

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 691-6378

http://www.bls.gov/cps/

USDL 03-911

For release: 10:00 A.M. EST

Media contact: 691-5902 Friday, December 19, 2003

WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE POPULATION IN 2002

A total of 150.8 million persons worked at some point during 2002, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The number of persons who experienced some unemployment during the year rose to 16.8 million in 2002, 968,000 higher than the year before.

These data are based on information collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Additional information about the CPS and the annual supplement, including concepts and definitions, is provided in the Technical Note. Highlights from the 2002 data include:

- The proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years old and over that worked at some time during the year was 68.4 percent in 2002, down from 69.3 percent the year before.
- The proportion of workers who worked full time, year round (66.3 percent) was unchanged from the prior year. Although this proportion was lower than it had been in 2000 when it peaked at 66.7 percent, it is still high by historical standards.
- The "work-experience unemployment rate"—defined as the number unemployed at some time during the year as a proportion of the number who worked or looked for work during the year—rose by 0.6 percentage point to 11.0 percent.

Persons with Employment

In 2002, the proportion of the civilian noninstituional population 16 years old and over that worked at some point during the year was 68.4 percent, 0.9 percentage point below its 2001 level. (See table 1.) In contrast, from 1986 through 2001, the proportion with work experience had remained at or above 69.0 percent, peaking at 70.6 percent in 1999.

Among those with work experience during 2002, 76.0 percent were employed year round (either full or part time), essentially the same as in 2001. Continuing a long-term growth trend, full-year employment among women increased to 73.0 percent from 72.3 percent in 2001.

As in the prior year, about 4 out of 5 of those who were employed at some time during 2002 worked full time. The proportions of men or women who worked full time were also little changed between 2001 and 2002. (See table 1.)

Persons with Unemployment

Overall, 153.4 million persons worked or looked for work at some time in 2002. Of these, 16.8 million experienced some unemployment during the year, up from 15.8 million in 2001. Men accounted for about 70 percent of the over-the-year increase.

At 11.0 percent in 2002, the "work-experience unemployment rate" was the highest it has been since 1996, when it was 11.7 percent. The rate for blacks in 2002, 14.9 percent, was higher than the rates for Hispanics (12.8 percent), Asians (10.8 percent), or whites (10.3 percent). (See tables 3 and 4.)

The "work-experience unemployment rate" for black men (16.3 percent) was somewhat higher than that for black women (13.7 percent), as was the rate for white men (11.2 percent) versus white women (9.1 percent). In contrast, among Hispanics and Asians, there was little difference in the rates for men and women in 2002. (See table 4.)

The median number of weeks spent looking for work for those who experienced unemployment in 2002 was 15.5, up from 13.7 weeks the year before. Some 2.7 million individuals who had looked for a job did not work at all in 2002, up from 2.0 million a year earlier. Of the 14.1 million persons who worked during the year and also experienced unemployment, 22.8 percent had two or more spells of joblessness, down from 24.7 percent in 2001.

Technical Note

The data presented in this release were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly sample survey 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 supplement, conducted in the months of February through April, includes questions about work activity during the prior calendar year. For instance, data collected in 2003 refer to the 2002 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 1-week reference period, and the corresponding annual average of the monthly estimates. As shown below, for example, the number experiencing any unemployment during 2002 was about twice the number unemployed in an average month during the year.

2002 estimates (in thousands)	Employed	Unemployed
Annual average of		
monthly estimates	136,485	8,378
Annual supplement data	150.755	16.802

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. More important, perhaps, is that fewer questions by which to categorize respondents are asked in the supplement. 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 data, whereas, for a specific reference week, each person is only counted in one category and employment activity takes precedence over job search activity.

