

## Youth labor force marked turning point in 1982

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A turning point in the composition of the youth labor force was reached in 1982, as the last of the post-World War II baby-boom generation completed high school. Since reaching a peak in October 1979, the 16-to-24-year-old labor
force has dropped by 850,000 , with 60 percent of the decrease occurring between October 1981 and October 1982.' (See table 1.) The number of young people completing high school will probably decline through the 1980's. as smaller cohorts of youth pass through the conventional school age groups. ${ }^{2}$

Labor force participation rates for most student and nonstudent groups either drifted down or were not significantly changed between October of 1981 and 1982. (See table 2.) An apparent rise in labor force activity among black students

Table 1. Employment status of persons 16 to 24 years old, by school enrollment status, years of school completed, and sex, October 1981-82
[Numbers in thousands]

| Characteristic | Civilian noninstitutional population |  | Civilian labor force |  | Participation rate |  | Unemployed |  | Unemployment rate |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 |
| Total. 16 to 24 years | 36.946 | 36.452 | 24.583 | 24.076 | 66.5 | 66.0 | 3.642 | 4.331 | 14.8 | 18.0 |
| ENROLLED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total, 16 to 24 years | 15,909 | 15,624 | 7.352 | 7.194 | 46.2 | 46.0 | 1.062 | 1.202 | 14.4 | 16.7 |
| 16 to 19 years | 11.208 | 10.725 | 4.706 | 4.398 | 42.0 | 41.0 | 855 | 916 | 18.2 | 20.8 |
| 20 to 24 years | 4.701 | 4.897 | 2.646 | 2.796 | 56.3 | 57.1 | 207 | 286 | 7.8 | 10.2 |
| High school | 8.108 | 7.701 | 3.276 | 2.970 | 40.4 | 38.6 | 655 | 707 | 20.0 | 23.8 |
| College . . | 7.800 | 7.923 | 4.076 | 4, 222 | 52.3 | 53.3 | 406 | 496 | 10.0 | 11.7 |
| Full-time students | 6.503 | 6.546 | 2.901 | 2.992 | 44.6 | 45.7 | 346 | 381 | 11.9 | 12.7 |
| Part-time students | 1297 | 1.377 | 1.175 | 1.230 | 90.6 | 89.3 | 60 | 115 | 5.1 | 9.3 |
| Men. 16 to 24 years | 8.150 | 7.991 | 3.803 | 3.628 | 46.7 | 45.6 | 543 | 674 | 14.3 | 18.6 |
| High school | 4.224 | 4.045 | 1.805 | 1.589 | 42.7 | 39.3 | 348 | 417 | 193 | 26.2 |
| College | 3.925 | 3.945 | 1.998 | 2,038 | 50.9 | 51.7 | 194 | 258 | 10.2 | 12.7 |
