



# Employment of Persons Released from Federal Prison in 2010

E. Ann Carson, Ph.D., *BJS Statistician*; Danielle H. Sandler, Ph.D., *U.S. Census Bureau Senior Economist*; Renuka Bhaskar and Leticia E. Fernandez, Ph.D., *U.S. Census Bureau Survey Statisticians*; and Sonya R. Porter, Ph.D., *U.S. Census Bureau Principal Sociologist and Demographer*

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) produced this study to fulfill a congressional mandate in the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act, part of the 2019 Defense Reauthorization Act (P.L. 116-92, Title XI, Subtitle B, Section 1124). Congress tasked BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau with reporting on post-prison employment of persons released from federal prison. The study population in this report includes 51,500 persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) whose release records could be linked by the U.S. Census Bureau to employment and wage files from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program.<sup>1</sup> The Census Bureau assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) to release records to link them to employment records. Approximately 30% (22,000)

of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010 could not be assigned a PIK. These persons were excluded from the current analysis because linkage to the LEHD data requires a PIK.

Unless otherwise stated, all statistics presented in this report refer to the study population, which is 51,500 persons released from federal prison whose data could be linked to employment records.

## U.S. Census Bureau Disclaimer

*Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339).*

<sup>1</sup>See table 1, *Linked BOP-LEHD data*, and *Methodology* for details of the Protected Identification Key assignment process.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010, a total of 51,500 (70%) received a Protected Identification Key (PIK) that allowed for linkage to employment records from 2010 to 2014.
- A third (33%) of persons in the study population did not find employment at any point during the 16 quarters after their release from prison from 2010 to 2014.
- Persons in the study population convicted of drug offenses had higher post-prison employment rates than persons convicted of other offenses.
- A higher percentage of females than males were employed in each of the 16 quarters following their release in 2010; however, females who were employed were paid a median of \$800 to \$1,800 less per quarter than employed males.
- In the first full quarter after release, 46% of whites in the study population were employed, compared to 37% of American Indians and Alaska Natives; 36% of blacks; 33% of Hispanics; and 33% of Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders.
- Compared to persons who had served time in federal prison for a violent, property, or public order offense, a higher percentage of persons in the study population who had served time for a drug offense were employed in the 16 quarters after release.
- Median quarterly earnings for employed persons in the study population increased from \$3,500 in the first full quarter following their release in 2010 to \$6,000 in the sixteenth quarter.

More than two-thirds (67%) of the study population released from federal prison in 2010 obtained formal employment at any point during the 16 quarters following release (**figure 1**).<sup>2</sup> However, the total study population's employment did not exceed 40% in any of the individual 16 quarters after release. The highest percentage of persons in the study population who were employed occurred in the first full quarter after prison release for whites (46%) and American Indians and Alaska Natives (37%), in quarter 2 for blacks (37%) and Hispanics (34%), and in quarter 5 for Asians and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (38%). Males who obtained post-prison employment worked for an average of 9.1 quarters during the 16 quarters following release, while females worked an average of 10.2 quarters.

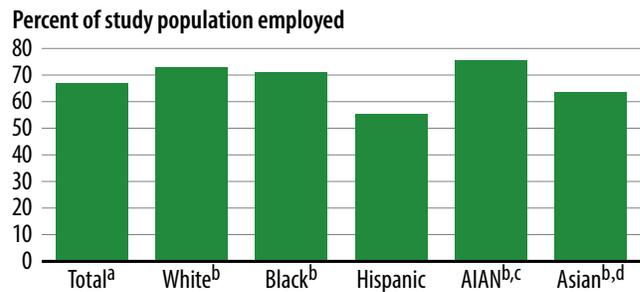
### Persons released from federal prison in 2010

Of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010, an estimated 70% (51,500) received a PIK, although this varied across demographic and criminal justice characteristics (**table 1**). While the PIK is assigned to an individual, BJS and Census examined how often persons of particular characteristics received PIKs compared to their counterparts with different characteristics. Eighty-four percent of all females who were released from federal prison in 2010 were assigned a PIK, compared to 69% of males. Persons in the study population who had these demographic or criminal justice characteristics had a PIK rate lower than 70%—Hispanics (45%); persons who were convicted of public order offenses (54%); persons who were age 24 or younger at the time of their 2010 release (57%); persons who served less than a year in prison prior to release (59%); persons admitted to federal prison by a U.S. district court (65%); and persons ages 25 to 34 at the time of release (66%). Each of these groups include non-U.S. citizens who were not assigned a PIK. (See *Methodology* for additional details.)

Non-Hispanic blacks accounted for 35% of the study population, and Hispanics of all races accounted for 31%. Twenty-eight percent of the study population was non-Hispanic white. Non-Hispanic American

<sup>2</sup>Employment is defined as formal work that results in at least \$1 in earnings during a quarter. The work can take place at any time within the quarter and does not need to last the entire quarter.

**FIGURE 1**  
Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during any of the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by race or ethnicity



Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See table 4 for estimates.

<sup>a</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>AIAN denotes American Indians and Alaska Natives.

<sup>d</sup>Includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

Indians and Alaska Natives and non-Hispanic Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders each represented more than 2% of the study population.

Two-thirds (66%) of the study population was ages 25 to 44. Among the study population, 41% (21,200) had a drug offense as their most serious offense, 37% (18,800) had a public-order offense as their most serious offense, and 7% (3,600) had a violent offense as their most serious offense.

Persons who served less than 5 years in federal prison prior to release in 2010 accounted for 82% of the study population (42,200 persons), and persons who spent less than 1 year in federal prison prior to release accounted for 36% (18,800). Seventy-five percent of persons in the study population were admitted to prison by a U.S. district court sentence, while 21% entered on a violation of conditions of post-custody supervision from a previous BOP imprisonment. Three percent had been sentenced for a felony in the District of Columbia Superior Court. Of the 51,500 persons in the study population, 9,900 (19%) were reimprisoned by the BOP at least once during the period from their release in 2010 to December 31, 2014.

## Linked BOP-LEHD data

Data on persons released from federal correctional authority in 2010 were obtained from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) as part of the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Federal Justice Statistics Program. BJS provided these records to the U.S. Census Bureau to receive a Protected Identification Key (PIK) for each unique release record based on a person's identifying information. A PIK is a unique, anonymous identifier assigned using probabilistic matching techniques.<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau's Person Identification Validation System (PVS) was developed using the Social Security Administration's Numerical Identification file (Numident), which includes all individuals who have ever applied for or received a Social Security Number (SSN). PVS uses information such as SSN, name, date of birth, address, and sex to assign PIKs. Since the BOP data did not include the SSNs of persons released from prison, the U.S. Census Bureau used name, date of birth, and sex to assign protected keys to the released persons. The U.S. Census Bureau has demonstrated that in the U.S. general population, Hispanics, persons identifying as "some other race" on the American Community Survey,

non-U.S. citizens, individuals living in poverty, and unemployed individuals have PIK-assignment rates of less than 90%.<sup>4</sup> In the BOP population, non-U.S. citizens made up almost 15% of the yearend 2010 custody population, so BJS expected that a number of persons released from federal prison would not be assigned a PIK. See *Methodology* for a discussion on the PIK assignment rates for non-U.S. citizens released from federal prison in 2010.

Once a PIK was assigned to a BOP release record, all personally identifiable information were removed from the data file. The study population data were first linked to the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Numident file that includes a variable indicating date of death, allowing for the removal of persons in the population who died during the study period. The Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data were also assigned PIKs, and the BOP and LEHD datasets were combined with the PIK serving as a common identifier across data sources. As a result of this linking procedure, records of employment for persons released from federal prison who worked from 2010 to 2014 could be located and analyzed.

---

<sup>3</sup>See Wagner, D., & Layne, M. (2014) *The Person Identification Validation System (PVS): Applying the Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications' (CARRA) record linkage software*. (CARRA Working Paper Series 2014-01). U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2014/adrm/carra-wp-2014-01.html>

---

<sup>4</sup>See Bond, B., Brown, J. D., Luque, A., & O'Hara, A. (2014) *The nature of the bias when studying only linkable person records: Evidence from the American Community Survey*. (CARRA Working Paper Series 2014-08). U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2014/adrm/carra-wp-2014-08.html>

## Terms and definitions

**Employment**—In the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data, employment is defined as formal work that results in at least \$1 in earnings during a quarter. The work can take place at any time within the quarter and does not need to last the entire quarter.

**Federal prison**—The system that houses persons under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), which holds adult prisoners in secure federal prison facilities, nonsecure community corrections facilities, and privately operated facilities and holds persons age 17 or younger in privately operated facilities.

**Job**—A pairing of an employer and an employee in which work is done and wages are paid. Persons can hold more than one job per quarter but are counted only once per sector per quarter.

**Prison**—A long-term confinement facility that is run by a state or the federal government and typically holds felons, or persons sentenced by a state or federal court to more than 1 year. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of state or federal correctional officials can be held in publicly or privately operated secure or nonsecure facilities, including state or federal prisons, boot camps, halfway houses, treatment facilities, hospitals, local jails, or another state's facilities.

**Protected Identification Key (PIK)**—A unique identifier assigned by the U.S. Census Bureau to all individuals who have a Social Security Number (SSN) in the U.S. Census Bureau's Numerical Identification File (Numident). The Person Identification Validation System (PVS) uses probabilistic matching to generate an anonymous identifier unique to each person across all types of identified data. Once the BOP individual-level prison records have received PIKs, personally identifiable information such as name, address, and SSN can be removed, allowing for secure linkage across data files.

**Probation**—In the federal justice system, probation is a term of supervised release that follows imprisonment. The terms of probation are set by the court based on postconviction risk assessment scores; a prerelease report provided by the probation officer; and individual

factors, including the type of crime, post-release housing and community situation, and counseling or treatment needs. Federal probation is overseen by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

**Recidivism**—A return to federal prison at any time since the reference release, either for a post-custody supervision violation or for a new crime. In the linked BOP/LEHD data, arrest or imprisonment under state jurisdiction cannot be tracked.

**Sector**—The industry in which a person is employed, as classified into a two-digit code by the North American Industry Classification system (NAICS). BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau used the most recent NAICS update, from 2017, to classify persons released from federal prison.<sup>5</sup> See *Methodology* for more information on individual sectors.

**Study population**—For this report, the study population consists of persons released from federal prison in 2010 who were assigned a PIK by the PVS. See table 1, *Linked BOP-LEHD data*, and *Methodology* for details of the PVS, characteristics of the 51,500 persons released in 2010 who received a PIK, and reasons why the remaining 22,000 released persons did not receive a PIK.

**Quarter**—A 3-month period of time. LEHD uses the standard division of the calendar year into quarters (January to March, April to June, July to September, and October to December).

**Quarterly earnings**—The amount of money made in formal employment during a standard quarter of a year, before taxes were removed. This amount can be divided by 3 to obtain monthly earnings or divided by 12 for weekly earnings. The quarterly earnings amount shown excludes other sources of income, including unemployment or Social Security benefits; retirement, disability, military, or survivor pensions or benefits; public assistance or welfare payments; alimony or other child support; and earnings that were unreported or made through illegal activity. Earnings estimates in this report have not been adjusted for inflation.

