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VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES—2009

Both the **number of volunteers** and the **volunteer rate** rose over the year ended in September 2009, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. About 63.4 million people, or 26.8 percent of the population, volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2008 and September 2009. In 2008, the volunteer rate was 26.4 percent.

These data on volunteering were collected through a supplement to the September 2009 Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. 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. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note.

Volunteering Among Demographic Groups

The volunteer rate of **women** increased from 29.4 percent in 2008 to 30.1 percent in 2009, while the volunteer rate for **men**, at 23.3 percent, was essentially unchanged. As in previous years, women volunteered at a higher rate than did men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major demographic characteristics. (See tables A and 1.)

By **age**, 35- to 44-year olds and 45- to 54-year olds were the most likely to volunteer. Their volunteer rates were 31.5 percent and 30.8 percent, respectively, in 2009. Volunteer rates were lowest among persons in their early twenties (18.8 percent) and those age 65 and over (23.9 percent).

Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (28.3 percent) than did blacks (20.2 percent), Asians (19.0 percent), and Hispanics (14.7 percent). Of these groups, the volunteer rate of blacks and whites rose in 2009. Among blacks it rose by 1.1 percentage points, driven by an increase in the volunteer rate of black women.

Volunteer rates were higher among **married persons** (32.3 percent) than those who had never married (20.6 percent) and those with other marital statuses (21.5 percent). **Parents** with children under age 18 were substantially more likely to volunteer than were persons without children under 18 years of age, 34.4 percent compared with 23.9 percent.

Individuals with higher levels of **educational attainment** were more likely to volunteer than were those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, 42.8 percent of college graduates volunteered,

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2005 through September 2009

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	September 2005		September 2006		September 2007		September 2008		September 2009	
	Number	Percent of population								
Sex										
Total, both sexes	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4	63,361	26.8
Men	27,370	25.0	25,546	23.0	25,724	22.9	26,268	23.2	26,655	23.3
Women	37,987	32.4	35,653	30.1	35,114	29.3	35,535	29.4	36,706	30.1
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4	63,361	26.8
16 to 24 years	8,955	24.4	8,044	21.7	7,798	20.8	8,239	21.9	8,290	22.0
25 to 34 years	9,881	25.3	9,096	23.1	9,019	22.6	9,154	22.8	9,511	23.5
35 to 44 years	14,809	34.5	13,308	31.2	12,902	30.5	13,016	31.3	12,835	31.5
45 to 54 years	13,826	32.7	13,415	31.2	13,136	30.1	13,189	29.9	13,703	30.8
55 to 64 years	9,173	30.2	8,819	27.9	9,316	28.4	9,456	28.1	9,894	28.3
65 years and over	8,712	24.8	8,518	23.8	8,667	23.8	8,749	23.5	9,129	23.9
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	56,170	30.4	52,850	28.3	52,586	27.9	53,078	27.9	54,078	28.3
Black or African American	5,879	22.1	5,211	19.2	5,010	18.2	5,325	19.1	5,712	20.2
Asian	2,055	20.7	1,881	18.5	1,887	17.7	2,022	18.7	2,060	19.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,511	15.4	4,212	13.9	4,279	13.5	4,662	14.4	4,873	14.7
Educational attainment ¹										
Less than a high school diploma	2,837	10.0	2,615	9.3	2,394	9.0	2,427	9.4	2,242	8.6
High school graduates, no college ²	12,594	21.2	11,537	19.2	11,379	18.6	10,998	19.1	11,408	18.8
Some college or associate degree	16,452	33.7	15,196	30.9	15,468	30.7	15,519	30.0	15,931	30.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	24,517	45.8	23,808	43.3	23,799	41.8	24,620	42.2	25,490	42.8
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	46,872	31.1	43,579	28.5	43,405	28.1	44,313	28.5	44,833	29.0
Employed	44,894	31.3	41,861	28.7	41,708	28.3	42,131	28.9	41,372	29.7
Full time ⁴	35,225	29.8	32,951	27.3	32,714	26.9	33,344	27.8	32,085	28.7
Part time ⁵	9,669	38.2	8,910	35.5	8,994	35.4	8,788	34.2	9,287	33.7
Unemployed.....	1,978	26.4	1,718	23.8	1,697	23.2	2,181	22.3	3,462	22.9
Not in the labor force.....	18,485	24.4	17,621	23.1	17,433	22.3	17,491	22.2	18,528	22.6

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁴ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁵ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

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. Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point in the year ending in September. See the Technical Note for further information.

compared with 18.8 percent of high school graduates and 8.6 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.

Volunteering By Employment Status

During the year ending in September 2009, 29.7 percent of all employed persons volunteered. By comparison, the volunteer rates of the unemployed (22.9 percent) and those not in the labor force (22.6 percent) were lower. Among the employed, part-time workers were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—33.7 versus 28.7 percent. (See table 1.)

From 2008 to 2009, those employed full time showed a large increase in their volunteer rate—from 27.8 to 28.7 percent. This was led by women employed full time, with an increase of 1.4 percentage points in their volunteer rate. Among men, the largest increase in the volunteer rate was among the unemployed; it rose from 17.0 to 18.2 percent over the year.

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Male volunteers spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities during the period from September 2008 to September 2009, while female volunteers spent a median of 50 hours. Median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a low of 36 hours for those 25 to 34 years old to a high of 90 hours for volunteers age 65 and over. The 20- to 24-year-old group showed the largest over-the-year change in median hours volunteered, decreasing by 8 hours to a median of 40 hours. This followed an increase of 7 hours for this group in 2008. (See table 2.)

Number and Type of Organizations

Most volunteers were involved with either one or two organizations—68.9 and 19.8 percent, respectively. Individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than were those with less education. Parents with children under age 18 also were somewhat more likely to volunteer for more than one organization than were persons without children under 18. (See table 3.)

In 2009, the **main organization**—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—was most frequently religious (34.0 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational or youth service related (26.1 percent). Another 13.9 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer mainly for religious organizations than were their younger counterparts. For example, 44.8 percent of volunteers age 65 and over did their service mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 28.6 percent of volunteers age 16 to 24.

The type of main organization for which individuals volunteered also varied by educational attainment. Volunteering mainly for religious organizations decreased as educational attainment increased, from 47.1 percent of volunteers with less than a high school diploma to 31.3 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher. Volunteering primarily for sport, hobby, cultural, or arts organizations increased with educational attainment. Of volunteers with less than a high school diploma, 0.9 percent volunteered mainly for this type of organization, compared with 4.2 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher.

Among volunteers with children under 18 years old, 47.4 percent of mothers and 38.9 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational or youth service organization, such as a school or scouting group. Parents were more than twice as likely to volunteer for such organizations as persons with no children of that age. Conversely, volunteers without children under 18 were considerably more likely than parents to volunteer for other types of organizations, such as hospitals or other health organizations and social or community service organizations.

Main Volunteer Activity for Main Organization

The main activity volunteers performed for their main organization was most frequently fundraising (11.3 percent), followed by collecting, preparing, distributing, or serving food (10.3 percent). Men and women often engaged in different main activities. Men who volunteered were most likely to engage in general labor (12.4 percent); coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (9.4 percent); provide professional or management assistance (9.4 percent); or fundraise (9.4 percent). Female volunteers were most likely to fundraise (12.6 percent); collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food (11.8 percent); or tutor or teach (11.0 percent). (See table 5.)

Educational attainment influenced the types of activities volunteers performed. College graduates were more likely than those with less education to provide professional or management assistance or to tutor or teach. They were much less likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food or engage in general labor.

Parents with children under age 18 were considerably more likely than persons without children to engage in some types of volunteer activities that are frequently related to children—including coaching, refereeing, or supervising sports teams; tutoring or teaching; and mentoring youth.

How Volunteers Became Involved with Main Organization

About 44.0 percent of volunteers became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization. A slightly smaller proportion, 40.9 percent, became involved on their own initiative; that is, they approached the organization. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The data in this release were collected through a supplement to the September 2009 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; Federal Relay Service: (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.

A full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and for information on estimating standard errors is available at www.bls.gov/cps/eetech_methods.pdf.

The Census Bureau introduces adjustments to the population controls for the CPS as part of its annual update of population estimates. For this reason, the data for 2009 presented in this release are not strictly comparable with data for 2008 and earlier years. For a discussion of the introduction of the revised population controls and the impact of their introduction on CPS data, see "Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2009," available at www.bls.gov/cps/cps09adj.pdf.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September 2009 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 on behalf of the entire household.) 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 68 percent 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. This is the same method of identifying volunteers as was used in each of the seven prior supplements.

Respondents 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, the type of activities they performed for the main organization, and what their main activity was.

The reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2008, through the survey week in September 2009. The reference period for other characteristics—such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status—refer to the survey reference week in September 2009. It is possible that these

characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed

One new question was added to the 2008 survey to determine whether or not respondents had donated money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations in the past 12 months. Two questions asked in the 2007 supplement were removed in 2008. These questions asked how often respondents who had attended public meetings or who had worked with others in their neighborhood to fix a problem did so.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point from September 1, 2008, through the survey period in September 2009. 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 taught acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer. However, a woman who, on her own, organized 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 grouped into eight major categories, including religious, youth, and social or community service organizations.

In the 2005 survey, one organization category, immigrant/refugee assistance, was added to the questionnaire as a possible response. Responses that were collected in this category may have been distributed over at least six of the major organization categories in previous years. For this

reason, the addition of the new response category created a break in the comparability of organizations between 2005 and prior years. Because few people reported volunteering for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations and because the group was not a definite subset of any of the major organization categories, those persons who did report that they volunteered for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations were placed in the "other" group.

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 provided 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 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.

Activities are the specific tasks the volunteer did for an organization. Examples include tutoring, fundraising, and serving food. The activity categories were modified in 2005, thus creating a break in the comparability of activities between 2005 and prior years.

In 2006, a new question was added that asked respondents on which of the activities they mentioned they spent the most time. Previously, respondents reported all of the activities they did for their main organization. The new question identified which of them was the main activity for the main organization.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2009

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2009	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	236,322	63,361	26.8	114,411	26,655	23.3	121,911	36,706	30.1
16 to 24 years	37,606	8,290	22.0	18,944	3,709	19.6	18,661	4,581	24.6
16 to 19 years	17,020	4,429	26.0	8,631	2,042	23.7	8,389	2,387	28.5
20 to 24 years	20,586	3,861	18.8	10,314	1,666	16.2	10,272	2,194	21.4
25 years and over	198,717	55,071	27.7	95,467	22,946	24.0	103,250	32,125	31.1
25 to 34 years	40,388	9,511	23.5	20,229	3,921	19.4	20,159	5,590	27.7
35 to 44 years	40,799	12,835	31.5	20,143	5,318	26.4	20,655	7,517	36.4
45 to 54 years	44,436	13,703	30.8	21,776	5,772	26.5	22,660	7,931	35.0
55 to 64 years	34,937	9,894	28.3	16,830	4,182	24.8	18,107	5,712	31.5
65 years and over	38,157	9,129	23.9	16,488	3,754	22.8	21,669	5,375	24.8
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	191,244	54,078	28.3	93,619	23,034	24.6	97,625	31,044	31.8
Black or African American	28,330	5,712	20.2	12,750	2,158	16.9	15,580	3,554	22.8
Asian	10,825	2,060	19.0	5,171	851	16.5	5,654	1,209	21.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	33,110	4,873	14.7	17,013	2,033	11.9	16,097	2,841	17.6
Educational attainment ¹									
Less than a high school diploma	26,112	2,242	8.6	12,953	858	6.6	13,159	1,384	10.5
High school graduates, no college ²	60,741	11,408	18.8	29,514	4,716	16.0	31,227	6,692	21.4
Some college or associate degree	52,270	15,931	30.5	23,702	5,934	25.0	28,568	9,997	35.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	59,594	25,490	42.8	29,298	11,438	39.0	30,296	14,052	46.4
Marital status									
Single, never married	68,156	14,064	20.6	36,532	6,379	17.5	31,624	7,684	24.3
Married, spouse present	121,856	39,348	32.3	61,509	17,526	28.5	60,347	21,822	36.2
Other marital status ⁴	46,311	9,949	21.5	16,370	2,750	16.8	29,941	7,200	24.0
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵									
Without own children under 18	171,608	41,081	23.9	85,860	17,864	20.8	85,748	23,217	27.1
With own children under 18	64,714	22,280	34.4	28,551	8,791	30.8	36,163	13,489	37.3
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	154,480	44,833	29.0	82,334	20,611	25.0	72,146	24,222	33.6
Employed	139,389	41,372	29.7	73,730	19,048	25.8	65,660	22,324	34.0
Full time ⁶	111,795	32,085	28.7	63,798	16,531	25.9	47,997	15,554	32.4
Part time ⁷	27,594	9,287	33.7	9,931	2,517	25.3	17,663	6,769	38.3
Unemployed	15,091	3,462	22.9	8,604	1,563	18.2	6,486	1,899	29.3
Not in the labor force	81,842	18,528	22.6	32,077	6,044	18.8	49,765	12,484	25.1

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2008, through the survey period in September 2009. 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.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2009

Characteristics in September 2009	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	63,361	100.0	21.1	25.5	15.3	27.5	5.7	5.0	50
Men	26,655	100.0	20.3	25.7	15.0	27.4	6.3	5.4	52
Women	36,706	100.0	21.7	25.3	15.5	27.6	5.2	4.7	50
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	63,361	100.0	21.1	25.5	15.3	27.5	5.7	5.0	50
16 to 24 years	8,290	100.0	23.4	28.9	15.1	22.4	3.9	6.4	40
16 to 19 years	4,429	100.0	21.9	30.5	16.6	22.1	2.5	6.5	40
20 to 24 years	3,861	100.0	25.2	27.0	13.4	22.8	5.4	6.3	40
25 years and over	55,071	100.0	20.7	24.9	15.3	28.3	5.9	4.8	52
25 to 34 years	9,511	100.0	27.5	26.6	14.1	22.4	4.1	5.4	36
35 to 44 years	12,835	100.0	23.2	26.7	16.0	25.3	4.6	4.2	48
45 to 54 years	13,703	100.0	19.5	26.5	15.8	28.2	5.7	4.2	52
55 to 64 years	9,894	100.0	19.0	22.7	15.9	30.5	6.9	5.0	60
65 years and over	9,129	100.0	13.9	20.9	14.2	36.3	9.0	5.7	90
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	54,078	100.0	20.9	25.6	15.5	27.7	5.6	4.8	50
Black or African American	5,712	100.0	21.1	24.0	14.0	27.2	6.5	7.2	52
Asian	2,060	100.0	25.2	26.6	14.1	25.6	3.8	4.8	40
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,873	100.0	24.5	24.9	13.4	24.2	6.3	6.8	42
Educational attainment ²									
Less than a high school diploma	2,242	100.0	26.3	23.4	10.6	25.1	8.2	6.3	45
High school graduates, no college ³	11,408	100.0	22.7	24.6	14.0	27.1	5.7	5.9	48
Some college or associate degree	15,931	100.0	21.8	25.5	14.8	27.5	5.9	4.4	50
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	25,490	100.0	18.6	24.9	16.6	29.6	5.8	4.4	54
Marital status									
Single, never married	14,064	100.0	24.4	27.7	14.8	22.5	4.3	6.3	40
Married, spouse present	39,348	100.0	20.0	25.0	15.7	28.9	5.8	4.5	52
Other marital status ⁵	9,949	100.0	20.5	24.3	14.2	29.0	7.0	5.1	52
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	17,864	100.0	19.8	25.6	14.5	27.3	6.8	6.0	52
With own children under 18 years old	8,791	100.0	21.3	25.9	15.9	27.4	5.2	4.2	50
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	23,217	100.0	20.2	24.8	15.1	28.9	5.7	5.3	52
With own children under 18 years old	13,489	100.0	24.2	26.1	16.3	25.4	4.3	3.7	45
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	44,833	100.0	22.6	26.6	15.5	25.7	4.9	4.7	48
Employed	41,372	100.0	22.6	26.8	15.6	25.8	4.7	4.6	48
Full time ⁷	32,085	100.0	23.3	27.0	15.3	25.3	4.4	4.7	45
Part time ⁸	9,287	100.0	20.2	25.9	16.5	27.5	5.8	4.2	52
Unemployed	3,462	100.0	22.3	25.0	14.7	25.3	6.7	6.1	48
Not in the labor force	18,528	100.0	17.4	22.6	14.8	31.8	7.6	5.7	63

¹ For those reporting annual hours.
² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
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, 2008, through the survey period in September 2009. 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.

Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2009

Characteristics in September 2009	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	63,361	100.0	68.9	19.8	7.3	2.3	1.4	0.3
Men	26,655	100.0	70.0	19.4	6.8	2.2	1.3	.3
Women	36,706	100.0	68.1	20.1	7.6	2.4	1.4	.3
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	63,361	100.0	68.9	19.8	7.3	2.3	1.4	.3
16 to 24 years	8,290	100.0	74.0	18.1	4.7	1.5	.8	.8
16 to 19 years	4,429	100.0	69.4	20.9	5.6	2.0	1.3	.7
20 to 24 years	3,861	100.0	79.2	15.0	3.7	1.0	.3	.8
25 years and over	55,071	100.0	68.1	20.0	7.7	2.4	1.5	.3
25 to 34 years	9,511	100.0	74.0	17.4	5.7	1.6	1.0	.4
35 to 44 years	12,835	100.0	65.9	21.7	8.1	2.4	1.6	.3
45 to 54 years	13,703	100.0	66.9	20.3	8.4	2.6	1.6	.2
55 to 64 years	9,894	100.0	67.3	20.3	8.1	2.4	1.6	.3
65 years and over	9,129	100.0	67.9	19.7	7.5	3.2	1.5	.1
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
White	54,078	100.0	67.9	20.3	7.6	2.4	1.5	.3
Black or African American	5,712	100.0	75.4	16.0	4.9	1.7	1.1	.9
Asian	2,060	100.0	78.4	15.4	4.6	.7	.5	.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,873	100.0	79.9	14.4	3.6	.8	.6	.6
Educational attainment ¹								
Less than a high school diploma	2,242	100.0	87.4	9.9	1.6	.6	.5	.1
High school graduates, no college ²	11,408	100.0	77.6	16.0	4.2	1.4	.5	.4
Some college or associate degree	15,931	100.0	70.2	19.6	6.8	2.0	1.2	.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	25,490	100.0	60.9	23.0	10.3	3.3	2.2	.2
Marital status								
Single, never married	14,064	100.0	72.1	19.1	5.6	1.7	.9	.6
Married, spouse present	39,348	100.0	67.5	20.1	8.0	2.5	1.6	.2
Other marital status ⁴	9,949	100.0	69.8	19.4	6.7	2.4	1.3	.2
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	17,864	100.0	71.3	18.3	6.6	2.2	1.2	.4
With own children under 18 years old	8,791	100.0	67.4	21.5	7.2	2.2	1.5	.3
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	23,217	100.0	69.1	19.7	7.0	2.4	1.4	.4
With own children under 18 years old	13,489	100.0	66.4	20.8	8.6	2.4	1.6	.2
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	44,833	100.0	68.6	20.0	7.3	2.3	1.4	.3
Employed	41,372	100.0	68.2	20.3	7.4	2.4	1.4	.3
Full time ⁶	32,085	100.0	68.6	20.0	7.3	2.4	1.4	.3
Part time ⁷	9,287	100.0	66.4	21.5	7.5	2.5	1.7	.4
Unemployed	3,462	100.0	73.8	16.4	6.9	1.5	1.2	.2
Not in the labor force	18,528	100.0	69.7	19.2	7.1	2.3	1.3	.4

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
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, 2008, through the survey period in September 2009. 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. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2009

Characteristics in September 2009	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	63,361	100.0	5.5	26.1	2.2	8.5	1.2	34.0	13.9	3.4	3.4	1.9
Men	26,655	100.0	6.7	24.2	2.1	6.7	2.0	33.7	14.9	4.0	3.6	2.1
Women	36,706	100.0	4.6	27.5	2.3	9.7	.6	34.2	13.2	2.9	3.2	1.7
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	63,361	100.0	5.5	26.1	2.2	8.5	1.2	34.0	13.9	3.4	3.4	1.9
16 to 24 years	8,290	100.0	4.2	30.1	2.6	9.9	1.9	28.6	15.0	2.8	2.7	2.3
16 to 19 years	4,429	100.0	4.0	33.5	2.4	8.1	.8	29.7	14.2	2.4	2.3	2.5
20 to 24 years	3,861	100.0	4.3	26.1	2.9	11.8	3.2	27.4	16.0	3.2	3.1	2.0
25 years and over	55,071	100.0	5.6	25.5	2.1	8.2	1.1	34.8	13.8	3.5	3.5	1.8
25 to 34 years	9,511	100.0	4.9	32.0	2.1	8.6	1.2	27.5	14.2	3.3	3.7	2.4
35 to 44 years	12,835	100.0	4.0	40.2	2.0	6.5	1.1	27.7	10.6	3.4	2.8	1.8
45 to 54 years	13,703	100.0	5.4	27.4	2.3	7.8	.9	35.9	12.6	3.3	3.2	1.3
55 to 64 years	9,894	100.0	7.1	14.3	2.5	9.1	1.2	40.4	15.3	3.9	4.4	1.9
65 years and over	9,129	100.0	7.5	7.5	1.9	10.1	1.0	44.8	18.0	3.6	3.7	2.0
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	54,078	100.0	5.5	26.0	2.5	8.8	1.3	33.2	14.1	3.5	3.4	1.8
Black or African American	5,712	100.0	5.2	23.2	.1	6.0	.4	43.9	13.5	1.8	3.1	2.8
Asian	2,060	100.0	3.6	33.3	1.0	7.8	.1	32.2	12.5	4.7	3.6	1.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,873	100.0	3.4	34.1	.9	6.1	.7	36.0	10.9	2.3	3.3	2.5
Educational attainment ²												
Less than a high school diploma	2,242	100.0	3.1	24.2	1.4	4.6	1.5	47.1	11.7	.9	4.0	1.5
High school graduates, no college ³	11,408	100.0	5.4	22.7	1.2	7.7	1.4	40.4	13.9	2.4	3.0	1.8
Some college or associate degree	15,931	100.0	5.1	25.6	2.2	9.0	1.4	34.7	13.1	3.4	3.9	1.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	25,490	100.0	6.3	26.8	2.6	8.4	.7	31.3	14.3	4.2	3.5	2.0
Marital status												
Single, never married	14,064	100.0	5.9	26.5	3.0	10.6	1.3	26.0	16.6	3.6	4.0	2.6
Married, spouse present	39,348	100.0	5.2	27.4	1.8	7.0	1.2	37.3	12.3	3.3	3.0	1.6
Other marital status ⁵	9,949	100.0	5.9	20.2	2.7	11.4	.9	32.5	16.5	3.5	4.2	2.1
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	17,864	100.0	7.9	16.9	2.5	8.2	2.1	34.6	17.3	3.9	4.3	2.3
With own children under 18 years old	8,791	100.0	4.2	38.9	1.2	3.9	1.7	32.0	10.2	4.2	2.2	1.6
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	23,217	100.0	5.5	16.0	3.0	12.1	.7	37.3	16.1	3.6	3.8	2.1
With own children under 18 years old	13,489	100.0	2.9	47.4	1.1	5.6	.5	29.0	8.3	1.8	2.3	1.1
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	44,833	100.0	5.5	27.8	2.3	8.4	1.3	32.4	13.4	3.7	3.4	1.8
Employed	41,372	100.0	5.6	27.6	2.3	8.4	1.4	32.5	13.3	3.7	3.4	1.8
Full time ⁷	32,085	100.0	5.9	27.2	2.4	8.7	1.5	31.5	13.8	3.7	3.4	1.9
Part time ⁸	9,287	100.0	4.4	29.0	2.0	7.4	.9	35.9	11.8	3.7	3.4	1.5
Unemployed	3,462	100.0	4.8	30.3	2.3	7.7	1.3	31.4	13.5	3.5	3.3	1.9
Not in the labor force	18,528	100.0	5.3	22.0	1.9	8.7	.8	37.8	15.4	2.7	3.3	2.0

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 persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2008, through the survey period in September 2009. 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.

Table 5. Main volunteer activity for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2009

Characteristics in September 2009	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of main volunteer activity for main organization ¹													
		Coach, referee, or supervise sports teams	Tutor or teach	Mentor youth	Be an usher, greeter, or minister	Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food	Fundraise or sell items to raise money	Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	Provide general office services	Provide professional or management assistance, including serving on a board or committee	Engage in music, performance, or other artistic activities	Engage in general labor; supply transportation to people	Other	Equal time among all
Sex															
Total, both sexes	63,361	5.5	9.4	6.0	4.4	10.3	3.5	11.3	2.7	4.9	7.7	4.3	8.6	13.4	8.0
Men	26,655	9.4	7.3	5.7	5.6	8.2	2.1	9.4	3.1	2.8	9.4	4.1	12.4	13.1	7.3
Women	36,706	2.6	11.0	6.2	3.6	11.8	4.5	12.6	2.5	6.5	6.4	4.4	5.8	13.6	8.5
Age															
Total, 16 years and over	63,361	5.5	9.4	6.0	4.4	10.3	3.5	11.3	2.7	4.9	7.7	4.3	8.6	13.4	8.0
16 to 24 years	8,290	5.7	9.8	9.9	2.6	8.7	3.4	11.0	2.9	4.2	1.3	6.4	11.8	13.9	8.4
16 to 19 years	4,429	5.4	9.4	8.1	2.1	9.5	3.3	11.5	1.3	3.4	.9	7.3	13.9	14.5	9.3
20 to 24 years	3,861	6.0	10.3	12.0	3.1	7.7	3.5	10.4	4.8	5.3	1.8	5.3	9.3	13.3	7.3
25 years and over	55,071	5.4	9.4	5.4	4.7	10.5	3.5	11.3	2.7	5.0	8.7	4.0	8.1	13.3	8.0
25 to 34 years	9,511	7.4	12.0	8.0	3.0	8.6	3.0	11.3	3.3	4.3	5.6	4.1	8.1	13.7	7.6
35 to 44 years	12,835	9.3	10.7	7.5	3.1	9.3	3.0	11.7	2.3	4.6	7.1	3.5	8.4	12.1	7.4
45 to 54 years	13,703	5.8	9.1	4.8	5.1	10.7	3.3	12.8	3.0	4.2	8.6	3.4	8.0	12.9	8.1
55 to 64 years	9,894	2.3	8.6	4.1	6.1	10.2	3.5	11.4	2.5	5.2	12.0	4.6	7.7	13.5	8.3
65 years and over	9,129	.6	5.9	1.8	6.9	14.4	5.2	8.2	2.6	7.5	10.5	4.6	8.3	15.0	8.5
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity															
White	54,078	5.6	9.4	5.7	4.2	10.0	3.5	11.7	2.7	4.8	8.2	4.1	9.0	13.1	7.8
Black or African American	5,712	5.3	9.4	8.7	6.7	12.0	3.9	7.6	2.7	4.7	4.3	5.6	5.7	14.1	9.3
Asian	2,060	3.0	11.6	4.3	4.5	12.7	2.0	9.0	3.6	6.9	6.3	5.5	6.2	16.0	8.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,873	6.2	10.0	6.9	6.5	10.7	3.6	10.0	2.4	4.4	3.2	3.9	7.9	16.4	8.0
Educational attainment ²															
Less than a high school diploma	2,242	2.7	5.8	3.7	7.4	17.7	4.4	8.2	2.4	3.1	2.0	3.8	13.6	17.3	8.1
High school graduates, no college ³	11,408	5.8	6.5	3.9	6.1	14.3	5.0	10.9	2.1	4.9	4.0	3.7	10.9	13.8	8.1
Some college or associate degree	15,931	5.5	9.6	5.8	4.2	11.3	3.4	11.9	2.7	5.4	6.4	4.0	8.0	13.9	7.8
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	25,490	5.4	10.8	5.9	4.2	7.7	2.9	11.3	3.0	5.0	12.7	4.1	6.4	12.3	8.0
Marital status															
Single, never married	14,064	5.2	8.6	8.0	2.8	9.4	3.3	11.4	3.2	4.6	4.1	5.5	11.1	15.0	7.7
Married, spouse present	39,348	6.1	10.4	5.5	5.0	10.3	3.2	11.3	2.4	4.7	9.1	3.9	7.8	12.3	8.0
Other marital status ⁵	9,949	3.4	6.8	4.8	4.6	11.5	5.3	10.9	3.3	6.3	7.1	4.2	8.2	15.4	8.3
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶															
Men:															
No own children under 18 years old	17,864	5.1	6.6	4.8	6.1	9.3	2.3	9.4	3.1	3.2	10.0	4.8	13.7	14.4	7.2
With own children under 18 years old ..	8,791	18.2	8.7	7.5	4.6	6.0	1.8	9.4	2.9	2.0	8.4	2.6	9.9	10.5	7.5
Women:															
No own children under 18 years old	23,217	1.7	8.8	5.2	4.2	12.5	5.0	11.7	2.9	6.7	6.8	5.1	6.3	14.6	8.5
With own children under 18 years old ..	13,489	4.1	14.6	7.8	2.6	10.6	3.7	14.1	1.9	6.0	5.8	3.4	5.0	12.0	8.6
Employment status															
Civilian labor force	44,833	6.7	9.3	6.5	4.4	9.3	3.1	12.2	3.0	4.0	8.4	4.1	8.7	12.5	7.8
Employed	41,372	6.8	9.2	6.5	4.3	9.3	3.0	12.5	3.1	3.8	8.7	4.1	8.4	12.4	7.9
Full time ⁷	32,085	7.8	8.4	6.2	4.4	8.8	2.9	12.8	3.2	3.6	9.3	3.9	8.5	12.5	7.6
Part time ⁸	9,287	3.3	11.8	7.6	3.9	11.2	3.2	11.4	2.6	4.6	6.6	4.8	8.1	12.1	9.0
Unemployed	3,462	5.5	10.3	6.0	5.1	9.8	4.1	8.5	2.5	5.8	5.0	4.5	11.9	13.8	7.3
Not in the labor force	18,528	2.4	9.8	4.8	4.6	12.6	4.6	9.0	2.1	7.2	6.0	4.7	8.3	15.6	8.4

