Prior to Incarceration

Incarcerated Adults in the United States:

1 Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number; not all categories are shown.
2 Numbers may sum to more than 100 percent because respondents could select more than one category.

**Recidivism**
In 2014, 73% of incarcerated adults were previously incarcerated.

**Previous Employment**

Prior to their most recent incarceration, nearly half of incarcerated adults were employed full-time.1

- 49% Full-time
- 16% Part-time
- 3% Permanently disabled
- 1% Retired
- 4% Student
- 4% Other
- 19% Unemployed
- 4% Domestic tasks
- 4% Educational scholarship or grant
- 3% Unemployment insurance or workman’s compensation

**Income Sources Prior to Incarceration**

The majority of incarcerated adults made money from paid jobs prior to incarceration.2

- 68% Paid jobs
- 27% Family or friends
- 23% Illegal sources
- 8% Social Security or other pension(s)
- 8% Welfare or charity
- 6% Other
- 4% Educational scholarship or grant
- 3% Unemployment insurance or workman’s compensation

**PAYCHECK**

**EDUCATION POLICY**
Center

at American Institutes for Research

educationpolicy.air.org

Publisher: Katie Landeros | Designer: Susan Armstrong