

A Profile of the Working Poor, 2013



2007 and 2009, the ratio has remained within a narrow range of 7.0 percent to 7.2 percent. (See tables A and 1 and chart 1.)

Highlights

Following are additional highlights from the 2013 data:

- Full-time workers continued to be much less likely to be among the working poor than were part-time workers. Among people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 4.1 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 15.8 percent of part-time workers.
- Women were more likely than men to be among the working poor. In addition, Blacks and Hispanics continued to be more than twice as likely as Whites and Asians to be among the working poor.
- The likelihood of being classified as working poor diminishes as workers attain higher levels of

In 2013, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 45.3 million people, or 14.5 percent of the nation's population, lived below the official poverty level.¹ (See the technical notes section for examples of poverty levels.) Although the poor were primarily children and adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 10.5 million individuals were among the “working poor” in 2013; this measure was little different from 2012. The working poor are people who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (that is, working or looking for work) but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level. In 2013, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 7.0 percent, little changed from the previous year's figure (7.1 percent). After rising from 5.1 percent to 7.0 percent between

CONTENTS

Highlights	1
Demographic characteristics	2
Educational attainment	3
Occupation	4
Families	4
Unrelated individuals	5
Labor market problems	5
Statistical Tables	7
Technical Notes	16

Table A

Poverty status of people and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2007–2013 (Numbers in thousands)							
Characteristic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total in the labor force¹	146,567	147,838	147,902	146,859	147,475	148,735	149,483
In poverty	7,521	8,883	10,391	10,512	10,382	10,612	10,450
Working poor rate	5.1	6.0	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.0
Unrelated individuals	33,226	32,785	33,798	34,099	33,731	34,810	35,061
In poverty	2,558	3,275	3,947	3,947	3,621	3,851	4,141
Working poor rate	7.7	10.0	11.7	11.6	10.7	11.1	11.8
Primary families²	65,158	65,907	65,467	64,931	66,225	66,541	66,462
In poverty	4,169	4,538	5,193	5,269	5,469	5,478	5,137
Working poor rate	6.4	6.9	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.2	7.7

1. Includes individuals in families, not shown separately.
 2. Primary families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half the year.
 Note: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC).

education. Among college graduates, 2.3 percent of those who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor, compared with 19.2 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.

- The likelihood of being among the working poor was lower for individuals employed in management, professional, and related occupations than for those employed in other major occupation groups.
- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those with children under 18 years old were about 3 times more likely than those without children to live in poverty. Families maintained by women were more likely than families maintained by men to be living below the poverty level.

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty status in 2013 for workers and their families. These data were collected in the 2013 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. The 2013 data are based on fewer

sample responses than in recent years. (For a detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in this report, see the technical notes at the end of this report.) The specific income thresholds used to determine people’s poverty status vary, depending on whether the individuals are living with family members or are living alone or with nonrelatives. For family members, the poverty threshold is determined by their family’s total income; for individuals not living in families, their personal income is used as the determinant.

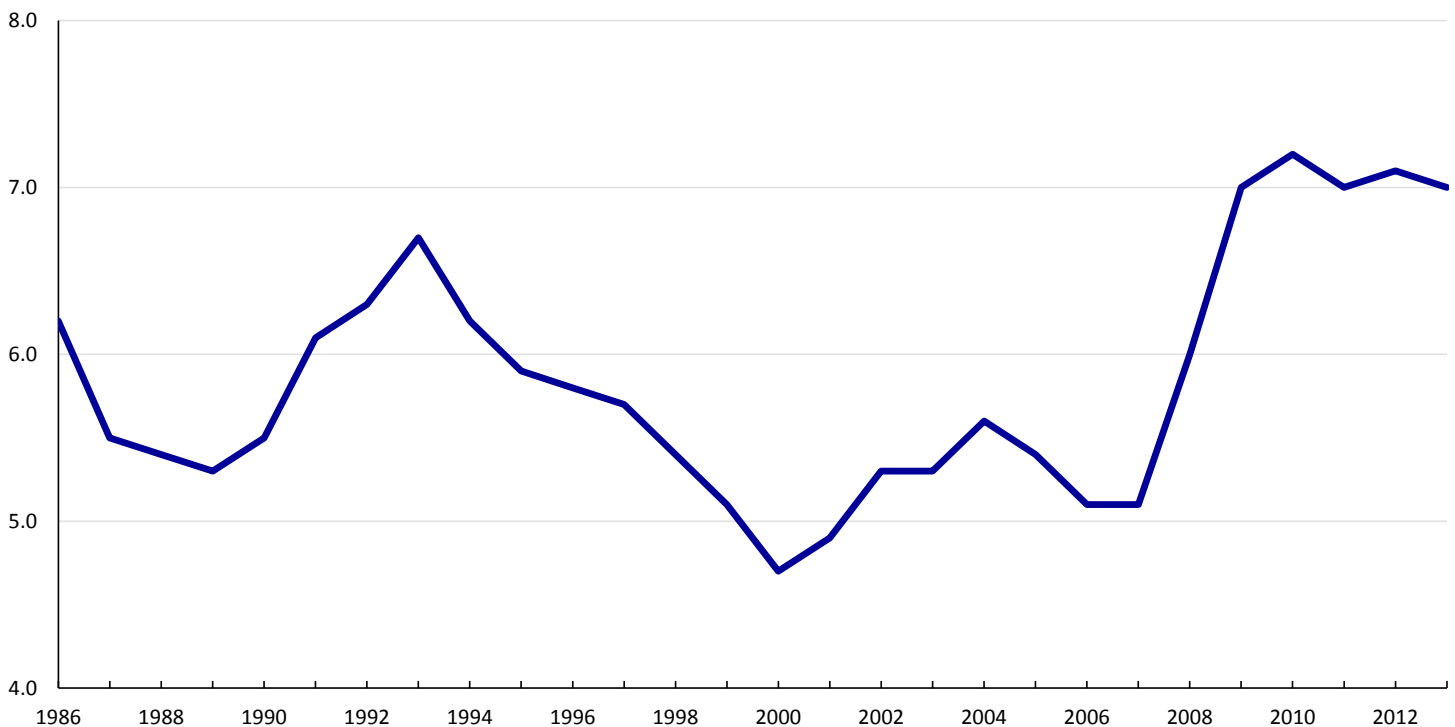
Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2013, the number of women classified as working poor (5.4 million) was higher than that of men (5.0 million). Similarly, the working-poor rate continued to be higher for women (7.8 percent) than for men (6.3 percent). The working-poor rates for both women and men were little different from a year earlier. (See table 2.)

