



Who is Poor in the United States? Examining the Characteristics and Workforce Participation of Impoverished Americans

Technical Appendix

The Current Population Survey March ASEC is the survey from which the Census Bureau calculates the official poverty statistics. All those whose household incomes are below the poverty threshold for their particular household composition are classified as living in poverty. Statistics were calculated using the supplement weight so that the reported results are representative of the relevant population.

Working-age adults are those between the ages of 18 and 64, children are those under the age of 18, and senior citizens are those 65 and older.

Those in the labor force are those who reported employment in 2014 or those who were seeking employment in 2014. A full-time, year-round worker is one who worked more than 35 hours per week and more than 50 weeks per year. Employment seekers were those in 2014 who reported looking for work between 1 and 52 weeks in 2014 and did not report employment.

A worker was involuntary part-time if they reported being part-time for economic reasons, such as inability to find a full-time job, slack work, seasonal work, or a job that started or ended during the week. The remaining part-time workers, those who were part-time for other reasons, are the residual respondents in the survey and include those who were part-time and retired, part-time for non-economic or "other" reasons.

A student is someone of working-age who is either a full- or part-time student or reported that the main reason they did not work in 2014 was that they were going to school. For the analysis of part-time workers, students are those who reported being a full- or part-time student or who reported that they were part-time due to school or training and were part-time for non-economic reasons.

Someone who is disabled is one who is of working-age and responded that the main reason that they did not work in 2014 was that they were ill or disabled. For the analysis of part-time workers, disabled individuals are those who reported being part-time due to health or medical limitations and who were part-time for non-economic reasons.

A caregiver is one who is working-age and reports that the main reason they did not work in 2014 was that they were taking care of home or family. For the analysis of part-time workers, caregivers are those who reported that they were part-time due to child care problems or other family or personal obligations and were working part-time for non-economic reasons.

Someone who is retired is one who is of working-age and who reported that the main reason they were not working in 2014 was that they were retired.