

Chapter 3.

A Detailed Look at Employment of Youths Aged 12 to 15

The Report on the Youth Labor Force was revised in November 2000.

Introduction

This chapter examines employment patterns of youths using data from the first interview of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). The NLSY97 was designed specifically to collect a wide range of information on youths in the United States. It provides insight into their labor market experiences, demographic and family characteristics, and participation in school-to-work programs, as well as many other aspects of their lives. The NLSY97 provides an in-depth focus on a cohort of youths who were between the ages of 12 and 16 on December 31, 1996. The first interview will be followed by annual interviews to develop longitudinal data. NLSY97 data complement data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households that provides data on trends over time but does not track specific age cohorts. CPS information on employment trends of youths aged 15 to 17 is described in chapter 4.

In 1997, a nationally representative sample of 9,022 young men and women who were born between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1984, were interviewed in the NLSY97. Thus, respondents were between the ages of 12 and 17 at the time of this first interview. In this chapter, the employment patterns of the young persons while they were aged 14 and 15 are described in detail, followed by a less-detailed look at work among youths while they were aged 12. Finally, participation in school-to-work programs by youths in the ninth grade or higher is discussed.

The NLSY97 survey instrument

The NLSY97 survey instrument uses several tools to identify and classify youth employment. It is widely understood that many youths first enter the labor market through casual employment arrangements. These “freelance” arrangements are characterized by doing one or more tasks, often on an as-needed basis or for multiple employers. For example, babysitting and lawn-mowing services often are provided in this way. By contrast, “employee” jobs, as defined in the NLSY97, are characterized by an ongoing relationship between the young person and his or her particular employer. The NLSY97 was specifically designed to pick up both types of employment. The survey asked detailed questions about all of the “employee” and “freelance” jobs held since one’s 14th birthday. Questions about “any

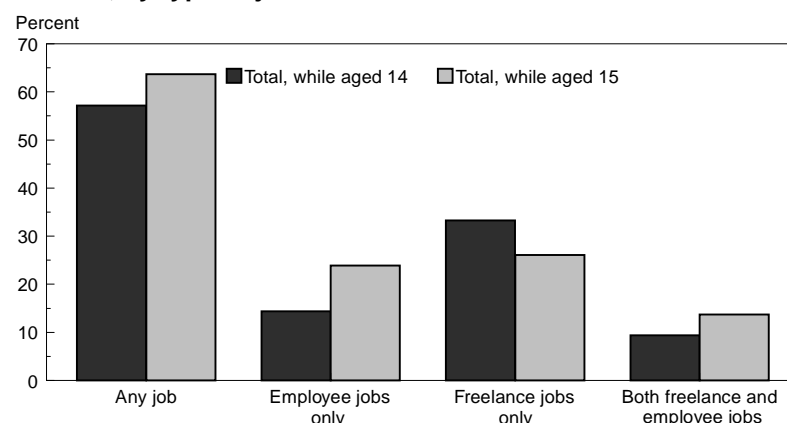
jobs” held since the age of 12 were asked of those aged 12 and 13.

What percentage of youths work at ages 14 and 15?

This analysis focuses on employment during the years that youths were 14 and 15. Because very few youths in the NLSY97 sample had turned 17 by the time of their interview, the employment history for the entire year they were aged 16 was collected for only a small sample. In order to determine whether the youths did any paid work since turning 14, they were first introduced to the concepts of employee jobs and freelance jobs. The interviewer then asked them about these jobs, filling in a calendar of weeks since their 14th birthday.¹

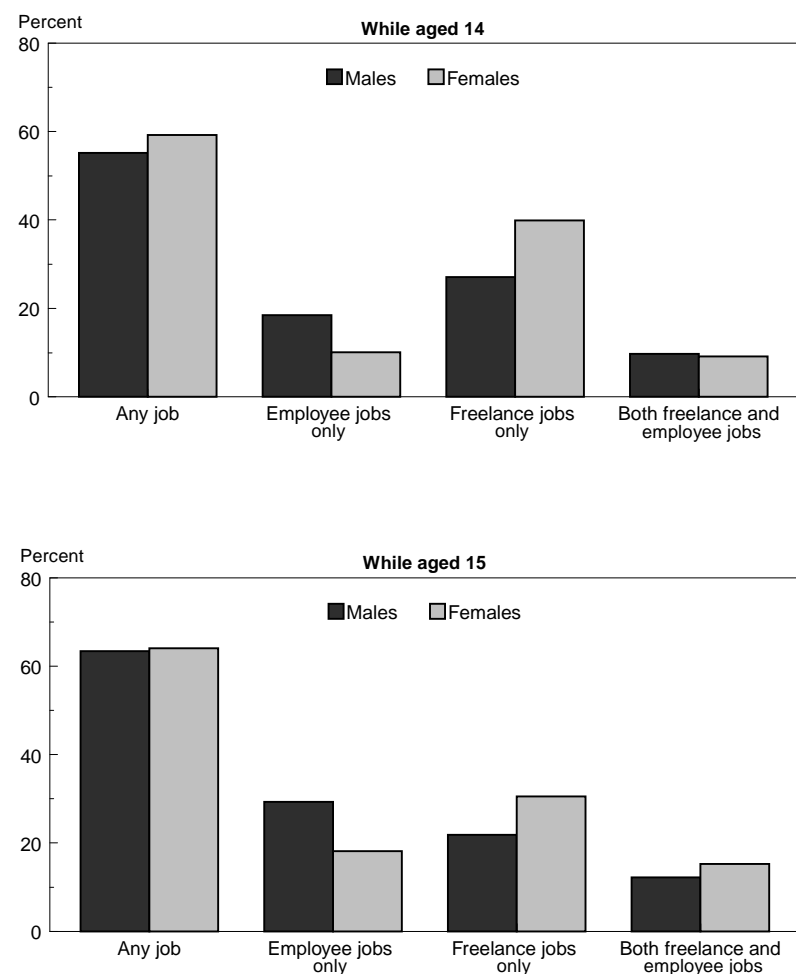
Well over half (57 percent) of interviewed youths reported having held some type of job while they were aged 14. (See chart 3.1.) Freelance jobs

Chart 3.1. Percent of youths employed while aged 14 or 15 in 1994-97, by type of job



SOURCE: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

Chart 3.2. Percent of youths employed while aged 14 or 15 in 1994-97, by type of job and sex



SOURCE: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

were held more often by 14-year-olds than were employee jobs. A total of 43 percent held a freelance job at age 14, while 24 percent held an employee job. There was some overlap among the groups. About 9 percent of all youths held at least one of each type of job during the year they were 14.

