1957-64 and were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. These individuals were ages 45 to 53 in 2010-11. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 3. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 to age 46 in 1978-2010 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Characteristic	Percent of total weeks while ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010		
	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total, ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010.....	77.7	4.4	17.2
Less than a high school diploma	59.9	7.9	31.3
High school graduates, no college ¹	79.1	4.8	15.4
Some college or associate degree	79.4	4.1	15.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	82.4	2.5	14.5
Men	84.3	4.7	10.2
Less than a high school diploma	69.8	9.1	19.9
High school graduates, no college ¹	86.6	4.8	7.8
Some college or associate degree	87.0	4.1	8.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	86.6	2.6	10.1
Women	70.7	4.0	24.6
Less than a high school diploma	46.3	6.2	47.0
High school graduates, no college ¹	70.4	4.8	24.2
Some college or associate degree	72.9	4.0	22.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	78.3	2.3	18.9
White non-Hispanic	79.9	3.6	15.9
Less than a high school diploma	63.6	6.9	28.6
High school graduates, no college ¹	81.7	3.9	13.8
Some college or associate degree	80.1	3.4	15.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	82.6	2.3	14.6
Black non-Hispanic	68.7	8.4	22.0
Less than a high school diploma	48.4	11.4	39.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	68.1	9.5	21.5
Some college or associate degree	76.3	7.2	15.8
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	81.0	4.6	13.6
Hispanic or Latino.....	72.5	5.2	21.2
Less than a high school diploma	62.4	7.9	28.8
High school graduates, no college ¹	73.5	5.0	20.4
Some college or associate degree	78.2	3.7	17.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	80.3	3.2	15.7

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who turned age 18 before January 1, 1978, or who had not yet turned age 47 when interviewed in 2010-11.

Totals do not add to 100 percent due to a small number of respondents whose employment status cannot be determined for all weeks.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 consists of men and women who were born in the years 1957-64 and were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. These individuals were ages 45 to 53 in 2010-11. Educational attainment is defined as of the 2010-11 survey. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 4. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 to age 46 in 1978-2010 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Age and characteristic	Percent of total weeks		
	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total, ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010 ¹	77.7	4.4	17.2
Ages 18 to 24 in 1978-1988 ²	68.0	7.9	23.6
Ages 25 to 29 in 1982-1993	78.4	4.5	16.5
Ages 30 to 34 in 1987-1998	79.9	3.5	16.0
Ages 35 to 39 in 1992-2003	82.1	2.8	14.5
Ages 40 to 46 in 1997-2010 ³	81.2	3.0	14.6
Men, ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010 ¹	84.3	4.7	10.2
Ages 18 to 24 in 1978-1988 ²	73.0	8.8	17.6
Ages 25 to 29 in 1982-1993	86.9	5.1	7.2
Ages 30 to 34 in 1987-1998	88.3	3.8	7.2
Ages 35 to 39 in 1992-2003	89.0	2.9	7.4
Ages 40 to 46 in 1997-2010 ³	86.7	3.2	8.9
Women, ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010 ¹	70.7	4.0	24.6
Ages 18 to 24 in 1978-1988 ²	62.8	6.9	29.9
Ages 25 to 29 in 1982-1993	69.5	3.9	26.2
Ages 30 to 34 in 1987-1998	71.1	3.2	25.2
Ages 35 to 39 in 1992-2003	74.9	2.7	21.8
Ages 40 to 46 in 1997-2010 ³	75.5	2.8	20.6
White non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010 ¹	79.9	3.6	15.9
Ages 18 to 24 in 1978-1988 ²	70.9	6.8	21.8
Ages 25 to 29 in 1982-1993	80.7	3.7	15.1
Ages 30 to 34 in 1987-1998	81.8	2.8	14.8
Ages 35 to 39 in 1992-2003	83.7	2.2	13.5
Ages 40 to 46 in 1997-2010 ³	82.7	2.5	13.8
Black non-Hispanic, ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010 ¹	68.7	8.4	22.0
Ages 18 to 24 in 1978-1988 ²	55.5	13.4	30.6
Ages 25 to 29 in 1982-1993	69.4	8.8	21.1
Ages 30 to 34 in 1987-1998	71.5	7.1	20.7
Ages 35 to 39 in 1992-2003	75.6	5.6	18.2
Ages 40 to 46 in 1997-2010 ³	74.6	5.8	18.2
Hispanic or Latino, ages 18 to 46 in 1978-2010 ¹	72.5	5.2	21.2
Ages 18 to 24 in 1978-1988 ²	63.2	8.6	27.6
Ages 25 to 29 in 1982-1993	71.4	5.5	22.4
Ages 30 to 34 in 1987-1998	74.7	4.1	20.3
Ages 35 to 39 in 1992-2003	77.5	3.8	17.7
Ages 40 to 46 in 1997-2010 ³	77.7	3.7	16.9

¹ This category excludes individuals who turned age 18 before January 1, 1978, or who had not yet turned age 47 when interviewed in 2010-11.

² This category excludes individuals who turned age 18 before January 1, 1978.

³ This category excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 47 when interviewed in 2010-11.

NOTE: Totals do not add to 100 percent due to a small number of respondents whose employment status cannot be determined for all weeks.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 consists of men and women who were born in the years 1957-64 and were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. These individuals were ages 45 to 53 in 2010-11. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Table 5. Average annual percent growth in inflation-adjusted hourly earnings from 1978-2010 by educational attainment, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and age

Characteristic	Average annual percent growth in hourly earnings				
	Ages 18 to 24	Ages 25 to 29	Ages 30 to 34	Ages 35 to 39	Ages 40 to 46
Total	6.3	4.1	3.2	3.1	0.9
Less than a high school diploma	3.2	2.5	1.6	3.1	.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	4.9	2.5	2.7	2.8	.7
Some college or associate degree	6.3	4.7	2.8	2.7	.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	9.2	6.3	4.8	3.8	1.6
Men	6.9	4.5	3.5	3.1	.9
Less than a high school diploma	3.8	2.1	1.6	3.2	.3
High school graduates, no college ¹	5.9	3.0	2.5	2.6	.7
Some college or associate degree	7.3	5.5	3.5	2.4	.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	9.5	7.2	5.8	4.2	1.7
Women	5.6	3.6	2.9	3.1	.9
Less than a high school diploma	2.2	3.3	1.6	2.8	.0
High school graduates, no college ¹	3.7	1.9	3.0	3.0	.7
Some college or associate degree	5.4	4.1	2.1	2.9	.9
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	8.9	5.3	3.8	3.4	1.4
White non-Hispanic	6.7	4.2	3.2	3.1	1.0
Less than a high school diploma	3.8	2.4	1.5	2.9	.3
High school graduates, no college ¹	5.2	2.4	2.6	2.9	.9
Some college or associate degree	6.3	5.0	2.7	2.6	.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	9.4	6.4	4.9	3.9	1.5
Black non-Hispanic	4.4	3.8	3.1	2.8	.4
Less than a high school diploma	1.9	2.9	1.3	4.0	-.9
High school graduates, no college ¹	3.1	3.2	3.4	2.2	-.3
Some college or associate degree	5.7	3.8	2.7	3.2	1.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	7.4	5.9	4.6	2.7	1.6
Hispanic or Latino.....	5.7	3.5	3.2	2.9	1.5
Less than a high school diploma	2.8	1.8	2.5	2.5	1.2
High school graduates, no college ¹	5.5	3.0	3.3	3.2	0.5
Some college or associate degree	7.2	3.9	3.2	2.4	1.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	9.0	6.3	3.8	4.0	3.8

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

NOTE: The first column excludes individuals who turned age 18 before 1978. The last column excludes individuals who were not yet age 47 when interviewed in 2010-11.

Growth rates were calculated on hourly earnings adjusted for price level changes using the CPI-U-RS.

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 consists of men and women who were born in the years 1957-64 and were ages 14 to 22 when first interviewed in 1979. These individuals were ages 45 to 53 in 2010-11. Educational attainment is defined as of the 2010-11 survey. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.