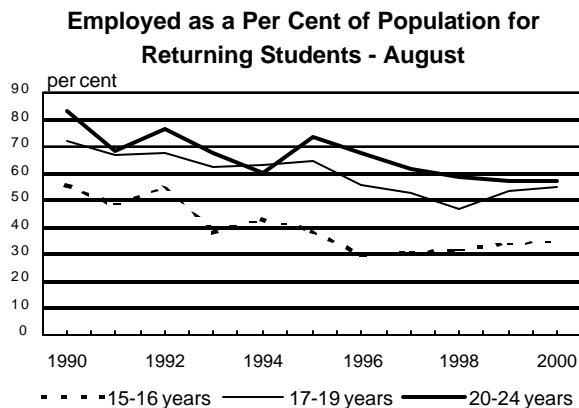


Earnings and Employment Trends ♦ March 2001

SUMMER WORK

Each spring students come out of high school, colleges and universities looking for summer jobs. As they flow into the labour force their success in finding suitable work is in part related to their age and plans for the future.

This summer, students will once again be looking for work. Although the employment rates were at their lowest in 1996–1998, the trend has since turned around. The employment-population ratio for 15–24 year-olds in March 2001 is almost a full point above the March 2000 level.



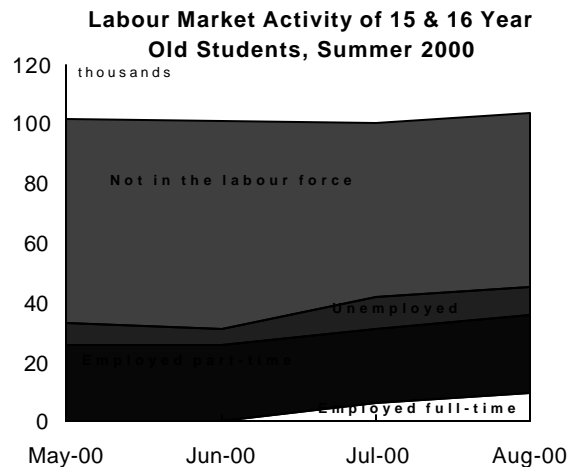
High School Youth

Fifteen and sixteen year-olds are still in school in May, but even at that time of the year a third were in the labour force, either with a job or looking for work. (In the early 1990's closer to one-half of young teenage students were in the labour force.) Almost all students with jobs were working part-time.

By June, participation rates typically decline slightly, but unemployment rates also fall. In 2000, the size of the labour force declined by 1,200 and the number of unemployed dropped by 1,500, while the number with

jobs was essentially unchanged. This movement of the unemployed out of the labour force may be related to the demands of exams.

Participation rates jump in July, typically by more than ten points. However, many of these new entrants into the labour force cannot find work immediately. In 2000, the labour force grew by almost 10,000, but employment was up only 3,500. However, a shift to full-time employment happened for about a fifth of those with jobs.

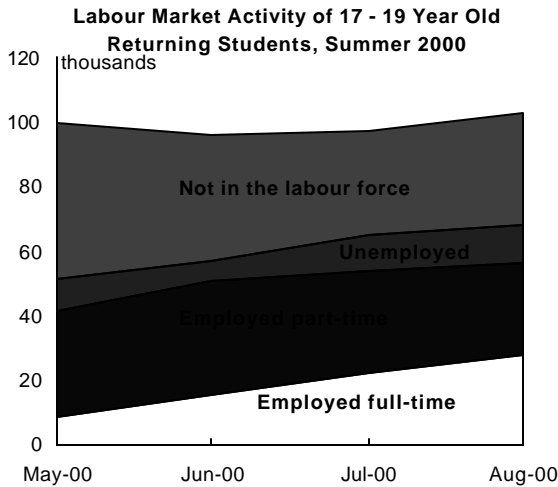


August 2000 saw an increase in employment as another 2,900 found jobs, but unemployment rates remained high.

Transition Youth

Seventeen to nineteen year-olds are in the transition period of either leaving school or going on to post-secondary education. Four-fifths of students in May 2000 indicated they would be returning to school in the fall. More than half of all students in this age range were in the labour force (the recent high was in May 1991, at two-thirds) with 4/5ths of those actually working and the balance looking for work. A fifth of those working were in full-time jobs.

The participation rate in May 2000 for those not planning to return to school was about 10 points above that of returning students (62% versus 52%). Unemployment rates were considerably lower—13% for those not going back, compared with 20% for returning students.



The participation rate jumped in June to about 60% for returning students and by July/August, two-thirds were in the labour force. The unemployment rate in May for 17 to 19 year-olds had been similar to that experienced by 15 to 16 year-olds. It also declined in June (11%) but rose in July to 17% and stayed at that level in August. However, there was a significant shift from part-time to full-time employment as the number working full-time rose from 8,400 in May to 27,900 in August, almost equal to the number of those working part-time.

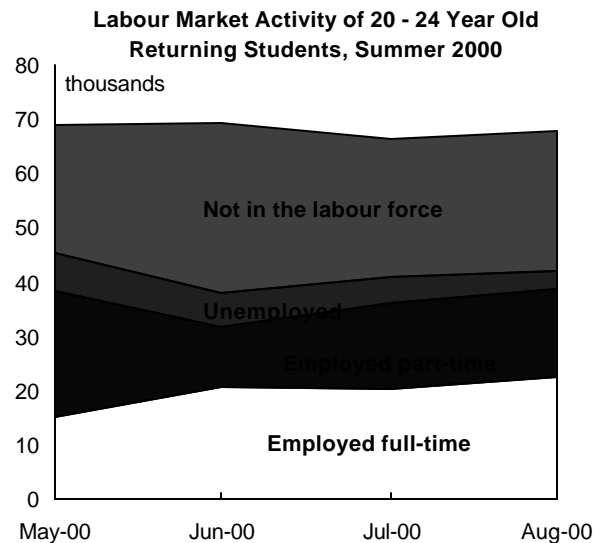
The pattern for seventeen to nineteen year-olds not planning to return to school in the fall was somewhat different. It is unlikely that most students in this group would have completed a post-secondary program. The participation rate for this group was at 62% in May and had reached 80% by August. Unemployment rates were 13% and 12% respectively for May and June, and then jumped to 19% in July as the high school portion of this population came into the labour market. The rate then fell again in August to 13.2%.

Post Secondary Youth

Older students, from twenty to twenty-four years of age, are most likely to be enrolled in post-secondary programs. Those continuing with their studies in the fall exhibit quite different summer work patterns. Two-thirds of this group were in the labour force in May 2000, but the portion declined to just over one-half in June and settled in July and August to around 62%. Typically, participation rates move less for this group than their younger counterparts or those not returning to school.

Full-time employment accounted for 40% of the total in May and increased to between 55% and 65% through the summer.

Older students not returning to school exhibited the highest summer participation rates but also the highest unemployment



rates. High unemployment among this group may be the result of students, having finished their study programs, being more discerning about the jobs they take. Employment among this group was largely full-time.

Source: All data and charts based on information from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.