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EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES IN 2005

In 2005, 7.0 percent of families had an unemployed member, down by 0.4 percentage point from the prior year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Since 2003, the proportion of families with an unemployed member has fallen by 1.1 percentage points. Of the nation's 76.4 million families, 82.3 percent had at least one employed member in 2005, the same proportion as in 2004.

These data on employment, unemployment, and family relationships are collected as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of approximately 60,000 households. Families include married-couple families, as well as those maintained by a man or woman with no spouse present. For further information about the CPS, see the Technical Note.

Families and Unemployment

In 2005, 5.3 million families had at least one member who was unemployed, down from 5.6 million in 2004. The proportion of black families with an unemployed member (12.7 percent) continued to be about twice that for white families (6.1 percent) and Asian families (6.2 percent). Among Hispanic families, 9.0 percent had an unemployed member. (See table 1.)

Of the families with an unemployed member, 69.9 percent also had at least one employed member in 2005, essentially unchanged from the prior year. Among married-couple families with unemployment, 82.1 percent had an employed member, as did 57.9 percent of families maintained by men. Both proportions were about the same as in the prior year. In contrast, the proportion of families maintained by women with unemployment and at least one employed member rose to 48.2 percent in 2005, up from 45.5 percent in 2004. (See table 3.)

Families and Employment

In 2005, the proportion of all families with at least one employed member, 82.3 percent, was unchanged from the prior year. There was little or no change over the year in the proportions with employed members among white (82.5 percent), black (78.0 percent), Asian (89.8 percent), and Hispanic families (86.6 percent). (See table 1.)

Among married-couple families, 83.8 percent had an employed member in 2005, up from 83.5 percent in 2004. For families maintained by men or women (no spouse present), the proportions with an employed member were 84.5 percent and 75.6 percent, respectively. Both proportions were little changed from the prior year. (See table 2.)

The proportion of married-couple families in which only the husband worked (20.2 percent) edged down in 2005, as did the proportion of married-couple families in which only the wife worked (6.5 percent). The proportion that were dual-worker couples (both husband and wife employed) rose to 51.3 percent. (See table 2.)

Families with Children

Among the 35.4 million families with children under 18, 90.2 percent had an employed parent in 2005, down by 0.3 percentage point from 2004. This proportion has trended down since its most recent peak of 92.0 percent in 2000. In 2005, the mother was employed in 71.2 percent of families maintained by women, and the father was employed in 83.1 percent of those maintained by men. Among married-couple families, 97.1 percent had an employed parent in 2005. (See table 4.)

Mothers

The labor force participation rate for all mothers, 70.5 percent, was about unchanged in 2005. The proportion of mothers in the labor force had been trending down since 2000, when it was 72.3 percent. The participation rate for married mothers, at 68.2 percent in 2005, was little changed over the year. It had been trending down since 1997, when it was 70.7 percent. The participation rate for unmarried mothers—those who were widowed, divorced, separated, or never married—edged down to 76.1 percent in 2005; it most recently peaked at 78.9 percent in 2002. (See table 5.)

The unemployment rate for married mothers with children under 18 was 3.6 percent in 2005, little changed from 2004. The rate for unmarried mothers in 2005, 9.2 percent, also was about unchanged. (See table 5.)

Among mothers with children younger than a year old, 53.8 percent were in the labor force, little changed from the prior year. Their participation rate remained about 4 percentage points lower than its peak in the late 1990s. The jobless rate for mothers of children under age 1 was 8.0 percent in 2005, about unchanged from 2004. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release are based on annual average data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a national sample survey of about 60,000 households conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information relates to the labor force status of persons 16 years old and over in the civilian noninstitutional population during an "average" week of the year.

The data for 2005 presented in this release are not strictly comparable with data for 2004 and earlier years because of the introduction in January 2005 of revised population controls used in the CPS. The effect of the revised population controls on the family estimates is unknown. However, the effect of the new controls on the monthly CPS estimates was to decrease the December 2004 employment level by 45,000 and the unemployment level by 4,000. The updated controls had little or no effect on unemployment rates and other ratios. For additional information, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005," available on the internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf>.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request: Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the "Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error" section of *Employment and Earnings*.

