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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH — SUMMER 2016

From April to July 2016, the number of employed youth 16 to 24 years old increased by 1.9 million to 20.5 million, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This year, 53.2 percent of young people were employed in July, little changed from a year earlier. (The month of July typically is the summertime peak in youth employment.) Unemployment among youth rose by 611,000 from April to July 2016, compared with an increase of 654,000 for the same period in 2015. (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 2.6 million, or 12.4 percent, to a total of 23.1 million in July. (See table 1.)

The labor force participation rate for all youth was 60.1 percent in July, little changed 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 2016 labor force participation rate for 16- to 24-year-old men was 62.4 percent, higher than the rate for young women at 57.7 percent. The rates for men and women were little changed from last July. Whites had the highest youth labor force participation rate in July 2016 at 62.7 percent. The rate was 53.8 percent for Blacks, 43.1 percent for Asians, and 56.2 percent for Hispanics. The rate for Blacks declined by 2.6 percentage points from last July, while the rates for Whites, Asians, and Hispanics showed little or no change.

Employment

In July 2016, there were 20.5 million employed 16- to 24-year-olds, little changed from the summer before. Between April and July 2016, the number of employed youth rose by 1.9 million. The employment-population ratio for youth in July 2016—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian

noninstitutional population with a job—was 53.2 percent, little changed from the year before. (See tables 1 and 2.)

The July 2016 employment-population ratios for young men (54.9 percent), women (51.5 percent), Whites (56.5 percent), Blacks (42.7 percent), Asians (38.8 percent), and Hispanics (49.8 percent) showed little or no change from last July.

In July 2016, the largest percentage of employed youth worked in the leisure and hospitality industry (25 percent), which includes food services. An additional 18 percent of employed youth worked in the retail trade industry, and 13 percent worked in education and health services. (See table 3.)

Unemployment

The youth unemployment rate (11.5 percent) and the number of unemployed youth (2.6 million) in July 2016 were little changed from a year earlier. Of those 2.6 million unemployed 16- to 24-year-olds, 1.9 million were looking for full-time work in July 2016, down 222,000 from July 2015. (See tables 1 and 2.)

The July 2016 unemployment rates for young men (12.0 percent), women (10.8 percent), Whites (9.9 percent), Blacks (20.6 percent), Asians (10.0 percent), and Hispanics (11.3 percent) also showed little or no change from last July. (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 2016

[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.....	38,480	38,468	38,459	38,450	-30	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	20,548	21,102	22,755	23,104	2,556	12.4
Participation rate.....	53.4	54.9	59.2	60.1	6.7	12.5
Employed.....	18,511	18,875	19,967	20,456	1,945	10.5
Employment-population ratio.....	48.1	49.1	51.9	53.2	5.1	10.6
Unemployed.....	2,037	2,227	2,789	2,648	611	30.0
Looking for full-time work.....	1,392	1,529	2,031	1,912	520	37.4
Looking for part-time work.....	645	699	757	736	91	14.1
Unemployment rate.....	9.9	10.6	12.3	11.5	1.6	16.2
Not in labor force.....	17,932	17,366	15,703	15,346	-2,586	-14.4
Men						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,395	19,389	19,385	19,380	-15	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	10,527	10,800	11,869	12,094	1,567	14.9
Participation rate.....	54.3	55.7	61.2	62.4	8.1	14.9
Employed.....	9,442	9,637	10,314	10,638	1,196	12.7
Employment-population ratio.....	48.7	49.7	53.2	54.9	6.2	12.7
Unemployed.....	1,085	1,163	1,555	1,455	370	34.1
Looking for full-time work.....	771	852	1,223	1,169	398	51.6
Looking for part-time work.....	314	311	332	286	-28	-8.9
Unemployment rate.....	10.3	10.8	13.1	12.0	1.7	16.5
Not in labor force.....	8,868	8,590	7,516	7,287	-1,581	-17.8
Women						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,085	19,079	19,074	19,069	-16	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	10,021	10,302	10,886	11,010	989	9.9
Participation rate.....	52.5	54.0	57.1	57.7	5.2	9.9
Employed.....	9,069	9,237	9,653	9,818	749	8.3
Employment-population ratio.....	47.5	48.4	50.6	51.5	4.0	8.4
Unemployed.....	952	1,065	1,234	1,193	241	25.3
Looking for full-time work.....	621	677	809	743	122	19.6
Looking for part-time work.....	331	388	425	450	119	36.0
Unemployment rate.....	9.5	10.3	11.3	10.8	1.3	13.7
Not in labor force.....	9,064	8,777	8,188	8,059	-1,005	-11.1
White						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	28,335	28,321	28,309	28,297	-38	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	15,652	16,116	17,402	17,734	2,082	13.3
Participation rate.....	55.2	56.9	61.5	62.7	7.5	13.6
Employed.....	14,352	14,653	15,552	15,981	1,629	11.4
Employment-population ratio.....	50.7	51.7	54.9	56.5	5.8	11.4
Unemployed.....	1,300	1,463	1,850	1,754	454	34.9
Looking for full-time work.....	894	962	1,296	1,222	328	36.7
Looking for part-time work.....	406	502	554	532	126	31.0
Unemployment rate.....	8.3	9.1	10.6	9.9	1.6	19.3
Not in labor force.....	12,684	12,205	10,907	10,562	-2,122	-16.7
Black or African American						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,865	5,860	5,855	5,850	-15	-0.3
Civilian labor force.....	2,929	2,993	3,171	3,149	220	7.5
Participation rate.....	49.9	51.1	54.2	53.8	3.9	7.8
Employed.....	2,408	2,434	2,461	2,499	91	3.8
Employment-population ratio.....	41.1	41.5	42.0	42.7	1.6	3.9
Unemployed.....	522	559	710	650	128	24.5
Looking for full-time work.....	365	439	569	533	168	46.0
Looking for part-time work.....	157	121	141	117	-40	-25.5
Unemployment rate.....	17.8	18.7	22.4	20.6	2.8	15.7
Not in labor force.....	2,936	2,867	2,684	2,701	-235	-8.0

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 2016 — 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.....	2,157	2,158	2,179	2,212	55	2.5
Civilian labor force.....	831	844	956	954	123	14.8
Participation rate.....	38.5	39.1	43.9	43.1	4.6	11.9
Employed.....	765	775	874	859	94	12.3
Employment-population ratio.....	35.5	35.9	40.1	38.8	3.3	9.3
Unemployed.....	66	69	83	95	29	43.9
Looking for full-time work.....	48	47	61	65	17	35.4
Looking for part-time work.....	17	22	22	30	13	76.5
Unemployment rate.....	7.9	8.2	8.6	10.0	2.1	26.6
Not in labor force.....	1,326	1,313	1,222	1,258	-68	-5.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	8,469	8,478	8,488	8,497	28	0.3
Civilian labor force.....	4,458	4,615	4,750	4,776	318	7.1
Participation rate.....	52.6	54.4	56.0	56.2	3.6	6.8
Employed.....	4,017	4,144	4,167	4,235	218	5.4
Employment-population ratio.....	47.4	48.9	49.1	49.8	2.4	5.1
Unemployed.....	441	472	583	540	99	22.4
Looking for full-time work.....	329	323	443	385	56	17.0
Looking for part-time work.....	112	149	140	155	43	38.4
Unemployment rate.....	9.9	10.2	12.3	11.3	1.4	14.1
Not in labor force.....	4,011	3,863	3,738	3,721	-290	-7.2

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 2013-2016
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016
TOTAL				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	38,861	38,735	38,589	38,450
Civilian labor force.....	23,506	23,437	23,162	23,104
Participation rate.....	60.5	60.5	60.0	60.1
Employed.....	19,684	20,085	20,333	20,456
Employment-population ratio.....	50.7	51.9	52.7	53.2
Unemployed.....	3,821	3,353	2,829	2,648
Looking for full-time work.....	2,819	2,460	2,134	1,912
Looking for part-time work.....	1,002	893	695	736
Unemployment rate.....	16.3	14.3	12.2	11.5
Not in labor force.....	15,355	15,298	15,426	15,346
Men				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,587	19,527	19,442	19,380
Civilian labor force.....	12,283	12,335	12,011	12,094
Participation rate.....	62.7	63.2	61.8	62.4
Employed.....	10,127	10,470	10,488	10,638
Employment-population ratio.....	51.7	53.6	53.9	54.9
Unemployed.....	2,156	1,865	1,523	1,455
Looking for full-time work.....	1,665	1,437	1,195	1,169
Looking for part-time work.....	491	428	328	286
Unemployment rate.....	17.6	15.1	12.7	12.0
Not in labor force.....	7,303	7,191	7,431	7,287
Women				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,274	19,208	19,147	19,069
Civilian labor force.....	11,223	11,102	11,151	11,010
Participation rate.....	58.2	57.8	58.2	57.7
Employed.....	9,557	9,614	9,846	9,818
Employment-population ratio.....	49.6	50.1	51.4	51.5
Unemployed.....	1,665	1,488	1,306	1,193
Looking for full-time work.....	1,154	1,023	939	743
Looking for part-time work.....	511	465	367	450
Unemployment rate.....	14.8	13.4	11.7	10.8
Not in labor force.....	8,052	8,106	7,996	8,059
White				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	28,866	28,718	28,488	28,297
Civilian labor force.....	18,205	18,137	17,735	17,734
Participation rate.....	63.1	63.2	62.3	62.7
Employed.....	15,679	15,917	15,903	15,981
Employment-population ratio.....	54.3	55.4	55.8	56.5
Unemployed.....	2,525	2,220	1,832	1,754
Looking for full-time work.....	1,814	1,612	1,308	1,222
Looking for part-time work.....	711	607	524	532
Unemployment rate.....	13.9	12.2	10.3	9.9
Not in labor force.....	10,661	10,581	10,754	10,562
Black or African American				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,997	5,973	5,916	5,850
Civilian labor force.....	3,225	3,160	3,337	3,149
Participation rate.....	53.8	52.9	56.4	53.8
Employed.....	2,315	2,376	2,645	2,499
Employment-population ratio.....	38.6	39.8	44.7	42.7
Unemployed.....	910	784	691	650
Looking for full-time work.....	771	591	604	533
Looking for part-time work.....	139	192	87	117
Unemployment rate.....	28.2	24.8	20.7	20.6
Not in labor force.....	2,772	2,813	2,580	2,701

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2013-2016 — Continued
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016
Asian				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	2,028	2,044	2,148	2,212
Civilian labor force.....	934	936	957	954
Participation rate.....	46.1	45.8	44.6	43.1
Employed.....	794	834	855	859
Employment-population ratio.....	39.2	40.8	39.8	38.8
Unemployed.....	140	102	102	95
Looking for full-time work.....	81	70	68	65
Looking for part-time work.....	59	32	34	30
Unemployment rate.....	15.0	10.9	10.7	10.0
Not in labor force.....	1,094	1,109	1,191	1,258
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	8,229	8,313	8,406	8,497
Civilian labor force.....	4,756	4,675	4,728	4,776
Participation rate.....	57.8	56.2	56.2	56.2
Employed.....	3,897	3,903	4,127	4,235
Employment-population ratio.....	47.4	47.0	49.1	49.8
Unemployed.....	859	772	601	540
Looking for full-time work.....	622	560	458	385
Looking for part-time work.....	238	212	143	155
Unemployment rate.....	18.1	16.5	12.7	11.3
Not in labor force.....	3,473	3,637	3,679	3,721

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 2015-2016

[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 2015	July 2016	July 2015	July 2016	July 2015	July 2016	July 2015	July 2016	July 2015	July 2016
Total employed.....	20,333	20,456	15,903	15,981	2,645	2,499	855	859	4,127	4,235
Agriculture and related industries.....	309	320	294	302	7	5	1	4	47	74
Nonagricultural industries.....	20,024	20,136	15,609	15,678	2,638	2,493	853	855	4,079	4,162
Private wage and salary workers ¹	18,223	18,359	14,169	14,314	2,418	2,245	791	774	3,790	3,893
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	75	39	68	25	0	13	3	0	9	15
Construction.....	883	991	799	934	36	24	1	8	267	304
Manufacturing.....	1,385	1,408	1,133	1,092	162	172	46	71	322	261
Durable goods.....	882	792	726	653	104	75	33	41	173	136
Nondurable goods.....	504	616	406	439	58	97	14	30	149	124
Wholesale trade.....	277	252	228	209	24	20	12	4	94	58
Retail trade.....	4,005	3,756	2,902	2,871	680	500	206	173	785	781
Transportation and utilities.....	447	434	337	278	73	100	13	30	133	81
Information.....	288	278	221	237	30	20	30	20	52	59
Financial activities.....	725	762	571	581	93	78	39	57	180	145
Professional and business services... ..	1,547	1,690	1,228	1,324	158	189	75	99	332	399
Education and health services.....	2,236	2,607	1,664	1,951	331	391	137	133	368	497
Leisure and hospitality.....	5,437	5,213	4,234	4,072	762	638	196	138	1,098	1,104
Other services.....	918	929	784	741	68	98	33	40	150	190
Government wage and salary workers.....	1,403	1,395	1,091	1,042	195	221	47	68	189	177
Federal.....	114	158	82	112	14	23	9	14	3	8
State.....	541	510	414	366	77	82	19	36	80	58
Local.....	748	728	595	563	103	116	18	18	106	111
Self-employed, unincorporated, and unpaid family workers.....	398	382	349	322	26	28	16	14	100	91

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.