

# ASPE RESEARCH BRIEF

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION  
OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES POLICY - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## RECENT EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS AMONG PARENTS

### Summary

The employment patterns of persons with children under age 18 have largely mirrored the patterns of the nation's labor force since the fourth quarter of calendar year 2007, the peak before the onset of the 2008-09 recession. The employment rates of parents have increased from their recent lows but remain below their levels before the recession began. Between the fourth quarters of calendar years 2007 and 2011, the percent of couples with children with both members employed decreased from 62.1 percent to 57.7 percent, and the percent of couples with children with neither person employed increased from 3.0 percent to 4.5 percent.

### Background

This Research Brief reports employment information tabulated from the nation's primary data collection instrument on labor force activity, the Current Population Survey (CPS). The primary population of interest is persons living with their own children under age 18.<sup>1</sup> This population is important because lower levels of employment among parents generally correlate with increased levels of poverty, material hardship, and government transfers.

The methods used to calculate unemployment rates for this Research Brief rates are the same as those used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for its official publications. The unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force (those persons working or actively seeking and available for work) that is not employed. The data in this Research Brief are not seasonally adjusted. In order to avoid misinterpreting labor market characteristics impacted by seasonal variation, this Brief places additional focus on comparing the labor force in the fourth quarter of 2007, the beginning of the most recent recession<sup>2</sup>, with the labor force in the fourth quarter of 2011.<sup>3</sup>

### ABOUT THIS RESEARCH BRIEF

*This Research Brief, written by ASPE analysts Kendall Swenson and Gilbert Crouse, analyzes quarterly data from the Current Population Survey, the nation's primary data collection instrument for labor force activity. Analyses of the employment patterns of persons with children under age 18 show that they have largely mirrored the employment patterns of the rest of the labor force since the beginning of the most recent recession, including a decrease in employment. Findings show an increase in the percent of couples with neither parent employed and an increase in the percent of single mothers who were neither employed nor living with an employed cohabiting partner.*



<sup>1</sup> Unless noted otherwise, the term "parents" refers to persons living with their own children under age 18, including biological, adopted, and step children.

<sup>2</sup> According to the National Bureau of Economic Research the most recent recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009. <http://www.nber.org/cycles.html>.

<sup>3</sup> All comparisons cited in the text of this Research Brief are statistically significant at a 95% confidence level.

## All Parents

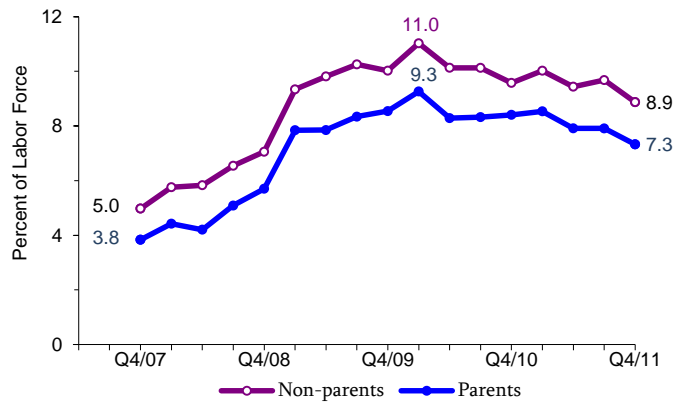
Parents living with children under age 18 made up 35.2 percent of the civilian, non-institutional labor force in the fourth quarter of 2011. Figure 1 shows that, in the aggregate, persons with children have lower rates of unemployment than persons without children (7.3 percent compared to 8.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011).

Since the start of the recession, the labor force patterns of parents living with children under age 18 largely mirrored the patterns of the rest of the labor force. Between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2010, the unemployment rate of persons with children increased over 5 percentage points from 3.8 percent to 9.3 percent, while the unemployment rate of non-parents in the labor force increased from 5.0 percent to 11.0 percent. Between the first quarter of 2010 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the unemployment rates of parents and non-parents have decreased somewhat to 7.3 and 8.9 percent, respectively. Overall, the unemployment rates of parents and non-parents were 3.5 and 3.9 percentage points higher, respectively, in the fourth quarter of 2011 than in the fourth quarter of 2007 when the most recent recession began.

The unemployment rates of all of the parent populations shown in Figure 2, regardless of educational attainment, increased during the recession; although they have declined somewhat since their peak levels, they remain elevated. Unemployment rates among those with higher levels of education remained lower than the rates of parents with less education. For example, the unemployment rate of parents without a high school diploma or GED was 14.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011, over 5 percentage points higher than in the fourth quarter of 2007. At the same time, the unemployment rate of parents with a college degree or more was 3.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011, 1.6 percentage points higher than the 1.7 percent rate in the fourth quarter of 2007.

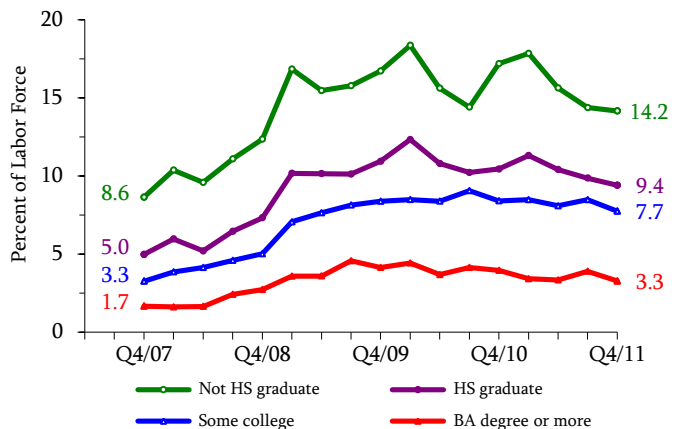
Unemployment rates of persons living with children also varied by race and ethnicity. The unemployment rates of Latinos, non-Latino Blacks, non-Latino Whites, and non-Latino Asians all increased since the fourth quarter of 2007 (Figure 3). The rates for non-Latino Whites and Non-Latino Asians remained lower than the rates for non-Latino Blacks and Latinos.

Figure 1. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Persons By Presence of Own Children



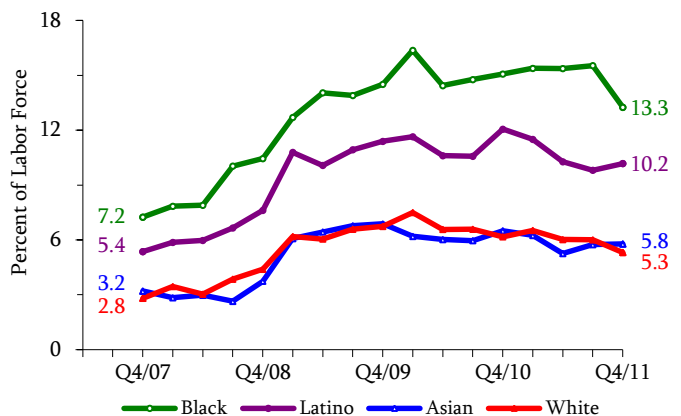
See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

Figure 2. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Parents By Educational Attainment



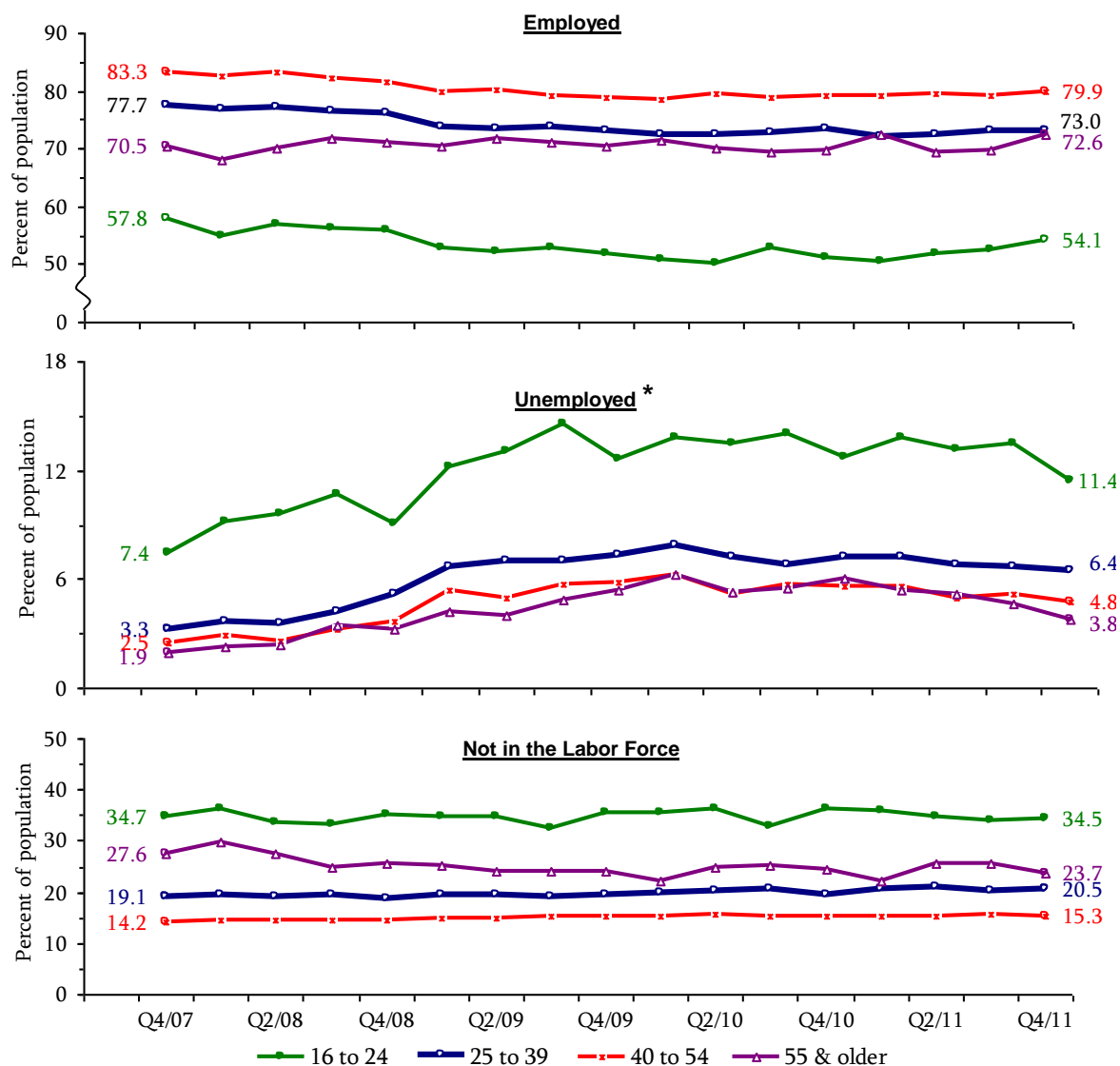
See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

