

## Labor Day 2017: Sept. 4

The first observance of Labor Day was likely on Sept. 5, 1882, when some 10,000 workers assembled in New York City for a parade. The parade inspired similar events across the country, and by 1894 more than half the states were observing a “workingmen’s holiday” on one day or another. Later that year, with Congress passing legislation and President Grover Cleveland signing the bill on June 29, the first Monday in September was designated “Labor Day.” This national holiday is a creation of the labor movement in the late 19th century and pays tribute to the social and economic achievements of workers in America.

### Who Are We Celebrating?

#### 159.8 million

The number of people age 16 and over in the nation’s labor force as of May 2017.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table A

[www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf)

### Our Jobs

#### Largest Occupations, May 2016

#### Number of Employees

Retail salespersons	4,528,550
Cashiers	3,541,010
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	3,426,090
Office clerks, general	2,955,550
Registered nurses	2,857,180
Customer service representatives	2,707,040
Laborers and freight, stock and material movers, hand	2,587,900
Waiters and waitresses	2,564,610
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical and executive	2,295,510
General and operations managers	2,188,870

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Largest occupations in the United States, May 2016

[www.bls.gov/oes/2016/may/area\\_emp\\_chart/area\\_emp\\_chart.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2016/may/area_emp_chart/area_emp_chart.htm)

## **16.3 million**

The number of wage and salary workers age 16 and over represented by a union in 2016. This group included both union members (14.6 million) and workers who reported no union affiliation but whose jobs were covered by a union contract (1.7 million). Among states, New York continued to have the highest union membership rate (23.6 percent), and South Carolina had the lowest rate (1.6 percent).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Releases

[www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm)

[www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t05.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t05.htm)

## **15.3 million**

The number of employed female workers age 16 and over in service occupations in 2015. Among male workers age 16 and over, 11.7 million were employed in service-related occupations.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Table C24010

[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/C24010](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/C24010)

## **1.8%**

The percentage increase in employment, or 143.7 million, in the United States between December 2015 and December 2016. In December 2016, the 344 U.S. counties with 75,000 or more jobs accounted for 72.8 percent of total U.S. employment and 78.1 percent of total wages. These 344 counties had a net job growth of 1.4 million over the year, which accounted for 80.7 percent of the overall U.S. employment increase.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Release

[www.bls.gov/news.release/cewqtr.nr0.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cewqtr.nr0.htm)

## **Another Day, Another Dollar**

### **\$51,212 and \$40,742**

The 2015 real median earnings for male and female full-time, year-round workers, respectively. The 2015 real median household income of \$56,516, an increase in real terms of 5.2 percent from the 2014 median of \$53,718. This is the first annual increase in median household income since 2007, the year before the most recent recession.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Income and Poverty in the United States: 2015

[www.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.html](http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.html)

### **\$77,166**

The 2015 median Asian household income, the highest among race groups. The median income of non-Hispanic, white households was \$62,950 and for black households it was \$36,898. For Hispanic households the median income was \$45,148.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Income and Poverty in the United States: 2015

[www.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.html](http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.html)

## Fastest Growing Jobs

**108.0%**

The projected percentage growth from 2014 to 2024 in the number of wind turbine service technicians (4,400 jobs in 2014), the projected fastest-growing occupation. Meanwhile, the occupation expected to add the greatest number of positions over this period is personal care aides (458,100).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table 1.3, Fastest growing occupations, 2014 and projected 2024, and Table 1.4, Occupations with the most job growth, 2014 and projected 2024

[www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_table\\_103.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_103.htm)

[www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_table\\_104.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_104.htm)

## Employee Benefits

**90.1%**

The percentage of full-time, year-round workers ages 19 to 64 covered by health insurance during all or part of 2015.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2015

[www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-257.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-257.pdf)

## Say Goodbye to Summer

Labor Day is celebrated by most workers in America as the symbolic end of the summer and the start of the back-to-school season.

**25,027**

The number of shoe stores for back-to-school shopping in 2015. Also catering to back-to-school needs were 28,910 family clothing stores; 7,885 department stores; 7,185 children and infants' clothing stores; 6,475 office supply and stationery stores; and 6,870 book stores.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 County Business Patterns

<https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/BP/2015/00A1//naics~448130|448140|448210|451211|4521|453210>

**21,890**

The number of sporting goods stores nationwide in 2015. Examples of these types of stores include athletic uniform supply, fishing supply and exercise equipment, as well as bicycle and golf pro shops. In U.S. sports, college football teams usually play their first games the week before Labor Day, with the NFL traditionally playing its first game the Thursday following Labor Day.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 County Business Patterns, NAICS 451110

<https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/BP/2015/00A1//naics~451110>

## **51,045**

The number of travel agents employed full time, year-round in the United States in 2015. In addition, there were 17,915 tour and travel guides employed full time, year-round nationwide. On a weekend intended to give U.S. workers a day of rest, many people climb into their drivers' seats or board an airplane for a quick end of the summer getaway.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Table B24124

[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/B24124](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/B24124)

## **921,654**

The number of paid employees (for the pay period including March 12) who worked for a gasoline station in the United States in 2015. Oregon (11,003 paid gasoline station employees) and New Jersey (18,095 paid gasoline station employees) are the only states without self-service gasoline stations. Oregon was the first state to make Labor Day a holiday in February 1887.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 County Business Patterns, NAICS 447

<https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/BP/2015/00A1/0100000US|0100000US.04000/aics~447>

# **The Commute to Work**

## **6.5 million**

The number of commuters who left for work between midnight and 4:59 a.m. in 2015. They represented 4.6 percent of all commuters. The most common time was between 7 a.m. and 7:29 a.m. — with 20.9 million commuters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Table B08132

[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/B08132](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/B08132)

## **4.6%**

The percentage of workers age 16 and over who worked at home in 2015.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Table B08128

[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/B08128](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/B08128)

## **76.6%**

The percentage of workers age 16 and over who drove alone to work in 2015. Another 9.0 percent carpooled and 0.6 percent biked to work.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Table S0801

[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0801](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0801)

## **26.4 minutes**

The average time it took workers in the United States to commute to work in 2015. New York (33.1 minutes) and Maryland (32.6 minutes) had the most time-consuming commutes.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, Table R0801

[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/R0801.US01PRF](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/R0801.US01PRF)

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)	Labor Day (1st Monday in September)
Super Bowl (1st Sunday in February)	Grandparents Day (1st Sunday after Labor Day)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Women's History Month (March)	Unmarried and Single Americans Week (3rd week of September)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/ St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Earth Day (April 22)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Older Americans Month (May)	Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)
Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May)	The Holiday Season (December)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)	
Father's Day (3rd Sunday in June)	
The Fourth of July (July 4)	
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)	
Back to School (August)	

**Editor's note:** The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office.

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