

Summer Jobs 2001 Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Policymakers view work experience gained during high school and in summer jobs as a source for teaching discipline, ability to work in a team, and skills that could prove worthwhile in future careers.

Robert I. Lerman, director of the Labor and Social Policy Center at the Urban Institute

The Department of Labor estimates that 80 percent of students will have held at least one job before graduation. Junior Achievement data on teens and summer jobs suggest that figure may even be higher.

Last year, a Junior Achievement survey of teens on jobs asked about employment during the summer and school year. Results indicated that two-thirds of America's high school students had a job during the school year. So many teens are estimated to be working nowadays that a new worry is cropping up: students working 20 or more hours per week are losing too much sleep, reducing their school performance, and risking health problems. As a result, the Department of Labor is even being asked by groups such as the National Research Council to consider restricting the number of hours that 16- and 17-year-olds can work during the school year.

While the 2001 JA Interprise Poll™ on Summer Jobs did not pose any specific questions related to student welfare, the benefits of working, or on the liabilities of too much work, it did reveal some tell-tale signs. Slightly more than half (54.2 percent) of student respondents in the Junior Achievement survey say they work during the school year. Not surprisingly, that number skyrockets to 86.2 percent when the same group is asked if they will be working over the summer. This is virtually unchanged from last year, when 87 percent of students said they would be working over the summer.

Boys are slightly more likely than girls to work during the school year (51.4 percent vs. 48.6 percent, respectively). However, there is no statistical difference between boys and girls' plans to work during the summer (86.6 percent vs. 85.6 percent, respectively). These are but a few of the interesting gems of information gleaned from the 2001 JA Interprise Poll™ on Summer Jobs.

Demographics of Respondents

The 2001 JA Interprise Poll on Summer Jobs was conducted in February and March 2001 to help Junior Achievement gauge teen's work lifestyle and summer work plans. The survey also included questions on personal finance, not included in this report (See the 2001 JA Interprise Poll on Personal Finance on www.ja.org for those results).

The poll was conducted in six cities across the U.S. There were a total of 546 respondents. Detailed demographic information on city, gender, race, and age level has been included below.

By Gender and Location

Location by gender of respondent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	63	56.3%	49	43.8%	112
Seattle, WA	41	48.2%	44	51.8%	85
Reading, PA	42	47.2%	47	52.8%	89
San Francisco	27	37.0%	46	63.0%	73
Minneapolis	63	56.3%	49	43.8%	112
Oakland	26	41.9%	36	58.1%	62
Totals	262	49.2%	271	50.8%	533

By Age and Location

Location by age of respondent	12 to 13	Percent	14-15	Percent	16-17	Percent	18-19	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	7	6.1%	39	34.2%	51	44.7%	17	14.9%	114
Seattle, WA			33	38.4%	37	43.0%	16	18.6%	86
Reading, PA	31	34.8%	22	24.7%	22	24.7%	14	15.7%	89
San Francisco	48	65.8%	25	34.2%					73
Minneapolis	1	0.9%			83	72.2%	31	27.0%	115
Oakland	52	81.3%	12	18.8%					64
Totals	139	25.7%	131	24.2%	193	35.7%	78	14.4%	541

By Race / Ethnicity and Location

Location by race/ethnicity of respondent	Asian / Pacific Islands	Percent	Black / African American	Percent	Hispanic / Latino	Percent	Native American	Percent	White	Percent	Mixed Race	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	1	0.9%	2	1.8%	5	4.5%	1	0.9%	99	88.4%	4	3.6%	112
Seattle, WA	19	22.4%	3	3.5%	2	2.4%	1	1.2%	54	63.5%	6	7.1%	85
Reading, PA	2	2.3%	1	1.1%	12	13.8%	1	1.1%	66	75.9%	5	5.7%	87
San Francisco	2	2.7%	41	56.2%	21	28.8%	3	4.1%	2	2.7%	4	5.5%	73
Minneapolis	2	1.8%	3	2.7%	1	0.9%	1	0.9%	105	93.8%	0	0.0%	112
Oakland	1	2.1%	1	2.1%	2	4.2%	1	2.1%	34	70.8%	9	18.8%	48
Totals	27	5.2%	51	9.9%	43	8.3%	8	1.5%	360	69.6%	28	5.4%	517

Survey Questions and Results

The Survey Questions and Results section is divided into four parts: survey answers by location, gender, age, and race / ethnicity.

Note: In some cases percentage figures listed in the commentary section do not exactly match the percentage figures listed in the tables. Table figures include percentages of students who did not answer the given question, whereas the commentary has been adjusted.

Answers by Location

Do You Have a Job?

The first question posed as part of the Summer Jobs portion of the survey inquired if students worked during the school year. Slightly more than half of student respondents (54.2 percent) said they had a job. This figure is higher than the results from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families (NSAF), which indicated that slightly more than 40 percent (41.6 percent) of the nation's 16- to 17-year-old high school students held jobs.

Students in Minneapolis were far more likely to have a job during the school year (81.6 percent) than students living in San Francisco (31.9 percent).

Do you have a job?	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	64	56.6%	49	43.4%	113
Seattle, WA	44	50.0%	44	50.0%	88
Reading, PA	32	36.0%	57	64.0%	89
San Francisco	23	31.9%	49	68.1%	72
Minneapolis	93	81.6%	21	18.4%	114
Oakland	36	57.1%	27	42.9%	63
Totals	292	54.2%	247	45.8%	539

If so, how much do you earn per hour? The average hourly wage for adult workers in the United States is more than \$13 per hour (according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). While the generally lower skill-set of high school students does not lend itself to produce as high a figure for teen pay, the figure is still relatively high compared to the minimum wage (\$5.15 per hour). A full quarter of students report making more than \$7.51 per hour, and another quarter of students say they earn between \$6.01 and \$7.50 per hour.

By excluding students who did not answer the question, we learn that 14.7 percent of students report making minimum wage. **In the Summer Jobs 2000 poll, 91 percent of students reported making more than minimum wage. Examined one year later, the figure has slightly decreased to 85.3 percent of students** – perhaps as an indicator of a softer economy in 2001. Nonetheless, this is a surprisingly high percentage of students who report making more than the minimum wage.

If so, how much do you earn per hour?	\$5.15	Percent	\$5.16-\$6.00	Percent	\$6.01-\$7.50	Percent	\$7.51-\$9.00	Percent	More than \$9.00	Percent	(No answer given)	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	14	20.9%	28	41.8%	16	23.9%	5	7.5%	4	6.0%	0	0.0%	67
Seattle, WA	2	2.6%	3	3.8%	25	32.1%	9	11.5%	5	6.4%	34	43.6%	78
Reading, PA	2	2.2%	4	4.5%	19	21.3%	2	2.2%	3	3.4%	59	66.3%	89
San Francisco	10	40.0%	4	16.0%	1	4.0%	2	8.0%	6	24.0%	2	8.0%	25
Minneapolis	2	2.1%	5	5.3%	36	37.9%	33	34.7%	19	20.0%	0	0.0%	95
Oakland	13	34.2%	8	21.1%	3	7.9%	6	15.8%	4	10.5%	4	10.5%	38
Totals	43	11.0%	52	13.3%	100	25.5%	57	14.5%	41	10.5%	99	25.3%	392

How did you first learn about your job? The most popular ways for students to find their jobs are through a friend or friend of the family (40.4 percent) or through a family member (20.3 percent). This echoes the results from last year's survey – when friend was the most popular answer. Despite widely documented, increasing rates of Internet use among American teens, they don't seem to be using the Web to look for a job. Less than 1 percent of teens report finding their jobs online. Meanwhile, among the working adult population, job-seeker sites such as Monster.com continue to soar in popularity. This enthusiasm for finding jobs online is not shared by teens. This may be the case because most job-seeker sites advertise career-related positions better suited for professional members of the working adult population. Even sites better geared toward teen skill-sets such as summerjobs.com have not experienced widespread popularity among teens. According to survey results, teens turn to their friends to find work. And younger students turn to a family member.

How did you first learn about your job?	Family Member	Percent	Radio	Percent	Through school	Percent	Friend of the family	Percent	Internet	Percent	Employment agency	Percent	News-paper	Percent	Friend	Percent	(No answer given)	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	13	20.0%	0	0.0%	3	4.6%	20	30.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	3.1%	19	29.2%	8	12.3%	65
Seattle, WA	8	10.1%	0	0.0%	3	3.8%	6	7.6%	0	0.0%	3	3.8%	0	0.0%	14	17.7%	45	57.0%	79
Reading, PA	8	9.1%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%	5	5.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	5.7%	11	12.5%	58	65.9%	88
San Francisco	9	36.0%	1	4.0%	3	12.0%	3	12.0%	0	0.0%	2	8.0%	0	0.0%	5	20.0%	2	8.0%	25
Minneapolis	23	27.4%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%	11	13.1%	1	1.2%	1	1.2%	6	7.1%	41	48.8%	0	0.0%	84
Oakland	16	42.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%	11	28.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	18.4%	3	7.9%	38
Totals	77	20.3%	1	0.3%	12	3.2%	56	14.8%	1	0.3%	6	1.6%	13	3.4%	97	25.6%	116	30.6%	379

