

HOUSEHOLD DATA

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

A-38. Persons not in the labor force by desire and availability for work, age, and sex

[In thousands]

Category	Total		Age						Sex			
	May 2023	May 2024	16 to 24 years		25 to 54 years		55 years and over		Men		Women	
			May 2023	May 2024	May 2023	May 2024	May 2023	May 2024	May 2023	May 2024	May 2023	May 2024
Total not in the labor force.....	99,916	100,672	17,432	17,335	21,299	21,112	61,185	62,225	41,618	42,191	58,298	58,481
Do not want a job now ¹	93,912	94,413	15,118	14,955	19,036	18,739	59,759	60,718	38,716	39,096	55,196	55,317
Want a job ¹	6,004	6,259	2,314	2,380	2,264	2,373	1,426	1,506	2,902	3,096	3,101	3,163
Did not search for work in previous year.....	3,720	3,742	1,337	1,408	1,353	1,245	1,030	1,090	1,801	1,761	1,919	1,981
Searched for work in previous year, but not in past 4 weeks ²	2,284	2,517	977	972	911	1,128	396	416	1,102	1,335	1,182	1,182
Not available to work now.....	807	1,036	505	515	233	413	68	108	336	539	471	497
Marginally attached (available to work now) ³	1,477	1,481	472	457	677	715	328	309	766	796	711	685
Discouraged over job prospects ⁴ ...	396	445	95	99	191	252	111	94	232	273	165	172
Reasons other than discouragement.....	1,080	1,036	377	358	486	463	217	215	534	523	547	513
Family responsibilities.....	146	171	10	24	118	107	17	41	60	34	86	137
In school or training.....	240	198	197	174	43	23	0	0	105	112	135	86
Ill health or disability.....	110	122	8	16	51	54	51	52	52	65	58	57
Other ⁵	584	546	161	144	274	280	149	122	317	313	267	233

¹ Includes some persons who are not asked if they want a job, such as passive jobseekers.

² Persons who had a job in the prior 12 months must have searched since the end of that job.

³ Persons "marginally attached to the labor force" are those who want a job, have searched for work during the prior 12 months, and were available to take a job during the reference week, but had not looked for work in the past 4 weeks.

⁴ Discouraged workers are persons marginally attached to the labor force who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for reasons such as thinks no work available, could not find work, lacks schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

⁵ Includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child-care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not ascertained.

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.