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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOW-INCOME POPULATION: 1972

(Advance data from March 1973 Current Population Survey)

About 24.5 million persons were below the low-income level in 1972, according to the results of the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted in March 1973 by the Bureau of the Census. This figure is 1.1 million or 4.3 percent below the 1971 figure. The number of low-income white persons declined by about 9 percent between 1971 and 1972, while there is some evidence of a small increase in the number of low-income blacks. Over the same period, low-income persons 65 years and over declined by about 12 percent, while for persons under 65 years, the number did not change significantly.

In 1972, the low-income or poverty threshold--the income level which separates "poor" from "nonpoor"--was $4,275 for a nonfarm family of four; it was $4,137 in 1971, and $2,973 in 1959.[1] These thresholds are updated every year to reflect the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

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 about 22 percent of the population in 1959 to 12 percent in 1972. In 1972, about 9 percent of all white persons were in the low-income category as compared to about 33 percent for Negroes.

The sex of the family head continues to be an important factor in the low-income status of families. Since 1959, the number of low-income families with a male head has decreased by 54 percent, whereas low-income families headed by a female increased by 13 percent. Because of this rapid decline in low-income families with a male head and the increase in the number of low-income families with a female head, families headed by women have become a greater proportion of all low-income families--23 percent in 1959, 40 percent in 1971, and 43 percent in 1972. The comparable proportions for families above the low-income level were 7 percent in 1959 and about 9 percent in both 1971 and 1972. Over the past year, the number of low-income families headed by a man decreased by 9 percent; the sampling error was too large to measure whether there was any change in the number of low-income families headed by a woman. Families headed by women account for a greater proportion of low-income Negro families than of low-income white families. In both 1971 and 1972, about one out of three low-income white families was headed by a woman. Among low-income black families, the proportion headed by a woman increased from 59 percent in 1971 to 64 percent in 1972.

There are significant differences in the age composition of the white and Negro low-income

[1] Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the low-income or poverty level, using the poverty index adopted by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. This index is based on the Department of Agriculture's 1961 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. 86.

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groups. In 1972, 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 persons (65 years and over) comprised about 19 percent of all low-income whites, but only about 8 percent of the low-income Negroes.

About 58 percent of families below the low-income level lived in the metropolitan areas in 1972, compared to 69 percent of the families above the low-income level. About one-half of low-income white families living in metropolitan areas were central city residents in 1972. The comparable figure for Negroes was 84 percent.

While the total number of low-income families declined by 4.3 percent between 1971 and 1972, there was no statistically significant change in the number of low-income nonfarm families. The poverty rate for nonfarm families declined slightly from about 10 percent in 1971 to 9 percent in 1972, while the farm low-income rate decreased from 17 percent to 13 percent over the same period.

The median income deficit for low-income families was about $1,200 in 1972. For families headed by a male, the deficit was about $1,080 as compared to $1,400 for families headed by a female. On the average, 1972 incomes of low-income families headed by men were closer to being raised above the poverty line than were the incomes of families headed by women. About 25 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 20 percent for those families headed by a woman.

The 1972 statistics presented in this report were obtained from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey of March 1973. The information was collected from the civilian noninstitutional population and members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States. Unrelated individuals under 14 years of age are also excluded from this report. More detailed data on the low-income population will appear in a report in this series to be issued later this year.

Data on income collected in the CPS are limited to money income received before payments for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc. Money income is the sum of the amounts received from earnings; Social Security and public assistance payments; dividends, interest, and rent; unemployment and workmen's compensation; government and private employee pensions; and other periodic income. (Certain money receipts such as capital gains are not included.) Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that many families receive part of their income in the form of nonmoney transfers such as food stamps, health benefits, and subsidized housing; that many farm families receive nonmoney income in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm; or that nonmoney incomes are also received by some nonfarm residents which often take the form of the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, medical and educational expenses, etc. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels. Moreover, readers should be aware that for many different reasons there is a tendency in household surveys for respondents to underreport their income. Overall aggregate income compiled in the CPS was about 90 percent of preliminary benchmark estimates in 1972. From an analysis of independently derived income estimates, it has been determined that wages and salaries tend to be much better reported than such income types as public assistance, Social Security, and net income from interest, dividends, rentals, etc. For further details, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 86.

