

# A Profile of the Working Poor, 2010



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This report, "A Profile of the Working Poor, 2010", was reissued on January 23, 2013 to reflect corrections to table 4. The analyses in this report were not affected by the corrections.

In 2010, according to the Census Bureau, about 46.2 million people, or 15.1 percent of the nation's population, lived below the official poverty level.<sup>1</sup> Although the poor were primarily children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, 10.5 million individuals were among the "working poor" in 2010; this measure was little changed from 2009. The working poor are persons who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (that is, working or looking for work) but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. In 2010, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 7.2 percent, also little different from the previous year's figure (7.0 percent). (See tables A and 1, and the chart.)

Following are additional highlights from the 2010 data:

- Full-time workers were less likely to be among the working poor than were part-time workers. Among persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 4.2 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 15.1 percent of part-time workers.
- Blacks and Hispanics continued to be much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor.
- The likelihood of being classified as working poor greatly diminishes as workers attain higher levels of education. Among college graduates, 2.1 percent of those who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor, compared with 21.4 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.
- The likelihood of being among the working poor was lower for individuals employed in management, professional, and related occupations than for those employed in service jobs.
- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those families with children under 18 years old were about 4 times more likely than those without children to live in poverty.
- Women who maintain families were more likely than their male counterparts to be among the working poor.

<sup>1</sup>See table 4 of *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, Current Population Reports, pp. 60-239 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2011), online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty status in 2010 for workers and their families.

The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status vary, depending on whether the individuals are living with family members or are living alone or with nonrelatives. For family members, the poverty threshold is determined by their family's total income; for individuals not living in families, their personal income is used as the determinant. Data were collected in the 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. (For a detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the technical note at the end of this report.)

## Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2010, about the same number of men (5.3 million) and women (5.2 million) were classified as working poor. The working-poor rate, however, continued to be higher for women (7.6 percent) than for men (6.7 percent). The working-poor rates for both men and women were essentially unchanged from a year earlier. (See table 2.)

Hispanics and Blacks continued to be much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor. In 2010, 14.1 percent of Hispanics and 12.6 percent of Blacks were among the working poor, compared with 6.5 percent of Whites and 4.8 percent of Asians.

Table A. **Poverty status of persons and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2007-2010**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total persons <sup>1</sup> .....	146,567	147,838	147,902	146,859
In poverty .....	7,521	8,883	10,391	10,512
Working-poor rate .....	5.1	6.0	7.0	7.2
Unrelated individuals .....	33,226	32,785	33,798	34,099
In poverty .....	2,558	3,275	3,947	3,947
Working-poor rate .....	7.7	10.0	11.7	11.6
Primary families <sup>2</sup> .....	65,158	65,907	65,467	64,931
In poverty .....	4,169	4,538	5,193	5,269
Working-poor rate .....	6.4	6.9	7.9	8.1

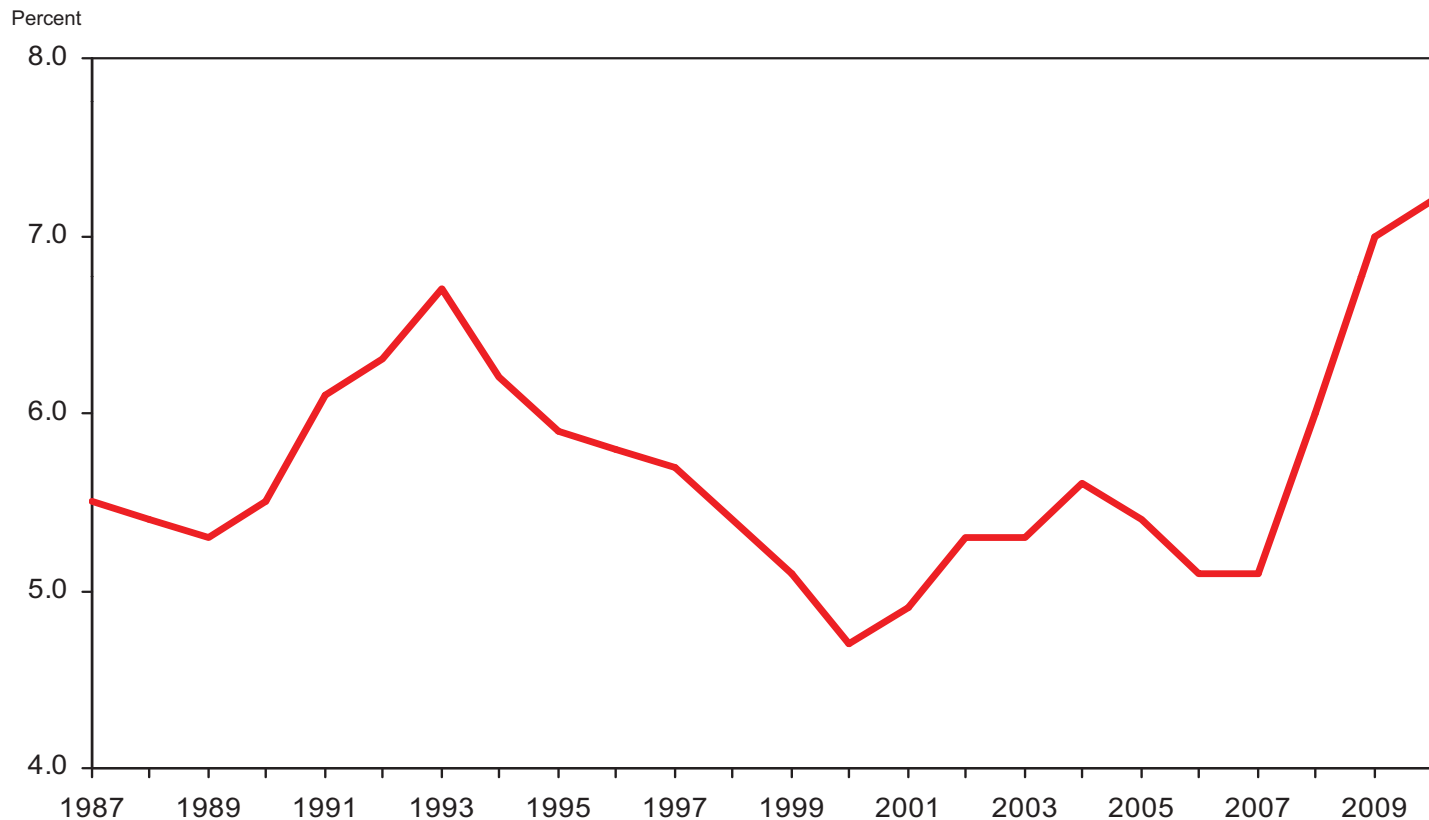
<sup>1</sup> Includes persons in families, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Primary families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half the year.

