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VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES — 2015

The **volunteer rate** declined by 0.4 percentage point to 24.9 percent for the year ending in September 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. About 62.6 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2014 and September 2015.

These data on volunteering were collected through a supplement to the September 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment for the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note in this news release.

Volunteering Among Demographic Groups

The volunteer rate for **men** was little changed at 21.8 percent for the year ending in September 2015. The rate for **women** was 27.8 percent, down from 28.3 percent in the previous year. Across all age groups, educational levels, and other major demographic characteristics, women continued to volunteer at a higher rate than men. (See tables A and 1.)

By **age**, 35- to 44-year-olds and 45- to 54-year-olds were the most likely to volunteer (28.9 percent and 28.0 percent, respectively). Volunteer rates were lowest among 20- to 24-year-olds (18.4 percent). Teenagers (16- to 19-year-olds) continued to have a relatively high volunteer rate, at 26.4 percent. Over the year, the volunteer rates for 35- to 44-year-olds and 55- to 64-year-olds declined.

Among the major **race and ethnicity groups**, Whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (26.4 percent) than Blacks (19.3 percent), Asians (17.9 percent), and Hispanics (15.5 percent). In 2015, the volunteer rate showed little or no change for all of the major race and ethnicity groups.

Married persons volunteered at a higher rate (29.9 percent) in 2015 than those who had never married (19.9 percent) and those with other marital statuses (20.2 percent). Over the year, the rate declined for those with other marital statuses by 0.9 percentage point. In 2015, **parents** with children under age 18 were again more likely to volunteer than persons without children, 31.3 percent versus 22.6 percent. The volunteer rate of persons without children under age 18 declined over the year, while the rate for parents with children under age 18 was little different from a year earlier.

Individuals with higher levels of **education** were more likely to volunteer than were those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, 38.8 percent of college graduates with a bachelor's degree and higher volunteered, compared with 26.5 percent of persons with some college or an associate's degree, 15.6 percent of high school graduates, and 8.1 percent of those with less than a high school diploma. The rate of volunteering declined for persons across all levels of educational attainment in 2015.

Volunteering by Employment Status

Among the employed, 27.2 percent volunteered during the year ending in September 2015. By comparison, 23.3 percent of unemployed persons and 21.4 percent of those not in the labor force volunteered. Persons employed part time were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—31.1 percent versus 26.3 percent. The volunteer rate was little changed among employed and unemployed persons but declined for those not in the labor force. (See table 1.)

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Volunteers spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities during the period from September 2014 to September 2015. Time spent on volunteer activities was similar for men (52 hours) and women (50 hours). Among those who volunteered, median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a high of 94 hours for those age 65 and over to a low of 36 hours for those under 35 years old. (See table 2.)

Number and Type of Organizations

Most volunteers were involved with either one or two organizations—72.0 percent and 18.3 percent, respectively. Individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than were those with less education. (See table 3.)

In 2015, the **main organization**—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—was most frequently religious (33.1 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational or youth service related (25.2 percent). Another 14.6 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer mainly for religious organizations than were younger volunteers. Of volunteers age 65 and over, 42.7 percent served mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 25.4 percent of volunteers age 16 to 24.

Across all levels of educational attainment, volunteers were most likely to volunteer for religious organizations, followed by education or youth service organizations. Volunteering mainly for religious organizations decreased as education increased, from 52.7 percent of those with less than a high school diploma to 29.9 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher. Volunteering primarily for educational or youth service organizations increased with educational attainment; 19.9 percent of volunteers with less than a high school diploma volunteered for educational or youth service organizations, compared with 26.3 percent of volunteers with a bachelor's degree and higher.

Among volunteers with children under age 18, 45.1 percent of mothers and 36.8 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational or youth service organization, such as a school or scouting group.

Volunteers without children under age 18 were more likely than parents to volunteer for most other types of organizations.

Main Volunteer Activity for Main Organization

Collecting, preparing, distributing, or serving food was the activity volunteers performed most often for their main organization in 2015—11.3 percent of volunteers reported this as their main activity. Other activities performed frequently were tutoring or teaching (9.2 percent), fundraising (9.0 percent), and engaging in general labor (8.8 percent). However, main activities differed among men and women. Men who volunteered were most likely to engage in general labor (12.3 percent); coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (9.3 percent); or collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food (9.2 percent). Female volunteers were most likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food (12.9 percent); tutor or teach (10.6 percent); or fundraise (9.9 percent). (See table 5.)

The main types of activities volunteers performed also varied by educational attainment. Persons with a bachelor's degree and higher were more likely to provide professional or management assistance or to tutor or teach than volunteers with less education. Volunteers with less than a bachelor's degree were more likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food or engage in general labor than those with at least a bachelor's degree.

