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## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND WORK ACTIVITY OF RECENT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES — 2022

In October 2022, 62.0 percent of 2022 high school graduates ages 16 to 24 were enrolled in colleges or universities, little changed from the previous year, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Among 20- to 29-year-olds who received a bachelor's degree in 2022, 76.4 percent were employed.

Information on school enrollment and employment status is collected monthly in the Current Population Survey (CPS), a nationwide survey of about 60,000 households that provides information on employment and unemployment. Each October, a supplement to the CPS gathers more detailed information about recent degree recipients and school enrollment. In addition to data on recent high school graduates ages 16 to 24, this news release presents information on recent degree recipients ages 20 to 29. For more information, see the Technical Note in this news release.

### Highlights from the October 2022 data:

- Among recent high school graduates ages 16 to 24, college enrollment rates for men and women were 57.2 percent and 66.1 percent, respectively. (See table 1.)
- Among 16- to 24-year-olds, 41.9 percent of recent high school dropouts were working or looking for work, lower than the labor force participation rate of 69.2 percent for recent high school graduates not enrolled in college. (See table 1.)
- About 16.8 million persons ages 16 to 24 were not enrolled in school—44.1 percent of all persons in this age group. (See table 2.)
- Among 20- to 29-year-olds, 72.6 percent of recent associate degree recipients, 76.4 percent of recent bachelor's degree recipients, and 82.8 percent of recent advanced degree recipients were employed. (See table 3.)
- One-fourth of recent bachelor's degree recipients ages 20 to 29 were enrolled in school. (See table 3.)

- Among 20- to 29-year-olds, unemployment rates were 5.7 percent for recent associate degree recipients, 8.6 percent for recent bachelor's degree recipients, and 4.1 percent for recent advanced degree recipients. (See table 3.)

### **Recent High School Graduates and Dropouts (Ages 16 to 24)**

Of the 3.0 million youth ages 16 to 24 who graduated from high school between January and October 2022, 1.9 million were enrolled in college in October. The college enrollment rate of recent high school graduates, at 62.0 percent in October 2022, was little different from the rate of 61.8 percent in October 2021. In October 2019, prior to the pandemic, the college enrollment rate of recent high school graduates was 66.2 percent. (See table 1.)

Among 2022 high school graduates ages 16 to 24, the college enrollment rate for young women, at 66.1 percent in October 2022, continued to be higher than the rate for young men (57.2 percent). By race and ethnicity, the college enrollment rates in October 2022 were 72.2 percent for Asians, 64.1 percent for Blacks, 61.8 percent for Whites, and 58.1 percent for Hispanics.

The labor force participation rate (the proportion of the population that is employed or looking for work) for recent high school graduates enrolled in college in October 2022 was 31.4 percent. The participation rates for male and female graduates enrolled in college were 31.0 percent and 31.7 percent, respectively.

Among recent high school graduates enrolled in college in October 2022, more than 9 in 10 were full-time students. Recent graduates enrolled as full-time students were less likely to be in the labor force (29.3 percent) than were their peers enrolled part time (71.4 percent).

Among recent high school graduates enrolled in college, about 7 in 10 attended 4-year colleges. Of these students, 27.8 percent participated in the labor force in October 2022, lower than the 41.1 percent for recent graduates enrolled in 2-year colleges.

Recent high school graduates not enrolled in college in October 2022 were about twice as likely to be in the labor force as graduates enrolled in college (69.2 percent versus 31.4 percent, respectively). For both groups, labor force participation was little changed from the previous year. The unemployment rate of recent graduates enrolled in college (11.1 percent) was lower than the jobless rates for recent high school graduates not enrolled in college (18.3 percent) and recent high school dropouts (18.5 percent).

Between October 2021 and October 2022, 538,000 young people dropped out of high school. The labor force participation rate for recent dropouts (41.9 percent) continued to be much lower than the rate for recent high school graduates not enrolled in college (69.2 percent).

### **All Youth Enrolled in High School or College (Ages 16 to 24)**

In October 2022, 21.2 million 16- to 24-year-olds, or 55.9 percent of youth, were enrolled in high school (9.6 million) or in college (11.6 million). The labor force participation rate for youth enrolled in school, at 36.8 percent, was little changed from October 2021 to October 2022. The

unemployment rate for youth enrolled in school (6.1 percent) also changed little from the previous year. (See table 2.)

In October 2022, high school students continued to be less likely than college students to participate in the labor force (25.1 percent, compared with 46.5 percent). The participation rates for male and female high school students were 23.1 percent and 27.3 percent, respectively.

Among college students, those enrolled full time were much less likely to participate in the labor force in October 2022 than were part-time students (42.4 percent versus 81.0 percent). Students at 4-year colleges were also less likely to be in the labor force than were students at 2-year schools (44.0 percent versus 55.5 percent). Male and female college students' participation rates were little different from each other (45.3 percent and 47.5 percent, respectively). By race and ethnicity, the labor force participation rate was lower for Asian college students (34.3 percent) than for their Black (42.8 percent), White (48.3 percent), and Hispanic (52.6 percent) counterparts.

The unemployment rates for high school students and college students in October 2022, at 7.5 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively, were little changed from the previous year.

### **All Youth Not Enrolled in School (Ages 16 to 24)**

In October 2022, 16.8 million persons ages 16 to 24 were not enrolled in school. The labor force participation rate of youth not enrolled in school was 80.0 percent. Among youth not enrolled in school in October 2022, young men continued to be more likely than young women to participate in the labor force (83.9 percent, compared with 75.5 percent). (See table 2.)

Labor force participation rates for not-enrolled young men and young women were highest for those with a bachelor's degree or higher (94.6 percent and 88.3 percent, respectively) and lowest for young men and young women with less than a high school diploma (68.7 percent and 45.3 percent, respectively).

The unemployment rate for youth ages 16 to 24 not enrolled in school, at 8.6 percent in October 2022, changed little over the year. Among not-enrolled youth who did not have a high school diploma, unemployment rates in October 2022 were 12.9 percent for young men and 17.6 percent for young women. The jobless rates of young men and young women with at least a bachelor's degree were 6.7 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. Among youth not enrolled in school, the unemployment rates were 7.0 percent for Whites, 14.5 percent for Blacks, 9.7 percent for Asians, and 7.6 percent for Hispanics.

### **Recent College Graduates (Ages 20 to 29)**

Between January and October 2022, 1.0 million 20- to 29-year-olds earned a bachelor's degree; of these, 775,000 (or 76.4 percent) were employed in October 2022. The unemployment rate for recent college graduates with a bachelor's degree, at 8.6 percent, declined by 4.5 percentage points from the previous year. (See table 3.)

Among recent bachelor's degree recipients, men and women were both employed at similar rates in October 2022 (76.3 percent and 76.5 percent, respectively). The jobless rate for female bachelor's degree recipients, at 5.6 percent, was about half the rate of their male counterparts (12.5 percent).

About one-quarter (or 253,000) of recent bachelor's degree recipients were enrolled in school in October 2022. These recent graduates who were enrolled in school were less likely to be employed than those who were not enrolled (61.7 percent versus 81.3 percent).

Between January and October 2022, 395,000 persons ages 20 to 29 earned an advanced degree—that is, a master's, professional, or doctoral degree. About 8 in 10 of those who recently earned an advanced degree were employed in October 2022. The unemployment rate for recent advanced degree recipients was 4.1 percent.

### **Recent Associate Degree Recipients (Ages 20 to 29)**

Of the 391,000 20- to 29-year-olds who completed an associate degree between January and October 2022, 72.6 percent were employed in October 2022. The unemployment rate for recent associate degree recipients was 5.7 percent. (See table 3.)

Recent associate degree recipients ages 20 to 29 were much more likely to have completed an academic program than a vocational program (64.2 percent, compared with 35.8 percent). Associate degrees in academic programs are primarily in the arts and sciences and are often transferable to a bachelor's degree program, while associate degrees in vocational programs prepare graduates for a specific occupation.

In October 2022, 47.1 percent of recent associate degree recipients were enrolled in school. Of the 184,000 recent recipients who were enrolled in school, 62.5 percent were employed. In October 2022, 81.5 percent of recent associate degree recipients who were not enrolled in school were employed.

## Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained from a supplement to the October Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of about 60,000 eligible households that provides information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment for the nation. The CPS is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data in this release relate to the school enrollment status of persons in the civilian noninstitutional population in the calendar week that includes the 12th of October. Data about recent high school graduates and dropouts and the enrollment status of youth refer to persons 16 to 24 years of age. Data about recent associate degree recipients and college graduates refer to persons 20 to 29 years of age.

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### Definitions

Definitions of the principal terms used in this release are described briefly below.

*School enrollment.* Respondents were asked whether they were currently enrolled in a regular school, including day or night school in any type of public, parochial, or other private school. Regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward a high school diploma or a college, university, or professional degree. Such schools include elementary schools, junior or senior high schools, and colleges and universities.

Other schooling, including trade schools; on-the-job training; and courses that do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, is included only if the credits granted count towards promotion in regular school.

*Full-time and part-time enrollment in college.* College students are classified as attending full

time if they were taking 12 hours of classes or more (or 9 hours of graduate classes) during an average school week and as part time if they were taking fewer hours.

*High school graduation status.* Persons who were not enrolled in school at the time of the survey were asked whether they had graduated from high school. Those who had graduated were asked when they completed their high school education. Persons who had not graduated, that is, school dropouts, were asked when they last attended a regular school. Those who were enrolled in college at the time of the survey also were asked when they graduated from high school.

*Recent high school graduates.* Persons age 16 to 24 who completed high school in the calendar year of the survey (January through October) are recent high school graduates.

*Recent high school dropouts.* Persons age 16 to 24 who were not enrolled in school at the time of the survey, attended school a year earlier, and did not have a high school diploma are recent dropouts.

*Recent college graduates.* Persons age 20 to 29 who completed a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree—that is, a master's, professional (such as law or medicine), or doctoral degree—in the calendar year of the survey (January through October) are recent college graduates.

*Recent associate degree recipients.* Persons age 20 to 29 who completed an associate degree (either an academic program or a vocational program) in the calendar year of the survey (January through October) are recent associate degree recipients. Associate degrees in academic programs are primarily in the arts and sciences and may be transferable to a bachelor's degree program, while associate degrees in vocational programs prepare graduates for a specific occupation.

### **Reliability of the estimates**

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the true population values they represent. The component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as *sampling error*, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the true population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

Additional information about the reliability of data from the CPS and estimating standard errors is available at [www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability](http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability).

**Table 1. Labor force status of 2022 high school graduates and 2021-2022 high school dropouts 16 to 24 years old by school enrollment, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, October 2022**

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Number	Rate	
<b>RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES</b>								
Total, 2022 high school graduates <sup>1</sup> .....	2,987	1,367	45.8	1,159	38.8	208	15.2	1,620
Men.....	1,355	634	46.8	531	39.2	103	16.3	721
Women.....	1,632	733	44.9	628	38.5	105	14.3	899
White.....	2,214	1,030	46.5	898	40.6	132	12.8	1,184
Black or African American.....	426	170	39.9	128	30.2	42	24.5	256
Asian.....	162	61	37.4	52	32.0	9	-	102
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	620	259	41.8	228	36.7	32	12.2	361
<b>Enrolled in college</b>								
Total, enrolled in college.....	1,853	582	31.4	517	27.9	65	11.1	1,271
Enrolled in 2-year college.....	504	207	41.1	178	35.2	29	14.2	297
Enrolled in 4-year college.....	1,348	375	27.8	340	25.2	35	9.4	973
Full-time students.....	1,758	514	29.3	463	26.3	52	10.1	1,244
Part-time students.....	95	68	71.4	55	57.7	13	-	27
Men.....	775	240	31.0	206	26.6	34	14.0	535
Women.....	1,078	342	31.7	311	28.9	31	9.1	735
White.....	1,369	457	33.3	398	29.1	58	12.8	913
Black or African American.....	273	58	21.4	56	20.6	2	-	215
Asian.....	117	28	23.7	23	20.1	4	-	89
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	360	107	29.8	101	28.2	6	5.4	253
<b>Not enrolled in college</b>								
Total, not enrolled in college.....	1,134	785	69.2	641	56.5	144	18.3	349
Men.....	580	394	68.0	324	56.0	70	17.7	186
Women.....	554	391	70.5	317	57.1	74	18.9	164
White.....	844	573	67.9	500	59.2	73	12.8	271
Black or African American.....	153	112	73.1	72	47.3	40	35.4	41
Asian.....	46	33	-	29	-	5	-	13
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	261	152	58.3	126	48.5	26	17.0	109
<b>RECENT HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS</b>								
Total, 2021-2022 high school dropouts <sup>2</sup> .....	538	226	41.9	184	34.2	42	18.5	312
Men.....	268	125	46.7	101	37.8	24	19.1	143
Women.....	270	100	37.2	83	30.6	18	17.8	169
White.....	391	161	41.2	131	33.4	31	19.0	230
Black or African American.....	106	44	41.7	38	35.4	7	-	62
Asian.....	12	4	-	4	-	-	-	8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	145	76	52.2	60	41.6	15	20.3	69

<sup>1</sup> Data refer to persons who graduated from high school in January through October 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Data refer to persons who dropped out of school between October 2021 and October 2022.

NOTE: Detail for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. Dash indicates no data or data that do not meet publication criteria (values not shown where base is less than 75,000).

**Table 2. Labor force status of persons 16 to 24 years old by school enrollment, educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, October 2022**

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Number	Rate	
Total, 16 to 24 years.....	38,024	21,236	55.8	19,600	51.5	1,636	7.7	16,788
<b>Enrolled in school</b>								
Total, enrolled in school.....	21,242	7,818	36.8	7,339	34.6	478	6.1	13,424
Enrolled in high school <sup>1</sup> .....	9,635	2,416	25.1	2,235	23.2	182	7.5	7,219
Men.....	5,104	1,180	23.1	1,083	21.2	97	8.2	3,924
Women.....	4,532	1,237	27.3	1,152	25.4	85	6.9	3,295
White.....	6,989	1,849	26.5	1,723	24.7	126	6.8	5,140
Black or African American.....	1,365	291	21.3	254	18.6	36	12.5	1,074
Asian.....	507	52	10.2	52	10.2	-	-	455
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	2,441	487	20.0	434	17.8	53	11.0	1,953
Enrolled in college.....	11,606	5,401	46.5	5,105	44.0	297	5.5	6,205
Enrolled in 2-year college.....	2,540	1,409	55.5	1,316	51.8	93	6.6	1,131
Enrolled in 4-year college.....	9,066	3,992	44.0	3,789	41.8	203	5.1	5,074
Full-time students.....	10,358	4,391	42.4	4,138	40.0	253	5.8	5,967
Part-time students.....	1,248	1,010	81.0	966	77.4	44	4.4	238
Men.....	5,073	2,297	45.3	2,170	42.8	127	5.5	2,776
Women.....	6,534	3,105	47.5	2,935	44.9	170	5.5	3,429
White.....	8,360	4,040	48.3	3,844	46.0	196	4.9	4,320
Black or African American.....	1,589	680	42.8	641	40.3	39	5.7	910
Asian.....	1,080	371	34.3	333	30.8	38	10.1	709
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	2,389	1,257	52.6	1,210	50.7	47	3.7	1,132
<b>Not enrolled in school</b>								
Total, not enrolled in school.....	16,782	13,418	80.0	12,260	73.1	1,158	8.6	3,364
16 to 19 years.....	3,642	2,505	68.8	2,121	58.2	384	15.3	1,137
20 to 24 years.....	13,140	10,914	83.1	10,139	77.2	775	7.1	2,227
Men.....	8,927	7,487	83.9	6,851	76.7	636	8.5	1,440
Less than a high school diploma.....	1,052	722	68.7	629	59.8	93	12.9	329
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	4,674	3,908	83.6	3,533	75.6	375	9.6	766
Some college or associate degree.....	1,904	1,629	85.6	1,544	81.1	85	5.2	275
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	1,298	1,228	94.6	1,145	88.2	83	6.7	70
Women.....	7,856	5,931	75.5	5,409	68.9	522	8.8	1,924
Less than a high school diploma.....	838	379	45.3	312	37.3	67	17.6	459
High school graduates, no college <sup>2</sup> .....	3,602	2,734	75.9	2,469	68.6	264	9.7	868
Some college or associate degree.....	1,820	1,409	77.4	1,283	70.5	127	9.0	411
Bachelor's degree and higher <sup>3</sup> .....	1,596	1,409	88.3	1,345	84.3	64	4.5	187
White.....	12,488	10,079	80.7	9,371	75.0	708	7.0	2,409
Black or African American.....	2,606	2,062	79.1	1,764	67.7	298	14.5	544
Asian.....	659	535	81.2	483	73.3	52	9.7	124
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	4,425	3,483	78.7	3,218	72.7	265	7.6	942

<sup>1</sup> Includes a small number of persons enrolled in grades below high school.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>3</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

NOTE: Detail for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. Dash indicates no data or data that do not meet publication criteria (values not shown where base is less than 75,000).



**Table 3. Labor force status of 2022 associate degree recipients and college graduates 20 to 29 years old by selected characteristics, October 2022**

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Number	Rate	
<b>RECENT ASSOCIATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS<sup>1</sup></b>								
Total, 20 to 29 years.....	391	301	77.0	284	72.6	17	5.7	90
Men.....	132	111	84.1	95	72.0	16	14.4	21
Women.....	259	190	73.4	189	72.9	1	0.6	69
20 to 24 years.....	271	196	72.4	179	66.0	17	8.8	75
25 to 29 years.....	120	105	87.5	105	87.5	-	-	15
Vocational program.....	140	121	86.3	117	83.2	4	3.6	19
Academic program.....	251	180	71.8	167	66.7	13	7.1	71
Enrolled in school.....	184	117	63.5	115	62.5	2	1.5	67
Not enrolled in school.....	208	185	88.9	169	81.5	15	8.3	23
<b>RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES<sup>2</sup></b>								
Total, 20 to 29 years.....	1,409	1,189	84.4	1,102	78.2	87	7.3	220
Men.....	569	502	88.1	450	79.1	52	10.3	67
Women.....	839	687	81.8	652	77.6	35	5.2	152
20 to 24 years.....	965	802	83.1	731	75.7	71	8.9	163
25 to 29 years.....	443	386	87.1	370	83.6	16	4.1	57
Enrolled in school.....	287	184	64.2	180	62.7	4	2.3	103
Not enrolled in school.....	1,122	1,005	89.6	922	82.2	83	8.2	117
White.....	1,002	860	85.8	813	81.1	47	5.5	142
Black or African American.....	155	142	91.6	129	83.6	12	8.7	13
Asian.....	186	139	74.5	120	64.5	19	13.4	48
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	182	156	85.6	142	77.9	14	9.1	26
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>								
Total, 20 to 29 years.....	1,014	848	83.6	775	76.4	73	8.6	166
Men.....	425	370	87.2	324	76.3	46	12.5	54
Women.....	589	478	81.1	451	76.5	27	5.6	111
20 to 24 years.....	837	691	82.5	625	74.7	66	9.5	146
25 to 29 years.....	177	157	88.9	150	84.7	7	4.7	20
Enrolled in school.....	253	160	63.4	156	61.7	4	2.7	93
Not enrolled in school.....	761	688	90.4	619	81.3	69	10.0	73
<b>Advanced degree<sup>3</sup></b>								
Total, 20 to 29 years.....	395	341	86.3	327	82.8	14	4.1	54
Men.....	144	131	90.9	126	87.2	5	4.0	13
Women.....	250	209	83.6	201	80.2	9	4.1	41
20 to 24 years.....	128	112	87.1	106	82.8	6	4.9	17
25 to 29 years.....	266	229	85.9	220	82.8	8	3.7	37

<sup>1</sup> Data refer to persons who received an associate degree in January through October 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Data refer to persons who received a bachelor's or higher degree in January through October 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Data refer to persons who received a master's, professional, or doctoral degree in January through October 2022.

NOTE: Detail for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. Dash indicates no data or data that do not meet publication criteria (values not shown where base is less than 75,000).