

## From Bad to Worse Unemployment and Underemployment Among Less-Educated U.S.-Born Workers, 2007 to 2010

By Steven A. Camarota

Less-educated, younger, and minority American workers face the worst job market in decades, far worse than their more educated counterparts. However the situation for these workers was very difficult even before the current recession began at the end of 2007. This report examines their employment situation in the second quarters of 2010 and 2007 (before the recession). Younger and less-educated workers are the most likely to be in competition with immigrants — legal and illegal. (Figures in this report are seasonally unadjusted.)

Among the findings:

- Younger and less-educated natives often do the same jobs as immigrants. In the second quarter of 2010, in the occupations employing the most young and less-educated U.S.-born adults, one in five workers was an immigrant.
- In the second quarter of 2010, the unemployment rate for U.S.-born adults who have not completed high school was 20.8 percent. But even in the second quarter of 2007, before the recession, it was 11.1 percent.
- Using the broader measure of unemployment that includes those who want to work, but have not looked recently, and those forced to work part-time, the rate for those who haven't completed high school was 32.4 percent in the second quarter of 2010 and 18.7 percent in the same quarter of 2007.
- The unemployment rate for U.S.-born workers, ages 18 to 29, who have only a high school education was 20 percent in the second quarter of 2010 and 9.6 percent in 2007.
- The broader measure of unemployment for 18- to 29-year-old U.S.-born workers with only a high school education was 32.4 percent in the second quarter of 2010 and 16.6 percent in 2007.
- For U.S.-born minorities:

- black, less than high school, unemployment	2010: 29.0 percent;	2007: 17.4 percent
- black, less than high school, broader measure	2010: 43.1 percent;	2007: 27.6 percent
- black, high school only, young, unemployment	2010: 27.4 percent;	2007: 17.8 percent
- black, high school only, young, broader measure	2010: 40.7 percent;	2007: 25.6 percent
- Hispanic, less than high school, unemployment	2010: 22.9 percent;	2007: 12.8 percent
- Hispanic, less than high school, broader measure	2010: 35.0 percent;	2007: 20.6 percent
- Hispanic, high school only, young, unemployment	2010: 23.3 percent;	2007: 9.4 percent
- Hispanic, high school only, young, broader measure	2010: 36.0 percent;	2007: 16.0 percent

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- Teenagers are another group that also tends to compete with immigrants. In the second quarter of 2010, in the 25 occupations employing the most U.S.-born teenagers (16 and 17) one in five workers was an immigrant.
- In the second quarter of 2010, the unemployment rate of U.S.-born teens (16 and 17) was 31.2 percent; it was 18.9 in second quarter of 2007.
- If we examine the broader measure for U.S.-born teenagers, unemployment was 40.3 percent in the second quarter of 2010 and 24.6 percent in the same quarter of 2007.
- The situation for U.S.-born minority teenagers is worse than for teenagers generally. Black teen unemployment, for example, was 46.2 percent in the second quarter of 2010; it was 35.9 percent for Hispanic teenagers.
- The total number of young and less-educated U.S.-born workers unemployed is enormous. If we look at the broad measure of unemployment for all workers who lack a high school education or have only a high school education and are young (18 to 29) or are teenagers (16-17), seven million were unemployed in the second quarter of 2010.
- In addition to the seven million unemployed or underemployed, there were another 16 million of these younger and less-educated individuals who were entirely out of the labor market. That is, they were not working, nor were they looking for work, even using the broadest measure of unemployment.
- To place these numbers in perspective, there are an estimated seven to eight million illegal immigrants holding jobs.

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## Introduction

The argument is often made that there are not enough workers in the country to do jobs that require relatively little education.<sup>1</sup> This is used to justify continuing to allow large numbers of less-educated immigrants into the country. It is also used as one of the justifications for legalizing illegal immigrants. Research indicates that the overwhelming majority of illegal immigrants and nearly half of legal immigrants have no more than a high school education.<sup>2</sup> Taken together, 55 percent of legal and illegal immigrants ages 18 to 65 had no more than a high school education in the second quarter of 2010.<sup>3</sup>

The latest data show that unemployment is very high among less-educated and younger

U.S.-born workers. Moreover, a very large share of less-educated natives are not even looking for work, and are thus not officially unemployed, even using the broadest measure of unemployment. While these workers faced a very poor labor market situation in 2010; even in 2007, before the current recession began, younger and less-educated U.S.-born workers had high rates of unemployment. It is difficult to reconcile the argument that there are not enough less-educated workers in the country with the extremely difficult employment situation these workers have faced for a number years. In this report we use the terms U.S.-born, native, and native-born interchangeably. We also use the terms immigrant and foreign-born synonymously.

## Unemployment Rates for Young And Less-Educated Natives

The left side of Table 1 shows the unemployment rate for all workers. Table 1 shows that unemployment varies significantly by group. For example, unemployment for adult (18-plus) native-born workers with less than a high school education was 20.8 percent. In contrast, it was just 4.5 percent for natives with at least a bachelor's degree. Unemployment is much higher for teenagers, those without a high school diploma, and young high school graduates than it is for all workers and for the most educated workers. One of the most important findings in Table 1 is that those with a high school education who are young (18 to 29) have an unemployment rate similar to those who have not completed high school. Having completed high school does not seem to make much difference in terms of unemployment for young U.S.-born workers. Another important finding is that unemployment is much higher for young and less-educated U.S.-born minorities than for the population as a whole.

## Employment Rates for Young And Less-Educated Natives

In contrast to the left side of Table 1, the right side of the table shows those who are employed and those who are considered outside of the labor force. To be in the labor force, one has to be working or have looked for a job in the last four weeks. Thus the labor force is comprised of those working and those who are not employed, but have looked recently. The right side of Table 1 shows that the employment rate (those holding a job) for U.S.-born high school dropouts was just 41.2 percent. This means that only four out of 10 natives who have not completed high school are working. For U.S.-born teenagers it was just 16.3 percent. For those who are young (18 to 29) with only a high school education it was 59.8 percent, or just six out of 10. In contrast, 81.6 percent of U.S.-born individuals with a college degree or higher had a job in the second quarter of 2010. As is the case with unemployment, the employment rates for U.S.-born minorities are much worse than for natives overall.

And the contrast is especially stark when compared to the most educated natives.

It should be pointed out that a significant share of those not in the labor force may not wish to work. Some of those out of the labor force are parents staying home with young children who have no interest in working. Others are disabled in some way that prevents them from holding a job. Some are also full-time students. But the overwhelming majority of native-born high school dropouts and young high school graduates not in the labor force are not students.<sup>4</sup> And of course, being a student certainly does not preclude working. Nearly half of all full-time adult students (18 to 65) were in the labor force in the second quarter of 2010. Non-work has become very common among the least educated natives.

## Broader Measure of Unemployment

The standard unemployment rate shown on the left side of Table 1 excludes some people who may want to work, but who are not actively looking for a job and are therefore not officially unemployed. Also, the official unemployment figures do not include those working part-time, but who want to work full-time. In order to get a broader, more comprehensive measure of unemployment and underemployment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) developed the U-6 measure (the official unemployment rate is referred to as U-3). The methodology section of this report explains in detail who is included in the U-6 measure of unemployment. Table 2 reports standard unemployment figures and the broader U-6 measure of unemployment. This more comprehensive measure of unemployment includes those who are officially unemployed, those who are involuntarily working part-time, and those “marginally” attached to the labor market. People who are marginally attached indicate that they would like to work but are not actively looking for a job because economic conditions and their own experience indicate that it is futile.

Looking at the U-6 unemployment rate in the last column of Table 2 shows that unemployment was 40.3 percent for U.S.-born teenagers and 32.4 percent for U.S.-born high school dropouts, and young natives (18 to 29) with only a high school

education. These unemployment rates give a profound sense of just how difficult the current labor market is for the young and least educated. In contrast, the U-6 measure is 8 percent for natives with at least a bachelor's degree.

### Situation Before the Current Recession

The extremely difficult employment situation during the current downturn may not be too surprising. But Tables 3 and 4 show that the least-educated and youngest workers faced a difficult labor market even before the current recession began. Table 3 reports the same information as Table 1 except that the figures are for the second quarter of 2007, before the recession. Table 3 shows that unemployment for natives with less than a high school education was 11.1 percent; for young high school graduates (18 to 29) it was 9.6 percent; and for teenagers (16 and 17) it was 18.9 percent. Table 4 shows that the U-6 measure for natives with less than a high school education was 18.7 percent in the second quarter of 2007. For young U.S.-born workers with only a high school education it was 16.6 percent; and for teenagers it was 24.6 percent. Tables 3 and 4 make clear that the very bad employment situation is not a new development for the young and least educated. While their employment picture has clearly worsened since before the recession, it was not good even before the economic downturn. Despite this employment situation in 2007, many employer groups and political commentators continued to argue for more unskilled immigration on the grounds that no American workers are available to fill jobs that require relatively little education.

It is very difficult to argue that there is a shortage of less-educated workers in the country. If the United States were to enforce immigration laws and encourage illegal immigrants to return home, we would seem to have an adequate supply of less-educated natives to replace these workers. We could also allow in fewer legal immigrants with relatively little education. At present, most legal immigrants are allowed into the country because they have a relative in the United States. As a result, a large share of legal immigrants have few years of schooling.

### U.S.-Born Workers and Immigrants Often Do the Same Jobs

Tables 5, 6, and 7 report the top-25 occupations employing the largest number of less-educated and younger U.S.-born workers.<sup>5</sup> In Table 5, the first column shows the number of U.S.-born teenagers (16 and 17) employed in each occupation in the second quarter of 2010. The second column shows the number of foreign-born workers (legal and illegal) in each occupation. The third column shows the share of workers in each occupation who are immigrants, and the last column shows the total number of people employed in each occupation (immigrant and native-born). Tables 6 and 7 report the same information for the top-25 occupations for native-born workers who have not completed high school and those who are young (18 to 29) with only a high school education, respectively. Although there is a good deal of overlap between the top occupations for each of these three groups, a number of the occupations are different across the tables.

Table 5 shows that in the top-25 teenage occupations, 20 percent of workers are immigrants. These occupations employ 80 percent of all teenagers. If we look at Table 6, for those natives without a high school diploma, again we find that 22 percent of workers in these top occupations are immigrants. These occupations employ 54 percent of native-born Americans who have not completed high school. We see a very similar pattern for young U.S.-born workers with only a high school education. Table 7 shows that 20 percent of workers in these top-25 occupations for young high school graduates are immigrants. In these occupations, young U.S.-born high school graduates account for 53 percent of all U.S.-born young workers who have only a high school degree. If the often-made argument that young U.S.-born workers and immigrants do not compete for the same jobs is correct, then there should be very few if any immigrants employed in these top occupations. But, in fact, one in five workers are foreign-born in these occupations.

