

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical information: (202) 691-6378
<http://www.bls.gov/cps/>

USDL 02-686

Media contact: 691-5902

For release: 10:00 A.M. EST
Wednesday, December 18, 2002

VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES

About 59 million people did volunteer work at some point from September 2001 to September 2002, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. These new data on volunteer service were collected through a supplement to the September 2002 Current Population Survey (CPS). That supplement has generated information from households across the country regarding the extent and type of volunteer service done through or for organizations. The survey found that slightly more than 1 in 4 persons age 16 and over volunteered.

The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note. Some of the highlights from the 2002 data include:

- The volunteer rate was higher among women than men.
- Employed persons were more likely to volunteer than persons who were unemployed or not in the labor force.
- Among persons 25 years of age and over, the volunteer rate of college graduates was four times that of high school dropouts.
- The main organization for which the majority of volunteers worked was either religious or educational/youth-service related.
- Volunteers spent a median of 52 hours volunteering during the year.

Characteristics of Volunteers

Fifty-nine million persons, or 27.6 percent of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over, volunteered through or for organizations at some point during the period from September 2001 to September 2002. The incidence of volunteering was higher among women (31.1 percent) than among men (23.8 percent), a relationship that held across age groups, education levels, and other major characteristics. (See table 1.)

Among the age groups, 35- to 54-year olds were the most likely to volunteer, with 1 in 3 having donated their time. Volunteer rates were lowest among persons age 65 years and over (22.7 percent) and among

those in their early twenties (18.2 percent). Teenagers had a relatively high volunteer rate, 26.9 percent, perhaps reflecting an emphasis on volunteer activities in schools.

Among persons 25 years of age and over, 43.6 percent of college graduates volunteered during the year, double the volunteer rate of high school graduates with no college experience and more than four times the rate of high school dropouts.

Parents with children under age 18 were more likely to volunteer than persons with no children of that age, with volunteer rates of 36.5 percent and 23.7 percent, respectively. Volunteer rates were higher among married persons (32.7 percent) than among singles (21.2 percent) and persons of other marital status (22.1 percent).

Overall, nearly 30 percent of all employed persons had volunteered during the year. By comparison, the volunteer rates of persons who were unemployed (25.3 percent) or not in the labor force (23.7 percent) were lower. Among the employed, part-time workers were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—35.5 percent and 28.5 percent, respectively.

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Volunteers spent a median of 52 hours doing volunteer activities during the period from September 2001 to September 2002. While 28.2 percent of volunteers reported spending 100 to 499 hours doing volunteer work, 21.5 percent spent only 1 to 14 hours volunteering. (See table 2.)

Among the age groups, volunteers age 65 and over devoted the most time—a median of 96 hours—to volunteer activities. Those age 25 to 34 years spent the least time, volunteering a median of 34 hours during the year.

Number and Type of Organizations

Most volunteers provided their services through or for one or two organizations—69.1 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively. (See table 3.)

The main organization—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—for the majority of volunteers was either religious (33.9 percent) or educational/youth-service related (27.2 percent). Another 12.1 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations, and 8.6 percent volunteered the most hours for hospitals or other health organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer mainly for religious organizations, such as churches, than their younger counterparts. For example, 45.2 percent of volunteers age 65 and over performed volunteer activities mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 28.6 percent of volunteers age 25 to 34 years.

Among volunteers with children under 18 years, 45.9 percent of mothers and 37.9 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational/youth-service related organization, such as a school or little league. Parents were more than twice as likely to volunteer for such organizations as persons with no children of that age. Conversely, volunteers with no children under 18 were about twice as likely as parents to volunteer for a social or community service organization, such as a homeless shelter or a senior citizen center.

Volunteer Activities for Main Organization

Volunteers performed many different types of activities. Among the more commonly reported (volunteers could report more than one activity) were teaching or coaching (24.4 percent); canvassing, campaigning, or fundraising (22.9 percent); collecting, making, serving, or delivering goods (22.2 percent); and being a board, committee, or neighborhood association member (16.3 percent). Forty-three percent of volunteers indicated that their activities fell into the “catch-all” category of organize, supervise, or help with events or activities. (See table 5.)

