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VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES, 2007

About 60.8 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2006 and September 2007, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The proportion of the population who volunteered was 26.2 percent. This 0.5 percentage point decrease in the volunteer rate follows a decline of 2.1 percentage points in the prior year. The volunteer rate had held constant at 28.8 percent from 2003 through 2005, after rising slightly from its 2002 level of 27.4 percent.

These data on volunteering were collected through a supplement to the September 2007 Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note.

Volunteering Among Demographic Groups

In the year ending September 2007, both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate declined from the previous year. About 29.3 percent of women did volunteer work during the year, down from 30.1 percent during the prior year. The volunteer rate for men was about unchanged at 22.9 percent. As in previous years, women volunteered at a higher rate than men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major characteristics. (See tables A and 1.)

By age, persons age 35 to 54 continued to be the most likely to volunteer (30.3 percent), while persons in their early twenties were the least likely (17.7 percent). The volunteer rate for teens showed the largest decline in the year ending in September 2007; the rate for females age 16 to 19 fell from 28.8 to 26.6 percent and the volunteer rate for males of that age fell from 24.1 to 22.5 percent.

Whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (27.9 percent) than blacks (18.2 percent) and Asians (17.7 percent). Among Hispanics, 13.5 percent volunteered.

Married persons volunteered at a higher rate (31.9 percent) than those who had never married (19.2 percent) and those with other marital statuses (20.9 percent). Parents with children under age 18 were substantially more likely to volunteer than were persons without children of that age, 33.7 versus 23.2 percent.

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2003 through September 2007

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	September 2003		September 2004		September 2005		September 2006		September 2007	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Sex										
Total, both sexes	63,791	28.8	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2
Men	26,805	25.1	27,011	25.0	27,370	25.0	25,546	23.0	25,724	22.9
Women	36,987	32.2	37,530	32.4	37,987	32.4	35,653	30.1	35,114	29.3
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	63,791	28.8	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2
16 to 24 years	8,671	24.1	8,821	24.2	8,955	24.4	8,044	21.7	7,798	20.8
25 to 34 years	10,337	26.5	10,046	25.8	9,881	25.3	9,096	23.1	9,019	22.6
35 to 44 years	15,165	34.7	14,783	34.2	14,809	34.5	13,308	31.2	12,902	30.5
45 to 54 years	13,302	32.7	13,584	32.8	13,826	32.7	13,415	31.2	13,136	30.1
55 to 64 years	8,170	29.2	8,784	30.1	9,173	30.2	8,819	27.9	9,316	28.4
65 years and over	8,146	23.7	8,524	24.6	8,712	24.8	8,518	23.8	8,667	23.8
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	55,572	30.6	55,892	30.5	56,170	30.4	52,850	28.3	52,586	27.9
Black or African American	5,145	20.0	5,435	20.8	5,879	22.1	5,211	19.2	5,010	18.2
Asian	1,735	18.7	1,832	19.3	2,055	20.7	1,881	18.5	1,887	17.7
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,364	15.7	4,102	14.5	4,511	15.4	4,212	13.9	4,279	13.5
Educational attainment ¹										
Less than a high school diploma	2,793	9.9	2,718	9.6	2,837	10.0	2,615	9.3	2,394	9.0
High school graduates, no college ²	12,882	21.7	12,709	21.6	12,594	21.2	11,537	19.2	11,379	18.6
Some college or associate degree	15,966	34.1	16,414	34.2	16,452	33.7	15,196	30.9	15,468	30.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	23,481	45.6	23,880	45.7	24,517	45.8	23,808	43.3	23,799	41.8
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	45,499	30.9	45,896	30.9	46,872	31.1	43,579	28.5	43,405	28.1
Employed	43,138	31.2	43,886	31.2	44,894	31.3	41,861	28.7	41,708	28.3
Full time ⁴	33,599	29.6	34,237	29.6	35,225	29.8	32,951	27.3	32,714	26.9
Part time ⁵	9,539	38.4	9,649	38.5	9,669	38.2	8,910	35.5	8,994	35.4
Unemployed	2,361	26.7	2,010	25.6	1,978	26.4	1,718	23.8	1,697	23.2
Not in the labor force	18,293	24.6	18,646	24.7	18,485	24.4	17,621	23.1	17,433	22.3

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.⁴ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.⁵ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. See the Technical Note for further information.

Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment volunteered at higher rates than did those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, more than 4 in 10 college graduates volunteered compared with fewer than 2 in 10 high school graduates and almost 1 in 10 of those with less than a high school diploma. The volunteer rate of college graduates of each sex declined more than did that of individuals of that sex with lower levels of education.

