

NEWS RELEASE



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Technical information: (202) 691-6378 • cpsinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/cps

Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH — SUMMER 2013

From April to July 2013, the number of employed youth 16 to 24 years old increased by 2.1 million to 19.7 million, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This year, the share of young people employed in July was 50.7 percent. (The month of July typically is the summertime peak in youth employment.) Unemployment among youth rose by 692,000 from April to July 2013, compared with an increase of 836,000 for the same period in 2012. (Because this analysis focuses on the seasonal changes in youth employment and unemployment that occur each spring and summer, the data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Labor force

The youth labor force—16- to 24-year-olds working or actively looking for work—grows sharply between April and July each year. During these months, large numbers of high school and college students search for or take summer jobs, and many graduates enter the labor market to look for or begin permanent employment. This summer, the youth labor force grew by 2.8 million, or 13.4 percent, to a total of 23.5 million in July. (See table 1.)

The labor force participation rate for all youth—the proportion of the population 16 to 24 years old working or looking for work—was 60.5 percent in July, the same as a year earlier. Taking a longer-term perspective, the July 2013 participation rate was 17.0 percentage points below the peak rate for that month in 1989 (77.5 percent). (See table 2.)

The July 2013 labor force participation rate for 16- to 24-year-old men was 62.7 percent, and the rate for young women was 58.2 percent; both rates were about the same as a year earlier. For several decades prior to 1989, the July labor force participation rate for young men showed no clear trend, ranging from 81 to 86 percent. Since 1989, however, their July participation rate has declined, falling by about 20 percentage points. The July labor force participation rate for young women peaked in 1989 at 72.4 percent, following a long-term upward trend; their rate has since fallen by about 14 percentage points.

The youth labor force participation rate was highest for whites, at 63.1 percent in July 2013. By contrast, the rate was 53.8 percent for blacks, 46.1 percent for Asians, and 57.8 percent for Hispanics. For all four groups, labor force participation rates were little different from last year.

Employment

In July 2013, 19.7 million 16- to 24-year-olds were employed, about the same as last year. This summer's increase in youth employment—from April to July—was 2.1 million. The employment-population ratio for youth in July 2013—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian noninstitutional population with a job—was 50.7 percent. (See tables 1 and 2.)

In July, the youth employment-population ratios were 51.7 percent for young men, 49.6 percent for young women, 54.3 percent for whites, 38.6 percent for blacks, 39.2 percent for Asians, and 47.4 percent for Hispanics. For all major demographic groups, these ratios showed little change from last year.

In July 2013, 26 percent of employed youth worked in the leisure and hospitality industry (which includes food services), and 19 percent worked in the retail trade industry. Both proportions were unchanged from a year earlier. (See table 3.)

Unemployment

The number of unemployed youth in July 2013 was 3.8 million, compared with 4.0 million a year ago. The youth unemployment rate was 16.3 percent in July 2013. Among the major demographic groups, unemployment rates were lower than a year earlier in July for young women (14.8 percent) and whites (13.9 percent), while jobless rates changed little for young men (17.6 percent), blacks (28.2 percent), Asians (15.0 percent), and Hispanics (18.1 percent). (See table 2.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a national sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data in this release relate to the employment status of youth (16- to 24-year-olds) during the months of April-July. This period was selected as being the most representative time frame in which to measure the full summertime transition from school to work. July is the peak summer month of youth employment.

Beginning in January of each year, data reflect revised population controls used in the CPS. Additional information about population controls is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the true population values they represent. The component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as *sampling error*, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the true population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

More information on the reliability of data from the CPS and estimating standard errors is available online at ww.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in this release are described briefly below.

Employed. Employed persons are all those who, during the survey reference week (which is generally the week including the 12th day of the month), (a) did any work at all as paid employees; (b) worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm; (c) worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family member's business. Persons who were temporarily absent from their jobs because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor dispute, or another reason also are counted as employed.

Unemployed. The unemployed are those who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work at that time, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed. Looking for full-time work refers to 35 hours or more per week; part-time work refers to fewer than 35 hours per week.

Civilian labor force. This group comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Labor force participation rate. The labor force participation rate is the labor force as a percent of the population.

Employment-population ratio. The employment-population ratio is the employed as a percent of the population.

Not in the labor force. Included in this group are all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population who are neither employed nor unemployed.