<sup>5</sup><https://www.census.gov/naics/?58967?yearbck=2017>

**TABLE 1****Persons released from federal prison in 2010, by Protected Identification Key assignment and demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Federal prisoners released in 2010		Study population/assigned a PIK		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent of individual demographic/criminal justice characteristic
<b>Total</b>	73,500	100%	51,500	100%	70.1%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	66,000	89.8%	45,300	87.9%	68.9%
Female	7,500	10.1	6,200	12.1	83.6
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>a</sup></b>					
White <sup>b</sup>	15,900	21.6%	14,500	28.1%	91.5%
Black <sup>b</sup>	18,500	25.1	17,900	34.7	97.1
Hispanic	35,900	48.9	16,100	31.3	45.0
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	1,400	1.9	1,400	2.6	99.3
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	1,200	1.6	1,100	2.1	93.0
Other <sup>b,c</sup>	600	0.8	600	1.1	100
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>					
24 or younger	7,000	9.6%	4,000	7.8%	57.3%
25–34	27,500	37.4	18,000	35.0	65.9
35–44	22,600	30.7	16,000	31.0	70.9
45–54	11,800	16.0	9,500	18.4	80.9
55–64	3,700	5.0	3,200	6.3	88.4
65 or older	900	1.2	800	1.6	92.3
<b>Most serious offense</b>					
Violent	3,800	5.2%	3,600	7.1%	96.3%
Property	8,500	11.6	7,100	13.9	84.2
Drug	25,600	34.8	21,200	41.1	83.1
Public order	34,900	47.4	18,800	36.6	54.3
Other	800	1.1	700	1.4	92.2
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>					
Less than 1 year	32,200	43.8%	18,800	36.4%	58.6%
1–1.9 years	13,200	17.9	9,900	19.2	75.1
2–2.9 years	7,700	10.5	5,900	11.6	77.6
3–4.9 years	9,300	12.7	7,600	14.8	81.8
5–6.9 years	3,600	5.0	3,200	6.1	86.8
7–9.9 years	3,300	4.5	3,000	5.8	90.8
10 or more years	2,000	2.8	1,900	3.6	91.6
<b>Type of prison admission</b>					
U.S. district court commitment	60,000	81.7%	38,800	75.3%	64.8%
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>d</sup>	1,500	2.1	1,500	2.8	94.9
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>e</sup>	11,600	15.8	11,000	21.3	95.2
Other <sup>f</sup>	300	0.5	300	0.6	92.6
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>g</sup></b>					
No	~	:	41,600	80.7%	:
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	~	:	9,900	19.3	:

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. PIK denotes Protected Identification Key.

~Not applicable.

:Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>d</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>e</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>f</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>g</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010.

## Pre-prison employment

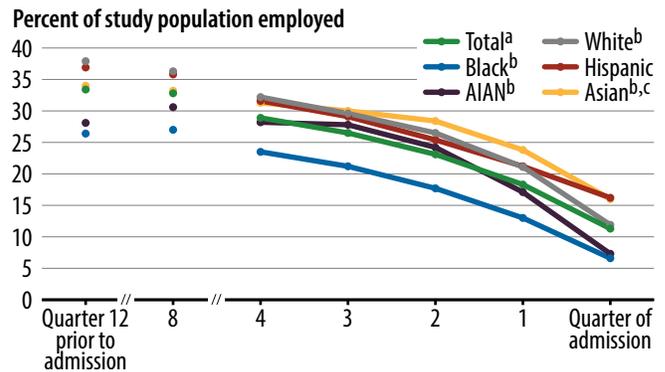
### Percent of persons employed prior to imprisonment

LEHD data for the persons in the study population were obtained for the 4 quarters prior to admission to federal prison, the quarter of admission, and the eighth and twelfth quarters prior to admission. The persons in the study population were admitted to federal prison at different times, so the observation window for pre-prison employment stretched back to 2000 in some cases.

A third (33%) of persons in the study population were employed 12 quarters prior to their admission to federal prison (table 2, figure 2). This percentage declined in each subsequent quarter, with 18% employed in the last full quarter before admission to prison and 11% employed in the quarter of prison admission. Pre-prison employment of females in the study population exceeded that of males by at least 9 percentage points through the quarter before admission. A larger percentage of persons who were age 34 or younger at their 2010 release were employed in the quarters leading up to prison admission than persons age 35 or older. Blacks had the lowest preadmission employment percentages of all the racial or ethnic groups in the study population, with 26% employed in the twelfth quarter, 23% employed in the fourth quarter, and 13% employed in the last quarter prior to admission.

**FIGURE 2**

Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarters prior to or the quarter of admission to federal prison, by race or ethnicity



Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. Data were not available for all quarters prior to admission. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See table 2 for estimates. AIAN denotes American Indians and Alaska Natives.

<sup>a</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

**TABLE 2**

Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarters prior to or the quarter of admission to federal prison, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics

Characteristic	Quarter prior to admission						Quarter of admission
	Quarter 12	Quarter 8	Quarter 4	Quarter 3	Quarter 2	Quarter 1	
<b>Total</b>	33.4%	32.8%	28.9%	26.5%	23.1%	18.3%	11.3%
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	32.2%	31.6%	27.8%	25.3%	21.9%	17.2%	10.7%
Female	41.7	40.6	37.1	35.1	31.7	26.0	16.1
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>a</sup></b>							
White <sup>b</sup>	37.9%	36.3%	32.2%	29.6%	26.5%	21.1%	11.9%
Black <sup>b</sup>	26.4	27.0	23.5	21.2	17.7	13.0	6.6
Hispanic	36.9	35.8	31.6	29.1	25.4	21.2	16.2
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	28.1	30.6	28.2	27.8	24.2	17.1	7.3
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	34.0	33.2	31.3	30.0	28.4	23.8	16.0
Other <sup>b,c</sup>	32.9	33.8	29.0	26.9	21.7	17.8	11.3

Continued on next page

**TABLE 2 (continued)**

**Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarters prior to or the quarter of admission to federal prison, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Quarter prior to admission						Quarter of admission
	Quarter 12	Quarter 8	Quarter 4	Quarter 3	Quarter 2	Quarter 1	
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>							
24 or younger	34.9%	36.6%	33.1%	30.5%	27.7%	21.1%	13.2%
25–34	34.7	34.2	30.4	27.9	24.2	19.0	11.8
35–44	34.1	32.8	29.1	26.8	23.2	18.6	11.6
45–54	31.1	30.9	26.5	24.4	21.3	17.0	10.5
55–64	29.0	27.5	23.7	20.9	17.7	14.6	9.3
65 or older	22.5	19.8	15.2	13.2	11.8	9.7	6.5
<b>Most serious offense</b>							
Violent	29.8%	31.1%	26.6%	23.2%	18.7%	11.8%	5.1%
Property	36.5	35.8	32.7	30.4	27.8	23.1	14.3
Drug	33.2	32.0	28.2	26.1	22.5	17.9	10.7
Public order	32.7	32.5	28.5	25.9	22.5	18.0	12.2
Other	39.4	36.1	32.9	30.8	27.4	20.8	10.8
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>							
Less than 1 year	34.3%	35.8%	33.1%	30.7%	27.2%	22.2%	13.6%
1–1.9 years	34.8	34.0	31.6	29.4	26.1	20.6	13.5
2–2.9 years	33.7	31.8	27.9	25.6	22.4	17.6	12.1
3–4.9 years	31.0	28.9	24.5	22.2	18.7	14.4	9.7
5–6.9 years	30.2	25.3	18.2	15.7	11.9	8.8	6.1
7–9.9 years	26.5	27.3	17.3	14.2	10.7	7.1	5.5
10 or more years <sup>d</sup>	2.3	39.5	42.4	43.1	42.5	42.5	42.8
<b>Type of prison admission</b>							
U.S. district court commitment	35.8%	33.3%	28.0%	25.4%	22.1%	18.1%	12.5%
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>e</sup>	21.4	19.7	14.5	12.9	11.3	7.3	3.2
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>f</sup>	26.9	32.7	34.0	32.5	28.3	20.6	8.2
Other <sup>g</sup>	18.2	19.6	19.8	15.9	13.6	9.6	4.7
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>h</sup></b>							
No	34.9%	34.0%	29.9%	27.6%	24.3%	19.6%	12.3%
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	27.2	27.7	24.8	22.0	18.2	12.8	7.2
<b>Number employed during quarter</b>							
	15,400	15,400	14,500	13,000	11,500	8,900	5,900

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter before the quarter in which admission to prison occurred (quarter of admission). Data were not available for all quarters prior to admission. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>d</sup>Estimates for persons in this group are limited due to incomplete LEHD data prior to 2000.

<sup>e</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>f</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>g</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>h</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

Persons in the study population who served less than a year before their 2010 release had among the highest employment rates prior to federal prison admission. Only persons who served 10 years or more had a higher employment percentage in the 4 quarters leading up to their imprisonment or in the quarter of admission.

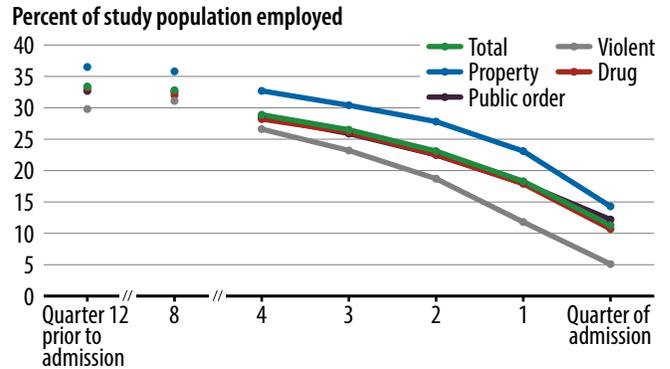
Employment among persons in the study population who served sentences in federal prison for violent offenses was consistently lower prior to prison admission than among other offense categories (figure 3). Thirty-one percent of persons in the study population who were formerly incarcerated for a violent offense were employed 8 quarters before admission, 12% were employed 1 quarter prior to admission, and 5% were employed in the quarter of prison admission. Persons in the study population who served time for property offenses had among the highest levels of employment prior to prison admission, with almost 37% employed 12 quarters before admission, 23% employed 1 quarter prior to admission, and 14% employed in the quarter in which the admission occurred.

### Quarterly earnings prior to imprisonment

Persons in the study population who were employed had median quarterly earnings of about \$3,500 during the fourth, third, and second quarters prior to their admission (table 3). During the quarter prior to admission, the median earnings were almost \$3,800. Differences in earnings between quarters could be due to changes in the composition of persons who were employed, as well as changes in wages earned.

The median quarterly earnings of females in the study population were \$700 to \$1,100 less than the earnings of males during the 4 quarters before imprisonment and \$1,750 less in the quarter of admission. Persons who were age 35 or older at their release in 2010 had higher earnings prior to admission than persons who were age 34 or younger at release.

**FIGURE 3**  
Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarters prior to or the quarter of admission to federal prison, by most serious offense



Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. Data were not available for all quarters prior to admission. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See table 2 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

**TABLE 3**  
Median quarterly earnings of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarters prior to or the quarter of admission to federal prison, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics

Characteristic	Quarter prior to admission				Quarter of admission
	Quarter 4	Quarter 3	Quarter 2	Quarter 1	
Total	\$3,528	\$3,520	\$3,536	\$3,768	\$3,272
Sex					
Male	\$3,703	\$3,650	\$3,736	\$3,947	\$3,657
Female	2,900	2,930	2,763	2,866	1,907
Race/ethnicity <sup>a</sup>					
White <sup>b</sup>	\$3,882	\$3,833	\$3,716	\$3,663	\$2,391
Black <sup>b</sup>	2,352	2,420	2,285	2,424	1,697
Hispanic	4,435	4,479	4,622	5,063	5,343
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	2,188	2,005	1,720	1,734	1,240
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	4,472	4,480	4,252	4,500	2,344
Other <sup>b,c</sup>	3,263	3,187	3,354	3,840	1,985

Continued on next page

**TABLE 3 (continued)****Median quarterly earnings of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarters prior to or the quarter of admission to federal prison, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Quarter prior to admission				Quarter of admission
	Quarter 4	Quarter 3	Quarter 2	Quarter 1	
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>					
24 or younger	\$1,981	\$2,070	\$1,831	\$2,410	\$2,156
25–34	2,993	3,007	3,007	3,220	2,862
35–44	4,122	4,200	4,214	4,534	3,893
45–54	4,482	4,260	4,231	4,189	3,502
55–64	5,318	5,346	5,400	4,874	3,902
65 or older	6,500	5,200	6,212	6,775	4,292
<b>Most serious offense</b>					
Violent	\$2,269	\$2,122	\$1,851	\$2,019	\$1,176
Property	4,101	4,063	3,828	3,900	2,703
Drug	3,118	3,107	3,205	3,320	2,554
Public order	4,080	4,115	4,209	4,518	4,797
Other	3,982	3,989	3,802	4,066	2,565
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>					
Less than 1 year	\$3,488	\$3,402	\$3,367	\$3,368	\$3,263
1–1.9 years	3,900	3,980	4,000	4,142	3,416
2–2.9 years	3,902	3,840	4,000	4,378	3,355
3–4.9 years	3,298	3,276	3,520	4,053	3,162
5–6.9 years	3,001	2,783	2,998	3,788	2,485
7–9.9 years	2,694	2,775	2,936	3,394	3,405
10 or more years <sup>d</sup>	2,312	2,104	2,340	2,841	2,716
<b>Type of prison admission</b>					
U.S. district court commitment	\$3,993	\$4,031	\$4,115	\$4,449	\$3,527
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>e</sup>	2,427	2,919	1,791	1,469	3,753
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>f</sup>	2,603	2,574	2,400	1,875	1,676
Other <sup>g</sup>	2,751	2,264	3,368	2,236	3,103
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>h</sup></b>					
No	\$3,818	\$3,762	\$3,750	\$3,897	\$3,201
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	2,236	2,191	2,375	2,761	3,810

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter before the quarter in which admission to prison occurred (quarter of admission). Median earnings calculations do not include persons who were not employed during the quarter. Earnings have not been adjusted for inflation. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>d</sup>Estimates for persons in this group are limited due to incomplete LEHD data prior to 2000.