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

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)

Chart. **Working-poor rate of persons in the labor force for 27 or more weeks, 1987–2010**



**SOURCE:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement

White men and women who spent at least 27 weeks or more in the labor force were about equally likely in 2010 to be poor (6.4 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively). Among Hispanics, the rates for men (14.4 percent) and women (13.8 percent) also were about the same. In contrast, the working-poor rate for Black men (10.4 percent) was lower than the rate for Black women (14.5 percent).

Young workers are more vulnerable to poverty than are older age groups, in part because earnings are lower for young workers, and their unemployment rate is higher. In 2010, among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 14.4 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 15.5 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were in poverty, about double the rate for workers age 35 to 44 (7.3 percent). Workers age 45 to 54 (4.9 percent), 55 to 64 (3.4 percent), and 65 and older (2.0 percent) had lower working-poor rates than did other age groups in 2010.

### **Educational attainment**

Achieving higher levels of education greatly reduces the incidence of living in poverty. Individuals who complete more years of education have greater access to higher paying jobs—such as management, professional, and related occupations—than those with fewer years of education. Of all the people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2010, those with less than a high school diploma had a higher working-poor rate (21.4 percent) than did high school graduates with no college (9.2 percent). Workers with

an associate’s degree and those with a bachelor’s degree or higher had the lowest working-poor rates: 4.5 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively. At nearly all levels of educational attainment, Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to be among the working poor, in 2010, than were Whites and Asians. (See table 3.)

At each educational level, working-poor rates were similar for White men and women. For example, 20.2 percent of White men with less than a high school diploma who spent at least half the year in the labor force were among the working poor, compared with 22.1 percent of their female counterparts. Among college graduates, the proportions classified as working poor were 2.0 percent and 1.9 percent for White men and White women, respectively. In contrast, Black men with less than a high school diploma were considerably less likely than their female counterparts to be among the working poor, 20.6 percent compared with 36.2 percent. Among Black men and women with a bachelor’s degree or higher, the working-poor rate was about the same (3.6 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively). The working-poor rates of men and women of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity with less than a high school diploma were about the same—24.0 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively. The rates for Hispanic men and women with a bachelor’s degree or higher also were similar, at 4.0 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively.

### **Occupation**

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely

by occupation. Workers in occupations requiring higher education and characterized by relatively high earnings—such as management, professional, and related occupations—were less likely to be classified as working poor (2.4 percent) in 2010. In contrast, individuals employed in occupations that typically do not require high levels of education and that are characterized by relatively low earnings were more likely to be among the working poor. For example, 13.1 percent of service workers were classified as working poor in 2010. Indeed, service occupations, with 3.2 million working poor, accounted for nearly one-third of all those classified as working poor. Among those employed in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations, 10.6 percent of workers were classified as working poor. Within this occupation group, 19.5 percent of workers employed in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations and 12.8 percent of those in construction and extraction occupations were among the working poor. (See table 4.)

### **Families**

In 2010, 5.3 million families were living below the poverty level, despite having at least one member in the labor force for half the year or more, little different than the 2009 figure. Among families with only one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2010, married-couple families had a lower likelihood of living below the poverty level (10.1 percent) than did families maintained by women (26.3 percent) or by men (15.6 percent)—a pattern that held, regardless of which member of the married-couple family was in the labor force. (See table 5.)

