

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970–2009

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	High school		College	
			Less than 4 years	4 years, no college	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Total, both sexes						
1970 ¹	61,765	100.0	36.1	38.1	11.8	14.1
1971.....	62,344	100.0	34.5	38.4	12.3	14.8
1972.....	63,704	100.0	33.3	38.8	12.4	15.5
1973.....	64,775	100.0	30.9	39.7	13.0	16.4
1974.....	66,527	100.0	29.3	39.5	13.7	17.5
1975.....	67,774	100.0	27.5	39.7	14.4	18.3
1976.....	69,243	100.0	25.8	39.6	15.2	19.4
1977.....	71,324	100.0	24.9	39.2	15.7	20.2
1978.....	73,504	100.0	23.7	39.2	16.5	20.6
1979.....	75,781	100.0	21.8	39.5	17.3	21.3
1980.....	78,010	100.0	20.6	39.8	17.6	22.0
1981.....	80,273	100.0	19.7	40.6	17.7	22.0
1982.....	81,516	100.0	18.8	40.8	17.3	23.1
1983.....	83,615	100.0	17.8	39.9	18.1	24.2
1984.....	86,001	100.0	16.7	40.2	18.4	24.7
1985.....	88,424	100.0	15.9	40.2	19.0	24.9
1986.....	90,500	100.0	15.5	40.2	19.5	24.8
1987.....	92,966	100.0	14.9	40.2	19.7	25.3
1988.....	94,870	100.0	14.7	39.9	19.7	25.7
1989.....	97,318	100.0	14.0	39.6	20.0	26.4
1990.....	99,175	100.0	13.4	39.5	20.7	26.4
1991.....	100,480	100.0	13.0	39.4	21.1	26.5
Total, both sexes						
Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Total	Percent distribution			
			Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college	Some college, no degree, or associate's degree	College graduates
1992 ²	103,018	100.0	12.1	35.7	25.6	26.6
1993.....	104,237	100.0	11.3	35.1	26.6	27.0
1994.....	105,610	100.0	10.8	33.9	27.7	27.6
1995.....	107,032	100.0	10.4	33.2	28.1	28.3
1996.....	108,932	100.0	10.6	32.9	27.8	28.7
1997.....	110,945	100.0	10.6	32.9	27.5	29.0
1998.....	111,932	100.0	10.5	32.4	27.4	29.8
1999.....	113,095	100.0	10.0	31.8	27.6	30.5
2000.....	115,750	100.0	10.1	31.4	27.8	30.7
2001.....	116,893	100.0	10.1	30.9	28.0	31.0
2002.....	118,028	100.0	10.0	30.7	27.7	31.6
2003.....	119,621	100.0	9.9	30.3	27.6	32.1
2004.....	120,135	100.0	9.7	30.1	27.7	32.4
2005.....	121,752	100.0	9.8	29.9	27.8	32.5
2006.....	123,550	100.0	9.7	29.6	27.7	33.0
2007.....	125,104	100.0	9.3	29.2	27.7	33.8
2008.....	126,011	100.0	9.0	28.8	28.0	34.2
2009.....	126,247	100.0	9.0	28.6	28.0	34.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970–2009—Continued

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	High school		College	
			Less than 4 years	4 years, no college	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Women						
1970 ¹	22,462	100.0	33.5	44.3	10.9	11.2
1971.....	22,804	100.0	32.2	44.2	11.9	11.8
1972.....	23,606	100.0	30.7	45.1	11.8	12.4
1973.....	24,158	100.0	28.4	45.9	12.4	13.3
1974.....	25,203	100.0	26.7	45.3	13.4	14.6
1975.....	26,146	100.0	26.5	45.5	13.9	14.1
1976.....	27,166	100.0	24.0	45.1	14.7	16.2
1977.....	28,369	100.0	22.8	45.1	15.2	16.9
1978.....	29,738	100.0	22.0	44.9	16.1	17.0
1979.....	31,151	100.0	20.1	45.0	17.1	17.8
1980.....	32,593	100.0	18.4	45.4	17.4	18.7
1981.....	33,910	100.0	17.4	46.1	17.9	18.6
1982.....	34,870	100.0	16.6	45.6	18.3	19.5
1983.....	35,712	100.0	15.6	44.8	18.8	20.9
1984.....	37,234	100.0	14.5	44.9	18.9	21.7
1985.....	38,779	100.0	13.7	44.4	19.9	22.0
1986.....	39,767	100.0	13.2	44.3	20.3	22.2
1987.....	41,105	100.0	12.5	44.0	20.7	22.8
1988.....	42,254	100.0	12.4	43.3	21.2	23.1
1989.....	43,650	100.0	11.9	42.9	20.9	24.3
1990.....	44,699	100.0	11.3	42.4	21.9	24.5
1991.....	45,315	100.0	10.9	41.6	22.2	25.2
Percent distribution						
Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Total	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college	Some college, no degree, or associate's degree	College graduates
Women						
1992 ²	46,589	100.0	10.3	37.4	27.3	25.0
1993.....	47,245	100.0	9.3	36.6	28.4	25.7
1994.....	48,405	100.0	9.0	35.0	29.8	26.2
1995.....	49,247	100.0	8.8	34.1	30.2	26.9
1996.....	50,240	100.0	8.8	33.6	29.9	27.8
1997.....	51,261	100.0	8.7	33.5	29.4	28.4
1998.....	51,678	100.0	8.8	32.7	29.4	29.2
1999.....	52,525	100.0	8.5	32.1	29.5	29.9
2000.....	53,749	100.0	8.5	31.6	29.8	30.1
2001.....	54,229	100.0	8.4	31.0	30.2	30.4
2002.....	54,710	100.0	8.1	30.6	29.9	31.3
2003.....	55,596	100.0	7.9	30.0	29.9	32.2
2004.....	55,616	100.0	7.7	29.4	30.2	32.6
2005.....	56,322	100.0	7.7	28.7	30.2	33.3
2006.....	57,201	100.0	7.6	28.3	30.2	33.9
2007.....	57,791	100.0	7.1	27.9	30.1	34.9
2008.....	58,465	100.0	6.9	27.2	30.4	35.6
2009.....	58,787	100.0	7.0	26.7	30.3	36.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970–2009—Continued

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	High school		College	
			Less than 4 years	4 years, no college	1 to 3 years	4 years or more
Men						
1970 ¹	39,303	100.0	37.5	34.5	12.2	15.7
1971.....	39,539	100.0	35.9	35.1	12.5	16.5
1972.....	40,098	100.0	34.8	35.1	12.8	17.3
1973.....	40,617	100.0	32.4	36.0	13.4	18.2
1974.....	41,344	100.0	30.8	36.0	13.9	19.3
1975.....	41,628	100.0	28.9	36.1	14.8	20.2
1976.....	42,077	100.0	27.0	36.0	15.5	21.5
1977.....	42,954	100.0	26.3	35.3	16.1	22.3
1978.....	43,766	100.0	24.8	35.3	16.9	23.0
1979.....	44,630	100.0	23.0	35.7	17.5	23.8
1980.....	45,417	100.0	22.2	35.7	17.7	24.3
1981.....	46,363	100.0	21.5	36.5	17.4	24.6
1982.....	47,144	100.0	20.3	36.8	17.5	25.5
1983.....	47,903	100.0	19.4	36.3	17.7	26.6
1984.....	48,767	100.0	18.4	36.7	18.0	26.9
1985.....	49,647	100.0	17.7	36.9	18.3	27.1
1986.....	50,733	100.0	17.2	37.0	18.9	26.9
1987.....	51,860	100.0	16.8	37.1	18.9	27.2
1988.....	52,616	100.0	16.5	37.3	18.5	27.8
1989.....	53,668	100.0	15.7	36.9	19.2	28.2
1990.....	54,476	100.0	15.1	37.2	19.7	28.0
1991.....	55,165	100.0	14.7	37.5	20.2	27.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Percent distribution of the civilian labor force 25 to 64 years of age by educational attainment and sex, 1970–2009—Continued

Year	Civilian labor force (thousands)	Percent distribution				
		Total	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduates, no college	Some college, no degree, or associate's degree	College graduates
Men						
1992 ²	56,428	100.0	13.7	34.2	24.3	27.8
1993.....	56,992	100.0	12.9	33.9	25.1	28.1
1994.....	57,205	100.0	12.4	33.0	25.9	28.8
1995.....	57,784	100.0	11.8	32.4	26.3	29.4
1996.....	58,692	100.0	12.2	32.3	26.1	29.4
1997.....	59,684	100.0	12.2	32.4	25.9	29.6
1998.....	60,255	100.0	12.0	32.1	25.6	30.3
1999.....	60,570	100.0	11.4	31.6	26.0	31.0
2000.....	62,001	100.0	11.5	31.2	26.1	31.2
2001.....	62,664	100.0	11.5	30.9	26.2	31.4
2002.....	63,318	100.0	11.6	30.8	25.8	31.8
2003.....	64,025	100.0	11.7	30.6	25.6	32.1
2004.....	64,519	100.0	11.5	30.7	25.6	32.3
2005.....	65,430	100.0	11.5	30.9	25.7	31.9
2006.....	66,350	100.0	11.5	30.6	25.5	32.3
2007.....	67,313	100.0	11.2	30.4	25.6	32.9
2008.....	67,546	100.0	10.9	30.2	25.9	33.0
2009.....	67,460	100.0	10.8	30.3	25.9	33.0

¹ Data from 1970-1991 are from the March Current Population Survey. The educational attainment categories for these years were based on the number of years of school completed.

² Data beginning in 1992 are annual averages, and the educational attainment categories are based on the highest diploma or degree received.

SOURCE: Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.