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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOW-INCOME POPULATION: 1971

(Advance data from March 1972 Current Population Survey)

About 25.6 million persons were below the low-income level in 1971, according to the results of the Current Population Survey conducted in March 1972 by the Bureau of the Census. This figure is not significantly different from the 1970 figure of 25.4 million due to sampling variability. There was also no statistically significant change in the number of white and Negro low-income persons.

In 1971, the low-income or poverty threshold--the income level which separates "poor" from "nonpoor"--was $4,137 for a nonfarm family of four; it was $3,968 in 1970, and $2,973 in 1959.[1] These thresholds are updated every year to reflect the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI increased by about 4.3 percent between 1970 and 1971, but incomes rose sufficiently so that the number of persons in the low-income category remained unchanged.

Since 1959, the first year for which data on the low-income population are available, there has been a sizeable reduction in the number and percent of persons below the low-income level--from 22 percent of the population in 1959 to about 12 percent in 1971. In 1971, one-tenth of all white persons were in the low-income category as compared to about one-third for Negroes.

The sex of the family head continues to be an important factor in the poverty status of families. Families with a female head in 1971 accounted for only 12 percent of all families, but 40 percent of the low-income families. White families headed by a female accounted for about one-third of all white families in the low-income category; the corresponding figure for Negroes was about three-fifths. Although the total number of low-income families did not change over the past year, the proportion headed by a woman increased from 37 percent in 1970 to 40 percent in 1971 with a corresponding decrease in the percent of low-income families which were headed by a man. In 1959, families with a female head accounted for only about 23 percent of all low-income families. Since 1959, the number of low-income families with a female head has increased by one tenth, whereas families headed by a male decreased by one half.

There are significant differences in the age composition of the white and Negro low-income groups. In 1971, children under 18 years accounted for about 36 percent of all white persons below the low-income level as compared to 52 percent of all low-income Negroes. In contrast, aged family heads (65 years and over) and aged unrelated individuals comprised about 17 percent of all low-income whites, but only about 7 percent of the low-income Negroes.

Although about 68 percent of the Nation's families lived in the metropolitan areas in 1971, 56 percent of the low-income families lived in these

[1] Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the low-income level, using the poverty index adopted by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. This index centers around the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan and reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition, sex and age of the family head, and farm-nonfarm residence. For more detailed definitions of the terms and concepts used in this report, see Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 28 and Series P-60, No. 81.

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areas. About 50 percent of low-income white families living in metropolitan areas were central city residents as compared to 80 percent of low-income Negro families.

The median income deficit for low-income families was about $1,100 in 1971. For white families, the deficit was about $1,050 as compared to $1,250 for Negro families, a somewhat smaller difference than in the preceding year. The difference in the median deficit between white and Negro families is accounted for in part by the smaller average size of white families below the low-income level--3.6 persons for whites and 4.4 for Negroes.

On the average, 1971 incomes of low-income families headed by men were closer to being raised above the poverty line than those of families headed by women. About 29 percent of the low-income families headed by a man had incomes within $500 of moving out of the low-income category as compared to only about 18 percent for those families headed by a woman.

This report excludes inmates of institutions and unrelated individuals under 14 years. It includes only those members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post. More detailed data on the low-income population will appear in a report in this series to be issued later this year.

The estimates for 1971 are based on data obtained in the March 1972 Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Bureau of the Census. Approximately 47,000 households were eligible for interview. Of this number, 1,700 occupied units, on the average, were visited, but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason. Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Moreover, as in all field surveys of income, the figures are subject to errors of response and nonreporting. All statements of comparison made in the text of this report, however, are statistically significant. This means that the chances are at least 19 in 20 that a difference identified in the text indicates a true difference in the population rather than the chance variations arising from the use of samples.

Comparability of Estimates from the March 1972 CPS with Estimates for Previous Years

The data for 1971 collected in the March 1972 Current Population Survey (CPS) are, in some instances, not entirely comparable to figures for earlier years because of revisions in the Current Population Survey. Starting in January 1972, 1970 census-based population controls, metropolitan residence definition, and other materials were introduced into the sample and estimation procedures. The major item affecting comparability at the overall national level is the introduction of population controls based on the 1970 census. Figures for previous years are tied in with 1960 census-based population controls. In a number of instances, data from the March 1971 CPS were revised to take account of 1970 census-based population controls, thus providing some measure of the impact of the change (see tables 1 and 2). Basically, these changes should have no substantial impact on summary measures, such as medians and means, and on proportional measures, such as percent distributions and low-income or poverty rates. However, the changes may have more impact on the population levels in different subgroupings such as the total number of persons or families either overall, within some particular income interval, or below the low-income level.