Blacks and Hispanics were more than twice as likely as Whites and Asians to be among the working poor. In 2013, the working-poor rates of Blacks and Hispanics were 13.3 percent and 12.8 percent, respectively,

Chart 1**Working-poor rate of people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1986–2013**

Percent



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

compared with 6.1 percent for Whites and 4.5 percent for Asians. (See chart 2 and table 2.)

Among Whites and Blacks, the working-poor rate was higher for women than for men. The rate for White women who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force was 6.7 percent, compared with 5.6 percent for White men. The rates for Black women and men were 14.8 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively. Among Asians and Hispanics, the rates for women and men were little different from each other.

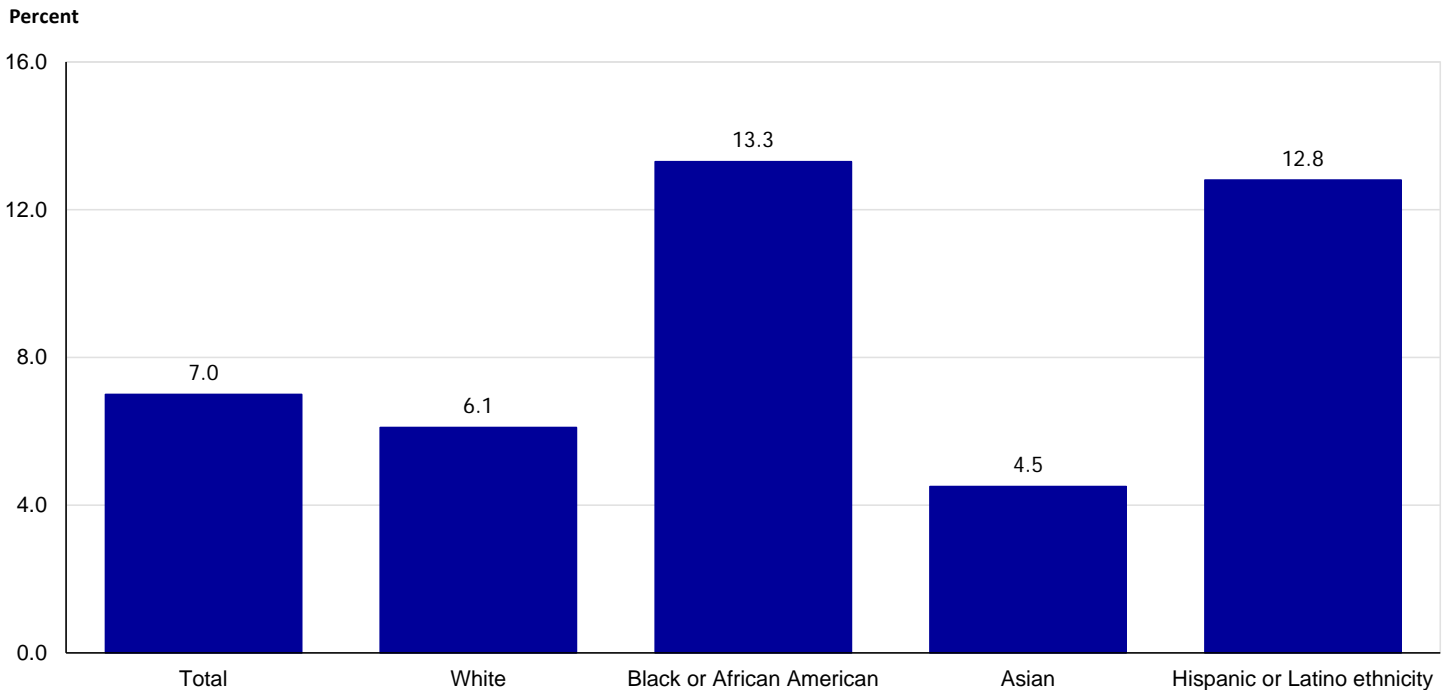
Young workers are more likely to be poor than are workers in older age groups, in part because earnings are lower for young workers, and the unemployment rate for young workers is higher. Among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 11.2 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 13.2 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds were living in poverty in 2013, considerably higher than the rate for workers age 35 to 44 (7.2 percent). Workers age

45 to 54, 55 to 64, and those age 65 and older had lower working-poor rates—4.9 percent, 4.3 percent, and 1.7 percent, respectively—than did the younger age groups.