In the March 1973 Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Bureau of the Census, approximately 47,000 households were eligible for interview. Of this number, 2,000 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 appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. Most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. Thus, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. 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. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

Table 1. Persons Below the Low-Income Level by Family Status and Sex and Race of Head: 1959 to 1972

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

Family status	1972[1]	1971[1]	1970[1]	1969[1]	1969	1968	1967	1966[2]	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
All Persons															
Total	24,460	25,559	25,420	24,147	24,289	25,389	27,769	28,510	33,185	36,055	36,436	38,625	39,628	39,851	39,490
Percent 65 years and over	15.3	16.7	18.9	(NA)	19.7	18.3	19.4	17.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	14.1
In families	19,577	20,405	20,330	19,175	19,438	20,695	22,771	23,809	28,358	30,912	31,498	33,623	34,509	34,925	34,562
Head	5,075	5,303	5,260	5,008	4,950	5,047	5,667	5,784	6,721	7,160	7,554	8,077	8,391	8,243	8,320
Related children under 18 years	10,082	10,344	10,235	9,501	9,821	10,739	11,427	12,146	14,388	15,736	15,691	16,630	16,577	17,288	17,208
Other family members	4,420	4,757	4,835	4,667	4,667	4,909	5,677	5,879	7,249	8,016	8,253	8,916	9,541	9,394	9,034
Unrelated individuals	4,883	5,154	5,090	4,972	4,851	4,694	4,998	4,701	4,827	5,143	4,938	5,002	5,119	4,926	4,928
White	16,203	17,780	17,484	16,659	16,671	17,395	18,983	19,290	22,496	24,957	25,238	26,672	27,890	28,309	28,484
Percent 65 years and over	19.0	20.3	22.9	(NA)	24.3	22.7	24.5	22.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	16.7
In families	12,268	13,566	13,323	12,623	12,709	13,546	14,851	15,430	18,508	20,716	21,149	22,613	23,747	24,262	24,443
Head	3,441	3,751	3,708	3,575	3,555	3,616	4,056	4,106	4,824	5,258	5,466	5,887	6,205	6,115	6,185
Related children under 18 years	5,784	6,341	6,138	5,667	5,777	6,373	6,729	7,204	8,595	9,573	9,749	10,382	10,614	11,229	11,386
Other family members	3,043	3,474	3,477	3,381	3,377	3,557	4,066	4,120	5,089	5,885	5,934	6,344	6,928	6,918	6,872
Unrelated individuals	3,935	4,214	4,161	4,036	3,962	3,849	4,132	3,860	3,988	4,241	4,089	4,059	4,143	4,047	4,041
Negro and other races	8,257	7,780	7,936	7,488	7,618	7,994	8,786	9,220	10,689	11,098	11,198	11,953	11,738	11,542	11,006
Percent 65 years and over	8.1	8.6	9.9	(NA)	9.6	8.6	8.4	8.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	7.1
In families	7,309	6,839	7,007	6,552	6,729	7,149	7,920	8,379	9,850	10,196	10,349	11,010	10,762	10,663	10,119
Head	1,634	1,552	1,552	1,433	1,395	1,431	1,611	1,678	1,897	1,902	2,088	2,190	2,186	2,128	2,135
Related children under 18 years	4,298	4,003	4,097	3,834	4,044	4,366	4,698	4,942	5,793	6,163	5,942	6,248	5,963	6,059	5,822
Other family members	1,377	1,283	1,358	1,286	1,290	1,352	1,611	1,759	2,160	2,131	2,319	2,572	2,613	2,476	2,162
Unrelated individuals	948	941	929	936	889	845	866	841	839	902	849	943	976	879	887
Persons in Families With Male Head and Male Unrelated Individuals															
Total	12,873	14,151	14,266	13,735	13,819	15,025	17,178	18,260	22,127	25,084	25,339	27,394	28,830	29,188	29,100
Percent 65 years and over	11.9	12.9	15.6	(NA)	16.7	14.9	16.1	14.8	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	11.7
In families	11,463	12,608	12,828	12,296	12,440	13,705	15,873	16,948	20,834	23,615	23,852	25,842	27,257	27,678	27,548
Head	2,917	3,203	3,309	3,181	3,146	3,292	3,893	4,063	4,805	5,338	5,582	6,043	6,437	6,288	6,404
Related children under 18 years	4,988	5,494	5,546	5,253	5,444	6,330	7,181	7,884	9,826	11,314	11,137	12,124	12,533	13,193	13,063
Other family members	3,558	3,910	3,973	3,862	3,850	4,083	4,799	5,001	6,203	6,963	7,133	7,675	8,287	8,197	8,081
Unrelated individuals	1,410	1,543	1,438	1,439	1,379	1,320	1,305	1,312	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	11,587	11,409	11,154	10,412	10,470	10,364	10,591	10,250	11,058	10,971	11,097	11,231	10,798	10,663	10,390
Percent 65 years and over	19.0	21.4	23.0	(NA)	23.7	23.1	24.8	23.5	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	21.9
In families	8,114	7,797	7,503	6,879	6,998	6,990	6,898	6,861	7,524	7,297	7,646	7,781	7,252	7,247	7,014
Head	2,158	2,100	1,951	1,827	1,804	1,755	1,774	1,721	1,916	1,822	1,972	2,034	1,954	1,955	1,916
Related children under 18 years	5,094	4,850	4,689	4,247	4,377	4,409	4,246	4,262	4,562	4,422	4,554	4,506	4,044	4,095	4,145
Other family members	862	847	862	805	817	826	878	878	1,046	1,053	1,120	1,241	1,254	1,197	953
Unrelated individuals	3,473	3,611	3,652	3,532	3,472	3,374	3,693	3,389	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 1972**—Continued

