

NEWS RELEASE



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WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE POPULATION - 2014

A total of 159.1 million persons worked at some point during 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over who worked at some time during 2014 was 63.6 percent, little different from 63.5 percent in 2013. The number of persons who experienced some unemployment during 2014 was 17.7 million, down by 3.2 million from 2013.

These data are based on information collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ASEC collects information on employment and unemployment experienced during the prior calendar year. Additional information about the CPS and the ASEC, including concepts and definitions, is provided in the Technical Note.

Highlights from the 2014 data:

- The proportion of workers who worked full time, year round in 2014 was 67.9 percent, up from 66.9 percent in 2013. (See table 1.)
- The "work-experience unemployment rate"—defined as the number of persons unemployed at some time during the year as a proportion of the number of persons who worked or looked for work during the year—was 10.9 percent in 2014, down from 12.9 percent the prior year. (See table 3.)
- About 3.7 million individuals looked for a job but did not work at all in 2014, down from 4.8 million in 2013. (See table 3.)

Persons with Employment

Overall, 63.6 percent of the population worked in 2014. The proportion of men who worked at some time during the year was 69.3 percent, and the proportion of women who worked during the year was 58.3 percent. These proportions were little changed from the prior year. (See table 1.)

The proportion of blacks (59.8 percent) who worked at some time during 2014 increased from 2013, while the share of whites (64.2 percent), Asians (63.7 percent), and Hispanics (64.6 percent) showed little change. (See table 2.)

Although the proportion having work experience during 2014 was little changed from a year earlier, those who did work were more likely to work full time. Among those with work experience during 2014, 79.6 percent usually worked full time, up from 79.0 percent in 2013. Men continued to be more

likely than women to work full time during the year, 85.7 percent versus 72.7 percent. The proportion of employed women working full time rose over the year, while the proportion of men working full time changed little. (See table 1.)

Of the total who worked during 2014, 78.7 percent were employed year round (working 50 to 52 weeks, either full or part time), up by 0.9 percentage point from 2013. The percentage of men working year round increased by 1.3 percentage points to 81.1 percent in 2014, while the percentage of women employed year round was little changed at 75.9 percent.

Persons with Unemployment

Overall, 162.8 million persons worked or looked for work at some time in 2014. Of those, 17.7 million experienced some unemployment during the year, down by 3.2 million from 2013. (See table 3.)

The work-experience unemployment rate (those looking for work during the year as a percent of those who worked or looked for work during the year) continued to decline. At 10.9 percent in 2014, the work-experience unemployment rate was 2.0 percentage points lower than in 2013. The work-experience unemployment rates for whites (10.0 percent), blacks (15.6 percent), and Hispanics (13.5 percent) declined from 2013 to 2014, while the rate for Asians (9.1 percent) changed little. (See tables 3 and 4.)

Overall, men continued to have higher work-experience unemployment rates in 2014 than women, 11.4 percent versus 10.3 percent. Among whites and blacks, the rates for men were higher than the rates for women. Among Asians and Hispanics, the rates for men and women were little different from each other.

Among those who experienced unemployment in 2014, the median number of weeks spent looking for work was 16.3. The number of persons who looked for a job but did not work at all in 2014 declined by 1.1 million over the year to 3.7 million. Of the 14.0 million individuals who worked during 2014 and also experienced unemployment, 20.5 percent had two or more spells of joblessness, little different than the share in 2013. (See table 3.)

Technical Note

The data presented in this release 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 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). 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 during the prior calendar year. For instance, data collected in 2015 refer to the 2014 calendar year. Because the reference period is a full year, the number of persons with some employment or unemployment greatly exceeds the average levels for any given month, which are based on a 1week reference period, and the corresponding annual average of the monthly estimates. As shown below, for example, the number experiencing any unemployment was about twice the number unemployed in an average month during the year.