Among employed persons, 28.3 percent had volunteered during the year ended in September 2007. By comparison, 23.2 percent of unemployed persons and 22.3 percent of those not in the labor force volunteered. Among the employed, part-time workers were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—35.4 versus 26.9 percent.

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Volunteers of both sexes spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities during the period from September 2006 to September 2007. Median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a high of 96 hours for volunteers age 65 and over to a low of 36 hours for those 25 to 34 years old. (See table 2.)

Number and Type of Organizations

Most volunteers were involved with either one or two organizations—68.8 and 19.7 percent, respectively. Individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than were those with less education. Parents also were somewhat more likely to volunteer for more than one organization than were persons without children under 18. (See table 3.)

The main organization—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—was most frequently religious (35.6 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational/youth service related (26.2 percent). Another 13.1 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer mainly for religious organizations than were their younger counterparts. For example, 47.2 percent of volunteers age 65 and over did their service mainly through or for a religious organization compared with 29.9 percent of volunteers age 16 to 24 years.

Among volunteers with children under 18 years old, 45.7 percent of mothers and 37.7 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational/youth service-related organization, such as a school or scouting group. Volunteers without children under 18 were considerably more likely than parents to volunteer for other types of organizations, such as hospitals or other health organizations and social or community service organizations.

Main Volunteer Activity for Main Organization

When volunteers were asked the main activity they performed for their main organization, fundraising (10.9 percent) and tutoring or teaching (10.8 percent) were the most frequently reported. Men and women tended to engage in different main activities. Male volunteers were most likely to engage in general labor (12.4 percent) or to coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (10.0 percent), while female volunteers were most likely to tutor or teach (12.9 percent) or fundraise (12.4 percent). (See table 5.)

Educational attainment influenced the types of activities volunteers performed. College graduates were more likely than those with less education to provide professional or management assistance or to tutor or teach. They were least likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food or to engage in general labor.

How Volunteers Become Involved with Their Main Organization

About 44.6 percent of volunteers became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization. A slightly smaller proportion, 40.1 percent, became involved on their own initiative; that is, they approached the organization. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The data in this release were collected through a supplement to the September 2007 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS—a monthly survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics—focuses on obtaining information on employment and unemployment among the nation’s civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. The purpose of this supplement to the CPS was to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering and the characteristics of volunteers in the United States.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the “true” population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the “true” population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and for information on estimating standard errors, see the Household Data Section of the “Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error” at http://www.bls.gov/cps/eetech_methods.pdf.

The Census Bureau introduces adjustments to the population controls for the CPS as part of its annual update of population estimates. The 2003 adjustment resulted in an increase to the estimates for all population categories. This increase was partly offset by downward adjustments in 2004, 2005, and 2006. The 2007 adjustment was in the upward direction. Consequently, estimated levels of volunteers for September 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 are not strictly comparable with one another, or with estimated levels for September 2002. These adjustments to the levels, however, should have had only negligible effects on the volunteer rates. In addition to the population control adjustments, new questions on race and ethnicity were introduced into the CPS in January 2003. For a discussion of the changes introduced into the CPS in January 2003, see “Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003,” in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcps03.pdf> on the BLS Web site. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2004, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2004,” in the February 2004 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps04adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced

in January 2005, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005,” in the February 2005 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2006, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2006,” in the February 2006 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps06adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2007, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2007,” in the February 2007 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps07adj.pdf>.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September 2007 supplement, questions on volunteer activities were asked of all households. Efforts were made to have household members answer the volunteer questions for themselves. (Generally, one member of the household answers all the questions in the CPS on behalf of the entire household.) Self-response was considered important for the volunteer supplement because research indicated that self-respondents could more easily answer questions on the characteristics of the volunteer activity. About 71 percent of the responses were self-reports.

The survey was introduced as follows: “This month, we are interested in volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. We only want you to include volunteer activities that you did through or for an organization, even if you only did them once in a while.”

Following this introduction, respondents were asked the first supplement question: “Since September 1st of last year, have you done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?”

If respondents did not answer “yes” to the first question, they were asked the following question: “Sometimes people don’t think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for children’s schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities. Since September 1st of last year, have you done any of these types of volunteer activities?”

Respondents were considered volunteers if they answered “yes” to either of these questions. This is the same method of identifying volunteers as was used in each of the five prior supplements.

Respondents classified as volunteers were asked further questions about the number and type of organizations for which they volunteered, total hours spent volunteering, how they became involved with the main organization for which they volunteered, the type of activities they performed for the main organization, and what their main activity was.

The reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2006, through the survey week in September 2007. The reference period for other characteristics, such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status, refer to the survey

reference week in September 2007. It is possible that these characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed.

Several new questions were added to the 2007 survey. A question was added to determine if volunteers had done any of their volunteering at a distance of 120 miles or more from home but still within the United States and its territories. Those who had were then asked what share of their volunteering it constituted and in what state or states it took place.

The question in the 2006 supplement that asked about time spent volunteering abroad was changed to ask about the share of volunteering that was done abroad in 2007. The answer categories for the questions on the share of volunteering done abroad or 120 miles or more from home were made consistent by this change.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point from September 1, 2006, through the survey period in September 2007. The count of volunteers only includes persons who volunteered through or for an organization; the figures do not include persons who volunteered in a more informal manner. For example, a woman who taught acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer. However, a woman who, on her own, organized softball games for the children in her neighborhood would not be counted as a volunteer for the purpose of this survey.

Organizations are associations, societies, or groups of people who share a common interest. Examples include churches, youth groups, and civic organizations. For the purpose of this study, organizations are grouped into eight major categories, including religious, youth, and social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

In the 2005 survey, one organization category, immigrant/refugee assistance, was added to the questionnaire as a possible response.

Responses that were collected in this category may have been distributed over at least six of the major organization categories in previous years. For this reason, the addition of the new response category created a break in the comparability of organizations between 2005 and prior years. Because few people reported volunteering for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations and because the group was not a definite subset of any of the major organization categories, those persons who did report that they volunteered for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations were placed in the “other” group.

The *main organization* is the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. If a respondent volunteered for only one organization, it was considered the main organization, even if exact hours were not obtained.

In order to identify the type of main organization, respondents had to provide information about the organization and, for those who volunteered for more than one organization, annual hours worked for each. Some respondents did not provide the information necessary to determine the main organization. For these respondents, the follow-up questions on activities and how they became involved with the main organization asked them to report on the organization for which they think they spent the most time volunteering.

Activities are the specific tasks the volunteer did for an organization. Examples include tutoring, fundraising, and serving food. The activity categories were modified in 2005; thus creating a break in the comparability of activities between 2005 and prior years.

In 2006, a question was added that asks respondents on which of the activities they mentioned they spent the most time. Previously, respondents reported all of the activities they did for their main organization. The new question identified which of them was the main activity for the main organization.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2007

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2007	Total, both sexes			Men			Women		
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers	
		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	232,461	60,838	26.2	112,486	25,724	22.9	119,975	35,114	29.3
16 to 24 years	37,467	7,798	20.8	18,935	3,422	18.1	18,533	4,376	23.6
16 to 19 years	17,024	4,173	24.5	8,639	1,940	22.5	8,385	2,233	26.6
20 to 24 years	20,443	3,625	17.7	10,296	1,482	14.4	10,147	2,143	21.1
25 years and over	194,993	53,040	27.2	93,551	22,303	23.8	101,442	30,737	30.3
25 to 34 years	39,874	9,019	22.6	19,933	3,620	18.2	19,942	5,399	27.1
35 to 44 years	42,318	12,902	30.5	20,874	5,341	25.6	21,444	7,561	35.3
45 to 54 years	43,667	13,136	30.1	21,376	5,676	26.6	22,291	7,460	33.5
55 to 64 years	32,774	9,316	28.4	15,775	4,103	26.0	16,999	5,213	30.7
65 years and over	36,360	8,667	23.8	15,593	3,563	22.8	20,767	5,104	24.6
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	188,644	52,586	27.9	92,286	22,321	24.2	96,359	30,265	31.4
Black or African American	27,584	5,010	18.2	12,411	1,946	15.7	15,173	3,064	20.2
Asian	10,674	1,887	17.7	5,043	844	16.7	5,631	1,042	18.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	31,617	4,279	13.5	16,278	1,640	10.1	15,339	2,638	17.2
Educational attainment ¹									
Less than a high school diploma	26,528	2,394	9.0	13,009	974	7.5	13,519	1,421	10.5
High school graduates, no college ²	61,046	11,379	18.6	29,111	4,539	15.6	31,934	6,840	21.4
Some college or associate degree	50,454	15,468	30.7	22,971	6,047	26.3	27,483	9,421	34.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	56,966	23,799	41.8	28,460	10,744	37.7	28,506	13,055	45.8
Marital status									
Single, never married	65,734	12,612	19.2	35,228	5,745	16.3	30,506	6,867	22.5
Married, spouse present	121,892	38,876	31.9	61,465	17,351	28.2	60,427	21,525	35.6
Other marital status ⁴	44,835	9,350	20.9	15,792	2,628	16.6	29,043	6,722	23.1
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵									
Without own children under 18	166,154	38,496	23.2	83,302	16,880	20.3	82,852	21,616	26.1
With own children under 18	66,307	22,342	33.7	29,184	8,844	30.3	37,123	13,498	36.4
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	154,445	43,405	28.1	82,585	20,097	24.3	71,860	23,308	32.4
Employed	147,118	41,708	28.3	78,783	19,393	24.6	68,335	22,315	32.7
Full time ⁶	121,737	32,714	26.9	70,207	17,125	24.4	51,530	15,588	30.3
Part time ⁷	25,382	8,994	35.4	8,576	2,268	26.4	16,806	6,726	40.0
Unemployed	7,327	1,697	23.2	3,802	704	18.5	3,525	994	28.2
Not in the labor force	78,016	17,433	22.3	29,901	5,628	18.8	48,115	11,805	24.5

