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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teen Summer Jobs Fall 4 Percent in 2017

DESPITE OPPORTUNITIES, NUMBER OF WORKING TEENS TRENDS LOWER

CHICAGO, May 7, 2018 – With Mother’s Day approaching, some moms may think the best gift would be for their teenager to get a job. However, fewer teens are opting to secure summer employment. In its annual outlook, global outplacement and executive coaching firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. predicts teen hiring will remain stagnant this summer, as more and more teens focus on education, family obligations, and extracurricular activities.

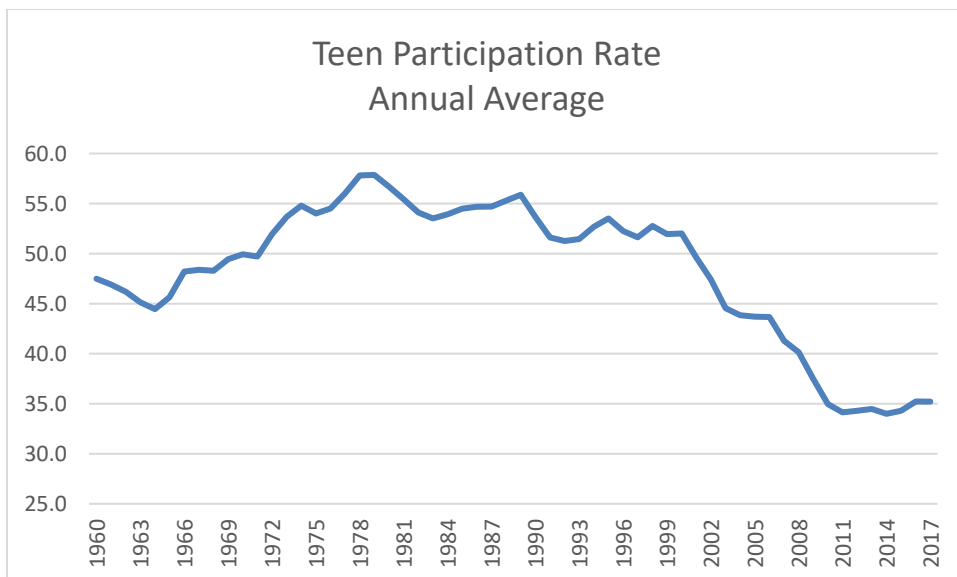
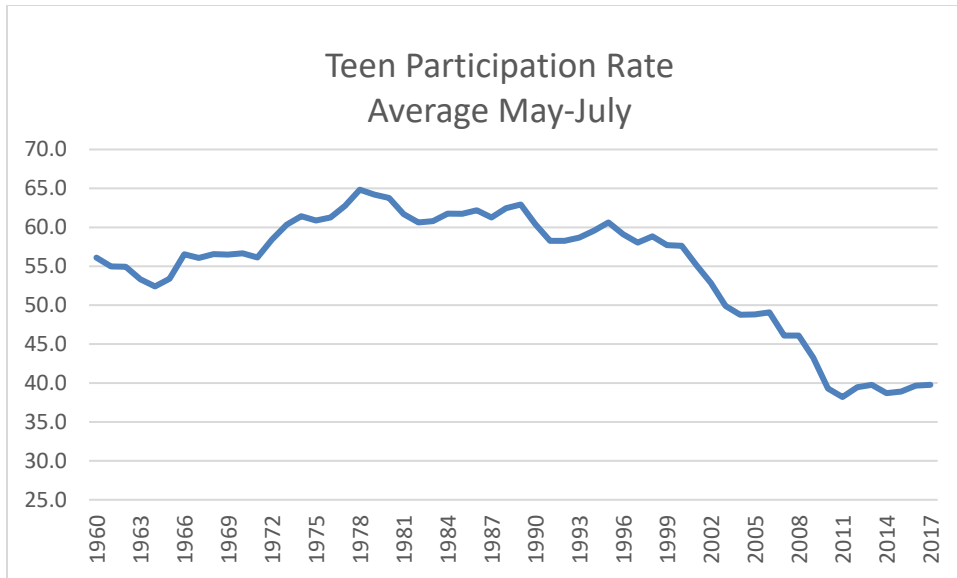
Although over 1 million teens found jobs in June of last year, the strongest hiring numbers for this cohort since 2007, teen hiring fell nearly 4 percent last summer to 1,288,000 jobs gained, according to an analysis of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics by Challenger.

Employment among workers aged 16 to 19 was 190,000 in July, the lowest July total on record. That is 61.4 percent lower than the 492,000 job gains in July 2016.

Last year’s summer total was the lowest number of job gains since 2015, when 1,160,000 teens found positions.

“Some of these declines could be due to the pivot in retail, which is leading to thousands of store closures. In March, Toys“R”Us, a large employer of teens, announced they were closing all of their U.S. stores. Since January 2017, Challenger has tracked over 5,000 announced closures of retail locations,” said Andrew Challenger, Vice President of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

“However, teen employment has been falling steadily since the 90s and especially since the recession. The teen participation rate in the summer months has hovered near 40 percent since 2009, well below the highs of the 70s, 80s, and 90s at near or over 60 percent,” he added.



Source: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., with non-seasonally adjusted data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

“With the myriad responsibilities facing American teens, it’s no wonder few opt to add “summer job” to the list. However, the kinds of jobs that employ most teenagers help build crucial soft skills that many employers value,” said Challenger.

In fact, according to the Pew Research Center, wages have risen faster in occupations that require more social and analytical skills compared to occupations that require manual labor. From 1990 to 2015, the average hourly wage for occupations requiring higher levels of analytical skills rose from \$23 to \$27, while the mean hourly wage for occupations requiring higher levels of social skills rose from \$22 to \$26. That is compared to an increase from \$16 to \$18 for jobs requiring average or above average physical skills in the same time period.

“Jobs that are customer-facing, those that require teens to interact with colleagues in an office setting or even lead children in summer activities, help develop skills that employers routinely seek in new hires. It would be wise for teens to consider trying to fit a part-time summer position into their busy schedules,” said Challenger.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT GROWTH AMONG WORKERS AGED 16 TO 19

Year	May	June	July	Summer Jobs Gained	Change from Prior Year
2006	230,000	1,033,000	471,000	1,734,000	-0.10%
2007	62,000	1,114,000	459,000	1,635,000	-5.70%
2008	116,000	683,000	355,000	1,154,000	-29.40%
2009	111,000	698,000	354,000	1,163,000	0.80%
2010	6,000	497,000	457,000	960,000	-17.50%
2011	71,000	714,000	302,000	1,087,000	13.20%
2012	157,000	858,000	382,000	1,397,000	28.50%
2013	215,000	779,000	361,000	1,355,000	-3.00%
2014	217,000	661,000	419,000	1,297,000	-4.30%
2015	182,000	609,000	369,000	1,160,000	-10.60%
2016	156,000	691,000	492,000	1,339,000	15.40%
2017	75,000	1,023,000	190,000	1,288,000	-3.8%
AVERAGE (Since 2006)	133,167	780,000	384,250	1,297,417	

Source: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., with non-seasonally adjusted data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics