

Table 4. Low-Wage Workers' Educational Attainment and Occupation, by Selected Demographics, 1979 and 2019

	Overall		Male		Female		Black (Non-Hispanic)		White (Non-Hispanic)		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019
Education														
High School Diploma or Less	80%	54%	73%	57%	85%	53%	91%	58%	77%	44%	92%	74%	79%	47%
Some College	13%	29%	14%	27%	11%	30%	7%	30%	14%	35%	7%	19%	14%	32%
Bachelor's Degree and Higher	7%	17%	12%	16%	4%	17%	2%	12%	9%	22%	1%	8%	8%	20%
Occupation														
Executive, Administrative, and Managerial	4%	5%	8%	5%	2%	4%	1%	3%	6%	6%	1%	3%	4%	6%
Professional, Technical, and Related	7%	10%	8%	7%	6%	12%	4%	7%	9%	15%	3%	5%	7%	12%
Sales	13%	13%	6%	10%	19%	16%	5%	11%	13%	13%	10%	11%	13%	14%
Administrative Support, Including Clerical	20%	16%	7%	11%	15%	17%	6%	11%	27%	21%	7%	9%	22%	18%
Service	28%	33%	19%	27%	36%	39%	51%	44%	21%	25%	32%	39%	28%	31%
Construction and Extraction	2%	4%	8%	9%	NA	NA	4%	2%	1%	3%	4%	9%	2%	2%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1%	2%	7%	4%	NA	NA	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Production	18%	10%	20%	12%	19%	8%	19%	10%	17%	9%	32%	10%	16%	9%
Transportation and Material Moving	6%	9%	16%	14%	3%	5%	10%	10%	6%	7%	8%	11%	6%	8%

Source: CRS estimates using Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data for 1979-2019.

Notes: "Low-wage workers" refers to workers at the 5th-15th percentiles of their respective wage distribution. "NA" indicates an estimated percentage of less than 1%.

Table 5. Middle-Wage Workers’ Educational Attainment and Occupation, by Selected Demographics, 1979 and 2019

	Overall		Male		Female		Black (Non-Hispanic)		White (Non-Hispanic)		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019
Education														
High School Diploma or Less	60%	26%	60%	34%	68%	21%	70%	30%	55%	23%	79%	59%	59%	23%
Some College	19%	29%	21%	31%	20%	32%	19%	38%	20%	30%	14%	28%	20%	30%
Bachelor’s Degree and Higher	21%	45%	20%	36%	13%	47%	11%	32%	25%	48%	7%	13%	21%	48%
Occupation														
Executive, Administrative, and Managerial	11%	18%	13%	18%	7%	17%	4%	12%	13%	21%	5%	9%	11%	19%
Professional, Technical, and Related	20%	29%	15%	21%	15%	32%	14%	17%	24%	32%	8%	7%	21%	32%
Sales	5%	7%	5%	8%	5%	6%	3%	7%	5%	7%	4%	6%	5%	7%
Administrative Support, Including Clerical	20%	14%	8%	6%	45%	26%	22%	23%	19%	11%	15%	19%	19%	13%
Service	7%	8%	6%	8%	10%	10%	19%	17%	6%	6%	13%	19%	6%	7%
Construction and Extraction	5%	5%	6%	11%	NA	NA	5%	3%	4%	6%	10%	14%	5%	5%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	5%	5%	9%	10%	NA	NA	2%	2%	5%	5%	4%	1%	6%	5%
Production	19%	7%	26%	10%	15%	5%	20%	9%	17%	7%	29%	13%	19%	7%
Transportation and Material Moving	8%	6%	11%	9%	2%	2%	11%	11%	6%	5%	12%	12%	8%	6%

Source: CRS estimates using Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data for 1979-2019.

Notes: “Middle-wage workers” refers to workers at the 45th-55th percentiles of their respective wage distribution. “NA” indicates an estimated percentage of less than 1%.

