



May 2021

Report 1093

A profile of the working poor, 2019

About 34.0 million people, or 10.5 percent of the nation's population, lived below the official poverty level in 2019, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.^[1] (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, 6.3 million individuals were among the "working poor" in 2019, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); this measure decreased from 7.0 million in 2018. 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 2019, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 4.0 percent, down by 0.5 percentage point from the previous year's figure. (See [table A](#), [chart 1](#), and [table 1](#).)



Highlights from the 2019 data:

- The working-poor rate of people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more was 4.0 percent. This is the lowest rate in the history of the series, which began in 1986. (See [chart 1](#).)
- Full-time workers remained much less likely to be among the working poor than part-time workers. Among people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2.7 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 9.8 percent of part-time workers. (See [table 1](#).)
- Women were more likely than men to be among the working poor (4.5 percent and 3.5 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.² (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, 12.8 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 remained 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 nearly 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, 2008–19
(Numbers in thousands)

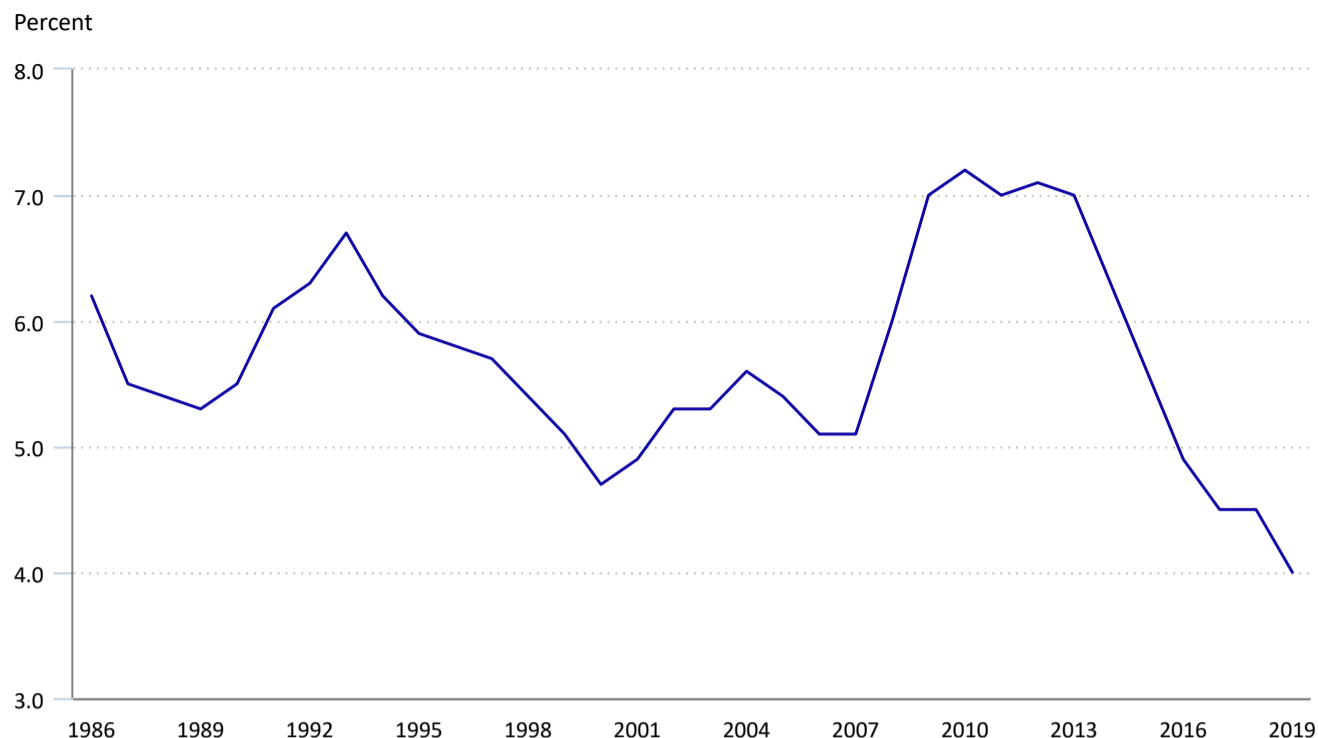
| Characteristic | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total in the labor force^[1] | 147,838 | 147,902 | 146,859 | 147,475 | 148,735 | 149,483 | 150,319 | 152,230 | 153,364 | 154,762 | 156,454 | 157,769 |
| In poverty | 8,883 | 10,391 | 10,512 | 10,382 | 10,612 | 10,450 | 9,487 | 8,560 | 7,572 | 6,946 | 6,964 | 6,318 |
| 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 | 4.0 |
| Unrelated individuals | 32,785 | 33,798 | 34,099 | 33,731 | 34,810 | 35,061 | 35,018 | 35,953 | 35,789 | 36,959 | 37,082 | 36,805 |
| In poverty | 3,275 | 3,947 | 3,947 | 3,621 | 3,851 | 4,141 | 3,395 | 3,137 | 2,792 | 2,524 | 2,684 | 2,445 |
| 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 | 6.6 |
| Primary families^[2] | 65,907 | 65,467 | 64,931 | 66,225 | 66,541 | 66,462 | 66,732 | 67,193 | 67,628 | 67,588 | 68,099 | 68,318 |
| In poverty | 4,538 | 5,193 | 5,269 | 5,469 | 5,478 | 5,137 | 5,108 | 4,607 | 4,082 | 3,854 | 3,628 | 3,232 |
| 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 | 4.7 |

^[1] Includes individuals in families, not shown separately.

^[2] 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 2019 for workers and their families. These data were collected in the 2020 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 the family's total income; for individuals not living in families, personal income is used as the determinant.

Chart 1. Working-poor rate of people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1986–2019

Hover over chart to view data.