Among volunteers in 2015, parents were more likely than those without children to primarily engage in activities often associated with children—including coaching, refereeing, or supervising sports teams; tutoring or teaching; and mentoring youth.

How Volunteers Became Involved with Main Organization

Between September 2014 and September 2015, the proportion of volunteers who became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer (41.2 percent) was about the same as the proportion who became involved on their own (41.6 percent)—that is, those who approached the organization. Those who were asked to volunteer were most often asked by someone in the organization. (See table 6.)

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2011 through September 2015

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	September 2011		September 2012		September 2013		September 2014		September 2015	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Sex										
Total, both sexes	64,252	26.8	64,513	26.5	62,615	25.4	62,757	25.3	62,623	24.9
Men	27,354	23.5	27,238	23.2	26,404	22.2	26,375	22.0	26,498	21.8
Women	36,898	29.9	37,274	29.5	36,211	28.4	36,381	28.3	36,126	27.8
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	64,252	26.8	64,513	26.5	62,615	25.4	62,757	25.3	62,623	24.9
16 to 24 years	8,578	22.5	8,776	22.6	8,466	21.8	8,469	21.9	8,415	21.8
25 to 34 years	9,691	23.3	9,513	23.2	9,118	21.9	9,291	22.0	9,548	22.3
35 to 44 years	12,566	31.8	12,527	31.6	12,098	30.6	11,783	29.8	11,490	28.9
45 to 54 years	13,420	30.6	12,777	29.3	12,184	28.2	12,204	28.5	11,933	28.0
55 to 64 years	10,449	28.1	10,619	27.6	10,191	26.0	10,331	25.9	10,213	25.1
65 years and over	9,547	24.0	10,301	24.4	10,558	24.1	10,679	23.6	11,024	23.5
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	54,432	28.2	53,778	27.8	52,685	27.1	52,201	26.7	51,986	26.4
Black or African American	5,934	20.3	6,316	21.1	5,637	18.5	6,094	19.7	6,086	19.3
Asian	2,304	20.0	2,524	19.6	2,525	19.0	2,513	18.2	2,596	17.9
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,151	14.9	5,635	15.2	5,838	15.5	5,982	15.5	6,165	15.5
Educational attainment ¹										
Less than a high school diploma	2,461	9.8	2,177	8.8	2,204	9.0	2,100	8.8	1,900	8.1
High school graduates, no college ²	11,049	18.2	10,527	17.3	10,138	16.7	10,075	16.4	9,576	15.6
Some college or associate degree	15,946	29.5	15,832	28.7	15,562	27.7	15,494	27.3	15,102	26.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	26,218	42.4	27,202	42.2	26,244	39.8	26,619	39.4	27,629	38.8
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	45,249	29.1	44,974	28.7	43,162	27.5	42,780	27.3	42,563	27.0
Employed	41,881	29.6	42,083	29.1	40,401	27.7	40,497	27.5	40,701	27.2
Full time ⁴	32,517	28.7	32,568	28.1	31,524	26.8	31,557	26.5	32,085	26.3
Part time ⁵	9,363	33.3	9,515	33.4	8,877	31.7	8,940	31.7	8,616	31.1
Unemployed	3,368	23.8	2,891	23.8	2,761	24.1	2,283	24.0	1,861	23.3
Not in the labor force	19,003	22.5	19,539	22.4	19,452	21.9	19,977	21.8	20,060	21.4

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁴ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁵ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point in the year ending in September. See the Technical Note for further information.

Technical Note

The data in this release were collected through a supplement to the September 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS—a monthly survey of about 60,000 eligible households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics—focuses on obtaining information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. The purpose of this supplement to the CPS was to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering and the characteristics of volunteers in the United States.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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 component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as *sampling error*, 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.

Additional information on the reliability of data from the CPS and estimating standard errors is available at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

The Census Bureau introduces adjustments to the population controls for the CPS as part of its annual update of population estimates. For this reason, data in this release are not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. Additional information is available on the internet at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September supplement, questions on volunteer activities were asked of all households. Efforts were made to have household members answer the volunteer questions for themselves. (Generally, one member of the household answers all the questions in the CPS on behalf of the entire household.) Self-response was considered important for the volunteer supplement because research indicated that self-respondents could more easily answer questions on the characteristics of the volunteer activity. About two-thirds of responses were self-reports. The survey was introduced as follows: "This month, we are interested in volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. We only want you to include volunteer activities that you did through or for an organization, even if you only did them once in a while."

Following this introduction, respondents were asked the first supplement question: "Since September 1st of last year, have you done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?"

If respondents did not answer "yes" to the first question, they were asked the following question: "Sometimes people don't think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for children's schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities. Since September 1st of last year, have you done any of these types of volunteer activities?"