In the 25 occupations employing the most U.S.-born workers with education beyond high school, just 12 percent of workers are foreign-born. Thus, more-educated natives face significantly less

competition from immigrants than younger and less-educated native-born workers. In general, the young and less educated who have the highest unemployment rates are the ones mostly likely to face competition with immigrants, while those with the lowest unemployment face the least competition.

## Methodology

The data for Tables 1 and 2 come from the public-use files of the April, May, and June 2010 Current Population Surveys (CPS), which are collected monthly by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The data for Tables 3 and 4 are for the same months in 2007, also from the CPS files. Each CPS includes about 131,000 respondents, roughly half of whom are in the labor force. The tables presented here are reported by quarter. Quarterly data is more statistically robust, especially for smaller populations like immigrants and minorities, due to the inclusion of three months of data. Persons in institutions like prisons and nursing homes are not included in the CPS. The CPS is the nation's primary source for unemployment and other labor force statistics. Like all government surveys, the data are weighted to reflect the actual size and demographic makeup of the U.S. population.

The government publishes employment statistics that are both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted from the survey. The figures in this analysis are seasonally unadjusted. Unadjusted figures are computationally simpler and easy for other researchers to replicate. In general, BLS does

not provide separate estimates for the foreign-born (immigrants) and the native-born broken down by characteristics like education, race, and age. However, all CPS respondents are asked these questions. The Census Bureau defines the foreign-born as persons who are not U.S. citizens at birth, which includes naturalized citizens, legal immigrants who are not citizens (green card holders), temporary visitors and workers, and illegal immigrants. All figures for the total U.S. population match those from the BLS.

The U-6 measure divides the sum of the unemployed population, involuntary part-time workers, and marginally attached people (discouraged and other) by the civilian labor force (employed and unemployed) plus marginally attached workers. The column headings in Tables 2 and 4 show this calculation. An unemployed worker is someone who does not currently hold a job, but is available to work and has looked for a job in the previous four weeks. Marginally attached workers indicate that they want and are available for jobs and they have looked for work in the past 12 months.<sup>6</sup> However, they are not considered unemployed because they have not searched for a job in the previous four weeks. Involuntary part-time workers are those individuals who report that they are working part-time for economic reasons. They want and are available for full-time work, but must instead settle for part-time hours.<sup>7</sup> Because the total U-6 measure includes the unemployed, those working involuntarily part-time, and those marginally attached to the labor market (discouraged and other), it provides the broadest possible measure of problems in the U.S. workforce.

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**Table 1. Employment of Immigrants and Native-Born Americans, Q2 2010 (thousands)**

	Employed	Unemployed <sup>1</sup>	Percent Unemployed	Not in Labor Force (18-65) <sup>2</sup>	Employed	Total <sup>3</sup>	Employment Rate <sup>4</sup>	
<b>All Persons (16+)</b>	<b>139,561</b>	<b>14,621</b>	<b>9.5 %</b>	<b>ALL Persons (18-65)</b>	<b>46,199</b>	<b>132,861</b>	<b>192,711</b>	<b>68.9 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	1,421	654	31.5 %	Teens (16-17)	6,817	1,421	8,892	16.0 %
<HS (18+)	12,707	2,501	16.4 %	<HS (18-65)	9,876	12,140	24,473	49.6 %
HS Only (18+)	39,245	5,323	11.9 %	HS Only (18-65)	14,788	37,591	57,589	65.3 %
HS Only (18-29)	8,804	2,081	19.1 %	HS Only (18-29)	3,653	8,804	14,538	60.6 %
Some College (18+)	40,307	3,916	8.9 %	Some College (18-65)	13,229	39,116	56,187	69.6 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	45,881	2,227	4.6 %	Bachelor's or More (18-65)	8,306	44,014	54,462	80.8 %
<b>All Natives (16+)</b>	<b>117,400</b>	<b>12,510</b>	<b>9.6 %</b>	<b>All Natives (18-65)</b>	<b>39,011</b>	<b>111,360</b>	<b>161,992</b>	<b>68.7 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	1,356	616	31.2 %	Teens (16-17)	6,343	1,356	8,315	16.3 %
<HS (18+)	6,751	1,774	20.8 %	<HS (18-65)	7,265	6,324	15,331	41.2 %
HS only (18+)	33,783	4,747	12.3 %	HS Only (18-65)	12,985	32,265	49,899	64.7 %
HS only (18-29)	7,670	1,922	20.0 %	HS Only (18-29)	3,238	7,670	12,830	59.8 %
Some College (18+)	36,415	3,535	8.8 %	Some College (18-65)	12,061	35,315	50,843	69.5 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	39,095	1,839	4.5 %	Bachelor's or More (18-65)	6,700	37,456	45,919	81.6 %
<b>Black Natives (16+)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>12,740</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>16.1 %</b>	<b>Black Natives (18-65)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>6,161</b>	<b>12,307</b>	<b>20,795</b>	<b>59.2 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	107	92	46.2 %	Teens (16-17)	1,081	107	1,280	8.4 %
<HS (18+)	1,055	430	29.0 %	<HS (18-65)	1,589	997	3,007	33.2 %
HS only (18+)	4,331	1,031	19.2 %	HS Only (18-65)	2,295	4,239	7,553	56.1 %
HS only (18-29)	1,171	443	27.4 %	HS Only (18-29)	731	1,171	2,345	49.9 %
Some College (18+)	4,371	641	12.8 %	Some College (18-65)	1,741	4,284	6,662	64.3 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	2,874	257	8.2 %	Bachelor's or More (18-65)	536	2,787	3,573	78.0 %
<b>Hispanic Natives (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>9,060</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>14.0 %</b>	<b>Hispanic Natives (18-65)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>8,728</b>	<b>13,856</b>	<b>63.0 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	141	79	35.9 %	Teens (16-17)	1,172	141	1,392	10.1 %
<HS (18+)	1,135	338	22.9 %	<HS (18-65)	1,269	1,092	2,696	40.5 %
HS only (18+)	2,952	576	16.3 %	HS Only (18-65)	1,100	2,889	4,559	63.4 %
HS only (18-29)	1,069	324	23.3 %	HS Only (18-29)	475	1,069	1,868	57.2 %
Some College (18+)	3,077	388	11.2 %	Some College (18-65)	1,054	3,021	4,463	67.7 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,755	100	5.4 %	Bachelor's or More (18-65)	314	1,726	2,139	80.7 %
<b>All Immigrants (16+)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>22,161</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>	<b>All Immigrants (18-65)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>7,188</b>	<b>21,501</b>	<b>30,720</b>	<b>70.0 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	65	38	36.9 %	Teens (16-17)	473	65	577	11.3 %
<HS (18+)	5,956	727	10.9 %	<HS (18-65)	2,611	5,815	9,141	63.6 %
HS only (18+)	5,462	576	9.5 %	HS Only (18-65)	1,803	5,326	7,691	69.2 %
HS only (18-29)	1,135	159	12.3 %	HS Only (18-29)	414	1,135	1,708	66.5 %
Some College (18+)	3,892	381	8.9 %	Some College (18-65)	1,168	3,801	5,343	71.1 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	6,786	388	5.4 %	Bachelor's or More (18-65)	1,606	6,558	8,543	76.8 %
<b>Hisp. Immigrants (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>10,882</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>10.0 %</b>	<b>Hisp. Immigrants (18-65)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>10,637</b>	<b>15,388</b>	<b>69.1 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	44	26	37.1 %	Teens (16-17)	256	44	326	13.5 %
<HS (18+)	4,987	596	10.7 %	<HS (18+)	1,989	4,900	7,479	65.5 %
HS only (18+)	3,028	333	9.9 %	HS only (18+)	839	2,974	4,137	71.9 %
HS only (18-29)	784	111	12.4 %	HS only (18-29)	250	784	1,145	68.5 %
Some College (18+)	1,525	181	10.6 %	Some College (18+)	440	1,503	2,120	70.9 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,297	79	5.7 %	Bachelor's or More (18+)	314	1,260	1,653	76.2 %

**Source:** Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use April, May, and June 2010 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployed means not working, but has looked for work in the last four weeks.

<sup>2</sup> Persons who are not working nor looking for work.

<sup>3</sup> Total number of people in age group.

<sup>4</sup> The share of people in a specific age group who are currently holding a job.

<sup>5</sup> Single race.

<sup>6</sup> Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

<sup>7</sup> Immigrant matches Census definition of foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

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**Table 2. U-6 Measure for Immigrants and Native-Born Americans, Q2 2010 (thousands)**

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Employed	Unemployed <sup>1</sup>	Percent Unemployed	Marginally Attached: Discouraged <sup>2</sup>	Marginally Attached: Other <sup>3</sup>	Part-Time: Economic Reasons <sup>4</sup>	U-6 Population (2+4+5+6)	U-6 Measure 7/(1+2+4+5)
<b>All Persons (16+)</b>	<b>139,561</b>	<b>14,621</b>	<b>9.5 %</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>8,767</b>	<b>25,803</b>	<b>16.5 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	1,421	654	31.5 %	41	141	75	911	40.4 %
<HS (18+)	12,707	2,501	16.4 %	238	201	1,681	4,621	29.5 %
HS Only (18+)	39,245	5,323	11.9 %	456	382	3,128	9,289	20.5 %
HS Only (18-29)	8,804	2,081	19.1 %	179	150	1,118	3,528	31.5 %
Some College (18+)	40,307	3,916	8.9 %	266	337	2,416	6,935	15.5 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	45,881	2,227	4.6 %	160	191	1,468	4,046	8.3 %
<b>All Natives (16+)</b>	<b>117,400</b>	<b>12,510</b>	<b>9.6 %</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>6,657</b>	<b>21,262</b>	<b>16.1 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	1,356	616	31.2 %	38	140	72	866	40.3 %
<HS (18+)	6,751	1,774	20.8 %	170	163	764	2,871	32.4 %
HS only (18+)	33,783	4,747	12.3 %	412	341	2,527	8,027	20.4 %
HS only (18-29)	7,670	1,922	20.0 %	176	143	973	3,214	32.4 %
Some College (18+)	36,415	3,535	8.8 %	232	311	2,123	6,201	15.3 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	39,095	1,839	4.5 %	132	156	1,171	3,298	8.0 %
<b>Black Natives (16+)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>12,740</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>16.1 %</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>24.4 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	107	92	46.2 %	14	19	8	133	57.3 %
<HS (18+)	1,055	430	29.0 %	49	43	158	680	43.1 %
HS only (18+)	4,331	1,031	19.2 %	112	62	373	1,578	28.5 %
HS only (18-29)	1,171	443	27.4 %	61	40	154	698	40.7 %
Some College (18+)	4,371	641	12.8 %	47	68	289	1,045	20.4 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	2,874	257	8.2 %	15	16	83	371	11.7 %
<b>Hispanic Natives (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>9,060</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>14.0 %</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>22.1 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	141	79	35.9 %	4	20	10	113	46.3 %
<HS (18+)	1,135	338	22.9 %	34	26	139	537	35.0 %
HS only (18+)	2,952	576	16.3 %	37	39	264	916	25.4 %
HS only (18-29)	1,069	324	23.3 %	22	23	149	518	36.0 %
Some College (18+)	3,077	388	11.2 %	18	36	198	640	18.2 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,755	100	5.4 %	5	11	55	171	9.1 %
<b>All Immigrants (16+)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>22,161</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>4,541</b>	<b>18.5 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	65	38	36.9 %	3	2	4	47	43.5 %
<HS (18+)	5,956	727	10.9 %	69	38	917	1,751	25.8 %
HS only (18+)	5,462	576	9.5 %	45	41	600	1,262	20.6 %
HS only (18-29)	1,135	159	12.3 %	3	7	145	314	24.1 %
Some College (18+)	3,892	381	8.9 %	35	26	292	734	16.9 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	6,786	388	5.4 %	27	35	295	745	10.3 %
<b>Hisp. Immigrants (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>10,882</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>10.0 %</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>23.2 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	44	26	37.1 %	1	-	3	30	42.3 %
<HS (18+)	4,987	596	10.7 %	44	29	814	1,483	26.2 %
HS only (18+)	3,028	333	9.9 %	24	15	409	781	23.0 %
HS only (18-29)	784	111	12.4 %	2	2	107	222	24.7 %
Some College (18+)	1,525	181	10.6 %	11	15	159	366	21.1 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,297	79	5.7 %	5	6	89	179	12.9 %