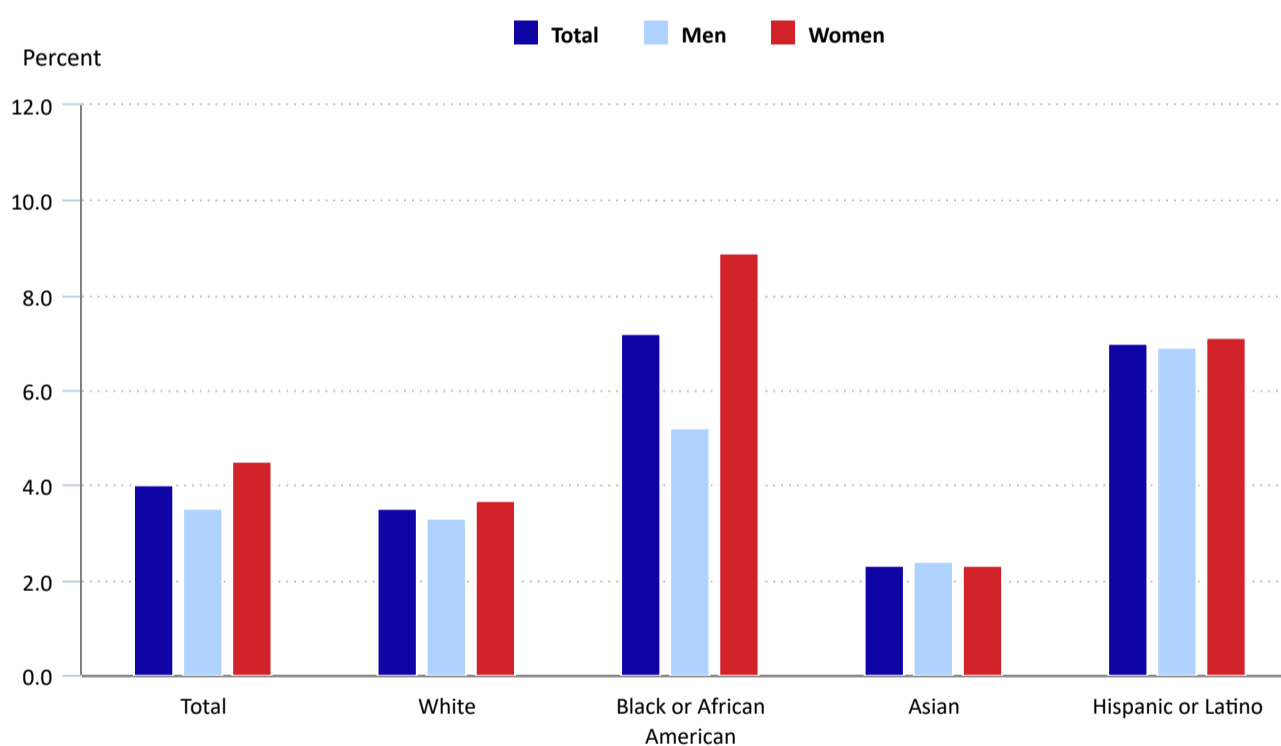
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

[View Chart Data](#)

Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2019, the number of women classified as working poor (3.4 million) was higher than that of men (2.9 million). The working-poor rate also continued to be higher for women (4.5 percent) than for men (3.5 percent). The working-poor rates for both women and men declined from a year earlier. (See [table 2](#).)

Blacks and Hispanics were much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor. In 2019, the working-poor rates for Blacks and Hispanics were 7.2 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively, compared with 3.5 percent for Whites and 2.3 percent for Asians. (See [table 2](#) and [chart 2](#).)

Chart 2. Working-poor rates by gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2019

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 and Blacks, the working-poor rate was higher for women than for men in 2019. The rates for White women and White men who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force were 3.7 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively. The rate for Black women was 8.9 percent, compared with 5.2 percent for Black men. For Asians and Hispanics, the working-poor rates for women varied slightly from those of men. The working-poor rate for Asian women was 2.3 percent, and the rate for men was 2.4 percent. Among Hispanics, the rate for women was 7.1 percent, and the rate for Hispanic men was 6.9 percent.

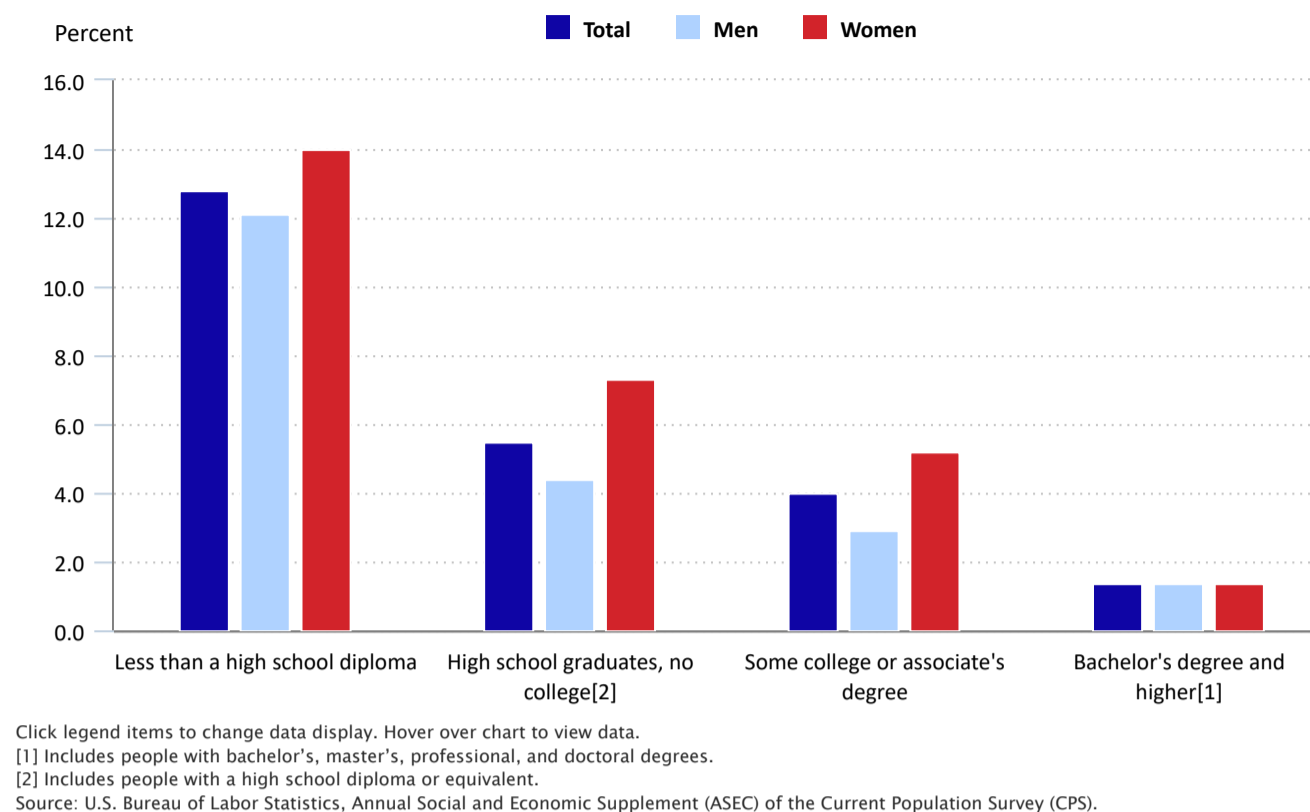
Young workers are more likely to be poor than are workers in older age groups, in part because earnings are lower for young workers and the unemployment rate for young workers is higher. Among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 7.4 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 7.6 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds had incomes that fell below the official poverty level in 2019. Those rates were higher than the rates for workers ages 25 to 34 (5.0 percent) and those ages 35 to 44 (4.3 percent). Workers ages 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 and older had lower working-poor rates—2.9 percent, 2.6 percent, and 1.3 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 2019, those with less than a high school diploma had the highest working-poor rate, at 12.8 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 working-poor rates were the same for men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher. (See [table 3](#) and [chart 3](#).)

