

# Multiple jobholding during the 2000s

*Multiple jobholding has held steady in recent years;  
most workers who moonlight do so for economic reasons*

Steven F. Hipple

In 2009, 7.3 million workers held more than one job, and the multiple jobholding rate—the proportion of total employment made up of multiple jobholders—was 5.2 percent. Both the number of multiple jobholders and the rate of multiple jobholding have been stable in recent years and remain below the levels recorded during the mid-1990s. Among most of the major demographic groups, “moonlighting” has become less common in recent years compared with the mid-to-late 1990s.

Information on multiple jobholding is available from the Current Population Survey (CPS).<sup>1</sup> Since 1994, data on multiple jobholding have been collected on a monthly basis in the CPS. Before 1994, data on multiple jobholding were collected periodically in CPS supplemental surveys. The availability of monthly estimates allows for better examination of the characteristics of multiple jobholders and for the determination of whether multiple jobholding is responsive to recent cyclical changes in economic conditions.<sup>2</sup> This article discusses the measurement of multiple jobholding, addresses historical trends, and provides an overview of the characteristics of multiple jobholders.

### Recent trends in multiple jobholding

A number of earlier studies found that the multiple jobholding rate moved in a “procyclical” fashion, rising during economic

expansions when job growth was strong and declining during economic downturns when jobs were more difficult to find.<sup>3</sup> However, since regular monthly estimates of multiple jobholding became available in 1994, the multiple jobholding rate has shown no clear cyclical pattern. As the data in chart 1 show, in contrast to the unemployment rate, the multiple jobholding rate has remained relatively stable since 1994. The multiple jobholding rate reached its most recent peak (6.2 percent) during 1995–96. (See table 1.) However, as the economy continued to expand during the latter half of the 1990s, the rate began to recede and declined to 5.3 percent by 2002, a year of sluggish labor market conditions following the 2001 recession. From 2003 to 2007, as the economy expanded and the unemployment rate fell, the multiple jobholding rate held steady and never returned to its prerecession high. Since the start of the most recent recession in December 2007, the multiple jobholding rate has hovered around 5 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Multiple jobholding rates for most of the major demographic groups—men, women, Whites, and Blacks—have exhibited a similar pattern over the 1994–2009 period; the rates for these groups began to decline by the late 1990s and early 2000s, but have since remained close to the levels recorded just after the 2001 recession. During the 1990s and early 2000s, the multiple jobholding rates of men and women were similar, but since 2002, the gap in rates between men and women has widened as men have worked multiple jobs at a lower rate than women have. (See chart 2 and table 1.)

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### How is multiple jobholding measured?

Since January 1994, employed respondents have been asked the following question in the monthly CPS: “Last week, did you have more than one job (or business), including part-time, evening, or weekend work?” If they answer “yes,” they are also asked how many jobs (or businesses) they had altogether and how many hours they worked each week at all their jobs.<sup>1</sup> The primary job is defined as one at which the greatest number of hours were worked. Each month, additional questions on the industry and occupation of the secondary job also are asked of a quarter of the CPS respondents.<sup>2</sup> For workers who held more than two jobs, the information on the industry, occupation, and class of worker for their second job is collected only for the job at which

they worked the second-greatest number of hours. Of the 7.3 million multiple jobholders in 2009, 92 percent held two jobs, 7 percent held three jobs, and the remainder held four or more jobs.

In the CPS, a multiple jobholder is defined as an individual who responds affirmatively to the initial question stated earlier and (1) had a job as a wage and salary worker with two or more employers, (2) combined a wage and salary job with self-employment, or (3) combined a wage and salary job with one as an unpaid family worker. Excluded are people who were self-employed or unpaid family workers on their primary job and held a secondary job as a self-employed worker or an unpaid family worker.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Data on hours worked relate to the actual number of hours worked during the reference week. For example, people who normally work 40 hours a week but were off on the New Year’s Day holiday would be reported as working 32 hours, even though they were paid for the holiday.

<sup>2</sup> Each month, the questions on the occupation and industry of the secondary job are asked of respondents in the outgoing rotation groups, which are groups of people who are in their fourth or eighth month as part of the sample.

### Demographic characteristics

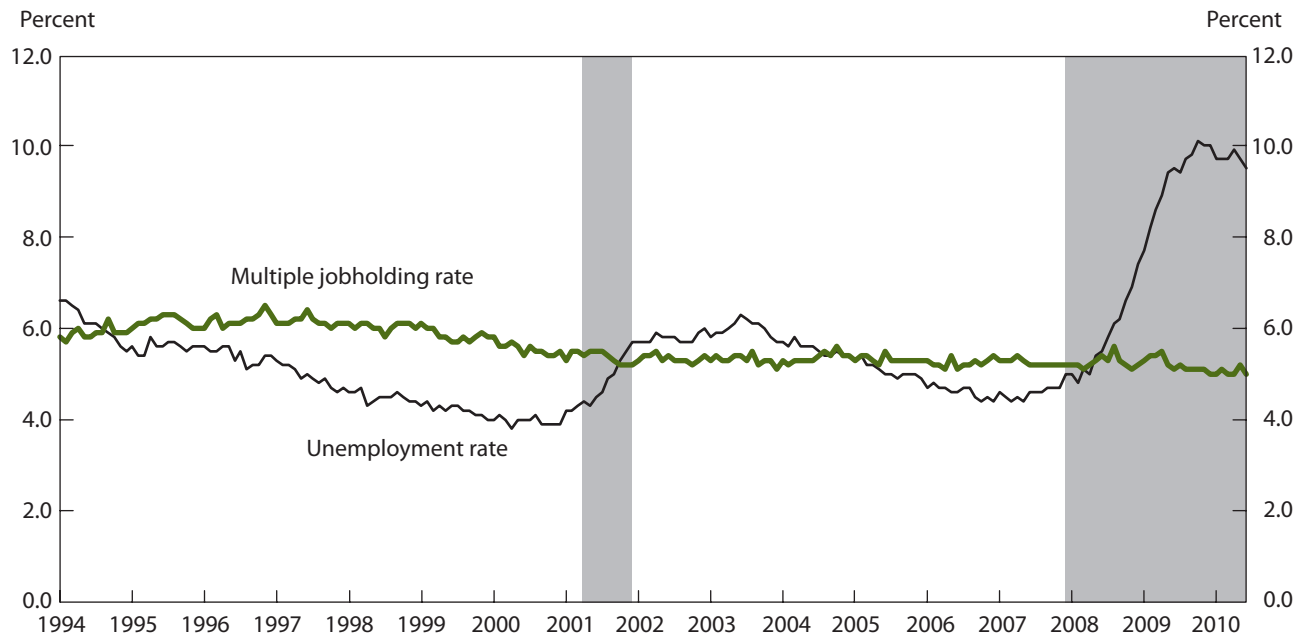
Although similar numbers of men and women held multiple jobs in 2009, the multiple jobholding rate for women (5.6 percent) was higher than that for men (4.8 percent). For both men and women, multiple jobholding rates were lowest for those age 16 to 19 and age 65 and over. (See table 2.)

