

APPENDIX A.

Table A-1.

Unemployment Spells by Sex, Age, Educational Attainment, Race, Hispanic Origin, Receipt of Unemployment Compensation, and Year Spell Started: 2004-2007

Characteristic	Total number of unemployed workers (thousands)	90 percent C.I.(+/-)* (thousands)	Total number of spells of unemployment (thousands)	90 percent C.I.(+/-)* (thousands)	Mean number of spells per unemployed worker	90 percent C.I.(+/-)*	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	90 percent C.I.(+/-)*
Total	42,951	1177	66,359	1113	1.5	0.03	1.8	0.12
Sex								
Men	19,871	813	31,205	792	1.6	0.04	1.8	0.16
Women	23,081	868	35,154	782	1.5	0.03	1.8	0.16
Age at start of spell								
20 years and over	33,427	1062	49,831	933	1.5	0.03	2.1	0.16
25 years and over	26,175	955	38,712	818	1.5	0.03	2.2	0.17
16 to 19 years	10,665	631	16,528	532	1.5	0.05	1.0	0.07
Men	5,279	449	8,651	407	1.6	0.08	1.0	0.10
Women	5,386	453	7,876	338	1.5	0.06	0.9	0.08
20 to 24 years	7,856	544	11,119	421	1.4	0.05	1.4	0.31
Men	3,748	379	5,201	289	1.4	0.08	1.5	0.43
Women	4,107	397	5,918	306	1.4	0.07	1.2	0.46
25 to 34 years	9,036	582	13,454	480	1.5	0.05	2.0	0.28
Men	3,957	389	6,064	339	1.5	0.09	2.1	0.51
Women	5,079	440	7,391	339	1.5	0.07	2.0	0.28
35 to 44 years	7,824	543	11,056	407	1.4	0.05	2.4	0.33
Men	3,143	348	4,522	292	1.4	0.09	2.2	0.43
Women	4,680	423	6,535	284	1.4	0.06	2.5	0.49
45 to 54 years	5,937	475	8,435	366	1.4	0.06	2.5	0.36
Men	2,676	321	3,766	255	1.4	0.10	2.6	0.56
Women	3,261	354	4,669	262	1.4	0.08	2.3	0.48
55 years and over	4,287	405	5,766	311	1.3	0.07	2.3	0.39
Men	2,268	296	3,002	209	1.3	0.09	2.1	0.58
Women	2,019	279	2,765	230	1.4	0.11	2.4	0.54
Educational attainment at start of spell (people 21 years and older)								
Less than high school graduate	3,651	374	5,719	333	1.6	0.09	2.6	0.51
High school graduate	9,762	604	14,695	515	1.5	0.05	2.4	0.28
At least some college	18,951	826	26,874	646	1.4	0.03	1.9	0.15
Race/ethnicity								
White alone	32,445	1049	48,989	924	1.5	0.03	1.7	0.13
Men	15,310	727	23,412	654	1.5	0.04	1.8	0.18
Women	17,135	767	25,576	652	1.5	0.04	1.6	0.18
White alone, non-Hispanic	25,788	949	38,527	816	1.5	0.03	1.6	0.13
Men	12,176	657	18,321	572	1.5	0.05	1.6	0.20
Women	13,612	693	20,206	582	1.5	0.04	1.6	0.20
Black alone	6,878	508	11,789	547	1.7	0.08	2.1	0.44
Men	2,938	342	5,158	383	1.8	0.13	1.8	0.44
Women	3,940	390	6,632	390	1.7	0.10	2.4	0.56
Asian alone	1,741	259	2,357	182	1.4	0.10	2.1	0.66
Men	694	164	1,048	133	1.5	0.19	2.5	1.05
Women	1,046	201	1,309	119	1.3	0.11	1.8	0.87

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-1.

Unemployment Spells by Sex, Age, Educational Attainment, Race, Hispanic Origin, Receipt of Unemployment Compensation, and Year Spell Started: 2004–2007—Con.

Characteristic	Total number of unemployed workers (thousands)	90 percent C.I.(+/-)* (thousands)	Total number of spells of unemployment (thousands)	90 percent C.I.(+/-)* (thousands)	Mean number of spells per unemployed worker	90 percent C.I.(+/-)*	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	90 percent C.I.(+/-)*
Hispanic origin (any race)	7,245	523	11,498	451	1.6	0.06	2.2	0.31
Men	3,359	357	5,461	323	1.6	0.10	2.3	0.39
Women	3,886	384	6,038	315	1.6	0.08	2.0	0.49
Unemployment compensation (people 25 years and older)								
Received unemployment compensation	6,406	493	7,692	234	1.2	0.04	2.8	0.25
Did not receive unemployment compensation	21,624	877	31,021	703	1.4	0.03	2.1	0.20
Year spell started								
2004	19,357	834	22,264	333	1.2	0.02	1.1	0.20
2005	15,487	752	17,367	265	1.1	0.02	1.9	0.15
2006	13,335	701	14,848	247	1.1	0.02	1.9	0.16
2007	11,008	640	11,880	191	1.1	0.02	2.6	0.25

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding and because not all categories are shown. * A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For more information, see "Uses and Computation of Standard Errors" at <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12\(S&A-9\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12(S&A-9).pdf)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 panel, January 2004 to December 2007.

Table A-2.

Median Length of Unemployment Spells by Sex, Age, Educational Attainment, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Year Spell Started: 2001–2003 and 2004–2006

Characteristic	2001–2003		2004–2006	
	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	Standard error	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	Standard error
Total	2.4	0.08	1.7	0.07
Sex				
Men	2.6	0.11	1.6	0.10
Women	2.2	0.10	1.7	0.10
Age at start of spell				
16 to 19 years	1.8	0.10	0.9	0.04
Men	1.8	0.15	0.9	0.06
Women	1.7	0.13	0.9	0.05
20 to 24 years	2.0	0.17	1.2	0.20
Men	2.4	0.25	1.3	0.27
Women	1.8	0.14	1.1	0.30
25 to 34 years	2.6	0.15	1.9	0.13
Men	2.8	0.24	1.9	0.19
Women	2.5	0.20	1.9	0.18
35 to 44 years	2.6	0.16	2.2	0.21
Men	2.7	0.22	2.1	0.27
Women	2.6	0.22	2.2	0.31
45 to 54 years	3.1	0.15	2.6	0.23
Men	3.3	0.21	2.6	0.35
Women	2.8	0.33	2.5	0.31
55 years and over	2.5	0.27	2.2	0.24
Men	2.6	0.38	2.1	0.33
Women	2.5	0.38	2.3	0.36
Educational attainment at start of spell (people 21 years and older)				
Less than high school graduate	3.1	0.12	2.5	0.31
High school graduate	2.8	0.16	2.3	0.18
At least some college	2.3	0.12	1.8	0.10
Race/ethnicity				
White alone	2.2	0.08	1.6	0.08
Men	2.4	0.13	1.6	0.12
Women	2.0	0.11	1.5	0.12
White alone, non-Hispanic	2.1	0.09	1.5	0.09
Men	2.3	0.14	1.5	0.13
Women	2.0	0.08	1.5	0.12
Black alone	3.0	0.19	1.9	0.20
Men	3.1	0.15	1.6	0.29
Women	2.8	0.25	2.1	0.43
Asian alone	2.9	0.44	1.8	0.37
Men	3.0	0.62	1.9	0.46
Women	2.9	0.62	1.8	0.61

See footnotes at end of table.

Table A-2.

Median Length of Unemployment Spells by Sex, Age, Educational Attainment, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Year Spell Started: 2001–2003 and 2004–2006—Con.

Characteristic	2001–2003		2004–2006	
	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	Standard error	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	Standard error
Hispanic origin (any race)	2.7	0.20	2.0	0.20
Men	2.8	0.29	2.0	0.25
Women	2.5	0.28	1.6	0.31
Year spell started				
First year of period	1.9	0.06	1.1	0.12
Second year of period	2.4	0.09	1.9	0.09
Third year of period	3.0	0.10	2.0	0.10

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding and because not all categories are shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2001 panel, January 2001 to December 2003, and Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 panel, January 2004 to December 2007.

Table A-3.

People 15 Years and Older in the Labor Force by Sex, Age, Educational Attainment, Race, and Hispanic Origin: Monthly Averages, January 2004 to December 2007

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Monthly-average number in labor force	Standard error
Total	148,100	932
Sex		
Men	77,834	692
Women	70,262	718
Age		
Total, 16 years and older	147,580	933
16 to 19 years	7,240	318
20 to 24 years	13,692	432
25 to 34 years	30,486	621
35 to 44 years	35,516	662
45 to 54 years	34,533	654
55 years and over	26,116	580
Educational attainment		
Total, 21 years and older	137,830	944
Less than high school graduate	8,710	348
High school graduate	36,056	666
At least some college	93,062	917
Race/ethnicity		
White alone	122,510	948
White alone, non-Hispanic	105,870	937
Black alone	16,237	467
Asian alone	4,627	256
Hispanic origin (any race)	18,097	492

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding and because not all categories are shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 panel, January 2004 to December 2007.

APPENDIX B.

MEASURING THE EFFECTS OF THE SAMPLE REDUCTION ON MEDIAN SPELL LENGTH

Due to budget constraints, the sample for the SIPP was reduced by about 50 percent beginning with Wave 9 (affecting the data for June 2006 and beyond). The longitudinal estimates analyzed in the body of this report (from 2004 forward) are based exclusively on the responses of the “survivors.” These are sample members who survived the sample reduction and who were interviewed or for whom imputed data exists in all waves of the 2004–2007 period.

For the 25-month period from January 2004 to January 2006 (the period completely covered by the first seven waves of the 2004 SIPP panel), the table in this appendix compares the median length of unemployment spells for the universe of people represented by the survivors with those of the universe represented by the nonsurvivors.²⁰

The differences between the groups in median spell lengths by sex, age at start of spell, and race are shown in the final column of the table. None of these differences was statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level.

²⁰ The period for the first seven waves was chosen for the comparison because it is the longest period before the sample reduction for which longitudinal survey weights are available. “Nonsurvivors” are people who were interviewed (or imputed for) in all of the first seven waves of the survey, but were either dropped by the sample reduction in Wave 9 or not interviewed (or imputed for) in Wave 8 or later.

Table B.

Median Length of Unemployment Spells by Sample-Reduction Status: January 2004 to January 2006

Characteristic	Survivors		Nonsurvivors		Difference in median spell length between survivors and nonsurvivors
	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	Standard error	Median length of spells of unemployment (months)	Standard error	
Total	1.6	0.08	1.6	0.07	–
Sex					
Men	1.6	0.11	1.5	0.10	0.01
Women	1.6	0.13	1.6	0.09	–
Age at start of spell					
16 to 19 years	0.8	0.04	0.8	0.03	–0.04
20 to 24 years	1.0	0.06	1.2	0.15	–0.21
25 to 34 years	2.0	0.14	2.2	0.17	–0.26
35 to 44 years	2.4	0.23	2.2	0.27	0.14
45 to 54 years	2.6	0.22	2.6	0.24	0.01
55 years and older	2.1	0.26	2.0	0.21	0.09
Race/ethnicity					
White alone	1.5	0.10	1.5	0.08	0.03
White alone, non-Hispanic.	1.5	0.10	1.4	0.08	0.03
Black alone	1.7	0.22	1.9	0.16	–0.25
Asian alone	1.9	0.38	1.7	0.33	0.22
Hispanic origin (any race)	1.8	0.22	1.9	0.23	–0.09

– Represents or rounds to zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2004 panel, January 2004 to January 2006.

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