Chart 3. Working-poor rates by gender and educational attainment, 2019



[View Chart Data](#)

For people with a bachelor's degree and higher, all race and ethnicity groups had similar working-poor rates, ranging from 1.4 percent to 1.7 percent. For those with less than a high school diploma, the working poor rate for Asians (5.3 percent) was lower than the rates for Whites (12.4 percent), Hispanics (14.8 percent), and Blacks (17.3 percent) in 2019.

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, 1.4 percent of those in management, professional, and related occupations were among the working poor in 2019. 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, 8.2 percent of service workers who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor in 2019. The 2.1 million working poor employed in service occupations accounted for about one-third of all those classified as working poor. (See [table 4](#).)

For most occupational groups, women had higher working-poor rates than men. However, the rates for men and women were little different in management, professional, and related occupations (1.5 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively). For both men and women, working-poor rates were lowest in this occupational group.

Families

In 2019, 3.2 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 3.6 million in 2018. Among families with only one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2019, married-couple families were less likely to be living below the poverty level, at 5.6 percent, than were families maintained by women, at 18.9 percent, and families maintained by men, at 9.0 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 7.8 percent in 2019, compared with 1.6 percent for families without children. Among families with children under 18, the working-poor rate for those maintained by women (20.3 percent) was higher than the rate for those maintained by men (9.0 percent). Married-couple families with children under 18 had a working-poor rate of 4.0 percent in 2019.

Unrelated individuals

The "unrelated individuals" category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Of the 36.8 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half the year or longer, 2.4 million lived below the poverty level in 2019. This measure was down from a year earlier, when the number of unrelated individuals who lived below the poverty level was 2.7 million. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more was 6.6 percent, a decrease of 0.6 percentage point from last year's figure. (See [table 6](#).)

Within the group of unrelated individuals, teenagers continued to be most likely among the working poor. In 2019, 39.2 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, little changed from the prior year. In 2019, the working-poor rates for men and women living alone or with nonrelatives were 6.1 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively. The rates for unrelated individuals were higher for Hispanics (10.1 percent) and Blacks (8.1 percent) than for Whites (6.4 percent) and Asians (4.6 percent). (See [table 7](#).)

Of the 2.4 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2019, 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, 3.0 million, or 2.4 percent, were classified as working poor in 2019. Both measures are down from the previous year. (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 2019, 80 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 67 percent subject to low earnings, either as the only problem or in combination with other labor market problems. Twenty-seven percent experienced unemployment as the main labor market problem or in conjunction with other problems. Three percent of the working poor experienced all three problems: low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See [table 8.](#))

Some 604,000, or 20 percent, of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2019. 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: 2019," *Current Population Reports*, P60–266 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2020), <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

| Poverty status and work experience | Total in labor force | 27 weeks or more in labor force | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| | | Total | 50 to 52 weeks |
| TOTAL, 16 YEARS AND OLDER | | | |
| Total in the labor force | 170,663 | 157,769 | 144,235 |
| Did not work during the year | 2,030 | 959 | 794 |
| Worked during the year | 168,632 | 156,810 | 143,441 |
| Usual full-time workers | 136,229 | 131,555 | 124,015 |
| Usual part-time workers | 32,404 | 25,255 | 19,426 |
| Involuntary part-time workers | 5,765 | 5,037 | 4,079 |
| Voluntary part-time workers | 26,638 | 20,218 | 15,347 |
| At or above poverty level | | | |
| Total in the labor force | 162,360 | 151,451 | 139,082 |
| Did not work during the year | 1,338 | 615 | 495 |
| Worked during the year | 161,023 | 150,837 | 138,588 |
| Usual full-time workers | 132,110 | 128,068 | 121,023 |
| Usual part-time workers | 28,912 | 22,768 | 17,564 |
| Involuntary part-time workers | 4,738 | 4,190 | 3,398 |
| Voluntary part-time workers | 24,174 | 18,578 | 14,166 |
| Below poverty level | | | |
| Total in the labor force | 8,302 | 6,318 | 5,153 |
| Did not work during the year | 693 | 345 | 299 |
| Worked during the year | 7,610 | 5,973 | 4,854 |
| Usual full-time workers | 4,118 | 3,486 | 2,992 |
| Usual part-time workers | 3,491 | 2,486 | 1,862 |
| Involuntary part-time workers | 1,028 | 846 | 681 |
| Voluntary part-time workers | 2,464 | 1,640 | 1,181 |
| RATE^[1] | | | |
| Total in the labor force | 4.9 | 4.0 | 3.6 |
| Did not work during the year | 34.1 | 35.9 | 37.7 |
| Worked during the year | 4.5 | 3.8 | 3.4 |
| Usual full-time workers | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.4 |
| Usual part-time workers | 10.8 | 9.8 | 9.6 |
| Involuntary part-time workers | 17.8 | 16.8 | 16.7 |
| Voluntary part-time workers | 9.2 | 8.1 | 7.7 |

^[1] 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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

| Age and gender | Total | | | | | Below poverty level | | | | | Rate ^[1] | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| | 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 | 157,769 | 122,238 | 19,891 | 10,186 | 28,057 | 6,318 | 4,296 | 1,433 | 239 | 1,964 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 7.2 | 2.3 | 7.0 |
| 16 to 19 years | 3,678 | 2,834 | 467 | 132 | 865 | 273 | 173 | 53 | 11 | 80 | 7.4 | 6.1 | 11.4 | 8.6 | 9.2 |
| 20 to 24 years | 12,926 | 9,751 | 1,836 | 602 | 3,110 | 977 | 659 | 210 | 45 | 263 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 11.5 | 7.4 | 8.5 |
| 25 to 34 years | 36,215 | 26,793 | 5,266 | 2,619 | 7,212 | 1,800 | 1,141 | 514 | 57 | 462 | 5.0 | 4.3 | 9.8 | 2.2 | 6.4 |
| 35 to 44 years | 33,679 | 25,633 | 4,316 | 2,537 | 6,691 | 1,447 | 1,012 | 303 | 46 | 565 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 7.0 | 1.8 | 8.4 |
| 45 to 54 years | 32,245 | 25,061 | 4,028 | 2,224 | 5,735 | 940 | 667 | 200 | 39 | 374 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 5.0 | 1.8 | 6.5 |
| 55 to 64 years | 27,882 | 22,819 | 2,955 | 1,504 | 3,450 | 739 | 543 | 124 | 32 | 181 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 4.2 | 2.1 | 5.2 |
| 65 years and older | 11,144 | 9,347 | 1,023 | 568 | 993 | 143 | 103 | 28 | 9 | 39 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 2.7 | 1.5 | 3.9 |
| Men, 16 years and older | 83,510 | 66,048 | 9,253 | 5,445 | 15,814 | 2,948 | 2,191 | 482 | 130 | 1,090 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 5.2 | 2.4 | 6.9 |
| 16 to 19 years | 1,894 | 1,467 | 190 | 85 | 459 | 128 | 94 | 14 | 6 | 41 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 7.6 | 6.6 | 8.9 |
| 20 to 24 years | 6,643 | 5,106 | 891 | 285 | 1,656 | 456 | 319 | 96 | 23 | 124 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 10.7 | 8.0 | 7.5 |
| 25 to 34 years | 19,307 | 14,557 | 2,540 | 1,428 | 4,134 | 741 | 560 | 119 | 30 | 247 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 4.7 | 2.1 | 6.0 |
| 35 to 44 years | 18,090 | 14,168 | 1,970 | 1,357 | 3,868 | 744 | 561 | 118 | 21 | 355 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 1.6 | 9.2 |
| 45 to 54 years | 16,721 | 13,245 | 1,838 | 1,165 | 3,183 | 457 | 343 | 74 | 26 | 198 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 4.0 | 2.2 | 6.2 |
| 55 to 64 years | 14,617 | 12,159 | 1,354 | 809 | 1,942 | 344 | 254 | 51 | 15 | 102 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 3.8 | 1.9 | 5.3 |
| 65 years and older | 6,238 | 5,346 | 470 | 315 | 573 | 79 | 59 | 10 | 9 | 24 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 4.1 |
| Women, 16 years and older | 74,259 | 56,190 | 10,639 | 4,741 | 12,243 | 3,370 | 2,106 | 951 | 109 | 874 | 4.5 | 3.7 | 8.9 | 2.3 | 7.1 |
| 16 to 19 years | 1,784 | 1,367 | 277 | 48 | 407 | 145 | 79 | 39 | 6 | 39 | 8.1 | 5.8 | 14.0 | - | 9.5 |
| 20 to 24 years | 6,283 | 4,645 | 945 | 317 | 1,454 | 521 | 340 | 115 | 22 | 140 | 8.3 | 7.3 | 12.1 | 6.9 | 9.6 |
| 25 to 34 years | 16,908 | 12,236 | 2,726 | 1,191 | 3,079 | 1,059 | 581 | 395 | 26 | 215 | 6.3 | 4.7 | 14.5 | 2.2 | 7.0 |
| 35 to 44 years | 15,589 | 11,465 | 2,345 | 1,180 | 2,823 | 703 | 450 | 186 | 25 | 210 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 7.9 | 2.1 | 7.4 |
| 45 to 54 years | 15,524 | 11,816 | 2,190 | 1,059 | 2,552 | 484 | 324 | 126 | 13 | 176 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 5.7 | 1.2 | 6.9 |
| 55 to 64 years | 13,265 | 10,660 | 1,601 | 695 | 1,508 | 395 | 289 | 73 | 17 | 79 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 4.6 | 2.4 | 5.2 |
| 65 years and older | 4,906 | 4,001 | 554 | 253 | 420 | 64 | 44 | 18 | - | 15 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 3.2 | - | 3.7 |

[1] 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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

| Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity | Total | Men | Women | Below poverty level | | | Rate ^[1] | | |
|--|-------|-----|-------|---------------------|-----|-------|---------------------|-----|-------|
| | | | | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |

| Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity | Total | Men | Women | Below poverty level | | | Rate ^[1] | | |
|--|---------|--------|--------|---------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|------|-------|
| | | | | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Total, 16 years and older | 157,769 | 83,510 | 74,259 | 6,318 | 2,948 | 3,370 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 4.5 |
| Less than a high school diploma | 11,344 | 7,027 | 4,317 | 1,452 | 848 | 604 | 12.8 | 12.1 | 14.0 |
| Less than 1 year of high school | 3,614 | 2,383 | 1,231 | 545 | 362 | 183 | 15.1 | 15.2 | 14.9 |
| 1–3 years of high school | 5,844 | 3,529 | 2,316 | 669 | 353 | 316 | 11.4 | 10.0 | 13.6 |
| 4 years of high school, no diploma | 1,885 | 1,115 | 770 | 238 | 133 | 105 | 12.6 | 11.9 | 13.7 |
| High school graduates, no college^[2] | 40,099 | 23,732 | 16,367 | 2,225 | 1,037 | 1,188 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 7.3 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 43,273 | 21,734 | 21,538 | 1,752 | 639 | 1,113 | 4.0 | 2.9 | 5.2 |
| Some college, no degree | 26,040 | 13,501 | 12,539 | 1,202 | 419 | 782 | 4.6 | 3.1 | 6.2 |
| Associate's degree | 17,233 | 8,234 | 8,999 | 550 | 220 | 330 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.7 |
| Bachelor's degree and higher^[3] | 63,054 | 31,017 | 32,037 | 888 | 424 | 464 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| White, 16 years and older | 122,238 | 66,048 | 56,190 | 4,296 | 2,191 | 2,106 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.7 |
| Less than a high school diploma | 8,963 | 5,724 | 3,239 | 1,111 | 698 | 413 | 12.4 | 12.2 | 12.7 |
| Less than 1 year of high school | 3,036 | 2,057 | 979 | 484 | 324 | 161 | 16.0 | 15.7 | 16.4 |
| 1–3 years of high school | 4,549 | 2,819 | 1,731 | 479 | 287 | 192 | 10.5 | 10.2 | 11.1 |
| 4 years of high school, no diploma | 1,378 | 848 | 529 | 147 | 87 | 60 | 10.7 | 10.2 | 11.4 |
| High school graduates, no college^[2] | 30,865 | 18,748 | 12,117 | 1,376 | 719 | 657 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 5.4 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 33,712 | 17,321 | 16,390 | 1,122 | 444 | 678 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 4.1 |
| Some college, no degree | 19,828 | 10,506 | 9,322 | 767 | 296 | 471 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 5.1 |
| Associate's degree | 13,883 | 6,815 | 7,068 | 355 | 148 | 207 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.9 |
| Bachelor's degree and higher^[3] | 48,698 | 24,254 | 24,444 | 687 | 329 | 358 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Black or African American, 16 years and older | 19,891 | 9,253 | 10,639 | 1,433 | 482 | 951 | 7.2 | 5.2 | 8.9 |
| Less than a high school diploma | 1,304 | 658 | 646 | 225 | 94 | 131 | 17.3 | 14.3 | 20.3 |
| Less than 1 year of high school | 236 | 123 | 113 | 17 | 14 | 3 | 7.2 | 11.6 | 2.3 |
| 1–3 years of high school | 737 | 380 | 356 | 135 | 45 | 91 | 18.4 | 11.8 | 25.4 |
| 4 years of high school, no diploma | 332 | 155 | 176 | 73 | 35 | 38 | 22.0 | 22.7 | 21.5 |
| High school graduates, no college^[2] | 6,190 | 3,316 | 2,873 | 673 | 247 | 426 | 10.9 | 7.4 | 14.8 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 6,252 | 2,760 | 3,492 | 445 | 121 | 324 | 7.1 | 4.4 | 9.3 |
| Some college, no degree | 4,065 | 1,874 | 2,191 | 304 | 73 | 231 | 7.5 | 3.9 | 10.5 |
| Associate's degree | 2,187 | 886 | 1,301 | 141 | 48 | 93 | 6.5 | 5.4 | 7.2 |
| Bachelor's degree and higher^[3] | 6,146 | 2,518 | 3,628 | 90 | 20 | 70 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Asian, 16 years and older | 10,186 | 5,445 | 4,741 | 239 | 130 | 109 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Less than a high school diploma | 547 | 315 | 232 | 29 | 14 | 15 | 5.3 | 4.5 | 6.3 |
| Less than 1 year of high school | 206 | 106 | 100 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 7.0 | 6.6 | 7.3 |
| 1–3 years of high school | 242 | 143 | 99 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2.9 | 1.4 | 5.0 |
| 4 years of high school, no diploma | 99 | 66 | 33 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 7.5 | - | - |
| High school graduates, no college^[2] | 1,458 | 778 | 680 | 42 | 19 | 23 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 1,536 | 773 | 764 | 74 | 29 | 45 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 5.9 |
| Some college, no degree | 942 | 494 | 448 | 52 | 21 | 31 | 5.5 | 4.2 | 7.0 |
| Associate's degree | 594 | 278 | 316 | 22 | 8 | 14 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 4.3 |
| Bachelor's degree and higher^[3] | 6,645 | 3,579 | 3,066 | 95 | 68 | 27 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 0.9 |
| Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older | 28,057 | 15,814 | 12,243 | 1,964 | 1,090 | 874 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 7.1 |
| Less than a high school diploma | 5,885 | 3,771 | 2,114 | 873 | 547 | 326 | 14.8 | 14.5 | 15.4 |
| Less than 1 year of high school | 2,792 | 1,881 | 911 | 452 | 294 | 158 | 16.2 | 15.6 | 17.3 |
| 1–3 years of high school | 2,340 | 1,445 | 895 | 317 | 200 | 117 | 13.5 | 13.8 | 13.1 |
| 4 years of high school, no diploma | 753 | 445 | 308 | 104 | 53 | 51 | 13.9 | 12.0 | 16.5 |

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

^[2]Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.

^[3]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 ^[1] | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|-----|-------|---------------------|-----|-------|
| | | | | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| High school graduates, no college ^[2] | 8,831 | 5,399 | 3,432 | 653 | 356 | 297 | 7.4 | 6.6 | 8.7 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 7,367 | 3,772 | 3,594 | 336 | 143 | 193 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 5.4 |
| Some college, no degree | 4,724 | 2,468 | 2,256 | 239 | 103 | 136 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 6.0 |
| Associate's degree | 2,643 | 1,304 | 1,339 | 98 | 40 | 57 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 4.3 |
| Bachelor's degree and higher ^[3] | 5,974 | 2,871 | 3,103 | 102 | 45 | 57 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 |

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

^[2]Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.