Figure 3. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Parents By Race† & Ethnicity



† White, Black, and Asian categories are single race, non-Latino. See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

**Figure 4. — Distribution of Parents by Age and Employment Status**



\* Unlike the other figures in this research brief, these numbers are the percent of *all parents* that are unemployed, and include not only those parents in the labor force (i.e., those working or looking for work) but also those parents that are not currently looking for work.

See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

Figure 4 shows the *percent of all parents* who are employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. Expanding the denominator of the unemployment rate to include all parents (instead of restricting the denominator to only those persons in the labor force) provides a different examination of the data because younger parents are much more likely to be out of the labor force than the other age groups, and because some people leave the labor force and stop looking for jobs during difficult economic periods because they are discouraged with their employment prospects. Between the fourth quarter in 2007 and the fourth quarter in 2011 the percent of parents employed decreased for all age groupings shown in Figure 4 except parents age 55 and older. Rates of employment among this group of parents increased slightly.

## Mothers

Between the fourth quarter in 2007 and the fourth quarter in 2011 the unemployment rates among non-married mothers were higher than those of married mothers, as shown in Figure 5.

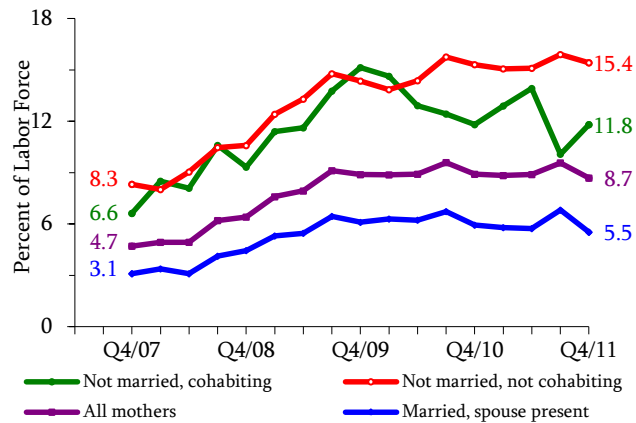
Throughout most of this time period, the unemployment rates of mothers living with cohabiting partners were closer to the rates of non-cohabiting, non-married mothers than to those of married mothers. For example, in the fourth quarter of 2011 the unemployment rate of single mothers living with cohabiting partners was double that of married mothers living with their spouses.

Figure 6 below shows the percent of all mothers who are employed, and for those mothers who are not employed, whether they live with a spouse or cohabiting partner who is employed.<sup>4</sup>

Between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the percent of mothers who were not employed and did not live with an employed spouse or cohabiting partner increased from 9.7 percent to 12.7 percent. Thus, in the fourth quarter of 2011 about 87 percent (the sum of 64.6 and 22.7) of mothers either were employed themselves or lived with a spouse or cohabiting partner who was employed.

Single mothers are a population of interest because previous research has confirmed that children living with unmarried mothers are more likely to experience poverty and material hardship than children living with married parents. Figure 7 focuses only on single mothers who are not living with spouses.<sup>5</sup> For those single mothers, it shows the percent who are employed and, for those single mothers who are not employed, whether they live with a cohabiting partner who is employed. Between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the percent of single mothers who were neither employed nor living with an employed cohabiting partner increased from 24.6 percent to 30.1 percent. This was over 2 times the rate for all mothers.

Figure 5. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of Mothers By Living Arrangement

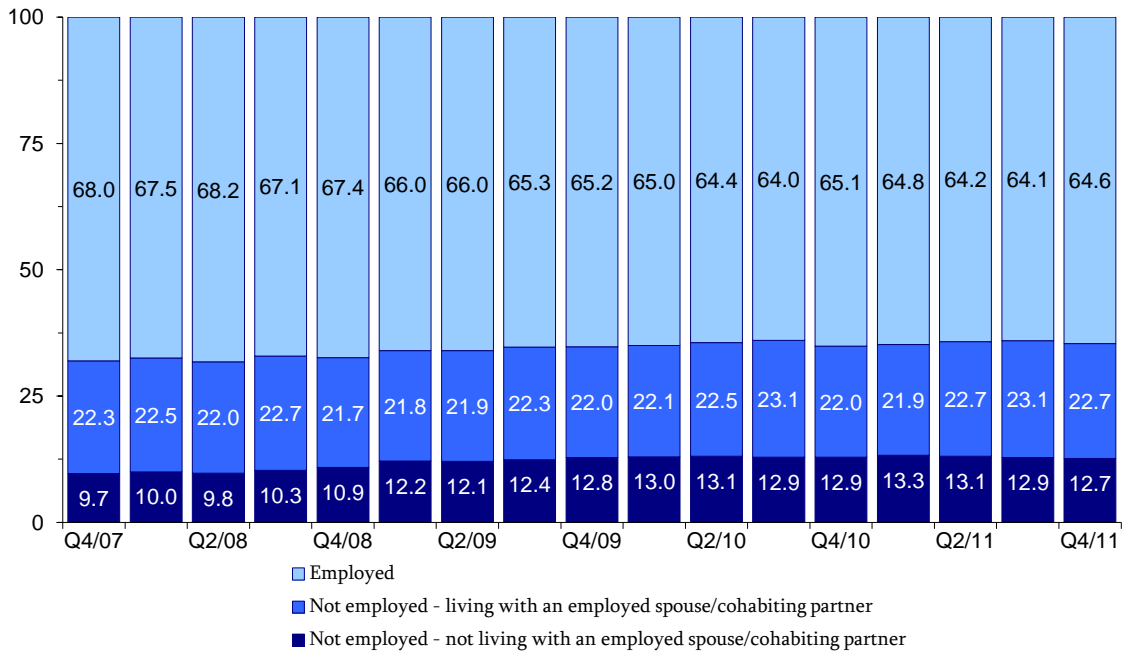


See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

<sup>4</sup> Unlike the figures showing unemployment rates, the employment percentages shown in Figures 5 and 6 compare employment levels to the entire civilian, non-institutional population, not just the labor force.

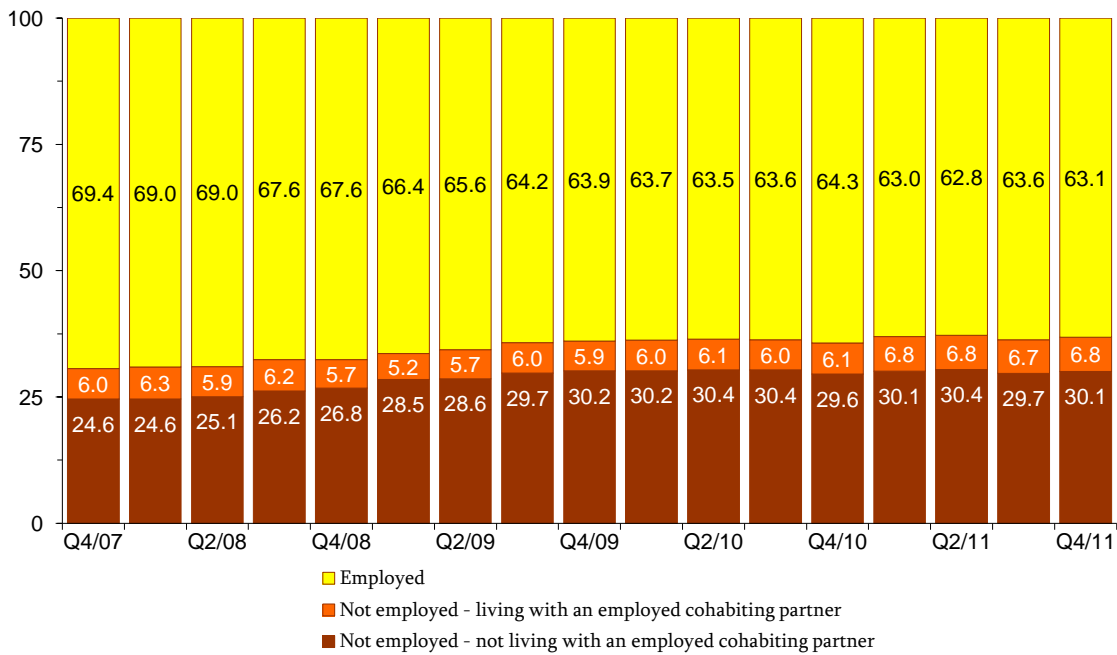
<sup>5</sup> Some of these women are separated or married, but not living with their spouses.

