

## 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, striving to overcome difficulties and better their life circumstances. 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 (SIPP)*

## 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.

More information on the SIPP can be found at [www.census.gov/sipp](http://www.census.gov/sipp).



The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. CDBRB-FY22-POP001-0110.

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## Employment

- In 2019, 68 percent of men and 58 percent of women over the age of 14 were employed.
- Most U.S. workers (90 percent) held one job at a time. The remaining 10 percent simultaneously held at least two jobs.

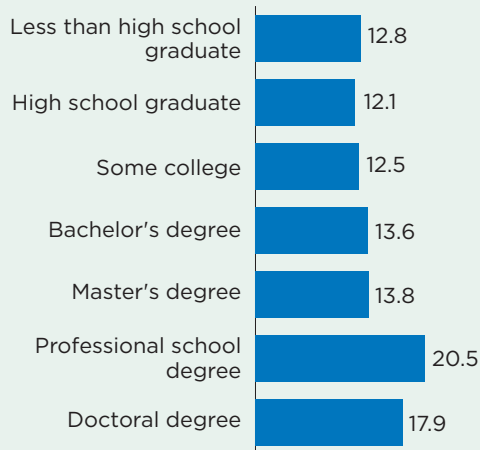
## Self-Employment

- Among U.S. workers in 2019, 15 percent of men and 11 percent of women were self-employed.
- Individuals with a professional or doctoral degree had the highest rates of self-employment.



### In Percent, Self-Employment Rates by Educational Attainment in 2019

(Workers aged 15+)



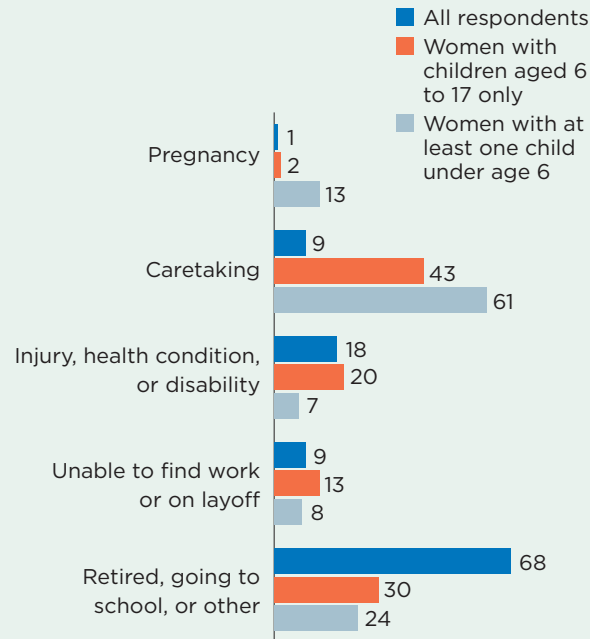
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

## Working Mothers

- In 2019, women with children under the age of 18 accounted for 26 percent of all women but 33 percent of all employed women.
- About 38 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 in 2019

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements.html>



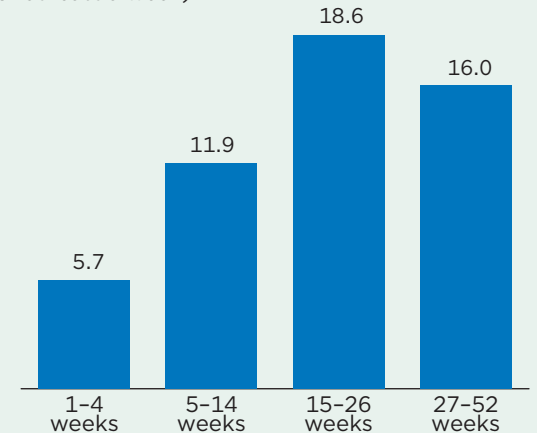
## Unemployment

- Between 2017 and 2019, unemployment lasted for an average of 17 weeks, where about two-thirds of unemployment spells lasted 14 weeks or less.
- About 13 percent of unemployment spells can be attributed to individuals voluntarily leaving their jobs.
- About 33 percent of unemployment spells can be attributed to individuals involuntarily separating from a job, such as through layoff or a business closing.
- Typically, the longer an unemployment spell lasts, the more likely an individual is to receive unemployment insurance.



### Unemployment Insurance Receipt by Duration of Unemployment Spell in 2017-2019

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



Note: Limits on duration of unemployment insurance (UI) receipt differ by state, but in most states, the maximum number of weeks is 26, and in all states it is at least 12 weeks. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation.