

May 5, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR NICOLE RABNER

FROM: RUBY SHAMIR

SUBJECT: WORK AT HOME AND TELECOMMUTING TRENDS

This memo contains some preliminary research on work-at-home and telecommuting trends in this country. It contains the most recent, reliable statistics on the number of people working from home and telecommuting. Soon I will produce a document on some government programs that support people who work from home and telecommute. Please let me know if I am going in the right direction.

The President has made the following claim: "When I became President, there were 3 million people making a living out of their homes. Today there are over 12 million. Within five years, there will be 30 million." I have been unable to locate those exact figures, but will keep looking.

I. Work at Home Statistics

According to a report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released in March 1998, more than 21 million people did some work at home in May 1997. BLS reports that track this information come out every six years; the last "Work at Home" report came out in 1991.

Wage and salary workers made up more than half of all people who do some work at home, at almost 15 million. While the number of people who did some work at home only grew by 1.5 million since 1991, the number of people paid for the work they did at home increased substantially. In 1991, only 1.9 million wage and salary workers who worked at home got paid for their work while in 1997, 3.6 million wage and salary workers got paid for their work at home. However, in 1997, 11.1 million wage and salary workers "took work home from the office" and were not compensated specifically for the work they did at home (this figure is a slight decline from the 1991 figure of 12.1 million). Teachers ranked high in this category. Nearly 90% of those who were paid for their work at home were employed in "white-collar" professions.

More than 70% of people who did some work at home were married-couple families, and over 9 million of those who did some work at home had children under 18. The rate at which married couples with children did work at home was similar to that of married couples without children. Men were roughly just as likely to do some work at home as were women.

Approximately 3 million people who worked more than one job did some work at home related to the second job, and a little less than half of those people had children under 18. Of people who worked a second job, 37% did some work at home.

II. Home-Based Business

Of the 21 million people who did some work at home, about 6.5 million were self-employed. More than 4.1 million self-employed workers were working in home-based businesses. The vast majority of these people -- 3.8 million -- were white. According to a study produced by the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, age is not a factor for men entering business, while the likelihood of women becoming home-based business owners increases with age. The study also noted that home-based businesswomen in their 20s earn substantially less than self-employed women in their 20s who work outside of the home. However, businessmen of the same age make almost the same income, regardless of their business location.

III. Telecommuting Trends

Telecommuting is working for some central office from a remote or satellite location, which can be the home or a telecommuting center. Determining the number of people who telecommute is difficult, in part because of the different ways telecommuting is defined; some studies measure people who telecommute at least once a month, while others define telecommuters as those who telecommute once a week.

According to a study by the U.S. Department of Transportation, in 1992 approximately 2 million people telecommuted, mostly from home (99% telecommuted from home). The study projected that by 2002, 7.5-15 million workers would telecommute from home and from telecommuting centers (a projected 50.3% would telecommute from telecommuting centers closer to home than the central office). The study estimated that fuel emissions, time spent travelling, and gasoline costs would all sharply decline as a result of telecommuting.

According to another study conducted by CyberDialogue, a New York based research and consulting firm, the number of telecommuters rose to 15.7 million in mid-1998. These workers were split into three categories: full-time workers, who telecommute 2.5 days a week; contract-based workers; and part-time employees who telecommute informally.

Earnings of husbands and wives in dual-earner families

As married women have become increasingly likely to work in recent decades, their contribution to family earnings has grown as well—indeed, in 20 to 25 percent of dual-earner couples, wives earn more than their husbands; these trends may have affected family decisionmaking, giving some women more input into family financial and career decisions

Anne E. Winkler



As has been well documented, labor force participation rates among married women have increased dramatically in recent decades, rising from 35 percent in 1966 to 61 percent in 1994. The increase was even more dramatic for married women with children under 3 years: 21 percent to 60 percent over the same period. As a result, dual-earner couples are swiftly replacing the traditional married-couple model of a “breadwinner” husband and “homemaker” wife. From 1970 to 1993, the proportion of dual-earner couples increased from 39 percent to 61 percent of all married couples.¹ Moreover, recent work by Chinhui Juhn and Kevin M. Murphy suggests that wives are entering the work force largely in response to women’s rising labor market opportunities, rather than due to declining opportunities for their spouses.²

As the number of dual-earner couples rises, new questions are raised about gender roles within marriages. In the past, it was reasonable to assume that the husband’s career was primary and took precedence over the wife’s career. However, since the 1980s, falling real earnings for men combined with rising labor force participation and real earnings for women probably have affected decisionmaking within some married-couple families. Data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) show that the proportion of dual-earner couples in which wives earned more than their husbands increased from 16 percent in

1981 to 23 percent in 1996.³ The figures suggest the presence of a growing number of married couples in which traditional gender roles vis-à-vis labor market activity may be reversed—that is, the wife is the primary earner and the husband is the secondary earner. As further evidence of the changing roles of husbands and wives in the family, research by Francine Blau indicates that the amount of time spent by women doing housework has declined since the 1970s, although women continue to spend considerably more time than men doing such work.⁴

Because the distribution of earnings within dual-earner families may affect household decisionmaking as well as labor market decisions, this article seeks to gauge the relative economic positions of husbands and wives in these families, as defined by their paid labor market activity. Data on matched pairs of husbands and wives are drawn from the March 1993 Annual Demographic File of the Current Population Survey. The analysis complements and expands upon previous work by Howard Hayghe on the contribution to family income made by working wives.⁵ Particular attention is paid here to quantifying the number of “nontraditional dual-earner couples,” or those in which the wife is the primary earner and the husband is the secondary earner. In addition, the article examines the joint distribution of husbands’ and wives’ educational attainment and wages to highlight the implications of marital

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sorting on relative wage outcomes, as well as to ascertain the percentage of low-wage men married to high-wage women. The latter figure provides further evidence of the presence and extent of nontraditional couples.

Why look at spouses' relative earnings?

Examining the relative labor market earnings of husbands and wives provides insight into the status of women within dual-earner families. At least in some families, the greater the wife's relative earnings, the more control she is likely to have over family financial decisions. In the language of bargaining models of the family, as the relative income of wives rises, so does their "threat point"—the level of utility they would attain if they left the marriage—and thus also their bargaining power within the marriage.⁶ Some research suggests, for example, that as wives' incomes rise relative to those of their husbands, household allocations more closely reflect the wives' preferences, such as greater resources transferred to children.⁷

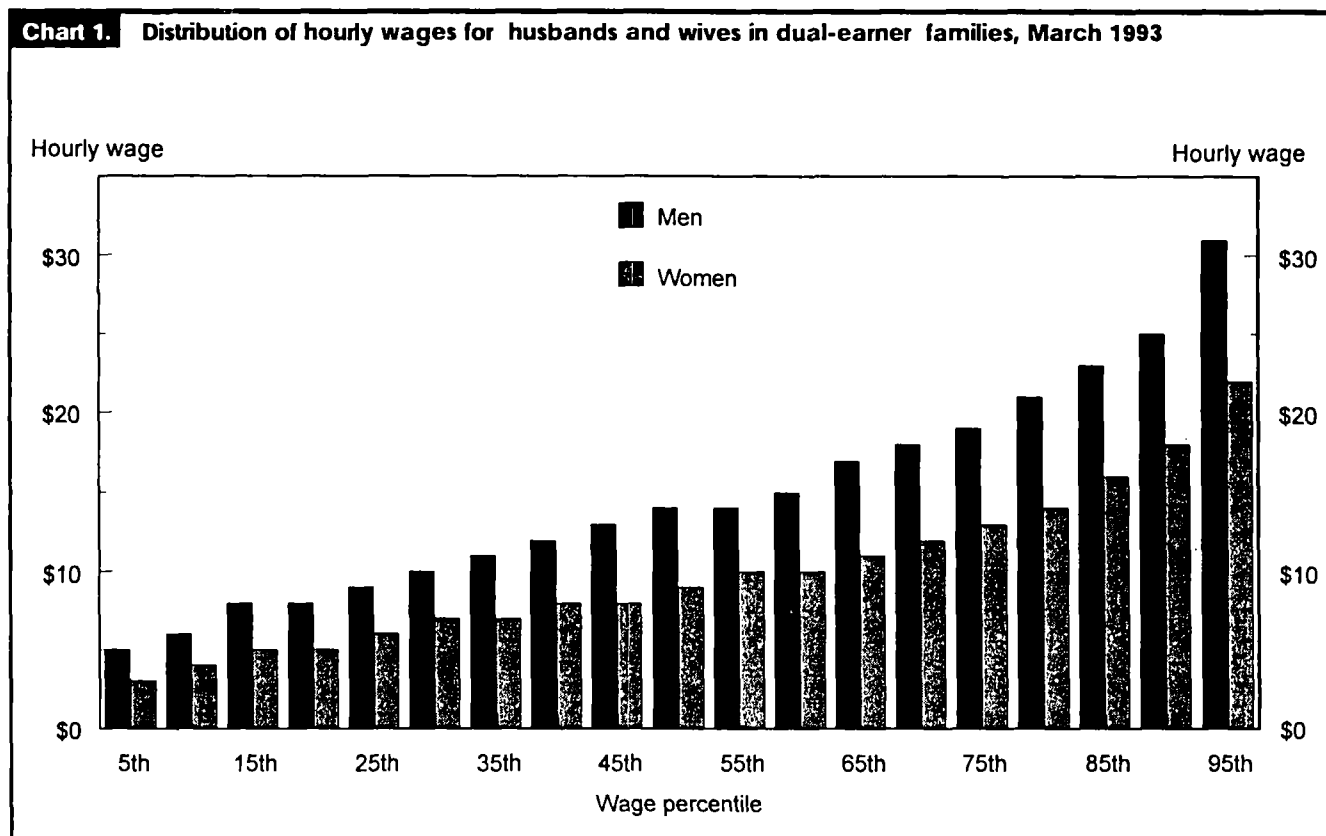
Whose career takes precedence within the dual-earner family also likely affects labor market decisions and, hence, future earnings growth—that is, the individual with the primary career in the family is more likely to be able to initiate wage-

