

35. Persons not in the labor force by desire and availability for work, age, and sex

(In thousands)

Category	Total		Age						Sex			
	2006	2007	16 to 24 years		25 to 54 years		55 years and over		Men		Women	
			2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Total not in the labor force	77,387	78,743	14,549	15,192	21,318	21,343	41,520	42,207	29,350	30,036	48,037	48,707
Do not want a job now ¹	72,602	74,040	12,867	13,510	19,221	19,256	40,514	41,275	27,248	27,914	45,354	46,126
Want a job ¹	4,786	4,703	1,682	1,683	2,097	2,088	1,006	933	2,102	2,122	2,684	2,581
Did not search for work in previous year	2,758	2,748	883	931	1,155	1,148	720	668	1,145	1,173	1,612	1,575
Searched for work in previous year ²	2,028	1,955	800	751	942	939	286	264	956	950	1,071	1,005
Not available to work now	580	560	282	272	252	234	46	53	226	223	354	336
Available to work now	1,448	1,395	518	479	690	705	240	211	731	726	717	669
Reason not currently looking:												
Discouragement over job prospects ³	381	369	118	110	195	199	68	61	229	226	152	143
Reasons other than discouragement	1,067	1,026	399	370	495	506	172	150	502	500	565	526
Family responsibilities	152	160	31	31	97	109	24	21	35	37	117	123
In school or training	207	180	177	149	28	27	2	3	111	102	96	78
Ill health or disability	130	114	18	11	76	66	36	37	63	57	68	58
Other ⁴	578	572	174	178	294	304	110	90	292	305	285	267

¹ Includes some persons who are not asked if they want a job.

² Persons who had a job in the prior 12 months must have searched since the end of that job.

³ Includes believes no work available, could not find work, lacks necessary schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

⁴ Includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not ascertained.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.