

A-38. Persons not in the labor force by desire and availability for work, age, and sex

(In thousands)

Category	Total		Age						Sex			
	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	16 to 24 years		25 to 54 years		55 years and over		Men		Women	
			Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009
Total not in the labor force	79,601	82,915	15,970	17,155	20,934	21,809	42,697	43,950	30,775	32,707	48,826	50,207
Do not want a job now ¹	74,800	77,294	14,363	15,498	18,801	19,195	41,636	42,600	28,629	29,996	46,171	47,297
Want a job ¹	4,800	5,621	1,607	1,657	2,133	2,614	1,061	1,350	2,146	2,711	2,655	2,910
Did not search for work in previous year	2,702	2,728	843	760	1,081	1,098	778	869	1,095	1,192	1,607	1,537
Searched for work in previous year ²	2,099	2,893	764	897	1,052	1,516	282	481	1,051	1,519	1,048	1,374
Not available to work now	462	520	214	165	199	260	50	95	179	232	283	287
Available to work now ³	1,637	2,373	550	732	854	1,255	233	386	872	1,287	765	1,086
Reason not currently looking:												
Discouragement over job prospects	484	808	137	219	263	459	83	130	323	500	161	309
Reasons other than discouragement ⁴	1,153	1,565	413	514	590	796	149	255	550	787	603	778
Family responsibilities	147	219	41	19	93	168	13	32	29	46	118	174
In school or training	282	336	227	253	49	70	6	12	127	191	155	145
Ill health or disability	134	141	20	24	100	65	15	52	57	62	78	79
Other ⁵	590	869	126	217	348	493	116	160	338	489	252	381

¹ Includes some persons who are not asked if they want a job.

² Persons who had a job in the prior 12 months must have searched since the end of that job.

³ Persons who have searched for work in the previous year and are available to work now also are referred to as "marginally attached to the labor force"

⁴ Includes believes no work available, could not find work, lacks necessary

schooling or training, employer thinks too young or old, and other types of discrimination.

⁵ Includes those who did not actively look for work in the prior 4 weeks for such reasons as child-care and transportation problems, as well as a small number for which reason for nonparticipation was not ascertained.

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