Table 3 shows multiple jobholding rates for men and women by age since 1994. After holding fairly steady during the 1994–2005 period, the incidence of multiple jobholding among both male and female teenagers (age 16 to 19) has declined in recent years. For men and women between the ages of 20 and 54, multiple jobholding rates in nearly every age group declined during the late 1990s and early 2000s; since 2002, however, rates for workers in most of these age groups have remained relatively stable. Compared with 15 years earlier, the incidence of multiple jobholding among women age 55 and over was higher in 2009.

In 2009, married men were somewhat more likely to hold more than one job than were men without a spouse. (See table 2.) Among women (during the same year), the multiple jobholding rate was highest for those who were widowed, divorced, or separated (6.5 percent). Among the major race and ethnic groups, Whites were most likely to hold more than one job. In 2009, the multiple jobholding rate for Whites was 5.4 percent, while the rates for Blacks and Hispanics were 4.8 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively. The rate for Asians was 3.2 percent.

Workers who were natives of the United States were more likely than the foreign born to hold more than one job. The multiple jobholding rate for the native born was 5.5 percent, compared with 3.3 percent for the foreign born. Foreign-born workers who were naturalized citizens had a somewhat higher probability of holding multiple jobs than their counterparts who were noncitizens; the multiple jobholding rate for naturalized citizens was 3.9 percent, compared with 2.9 percent for noncitizens.

**Chart 1. Multiple jobholding rate and unemployment rate, January 1994 to June 2010, seasonally adjusted**



NOTE: Shaded areas denote recessions as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). NBER has not yet designated an endpoint for the recession that began in December 2007.

**Table 1. Multiple jobholding levels and rates, by selected characteristics, 1994–2009 annual averages**

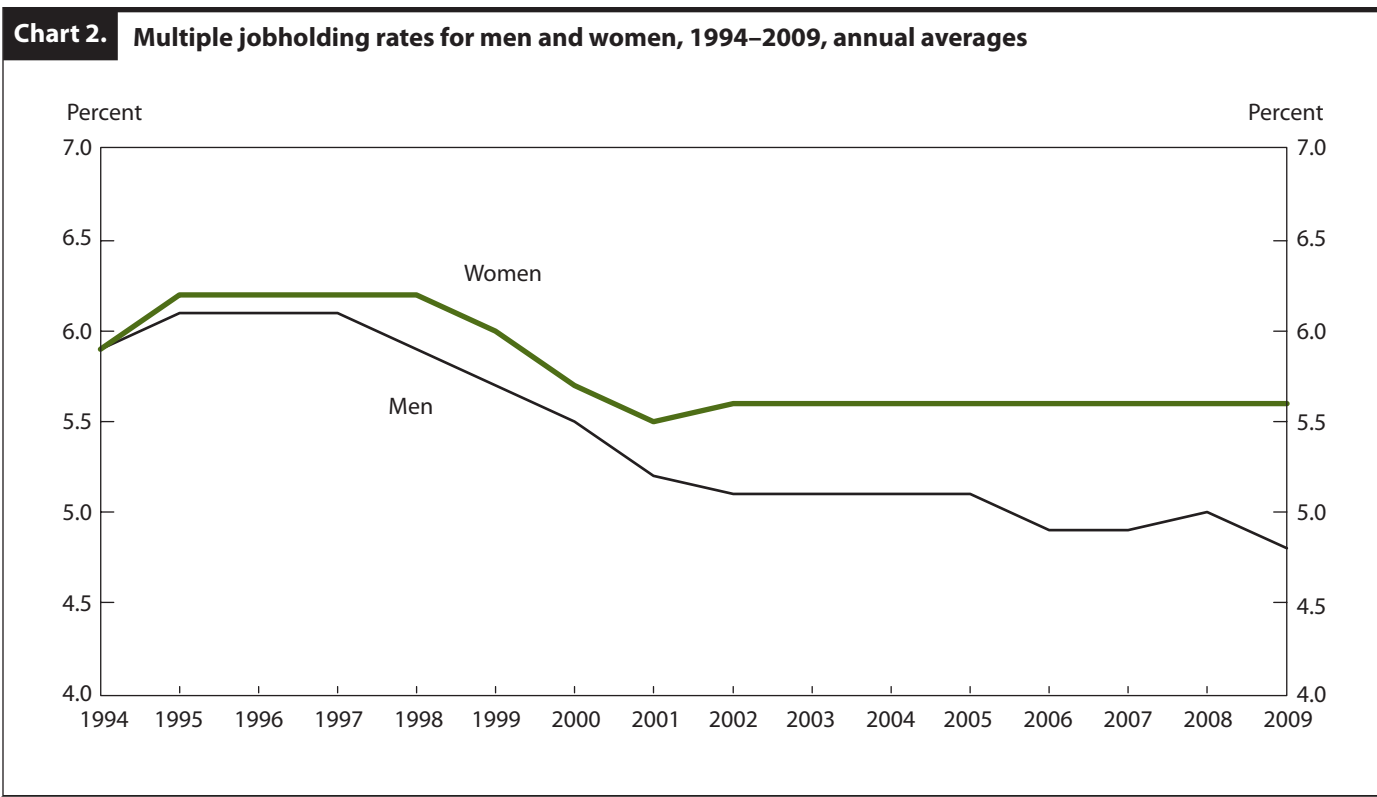
[Levels in thousands; rates in percent]

