

# A Profile of the Working Poor, 2003



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In 2003, 35.9 million people, 12.5 percent of the population, lived at or below the official poverty threshold—1.3 million more than in 2002. Although the Nation's poor were primarily children and adults who were not in the labor force, 1 in every 5, or 7.4 million individuals, were classified as "working poor." This level was about the same as in 2002. The working poor are those who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work), but whose incomes fell below the official poverty threshold. The working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 5.3 percent, unchanged from the rate reported in 2002. (See tables A and 1, and chart 1.)

Additional highlights from the 2003 data include:

- Of the 140.0 million people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2003, 3.8 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 10.6 percent of part-time workers.
- Although working full time substantially lowers a person's probability of being poor, 3 in every 5 of the working poor who worked during 2003 usually worked full time.
- The likelihood of being classified as working poor greatly diminishes as workers achieve higher levels of education. In 2003, only 1.7 percent of college graduates were counted among the working poor, compared with 14.1 percent of people with less than a high school diploma.
- Women who maintain families were twice as likely as their male counterparts to be among the working poor.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty in 2003 for workers and their families. The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status differ, depending on whether the individuals are living with family members or are living alone or with unrelated people. For those living with family members, the poverty threshold is determined by their family's total income; for individuals not living in families, their personal income is used as the determinant. Therefore, for people living in family situations, earnings from their employment are only one factor in their poverty situation. Other important

factors include other sources of income an individual may have, other income of family members, and the size of the family.

The data were collected in the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. For a more detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the Technical Note.

## Demographic characteristics

Of all individuals in the labor force for at least half of the year during 2003, more women than men were poor (3.9 million and 3.5 million, respectively). The share of people classified as working poor was higher for women, 6.0 percent, than for men, 4.7 percent. The proportions for both groups were unchanged from the prior year.

Although roughly 7 in every 10 of the working poor were white workers, black and Hispanic or Latino workers continued to be more than twice as likely as their white counter-

Table A. **Poverty status of people and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2000-2003**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2000	2001	2002 <sup>1</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>
Total persons <sup>3</sup> .....	137,398	138,143	139,728	140,007
In poverty .....	6,483	6,802	7,359	7,429
Poverty rate .....	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.3
Unrelated individuals .....	29,258	29,387	29,847	29,898
In poverty .....	2,238	2,388	2,584	2,472
Poverty rate .....	7.6	8.1	8.7	8.3
Primary families <sup>4</sup> .....	61,879	62,251	63,352	63,567
In poverty .....	3,492	3,697	3,973	4,167
Poverty rate .....	5.6	5.9	6.3	6.6

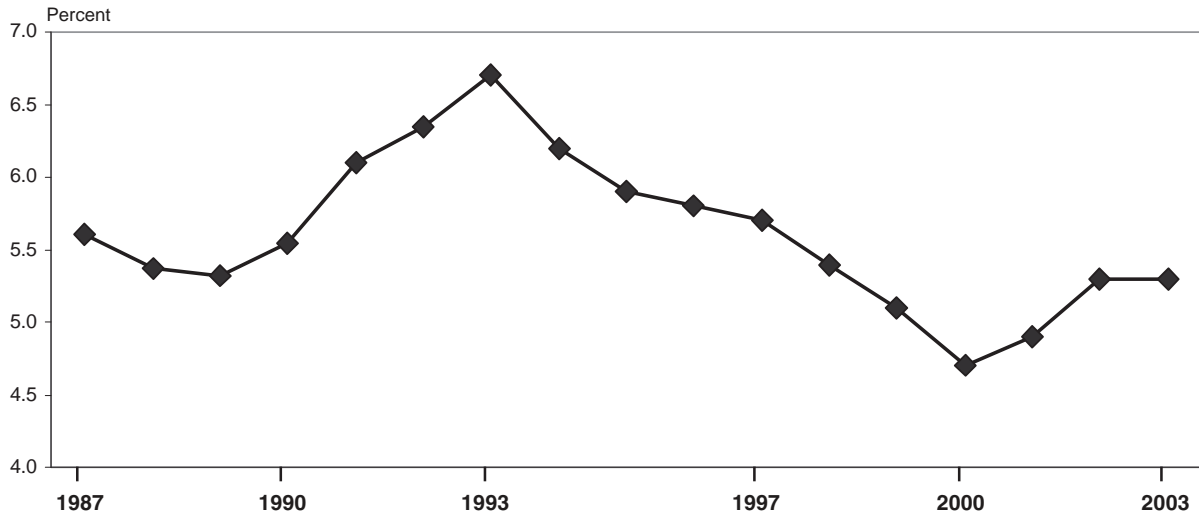
<sup>1</sup> Data, beginning in 2002 with the collection of the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years because of the introduction in January 2003 of revised population controls used in the survey.