Respondents were considered volunteers if they answered "yes" to either of these questions. This method has been used since the supplement was first administered in 2002.

Respondents classified as volunteers were asked further questions about the number and type of organizations for which they volunteered, total hours spent volunteering, how they became involved with the main organization for which they volunteered, the type of activities they performed for the main organization, and what their main activity was. The reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2014, through the survey reference week in September 2015. The reference period for other characteristics—such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status—refer to the survey reference week in September 2015. It is possible that these characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed.

One new question was added to the 2008 survey to determine whether or not respondents had donated money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations in the past 12 months. Two questions asked in the 2007 supplement were removed in 2008. These questions asked how often respondents who had attended public meetings or who had worked with others in their neighborhood to fix a problem did so.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point during the survey reference year. The count of volunteers only includes persons who volunteered through or for an organization; the figures do not include persons who volunteered in a more informal manner. For example, a woman who taught acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer. However, a woman who, on her own, organized softball games for the children in her neighborhood would not be counted as a volunteer for the purpose of this survey.

Organizations are associations, societies, or groups of people who share a common interest. Examples include churches, youth groups, and civic organizations. For the purpose of this study, organizations are grouped into eight major categories, including religious, youth, and social or community service organizations.

In the 2005 survey, one organization category, immigrant/refugee assistance, was added to the questionnaire as a possible response. Responses that were collected in this category may have been distributed over at least six of the major organization categories in previous years. For this reason, the addition of the new response category created a break in the comparability of organizations between 2005 and prior years. Because few

people reported volunteering for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations and because the group was not a definite subset of any of the major organization categories, those persons who did report that they volunteered for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations were placed in the "other" group.

The *main organization* is the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. If a respondent volunteered for only one organization, it was considered the main organization, even if exact hours were not obtained.

In order to identify the type of main organization, respondents provided information about the organization and, for those who volunteered for more than one organization, annual hours worked for each. Some respondents did not provide the information necessary to determine the main organization. For these respondents, the follow-up questions on activities and how they became involved with the main organization asked them to report on the organization for which they think they spent the most time volunteering.

Activities are the specific tasks the volunteer did for an organization. Examples include tutoring, fundraising, and serving food. The activity categories were modified in 2005, thus creating a break in the comparability of activities between 2005 and prior years.

In 2006, a new question was added that asked respondents on which of the activities they mentioned they spent the most time. Previously, respondents reported all of the activities they did for their main organization. The new question identified which of them was the main activity for the main organization.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2015

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2015	Total, both sexes			Men			Women		
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers	
		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	251,325	62,623	24.9	121,365	26,498	21.8	129,960	36,126	27.8
16 to 24 years	38,525	8,415	21.8	19,409	3,702	19.1	19,115	4,714	24.7
16 to 19 years	16,612	4,382	26.4	8,425	2,089	24.8	8,187	2,293	28.0
20 to 24 years	21,913	4,033	18.4	10,984	1,613	14.7	10,928	2,421	22.2
25 years and over	212,801	54,208	25.5	101,956	22,796	22.4	110,844	31,412	28.3
25 to 34 years	42,901	9,548	22.3	21,211	3,836	18.1	21,690	5,712	26.3
35 to 44 years	39,719	11,490	28.9	19,454	4,768	24.5	20,265	6,723	33.2
45 to 54 years	42,588	11,933	28.0	20,816	5,127	24.6	21,772	6,806	31.3
55 to 64 years	40,763	10,213	25.1	19,602	4,384	22.4	21,161	5,829	27.5
65 years and over	46,830	11,024	23.5	20,872	4,681	22.4	25,957	6,343	24.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	197,152	51,986	26.4	96,294	22,222	23.1	100,858	29,764	29.5
Black or African American	31,479	6,086	19.3	14,315	2,378	16.6	17,164	3,708	21.6
Asian	14,466	2,596	17.9	6,734	1,037	15.4	7,732	1,558	20.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	39,828	6,165	15.5	19,849	2,583	13.0	19,979	3,582	17.9
Educational attainment ¹									
Less than a high school diploma	23,528	1,900	8.1	11,802	781	6.6	11,726	1,120	9.5
High school graduates, no college ²	61,199	9,576	15.6	30,074	4,097	13.6	31,125	5,479	17.6
Some college or associate degree	56,948	15,102	26.5	26,155	6,043	23.1	30,793	9,059	29.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	71,126	27,629	38.8	33,925	11,875	35.0	37,201	15,755	42.4
Marital status									
Single, never married	76,268	15,143	19.9	40,226	6,672	16.6	36,042	8,471	23.5
Married, spouse present	124,783	37,348	29.9	62,869	16,825	26.8	61,914	20,523	33.1
Other marital status ⁴	50,274	10,132	20.2	18,270	3,000	16.4	32,005	7,132	22.3
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵									
Without own children under 18	184,577	41,738	22.6	91,802	18,263	19.9	92,775	23,475	25.3
With own children under 18	66,748	20,885	31.3	29,563	8,235	27.9	37,185	12,651	34.0
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	157,627	42,563	27.0	83,920	19,700	23.5	73,708	22,862	31.0
Employed	149,639	40,701	27.2	79,812	18,934	23.7	69,826	21,767	31.2
Full time ⁶	121,914	32,085	26.3	69,954	16,535	23.6	51,959	15,549	29.9
Part time ⁷	27,725	8,616	31.1	9,858	2,399	24.3	17,867	6,218	34.8
Unemployed	7,989	1,861	23.3	4,107	766	18.7	3,882	1,095	28.2
Not in the labor force	93,698	20,060	21.4	37,446	6,797	18.2	56,252	13,263	23.6

