



### A Different Look at Part-time Employment

In 1995, about 6.5 million workers had a part-time job (or jobs) but were classified as full-time workers because their total workweek (at all jobs) was 35 hours or more. Most of these workers, 4.4 million, worked full time at a primary job and also held one or more part-time jobs. Persons who combined several part-time jobs to make up a full-time workweek accounted for about 15 percent of the total and a similar share combined jobs with varying hours.<sup>1</sup> (See table and chart.)

Workers within all three groups were more likely to be aged 25 to 54 than those classified under the official estimate of part-time employment (defined as persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs). In 1995, nearly 8 in 10 of the workers who had a full- and a part-time job or whose hours varied on all jobs were in this age group, compared to 5 in 10 among the official part-time workers. There was a relatively high proportion of teenagers and workers in their early twenties in the group which combined several part-time jobs into a full-time schedule.

Women accounted for about 65 percent of all workers who combine several part-time jobs into a full-time schedule, a share that was

<sup>1</sup> The total estimate of persons with part-time work on full-time schedules also included 36,000 workers who were part time on their primary job and full time on their secondary job. In this analysis, it was assumed that persons who reported their hours varied on both jobs, worked part time on at least one of those jobs since few people who hold more than one job work full time at each job. A small portion of workers with more than one job (about 7 percent) held more than two jobs. For these workers, data are obtained on the hours worked at all secondary jobs combined.

comparable to the official estimate of part-time employment (68 percent). In contrast, the proportion of women with part-time jobs in the other two work arrangements was about 40 percent. Reflecting these differences in age and gender, workers who combined several part-time jobs into a full-time schedule were more commonly single men and married women. Married men, however, made up a relatively large proportion of those who worked at both a full- and part-time job or on a full-time schedule composed of jobs with varying hours.

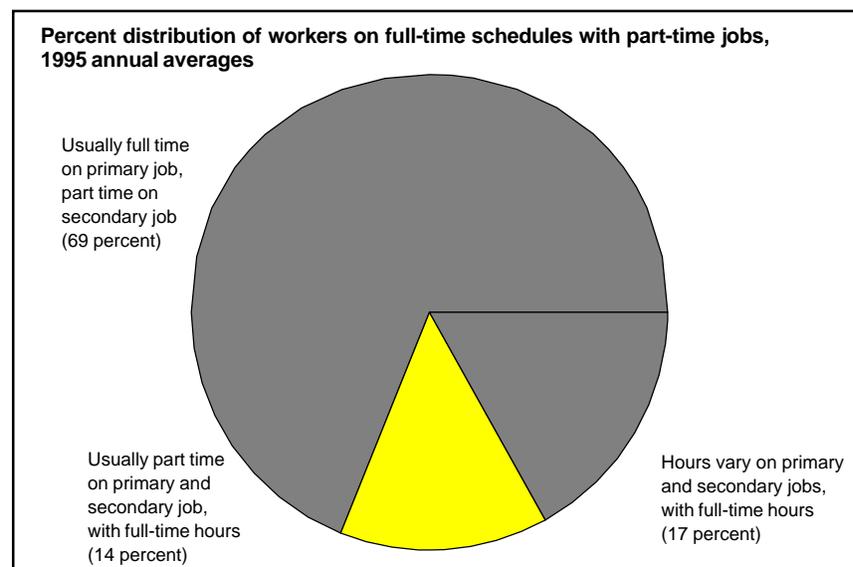
Between 1994 and 1995, the number of full-time workers who held part-time jobs increased by about 380,000. The increase was evenly distributed among the three groups in this category and across demographic characteristics. The number of persons counted as part time under the official definition held at slightly more than 23 million in 1994 and 1995.

#### Background notes

The data presented in this report were obtained through the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Monthly estimates of the number of part-time workers however, do not include all persons with part-time jobs. In the CPS, persons who have more than one job are counted only once in the employment estimates. Such workers are classified as either full or part time based on their total usual weekly hours. So, workers who have both a full- and a part-time job, for example, are classified as full-time workers, as are those whose combined hours in two or more part-time jobs total at least 35.

With the introduction of the redesigned CPS in January 1994, it became possible to identify full-time workers who have part-time jobs



**Percent distribution of workers with part-time jobs by selected characteristics,  
1995 annual averages**

Characteristic	On full-time schedules <sup>1</sup>			Official estimate of part-time employment <sup>2</sup>
	Usually full time on primary job, part time on secondary job	Usually part time on primary and secondary jobs, with full-time hours	Hours vary on primary and secondary jobs, with full-time hours	
Total, 16 years and over (thousands) .....	4,446	915	1,091	23,220
Percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>AGE AND SEX</b>				
16 to 19 years .....	1.8	8.3	2.1	18.9
20 to 24 years .....	9.6	17.5	7.0	14.3
25 to 54 years .....	81.4	65.5	81.1	48.6
55 years and over .....	7.2	8.9	9.9	18.1
Men, 16 years and over .....	59.9	35.1	63.2	32.0
16 to 19 years .....	.9	3.4	1.1	8.9
20 to 24 years .....	5.2	7.1	4.1	6.0
25 to 54 years .....	49.3	21.0	51.3	9.7
55 years and over .....	4.6	3.7	6.6	7.4
Women, 16 years and over .....	40.1	64.9	36.8	68.0
16 to 19 years .....	.9	4.9	1.0	10.0
20 to 24 years .....	4.4	10.4	2.8	8.3
25 to 54 years .....	32.1	44.5	29.7	38.9
55 years and over .....	2.6	5.1	3.3	10.7
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>				
White .....	86.2	90.3	90.8	87.4
Black .....	10.4	7.1	6.5	8.8
Hispanic origin .....	6.1	6.0	4.2	7.7
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>				
Men:				
Single .....	12.6	16.7	11.8	18.1
Married, spouse present .....	41.5	14.5	45.4	11.2
Divorced, widowed, or separated .....	5.9	3.8	6.0	2.8
Women:				
Single .....	10.9	21.2	8.8	20.3
Married, spouse present .....	17.7	32.1	18.9	38.3
Divorced, widowed, or separated .....	11.4	11.6	9.2	9.4

<sup>1</sup> Refers to workers who usually work 35 hours or more a week, defined as a full-time schedule, and who have at least one part-time job.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to workers who usually work a total of less than 35 hours a week at one or more jobs.

and to compare their characteristics to part-time workers as traditionally defined by BLS.

In addition, it became possible to obtain, on a monthly basis, information on respondents who hold more than one job, including the number of hours worked at each job. In doing so, data on usual hours worked by multiple jobholders can be separated between hours worked at the main job and the secondary job(s). Prior to 1994, multiple jobholding data were collected through occasional supplements to the CPS and respondents were asked only for the hours worked on the second job but not on any other non-primary jobs.

For more information on multiple jobholding and part-time employment, contact Jennifer Gardner, Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC (202) 606-6378. Information in this report will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 606-7828; TDD phone: (202) 606-5897; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-326-2577.

This material is in the public domain and, with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission.

U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Washington, DC 20212

Official Business  
Penalty for Private use, \$300

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
Postage and Fees Paid  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Permit No. G-738