



Technical information: (202) 691-6378
<http://www.bls.gov/cps/>

USDL 07-0604

For release: 10:00 A.M. EDT
Thursday, April 26, 2007

Media contact: 691-5902

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND WORK ACTIVITY OF 2006 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

In October 2006, 65.8 percent of high school graduates from the class of 2006 were enrolled in colleges or universities, according to data released today by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Since 2001, the college enrollment rate for recent high school graduates has been trending upward.

Information on school enrollment and work activity is collected monthly in the Current Population Survey (CPS). Each October, a supplement to the basic CPS gathers more detailed information on full-time and part-time enrollment status, level of education, and enrollment status a year earlier. The CPS is a monthly nationwide survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment, unemployment, earnings, demographics, and other characteristics of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. Additional information about the October supplement is included in the Technical Note.

Recent High School Graduates and Dropouts

Of the 2.5 million youth who graduated from high school between October 2005 and October 2006, 1.6 million (65.8 percent) were attending college in October 2006. The college enrollment rate of young women, 66.0 percent, was about the same as that of young men, 65.5 percent. Asians were considerably more likely than whites, blacks, and Hispanics to be enrolled in college in the fall following their high school graduation.

Among recent high school graduates enrolled in college, 92.3 percent were full-time students. Of these full-time students, 40.8 percent were in the labor force, either working or looking for work, in October 2006. In contrast, 81.0 percent of part-time college students participated in the labor force.

More than 6 in 10 recent high school graduates who were enrolled in college attended 4-year institutions. The labor force participation rate for these students was 35.0 percent, and their unemployment rate was 5.5 percent. In contrast, 58.8 percent of recent high school graduates enrolled in 2-year institutions were in the labor force, and their unemployment rate was 11.5 percent. (See table 1.)

Recent high school graduates who were not enrolled in college in the fall of 2006 were more likely than enrolled graduates to be in the labor force (76.4 versus 43.9 percent). The unemployment rate for those not enrolled in college was 25.0 percent in October 2006, compared with 8.5 percent for their counterparts who were enrolled in college (either 2- or 4-year institutions).

Between October 2005 and October 2006, about 444,000 young people dropped out of high school. The labor force participation rate for these dropouts (51.4 percent) was considerably lower than the partici-

pation rate for recent high school graduates who had not enrolled in college (76.4 percent). The unemployment rate for recent high school dropouts (23.1 percent) was about the same as that for recent high school graduates who were not enrolled in college (25.0 percent). Among recent high school dropouts, young men were more likely than young women to be participating in the labor force in October 2006 (56.0 and 45.1 percent, respectively).

Youth Enrolled in School

In October 2006, 20.8 million 16- to 24-year olds were either enrolled in high school (10.3 million) or college (10.5 million). Among high school students, 31.4 percent were engaged in some form of labor force activity in October. Among college students, 49.4 percent of those who were enrolled full time also participated in the labor force, while 85.8 percent of part-time college students were in the labor force. (See table 2.)

Overall, the unemployment rate for high school students (14.5 percent) was higher than for college students (5.7 percent). Unemployment rates for black (23.5 percent) and Hispanic (19.3 percent) high school students continued to be higher than for whites (12.2 percent). Among college students, blacks had the highest unemployment rate (11.2 percent), while Hispanic and white college students had rates that were about equal (5.4 and 5.3 percent, respectively).

Out-of-School Youth

Of the 16.3 million 16- to 24-year olds not enrolled in school in October 2006, 81.8 percent were in the labor force. Among youth not in school, men were more likely than women to be in the labor force, 87.9 percent compared with 75.1 percent. The difference was greatest among those with less than a high school diploma and diminished with more education. (See table 2.)

Unemployment rates for youth not in school were lower among those with higher education levels. The unemployment rates for youths who had college degrees were 7.6 percent for men and 5.0 percent for women. In contrast, youths without a high school diploma who were not enrolled in school had unemployment rates of 12.6 percent for men and 25.9 percent for women.

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from a supplement to the October 2006 Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of about 60,000 households which provides information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment for the nation. The survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data relate to the school enrollment status of persons 16 to 24 years of age in the civilian noninstitutional population in the calendar week that includes the 12th of the month. Data reflect revised population controls for the Current Population Survey introduced in January 2006.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

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 exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this 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 infor-

mation, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the “Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error” section of *Employment and Earnings*.

Concepts

The principal concepts used in connection with the school enrollment series are described briefly below.

School enrollment. Respondents were asked whether they were currently enrolled in a regular school, including day or night school in any type of public, parochial, or other private school. Regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward a high school diploma or a college, university, or professional degree. Such schools include elementary schools, junior or senior high schools, and colleges and universities. Other schooling, including trade schools; on-the-job training; and courses that do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, is included only if the credits granted count towards promotion in regular school.

Full-time and part-time enrollment in college. College students are classified as attending full time if they were taking 12 hours of classes or more (or 9 hours of graduate classes) during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours.

High school graduation status. Persons who were not enrolled in school at the time of the survey were asked whether they had graduated from high school. Those who had graduated were asked when they completed their high school education. Persons who had not graduated, that is, school dropouts, were asked when they last attended a regular school. Those who were enrolled in college at the time of the survey also were asked when they graduated from high school.

Table 1. Labor force status of 2006 high school graduates and 2005-06 high school dropouts 16 to 24 years old by school enrollment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, October 2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Number	Rate	
Total, 2006 high school graduates ¹	2,495	1,372	55.0	1,148	46.0	224	16.4	1,123
Men	1,251	657	52.5	534	42.7	122	18.7	595
Women	1,243	716	57.5	614	49.3	102	14.2	528
White	1,987	1,144	57.6	977	49.2	166	14.5	843
Black or African American	309	150	48.7	97	31.4	53	35.6	158
Asian	125	45	35.9	43	34.7	2	(²)	80
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	353	199	56.4	171	48.5	28	13.9	154
Enrolled in college	1,641	720	43.9	659	40.2	61	8.5	921
Enrolled in 2-year college	612	360	58.8	318	52.1	41	11.5	252
Enrolled in 4-year college	1,029	360	35.0	340	33.1	20	5.5	669
Full-time students	1,514	617	40.8	569	37.6	48	7.7	897
Part-time students	127	102	81.0	89	70.5	13	12.9	24
Men	820	316	38.5	287	34.9	30	9.3	504
Women	820	404	49.2	372	45.4	31	7.8	416
White	1,322	605	45.7	563	42.5	42	6.9	718
Black or African American	170	64	37.9	49	28.7	16	(²)	105
Asian	103	33	31.7	32	30.7	1	(²)	70
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	206	92	44.6	82	40.0	9	10.1	114
Not enrolled in college	854	652	76.4	489	57.2	163	25.0	202
Men	431	341	79.0	248	57.5	93	27.3	90
Women	423	312	73.7	241	57.0	70	22.6	111
White	664	539	81.2	415	62.4	124	23.1	125
Black or African American	139	86	61.9	48	34.7	38	44.0	53
Asian	22	12	(²)	12	(²)	1	(²)	10
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	147	107	72.9	89	60.4	18	17.2	40
Total, 2005-06 high school dropouts ³	444	228	51.4	176	39.5	53	23.1	216
Men	257	144	56.0	117	45.5	27	18.9	113
Women	187	85	45.1	59	31.4	26	30.4	103
White	334	178	53.2	144	43.0	34	19.2	156
Black or African American	79	36	45.6	21	26.8	15	(²)	43
Asian	19	8	(²)	8	(²)	-	(²)	11
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	137	64	47.1	47	34.4	17	(²)	72

¹ Data refer to persons who graduated from high school between October 2005 and October 2006.

² Data not shown where base is less than 75,000.

³ Data refer to persons who dropped out of school between October 2005 and October 2006.

NOTE: Detail 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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals. Dash represents or rounds to zero. Data reflect revised population controls for the Current Population Survey introduced in January 2006.

Table 2. Labor force status of persons 16 to 24 years old by school enrollment, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, October 2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Number	Rate	
Total, 16 to 24 years	37,047	22,300	60.2	20,016	54.0	2,285	10.2	14,746
Enrolled in school	20,797	9,001	43.3	8,204	39.4	797	8.9	11,796
Enrolled in high school ¹	10,315	3,235	31.4	2,767	26.8	468	14.5	7,080
Men	5,283	1,587	30.0	1,343	25.4	244	15.4	3,696
Women	5,032	1,648	32.7	1,424	28.3	224	13.6	3,384
White	7,807	2,639	33.8	2,318	29.7	321	12.2	5,168
Black or African American	1,724	419	24.3	321	18.6	99	23.5	1,305
Asian	341	55	16.1	48	14.0	7	(²)	286
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	1,720	342	19.9	276	16.1	66	19.3	1,377
Enrolled in college	10,482	5,766	55.0	5,437	51.9	329	5.7	4,716
Enrolled in 2-year college	2,705	1,753	64.8	1,636	60.5	117	6.7	952
Enrolled in 4-year college	7,777	4,013	51.6	3,801	48.9	212	5.3	3,764
Full-time students	8,869	4,382	49.4	4,129	46.6	253	5.8	4,487
Part-time students	1,613	1,384	85.8	1,308	81.1	75	5.4	230
Men	4,859	2,586	53.2	2,424	49.9	163	6.3	2,273
Women	5,623	3,179	56.5	3,013	53.6	166	5.2	2,444
White	8,190	4,650	56.8	4,405	53.8	245	5.3	3,540
Black or African American	1,303	635	48.7	564	43.2	71	11.2	669
Asian	670	282	42.1	279	41.7	3	0.9	388
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	1,198	717	59.8	678	56.6	39	5.4	481
Not enrolled in school	16,250	13,299	81.8	11,811	72.7	1,488	11.2	2,950
16 to 19 years	3,074	2,238	72.8	1,798	58.5	440	19.6	836
20 to 24 years	13,176	11,061	84.0	10,013	76.0	1,048	9.5	2,114
Men	8,564	7,530	87.9	6,692	78.1	838	11.1	1,034
Less than a high school diploma	1,925	1,528	79.4	1,335	69.4	193	12.6	397
High school graduates, no college ³	4,008	3,531	88.1	3,079	76.8	452	12.8	477
Some college or associate degree	1,674	1,567	93.7	1,444	86.3	124	7.9	106
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	958	903	94.3	834	87.1	69	7.6	55
Women	7,686	5,769	75.1	5,119	66.6	650	11.3	1,916
Less than a high school diploma	1,506	796	52.9	590	39.2	206	25.9	709
High school graduates, no college ³	3,147	2,295	72.9	2,008	63.8	287	12.5	852
Some college or associate degree	1,903	1,626	85.5	1,522	80.0	105	6.4	276
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	1,130	1,052	93.0	999	88.4	53	5.0	79
White	12,769	10,636	83.3	9,643	75.5	993	9.3	2,133
Black or African American	2,418	1,866	77.2	1,447	59.9	418	22.4	552
Asian	455	340	74.6	316	69.4	23	6.9	116
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	3,518	2,742	77.9	2,506	71.2	236	8.6	776

¹ Includes a small number of persons enrolled in grades below high school.

² Data not shown where base is less than 75,000.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with a bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Detail 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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals. Data reflect revised population controls for the Current Population Survey introduced in January 2006.