Definitions

Definitions of the principal terms used in this release are presented below.

Family. A family is a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The count of families is for "primary" families only, that is, the householder and all other persons related to and residing with the householder. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as families maintained by women or men without spouses.

Householder. The householder is the family reference person. This is the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. The relationship of other individuals in the household is defined in terms of relationship to the householder. The race or ethnicity of the family is determined by that of the householder.

Married, spouse present; other marital status. These terms denote the marital status of individuals at the time of interview. Married, spouse present, refers to husbands and wives living together in the same household, even though one may be temporarily absent on business, on vacation, on a visit, in a hospital, or for other reasons. Other marital status includes persons who are never-married; married, spouse absent; widowed; or divorced. Married, spouse absent relates to persons who are separated due to marital problems, as well as husbands and wives who are living apart because one or the other was employed elsewhere, on duty with the Armed Forces, or any other reasons.

Children. Data on children refer to own children and include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children, of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, other related children, and all unrelated children living in the household.

Employed. Employed persons are (a) all those who, during the survey reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family-operated enterprise; and (b) all those who did not work but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, vacation, child-care problems, labor disputes, or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off and whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

Unemployed. The unemployed are persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work at that time, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Civilian labor force. The civilian labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Labor force participation rate. The labor force participation rate is the labor force as a percent of the population.

Table 1. Employment and unemployment in families by race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2004-05 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2004	2005
Total		
Total families	75,872	76,443
With employed member(s)	62,424	62,933
As percent of total families	82.3	82.3
Some usually work full time ¹	57,813	58,276
With no employed member	13,447	13,509
As percent of total families	17.7	17.7
With unemployed member(s)	5,593	5,318
As percent of total families	7.4	7.0
Some member(s) employed	3,915	3,717
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	70.0	69.9
Some usually work full time ¹	3,494	3,310
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	62.5	62.2
White		
Total families	62,250	62,567
With employed member(s)	51,350	51,645
As percent of total families	82.5	82.5
Some usually work full time ¹	47,620	47,883
With no employed member	10,900	10,922
As percent of total families	17.5	17.5
With unemployed member(s)	4,078	3,801
As percent of total families	6.6	6.1
Some member(s) employed	3,000	2,782
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	73.6	73.2
Some usually work full time ¹	2,677	2,477
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	65.7	65.2
Black or African American		
Total families	8,860	8,952
With employed member(s)	6,920	6,986
As percent of total families	78.1	78.0
Some usually work full time ¹	6,292	6,353
With no employed member	1,940	1,966
As percent of total families	21.9	22.0
With unemployed member(s)	1,127	1,140
As percent of total families	12.7	12.7
Some member(s) employed	625	657
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	55.5	57.7
Some usually work full time ¹	556	583
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	49.3	51.1
Asian		
Total families	3,107	3,218
With employed member(s)	2,775	2,889
As percent of total families	89.3	89.8
Some usually work full time ¹	2,630	2,741
With no employed member	332	329
As percent of total families	10.7	10.2
With unemployed member(s)	208	199
As percent of total families	6.7	6.2
Some member(s) employed	171	160
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	82.1	80.7
Some usually work full time ¹	154	145
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	74.1	72.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and unemployment in families by race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2004-05 annual averages—Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2004	2005
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity		
Total families	9,305	9,603
With employed member(s)	8,071	8,312
As percent of total families	86.7	86.6
Some usually work full time ¹	7,566	7,786
With no employed member	1,235	1,291
As percent of total families	13.3	13.4
With unemployed member(s)	950	860
As percent of total families	10.2	9.0
Some member(s) employed	664	606
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	69.9	70.5
Some usually work full time ¹	594	544
As percent of families with unemployed member(s)	62.5	63.2

¹ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

NOTE: The race or ethnicity of the family is determined by that of the householder. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition,

persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data for 2005 reflect revised population controls used in the Current Population Survey.

