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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH—SUMMER 2005

The number of employed youth 16 to 24 years old increased by 2.7 million to 21.7 million from April to July 2005, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. July is the traditional summertime peak for youth employment. This summer's increase in youth employment was slightly larger than last year's 2.3 million increase. Unemployment among youth rose by 290,000 between April and July 2005, compared with an increase of 631,000 from April to July 2004. (Because this analysis focuses on the seasonal changes in youth employment and unemployment that occur every 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 take or search for summer jobs, and many graduates enter the labor market to look for or to begin permanent employment. This summer, the youth labor force grew by 3.0 million to a total of 24.4 million in July. (See table 1.)

The July labor force participation rate for youth (the proportion of their population working or looking for work) was 66.6 percent in 2005. The July participation rate for youth has been trending down since the early 1990s. The 2005 rate was the lowest for July since 1965. The labor force participation rate for young men in July 2005, 69.6 percent, edged lower from a year earlier when it was 70.4 percent. This July's labor force participation rates for young women (63.6 percent), whites (69.0 percent), blacks (58.3 percent), Hispanics or Latinos (60.0 percent), and Asians (53.1 percent) were little changed over the year. (See table 2.)

The proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds enrolled in school in July 2005 (27.8 percent) decreased slightly from July 2004 (28.9 percent). The proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds enrolled in school in July has grown over the last decade from 16.6 percent in July 1995 to 27.8 percent in July 2005. Only about half of the youth enrolled in school were in the labor force in July, compared with about three-fourths of those not in school.

Employment

There were 21.7 million 16- to 24-year-olds employed in July 2005, an increase of 302,000 from July 2004. The employment-population ratio for youth—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian noninstitutional population that was employed—was 59.3 percent in July 2005. The ratio had fallen by 6.9 percentage points between July 1999 and July 2003 before edging up in the past two summers. The employment-population ratios for young men (61.6 percent), women (57.0 percent), whites (62.8 percent),

blacks (44.7 percent), Asians (46.7 percent), and Hispanics or Latinos (54.1 percent) were little changed from a year earlier.

In July 2005, 22 percent of employed youth worked in the leisure and hospitality industry and 20 percent worked in retail trade. In addition, large percentages of employed youth worked in education and health services, professional and business services, construction, and manufacturing. (See table 3.)

Unemployment

In July 2005, 2.7 million youth were unemployed; this was a decrease of 330,000 from a year earlier. The youth unemployment rate, 11.0 percent, was down from 12.3 percent in July 2004. The unemployment rate for young men was little changed over the year at 11.5 percent, while the rate for young women decreased by 2.2 percentage points to 10.5 percent. The jobless rates for young whites, blacks, and Hispanics or Latinos decreased over the year. (See table 2.)

Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a national sample survey of 60,000 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 2005, data reflect revised population controls used in the CPS. For a discussion of the introduction of the revised population controls and the impact that their introduction had on the CPS data, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005” in the February 2005 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf> on the BLS Web site.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Reliability

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 exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending upon the particular sample selected, and this 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.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the

“Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error” section of *Employment and Earnings*.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in this release are described briefly below.

Employed persons are (a) all those who, during the survey reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family-operated enterprise; and (b) all those who did not work but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, vacation, child-care problems, labor disputes or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for the time off and whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

Unemployed persons are all persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4 weeks preceding the survey. 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.

Civilian labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed.

Unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons as a percent of the civilian labor force.

Not in the labor force includes all persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed.

Industry and class of worker for the employed relate to the job held in the survey reference week. Persons with two or more jobs are classified in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours. In terms of class-of-worker categories, wage and salary workers are those who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, or pay-in-kind from a private employer or from a government unit; self-employed persons are those who work for profit or fees in their own business, profession, or trade, or operate a farm; and unpaid family workers are persons working without pay for 15 hours a week or more in an enterprise operated by a member of their family.