Table 6. High-Wage Workers' Educational Attainment and Occupation, by Selected Demographics, 1979 and 2019

	Overall		Male		Female		Black (Non-Hispanic)		White (Non-Hispanic)		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019
Education														
High School Diploma or Less	40%	6%	35%	7%	39%	3%	52%	7%	40%	6%	60%	23%	39%	5%
Some College	20%	12%	19%	12%	22%	11%	22%	17%	20%	12%	22%	30%	20%	11%
Bachelor's Degree and Higher	40%	82%	46%	81%	38%	86%	26%	76%	40%	82%	18%	47%	41%	84%
Occupation														
Executive, Administrative, and Managerial	23%	34%	27%	35%	13%	34%	10%	32%	24%	36%	12%	20%	23%	35%
Professional, Technical, and Related	28%	47%	28%	45%	40%	52%	20%	43%	27%	44%	14%	36%	28%	47%
Sales	5%	6%	7%	7%	6%	5%	2%	4%	6%	7%	3%	6%	5%	6%
Administrative Support, Including Clerical	7%	4%	5%	3%	29%	6%	14%	5%	7%	3%	12%	9%	7%	3%
Service	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	6%	7%	2%	3%	6%	7%	2%	3%
Construction and Extraction	12%	2%	12%	3%	NA	NA	7%	2%	12%	2%	14%	10%	12%	2%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	6%	1%	4%	NA	NA	NA	7%	1%	5%	NA	8%	5%	5%	NA
Production	12%	1%	11%	2%	7%	NA	20%	3%	12%	1%	22%	3%	12%	1%
Transportation and Material Moving	6%	1%	4%	1%	2%	NA	14%	3%	5%	1%	7%	3%	6%	1%

Source: CRS estimates using Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data for 1979-2019.

Notes: "High-wage workers" refers to workers at the 85th-95th percentiles of their respective wage distribution. "NA" indicates an estimated percentage of less than 1%.

Table B-1. Worker Characteristics by Wage Tercile, 1979 and 2019

	<u>Overall</u>		<u>Bottom Third</u>		<u>Middle Third</u>		<u>Top Third</u>	
	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019	1979	2019
Race								
White ^a	87%	78%	83%	75%	88%	81%	92%	80%
Black	10%	11%	14%	15%	10%	11%	6%	7%
Other	2%	10%	3%	10%	2%	9%	2%	13%
Hispanic Ethnicity								
Non-Hispanic	95%	85%	93%	77%	95%	87%	97%	94%
Hispanic	5%	15%	7%	23%	5%	13%	3%	6%
Sex								
Male	56%	52%	30%	44%	59%	53%	83%	60%
Female	44%	48%	70%	56%	41%	47%	17%	40%
Age								
25-34 years	40%	30%	40%	37%	45%	31%	34%	21%
35-44 years	25%	27%	24%	23%	24%	27%	29%	30%
45-54 years	21%	24%	21%	21%	19%	23%	23%	28%
55-64 years	14%	19%	16%	18%	13%	19%	13%	21%
Education								
High School Diploma or Less	61%	30%	77%	49%	60%	27%	45%	9%
Some College	18%	26%	14%	31%	20%	30%	20%	17%
Bachelor's Degree and Higher	21%	44%	9%	20%	20%	43%	35%	73%
Occupation								
Executive, Administrative, and Managerial	12%	18%	5%	6%	11%	17%	20%	32%
Professional, Technical, and Related	17%	27%	9%	12%	19%	28%	24%	43%
Sales	7%	8%	9%	10%	5%	7%	5%	7%
Administrative Support, Including Clerical	18%	13%	23%	17%	20%	15%	10%	5%
Service	12%	14%	24%	28%	7%	8%	3%	4%
Construction and Extraction	5%	5%	2%	5%	5%	6%	8%	3%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	5%	3%	2%	3%	6%	5%	7%	2%
Production	18%	7%	18%	10%	19%	8%	15%	2%
Transportation and Material Moving	7%	6%	7%	9%	8%	6%	7%	2%

Source: CRS estimates using Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data for 1979 and 2019.

Notes: Sample comprises nonfarm wage and salary workers who are 25-64 years old and provide sufficient information to compute an hourly wage.