The figures shown in this report for metropolitan areas (SMSA's) are based on the SMSA's as defined on the basis of the 1970 census; those published in earlier years referred to SMSA's as defined on the basis of the 1960 census. There are significant differences in the population classified as metropolitan from each of these definitions. For the 1970 definition of SMSA's, see U.S. Census of Population: 1970, Number of Inhabitants, PC(1)-A1, United States Summary.

Another change in the Current Population Survey which affects occupational data only, is the inclusion of a supplemental question, "What were your most important activities or duties?," which provided additional information for classifying persons by occupation. In general, the major impact of this supplemental question was to reclassify some persons from the "managers" classification into other types of occupations (primarily into the major occupation group of "craftsmen")

A detailed description of changes appears in the Bureau of Labor Statistics report, "Employment and Earnings," Vol. 18, No. 8, February 1972.

Table 1. **Persons Below the Low-Income Level by Family Status and Sex and Race of Head: 1959 to 1971**

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March of the following year)

Family status	1971[1]	1970[r]	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966[2]	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
All Persons															
Total	25,559	25,420	25,522	24,289	25,389	27,769	28,510	30,424	33,185	36,055	36,436	38,625	39,628	39,851	39,490
In families	20,405	20,330	20,499	19,438	20,695	22,771	23,809	25,614	28,358	30,912	31,498	33,623	34,509	34,925	34,562
Head	5,303	5,260	5,214	4,950	5,047	5,667	5,784	6,200	6,721	7,160	7,554	8,077	8,391	8,243	8,320
Related children under 18 years	10,344	10,235	10,493	9,821	10,739	11,427	12,146	12,876	14,388	15,736	15,691	16,630	16,577	17,288	17,208
Other family members	4,757	4,835	4,792	4,667	4,909	5,677	5,879	6,538	7,249	8,016	8,253	8,916	9,541	9,394	9,034
Unrelated individuals	5,154	5,090	5,023	4,851	4,694	4,998	4,701	4,810	4,827	5,143	4,938	5,002	5,119	4,926	4,928
White	17,780	17,484	17,480	16,671	17,395	18,983	19,290	20,751	22,496	24,957	25,238	26,672	27,890	28,309	28,484
In families	13,566	13,323	13,359	12,709	13,546	14,851	15,430	16,731	18,508	20,716	21,149	22,613	23,747	24,262	24,443
Head	3,751	3,708	3,701	3,555	3,616	4,056	4,106	4,481	4,824	5,258	5,466	5,887	6,205	6,115	6,185
Related children under 18 years	6,341	6,138	6,208	5,777	6,373	6,729	7,204	7,649	8,595	9,573	9,749	10,382	10,614	11,229	11,386
Other family members	3,474	3,477	3,450	3,377	3,557	4,066	4,120	4,601	5,089	5,885	5,934	6,344	6,928	6,918	6,872
Unrelated individuals	4,214	4,161	4,121	3,962	3,849	4,132	3,860	4,019	3,988	4,241	4,089	4,059	4,143	4,047	4,041
Negro and other races	7,780	7,936	8,042	7,618	7,994	8,786	9,220	9,673	10,689	11,098	11,198	11,953	11,738	11,542	11,006
In families	6,839	7,007	7,140	6,729	7,149	7,920	8,379	8,882	9,850	10,196	10,349	11,010	10,762	10,663	10,119
Head	1,552	1,552	1,514	1,395	1,431	1,611	1,678	1,719	1,897	1,902	2,088	2,190	2,186	2,128	2,135
Related children under 18 years	4,003	4,097	4,284	4,044	4,366	4,698	4,942	5,227	5,793	6,163	5,942	6,248	5,963	6,059	5,822
Other family members	1,283	1,358	1,342	1,290	1,352	1,611	1,759	1,936	2,160	2,131	2,319	2,572	2,613	2,476	2,162
Unrelated individuals	941	929	902	889	845	866	841	791	839	902	849	943	976	879	887
Persons in Families With Male Head and Male Unrelated Individuals															
Total	14,151	14,266	14,310	13,819	15,025	17,178	18,260	19,579	22,127	25,084	25,339	27,394	28,830	29,188	29,100
In families	12,608	12,828	12,879	12,440	13,705	15,873	16,948	18,314	20,834	23,615	23,852	25,842	27,257	27,678	27,548
Head	3,203	3,309	3,280	3,146	3,292	3,893	4,063	4,384	4,805	5,338	5,582	6,043	6,437	6,288	6,404
Related children under 18 years	5,494	5,546	5,665	5,444	6,330	7,181	7,884	8,374	9,826	11,314	11,137	12,124	12,533	13,193	13,063
Other family members	3,910	3,973	3,934	3,850	4,083	4,799	5,001	5,556	6,203	6,963	7,133	7,675	8,287	8,197	8,081
Unrelated individuals	1,543	1,438	1,431	1,379	1,320	1,305	1,312	1,265	1,293	1,469	1,487	1,552	1,573	1,510	1,552
Persons in Families With Female Head and Female Unrelated Individuals															
Total	11,409	11,154	11,212	10,470	10,364	10,591	10,250	10,845	11,058	10,971	11,097	11,231	10,798	10,663	10,390
In families	7,797	7,503	7,620	6,998	6,990	6,898	6,861	7,300	7,524	7,297	7,646	7,781	7,252	7,247	7,014
Head	2,100	1,951	1,934	1,804	1,755	1,774	1,721	1,816	1,916	1,822	1,972	2,034	1,954	1,955	1,916
Related children under 18 years	4,850	4,689	4,828	4,377	4,409	4,246	4,262	4,502	4,562	4,422	4,554	4,506	4,044	4,095	4,145
Other family members	847	862	858	817	826	878	878	982	1,046	1,053	1,120	1,241	1,254	1,197	953
Unrelated individuals	3,611	3,652	3,592	3,472	3,374	3,693	3,389	3,545	3,534	3,674	3,451	3,450	3,546	3,416	3,376

