



Labor Day Fact Sheet 2007

History

September 5, 1882 was the first Labor Day celebration, organized by the Central Labor Union in New York City. On June 28, 1894, Congress made Labor Day an official holiday to be celebrated the first Monday of September.

American Workforce

152.8 million people 16 and older were in the nation's labor force as of May 2007. In the nation's labor force includes 82.1 million men and 70.7 million women.

- Job growth has slowed in 2007; gains have averaged 136,000 per month, compared to 189,000 per month in 2006.
- Since last reaching a low point in August 2003, non-farming employment has grown by 8.3 million.
- Americans work in a wide variety of occupations. Here is a sampling:

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number of employees</u>
Teachers	6.8 million
Farmers and ranchers	784,000
Hairdressers, hairstylists and cosmetologists	767,000
Chefs and head cooks	313,000
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	282,000
Firefighters	253,000
Pharmacists	245,000
Roofers	242,000
Musicians, singers and related workers	203,000
Gaming services workers (gambling)	106,000
Tax preparers	98,000
Service station attendants	96,000

- 10.6 million Americans are self-employed workers; and 4.8 million of people work at home.
- The 2005 annual median earnings for male and female full-time, year-round workers was; \$41,386 and \$31,858 respectively.
- There are 10.3 million independent contractors in America. Other workers with alternative work arrangements include 2.5 million on-call workers, 1.2 million temporary help agency workers and 813,000 workers provided by contract firms.
- Workers stay with their current employer for a median number of four years. About 9 percent of those employed have been with their current employer for 20 or more years.
- Workforce participation by people ages 55 and older has grown over the last decade. In July of 1995 about 30 percent of people in this age group were in the workforce, but by July 2006 that number rose to 38 percent.

- Participation rates by individuals 65 and older have similarly increased, rising from 11.9 percent in July of 1995 to 15 percent in July of 2006.
- The median retirement age has declined from about 67 years of age during the period of 1950-55, to about 63 in 1990-95, and 62 in 2006.
- Union workers on average earn higher hourly wages, \$22.65, compared to non-unionized workers, \$17.77, in June 2005.
- Government workers had a much higher unionization rate in 2005, 36.5 percent, than those in the private sector, 7.8 percent. Within the public sector, local government workers had the highest union membership rate, about 41.9 percent. This group includes several heavily unionized occupations, such as teachers, police officers, and fire fighters. Among major private industries, transportation and utilities had the highest union membership rate: 24 percent.

Women in the Workforce

The women's labor force is projected to increase by 10.9 percent between 2004 and 2014, which is lower than the growth of 13.6 percent between 1994 and 2004.

- Women's labor force participation is increasing faster than men's. Women are projected to increase as a portion of the labor force from 46.4 percent in 2004 to 46.8 percent in 2014, while men's presence in the labor force will decrease, from 53.6 percent in 2004 to 53.2 percent in 2014.
- Of the 118 million women age 16 years and over in the U.S., 70 million (almost 60%) were labor force participants—working or looking for work.
- Women are projected to account for 51% of the increase in total labor force growth between 2004 and 2014.
- In 2006, a record 67 million women were employed in the U.S.—75% of employed women worked on full-time jobs, while 25% worked on a part-time basis.
- The largest percentage of employed women (38%) worked in management, professional, and related occupations; 34% worked in sales and office occupations; 20% in service occupations; 6% in production, transportation, and material moving occupations; and 1% in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.
- The largest percentage of employed Asian and white women (46% and 39%, respectively) worked in management, professional, and related occupations. For black and Hispanic women, it was sales and office occupations—32% and 33%, respectively.
- The unemployment rate, however, varied substantially among female racial groups— from a low of 3.1% for Asian women, to a high of 8.4% black women. White women and Hispanic women were between these two at 4.0% and 5.9%, respectively.
- The median weekly earnings of women who were full-time wage and salary workers were \$600, or 81 percent of men's \$743. When comparing the median weekly earnings of persons aged 16 to 24, young women earned 94% of what young men earned (\$395 and \$418, respectively).

- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the ten occupations with the highest median weekly earnings, in 2006, among women who were full-time wage and salary workers were:

Pharmacists,	\$1,564
Chief executives,	\$1,422
Lawyers,	\$1,333
Physicians and surgeons,	\$1,329
Computer and information systems managers,	\$1,300
Computer software engineers,	\$1,272
Physical therapists,	\$1,086
Management analysts,	\$1,069
Medical and health services managers,	\$1,064
Computer scientist and systems analysts	\$1,039

Minorities in the Workforce

The Hispanic population is now the largest minority in the U.S. population and is expected to grow faster than the African American population because of high immigration and a higher-than-average birthrate among Hispanics.

- Hispanic representation in the labor force is expected to increase by 33.7 percent between 2004 and 2014, Asian representation is expected to increase by 32.4 percent, and African American representation is expected to increase by 16.8 percent. In contrast, white, non-Hispanic representation in the labor force is expected to increase by only 3.1 percent between 2004 and 2014
- Although non-Hispanic whites will continue to hold the majority of jobs in 2014 (65.6 percent), the workplace will be more racially and ethnically diverse.
- The number of African Americans in the American workforce is growing rapidly, but the number of Hispanic workers surpassed the number of African American workers by 2004 (19.3 million vs. 16.6 million).
- By 2014, Hispanics are expected to make up 15.9 percent of the workforce while African Americans are expected to make up 12 percent of the workforce.
- The number of Asians in the workforce is also growing rapidly. In 2004 Asians made up 4.3 percent of the workforce; by 2014 their share will increase to 5.1 percent.

Unemployment

Both the number of unemployed persons (7.1 million) and the unemployment rate (4.6 percent) were virtually unchanged in July of 2007. The jobless rate has ranged from 4.4 to 4.6 percent since September 2006.

- The unemployment rates for adult men (4.2 percent), teenagers (15.2 percent), whites (4.2 percent), blacks (8.0 percent), and Hispanics (5.9 percent) were little changed.
- The unemployment rate for adult women edged up to 4.1 percent. The unemployment rate for Asians was 3.0 percent, not seasonally adjusted.
- The number of persons unemployed 27 weeks and over rose by 188,000 to 1.3 million. This group accounted for 18.4 percent of total unemployment, up from 16.2 percent in June.
- The number of persons unemployed due to job loss rose by 253,000 in July 2007. This group accounted for 50.9 percent of the unemployed, up from 48.7 percent a month earlier.

Workforce Projections (2004-14)

The total number of jobs is expected to increase by 13 percent, or 18.9 million, from 145.6 million in 2004 to 164.5 million in 2014. This growth rate is slightly higher than the previous ten-year period. Between 1994 and 2004, growth was 12.7 percent, and the economy gained 16.3 million additional jobs.

- Of the 18.9 million new jobs projected for the period from 2004 to 2014, nearly all (91.7 percent) will be non-agriculture jobs earning wages or salaries. There will be 455,500 new non-agriculture, self-employed, and unpaid family worker jobs, an increase of 4.8 percent, a substantially larger increase than in the 1994 to 2004 period (2.1 percent).
- The agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry will lose 229,900 jobs, a decrease of 10.7 percent. While this is a substantial decrease, it is significantly less than the decrease in the previous decade, when the industry lost 26 percent of its jobs.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the service-providing sector will account for most of the non-farm wage and salary job growth between 2004 and 2014. The goods-producing sector will lose thirty thousand jobs. In this sector, only construction will add a significant number of jobs, offsetting declines in mining and manufacturing.
- Professional and business services will add the most number of jobs to the economy between by 2014; 4.6 million new jobs will be created, for a projected annual employment growth rate of 2.5 percent.
- The demand for employment services, one of the fastest growing industries, will fuel this growth with a projected addition of 1.6 million jobs, a 45.5 percent increase between 2004 and 2014. Interest in the industry, which includes temporary staffing services, reflects the growing trend among U.S. businesses to hire workers on an as-needed basis.
- Employment in the health care and social assistance industry will increase by 30.3 percent between 2004 and 2014, an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent. This sector will add 3.6 million jobs to the economy.
- Educational services will grow at the greatest annual rate (2.9 percent) between 2004 and 2014. These occupations will grow by almost a third (32.5 percent), although they will grow at a slower rate than during the 1994 to 2004 period, when these occupations increased by 46 percent.

Other service-providing industries that will experience significant growth during the 2004 to 2014 period include leisure and hospitality, expected to add 2.2 million jobs (an increase of 17.7 percent); state and local government, expected to add 2.1 million jobs (an increase of 11.3 percent); the retail trade, expected to add 1.6 million new jobs (an increase of 11 percent); financial activities, expected to add 849,400 new jobs (an increase of 10.5 percent); transportation and warehousing, expected to add 505,900 new jobs (an increase of 11.9 percent); and information services, expected to add 363,800 new jobs (an increase of 11.6 percent).

This Fact Sheet was updated in August 2007 by Larry Wilcher at the Population Resource Center. It is based on information from a number of sources, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, and the United States Census Bureau. For more information contact the Population Resource Center at (202) 467-5030, 1731 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20009.