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Report 1087

## A profile of the working poor, 2018

About 38.1 million people, or 11.8 percent of the nation's population, lived below the official poverty level in 2018, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>[1]</sup> (See the [technical notes](#) section for examples of poverty levels.) Although the poor were primarily adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year and children, 7.0 million individuals were among the "working poor" in 2018, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); this measure was little changed from 6.9 million in 2017. The working poor are people 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 2018, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 4.5 percent, unchanged from the previous year's figure. (See [table A](#), [chart 1](#), and [table 1](#).)

Following are some highlights from the 2018 data:

- The working-poor rate of people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more was 4.5 percent. This matches last year's rate, the lowest rate in the history of the series, which began in 1986. (See [chart 1](#).)
- Full-time workers continued to be much less likely to be among the working poor than part-time workers. Among people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2.8 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 11.1 percent of part-time workers. (See [table 1](#).)
- Women were more likely than men to be among the working poor (5.3 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively). In addition, Blacks or African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos continued to be much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor.<sup>2</sup> (See [table 2](#).)
- The likelihood of being classified as working poor diminishes as workers attain higher levels of education. Among those with less than a high school diploma, 13.5 percent of those who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor, compared with 1.4 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher. (See [table 3](#).)
- Individuals who were employed in service occupations continued to be more likely to be among the working poor than those employed in other major occupational groups. (See [table 4](#).)
- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those with children under 18 years old were over 5 times as likely as those without children to live in poverty. Families maintained by women were more than twice as likely as families maintained by men to be living below the poverty level. (See [table 5](#).)



**Table A. Poverty status of people and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2008–18 (Numbers in thousands)**

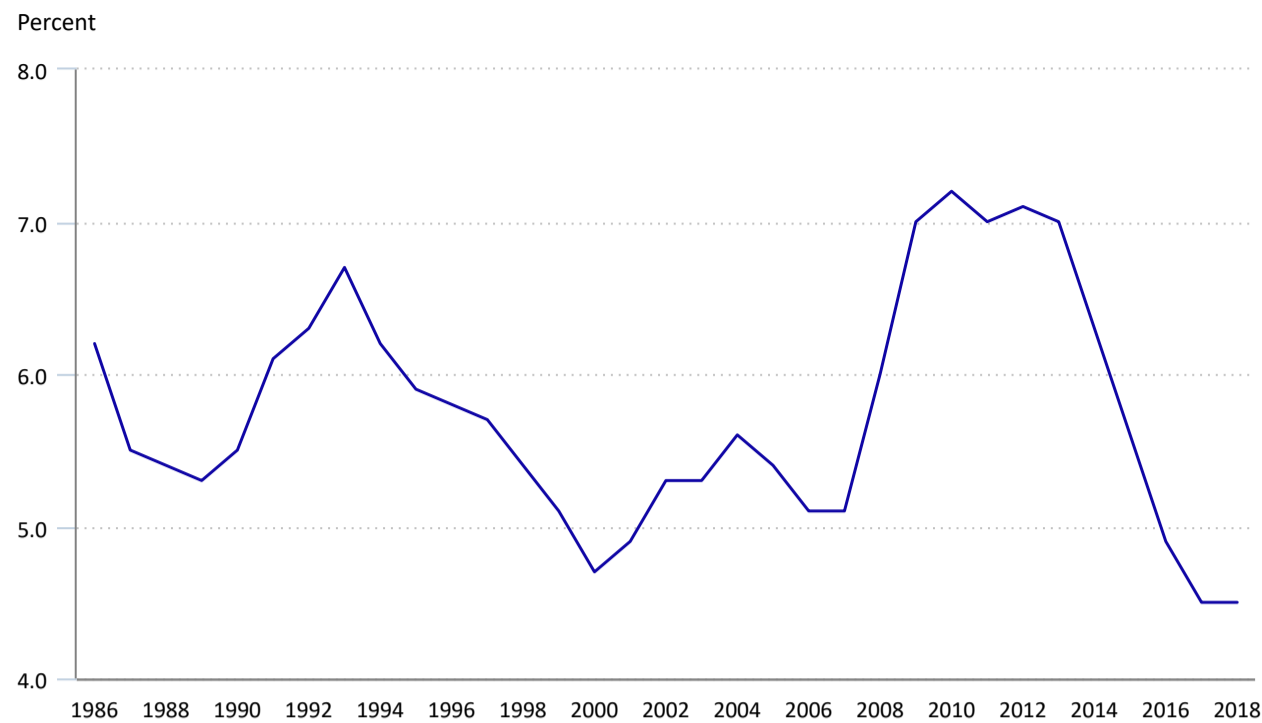
Characteristic	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total in the labor force <sup>[1]</sup>	147,838	147,902	146,859	147,475	148,735	149,483	150,319	152,230	153,364	154,762	156,454
In poverty	8,883	10,391	10,512	10,382	10,612	10,450	9,487	8,560	7,572	6,946	6,964
Working poor rate	6.0	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.3	5.6	4.9	4.5	4.5
Unrelated individuals	32,785	33,798	34,099	33,731	34,810	35,061	35,018	35,953	35,789	36,959	37,082
In poverty	3,275	3,947	3,947	3,621	3,851	4,141	3,395	3,137	2,792	2,524	2,684
Working poor rate	10.0	11.7	11.6	10.7	11.1	11.8	9.7	8.7	7.8	6.8	7.2
Primary families <sup>[2]</sup>	65,907	65,467	64,931	66,225	66,541	66,462	66,732	67,193	67,628	67,588	68,099
In poverty	4,538	5,193	5,269	5,469	5,478	5,137	5,108	4,607	4,082	3,854	3,628
Working poor rate	6.9	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.2	7.7	7.7	6.9	6.0	5.7	5.3

<sup>[1]</sup> Includes individuals 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.