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Persons Below the Low-Income Level by Family Status and Sex and Race of Head: 1959 to 1971**—Continued

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March of the following year)

Family status	1971[1]	1970[r]	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966[2]	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
PERCENT BELOW LOW-INCOME LEVEL															
All Persons															
Total	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.2	12.8	14.2	14.7	15.7	17.3	19.0	19.5	21.0	21.9	22.2	22.4
In families	10.8	10.9	11.0	10.5	11.3	12.5	13.1	14.2	15.8	17.4	17.9	19.4	20.3	20.7	20.8
Head	10.0	10.1	10.0	9.7	10.0	11.4	11.8	12.7	13.9	15.0	15.9	17.2	18.1	18.1	18.5
Related children under 18 years	15.1	14.9	15.0	14.1	15.3	16.3	17.4	18.4	20.7	22.7	22.8	24.7	25.2	26.5	26.9
Other family members	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.8	9.1	9.5	10.5	11.8	13.3	13.8	15.1	16.5	16.2	15.9
Unrelated individuals	31.6	32.9	32.7	33.6	34.0	38.1	38.3	38.9	39.8	42.7	44.2	45.4	45.9	45.2	46.1
White	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.5	10.0	11.0	11.3	12.2	13.3	14.9	15.3	16.4	17.4	17.8	18.1
In families	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.8	8.4	9.2	9.7	10.5	11.7	13.2	13.6	14.7	15.8	16.2	16.5
Head	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.7	8.0	9.0	9.3	10.2	11.1	12.2	12.8	13.9	14.8	14.9	15.2
Related children under 18 years	10.9	10.5	10.5	9.8	10.7	11.3	12.1	12.8	14.4	16.1	16.5	17.9	18.7	20.0	20.6
Other family members	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.3	7.2	7.4	8.2	9.2	10.8	11.0	12.0	13.3	13.3	13.3
Unrelated individuals	29.6	30.8	30.7	31.8	32.2	36.5	36.1	37.3	38.1	40.7	42.0	42.7	43.2	43.0	44.1
Negro and other races	30.9	32.0	32.1	31.1	33.5	37.2	39.8	41.7	47.1	49.6	51.0	55.8	56.1	55.9	56.2
In families	29.7	30.7	30.9	29.9	32.4	36.3	38.9	41.1	46.8	49.1	50.5	55.3	55.6	55.7	56.0
Head	27.4	28.1	28.0	26.7	28.2	32.1	33.9	35.0	39.7	40.0	43.7	48.0	49.0	49.0	50.4
Related children under 18 years	38.7	39.6	39.6	38.0	41.6	44.9	48.2	50.7	57.3	61.5	60.9	66.4	65.7	66.6	66.7
Other family members	18.2	19.5	19.5	19.4	20.9	25.3	27.7	30.2	35.3	35.7	38.9	43.2	44.8	43.3	42.5
Unrelated individuals	44.9	46.7	46.4	44.9	45.7	48.2	53.1	50.0	50.7	55.0	58.3	62.1	62.7	59.3	57.4
Persons in Families With Male Head and Male Unrelated Individuals															
Total	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.0	8.8	10.1	10.8	11.6	13.2	15.1	15.4	16.9	18.1	18.5	18.7
In families	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.4	8.3	9.6	10.3	11.2	12.8	14.6	14.9	16.4	17.6	18.0	18.2
Head	6.8	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.3	8.7	9.3	10.0	11.1	12.5	13.1	14.3	15.4	15.4	15.8
Related children under 18 years	9.3	9.2	9.3	8.8	10.2	11.5	12.6	13.4	15.7	18.2	18.0	19.9	21.0	22.3	22.4
Other family members	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.0	8.3	8.7	9.6	10.9	12.4	12.9	14.1	15.4	15.3	15.3
Unrelated individuals	23.9	24.1	24.0	25.3	25.4	26.9	29.3	27.7	28.9	32.0	34.8	36.5	36.0	35.1	36.8
Persons in Families With Female Head and Female Unrelated Individuals															
Total	38.0	38.2	38.4	38.3	38.9	40.6	41.0	43.8	46.0	45.9	48.4	50.5	49.5	49.5	50.2
In families	38.7	38.1	38.5	38.1	38.7	38.8	39.8	43.1	46.0	44.4	47.7	50.3	48.1	48.9	49.4
Head	33.9	32.5	32.5	32.3	32.3	33.3	33.1	35.1	38.4	36.4	40.4	42.9	42.1	42.4	42.6
Related children under 18 years	53.1	53.0	53.4	54.4	55.2	54.3	58.2	61.3	64.2	62.3	66.6	70.2	65.1	68.4	72.2
Other family members	17.5	17.9	17.9	17.3	17.8	18.9	18.6	22.2	24.5	24.3	26.0	28.8	29.8	28.3	24.0
Unrelated individuals	36.6	38.4	38.2	38.5	39.2	44.7	43.5	45.4	46.2	49.3	50.0	51.0	52.4	50.9	52.1

[r]Revised using population controls based on the 1970 census. For a more detailed explanation, see text.

[1]The data for 1971 from the March 1972 Current Population Survey (CPS) are tied in with figures using 1970 census-based population controls and sampling frame and are, therefore, not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. For a more detailed explanation, see text.

[2]Beginning with the March 1967 CPS, data are based on revised methodology for processing income data; see Series P-60, No. 81, for explanation.

Table 2. Negro Persons Below the Low-Income Level by Family Status: 1967 to 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March of the following year)

Family status	Number below low-income level						Percent below low-income level					
	1971[1]	1970[r]	1970	1969	1968	1967	1971[1]	1970[r]	1970	1969	1968	1967
Total	7,396	7,548	7,650	7,215	7,616	8,486	32.5	33.5	33.6	32.3	34.7	39.3
In families	6,530	6,683	6,810	6,409	6,839	7,677	31.2	32.2	32.4	31.2	33.7	38.4
Head	1,484	1,481	1,445	1,326	1,366	1,555	28.8	29.5	29.3	27.8	29.4	33.9
Related children under 18 years	3,836	3,922	4,101	3,879	4,188	4,558	40.7	41.5	41.5	39.7	43.1	47.4
Other family members	1,210	1,279	1,264	1,204	1,285	1,564	19.1	20.5	20.4	20.0	21.7	27.1
Unrelated individuals	866	865	840	806	777	809	46.0	48.3	48.1	46.0	46.3	49.3

[r]Revised using population controls based on the 1970 census. For a more detailed explanation, see text.

[1]The data for 1971 from the March 1972 Current Population Survey (CPS) are tied in with figures using 1970 census-based population controls and sampling frame and are, therefore, not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. For a more detailed explanation, see text.

Table 3. Persons Below the Low-Income Level in 1971, by Family Status and Sex and Race of Head

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March 1972)