Work experience data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS, are not strictly comparable with data for 2001 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2003 of revised population controls used in the CPS. The effect of the revised population controls on the work experience estimates is unknown. However, the effect of the new controls on the monthly CPS estimates was to increase the January 2003 employment level by 576,000 and the unemployment level by 38,000 relative to the December 2002 level. For additional information, see "Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003" in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/cps/rycps03.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

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 exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this 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.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the "Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error" section of *Employment and Earnings*.

Concepts and definitions

Persons who worked. In the 2003 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 2002?" or "Did you do any temporary, part-time, or seasonal work even for a few days during 2002?"

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 2002, did you spend any time trying to find a job or on layoff?"

Labor force participants. Persons who either worked or were unemployed during the year.

Usual full- and part-time employment. These data refer to the number of hours a worker 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; part-time 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.

Table 1. Work experience of the population during the year by sex and extent of employment, 2001-02

Extent of employment	Total		Men		Women	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Numbers (in thousands)					
Civilian noninstitutional population	216,788	220,285	104,162	105,973	112,626	114,312
Total who worked or looked for work	152,300	153,411	80,304	80,933	71,996	72,478
Percent of the population	70.3	69.6	77.1	76.4	63.9	63.4
Total who worked during the year ¹	150,286	150,755	79,300	79,564	70,986	71,191
Percent of the population	69.3	68.4	76.1	75.1	63.0	62.3
Full time ²	121,182	120,970	69,414	69,445	51,768	51,525
50 to 52 weeks	99,644	99,946	58,076	58,115	41,568	41,831
48 to 49 weeks	2,323	2,113	1,373	1,261	950	852
40 to 47 weeks	5,827	5,604	3,067	3,002	2,759	2,602
27 to 39 weeks	5.002	4.803	2.631	2,522	2.370	2,281
14 to 26 weeks	4,850	4,898	2,488	2,636	2,362	2,262
1 to 13 weeks	3,536	3,605	1,779	1,908	1,757	1,697
Part time ³	29,103	29,785	9,885	10,120	19,218	19,666
50 to 52 weeks	14,025	14,615	4,298	4,499	9,727	10,116
48 to 49 weeks	828	820	262	294	566	526
40 to 47 weeks	2.562	2.547	801	811	1.761	1.737
27 to 39 weeks	2,747	2,807	924	929	1,823	1,878
14 to 26 weeks	4.188	4,488	1,672	1,769	2,516	2,719
1 to 13 weeks	4,753	4,508	1,928	1,818	2,825	2,690
			Percent of	distribution		•
Total who worked during the year ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ²	80.6	80.2	87.5	87.3	72.9	72.4
50 to 52 weeks	66.3	66.3	73.2	73.0	58.6	58.8
48 to 49 weeks	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.2
40 to 47 weeks	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7
27 to 39 weeks	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2
14 to 26 weeks	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2
1 to 13 weeks	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4
Part time ³	19.4	19.8	12.5	12.7	27.1	27.6
50 to 52 weeks	9.3	9.7	5.4	5.7	13.7	14.2
48 to 49 weeks	.6	.5	.3	.4	.8	.7
40 to 47 weeks	1.7	1.7	1.0	1.0	2.5	2.4
27 to 39 weeks	1.8	1.9	1.2	1.2	2.6	2.6
14 to 26 weeks	2.8	3.0	2.1	2.2	3.5	3.8

¹ Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.

3 Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, are not strictly comparable with data for 2001

and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2003 of revised population controls used in the survey. For additional information, see the technical note and "Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003" in the February 2003 issue of Employment and Earnings, available on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcps03.pdf.

² Usually worked 35 hours or more per week.