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

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty status in 2018 for workers and their families. These data were collected in the 2019 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 the report, see the [technical notes](#).) The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status vary, depending on whether the individuals are living with family members, living alone, or living with nonrelatives. For people living with 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.

**Chart 1. Working-poor rate of people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1986–2018**

Hover over chart to view data.

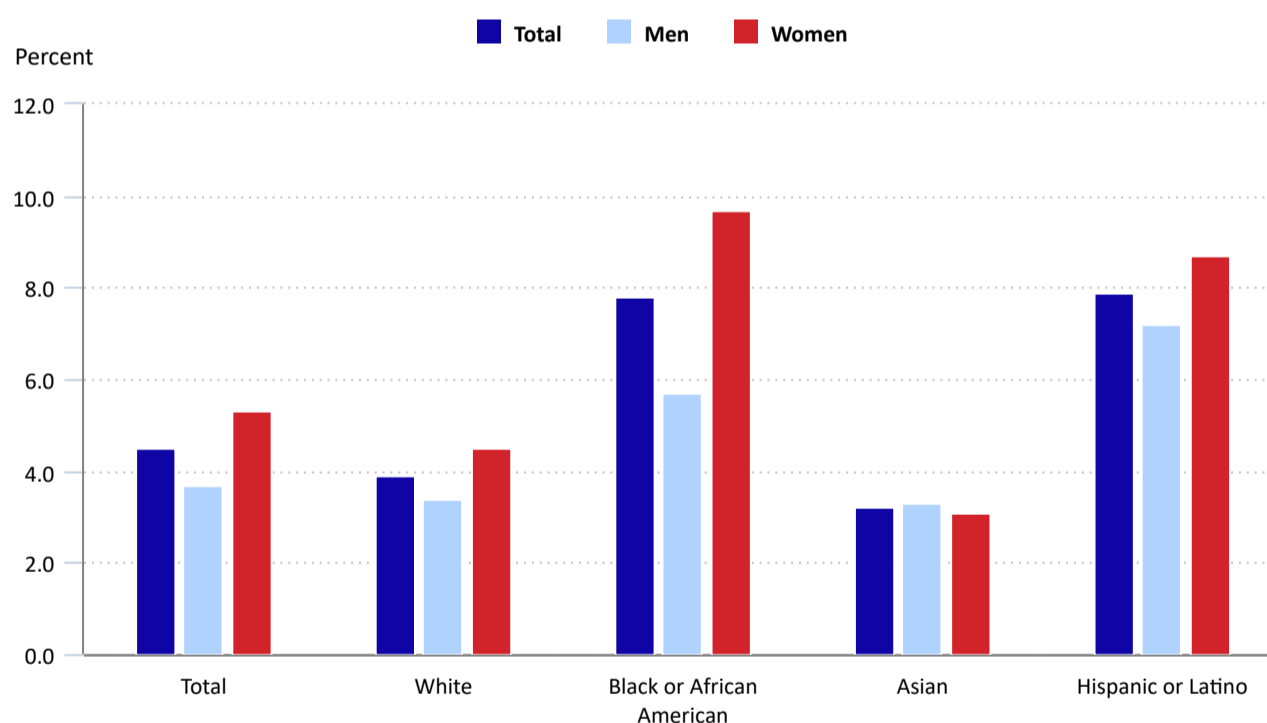
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

[View Chart Data](#)

## Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2018, the number of women classified as working poor (3.9 million) was higher than that of men (3.1 million). The working-poor rate also continued to be higher for women (5.3 percent) than for men (3.7 percent). The working-poor rates for both women and men showed little or no change from a year earlier. (See [table 2](#).)

Hispanics and Blacks were much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor. In 2018, the working-poor rates for Hispanics and Blacks were 7.9 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively, compared with 3.9 percent for Whites and 3.2 percent for Asians. (See [table 2](#) and [chart 2](#).)

**Chart 2. Working-poor rates by gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2018**

Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.

Note: People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

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

[View Chart Data](#)

Among Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics, the working-poor rate was higher for women than for men. The rates for White women and White men who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force were 4.5 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively. The rate for Black women was 9.7 percent, compared with 5.7 percent for Black men. The working-poor rate for Black women, while little changed compared with the prior year, was below 10.0 percent for the first time in the history of the series (which began in 1986). In 2018, the working-poor rate for Hispanic women was 8.7 percent, while the rate for Hispanic men was 7.2 percent. Among Asians, the rates for women and men were little different from each other, at 3.1 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.

Young workers are more likely to be poor than are workers in older age groups, in part because earnings are lower for young workers and the unemployment rate for young workers is higher. Among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 9.3 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 7.7 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were living in poverty in 2018. Those rates were higher than the rates for workers ages 25 to 34 (5.4 percent) and those ages 35 to 44 (5.1 percent). Workers ages 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 and older had lower working-poor rates—3.3 percent, 2.5 percent, and 2.0 percent, respectively—than did those in younger age groups. (See [table 2](#).)

## Educational attainment

Achieving higher levels of education reduces the incidence of living in poverty. People who complete more years of education usually have greater access to higher paying jobs—such as management, professional, and related occupations—than those with fewer years of education. Among people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2018, those with less than a high school diploma had the highest working-poor rate, at 13.5 percent, while those with a bachelor's

degree or higher had the lowest, at 1.4 percent. Even though women were more likely than men to be among the working poor at all levels of educational attainment, the gap in their working-poor rates narrowed at higher levels of education. (See [table 3](#).)

For people with a bachelor's degree and higher, Hispanics (3.1 percent) were more likely to be among the working poor than were Blacks (1.9 percent), Asians (1.7 percent), and Whites (1.3 percent). For all race and ethnicity groups, working-poor rates were much higher for those with less than a high school diploma: 12.8 percent for Whites, 17.7 percent for Blacks, 10.8 percent for Asians, and 14.5 percent for Hispanics.

## 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 least likely to be classified as working poor. For example, 1.5 percent of those in management, professional, and related occupations were among the working poor in 2018. By 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 instance, 9.4 percent of service workers who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor in 2018. The 2.5 million working poor employed in service occupations accounted for about two-fifths of all those classified as working poor. (See [table 4](#).)

The working-poor rate for women was higher than that for men in all major occupational groups in 2018. For both men (1.3 percent) and women (1.6 percent), working-poor rates were lowest in management, professional, and related occupations.

## Families

In 2018, 3.6 million families were living below the poverty level despite having at least one member in the labor force for half the year or more. This figure was down from 3.9 million in 2017. Among families with only one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2018, married-couple families were less likely to be living below the poverty level, at 6.5 percent, than were families maintained by women, at 20.5 percent, or families maintained by men, at 10.6 percent. (See [table 5](#).)

Among families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half the year, those with children in the household were much more likely to live below the poverty level than those without children. The proportion of families with children under age 18 who lived in poverty was 8.9 percent, compared with 1.7 percent for families without children. Among families with children under 18, the working-poor rate for those maintained by women (22.0 percent) was higher than that for those maintained by men (10.8 percent). Married-couple families with children under 18 had a working-poor rate of 4.7 percent in 2018.

### Unrelated individuals

The "unrelated individuals" category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Of the 37.1 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half the year or longer, 2.7 million lived below the poverty level in 2018, little changed from a year earlier. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more was 7.2 percent, an increase of 0.4 percentage point from last year's figure. (See [table 6](#).)

Within the group of unrelated individuals, teenagers continued to be the most likely to be among the working poor. In 2018, 37.5 percent of teens (ages 16 to 19) 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 rate for men living alone or with nonrelatives was 6.3 percent, and the rate for women was 8.3 percent. The working-poor rates for unrelated individuals were higher for Hispanics (10.4 percent) and Blacks (10.2 percent) than for Whites (6.6 percent) and Asians (5.8 percent). (See [table 7](#).)

Of the 2.7 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2018, about 3 out of 5 lived with others. These individuals had a higher working-poor rate than individuals who lived alone. Many unrelated individuals living below the poverty level may live with others out of necessity. By contrast, 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, people who usually work full time are less likely to live in poverty than are those who work part 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, 3.3 million, or 2.6 percent, were classified as working poor in 2018, little changed from last year's figure. (See [table 8](#).)

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

In 2018, 78 percent of the working poor who usually work full time experienced at least one of the major labor market problems. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, with 66 percent subject to low earnings, either as the only problem or in combination with other labor market problems. About 24 percent experienced unemployment as the main labor market problem or in conjunction with other problems. Four percent of the working poor experienced all three problems: low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See [table 8](#).)

Some 714,000, or 22 percent, of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2018. Their classification as working poor may be explained by other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, or a family structure that increases the risk of poverty.

### Notes

(1) "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2017," *Current Population Reports*, P60-263 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2018), table 3, <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-263.pdf>.

(2) People of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity may be of any race.

## Statistical Tables

**[-] Table 1. People in the labor force: poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2018 (Numbers in thousands)**

Poverty status and work experience	Total in labor force	27 weeks or more in labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
<b>TOTAL, 16 YEARS AND OLDER</b>			
Total in the labor force	168,617	156,454	142,870
Did not work during the year	2,215	1,053	881
Worked during the year	166,402	155,401	141,990
Usual full-time workers	134,458	130,045	122,333
Usual part-time workers	31,944	25,356	19,657
Involuntary part-time workers	5,709	4,875	3,971
Voluntary part-time workers	26,236	20,481	15,686
<b>At or above poverty level</b>			
Total in the labor force	159,557	149,490	137,067
Did not work during the year	1,359	595	498
Worked during the year	158,198	148,896	136,569
Usual full-time workers	130,059	126,342	119,079
Usual part-time workers	28,140	22,554	17,489
Involuntary part-time workers	4,570	3,949	3,184
Voluntary part-time workers	23,569	18,605	14,305
<b>Below poverty level</b>			
Total in the labor force	9,060	6,964	5,804
Did not work during the year	857	458	383
Worked during the year	8,204	6,505	5,421
Usual full-time workers	4,399	3,703	3,253
Usual part-time workers	3,804	2,802	2,168
Involuntary part-time workers	1,138	926	786
Voluntary part-time workers	2,666	1,876	1,381
<b>RATE<sup>[1]</sup></b>			
Total in the labor force	5.4	4.5	4.1
Did not work during the year	38.7	43.5	43.5
Worked during the year	4.9	4.2	3.8
Usual full-time workers	3.3	2.8	2.7
Usual part-time workers	11.9	11.1	11.0
Involuntary part-time workers	19.9	19.0	19.8
Voluntary part-time workers	10.2	9.2	8.8

<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, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

**[-] Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by age, gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2018 (Numbers in thousands)**

Age and gender	Total					Below poverty level					Rate <sup>[1]</sup>				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
Total, 16 years and older	156,454	121,723	19,521	10,003	27,278	6,964	4,758	1,531	321	2,147	4.5	3.9	7.8	3.2	7.9
16 to 19 years	3,598	2,824	378	145	811	335	248	47	6	108	9.3	8.8	12.4	3.8	13.3
20 to 24 years	13,209	10,139	1,809	597	3,103	1,014	736	166	46	268	7.7	7.3	9.2	7.7	8.6