Employment was more common at age 15 than at age 14, as young people increasingly took on employee jobs and continued to do freelance work. Overall, 64 percent of youths worked in some type of job while they were aged 15. Forty percent of the young people interviewed had done freelance work—about the same proportion as among 14-year-olds. Nearly as many—38 percent—had an ongoing employment relationship (employee job) while they were aged 15, up from

24 percent while aged 14. Among 15-year-olds, 14 percent held at least one of each type of job during the year.

At age 14, female youths were slightly more likely than male youths to work—59 percent versus 55 percent, respectively. At age 15, the rates were essentially the same (63 percent versus 64 percent). There were differences in the types of jobs held, however. At both ages, males were more likely than females to hold employee jobs, while females were more likely to do freelance work. (See chart 3.2.)

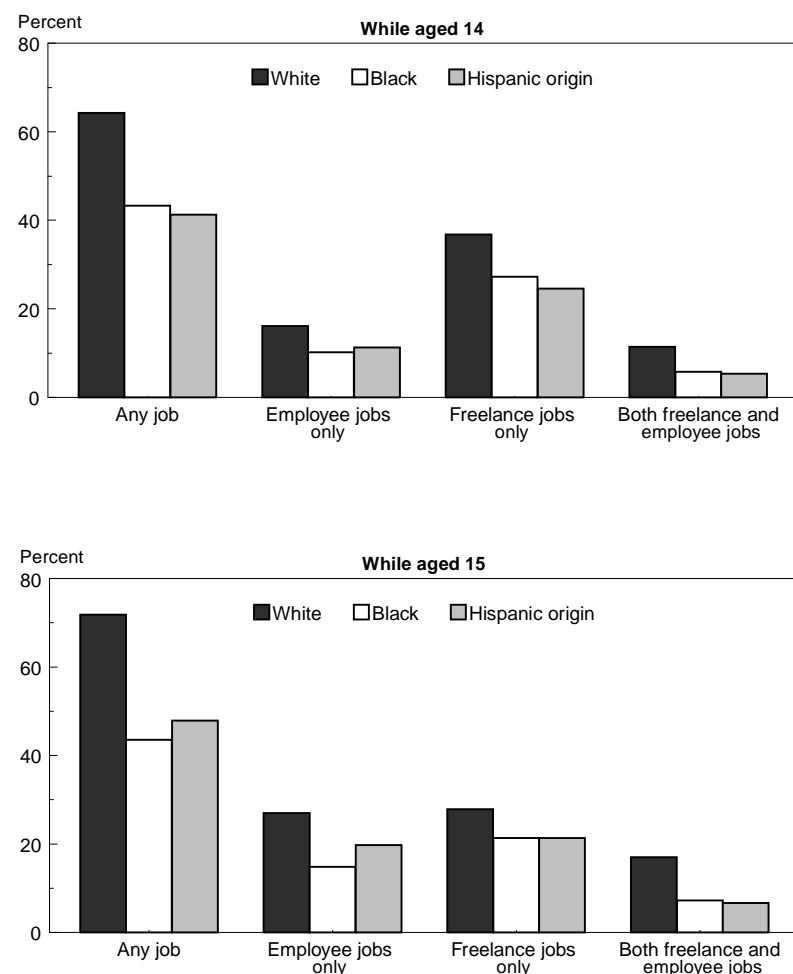
White youths were more likely than either black or Hispanic youths to have held employee or freelance jobs when they were 14 or 15.² (See chart 3.3.) Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of white youths held one or the other type of job at age 14, compared with 43 and

41 percent of black and Hispanic youths, respectively. Both whites and Hispanics were more likely to work at age 15 than at age 14, but race/ethnicity differences in the percentages of youths employed persisted. Differences may have stemmed from labor market difficulties for black and Hispanic youths. Data from the CPS discussed in chapter 4 show that black and Hispanic youths are much more likely to be unemployed (actively seeking work) than are white youths.

NLSY97 data also show that youths in lower income households tend to work less than do those in households with higher incomes. Table 3.1 shows the percentage of youths with employee jobs crossed by the incomes of their households. As shown, youths in households with incomes below \$25,000 annually were less likely to work than were those in households with higher incomes. Twenty-one percent of the young people in the lowest-income group held employee jobs when they were 14, compared with between 25 and 27 percent of those whose households had incomes in the three higher groups. The same pattern occurred for youths aged 15: 32 percent in the lowest household income group held employee jobs, compared with between 40 and 42 percent in the higher income groups. As we will see in chapter 4, CPS data also show lower employment-to-population ratios for youths in families with relatively low income. The NLSY97 data also show that, at age 14 (but not at age 15), youths in two-parent families were more likely to work than were those in families headed by a female parent. Among 14-year-olds, 61 percent of those in two-parent families held a job, compared with 54 percent in families headed by women.³

It is not clear why young people in households with lower incomes are less likely to be employed than are those in households with higher incomes, but the intersection between family income and family structure may affect youth employment rates. Households with lower incomes may have fewer adults than do households

Chart 3.3. Percent of youths employed while aged 14 or 15 in 1994-97, by type of job, race, and Hispanic origin



SOURCE: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

with higher incomes. Youths in households with fewer adults may have more responsibilities in the home and be less available to work outside the home for pay. Those from families with lower incomes may have less access to a car or to adults available to drive them to a job. Poorer communities also tend to have higher unemployment rates; thus, the youths may have a harder time finding or keeping jobs locally.

At ages 14 and 15, foreign-born youths were less likely to hold a job than were the native born. Among foreign-born youths, 43 percent held a job at some point while they were aged 14, compared with 60 percent of their native-born counterparts. At age 15, 51 percent of foreign-born youths held a job, compared with 67 percent of the native born (numbers not shown in

table).⁴ The lower employment rates for foreign-born youths may reflect factors that could reduce their relative success at finding jobs. These might include problems speaking English, possession of relatively fewer job search skills in the U.S. labor market, fewer employment contacts, or employment discrimination. Data from the Current Population Survey for 15- to 17-year-olds show the same employment pattern between foreign- and native-born youths, as discussed in chapter 4.

How much do youths work at ages 14 and 15?

How much youths *should* work has received considerable policy attention in recent years. Gaining some work ex-

perience during the high school years is viewed by some as valuable in easing the transition from school to work. Working too many hours, however, also is viewed as potentially harmful to academic studies. Data from the NLSY97 can be used to provide recent information on weeks and hours that youths work while in school. Chapter 7 further explores outcomes of youth employment using data from the NLSY79 interviews conducted between 1979 and 1996.

