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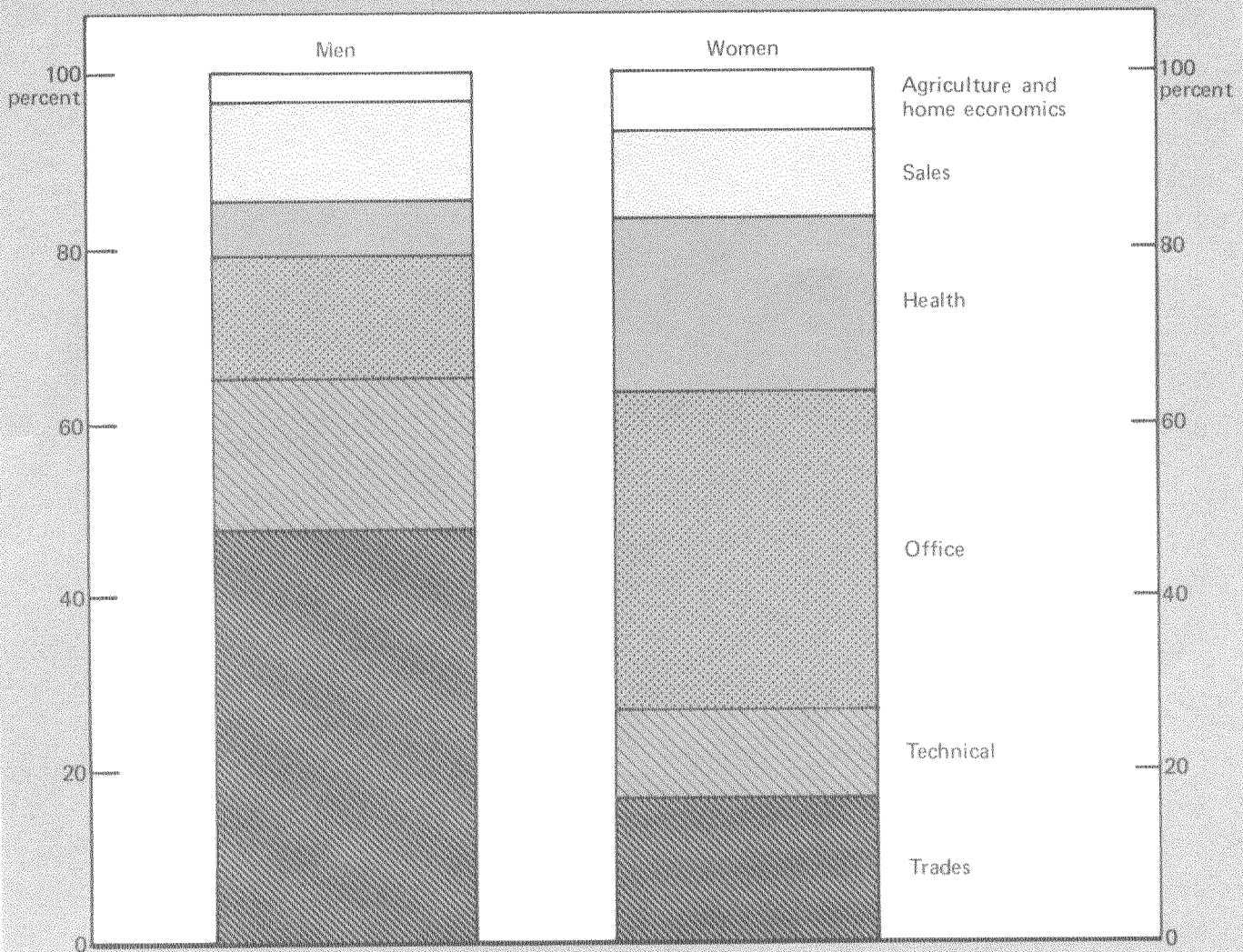
# Population Characteristics

U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Series P-20, No. 343  
Issued September 1979

## Vocational School Experience: October 1976

Field of Training of Persons With Vocational School Experience in the Previous Year: October 1976



Note: Includes persons 18 years old and over who were attending vocational school in October 1976 or in the preceding 12 months.

Source: Table G.

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# Vocational School Experience: October 1976

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In October 1976, 7.2 million people, or 4 percent of the total population 14 years old and over, were attending, or had attended a vocational school in the past 12 months. About 3 million were attending during October and another 4 million had attended during the preceding year.
- Among persons with recent vocational school experience, 81 percent of those 18 years old and over attended vocational school primarily for occupational training.
- Persons with a college background were more likely to have had recent vocational school experience than persons with 4 years of high school or less. The findings of the study indicated, however, that vocational training was received by persons of all levels of education.
- The manual and mechanical trades were the most common fields of vocational training (33 percent) for those persons 18 years old and over with recent vocational school experience. About 47 percent of men with recent vocational school experience had been or were enrolled in trade schools; among women with vocational school experience, however, 37 percent were trained in clerical or business fields.
- About one-half of the men and over one-half of the women with recent vocational school experience had occupational goals similar to their current occupation.
- Family income was not significant in determining vocational school attendance. There were no measurable differences in the percentage of dependent family members 18 to 24 years old attending vocational school among the several family income categories.

## INTRODUCTION

Although information on the characteristics of persons participating in academic school programs has been available in the United States on an annual basis for at least three decades, there has been very little information on the characteristics of persons who attended vocational school after completing high school. This report presents statistical data on the age, sex, race, years of school completed, occupation, field of training, and family income levels of students who were participating in vocational programs in October 1976 or who had participated in such programs during the previous year. This information was collected at the request of and supported by the National Center for Education Statistics. Persons 14 years old and over were asked whether they were currently enrolled, or had been

enrolled in the past 12 months, in a vocational, business, technical, or correspondence school other than on-the-job training; what field of training they were enrolled in; the occupation for which they enrolled in a vocational training program; and their current occupation. Enrollment in high school vocational programs, adult education and continuing education programs was not included in this survey.

Information on persons who have attended vocational training programs has been collected occasionally in surveys by the Bureau of the Census and in the 1970 Census of Population. The 1970 Census of Population, for example, displayed the number of persons who had completed a vocational training program at some time in their lives. Subsequent analysis of the errors in reporting the amount and type of vocational training completed has indicated, however, that respondents did not always give consistent answers to questions on vocational training. A discussion of attempts to evaluate the questions on amount and type of vocational training completed is included later in this report. The October 1976 Current Population Survey (CPS), however, used a series of questions designed to improve the reliability of responses to the questions on current enrollment in vocational programs. The questions focused on training specifically to be used for job related purposes. Since this survey was conducted by trained interviewers, the responses were expected to be more reliable than those collected in mailout surveys. In addition, questions in the October CPS since 1973 concerning participation in vocational training courses have produced estimates of attendance in vocational training programs that are very consistent from year to year indicating some evidence for reliable reporting of this CPS item.

This report compares the characteristics of students with recent vocational school experience with the characteristics of persons of school age not attending any type of school and persons enrolled in college. It also presents some of the first national statistics on the number and percent of the population currently or recently enrolled in vocational schools, and whether these persons were attending vocational school in order to prepare for a specific occupation. These statistics also provide a benchmark for comparison with future similar surveys to measure changes in participation levels.

One of the more important aspects of postsecondary vocational training is its usefulness in a wide variety of occupations. It can be beneficial to many types of persons desiring an orientation in a particular profession as well as for those who are already working and would like to upgrade

their skills. Persons with a high school or college education may enroll in vocational programs as a transition from school to work in order to provide themselves with skills necessary in a particular occupation which may not have been provided in an academic setting and which often take years to acquire through on-the-job experience. Information about the fields of study for persons who were taking vocational courses in October 1976 or in the preceding 12 months and of the occupations they currently hold or intended to hold is presented in this report.

"Vocational training" is defined here as any type of occupational training which is not received through a program which provides college credit toward a baccalaureate degree or higher; it includes formal training through lectures or demonstration of the activity but excludes high school courses (such as shop or typing) and on-the-job training. Since vocational training for occupations may range from as little as a few months to several years, persons in the October 1976 survey were asked if they were currently attending

vocational school at that time, and if not, they were asked whether they had attended vocational school during the past 12 months. This line of questioning allowed survey coverage of vocational training programs for an entire year. Since many vocational programs are short term and the classes do not follow a "season" as in regular schools, a question regarding enrollment for a single month would omit persons who had attended a short course in the recent past. In fact, 4 million persons were found to have taken courses in the past 12 months compared with 3 million who were attending in the month of October in 1976. Those who were attending in October 1976 or had attended during the preceding 12 months are identified in the text and the tables as having had "vocational school experience;" those enrolled in October 1976 are identified as "attending or enrolled in vocational school." Persons with vocational school experience were asked to specify whether their vocational program was intended for occupational training, since some people may enroll in vocational programs but do not intend to use this

**Table A. Selected Characteristics of Persons 14 Years Old and Over, by Attendance Status in Regular School or Vocational School: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Characteristics	Total population <sup>1</sup>	With vocational school experience			Enrolled in regular school	No vocational school experience and not enrolled in regular school
		Total	Attended in October 1976	Attended in past 12 months but not at survey date		
<b>AGE</b>						
Total, 14 years old and over.....	163,039	7,210	3,107	4,103	27,632	124,495
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 to 21 years old.....	20.0	17.5	20.6	15.2	79.3	7.4
22 to 34 years old.....	26.0	44.2	45.9	42.9	16.1	27.3
35 years old and over.....	54.0	38.3	33.6	41.9	4.5	65.4
<b>SEX</b>						
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male.....	47.4	52.5	50.3	54.1	51.9	46.3
Female.....	52.6	47.5	49.7	45.9	48.1	53.7
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN</b>						
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	87.9	90.7	91.1	90.3	84.8	88.3
Black.....	10.6	7.7	7.3	7.9	13.2	10.2
Spanish origin <sup>2</sup> .....	4.7	4.1	4.5	3.9	35.2	4.6
<b>YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED</b>						
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not high school graduate.....	39.0	10.2	10.5	10.0	59.7	36.2
High school: 4 years.....	34.2	44.9	50.8	40.5	10.6	38.7
College: 1 to 3 years.....	14.5	24.1	21.4	26.2	22.0	12.4
4 years or more.....	12.4	20.7	17.3	23.3	7.8	12.8
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>						
Dependent family members 18 to 24 years old, reporting income.....	12,739	874	480	394	5,739	6,006
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$10,000.....	28.5	30.7	29.2	32.5	20.8	35.6
\$10,000 to \$19,999.....	38.4	37.6	37.5	37.8	37.2	39.6
\$20,000 and over.....	33.1	31.7	33.5	29.4	42.0	24.8

<sup>1</sup>Includes persons who did not report on vocational enrollment not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

<sup>3</sup>The percent Spanish was computed only for persons 14 to 34 years old.

training for an occupation. This type of inquiry also indicates the extent that these questions measure training for specific occupational purposes rather than general education.

One question answered by this report is: What are the characteristics of persons who attend a vocational school rather than a high school or college? For example, how do they compare with college students or persons who have not recently attended vocational school in terms of age, sex, race, and educational level. A summary of several such characteristics for persons 14 years old and over who had vocational school experience is shown in table A. Students who were participating in vocational training programs in October 1976 were younger than the total population but older than students in high school or college. About one-fifth of persons attending vocational school at the survey date were 14 to 21 years old, whereas one-third were 35 years old or over. About one-half of all vocational students were male (not different from students in regular schools), and about 7 percent were Black, a figure that is significantly lower than

the proportion in high schools or colleges. However, there were no significant differences in the proportion of all vocational students who were of Spanish origin compared with students in regular schools or not enrolled in any school.

Vocational school students in October 1976 were more likely than the general population to have completed exactly 4 years of high school, and a surprisingly high proportion of vocational students (39 percent) had already completed 1 or more years of college. The family income distribution of dependent family members 18 to 24 years old enrolled in vocational school was not significantly different from the distribution for all dependent family members in that age group. Their income distribution was lower than that for students in regular school, however, and higher than for persons of that age who were not enrolled in any type of school that year (table A).

The extent of participation in vocational programs is shown in table B. In October 1976, 7.2 million people, or 4 percent of the total population 14 years old and over, had

**Table B. Vocational School Experience of Persons 14 Years Old and Over, by Age, Sex, Race, Spanish Origin, and Years of School Completed: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age, sex, race, Spanish origin, and years of school completed	Total population 14 years old and over	With vocational school experience			
		Number	Percent of total population	Attended in October 1976	Attended in past 12 months but not at survey date
<b>ALL RACES</b>					
<b>Both Sexes</b>					
Total, 14 years old and over.....	163,039	7,210	4.4	3,107	4,103
14 to 21 years old.....	32,661	1,264	3.9	639	624
22 to 34 years old.....	42,404	3,186	7.5	1,425	1,760
35 years old and over.....	87,974	2,760	3.1	1,043	1,718
<b>Male</b>					
Total, 14 years old and over.....	77,334	3,784	4.9	1,564	2,220
14 to 21 years old.....	16,202	545	3.4	266	278
22 to 34 years old.....	20,534	1,821	8.9	807	1,014
35 years old and over.....	40,598	1,419	3.5	491	929
<b>Female</b>					
Total, 14 years old and over.....	85,705	3,426	4.0	1,543	1,882
14 to 21 years old.....	16,459	719	4.4	372	347
22 to 34 years old.....	21,870	1,366	6.2	620	746
35 years old and over.....	47,376	1,341	2.8	552	789
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN</b>					
White, 14 years old and over.....	143,250	6,536	4.6	2,829	3,707
Black, 14 years old and over.....	17,218	552	3.2	227	325
Spanish origin <sup>1</sup> , 14 years old and over.....	7,703	299	3.9	139	160
<b>YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED</b>					
Total, all races.....	163,039	7,210	4.4	3,107	4,103
Not high school graduate.....	63,529	739	1.2	327	412
High school: 4 years.....	55,681	3,237	5.8	1,577	1,661
College: 1 to 3 years.....	23,683	1,738	7.3	665	1,074
4 years or more.....	20,146	1,496	7.4	539	957

<sup>1</sup>Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

recent vocational school experience. About the same number of men and women were attending vocational school in October 1976, but a slightly higher proportion of men than women who were not attending vocational school at the survey date had attended during the preceding 12 months. White persons were more likely than Black persons to have had recent vocational school experience.

Vocational students may receive training by either attending full time or part time, or through correspondence courses. Table C indicates that those in vocational schools in October 1976 were most likely to be attending vocational school part time (57 percent). Those over 21 years old were significantly more likely to be attending vocational school part time or taking correspondence courses than those 21 years old and under who were more likely to be attending vocational school full time. Men were significantly more likely to be taking vocational correspondence courses than women, and White persons were more likely than Black persons to be attending vocational school part time.

## OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

Just as regular elementary school, high school, or college may be useful either for general education or for work preparation, vocational training programs may be used for personal enrichment or to prepare for a job. To more precisely determine whether persons who reported taking vocational training during the past year were intending to use that training for employment, each was asked to name the occupation for which they were receiving the training.

Nearly all persons with recent vocational school experience were preparing for specific occupations. Table D shows that 81 percent of persons 18 years old and over with recent vocational school experience reported a specific job for which they were receiving training. Persons 18 to 24 years old were more likely than persons 25 years old and over to have been enrolled for the purpose of receiving occupational training, 85 percent versus 79 percent, respectively. A slightly higher percentage of men than of

**Table C. Attendance Status of Students 14 Years Old and Over Enrolled in Vocational School, by Selected Characteristics: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age, sex, race, Spanish origin, and years of school completed	Total population 14 years old and over	Attended in October 1976		Attendance status in October 1976					Not classifiable or not reported
		Number	Percent	Total	Full time	Part time	Correspondence school		
<b>ALL RACES</b>									
<b>Both Sexes</b>									
Total, 14 years old and over....	163,039	3,107	1.9	100.0	20.3	57.2	15.0	7.5	
14 to 21 years old.....	32,661	639	2.0	100.0	50.7	39.0	8.3	1.9	
22 to 34 years old.....	42,404	1,425	3.4	100.0	16.1	59.3	17.0	7.7	
35 years old and over.....	87,974	1,043	1.2	100.0	7.4	65.6	16.3	10.7	
<b>Male</b>									
Total, 14 years old and over.....	77,334	1,564	2.0	100.0	18.2	54.5	20.0	7.2	
14 to 21 years old.....	16,202	266	1.6	100.0	48.5	42.9	7.1	1.5	
22 to 34 years old.....	20,534	807	3.9	100.0	15.5	55.3	21.3	7.9	
35 years old and over.....	40,598	491	1.2	100.0	6.1	59.7	24.8	9.4	
<b>Female</b>									
Total, 14 years old and over.....	85,705	1,543	1.8	100.0	22.4	59.9	9.8	7.9	
14 to 21 years old.....	16,459	372	2.3	100.0	52.7	36.3	9.1	2.2	
22 to 34 years old.....	21,870	620	2.8	100.0	16.6	64.4	11.3	7.4	
35 years old and over.....	47,376	552	1.2	100.0	8.5	70.8	8.5	12.0	
<b>RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN</b>									
White, 14 years old and over.....	143,250	2,829	2.0	100.0	19.2	58.0	15.1	7.7	
Black, 14 years old and over.....	17,218	227	1.3	100.0	36.6	44.5	11.9	7.0	
Spanish origin <sup>1</sup> , 14 years old and over.....	7,703	139	1.8	100.0	21.6	59.7	11.5	7.2	
<b>YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED</b>									
Total, all races.....	163,039	3,107	1.9	100.0	20.3	57.2	15.0	7.5	
Not high school graduate.....	63,529	327	0.5	100.0	22.9	49.8	20.5	6.1	
High school: 4 years.....	55,681	1,577	2.8	100.0	24.8	54.6	14.3	6.2	
College: 1 to 3 years.....	23,683	665	2.8	100.0	19.4	57.7	15.5	7.4	
4 years or more.....	20,146	539	2.7	100.0	6.1	68.3	13.0	12.6	

<sup>1</sup> Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.



**Table D. Percent of Persons 18 Years Old and Over With Vocational Training Experience Who Were Enrolled for Occupational Training: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and sex	Total with vocational school experience <sup>1</sup>	Percent taking occupational training
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>		
Total, 18 years old and over.....	7,149	80.7
18 to 24 years old.....	2,030	85.2
25 years old and over.....	5,119	79.0
<b>MALE</b>		
Total, 18 years old and over.....	3,759	83.0
18 to 24 years old.....	969	87.9
25 years old and over.....	2,790	81.3
<b>FEMALE</b>		
Total, 18 years old and over.....	3,390	78.2
18 to 24 years old.....	1,061	82.8
25 years old and over.....	2,329	76.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes those who attended vocational school in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months.

women with recent vocational school experience were enrolled for occupational training, 83 percent versus 78 percent, respectively.

### YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

Participation in a program of vocational education was not confined to people who never attended college. In fact, persons with a college background were more likely to have had recent vocational school experience than persons with 4 years of high school or less. About 7 percent of the total population with college training and 6 percent of those with 4 years of high school had recent vocational school experience while only 1 percent of those with less than 4 years of high school had the same experience. Of persons attending vocational school, those who had not attended college previously were more likely than were those with a college background to be attending full time (tables B and C).

Table E contains a distribution of the educational attainment of high school graduates who were enrolled in vocational courses in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months, as well as those who were not enrolled in vocational school. About one-half of the high school graduates with recent vocational school experience had completed 1 or more years of college. Persons 18 years old and over with vocational school experience were more likely than those not in a vocational program to have already completed a few years of college or to have earned a college degree. Evidently many persons with some college training were taking a course in vocational school that would benefit them in their job or to help them obtain a job.

Table F presents data on high school graduates, who were enrolled in vocational training programs by age, sex, and educational attainment. High school graduates who were 18 to 24 years old were more likely to have had recent vocational school experience than those who were 25 years old and over. In the 18- to 24-year-old age group, persons with 1 to 3 years of college were less likely to have had recent vocational school experience than those with only 4 years of high school. But for persons 25 years old and over, those with 1 to 3 years of college were more likely than those with only 4 years of high school to have recent vocational school experience. Men and women in the younger age group were about equally likely to have had recent vocational school experience, but men in the older age group were more likely than women to have had recent vocational school experience.

### FIELD OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Table G contains a distribution of persons with recent vocational school experience by their field of training. This table shows significant differences between the vocational training preferences of men and women. For example, the largest proportion (47 percent) of the men were taking training in the trade field, whereas the largest proportion (37 percent) of women were taking the training in office fields. Relatively large proportions of women were taking courses in health fields (20 percent) and in technical or trade fields (27 percent).

Many persons with recent vocational school experience were employed (87 percent of men and 65 percent of women) and those taking training were often enrolled in

**Table E. Years of School Completed for High School Graduates 18 Years Old and Over, by Vocational School Experience, and Sex: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Years of school completed and sex	18 years old and over		
	All high school graduates <sup>1</sup>	With vocational school experience <sup>2</sup>	Without vocational school experience
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>			
Total.....	99,030	6,446	79,312
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
High school: 4 years.....	55.8	49.8	60.5
College: 1 to 3 years.....	23.9	26.9	19.4
4 years or more.....	20.3	23.2	20.1
<b>MALE</b>			
Total.....	46,584	3,420	36,431
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
High school: 4 years.....	50.0	45.8	54.7
College: 1 to 3 years.....	25.1	26.7	20.3
4 years or more.....	24.9	27.5	25.0
<b>FEMALE</b>			
Total.....	52,445	3,025	42,881
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
High school: 4 years.....	60.9	54.4	65.5
College: 1 to 3 years.....	22.8	27.2	18.7
4 years or more.....	16.3	18.3	15.8

<sup>1</sup>Includes persons who were enrolled in regular school or did not report on vocational school experience, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes those who attended vocational school in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months.

courses related to their current employment. Table H provides a cross-tabulation of the current occupation of employed persons with recent vocational school experience by their field of vocational training. Employed persons usually had their recent vocational training experience in fields which appear relevant to their current occupation probably because they were taking training to improve their current job skills.

However, some fields of vocational training were selected more often than others depending on the occupation of the person. For example, vocational courses in the trades field (listed in the definitions section) were taken by men employed in almost every major occupational category; whereas, men employed in sales or technical fields were most likely to have taken courses relevant to those occupations. Men with recent vocational school experience who were employed as managers and administrators were about equally likely to have taken training in the sales, office, or the trade fields, probably depending on the type of business in which they were employed.

Women with recent vocational training experience were most likely to have this training in an office field, although

women employed in occupations related to sales, health, or technical fields were more likely to have training in a field similar to their occupations than in office fields.

A substantial percentage of men and women who had recent vocational school experience were not in the labor force, 7 percent and 27 percent respectively. Training in the manual and mechanical trades was the most common field of training for these men (53 percent), and office training was the most common field of training for these women (33 percent). Persons not in the labor force were probably taking this training to facilitate their entrance into the labor force in related occupations.

Persons who had recent vocational school experience and who were taking vocational training for occupational reasons were asked to report for which occupation they were taking the training. Responses to this question indicated whether the respondent was likely to be attending class to advance in his or her current occupation or whether the training might be used to enter into another occupational category. The relationship between the current occupation and occupational goals for men and women is shown in tables I and J. A large proportion of persons enrolled in vocational courses

**Table F. Vocational School Experience of High School Graduates 18 Years Old and Over by Years of School Completed, Sex, and Age: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Years of school completed and sex	18 to 24 years old		25 years old and over	
	All high school graduates	Percent with vocational school experience <sup>1</sup>	All high school graduates	Percent with vocational school experience <sup>1</sup>
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>				
Total.....	21,676	8.4	77,352	6.0
High school: 4 years.....	12,074	9.8	43,145	4.7
College: 1 to 3 years.....	7,416	6.5	16,247	7.7
4 years or more.....	2,186	7.2	17,960	7.4
<b>MALE</b>				
Total.....	10,311	8.5	36,272	7.0
High school: 4 years.....	5,557	10.3	17,727	5.6
College: 1 to 3 years.....	3,629	6.1	8,069	8.6
4 years or more.....	1,125	7.4	10,476	8.2
<b>FEMALE</b>				
Total.....	11,366	8.3	41,080	5.1
High school: 4 years.....	6,518	9.4	25,418	4.1
College: 1 to 3 years.....	3,787	6.9	8,178	6.9
4 years or more.....	1,061	7.0	7,484	6.4

<sup>1</sup>Includes those who attended vocational school in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months.

