

TBJ - Fresno ranks low in youth employment

Published on 03/14/2014 - 3:18 pm
Written by Business Journal staff

Employment prospects in Fresno are dismal for young people and not so good for everyone else either, according to a new report by the Brookings Institution.

Employment rates, labor force underutilization and year-round joblessness among teens and young adults fared pretty poorly for most cities in the [report](#).

Throughout the 100 largest metropolitan areas, the employment rate among those 16 to 19 years of age dropped from 41.7 percent in 2000 to 27.5 percent in 2012, while the rate for those 20 to 24 slipped from 68.5 percent to 63.1 percent.

The Fresno metro area ranked 95th for its employment rate among teens stood at 19.2 percent in 2012, a drop of 10.4 percentage points since 2000.

Among those 20 to 24, only 54.7 percent were working compared to 60.3 percent in 2000 while 54.9 percent of those 25 and older had a job, down from 56 percent.

Jobs weren't the only thing considered in the report. Out of 6,003 teens in Fresno, 9.2 percent were considered "disconnected," meaning they were neither working or in school and had less than an associate's degree. That rate placed the city at No. 70 out of 100 large metro areas in the category.

For those 20 to 24, Fresno was ranked 96, with 25.1 percent of the 18,919 people in that age group not working or in school.

For all those ages 16 and up, Fresno ranked even lower at 98, with just 15.2 percent considered disconnected.

Fortunately, 84.5 percent of those 16 to 19 were enrolled in school but 29.6 percent of them were below the federal poverty line.

For those 20 to 24, 39.6 percent were enrolled in school and 29.2 percent were below the federal poverty line.

Conditions were the worst around Los Angeles where the employment rate in 2012 stood at 16.9 percent for teens and 57.5 percent for 20- to 24-year-olds.

Ogden-Clearfield, Utah was on a better path, as 33.5 percent of those 16 to 19 had jobs in 2012 and 77.1 percent of those 20 to 24 were working.

However, even in the [cities](#) with the highest teen employment, fewer than 50 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds were working.