The NLSY97 calendar-based method of collecting information on employee jobs enables researchers to identify the specific weeks during which youths worked in employee jobs. Chart 3.4 shows the proportion of youths who worked during different times of the year—school-year weeks, summer weeks, or both—at ages 14 and 15.⁵ A total of 18 percent of 14-year-olds worked either during the school-year weeks only or during both school-year and summer weeks. This represented the large majority of youths who had employee jobs at that age. Among 15-year-olds, a total of 31 percent worked in employee jobs that included work during the school year.

While aged 14 and 15, male youths were more likely than female youths to work during the school term. Among 14-year-olds, 22 percent of males and 14 percent of females worked during the school year; among 15-year-olds, 35 percent of males and 28 percent of females held school-term jobs. At both 14 and 15, whites were more likely to work during the school year than were blacks or Hispanics. (See table 3.2.) At age 14 only, youths in two-parent families were more likely to work during the school year than were those in families headed by women.

Particular concern centers on the intensity of work by youths during the school year. Intensity can be measured in terms of both weeks and hours of work. Looking at the overall population of 14-year-olds, we find that 8 percent worked during the school year and averaged 15 or more hours per

Chart 3.4. Percent of youths working in employee jobs while aged 14 or 15 in 1994-97, by timing of employment

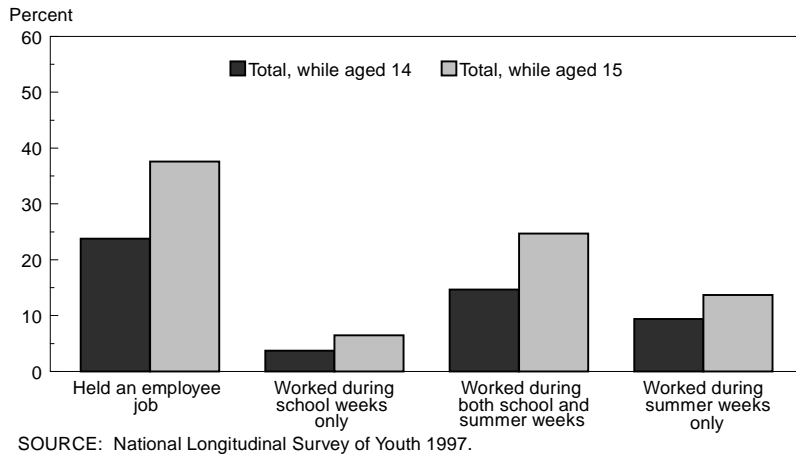
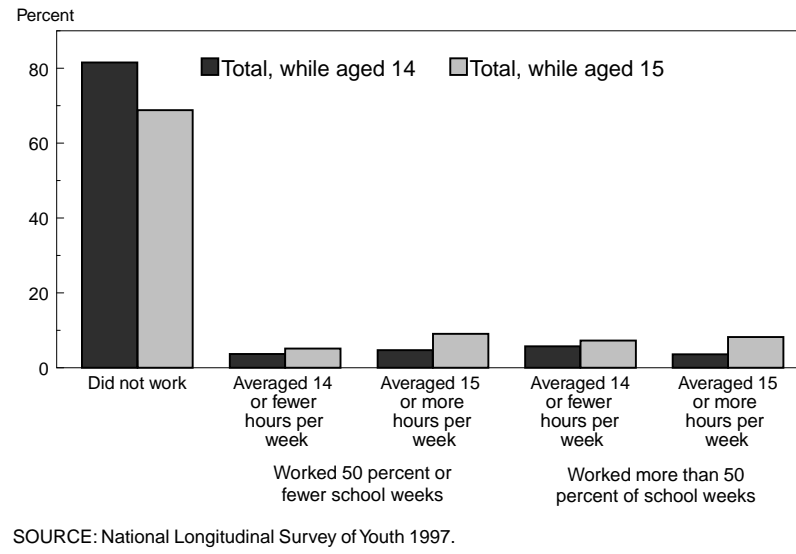


Chart 3.5. Work status during the school year of youths while aged 14 and 15 in 1994-97



week during academic weeks in which they worked.⁶ Nine percent of all 14-year-olds worked more than half of the weeks during the school year. Note that the above two groups are not mutually exclusive. Among 15-year-olds, 17 percent worked during the school year and averaged 15 or more hours per week. Sixteen percent worked more than half of the school-year weeks. (See chart 3.5.)

Male youths were more likely than female youths to work 15 or more hours per week at employee jobs during the school year at these ages. Among 15-year-olds, 20 percent of males reported such work, compared

with 15 percent of their female counterparts. Male youths also worked more weeks during the school year than did their female peers. Among 15-year-olds, 18 percent of males worked at employee jobs for more than half of the weeks in the school year, compared with 13 percent of females. (See table 3.3.)

These measures of intensity—hours per week and the percent of school weeks worked—also were greater for white youths than for black or Hispanic youths at these ages. Among white 15-year-olds, 21 percent worked at employee jobs for 15 or more hours per week, compared with 9 percent of blacks and 12 percent of Hispanics.

Similarly, 19 percent of whites aged 15 worked at employee jobs for more than half of school-year weeks, compared with only 6 to 7 percent of blacks and Hispanics.

Only 4 percent of 14-year-olds can be classified as working at high intensity relative to their peers—15 or more hours per week *and* more than half of school-year weeks. Eight percent of 15-year-olds were in this category. Male youths were more likely than female youths to work such a schedule at these ages: 5 percent of males aged 14 and 10 percent of those aged 15 had such a schedule, compared with 2 percent and 6 percent of females at these ages. Ten percent of white youths worked 15 or more hours per week over a majority of school-year weeks while aged 15, compared with only 3 percent of black and 4 percent of Hispanic youths.

An alternative view of the same data on intensity is provided by looking at the schedules of those who actually *held jobs* during the school year at age 14 or 15. This view eliminates the effect of lower overall participation rates on the examination of work schedules. Some noteworthy effects are found with respect to race and ethnicity. While whites are more likely to work overall while aged 14, employed black youths worked longer hours at this age than did whites or Hispanics. Sixty percent of working black youths worked 15 or more hours per week during the school year, compared with 44 percent of working whites and 46 percent of working Hispanics. However, among 15-year-olds, employed white, black, and Hispanic youths were about equally likely to average 15 or more hours of work per week. As was the case for the overall groups of 14- and 15-year-olds, whites who are employed at these ages are generally more likely to work during a majority of school weeks than are their black or Hispanic counterparts.⁷