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2006, through the survey period in September 2007. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2007

Characteristics in September 2007	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of total annual hours spent volunteering at all organizations							Median annual hours ¹
		Total	1 to 14 hour(s)	15 to 49 hours	50 to 99 hours	100 to 499 hours	500 hours and over	Not reporting annual hours	
Sex									
Total, both sexes	60,838	100.0	20.6	24.3	15.6	29.2	5.8	4.5	52
Men	25,724	100.0	19.9	24.5	15.9	28.9	6.5	4.4	52
Women	35,114	100.0	21.2	24.2	15.4	29.3	5.3	4.5	52
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	60,838	100.0	20.6	24.3	15.6	29.2	5.8	4.5	52
16 to 24 years	7,798	100.0	22.9	29.2	15.1	23.0	3.9	6.0	40
16 to 19 years	4,173	100.0	22.5	32.2	16.3	21.3	3.1	4.6	39
20 to 24 years	3,625	100.0	23.4	25.6	13.7	24.9	4.8	7.6	41
25 years and over	53,040	100.0	20.3	23.6	15.7	30.1	6.1	4.3	54
25 to 34 years	9,019	100.0	27.0	27.6	13.9	23.3	4.1	4.1	36
35 to 44 years	12,902	100.0	21.8	24.4	16.4	28.8	5.2	3.5	52
45 to 54 years	13,136	100.0	19.0	24.9	16.2	30.1	6.0	3.8	55
55 to 64 years	9,316	100.0	18.9	22.3	16.0	31.7	6.0	5.1	60
65 years and over	8,667	100.0	14.3	17.8	15.4	37.2	9.8	5.5	96
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	52,586	100.0	20.3	24.8	15.7	29.4	5.7	4.1	52
Black or African American	5,010	100.0	18.9	20.1	15.7	29.0	8.2	8.1	60
Asian	1,887	100.0	30.4	22.3	12.9	23.3	4.3	6.8	36
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,279	100.0	21.9	25.4	13.7	27.5	5.6	5.9	48
Educational attainment ²									
Less than a high school diploma	2,394	100.0	22.3	23.6	14.8	26.5	7.4	5.3	50
High school graduates, no college ³	11,379	100.0	22.2	22.9	14.6	28.7	6.7	5.0	52
Some college or associate degree	15,468	100.0	22.2	22.8	14.9	30.2	5.8	4.0	52
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	23,799	100.0	17.9	24.5	16.8	31.0	5.9	4.0	60
Marital status									
Single, never married	12,612	100.0	24.0	28.1	14.5	23.3	4.8	5.4	40
Married, spouse present	38,876	100.0	19.4	23.4	16.3	30.9	5.8	4.1	59
Other marital status ⁵	9,350	100.0	21.0	22.9	14.3	29.6	7.3	4.9	54
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	16,880	100.0	19.4	24.1	15.5	28.7	7.3	5.0	52
With own children under 18 years old	8,844	100.0	20.7	25.3	16.6	29.3	4.9	3.2	52
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	21,616	100.0	20.9	23.6	14.6	29.9	5.9	5.1	52
With own children under 18 years old	13,498	100.0	21.6	25.1	16.7	28.5	4.5	3.6	52
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	43,405	100.0	21.8	25.6	15.6	27.9	4.9	4.2	50
Employed	41,708	100.0	21.8	25.6	15.7	28.0	4.8	4.2	50
Full time ⁷	32,714	100.0	22.1	25.7	15.7	27.7	4.6	4.2	50
Part time ⁸	8,994	100.0	20.8	25.2	15.4	29.1	5.5	4.0	52
Unemployed	1,697	100.0	21.7	27.3	13.7	25.8	6.4	5.1	48
Not in the labor force	17,433	100.0	17.6	21.1	15.7	32.2	8.2	5.2	71

¹ For those reporting annual hours.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2006, through the survey period in September 2007. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2007