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

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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

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



Age and gender	Total					Below poverty level					Rate <sup>[1]</sup>				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
25 to 34 years	35,957	26,764	5,150	2,519	7,229	1,948	1,174	593	77	555	5.4	4.4	11.5	3.1	7.7
35 to 44 years	33,013	25,031	4,305	2,546	6,629	1,683	1,141	364	93	629	5.1	4.6	8.5	3.7	9.5
45 to 54 years	32,524	25,355	4,047	2,204	5,443	1,071	789	199	51	391	3.3	3.1	4.9	2.3	7.2
55 to 64 years	27,352	22,452	2,900	1,470	3,220	696	498	139	35	147	2.5	2.2	4.8	2.4	4.6
65 years and older	10,801	9,159	933	523	843	215	173	24	14	49	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.6	5.8
<b>Men, 16 years and older</b>	<b>83,072</b>	<b>65,970</b>	<b>9,097</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>15,514</b>	<b>3,099</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>
16 to 19 years	1,693	1,372	149	69	408	156	121	22	1	51	9.2	8.8	14.6	-	12.5
20 to 24 years	6,749	5,249	843	314	1,684	420	325	51	27	121	6.2	6.2	6.1	8.5	7.2
25 to 34 years	19,482	14,742	2,540	1,421	4,208	783	534	163	50	274	4.0	3.6	6.4	3.6	6.5
35 to 44 years	17,843	13,919	1,974	1,362	3,862	813	581	125	50	348	4.6	4.2	6.3	3.7	9.0
45 to 54 years	17,094	13,555	1,902	1,148	3,035	503	374	89	25	225	2.9	2.8	4.7	2.2	7.4
55 to 64 years	14,302	11,987	1,294	761	1,841	332	240	64	18	75	2.3	2.0	5.0	2.4	4.1
65 years and older	5,910	5,147	395	276	477	92	74	6	7	26	1.6	1.4	1.6	2.5	5.4
<b>Women, 16 years and older</b>	<b>73,382</b>	<b>55,752</b>	<b>10,423</b>	<b>4,653</b>	<b>11,764</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>
16 to 19 years	1,906	1,452	228	76	403	179	126	25	4	57	9.4	8.7	11.0	5.7	14.1
20 to 24 years	6,460	4,890	966	284	1,419	594	411	115	19	147	9.2	8.4	11.9	6.8	10.4
25 to 34 years	16,475	12,023	2,610	1,098	3,021	1,165	640	430	27	281	7.1	5.3	16.5	2.4	9.3
35 to 44 years	15,169	11,112	2,330	1,184	2,767	870	559	239	43	281	5.7	5.0	10.3	3.6	10.2
45 to 54 years	15,431	11,799	2,145	1,056	2,408	568	415	110	26	166	3.7	3.5	5.1	2.5	6.9
55 to 64 years	13,050	10,465	1,605	709	1,379	364	258	74	17	72	2.8	2.5	4.6	2.4	5.2
65 years and older	4,891	4,012	539	247	366	124	99	17	7	23	2.5	2.5	3.2	2.7	6.3

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

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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

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

**[-] Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2018 (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
<b>Total, 16 years and older</b>	<b>156,454</b>	<b>83,072</b>	<b>73,382</b>	<b>6,964</b>	<b>3,099</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>

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

<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.

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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

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

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>[1]</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Less than a high school diploma	11,858	7,402	4,456	1,598	866	731	13.5	11.7	16.4
Less than 1 year of high school	3,711	2,497	1,215	508	299	209	13.7	12.0	17.2
1–3 years of high school	6,347	3,794	2,552	899	453	446	14.2	11.9	17.5
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,800	1,111	689	191	115	76	10.6	10.3	11.1
High school graduates, no college <sup>[2]</sup>	40,705	24,034	16,671	2,604	1,164	1,440	6.4	4.8	8.6
Some college or associate's degree	43,303	21,673	21,631	1,888	680	1,208	4.4	3.1	5.6
Some college, no degree	26,627	13,786	12,841	1,336	460	877	5.0	3.3	6.8
Associate's degree	16,677	7,887	8,790	552	220	331	3.3	2.8	3.8
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>[3]</sup>	60,588	29,964	30,624	874	388	486	1.4	1.3	1.6
White, 16 years and older	121,723	65,970	55,752	4,758	2,250	2,508	3.9	3.4	4.5
Less than a high school diploma	9,292	5,999	3,293	1,185	676	509	12.8	11.3	15.5
Less than 1 year of high school	3,087	2,131	956	422	249	174	13.7	11.7	18.2
1–3 years of high school	4,876	3,022	1,854	626	342	284	12.8	11.3	15.3
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,329	846	483	137	85	51	10.3	10.1	10.6
High school graduates, no college <sup>[2]</sup>	31,615	19,074	12,542	1,673	801	872	5.3	4.2	7.0
Some college or associate's degree	33,663	17,258	16,405	1,269	482	787	3.8	2.8	4.8
Some college, no degree	20,411	10,908	9,503	892	328	563	4.4	3.0	5.9
Associate's degree	13,252	6,350	6,902	377	154	224	2.8	2.4	3.2
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>[3]</sup>	47,153	23,640	23,513	631	291	340	1.3	1.2	1.4
Black or African American, 16 years and older	19,521	9,097	10,423	1,531	519	1,012	7.8	5.7	9.7
Less than a high school diploma	1,455	749	706	258	110	148	17.7	14.7	20.9
Less than 1 year of high school	254	127	127	29	17	12	11.5	13.4	9.6
1–3 years of high school	890	455	435	186	72	114	20.9	15.9	26.2
4 years of high school, no diploma	311	167	144	43	21	21	13.7	12.7	14.9
High school graduates, no college <sup>[2]</sup>	6,028	3,224	2,804	736	267	469	12.2	8.3	16.7
Some college or associate's degree	6,238	2,709	3,529	425	109	317	6.8	4.0	9.0
Some college, no degree	4,054	1,753	2,301	287	64	222	7.1	3.7	9.7
Associate's degree	2,184	956	1,228	139	44	94	6.4	4.7	7.7
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>[3]</sup>	5,800	2,415	3,385	111	33	78	1.9	1.4	2.3
Asian, 16 years and older	10,003	5,350	4,653	321	179	143	3.2	3.3	3.1
Less than a high school diploma	527	284	243	57	31	26	10.8	11.0	10.6
Less than 1 year of high school	215	119	96	33	18	15	15.2	14.8	15.7
1–3 years of high school	234	114	121	17	8	9	7.1	6.9	7.2
4 years of high school, no diploma	78	51	27	8	6	2	10.2	-	-
High school graduates, no college <sup>[2]</sup>	1,524	835	688	82	42	40	5.4	5.0	5.9
Some college or associate's degree	1,698	912	786	78	52	26	4.6	5.7	3.4
Some college, no degree	1,032	585	447	65	42	23	6.3	7.1	5.3
Associate's degree	667	327	339	13	10	3	2.0	3.2	0.9
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>[3]</sup>	6,255	3,319	2,936	104	54	50	1.7	1.6	1.7
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	27,278	15,514	11,764	2,147	1,119	1,028	7.9	7.2	8.7
Less than a high school diploma	6,111	4,054	2,056	885	513	372	14.5	12.7	18.1
Less than 1 year of high school	2,830	1,973	858	408	250	158	14.4	12.7	18.5
1–3 years of high school	2,589	1,642	947	396	214	183	15.3	13.0	19.3
4 years of high school, no diploma	692	440	251	80	50	31	11.6	11.3	12.2