Where young people work

The NLSY97 obtained data on the industries of employee jobs in which

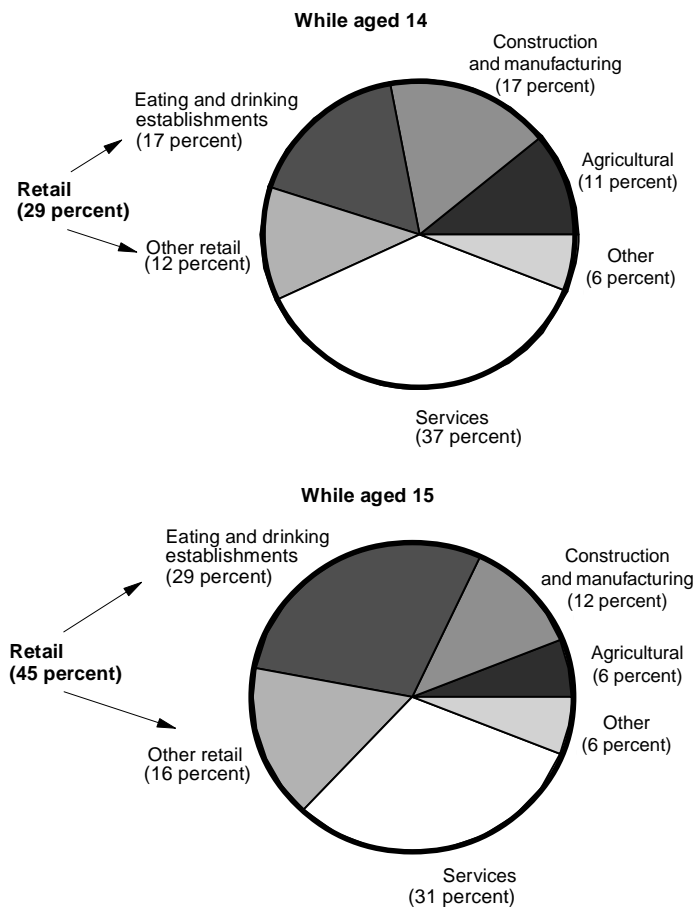
youths worked and on the occupations that they held while they were aged 14 and 15. The job in which they worked the most weeks at each age is discussed here. Employee jobs and freelance jobs are described separately.

Employee jobs. As shown in chart 3.6, among youths with employee jobs, the large majority—two-thirds at age 14 and three-quarters at age 15—held jobs in either the retail or services industries. Between ages 14 and 15, the proportion working in retail trade increased from 29 to 45 percent. Many of those employed in this industry worked in eating and drinking establishments. The top 10 industries that employed 14- and 15-year-olds are shown in descending order in table 3.4. After eating and drinking places, entertainment and recreation services industries and construction were most likely to employ these young workers.

Tables 3.5 and 3.6 highlight industry employment patterns by gender. Among 14-year-olds, 5 of the top 10 industries were the same for males and females. These included eating and drinking establishments, entertainment and recreation services, and the construction industry. Landscape and horticultural services, livestock production, and automotive repair were some of the industries on the top 10 list for male youths that were not on the list for their female peers. (Employment in agriculture is examined in detail in chapter 5.) The list for female youths included work for child daycare services, religious organizations, and building services. Between ages 14 and 15, employment in eating and drinking places became increasingly common for both males and females, while working in agricultural and landscaping services declined for males and working in private households declined for females.

Occupational patterns provide a clearer picture of the tasks that young people perform. Chart 3.7 shows that youths are spread among quite a few occupational categories. The largest overall occupational group for workers at ages 14 and 15 was service oc-

Chart 3.6. Industry of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 14 or 15 in 1994-97



SOURCE: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

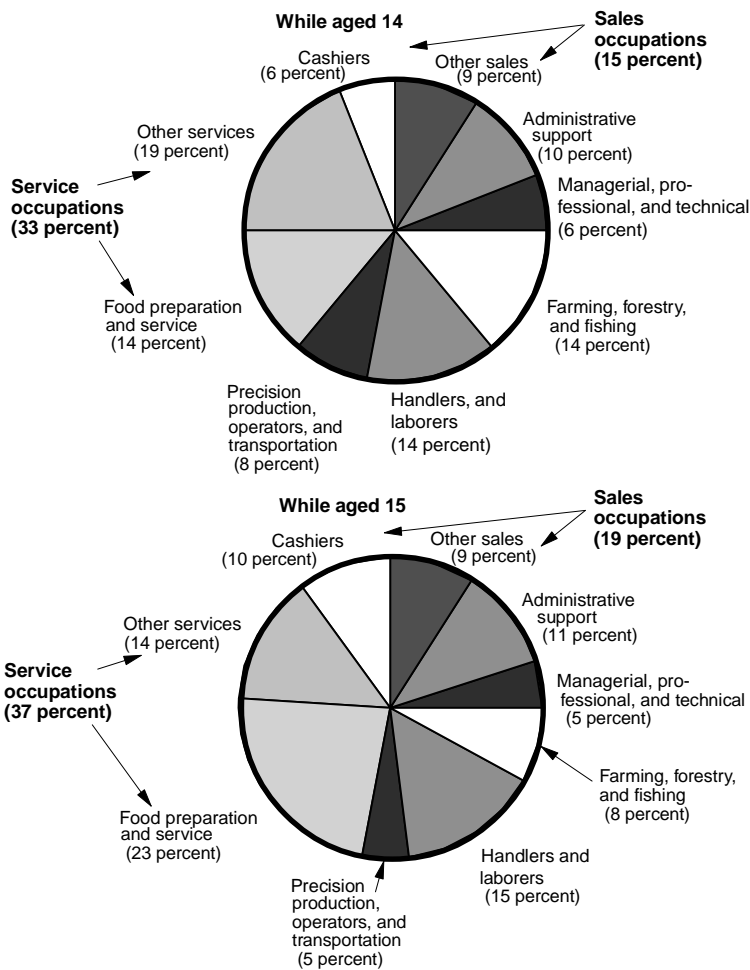
cupations, employing 33 percent of youths aged 14 (with employee jobs) and 37 percent of those aged 15. Food preparation and service jobs—such as cooks, waiters, and waitresses—are among the service occupations frequently held by young workers. Among both 14- and 15-year-olds, sales jobs (including cashiers) were also frequently held by youths. Fifteen percent of those with employee jobs at age 14, and 19 percent of those with such jobs at age 15, held sales positions. Table 3.7 shows the top 10 occupations held by youths at each age.

There are noteworthy differences in occupations of male and female youths. Tables 3.8 and 3.9 show that both males and females often work as

janitors or cleaners, cooks, and cashiers. The top occupation for females was cashiers, employing almost 11 percent of 14-year-olds and 16 percent of 15-year-olds. Employed male 14-year-olds are most likely to work as janitors or cleaners; at age 15, they are most often employed as cooks. Male youths are more likely than are their female peers to work as stock handlers or laborers or to do lawn work (“grounds-keepers”), while female youths are more likely to perform childcare or to work as cashiers, receptionists, or office clerks.