Family status	All races			White			Negro		
	Total	Below low-income level		Total	Below low-income level		Total	Below low-income level	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
ALL PERSONS									
Total	204,554	25,559	12.5	179,398	17,780	9.9	22,784	7,396	32.5
In families	188,242	20,405	10.8	165,184	13,566	8.2	20,900	6,530	31.2
Head	53,296	5,303	10.0	47,641	3,751	7.9	5,157	1,484	28.8
65 years and over	7,478	1,062	14.2	6,794	842	12.4	632	211	33.4
Related children under 18 years	68,474	10,344	15.1	58,119	6,341	10.9	9,414	3,836	40.7
Other family members	66,472	4,757	7.2	59,423	3,474	5.8	6,328	1,210	19.1
Unrelated individuals	16,311	5,154	31.6	14,214	4,214	29.6	1,884	866	46.0
65 years and over	6,060	2,563	42.3	5,521	2,222	40.2	495	317	64.0
PERSONS IN FAMILIES WITH MALE HEAD AND MALE UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
Total	174,543	14,151	8.1	157,107	10,635	6.8	15,390	3,267	21.2
In families	168,090	12,608	7.5	151,682	9,468	6.2	14,502	2,943	20.3
Head	47,105	3,203	6.8	43,152	2,560	5.9	3,516	605	17.2
65 years and over	6,461	828	12.8	5,954	681	11.4	465	138	29.7
Related children under 18 years	59,347	5,494	9.3	52,624	3,889	7.4	5,915	1,507	25.5
Other family members	61,638	3,910	6.3	55,906	3,019	5.4	5,071	831	16.4
Unrelated individuals	6,453	1,543	23.9	5,425	1,167	21.5	888	324	36.5
65 years and over	1,365	445	32.6	1,173	338	28.8	161	88	54.8
PERSONS IN FAMILIES WITH FEMALE HEAD AND FEMALE UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
Total	30,011	11,409	38.0	22,291	7,145	32.1	7,394	4,129	55.8
In families	20,153	7,797	38.7	13,502	4,099	30.4	6,398	3,587	56.1
Head	6,191	2,100	33.9	4,489	1,191	26.5	1,642	879	53.5
65 years and over	1,017	234	23.0	839	161	19.2	168	73	43.6
Related children under 18 years	9,127	4,850	53.1	5,495	2,452	44.6	3,499	2,329	66.6
Other family members	4,834	847	17.5	3,517	455	12.9	1,257	379	30.1
Unrelated individuals	9,858	3,611	36.6	8,789	3,047	34.7	997	542	54.4
65 years and over	4,695	2,118	45.1	4,348	1,884	43.3	334	228	68.4

Table 4. Selected Characteristics of Families Below the Low-Income Level in 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Families as of March 1972)

Selected characteristics	All races			White			Negro		
	Total	Below low-income level		Total	Below low-income level		Total	Below low-income level	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
All families	53,296	5,303	10.0	47,641	3,751	7.9	5,157	1,484	28.8
AGE OF HEAD									
Under 25 years	3,993	719	18.0	3,463	505	14.6	486	202	41.5
25 to 44 years	21,964	2,114	9.6	19,423	1,402	7.2	2,321	682	29.4
45 to 64 years	19,861	1,408	7.1	17,962	1,001	5.6	1,718	389	22.6
65 years and over	7,478	1,062	14.2	6,794	842	12.4	632	211	33.4
SIZE OF FAMILY									
2 persons	18,862	1,901	10.1	17,236	1,501	8.7	1,475	370	25.1
3 persons	11,305	948	8.4	10,118	665	6.6	1,086	272	25.0
4 persons	10,524	790	7.5	9,504	552	5.8	918	232	25.3
5 persons	6,362	564	8.9	5,729	381	6.7	575	178	31.0
6 persons	3,325	403	12.1	2,831	259	9.1	448	137	30.6
7 or more persons	2,919	697	23.9	2,223	393	17.7	654	294	45.0
NUMBER OF RELATED CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS									
No children	22,571	1,621	7.2	20,896	1,379	6.6	1,497	224	15.0
1 and 2 children	20,260	1,845	9.1	17,977	1,257	7.0	2,072	559	27.0
3 and 4 children	8,302	1,175	14.2	7,197	757	10.5	1,025	407	39.7
5 children or more	2,163	663	30.7	1,571	358	22.8	563	295	52.4
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HEAD[1]									
Elementary school, total	12,372	2,293	18.5	10,417	1,609	15.4	1,853	660	35.6
Less than 8 years	6,422	1,505	23.4	4,945	965	19.5	1,408	520	36.9
8 years	5,950	788	13.2	5,472	644	11.8	444	140	31.5
High school, total	24,271	1,880	7.7	21,789	1,288	5.9	2,286	569	24.9
1 to 3 years	8,275	947	11.4	7,076	593	8.4	1,137	343	30.2
4 years	15,996	933	5.8	14,714	695	4.7	1,149	227	19.8
College, total	12,661	411	3.2	11,972	349	2.9	533	53	9.9
1 to 3 years	5,557	268	4.8	5,213	223	4.3	309	41	13.3
4 years or more	7,104	143	2.0	6,759	126	1.9	224	12	5.4
NUMBER OF EARNERS									
No earners	5,100	1,907	37.4	4,337	1,347	31.1	742	543	73.2
1 earner	20,104	2,212	11.0	18,138	1,619	8.9	1,773	556	31.3
2 earners	20,602	913	4.4	18,469	640	3.5	1,930	261	13.5
3 earners or more	7,490	272	3.6	6,697	145	2.2	712	124	17.4
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HEAD									
Employed	40,776	2,247	5.5	36,953	1,631	4.4	3,429	578	16.8
Unemployed	1,559	334	21.4	1,304	226	17.3	236	104	44.0
Not in labor force	9,941	2,650	26.7	8,435	1,829	21.7	1,429	795	55.6
In Armed Forces	1,020	72	7.1	948	65	6.9	62	7	(B)
WORK EXPERIENCE OF HEAD									
Worked in 1971	44,168	2,809	6.4	39,844	2,002	5.0	3,893	764	19.6
50 to 52 weeks	34,493	1,309	3.8	31,487	955	3.0	2,688	337	12.5
Full time	33,187	1,084	3.3	30,370	803	2.6	2,512	265	10.5
1 to 49 weeks	9,675	1,500	15.5	8,358	1,047	12.5	1,205	427	35.4
Main reason for working part year:									
Unemployed	4,295	574	13.4	3,747	409	10.9	500	153	30.6
Other	5,380	927	17.2	4,611	638	13.8	705	274	38.9
Did not work in 1971	8,108	2,422	29.9	6,848	1,683	24.6	1,202	713	59.3
In Armed Forces	1,020	72	7.1	948	65	6.9	62	7	(B)
OCCUPATION OF LONGEST JOB OF HEAD									
Worked in 1971	44,168	2,809	6.4	39,844	2,002	5.0	3,893	764	19.6
Professional and managerial workers	12,242	273	2.2	11,701	226	1.9	382	43	11.3
Clerical and sales workers	6,367	294	4.6	5,841	244	4.2	470	42	8.9
Craftsmen and kindred workers	9,364	373	4.0	8,814	313	3.5	490	58	11.7
Operatives, including transport	8,009	497	6.2	6,960	338	4.9	1,005	151	15.0
Service wkrs., incl. private household	3,701	565	15.3	2,765	282	10.2	884	273	30.9
Laborers, except farm	2,351	273	11.6	1,810	174	9.6	500	97	19.3
Farmers and farm laborers	2,135	533	25.0	1,951	424	21.7	162	101	62.3