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

<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.

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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

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

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>[1]</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
High school graduates, no college <sup>[2]</sup>	8,774	5,445	3,329	717	380	337	8.2	7.0	10.1
Some college or associate's degree	7,017	3,498	3,519	379	147	233	5.4	4.2	6.6
Some college, no degree	4,656	2,406	2,250	275	105	170	5.9	4.4	7.5
Associate's degree	2,361	1,092	1,269	105	42	63	4.4	3.8	5.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>[3]</sup>	5,376	2,517	2,859	166	79	86	3.1	3.2	3.0

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

<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.

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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

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

**[-] 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, 2018 (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
<b>Total, 16 years and older <sup>[2]</sup></b>	155,401	82,448	72,953	6,505	2,846	3,659	4.2	3.5	5.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	63,083	30,236	32,847	933	401	532	1.5	1.3	1.6
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	26,577	14,649	11,927	414	232	182	1.6	1.6	1.5
Professional and related occupations	36,506	15,587	20,920	519	170	350	1.4	1.1	1.7
Service occupations	26,467	11,290	15,177	2,495	849	1,645	9.4	7.5	10.8
Sales and office occupations	33,088	13,057	20,031	1,439	370	1,069	4.3	2.8	5.3
Sales and related occupations	15,601	7,959	7,642	872	240	632	5.6	3.0	8.3
Office and administrative support occupations	17,487	5,098	12,389	568	131	437	3.2	2.6	3.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	14,091	13,340	751	751	679	72	5.3	5.1	9.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,133	837	296	105	74	30	9.3	8.9	10.3
Construction and extraction occupations	8,306	8,021	285	491	464	27	5.9	5.8	9.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,652	4,482	170	155	140	15	3.3	3.1	8.9
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	18,597	14,455	4,141	888	547	340	4.8	3.8	8.2
Production occupations	8,675	6,248	2,427	343	159	185	4.0	2.5	7.6
Transportation and material-moving occupations	9,921	8,207	1,714	544	389	156	5.5	4.7	9.1
<b>White, 16 years and older <sup>[2]</sup></b>	121,021	65,537	55,483	4,467	2,075	2,392	3.7	3.2	4.3
Management, professional, and related occupations	49,860	24,319	25,540	667	300	367	1.3	1.2	1.4
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	21,806	12,440	9,366	301	173	128	1.4	1.4	1.4
Professional and related occupations	28,054	11,879	16,175	366	127	239	1.3	1.1	1.5
Service occupations	19,045	8,338	10,707	1,672	601	1,071	8.8	7.2	10.0
Sales and office occupations	26,200	10,491	15,709	959	284	675	3.7	2.7	4.3
Sales and related occupations	12,574	6,676	5,898	582	187	395	4.6	2.8	6.7
Office and administrative support occupations	13,626	3,815	9,811	378	97	281	2.8	2.5	2.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	12,125	11,504	620	618	566	52	5.1	4.9	8.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,004	741	263	89	67	22	8.8	9.1	8.2
Construction and extraction occupations	7,242	6,999	243	408	386	22	5.6	5.5	9.2
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3,878	3,764	114	121	113	8	3.1	3.0	6.8
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	13,745	10,842	2,903	551	324	227	4.0	3.0	7.8
Production occupations	6,672	4,945	1,727	229	99	129	3.4	2.0	7.5
Transportation and material-moving occupations	7,073	5,897	1,177	323	225	98	4.6	3.8	8.3

<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> Estimates for the occupational groups do not sum to totals because data includes the long-term unemployed with no previous work experience and a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