Table 2. Families by presence and relationship of employed members and family type, 2004-05 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent distribution	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES				
Total	57,188	57,167	100.0	100.0
Member(s) employed, total	47,767	47,895	83.5	83.8
Husband only	11,712	11,562	20.5	20.2
Wife only	3,843	3,715	6.7	6.5
Husband and wife	28,991	29,330	50.7	51.3
Other employment combinations	3,222	3,288	5.6	5.8
No member(s) employed	9,420	9,272	16.5	16.2
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY WOMEN ¹				
Total	13,614	14,035	100.0	100.0
Member(s) employed, total	10,358	10,609	76.1	75.6
Householder only	6,021	6,052	44.2	43.1
Householder and other member(s)	2,701	2,830	19.8	20.2
Other member(s), not householder	1,636	1,727	12.0	12.3
No member(s) employed	3,255	3,426	23.9	24.4
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY MEN ¹				
Total	5,071	5,242	100.0	100.0
Member(s) employed, total	4,299	4,430	84.8	84.5
Householder only	2,060	2,093	40.6	39.9
Householder and other member(s)	1,557	1,639	30.7	31.3
Other member(s), not householder	682	698	13.5	13.3
No member(s) employed	772	812	15.2	15.5

¹ No spouse present.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data for 2005

reflect revised population controls used in the Current Population Survey.

Table 3. Unemployment in families by presence and relationship of employed members and family type, 2004-05 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent distribution	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES				
With unemployed member(s), total	3,521	3,243	100.0	100.0
No member employed	615	580	17.5	17.9
Some member(s) employed	2,906	2,664	82.5	82.1
Husband unemployed	1,333	1,190	37.9	36.7
Wife employed	850	753	24.2	23.2
Wife unemployed	1,041	1,004	29.6	31.0
Husband employed	913	873	25.9	26.9
Other family member unemployed	1,147	1,049	32.6	32.4
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY WOMEN ¹				
With unemployed member(s), total	1,521	1,539	100.0	100.0
No member employed	829	797	54.5	51.8
Some member(s) employed	692	743	45.5	48.2
Householder unemployed	758	746	49.8	48.5
Other member(s) employed	146	161	9.6	10.5
Other member(s) unemployed	764	793	50.2	51.5
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY MEN ¹				
With unemployed member(s), total	551	536	100.0	100.0
No member employed	234	225	42.5	42.1
Some member(s) employed	316	310	57.5	57.9
Householder unemployed	296	301	53.7	56.1
Other member(s) employed	117	122	21.3	22.8
Other member(s) unemployed	255	235	46.3	43.9

¹ No spouse present.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data for 2005

reflect revised population controls used in the Current Population Survey.

Table 4. Families with own children: Employment status of parents by age of youngest child and family type, 2004-05 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number		Percent distribution	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS				
Total	35,379	35,402	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	32,013	31,917	90.5	90.2
No parent employed	3,366	3,485	9.5	9.8
Married-couple families	25,175	24,942	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	24,424	24,218	97.0	97.1
Mother employed	16,557	16,501	65.8	66.2
Both parents employed	15,257	15,298	60.6	61.3
Mother employed, not father	1,300	1,203	5.2	4.8
Father employed, not mother	7,867	7,716	31.2	30.9
Neither parent employed	751	724	3.0	2.9
Families maintained by women ¹	8,161	8,347	100.0	100.0
Mother employed	5,875	5,943	72.0	71.2
Mother not employed	2,286	2,404	28.0	28.8
Families maintained by men ¹	2,043	2,113	100.0	100.0
Father employed	1,713	1,756	83.9	83.1
Father not employed	330	357	16.1	16.9
WITH OWN CHILDREN 6 TO 17 YEARS, NONE YOUNGER				
Total	20,095	20,202	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	18,307	18,319	91.1	90.7
No parent employed	1,788	1,882	8.9	9.3
Married-couple families	13,806	13,781	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	13,381	13,350	96.9	96.9
Mother employed	10,089	9,990	73.1	72.5
Both parents employed	9,269	9,210	67.1	66.8
Mother employed, not father	820	780	5.9	5.7
Father employed, not mother	3,292	3,360	23.8	24.4
Neither parent employed	425	431	3.1	3.1
Families maintained by women ¹	5,040	5,147	100.0	100.0
Mother employed	3,884	3,913	77.1	76.0
Mother not employed	1,156	1,233	22.9	24.0
Families maintained by men ¹	1,250	1,274	100.0	100.0
Father employed	1,043	1,056	83.4	82.9
Father not employed	207	218	16.6	17.1
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS				
Total	15,284	15,200	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	13,705	13,598	89.7	89.5
No parent employed	1,578	1,602	10.3	10.5
Married-couple families	11,369	11,161	100.0	100.0
Parent(s) employed	11,044	10,868	97.1	97.4
Mother employed	6,468	6,511	56.9	58.3
Both parents employed	5,988	6,089	52.7	54.6
Mother employed, not father	481	422	4.2	3.8
Father employed, not mother	4,575	4,357	40.2	39.0
Neither parent employed	326	293	2.9	2.6
Families maintained by women ¹	3,122	3,200	100.0	100.0
Mother employed	1,991	2,030	63.8	63.4
Mother not employed	1,131	1,170	36.2	36.6
Families maintained by men ¹	793	839	100.0	100.0
Father employed	671	700	84.6	83.5
Father not employed	122	139	15.4	16.5