Educational attainment

Achieving higher levels of education reduces the incidence of living in poverty. Individuals who complete more years of education usually have greater access to higher paying jobs—such as management, professional, and related occupations—than those with fewer years of education. Of all the people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2013, those with less than a high school diploma had a higher working-poor rate (19.2 percent) than did high school graduates with no college (8.9 percent). Workers with an associate's degree (5.0 percent) and those with a bachelor's degree or higher (2.3 percent) had the lowest working-poor rates. In 2013, at nearly all levels of educational attainment, women were more likely than men to be among the working poor; by race

Chart 2
Working-poor rates by race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2013



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

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

and ethnicity, Blacks and Hispanics generally were more likely to be among the working poor than were Whites and Asians. (See table 3.)

Occupation

The likelihood of being among the working poor varies widely by occupation. Workers in occupations requiring higher education and characterized by relatively high earnings—such as management, professional, and related occupations—were least likely to be classified as working poor, 2.1 percent in 2013. By contrast, individuals employed in occupations that typically do not require high levels of education and are characterized by relatively low earnings were more likely to be among the working poor. For example, 14.1 percent of service workers who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor in 2013. Indeed, service occupations, with 3.6 million working poor, accounted for nearly 40 percent of all those classified as working poor. Among those employed in natural resources,

construction, and maintenance occupations, 8.3 percent of workers were classified as working poor. Within this occupation group, 17.2 percent of workers employed in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations and 9.9 percent of those in construction and extraction occupations were among the working poor. (See table 4.)

Families

In 2013, 5.1 million families were living below the poverty level despite having at least one member in the labor force for half the year or more. The 2013 figure was down from 5.5 million in 2012. Among families with only one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2013, married-couple families had a lower likelihood of living below the poverty level (8.8 percent) than did families maintained by women (26.7 percent) or by men (15.1 percent). (See table 5.)

Among families with at least one member in the labor force for more than half the year, those with children in the household were much more likely to live below the

poverty level than those without children. The proportion of families with children under age 18 that lived in poverty was 11.8 percent, compared with 3.2 percent for families without children. Among families with children under 18, the working-poor rate for those maintained by women (27.9 percent) was higher than that for those maintained by men (14.1 percent). Married-couple families with children had a working-poor rate of 6.4 percent in 2013.

Unrelated individuals

The “unrelated individuals” category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Of the 35.1 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half the year or longer, 4.1 million lived below the poverty level in 2013, an increase from last year’s figure. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals was 11.8 percent, up from 11.1 percent a year earlier. (See table 6.)

Within the group of unrelated individuals, teenagers continued to be the most likely to be among the working poor. In 2013, 40.3 percent of teens who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and who lived on their own or with others not related to them lived below the poverty level. Overall, the working-poor rate for men living alone or with nonrelatives (11.2 percent) was lower than the rate for women (12.6 percent). The working-poor rates for unrelated individuals were 16.9 percent for Hispanics, 16.3 percent for Blacks, 12.8 percent for Asians, and 10.9 percent for Whites. (See table 7.)

Of the 4.1 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2013, about three-fifths lived with others. These individuals had a much higher working-poor rate than individuals who lived alone. Many unrelated individuals living below the poverty level may live with others out of necessity. Conversely, many of those who live alone do so because they have sufficient income to support themselves. Unrelated individuals’ poverty status, however, is determined by each person’s resources. The pooling of resources and sharing of living expenses may permit some individuals in this category—

who are technically classified as poor—to live at a higher standard than they would have if they lived alone.

Labor market problems

As noted earlier, people who usually work full time are less likely to live in poverty than are those who work part time, yet there remains a sizable group of full-time workers who live below the poverty threshold. Among those who participated in the labor force for 27 weeks or more and usually worked in full-time wage and salary jobs, 4.4 million, or 3.9 percent, were classified as working poor in 2013—unchanged from a year earlier. (See table 8.)

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

In 2013, 85 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 66 percent subject to low earnings, either as the major problem or in combination with other labor market problems. About 38 percent experienced unemployment as the main labor market problem or in conjunction with other problems. Five percent of the working poor experienced all three problems: low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment.

Some 654,000, or 15 percent, of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2013. Their classification as working poor may be explained by other factors, including short-term employment, some weeks of voluntary part-time work, or a family structure that increases the risk of poverty.

Endnotes

1. *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013*, Current Population Reports, P60-249 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2014), table 3, at <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>.