<sup>2</sup> Data, beginning in 2003 with the collection of the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years because of the introduction in January 2004 of revised population controls used in the survey.

<sup>3</sup> Includes people in families, not shown separately.

<sup>4</sup> Primary families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half of the year.

**Chart 1. Poverty rates of persons in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1987-2003**



parts to be among the working poor. White working men and women who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were about equally likely to be poor. In contrast, black working women had a working-poor rate of 12.5 percent—nearly twice the rate for black working men (7.2 percent).

As in earlier years, younger workers were more vulnerable to being poor than were older workers. High working-poor rates among younger workers largely reflect the lower earnings and higher rates of unemployment associated with having relatively little education and work experience. Among 16- to 19-year-olds, the proportions who were classified as working poor for blacks (20.7 percent) and Hispanics or Latinos (11.9 percent) were higher than those for whites (8.1 percent) and Asians (5.8 percent). (See table 2.)

**Educational attainment**

In general, the risk of being poor declines rapidly as individuals attain higher educational levels. Of all people in the labor force for at least half of 2003, those with less than a high school diploma had a higher working-poor rate—14.1 percent—than did high school graduates with no college—6.2 percent. Workers with an associate degree or a 4-year college degree recorded the lowest working-poor rates, 3.2 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively. The proportions of blacks classified as working poor were generally higher than those for their white counterparts at all levels of educational attainment. (See table 3.)

Working-poor rates of white men and women were fairly similar at all educational levels. Among black men and women, however, there were marked disparities, especially at lower educational levels. The rate for black women workers with less than a high school diploma was 28.0 percent, compared with 16.9 percent for black men. Furthermore, among indi-

viduals with a high school diploma but no college, the working-poor rate for black women (15.6 percent) was twice that of black men—7.4 percent. Among college graduates, these differences essentially disappear.

**Occupation**

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely by occupation. During 2003, two-thirds of those classified as working poor were employed in one of the following three broad occupational groups: Service; sales and office; or production, transportation, and material moving. Workers in occupations that require higher education and are characterized by higher earnings were least likely to be among the working poor. For instance, 2.0 percent of people employed in managerial, professional, and related occupations were classified as working poor. By comparison, individuals employed in occupations that typically do not require high levels of education and are characterized by lower earnings—for example, service occupations and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations—were more likely to be among the working poor. About 2.2 million individuals or 30.1 percent of the working poor held service jobs. Their working-poor rate, at 10.6 percent, was double the average rate for all workers. The proportion of workers in natural resources, construction, and maintenance who classified as working poor was 6.5 percent; within this occupational category, working-poor rates for farmworkers and construction workers were 14.6 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively. (See table 4.)

**Families**

In 2003, 4.2 million families were classified as working poor, despite having at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more. Their number was slightly higher than the

number in 2002. Among families with one member in the labor force for at least half a year or more in 2003, married-couple families had a lower likelihood of being among the working poor (8.4 percent) than did families maintained by single women (22.5 percent) or by single men (13.5 percent). This pattern was true regardless of which member of the married-couple family was in the labor force. (See table 5.)

The working-poor rate was higher in families with children than in families without children. The rate for families with children under the age of 18 that were maintained by a woman was 23.0 percent. Families maintained by a man with children had a working-poor rate of 13.5 percent. Among married-couple families with children, the proportion classified as working poor was 5.8 percent, slightly higher than in 2002. (See table 5.)

Working women who maintained families had the highest working-poor rate in 2003 (18.4 percent), more than twice the rate for their male counterparts—8.9 percent. Working wives in married-couple families had the lowest likelihood of being among the working poor (1.9 percent), compared with 3.6 percent of working husbands. (See table 6.)

### **Unrelated individuals**

In 2003, 29.9 million unrelated individuals were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more; of this group, 2.5 million lived below the poverty level. The unrelated individuals category includes people who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Their working-poor rate was 8.3 percent in 2003, slightly lower than the rate in 2002. (See table 7.)

Within this group, teenagers were those most likely to be poor. In 2003, 201,000, or 2 in every 5 teens living on their own or with others not related to them lived below the poverty level. The working-poor rate was higher for women with these living arrangements than for men (9.2 percent versus 7.5 percent). The number of white unrelated individuals classified as working poor was much higher than the number of blacks or Hispanics or Latinos; however, the working-poor rates for the latter two groups were 11.1 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively, in contrast to 7.7 percent for whites.

Of the 2.5 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor, 61.2 percent lived with others. These individuals had a working-poor rate nearly twice that of individuals who lived alone. Many unrelated individuals living below the poverty level may live with others out of necessity. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have enough 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 probably permit some individuals in this category who are technically classified as poor to live at a higher standard than they would have living alone.