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

Family status	1972[1]	1971[1]	1970[1]	1969[1]	1969	1968	1967	1966[2]	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
PERCENT BELOW LOW-INCOME LEVEL															
All Persons															
Total	11.9	12.5	12.6	12.1	12.2	12.8	14.2	14.7	17.3	19.0	19.5	21.0	21.9	22.2	22.4
65 years and over	18.6	21.6	24.6	(NA)	25.3	25.0	29.5	28.5	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
In families	10.3	10.8	10.9	10.4	10.5	11.3	12.5	13.1	15.8	17.4	17.9	19.4	20.3	20.7	20.8
Head	9.3	10.0	10.1	9.7	9.7	10.0	11.4	11.8	13.9	15.0	15.9	17.2	18.1	18.1	18.5
Related children under 18 years	14.9	15.1	14.9	13.8	14.1	15.3	16.3	17.4	20.7	22.7	22.8	24.7	25.2	26.5	26.9
Other family members	6.6	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.8	9.1	9.5	11.8	13.3	13.8	15.1	16.5	16.2	15.9
Unrelated individuals	29.0	31.6	32.9	34.0	33.6	34.0	38.1	38.3	39.8	42.7	44.2	45.4	45.9	45.2	46.1
White	9.0	9.9	9.9	9.5	9.5	10.0	11.0	11.3	13.3	14.9	15.3	16.4	17.4	17.8	18.1
65 years and over	16.8	19.9	22.6	(NA)	23.3	23.1	27.7	26.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
In families	7.4	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.8	8.4	9.2	9.7	11.7	13.2	13.6	14.7	15.8	16.2	16.5
Head	7.1	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.7	8.0	9.0	9.3	11.1	12.2	12.8	13.9	14.8	14.9	15.2
Related children under 18 years	10.1	10.9	10.5	9.7	9.8	10.7	11.3	12.1	14.4	16.1	16.5	17.9	18.7	20.0	20.6
Other family members	5.1	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.3	7.2	7.4	9.2	10.8	11.0	12.0	13.3	13.3	13.3
Unrelated individuals	27.1	29.6	30.8	32.1	31.8	32.2	36.5	36.1	38.1	40.7	42.0	42.7	43.2	43.0	44.1
Negro and other races	31.9	30.9	32.0	31.0	31.1	33.5	37.2	39.8	47.1	49.6	51.0	55.8	56.1	55.9	56.2
65 years and over	37.5	38.4	45.9	(NA)	48.1	46.6	51.0	53.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
In families	31.0	29.7	30.7	29.6	29.9	32.4	36.3	38.9	46.8	49.1	50.5	55.3	55.6	55.7	56.0
Head	27.7	27.4	28.1	26.9	26.7	28.2	32.1	33.9	39.7	40.0	43.7	48.0	49.0	49.0	50.4
Related children under 18 years	41.3	38.7	39.6	37.7	38.0	41.6	44.9	48.2	57.3	61.5	60.9	66.4	65.7	66.6	66.7
Other family members	19.0	18.2	19.5	19.4	19.4	20.9	25.3	27.7	35.3	35.7	38.9	43.2	44.8	43.3	42.5
Unrelated individuals	40.9	44.9	46.7	45.5	44.9	45.7	48.2	53.1	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	7.4	8.1	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.8	10.1	10.8	13.2	15.1	15.4	16.9	18.1	18.5	18.7
65 years and over	11.4	13.6	16.8	(NA)	17.9	17.6	21.8	21.7	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
In families	6.8	7.5	7.7	7.4	7.4	8.3	9.6	10.3	12.8	14.6	14.9	16.4	17.6	18.0	18.2
Head	6.1	6.8	7.2	6.9	6.9	7.3	8.7	9.3	11.1	12.5	13.1	14.3	15.4	15.4	15.8
Related children under 18 years	8.6	9.3	9.2	8.6	8.8	10.2	11.5	12.6	15.7	18.2	18.0	19.9	21.0	22.3	22.4
Other family members	5.7	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.5	7.0	8.3	8.7	10.9	12.4	12.9	14.1	15.4	15.3	15.3
Unrelated individuals	21.1	23.9	24.1	26.2	25.3	25.4	26.9	29.3	28.9	32.0	34.8	36.5	36.0	36.1	36.8
Persons in Families With Female Head and Female Unrelated Individuals															
Total	36.9	38.0	38.2	38.4	38.3	38.9	40.6	41.0	46.0	45.9	48.4	50.5	49.5	49.5	50.2
65 years and over	33.2	38.4	41.2	(NA)	41.1	41.1	47.3	44.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
In families	38.2	38.7	38.1	38.2	38.1	38.7	38.8	39.8	46.0	44.4	47.7	50.3	48.1	48.9	49.4
Head	32.7	33.9	32.5	32.7	32.3	32.3	33.3	33.1	38.4	36.4	40.4	42.9	42.1	42.4	42.6
Related children under 18 years	53.1	53.1	53.0	54.4	54.4	55.2	54.3	58.2	64.2	62.3	66.6	70.2	65.1	68.4	72.2
Other family members	17.0	17.5	17.9	17.5	17.3	17.8	18.9	18.6	24.5	24.3	26.0	28.8	29.8	28.3	24.0
Unrelated individuals	34.3	36.6	38.4	38.7	38.5	39.2	44.7	43.5	46.2	49.3	50.0	51.0	52.4	50.9	52.1

