

Teen Employment and Unemployment in Minnesota

How many teens work?

Even though Minnesota’s share of youth who are working or actively seeking work is higher than the national share of 34.1, it has been steadily declining since 1995. According to 2014 estimates by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 122,000 employed and 15,700 unemployed teens in Minnesota. Together they represent 48.5 percent of the total 16-19 youth population in the state (see Table 1) marking a significant decline from nearly 70 percent in 2000.

TABLE I				
Minnesota Youth (Ages 16-19)				
Employment and Unemployment, 2000 to 2013				
Year	16-19 Youth Population in Minnesota	Number of 16-19 Youth Employed	16-19 Youth Unemployment Rate (%)	Workforce Participation Rate (%)*
2000	293,000	186,000	8.9	69.6
2001	302,000	180,000	7.5	64.6
2002	315,000	182,000	9.5	63.7
2003	299,000	154,000	13.9	59.8
2004	290,000	152,000	12.4	59.7
2005	313,000	165,000	14.1	61.2
2006	316,000	160,000	14.7	59.3
2007	300,000	150,000	13.6	58.0
2008	280,000	131,000	13.7	54.2
2009	255,000	108,000	21.1	53.6
2010	262,000	106,000	21.1	51.3
2011	291,000	122,000	19.1	51.7
2012	286,000	105,000	18.6	45.1
2013	291,000	115,000	15.0	46.4
2014	284,000	122,000	11.4	48.5

*Workforce participation rates measure the number of employed and unemployed persons as a proportion of the civilian non-institutional population who are 16 to 19 years old.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, “The Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment,” www.bls.gov/gps