### **Labor market problems**

Workers whose incomes fall below the poverty threshold typically have experienced one or more of the three main labor market problems: Unemployment, low earnings, and involuntary part-time employment. (See the Technical Note for a detailed explanation of the definitions.) Among people who participated in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 3.7 million, or 3.4 percent, lived in poverty in 2003, little different from the prior year. This analysis is limited to full-time wage and salary workers. (See table 8.)

In 2003, 80.1 percent of the working poor who usually worked full time experienced at least one of the major labor market problems. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, with 62.1 percent subject to low earnings alone or in combination with other labor market problems. About 37 percent experienced unemployment alone or in conjunction with other problems. Only 3.7 percent of the working poor experienced all three problems—low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time work.

Some 736,000 of the working poor, or about 1 in every 5, did not experience any of the three labor market problems in 2003. Their poverty status may be associated with other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of *voluntary* part-time work, or a family structure that increases the likelihood of poverty.

## Technical Note

### Source of data

The primary source of data in this report is the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect demographic, social, and economic information about people 16 years of age and older. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement is asked of part of the CPS samples for February and April and of the entire sample for March, making up a total of 78,000 households. Work experience and income data collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement refer to activity in the entire prior calendar year.

The estimates in this report are based on a sample and, consequently, may differ from figures that would have been obtained from a complete count using the same questionnaire and procedures. Sampling variability may be relatively large in cases where the numbers are small. Thus, small estimates, or small differences between estimates, should be interpreted with caution. For a detailed explanation of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided below, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003*, Current Population Reports, series P-60, no. 226 (U.S. Census Bureau, August 2004). This publication also is available on the Census Bureau Web site at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty03.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty03.html).

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

### Comparability of estimates

The 2003 estimates in this report, which were collected in the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2002 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2004 of revised population controls used in the CPS. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2004" in the February 2004 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cps/cps04adj.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps04adj.pdf).

### Concepts and definitions

**Poverty classification.** Poverty statistics presented in this

report are based on definitions developed by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1981. These definitions originally were based on the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan and reflected the different consumption requirements of families, based on factors such as family size and the number of children under 18 years of age.

The actual poverty thresholds vary in accordance with the makeup of the family. In 2003, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$18,810; for a family of nine or more people, the threshold was \$37,656; and for an unrelated individual aged 65 or older, it was \$8,825. Poverty thresholds are updated each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The thresholds do not vary geographically. For more information, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003*, cited above.

**Low earnings.** The low earnings level, as first developed in 1987, represented the average of the real value of the minimum wage between 1967 and 1987 for a 40-hour workweek. The base year of 1967 was chosen 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 subsequently been adjusted each year using the CPI-U, so that the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2003, the low earnings threshold was \$270.82 per week. For a more complete definition, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Rones, "A profile of the working poor," *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1989, pp. 3-13.

**Income.** Data on income are limited to money income received in the calendar year preceding the supplement, before personal income taxes and payroll deductions. They 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 the income concept, see *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003*, cited above.

**In the labor force.** People in the labor force are those who worked or looked for work sometime during the calendar year preceding the supplement. The number of weeks in the labor force is accumulated over the entire year. The focus in this report is on people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.

**Involuntary part-time workers.** These are people who, in at least 1 week of the year, worked fewer than 35 hours because of slack work or business conditions, or because they could not find full-time work. The number of weeks of involuntary part-time work is accumulated over the year.

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

**Unemployed.** Unemployed people are those who looked for work while not employed or those who were on layoff from a job and expecting recall. The number of weeks unemployed is accumulated over the entire year.

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

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

quarters with other unrelated individuals.

**Related children.** Data on related children refer to own children (including sons, daughters, and step- or adopted children) of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family and all other children related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

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

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

Table 1. **People in the labor force: Poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2003**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in the labor force	27 weeks or more in the labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
<b>TOTAL</b>			
Total in labor force .....	153,448	140,007	126,758
Did not work during the year .....	2,759	1,366	1,211
Worked during the year .....	150,689	138,641	125,547
Usual full-time workers .....	120,325	115,498	107,829
Usual part-time workers .....	30,364	23,143	17,717
Involuntary part-time workers .....	5,257	4,369	3,602
Voluntary part-time workers .....	25,108	18,773	14,115
<b>At or above poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	143,573	132,578	120,660
Did not work during the year .....	1,677	812	714
Worked during the year .....	141,897	131,766	119,946
Usual full-time workers .....	115,040	111,080	104,081
Usual part-time workers .....	26,857	20,686	15,866
Involuntary part-time workers .....	4,100	3,451	2,864
Voluntary part-time workers .....	22,756	17,235	13,001
<b>Below poverty level</b>			
Total in labor force .....	9,875	7,429	6,097
Did not work during the year .....	1,082	554	497
Worked during the year .....	8,792	6,875	5,600
Usual full-time workers .....	5,285	4,419	3,749
Usual part-time workers .....	3,508	2,456	1,851
Involuntary part-time workers .....	1,156	918	738
Voluntary part-time workers .....	2,352	1,538	1,113
<b>Rate <sup>1</sup></b>			
Total in labor force .....	6.4	5.3	4.8
Did not work during the year .....	39.2	40.5	41.1
Worked during the year .....	5.8	5.0	4.5
Usual full-time workers .....	4.4	3.8	3.5
Usual part-time workers .....	11.6	10.6	10.5
Involuntary part-time workers .....	22.0	21.0	20.5
Voluntary part-time workers .....	9.4	8.2	7.9

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

NOTE: Data refer to people 16 years and older. Data for 2003, which were collected in the 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 2002 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2004 of revised

population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see the Technical Note and "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2004" in the February 2004 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cps/cps04adj.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps04adj.pdf).

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and sex	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Below poverty level				
						Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older .....	140,007	115,359	15,605	5,817	17,743	7,429	5,329	1,564	280	1,935
16 to 19 years .....	4,215	3,550	410	106	574	396	288	85	6	68
20 to 24 years .....	13,277	10,788	1,632	408	2,387	1,334	922	321	34	264
25 to 34 years .....	30,961	24,722	3,821	1,553	5,559	2,180	1,560	482	56	757
35 to 44 years .....	35,318	28,584	4,314	1,619	4,685	1,872	1,369	365	81	532
45 to 54 years .....	33,270	27,872	3,470	1,315	2,937	1,031	727	202	76	207
55 to 64 years .....	17,847	15,293	1,579	699	1,280	514	387	92	23	89
65 years and older .....	5,118	4,550	378	116	322	102	77	17	4	17
Men, 16 years and older .....	75,301	63,179	7,205	3,166	10,749	3,539	2,763	516	144	1,171
16 to 19 years .....	2,157	1,807	221	50	331	187	131	42	4	41
20 to 24 years .....	7,091	5,894	778	192	1,482	555	416	97	20	133
25 to 34 years .....	17,096	14,016	1,721	870	3,563	1,072	875	141	17	488
35 to 44 years .....	19,168	15,849	1,968	911	2,804	901	722	112	46	333
45 to 54 years .....	17,443	14,834	1,599	678	1,646	542	404	81	42	126
55 to 64 years .....	9,506	8,253	721	382	735	232	180	33	12	41
65 years and older .....	2,839	2,525	196	81	187	50	36	9	4	9
Women, 16 years and older .....	64,706	52,180	8,399	2,651	6,995	3,889	2,566	1,048	136	764
16 to 19 years .....	2,057	1,742	188	56	243	209	157	43	2	27
20 to 24 years .....	6,185	4,894	854	216	905	779	506	224	14	131
25 to 34 years .....	13,865	10,706	2,100	683	1,995	1,108	685	341	39	269
35 to 44 years .....	16,150	12,735	2,346	708	1,881	971	647	253	35	199
45 to 54 years .....	15,828	13,038	1,870	637	1,291	489	323	120	34	81
55 to 64 years .....	8,341	7,040	858	316	545	282	207	59	11	48
65 years and older .....	2,279	2,025	182	35	135	52	41	8	1	8

Age and sex	Rate <sup>1</sup>				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older .....	5.3	4.6	10.0	4.8	10.9
16 to 19 years .....	9.4	8.1	20.7	5.8	11.9
20 to 24 years .....	10.0	8.5	19.7	8.2	11.1
25 to 34 years .....	7.0	6.3	12.6	3.6	13.6
35 to 44 years .....	5.3	4.8	8.5	5.0	11.4
45 to 54 years .....	3.1	2.6	5.8	5.8	7.1
55 to 64 years .....	2.9	2.5	5.8	3.4	7.0
65 years and older .....	2.0	1.7	4.5	3.9	5.2
Men, 16 years and older .....	4.7	4.4	7.2	4.5	10.9
16 to 19 years .....	8.7	7.2	19.1	( <sup>2</sup> )	12.3
20 to 24 years .....	7.8	7.1	12.4	10.3	9.0
25 to 34 years .....	6.3	6.2	8.2	1.9	13.7
35 to 44 years .....	4.7	4.6	5.7	5.0	11.9
45 to 54 years .....	3.1	2.7	5.1	6.2	7.7
55 to 64 years .....	2.4	2.2	4.6	3.2	5.6
65 years and older .....	1.8	1.4	4.8	4.7	4.6
Women, 16 years and older .....	6.0	4.9	12.5	5.1	10.9
16 to 19 years .....	10.1	9.0	22.6	( <sup>2</sup> )	11.3
20 to 24 years .....	12.6	10.3	26.3	6.4	14.4
25 to 34 years .....	8.0	6.4	16.2	5.8	13.5
35 to 44 years .....	6.0	5.1	10.8	4.9	10.6
45 to 54 years .....	3.1	2.5	6.4	5.3	6.3
55 to 64 years .....	3.4	2.9	6.9	3.6	8.7
65 years and older .....	2.3	2.0	4.1	( <sup>2</sup> )	6.1

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

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

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. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older .....	140,007	75,301	64,706	7,429	3,539	3,889	5.3	4.7	6.0
Less than a high school diploma .....	15,994	10,024	5,970	2,254	1,273	981	14.1	12.7	16.4
Less than 1 year of high school .....	4,879	3,330	1,549	859	585	274	17.6	17.6	17.7
1-3 years of high school .....	9,404	5,642	3,762	1,205	586	618	12.8	10.4	16.4
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,711	1,052	659	191	102	89	11.1	9.7	13.5
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	42,687	23,373	19,314	2,647	1,201	1,445	6.2	5.1	7.5
Some college or associate degree .....	40,347	19,937	20,410	1,817	692	1,125	4.5	3.5	5.5
Some college, no degree .....	27,568	13,961	13,607	1,408	538	870	5.1	3.9	6.4
Associate degree .....	12,779	5,977	6,803	409	154	255	3.2	2.6	3.7
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	40,979	21,967	19,012	711	373	338	1.7	1.7	1.8
White, 16 years and older .....	115,359	63,179	52,180	5,329	2,763	2,566	4.6	4.4	4.9
Less than a high school diploma .....	12,871	8,370	4,501	1,641	1,016	624	12.7	12.1	13.9
Less than 1 year of high school .....	4,165	2,906	1,258	730	510	220	17.5	17.5	17.5
1-3 years of high school .....	7,422	4,629	2,793	809	449	360	10.9	9.7	12.9
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	1,285	835	450	102	58	44	8.0	7.0	9.8
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	34,921	19,417	15,504	1,846	911	935	5.3	4.7	6.0
Some college or associate degree .....	33,261	16,745	16,516	1,281	525	756	3.9	3.1	4.6
Some college, no degree .....	22,585	11,662	10,923	995	417	577	4.4	3.6	5.3
Associate degree .....	10,676	5,083	5,593	286	108	178	2.7	2.1	3.2
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	34,305	18,646	15,659	562	311	251	1.6	1.7	1.6
Black or African American, 16 years and older .....	15,605	7,205	8,399	1,564	516	1,048	10.0	7.2	12.5
Less than a high school diploma .....	2,038	1,025	1,014	457	173	284	22.4	16.9	28.0
Less than 1 year of high school .....	313	185	128	44	22	21	13.9	12.1	16.6
1-3 years of high school .....	1,412	686	726	333	109	224	23.6	15.9	30.9
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	313	154	159	80	42	38	25.6	27.0	24.1
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	5,716	2,860	2,856	658	212	446	11.5	7.4	15.6
Some college or associate degree .....	4,759	2,012	2,747	392	112	280	8.2	5.6	10.2
Some college, no degree .....	3,440	1,490	1,950	312	86	226	9.1	5.8	11.6
Associate degree .....	1,319	522	797	79	26	53	6.0	5.0	6.7
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	3,092	1,309	1,783	57	19	38	1.9	1.4	2.1
Asian, 16 years and older .....	5,817	3,166	2,651	280	144	136	4.8	4.5	5.1
Less than a high school diploma .....	525	282	243	69	40	29	13.0	14.1	11.8
Less than 1 year of high school .....	239	124	114	54	36	18	22.8	29.1	16.0
1-3 years of high school .....	230	123	107	13	3	10	5.8	2.5	9.6
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	56	35	22	1	1	-	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	1,117	564	554	73	40	33	6.5	7.1	5.9
Some college or associate degree .....	1,204	604	600	62	24	38	5.1	4.0	6.3
Some college, no degree .....	759	399	360	44	18	27	5.8	4.4	7.4
Associate degree .....	445	204	240	18	7	11	4.0	3.2	4.6
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	2,970	1,716	1,254	77	40	37	2.6	2.3	3.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older .....	17,743	10,749	6,995	1,935	1,171	764	10.9	10.9	10.9
Less than a high school diploma .....	6,465	4,443	2,022	1,110	726	384	17.2	16.3	19.0
Less than 1 year of high school .....	3,369	2,390	979	635	449	186	18.8	18.8	19.0
1-3 years of high school .....	2,565	1,694	871	401	228	174	15.7	13.5	19.9
4 years of high school, no diploma .....	531	359	172	73	49	25	13.8	13.5	14.4
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	5,215	3,087	2,127	500	277	224	9.6	9.0	10.5
Some college or associate degree .....	3,932	2,069	1,863	248	116	132	6.3	5.6	7.1
Some college, no degree .....	2,875	1,554	1,321	189	90	100	6.6	5.8	7.6
Associate degree .....	1,057	516	541	59	27	32	5.6	5.2	6.0
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	2,132	1,149	983	77	53	24	3.6	4.6	2.4

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

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

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

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

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. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1. Dash represents or rounds to zero.