Industry and class of worker. This information applies to the job held during the reference week. Persons with two or more jobs are classified in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours. Persons are classified using the 2007 Census industry classification system. The class-of-worker breakdown assigns workers to the following categories: Private and government wage and salary workers, unincorporated self-employed workers, and unpaid family workers.

Wage and salary workers. Included in this group are persons who receive wages, salary, commissions, tips, or pay in kind from a private employer or from a government entity.

Self-employed workers. Included in this group are those who work for profit or fees in their own unincorporated business, profession, trade, or farm. Only unincorporated self-employed are included in the self-employed category. Self-employed persons whose businesses are incorporated are included with private wage and salary workers.

Unpaid family workers. Included in this group are persons working without pay for 15 hours a week or more on a farm or in a business operated by a family member in their household.

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, April-July 2013
[Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and	April	Mov	June	July	April-July	changes
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Арііі	May	Julie	July	Number	Percent
TOTAL						
Civilian noninstitutional population	38,857	38,858	38,858	38,861	4	0.0
Civilian labor force	20,721	21,181	23,322	23,506	2,785	13.4
Participation rate	53.3	54.5	60.0	60.5	7.2	13.5
Employed	17,593	17,704	19,125	19,684	2,091	11.9
Employment-population ratio	45.3	45.6	49.2	50.7	5.4	11.9
Unemployed	3,129	3,478	4,198	3,821	692	22.1
Looking for full-time work	2,157	2,524	3,173	2,819	662	30.7
Looking for part-time work	972	954	1,025	1,002	30	3.1
Unemployment rate	15.1	16.4	18.0	16.3	1.2	7.9
Not in labor force.	18,136	17,677	15,536	15,355	-2,781	-15.3
Men	10,130	17,077	15,550	15,555	-2,701	-15.5
Civilian noninstitutional population	19,584	19,584	19,585	19,587	3	0.0
Civilian labor force	10,596	11,023	12,179	12,283	1,687	15.9
Participation rate	54.1	56.3	62.2	62.7	8.6	15.9
Employed.	8,863	9,051	9,752	10.127	1,264	14.3
Employment-population ratio	45.3	46.2	49.8	51.7	6.4	14.3
Unemployed.	1,732	1,972	2,427	2,156	424	24.5
Looking for full-time work	1,263	1,486	1,902	1,665	402	31.8
Looking for part-time work	470	486	525	491	21	4.5
Unemployment rate	16.3	17.9	19.9	17.6	1.3	8.0
Not in labor force	8,988	8,561	7,405	7,303	-1,685	-18.7
Women Civilian population population	10.274	10.272	10.272	10.274	0	0.0
Civilian noninstitutional population	19,274	19,273	19,273	19,274	0	0.0
Civilian labor force	10,126	10,158	11,143	11,223	1,097	10.8
Participation rate	52.5	52.7	57.8	58.2	5.7	10.9
Employed	8,729	8,652	9,372	9,557	828	9.5
Employment-population ratio	45.3	44.9	48.6	49.6	4.3	9.5
Unemployed	1,396	1,505	1,771	1,665	269	19.3
Looking for full-time work	894	1,038	1,271	1,154	260	29.1
Looking for part-time work	502	468	500	511	9	1.8
Unemployment rate	13.8	14.8	15.9	14.8	1.0	7.2
Not in labor force	9,148	9,116	8,130	8,052	-1,096	-12.0
White	00.070	00.074	00.000	00.000	40	0.0
Civilian noninstitutional population	28,879	28,874	28,869	28,866	-13	0.0
Civilian labor force	16,093	16,527	18,005	18,205	2,112	13.1
Participation rate	55.7	57.2	62.4	63.1	7.4	13.3
Employed	13,938	14,124	15,258	15,679	1,741	12.5
Employment-population ratio	48.3	48.9	52.9	54.3	6.0	12.4
Unemployed	2,155	2,403	2,747	2,525	370	17.2
Looking for full-time work	1,424	1,618	1,974	1,814	390	27.4
Looking for part-time work	732	785	773	711	-21	-2.9
Unemployment rate	13.4	14.5	15.3	13.9	0.5	3.7
Not in labor force	12,785	12,346	10,863	10,661	-2,124	-16.6
Black or African American						
Civilian noninstitutional population	5,996	5,996	5,996	5,997	1	0.0
Civilian labor force	2,901	2,960	3,231	3,225	324	11.2
Participation rate	48.4	49.4	53.9	53.8	5.4	11.2
Employed	2,178	2,127	2,200	2,315	137	6.3
Employment-population ratio	36.3	35.5	36.7	38.6	2.3	6.3
Unemployed	722	834	1,031	910	188	26.0
Looking for full-time work	553	715	871	771	218	39.4
	170	119	159	139	-31	-18.2
Looking for part-time work						
Looking for part-time work Unemployment rate	24.9	28.2	31.9	28.2	3.3	13.3

