



## CONTACTS

**Colleen Madden**, Director of Public Relations  
Office: 312-422-5074  
Mobile: 314-807-1568  
[colleenmadden@challengergray.com](mailto:colleenmadden@challengergray.com)

**Blake Palder**, Public Relations Associate  
Office: 312-422-5156  
[blakepalder@challengergray.com](mailto:blakepalder@challengergray.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### More Teens Find Jobs This May Versus Last **130,000 JOB GAINS FOR TEENS IN MAY, UP 73 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

**CHICAGO, June 15, 2018** – The summer hiring season for teens got off to a better start than last May, as 130,000 workers aged 16 to 19 found employment last month, according to analysis of non-seasonally adjusted data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics by global outplacement and executive coaching firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

May marks the beginning of the summer hiring surge, which, since 2006, has averaged 1,300,000 teen jobs. Last month's gains were 73 percent higher than the 75,000 jobs recorded in May 2017. However, this comes after a precipitous drop: last May's job gains were 52 percent lower than the 156,000 jobs recorded in May 2016.

"May's total is more in line with what we expect in terms of job gains. However, unless we see another huge June number that carries into July, we won't see job gains much higher than last year," said Andrew Challenger, Vice President of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

"Teens continue to explore other opportunities outside of paid employment. While this could help with college resumes, it likely will not build the soft skills and work experience employers like to see from entry-level workers," he added.

"While retail, the industry that traditionally hires teen workers, may be pivoting, those jobs are not necessarily gone. As retailers add new technologies to enhance the in-store experience, more workers will need to be on hand to ensure shoppers are using them most effectively as well as to interpret the data these new technologies are producing to help run the stores," said Challenger.

According to Challenger tracking, retailers announced 9,301 store closures in 2017 and 2,609 so far in 2018.

## 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%                  |
| 2018                            | 130,000        |                |                |                    |                        |
| <b>AVERAGE<br/>(Since 2006)</b> | <b>132,923</b> | <b>780,000</b> | <b>384,250</b> | <b>1,297,417</b>   |                        |

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

###