**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, 2003**

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	138,641	74,449	64,192	6,875	3,174	3,701	5.0	4.3	5.8
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	47,823	23,647	24,176	914	353	561	1.9	1.5	2.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	20,228	11,606	8,622	369	205	164	1.8	1.8	1.9
Professional and related occupations .....	27,595	12,041	15,554	545	148	397	2.0	1.2	2.6
Service occupations .....	21,936	9,525	12,410	2,372	750	1,622	10.8	7.9	13.1
Sales and office occupations .....	35,629	13,104	22,525	1,571	498	1,073	4.4	3.8	4.8
Sales and related occupations .....	15,791	8,320	7,472	921	290	632	5.8	3.5	8.5
Office and administrative support occupations .....	19,837	4,784	15,053	650	208	442	3.3	4.4	2.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	14,568	13,896	672	965	865	100	6.6	6.2	14.8
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	1,053	831	222	175	121	54	16.6	14.6	24.2
Construction and extraction occupations .....	8,408	8,197	211	587	554	33	7.0	6.8	15.6
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	5,107	4,868	239	203	190	13	4.0	3.9	5.4
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	18,562	14,171	4,392	1,052	707	345	5.7	5.0	7.9
Production occupations .....	9,906	6,898	3,008	508	291	217	5.1	4.2	7.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	8,656	7,272	1,384	544	416	128	6.3	5.7	9.2
White, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	114,453	62,615	51,838	4,982	2,531	2,452	4.4	4.0	4.7
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	40,442	20,339	20,103	701	300	401	1.7	1.5	2.0
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	17,655	10,388	7,267	333	185	148	1.9	1.8	2.0
Professional and related occupations .....	22,787	9,951	12,836	368	115	253	1.6	1.2	2.0
Service occupations .....	16,692	7,373	9,319	1,576	550	1,025	9.4	7.5	11.0
Sales and office occupations .....	29,529	10,964	18,565	1,095	377	718	3.7	3.4	3.9
Sales and related occupations .....	13,423	7,234	6,190	661	234	426	4.9	3.2	6.9
Office and administrative support occupations .....	16,106	3,730	12,376	435	143	291	2.7	3.8	2.4
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	12,876	12,316	561	839	757	81	6.5	6.1	14.5
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	912	720	192	145	101	45	15.9	14.0	23.3
Construction and extraction occupations .....	7,547	7,365	182	513	485	28	6.8	6.6	15.5
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	4,417	4,230	187	180	172	8	4.1	4.1	4.5
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	14,819	11,536	3,284	771	545	226	5.2	4.7	6.9
Production occupations .....	7,952	5,716	2,236	386	233	153	4.9	4.1	6.8
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	6,867	5,820	1,047	385	312	73	5.6	5.4	6.9
Black or African American, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	15,262	6,991	8,271	1,398	418	979	9.2	6.0	11.8
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	3,919	1,441	2,477	140	25	116	3.6	1.7	4.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,341	543	798	17	10	7	1.3	1.8	.9
Professional and related occupations .....	2,577	898	1,680	123	15	109	4.8	1.7	6.5
Service occupations .....	3,722	1,461	2,261	636	139	498	17.1	9.5	22.0
Sales and office occupations .....	3,955	1,246	2,709	350	74	276	8.9	6.0	10.2
Sales and related occupations .....	1,346	547	799	187	26	161	13.9	4.8	20.2
Office and administrative support occupations .....	2,609	699	1,910	163	48	115	6.2	6.9	6.0
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	1,026	952	74	80	69	11	7.8	7.3	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	74	59	15	15	11	4	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations .....	554	530	23	56	51	5	10.0	9.6	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	398	362	36	9	7	3	2.3	1.8	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	2,621	1,878	742	191	112	79	7.3	5.9	10.7
Production occupations .....	1,201	722	479	72	33	39	6.0	4.6	8.1
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	1,420	1,156	264	119	79	40	8.4	6.8	15.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more who worked during the year: poverty status by occupation of longest job held, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2003 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate <sup>1</sup>		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Asian, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	5,748	3,122	2,627	257	124	134	4.5	4.0	5.1
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	2,573	1,455	1,118	39	20	19	1.5	1.4	1.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	874	486	388	9	6	3	1.0	1.3	.8
Professional and related occupations .....	1,699	969	730	30	14	15	1.8	1.5	2.1
Service occupations .....	892	391	501	85	30	54	9.5	7.8	10.8
Sales and office occupations .....	1,370	629	741	70	32	38	5.1	5.1	5.1
Sales and related occupations .....	707	393	315	45	23	22	6.4	5.9	6.9
Office and administrative support occupations .....	663	236	427	25	9	16	3.8	3.8	3.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	239	222	18	15	11	4	6.3	4.8	( <sup>3</sup> )
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	29	19	10	7	4	3	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Construction and extraction occupations .....	68	67	—	2	2	—	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	143	135	8	7	5	2	4.6	3.5	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	669	423	246	49	30	18	7.3	7.1	7.5
Production occupations .....	512	298	215	33	18	16	6.5	5.9	7.3
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	157	125	32	16	13	3	9.9	10.1	( <sup>3</sup> )
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older <sup>2</sup> .....	17,561	10,646	6,915	1,848	1,116	731	10.5	10.5	10.6
Management, professional, and related occupations ....	2,872	1,379	1,493	87	35	52	3.0	2.5	3.5
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	1,234	685	549	47	26	21	3.8	3.8	3.9
Professional and related occupations .....	1,639	694	944	40	9	31	2.4	1.3	3.3
Service occupations .....	4,184	2,152	2,031	635	293	342	15.2	13.6	16.8
Sales and office occupations .....	3,744	1,445	2,299	286	111	174	7.6	7.7	7.6
Sales and related occupations .....	1,581	787	794	156	61	95	9.9	7.8	12.0
Office and administrative support occupations .....	2,163	658	1,505	129	50	79	6.0	7.7	5.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	3,161	2,975	186	444	404	40	14.0	13.6	21.7
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	448	333	115	105	74	31	23.5	22.2	27.4
Construction and extraction occupations .....	2,020	1,979	41	265	257	8	13.1	13.0	( <sup>3</sup> )
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	693	663	30	73	73	1	10.6	11.0	( <sup>3</sup> )
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations .....	3,588	2,684	904	396	273	123	11.0	10.2	13.6
Production occupations .....	2,009	1,383	627	213	126	87	10.6	9.1	13.8
Transportation and material-moving occupations .....	1,579	1,301	278	183	147	36	11.6	11.3	13.1