enhancing moves to improve his or her career, and is less likely to be subject to moves with negative consequences initiated by the spouse. In addition, while the primary earner may never actually make a move like changing jobs, he or she may have more opportunities to investigate outside offers, present them to current employers, and bargain for higher wages at the current job.⁸ As a result, the distribution of earnings within dual-earner families might even affect the size of the gender "wage gap."

Description of sample

As mentioned earlier, the sample was drawn from the March 1993 Supplement to the CPS. The data were restricted to dual-earner couples in which both the husband and wife were aged 25 to 64 at the time of the survey, and both were wage and salary workers with positive earnings in the year preceding the survey, 1992. Those with any farm or self-employment income were excluded.⁹ All hours and earnings figures are based on labor market activity conducting during 1992. Hourly wages are computed for each spouse by dividing annual earnings by annual hours worked. To deal with CPS top-coding issues, the sample is restricted to those with computed hourly wages of \$100 or less. (This restriction reduces the

Chart 1. Distribution of hourly wages for husbands and wives in dual-earner families, March 1993



sample by approximately 0.2 percent.) Given these sample restrictions, there were nearly 22 million dual-earner couples in the United States in 1993.

Given the well-known "earnings gap" between men and women, it is not surprising that the overall hourly wage distribution for husbands in dual-earner couples lies above the wage distribution for wives. (See chart 1.) The mean hourly wage was \$15.42 for dual-earner husbands and \$10.58 for wives. The chart also shows that the ratio of women's wages to men's wages is fairly constant at any percentile examined—from 65 to 72 percent.

Marital sorting

In describing relative wages and earnings of dual-earner couples, it is important to recognize that husbands and wives do not randomly pair together but rather tend to follow a process referred to as "positive assortative mating"—that is, more highly educated, higher wage men tend to pair with more highly educated, higher wage women; while less educated, lower wage men tend to pair with less educated, lower wage women. Table 1 cross-tabulates the respective education levels of husbands and wives in dual-earner couples, using five categories: less than high school, high school completion only, some college, 4 years of college, and more than 4 years of college. For each combination of educational attainment levels, the proportion of couples and their combined mean annual wage and salary earnings are shown. Summing the proportions along the diagonal that runs from the top left corner to the lower right corner shows that sorting by educational attainment is substantial. In 50 percent of dual-earner couples, husbands and wives had the same level of education. Furthermore, in nearly 80 percent of dual-earner couples, the husband had as much or more education than the wife, probably reflecting both gender differences in educational attainment and social custom.¹⁰

Table 1. Percent distribution and combined annual earnings of dual-earner couples by educational attainment level of both spouses, March 1993

Spouse's level of education	Husband, less than high school	Husband, high school graduate only	Husband, some college, no degree	Husband, 4 years of college	Husband, more than 4 years of college
Percent distribution					
Wife, less than high school	4.8	2.8	0.9	0.2	(¹)
Wife, high school graduate only	4.6	21.6	8.9	3.5	.9
Wife, some college, no degree	1.3	7.0	11.6	5.0	2.2
Wife, 4 years of college	.3	2.2	3.5	8.0	3.7
Wife, more than 4 years of college	(¹)	.5	1.0	2.0	3.7
Combined annual earnings					
Wife, less than high school	\$28,581	\$32,556	\$41,304	\$55,234	\$60,996
Wife, high school graduate only	34,143	42,116	46,981	55,989	60,978
Wife, some college, no degree	39,035	46,337	50,975	61,648	69,363
Wife, 4 years of college	44,316	54,243	55,678	65,560	73,671
Wife, more than 4 years of college	42,146	61,310	63,738	73,572	85,179

¹ Proportion is less than 0.1 percent.

NOTE: The 25 cells in the percent distribution portion of the table sum to 100 percent; also, 21.9 million couples are represented.

Table 2. Percent distribution and combined annual earnings of dual-earner couples by wage quintile of both spouses, March 1993

Quintile of spouse's wage	Husband's wage in first quintile	Husband's wage in second quintile	Husband's wage in third quintile	Husband's wage in fourth quintile	Husband's wage in fifth quintile
Percent distribution					
Wife's wage in first quintile	6.5	4.1	3.6	3.0	2.5
Wife's wage in second quintile	5.1	4.7	4.0	3.2	3.1
Wife's wage in third quintile	3.4	4.5	4.0	3.8	3.5
Wife's wage in fourth quintile	2.2	3.6	4.9	4.9	4.4
Wife's wage in fifth quintile	1.9	2.6	3.9	5.3	7.5
Combined annual earnings					
Wife's wage in first quintile	\$17,936	\$27,202	\$34,909	\$43,463	\$62,881
Wife's wage in second quintile	24,658	32,959	40,985	48,484	67,047
Wife's wage in third quintile	29,740	38,890	45,412	53,903	71,062
Wife's wage in fourth quintile	35,378	45,984	53,795	61,363	81,500
Wife's wage in fifth quintile	45,042	54,019	61,338	74,434	97,324

NOTE: The 25 cells in the percent distribution portion of the table sum to 100 percent; also, 21.9 million couples are represented.

Tables 2 and 3 are similar to table 1, except that they show the percent distribution of dual-earner couples by wage quintiles. (Table 2 is for all dual-earner couples, and table 3 is for those couples in which both the husband and the wife

worked full time, year round.) The tables indicate that positive assortative mating also occurs with respect to labor market outcomes. These results are not surprising, given the high degree of sorting by education level, and because the level of education is a key determinant of economic outcomes. If men and women married randomly, the proportions in each cell would equal 4 percent. Yet, both tables show that in nearly 30 percent of couples, the husband's and wife's wage was in the same quintile. Moreover, in nearly two-thirds of couples, the husband's wage was in the same or a higher quintile than the wife's wage.

Nevertheless, a comparison of tables 1 through 3 indicates that sorting is most pronounced by educational attainment, probably because many husbands and wives meet in school. On the other hand, a variety of factors, including differences in college major, availability of jobs, labor market discrimination, differences in occupational choices, household responsibilities, and family income effects, lead to a wider distribution of wage outcomes, even for those couples in which both spouses are highly educated.

