Appendix B. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. The estimates in this report are restricted to the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post. The estimates exclude group quarters.

Householder. Survey procedures call for listing first the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home is owned or rented as of the interview date. If the house is owned jointly by a married couple, either the husband or the wife may be listed first, thereby becoming the reference person, or householder, to whom the relationship of other household members is recorded. One person in each household is designated as the "householder." The number of householders, therefore, is equal to the number of households.

Household. A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

For this report, the household composition was determined as of the interview date. A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters. Examples of group quarters include rooming and boarding houses, college dormitories, and convents and monasteries.

Family. A family is a group of two or more persons (one of whom is the householder) related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered members of one family.

Family household. A family household is a household maintained by a family; any unrelated persons (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there are included. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members, however, in that the family household members include all persons living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives.

Nonfamily household. A nonfamily household is a household maintained by a person living alone or with nonrelatives only.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes American Indians, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and any other race except White and Black.

Persons of Hispanic origin. Hispanic origin was determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (or the origin of some other household member) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Hispanic origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Spanish origin. It should be noted that persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Mean monthly income. The estimate is based on the total amount of income received by the individual during the 4 months prior to the interview month, divided by 4.

Mean monthly earnings. The estimate is based on the total of all earnings of the individual during the 4 months prior to the interview month, divided by the number of those months in which earnings were actually received.

Work activity. The estimate is based on the total number of months during the 4 months prior to the interview month, when the individual held a job for any amount of time.

Symbols. A dash (-) represents zero or a number which rounds to zero; "B" means that the base is too small to show the derived measure (less than 200,000 persons).

Rounding of estimates. Individual numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Derived measures are based on unrounded numbers when possible; otherwise, they are based on the rounded numbers.