

NEWS RELEASE

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F L A B O R



For release 10:00 a.m. (ET) Wednesday, August 17, 2022

USDL-22-1681

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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH — SUMMER 2022

In July 2022, 55.3 percent of young people (persons ages 16 to 24) were employed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This measure was up from 54.4 percent in July 2021. The July 2022 figure remains below its level of 56.2 percent in July 2019, prior to the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. (The month of July typically is the summertime peak in youth employment.) The unemployment rate for youth was 8.5 percent in July 2022, down from the rate in July 2021 (10.0 percent) but little different from July 2019 (9.1 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. This summer, the youth labor force grew by 2.6 million, or 12.9 percent, from April to a total of 22.9 million in July. (See table 1.)

The labor force participation rate for all youth was 60.4 percent in July 2022, little different from a year earlier. (The labor force participation rate is the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population that is employed or unemployed. To be classified as unemployed, a person must either be looking and available for work or on temporary layoff.) The July 2022 youth labor force participation rate was 1.4 percentage points lower than its 2019 level prior to the pandemic. (See table 2.)

In 2022, the July labor force participation rate for 16- to 24-year-old men, at 61.7 percent, was little different from the prior year but down by 1.5 percentage points from 2019. The July rate for young women, at 59.2 percent, was also little different from a year earlier but was 1.2 percentage points lower than in 2019.

The July 2022 labor force participation rate for young Asians (49.4 percent) increased over the year, while the participation rates for Whites (62.6 percent), Blacks (55.1 percent), and Hispanics (55.5 percent) showed little or no change. The July 2022 participation rates for young Whites, young Blacks, and young Hispanics were 1.5 percentage points, 3.2 percentage points, and 2.3

percentage points lower, respectively, than in July 2019. The July 2022 labor force participation rate for young Asians was 4.8 percentage points higher than in July 2019. (See table 2.)

Employment

In July 2022, there were 21.0 million employed 16- to 24-year-olds. Between April and July, the number of employed youth rose by 2.1 million, or 11.4 percent. The employment-population ratio for youth—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian noninstitutional population with a job—was 55.3 percent in July 2022, an increase of 0.9 percentage point from the prior year. However, the July 2022 ratio was lower than the July 2019 ratio of 56.2 percent. (See tables 1 and 2.)

Employment-population ratios were higher in July 2022 than they were a year earlier for young men (56.3 percent), Whites (58.3 percent), and Asians (44.1 percent), while the ratios for women (54.3 percent), Blacks (46.4 percent), and Hispanics (50.1 percent) were little changed. The employment-population ratios in July 2022 for men, women, Whites, Asians, and Hispanics were little different than in July 2019, while the ratio for Blacks was 3.4 percentage points lower than in July 2019.

In July 2022, 24 percent (5.1 million) of employed 16- to 24-year-olds worked in the leisure and hospitality industry, little different from the prior year. An additional 19 percent of employed youth worked in the retail trade industry in July 2022, and 12 percent worked in education and health services. (See table 3.)

Unemployment

Typically, the number of unemployed young people increases between April and July, as people who were not in the labor force while attending school begin seeking employment.

Unemployment among youth rose by 479,000 from April to July 2022. About three-fourths of the unemployed youth were looking for full-time work in July 2022, little different from the prior year. (See tables 1 and 2.)

The youth unemployment rate, at 8.5 percent in July 2022, was down from 10.0 percent in July 2021 but little different from the July 2019 rate of 9.1 percent. The July 2022 unemployment rates for young men (8.8 percent), Whites (7.0 percent), and Hispanics (9.7 percent) were lower than in the prior summer, while the rates for women (8.2 percent), Blacks (15.9 percent), and Asians (10.8 percent) were little changed from July 2021.

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.

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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 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. Beginning with data for 2020, persons are classified using the 2017 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 2022
 [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.....	37,906	37,918	37,935	37,954	48	0.1
Civilian labor force.....	20,323	20,768	22,714	22,943	2,620	12.9
Participation rate.....	53.6	54.8	59.9	60.4	6.8	12.7
Employed.....	18,851	19,139	20,591	20,992	2,141	11.4
Employment-population ratio.....	49.7	50.5	54.3	55.3	5.6	11.3
Unemployed.....	1,472	1,629	2,123	1,951	479	32.5
Looking for full-time work.....	1,040	1,179	1,569	1,415	375	36.1
Looking for part-time work.....	432	450	554	536	104	24.1
Unemployment rate.....	7.2	7.8	9.3	8.5	1.3	18.1
Not in labor force.....	17,583	17,150	15,221	15,011	-2,572	-14.6
Men						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	19,038	19,045	19,054	19,065	27	0.1
Civilian labor force.....	10,348	10,560	11,708	11,763	1,415	13.7
Participation rate.....	54.4	55.4	61.4	61.7	7.3	13.4
Employed.....	9,486	9,721	10,575	10,733	1,247	13.1
Employment-population ratio.....	49.8	51.0	55.5	56.3	6.5	13.1
Unemployed.....	863	839	1,133	1,031	168	19.5
Looking for full-time work.....	662	660	879	798	136	20.5
Looking for part-time work.....	200	179	254	232	32	16.0
Unemployment rate.....	8.3	7.9	9.7	8.8	0.5	6.0
Not in labor force.....	8,690	8,485	7,346	7,302	-1,388	-16.0
Women						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	18,867	18,873	18,880	18,890	23	0.1
Civilian labor force.....	9,974	10,208	11,006	11,180	1,206	12.1
Participation rate.....	52.9	54.1	58.3	59.2	6.3	11.9
Employed.....	9,365	9,418	10,016	10,259	894	9.5
Employment-population ratio.....	49.6	49.9	53.0	54.3	4.7	9.5
Unemployed.....	609	790	990	921	312	51.2
Looking for full-time work.....	377	519	690	617	240	63.7
Looking for part-time work.....	232	271	301	304	72	31.0
Unemployment rate.....	6.1	7.7	9.0	8.2	2.1	34.4
Not in labor force.....	8,893	8,665	7,875	7,710	-1,183	-13.3
White						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	27,771	27,777	27,786	27,798	27	0.1
Civilian labor force.....	15,442	15,682	17,259	17,411	1,969	12.8
Participation rate.....	55.6	56.5	62.1	62.6	7.0	12.6
Employed.....	14,470	14,604	15,740	16,197	1,727	11.9
Employment-population ratio.....	52.1	52.6	56.6	58.3	6.2	11.9
Unemployed.....	972	1,078	1,519	1,213	241	24.8
Looking for full-time work.....	624	771	1,110	837	213	34.1
Looking for part-time work.....	348	306	409	376	28	8.0
Unemployment rate.....	6.3	6.9	8.8	7.0	0.7	11.1
Not in labor force.....	12,329	12,095	10,527	10,388	-1,941	-15.7
Black or African American						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,546	5,547	5,548	5,551	5	0.1
Civilian labor force.....	2,706	2,907	3,011	3,060	354	13.1
Participation rate.....	48.8	52.4	54.3	55.1	6.3	12.9
Employed.....	2,352	2,509	2,619	2,574	222	9.4
Employment-population ratio.....	42.4	45.2	47.2	46.4	4.0	9.4
Unemployed.....	354	398	391	486	132	37.3
Looking for full-time work.....	315	306	316	380	65	20.6
Looking for part-time work.....	39	92	76	106	67	171.8
Unemployment rate.....	13.1	13.7	13.0	15.9	2.8	21.4
Not in labor force.....	2,840	2,640	2,538	2,490	-350	-12.3

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 2022 — 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.....	2,246	2,240	2,244	2,203	-43	-1.9
Civilian labor force.....	906	919	985	1,089	183	20.2
Participation rate.....	40.3	41.0	43.9	49.4	9.1	22.6
Employed.....	854	863	881	971	117	13.7
Employment-population ratio.....	38.0	38.6	39.3	44.1	6.1	16.1
Unemployed.....	52	55	104	117	65	125.0
Looking for full-time work.....	42	41	75	103	61	145.2
Looking for part-time work.....	10	14	30	15	5	50.0
Unemployment rate.....	5.7	6.0	10.6	10.8	5.1	89.5
Not in labor force.....	1,340	1,321	1,259	1,114	-226	-16.9
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	9,141	9,158	9,175	9,193	52	0.6
Civilian labor force.....	4,845	5,019	5,179	5,099	254	5.2
Participation rate.....	53.0	54.8	56.4	55.5	2.5	4.7
Employed.....	4,526	4,607	4,642	4,607	81	1.8
Employment-population ratio.....	49.5	50.3	50.6	50.1	0.6	1.2
Unemployed.....	319	412	538	493	174	54.5
Looking for full-time work.....	211	304	436	330	119	56.4
Looking for part-time work.....	108	108	101	163	55	50.9
Unemployment rate.....	6.6	8.2	10.4	9.7	3.1	47.0
Not in labor force.....	4,296	4,138	3,996	4,093	-203	-4.7

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 2019-2022
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022
TOTAL				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	37,729	37,472	37,250	37,954
Civilian labor force.....	23,311	21,479	22,522	22,943
Participation rate.....	61.8	57.3	60.5	60.4
Employed.....	21,196	17,507	20,268	20,992
Employment-population ratio.....	56.2	46.7	54.4	55.3
Unemployed.....	2,115	3,973	2,254	1,951
Looking for full-time work.....	1,447	2,651	1,697	1,415
Looking for part-time work.....	668	1,321	557	536
Unemployment rate.....	9.1	18.5	10.0	8.5
Not in labor force.....	14,417	15,993	14,728	15,011
Men				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	18,964	18,813	18,692	19,065
Civilian labor force.....	11,977	10,990	11,547	11,763
Participation rate.....	63.2	58.4	61.8	61.7
Employed.....	10,857	8,966	10,294	10,733
Employment-population ratio.....	57.3	47.7	55.1	56.3
Unemployed.....	1,120	2,024	1,253	1,031
Looking for full-time work.....	803	1,388	976	798
Looking for part-time work.....	317	636	277	232
Unemployment rate.....	9.4	18.4	10.9	8.8
Not in labor force.....	6,987	7,823	7,145	7,302
Women				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	18,765	18,659	18,559	18,890
Civilian labor force.....	11,334	10,489	10,976	11,180
Participation rate.....	60.4	56.2	59.1	59.2
Employed.....	10,339	8,541	9,975	10,259
Employment-population ratio.....	55.1	45.8	53.7	54.3
Unemployed.....	995	1,949	1,001	921
Looking for full-time work.....	645	1,263	721	617
Looking for part-time work.....	350	686	280	304
Unemployment rate.....	8.8	18.6	9.1	8.2
Not in labor force.....	7,430	8,170	7,583	7,710
White				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	27,658	27,474	27,333	27,798
Civilian labor force.....	17,716	16,322	17,168	17,411
Participation rate.....	64.1	59.4	62.8	62.6
Employed.....	16,295	13,595	15,635	16,197
Employment-population ratio.....	58.9	49.5	57.2	58.3
Unemployed.....	1,421	2,727	1,533	1,213
Looking for full-time work.....	938	1,819	1,170	837
Looking for part-time work.....	483	908	363	376
Unemployment rate.....	8.0	16.7	8.9	7.0
Not in labor force.....	9,942	11,152	10,165	10,388
Black or African American				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	5,561	5,494	5,452	5,551
Civilian labor force.....	3,243	2,884	3,004	3,060
Participation rate.....	58.3	52.5	55.1	55.1
Employed.....	2,771	2,151	2,594	2,574
Employment-population ratio.....	49.8	39.2	47.6	46.4
Unemployed.....	472	733	410	486
Looking for full-time work.....	374	537	325	380
Looking for part-time work.....	98	196	85	106
Unemployment rate.....	14.6	25.4	13.6	15.9
Not in labor force.....	2,318	2,610	2,448	2,490

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2019-2022 — Continued
 [Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.]

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022
Asian				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	2,387	2,234	2,186	2,203
Civilian labor force.....	1,065	958	976	1,089
Participation rate.....	44.6	42.9	44.6	49.4
Employed.....	978	715	856	971
Employment-population ratio.....	41.0	32.0	39.1	44.1
Unemployed.....	87	243	120	117
Looking for full-time work.....	37	138	70	103
Looking for part-time work.....	50	106	50	15
Unemployment rate.....	8.2	25.4	12.3	10.8
Not in labor force.....	1,322	1,277	1,210	1,114
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
Civilian noninstitutional population.....	8,750	8,810	8,880	9,193
Civilian labor force.....	5,059	4,789	5,044	5,099
Participation rate.....	57.8	54.4	56.8	55.5
Employed.....	4,485	3,752	4,456	4,607
Employment-population ratio.....	51.3	42.6	50.2	50.1
Unemployed.....	574	1,037	588	493
Looking for full-time work.....	384	726	472	330
Looking for part-time work.....	190	311	116	163
Unemployment rate.....	11.3	21.7	11.7	9.7
Not in labor force.....	3,691	4,021	3,836	4,093

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 2021-2022

[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 2021	July 2022	July 2021	July 2022	July 2021	July 2022	July 2021	July 2022	July 2021	July 2022
Total employed.....	20,268	20,992	15,635	16,197	2,594	2,574	856	971	4,456	4,607
Agriculture and related industries.....	251	347	238	317	4	11	0	0	52	75
Nonagricultural industries.....	20,017	20,645	15,397	15,880	2,590	2,563	856	971	4,404	4,531
Private wage and salary workers ¹	18,396	19,014	14,108	14,661	2,399	2,346	795	886	4,088	4,216
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	29	54	29	39	0	4	0	0	10	5
Construction.....	1,002	1,190	882	971	62	116	6	0	340	429
Manufacturing.....	1,212	1,339	976	1,008	135	161	25	101	258	246
Durable goods.....	758	846	600	648	75	87	18	55	159	154
Nondurable goods.....	455	493	376	360	60	73	7	46	99	92
Wholesale trade.....	231	236	171	168	27	25	20	27	53	52
Retail trade.....	4,061	3,916	3,036	3,008	641	587	132	122	922	919
Transportation and utilities.....	831	1,115	538	810	196	201	31	41	258	267
Information.....	239	205	193	162	11	21	26	9	18	42
Financial activities.....	660	593	487	487	97	53	52	51	105	88
Professional and business services...	1,745	1,794	1,286	1,362	220	183	140	156	328	381
Education and health services.....	2,379	2,468	1,809	1,871	334	347	146	145	437	457
Leisure and hospitality.....	5,161	5,115	3,990	3,972	601	581	190	201	1,193	1,083
Other services.....	847	988	711	806	76	67	29	33	166	248
Government wage and salary workers.....	1,130	1,223	902	908	124	176	47	49	187	221
Federal.....	233	223	196	132	3	56	15	14	32	41
State.....	360	355	280	296	49	21	17	15	56	57
Local.....	538	645	427	481	72	99	15	21	98	122
Self-employed, unincorporated, and unpaid family workers.....	491	408	388	311	68	41	13	37	129	94

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.