

Summer Jobs FACT SHEET

May, 2009

Next-Generation Jobs Team Q&A

- Q.** *What is the Next-Generation Jobs Team?*
- A.** The Next-Generation Jobs Team is a summer employment program that will prepare young Missourians to compete for and excel in the high-tech, high-paying careers of the 21st century.
- Q.** *What are some examples of targeted high-tech, high-growth career fields?*
- A.** Some examples of targeted industries include green energy, technology, health care, business operations, construction, engineering and life sciences.
- Q.** *What are the dates of the Next-Generation Jobs program?*
- A.** The program will run between May 1 and Sept. 30, 2009. While it is hoped that jobs will run as long as possible during this period, businesses and youths will be allowed to sign on after the program has started, as long as funds are still available.
- Q.** *What are the funding sources for this program?*
- A.** Youths' wages will be funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in conjunction with the Workforce Investment Act youth program.
- Q.** *What age range of youth is the Next-Generation Jobs Team targeting?*
- A.** Youths between the ages of 16 and 24 are the targeted workers.
- Q.** *What other eligibility requirements must youths meet?*
- A.** Most participants will be required to meet Department of Health and Human Services income guidelines and to have a least one barrier to employment.
- Q.** *How many youths are expected to participate in the Next-Generation Jobs Team?*
- A.** Around 6,000 youths are expected to participate statewide.
- Q.** *How is the Next-Generation Jobs Team being implemented?*
- A.** Both youths and businesses can register for the program online at www.summerjobs.mo.gov or by calling 1-800-592-6020. Applications will be forwarded to youth and business contacts through Missouri's 14 local Workforce Investment Boards. These coordinators will contact the applicants within three business days to determine eligibility and to complete the registration process. Contact information for local Workforce Boards is on the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development page at <http://workforce.mo.gov/index.html>. Click on "Local Workforce Boards" under "Partners."
- Q.** *How will the Next-Generation Jobs Team assist youth participants?*
- A.** In addition to receiving real-world work experience and on-the-job training from employers, youths will receive ongoing guidance and support from local professional career counselors. These counselors will help youths determine their career interests and aptitudes, find fitting placements and provide follow-up services throughout the youths' employment.

- Q.** *How will wages for participating youths be set?*
- A.** Each Workforce Investment Board region will be allowed to determine how wages will be set. While some regions will give all participating youths \$7.05 (Missouri's minimum wage), others will base wages on experience, the job's demands, etc.
- Q.** *Who should members of the media contact for more information on the Next-Generation Jobs Team?*
- A.** Members of the media should contact John Fougere director of communications for the Missouri Department of Economic Development, at 573-522-5058.

Summer Youth Employment Statistics

Source: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/youth.pdf

Labor Force

The labor force participation for youth—the proportion of their population working or looking for work—was 65.1 percent in July 2008, essentially the same as in July 2007 and about 12 percentage points below its peak for that month in 1989 (77.5 %). Over the 1989-2008 period, the proportion of youth enrolled in school in July trended up; youth enrolled in school are much less likely than those not in school to be in the labor force.

Employment

In July 2008, 21.0 million 16- to 24-year olds were employed. The employment-population ratio for youth—the proportion of the 16- to 24-year-old civilian non-institutional population that was employed—was 56.0 percent, down 2.0 percentage points from July 2007. The ratio has fallen by about 13 percentage points since its peak in July 1989; the steep decline from July 2007 to July 2008 may reflect, in part, weaker labor market conditions during the summer of 2008.

In July 2008, 23 percent of employed youth worked in the leisure and hospitality industry (which includes food services) and 18 percent worked in retail trade. In addition, nearly two-fifths of employed youth worked in education and health services, professional and business services, government, manufacturing, and construction combined.

Unemployment

In July 2008, 3.4 million youth were unemployed and the youth unemployment rate was 14.0 percent, the highest rate for July since 1992. As with the decline in employment, the increase in youth unemployment in the summer of 2008 partly reflected a weaker job market.