<sup>e</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>f</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>g</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>h</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

Hispanics in the study population had the highest pre-prison median quarterly earnings, earning an average of \$600 to \$3,300 more than the other racial or ethnic groups in the last full quarter prior to federal prison admission, and \$3,000 to \$4,100 more in the quarter of admission. Due to the low PIK assignment rate for Hispanics, however, this represents a small, non-representative subset of Hispanics released from federal prison in 2010 (see *Methodology*). Persons in the study population whose most serious offense was a public order offense earned \$2,100 to \$3,600 more in the quarter of admission than persons sentenced for other offense types.

During the 4 quarters before admission to federal prison, persons in the study cohort who received a new U.S. district court sentence had the highest median quarterly earnings. On average, persons who were admitted due to a violation of their community supervision conditions from a prior imprisonment earned less quarterly (\$1,900 to \$2,600) than persons sentenced in U.S. district court (\$4,000 to \$4,400), as did persons convicted of a felony and sentenced in District of Columbia Superior Court (\$1,500 to \$2,900).

## Post-prison employment

### ***Overall employment measures for persons released from federal prison***

Two-thirds of persons in the study population obtained formal employment at some point during the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010 (67% or 34,500 persons) (table 4). Seventy-five percent of females in the study population were employed at some point in the 16 quarters after release, compared to 66% of males. A higher percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives (76%) in the study population were employed at some point during the 16 quarters after release of all racial or ethnic groups, followed by whites (73%); blacks (71%); Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders (64%); and Hispanics (55%).

A higher percentage of persons in the study population who served time in federal prison for drug offenses before their 2010 release were employed during the 16 quarters after release (72%) compared to other offense types, while persons who served time for public order offenses had the lowest (60%). Seventy percent of persons in the study population who returned to federal prison during the time from their 2010 release to yearend 2014 found employment in at least 1 quarter of the follow-up period, compared to 66% of persons who were not reimprisoned by the BOP.

On average, persons in the study population worked at some point in 9.2 of the 16 quarters after release, though this measure does not necessarily mean they were employed throughout an entire quarter or during consecutive quarters. Hispanics in the study population had the highest mean number of quarters employed after prison release (10.2), while American Indians and Alaska Natives worked the smallest number of quarters (7.3). Persons in the study population who were sentenced to BOP by a U.S. district court worked an average of 9.9 quarters post-prison, more than persons sentenced by District of Columbia Superior Court (7.3) or persons admitted due to a post-prison community supervision violation (7.0). The average number of quarters employed among persons in the study population whose most serious offense was a violent offense was 7.9, lower than the 9.9 quarters for persons who served time for drug offenses.

During the 16 quarters after their 2010 prison release, persons in the study population held an average of 3.4 jobs (multiple jobs could be held concurrently). Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders in the study population had the lowest average total number of jobs (2.7), while Hispanics had the highest (3.8). Persons in the study population who were released before they turned 25 worked an average of 4.1 jobs in the 16 quarters after release, compared to 1.8 jobs for persons released when they were age 65 or older.

It took an average of 2.2 quarters (more than 6 months) for persons in the study population to find their first job. Whites spent, on average, 1.8 quarters from their release from federal prison to their first employment, less time than American Indians and Alaska Natives (2.7); blacks (2.6); Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders (2.3); and Hispanics (2.1). The youngest and oldest persons in the study population had the longest average time between prison and their first job. Persons age 24 or younger when they exited federal prison took an average of 2.7 quarters to obtain their first job, while persons age 65 or older averaged 3.1 quarters (more than 9 months) between release and first employment. Persons sentenced to federal prison through the District of Columbia Superior Court (4.0 quarters) took, on average, more than twice as long as persons sentenced by a U.S. district court (1.9 quarters) to obtain their first post-prison job.

**TABLE 4**

**Measures of employment of persons in the study population during the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Persons in study population	Study population ever employed in the 16 quarters after release		Mean number of quarters employed in the 16 quarters after 2010 release	Mean number of jobs held in the 16 quarters after 2010 release	Mean number of quarters from release to first employment	Mean duration of first employment after release	Mean longest consistent employment in the 16 quarters after release
		Number	Percent					
<b>Total</b>	51,500	34,500	67.0%	9.2 qtrs.	3.4 jobs	2.2 qtrs.	6.7 qtrs.	7.8 qtrs.
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	45,300	29,900	65.6%	9.1 qtrs.	3.3 jobs	2.2 qtrs.	6.6 qtrs.	7.7 qtrs.
Female	6,200	4,600	74.6	10.2	3.7	2.0	7.5	8.7
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>a</sup></b>								
White <sup>b</sup>	14,500	10,600	73.1%	9.8 qtrs.	3.2 jobs	1.8 qtrs.	7.2 qtrs.	8.3 qtrs.
Black <sup>b</sup>	17,900	12,800	71.1	8.3	3.3	2.6	5.7	6.8
Hispanic	16,100	8,900	55.3	10.2	3.8	2.1	7.7	8.8
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	1,400	1,100	75.7	7.3	3.3	2.7	4.6	5.5
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	1,100	700	63.6	9.5	2.7	2.3	7.3	8.4
Other <sup>b,c</sup>	600	400	72.9	9.5	3.4	2.0	6.9	8.0
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>								
24 or younger	4,000	3,100	77.4%	8.7 qtrs.	4.1 jobs	2.7 qtrs.	5.7 qtrs.	7.0 qtrs.
25–34	18,000	13,500	74.3	9.1	3.6	2.2	6.5	7.6
35–44	16,000	10,800	67.5	9.5	3.3	2.1	7.0	8.1
45–54	9,500	5,500	58.2	9.6	2.9	2.1	7.3	8.3
55–64	3,200	1,400	43.0	8.4	2.2	2.2	6.6	7.5
65 or older	800	200	23.0	6.9	1.8	3.1	5.5	6.1
<b>Most serious offense</b>								
Violent	3,600	2,500	68.9%	7.9 qtrs.	3.4 jobs	2.8 qtrs.	5.4 qtrs.	6.4 qtrs.
Property	7,100	4,900	68.2	8.9	3.2	2.5	6.4	7.5
Drug	21,200	15,300	72.0	9.9	3.5	1.9	7.3	8.4
Public order	18,800	11,300	59.7	8.9	3.3	2.4	6.4	7.5
Other	700	500	68.9	8.9	3.2	2.9	6.6	7.5

*Continued on next page*

**TABLE 4 (continued)****Measures of employment of persons in the study population during the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Persons in study population	Study population ever employed in the 16 quarters after release		Mean number of quarters employed in the 16 quarters after 2010 release	Mean number of jobs held in the 16 quarters after 2010 release	Mean number of quarters from release to first employment	Mean duration of first employment after release	Mean longest consistent employment in the 16 quarters after release
		Number	Percent					
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>								
Less than 1 year	18,800	11,900	63.2%	8.4 qtrs.	3.4 jobs	2.9 qtrs.	6.0 qtrs.	7.0 qtrs.
1–1.9 years	9,900	6,600	66.9	9.2	3.4	2.0	6.7	7.7
2–2.9 years	5,900	4,000	67.3	9.7	3.4	1.8	7.1	8.2
3–4.9 years	7,600	5,400	70.5	9.9	3.4	1.6	7.3	8.4
5–6.9 years	3,200	2,400	74.9	10.0	3.3	1.5	7.6	8.6
7–9.9 years	3,000	2,200	72.3	10.4	3.4	1.6	8.0	9.0
10 or more years	1,900	1,300	67.3	10.2	3.2	1.8	7.8	9.0
<b>Type of prison admission</b>								
U.S. district court commitment	38,800	26,100	67.0%	9.9 qtrs.	3.4 jobs	1.9 qtrs.	7.4 qtrs.	8.5 qtrs.
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>d</sup>	1,500	900	62.1	7.3	2.8	4.0	5.3	6.2
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>e</sup>	11,000	7,300	66.3	7.0	3.4	3.2	4.5	5.6
Other <sup>f</sup>	300	200	62.5	8.3	3.4	2.7	5.6	6.8
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>g</sup></b>								
No	41,600	27,500	65.8%	10.0 qtrs.	3.4 jobs	2.0 qtrs.	7.5 qtrs.	8.6 qtrs.
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	9,900	7,000	70.5	6.3	3.4	2.9	3.8	4.6

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter after the quarter in which release from federal prison occurred (quarter of release). Persons who were not employed at any point during the 16 quarters post-prison were not included in the calculations of means. Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>d</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>e</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>f</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>g</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

In general, persons in the study population who served less than 1 year in federal prison prior to their 2010 release had the worst employment outcomes during the 16 quarters of the study. Compared to all other categories of length of stay in prison, persons who served less than 1 year had the lowest percentage of persons in the study population employed (63%), the lowest average number of quarters employed (8.4), the longest average time between release and first job (2.9 quarters), the shortest average duration of their first job (6.0 quarters), and the shortest period of consistent employment (7.0 quarters). They had, on average, a similar number of jobs held during the 16 quarters after prison (3.4). About half of persons in the study population who served less than a year prior to release in 2010 were convicted of public order, drug, or property offenses by U.S. district court (not shown in tables). Slightly less than half were admitted to federal prison after violating post-custody community supervision conditions stipulated in their original sentences for the same three offense types (not shown in tables).

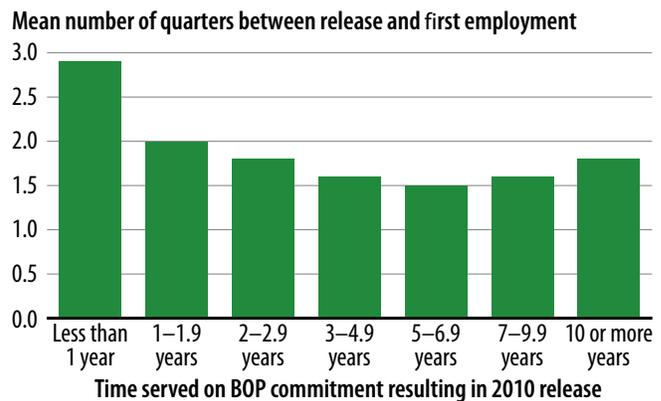
Persons who served from 1 to 1.9 years before release obtained their first jobs after an average of 2 quarters, compared to nearly 3 quarters for persons who spent less than 1 year in federal prison (figure 4). Persons who served from 5 to 6.9 years in federal prison prior to their 2010 release had the shortest average time between release and first job (1.5 quarters). The average time between prison release and first employment was 1.6 quarters for persons in the study population who had served either 3 to 4.9 years or 7 to 9.9 years. Persons who served from 2 to 2.9 years or 10 or more years took an average of 1.8 quarters to find their first job after release.

### Quarterly employment after release from federal prison

The percentage of persons in the study population employed in the quarter during which prison release occurred (35%) exceeded their pre-prison admission rate (table 5). Most releases to federal probation carry a condition that the person find and retain a job, and this requirement may have affected the percent of the study population employed after release.

Employment of persons in the study population did not exceed 40% in any of the individual 16 quarters after release. Employment peaked during the second quarter after release and declined each subsequent quarter. In quarter 16, an estimated 35% of the study population was formally employed (18,000).

**FIGURE 4**  
Mean number of quarters between release from federal prison and first employment, by time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release



Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See table 4 for estimates.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

Females in the study population were consistently employed at a higher percentage than males in the 16 quarters after release from federal prison. The lowest percent of females employed occurred in the quarter of release (almost 41%), and exceeded 45% through 8 quarters postrelease. In comparison, almost 34% of males in the study population had at least one job in the quarter of release and quarter 16 postrelease, with a maximum of 37% of males employed in quarter 2. Sixteen quarters after their 2010 release from federal prison, 39% of whites in the study population had formal employment, higher than blacks (34%); Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders (34%); Hispanics (33%); and American Indians and Alaska Natives (31%).

The employment rate of persons in the study population who returned to federal prison at any point from their 2010 release to 2014 was consistently lower than that of persons who did not go back to federal prison during those 4 years. Persons in the study population admitted to federal prison by the District of Columbia Superior Court were the only group to show a sustained increase in employment during the 16 quarters of analysis, from 21% during the first quarter to 29% during the sixteenth quarter.

**TABLE 5**

**Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarter of release or the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Persons in study population	Study population employed during quarter of release	Study population employed during quarter after release																
			Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5	Qtr. 6	Qtr. 7	Qtr. 8	Qtr. 9	Qtr. 10	Qtr. 11	Qtr. 12	Qtr. 13	Qtr. 14	Qtr. 15	Qtr. 16	
<b>Total</b>	51,500	34.7%	37.9%	38.2%	37.8%	37.5%	37.1%	36.9%	36.6%	36.4%	36.2%	35.9%	35.6%	35.4%	35.1%	35.0%	34.9%	35.0%	
<b>Sex</b>																			
Male	45,300	33.8%	36.9%	37.1%	36.8%	36.5%	36.0%	35.8%	35.4%	35.2%	35.0%	34.7%	34.3%	34.1%	33.8%	33.8%	33.6%	33.7%	
Female	6,200	40.7	45.4	46.0	45.7	45.3	45.5	45.4	45.9	45.5	44.9	44.8	44.8	44.9	44.1	44.3	44.1	44.6	
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>a</sup></b>																			
White <sup>b</sup>	14,500	43.6%	46.2%	45.0%	44.2%	43.7%	43.3%	43.0%	42.3%	41.9%	41.4%	41.2%	40.7%	40.1%	39.5%	39.5%	38.8%	38.9%	
Black <sup>b</sup>	17,900	31.8	35.6	36.6	36.5	35.9	35.5	35.5	35.0	34.6	34.6	34.4	34.0	33.7	33.5	33.8	33.9	34.4	
Hispanic	16,100	30.0	33.2	34.0	33.9	33.9	33.7	33.4	33.5	33.6	33.4	32.9	33.0	33.0	33.0	32.8	32.7	32.6	
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	1,400	34.0	36.7	35.3	33.5	34.1	31.8	32.9	31.9	32.2	31.4	31.5	30.7	31.5	30.9	31.7	31.4	30.8	
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	1,100	31.0	33.1	35.7	35.5	36.8	38.4	35.8	36.7	37.7	37.4	37.2	37.2	37.5	35.4	33.9	34.3	33.9	
Other <sup>b,c</sup>	600	38.4	44.1	42.6	42.0	43.1	41.2	41.3	43.4	42.2	41.3	38.4	39.1	40.3	38.9	37.0	37.5	38.7	
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>																			
24 or younger	4,000	32.6%	39.6%	40.3%	40.2%	39.9%	39.6%	39.7%	39.4%	39.4%	40.2%	39.7%	40.2%	40.2%	41.0%	41.3%	40.8%	41.0%	
25–34	18,000	38.0	42.4	42.3	41.8	41.4	40.7	40.5	40.2	39.8	39.9	39.7	39.0	39.0	38.6	38.6	38.7	38.8	
35–44	16,000	36.9	39.6	39.9	39.1	38.7	38.4	38.3	38.0	38.0	37.2	36.9	37.0	36.4	36.2	36.3	35.9	36.2	
45–54	9,500	31.2	33.5	33.9	34.3	34.5	34.3	33.9	33.6	33.2	33.1	33.0	32.5	32.1	31.6	31.4	31.1	31.3	
55–64	3,200	23.3	23.2	23.3	23.4	23.1	23.1	22.8	22.0	21.9	21.1	20.2	20.2	20.0	19.2	19.1	18.7	18.5	
65 or older	800	10.8	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.4	8.7	9.4	9.9	10.5	9.7	9.0	8.3	9.3	9.0	8.0	8.5	8.5	
<b>Most serious offense</b>																			
Violent	3,600	27.7%	33.1%	34.0%	33.4%	33.3%	32.3%	32.9%	32.8%	32.6%	32.5%	31.3%	30.5%	31.6%	31.6%	31.2%	31.2%	31.2%	
Property	7,100	32.1	36.1	36.7	36.2	36.0	36.1	36.0	35.6	35.7	35.9	35.7	35.5	35.2	35.0	35.1	35.2	35.3	
Drug	21,200	41.6	44.1	44.4	43.8	43.5	43.0	42.6	42.4	42.0	41.7	41.6	41.2	40.7	39.9	39.8	39.2	39.5	
Public order	18,800	29.4	32.7	32.7	32.7	32.3	31.8	31.7	31.2	31.0	30.7	30.5	30.3	30.2	30.4	30.3	30.6	30.7	
Other	700	28.3	34.3	33.6	34.3	37.0	37.8	37.5	39.3	38.5	37.5	37.5	35.6	36.4	35.4	36.7	35.4	36.5	

*Continued on next page*

**TABLE 5 (continued)**

**Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarter of release or the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Persons in study population	Study population employed during quarter of release	Study population employed during quarter after release															
			Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5	Qtr. 6	Qtr. 7	Qtr. 8	Qtr. 9	Qtr. 10	Qtr. 11	Qtr. 12	Qtr. 13	Qtr. 14	Qtr. 15	Qtr. 16
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>																		
Less than 1 year	18,800	23.8%	31.0%	31.8%	31.9%	32.0%	31.9%	31.8%	31.9%	32.1%	32.0%	31.9%	32.0%	31.8%	31.8%	31.8%	31.7%	31.9%
1–1.9 years	9,900	38.2	38.9	38.8	38.1	37.7	36.8	36.7	35.9	35.9	35.8	35.4	35.0	35.2	34.5	34.6	34.4	34.9
2–2.9 years	5,900	40.5	40.7	40.9	41.1	40.0	39.4	39.2	39.3	38.3	37.8	37.4	36.8	36.4	36.0	36.1	35.6	35.8
3–4.9 years	7,600	44.8	44.8	43.5	43.2	42.6	41.7	41.6	41.0	40.6	40.2	40.2	39.5	38.8	38.2	37.9	38.1	38.2
5–6.9 years	3,200	47.1	48.3	47.5	45.6	45.6	46.1	46.0	45.4	43.4	43.5	42.4	42.1	41.3	41.1	41.3	40.6	40.1
7–9.9 years	3,000	45.7	47.5	48.6	47.9	46.2	45.8	45.7	44.8	44.7	43.7	43.1	42.4	41.8	41.6	41.3	40.9	40.7
10 or more years	1,900	40.8	40.5	40.2	39.8	39.7	39.1	39.6	39.0	38.9	39.5	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2
<b>Type of prison admission</b>																		
U.S. district court commitment	38,800	38.9%	41.0%	41.2%	41.1%	40.6%	40.1%	39.9%	39.5%	39.3%	38.9%	38.7%	38.3%	38.1%	37.7%	37.6%	37.4%	37.4%
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>d</sup>	1,500	14.8	20.8	27.0	27.6	27.5	27.4	28.0	29.1	28.0	28.0	27.6	28.3	28.2	28.0	27.5	29.1	29.1
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>e</sup>	11,000	22.5	29.5	29.0	28.0	28.2	28.0	27.8	27.5	27.6	27.8	27.3	27.2	26.8	26.8	27.3	27.0	27.6
Other <sup>f</sup>	300	23.3	29.8	32.7	29.8	31.4	30.7	31.7	32.0	28.5	31.4	30.7	31.7	28.5	31.7	31.7	32.4	31.7
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>g</sup></b>																		
No	41,600	35.3%	38.6%	39.7%	40.1%	40.2%	40.0%	40.0%	39.7%	39.5%	39.1%	38.8%	38.4%	38.1%	37.5%	37.4%	37.1%	37.1%
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	9,900	31.9	35.2	31.8	28.3	26.3	25.0	24.0	23.8	23.3	23.9	23.9	23.9	23.9	24.9	25.2	25.6	26.4
<b>Number employed during quarter</b>	~	18,000	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,000	19,000	19,000	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter after the quarter in which release from federal prison occurred (quarter of release). Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

~Not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>d</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>e</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>f</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>g</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

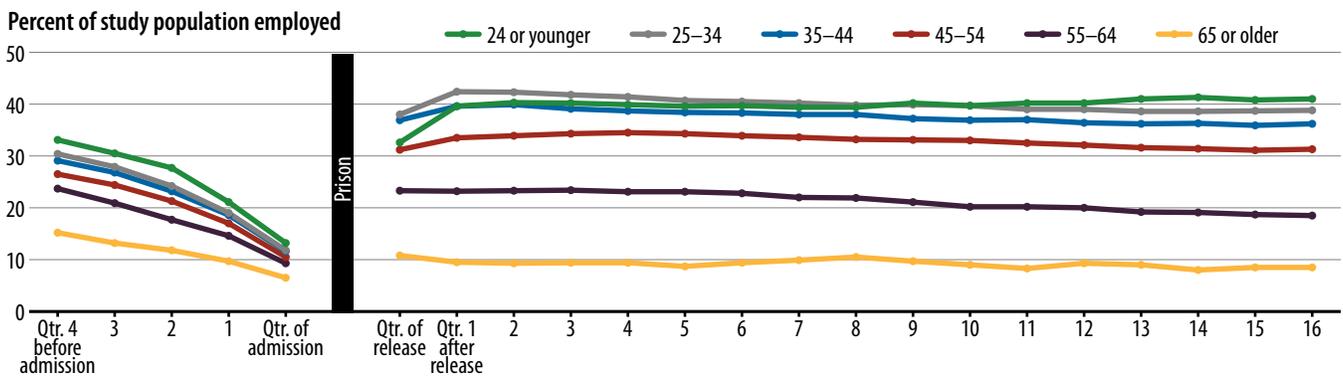
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

At least 30% of persons in the study population who were age 54 or younger at their 2010 release were employed during each of the 16 quarters after release, although this does not mean that the same individuals were consistently employed over time. More than 35% of persons released at age 34 or younger were employed in each quarter after release (figure 5). This was almost four times the rate of persons in the study population who were released at age 65 or older (approximately 10% employment in each of the 16 quarters post-prison).

Persons in the study population who were released in 2010 after serving less than 1 year in federal prison had the lowest employment rate in each of the 16 quarters following release, in contrast to their pre-prison employment rate (figure 6). Twenty-four percent of persons in the study population who served less than a year found employment during the quarter of release. This increased to 31% in the first quarter after release and remained at 32% from quarter 2 to quarter 16. Persons in the study population who served 5 years or more prior to release had higher postrelease employment rates than persons imprisoned for shorter terms.

**FIGURE 5**

**Percent of persons in the study population who were employed before admission to or after release from federal prison, by age at 2010 release from BOP**

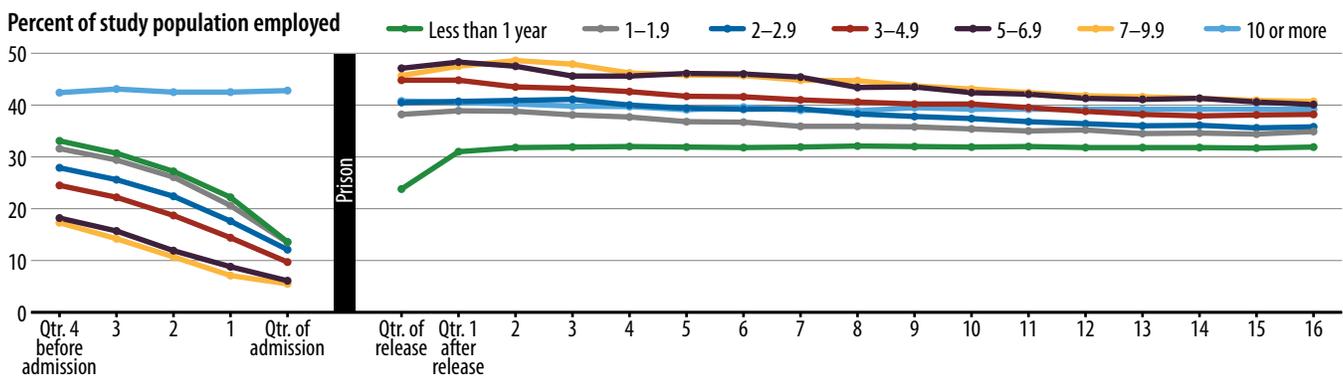


Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See tables 2 and 5 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

**FIGURE 6**

**Percent of persons in the study population who were employed before admission to or after release from federal prison, by time served before 2010 release**



Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See tables 2 and 5 for estimates. Pre-prison estimates of employment for persons who served 10 or more years prior to their 2010 release are limited due to incomplete LEHD data prior to 2000.

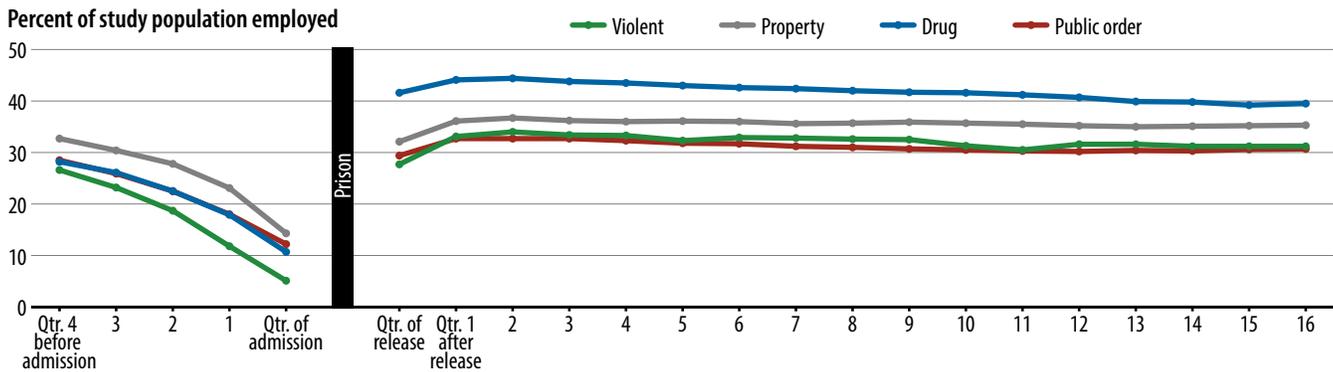
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

Higher percentages of persons in the study population whose most serious offense was a drug or property offense were employed in each quarter after release than persons convicted of a violent or public order offense (figure 7). Persons who had been convicted of a drug offense maintained 39% to 44% employment during the quarter of release and the following 16 quarters, while persons in the study population who served time for a property offense had 32% to 36% of persons employed post-prison.

Twenty-eight percent of persons in the study population who served time in federal prison for a violent offense found employment in the quarter in which they were released. The highest percent employed for persons who served for a violent offense occurred in the second quarter after release (34%). Persons in the study population sentenced for a public order offense had the lowest percent employed post-prison, with a maximum of 33% in the first, second, and third quarters after release.

**FIGURE 7**

**Percent of persons in the study population who were employed before admission to or after release from federal prison, by most serious offense**



Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See tables 2 and 5 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

### Quarterly earnings after release from federal prison

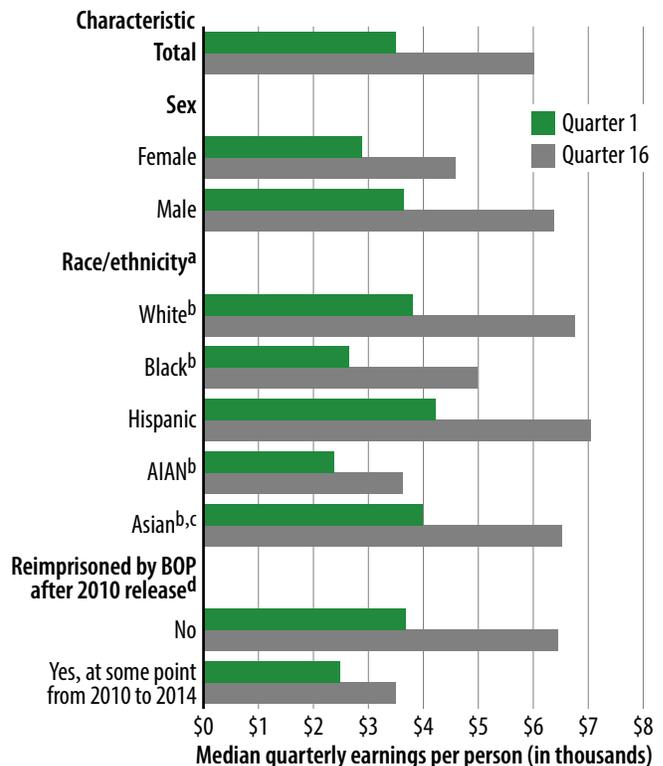
Median quarterly earnings for persons in the study population increased 72% during the follow-up period, from \$3,500 during the first quarter after release to \$6,000 in quarter 16 (table 6, figure 8). Earnings could differ across quarters due to a change in the composition of the study population employed, as well as to changes in the wages earned while employed. The increase was not consistent across demographic and criminal justice characteristics. Females in the study population had higher employment rates than males after release, but among employed persons in the study population, females had median quarterly earnings of \$800 to \$1,800 less during the 16 quarters after release. Male median quarterly earnings increased 75% during the 16-quarter follow-up period, while female earnings increased by 59%. Hispanics in the study population had the highest median quarterly earnings in all quarters after prison release, followed by whites and Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders. In quarter 16, Hispanics earned a median of \$7,100 during the 3-month period, while whites earned \$6,800 and Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders earned \$6,500. Blacks in the study population had median quarterly earnings of almost \$5,000 in quarter 16, the largest percent increase from quarter 1 (88%) of all racial or ethnic groups, although most other racial and ethnic groups still out-earned blacks in quarter 16.

Persons in the study population released in 2010 after serving time for a violent offense earned less per quarter than persons who were imprisoned for other types of crime. Persons who served a sentence for a violent offense showed median quarterly earnings of \$2,500 in the first quarter after release and \$4,800 in quarter 16. Persons in the study population who were convicted for a drug offense earned the most money in each quarter after release. At quarter 16, they had median earnings of \$6,200, almost \$1,500 more than persons who served time for a violent offense.

Persons in the study population who were sentenced to federal prison by the District of Columbia Superior Court had a 120% increase in median quarterly earnings in the 16 quarters after release, from \$2,300 in quarter 1 to \$5,100 in quarter 16. The higher median quarterly earnings of persons in the study population who were admitted to federal prison through the U.S. district court system is consistent with the fact that persons in federal prisons tend to have more education than persons in state prisons or local jails. (See *Profile of Prison Inmates, 2016*, NCJ 255037,

BJS, December 2021.) Reimprisonment at any time in the 16 quarters after the 2010 release negatively affected the quarterly earnings of persons in the study population. By quarter 16, persons who returned to federal prison earned almost \$3,000 less than persons who did not.

**FIGURE 8**  
Median quarterly earnings of persons in the study population who were employed during either quarter 1 or quarter 16 post-prison, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics



Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key. Persons employed in either quarter were included in the analysis. Median earnings calculations do not include persons who were not employed during the quarter. Earnings have not been adjusted for inflation. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. See table 6 for estimates. AIAN denotes American Indians and Alaska Natives.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

**TABLE 6**

**Median quarterly earnings of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarter of release or the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Quarter of release	Quarter after release															
		Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5	Qtr. 6	Qtr. 7	Qtr. 8	Qtr. 9	Qtr. 10	Qtr. 11	Qtr. 12	Qtr. 13	Qtr. 14	Qtr. 15	Qtr. 16
<b>Total</b>	\$2,907	\$3,500	\$3,925	\$4,251	\$4,420	\$4,680	\$4,847	\$4,998	\$5,133	\$5,210	\$5,345	\$5,444	\$5,600	\$5,689	\$5,792	\$5,911	\$6,026
<b>Sex</b>																	
Male	\$3,004	\$3,637	\$4,081	\$4,442	\$4,600	\$4,896	\$5,074	\$5,257	\$5,393	\$5,508	\$5,606	\$5,740	\$5,904	\$6,000	\$6,130	\$6,238	\$6,377
Female	2,404	2,877	3,256	3,500	3,716	3,776	3,876	3,961	4,047	4,198	4,263	4,272	4,346	4,417	4,438	4,596	4,588
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>a</sup></b>																	
White <sup>b</sup>	\$3,193	\$3,802	\$4,345	\$4,680	\$4,861	\$5,196	\$5,344	\$5,524	\$5,600	\$5,750	\$5,888	\$6,000	\$6,213	\$6,253	\$6,391	\$6,485	\$6,759
Black <sup>b</sup>	2,100	2,656	3,140	3,446	3,593	3,893	4,004	4,149	4,294	4,356	4,360	4,527	4,698	4,688	4,692	4,840	4,991
Hispanic	3,794	4,226	4,648	4,938	5,128	5,382	5,603	5,734	5,867	6,015	6,253	6,338	6,392	6,511	6,768	6,871	7,052
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	1,825	2,378	2,863	3,150	3,232	3,297	3,393	3,391	3,172	3,580	3,441	3,651	3,704	3,422	3,579	3,701	3,632
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	3,160	3,989	4,162	4,551	4,476	4,641	5,031	4,888	5,142	5,520	5,612	5,925	5,500	6,160	6,429	6,703	6,516
Other <sup>b,c</sup>	2,649	3,501	3,823	4,218	4,215	4,262	4,043	4,042	4,538	4,285	4,731	4,475	4,748	5,071	5,503	5,187	5,457
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>																	
24 or younger	\$1,975	\$2,512	\$2,830	\$3,124	\$3,255	\$3,395	\$3,313	\$3,698	\$3,892	\$3,770	\$4,039	\$4,247	\$4,331	\$4,368	\$4,645	\$4,694	\$4,775
25–34	2,740	3,267	3,772	4,084	4,218	4,437	4,640	4,774	4,893	4,985	5,079	5,216	5,408	5,440	5,540	5,653	5,784
35–44	3,181	3,815	4,177	4,608	4,804	5,170	5,301	5,455	5,585	5,841	5,888	5,948	6,100	6,234	6,349	6,433	6,600
45–54	3,133	3,834	4,320	4,580	4,742	5,055	5,235	5,341	5,536	5,502	5,619	5,898	6,000	5,999	6,198	6,253	6,333
55–64	3,060	3,600	3,980	4,321	4,568	4,766	4,872	4,955	4,934	5,200	5,523	5,256	5,600	5,792	5,578	5,714	5,655
65 or older	2,250	3,249	3,956	3,233	3,197	3,794	4,060	3,900	3,362	3,864	3,893	3,900	3,322	3,748	3,559	3,611	3,518
<b>Most serious offense</b>																	
Violent	\$1,737	\$2,543	\$2,979	\$3,292	\$3,391	\$3,783	\$3,710	\$3,987	\$4,093	\$4,060	\$4,248	\$4,480	\$4,415	\$4,298	\$4,414	\$4,512	\$4,779
Property	2,692	3,409	3,865	4,092	4,398	4,575	4,624	4,800	4,886	5,070	5,233	5,315	5,576	5,512	5,630	5,736	5,933
Drug	3,059	3,603	4,040	4,383	4,483	4,780	5,026	5,185	5,310	5,399	5,543	5,599	5,725	5,921	5,995	6,149	6,240
Public order	3,000	3,575	4,024	4,355	4,536	4,802	4,920	5,075	5,212	5,261	5,367	5,490	5,707	5,731	5,876	5,922	6,125
Other	2,215	3,135	3,818	4,254	4,291	4,469	4,600	4,469	4,822	5,080	4,600	5,175	5,221	5,267	5,218	5,792	5,539
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>																	
Less than 1 year	\$2,222	\$3,081	\$3,580	\$3,914	\$4,084	\$4,396	\$4,457	\$4,602	\$4,731	\$4,700	\$4,809	\$4,909	\$5,088	\$5,080	\$5,158	\$5,298	\$5,473
1–1.9 years	2,905	3,601	3,998	4,300	4,384	4,746	4,920	5,069	5,242	5,470	5,498	5,636	5,776	5,754	5,944	6,040	6,174
2–2.9 years	3,042	3,554	4,039	4,341	4,505	4,735	4,917	4,900	5,147	5,115	5,245	5,384	5,588	5,866	5,747	5,989	5,978
3–4.9 years	3,153	3,624	4,049	4,394	4,603	4,929	5,081	5,293	5,286	5,460	5,572	5,749	5,957	6,059	6,358	6,394	6,446
5–6.9 years	3,258	3,703	4,250	4,681	4,788	4,766	5,112	5,283	5,543	5,538	5,890	5,984	6,086	6,174	6,249	6,401	6,839
7–9.9 years	3,248	3,704	4,052	4,415	4,725	5,080	5,200	5,561	5,706	5,778	6,025	6,186	6,225	6,381	6,388	6,389	6,500
10 or more years	2,994	3,573	4,095	4,480	4,705	4,800	5,200	5,422	5,397	5,500	5,574	5,844	6,076	6,198	6,433	6,026	6,205

*Continued on next page*

**TABLE 6 (continued)****Median quarterly earnings of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarter of release or the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Quarter of release	Quarter after release															
		Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5	Qtr. 6	Qtr. 7	Qtr. 8	Qtr. 9	Qtr. 10	Qtr. 11	Qtr. 12	Qtr. 13	Qtr. 14	Qtr. 15	Qtr. 16
<b>Type of prison admission</b>																	
U.S. district court commitment	\$3,133	\$3,711	\$4,160	\$4,496	\$4,654	\$4,914	\$5,087	\$5,245	\$5,402	\$5,548	\$5,661	\$5,810	\$5,947	\$6,030	\$6,208	\$6,294	\$6,447
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>d</sup>	1,313	2,324	2,725	3,040	3,443	4,288	4,254	4,221	4,267	4,395	4,699	4,745	4,900	4,686	4,600	4,785	5,110
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>e</sup>	1,636	2,353	2,808	3,133	3,240	3,523	3,647	3,698	3,720	3,806	3,874	3,881	4,013	4,050	4,000	4,262	4,306
Other <sup>f</sup>	1,459	2,900	2,976	3,804	3,475	3,880	3,451	3,953	4,069	4,272	4,157	4,030	4,643	4,545	4,797	4,646	4,791
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>g</sup></b>																	
No	\$3,053	\$3,685	\$4,120	\$4,464	\$4,621	\$4,896	\$5,072	\$5,260	\$5,385	\$5,555	\$5,665	\$5,801	\$5,955	\$6,082	\$6,240	\$6,311	\$6,459
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	2,102	2,492	2,796	2,994	2,943	2,962	2,861	2,930	2,958	2,798	3,025	3,098	3,200	3,072	3,211	3,386	3,493

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter after the quarter in which release from federal prison occurred (quarter of release). Median earnings calculations do not include persons who were not employed during the quarter. Earnings have not been adjusted for inflation. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>d</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>e</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>f</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>g</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

## Sectors of employment

Persons in the study population worked in a wide range of jobs after prison, but five industrial sectors employed the majority of persons released in 2010: administrative support and waste management and remediation services; accommodation and food services; construction; manufacturing; and retail trade (table 7). Together, these sectors employed 72% of persons in the study population who obtained work in the first quarter after their 2010 prison release, declining to 66% in quarter 16. During each of the 16 quarters after release, the top nine employment sectors accounted for more than 85% of the jobs worked by the employed persons in the study population.

The administrative support and waste management and remediation services sector employed the largest percentage of employed persons in the study population, both before federal prison admission and after release. These jobs, including employment placement and office support services, employed 22% of the employed persons in the study population in the first quarter after release, 19% in the fourth quarter, and 17% in the sixteenth quarter.

In the fourth quarter after release from prison, larger percentages of employed persons in the study population who were male, black, or Hispanic, had served time for a violent offense, or had served 7 years or more prior to release, worked in the administrative support and waste management and remediation

services sector than in any other single industry sector (table 8). Twenty-six percent of blacks in the study population who were employed in the fourth quarter after release worked in administrative support and waste management and remediation services, 16% worked in the accommodation and food services sector, and 11% in manufacturing. The administrative support and waste management and remediation services sector also employed a larger portion of the study population admitted to federal prison on a post-custody community supervision violation or through sentencing by the District of Columbia Superior Court than any other sector.

Thirty percent of females in the study population who were employed during the fourth quarter after prison release worked in the accommodation and food services sector, as did 26% of employed Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders; 23% of employed persons released at age 24 or younger; and 19% of persons who returned to federal prison at least once between their 2010 release and yearend 2014. The construction sector employed almost 12% of persons in the study population who were working in the fourth quarter after prison release. Among whites in the study population who were employed in the fourth quarter after release, jobs were more evenly distributed across the five main sectors than among the other racial or ethnic groups. A larger percentage of whites employed in the fourth quarter worked in accommodation and food service (16%) than in other sectors, but the other four leading sectors employed at least 12% each.

**TABLE 7****Percent of persons in the study population who were employed during the 4 quarters prior to admission, the quarters of admission and release, or the 16 quarters after release from federal prison, by employment industry sector**

Sector	Quarter prior to admission				Quarter of admission	Quarter of release	Quarter after release															
	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 1			Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5	Qtr. 6	Qtr. 7	Qtr. 8	Qtr. 9	Qtr. 10	Qtr. 11	Qtr. 12	Qtr. 13	Qtr. 14	Qtr. 15	Qtr. 16
Administrative support and waste management and remediation services	17.9%	17.4%	17.7%	16.4%	14.5%	23.3%	22.1%	20.9%	19.7%	18.8%	17.7%	17.6%	17.4%	17.4%	17.2%	17.0%	17.2%	16.8%	17.1%	17.1%	17.2%	17.2%
Accommodation and food services	14.2	15.0	15.3	15.8	14.1	18.9	17.5	16.3	15.9	15.7	15.4	14.8	14.6	14.5	14.1	13.8	13.5	13.4	13.1	12.9	12.6	12.3
Construction	12.6	12.5	12.0	11.6	11.4	10.2	11.2	11.5	11.9	11.8	12.2	12.1	12.0	11.7	12.1	12.4	12.4	12.7	12.9	12.7	12.8	12.7
Manufacturing	12.0	12.2	12.0	12.7	14.4	10.3	10.9	11.4	12.0	12.2	12.4	12.5	12.8	13.0	13.0	13.0	12.7	12.8	12.9	13.2	13.0	13.0
Retail trade	11.1	11.3	11.6	11.9	12.0	10.2	10.4	10.7	10.5	10.6	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.6	10.7	10.5	10.5
Other services (except public administration)	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.6	5.4	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9
Wholesale trade	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.4	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
Health care and social assistance	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.9	5.3	3.5	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.3
Transportation and warehousing	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.3	3.8	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.7
Other sectors*	15.6	15.0	15.0	14.7	16.3	11.0	11.7	12.1	12.4	12.9	13.2	13.3	13.5	13.3	13.7	13.7	14.0	14.0	14.1	13.9	14.1	14.4
<b>Persons in study population employed in each quarter</b>	14,500	13,000	11,500	8,900	5,900	18,000	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,000	19,000	19,000	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter before the quarter in which admission to prison occurred (quarter of admission) or after the quarter in which release from federal prison occurred (quarter of release). Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

\*Includes employment sectors that did not employ more than 4% of any persons released from federal prison in any of the 16 quarters after release. For a description of these sectors, see the North American Industry Classification system (NAICS) 2017 update (<https://www.census.gov/naics/?58967?yearbck=2017>).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

**TABLE 8****Persons in the study population who were employed during quarter 4 after release from federal prison in 2010, by employment industry sector and demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Persons in study population employed during quarter 4	Total	Administrative support and waste management and remediation services	Accommodation and food services	Construction	Manufacturing	Retail trade	All other sectors <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total</b>	19,500	100%	18.8%	15.7%	11.8%	12.2%	10.7%	30.9%
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	16,500	100%	19.5%	13.3%	13.4%	13.0%	10.1%	30.6%
Female	2,800	100%	14.2	29.7	2.2	7.3	13.8	32.8
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>b</sup></b>								
White <sup>c</sup>	6,300	100%	13.6%	16.3%	14.1%	12.5%	12.1%	31.5%
Black <sup>c</sup>	6,400	100%	26.2	16.0	8.6	11.2	10.4	27.6
Hispanic	5,500	100%	17.2	13.6	12.7	13.8	8.9	33.9
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>c</sup>	500	100%	14.5	18.4	18.7	8.7	9.1	30.6
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>c</sup>	400	100%	10.5	25.9	7.2	10.0	13.9	32.6
Other <sup>c,d</sup>	300	100%	13.2	19.8	13.2	7.0	14.5	32.2
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>								
24 or younger	1,600	100%	19.6%	23.0%	9.7%	10.3%	11.9%	25.5%
25–34	7,500	100%	19.1	17.9	12.1	12.0	10.3	28.6
35–44	6,200	100%	19.4	13.7	11.9	13.6	9.9	31.6
45–54	3,300	100%	17.6	12.5	12.7	11.3	11.5	34.4
55 or older <sup>e</sup>	800	100%	14.4	9.8	8.4	10.8	13.9	42.7
<b>Most serious offense</b>								
Violent	1,200	100%	22.1%	16.7%	13.3%	8.7%	10.4%	28.8%
Property	2,600	100%	17.0	16.9	8.8	8.9	13.8	34.6
Drug	9,200	100%	18.9	16.0	11.9	13.2	10.3	29.7
Public order	6,100	100%	18.9	14.5	12.6	12.8	9.9	31.3
Other	300	100%	14.0	17.1	11.7	10.2	13.3	33.7
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>								
Less than 1 year	6,000	100%	19.2%	17.1%	11.9%	10.9%	9.8%	31.1%
1–1.9 years	3,700	100%	17.3	16.9	12.2	11.5	11.4	30.8
2–2.9 years	2,400	100%	17.2	16.0	11.2	12.0	11.2	32.4
3–4.9 years	3,200	100%	18.5	15.3	11.7	14.1	10.4	30.1
5–6.9 years	1,500	100%	18.9	13.4	12.5	14.3	11.5	29.3
7–9.9 years	1,400	100%	21.1	11.7	12.6	13.2	11.0	30.4
10 or more years	800	100%	22.9	11.2	10.4	13.9	11.2	30.3

*Continued on next page*

**TABLE 8 (continued)****Persons in the study population who were employed during quarter 4 after release from federal prison in 2010, by employment industry sector and demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Persons in study population employed during quarter 4	Total	Administrative support and waste management and remediation services	Accommodation and food services	Construction	Manufacturing	Retail trade	All other sectors <sup>a</sup>
<b>Type of prison admission</b>								
U.S. district court commitment	15,700	100%	17.7%	15.6%	11.2%	12.7%	11.1%	31.6%
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>f</sup>	400	100%	23.5	14.5	^	^	^	^
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>g</sup>	3,100	100%	23.2	16.6	13.9	10.9	8.1	27.3
Other <sup>h</sup>	100	100%	23.7	18.6	^	^	^	^
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>i</sup></b>								
No	16,700	100%	18.3%	15.2%	11.7%	12.0%	11.1%	31.8%
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	2,600	100%	21.9	18.9	12.5	13.7	8.0	24.9

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter after the quarter in which release from federal prison occurred (quarter of release). Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Value suppressed to prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>a</sup>Includes employment sectors that did not employ more than 4% of any persons released from federal prison in any of the 16 quarters after release. For a description of these sectors, see the North American Industry Classification system 2017 update (<https://www.census.gov/naics/?58967?yearbck=2017>).

<sup>b</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>d</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>e</sup>Former federal prisoners age 55 or older were combined into this category to prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information, as a small number of these persons were employed in a given quarter.

<sup>f</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>g</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>h</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>i</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2000–2014.

## Methodology

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) produced this study to fulfill a congressional mandate in the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act, part of the 2019 Defense Reauthorization Act (P.L. 116-92, Title XI, Subtitle B, Section 1124). Congress tasked BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau with reporting on post-prison employment of persons released from federal prison. This report links federal prison release records with employment and earnings data from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) collection to estimate the percentage of persons released from federal prison in 2010 who were employed in the 4 years after release, as well as earnings and employment sector.

The U.S. Census Bureau performed the data linkage and the statistical analyses, and reviewed the final report for accuracy of the results and analysis process. BJS performed additional statistical analyses, prepared the tables, and wrote, prepared, and reviewed the final report. All results were reviewed and approved by the U.S. Census Bureau's Disclosure Review Board to prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). To meet the U.S. Census Bureau's Disclosure Avoidance requirements, all population counts are reported as rounded numbers and all percentages are based on rounded counts. Where necessary, statistics based on a small number of individuals have been combined with another category or suppressed.

### Protected Identification Key (PIK)-assignment rates for Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) data

BJS transferred records of persons released from the BOP, collected as part of the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP), to the U.S. Census Bureau for linkage to the LEHD data and statistical analysis. The identification information for each person released from federal prison in 2010 was used to assign a unique Protected Identification Key (PIK). Persons in other datasets housed at the U.S. Census Bureau, such as the LEHD, are also assigned PIKs, and this common identifier is used for linkage across datasets. (See *Linked BOP-LEHD data* for a description of the process of assigning PIKs to individuals.) The U.S. Census Bureau's Person Identification Validation System (PVS) relied on name, date of birth, and sex to assign the PIK to the BOP records.

The 51,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010 who received a PIK comprise the study population in this report. Approximately 30% of the

73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010 did not receive a PIK and could not be linked to LEHD data. Without further examination to determine why the PVS did not assign them a PIK, these people were excluded from all employment and earnings analysis.

BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau determined that PIK-assignment rates were low in several demographic and criminal justice categories, including Hispanics, persons sentenced to 1 year or less, persons who served time for public order offenses, persons admitted by a U.S. district court, and persons who were age 44 or younger when released. Of the 73,500 persons released from federal prison in 2010, about 58% were U.S. citizens, based on data collected at admission to BOP ([table 9](#)). U.S. citizens accounted for 82% of the 51,500 persons assigned a PIK, while 18% were non-U.S. citizens per BOP data. This is consistent with the U.S. Census Bureau's Numerical Identification File (Numident), which is a full accounting of persons in the United States who were issued Social Security Numbers (SSNs) and only non-U.S. citizens authorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to legally be in the country are issued an SSN or a Tax Identification Number.

Almost 98% of all persons released from federal prison in 2010 who did not receive a PIK were non-U.S. citizens. More than three-quarters of Hispanics (77%) released from federal prison in 2010 were non-U.S. citizens, compared to 38% of Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders; 12% of whites; and less than 4% each of blacks and persons of other races, including American Indians and Alaska Natives. Roughly the same number of persons age 24 or younger at their release in 2010 were U.S. citizens as were non-U.S. citizens. Forty-four percent of persons ages 25 to 34 in the 2010 release cohort were non-U.S. citizens, but U.S. citizens accounted for 68% of persons released at age 45 or older.

Non-U.S. citizens accounted for 62% of persons released from federal prison in 2010 after serving time for public order offenses and 93% of persons released after serving time for immigration offenses. Almost 90% of non-U.S. citizens who were released from federal prison in 2010 had been convicted of drug trafficking or immigration offenses, which typically have shorter sentences and lengths of stay than violent or property offenses (not shown in tables). Persons entering federal prison through the U.S. district court system were evenly divided (50% U.S. citizens, 50% non-U.S. citizens). Among persons who served less than a year prior to their 2010 release from federal prison, 53% were non-U.S. citizens. Non-U.S. citizens did not account for more than 40% of the total in any other category of time served in prison.

**TABLE 9****U.S. citizenship status of persons released from federal prison in 2010, by Protected Identification Key assignment and demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

PIK assignment and characteristic	Federal prisoners released in 2010	Total	U.S. citizen <sup>a</sup>	Non-U.S. citizen
<b>Total</b>	73,500	100%	58.2%	41.8%
<b>Assigned a PIK</b>				
Yes	51,500	100%	81.7%	18.3%
No	22,000	100%	2.4	97.6
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>b</sup></b>				
White <sup>c</sup>	15,900	100%	88.5%	11.5%
Black <sup>c</sup>	18,500	100%	96.1	3.9
Hispanic	35,900	100%	23	77
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>c</sup>	1,200	100%	62.4	37.6
Other <sup>c,d</sup>	2,000	100%	96.6	3.4
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>				
24 or younger	7,000	100%	50.2%	49.8%
25–34	27,500	100%	56.3	43.7
35–44	22,600	100%	56.1	43.9
45–54	11,800	100%	64.4	35.6
55–64	3,700	100%	75.1	24.9
65 or older	900	100%	82.3	17.7
<b>Most serious offense</b>				
Violent	3,800	100%	96.7%	3.3%
Property	8,500	100%	75.3	24.7
Drug	25,600	100%	73.7	26.3
Trafficking	25,500	100%	74.1	25.9
Public order	34,900	100%	37.9	62.1
Immigration offenses	22,300	100%	7.2	92.8
Other	800	100%	85.6	14.4
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>				
Less than 1 year	32,200	100%	46.7%	53.3%
1–1.9 years	13,200	100%	62.3	37.7
2–2.9 years	7,700	100%	62.5	37.5
3–4.9 years	9,300	100%	68.8	31.2
5–6.9 years	3,600	100%	78.4	21.6
7–9.9 years	3,300	100%	82.2	17.8
10 or more years	2,000	100%	83.6	16.4
<b>Type of prison admission</b>				
U.S. district court commitment	60,000	100%	50.1%	49.9%
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>e</sup>	1,500	100%	97.3	2.7
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>f</sup>	11,600	100%	93.7	6.3
Other <sup>g</sup>	300	100%	93.5	6.5

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. PIK denotes Protected Identification Key.

<sup>a</sup>Includes a small number of persons for whom citizenship data were unknown and who were assumed to be U.S. citizens.

<sup>b</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>d</sup>Persons identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native were combined into this category with persons of other races and persons of multiple races to prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>e</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>f</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>g</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other type of admissions.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010.

Records for U.S. citizens released from federal prison in 2010 received PIKs at similar rates (each greater than 98%) across all categories of race or ethnicity, except for the other race category, which includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders (**table 10**). U.S. citizens had similar PIK-assignment rates across other demographic and criminal justice characteristics, with the lowest observed PIK-assignment rate among persons who served 10 or more years in federal prison prior to their release in 2010 (97%).

Among non-U.S. citizens, rates of PIK assignment were much lower. The only race or ethnicity category among non-U.S. citizens to receive PIKs at a rate of more than 80% was persons in the other race category, which includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders. Hispanic non-U.S. citizens received PIKs 29% of the time, compared to white (30%) and black (64%) non-U.S. citizens. Thirty-six to eighty-five percent of non-U.S. citizens were not assigned a PIK across age-at-release, most serious offense, admission type, and time served in federal prison.

## Data sources

### *Federal Justice Statistics Program*

The BOP provided data on each person released from federal prison during calendar years 2010 to 2014 to BJS through its FJSP collection. These administrative records were derived from the BOP's internal prisoner tracking system. The data included persons released from BOP and privately operated prison facilities, persons on home confinement, and persons in halfway houses or other nonsecure prison facilities. Temporary releases for court, medical, and other appointments were not included in the release data. Each record contained the individual's name, sex, race or ethnicity, citizenship information, date of birth, dates of prison admission and release, most serious offense for which they were convicted, type of admission, and sentence length. The records of all persons released from federal prison in 2010 were transferred to the U.S. Census Bureau's secure servers, where they were assigned PIKs by the PVS.

BOP records for the study population were compared to the BOP release data from 2011 to 2014 to determine whether they had been reimprisoned by the BOP during that time, either for a violation of post-custody community supervision or a new commitment. The BOP records do not include

subsequent arrests or confinement in state or local correctional facilities, or rearrests by federal officials that did not result in reimprisonment by the BOP. Therefore, the reported employment statistics are likely lower than actual employment rates because a number of the persons in the study population assumed to be eligible for employment (the denominator for percentages) were, in fact, unable to be employed due to rearrest or incarceration in local or state correctional facilities.

Age at prison release was calculated as the difference between date of birth and date of release, and the result was rounded down to the nearest whole year. BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau calculated time served in prison as the difference between the date of prison admission and the date of prison release, but did not include in this calculation any time that may have been credited to a person's sentence due to time spent in jail or prison awaiting sentencing.

A person's most serious offense was defined as the offense for which they received the longest BOP sentence. For analysis purposes, BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau divided these offenses into five categories: violent (includes murder, manslaughter, rape or sexual assault, robbery, assault, and other violent offenses); property (burglary, fraud, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson and explosives offenses, forgery, counterfeiting, and other property offenses); drugs (predominantly trafficking, but a small percentage are sentenced for possession); public order (weapons offenses, immigration offenses, tax law violations, regulatory offenses, racketeering and extortion, sexual offenses excluding rape or sexual assault, and other public order offenses); and other or unspecified offenses.

BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau also analyzed BOP data by type of admission: a new commitment from a U.S. district court; a return to federal prison after a probation or parole violation; a felony conviction in the District of Columbia Superior Court, for which the BOP has been the responsible custodian of persons sentenced to prison since December 31, 2001; and other types of admission, including pre-sentencing admission, holding a person for a state or military correctional authority, and detaining persons wanted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the FBI. For persons who entered federal prison on a post-custody supervision violation, the most serious offense was the offense for which they were sentenced when they served the original prison term, not the violation.

**TABLE 10****Percent of persons released from federal prison in 2010, by U.S. citizenship status, Protected Identification Key assignment, and demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	U.S. citizen <sup>a</sup>			Non-U.S. citizen		
	Total	Assigned PIK	Not assigned PIK	Total	Assigned PIK	Not assigned PIK
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>b</sup></b>						
White <sup>c</sup>	100%	99.6%	0.4%	100%	29.5%	70.5%
Black <sup>c</sup>	100%	98.4	1.6	100%	64.1	35.9
Hispanic	100%	98.9	1.1	100%	29.0	71.0
Other <sup>c,d</sup>	100%	96.7	3.3	100%	83.5	16.5
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>						
24 or younger	100%	98.8%	1.2%	100%	15.5%	84.5%
25–34	100%	99.1	0.9	100%	23.3	76.7
35–44	100%	98.9	1.1	100%	35.0	65.0
45–54	100%	98.9	1.1	100%	48.1	51.9
55 or older	100%	98.8	1.2	100%	57.7	42.3
<b>Most serious offense</b>						
Violent	100%	98.0%	2.0%	100%	47.2%	52.8%
Property	:	^	^	100%	38.8	61.2
Drug	100%	98.8	1.2	100%	39.2	60.8
Trafficking	:	^	^	100%	40.1	59.9
Public order	100%	98.9	1.1	100%	27.1	72.9
Immigration offenses	100%	98.7	1.3	100%	25.9	74.1
Other	:	^	^	100%	51.3	48.7
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>						
Less than 1 year	100%	98.8%	1.2%	100%	23.4%	76.6%
1–1.9 years	100%	98.9	1.1	100%	35.7	64.3
2–2.9 years	100%	99.2	0.8	100%	41.6	58.4
3–4.9 years	100%	99.2	0.8	100%	43.3	56.7
5–6.9 years	100%	98.5	1.5	100%	44.2	55.8
7–9.9 years	100%	98.3	1.7	100%	56.5	43.5
10 years or more years	100%	97.0	3.0	100%	63.6	36.4
<b>Type of prison admission</b>						
U.S. district court commitment	100%	99.0%	1.0%	100%	30.4%	69.6%
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>e</sup>	:	^	^	:	^	^
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>f</sup>	100%	98.6	1.4	100%	44.4	55.6
Other <sup>g</sup>	:	^	^	:	^	^

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. Former federal prisoners in certain age at 2010 release from BOP categories and most serious offense groups were combined to prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*. PIK denotes Protected Identification Key.

^Value suppressed to prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.

:Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Includes a small number of persons for whom citizenship data were unknown and who were assumed to be U.S. citizens.

<sup>b</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>d</sup>Persons identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander were combined into this category with persons of other races and persons of multiple races to prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>e</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>f</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>g</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other type of admissions.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, and Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010.

### ***Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics data***

LEHD data are received by the U.S. Census Bureau for each state and include data from the Unemployment Insurance earnings and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data collections. These data provide employment and earnings information for all persons who earned at least \$1 in wages during the prior 3 months. LEHD data for all 50 states are available from 2000 forward and for a subset of states prior to 2000. Due to the time lag in states reporting data to the U.S. Census Bureau, the most recent LEHD data available for this analysis were from calendar year 2015.

All persons in the study population were followed for 16 quarters after the quarter of their release. The LEHD data are collected on standard calendar quarters (January 1 through March 31, April 1 through June 30, July 1 through September 30, and October 1 through December 31), while persons could be released from BOP custody at any time during a quarter. Therefore, the first quarter was designated as the first full standard quarter following the quarter in which the release occurred. For persons released at the beginning of a quarter, this resulted in a follow-up period of almost 17 quarters, including the quarter of release. Employment during the quarter of release was captured if it occurred, but not all released persons were eligible to be employed during some or all of that quarter. To compare post-prison employment to pre-prison employment, BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau looked at LEHD data from the first through fourth, eighth, and twelfth quarters prior to BOP admission. Since some persons in the study population were imprisoned prior to the first year of LEHD data, pre-prison estimates are calculated on the subset of the study population that had not yet been admitted to federal prison. Employment during the quarter of admission was captured if it occurred, but not all admitted persons were eligible to be employed during some or all of that quarter because they had been admitted to federal prison early in the quarter.

Measures extracted from the LEHD data included the number of quarters during which a person was formally employed, even if they were not employed for the entire quarter; the number of jobs, identified by state Employer Identification Numbers; the number of quarters from prison release to the first job; the length of employment in the first job; the number of quarters unemployed during the 16-quarter follow-up period; the duration of longest consecutive employment; the sector of employment as defined by North American Industry Classification system (NAICS) codes; and quarterly earnings.

In the NAICS data, the three closely related sectors with multiple two-digit NAICS codes—Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33), Retail trade (NAICS 44-45), and Transportation and warehousing (NAICS 48-49)—are each combined into a single sector category. Individuals were assigned to the sector of their highest paying job in each quarter. Persons who worked in different sectors in different quarters contributed observations to multiple sector tables. The most common employment sectors for persons released from federal prison in 2010 were—<sup>6</sup>

- Administrative support and waste management and remediation services—Includes office administrative support; employment placement agencies; and facilities support services such as janitorial, maintenance, mail routing, reception, and laundry.
- Accommodation and food services—Includes accommodation of travelers at hotels, motels, inns, casino hotels, recreational vehicle parks, and boarding houses, as well as all food service jobs.
- Construction—Includes residential and nonresidential building construction jobs, as well as remodeling of residential buildings.
- Manufacturing—Includes manufacturing of food for humans and animals, beverages, tobacco products, textiles, apparel, wood products, paper, petroleum and coal products, plastics, rubber, glass, cement, iron, steel and other metals, machinery, computer and communications equipment, semiconductors, electronics, appliances, motor vehicles and other transportation modes, furniture, medical equipment, jewelry, and toys; manufacturing of general, agricultural, pharmaceutical, and cleaning chemicals; printing of books and commercial items; and work in sawmills, foundries, and machine shops.
- Retail trade—Includes jobs at all retail outlets, such as stores for clothing, furniture, appliances, electronics, motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, building supplies, lawn and garden, health and personal care, books and newspapers, sporting goods, general merchandise, and other miscellaneous items; convenience markets; grocery stores; and gasoline stations.
- Health care and social assistance—Includes jobs in the offices of all types of medical doctors, outpatient care centers, medical and diagnostic laboratories, home health care services, ambulance services, blood banks, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, child and youth services,

<sup>6</sup><https://www.census.gov/naics/?58967?yearbck=2017>

community housing, food and emergency services, child day care, and vocational training services.

- Transportation and warehousing—Includes jobs in transportation by air, rail, sea, inland water, pipeline, freight trucking, urban transit services, commuter rail, bus transit, school bus, taxi and limousine services, charter bus, scenic and sightseeing transit services. Also includes transportation support jobs such as logistics planning, packing, towing, and navigational services. Jobs in the postal service, as couriers and messengers, and in warehousing and storage are also included under this sector.
- Wholesale trade—Includes jobs in merchant wholesale of durable goods such as motor vehicle supplies and parts; home furnishings; lumber and construction materials; professional, commercial, and medical equipment; household appliances and electronics; hardware; plumbing and heating; metals and minerals (except petroleum); and other miscellaneous durable goods. Also includes jobs in merchant wholesale of nondurable goods such as paper products, drugs, apparel, groceries, farm product raw materials, chemical products, petroleum products, alcoholic beverages, and other miscellaneous nondurable goods.
- Other services (except public administration)—Includes maintenance and repair of motor vehicles, electronics and precision instruments, commercial and industrial machinery and equipment, and personal and household goods. Also includes provision of services for personal care, including salons, funeral homes, cemeteries, crematoria, laundry and dry cleaning, nonveterinary care of pets, photofinishing, and parking lots. This category also includes jobs in religious, grantmaking, social advocacy, civic, political, and professional organizations; labor unions; and private household operations such as nannies, gardeners, cooks, and maids.

### **Race and ethnicity data**

Where possible, the U.S. Census Bureau substituted self-reported data on race or ethnicity for the BOP administrative records data for persons in the study population. The race and ethnicity data were obtained from household responses to the 2000 and 2010 Decennial Censuses and the 2001 to 2019 American Community Survey data files, and these data were attached to the BOP data using the PIK. As documented in *Profile of Prison Inmates, 2016*, NCJ 255037, BJS, December 2021, administrative records

overestimate the number of non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks and underestimate the number of Hispanics and persons of two or more races. Using self-reported data on race or ethnicity provides a more accurate distribution for these measures.

### **U.S. Census Bureau Numerical Identification File (Numident)**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) compiled the Numident file from all applicants for SSNs since they were first issued in 1936. Each Numident record contains the nine-digit SSN, current full name, full name at birth, other names used, date of birth, place of birth, citizenship status, sex, race or ethnicity, mother's name at birth, father's name, date the record was established, and date of death. These measures can be updated throughout a person's lifespan to reflect changes in marital status, changes to incorrect data, and date of death. Records for individuals born before 1910 may exclude parents' names and other information.<sup>7</sup>

The U.S. Census Bureau's Numident file is created from the SSA's Numident file. It contains information for each person ever issued an SSN and includes name, date of birth, and date of death if available. The U.S. Census Bureau's Numident file is updated with death information from the SSA's Death Master File.

The PVS used probabilistic matching techniques on the U.S. Census Bureau's Numident file to assign PIKs to the BOP records based on the name, sex, and date of birth of persons formerly held in prison. Numident was also used to identify formerly incarcerated persons who died during the study period, from their release in 2010 to 16 quarters post-release (2014).

### **Analysis of linked BOP-LEHD data**

The analysis of the linked BOP and LEHD data removed any person released from federal prison who had a death record in the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau's Numident file indicating they had died between their 2010 BOP release and yearend 2014. Persons released at age 55 or older, persons who served 10 years or more, and persons convicted of violent offenses were more likely to die during that period than other released prisoners (not shown in tables). Also during 2010 to 2014, males died at higher rates than females and non-Hispanic whites died at higher rates than other races or ethnicities. The analysis found that

---

<sup>7</sup>Puckett, C. 2009. The Story of the Social Security Number. Social Security Bulletin, Vol 69, No 2.

a small number of PIKs had duplicate records. The duplicates were removed before the analysis of the linked data.

Once the BOP and LEHD data were linked using the PIK, persons in the study population were followed in the LEHD microdata for a full 16 quarters after their release.

## APPENDIX TABLE 1

### Number of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarter of release or the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics

Characteristic	Persons in study population	Study population employed during quarter of release	Study population employed during quarter after release															
			Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5	Qtr. 6	Qtr. 7	Qtr. 8	Qtr. 9	Qtr. 10	Qtr. 11	Qtr. 12	Qtr. 13	Qtr. 14	Qtr. 15	Qtr. 16
<b>Total</b>	51,500	18,000	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,000	19,000	19,000	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
<b>Sex</b>																		
Male	45,300	15,300	16,700	16,800	16,600	16,500	16,300	16,200	16,000	15,900	15,800	15,700	15,600	15,400	15,300	15,300	15,200	15,300
Female	6,200	2,500	2,800	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,800
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>a</sup></b>																		
White <sup>b</sup>	14,500	6,300	6,700	6,500	6,400	6,300	6,300	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,000	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,700	5,700	5,600	5,600
Black <sup>b</sup>	17,900	5,700	6,400	6,600	6,500	6,400	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,200	6,200	6,200	6,100	6,000	6,000	6,100	6,100	6,200
Hispanic	16,100	4,800	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,200
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	1,400	500	500	500	500	500	400	500	400	500	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	1,100	300	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Other <sup>b,c</sup>	600	200	300	300	300	300	200	200	300	300	300	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
<b>Age at 2010 release from BOP</b>																		
24 or younger	4,000	1,300	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,600
25–34	18,000	6,800	7,600	7,600	7,500	7,500	7,300	7,300	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,000	7,000	6,900	6,900	7,000	7,000
35–44	16,000	5,900	6,300	6,400	6,300	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
45–54	9,500	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,200	3,200	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
55–64	3,200	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
65 or older	800	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Most serious offense</b>																		
Violent	3,600	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Property	7,100	2,300	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Drug	21,200	8,800	9,400	9,400	9,300	9,200	9,100	9,000	9,000	8,900	8,800	8,800	8,700	8,600	8,500	8,400	8,300	8,400
Public order	18,800	5,500	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,000	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,800	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,800
Other	700	200	200	200	200	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	200	300	200	300	200	300
<b>Time served on BOP commitment resulting in 2010 release</b>																		
Less than 1 year	18,800	4,500	5,800	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
1–1.9 years	9,900	3,800	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,500
2–2.9 years	5,900	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
3–4.9 years	7,600	3,400	3,400	3,300	3,300	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
5–6.9 years	3,200	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
7–9.9 years	3,000	1,400	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
10 or more years	1,900	800	800	800	800	800	700	800	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700

Continued on next page

**APPENDIX TABLE 1 (continued)**

**Number of persons in the study population who were employed during the quarter of release or the 16 quarters after release from federal prison in 2010, by demographic and criminal justice characteristics**

Characteristic	Persons in study population	Study population employed during quarter of release	Study population employed during quarter after release															
			Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 5	Qtr. 6	Qtr. 7	Qtr. 8	Qtr. 9	Qtr. 10	Qtr. 11	Qtr. 12	Qtr. 13	Qtr. 14	Qtr. 15	Qtr. 16
<b>Type of prison admission</b>																		
U.S. district court commitment	38,800	15,100	15,900	16,000	15,900	15,700	15,600	15,500	15,300	15,200	15,100	15,000	14,800	14,800	14,600	14,600	14,500	14,500
District of Columbia Superior Court commitment <sup>d</sup>	1,500	200	300	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Post-custody supervision violation <sup>e</sup>	11,000	2,500	3,200	3,200	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000
Other <sup>f</sup>	300	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Reimprisoned by BOP after 2010 release<sup>g</sup></b>																		
No	41,600	14,700	16,000	16,500	16,700	16,700	16,600	16,600	16,500	16,400	16,300	16,100	16,000	15,900	15,600	15,600	15,400	15,400
Yes, at some point from 2010 to 2014	9,900	3,200	3,500	3,200	2,800	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,600

Note: Includes only persons released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) who could be assigned a Protected Identification Key (PIK) by the U.S. Census Bureau. Duplicate PIKs and persons who died between their release in 2010 and December 31, 2014 were removed from the analysis. Quarters are standard 3-month calendar periods, and quarter 1 is the first full quarter after the quarter in which release from federal prison occurred (quarter of release). Details may not sum to totals due to missing observations and rounding. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY21-339). See *Methodology*.

<sup>a</sup>Race and ethnicity data are from self-reported Decennial Census or American Community Survey records when available and from BOP administrative records when self-reported data were unavailable.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of other races and persons of multiple races.

<sup>d</sup>As of December 31, 2001, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia were the responsibility of the BOP.

<sup>e</sup>Includes released prisoners violating terms of probation, parole, or other types of federal post-custody supervision.

<sup>f</sup>Includes persons admitted for hospitalization, detention for other federal law enforcement agencies or military courts martial, commitment for civil contempt, and other types of admissions.

<sup>g</sup>Excludes imprisonment in state correctional facilities, reimprisonment in federal correctional facilities after 2014, rearrest, or incarceration in a local jail.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Program, 2010–2014; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2001–2019, Census Numerical Identification File, 2019, Decennial Census, 2000 and 2010, and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics microdata, 2010–2014.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Doris J. James is the acting director.

This report was written by BJS Statistician E. Ann Carson and Danielle H. Sandler, Renuka Bhaskar, Leticia E. Fernandez, and Sonya R. Porter of the U.S. Census Bureau. Stephanie Mueller and Emily Buehler verified the report.

Eric Hendrixson edited the report. Carrie Epps-Carey produced the report.

December 2021, NCJ 303147



NCJ 303147

Office of Justice Programs  
Building Solutions • Supporting Communities • Advancing Justice  
[www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)