^[3]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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

| Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity | Total | Men | Women | Below poverty level | | | Rate ^[1] | | |
|--|---------|--------|--------|---------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|------|-------|
| | | | | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Total, 16 years and older^[2] | 156,810 | 82,965 | 73,844 | 5,973 | 2,768 | 3,205 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 4.3 |
| Management, professional, and related occupations | 66,000 | 31,651 | 34,349 | 920 | 392 | 528 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| Management, business, and financial operations occupations | 27,881 | 15,005 | 12,876 | 355 | 196 | 158 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Professional and related occupations | 38,120 | 16,647 | 21,473 | 565 | 196 | 369 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| Service occupations | 25,777 | 11,055 | 14,722 | 2,119 | 682 | 1,437 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 9.8 |
| Sales and office occupations | 30,935 | 11,562 | 19,373 | 1,188 | 311 | 877 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 4.5 |
| Sales and related occupations | 14,611 | 7,287 | 7,324 | 684 | 200 | 484 | 4.7 | 2.7 | 6.6 |
| Office and administrative support occupations | 16,324 | 4,275 | 12,049 | 504 | 111 | 393 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 3.3 |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations | 14,316 | 13,448 | 868 | 788 | 718 | 70 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 8.1 |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations | 1,196 | 907 | 289 | 135 | 95 | 40 | 11.2 | 10.5 | 13.7 |
| Construction and extraction occupations | 8,286 | 7,904 | 382 | 513 | 490 | 23 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 5.9 |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations | 4,834 | 4,637 | 197 | 141 | 133 | 8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 4.0 |
| Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations | 19,644 | 15,147 | 4,498 | 951 | 658 | 293 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 6.5 |
| Production occupations | 8,146 | 5,878 | 2,268 | 307 | 187 | 120 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 5.3 |
| Transportation and material-moving occupations | 11,499 | 9,269 | 2,230 | 645 | 471 | 174 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 7.8 |
| White, 16 years and older^[2] | 121,712 | 65,737 | 55,975 | 4,118 | 2,074 | 2,044 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.7 |
| Management, professional, and related occupations | 52,039 | 25,369 | 26,670 | 669 | 300 | 369 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Management, business, and financial operations occupations | 22,820 | 12,689 | 10,131 | 277 | 160 | 118 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Professional and related occupations | 29,219 | 12,680 | 16,538 | 391 | 140 | 251 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| Service occupations | 18,475 | 8,109 | 10,366 | 1,404 | 495 | 909 | 7.6 | 6.1 | 8.8 |
| Sales and office occupations | 24,183 | 9,160 | 15,022 | 780 | 243 | 537 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.6 |
| Sales and related occupations | 11,647 | 5,966 | 5,682 | 448 | 147 | 301 | 3.8 | 2.5 | 5.3 |
| Office and administrative support occupations | 12,535 | 3,195 | 9,341 | 332 | 96 | 236 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.5 |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations | 12,313 | 11,610 | 703 | 684 | 627 | 56 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 8.0 |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations | 1,047 | 807 | 240 | 120 | 89 | 31 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 13.0 |
| Construction and extraction occupations | 7,204 | 6,884 | 320 | 451 | 431 | 20 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.4 |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations | 4,062 | 3,919 | 143 | 113 | 108 | 5 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.4 |
| Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations | 14,602 | 11,417 | 3,185 | 581 | 409 | 172 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 5.4 |
| Production occupations | 6,387 | 4,747 | 1,640 | 193 | 124 | 70 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 4.2 |
| Transportation and material-moving occupations | 8,215 | 6,670 | 1,545 | 388 | 286 | 103 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 6.7 |
| Black or African American, 16 years and older^[2] | 19,562 | 9,078 | 10,484 | 1,300 | 440 | 860 | 6.6 | 4.8 | 8.2 |

^[1]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.

^[2]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 ^[1] | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|---------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|------|-------|
| | | | | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Management, professional, and related occupations | 6,429 | 2,397 | 4,032 | 162 | 43 | 119 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 2.9 |
| Management, business, and financial operations occupations | 2,430 | 990 | 1,439 | 57 | 29 | 28 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 2.0 |
| Professional and related occupations | 3,999 | 1,406 | 2,593 | 105 | 15 | 91 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 3.5 |
| Service occupations | 4,586 | 1,816 | 2,770 | 499 | 115 | 384 | 10.9 | 6.4 | 13.9 |
| Sales and office occupations | 4,035 | 1,265 | 2,770 | 303 | 38 | 265 | 7.5 | 3.0 | 9.6 |
| Sales and related occupations | 1,602 | 640 | 962 | 170 | 30 | 141 | 10.6 | 4.7 | 14.6 |
| Office and administrative support occupations | 2,433 | 625 | 1,808 | 133 | 9 | 124 | 5.5 | 1.4 | 6.9 |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations | 1,150 | 1,060 | 90 | 59 | 50 | 9 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 9.6 |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations | 93 | 61 | 33 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 8.1 | - | - |
| Construction and extraction occupations | 629 | 597 | 32 | 41 | 41 | - | 6.5 | 6.8 | - |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations | 428 | 402 | 25 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 2.6 | 2.1 | - |
| Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations | 3,331 | 2,515 | 816 | 271 | 186 | 84 | 8.1 | 7.4 | 10.3 |
| Production occupations | 1,052 | 694 | 358 | 79 | 48 | 31 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 8.6 |
| Transportation and material-moving occupations | 2,279 | 1,821 | 458 | 192 | 139 | 54 | 8.4 | 7.6 | 11.7 |
| Asian, 16 years and older ^[2] | 10,157 | 5,430 | 4,727 | 231 | 122 | 109 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Management, professional, and related occupations | 5,633 | 3,060 | 2,573 | 51 | 43 | 8 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| Management, business, and financial operations occupations | 1,842 | 955 | 887 | 6 | 6 | - | 0.3 | 0.7 | - |
| Professional and related occupations | 3,791 | 2,104 | 1,687 | 45 | 36 | 8 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 0.5 |
| Service occupations | 1,589 | 652 | 937 | 95 | 31 | 64 | 6.0 | 4.7 | 6.8 |
| Sales and office occupations | 1,624 | 743 | 881 | 47 | 20 | 27 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.1 |
| Sales and related occupations | 823 | 464 | 359 | 25 | 14 | 11 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Office and administrative support occupations | 802 | 279 | 523 | 22 | 6 | 16 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 3.1 |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations | 345 | 302 | 43 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 2.8 | 2.5 | - |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations | 24 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Construction and extraction occupations | 155 | 135 | 20 | 3 | - | 2 | 1.7 | 0.3 | - |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations | 165 | 150 | 15 | 5 | 5 | - | 3.2 | 3.5 | - |
| Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations | 962 | 669 | 293 | 28 | 21 | 7 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.4 |
| Production occupations | 459 | 272 | 187 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 3.1 |
| Transportation and material-moving occupations | 503 | 397 | 105 | 20 | 19 | 1 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 1.2 |
| Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ^[2] | 27,842 | 15,690 | 12,153 | 1,885 | 1,051 | 834 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.9 |
| Management, professional, and related occupations | 6,761 | 3,133 | 3,628 | 99 | 28 | 71 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 2.0 |
| Management, business, and financial operations occupations | 2,909 | 1,493 | 1,416 | 48 | 19 | 30 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 2.1 |
| Professional and related occupations | 3,851 | 1,640 | 2,212 | 51 | 9 | 42 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 1.9 |
| Service occupations | 6,643 | 2,954 | 3,689 | 704 | 283 | 421 | 10.6 | 9.6 | 11.4 |
| Sales and office occupations | 5,325 | 2,014 | 3,311 | 292 | 75 | 217 | 5.5 | 3.7 | 6.6 |
| Sales and related occupations | 2,367 | 1,084 | 1,284 | 178 | 51 | 127 | 7.5 | 4.7 | 9.9 |
| Office and administrative support occupations | 2,958 | 930 | 2,027 | 114 | 23 | 91 | 3.9 | 2.5 | 4.5 |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations | 4,485 | 4,169 | 316 | 463 | 427 | 35 | 10.3 | 10.3 | 11.2 |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations | 562 | 395 | 167 | 83 | 59 | 24 | 14.8 | 14.9 | 14.5 |
| Construction and extraction occupations | 2,918 | 2,797 | 121 | 314 | 303 | 11 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 9.3 |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations | 1,005 | 976 | 29 | 65 | 65 | - | 6.5 | 6.7 | - |
| Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations | 4,612 | 3,407 | 1,205 | 327 | 238 | 89 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 7.4 |
| Production occupations | 1,896 | 1,272 | 624 | 136 | 86 | 50 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 8.0 |
| Transportation and material-moving occupations | 2,716 | 2,135 | 581 | 190 | 152 | 39 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 6.6 |

^[1]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.

^[2]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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

| Characteristic | Total families | At or above poverty level | Below poverty level | Rate ^[1] |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| TOTAL PRIMARY FAMILIES | | | | |
| Total | 68,318 | 65,086 | 3,232 | 4.7 |
| With related children under 18 years | 34,175 | 31,493 | 2,681 | 7.8 |
| Without children | 34,144 | 33,593 | 551 | 1.6 |
| With one member in the labor force | 28,345 | 25,568 | 2,777 | 9.8 |
| With two or more members in the labor force | 39,974 | 39,518 | 455 | 1.1 |
| With two members | 33,163 | 32,743 | 420 | 1.3 |
| With three or more members | 6,811 | 6,775 | 35 | 0.5 |
| Married-couple families^[2] | | | | |
| Total | 50,656 | 49,435 | 1,222 | 2.4 |
| With related children under 18 years | 24,180 | 23,213 | 966 | 4.0 |
| Without children | 26,477 | 26,221 | 255 | 1.0 |
| With one member in the labor force | 16,901 | 15,960 | 941 | 5.6 |
| Husband | 11,599 | 10,854 | 745 | 6.4 |
| Wife | 4,408 | 4,284 | 124 | 2.8 |
| Relative | 895 | 823 | 72 | 8.1 |
| With two or more members in the labor force | 33,755 | 33,474 | 281 | 0.8 |
| With two members | 28,333 | 28,079 | 255 | 0.9 |
| With three or more members | 5,422 | 5,395 | 26 | 0.5 |
| Families maintained by women^[3] | | | | |
| Total | 12,004 | 10,335 | 1,669 | 13.9 |
| With related children under 18 years | 7,207 | 5,744 | 1,463 | 20.3 |
| Without children | 4,798 | 4,592 | 206 | 4.3 |
| With one member in the labor force | 8,129 | 6,591 | 1,538 | 18.9 |
| Householder | 6,502 | 5,174 | 1,328 | 20.4 |
| Relative | 1,627 | 1,417 | 210 | 12.9 |
| With two or more members in the labor force | 3,875 | 3,744 | 131 | 3.4 |
| Families maintained by men^[3] | | | | |
| Total | 5,658 | 5,316 | 341 | 6.0 |
| With related children under 18 years | 2,788 | 2,537 | 252 | 9.0 |
| Without children | 2,869 | 2,780 | 90 | 3.1 |
| With one member in the labor force | 3,314 | 3,017 | 297 | 9.0 |
| Householder | 2,653 | 2,412 | 241 | 9.1 |
| Relative | 661 | 604 | 56 | 8.5 |
| With two or more members in the labor force | 2,343 | 2,300 | 44 | 1.9 |
| <p>^[1] Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.</p> <p>^[2] 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.</p> <p>^[3] 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.</p> <p>Note: Data relate to primary families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.</p> <p>Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).</p> | | | | |

[-] **Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)**

| Poverty status and work experience | Total | In married-couple families ^[1] | | | | In families maintained by women ^[2] | | | In families maintained by men ^[2] | | | 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 | |
| TOTAL, 16 YEARS AND OLDER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All people | 259,757 | 61,577 | 62,350 | 5,589 | 23,771 | 14,815 | 2,018 | 14,671 | 6,486 | 711 | 7,250 | 60,521 |

^[1] 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.

^[2] 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.