**Figure 6. — Percent Distribution of Mothers by Employment Status and Living Arrangement**



See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

**Figure 7. — Percent Distribution of Single\* Mothers by Employment Status and Living Arrangement**



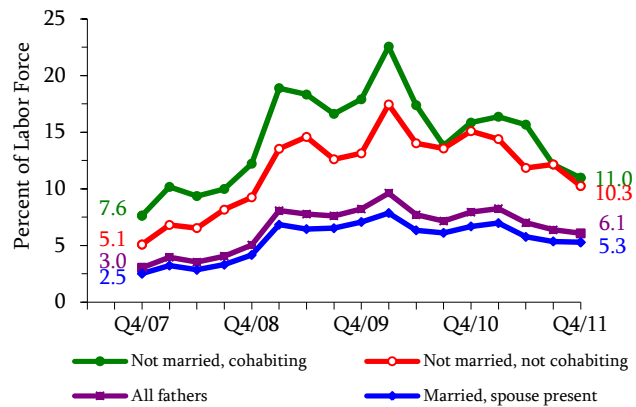
\*Single mothers in this figure refers to all mothers who do not have a spouse present.

See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

## Fathers

The employment patterns of fathers generally mirror those of the rest of the labor force. Between the fourth quarter in 2007 and the fourth quarter in 2011, the unemployment rate among non-married resident fathers<sup>6</sup> was higher than the rate of married fathers, as shown in Figure 8. The average unemployment rate of non-married fathers living with cohabiting partners during this time period was generally higher than for non-married fathers not living with cohabiting partners. Although the unemployment rate of all fathers was lower than the category of all mothers combined in the fourth quarter of 2011 (see Figure 5), the unemployment rate of married fathers was similar to the rate of married mothers (5.3 percent for fathers versus 5.5 percent for mothers).

Figure 8. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of Fathers By Living Arrangement



See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

Figure 9 shows the percent of all fathers who are employed, and for those fathers who are not employed, whether they live with a spouse or cohabiting partner who is employed. In the aggregate, over 9 in 10 fathers were either employed or living with a spouse or cohabiting partner who was employed in the fourth quarter of 2011. However, the percent of fathers who were not employed and were not living with a spouse or cohabiting partner who was employed remained 1.9 percentage points higher in the fourth quarter of 2011 than in the fourth quarter of 2007 when the recession began.

Figure 9. — Percent Distribution of Fathers by Employment Status and Living Arrangement



See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

<sup>6</sup> The data exclude fathers who are not living with their children.

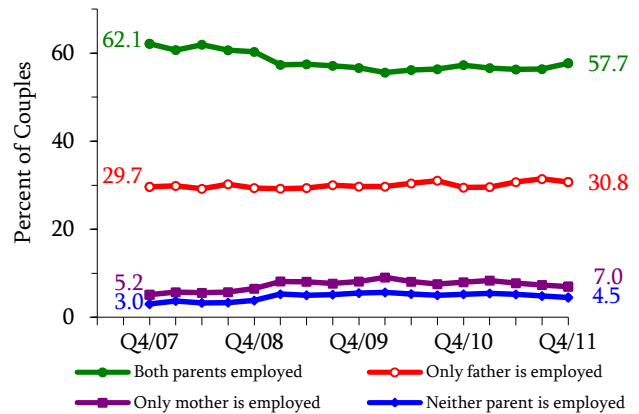
## Couples

Since mothers and fathers living together typically work collectively to provide for their children, it also is important to analyze their rates of employment as couples and not just as individuals. Figures 10 through 12 display the rates of employment of couples, including married and cohabiting couples.<sup>7</sup>

Between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the percent of couples with children in which both parents were employed decreased from 62.1 percent to 57.7 percent. During this same time period, the percent of couples with neither parent employed increased from 3.0 percent to 4.5 percent. The percent of couples with only the mother employed increased slightly during this period (5.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007 compared to 7.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011).

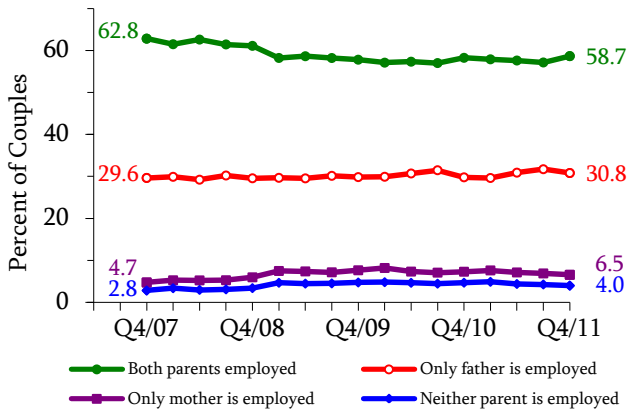
Figures 11 and 12 duplicate Figure 10 for married and cohabiting couples. As shown in Figure 12, the percent of cohabiting couples with both parents employed decreased from 54.4 percent to 49.0 percent, while the percent with neither parent working increased from 5.7 percent to 9.6 percent of the population, between the fourth quarter in 2007 and the fourth quarter in 2011.

**Figure 10. — Distribution of All Couples with Children By Partner's Employment Status**



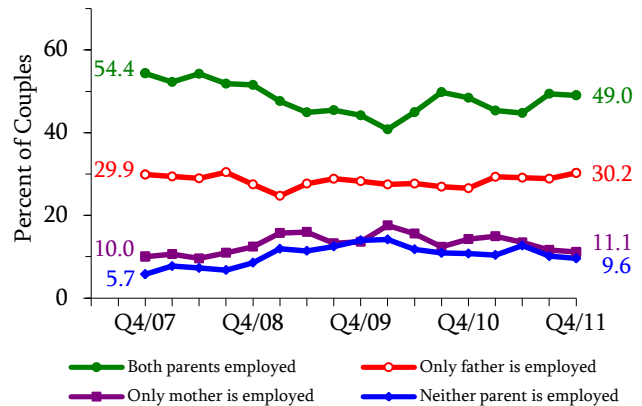
See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

**Figure 11. — Distribution of Married Couples with Children By Spouse's Employment Status**



See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

**Figure 12. — Distribution of Cohabiting Couples with Children By Partners' Employment Status**



See appendix data tables for notes and sources.

<sup>7</sup> Unlike the figures showing unemployment rates, the employment percentages shown in these figures compare employment levels to the entire civilian, non-institutional population, not just the labor force.

## **Conclusion**

Between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the percent of couples with both members employed decreased from 62.1 percent to 57.7 percent. During this same time period, the percent of couples with neither parent employed increased from 3.0 to 4.5 percent. The percent of couples with only the mother employed increased for married couples with children.

Since the start of the recession, the labor force patterns of parents living with children under age 18 largely mirrored the patterns of the rest of the labor force. In the fourth quarter of 2011 the unemployment rate of persons with children was 7.3 percent, over 3 percentage points higher than in 2007, while the unemployment rate of non-parents was 8.9 percent, almost 4 percentage points higher than in 2007.

Between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the percent of single mothers that were neither employed nor living with an employed cohabiting partner increased from 24.6 percent to 30.1 percent. Therefore, in the fourth quarter of 2011, about 3 in 10 single mothers were not employed and did not live with employed cohabiting partners.



**Data for Figure 1. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Persons By Presence of Own Children**

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Unemployment Rate
<b>No Own Child in Unit</b>					
2007-1	161,461	90,479	5,052	95,532	5.3
2007-2	161,665	91,398	4,751	96,149	4.9
2007-3	164,016	93,305	5,072	98,377	5.2
2007-4	164,785	93,188	4,883	98,071	5.0
2008-1	164,955	92,099	5,629	97,728	5.8
2008-2	165,337	92,921	5,761	98,682	5.8
2008-3	166,801	93,911	6,577	100,488	6.5
2008-4	166,839	92,091	6,991	99,082	7.1
2009-1	167,582	89,682	9,239	98,922	9.3
2009-2	167,675	89,798	9,779	99,577	9.8
2009-3	169,720	90,510	10,344	100,853	10.3
2009-4	170,092	89,236	9,941	99,177	10.0
2010-1	169,795	87,880	10,890	98,770	11.0
2010-2	170,182	89,841	10,128	99,969	10.1
2010-3	170,628	89,970	10,142	100,112	10.1
2010-4	171,200	89,256	9,454	98,711	9.6
2011-1	172,628	89,316	9,949	99,265	10.0
2011-2	172,910	90,782	9,464	100,246	9.4
2011-3	172,559	90,410	9,691	100,101	9.7
2011-4	173,327	90,712	8,832	99,544	8.9
<b>Parent with Own Child in Unit</b>					
2007-1	69,378	54,213	2,268	56,481	4.0
2007-2	69,817	54,641	2,020	56,662	3.6
2007-3	68,194	53,418	2,127	55,545	3.8
2007-4	68,152	53,544	2,137	55,681	3.8
2008-1	67,852	52,656	2,438	55,094	4.4
2008-2	68,073	53,245	2,338	55,583	4.2
2008-3	67,309	52,117	2,793	54,911	5.1
2008-4	67,986	52,409	3,170	55,579	5.7
2009-1	67,330	50,443	4,295	54,738	7.8
2009-2	67,784	50,794	4,326	55,120	7.8
2009-3	66,372	49,560	4,510	54,070	8.3
2009-4	66,647	49,489	4,623	54,112	8.5
2010-1	67,201	49,452	5,049	54,500	9.3
2010-2	67,325	49,719	4,493	54,212	8.3
2010-3	67,476	49,952	4,536	54,489	8.3
2010-4	67,512	50,185	4,607	54,791	8.4
2011-1	66,224	48,902	4,564	53,466	8.5
2011-2	66,406	49,157	4,225	53,383	7.9
2011-3	67,312	49,997	4,294	54,291	7.9
2011-4	67,104	50,201	3,970	54,171	7.3