Characteristics in September 2007	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of the number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed						
		Total	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Not reporting number of organizations
Sex								
Total, both sexes	60,838	100.0	68.8	19.7	7.3	2.5	1.4	0.3
Men	25,724	100.0	69.7	19.2	7.1	2.3	1.3	.4
Women	35,114	100.0	68.2	20.0	7.5	2.6	1.5	.3
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	60,838	100.0	68.8	19.7	7.3	2.5	1.4	.3
16 to 24 years	7,798	100.0	74.8	17.4	4.8	1.3	1.0	.7
16 to 19 years	4,173	100.0	72.6	18.8	5.6	1.8	1.0	.3
20 to 24 years	3,625	100.0	77.4	15.7	3.9	.8	1.1	1.1
25 years and over	53,040	100.0	68.0	20.0	7.6	2.7	1.4	.3
25 to 34 years	9,019	100.0	75.1	17.6	5.3	1.2	.7	.3
35 to 44 years	12,902	100.0	65.2	21.9	8.2	3.0	1.4	.3
45 to 54 years	13,136	100.0	66.1	20.4	8.5	3.0	1.8	.3
55 to 64 years	9,316	100.0	67.7	19.6	7.6	3.3	1.4	.4
65 years and over	8,667	100.0	67.8	19.4	8.1	2.7	1.8	.2
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
White	52,586	100.0	67.4	20.5	7.7	2.7	1.5	.3
Black or African American	5,010	100.0	78.3	14.4	4.1	1.6	1.1	.6
Asian	1,887	100.0	80.6	13.6	3.5	1.6	.6	.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,279	100.0	80.6	13.5	3.6	1.3	.7	.4
Educational attainment ¹								
Less than a high school diploma	2,394	100.0	88.1	9.1	2.1	.4	.2	—
High school graduates, no college ²	11,379	100.0	76.2	16.5	4.6	1.7	.6	.4
Some college or associate degree	15,468	100.0	70.5	19.6	6.8	2.1	.9	.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	23,799	100.0	60.4	23.0	10.2	3.8	2.3	.3
Marital status								
Single, never married	12,612	100.0	74.2	17.0	6.0	1.4	.9	.5
Married, spouse present	38,876	100.0	66.9	20.7	7.7	2.8	1.6	.2
Other marital status ⁴	9,350	100.0	69.7	19.0	7.2	2.6	1.2	.3
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	16,880	100.0	70.9	18.4	6.9	2.1	1.2	.5
With own children under 18 years old	8,844	100.0	67.5	20.9	7.3	2.8	1.4	.2
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	21,616	100.0	70.1	18.8	6.9	2.5	1.3	.3
With own children under 18 years old	13,498	100.0	65.1	21.9	8.3	2.8	1.7	.2
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	43,405	100.0	68.4	20.0	7.4	2.5	1.4	.3
Employed	41,708	100.0	68.2	20.1	7.5	2.5	1.4	.3
Full time ⁶	32,714	100.0	68.9	19.8	7.3	2.4	1.3	.3
Part time ⁷	8,994	100.0	65.6	21.0	8.3	3.0	1.7	.4
Unemployed	1,697	100.0	72.7	18.2	5.5	2.2	.7	.7
Not in the labor force	17,433	100.0	69.9	18.8	7.0	2.5	1.5	.3

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.
⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.
⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.
NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2006, through the survey period in September 2007. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2007