**Table G. Field of Training for Persons 18 Years Old and Over With Vocational School Experience, by Sex: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Field of vocational training	Total <sup>1</sup>	Male <sup>1</sup>	Female <sup>1</sup>
Total with vocational school experience.....	7,149	3,759	3,390
Total reporting a field of training.....	5,957	3,108	2,849
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture.....	1.9	2.4	1.4
Sales.....	10.5	11.5	9.4
Health.....	12.7	6.0	19.9
Home economics.....	3.2	0.8	5.9
Office.....	24.8	14.1	36.5
Technical.....	14.3	17.8	10.5
Trades.....	32.6	47.4	16.4

<sup>1</sup>Includes those who attended vocational school in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months.

were employed in white-collar occupations. This result shows that blue-collar workers are not the only participants in vocational training programs.

Persons stating that their occupational goal and current occupation were similar were probably taking training to improve their job skills, while those who were taking training with a different occupational goal may have been planning to enter a different occupational field. About one-half of all men and 63 percent of all women reported occupational goals similar to their current occupation. Men with recent vocational training experience who were employed in the professional, managerial, sales, and crafts occupations were most likely to indicate that their training was for the same area as their current occupation. Women in the professional fields were most likely to be training in the same occupational field, and there was some evidence that women employed in the clerical and service worker fields were training for employment in the same fields. Persons with recent vocational training experience who were employed in professional and technical occupations were the most likely to have an occupation similar to their goal, while those employed as operatives and laborers were the least likely to have had an occupational training goal similar to their current occupation. This may suggest that persons employed

**Table H. Field of Training for Persons 18 Years Old and Over With Vocational School Experience, by Labor Force Status, Current Occupation, and Sex: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Labor force status, current occupation, and sex	Total with vocational school experience <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Field of vocational training						
			Agriculture	Sales	Health	Home economics	Office	Technical	Trades
Total men <sup>2</sup> .....	3,108	100.0	2.4	11.5	6.0	0.8	14.1	17.8	47.4
In civilian labor force.....	2,900	100.0	2.4	11.7	5.9	0.8	14.6	17.7	47.0
Employed.....	2,715	100.0	2.5	11.9	6.2	0.8	14.8	18.1	45.8
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	547	100.0	0.4	3.8	19.4	0.5	18.8	38.9	18.3
Managers and administrators except farm.....	331	100.0	2.1	27.5	2.4	1.8	27.2	17.2	21.8
Sales workers.....	224	100.0	1.3	63.8	0.9	1.3	12.5	5.8	14.3
Clerical and kindred workers.....	170	100.0	-	11.8	1.8	-	31.8	20.6	33.5
Craft and kindred workers.....	671	100.0	1.2	2.8	2.8	0.3	6.0	13.1	73.9
Transport equipment operatives..	85	100.0	7.1	7.1	1.2	-	3.5	12.9	67.1
Operatives except transport.....	257	100.0	1.2	4.3	0.8	-	14.8	16.0	63.0
Service workers except private household.....	245	100.0	1.6	3.3	9.8	2.9	9.8	8.6	64.1
Farm workers.....	63	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Laborers except farm.....	126	100.0	5.6	4.0	1.6	-	15.9	8.7	65.1
Not in civilian labor force...	208	100.0	1.9	9.6	7.7	1.4	7.2	19.7	52.9
Total women <sup>2</sup> .....	2,849	100.0	1.4	9.4	19.9	5.9	36.5	10.5	16.4
In civilian labor force.....	2,073	100.0	1.3	10.6	19.7	5.2	37.8	12.1	13.4
Employed.....	1,840	100.0	1.3	11.7	20.3	5.5	35.2	12.7	13.3
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	444	100.0	1.1	4.7	34.9	3.4	14.9	32.0	9.2
Managers and administrators except farm.....	132	100.0	3.8	23.5	7.6	15.2	31.8	9.1	9.1
Sales workers.....	157	100.0	-	61.8	3.2	1.9	19.7	3.2	10.2
Clerical and kindred workers....	664	100.0	-	9.2	8.7	3.9	61.4	8.6	8.3
Craft and kindred workers.....	18	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Transport equipment operatives..	11	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Operatives except transport.....	56	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Service workers except private household.....	333	100.0	2.4	0.9	40.8	9.3	17.4	2.4	26.4
Farm workers.....	18	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Laborers except farm.....	11	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Not in civilian labor force...	776	100.0	1.8	6.1	20.6	7.9	33.0	6.2	24.5

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes all persons with vocational field not elsewhere classified and not reported.