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

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>[1]</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>Black or African American, 16 years and older<sup>[2]</sup></b>	19,265	8,961	10,304	1,392	459	932	7.2	5.1	9.0
<b>Management, professional, and related occupations</b>	6,200	2,274	3,926	173	52	121	2.8	2.3	3.1
<b>Management, business, and financial operations occupations</b>	2,275	925	1,350	70	38	32	3.1	4.1	2.4
<b>Professional and related occupations</b>	3,925	1,349	2,576	103	14	89	2.6	1.0	3.4
<b>Service occupations</b>	4,711	1,829	2,881	589	156	433	12.5	8.5	15.0
<b>Sales and office occupations</b>	4,048	1,409	2,638	316	35	282	7.8	2.5	10.7
<b>Sales and related occupations</b>	1,646	631	1,015	201	27	174	12.2	4.2	17.1
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b>	2,401	778	1,623	116	8	108	4.8	1.0	6.6
<b>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations</b>	1,106	1,018	88	80	70	10	7.2	6.9	11.0
<b>Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations</b>	57	41	16	7	3	4	-	-	-
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	575	552	22	48	45	2	8.3	8.2	-
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>	474	425	50	25	22	4	5.4	5.1	-
<b>Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations</b>	3,179	2,411	768	233	146	87	7.3	6.1	11.3
<b>Production occupations</b>	1,163	785	378	66	25	41	5.7	3.2	10.9
<b>Transportation and material-moving occupations</b>	2,015	1,626	390	167	121	46	8.3	7.4	11.7
<b>Asian, 16 years and older<sup>[2]</sup></b>	9,956	5,324	4,632	311	171	140	3.1	3.2	3.0
<b>Management, professional, and related occupations</b>	5,426	2,933	2,493	67	39	28	1.2	1.3	1.1
<b>Management, business, and financial operations occupations</b>	1,864	971	893	27	14	12	1.4	1.5	1.4
<b>Professional and related occupations</b>	3,562	1,962	1,600	40	25	15	1.1	1.3	1.0
<b>Service occupations</b>	1,546	626	920	99	42	57	6.4	6.7	6.2
<b>Sales and office occupations</b>	1,636	739	897	67	29	38	4.1	3.9	4.2
<b>Sales and related occupations</b>	822	446	376	37	19	19	4.6	4.2	4.9
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b>	813	293	520	29	10	19	3.6	3.3	3.7
<b>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations</b>	353	341	12	17	16	1	4.7	4.6	-
<b>Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations</b>	28	22	6	1	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	144	141	4	10	9	1	7.0	6.5	-
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>	181	178	3	5	5	-	2.9	2.9	-
<b>Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations</b>	991	681	311	62	46	16	6.2	6.7	5.2
<b>Production occupations</b>	534	297	237	27	19	8	5.0	6.3	3.5
<b>Transportation and material-moving occupations</b>	457	384	73	35	27	8	7.6	7.0	-
<b>Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older<sup>[2]</sup></b>	27,062	15,381	11,681	2,047	1,065	982	7.6	6.9	8.4
<b>Management, professional, and related occupations</b>	6,064	2,777	3,287	156	67	89	2.6	2.4	2.7
<b>Management, business, and financial operations occupations</b>	2,683	1,431	1,252	75	34	40	2.8	2.4	3.2
<b>Professional and related occupations</b>	3,381	1,347	2,035	81	33	48	2.4	2.4	2.4
<b>Service occupations</b>	6,524	2,845	3,679	874	355	519	13.4	12.5	14.1
<b>Sales and office occupations</b>	5,593	2,239	3,354	319	94	226	5.7	4.2	6.7
<b>Sales and related occupations</b>	2,575	1,230	1,345	193	60	133	7.5	4.9	9.9
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b>	3,018	1,008	2,010	126	34	92	4.2	3.4	4.6
<b>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations</b>	4,671	4,380	291	433	388	45	9.3	8.9	15.5
<b>Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations</b>	556	394	162	78	53	25	14.0	13.5	15.3
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	3,170	3,072	98	297	279	18	9.4	9.1	18.8
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>	945	914	31	58	56	2	6.2	6.1	-
<b>Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations</b>	4,197	3,127	1,069	264	161	103	6.3	5.1	9.7
<b>Production occupations</b>	1,975	1,301	674	124	61	63	6.3	4.7	9.4
<b>Transportation and material-moving occupations</b>	2,221	1,826	395	140	100	40	6.3	5.5	10.2

<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> Estimates for the occupational groups do not sum to totals because data includes the long-term unemployed with no previous work experience and a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

