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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH — SUMMER 2025

In July 2025, 53.1 percent of young people (those ages 16 to 24) were employed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today. This measure is down from 54.5 percent in July 2024. (The month of July typically is the summertime peak in youth employment.) The youth unemployment rate was 10.8 percent in July 2025, higher than the rate in July 2024 (9.8 percent). (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. In 2025, the youth labor force grew by 1.9 million, or 8.9 percent, from April (21.7 million) to July (23.7 million). (See table 1.)

The labor force participation rate for all youth was 59.5 percent in July 2025, little different from a year earlier. (The labor force participation rate is the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population that is working or actively looking for work.) (See table 2.)

The July 2025 labor force participation rates for 16- to 24- year-old men (60.6 percent) and women (58.4 percent) were little changed over the year. Continuing a long-standing pattern, White youth had the highest labor force participation rate, and Asian youth had the lowest rate (62.3 percent versus 47.2 percent) in July 2025. The participation rate for White youth decreased from 63.5 percent in July 2024 to 62.3 percent in July 2025. The participation rates for Black (52.2 percent), Asian (47.2 percent), and Hispanic (57.3 percent) youth showed little change over the year.

Employment

There were 21.1 million employed 16- to 24-year-olds in July 2025. Between April and July, the number of employed youth rose by 1.2 million, or 6.2 percent. The employment-population ratio for youth—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian noninstitutional population with a job—was 53.1 percent in July 2025, lower than the rate of 54.5 percent from a year earlier. (See tables 1 and 2.)

In July 2025, the employment-population ratios for young women (52.3 percent), White youth (56.2 percent), and Asian youth (41.0 percent) were lower than a year earlier. The ratios for young men (53.9 percent), Black youth (44.7 percent), and Hispanic youth (50.1 percent) were little changed over the year.

In July 2025, 25 percent (5.4 million) of employed 16- to 24-year-olds worked in the leisure and hospitality industry, the largest share of youth workers. An additional 17 percent of employed youth worked in the retail trade industry, and 14 percent worked in education and health services. (See table 3.)

Unemployment

Typically, the number of unemployed young people increases with the onset of summer, as people who were not in the labor force while attending school begin seeking employment. To be classified as unemployed, a person must either be looking and available for work or on temporary layoff. From April to July 2025, the number of unemployed youth rose by 690,000 to 2.5 million. About 7 in 10 of the unemployed youth were looking for full-time work in July 2025. (See tables 1 and 2.)

The youth unemployment rate, at 10.8 percent in July 2025, was 1.0 percentage point higher than the rate in July 2024. The July 2025 unemployment rates were higher for young men (11.0 percent) and White youth (9.8 percent) than in the prior summer, while the rates for young women (10.5 percent), Black youth (14.3 percent), Asian youth (13.3 percent), and Hispanic youth (12.6 percent) showed little change.

Technical Note

The estimates in this news 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 news 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.

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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 news release are described briefly below.

Employed. Employed people 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 business or a farm operated by a family member in their household. People 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. People 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 people classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people 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 people 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. People with two or more jobs are classified in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours. Beginning with data for 2025, people are classified using the 2022 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 people 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 people whose businesses are incorporated are included with private wage and salary workers.

Unpaid family workers. Included in this group are people 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 2025