**Data for Figure 2. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Parents By Educational Attainment**

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Percent Unemployed
<b>Less than High School</b>					
2007-1	9,263	5,788	618	6,406	9.6
2007-2	9,227	5,778	489	6,267	7.8
2007-3	8,778	5,604	466	6,070	7.7
2007-4	8,896	5,619	531	6,150	8.6
2008-1	8,878	5,381	623	6,004	10.4
2008-2	8,884	5,535	587	6,121	9.6
2008-3	8,520	5,158	644	5,802	11.1
2008-4	8,616	5,178	729	5,906	12.4
2009-1	8,491	4,822	977	5,799	16.8
2009-2	8,799	5,083	930	6,012	15.5
2009-3	8,567	5,004	937	5,941	15.8
2009-4	8,471	4,802	964	5,766	16.7
2010-1	8,552	4,675	1,052	5,728	18.4
2010-2	8,863	5,059	936	5,995	15.6
2010-3	8,685	5,177	871	6,048	14.4
2010-4	8,590	4,887	1,015	5,902	17.2
2011-1	8,401	4,659	1,011	5,671	17.8
2011-2	8,676	4,918	912	5,830	15.6
2011-3	8,525	4,980	836	5,816	14.4
2011-4	8,392	4,967	820	5,786	14.2
<b>High School, no College</b>					
2007-1	20,506	15,693	844	16,537	5.1
2007-2	20,307	15,557	745	16,302	4.6
2007-3	19,793	15,171	763	15,934	4.8
2007-4	20,032	15,306	800	16,106	5.0
2008-1	19,492	14,624	928	15,551	6.0
2008-2	19,305	14,632	801	15,433	5.2
2008-3	19,286	14,522	1,001	15,523	6.4
2008-4	19,683	14,663	1,159	15,822	7.3
2009-1	19,493	14,037	1,589	15,626	10.2
2009-2	19,153	13,731	1,551	15,282	10.1
2009-3	18,753	13,447	1,514	14,961	10.1
2009-4	18,527	13,103	1,609	14,712	10.9
2010-1	19,113	13,464	1,892	15,356	12.3
2010-2	18,950	13,352	1,616	14,968	10.8
2010-3	18,905	13,445	1,530	14,975	10.2
2010-4	18,788	13,411	1,563	14,974	10.4
2011-1	18,630	13,066	1,666	14,731	11.3
2011-2	18,332	12,903	1,499	14,402	10.4
2011-3	18,451	13,118	1,435	14,554	9.9
2011-4	18,293	13,072	1,356	14,428	9.4

**Data for Figure 2. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Parents By Educational Attainment (cont.)**

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Percent Unemployed
<b>High School, Some College but no degree</b>					
2007-1	18,742	15,052	563	15,615	3.6
2007-2	18,993	15,326	519	15,845	3.3
2007-3	18,780	15,092	587	15,679	3.7
2007-4	18,715	15,211	513	15,724	3.3
2008-1	18,633	14,936	599	15,535	3.9
2008-2	18,854	15,085	650	15,735	4.1
2008-3	18,656	14,836	714	15,550	4.6
2008-4	18,966	15,011	792	15,803	5.0
2009-1	18,724	14,363	1,091	15,453	7.1
2009-2	18,942	14,426	1,192	15,618	7.6
2009-3	18,475	14,039	1,243	15,282	8.1
2009-4	18,863	14,261	1,303	15,564	8.4
2010-1	18,779	14,127	1,310	15,437	8.5
2010-2	18,691	14,004	1,281	15,285	8.4
2010-3	18,715	13,895	1,383	15,278	9.1
2010-4	18,855	14,181	1,301	15,482	8.4
2011-1	18,305	13,713	1,271	14,984	8.5
2011-2	18,277	13,712	1,206	14,918	8.1
2011-3	18,823	14,041	1,300	15,341	8.5
2011-4	18,732	14,107	1,185	15,292	7.7
<b>Bachelors degree or more</b>					
2007-1	20,866	17,680	243	17,922	1.4
2007-2	21,290	17,981	267	18,248	1.5
2007-3	20,843	17,551	311	17,861	1.7
2007-4	20,509	17,408	294	17,701	1.7
2008-1	20,850	17,716	289	18,004	1.6
2008-2	21,030	17,993	300	18,293	1.6
2008-3	20,847	17,600	435	18,036	2.4
2008-4	20,721	17,557	491	18,048	2.7
2009-1	20,622	17,221	639	17,859	3.6
2009-2	20,890	17,555	654	18,209	3.6
2009-3	20,578	17,070	816	17,886	4.6
2009-4	20,787	17,323	748	18,071	4.1
2010-1	20,757	17,186	794	17,980	4.4
2010-2	20,821	17,304	660	17,965	3.7
2010-3	21,171	17,436	751	18,187	4.1
2010-4	21,278	17,706	728	18,433	3.9
2011-1	20,888	17,463	617	18,080	3.4
2011-2	21,121	17,625	608	18,233	3.3
2011-3	21,514	17,858	723	18,581	3.9
2011-4	21,687	18,055	610	18,665	3.3

**Data for Figure 3. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Parents By Race & Ethnicity**

<b>Year-quarter</b>	<b>Total (000s)</b>	<b>Employed (000s)</b>	<b>Unemployed (000s)</b>	<b>In Labor Force (000s)</b>	<b>Percent Unemployed</b>
<b>Not Latino, White Alone</b>					
2007-1	43,804	35,357	1,145	36,502	3.1
2007-2	43,793	35,323	959	36,282	2.6
2007-3	42,502	34,132	1,092	35,224	3.1
2007-4	42,315	34,374	994	35,368	2.8
2008-1	42,141	33,892	1,212	35,104	3.5
2008-2	42,315	34,138	1,068	35,206	3.0
2008-3	41,699	33,333	1,336	34,669	3.9
2008-4	41,866	33,524	1,542	35,066	4.4
2009-1	41,758	32,571	2,148	34,720	6.2
2009-2	41,816	32,648	2,102	34,750	6.0
2009-3	40,904	31,817	2,243	34,059	6.6
2009-4	41,100	31,869	2,302	34,171	6.7
2010-1	41,288	31,652	2,566	34,218	7.5
2010-2	40,942	31,585	2,223	33,808	6.6
2010-3	41,295	31,842	2,244	34,086	6.6
2010-4	41,400	32,158	2,115	34,273	6.2
2011-1	40,390	31,251	2,180	33,432	6.5
2011-2	40,347	31,268	2,003	33,271	6.0
2011-3	40,871	31,674	2,023	33,697	6.0
2011-4	40,565	31,706	1,781	33,487	5.3
<b>Not Latino, Black Alone</b>					
2007-1	7,820	5,859	495	6,354	7.8
2007-2	8,072	6,065	481	6,546	7.3
2007-3	7,854	5,989	447	6,436	6.9
2007-4	7,892	5,979	467	6,447	7.2
2008-1	7,782	5,805	494	6,299	7.8
2008-2	7,880	5,908	506	6,415	7.9
2008-3	7,843	5,807	648	6,455	10.0
2008-4	7,816	5,686	663	6,349	10.4
2009-1	7,584	5,334	776	6,110	12.7
2009-2	7,802	5,388	881	6,268	14.0
2009-3	7,579	5,274	852	6,126	13.9
2009-4	7,483	5,128	870	5,998	14.5
2010-1	7,575	5,072	992	6,064	16.4
2010-2	7,792	5,252	886	6,138	14.4
2010-3	7,460	5,087	881	5,968	14.8
2010-4	7,641	5,296	940	6,236	15.1
2011-1	7,621	5,143	935	6,078	15.4
2011-2	7,545	5,051	917	5,969	15.4
2011-3	7,441	5,059	930	5,989	15.5
2011-4	7,639	5,316	812	6,128	13.3

Data for Figure 3. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Parents By Race & Ethnicity (cont.)