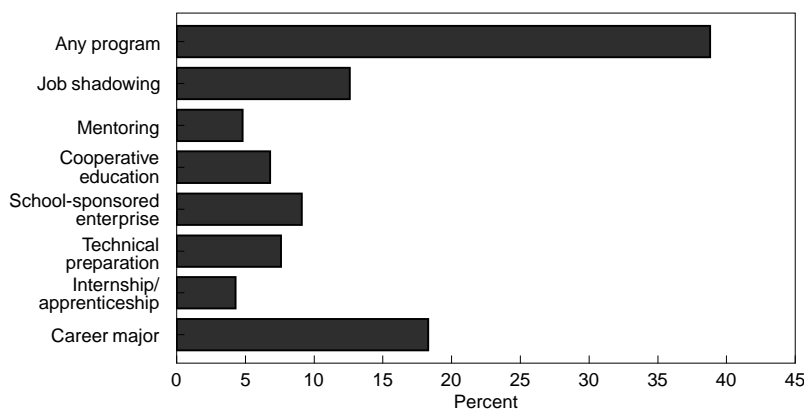
Freelance jobs. Among youths who held freelance jobs, babysitting and yard work were by far the most popu-

Chart 3.7. Occupation of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 14 or 15 in 1994-97



SOURCE: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

Chart 3.8. Percent of youths in 9th or higher grade who participated in school-to-work programs



SOURCE: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

lar types.⁸ As reported in table 3.10, of the more than 4 in 10 young people who did some freelance work at age

14, 62 percent reported babysitting and 38 percent reported doing lawn work. Patterns were similar among 15-year-

olds who held freelance jobs. Gender differences in freelance employment were dramatic. More than 90 percent of working female youths at both ages 14 and 15 reported having done some babysitting. Among male youths with freelance jobs, only 25 percent of 14-year-olds and 20 percent of 15-year-olds reported doing such work. By contrast, nearly three-quarters of working male youths reported doing yard work at each age, compared with only 1 in 10 female youths. White youths are more likely than black or Hispanic youths to hold freelance jobs. Among those who did freelance work at age 14 or 15, race differences in the types of freelance jobs held were not dramatic; at both ages, whites were somewhat more likely to babysit than were blacks.

Employment while aged 12

The NLSY97 asked a different set of questions of youths aged 13 and under as of the date of the interview. These questions determined whether the respondents had held “any jobs” since their 12th birthday. They did not distinguish between freelance and employee work arrangements. For youths who were aged 13 at the time of the interview, a look at the entire 12 months during which they were aged 12 was possible.⁹

Table 3.11 indicates that work starts at young ages. Half of the 13-year-olds interviewed reported having some work experience while they were aged 12, compared with 57 percent of youths who reported having any type of job at age 14. Many of these very young workers did either babysitting or yard work.¹⁰ Among males aged 12, a quarter reported doing some babysitting during the year, and two-thirds reported doing yard work. Among females, 85 percent did some babysitting and 14 percent did yard work.

Participation in school-to-work programs

School-to-work programs are designed to help youths prepare for and make the transition to the world of work.

School-to-Work Programs	
Job shadowing	Spending time following workers at a worksite
Mentoring	Being matched with an individual in an occupation
Cooperative education	Combining academic and vocational studies with a job in a related field
School-sponsored enterprise	Producing goods or services for sale to or use by others
Technical preparation	Participating in a planned program of study with a defined career focus that links secondary and postsecondary education
Internship or apprenticeship	Working for an employer to learn about a particular occupation or industry
Career major	Taking a defined sequence of courses based upon an occupational goal

The NLSY97 included specific questions about participation in such programs by youths in the 9th or higher grades.¹¹ These programs include job shadowing, mentoring, and cooperative education, among others. (See box for program descriptions.)

As shown in chart 3.8, nearly 4 in 10 young people participated in some type of school-to-work program. Taking a defined set of courses based on an occupational goal—having a “career major”—was the most frequent program, with 18 percent of youths participating. Thirteen percent of youths did some job shadowing and

nine percent participated in a school-sponsored enterprise. The least-used programs were mentoring (5 percent) and internships or apprenticeships (4 percent).

The incidence of participation in school-to-work programs was similar for male and female youths, with about 39 percent participating in at least one type of program. (See table 3.12.) Males were slightly more likely to participate in a technical preparation program, and females were more likely to be in a job shadowing program. Black youths were more likely than white or Hispanic youths to participate

in a program—46 percent versus 39 and 32 percent, respectively. Specifically, blacks were more likely to participate in cooperative education, technical preparation, internships or apprenticeships, and career major programs. The incidence of program participation did not vary much by household income.

Summary

At age 12, half of American youths engage in some type of work activity. The percentage of youths who work increases from age 14 to age 15, and young people tend to move from freelance work—such as babysitting and lawn mowing—into more formal, ongoing employment relationships. Work is very common during the school year and the majority of youths with employee jobs work during both the school year and the summer.

There are gender and race differences in the employment patterns of 14- and 15-year-olds. Males are more likely to have employee jobs, while females are more likely to do freelance work. Whites are more likely to be employed than are either blacks or Hispanics; they also are more likely to work during both the school and summer months.

At both 14 and 15, youths are most frequently employed in the retail trade and services industries. Many work as cashiers or as janitors or cleaners. Males often work as construction laborers or in lawn care, while their female peers often perform child care or work as general office clerks or receptionists.

This chapter was contributed by Donna Rothstein, a research economist, and Diane Herz, an economist, both with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The authors would like to thank Michael Horrigan for helpful comments and Alexander Eidelman and Julie Yates for excellent research assistance.

¹ Start and stop dates, as well as information on within-job gaps, are gathered for all employee jobs that respondents held since age 14. Start and stop dates also are gathered for all freelance jobs. However, gaps within freelance jobs are not collected due to the sporadic nature of these jobs. Thus, the definition of freelance jobs while aged 14 (while aged 15) used in the tables and charts that follow depends on whether the period between the start and stop dates of any freelance job spans any of the weeks during which the respondent was 14 (15). If, for example, the freelance job began before the respondent turned 15 and ended after the respondent turned 16, then the respondent would be counted as working in a freelance job at age 15. This may overstate the incidence of working at freelance jobs among youths.

² The race and ethnic categories used in this chapter, based on NLSY97 data, are different from those used in other BLS surveys. In other surveys, estimates usually are published for whites, blacks, and persons of Hispanic origin. These groups are not mutually exclusive because Hispanics are considered to be an ethnic group rather than a racial group and can be included in any racial category. In this chapter, estimates are reported for three mutually exclusive groups: non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics. Although these groups are mutually exclusive, they are not exhaustive. American Indians, Alaskan natives,

and Asians and Pacific Islanders are included in the totals but are not shown separately because of the small number of sample members in these racial categories.

³ There were not enough male-headed, one-parent families to examine youths from those families separately. Youths who were not living with a parent were the least likely to work while aged 14 and 15. Youths in this group lived with grandparents, foster parents, or in group quarters, or had other arrangements.

⁴ The NLSY97 does not specifically ask whether the youth was foreign born. Our definition of foreign born is as follows: If the interviewed youth's biological mother first came to the United States in a year subsequent to the youth's year of birth, the youth is defined as "foreign born." If the youth's biological mother was born in the United States or first came to the United States in a year prior to the youth's birth, the youth is defined as "native born."

⁵ Summer weeks are defined as those in June, July, and August. School weeks exclude those in June, July, and August, as well as the last week in December and the first week in January.

⁶ Hours are defined according to the following methodology. Survey respondents report usual hours per week as of each employee job's stop date (or the interview date for ongoing jobs). Hours reported for each job are then back-filled to the job's start date. Each week during which the youth worked, then, has an hours total. Then, hours per week are averaged over all the academic weeks worked while the respondent was aged 14 or 15. Given this methodology, summer work hours are sometimes back-filled into school-year weeks, leading to a potential overstatement of average hours. For both 14- and

15-year-olds, about one-third (33 and 34 percent, respectively) of school-year weeks worked were back-filled with summer hours. Mean hours of work per week during school-year weeks that were back-filled with summer hours were 19 for 14-year-olds and 22 for 15-year-olds. Mean hours of work per week during school-year weeks that were back-filled with school-year hours were lower at 15 and 16 (14- and 15-year-olds, respectively).

⁷ The sample size of foreign-born youths is not large enough to permit examination of work schedules by native- versus foreign-born status.

⁸ It should be noted that the interviewer, when describing freelance jobs to youths, uses both babysitting and yard work as examples. Yard work includes mowing lawns, shoveling snow, landscaping, and gardening. If youths have more than one freelance job while these ages, they may be counted in both the babysitting and yard work columns of table 3.10.

⁹ Examining employment for the full year during which the respondent was aged 13 was not possible, however, because youths who had turned 14 at the time of the survey were asked the more detailed questions about employment since the age of 14 that were discussed earlier.

¹⁰ If youths have more than one work activity while aged 12, they may be counted in both the babysitting and yard work columns of table 3.11.

¹¹ The NLSY97 asks youths whether they have "ever" participated in each of the programs listed. Responses reflect the young respondents' perceptions of whether they have participated in such programs. No determination is made as to whether the particular school-to-work programs are actually offered at the respondent's (current or past) school.

Table 3.1. Percent of youths employed while aged 14 or 15 in 1994-97, by type of job, sex, race, Hispanic origin, household income, and family structure

Age in 1994-97 and characteristic	Percent employed					
	Any job	Any employee job	Any freelance job	Employee jobs only	Freelance jobs only	Both employee and freelance jobs
While aged 14						
Total	57.2	23.8	42.8	14.4	33.3	9.4
Sex						
Male	55.2	28.1	36.8	18.5	27.1	9.7
Female	59.2	19.3	49.1	10.1	39.9	9.2
Race and Hispanic origin						
White	64.3	27.5	48.3	16.1	36.8	11.4
Black	43.3	16.0	33.1	10.2	27.3	5.8
Hispanic origin	41.3	16.7	30.1	11.3	24.6	5.4
Household income						
Less than \$25,000	48.6	20.5	34.7	13.9	28.1	6.6
\$25,000 to 44,999	62.7	25.5	46.4	16.3	37.3	9.1
\$45,000 to 69,999	63.0	26.5	49.3	13.6	36.5	12.9
\$70,000 and over	63.5	25.0	49.5	13.9	38.5	11.0
Family structure						
Two-parent family	61.0	25.6	46.0	15.0	35.4	10.6
Female-parent family	53.9	21.4	40.3	13.6	32.6	7.8
Not living with parent	39.4	10.9	31.4	8.0	28.5	2.9
While aged 15						
Total	63.7	37.6	39.8	23.9	26.1	13.7
Sex						
Male	63.4	41.5	34.1	29.3	21.9	12.2
Female	64.1	33.5	45.8	18.2	30.6	15.3
Race and Hispanic origin						
White	71.8	44.0	44.8	27.0	27.9	17.0
Black	43.6	22.2	28.7	14.9	21.4	7.3
Hispanic origin	47.9	26.5	28.1	19.8	21.4	6.7
Household income						
Less than \$25,000	52.3	32.3	30.9	21.4	20.0	10.9
\$25,000 to 44,999	70.9	40.8	44.7	26.1	30.1	14.7
\$45,000 to 69,999	69.4	39.8	46.9	22.5	29.6	17.3
\$70,000 and over	75.6	42.2	49.4	26.2	33.4	16.0
Family structure						
Two-parent family	67.3	38.6	43.0	24.2	28.7	14.3
Female-parent family	63.6	38.2	40.2	23.4	25.4	14.8
Not living with parent	43.3	25.9	22.5	20.8	17.3	5.1

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic-origin groups are mutually exclusive. Totals include American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders not shown separately. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 14th and 15th

birthdays. The first 13 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 15 years of age when interviewed. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. The last 13 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.2. Percent of youths with an employee job while aged 14 and 15 in 1994-97, by timing of employment, sex, race, Hispanic origin, household income, and family structure