Furthermore, the data indicate that the process of assortative mating results in considerable variance in earnings among dual-earner couples. As shown in table 2, for instance, combined wage and salary earnings ranged from \$17,936 per year for couples in which both the husband's and wife's wage was in the lowest quintile, to \$97,324 per year for couples whose respective wages were in the highest quintile.¹¹

Relative earnings of husbands and wives

Table 4 shows mean hourly wages separately for husbands and wives, both in all dual-earner couples and in those in which both partners worked full time, year round. For both sets of couples, the data show that a substantial proportion of wives (25 percent) earned more than their husbands in 1992. Table 4 also shows median weekly "career" wages for husbands and wives in dual-earner couples. Each husband and wife was assigned a median weekly earnings figure that corresponded to his or her occupation.¹² The rationale for doing so is that occupational wages may better reflect career wages than current wages. This is especially relevant when trying to determine whether the wife's career or her husband's career takes precedence in the family. Husbands' and wives' careers may be at

Table 3. Percent distribution and combined annual earnings of dual-earner couples in which both spouses worked full time, year round by wage quintile of both spouses, March 1993

Quintile of spouse's wage	Husband's wage in first quintile	Husband's wage in second quintile	Husband's wage in third quintile	Husband's wage in fourth quintile	Husband's wage in fifth quintile
Percent distribution					
Wife's wage in first quintile	7.1	4.2	3.1	2.6	1.9
Wife's wage in second quintile	5.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.9
Wife's wage in third quintile	3.2	5.0	4.6	4.2	3.4
Wife's wage in fourth quintile	2.0	3.9	5.3	4.7	4.8
Wife's wage in fifth quintile	1.7	2.0	3.3	5.1	8.1
Combined annual earnings					
Wife's wage in first quintile	\$25,167	\$34,597	\$42,612	\$49,787	\$73,628
Wife's wage in second quintile	32,950	40,315	48,267	54,887	74,724
Wife's wage in third quintile	39,031	45,758	52,381	62,167	79,196
Wife's wage in fourth quintile	44,402	52,467	60,045	67,104	86,702
Wife's wage in fifth quintile	55,377	65,850	71,720	82,093	108,870

NOTE: The 25 cells in the percent distribution portion of the table sum to 100 percent; also 10.4 million couples are represented.

different stages. If, for example, a husband is on track to become a physician but currently is only a first-year resident, current wages would be a misleading measure of career wages. In addition, occupational wages are not as subject to short-term positive or negative wage fluctuations as are current wages. Notably, by the occupation measure, the proportion of wives who earned more than their husbands was 33 percent.¹³

Table 4 also provides figures on relative wages of dual-earner couples, stratified by selected quintiles into which the husband's wage falls. As would be expected, given positive assortative mating, as husbands' wages rise, wives' wages rise also. For instance, the mean hourly wage for husbands whose wage was in the lowest quintile was \$6.06, compared with a mean wage of \$8.09 per hour for their wives. For husbands whose wage fell into the top 20 percent, by contrast, their mean hourly wage was \$28.14 and their wives' was \$13.45.

Furthermore, the data indicate that wives earned more than their husbands in nearly 60 percent of the couples in which the husband's wage was in the lowest quintile, a result that holds whether current hourly wages or career wages are considered. Part of the explanation for this high percentage is the fact that the husband's wage has, by definition, been restricted to be low, while the wife's wage has not been similarly constrained. In sharp contrast, when the husband's wage was in the top quintile, only 6 to 7 percent of wives earned more than their husbands. It should again be noted that the results are related

to how the data were stratified—wives' wages are unconstrained and thus may lie in any quintile. Further, women generally earn less than men.

Table 5 differs from table 4 in that it considers relative *annual* earnings of husbands and wives—defined here as hourly wages multiplied by annual hours worked—and thereby allows the data to reflect labor supply responses to wages earned. By this measure, nearly 20 percent of wives earned more than their husbands, in the same range as the 25-percent figure obtained when relative *hourly* wages were considered.¹⁴ Similarly, 55 percent of wives married to low-earner husbands earned more than their husbands, in the same range as the 60-percent figure shown in table 4.

Finally, like the study by Hayghe cited earlier, this study found that wives make an important contribution to family earnings. In all dual-earner couples, wives' earnings made up 35 percent of combined spousal earnings; in those in which both spouses worked full time and year round, wives' earnings made up 41 percent of combined earnings. Interestingly, regardless of whether dual-earner couples have very high or very low combined earnings, the wives' share of these combined earnings was fairly constant, at about 35 to 38 percent. (See the last 3 columns of table 5.)

Nontraditional couples

The figures discussed in the previous section suggest the presence of many "nontraditional" couples among dual earners, at least when it comes to labor market outcomes. As noted earlier, even among the sample at large, more than 25 percent of wives had current hourly wages that exceeded those of their husbands, and 20 percent of wives had greater annual earnings than their husbands. (This translates to wives earning more than their husbands in 4 to 6 million dual-earner couples.) Taken at face value, these figures suggest that in 20 to 25 percent of dual-earner families, there is a "role reversal" from the more traditional model—that is, the woman is the primary earner with the more lucrative position, and the husband is the secondary earner.

It might be argued that the figures just cited provide an upper-bound estimate of role reversal because, in many families, if a husband earns just a small amount less than his wife, he still may be perceived as the primary earner in the family because of traditional gender roles. Nonetheless, one must keep in mind that women, even those that are as qualified as men, tend to earn less than their male counterparts. From this vantage point, that such a large proportion of wives earned more than their husbands is quite notable.¹⁵ Furthermore, a sizable proportion of wives, 15 percent, had wages that were 25 percent more than their husbands, and nearly 10 percent of wives had wages that were greater by 50 percent or more. Finally, nontraditional couples are especially common among dual-earner couples with low-wage husbands.

As further evidence of the presence of nontraditional

Table 4. Comparison of relative wages of husbands and wives in dual-earner couples by selected characteristics, March 1993

Characteristic	Total	Both worked full time, year round	Husband's wage in—		
			First quintile	Third quintile	Fifth quintile
Number of couples (in thousands)	21,857	10,377	4,371	4,371	4,371
Hourly wage comparisons¹					
Wife's mean hourly wage	\$10.58	\$11.21	\$8.09	\$10.36	\$13.45
Husband's mean hourly wage	15.42	15.24	6.06	13.67	28.14
Wife's wage as percent of husband's wage	68.6	73.6	133.5	75.8	47.8
Percent of dual-earner couples in which:					
Wife earns more than husband	25.2	25.4	57.2	20.6	6.5
Wife earns 25 percent more than husband	14.9	13.3	41.4	9.7	2.6
Wife earns 50 percent more than husband	9.7	7.4	31.6	4.8	1.0
Wife earns 100 percent more than husband	4.7	3.3	18.3	1.4	.4
Career wage comparisons²					
Wife's career wage	\$464	\$489	\$415	\$440	\$529
Husband's career wage	526	533	322	505	756
Wife's wage as percent of husband's wage	88.2	91.7	128.9	87.1	70.0
Percent of dual-earner couples in which:					
Wife earns more than husband	32.8	35.3	63.9	28.6	5.8
Wife earns 25 percent more than husband	17.4	19.3	43.4	14.0	.6
Wife earns 50 percent more than husband	8.1	8.7	28.1	1.1	.2
Wife earns 100 percent more than husband	2.3	2.4	10.0	.0	.0

¹ Hourly wages are computed by dividing annual wage and salary earnings by annual hours worked.

² "Career wage" is defined as median weekly earnings associated with individual's occupation. (See text.)

NOTE: Data restricted to dual-earner couples in which both spouses were wage and salary workers, both had positive wages, and both were aged 25 to 64.

Table 5. Comparison of relative annual earnings of husbands and wives in dual-earner couples by selected characteristics, March 1993

Characteristic	Total	Both worked full time,	Husband's earnings in—			Family earnings in—		
			First quintile	Third quintile	Fifth quintile	First quintile	Third quintile	Fifth quintile
Number of couples (in thousands)	21,857	10,377	4,371	4,371	4,371	4,371	4,371	4,371
Annual earnings comparisons¹								
Wife's mean annual earnings	\$18,046	\$24,079	\$14,469	\$18,141	\$21,732	\$7,782	\$16,045	\$31,267
Husband's mean annual earnings	33,028	34,870	10,085	29,492	62,810	12,796	30,080	58,174
Combined mean annual earnings	51,074	58,950	24,554	47,633	84,541	20,578	46,125	89,441
Wife's earnings as percent of husband's earnings	54.6	69.1	143.5	61.5	34.6	60.8	53.3	53.7
Wife's earnings as percent of combined earnings	35.3	40.8	58.9	38.1	25.7	37.8	34.8	35.0
Percent of dual-earner couples in which:								
Wife earns more than husband	19.9	20.7	55.4	13.9	2.4	29.6	18.2	15.7
Wife earns 25 percent more than husband	13.1	11.1	46.7	5.8	.6	23.5	11.3	9.2
Wife earns 50 percent more than husband	9.5	6.1	39.8	2.5	.1	19.7	7.8	5.2
Wife earns 100 percent more than husband	5.9	2.5	28.9	.5	.0	14.0	4.7	2.0

¹ Annual earnings defined as all wage and salary earnings from all jobs worked.

NOTE: Data restricted to dual-earner couples in which both spouses were wage and salary workers, both had positive earnings, and both were aged 25 to 64.

couples, table 2 indicates that, despite the process of positive assortative mating, in more than 400,000 couples (1.9 percent multiplied by 21.9 million) aged 25 to 64, wives at the very top of their wage distribution were married to men at the very bottom of theirs. This is actually a lower bound estimate because it is based on the most extreme nontraditional pairing. Another way to look at the data in table 2 is to note that, contrary to popular perception, a similar percentage of very high-wage wives are paired with very low-wage husbands and vice versa. (This can be seen by comparing the proportion of couples in the lower left corner of the table with those in the upper right corner.) A similar pattern is found for the narrower set of dual-earner couples in which both spouses worked full time, year round. (See table 3.) One might argue that low-wage husbands are observed with high-wage wives only when current wages, which may be more subject to short-term fluctuations, are considered. An analysis of "career wages," however, would appear to refute that argument. Finally, it is important to note that a count of nontraditional couples would probably be considerably higher if families in which the wife is employed

and the husband is completely out of the labor force (keeping house or caring primarily for children, for example) were included.

WHETHER THE HUSBAND'S OR WIFE'S CAREER takes precedence among dual-earner couples cannot be precisely determined because currently available survey data do not provide such information (none of the major surveys asks the question directly). By analyzing available information on earnings and occupations, however, we may reasonably draw some conclusions. The data presented here indicate that, although women tend to earn less than men, on average, a sizable number of dual-earner couples exists in which the wife is the primary earner. This is true even when more narrowly defined measures are examined, such as the proportion of couples in which the wife's wage exceeds those of her husband by 25 or 50 percent, or the proportion in which low-wage husbands are paired with high-wage wives. Arguably, these new kinds of couples may be altering the bargaining power in the family and, hence, family resource allocation. □

Footnotes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The author gratefully acknowledges helpful suggestions from David C. Rose and financial assistance from a grant provided by the University of Missouri.

¹ The figures cited are from Francine D. Blau, Marianne A. Ferber, and Anne E. Winkler, *The Economics of Women, Men and Work*, 3rd ed. (Upper

Saddle River, NJ, Prentice Hall, 1998), chap. 4.

² Chinhui Juhn and Kevin M. Murphy, "Wage Inequality and Family Labor Supply," *Journal of Labor Economics*, 15, no. 1, part 1, January, 1997, pp. 72-97.

³ Bureau of the Census, Historical Income Tables-Families, Table F-19,

"Married Couple Families with Wives' Earnings Greater than Husbands' Earnings" (selected years); (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/f19.html>), accessed Feb. 27, 1997.

⁴ From the late 1970s to the late 1980s, the amount of time spent by women doing housework declined from 4 times that spent by men to 3 times that spent by men. See Francine D. Blau, "The Well-Being of American Women: 1970-1995," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 36, no. 1, March 1998, pp. 112-65.

⁵ Howard V. Hayghe, "Working wives' contributions to family incomes," *Monthly Labor Review*, August 1993, pp. 39-43.

⁶ For a review of this literature, see Shelly Lundberg and Robert A. Pollak, "Bargaining and Distribution in Marriage," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 10, no. 4, fall 1996, pp. 139-58; and Theodore Bergstrom, "Economics in a Family Way," *Journal of Economic Literature* 34, no. 4, December 1996, pp. 1903-34. See also specific papers by Mary Jean Horney and Marjorie B. McElroy, "Nash-Bargained Household Decisions: Toward a Generalization of the Theory of Demand," *International Economic Review* 22, no. 2, June 1981, pp. 333-49; and Marilyn Manser and Murray Brown, "Marriage and Household Decisionmaking," *International Economic Review* 21, no. 1, February 1980, pp. 31-44.

⁷ See Duncan Thomas, "Intra-household Resource Allocation: An Inferential Approach," *Journal of Human Resources* 25, no. 4, fall 1990, pp. 635-64; and "Like Father, Like Son: Like Mother, Like Daughter: Parental Resources and Child Height," *Journal of Human Resources* 29, no. 4, fall 1994, pp. 950-88. For other evidence of differing preferences between husbands and wives, see T. Paul Schultz, "Testing the Neoclassical Model of Family Labor Supply and Fertility," *Journal of Human Resources* 25, no. 4, fall 1990, pp. 599-634.

⁸ One hypothesis that can be drawn from this discussion is that women's wages, on average, may be lower than those of otherwise similar men, not exclusively because of the fact that they are female, but also because they are, on average, more likely to be a secondary earner in the family. For a discussion and evidence, see Anne E. Winkler and David C. Rose, "The Impact of Career Hierarchy in the Family on Women's Wages," University of Missouri-St. Louis (July 1997).

⁹ Age was restricted in order to limit the sample to those who had largely completed school but were not yet of retirement age. Workers with self-employment and farm income were omitted so that an hourly wage for each individual could be constructed.

¹⁰ For a more detailed set of analyses that focus on the timing of schooling and marriage, see Robert D. Mare, "Five Decades of Educational Assortative Mating," *American Sociological Review*, February 1991, pp. 15-32.

¹¹ For discussions of the relationship between working wives, family income, and implications for inequality, see, for instance, Maria Cancian, Sheldon Danziger, and Peter Gottschalk, "Working Wives and Family Income Inequality Among Married Couples," in Sheldon Danziger and Peter Gottschalk, eds., *Uneven Tides: Rising Inequality in America* (New York, Russell Sage Foundation, 1993), pp. 195-221; and Lynn Karoly and Gary Burtless, "Demographic Changes, Rising Earnings Inequality, and the Distribution of Personal Well-Being, 1959-1989," *Demography*, August 1995, pp. 379-406.

¹² CPS respondents are coded by detailed occupation on the basis of the kind of work they perform for their employers. In this study, husbands and wives were placed in 1 of 42 "career" categories, including such occupations as engineers; secretaries, stenographers, and typists; sales workers, retail and personal services; construction trades; motor vehicle operators; and so on. Then, the husband and wife were each assigned the published median weekly earnings figure that corresponded to their occupation. The figures are for both sexes combined and were taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics periodical, *Employment and Earnings*, January 1993, table 56. Hence, if both spouses were employed as physicians, each was assigned the same "career" wage.

¹³ Additional analysis indicates that it is generally the case that both measures, current and career wages, tend to provide the same information for a given couple regarding which spouse earns more than the other. The number of cases in which both provided the same information ranged from 66 percent to 93 percent, depending on the percentage threshold (25 percent more, 100 percent more) used. Another point worth mentioning is that the percentage of wives who earn more than their husbands may well change as the composition of dual earners changes. For instance, those wives who enter the labor market earliest may have different characteristics, both observable and unobservable (motivation, ambition), than those who enter later.

¹⁴ In "Working wives," Hayghe obtained fairly similar estimates in percentage terms, but his absolute estimates differed due to different sample definitions. Hayghe's study estimated that about 9 million wives earned more than their husbands in 1991, while the figure here, based on wage and salary workers aged 25 to 64, is about 4.3 million.

¹⁵ See Blau, Ferber, and Winkler, *The Economics of Women, Men and Work*.

Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

Household and Family Characteristics: March 1998 (Update)

By Lynne M. Casper and Ken Bryson

C E N S U S B U R E A U

P20-515

Issued October 1998

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on families and nonfamily households in the United States, based on the March 1998 Current Population Survey. In the highlights below, the numbers in *italics* are significantly different from the corresponding numbers in 1997; others are not significantly different. These new tables provide information such as:

- In 1998, there were **70.9 million** family and **31.6 million** nonfamily households — 69.1 and 30.9 percent of U.S. households.
- Fewer than half (49.0 percent) of the family households had own children under 18 living at home.
- 14.4 percent of the family households had own children 18 and older living at home.
- Single parents maintained 27.3 percent of the family households with own children under 18.
- There were 2.1 million father-child and 9.8 million mother-child family groups — related and unrelated subfamilies as well as family households.
- In the mother-child family groups, 42.2 percent of mothers had never married.
- Overall, families had an average of 3.18 members. Average family sizes differ significantly for race and origin subgroups — 3.92 for Hispanic; **3.02** for White, not Hispanic; and 3.42 for Black families.
- People living alone accounted for **83.2 percent** of the 31.6 million nonfamily households.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

The tables include 18 detailed tables (175 pages), 10 historical tables, 2 summary tables, and 1 state table. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet in portable document format using the Adobe Acrobat reader, at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on "Subjects A-Z" then "F" for Families or "H" for Households.

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-101 for \$39.00. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-101, Household and Family Characteristics: March 1998 (Update)," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$39.00 payable to Commerce-Census-88-00-9010, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of

these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this update. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on this topic, contact the Fertility and Family Statistics Branch, on 301-457-2465, or E-mail (lcasper@census.gov).

The data in the detailed tables are from the March 1998 Current Population Survey. All survey data are subject to sampling variability as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources. For information on the source of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors for estimates, see the section on "Source and Accuracy" at (<http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/1998/ssrcaoc.htm>). For additional information, contact Andrew Zbikowski, Demographic Statistical Methods Division, on 301-457-4214 or E-mail (andrew.a.zbikowski@comail.census.gov).

NOTICE TO USERS

In order to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey about household and family characteristics, short data updates will be made available in both printed and electronic forms for years when full reports are not produced. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations for March 1998, updating the prior report, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1997" (Current Population Reports, P20-509), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or write to Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-8800.

Table A. Primary Child Care Arrangements Used for Preschoolers by Families with Empl
Selected Years, 1977 to 1994

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
Internet Release date: January 14, 1998

(Numbers in thousands)

Type of arrangement	Fall 1994	Fall 1993	Fall 1991	Fall 1990	Fall 1988	Fall 1987	F 1
Number of children	10,288	9,937	9,854	9,629	9,483	9,124	8,
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	10
Care in child's home	33.0	30.7	35.7	29.7	28.2	29.9	2
By father	18.5	15.9	20.0	16.5	15.1	15.3	1
By grandparent	5.9	6.5	7.2	5.2	5.7	5.1	
By other relative	3.5	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.2	3.3	
By nonrelative	5.1	5.0	5.4	5.0	5.3	6.2	
Care in another home	31.3	32.1	31.0	35.1	36.8	35.6	4
By grandparent	10.4	10.0	8.6	9.1	8.2	8.7	1
By other relative	5.5	5.5	4.5	5.9	5.0	4.6	
By nonrelative	15.4	16.6	17.9	20.1	23.6	22.3	2
Organized child care facilities	29.4	30.1	23.0	27.5	25.8	24.4	2
Day/group care center	21.6	18.3	15.8	20.6	16.6	16.1	1
Nursery school/preschool	7.8	11.6	7.3	6.9	9.2	8.3	
School-based activity	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	(NA)	(
Child cares for self	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.3	
Mother cares for child at work/3	5.5	6.2	8.7	6.4	7.6	8.9	
Other arrangements/4	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.0	

- Represents zero

NA Not available

1 Data only for the two youngest children under 5 years of age.

2 Data for 1977 includes grandparents.

3 Includes mothers working for pay at home or away from home.

4 Includes children in kindergarten/grade school.

Source: Tabulations derived from the June 1977 Current Population Survey; Current Po
Series P70-9, table 1; Series P70-20, table 1, Part A and Part B; Series P70-30, ta
table 1; and table 1 of this report.

FM-2. ALL PARENT/CHILD SITUATIONS, BY TYPE , RACE, AND HISPANIC ORIGIN
OF HOUSEHOLDER OR REFERENCE PERSON: 1970 TO PRESENT

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
Internet Release date: December 11, 1998

(Numbers in thousands. Family groups with children include all parent-child situations (two-parent and one-parent): those that maintain their own household (family households with own children); those that live in the home of a relative (related subfamilies); and those that live in the home of a nonrelative (unrelated subfamilies). Data based on the Current Population Survey (CPS).)

Years	All family groups				
	Total with		One parent		
	own children		Maintained by		
	under 18	Two-parent	Total	Mother	Father
ALL RACES					
1998	37,657	25,709	11,948	9,828	2,120
1997	37,619	25,577	12,042	10,012	2,030
1996	37,077	25,361	11,717	9,855	1,862
1995	37,168	25,640	11,527	9,833	1,694
1994	37,008	25,598	11,410	9,854	1,556
1993	36,058	25,157	10,901	9,339	1,562
1992	35,378	24,879	10,499	9,028	1,472
1991	34,973	24,863	10,110	8,745	1,365
1990	34,670	24,921	9,749	8,398	1,351
1989	34,609	25,096	9,513	8,315	1,199
1988	34,345	24,977	9,368	8,146	1,222
1987	34,242	25,005	9,236	8,128	1,107
1986	33,939	25,010	8,930	7,842	1,088
1985	33,353	24,573	8,779	7,737	1,042
1984	33,246	24,701	8,544	7,599	945
1983	33,027	24,739	8,288	7,395	893
1982	32,886	24,795	8,091	7,286	805
1981	32,501	25,218	7,283	6,513	770
1980	32,150	25,231	6,920	6,230	690
1970	29,631	25,823	3,808	3,415	393

WHITE

1998	30,314	22,237	8,077	6,328	1,749
1997	30,242	22,294	7,948	6,396	1,552
1996	29,947	22,178	7,769	6,329	1,440
1995	29,846	22,320	7,525	6,239	1,286
1994	29,645	22,310	7,335	6,144	1,191
1993	29,225	22,058	7,167	5,901	1,265
1992	28,847	21,909	6,938	5,753	1,186
1991	28,443	21,893	6,550	5,482	1,068
1990	28,294	21,905	6,389	5,310	1,079
1989	28,192	22,106	6,086	5,150	936
1988	28,104	22,013	6,090	5,100	990
1987	28,180	22,076	6,104	5,190	914
1986	28,041	22,076	5,964	5,070	894
1985	27,629	21,873	5,757	4,912	844
1984	27,508	21,978	5,529	4,766	763
1983	27,343	22,011	5,332	4,625	707
1982	27,445	22,021	5,423	4,766	657
1981	27,433	22,512	4,921	4,326	595
1980	27,294	22,628	4,664	4,122	542

1970	26,115	23,477	2,638	2,330	307
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BLACK

1998	5,604	2,111	3,493	3,211	282
1997	5,679	2,020	3,659	3,268	391
1996	5,434	1,942	3,493	3,171	322
1995	5,491	1,962	3,529	3,197	332
1994	5,614	1,978	3,636	3,350	287
1993	5,364	1,987	3,377	3,135	242
1992	5,164	1,948	3,216	2,994	221
1991	5,173	1,933	3,240	3,000	239
1990	5,087	2,006	3,081	2,860	221
1989	5,148	2,005	3,143	2,905	238
1988	5,057	2,055	3,003	2,812	191
1987	4,963	2,059	2,904	2,747	157
1986	4,772	2,022	2,752	2,597	155
1985	4,659	1,856	2,802	2,641	160
1984	4,744	1,934	2,809	2,652	157
1983	4,699	1,946	2,752	2,583	169
1982	4,521	2,029	2,491	2,365	126
1981	4,172	1,981	2,191	2,041	150
1980	4,074	1,961	2,114	1,984	129
1970	3,219	2,071	1,148	1,063	85

HISPANIC ORIGIN*

1998	5,021	3,233	1,789	1,500	289
1997	4,870	3,115	1,756	1,500	256
1996	4,560	2,858	1,702	1,483	219
1995	4,525	2,879	1,646	1,404	243
1994	4,369	2,786	1,583	1,364	219
1993	3,838	2,494	1,344	1,157	187
1992	3,771	2,473	1,298	1,112	186
1991	3,582	2,395	1,187	1,029	158
1990	3,429	2,289	1,140	1,003	138
1989	3,382	2,315	1,067	960	107
1988	3,321	2,205	1,116	977	139
1987	3,165	2,115	1,051	927	124
1986	3,043	2,057	987	881	106
1985	2,848	1,962	886	802	84
1984	2,674	1,867	807	740	67
1983	2,525	1,758	766	702	64
1982	2,456	1,734	722	666	56
1981	2,396	1,718	678	605	73
1980	2,194	1,626	568	526	42
1970	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