| Full-time students | 3.324 | 3.336 | 1.438 | 1.481 | 43.3 | 44.9 | 167 | 186 | 11.6 | 12.6 |
| Part-time students | 601 | 609 | 560 | 557 | 93.2 | 91.5 | 27 | 72 | 4.8 | 12.9 |
| Women, 16 to 24 years | 7.759 | 7.633 | 3.549 | 3.566 | 45.7 | 46.7 | 519 | 528 | 14.6 | 14.8 |
| High school | 3.884 | 3.656 | 1.471 | 1.381 | 37.9 | 37.8 | 307 | 290 | 20.9 | 21.0 |
| College . . . . . | 3875 | 3.978 | 2.078 | 2.184 | 53.6 | 54.9 | 212 | 238 | 105 | 10.9 |
| Full-time students | 3.179 | 3.210 | 1.463 | 1.511 | 46.0 | 47.1 | 179 | 195 | 12.2 | 12.9 |
| Part-time students | 696 | 768 | 615 | 673 | 88.4 | 87.6 | 33 | 43 | 5.4 | 6.4 |
| NOT ENROLLED |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total, 16 to 24 years | 21.037 | 20.828 | 17.231 | 16.882 | 81.9 | 81.1 | 2.580 | 3.129 | 15.0 | 18.5 |
| 16 to 19 years | 4.887 | 4.901 | 3.776 | 3.709 | 77.3 | 75.7 | 850 | 1.009 | 22.5 | 27.2 |
| 20 to 24 years | 16,150 | 15.926 | 13.455 | 13.173 | 83.3 | 82.7 | 1.729 | 2.120 | 12.9 | 16.1 |
| Men, 16 to 24 years | 10.018 | 9.947 | 9.185 | 9.056 | 91.7 | 91.0 | 1,397 | 1.742 | 15.2 | 19.2 |
| Less than 4 years of high school | 2.746 1.028 | 2.600 | 2.346 | 2.193 | 85.4 | 84.3 | 582 | 684 | 24.8 | 31.2 |
| 16 to 19 years | 1.028 | 981 | 824 | . 765 | 80.2 | 78.0 | 236 | 297 | 28.6 | 38.8 |
| 20 to 24 years ... | 1.718 5 | 1.620 | 1.523 | 1428 | 88.6 | 88.1 | 346 | 387 | 22.7 | 27.1 |
| 4 years of high school | 5.360 | 5.313 | 5.002 | 4.915 | 93.3 | 92.5 | 673 | 851 | 13.5 | 17.3 |
| 1 to 3 years of college 4 years of college or more | 1.280 | 1.333 | 1.229 | 1262 | 96.0 | 94.7 | 100 | 148 | 8.1 | 11.7 |
| 4 years of college or more | 632 | 701 10.881 | ${ }^{608}$ | 687 | 96.2 | 98.0 | 42 | 58 | 6.9 | 8.4 |
| Women, 16 to 24 years ..... | 11.019 2.396 | 10.881 | 8.046 | 7.826 | 73.0 | 71.9 | 1.183 | 1.387 | 14.7 | 17.7 |
| Less than 4 years of high school | 2.396 | 2.455 | 1.155 | 1.159 | 48.2 | 47.2 | 361 | 382 | 31.2 | 33.0 |
| 16 to 19 years | 893 | 910 | 434 | 442 | 48.6 | 48.6 | 178 | 172 | 41.0 | 38.9 |
| 20 to 24 years | 1.504 | 1.545 | 723 | 719 | 48.1 | 46.5 | 183 | 212 | 25.3 | 29.5 |
| 4 years of high school | 6.091 | 5.903 | 4.671 | 4.464 | 76.7 | 75.6 | 663 | 769 | 14.2 | 17.2 |
| 1 to 3 years of coliege | 1.646 | 1.691 | 1.384 | 1.428 | 84.1 | 84.4 | 125 | 160 | 9.0 | 11.2 |
| 4 years of college or more : | 885 | 833 | 835 | 775 | 94.4 | 93.0 | 34 | 76 | 4.1 | 9.8 |

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals

[^0]was not statistically significant, reflecting the relatively large variance in small sample estimates. Most of the slippage in the participation rate for students, which began in 1978,
occurred among teenagers, especially those 16 and 17 years old. Reasons for this decline include discouragement with the prospects of getting a job in a slack labor market and

Table 2. Employment status of persons 16 to 24 years old, by school enroliment status, years of school completed, race, Hispanic origin, and sex, October 1981-82

| [Numbers in thousands] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Characteristic | Civilian noninstitutional population |  | Civilian labor force |  | Participation rate |  | Unemployed |  | Unemployment rate |  |
|  | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 | 1981 | 1982 |
| WHITE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enrolled. total. 16 to 24 years | 13.312 | 13.010 | 6,577 | 6.400 | 49.4 | 49.2 | 820 | 942 | 12.5 | 14.7 |
| 16 to 19 years ....... | 9.285 | 8.873 | 4.242 | 3,967 | 45.7 | 44.7 | 663 | 744 | 15.6 | 18.7 |
| 20 to 24 years | 4.027 | 4.317 | 2.335 | 2.431 | 58.0 | 58.8 | 160 | 198 | 6.8 | 8.2 |
| Men .... | 6.853 | 6.662 | 3.432 | 3.221 | 50.1 | 48.3 | 453 | 523 | 13.2 | 16.2 |
| Women | 6.459 | 6.348 | 3.145 | 3.179 | 48.7 | 50.1 | 368 | 419 | 11.7 | 13.2 |
| High school | 6.572 | 6,206 | 2.946 | 2,668 | 44.8 | 43.0 | 501 | 565 | 17.0 | 21.2 |
| College | 6.740 | 6.804 | 3.632 | 3.730 | 53.9 | 54.8 | 320 | 380 | 8.8 | 10.2 |
| Not enrolled, total, 16 to 24 years | 17.797 | 17.481 | 14.898 | 14.457 | 83.7 | 82.7 | 1,854 | 2,264 | 12.4 | 15.7 |
| Men | 8.562 | 8.399 | 7.996 | 7.774 | 93.4 | 92.6 | 1,045 | 1,289 | 13.1 | 16.6 |
| Women | 9.236 | 9.082 | 6.902 | 6.683 | 74.7 | 73.6 | 809 | 975 | 11.7 | 14.6 |
| School completed: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than 4 years | 4,107 | 4,001 | 2.889 | 2.727 | 70.4 | 68.2 | 657 | 758 | 22.7 | 27.8 |
| 4 years | 9,778 | 9.524 | 8,417 | 8,111 | 86.1 | 85.2 | 980 | 1,188 | 11.6 | 14.6 |
| College: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 to 3 years | 2.511 | 2.533 | 2.253 | 2.261 | 89.7 | 89.3 | 149 | 201 | 6.6 | 8.9 |
| 4 years.. | 1.402 | 1,423 | 1.339 | 1,357 | 95.5 | 95.4 | 68 | 117 | 5.1 | 8.6 |
| BLACK |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enrolled, total, 16 to 24 years | 2.083 | 2.062 | 598 | 591 | 28.7 | 28.7 | 207 | 217 | 34.6 | 36.7 |
| 16 to 19 years | 1.598 | 1.519 | 368 | 319 | 23.0 | 21.0 | 167 | 149 | 45.3 | 46.7 |
| 20 to 24 years | 485 | 544 | 229 | 271 | 47.3 | 49.8 | 42 | 68 | 18.1 | 25.3 |
| Men | 1.010 | 996 | 278 | 293 | 27.5 | 29.4 | 72 | 122 | 25.9 | 41.6 |