Table 2. Work experience of the population during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2001-02

Extent of ampleyment, race, and Highering at Lating attractive		Total		en	Women	
Extent of employment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
WHITE 1						
Civilian noninstitutional population	179,293	180,648	87,105	87,873	92,188	92,776
Total who worked or looked for work	126,353	126,416	67,703	67,836	58,650	58,580
Percent of the population	70.5	70.0	77.7	77.2	63.6	63.1
Total who worked during the year ²	125,097	124,727	67,076	66,966	58,021	57,761
Percent of the population	69.8	69.0	77.0	76.2	62.9	62.3
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	80.2	79.9	87.8	87.5	71.5	71.0
50 to 52 weeks	66.3	66.1	73.8	73.5	57.5	57.6
27 to 49 weeks	8.6	8.3	8.9	8.5	8.4	8.1
1 to 26 weeks	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.3
Part time ⁴	19.8	20.1	12.2	12.5	28.5	29.0
50 to 52 weeks	9.7	10.0	5.4	5.6	14.7	15.2
27 to 49 weeks	4.2	4.2	2.5	2.5	6.2	6.2
1 to 26 weeks	5.8	5.9	4.3	4.4	7.6	7.7
	5.0	0.5	4.0	7.7	7.0	7.7
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN 1						
Civilian noninstitutional population	25.445	25.547	11.325	11.385	14.119	14.162
Total who worked or looked for work	17,493	17,176	8,097	7,862	9,397	9,314
Percent of the population	68.8	67.2	71.5	69.1	66.6	65.8
Total who worked during the year ²	16.876	16.471	7.787	7.494	9.089	8.976
Percent of the population	66.3	64.5	68.8	65.8	64.4	63.4
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	83.0	83.0	86.0	85.9	80.4	80.6
50 to 52 weeks	66.6	67.9	69.5	70.0	64.2	66.0
27 to 49 weeks	9.2	8.1	9.2	8.4	9.3	7.9
1 to 26 weeks	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.5	6.9	6.7
Part time ⁴	17.0	17.0	14.0	14.1	19.6	19.4
50 to 52 weeks	6.9	7.7	5.1	6.0	8.4	9.1
27 to 49 weeks	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.5	4.1	3.7
1 to 26 weeks	6.7	6.2	6.2	5.6	7.1	6.7
	· · ·	0.2	0.2	0.0		· · ·
ASIAN 1						
Civilian noninstitutional population	9,636	9,141	4,635	4,317	5,001	4,824
Total who worked or looked for work	6,779	6,294	3,638	3,357	3,141	2,937
Percent of the population	70.4	68.9	78.5	77.8	62.8	60.9
Total who worked during the year ²	6,680	6,139	3,586	3,282	3,094	2,857
Percent of the population	69.3	67.2	77.4	76.0	61.9	59.2
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	82.5	82.8	86.8	87.8	77.5	77.1
50 to 52 weeks	68.7	70.2	73.2	76.0	63.5	63.5
27 to 49 weeks	8.4	7.4	8.2	7.6	8.7	7.3
1 to 26 weeks	5.4	5.2	5.5	4.2	5.4	6.3
Part time ⁴	17.5	17.2	13.2	12.2	22.5	22.9
50 to 52 weeks	9.0	8.5	6.5	5.6	12.0	11.8
27 to 49 weeks	3.0	3.2	2.1	2.4	4.0	4.1
1 to 26 weeks	5.5	5.5	4.6	4.2	6.5	7.0
1 to 20 weeks	5.5	5.5	4.0	ا ۲۰۰۰	0.5	7.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work experience of the population during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2001-02 — Continued

Extent of employment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Civilian noninstitutional population	25,642	27,184	13,051	13,903	12,591	13,281
Total who worked or looked for work	18,093	18,990	10,484	11,194	7,609	7,795
Percent of the population	70.6	69.9	80.3	80.5	60.4	58.7
Total who worked during the year ²	17,799	18,606	10,356	11,030	7,443	7,576
Percent of the population	69.4	68.4	79.3	79.3	59.1	57.0
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time ³	84.2	84.2	90.0	89.3	76.2	76.6
50 to 52 weeks	67.1	68.2	73.3	73.5	58.5	60.4
27 to 49 weeks	9.9	9.4	10.2	10.0	9.5	8.6
1 to 26 weeks	7.2	6.5	6.5	5.8	8.2	7.6
Part time ⁴	15.8	15.8	10.0	10.7	23.8	23.4
50 to 52 weeks	8.1	8.1	4.7	5.6	12.9	11.9
27 to 49 weeks	2.8	3.0	1.8	2.0	4.1	4.4
1 to 26 weeks	4.9	4.7	3.5	3.1	6.8	7.1