NA Not available.

[1]Based on 1970 census population controls; therefore, not strictly comparable to data for earlier years. See Series P-60, No. 86 for explanation.

[2]Beginning with the March 1967 CPS, data are based on revised methodology for processing income data. See Series P-60, No. 86, for explanation.

Table 2. Negro Persons Below the Low-Income Level by Family Status: 1966 to 1972

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

Family status	1972[1]	1971[1]	1970[1]	1969[1]	1969	1968	1967	1966
Total	7,710	7,396	7,548	7,095	7,215	7,616	8,486	8,867
Percent 65 years and over	8.3	8.4	9.7	(NA)	9.6	8.6	8.4	8.1
In families	6,841	6,530	6,683	6,245	6,409	6,839	7,677	8,090
Head	1,529	1,484	1,481	1,366	1,326	1,366	1,555	1,620
Related children under 18 years	4,025	3,836	3,922	3,677	3,879	4,188	4,558	4,774
Other family members	1,287	1,210	1,279	1,202	1,204	1,285	1,564	1,696
Unrelated individuals	870	866	865	850	806	777	809	777
PERCENT BELOW LOW-INCOME LEVEL								
Total	33.3	32.5	33.5	32.2	32.3	34.7	39.3	41.8
65 years and over	39.9	39.3	47.7	(NA)	50.2	47.7	53.3	55.1
In families	32.4	31.2	32.2	30.9	31.2	33.7	38.4	40.9
Head	29.0	28.8	29.5	27.9	27.8	29.4	33.9	35.5
Related children under 18 years	42.7	40.7	41.5	39.6	39.7	43.1	47.4	50.6
Other family members	20.0	19.1	20.5	20.0	20.0	21.7	27.1	29.4
Unrelated individuals	42.9	46.0	48.3	46.7	46.0	46.3	49.3	54.4

NA Not available.

[1]Based on 1970 census population controls; therefore, not strictly comparable to data for earlier years. See Series P-60, No. 86 for explanation.

Table 3. Persons Below the Low-Income Level in 1972, by Family Status and Sex and Race of Head

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March 1973)

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	206,004	24,460	11.9	180,125	16,203	9.0	23,144	7,710	33.3
65 years and over	20,117	3,738	18.6	18,340	3,072	16.8	1,603	640	39.9
In families	189,193	19,577	10.3	165,630	12,268	7.4	21,116	6,841	32.4
Head	54,373	5,075	9.3	48,477	3,441	7.1	5,265	1,529	29.0
65 years and over	7,590	878	11.6	6,902	678	9.8	604	184	30.5
Related children under 18 years	67,592	10,082	14.9	57,181	5,784	10.1	9,426	4,025	42.7
Other family members	67,228	4,420	6.6	59,972	3,043	5.1	6,426	1,287	20.0
Unrelated individuals	16,811	4,883	29.0	14,495	3,935	27.1	2,028	870	42.9
65 years and over	6,181	2,295	37.1	5,603	1,942	34.7	546	346	63.4
PERSONS IN FAMILIES WITH MALE HEAD AND MALE UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
Total	174,601	12,873	7.4	157,376	9,521	6.0	14,996	3,040	20.3
65 years and over	13,483	1,535	11.4	12,411	1,225	9.9	930	295	31.7
In families	167,928	11,463	6.8	151,891	8,499	5.6	13,991	2,701	19.3
Head	47,766	2,917	6.1	43,805	2,306	5.3	3,443	558	16.2
65 years and over	6,420	685	10.7	5,953	568	9.5	396	109	27.5
Related children under 18 years	57,992	4,988	8.6	51,655	3,511	6.8	5,562	1,338	24.1
Other family members	62,170	3,558	5.7	56,430	2,681	4.8	4,986	805	16.2
Unrelated individuals	6,673	1,410	21.1	5,485	1,022	18.6	1,005	338	33.7
65 years and over	1,439	378	26.3	1,221	264	21.7	201	110	54.8
PERSONS IN FAMILIES WITH FEMALE HEAD AND FEMALE UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
Total	31,402	11,587	36.9	22,750	6,682	29.4	8,148	4,670	57.3
65 years and over	6,634	2,204	33.2	5,929	1,847	31.2	673	346	51.4
In families	21,264	8,114	38.2	13,739	3,770	27.4	7,125	4,139	58.1
Head	6,607	2,158	32.7	4,672	1,135	24.3	1,822	972	53.3
65 years and over	1,170	193	16.5	949	110	11.6	208	75	36.1
Related children under 18 years	9,600	5,094	53.1	5,526	2,273	41.1	3,863	2,686	69.5
Other family members	5,058	862	17.0	3,542	362	10.2	1,440	481	33.4
Unrelated individuals	10,138	3,473	34.3	9,010	2,913	32.3	1,023	531	51.9
65 years and over	4,742	1,917	40.4	4,383	1,678	38.3	345	236	68.4

Table 4. Selected Characteristics of Families Below the Low-Income Level in 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Families as of March 1973)

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	54,373	5,075	9.3	48,477	3,441	7.1	5,265	1,529	29.0
AGE OF HEAD									
Under 25 years	4,194	684	16.3	3,594	453	12.6	553	228	41.2
25 to 44 years	22,664	2,153	9.5	19,927	1,348	6.8	2,420	742	30.7
45 to 64 years	19,925	1,360	6.8	18,054	961	5.3	1,688	375	22.2
65 years and over	7,590	878	11.6	6,902	678	9.8	604	184	30.5
SIZE OF FAMILY									
2 persons	19,931	1,803	9.0	18,086	1,400	7.7	1,654	382	23.1
3 persons	11,574	867	7.5	10,367	583	5.6	1,070	259	24.2
4 persons	10,599	793	7.5	9,618	547	5.7	856	229	26.8
5 persons	6,356	547	8.6	5,638	342	6.1	636	198	31.1
6 persons	3,190	456	14.3	2,712	265	9.8	437	176	40.3
7 or more persons	2,723	607	22.3	2,055	305	14.8	613	284	46.3
NUMBER OF RELATED CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS									
No children	23,566	1,454	6.2	21,714	1,203	5.5	1,615	226	14.0
1 and 2 children	20,700	1,818	8.8	18,399	1,242	6.8	2,057	553	26.9
3 and 4 children	8,060	1,181	14.7	6,873	685	10.0	1,069	454	42.5
5 children or more	2,047	620	30.3	1,491	311	20.9	524	296	56.5
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HEAD[1]									
Elementary school, total	11,940	2,026	17.0	10,109	1,390	13.8	1,722	604	35.1
Less than 8 years	6,211	1,378	22.2	4,926	912	18.5	1,199	441	36.8
8 years	5,729	648	11.3	5,183	478	9.2	522	163	31.2
High school, total	24,860	1,969	7.9	22,239	1,293	5.8	2,378	627	26.4
1 to 3 years	8,215	1,010	12.3	6,967	603	8.7	1,162	386	33.2
4 years	16,644	959	5.8	15,272	690	4.5	1,216	241	19.8
College, total	13,379	396	3.0	12,534	306	2.4	612	71	11.6
1 to 3 years	5,855	230	3.9	5,435	165	3.0	349	61	17.5
4 years or more	7,524	166	2.2	7,099	141	2.0	263	10	3.8
NUMBER OF EARNERS									
No earners	5,383	1,868	34.7	4,514	1,241	27.5	793	592	74.7
1 earner	20,285	2,169	10.7	18,158	1,501	8.3	1,863	616	33.1
2 earners	21,296	845	4.0	19,093	594	3.1	2,003	232	11.6
3 earners or more	7,409	192	2.6	6,712	105	1.6	607	87	14.4
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HEAD									
Employed	41,683	2,234	5.4	37,726	1,606	4.3	3,502	586	16.7
Unemployed	1,326	272	20.5	1,091	163	14.9	223	102	45.7
Not in labor force	10,509	2,539	24.2	8,876	1,649	18.6	1,483	834	56.2
In Armed Forces	855	29	3.4	784	23	3.0	56	5	(B)
WORK EXPERIENCE OF HEAD									
Worked in 1972	44,987	2,716	6.0	40,581	1,921	4.7	3,927	750	19.1
50 to 52 weeks	35,536	1,188	3.3	32,386	853	2.6	2,771	314	11.3
Full time	34,329	1,006	2.9	31,350	740	2.4	2,615	247	9.5
1 to 49 weeks	9,451	1,529	16.2	8,195	1,068	13.0	1,157	436	37.7
Main reason for working part year:									
Unemployed	3,884	561	14.5	3,366	401	11.9	476	152	32.0
Other	5,567	967	17.4	4,829	667	13.8	681	283	41.6
Did not work in 1972	8,532	2,328	27.3	7,112	1,497	21.0	1,282	773	60.3
In Armed Forces	855	29	3.4	784	23	3.0	56	5	(B)
OCCUPATION OF LONGEST JOB OF HEAD									
Worked in 1972	44,987	2,716	6.0	40,581	1,921	4.7	3,927	750	19.1
Professional and managerial workers	12,655	315	2.5	12,051	267	2.2	452	38	8.4
Clerical and sales workers	6,348	280	4.4	5,800	211	3.6	494	67	13.6
Craftsmen and kindred workers	9,575	376	3.9	9,042	309	3.4	454	59	12.9
Operatives, including transport	8,184	540	6.6	7,071	357	5.0	1,052	172	16.3
Service wkrs., incl.private household	3,784	549	14.5	2,842	288	10.1	876	258	29.5
Laborers, except farm	2,303	249	10.8	1,784	150	8.4	477	95	19.8
Farmers and farm laborers	2,138	407	19.0	1,990	338	17.0	122	61	50.0

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

Table 5. Families and Unrelated Individuals Below the Low-Income Level in 1972, by Type of Residence, Region, and Race of Head

(Numbers in thousands. Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1973)