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Percent Unemployed
<b>Not Latino, Asian Alone</b>					
2007-1	3,475	2,645	60	2,704	2.2
2007-2	3,553	2,735	70	2,805	2.5
2007-3	3,555	2,786	60	2,845	2.1
2007-4	3,534	2,697	89	2,786	3.2
2008-1	3,517	2,696	79	2,775	2.8
2008-2	3,585	2,829	87	2,915	3.0
2008-3	3,654	2,856	78	2,933	2.6
2008-4	3,659	2,809	109	2,919	3.7
2009-1	3,429	2,580	167	2,747	6.1
2009-2	3,562	2,705	186	2,891	6.4
2009-3	3,611	2,687	196	2,883	6.8
2009-4	3,617	2,692	199	2,891	6.9
2010-1	3,641	2,720	180	2,900	6.2
2010-2	3,665	2,735	175	2,911	6.0
2010-3	3,652	2,639	167	2,806	6.0
2010-4	3,665	2,651	184	2,835	6.5
2011-1	3,499	2,579	172	2,751	6.2
2011-2	3,600	2,690	149	2,839	5.3
2011-3	3,677	2,704	165	2,868	5.7
2011-4	3,838	2,818	173	2,991	5.8
<b>Not Latino, Other or 2+ races</b>					
2007-1	1,290	933	77	1,010	7.6
2007-2	1,316	990	51	1,042	4.9
2007-3	1,299	968	59	1,028	5.8
2007-4	1,328	1,005	49	1,054	4.7
2008-1	1,354	957	73	1,030	7.1
2008-2	1,358	1,005	82	1,088	7.5
2008-3	1,286	915	76	991	7.6
2008-4	1,387	981	81	1,062	7.6
2009-1	1,374	919	111	1,030	10.8
2009-2	1,395	954	138	1,092	12.7
2009-3	1,330	911	131	1,042	12.6
2009-4	1,373	917	110	1,027	10.8
2010-1	1,341	904	111	1,015	10.9
2010-2	1,365	931	116	1,047	11.0
2010-3	1,402	939	127	1,065	11.9
2010-4	1,354	922	113	1,035	10.9
2011-1	1,388	963	113	1,075	10.5
2011-2	1,335	928	100	1,029	9.8
2011-3	1,425	938	130	1,067	12.2
2011-4	1,461	979	142	1,120	12.7

**Data for Figure 3. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of All Parents By Race & Ethnicity (cont.)**

<b>Year-quarter</b>	<b>Total (000s)</b>	<b>Employed (000s)</b>	<b>Unemployed (000s)</b>	<b>In Labor Force (000s)</b>	<b>Percent Unemployed</b>
	<b>Latino</b>				
<b>2007-1</b>	12,989	9,419	491	9,910	5.0
<b>2007-2</b>	13,083	9,528	460	9,988	4.6
<b>2007-3</b>	12,984	9,542	469	10,012	4.7
<b>2007-4</b>	13,083	9,488	537	10,026	5.4
<b>2008-1</b>	13,059	9,307	580	9,887	5.9
<b>2008-2</b>	12,934	9,364	595	9,959	6.0
<b>2008-3</b>	12,826	9,206	656	9,862	6.7
<b>2008-4</b>	13,258	9,408	775	10,184	7.6
<b>2009-1</b>	13,184	9,038	1,093	10,132	10.8
<b>2009-2</b>	13,208	9,099	1,019	10,119	10.1
<b>2009-3</b>	12,950	8,871	1,089	9,959	10.9
<b>2009-4</b>	13,075	8,884	1,142	10,025	11.4
<b>2010-1</b>	13,356	9,104	1,199	10,303	11.6
<b>2010-2</b>	13,560	9,216	1,093	10,309	10.6
<b>2010-3</b>	13,666	9,446	1,117	10,563	10.6
<b>2010-4</b>	13,451	9,158	1,255	10,413	12.1
<b>2011-1</b>	13,325	8,965	1,165	10,130	11.5
<b>2011-2</b>	13,578	9,220	1,055	10,276	10.3
<b>2011-3</b>	13,898	9,623	1,046	10,669	9.8
<b>2011-4</b>	13,602	9,383	1,063	10,446	10.2

**Data for Figure 4. — Distribution of Parents by Age and Employment Status**

Year-quarter	Total Population (000s)	Not In Labor Force (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	Not In Labor Force (percent)	Employed (percent)	Unemployed (percent)**
<b>16 to 24 Years of Age</b>							
2007-1	4,167	1,380	2,459	328	33.1	59.0	7.9
2007-2	4,201	1,443	2,432	326	34.3	57.9	7.8
2007-3	4,031	1,296	2,407	329	32.1	59.7	8.2
2007-4	3,977	1,381	2,300	296	34.7	57.8	7.4
2008-1	3,894	1,405	2,134	355	36.1	54.8	9.1
2008-2	3,878	1,303	2,204	370	33.6	56.8	9.5
2008-3	3,859	1,279	2,170	410	33.1	56.3	10.6
2008-4	3,917	1,374	2,189	354	35.1	55.9	9.0
2009-1	3,813	1,329	2,020	463	34.9	53.0	12.2
2009-2	3,807	1,327	1,983	497	34.8	52.1	13.1
2009-3	3,649	1,189	1,928	532	32.6	52.8	14.6
2009-4	3,711	1,318	1,923	469	35.5	51.8	12.6
2010-1	3,894	1,383	1,974	537	35.5	50.7	13.8
2010-2	4,087	1,487	2,050	550	36.4	50.1	13.5
2010-3	3,928	1,296	2,082	550	33.0	53.0	14.0
2010-4	4,028	1,453	2,062	512	36.1	51.2	12.7
2011-1	3,871	1,385	1,953	533	35.8	50.5	13.8
2011-2	3,862	1,349	2,005	508	34.9	51.9	13.2
2011-3	3,841	1,311	2,014	516	34.1	52.4	13.4
2011-4	3,811	1,316	2,060	435	34.5	54.1	11.4
<b>25 to 39 Years of Age</b>							
2007-1	34,165	6,728	26,270	1,166	19.7	76.9	3.4
2007-2	34,288	6,781	26,480	1,027	19.8	77.2	3.0
2007-3	33,547	6,550	25,921	1,076	19.5	77.3	3.2
2007-4	33,288	6,348	25,851	1,089	19.1	77.7	3.3
2008-1	33,140	6,506	25,420	1,214	19.6	76.7	3.7
2008-2	33,339	6,420	25,735	1,184	19.3	77.2	3.6
2008-3	33,136	6,414	25,316	1,406	19.4	76.4	4.2
2008-4	33,118	6,204	25,216	1,698	18.7	76.1	5.1
2009-1	32,962	6,474	24,267	2,221	19.6	73.6	6.7
2009-2	33,191	6,496	24,377	2,318	19.6	73.4	7.0
2009-3	32,366	6,230	23,857	2,279	19.2	73.7	7.0
2009-4	32,575	6,346	23,837	2,392	19.5	73.2	7.3
2010-1	32,965	6,528	23,833	2,603	19.8	72.3	7.9
2010-2	32,739	6,643	23,727	2,368	20.3	72.5	7.2
2010-3	32,838	6,724	23,891	2,224	20.5	72.8	6.8
2010-4	32,727	6,376	24,000	2,351	19.5	73.3	7.2
2011-1	32,273	6,628	23,307	2,338	20.5	72.2	7.2
2011-2	32,336	6,729	23,397	2,210	20.8	72.4	6.8
2011-3	32,621	6,625	23,808	2,187	20.3	73.0	6.7
2011-4	32,519	6,670	23,755	2,095	20.5	73.0	6.4

**Data for Figure 4. — Distribution of Parents by Age and Employment Status (cont.)**

Year-quarter	Total Population (000s)	Not In Labor Force (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	Not In Labor Force (percent)	Employed (percent)	Unemployed (percent)**
<b>40 to 54 Years of Age</b>							
2007-1	28,740	4,139	23,890	711	14.4	83.1	2.5
2007-2	28,749	4,217	23,921	611	14.7	83.2	2.1
2007-3	28,168	4,148	23,350	671	14.7	82.9	2.4
2007-4	28,300	4,027	23,570	703	14.2	83.3	2.5
2008-1	28,208	4,073	23,326	810	14.4	82.7	2.9
2008-2	28,198	4,038	23,440	720	14.3	83.1	2.6
2008-3	27,744	4,070	22,786	887	14.7	82.1	3.2
2008-4	28,232	4,133	23,069	1,030	14.6	81.7	3.6
2009-1	27,789	4,088	22,207	1,494	14.7	79.9	5.4
2009-2	28,026	4,176	22,448	1,402	14.9	80.1	5.0
2009-3	27,613	4,222	21,824	1,567	15.3	79.0	5.7
2009-4	27,650	4,216	21,819	1,616	15.2	78.9	5.8
2010-1	27,601	4,181	21,682	1,738	15.1	78.6	6.3
2010-2	27,665	4,282	21,958	1,426	15.5	79.4	5.2
2010-3	27,980	4,277	22,091	1,612	15.3	78.9	5.8
2010-4	28,059	4,235	22,242	1,582	15.1	79.3	5.6
2011-1	27,399	4,153	21,698	1,548	15.2	79.2	5.6
2011-2	27,421	4,237	21,820	1,364	15.4	79.6	5.0
2011-3	28,020	4,360	22,202	1,458	15.6	79.2	5.2
2011-4	27,955	4,281	22,339	1,335	15.3	79.9	4.8
<b>55 Years of Age and Older</b>							
2007-1	2,306	651	1,593	63	28.2	69.1	2.7
2007-2	2,579	714	1,808	56	27.7	70.1	2.2
2007-3	2,448	656	1,740	52	26.8	71.1	2.1
2007-4	2,586	715	1,823	49	27.6	70.5	1.9
2008-1	2,610	774	1,776	59	29.7	68.1	2.3
2008-2	2,658	728	1,865	64	27.4	70.2	2.4
2008-3	2,570	636	1,845	89	24.8	71.8	3.5
2008-4	2,719	696	1,935	88	25.6	71.2	3.2
2009-1	2,767	701	1,949	117	25.3	70.4	4.2
2009-2	2,760	665	1,985	109	24.1	71.9	4.0
2009-3	2,746	662	1,951	133	24.1	71.1	4.8
2009-4	2,711	655	1,910	146	24.2	70.4	5.4
2010-1	2,742	609	1,962	171	22.2	71.5	6.3
2010-2	2,834	700	1,985	149	24.7	70.0	5.3
2010-3	2,729	690	1,889	150	25.3	69.2	5.5
2010-4	2,697	655	1,880	162	24.3	69.7	6.0
2011-1	2,680	592	1,944	145	22.1	72.5	5.4
2011-2	2,787	708	1,935	143	25.4	69.5	5.1
2011-3	2,831	725	1,973	133	25.6	69.7	4.7
2011-4	2,819	667	2,046	106	23.7	72.6	3.8

\*\* The unemployment percentages shown in this figure compare employment levels to the entire civilian, non-institutional population, not just the labor force.



