

Summer Jobs 2005

Executive Summary

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Notes on Methodology

Students from 120 JA area offices across the country participated in the 2005 JA Interprise Poll™ focusing on Summer Jobs. This is the sixth Interprise Poll™ on this topic. A total of 1,155 students participated in the survey. Some of the students responding were not involved in JA programs.

Because the respondents were not randomly selected, the survey results cannot be presented as a scientific cross-section of American students between the ages of 13 and 18+. However, the ethnic/racial mix of respondents is fairly close to the distribution of the U.S. population by ethnic origin and race. This proximity indicates that the responses and attitudes provided in the results may be a broad indicator of student perceptions and preferences nationally. Throughout the report, segmentations were prepared by gender and age to provide further insights to the survey results.

Survey Highlights

Detailed results of the 2005 JA Interprise Poll™ focusing on “Summer Jobs” can be found in the Survey Results section that follows.

Optimism for teen employment this summer is high, with 79.0% of respondents anticipating a summer job. However, not all teens hoping for summer employment will secure jobs. Only 52.5% of respondents to the 2005 Interprise Poll held jobs last summer, a percentage consistent with past Poll results. Most students employed during the summer are older teens.

Restaurant/fast food (25.3%) and retail/sales (24.2%) are the top two job selections for teens who anticipate working this summer. Older teens are attracted to the retail/sales sector while younger teens gravitate toward child-care jobs and restaurant/fast food jobs as their most likely source for summer employment.

Expectations for hourly pay are related to the type of job selected for summer employment. Since gender and age heavily influence job selection, female and younger respondents tend to anticipate lower wage rates because of their relative concentration in babysitting jobs. In the two most popular job categories of retail/sales and restaurant/fast food, anticipated compensation between genders varied. For restaurant/fast food jobs compensation expectations among male and female teens were very similar, while males projected higher compensation for their work in retail/sales jobs.

Motivations for seeking summer employment vary by age and gender. Overall, obtaining money for college ranked as the highest motivator (33.2%) and the most important incentive for 44.0% of teens 17 years of age. Extra spending money is the primary motivator for students 13-14-years-old.

Hours worked during the summer are closely correlated to age, with 65.7% of students 18 years of age and older expecting to work 30 or more hours weekly. This compares to only 51.9% of 17-year-old students who expect to work that many hours. Male students are more likely to anticipate working 40 or more hours per week.

Will summer jobs be harder to find in 2005 than last year? Teens who held summer jobs in 2004 were split on job prospects for 2005, with 29.8% believing jobs would be harder to find compared to a year ago. Another 41.6% indicated jobs would not be more difficult to procure, with the remaining unsure. Since this question was first introduced in the 2003 Poll, perceptions of difficulty in job availability have remained similar.

SURVEY RESULTS

Summer Jobs

Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Who are the 1,155 students whose responses are included in these survey results? Responses from female students outnumber male responses by 57.5% to 42.5%. The age ranges represent students in seventh through twelfth grade. Students 17 years and older, who are most likely to have summer jobs, comprise 50.5% of responses.

A. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	491	42.5
Female	664	57.5
Total	1,155	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>0</i>	

B. Age

Age Range	Frequency	Percent
13-14	221	19.1
15-16	351	30.4
17	314	27.2
18 or older	269	23.3
Total	1,155	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>0</i>	

C. Race or Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Frequency	Percent
Asian/Pacific Islands	60	5.2
Black/African American	170	14.7
Hispanic/Latino	155	13.4
Mixed Race	54	4.7
Native American	23	2.0
White	676	58.5
Other	17	1.5
Total	1,155	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>0</i>	

Employment During Current School Year

Question: Do you have a job during the school year?