The distribution of activities differed across major demographic groups. For example, parents of children under 18 were much more likely to teach or coach than were persons with no children of that age, and college graduates were more than twice as likely as those with less than a high school diploma to do consulting or administrative work.

How Volunteers Became Involved with Main Organization

Two in five volunteers became involved with the main organization for which they did volunteer work on their own initiative: That is, they approached the organization. Another 2 in 5 were asked to become a volunteer, most often by somebody in the organization. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The data in this release were collected through a supplement to the September 2002 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS—a monthly survey of about 60,000 households, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics—focuses on obtaining information on employment and unemployment among the nation’s civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. The purpose of this supplement to the CPS was to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering and the characteristics of volunteers in the United States.

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 for information on estimating standard errors, see the “Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error” section of *Employment and Earnings*.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September 2002 supplement, questions on volunteer activities were asked of all households. Efforts were made to have household members answer the volunteer questions for themselves. (Generally, one member of the household answers all the questions in the CPS.) Self response was considered important for the volunteer supplement because research indicated that self respondents could more easily answer questions on the characteristics of the volunteer activity. About three-quarters of the responses were self reports.

The survey was introduced as follows: "This month, we are interested in volunteer activities, that is, activities for which

people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. We only want you to include volunteer activities that you did through or for an organization, even if you only did them once in a while."

Following this introduction, respondents were asked the first supplement question: "Since September 1st of last year, have you done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?"

If respondents did not answer "yes" to the first question, they were asked the following question: "Sometimes people don't think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for children's schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities. Since September 1st of last year, have you done any of these types of volunteer activities?"

Respondents were considered volunteers if they answered "yes" to either of these questions.

Respondents thus classified as volunteers were asked further questions about the number and type of organizations for which they volunteered, total hours spent volunteering, how they became involved with the main organization for which they volunteered, and the type of activities they performed for the main organization. Non-volunteers were asked a question about what would encourage them to volunteer.

The reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. The reference period for other characteristics, such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status, refer to the survey reference week in September 2002. It is possible that these characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed.

The last CPS supplement on volunteer activities was conducted in May 1989. However, the surveys are not directly comparable. The wording of the questions differed between the two surveys, and the reference periods for volunteer activity were not specified in the same way. Furthermore, the September 2002 survey collected information from volunteers that was not obtained in May 1989, such as the type of activities performed for their main organization and how they became involved.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey period in September 2002. The count of volunteers only includes persons who volunteered through or for an organization; the figures do not include persons who volunteered in a more informal manner. For example, a woman who teaches acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer. A woman who, on her own, organizes softball games for the children in her neighborhood would not be counted as a volunteer for the purpose of this survey.

Organizations are associations, societies, or groups of people who share a common interest. Examples include churches, youth groups, and civic organizations. For the purpose of this study, organizations are classified into eight major categories, including religious, youth, and social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

The *main organization* is the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. If a respondent volunteered for only one organization, it was considered the main organization, even if exact hours were not obtained.

In order to identify the type of main organization, respondents had to provide information about the organization and, for those who volunteered for more than one organization, annual hours worked for each. Some respondents did not provide the information necessary to determine the type of main organization. For these respondents, the follow-up questions on activities and how they became involved with the main organization asked them to report on the organization for which they think they spent the most time volunteering.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2002

