



Teens and Summer Jobs Survey 2008

Executive Summary

**Presented by
Junior Achievement**

May 28, 2008

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Notes on Methodology

Students from 110 JA local area offices across the country participated in the 2008 JA Interprise Poll™ focusing on Teens and Summer Jobs. This is the ninth time the survey has been conducted, and 712 teens participated in this year's Poll. The survey was administered in February and March of 2008.

JA local area offices requested participation from area students, many of whom were not involved in JA programs. Because the respondents were not randomly selected, no margin of error for this report can be calculated. The survey results cannot be represented as a scientific cross-section of American students between the ages of 13 and 18+. However, the ethnic/racial mix of respondents approximates the national distribution of the U.S. population by ethnic origin and race, indicating that the responses and attitudes provided in the results may be a broad indicator of student perceptions and preferences nationally.

Survey Highlights

The economic climate for the summer of 2008 might deliver a frigid blast of disappointment to teens seeking employment. Traditionally, the top two job choices for teens are positions in retail/sales and restaurant/fast food establishments. In this year's I-Poll, these are once again the top two job prospects. Unfortunately, both sectors are being battered disproportionately by the economic downturn.

Higher energy prices and declining housing values have sliced consumers' discretionary income. This is a liability for both retail establishments and restaurants that depend on residual consumer income after payment is made for all essential goods and services. Additionally, the retail sector is being pressured by overcapacity and a credit squeeze.

Restaurants are struggling with maintaining profit margins as food prices soar. Teens may find the supply of potential jobs diminished this year as employers adopt cautious hiring practices.

Detailed results of the 2008 JA Interprise Poll™ focusing on “Teens and Summer Jobs” can be found in the Survey Results section that follows.

- ✓ As teens grow older, they are more likely to hold a job during the school year. On average, 43.7% of students were employed during the year. Incidence of employment ranges from 24.7% of teens ages 13-14 to 69.4% of teens 18-and-older.
- ✓ Last summer 54.3% of all teens responding to this I-Poll held a job. Male teens (57.3%) were somewhat more likely to hold summer jobs than their female counterparts (51.6%).
- ✓ Teens are enthusiastic about their chances for summer employment, with 88.6% planning to have jobs this summer. Slightly more than three-quarters of teens ages 13-14 expect to find jobs. For teens 15-and-older, more than 90% anticipate summer employment.
- ✓ In past I-Polls, the two top summer job choices for teens were positions in retail/sales and the restaurant/fast food sector. This year's most frequent selections continue that trend. Retail/sales is the top choice for 21.2% of teens who enumerated a specific job preference and who planned for summer employment. Another 18.7% sought jobs in a restaurant/fast food establishment.
- ✓ The most frequently identified process for finding summer employment was “personal search” (26.9%) which included knocking on doors and calling prospective employers. Networking with friends or neighbors was a close second (25.5%) followed by leads from parents or relatives (17.3%).
- ✓ “Extra spending money” (35.0%) and “save for college” (31.1%) were the top two motivations for seeking summer employment although the rationale for working varied greatly by age and gender.
- ✓ More than half of teens (54.9%) perceived that the most important career lesson from a summer job was “skills and responsibility needed to perform a job successfully.” “Importance of college” (16.4%) finished a distant second with “importance of teamwork” (12.2%) the third most-frequently cited lesson learned from summer employment.

- ✓ Over half of teens (54.7%) who held summer jobs in 2007 perceived their boss as a career mentor. Male teens (59.7%) were ten percent more likely to view their boss as a mentor than their female counterparts (49.7%).

SURVEY RESULTS

2008 Summer Jobs

Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Who are the 712 students responding to the survey? More female students participated than males (53.5% to 46.5%, respectively). The age ranges are representative of students in seventh through twelfth grades. The ethnic or racial mix of participating teens approximates the overall ethnic mix in the U.S.

A. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	331	46.5
Female	381	53.5
Total	712	100.0

B. Age

Age Range	Frequency	Percent
13-14	220	30.9
15-16	217	30.5
17	138	19.4
18 or older	137	19.2
Total	712	100.0

C. Race or Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Frequency	Percent
Asian/Pacific Islands	35	4.9
Black/African American	138	19.4
Hispanic/Latino	86	12.1
Mixed Race	60	8.4
Native American	24	3.4
White	361	50.7
Other	8	1.1
Total	712	100.0

Employment During Current School Year

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

As teens grow older, they are more likely to hold a job during the school year. On average, 43.7% of students were employed during the year. Incidence of employment ranges from 24.7% of teens ages 13-14 to 69.4% of teens 18-and-older.