¹ No spouse present.

NOTE: Own children include sons, daughters, step-children, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren,

and other related and unrelated children. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data for 2005 reflect revised population controls used in the Current Population Survey.

Table 5. Employment status of the population by sex, marital status, and presence and age of own children under 18, 2004-05 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	2004			2005		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS						
Civilian noninstitutional population	64,758	28,272	36,486	64,482	28,065	36,417
Civilian labor force	52,288	26,607	25,681	52,056	26,399	25,657
Participation rate	80.7	94.1	70.4	80.7	94.1	70.5
Employed	49,957	25,696	24,261	49,882	25,587	24,294
Employment-population ratio	77.1	90.9	66.5	77.4	91.2	66.7
Full-time workers ¹	42,758	24,794	17,964	42,852	24,713	18,139
Part-time workers ²	7,200	902	6,298	7,029	875	6,155
Unemployed	2,331	911	1,420	2,174	811	1,363
Unemployment rate	4.5	3.4	5.5	4.2	3.1	5.3
Married, spouse present						
Civilian noninstitutional population	52,109	25,852	26,258	51,519	25,578	25,942
Civilian labor force	42,247	24,449	17,798	41,905	24,215	17,690
Participation rate	81.1	94.6	67.8	81.3	94.7	68.2
Employed	40,847	23,703	17,144	40,614	23,556	17,058
Employment-population ratio	78.4	91.7	65.3	78.8	92.1	65.8
Full-time workers ¹	35,141	22,935	12,206	35,086	22,808	12,278
Part-time workers ²	5,706	768	4,938	5,528	748	4,780
Unemployed	1,400	747	653	1,291	659	632
Unemployment rate	3.3	3.1	3.7	3.1	2.7	3.6
Other marital status ³						
Civilian noninstitutional population	12,649	2,420	10,229	12,963	2,487	10,475
Civilian labor force	10,042	2,158	7,883	10,151	2,184	7,967
Participation rate	79.4	89.2	77.1	78.3	87.8	76.1
Employed	9,110	1,993	7,117	9,268	2,032	7,236
Employment-population ratio	72.0	82.4	69.6	71.5	81.7	69.1
Full-time workers ¹	7,617	1,859	5,757	7,766	1,905	5,861
Part-time workers ²	1,494	134	1,360	1,502	127	1,375
Unemployed	931	165	766	883	152	731
Unemployment rate	9.3	7.6	9.7	8.7	7.0	9.2
WITH OWN CHILDREN 6 TO 17 YEARS, NONE YOUNGER						
Civilian noninstitutional population	35,874	15,597	20,277	35,937	15,590	20,348
Civilian labor force	30,182	14,516	15,666	30,068	14,496	15,572
Participation rate	84.1	93.1	77.3	83.7	93.0	76.5
Employed	29,013	14,056	14,957	28,953	14,066	14,887
Employment-population ratio	80.9	90.1	73.8	80.6	90.2	73.2
Full-time workers ¹	25,069	13,597	11,473	25,074	13,606	11,468
Part-time workers ²	3,944	459	3,485	3,880	460	3,419
Unemployed	1,170	460	709	1,115	430	684
Unemployment rate	3.9	3.2	4.5	3.7	3.0	4.4
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS						
Civilian noninstitutional population	28,884	12,675	16,210	28,545	12,475	16,070
Civilian labor force	22,106	12,091	10,014	21,988	11,903	10,085
Participation rate	76.5	95.4	61.8	77.0	95.4	62.8
Employed	20,944	11,640	9,304	20,928	11,521	9,407
Employment-population ratio	72.5	91.8	57.4	73.3	92.4	58.5
Full-time workers ¹	17,689	11,197	6,491	17,778	11,107	6,671
Part-time workers ²	3,256	443	2,813	3,150	414	2,736
Unemployed	1,162	451	710	1,060	381	678
Unemployment rate	5.3	3.7	7.1	4.8	3.2	6.7
WITH NO OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS						
Civilian noninstitutional population	156,900	77,739	79,160	159,751	79,237	80,514
Civilian labor force	93,511	50,771	42,740	95,545	51,914	43,631
Participation rate	59.6	65.3	54.0	59.8	65.5	54.2
Employed	87,748	47,282	40,467	90,171	48,709	41,462
Employment-population ratio	55.9	60.8	51.1	56.4	61.5	51.5
Full-time workers ¹	70,244	40,134	30,110	72,515	41,496	31,019
Part-time workers ²	17,505	7,148	10,357	17,657	7,213	10,444
Unemployed	5,763	3,489	2,274	5,374	3,205	2,169
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.9	5.3	5.6	6.2	5.0

¹ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

² Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

³ Includes never-married, divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 4.

Table 6. Employment status of mothers with own children under 3 years old by single year of age of youngest child and marital status, 2004-05 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force							
		Total	Percent of population	Employed				Unemployed	
				Total	Percent of population	Full-time workers ¹	Part-time workers ²	Number	Percent of labor force
2004									
TOTAL MOTHERS									
With own children under 3 years old	9,345	5,377	57.5	4,964	53.1	3,360	1,604	414	7.7
2 years	2,813	1,746	62.1	1,630	57.9	1,152	477	116	6.6
1 year	3,273	1,906	58.2	1,759	53.7	1,172	587	147	7.7
Under 1 year	3,259	1,725	52.9	1,575	48.3	1,035	540	151	8.7
Married, spouse present									
With own children under 3 years old	7,071	3,910	55.3	3,740	52.9	2,513	1,227	170	4.4
2 years	2,111	1,246	59.0	1,200	56.8	839	361	46	3.7
1 year	2,519	1,401	55.6	1,337	53.1	877	459	65	4.6
Under 1 year	2,441	1,262	51.7	1,203	49.3	797	406	59	4.7
Other marital status³									
With own children under 3 years old	2,274	1,467	64.5	1,224	53.8	847	377	243	16.6
2 years	702	499	71.1	430	61.2	314	116	70	13.9
1 year	754	505	66.9	422	56.0	295	127	82	16.3
Under 1 year	818	463	56.6	372	45.4	238	134	91	19.7
2005									
TOTAL MOTHERS									
With own children under 3 years old	9,365	5,470	58.4	5,077	54.2	3,501	1,576	393	7.2
2 years	2,845	1,773	62.3	1,654	58.1	1,162	492	119	6.7
1 year	3,287	1,958	59.6	1,823	55.5	1,247	576	135	6.9
Under 1 year	3,233	1,740	53.8	1,600	49.5	1,092	508	140	8.0
Married, spouse present									
With own children under 3 years old	6,951	3,939	56.7	3,776	54.3	2,588	1,188	164	4.2
2 years	2,118	1,268	59.9	1,214	57.3	840	374	55	4.3
1 year	2,435	1,389	57.0	1,337	54.9	901	436	52	3.7
Under 1 year	2,398	1,282	53.5	1,225	51.1	847	378	58	4.5
Other marital status³									
With own children under 3 years old	2,414	1,531	63.4	1,301	53.9	913	388	230	15.0
2 years	726	504	69.5	440	60.6	322	118	64	12.7
1 year	852	569	66.8	486	57.0	346	139	83	14.6
Under 1 year	836	457	54.7	375	44.9	245	130	82	18.0

¹ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.
² Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

³ Includes never-married, divorced, separated, and widowed persons.
 NOTE: See NOTE, table 4.