Age in 1994-97 and characteristic	Percent with an employee job	Worked during school year weeks			Worked during summer weeks only
		Total	Worked during school-year weeks only	Worked during both school-year and summer weeks	
While aged 14					
Total	23.8	18.4	3.7	14.7	5.3
Sex					
Male	28.1	22.4	4.5	17.9	5.6
Female	19.3	14.2	2.8	11.4	5.0
Race and Hispanic origin					
White	27.5	22.1	3.9	18.2	5.3
Black	16.0	9.9	2.7	7.1	6.1
Hispanic origin	16.7	11.9	4.0	8.0	4.6
Household income					
Less than \$25,000	20.5	15.2	3.3	11.9	5.3
\$25,000 to 44,999	25.5	19.1	4.3	14.8	6.1
\$45,000 to 69,999	26.5	21.7	4.0	17.7	4.5
\$70,000 and over	25.0	19.0	3.4	15.6	6.0
Family structure					
Two-parent family	25.6	20.1	3.7	16.4	5.3
Female-parent family	21.4	15.6	3.7	12.0	5.7
Not living with parent	10.9	6.5	3.6	2.9	4.4
While aged 15					
Total	37.6	31.2	6.5	24.7	6.4
Sex					
Male	41.5	34.5	6.1	28.4	6.9
Female	33.5	27.7	7.0	20.6	5.8
Race and Hispanic origin					
White	44.0	37.7	7.5	30.2	6.2
Black	22.2	15.3	2.6	12.7	6.9
Hispanic origin	26.5	20.5	7.7	12.9	5.6
Household income					
Less than \$25,000	32.3	26.2	7.4	18.8	6.1
\$25,000 to 44,999	40.8	32.5	6.1	26.3	8.1
\$45,000 to 69,999	39.8	35.3	6.1	29.2	4.5
\$70,000 and over	42.2	35.8	6.6	29.2	6.4
Family structure					
Two-parent family	38.6	32.5	5.2	27.3	6.1
Female-parent family	38.2	32.5	8.7	23.8	5.5
Not living with parent	25.9	15.9	4.5	11.4	10.1

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic-origin groups are mutually exclusive. Totals include American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders not shown separately. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year

between the individuals' 14th and 15th birthdays. The first 13 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 15 years of age when interviewed. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. The last 13 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.3. Work status during the school year of youths while aged 14 and 15 in 1994-97, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, household income, and family structure

Age in 1994-97 and characteristic	Did not work	Worked 50 percent of school weeks or fewer		Worked more than 50 percent of school weeks	
		Averaged 14 or fewer hours per week	Averaged 15 or more hours per week	Averaged 14 or fewer hours per week	Averaged 15 or more hours per week
While aged 14					
Total	81.6	3.7	4.7	5.7	3.6
Sex					
Male	77.6	4.5	5.8	6.2	4.9
Female	85.8	2.9	3.5	5.2	2.2
Race and Hispanic origin					
White	77.9	4.3	5.4	7.3	4.3
Black	90.1	1.5	4.0	2.1	1.9
Hispanic origin	88.1	3.3	3.5	2.1	2.0
Household income					
Less than \$25,000	84.8	3.1	5.1	2.9	3.4
\$25,000 to 44,999	80.9	3.2	5.6	5.4	4.8
\$45,000 to 69,999	78.3	3.7	5.5	7.5	3.9
\$70,000 and over	81.0	5.0	4.3	6.4	2.8
Family structure					
Two-parent family	79.9	3.9	4.8	6.7	4.0
Female-parent family	84.4	3.4	4.8	3.7	3.2
Not living with parent	93.5	1.1	3.3	1.1	1.1
While aged 15					
Total	68.8	5.1	9.1	7.3	8.2
Sex					
Male	65.5	4.5	10.0	8.4	9.9
Female	72.3	5.7	8.2	6.2	6.4
Race and Hispanic origin					
White	62.3	6.3	10.5	8.9	10.3
Black	84.7	2.4	6.0	3.2	3.1
Hispanic origin	79.5	3.6	7.8	3.5	3.9
Household income					
Less than \$25,000	73.8	4.6	8.2	4.1	7.9
\$25,000 to 44,999	67.5	5.0	10.0	5.6	11.2
\$45,000 to 69,999	64.7	6.8	7.5	9.4	10.3
\$70,000 and over	64.2	6.1	10.3	10.2	7.5
Family structure					
Two-parent family	67.5	4.7	8.7	8.6	9.0
Female-parent family	67.5	5.9	10.5	6.4	8.5
Not living with parent	84.1	4.1	4.1	3.4	2.3

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic-origin groups are mutually exclusive. Totals include American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders not shown separately. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 14th and 15th birthdays. The first 13 rows exclude individuals who were not

yet 15 years of age when interviewed. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. The last 13 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed. Rows do not add to 100 due to the nonreporting of information on hours and weeks of work for a small number of respondents with employee jobs.

Table 3.4. Top 10 industries of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 14 and 15 in 1994-97

Industry	Percent
While aged 14	
Eating and drinking places	17.4
Miscellaneous entertainment and recreation services	8.7
Construction	8.4
Newspaper publishing and printing	4.9
Agricultural production, crops	4.4
Private households (personal services)	4.1
Landscape and horticultural services	3.6
Agricultural production, livestock	2.9
Elementary and secondary schools	1.9
Services to dwellings and other buildings	1.9
While aged 15	
Eating and drinking places	28.8
Miscellaneous entertainment and recreation services	9.0
Construction	5.3
Grocery stores	4.5
Newspaper publishing and printing	2.9
Landscape and horticultural services	2.3
Agricultural production, crops	2.0
Agricultural production, livestock	1.8
Automotive repair and related services	1.6
Private households (personal services)	1.5

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 14th and 15th birthdays. The first 10 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 15 years

of age when interviewed. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. The last 10 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.5. Top 10 industries of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 14 in 1994-97, by sex

Industry	Percent
Males	
Eating and drinking places	15.8
Construction	11.4
Miscellaneous entertainment and recreation services	8.8
Newspaper publishing and printing	6.1
Agricultural production, crops	5.9
Landscape and horticultural services	5.4
Agricultural production, livestock	3.7
Elementary and secondary schools	2.4
Automotive repair and related services	2.3
Grocery stores	1.8
Females	
Eating and drinking places	19.8
Private households (personal services)	8.6
Miscellaneous entertainment and recreation services	8.5
Construction	3.8
Child day care services	3.5
Newspaper publishing and printing	3.1
Religious organizations	2.8
Services to dwellings and other buildings	2.1
Social services, not elsewhere classified	1.9
Agricultural production, crops	1.9

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 14th and 15th birthdays. All rows exclude individuals who were not yet 15 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.6. **Top 10 industries of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 15 in 1995-97, by sex**

Industry	Percent
Males	
Eating and drinking places	27.3
Construction	8.3
Miscellaneous entertainment and recreation services	7.6
Grocery stores	4.7
Newspaper publishing and printing	4.2
Landscape and horticultural services	4.0
Agricultural production, crops	2.6
Agricultural production, livestock	2.5
Automotive repair and related services	2.0
Miscellaneous retail stores	1.5
Females	
Eating and drinking places	30.8
Miscellaneous entertainment and recreation services	10.9
Grocery stores	4.2
Private households (personal services)	3.0
Religious organizations	2.3
Child day care services	2.3
Services to dwellings and other buildings	1.7
Apparel and accessory stores, except shoe	1.6
Food stores, not elsewhere classified	1.5
Hotels and motels	1.4

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the in-

dividuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. All rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.7. **Top 10 occupations of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 14 and 15 in 1994-97**

Occupation	Percent
While aged 14	
Janitors and cleaners	8.7
Farm workers	5.9
Cashiers	5.5
News vendors	5.3
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	4.5
Laborers, except construction	4.1
Construction laborers	3.9
Cooks	3.8
Waiters' and waitresses' assistants	3.5
General office clerks	2.9
While aged 15	
Cashiers	10.0
Cooks	5.9
Miscellaneous food preparation occupations	5.7
Janitors and cleaners	5.5
Waiters' and waitresses' assistants	4.7
Stock handlers and baggers	4.5
Laborers, except construction	4.2
Sales workers, other commodities	4.1
Construction laborers	3.1
News vendors	3.0

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 14th and 15th birthdays. The first 10 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 15 years

of age when interviewed. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. The last 10 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.8. **Top 10 occupations of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 14 in 1994-97, by sex**

Occupation	Percent
Males	
Janitors and cleaners	9.4
Farm workers	7.1
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	6.9
News vendors	6.7
Construction laborers	5.9
Laborers, except construction	4.7
Cooks	4.2
Waiters' and waitresses' assistants	4.1
Miscellaneous food preparation occupations	3.4
Attendants, amusement and recreational facilities	2.8
Females	
Cashiers	10.9
Janitors and cleaners	7.5
Child care workers, private household	5.9
General office clerks	5.8
Child care workers, not elsewhere classified	5.2
Waiters and waitresses	4.7
Receptionists	4.3
Teachers, not elsewhere classified	3.9
Farm workers	3.9
Secretaries	3.5

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 14th and 15th birthdays. All rows exclude individuals who were not yet 15 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.9. **Top 10 occupations of longest-held employee job of youths while aged 15 in 1995-97, by sex**

Occupation	Percent
Males	
Cooks	7.7
Janitors and cleaners	6.9
Miscellaneous food preparation occupations	6.4
Waiters' and waitresses' assistants	6.0
Cashiers	5.8
Construction laborers	5.5
Stock handlers and baggers	5.5
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	5.1
Laborers, except construction	4.8
News vendors	4.5
Females	
Cashiers	15.7
Waiters and waitresses	5.7
General office clerks	5.6
Sales workers, other commodities	4.7
Miscellaneous food preparation occupations	4.7
Receptionists	4.1
Cooks	3.6
Janitors and cleaners	3.6
Laborers, except construction	3.4
Teachers, not elsewhere classified	3.3

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. All rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.10. **Percent of youths engaged in freelance jobs while aged 14 and 15 in 1994-97, by type of job, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and household income**

Age in 1994-97 and characteristic	Percent with a freelance job	Percent of those with a freelance job engaged in	
		Babysitting	Yard work
While aged 14			
Total	42.8	62.0	37.9
Sex			
Male	36.8	24.6	72.8
Female	49.1	91.4	10.6
Race and Hispanic origin			
White	48.3	63.3	37.4
Black	33.1	55.2	41.1
Hispanic origin	30.1	59.9	40.2
Household income			
Less than \$25,000	34.7	58.7	35.1
\$25,000 to 44,999	46.4	63.2	39.1
\$45,000 to 69,999	49.3	61.5	41.1
\$70,000 and over	49.5	67.8	35.0
While aged 15			
Total	39.8	59.8	37.2
Sex			
Male	34.1	19.6	72.8
Female	45.8	91.4	9.3
Race and Hispanic origin			
White	44.8	61.0	37.2
Black	28.7	52.9	41.2
Hispanic origin	28.1	59.7	34.1
Household income			
Less than \$25,000	30.9	52.3	33.0
\$25,000 to 44,999	44.7	64.3	33.6
\$45,000 to 69,999	46.9	61.1	42.8
\$70,000 and over	49.4	62.3	39.5

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic-origin groups are mutually exclusive. Totals include American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders not shown separately. "While aged 14" refers to the entire year

between the individuals' 14th and 15th birthdays. The first 10 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 15 years of age when interviewed. "While aged 15" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 15th and 16th birthdays. The last 10 rows exclude individuals who were not yet 16 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.11. Percent of youths engaged in work activities while aged 12 in 1995-97, by type of job, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and household income

Age in 1995-97 and characteristic	Percent with a work activity	Percent of those with a work activity engaged in	
		Babysitting	Yard work
Total, while aged 12	49.6	55.6	39.7
Sex			
Male	48.3	26.3	65.8
Female	51.0	84.9	13.6
Race and Hispanic origin			
White	56.5	54.6	40.1
Black	36.2	46.9	41.7
Hispanic origin	36.0	61.3	37.0
Household income			
Less than \$25,000	48.7	50.1	45.9
\$25,000 to 44,999	52.2	51.2	41.5
\$45,000 to 69,999	53.8	55.6	39.1
\$70,000 and over	53.9	61.5	39.1

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic-origin groups are mutually exclusive. Totals include American Indians, Alaskan Natives,

and Asians and Pacific Islanders not shown separately. "While aged 12" refers to the entire year between the individuals' 12th and 13th birthdays. All rows exclude individuals who were not yet 13 years of age when interviewed.

Table 3.12. Percent of youths in 9th or higher grades in 1997 who participated in school-to-work programs, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, and household income

Characteristic	Any program	Job shadowing	Mentoring	Cooperative education	School-sponsored enterprise	Technical preparation	Internship or apprenticeship	Career major
Total	38.8	12.6	4.8	6.8	9.1	7.6	4.3	18.3
Sex								
Male	38.6	11.0	4.6	7.3	8.9	8.5	4.3	19.1
Female	39.0	14.2	5.0	6.3	9.3	6.6	4.3	17.4
Race and Hispanic origin								
White	38.5	13.5	4.1	6.3	9.0	7.0	3.9	17.3
Black	46.0	11.5	6.7	10.3	10.5	10.5	6.6	24.8
Hispanic origin	32.1	9.0	4.7	5.4	7.2	6.9	4.1	15.9
Household income								
Less than \$25,000	39.5	11.2	4.1	8.4	7.8	7.7	5.9	19.9
\$25,000 to 44,999	41.5	12.5	5.7	6.9	10.1	8.3	3.7	19.7
\$45,000 to 69,999	39.6	13.8	5.5	6.0	10.2	8.8	3.6	18.6
\$70,000 and over	38.9	14.8	4.2	5.9	9.5	6.2	4.1	15.0

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were aged 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic-origin groups are mutually exclusive. Totals include American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Asians and Pacific Islanders not shown separately.