A profile of the working poor, 2019

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About 34.0 million people, or 10.5 percent of the nation's population, lived below the official poverty level in 2019, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.[1] (See the technical notes section for examples of poverty levels.) Although the poor were primarily adults who had not participated in the labor force during the year and children, 6.3 million individuals were among the "working poor" in 2019, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); this measure decreased from 7.0 million in 2018. 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 2019, the working-poor rate—the ratio of the working poor to all individuals in the labor force for at least 27 weeks—was 4.0 percent, down by 0.5 percentage point from the previous year's figure. (See table A, chart 1, and table 1.)

Highlights from the 2019 data:

- The working-poor rate of people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more was 4.0 percent. This is the lowest rate in the history of the series, which began in 1986. (See chart 1.)
- Full-time workers remained much less likely to be among the working poor than part-time workers. Among people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2.7 percent of those usually employed full time were classified as working poor, compared with 9.8 percent of part-time workers. (See table 1.)
- Women were more likely than men to be among the working poor (4.5 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively). In addition, Blacks or African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos continued to be much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor.[2] (See table 2.)
- The likelihood of being classified as working poor diminishes as workers attain higher levels of education. Among those with less than a high school diploma, 12.8 percent of those who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor, compared with 1.4 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher. (See table 3.)
- Individuals who were employed in service occupations remained more likely to be among the working poor than those employed in other major occupational groups. (See table 4.)
- Among families with at least one member in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, those with children under 18 years old were nearly 5 times as likely as those without children to live in poverty. Families maintained by women were more than twice as likely as families maintained by men to be living below the poverty level. (See table 5.)

Table A. Poverty status of people and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2008–19 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019

See footnotes at end of table.

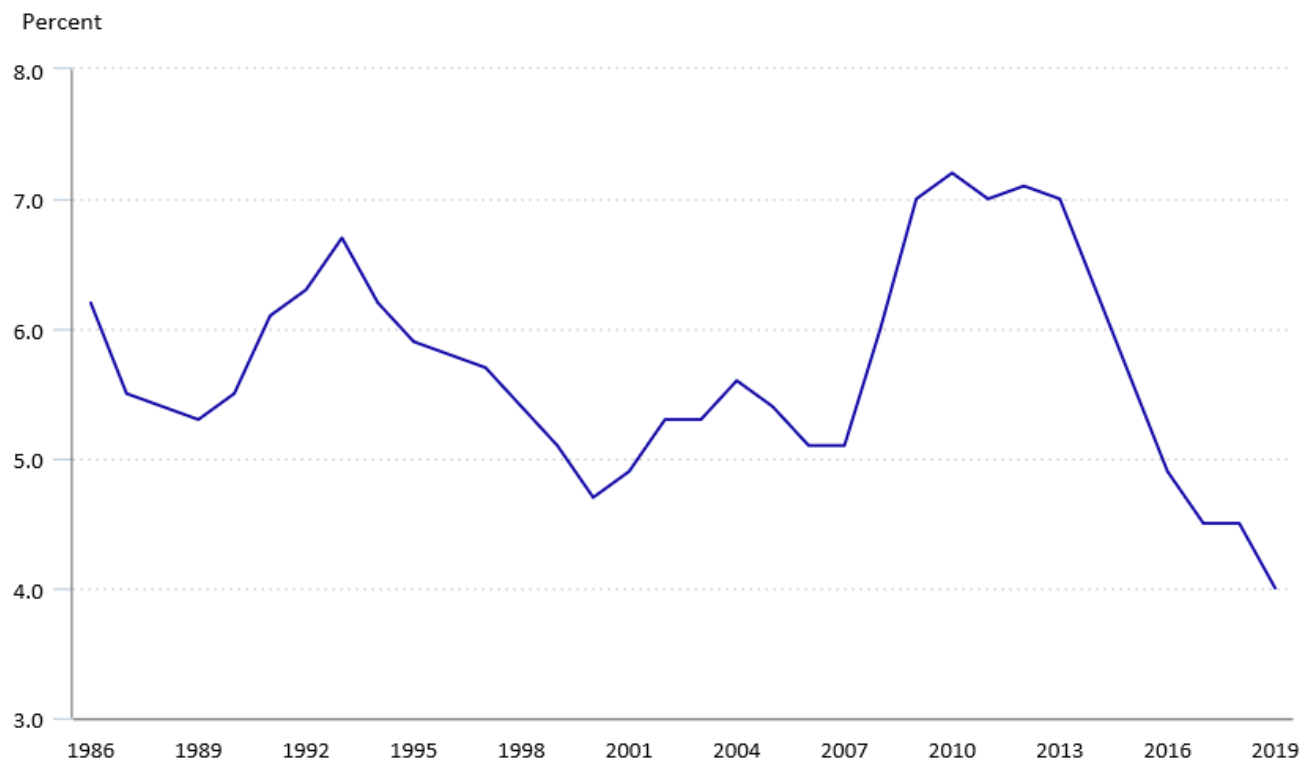
Table A. Poverty status of people and primary families in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 2008–19 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total in the labor force[1]	147,838	147,902	146,859	147,475	148,735	149,483	150,319	152,230	153,364	154,762	156,454	157,769
In poverty	8,883	10,391	10,512	10,382	10,612	10,450	9,487	8,560	7,572	6,946	6,964	6,318
Working poor rate	6.0	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.3	5.6	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.0
Unrelated individuals	32,785	33,798	34,099	33,731	34,810	35,061	35,018	35,953	35,789	36,959	37,082	36,805
In poverty	3,275	3,947	3,947	3,621	3,851	4,141	3,395	3,137	2,792	2,524	2,684	2,445
Working poor rate	10.0	11.7	11.6	10.7	11.1	11.8	9.7	8.7	7.8	6.8	7.2	6.6
Primary families[2]	65,907	65,467	64,931	66,225	66,541	66,462	66,732	67,193	67,628	67,588	68,099	68,318
In poverty	4,538	5,193	5,269	5,469	5,478	5,137	5,108	4,607	4,082	3,854	3,628	3,232
Working poor rate	6.9	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.2	7.7	7.7	6.9	6.0	5.7	5.3	4.7

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

This report presents data on the relationship between labor force activity and poverty status in 2019 for workers and their families. These data were collected in the 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. (For a detailed description of the source of the data and an explanation of the concepts and definitions used in the report, See the technical notes.) The specific income thresholds used to determine people's poverty status vary depending on whether the individuals are living with family members, living alone, or living with nonrelatives. For people living with family members, the poverty threshold is determined by the family's total income; for individuals not living in families, personal income is used as the determinant.

