

Teenage Employment Requirements in the Summer of 1969

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Many teenagers encounter difficulty in obtaining jobs in the summer months, in large part because of the vast numbers entering the job market at the same time. Summer employment of teenagers serves as an earning opportunity and also provides the necessary work experience to ease their transition from school to work. Even though many private and public employers have provided summer job opportunities for teenagers, a large proportion of 16-19 year-olds have had difficulty finding employment. The estimates of the teenage labor force for the summer of 1969 provided here, while not precise, are designed to give a rough idea of the number of jobs that will be needed this summer.

In the United States, as a whole, an estimated 8.7 million teenagers will be in the labor force. An even greater number of teenagers will actually want work sometime during the summer, but this number is an average for the 3 months. If all teenagers are to find employment this summer, an estimated 1.4 million more jobs than were available last year will be required. In the spring of 1969, an estimated 5.4 million youth probably will be employed. By the summer, about 3.3 million additional jobs will be needed. (Since there will always be some frictional unemployment, however, the actual number of required jobs will be somewhat lower.)

The summer job problems of youth are most critical in the large cities, where knowledge of job opportunities is frequently limited. In the 20 largest metropolitan areas, approximately 2,550,000 16-19 year-olds will be in the labor force, the same as last summer. If all teenage jobseekers are to find work, the number of jobs available will have to be 400,000 greater than were available last summer.

Many teenagers, of course, will have held jobs during the winter and spring and, therefore, will not be looking for work initially in the summer months. An estimated 1.6 million 16-19 year-olds will be employed in these 20 metropolitan areas in the spring of 1969 (March-May average), virtually the same number as a year earlier. About two-fifths of these jobs will be full time, presumably carrying on into the summer. The other three-fifths, however, are part-time jobs held by students who probably will want full-time work during school vacation or as they begin their working careers upon graduation from high school.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has been following the summer youth employment situation for a number of years. Each year until 1967, both the teenage labor force and the number employed increased. After particularly strong gains in 1966, however, both the labor force and employment increases tailed off somewhat in the subsequent 2 years, as the teenage population growth slowed. The largest proportion of the additional jobs in past summers have gone to white teenagers. Their jobless rate has continued to be lower than that for black teenagers. The provision of preemployment training in schools, special manpower programs geared to teenagers, improvements in vocational counseling, and better transportation from the inner city to outlying areas may put black teenagers in a stronger competitive position.

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Projected teenage labor force in the 20 largest
metropolitan areas, Summer 1969

Metropolitan area	Teenage employment, summer 1968	Projected teenage employment, spring 1969	Projected labor force, summer 1969
New York	300,000	210,000	355,000
Los Angeles-Long Beach....	235,000	205,000	290,000
Chicago.....	265,000	190,000	305,000
Philadelphia.....	170,000	120,000	200,000
Detroit.....	155,000	130,000	185,000
San Francisco-Oakland.....	80,000	65,000	105,000
Boston.....	110,000	85,000	125,000
Pittsburgh.....	75,000	65,000	100,000
St. Louis.....	75,000	60,000	90,000
Washington, D.C.	100,000	65,000	125,000
Cleveland.....	65,000	45,000	80,000
Baltimore.....	60,000	45,000	70,000
Newark.....	60,000	45,000	70,000
Minneapolis-St. Paul.....	85,000	65,000	95,000
Buffalo.....	55,000	45,000	65,000
Houston.....	55,000	45,000	70,000
Milwaukee.....	55,000	40,000	60,000
Paterson-Clifton-Passaic..	45,000	35,000	50,000
Cincinnati.....	40,000	35,000	45,000
Dallas.....	55,000	40,000	65,000
Total, 20 areas	2,140,000	1,635,000	2,550,000
United States total	7,265,000	5,365,000	8,680,000