Labor Market Indicators

Table B–22. Civilian labor force, 1929–2020

[Monthly data seasonally adjusted, except as noted]

Year or month	Civilian noninstitutional population [1]	Civilian labor force					Not in labor force	Civilian labor force participation rate [2]	Civilian employment/population ratio [3]	Unemployment rate, civilian workers [4]
		Total	Employment			Unemployment				
			Total	Agricultural	Nonagricultural					
	Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over							Percent		
1929	.....	49,180	47,630	10,450	37,180	1,550	.....	.....	.....	3.2
1930	.....	49,820	45,480	10,340	35,140	4,340	.....	.....	.....	8.7
1931	.....	50,420	42,400	10,290	32,110	8,020	.....	.....	.....	15.9
1932	.....	51,000	38,940	10,170	28,770	12,060	.....	.....	.....	23.6
1933	.....	51,590	38,760	10,090	28,670	12,830	.....	.....	.....	24.9
1934	.....	52,230	40,890	9,900	30,990	11,340	.....	.....	.....	21.7
1935	.....	52,870	42,260	10,110	32,150	10,610	.....	.....	.....	20.1
1936	.....	53,440	44,410	10,000	34,410	9,030	.....	.....	.....	16.9
1937	.....	54,000	46,300	9,820	36,480	7,700	.....	.....	.....	14.3
1938	.....	54,610	44,220	9,690	34,530	10,390	.....	.....	.....	19.0
1939	.....	55,230	45,750	9,610	36,140	9,480	.....	.....	.....	17.2
1940	99,840	55,640	47,520	9,540	37,980	8,120	44,200	55.7	47.6	14.6
1941	99,900	55,910	50,350	9,100	41,250	5,560	43,990	56.0	50.4	9.9
1942	98,640	56,410	53,750	9,250	44,500	2,660	42,230	57.2	54.5	4.7
1943	94,640	55,540	54,470	9,080	45,390	1,070	39,100	58.7	57.6	1.9
1944	93,220	54,630	53,960	8,950	45,010	670	38,590	58.6	57.9	1.2
1945	94,090	53,860	52,820	8,580	44,240	1,040	40,230	57.2	56.1	1.9
1946	103,070	57,520	55,250	8,320	46,930	2,270	45,550	55.8	53.6	3.9
1947	106,018	60,168	57,812	8,256	49,557	2,356	45,850	56.8	54.5	3.9
	Thousands of persons 16 years of age and over									
1947	101,827	59,350	57,038	7,890	49,148	2,311	42,477	58.3	56.0	3.9
1948	103,068	60,621	58,343	7,629	50,714	2,276	42,447	58.8	56.6	3.8
1949	103,994	61,286	57,651	7,658	49,993	3,637	42,708	58.9	55.4	5.9
1950	104,995	62,208	58,918	7,160	51,758	3,288	42,787	59.2	56.1	5.3
1951	104,621	62,017	59,961	6,726	53,235	2,055	42,604	59.2	57.3	3.3
1952	105,231	62,138	60,250	6,500	53,749	1,883	43,093	59.0	57.3	3.0
1953	107,056	63,015	61,179	6,260	54,919	1,834	44,041	58.9	57.1	2.9
1954	108,321	63,643	60,109	6,205	53,904	3,532	44,678	58.8	55.5	5.5
1955	109,683	65,023	62,170	6,450	55,722	2,852	44,660	59.3	56.7	4.4
1956	110,954	66,552	63,799	6,283	57,514	2,750	44,402	60.0	57.5	4.1
1957	112,265	66,929	64,071	5,947	58,123	2,859	45,336	59.6	57.1	4.3
1958	113,727	67,639	63,036	5,586	57,450	4,602	46,088	59.5	55.4	6.8
1959	115,329	68,369	64,630	5,565	59,065	3,740	46,960	59.3	56.0	5.5
1960	117,245	69,628	65,778	5,458	60,318	3,852	47,617	59.4	56.1	5.5
1961	118,771	70,459	65,746	5,200	60,546	4,714	48,312	59.3	55.4	6.7
1962	120,153	70,614	66,702	4,944	61,759	3,911	49,539	58.8	55.5	5.5
1963	122,416	71,833	67,762	4,687	63,076	4,070	50,583	58.7	55.4	5.7
1964	124,485	73,091	69,305	4,523	64,782	3,786	51,394	58.7	55.7	5.2
1965	126,513	74,455	71,088	4,361	66,726	3,366	52,058	58.9	56.2	4.5
1966	128,058	75,770	72,895	3,979	68,915	2,875	52,288	59.2	56.9	3.8
1967	129,874	77,347	74,372	3,844	70,527	2,975	52,527	59.6	57.3	3.8
1968	132,028	78,737	75,920	3,817	72,103	2,817	53,291	59.6	57.5	3.6
1969	134,335	80,734	77,902	3,606	74,296	2,832	53,602	60.1	58.0	3.5
1970	137,085	82,771	78,678	3,463	75,215	4,093	54,315	60.4	57.4	4.9
1971	140,216	84,382	79,367	3,394	75,972	5,016	55,834	60.2	56.6	5.9
1972	144,126	87,034	82,153	3,484	78,669	4,882	57,091	60.4	57.0	5.6
1973	147,096	89,429	85,064	3,470	81,594	4,365	57,667	60.8	57.8	4.9
1974	150,120	91,949	86,794	3,515	83,279	5,156	58,171	61.3	57.8	5.6
1975	153,153	93,775	85,846	3,408	82,438	7,929	59,377	61.2	56.1	8.5
1976	156,150	96,158	88,752	3,331	85,421	7,406	59,991	61.6	56.8	7.7
1977	159,033	99,009	92,017	3,283	88,734	6,991	60,025	62.3	57.9	7.1
1978	161,910	102,251	96,048	3,387	92,661	6,202	59,659	63.2	59.3	6.1
1979	164,863	104,962	98,824	3,347	95,477	6,137	59,900	63.7	59.9	5.8
1980	167,745	106,940	99,303	3,364	95,938	7,637	60,806	63.8	59.2	7.1
1981	170,130	108,670	100,397	3,368	97,030	8,273	61,460	63.9	59.0	7.6
1982	172,271	110,204	99,526	3,401	96,125	10,678	62,067	64.0	57.8	9.7
1983	174,215	111,550	100,834	3,383	97,450	10,717	62,665	64.0	57.9	9.6
1984	176,383	113,544	105,005	3,321	101,685	8,539	62,839	64.4	59.5	7.5
1985	178,206	115,461	107,150	3,179	103,971	8,312	62,744	64.8	60.1	7.2
1986	180,587	117,834	109,597	3,163	106,434	8,237	62,752	65.3	60.7	7.0
1987	182,753	119,865	112,440	3,208	109,232	7,425	62,888	65.6	61.5	6.2
1988	184,613	121,669	114,968	3,169	111,800	6,701	62,944	65.9	62.3	5.5
1989	186,393	123,869	117,342	3,199	114,142	6,528	62,523	66.5	63.0	5.3

[1] Not seasonally adjusted.
[2] Civilian labor force as percent of civilian noninstitutional population.
[3] Civilian employment as percent of civilian noninstitutional population.
[4] Unemployed as percent of civilian labor force.

See next page for continuation of table.

Table B–22. Civilian labor force, 1929–2020—*Continued*

[Monthly data seasonally adjusted, except as noted]

Year or month	Civilian noninstitutional population [1]	Civilian labor force					Not in labor force	Civilian labor force participation rate [2]	Civilian employment/population ratio [3]	Unemployment rate, civilian workers [4]
		Total	Employment			Unemployment				
			Total	Agricultural	Nonagricultural					
	Thousands of persons 16 years of age and over							Percent		
1990	189,164	125,840	118,793	3,223	115,570	7,047	63,324	66.5	62.8	5.6
1991	190,925	126,346	117,718	3,269	114,449	8,628	64,578	66.2	61.7	6.8
1992	192,805	128,105	118,492	3,247	115,245	9,613	64,700	66.4	61.5	7.5
1993	194,838	129,200	120,259	3,115	117,144	8,940	65,638	66.3	61.7	6.9
1994	196,814	131,056	123,060	3,409	119,651	7,996	65,758	66.6	62.5	6.1
1995	198,584	132,304	124,900	3,440	121,460	7,404	66,280	66.6	62.9	5.6
1996	200,591	133,943	126,708	3,443	123,264	7,236	66,647	66.8	63.2	5.4
1997	203,133	136,297	129,558	3,399	126,159	6,739	66,837	67.1	63.8	4.9
1998	205,220	137,673	131,463	3,378	128,085	6,210	67,547	67.1	64.1	4.5
1999	207,753	139,368	133,488	3,281	130,207	5,880	68,385	67.1	64.3	4.2
2000 [5]	212,577	142,583	136,891	2,464	134,427	5,692	69,994	67.1	64.4	4.0
2001	215,092	143,734	136,933	2,299	134,635	6,801	71,359	66.8	63.7	4.7
2002	217,570	144,863	136,485	2,311	134,174	8,378	72,707	66.6	62.7	5.8
2003	221,168	146,510	137,736	2,275	135,461	8,774	74,658	66.2	62.3	6.0
2004	223,357	147,401	139,252	2,232	137,020	8,149	75,956	66.0	62.3	5.5
2005	226,082	149,320	141,730	2,197	139,532	7,591	76,762	66.0	62.7	5.1
2006	228,815	151,428	144,427	2,206	142,221	7,001	77,387	66.2	63.1	4.6
2007	231,867	153,124	146,047	2,095	143,952	7,078	78,743	66.0	63.0	4.6
2008	233,788	154,287	145,362	2,168	143,194	8,924	79,501	66.0	62.2	5.8
2009	235,801	154,142	139,877	2,103	137,775	14,265	81,659	65.4	59.3	9.3
2010	237,830	153,889	139,064	2,206	136,858	14,825	83,941	64.7	58.5	9.6
2011	239,618	153,617	139,869	2,254	137,615	13,747	86,001	64.1	58.4	8.9
2012	243,284	154,975	142,469	2,186	140,283	12,506	88,310	63.7	58.6	8.1
2013	245,679	155,389	143,929	2,130	141,799	11,460	90,290	63.2	58.6	7.4
2014	247,947	155,922	146,305	2,237	144,068	9,617	92,025	62.9	59.0	6.2
2015	250,801	157,130	148,834	2,422	146,411	8,296	93,671	62.7	59.3	5.3
2016	253,538	159,187	151,436	2,460	148,976	7,751	94,351	62.8	59.7	4.9
2017	255,079	160,320	153,337	2,454	150,883	6,982	94,759	62.9	60.1	4.4
2018	257,791	162,075	155,761	2,425	153,336	6,314	95,716	62.9	60.4	3.9
2019	259,175	163,539	157,538	2,425	155,113	6,001	95,636	63.1	60.8	3.7
2018: Jan	256,780	161,068	154,486	2,443	152,053	6,582	95,712	62.7	60.2	4.1
Feb	256,934	161,783	155,142	2,430	152,659	6,641	95,151	63.0	60.4	4.1
Mar	257,097	161,684	155,191	2,340	152,714	6,493	95,414	62.9	60.4	4.0
Apr	257,272	161,742	155,324	2,330	153,007	6,418	95,529	62.9	60.4	4.0
May	257,454	161,874	155,665	2,353	153,353	6,209	95,579	62.9	60.5	3.8
June	257,642	162,269	155,750	2,398	153,383	6,519	95,373	63.0	60.5	4.0
July	257,843	162,173	155,993	2,483	153,519	6,180	95,670	62.9	60.5	3.8
Aug	258,066	161,768	155,601	2,377	153,329	6,167	96,297	62.7	60.3	3.8
Sept	258,290	162,078	156,032	2,487	153,528	6,045	96,212	62.8	60.4	3.7
Oct	258,514	162,605	156,482	2,407	153,989	6,123	95,909	62.9	60.5	3.8
Nov	258,708	162,662	156,628	2,549	154,102	6,034	96,045	62.9	60.5	3.7
Dec	258,888	163,111	156,825	2,491	154,266	6,286	95,777	63.0	60.6	3.9
2019: Jan	258,239	163,142	156,627	2,546	154,112	6,516	95,097	63.2	60.7	4.0
Feb	258,392	163,047	156,866	2,488	154,354	6,181	95,345	63.1	60.7	3.8
Mar	258,537	162,935	156,741	2,336	154,346	6,194	95,602	63.0	60.6	3.8
Apr	258,693	162,546	156,696	2,389	154,369	5,850	96,147	62.8	60.6	3.6
May	258,861	162,782	156,844	2,423	154,486	5,938	96,079	62.9	60.6	3.6
June	259,037	163,133	157,148	2,330	154,835	5,985	95,905	63.0	60.7	3.7
July	259,225	163,373	157,346	2,400	155,035	6,027	95,852	63.0	60.7	3.7
Aug	259,432	163,894	157,895	2,414	155,546	5,999	95,538	63.2	60.9	3.7
Sept	259,638	164,051	158,298	2,416	155,816	5,753	95,587	63.2	61.0	3.5
Oct	259,845	164,401	158,544	2,473	155,970	5,857	95,444	63.3	61.0	3.6
Nov	260,020	164,347	158,536	2,356	156,167	5,811	95,673	63.2	61.0	3.5
Dec	260,181	164,556	158,803	2,533	156,241	5,753	95,625	63.2	61.0	3.5
2020: Jan	259,502	164,606	158,714	2,404	156,345	5,892	94,896	63.4	61.2	3.6
Feb	259,628	164,546	158,759	2,467	156,281	5,787	95,082	63.4	61.1	3.5
Mar	259,758	162,913	155,772	2,399	153,358	7,140	96,845	62.7	60.0	4.4
Apr	259,896	156,481	133,403	2,424	131,053	23,078	103,415	60.2	51.3	14.7
May	260,047	158,227	137,242	2,341	134,966	20,985	101,820	60.8	52.8	13.3
June	260,204	159,932	142,182	2,297	139,944	17,750	100,273	61.5	54.6	11.1
July	260,373	159,870	143,532	2,128	141,487	16,338	100,503	61.4	55.1	10.2
Aug	260,558	160,838	147,288	2,159	145,156	13,550	99,720	61.7	56.5	8.4
Sept	260,742	160,143	147,563	2,257	145,235	12,580	100,599	61.4	56.6	7.9
Oct	260,925	160,867	149,806	2,529	147,222	11,061	100,058	61.7	57.4	6.9
Nov	261,085	160,467	149,732	2,399	147,277	10,735	100,618	61.5	57.3	6.7

[5] Beginning in 2000, data for agricultural employment are for agricultural and related industries; data for this series and for nonagricultural employment are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. Because of independent seasonal adjustment for these two series, monthly data will not add to total civilian employment.

Note: Labor force data in Tables B–22 through B–28 are based on household interviews and usually relate to the calendar week that includes the 12th of the month. Historical comparability is affected by revisions to population controls, changes in occupational and industry classification, and other changes to the survey. In recent years, updated population controls have been introduced annually with the release of January data, so data are not strictly comparable with earlier periods. Particularly notable changes were introduced for data in the years 1953, 1960, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1978, 1980, 1990, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2008 and 2012. For definitions of terms, area samples used, historical comparability of the data, comparability with other series, etc., see *Employment and Earnings* or concepts and methodology of the CPS at http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#concepts.

Source: Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics).