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Technical information: (202) 691-6378 • cpsinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/cps
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

(NOTE: The Usual Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers news releases for the first, second, and third quarters of 2015 were reissued on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, to correct errors in table 1 of the release. An incorrect price index was used to compute seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings in constant dollars for total, men, and women, affecting data for the first quarter 2010 through the third quarter 2015. These estimates have been recalculated using the correct price index. No other series in the usual weekly earnings news release were affected by the error.)

USUAL WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS SECOND QUARTER 2015

Median weekly earnings of the nation's 108.8 million full-time wage and salary workers were \$801 in the second quarter of 2015 (not seasonally adjusted), the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was 2.7 percent higher than a year earlier, compared with no change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) over the same period.

Data on usual weekly earnings are collected as part of the Current Population Survey, a nationwide sample survey of households in which respondents are asked, among other things, how much each wage and salary worker usually earns. (See the Technical Note.) Data shown in this release are not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. Highlights from the second-quarter data are:

- **Median weekly earnings** of full-time workers were \$801 in the second quarter of 2015. **Women** had median usual weekly earnings of \$726, or 81.9 percent of the \$886 median for **men**. (See table 2.)
- The **women's-to-men's earnings ratio** varied by race and ethnicity. White women earned 81.2 percent as much as their male counterparts, compared with black women (88.4 percent), Asian women (77.1 percent), and Hispanic women (92.4 percent). (See table 2.)
- Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, median weekly earnings for black men working at full-time jobs were \$696 per week, or 76.1 percent of the median for white men (\$914). The difference was less among women, as black women's median earnings (\$615) were 82.9 percent of those for white women (\$742). Overall, median earnings of Hispanics who worked full time (\$601) were lower than those of blacks (\$647), whites (\$829), and Asians (\$965). (See table 2.)

- Usual weekly earnings of full-time workers varied by **age**. Among men, median weekly earnings were highest for those ages 45 to 54 (\$1,058) and 55 to 64 (\$1,037). Usual weekly earnings were highest for women age 35 to 64: weekly earnings were \$792 for women age 35 to 44, \$797 for women age 45 to 54, and \$794 for women age 55 to 64. Workers age 16 to 24 had the lowest median weekly earnings, at \$476. (See table 3.)
- Among the major **occupational groups**, persons employed full time in management, professional, and related occupations had the highest median weekly earnings—\$1,357 for men and \$987 for women. Men and women employed in service jobs earned the least, \$587 and \$457, respectively. (See table 4.)
- By **educational attainment**, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$499, compared with \$678 for high school graduates (no college) and \$1,210 for those holding at least a bachelor's degree. Among college graduates with advanced degrees (professional or master's degree and above), the highest earning 10 percent of male workers made \$3,779 or more per week, compared with \$2,412 or more for their female counterparts. (See table 5.)
- **Seasonally adjusted median weekly earnings** were \$803 in the second quarter of 2015, essentially unchanged from the previous quarter (\$802). (See table 1.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides basic information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau using a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 eligible households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-fourth of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wage and salary workers. All self-employed workers, both incorporated and unincorporated, are excluded from CPS earnings estimates.

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Definitions

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings data in this news release are described briefly below.

Usual weekly earnings. Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders). Prior to 1994, respondents were asked how much they usually earned per week. Since January 1994, respondents have been asked to identify the easiest way for them to report earnings (hourly, weekly, biweekly, twice monthly, monthly, annually, or other) and how much they usually earn in the reported time period.

Earnings reported on a basis other than weekly are converted to a weekly equivalent. The term "usual" is determined by each respondent's own understanding of the term. If the respondent asks for a definition of "usual," interviewers are instructed to define the term as more than half the weeks worked during the past 4 or 5 months.

Medians (and other quantiles) of weekly earnings. The median (or upper limit of the second quartile) is the midpoint in a given earnings distribution, with half of workers having earnings above the median and the other half having earnings below the median. Ten percent of a given distribution have earnings below the upper limit of the first decile (90 percent have higher earnings), 25 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the first quartile (75 percent have higher earnings), 75 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the third quartile (25 percent have higher earnings), and 90 percent have earnings below the upper limit of the ninth decile (10 percent have higher earnings).

The BLS procedure for estimating the median of an earnings distribution places each reported or calculated weekly earnings value into a \$50-wide interval that is centered around a multiple of \$50. The median is calculated through the linear interpolation of the interval in which the median lies.

Changes over time in the medians (and other quantile boundaries) for specific groups may not necessarily be consistent with the movements estimated for the overall quantile boundary. The most common reasons for this possible anomaly are as follows: (1) there could be a change in the relative weights of the subgroups. For example, the median of 16- to 24-year-olds and the median earnings of those 25 years and over may rise, but if the lower earning 16-to-24 age group accounts for a greatly increased share of the total, the overall median could actually fall. (2) there could be a large change in the shape of the distribution of reported earnings, particularly near a quantile boundary. This change could be caused by survey observations that are clustered at rounded values, such as \$400 or \$500. An estimate lying in a \$50-wide centered interval containing such a cluster or "spike" tends to change more slowly than one in other intervals.

Constant dollars. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) is used to convert current dollars to constant (1982-84) dollars.

Wage and salary workers. These are workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, it excludes all self-employed persons, both those with incorporated businesses and those with unincorporated businesses.

Full-time workers. For the purpose of producing estimates of earnings, workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job are defined as working full time.

Part-time workers. For the purpose of producing estimates of earnings, workers who usually work fewer than 35 hours per week at their sole or principal job are defined as working part time.

Race. In the survey process, race is determined by the household respondent. In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidelines, white, black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander are terms used to describe a person's race. Estimates for the latter two race groups and persons who selected more than one race are not included in this release due to insufficient sample size.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. This refers to people who identified themselves in the survey process as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Reliability

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 component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as *sampling error*, and its 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.

Additional information about the reliability of data from the CPS is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

Seasonal adjustment

Over the course of a year, the size of the nation's labor force and other measures of labor market activity undergo regularly occurring fluctuations. These recurring events include seasonal changes in weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools. The effect of such seasonal variations can be very large.

Because seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on the level of a series can be tempered by adjusting for regular seasonal variation. These adjustments make nonseasonal developments easier to spot. The seasonally adjusted figures provide a more useful tool with which to analyze changes in quarter-to-quarter activity.

At the end of each calendar year, the seasonally adjusted data are revised for the past 5 years when the seasonal adjustment factors are updated. More information on seasonal adjustment is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#sa.

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex, quarterly averages, seasonally adjusted

Year and quarter	Number of workers (in thousands)			Median weekly earnings					
	Total	Men	Women	In current dollars			In constant (1982-84) dollars		
				Total \$	Men \$	Women \$	Total \$	Men \$	Women \$
2006									
2nd Quarter.....	105,798	59,831	45,966	663	732	597	329	364	296
3rd Quarter.....	107,041	60,060	46,981	678	755	603	334	372	297
4th Quarter.....	106,847	60,140	46,707	681	748	607	337	370	300
2007									
1st Quarter.....	107,176	60,105	47,070	687	752	610	336	368	298
2nd Quarter.....	106,827	60,351	46,476	693	765	610	335	370	295
3rd Quarter.....	107,156	60,216	46,940	698	774	621	336	372	298
4th Quarter.....	108,178	60,508	47,670	700	774	615	332	368	292
2008									
1st Quarter.....	107,786	60,378	47,408	713	783	633	335	368	298
2nd Quarter.....	107,046	59,586	47,460	722	802	636	335	372	295
3rd Quarter.....	106,136	59,273	46,863	724	802	637	331	367	291
4th Quarter.....	105,617	58,511	47,106	727	806	647	340	377	302
2009									
1st Quarter.....	101,683	56,302	45,381	732	815	645	345	384	304
2nd Quarter.....	99,996	55,233	44,763	737	818	652	345	383	305
3rd Quarter.....	99,050	54,481	44,569	742	820	664	345	381	309
4th Quarter.....	98,555	54,410	44,145	747	823	666	344	379	307
2010									
1st Quarter.....	98,143	54,098	44,045	748	836	662	344	384	304
2nd Quarter.....	99,605	55,028	44,577	742	814	671	342	374	309
3rd Quarter.....	100,412	55,620	44,792	746	821	670	342	377	308
4th Quarter.....	99,958	55,486	44,472	750	826	676	341	376	308
2011									
1st Quarter.....	99,682	55,337	44,345	750	821	679	338	370	306
2nd Quarter.....	100,352	55,822	44,530	754	830	687	336	370	306
3rd Quarter.....	100,488	56,060	44,428	759	836	681	336	370	301
4th Quarter.....	101,315	56,667	44,648	761	838	686	335	369	302
2012									
1st Quarter.....	102,184	57,118	45,066	764	841	693	335	368	303
2nd Quarter.....	102,504	57,057	45,448	772	870	687	337	380	300
3rd Quarter.....	102,630	57,245	45,385	765	836	693	333	364	301
4th Quarter.....	103,685	57,735	45,950	772	868	691	334	375	298
2013									
1st Quarter.....	103,950	57,919	46,031	768	860	699	331	371	301
2nd Quarter.....	103,929	57,891	46,038	777	865	706	335	373	304
3rd Quarter.....	104,512	58,162	46,350	777	856	706	333	367	302
4th Quarter.....	104,673	58,019	46,654	783	862	712	334	368	304
2014									
1st Quarter.....	105,639	58,728	46,911	790	866	716	336	368	304
2nd Quarter.....	106,320	59,445	46,875	782	861	715	330	363	302
3rd Quarter.....	106,889	59,661	47,228	797	880	722	335	370	304
4th Quarter.....	107,264	59,975	47,289	796	875	723	336	369	305
2015									
1st Quarter.....	108,410	60,405	48,005	802	887	724	341	377	308
2nd Quarter.....	108,574	60,397	48,177	803	890	726	339	376	306

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 2. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings			
	2nd 2014	2nd 2015	In current dollars		In constant (1982-84) dollars	
			2nd 2014	2nd 2015	2nd 2014	2nd 2015
SEX AND AGE						
Total, 16 years and over.....	106,555	108,769	\$780	\$801	\$328	\$337
Men, 16 years and over.....	59,714	60,638	857	886	360	373
16 to 24 years.....	5,663	5,335	481	497	202	209
25 years and over.....	54,052	55,303	914	942	384	396
Women, 16 years and over.....	46,840	48,131	716	726	301	305
16 to 24 years.....	4,195	4,313	449	444	189	187
25 years and over.....	42,645	43,818	750	759	316	319
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX						
White.....	84,544	85,383	802	829	337	349
Men.....	48,509	48,785	884	914	372	385
Women.....	36,035	36,598	725	742	305	312
Black or African American.....	12,736	13,566	649	647	273	272
Men.....	6,056	6,442	667	696	280	293
Women.....	6,680	7,124	631	615	265	259
Asian.....	6,320	6,608	954	965	401	406
Men.....	3,512	3,612	1,139	1,085	479	457
Women.....	2,807	2,996	855	836	360	352
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	17,599	18,240	583	601	245	253
Men.....	10,840	11,102	609	619	256	260
Women.....	6,759	7,138	532	572	224	241

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.

Table 3. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by age, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex, 2nd quarter 2015 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Age, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Total		Men		Women	
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings
TOTAL						
16 years and over.....	108,769	\$801	60,638	\$886	48,131	\$726
16 to 24 years.....	9,647	476	5,335	497	4,313	444
16 to 19 years.....	1,083	376	609	382	474	366
20 to 24 years.....	8,565	489	4,726	510	3,839	459
25 years and over.....	99,121	852	55,303	942	43,818	759
25 to 54 years.....	77,076	835	43,315	918	33,761	753
25 to 34 years.....	26,569	721	15,200	752	11,369	675
35 to 44 years.....	24,836	896	14,053	985	10,783	792
45 to 54 years.....	25,671	925	14,062	1,058	11,609	797
55 years and over.....	22,045	916	11,988	1,032	10,057	782
55 to 64 years.....	17,965	925	9,691	1,037	8,274	794
65 years and over.....	4,080	883	2,297	1,003	1,783	743
White						
16 years and over.....	85,383	829	48,785	914	36,598	742
16 to 24 years.....	7,552	488	4,295	507	3,256	457
25 years and over.....	77,831	878	44,490	969	33,341	774
25 to 54 years.....	59,685	858	34,332	943	25,352	768
55 years and over.....	18,146	953	10,157	1,080	7,989	811
Black or African American						
16 years and over.....	13,566	647	6,442	696	7,124	615
16 to 24 years.....	1,290	407	580	417	710	399
25 years and over.....	12,276	691	5,862	732	6,414	654
25 to 54 years.....	9,905	683	4,754	726	5,151	647
55 years and over.....	2,371	725	1,108	756	1,263	680
Asian						
16 years and over.....	6,608	965	3,612	1,085	2,996	836
16 to 24 years.....	344	544	195	602	149	511
25 years and over.....	6,264	989	3,417	1,109	2,847	863
25 to 54 years.....	5,118	1,005	2,884	1,121	2,234	871
55 years and over.....	1,146	902	533	1,034	613	838
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
16 years and over.....	18,240	601	11,102	619	7,138	572
16 to 24 years.....	2,148	444	1,276	459	872	430
25 years and over.....	16,092	623	9,826	654	6,266	597
25 to 54 years.....	13,866	620	8,501	646	5,365	594
55 years and over.....	2,226	659	1,324	711	901	615

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.

Table 4. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by occupation and sex, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Occupation and sex	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings	
	2nd 2014	2nd 2015	2nd 2014	2nd 2015
TOTAL				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	43,003	44,819	\$1,135	\$1,147
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	17,424	18,400	1,200	1,243
Professional and related occupations.....	25,578	26,420	1,078	1,097
Service occupations.....	15,051	15,313	500	506
Sales and office occupations.....	23,543	23,601	667	668
Sales and related occupations.....	9,854	9,724	683	688
Office and administrative support occupations.....	13,689	13,876	659	661
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	10,726	10,604	740	750
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	749	778	454	440
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,827	5,664	728	741
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,149	4,162	815	835
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	14,232	14,431	629	653
Production occupations.....	7,245	7,525	632	666
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6,987	6,906	625	634
Men				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	20,887	21,899	1,343	1,357
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	9,335	10,126	1,391	1,401
Professional and related occupations.....	11,552	11,773	1,299	1,319
Service occupations.....	7,820	7,732	580	587
Sales and office occupations.....	9,200	9,395	759	765
Sales and related occupations.....	5,448	5,373	806	864
Office and administrative support occupations.....	3,752	4,023	714	683
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	10,360	10,194	748	761
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	605	607	499	448
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5,736	5,531	729	742
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4,020	4,056	820	838
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	11,447	11,418	677	702
Production occupations.....	5,347	5,508	699	734
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	6,100	5,909	646	663
Women				
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	22,116	22,920	969	987
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	8,090	8,274	1,038	1,064
Professional and related occupations.....	14,026	14,647	935	953
Service occupations.....	7,231	7,582	452	457
Sales and office occupations.....	14,342	14,205	623	632
Sales and related occupations.....	4,406	4,352	561	556
Office and administrative support occupations.....	9,937	9,853	646	655
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	366	410	460	507
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	145	172	345	427
Construction and extraction occupations.....	92	133	699	700
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	130	106	637	603
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	2,785	3,013	497	524
Production occupations.....	1,898	2,017	491	524
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	887	996	528	524