B Base less than 75,000.
[1]Head 25 years old and over.

Table 5. Families and Unrelated Individuals Below the Low-Income Level in 1971, by Type of Residence, Region, and Race of Head

(Numbers in thousands. Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1972)

Residence	All races			White			Negro		
	Total	Below low-income level		Total	Below low-income level		Total	Below low-income level	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
FAMILIES									
United States	53,296	5,303	10.0	47,641	3,751	7.9	5,157	1,484	28.8
Nonfarm	50,703	4,851	9.6	45,213	3,382	7.5	5,012	1,403	28.0
Farm	2,593	452	17.4	2,428	369	15.2	146	81	55.4
Metropolitan areas[1]	36,496	2,970	8.1	32,169	1,962	6.1	3,951	973	24.6
Inside central cities	16,114	1,781	11.1	12,829	977	7.6	3,047	775	25.4
Outside central cities	20,382	1,189	5.8	19,341	985	5.1	904	199	22.0
Nonmetropolitan areas[1]	16,800	2,333	13.9	15,472	1,789	11.6	1,206	510	42.3
Northeast	12,575	916	7.3	11,447	680	5.9	1,068	233	21.8
North Central	14,678	1,191	8.1	13,582	945	7.0	1,057	240	22.7
South	16,755	2,356	14.1	14,097	1,419	10.1	2,576	913	35.5
West	9,288	840	9.0	8,515	706	8.3	456	98	21.5
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
United States	16,311	5,154	31.6	14,214	4,214	29.6	1,884	866	46.0
Nonfarm	15,950	5,021	31.5	13,880	4,093	29.5	1,860	853	45.9
Farm	362	133	36.9	334	120	36.0	25	13	(B)
Metropolitan areas[1]	12,222	3,418	28.0	10,492	2,718	25.9	1,545	647	41.9
Inside central cities	7,523	2,218	29.5	6,074	1,647	27.1	1,309	540	41.3
Outside central cities	4,700	1,199	25.5	4,418	1,071	24.2	236	107	45.1
Nonmetropolitan areas[1]	4,089	1,737	42.5	3,722	1,496	40.2	339	219	64.7
Northeast	4,034	1,125	27.9	3,556	948	26.6	437	167	38.3
North Central	4,441	1,397	31.5	4,052	1,249	30.8	364	138	37.9
South	4,466	1,721	38.5	3,572	1,228	34.4	878	485	55.2
West	3,371	911	27.0	3,035	789	26.0	205	76	36.8

B Base less than 75,000.
[1]Based on SMSA's as defined in the 1970 census.

Table 6. Weighted Average Thresholds at the Low-Income Level in 1971, by Size of Family and Sex of Head, by Farm-Nonfarm Residence

Size of family	Total	Nonfarm			Farm		
		Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]	Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]
All unrelated individuals	$2,033	$2,040	$2,136	$1,978	$1,727	$1,783	$1,669
Under 65 years	2,093	2,098	2,181	2,017	1,805	1,853	1,715
65 years and over	1,931	1,940	1,959	1,934	1,652	1,666	1,643
All families	3,700	3,724	3,764	3,428	3,235	3,242	3,079
2 persons	2,612	2,633	2,641	2,581	2,219	2,224	2,130
Head under 65 years	2,699	2,716	2,731	2,635	2,317	2,322	2,195
Head 65 years and over	2,424	2,448	2,450	2,437	2,082	2,081	2,089
3 persons	3,207	3,229	3,246	3,127	2,745	2,749	2,627
4 persons	4,113	4,137	4,139	4,116	3,527	3,528	3,513
5 persons	4,845	4,880	4,884	4,837	4,159	4,159	4,148
6 persons	5,441	5,489	5,492	5,460	4,688	4,689	4,656
7 or more persons	6,678	6,751	6,771	6,583	5,736	5,749	5,516

[1]For unrelated individuals, sex of the individual.

Table 7. Size of Income Deficit for Families and Unrelated Individuals Below the Low-Income Level in 1971, by Sex and Race of Head

(Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1972)

Size of income deficit	All races			White			Negro		
	Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]	Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]	Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]
FAMILIES									
Number.....thousands..	5,303	3,203	2,100	3,751	2,560	1,191	1,484	605	879
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $249.....	12.0	14.1	8.9	12.9	14.3	9.8	9.9	13.6	7.5
$250 to $499.....	12.6	14.6	9.6	13.5	15.5	9.2	10.8	11.6	10.4
$500 to $999.....	20.9	21.7	19.6	21.2	21.5	20.5	20.2	22.5	18.7
$1,000 to $1,499.....	15.9	15.5	16.6	15.8	15.4	16.7	16.1	15.7	16.4
$1,500 to $1,999.....	11.5	10.1	13.6	10.5	9.9	11.7	13.6	10.9	15.5
$2,000 to $2,999.....	15.8	13.6	19.2	15.5	13.8	19.2	16.6	12.6	19.2
$3,000 and over.....	11.3	10.3	12.6	10.7	9.7	12.9	12.7	13.2	12.4
Median income deficit.....	$1,122	$990	$1,337	$1,068	$970	$1,284	$1,241	$1,070	$1,395
Mean income deficit.....	1,446	1,339	1,609	1,407	1,321	1,593	1,540	1,407	1,631
Deficit per family member.....	376	340	433	389	357	463	350	289	400
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
Number.....thousands..	5,154	1,543	3,611	4,214	1,167	3,047	866	324	542
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $249.....	18.6	14.5	20.3	19.7	15.1	21.5	13.5	13.0	13.4
$250 to $499.....	16.0	15.5	16.3	16.5	16.0	16.7	14.4	14.9	14.4
$500 to $749.....	17.5	15.7	18.2	17.6	15.5	18.4	16.3	14.2	17.7
$750 to $999.....	13.5	13.0	13.7	12.9	12.0	13.2	16.4	16.4	16.4
$1,000 to $1,499.....	17.8	17.2	18.0	16.8	16.7	16.8	22.5	18.3	25.0
$1,500 and over.....	16.7	24.1	13.5	16.5	24.7	13.3	17.0	23.2	13.1
Median income deficit.....	$720	$834	$683	$696	$822	$660	$839	$874	$817
Mean income deficit.....	847	981	789	829	976	773	920	1,006	869

[1]For unrelated individuals, sex of the individual.