Years	All family households				
			One parent		
			Maintained by		
	Total with own children under 18	Two- parent	Total	Mother	Father

ALL RACES

1998	34,760	25,269	9,491	7,693	1,798
1997	34,665	25,083	9,583	7,874	1,709
1996	34,203	24,920	9,284	7,656	1,628
1995	34,296	25,241	9,055	7,615	1,440
1994	34,018	25,058	8,961	7,647	1,314

1993	33,257	24,707	8,550	7,226	1,324
1992	32,746	24,420	8,326	7,043	1,283
1991	32,401	24,397	8,004	6,823	1,181
1990	32,289	24,537	7,752	6,599	1,153
1989	32,322	24,735	7,587	6,519	1,068
1988	31,920	24,600	7,320	6,273	1,047
1987	31,898	24,645	7,252	6,297	955
1986	31,607	24,630	7,040	6,105	935
1985	31,112	24,210	6,902	6,006	896
1984	31,046	24,339	6,706	5,907	799
1983	30,818	24,363	6,455	5,718	737
1982	31,012	24,465	6,547	5,868	679
1981	31,227	24,927	6,300	5,634	666
1980	31,022	24,961	6,061	5,445	616
1970	28,731	25,532	3,199	2,858	341

WHITE

1998	28,336	21,910	6,426	4,912	1,514
1997	28,236	21,914	6,322	4,997	1,325
1996	28,086	21,835	6,251	4,975	1,276
1995	27,951	22,005	5,946	4,841	1,105
1994	27,642	21,884	5,758	4,748	1,010
1993	27,335	21,686	5,650	4,552	1,098
1992	27,045	21,517	5,523	4,488	1,040
1991	26,793	21,531	5,262	4,337	925
1990	26,718	21,579	5,138	4,199	939
1989	26,805	21,809	4,996	4,141	855
1988	26,618	21,699	4,918	4,066	852
1987	26,717	21,787	4,930	4,141	789
1986	26,575	21,756	4,818	4,040	778
1985	26,232	21,565	4,666	3,922	744
1984	26,207	21,701	4,506	3,856	650
1983	26,006	21,701	4,305	3,707	598
1982	26,237	21,744	4,492	3,926	566
1981	26,523	22,296	4,228	3,694	534
1980	26,474	22,415	4,058	3,558	500
1970**	25,543	23,277	2,266	1,995	271

BLACK

1998	4,847	2,055	2,792	2,569	223
1997	4,886	1,974	2,913	2,594	319
1996	4,583	1,901	2,682	2,404	278
1995	4,682	1,926	2,756	2,489	267
1994	4,793	1,924	2,868	2,630	238
1993	4,560	1,945	2,616	2,434	182
1992	4,445	1,926	2,519	2,335	184
1991	4,380	1,884	2,496	2,294	202
1990	4,378	1,972	2,405	2,232	173
1989	4,332	1,969	2,362	2,170	192
1988	4,195	2,016	2,180	2,020	160
1987	4,184	2,023	2,161	2,025	136
1986	4,059	1,997	2,063	1,934	129
1985	3,891	1,822	2,068	1,942	126
1984	3,918	1,876	2,042	1,913	129
1983	3,890	1,901	1,989	1,862	127
1982	3,918	2,003	1,914	1,821	93
1981	3,873	1,938	1,934	1,823	111
1980	3,820	1,927	1,892	1,793	99
1970**	2,984	1,999	985	912	73

HISPANIC ORIGIN*

1998	4,475	3,121	1,354	1,121	233
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1997	4,305	2,962	1,342	1,138	204
1996	4,048	2,731	1,317	1,138	179
1995	3,984	2,743	1,240	1,048	192
1994	3,790	2,609	1,181	1,006	175
1993	3,345	2,355	990	830	160
1992	3,333	2,321	1,012	853	159
1991	3,203	2,273	930	799	131
1990	3,051	2,188	863	745	118
1989	3,096	2,234	862	766	96
1988	2,991	2,123	868	754	114
1987	2,859	2,034	825	729	96
1986	2,755	1,987	769	684	85
1985	2,602	1,892	710	642	68
1984	2,415	1,791	624	571	53
1983	2,306	1,694	612	559	53
1982	2,272	1,676	596	553	44
1981	2,260	1,671	589	527	62
1980	2,083	1,589	494	458	36
1970	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

Years	Related subfamilies				
			One parent		
			Maintained by		
	Total with own children under 18	Two- parent	Total	Mother	Father

ALL RACES

1998	2,348	425	1,923	1,673	250
1997	2,360	465	1,895	1,651	244
1996	2,316	421	1,895	1,706	189
1995	2,241	377	1,864	1,668	195
1994	2,305	505	1,800	1,636	164
1993	2,136	410	1,726	1,556	170
1992	2,011	415	1,596	1,462	134
1991	1,984	424	1,560	1,418	142
1990	1,893	361	1,531	1,378	153
1989	1,844	342	1,503	1,398	104
1988	1,998	366	1,632	1,480	152
1987	1,916	342	1,574	1,451	123
1986	1,883	353	1,530	1,399	131
1985	1,857	348	1,508	1,392	116
1984	1,820	344	1,476	1,363	113
1983	1,869	368	1,501	1,355	146
1982	1,568	316	1,252	1,139	113
1981	939	283	656	578	78
1980	825	257	568	512	56
1970	819	282	537	489	48

WHITE

1998	1,531	313	1,218	1,045	173
1997	1,509	353	1,156	988	168
1996	1,413	327	1,086	955	131
1995	1,371	296	1,075	940	135
1994	1,443	402	1,041	925	116
1993	1,326	337	989	878	112
1992	1,296	351	944	851	93
1991	1,189	328	861	752	109
1990	1,188	304	884	779	105
1989	1,068	282	786	725	61

1988	1,167	304	863	743	120
1987	1,112	271	841	745	96
1986	1,166	300	866	771	95
1985	1,091	297	794	722	72
1984	1,021	265	756	668	88
1983	1,070	302	768	665	103
1982	955	266	689	607	82
1981	632	208	424	381	43
1980	578	205	373	339	34
1970	568	200	363	331	37

BLACK

1998	680	55	625	572	53
1997	713	46	667	607	60
1996	767	38	729	691	38
1995	729	34	695	642	52
1994	735	52	683	644	40
1993	719	39	680	632	49
1992	621	21	600	564	36
1991	689	46	644	614	30
1990	629	33	596	557	39
1989	713	36	677	637	40
1988	766	39	727	701	26
1987	717	35	682	661	21
1986	641	23	619	593	26
1985	703	32	671	639	32
1984	744	56	687	665	22
1983	745	45	700	660	40
1982	560	26	534	505	29
1981	254	43	212	179	33
1980	203	30	174	153	21
1970	235	72	163	151	12

HISPANIC ORIGIN*

1998	483	100	384	342	42
1997	477	137	340	297	43
1996	437	124	312	277	35
1995	448	123	325	277	48
1994	444	154	290	258	32
1993	382	120	262	242	20
1992	354	128	226	206	20
1991	304	103	201	178	23
1990	308	86	222	207	16
1989	256	79	177	166	11
1988	291	77	214	193	21
1987	258	68	190	167	23
1986	246	64	182	161	21
1985	215	66	149	134	15
1984	229	73	155	143	12
1983	188	61	127	117	10
1982	153	57	96	87	9
1981	110	46	63	58	5
1980	83	33	50	45	5
1970	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

Years	Unrelated subfamilies				
			One parent		
			Maintained by		
	Total with own children under 18	Two- parent	Total	Mother	Father

ALL RACES

1998	549	14	535	463	72
1997	594	29	564	487	77
1996	558	21	538	493	45
1995	631	22	609	550	59
1994	684	34	650	571	78
1993	666	40	625	557	68
1992	622	44	577	523	55
1991	587	42	545	504	41
1990	488	23	466	421	45
1989	443	19	424	398	26
1988	427	11	416	393	23
1987	428	18	409	380	29
1986	386	27	360	338	22
1985	384	15	369	339	30
1984	380	18	362	329	33
1983	340	8	332	322	10
1982	307	15	292	279	13
1981	335	8	327	301	26
1980	303	13	291	273	18
1970	81	9	72	68	4

WHITE

1998	447	13	433	371	62
1997	497	26	471	411	60
1996	448	15	433	400	33
1995	524	20	504	458	46
1994	561	24	536	470	66
1993	563	35	528	472	56
1992	507	41	465	413	52
1991	460	33	427	393	34
1990	388	22	366	332	34
1989	320	15	304	284	20
1988	319	10	309	291	18
1987	351	18	333	304	29
1986	300	20	280	259	21
1985	306	11	296	268	28
1984	280	12	267	242	25
1983	267	8	259	253	6
1982	253	11	242	233	9
1981	277	8	269	251	18
1980	242	8	233	225	8
1970	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

BLACK

1998	77	0	77	71	6
1997	80	0	80	67	13
1996	84	2	82	76	6
1995	80	2	79	66	13
1994	87	2	84	76	9
1993	84	3	82	69	12
1992	98	1	97	96	1
1991	103	3	99	92	7
1990	80	1	80	71	9
1989	103	0	103	97	6
1988	96	0	96	91	5
1987	62	0	61	61	0
1986	72	2	70	70	0
1985	65	2	62	60	2
1984	82	2	80	74	6

1983	64	0	63	61	2
1982	43	0	43	39	4
1981	45	0	45	39	6
1980	51	4	47	38	9
1970	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

HISPANIC ORIGIN*

1998	63	12	51	37	14
1997	88	15	72	64	8
1996	74	3	71	67	4
1995	95	13	82	79	3
1994	135	23	112	100	12
1993	110	18	92	85	7
1992	85	24	60	53	7
1991	74	19	55	52	3
1990	70	15	55	51	4
1989	31	2	29	28	1
1988	39	5	34	30	4
1987	48	13	36	31	5
1986	42	6	36	36	0
1985	31	4	27	26	1
1984	30	3	27	26	1
1983	32	4	27	26	1
1982	31	1	29	26	3
1981	27	1	26	20	6
1980	28	4	24	23	1
1970	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available

* Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** Includes unrelated subfamilies.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P20-515
"Household and Family Characteristics: March 1998 (Update)" and
earlier reports.

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EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES IN 1997

The share of all U.S. families with at least one worker rose by 0.8 percentage point to 82.2 percent in 1997, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the year, the proportion of families with an unemployed person fell by 0.6 percentage point to 7.0 percent. /

The data in this release are based on information collected in the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of about 50,000 households that provides data on national employment and unemployment. For further information about this survey, see the Technical Note. Some of the highlights of the findings include:

--The number of dual-worker families--families in which both the husband and wife worked--grew by 352,000 between 1996 and 1997, while the number of "traditional" families--couples in which only the husband was employed--declined by 145,000.

--The labor force participation rate of mothers increased from 70.8 percent in 1996 to 71.9 percent in 1997, as the rate for unmarried mothers (single, widowed, divorced, or separated) increased by 3.2 percentage points to 75.0 percent.

--Among mothers with children under a year old, 57.9 percent were working or looking for work in 1997, compared with 54.3 percent the year before.

Families

Over the year, the proportion of families with employed persons increased by about 0.6 percentage point for white families and by nearly 2 percentage points for black and Hispanic families. Nevertheless, black families continued to be less likely to include an employed member (77.1 percent) than were either white (82.7 percent) or Hispanic families (84.1 percent). These data include families whose members are beyond working age. (See table 1.)

In an average week in 1997, about 4.9 million families--7.0 percent of all families--had at least one person who was unemployed. This proportion was down from 7.6 percent in 1996. The proportions of white and Hispanic families who had at least one person unemployed declined by 0.6 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively, while that of black families was about unchanged.

Overall, married-couple families and families maintained by men were more likely to include someone who was employed, about 83.8 and 85.9 percent, respectively, than were families maintained by women, 74.0 percent, in 1997. The proportion of families maintained by men that included a worker grew by 2.5 percentage points and that of families maintained by women that included a worker increased by 2.3 percentage points from 1996 to 1997. (See table 2.)

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The number of married-couple families in which someone was unemployed fell by 320,000 to 3.1 million in 1997, while, among families maintained by men or women, the number with unemployment was about unchanged. (See

table 3.)

Among married-couple families with children, the number in which both parents were employed increased by 165,000 for families whose youngest child was school age (6 to 17 years of age). The number was about unchanged for married-couple families with pre-school children (under 6 years of age). (See table 4.)

Mothers

The labor force participation rate of married mothers stayed a little below 71 percent. Among mothers of children under 6, the labor force participation rate increased by 1.6 percentage points to 64.8 percent. Married mothers with children under a year old were more likely to be in the labor force than their unmarried counterparts--59.2 and 54.0 percent, respectively. (See tables 5 and 6.)

The unemployment rate of mothers with children under 18 fell by 0.4 percentage point to 5.5 percent. This reflected a decline of 0.3 percentage point in the rate for mothers whose youngest child was school age and a decrease of 0.6 percentage point in the rate for mothers with pre-school children. (See table 5.)

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| Data shown in this release for 1997 incorporate revised population |
| controls that were introduced into the household survey in January of |
| that year. The revised controls primarily reflect improvements in the |
| estimation of demographic characteristics for immigrants and emigrants |
| and result in increases of about 37,000 in the number of families and |
| of about 7,000 in the number of mothers with children under 18.      |
| Published estimates for 1996 have not been recalculated using the new |
| population controls. Changes for the data levels shown in the text of |
| this release reflect an allowance for the effect of the revised      |
| population controls and, therefore, may not agree with changes      |
| calculated directly from the attached tables.                        |
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Technical Note

The estimates in this release are based on annual average data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a national sample survey of about 50,000 households conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census. The information relates to the labor force status of persons 16 years old and over in the civilian noninstitutional population during an "average" week of the year.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-606-STAT; TDD phone: 202-606-5897; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-326-2577.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or sampling error, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by nonsampling error. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample

a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the "Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error" section of the February 1994 and subsequent issues of Employment and Earnings.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in this release are described briefly below.

Family. A family is a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. The count of families is for "primary" families only, that is, the householder and all other persons related to and residing with the householder. Families are classified either as married-couple families or as families maintained by women or men without spouses.

Householder. The householder is the family reference person. This is the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. The relationship of other individuals in the household is defined in terms of relationship to the householder.

Married, spouse present; other marital status. These terms denote the marital status of individuals at the time of interview. Married, spouse present, refers to husbands and wives living together in the same household, even though one may be temporarily absent on business, vacation, on a visit, in a hospital, etc. Other marital status includes persons who are never-married; married, spouse absent; widowed; or divorced. Married, spouse absent relates to persons who are separated due to marital problems, as well as husbands and wives who are living apart because one or the other was employed elsewhere, on duty with the Armed Forces, or any other reasons.

Children. Data on children refer to own children and include sons, daughters, adopted, and step-children of the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, other related children, and all unrelated children living in the household.

Table 1. Employment and unemployment in families by race and Hispanic origin, 1
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	
TOTAL	
Total families.....	
With employed member(s).....	
As percent of total families.....	
Some usually work full time(1).....	
With no employed member.....	
As percent of total families.....	
With unemployed member(s).....	
As percent of total families.....	
Some member(s) employed.....	
As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....	
Some usually work full time(1).....	
As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....	

White

Total families.....

With employed member(s).....

 As percent of total families.....

 Some usually work full time(1).....

With no employed member.....

 As percent of total families.....

With unemployed member(s).....

 As percent of total families.....

 Some member(s) employed.....

 As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....

 Some usually work full time(1).....

 As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....

Black

Total families.....

With employed member(s).....

 As percent of total families.....

 Some usually work full time(1).....

With no employed member.....

 As percent of total families.....

With unemployed member(s).....

 As percent of total families.....

 Some member(s) employed.....

 As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....

 Some usually work full time(1).....

 As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....

Hispanic origin

Total families.....

With employed member(s).....

 As percent of total families.....

 Some usually work full time(1).....

With no employed member.....

 As percent of total families.....

With unemployed member(s).....

 As percent of total families.....

 Some member(s) employed.....

 As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....

 Some usually work full time(1).....

 As percent of families with unemployed member(s).....

1 Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

NOTE; Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to "all races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black groups. Data for 1997 are not strictly comparable with data for 1996 and earlier years because of population controls in the household survey in January 1997. Detail may not sum due to rounding.