Families with children with at least one member in the labor force for half the year had greater odds of living below the poverty level than did those without children. The proportion of families with children age 18 years and younger that lived in poverty was 12.7 percent, in contrast to 2.8 percent for families without children. About 28.2 percent of families maintained by a woman with children under the age of 18 were in poverty. For such families maintained by men, the proportion in poverty also was relatively high, at 18.0 percent. Married-couple families with children had a working-poor rate of 7.3 percent in 2010.

### **Unrelated individuals**

The “unrelated individuals” category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Of the 34.1 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half the year or longer, 3.9 million lived below the poverty level in 2010. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals was 11.6 percent. Both the working-poor level and rate were little different from a year earlier. (See table 6.)

Within the group of unrelated individuals, teenagers were the most likely to be among the working poor. In 2010, about half

(53.7 percent) of teens who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and who lived on their own or with others not related to them lived below the poverty level. Overall, the working-poor rates for women and men living alone or with unrelated individuals were 11.3 and 11.8 percent, respectively. The working-poor rates for unrelated individuals were much higher for Blacks (15.8 percent) and Hispanics (17.1 percent) than for Whites (11.0 percent) and Asians (9.3 percent). (See table 7.)

Of the 3.9 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2010, about two-thirds lived with others. These individuals had a working-poor rate of about twice that of individuals who lived alone. Many unrelated individuals living below the poverty level may live with others out of necessity. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have sufficient income to support themselves. Unrelated individuals’ poverty status, however, is determined by each person’s resources. The pooling of resources and sharing of living expenses may permit some individuals in this category—who are technically classified as poor—to live at a higher standard than they would have if they lived alone.

### **Labor market problems**

As noted earlier, workers who usually work full time are less likely to live in poverty than are others who do not work full time, yet there remains a sizable group of full-time workers who live below the poverty threshold. Among those who participated in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 4.1 million, or 3.8 percent, were classified as working poor in 2010, essentially unchanged from 2009. (See table 8.)

There are three major labor market problems that can hinder a worker’s ability to earn an income above the poverty threshold: low earnings, periods of unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See the technical note for detailed definitions.)

In 2010, 84 percent of the working poor who usually worked full time experienced at least one of the major labor market problems. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, with nearly two-thirds (63 percent) subject to low earnings, either alone or in combination with other labor market problems. About 42 percent experienced unemployment alone or in conjunction with other problems. Only 5 percent of the working poor experienced all three problems: low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment.

Some 667,000, or 16 percent, of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems, in 2010. Their classification as working poor may be explained by other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, and a family structure that increases the risk of poverty.

# Technical Note

## Source of data

The data presented in this report were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households. Data from the CPS are used to obtain the monthly estimates of the nation's employment and unemployment levels. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement, conducted in the months of February through April, includes questions about work activity and income during the previous calendar year. For instance, data collected in 2011 refer to the 2010 calendar year.

Estimates in this report are based on a sample and, consequently, may differ from figures that would have been obtained from a complete count using the same questionnaire and procedures. Sampling variability may be relatively large in cases where the numbers are small. Thus, both small estimates and small differences between estimates should be interpreted with caution. For a detailed explanation of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided in this technical note, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, Current Population Reports, pp. 60-239 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2011). This publication is available on the U.S. Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>. Additional information about income and poverty measures is online at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income.html>.

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For more information on the data provided in this report, write to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Labor Force Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Room 4675, Washington, DC 20212; email: [cpsinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cpsinfo@bls.gov); or telephone (202) 691-6378.

## Comparability of estimates

The 2010 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2009 and earlier years, because of the introduction in January 2011 of revised population controls used in the CPS. Additional information is online at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop>.

## Concepts and definitions

**Poverty classification.** Poverty statistics presented in this report are based on definitions developed by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1981. These definitions originally were based on the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan and reflected the different consumption requirements of families predicated on

the basis of factors such as family size and the number of children under 18 years of age.

The actual poverty thresholds vary with the makeup of the family. In 2010, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$22,314; for a family of nine or more persons, the threshold was \$45,220; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 years or older, it was \$10,458. Poverty thresholds are updated each year, to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The thresholds do not vary geographically. (For more information, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.)

**Low earnings.** The low-earnings level, as first developed in 1987, represented the average of the real value of the minimum wage between 1967 and 1987 for a 40-hour workweek. The year 1967 was chosen as the base year, because that was the first year in which minimum-wage legislation covered essentially the same broad group of workers that currently is covered. The low-earnings level has been adjusted each year since then in accordance with the CPI-U, so the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2010, the low-earnings threshold was \$320.94 per week. For a more complete definition of the low-earnings threshold, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Rones, "A profile of the working poor," *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1989, pp. 3-13, online at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1989/10/art1full.pdf>.

**Income.** Data on income are limited to money income—before personal income taxes and payroll deductions—received in the calendar year preceding the CPS supplement. Data on income do not include the value of noncash benefits, such as food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, and employer-provided benefits. For a complete definition of income, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, online at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>.

**Labor force.** Persons in the labor force are those who worked or looked for work sometime during the calendar year. The number of weeks in the labor force is accumulated over the entire year. The focus in this report is on persons who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

**Involuntary part-time workers.** These are persons who, during at least one week of the year, worked fewer than 35 hours, because of slack work or business conditions or because they could not find full-time work. The number of weeks of involuntary part-time work is accumulated over the year.

**Occupation.** This term refers to the occupation in which a person worked the most weeks during the calendar year.

**Unemployed.** Unemployed persons are those who looked for work while not employed or those who were on layoff from a

job and were expecting to be recalled to that job. The number of weeks unemployed is accumulated over the entire year.

**Family.** A family is defined as a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The count of families used in this report includes only primary families. A primary family consists of the reference person (householder) and all people living in the household who are related to the reference person. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as those maintained by men or women without spouses present. Family status is determined at the time of the interview and, thus, may be different from that of the previous year.

**Unrelated individuals.** These are persons who are not living with any relatives. Such individuals may live alone, reside in a nonrelated family household, or live in group quarters with other unrelated individuals.

**Related children.** Related children are children (including sons,

daughters, and step- or adopted children) of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family, as well as other children related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

**Race.** White, Black or African American, and Asian are categories used to describe the race of people in this report. People in these categories are those who selected that race group only. Data for the two remaining race categories—American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander—and for people who selected more than one race category are included in totals, but are not shown separately, because the number of survey respondents is too small to develop estimates of sufficient quality for publication. In the enumeration process, race is determined by the household respondent.

**Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.** Hispanic or Latino ethnicity is assigned to persons who identified themselves in the CPS enumeration process as being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 1. **People in the labor force: poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in the labor force	27 or more weeks in the labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
<b>Total</b>			
Total in labor force .....	158,882	146,859	134,601
Did not work during the year .....	6,562	4,497	4,024
Worked during the year .....	152,320	142,362	130,577
Usual full-time workers .....	119,145	115,227	108,637
Usual part-time workers .....	33,175	27,135	21,940
Involuntary part-time workers .....	10,852	9,680	8,388
Voluntary part-time workers .....	22,323	17,455	13,552
<b>At or above poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	145,964	136,348	125,589
Did not work during the year .....	4,289	2,918	2,612
Worked during the year .....	141,674	133,430	122,977
Usual full-time workers .....	113,625	110,399	104,397
Usual part-time workers .....	28,049	23,031	18,581
Involuntary part-time workers .....	8,189	7,328	6,364
Voluntary part-time workers .....	19,861	15,702	12,217
<b>Below poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	12,919	10,512	9,012
Did not work during the year .....	2,272	1,580	1,412
Worked during the year .....	10,646	8,932	7,599
Usual full-time workers .....	5,520	4,829	4,240
Usual part-time workers .....	5,126	4,104	3,360
Involuntary part-time workers .....	2,664	2,351	2,024
Voluntary part-time workers .....	2,462	1,752	1,335
<b>Rate<sup>1</sup></b>			
Total in labor force .....	8.1	7.2	6.7
Did not work during the year .....	34.6	35.1	35.1
Worked during the year .....	7.0	6.3	5.8
Usual full-time workers .....	4.6	4.2	3.9
Usual part-time workers .....	15.5	15.1	15.3
Involuntary part-time workers .....	24.5	24.3	24.1
Voluntary part-time workers .....	11.0	10.0	9.9

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and sex	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Below poverty level				
						Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older .....	146,859	119,582	16,827	7,063	21,283	10,512	7,728	2,120	339	3,010
16 to 19 years .....	3,140	2,621	329	72	571	452	326	101	7	125
20 to 24 years .....	13,300	10,669	1,795	449	2,546	2,057	1,531	429	43	421
25 to 34 years .....	32,561	25,743	4,216	1,661	6,127	3,005	2,132	670	89	954
35 to 44 years .....	32,056	25,461	3,884	1,948	5,467	2,353	1,778	428	87	862
45 to 54 years .....	34,721	28,539	3,870	1,636	4,068	1,689	1,258	314	66	454
55 to 64 years .....	24,066	20,426	2,197	1,049	1,943	814	604	148	43	162
65 years and older .....	7,015	6,122	536	247	560	143	99	30	5	32
Men, 16 years and older .....	78,626	65,229	7,848	3,759	12,653	5,299	4,166	816	167	1,817
16 to 19 years .....	1,577	1,317	153	37	328	206	164	27	4	74
20 to 24 years .....	7,035	5,720	862	253	1,547	908	718	160	12	211
25 to 34 years .....	17,908	14,446	2,031	926	3,857	1,568	1,228	226	51	615
35 to 44 years .....	17,362	14,146	1,784	1,022	3,275	1,242	1,023	161	33	549
45 to 54 years .....	18,223	15,244	1,790	854	2,255	890	674	150	45	268
55 to 64 years .....	12,627	10,900	987	526	1,081	408	305	75	19	80
65 years and older .....	3,893	3,455	240	141	311	77	54	16	3	20
Women, 16 years and older .....	68,234	54,353	8,979	3,304	8,630	5,213	3,561	1,304	173	1,193
16 to 19 years .....	1,563	1,304	177	35	244	246	162	74	3	51
20 to 24 years .....	6,265	4,950	933	196	999	1,149	813	269	30	210
25 to 34 years .....	14,652	11,296	2,185	735	2,270	1,437	904	444	38	339
35 to 44 years .....	14,694	11,314	2,099	927	2,192	1,111	756	267	54	314
45 to 54 years .....	16,498	13,295	2,079	782	1,814	799	584	163	21	186
55 to 64 years .....	11,439	9,526	1,209	524	862	406	299	73	24	81
65 years and older .....	3,122	2,667	297	105	249	66	45	14	-	12

Age and sex	Rate <sup>1</sup>				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older .....	7.2	6.5	12.6	4.8	14.1
16 to 19 years .....	14.4	12.4	30.6	( <sup>2</sup> )	21.8
20 to 24 years .....	15.5	14.3	23.9	9.5	16.5
25 to 34 years .....	9.2	8.3	15.9	5.4	15.6
35 to 44 years .....	7.3	7.0	11.0	4.5	15.8
45 to 54 years .....	4.9	4.4	8.1	4.0	11.2
55 to 64 years .....	3.4	3.0	6.8	4.1	8.3
65 years and older .....	2.0	1.6	5.5	2.1	5.8
Men, 16 years and older .....	6.7	6.4	10.4	4.4	14.4
16 to 19 years .....	13.1	12.5	17.9	( <sup>2</sup> )	22.5
20 to 24 years .....	12.9	12.6	18.5	4.8	13.6
25 to 34 years .....	8.8	8.5	11.1	5.5	15.9
35 to 44 years .....	7.2	7.2	9.0	3.2	16.8
45 to 54 years .....	4.9	4.4	8.4	5.2	11.9
55 to 64 years .....	3.2	2.8	7.6	3.6	7.4
65 years and older .....	2.0	1.6	6.7	2.2	6.4
Women, 16 years and older .....	7.6	6.6	14.5	5.2	13.8
16 to 19 years .....	15.7	12.4	41.7	( <sup>2</sup> )	20.9
20 to 24 years .....	18.3	16.4	28.8	15.5	21.0
25 to 34 years .....	9.8	8.0	20.3	5.2	15.0
35 to 44 years .....	7.6	6.7	12.7	5.8	14.3
45 to 54 years .....	4.8	4.4	7.9	2.7	10.2
55 to 64 years .....	3.5	3.1	6.0	4.6	9.4
65 years and older .....	2.1	1.7	4.6	1.9	4.9

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 or more weeks.

<sup>2</sup> Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the race groups shown (White, Black or

African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2010

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older .....	146,859	78,626	68,234	10,512	5,299	5,213	7.2	6.7	7.6
Less than a high school diploma .....	13,471	8,600	4,870	2,883	1,719	1,164	21.4	20.0	23.9
Less than 1 year of high school .....	4,396	2,950	1,445	1,082	715	367	24.6	24.2	25.4
1-3 years of high school .....	7,448	4,627	2,821	1,526	838	688	20.5	18.1	24.4
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,627	1,023	604	275	166	109	16.9	16.2	18.1
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	41,848	24,145	17,703	3,850	1,936	1,913	9.2	8.0	10.8
Some college or associate's degree .....	43,276	21,012	22,264	2,770	1,115	1,655	6.4	5.3	7.4
Some college, no degree .....	28,240	14,140	14,100	2,091	855	1,236	7.4	6.0	8.8
Associate's degree .....	15,036	6,872	8,164	678	260	419	4.5	3.8	5.1
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	48,265	24,869	23,396	1,009	529	480	2.1	2.1	2.1
White, 16 years and older .....	119,582	65,229	54,353	7,728	4,166	3,561	6.5	6.4	6.6
Less than a high school diploma .....	10,902	7,161	3,740	2,270	1,445	825	20.8	20.2	22.1
Less than 1 year of high school .....	3,761	2,597	1,164	927	641	286	24.7	24.7	24.6
1-3 years of high school .....	5,914	3,763	2,152	1,135	664	471	19.2	17.6	21.9
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,227	802	425	208	140	68	17.0	17.5	16.0
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	33,764	19,801	13,962	2,705	1,453	1,252	8.0	7.3	9.0
Some college or associate's degree .....	34,992	17,355	17,637	1,963	847	1,116	5.6	4.9	6.3
Some college, no degree .....	22,651	11,608	11,044	1,496	656	840	6.6	5.7	7.6
Associate's degree .....	12,341	5,748	6,593	467	191	276	3.8	3.3	4.2
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	39,924	20,911	19,013	789	421	368	2.0	2.0	1.9
Black or African American, 16 years and older .....	16,827	7,848	8,979	2,120	816	1,304	12.6	10.4	14.5
Less than a high school diploma .....	1,595	879	715	439	181	259	27.6	20.6	36.2
Less than 1 year of high school .....	263	156	108	92	45	47	34.9	28.7	44.0
1-3 years of high school .....	1,077	593	483	300	126	175	27.9	21.2	36.1
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	255	130	125	47	10	37	18.5	8.1	29.4
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	5,654	3,024	2,630	901	367	533	15.9	12.1	20.3
Some college or associate's degree .....	5,806	2,405	3,400	656	213	443	11.3	8.9	13.0
Some college, no degree .....	3,948	1,681	2,267	485	158	326	12.3	9.4	14.4
Associate's degree .....	1,858	724	1,134	171	55	116	9.2	7.6	10.3
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,772	1,539	2,233	124	55	69	3.3	3.6	3.1
Asian, 16 years and older .....	7,063	3,759	3,304	339	167	173	4.8	4.4	5.2
Less than a high school diploma .....	542	289	253	71	37	34	13.1	12.7	13.4
Less than 1 year of high school .....	250	117	133	33	13	20	13.2	10.7	15.4
1-3 years of high school .....	203	120	83	31	17	14	15.2	14.3	16.5
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	89	51	38	7	7	-	7.8	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	1,370	701	670	114	57	57	8.3	8.2	8.5
Some college or associate's degree .....	1,350	708	642	74	28	47	5.5	3.9	7.3
Some college, no degree .....	871	466	405	53	21	32	6.1	4.5	8.0
Associate's degree .....	480	242	237	21	7	14	4.5	2.9	6.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,800	2,061	1,739	80	45	35	2.1	2.2	2.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older .....	21,283	12,653	8,630	3,010	1,817	1,193	14.1	14.4	13.8
Less than a high school diploma .....	6,281	4,269	2,012	1,557	1,025	532	24.8	24.0	26.5
Less than 1 year of high school .....	3,190	2,189	1,001	822	564	258	25.8	25.8	25.8
1-3 years of high school .....	2,451	1,649	803	595	370	225	24.3	22.4	28.0
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	640	431	208	140	90	50	21.9	20.9	23.9
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	6,741	4,205	2,536	923	550	372	13.7	13.1	14.7
Some college or associate's degree .....	5,125	2,629	2,496	413	180	233	8.1	6.8	9.4
Some college, no degree .....	3,573	1,924	1,649	313	148	165	8.8	7.7	10.0
Associate's degree .....	1,552	705	847	100	32	69	6.5	4.5	8.1
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,136	1,551	1,586	117	62	55	3.7	4.0	3.5

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 or more weeks.

<sup>2</sup> Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>3</sup> Includes people with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

<sup>4</sup> Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Estimates for the race groups shown (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



**Table 4. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	142,362	75,942	66,420	8,932	4,427	4,505	6.3	5.8	6.8
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	52,776	25,631	27,145	1,069	476	593	2.0	1.9	2.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	21,829	12,458	9,371	354	201	153	1.6	1.6	1.6
Professional and related occupations .....	30,947	13,173	17,774	715	275	440	2.3	2.1	2.5
Service occupations .....	24,784	10,864	13,921	3,092	1,061	2,031	12.5	9.8	14.6
Sales and office occupations .....	33,738	12,718	21,020	2,069	667	1,402	6.1	5.2	6.7
Sales and related occupations .....	15,309	7,689	7,621	1,246	373	874	8.1	4.8	11.5
Office and administrative support occupations .....	18,429	5,030	13,399	822	294	528	4.5	5.9	3.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	14,023	13,433	591	1,404	1,339	66	10.0	10.0	11.1
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	1,007	794	213	196	159	36	19.4	20.1	17.1
Construction and extraction occupations .....	8,060	7,873	188	968	942	25	12.0	12.0	13.5
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	4,956	4,766	190	241	237	4	4.9	5.0	2.0
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	16,920	13,190	3,730	1,283	871	412	7.6	6.6	11.1
Production occupations .....	8,446	6,009	2,437	603	342	261	7.1	5.7	10.7
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	8,474	7,180	1,294	680	529	151	8.0	7.4	11.7
White, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	116,412	63,292	53,120	6,695	3,563	3,132	5.8	5.6	5.9
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	44,286	21,924	22,362	801	404	397	1.8	1.8	1.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	18,820	11,020	7,800	272	173	100	1.4	1.6	1.3
Professional and related occupations .....	25,466	10,904	14,562	528	231	297	2.1	2.1	2.0
Service occupations .....	18,818	8,431	10,387	2,258	816	1,442	12.0	9.7	13.9
Sales and office occupations .....	27,447	10,379	17,068	1,451	506	945	5.3	4.9	5.5
Sales and related occupations .....	12,686	6,552	6,134	857	293	565	6.8	4.5	9.2
Office and administrative support occupations .....	14,762	3,827	10,934	594	214	381	4.0	5.6	3.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	12,427	11,927	500	1,227	1,166	61	9.9	9.8	12.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	909	727	182	181	149	32	19.9	20.5	17.5
Construction and extraction occupations .....	7,177	7,007	170	846	820	25	11.8	11.7	14.9
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	4,340	4,192	148	201	197	4	4.6	4.7	2.5
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	13,331	10,536	2,796	943	657	286	7.1	6.2	10.2
Production occupations .....	6,746	4,939	1,807	453	278	175	6.7	5.6	9.7
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	6,585	5,597	988	489	379	110	7.4	6.8	11.2
Black or African American, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	15,847	7,277	8,570	1,673	590	1,082	10.6	8.1	12.6
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	4,424	1,559	2,865	183	32	151	4.1	2.1	5.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,519	639	881	43	11	31	2.8	1.8	3.6
Professional and related occupations .....	2,905	921	1,984	141	21	120	4.8	2.3	6.0
Service occupations .....	4,079	1,604	2,475	626	160	467	15.4	9.9	18.9
Sales and office occupations .....	3,939	1,354	2,585	485	121	364	12.3	8.9	14.1
Sales and related occupations .....	1,488	566	921	301	49	251	20.2	8.7	27.3
Office and administrative support occupations .....	2,452	788	1,664	184	71	113	7.5	9.1	6.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	985	931	54	112	112	—	11.3	12.0	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	61	41	20	8	8	—	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations .....	539	528	10	72	72	—	13.4	13.7	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	385	361	23	31	31	—	8.2	8.7	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	2,405	1,820	585	267	166	101	11.1	9.1	17.2
Production occupations .....	1,002	640	363	114	44	70	11.4	6.8	19.4
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	1,403	1,181	222	152	122	30	10.9	10.4	13.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2010 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Asian, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	6,860	3,666	3,194	290	141	149	4.2	3.8	4.7
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	3,131	1,731	1,400	48	29	18	1.5	1.7	1.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,107	609	497	18	11	6	1.6	1.9	1.2
Professional and related occupations .....	2,025	1,122	903	30	18	12	1.5	1.6	1.4
Service occupations .....	1,180	504	675	115	48	67	9.7	9.5	9.9
Sales and office occupations .....	1,541	692	849	72	26	46	4.7	3.8	5.4
Sales and related occupations .....	788	406	382	56	24	32	7.1	6.0	8.4
Office and administrative support occupations .....	753	286	467	16	2	14	2.1	.7	2.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	271	255	17	17	17	—	6.1	6.5	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	11	7	4	—	—	—	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations .....	128	125	2	13	13	—	10.2	10.4	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	133	122	10	4	4	—	2.6	2.9	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	737	484	253	39	21	18	5.2	4.3	7.1
Production occupations .....	511	299	211	28	14	14	5.5	4.8	6.5
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	226	185	42	10	6	4	4.6	3.4	( <sup>3</sup> )
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	20,484	12,160	8,324	2,695	1,638	1,056	13.2	13.5	12.7
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	3,950	1,809	2,141	122	55	67	3.1	3.0	3.1
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,669	912	758	57	34	23	3.4	3.7	3.1
Professional and related occupations .....	2,281	897	1,384	65	21	44	2.8	2.3	3.1
Service occupations .....	5,223	2,650	2,573	964	438	526	18.5	16.5	20.4
Sales and office occupations .....	4,374	1,798	2,576	450	160	290	10.3	8.9	11.3
Sales and related occupations .....	1,921	938	983	271	90	181	14.1	9.6	18.4
Office and administrative support occupations .....	2,453	859	1,594	179	70	109	7.3	8.1	6.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	3,427	3,236	191	723	686	37	21.1	21.2	19.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	469	353	116	132	103	28	28.1	29.3	24.4
Construction and extraction occupations .....	2,246	2,203	42	502	495	8	22.4	22.4	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	713	680	33	89	88	1	12.4	12.9	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	3,489	2,652	837	436	300	137	12.5	11.3	16.3
Production occupations .....	1,746	1,165	581	202	117	85	11.6	10.1	14.6
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	1,743	1,487	256	234	182	52	13.4	12.3	20.4

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the long-term unemployed with no previous work experience and a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

<sup>3</sup> Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

Note: Estimates for the race groups shown (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Table 5. Primary families: poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 or more weeks, 2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Total primary families .....	64,931	59,662	5,269	8.1
With related children under 18 years .....	34,722	30,299	4,424	12.7
Without children .....	30,209	29,363	846	2.8
With one member in the labor force .....	27,726	23,403	4,322	15.6
With two or more members in the labor force .....	37,206	36,259	947	2.5
With two members .....	31,186	30,375	811	2.6
With three or more members .....	6,020	5,884	136	2.3
Married-couple families .....	48,427	46,167	2,260	4.7
With related children under 18 years .....	24,518	22,724	1,794	7.3
Without children .....	23,908	23,443	465	1.9
With one member in the labor force .....	16,288	14,651	1,637	10.1
Husband .....	11,589	10,310	1,279	11.0
Wife .....	4,052	3,755	296	7.3
Relative .....	647	585	62	9.6
With two or more members in the labor force .....	32,139	31,516	623	1.9
With two members .....	27,197	26,653	544	2.0
With three or more members .....	4,942	4,863	79	1.6
Families maintained by women .....	11,678	9,211	2,466	21.1
With related children under 18 years .....	7,793	5,597	2,196	28.2
Without children .....	3,885	3,615	270	7.0
With one member in the labor force .....	8,452	6,232	2,221	26.3
Householder .....	7,003	5,063	1,940	27.7
Relative .....	1,450	1,169	281	19.4
With two or more members in the labor force .....	3,225	2,980	246	7.6
Families maintained by men .....	4,827	4,284	543	11.2
With related children under 18 years .....	2,411	1,978	433	18.0
Without children .....	2,416	2,306	110	4.5
With one member in the labor force .....	2,986	2,521	465	15.6
Householder .....	2,448	2,059	390	15.9
Relative .....	537	462	75	13.9
With two or more members in the labor force .....	1,841	1,763	78	4.2

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 or more weeks.

