

# Work Status of People 65 Years and Older: 2008 American Community Survey

Issued September 2009

*American Community Survey Reports*

ACSBR/08-10

## Introduction

This report is one of a series produced to highlight results from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). The report series is designed to cover a variety of economic topics, such as poverty, occupation, home values, and labor force participation. This series provides information about the changing economic characteristics of the nation and states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The ACS also provides detailed estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. A description of the ACS is provided in the text box "What Is the American Community Survey?"

This report presents data on the work status of people aged 65 and older at the national and state levels based on the 2008 ACS.<sup>1</sup> Work status includes both the currently employed and those employed in the past 12 months. According to 2008 U.S. Census Bureau projections, the 65-and-older population is projected to increase by 79 percent from 2010 to 2030, representing 19 percent of the total population by 2030. In 2008, 15.5 percent of the 65-and-older population participated in the labor force. Of those aged 65 and older participating in the labor force, some have retired from full-time, year-round

<sup>1</sup> Full-time, year-round workers include those 65 and older who usually worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the past 12 months. For a more in-depth explanation of work status concepts, please see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def.htm)>.

## What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters. The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. In 2008, the first set of multiyear estimates was released for data collected between January 2005 and December 2007. These 3-year estimates were published for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 and greater. The Census Bureau is planning to release the first 5-year estimates in late 2010 for the smallest geographic areas based on data collected between January 2005 and December 2009.

The data contained in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2008. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>.

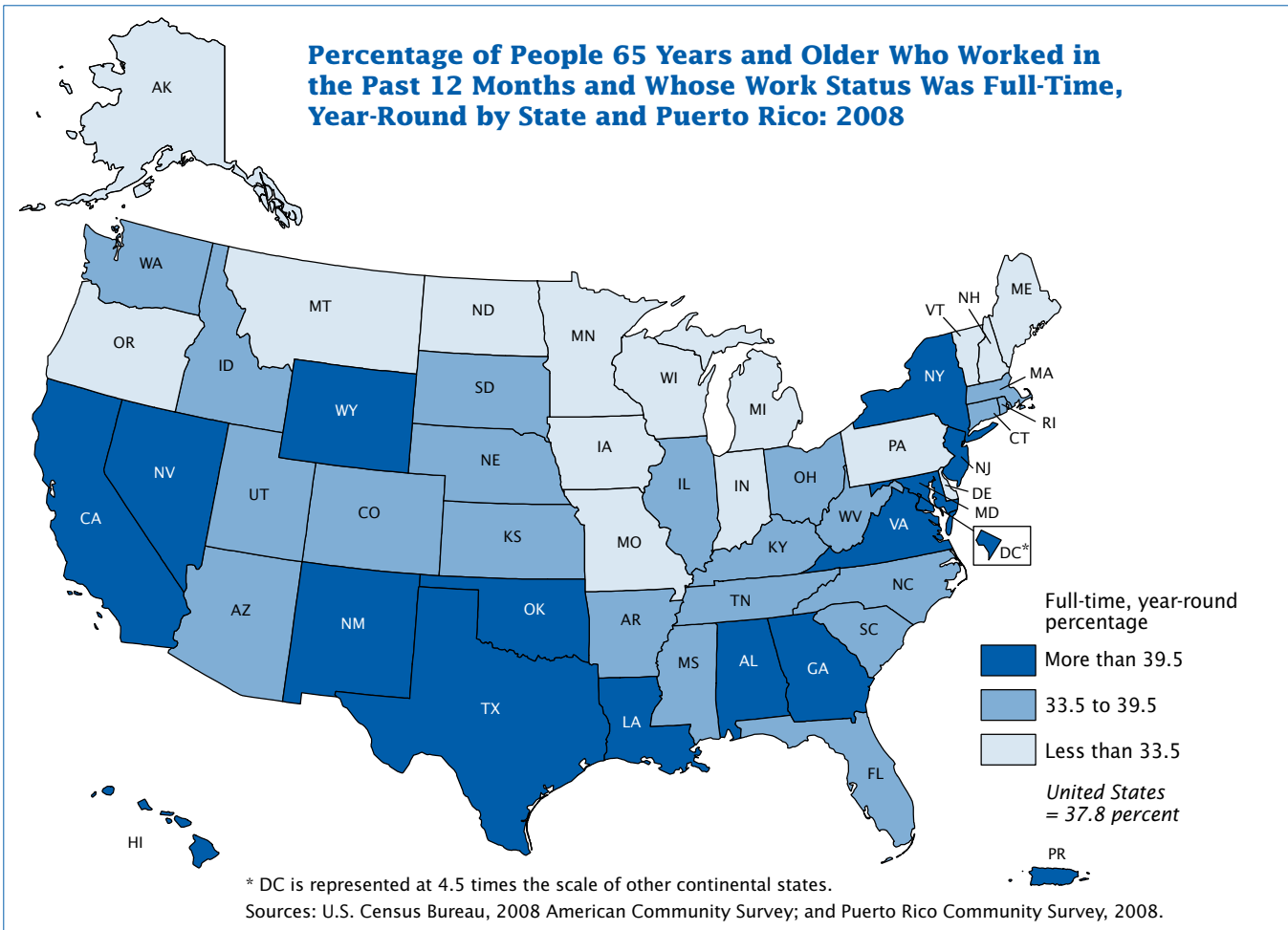
By  
Braedyn K. Woodring  
and David J. Howard