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2002	Total, both sexes			Men			Women		
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers	
		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	214,429	59,163	27.6	103,148	24,514	23.8	111,281	34,649	31.1
16 to 24 years	35,470	7,860	22.2	17,851	3,318	18.6	17,619	4,543	25.8
16 to 19 years	16,158	4,346	26.9	8,214	1,888	23.0	7,944	2,458	30.9
20 to 24 years	19,312	3,515	18.2	9,637	1,430	14.8	9,675	2,085	21.5
25 years and over	178,959	51,303	28.7	85,298	21,197	24.9	93,662	30,106	32.1
25 to 34 years	36,907	9,279	25.1	17,983	3,536	19.7	18,924	5,743	30.3
35 to 44 years	43,888	15,089	34.4	21,661	6,210	28.7	22,226	8,879	39.9
45 to 54 years	39,172	12,296	31.4	19,098	5,340	28.0	20,075	6,956	34.7
55 to 64 years	25,993	7,146	27.5	12,431	3,098	24.9	13,562	4,048	29.8
65 years and over	32,998	7,492	22.7	14,124	3,012	21.3	18,874	4,480	23.7
Race and Hispanic origin									
White	177,628	52,164	29.4	86,321	21,698	25.1	91,307	30,466	33.4
Black	26,039	4,987	19.2	11,696	1,955	16.7	14,344	3,032	21.1
Hispanic origin	24,065	3,769	15.7	11,845	1,522	12.9	12,220	2,246	18.4
Educational attainment¹									
Less than a high school diploma	26,999	2,734	10.1	12,970	1,149	8.9	14,029	1,585	11.3
High school graduate, no college ²	57,664	12,293	21.3	26,772	4,612	17.2	30,892	7,681	24.9
Less than a bachelor's degree ³	45,314	14,919	32.9	20,650	5,734	27.8	24,664	9,185	37.2
College graduates	48,982	21,357	43.6	24,906	9,702	39.0	24,077	11,655	48.4
Marital status									
Single, never married	57,316	12,177	21.2	30,621	5,300	17.3	26,694	6,877	25.8
Married, spouse present	115,706	37,823	32.7	58,456	16,764	28.7	57,250	21,059	36.8
Other marital status ⁴	41,408	9,163	22.1	14,071	2,450	17.4	27,337	6,713	24.6
Presence of own children under 18 years⁵									
Without own children under 18	149,204	35,371	23.7	74,167	15,143	20.4	75,037	20,227	27.0
With own children under 18	65,225	23,793	36.5	28,981	9,371	32.3	36,244	14,421	39.8
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	143,761	42,396	29.5	76,680	19,539	25.5	67,081	22,857	34.1
Employed	135,794	40,379	29.7	72,511	18,684	25.8	63,283	21,695	34.3
Full time ⁶	111,905	31,910	28.5	64,719	16,683	25.8	47,186	15,227	32.3
Part time ⁷	23,889	8,469	35.5	7,792	2,001	25.7	16,097	6,468	40.2
Unemployed	7,968	2,016	25.3	4,170	855	20.5	3,798	1,162	30.6
Not in the labor force	70,668	16,767	23.7	26,468	4,976	18.8	44,200	11,792	26.7

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.
⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.
⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.
⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.
 NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey period in September 2002. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2002