Characteristics in September 2007	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteers by type of main organization ¹										
		Total	Civic, political, professional, or international	Educational or youth service	Environmental or animal care	Hospital or other health	Public safety	Religious	Social or community service	Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts	Other	Not determined
Sex												
Total, both sexes	60,838	100.0	5.1	26.2	1.9	7.8	1.3	35.6	13.1	3.5	3.7	1.7
Men	25,724	100.0	6.5	24.3	2.0	5.7	2.3	35.0	13.9	4.2	4.2	1.8
Women	35,114	100.0	4.1	27.5	1.9	9.4	.6	36.0	12.4	3.1	3.4	1.6
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	60,838	100.0	5.1	26.2	1.9	7.8	1.3	35.6	13.1	3.5	3.7	1.7
16 to 24 years	7,798	100.0	3.9	30.8	2.4	8.1	1.3	29.9	13.9	2.8	3.9	2.8
16 to 19 years	4,173	100.0	3.4	35.8	1.9	6.9	.7	30.8	12.8	2.9	3.0	1.8
20 to 24 years	3,625	100.0	4.5	25.1	3.1	9.5	2.0	29.0	15.2	2.8	5.0	3.9
25 years and over	53,040	100.0	5.3	25.5	1.9	7.8	1.3	36.4	13.0	3.6	3.7	1.6
25 to 34 years	9,019	100.0	4.3	32.3	1.9	7.9	1.5	31.1	12.4	3.4	3.8	1.2
35 to 44 years	12,902	100.0	3.9	39.0	1.6	6.6	1.2	30.3	10.3	3.3	2.5	1.3
45 to 54 years	13,136	100.0	5.1	27.3	2.0	7.7	1.3	35.8	11.9	4.0	3.3	1.6
55 to 64 years	9,316	100.0	7.2	13.9	2.3	8.6	1.2	41.0	15.7	3.6	4.5	2.1
65 years and over	8,667	100.0	6.5	8.1	1.6	8.8	1.3	47.2	16.1	3.9	4.9	1.7
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	52,586	100.0	5.2	26.3	2.1	8.1	1.5	34.5	13.1	3.7	3.8	1.6
Black or African American	5,010	100.0	4.0	24.3	.6	5.1	.2	47.9	11.6	.9	2.6	2.6
Asian	1,887	100.0	3.4	24.9	.9	7.9	.4	38.3	12.9	4.4	3.8	3.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,279	100.0	3.1	34.8	1.4	6.3	.6	35.5	10.9	2.6	3.1	1.8
Educational attainment ²												
Less than a high school diploma	2,394	100.0	3.3	22.0	.8	5.0	.8	48.3	13.4	2.0	3.7	.9
High school graduates, no college ³	11,379	100.0	4.2	22.3	1.4	6.9	1.9	41.4	13.3	3.3	3.7	1.7
Some college or associate degree	15,468	100.0	5.4	25.3	1.7	8.4	1.6	36.1	13.2	3.4	3.6	1.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	23,799	100.0	6.0	27.5	2.3	8.1	.9	33.1	12.6	4.1	3.7	1.8
Marital status												
Single, never married	12,612	100.0	5.0	27.6	2.7	9.4	1.3	27.3	15.6	4.0	4.7	2.4
Married, spouse present	38,876	100.0	5.0	26.8	1.7	6.7	1.3	39.1	11.5	3.3	3.1	1.5
Other marital status ⁵	9,350	100.0	5.9	21.7	1.8	10.4	1.6	32.4	16.2	3.6	4.8	1.7
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	16,880	100.0	7.3	17.4	2.5	6.7	2.6	36.1	16.1	4.2	4.9	2.1
With own children under 18 years old	8,844	100.0	5.0	37.7	1.0	3.7	1.8	33.1	9.8	4.0	2.7	1.4
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	21,616	100.0	5.0	16.2	2.5	11.7	.6	38.9	15.3	3.4	4.3	1.9
With own children under 18 years old	13,498	100.0	2.5	45.7	.9	5.6	.5	31.4	7.8	2.5	1.9	1.2
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	43,405	100.0	5.4	27.7	2.0	7.8	1.4	34.3	12.7	3.5	3.6	1.7
Employed	41,708	100.0	5.3	27.6	2.0	7.8	1.5	34.5	12.5	3.5	3.5	1.7
Full time ⁷	32,714	100.0	5.8	27.1	2.0	7.8	1.6	34.1	12.6	3.6	3.6	1.7
Part time ⁸	8,994	100.0	3.7	29.6	2.0	7.6	.9	36.1	12.2	3.2	3.2	1.5
Unemployed	1,697	100.0	5.4	29.7	2.2	8.8	.9	28.0	16.6	1.8	4.5	2.2
Not in the labor force	17,433	100.0	4.5	22.4	1.7	7.8	1.0	39.0	14.1	3.7	4.1	1.8

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2006, through the survey period in September 2007. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 5. Main volunteer activity for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2007

