

Why Measure Employment and the Labor Force?

Since America's founding, the labor force has been fundamental to our country's development and success. Therefore, it is impossible to measure the true well-being of the country without measuring all aspects of the labor force and employment.

In order for the country to know what is needed—how folks are doing and where they need help—we must conduct surveys such as the SIPP to produce that information.

Because our country is so populous (over 300 million people), we can only survey a scientific sample of the whole population. Thus, your answers to this survey represent thousands of Americans!

Americans work hard every day, through triumphs and struggles. By studying both our successes and setbacks, we can help our nation make informed decisions. By law, all personal information collected for this study is kept strictly confidential.

Thank you for participating in this survey, and for helping to represent our nation's most important asset...

People Just Like You.



Employment and Labor Force

Survey of Income and Program Participation

How the Census Bureau protects your family's information.

The U.S. Census Bureau is required by federal law to protect the information you provide. All personally identifiable information about your household is removed during processing, so that the information you provide can be used to inform policies and programs without compromising your right to privacy.



Mission and Purpose

Data from the **Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)** are used to evaluate:

- Changes in income.
- Movement into and out of government assistance programs.
- Changes in family composition and social conditions for individuals and households.
- Changes in health, health insurance coverage, and access to health care for people and families.

For more information, visit the SIPP website at www.census.gov/sipp.



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Employment

- In 2016, 70 percent of men and 60 percent of women over the age of 14 were employed.
- Most U.S. workers (89 percent) held one job at a time. The remaining 11 percent simultaneously held at least two jobs.

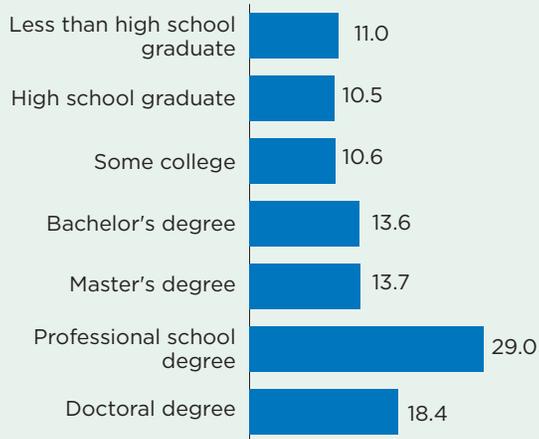
Self-Employment

- Among U.S. workers in 2016, 14 percent of men and 10 percent of women were self-employed.
- Individuals with a professional degree had the highest rates of self-employment.



In Percent, Self-Employment Rates by Educational Attainment in 2016

(Workers ages 15+)



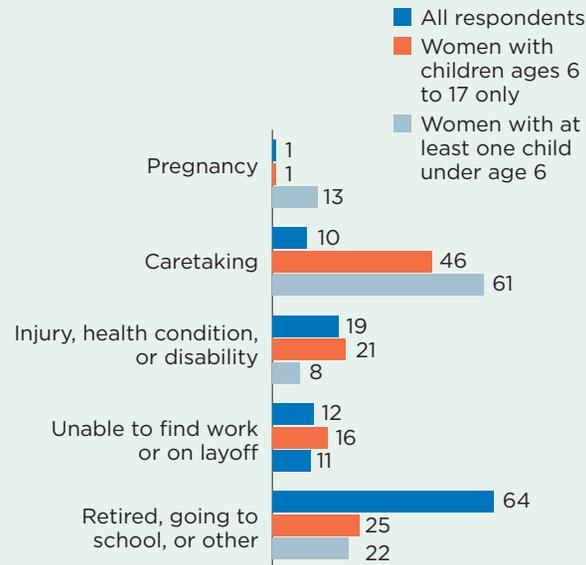
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Working Mothers

- In 2016, women with children under the age of 18 accounted for 29 percent of all women but 36 percent of all employed women.
- About 40 percent of women with children under the age of 18 were jobless for at least 1 week.
- Caretaking was the most common reason for joblessness among women with children under the age of 18.

In Percent, Reason for Joblessness by Age of Children: 2016

(Respondents ages 15+ jobless for at least a week)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation.



Unemployment

- Between 2013 and 2016, 30 percent of adults 15 years or older had at least one instance of unemployment.
- Unemployment lasted for an average of 20 weeks.
- Among adults under the age of 35, average unemployment duration is shorter for females than males.



In Weeks, Average Duration of Unemployment by Age and Sex in 2013-2016

(Respondents ages 15+ unemployed for at least a week)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Survey of Income and Program.