**Source:** Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use April, May, and June 2010 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployed means not working, but looking for work.

<sup>2</sup> Discouraged workers are not in the labor force; they neither have a job nor have looked for one in the previous four weeks. However, they are available for work and have looked for a job in the last 12 months.

<sup>3</sup> These people are not in the labor force; they neither have jobs nor are looking for one, though they would work under the right circumstances. But they do not fall into the official definition of discouraged workers. Like discouraged workers these individuals have looked in the last 12 months.

<sup>4</sup> These individuals work part-time because of the economy. They include those who normally work full-time but are now part-time for economic reasons.

<sup>5</sup> Single race.

<sup>6</sup> Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

<sup>7</sup> Immigrant matches Census definition of the foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

# Center for Immigration Studies

**Table 3. Employment of Immigrants and Native-Born Americans, Q2 2007 (thousands)**

	Employed	Unemployed <sup>1</sup>	Percent Unemployed	Not in Labor Force (18-65) <sup>2</sup>	Employed	Total <sup>3</sup>	Employment Rate <sup>4</sup>	
<b>All Persons (16+)</b>	<b>146,039</b>	<b>6,771</b>	<b>4.4 %</b>	<b>ALL Persons (18-65)</b>	<b>43,537</b>	<b>139,001</b>	<b>188,619</b>	<b>73.7 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	2,306	536	18.9 %	Teens (16-17)	6,399	2,306	9,241	25.0 %
<HS (18+)	14,647	1,374	8.6 %	<HS (18-65)	9,516	14,002	24,858	56.3 %
HS Only (18+)	42,059	2,212	5.0 %	HS Only (18-65)	14,357	40,406	56,919	71.0 %
HS Only (18-29)	9,943	983	9.0 %	HS Only (18-29)	3,304	9,943	14,230	69.9 %
Some College (18+)	41,918	1,707	3.9 %	Some College (18-65)	11,816	40,879	54,363	75.2 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	45,109	942	2.0 %	College or More (18-65)	7,848	43,714	52,480	83.3 %
<b>All Natives (16+)</b>	<b>123,100</b>	<b>5,809</b>	<b>4.5 %</b>	<b>All Natives (18-65)</b>	<b>36,311</b>	<b>116,738</b>	<b>158,206</b>	<b>73.8 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	2,195	512	18.9 %	Teens (16-17)	5,821	2,195	8,528	25.7 %
<HS (18+)	8,191	1,023	11.1 %	<HS (18-65)	6,953	7,686	15,633	49.2 %
HS only (18+)	36,243	1,982	5.2 %	HS Only (18-65)	12,427	34,697	49,055	70.7 %
HS only (18-29)	8,527	908	9.6 %	HS Only (18-29)	2,758	8,527	12,193	69.9 %
Some College (18+)	37,983	1,512	3.8 %	Some College (18-65)	10,542	37,044	49,062	75.5 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	38,489	780	2.0 %	College or More (18-65)	6,388	37,310	44,455	83.9 %
<b>Black Natives (16+)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>13,718</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>	<b>Black Natives (18-65)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>5,562</b>	<b>13,241</b>	<b>19,971</b>	<b>66.3 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	194	115	37.2 %	Teens (16-17)	1,041	194	1,351	14.4 %
<HS (18+)	1,267	266	17.4 %	<HS (18-65)	1,504	1,187	2,954	40.2 %
HS only (18+)	4,825	543	10.1 %	HS Only (18-65)	2,156	4,702	7,395	63.6 %
HS only (18-29)	1,290	280	17.8 %	HS Only (18-29)	630	1,290	2,200	58.6 %
Some College (18+)	4,530	288	6.0 %	Some College (18-65)	1,432	4,482	6,197	72.3 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	2,902	86	2.9 %	College or More (18-65)	470	2,869	3,424	83.8 %
<b>Hispanic Natives (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>8,796</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>6.4 %</b>	<b>Hispanic Natives (18-65)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>8,482</b>	<b>11,970</b>	<b>70.9 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	204	59	22.4 %	Teens (16-17)	939	204	1,203	17.0 %
<HS (18+)	1,272	187	12.8 %	<HS (18-65)	1,084	1,234	2,499	49.4 %
HS only (18+)	2,883	195	6.3 %	HS Only (18-65)	921	2,849	3,961	71.9 %
HS only (18-29)	1,065	111	9.4 %	HS Only (18-29)	376	1,065	1,552	68.6 %
Some College (18+)	2,886	131	4.3 %	Some College (18-65)	754	2,866	3,751	76.4 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,551	28	1.8 %	College or More (18-65)	198	1,533	1,759	87.2 %
<b>All Immigrants (16+)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>22,939</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>4.0 %</b>	<b>All Immigrants (18-65)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>7,226</b>	<b>22,263</b>	<b>30,413</b>	<b>73.2 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	111	24	17.8 %	Teens (16-17)	578	111	714	15.5 %
<HS (18+)	6,456	352	5.2 %	<HS (18-65)	2,562	6,316	9,224	68.5 %
HS only (18+)	5,817	230	3.8 %	HS Only (18-65)	1,930	5,708	7,862	72.6 %
HS only (18-29)	1,416	74	5.0 %	HS Only (18-29)	546	1,416	2,036	69.5 %
Some College (18+)	3,935	195	4.7 %	Some College (18-65)	1,273	3,835	5,300	72.4 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	6,620	162	2.4 %	College or More (18-65)	1,461	6,405	8,027	79.8 %
<b>Hisp. Immigrants (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>11,544</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>4.5 %</b>	<b>Hisp. Immigrants (18-65)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3,627</b>	<b>11,285</b>	<b>15,430</b>	<b>73.1 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	71	16	18.4 %	Teens (16-17)	270	71	357	19.9 %
<HS (18+)	5,510	299	5.1 %	<HS (18+)	1,969	5,409	7,673	70.5 %
HS only (18+)	3,239	124	3.7 %	HS only (18+)	1,012	3,209	4,343	73.9 %
HS only (18-29)	1,002	58	5.5 %	HS only (18-29)	342	1,002	1,402	71.5 %
Some College (18+)	1,574	82	5.0 %	Some College (18+)	394	1,548	2,023	76.5 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,149	21	1.8 %	College or More (18+)	252	1,119	1,391	80.4 %