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, April-July 2013 — Continued

[Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and	April	May	June	July	April-July changes	
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Aprii	iviay	Julie	July	Number	Percent
Asian						
Civilian noninstitutional population	2,042	2,069	2,014	2,028	-14	-0.7
Civilian labor force	834	768	935	934	100	12.0
Participation rate	40.8	37.1	46.4	46.1	5.3	13.0
Employed	737	693	795	794	57	7.7
Employment-population ratio	36.1	33.5	39.5	39.2	3.1	8.6
Unemployed	97	75	140	140	43	44.3
Looking for full-time work	77	60	107	81	4	5.2
Looking for part-time work	19	15	33	59	40	210.5
Unemployment rate	11.6	9.8	14.9	15.0	3.4	29.3
Not in labor force	1,208	1,301	1,079	1,094	-114	-9.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
Civilian noninstitutional population	8,198	8,208	8,218	8,229	31	0.4
Civilian labor force	4,322	4,356	4,638	4,756	434	10.0
Participation rate	52.7	53.1	56.4	57.8	5.1	9.7
Employed	3,603	3,635	3,823	3,897	294	8.2
Employment-population ratio	43.9	44.3	46.5	47.4	3.5	8.0
Unemployed	719	721	815	859	140	19.5
Looking for full-time work	476	467	594	622	146	30.7
Looking for part-time work	243	254	221	238	-5	-2.1
Unemployment rate	16.6	16.6	17.6	18.1	1.5	9.0
Not in labor force	3,876	3,852	3,580	3,473	-403	-10.4

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2010-2013
[Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2010	July 2011	July 2012	July 2013
TOTAL				
Civilian noninstitutional population	37,944	38,196	38,799	38,861
Civilian labor force	22,938	22,742	23,472	23,506
Participation rate	60.5	59.5	60.5	60.5
Employed	18,564	18,632	19,461	19,684
Employment-population ratio	48.9	48.8	50.2	50.7
Unemployed	4,374	4,110	4,011	3,821
Looking for full-time work	3,374	3,238	3,074	2,819
Looking for part-time work	1,000	872	937	1,002
Unemployment rate	19.1	18.1	17.1	16.3
Not in labor force	15,006	15,454	15,327	15,355
Men				
Civilian noninstitutional population.	19,126	19,425	19,554	19,587
Civilian labor force	11,997	11,930	12,355	12,283
Participation rate	62.7	61.4	63.2	62.7
Employed	9,537	9,746	10,140	10,127
Employment-population ratio.	49.9	50.2	51.9	51.7
Unemployed.	2,460	2,184	2,215	2,156
Looking for full-time work.	1,949	1,809	1,785	1,665
Looking for part-time work	510	375	430	491
Unemployment rate	20.5	18.3	17.9	17.6
Not in labor force.	7,129	7,494	7,199	7,303
Women	7,129	7,494	7,199	7,303
Civilian noninstitutional population	18,819	18,772	19,245	19,274
Civilian labor force	10,942	10,812	11,117	11,223
Participation rate	58.1	57.6	57.8	58.2
Employed.	9,027	8,886	9,321	9,557
Employment-population ratio.	48.0	47.3	48.4	49.6
Unemployed	1,914	1,926	1,796	1,665
Looking for full-time work.	1,425	1,428	1,289	1,154
Looking for part-time work	489	497	507	511
Unemployment rate	17.5	17.8	16.2	14.8
Not in labor force.	7,877	7,960	8,128	8,052
White	7,077	7,500	0,120	0,002
Civilian noninstitutional population.	29,164	29,377	28,956	28,866
Civilian labor force.	18,441	18,266	18,213	18,205
Participation rate	63.2	62.2	62.9	63.1
Employed	15,455	15,367	15,498	15,679
Employment-population ratio.	53.0	52.3	53.5	54.3
Unemployed	2,987	2,899	2,715	2,525
Looking for full-time work.	2,253	2,203	2,019	1,814
Looking for part-time work	733	696	696	711
Unemployment rate.	16.2	15.9	14.9	13.9
Not in labor force	10,722	11,111	10,743	10,661
Black or African American				
Civilian noninstitutional population	5,756	5,763	5,971	5,997
Civilian labor force	2,972	2,893	3,256	3,225
Participation rate	51.6	50.2	54.5	53.8
Employed	1,980	1,996	2,323	2,315
Employment-population ratio	34.4	34.6	38.9	38.6
Unemployed	992	897	933	910
Looking for full-time work	843	778	783	771
Looking for part-time work	149	118	150	139
Unemployment rate	33.4	31.0	28.6	28.2
Not in labor force.	2,783	2,870	2,715	2,772
	2,700	2,070	2,110	2,112