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 2005

(Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	April	May	June	July	April-July changes ¹	
					Number	Percent
TOTAL						
Civilian noninstitutional population	36,601	36,627	36,654	36,681	79	0.2
Civilian labor force	21,468	21,976	23,959	24,436	2,968	13.8
Participation rate	58.7	60.0	65.4	66.6	8.0	13.6
Employed	19,071	19,356	20,949	21,749	2,678	14.0
Employment-population ratio	52.1	52.8	57.2	59.3	7.2	13.8
Unemployed	2,398	2,619	3,010	2,688	290	12.1
Looking for full-time work	1,591	1,780	2,155	1,916	325	20.4
Looking for part-time work	807	839	855	771	-35	-4.4
Unemployment rate	11.2	11.9	12.6	11.0	-2	-1.5
Not in labor force	15,133	14,651	12,695	12,244	-2,889	-19.1
Men						
Civilian noninstitutional population	18,456	18,471	18,486	18,501	45	.2
Civilian labor force	11,182	11,431	12,634	12,871	1,689	15.1
Participation rate	60.6	61.9	68.3	69.6	9.0	14.8
Employed	9,783	10,015	10,956	11,393	1,609	16.4
Employment-population ratio	53.0	54.2	59.3	61.6	8.6	16.2
Unemployed	1,398	1,416	1,677	1,478	80	5.7
Looking for full-time work	960	987	1,196	1,077	117	12.2
Looking for part-time work	438	429	481	401	-37	-8.5
Unemployment rate	12.5	12.4	13.3	11.5	-1.0	-8.2
Not in labor force	7,275	7,040	5,852	5,630	-1,645	-22.6
Women						
Civilian noninstitutional population	18,145	18,156	18,168	18,180	35	.2
Civilian labor force	10,287	10,545	11,325	11,566	1,279	12.4
Participation rate	56.7	58.1	62.3	63.6	6.9	12.2
Employed	9,287	9,342	9,993	10,356	1,069	11.5
Employment-population ratio	51.2	51.5	55.0	57.0	5.8	11.3
Unemployed	1,000	1,203	1,333	1,209	210	21.0
Looking for full-time work	631	793	959	839	208	33.0
Looking for part-time work	368	410	374	370	2	.5
Unemployment rate	9.7	11.4	11.8	10.5	.7	7.6
Not in labor force	7,858	7,611	6,842	6,614	-1,244	-15.8
White						
Civilian noninstitutional population	28,517	28,532	28,549	28,566	49	.2
Civilian labor force	17,380	17,743	19,360	19,712	2,331	13.4
Participation rate	60.9	62.2	67.8	69.0	8.1	13.2
Employed	15,723	15,986	17,360	17,944	2,221	14.1
Employment-population ratio	55.1	56.0	60.8	62.8	7.7	13.9
Unemployed	1,658	1,758	2,000	1,768	110	6.6
Looking for full-time work	1,038	1,157	1,374	1,234	197	18.9
Looking for part-time work	620	600	626	533	-87	-14.0
Unemployment rate	9.5	9.9	10.3	9.0	-.6	-6.0
Not in labor force	11,137	10,789	9,189	8,854	-2,283	-20.5
Black or African American						
Civilian noninstitutional population	5,296	5,303	5,310	5,317	21	.4
Civilian labor force	2,666	2,801	3,064	3,097	432	16.2
Participation rate	50.3	52.8	57.7	58.3	7.9	15.7
Employed	2,090	2,115	2,260	2,378	288	13.8
Employment-population ratio	39.5	39.9	42.6	44.7	5.3	13.3
Unemployed	575	687	804	719	144	25.0
Looking for full-time work	443	501	626	544	100	22.6
Looking for part-time work	132	186	178	176	44	33.1
Unemployment rate	21.6	24.5	26.2	23.2	1.6	7.6
Not in labor force	2,631	2,502	2,246	2,220	-411	-15.6

See footnotes at end of table.