Regardless of age, teens who are employed during the school year are more than twice as likely to find summer jobs compared to students who don't hold jobs during the year.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	306	43.7
No	395	56.3
Total	701	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>11</i>	

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Yes	24.7	34.9	62.0	69.4
No	75.3	65.1	38.0	30.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	215	215	137	134
<i>No response</i>	5	2	1	3

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Response	Employed in Summer of 2007	Not employed in Summer of 2007
Hold jobs during the year	79.7	34.5
Don't hold jobs during the year	20.3	65.5
Total	100.0	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>

Held Summer Job in 2007

Question: Did you have a job during the summer of 2007?

Last summer 54.3% of all teens responding to this I-Poll held a job. Male teens (57.3%) were somewhat more likely to hold summer jobs than their female counterparts (51.6%).

As is the case with teens who work during the school year, age is the leading factor in determining last summer's employment status. More than 70% of teens 17-and-older held summer jobs, while only 48.6% of teens 15-16 worked during the summer months. Slightly more than one-third (35.8%) of teens ages 13-14 worked last summer.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	380	54.3
No	320	45.7
Total	700	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>12</i>	

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Yes	188	57.3	192	51.6
No	140	42.7	180	48.4
Total	328	100.0	372	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>9</i>	

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Yes	35.8	48.6	72.1	74.8
No	64.2	51.4	27.9	25.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	215	214	136	135
<i>No response</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Job Plans for Summer 2008

Question: Do you plan to have a job during the summer of 2008?

Teens are enthusiastic about their chances for summer employment, with 88.6% planning to have jobs this summer. Slightly more than three-quarters of teens ages 13-14 expect to find jobs. For teens 15-and-older, more than 90% anticipate summer employment.

There is a wide gap between teens who expect summer employment and those that actually secure jobs. For the youngest age groups (teens younger than 17) there is more than a 40% difference between teens who expect to be employed this summer and those that actually secured summer jobs in 2007. For teens 17-and-older the gap exceeds 20%.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	621	88.6
No	80	11.4
Total	701	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>11</i>	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Yes	298	90.9	323	86.6
No	30	9.1	50	13.4
Total	328	100.0	373	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>8</i>	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Yes	76.7	92.1	94.2	96.3
No	23.3	7.9	5.8	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	215	215	137	134
<i>No response</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Anticipated Jobs for Summer 2008

Question: What type of job do you expect to have this summer?

[The tables for this section exclude responses from teens who did not think they would have summer jobs.]

In past I-Polls, the two top summer job choices for teens were positions in retail/sales and the restaurant/fast food sector. This year’s most frequent selections continue that trend. Retail/sales is the top choice for 21.2% of teens who enumerated a specific job preference and who desired summer employment. Another 18.7% sought jobs in a restaurant/fast food establishment.

Babysitting is always a frequently-cited summer job choice for teens, and is the third-most frequent selection this year. Babysitting/daycare is the most popular job option among teens ages 13-14, because this money-making opportunity is not limited by an age restriction. Nearly a third of teens (31.9%) ages 13-14 indicated they would seek employment as babysitters or in a daycare environment. For other age groups, percent interest in this vocation never rose above single digits.

The emphasis of college admission committees on outside activities and life experiences may be driving the number of older teens who are seeking internships this summer. Of teens 18-and-older, 12.5% indicated they would be working in an internship this summer.

The “other” selection (12.6%) was the fourth-most frequently selected category. This grouping included diverse employment opportunities such as paper carriers and litter control staff.

Response	Frequency	Percent*
Retail/Sales	118	21.2
Restaurant /Fast Food	104	18.7
Babysitting/Daycare	77	13.8
Other	70	12.6
Volunteer	33	5.9
Internship	35	6.3
Life Guard/Recreation	31	5.6
Lawn Care/Landscaping	31	5.6
Office/Clerical	29	5.2
Construction	20	3.6
Farm-related	9	1.6
Total	557	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>0</i>	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Excludes respondents who indicated they did not plan to have a job this summer or answered “not sure” to a specific job.

Anticipated Jobs by Gender

Response	Frequency Male	Percent* Male		Frequency Female	Percent* Female
Retail/Sales	57	22.1		61	20.4
Restaurant /Fast Food	44	17.1		60	20.1
Babysitting/Daycare	8	3.1		69	23.1
Other	37	14.3		33	11.0
Volunteer	16	6.2		17	5.7
Internship	18	7.0		17	5.7
Life Guard/Recreation	17	6.6		14	4.7
Lawn Care/Landscaping	27	10.5		4	1.3
Office/Clerical	10	3.9		19	6.4
Construction	18	7.0		2	0.7
Farm-related	6	2.3		3	1.0
Total	258	100.0		299	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>0</i>			<i>0</i>	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Excludes respondents who indicated they did not plan to have a job this summer or answered "not sure" to a specific job.