Overall, 43.3% of students hold a job during the school year. The age of students is the most important factor linked to school-year employment. As age increases, students are more likely to hold school-year jobs. For 17-year-olds, 56.2% of students are employed during the school year compared to 67.8% of teens 18 or older. For younger students, the incidence of employment is much lower, with 30.9% of 15-16-year-olds holding jobs, and only 14.7% of students 13-14 years of age.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	497	43.3
No	650	56.7
Total	1,147	100.0
<i>No response</i>	8	

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Yes	190	38.9	307	46.6
No	298	61.1	352	53.4
Total	488	100.0	659	100.0
<i>No response</i>	3		5	

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Yes	14.7	30.9	56.2	67.8
No	85.3	69.1	43.8	32.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	218	349	313	267
<i>No response</i>	3	2	1	2

Held Summer Job in 2004

Question: Did you have a job during the summer of 2004?

Last summer 52.5% of all teens held a job. The difference in male and female students who held jobs is slight (54.1% and 51.4% respectively). As is the case with teens who worked during the school year, age is the leading factor in determining last summer's employment status.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	603	52.5
No	545	47.5
Total	1,148	100.0
<i>No response</i>	7	

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Yes	265	54.1	338	51.4
No	225	45.9	320	48.6
Total	490	100.0	658	100.0
<i>No response</i>	1		6	

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Yes	25.0	42.1	63.6	75.9
No	75.0	57.9	36.4	24.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	220	349	313	266
<i>No response</i>	1	2	1	3

Job Plans for Summer 2005

Question: Do you plan to have a job during the summer of 2005?

Students are optimistic that they will find employment this summer with 79.0% responding affirmatively that they anticipate finding a job. Even 51.8% of 13-14-year-olds, who are least likely among all age groups to work during the school year or hold employment last summer, think they will have a job this summer. For teens age 17, 92.0% think they will be employed during the summer of 2005. The percent of affirmative responses is about the same for male and female students.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	909	79.0
No	55	4.8
Unsure	186	16.2
Total	1,150	100.0
<i>No response</i>	5	

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Yes	384	78.4	525	79.5
No	38	7.8	17	2.6
Unsure	68	13.8	118	17.9
Total	490	100.0	660	100.0
<i>No response</i>	1		4	

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Yes	51.8	77.7	92.0	88.0
No	15.5	3.7	1.0	1.9
Unsure	32.7	18.6	7.0	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	220	350	313	267
<i>No response</i>	1	1	1	2

Anticipated Jobs for Summer 2005

Question: What will be your job during the summer of 2005?

As in past Interprise Polls, the two most popular summer job choices are working in restaurants (25.3%) and in the retail/sales environment (24.2%). As teens grow older, their employment preferences shift from restaurant/fast food to retail and sales. This may be due in part to retail/sales positions being available only to older teens.

Babysitting and lawn care are almost gender-exclusive occupations. Few boys indicated they would be babysitting this summer. Similarly, less than 1% of girls will be pushing mowers. Young teens who cannot secure employment in many types of summer jobs because of age requirements find age limitations less applicable for child-care. For teens ages 13-14, babysitting is the most anticipated job (25.6%) for the summer of 2005.

Some of the “other” types of employment include a variety of jobs such as farming, mechanics, construction, volunteering, and working in the family business.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Restaurant /Fast Food	272	25.3
Retail / Sales	260	24.2
Other (Please specify)*	190	17.6
Babysitting	122	11.3
Office Work/Clerical	96	8.9
Life Guard/Recreation	89	8.3
Lawn Care/Landscaping	47	4.4
Total	1,076	100.0
<i>No response</i>	79	

* “Other” includes a variety of jobs such farming, construction, mechanics, and volunteer work.

Anticipated Jobs by Gender

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Restaurant /Fast Food	116	25.8	156	24.9
Retail / Sales	118	26.2	142	22.7
Other (Please specify)	108	24.0	82	13.1
Babysitting	10	2.2	112	17.9
Office Work/Clerical	25	5.6	71	11.4
Life Guard/Recreation	30	6.7	59	9.4
Lawn Care/Landscaping	43	9.6	4	0.6
Total	450	100.0	626	100.0
<i>No response</i>	41		38	

Anticipated Jobs by Age

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Restaurant /Fast Food	20.0	31.1	26.6	20.3
Retail / Sales	13.9	17.4	33.0	30.5
Other (Please specify)	20.5	15.5	14.5	21.9
Babysitting	25.6	12.5	5.7	5.5
Office Work/Clerical	4.1	9.1	9.1	12.1
Life Guard/Recreation	9.7	10.4	5.7	7.4
Lawn Care/Landscaping	6.2	4.0	5.4	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	195	328	297	256
<i>No Response</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>13</i>

Compensation Expected

Question: *If you plan to work this summer, how much do you expect to be paid per hour?*

Expectations for hourly pay are related to the type of job selected for summer employment. Since age heavily influences job selection, younger respondents tend to anticipate lower wage rates because of their relative concentration in babysitting jobs and the restaurant/fast food sector.

Twice as many male respondents anticipate earning more than \$9.00 per hour compared to female students. Job selection accounts for some of that difference, with boys selecting higher paying summer jobs such as construction laborers and mechanics, as indicated in “other” summer jobs.

Is there a gender wage gap when male and female teens anticipate holding jobs in the same sector? For restaurant/fast food positions, salary expectations are similar between genders. However, in the retail sales environment, 11.0% of boys anticipate earning more than \$9.00 per hour compared to 2.1% of girls.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than \$5.15 / hr	105	9.5
\$5.16 – \$6.00 / hr	271	24.4
\$6.01 – \$7.50 / hr	400	36.0
\$7.51 – \$9.00 / hr	183	16.5
More than \$9.00 / hr	112	10.1
Other	39	3.5
Total	1,110	100.0
<i>No response</i>	45	

** “Other” responses that usually indicated compensation based on a flat rate for work completed or commission-based compensation.*

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Less than \$5.15 / hr	33	7.0	72	11.3
\$5.16 – \$6.00 / hr	108	23.0	163	25.5
\$6.01 – \$7.50 / hr	159	33.8	241	37.6
\$7.51 – \$9.00 / hr	81	17.2	102	15.9
More than \$9.00 / hr	67	14.3	45	7.0
Other	22	4.7	17	2.7
Total	470	100.0	640	100.0
<i>No response</i>	21		24	

Gender Segmentation by Summer Job Type

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male		Frequency Female	Percent Female
Restaurant / Fast Food					
Less than \$5.15 / hr	7	6.0		9	5.9
\$5.16 – \$6.00 / hr	48	41.4		57	37.0
\$6.01 – \$7.50 / hr	43	37.1		64	41.6
\$7.51 – \$9.00 / hr	12	10.3		15	9.7
More than \$9.00 / hr	5	4.3		8	5.2
Other	1	0.9		1	0.6
Total	116	100.0		154	100.0

Gender Segmentation by Summer Job Type

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male		Frequency Female	Percent Female
Retail / Sales					
Less than \$5.15 / hr	5	4.2		6	4.2
\$5.16 – \$6.00 / hr	22	18.7		33	23.3
\$6.01 – \$7.50 / hr	53	44.9		71	50.0
\$7.51 – \$9.00 / hr	25	21.2		28	19.7
More than \$9.00 / hr	13	11.0		3	2.1
Other	--	--		1	0.7
Total	118	100.0		142	100.0

Primary Reason for Working

Question: *If you will work this summer, what is the NUMBER ONE reason why?*

Motivations for seeking summer employment vary by age and gender. Overall, obtaining money for college ranked as the highest motivator (33.2%) and the most important incentive for 44.0% of teens 17 years of age. Extra spending money is the primary motivator for students 13-14-years-old. Female students are more likely to save for college (35.1%) than male teens (30.7%).

Response	Frequency	Percent
Save for College	374	33.2
Extra Spending Money	351	31.2
To Pay for a Car	186	16.6
Gain Work Experience	125	11.1
Help Support Family	89	7.9
Total	1,125	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>30</i>	

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Save for College	145	30.7	229	35.1
Extra Spending Money	155	32.8	196	30.0
To Pay for a Car	91	19.3	95	14.5
Gain Work Experience	48	10.2	77	11.8
Help Support Family	33	7.0	56	8.6
Total	472	100.0	653	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>11</i>	

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Save for College	22.2	24.9	44.0	40.2
Extra Spending Money	44.9	35.4	25.9	21.2
To Pay for a Car	12.1	22.0	14.9	14.8
Gain Work Experience	14.5	9.9	8.1	13.6
Help Support Family	6.3	7.8	7.1	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	207	345	309	264
<i>No response</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>

Weekly Hours of Work Anticipated

Question: How many hours per week do you plan to work this summer?

Hours worked during the summer are closely correlated to age, with 65.7% of students 18 years of age and older expecting to work 30 or more hours weekly. This compares to only 51.9% of 17-year-old students who expect to work that many hours. Male students are more likely to anticipate working 40 or more hours per week. Of all teens expecting summer employment, 21.4% expect to work 40 or more hours per week.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 10	103	9.2
10 – 19	224	20.0
20 – 29	291	26.0
30 – 39	263	23.4
40 or more	240	21.4
Total	1,121	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>34</i>	

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Less than 10	34	7.2	69	10.6
10 – 19	91	19.2	133	20.5
20 – 29	120	25.4	171	26.5
30 – 39	108	22.8	155	23.9
40 or more	120	25.4	120	18.5
Total	473	100.0	648	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>16</i>	

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Less than 10	20.6	11.8	2.9	4.2
10 – 19	32.4	23.7	15.8	10.6
20 – 29	24.5	28.6	29.4	19.5
30 – 39	13.2	19.1	29.4	30.2
40 or more	9.3	16.8	22.5	35.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	204	346	306	265
<i>No response</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>

Availability of Jobs

Question: Do you think summer jobs will be harder to get this year than in the summer of 2004?

Analysis of responses for summer employment prospects in 2005 compared to 2004 is limited to teens who indicated that they worked summer jobs in 2004. Students with jobs in the summer of 2004 have mixed emotions about this summer's job prospects, with 29.8% indicating that summer jobs will be harder to find in 2005 than last year. Another 28.6% are unsure, while an optimistic 41.6% of teens surveyed believe it will not be harder to get a job this summer compared to last year.

Perceptions of male and female teens who think jobs will be harder to get in 2005 compared to 2004 are nearly identical (29.5% to 30.0% respectively). However, 10% more male than female students are convinced that this year's summer jobs will be no more difficult to find than in 2004.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	179	29.8
No	250	41.6
Unsure	172	28.6
Total	601	100.0
<i>No response</i>	2	

** Limited to teens who held summer jobs in 2004*

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male		Frequency Female	Percent Female
Yes	78	29.5		101	30.0
No	126	47.8		124	36.8
Unsure	60	22.7		112	33.2
Total	264	100.0		337	100.0
<i>No response</i>	1			1	

** Limited to teens who held summer jobs in 2004*

Appendix

Five JA locations provided 80 or more responses to the 2005 JA Interprise Poll™ on Summer Jobs. Responses from these areas are segmented below for each of the major questions that were posed. No analysis of different response patterns is provided because the limited response size for most locations does not allow for comparisons.

	Responses	Percent of all students surveyed (1,155)
Bakersfield, CA	112	9.7
Minnesota	85	7.4
New Mexico	106	9.2
Quad Cities, IL	83	7.2
Wisconsin	178	15.4
TOTAL	564	48.9

Percent Distribution of Responses by Gender

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Male	57.1	55.3	42.5	57.8	53.4
Female	42.9	44.7	57.5	42.2	46.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	112	85	106	83	178

Percent Distribution of Responses by Age

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
13-14	63.4	2.4	3.8	---	28.7
15-16	34.8	2.4	34.9	12.0	45.5
17	0.9	45.9	33.0	42.2	20.2
18 or older	0.9	49.3	28.3	45.8	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	112	85	106	83	178

Percent Distribution of Responses by Race/Ethnic Origin

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Asian/Pacific Islands	4.5	11.8	0.9	1.2	---
Black/African American	---	9.4	1.9		1.1
Hispanic/Latino	12.5	4.7	63.2	3.6	2.2
Mixed Race	13.4	3.5	8.5	1.2	2.9
Native American	2.7	---	13.2	---	---
Other	3.6	4.7		---	1.1
White	63.3	65.9	12.3	94.0	92.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	112	85	106	83	178

Percent Distribution of Responses for Working During School Year

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Yes	12.6	70.6	59.0	65.9	35.0
No	87.4	29.4	41.0	34.1	65.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	111	85	105	82	177

Percent Distribution of Responses for Held Job During Summer 2004

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Yes	23.4	65.9	59.0	84.1	51.7
No	76.6	34.1	41.0	15.9	48.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	111	85	105	82	178

Percent Distribution of Responses for Plans to Work During Summer 2005

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Yes	50.9	96.4	86.6	95.1	83.1
No	16.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	5.6
Unsure	33.0	2.4	12.4	3.7	11.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	112	85	106	83	178

Percent Distribution of Responses for Anticipated Jobs

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Restaurant / Fast Food	22.6	22.9	25.7	25.3	38.1
Retail / Sales	14.7	30.1	32.7	24.0	22.0
Other (Please specify)	21.6	19.4	15.8	30.4	14.9
Babysitting	18.6	7.2	4.0	5.1	10.1
Office Work	4.9	10.8	8.9	2.5	3.6
Parks & Rec./Camp	9.8	1.2	10.9	5.1	4.2
Lawn Care	7.8	8.4	2.0	7.6	7.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	102	83	101	79	168

Percent Distribution of Responses for Compensation Expected

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Less than \$5.15/hr	16.7	3.5	4.9	3.7	6.4
\$5.16 – \$6.00 / hr	26.8	4.7	37.9	16.0	33.9
\$6.01 – \$7.50 / hr	32.3	23.5	35.9	58.0	36.3
\$7.51 – \$9.00 / hr	9.3	34.1	15.5	12.4	14.6
More than \$9.00/hr	9.3	31.8	3.9	9.9	7.0
Other	5.6	2.4	1.9	---	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	108	85	103	81	171

Percent Distribution of Responses for Reason for Working

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Save for College	26.6	44.0	20.4	33.7	26.3
Extra Spending Money	38.5	20.2	32.0	42.5	40.0
To Pay for a Car	22.0	19.0	23.3	15.0	21.7
Gain Work Experience	8.3	13.1	7.8	6.3	7.4
Help Support Family	4.6	3.7	16.5	2.5	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	109	84	103	80	175

Percent Distribution of Responses for Hours Plan to Work

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Less than 10	15.9	5.9	5.9	4.9	10.4
10 – 19	33.6	9.4	16.7	17.3	31.8
20 – 29	23.4	25.8	18.6	29.6	27.7
30 – 39	12.1	27.1	25.5	30.9	19.7
40 or more	15.0	31.8	33.3	17.3	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	107	85	102	81	173

**Percent Distribution of Responses for Availability of Jobs in 2005
(Harder to Find a Summer Job in 2005 compared to 2004)**

Response	Bakersfield CA	Minnesota	New Mexico	Quad Cities IL	Wisconsin
Yes	23.1	26.7	32.3	22.1	23.9
No	57.7	42.9	38.7	50.0	44.6
Unsure	19.2	30.4	29.0	27.9	31.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses	26	56	62	68	92

** Only includes response from students who worked in summer of 2004*