Chart 1. Working-poor rate of people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 1986–2019



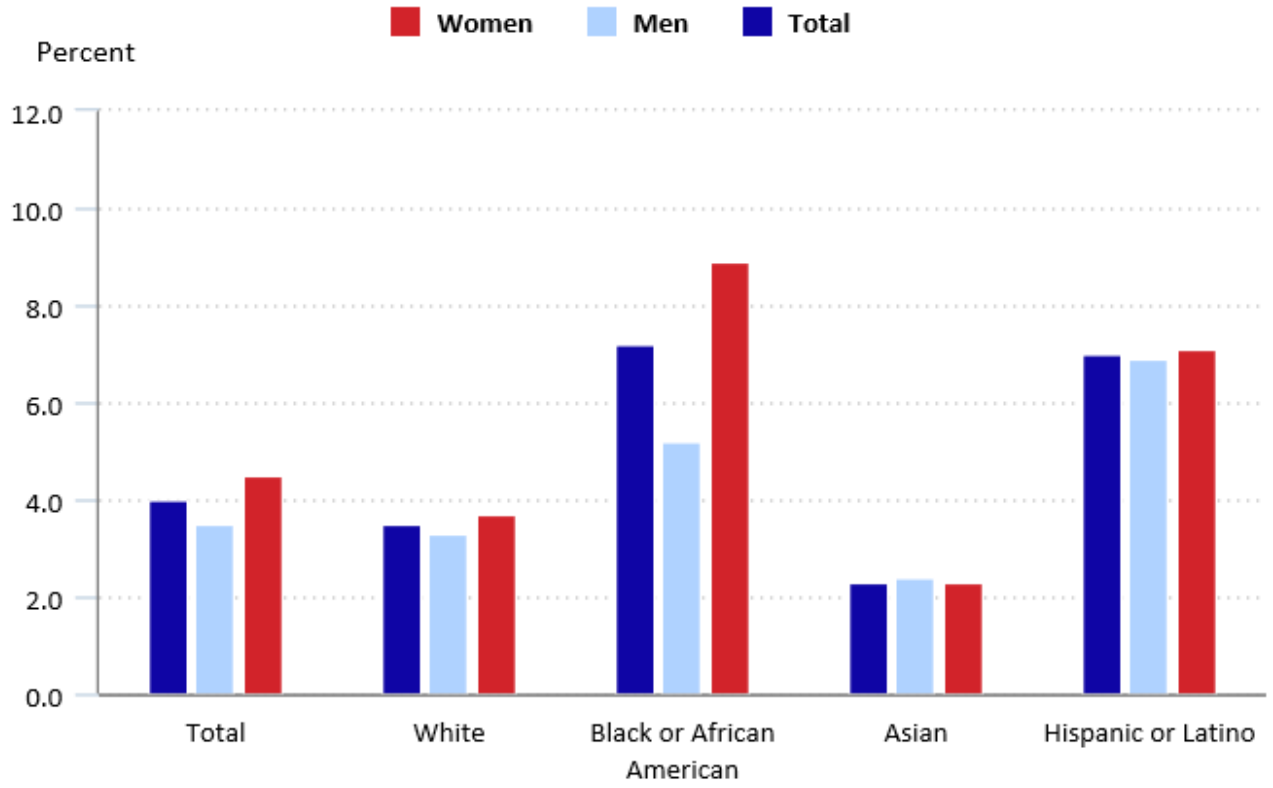
Hover over chart to view data.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Demographic characteristics

Among those who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2019, the number of women classified as working poor (3.4 million) was higher than that of men (2.9 million). The working-poor rate also continued to be higher for women (4.5 percent) than for men (3.5 percent). The working-poor rates for both women and men declined from a year earlier. (See table 2.)

Blacks and Hispanics were much more likely than Whites and Asians to be among the working poor. In 2019, the working-poor rates for Blacks and Hispanics were 7.2 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively, compared with 3.5 percent for Whites and 2.3 percent for Asians. (See table 2 and chart 2.)

Chart 2. Working-poor rates by gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2019



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Among Whites and Blacks, the working-poor rate was higher for women than for men in 2019. The rates for White women and White men who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force were 3.7 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively. The rate for Black women was 8.9 percent, compared with 5.2 percent for Black men. For Asians and Hispanics, the working-poor rates for women varied slightly from those of men. The working-poor rate for Asian women was 2.3 percent, and the rate for men was 2.4 percent. Among Hispanics, the rate for women was 7.1 percent, and the rate for Hispanic men was 6.9 percent.

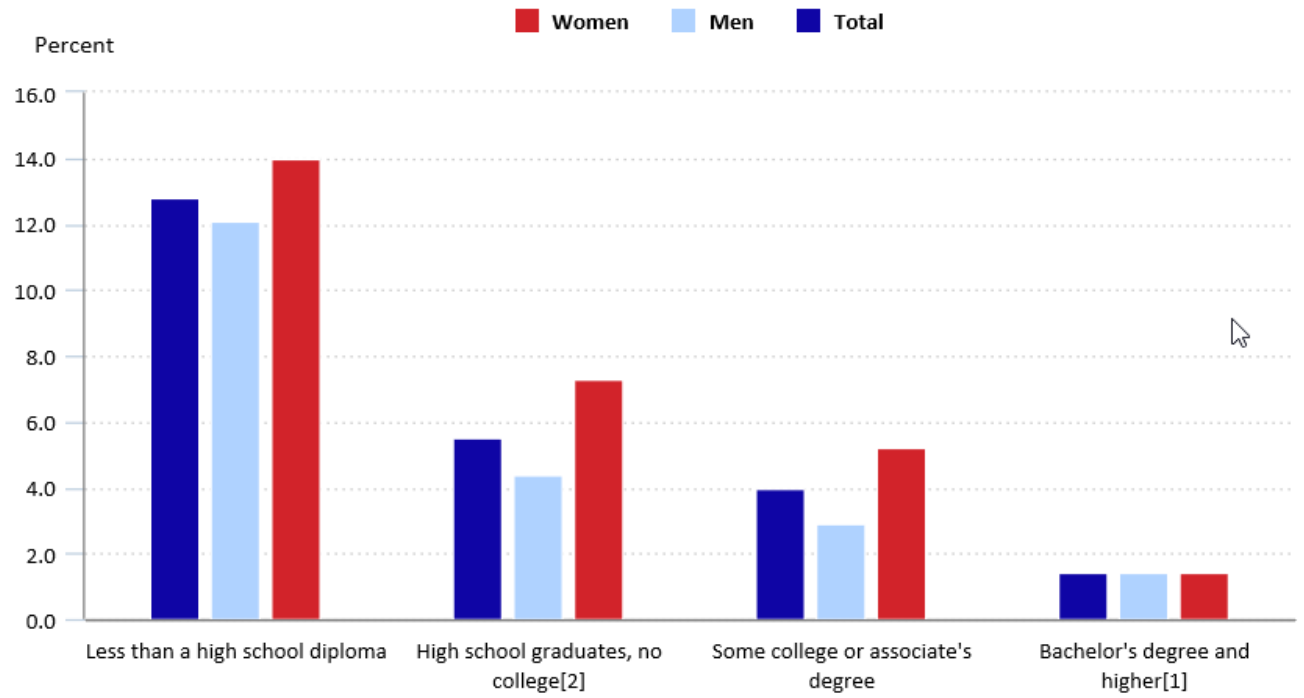
Young workers are more likely to be poor than are workers in older age groups, in part because earnings are lower for young workers and the unemployment rate for young workers is higher. Among youths who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more, 7.4 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds and 7.6 percent of 20- to 24-year-olds had incomes that fell below the official poverty level in 2019. Those rates were higher than the rates for workers ages 25 to 34 (5.0 percent) and those ages 35 to 44 (4.3 percent). Workers ages 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 and older had lower working-poor rates—2.9 percent, 2.6 percent, and 1.3 percent, respectively—than did those in younger age groups. (See table 2.)

Educational attainment

Achieving higher levels of education reduces the incidence of living in poverty. People 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. Among people in the labor force for 27 weeks or more in 2019, those with less than a high school diploma had the highest working-poor rate, at 12.8 percent, while those with a bachelor's degree or higher had the lowest, at 1.4 percent. Even though women were more likely than men to be among the working poor at all levels of educational attainment, the working-poor rates were the same for men and women with a bachelor's degree or higher. (See table 3 and chart 3.)

Chart 3. Working-poor rates by gender and educational attainment, 2019



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
[1] Includes people with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
[2] Includes people with a high school diploma or equivalent.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

For people with a bachelor's degree and higher, all race and ethnicity groups had similar working-poor rates, ranging from 1.4 percent to 1.7 percent. For those with less than a high school diploma, the working poor rate for Asians (5.3 percent) was lower than the rates for Whites (12.4 percent), Hispanics (14.8 percent), and Blacks (17.3 percent) in 2019.

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. For example, 1.4 percent of those in management, professional, and related occupations were among the working poor in 2019. By contrast, individuals employed in occupations that typically do not require high levels of education and that are characterized by relatively low earnings were more likely to be among the working poor. For instance, 8.2 percent of service workers who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks were classified as working poor in 2019. The 2.1 million working poor employed in service occupations accounted for about one-third of all those classified as working poor. (See table 4.)

For most occupational groups, women had higher working-poor rates than men. However, the rates for men and women were little different in management, professional, and related occupations (1.5 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively). For both men and women, working-poor rates were lowest in this occupational group.

Families

In 2019, 3.2 million families were living below the poverty level despite having at least one member in the labor force for half the year or more. This figure was down from 3.6 million in 2018. Among families with only one member in the labor force for at least 27 weeks in 2019, married-couple families were less likely to be living below the poverty level, at 5.6 percent, than were families maintained by women, at 18.9 percent, and families maintained by men, at 9.0 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 who lived in poverty was 7.8 percent in 2019, compared with 1.6 percent for families without children. Among families with children under 18, the working-poor rate for those maintained by women (20.3 percent) was higher than the rate for those maintained by men (9.0 percent). Married-couple families with children under 18 had a working-poor rate of 4.0 percent in 2019.

Unrelated individuals

The “unrelated individuals” category includes individuals who live by themselves or with others not related to them. Of the 36.8 million unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for half the year or longer, 2.4 million lived below the poverty level in 2019. This measure was down from a year earlier, when the number of unrelated individuals who lived below the poverty level was 2.7 million. The working-poor rate for unrelated individuals who were in the labor force for 27 weeks or more was 6.6 percent, a decrease of 0.6 percentage point from last year’s figure. (See table 6.)

Within the group of unrelated individuals, teenagers continued to be most likely among the working poor. In 2019, 39.2 percent of teens (ages 16 to 19) 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, little changed from the prior year. In 2019, the working-poor rates for men and women living alone or with nonrelatives were 6.1 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively. The rates for unrelated individuals were higher for Hispanics (10.1 percent) and Blacks (8.1 percent) than for Whites (6.4 percent) and Asians (4.6 percent). (See table 7.)