Statistical Tables

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

Table 1. **People in the labor force: poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2013**

(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
Total			
Total in the labor force	161,813	149,483	136,864
Did not work during the year	4,825	2,924	2,440
Worked during the year	156,987	146,559	134,424
Usual full-time workers	124,017	119,877	113,253
Usual part-time workers	32,970	26,681	21,171
Involuntary part-time workers	9,716	8,621	7,473
Voluntary part-time workers	23,254	18,061	13,698
At or above poverty level			
Total in the labor force	148,821	139,033	128,078
Did not work during the year	2,849	1,633	1,331
Worked during the year	145,973	137,400	126,747
Usual full-time workers	118,313	114,936	108,995
Usual part-time workers	27,659	22,465	17,752
Involuntary part-time workers	7,041	6,312	5,483
Voluntary part-time workers	20,618	16,153	12,270
Below poverty level			
Total in the labor force	12,991	10,450	8,786
Did not work during the year	1,976	1,291	1,109
Worked during the year	11,015	9,159	7,677
Usual full-time workers	5,704	4,942	4,258
Usual part-time workers	5,311	4,217	3,419
Involuntary part-time workers	2,675	2,309	1,990
Voluntary part-time workers	2,636	1,908	1,429
Rate¹			
Total in the labor force	8.0	7.0	6.4
Did not work during the year	41.0	44.2	45.4
Worked during the year	7.0	6.2	5.7
Usual full-time workers	4.6	4.1	3.8
Usual part-time workers	16.1	15.8	16.1
Involuntary part-time workers	27.5	26.8	26.6
Voluntary part-time workers	11.3	10.6	10.4

¹ Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by age, gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Age and gender	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	149,483	119,102	17,675	8,344	23,618	10,450	7,276	2,355	379	3,033
16 to 19 years	3,239	2,581	390	89	627	364	272	62	7	130
20 to 24 years	13,651	10,600	1,932	491	2,865	1,797	1,213	450	60	375
25 to 34 years	32,680	25,317	4,190	1,959	6,466	3,086	2,098	750	87	939
35 to 44 years	31,644	24,574	3,969	2,149	5,963	2,269	1,544	515	99	823
45 to 54 years	33,982	27,250	4,018	1,951	4,740	1,674	1,189	362	72	514
55 to 64 years	25,587	21,308	2,506	1,290	2,388	1,112	853	187	44	211
65 years and older	8,700	7,472	669	415	568	148	107	29	9	40
Men, 16 years and older	79,643	64,630	8,252	4,493	13,685	5,025	3,638	957	199	1,701
16 to 19 years	1,668	1,313	203	52	329	162	120	25	3	63
20 to 24 years	7,068	5,591	920	252	1,638	789	524	218	25	199
25 to 34 years	17,680	14,001	1,959	1,066	3,894	1,497	1,066	298	48	534
35 to 44 years	17,051	13,564	1,819	1,167	3,468	1,126	845	163	55	507
45 to 54 years	17,886	14,579	1,857	1,070	2,693	833	614	151	43	274
55 to 64 years	13,435	11,366	1,171	651	1,356	542	416	86	20	102
65 years and older	4,855	4,215	323	236	307	77	55	15	6	23
Women, 16 years and older	69,839	54,472	9,423	3,851	9,933	5,425	3,637	1,398	179	1,332
16 to 19 years	1,571	1,268	187	37	297	202	152	36	5	67
20 to 24 years	6,583	5,009	1,012	239	1,227	1,008	689	233	36	176
25 to 34 years	15,000	11,316	2,231	893	2,572	1,588	1,032	451	39	405
35 to 44 years	14,594	11,010	2,150	981	2,495	1,143	699	352	44	317
45 to 54 years	16,096	12,670	2,162	881	2,047	841	575	210	28	240
55 to 64 years	12,152	9,942	1,335	639	1,032	570	437	101	24	110
65 years and older	3,844	3,257	346	179	262	71	52	14	3	17

Age and gender	Rate ¹				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino ethnicity
Total, 16 years and older	7.0	6.1	13.3	4.5	12.8
16 to 19 years	11.2	10.5	15.8	8.4	20.7
20 to 24 years	13.2	11.4	23.3	12.3	13.1
25 to 34 years	9.4	8.3	17.9	4.4	14.5
35 to 44 years	7.2	6.3	13.0	4.6	13.8
45 to 54 years	4.9	4.4	9.0	3.7	10.8
55 to 64 years	4.3	4.0	7.5	3.4	8.8
65 years and older	1.7	1.4	4.4	2.2	7.1
Men, 16 years and older	6.3	5.6	11.6	4.4	12.4
16 to 19 years	9.7	9.1	12.4	(²)	19.0
20 to 24 years	11.2	9.4	23.6	9.8	12.2
25 to 34 years	8.5	7.6	15.2	4.5	13.7
35 to 44 years	6.6	6.2	9.0	4.7	14.6
45 to 54 years	4.7	4.2	8.2	4.1	10.2
55 to 64 years	4.0	3.7	7.3	3.1	7.5
65 years and older	1.6	1.3	4.8	2.6	7.4
Women, 16 years and older	7.8	6.7	14.8	4.7	13.4
16 to 19 years	12.9	12.0	19.5	(²)	22.6
20 to 24 years	15.3	13.8	23.0	14.9	14.3
25 to 34 years	10.6	9.1	20.2	4.4	15.8
35 to 44 years	7.8	6.4	16.4	4.5	12.7
45 to 54 years	5.2	4.5	9.7	3.2	11.7
55 to 64 years	4.7	4.4	7.6	3.8	10.6
65 years and older	1.9	1.6	4.0	1.6	6.6

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

² 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.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older	149,483	79,643	69,839	10,450	5,025	5,425	7.0	6.3	7.8
Less than a high school diploma	12,984	8,283	4,701	2,490	1,506	984	19.2	18.2	20.9
Less than 1 year of high school	4,339	2,949	1,390	900	608	292	20.7	20.6	21.0
1-3 years of high school	6,837	4,201	2,636	1,299	734	565	19.0	17.5	21.4
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,808	1,133	675	291	164	127	16.1	14.5	18.8
High school graduates, no college ²	41,160	23,778	17,382	3,683	1,869	1,814	8.9	7.9	10.4
Some college or associate's degree	43,811	21,644	22,167	3,105	1,144	1,961	7.1	5.3	8.8
Some college, no degree	28,103	14,378	13,725	2,315	890	1,425	8.2	6.2	10.4
Associate's degree	15,708	7,266	8,443	790	254	536	5.0	3.5	6.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	51,527	25,939	25,589	1,171	506	665	2.3	1.9	2.6
White, 16 years and older	119,102	64,630	54,472	7,276	3,638	3,637	6.1	5.6	6.7
Less than a high school diploma	10,243	6,759	3,484	1,854	1,154	700	18.1	17.1	20.1
Less than 1 year of high school	3,622	2,557	1,065	735	507	227	20.3	19.8	21.3
1-3 years of high school	5,254	3,300	1,953	898	519	379	17.1	15.7	19.4
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,367	901	466	221	128	93	16.2	14.2	20.0
High school graduates, no college ²	32,580	19,288	13,293	2,426	1,293	1,133	7.4	6.7	8.5
Some college or associate's degree	34,751	17,484	17,267	2,151	819	1,333	6.2	4.7	7.7
Some college, no degree	21,953	11,506	10,447	1,584	630	954	7.2	5.5	9.1
Associate's degree	12,797	5,977	6,820	567	189	378	4.4	3.2	5.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	41,528	21,099	20,428	845	373	472	2.0	1.8	2.3
Black or African American, 16 years and older	17,675	8,252	9,423	2,355	957	1,398	13.3	11.6	14.8
Less than a high school diploma	1,625	878	747	442	225	217	27.2	25.7	29.1
Less than 1 year of high school	306	165	142	75	40	35	24.5	24.6	24.4
1-3 years of high school	1,025	562	462	306	153	154	29.9	27.2	33.2
4 years of high school, no diploma	294	152	142	61	32	29	20.8	21.2	20.2
High school graduates, no college ²	5,663	2,890	2,773	1,003	436	567	17.7	15.1	20.4
Some college or associate's degree	5,995	2,609	3,386	755	249	505	12.6	9.6	14.9
Some college, no degree	4,131	1,828	2,303	578	199	378	14.0	10.9	16.4
Associate's degree	1,864	781	1,083	177	50	127	9.5	6.4	11.7
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	4,392	1,874	2,518	155	46	109	3.5	2.5	4.3
Asian, 16 years and older	8,344	4,493	3,851	379	199	179	4.5	4.4	4.7
Less than a high school diploma	589	288	301	67	32	35	11.4	11.0	11.8
Less than 1 year of high school	277	125	151	50	24	26	18.0	19.1	17.2
1-3 years of high school	218	119	99	14	8	6	6.3	6.6	5.9
4 years of high school, no diploma	94	44	50	4	-	4	3.8	(⁴)	(⁴)
High school graduates, no college ²	1,584	873	712	107	70	37	6.7	8.0	5.2
Some college or associate's degree	1,616	853	764	73	33	40	4.5	3.9	5.2
Some college, no degree	1,019	541	477	50	20	31	5.0	3.7	6.4
Associate's degree	598	311	286	22	13	9	3.7	4.2	3.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	4,554	2,479	2,075	132	65	67	2.9	2.6	3.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	23,618	13,685	9,933	3,033	1,701	1,332	12.8	12.4	13.4
Less than a high school diploma	6,544	4,410	2,134	1,436	956	480	21.9	21.7	22.5
Less than 1 year of high school	3,202	2,254	947	694	497	196	21.7	22.1	20.7
1-3 years of high school	2,686	1,723	963	616	384	232	22.9	22.3	24.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	656	432	224	126	75	52	19.3	17.3	23.0
High school graduates, no college ²	7,153	4,323	2,830	875	457	419	12.2	10.6	14.8
Some college or associate's degree	6,150	3,058	3,092	567	213	354	9.2	7.0	11.4
Some college, no degree	4,174	2,148	2,025	437	175	263	10.5	8.1	13.0
Associate's degree	1,976	909	1,067	130	39	91	6.6	4.2	8.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	3,771	1,895	1,876	154	75	79	4.1	4.0	4.2

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

² Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.

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

⁴ 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.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

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, 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and older ²	146,559	78,021	68,537	9,159	4,326	4,832	6.2	5.5	7.1
Management, professional, and related occupations	55,349	26,678	28,672	1,188	480	708	2.1	1.8	2.5
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	23,204	12,929	10,275	456	223	233	2.0	1.7	2.3
Professional and related occupations	32,146	13,749	18,397	732	257	475	2.3	1.9	2.6
Service occupations	25,509	11,010	14,500	3,598	1,308	2,290	14.1	11.9	15.8
Sales and office occupations	34,182	13,174	21,008	2,001	678	1,323	5.9	5.1	6.3
Sales and related occupations	16,131	8,199	7,933	1,208	408	800	7.5	5.0	10.1
Office and administrative support occupations	18,050	4,975	13,076	793	270	522	4.4	5.4	4.0
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13,586	12,964	622	1,121	1,019	103	8.3	7.9	16.5
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,129	825	304	195	117	78	17.2	14.2	25.6
Construction and extraction occupations	7,530	7,377	153	748	727	21	9.9	9.9	13.7
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,926	4,762	164	179	175	4	3.6	3.7	2.4
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	17,813	14,098	3,715	1,247	838	409	7.0	5.9	11.0
Production occupations	8,702	6,362	2,340	511	299	213	5.9	4.7	9.1
Transportation and material-moving occupations	9,111	7,735	1,376	736	539	196	8.1	7.0	14.3
White, 16 years and older ²	117,160	63,542	53,618	6,501	3,219	3,282	5.5	5.1	6.1
Management, professional, and related occupations	45,311	22,111	23,200	890	362	528	2.0	1.6	2.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	19,540	11,113	8,427	345	158	187	1.8	1.4	2.2
Professional and related occupations	25,771	10,998	14,773	545	204	341	2.1	1.9	2.3
Service occupations	18,861	8,245	10,616	2,396	908	1,488	12.7	11.0	14.0
Sales and office occupations	27,359	10,643	16,716	1,436	494	941	5.2	4.6	5.6
Sales and related occupations	12,873	6,788	6,085	851	304	548	6.6	4.5	9.0
Office and administrative support occupations	14,486	3,855	10,631	584	190	394	4.0	4.9	3.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	11,861	11,373	488	978	889	89	8.2	7.8	18.3
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	990	731	259	179	103	75	18.1	14.2	29.2
Construction and extraction occupations	6,734	6,609	125	661	648	14	9.8	9.8	11.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,137	4,033	104	138	138	-	3.3	3.4	-
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	13,681	11,096	2,585	798	562	236	5.8	5.1	9.1
Production occupations	6,829	5,203	1,626	322	204	119	4.7	3.9	7.3
Transportation and material-moving occupations	6,852	5,892	959	476	359	117	6.9	6.1	12.2
Black or African American, 16 years and older ²	16,976	7,875	9,100	1,946	730	1,216	11.5	9.3	13.4
Management, professional, and related occupations	4,901	1,875	3,026	160	58	103	3.3	3.1	3.4
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,733	787	947	64	33	31	3.7	4.2	3.3
Professional and related occupations	3,168	1,089	2,079	96	25	71	3.0	2.3	3.4
Service occupations	4,242	1,710	2,532	938	279	659	22.1	16.3	26.0
Sales and office occupations	4,127	1,408	2,718	434	120	314	10.5	8.5	11.5
Sales and related occupations	1,842	716	1,126	266	57	209	14.4	8.0	18.5
Office and administrative support occupations	2,285	693	1,592	167	62	105	7.3	9.0	6.6
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	978	891	87	87	76	11	8.9	8.5	12.7
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	85	54	31	5	5	-	5.6	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	441	425	16	51	44	7	11.5	10.3	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	451	411	40	31	27	4	6.9	6.6	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	2,709	1,979	730	327	198	129	12.1	10.0	17.7
Production occupations	1,084	695	389	129	62	68	11.9	8.9	17.4
Transportation and material-moving occupations	1,625	1,284	341	198	136	62	12.2	10.6	18.1

See footnotes at end of table.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

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, 2013 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate ¹		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Asian, 16 years and older ²	8,164	4,385	3,778	311	159	151	3.8	3.6	4.0
Management, professional, and related occupations	3,899	2,176	1,723	79	42	37	2.0	1.9	2.1
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,396	788	608	23	20	3	1.7	2.5	.5
Professional and related occupations	2,503	1,388	1,115	56	22	34	2.2	1.6	3.0
Service occupations	1,428	606	822	122	57	64	8.5	9.4	7.8
Sales and office occupations	1,657	741	916	50	25	25	3.0	3.4	2.7
Sales and related occupations	920	479	441	34	22	12	3.7	4.7	2.7
Office and administrative support occupations	737	261	475	15	3	13	2.1	1.0	2.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	291	271	20	12	12	—	4.0	4.3	(³)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	18	12	6	3	3	—	(³)	(³)	(³)
Construction and extraction occupations	79	77	1	1	1	—	(³)	(³)	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	195	181	13	7	7	—	3.7	4.0	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	881	585	296	49	23	25	5.5	4.0	8.6
Production occupations	541	282	259	38	14	23	7.0	5.1	9.1
Transportation and material-moving occupations	340	303	37	11	9	2	3.3	3.0	(³)
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older ²	23,106	13,407	9,699	2,749	1,557	1,193	11.9	11.6	12.3
Management, professional, and related occupations	4,631	2,114	2,518	157	76	81	3.4	3.6	3.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	2,006	1,079	927	65	28	37	3.2	2.6	4.0
Professional and related occupations	2,625	1,035	1,591	93	48	45	3.5	4.6	2.8
Service occupations	5,881	2,789	3,092	1,128	485	643	19.2	17.4	20.8
Sales and office occupations	5,075	2,095	2,979	472	188	285	9.3	9.0	9.6
Sales and related occupations	2,347	1,125	1,222	251	103	148	10.7	9.1	12.1
Office and administrative support occupations	2,727	970	1,757	222	85	136	8.1	8.8	7.8
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	3,580	3,369	211	613	544	69	17.1	16.2	32.8
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	489	340	149	128	70	57	26.1	20.7	38.4
Construction and extraction occupations	2,259	2,212	47	419	408	10	18.5	18.5	(³)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	832	816	16	67	65	2	8.1	8.0	(³)
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	3,921	3,027	894	378	263	115	9.6	8.7	12.8
Production occupations	1,916	1,371	544	146	88	58	7.6	6.4	10.6
Transportation and material-moving occupations	2,006	1,656	350	232	175	57	11.6	10.6	16.2

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

² Estimates for the occupational groups do not sum to totals because data includes the long-term unemployed with no previous work experience and a small number of people whose last job was in the Armed Forces.