**Source:** Center for Immigration Studies Analysis of public-use April, May, and June 2007 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployed means not working, but has looked for work in the last four weeks.

<sup>2</sup> Persons who are not working nor looking for work.

<sup>3</sup> Total number of people in age group.

<sup>4</sup> The share of people in a specific age group who are currently holding a job.

<sup>5</sup> Single race.

<sup>6</sup> Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

<sup>7</sup> Immigrant matches Census definition of foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.



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Table 4. U-6 Measure for Immigrants and Native-Born Americans, Q2 2007 (thousands)

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Employed	Unemployed <sup>1</sup>	Percent Unemployed	Marginally Attached: Discouraged <sup>2</sup>	Marginally Attached: Other <sup>3</sup>	Part-Time: Economic Reasons <sup>4</sup>	U-6 Population (2+4+5+6)	U-6 Measure 7/(1+2+4+5)
<b>All Persons (16+)</b>	<b>146,039</b>	<b>6,771</b>	<b>4.4 %</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>12,518</b>	<b>8.1 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	2,306	536	18.9 %	15	95	80	726	24.6 %
<HS (18+)	14,647	1,374	8.6 %	107	213	953	2,647	16.2 %
HS Only (18+)	42,059	2,212	5.0 %	160	312	1,449	4,133	9.2 %
HS Only (18-29)	9,943	983	9.0 %	66	134	569	1,752	15.7 %
Some College (18+)	41,918	1,707	3.9 %	69	273	1,155	3,204	7.3 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	45,109	942	2.0 %	38	134	692	1,806	3.9 %
<b>All Natives (16+)</b>	<b>123,100</b>	<b>5,809</b>	<b>4.5 %</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>3,394</b>	<b>10,419</b>	<b>8.0 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	2,195	512	18.9 %	14	91	76	693	24.6 %
<HS (18+)	8,191	1,023	11.1 %	88	168	490	1,769	18.7 %
HS only (18+)	36,243	1,982	5.2 %	145	282	1,231	3,640	9.4 %
HS only (18-29)	8,527	908	9.6 %	61	124	504	1,597	16.6 %
Some College (18+)	37,983	1,512	3.8 %	62	239	1,033	2,846	7.2 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	38,489	780	2.0 %	29	99	564	1,472	3.7 %
<b>Black Natives (16+)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>13,718</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>13.8 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	194	115	37.2 %	2	23	7	147	44.0 %
<HS (18+)	1,267	266	17.4 %	31	49	99	445	27.6 %
HS only (18+)	4,825	543	10.1 %	49	60	194	846	15.4 %
HS only (18-29)	1,290	280	17.8 %	17	35	84	416	25.6 %
Some College (18+)	4,530	288	6.0 %	20	48	158	514	10.5 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	2,902	86	2.9 %	6	16	58	166	5.5 %
<b>Hispanic Natives (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>8,796</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>6.4 %</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>10.8 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	204	59	22.4 %	3	16	14	92	32.6 %
<HS (18+)	1,272	187	12.8 %	13	27	82	309	20.6 %
HS only (18+)	2,883	195	6.3 %	13	17	107	332	10.7 %
HS only (18-29)	1,065	111	9.4 %	10	8	62	191	16.0 %
Some College (18+)	2,886	131	4.3 %	-	21	79	231	7.6 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,551	28	1.8 %	-	3	29	60	3.8 %
<b>All Immigrants (16+)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>22,939</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>4.0 %</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	111	24	17.8 %	1	4	4	33	23.6 %
<HS (18+)	6,456	352	5.2 %	19	45	463	879	12.8 %
HS only (18+)	5,817	230	3.8 %	15	31	218	494	8.1 %
HS only (18-29)	1,416	74	5.0 %	4	10	65	153	10.2 %
Some College (18+)	3,935	195	4.7 %	7	35	123	360	8.6 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	6,620	162	2.4 %	9	35	127	333	4.9 %
<b>Hisp. Immigrants (16+)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>11,544</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>4.5 %</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>10.4 %</b>
Teens (16-17)	71	16	18.4 %	-	2	4	22	24.7 %
<HS (18+)	5,510	299	5.1 %	12	33	411	755	12.9 %
HS only (18+)	3,239	124	3.7 %	7	14	145	290	8.6 %
HS only (18-29)	1,002	58	5.5 %	2	3	54	117	11.0 %
Some College (18+)	1,574	82	5.0 %	1	8	52	143	8.6 %
Bachelor's or More (18+)	1,149	21	1.8 %	-	6	27	54	4.6 %