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

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

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

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Table 5. Primary families: Poverty status, presence of related children, and work experience of family members in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2003**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Total primary families .....	63,567	59,400	4,167	6.6
With related children under 18 years .....	35,917	32,374	3,543	9.9
Without children .....	27,650	27,026	624	2.3
With one member in the labor force .....	26,893	23,374	3,519	13.1
With two or more members in the labor force .....	36,674	36,026	648	1.8
With two members .....	31,020	30,407	613	2.0
With three or more members .....	5,654	5,620	35	.6
Married-couple families .....	48,553	46,680	1,872	3.9
With related children under 18 years .....	26,170	24,663	1,508	5.8
Without children .....	22,382	22,018	365	1.6
With one member in the labor force .....	16,357	14,977	1,380	8.4
Husband .....	12,250	11,139	1,111	9.1
Wife .....	3,489	3,262	227	6.5
Relative .....	618	576	42	6.8
With two or more members in the labor force .....	32,196	31,703	492	1.5
With two members .....	27,413	26,944	469	1.7
With three or more members .....	4,783	4,759	24	.5
Families maintained by women .....	10,897	8,982	1,915	17.6
With related children under 18 years .....	7,563	5,823	1,740	23.0
Without children .....	3,334	3,159	175	5.3
With one member in the labor force .....	7,962	6,169	1,793	22.5
Householder .....	6,580	5,004	1,577	24.0
Relative .....	1,382	1,166	216	15.7
With two or more members in the labor force .....	2,935	2,813	122	4.2
Families maintained by men .....	4,117	3,738	380	9.2
With related children under 18 years .....	2,183	1,888	295	13.5
Without children .....	1,934	1,850	84	4.3
With one member in the labor force .....	2,574	2,228	346	13.5
Householder .....	2,101	1,816	284	13.5
Relative .....	473	411	62	13.1
With two or more members in the labor force .....	1,543	1,510	33	2.1

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

NOTE: Data relate to primary families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more. Also, see Note, table 1.