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

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Percentage of People 65 Years and Older Who Worked in the Past 12 Months and Whose Work Status Was Full-Time, Year-Round by State and Puerto Rico: 2008**



employment but continue to work part-time either to pursue other work-related interests or supplement their income from savings and social security. Others do not retire and continue to work full-time, year-round due to a lack of desire to retire or inadequate retirement savings.

The data contained in this report are based on an ACS sample that was selected for interview in 2008 and are estimates of the actual figures that could have been obtained by interviewing the entire population using the same methodology. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless noted otherwise. Due to rounding, some details may not

sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the “2008 ACS Accuracy of the Data” document located at [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2008.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2008.pdf).

**Work Status**

Nationally, 37.8 percent of 65-and-older workers worked full-time, year-round in 2008. The percentage of 65-and-older workers who worked full-time, year-round for the 50 states and the District of Columbia ranged from 51.6 percent for the District of Columbia to 27.4 percent for Wisconsin. Thirteen states had a full-time, year-round

work status rate higher than the national full-time, year-round rate of 37.8 percent. The proportion of 65-and-older workers who worked full-time, year-round for the District of Columbia (51.6 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion for Texas but was higher than the proportions for the other 49 states. Twenty-one states had a full-time, year-round work status rate lower than the national full-time, year-round rate. The proportion of 65-and-older workers who worked full-time, year-round for Wisconsin (27.4 percent) was not statistically different from the proportions for Vermont, Minnesota, Maine, North Dakota, and Alaska but was lower than the proportions of the other 44 states and the District of Columbia.

---

The proportion of 65-and-older men and women workers who worked full-time, year-round was 41.8 percent and 32.7 percent, respectively. Men had a higher full-time, year-round rate than

women in 44 states and the District of Columbia. For men, the percentage of 65-and-older workers who worked full-time, year-round ranged from 60.0 percent for the District of Columbia to 30.9 percent

for Wisconsin. For women, the percentage that worked full-time, year-round ranged from 44.6 percent for Nevada to 20.8 percent for Vermont.