^[3] 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 ^[1] | | | | In families maintained by women ^[2] | | | In families maintained by men ^[2] | | | 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 | |
| With labor force activity | 170,663 | 45,804 | 38,617 | 1,505 | 15,263 | 10,486 | 504 | 9,141 | 5,027 | 174 | 4,694 | 39,447 |
| 1 to 26 weeks | 12,894 | 1,426 | 2,495 | 815 | 2,659 | 624 | 260 | 1,179 | 278 | 98 | 418 | 2,642 |
| 27 weeks or more | 157,769 | 44,378 | 36,122 | 689 | 12,604 | 9,862 | 245 | 7,962 | 4,749 | 76 | 4,276 | 36,805 |
| With no labor force activity | 89,095 | 15,773 | 23,733 | 4,084 | 8,507 | 4,329 | 1,513 | 5,529 | 1,459 | 537 | 2,556 | 21,074 |
| At or above poverty level | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All people | 235,318 | 59,122 | 59,833 | 5,336 | 22,969 | 11,518 | 1,506 | 12,815 | 5,742 | 620 | 6,710 | 49,148 |
| With labor force activity | 162,360 | 44,693 | 38,097 | 1,479 | 14,991 | 8,766 | 441 | 8,539 | 4,660 | 163 | 4,542 | 35,990 |
| 1 to 26 weeks | 10,909 | 1,322 | 2,343 | 805 | 2,572 | 329 | 226 | 1,020 | 191 | 92 | 379 | 1,629 |
| 27 weeks or more | 151,451 | 43,371 | 35,753 | 674 | 12,419 | 8,438 | 215 | 7,519 | 4,469 | 71 | 4,163 | 34,360 |
| With no labor force activity | 72,958 | 14,429 | 21,736 | 3,857 | 7,978 | 2,752 | 1,065 | 4,276 | 1,081 | 457 | 2,168 | 13,158 |
| Below poverty level | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All people | 24,439 | 2,455 | 2,517 | 253 | 802 | 3,297 | 512 | 1,855 | 744 | 91 | 541 | 11,373 |
| With labor force activity | 8,302 | 1,111 | 521 | 26 | 272 | 1,720 | 64 | 602 | 366 | 11 | 152 | 3,457 |
| 1 to 26 weeks | 1,985 | 103 | 152 | 11 | 87 | 295 | 34 | 159 | 86 | 6 | 39 | 1,012 |
| 27 weeks or more | 6,318 | 1,008 | 369 | 15 | 186 | 1,424 | 30 | 443 | 280 | 5 | 113 | 2,445 |
| With no labor force activity | 16,136 | 1,343 | 1,996 | 227 | 529 | 1,577 | 448 | 1,253 | 378 | 80 | 389 | 7,916 |
| RATE^[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All people | 9.4 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 3.4 | 22.3 | 25.4 | 12.6 | 11.5 | 12.8 | 7.5 | 18.8 |
| With labor force activity | 4.9 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 16.4 | 12.6 | 6.6 | 7.3 | 6.4 | 3.2 | 8.8 |
| 1 to 26 weeks | 15.4 | 7.3 | 6.1 | 1.3 | 3.3 | 47.3 | 13.0 | 13.5 | 31.0 | 6.4 | 9.3 | 38.3 |
| 27 weeks or more | 4.0 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 14.4 | 12.2 | 5.6 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 2.6 | 6.6 |
| With no labor force activity | 18.1 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 36.4 | 29.6 | 22.7 | 25.9 | 14.9 | 15.2 | 37.6 |
| <p>^[1]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.</p> <p>^[2]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.</p> <p>^[3]Number below the poverty level as a percentage of the total.</p> <p>Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

| Characteristic | Total | At or above poverty level | Below poverty level | Rate ^[1] |
|----------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|----------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|

| Characteristic | Total | At or above poverty level | Below poverty level | Rate ^[1] |
|--|--------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Age and gender | | | | |
| Total unrelated individuals | 36,805 | 34,360 | 2,445 | 6.6 |
| 16 to 19 years | 315 | 191 | 123 | 39.2 |
| 20 to 24 years | 3,907 | 3,297 | 611 | 15.6 |
| 25 to 64 years | 29,631 | 27,985 | 1,645 | 5.6 |
| 65 years and older | 2,952 | 2,887 | 65 | 2.2 |
| Men | 19,932 | 18,721 | 1,211 | 6.1 |
| Women | 16,873 | 15,639 | 1,234 | 7.3 |
| Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 28,256 | 26,450 | 1,805 | 6.4 |
| Men | 15,603 | 14,686 | 917 | 5.9 |
| Women | 12,653 | 11,765 | 888 | 7.0 |
| Black or African American | 5,284 | 4,858 | 425 | 8.1 |
| Men | 2,531 | 2,344 | 186 | 7.4 |
| Women | 2,753 | 2,514 | 239 | 8.7 |
| Asian | 1,829 | 1,745 | 85 | 4.6 |
| Men | 994 | 953 | 41 | 4.1 |
| Women | 835 | 792 | 43 | 5.2 |
| Hispanic or Latino ethnicity | 5,467 | 4,914 | 553 | 10.1 |
| Men | 3,357 | 3,052 | 305 | 9.1 |
| Women | 2,110 | 1,863 | 248 | 11.7 |
| Living arrangement | | | | |
| Living alone | 19,108 | 18,149 | 959 | 5.0 |
| Living with others | 17,697 | 16,211 | 1,486 | 8.4 |
| <p>^[1]Number below the poverty level as percent of total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).</p> | | | | |

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

| Labor market problems | Total | At or above poverty level | Below poverty level | Rate ^[1] |
|--|---------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total, full-time wage and salary workers | 125,213 | 122,170 | 3,043 | 2.4 |
| No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ^[2] | 108,680 | 108,076 | 604 | 0.6 |
| Workers experiencing one labor market problem | | | | |
| Unemployment only | 4,901 | 4,619 | 283 | 5.8 |
| Involuntary part-time employment only | 2,674 | 2,609 | 65 | 2.4 |
| Low earnings only | 6,318 | 4,910 | 1,408 | 22.3 |
| Workers experiencing multiple labor market problems | | | | |
| Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment | 902 | 840 | 62 | 6.9 |
| Unemployment and low earnings | 959 | 587 | 372 | 38.8 |
| Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings | 514 | 357 | 157 | 30.6 |
| Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings | 265 | 172 | 93 | 34.9 |
| Workers experiencing each labor market problem | | | | |
| Unemployment (alone or with other problems) | 7,027 | 6,218 | 809 | 11.5 |
| Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems) | 4,354 | 3,978 | 376 | 8.6 |
| Low earnings (alone or with other problems) | 8,056 | 6,026 | 2,030 | 25.2 |
| <p>^[1]Number below the poverty level as percent of total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.</p> <p>^[2]The low-earnings threshold in 2019 was \$369.59 per week.</p> <p>Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).</p> | | | | |

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 2020 are for the 2019 calendar year. The 2019 data in this report are based on fewer sample responses than in recent years. The collection period for these data coincided with the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; because in-person interviews were suspended during the collection period, the response rate for the survey was about 10 percentage points lower than in the previous year. For more information about the impact of the pandemic on ASEC data collection, see "Income and poverty in the United States: 2019," *Current Population Reports*, P60-270 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2020), www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf.

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: 2019," *Current Population Reports*, P60-270 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2020), www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.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; 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 2019, the weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$26,172; for a family of nine or more people, the threshold was \$52,875; and for one person (unrelated individual), it was \$13,011. 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: 2019," www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.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 2019, the low-earnings threshold was \$376.28 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.

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: 2019," www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.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, 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, beginning in 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 household 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.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity refers to people who identified themselves in the survey 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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