³ 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.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

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, 2013**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total primary families	66,462	61,325	5,137	7.7
With related children under 18 years	34,938	30,823	4,115	11.8
Without children	31,525	30,502	1,022	3.2
With one member in the labor force	28,964	24,702	4,263	14.7
With two or more members in the labor force	37,498	36,624	874	2.3
With two members	31,466	30,671	796	2.5
With three or more members	6,032	5,953	79	1.3
Married-couple families	49,064	47,018	2,046	4.2
With related children under 18 years	24,369	22,820	1,549	6.4
Without children	24,695	24,198	496	2.0
With one member in the labor force	17,153	15,649	1,504	8.8
Husband	12,182	11,010	1,172	9.6
Wife	4,240	3,969	271	6.4
Relative	731	670	61	8.3
With two or more members in the labor force	31,911	31,369	541	1.7
With two members	27,015	26,522	493	1.8
With three or more members	4,896	4,847	49	1.0
Families maintained by women	11,893	9,413	2,480	20.8
With related children under 18 years	7,803	5,627	2,176	27.9
Without children	4,090	3,786	303	7.4
With one member in the labor force	8,422	6,176	2,246	26.7
Householder	6,797	4,881	1,916	28.2
Relative	1,625	1,295	330	20.3
With two or more members in the labor force	3,470	3,237	234	6.7
Families maintained by men	5,506	4,894	612	11.1
With related children under 18 years	2,766	2,376	389	14.1
Without children	2,740	2,518	223	8.1
With one member in the labor force	3,389	2,876	513	15.1
Householder	2,778	2,385	394	14.2
Relative	610	491	119	19.5
With two or more members in the labor force	2,117	2,018	99	4.7

¹ 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.
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total people	In married-couple families				In families maintained by women			In families maintained by men			Unrelated individuals
		Husbands	Wives	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	Householder	Related children under 18 years	Other relatives	
Total												
All people ¹	247,258	58,964	59,660	5,702	20,991	15,175	2,256	13,656	6,285	625	6,765	57,177
With labor force activity	161,813	44,754	36,885	1,353	12,997	10,560	445	8,193	4,874	126	4,286	37,341
1 to 26 weeks	12,330	1,432	2,499	817	2,565	783	263	1,037	203	81	369	2,280
27 weeks or more	149,483	43,321	34,385	536	10,431	9,776	183	7,156	4,670	44	3,918	35,061
With no labor force activity	85,445	14,211	22,775	4,349	7,995	4,616	1,811	5,464	1,411	499	2,479	19,837
At or above poverty level												
All people ¹	215,301	55,518	56,183	5,292	19,813	10,535	1,570	11,001	5,289	524	5,819	43,757
With labor force activity	148,821	42,900	35,954	1,308	12,609	7,986	363	7,211	4,337	118	3,925	32,112
1 to 26 weeks	9,789	1,272	2,308	786	2,416	323	198	781	148	75	289	1,192
27 weeks or more	139,033	41,628	33,646	522	10,193	7,662	164	6,430	4,189	43	3,636	30,920
With no labor force activity	66,480	12,618	20,230	3,984	7,205	2,549	1,207	3,790	952	406	1,894	11,645
Below poverty level												
All people ¹	31,957	3,447	3,476	410	1,178	4,641	686	2,655	996	101	945	13,420
With labor force activity	12,991	1,854	931	45	388	2,574	82	982	537	8	361	5,229
1 to 26 weeks	2,542	161	191	31	149	460	64	256	55	7	79	1,088
27 weeks or more	10,450	1,693	740	14	239	2,114	18	726	482	2	282	4,141
With no labor force activity	18,966	1,593	2,545	365	790	2,067	604	1,673	459	93	585	8,192
Rate²												
All people ¹	12.9	5.8	5.8	7.2	5.6	30.6	30.4	19.4	15.8	16.2	14.0	23.5
With labor force activity	8.0	4.1	2.5	3.3	3.0	24.4	18.5	12.0	11.0	6.6	8.4	14.0
1 to 26 weeks	20.6	11.2	7.6	3.8	5.8	58.7	24.4	24.7	27.2	8.2	21.5	47.7
27 weeks or more	7.0	3.9	2.2	2.6	2.3	21.6	10.0	10.1	10.3	(³)	7.2	11.8
With no labor force activity	22.2	11.2	11.2	8.4	9.9	44.8	33.3	30.6	32.5	18.7	23.6	41.3

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

² Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total.