## Work Status of Men and Women Aged 65 and Older Who Worked in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2008

(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www))

Area	Total				Men				Women			
	Full-time, year-round <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Not full-time, year-round	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Full-time, year-round <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Not full-time, year-round	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Full-time, year-round <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Not full-time, year-round	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>United States . . . . .</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Alabama . . . . .	40.1	2.0	59.9	2.0	45.0	2.4	55.0	2.4	33.2	3.2	66.8	3.2
Alaska . . . . .	33.0	5.7	67.0	5.7	38.0	8.1	62.0	8.1	26.4	6.8	73.6	6.8
Arizona . . . . .	35.3	1.7	64.7	1.7	37.8	2.4	62.2	2.4	32.0	2.7	68.0	2.7
Arkansas . . . . .	37.9	2.6	62.1	2.6	43.3	3.7	56.7	3.7	31.5	4.1	68.5	4.1
California . . . . .	41.0	0.9	59.0	0.9	46.0	1.0	54.0	1.0	34.3	1.4	65.7	1.4
Colorado . . . . .	34.2	2.0	65.8	2.0	37.7	2.5	62.3	2.5	29.6	2.6	70.4	2.6
Connecticut . . . . .	38.1	2.0	61.9	2.0	43.8	2.9	56.2	2.9	31.2	2.5	68.8	2.5
Delaware . . . . .	32.5	4.4	67.5	4.4	40.6	6.2	59.4	6.2	23.9	4.8	76.1	4.8
District of Columbia . . . . .	51.6	6.4	48.4	6.4	60.0	8.8	40.0	8.8	44.0	8.5	56.0	8.5
Florida . . . . .	37.6	1.1	62.4	1.1	39.8	1.5	60.2	1.5	34.6	1.5	65.4	1.5
Georgia . . . . .	41.1	1.8	58.9	1.8	45.6	2.8	54.4	2.8	35.1	2.4	64.9	2.4
Hawaii . . . . .	41.2	3.8	58.8	3.8	44.5	5.5	55.5	5.5	37.1	4.3	62.9	4.3
Idaho . . . . .	34.1	3.8	65.9	3.8	37.5	5.2	62.5	5.2	29.2	5.1	70.9	5.1
Illinois . . . . .	38.4	1.1	61.6	1.1	42.5	1.5	57.5	1.5	33.7	1.8	66.3	1.8
Indiana . . . . .	31.4	1.6	68.6	1.6	36.6	2.2	63.4	2.2	25.4	2.3	74.6	2.3
Iowa . . . . .	30.6	1.9	69.4	1.9	33.2	2.5	66.8	2.5	27.4	2.8	72.6	2.8
Kansas . . . . .	38.7	2.0	61.3	2.0	40.0	2.8	60.0	2.8	37.0	3.1	63.0	3.1
Kentucky . . . . .	34.7	1.8	65.3	1.8	38.0	2.5	62.0	2.5	30.7	3.2	69.3	3.2
Louisiana . . . . .	43.2	2.5	56.8	2.5	46.4	3.2	53.6	3.2	39.3	3.4	60.7	3.4
Maine . . . . .	28.8	2.9	71.2	2.9	34.2	4.3	65.8	4.3	21.5	3.6	78.5	3.6
Maryland . . . . .	39.7	1.6	60.3	1.6	43.6	2.0	56.4	2.0	35.0	2.5	65.0	2.5
Massachusetts . . . . .	35.5	1.7	64.5	1.7	40.7	2.0	59.3	2.0	29.4	2.7	70.6	2.7
Michigan . . . . .	29.8	1.4	70.2	1.4	33.5	1.9	66.5	1.9	25.3	2.1	74.7	2.1