Table 8. Distribution of Families and Unrelated Individuals Below the Low-Income Level and Aggregate Income Deficit: 1971, 1966, and 1959

(Families and unrelated individuals as of March of the following year. Deficit in 1971 dollars)

Presence of related children under 18 years and sex of head	All races			White			Negro and other races		
	1971	1966	1959	1971	1966	1959	1971	1966	1959
NUMBER BELOW LOW-INCOME LEVEL (thousands)									
Total.....	10,457	10,485	13,248	7,965	7,966	10,226	2,493	2,519	3,022
All families.....	5,303	5,784	8,320	3,751	4,106	6,185	1,552	1,678	2,135
Male head.....	3,203	4,063	6,404	2,560	3,070	4,952	644	993	1,452
No related children under 18 years....	1,351	1,739	2,486	1,170	1,473	2,088	181	266	398
With related children under 18 years..	1,852	2,324	3,918	1,390	1,597	2,864	463	727	1,054
Female head.....	2,100	1,721	1,916	1,191	1,036	1,233	908	685	683
No related children under 18 years....	270	311	391	209	233	285	61	78	106
With related children under 18 years..	1,830	1,410	1,525	982	803	948	847	607	577
Unrelated individuals.....	5,154	4,701	4,928	4,214	3,860	4,041	941	841	887
Male.....	1,543	1,312	1,552	1,167	995	1,158	376	317	394
Female.....	3,611	3,389	3,376	3,047	2,865	2,883	565	524	493
AGGREGATE INCOME DEFICIT (millions)									
Total.....	$12,033	$12,632	$18,991	$8,771	$8,789	$13,628	$3,259	$3,838	$5,359
All families.....	7,668	8,496	13,629	5,278	5,503	9,282	2,389	2,989	4,346
Male head.....	4,289	5,582	9,939	3,382	3,916	7,011	910	1,668	2,923
No related children under 18 years....	1,273	1,493	2,611	1,109	1,243	2,173	164	250	439
With related children under 18 years..	3,016	4,089	7,328	2,273	2,673	4,838	746	1,418	2,484
Female head.....	3,379	2,910	3,690	1,897	1,590	2,270	1,479	1,320	1,420
No related children under 18 years....	250	282	422	189	213	304	(B)	69	(B)
With related children under 18 years..	3,129	2,628	3,268	1,708	1,377	1,966	1,417	1,251	1,302
Unrelated individuals.....	4,365	4,136	5,362	3,493	3,286	4,346	870	849	1,013
Male.....	1,514	1,232	1,660	1,139	899	1,226	375	332	434
Female.....	2,849	2,904	3,702	2,355	2,387	3,121	495	517	579

B 1971 base less than 75,000; 1959 base less than 200,000.

Table 9. Persons Below 125 Percent of the Low-Income Level in 1971, by Family Status and Sex and Race of Head

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March 1972)

Family status	All races			White			Negro		
	Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]	Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]	Total	Male head[1]	Female head[1]
All persons	36,501	22,133	14,368	26,217	17,010	9,207	9,739	4,746	4,993
In families	29,949	20,188	9,761	20,791	15,510	5,281	8,696	4,362	4,334
Head	7,761	5,099	2,662	5,692	4,121	1,571	1,972	914	1,058
65 years and over	1,716	1,382	334	1,393	1,153	240	315	221	94
Related children under 18 years	14,736	8,848	5,888	9,566	6,522	3,044	4,926	2,179	2,747
Other family members	7,452	6,241	1,211	5,533	4,867	666	1,798	1,269	529
Unrelated individuals	6,552	1,945	4,607	5,426	1,500	3,926	1,043	384	659
65 years and over	3,424	627	2,797	3,006	498	2,509	392	110	282
PERCENT BELOW 125 PERCENT OF LOW-INCOME LEVEL									
All persons	17.8	12.7	47.9	14.6	10.8	41.3	42.7	30.8	67.5
In families	15.9	12.0	48.4	12.6	10.2	39.1	41.6	30.1	67.7
Head	14.6	10.8	43.0	11.9	9.5	35.0	38.2	26.0	64.4
65 years and over	22.9	21.4	32.8	20.5	19.4	28.6	49.8	47.5	56.0
Related children under 18 years	21.5	14.9	64.5	16.5	12.4	55.4	52.3	36.8	78.5
Other family members	11.2	10.1	25.1	9.3	8.7	18.9	28.4	25.0	42.1
Unrelated individuals	40.2	30.1	46.7	38.2	27.6	44.7	55.4	43.2	66.1
65 years and over	56.5	45.9	59.6	54.4	42.5	57.7	79.2	68.3	84.4

[1]For unrelated individuals, sex of individual.

Note: The average threshold for a nonfarm family of four at 125 percent of the low-income level was $5,171 in 1971. Other thresholds at 125 percent of the low-income level can be obtained directly by multiplying the low-income thresholds shown in table 6 by 1.25.