

Methodology

The data for Tables 1 and 2 come from the public-use file of the June 2009 Current Population Survey (CPS), which is collected monthly by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The CPS includes about 131,000 respondents, 70,000 of whom are in the labor force. It does not include those in institutions like prisons or nursing homes. The CPS is the nation's primary source for unemployment and other labor force statistics. Like all government surveys, the data are weighted to reflect the actual size and demographic makeup of the U.S. population.

The government publishes employment statistics that are both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted from the survey. The figures in this analysis are all seasonally unadjusted. Unadjusted figures are computationally simpler and easy for other researchers to replicate. In general, BLS does not provide separate estimates for the foreign-born (immigrants) and native-born, however all those in the CPS are asked if they are immigrants and we have divided the population based on this question. The Census Bureau defines the foreign-born as persons who are not U.S. citizens at birth, which includes naturalized citizens, legal immigrants who are not citizens (green card holders), temporary visitors and workers, and illegal immigrants. All figures for the total U.S. population at the top of Tables 1 and 2 match those from the BLS.

The U-6 measure divides the sum of the unemployed population, involuntary part-time workers, and marginally attached people (discouraged and other) by the civilian labor force (employed and unemployed) plus marginally attached workers. The column headings in Table 1 show this calculation. An unemployed worker is someone who does not currently hold a job, but is available to work and has looked for a job in the previous four weeks. Marginally attached workers indicate that they want and are available for a job, and they have looked for work in the past 12 months. However, they are not considered unemployed because they have not searched for a job in the previous four weeks.³ Involuntary part-time workers are those individuals who report that they are working part-time for economic reasons. They want and are available for full-time work, but must instead settle for part-time hours.⁴ Because the total U-6 measure includes the unemployed, those working involuntarily part-time, and those marginally attached to the labor market (discouraged), it provides the broadest possible measure of problems in the U.S. work force.

End Notes

¹ This figure does not include those over age 65 who are unemployed. The left side of Table 2 shows that there are 6.2 million natives 18 and older with no more than a high school degree who are unemployed. The right side of Table 2 shows there are 19.1 million natives with no more than a high school degree (ages 18 to 65) who are not in the labor force. If we add these two numbers together we get 25.3 million. But, this number would include a smaller number of people who are over age 65 who are unemployed. If we confine the analysis to only those 18 to 65, then there are 25.2 million native-born Americans with no more than a high school degree who are not working. This is the number reported in the text.

² See Table 10 in "Trends in Immigrant and Native Employment" from the Center for Immigration Studies which can be found at: www.cis.org/FirstQuarter2009Unemployment.

³ Marginally attached workers indicate that they looked for work in the last 12 months, but not in the prior four weeks. The marginally attached are comprised of two groups, both of which are included in U-6. One group is considered "discouraged." (The variable in the CPS used to determine this population is pemlr). Discouraged workers provide a reason related to the market conditions for why they are not currently looking for a job. The second group of marginally attached indicate that they are conditionally interested in finding work and are referred to as "other marginally attached workers." (The variable in the CPS used to determine this population is prdisc). These individuals provide reasons such as family responsibilities, school attendance, illness, and transportation problems for why they have not searched for work in the previous four weeks.

⁴ Involuntary part-time workers respond that they are working part-time (1 to 34 hours a week) for economic reasons, and it includes those who usually work full-time and those who usually work part-time. They share in common a desire to work full-time.

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Table 1. U-6 Measure for Immigrants and Native-Born Americans, June 2009 (thousands)

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Employed	Unemployed ¹	Percent Unemployed	Marginally Attached: Discouraged ²	Marginally Attached: Other ³	Part-Time: Economic Reasons ⁴	U-6 Population (2+4+5+6)	U-6 Percent 7/(1+2+4+5)
All Persons (16+)	140,826	15,095	9.7	794	1,383	9,301	26,573	16.8
Teens (16-17)	1,940	917	32.1	47	121	173	1,258	41.6
<HS (18+)	13,011	2,735	17.4	211	264	1,764	4,974	30.7
HS Only (18+)	39,836	4,846	10.8	281	440	3,194	8,761	19.3
HS Only (18-29)	9,152	1,938	17.5	120	188	1,128	3,374	29.6
Some College (18+)	40,831	4,133	9.2	169	368	2,658	7,328	16.1
College or More (18+)	45,208	2,464	5.2	86	189	1,511	4,250	8.9
All Natives (16+)	119,039	12,746	9.7	652	1,204	7,140	21,742	16.3
Teens (16-17)	1,878	863	31.5	44	120	163	1,190	41.0
<HS (18+)	7,171	1,881	20.8	151	233	868	3,133	33.2
HS only (18+)	34,569	4,322	11.1	233	380	2,585	7,520	19.0
HS only (18-29)	7,979	1,814	18.5	103	166	970	3,053	30.3
Some College (18+)	36,811	3,719	9.2	147	323	2,285	6,474	15.8
College or More (18+)	38,609	1,962	4.8	77	148	1,237	3,424	8.4
Black Natives (16+)	12,777	2,399	15.8	189	279	902	3,769	24.1
Teens (16-17)	111	144	56.5	11	28	15	198	67.3
<HS (18+)	1,145	435	27.5	42	63	167	707	42.0
HS only (18+)	4,506	875	16.3	69	76	397	1,417	25.6
HS only (18-29)	1,167	405	25.8	28	46	136	615	37.4
Some College (18+)	4,284	689	13.9	49	84	270	1,092	21.4
College or More (18+)	2,731	256	8.6	18	28	53	355	11.7
Hispanic Natives (16+)⁵	9,012	1,381	13.3	90	144	668	2,283	21.5
Teens (16-17)	193	111	36.5	1	15	27	154	48.1
<HS (18+)	1,166	341	22.6	41	54	148	584	36.5
HS only (18+)	2,927	476	14.0	29	30	261	796	23.0
HS only (18-29)	1,041	281	21.3	21	26	120	448	32.7
Some College (18+)	3,059	353	10.3	16	39	157	565	16.3
College or More (18+)	1,668	100	5.7	4	6	74	184	10.3
All Immigrants (16+)⁶	21,787	2,348	9.7	141	178	2,161	4,828	19.7
Teens (16-17)	62	54	46.6	3	2	8	67	55.4
<HS (18+)	5,840	854	12.8	59	31	896	1,840	27.1
HS only (18+)	5,266	524	9.1	48	60	610	1,242	21.1
HS only (18-29)	1,173	125	9.6	17	22	159	323	24.2
Some College (18+)	4,020	414	9.3	22	45	372	853	19.0
College or More (18+)	6,599	502	7.1	9	40	275	826	11.6
Hisp. Immigrants (16+)⁵	10,673	1,337	11.1	76	84	1,526	3,023	24.8
Teens (16-17)	37	30	44.8	-	2	5	37	53.6
<HS (18+)	4,903	731	13.0	43	26	791	1,591	27.9
HS only (18+)	2,960	281	8.7	23	32	446	782	23.7
HS only (18-29)	800	79	9.0	9	12	124	224	24.9
Some College (18+)	1,623	181	10.0	9	23	207	420	22.9
College or More (18+)	1,150	114	9.0	1	1	77	193	15.2

Source: Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use June 2009 Current Population Survey. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

¹ Unemployed means not working, but looking for work.

² Discouraged workers are not in the labor force; they neither have jobs nor have looked for one in the previous four weeks because they do not think there are any suitable for them. However, they are available for work and have looked for a job in the last 12 months.

³ These people are not in the labor force; they neither have jobs nor are looking for one, though they would work under the right circumstances. They do not fall into the official definition of discouraged workers, but like discouraged workers these individuals have looked in the last 12 months.

⁴ These individuals work part-time because of the economy. They include those who normally work full-time but are now part-time for economic reasons.

⁵ Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

⁶ Immigrant matches the Census definition of the foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

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Table 2. Employment of Immigrants and Native-Born Americans, June 2009 (thousands)

	Employed	Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Not in Labor Force (18-65) ¹	Employed	Total ²	Employment Rate ³	
All Persons (16+)	140,826	15,095	9.7	ALL Persons (18-65)	43,748	133,851	191,412	69.9
Teens (16-17)	1,940	917	32.1	Teens (16-17)	6,092	1,940	8,949	21.7
<HS (18+)	13,011	2,735	17.4	<HS (18-65)	9,274	12,492	24,443	51.1
HS Only (18+)	39,836	4,846	10.8	HS Only (18-65)	14,348	38,208	57,293	66.7
HS Only (18-29)	9,152	1,938	17.5	HS Only (18-29)	3,549	9,152	14,639	62.5
Some College (18+)	40,831	4,133	9.2	Some College (18-65)	12,049	39,702	55,798	71.2
College or More (18+)	45,208	2,464	5.2	College or More (18-65)	8,077	43,449	53,878	80.6
All Natives (16+)	119,039	12,746	9.7	All Natives (18-65)	36,576	112,658	160,821	70.1
Teens (16-17)	1,878	863	31.5	Teens (16-17)	5,665	1,878	8,406	22.3
<HS (18+)	7,171	1,881	20.8	<HS (18-65)	6,676	6,777	15,302	44.3
HS only (18+)	34,569	4,322	11.1	HS Only (18-65)	12,420	33,056	49,706	66.5
HS only (18-29)	7,979	1,814	18.5	HS Only (18-29)	3,025	7,979	12,818	62.2
Some College (18+)	36,811	3,719	9.2	Some College (18-65)	10,841	35,754	50,232	71.2
College or More (18+)	38,609	1,962	4.8	College or More (18-65)	6,639	37,071	45,581	81.3
Black Natives (16+)	12,777	2,399	15.8	Black Natives (18-65)	5,754	12,343	20,328	60.7
Teens (16-17)	111	144	56.5	Teens (16-17)	1,047	111	1,302	8.5
<HS (18+)	1,145	435	27.5	<HS (18-65)	1,529	1,068	3,029	35.3
HS only (18+)	4,506	875	16.3	HS Only (18-65)	2,101	4,416	7,383	59.8
HS only (18-29)	1,167	405	25.8	HS Only (18-29)	657	1,167	2,229	52.4
Some College (18+)	4,284	689	13.9	Some College (18-65)	1,582	4,211	6,473	65.1
College or More (18+)	2,731	256	8.6	College or More (18-65)	542	2,648	3,443	76.9
Hispanic Natives (16+)⁴	9,012	1,381	13.3	Hispanic Natives (18-65)⁴	3,427	8,652	13,346	64.8
Teens (16-17)	193	111	36.5	Teens (16-17)	927	193	1,231	15.7
<HS (18+)	1,166	341	22.6	<HS (18-65)	1,117	1,136	2,592	43.8
HS only (18+)	2,927	476	14.0	HS Only (18-65)	1,125	2,866	4,467	64.2
HS only (18-29)	1,041	281	21.3	HS Only (18-29)	533	1,041	1,855	56.1
Some College (18+)	3,059	353	10.3	Some College (18-65)	920	3,018	4,291	70.3
College or More (18+)	1,668	100	5.7	College or More (18-65)	265	1,632	1,996	81.8
All Immigrants (16+)⁵	21,787	2,348	9.7	All Foreign-Born (18-65)⁵	7,173	21,194	30,592	69.3
Teens (16-17)	62	54	46.6	Teens (16-17)	428	62	544	11.4
<HS (18+)	5,840	854	12.8	<HS (18-65)	2,597	5,715	9,140	62.5
HS only (18+)	5,266	524	9.1	HS Only (18-65)	1,929	5,152	7,588	67.9
HS only (18-29)	1,173	125	9.6	HS Only (18-29)	524	1,173	1,822	64.4
Some College (18+)	4,020	414	9.3	Some College (18-65)	1,208	3,948	5,565	70.9
College or More (18+)	6,599	502	7.1	College or More (18-65)	1,439	6,379	8,299	76.9
Hisp. Immigrants (16+)⁴	10,673	1,337	11.1	Hisp. Immigrants (16+)⁴	3,689	10,466	15,424	67.9
Teens (16-17)	37	30	44.8	Teens (16-17)	256	37	323	11.5
<HS (18+)	4,903	731	13.0	<HS (18+)	1,995	4,832	7,535	64.1
HS only (18+)	2,960	281	8.7	HS only (18+)	959	2,938	4,170	70.5
HS only (18-29)	800	79	9.0	HS only (18-29)	298	800	1,177	68.0
Some College (18+)	1,623	181	10.0	Some College (18+)	424	1,601	2,202	72.7
College or More (18+)	1,150	114	9.0	College or More (18+)	311	1,095	1,517	72.2

Source: Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use June 2009 Current Population Survey. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

¹ Persons who are not working nor looking for work.

² Total number of people in age group.

³ The share of people in the specific age group who are currently holding a job.

⁴ Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

⁵ Immigrant matches the Census definition of foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.