

46. Absences from work of employed full-time wage and salary workers by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2008						
	Workers in absence universe (in thousands) ¹	Absence rate ¹			Lost worktime rate ²		
		Total	Illness or injury	Other reasons	Total	Illness or injury	Other reasons
Total, 16 years and over	102,307	3.1	2.2	0.9	1.7	1.2	0.5
16 to 19 years	1,345	2.4	1.5	.9	1.3	.7	.5
20 to 24 years	8,528	2.9	2.0	.9	1.4	.9	.6
25 years and over	92,433	3.2	2.2	.9	1.7	1.2	.5
25 to 54 years	75,837	3.1	2.1	1.0	1.7	1.1	.6
55 years and over	16,597	3.6	2.9	.7	2.0	1.7	.3
Men, 16 years and over	57,019	2.3	1.8	.5	1.2	1.0	.3
16 to 19 years	799	1.5	1.0	.5	.6	.5	.2
20 to 24 years	4,797	2.0	1.5	.4	.9	.7	.2
25 years and over	51,424	2.3	1.8	.5	1.3	1.0	.3
25 to 54 years	42,477	2.2	1.7	.5	1.2	.9	.3
55 years and over	8,946	3.0	2.5	.5	1.8	1.5	.3
Women, 16 years and over	45,288	4.1	2.7	1.4	2.3	1.4	.9
16 to 19 years	546	3.6	2.2	1.4	2.2	1.1	1.1
20 to 24 years	3,732	4.0	2.5	1.5	2.2	1.1	1.0
25 years and over	41,010	4.2	2.8	1.4	2.3	1.4	.8
25 to 54 years	33,359	4.2	2.6	1.5	2.3	1.3	.9
55 years and over	7,650	4.2	3.4	.8	2.3	1.9	.4
White	82,806	3.1	2.2	.9	1.6	1.1	.5
Black or African American	12,081	3.6	2.4	1.1	2.1	1.5	.6
Asian	5,015	2.2	1.4	.8	1.3	.7	.6
Hispanic or Latino	15,133	2.7	1.8	.9	1.4	.9	.5

¹ The absence universe includes most wage and salary workers who usually work full-time at their primary or sole job. Absences are defined as instances when persons who usually work 35 or more hours a week at their main job worked less than 35 hours during the reference week for one of the following reasons: Own illness, injury, or medical problems; child-care problems; other family or personal obligations; civic or military duty; and maternity or paternity leave. Excluded are situations in which work was missed due to vacation or personal days, holiday, labor dispute, slack work or business conditions, and the wait for a new job to begin. For multiple jobholders, absence data refer only to work missed at their main jobs. All self-employed persons are excluded, regardless of whether or not their jobs are incorporated.

Conceptually, the absence rate is the ratio of workers with absences to total full-time wage and salary workers who usually work 35 hours or more on their main job.

² Hours absent as a percent of hours usually worked, which is derived using the number of workers in absence universe as defined in footnote 1 above, minus those who reported that their hours varied.

NOTE: 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.