[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.....	39,765	39,763	39,762	39,761	-4	0.0
Civilian labor force.....	21,739	21,836	23,458	23,663	1,924	8.9
Participation rate.....	54.7	54.9	59.0	59.5	4.8	8.8
Employed.....	19,882	19,712	20,777	21,116	1,234	6.2
Employment-population ratio.....	50.0	49.6	52.3	53.1	3.1	6.2
Unemployed.....	1,857	2,124	2,681	2,547	690	37.2
Looking for full-time work.....	1,338	1,495	1,884	1,813	475	35.5
Looking for part-time work.....	519	630	797	734	215	41.4
Unemployment rate.....	8.5	9.7	11.4	10.8	2.3	27.1
Not in labor force.....	18,026	17,926	16,304	16,099	-1,927	-10.7
Men						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	20,079	20,079	20,079	20,080	1	0.0
Civilian labor force.....	11,161	11,230	12,258	12,163	1,002	9.0
Participation rate.....	55.6	55.9	61.0	60.6	5.0	9.0
Employed.....	10,041	10,034	10,765	10,827	786	7.8
Employment-population ratio.....	50.0	50.0	53.6	53.9	3.9	7.8
Unemployed.....	1,120	1,196	1,493	1,336	216	19.3
Looking for full-time work.....	884	849	1,076	965	81	9.2
Looking for part-time work.....	236	347	417	372	136	57.6
Unemployment rate.....	10.0	10.6	12.2	11.0	1.0	10.0
Not in labor force.....	8,919	8,849	7,822	7,917	-1,002	-11.2
Women						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,686	19,684	19,683	19,681	-5	0.0
Civilian labor force.....	10,578	10,607	11,200	11,500	922	8.7
Participation rate.....	53.7	53.9	56.9	58.4	4.7	8.8
Employed.....	9,841	9,678	10,012	10,289	448	4.6
Employment-population ratio.....	50.0	49.2	50.9	52.3	2.3	4.6
Unemployed.....	737	929	1,189	1,210	473	64.2
Looking for full-time work.....	454	646	808	848	394	86.8
Looking for part-time work.....	283	283	380	362	79	27.9
Unemployment rate.....	7.0	8.8	10.6	10.5	3.5	50.0
Not in labor force.....	9,108	9,077	8,482	8,182	-926	-10.2
White						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	28,643	28,633	28,624	28,616	-27	-0.1
Civilian labor force.....	16,404	16,453	17,642	17,824	1,420	8.7
Participation rate.....	57.3	57.5	61.6	62.3	5.0	8.7
Employed.....	15,122	14,960	15,927	16,079	957	6.3
Employment-population ratio.....	52.8	52.2	55.6	56.2	3.4	6.4
Unemployed.....	1,282	1,494	1,716	1,745	463	36.1
Looking for full-time work.....	904	1,016	1,113	1,215	311	34.4
Looking for part-time work.....	378	478	603	530	152	40.2
Unemployment rate.....	7.8	9.1	9.7	9.8	2.0	25.6
Not in labor force.....	12,238	12,179	10,982	10,792	-1,446	-11.8
Black or African American						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,818	5,818	5,819	5,820	2	0.0
Civilian labor force.....	2,712	2,786	3,009	3,036	324	11.9
Participation rate.....	46.6	47.9	51.7	52.2	5.6	12.0
Employed.....	2,367	2,463	2,471	2,601	234	9.9
Employment-population ratio.....	40.7	42.3	42.5	44.7	4.0	9.8
Unemployed.....	345	323	538	436	91	26.4
Looking for full-time work.....	271	251	456	310	39	14.4
Looking for part-time work.....	74	72	82	126	52	70.3
Unemployment rate.....	12.7	11.6	17.9	14.3	1.6	12.6
Not in labor force.....	3,106	3,032	2,809	2,783	-323	-10.4

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 2025 — 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.....	2,601	2,570	2,629	2,632	31	1.2
Civilian labor force.....	1,125	1,150	1,222	1,243	118	10.5
Participation rate.....	43.2	44.7	46.5	47.2	4.0	9.3
Employed.....	1,056	996	1,043	1,078	22	2.1
Employment-population ratio.....	40.6	38.7	39.7	41.0	0.4	1.0
Unemployed.....	69	154	179	165	96	139.1
Looking for full-time work.....	51	117	128	120	69	135.3
Looking for part-time work.....	18	36	51	45	27	150.0
Unemployment rate.....	6.1	13.4	14.7	13.3	7.2	118.0
Not in labor force.....	1,476	1,421	1,406	1,389	-87	-5.9
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	10,308	10,322	10,338	10,352	44	0.4
Civilian labor force.....	5,484	5,542	5,753	5,937	453	8.3
Participation rate.....	53.2	53.7	55.7	57.3	4.1	7.7
Employed.....	4,961	5,017	5,110	5,187	226	4.6
Employment-population ratio.....	48.1	48.6	49.4	50.1	2.0	4.2
Unemployed.....	523	526	643	750	227	43.4
Looking for full-time work.....	436	398	458	592	156	35.8
Looking for part-time work.....	86	127	186	158	72	83.7
Unemployment rate.....	9.5	9.5	11.2	12.6	3.1	32.6
Not in labor force.....	4,824	4,780	4,584	4,415	-409	-8.5

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. People 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 2022-2025

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

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024	July 2025
TOTAL				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	37,954	39,342	38,993	39,761
Civilian labor force.....	22,943	23,681	23,566	23,663
Participation rate.....	60.4	60.2	60.4	59.5
Employed.....	20,992	21,623	21,259	21,116
Employment-population ratio.....	55.3	55.0	54.5	53.1
Unemployed.....	1,951	2,059	2,307	2,547
Looking for full-time work.....	1,415	1,437	1,689	1,813
Looking for part-time work.....	536	621	618	734
Unemployment rate.....	8.5	8.7	9.8	10.8
Not in labor force.....	15,011	15,660	15,427	16,099
Men				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,065	19,842	19,662	20,080
Civilian labor force.....	11,763	11,987	12,040	12,163
Participation rate.....	61.7	60.4	61.2	60.6
Employed.....	10,733	10,886	10,859	10,827
Employment-population ratio.....	56.3	54.9	55.2	53.9
Unemployed.....	1,031	1,101	1,181	1,336
Looking for full-time work.....	798	799	943	965
Looking for part-time work.....	232	302	238	372
Unemployment rate.....	8.8	9.2	9.8	11.0
Not in labor force.....	7,302	7,855	7,623	7,917
Women				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	18,890	19,500	19,331	19,681
Civilian labor force.....	11,180	11,694	11,526	11,500
Participation rate.....	59.2	60.0	59.6	58.4
Employed.....	10,259	10,736	10,400	10,289
Employment-population ratio.....	54.3	55.1	53.8	52.3
Unemployed.....	921	958	1,126	1,210
Looking for full-time work.....	617	638	746	848
Looking for part-time work.....	304	319	380	362
Unemployment rate.....	8.2	8.2	9.8	10.5
Not in labor force.....	7,710	7,806	7,805	8,182
White				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	27,798	28,661	28,301	28,616
Civilian labor force.....	17,411	17,938	17,958	17,824
Participation rate.....	62.6	62.6	63.5	62.3
Employed.....	16,197	16,681	16,457	16,079
Employment-population ratio.....	58.3	58.2	58.1	56.2
Unemployed.....	1,213	1,257	1,501	1,745
Looking for full-time work.....	837	876	1,056	1,215
Looking for part-time work.....	376	381	444	530
Unemployment rate.....	7.0	7.0	8.4	9.8
Not in labor force.....	10,388	10,723	10,344	10,792
Black or African American				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,551	5,771	5,713	5,820
Civilian labor force.....	3,060	3,086	2,999	3,036
Participation rate.....	55.1	53.5	52.5	52.2
Employed.....	2,574	2,530	2,531	2,601
Employment-population ratio.....	46.4	43.8	44.3	44.7
Unemployed.....	486	556	468	436
Looking for full-time work.....	380	420	405	310
Looking for part-time work.....	106	136	62	126
Unemployment rate.....	15.9	18.0	15.6	14.3
Not in labor force.....	2,490	2,685	2,714	2,783

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2022-2025 — Continued
[Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024	July 2025
Asian				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	2,203	2,422	2,394	2,632
Civilian labor force.....	1,089	1,205	1,201	1,243
Participation rate.....	49.4	49.8	50.2	47.2
Employed.....	971	1,137	1,072	1,078
Employment-population ratio.....	44.1	47.0	44.8	41.0
Unemployed.....	117	68	130	165
Looking for full-time work.....	103	37	73	120
Looking for part-time work.....	15	31	57	45
Unemployment rate.....	10.8	5.6	10.8	13.3
Not in labor force.....	1,114	1,217	1,193	1,389
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	9,193	9,704	9,848	10,352
Civilian labor force.....	5,099	5,578	5,617	5,937
Participation rate.....	55.5	57.5	57.0	57.3
Employed.....	4,607	4,993	5,017	5,187
Employment-population ratio.....	50.1	51.5	50.9	50.1
Unemployed.....	493	585	600	750
Looking for full-time work.....	330	423	449	592
Looking for part-time work.....	163	162	152	158
Unemployment rate.....	9.7	10.5	10.7	12.6
Not in labor force.....	4,093	4,125	4,231	4,415

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. People 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 people 16 to 24 years of age by industry, class of worker, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2024-2025

[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 2024	July 2025	July 2024	July 2025	July 2024	July 2025	July 2024	July 2025	July 2024	July 2025
Total employed.....	21,259	21,116	16,457	16,079	2,531	2,601	1,072	1,078	5,017	5,187
Agriculture and related industries.....	316	271	269	250	10	15	7	3	88	69
Nonagricultural industries.....	20,943	20,845	16,188	15,829	2,521	2,586	1,065	1,075	4,929	5,118
Private wage and salary workers ¹	18,952	18,901	14,668	14,396	2,293	2,355	957	973	4,453	4,618
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	47	45	44	40	2	4	0	0	22	17
Construction.....	1,222	1,277	1,102	1,099	39	80	21	26	466	471
Manufacturing.....	1,215	1,241	938	1,022	115	121	73	45	307	318
Durable goods.....	684	842	542	669	56	108	63	31	118	179
Nondurable goods.....	531	399	396	353	60	13	10	14	189	138
Wholesale trade.....	199	178	184	157	8	18	8	0	18	55
Retail trade.....	3,686	3,564	2,768	2,685	515	486	153	123	925	908
Transportation and utilities.....	789	702	495	459	224	118	19	83	202	228
Information.....	226	157	182	130	13	8	19	1	29	44
Financial activities.....	613	778	473	565	58	91	54	78	126	145
Professional and business services...	1,710	1,696	1,316	1,344	199	120	121	122	348	393
Education and health services.....	2,713	2,952	2,012	2,120	385	438	211	225	555	640
Leisure and hospitality.....	5,519	5,359	4,299	4,010	654	752	240	244	1,219	1,219
Other services.....	1,014	951	854	764	79	118	38	26	236	181
Government wage and salary workers.....	1,509	1,484	1,149	1,106	197	157	83	89	355	362
Federal.....	146	195	86	113	12	49	25	13	17	49
State.....	588	462	442	322	87	49	30	26	152	120
Local.....	775	826	621	671	98	59	28	49	186	193
Self-employed, unincorporated, and unpaid family workers.....	483	461	371	327	32	74	25	13	120	138

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. People 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.