Characteristics in September 2007	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of main volunteer activity for main organization ¹													
		Coach, referee, or supervise sports teams	Tutor or teach	Mentor youth	Be an usher, greeter, or minister	Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food	Fundraise or sell items to raise money	Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	Provide general office services	Provide professional or management assistance, including serving on a board or committee	Engage in music, performance, or other artistic activities	Engage in general labor; supply transportation to people	Other	Equal time among all
Sex															
Total, both sexes	60,838	5.8	10.8	5.8	4.2	9.2	3.2	10.9	3.1	4.7	7.6	4.4	8.3	14.3	7.7
Men	25,724	10.0	8.0	5.5	5.4	7.2	1.8	8.8	3.6	2.7	9.3	4.1	12.4	14.3	7.0
Women	35,114	2.7	12.9	6.0	3.4	10.7	4.2	12.4	2.8	6.2	6.3	4.7	5.4	14.3	8.2
Age															
Total, 16 years and over	60,838	5.8	10.8	5.8	4.2	9.2	3.2	10.9	3.1	4.7	7.6	4.4	8.3	14.3	7.7
16 to 24 years	7,798	6.1	10.4	9.4	3.3	6.8	3.1	9.9	3.0	3.9	2.1	6.2	11.7	16.9	7.1
16 to 19 years	4,173	6.4	9.8	9.9	3.3	8.2	3.3	10.7	1.8	4.2	1.1	6.6	12.0	15.2	7.5
20 to 24 years	3,625	5.9	11.2	8.8	3.3	5.3	2.8	8.9	4.4	3.5	3.2	5.8	11.4	18.9	6.7
25 years and over	53,040	5.8	10.8	5.3	4.4	9.5	3.2	11.0	3.1	4.9	8.4	4.2	7.9	13.9	7.8
25 to 34 years	9,019	7.7	12.4	8.3	2.5	8.1	2.6	11.3	3.7	3.8	5.5	4.4	7.5	14.1	8.2
35 to 44 years	12,902	10.1	13.8	6.8	3.1	7.2	2.6	12.7	2.7	3.9	6.4	3.5	6.9	12.8	7.5
45 to 54 years	13,136	6.1	10.2	5.3	4.6	9.3	3.0	11.9	3.2	4.2	9.0	4.4	8.4	12.9	7.6
55 to 64 years	9,316	1.9	9.5	3.6	5.8	9.4	3.2	10.1	3.7	5.1	12.3	4.5	8.2	14.4	8.1
65 years and over	8,667	1.1	7.3	1.6	6.4	15.0	4.8	7.8	2.3	8.1	9.1	4.2	8.4	16.1	7.7
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity															
White	52,586	6.0	10.7	5.6	4.0	9.0	3.2	11.2	3.1	4.8	8.0	4.2	8.4	14.3	7.5
Black or African American	5,010	5.0	10.8	8.8	7.4	10.3	3.9	8.2	2.9	5.0	3.9	5.6	6.3	12.5	9.5
Asian	1,887	3.2	12.3	3.4	3.3	12.0	2.0	10.6	2.3	3.9	6.4	4.9	9.6	19.0	7.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,279	6.1	12.7	5.6	4.5	9.8	2.8	10.3	2.8	5.1	3.4	4.6	6.4	18.5	7.4
Educational attainment ²															
Less than a high school diploma	2,394	3.7	7.6	2.6	5.0	20.8	5.4	6.0	2.6	4.2	1.5	4.0	12.2	18.5	5.9
High school graduates, no college ³	11,379	5.2	8.4	4.4	5.8	13.0	4.2	11.0	2.8	5.5	4.3	3.1	9.8	15.0	7.5
Some college or associate degree	15,468	5.5	10.1	5.5	3.9	10.2	2.9	12.1	3.4	5.0	6.3	4.7	8.2	13.8	8.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	23,799	6.4	12.8	5.8	4.0	6.3	2.6	10.8	3.1	4.5	12.4	4.3	6.3	12.9	7.6
Marital status															
Single, never married	12,612	5.8	9.1	8.0	3.4	8.0	2.9	10.6	3.4	4.2	4.5	5.5	10.4	17.0	7.2
Married, spouse present	38,876	6.3	11.9	5.5	4.5	8.9	2.9	10.8	2.9	4.5	8.8	4.1	7.8	13.1	7.8
Other marital status ⁵	9,350	3.8	8.5	4.0	4.2	11.8	4.6	11.3	3.3	6.5	6.5	4.2	7.7	15.4	8.0
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶															
Men:															
No own children under 18 years old	16,880	5.3	7.3	5.0	5.9	7.8	2.1	8.7	3.9	3.3	9.4	4.2	13.6	15.8	7.6
With own children under 18 years old ..	8,844	19.1	9.1	6.5	4.4	6.0	1.2	9.1	2.9	1.7	9.0	3.7	10.0	11.2	6.0
Women:															
No own children under 18 years old	21,616	1.8	10.3	5.0	4.1	11.6	4.7	11.7	3.0	6.7	7.0	5.2	6.0	15.2	7.7
With own children under 18 years old ..	13,498	4.3	17.0	7.6	2.2	9.1	3.4	13.4	2.3	5.3	5.2	3.8	4.5	12.7	9.0
Employment status															
Civilian labor force	43,405	7.1	10.9	6.3	4.1	8.1	2.8	11.8	3.3	3.7	8.0	4.4	8.4	13.6	7.4
Employed	41,708	7.2	11.0	6.3	4.1	8.0	2.8	11.9	3.3	3.7	8.2	4.4	8.2	13.5	7.3
Full time ⁷	32,714	8.2	10.3	6.2	4.2	7.9	2.5	12.2	3.4	3.3	8.8	4.2	8.3	13.3	7.2
Part time ⁸	8,994	3.5	13.3	6.9	4.0	8.7	3.5	10.8	3.0	5.2	5.6	5.2	8.0	14.4	7.8
Unemployed	1,697	5.7	9.0	7.0	2.8	9.8	4.9	10.5	4.3	3.7	4.0	4.6	11.7	13.8	8.2
Not in the labor force	17,433	2.5	10.6	4.4	4.6	11.9	4.0	8.5	2.5	7.2	6.5	4.4	8.3	16.0	8.5