¹ Beginning with data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are excluded. Prior to 2002, persons who reported more than one race were included in the group they identified as their main race. Also beginning in 2002, Asians no longer include Pacific Islanders.

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Also, see Note, table 1.

² Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.

³ Usually worked 35 hours or more per week.

⁴ Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week.

Table 3. Extent of unemployment during the year by sex, 2001-02

Extent of unemployment		otal	Men		Women	
Extent of unemployment	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Total who worked or looked for work	152,300	153,411	80,304	80,933	71,996	72,478
Percent with unemployment		11.0	11.1	11.9	9.6	9.9
Total with unemployment	15,834	16,802	8,919	9,603	6,915	7,199
Did not work but looked for work	2,014	2,656	1,004	1,369	1,010	1,287
1 to 14 weeks	939	931	419	373	520	558
15 weeks or more	1.075	1.725	585	996	490	729
Worked during the year		14,146	7,915	8,234	5,905	5,912
Year-round workers ¹ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment		581	421	361	180	220
Part-year workers ² with unemployment		13,565	7.493	7.873	5.725	5.692
1 to 4 weeks		1.997	1,244	1.071	1,121	927
5 to 10 weeks		2.371	1.445	1.340	1.111	1.031
11 to 14 weeks	,	1,966	1,207	1,182	831	784
15 to 26 weeks		3.847	2.188	2,282	1.492	1.566
27 weeks or more	- /	3,383	1,409	1,998	1,170	1,385
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	13.7	15.5	13.8	15.9	13.6	15.0
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	3,420	3,222	2,099	1,916	1,321	1,306
2 spells	1,642	1,553	1,001	911	641	642
3 spells or more		1,669	1,098	1,006	680	664
			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	46.6	35.1	41.7	27.2	51.5	43.4
15 weeks or more	53.4	64.9	58.3	72.8	48.5	56.6
Norked 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	4.4	4.1	5.3	4.4	3.1	3.7
Part-year workers ² with unemployment	95.6	95.9	94.7	95.6	96.9	96.3
1 to 4 weeks		14.1	15.7	13.0	19.0	15.7
5 to 10 weeks	18.5	16.8	18.3	16.3	18.8	17.4
11 to 14 weeks		13.9	15.2	14.4	14.1	13.3
15 to 26 weeks	l l	27.2	27.6	27.7	25.3	26.5
27 weeks or more		23.9	17.8	24.3	19.8	23.4
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	24.7	22.8	26.5	23.3	22.4	22.1
2 spells		11.0	12.6	11.1	10.9	10.9
3 spells or more	l l	11.8	13.9	12.2	11.5	11.2

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Also, see Note, table 1.

Worked 50 or 51 weeks.Worked less than 50 weeks.

Table 4. Extent of unemployment during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2001-02