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 2005 — 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 ¹	
					Number	Percent
Asian						
Civilian noninstitutional population	1,467	1,472	1,503	1,497	30	2.1
Civilian labor force	640	652	702	794	154	24.1
Participation rate	43.7	44.3	46.7	53.1	9.4	21.6
Employed	601	591	628	699	98	16.3
Employment-population ratio	41.0	40.2	41.8	46.7	5.7	14.0
Unemployed	39	61	74	95	56	143.6
Looking for full-time work	25	46	46	58	33	132.7
Looking for part-time work	14	15	28	38	23	162.5
Unemployment rate	6.1	9.4	10.5	12.0	5.9	96.3
Not in labor force	826	819	801	702	-124	-15.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity						
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,314	6,321	6,328	6,335	21	.3
Civilian labor force	3,651	3,649	3,806	3,800	149	4.1
Participation rate	57.8	57.7	60.1	60.0	2.2	3.7
Employed	3,226	3,276	3,412	3,428	202	6.3
Employment-population ratio	51.1	51.8	53.9	54.1	3.0	5.9
Unemployed	425	373	394	372	-53	-12.5
Looking for full-time work	304	256	292	292	-12	-3.8
Looking for part-time work	122	117	102	80	-42	-34.3
Unemployment rate	11.6	10.2	10.3	9.8	-1.9	-16.0
Not in labor force	2,664	2,672	2,523	2,536	-128	-4.8

¹ Changes are calculated using unrounded data.

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified

as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data reflect revised population controls introduced in January 2005.

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2002-05

(Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2002	2003	2004	2005
TOTAL				
Civilian noninstitutional population	35,322	35,905	36,415	36,681
Civilian labor force	24,536	24,150	24,465	24,436
Participation rate	69.5	67.3	67.2	66.6
Employed	21,501	20,950	21,447	21,749
Employment-population ratio	60.9	58.3	58.9	59.3
Unemployed	3,034	3,200	3,018	2,688
Looking for full-time work	2,250	2,448	2,212	1,916
Looking for part-time work	785	753	806	771
Unemployment rate	12.4	13.3	12.3	11.0
Not in labor force	10,786	11,755	11,950	12,244
Men				
Civilian noninstitutional population	17,758	18,042	18,356	18,501
Civilian labor force	12,837	12,635	12,925	12,871
Participation rate	72.3	70.0	70.4	69.6
Employed	11,231	10,838	11,373	11,393
Employment-population ratio	63.2	60.1	62.0	61.6
Unemployed	1,606	1,796	1,552	1,478
Looking for full-time work	1,172	1,416	1,176	1,077
Looking for part-time work	434	381	377	401
Unemployment rate	12.5	14.2	12.0	11.5
Not in labor force	4,921	5,407	5,431	5,630
Women				
Civilian noninstitutional population	17,563	17,863	18,059	18,180
Civilian labor force	11,699	11,516	11,540	11,566
Participation rate	66.6	64.5	63.9	63.6
Employed	10,271	10,112	10,074	10,356
Employment-population ratio	58.5	56.6	55.8	57.0
Unemployed	1,428	1,404	1,465	1,209
Looking for full-time work	1,077	1,032	1,036	839
Looking for part-time work	351	372	429	370
Unemployment rate	12.2	12.2	12.7	10.5
Not in labor force	5,865	6,348	6,519	6,614
White ¹				
Civilian noninstitutional population	27,959	28,066	28,410	28,566
Civilian labor force	20,262	19,749	19,859	19,712
Participation rate	72.5	70.4	69.9	69.0
Employed	18,092	17,566	17,848	17,944
Employment-population ratio	64.7	62.6	62.8	62.8
Unemployed	2,169	2,182	2,011	1,768
Looking for full-time work	1,566	1,611	1,406	1,234
Looking for part-time work	604	571	605	533
Unemployment rate	10.7	11.1	10.1	9.0
Not in labor force	7,697	8,317	8,551	8,854
Black or African American ¹				
Civilian noninstitutional population	5,199	5,159	5,245	5,317
Civilian labor force	2,989	2,930	3,029	3,097
Participation rate	57.5	56.8	57.7	58.3
Employed	2,319	2,150	2,224	2,378
Employment-population ratio	44.6	41.7	42.4	44.7
Unemployed	670	780	804	719
Looking for full-time work	549	655	666	544
Looking for part-time work	121	125	138	176
Unemployment rate	22.4	26.6	26.6	23.2
Not in labor force	2,211	2,229	2,216	2,220

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years of age by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2002-05 — Continued

(Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Employment status, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	2002	2003	2004	2005
Asian ¹				
Civilian noninstitutional population	1,724	1,464	1,503	1,497
Civilian labor force	966	740	786	794
Participation rate	56.0	50.5	52.3	53.1
Employed	815	642	719	699
Employment-population ratio	47.3	43.8	47.8	46.7
Unemployed	151	98	68	95
Looking for full-time work	97	63	46	58
Looking for part-time work	54	34	22	38
Unemployment rate	15.6	13.2	8.6	12.0
Not in labor force	758	724	716	702
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity				
Civilian noninstitutional population	6,004	6,079	6,275	6,335
Civilian labor force	3,900	3,772	3,926	3,800
Participation rate	65.0	62.0	62.6	60.0
Employed	3,390	3,244	3,428	3,428
Employment-population ratio	56.5	53.4	54.6	54.1
Unemployed	510	528	498	372
Looking for full-time work	419	406	373	292
Looking for part-time work	91	121	125	80
Unemployment rate	13.1	14.0	12.7	9.8
Not in labor force	2,104	2,307	2,349	2,536

¹ Beginning in 2003, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are not included. Prior to 2003, persons who reported more than one race group were included in the group they identified as the main race. Also, beginning in 2003, Asians exclude Pacific Islanders.

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data for 2003, 2004, and 2005 reflect revised population controls introduced in January 2003, January 2004, and January 2005.

Table 3. Employed persons 16 to 24 years of age by industry, class of worker, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, July 2004-05

(Numbers in thousands. Data are not seasonally adjusted.)

Industry and class of worker	Total		White		Black or African American		Asian		Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Total employed	21,447	21,749	17,848	17,944	2,224	2,378	719	699	3,428	3,428
Agriculture and related industries	338	341	318	320	6	11	—	—	86	80
Nonagricultural industries	21,110	21,407	17,530	17,624	2,218	2,367	718	699	3,343	3,347
Private wage and salary workers	19,188	19,410	15,997	16,066	1,959	2,066	634	642	3,115	3,102
Mining	41	57	41	43	—	11	—	2	7	19
Construction	1,543	1,551	1,378	1,406	75	91	14	7	463	453
Manufacturing	1,515	1,423	1,257	1,166	107	171	103	27	331	298
Durable goods	954	853	829	736	39	70	49	14	167	179
Nondurable goods	562	570	428	429	68	100	54	14	164	119
Wholesale trade	452	414	381	342	45	33	13	19	66	71
Retail trade	4,140	4,384	3,386	3,590	482	498	153	138	526	564
Transportation and utilities	503	510	383	412	94	68	13	5	92	70
Information	353	422	288	333	42	61	4	15	45	49
Financial activities	1,052	1,142	896	954	112	96	25	59	163	210
Professional and business services	1,701	1,563	1,424	1,245	179	215	44	62	302	262
Education and health services	2,110	2,072	1,688	1,646	268	295	81	91	306	229
Leisure and hospitality	4,703	4,770	3,980	3,979	445	455	145	167	703	694
Other services	1,075	1,103	897	951	110	72	39	50	111	183
Government	1,434	1,577	1,089	1,186	236	286	75	37	136	159
Federal	189	230	138	166	40	49	3	5	11	19
State	445	470	329	342	76	97	37	27	54	37
Local	799	877	621	678	120	140	36	5	71	103
Self-employed and unpaid family workers	488	420	444	372	23	15	9	20	91	87

— Dash represents or rounds to zero.

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. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or

Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Data for 2004 and 2005 reflect revised population controls introduced in January 2004 and January 2005.