Table 2. Families by presence and relationship of employed members and family type
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Nu
	1996
MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES	
Total.....	53,214
Member(s) employed, total.....	44,448
Husband only.....	10,103
Wife only.....	2,846
Husband and wife.....	28,077
Other employment combinations.....	3,422
No member(s) employed.....	8,766
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY WOMEN(1)	
Total.....	12,264
Members(s) employed, total.....	8,788
Householder only.....	4,964
Householder and other member(s).....	2,385
Other member(s), not householder.....	1,438
No member(s) employed.....	3,477
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY MEN(1)	
Total.....	3,724
Members(s) employed, total.....	3,106
Householder only.....	1,614
Householder and other member(s).....	1,076
Other member(s), not householder.....	416
No member(s) employed.....	618

1 No spouse present.

NOTE; Data for 1997 are not strictly comparable with data for 1996 and earl population controls in the household survey in January 1997. Detail may not sum

Table 3. Unemployment in families by presence and relationship of employed memb
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Nu
	1996
MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES	
With unemployed member(s), total.....	3,378
No member employed.....	601
Some member(s) employed.....	2,777
Husband unemployed.....	1,207
Wife employed.....	746
Wife unemployed.....	1,016
Husband employed.....	891
Other family member unemployed.....	1,155
FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY WOMEN(1)	

With unemployed member(s), total.....	1,485
No member employed.....	809
Some member(s) employed.....	676
Householder unemployed.....	670
Other member(s) employed.....	102
Other member(s) unemployed.....	569

FAMILIES MAINTAINED BY MEN(1)

With unemployed member(s), total.....	407
No member employed.....	182
Some member(s) employed.....	224
Householder unemployed.....	200
Other member(s) employed.....	67
Other member(s) unemployed.....	206

1 No spouse present.

NOTE; Data for 1997 are not strictly comparable with data for 1996 and early population controls in the household survey in January 1997. Detail may not sum

Table 4. Families with own children; Employment status of parents by age of young people

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	1996
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS	
Total.....	33,980
Parent(s) employed.....	30,296
No parent employed.....	3,683
Married-couple families.....	24,818
Parent(s) employed.....	23,960
Mother employed.....	16,949
Both parents employed.....	15,851
Mother employed, not father.....	1,099
Father employed, not mother.....	7,010
Neither parent employed.....	858
Families maintained by women(1).....	7,469
Mother employed.....	4,919
Mother not employed.....	2,550
Families maintained by men(1).....	1,692
Father employed.....	1,417
Father not employed.....	275
WITH OWN CHILDREN 6 TO 17 YEARS, NONE YOUNGER	
Total.....	18,694
Parent(s) employed.....	16,892
No parent employed.....	1,802
Married-couple families.....	13,257
Parent(s) employed.....	12,786
Mother employed.....	9,896

Both parents employed.....	9,210
Mother employed, not father.....	687
Father employed, not mother.....	2,890
Neither parent employed.....	470
Families maintained by women(1).....	4,393
Mother employed.....	3,221
Mother not employed.....	1,172
Families maintained by men(1).....	1,044
Father employed.....	885
Father not employed.....	160

WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS

Total.....	15,286
Parent(s) employed.....	13,405
No parent employed.....	1,881
Married-couple families.....	11,562
Parent(s) employed.....	11,174
Mother employed.....	7,053
Both parents employed.....	6,641
Mother employed, not father.....	412
Father employed, not mother.....	4,121
Neither parent employed.....	388
Families maintained by women(1).....	3,076
Mother employed.....	1,699
Mother not employed.....	1,378
Families maintained by men(1).....	648
Father employed.....	532
Father not employed.....	115

1 No spouse present.

NOTE; Own children include sons, daughters, step-children and adopted child grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children. Data for 1997 are not earlier years because of the introduction of revised population controls in the not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 5. Employment status of the population by sex, marital status, and present annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	1996	
	Total	Men
WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS		
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	62,733	27,319
Civilian labor force.....	50,866	25,803
Participation rate.....	81.1	94.5
Employed.....	48,521	24,933
Employment-population ratio.....	77.3	91.3
Full-time workers(1).....	41,164	24,085
Part-time workers(2).....	7,356	848
Unemployed.....	2,345	870
Unemployment rate.....	4.6	3.4

Married, spouse present

Civilian noninstitutional population.....	51,128	25,349
Civilian labor force.....	42,185	24,043
Participation rate.....	82.5	94.8
Employed.....	40,743	23,305
Employment-population ratio.....	79.7	91.9
Full-time workers(1).....	34,732	22,559
Part-time workers(2).....	6,011	747
Unemployed.....	1,441	738
Unemployment rate.....	3.4	3.1

Other marital status(3)

Civilian noninstitutional population.....	11,606	1,970
Civilian labor force.....	8,680	1,759
Participation rate.....	74.8	89.3
Employed.....	7,777	1,628
Employment-population ratio.....	67.0	82.6
Full-time workers(1).....	6,432	1,526
Part-time workers(2).....	1,344	101
Unemployed.....	903	132
Unemployment rate.....	10.4	7.5

WITH OWN CHILDREN 6 TO 17 YEARS,
NONE YOUNGER

Civilian noninstitutional population.....	33,411	14,601
Civilian labor force.....	28,221	13,645
Participation rate.....	84.5	93.5
Employed.....	27,123	13,229
Employment-population ratio.....	81.2	90.6
Full-time workers(1).....	23,267	12,810
Part-time workers(2).....	3,857	418
Unemployed.....	1,097	416
Unemployment rate.....	3.9	3.0

WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS

Civilian noninstitutional population.....	29,323	12,718
Civilian labor force.....	22,645	12,158
Participation rate.....	77.2	95.6
Employed.....	21,398	11,704
Employment-population ratio.....	73.0	92.0
Full-time workers(1).....	17,898	11,274
Part-time workers(2).....	3,500	430
Unemployed.....	1,247	454
Unemployment rate.....	5.5	3.7

WITH NO CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

Civilian noninstitutional population.....	135,902	66,931
Civilian labor force.....	81,618	44,736
Participation rate.....	60.1	66.8
Employed.....	76,717	41,748
Employment-population ratio.....	56.5	62.4
Full-time workers(1).....	60,920	35,200
Part-time workers(2).....	15,797	6,548
Unemployed.....	4,901	2,988
Unemployment rate.....	6.0	6.7

1 Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

2 Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

3 Includes never-married, divorced, separated and widowed persons.

NOTE: See NOTE, table 4.

Table 6. Employment status of mothers with own children under 3 years old by marital status, 1996-97 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Total	Percent of populati- on	Total
1996				
TOTAL MOTHERS				
With children under 3 years old...	9,610	5,710	59.4	5,2
2 years.....	2,899	1,836	63.3	1,6
1 year.....	3,333	2,040	61.2	1,8
Under 1 year.....	3,378	1,834	54.3	1,6
Married, spouse present				
With children under 3 years old...	7,203	4,343	60.3	4,1
2 years.....	2,150	1,362	63.3	1,3
1 year.....	2,500	1,555	62.2	1,4
Under 1 year.....	2,553	1,426	55.9	1,3
Other marital status(3)				
With children under 3 years old...	2,407	1,367	56.8	1,1
2 years.....	749	473	63.2	3
1 year.....	833	486	58.3	3
Under 1 year.....	825	408	49.5	3
1997				
TOTAL MOTHERS				
With children under 3 years old...	9,347	5,738	61.4	5,3
2 years.....	2,871	1,890	65.8	1,7
1 year.....	3,306	2,012	60.9	1,8
Under 1 year.....	3,170	1,836	57.9	1,6
Married, spouse present				
With children under 3 years old...	7,049	4,296	60.9	4,1
2 years.....	2,142	1,380	64.4	1,3
1 year.....	2,459	1,468	59.7	1,3
Under 1 year.....	2,448	1,448	59.2	1,3
Other marital status(3)				
With children under 3 years old...	2,297	1,445	62.9	1,2
2 years.....	729	511	70.1	4
1 year.....	847	545	64.3	4
Under 1 year.....	721	389	54.0	3

- 1 Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.
 - 2 Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.
 - 3 Includes never-married, divorced, separated and widowed persons.
- NOTE: See NOTE, table 4.

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N. Call



Balancing Family and Work: Facts about Working Families

State-by-State Data
May 1999