	Employed	Unemployed
2014 estimates (in thousands)		
Annual average of		
monthly estimates	146,305	9,617
Annual supplement data	159,056	17,708

In addition, estimates from the supplement differ from those obtained in the basic CPS because the questions used to classify workers as either employed or unemployed are different. The supplement also contains fewer questions for categorizing respondents. In regard to unemployment in particular, the supplement has no questions on the type of job search activity or on the respondent's availability to work. Also, individuals can be counted as both employed and unemployed in the work experience supplement data, whereas, for a specific monthly reference week, each person is only counted in one category and employment activity takes precedence over job search activity.

The 2013 data in this news release, collected in the 2014 ASEC, are based on fewer sample responses than in recent years. Approximately three-eighths of the 2014 CPS ASEC sample was used to test redesigned questions on income and health insurance coverage; this portion of the sample was not used to generate the estimates in this news release. The 2014 data in this news release, collected in the 2015 ASEC, are based on the full sample.

The data presented in this release are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years due to the introduction of updated population 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 available online at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop.

Reliability of the estimates

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

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

A discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors is available at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

Concepts and definitions

The principal concepts and definitions used in connection with the data in this release are described briefly below.

Persons who worked. In the 2015 supplement, persons are considered to have worked if they responded "yes" to either the question "Did you work at a job or business at any time during 2014?" or "Did you do any temporary, part-time, or seasonal work even for a few days during 2014?"

Unemployed persons. Persons who worked during the year but not in every week are counted as unemployed if they also reported looking for work or being on layoff from a job during the year. Those who reported no work activity during the year are considered unemployed if they responded "yes" to the question "Even though you did not work in 2014, did you spend any time trying to find a job or on layoff?"

Work-experience unemployment rate. The number of persons unemployed at some time during the year as a proportion of the number of persons who worked or looked for work during the year.

Usual full- and part-time employment. These data refer to the number of hours an employed person typically works during most weeks of the year. Workers are classified as full time if they usually worked 35 hours or more in a week; parttime employment refers to workers whose typical workweek was between 1 and 34 hours.

Year-round and part-year employment. Workers are classified as year round if they worked 50 to 52 weeks. Part-year employment refers to workers who worked fewer than 50 weeks.

Other information

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Work experience of the population during the year by sex and extent of employment, 2013-14

	То	otal	Men		Women	
Extent of employment	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
		Numbers (in thousands)				
Civilian noninstitutional population	247,258	250,080	119,395	120,738	127,863	129,342
Total who worked or looked for work	161,813	162,757	85,032	85,602	76,781	77,156
Percent of the population		65.1	71.2	70.9	60.0	59.7
Total who worked during the year ¹	156,987	159,056	82,590	83,640	74,397	75,416
Percent of the population		63.6	69.2	69.3	58.2	58.3
Full time ²	124,017	126,566	70,590	71,710	53,427	54,856
50 to 52 weeks	105,043	107,947	60,031	61,802	45,012	46,146
48 to 49 weeks	1,944	1,844	1,113	1,090	831	75
40 to 47 weeks	4,903	5,242	2,580	2,754	2,324	2,48
27 to 39 weeks	4,061	4,179	2,294	2,142	1,767	2.03
14 to 26 weeks		4,417	2,780	2,324	2,049	2,09
1 to 13 weeks	3,238	2,936	1,793	1,598	1,445	1,33
Part time ³	32.970	32.490	12,000	11.930	20.970	20.56
50 to 52 weeks		17,127	5,857	6,004	11,287	11,12
48 to 49 weeks	,	886	259	342	532	54
40 to 47 weeks	-	2,820	963	894	2.008	1.92
27 to 39 weeks	/-	2.825	1.078	1.072	1.887	1.75
14 to 26 weeks	,	4,376	1,871	1,730	2,725	2,64
1 to 13 weeks	,	4,458	1,972	1,889	2,530	2,56
	Percent distribution					
Fotal who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ²	79.0	79.6	85.5	85.7	71.8	72.
50 to 52 weeks	66.9	67.9	72.7	73.9	60.5	61.
48 to 49 weeks	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.
40 to 47 weeks		3.3	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3
27 to 39 weeks	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.
14 to 26 weeks	3.1	2.8	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.
1 to 13 weeks	2.1	1.8	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.
Part time ³	21.0	20.4	14.5	14.3	28.2	27.3
50 to 52 weeks		10.8	7.1	7.2	15.2	14.
48 to 49 weeks		0.6	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.1
40 to 47 weeks		1.8	1.2	1.1	2.7	2.
27 to 39 weeks		1.8	1.3	1.3	2.5	2.
14 to 26 weeks	-	2.8	2.3	2.1	3.7	3.

Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.
² Usually worked 35 hours or more per week.
³ Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 2. Work experience of the population during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2013-14

(Numbers in thousands)

	То	otal	Men		Women	
Extent of employment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
WHITE						
Civilian noninstitutional population	. 195,128	196,434	95,321	95,899	99,807	100,535
Total who worked or looked for work		128,576	68,872	68,986	59,924	59,59
Percent of the population		65.5	72.3	71.9	60.0	59.
Total who worked during the year ¹		126.174	67,212	67,703	58.323	58.47
Percent of the population		64.2	70.5	70.6	58.4	58.
Percent who worked during the year ¹		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.
Full time ²	. 78.8	79.4	85.8	86.0	70.8	71.
50 to 52 weeks		67.8	73.3	74.3	59.5	60.
27 to 49 weeks	. 7.1	7.1	7.3	7.2	6.8	7.
1 to 26 weeks	. 4.9	4.4	5.2	4.5	4.5	4.
Part time ³	. 21.2	20.6	14.2	14.0	29.2	28.
50 to 52 weeks	. 11.0	10.9	6.9	7.0	15.8	15.
27 to 49 weeks		4.3	2.8	2.8	6.3	6.0
1 to 26 weeks		5.5	4.5	4.2	7.1	6.
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN						
Civilian noninstitutional population	. 30.719	31,257	13.935	14.203	16.784	17.05
Total who worked or looked for work		19,575	8,867	9,081	10,300	10,49
Percent of the population		62.6	63.6	63.9	61.4	61.
Total who worked during the year ¹		18.680	8,307	8.618	9.755	10.06
Percent of the population		59.8	59.6	60.7	58.1	59.
Percent who worked during the year ¹	. 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.
Full time ²		80.3	83.1	83.1	77.0	77.
50 to 52 weeks		67.6	68.4	70.1	65.4	65
27 to 49 weeks	. 6.8	7.0	7.3	6.8	6.3	7.
1 to 26 weeks		5.8	7.3	6.2	5.3	5.4
Part time ³		19.7	16.9	16.9	23.0	22.
50 to 52 weeks		10.3	8.2	8.9	11.7	11.0
27 to 49 weeks		3.4	2.5	2.8	4.0	3.9
1 to 26 weeks		6.0	6.1	5.2	7.3	6.
ASIAN			_	_		
Civilian noninstitutional population	. 13.812	14,425	6,523	6,803	7,290	7.622
Total who worked or looked for work		9,406	4,832	4,933	4,211	4.473
Percent of the population		9,406	4,632	4,933 72.5	4,211 57.8	4,47.
Total who worked during the year ¹		9,195	4,690	4,821	4,064	4,37
Percent of the population	. 63.4	63.7	71.9	70.9	55.7	57.4
Percent who worked during the year ¹		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.
Full time ²		82.3	86.7	88.4	74.4	75.
50 to 52 weeks		72.2	75.0	78.4	64.7	65.4
27 to 49 weeks	. 5.1	6.1	5.3	5.9	5.0	6.3
1 to 26 weeks	. 5.6	4.0	6.4	4.1	4.7	3.
Part time ³	. 19.0	17.7	13.3	11.6	25.6	24.4
50 to 52 weeks	. 10.8	9.6	7.4	6.4	14.7	13.
27 to 49 weeks		3.4	2.3	2.2	6.0	4.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work experience of the population during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2013-14 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Estado formale manter and literational statistic	То	tal	Me	n	Women	
Extent of employment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Civilian noninstitutional population	38,125	39,322	19,104	19,601	19,021	19,722
Total who worked or looked for work	25,395	26,110	14,412	14,895	10,983	11,216
Percent of the population	66.6	66.4	75.4	76.0	57.7	56.
Total who worked during the year ¹	24,544	25,413	13,999	14,527	10,545	10,88
Percent of the population	64.4	64.6	73.3	74.1	55.4	55.
Percent who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.
Full time ²	79.6	80.6	85.5	86.3	71.9	72.
50 to 52 weeks	65.7	67.5	71.1	73.0	58.5	60.
27 to 49 weeks	8.2	8.1	9.1	8.6	7.0	7.
1 to 26 weeks	5.7	5.0	5.3	4.7	6.3	5.
Part time ³	20.4	19.4	14.5	13.7	28.1	27
50 to 52 weeks	11.0	10.8	7.5	7.4	15.6	15
27 to 49 weeks	3.9	3.5	2.7	2.6	5.5	4.
1 to 26 weeks	5.5	5.1	4.4	3.7	7.0	6

Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.
² Usually worked 35 hours or more per week.
³ Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African

American, and Asian) do not sum to totals shown in table 1 because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 3.	Extent of	unemployment	during the	year by se	ex, 2013-14

Entrat of the entration	Тс	Total Men		en	Wor	men
Extent of unemployment	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
)			
Total who worked or looked for work	161,813	162,757	85,032	85,602	76,781	77,156
Percent with unemployment	12.9	10.9	13.5	11.4	12.2	10.3
Total with unemployment	20,880	17,708	11,521	9,784	9,359	7,924
Did not work but looked for work	4,825	3,701	2,442	1,962	2,384	1,740
1 to 14 weeks	1,301	1,199	550	550	750	649
15 weeks or more	3,525	2,502	1,892	1,412	1,633	1,090
Worked during the year	16,055	14,006	9,079	7,822	6,976	6,185
Year-round workers ¹ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	462	392	259	286	203	106
Part-year workers ² with unemployment	15,593	13,614	8,820	7,536	6,773	6,079
1 to 4 weeks	2,384	2,365	1,224	1,227	1,160	1,138
5 to 10 weeks	2,167	1,999	1,229	1,168	938	831
11 to 14 weeks	2,032	1,889	1,126	1,095	907	794
15 to 26 weeks	4,485	3,855	2,605	2,124	1,881	1,731
27 weeks or more	4,524	3,507	2,636	1,924	1,888	1,584
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	17.9	16.3	18.7	15.9	16.9	16.8
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	3,319	2,872	2,064	1,787	1,254	1,084
2 spells	1,606	1,472	948	934	658	539
3 spells or more	1,713	1,399	1,117	854	596	546
			Percent	distribution		
Did not work but looked for work	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 to 14 weeks	27.0	32.4	22.5	28.0	31.5	37.3
15 weeks or more	73.0	67.6	77.5	72.0	68.5	62.7
Worked during the year	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ¹ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.7	2.9	1.7
Part-year workers ² with unemployment	97.1	97.2	97.1	96.3	97.1	98.3
1 to 4 weeks	14.9	16.9	13.5	15.7	16.6	18.4
5 to 10 weeks	13.5	14.3	13.5	14.9	13.4	13.4
11 to 14 weeks	12.7	13.5	12.4	14.0	13.0	12.8
15 to 26 weeks	27.9	27.5	28.7	27.1	27.0	28.0
27 weeks or more	28.2	25.0	29.0	24.6	27.1	25.6
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	20.7	20.5	22.7	22.9	18.0	17.5
2 spells	10.0	10.5	10.4	11.9	9.4	8.7
3 spells or more	10.7	10.0	12.3	10.9	8.5	8.8

Worked 50 or 51 weeks.
Worked less than 50 weeks.
NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 4. Extent of unemployment during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2013-14

(Numbers in thousands)

