

For release 10:00 a.m. (EDT) Wednesday, August 13, 2014

USDL-14-1498

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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH — SUMMER 2014

From April to July 2014, the number of employed youth 16 to 24 years old increased by 2.1 million to 20.1 million, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This year, 51.9 percent of young people were employed in July, up from 50.7 percent a year earlier. (The month of July typically is the summertime peak in youth employment.) Unemployment among youth rose by 913,000 from April to July 2014, compared with an increase of 692,000 for the same period in 2013. (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 3.0 million, or 14.5 percent, to a total of 23.4 million in July. (See table 1.)

The labor force participation rate for all youth was 60.5 percent in July, the same as the July value in the prior two summers, but above the July low of 59.5 percent in 2011. (The labor force participation rate is the proportion of the population that is working or looking for work.) The summer labor force participation rate of youth had been declining for many years. The July 2014 participation rate was 17.0 percentage points below the peak rate for that month in 1989 (77.5 percent). (See table 2.)

The July 2014 labor force participation rate for 16- to 24-year-old men was 63.2 percent, higher than the rate for young women at 57.8 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 nearly 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 15 percentage points.

The youth labor force participation rate was highest for whites, at 63.2 percent in July 2014. By contrast, the rate was 52.9 percent for blacks, 45.8 percent for Asians, and 56.2 percent for Hispanics. For all four groups, labor force participation rates were little different from last July.

Employment

In July 2014, there were 20.1 million employed 16- to 24-year-olds, not much different from the summer before. Between April and July 2014, the number of employed youth rose by 2.1 million. This 11.5 percent increase is typical for this time of year. The employment-population ratio for youth in July 2014—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian noninstitutional population with a job—was 51.9 percent, up from 50.7 percent the year before. (See tables 1 and 2.)

The employment-population ratios for young men (53.6 percent) and whites (55.4 percent) were higher in July 2014 than a year earlier. The ratios for young women (50.1 percent), blacks (39.8 percent), Asians (40.8 percent), and Hispanics (47.0 percent) showed little change from last July.

In July 2014, 25 percent of employed youth worked in the leisure and hospitality industry (which includes food services), and 19 percent worked in the retail trade industry. These two industries typically account for large shares of summer youth employment. (See table 3.)

Unemployment

The number of unemployed youth was 3.4 million in July 2014, down from 3.8 million a year earlier. The youth unemployment rate was 14.3 percent in July 2014, 2.0 percentage points less than a year before. Among the major demographic groups, July unemployment rates were lower than the prior year for young men (15.1 percent), young women (13.4 percent), whites (12.2 percent), and blacks (24.8 percent), while youth jobless rates changed little for Asians (10.9 percent), and Hispanics (16.5 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 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 2014
 [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
TOTAL						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	38,759	38,749	38,740	38,735	-24	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	20,461	21,160	22,851	23,437	2,976	14.5
Participation rate.....	52.8	54.6	59.0	60.5	7.7	14.6
Employed.....	18,021	18,329	19,421	20,085	2,064	11.5
Employment-population ratio.....	46.5	47.3	50.1	51.9	5.4	11.6
Unemployed.....	2,440	2,831	3,429	3,353	913	37.4
Looking for full-time work.....	1,736	2,084	2,558	2,460	724	41.7
Looking for part-time work.....	704	747	871	893	189	26.8
Unemployment rate.....	11.9	13.4	15.0	14.3	2.4	20.2
Not in labor force.....	18,298	17,589	15,890	15,298	-3,000	-16.4
Men						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,539	19,534	19,529	19,527	-12	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	10,532	10,850	11,915	12,335	1,803	17.1
Participation rate.....	53.9	55.5	61.0	63.2	9.3	17.3
Employed.....	9,127	9,316	9,983	10,470	1,343	14.7
Employment-population ratio.....	46.7	47.7	51.1	53.6	6.9	14.8
Unemployed.....	1,406	1,534	1,932	1,865	459	32.6
Looking for full-time work.....	1,058	1,173	1,487	1,437	379	35.8
Looking for part-time work.....	348	361	445	428	80	23.0
Unemployment rate.....	13.3	14.1	16.2	15.1	1.8	13.5
Not in labor force.....	9,007	8,684	7,615	7,191	-1,816	-20.2
Women						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,220	19,215	19,211	19,208	-12	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	9,929	10,310	10,936	11,102	1,173	11.8
Participation rate.....	51.7	53.7	56.9	57.8	6.1	11.8
Employed.....	8,894	9,013	9,439	9,614	720	8.1
Employment-population ratio.....	46.3	46.9	49.1	50.1	3.8	8.2
Unemployed.....	1,034	1,296	1,497	1,488	454	43.9
Looking for full-time work.....	678	911	1,071	1,023	345	50.9
Looking for part-time work.....	357	385	426	465	108	30.3
Unemployment rate.....	10.4	12.6	13.7	13.4	3.0	28.8
Not in labor force.....	9,291	8,906	8,275	8,106	-1,185	-12.8
White						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	28,747	28,736	28,726	28,718	-29	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	15,754	16,233	17,666	18,137	2,383	15.1
Participation rate.....	54.8	56.5	61.5	63.2	8.4	15.3
Employed.....	14,223	14,384	15,358	15,917	1,694	11.9
Employment-population ratio.....	49.5	50.1	53.5	55.4	5.9	11.9
Unemployed.....	1,531	1,849	2,308	2,220	689	45.0
Looking for full-time work.....	1,067	1,324	1,675	1,612	545	51.1
Looking for part-time work.....	464	525	633	607	143	30.8
Unemployment rate.....	9.7	11.4	13.1	12.2	2.5	25.8
Not in labor force.....	12,993	12,502	11,060	10,581	-2,412	-18.6
Black or African American						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,983	5,979	5,976	5,973	-10	-0.2
Civilian labor force.....	2,903	3,015	3,068	3,160	257	8.9
Participation rate.....	48.5	50.4	51.3	52.9	4.4	9.1
Employed.....	2,281	2,299	2,352	2,376	95	4.2
Employment-population ratio.....	38.1	38.4	39.4	39.8	1.7	4.5
Unemployed.....	622	717	716	784	162	26.0
Looking for full-time work.....	474	580	579	591	117	24.7
Looking for part-time work.....	148	137	137	192	44	29.7
Unemployment rate.....	21.4	23.8	23.3	24.8	3.4	15.9
Not in labor force.....	3,080	2,964	2,908	2,813	-267	-8.7

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 2014 — 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
Asian						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	2,095	2,062	2,065	2,044	-51	-2.4
Civilian labor force.....	799	856	948	936	137	17.1
Participation rate.....	38.2	41.5	45.9	45.8	7.6	19.9
Employed.....	701	778	805	834	133	19.0
Employment-population ratio.....	33.5	37.7	39.0	40.8	7.3	21.8
Unemployed.....	98	78	143	102	4	4.1
Looking for full-time work.....	62	45	108	70	8	12.9
Looking for part-time work.....	36	33	35	32	-4	-11.1
Unemployment rate.....	12.3	9.1	15.1	10.9	-1.4	-11.4
Not in labor force.....	1,295	1,206	1,118	1,109	-186	-14.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	8,286	8,294	8,303	8,313	27	0.3
Civilian labor force.....	4,209	4,302	4,627	4,675	466	11.1
Participation rate.....	50.8	51.9	55.7	56.2	5.4	10.6
Employed.....	3,721	3,774	3,841	3,903	182	4.9
Employment-population ratio.....	44.9	45.5	46.3	47.0	2.1	4.7
Unemployed.....	488	528	786	772	284	58.2
Looking for full-time work.....	334	379	612	560	226	67.7
Looking for part-time work.....	155	149	174	212	57	36.8
Unemployment rate.....	11.6	12.3	17.0	16.5	4.9	42.2
Not in labor force.....	4,077	3,992	3,676	3,637	-440	-10.8

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 2011-2014
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2011	July 2012	July 2013	July 2014
TOTAL				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	38,196	38,799	38,861	38,735
Civilian labor force.....	22,742	23,472	23,506	23,437
Participation rate.....	59.5	60.5	60.5	60.5
Employed.....	18,632	19,461	19,684	20,085
Employment-population ratio.....	48.8	50.2	50.7	51.9
Unemployed.....	4,110	4,011	3,821	3,353
Looking for full-time work.....	3,238	3,074	2,819	2,460
Looking for part-time work.....	872	937	1,002	893
Unemployment rate.....	18.1	17.1	16.3	14.3
Not in labor force.....	15,454	15,327	15,355	15,298
Men				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,425	19,554	19,587	19,527
Civilian labor force.....	11,930	12,355	12,283	12,335
Participation rate.....	61.4	63.2	62.7	63.2
Employed.....	9,746	10,140	10,127	10,470
Employment-population ratio.....	50.2	51.9	51.7	53.6
Unemployed.....	2,184	2,215	2,156	1,865
Looking for full-time work.....	1,809	1,785	1,665	1,437
Looking for part-time work.....	375	430	491	428
Unemployment rate.....	18.3	17.9	17.6	15.1
Not in labor force.....	7,494	7,199	7,303	7,191
Women				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	18,772	19,245	19,274	19,208
Civilian labor force.....	10,812	11,117	11,223	11,102
Participation rate.....	57.6	57.8	58.2	57.8
Employed.....	8,886	9,321	9,557	9,614
Employment-population ratio.....	47.3	48.4	49.6	50.1
Unemployed.....	1,926	1,796	1,665	1,488
Looking for full-time work.....	1,428	1,289	1,154	1,023
Looking for part-time work.....	497	507	511	465
Unemployment rate.....	17.8	16.2	14.8	13.4
Not in labor force.....	7,960	8,128	8,052	8,106
White				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	29,377	28,956	28,866	28,718
Civilian labor force.....	18,266	18,213	18,205	18,137
Participation rate.....	62.2	62.9	63.1	63.2
Employed.....	15,367	15,498	15,679	15,917
Employment-population ratio.....	52.3	53.5	54.3	55.4
Unemployed.....	2,899	2,715	2,525	2,220
Looking for full-time work.....	2,203	2,019	1,814	1,612
Looking for part-time work.....	696	696	711	607
Unemployment rate.....	15.9	14.9	13.9	12.2
Not in labor force.....	11,111	10,743	10,661	10,581
Black or African American				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,763	5,971	5,997	5,973
Civilian labor force.....	2,893	3,256	3,225	3,160
Participation rate.....	50.2	54.5	53.8	52.9
Employed.....	1,996	2,323	2,315	2,376
Employment-population ratio.....	34.6	38.9	38.6	39.8
Unemployed.....	897	933	910	784
Looking for full-time work.....	778	783	771	591
Looking for part-time work.....	118	150	139	192
Unemployment rate.....	31.0	28.6	28.2	24.8
Not in labor force.....	2,870	2,715	2,772	2,813

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2011-2014 — Continued
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2011	July 2012	July 2013	July 2014
Asian				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	1,573	1,922	2,028	2,044
Civilian labor force.....	753	839	934	936
Participation rate.....	47.9	43.7	46.1	45.8
Employed.....	638	718	794	834
Employment-population ratio.....	40.5	37.4	39.2	40.8
Unemployed.....	115	121	140	102
Looking for full-time work.....	97	83	81	70
Looking for part-time work.....	18	38	59	32
Unemployment rate.....	15.3	14.4	15.0	10.9
Not in labor force.....	820	1,083	1,094	1,109
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	7,605	8,164	8,229	8,313
Civilian labor force.....	4,080	4,658	4,756	4,675
Participation rate.....	53.6	57.1	57.8	56.2
Employed.....	3,260	3,799	3,897	3,903
Employment-population ratio.....	42.9	46.5	47.4	47.0
Unemployed.....	820	860	859	772
Looking for full-time work.....	646	698	622	560
Looking for part-time work.....	174	162	238	212
Unemployment rate.....	20.1	18.5	18.1	16.5
Not in labor force.....	3,525	3,506	3,473	3,637

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 2013-2014

[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 2013	July 2014	July 2013	July 2014	July 2013	July 2014	July 2013	July 2014	July 2013	July 2014
Total employed.....	19,684	20,085	15,679	15,917	2,315	2,376	794	834	3,897	3,903
Agriculture and related industries.....	355	353	331	340	8	7	1	0	77	86
Nonagricultural industries.....	19,330	19,732	15,348	15,577	2,307	2,369	793	834	3,820	3,817
Private wage and salary workers ¹	17,740	18,052	14,062	14,207	2,134	2,175	742	774	3,580	3,551
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	137	126	130	118	0	4	1	4	39	28
Construction.....	868	879	799	768	36	39	7	19	268	269
Manufacturing.....	1,306	1,328	1,033	1,094	138	120	92	69	240	277
Durable goods.....	826	813	643	692	88	51	60	42	127	140
Nondurable goods.....	480	516	390	402	50	69	32	27	113	137
Wholesale trade.....	339	338	279	287	34	22	9	20	85	82
Retail trade.....	3,756	3,843	2,853	2,872	558	577	155	175	765	763
Transportation and utilities.....	486	516	336	376	90	100	11	11	125	120
Information.....	317	341	257	278	38	25	18	16	44	74
Financial activities.....	649	760	513	617	80	73	33	35	130	134
Professional and business services...	1,566	1,632	1,281	1,329	148	151	75	97	295	347
Education and health services.....	2,235	2,142	1,705	1,611	328	312	117	142	419	383
Leisure and hospitality.....	5,078	5,078	4,032	3,976	599	635	194	161	967	902
Other services.....	1,003	1,068	844	883	84	116	29	26	204	174
Government wage and salary workers.....	1,254	1,310	1,005	1,056	149	165	43	42	154	185
Federal.....	151	131	107	78	22	43	8	6	9	21
State.....	473	535	371	447	55	42	23	23	50	76
Local.....	630	644	527	532	72	80	11	13	95	88
Self-employed, unincorporated, and unpaid family workers.....	336	369	281	314	24	30	8	18	86	81

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.