What's the number one reason why you're working? Of the 293 students who answered this question, 57 percent of them say they are working for extra spending money. With limited expenses, it seems working youth have a bit of money to throw around, too. Consumers age 13-22 each spent an average of \$484 in online spending in the year 2000. Even more telling is a projected average online spending power that will reach \$809 per youth by 2004 (Source: "Young Consumers Data Overview," Forrester Research).

By far the most popular reason why students had a job, earning extra spending money as an answer did not vary by respondent location. A distant second reason why students reported working was to save for college (15 percent), followed by a desire to buy a car (10.1 percent).

What's the number one reason why you're working?	Extra spending money	Percent	Help support my family	Percent	Save for college	Percent	Parents told me I had to	Percent	Want to buy a car	Percent	Gain work experience	Percent	(No answer given)	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	36	55.4%	3	4.6%	10	15.4%	2	3.1%	10	15.4%	4	6.2%	0	0.0%	65
Seattle, WA	17	21.3%	3	3.8%	8	10.0%	2	2.5%	9	11.3%	7	8.8%	34	42.5%	80
Reading, PA	16	18.0%	0	0.0%	5	5.6%	0	0.0%	4	4.5%	7	7.9%	57	64.0%	89
San Francisco	14	56.0%	3	12.0%	3	12.0%	0	0.0%	2	8.0%	1	4.0%	2	8.0%	25
Minneapolis	57	62.0%	0	0.0%	14	15.2%	1	1.1%	12	13.0%	8	8.7%	0	0.0%	92
Oakland	27	71.1%	0	0.0%	4	10.5%	0	0.0%	1	2.6%	3	7.9%	3	7.9%	38
Totals	167	42.9%	9	2.3%	44	11.3%	5	1.3%	38	9.8%	30	7.7%	96	24.7%	389

How many hours do you work? The Third International Math and Science Study (see <http://nces.ed.gov/TIMSS/>) observed in late 1999 that no other country had so many high school seniors working so many hours a day as the United States. Among American seniors surveyed in the TIMS study, 61 percent reported working, for an average of 3.1 hours daily, against only 28 percent of seniors abroad, who worked a daily average of just 1.2 hours.

The 2001 Junior Achievement survey on summer jobs asked student respondents of all ages how many hours they worked per week during the summer, as well as during the school year. Virtually half of students (49.3 percent) said they worked between 10-29 hours during the school year (29.7 percent said 10-19 hours per week, while 19.6 percent said they worked 20-29 hours per week).

The 1997 NSAF study also revealed that about 25 percent of those holding jobs worked 20 hours or more per week. It seems the figure hasn't changed much in four years. Results from the 2001 Junior Achievement survey shows that exactly 25.1 percent of students report working at least 20 hours per week.

As the reader will learn in a later section of this report (answers broken down by age), there appears to exist a direct correlation between the age of each student and the number of hours he or she works. This correlation helps explain why a disproportional number of students from Oakland (81 percent) say they work less than 10 hours per week during the school year. Eighty one percent of students polled from the Oakland area were between the ages of 12-13.

How many hours do you work?	Less than 10	Percent	10 to 19	Percent	20-29	Percent	30-39	Percent	40+	Percent	(no answer given)	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	17	26.2%	28	43.1%	15	23.1%	2	3.1%	3	4.6%	0	0.0%	65
Seattle, WA	8	10.1%	22	27.8%	15	19.0%	1	1.3%	1	1.3%	32	40.5%	79
Reading, PA	6	6.7%	13	14.6%	12	13.5%	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	57	64.0%	89
San Francisco	11	44.0%	6	24.0%	3	12.0%	2	8.0%	1	4.0%	2	8.0%	25
Minneapolis	9	9.8%	42	45.7%	31	33.7%	9	9.8%	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	92
Oakland	30	81.1%	4	10.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	8.1%	37
Totals	81	20.9%	115	29.7%	76	19.6%	15	3.9%	6	1.6%	94	24.3%	387

Will you be working this summer? Last year, this survey found that 87 percent of students planned to work during the summer of 2000. On this front, not much has changed in a year. Nearly nine out of 10 students (86.2 percent) will once again be working this summer, according to 2001 survey results.

Of the U.S. cities included in this sample, students living in Minneapolis are most likely to be working this summer. In fact, almost all of the students (97 percent) polled from Minneapolis said they plan to work this summer, while only 71 percent of students living in Oakland, Calif. said they planned to work this summer. The lower figure from Oakland may be explained by the relatively high percentage of younger students from that city's sample.

Will you be working this summer?	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	106	93.8%	7	6.2%	113
Seattle, WA	73	84.9%	13	15.1%	86
Reading, PA	71	80.7%	17	19.3%	88
San Francisco	48	75.0%	16	25.0%	64
Minneapolis	113	97.4%	3	2.6%	116
Oakland	39	70.9%	16	29.1%	55
Totals	450	86.2%	72	13.8%	522

What will be your job this summer? Seemingly reflecting their own interests as one of the largest segments of retail consumers, nearly one quarter (24 percent) of respondents said their summer job would be as retail / sales workers. A distant second most popular summer employment opportunity falls under the time honored "job" of babysitting (14 percent), followed by restaurant work. However, combining answers for restaurant work and fast food makes the two answers the second most popular answer, with 18.9 percent of respondents indicating they would work in the food service industry this summer instead of opting for the increasingly elusive notion of taking time off during the summer.

What will be your job this summer?	Retail / Sales	Percent	Restaurant	Percent	Life-guard	Percent	Lawn Care / Landscaping	Percent	Fast Food	Percent	Baby-sitting	Percent	Office Assistant	Percent	(no answer given)	Percent	*Other, Please Specify	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	24	23.3%	13	12.6%	4	3.9%	13	12.6%	6	5.8%	10	9.7%	1	1.0%	4	3.9%	28	27.2%	103
Seattle, WA	28	33.7%	6	7.2%	0	0.0%	2	2.4%	7	8.4%	5	6.0%	5	6.0%	12	14.5%	18	21.7%	83
Reading, PA	13	14.6%	13	14.6%	4	4.5%	4	4.5%	4	4.5%	10	11.2%	3	3.4%	18	20.2%	20	22.5%	89
San Francisco	3	6.4%	2	4.3%	1	2.1%	4	8.5%	3	6.4%	14	29.8%	2	4.3%	4	8.5%	14	29.8%	47
Minneapolis	37	32.5%	26	22.8%	4	3.5%	4	3.5%	2	1.8%	3	2.6%	5	4.4%	0	0.0%	33	28.9%	114
Oakland	0	0.0%	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	2	4.9%	0	0.0%	25	61.0%	2	4.9%	3	7.3%	7	17.1%	41
Totals	105	22.0%	61	12.8%	14	2.9%	29	6.1%	22	4.6%	67	14.0%	18	3.8%	41	8.6%	120*	25.2%	477

Less popular answers not included in a specific category in the table above were courtesy clerk, working on cars, working at grandparents' farm, machine shop work, floor care, camp counselor, volunteer, working at hotel, pool job, recreation manager, warehouse work, caretaker at pet store, espresso stand job, hotel, recreation manager, nursing home, woodworking, checker at grocery store, hospital assistant, gymnastics instructor, military, quarry work, wood shop, umpire, dental office worker, farm work, performer at local amusement park, Web graphic designer, UPS, maintenance worker, cleaning houses, boat / marina work, newspaper delivery, mini-day camp, car wash, personal care assistant for disabled children, Plasenton Fair, marketing, carpentry, mechanic, counselor, childcare teacher aid (sic), cleaning recreation centers, construction, cement construction, sound tech for a band, front desk/housekeeping, detailing cars, factory worker, helping clean the community, vet assistant, musician, engineering apprenticeship, state park manager, coaching, Andersons bartender, assembly line work, hospital, and dietary aide.

*Duplicates have been eliminated from the listing of "other" responses. With six answers, the largest number of duplicates was for "construction work."