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: Poverty status and work experience, 2003

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total persons	In married-couple families				In families maintained by women			In families maintained by men			Unrelated individuals
		Husbands	Wives	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18	Other relatives	
<b>TOTAL</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	222,509	57,064	57,664	5,739	17,632	13,760	2,097	10,526	4,695	460	4,798	48,076
With labor force activity .....	153,448	45,224	37,206	2,081	12,194	10,009	645	6,916	3,686	148	3,274	32,066
1 to 26 weeks .....	13,441	1,388	3,193	1,242	2,603	826	401	1,014	201	87	317	2,168
27 weeks or more .....	140,007	43,836	34,012	838	9,591	9,183	244	5,901	3,485	61	2,957	29,898
With no labor force activity .....	69,061	11,839	20,459	3,658	5,438	3,750	1,452	3,611	1,009	312	1,524	16,010
<b>At or above poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	198,288	53,979	54,549	5,351	16,882	9,909	1,502	9,064	4,059	390	4,398	38,204
With labor force activity .....	143,573	43,480	36,268	2,023	11,951	7,826	541	6,378	3,308	134	3,107	28,558
1 to 26 weeks .....	10,995	1,216	2,918	1,208	2,526	332	329	852	135	77	271	1,132
27 weeks or more .....	132,578	42,263	33,350	816	9,425	7,494	211	5,526	3,174	57	2,835	27,427
With no labor force activity .....	54,715	10,500	18,282	3,327	4,931	2,083	962	2,686	751	256	1,291	9,646
<b>Below poverty level</b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	24,221	3,084	3,115	388	750	3,850	595	1,462	635	70	401	9,872
With labor force activity .....	9,875	1,745	938	58	243	2,184	105	537	377	14	167	3,508
1 to 26 weeks .....	2,446	172	275	35	77	494	72	162	66	10	46	1,036
27 weeks or more .....	7,429	1,573	663	23	166	1,689	33	375	311	4	121	2,472
With no labor force activity .....	14,347	1,340	2,177	330	507	1,667	490	925	258	56	233	6,364
<b>Rate<sup>2</sup></b>												
All people <sup>1</sup> .....	10.9	5.4	5.4	6.8	4.3	28.0	28.4	13.9	13.5	15.2	8.3	20.5
With labor force activity .....	6.4	3.9	2.5	2.8	2.0	21.8	16.2	7.8	10.2	9.3	5.1	10.9
1 to 26 weeks .....	18.2	12.4	8.6	2.8	3.0	59.8	17.9	16.0	33.0	11.7	14.5	47.8
27 weeks or more .....	5.3	3.6	1.9	2.7	1.7	18.4	13.4	6.4	8.9	( <sup>3</sup> )	4.1	8.3
With no labor force activity .....	20.8	11.3	10.6	9.0	9.3	44.4	33.8	25.6	25.6	17.9	15.3	39.8

<sup>1</sup> Data on families include people in primary families and unrelated subfamilies.

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

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

NOTE: See Note, table 1.

Table 7. **Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: Poverty status by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2003**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Age and sex</b>				
Total unrelated individuals .....	29,898	27,427	2,472	8.3
16 to 19 years .....	508	307	201	39.5
20 to 24 years .....	4,142	3,449	692	16.7
25 to 64 years .....	23,786	22,252	1,534	6.4
65 years and older .....	1,462	1,418	45	3.1
Men .....	16,414	15,181	1,233	7.5
Women .....	13,484	12,245	1,239	9.2
<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>				
White .....	24,429	22,540	1,889	7.7
Men .....	13,586	12,616	970	7.1
Women .....	10,843	9,924	920	8.5
Black or African American .....	3,751	3,333	418	11.1
Men .....	1,871	1,688	183	9.8
Women .....	1,881	1,645	235	12.5
Asian .....	966	885	80	8.3
Men .....	535	493	41	7.8
Women .....	431	392	39	9.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity .....	3,321	2,901	420	12.6
Men .....	2,238	2,012	225	10.1
Women .....	1,083	889	195	18.0
<b>Living arrangement</b>				
Living alone .....	16,095	15,137	958	6.0
Living with others .....	13,803	12,290	1,513	11.0

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

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are

not presented for all races. In addition, people whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Also, see Note, table 1.

**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, 2003**

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Total, full-time wage and salary workers .....	108,621	104,926	3,695	3.4
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings <sup>2</sup> .....	89,935	89,200	736	.8
Unemployment only .....	6,609	6,092	518	7.8
Involuntary part-time employment only .....	2,389	2,330	59	2.5
Low earnings only .....	6,323	4,916	1,407	22.3
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment .....	1,024	937	87	8.5
Unemployment and low earnings .....	1,431	818	613	42.8
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings .....	576	436	140	24.3
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings .....	333	197	136	40.8
Unemployment (alone or with other problems) .....	9,397	8,044	1,353	14.4
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems) .....	4,322	3,900	422	9.8
Low earnings (alone or with other problems) .....	8,663	6,368	2,295	26.5

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

<sup>2</sup> The low-earnings threshold in 2003 was \$270.82 per week.  
NOTE: See Note, table 1.