Year	Total employed	Multiple jobholders				Multiple jobholding rate <sup>1</sup>						
		Total	Men	Women	Women as a percent of total	Total	Men	Women	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
1994.....	123,060	7,260	3,924	3,336	46.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.1	4.9	–	3.7
1995.....	124,900	7,693	4,139	3,554	46.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.4	5.2	–	3.9
1996.....	126,708	7,832	4,192	3,640	46.5	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.4	5.2	–	3.8
1997.....	129,558	7,955	4,237	3,718	46.7	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	5.4	–	3.9
1998.....	131,463	7,926	4,178	3,748	47.3	6.0	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.5	–	3.8
1999.....	133,488	7,802	4,104	3,698	47.4	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.5	–	3.6
2000.....	136,891	7,604	3,996	3,608	47.4	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.3	3.9	3.4
2001.....	136,933	7,357	3,834	3,523	47.9	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.0	3.4
2002.....	136,485	7,291	3,734	3,557	48.8	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.5	4.8	3.9	3.5
2003.....	137,736	7,315	3,716	3,599	49.2	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.5	4.4	3.4	3.2
2004.....	139,252	7,473	3,835	3,638	48.7	5.4	5.1	5.6	5.5	4.7	3.8	3.4
2005.....	141,730	7,546	3,855	3,691	48.9	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.4	5.0	4.1	3.1
2006.....	144,427	7,576	3,822	3,753	49.5	5.2	4.9	5.6	5.3	5.2	3.8	3.0
2007.....	146,047	7,655	3,833	3,822	49.9	5.2	4.9	5.6	5.4	4.7	3.6	3.1
2008.....	145,362	7,620	3,837	3,783	49.6	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.4	4.7	3.7	3.3
2009.....	139,877	7,271	3,530	3,741	51.5	5.2	4.8	5.6	5.4	4.8	3.2	3.3

NOTE: Dashes indicate data not available.

<sup>1</sup> Multiple jobholding rates are calculated by dividing the number of

multiple jobholders in a specified worker group by total employment in the same group.



The incidence of multiple jobholding generally increases as workers achieve higher levels of education. (See table 2 and chart 3.) Among workers age 25 and older, those with less than a high school diploma had a low multiple jobholding rate (2.4 percent). The rate was much higher (7.0 percent) for workers with an advanced degree, especially those with a master's degree or a doctoral degree.

**Industry and occupation of the primary job**

In 2009, the multiple jobholding rate for workers with primary jobs in nonagricultural industries was 5.2 percent, compared with 4.3 percent for their counterparts in agricultural industries. Among industries within the nonagricultural sector, there was variation in multiple jobholding rates. For instance, multiple jobholding rates were lowest for workers with primary jobs in mining (3.3 percent) and construction (3.1 percent); by comparison, rates were much higher for workers in education and health services (7.6 percent) and public administration (7.2 percent). (See table 4.)

Among the occupational groups, the multiple jobholding rates were highest for workers in professional and related occupations (7.1 percent) and service occupations (6.0 percent).

The following tabulation shows the occupations with the highest multiple jobholding rates among men and women.

<i>Sex and occupation</i>	<i>Multiple jobholding rate (percent)</i>
<b>Men</b>	
Firefighters .....	28.6
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics .....	20.1
Secondary school teachers .....	14.0
Social workers.....	13.5
Elementary and middle school teachers .....	11.5
<b>Women</b>	
Dental hygienists .....	12.9
Psychologists .....	12.5
Postsecondary teachers .....	11.9
Physical therapists .....	11.7
Therapists, all other.....	11.5

Many professional and related occupations, such as teachers and college faculty, have predictable or flexible hours that would allow for second jobs. The same holds for healthcare occupations and firefighters.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 2. Multiple jobholding levels and rates, by sex and other selected characteristics, 2009 annual averages**

[Levels in thousands; rates in percent]

Characteristic	Total employed			Multiple jobholders			Multiple jobholding rate <sup>1</sup>		
	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
<b>Age</b>									
Total, 16 years and over .....	139,877	73,670	66,208	7,271	3,530	3,741	5.2	4.8	5.6
16 to 19 years .....	4,837	2,328	2,509	186	71	115	3.8	3.1	4.6
20 to 24 years .....	12,764	6,510	6,254	710	307	403	5.6	4.7	6.4
25 to 34 years .....	30,014	16,223	13,791	1,546	795	750	5.1	4.9	5.4
35 to 44 years .....	31,517	16,918	14,599	1,675	822	853	5.3	4.9	5.8
45 to 54 years .....	33,613	17,443	16,170	1,903	907	996	5.7	5.2	6.2
55 years and over.....	27,132	14,247	12,885	1,251	627	623	4.6	4.4	4.8
55 to 64 years .....	21,019	10,890	10,128	1,039	507	532	4.9	4.7	5.2
65 years and over.....	6,114	3,357	2,757	212	120	92	3.5	3.6	3.3
<b>Marital status</b>									
Single .....	38,428	20,628	17,800	1,989	890	1,099	5.2	4.3	6.2
Married, spouse present.....	79,205	43,998	35,207	3,993	2,212	1,781	5.0	5.0	5.1
Widowed, divorced, or separated .....	22,244	9,043	13,201	1,289	429	861	5.8	4.7	6.5
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>									
White .....	114,996	61,630	53,366	6,166	3,016	3,150	5.4	4.9	5.9
Black or African American.....	15,025	6,817	8,208	714	319	395	4.8	4.7	4.8
Asian .....	6,635	3,551	3,084	210	111	100	3.2	3.1	3.2
Hispanic or Latino.....	19,647	11,640	8,007	643	354	289	3.3	3.0	3.6
<b>Country of birth and U.S. citizenship status</b>									
U.S. born.....	118,269	60,905	57,364	6,557	3,139	3,418	5.5	5.2	6.0
Foreign born.....	21,608	12,765	8,844	714	391	323	3.3	3.1	3.7
U.S. citizen .....	9,658	5,108	4,550	372	192	180	3.9	3.8	4.0
Not a U.S. citizen.....	11,951	7,657	4,293	342	199	143	2.9	2.6	3.3
<b>Educational attainment</b>									
Total, 25 years and over.....	122,277	64,831	57,445	6,375	3,152	3,223	5.2	4.9	5.6
Less than a high school diploma.....	10,371	6,569	3,802	253	152	102	2.4	2.3	2.7
High school diploma, no college .....	34,487	19,085	15,402	1,362	709	654	4.0	3.7	4.2
Some college, no degree .....	21,016	10,772	10,244	1,187	588	599	5.7	5.5	5.8
Associate's degree .....	12,872	5,864	7,008	811	356	456	6.3	6.1	6.5
Bachelor's degree .....	27,964	14,368	13,597	1,677	824	853	6.0	5.7	6.3
Advanced degree.....	15,567	8,174	7,393	1,083	524	560	7.0	6.4	7.6
Master's degree .....	11,019	5,288	5,731	808	350	458	7.3	6.6	8.0
Professional degree .....	2,574	1,644	930	133	88	46	5.2	5.3	4.9
Doctoral degree .....	1,974	1,242	732	142	86	56	7.2	6.9	7.6