Extent of unomployment, roop, and Usership or Lating other -it.	Total		Men		Women	
Extent of unemployment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
WHITE						
Total who worked or looked for work	128,796	128,576	68,872	68,986	59,924	59,59
Percent with unemployment	120,790	120,570	12.7	10.5	11.5	59,59 9.
Total with unemployment Did not work but looked for work	15,579 3,261	12,920 2,402	8,715 1,660	7,246 1,283	6,864	5,67 1,11
Worked during the year	12,318	10,518	7,055	5,962	1,601 5,263	4,55
с ,		-			0,200	
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	17.3	15.3	17.9	14.9	16.3	15.
Percent who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.
Year-round workers ² with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	3.1	3.1	3.1	4.0	3.0	2.
Part-year workers ³ with unemployment	96.9	96.9	96.9	96.0	97.0	98.
1 to 4 weeks	15.5	17.6	13.6	16.4	18.0	19.
5 to 14 weeks	26.6	28.7	26.8	29.9	26.3	27.
15 weeks or more	54.9	50.6	56.5	49.8	52.7	51.
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	21.2	21.6	23.3	23.6	18.3	18.
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN						
Total who worked or looked for work	19,166	19,575	8,867	9,081	10.300	10,49
Percent with unemployment	18.7	15.6	21.0	17.5	16.7	13
Total with unemployment	3.579	3,052	1,858	1,589	1,721	1,46
Did not work but looked for work	1,104	895	560	463	544	43
Worked during the year	2,475	2,156	1,298	1,126	1,176	1,03
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	21.5	21.6	22.7	20.7	20.4	22
Percent who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
Year-round workers ² with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	2.2	2.3	2.6	3.5	1.7	1
Part-year workers ³ with unemployment	97.8	97.7	97.4	96.5	98.3	99
1 to 4 weeks	10.8	12.7	11.4	12.1	10.3	13
5 to 14 weeks	23.9	22.2	21.6	23.1	26.4	21
15 weeks or more	63.1	62.8	64.4	61.4	61.6	64
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	18.9	18.0	21.6	20.6	15.9	15
ASIAN						
Total who worked or looked for work	9,043	9,406	4,832	4,933	4,211	4,47
Percent with unemployment	9.9	9.1	10.1	9.4	9.8	8
Total with unemployment	898	852	486	462	412	39
Did not work but looked for work	289	210	142	112	147	9
Worked during the year	609	642	345	350	264	29
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	17.6	16.8	19.5	15.2	14.8	18
Percent who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
Year-round workers ² with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	2.5	1.6	1.5	2.5	3.7	0
Part-year workers ³ with unemployment	97.5	98.4	98.5	97.5	96.3	99
1 to 4 weeks	18.7	18.5	16.9	16.8	21.1	20
5 to 14 weeks	24.0	25.8	22.6	30.2	25.7	20
15 weeks or more	54.9	54.1	59.0	50.6	49.4	58
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See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Extent of unemployment during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2013-14 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Extent of unemployment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity		tal	Men		Women	
Extent of unemployment, race, and hispanic of Latino etimicity	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Total who worked or looked for work	25,395	26,110	14,412	14,895	10,983	11,216
Percent with unemployment	15.7	13.5	16.3	13.8	14.9	13.1
Total with unemployment	3,988	3,531	2,354	2,059	1,634	1,472
Did not work but looked for work	851	697	413	367	438	330
Worked during the year	3,137	2,834	1,941	1,692	1,196	1,143
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	18.7	15.9	18.3	15.8	19.4	16.2
Percent who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ² with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	2.2	2.8	2.3	3.8	1.9	1.4
Part-year workers ³ with unemployment	97.8	97.2	97.7	96.2	98.1	98.6
1 to 4 weeks	14.3	16.8	13.3	16.5	16.1	17.2
5 to 14 weeks	24.2	28.7	25.8	28.4	21.6	29.1
15 weeks or more	59.3	51.7	58.6	51.4	60.4	52.2
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	22.8	22.5	22.2	25.8	23.7	17.7

Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.
Worked 50 or 51 weeks.
Worked less than 50 weeks.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African

American, and Asian) do not sum to totals shown in table 3 because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.