Minnesota . . . . .	28.2	1.6	71.8	1.6	32.7	2.4	67.3	2.4	22.4	2.0	77.6	2.0
Mississippi . . . . .	38.0	2.4	62.0	2.4	38.7	3.1	61.3	3.1	37.1	4.0	62.9	4.0
Missouri . . . . .	33.1	1.7	66.9	1.7	36.8	2.4	63.2	2.4	29.0	2.1	71.0	2.1
Montana . . . . .	32.9	3.4	67.1	3.4	36.2	4.0	63.8	4.0	27.9	5.3	72.1	5.3
Nebraska . . . . .	37.6	2.4	62.4	2.4	43.2	3.2	56.8	3.2	30.0	3.6	70.0	3.6
Nevada . . . . .	44.0	2.9	56.0	2.9	43.5	3.7	56.5	3.7	44.6	3.9	55.4	3.9
New Hampshire . . . . .	31.6	3.6	68.4	3.6	33.9	4.6	66.1	4.6	28.8	5.3	71.2	5.3
New Jersey . . . . .	43.2	1.6	56.8	1.6	47.6	2.0	52.4	2.0	37.8	2.2	62.2	2.2
New Mexico . . . . .	41.5	3.1	58.5	3.1	47.1	4.2	52.9	4.2	34.6	5.0	65.4	5.0
New York . . . . .	42.4	1.0	57.6	1.0	45.9	1.3	54.1	1.3	38.3	1.4	61.7	1.4
North Carolina . . . . .	34.1	1.3	65.9	1.3	38.0	1.7	62.0	1.7	29.2	2.0	70.8	2.0
North Dakota . . . . .	29.4	3.8	70.6	3.8	35.0	4.9	65.0	4.9	21.7	4.9	78.3	4.9
Ohio . . . . .	34.5	1.3	65.5	1.3	37.8	1.6	62.2	1.6	30.4	1.7	69.6	1.7
Oklahoma . . . . .	43.1	2.4	56.9	2.4	48.6	3.4	51.4	3.4	36.4	3.0	63.6	3.0
Oregon . . . . .	32.6	2.4	67.4	2.4	37.6	2.9	62.4	2.9	26.1	3.6	73.9	3.6
Pennsylvania . . . . .	33.5	1.1	66.5	1.1	37.6	1.4	62.4	1.4	28.3	1.8	71.7	1.8
Rhode Island . . . . .	34.5	4.1	65.5	4.1	41.6	5.6	58.4	5.6	25.1	5.2	74.9	5.2
South Carolina . . . . .	36.3	2.7	63.7	2.7	37.8	3.4	62.2	3.4	34.6	3.2	65.4	3.2
South Dakota . . . . .	33.7	3.3	66.3	3.3	39.9	4.2	60.1	4.2	24.7	5.3	75.3	5.3
Tennessee . . . . .	38.6	1.8	61.4	1.8	43.1	2.4	56.9	2.4	33.0	2.5	67.0	2.5
Texas . . . . .	45.2	1.1	54.8	1.1	50.0	1.4	50.0	1.4	38.7	1.4	61.3	1.4
Utah . . . . .	38.5	3.4	61.5	3.4	41.7	4.0	58.3	4.0	33.6	5.6	66.4	5.6
Vermont . . . . .	27.7	4.3	72.3	4.3	33.5	6.0	66.5	6.0	20.8	5.3	79.2	5.3
Virginia . . . . .	39.8	1.5	60.2	1.5	44.8	1.9	55.2	1.9	33.2	2.3	66.8	2.3
Washington . . . . .	36.6	1.9	63.4	1.9	40.2	2.5	59.8	2.5	31.6	2.6	68.4	2.6
West Virginia . . . . .	37.8	3.5	62.2	3.5	39.9	4.9	60.1	4.9	35.3	5.2	64.7	5.2
Wisconsin . . . . .	27.4	1.4	72.6	1.4	30.9	1.8	69.1	1.8	23.1	2.2	76.9	2.2
Wyoming . . . . .	40.8	5.3	59.2	5.3	48.7	6.2	51.3	6.2	32.0	8.0	68.0	8.0
Puerto Rico . . . . .	47.7	3.4	52.3	3.4	49.0	4.1	51.0	4.1	45.2	5.5	54.8	5.5

<sup>1</sup> Full-time, year-round workers include those who usually worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the past 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008; and Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2008.