<sup>1</sup> Multiple jobholding rates are calculated by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in a specified worker group by total employment in the same group.

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

## The second jobs

The vast majority (96 percent) of multiple jobholders held secondary jobs in nonagricultural industries in 2009. Of the total number of multiple jobholders, 18 percent held secondary jobs as self-employed workers in nonagricultural industries.<sup>6</sup> Slightly more than three-fourths of

multiple jobholders held secondary wage and salary jobs in nonagricultural industries, with 22 percent working in education and health services, 15 percent in leisure and hospitality, and 12 percent in retail trade. (See table 5.)

There were differences between men and women with regard to the types of secondary jobs they held. For example, men were more likely than women to hold secondary

**Table 3. Multiple jobholding rates<sup>1</sup> of men and women, age 16 and over, 1994–2009 annual averages**

[In percent]

Year	Total	16 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 34 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 years and over
<b>Men</b>							
1994.....	5.9	4.1	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.2	4.3
1995.....	6.1	4.7	6.1	6.7	6.5	6.4	4.3
1996.....	6.1	4.4	6.1	6.6	6.5	6.5	4.7
1997.....	6.1	4.2	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.4	4.8
1998.....	5.9	3.9	5.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	4.9
1999.....	5.7	4.1	5.1	6.1	6.3	6.0	4.9
2000.....	5.5	3.9	4.7	5.6	5.9	5.9	4.9
2001.....	5.2	3.6	4.8	5.3	5.7	5.5	4.7
2002.....	5.1	3.6	4.8	5.0	5.6	5.6	4.3
2003.....	5.1	3.7	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.6	4.6
2004.....	5.1	3.6	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.5	4.6
2005.....	5.1	4.0	5.1	4.9	5.4	5.4	4.6
2006.....	4.9	3.4	4.6	5.0	5.2	5.2	4.7
2007.....	4.9	3.3	4.2	5.0	5.1	5.3	4.7
2008.....	5.0	3.4	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.3	4.7
2009.....	4.8	3.1	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.2	4.4
<b>Women</b>							
1994.....	5.9	5.9	7.6	6.1	6.0	6.0	3.6
1995.....	6.2	6.3	7.3	6.1	6.4	6.6	4.1
1996.....	6.2	5.9	7.4	6.3	6.5	6.5	4.1
1997.....	6.2	5.7	7.3	6.0	6.5	6.8	4.4
1998.....	6.2	5.7	7.2	6.0	6.3	6.7	4.6
1999.....	6.0	5.5	6.7	5.9	6.1	6.5	4.7
2000.....	5.7	5.6	6.5	5.6	5.7	6.1	4.6
2001.....	5.5	5.4	6.3	5.4	5.7	5.8	4.4
2002.....	5.6	5.4	6.4	5.2	5.9	5.9	4.6
2003.....	5.6	5.7	6.7	5.1	5.7	5.9	4.8
2004.....	5.6	5.7	6.5	5.6	5.6	5.9	4.8
2005.....	5.6	5.9	6.5	5.5	5.6	6.0	4.7
2006.....	5.6	5.4	6.7	5.2	5.6	6.2	4.7
2007.....	5.6	5.1	6.5	5.6	5.7	5.9	4.9
2008.....	5.6	4.6	6.5	5.0	5.9	6.1	4.9
2009.....	5.6	4.6	6.4	5.4	5.8	6.2	4.8