Of the 2.4 million unrelated individuals considered to be among the working poor in 2019, about 3 out of 5 lived with others. These individuals had a higher working-poor rate than individuals who lived alone. Many unrelated individuals living below the poverty level may live with others out of necessity. By contrast, 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, 3.0 million, or 2.4 percent, were classified as working poor in 2019. Both measures are down from the previous year. (See table 8.)

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

In 2019, 80 percent of the working poor who usually work full time experienced at least one of the major labor market problems. Low earnings continued to be the most common problem, with 67 percent subject to low earnings, either as the only problem or in combination with other labor market problems. Twenty-seven percent experienced unemployment as the main labor market problem or in conjunction with other problems. Three percent of the working poor experienced all three problems: low earnings, unemployment, and involuntary part-time employment. (See table 8.)

Some 604,000, or 20 percent, of the working poor who usually worked full time did not experience any of the three primary labor market problems in 2019. 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.

Notes

[1] "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2019," *Current Population Reports*, P60–266 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2020), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf.

[2] People of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity may be of any race.

Statistical Tables

Table 1. People in the labor force: poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in labor force	27 weeks or more in labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
TOTAL, 16 YEARS AND OLDER			
Total in the labor force	170,663	157,769	144,235
Did not work during the year	2,030	959	794
Worked during the year	168,632	156,810	143,441
Usual full-time workers	136,229	131,555	124,015
Usual part-time workers	32,404	25,255	19,426
Involuntary part-time workers	5,765	5,037	4,079
Voluntary part-time workers	26,638	20,218	15,347
At or above poverty level			
Total in the labor force	162,360	151,451	139,082
Did not work during the year	1,338	615	495
Worked during the year	161,023	150,837	138,588
Usual full-time workers	132,110	128,068	121,023
Usual part-time workers	28,912	22,768	17,564
Involuntary part-time workers	4,738	4,190	3,398
Voluntary part-time workers	24,174	18,578	14,166
Below poverty level			
Total in the labor force	8,302	6,318	5,153
Did not work during the year	693	345	299
Worked during the year	7,610	5,973	4,854
Usual full-time workers	4,118	3,486	2,992
Usual part-time workers	3,491	2,486	1,862
Involuntary part-time workers	1,028	846	681
Voluntary part-time workers	2,464	1,640	1,181
RATE[1]			
Total in the labor force	4.9	4.0	3.6
Did not work during the year	34.1	35.9	37.7
Worked during the year	4.5	3.8	3.4
Usual full-time workers	3.0	2.7	2.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. People in the labor force: poverty status and work experience by weeks in the labor force, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total in labor force	27 weeks or more in labor force	
		Total	50 to 52 weeks
Usual part-time workers	10.8	9.8	9.6
Involuntary part-time workers	17.8	16.8	16.7
Voluntary part-time workers	9.2	8.1	7.7

[1] Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by age, gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Age and gender	Total					Below poverty level					Rate[1]				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
Total, 16 years and older	157,769	122,238	19,891	10,186	28,057	6,318	4,296	1,433	239	1,964	4.0	3.5	7.2	2.3	7.0
16 to 19 years	3,678	2,834	467	132	865	273	173	53	11	80	7.4	6.1	11.4	8.6	9.2
20 to 24 years	12,926	9,751	1,836	602	3,110	977	659	210	45	263	7.6	6.8	11.5	7.4	8.5
25 to 34 years	36,215	26,793	5,266	2,619	7,212	1,800	1,141	514	57	462	5.0	4.3	9.8	2.2	6.4
35 to 44 years	33,679	25,633	4,316	2,537	6,691	1,447	1,012	303	46	565	4.3	3.9	7.0	1.8	8.4
45 to 54 years	32,245	25,061	4,028	2,224	5,735	940	667	200	39	374	2.9	2.7	5.0	1.8	6.5
55 to 64 years	27,882	22,819	2,955	1,504	3,450	739	543	124	32	181	2.6	2.4	4.2	2.1	5.2
65 years and older	11,144	9,347	1,023	568	993	143	103	28	9	39	1.3	1.1	2.7	1.5	3.9
Men, 16 years and older	83,510	66,048	9,253	5,445	15,814	2,948	2,191	482	130	1,090	3.5	3.3	5.2	2.4	6.9
16 to 19 years	1,894	1,467	190	85	459	128	94	14	6	41	6.8	6.4	7.6	6.6	8.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by age, gender, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Age and gender	Total					Below poverty level					Rate[1]				
	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Total	White	Black or African American	Asian	Hispanic or Latino
20 to 24 years	6,643	5,106	891	285	1,656	456	319	96	23	124	6.9	6.3	10.7	8.0	7.5
25 to 34 years	19,307	14,557	2,540	1,428	4,134	741	560	119	30	247	3.8	3.8	4.7	2.1	6.0
35 to 44 years	18,090	14,168	1,970	1,357	3,868	744	561	118	21	355	4.1	4.0	6.0	1.6	9.2
45 to 54 years	16,721	13,245	1,838	1,165	3,183	457	343	74	26	198	2.7	2.6	4.0	2.2	6.2
55 to 64 years	14,617	12,159	1,354	809	1,942	344	254	51	15	102	2.4	2.1	3.8	1.9	5.3
65 years and older	6,238	5,346	470	315	573	79	59	10	9	24	1.3	1.1	2.2	2.7	4.1
Women, 16 years and older	74,259	56,190	10,639	4,741	12,243	3,370	2,106	951	109	874	4.5	3.7	8.9	2.3	7.1
16 to 19 years	1,784	1,367	277	48	407	145	79	39	6	39	8.1	5.8	14.0	-	9.5
20 to 24 years	6,283	4,645	945	317	1,454	521	340	115	22	140	8.3	7.3	12.1	6.9	9.6
25 to 34 years	16,908	12,236	2,726	1,191	3,079	1,059	581	395	26	215	6.3	4.7	14.5	2.2	7.0
35 to 44 years	15,589	11,465	2,345	1,180	2,823	703	450	186	25	210	4.5	3.9	7.9	2.1	7.4
45 to 54 years	15,524	11,816	2,190	1,059	2,552	484	324	126	13	176	3.1	2.7	5.7	1.2	6.9
55 to 64 years	13,265	10,660	1,601	695	1,508	395	289	73	17	79	3.0	2.7	4.6	2.4	5.2
65 years and older	4,906	4,001	554	253	420	64	44	18	-	15	1.3	1.1	3.2	-	3.7