During the summer, how many hours will you be working? During the school year, 49.3 percent of students work an average of 10-29 hours per week. With the open time of a class-free summer upon them, the number of hours worked per week by each student could reasonably be expected to soar upward. Not so. The number of students working 10-29 hours during the summer actually decreases to 40.7 percent. There is no clear explanation for this. However, it is possible that either students are already working plenty of hours during the school year (thus reducing the impact of comparing a dramatically higher number of hours worked during the summer), or when they set aside some time for more traditional, summer-inspired leisure, the number of hours worked increases modestly.

However, a little more than a third of students really take on extra hours during their newfound availability of summer. Thirty-seven percent of student respondents said they planned to work at least 30 hours or more during the summer.

Of particular interest when cross-tabulating the number of hours students work during the year vs. hours worked during the summer is that fewer students work less than 10 hours per week during the summer. In spite of having more time to work, the number of students working less than 10 hours per week drops from 20.9 percent during the school year to only 13.8 percent during the summer. This may be explained by a small number of the student population choosing to work very few hours during the summer who earlier in the year do not work at all during the school year (48 percent of all students).

During the summer, how many hours will you be working per week?	Less than 10	Percent	10 to 19	Percent	20-29	Percent	30-39	Percent	40+	Percent	(no answer given)	Percent	Totals
Quad Cities	10	9.8%	18	17.6%	37	36.3%	21	20.6%	15	14.7%	1	1.0%	102
Seattle, WA	5	6.0%	9	10.8%	17	20.5%	21	25.3%	17	20.5%	14	16.9%	83
Reading, PA	10	11.2%	20	22.5%	12	13.5%	11	12.4%	15	16.9%	21	23.6%	89
San Francisco	20	42.6%	14	29.8%	6	12.8%	2	4.3%	5	10.6%	0	0.0%	47
Minneapolis	1	0.9%	10	9.2%	32	29.4%	26	23.9%	40	36.7%	0	0.0%	109
Oakland	19	46.3%	14	34.1%	3	7.3%	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	3	7.3%	41
Totals	65	13.8%	85	18.0%	107	22.7%	82	17.4%	93	19.7%	39	8.3%	471

Select Questions By Gender

Hours worked per week varied sharply by gender, while the overall employment rates varied significantly by race (see final section, entitled "Questions by Race / Ethnicity").

Do You Have a Job? Boys are slightly more likely than girls to work during the school year (51.4 percent vs. 48.6 percent, respectively). However, there is no statistical difference between boys and girls' plans to work during the summer (86.6 percent vs. 85.6 percent). See second table below.

Do you have a job?	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Totals
Yes	147	51.4%	139	48.6%	286
No	113	46.7%	129	53.3%	242
Totals	260	49.2%	268	50.8%	528

Will You Be Working This Summer?

Will you be working this summer?	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Totals
Male	219	86.6%	34	13.4%	253
Female	220	85.6%	37	14.4%	257
Totals	439	86.1%	71	13.9%	510

What is the number one reason why you are working?

Boys are more likely than girls to work simply for extra spending money (54 percent vs. 46 percent, respectively). Boys were also much more likely than girls to work to buy a

car (56.8 percent vs. 43.2 percent, respectively).

However, not all students cited extra spending money as the number one reason why they are working. Girls in the survey sample were twice as likely to list "working to support my family" as the number one reason why they hold a job. Girls were also more likely than boys to list "gain work experience" as the number one reason why they work during the school year.

What is the number one reason why you are working?	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Totals
Extra spending money	88	54.0%	75	46.0%	163
Help support my family	3	33.3%	6	66.7%	9
Save for college	20	47.6%	22	52.4%	42
Parents told me I had to	2	40.0%	3	60.0%	5
Want to buy a car	21	56.8%	16	43.2%	37
Gain work experience	14	46.7%	16	53.3%	30
(No answer given)	43	45.3%	52	54.7%	95
Totals	191	50.1%	190	49.9%	381

How much do you get paid per hour? Examined by gender, a disquieting trend among teen pay emerges to mirror the compensation inequality of the adult working world. Girls are almost twice as likely to earn minimum wage than are boys (64.3 percent vs. 35.7 percent, respectively), and much less likely to earn more than \$9.00 per hour than are boys (39 percent vs. 61 percent, respectively).