Extent of unemployment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity WHITE 1	2001	2002	2001	0000		
			-	2002	2001	2002
	126,353	126,416	67,703	67,836	58,650	58,580
Percent with unemployment	9.6	10.3	10.4	11.2	8.8	9.1
Total with unample ment	10.157	10.000	7.010	7.604	E 147	E 000
Total with unemployment Did not work but looked for work	12,157 1,256	12,962 1,689	7,010 627	7,624 870	5,147 629	5,339 819
Worked during the year	10,900	11,273	6,383	6,753	4,517	4,520
worked during the year	10,900	11,273	0,363	6,755	4,517	4,520
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	13.1	14.7	13.2	15.3	13.0	14.0
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	4.8	4.5	5.9	4.7	3.2	4.2
Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment	95.2	95.5	94.1	95.3	96.8	95.8
1 to 4 weeks	17.7	14.0	16.1	13.0	19.9	15.6
5 to 14 weeks	34.5	32.5	34.7	31.7	34.2	33.7
15 weeks or more	43.0	49.0	43.2	50.6	42.7	46.5
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	24.6	22.3	26.7	22.9	21.6	21.3
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN 1						
Total who worked or looked for work	17,493	17,176	8,097	7,862	9,397	9,314
Percent with unemployment	15.4	14.9	16.9	16.3	14.0	13.7
Total with unemployment	2,689	2,557	1,372	1,282	1,317	1,274
Did not work but looked for work	617	706	309	368	307	338
Worked during the year	2,072	1,851	1,062	915	1,010	936
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	17.8	20.4	17.5	19.7	18.0	21.1
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.9	1.8	1.7
Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment	97.8	97.7	97.5	97.1	98.2	98.3
1 to 4 weeks	14.2	12.4	13.9	10.6	14.5	14.1
5 to 14 weeks	27.0	22.9	27.1	25.9	26.8	19.9
15 weeks or more	56.7	62.4	56.4	60.6	56.9	64.2
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	25.4	25.2	25.1	25.8	25.8	24.6
ASIAN 1						
Total who worked or looked for work	6,779	6,294	3,638	3,357	3,141	2,937
Percent with unemployment	10.1	10.8	10.1	10.4	10.1	11.3
. 5.55 mai anompioymora		10.0	10.1	10.4	10.1	11.0
Total with unemployment	685	681	368	350	317	331
Did not work but looked for work	100	155	52	75	48	80
Worked during the year	585	527	316	276	270	251
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	13.8	17.3	15.6	17.4	11.7	17.2
Percent who worked during the year ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	6.0	3.9
Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment	95.6	97.5	96.9	98.7	94.0	96.1
1 to 4 weeks	17.8	19.6	15.3	19.1	20.6	20.1
5 to 14 weeks	32.3	22.3	30.1	23.2	34.8	21.4
15 weeks or more	45.5	55.6	51.5	56.4	38.6	54.6
	.0.0	30.0	31.0	30.1	30.0	31.0
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	19.9	19.7	20.2	17.8	19.5	21.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Extent of unemployment during the year by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2001-02 — Continued

Catant of unample unample years and Hispania as Latina attaining	То	Total		Men		men
Extent of unemployment, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Total who worked or looked for work	18,093 12.7	18,990 12.8	10,484 13.1	11,194 12.8	7,609 12.2	7,795 12.9
Total with unemployment Did not work but looked for work	2,304 294 2,010	2,436 384 2,053	1,373 128 1,245	1,430 164 1,266	930 166 764	1,006 220 786
Median weeks of unemployment for all workers	14.9	16.7	14.3	15.7	16.5	18.5
Percent who worked during the year ² Year-round workers ³ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment Part-year workers ⁴ with unemployment 1 to 4 weeks 5 to 14 weeks 15 weeks or more	100.0 3.9 96.1 13.4 32.9 49.8	100.0 4.2 95.8 14.1 28.1 53.6	100.0 4.3 95.7 13.0 35.3 47.3	100.0 4.1 95.9 13.8 30.6 51.5	100.0 3.3 96.7 14.0 28.9 53.7	100.0 4.2 95.8 14.6 24.2 57.0
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	26.4	22.7	27.3	24.5	25.1	19.9

¹ Beginning with data for 2002, which were collected in the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are excluded. Prior to 2002, persons who reported more than one race were included in the group they identified as their main race. Also beginning in 2002, Asians no longer include Pacific Islanders.

2 Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data refer to persons 16 years and over. Also, see Note, table 1.

³ Worked 50 or 51 weeks.

⁴ Worked less than 50 weeks.