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2014, through the survey period in September 2015. Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2015

Characteristics in September 2015	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of total annual hours spent volunteering at all organizations							Median annual hours ¹
		Total	1 to 14 hour(s)	15 to 49 hours	50 to 99 hours	100 to 499 hours	500 hours and over	Not reporting annual hours	
Sex									
Total, both sexes	62,623	100.0	21.1	24.7	15.1	27.4	5.9	5.9	52
Men	26,498	100.0	20.4	24.1	15.2	28.2	6.4	5.8	52
Women	36,126	100.0	21.7	25.1	15.0	26.9	5.5	5.9	50
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	62,623	100.0	21.1	24.7	15.1	27.4	5.9	5.9	52
16 to 24 years	8,415	100.0	24.9	29.0	14.6	20.3	3.7	7.6	36
16 to 19 years	4,382	100.0	23.9	30.1	16.2	20.3	2.5	7.1	36
20 to 24 years	4,033	100.0	26.0	27.7	12.9	20.2	5.0	8.2	36
25 years and over	54,208	100.0	20.5	24.0	15.1	28.5	6.2	5.6	52
25 to 34 years	9,548	100.0	27.7	25.8	14.2	21.2	4.6	6.4	36
35 to 44 years	11,490	100.0	23.0	26.3	15.8	25.9	4.5	4.4	48
45 to 54 years	11,933	100.0	20.5	24.5	15.7	28.4	5.6	5.4	52
55 to 64 years	10,213	100.0	18.7	24.3	14.8	29.9	6.8	5.4	56
65 years and over	11,024	100.0	13.5	19.2	14.9	36.5	9.4	6.5	94
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	51,986	100.0	20.8	24.9	15.4	27.5	5.8	5.5	52
Black or African American	6,086	100.0	20.7	22.0	14.1	28.6	6.4	8.4	52
Asian	2,596	100.0	25.8	26.5	11.7	24.6	4.5	6.9	40
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	6,165	100.0	22.4	24.6	12.8	27.6	5.8	6.8	48
Educational attainment ²									
Less than a high school diploma	1,900	100.0	22.4	22.0	13.3	28.4	5.5	8.4	52
High school graduates, no college ³	9,576	100.0	21.5	23.2	13.9	27.2	7.1	7.1	52
Some college or associate degree	15,102	100.0	21.8	23.4	14.0	29.1	6.4	5.4	52
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	27,629	100.0	19.4	24.8	16.3	28.7	5.8	5.0	52
Marital status									
Single, never married	15,143	100.0	25.5	27.0	14.3	20.9	4.5	7.7	36
Married, spouse present	37,348	100.0	19.5	24.2	15.4	29.8	6.1	5.0	52
Other marital status ⁵	10,132	100.0	20.8	22.7	14.8	28.4	6.8	6.5	52
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	18,263	100.0	19.4	23.9	15.2	27.5	7.1	6.8	52
With own children under 18 years old	8,235	100.0	22.6	24.5	15.1	29.7	4.6	3.5	50
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	23,475	100.0	20.0	24.0	14.9	28.0	6.3	6.8	52
With own children under 18 years old	12,651	100.0	24.8	27.2	15.1	24.7	3.9	4.4	40
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	42,563	100.0	22.9	26.0	15.2	25.9	4.5	5.5	48
Employed	40,701	100.0	22.9	26.2	15.2	25.8	4.3	5.5	48
Full time ⁷	32,085	100.0	23.3	26.4	15.4	25.4	4.1	5.4	48
Part time ⁸	8,616	100.0	21.4	25.7	14.5	27.5	5.0	5.8	49
Unemployed	1,861	100.0	23.4	21.7	14.2	26.6	8.1	6.0	52
Not in the labor force	20,060	100.0	17.3	21.8	14.8	30.7	8.8	6.6	66

¹ For those reporting annual hours.