| Women | 1.072 | 1.066 | 320 | 298 | 29.9 | 28.0 | 135 | 95 | 42.2 | 31.9 |
| High school | 1.303 | 1,274 | 280 | 237 | 21.5 | 18.6 | 138 | 125 | 49.3 | 52.7 |
| College | 780 | 788 | 317 | 350 | 40.6 | 44.4 | 71 | 93 | 22.4 | 26.6 |
| Not enrolled, total, 16 to 24 years | 2.850 | 2.923 | 2,085 | 2.109 | 73.2 | 72.2 | 680 | 814 | 32.6 | 38.6 |
| Men | 1,292 | 1.341 | 1.065 | 1.105 | 82.4 | 82.4 | 332 | 419 | 31.2 | 37.9 |
| Women | 1,558 | 1.581 | 1.019 | 1.005 | 65.4 | 63.6 | 349 | 395 | 34.2 | 39.3 |
| School completed: High school: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than 4 years | 913 | 917 | 551 | 544 | 60.4 | 59.3 | 266 | 288 | 48.3 | 52.9 |
| 4 years ..... | 1.501 | 1.523 | 1.144 | 1.137 | 76.2 | 74.7 | 338 | 406 | 29.6 | 35.7 |
| College: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 to 3 years 4 years or more | 348 88 | 407 74 | 306 84 | 359 71 | 87.9 95.5 | ${ }_{\text {(1) }}^{88.2}$ | 69 7 | 102 17 | 22.5 8.3 | $\begin{gathered} 28.4 \\ (1) \end{gathered}$ |
| HISPANIC ORIGIN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enrolled. total, 16 to 24 years | 984 | 955 | 374 | 330 | 38.1 | 34.6 | 60 | 74 | 16.0 | 22.4 |
| 16 to 19 years ...... | 752 | 746 | 227 | 203 | 30.2 | 27.2 | 44 | 60 | 19.4 | 29.6 |
| 20 to 24 years | 232 | 209 | 148 | 124 | 63.8 | 59.3 | 15 | 15 | 10.1 | 12.1 |
| Men | 517 | 499 | 207 | 163 | 40.0 | 32.7 | 37 | 38 | 17.9 | 23.3 |
| Women | 467 | 456 | 167 | 164 | 35.8 | 36.0 | 22 | 37 | 13.2 | 22.6 |
| High school | 627 357 | 605 351 | 180 | 142 | 28.7 | 23.5 | 36 | 52 | 20.0 | 36.6 |
| Coillege . . | 357 | 351 | 194 | 189 | 54.4 | 53.8 | 23 | 24 | 11.9 | 12.7 |
| Not enrolled, total, 16 to 24 years | 1.701 | 1.643 | 1.278 | 1.171 | 75.1 | 71.3 | 197 | 251 | 15.4 | 21.4 |
| Men . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 816 | 764 | 736 | 668 | 90.2 | 87.4 | 115 | 145 | 15.6 | 21.7 |
| Women | 885 | 879 | 542 | 506 | 61.3 | 57.6 | 82 | 106 | 15.2 | 20.9 |
| School completed: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than 4 years 4 years | 891 | 822 616 | 620 501 | 534 468 | $\begin{aligned} & 69.6 \\ & 79.0 \end{aligned}$ | 65.0 76.0 | 111 75 | 132 93 | 18.0 15.0 | 24.7 19.9 |
| Coilege: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 to 3 years 4 years or more | 141 36 | 157 46 | 123 33 | 125 45 | ${ }_{\text {(1) }}^{87.2}$ | 79.6 (1) | 10 1 | 19 6 | $\begin{aligned} & 8.1 \\ & (1) \end{aligned}$ | (15.2 |
| ${ }^{1}$ Data not shown where base is less than $75,000$. |  |  | the white and black population groups. Because of rounding, sums of individual items |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Note: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not add to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both |  |  |  | t equal to |  |  |  |  |  |  |

greater competition, mostly with adult women, for part-time work. Among youth not in school, the trend generally has paralleled that of adults 25 years and over, with the rates for men moving slowly down, while those for women have been rising. Between October of 1981 and 1982, even these women were feeling the effects of the tabor market pinch and their participation rate edged down.

In October 1982, white youth had the highest labor force participation rates, followed by Hispanics and blacks. These patterns have persisted historically among both high school and college students, as well as among youth no longer in school. Among young men out of school, the participation rate for Hispanics was midway between those of whites and blacks. Hispanic women out of school continued to have the lowest participation rate among all youth 16 to 24 .

## Unemployment rates

Unemployment rates for students and youth not in school rose sharply over the year ending in October 1982, reaching 16.7 and 18.5 percent, respectively. In past decades, students, most of whom seek part-time jobs, had higher unemployment rates than out-of-school youth. Beginning in 1980, this situation was reversed, partly because of the "aging" of the student group. Fewer students are now 16 and 17, ages at which unemployment rates are highest. Also, youth not in school, most of whom prefer full-time work. were experiencing difficulties in a slow job market.

Table 3. Occupation of employed persons 16 to 24 years old by school enrollment status and age, October 1982
[Numbers in thousands]

| Employment status and occupation | Enrolled |  | Not enroiled |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} 16 \text { to } \\ 19 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 20 \text { to } \\ 24 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 16 \text { to } \\ 19 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 20 \text { to } \\ 24 \\ \text { years } \end{gathered}$ |
| Total employed | 3.485 | 2,510 | 2.703 | 11.053 |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Full time | 8.4 | 35.2 | 64.2 | 82.6 |
| Part time | 91.6 | 64.8 | 35.8 | 17.4 |
| Employed full time. percent distribution | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Protessionai and technical workers | 55 | 20.5 | 1.4 | 11.6 |
| Managers and administrators. except farm | 6.1 | 8.4 | 3.6 | 7.5 |
| Salesworkers | 9.9 | 6.6 | 5.0 | 5.4 |
| Clerical workers | 24.6 | 27.0 | 19.4 | 22.3 |
| Craft and kindred workers | 2.0 | 7.8 | 11.9 | 132 |
| Operatives except transport | 6.8 | 6.4 | 14.6 | 12.5 |
| Transport equipment operatives | 2.0 | 1.1 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Nontarm laborers | 5.5 | 4.2 | 12.6 | 7.8 |
| Private household workers | 2.0 | 2 | 1.7 | 5 |
| Other service workers | 25.6 | 16.3 | 19.4 | 12.6 |
| Farm workers | 9.9 | 1.5 | 6.8 | 3.6 |
| Employed part time, percent distribution | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Protessional and technical workers | 3.5 | 17.2 | 1.3 | 6.6 |
| Managers and administrators, except farm | . 6 | 2.2 | 6 | 1.8 |
| Salesworkers | 12.3 | 12.1 | 8.5 | 7.0 |
| Clerical workers | 21.4 | 26.1 | 18.9 | 19.9 |
| Craft and kindred workers | 13 | 3.0 | 6.8 | 8.4 |
| Operatives. except transport | 33 | 3.0 | 8.8 | 9.9 |
| Transport equipment operatives | 18 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 2.3 |
| Nonfarm laborers | 14.3 | 7.4 | 12.6 | 10.3 |
| Private household workers | 4.7 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 2.8 |
| Other service workers | 33.5 | 25.2 | 33.5 | 29.4 |
| Farm workers | 3.4 | 6 | 5.2 | 1.6 |

Table 4. School enrollment and labor force status of 1982 high school graduates and 1981-82 school dropouts 16 to 24 years old by sex, race, and Hispanic origin, October 1982
[Numbers in thousancs]

| Characteristic | Civilian noninstitutional population | Civilian labor force |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Number | Participation rate | Employed | Unemployed |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Number | Percent |
| Total. 1982 high |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| school graduates | 3.100 | 1.952 | 63.0 | 1.512 | 440 | 22.5 |
| Men | 1.508 | 976 | 64.7 | 769 | 207 | 21.2 |
| Women | 1.592 | 976 | 61.3 | 743 | 233 | 23.9 |
| White | 2.644 | 1,708 | 64.5 | 1.383 | 325 | 19.0 |
| Black | 384 | 211 | 54.9 | 99 | 112 | 53.0 |
| Hispanic origin. | 174 | 99 | 57.0 | 65 | 34 | 34.3 |
| Enrolled in college | 1.568 | 695 | 44.3 | 586 | 109 | 15.7 |
| Men | 739 | 316 | 42.8 | 270 | 46 | 146 |
| Women | 829 | 379 | 45.7 | 316 | 63 | 16.6 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Full-time } \\ & \text { students } \end{aligned}$ | 1.419 | 577 | 40.6 | 483 | 94 | 16.3 |
| Part-time students | 149 | 118 | 79.2 | 103 | 15 | 12.7 |
| White | 1.376 | 635 | 46.1 | 540 | 95 | 150 |
| Black | 140 | 42 | 30.0 | 28 | 14 |  |
| Hispanic origin. | 75 | 25 | 33.3 | 22 | 3 | (2) |
| Not enrolied in college | 1.532 | 1.257 | 82.0 | 926 | 331 | 26.3 |
| Men | 769 | 660 | 85.8 | 499 | 161 | 24.4 |
| Wornen | 763 | 597 | 78.2 | 427 | 170 | 28.5 |
| White | 1.268 | 1.073 | 84.6 | 843 | 230 | 21.4 |
| Black | 244 | 169 | 69.3 | 71 | 98 | 58.0 |
| Hispanic origin | 99 | 74 | 74.7 | 43 | 31 | ${ }^{(2)}$ |
| Total. 1981-82 school dropouts ${ }^{1}$ | 668 | 421 | 63.0 | 246 | 175 | 41.6 |
| Men | 355 | 272 | 76.6 | 154 | 118 | 43.4 |
| Women | 313 | 149 | 47.6 | 92 | 57 | 38.3 |
| Single | 216 | 109 | 50.5 | 67 | 42 | 38.5 |
| Other marital status | 96 | 40 | 41.7 | 25 | 15 | $\left(^{2}\right)$ |
| White . . . . | 513 | 344 | 67.1 | 220 | 124 | 360 |
| Black | 135 | 70 | 51.9 | 20 | 50 | ${ }^{(2)}$ |
| Hispanic origin | 73 | 45 | (2) | 26 | 19 | (2) |

${ }^{1}$ Data refer to persons who dropped out of school between October 1981 and October 1982. In addition. 59.000 persons 14 and 15 years old dropped out of school during this period
${ }^{2}$ Data not shown where base is less than 75.000
NoTE Detail for white. black, and Hispanic-origin groups will not add to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and biack population groups. Because of rounding. sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Unemployment rates increased sharply for white students and nonstudents over the year. Rates for black students in both high school and college showed no significant over-the-year change, but out-of-school black youth experienced substantial increases. Jobless rates for black youth were more than twice those of white youth across every educational attainment category. Among Hispanics, both students and those not in school experienced increased unemployment between October 1981 and 1982. Their unemployment rates remained between those of whites and blacks.

## Occupations

The school enrollment status of youth is. of course. a major controlling factor in the occupational distribution of these workers. With worktime limited by class schedules, most students are employed only part time in jobs which

| Table 5. Percent of recent high school graduates 16 to 24 years old enrolled in college by year of graduation, and race |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year of graduation | Total | White | Black ${ }^{1}$ |
| 1970 | 52 | 52 | 48 |
| 1971 | 53 | 54 | 47 |
| 1972 | 49 | 49 | 48 |
| 1973 | 47 | 48 | 35 |
| 1974 | 48 | 47 | 51 |
| 1975 | 51 | 51 | 46 |
| 1976 | 49 | 49 | 48 |
| 1977 | 51 | 51 | 50 |
| 1978 | 50 | 50 | 46 |
| 1979 | 49 | 50 | 46 |
| 1980 | 49 | 50 | 43 |
| 1981 | 54 | 55 | 43 |
| 1982 | 51 | 52 | 36 |
| ${ }^{1}$ Black and other races. 1970-76; black only, 1977-82. |  |  |  |

can accommodate varying working hours. In October 1982, 6 of 10 teenage students employed part time were clerical, private household, or service workers. (See table 3.) Teenagers not enrolled in school usually held full-time jobs. While the largest proportions were also in clerical and service jobs, 4 of 10 were operatives, nonfarm laborers, or craft workers.

Two-thirds of the 20- to 24-year-old students worked part time, with the largest proportions in clerical and service occupations. While 17 percent held professional or technical jobs, perhaps related to their college studies, only 3 percent of the teenage students held such jobs. The out-of-school youth 20 to 24 who worked full time were far more likely than their teenage counterparts to be in professional-technical and managerial jobs; relatively few were nonfarm laborers or service workers.

## High school graduates and dropouts in 1982

About half ( 51 percent) of the 3.1 million youth who had graduated from high school in 1982 were enrolled in college by October. (See table 4.) This proportion was 3 percentage points lower than the 1981 peak, with little difference between men and women. However, after having been reasonably close for most years during the 1970's, the differences between college enrollment rates of whites and blacks widened in the early 1980's, with a particularly big drop between October of 1981 and 1982. A sharp decline in black enrollment was the principal cause of this widening gap. (See table 5.)

Eighty-two percent of the new high school graduates not enrolled in college were in the labor force by October 1982. Poor economic conditions led to a sharply higher unemployment rate- 26.3 versus 21.4 percent-for the yearearlier graduates.

The number of youth who dropped out of school over the year-670,000-was lower than in recent years, reflecting primarily a decline in the population of 16-year-olds. At 41.6 percent, the unemployment rate for recent dropouts was more than 1.8 times the rate of the year's new high school graduates.


#### Abstract

${ }^{1}$ This report is based primarily on supplementary questions in the October 1982 Current Population Survey (CPS). conducted and tabulated for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census. Most data relate to persons 16 to 24 years of age in the civilian noninstitutional population in the week ending Oct. 16, 1982.

Sampling variability may be relatively large in cases where the numbers are small. Small estimates, or small differences between estimates, should be interpreted with caution. Standard errors for school age youth data were published in Special Labor Force Report 241. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For the most recent report in this series, see Anne McDougall Young, "Labor force patterns of students, graduates, and dropouts. 1981," Monthl. Labor Review, September 1982, pp. 39-42. ${ }^{2}$ See Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex and Race: 1970 to 1981. Currem Population Reports. Series P25. No. 917 (U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1982), table 3.


## Registered nurses total 1.7 million; 77 percent employed in profession

As of November 1980, an estimated 1.7 million individuals in the United States were licensed to practice as registered nurses, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. ${ }^{\text {I }}$ The great majority were white women. Only 2.7 percent of the nurses were men, while 7.2 percent were from racial or ethnic minority backgrounds. More than half were under age 40 ; the median age was 38.4 years.

Most of the registered nurses were married, 70.6 percent. In fact, almost half of all the 1.7 million nurses were married with children in the home. Almost 15 percent were never married and about 14 percent were widowed, divorced, or separated.

Among all the registered nurses in November 1980, almost two-thirds had obtained their basic nursing education in a diploma program; 19 percent, in an associate degree program; and 17 percent, in a baccalaureate program. When all the formal education related to nursing was taken into account, both basic and that which was received after the nurses had obtained their registered nurse licenses, it was estimated that about 18 percent of the nurses had associate degrees; 54 percent, diplomas; and 22 percent, baccalaureates. Another 5 percent had master's or doctoral degrees. About a third of those whose highest advanced degree was either a master's or doctorate had majored in education. Eighteen percent had focused on supervision or administration and 43 percent, on clinical practice.

## Employment status

There were $1,272,851$ registered nurses who were employed in nursing, 76.6 percent of the 1.7 million with current licenses to practice. The men had higher activity rates than the women, 86 percent compared to 76 percent. Registered nurses from minority groups were more likely to be employed than were the nonminority nurses, 89 percent compared with 76 percent. Thus, among the registered nurses
employed in nursing, an estimated 8.3 percent were from minority racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Registered nurses who were employed in nursing tended to be younger than those who were not. The median age of the employed nurses was 36.3 years. For those who were not employed in nursing, the median was 47.0 years. A larger proportion of those who were not employed in nursing were married than of those who were employed, 80 percent compared with 68 percent.

Almost a third of the registered nurses employed in nursing, 32 percent. were employed on a part-time basis. The 404,943 part-timers represented almost a quarter of the 1.7 million registered nurses in the country. Part-timers were far more prevalent among the married nurses than among those who were never married or were formerly married. They were particularly numerous among the married nurses with young children (less than 6 years old). Almost half of all married registered nurses with young children ( 42 percent) were employed in nursing on a part-time basis.

## The employed registered nurses

Because registered nurses are employed in many different areas of the health delivery system, a review of employed nurses should consider the settings in which they are employed, the types of positions and the functions performed. The overwhelming majority of them work in hospitals and in staff-level positions. Almost two-thirds, or 835,647 , of the $1,272,851$ employed registered nurses were working in hospitals. An estimated 824,844 nurses, or 65 percent of the 1.3 million employed had position titles in their primary positions which could be considered staff nurse positions. In addition to these, there were about 58,000 nurses who were in specialized positions predominantly geared toward patient care. These included an estimated 19,070 clinical nursing specialists, 16,758 nurse midwives or practitioners. 14,580 nurse anesthetists, and 8,006 nurse clinicians. Given this distribution, it is not surprising that 64 percent of the 1.3 million employed nurses were estimated to spend at least half their time during a regular workweek in direct patient care. An estimated 45 percent of the 1.3 million spent at least three-quarters of their time in direct patient care.

About 11 percent, or 143,693 , of those employed in nursing were estimated to hold more than one position in nursing. The type of work performed in what they considered their secondary position(s) was varied. However, a number of these nurses were estimated to be working through temporary employment services. Taking these secondary positions into account along with the employers identified for the nurses' principal positions, it was estimated that 39,138 registered nurses, or 3 percent of the 1.3 million employed nurses, were working through temporary employment services in November 1980. For about half of these nurses, 49 percent, the work received through the temporary service was their principal nursing position.

While almost a third of all employed nurses worked on a part-time basis, the ratio of full- to part-timers varied according to the field of employment. Thus, it was estimated that about 46 percent of the nurses employed in nursing homes and 42 percent in physician or dentist offices were part-timers. Among those employed in hospitals, 30.6 percent were part time. On the other hand, only 15 percent of the occupational health nurses and 20 percent of those in public or community health settings were part-timers. Considering all employed nurses working full time, the average annual hours worked (including paid vacation, and so forth) was 2,031. For the part-timers, it was $1,037-51$ percent of the average full-time hours.

Differences among employed nurses are noted according to educational background, as well. Thus, nurses in higherlevel and teaching positions were more likely to have advanced education. About 20 percent of the nurses in administrative positions and 40 percent of those in instructor type positions had master's degrees or doctorates. Among the clinical nursing specialists, it was estimated that 27.5 percent had at least a master's degree, and for nurse clinicians, 15 percent had at least a master's degree.

Among the nurse midwives or practitioners, 80 percent had no more than a baccalaureate degree. However, 78 percent had received formal nurse practitioner training, most of them in programs leading to a certificate. Among those who had formal nurse practitioner training, about 28 percent studied in family nurse practitioner programs. 20 percent in pediatric nurse practitioner programs, and 16 percent in adult nurse practitioner programs.

The average annual earnings of the registered nurses employed on a full-time basis in November 1980 were $\$ 17,398$. The earnings varied according to the field of employment and type of position. The lowest average earnings were found for the staff nurses in physician or dentist offices. $\$ 12,048$. General duty or staff nurses in hospitals averaged $\$ 16,521$, while those in hospital administrative positions averaged \$24.486.

## Registered nurses not employed in nursing

Of the 388.537 individuals who had current licenses to practice in November 1980 but were not employed in nursing, 32,784 , or 8 percent, were actively seeking nursing employment. These 32,784 nurses represented 2 percent of the 1.7 million registered nurses. More than two-thirds of those looking for nursing employment were seeking parttime jobs. The majority of those actively seeking nursing jobs had been looking for no more than 4 weeks.

An estimated 75,664 registered nurses were employed in non-nursing occupations. Of these, 6,480 were also included in the group seeking nursing employment. Approximately 32 percent of those in non-nursing occupations were in health-related occupations. Almost 40 percent of the nonnursing workers were employed part time, most of these in non-health related occupations.

Apart from those who were seeking nursing employment or were employed in a non-nursing capacity, there were an estimated 286,568 inactive registered nurses. Most of these, 80.7 percent, were married, and most of the married inactive nurses had children at home. In total, of the 286,568 inactive nurses, about half $(142,000)$ were married with children in the home. Of the remaining inactive nurses, who were either not married or did not have children, about 117,500 were at least 50 years old. Thus, at most, about 27,000 of these inactive nurses were under age 50 and were not married with children at home.

The preceding excerpt is adapted from the full report, The Registered Nurse Population: An Overview, NTIS Accession No. HRP-090-4551, which is available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal, Springfield, Virginia 22151 . The cost is $\$ 10$ per copy.
_-FOOTNOTE-_-_
${ }^{1}$ There were 1.670 .817 individuals with current licenses to practice as of November 1980, 8.435 of whom were abroad. The data in the report relate only to those located in the United States.

## Vaccara wins Shiskin award

The fourth annual Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics was presented in memory of Beatrice N. Vaccara. She was honored "for her major contributions to economic statistics including the development and application of input-output modeling and improvements to the system of business cycle indicators; and for her leadership and direction of practical, policy-oriented economic analysis while Deputy Assistant Secretary for Domestic Economic Policy at Treasury and Director of the Bureau of Industrial Economics at Commerce."

The Shiskin award, honoring the late Commissioner of Labor Statistics, was presented at the annual dinner of the Washington Statistical Society, along with an honorarium of $\$ 250$, to the Beatrice Vaccara Memorial Fund.


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