³ Data not shown where base is less than 80,000.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR, 2013

Table 7. Unrelated individuals in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by age, gender, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and living arrangement, 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Age and gender				
Total unrelated individuals	35,061	30,920	4,141	11.8
16 to 19 years	345	206	139	40.3
20 to 24 years	4,413	3,444	969	22.0
25 to 64 years	28,081	25,094	2,987	10.6
65 years and older	2,222	2,177	45	2.0
Men	18,934	16,818	2,116	11.2
Women	16,127	14,102	2,025	12.6
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White	28,020	24,957	3,063	10.9
Men	15,276	13,760	1,516	9.9
Women	12,745	11,197	1,548	12.1
Black or African American	4,721	3,954	767	16.3
Men	2,379	1,938	441	18.5
Women	2,342	2,015	327	13.9
Asian	1,292	1,126	165	12.8
Men	707	636	71	10.0
Women	585	490	94	16.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,748	3,947	801	16.9
Men	2,994	2,509	485	16.2
Women	1,754	1,438	316	18.0
Living arrangement				
Living alone	17,935	16,402	1,534	8.6
Living with others	17,126	14,518	2,607	15.2

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

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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, 2013

(Numbers in thousands)

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate ¹
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	113,953	109,549	4,404	3.9
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings ²	94,043	93,389	654	.7
Unemployment only	6,105	5,496	609	10.0
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,604	2,529	75	2.9
Low earnings only	6,883	5,185	1,698	24.7
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	1,160	1,013	147	12.7
Unemployment and low earnings	1,751	1,033	718	41.0
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	900	609	291	32.3
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	507	294	213	42.1
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	9,523	7,837	1,687	17.7
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	5,171	4,446	725	14.0
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	10,041	7,121	2,920	29.1

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

² The low-earnings threshold in 2013 was \$342.87 per week.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Technical Notes

Source of data

The data presented in this report were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the CPS are used to obtain the monthly estimates of the nation's employment and unemployment levels. The ASEC, conducted in the months of February through April, includes questions about work activity and income during the previous calendar year. For instance, data collected in 2014 refer to the 2013 calendar year.

The 2013 data in this report are based on fewer sample responses than in recent years. Approximately three-eighths of the 2014 CPS ASEC was used to test redesigned questions on income and health insurance coverage; this portion of the sample was not used to generate estimates in this news release.

Estimates in this report are based on a sample and, consequently, may differ from figures that would have been obtained from a complete count using the same questionnaire and procedures. Sampling variability may be relatively large in cases where the numbers are small. Thus, both small estimates and small differences between estimates should be interpreted with caution. For a detailed explanation of the ASEC supplement to the CPS, its sampling variability, and more extensive definitions than those provided in these Technical Notes, see *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013*, Current Population Reports, P60-249 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2014). This publication is available on the U.S. Census Bureau website at

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>, and additional information about income and poverty measures is available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income.html>.

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This information is available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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

Comparability of estimates

The data presented in this release are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years due to the introduction of updated population estimates, or controls, used in the CPS. The population controls are updated each year in January to reflect the latest information about population change. Additional information is at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop>.

Estimates of the working poor for years through 2012 were affected by several errors, as described at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/errata/corrected-working-poor-data.htm>. These errors do not affect estimates for 2013.

Concepts and definitions

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

The actual poverty thresholds vary, due to the makeup of the family. In 2013, the weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$23,834; for a family of nine or more people, the threshold was \$48,065; and for

one person (unrelated individual), it was \$11,888. Poverty thresholds are updated each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Thresholds do not vary geographically. (For more information, see *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013*, at <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>.)

Low earnings. The low-earnings level, as first developed in 1987, represented the average of the real value of the minimum wage between 1967 and 1987 for a 40-hour workweek. The year 1967 was chosen as the base year because that was the first year in which minimum-wage legislation covered essentially the same broad group of workers that currently is covered. The low-earnings level has been adjusted each year since then in accordance with the CPI-U, so the measure maintains the same real value that it held in 1987. In 2013, the low-earnings threshold was \$342.87 per week. For a complete definition, see Bruce W. Klein and Philip L. Rones, “A profile of the working poor,” *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1989, pp. 3–11, at www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1989/10/art1full.pdf.

Income. Data on income are limited to money income—before personal income taxes and payroll deductions—received in the calendar year preceding the CPS supplement. Data on income do not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, and employer-provided benefits. For a complete definition of income, see *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013*, at <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>.

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

Working poor. The working poor are people who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (that is, working or looking for work) but whose incomes still fell below the official poverty level.

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

Involuntary part-time workers. These are people who, during 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. This term refers to the job 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 were expecting to be recalled to that job. The number of weeks unemployed is accumulated over the entire year.

Family. A family is defined as a group of two or more 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 consists of the reference person (householder) and all people living in the household who are related to the reference person. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as those maintained by men or women without spouses present. Family status is determined at the time of the survey interview and, thus, may be different from that of the previous year.

Unrelated individuals. These are people who are not living with anyone related to them by birth, marriage, or adoption. Such individuals may live alone, reside in a nonrelated family household, or live in group quarters with other unrelated individuals.

Related children. Related children are children under age 18 (including sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children) of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family, as well as other children related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Race. White, Black or African American, and Asian are categories used to describe the race of people. People in these categories are those who selected that race group only. Data for the two remaining race categories—American Indian and Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander—and for people who selected more than one race category are included in totals, but are not shown separately because the number of survey

respondents is too small to develop estimates of sufficient quality for publication. In the enumeration process, race is determined by the household respondent.

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