**Source:** Center for Immigration Studies Analysis of public-use April, May, and June 2007 Current Population Surveys. All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployed means not working, but looking for work.

<sup>2</sup> Discouraged workers are not in the labor force; they neither have a job nor have looked for one in the previous four weeks. However, they are available for work and have looked for a job in the last 12 months.

<sup>3</sup> These people are not in the labor force; they neither have jobs nor are looking for one, though they would work under the right circumstances. But they do not fall into the official definition of discouraged workers. Like discouraged workers these individuals have looked in the last 12 months.

<sup>4</sup> These individuals work part-time because of the economy. They include those who normally work full-time but are now part-time for economic reasons.

<sup>5</sup> Single race.

<sup>6</sup> Hispanics can be of any race and are excluded from other categories.

<sup>7</sup> Immigrant matches Census definition of the foreign-born. These are individuals who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

# Center for Immigration Studies

**Table 5. Top 25 Occupations for U.S.-Born Teenagers, Q2, 2010 (thousands)**

Occupation	Number U.S.- Born Teens in Occupation (16-17)	Number of Immigrants in Occupation (16+)	Immigrant Share of Occupation	Total Workers in Occupation (16+)
Cashiers	236	478	15 %	3,129
Waiters and waitresses	96	343	18 %	1,945
Counter attendants, cafeteria/food concession	67	33	12 %	276
Retail salespersons	61	387	12 %	3,326
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers	57	274	16 %	1,700
Cooks	54	648	34 %	1,928
Child care workers	50	219	17 %	1,258
Hosts and hostesses	45	16	6 %	256
Food preparation workers	45	154	20 %	769
Lifeguards and other protective service workers	43	9	5 %	182
Dining room and cafeteria attendants	40	145	34 %	426
Miscellaneous agricultural workers	38	337	48 %	704
Grounds maintenance workers	34	527	39 %	1,348
Janitors and building cleaners	31	649	29 %	2,233
Miscellaneous entertainment	28	17	8 %	209
Dishwashers	22	95	42 %	224
Stock clerks and order fillers	22	241	17 %	1,443
Customer service representatives	21	220	12 %	1,878
Receptionists and information clerks	20	120	9 %	1,288
Athletes, coaches, umpires, and related workers	18	20	7 %	274
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	14	91	31 %	290
Ushers, lobby attendants, and ticket takers	12	6	10 %	60
Medical assistants/health care support occupations	11	96	11 %	847
File Clerks	10	20	6 %	333
Combined food preparation and serving workers	10	42	16 %	272
Top-25 occupations	1,085	5,187	20 %	26,601
All other occupations	271	16,974	15 %	112,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>22,161</b>	<b>16 %</b>	<b>139,561</b>

**Source:** Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use April, May, and June 2010 Current Population Surveys (CPS). All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes. Occupations are shown at the highest level of detail available in the CPS.

Table 6. Top 25 Occupations for Workers with Less than a High School Education, Q2, 2010 (thousands)

Occupation	Number U.S.- Born Workers with Less than H.S. (18+)	Number of Immigrants in Occupation (16+)	Immigrant Share of Occupation	Total Workers in Occupation (16+)
Cashiers	375	478	15 %	3,129
Janitors and building cleaners	295	649	29 %	2,233
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	278	496	16 %	3,006
Cooks	256	648	34 %	1,928
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers	209	274	16 %	1,700
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	204	479	25 %	1,944
Retail salespersons	177	387	12 %	3,326
Waiters and waitresses	168	343	18 %	1,945
Construction laborers	152	554	41 %	1,368
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	147	707	50 %	1,427
Grounds maintenance workers	143	527	39 %	1,348
Stock clerks and order fillers	137	241	17 %	1,443
Carpenters	128	323	26 %	1,234
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales	113	402	13 %	3,099
Food preparation workers	104	154	20 %	769
Personal and home care aides	92	273	30 %	922
Production workers, all other	91	232	25 %	926
Farmers and ranchers	83	14	2 %	742
Miscellaneous agricultural workers	81	337	48 %	704
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	80	192	23 %	848
Child care workers	77	219	17 %	1,258
Customer service representatives	76	220	12 %	1,878
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	75	180	23 %	788
First-line supervisors/manager construction	65	85	12 %	699
Operating engineers & construction equip. operators	60	34	9 %	387
Top-25 occupations	3,665	8,448	22 %	39,053
All other occupations	3,087	13,712	14 %	100,507
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,751</b>	<b>22,161</b>	<b>16 %</b>	<b>139,561</b>

**Source:** Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use April, May, and June 2010 Current Population Surveys (CPS). All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes. Occupations are shown at the highest level of detail available in the CPS.

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**Table 7. Top 25 Occupations for Young U.S.-Born Workers with a High School Education, Q2 2010 (thousands)**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Number U.S.- Born Workers with H.S. (18-29)</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants in Occupation (16+)</b>	<b>Immigrant Share of Occupation</b>	<b>Total Workers in Occupation (16+)</b>
Cashiers	511	478	15 %	3,129
Retail salespersons	313	387	12 %	3,326
Waiters and waitresses	273	343	18 %	1,945
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers	262	274	16 %	1,700
Stock clerks and order fillers	233	241	17 %	1,443
Cooks	227	648	34 %	1,928
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	196	402	13 %	3,099
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	193	496	16 %	3,006
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	182	479	25 %	1,944
Customer service representatives	170	220	12 %	1,878
Janitors and building cleaners	153	649	29 %	2,233
Receptionists and information clerks	130	120	9 %	1,288
Food preparation workers	126	154	20 %	769
Construction laborers	124	554	41 %	1,368
Child care workers	113	219	17 %	1,258
Grounds maintenance workers	113	527	39 %	1,348
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	99	192	23 %	848
Carpenters	93	323	26 %	1,234
Secretaries and administrative assistants	90	224	7 %	3,187
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	89	157	16 %	994
Production workers, all other	77	232	25 %	926
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	75	99	16 %	608
Med. asst. and other health care support occupations	72	96	11 %	847
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	72	101	13 %	751
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	63	707	50 %	1,427
Top-25 occupations	4,048	8,322	20 %	42,487
All other occupations	3,622	13,839	14 %	97,074
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,670</b>	<b>22,161</b>	<b>16 %</b>	<b>139,561</b>

**Source:** Center for Immigration Studies analysis of public-use April, May, and June 2010 Current Population Surveys (CPS). All figures are seasonally unadjusted and are for non-institutionalized civilians, which does not include those in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes. Occupations are shown at the highest level of detail available in the CPS.

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> One of the many commentators and activists arguing that there is a “shortage” of unskilled workers is Tamar Jacoby, president of Immigration Works. A large share of her organization’s website is devoted to this perspective. See <http://www.immigrationworksusa.org/index.php?p=40>. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the largest and most important business group in the country. It has put out numerous statements, reports, press releases, and congressional testimonies that argue that not enough legal immigrants are allowed into the United States. They feel very strongly that, “We face a larger and larger shortage of workers, especially at the low-skilled end of the economy.” See their 2006 Congressional testimony at <http://library.uschamber.com/issues/testimony/2006/testimony-guest-worker-programs-and-impact-american-workforce-and-us-immigratio>. The Chamber’s views are echoed by the Business Roundtable, the Essential Workers Coalition, and a host of other organizations representing the interests of employers. The Catholic Church argues that there are not enough less-educated workers allowed into the country and the law must be reformed so that more “laborers from other countries can enter the country.” See Catholic Bishops’ “Call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform,” at <http://www.usccb.org/jfi/bishops-call.html>. To examine the views of leaders of other religious communities, which are similar to those of the Catholic Bishops, see “Religious Leaders vs. Members: An Examination of Contrasting Views on Immigration,” <http://www.cis.org/ReligionAndImmigrationPoll#2>.

<sup>2</sup> The Pew Hispanic Center has estimated that 74 percent of illegal immigrants ages 25 to 64 have no more than a high school education and 46 percent of legal immigrants in the same age group also have no education beyond high school. See Figure 16 in “A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States,” at <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/107.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> See right side of Table 1 in this report.

<sup>4</sup> Of U.S.-born adults (18 to 65) with less than a high school education and not in the labor force, only 22 percent were full-time students in the second quarter of 2010. For young natives (18 to 29) with only a high school education and not in the labor market, just 6.5 percent were full-time students. Clearly school attendance is not the reason so many of these individuals are not working or looking for work.

<sup>5</sup> For a detailed examination of all workers and occupations see, “Jobs Americans Won’t Do? A Detailed Look at Immigrant Employment by Occupation,” at <http://www.cis.org/illegalimmigration-employment>.

<sup>6</sup> Marginally attached workers indicate that they looked for work in the last 12 months, but not in the prior four weeks. The marginally attached are comprised of two groups, both of which are included in U-6. One group is considered “discouraged.” (The variable in the CPS used to determine this population is pemlr). Discouraged workers provide a reason related to market conditions for why they are not currently looking for a job. The second group of the marginally attached indicate that they are conditionally interested in finding work and are referred to as “other marginally attached workers.” (The variable in the CPS used to determine this population is prdisc). These individuals provide reasons such as family responsibilities, school attendance, illness, and transportation problems for why they have not searched for work in the previous four weeks.

<sup>7</sup> Involuntary part-time workers respond that they are working part-time (one to 34 hours a week) for economic reasons, and include those who usually work full-time and those who usually work part-time. They share a desire to work full-time.