**Data for Figure 5. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of Mothers By Living Arrangement**

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Unemployment Rate
<b>All Mothers</b>					
2007-1	38,002	25,814	1,192	27,006	4.4
2007-2	38,256	25,824	1,187	27,011	4.4
2007-3	37,451	25,196	1,344	26,541	5.1
2007-4	37,361	25,386	1,255	26,642	4.7
2008-1	37,108	24,972	1,297	26,269	4.9
2008-2	37,359	25,402	1,320	26,722	4.9
2008-3	37,101	24,814	1,642	26,456	6.2
2008-4	37,391	25,139	1,722	26,861	6.4
2009-1	36,908	24,292	1,997	26,289	7.6
2009-2	37,237	24,475	2,108	26,583	7.9
2009-3	36,514	23,734	2,381	26,115	9.1
2009-4	36,716	23,849	2,326	26,175	8.9
2010-1	36,933	23,903	2,327	26,230	8.9
2010-2	37,120	23,792	2,328	26,119	8.9
2010-3	37,056	23,592	2,503	26,095	9.6
2010-4	37,238	24,149	2,362	26,511	8.9
2011-1	36,542	23,567	2,283	25,851	8.8
2011-2	36,505	23,362	2,280	25,642	8.9
2011-3	36,945	23,546	2,493	26,038	9.6
2011-4	37,016	23,785	2,263	26,048	8.7
<b>Married, Spouse Present</b>					
2007-1	26,451	17,700	490	18,190	2.7
2007-2	26,612	17,727	520	18,247	2.9
2007-3	25,855	17,043	630	17,674	3.6
2007-4	25,750	17,331	555	17,886	3.1
2008-1	25,620	17,041	597	17,638	3.4
2008-2	26,045	17,597	562	18,159	3.1
2008-3	25,652	17,073	734	17,808	4.1
2008-4	25,533	17,127	798	17,926	4.5
2009-1	25,383	16,642	932	17,574	5.3
2009-2	25,630	16,858	974	17,832	5.5
2009-3	25,112	16,413	1,132	17,545	6.5
2009-4	25,108	16,433	1,068	17,500	6.1
2010-1	25,120	16,378	1,100	17,479	6.3
2010-2	25,000	16,093	1,069	17,162	6.2
2010-3	25,058	15,956	1,151	17,108	6.7
2010-4	25,043	16,312	1,029	17,341	5.9
2011-1	24,408	15,914	979	16,893	5.8
2011-2	24,435	15,786	961	16,747	5.7
2011-3	24,580	15,676	1,146	16,822	6.8
2011-4	24,801	16,070	940	17,011	5.5

**Data for Figure 5. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of Mothers By Living Arrangement (cont.)**

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Unemployment Rate
<b>Not Married, Cohabiting</b>					
2007-1	2,360	1,586	125	1,711	7.3
2007-2	2,403	1,605	121	1,726	7.0
2007-3	2,381	1,576	141	1,717	8.2
2007-4	2,409	1,566	111	1,677	6.6
2008-1	2,548	1,620	151	1,770	8.5
2008-2	2,423	1,576	139	1,714	8.1
2008-3	2,405	1,535	182	1,717	10.6
2008-4	2,505	1,616	166	1,783	9.3
2009-1	2,451	1,572	203	1,775	11.4
2009-2	2,485	1,536	202	1,738	11.6
2009-3	2,459	1,463	234	1,696	13.8
2009-4	2,490	1,462	261	1,723	15.1
2010-1	2,699	1,600	274	1,875	14.6
2010-2	2,770	1,706	253	1,959	12.9
2010-3	2,708	1,700	241	1,941	12.4
2010-4	2,852	1,800	241	2,041	11.8
2011-1	2,933	1,796	266	2,062	12.9
2011-2	2,922	1,730	280	2,010	13.9
2011-3	2,966	1,836	206	2,042	10.1
2011-4	2,834	1,714	230	1,943	11.8
<b>Not Married, Not Cohabiting</b>					
2007-1	9,191	6,529	577	7,105	8.1
2007-2	9,241	6,492	546	7,037	7.8
2007-3	9,215	6,577	573	7,150	8.0
2007-4	9,202	6,490	589	7,079	8.3
2008-1	8,940	6,311	550	6,861	8.0
2008-2	8,891	6,229	619	6,849	9.0
2008-3	9,045	6,206	726	6,932	10.5
2008-4	9,353	6,395	757	7,152	10.6
2009-1	9,074	6,078	861	6,939	12.4
2009-2	9,121	6,080	932	7,012	13.3
2009-3	8,942	5,858	1,016	6,874	14.8
2009-4	9,117	5,955	998	6,952	14.3
2010-1	9,113	5,925	953	6,877	13.8
2010-2	9,350	5,993	1,006	6,999	14.4
2010-3	9,290	5,936	1,110	7,046	15.8
2010-4	9,343	6,038	1,092	7,130	15.3
2011-1	9,201	5,857	1,038	6,895	15.1
2011-2	9,147	5,846	1,039	6,885	15.1
2011-3	9,399	6,033	1,140	7,174	15.9
2011-4	9,381	6,001	1,093	7,094	15.4

**Data for Figure 6. — Distribution of Mothers by Employment Status and Living Arrangement**

Year-qtr	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Employed (000s)	Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Not Employed (000s)	Percent Employed	Percent Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Employed	Percent Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Not Employed
2007-1	37,551	25,575	8,353	3,623	68.1	22.2	9.6
2007-2	37,776	25,574	8,650	3,552	67.7	22.9	9.4
2007-3	37,013	24,970	8,615	3,429	67.5	23.3	9.3
2007-4	36,975	25,152	8,247	3,576	68.0	22.3	9.7
2008-1	36,651	24,728	8,248	3,675	67.5	22.5	10.0
2008-2	36,861	25,148	8,117	3,595	68.2	22.0	9.8
2008-3	36,636	24,568	8,298	3,770	67.1	22.7	10.3
2008-4	36,898	24,867	8,022	4,009	67.4	21.7	10.9
2009-1	36,480	24,082	7,959	4,439	66.0	21.8	12.2
2009-2	36,738	24,247	8,041	4,450	66.0	21.9	12.1
2009-3	36,061	23,543	8,040	4,477	65.3	22.3	12.4
2009-4	36,293	23,671	7,967	4,656	65.2	22.0	12.8
2010-1	36,473	23,698	8,046	4,728	65.0	22.1	13.0
2010-2	36,599	23,584	8,218	4,798	64.4	22.5	13.1
2010-3	36,582	23,410	8,456	4,716	64.0	23.1	12.9
2010-4	36,811	23,977	8,088	4,746	65.1	22.0	12.9
2011-1	36,045	23,362	7,882	4,801	64.8	21.9	13.3
2011-2	36,033	23,136	8,176	4,721	64.2	22.7	13.1
2011-3	36,470	23,361	8,414	4,695	64.1	23.1	12.9
2011-4	36,542	23,605	8,312	4,625	64.6	22.7	12.7

**Data for Figure 7. — Distribution of Single Mothers by Employment Status and Living Arrangement**

Year-qtr	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Employed (000s)	Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Not Employed (000s)	Percent Employed	Percent Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Employed	Percent Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Not Employed
2007-1	11,539	8,107	595	2,837	70.3	5.2	24.6
2007-2	11,634	8,088	655	2,892	69.5	5.6	24.9
2007-3	11,585	8,142	683	2,760	70.3	5.9	23.8
2007-4	11,604	8,049	699	2,855	69.4	6.0	24.6
2008-1	11,471	7,919	725	2,826	69.0	6.3	24.6
2008-2	11,302	7,795	672	2,835	69.0	5.9	25.1
2008-3	11,441	7,734	710	2,997	67.6	6.2	26.2
2008-4	11,846	8,005	672	3,169	67.6	5.7	26.8
2009-1	11,519	7,645	596	3,278	66.4	5.2	28.5
2009-2	11,597	7,610	666	3,320	65.6	5.7	28.6
2009-3	11,384	7,314	684	3,386	64.2	6.0	29.7
2009-4	11,593	7,408	686	3,499	63.9	5.9	30.2
2010-1	11,781	7,507	712	3,562	63.7	6.0	30.2
2010-2	12,104	7,686	736	3,682	63.5	6.1	30.4
2010-3	11,987	7,629	718	3,640	63.6	6.0	30.4
2010-4	12,182	7,833	745	3,604	64.3	6.1	29.6
2011-1	12,117	7,639	825	3,652	63.0	6.8	30.1
2011-2	12,061	7,569	820	3,673	62.8	6.8	30.4
2011-3	12,345	7,857	824	3,665	63.6	6.7	29.7
2011-4	12,195	7,700	830	3,666	63.1	6.8	30.1

**Data for Figure 8. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of Fathers By Living Arrangement**

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Unemployment Rate
<b>All Fathers</b>					
2007-1	31,376	28,399	1,076	29,475	3.7
2007-2	31,561	28,817	834	29,651	2.8
2007-3	30,743	28,221	783	29,004	2.7
2007-4	30,791	28,157	882	29,039	3.0
2008-1	30,743	27,684	1,140	28,824	4.0
2008-2	30,714	27,842	1,018	28,860	3.5
2008-3	30,208	27,304	1,151	28,455	4.0
2008-4	30,594	27,270	1,448	28,718	5.0
2009-1	30,422	26,151	2,298	28,449	8.1
2009-2	30,548	26,319	2,218	28,537	7.8
2009-3	29,859	25,826	2,129	27,955	7.6
2009-4	29,932	25,639	2,297	27,937	8.2
2010-1	30,269	25,549	2,721	28,270	9.6
2010-2	30,205	25,928	2,165	28,093	7.7
2010-3	30,420	26,361	2,033	28,394	7.2
2010-4	30,274	26,036	2,245	28,280	7.9
2011-1	29,682	25,334	2,281	27,615	8.3
2011-2	29,901	25,796	1,945	27,741	7.0
2011-3	30,367	26,451	1,802	28,253	6.4
2011-4	30,088	26,416	1,707	28,123	6.1
<b>Married, Spouse Present</b>					
2007-1	27,549	25,304	775	26,078	3.0
2007-2	27,485	25,447	605	26,053	2.3
2007-3	26,702	24,760	573	25,333	2.3
2007-4	26,838	24,815	642	25,457	2.5
2008-1	26,682	24,390	814	25,203	3.2
2008-2	26,707	24,529	718	25,248	2.8
2008-3	26,311	24,117	823	24,940	3.3
2008-4	26,564	24,080	1,046	25,126	4.2
2009-1	26,453	23,267	1,707	24,974	6.8
2009-2	26,449	23,324	1,608	24,932	6.4
2009-3	25,864	22,839	1,594	24,434	6.5
2009-4	25,913	22,699	1,728	24,427	7.1
2010-1	25,841	22,470	1,919	24,389	7.9
2010-2	25,716	22,637	1,533	24,170	6.3
2010-3	25,994	22,993	1,498	24,490	6.1
2010-4	25,757	22,680	1,624	24,305	6.7
2011-1	25,056	21,914	1,644	23,558	7.0
2011-2	25,243	22,331	1,365	23,696	5.8
2011-3	25,605	22,737	1,288	24,025	5.4
2011-4	25,455	22,760	1,268	24,028	5.3

**Data for Figure 8. — Quarterly Unemployment Rates of Fathers By Living Arrangement (cont.)**

Year-quarter	Total (000s)	Employed (000s)	Unemployed (000s)	In Labor Force (000s)	Unemployment Rate
<b>Not Married, Cohabiting</b>					
2007-1	2,398	1,936	210	2,146	9.8
2007-2	2,461	2,043	161	2,204	7.3
2007-3	2,509	2,188	137	2,325	5.9
2007-4	2,489	2,093	173	2,266	7.6
2008-1	2,614	2,137	242	2,379	10.2
2008-2	2,455	2,035	211	2,246	9.4
2008-3	2,464	2,031	226	2,257	10.0
2008-4	2,594	2,057	287	2,344	12.2
2009-1	2,528	1,830	426	2,257	18.9
2009-2	2,546	1,844	414	2,257	18.3
2009-3	2,512	1,864	372	2,235	16.6
2009-4	2,550	1,849	404	2,253	17.9
2010-1	2,772	1,900	553	2,454	22.6
2010-2	2,780	2,022	426	2,448	17.4
2010-3	2,736	2,104	338	2,442	13.8
2010-4	2,927	2,192	414	2,606	15.9
2011-1	2,978	2,220	434	2,655	16.4
2011-2	3,041	2,240	416	2,656	15.7
2011-3	3,041	2,381	329	2,710	12.1
2011-4	2,909	2,305	284	2,589	11.0
<b>Not Married, Not Cohabiting</b>					
2007-1	1,429	1,159	92	1,251	7.3
2007-2	1,616	1,327	67	1,394	4.8
2007-3	1,532	1,273	72	1,345	5.4
2007-4	1,464	1,249	67	1,316	5.1
2008-1	1,448	1,157	85	1,242	6.8
2008-2	1,552	1,278	89	1,367	6.5
2008-3	1,434	1,155	103	1,258	8.2
2008-4	1,437	1,133	115	1,249	9.3
2009-1	1,441	1,054	165	1,219	13.5
2009-2	1,553	1,152	197	1,348	14.6
2009-3	1,482	1,123	163	1,286	12.6
2009-4	1,469	1,091	165	1,257	13.1
2010-1	1,655	1,178	249	1,428	17.5
2010-2	1,709	1,268	206	1,475	14.0
2010-3	1,690	1,264	198	1,462	13.6
2010-4	1,590	1,163	207	1,370	15.1
2011-1	1,648	1,200	202	1,402	14.4
2011-2	1,617	1,224	164	1,388	11.9
2011-3	1,722	1,333	185	1,518	12.2
2011-4	1,724	1,351	154	1,506	10.3

**Data for Figure 9. — Distribution of Fathers by Employment Status and Living Arrangement**

Year-qr	Total Population (000s)	Employed (000s)	Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Employed (000s)	Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Not Employed (000s)	Percent Employed	Percent Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Employed	Percent Not Employed, Spouse/Partner Not Employed
2007-1	31,348	28,377	1,705	1,266	90.5	5.4	4.0
2007-2	31,528	28,792	1,599	1,137	91.3	5.1	3.6
2007-3	30,706	28,190	1,426	1,090	91.8	4.6	3.6
2007-4	30,747	28,124	1,516	1,108	91.5	4.9	3.6
2008-1	30,724	27,667	1,674	1,383	90.1	5.4	4.5
2008-2	30,678	27,820	1,616	1,242	90.7	5.3	4.0
2008-3	30,174	27,282	1,646	1,246	90.4	5.5	4.1
2008-4	30,568	27,252	1,901	1,414	89.2	6.2	4.6
2009-1	30,404	26,139	2,351	1,915	86.0	7.7	6.3
2009-2	30,525	26,305	2,348	1,872	86.2	7.7	6.1
2009-3	29,835	25,813	2,182	1,840	86.5	7.3	6.2
2009-4	29,903	25,623	2,329	1,951	85.7	7.8	6.5
2010-1	30,219	25,519	2,595	2,105	84.4	8.6	7.0
2010-2	30,167	25,903	2,311	1,952	85.9	7.7	6.5
2010-3	30,384	26,335	2,184	1,865	86.7	7.2	6.1
2010-4	30,244	26,014	2,298	1,932	86.0	7.6	6.4
2011-1	29,644	25,313	2,357	1,974	85.4	7.9	6.7
2011-2	29,858	25,780	2,195	1,883	86.3	7.4	6.3
2011-3	30,327	26,430	2,115	1,782	87.2	7.0	5.9
2011-4	30,058	26,398	1,998	1,662	87.8	6.6	5.5

**Data for Figure 10. — Distribution of All Couples with Children By Partner's Employment Status**

Year-qr	Total (000s)	Both Parents Employed (000s)	Only Father is Employed (000s)	Only Mother is Employed (000s)	Neither Parent is Employed (000s)	Percent Both Parents Employed	Percent Only Father is Employed	Percent Only Mother is Employed	Percent Neither Parent is Employed
2007-1	29,209	17,890	8,670	1,674	975	61.2	29.7	5.7	3.3
2007-2	29,225	17,926	8,917	1,563	819	61.3	30.5	5.3	2.8
2007-3	28,508	17,471	8,831	1,397	808	61.3	31.0	4.9	2.8
2007-4	28,558	17,747	8,470	1,471	870	62.1	29.7	5.2	3.0
2008-1	28,534	17,321	8,520	1,630	1,062	60.7	29.9	5.7	3.7
2008-2	28,556	17,685	8,338	1,591	943	61.9	29.2	5.6	3.3
2008-3	28,142	17,073	8,509	1,612	949	60.7	30.2	5.7	3.4
2008-4	28,388	17,116	8,339	1,848	1,085	60.3	29.4	6.5	3.8
2009-1	28,260	16,201	8,262	2,308	1,488	57.3	29.2	8.2	5.3
2009-2	28,310	16,272	8,317	2,292	1,428	57.5	29.4	8.1	5.0
2009-3	27,750	15,855	8,332	2,127	1,436	57.1	30.0	7.7	5.2
2009-4	27,817	15,754	8,261	2,266	1,535	56.6	29.7	8.1	5.5
2010-1	27,971	15,549	8,305	2,532	1,585	55.6	29.7	9.1	5.7
2010-2	27,837	15,637	8,467	2,254	1,479	56.2	30.4	8.1	5.3
2010-3	28,046	15,806	8,709	2,120	1,412	56.4	31.1	7.6	5.0
2010-4	28,086	16,090	8,277	2,241	1,478	57.3	29.5	8.0	5.3
2011-1	27,437	15,532	8,120	2,292	1,492	56.6	29.6	8.4	5.4
2011-2	27,562	15,515	8,466	2,141	1,440	56.3	30.7	7.8	5.2
2011-3	27,865	15,707	8,756	2,052	1,350	56.4	31.4	7.4	4.8
2011-4	27,720	16,000	8,525	1,940	1,254	57.7	30.8	7.0	4.5

