

INDIAN LABOR FORCE REPORT

PORTRAIT
1997





1997

Labor Market Information

On

On the Indian Labor Force

A National Report

Purpose of the Report

This report provides the 1997 estimates of tribal service populations and labor market information for the nation's 554 tribes, as determined by representatives of each tribe and as certified as accurate by their tribal leader or designate.

Authority

Under Public Law 102-477, the Secretary of the Interior is granted the authority to publish a report on the population eligible for services which the Secretary provides to Indian people.

Coverage

Each tribe¹, using a survey form, collected data and provided estimates on their enrolled members and members from other tribes who lived "on-or-near" the reservation and who were eligible to use the tribe's BIA funded services. The aggregated total of those eligible to use the services constituted the tribe's "Indian Resident Service Population." Excluded from each tribe's "Resident Service Population" total and other report totals were members who were in 1997, for example, serving in the Armed Forces or attending postsecondary institutions.²

¹ In the Tribal /Area section of this report, the Navajo Nation is listed by BIA Agency. Alaska Native entities are listed individually or grouped by consortium.

² Members were excluded from their tribe's "service population" if the member had relocated for purposes of direct employment or was incarcerated or confined long-term to a treatment facility.

General Definitions (from 25 CFR § 20.1)

Indian. *Indian* means any person who is a member, or a one-fourth degree or more blood quantum descendant of a member of any tribe.³

Resident Indian. *Resident Indian* means Indians living on Federal reservations or nearby who are considered part of the tribe's service population. (Definition extrapolated from 25 CFR § 20.1.)

Indian Tribes. *Indian Tribes* are tribes, bands, nations, rancherias, pueblos, colonies, communities, and Alaska Native groups recognized as eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and listed in the current list of tribal entities, pursuant to Section 104 of the Act of November 2, 1994 (Pub. L. 103—454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792).

Near Reservation. *Near Reservation* means those areas or communities adjacent or contiguous to reservation, which are designated by the Commissioner upon recommendation of the local Bureau Superintendent. The recommendation shall be based upon consultation with the tribal governing body of those reservations on the basis of such general criteria. The criteria are:

1. Number of Indian people native to the reservation residing in the area,
2. A written designation by the tribal governing body that members of their tribe and family members who are Indian residing in the area, are socially, culturally, and economically affiliated with the tribe and reservation,
3. Geographic proximity of the area to the reservation, and
4. Administrative feasibility of providing an adequate level of services.⁴

Headings/Terms Used in Tables

Tribal Enrollment. *Tribal Enrollment* means the total number of tribal enrollees who are certified as being tribal members by their tribe's leader or designate. Pursuant to tribal constitutions, tribal enrollees may live on the reservation or anywhere outside the reservation – for example, in distant towns/cities or in foreign countries.

Total Indian Resident Service Population. The *Resident Service Population* total, as shown in the tables of this report, was the tribe's estimate of all American Indians and Alaska Natives, members and non-members, who were living "on-or-near" the tribe's reservation during the 1997 calendar year and who were eligible to use BIA funded services. The aggregated sum of "Age Under 16," "Age 16-64," and "Age 65 & Over" sub-totals of a given tribe equals the tribes "Total Indian Resident Service Population" total. Typically, Indians included in a tribe's Resident Service Population live within a reasonable distance of the reservation from where they can access the tribe's services. Such Indians typically do not live in distant cities, towns or foreign countries.

Not Available for Work. This total estimated the number of individuals who were over the age of 16 and who were included in a tribe's service population, but, because of personal circumstances were not able to assume or sustain gainful employment.

³ Some tribes have constitutions that allow their members to have a blood quantum less than one-fourth.

⁴ For the purposes of this report, "On Reservation" is defined as those Indian who live within the present reservation boundaries and who are eligible for BIA funded services. For Alaska the term "near" reservation includes the entire state, since Alaska Native tribes are typically isolated from each other and are not formed as reservations.

Available for Work. This total represented a tribe's 1997 "Total Work Force." The "Available for Work" total is the sum of "Age 16-64" and "Age 64 & Over" sub-totals minus service population individuals who are "Not Available for Work."

Number Employed. The "Number Employed" total was determined by aggregating a tribe's estimated subtotals of their service population individuals who were either employed by public or private entities.

Number Not Employed. Subtracting the "Number Employed" from a tribe's service population who were "Available for Work," provided the 1997 total of a tribe's work force that was not employed.

Unemployed as a % of the Labor Force. This percentage was determined by dividing the "Number Not Employed" by the "Total Work Force" (also called "Available for Work" total).

Employed, but Below Poverty Guidelines. Each tribe, using HHS's Poverty Guidelines (applicable for 1997), estimated the number of their employed work force who were below the poverty guideline – for example, for a family unit of two the poverty threshold of combined earned income was \$10,850 and for four the threshold was \$13,650. Additionally, the tables show the percentage of employed below the "Poverty Guidelines." This percentage was derived by dividing the tribe's estimated total "Employed, but below the Poverty Guidelines" by the tribe's "Total" employed.

Table Format

Tribal labor market data is organized in this report into three sections by:

1. Area/National Totals,
2. State/National Totals, and
3. Tribal/Area Totals.

For tribes with reservation boundaries and service populations in more than one state, the tribe's labor market totals are proportionately distributed, by tribal population, for each state. Also note that an asterisk "*" following a tribe's name in the "Tribal/Area" section indicates that the reported totals were from the 1995 report. Similarly, any total highlighted in blue indicates that that total was from the 1995 report.

Summary: 1997 Indian Labor Market Information

- For 1997, the nation's Indian service population or potential labor force was 1,442,474, which was an increase of 182,541 (14%) over the national total in 1995.
- Half of the work force in Indian Country remained unemployed -- 50 percent in 1997, as compared to 49 percent in 1995.
- Of the 378, 853 adult Indians who were employed in 1997, 30 percent (113,904) were still living below poverty guidelines established by Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Tribally certified enrollment increased by 226,163 (16%) members nationally – from 1,428,270 in 1995 to 1,654,433 in 1997.

Additional Information

Any questions regarding a specific tribe's labor market information can be directed to the tribe's Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Agency or Area Office. A current BIA Area and Agency directory is available at www.doi.gov/bia/areas/tribal.html on the Internet. This report can be found on the Department of the Interior (DOI) web site.

National Indian Population and Labor Market Information
 Male and Female Indians Living On-or-Near Reservation
 National Summary by BIA Area

T-A

NATIONAL TOTALS		SERVICE POPULATION: ON-OR-NEAR RESERVATION													
		Age Distribution					Labor Force					Total Employed			Employed, but Below Poverty Guidelines %
BY BIA AREA	Tribal Enrollment (A)	Total Indian Resident Service Population (1)+(2)+(3)	Age Under 16 (1)	Age 16-64 (2)	Age 65 & Over (3)	Not Available for Work (4)	Work or Total WorkForce (5)	Number Employed (6)	Number Not Employed (7)	Unemployed as % of Labor Force (8)	Public (9)	Private (10)	Total (11)	Employed, but Below Poverty Guidelines %	
	ABERDEEN TOTALS:	172,306	140,949	41,825	86,384	12,740	23,672	75,452	22,030	53,422	71%	16,270	5,760		22,030
ALBUQUERQUE TOTALS:	64,192	62,669	19,404	39,021	4,244	2,401	40,864	28,871	11,993	29%	14,916	13,955	28,871	7,449	26%
ANADARKO TOTALS:	89,816	50,613	14,157	32,187	4,269	7,248	29,208	19,062	10,146	35%	14,100	4,962	19,062	2,530	13%
BILLINGS TOTALS:	62,441	41,961	16,228	23,738	1,995	1,746	23,987	7,882	16,105	67%	6,542	1,340	7,882	3,272	42%
EASTERN TOTALS:	52,603	50,196	15,835	30,945	3,416	3,462	30,899	14,546	16,353	53%	10,078	4,468	14,546	3,226	22%
JUNEAU TOTALS:	112,982	109,259	37,801	63,966	7,492	6,825	64,633	29,533	35,100	54%	19,140	10,393	29,533	10,143	34%
MINNEAPOLIS TOTALS:	149,853	89,487	26,711	56,310	6,466	11,175	51,601	27,736	23,865	46%	18,440	9,296	27,736	8,368	30%
MUSKOGEE TOTALS:	461,865	346,368	107,532	204,089	34,747	26,116	212,720	118,711	94,009	44%	37,907	80,804	118,711	36,155	30%
NAVAJO TOTALS:	234,786	234,786	91,282	129,447	14,057	74,243	69,261	28,772	40,489	58%	19,878	8,894	28,772	9,379	33%
PHOENIX TOTALS:	128,517	126,397	40,449	77,930	8,018	25,008	60,940	32,177	28,763	47%	19,393	12,784	32,177	11,655	36%
PORTLAND TOTALS:	82,849	129,888	48,223	73,998	7,667	14,894	66,771	31,425	35,346	53%	16,849	14,576	31,425	9,524	30%
SACRAMENTO TOTALS:	42,223	60,174	17,783	37,082	5,309	8,185	34,206	18,108	16,098	47%	11,082	7,026	18,108	4,964	27%
GRAND TOTALS:	1,654,433	1,442,747	477,230	855,097	110,420	204,975	760,542	378,853	381,689	50%	204,595	174,258	378,853	113,904	30%

