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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fewer Teens Find Summer Jobs in May

TEEN EMPLOYMENT GAINS DOWN 14% FROM LAST YEAR

CHICAGO, JUNE 7, 2016 – The number of teenagers finding jobs in May declined for the second consecutive year, as a growing number of this population either struggles to find summer employment or simply abandons the traditional labor force.

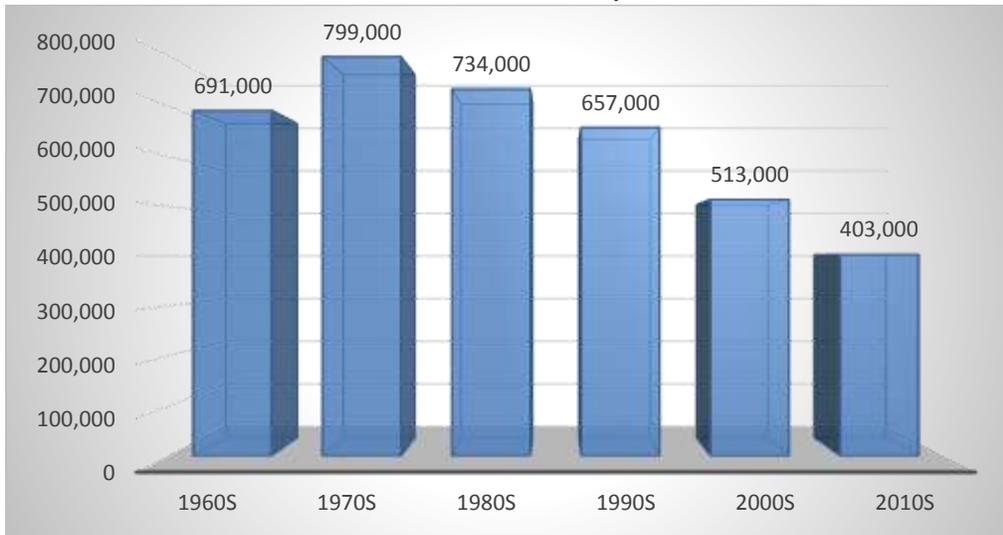
Employment among 16- to 19-year-olds increased by 156,000 in May, according to an analysis of the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics data by global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. The job gains in May were 14 percent lower than last year, when teen employment grew by 182,000.

May marks the beginning of the summer hiring surge, which over the previous five years has seen an average of 1,259,200 teens added to the workforce between May 1 and July 31. May typically experiences the smallest hiring gains of the three-month period, but this was the slowest start to the summer hiring season since 2011, when just 71,000 teenagers found jobs in May.

“Low hiring in May does not necessarily portend an overall drop in summer hiring. In 2007, just 62,000 teenagers found employment in May, but total job gains for the summer exceeded 1.6 million. However, the general trend in summer employment among teens has been downward and that trend has been going on since the late 1970s,” said John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

“Numerous factors have contributed to the decline of teen employment. Economic downturns certainly played a role in accelerating the trend, but it is hardly the only factor. Even the relatively high-flying 1990s saw the number of working teens fall,” said Challenger.

AVERAGE TEEN JOB GAINS PER MONTH, MAY-JULY



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

Since the 1970s, the number of manufacturing and other skilled blue-collar jobs have disappeared, along with other semi-skilled jobs that could be shipped overseas, such as call center jobs. Americans who might have gravitated toward these opportunities were pushed down the ladder into lower-skilled, lower-paying service jobs that were once dominated by teenagers.

“Teens were basically pushed out of the market. They continue to have opportunities in the classic summer job settings, such as summer camps, neighborhood pools, amusement parks, etc. However, the number of these jobs is not really growing. We don’t see a dozen new amusement parks or summer camps start up every year. Meanwhile, restaurants and retail outlets are still hiring teens, but not as many as in the past, because they simply don’t need as many workers to meet seasonal demand,” said Challenger.

“In addition, to these factors, there is mounting evidence that teens are not pursuing traditional summer jobs like they used to. Many are enrolled in summer educational programs. More are volunteering. And, others are pursuing money-making opportunities that fall below the radar of standard employment measures, such as unpaid internships or entrepreneurial ventures,” he added.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT GROWTH AMONG 16- TO 19-YEAR-OLDS

Year	May	June	July	Summer Jobs Gained	Change from Prior Year
2011	71,000	714,000	302,000	1,087,000	13.2%
2012	157,000	858,000	382,000	1,397,000	28.5%
2013	215,000	779,000	361,000	1,355,000	-3.0%
2014	217,000	661,000	419,000	1,297,000	-4.3%
2015	182,000	609,000	369,000	1,160,000	-10.6%
2016	156,000	?	?	?	

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