NOTE: Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 5. Quartiles and selected deciles of usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, 2nd quarter 2015 averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)	Upper limit of:				
		First decile	First quartile	Second quartile (median)	Third quartile	Ninth decile
SEX, RACE, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY						
Total, 16 years and over.....	108,769	\$384	\$524	\$801	\$1,270	\$1,920
Men.....	60,638	402	577	886	1,414	2,190
Women.....	48,131	364	491	726	1,108	1,656
White.....	85,383	394	549	829	1,313	1,977
Men.....	48,785	412	591	914	1,447	2,253
Women.....	36,598	374	506	742	1,128	1,662
Black or African American.....	13,566	340	444	647	997	1,527
Men.....	6,442	355	479	696	1,073	1,564
Women.....	7,124	332	422	615	936	1,459
Asian.....	6,608	402	582	965	1,538	2,322
Men.....	3,612	415	613	1,085	1,752	2,577
Women.....	2,996	387	531	836	1,339	1,991
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	18,240	341	424	601	918	1,425
Men.....	11,102	358	451	619	967	1,516
Women.....	7,138	318	405	572	848	1,284
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Total, 25 years and over.....	99,121	403	575	852	1,341	1,999
Less than a high school diploma.....	7,648	310	384	499	677	957
High school graduates, no college ¹	25,392	376	491	678	979	1,380
Some college or associate degree.....	26,938	395	535	757	1,128	1,605
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	39,144	593	830	1,210	1,846	2,617
Bachelor's degree only.....	24,626	556	762	1,130	1,671	2,390
Advanced degree.....	14,518	689	948	1,377	2,025	3,013
Men, 25 years and over.....	55,303	425	609	942	1,477	2,290
Less than a high school diploma.....	5,200	341	408	522	747	1,037
High school graduates, no college ¹	15,631	401	538	758	1,087	1,512
Some college or associate degree.....	14,134	428	605	885	1,281	1,850
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	20,339	633	930	1,397	2,076	3,005
Bachelor's degree only.....	12,941	602	855	1,292	1,902	2,763
Advanced degree.....	7,397	737	1,085	1,571	2,404	3,779
Women, 25 years and over.....	43,818	381	519	759	1,151	1,727
Less than a high school diploma.....	2,448	279	333	420	560	708
High school graduates, no college ¹	9,762	341	429	593	791	1,086
Some college or associate degree.....	12,804	373	488	664	930	1,330
Bachelor's degree and higher ²	18,805	555	754	1,051	1,531	2,103
Bachelor's degree only.....	11,684	511	703	970	1,431	1,926
Advanced degree.....	7,121	650	875	1,193	1,711	2,412

¹ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

² Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Ten percent of all full-time wage and salary workers earn less than the upper limit of the first decile; 25 percent earn less than the upper limit of the first quartile; 50 percent earn less than the upper limit of the second quartile, or median; 75 percent earn less than the upper limit of the third quartile; and 90 percent earn less than the upper limit of the ninth decile. 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.

Table 6. Median usual weekly earnings of part-time wage and salary workers by selected characteristics, quarterly averages, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings	
	2nd 2014	2nd 2015	2nd 2014	2nd 2015
SEX AND AGE				
Total, 16 years and over.....	24,946	24,825	\$240	\$244
Men, 16 years and over.....	8,267	8,564	236	231
16 to 24 years.....	3,526	3,933	193	188
25 years and over.....	4,741	4,630	276	291
Women, 16 years and over.....	16,679	16,261	242	250
16 to 24 years.....	4,766	4,771	178	192
25 years and over.....	11,913	11,491	273	281
RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY, AND SEX				
White.....	19,573	19,513	245	247
Men.....	6,231	6,601	239	232
Women.....	13,341	12,912	247	254
Black or African American.....	3,073	3,013	217	226
Men.....	1,159	1,153	220	219
Women.....	1,914	1,860	216	230
Asian.....	1,327	1,275	235	250
Men.....	486	455	231	243
Women.....	841	820	237	253
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	3,992	4,097	234	232
Men.....	1,498	1,472	250	241
Women.....	2,493	2,625	226	227

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.