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 Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2008, through the survey period in September 2009. 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.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2009

Characteristics in September 2009	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization ¹								
		Total	Approached the organization	Was asked by:					Other	Not reporting how became involved
				Total ²	Boss or employer	Relative, friend, or co-worker	Someone in the organization/school	Someone else		
Sex										
Total, both sexes	63,361	100.0	40.9	44.0	1.7	14.8	26.0	1.2	12.3	2.8
Men	26,655	100.0	39.5	45.3	1.9	16.3	25.8	1.2	12.1	3.1
Women	36,706	100.0	41.8	43.0	1.6	13.7	26.2	1.3	12.5	2.7
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	63,361	100.0	40.9	44.0	1.7	14.8	26.0	1.2	12.3	2.8
16 to 24 years	8,290	100.0	39.1	43.1	1.7	16.4	23.0	1.8	14.0	3.8
16 to 19 years	4,429	100.0	39.3	42.9	.7	15.1	24.9	2.1	14.2	3.6
20 to 24 years	3,861	100.0	39.0	43.3	2.9	18.0	20.9	1.5	13.7	3.9
25 years and over	55,071	100.0	41.1	44.1	1.7	14.6	26.5	1.2	12.1	2.7
25 to 34 years	9,511	100.0	40.8	44.5	3.2	16.4	23.5	1.3	11.8	2.8
35 to 44 years	12,835	100.0	40.3	45.8	1.9	12.8	30.1	.9	11.3	2.6
45 to 54 years	13,703	100.0	40.7	43.7	1.5	14.7	26.3	1.0	13.0	2.6
55 to 64 years	9,894	100.0	41.0	42.7	1.4	14.8	25.0	1.2	13.3	3.0
65 years and over	9,129	100.0	43.3	43.5	.5	14.7	26.3	1.6	10.8	2.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	54,078	100.0	41.1	44.1	1.7	14.9	26.1	1.2	12.1	2.7
Black or African American	5,712	100.0	38.4	43.9	2.0	14.8	25.5	1.1	13.1	4.5
Asian	2,060	100.0	41.8	42.0	2.1	13.5	25.0	1.1	13.9	2.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,873	100.0	44.0	40.7	1.4	13.2	25.4	.8	11.7	3.6
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma	2,242	100.0	42.7	44.8	.8	14.9	27.3	1.3	10.5	2.0
High school graduates, no college ⁴	11,408	100.0	39.9	45.1	1.4	15.4	26.9	1.0	12.4	2.6
Some college or associate degree	15,931	100.0	41.2	43.9	1.5	15.3	25.8	1.1	12.4	2.6
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁵	25,490	100.0	41.4	43.8	2.0	13.8	26.6	1.3	11.9	2.9
Marital status										
Single, never married	14,064	100.0	39.6	43.3	2.0	17.5	22.2	1.4	13.2	3.8
Married, spouse present	39,348	100.0	40.8	44.7	1.5	13.8	28.1	1.1	11.9	2.5
Other marital status ⁶	9,949	100.0	42.7	42.0	1.8	15.2	23.1	1.7	12.7	2.6
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	17,864	100.0	39.4	44.7	1.8	17.6	23.9	1.2	12.5	3.4
With own children under 18 years old	8,791	100.0	39.7	46.6	2.1	13.7	29.6	1.1	11.3	2.4
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	23,217	100.0	42.4	41.6	1.7	15.5	22.8	1.4	13.0	3.0
With own children under 18 years old	13,489	100.0	40.9	45.3	1.4	10.7	32.1	1.0	11.7	2.1
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	44,833	100.0	40.1	44.7	2.3	15.3	25.8	1.1	12.3	2.8
Employed	41,372	100.0	40.0	44.9	2.3	15.3	26.1	1.1	12.3	2.8
Full time ⁸	32,085	100.0	39.6	45.2	2.8	15.5	25.7	1.1	12.3	2.9
Part time ⁹	9,287	100.0	41.2	44.1	.9	14.3	27.4	1.3	12.3	2.5
Unemployed	3,462	100.0	42.0	42.1	1.3	16.2	22.8	1.6	12.3	3.5
Not in the labor force	18,528	100.0	42.6	42.2	.3	13.6	26.5	1.5	12.4	2.9

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 persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2008, through the survey period in September 2009. 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.