[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. Dash represents zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2019 (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	157,769	83,510	74,259	6,318	2,948	3,370	4.0	3.5	4.5
Less than a high school diploma	11,344	7,027	4,317	1,452	848	604	12.8	12.1	14.0
Less than 1 year of high school	3,614	2,383	1,231	545	362	183	15.1	15.2	14.9
1–3 years of high school	5,844	3,529	2,316	669	353	316	11.4	10.0	13.6
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,885	1,115	770	238	133	105	12.6	11.9	13.7
High school graduates, no college[2]	40,099	23,732	16,367	2,225	1,037	1,188	5.5	4.4	7.3
Some college or associate's degree	43,273	21,734	21,538	1,752	639	1,113	4.0	2.9	5.2
Some college, no degree	26,040	13,501	12,539	1,202	419	782	4.6	3.1	6.2
Associate's degree	17,233	8,234	8,999	550	220	330	3.2	2.7	3.7
Bachelor's degree and higher[3]	63,054	31,017	32,037	888	424	464	1.4	1.4	1.4
White, 16 years and older	122,238	66,048	56,190	4,296	2,191	2,106	3.5	3.3	3.7
Less than a high school diploma	8,963	5,724	3,239	1,111	698	413	12.4	12.2	12.7
Less than 1 year of high school	3,036	2,057	979	484	324	161	16.0	15.7	16.4
1–3 years of high school	4,549	2,819	1,731	479	287	192	10.5	10.2	11.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	1,378	848	529	147	87	60	10.7	10.2	11.4
High school graduates, no college[2]	30,865	18,748	12,117	1,376	719	657	4.5	3.8	5.4
Some college or associate's degree	33,712	17,321	16,390	1,122	444	678	3.3	2.6	4.1
Some college, no degree	19,828	10,506	9,322	767	296	471	3.9	2.8	5.1
Associate's degree	13,883	6,815	7,068	355	148	207	2.6	2.2	2.9
Bachelor's degree and higher[3]	48,698	24,254	24,444	687	329	358	1.4	1.4	1.5
Black or African American, 16 years and older	19,891	9,253	10,639	1,433	482	951	7.2	5.2	8.9
Less than a high school diploma	1,304	658	646	225	94	131	17.3	14.3	20.3
Less than 1 year of high school	236	123	113	17	14	3	7.2	11.6	2.3
1–3 years of high school	737	380	356	135	45	91	18.4	11.8	25.4
4 years of high school, no diploma	332	155	176	73	35	38	22.0	22.7	21.5
High school graduates, no college[2]	6,190	3,316	2,873	673	247	426	10.9	7.4	14.8
Some college or associate's degree	6,252	2,760	3,492	445	121	324	7.1	4.4	9.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. People in the labor force for 27 weeks or more: poverty status by educational attainment, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and gender, 2019 (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
Some college, no degree	4,065	1,874	2,191	304	73	231	7.5	3.9	10.5
Associate's degree	2,187	886	1,301	141	48	93	6.5	5.4	7.2
Bachelor's degree and higher[3]	6,146	2,518	3,628	90	20	70	1.5	0.8	1.9
Asian, 16 years and older	10,186	5,445	4,741	239	130	109	2.3	2.4	2.3
Less than a high school diploma	547	315	232	29	14	15	5.3	4.5	6.3
Less than 1 year of high school	206	106	100	14	7	7	7.0	6.6	7.3
1–3 years of high school	242	143	99	7	2	5	2.9	1.4	5.0
4 years of high school, no diploma	99	66	33	7	5	2	7.5	-	-
High school graduates, no college[2]	1,458	778	680	42	19	23	2.9	2.5	3.3
Some college or associate's degree	1,536	773	764	74	29	45	4.8	3.7	5.9
Some college, no degree	942	494	448	52	21	31	5.5	4.2	7.0
Associate's degree	594	278	316	22	8	14	3.7	2.9	4.3
Bachelor's degree and higher[3]	6,645	3,579	3,066	95	68	27	1.4	1.9	0.9
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older	28,057	15,814	12,243	1,964	1,090	874	7.0	6.9	7.1
Less than a high school diploma	5,885	3,771	2,114	873	547	326	14.8	14.5	15.4
Less than 1 year of high school	2,792	1,881	911	452	294	158	16.2	15.6	17.3
1–3 years of high school	2,340	1,445	895	317	200	117	13.5	13.8	13.1
4 years of high school, no diploma	753	445	308	104	53	51	13.9	12.0	16.5
High school graduates, no college[2]	8,831	5,399	3,432	653	356	297	7.4	6.6	8.7
Some college or associate's degree	7,367	3,772	3,594	336	143	193	4.6	3.8	5.4
Some college, no degree	4,724	2,468	2,256	239	103	136	5.1	4.2	6.0
Associate's degree	2,643	1,304	1,339	98	40	57	3.7	3.1	4.3
Bachelor's degree and higher[3]	5,974	2,871	3,103	102	45	57	1.7	1.6	1.9

[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.
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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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, 2019 (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]	156,810	82,965	73,844	5,973	2,768	3,205	3.8	3.3	4.3
Management, professional, and related occupations	66,000	31,651	34,349	920	392	528	1.4	1.2	1.5
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	27,881	15,005	12,876	355	196	158	1.3	1.3	1.2
Professional and related occupations	38,120	16,647	21,473	565	196	369	1.5	1.2	1.7
Service occupations	25,777	11,055	14,722	2,119	682	1,437	8.2	6.2	9.8
Sales and office occupations	30,935	11,562	19,373	1,188	311	877	3.8	2.7	4.5
Sales and related occupations	14,611	7,287	7,324	684	200	484	4.7	2.7	6.6
Office and administrative support occupations	16,324	4,275	12,049	504	111	393	3.1	2.6	3.3
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	14,316	13,448	868	788	718	70	5.5	5.3	8.1
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,196	907	289	135	95	40	11.2	10.5	13.7
Construction and extraction occupations	8,286	7,904	382	513	490	23	6.2	6.2	5.9
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,834	4,637	197	141	133	8	2.9	2.9	4.0
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	19,644	15,147	4,498	951	658	293	4.8	4.3	6.5
Production occupations	8,146	5,878	2,268	307	187	120	3.8	3.2	5.3
Transportation and material-moving occupations	11,499	9,269	2,230	645	471	174	5.6	5.1	7.8
White, 16 years and older[2]	121,712	65,737	55,975	4,118	2,074	2,044	3.4	3.2	3.7
Management, professional, and related occupations	52,039	25,369	26,670	669	300	369	1.3	1.2	1.4
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	22,820	12,689	10,131	277	160	118	1.2	1.3	1.2
Professional and related occupations	29,219	12,680	16,538	391	140	251	1.3	1.1	1.5
Service occupations	18,475	8,109	10,366	1,404	495	909	7.6	6.1	8.8
Sales and office occupations	24,183	9,160	15,022	780	243	537	3.2	2.7	3.6
Sales and related occupations	11,647	5,966	5,682	448	147	301	3.8	2.5	5.3
Office and administrative support occupations	12,535	3,195	9,341	332	96	236	2.7	3.0	2.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	12,313	11,610	703	684	627	56	5.6	5.4	8.0
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1,047	807	240	120	89	31	11.4	11.0	13.0
Construction and extraction occupations	7,204	6,884	320	451	431	20	6.3	6.3	6.4
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4,062	3,919	143	113	108	5	2.8	2.8	3.4

See footnotes at end of table.

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate[1]		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	14,602	11,417	3,185	581	409	172	4.0	3.6	5.4
Production occupations	6,387	4,747	1,640	193	124	70	3.0	2.6	4.2
Transportation and material-moving occupations	8,215	6,670	1,545	388	286	103	4.7	4.3	6.7
Black or African American, 16 years and older[2]	19,562	9,078	10,484	1,300	440	860	6.6	4.8	8.2
Management, professional, and related occupations	6,429	2,397	4,032	162	43	119	2.5	1.8	2.9
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	2,430	990	1,439	57	29	28	2.3	2.9	2.0
Professional and related occupations	3,999	1,406	2,593	105	15	91	2.6	1.0	3.5
Service occupations	4,586	1,816	2,770	499	115	384	10.9	6.4	13.9
Sales and office occupations	4,035	1,265	2,770	303	38	265	7.5	3.0	9.6
Sales and related occupations	1,602	640	962	170	30	141	10.6	4.7	14.6
Office and administrative support occupations	2,433	625	1,808	133	9	124	5.5	1.4	6.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	1,150	1,060	90	59	50	9	5.1	4.8	9.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	93	61	33	8	1	6	8.1	-	-
Construction and extraction occupations	629	597	32	41	41	-	6.5	6.8	-
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	428	402	25	11	8	3	2.6	2.1	-
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	3,331	2,515	816	271	186	84	8.1	7.4	10.3
Production occupations	1,052	694	358	79	48	31	7.5	6.9	8.6
Transportation and material-moving occupations	2,279	1,821	458	192	139	54	8.4	7.6	11.7
Asian, 16 years and older[2]	10,157	5,430	4,727	231	122	109	2.3	2.2	2.3
Management, professional, and related occupations	5,633	3,060	2,573	51	43	8	0.9	1.4	0.3
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	1,842	955	887	6	6	-	0.3	0.7	-
Professional and related occupations	3,791	2,104	1,687	45	36	8	1.2	1.7	0.5
Service occupations	1,589	652	937	95	31	64	6.0	4.7	6.8
Sales and office occupations	1,624	743	881	47	20	27	2.9	2.7	3.1
Sales and related occupations	823	464	359	25	14	11	3.0	3.0	3.0
Office and administrative support occupations	802	279	523	22	6	16	2.8	2.2	3.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	345	302	43	10	7	2	2.8	2.5	-
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	24	17	8	2	2	-	-	-	-
Construction and extraction occupations	155	135	20	3	-	2	1.7	0.3	-
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	165	150	15	5	5	-	3.2	3.5	-

See footnotes at end of table.

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Occupation, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total	Men	Women	Below poverty level			Rate[1]		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	962	669	293	28	21	7	2.9	3.1	2.4
Production occupations	459	272	187	8	2	6	1.6	0.6	3.1
Transportation and material-moving occupations	503	397	105	20	19	1	4.1	4.8	1.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 16 years and older[2]	27,842	15,690	12,153	1,885	1,051	834	6.8	6.7	6.9
Management, professional, and related occupations	6,761	3,133	3,628	99	28	71	1.5	0.9	2.0
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	2,909	1,493	1,416	48	19	30	1.7	1.3	2.1
Professional and related occupations	3,851	1,640	2,212	51	9	42	1.3	0.6	1.9
Service occupations	6,643	2,954	3,689	704	283	421	10.6	9.6	11.4
Sales and office occupations	5,325	2,014	3,311	292	75	217	5.5	3.7	6.6
Sales and related occupations	2,367	1,084	1,284	178	51	127	7.5	4.7	9.9
Office and administrative support occupations	2,958	930	2,027	114	23	91	3.9	2.5	4.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	4,485	4,169	316	463	427	35	10.3	10.3	11.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	562	395	167	83	59	24	14.8	14.9	14.5
Construction and extraction occupations	2,918	2,797	121	314	303	11	10.8	10.8	9.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	1,005	976	29	65	65	-	6.5	6.7	-
Production, transportation, and material-moving occupations	4,612	3,407	1,205	327	238	89	7.1	7.0	7.4
Production occupations	1,896	1,272	624	136	86	50	7.2	6.8	8.0
Transportation and material-moving occupations	2,716	2,135	581	190	152	39	7.0	7.1	6.6

[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.
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 zero, rounds to zero, or indicates that base is less than 80,000.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate[1]
TOTAL PRIMARY FAMILIES				

See footnotes at end of table.

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate[1]
Total	68,318	65,086	3,232	4.7
With related children under 18 years	34,175	31,493	2,681	7.8
Without children	34,144	33,593	551	1.6
With one member in the labor force	28,345	25,568	2,777	9.8
With two or more members in the labor force	39,974	39,518	455	1.1
With two members	33,163	32,743	420	1.3
With three or more members	6,811	6,775	35	0.5
Married-couple families[2]				
Total	50,656	49,435	1,222	2.4
With related children under 18 years	24,180	23,213	966	4.0
Without children	26,477	26,221	255	1.0
With one member in the labor force	16,901	15,960	941	5.6
Husband	11,599	10,854	745	6.4
Wife	4,408	4,284	124	2.8
Relative	895	823	72	8.1
With two or more members in the labor force	33,755	33,474	281	0.8
With two members	28,333	28,079	255	0.9
With three or more members	5,422	5,395	26	0.5
Families maintained by women[3]				
Total	12,004	10,335	1,669	13.9
With related children under 18 years	7,207	5,744	1,463	20.3
Without children	4,798	4,592	206	4.3
With one member in the labor force	8,129	6,591	1,538	18.9
Householder	6,502	5,174	1,328	20.4
Relative	1,627	1,417	210	12.9
With two or more members in the labor force	3,875	3,744	131	3.4
Families maintained by men[3]				
Total	5,658	5,316	341	6.0
With related children under 18 years	2,788	2,537	252	9.0
Without children	2,869	2,780	90	3.1
With one member in the labor force	3,314	3,017	297	9.0

See footnotes at end of table.

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total families	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate[1]
Householder	2653	2412	241	9.1
Relative	661	604	56	8.5
With two or more members in the labor force	2343	2300	44	1.9

[1] Number below the poverty level as a percent of the total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.
[2] Beginning with data for 2018, includes both opposite-sex and same-sex married-couple families. Prior to 2018, included opposite-sex married-couple families only.
[3] Beginning with data for 2018, includes families with no spouse of either sex present. Prior to 2018, included only families with no opposite-sex spouse present.
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, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total	In married-couple families[1]				In families maintained by women[2]			In families maintained by men[2]			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, 16 YEARS AND OLDER												
All people	259,757	61,577	62,350	5,589	23,771	14,815	2,018	14,671	6,486	711	7,250	60,521
With labor force activity	170,663	45,804	38,617	1,505	15,263	10,486	504	9,141	5,027	174	4,694	39,447
1 to 26 weeks	12,894	1,426	2,495	815	2,659	624	260	1,179	278	98	418	2,642
27 weeks or more	157,769	44,378	36,122	689	12,604	9,862	245	7,962	4,749	76	4,276	36,805
With no labor force activity	89,095	15,773	23,733	4,084	8,507	4,329	1,513	5,529	1,459	537	2,556	21,074
At or above poverty level												
All people	235,318	59,122	59,833	5,336	22,969	11,518	1,506	12,815	5,742	620	6,710	49,148
With labor force activity	162,360	44,693	38,097	1,479	14,991	8,766	441	8,539	4,660	163	4,542	35,990
1 to 26 weeks	10,909	1,322	2,343	805	2,572	329	226	1,020	191	92	379	1,629
27 weeks or more	151,451	43,371	35,753	674	12,419	8,438	215	7,519	4,469	71	4,163	34,360

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. People in families and unrelated individuals: poverty status and work experience, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Poverty status and work experience	Total	In married-couple families[1]				In families maintained by women[2]			In families maintained by men[2]			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	
With no labor force activity	72,958	14,429	21,736	3,857	7,978	2,752	1,065	4,276	1,081	457	2,168	13,158
Below poverty level												
All people	24,439	2,455	2,517	253	802	3,297	512	1,855	744	91	541	11,373
With labor force activity	8,302	1,111	521	26	272	1,720	64	602	366	11	152	3,457
1 to 26 weeks	1,985	103	152	11	87	295	34	159	86	6	39	1,012
27 weeks or more	6,318	1,008	369	15	186	1,424	30	443	280	5	113	2,445
With no labor force activity	16,136	1,343	1,996	227	529	1,577	448	1,253	378	80	389	7,916
RATE[3]												
All people	9.4	4.0	4.0	4.5	3.4	22.3	25.4	12.6	11.5	12.8	7.5	18.8
With labor force activity	4.9	2.4	1.3	1.7	1.8	16.4	12.6	6.6	7.3	6.4	3.2	8.8
1 to 26 weeks	15.4	7.3	6.1	1.3	3.3	47.3	13.0	13.5	31.0	6.4	9.3	38.3
27 weeks or more	4.0	2.3	1.0	2.2	1.5	14.4	12.2	5.6	5.9	6.4	2.6	6.6
With no labor force activity	18.1	8.5	8.4	5.6	6.2	36.4	29.6	22.7	25.9	14.9	15.2	37.6

[1]Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in both opposite-sex and same-sex married-couple families. Prior to 2018, included opposite-sex married-couple families only.
[2]Beginning with data for 2018, includes people in families with no spouse of either sex present. Prior to 2018, included only families with no opposite-sex spouse present.
[3]Number below the poverty level as a percentage of the total.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate[1]
Age and gender				

See footnotes at end of table.

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, 2019 (Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate[1]
Total unrelated individuals	36,805	34,360	2,445	6.6
16 to 19 years	315	191	123	39.2
20 to 24 years	3,907	3,297	611	15.6
25 to 64 years	29,631	27,985	1,645	5.6
65 years and older	2,952	2,887	65	2.2
Men	19,932	18,721	1,211	6.1
Women	16,873	15,639	1,234	7.3
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
White	28,256	26,450	1,805	6.4
Men	15,603	14,686	917	5.9
Women	12,653	11,765	888	7.0
Black or African American	5,284	4,858	425	8.1
Men	2,531	2,344	186	7.4
Women	2,753	2,514	239	8.7
Asian	1,829	1,745	85	4.6
Men	994	953	41	4.1
Women	835	792	43	5.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,467	4,914	553	10.1
Men	3,357	3,052	305	9.1
Women	2,110	1,863	248	11.7
Living arrangement				
Living alone	19,108	18,149	959	5.0
Living with others	17,697	16,211	1,486	8.4

[1]Number below the poverty level as percent of 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.

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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, 2018 (Numbers in thousands)

Labor market problems	Total	At or above poverty level	Below poverty level	Rate[1]
Total, full-time wage and salary workers	125,213	122,170	3,043	2.4
No unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, or low earnings[2]	108,680	108,076	604	0.6
Workers experiencing one labor market problem				
Unemployment only	4,901	4,619	283	5.8
Involuntary part-time employment only	2,674	2,609	65	2.4
Low earnings only	6,318	4,910	1,408	22.3
Workers experiencing multiple labor market problems				
Unemployment and involuntary part-time employment	902	840	62	6.9
Unemployment and low earnings	959	587	372	38.8
Involuntary part-time employment and low earnings	514	357	157	30.6
Unemployment, involuntary part-time employment, and low earnings	265	172	93	34.9
Workers experiencing each labor market problem				
Unemployment (alone or with other problems)	7,027	6,218	809	11.5
Involuntary part-time employment (alone or with other problems)	4,354	3,978	376	8.6
Low earnings (alone or with other problems)	8,056	6,026	2,030	25.2

[1]Number below the poverty level as percent of total in the labor force for 27 weeks or more.
[2]The low-earnings threshold in 2019 was $369.59 per week.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Technical Notes

The data presented in this report were collected in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the CPS is a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households. Data from the CPS are used to obtain 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 2020 are for the 2019 calendar year. The 2019 data in this report are based on fewer sample responses than in recent years. The collection period for these data coincided with the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; because in-person interviews were suspended during the collection period, the response rate for the survey was about 10 percentage points lower than in the previous year. For more information about the impact of the pandemic on ASEC data collection, see "Income and poverty in the United States: 2019," *Current Population Reports*, P60-270 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2020), www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf.

Estimates in this report are based on a sample and, consequently, may differ from estimates 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, more extensive definitions than those provided here, and additional information about income and poverty measures, see "Income and poverty in the United States: 2019," *Current Population Reports*, P60-270 (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2020), www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf.

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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.

Concepts and definitions

Poverty classification 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 on the basis of factors, such as family size and the number of children under 18 years of age.

The actual poverty thresholds vary with the makeup of the family. In 2019, the weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four was $26,172; for a family of nine or more people, the threshold was $52,875; and for one person (unrelated individual), it was $13,011. 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: 2019,"www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf.

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 2019, the low-earnings threshold was $376.28 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, www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1989/10/art1full.pdf.

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: 2019," www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf.

The *labor force* refers to people 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.

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.

The *working-poor 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 percentage of all people who were in the labor force for at least 27 weeks during the calendar year.

Involuntary part-time workers are people who, during at least 1 week of the year, worked fewer than 35 hours because of slack work, unfavorable 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 refers to the job in which a person worked the most weeks during the calendar year.

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.

The *householder* is the family reference person. This is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. The relationships of the other individuals in the household are defined in terms of their relationships to the householder. The race or Hispanic ethnicity of the family is determined by that of the householder.

A *family* is a group of two or more people residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption; all such people are considered members of one family. Families include those with or without children under 18 years old. The count of families is for "primary" families only. A primary family consists of a householder and all other people related to and residing with the householder. Sub-families are excluded from the count of families. A sub-family is a family that does not maintain its own household, but lives in the home of someone else. Family status is determined at the time of the survey interview and, thus, may be different from that of the previous year. Families are further categorized as follows:

- Married-couple families refer to opposite-sex and same-sex married couples residing together and any of their family members residing in the household.

- Families maintained by men or women are made up of householders residing with one or more family members, but with no spouse of either sex present. Unmarried domestic partners of either sex may or may not be present in the household.

Beginning in 2018, the definition of married couples in this report includes both opposite-sex and same-sex married couples. Prior to 2018, married-couple families included opposite-sex married-couple families only. Therefore, beginning in 2018, estimates for married-couple families and families maintained by men or women may not be comparable to those from prior years because of the change in the definition of marital status.

Unrelated individuals are people who are not living with anyone related to them by birth, marriage, or adoption. Such individuals may live alone or live with other individuals to whom they may not be related. Beginning in 2018, estimates for unrelated individuals may not be comparable to those from prior years because of the change in the definition of marital status.

Related children refer to children under age 18 who are living in the household and are related to the householder. Included are own children (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. Beginning in 2018, estimates for related children may not be comparable to those from prior years because of the change in the definition of marital status.

Race is reported by the household respondent. 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.

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