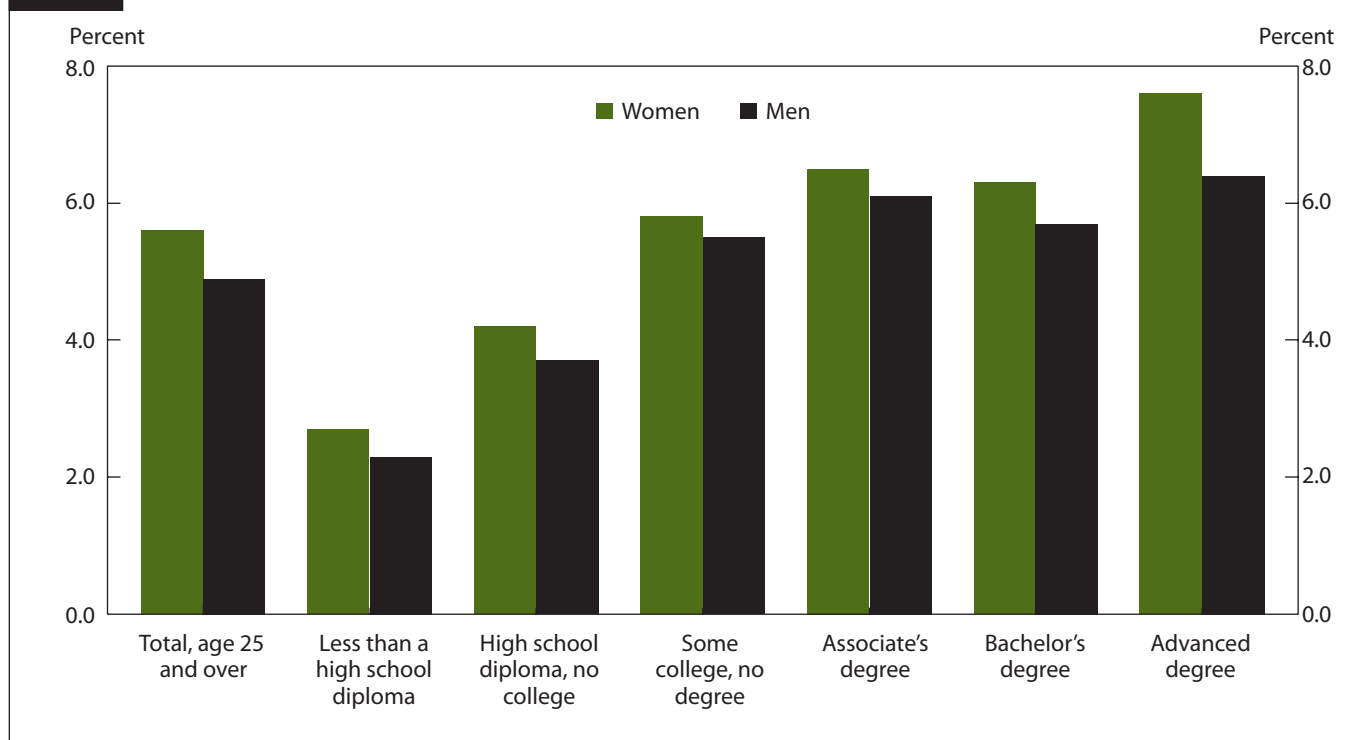
<sup>1</sup> Multiple jobholding rates are calculated by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in a specified worker group by total employment in the same worker group.

jobs in agriculture—7 percent of multiple jobholding men did so, compared with 2 percent of women with multiple jobs. Men also were more likely than women to be self-employed on the second job; the proportions of male and female multiple jobholders who were self-employed on the second jobs were 27 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

In regard to industries, 14 percent of male multiple

jobholders held secondary wage and salary jobs in the education and health services industry and the same percentage held secondary wage and salary jobs in the leisure and hospitality industry. Another 10 percent of men with multiple jobs worked at secondary jobs in retail trade. By comparison, 29 percent of female multiple jobholders held secondary wage and salary jobs in education and health

**Chart 3. Multiple jobholding rates by sex and educational attainment, 2009 annual averages**



services. Relatively large proportions of female multiple jobholders had secondary jobs in leisure and hospitality (16 percent) and retail trade (14 percent).

For both men and women, the occupational distribution of their secondary jobs was similar to that of their primary jobs. Men were more likely than women to have secondary jobs in management, business, and financial occupations; construction and extraction occupations; installation, maintenance, and repair occupations; and transportation and material moving occupations. Compared with male multiple jobholders, larger proportions of female multiple jobholders had secondary jobs in service occupations; sales and related occupations; and office and administrative support occupations.

### Work schedules

Multiple jobholders worked an average of 46.8 hours per week in 2009.<sup>7</sup> By comparison, those with one job worked fewer hours on average (35.8 hours per week).<sup>8</sup> This pattern holds across all of the major demographic groups. For multiple jobholders, there is variation among the various demographic groups in terms of hours spent working at their jobs. Workers in the central age group (25 to 54

years) were most likely to work full time at their primary job and part time at their secondary job; 58 percent of these workers had such a work pattern.<sup>9</sup> By comparison, workers under the age of 25 were more likely to work part time at both their primary and secondary jobs. For example, 72 percent of multiple jobholders age 16 to 19 and 45 percent of those ages 20 to 24 worked part time at both their primary and secondary jobs. Multiple jobholders age 65 and older were more likely than those in the other age groups to report that their hours varied. In addition, a relatively large proportion (36 percent) of workers age 65 and older reported working part time at both their primary and secondary jobs. (See table 6.)

Women who moonlight were nearly twice as likely as men to work at multiple part-time jobs. Thirty-three percent of female multiple jobholders had two part-time jobs in 2009, compared with 17 percent of their male counterparts. Although the incidence of multiple jobholding among women in 2009 was lower than it was a decade earlier, the proportion of female multiple jobholders who held two part-time jobs (1 in 3) was about the same. Over the 1994–2009 period, men were more likely than women to work full time at the primary job and part time at the secondary job.



**Table 4. Multiple jobholders by occupation, industry, and class of worker of the primary job, 2009 annual averages**

[Levels in thousands; rates in percent]

Occupation, industry, and class of worker of primary job	Total employed	Multiple jobholders	Multiple jobholding rate <sup>1</sup>
Total, 16 years and over.....	139,877	7,271	5.2
<b>Occupation</b>			
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	52,219	3,193	6.1
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	21,529	1,012	4.7
Professional and related occupations.....	30,690	2,181	7.1
Service occupations.....	24,598	1,471	6.0
Sales and office occupations.....	33,787	1,643	4.9
Sales and related occupations. Office and administrative support occupations.....	15,641	708	4.5
18,146	935	5.2	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	13,323	401	3.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	926	36	3.9
Construction and extraction occupations.....	7,439	188	2.5
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,957	177	3.6
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations ..	15,951	562	3.5
Production occupations.....	7,654	263	3.4
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	8,297	298	3.6
<b>Industry and class of worker</b>			
Agriculture and related industries.....	2,103	91	4.3
Wage and salary workers.....	1,242	52	4.2
Self-employed workers.....	836	38	4.5
Unpaid family workers.....	25	1	( <sup>2</sup> )
Nonagricultural industries.....	137,775	7,181	5.2
Wage and salary workers.....	128,713	6,882	5.3
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	689	23	3.3
Construction.....	7,994	251	3.1
Manufacturing.....	13,871	471	3.4
Wholesale trade.....	3,636	152	4.2
Retail trade.....	15,070	700	4.6
Transportation and utilities...	6,839	278	4.1
Information.....	3,094	161	5.2
Financial activities.....	8,950	406	4.5
Professional and business services.....	13,001	585	4.5
Education and health services.....	30,712	2,344	7.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	12,091	694	5.7
Other services.....	5,891	322	5.5
Public administration.....	6,875	497	7.2
Self-employed workers.....	8,995	297	3.3
Unpaid family workers.....	66	1	1.5

<sup>1</sup> Multiple jobholding rates are calculated by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in a specified worker group by total employment in the same group.

<sup>2</sup> Estimate not shown because base is fewer than 50,000 persons.

NOTE: Items may not sum to totals because of rounding.

**Table 5. Multiple jobholders by sex and by occupation, industry, and class of worker of the secondary job, 2009 annual averages**

[Percent distribution]

Occupation, industry, and class of worker of secondary job	Total	Men	Women
Total, 16 years and over.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Occupation</b>			
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	39.6	43.7	35.9
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	13.8	19.2	8.7
Professional and related occupations.....	25.9	24.6	27.1
Service occupations.....	27.1	22.5	31.3
Sales and office occupations.....	23.6	17.1	29.6
Sales and related occupations....	14.6	12.4	16.6
Office and administrative support occupations.....	9.0	4.7	13.0
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations....	4.3	8.4	.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	.6	1.0	.2
Construction and extraction occupations.....	2.0	3.9	.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	1.7	3.4	.1
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	5.5	8.3	2.8
Production occupations.....	1.9	2.2	1.5
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	3.6	6.1	1.3
<b>Industry and class of worker</b>			
Agriculture and related industries	4.5	7.1	2.1
Wage and salary workers.....	1.1	1.8	.5
Self-employed workers.....	3.4	5.3	1.6
Unpaid family workers.....	0	0	0
Nonagricultural industries.....	95.5	92.9	97.9
Wage and salary workers.....	77.7	71.6	83.4
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	.0	.1	0
Construction.....	1.6	2.6	.8
Manufacturing.....	1.4	1.8	1.1
Wholesale trade.....	1.0	1.3	.7
Retail trade.....	12.0	10.0	13.8
Transportation and utilities.....	2.3	3.4	1.3
Information.....	1.7	2.2	1.2
Financial activities.....	3.3	4.1	2.7
Professional and business services.....	7.0	7.8	6.3
Education and health services...	22.0	14.1	29.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	15.2	14.0	16.4
Other services.....	7.2	6.7	7.7
Public administration.....	2.8	3.7	1.9
Self-employed workers.....	17.8	21.3	14.5
Unpaid family workers.....	0	0	0



**Table 6. Multiple jobholders by age, sex, race/ethnicity, work schedule, and weekly hours of work at the primary and secondary jobs, 2009 annual averages**

Characteristic	Total multiple jobholders (in thousands)	Percent distribution					Average weekly hours		
		Total	Usually full time on primary job, part time on secondary job(s)	Usually part time on primary and secondary job(s)	Usually full time on primary and secondary job(s)	Hours vary	All jobs	Primary job	Secondary job(s)
Total, 16 years and over.....	7,271	100.0	53.2	25.0	3.4	17.7	46.8	33.6	13.1
16 to 24 years.....	896	100.0	30.9	50.7	1.8	15.8	39.4	27.0	12.4
16 to 19 years.....	186	100.0	12.9	71.5	.5	15.1	30.7	20.7	10.0
20 to 24 years.....	710	100.0	35.6	45.2	2.1	16.1	41.7	28.7	13.0
25 to 54 years.....	5,124	100.0	57.8	20.7	3.7	17.1	48.5	35.0	13.5
25 to 34 years.....	1,546	100.0	57.8	22.4	3.4	15.7	47.7	34.5	13.1
35 to 44 years.....	1,675	100.0	57.9	20.2	3.6	17.6	49.0	35.4	13.6
45 to 54 years.....	1,903	100.0	57.6	19.9	4.1	17.8	48.7	35.1	13.6
55 years and over.....	1,251	100.0	50.4	24.3	3.3	21.5	45.0	32.7	12.3
55 to 64 years.....	1,039	100.0	53.9	21.8	3.4	20.3	46.3	33.8	12.5
65 years and over.....	212	100.0	33.0	36.3	2.8	27.4	38.9	27.5	11.4
Men.....	3,530	100.0	57.8	17.0	4.4	19.9	50.9	36.7	14.2
Women.....	3,741	100.0	48.8	32.7	2.5	15.6	42.8	30.8	12.1
White.....	6,166	100.0	52.1	26.0	3.1	18.2	46.2	33.5	12.8
Black or African American.....	714	100.0	60.9	17.5	6.0	14.6	51.5	35.4	16.0
Asian.....	210	100.0	57.1	24.3	4.3	13.3	47.9	33.4	14.5
Hispanic or Latino.....	643	100.0	56.3	24.1	6.8	11.8	49.3	33.9	15.4

NOTE: Estimates for the race groups in the table (White, Black or African American, Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The total includes a small number of persons who work part time at their primary job and full time at their secondary job(s); these persons are not shown separately.

## Reasons for multiple jobholding

Surveys of multiple jobholding have consistently shown that economic factors are the primary reasons for moonlighting.<sup>10</sup> Information on reasons for multiple jobholding is not collected monthly, but data are available from periodic CPS supplements. In May 2004, the last time information on reasons for multiple jobholding was collected, 38 percent of people who had multiple jobs reported that they did so in order to earn extra money; another 26 percent said they had more than one job in order to meet expenses or pay off debt.<sup>11</sup> Among the other common reasons for working multiple jobs, enjoyment of the second job was reported by 18 percent of moonlighters, and 4 percent of moonlighters mainly wanted to build a business or get experience in a different job. (See table 7.)

The reasons for multiple jobholding varied noticeably among demographic groups. For instance, the proportion

working more than one job for economic reasons—that is, to meet expenses or pay off debt or to earn extra money—declined with age. For example, three-fourths of multiple jobholders age 16 to 24 had economic reasons, compared with half of their counterparts age 55 and over. Conversely, the share of workers who moonlighted because they enjoyed the second job tended to increase with age. For example, only 11 percent of multiple jobholders age 16 to 24 reported that they moonlighted because they enjoyed the second job, compared with 27 percent of workers age 55 and over.

Among multiple jobholders, Hispanics and Blacks were more likely than Whites to report economic reasons for holding more than one job; 73 percent of Black and 77 percent of Hispanic multiple jobholders had economic reasons in May 2004, compared with 63 percent of Whites. Eighteen percent of Whites had multiple jobs because they enjoyed the second job, compared with 12 percent of Blacks

**Table 7. Multiple jobholders by main reason for working more than one job and by other selected characteristics, May 2004**

Characteristic	Percent distribution by reason					
	To meet expenses or pay off debt	To earn extra money	To build a business or get experience in a different job	Enjoys the second job	Other reasons	Reason not available
<b>Age and sex</b>						
Total, 16 years and over.....	25.6	38.1	3.7	17.6	12.5	2.4
16 to 24 years.....	23.8	50.8	5.6	10.6	7.7	1.6
25 to 34 years.....	28.4	41.4	3.7	13.7	10.6	2.2
35 to 44 years.....	27.9	37.6	3.9	15.1	12.5	3.0
45 to 54 years.....	23.4	33.9	3.9	22.8	13.8	2.2
55 years and over.....	22.1	28.0	1.3	26.9	18.7	3.0
Men, 16 years and over.....	23.7	37.5	4.1	19.8	12.7	2.1
16 to 24 years.....	16.6	57.8	8.4	10.9	6.1	.2
25 to 34 years.....	27.2	40.4	4.9	11.8	13.3	2.4
35 to 44 years.....	26.4	37.7	3.9	17.0	12.4	2.5
45 to 54 years.....	22.4	32.4	3.3	27.7	12.0	2.3
55 years and over.....	21.5	24.1	1.0	31.8	19.3	2.4
Women, 16 years and over.....	27.5	38.7	3.3	15.5	12.3	2.6
16 to 24 years.....	29.2	45.5	3.4	10.4	8.9	2.6
25 to 34 years.....	29.8	42.5	2.3	15.7	7.7	2.0
35 to 44 years.....	29.7	37.5	3.9	13.0	12.5	3.4
45 to 54 years.....	24.5	35.5	4.5	17.9	15.6	2.0
55 years and over.....	23.0	32.3	1.7	21.7	17.9	3.4
<b>Marital status</b>						
Men:						
Single.....	20.4	50.1	5.6	13.1	8.6	2.1
Married, spouse present.....	24.2	32.4	3.6	23.6	14.3	1.9
Other marital status <sup>1</sup> .....	27.7	38.5	4.3	12.6	12.8	4.0
Women:						
Single.....	32.5	42.8	3.4	10.7	8.2	2.5
Married, spouse present.....	19.7	38.4	3.8	20.9	14.7	2.4
Other marital status <sup>1</sup> .....	37.1	33.7	2.2	10.2	13.8	3.0
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>						
White.....	25.4	37.1	3.8	18.4	13.2	2.1
Black or African American.....	28.7	43.8	3.4	11.8	8.3	4.0
Asian.....	18.0	51.5	4.3	13.3	11.2	1.7
Hispanic or Latino.....	35.9	41.1	2.7	10.8	8.6	.8
<b>Country of birth and U.S. citizenship status</b>						
U.S. born.....	24.9	37.9	3.8	18.0	13.0	2.3
Foreign born.....	32.5	40.1	3.0	13.8	7.7	2.9
U.S. citizen.....	27.7	40.7	1.5	17.2	11.7	1.2
Not a U.S. citizen.....	37.2	39.6	4.4	10.4	4.4	4.1
<b>Educational attainment</b>						
Total, 25 years and over.....	25.9	36.1	3.4	18.8	13.3	2.5
Less than a high school diploma.....	44.6	34.6	2.1	9.6	6.7	2.5
High school diploma, no college.....	33.2	38.1	1.2	14.0	11.0	2.5
Some college, no degree.....	24.5	41.7	3.2	14.3	13.0	3.2
Associate's degree.....	22.3	39.7	2.9	16.4	16.6	2.0
Bachelor's degree.....	23.5	34.5	3.5	22.7	14.0	1.9
Advanced degree.....	18.8	25.6	7.7	29.8	15.1	2.9
Master's degree.....	19.8	29.9	7.0	28.0	12.8	2.5
Professional degree.....	18.0	16.4	7.0	38.3	19.5	.8
Doctoral degree.....	13.7	10.7	12.2	32.1	23.7	7.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes married, spouse absent; and widowed, divorced, or separated.

and 11 percent of Hispanics. (See table 7.)

With regard to country of birth and U.S. citizenship status, the proportion of foreign-born multiple jobholders who had an economic reason for holding more than one job (73 percent) was higher than the corresponding proportion of native-born multiple jobholders (63 percent). The native born and the foreign born who were U.S. citizens were more likely than noncitizens to cite enjoyment of the second job as the main reason for multiple jobholding; roughly 18 percent of both the native born and foreign born who were U.S. citizens reported such a reason, compared with 10 percent of noncitizens.

Primary reasons for holding more than one job differed by educational attainment. As educational attainment increases, the proportion of multiple jobholders who moonlighted for economic reasons declines. Conversely, as educational attainment increases, multiple jobholders are more likely to have worked more than one job because they enjoyed the second job or because they wanted to build a business or get experience. It is possible that workers with more education are more apt to work at secondary jobs that involve intellectual pursuits that they enjoy, whereas secondary jobs held by less-educated people might be held

mainly to increase incomes. Indeed, 37 percent of multiple jobholders with advanced degrees held secondary jobs in management occupations or in education, training, and library occupations. In contrast, among multiple jobholders with less than a high school diploma, 41 percent held secondary jobs in food preparation and serving occupations or in building and grounds maintenance occupations.

BOTH THE NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF WORKERS with multiple jobs have held fairly steady in recent years, but moonlighting among most of the major demographic groups was less common in 2009 than it was during the mid-to-late 1990s. As was the case in the past, women, Whites, and workers with more education were more likely to hold more than one job in 2009. Workers whose primary job was in public administration or in education and health services had the greatest likelihood of moonlighting. Economic factors continued to predominate among the reasons for having multiple jobs. In 2004, nearly two-thirds of multiple jobholders reported that they did so primarily for an economic reason, although a sizeable proportion (nearly 1 in 5) cited enjoyment of the second job as their primary reason. □

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> The CPS is a nationwide sample survey of about 60,000 households that is conducted monthly by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS collects information about the demographic characteristics and employment status of the civilian noninstitutional working-age population (age 16 and over).

<sup>2</sup> The regular collection of data on multiple jobholding has proven to be useful in reconciling the differences in employment levels and trends between data from the CPS and those from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey. For more information on reconciling data from the CPS and the CES survey, see *Employment from the BLS household and payroll surveys: summary of recent trends* (Bureau of Labor Statistics), on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/web/ces\\_cps\\_trends.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/web/ces_cps_trends.pdf) (visited July 1, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> John F. Stinson, Jr. documented the rise of multiple jobholding during the 1970s and 1980s. See John F. Stinson, Jr., “Moonlighting by women jumped to record highs,” *Monthly Labor Review*, November 1986, pp. 22–25, on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1986/11/art4full.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1986/11/art4full.pdf) (visited Mar. 19, 2010); John F. Stinson, Jr., “Multiple jobholding up sharply in the 1980’s,” *Monthly Labor Review*, July 1990, pp. 3–10, on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1990/07/art1full.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1990/07/art1full.pdf) (visited Mar. 19, 2010); and John F. Stinson, Jr., “New data on multiple jobholding available from the CPS,” *Monthly Labor Review*, March 1997, pp. 3–8, on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1997/03/art1full.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1997/03/art1full.pdf) (visited Mar. 19, 2010). Using data from the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes and Jean Kimmel found that both men and women exhibit procyclical moonlighting tendencies. See Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes and Jean Kimmel, *Moonlighting Behavior over the Business Cycle* (Bonn, Germany, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) Discussion Paper 1671, July 2005), on the Internet at <http://papers.ssrn.com/>

[sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=761664](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=761664) (visited July 1, 2010). Jean Kimmel and Lisa M. Powell conducted research on the causes of the rise in multiple jobholding in Canada and the United States during the 1980s and 1990s. The authors argue that the increase in multiple jobholding during this period can be attributed to three broad reasons—changes in the composition of the labor force, supply-side factors, and demand-side factors. See Jean Kimmel and Lisa M. Powell, “Moonlighting Trends and Related Policy Issues in Canada and the United States,” *Canadian Public Policy – Analyse de Politiques*, June 1999, pp. 207–31.

<sup>4</sup> The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the generally recognized arbiter of business cycles in the United States, designated December 2007 as the start date of the most recent recession. The NBER has not yet determined an endpoint for this recession.

<sup>5</sup> Data from the May 2004 CPS Work Schedules and Work at Home Supplement show that the incidence of shift work was very high among workers in health care support and protective service occupations.

<sup>6</sup> As previously mentioned, for workers who held more than two jobs, the information on the industry, occupation, and class of worker (wage and salary, self-employed, or unpaid family worker) for their second job is collected only for the job at which they worked the second-highest number of hours.

<sup>7</sup> The data on hours worked refer to the hours of work on all jobs, even if more than two jobs were held.

<sup>8</sup> Data from the American Time Use Survey also show that multiple jobholders work longer hours than single jobholders.

<sup>9</sup> A full-time job is one in which a person usually works 35 hours

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or more per week, and a part-time job is one in which a person usually works 1 to 34 hours per week.

<sup>10</sup> Information on reasons for holding multiple jobs also was collected in CPS supplements conducted in May 1985, May 1991, May 1997, May 2001, and May 2004. In each of these surveys, economic reasons were those most often cited as the primary reasons for moonlighting. For further information on reasons for holding multiple jobs from the May 2001 CPS supplement, see Jennifer L. Hallmartel, "Twenty-first century moonlighters," *Issues in Labor Statistics*, Summary 02–07 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2002), on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/ils/pdf/opbils50.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ils/pdf/opbils50.pdf) (visited Mar. 19, 2010). For information on reasons for multiple jobholding from the May 1997 CPS supplement, see Jennifer Martel, "When one job is not enough," *Issues in Labor Statistics*, Summary 00–15, (Bureau of Labor Statistics, August 2000), on the Internet at

[www.bls.gov/opub/ils/pdf/opbils40.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ils/pdf/opbils40.pdf) (visited Mar. 19, 2010). Data for May 1991 were published in *Multiple Jobholding Unchanged in May 1991*, USDL 91-547 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oct. 28, 1991). For data on reasons for holding multiple jobs from the May 1985 CPS supplement, see Stinson, "Moonlighting by women jumped to record highs."

<sup>11</sup> In the May 2004 CPS Work Schedules Supplements, multiple jobholders were asked: "What is the MAIN reason you worked at more than one job?" Respondents were asked to choose among the following response options: meet expenses or pay off debt, earn extra money, build a business or get experience in a different job, enjoy the second job, or some other reason. In the May 2001 CPS Work Schedules Supplement, the same set of questions was asked of respondents. The proportions from the May 2001 and May 2004 CPS Work Schedules Supplement are similar.