NOTE: Data relate to primary families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 or more weeks.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2010

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total people	In married-couple families				In families maintained by women			In families maintained by men			Unrelated individuals
		Husbands	Wives	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	
<b>Total</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	238,999	57,367	57,978	5,459	20,771	15,001	2,327	12,937	5,538	573	6,177	54,871
With labor force activity .....	158,882	44,428	36,992	1,228	13,097	10,533	405	7,638	4,293	105	3,960	36,202
1 to 26 weeks .....	12,023	1,546	2,570	780	2,381	733	240	1,028	211	55	375	2,103
27 or more weeks .....	146,859	42,882	34,422	448	10,716	9,799	165	6,609	4,082	50	3,585	34,099
With no labor force activity .....	80,116	12,939	20,985	4,230	7,674	4,468	1,922	5,299	1,244	468	2,217	18,669
<b>At or above poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	207,693	53,826	54,390	5,010	19,488	10,261	1,501	10,435	4,660	444	5,507	42,172
With labor force activity .....	145,964	42,377	35,919	1,192	12,634	7,959	344	6,744	3,769	96	3,692	31,237
1 to 26 weeks .....	9,616	1,359	2,307	761	2,252	298	199	849	149	48	309	1,085
27 or more weeks .....	136,348	41,018	33,613	431	10,382	7,661	144	5,896	3,621	48	3,383	30,152
With no labor force activity .....	61,730	11,449	18,470	3,818	6,854	2,302	1,157	3,691	891	348	1,815	10,934
<b>Below poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	31,306	3,541	3,588	449	1,283	4,739	826	2,502	878	129	670	12,700
With labor force activity .....	12,919	2,051	1,073	36	463	2,574	61	893	524	9	268	4,965
1 to 26 weeks .....	2,407	186	263	19	128	436	41	180	63	7	66	1,018
27 or more weeks .....	10,512	1,864	810	17	335	2,138	21	714	461	—	202	3,947
With no labor force activity .....	18,387	1,490	2,515	413	820	2,166	765	1,609	354	120	402	7,734
<b>Rate<sup>2</sup></b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	13.1	6.2	6.2	8.2	6.2	31.6	35.5	19.3	15.8	22.5	10.9	23.1
With labor force activity .....	8.1	4.6	2.9	2.9	3.5	24.4	15.2	11.7	12.2	8.8	6.8	13.7
1 to 26 weeks .....	20.0	12.1	10.2	2.4	5.4	59.4	17.0	17.5	29.6	( <sup>3</sup> )	17.7	48.4
27 or more weeks .....	7.2	4.3	2.4	3.9	3.1	21.8	12.5	10.8	11.3	( <sup>3</sup> )	5.6	11.6
With no labor force activity .....	23.0	11.5	12.0	9.8	10.7	48.5	39.8	30.4	28.4	25.6	18.1	41.4

<sup>1</sup> Data on families include primary families that own or rent the housing unit as well as related and unrelated subfamilies that reside with them.

<sup>2</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total.

<sup>3</sup> Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

NOTE: Dash represents or rounds to zero.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 7. **Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Age and sex</b>				
Total unrelated individuals .....	34,099	30,152	3,947	11.6
16 to 19 years .....	318	148	171	53.7
20 to 24 years .....	4,193	3,111	1,081	25.8
25 to 64 years .....	27,659	25,030	2,629	9.5
65 years and older .....	1,929	1,863	66	3.4
Men .....	18,867	16,649	2,219	11.8
Women .....	15,232	13,503	1,728	11.3
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>				
White .....	27,591	24,561	3,030	11.0
Men .....	15,446	13,755	1,692	11.0
Women .....	12,145	10,806	1,338	11.0
Black or African American .....	4,488	3,779	709	15.8
Men .....	2,338	1,904	434	18.6
Women .....	2,150	1,875	275	12.8
Asian .....	1,226	1,111	115	9.3
Men .....	649	600	49	7.5
Women .....	576	511	66	11.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity .....	4,167	3,456	711	17.1
Men .....	2,757	2,296	461	16.7
Women .....	1,410	1,160	249	17.7
<b>Living arrangement</b>				
Living alone .....	17,836	16,471	1,365	7.7
Living with others .....	16,263	13,681	2,582	15.9

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 or more weeks.

NOTE: Estimates for the race groups shown (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are

not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 8. **People in the labor force for 27 or more weeks: poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Total, full-time wage and salary workers .....	109,077	104,938	4,139	3.8
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings <sup>2</sup> .....	87,455	86,788	667	.8
Unemployment only .....	7,668	7,008	659	8.6
Involuntary part-time employment only .....	2,816	2,749	68	2.4
Low earnings only .....	6,624	5,162	1,462	22.1
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment .....	1,369	1,251	117	8.6
Unemployment and low earnings .....	1,812	1,079	734	40.5
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings .....	809	587	222	27.5
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings .....	524	314	210	40.1
Unemployment (alone or with other problems) .....	11,373	9,653	1,721	15.1
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems) .....	5,519	4,901	618	11.2
Low earnings (alone or with other problems) .....	9,770	7,141	2,628	26.9

<sup>1</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 or more weeks.

<sup>2</sup> The low-earnings threshold in 2010 was \$320.94 per week.

**SOURCE:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics