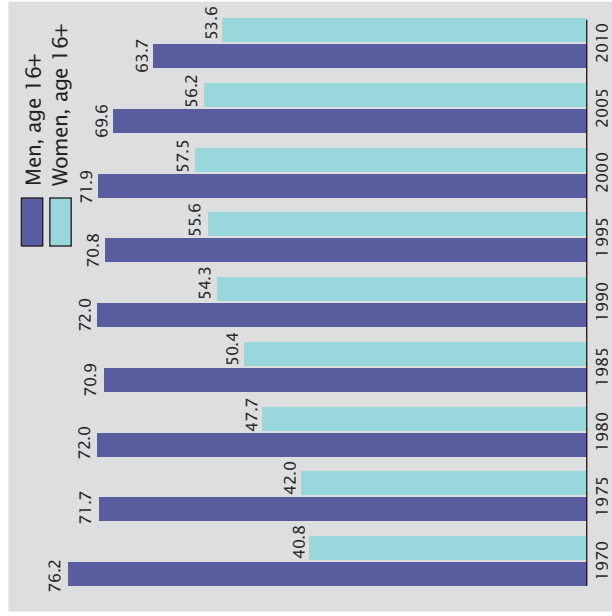


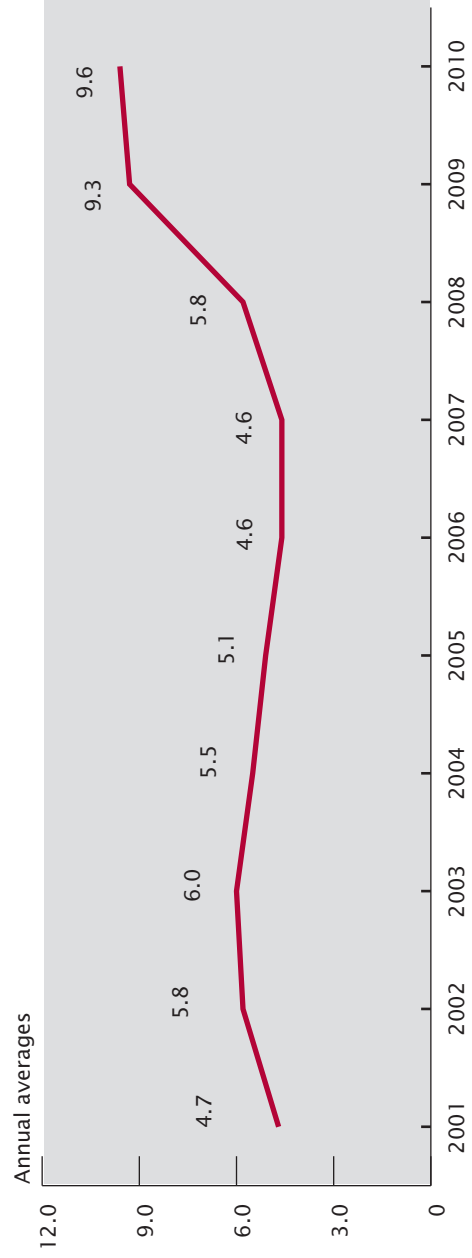
## Percentage of Persons Employed

(Annual averages)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

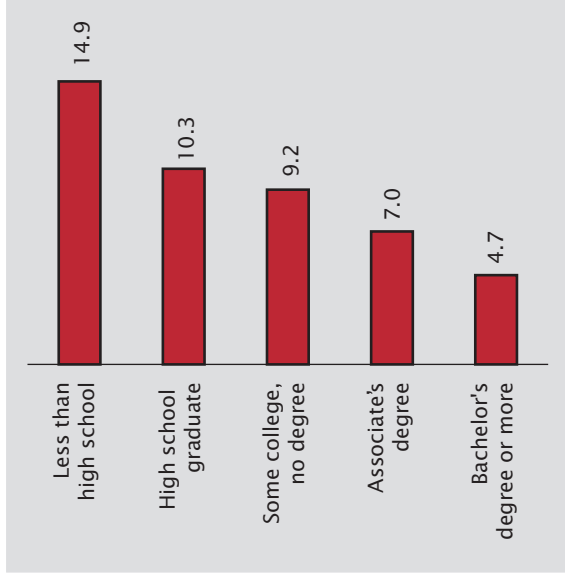
## Unemployment Rate for 2001 to 2010



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Unemployment Rate for Persons 25 Years and Older, by Education

(Annual averages for 2010)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Fact Sheet for the Current Population Survey



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U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

## What this survey is about

This survey is the Current Population Survey. Its main purpose is to collect up-to-date figures on people who have jobs, those who want jobs, and those who are not in the market for jobs. The U.S. Census Bureau collects the information and the U.S. Department of Labor publishes the results. The survey results include a number of high-profile economic statistics, including the Nation's unemployment rate that you read or hear about monthly in the news.

## Why we need the Current Population Survey

In a Nation as large as ours and one that is changing so rapidly, we need up-to-date facts in order to plan effective programs for the future. In addition to a complete census, taken every 10 years, and the American Community Survey, taken annually, it is essential that we obtain some items of information much more frequently. We collect information on the number of persons working, the kind of work they do, and the number of persons looking for work (the unemployed) on a monthly basis in the Current Population Survey so that we can keep abreast of changes.

## Legal authorization

Congress authorized the collection of most of the information requested in this survey under Title 13, United States Code, Section 182; and Title 29, United States Code, Sections 1 through 9. In some months, the survey may contain questions authorized

under laws other than those cited. You can obtain further information concerning the authority for any particular portion of the survey from the Field Representative who visits your household.

## Why your answers are important

People in government and private organizations need the statistics that we obtain from this survey to develop and evaluate economic policies that are consistent with the current needs of the nation. For this reason, it is extremely important that these statistics be as reliable as possible. The only way we can achieve this needed reliability is through the cooperation of sample households such as yours in providing complete and accurate information. Your answers represent your household and approximately 2,000 other households similar to yours. In all, we interview about 55,000 households each month.

## Additional questions

In addition to questions about jobs, from time to time we ask questions about other

important areas concerning the economic and social health of our nation. We may ask how much schooling people in your household have had, how many of them are attending school now, what kinds of work different members have done, whether or not you have moved in the past year, and other questions of a similar nature.

## Number of times we will visit you

We will visit this address each month for 4 months this year and again for 4 months a year from now.

## How you are chosen

We chose this address, not you as a person or a family. If you should move during the period, we will interview the new family that moves to this address.

## The Census Bureau never reveals information about you

All information given by you to the Census Bureau for this survey is confidential by law (Title 13, United States Code, Section 9). Every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to this effect and is subject to a jail penalty and a fine if he/she discloses any census information given to him/her. We use computers to collect the survey data, but the information is encrypted to ensure its confidentiality. We present published information only in the form of statistical summaries, and we never release any information that could identify individuals. The Census Bureau has established rigid procedures and guidelines to ensure data confidentiality and is proud of the excellent reputation it has earned in this regard.



Thank you for your participation in the Current Population Survey!