<sup>2</sup>Includes those who attended vocational school in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months.

as operatives or laborers were likely to have been attending a class in vocational school to change their occupation in the future.

## FAMILY INCOME

In October 1976, there were 14.2 million dependent family members 18 to 24 years old; most of these young adults were sons or daughters living in the home of their parents. Among all dependent family members 18 to 24 years old, 4 percent were enrolled in vocational school, 6 percent were in high school, 39 percent were enrolled in college, and 52 percent were not enrolled in school. Table K indicates the type of schooling these persons were taking by family income. A relatively small proportion of dependent family members 18 to 24 years old from families in the higher income categories were not enrolled in high school, college, or vocational school; for example, only 37 percent of persons in families with \$25,000 or more were not enrolled in school. However, a considerably higher percentage of dependent family members from lower family income levels were not enrolled in

high school, college, or vocational school—65 percent of persons in families with less than \$5,000 annual income. There were no significant differences in enrollment rates of persons attending vocational school by family income.

## RELATED REPORTS

Additional data on vocational training can be obtained in Census of Population: 1970 Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-5C, Vocational Training.

Statistics on school enrollment patterns in 1976 for students attending nursery school through college by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics were presented in **Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 319, "School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1976."**

The National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare recently issued a publication using some of the data contained in this report in the **Occupational Education** series, titled, "Women in Vocational Education."

**Table I. Current Occupation and Occupational Goals of Employed Persons 18 Years Old and Over, With Vocational School Experience, by Sex: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Occupation	Current occupation		Occupational goal <sup>1</sup>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons with vocational school experience <sup>2</sup> .....	3,311	2,213	2,756	1,797
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers...	21.7	23.8	22.2	25.4
Managers and administrators except farm.....	14.5	7.1	14.9	7.4
Sales workers.....	7.6	7.9	7.5	8.2
Clerical and kindred workers.....	6.5	37.5	6.0	35.7
Craft and kindred workers.....	22.9	0.7	23.1	0.8
Operatives.....	11.8	4.4	10.8	3.3
Service workers except private household.....	8.3	17.2	9.0	18.0
Farm workers.....	2.2	0.8	2.1	0.8
Laborers except farm.....	4.6	0.6	4.5	0.4

<sup>1</sup>Excludes persons with occupational goal not reported and persons not taking occupational training.

<sup>2</sup>Includes those who attended vocational school in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months.

**Table J. Percent With Occupational Goals in the Same Field for Employed Persons 18 Years Old and Over With Vocational School Experience, by Current Occupation: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Current occupation	Male		Female	
	Total employed with vocational school experience <sup>1</sup>	Percent with occupational goal in same field as current occupation	Total employed with vocational school experience <sup>1</sup>	Percent with occupational goal in same field as current occupation
Total employed <sup>2</sup> .....	3,227	51.4	2,155	63.2
Professional, technical and kindred workers.....	706	73.1	521	79.5
Managers and administrators except farm.....	470	58.1	153	47.1
Sales workers.....	242	60.3	172	58.1
Clerical and kindred workers.....	207	25.6	799	54.7
Craft and kindred workers.....	736	62.1	15	(B)
Transport equipment operatives...	104	8.7	14	(B)
Operatives except transport.....	272	14.7	81	11.1
Service workers except private household.....	272	48.5	370	56.2
Farm workers.....	69	(B)	18	(B)
Laborers except farm.....	151	3.3	13	(B)

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>1</sup>Includes those who attended vocational school in October 1976 or during the preceding 12 months.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes persons with occupational goal not reported.

**Table K. Regular School or Vocational School Enrollment, by Family Income for Dependent Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old: October 1976**

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Enrollment status, age, and sex	Total <sup>1</sup>	Family income					
		Under \$5,000	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$15,000 to \$19,999	\$20,000 to \$24,999	\$25,000 and over
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>							
Total, 18 to 24 years old.....	14,222	1,353	2,277	2,700	2,198	1,737	2,474
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Enrolled below college.....	6.0	11.4	8.5	6.7	4.5	3.2	2.3
Enrolled in college.....	38.8	20.3	25.1	34.2	42.3	50.1	57.7
Enrolled in vocational school.....	3.6	3.2	4.3	3.9	3.5	4.8	3.1
Not enrolled in school <sup>2</sup> .....	51.6	64.9	61.4	54.9	49.4	41.6	36.5
<b>MALE</b>							
Total, 18 to 24 years old.....	7,941	707	1,273	1,496	1,274	955	1,411
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Enrolled below college.....	7.0	14.1	10.0	8.4	5.3	3.2	2.1
Enrolled in college.....	35.3	17.1	21.4	30.0	38.3	45.1	54.0
Enrolled in vocational school.....	3.4	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.1	5.4	3.0
Not enrolled in school <sup>2</sup> .....	54.4	64.6	63.8	57.7	52.9	45.9	40.0
<b>FEMALE</b>							
Total, 18 to 24 years old.....	6,281	646	1,004	1,205	924	782	1,063
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Enrolled below college.....	4.8	8.4	6.6	4.7	3.4	3.3	2.6
Enrolled in college.....	43.2	23.8	29.9	39.4	47.8	56.1	62.6
Enrolled in vocational school.....	3.9	2.3	5.2	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.1
Not enrolled in school <sup>2</sup> .....	48.0	65.0	58.2	51.5	44.5	36.2	31.0