Anticipated Jobs by Age

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Retail/Sales	7.6	24.0	29.8	25.0
Restaurant /Fast Food	13.2	20.7	22.8	18.3
Babysitting/Daycare	31.9	9.5	7.9	4.2
Other	12.5	11.2	10.5	16.7
Volunteer	13.2	4.5	1.8	3.3
Internship	1.4	5.0	7.9	12.5
Life Guard/Recreation	4.9	8.4	3.5	4.2
Lawn Care/Landscaping	10.4	3.9	5.3	2.5
Office/Clerical	1.4	6.1	6.1	7.5
Construction	2.1	4.5	3.5	4.2
Farm-related	1.4	2.2	0.9	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	144	179	114	120
<i>No Response</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Excludes respondents who indicated they did not plan to have a job this summer or answered "not sure" to a specific job.

Sources for Job Information

[The table below includes responses only from teens who had summer jobs in 2007.]

Question: How do you typically find your summer job?

The most frequently identified process for finding summer employment was “personal search” (26.9%) which included knocking on doors and calling prospective employers. Networking with friends or neighbors was a close second (25.5%) followed by leads from parents or relatives (17.3%).

Response	Frequency	Percent*
Personal search	101	26.9
From friends or neighbors	96	25.5
Parents or relatives	65	17.3
The Internet	21	5.6
Resources at school	25	6.6
Through an existing job or current activity	35	9.3
Other	11	2.9
The newspaper	13	3.5
A local work program	9	2.4
Total	376	100.0
<i>No response</i>	4	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Primary Reason for Working

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

“Extra spending money” (35.0%) and “save for college” (31.1%) were the top two motivations for seeking summer employment, although the rationale for working varied greatly by age and gender.

Extra spending money appealed mostly to younger teens while more serious-minded older teens were working to save money for college. Gender made a difference in which of these two factors was the higher motivation for seeking summer employment. Male teens (39.5%) were more likely to select “extra spending money” than their female counterparts (30.9%). Saving for college was a higher priority for female youth (35.0%) than males (26.8%).

Response	Frequency	Percent*
Extra spending money	213	35.0
Save for college	189	31.1
Gain work experience	74	12.2
To pay for a car	58	9.5
To help support my family	39	6.4
Other	35	5.8
Total	608	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>13</i>	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Includes only those responses from teens who answered “yes” to having a summer job.

Response	Frequency Male	Percent* Male	Frequency Female	Percent* Female
Extra spending money	115	39.5	98	30.9
Save for college	78	26.8	111	35.0
Gain work experience	35	12.0	39	12.3
To pay for a car	33	11.3	25	7.9
To help support my family	16	5.5	23	7.3
Other	14	4.8	21	6.6
Total	291	100.0	317	100.0
<i>No response</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>6</i>	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Includes only those responses from teens who answered “yes” or “unsure” to having a summer job.

Age Ranges	13-14	15-16	17	18 +
Extra spending money	41.0	43.3	28.0	21.9
Save for college	22.4	21.1	41.6	46.9
Gain work experience	11.2	13.9	8.8	14.1
To pay for a car	6.8	10.3	15.2	6.3
To help support my family	7.5	7.7	2.4	7.0
Other	11.2	3.6	4.0	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Responses	161	194	125	128
<i>No response</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Includes only those responses from teens who answered “yes” or “unsure” to having a summer job.

Lessons Learned from Summer Employment

Question: What is the most important lesson you have learned about your future career, while working at your summer job?

[The tables below include responses only from teens who had summer jobs in 2007.]

More than half of teens (54.9%) perceived that the most important career lesson from a summer job was “skills and responsibility needed to perform a job successfully.” “Importance of college” (16.4%) finished a distant second with “importance of teamwork” (12.2%) the third most-frequently cited lesson that was learned as a result of summer employment.

Gender accounted for some difference in the selection of the most important lesson learned. Male teens (19.4%) were more likely to indicate that summer jobs taught them the importance of college than female teens (13.6%). Women (14.7%) were more likely to recognize team work as an important lesson than male teens (9.7%)

Response	Frequency	Percent*
Skills and responsibility needed to perform job successfully	207	54.9
How to demonstrate leadership	29	7.7
Importance of teamwork	46	12.2
Importance of college	62	16.4
Did not learn anything	11	2.9
Not sure	8	2.1
Other	14	3.7
Total	377	100.0
<i>No response</i>	3	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Response	Frequency Male	Percent* Male	Frequency Female	Percent* Female
Skills and responsibility needed to perform job successfully	100	53.8	107	56.0
How to demonstrate leadership	14	7.5	15	7.9
Importance of teamwork	18	9.7	28	14.7
Importance of college	36	19.4	26	13.6
Did not learn anything	8	4.3	3	1.6
Not sure	5	2.7	3	1.6
Other	5	2.7	9	4.7
Total	186	100.0	191	100.0
<i>No response</i>	2		1	

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Summer Job Supervisors as Career Mentors

Question: Do you see your boss at your summer job as a career mentor?

[The tables below include responses only from teens who had summer jobs in 2007.]

More than half (54.7%) of teens who held summer jobs in 2007 perceived their boss as a career mentor. Male teens (59.7%) were ten percent more likely to view their boss as a mentor than their female counterparts (49.7%).

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	205	54.7
No	170	45.3
Total	375	100.0
<i>No response</i>	5	

Response	Frequency Male	Percent Male	Frequency Female	Percent Female
Yes	111	59.7	94	49.7
No	75	40.3	95	50.3
Total	186	100.0	189	100.0
<i>No response</i>	2		3	

Appendix

Two JA area offices provided 80 or more responses to the 2008 JA Interprise Poll.™ Responses from these areas are segmented below for each of the major questions that were posed.

	Responses
New Mexico	101
Eastern Iowa	90

Percent Distribution of Responses by Gender

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Male	46.5	55.6	60.4
Female	33.5	44.4	39.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Total Responses</i>		90	101

** Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%*

Percent Distribution of Responses by Age

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
13-14	30.9	43.3	6.9
15-16	30.5	33.3	52.5
17	19.4	13.3	28.7
18 or older	19.2	10.0	11.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Total Responses</i>		90	101

** Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%*

Percent Distribution of Responses by Race/Ethnic Origin

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Asian/Pacific Islands	4.9	---	2.0
Black/African American	19.4	14.4	5.9
Hispanic/Latino	12.1	2.2	26.7
Mixed Race	8.4	11.1	7.9
Native American	3.4	---	15.8
White	50.7	71.1	39.6
Other	1.1	1.1	2.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Total Responses</i>		<i>90</i>	<i>101</i>

** Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%*

Percent Distribution of Responses for Working During School Year

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Yes	43.7	44.3	45.9
No	56.3	55.7	54.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses		88	98

Percent Distribution of Responses for Held Job During Summer 2007

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Yes	54.3	53.4	56.4
No	45.7	46.6	43.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses		88	101

Percent Distribution of Responses for Plans to Work During Summer 2008

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Yes	88.6	86.5	95.0
No	11.4	13.5	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses		89	100

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Percent Distribution of Responses for Anticipated Jobs

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Retail/Sales	21.2	19.4	20.9
Restaurant /Fast Food	18.7	26.4	30.2
Babysitting/Daycare	13.8	12.5	5.8
Other	12.6	12.5	9.3
Volunteer	5.9	4.2	4.7
Internship	6.3	1.4	8.1
Life Guard/Recreation	5.6	1.4	11.6
Lawn Care/Landscaping	5.6	9.7	2.3
Office/Clerical	5.2	1.4	2.3
Construction	3.6	2.8	4.7
Farm-related	1.6	8.3	---
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses		72	86

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Includes only those responses from teens who answered “yes” to planning a summer job in 2008.

Percent Distribution of Sources for Job Information

[The table below includes responses only from teens who had summer jobs in 2007.]

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Personal search	26.9	23.4	45.6
From friends or neighbors	25.5	29.8	19.3
Parents or relatives	17.3	21.3	12.3
The Internet	5.6	10.6	---
Resources at school	6.6	---	1.8
Through an existing job or current activity	9.3	6.4	10.5
Other	2.9	2.1	1.8
The newspaper	3.5	6.4	1.8
A local work program	2.4	---	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses		47	57

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Percent Distribution of Responses for Reason for Working

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Extra spending money	35.0	36.0	45.7
Save for college	31.1	25.3	18.5
Gain work experience	12.2	5.3	15.2
To pay for a car	9.5	16.0	12.0
To help support my family	6.4	5.3	8.7
Other	5.8	12.0	---
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses		75	92

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Includes only those responses from teens who answered “yes” to planning a summer job in 2008.

Percent Distribution for Lessons Learned from Summer Employment
 [The table below includes responses only from teens who had summer jobs in 2007.]

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Skills and responsibility needed to perform job successfully	54.9	70.2	52.6
How to demonstrate leadership	7.7	2.1	10.5
Importance of teamwork	12.2	10.6	8.8
Importance of college	16.4	8.5	17.5
Did not learn anything	2.9	2.1	---
Not sure	2.1	2.1	5.3
Other	3.7	4.3	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Responses		47	57

**Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.*

Percent Distribution for Summer Job Supervisors as Career Mentors
 [The table below includes responses only from teens who had summer jobs in 2007.]

Response	National	Eastern Iowa	New Mexico
Yes	54.7	67.4	54.4
No	45.3	32.6	45.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>No response</i>		46	57