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## **EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH — SUMMER 2017**

From April to July 2017, the number of employed youth 16 to 24 years old increased by 1.9 million to 20.9 million, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This year, 54.8 percent of young people were employed in July, up by 1.6 percentage points from a year earlier. (The month of July typically is the summertime peak in youth employment.) The unemployment rate for youth was 9.6 percent in July, down by 1.9 percentage points from July 2016. (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 2.4 million, or 11.6 percent, to a total of 23.1 million in July. (See table 1.)

The labor force participation rate for all youth was 60.6 percent in July, little different from a year earlier. (The labor force participation rate is the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population that is working or looking and available for work.) (See table 2.) The summer labor force participation rate of youth has held fairly steady since July 2010, after trending downward for the prior two decades. The summer youth labor force participation rate peaked at 77.5 percent in July 1989.

The July 2017 labor force participation rate for 16- to 24-year-old men, at 62.3 percent, continued to be higher than the rate for young women, at 58.8 percent. The rate for young women edged up from last July, while the rate for young men was essentially unchanged. Whites had the highest youth labor force participation rate in July 2017 at 62.1 percent. The rate was 55.9 percent for Blacks, 47.4 percent for Asians, and 56.6 percent for Hispanics. The rate for Asians increased by 4.3 percentage points from last July, while the rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics showed little change.

## **Employment**

In July 2017, there were 20.9 million employed 16- to 24-year-olds, slightly higher than the summer before. Between April and July 2017, the number of employed youth rose by 1.9 million, in line with the change between April and July 2016. The employment-population ratio for youth—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian noninstitutional population with a job—was 54.8 percent in July 2017, an increase of 1.6 percentage points from the prior year. (See tables 1 and 2.)

The July 2017 employment-population ratios for young women (53.4 percent), Blacks (46.9 percent), and Asians (42.7 percent) increased over the year. The ratio for young men edged up to 56.1 percent. The ratios for young Whites (57.2 percent) and Hispanics (50.9 percent) were little different from the summer before.

In July 2017, the largest percentage of employed youth worked in the leisure and hospitality industry (26 percent), which includes food services. An additional 19 percent of employed youth worked in the retail trade industry, and 12 percent worked in education and health services. (See table 3.)

## **Unemployment**

Unemployment among youth rose by 458,000 from April to July 2017, compared with an increase of 611,000 for the same period in 2016.

In July 2017, the youth unemployment rate, at 9.6 percent, was 1.9 percentage points lower than last July. This represents the lowest summer youth unemployment rate since July 2000. The number of unemployed youth, at 2.2 million in July 2017, declined by 431,000 from a year earlier. Of the 2.2 million unemployed 16- to 24-year-olds, 1.6 million were looking for full-time work in July 2017, down 305,000 from July 2016. (See tables 1 and 2.)

In July 2017, the unemployment rates for both young men (10.1 percent) and women (9.1 percent) were lower than the summer before. The July 2017 rates for young Whites (8.0 percent) and Blacks (16.2 percent) declined over the year, while the rates for young Asians (9.9 percent) and Hispanics (10.1 percent) showed little change. (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](http://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 [www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability](http://www.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 2012 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 2017**  
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	April	May	June	July	April-July changes	
					Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL</b>						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	38,197	38,181	38,166	38,152	-45	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	20,708	20,899	22,720	23,107	2,399	11.6
Participation rate.....	54.2	54.7	59.5	60.6	6.4	11.8
Employed.....	18,948	19,070	20,330	20,890	1,942	10.2
Employment-population ratio.....	49.6	49.9	53.3	54.8	5.2	10.5
Unemployed.....	1,759	1,829	2,389	2,217	458	26.0
Looking for full-time work.....	1,098	1,253	1,748	1,607	509	46.4
Looking for part-time work.....	662	576	641	610	-52	-7.9
Unemployment rate.....	8.5	8.8	10.5	9.6	1.1	12.9
Not in labor force.....	17,489	17,282	15,447	15,045	-2,444	-14.0
<b>Men</b>						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,247	19,237	19,228	19,219	-28	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	10,647	10,840	11,785	11,983	1,336	12.5
Participation rate.....	55.3	56.3	61.3	62.3	7.0	12.7
Employed.....	9,633	9,790	10,447	10,773	1,140	11.8
Employment-population ratio.....	50.0	50.9	54.3	56.1	6.1	12.2
Unemployed.....	1,014	1,050	1,338	1,210	196	19.3
Looking for full-time work.....	700	755	1,028	944	244	34.9
Looking for part-time work.....	315	295	309	266	-49	-15.6
Unemployment rate.....	9.5	9.7	11.4	10.1	0.6	6.3
Not in labor force.....	8,600	8,397	7,444	7,236	-1,364	-15.9
<b>Women</b>						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	18,950	18,943	18,938	18,932	-18	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	10,060	10,059	10,935	11,124	1,064	10.6
Participation rate.....	53.1	53.1	57.7	58.8	5.7	10.7
Employed.....	9,315	9,281	9,883	10,117	802	8.6
Employment-population ratio.....	49.2	49.0	52.2	53.4	4.2	8.5
Unemployed.....	745	778	1,051	1,007	262	35.2
Looking for full-time work.....	398	498	720	663	265	66.6
Looking for part-time work.....	347	281	332	344	-3	-0.9
Unemployment rate.....	7.4	7.7	9.6	9.1	1.7	23.0
Not in labor force.....	8,889	8,884	8,003	7,808	-1,081	-12.2
<b>White</b>						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	28,085	28,068	28,053	28,038	-47	-0.2
Civilian labor force.....	15,708	15,773	17,218	17,423	1,715	10.9
Participation rate.....	55.9	56.2	61.4	62.1	6.2	11.1
Employed.....	14,527	14,601	15,610	16,031	1,504	10.4
Employment-population ratio.....	51.7	52.0	55.6	57.2	5.5	10.6
Unemployed.....	1,181	1,172	1,608	1,392	211	17.9
Looking for full-time work.....	734	808	1,163	974	240	32.7
Looking for part-time work.....	447	364	446	418	-29	-6.5
Unemployment rate.....	7.5	7.4	9.3	8.0	0.5	6.7
Not in labor force.....	12,377	12,295	10,835	10,615	-1,762	-14.2
<b>Black or African American</b>						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,769	5,762	5,756	5,749	-20	-0.3
Civilian labor force.....	2,953	3,033	3,170	3,214	261	8.8
Participation rate.....	51.2	52.6	55.1	55.9	4.7	9.2
Employed.....	2,542	2,589	2,673	2,694	152	6.0
Employment-population ratio.....	44.1	44.9	46.4	46.9	2.8	6.3
Unemployed.....	411	444	497	520	109	26.5
Looking for full-time work.....	282	314	386	412	130	46.1
Looking for part-time work.....	129	130	112	108	-21	-16.3
Unemployment rate.....	13.9	14.6	15.7	16.2	2.3	16.5
Not in labor force.....	2,816	2,729	2,586	2,535	-281	-10.0

**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 2017 — Continued**  
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	April	May	June	July	April-July changes	
					Number	Percent
<b>Asian</b>						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	2,262	2,249	2,248	2,208	-54	-2.4
Civilian labor force.....	881	909	973	1,047	166	18.8
Participation rate.....	38.9	40.4	43.3	47.4	8.5	21.9
Employed.....	813	844	860	944	131	16.1
Employment-population ratio.....	35.9	37.5	38.2	42.7	6.8	18.9
Unemployed.....	68	65	114	103	35	51.5
Looking for full-time work.....	39	28	70	70	31	79.5
Looking for part-time work.....	30	38	44	33	3	10.0
Unemployment rate.....	7.8	7.2	11.7	9.9	2.1	26.9
Not in labor force.....	1,381	1,340	1,275	1,162	-219	-15.9
<b>Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	8,512	8,520	8,527	8,535	23	0.3
Civilian labor force.....	4,440	4,561	4,676	4,835	395	8.9
Participation rate.....	52.2	53.5	54.8	56.6	4.4	8.4
Employed.....	4,066	4,188	4,198	4,347	281	6.9
Employment-population ratio.....	47.8	49.2	49.2	50.9	3.1	6.5
Unemployed.....	374	373	478	488	114	30.5
Looking for full-time work.....	225	258	358	353	128	56.9
Looking for part-time work.....	149	115	120	135	-14	-9.4
Unemployment rate.....	8.4	8.2	10.2	10.1	1.7	20.2
Not in labor force.....	4,073	3,959	3,851	3,700	-373	-9.2

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 2014-2017**  
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017
<b>TOTAL</b>				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	38,735	38,589	38,450	38,152
Civilian labor force.....	23,437	23,162	23,104	23,107
Participation rate.....	60.5	60.0	60.1	60.6
Employed.....	20,085	20,333	20,456	20,890
Employment-population ratio.....	51.9	52.7	53.2	54.8
Unemployed.....	3,353	2,829	2,648	2,217
Looking for full-time work.....	2,460	2,134	1,912	1,607
Looking for part-time work.....	893	695	736	610
Unemployment rate.....	14.3	12.2	11.5	9.6
Not in labor force.....	15,298	15,426	15,346	15,045
<b>Men</b>				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,527	19,442	19,380	19,219
Civilian labor force.....	12,335	12,011	12,094	11,983
Participation rate.....	63.2	61.8	62.4	62.3
Employed.....	10,470	10,488	10,638	10,773
Employment-population ratio.....	53.6	53.9	54.9	56.1
Unemployed.....	1,865	1,523	1,455	1,210
Looking for full-time work.....	1,437	1,195	1,169	944
Looking for part-time work.....	428	328	286	266
Unemployment rate.....	15.1	12.7	12.0	10.1
Not in labor force.....	7,191	7,431	7,287	7,236
<b>Women</b>				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,208	19,147	19,069	18,932
Civilian labor force.....	11,102	11,151	11,010	11,124
Participation rate.....	57.8	58.2	57.7	58.8
Employed.....	9,614	9,846	9,818	10,117
Employment-population ratio.....	50.1	51.4	51.5	53.4
Unemployed.....	1,488	1,306	1,193	1,007
Looking for full-time work.....	1,023	939	743	663
Looking for part-time work.....	465	367	450	344
Unemployment rate.....	13.4	11.7	10.8	9.1
Not in labor force.....	8,106	7,996	8,059	7,808
<b>White</b>				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	28,718	28,488	28,297	28,038
Civilian labor force.....	18,137	17,735	17,734	17,423
Participation rate.....	63.2	62.3	62.7	62.1
Employed.....	15,917	15,903	15,981	16,031
Employment-population ratio.....	55.4	55.8	56.5	57.2
Unemployed.....	2,220	1,832	1,754	1,392
Looking for full-time work.....	1,612	1,308	1,222	974
Looking for part-time work.....	607	524	532	418
Unemployment rate.....	12.2	10.3	9.9	8.0
Not in labor force.....	10,581	10,754	10,562	10,615
<b>Black or African American</b>				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,973	5,916	5,850	5,749
Civilian labor force.....	3,160	3,337	3,149	3,214
Participation rate.....	52.9	56.4	53.8	55.9
Employed.....	2,376	2,645	2,499	2,694
Employment-population ratio.....	39.8	44.7	42.7	46.9
Unemployed.....	784	691	650	520
Looking for full-time work.....	591	604	533	412
Looking for part-time work.....	192	87	117	108
Unemployment rate.....	24.8	20.7	20.6	16.2
Not in labor force.....	2,813	2,580	2,701	2,535

**Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2014-2017 — Continued**  
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017
<b>Asian</b>				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	2,044	2,148	2,212	2,208
Civilian labor force.....	936	957	954	1,047
Participation rate.....	45.8	44.6	43.1	47.4
Employed.....	834	855	859	944
Employment-population ratio.....	40.8	39.8	38.8	42.7
Unemployed.....	102	102	95	103
Looking for full-time work.....	70	68	65	70
Looking for part-time work.....	32	34	30	33
Unemployment rate.....	10.9	10.7	10.0	9.9
Not in labor force.....	1,109	1,191	1,258	1,162
<b>Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	8,313	8,406	8,497	8,535
Civilian labor force.....	4,675	4,728	4,776	4,835
Participation rate.....	56.2	56.2	56.2	56.6
Employed.....	3,903	4,127	4,235	4,347
Employment-population ratio.....	47.0	49.1	49.8	50.9
Unemployed.....	772	601	540	488
Looking for full-time work.....	560	458	385	353
Looking for part-time work.....	212	143	155	135
Unemployment rate.....	16.5	12.7	11.3	10.1
Not in labor force.....	3,637	3,679	3,721	3,700

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 2016-2017**

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

Industry and class of worker	Total		White		Black or African American		Asian		Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	
	July 2016	July 2017	July 2016	July 2017	July 2016	July 2017	July 2016	July 2017	July 2016	July 2017
Total employed.....	20,456	20,890	15,981	16,031	2,499	2,694	859	944	4,235	4,347
Agriculture and related industries.....	320	336	302	306	5	14	4	3	74	105
Nonagricultural industries.....	20,136	20,555	15,678	15,724	2,493	2,680	855	940	4,162	4,242
Private wage and salary workers <sup>1</sup> .....	18,359	18,794	14,314	14,395	2,245	2,449	774	862	3,893	3,992
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	39	32	25	26	13	0	0	0	15	3
Construction.....	991	1,061	934	965	24	44	8	9	304	368
Manufacturing.....	1,408	1,361	1,092	1,062	172	161	71	72	261	273
Durable goods.....	792	820	653	683	75	83	41	37	136	140
Nondurable goods.....	616	540	439	380	97	79	30	35	124	134
Wholesale trade.....	252	290	209	236	20	28	4	15	58	70
Retail trade.....	3,756	3,978	2,871	2,996	500	570	173	190	781	907
Transportation and utilities.....	434	595	278	380	100	157	30	17	81	144
Information.....	278	305	237	199	20	46	20	31	59	57
Financial activities.....	762	721	581	556	78	89	57	36	145	115
Professional and business services...	1,690	1,724	1,324	1,328	189	217	99	96	399	317
Education and health services.....	2,607	2,466	1,951	1,848	391	379	133	108	497	442
Leisure and hospitality.....	5,213	5,403	4,072	4,107	638	680	138	242	1,104	1,141
Other services.....	929	858	741	691	98	78	40	46	190	155
Government wage and salary workers.....	1,395	1,491	1,042	1,096	221	210	68	72	177	213
Federal.....	158	194	112	107	23	45	14	20	8	24
State.....	510	541	366	392	82	67	36	31	58	71
Local.....	728	756	563	597	116	98	18	20	111	118
Self-employed, unincorporated, and unpaid family workers.....	382	270	322	233	28	21	14	6	91	37

<sup>1</sup> 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.