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2006, through the survey period in September 2007. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2007

Characteristics in September 2007	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization ¹								
		Total	Approached the organization	Was asked by:					Other	Not reporting how became involved
				Total ²	Boss or employer	Relative, friend, or co-worker	Someone in the organization/school	Someone else		
Sex										
Total, both sexes	60,838	100.0	40.1	44.6	1.3	14.8	27.2	1.2	12.7	2.6
Men	25,724	100.0	39.9	45.1	1.3	15.8	26.5	1.3	12.3	2.7
Women	35,114	100.0	40.2	44.3	1.3	14.1	27.6	1.1	13.0	2.5
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	60,838	100.0	40.1	44.6	1.3	14.8	27.2	1.2	12.7	2.6
16 to 24 years	7,798	100.0	40.4	42.2	.6	16.9	22.6	1.9	13.5	3.9
16 to 19 years	4,173	100.0	41.9	42.5	.1	16.1	24.6	1.7	12.6	3.0
20 to 24 years	3,625	100.0	38.8	41.8	1.3	17.9	20.3	2.2	14.5	4.8
25 years and over	53,040	100.0	40.0	45.0	1.4	14.5	27.8	1.1	12.6	2.4
25 to 34 years	9,019	100.0	39.1	44.8	2.6	15.3	25.9	1.0	13.7	2.3
35 to 44 years	12,902	100.0	39.9	45.9	1.3	13.6	30.0	.9	12.1	2.1
45 to 54 years	13,136	100.0	39.3	46.0	1.6	14.7	28.3	1.3	12.6	2.2
55 to 64 years	9,316	100.0	40.2	43.5	1.2	14.5	26.5	1.1	13.3	2.9
65 years and over	8,667	100.0	41.9	44.0	.3	14.7	27.4	1.2	11.4	2.7
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	52,586	100.0	40.0	45.1	1.3	14.9	27.6	1.1	12.5	2.4
Black or African American	5,010	100.0	41.3	40.8	1.8	13.8	23.8	1.4	14.4	3.5
Asian	1,887	100.0	42.6	39.9	1.3	12.0	23.8	2.7	13.2	4.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,279	100.0	41.4	43.8	1.2	13.7	27.2	1.7	11.8	3.1
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma	2,394	100.0	44.5	42.0	.6	15.0	24.5	1.9	11.9	1.7
High school graduates, no college ⁴	11,379	100.0	38.8	46.0	1.2	15.4	28.3	.9	12.8	2.4
Some college or associate degree	15,468	100.0	41.3	43.4	1.5	14.1	26.7	1.0	13.1	2.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁵	23,799	100.0	39.3	45.9	1.6	14.3	28.7	1.2	12.2	2.6
Marital status										
Single, never married	12,612	100.0	39.6	42.4	1.6	17.7	21.4	1.7	14.2	3.7
Married, spouse present	38,876	100.0	40.4	45.5	1.2	13.6	29.5	1.0	12.0	2.2
Other marital status ⁶	9,350	100.0	39.1	44.2	1.7	15.8	25.3	1.3	13.8	2.9
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	16,880	100.0	40.0	44.4	1.3	16.9	24.5	1.5	12.4	3.2
With own children under 18 years old	8,844	100.0	39.7	46.4	1.3	13.6	30.4	1.0	12.1	1.8
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	21,616	100.0	40.4	42.8	1.4	15.8	24.3	1.2	13.8	3.0
With own children under 18 years old	13,498	100.0	39.8	46.7	1.3	11.5	32.9	1.0	11.8	1.7
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	43,405	100.0	39.2	45.5	1.8	15.2	27.2	1.2	12.8	2.5
Employed	41,708	100.0	39.2	45.6	1.8	15.1	27.3	1.2	12.7	2.5
Full time ⁸	32,714	100.0	38.8	45.9	2.1	15.6	26.9	1.2	12.7	2.5
Part time ⁹	8,994	100.0	40.5	44.5	.9	13.3	28.8	1.3	12.5	2.5
Unemployed	1,697	100.0	39.7	42.9	.7	16.2	23.7	2.0	15.2	2.2
Not in the labor force	17,433	100.0	42.2	42.5	.2	13.9	27.1	1.1	12.5	2.8

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Includes persons who did not specify who asked them to volunteer, not shown separately.

³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

⁴ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁶ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁷ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included

are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁸ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁹ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2006, through the survey period in September 2007. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.