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



**[-] Table 5. Primary families: poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2018 (Numbers in thousands)**

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Total Primary Families</b>	68,099	64,472	3,628	5.3
<b>With related children under 18 years</b>	34,531	31,469	3,062	8.9
<b>Without children</b>	33,568	33,003	565	1.7
<b>With one member in the labor force</b>	28,658	25,527	3,131	10.9
<b>With two or more members in the labor force</b>	39,442	38,944	497	1.3
<b>With two members</b>	32,803	32,363	440	1.3
<b>With three or more members</b>	6,639	6,581	57	0.9
<b>Married-couple families <sup>[2]</sup></b>				
<b>Total</b>	50,523	49,116	1,407	2.8
<b>With related children under 18 years</b>	24,317	23,183	1,133	4.7
<b>Without children</b>	26,206	25,932	274	1.0
<b>With one member in the labor force</b>	17,187	16,077	1,110	6.5
<b>Husband</b>	11,931	11,090	841	7.0
<b>Wife</b>	4,504	4,277	227	5.0
<b>Relative</b>	752	709	42	5.6
<b>With two or more members in the labor force</b>	33,336	33,039	297	0.9
<b>With two members</b>	28,215	27,951	264	0.9
<b>With three or more members</b>	5,121	5,088	33	0.6
<b>Families maintained by women <sup>[3]</sup></b>				
<b>Total</b>	11,940	10,126	1,814	15.2
<b>With related children under 18 years</b>	7,368	5,747	1,621	22.0
<b>Without children</b>	4,572	4,379	193	4.2
<b>With one member in the labor force</b>	8,088	6,427	1,660	20.5
<b>Householder</b>	6,415	4,961	1,454	22.7
<b>Relative</b>	1,673	1,466	207	12.3
<b>With two or more members in the labor force</b>	3,852	3,698	154	4.0
<b>Families maintained by men <sup>[3]</sup></b>				
<b>Total</b>	5,636	5,230	406	7.2
<b>With related children under 18 years</b>	2,847	2,539	308	10.8
<b>Without children</b>	2,790	2,691	98	3.5
<b>With one member in the labor force</b>	3,383	3,023	360	10.6
<b>Householder</b>	2,704	2,421	283	10.5
<b>Relative</b>	680	603	77	11.3
<b>With two or more members in the labor force</b>	2,253	2,207	46	2.1

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

<sup>[2]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes both opposite-sex and same-sex married-couple families. Prior to 2018, included opposite-sex married-couple families only.

<sup>[3]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes families with no spouse of either sex present. Prior to 2018, included only families with no opposite-sex spouse present.

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

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

**[-] Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2018 (Numbers in thousands)**

Poverty status and work experience	Total	In married-couple families <sup>[1]</sup>				In families maintained by women <sup>[2]</sup>			In families maintained by men <sup>[2]</sup>			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	
<sup>[1]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in both opposite-sex and same-sex married-couple families. Prior to 2018, included opposite-sex married-couple families only.												

<sup>[2]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in families with no spouse of either sex present. Prior to 2018, included only families with no opposite-sex spouse present.

<sup>[3]</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percentage of the total.

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

Poverty status and work experience	Total	In married-couple families <sup>[1]</sup>				In families maintained by women <sup>[2]</sup>			In families maintained by men <sup>[2]</sup>			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, 16 YEARS AND OLDER</b>												
All people	258,527	61,168	62,021	5,692	22,439	15,039	2,145	14,540	6,461	690	7,058	61,276
With labor force activity	168,617	45,715	38,247	1,335	14,108	10,409	465	9,043	4,991	194	4,693	39,416
1 to 26 weeks	12,163	1,514	2,471	714	2,422	634	264	1,056	257	87	411	2,334
27 weeks or more	156,454	44,202	35,777	621	11,686	9,775	201	7,987	4,734	108	4,281	37,082
With no labor force activity	89,910	15,453	23,773	4,357	8,331	4,631	1,680	5,497	1,469	495	2,365	21,860
<b>At or above poverty level</b>												
All people	231,065	58,265	59,074	5,370	21,618	11,298	1,507	12,455	5,639	585	6,409	48,844
With labor force activity	159,557	44,446	37,595	1,301	13,881	8,493	381	8,416	4,592	180	4,514	35,758
1 to 26 weeks	10,067	1,354	2,308	702	2,337	302	217	863	179	78	367	1,360
27 weeks or more	149,490	43,092	35,287	599	11,544	8,191	164	7,553	4,414	102	4,147	34,398
With no labor force activity	71,508	13,820	21,480	4,069	7,737	2,806	1,126	4,039	1,047	405	1,895	13,086
<b>Below poverty level</b>												
All people	27,462	2,903	2,946	322	821	3,741	638	2,086	821	104	649	12,432
With labor force activity	9,060	1,269	653	34	227	1,916	84	627	399	14	179	3,658
1 to 26 weeks	2,097	160	163	13	85	331	47	193	78	8	44	975
27 weeks or more	6,964	1,110	490	22	142	1,584	37	434	321	6	135	2,684
With no labor force activity	18,402	1,633	2,294	288	594	1,825	553	1,459	422	90	470	8,774
<b>RATE<sup>[3]</sup></b>												
All people	10.6	4.7	4.8	5.7	3.7	24.9	29.7	14.3	12.7	15.1	9.2	20.3
With labor force activity	5.4	2.8	1.7	2.6	1.6	18.4	18.1	6.9	8.0	7.3	3.8	9.3
1 to 26 weeks	17.2	10.5	6.6	1.8	3.5	52.3	17.8	18.3	30.4	9.6	10.7	41.8

<sup>[1]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in both opposite-sex and same-sex married-couple families. Prior to 2018, included opposite-sex married-couple families only.

<sup>[2]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in families with no spouse of either sex present. Prior to 2018, included only families with no opposite-sex spouse present.

<sup>[3]</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percentage of the total.

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

Poverty status and work experience	Total	In married-couple families <sup>[1]</sup>				In families maintained by women <sup>[2]</sup>			In families maintained by men <sup>[2]</sup>			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	
27 weeks or more	4.5	2.5	1.4	3.5	1.2	16.2	18.4	5.4	6.8	5.5	3.2	7.2
With no labor force activity	20.5	10.6	9.6	6.6	7.1	39.4	33.0	26.5	28.7	18.2	19.9	40.1

<sup>[1]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in both opposite-sex and same-sex married-couple families. Prior to 2018, included opposite-sex married-couple families only.

<sup>[2]</sup> Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in families with no spouse of either sex present. Prior to 2018, included only families with no opposite-sex spouse present.

<sup>[3]</sup> Number below the poverty level as a percentage of the total.