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³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

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⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

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Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2015

Characteristics in September 2015	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of the number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed						
		Total	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Not reporting number of organizations
Sex								
Total, both sexes	62,623	100.0	72.0	18.3	6.4	2.0	1.2	0.2
Men	26,498	100.0	73.2	17.8	6.0	1.7	1.1	.2
Women	36,126	100.0	71.1	18.6	6.7	2.1	1.2	.2
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	62,623	100.0	72.0	18.3	6.4	2.0	1.2	.2
16 to 24 years	8,415	100.0	77.7	14.7	5.3	1.2	.7	.3
16 to 19 years	4,382	100.0	75.3	16.1	6.0	1.6	.6	.4
20 to 24 years	4,033	100.0	80.4	13.1	4.5	.8	.9	.2
25 years and over	54,208	100.0	71.1	18.8	6.5	2.1	1.2	.2
25 to 34 years	9,548	100.0	76.5	17.5	4.3	1.1	.5	.1
35 to 44 years	11,490	100.0	70.0	19.9	6.5	2.2	1.1	.2
45 to 54 years	11,933	100.0	68.0	20.3	7.7	2.1	1.5	.4
55 to 64 years	10,213	100.0	70.4	18.7	7.4	2.1	1.1	.2
65 years and over	11,024	100.0	71.6	17.3	6.4	2.7	1.8	.1
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
White	51,986	100.0	70.5	19.1	6.8	2.1	1.2	.3
Black or African American	6,086	100.0	81.2	13.4	3.6	1.1	.6	.1
Asian	2,596	100.0	79.5	14.2	3.3	1.9	.8	.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	6,165	100.0	82.4	13.0	3.2	.5	.6	.2
Educational attainment ¹								
Less than a high school diploma	1,900	100.0	90.4	7.6	1.7	.2	–	–
High school graduates, no college ²	9,576	100.0	81.1	14.1	3.1	1.0	.5	.2
Some college or associate degree	15,102	100.0	75.9	16.8	5.1	1.3	.7	.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	27,629	100.0	63.7	22.4	8.9	3.0	1.9	.2
Marital status								
Single, never married	15,143	100.0	76.6	15.7	5.3	1.3	.8	.3
Married, spouse present	37,348	100.0	70.0	19.6	6.9	2.1	1.2	.2
Other marital status ⁴	10,132	100.0	72.6	17.0	6.1	2.4	1.6	.2
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	18,263	100.0	74.8	16.7	5.8	1.5	1.0	.2
With own children under 18 years old	8,235	100.0	69.8	20.2	6.3	2.3	1.2	.2
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	23,475	100.0	72.7	17.3	6.4	2.1	1.3	.3
With own children under 18 years old	12,651	100.0	68.1	21.1	7.2	2.2	1.2	.2
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	42,563	100.0	71.2	19.1	6.4	1.9	1.1	.3
Employed	40,701	100.0	70.9	19.3	6.5	1.9	1.1	.3
Full time ⁶	32,085	100.0	71.3	19.0	6.3	2.0	1.1	.3
Part time ⁷	8,616	100.0	69.7	20.2	7.3	1.6	1.2	.1
Unemployed	1,861	100.0	77.0	16.5	4.9	.8	.8	–
Not in the labor force	20,060	100.0	73.7	16.4	6.2	2.2	1.3	.2

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.
⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.
⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.
NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2014, through the survey period in September 2015. Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2015