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2010-2013 — Continued

[Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

1,576 762 48.3 597 37.9	1,573 753 47.9	1,922 839	2,028
762 48.3 597	753	839	7
48.3 597			
597	47.9		934
		43.7	46.1
27.0	638	718	794
37.9	40.5	37.4	39.2
165	115	121	140
122	97	83	81
42	18	38	59
21.6	15.3	14.4	15.0
814	820	1,083	1,094
7,128	7,605	8,164	8,229
3,995	4,080	4,658	4,756
56.1	53.6	57.1	57.8
3,111	3,260	3,799	3,897
43.6	42.9	46.5	47.4
884	820	860	859
703	646	698	622
181	174	162	238
22.1	20.1	18.5	18.1
3,133			
	21.6 814 7,128 3,995 56.1 3,111 43.6 884 703 181	21.6 15.3 814 820 7,128 7,605 3,995 4,080 56.1 53.6 3,111 3,260 43.6 42.9 884 820 703 646 181 174	21.6 15.3 14.4 814 820 1,083 7,128 7,605 8,164 3,995 4,080 4,658 56.1 53.6 57.1 3,111 3,260 3,799 43.6 42.9 46.5 884 820 860 703 646 698 181 174 162

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

Table 3. Employed persons 16 to 24 years of age by industry, class of worker, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2012-2013

[Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Industry and class of worker	Total		White		Black or African American		Asian		Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	
industry and class of worker	July 2012	July 2013	July 2012	July 2013	July 2012	July 2013	July 2012	July 2013	July 2012	July 2013
Total employed	19,461	19,684	15,498	15,679	2,323	2,315	718	794	3,799	3,897
Agriculture and related industries	419	355	392	331	4	8	1	1	90	77
Nonagricultural industries	19,043	19,330	15,106	15,348	2,319	2,307	717	793	3,709	3,820
Private wage and salary workers ¹	17,318	17,740	13,724	14,062	2,129	2,134	663	742	3,421	3,580
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	128	137	119	130	3	0	2	1	25	39
Construction	771	868	697	799	30	36	13	7	265	268
Manufacturing	1,278	1,306	1,047	1,033	121	138	51	92	292	240
Durable goods	776	826	640	643	66	88	37	60	126	127
Nondurable goods	502	480	407	390	56	50	14	32	166	113
Wholesale trade	319	339	296	279	12	34	5	9	92	85
Retail trade	3,772	3,756	2,856	2,853	599	558	136	155	636	765
Transportation and utilities	440	486	362	336	41	90	19	11	102	125
Information	340	317	257	257	50	38	15	18	51	44
Financial activities	696	649	576	513	52	80	40	33	135	130
Professional and business services	1,380	1,566	1,077	1,281	186	148	56	75	329	295
Education and health services	2,231	2,235	1,658	1,705	318	328	134	117	376	419
Leisure and hospitality	5,092	5,078	4,053	4,032	627	599	177	194	995	967
Other services	870	1,003	726	844	89	84	15	29	124	204
Government wage and salary workers	1,298	1,254	1,028	1,005	150	149	46	43	216	154
Federal	166	151	131	107	27	22	7	8	32	9
State	370	473	270	371	30	55	26	23	45	50
Local	762	630	628	527	93	72	13	11	139	95
Self-employed, unincorporated, and unpaid family workers	427	336	354	281	41	24	8	8	71	86

¹ Includes self-employed workers whose businesses are incorporated.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.