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

**[-] Table 7. Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by age, gender, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2018 (Numbers in thousands)**

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Age and gender</b>				
Total unrelated individuals	37,082	34,398	2,684	7.2
16 to 19 years	336	210	126	37.5
20 to 24 years	4,381	3,747	634	14.5
25 to 64 years	29,348	27,551	1,797	6.1
65 years and older	3,017	2,890	127	4.2
Men	20,187	18,910	1,277	6.3
Women	16,896	15,489	1,407	8.3
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>				
White	28,146	26,276	1,870	6.6
Men	15,518	14,611	908	5.8
Women	12,628	11,666	962	7.6
Black or African American	5,765	5,178	587	10.2
Men	2,881	2,612	269	9.3
Women	2,883	2,566	317	11
Asian	1,822	1,715	106	5.8
Men	1,020	955	65	6.4
Women	802	761	42	5.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,263	4,716	546	10.4
Men	3,177	2,915	262	8.3
Women	2,085	1,801	284	13.6
<b>Living arrangement</b>				
Living alone	18,879	17,861	1,018	5.4
Living with others	18,203	16,537	1,666	9.2

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

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.

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

**[-] Table 8. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status and labor market problems of full-time wage and salary workers, 2018 (Numbers in thousands)**

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>[1]</sup>

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

<sup>[2]</sup> The low-earnings threshold in 2018 was \$369.59 per week.

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

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Total, full-time wage and salary workers</b>	124,053	120,790	3,264	2.6
<b>No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings<sup>[2]</sup></b>	107,667	106,954	714	0.7
<b>Workers experiencing one labor market problem</b>				
Unemployment only	4,727	4,465	262	5.5
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,472	2,429	43	1.7
Low earnings only	6,850	5,280	1,570	22.9
<b>Workers experiencing multiple labor market problems</b>				
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	716	632	84	11.8
Unemployment and low earnings	847	536	311	36.8
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	500	337	162	32.5
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	273	157	117	42.7
<b>Workers experiencing each labor market problem</b>				
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	6,564	5,790	774	11.8
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	3,962	3,555	406	10.3
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	8,470	6,309	2,161	25.5

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

<sup>[2]</sup> The low-earnings threshold in 2018 was \$369.59 per week.

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

## Technical Notes

The data presented in this report were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the CPS is a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households. Data from the CPS are used to obtain monthly estimates of the nation's employment and unemployment levels. The ASEC, 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 2019 are for the 2018 calendar year.

Estimates in this report are based on a sample and, consequently, may differ from estimates 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 ASEC supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, more extensive definitions than those provided here, and additional information about income and poverty measures, see "Income and poverty in the United States: 2018," *Current Population Reports*, P60–266 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2019), [www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf).

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For more information on the data provided in this report, contact the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Labor Force Statistics. Email: [cpsinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cpsinfo@bls.gov); Telephone: (202) 691-6378.

## Concepts and definitions

*Poverty classification* 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 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 2018, the weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$25,701; for a family of nine or more people, the threshold was \$51,393; and for one person (unrelated individual), it was \$12,784. Poverty thresholds are updated each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Thresholds do not vary geographically. For more information, see "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2018," [www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf).

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 2018, the low-earnings threshold was \$369.59 per week. For a complete definition, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Rones, "A profile of the working poor," *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1989, pp. 3–11, [www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1989/10/art1full.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1989/10/art1full.pdf).

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 and Poverty in the United States: 2018," [www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf).

The *labor force* refers to people 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 people who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

The *working poor* are people 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.

The *working-poor rate* is the number of individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level, as a percentage of all people who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks during the calendar year.



*Involuntary part-time workers* are people who, during at least 1 week of the year, worked fewer than 35 hours because of slack work or unfavorable 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* refers to the job in which a person worked the most weeks during the calendar year.

*Unemployed* people 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.

The *householder* is the family reference person. This is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. The relationships of the other individuals in the household are defined in terms of their relationships to the householder. The race or Hispanic ethnicity of the family is determined by that of the householder.

A *family* is a group of two or more people residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption; all such people are considered members of one family. Families include those with or without children under 18 years old. The count of families is for "primary" families only. A primary family consists of a householder and all other people related to and residing with the householder. Sub-families are excluded from the count of families. A sub-family is a family that does not maintain its own household, but lives in the home of someone else. Family status is determined at the time of the survey interview and, thus, may be different from that of the previous year. Families are further categorized as follows:

- Married-couple families refer to opposite-sex and same-sex married couples residing together and any of their family members residing in the household.
- Families maintained by men or women are made up of householders residing with one or more family members but with no spouse of either sex present. Unmarried domestic partners of either sex may or may not be present in the household.

Beginning in 2018, the definition of married couples in this report includes both opposite-sex and same-sex married couples. Prior to 2018, married-couple families included opposite-sex married-couple families only. Therefore, 2018 estimates for married-couple families and families maintained by men or women may not be comparable to those from prior years because of the change in the definition of marital status.

*Unrelated individuals* are people who are not living with anyone related to them by birth, marriage, or adoption. Such individuals may live alone or live with other individuals to whom they may not be related. Beginning in 2018, estimates for unrelated individuals may not be comparable to those from prior years because of the change in the definition of marital status.

*Related children* refer to children under age 18 who are living in the household and are related to the householder. Included are own children (sons, daughters, stepchildren, and 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. Beginning in 2018, estimates for related children may not be comparable to those from prior years because of the change in the definition of marital status.

*Race* is reported by the householder respondent. White, Black or African American, and Asian are categories used to describe the race of people. 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* refers to people who identified themselves in the CPS enumeration process as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ethnicity. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

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