**Data for Figure 11. — Distribution of Married Couples with Children By Spouse's Employment Status**

Year-qr	Total (000s)	Both Parents Employed (000s)	Only Father is Employed (000s)	Only Mother is Employed (000s)	Neither Parent is Employed (000s)	Percent Both Parents Employed	Percent Only Father is Employed	Percent Only Mother is Employed	Percent Neither Parent is Employed
2007-1	26,912	16,633	8,072	1,405	803	61.8	30.0	5.2	3.0
2007-2	26,885	16,633	8,264	1,310	678	61.9	30.7	4.9	2.5
2007-3	26,120	16,091	8,129	1,214	686	61.6	31.1	4.6	2.6
2007-4	26,184	16,456	7,761	1,233	733	62.8	29.6	4.7	2.8
2008-1	26,029	16,012	7,784	1,364	869	61.5	29.9	5.2	3.3
2008-2	26,195	16,404	7,655	1,365	771	62.6	29.2	5.2	2.9
2008-3	25,800	15,859	7,796	1,355	790	61.5	30.2	5.3	3.1
2008-4	25,906	15,837	7,656	1,540	872	61.1	29.6	5.9	3.4
2009-1	25,824	15,041	7,660	1,925	1,198	58.2	29.7	7.5	4.6
2009-2	25,876	15,178	7,644	1,903	1,150	58.7	29.5	7.4	4.4
2009-3	25,358	14,767	7,643	1,810	1,138	58.2	30.1	7.1	4.5
2009-4	25,384	14,680	7,574	1,935	1,196	57.8	29.8	7.6	4.7
2010-1	25,338	14,475	7,582	2,070	1,212	57.1	29.9	8.2	4.8
2010-2	25,187	14,446	7,734	1,841	1,166	57.4	30.7	7.3	4.6
2010-3	25,428	14,502	8,004	1,796	1,127	57.0	31.5	7.1	4.4
2010-4	25,287	14,736	7,533	1,841	1,178	58.3	29.8	7.3	4.7
2011-1	24,586	14,240	7,284	1,867	1,196	57.9	29.6	7.6	4.9
2011-2	24,684	14,226	7,629	1,755	1,075	57.6	30.9	7.1	4.4
2011-3	24,994	14,289	7,927	1,718	1,060	57.2	31.7	6.9	4.2
2011-4	24,960	14,648	7,691	1,633	989	58.7	30.8	6.5	4.0

**Data for Figure 12. — Distribution of Cohabiting Couples with Children By Partner's Employment Status**

Year-qr	Total (000s)	Both Parents Employed (000s)	Only Father is Employed (000s)	Only Mother is Employed (000s)	Neither Parent is Employed (000s)	Percent Both Parents Employed	Percent Only Father is Employed	Percent Only Mother is Employed	Percent Neither Parent is Employed
2007-1	2,297	1,257	598	269	172	54.7	26.1	11.7	7.5
2007-2	2,340	1,293	653	253	141	55.3	27.9	10.8	6.0
2007-3	2,388	1,380	703	183	122	57.8	29.4	7.7	5.1
2007-4	2,374	1,291	709	238	136	54.4	29.9	10.0	5.7
2008-1	2,505	1,309	736	266	193	52.3	29.4	10.6	7.7
2008-2	2,361	1,281	683	226	172	54.2	28.9	9.6	7.3
2008-3	2,342	1,214	713	257	159	51.8	30.4	10.9	6.8
2008-4	2,483	1,279	682	308	212	51.5	27.5	12.4	8.5
2009-1	2,435	1,160	602	383	290	47.6	24.7	15.7	11.9
2009-2	2,433	1,093	673	389	278	44.9	27.7	16.0	11.4
2009-3	2,392	1,087	690	317	299	45.5	28.8	13.2	12.5
2009-4	2,433	1,075	687	332	340	44.2	28.3	13.6	14.0
2010-1	2,632	1,074	724	462	373	40.8	27.5	17.6	14.2
2010-2	2,651	1,191	733	414	312	45.0	27.7	15.6	11.8
2010-3	2,617	1,304	705	324	285	49.8	26.9	12.4	10.9
2010-4	2,799	1,354	744	400	300	48.4	26.5	14.3	10.8
2011-1	2,851	1,293	836	426	297	45.3	29.3	14.9	10.4
2011-2	2,878	1,289	837	386	365	44.8	29.1	13.4	12.7
2011-3	2,872	1,418	828	334	291	49.4	28.9	11.6	10.1
2011-4	2,759	1,352	834	307	265	49.0	30.2	11.1	9.6

## Notes on Methodology

This Research Brief report is based on ASPE tabulations of public use data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is the nation's primary data collection instrument for measurements of employment and unemployment rates in the United States.<sup>8</sup> The CPS is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor, and collects data from about 60,000 occupied households each month using a nationally representative probability design. Many of the questions on the survey refer to labor force participation during the week that includes the 12<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Persons included in the survey do not have to be citizens of the United States but must reside in the country.

Once a year the CPS expands the list of income and demographic questions that it asks its respondents and creates a supplemental dataset called the CPS-Annual Social and Economic (CPS-ASEC) Supplement. The ASEC was formerly called the March Supplement. This supplement is used by various organizations to report rates of poverty and health insurance coverage, and data about household incomes. Historically, it also was the primary CPS-based data source to compare employment and labor force participation between persons with children and those without children. Since 2004 the publicly available data from the Basic Monthly CPS has been expanded to allow the identification of parents who live with their own children under age 18. Tabulations of employment and unemployment rates isolating parents are available on a monthly basis from 2004 to the present using the public CPS Basic Monthly files, and also are available on an annual basis through the use of the CPS-ASEC once-a-year supplement. This Research Brief uses the Basic-Monthly CPS exclusively because its information reflects a more current reporting period.

This Research Brief includes the same universe analyzed by the BLS for its calculations of unemployment statistics. Using this methodology, the following populations are excluded from all of the tabulations:

- Institutionalized persons (e.g., persons in prisons, long-term care hospitals, and nursing homes).
- Persons living outside of the United States or living in military housing.
- Persons age 15 and younger.

The methods used to calculate unemployment rates for this Research Brief are the same as those used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for its official publications. The unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force (those persons working or actively seeking and available for work) that is not employed. In general, the labor force includes persons who are either working or looking for work. However, persons on layoff from a job and expecting recall also are included in the labor force even when they are not seeking other employment. Examples of persons excluded from the labor force for unemployment rate calculations include persons who cannot work, do not want to work, or are not actively looking for employment because they are discouraged about their job prospects. Therefore, unemployed persons are a subset of a larger population that is not employed.

Some of the subpopulations examined in this Research Brief consist of relatively small monthly sample sizes in the CPS. Therefore, the Research Brief averages three months of data together for all estimates to reduce sampling error across time. Each calculation is performed independently for each month, and the statistic reported (for example, unemployment rates) is computed by averaging three months of data to present 3-month quarterly averages. No estimate presented in this Research Brief is adjusted for seasonality, and care should be exercised when comparing different quarters of data throughout the year. Quarters refer to calendar year quarters, not fiscal year quarters.

Although a majority of the couples presented in the figures are opposite-sex couples the data are able to distinguish them from couples who are same-sex couples. Overall, same-sex couples comprise less than 0.1 percent of the couples with children in the CPS; this produces a sample size too small for separate tabulations of this group. Same-sex couples are excluded from Figures 10-12 in order to highlight differences by gender, but are included in Figures 1-9.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.bls.gov/cps>



Some persons are included in BLS's labor force tabulations but live with spouses or partners who are excluded. These persons are included in figures 1-5 and 8 but are excluded in figures 6, 7, and 9. Couples containing one or more persons who are excluded from BLS labor force tabulations are excluded in figures 10-12. For example, a person age 17 who is living with a cohabiting partner that is age 15 would be included in the population examined for Figures 1-5 and 8, but would be excluded in Figures 6, 7, 9, and 10-12. In this case, the person age 15 would be excluded from the labor force universe because the minimum age for inclusion in the labor force is 16. Another example is a couple that consists of one civilian adult and one adult in the Armed Services. Like the previous example, this couple would be included in the population examined for Figures 1-5 and 8, but is excluded in Figures 6, 7, 9, and 10-12. The exclusion of mixed couples with only one person included in the labor force universe means that the populations will not sum perfectly across some of the data tables. For example, the number of married couples with children in Figure 11 is slightly lower than the number of married fathers in Figure 8.<sup>9</sup>

The definition of parent used for the estimates presented here includes only those parents who are living with their own children under age 18, or those living with a cohabiting partner with his or her own children under age 18. This includes parents of biological and adopted children, but excludes parents of foster children and other relatives of children taking on informal parenting responsibilities. Thus, a person living with her granddaughter would not be identified as a parent, even though she may be providing parental care for the child. In addition, parents of children age 18 and older also are excluded, even when they are providing significant financial support to these adult children. Finally, non-resident parents, even those supporting dependents with child support payments or claiming the children for tax reporting purposes, are excluded from the parental universe in this Research Brief if they are not living with at least one of their own children.

The Research Brief identifies couples with children under age 18 for Figures 10-12 if either person in the couple is living with his or her own child, including adopted children. The numbers may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. All comparisons made in the text of this Research Brief are statistically significant at  $p < .05$ . Standard errors can be approximated for all numbers shown. For more information on how standard errors can be approximated for comparisons not mentioned in the text, visit the BLS' *Technical Documentation* Internet pages at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm>.

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<sup>9</sup> Another reason why the number of married couples will not be exactly equal to the number of married individuals is that, unlike the annual CPS-ASEC supplement (i.e., the March Supplement), the Basic Monthly CPS does not post-stratify in a manner that gives two persons in a married couple the exact same population weight. For this analysis, couples are assigned the weight of the household or family reference person.