Characteristics in September 2015	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteers by type of main organization ¹										
		Total	Civic, political, professional, or international	Educational or youth service	Environmental or animal care	Hospital or other health	Public safety	Religious	Social or community service	Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts	Other	Not determined
Sex												
Total, both sexes	62,623	100.0	4.8	25.2	2.9	6.6	1.1	33.1	14.6	3.7	5.2	2.8
Men	26,498	100.0	5.9	23.9	2.7	5.3	1.7	32.6	15.6	4.0	5.6	2.8
Women	36,126	100.0	4.0	26.2	3.0	7.6	.6	33.5	14.0	3.4	4.8	2.8
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	62,623	100.0	4.8	25.2	2.9	6.6	1.1	33.1	14.6	3.7	5.2	2.8
16 to 24 years	8,415	100.0	3.8	30.6	3.9	8.5	1.2	25.4	14.4	3.3	4.9	4.0
16 to 19 years	4,382	100.0	3.8	33.6	4.1	7.2	.8	28.6	11.9	2.8	4.1	3.1
20 to 24 years	4,033	100.0	3.7	27.3	3.6	9.9	1.7	22.0	17.1	3.7	5.9	5.0
25 years and over	54,208	100.0	5.0	24.4	2.7	6.3	1.0	34.3	14.7	3.7	5.2	2.6
25 to 34 years	9,548	100.0	4.0	28.6	3.6	8.0	1.7	28.2	14.7	2.5	5.8	2.9
35 to 44 years	11,490	100.0	4.4	37.6	1.8	5.1	1.0	27.7	11.7	4.0	4.4	2.5
45 to 54 years	11,933	100.0	4.6	29.4	2.6	5.4	.9	33.4	13.7	3.4	3.6	2.9
55 to 64 years	10,213	100.0	5.3	16.2	3.4	6.3	.9	39.5	16.2	4.0	5.7	2.5
65 years and over	11,024	100.0	6.6	9.3	2.4	7.3	.9	42.7	17.3	4.5	6.8	2.3
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	51,986	100.0	5.0	24.8	3.1	6.7	1.2	32.6	14.7	3.8	5.4	2.7
Black or African American	6,086	100.0	3.4	25.6	1.0	5.9	.6	41.2	12.7	1.8	3.8	4.0
Asian	2,596	100.0	3.9	32.1	1.2	8.3	.6	29.1	13.4	3.1	4.7	3.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	6,165	100.0	4.2	31.3	1.6	5.6	.7	37.3	10.5	2.3	3.4	3.2
Educational attainment ²												
Less than a high school diploma	1,900	100.0	2.3	19.9	1.0	2.7	1.1	52.7	12.1	1.6	3.7	2.9
High school graduates, no college ³	9,576	100.0	4.5	21.7	2.1	5.1	2.2	40.3	13.8	3.4	4.8	2.2
Some college or associate degree	15,102	100.0	5.1	23.3	2.4	5.9	1.2	36.3	15.3	3.1	4.9	2.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	27,629	100.0	5.3	26.3	3.2	7.2	.6	29.9	14.8	4.3	5.6	2.9
Marital status												
Single, never married	15,143	100.0	4.7	27.0	4.6	8.2	1.2	23.5	16.4	4.3	5.9	4.2
Married, spouse present	37,348	100.0	4.7	26.2	2.2	5.7	1.1	37.6	12.6	3.4	4.2	2.3
Other marital status ⁵	10,132	100.0	5.4	18.9	2.8	7.8	.8	31.2	19.5	3.5	7.4	2.8
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	18,263	100.0	6.3	18.1	3.4	6.0	1.5	33.7	17.4	4.2	6.4	3.1
With own children under 18 years old	8,235	100.0	5.0	36.8	1.1	3.7	2.2	30.3	11.4	3.5	3.8	2.2
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	23,475	100.0	4.7	16.1	3.9	9.0	.7	36.1	16.7	4.1	5.6	3.3
With own children under 18 years old	12,651	100.0	2.9	45.1	1.4	5.1	.4	28.8	9.0	2.2	3.4	1.9
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	42,563	100.0	5.0	27.3	2.9	6.5	1.2	30.8	14.8	3.7	5.1	2.8
Employed	40,701	100.0	5.0	27.0	2.9	6.6	1.3	30.8	14.8	3.8	5.1	2.8
Full time ⁷	32,085	100.0	5.2	27.0	2.9	6.6	1.4	30.2	15.3	3.7	5.0	2.9
Part time ⁸	8,616	100.0	4.6	27.1	2.9	6.3	.9	33.1	12.8	4.1	5.6	2.4
Unemployed	1,861	100.0	3.2	32.2	4.2	4.1	.2	29.3	15.1	2.8	5.7	3.4
Not in the labor force	20,060	100.0	4.6	21.0	2.7	7.0	.7	38.1	14.3	3.5	5.2	2.9

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2014, through the survey period in September 2015. Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 5. Main volunteer activity for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2015

Characteristics in September 2015	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of main volunteer activity for main organization ¹													
		Coach, referee, or supervise sports teams	Tutor or teach	Mentor youth	Be an usher, greeter, or minister	Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food	Fundraise or sell items to raise money	Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	Provide general office services	Provide professional or management assistance, including serving on a board or committee	Engage in music, performance, or other artistic activities	Engage in general labor; supply transportation to people	Other ⁹	Equal time among all
Sex															
Total, both sexes	62,623	5.5	9.2	6.7	4.2	11.3	3.5	9.0	3.0	4.4	7.2	4.0	8.8	15.3	8.0
Men	26,498	9.3	7.2	6.5	5.3	9.2	2.4	7.6	3.3	2.5	8.5	3.9	12.3	14.8	7.0
Women	36,126	2.7	10.6	6.8	3.5	12.9	4.4	9.9	2.8	5.7	6.2	4.1	6.1	15.6	8.7
Age															
Total, 16 years and over	62,623	5.5	9.2	6.7	4.2	11.3	3.5	9.0	3.0	4.4	7.2	4.0	8.8	15.3	8.0
16 to 24 years	8,415	5.8	9.0	8.5	3.1	9.7	2.8	8.7	2.7	3.6	1.5	5.5	13.5	16.6	9.0
16 to 19 years	4,382	4.8	8.5	8.9	3.4	9.6	3.4	7.6	2.3	3.4	.9	6.9	15.8	15.6	9.0
20 to 24 years	4,033	6.8	9.7	8.1	2.8	9.8	2.2	9.9	3.1	3.9	2.1	4.0	11.1	17.6	8.9
25 years and over	54,208	5.5	9.2	6.4	4.4	11.6	3.6	9.0	3.1	4.5	8.1	3.8	8.0	15.1	7.8
25 to 34 years	9,548	5.9	11.0	8.8	2.8	8.6	3.0	8.5	4.4	3.9	5.3	3.6	8.9	18.6	6.8
35 to 44 years	11,490	10.3	11.5	9.0	3.1	9.8	3.1	10.0	2.5	3.8	6.8	2.9	7.5	12.2	7.4
45 to 54 years	11,933	6.7	8.3	7.5	4.0	11.7	2.8	10.4	2.5	3.6	8.3	3.6	9.2	13.6	7.8
55 to 64 years	10,213	3.0	8.7	3.9	5.8	13.1	4.2	9.2	3.1	5.1	10.5	4.4	6.4	13.7	8.9
65 years and over	11,024	1.0	6.6	2.8	6.2	14.7	5.0	6.7	3.1	6.1	9.4	4.4	7.9	17.8	8.3
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity															
White	51,986	5.6	9.2	6.3	3.9	11.0	3.4	9.5	3.1	4.4	7.6	3.8	8.9	15.3	7.9
Black or African American	6,086	5.2	9.1	9.7	7.3	14.9	4.0	5.9	1.6	4.2	3.8	4.7	6.4	14.1	9.1
Asian	2,596	3.0	11.1	6.7	3.4	11.9	3.6	6.7	5.0	5.8	6.6	4.9	6.9	18.0	6.3
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	6,165	6.2	9.5	7.6	5.0	10.2	3.9	7.2	3.0	4.7	2.9	2.5	9.8	18.4	8.8
Educational attainment ²															
Less than a high school diploma	1,900	3.1	8.6	3.2	5.9	20.6	4.9	5.3	3.7	2.8	.8	1.3	10.9	19.4	9.5
High school graduates, no college ³	9,576	5.9	6.3	4.8	4.9	16.6	4.4	8.9	2.5	5.2	3.7	3.7	10.2	15.4	7.5
Some college or associate degree	15,102	5.6	8.2	6.3	5.0	12.8	4.2	8.7	3.1	5.0	5.0	4.1	8.8	15.2	8.1
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	27,629	5.4	10.8	7.3	3.8	8.6	3.0	9.5	3.3	4.1	11.8	3.7	6.6	14.6	7.7
Marital status															
Single, never married	15,143	5.5	8.5	8.1	3.0	10.4	3.3	8.1	3.2	4.3	4.1	4.4	11.2	18.3	7.5
Married, spouse present	37,348	6.0	10.1	6.7	4.8	10.7	3.2	9.4	2.9	4.2	8.5	3.9	7.8	13.6	8.3
Other marital status ⁵	10,132	3.8	6.8	4.7	3.9	15.2	4.8	8.7	3.2	5.2	6.9	3.8	8.5	17.1	7.5
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶															
Men:															
No own children under 18 years old	18,263	5.5	6.9	5.9	5.6	10.2	2.5	7.5	3.2	2.9	8.9	4.3	13.2	16.1	7.2
With own children under 18 years old ..	8,235	18.0	8.1	7.7	4.4	7.0	2.1	8.0	3.4	1.7	7.7	2.8	10.4	11.9	6.8
Women:															
No own children under 18 years old	23,475	1.6	8.9	5.2	4.0	14.1	4.8	8.8	3.3	6.2	6.7	4.8	6.4	16.7	8.6
With own children under 18 years old ..	12,651	4.7	13.7	9.8	2.5	10.6	3.5	12.2	2.1	4.8	5.2	2.8	5.6	13.6	8.9
Employment status															
Civilian labor force	42,563	7.0	9.1	7.4	3.9	10.4	3.0	9.6	3.3	3.5	8.0	3.7	8.8	14.4	7.8
Employed	40,701	7.1	9.2	7.4	3.9	10.4	2.9	9.8	3.3	3.4	8.2	3.7	8.8	14.2	7.7
Full time ⁷	32,085	8.1	8.5	7.6	4.0	10.0	2.9	10.2	3.4	3.3	8.7	3.3	8.6	13.9	7.4
Part time ⁸	8,616	3.2	11.9	6.8	3.3	11.7	2.9	8.2	3.2	3.9	6.2	5.1	9.3	15.5	8.9
Unemployed	1,861	5.6	6.8	7.5	3.9	12.1	4.4	5.6	2.8	5.4	5.2	3.3	9.6	19.4	8.3
Not in the labor force	20,060	2.3	9.2	5.2	5.0	13.2	4.6	7.7	2.4	6.1	5.4	4.6	8.6	17.0	8.5

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

⁹ Includes persons who reported "Other" as their main activity as well as those who did not report their main activity.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2014, through the survey period in September 2015. Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2015

Characteristics in September 2015	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization ¹								
		Total	Approached the organization	Was asked by:					Other	Not reporting how became involved
				Total ²	Boss or employer	Relative, friend, or co-worker	Someone in the organization/school	Someone else		
Sex										
Total, both sexes	62,623	100.0	41.6	41.2	1.5	14.5	23.7	1.4	13.4	3.8
Men	26,498	100.0	40.9	42.1	1.4	15.4	23.6	1.6	13.1	3.9
Women	36,126	100.0	42.0	40.5	1.5	13.8	23.8	1.3	13.6	3.8
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	62,623	100.0	41.6	41.2	1.5	14.5	23.7	1.4	13.4	3.8
16 to 24 years	8,415	100.0	40.6	38.6	.8	15.8	19.4	2.4	15.7	5.0
16 to 19 years	4,382	100.0	41.1	40.5	.3	16.0	21.3	2.7	14.0	4.4
20 to 24 years	4,033	100.0	40.1	36.6	1.4	15.7	17.3	2.1	17.7	5.6
25 years and over	54,208	100.0	41.7	41.6	1.6	14.2	24.4	1.2	13.1	3.6
25 to 34 years	9,548	100.0	44.1	39.3	2.7	16.0	19.2	1.3	12.7	3.9
35 to 44 years	11,490	100.0	41.2	43.6	1.7	12.6	28.1	1.2	12.1	3.1
45 to 54 years	11,933	100.0	39.6	42.7	1.7	13.4	26.4	.9	13.9	3.8
55 to 64 years	10,213	100.0	41.2	41.7	1.3	15.2	23.4	1.5	13.6	3.4
65 years and over	11,024	100.0	42.9	40.1	.5	14.4	23.7	1.2	13.0	4.0
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	51,986	100.0	41.3	41.8	1.4	14.8	24.0	1.5	13.2	3.7
Black or African American	6,086	100.0	42.7	37.5	1.7	12.3	22.3	1.0	14.8	5.1
Asian	2,596	100.0	42.8	40.1	1.8	14.0	22.8	1.2	12.5	4.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	6,165	100.0	46.1	38.2	1.6	13.1	21.3	2.1	11.9	3.9
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma	1,900	100.0	41.1	40.9	.8	13.0	25.3	1.8	13.2	4.8
High school graduates, no college ⁴	9,576	100.0	40.9	41.9	1.1	15.2	24.2	1.3	13.6	3.6
Some college or associate degree	15,102	100.0	41.5	41.8	1.7	14.5	24.4	1.1	13.4	3.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁵	27,629	100.0	42.1	41.4	1.7	13.8	24.4	1.3	12.7	3.8
Marital status										
Single, never married	15,143	100.0	41.0	38.8	1.8	16.1	18.9	1.9	15.1	5.1
Married, spouse present	37,348	100.0	41.9	42.7	1.3	13.8	26.1	1.3	12.2	3.3
Other marital status ⁶	10,132	100.0	41.4	39.2	1.4	14.3	22.1	1.1	15.4	4.0
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	18,263	100.0	40.9	41.0	1.2	16.1	21.7	1.8	13.8	4.2
With own children under 18 years old	8,235	100.0	40.8	44.5	1.8	13.7	27.8	1.1	11.7	3.0
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	23,475	100.0	42.4	38.7	1.5	15.1	20.6	1.3	14.4	4.5
With own children under 18 years old	12,651	100.0	41.3	43.9	1.5	11.3	29.7	1.3	12.3	2.5
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	42,563	100.0	40.8	41.8	1.9	14.6	23.7	1.3	13.7	3.8
Employed	40,701	100.0	40.6	42.2	2.0	14.6	24.1	1.3	13.4	3.8
Full time ⁸	32,085	100.0	39.9	42.8	2.3	15.0	24.0	1.3	13.4	3.9
Part time ⁹	8,616	100.0	43.1	39.9	.7	13.2	24.2	1.5	13.5	3.5
Unemployed	1,861	100.0	44.7	33.3	1.2	14.1	16.2	1.8	18.1	3.9
Not in the labor force	20,060	100.0	43.2	40.0	.4	14.1	23.7	1.5	12.9	3.9

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Includes persons who did not specify who asked them to volunteer, not shown separately.

³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

⁴ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁶ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁷ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included

are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁸ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁹ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2014, through the survey period in September 2015. Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.