<sup>1</sup>Includes persons with family income not reported, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes persons with enrollment in vocational school not reported.

## METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Previous analyses of response errors to questions on vocational training have shown that individuals are not likely to provide highly reliable answers to questions on whether they had completed a vocational training program. Although no such analysis was conducted for the series of questions used in the October 1976 Current Population Survey, two studies on the reliability of reporting have been conducted, one in 1970, based on the 1970 Census of Population, and another in 1976, based on the National Content Test for the 1980 census.

In the 1970 Census of Population 5-percent sample, persons 14 years old and over answered a two-part question on vocational training and their main field of study.<sup>1</sup> Respondents were instructed to count only programs that were finished; to include Job Corps training; to omit courses which were not part of an organized program of study, training received on the job, in a company school, in college after the second year, by correspondence, or in basic training in the Armed Forces. Under these circumstances, a wide range of

training experiences may have been reported as vocational, including those that are without question vocational as well as those that were more marginal in nature.

A reinterview of 5,000 households was conducted in which persons were questioned in detail about any training that *might be* considered vocational; if a potential training program was detected, a series of questions was asked for the purpose of obtaining data on the nature of the program. These data included the field of training, where or how the training was received, whether the training program was completed, the year the training was received, the usefulness of the training in a civilian job, and the number of weeks and hours spent in the training program. The data also provided a basis for identifying those persons having training experiences which were clearly not to be reported as vocational training according to the respondent and enumerator instructions, as well as those having no training experience.

In 1976, further evaluation of the vocational training item was made possible by the National Content Test.<sup>2</sup> Since the 1970 census evaluation study showed that a high percentage of persons who reported "Yes" on vocational training actually did not complete a program, a new question format

<sup>1</sup> See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing: 1970, Evaluation and Research Program PHC(E)-9, Accuracy of Data for Selected Population Characteristics as Measured by Reinterviews, pp. 15-23.

<sup>2</sup> Results Memorandum Number 16, from David L. Kaplan, "Evaluation of the 1976 Reinterview Survey for School Enrollment, Educational Attainment, and Vocational Training," prepared by Larry E. Suter, December 16, 1978.

was attempted in the National Content Test to clarify the type of training that should be reported. The questionnaire specified that only persons who had received a certificate in vocational training should report they completed a vocational program; also the length of the program of study was obtained so that persons who had attended for short periods could be separated from those with more extensive training. When these persons were interviewed, more detail about the attended program was requested.

Of the persons identified on the census form as having completed a training program which might qualify as vocational, only about 62 percent reported completing a vocational training program in the reinterview questionnaire. On the other hand, a significant number of the persons who said they had not completed a program, did say so in the reinterview (9 percent). In general, the types of vocational programs most completely reported include those that currently were being used in the job, those that involved 2,000 or more hours of training, and those that were taken in a trade or technical school.

A large number of persons erroneously reported completing a vocational training program in the census. The reinterview data show that about 38 percent of the persons who reported completing a vocational program on the census questionnaire had not done so by the census definition. About 29 percent reported training experiences which were clearly not to be reported as vocational according to the census instructions, and an additional 9 percent indicated in

the reinterview that they had never received any type of training that might be considered as vocational.

A comparison of the responses to the mailout questionnaire and the reinterview indicated that the detailed questions were not more reliable than the responses received in the 1970 census item on vocational training, although the question was more specific. A smaller proportion of the population, about 13 percent of persons in the mailout questionnaire and about 11 percent of persons in the reinterview, were found to have received a certificate. About one-half of those who reported having received a certificate in the mailout survey did not report it in the follow-up reinterview. Also, a large number of persons who reported that they had not completed a program in the mailout questionnaire were reported as attending and completing a vocational program in the reinterview.

Information gained from the National Content Test suggests that the meaning of "vocational training" may not be clear to respondents, which may be partly due to the lack of a national consensus on the meaning of a vocational education program. The amount of variation in the type of training which *might be* considered vocational (such as the addition of adult education programs in colleges in recent years) is so great that summary measures are not highly successful. Vocational training may occur in many different forms, thus making it difficult to distinguish occupational education from courses intended for nonoccupational reasons.