Characteristics in September 2002	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of total annual hours spent volunteering at all organizations							Median annual hours ¹
		Total	1 to 14 hour(s)	15 to 49 hours	50 to 99 hours	100 to 499 hours	500 hours and over	Not reporting annual hours	
Sex									
Total, both sexes	59,163	100.0	21.5	24.1	14.8	28.2	5.9	5.5	52
Men	24,514	100.0	21.1	23.4	14.5	28.9	6.6	5.4	52
Women	34,649	100.0	21.8	24.6	15.0	27.6	5.4	5.6	50
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	59,163	100.0	21.5	24.1	14.8	28.2	5.9	5.5	52
16 to 24 years	7,860	100.0	25.2	27.9	14.2	22.0	4.1	6.6	40
16 to 19 years	4,346	100.0	23.7	29.4	15.2	22.0	2.8	6.9	40
20 to 24 years	3,515	100.0	27.1	26.0	12.9	22.0	5.7	6.3	36
25 years and over	51,303	100.0	21.0	23.5	14.9	29.1	6.2	5.3	52
25 to 34 years	9,279	100.0	29.2	26.5	13.6	23.2	3.5	4.0	34
35 to 44 years	15,089	100.0	21.0	24.8	16.3	27.8	5.8	4.3	52
45 to 54 years	12,296	100.0	20.5	23.0	15.9	29.7	5.7	5.3	53
55 to 64 years	7,146	100.0	18.1	21.9	14.2	32.2	7.4	6.1	60
65 years and over	7,492	100.0	14.2	19.4	12.8	35.4	10.0	8.2	96
Race and Hispanic origin									
White	52,164	100.0	21.4	24.4	15.1	28.1	5.8	5.2	52
Black	4,987	100.0	21.0	22.2	12.6	29.8	7.0	7.5	52
Hispanic origin	3,769	100.0	22.9	26.6	14.9	24.3	5.2	6.0	44
Educational attainment²									
Less than a high school diploma	2,734	100.0	26.0	21.6	13.8	25.3	6.1	7.2	48
High school graduate, no college ³	12,293	100.0	24.1	22.7	14.0	26.8	6.1	6.3	50
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁴	14,919	100.0	21.1	23.3	14.5	29.7	6.4	5.1	52
College graduates	21,357	100.0	18.4	24.4	15.8	30.6	6.2	4.7	60
Marital status									
Single, never married	12,177	100.0	24.3	27.3	14.4	23.1	4.7	6.1	40
Married, spouse present	37,823	100.0	20.8	23.2	15.1	29.8	6.0	5.2	53
Other marital status ⁵	9,163	100.0	20.8	23.6	14.1	28.5	7.1	6.0	52
Presence of own children under 18 years⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	15,143	100.0	20.6	23.6	13.9	28.5	7.2	6.2	52
With own children under 18 years old	9,371	100.0	21.9	23.1	15.4	29.7	5.7	4.1	52
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	20,227	100.0	20.8	24.6	14.4	28.2	5.5	6.4	52
With own children under 18 years old	14,421	100.0	23.2	24.4	15.9	26.9	5.2	4.4	50
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	42,396	100.0	23.2	25.0	15.2	26.8	4.9	4.9	48
Employed	40,379	100.0	23.3	25.0	15.2	26.8	4.8	4.9	48
Full time ⁷	31,910	100.0	24.0	25.3	14.8	26.2	4.8	4.9	46
Part time ⁸	8,469	100.0	20.9	23.7	16.5	28.8	5.1	5.0	52
Unemployed	2,016	100.0	21.8	25.7	15.3	27.2	5.9	4.1	50
Not in the labor force	16,767	100.0	17.2	21.7	13.8	31.8	8.5	7.0	72

¹ For those reporting annual hours.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey period in September 2002. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2002

Characteristics in September 2002	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of the number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed						
		Total	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Not reporting number of organizations
Sex								
Total, both sexes	59,163	100.0	69.1	19.3	7.4	2.4	1.7	0.2
Men	24,514	100.0	70.6	18.5	6.7	2.2	1.7	.2
Women	34,649	100.0	68.1	19.8	7.9	2.5	1.7	.1
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	59,163	100.0	69.1	19.3	7.4	2.4	1.7	.2
16 to 24 years	7,860	100.0	76.9	15.5	4.9	1.2	1.0	.4
16 to 19 years	4,346	100.0	74.5	16.8	5.9	1.4	.8	.5
20 to 24 years	3,515	100.0	79.9	13.9	3.7	1.0	1.1	.4
25 years and over	51,303	100.0	67.9	19.8	7.7	2.5	1.8	.1
25 to 34 years	9,279	100.0	74.8	17.4	5.2	1.4	1.0	.2
35 to 44 years	15,089	100.0	64.9	22.2	8.3	2.7	1.8	—
45 to 54 years	12,296	100.0	65.6	20.1	8.9	3.1	2.2	.2
55 to 64 years	7,146	100.0	66.7	19.2	8.5	3.1	2.4	—
65 years and over	7,492	100.0	70.6	18.2	7.1	2.2	1.7	.2
Race and Hispanic origin								
White	52,164	100.0	68.0	20.0	7.7	2.5	1.8	.2
Black	4,987	100.0	77.4	14.1	5.4	1.6	1.4	.1
Hispanic origin	3,769	100.0	81.1	13.7	3.3	1.0	.8	.1
Educational attainment¹								
Less than a high school diploma	2,734	100.0	85.8	11.2	2.3	.2	.4	.1
High school graduate, no college ²	12,293	100.0	77.2	16.5	4.5	1.2	.4	.1
Less than a bachelor's degree ³	14,919	100.0	70.5	18.6	6.9	2.3	1.6	.1
College graduates	21,357	100.0	58.5	23.7	10.8	3.8	3.0	.2
Marital status								
Single, never married	12,177	100.0	74.5	16.3	6.0	1.4	1.4	.4
Married, spouse present	37,823	100.0	67.4	20.3	7.7	2.7	1.8	.1
Other marital status ⁴	9,163	100.0	69.3	18.9	7.6	2.4	1.8	—
Presence of own children under 18 years⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	15,143	100.0	71.7	17.5	6.5	2.2	1.9	.2
With own children under 18 years old	9,371	100.0	68.9	20.1	7.0	2.3	1.4	.2
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	20,227	100.0	70.5	18.4	7.2	2.2	1.5	.2
With own children under 18 years old	14,421	100.0	64.7	21.7	8.8	2.8	1.9	.1
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	42,396	100.0	68.7	19.5	7.6	2.3	1.7	.2
Employed	40,379	100.0	68.4	19.6	7.7	2.4	1.8	.2
Full time ⁶	31,910	100.0	68.8	19.5	7.5	2.4	1.7	.1
Part time ⁷	8,469	100.0	66.8	20.0	8.6	2.3	2.0	.3
Unemployed	2,016	100.0	74.3	17.4	5.3	1.7	1.2	—
Not in the labor force	16,767	100.0	70.3	18.7	6.7	2.5	1.7	.2

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey period in September 2002. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2002

Characteristics in September 2002	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteers by type of main organization ¹										
		Total	Civic, political, professional, or international	Educational or youth service	Environmental or animal care	Hospital or other health	Public safety	Religious	Social or community service	Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts	Other	Not determined
Sex												
Total, both sexes	59,163	100.0	6.1	27.2	1.6	8.6	1.4	33.9	12.1	4.0	3.5	1.5
Men	24,514	100.0	7.6	25.5	1.7	6.7	2.3	33.0	12.7	5.0	3.9	1.6
Women	34,649	100.0	5.1	28.5	1.6	10.0	.8	34.5	11.7	3.2	3.3	1.4
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	59,163	100.0	6.1	27.2	1.6	8.6	1.4	33.9	12.1	4.0	3.5	1.5
16 to 24 years	7,860	100.0	4.8	31.0	1.8	9.0	1.7	30.5	12.9	3.1	3.5	1.6
16 to 19 years	4,346	100.0	4.6	34.1	1.6	7.7	1.0	30.7	13.2	3.1	2.8	1.2
20 to 24 years	3,515	100.0	5.0	27.3	2.0	10.7	2.5	30.3	12.6	3.0	4.4	2.2
25 years and over	51,303	100.0	6.3	26.7	1.6	8.6	1.4	34.4	12.0	4.1	3.5	1.5
25 to 34 years	9,279	100.0	5.5	34.3	1.8	8.6	1.9	28.6	11.5	3.2	3.4	1.1
35 to 44 years	15,089	100.0	4.6	39.3	1.4	6.6	1.2	29.3	9.5	3.9	3.1	1.0
45 to 54 years	12,296	100.0	6.4	25.5	1.6	8.7	1.4	34.5	11.0	5.1	3.8	2.0
55 to 64 years	7,146	100.0	9.3	13.0	2.3	10.4	1.1	41.1	13.4	4.0	3.8	1.7
65 years and over	7,492	100.0	7.9	6.5	1.0	10.5	1.2	45.2	17.6	4.2	4.0	2.0
Race and Hispanic origin												
White	52,164	100.0	6.4	27.2	1.8	8.8	1.5	32.9	12.2	4.1	3.6	1.4
Black	4,987	100.0	3.5	27.4	.3	6.7	.6	45.3	10.0	1.6	2.9	1.7
Hispanic origin	3,769	100.0	4.2	32.9	.6	6.4	1.1	36.6	10.7	2.8	3.3	1.3
Educational attainment²												
Less than a high school diploma	2,734	100.0	4.6	22.6	.3	6.4	1.2	45.8	13.4	1.6	2.8	1.3
High school graduate, no college ³	12,293	100.0	6.0	25.4	1.2	8.2	1.8	36.9	11.7	3.9	3.6	1.3
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁴	14,919	100.0	5.9	26.8	1.7	8.9	2.0	34.4	11.6	3.9	3.6	1.3
College graduates	21,357	100.0	7.0	27.9	1.9	8.8	.7	31.5	12.2	4.7	3.6	1.7
Marital status												
Single, never married	12,177	100.0	6.1	28.4	2.2	9.6	1.7	27.2	14.8	4.0	4.4	1.6
Married, spouse present	37,823	100.0	6.0	28.2	1.3	7.7	1.4	36.6	10.4	4.0	3.0	1.5
Other marital status ⁵	9,163	100.0	6.7	21.9	2.0	11.2	1.2	31.6	15.6	3.7	4.6	1.5
Presence of own children under 18 years⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	15,143	100.0	9.0	17.8	2.2	8.0	2.4	33.4	15.5	4.9	4.9	1.9
With own children under 18 years old	9,371	100.0	5.3	37.9	.9	4.5	2.1	32.5	8.1	5.2	2.2	1.3
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	20,227	100.0	6.5	16.1	2.2	12.8	.8	37.3	14.7	3.8	4.1	1.6
With own children under 18 years old	14,421	100.0	3.1	45.9	.6	6.0	.7	30.5	7.5	2.4	2.2	1.0
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	42,396	100.0	6.4	28.9	1.8	8.6	1.6	32.1	11.5	4.2	3.5	1.4
Employed	40,379	100.0	6.4	28.8	1.7	8.6	1.7	32.2	11.5	4.2	3.5	1.4
Full time ⁷	31,910	100.0	6.7	28.2	1.7	8.7	1.9	31.6	11.8	4.3	3.7	1.4
Part time ⁸	8,469	100.0	5.2	31.2	1.8	8.1	.8	34.8	10.3	3.5	2.9	1.4
Unemployed	2,016	100.0	5.4	31.8	2.2	8.1	.9	30.2	12.6	4.4	3.6	.8
Not in the labor force	16,767	100.0	5.6	23.0	1.2	8.7	.9	38.3	13.5	3.4	3.6	1.8

