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Explore the interactive data and report: <https://brook.gs/2CZXkwO>

Millions of young adults are still out of work in the United States

Washington, D.C. — A new report from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program shows that, despite a low national unemployment rate, millions of young Americans are struggling with the path to employment and the ability to obtain financial security in adulthood. The report, titled [*Meet the millions of young adults who are out of work*](#), shows that 2.3 million young adults are out of work in large cities and counties, totaling 17 percent of young adults ages 18 to 24 in these places.



This report finds that these young people, who are disproportionately low-income, black, or Hispanic, face dim employment prospects: only 36 percent worked in the past year, two-thirds have no more than a high school diploma, and over one-third live below the poverty line. Putting a face to out-of-work young Americans, the report segments the nation's out-of-work 18 to 24 year olds into five major groups of similar individuals likely to benefit from similar types of employment and educational assistance.

- High school diploma or less, 18 to 21 year olds (37 percent)
- High school diploma or less, 22 to 24 year olds (25 percent)
- At least some education beyond high school, mostly 18 to 21 year olds (17 percent)
- At least some education beyond high school, 22 to 24 year olds (15 percent)
- Bachelor's degrees, mostly 22 to 24 year olds (6 percent)

Martha Ross, lead author and Brookings fellow, said, "The country does itself no favors by confining millions of young people to the margins of the labor market and economic mainstream, even as many employers say they can't find the workers they need. We must challenge 'business as usual' practices in education and the labor market that leave so many behind, and instead treat all young people as assets who can contribute to our collective future."

About one-third of all young adults are out of work in Detroit, as are about one-quarter in the Bronx in **New York City**, Stanislaus County in **California's Central Valley**, and Hidalgo County in the **Rio Grande Valley Texas**. On the other end, 10 percent or less of the young adult population is out of work in places like **Boston; Seattle**; Hennepin County, Minn. (encompassing **Minneapolis**); and Denton County, Texas in the **Dallas-Fort Worth** region.

This report provides **recommendations for state, local, civic, and institutional leaders** to help all young people successfully navigate the transition into the labor market. These recommendations include apprenticeships, certificates or certifications, re-engagement centers connecting young adults back to educational options, two-generation programs that focus on the needs of parents and their young children, and programs targeting the most disconnected young people.

The report's webpage provides detailed interactive data for out-of-work youth in 119 large cities and counties and can be viewed here: <https://brook.gs/2CZXkwO>.

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