How much do you get paid per hour?	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Totals
\$5.15	15	35.7%	27	64.3%	42
\$5.15-\$6.00	24	46.2%	28	53.8%	52
\$6.01-\$7.50	52	53.6%	45	46.4%	97
\$7.51-\$9.00	33	61.1%	21	38.9%	54
More than \$9.00	25	61.0%	16	39.0%	41
(No answer given)	43	43.9%	55	56.1%	98
Totals	192	50.0%	192	50.0%	384

How many hours do you work during the school year? In the 2000 survey on summer jobs, teens reported working an average of 32 hours per week. This is the first year Junior Achievement directly asked students how many hours they work during the school year. Broken down by gender, we learn that boys are three times more likely to work more than 30 hours per week during the school year, while girls are almost twice as likely to work less than 10 hours per week during the school year.

How many hours do you work during the school year?	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Totals
Less than 10	30	37.5%	50	62.5%	80
10 to 19	58	51.3%	55	48.7%	113
20-29	45	61.6%	28	38.4%	73
30-39	11	78.6%	3	21.4%	14
40+	4	66.7%	2	33.3%	6
(no answer given)	42	45.2%	51	54.8%	93
Totals	190	50.1%	189	49.9%	379

What Will Be Your Job This Summer? Girls are much more likely to work as babysitters (84.4 percent vs. 15.6 percent for boys), and office assistants (61.1 percent vs. 38.9 percent).

Girls are also just as likely as boys to work as lifeguards (50 percent for both sexes) this summer.

Conversely, boys are much more likely to work this summer in lawn care / landscaping jobs (79.3 percent vs. 20.7 percent for girls) or in fast food jobs (66.7 percent vs. 33.3 percent of girls).

What will be your job this summer?	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Totals
Retail / Sales	53	52.0%	49	48.0%	102
Restaurant	29	49.2%	30	50.8%	59
Life-guard	7	50.0%	7	50.0%	14
Lawn Care / Landscaping	23	79.3%	6	20.7%	29
Fast Food	14	66.7%	7	33.3%	21
Baby-sitting	10	15.6%	54	84.4%	64
Office Assistant	7	38.9%	11	61.1%	18
(no answer given)	22	53.7%	19	46.3%	41
Other, Please Specify	69	58.0%	50	42.0%	119
Totals	234	50.1%	233	49.9%	467

How Many Hours Will You Be Working This Summer? Boys may be working more hours than girls this summer. Of the 20 percent of teens who say they plan to work more than 40 hours per week this summer, boys comprise 72.4 percent of them. At the same time, girls are much more likely to work less than 19 hours per week this summer (43.6 percent of all female respondents vs. 27 percent of all male respondents).

How many hours will you be working this summer?	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Totals
Less than 10	26	40.0%	39	60.0%	65
10 to 19	31	36.9%	53	63.1%	84
20-29	50	47.2%	56	52.8%	106
30-39	42	51.9%	39	48.1%	81
40+	63	72.4%	24	27.6%	87
(no answer given)	22	56.4%	17	43.6%	39
Totals	234	50.6%	228	49.4%	462

Select Questions by Age

Age plays an important role in whether or not teens hold down jobs during the school year. Slightly more than a third of respondents ages 12 to 15 say they have a job, while 69.1 percent of students ages 16-17 have a job. The number is even higher with older students – with 82.1 percent of students ages 18-19 having a job.

Do you have a job?	Percent	No	Percent	Totals
12 to 13	47	34.6%	89	65.4%
14-15	46	35.4%	84	64.6%
16-17	132	69.1%	59	30.9%
18-19	64	82.1%	14	17.9%
Totals	289	54.0%	246	46.0%

How Much Do You Earn Per Hour? As can be expected, younger students with comparatively less work experience than their older counterparts earn less money. Of the students making minimum wage, 40.5 percent of them are ages 12-13, while another 38.1 percent of minimum wage-earners are between the ages of 14 to 15. Sixty-eight percent of students who say they earn more than \$9.00 per hour are between the ages of 16-19.

How much do you earn per hour?	12 to 13	Percent	14-15	Percent	16-17	Percent	18-19	Percent	Totals
\$5.15	17	40.5%	16	38.1%	7	16.7%	2	4.8%	42
\$5.15-\$6.00	7	13.5%	16	30.8%	20	38.5%	9	17.3%	52
\$6.01-\$7.50	2	2.0%	8	8.2%	58	59.2%	30	30.6%	98
\$7.51-\$9.00	10	17.5%	4	7.0%	34	59.6%	9	15.8%	57
More than \$9.00	7	17.1%	6	14.6%	15	36.6%	13	31.7%	41
(No answer given)	35	35.7%	39	39.8%	19	19.4%	5	5.1%	98
Totals	78	20.1%	89	22.9%	153	39.4%	68	17.5%	388

How Did You First Learn About Your Job? For the second year in a row, survey results show that, overall, the most popular way for teens to find their jobs is through friends. The most popular answer among younger students, however, shows that a family member was most instrumental in finding their employment opportunities.

How did you first learn about your job?	12 to 13	Percent	14-15	Percent	16-17	Percent	18-19	Percent	Totals
Family Member	19	25.0%	18	23.7%	31	40.8%	8	10.5%	76
Radio	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1
Through school	2	16.7%	5	41.7%	3	25.0%	2	16.7%	12
Friend of the family	12	21.4%	16	28.6%	22	39.3%	6	10.7%	56
Internet	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	1
Employment agency	1	16.7%	2	33.3%	3	50.0%	0	0.0%	6
Newspaper	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	5	38.5%	7	53.8%	13
Friend	10	10.5%	7	7.4%	52	54.7%	26	27.4%	95
(No answer given)	32	27.8%	40	34.8%	29	25.2%	14	12.2%	115
Totals	78	20.8%	88	23.5%	146	38.9%	63	16.8%	375

How Many Hours Do You Work Per Week During the School Year? There appears to be a direct correlation between age and number of hours worked per week during the school year. Three quarters of students ages 12 to 13 work less than 10 hours per week, for a total of 42.5 percent of respondents of all ages for this category.

Most students ages 14 and older report working between 10-19 hours per week while in school, although a quarter (26 percent) of students of all ages report working between 20-29 hours per week. Only five percent of students of all ages report working 30-39 hours per week.

How many hours do you work per week during the school year?	12 to 13	Percent	14-15	Percent	16-17	Percent	18-19	Percent	Totals
Less than 10	34	42.5%	24	30.0%	16	20.0%	6	7.5%	80
10 to 19	4	3.5%	19	16.8%	64	56.6%	26	23.0%	113
20 to 29	3	3.9%	5	6.6%	42	55.3%	26	34.2%	76
30 to 39	1	6.7%	1	6.7%	8	53.3%	5	33.3%	15
40+	3	50.0%	1	16.7%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	6
(no answer given)	33	35.5%	38	40.9%	17	18.3%	5	5.4%	93
Totals	78	20.4%	88	23.0%	149	38.9%	68	17.8%	383

Will you be working this summer? The percentage of students who plan to work this summer dramatically increases by age. Sixty-seven percent of students ages 12 to 13 say they will work this summer, while 89 percent of students ages 14-15 will do so. The figure escalates again with older age groups. Of 192 students ages 16-17 who answered this question, only nine of them said they would NOT be working this summer (four percent of all respondents in this group). Among students ages 18-19, an astounding 97 percent said they planned to work this summer.

Will you be working this summer?	12 to 13	Percent	14-15	Percent	16-17	Percent	18-19	Percent	Totals
Yes	84	18.8%	106	23.7%	183	40.8%	75	16.7%	448
No	41	57.7%	19	26.8%	9	12.7%	2	2.8%	71
Totals	125	24.1%	125	24.1%	192	37.0%	77	14.8%	519

What Will Be Your Job Type This Summer? Retail / sales jobs dominates all age groups as the most popular answer except for students ages 12 to 13. The youngest students in the survey were most likely to have babysitting jobs, followed by lawn care / landscaping jobs. Also of significance is the amount of restaurant jobs for students ages 16-17 (23 percent of respondents in this age group).

What will be your job type this summer?	12 to 13	Percent	14-15	Percent	16-17	Percent	18-19	Percent	Totals
Retail / Sales	4	3.8%	12	11.4%	63	60.0%	26	24.8%	105
Restaurant	7	11.7%	7	11.7%	33	55.0%	13	21.7%	60
Life-guard	1	7.1%	2	14.3%	9	64.3%	2	14.3%	14
Lawn Care / Landscaping	6	20.7%	12	41.4%	9	31.0%	2	6.9%	29
Fast Food	5	22.7%	9	40.9%	6	27.3%	2	9.1%	22
Baby-sitting	37	56.1%	16	24.2%	11	16.7%	2	3.0%	66
Office Assistant	3	16.7%	6	33.3%	7	38.9%	2	11.1%	18
(no answer given)	17	41.5%	16	39.0%	4	9.8%	4	9.8%	41
Other, Please Specify	20	16.8%	33	27.7%	43	36.1%	23	19.3%	119
Totals	100		113	23.8%	185	39.0%	76	16.0%	474

Select Questions By Race / Ethnicity

Do You Have a Job? Black and Hispanic students were least likely to have a job during the school year, with approximately one third of both groups of students answering this question in the affirmative. Approximately half of students identifying themselves as mixed race said they had a job. On the high end were Native Americans—with three quarters of this group of students saying they had a job. More than half of white students (59.8 percent) said they had a job during the school year.

Do you have a job?	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Totals
Asian / Pacific Islands	14	53.8%	12	46.2%	26
Black /African American	17	34.0%	33	66.0%	50
Hispanic / Latino	15	34.9%	28	65.1%	43
Native American	6	75.0%	2	25.0%	8
White	214	59.8%	144	40.2%	358
Mixed Race	14	50.0%	14	50.0%	28
Totals	280	54.6%	233	45.4%	513

How much are you getting paid per hour? Native American students may be the most actively employed during the school year, but they and students of mixed race are also more likely to be paid the least, followed by black students, as shown by the table below.

Thirty-nine students reported making more than \$9.00 per hour. Seventy four percent of them were white, or 13.5 percent of the entire white student population answering this question. By contrast, 12.8 percent of all students saying they earned more than \$9.00 per hour were black (although this represented 22.7 percent of the entire black population answering this question).

How much are you getting paid per hour?	\$5.15	Percent	\$5.15-\$6.00	Percent	\$6.01-\$7.50	Percent	\$7.51-\$9.00	Percent	More than \$9.00	Percent	(No answer given)	Percent	Totals
Asian / Pacific Islands	3	13.6%	3	13.6%	8	36.4%	3	13.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5	22.7%	22
Black /African American	6	27.3%	1	4.5%	4	18.2%	1	4.5%	5	22.7%	5	22.7%	22
Hispanic / Latino	3	13.0%	2	8.7%	2	8.7%	4	17.4%	2	8.7%	10	43.5%	23
Native American	2	28.6%	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	42.9%	1	14.3%	7
White	19	6.8%	42	15.1%	79	28.3%	45	16.1%	29	10.4%	65	23.3%	279
Mixed Race	7	31.8%	3	13.6%	2	9.1%	1	4.5%	0	0.0%	9	40.9%	22
Totals	40	10.7%	52	13.9%	95	25.3%	54	14.4%	39	10.4%	95	25.3%	375

Will you be working this summer? Whether because of possible language barriers, residency status issue, or strong family ties, Hispanic students were shown to be the least likely group of students to work this summer. At the same time, like that of all other groups, the percentage of Hispanic students working this summer remains quite high (nearly 72 percent of Hispanic students say they will work this summer). Students of Asian / Pacific Island descent and white students were most likely to be working this summer, with 88.9 percent and 89 percent, respectively, answering in the affirmative.

Will you be working this summer?	Yes	Percent	No	Percent	Totals
Asian / Pacific Islands	24	88.9%	3	11.1%	27
Black /African American	39	84.8%	7	15.2%	46
Hispanic / Latino	28	71.8%	11	28.2%	39
Native American	7	87.5%	1	12.5%	8
White	316	89.0%	39	11.0%	355
Mixed Race	19	79.2%	5	20.8%	24
Totals	433	86.8%	66	13.2%	499

About the Survey

The 2001 *JA Interprise Poll™ on Summer Jobs* was conducted in March 2001 by Junior Achievement in the classrooms of San Francisco; Oakland; Quad Cities, Illinois-Iowa; Seattle; Reading, Pennsylvania; and Minneapolis students. Based on the total sample of middle grades and high school students nationwide, the margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percent. The survey is part of an ongoing series of surveys on students' views of economic issues.

For a copy of this survey's executive summary, visit the JA Interprise Poll™ Center online at www.ja.org/interprise/execsummary.html. For more information, contact Edwin Bodensiek at (719) 540-6297 or ebodensiek@ja.org.

About Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is the world's largest and fastest-growing organization dedicated to educating young people about business, economics and free enterprise. Through age-appropriate curricula, JA programs begin at the elementary school level, teaching children how they can impact the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers. JA programs continue through the middle and high school grades, preparing students for additional key economic and workforce issues they will face in the future. Today JA reaches more than four million students through 156 offices nationwide and more than one million students in 108 countries worldwide. For more information, visit www.ja.org.