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	54,373	5,075	9.3	48,477	3,441	7.1	5,265	1,529	29.0
Nonfarm	51,860	4,753	9.2	46,093	3,171	6.9	5,152	1,481	28.7
Farm	2,513	323	12.8	2,384	270	11.3	113	48	42.6
Metropolitan areas[1]	36,941	2,938	8.0	32,303	1,819	5.6	4,117	1,059	25.7
Inside central cities	16,159	1,828	11.3	12,595	901	7.2	3,263	892	27.3
Outside central cities	20,782	1,110	5.3	19,708	918	4.7	854	167	19.5
Nonmetropolitan areas[1]	17,433	2,137	12.3	16,174	1,622	10.0	1,148	471	41.0
North and West	37,098	2,761	7.4	33,968	2,091	6.2	2,589	598	23.1
South	17,275	2,314	13.4	14,508	1,350	9.3	2,676	931	34.8
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
United States	16,811	4,883	29.0	14,495	3,935	27.1	2,028	870	42.9
Nonfarm	16,386	4,749	29.0	14,115	3,826	27.1	1,991	845	42.4
Farm	425	134	31.5	380	109	28.7	36	25	(B)
Metropolitan areas[1]	12,182	3,139	25.8	10,308	2,447	23.7	1,629	625	38.4
Inside central cities	7,293	1,977	27.1	5,781	1,429	24.7	1,330	498	37.4
Outside central cities	4,889	1,161	23.7	4,527	1,018	22.5	299	127	42.6
Nonmetropolitan areas[1]	4,629	1,745	37.7	4,187	1,488	35.5	399	244	61.3
North and West	12,156	3,246	26.7	10,832	2,792	25.8	1,072	380	35.5
South	4,655	1,637	35.2	3,663	1,143	31.2	956	489	51.2

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 1972 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	$2,101	$2,109	$2,207	$2,046	$1,774	$1,824	$1,723
Under 65 years	2,163	2,168	2,254	2,085	1,861	1,916	1,772
65 years and over	1,994	2,005	2,025	2,000	1,708	1,722	1,698
All families	3,788	3,813	3,854	3,524	3,277	3,287	3,072
2 persons	2,703	2,724	2,734	2,670	2,296	2,302	2,197
Head under 65 years	2,790	2,808	2,823	2,729	2,393	2,399	2,258
Head 65 years and over	2,505	2,530	2,532	2,516	2,153	2,154	2,141
3 persons	3,319	3,339	3,356	3,234	2,830	2,838	2,702
4 persons	4,247	4,275	4,277	4,254	3,643	3,644	3,598
5 persons	5,011	5,044	5,048	4,994	4,302	4,301	4,355
6 persons	5,633	5,673	5,679	5,617	4,851	4,849	4,900
7 or more persons	6,917	6,983	7,000	6,841	5,947	5,963	5,771

[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 1972, by Sex and Race of Head

(Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1973)

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..	5,075	2,917	2,158	3,441	2,306	1,135	1,529	558	972
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $249	11.6	13.2	9.6	12.2	13.6	9.4	10.3	12.3	9.2
$250 to $499	11.5	12.0	10.8	12.5	12.4	13.0	9.6	10.8	8.8
$500 to $999	20.2	22.2	17.5	20.9	21.8	19.0	18.5	22.6	16.1
$1,000 to $1,499	15.7	16.4	14.9	16.6	16.7	16.5	14.5	15.7	13.8
$1,500 to $1,999	11.9	10.9	13.4	11.0	10.5	11.9	13.7	11.7	14.8
$2,000 to $2,999	17.6	14.9	21.2	16.6	14.9	20.2	18.9	15.2	21.1
$3,000 and over	11.4	10.5	12.7	10.1	10.1	10.1	14.5	11.7	16.2
Median income deficit	$1,203	$1,078	$1,400	$1,126	$1,067	$1,241	$1,400	$1,137	$1,569
Mean income deficit	1,501	1,416	1,616	1,433	1,400	1,500	1,645	1,480	1,739
Deficit per family member	389	360	430	402	380	452	368	306	408
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
Number.....thousands..	4,883	1,410	3,473	3,935	1,022	2,913	870	338	531
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $249	17.0	12.8	18.6	17.9	13.1	19.5	14.1	13.6	14.5
$250 to $499	16.5	16.0	16.7	17.0	17.7	16.8	15.3	12.7	16.9
$500 to $749	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	13.6	15.5	15.3	18.9	12.8
$750 to $999	14.1	11.9	15.0	13.8	12.0	14.4	16.2	11.2	19.4
$1,000 to $1,499	17.1	18.1	16.7	16.8	17.5	16.6	18.9	20.7	17.9
$1,500 and over	20.3	26.2	17.9	19.5	26.0	17.3	20.2	22.8	18.6
Median income deficit	$777	$880	$744	$753	$866	$721	$833	$853	$824
Mean income deficit	904	1,019	858	884	1,000	843	938	998	900

[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: 1972, 1966, and 1959

(Families and unrelated individuals as of March of the following year. Deficit in 1972 dollars)

Presence of related children under 18 years and sex of head	All races			White			Negro and other races		
	1972	1966	1959	1972	1966	1959	1972	1966	1959
NUMBER BELOW LOW-INCOME LEVEL (thousands)									
Total	9,958	10,485	13,248	7,376	7,966	10,226	2,582	2,519	3,022
All families	5,075	5,784	8,320	3,441	4,106	6,185	1,634	1,678	2,135
Male head	2,917	4,063	6,404	2,306	3,070	4,952	611	993	1,452
No related children under 18 years	1,221	1,739	2,486	1,038	1,473	2,088	182	266	398
With related children under 18 years	1,696	2,324	3,918	1,268	1,597	2,864	429	727	1,054
Female head	2,158	1,721	1,916	1,135	1,036	1,233	1,023	685	683
No related children under 18 years	233	311	391	165	233	285	68	78	106
With related children under 18 years	1,925	1,410	1,525	970	803	948	955	607	577
Unrelated individuals	4,883	4,701	4,928	3,935	3,860	4,041	948	841	887
Male	1,410	1,312	1,552	1,022	995	1,158	388	317	394
Female	3,473	3,389	3,376	2,913	2,865	2,883	560	524	493
AGGREGATE INCOME DEFICIT (millions)									
Total	$12,035	$13,048	$19,617	$8,409	$9,079	$14,077	$3,625	$3,964	$5,536
All families	7,618	8,776	14,079	4,931	5,685	9,588	2,686	3,087	4,490
Male head	4,130	5,766	10,267	3,228	4,045	7,242	901	1,724	3,020
No related children under 18 years	1,205	1,542	2,697	1,035	1,284	2,245	170	258	454
With related children under 18 years	2,925	4,224	7,570	2,193	2,761	4,998	731	1,466	2,566
Female head	3,487	3,006	3,812	1,703	1,642	2,345	1,785	1,364	1,467
No related children under 18 years	211	291	436	146	220	314	(B)	71	(B)
With related children under 18 years	3,276	2,715	3,376	1,557	1,422	2,031	1,720	1,293	1,345
Unrelated individuals	4,417	4,272	5,539	3,478	3,394	4,490	939	877	1,046
Male	1,437	1,272	1,715	1,022	928	1,266	415	343	448
Female	2,980	3,001	3,824	2,456	2,467	3,224	524	535	600

B 1972 base less than 75,000; 1959 base less than 200,000.

Table 9. Persons Below 125 Percent of the Low-Income Level in 1972, by Family Status and Sex and Race of Head

(Numbers in thousands. Persons as of March 1973)

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	34,653	20,031	14,622	24,164	15,285	8,879	9,763	4,314	5,449
In families	28,208	18,171	10,037	18,864	13,898	4,966	8,717	3,906	4,811
Head	7,347	4,611	2,737	5,234	3,720	1,513	1,966	809	1,157
65 years and over	1,475	1,161	314	1,192	988	204	255	154	102
Related children under 18 years	14,058	7,921	6,137	8,745	5,835	2,910	4,963	1,907	3,057
Other family members	6,803	5,640	1,163	4,886	4,342	543	1,788	1,190	598
Unrelated individuals	6,445	1,860	4,585	5,300	1,388	3,912	1,046	409	637
65 years and over	3,285	592	2,693	2,845	445	2,400	429	142	288
PERCENT BELOW 125 PERCENT OF LOW-INCOME LEVEL									
All persons	16.8	11.5	46.6	13.4	9.7	39.0	42.2	28.8	66.9
In families	14.9	10.8	47.2	11.4	9.1	36.1	41.3	27.9	67.5
Head	13.5	9.7	41.4	10.8	8.5	32.4	37.3	23.5	63.5
65 years and over	19.4	18.1	26.8	17.3	16.6	21.5	42.2	38.7	48.9
Related children under 18 years	20.8	13.7	63.9	15.3	11.3	52.7	52.7	34.3	79.1
Other family members	10.1	9.1	23.0	8.1	7.7	15.3	27.8	23.9	41.5
Unrelated individuals	38.3	27.9	45.2	36.6	25.3	43.4	51.6	40.7	62.3
65 years and over	53.1	41.1	56.8	50.8	36.4	54.8	78.6	70.4	83.4

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