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey period in September 2002. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

Table 5. Volunteer activities for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2002

Characteristics in September 2002	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteer activities for main organization ¹												
		Activities to protect the environment or animals	Activities to support emergency preparedness or relief	Activities to support public health or safety	Board, committee, or neighborhood association member	Campaign, or fundraise	Collect, make, serve, or deliver goods	Construction or maintenance	Consulting or administrative work	Organize, supervise, or help with events or activities ²	Provide care or transportation	Teach or coach	Other	Not reporting type of activity
Sex														
Total, both sexes	59,163	4.6	4.8	8.3	16.3	22.9	22.2	9.7	14.0	43.2	12.3	24.4	16.8	1.4
Men	24,514	5.3	5.8	9.0	17.9	20.9	17.6	16.0	14.3	40.4	12.0	27.1	16.1	1.4
Women	34,649	4.1	4.0	7.8	15.1	24.2	25.5	5.2	13.8	45.1	12.6	22.4	17.3	1.5
Age														
Total, 16 years and over	59,163	4.6	4.8	8.3	16.3	22.9	22.2	9.7	14.0	43.2	12.3	24.4	16.8	1.4
16 to 24 years	7,860	6.4	5.4	9.0	6.3	19.4	20.5	13.2	8.4	38.2	10.3	26.7	18.8	2.3
16 to 19 years	4,346	7.3	4.8	8.9	5.5	19.7	21.9	13.5	6.4	38.5	8.9	25.8	19.4	2.2
20 to 24 years	3,515	5.2	6.1	9.1	7.3	19.0	18.8	12.9	11.0	37.8	12.1	27.8	18.0	2.5
25 years and over	51,303	4.4	4.7	8.2	17.8	23.4	22.5	9.1	14.8	43.9	12.7	24.0	16.5	1.3
25 to 34 years	9,279	4.5	4.9	9.1	11.8	22.4	19.4	8.4	11.2	45.6	12.5	28.1	15.2	1.5
35 to 44 years	15,089	4.8	4.6	8.0	16.7	25.3	21.3	9.5	14.0	47.7	14.6	30.7	14.3	1.2
45 to 54 years	12,296	4.2	5.0	8.9	20.3	25.0	21.7	9.4	16.3	45.3	12.9	24.7	15.3	1.5
55 to 64 years	7,146	5.1	5.4	8.8	21.9	25.5	23.5	10.0	18.8	40.8	10.8	17.7	17.3	1.0
65 years and over	7,492	2.7	3.3	5.5	19.6	16.3	29.0	8.0	14.8	34.8	10.3	10.5	23.6	1.4
Race and Hispanic origin														
White	52,164	4.9	4.8	8.3	16.6	23.2	21.9	9.8	14.0	43.3	12.0	24.4	16.8	1.3
Black	4,987	2.9	4.4	8.2	15.2	21.6	26.1	8.8	13.9	42.9	15.0	25.2	17.1	2.2
Hispanic origin	3,769	2.8	3.3	7.3	9.1	18.9	23.3	8.8	9.4	36.3	10.4	24.3	20.2	1.7
Educational attainment³														
Less than a high school diploma	2,734	1.9	3.3	5.3	8.0	14.6	30.0	12.1	7.2	32.8	9.6	12.8	21.7	1.0
High school graduate, no college ⁴	12,293	3.9	4.2	6.9	14.2	23.2	25.3	9.7	10.0	42.2	12.3	19.2	17.1	1.2
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁵	14,919	4.7	5.5	8.4	16.3	24.1	23.7	9.1	14.0	45.3	14.5	24.1	16.7	1.1
College graduates	21,357	4.8	4.5	9.1	22.2	24.1	19.1	8.5	19.2	45.4	12.0	28.2	15.4	1.5
Marital status														
Single, never married	12,177	6.2	5.0	9.5	9.1	20.9	20.0	11.7	10.7	39.0	10.3	23.8	18.6	2.1
Married, spouse present	37,823	4.3	4.7	7.7	18.9	23.8	22.3	9.8	14.8	45.0	13.2	26.0	15.4	1.3
Other marital status ⁶	9,163	4.1	4.5	8.8	15.2	21.6	24.9	6.5	15.0	40.9	11.7	18.2	20.1	1.0
Presence of own children under 18 years⁷														
Men:														
No own children under 18 years old	15,143	5.5	5.9	9.4	17.9	20.6	18.4	16.5	15.2	38.3	10.9	20.7	18.1	1.6
With own children under 18 years old	9,371	5.1	5.6	8.4	17.9	21.5	16.4	15.2	12.8	44.0	13.9	37.5	13.0	1.0
Women:														
No own children under 18 years old	20,227	4.6	4.1	8.2	14.9	22.3	26.2	5.8	14.2	40.2	10.3	18.5	19.0	1.7
With own children under 18 years old	14,421	3.4	4.0	7.1	15.5	27.0	24.5	4.4	13.2	51.9	15.7	27.9	14.8	1.3
Employment status														
Civilian labor force	42,396	5.0	5.2	8.8	16.6	24.5	20.7	10.2	14.4	44.7	12.9	26.3	15.6	1.3
Employed	40,379	4.9	5.2	8.8	16.9	24.6	20.6	10.1	14.4	44.7	12.8	26.3	15.5	1.3
Full time ⁸	31,910	4.8	5.3	9.0	17.3	25.0	19.9	10.6	14.1	44.1	12.4	26.2	15.0	1.4
Part time ⁹	8,469	5.0	4.8	8.1	15.6	23.0	23.4	8.2	15.3	46.6	14.5	26.8	17.3	1.2
Unemployed	2,016	6.7	5.1	8.8	10.9	22.9	22.7	11.5	15.2	45.1	14.3	26.4	17.5	1.2
Not in the labor force	16,767	3.8	3.7	6.9	15.5	18.7	26.0	8.4	12.9	39.3	11.0	19.4	19.9	1.7

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² This category may have been chosen by such a large proportion of respondents because of the word "help." Since all volunteers "help" in some way, it may have become a "catch-all" response.

³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

⁴ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁶ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁷ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included

are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁸ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁹ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey period in September 2002. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Detail will sum to greater than 100 percent because respondents could choose more than one activity.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2002

Characteristics in September 2002	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization ¹								Not reporting how became involved
		Total	Approached the organization	Was asked by:					Other	
				Total ²	Boss or employer	Relative, friend, or co-worker	Someone in the organization/school	Someone else		
Sex										
Total, both sexes	59,163	100.0	40.1	43.0	1.5	14.1	25.8	1.4	14.9	2.1
Men	24,514	100.0	39.3	43.8	1.5	15.2	25.5	1.3	14.8	2.0
Women	34,649	100.0	40.6	42.3	1.4	13.4	26.0	1.4	14.9	2.2
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	59,163	100.0	40.1	43.0	1.5	14.1	25.8	1.4	14.9	2.1
16 to 24 years	7,860	100.0	40.7	40.2	0.9	16.1	20.8	2.1	16.2	2.9
16 to 19 years	4,346	100.0	40.6	39.6	0.2	14.9	21.8	2.5	16.7	3.1
20 to 24 years	3,515	100.0	40.9	40.8	1.9	17.7	19.6	1.6	15.6	2.7
25 years and over	51,303	100.0	40.0	43.4	1.6	13.8	26.6	1.3	14.7	2.0
25 to 34 years	9,279	100.0	38.1	44.1	3.0	14.6	25.0	1.4	15.6	2.2
35 to 44 years	15,089	100.0	39.8	44.0	1.6	13.1	27.9	1.2	14.4	1.8
45 to 54 years	12,296	100.0	39.7	43.7	1.4	13.7	27.1	1.2	14.7	2.0
55 to 64 years	7,146	100.0	40.6	43.3	1.2	14.7	26.0	1.1	14.2	1.9
65 years and over	7,492	100.0	42.6	40.8	0.3	13.5	25.5	1.5	14.4	2.1
Race and Hispanic origin										
White	52,164	100.0	40.0	43.3	1.5	14.2	26.0	1.3	14.7	2.0
Black	4,987	100.0	40.5	42.1	1.3	13.6	25.1	2.0	14.7	2.8
Hispanic origin	3,769	100.0	40.4	40.9	1.8	12.9	24.5	1.5	16.4	2.3
Educational attainment³										
Less than a high school diploma	2,734	100.0	39.2	45.2	0.6	15.1	27.6	1.7	13.7	1.9
High school graduate, no college ⁴	12,293	100.0	40.3	43.4	1.2	14.7	26.1	1.2	14.6	1.8
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁵	14,919	100.0	39.4	43.1	1.8	13.8	26.1	1.3	15.8	1.6
College graduates	21,357	100.0	40.3	43.3	1.7	13.1	27.0	1.2	14.0	2.3
Marital status										
Single, never married	12,177	100.0	41.5	39.9	1.6	16.2	20.1	1.9	15.6	3.0
Married, spouse present	37,823	100.0	39.4	44.3	1.4	13.3	28.0	1.3	14.4	1.9
Other marital status ⁶	9,163	100.0	41.0	41.6	1.4	14.5	24.3	1.2	15.8	1.6
Presence of own children under 18 years⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	15,143	100.0	40.0	42.9	1.4	15.8	24.0	1.5	14.9	2.2
With own children under 18 years old	9,371	100.0	38.2	45.3	1.7	14.2	28.0	1.1	14.8	1.7
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	20,227	100.0	41.4	40.8	1.4	15.1	22.6	1.5	15.3	2.4
With own children under 18 years old	14,421	100.0	39.5	44.5	1.5	10.9	30.8	1.3	14.2	1.8
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	42,396	100.0	39.2	43.7	1.9	14.5	25.7	1.4	15.1	2.0
Employed	40,379	100.0	39.0	43.9	2.0	14.5	25.9	1.3	15.2	2.0
Full time ⁸	31,910	100.0	38.3	44.6	2.3	15.1	25.9	1.2	15.2	1.9
Part time ⁹	8,469	100.0	41.6	41.0	0.8	12.3	26.1	1.6	15.1	2.3
Unemployed	2,016	100.0	43.3	40.7	1.6	15.0	21.6	2.3	14.3	1.7
Not in the labor force	16,767	100.0	42.4	41.1	0.3	13.1	26.1	1.4	14.2	2.4

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Includes persons who did not specify who asked them to volunteer, not shown separately.

³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

⁴ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁶ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁷ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not

included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁸ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁹ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey period in September 2002. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.