

Table 267. **Employment Status of High School Graduates and School Dropouts: 1980 to 2005**

[In thousands (11,622 represents 11,622,000), except percent. As of October. For civilian noninstitutional population 16 to 24 years old. Based on Current Population Survey; see text, Section 1, and Appendix III]

Employment status, sex, and race	Graduates ¹				Dropouts ³			
	1980	1990	2000 ²	2005 ²	1980	1990	2000 ²	2005 ²
Civilian population	11,622	8,370	7,351	7,068	5,254	3,800	3,776	3,458
In labor force	9,795	7,107	6,195	5,736	3,549	2,506	2,612	2,378
Percent of population	84.3	84.9	84.3	81.1	67.5	66.0	69.2	68.8
Employed	8,567	6,279	5,632	5,101	2,651	1,993	2,150	1,968
Percent of labor force	87.5	88.3	90.9	88.9	74.7	79.5	82.3	82.8
Unemployed	1,228	828	563	634	898	513	463	410
Unemployment rate, total ⁴	12.5	11.7	9.1	11.1	25.3	20.5	17.7	17.3
Male	13.5	11.1	9.3	10.7	23.5	18.8	16.3	15.3
Female	11.5	12.3	8.8	11.5	28.7	23.5	20.3	21.2
White ⁵	10.8	9.0	7.2	9.4	21.6	17.0	15.0	14.4
Black ⁵	26.1	26.0	18.1	18.3	43.9	43.3	33.2	34.3
Not in labor force	1,827	1,262	1,156	1,332	1,705	1,294	1,163	1,080
Percent of population	15.7	15.1	15.7	18.8	32.5	34.1	30.8	31.2

¹ For persons not enrolled in college who have completed 4 years of high school only. ² Data not strictly comparable with data for earlier years. See text, this section, and February 2000 and 2005 issues of *Employment and Earnings*. ³ For persons not in regular school and who have not completed the 12th grade nor received a general equivalency degree. ⁴ Includes other races not shown separately. ⁵ For 2005, for persons who selected this race group only. See footnote 2, Table 217.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bulletin 2307; *News*, USDL 06-514, March 24, 2006; and unpublished data. See Internet site <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgec.toc.htm>>.